

What do you think about the bushfire risk in your community?

Part A. For most of the questions in this survey, you should circle a number on the scale of 1 to 7 to show how strongly you feel, or place an X in a box. Instructions are provided in italics for other types of questions.

1. In general, how high do you feel the risk of bushfire is **to residents of your community?**

No Risk 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Very High Risk

2. In general, how high do you feel the risk of bushfire is **to you and your household?**

No Risk 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Very High Risk

3. When thinking about how to handle the bushfire risk, how important is it to you to protect **human life?**

Unimportant 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Very Important

4. When thinking about how to handle the bushfire risk, how important is it to you to protect **property?**

Unimportant 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Very Important

5. When thinking about how to handle the bushfire risk, how important is it to you to protect **the environment?**

Unimportant 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Very Important

6. The way bushfires are handled now, how well do you think that **human life** is protected?

Unprotected 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Well Protected

7. The way bushfires are handled now, how well do you think that **property** is protected?

Unprotected 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Well Protected

8. The way bushfires are handled now, how well do you think that **the environment** is protected?

Unprotected 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Well Protected

9. How many years have you lived at your present address?
_____ years

10. What type of area do you currently live in?

- A rural area
- A suburban area
- An urban area

11. What type of building do you live in?

- A detached house
- A low-rise apartment
- A high-rise apartment

12. Before moving to your present address, where did you live?

- A rural area
- A suburban area
- An urban area
- I have always lived at my present address

13. What kind of land abuts your current property? *Circle yes or no for each item.*

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| a. Privately owned forest or heath | Yes | No |
| b. Publicly owned forest or heath | Yes | No |
| c. Privately owned lawn or grassy area | Yes | No |
| d. Publicly owned lawn or grassy area | Yes | No |
| e. Paved land <i>other than</i> roads and streets (e.g. a car park) | Yes | No |
| f. Buildings and other structures | Yes | No |

14. Within **the past five years**, which of the following have happened to you? *Circle yes or no for each item.*

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| a. Saw smoke or flames from a bushfire | Yes | No |
| b. Felt fear or anxiety as a result of a bushfire | Yes | No |
| c. Had a friend or family member whose property was damaged by a bushfire | Yes | No |

- d. Had my own property damaged by a bushfire Yes No
- e. Had a friend or family member injured by a bushfire Yes No
- f. Was personally injured by a bushfire Yes No

15. Over **your whole life, *not including the past five years***, which of the following have happened to you? *Circle yes or no for each item.*

- a. Saw smoke or flames from a bushfire Yes No
- b. Felt fear or anxiety as a result of a bushfire Yes No
- c. Had a friend or family member whose property was damaged by a bushfire Yes No
- d. Had my own property damaged by a bushfire Yes No
- e. Had a friend or family member injured by a bushfire Yes No
- f. Was personally injured by a bushfire Yes No

16. Overall, how much do you feel you know about bushfires?
 Very little 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 A lot

Part B. *Following are some statements that people have made about how bushfires should be handled. Circle the number from 1 to 7 that represents how strongly you agree or disagree with it. I am interested in your opinions, but if you really have no opinion about a statement, mark "N/O."*

17. Some parts of the environment should be protected from any fires.
 Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

18. Farming, logging, and other land use can be relied on to reduce the bushfire danger.
 Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

19. I shouldn't be expected to spend all my time worrying about fire, because I'm busy with other things that are important to me.
 Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

20. Firefighters should be paid for the work they do.
 Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

21. Bushfire management should be tailored to the specific local situation.
 Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

22. Individual property owners should have the right to decide how to balance the risks and costs of bushfire safety.
 Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

23. Trust between firefighters and the rest of the community should be encouraged.
 Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

24. The state should provide lots of money for bushfire management.
 Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

25. Once a bushfire breaks out, the Rural Fire Service should have complete control of the situation.
 Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

26. We should be able to count on people in this region to be pretty responsible with things like campfires that could start a bushfire.
 Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

27. When a bushfire is approaching, you should evacuate quickly.
 Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

28. All stakeholders should be involved in making decisions about local bushfire management.
 Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

29. You should stay in your house when a fire is nearby to help save it.
 Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

30. People have a responsibility to the community to reduce the bushfire risk on their property.
 Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

31. There should be building codes that require homes to be fire safe.
 Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

32. There's no way to stop arsonists -- they're just crazy.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

33. Controlled burning should be done in small patches, rather than burning large areas all at once.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

34. The media should sensationalize bushfires a bit, in order to get people's attention.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

35. Science will never fully understand bushfires.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

36. People who do controlled burns responsibly should not be able to be sued if there is an accident.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

37. Bushfire policy should be based on the best science available.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

38. Controlled burning should only be done under the safest conditions.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

39. Controlled burning should try to mimic the natural fire regime of the area.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

40. It's smart to prepare your own home and family for a bushfire, rather than relying on other people.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

41. Bushfire management in this state should be centralized.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

42. People should be allowed to build houses wherever they want.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

43. People should understand the bushfire risk before moving to this region.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

44. The Rural Fire Service should be mostly made up of volunteers, not professionals.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

Part D. This section has some more general questions about your opinions of society and the environment, so we can see how people's opinions about bushfire relate to their broader worldview.

