



HOUSEHOLDERS' STATED BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL INTENTIONS UNDER HYPOTHETICAL THREAT

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH CHOOSING TO LEAVE, OR STAY AND DEFEND, OR WAIT AND SEE

PART 1: REPORT

PART 2: TECHNICAL SUPPLEMENT

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Householders' Stated Bushfire Survival Intentions Under Hypothetical Threat: Factors Associated With Choosing To Leave, or Stay and Defend, or Wait and See

Part 1: Report

Part 2: Technical Supplement

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Contents

Acknowledgements.....	6
Executive Summary.....	7
PART 1: REPORT	9
1. Introduction and Background	9
1.1 Bushfires in Australia—Past and Present	9
1.2 Community Bushfire Safety	9
1.3 The 2009 Victorian Bushfires.....	10
1.4 The Bushfire CRC Research Task Force.....	11
1.5 The Present Study.....	12
2. Methodology.....	13
2.1 Background.....	13
2.2 Survey Questionnaire	13
2.3 Survey Procedure.....	15
2.4 Technical Note	16
3. Findings	17
3.1 Intentions Following a (Hypothetical) Bushfire Warning	17
3.1.1 Likelihood of acting on the intention.....	18
3.1.2 Relative strength of commitment to each intention	19
3.1.3 Determinants of strength of commitment to a particular intention to respond to a bushfire threat warning	20
3.1.4 Reasons for rejecting alternative choices.....	25
3.1.5 Bushfire risk perceptions	30
3.1.6 Anticipated emotions associated with acting on the intention	37
3.2 Individual Householder Characteristics and Intentions	40

3.2.1 Emotional reactivity to threat.....	40
3.2.2 Sense of community	41
3.2.3 Emotional attachment to home	42
3.2.4 Discussion.....	43
3.3 Previous Bushfire Experience and Bushfire-related Training.....	44
3.3.1 Previous experiences of bushfire threat warnings	44
3.3.2 Previous bushfire-related training	45
3.3.3 Membership of Community Fireguard	46
3.3.4 Awareness of agency bushfire safety information	46
3.4 House Location	47
3.5 Preferred Sources of Information Following a Bushfire Threat Warning	48
3.6 Planning and Preparation for Bushfire Survival	49
3.6.1 A household bushfire survival plan for a day of predicted extreme fire danger	49
3.6.2 Planning for bushfire survival when there is a bushfire threat warning	50
3.6.3 Long-term preparation for bushfire survival	51
3.7 Demographic Characteristics of Householders	63
3.7.1 Gender	63
3.7.2 Age	63
3.7.3 Marital status.....	64
3.7.4 Household size: adults	65
3.7.5 Household size: dependent children	65
3.7.6 Households with a disabled member	66
3.7.7 Length of time resident in the community.....	66
3.7.8 Employment status	67
4. Discussion.....	68
4.1 Summary.....	68

4.2 Potential Limitations.....	71
4.3 Conclusions.....	72
4.4 Possible Implications	74
4.5 Concluding Comment	75
References	76
Part 2: Technical Supplement.....	79
3.1.1 Likelihood of acting on the intention.....	79
3.1.2 Relative strength of commitment to each intention	79
3.1.3 Determinants of strength of commitment to a particular intention to respond to a bushfire threat warning	79
3.2.1 Emotional reactivity to threat.....	80
3.2.2 Sense of community	80
3.2.3 Emotional attachment to home	80
3.3.1 Previous experiences of bushfire threat warnings	80
3.3.2 Previous bushfire-related training.....	81
3.3.3 Membership of Community Fireguard	81
3.4 House location	81
3.6.1 A household bushfire survival plan for a day of predicted extreme fire danger	81
3.6.2 Planning for bushfire survival when there is a bushfire threat warning	81
3.7 Gender and Intention	82
3.7.5 Households with a disabled member	82
3.7.7 Length of time resident in the community.....	82
Appendix A. Predictors of Strength of Commitment to Intentions.....	83
Appendix B. Long-Term Bushfire Survival Preparations Checklist.....	90
Appendix C. Survey Questionnaire	94

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Executive Summary

1. Following the 2009 Victorian bushfires, members of the Bushfire CRC Research Task Force interviewed a cross-section of survivors. Analyses of the interview transcripts showed that the main driver of what householders did when they became aware of the threat was their prior plan or intention for responding to a bushfire threat.

2. The present study involved a survey (postal and on-line) of households in communities identified by fire agency staff in the ACT, NSW, Tasmania and Victoria as being at risk of bushfire attack. The aim was to better understand why householders intend to either: (a) leave as soon as possible, or (b) stay and defend their home, or (c) wait and see what develops before committing to a final action following a bushfire threat warning.

3. Participating householders were given a description of a bushfire threat warning scenario and asked what they would most likely do in this situation: leave as soon as possible; stay and defend their home; wait and see what developed before committing to a final action to either leave or stay and defend.

4. A total of 584 householders responded to the survey. Of these, 273 (47%) said they would leave as soon as possible; 139 (24%) said they would stay and defend; 172 (29%) said they would wait and see what developed before committing to a final action.

5. We concluded that different psychological processes drove each of the three choices. Those whose intention is to **leave** are motivated mostly by concerns about safety: their own and that of members of their family. They perceive staying and defending to be too risky. Following a bushfire threat warning, they are likely to experience anxiety about: (a) their house being destroyed; and (b) dangers while evacuating. These two sources of anxiety are likely to inhibit some householders intending to leave from doing so in a timely manner. Very few (approximately 2%) are likely to leave solely on the basis of an 'extreme' fire danger weather prediction. Despite concerns about safety, only a little more than one-third reported having planned what to do on a day of extreme fire danger, and what to do if a bushfire threat warning was received.

6. Those whose intention is to **stay and defend** are motivated mostly by: (a) the desire to protect their property (defined broadly as home, contents, possessions, pets/livestock, and,

for some, their neighbours); and (b) confidence in their ability to do so. The desire to protect their possessions is given a higher priority than ensuring their own safety. Bushfire 'survival' probably does not resonate for them: they know that staying and defending involves risk. A little less than 60% reported having planned what to do on a day of extreme fire danger, and what to do if a bushfire threat warning was received.

7. Those whose intention is to **wait and see** are motivated mostly by concern not to make the wrong decision: (a) leaving unnecessarily and losing the house, being exposed to danger while evacuating, experiencing the inconvenience of evacuating; or (b) staying and being exposed to danger from a serious fire threat. They perceive their risk of being impacted by a bushfire to be relatively low and most believe that if a threat developed, they would have the time and the means to leave late safely. Seven per cent of these householders believe that authorities will warn them when it is time to leave or will protect them from any serious threat. One-quarter reported having planned what to do on a day of extreme fire danger, and what to do if a bushfire threat warning was received. Overall, these householders are somewhat less engaged with issues of bushfire safety compared with the other two groups of householders.

PART 1: REPORT

1. Introduction and Background

1.1 Bushfires in Australia—Past and Present

Historically, Australian communities have proved vulnerable to four kinds of natural disasters: tropical cyclones, severe storms, floods and bushfires. Of these, bushfires have accounted for the most fatalities since European settlement (Ellis *et al.* 2004). From 1900 to 2008, bushfires caused 552 recorded civilian deaths. Two-thirds of the deaths resulted from just 10 fires or fire seasons that all involved extreme fire weather conditions (Haynes *et al.* 2010). Fires that occurred in several parts of Victoria on 7 February 2009 ('Black Saturday') caused 173 deaths and the destruction of more than 2,000 homes. Fires in Western Australia on 29 December 2009 (Toodyay), on 10 January 2011 (Lake Clifton), on 6 and 7 February 2011 (Perth Hills), and in November 2011 (Margaret River) resulted in the destruction of more than 140 homes in total. There is a high level of agreement among bushfire scientists that global warming and climate change will result in more frequent and more intense bushfires in many regions across the world, including Australia, in coming decades (Hennessy *et al.* 2006; Liu *et al.* 2010).

1.2 Community Bushfire Safety

Following investigations into multi-fatality bushfires in Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania 1967 to 1983, Australasian fire agencies concluded that (a) civilians were most likely to die because of either the effects of radiant heat or as a result of a motor vehicle accident while fleeing at the last moment, and (b) suitably prepared homes could be defended against bushfires while providing a safe refuge for people during the passage of the main fire front (Handmer and Tibbits 2005). These conclusions informed the Australasian Fire Authorities Council's (AFAC) (Australasian Fire Authorities Council 2005) community safety position that able-bodied people should be encouraged to remain on their property so as to defend their home when threatened by a bushfire: 'By extinguishing small initial ignitions, people of adequate mental, emotional, and physical fitness, equipped with appropriate skills, and basic resources, can save a building that would otherwise be lost in a fire ... People should decide well in advance of a bushfire whether they will stay to defend them or leave if a bushfire threatens' (p. 6). This position came to be summarised as

‘prepare, stay and defend, or leave early’ (Tibbits *et al.* 2008) and was adopted as community bushfire safety policy by Australasian fire agencies.

Following the Victorian bushfires of 7 February 2009 (see below), AFAC revised aspects of its official safety position to give greater weight to the ‘leave early’ option: ‘People usually have two safe options when threatened by bushfire: leaving early or staying and defending adequately prepared properties. Leaving early is always the safest option’ (Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council 2010, p. 1).

1.3 The 2009 Victorian Bushfires

On 7 February 2009, the State of Victoria experienced Australia’s worst single day of bushfires in recorded history. Bureau of Meteorology warnings of extreme fire danger weather expected on the day were broadcast frequently, and reported extensively in daily newspapers during the preceding week.

From mid-morning, numerous fires broke out, or flared up, across much of Victoria. As predicted, the weather conditions were extreme, with high temperatures ($>44^{\circ}\text{C}$), low relative humidities ($<10\%$) and strong winds ($>100\text{ km h}^{-1}$) across much of the State. The rainfall for the previous 12 months was well below the annual average, and this followed a decade of drought conditions. There were 173 bushfire-related deaths in total, more than 2,000 homes were destroyed, and several rural communities were devastated, resulting in severe economic, social and environmental costs amounting to at least A\$4 billion.

In the aftermath of the fires, a Royal Commission of inquiry was established, which delivered its Final Report on 31 July 2010 (2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission 2010). During the Commission hearings, fire agencies were criticised for failures to provide timely warnings to communities under threat. Evidence presented to the Royal Commission suggested that there may have been fewer fatalities and injuries if householders had made (and acted upon) bushfire survival decisions more appropriate to their situation in relation to the extreme weather conditions, especially decisions to leave—self-evacuate—before fires posed an immediate threat to life (see Handmer *et al.* 2010).

1.4 The Bushfire CRC Research Task Force

Immediately following the 7 February 2009 bushfires, senior staff from the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre organised and coordinated a multi-agency task force to investigate aspects of the fires and to report findings to the 2009 Bushfires Royal Commission. A major component of the work of the Task Force was to interview a cross-section of householders in areas affected by eight particularly destructive fire complexes (Whittaker *et al.* 2010)

Interviews conducted with 496 residents from different households affected by the fires were analysed (McLennan *et al.* 2011, 2012). A key component of the analysis was investigating factors that influenced householders' survival decisions and actions under threat from the fires: to leave for a presumed safer location, or to stay and defend the property.

The findings suggested that for most of those who stayed and defended, the principal 'decision driver' was a prior commitment to a plan, or intention, to stay and defend the property. For many, determinants of a plan or intention to stay and defend included: (a) an emotional attachment to their home and neighbours; (b) a belief that they were to some extent responsible for protecting their property rather than relying on authorities; and (c) an expectation that they would be successful in their property defence endeavours.

It was more difficult to specify the principal drivers of a decision to leave. For most, the major distal (or remote) factor was the **absence** of a plan or intention to stay and defend. However, there was considerable variation among those interviewed in what influenced a decision or intention to **not** plan and prepare to stay and defend the property. For some, this was a perception or belief that their home was not at risk of bushfire attack. For others, this decision was based on belief that the likely danger to self and family was too great to warrant attempting to defend the property. However, very few householders perceived the danger to be so great that they left on the basis of the fire weather predictions prior to any indications of actual bushfire threat. For most of those interviewed who left, the act of leaving was prompted by a trigger event: an indicator or warning (official or unofficial) of the imminent danger. This 'event' was credible information about the proximity and/or intensity of the fire, and/or sensory cues from the environment—smoke, flames, embers, sound of the approaching fire.

Clearly, what a householder plans, or **intends**, to do if threatened by a bushfire is a powerful determinant of what a household **does** following a bushfire threat warning. To date, very little research has examined reasons involved in what householders intend to do in the face of a bushfire threat. Most published community bushfire safety research has been about factors associated with property preparation to mitigate damage due to bushfires (McLennan *et al.* 2012). The present study aimed to contribute to remedying this knowledge gap.

1.5 The Present Study

The present study involved a survey (postal and on-line) of households in communities identified by fire agency staff in the ACT, NSW, Tasmania and Victoria as being at risk of bushfire attack. The aim was to better understand why householders intend to either: (a) leave as soon as possible, or (b) stay and defend their home, or (c) wait and see what develops before committing to a final action following a bushfire threat warning.

2. Methodology

2.1 Background

As described above, the genesis of the research was finding that a principal driver of how householders responded to threats on 7 February 2009 was their prior intention about what to do if threatened by a bushfire (McLennan *et al.* 2011; McLennan *et al.* 2012). Little published research could be located that investigated householders' bushfire survival intentions beyond some surveys that asked what residents' bushfire survival intentions were, and what bushfire preparations they had undertaken (see Whittaker and Handmer 2010).

Beatson and McLennan (2010, 2011) argued that most previous research into community bushfire safety was based on pragmatic learnings from previous bushfires, and that there may be value in using social science-based theories to guide such research in the future. They proposed that four theories from social psychology as applied to health promotion and injury prevention had potential to inform community bushfire safety research: Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB; Azjen 1991); Protection Motivation Theory (PMT; Rogers 1983); the Extended Parallel Processing Model (EPPM; Witte 1992); and the Terror Management Health Model (TMHM; Goldenberg and Arndt 2008). The present study used TPB and PMT to guide construction of part of a survey questionnaire to investigate likely determinants of householders' bushfire survival intentions in the event of a bushfire threat warning.

2.2 Survey Questionnaire

Because of limited time and resources to carry out the study, we decided to use a methodology of inviting residents in locations identified by fire agency staff as being at risk of bushfire attack to participate in the research by completing either an-online survey, or a paper questionnaire and returning this by reply-paid mail. Although the instructions for completion differed, both versions of the survey instrument had identical content.

The survey instrument comprised four components. The introductory *Participant Information Statement* provided background information about the research: purpose, funding source, eligibility to participate (aged 18 years or more, living near bushland, one

respondent per household), confidentiality and privacy precautions, the researchers, and procedures for complaints, as required by the La Trobe University Human Ethics Committee. *Part 1* asked householders to provide demographic information, describe previous training or experience with bushfires, and describe their house location. They were then presented with the following scenario and asked to choose their likely response:

Now imagine that during the fire season you and all those who normally reside with you are at home. It has been declared a day of 'Extreme Fire Danger', and there is a Total Fire Ban for your Region of the State/Territory. At about 3 pm you become aware of a warning (on the radio, or a web site, or by email, or text, or telephone) that there is a large bushfire burning out of control and that it will probably hit your location in 1–2 hours. You look outside and see a large plume of smoke being blown toward your property.

What do you think you would most likely decide to do?

- a. Leave as soon as you can*
- b. Stay to defend the home*
- c. Wait and see what develops, before finally deciding whether or not to leave, or to stay and defend.*

In *Part 2*, householders were asked how at risk of bushfire they believed their home to be, and asked how likely it was that they would act as they had chosen in the event of an actual bushfire threat and how important it would be for them to undertake the chosen action. They were then presented with a set of potential reasons for having chosen (a), or (b), or (c) above. Each of the reason statements or questions was written so as to describe a component of TPB or PMT. For each, householders were asked to indicate their degree of agreement or disagreement with the statement. In *Part 3*, householders were asked to indicate the extent to which they had planned and prepared to respond to a bushfire threat, including completing a 21-item checklist of bushfire survival preparation actions. Construction of the checklist is described in McLennan and Elliott (2011).

2.3 Survey Procedure

Community bushfire safety agency staff in the ACT RFS, NSW RFS, TFS and Country Fire Authority were asked to nominate communities of interest because of their potential bushfire risk. They were asked to select communities comprising: farms or other isolated rural dwellings on large properties, homes in and around small-to-medium-sized rural towns, and homes on suburban streets near bushland.

The locations chosen were:

ACT: Bonython, Duffy, Fisher, Hackett, Holder, Tharwa, Weston

NSW: Captains Flat, Diggers Camp, Hornsby Heights, Kandos, Leura, Nelson Bay, Walla Walla

Tasmania: Bothwell, Deloraine, Dover, Mount Nelson, New Norfolk, Ouse, Port Sorell/Shearwater

Victoria: Beechworth, Delatite, Warrandyte, West Wodonga, Wonga Park, Yackandandah

(Responses also came from other nearby locations).

Residents of the selected communities were invited to participate in the research by a range of publicity and recruitment activities: stories and advertisements in local and regional newspapers; interviews on regional radio programs; posters placed in libraries and other places where residents gather; and leaflet mail-outs to selected postcodes. There was a total of 584 responses. Table 2.1 shows the number of responses from each of the three types of community location, across the four states and territory.

Table 2.1. Householders surveyed: state or territory by house location—percentages (numbers)

<i>State/Territory</i>	<i>House: farm/isolated rural</i>	<i>House: small/medium rural town</i>	<i>House: suburban street near bushland</i>	<i>Row totals</i>
NSW	12% (14)	37% (73)	38% (102)	33% (189)
ACT	4% (5)	3%(5)	34% (91)	17% (101)
Victoria	69% (81)	42% (81)	12% (34)	34% (196)
Tasmania	15% (17)	18% (35)	16% (42)	16% (94)
Column totals	100% (117)	100% (194)	100%(269)	100% (580) ^a

^a Four respondents did not provide a postcode.

2.4 Technical Note

Quantitative analyses were carried out using the IBM *SPSS v.21* statistical software package. To improve readability, statistical material has been placed in the Technical Supplement (Part 2). However, to provide information on the relative magnitude of differences in mean scores between groups of householders, Cohen's *d* effect sizes have been reported where necessary. Cohen's *d* effect size = $(\text{mean}_1 - \text{mean}_2) / \text{pooled standard deviation}$. It is the difference between the means of two groups expressed in standard deviation units; it is thus not affected by the possible range of scores. By convention, $d < 0.2$ = no meaningful difference; 0.2–0.49 = 'small' difference; 0.5–0.79 = 'medium' difference; 0.8+ = 'large' difference. To provide information about how strongly scores on two measures are correlated (or vary together), Pearson correlation coefficients *r* have been reported where necessary; *r* can range from –1 through zero to +1. By convention, $|r| < 0.1$ = no meaningful correlation; 0.1–0.29 = 'small' correlation; 0.3–0.49 = 'medium' correlation; 0.5+ = 'large' correlation. To provide information about the strength of association among elements of contingency tables, Cramer's *V* has been reported where necessary. Cramer's *V* can range from 0 to 1. By convention, $V < 0.1$ = no meaningful association; 0.1–0.29 = 'small' association; 0.3–0.49 = 'medium' association; 0.5+ = 'large' association.

3. Findings

3.1 Intentions Following a (Hypothetical) Bushfire Warning

As described previously, householders completing the survey questionnaire were presented with the following bushfire threat warning scenario, and asked to choose which of the options (a)–(c) they would most likely decide to do:

Now imagine that during the fire season you and all those who normally reside with you are at home. It has been declared a day of 'Extreme Fire Danger', and there is a Total Fire Ban for your Region of the State/Territory. At about 3 pm you become aware of a warning (on the radio, or a web site, or by email, or text, or telephone) that there is a large bushfire burning out of control and that it will probably hit your location in 1–2 hours. You look outside and see a large plume of smoke being blown toward your property. What do you think you would most likely decide to do?

a. Leave as soon as you can

b. Stay to defend the home

c. Wait and see what develops, before finally deciding whether or not to leave, or to stay and defend.

Of the 584 respondents, 47% (n = 273) intended to (a) **leave** as soon as possible; 24% (n = 139) intended to (b) **stay and defend**; 29% (172) intended to (c) **wait and see** what developed before making a final decision to leave or stay and defend.

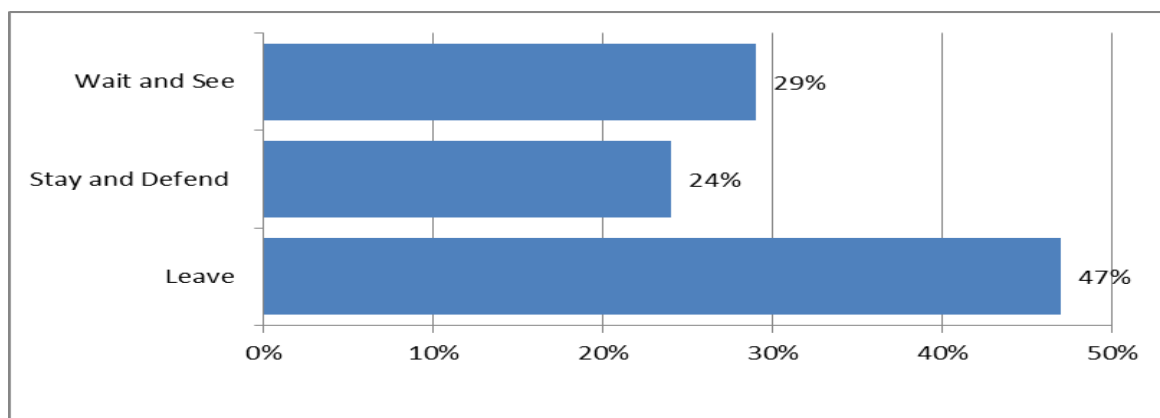


Figure 3.1. Horizontal bar chart: Responses to: 'What do you think you would most likely do?'

