

# A tale of three C.I.T.I.E.S – Critical questions to ask about bushfire preparedness

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Effective bushfire preparation begins by asking questions to understand the social complexities, so that fire agencies can deliver locally sensitive safety initiatives.

**C**ommunity  
What does **community** mean? What does **community** engagement look like? Who is listened to in this **community**? Who is ignored in this **community**? Is there sense of **community** here? What does sense of **community** mean to people here? Has the **community** changed? Does the idea of **community** matter? Who is influential in this **community**? Are there any divisions in this **community**? What is the impact of **community** changes on bushfire preparedness? What are the main challenges this **community** faces in preparing for bushfire? What are the **community's** capacities to reduce the threat of bushfire?

**I**nformation  
What **information** is known about this locality? What **information** about bushfires do people need to know in this locality? What is the place of local **information** in bushfire safety? What do agencies do about **misinformation**? What **information** do people already have about bushfires? How would people find **information** about bushfire preparedness? How can **information** be disseminated more effectively? How is **information** shared? How can people exchange **information** with fire agencies? What **information** can people provide to the fire agencies?

**T**enure  
How does land **tenure** influence bushfire preparedness? Who are the traditional custodians of the land? What is the role of fire agencies in land **tenure** and land use? Are there any misconceptions about land **tenure** in this locality? What are the concerns about absentee landowners and bushfire management? What is the impact of changing land **tenure** on bushfire preparedness?

**I**nstitutions  
What are the **institutions** in this community? How can **institutions** increase bushfire preparedness? Do any **institutions** hinder bushfire preparedness? What will emergency **institutions** do during a bushfire? How can **institutions** respond to the needs of local people? What influence do **institutions** have in this area?

**E**xpectations  
How should fire agencies manage public **expectations**? Have fire agencies contributed to raising **expectations**? What can fire agencies **expect** of the public? What are the **expectations** of the local brigade? What do volunteers **expect** from their community? What are the **expectations** of the local brigade about the fire agency?

**S**hared responsibility  
What does **shared responsibility** mean? Who decides what **shared responsibility** looks like at a local level? Is it **shared responsibility** or **shared** blame? Does everyone have a **shared responsibility** for bushfire preparedness, if so how?