Firefighters will be too busy fighting fires on the frontline to be able to defend your home and property.

You can better prepare your home for a bushfire by completing this Property Preparation Checklist.
**SIMPLE AND ONGOING PROPERTY UPKEEP**
Set calendar reminders to complete these preparations monthly during fire season

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cut the grass around your property to 10cm or less</td>
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<td>Prune shrubs so they are not dense</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clean gutters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Check gas release valves face away from property</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**MORE LASTING PROTECTION**
Set calendar reminders to complete these preparations annually

- [ ] Remove any shrubs from against the home
- [ ] Keep gas cylinders away from likely direction of fire (i.e. where bush is) and turn release valves outwards
- [ ] Remove wood, mulch or any flammable material against or near the house
- [ ] Create a minimum two metre gap between your house and tree branches
- [ ] Install metal fly wire mesh on all windows, vents and install a protective screen on evaporative air conditioner
- [ ] Block any gaps under floor, in the roof spaces, under eaves, external vents, skylights, chimneys and wall claddings
- [ ] Install a fire or heat radiant shield such as a solid fence

**ADDITIONAL RURAL PROPERTY PROTECTION**

- [ ] Make sure fire trucks can access and turn on your property
- [ ] Check bridge loading and cattle grid loading for fire truck access
- [ ] Create fire breaks along paddock boundaries
- [ ] Store petrol and gas safely away in a shed
- [ ] Install underground water pumps that lead from dams to the house
- [ ] If a fire threatens move livestock to a well grazed paddock
- [ ] Create a mineral earth firebreak along the boundary of your property