3.1.1 Likelihood of acting on the intention

Participants reported varying levels of commitment to these expressed intentions (Figure 3.2), with higher percentages of householders who intended to Leave or to Stay and Defend reporting that they would be 'almost certain' or 'extremely likely' to act upon their intentions if a bushfire actually threatened ($V = 0.36$).

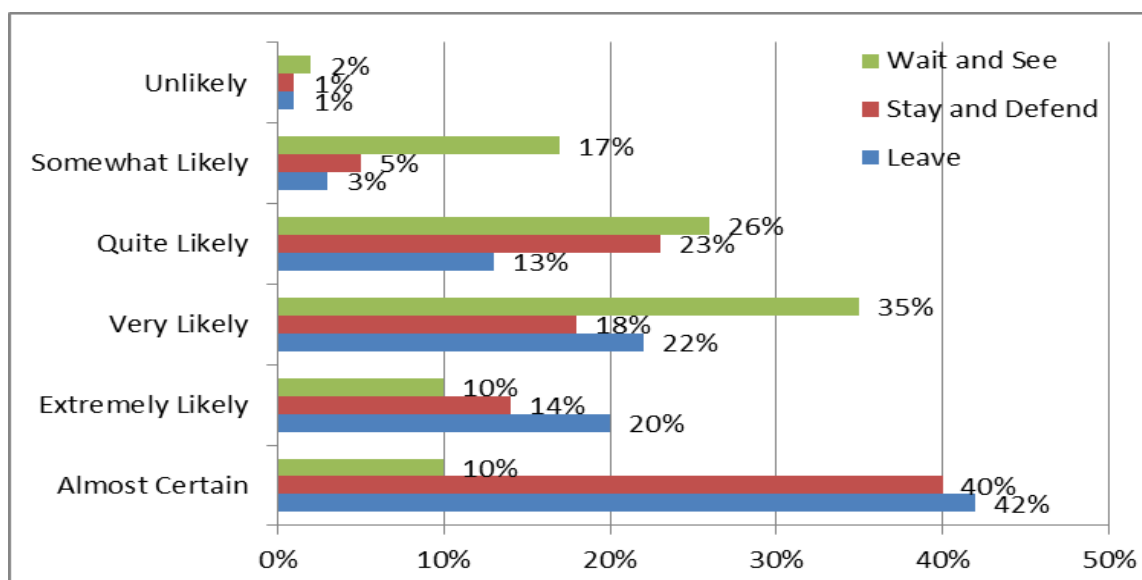


Figure 3.2 Horizontal bar chart: Responses to 'How likely is it that you would leave/stay and defend/wait and see?'

3.1.2 Relative strength of commitment to each intention

A composite mean index of Strength of Commitment to act upon the stated intention (likelihood of acting *plus* importance of acting) was calculated for each group (the value of the index could range from 2 to 10). Mean Strength of Commitment score was found to be lowest for those who intended to Wait and See, and higher for those who intended to Leave or to Stay and Defend.

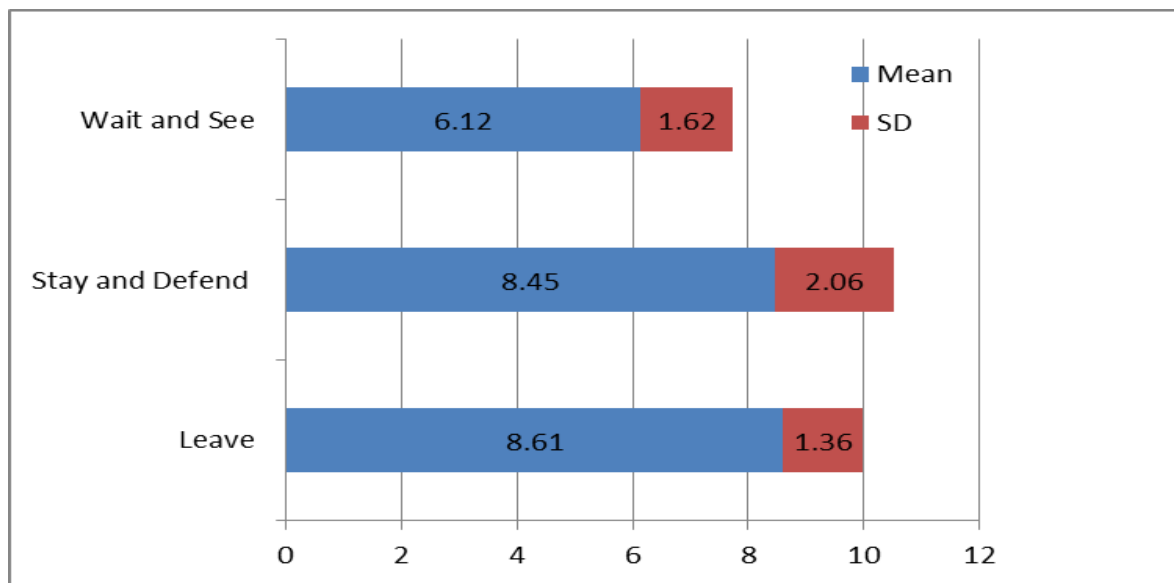


Figure 3.3. Horizontal bar chart: Responses to: ‘How likely is it that you would leave/stay and defend/wait and see?’ (1–5) *plus* responses to: ‘I would leave/stay and defend/wait and see no matter what the difficulties might be on the day’ (1–5).

There was a large difference in mean Strength of Commitment between those intending to Leave and those intending to Wait and See ($d = 1.67$), and a large difference in mean Strength of Commitment between those intending to Stay and Defend and those intending to Wait and See ($d = 1.26$). There was no meaningful difference between means for those who intended to Leave and those who intended to Stay and Defend ($d = 0.01$).

3.1.3 Determinants of strength of commitment to a particular intention to respond to a bushfire threat warning

A set of questionnaire items each describing a potential factor determining the strength of a bushfire threat response intention was constructed. Each item was written so as to measure a component of two multi-component theoretical models of health promoting and injury preventing behaviour: Theory of Planned Behaviour (Ajzen 1991) and Protection Motivation Theory (Rogers 1983) (Appendix A). The aim was to better understand psychological processes involved in choosing a particular bushfire survival intention option. A statistical analysis procedure was used to identify those components of the two theories that were the most important independent predictors of strength of intention to Leave, or to Stay and Defend, or to Wait and See (Section 3.1.2).

For both the models, Strength of Intention is defined as the sum of responses to **‘How likely is it that you would leave/stay and defend/wait and see?’** (1–5), and responses to: **‘I would leave/stay and defend/wait and see no matter what the difficulties might be on the day’** (1–5). Scores can range from 2 to 10.

The TPB model of health promotion and injury prevention is essentially a cognitive theory that proposes that actions are driven by intentions, which in turn are determined by a combination of cognitive factors: attitudes, beliefs, and perceptions of self and others.

TPB Components

Basic TPB Model

Attitude Strength: The perceived likelihood of being safe from bushfire threat if the action was implemented and the importance of this outcome.

Subjective Norms: The perceived wishes of important others about safe actions following a bushfire warning.

Perceived Behavioural Control: The perceived ease or difficulty of carrying out the bushfire safety action following a bushfire warning.

Additional components

Descriptive Norms: The perceived bushfire safety actions that others engage in following a bushfire warning.

Moral Norms: Feelings of personal responsibility to perform safe actions following a bushfire warning.

Self-identification: How individuals view themselves in relation to bushfire safety actions.

Anticipated Affect: Anticipated emotions if the bushfire safety action is carried out.

Self-determination: Feelings of autonomy about choice of bushfire safety action.

The PMT model of health promotion and injury prevention is also a cognitive model, but unlike TPB, it specifies the kinds of factors likely to inhibit versus facilitate adaptive behaviours in the face of perceived threat. PMT emphasises two appraisal processes: of threat, and of coping ability.

PMT Components:

Threat appraisal processes

Severity of Risk: Beliefs about the severity of bushfire threat.

Vulnerability to Risk: Beliefs about personal vulnerability to bushfire threat.

Perceived Rewards: Evaluation of the rewards of *not* taking any protective actions in relation to bushfire threat.

Coping appraisal processes

Perceived Costs: Perceived costs involved in *taking* protective actions in relation to bushfire threat.

Response Efficacy: Expectations that taking protective actions will reduce the danger from bushfire.

Self-efficacy: Expectations that one is capable of carrying out actions to protect against bushfire.

3.1.3.1 Predictors of strength of intention to **Leave**

- Confidence that leaving is a safe option (TPB: Attitude Strength; PMT: Response Efficacy)
- 'Owning' the decision to leave (TPB: Self-determination)
- The wishes of family and close friends (TPB: Subjective Norms)
- Not being overly concerned about the possibility of losing the house (TPB: Anticipated Affect)
- Confidence in ability to leave safely under a bushfire threat (TPB: Perceived Behavioural Control; PMT: Self-efficacy)
- Absence of obstacles to leaving (PMT: Cost)

3.1.3.2 Predictors of strength of intention to **Stay and Defend**

- Confidence that staying and defending is a safe option (TPB: Attitude Strength; PMT: Response Efficacy)
- 'Owning' the decision to stay and defend (TPB: Self-Determination)

3.1.3.3 Predictors of strength of intention to **Wait and See** what develops before committing to a final decision to either Leave or Stay and Defend

- The wishes of family and close friends (TPB: Subjective Norms)
- 'Owning' the decision to wait and see (TPB: Self-determination)
- Not being overly concerned about the possibility of losing the house (TPB: Anticipated Affect)
- Feelings of moral responsibility to wait and see before committing to a final action (TPB: Moral Norms)

3.1.3.4 Discussion

The findings suggest that there are rather different cognitive processes involved in choosing to Leave, or to Stay and Defend, or to Wait and See.

(a) For householders intending to Leave, strength of intention to leave was predicted well by the basic TPB model:

Attitude Strength (Outcome Efficacy in the PMT model) –

I believe that leaving would be a safe option for ensuring my survival

In the situation described leaving would be a safe option for most people

Leaving would significantly improve my chances of survival.

Subjective Norms –

Those who are most important to me would prefer that I leave, rather than stay and defend

I would want to follow the wishes of those who are most important to me.

Perceived Behavioural Control –

I am physically and mentally fit enough to leave in such a situation

I am confident I would be able to leave in this scenario.

Plus;

Self-determination –

My decision to leave, or stay, or wait would be entirely my own

The opinions and feelings of others would have little influence on my decision to stay and defend or leave under such circumstances.

Anticipated Affect –

I would regret it if I decided to leave and my house was destroyed (disagree)

The (low) **Cost** component of the PMT model also emerged as a significant predictor –

Leaving would be difficult for me (disagree)

Taken together, the predictors are consistent with householder *safety* in the face of bushfire threat being the main driver.

(b) For householders intending to Stay and Defend, there were only two predictors of strength of intention to stay and defend:

Attitude Strength/Outcome Efficacy (TPB/PMT) –

I believe that staying and defending would be a safe option for ensuring my survival

How important is your personal safety in a bushfire? (not important)

Staying and defending would significantly improve my chances of survival

How important to you is it that your house is not destroyed? (important)

Staying and defending would significantly improve my chances of saving my house.

Self-determination (TPB) –

The opinions and feelings of others would have little influence on my decision to stay and defend or leave under such circumstances

My decision to leave, or stay, or wait would be entirely my own.

These suggest that householder safety is not the major issue: *protecting the house and possessions* is the main driver.

(c) For householders intending to Wait and See before committing to a final course of action, there were four predictors of strength of intention to wait and see:

Subjective Norms (TPB) –

Those who are most important to me would prefer that I wait and see, before deciding to leave or stay.

Self-determination (TPB) –

The opinions and feelings of others would have little influence on my decision to stay and defend or leave under such circumstances

My decision to leave or stay, or wait would be entirely my own.

Anticipated Affect (TPB) –

I would feel anxious about waiting around before making my decision to leave or stay. (disagree)

Moral Norms (TPB) –

I believe I have a moral obligation wait and see what develops in this type of scenario.

This combination of predictors, especially the presence of Moral Norms and the absence of Outcome Efficacy, suggests that concern over possibly making the *wrong* decision (leave unnecessarily, or stay and have to survive a dangerous fire) is the main driver.

In relation to the two models, the findings indicate that the two personal the threat appraisal process components of PMT—severity and vulnerability—are not prominent as drivers of any of the three intentions.

3.1.4 Reasons for rejecting alternative choices

3.1.4.1 Those who intend to Leave

Householders were invited to write down the main reason that they did not choose the Stay and Defend option. The reasons were compiled and examined for content and themes. Seven different themes were identified, with over half of the reasons being (a) general statements about the risks involved in staying to defend being too great. Four other themes concerned specific risk factors: (b) inability to defend because of age, infirmity or disability; (c) house not defensible; (d) risk to dependent children; and (e) lack of escape routes. Of the other two themes, one was (f) prior experience with bushfires, the other was (g) that rented premises did not warrant defence. Overall, households who chose the Leave option saw staying and defending as involving unacceptable risk.

Table 3.1. Reasons (n = 211) given by householders intending to Leave for *not* choosing the ‘Stay and Defend’ option

<i>Reason category</i>	<i>% (number)</i>	<i>Reason examples</i>
(a) Perceived risk too great	53% (112)	<p>It is safer to leave and be certain of survival.</p> <p>Because my life and children’s life is far more important than my home.</p> <p>Everything is insured, let it burn. My pets and I are the only thing insurance can’t replace.</p> <p>Fire is unpredictable, getting away in safety is the main issue before access roads are blocked.</p>
(b) Unable owing to age, infirmity, disability	13% (28)	I am nearly 70 years old and live alone so it would be out of the question for me physically to defend the property.
(c) House is not defensible: environment, construction, lack of equipment	13% (27)	<p>Our home is on the top of a very steep hill surrounded by bush.</p> <p>Lack of equipment to successfully defend a poorly designed structure.</p>
(d) Risk to dependent children	8% (17)	I have an eight-year-old daughter who I don’t want to have to experience the terror of bushfire.
(e) No means of escape	1% (3)	Suburb is a death-trap, thick bushland with only three routes out.
(f) Previous experience with bushfires	9% (19)	We did (stay and defend), but I wouldn’t do it again
(g) Renting	2% (5)	I do not own the property and material possessions can be replaced.

3.1.4.2 Those who intend to Stay and Defend

Householders were invited to write down the main reason that they did not choose the Leave option. The reasons were compiled and examined for content and themes. Six themes emerged. Three themes accounted for three-quarters of the reasons proposed for not leaving (Table 3.2): (a) householders were committed to defending their property, and they were confident that they would be successful because (b) the house was defensible, and (c) they were capable of doing the defending. A fourth theme was that (d) the alternative of leaving might be more dangerous than defending. The remaining two themes were associated with staying and defending *not* being seen as a risky option because of: (e) low threat, and (f) availability of an escape or refuge option.

Table 3.2. Reasons (n = 118) given by householders intending to Stay and Defend for *not* choosing the 'Leave as soon as possible' option

<i>Reason category</i>	<i>% (number)</i>	<i>Reason example</i>
(a) Committed to saving the house/animals/livestock	30% (35)	I have a home I built myself, I have animals I am responsible for. When and where do you go in that situation?
(b) Confidence that the house is defensible	29% (34)	The main reason is that I think my house in this area is defensible.
(c) Confident self-efficacy	17% (20)	Confident of defending the house. I know that the house has the best chance if I am there to defend.
(d) Attempting to leave under threat would be too dangerous	12 % (14)	I live in _____. There is a real risk of being trapped on the only escape route by the fire and/or traffic—other people trying to escape.
(e) The risk of a bushfire threatening the house is low	8% (9)	There are no heavy fuel loads directly around my property.
(f) There is a safe refuge	5% (6)	We have a safe place under the house to retreat to if necessary and have prepared for defending our home. Defensible location of my home together with easy access to a safe open-space location.

3.1.4.3 Those who intend to Wait and See

Those householders who chose the Wait and See option were invited to describe their reasons for *not* intending to Leave as soon as possible; 142 householders provided 157 reasons. The written reasons were analysed and sorted into five categories on the basis of content (Table 3.3): (a) perceived low level of risk associated with waiting; (b) reluctance to leave because of perceived potential costs and dangers; (c) self-reliant confidence of surviving any threat; (d) 'others' would be responsible for warning or protecting in the event of an actual threat; (e) dependence on others for transport.

Table 3.3. Reasons (n = 157) given by householders intending Wait and See for *not* choosing the 'Leave as soon as possible' option

<i>Reason category</i>	<i>% (number)</i>	<i>Reason example</i>
(a) Perceived low level of risk in waiting	45% (71)	Because I do not feel our home will ever be under threat. Feel our property is defensible. There are numerous safe routes available. Unless it is windy, the fire will be far enough away to see.
(b) Reluctance to leave because of potential costs and dangers	34% (53)	I would hate my house to be destroyed by a small fire I could have put out easily. Potential for roads to be cut or involved with fire. Because packing and unpacking is time-consuming and potentially damaging to my goods.
(c) Self-reliant confidence of survival	12% (19)	As a trained firefighter, I believe I have the skills and ability to defend my property. The property is well equipped for firefighting.
(d) 'Others' responsible will warn or protect	7% (11)	Instructed to stay until given the order to evacuate by authorities. Street is well trained and equipped through the (Community Fireguard) system.
(e) Depend on others for transport	2% (3)	No transport, too much stuff to carry on my own.

Respondents were also invited to state in their own words why they had *not* chosen the Stay and Defend option. Ninety-nine householders provided a reason for not intending to stay and defend their home. The reasons were analysed for content and were found to fall into one of five categories (Table 3.4): (a) potential danger to self or others associated with staying and defending (58%); (b) successful defence would depend on the actual severity of the fire threat (21%); (c) age, infirmity or disability of the respondent or other household members (12%); (d) reliance on agencies for information about the danger posed by the fire (7%); (e) the house was rented (2%). The reasons indicate that most respondents understood bushfires to be very dangerous hazards, suggesting that choosing the Wait and See option was not due simply to lack of awareness of the potential threat posed by a bushfire.

Table 3.4. Reasons (n = 99) given by householders intending to Wait and See for *not* choosing the 'Stay and Defend' option

<i>Reason category</i>	<i>% (number)</i>	<i>Reason example</i>
(a) Potential danger to self or others	58% (57)	A property can be rebuilt, a human life can't.
(b) Staying and defending successfully depends on the severity of the fire threat	21% (21)	If it was a really big fast fire, I would not be confident I could defend against it.
(c) Age, infirmity, disability	12% (12)	Physically not up to it.
(d) Reliance on agencies for advice about the danger posed by the fire	7% (7)	I would not stay if authorities told me I should leave.
(e) The house is rented	2% (2)	It's a rental property and it is not worth me risking harm to myself for someone else's property, and my possessions are not worth much.

3.1.4.4 Discussion

Examining the stated reasons for not choosing an alternative supports an emerging overall picture. Most of those intending to Leave see this as their safest option: staying and defending is perceived to be too risky. Most of those intending to Stay and Defend do not want to lose their house, contents and other possessions, and they believe that they will be successful in their defence endeavours. Most of those who intend to Wait and See do not perceive the risk posed by bushfire to be overly great, but they do not want to be menaced by a serious fire and they believe that they will be able to leave safely if their worst fears are confirmed.

3.1.5 Bushfire risk perceptions

3.1.5.1 Bushfire risk perceptions: Likelihood of an imminent bushfire threat as described in the hypothetical scenario

There were no significant differences among the three groups of householders in perceived likelihood of the threat described (Figure 3.4).

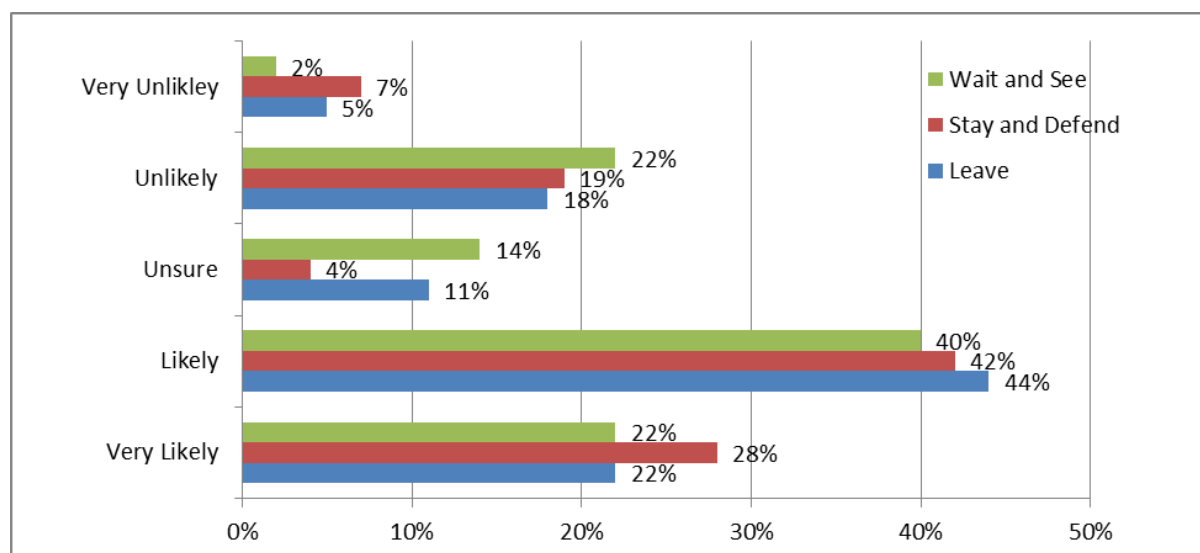


Figure 3.4. Horizontal bar chart: Responses to: 'How likely do you think it is that you could be in the situation described?'

3.1.5.2 Bushfire risk perceptions: Vulnerability of the house

Most householders perceived their house to be 'moderately' vulnerable to a bushfire. A slightly greater percentage of householders who intended to Leave perceived their house to be 'highly' or 'extremely' vulnerable: $V = 0.17$ (Figure 3.5).

