

Taroona Volunteer Fire Brigade Community Information Session

Thankyou to everyone who attended the Community Information Session on October 17. It was great to provide a detailed and interactive information session with so many members of the community and hopefully everyone is now either starting to complete or are updating their bushfire plans for the upcoming summer.

We would especially like to thank Emalisa White from the Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods team of the Tasmania Fire Service for delivering the session and the Taroona Bowls Club for providing the venue.

The following is a summary of the presentation to help in your preparations for the summer.

The Outlook

After three years of colder and wetter weather we are now heading into a phase of hotter and dryer conditions. The following maps show there is a much higher chance of hotter temperatures and dryer conditions across the state. The third map shows the current Soil Dryness index for the state and already the greater Hobart area is exceptionally dry.

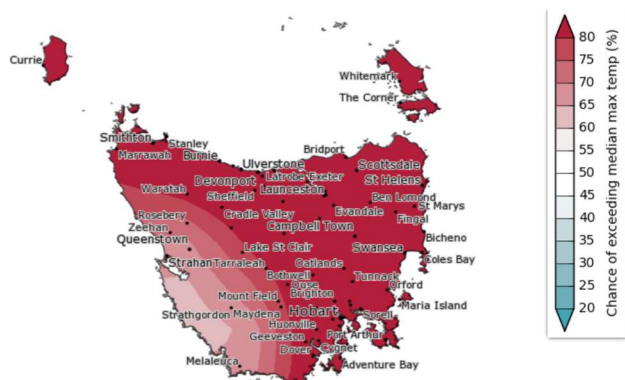


Figure 1 - November to January Temperature Outlook



Figure 2 - November to January 'Chance of unusually dry'

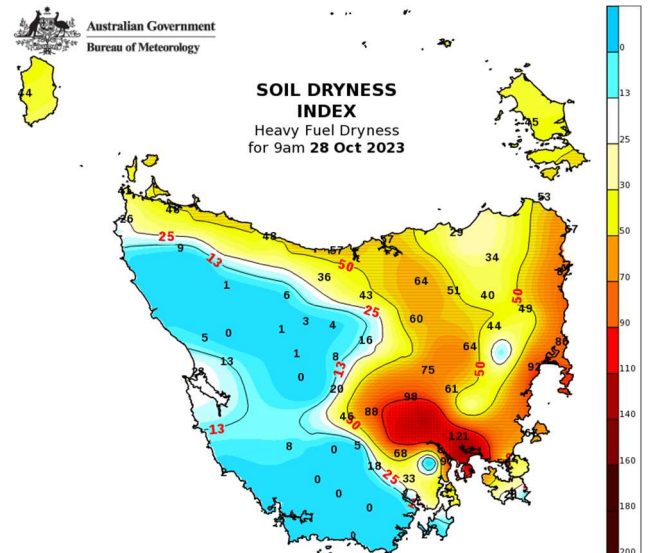


Figure 3 - Soil Dryness Index - 28 Oct 2023

Local Bushfire Risk

It is important to understand the local bushfire risks when preparing your bushfire plan.

Taroona is on a south easterly aspect which is generally a benefit in Tasmania given bushfires are often fanned by hot north and north westerly winds. However, the terrain around Taroona is steep making firefighting more difficult. Many houses are on the urban fringe or are nestled in the surrounding bushland putting them in the direct path of a bushfire. There are only two escape routes out of the area either north or south along the relatively narrow Channel Hwy which can become quickly congested. It is because of these local risks we would recommend you plan to leave the area early.

The TasAlert website has a useful map based RiskReady tool which will provide bushfire risk based on your address. Most of Taroona is in either a *Bushfire-Prone* or a *Bushfire Impact* area.



<https://alert.tas.gov.au/get-ready/risk-ready/>

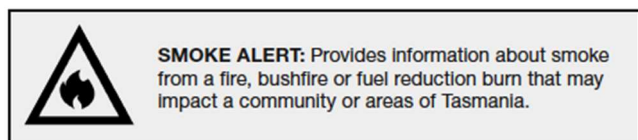
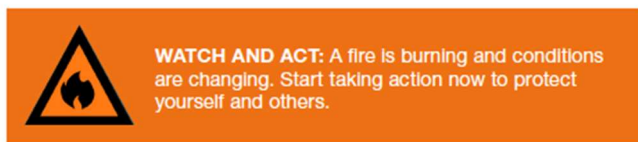
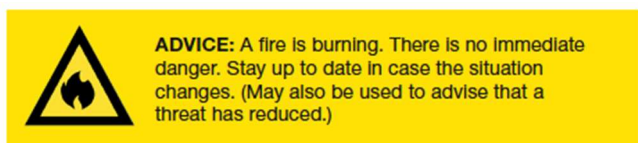
In addition to understanding your local risks which feed into your planning prior to the fire season, there are two other important indicators of immediate risk and danger in your area.

The first is the new fire danger rating system. It indicates the potential level of danger should a bushfire start in your area. Each level of danger has a corresponding recommended action, and this may

indicate to you how quickly you need to action your bushfire plan should a bushfire start.



If a bushfire has started and is potentially impacting on your area, then the fire service can and will issue alerts. These alerts can and should indicate when to action your bushfire plan and to leave the area. It is important to note that the alerts do not have to start at “Advice”. The first alert may be an “Emergency Warning” in which case you would need to action your plan and leave the area immediately.

