



## Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas Frequently Asked Questions

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## 1. How to use the *Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas*

Please refer to publication [Instructions for Use](#).

## 2. About the *Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas*

### 2.1 What is the *Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas*?

The Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas is an online map identifying areas within Western Australia that are designated as bush fire prone, produced in line with the requirements of the [Mapping Standard for Bush Fire Prone Areas](#).

It is available from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services website, or you may wish to bookmark the direct URL: <https://maps.slip.wa.gov.au/landgate/bushfireprone>

The Map identifies the bush fire prone areas of the State as designated by the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner.

It is important to recognise that land not identified as bush fire prone on the Map may still be subject to bushfire.

### 2.2 What is a Bush Fire Prone Area?

Designated bush fire prone areas (coloured pink on the map) have been identified by the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner as being subject, or likely to be subject, to bushfire attack. A bush fire prone area is identified by the presence of and proximity to bush fire prone vegetation, and includes both the area containing the bush fire prone vegetation and a 100 metre buffer zone immediately surrounding it. More information, including the detail of how bush fire prone vegetation is identified, is available in the [Mapping Standard for Bush Fire Prone Areas](#).

### 2.3 What is the purpose of the *Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas*?

The Map identifies the bush fire prone areas of the State as designated by the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner. Additional planning and building requirements may apply to new proposals within bush fire prone areas. A further assessment of bushfire risk may also be required. These requirements ensure future developments in bush fire prone areas are better protected from bushfires. The Map may also be used as a research tool by those seeking information about the bush fire prone status of land in Western Australia.

For specific requirements and for more information about how this may apply to you, please refer to the contact information provided at the end of this document.

### 2.4 What has changed in the 2017 edition of the *Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas*?

The 2017 designation of bush fire prone areas occurred on 1 June 2017. The 2017 edition of the *Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas* was published on 31 May 2017. It shows both 'new' bush fire prone areas and those 'continuing' from previous editions of the Map (8 December 2015 and/or 21 May 2016). All designated bush fire prone areas are coloured pink on the Map.

Note: the four month transition period for properties first designated on 1 June 2017 has now concluded. The blue cross-hatched layer was removed from the Map at the end of September 2017 to signify the end of the transition period.

The Map display has also been improved to help users identify ‘continuing’ bush fire prone areas and their earliest continual designation date. The Designation Date field for these properties will show the current designation date and the earliest continual designation date, for example 01/06/17 (since 08/12/15). For a complete designation history, including any changes in designation, users can access the historical Bush Fire Prone Area datasets (refer question 2.11 below) or please contact the [Office of Bushfire Risk Management](#) for assistance.

The changes to the bush fire prone areas identified on the Map have been determined in conjunction with local government and verified by the Office of Bushfire Risk Management for consistency with the [Mapping Standard for Bush Fire Prone Areas](#). Local government has an important role in ensuring that the Map reflects local circumstances, and therefore in supporting the accurate and consistent designation of bush fire prone areas across the State.

Please be aware that the 2017 Map release was accompanied by an update to the [Mapping Standard for Bush Fire Prone Areas](#). The wording of the Standard has been revised to state that designated bush fire prone areas are those shown in ‘pink’ on the Map and do not include the ‘non-pink’ areas within a property boundary. Supporting information is available from the Department of Planning and Building Commission. Please refer to the contact information provided at the end of this document.

### **2.5 How often will a new *Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas* be reviewed and published?**

The Map is updated annually to continually improve its accuracy and currency. The next edition of the Map will be released in May 2018. Local governments will be contacted to commence the next Map review in late 2017. Public and industry input should be provided to their relevant local government to be considered as part of their annual review. Refer to the [Mapping Standard for Bush Fire Prone Areas](#) for more information about the review procedure.

### **2.6 How do I know if I am using the latest version of the *Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas*?**

The latest version of the Map is available from [www.dfes.wa.gov.au/bushfireproneareas](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/bushfireproneareas).

**Do you have a colleague that is still accessing a previous edition of the Map through their cache? Remind them to ‘refresh’ or to access the latest edition using the above link.**

### **2.7 How was the *Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas* created?**

Please refer to the publication [Mapping Standard for Bush Fire Prone Areas](#) for an overview of the methodology used to create the Map.

### **2.8 The aerial photography for my property looks out-of-date on the *Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas*. Does this mean the Map needs to be updated?**

The Map displays aerial photography that is publicly and freely available (not necessarily the most recent), drawn from Landgate’s public Locate map service. As such, the aerial photography used as a backdrop on the Map varies in its currency and resolution. Imagery in the Perth metropolitan area is approximately 12 months old. Imagery for rural areas is chosen based on the most recent imagery available for the area, however the highest resolution imagery available is used over rural town sites. The aerial photography displayed is only designed to assist users of the Map to locate their properties and areas of interest. It was not used to determine whether or not a property is considered bush fire prone. The bush fire prone areas (the areas coloured pink on the Map) have been determined using the most recent aerial photography available. In addition, the property boundary layer (the cadastral layer) displayed on the Map is updated on a weekly basis.