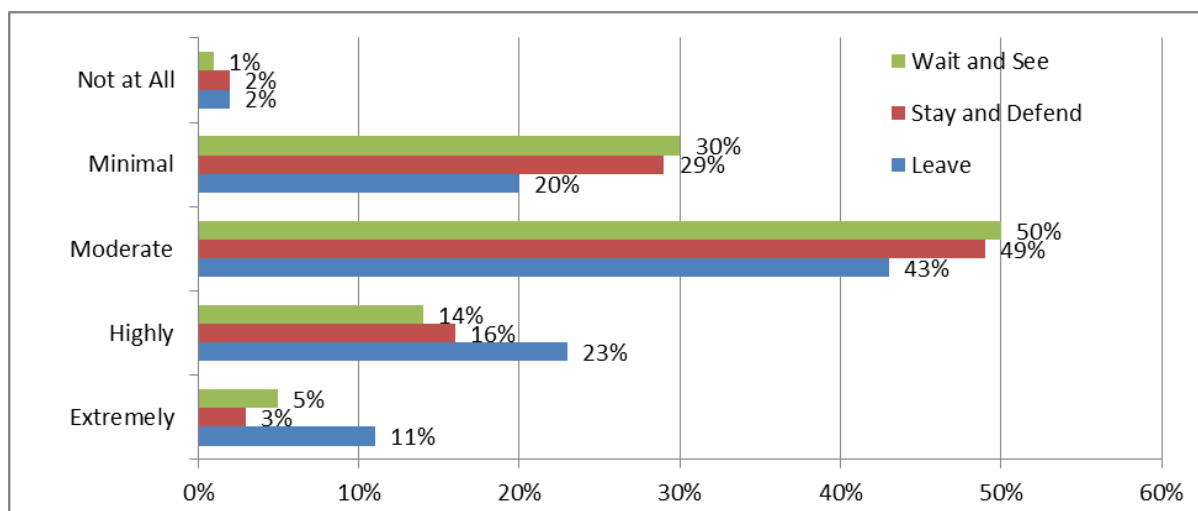


Figure 3.5. Horizontal bar chart: Responses to: 'Rate overall how vulnerable you think your house is to bushfire'.

3.1.5.3 Bushfire risk perceptions: Proximity to bushland

There were no meaningful differences among the three groups of householders in their perceptions of possible threat to their homes on the basis of proximity to bushland (Figure 3.6).

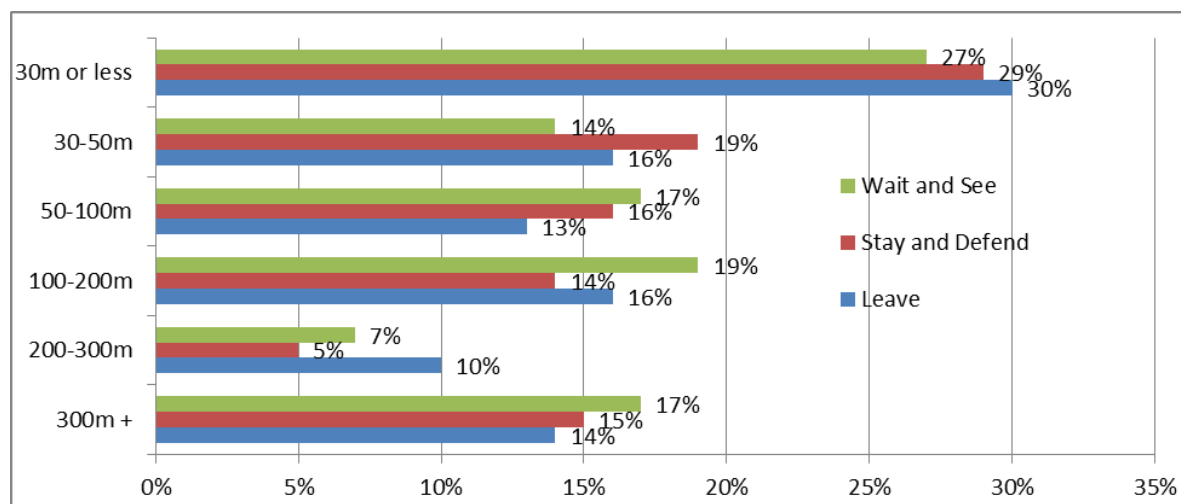


Figure 3.6. Horizontal bar chart: Responses to: 'About how far is your house from bushland (long grass, scrub, trees)?'

3.1.5.4 Bushfire risk perceptions: Resistance of house construction material to bushfire attack

Overall, a somewhat greater percentage of householders who intend to Leave believed that their house construction offered 'no' or 'minimal' protection from bushfire attack: $V = 0.17$ (Figure 3.7).

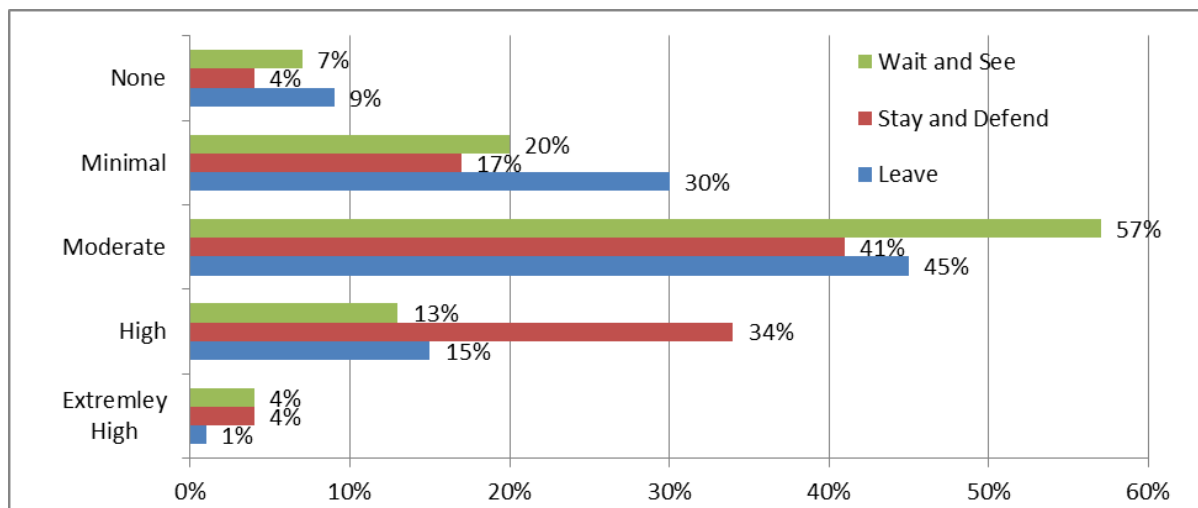


Figure 3.7. Horizontal bar chart: Responses to: 'Please rate the extent to which your house construction material would protect your house if a bushfire did threaten your property'.

3.1.5.5 Bushfire risk perceptions: Ease of safe evacuation under a bushfire threat

There were no meaningful differences among the three groups of householders in their assessments of possible danger associated with their escape routes (Figure 3.8).

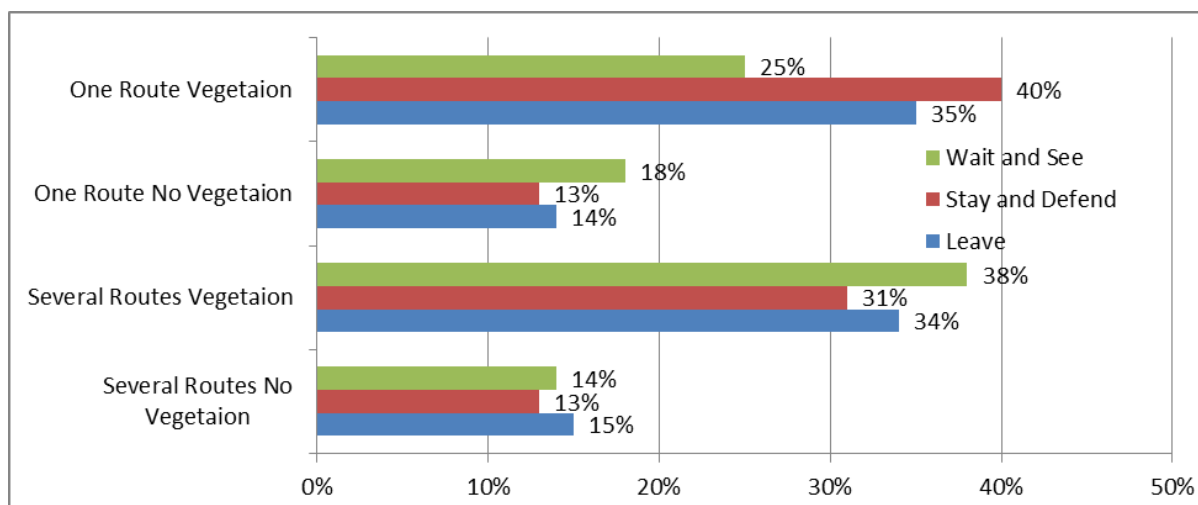


Figure 3.8. Horizontal bar chart: Responses to 'What is road access to your property like?'

3.1.5.6 Bushfire risk perceptions: Optimistic threat warning outcome expectations

A greater percentage of householders intending to Leave or to Wait and See had an optimistic expectation that a bushfire threat may not eventuate because the wind would change direction: $V = 0.27$ (Figure 3.9).

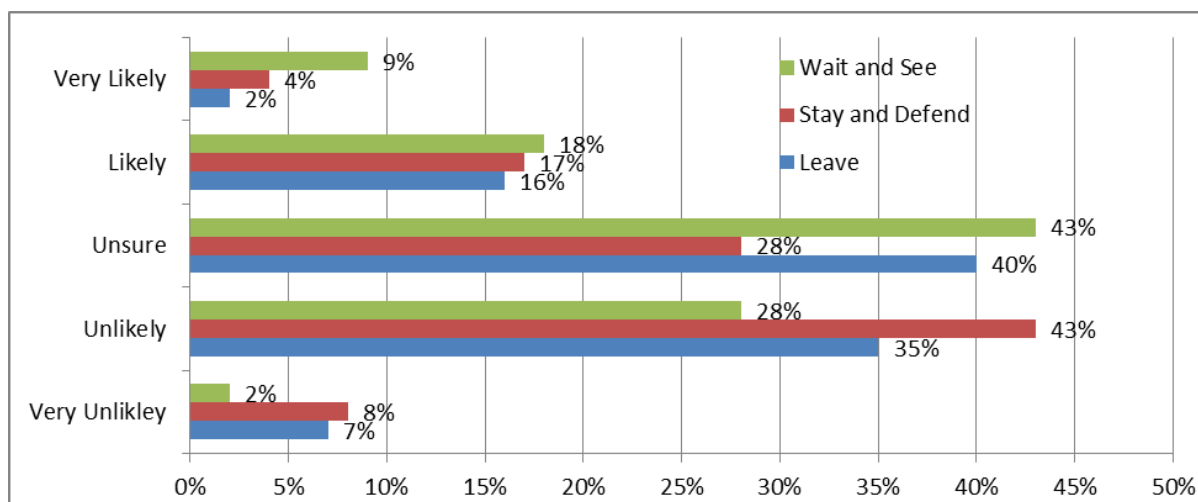


Figure 3.9. Horizontal bar chart: Responses to: 'How likely do you think it is that the wind would change and direct the fire away from your house?'

3.1.5.7 Bushfire risk perceptions: Anticipated time window to leave safely

A greater percentage of householders intending to Wait and See anticipated a lengthy time window to leave safely (at least an hour): $V = 0.18$ (Figure 3.10).

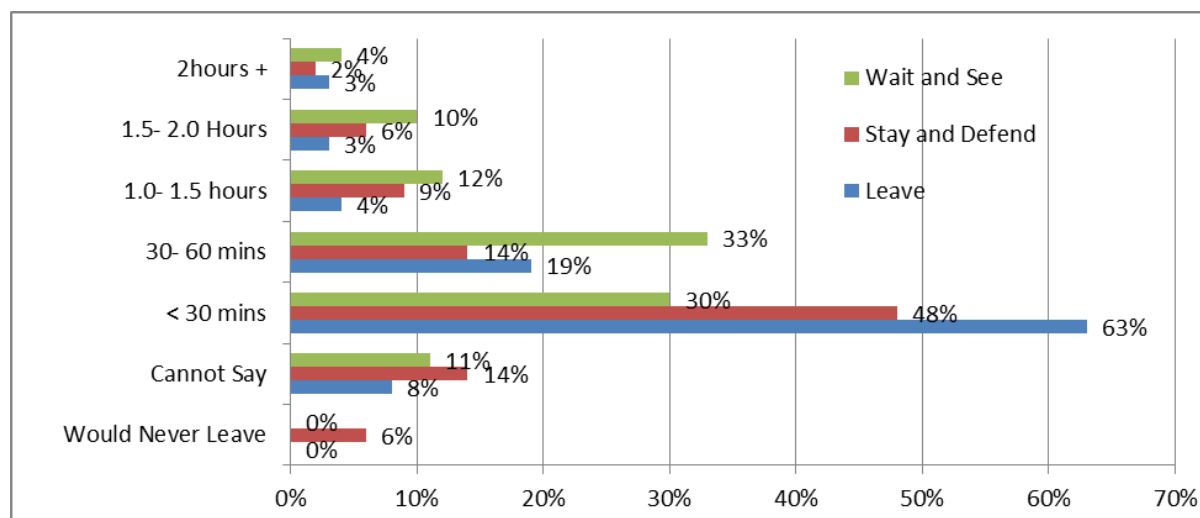


Figure 3.10. Horizontal bar chart: Responses to 'From the time you receive the warning, how much time do you think you would have to leave with no danger?'

3.1.5.8 Discussion

There were seven indicators of level of householder bushfire risk perception. Those intending to Leave were somewhat more likely to perceive their risk to be *higher* on two indicators: house vulnerability and low protection afforded by house construction. Those intending to Wait and See were somewhat more likely to perceive their risk to be *lower* on two indicators: optimistic outcome of a threat warning and greater anticipated time window for safe evacuation.

3.1.6 Anticipated emotions associated with acting on the intention

Householders were invited to describe the emotions that they anticipated they would feel if they acted upon their intention. Of 584 householders, 483 described the emotions they thought they would experience if they acted upon their choice. There was considerable variation in detail provided; some wrote a single word, some used phrases, others provided considerable detail and explanation. Householders interpreted ‘emotions’ very broadly and it would be more accurate to describe what they wrote about as being ‘anticipated experiences’. A total of 51 different emotionally toned anticipated experiences were described. Anticipated emotional experiences were grouped on the basis of apparent content similarity, resulting in 12 experience-clusters. These are shown below in Table 3.5.

Table 3.5. Analyses of responses to the invitation to: ‘Please describe the emotions you would feel if you decided to Leave/Stay and Defend/Wait and See.’

	<i>Intention: Leave</i>	<i>Intention: Stay and Defend</i>	<i>Intention: Wait and See</i>
Number of householders (N)	273	139	172
Number of respondents describing anticipated emotions (n)	241	119	123
N/n as a percentage	88%	86%	72%
Total number of emotion terms reported (E)	384	205	226
Average number of emotions reported per respondent (E/n)	1.6	1.7	1.8
% Positive emotions	19% (72/384)	34% (70/205)	31% (71/226)
% Negative emotions	78% (301/384)	65% (134/205)	69% (155/226)

% Neutral descriptors	3% (11/384)	0.5% (1/205)	–
Positive emotions			
1 Relief %	56% (40/72)	–	–
2 Self-approval %	19% (14/72)	–	–
3 Alertness %	17% (12/72)	24% (17/70)	62% (44/71)
4 Confidence %	8% (6/72)	54% (38/70)	38% (27/71)
5 Focused %	–	22% (15/70)	–
Negative emotions			
6 Anxiety %	69% (207/301)	87% (117/134)	82% (127/155)
7 Sadness %	17% (56/301)	–	0.5% (1/155)
8 Uncertainty %	8% (23/301)	10% (14/134)	15% (23/155)
9 Anger %	3% (8/301)	2% (3/134)	3% (4/155)
10 Guilt %	3% (7/301)	–	–
Neutral descriptors			
11 Acceptance %	11 (100%)	–	–
12 Resignation %	–	1 (100%)	–

(a) Householders intending to Leave described an appreciably higher percentage of negative emotions and a lower percentage of positive emotions compared with those intending to Stay and Defend or Wait and See. The most common anticipated positive emotional experience described was ‘relief’ at no longer being under imminent threat of bushfire attack. Inspection of the accounts provided indicated that an appreciable number of these householders described two simultaneous sources of anxiety-related emotional experiences: anxiety about their house being destroyed in their absence, and anxiety about dangers associated with leaving—

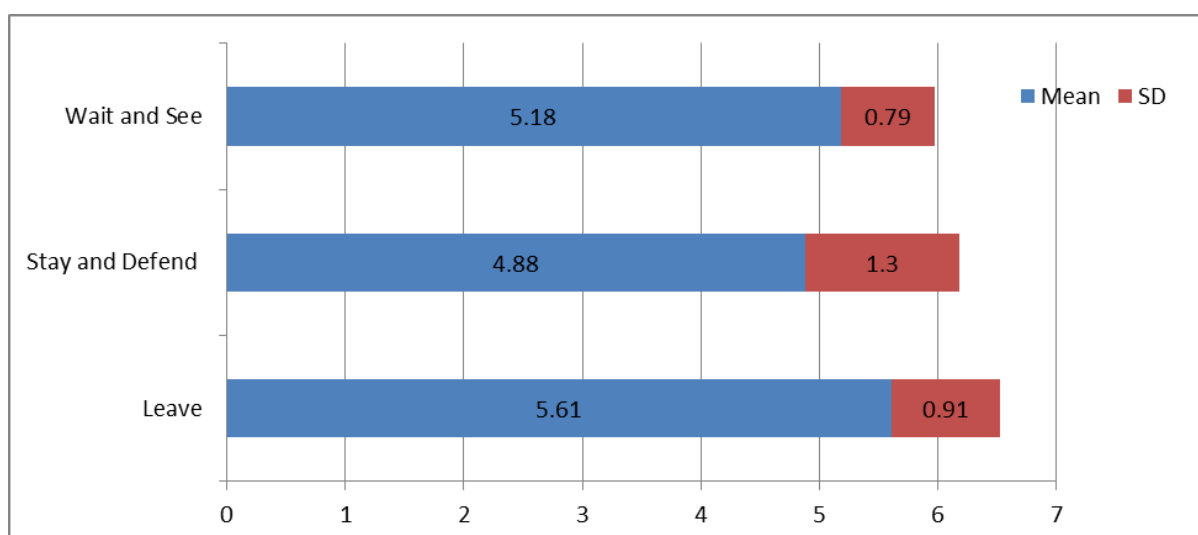
being caught on the road by the bushfire, being involved in an accident, threats posed by hazardous driving conditions. This 'double-whammy' of anxiety associated with leaving may explain in part why some householders apparently find it so difficult to actually commit to the action of leaving, and only leave at the last minute when it is clear that they have no option but to do so (McLennan *et al.* 2011, 2012). The second most frequently reported positive anticipated experience can best be described as 'self-approval for having made the difficult decision to leave'.

- (b) More than half ($117/205 = 57\%$) of anticipated emotions described by householders intending to Stay and Defend involved anxiety about the dangers involved in active defence; several commented about concerns that they might misjudge the danger posed by the fire or that something unexpected might go wrong. All the anticipated positive experiences were associated with the task of successfully defending the house: confidence, alertness, focus and concentration.
- (c) An appreciably smaller percentage of those intending to Wait and See responded to the request to describe anticipated emotions compared with those intending to Leave or to Stay and Defend—72% as compared with 88% and 86%, respectively. This is consistent with these householders experiencing a somewhat lower overall level of psychological engagement with the possibility of a bushfire threat

3.2 Individual Householder Characteristics and Intentions

3.2.1 Emotional reactivity to threat

Self-reported Emotional Reactivity to Threat scores were calculated for each householder; scores could range from 2 to 10. Mean Threat Reactivity score for those intending to Stay and Defend was significantly lower than for those intending to Leave ($d = 0.65$) and for those intending to Wait and See ($d = 0.53$). Mean scores for those intending to Leave were somewhat higher than for those intending to Wait and See ($d = 0.28$).

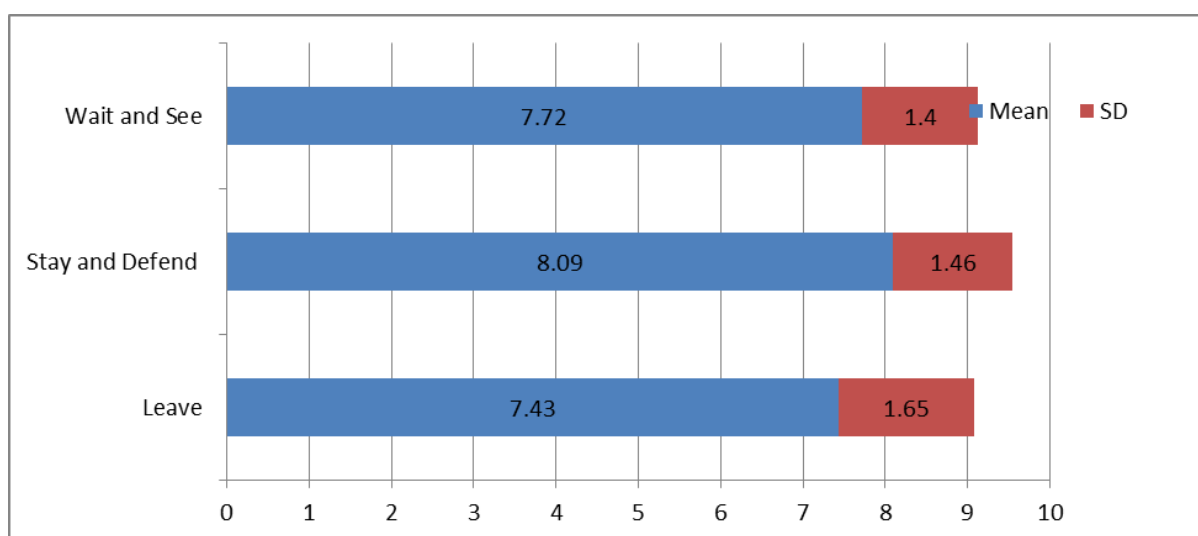


Total Emotional Reactivity Score

Figure 3.11. Horizontal bar chart: Responses to ‘When I get scared I panic’ (1–5) *plus* ‘I am always calm—nothing ever bothers me’ (5–1).