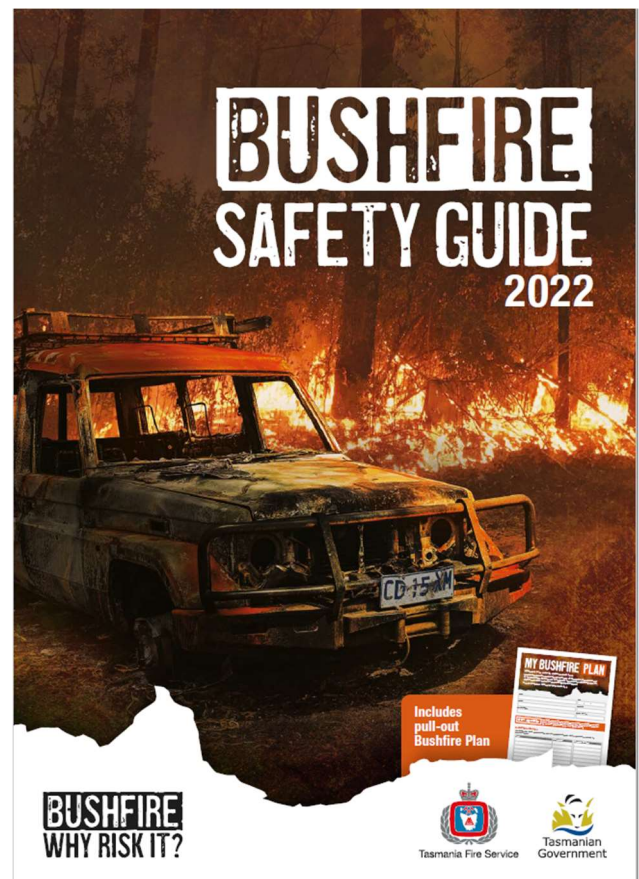


Your Plan

It is highly recommended that everyone has a bushfire plan, and you can either download the Bushfire Safety Guide and use the My Bushfire Plan section or do your plan online. If you use the Fire Service My Bushfire Plan online tool, then you will receive a reminder each year to review and update it.

When producing your plan some of the main things to consider are:

- My triggers to leave early?
- Where will I go?
- What will we take?
- Vulnerable persons – what are their needs for planning?



My Bushfire Plan resources are available at:

<https://bushfire.tas.gov.au/my-bushfire-plan>

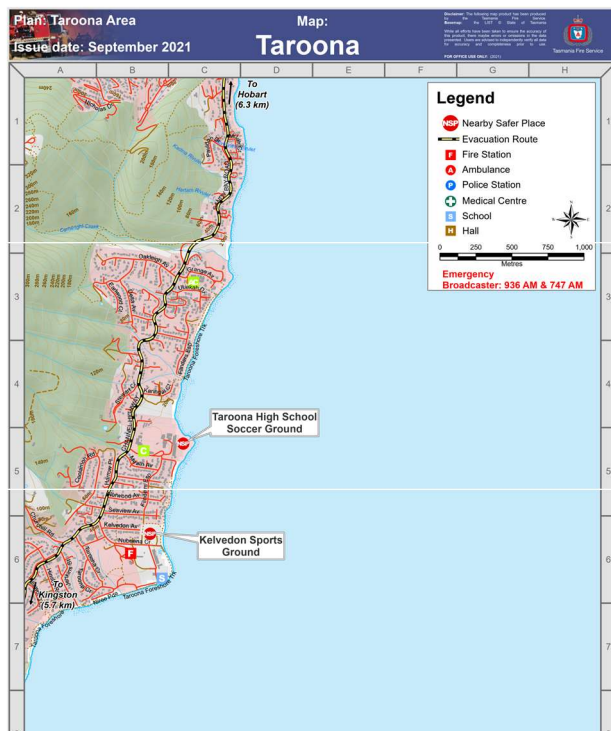


Community Protection Plans

For many areas around the state the Fire Service have produced Community Protection Plans. Of particular importance in these plans is the location of Nearby Safer Places (NSP).

It is strongly recommended that everyone’s bushfire plan includes leaving the area. However, if for some reason that does not become possible then you should try to relocate to a Nearby Safer Place. We need to

stress these NSPs are not evacuation centres. They are places of last resort and should only be used if you can't leave the area and you feel unsafe in your current location.



For Taroona the Nearby Safer Places are :

- Kelvedon Sports Ground
34 Nubeena Cres.
- Taroona High School Soccer Ground
104 Channel Hwy
- Alexandra Battery Park
629 Sandy Bay Road

If you are holidaying elsewhere within the state, then it is a good idea to use the TasAlerts website to see if there is a Community Protection Plan for that area and to identify any Nearby Safer Places.

Preparing your Property

There are 8 aspects to preparing your property to manage the risk of bushfire.

1. Defendable Space
2. Vegetation Management & Landscaping
3. Water Supply
4. Access to your property
5. Building Improvements
6. Maintenance Activities
7. Awareness of your personal capacity to defend
8. Potential Hazards



Visit the Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods website for more information about preparing your property.

<https://www.bushfirereadyneighbourhoods.tas.gov.au/bushfire-ready-property>

Summary

Hopefully the Community Information Session together with this review has helped people prepare themselves for bushfires this summer. All the information and resources are available online with the relevant links below.

We hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Taroona Volunteer Fire Brigade

Tasmania Fire Service

<https://www.fire.tas.gov.au/>

TasAlerts

<https://alert.tas.gov.au/>

Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods

<https://www.bushfirereadyneighbourhoods.tas.gov.au/>

Fire Danger Rating System

<https://www.fire.tas.gov.au/fire-danger-rating/explained/>

Alerts and Warnings:

<https://www.bushfirereadyneighbourhoods.tas.gov.au/alerts-and-warnings>