

# UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITIES

## Locality Remains Significant

Stakeholders identified research on the characteristics of, and linkages between policy, planning, service delivery and communities as a priority. Understanding the relationships between these components will lead to increased knowledge of communities' needs, expectations and behaviour. This knowledge should result in better informed and designed service delivery for bushfire hazard. The importance of local understanding on the part of fire service providers and the communities they are part of remains critical to effective service delivery and bushfire resilient communities.

Policy development arises from a perceived community need derived from government reviews, coronial enquiries, state government initiated research, and community pressure.

Policy is implemented primarily at state and local government levels through planning regimes and practices. Outsourcing planning compliance has implications for planning practise.



Understanding the values, attitudes, beliefs and behaviour in these four elements is fundamental to understanding what is necessary to deliver safer sustainable communities and increasing community resilience to bushfire hazard.

The relationship between fire service providers and their communities is the fundamental component of making communities safer. Understanding the similarities and differences in perspectives on risk, mitigation and response is essential to developing effective bushfire services.



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[http://www.tesag.jcu.edu.au/CDS/Pages/Bushfire\\_CRC.htm](http://www.tesag.jcu.edu.au/CDS/Pages/Bushfire_CRC.htm)