3.2.2 Sense of community

Reported Sense of Community scores were calculated for each householder; scores could range from 2 to 10. Mean Sense of Community score for those intending to Stay and Defend was somewhat higher than for those intending to Leave ($d = 0.42$) and those intending to Wait and See ($d = 0.26$). Mean scores did not differ significantly between those intending to Leave and those intending to Wait and See ($d = 0.19$).

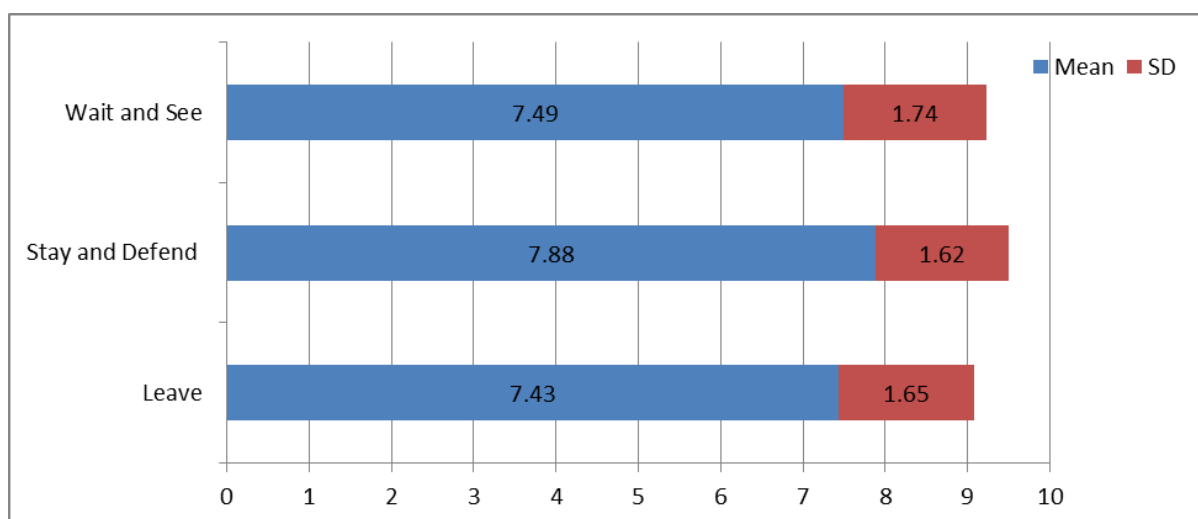


Total Sense of Community Score

Figure 3.12. Horizontal bar chart: Responses to: 'I am on first-name terms with many of my neighbours' (1–5) *plus* 'People around here work together to try to improve things in the community' (1–5).

3.2.3 Emotional attachment to home

Reported Emotional Attachment to Home scores were calculated for each householder; scores could range from 2 to 10. Mean Emotional Attachment to Home score for those intending to Stay and Defend was somewhat higher than for those intending to Leave ($d = 0.28$) and those intending to Wait and See ($d = 0.23$). Mean scores did not differ significantly between those intending to Leave and those intending to Wait and See ($d = 0.04$).



Total Emotional Attachment to Home Score

Figure 3.13. Horizontal bar chart: Responses to 'I miss my property when I am away too long' (1–5) plus 'Where I live is my favourite place to be' (1–5).

3.2.4 Discussion

There were meaningful overall differences among the three groups of householders on the three individual characteristics studied. Those intending to Stay and Defend reported: (a) a lower mean level of Emotional Reactivity, and higher mean levels of (b) Sense of Community and (c) Emotional Attachment to Home. This is consistent with a general tendency for householders who intend to Stay and Defend to perceive protecting their 'property' (encompassing home, contents, possessions, pets and livestock, and neighbours) as being more immediately important than their own personal safety.

3.3 Previous Bushfire Experience and Bushfire-related Training

3.3.1 Previous experiences of bushfire threat warnings

Table 3.6 indicates that a slightly greater percentage of those who intended to Stay and Defend had previous bushfire threat warning experience compared with those who intended to Leave ($V = 0.15$). Also, a very large proportion (80%) of those who intended to Wait and See had previously experienced a bushfire threat warning ($V = 0.41$), and many (58%) of these householders left in response to the threat warning. However, this latter finding should be interpreted with some caution: a substantial number of these respondents were from the ACT and had experienced the 2003 Canberra fires.

Table 3.6. Previous experiences of bushfire threat warnings

<i>Previous experience of a bushfire threat warning?</i>	<i>Intend to Leave</i>	<i>Intend to Stay and Defend</i>	<i>Intend to Wait and See</i>
YES	32% (86)	47% (66)	80% (139)
Left	48% (41)	9% (6)	58% (81)
Ready to leave	19% (16)	–	4% (6)
Stayed and defended—successful	23% (20)	55% (36)	27% (38)
Stayed and defended—house destroyed	2% (2)	3% (2)	<1% (1)
Stayed—ready to defend	8% (7)	33% (22)	9% (13)
NO	68% (187)	53% (75)	20% (35)
Total ^a	100% (273)	100% (141)	100% (174)

^a A few householders reported outcomes for more than one previous experience.

3.3.2 Previous bushfire-related training

Table 3.7 shows that a greater percentage of those who intend to Stay and Defend reported bushfire-relevant training and/or experience compared with those who intend to Leave and those who intend to Wait and See ($V = 0.26$).

Table 3.7. Training concerning bushfires

<i>Training status</i>	<i>Intend to Leave</i>	<i>Intend to Stay and Defend</i>	<i>Intend to Wait and See</i>
Currently or previously a member of a fire brigade	12% (32)	35% (48)	12% (21)
Undertaken some training about bushfires	11% (30)	19% (26)	6% (11)
No formal training, but instructed by family/friends	17% (46)	11% (15)	14% (24)
No formal training, but experience in fighting bushfires	6% (17)	11% (15)	13% (23)
Other bushfire-relevant training or experience ^a	6% (16)	8% (11)	12% (21)
No bushfire-relevant training or experience	48% (131)	17% (24)	42% (72)
Total	100% (272)	100% (139)	100% (172)

^a Included: employment-related fire safety training, personal experience of bushfires (mostly reported by those intending to Wait and See—see Table 3.6), membership of Community Fireguard, reading.

3.3.3 Membership of Community Fireguard

Householders were asked 'Have you ever been a member of a Community Fireguard group or similar?' More than one-third of those who intend to Stay and Defend (38%) answered 'yes', compared with 19% of those who intend to Leave, and 13% of those who intend to Wait and See ($V = 0.18$).

3.3.4 Awareness of agency bushfire safety information

Householders were asked 'Have you read any of the material on bushfire safety prepared by your State or Territory rural or country fire service?' 'Yes' response tallies were: intend to Leave: 87%; intend to Stay and Defend: 96%; intend to Wait and See: 88%. These percentages did not differ significantly among the three groups of householders.

3.4 House Location

Householders were asked to indicate the location of their home: (a) on a farm or other isolated rural setting; (b) in a small country town; or (c) on a suburban street near to bushland. As Table 3.8 shows, there were associations among house location and intention following a bushfire threat warning ($V = 0.15$). For all three locations, the majority of householders intended to Leave following a bushfire threat warning. Householders residing on farms and other isolated rural settings were least likely to Wait and See, householders residing in suburban streets near bushland were least likely to Stay and Defend.

Table 3.8 House location in relation to intention

<i>House location</i>	<i>Intend to Leave</i>	<i>Intend to Stay and Defend</i>	<i>Intend to Wait and See</i>	<i>Total</i>
Farm, isolated rural setting	45% (56)	37% (46)	18% (23)	100% (125)
In a small rural town	46% (91)	25% (51)	29% (58)	100% (200)
In a suburban street near bushland	47% (121)	17% (42)	36% (92)	100% (255)
Total number	(268)	(139)	(173)	(580)

3.5 Preferred Sources of Information Following a Bushfire Threat Warning

There were no meaningful differences among the three groups of householders in frequency of preferred sources of information following a bushfire threat warning.

Table 3.9 Preferred sources of information tabulated by intention

<i>Source</i>	<i>Intend to Leave</i>	<i>Intend to Stay and Defend</i>	<i>Intend to Wait and See</i>	<i>Row totals</i>
Radio	25% (219)	26% (108)	25% (140)	467
Internet: Agency web site	19% (169)	19% (79)	17% (98)	346
Environmental cues	15% (131)	21% (87)	20% (113)	331
Mobile phone: SMS message	12% (103)	8% (33)	8% (47)	183
Neighbours	11% (100)	13% (53)	13% (75)	228
TV	10% (89)	6% (25)	9% (53)	167
Family/friends	6% (50)	5% (21)	5% (31)	102
Internet: Facebook	1% (12)	1% (4)	1% (5)	21
Internet: Twitter	<1% (6)	<1% (2)	<1% (2)	10
Mobile phone: Facebook	<1% (5)	<1% (3)	–	8
Mobile phone: Twitter	<1% (4)	<1% (1)	<1% (2)	7
Total	100% (888)	100% (416)	100% (566)	(1870)

In light of recent discussions of the likely role of social media as a source of information in disaster situations (e.g. Palen 2008), the small number of respondents who nominated these as preferred sources of information is perhaps surprising.

3.6 Planning and Preparation for Bushfire Survival

3.6.1 A household bushfire survival plan for a day of predicted extreme fire danger

Of the 584 householders, 208 (36%) reported having prepared a household fire plan for a day of predicted extreme or worse fire danger weather. A greater percentage of those intending to Stay and Defend reported having prepared such a fire plan ($V = 0.17$).

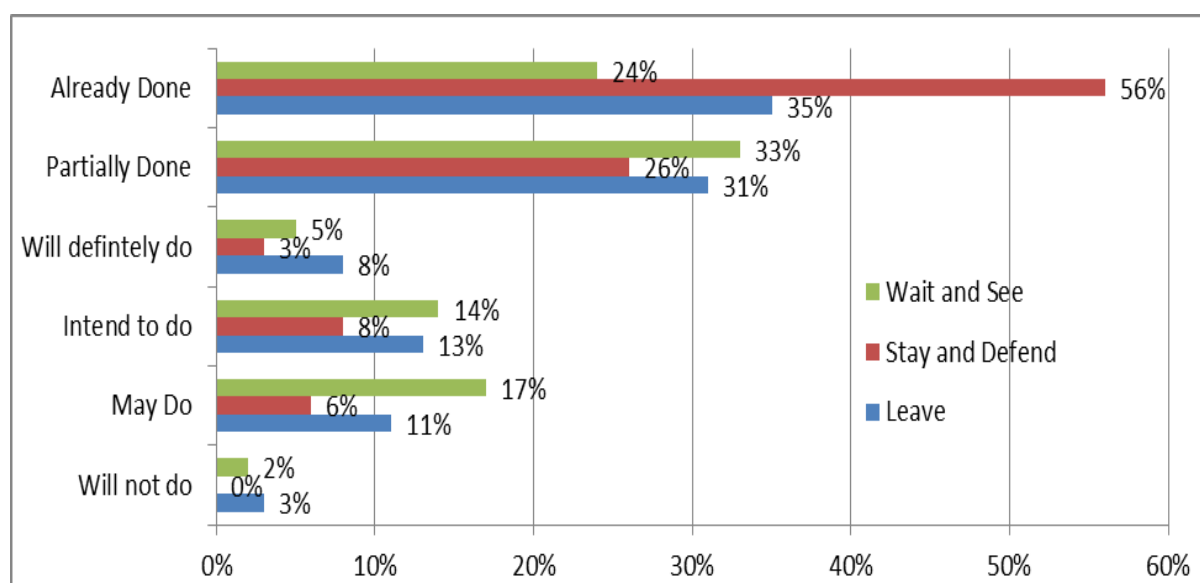


Figure 3.14. Horizontal bar chart: Responses to: 'Prepared a plan involving all members of the household for what to do when a day of extreme fire danger or worse is predicted for your region?'

3.6.2 Planning for bushfire survival when there is a bushfire threat warning

Of the 584 householders, 223 (38%) reported having prepared a plan for survival when there is a bushfire threat warning.

A greater percentage of householders who intended to Stay and Defend reported having a plan for what to do when there is a bushfire threat warning: $V = 0.13$.

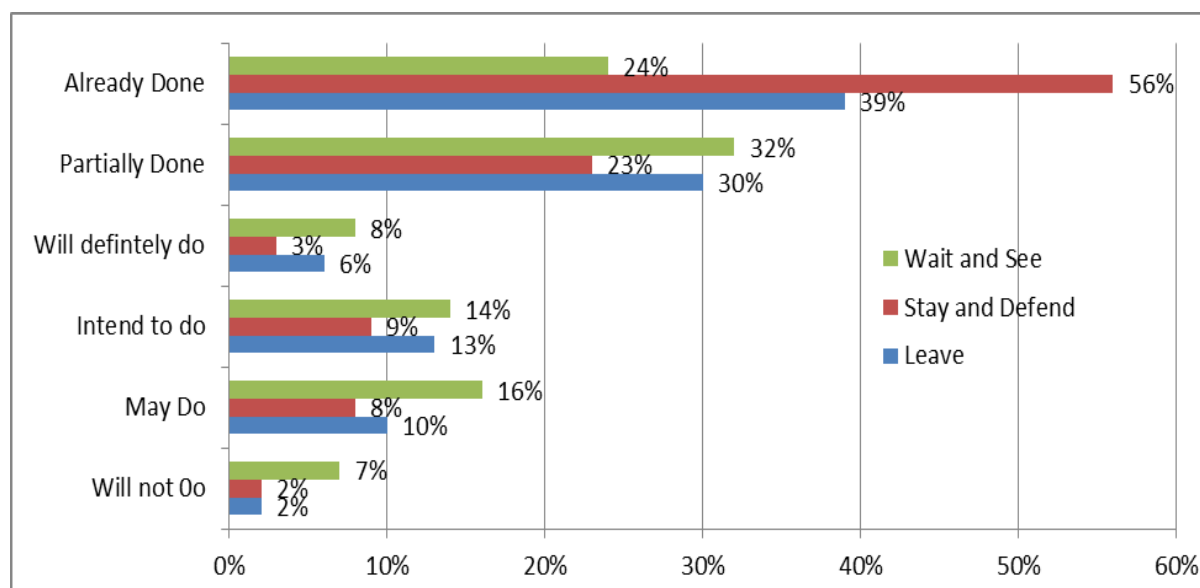


Figure 3.15. Horizontal bar chart: Responses to: 'Prepared a plan involving all members of the household for what to do when there is bushfire burning that might threaten your home?'

Note that of 584 householders, seven householders who intended to Leave plus two householders who intended to Wait and See chose the option indicating that they would never be in this situation because they would have left the day before on the basis of the weather predictions. The nine householders who intended to leave early on the sole basis of weather forecasts account for 1.5% of all householders (584), and 2% of those who do not intend to Stay and Defend (445).

3.6.3 Long-term preparation for bushfire survival

Householders completed a 21-item Bushfire Survival Preparations Checklist (McLennan and Elliott 2011). The Checklist comprises four sub-scales: (a) active defence; (b) reducing house vulnerability; (c) reducing threat to house; (d) leaving safely (see Appendix B).

3.6.3.1 Active defence

There are eight checklist items:

Installed a pump that does not depend on mains power (i.e. petrol or diesel-driven, or electrically powered by a generator)

Installed a water tank for firefighting purposes and/or to supply a sprinkler system

Prepared a kit of protective clothing and gear (boots, smoke masks, goggles) for members of the household

Obtained and prepared firefighting equipment such as ladders, buckets and mops

Obtained and prepared hoses for firefighting, long enough to reach all parts of the house

Installed a sprinkler system on or around the house

Obtained a battery-powered radio with fresh batteries

Installed a fire shelter or bunker in which to take shelter if necessary

Possible responses are:

Already done (6); Partially done (5); Will definitely do (4); Intend to do (3); May do (2); Will not do (1); Not applicable (0). Total scores can range from 8 to 48.

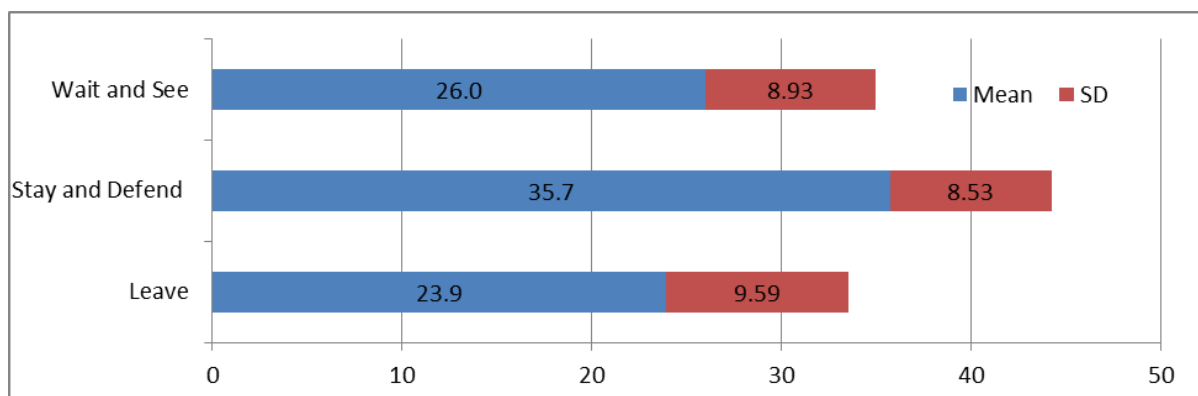


Figure 3.16. Preparations for active defence total scores: means and standard deviations.

The mean scores of householders intending to Stay and Defend were significantly higher than those of householders intending to Leave ($d = 1.3$) and intending to Wait and See ($d = 1.1$). The difference in mean scores for householders intending to Wait and See and householders intending to Leave was small ($d = 0.23$) and not significant.

3.6.3.2 Reduce house vulnerability

There are five checklist items:

Enclosed under-floor spaces to prevent embers or flames from entering

Covered gaps and vents to reduce the risk of embers entering the house through openings under the roof or in walls

Installed seals and/or draft protectors around windows and doors

Installed roof gutter protection

Installed shutters for windows

Possible responses are:

Already done (6); Partially done (5); Will definitely do (4); Intend to do (3); May do (2); Will not do (1); Not applicable (0). Total scores can range from 5 to 30.

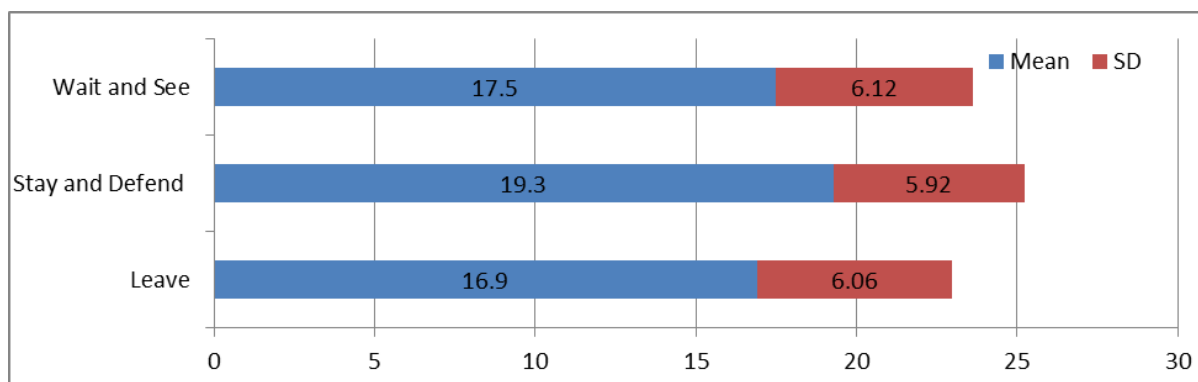


Figure 3.17. Preparations to reduce house vulnerability total scores: means and standard deviations.

The means scores for householders intending to Stay and Defend were significantly higher than those of householders intending to Leave ($d = 0.41$). Neither of the other two mean differences were significant.

3.6.3.3 Reduce threat to house

There are four checklist items:

Cleared leaves, twigs, long grass from around the house to a distance of 20–30 m

Removed bushes close to the house and cut back overhanging tree branches

Moved combustible material such as firewood, garden furniture, lawn mower and fuel, paint tins, old cars or tyres away from the house

Used landscaping, tree planting, or the layout of the garden to protect the house from bushfires

Possible responses are:

Already done (6); Partially done (5); Will definitely do (4); Intend to do (3); May do (2); Will not do (1); Not applicable (0). Total scores can range from 4 to 24.

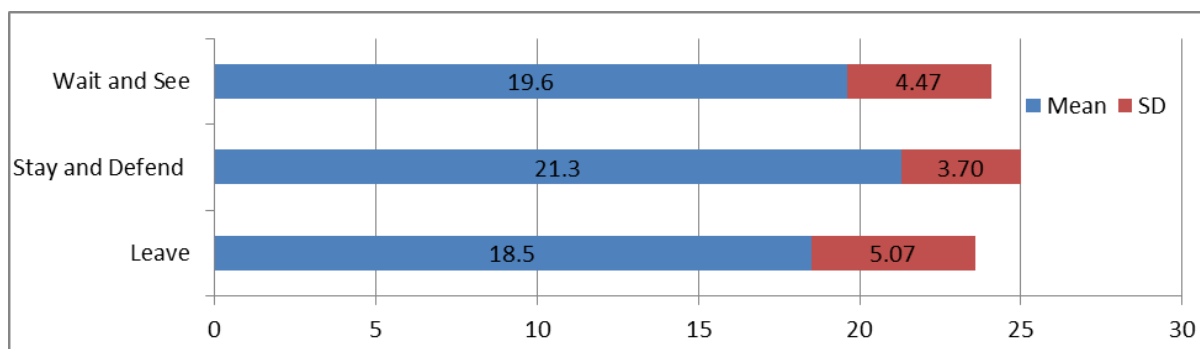


Figure 3.18. Preparations for reducing threat to house total scores: means and standard deviations.