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

Clicking within the yellow boundaries of a property on the Map will bring up a pop-up box informing the user whether the property is within or contains a bush fire prone area or not. The border of the property will change to a bright blue colour, so it is easy to identify which property the information relates to. 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 outcome (Bush Fire Prone Area or Not Applicable) applies within the property boundary. For survey strata schemes, the Map may display a separate property boundary for common property areas (such as access ways and drive ways). In these circumstances, a Bush Fire Prone Area designation of the common property would not trigger the bushfire construction requirements for an individual (housing) lot that was returning a Not Applicable outcome.

## 2.10 Why can't I find my new property using the search function on the Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas?

There is a time lag between properties being created and the Esri property street address database being updated. You may be able to locate the new address using the Proposed Roads search function (refer [Instructions for Use](#)). Other than navigating to the location manually, you can also search using GPS coordinates if you have these available for the property or area of interest. 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.*

## 2.11 Is the dataset available to download?

The Bush Fire Prone Areas dataset is publicly available to download from the [data.wa.gov.au](http://data.wa.gov.au) website and [Landgate Shared Location Information Platform \(SLIP\)](#) in Shapefile, Web Mapping Service (WMS) and Web Feature Service (WFS) format. Historical Bush Fire Prone Areas datasets are also available to download from these websites.

## 2.12 Update to Esperance mapping in July 2017/why does the pop-up box return a 'not applicable' response for my Esperance property that looks pink on the Map?

The 2017 edition of the Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas contained a data processing error which affected some properties in the Esperance region. These areas were redesignated as bush fire prone on 12 July 2017 through a supplementary Fire and Emergency Services (Bush Fire Prone Areas) Order. The Map has now been updated to display the supplementary areas. However, please note that some of the map functionality will remain unresolved for these properties until the next Map release in May 2018. This means that affected properties in the Esperance region may show as 'pink' but return an inconsistent response in their pop-up box (Designation: Not Applicable). In these instances, map users should be guided by the colour on the Map rather than the wording in the pop-up box. We appreciate that it may be difficult to tell when this is occurring, and our team is happy to help investigate. Please contact the Office of Bushfire Risk Management for clarification if you believe this situation applies to you. The supplementary dataset is also available to download from [data.wa.gov.au](http://data.wa.gov.au) for GIS users.

### 3. Planning or building in a bush fire prone area

#### 3.1 What does it mean if a parcel of land is designated as bush fire prone?

Additional planning and building requirements may apply to developments within designated bush fire prone areas, in accordance with Schedule 2 Part 10A of the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015*, *State Planning Policy 3.7 Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas*, and the Building Code of Australia. Certain exemptions and exclusions may apply. Local governments may also have locally specific planning requirements.

For specific requirements and for more information about how this may apply to you, please refer to the contact information at the end of this document.

#### 3.2 What should I do if I think my property is incorrectly identified as being in a bush fire prone area?

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](#). The inclusion or removal of areas of land from the Map depends on a variety of factors that will need to be considered, but firstly you should speak to your local government, so that if your property has been incorrectly identified on the Map, they can work with the Office of Bushfire Risk Management to ensure that your land is removed as part of the annual review process. In the meantime, to satisfy the current planning and building requirements, a bushfire attack level assessment (basic) may be used in situations where the vegetation in and around the proposed building site has been cleared in the time since the Map has been released. Please refer to the [Department of Planning](#) website for further information on this topic.

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

The bush fire prone areas on the Map are reviewed annually by the Office of Bush Fire Risk Management in conjunction with local governments. As a result, the location and size of the 'pink' bush fire prone areas will often change between releases to reflect the clearing or re-vegetation of areas. These changes can be slight, for example, clearing a road verge may move the edge of a bush fire prone area by a few metres.

However, there may be occasional unintended changes in the designation status of a property between releases due to slight variances in the projection, processing and intersection of the Map datasets over time. This situation is most likely to occur where the edge of the pink area just clips a property boundary. We appreciate that it may be difficult to tell when this is occurring, and our team is happy to help investigate. Please contact the Office of Bushfire Risk Management if you think this situation applies to you.

#### 3.4 Why does my property appear as bush fire prone when the nearby vegetation does not look bush fire prone?

A bush fire prone area extends 100 metres from the edge of the bush fire prone vegetation. As such, the 'pink' bush fire prone area may extend into non-vegetated areas.

The data underpinning the 2017 version of the *Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas* was finalised in March 2017. As such, some areas coloured pink on the Map may no longer be bush fire prone. If you think this is the case for your property, refer to Q 3.2 above.

### 3.5 Where do I get further information about what being in a bush fire prone area means for me?

For specific requirements and 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@planning.wa.gov.au](mailto:bushfire@planning.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 Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety - Building Commission](#) website or contact [BCinfo@commerce.wa.gov.au](mailto:BCinfo@commerce.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 [obrm@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:obrm@dfes.wa.gov.au) or (08) 6551 4060.

#### **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.