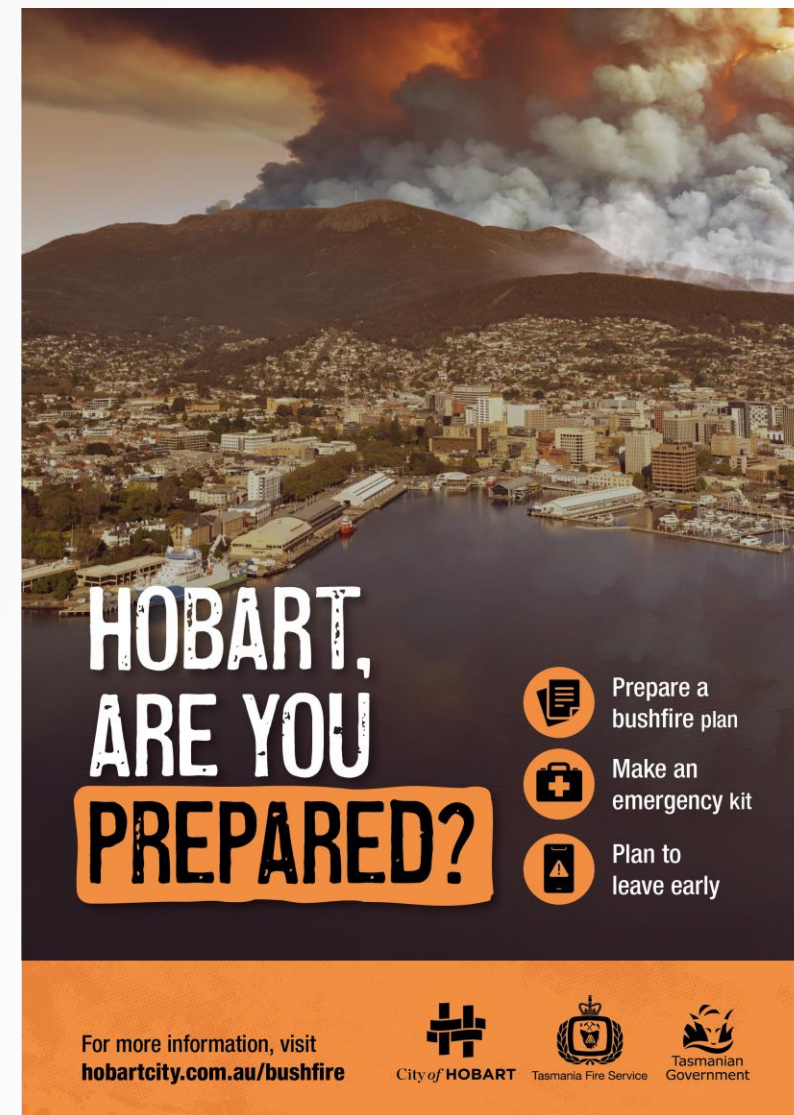


Bushfire risk at the rural-urban interface

End user perspectives, policy gaps
and action pathways

Peter Middleton, Manager Community Preparedness

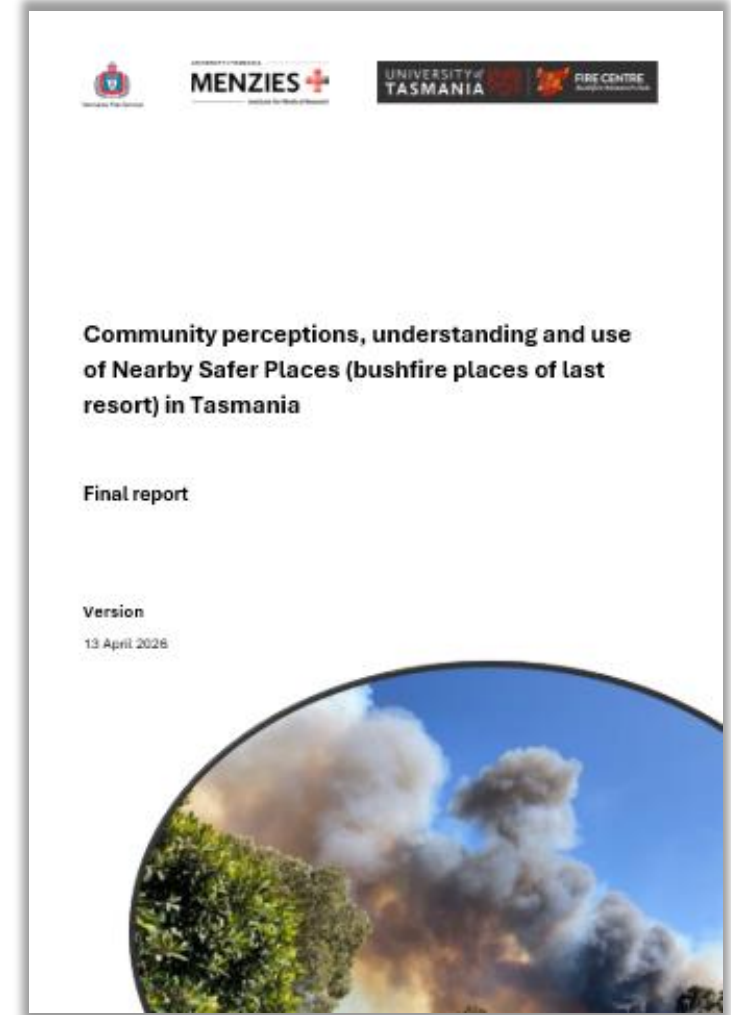


End user perspectives

- Co-developed, practical, decision-ready
- Clear, consistent messaging
- Operational insight can challenge assumptions
- Practical understanding of topic

End user case study – Nearby Safer Places messaging (Tasmania)

- 2009 Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission
- Last-resort survival option—not a primary strategy
- Community seeks tangible safety options
- Inconsistent understanding and application
- Opportunities for enhancing messaging and community preparedness



Wicked problem?

- No national definition
- Multiple terms (9 nationally)
- Different assessment methods
- No clear national ownership



Credit: University of Tasmania 2026

Policy reform opportunities?

- Clarify national role and limits of safer places
- National terminology and shared definition
- Consistent methodologies for determining sites
- National community messaging guide



Australian Warning System



Australian Fire Danger Rating System

Why action research matters

- Faster policy validation
- Reduced implementation risk
- Real world testing
- Likely to deliver usable outcomes



Credit: Canberra bushfires 2003, AIDR

Takeaways from T2-A5

- Importance of research translation into practical action
- Opportunities for research to inform national policy reform
- Collaboration and integration critical



Credit: Hobart Eastern Shore Bushfire 2006,
Australian Broadcasting Corporation