The mean scores of householders intending to Stay and Defend were significantly higher than those of householders intending to Leave ($d = 0.64$) and those intending to Wait and See ($d = 0.43$). The difference in means scores for householders intending to Wait and See and householders intending to Leave was small ($d = 0.22$) and not significant.

3.6.3.4 Leave safely

There are four checklist items:

Planned what to do if you decide to leave your home because of the risk of a bushfire (e.g. where to go and stay, the route, what to take, what to do about pets and livestock)

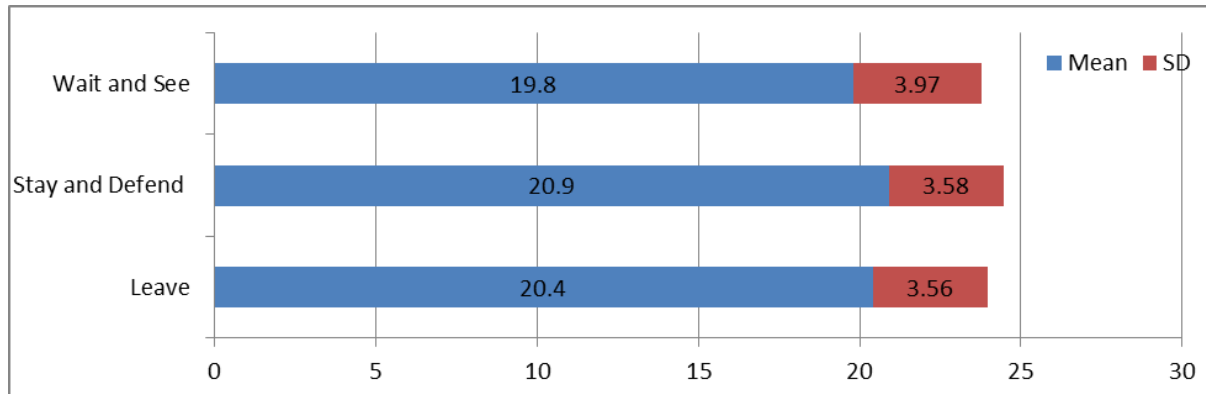
Identified a location nearby where you, or other family members, could shelter safely if you had to leave your home because of a bushfire

Checked that you have enough home contents and building insurance

Stored important documents and possessions safely elsewhere, or in a fire-proof location on site, or have them packed ready to take with you when you leave

Possible responses are:

Already done (6); Partially done (5); Will definitely do (4); Intend to do (3); May do (2); Will not do (1); Not applicable (0). Total scores can range from 4 to 24.



Total Preparations For leaving Score

Figure 3.19. Preparations for leaving safely total scores: means and standard deviations.

The mean scores for the three groups of householders did not differ significantly. This is consistent with previous findings that householders who do not intend to Stay and Defend nonetheless are mostly *not* well prepared to leave safely (McLennan *et al.* 2011; McLennan *et al.* 2012).

3.6.3.5 Bushfire preparation actions completed

3.6.3.5.1: Active defence

Table 3.10 Percentage of householders in each Intention group who reported completing active property defence preparation actions (n = number of householders completing the action; N = total number of householders in the Intention group)

<i>Action</i>	<i>Leave</i> % (n/N)	<i>Stay and defend</i> % (n/N)	<i>Wait and See</i> % (n/N)	<i>All</i> % (n/N)
Installed a pump that does not depend on mains electric power (i.e. petrol, diesel-driven or electrically powered by a generator)	20% (47/234)	59% (78/132)	19% (29/156)	30% (154/522)
Installed a water tank for firefighting purposes and/or to supply a sprinkler system	32% (78/247)	68% (89/131)	30% (49/162)	40% (216/540)
Obtained and prepared firefighting equipment such as ladders, buckets and mops	27% (68/249)	75% (100/134)	35% (58/166)	41% (226/549)
Prepared a kit of protective clothing and gear (boots, smoke masks, goggles) for members of the household	21% (55/258)	63% (83/131)	22% (37/166)	32% (175/555)
Obtained and prepared hoses for firefighting, long enough to reach all parts of the house	41% (104/251)	75% (100/134)	49% (82/169)	53% (286/554)
Installed a sprinkler system on or around the house	8% (21/249)	34% (44/129)	14% (22/161)	16% (87/539)
Obtained a battery-powered radio with fresh batteries	53% (137/261)	76% (99/131)	51% (85/167)	57% (321/559)
Installed or constructed a fire shelter or bunker in which to take refuge if necessary	2% (4/223)	12% (15/124)	4% (6/144)	5% (25/491)

3.6.3.5.2 Reduce danger to house

Table 3.11: Percentage of householders in each Intention group who reported completing preparation actions to reduce danger to the house (n = number of householders completing the action; N = total number of householders in the Intention group)

<i>Action</i>	<i>Leave</i> % (n/N)	<i>Stay and defend</i> % (n/N)	<i>Wait and See</i> % (n/N)	<i>All</i> % (n/N)
Removed bushes close to the house and cut back overhanging tree branches	39% (100/255)	68% (90/132)	42% (68/163)	47% (258/550)
Cleared leaves, twigs, long grass from around the house to a distance of 20–30 m	46% (113/248)	63% (82/130)	50% (79/159)	51% (274/541)
Moved combustible material such as firewood, garden furniture, lawn mower and fuel, paint tins, old cars or tyres away from the house	46% (113/248)	69% (91/132)	49% (79/162)	52% (283/542)
Used landscaping, tree planting, or the layout of the garden to protect the house from bushfires	29% (70/245)	59% (76/130)	39% (60/156)	39% (206/531)

3.6.3.5.3 Reduce house vulnerability

Table 3.12: Percentage of householders in each Intention group who reported completing preparation actions to reduce house vulnerability (n = number of householders completing the action; N = total number of householders in the Intention group)

<i>Action</i>	<i>Leave</i> % (n/N)	<i>Stay and defend</i> % (n/N)	<i>Wait and See</i> % (n/N)	<i>All</i> % (n/N)
Installed seals and/or draft protectors around windows and doors	32% (80/228)	46% (59/128)	52% (52/161)	35% (191/543)
Covered gaps and vents to reduce the risk of embers entering the house through openings under the roof or in walls	30% (69/228)	48% (60/125)	30% (45/152)	34% (174/505)
Installed shutters for windows	1% 3/239	3% (4/123)	3% (5/155)	2% (12/517)
Enclosed under-floor spaces to prevent embers or flames entering	48% (97/204)	62% (63/101)	60% (77/129)	55% (237/434)
Installed roof gutter protection	26% (65/246)	40% (63/101)	26% (39/152)	32% (167/523)

3.6.3.5.4 Leave safely

Table 3.11: Percentage of householders in each Intention group who reported completing preparation actions to leave safely (n = number of householders completing the action; N = total number of householders in the Intention group)

<i>Action</i>	<i>Leave</i> % (n/N)	<i>Stay and defend</i> % (n/N)	<i>Wait and See</i> % (n/N)	<i>All</i> % (n/N)
Planned what to do if you decided to leave your home because of the risk of a bushfire, e.g. where to go and stay, the route to take, what to do about pets and livestock	52% (138/266)	62% (74/120)	41% 68/166)	51% (280/552)
Identified a location nearby where you, or other family members, could shelter safely if you had to leave your home because of a bushfire	61% (162/264)	74% (93/125)	61% (99/163)	64% (354/552)
Checked that you have enough home contents and building insurance	87% (232/268)	89% (118/133)	86% (143/	87% (493/568)
Stored important documents and possessions safely elsewhere, or in a fire-proof location on site, or have them packed ready to take with you when you leave	40% (108)/267)	38% (51/133)	37% (62/169)	39% (221/569)

3.6.3.6 Perceived extent to which preparations for a bushfire would protect the house

A much higher percentage of householders intending to Stay and Defend rated the extent to which their preparation would protect the house as 'Extremely high' or 'High' ($V = 0.39$).

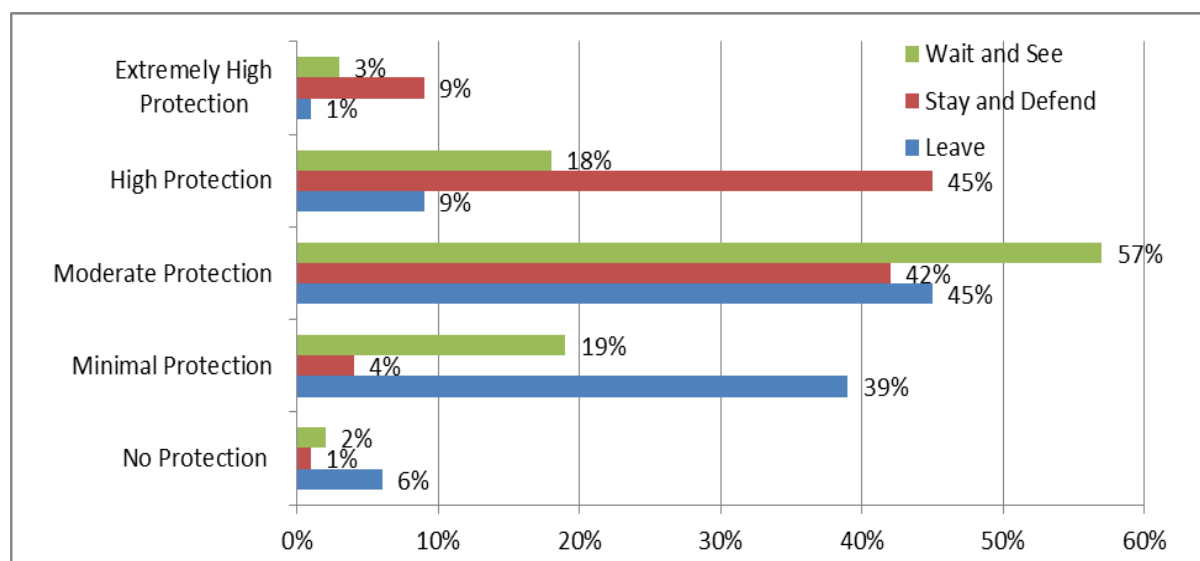


Figure 3.20. Horizontal bar chart: Responses to: 'Please rate the extent to which your preparations for a bushfire would protect your house if a bushfire did threaten your property'.

3.6.3.7 Preparations on a day of predicted Severe or Extreme bushfire danger

Householders completed a seven-item checklist of possible preparatory actions on a day of Severe or Extreme bushfire danger. The items were:

Fill containers (buckets, bins, drums) with water and place these in or around the house

Clear leaves from gutters and roof surfaces

Fill some containers with emergency drinking water

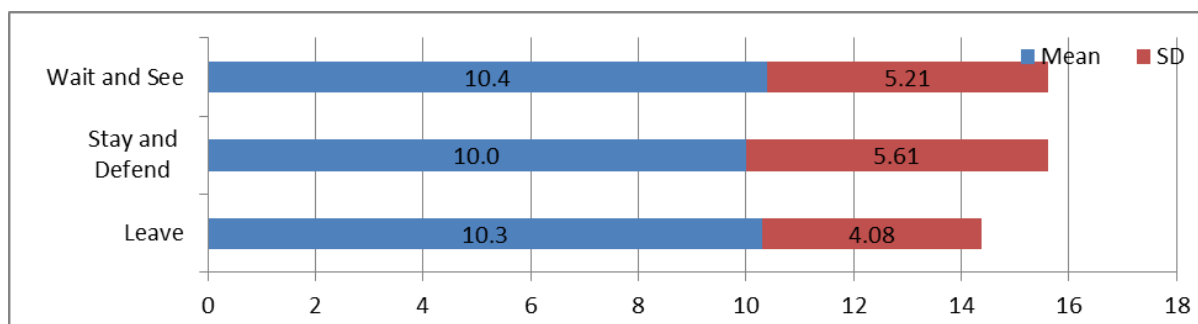
Make arrangements for pets or livestock to be safe

Park the car facing the way to drive away quickly; garage doors open, gates unlocked (even if the plan is to defend)

Prepare a kit to take with you if you decide to leave because of the threat of a bushfire (or in case defence fails): water, food, change of clothes, toiletries, valuables

Ensure mobile phone is kept fully charged (and has sufficient credit for making calls if pre-paid)

Response options were: Will definitely do (4); Intend to do (3); May do (2); Will not do (1); Not applicable (0). Total preparations on a high fire danger day scores could range from 7 to 28.



Total Fire Danger Day Preparation Score

Figure 3.21. Preparations for a day of Severe or Extreme fire danger total scores: means and standard deviations.

The mean scores for the three groups of householders did not differ significantly.

3.6.3.8 Strength of commitment to intending to Leave, or to Stay and Defend, or to Wait and See, and bushfire survival planning and preparation actions

Strength of Commitment to Intention scores (see Section 3.1.2: Strength of Commitment = Likelihood plus Importance, score range 2–10) were correlated with having prepared a household plan for what to do on a day of predicted Extreme fire danger.

- Intend to Leave: $r_{pb} = 0.16$;
- Intend to Stay and Defend: $r_{pb} = .27$;
- Intend to Wait and See: $r_{pb} = 0.16$.

All three correlation values are small.

Strength of Commitment to Intention scores were correlated with having prepared a household plan for what to do following a bushfire threat warning.

- Intend to Leave: $r_{pb} = 0.13$;
- Intend to Stay and Defend: $r_{pb} = 0.28$;

- Intend to Wait and See: $r_{pb} = 0.06$.

The correlation values are small for those householders intending to Leave or to Stay and Defend, and the value for those intending to Wait and See is not meaningful.

(Note: r_{pb} is a point-biserial correlation; it can be understood as being equivalent to a standard [Pearson] correlation coefficient).

Strength of Commitment to Intention scores were correlated with the number of bushfire survival preparation actions undertaken for each of the four Bushfire Survival Preparations Checklist sub-scales (see Section 3.6.3): Active defence (score range 0–9); Reduce house vulnerability (score range 0–4); Reduce threat to house (score range 0–4); Leave safely (score range 0–4). Table 3.12 shows that, overall, Strength of Commitment to Intention was **not** related strongly to (reported) bushfire survival preparation actions.

Table 3.12. Correlations between strength of Commitment to Intention scores and number of bushfire survival preparation actions (values in bold type are sufficiently large to be meaningful)

<i>Bushfire survival intention (scores: 2–10)</i>	<i>Prepare: for active defence (scores 0–9)</i>	<i>Prepare: to reduce house vulnerability (scores 0–4)</i>	<i>Prepare: to reduce threat to house (scores 0–4)</i>	<i>Prepare: to leave safely (scores 0–4)</i>
Leave	–0.01	–0.03	0.19	0.15
Stay and Defend	0.35	0.10	0.22	0.10
Wait and See	0.18	0.04	0.05	0.09

Using generally accepted conventions, there are four, small, meaningful correlations between strength of Commitment to Intention and number of bushfire survival preparation actions. For those intending to Stay and Defend, there was a medium correlation with the number of actions taken to prepare for active defence. This indicates, for many householders, a disconnect between the intention and taking the actions necessary to enable the intention to be enacted successfully.

3.7 Demographic Characteristics of Householders

3.7.1 Gender

Of the 584 survey respondents, 273 were males (47%) and 310 were females (53%), with one unspecified. Men were more likely to intend to Stay and Defend, women were more likely to intend to Leave as soon as possible ($V = 0.28$). Men and women were almost equally likely to intend to Wait and See (Table 3.13).

Table 3.13. Gender by intention

<i>Gender</i>	<i>Intention: Leave</i>	<i>Intention: Stay and Defend</i>	<i>Intention: Wait and See</i>
Male	35% (96)	65% (89)	51.% (88)
Female	65% (177)	35% (49)	49% (84)

3.7.2 Age

The mean age of men was 56.6 years ($SD = 13.42$); the mean age of women was 53.0 years ($SD = 13.93$).

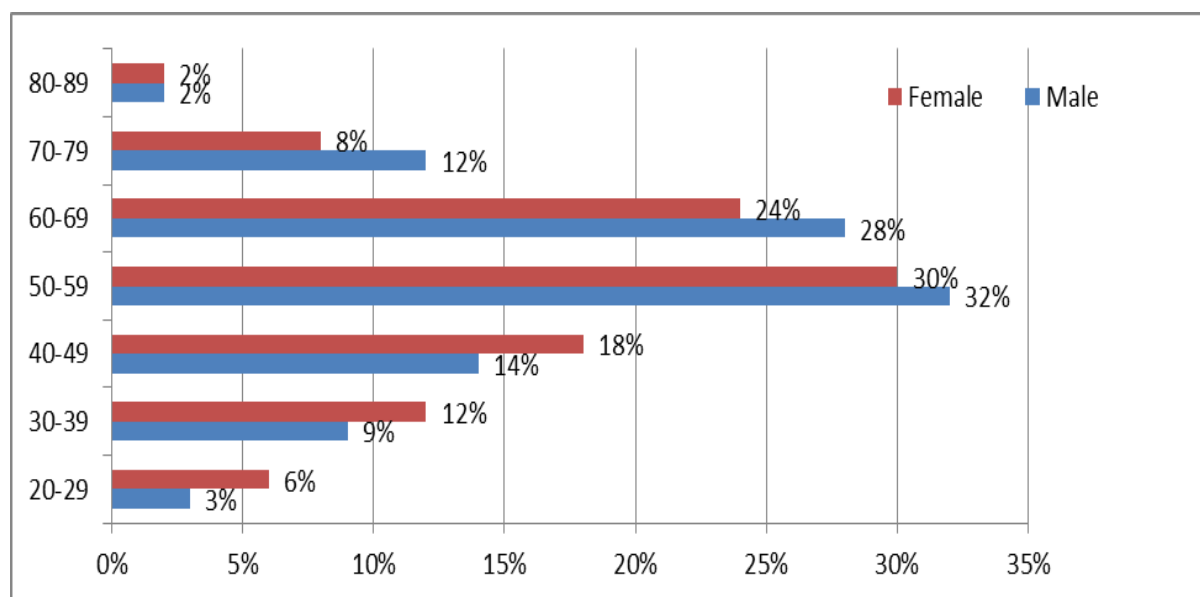


Figure 3.22. Horizontal bar chart: age distribution percentage in 10-year intervals.

Table 3.14. Age and intention: means and standard deviations, men and women

	<i>Intend to Leave as soon as possible</i>	<i>Intend to Stay and Defend</i>	<i>Intend to Wait and See</i>
Men	Mean = 55.9 SD = 14.39 n = 92	Mean = 55.2 SD = 12.36 n = 87	Mean = 58.8 SD = 13.25 n = 86
Women	Mean = 51.4 SD = 14.79 n = 174	Mean = 55.2 SD = 11.82 n = 46	Mean = 55.3 SD = 12.73 n = 81

Apparent differences in mean age are small ($d \leq 0.28$) and not significant.

3.7.3 Marital status

Table 3.15. Marital status and intention

<i>Marital status</i>	<i>Intend to Leave as soon as possible</i>	<i>Intend to Stay and Defend</i>	<i>Intend to Wait and See</i>
Married, de facto	71% (193)	82% (112)	73% (124)
Separated, divorced	11% (30)	9% (12)	13% (22)
Widowed	4% (11)	1% (2)	5% (9)
Single	14% (37)	8% (11)	9% (15)
Total	100% (271)	100% (137)	100% (170)

There are no significant differences in marital status patterns across the three groups of householders.

3.7.4 Household size: adults

Table 3.16.

<i>Number of adults (>18 years) resident</i>	<i>Intend to Leave as soon as possible</i>	<i>Intend to Stay and Defend</i>	<i>Intend to Wait and See</i>
One	22% (58)	13% (17)	20% (33)
Two	62% (163)	65% (88)	64% (1020)
Three	13% (33)	15% (20)	12% (20)
Four	2% (6)	6% (8)	2% (4)
More than four	1% (3)	1% (2)	2% (3)
Total	100% (263)	100% (135)	100% (162)

There are no significant differences in adult household size patterns across the three groups of householders.

3.7.5 Household size: dependent children

Table 3.17.

<i>Number of dependent children resident</i>	<i>Intend to Leave as soon as possible</i>	<i>Intend to Stay and Defend</i>	<i>Intend to Wait and See</i>
None	71% (193)	77% (106)	80% (138)
<5 years old	10% (28)	6% (8)	3% (6)
5–12 years old	17% (46)	11% (15)	6% (10)
13–17 years old	11% (31)	12% (17)	13% (23)
Total number of households	271	138	172

There are no significant differences in percentage of dependent children across the three groups of householders.

3.7.6 Households with a disabled member

Intend to Leave as soon as possible: n = 39; 14.3%

Intend to Stay and Defend: n = 7; 5.0%

Intend to Wait and See n = 28; 16.3%

Households where the intention was to Stay and Defend were somewhat **less** likely to have a disabled member ($V = 0.12$).

3.7.7 Length of time resident in the community

Over half of the householders had lived in their communities for more than 10 years. More householders intending to Stay and Defend had lived in the community for 20 or more years ($V = 0.29$).

