Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas Frequently Asked Questions

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What are Bush Fire Prone Areas?

Bush Fire Prone Areas (BPAs) are areas that are likely to be subject to bushfire attack. BPAs are designated by the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner under section 18P of the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998*. A BPA is identified as bushfire prone vegetation (BPV) and a 100 metre buffer zone surrounding it. The vegetation types considered bush fire prone are those classified in the *Australian Standard 3959:2018 Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas*.

More information, including the detail of how BPV is identified, is available in the Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas Mapping Standards.

What is the Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas?

The Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas (Map) is an online, interactive tool developed to provide a visual representation of designated BPA across Western Australia (WA). The Map is available from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) website, or you can access it directly at: https://maps.slip.wa.gov.au/landgate/bushfireprone.

Please refer to the Instructions for Use for how to use the Map.

What is the purpose of the Map?

Properties that are in a BPA may require additional assessment as part of any planning or building approval process. These requirements ensure developments in BPAs consider the potential impact of bushfires.

More information about planning or building approvals in BPA may be found via the links provided under the FAQ: *Where do I get further information about what being in a BPA means for me?*

How often does the Map change?

The first edition of the Map was released in December 2015 and has generally been updated annually to continually improve its accuracy and currency. This schedule has sometimes changed to accommodate new mapping methods or changes in policy. The current version of the Map came into effect on 25 November 2026, replacing a version dating from 13 December 2025.

How can submissions be made to change the Map?

If vegetation has substantially changed, the relevant local government may use the Bushfire Prone Vegetation Feedback Application to submit changes. DFES will review the submissions and continue to consult with local governments before the Map is updated. Members of the public should contact their local government if they want to propose changes to the Map.

What is Area 1 and Area 2 on the Map?

The Map identifies two different designations of BPA. Area 1 is where urban density, topography and the absence of contiguous vegetation reduce the risk of landscape scale bushfires. Area 2 comprises the remainder of the State.

How was Area 1 identified?

Area 1 was identified using spatial data from Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Mesh Blocks, which divide land into small geographic areas. These Mesh Blocks were analysed to find locations that are predominantly built-up. To be classified as Area 1, the Mesh Blocks must connect to form a continuous area of at least 1,000 hectares, that contains only limited and isolated patches of vegetation.

This method has been applied within the Perth, Peel and Greater Bunbury Region Scheme Areas and regional towns with populations over 10,000 people.

Why were Mesh Blocks used to identify Area 1 on the Map?

Mesh Blocks were used because they are the smallest geographic area defined by the ABS. These were found to be an appropriate size for delineating Area 1 as they are small enough to have a relatively consistent risk profile. Local government areas and suburbs were found to be too large to have a consistent bushfire risk profile, particularly in areas close to the rural-urban interface.

Why was Area 1 limited to Perth, Peel, Greater Bunbury Region Scheme Areas and regional towns with populations over 10,000 people?

The identification of Area 1 suburbs requires cadastral and vegetation data and remotely sensed imagery that is more available in the most populous areas of the State. DFES is continuing to work on improving data for the remainder of the State, and further regions will be assessed for inclusion in Area 1 in the future.

Does the Map show different hazard levels?

No, the Map only shows areas designated as BPA. At this stage there are not suitable data available statewide to support hazard based mapping at the scale needed to inform land use planning decisions.

How do I know if I am using the latest version of the Map?

The latest version of the Map is available from www.dfes.wa.gov.au/bushfirepronеareas.

You may need to ‘refresh’ your browser’s cache to ensure you access the latest version of the Map.

How was the Map created?

Please refer to the publication Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas Mapping Standards for an overview of the methodology used to create the Map.

The aerial photography for my property looks out of date. Does this mean the Map needs to be updated?

The aerial photography used as the background on the Map is only intended to assist users of the Map to locate their properties and areas of interest. It is not used by DFES to map BPV or BPA. The BPA are determined using the most recent imagery available.

Why can't I find my new property using the search function on the Map?

There is a time lag between properties being created and the property street address database being updated. If your property is newly created, you may be able to locate the new address using the Proposed Roads search function (refer Instructions for Use). You could also navigate to the location manually using the pan and zoom functions in the Map interface or search using GPS coordinates. Coordinates can be searched using a latitude, longitude format (for example, -31.976,115.765).

Note there is no space after the comma between the coordinates.

Interpreting the results of a search – is my property bush fire prone?

Clicking within the orange boundaries of a property on the Map will bring up a pop-up box informing the user whether the property intersects BPA. The border of the property will change to bright blue when selected. The bushfire prone status appears next to the heading: *Designation*. The term 'Not Applicable' indicates the lot is not within a BPA. For more information on using the Map, please refer to the Instructions for Use.

For green title properties and strata schemes, one property boundary is displayed and the designation applies to the entire property boundary. For survey strata schemes, the Map may display separate boundaries for individual lots and common property areas. In these circumstances, a BPA designation of the common property would not trigger the bushfire construction requirements for an individual lot that does not intersect a BPA.

What should I do if I think my property is incorrectly identified as being in a BPA?

If you are concerned that your property has been incorrectly included in the Map, you should contact the planning or building section of your local government. Your local government will work with DFES to ensure the site is considered in a future review process.

Why has my property changed in designation status, when it appears that there has been no change to the nearby vegetation?

The BPA on the Map is reviewed regularly by DFES in consultation with local governments. BPAs may change with the release of a new version of the Map due to the availability of better imagery, completion of on-ground surveys or to reflect the clearing or re-vegetation of areas.

Why does my property appear as bush fire prone when it doesn't contain much vegetation?

A BPA extends 100 metres from the edge of the BPV, so will include non-vegetated areas. Research has shown that most house losses in bushfires occur within 100 metres of vegetation with ember attack being a common cause of house ignition. As such, it is important that buildings constructed within 100 metres of BPV considers bushfire risk.

Is the dataset available to download?

The BPA dataset is publicly available to download from data.wa.gov.au website as a Shapefile, Web Mapping Service (WMS) and Web Feature Service (WFS) format. Historical BPA datasets are also available upon request from DFES.

Where do I get further information about what being in a BPA means for me?

For more information:

Bushfire Planning Policy Framework

- Refer to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage website, or contact the Bushfire Policy Officer at bushfire@dplh.wa.gov.au or (08) 6551 9000.
- Contact the planning section of your local government.

Building Regulations and the Application of Building Construction Standards

- Refer to the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety website or contact be.info@lgirs.wa.gov.au or 1300 489 099.
- Contact the building section of your local government.

Information about and help using the Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas

- Refer to the Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas website or contact bushfiremap@dfes.wa.gov.au or (08) 9395 9709.

Bushfire Safety Information

- Refer to Department of Fire and Emergency Services for bushfire safety information and useful publications or contact DFES on (08) 9395 9300.