



## 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/bushfireprone2016>

The Map identifies land falling within, or partially within, a bush fire prone area 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. Where a bush fire prone area cuts across a portion of a parcel of land, the entire parcel is treated as a bush fire prone area. 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 land within, or partially within, the bush fire prone areas of the State as designated by the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner. All areas designated bush fire prone will be subject to new planning and construction requirements. These new requirements will 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:

- Refer to the [Department of Planning](#) website, or contact the Bushfire Policy Officer at [bushfire@planning.wa.gov.au](mailto:bushfire@planning.wa.gov.au) or (08) 6551 9000.
- Refer to the [Department of Commerce - Building Commission](#) website or contact [BCinfo@commerce.wa.gov.au](mailto:BCinfo@commerce.wa.gov.au) or 1300 489 099.
- Contact the planning or building section of your [local government](#).

## 2.4 What has changed in the 2016 edition of the *Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas*?

The *Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas 2016* was released on 20 May 2016. It shows both 'new' bush fire prone areas and those 'continuing' from the first edition of the Map released in December 2015. All designated bush fire prone areas are coloured pink on the Map.

Note: the four month transition period for properties first designated on 21 May 2016 has now concluded. The blue cross-hatched layer was removed from the Map from 21 September 2016 to signify the end of the transition period.

Where a bush fire prone area cuts across a portion of a parcel of land, the entire parcel is treated as a bush fire prone area. Similarly, if a 'continuing' bush fire prone area cuts across a portion of the parcel of land, the entire parcel is treated as a continuing bush fire prone area and the transitional period will not apply.

The changes to the bush fire prone areas identified on the Map have been requested by 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.

## 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 2017, then each May thereafter. The Office of Bushfire Risk Management will contact local governments to commence the next Map review in late 2016. Public and industry input should be provided to the 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 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). The year the Map was created will also appear in its title.

**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 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, 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 designed to assist users of the Map to locate their properties and areas of interest only, 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 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 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.*

## 2.10 Is the dataset available to download?

The Bush Fire Prone Areas dataset is publicly available to download from the [Landgate Shared Location Information Platform \(SLIP\)](#) and [data.wa.gov.au](http://data.wa.gov.au) websites 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. For more information refer to the [SLIP Frequently Asked Questions](#) and [Terms and Conditions](#).

### 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*, the supporting *Guidelines for 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:

- Refer to the [Department of Planning](http://www.planning.wa.gov.au) website, or contact the Bushfire Policy Officer at [bushfire@planning.wa.gov.au](mailto:bushfire@planning.wa.gov.au) or (08) 6551 9000.
- Refer to the [Department of Commerce - Building Commission](http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au) website or contact [BCinfo@commerce.wa.gov.au](mailto:BCinfo@commerce.wa.gov.au) or 1300 489 099.
- Contact the planning or building section of your [local government](#).

#### 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. Please note that there are mechanisms in place to account for 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](http://www.planning.wa.gov.au) website for further information on this topic.

#### 3.3 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 2016 version of the *Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas* was finalised in March 2016. 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, please contact the planning or building section of your [local government](#) or refer to the [Department of Planning](http://www.planning.wa.gov.au) website for further information about the mechanisms in place to account for situations where the vegetation in and around the proposed building site has been cleared in the time since the Map has been released.

### 3.4 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:

- Refer to the [Department of Planning](#) website, or contact the Bushfire Policy Officer at [bushfire@planning.wa.gov.au](mailto:bushfire@planning.wa.gov.au) or (08) 6551 9000.
- Refer to the [Department of Commerce - Building Commission](#) website or contact [BCinfo@commerce.wa.gov.au](mailto:BCinfo@commerce.wa.gov.au) or 1300 489 099.
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