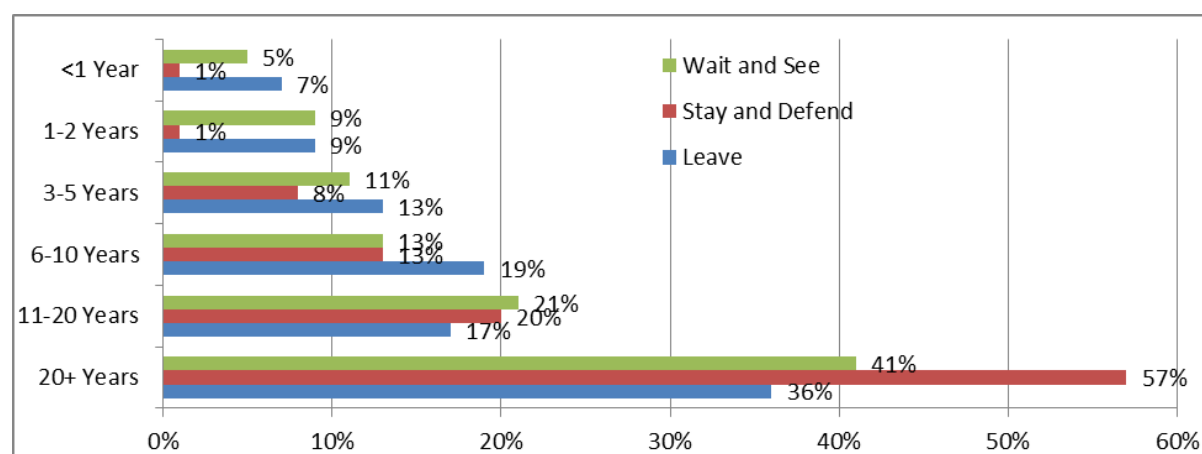


Figure 3.23. Horizontal bar chart: Responses to: 'How long have you lived in this community?'

3.7.8 Employment status

Table 3.18.

<i>Employment status</i>	<i>Intend to Leave as soon as possible</i>	<i>Intend to Stay and Defend</i>	<i>Intend to Wait and See</i>
Farm owner with employees	<1% (1)	<1% (1)	<1% (1)
Farm owner with no employees	4% (10)	8% (12)	3% (5)
Business owner with employees	4% (10)	5% (7)	5% (8)
Business owner with no employees	7% (18)	11% (15)	8% (13)
Employed full-time	32% (87)	35% (49)	28% (49)
Employed part-time	19% (51)	15% (21)	17% (29)
Unemployed	1% (4)	3% (4)	<1% (1)
Home duties or carer	7% (20)	4% (5)	6% (10)
Student	4% (12)	3% (4)	2% (3)
Retired	28% (75)	22% (31)	35% (60)
Number of householders (respondents could choose more than one answer, so percentage totals sum to more than 100%)	272	139	172

There are no significant differences in employment status patterns across the three groups of householders.

4. Discussion

4.1 Summary

Of the 584 householders who responded to the hypothetical bushfire threat warning scenario, 47% intended to Leave as soon as possible, 24% intended to Stay and Defend, and 29% intended to Wait and See what developed before committing to a final action of leaving or staying and defending (Section 3.1).

The three groups of householders differed on their level of commitment to their expressed intentions: householders who intended to Leave or to Stay and Defend evidenced a stronger level of commitment to acting on their intention under an actual bushfire threat compared with those who intended to Wait and See (Sections 3.1.1, 3.1.2).

Different psychological processes apparently determined the strength of each intention: (a) for householders intending to Leave as soon as possible, the predictors of strength of intention were associated with safety; (b) for householders intending to Stay and Defend, the predictors were associated with successful defence; (c) for those householders intending to Wait and See, the predictors were associated with making the right choice (Section 3.1.3).

Reasons given by householders for rejecting alternative choices were consistent with the above interpretations of the analyses of predictors of strengths of intentions. Most of those who intended to Leave saw this as the safest option: staying and defending was seen as being too risky. Most of those who intended to Stay and Defend did not want to leave because they were committed to saving their 'property'. Most of those who intended to Wait and See did not perceive the risks associated with waiting to see to be great, but they did not want to leave unnecessarily and risk losing the house when they could have saved it, or be exposed to unnecessary danger when leaving, but they did not want to be menaced by a serious bushfire (Section 3.1.4).

On seven indicators of bushfire risk or threat perception: (a) those intending to Leave were somewhat more likely to perceive their risk to be *higher* on two indicators—house vulnerability, and low protection afforded by house construction; (b) those intending to Wait and See were somewhat more likely to perceive their risk to be *lower* on two indicators—expected optimistic outcome of a threat warning, and longer anticipated time window for safe evacuation (Section 3.1.5).

In relation to householders' anticipations about what it might be like to act upon their intentions: (a) anticipations of those intending to Leave were mostly negative, and these anticipated negative experiences were mostly associated with losing the house and dangers involved in leaving; (b) for householders intending to Stay and Defend, more than half the anticipated experiences were about dangers involved in staying and defending; (c) the anticipated experiences described by those intending to Wait and See were more similar to those described by those intending to Stay and Defend than those described by those intending to Leave (Section 3.1.6).

Compared with those intending to Leave and those intending to Wait and See, householders intending to Stay and Defend reported a lower mean level of Emotional Reactivity, and higher mean levels of Sense of Community and Attachment to Place. These findings are consistent with other indications noted above that many householders intending to Stay and Defend perceive protecting their property (and perhaps that of their neighbours) as having a higher priority than ensuring their own personal safety (Section 3.2).

Compared with those intending to Leave or Wait and See, a greater percentage of householders intending to Stay and Defend reported having some form of bushfire-related training or knowledge (Sections 3.3.2, 3.3.3).

Householders residing on farms or in other isolated dwellings in rural settings were least likely to intend to Wait and See; householders residing in suburban settings near to bushland were least likely to intend to Stay and Defend (Section 3.4).

A little more than one-third (36%) of all householders reported having prepared a household plan for days of predicted extreme or worse fire danger. For those intending to Leave, the figure was 35%, for those intending to Stay and Defend, 56%, and for those intending to Wait and See, 24% (Section 3.6.1).

A little more than one-third (38%) of all householders reported having prepared a household plan for what to do following a bushfire threat warning. For those intending to Leave, the figure was 39%, for those intending to Stay and Defend, 56%, and for those intending to Wait and See, 24%. Only 2% of those householders not intending to Stay and Defend reported that they would leave early on the basis of a fire danger weather prediction (Section 3.6.2).

Householders intending to Stay and Defend reported higher overall levels of bushfire property protection actions and intentions. However, even for these householders, the number of property preparation actions reportedly undertaken seemed low. Those intending to Leave had, on average, undertaken no more preparation actions to leave safely than those intending to Stay and Defend or to Wait and See (Section 3.6.3).

Strength of Commitment to Intention was only weakly related to: (a) having a household plan for what to do on a day of predicted extreme fire danger; (b) having a household plan for what to do following a bushfire threat warning; and (c) the number household bushfire preparation activities undertaken (Section 3.6.3.8).

There were few meaningful differences among the three groups of householders on demographic characteristics. Men were more likely to intend to Stay and Defend, women were more likely to intend to Leave; households intending to Stay and Defend were less likely to have a member with a disability; householders intending to Stay and Defend were more likely to have resided in their local community for 20 years or more (Section 3.7).

4.2 Potential Limitations

Our reliance on householders' stated intentions may be criticised. We have no impregnable defence against an assertion that there is no reason to believe that householders will, in fact, do as they said they intended under actual bushfire threat. Whittaker and Handmer (2010), for example, argued that the gap between what residents say they will do on a day of extreme fire danger in relation to leaving early and what they actually do represents a serious challenge to agencies. However, in our study, we did not simply ask residents if they intended to leave early on a day of extreme fire danger. We presented a hypothetical bushfire threat scenario and asked which of three options (Leave, Stay and Defend, or Wait and See) the householder believed he or she would most likely choose to do under such circumstances. It is interesting that 29% chose the Wait and See option given that community bushfire safety information provided to households by fire agencies tells residents bluntly **not** to Wait and See. If these householders were merely reporting intentions that they believed were socially acceptable, it seems unlikely that so many would confess such a roundly condemned intention. There is evidence from the social psychology research literature that stated intentions are good predictors of behaviour provided that there are no situational incentives or social pressures to endorse a particular intention (e.g. Sheeran 2003). In short, we suggest that while there will always be some uncertainty about the strength of the link between a given stated intention and a specific future action, there is no reason to assume that there will be no link. As discussed in Section 1.4, interviews with householders impacted by the 2009 Victorian bushfires indicated that the most important determinant of what a householder did under threat was his or her prior intentions or plans in the event of a bushfire (McLennan *et al.* 2011; McLennan *et al.* 2012).

Our sample size was smaller than desirable. We expected between 800 and 1,000 respondents and our total of 584 fell short of this target. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the timing of the survey, while unavoidable owing to a tight budget and project deadline, was singularly unfortunate in that it coincided (February to May 2012) with storms, heavy rains and floods across many of the communities surveyed. As one householder remarked in a phone call to the first author in March 2012: "Jeez mate, nobody up here gives a rat's about bushfires. We are all trying to keep our heads above the flood waters". The practical effect of our smaller-than-desired sample size is that we may have failed to detect some important differences among our groups of householders and some important associations among factors.

It should be noted that our sample of householders is unlikely to be truly representative of residents in the communities surveyed in some important respects. Overall, our respondents are almost certainly more engaged with issues of bushfire threat and safety than many of their neighbours. This is because of the methodology employed in which, unlike a telephone or individually addressed postal questionnaire survey, participating required motivation to actively 'opt-in' to the study by typing or pasting a link into an internet search engine, or telephoning or emailing the researchers to request a questionnaire. One likely effect of this is that the overall level of bushfire readiness, planning and preparation in the communities studied is probably appreciably lower than what we have described in the report. However, the probable under-representation of householders who are not very engaged with issues of bushfire safety is unlikely to invalidate our general conclusions about the psychological processes involved in determining intentions to Leave, or to Stay and Defend, or to Wait and See. In fact, 'restriction of the range' issues (with disengaged residents being under-represented) are likely to have weakened at least some of the differences and associations we did detect.

4.3 Conclusions

The aim of the study was to improve understanding of why householders intend to either: (a) Leave as soon as possible, or (b) Stay and Defend their home, or (c) Wait and See what develops before committing to a final action following a bushfire threat warning, and our main conclusion is that different psychological processes drive each of the three householder intention choices.

Those whose intention is to **Leave** are motivated mostly by concerns about safety: their own and that of members of their family. They perceive staying and defending to be too risky. Following a bushfire threat warning, they are likely to experience anxiety about: (a) their house being destroyed; and (b) dangers while evacuating. These two sources of anxiety are likely to inhibit some of these householders from leaving in a timely manner. Very few (approximately 2%) are likely to leave solely on the basis of an extreme fire danger weather prediction. Despite concerns about safety, only a little more than one-third reported having planned what to do on a day of extreme fire danger, or what to do if a bushfire threat warning was received.

Those whose intention is to **Stay and Defend** are motivated mostly by: (a) the desire to protect their property (defined broadly as home, contents, possessions, pets/livestock, and

for some their neighbours); and (b) their confidence in their ability to do so. The desire to protect their possessions is given a higher priority than ensuring their own safety. Bushfire 'survival' probably does not resonate for them: they know that staying and defending entails some risk. A little less than 60% reported having planned what to do on a day of extreme fire danger, or what to do if a bushfire threat warning was received.

Those whose intention is to **Wait and See** are motivated mostly by concern not to make the wrong decision under conditions of uncertainty: (a) leaving unnecessarily and losing the house, being exposed to danger while evacuating, experiencing the inconvenience of evacuating; or (b) staying and being exposed to danger from a serious fire threat. They perceive their risk of being impacted by a bushfire to be relatively low and most believe that if a threat developed, they would have the time and the means to leave late safely. Seven per cent of these householders believe that authorities will warn them when it is time to leave or will protect them from any serious threat. One-quarter reported having planned what to do on a day of extreme fire danger, or what to do if a bushfire threat warning was received. Overall, the level of engagement with bushfire safety is somewhat lower than for the other two groups of householders.

4.4 Possible Implications

The findings suggest that community bushfire safety messages may be more effective than at present in raising householders' levels of (a) bushfire readiness, (b) planning and (c) preparation if they are tailored and targeted to influence separately each of the three intention-type households identified. For those householders whose intention is to leave before being threatened by a bushfire, the challenge is how to convert concern about bushfire threat into household-appropriate planning and preparation.

Most householders who intend to leave probably do not need general fear-arousing messages about how dangerous bushfires are. Given the apparent importance for many of *anxiety* about losing the house and about danger when leaving, messages that: (a) emphasise low-cost (money, time, effort, inconvenience) actions that mitigate the probability of their house being destroyed in their absence, plus messages that (b) emphasise the 'how to' of planning and preparing for safe evacuation may be more effective.

It seems unlikely that general messages that focus on bushfire survival will greatly influence householders intent on staying and protecting their assets. What is probably needed is more effective ways of influencing these householders to undertake realistic risk assessments of their likelihood of success under different fire danger conditions and to engage in worst-case thinking in relation to their house, family and individual situation so as to identify vulnerabilities in the house–householder–defence 'system'.

Most householders intending to wait and see do so primarily because they perceive their risk from bushfire to be low. Being badgered by agency messages to 'don't wait and see' is unlikely to be effective. Perhaps a more achievable aim is to seek to convert them into conditional 'intend to leave-ers' by a message of 'Don't plan to wait and just hope for the best—decide what is your trigger to leave safely and prepare for it'. There is a more extended discussion of the reasons why householders wait and see following an initial bushfire warning in McLennan and Elliott (2012)

4.5 Concluding Comment

This report concludes the program of Bushfire CRC research by the La Trobe University School of Psychological Science team. Over the life of the Bushfire CRC and its Extension, a great deal has been learned about community bushfire safety problems and issues—especially (a) from the work by *Program C* (Community Self-sufficiency for Fire Safety) researchers under the leadership of Professor John Handmer of RMIT University as part of the original Bushfire CRC (see Handmer and Haynes 2008 and Program C Fire Notes [www.bushfirecrc.com/publications]) and (b) Bushfire CRC research following the 2009 Victorian bushfires (McLennan et al. 2011, 2012; Whittaker et al. 2009, 2010). It seems to us that future research efforts should be directed towards devising community- and community-group-focussed interventions aimed at changing behaviour, rather than continuing to study problems. The interventions need to have sufficient resources allocated from the very beginning to permit sound evaluation of their effectiveness and to guide improvement. There is a mantra generally attributed to management guru Peter Drucker: “If you can’t measure it, you can’t manage it, and if you can’t manage it, you can’t improve it”. This is undoubtedly true for community bushfire safety improvement endeavours.

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Part 2: Technical Supplement

3.1.1 Likelihood of acting on the intention

χ^2 (n = 583; df = 10) = 96.70, $p < 0.001$

3.1.2 Relative strength of commitment to each intention

Leave: mean = 8.61, SD = 1.36

Stay and Defend: mean = 8.45, SD = 2.06

Wait and See: mean = 6.12, 1.62

Leave vs Stay and Defend: t (409) = 0.096, ns

Leave vs Wait and See: t (442) = 17.1, $p < 0.001$

Stay and Defend vs Wait and See: t (309) = 12.05, $p < 0.001$

3.1.3 Determinants of strength of commitment to a particular intention to respond to a bushfire threat warning

See Appendix A

3.1.5.2 Bushfire risk perceptions: Vulnerability of the house

χ^2 (n = 584; df = 8) = 22.53, $p = 0.004$

3.1.5.4 Bushfire risk perceptions: Resistance of house construction material to bushfire attack

χ^2 (n = 584; df = 8) = 46.86, $p < 0.001$

3.1.5.6 Bushfire risk perceptions: Optimistic threat warning outcome expectations

χ^2 (n = 584; df = 10) = 29.09, $p < 0.001$

3.1.5.7 Bushfire risk perceptions: Anticipated time window to leave safely

χ^2 (n = 584; df = 12) = 74.77, $p < 0.001$

3.2.1 Emotional reactivity to threat

Leave: mean = 5.61, SD = 0.91

Stay and Defend: mean = 4.88, SD = 1.30

Wait and See: mean = 5.18, SD = 0.79

Leave vs Stay and Defend: $t(409) = 5.97, p < 0.001$

Leave vs Wait and See: $t(442) = 4.59, p < 0.001$

Stay and Defend vs Wait and See: $t(309) = 1.84, p = 0.067$

3.2.2 Sense of community

Leave: mean = 7.55, SD = 1.53

Stay and Defend: mean = 8.09, SD = 1.46

Wait and See: mean = 7.72, SD = 1.40

Leave vs Stay and Defend: $t(409) = 3.31, p < 0.001$

Leave vs Wait and See: $t(442) = 1.10, p = 0.272$

Stay and Defend vs Wait and See: $t(309) = 2.39, p = 0.017$

3.2.3 Emotional attachment to home

Leave: mean = 7.43, SD = 1.65

Stay and Defend: mean = 7.88, SD = 1.62

Wait and See: mean = 7.49, SD = 1.76

Leave vs Stay and Defend: $t(409) = 2.57, p = 0.011$

Leave vs Wait and See: $t(442) = 0.36, p = 0.719$

Stay and Defend vs Wait and See: $t(309) = 2.11, p = 0.036$

3.3.1 Previous experiences of bushfire threat warnings

$\chi^2 (n = 414; df = 1) = 8.73, p = 0.003$

$$\chi^2 (n = 584; df = 2) = 100.05, p < 0.001$$

3.3.2 Previous bushfire-related training

$$\chi^2 (n = 584; df = 10) = 78.13, p < 0.001$$

3.3.3 Membership of Community Fireguard

$$\chi^2 (n = 584; df = 10) = 37.80, p < 0.001$$

3.4 House location

$$\chi^2 (n = 584; df = 8) = 25.70, p = 0.001$$

3.6.1 A household bushfire survival plan for a day of predicted extreme fire danger

$$\chi^2 (n = 567; df = 10) = 48.23, p < 0.001$$

3.6.2 Planning for bushfire survival when there is a bushfire threat warning

$$\chi^2 (n = 567; df = 12) = 45.92, p < 0.001$$

3.6.3.1 Active defence

$$F (2,454) = 64.20, p < 0.001$$

3.6.3.2 Reduce house vulnerability

$$F (2,370) = 4.88, p = 0.008$$

3.6.3.3 Reduce threat to house

$$F (4,486) = 15.31, p < 0.001$$

3.6.3.4 Leave safely

$$F (2,526) = 2.90, p = 0.06$$

3.6.3.6 Perceived extent to which preparations for a bushfire would protect the house
 χ^2 (n = 574; df = 10) = 134.08, $p < 0.001$

3.6.3.7 Preparations on a day of predicted Severe or Extreme bushfire danger
 F (2,350) = 0.23, $p = 0.80$

3.7.1 Gender and Intention

χ^2 (n = 584; df = 2) = 33.51, $p < 0.001$

3.7.6 Households with a disabled member

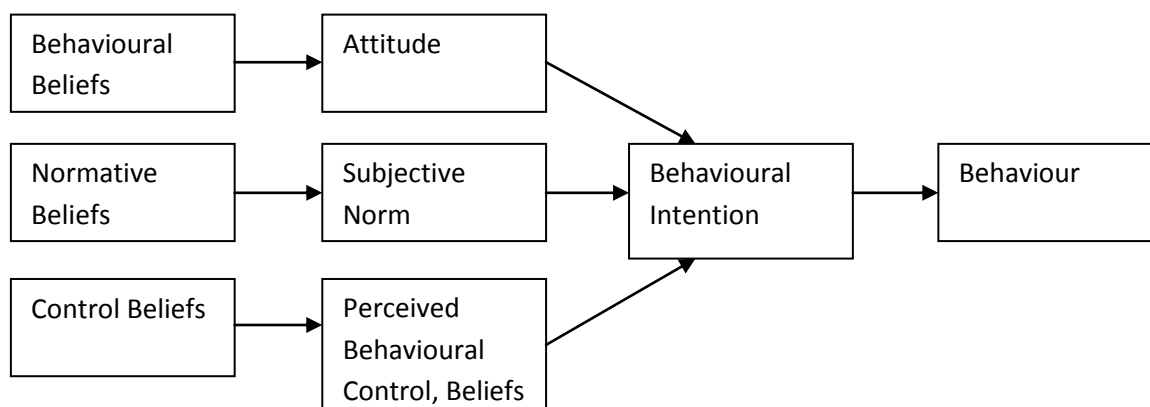
χ^2 (n = 584; df = 2) = 10.15, $p = 0.006$

3.7.7 Length of time resident in the community

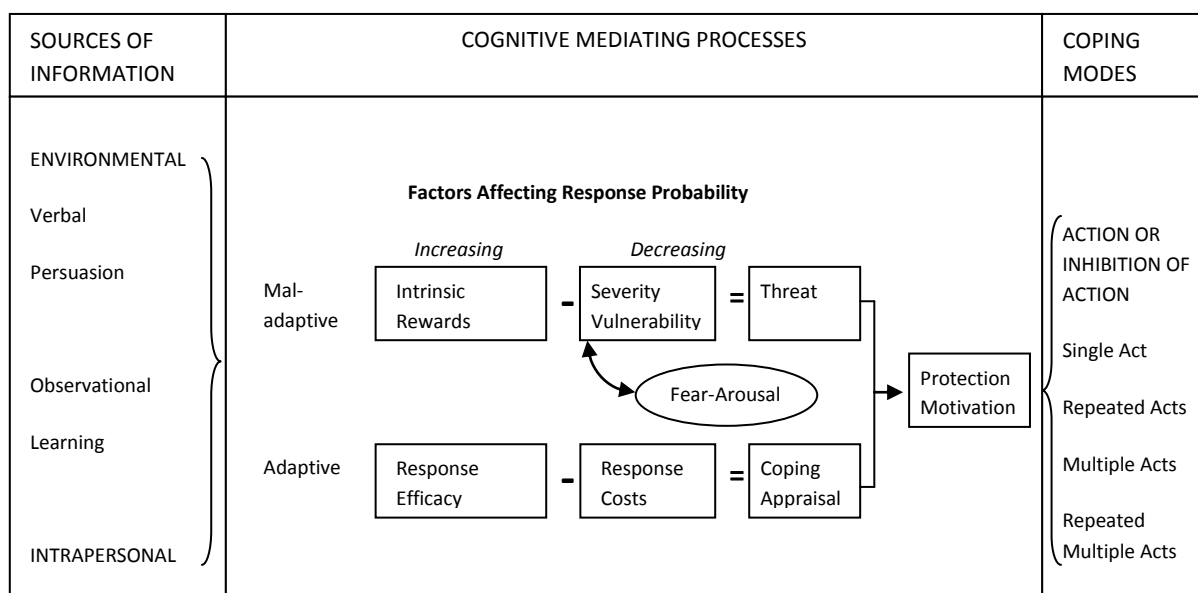
χ^2 (n = 584; df = 10) = 32.0, $p < 0.001$

Appendix A. Predictors of Strength of Commitment to Intentions

Theory of Planned Behaviour: Original Model



Protection Motivation Theory



Reproduced from Rogers (1983).

Theory Components and Corresponding Survey Questionnaire Items—‘Leave’ items

Behavioural Intentions (TPB and PMT)

How likely is it that you would decide to leave?

1 = Unlikely; 2 = Somewhat likely; 3 = Quite likely; 4 = Very likely; 5 = Extremely likely; 6 = Almost certain

I would leave no matter what the difficulties might be on the day.

1 = Unlikely; 2 = Somewhat likely; 3 = Quite likely; 4 = Very likely; 5 = Extremely likely; 6 = Almost certain

Attitude (TPB) and Response Efficacy (PMT)

I believe that leaving would be a safe option for ensuring my survival.

1 = Disagree strongly; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Not sure; 4 = Agree; 5 = Agree strongly

In the situation described, leaving would be a safe option for most people.

1 = Disagree strongly; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Not sure; 4 = Agree; 5 = Agree strongly

Leaving would significantly improve my chances of survival.

1 = Disagree strongly; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Not sure; 4 = Agree; 5 = Agree strongly

Subjective Norms (TPB)

Those who are most important to me would prefer that I leave rather than stay and defend.

1 = Disagree strongly; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Not sure; 4 = Agree; 5 = Agree strongly

I would want to follow the wishes of those who are most important to me.

1 = Disagree strongly; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Not sure; 4 = Agree; 5 = Agree strongly

Perceived Behavioural Control (TPB) and Self-Efficacy (PMT)

I am physically and mentally fit enough to leave in such situations.

1 = Disagree strongly; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Not sure; 4 = Agree; 5 = Agree strongly

I am confident that I would be able to leave in this scenario.

1 = Disagree strongly; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Not sure; 4 = Agree; 5 = Agree strongly

Descriptive Norms (TPB)

Most people would leave in this scenario.

1 = Disagree strongly; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Not sure; 4 = Agree; 5 = Agree strongly

Most of my friends, family and neighbours would decide to leave, if they were faced with this scenario.

1 = Disagree strongly; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Not sure; 4 = Agree; 5 = Agree strongly

Moral Norms (TPB)

I believe I have a moral obligation to leave, in this type of scenario.

1 = Disagree strongly; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Not sure; 4 = Agree; 5 = Agree strongly

I have a responsibility to be safe so as to ensure my family's well-being.

1 = Disagree strongly; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Not sure; 4 = Agree; 5 = Agree strongly

Self-identification (TPB)

I see myself as the type of person who avoids dangerous situations.

1 = Disagree strongly; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Not sure; 4 = Agree; 5 = Agree strongly

Anticipated Affect (TPB)

I would regret it if I decided to leave and my house was destroyed.

1 = Disagree strongly; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Not sure; 4 = Agree; 5 = Agree strongly

Self-determination (TPB)

The opinions and feelings of others would have little influence on my decision to leave or stay and defend under such circumstances.

1 = Disagree strongly; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Not sure; 4 = Agree; 5 = Agree strongly

My decision to leave, or stay, or wait would be entirely my own.

1 = Disagree strongly; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Not sure; 4 = Agree; 5 = Agree strongly

Threat Severity (PMT)

Choosing to leave could result in serious injury.

1 = Disagree strongly; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Not sure; 4 = Agree; 5 = Agree strongly

I believe that choosing to leave could result in death.

1 = Disagree strongly; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Not sure; 4 = Agree; 5 = Agree strongly

Threat Susceptibility (PMT)

How likely do you think it is that you could be seriously injured in the course of leaving?

1 = Unlikely; 2 = Somewhat likely; 3 = Quite likely; 4 = Very likely; 5 = Extremely likely; 6 = Almost certain

How likely do you think it is that you could die in the course of leaving?

1 = Unlikely; 2 = Somewhat likely; 3 = Quite likely; 4 = Very likely; 5 = Extremely likely; 6 = Almost certain

Action Cost (PMT)

Leaving would be difficult for me.

1 = Disagree strongly; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Not sure; 4 = Agree; 5 = Agree strongly

Action Reward (PMT)

People who are important to me would approve of the decision I made to leave.

1 = Disagree strongly; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Not sure; 4 = Agree; 5 = Agree strongly

Others respect those who make the decision to leave.

1 = Disagree strongly; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Not sure; 4 = Agree; 5 = Agree strongly

Stepwise regression analyses

Leave

Model summary

$R = 0.610$; $R^2 = 0.372$; $F(6,267) = 95.32$; $p < 0.001$

Statistics

M = mean predictor variable score; SD = score standard deviation

β = standardized predictor variable regression coefficient

t = t-test statistic for the significance of β

Predictor	Score range	M	SD	β	t	p
Attitude/Outcome-efficacy	3–15	13.1	1.84	0.25	4.24	<0.001
Self-determination	2–10	7.1	1.81	0.18	3.49	0.001
Anticipated Affect	1–5	2.3	1.03	–0.17	–3.18	0.002
Subjective Norms	2–10	8.6	1.34	0.17	2.87	0.004
Perceived Behavioural Control/Self-efficacy	2–10	8.6	1.11	0.16	2.85	0.005
Cost	1–5	2.6	1.23	–0.14	–2.55	0.011

Stay and Defend

Model summary

$R = 0.557$; $R^2 = .311$; $F(2,138) = 31.10$; $p < 0.001$

Statistics

M = mean predictor variable score; SD = score standard deviation

β = standardized predictor variable regression coefficient

t = t-test statistic for the significance of β

Predictor	Score range	M	SD	β	t	p
Attitude/Outcome-efficacy	4–20	19.6	2.90	0.39	5.11	<0.001
Self-determination	2–10	6.7	1.98	0.29	3.79	<0.001

Wait and See

Model summary

$R = 0.420$; $R^2 = 0.176$; $F(4,169) = 31.10$; $p < 0.001$

Statistics

M = mean predictor variable score; SD = score standard deviation

β = standardized predictor variable regression coefficient

t = t-test statistic for the significance of β

Predictor	Score range	M	SD	β	t	p
Subjective Norms	1–5	2.8	0.90	0.22	3.11	0.002

Self-determination	2–10	5.6	1.82	0.21	2.99	0.003
Anticipated Affect	2–10	5.7	1.89	−0.18	2.56	0.012
Moral Norms	1–5	2.5	1.02	0.16	2.29	0.023

Appendix B. Long-Term Bushfire Survival Preparations Checklist

The construction and nature of the measure were described in McLennan and Elliott (2011).

There were 584 responses. An exploratory factor analysis was conducted to investigate inter-relationships among the 21 preparedness items. Four factors were identified: preparations for active defence; preparations to leave safely; preparations to reduce danger to the house; preparations to reduce vulnerability of the house. The items, grouped to represent the four factors, are in Table B.1. Householders reported their actions/intention in relation to each as:

6 = Already done; 5 = Partially done; 4 = Will definitely do; 3 = Intend to do; 2 = May do; 1 = Will not do; 7 = Not Applicable: treated as 'missing' and not included in the calculation of percentages.

Frequency tallies of responses to each item were undertaken, and reported as percentages in Table B.1. It is probably most instructive to look at the percentages in Response Categories 6 (Already done) and 1 (Will not do).

Table B.1. Responses to items in the Long-Term Bushfire Preparation Checklist: Percentages in each response category

Response categories: 6 = Already done; 5 = Partially done; 4 = Will definitely do; 3 = Intend to do; 2 = May do; 1 = Will not do; (7 = Not applicable: treated as 'missing' and not included in the calculation of percentages)

Percentage in each response category

Items	6	5	4	3	2	1
	%	%	%	%	%	%
SCALE 1: ACTIVE HOUSE DEFENCE ($\alpha = 0.81$) ^a						
Installed a pump that does not depend on mains electric power (i.e. petrol, diesel-driven, or electrically powered by a generator). N = 522	30	3	3	4	15	44
Installed a water tank for firefighting purposes and/or to supply a sprinkler system. N = 540	40	4	2	6	13	36
Obtained and prepared firefighting equipment such as ladders, buckets and mops. N = 549	41	21	5	6	13	15
Prepared a kit of protective clothing and gear (boots, smoke masks, goggles) for members of the household. N = 555	32	14	6	11	23	14
Obtained and prepared hoses for firefighting, long enough to reach all parts of the house. N = 554	52	15	3	7	8	15
Installed a sprinkler system on or around the house. N = 539	16	9	2	7	19	47
Obtained a battery-powered radio with fresh batteries. N = 559	57	6	7	14	10	6

Installed or constructed a fire shelter or bunker in which to take refuge if necessary. N = 491	5	2	1	3	11	78
SCALE 2: LEAVE SAFELY ($\alpha = 0.61$)						
Planned what to do if you decided to leave your home because of the risk of a bushfire, e.g. where to go and stay, the route to take, what to do about pets and livestock. N = 552	51	22	5	11	8	3
Identified a location nearby where you, or other family members, could shelter safely if you had to leave your home because of a bushfire. N = 552	64	9	6	10	6	4
Checked that you have enough home contents and building insurance. N = 568	87	4	3	3	2	1
Stored important documents and possessions safely elsewhere, or in a fire-proof location on site, or have them packed ready to take with you when you leave. N = 569	39	25	14	11	9	2
SCALE 3: REDUCE DANGER TO HOUSE ($\alpha = 0.79$)						
Removed bushes close to the house and cut back overhanging tree branches. N = 550	47	28	4	7	8	7
Cleared leaves, twigs, long grass from around the house to a distance of 20–30 m. N = 541	51	26	8	6	5	55
Moved combustible material such as firewood, garden furniture, lawn	52	20	13	7	5	4

mower and fuel, paint tins, old cars or tyres away from the house. N = 542						
Used landscaping, tree planting, or the layout of the garden to protect the house from bushfires. N = 531	39	34	2	7	7	2
SCALE 4: REDUCE VULNERABILITY OF HOUSE ($\alpha = 0.69$)						
Installed seals and/or draft protectors around windows and doors. N = 543	35	19	5	9	16	16
Covered gaps and vents to reduce the risk of embers entering the house through openings under the roof or in walls. N = 505	35	16	10	10	16	13
Installed shutters for windows. N = 517	72	16	4	2	5	2
Enclosed under-floor spaces to prevent embers or flames entering. N = 434	55	12	4	7	12	11
Installed roof gutter protection. N = 523	29	11	5	12	20	23

^a Internal consistency of the scale items as Cronbach's alpha.

Appendix C. Survey Questionnaire

Community Intentions Bushfire Survey

Participant Information Statement

This project is funded by the Australasian Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre. It is being conducted by a research team from La Trobe University, Victoria.

The La Trobe University researchers comprise Glenn Elliott (03 9479 3704) and Jim McLennan (03 9479 5363).

The aim of the project is to gain a better understanding behind the reasons why people choose to stay and defend, leave early, or wait to see what develops in the face of an imminent bushfire threat. Your community has been identified by your state fire agency as a suitable locality for this research.

If you agree to participate in the research you will be asked to fill out an online (or paper-based) survey. In order to participate you must be aged 18 years or more and live in a location near to bushland. Only one member of the household should complete the survey. The survey should take approximately 20–30 minutes to complete. If you choose to complete the survey online, the software will allow you to save your session and return to it at a later stage if required.

Although there are no anticipated risks to participants, the survey does ask you to imagine a hypothetical bushfire scenario. If you are experiencing any negative effects of a previous bushfire experience, you may choose not to continue with the survey. If you are experiencing negative effects of a recent bushfire experience, help with personal issues is available from Lifeline, phone: 13 11 14, Mensline, phone: 1300 78 98 78, or Beyond Blue, www.beyondblue.org

The research will assist fire agencies to help communities to better prepare for bushfires in the future.

The findings from this project may be presented at seminars or conferences and may be published in reports to the Bushfire CRC and fire agencies, or in professional journals. If you wish to be informed of the outcomes of this research, please indicate by ticking the

appropriate box on the final page of the questionnaire (this page also provides details for entry into the prize draw).

In order to participate, you must be over 18 years of age. You have the right to withdraw from active participation in this project at anytime. Completion and submission of the survey will be taken to mean that you consented to participate. Because the survey is anonymous, it will not be possible for your data to be withdrawn subsequently. The anonymous research data you provided may be included in technical reports, presented at conferences and published in journals.

If you choose, you may enter into a draw to receive one of five \$100 vouchers. Entry for the draw means that your contact details go into another file, separate from your survey, so your survey always remains anonymous.

Any questions regarding this project may be directed to the project manager, Glenn Elliott, of the School of Psychological Science on (03) 9479 3704, or alternatively, e-mailed to g.elliott@latrobe.edu.au

If you have any complaints or queries that the investigator has not been able to answer to your satisfaction, you may contact the Secretary, Faculty Human Ethics Committee, Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering, La Trobe University, Victoria, 3086 (ph: +61 3 9479 3698), email: k.collins@latrobe.edu.au. Please quote FHEC application reference number FHEC11/R86.

PART I: BACKGROUND FACTORS

Please respond to each question by ticking the circle that best shows your answer, or write down the requested information. **N.B. There are no wrong or right answers, we want to find out what you think. Please answer as honestly as possible.**

Please enter today's date: DD/MM/YY

Tick to show if you are:

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

In what year were you born?

Were you born overseas?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

What is your marital status?

- ☐ Married
- ☐ De facto
- ☐ Separated but not divorced
- ☐ Divorced
- ☐ Widowed
- ☐ Single
- ☐ Decline to answer

How many adults (18 years and older) normally reside at your house?

- ☐ One
- ☐ Two
- ☐ Three
- ☐ Four
- ☐ More than four
- ☐ Not applicable

Tick to show if you have dependent children living with you (tick all that apply)

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes (Aged under 5)
- ☐ Yes (Aged 5–12)
- ☐ Yes (Aged 13–17)
- ☐ Decline to answer

Does any member of the household have a disability?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Decline to answer

What is your employment status? (tick all that apply)

- ☐ Farm owner with employees
- ☐ Farm owner with no employees
- ☐ Business owner with employees
- ☐ Business owner with no employees
- ☐ Employed full time
- ☐ Employed part time (or casual)
- ☐ Unemployed
- ☐ Home duties or carer
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Decline to answer
- ☐ Other (please specify):

How long have you lived in this community?

- ☐ Less than a year
- ☐ 1–2 years
- ☐ 3–5 years
- ☐ 6–10 years
- ☐ 11–20 years
- ☐ More than 20 years
- ☐ Not applicable

Were you born in this community?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure
- ☐ N/A

If you were born elsewhere, about what year did you move to this community?

What training or experience have you had concerning bushfires? (tick one only)

- ☐ I am, or was previously, a member of a fire brigade
- ☐ I have received some training about bushfires
- ☐ I have not had formal training but I have been taught about bushfires from family or friends who have bushfire experience
- ☐ I have not had formal training but I have had experience in fighting bushfires
- ☐ I have had no special training about bushfires, nor have I had any previous experience with bushfires
- ☐ Other training or experience relevant to bushfires? Please specify:

Have you ever been a member of a Community Fireguard group or similar?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐ N/A

Have you read any of the material on bushfire safety prepared by your State or Territory rural or country fire service?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐ N/A

Please enter your postcode:

— — — —

Your house is located (tick one only):

- ☐ On a farm or other rural property
- ☐ In a small town or rural community, in a house within about 100 m of bushland (e.g. grass, scrub, forest)
- ☐ In a city or large town, in a house within about 100 m of bushland (e.g. grass, scrub, forest)
- ☐ None of the above (please specify):

- ☐ Not applicable

Now imagine that during the fire season you and all those who normally reside with you are at home. It has been declared a day of 'Extreme Fire Danger', and there is a Total Fire Ban for your Region of the State/Territory. At about 3 pm you become aware of a warning (on the radio, or a web site, or by email, or text, or telephone) that there is a large bushfire burning out of control and that it will probably hit your location in 1–2 hours. You look outside and see a large plume of smoke being blown toward your property.

Please think about what you would probably do if this happened, and answer the following:

From the time you receive the warning, how much time do you think you would have to leave with no danger? (tick one only)

- ☐ More than 2 hours
- ☐ 90 minutes to 2 hours
- ☐ 60 to 90 minutes
- ☐ 30 to 60 minutes
- ☐ Less than 30 minutes
- ☐ Could not say, too difficult for me to judge
- ☐ Not applicable

How likely do you think it is that you could be in the situation described above?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very unlikely	Unlikely	Not sure	Likely	Very likely	N/A

How likely is it that the wind would change and direct the fire away from your house?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very unlikely	Unlikely	Not sure	Likely	Very likely	N/A

I would most likely seek information about the bushfire from the following sources (tick all that apply):

- ☐ Radio
- ☐ Television
- ☐ Internet – Fire agency website
- ☐ Internet – Twitter
- ☐ Internet – Facebook
- ☐ Family and/or friends
- ☐ Neighbours
- ☐ Environmental cues (e.g. smoke, embers, flame)
- ☐ Mobile phone – SMS
- ☐ Mobile phone – Twitter
- ☐ Mobile phone – Facebook
- ☐ Other (please describe)

- ☐ None of the above

I would be more likely to trust information from the following sources (tick all that apply):

- ☐ Radio
- ☐ Television
- ☐ Internet – Fire agency website
- ☐ Internet – Twitter
- ☐ Internet – Facebook
- ☐ Family and/or friends
- ☐ Neighbours
- ☐ Environmental cues (e.g. smoke, embers, flame)
- ☐ Mobile phone – SMS
- ☐ Mobile phone – Twitter
- ☐ Mobile phone – Facebook
- ☐ Other (please describe)

- ☐ None of the above

**Please select the information sources you would expect to be most useful to you
(tick all that apply):**

- ☐ Radio
- ☐ Television
- ☐ Internet – Fire agency website
- ☐ Internet – Twitter
- ☐ Internet – Facebook
- ☐ Family and/or friends
- ☐ Neighbours
- ☐ Environmental cues (e.g. smoke, embers, flame)
- ☐ Mobile phone – SMS
- ☐ Mobile phone – Twitter
- ☐ Mobile phone – Facebook
- ☐ Other (please describe)

- ☐ None of the above

What do you think you would most likely decide to do?

- ☐ a. Leave as soon as you can
- ☐ b. Stay to defend the home
- ☐ c. Wait and see what develops, before finally deciding whether or not to leave, or to stay and defend

If you chose **a. Leave as soon as you can**, please proceed to the **yellow** section: PART II (L): REASONS FOR LEAVING (page 10).

If you chose **b. Stay to defend the home**, please proceed to the **green** section: PART II (S): REASONS FOR STAYING TO DEFEND (page 19).

If you chose **c. Wait and see what develops**, please proceed to the **light blue** section: PART II (W): REASONS FOR WAITING TO SEE (page 29).

PART II (L): REASONS FOR LEAVING

(Please complete this section if you answered 'a). Leave as soon as you can' in the hypothetical bushfire scenario.)

How likely is it that you would decide to leave?

- | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Unlikely | Somewhat
likely | Quite
likely | Very
likely | Extremely
likely | Almost
certain | N/A |

I would leave as soon as possible

- | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Unlikely | Somewhat
likely | Quite
likely | Very
likely | Extremely
likely | Almost
certain | N/A |

I would leave no matter what the difficulties might be on the day

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Unlikely	Somewhat likely	Quite likely	Very likely	Extremely likely	Almost certain	N/A

I believe that leaving would be a safe option for ensuring my survival

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

How important to you is your personal safety in a bushfire?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not at all important	Somewhat unimportant	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important	N/A

In the situation described, leaving would be a safe option for most people

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Leaving would significantly improve my chances of survival

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

How important to you is it that your house is not destroyed?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not at all important	Somewhat unimportant	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important	N/A

Those who are most important to me would prefer that I leave, rather than stay and defend

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I would want to follow the wishes of those who are most important to me

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I could financially afford to leave my home for several days

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

The option to leave would be under my control

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I am physically and mentally fit enough to leave in such situations

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I am confident I would be able to leave, in this scenario

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Most people would leave in this scenario

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Most of my friends, family and neighbours would decide to leave, if they were faced with this scenario

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I believe I have a moral obligation to leave, in this type of scenario

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I have a responsibility to be safe so as to ensure my family's well-being

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I have a responsibility to ensure the survival of my livestock and/or pets

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I see myself as the type of person who avoids dangerous situations

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I see myself as the type of person who doesn't make hasty decisions

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

If I left I would be anxious to know what happened to my property

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I would regret it if I decided to leave and my house was destroyed

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I would feel guilty or ashamed if I left my animals behind and in danger

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Please describe the emotions you would feel if you decided to leave:

The opinions and feelings of others would have little influence on my decision to stay and defend or leave under such circumstances

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

My decision to leave, or stay, or wait would be entirely my own

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

My family would want me to leave, rather than stay and defend

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

My friends would want me to leave, rather than stay and defend

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

With regard to fire safety, I want to follow the wishes of family

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

With regard to fire safety, I want to follow the wishes of friends

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

The thought of dying in a bushfire is terrifying

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I feel very uncomfortable when I contemplate the possibility of being caught in a bushfire

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Choosing to leave could result in serious injury

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

How likely do you think it is that you would be seriously injured in the course of leaving?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very unlikely	Unlikely	Not sure	Likely	Very likely	N/A

I believe that choosing to leave could result in death

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

How likely do you think it is that you would die in the course of leaving?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very unlikely	Unlikely	Not sure	Likely	Very likely	N/A

My home is in an area where bushfires are unlikely to occur

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

The thought of a bushfire impacting my home is so scary, I try not to think about it

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Leaving would be difficult for me

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Leaving would be inconvenient

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Leaving would involve significant financial expense

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

People who are important to me would approve of the decision I made to leave

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Others respect those who make the decision to leave

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Have you ever been in a situation similar to the scenario described?

- ☐ **Yes** (if yes, what did you do?)
- ☐ I left
- ☐ I stayed and successfully defended my house
- ☐ I stayed to defend, but there was some damage to my house
- ☐ I stayed to defend, but the house was destroyed/irreparable
- ☐ Other, please describe
-

☐ **No**

Now please answer some general questions

I feel that I am a person of worth on an equal plane with others

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Agree
strongly | Agree | Not sure | Disagree | Disagree
strongly | N/A |

When I get scared, I panic

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very untrue for me	Untrue for me	Untrue and true about equally	True for me	Very true for me	N/A

I'm on first-name terms with many of my neighbours

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I miss my property when I am away for too long

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I certainly feel useless at times

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I am always calm – nothing ever bothers me

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very untrue for me	Untrue for me	Untrue and true about equally	True for me	Very true for me	N/A

People here work together to try to improve things in the community

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Where I live is my favourite place to be

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

What is the main reason you did not choose to stay and defend your property?

This is the end of Part II

Please proceed to Part III: Preparing for a Bushfire (the white section beginning on page 43).

(You are not required to fill out the green or blue sections.)

PART II(S): REASONS FOR STAYING TO DEFEND

(Please complete this section if you answered '**b) Stay to defend the home**' in the hypothetical bushfire scenario.)

How likely is it that you would decide to stay?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Unlikely	Somewhat likely	Quite likely	Very likely	Extremely likely	Almost certain	N/A

I would immediately prepare the property for active defence

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Unlikely	Somewhat likely	Quite likely	Very likely	Extremely likely	Almost certain	N/A

I would stay and defend no matter what the difficulties might be on the day

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Unlikely	Somewhat likely	Quite likely	Very likely	Extremely likely	Almost certain	N/A

I believe that staying and defending would be a safe option for ensuring my survival

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

How important to you is your personal safety in a bushfire?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not at all important	Somewhat unimportant	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important	N/A

In the situation described, staying and defending would be a safe option for most people

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Staying would significantly improve my chances of survival

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Staying and defending would significantly improve my chances of saving my house

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

How important to you is it that your house is not destroyed?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not at all important	Somewhat unimportant	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important	N/A

Those who are most important to me would prefer that I stay and defend, rather than leave

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I would want to follow the wishes of those who are most important to me

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I could afford to purchase the equipment necessary to stay and defend

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

The option to stay and defend would be under my control

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I am physically and mentally fit enough to stay and defend in such situations

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I am confident I would be able to stay and defend in this sort of situation

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Most people would stay and defend, in this scenario

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Most of my friends, family, and neighbours would decide to stay and defend, if they were faced with this scenario

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I believe I have a moral obligation to stay and defend the house, in this type of scenario

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I have a responsibility to be safe so as to ensure my family's well-being

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I have a responsibility to ensure the survival of my livestock and/or pets

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I see myself as the type of person who could fight to defend their house

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I see myself as the type of person who doesn't make hasty decisions

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Staying and defending would be frightening for me

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I would feel anxious about staying and defending

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Please describe the emotions you think you would feel if you decided to stay and defend

The opinions and feelings of others would have little influence on my decision to stay and defend or leave under such circumstances

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

My decision to leave, or stay, or wait would be entirely my own

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

My family would want me to stay and defend, rather than leave

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

My friends would want me to stay and defend, rather than leave

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

With regard to fire safety, I would want to follow the wishes of family

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

With regard to fire safety, I would want to follow the wishes of friends

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

The thought of dying in a bushfire is terrifying

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I feel very uncomfortable when I contemplate the possibility of being caught in a bushfire

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Choosing to stay and defend could result in serious injury

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

How likely do you think it is that you would be seriously injured in the course of staying and defending?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very unlikely	Unlikely	Not sure	Likely	Very likely	N/A

I believe that choosing to stay and defend could result in death

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

How likely do you think it is that you would die in the course of staying and defending?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very unlikely	Unlikely	Not sure	Likely	Very likely	N/A

My home is in an area where bushfires are unlikely to occur

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

The thought of a bushfire impacting my home is so scary, I try not to think about it

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Staying and defending would be difficult for me

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Defending would be inconvenient

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Defending would involve significant financial expense

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

People who are important to me would approve of the decision I made if I were to stay and defend

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Others would think I was brave if I were to stay and defend

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Others respect those who make the decision to stay and defend

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Have you ever been in a situation similar to the scenario described?

- ☐ **Yes** (if yes, what did you do?)
- ☐ I left
- ☐ I stayed and successfully defended my house
- ☐ I stayed to defend, but there was some damage to my house
- ☐ I stayed to defend, but the house was destroyed/irreparable
- ☐ Other, please describe
-

☐ **No**

Now please answer some general questions

I feel that I am a person of worth on an equal plane with others

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

When I get scared, I panic

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very untrue for me	Untrue for me	Untrue and true about equally	True for me	Very true for me	N/A

I'm on first-name terms with many of my neighbours

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I miss my property when I am away from the place for too long

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I certainly feel useless at times

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I am always calm – nothing ever bothers me

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very untrue for me	Untrue for me	Untrue and true about equally	True for me	Very true for me	N/A

People here work together to try to improve things in the community

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Where I live is my favourite place to be

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

What is the main reason you did not choose to leave early?

This is the end of Part II

Please proceed to Part III: Preparing for a Bushfire (the white section beginning on page 43).

(You are not required to fill out the yellow or blue sections.)

PART II (W): REASONS FOR WAITING TO SEE

(Please complete this section if you answered 'c) Wait and see what develops' in the hypothetical bushfire scenario.)

How likely is it that you would decide to wait and see?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Unlikely	Somewhat likely	Quite likely	Very likely	Extremely likely	Almost certain	N/A

I would return to doing what I was doing before I saw the smoke

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Unlikely	Somewhat likely	Quite likely	Very likely	Extremely likely	Almost certain	N/A

I would wait and see no matter what the difficulties might be on the day

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Unlikely	Somewhat likely	Quite likely	Very likely	Extremely likely	Almost certain	N/A

I believe waiting to see how things unfold would be a safe option for ensuring my survival

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

How important to you is your personal safety in a bushfire?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not at all important	Somewhat unimportant	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important	N/A

In the situation described, waiting and seeing would be a safe option for most people

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Waiting would significantly improve my chances of survival

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Waiting and seeing would significantly improve my chances of saving my house

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

How important to you is it that your house is not destroyed?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not at all important	Somewhat unimportant	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important	N/A

Those who are most important to me would prefer that I wait and see, before deciding to leave or stay

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I would want to follow the wishes of those who are most important to me

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I believe I would be able to prepare and defend my home if it became unsafe to leave

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

The option to wait would be under my control

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I am physically and mentally fit enough to wait it out in such situations

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I believe I would be able to leave my home if it became unsafe to stay and defend

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I am confident I would be able to wait and see in this sort of situation

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Most people would wait and see, in this scenario

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Most of my friends, family, and neighbours would decide to wait and see, if they were faced with this scenario

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I believe I have a moral obligation to wait and see what develops in this scenario

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I have a responsibility to be safe so as to ensure my family's well-being

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I have a responsibility to ensure the survival of my livestock and/or pets

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I see myself as the type of person who could fight to defend their house

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I see myself as the type of person who doesn't make hasty decisions

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Waiting before making a firm decision would be frightening for me

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I would feel anxious about waiting around before making my decision to stay or leave

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I would feel guilty or ashamed if I left my animals behind in danger

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Please describe the emotions you think you would feel if you decided to wait

The opinions and feelings of others would have little influence on my decision to stay and defend or leave under such circumstances

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

My decision to leave or stay, or wait would be entirely my own

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

My family would want me to wait and see, before deciding to leave or stay

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

My friends would want me to wait and see, before deciding to leave or stay

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

With regard to fire safety, I would want to follow the wishes of family

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

With regard to fire safety, I would want to follow the wishes of friends

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

The thought of dying in a bushfire is terrifying

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I feel very uncomfortable when I contemplate the possibility of being caught in a bushfire

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Choosing to wait and see could result in serious injury

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

If you were to wait and see, how likely do you think it is that you would be seriously injured?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very unlikely	Unlikely	Not sure	Likely	Very likely	N/A

Choosing to wait and see could result in death

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

If you were to wait and see, how likely do you think it is that you would die?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very unlikely	Unlikely	Not sure	Likely	Very likely	N/A

My home is in an area where bushfires are unlikely to occur

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

The thought of a bushfire impacting my home is so scary, I try not to think about it

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Leaving would be difficult for me

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Leaving would be inconvenient

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Staying and defending would be difficult for me

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Defending would be inconvenient

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Defending would involve significant financial expense

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

People who are important to me would approve of the decision I made if I were to wait and see

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Others respect those who make the decision to wait and see

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Others would think I was brave if I were to wait and see

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Have you ever been in a situation similar to the scenario described above?

- ☐ **Yes** (if yes, what did you do?)
- ☐ I left
- ☐ I stayed and successfully defended my home
- ☐ I stayed to defend but there was some damage to my house
- ☐ I stayed but my house was destroyed/irreparable
- ☐ Other – please describe
-

☐ **No**

Below is a list of reasons people have given previously for choosing to wait and see when there was a bushfire warning. For each one, show how important this reason would be for you in choosing to wait and see

I would not want the inconvenience of packing up and leaving unless I was sure it was necessary

○	○	○	○	○	○
Very <u>un</u> important	Unimportant	Not sure	Important	Very important	N/A

I cannot think of anywhere I could go to for the day where I could take our pets

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very <u>un</u> important	Unimportant	Not sure	Important	Very important	N/A

I do not know where I would find suitable *and* affordable accommodation for my family

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very <u>un</u> important	Unimportant	Not sure	Important	Very important	N/A

I have elderly or disabled household members who cannot easily be relocated for the day

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very <u>un</u> important	Unimportant	Not sure	Important	Very important	N/A

I am worried about looters if most community members relocate for the day

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very <u>un</u> important	Unimportant	Not sure	Important	Very important	N/A

I would not want to leave my house and have it destroyed by a small fire that I could have successfully defended against if I stayed

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very <u>un</u> important	Unimportant	Not sure	Important	Very important	N/A

I would be worried that if I left I might be unable to return to check on my property

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very <u>un</u> important	Unimportant	Not sure	Important	Very important	N/A

I would be worried that if I left I might be unable to return in time to look after my livestock

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very <u>un</u> important	Unimportant	Not sure	Important	Very important	N/A

I would want to be certain that it was still safe for me to leave

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very <u>un</u> important	Unimportant	Not sure	Important	Very important	N/A

I think I am able to defend my property on all but the most catastrophic days of fire danger

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very <u>un</u> important	Unimportant	Not sure	Important	Very important	N/A

I would feel embarrassed if I left and the fire did not come near my property

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very <u>un</u> important	Unimportant	Not sure	Important	Very important	N/A

What is your main reason for choosing to wait and see? (Please describe)

How important would each of the following be in you making your final decision to either leave or to stay and defend?

The reported speed and intensity of the fire

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very <u>un</u> important	Unimportant	Not sure	Important	Very important	N/A

Where the fire was likely to come from if it was likely to hit your property

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very <u>un</u> important	Unimportant	Not sure	Important	Very important	N/A

The time it would take to reach a safe location

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very <u>un</u> important	Unimportant	Not sure	Important	Very important	N/A

The likelihood that exit routes would be slowed by heavy traffic or blocked by fallen power-lines

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very <u>un</u> important	Unimportant	Not sure	Important	Very important	N/A

What your neighbours were doing

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very <u>un</u> important	Unimportant	Not sure	Important	Very important	N/A

What members of the local fire brigade, or police, or SES were advising people to do

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very <u>un</u> important	Unimportant	Not sure	Important	Very important	N/A

What members of your family were advising you to do by phone, e-mail or texting

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very <u>un</u> important	Unimportant	Not sure	Important	Very important	N/A

The official advice and warnings coming over the radio, the internet, by e-mail, or SMS texting

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very <u>un</u> important	Unimportant	Not sure	Important	Very important	N/A

A local audible warning such as a community alert siren if one existed

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very <u>un</u> important	Unimportant	Not sure	Important	Very important	N/A

The safety of dependent members of the household

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very <u>un</u> important	Unimportant	Not sure	Important	Very important	N/A

The likely stress of a bushfire on vulnerable members of the household

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very <u>un</u> important	Unimportant	Not sure	Important	Very important	N/A

The peace-of-mind of family or friends living elsewhere

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very <u>un</u> important	Unimportant	Not sure	Important	Very important	N/A

The safety of my pets and/or livestock

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very <u>un</u> important	Unimportant	Not sure	Important	Very important	N/A

Other things that would be important in you making a final decision to leave or stay and defend?

Now please answer some general questions.

I feel that I am a person of worth on an equal plane with others

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

When I get scared, I panic

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very untrue for me	Untrue for me	Untrue and true about equally	True for me	Very true for me	N/A

I'm on first-name terms with many of my neighbours

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I miss my property when I am away from the place too long

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I certainly feel useless at times

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

I am always calm – nothing ever bothers me

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Very untrue for me	Untrue for me	Untrue and true about equally	True for me	Very true for me	N/A

People here work together to try to improve things in the community

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

Where I live is my favourite place to be

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agree strongly	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Disagree strongly	N/A

What is the main reason you did not choose to leave early?

What is the main reason you did not choose to stay and defend?

This is the end of Part II.

Please proceed to Part III: Preparing for a Bushfire (the white section beginning on page 43).

(You are not required to fill out the yellow or green sections.)

PART III: PREPARING FOR A BUSHFIRE

Below is a list of things that people who live in a place that could be at risk from a bushfire can do to make themselves safer. For each one, say whether you or a member of your household has **already done, partially done, definitely will do, intend to do, may do, or will not do**, to prepare for a bushfire **this** fire season—if an item does not apply (e. g. it is about livestock or pets and you do not have any), then choose Not applicable.

For the **coming** fire season:

Prepared a plan involving all members of the household for what to do when a day of extreme, or worse, fire danger is predicted for your region

☐

Already
done

☐

Partially
done

☐

Will
definitely
do

☐

Intend
to do

☐

May do

☐

Will not
do

☐

Not
applicable

If you already have a plan, it is (choose one):

- ☐ Leave early (that is, before 10 am on all days with an Extreme Fire Danger rating, or the night before those days)
- ☐ Leave when there is a warning or signs of a fire
- ☐ Stay to defend the home
- ☐ Some family members leave, others stay to defend
- ☐ Other (please describe):

Have you prepared a bushfire plan involving all members of the household for what to do when there is a warning that there is a bushfire burning that might threaten your home?

- ☐ Already done
- ☐ Partially done
- ☐ Will definitely do
- ☐ Intend to do
- ☐ May do
- ☐ Will not do
- ☐ I will never be in this situation because I always check the fire danger ratings and always leave before there is a warning for my area (i.e. I leave in the morning on all days rated Severe, Extreme or Catastrophic)

If you already have a plan, it is (choose one):

- ☐ Leave immediately (i.e. as soon as there is a WARNING that there is a bushfire that MIGHT threaten your home)
 - ☐ Leave, but not until there are clear signs that the fire is LIKELY to threaten your home (e.g. when you can see smoke, or embers, or flames)
 - ☐ Stay to defend the home
 - ☐ Some family members leave, others stay to defend
 - ☐ Other (please describe)
-

The following preparations can be made whether your decision is to leave or stay and defend. Please indicate whether you have:

Checked that you have enough home contents and building insurance

- | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Already
done | Partially
done | Will
definitely
do | Intend
to do | May do | Will not
do | Not
applicable |

Stored important documents and possessions safely elsewhere, or in a fire-proof location on site, or have them packed ready to take with you when you leave

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Already done	Partially done	Will definitely do	Intend to do	May do	Will not do	Not applicable

Used landscaping, tree planting, or the layout of the garden to protect the house from bushfires

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Already done	Partially done	Will definitely do	Intend to do	May do	Will not do	Not applicable

Installed roof gutter protection

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Already done	Partially done	Will definitely do	Intend to do	May do	Will not do	Not applicable

Enclosed under-floor spaces to prevent embers or flames entering

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Already done	Partially done	Will definitely do	Intend to do	May do	Will not do	Not applicable

Covered gaps and vents to reduce the risk of embers entering the house through openings under the roof or in walls

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Already done	Partially done	Will definitely do	Intend to do	May do	Will not do	Not applicable

Installed seals and/or draft protectors around windows and doors

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Already done	Partially done	Will definitely do	Intend to do	May do	Will not do	Not applicable

Installed shutters for windows

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Already done	Partially done	Will definitely do	Intend to do	May do	Will not do	Not applicable

Installed a sprinkler system on or around the house

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Already done	Partially done	Will definitely do	Intend to do	May do	Will not do	Not applicable

Installed a water tank for firefighting purposes and/or to supply a sprinkler system

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Already done	Partially done	Will definitely do	Intend to do	May do	Will not do	Not applicable

Removed bushes close to the house and cut back overhanging tree branches

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Already done	Partially done	Will definitely do	Intend to do	May do	Will not do	Not applicable

Moved combustible material such as firewood, garden furniture, lawn mower and fuel, paint tins, old cars or tyres away from the house

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Already done	Partially done	Will definitely do	Intend to do	May do	Will not do	Not applicable

Cleared leaves, twigs, long grass from around the house to a distance of 20–30 metres

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Already done	Partially done	Will definitely do	Intend to do	May do	Will not do	Not applicable

Identified a location nearby where you, or other family members, could shelter safely if you had to leave your home because of a bushfire

- | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Already
done | Partially
done | Will
definitely
do | Intend
to do | May do | Will not
do | Not
applicable |

**Planned what to do if you decided to leave your home because of the risk of a bushfire:
e.g. where to go and stay, the route to take, what to do about pets and livestock**

- | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Already
done | Partially
done | Will
definitely
do | Intend
to do | May do | Will not
do | Not
applicable |

Obtained a battery-powered radio with fresh batteries

- | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Already
done | Partially
done | Will
definitely
do | Intend
to do | May do | Will not
do | Not
applicable |

Prepared a kit of protective clothing and gear (boots, smoke masks, goggles) for members of the household

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Already done	Partially done	Will definitely do	Intend to do	May do	Will not do	Not applicable

Installed a pump that does not depend on mains electric power (i.e. petrol, diesel-driven, or electrically powered by a generator)

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Already done	Partially done	Will definitely do	Intend to do	May do	Will not do	Not applicable

Obtained and prepared hoses for firefighting, long enough to reach all parts of the house

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Already done	Partially done	Will definitely do	Intend to do	May do	Will not do	Not applicable

Obtained and prepared firefighting equipment such as ladders, buckets and mops

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Already done	Partially done	Will definitely do	Intend to do	May do	Will not do	Not applicable

Installed or constructed a fire shelter or bunker in which to take refuge if necessary

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Already done	Partially done	Will definitely do	Intend to do	May do	Will not do	Not applicable

On days when the fire danger is classified 'Severe' or 'Extreme' will you:

Fill containers (buckets, bins, drums) with water and place these in or around the house

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Will definitely do	Intend to do	May do	Will not do	Not applicable

Clear leaves from the roof gutters and roof surfaces☐Will definitely
do☐

Intend to do

☐

May do

☐

Will not do

☐

Not applicable

Fill some containers with emergency drinking water☐Will definitely
do☐

Intend to do

☐

May do

☐

Will not do

☐

Not applicable

Make arrangements for pets or livestock to be safe☐Will definitely
do☐

Intend to do

☐

May do

☐

Will not do

☐

Not applicable

Park the car facing the way to drive away quickly, garage doors open, gates unlocked (even if the plan is to defend)

☐

Will definitely
do

☐

Intend to do

☐

May do

☐

Will not do

☐

Not applicable

Prepare a kit to take with you if you decide to leave because of the threat of a bushfire (or in case defense fails): water, food, change of clothes, toiletries, valuables

☐

Will definitely
do

☐

Intend to do

☐

May do

☐

Will not do

☐

Not applicable

Ensure my mobile phone is kept fully charged (and has sufficient credit for making calls if pre-paid)

☐

Will definitely
do

☐

Intend to do

☐

May do

☐

Will not do

☐

Not applicable

Any other things you will have done to make yourself safer if your home is threatened by a bushfire? (Please describe)

Finally:

About how far is your house from bushland (long grass, scrub, trees)?

- ☐ 30 meters or less
- ☐ 30–50 meters
- ☐ 50–100 meters
- ☐ 100–200 meters
- ☐ 200–300 meters
- ☐ 300 meters +
- ☐ N/A

What is road access to your property like?

- ☐ Several alternative routes out to safety, little or no vegetation
 - ☐ Several alternative routes, but most have roadside shrubs or trees
 - ☐ One route, little or no vegetation
 - ☐ One route, numerous trees
 - ☐ Other: (please describe)
-

- ☐ N/A

Please rate overall how vulnerable you think your house is to bushfire.

- ☐ Not at all vulnerable
- ☐ Minimal vulnerability
- ☐ Moderate vulnerability
- ☐ Highly vulnerable
- ☐ Extremely vulnerable

Please rate the extent to which your house construction material would protect your house if a bushfire did threaten your property.

- ☐ No protection
- ☐ Minimal protection
- ☐ Moderate protection
- ☐ High protection
- ☐ Extremely high protection
- ☐ N/A

Please rate how likely it is that a bushfire will threaten your property in the future

- ☐ Very unlikely
- ☐ Unlikely
- ☐ Not sure
- ☐ Likely
- ☐ Very likely
- ☐ N/A

Please rate the extent to which your preparations for a bushfire would protect your house if a bushfire did threaten your property

- ☐ No protection
- ☐ Minimal protection
- ☐ Moderate protection
- ☐ High protection
- ☐ Extremely high protection
- ☐ N/A

If there are any other comments you would like to offer about your fire risk and/or safety, please add them below.