45. The world would be a more peaceful place if its wealth were divided more equally among nations.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

46. In a fair system, people with more ability should earn more.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

47. One of the problems with people today is that they challenge authority too often.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

48. The best way to provide for future generations is to preserve the customs and practices of our past.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

49. What our country needs is a fairness revolution to make the distribution of goods more equal.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

50. It seems that whichever party you vote for things go on pretty much the same.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

51. Everyone should have an equal chance to succeed and fail without government interference.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

52. I support a tax shift so that the burden falls more heavily on corporations and people with large incomes.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

53. We need to dramatically reduce inequalities between men and women.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

54. I feel that life is a lottery.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

55. Cooperation with others rarely works.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

56. The future is too uncertain for a person to make serious plans.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

57. If people have the vision and ability to acquire property, they ought to be allowed to enjoy it.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

58. Decisions in business and government should rely more heavily on popular participation.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

59. People who are successful in business have a right to enjoy their wealth as they see fit.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

60. Competitive markets are almost always the best way to supply people with things they need.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

61. Society works best when people obey all rules and regulations.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

62. Respect for authority is one of the most important things that children should learn.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

63. Different roles for different sorts of people enable people to live together more harmoniously.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

64. Most people make friends only because friends are useful for them.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

65. Nature can handle some human impacts, but it has definite limits that we should respect.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

66. The balance of nature is very delicate and easily upset
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

67. Nature is fairly robust, so it can handle anything humans do to it.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

68. Nature is just unpredictable. We'll never understand how it works.
Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

Part E.

69. How much do you think individual residents can do to reduce the risks from bushfires?
Very Little 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 A lot N/O

70. How much do you think the community working together can do to reduce the risks from bushfires?
Very little 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 A lot N/O

71. How much do you think the Rural Fire Service and other agencies can do to reduce the risks from bushfires?
Very little 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 A lot N/O

Following are a series of actions that some experts have recommended for households in high-risk areas. Put an X in the box indicating whether you or someone else in your household have done, or will do, each action at your current home (you may mark more than one). Mark "N/A" if the action could not be done in your home -- for example, if your home

already had a sprinkler system when you moved in, you would mark N/A for question 74.

72. Trim all trees and shrubs, and clean up other flammable material, within **10 m** of your home.

- I have done this
- Someone else in my household has done this
- I have not done this, but I plan to in the next couple years
- Someone else in my household plans to do this
- We do not plan to do this
- N/A

73. Trim all trees and shrubs, and clean up other flammable material, within **30 m** of your home.

- I have done this
- Someone else in my household has done this
- I have not done this, but I plan to in the next couple years
- Someone else in my household plans to do this
- We do not plan to do this
- N/A

74. Create an explicit emergency plan for your household in case of a bushfire

- I have done this
- Someone else in my household has done this
- I have not done this, but I plan to in the next couple years
- Someone else in my household plans to do this
- We do not plan to do this
- N/A

75. Install a sprinkler system

- I have done this
- Someone else in my household has done this
- I have not done this, but I plan to in the next couple years
- Someone else in my household plans to do this
- We do not plan to do this
- N/A

76. Talk to your neighbors about working together to make your community safer from fire

- I have done this
- Someone else in my household has done this
- I have not done this, but I plan to in the next couple years
- Someone else in my household plans to do this
- We do not plan to do this
- N/A

77. Put screens over windows, vents, eaves, and other places that embers could enter the house

- I have done this
- Someone else in my household has done this
- I have not done this, but I plan to in the next couple years
- Someone else in my household plans to do this
- We do not plan to do this
- N/A

78. Clear leaves and other debris from roof and gutters

- I have done this
- Someone else in my household has done this
- I have not done this, but I plan to in the next couple years
- Someone else in my household plans to do this
- We do not plan to do this
- N/A

79. Conduct a hazard reduction burn on your property

- I have done this
- Someone else in my household has done this
- I have not done this, but I plan to in the next couple years
- Someone else in my household plans to do this
- We do not plan to do this
- N/A

- 80.** Plant fire-resistant plants around your home
 I have done this
 Someone else in my household has done this
 I have not done this, but I plan to in the next couple years
 Someone else in my household plans to do this
 We do not plan to do this
 N/A

- 81.** Replace wooden shingles with metal or tile roofing
 I have done this
 Someone else in my household has done this
 I have not done this, but I plan to in the next couple years
 Someone else in my household plans to do this
 We do not plan to do this
 N/A

Following are several factors that may have hindered you in keeping your household safe from bushfires. Circle a number to show how much of a barrier each factor has been for you.

- 82.** Fire safety costs too much money.
 Not a barrier 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 A barrier N/A

- 83.** Fire safety takes too much time.
 Not a barrier 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 A barrier N/A

- 84.** I don't know what things would make my house safer.
 Not a barrier 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 A barrier N/A

- 85.** Fire safety would be harmful to the natural environment.
 Not a barrier 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 A barrier N/A

- 86.** Fire safety actions will lower the attractiveness of my home.
 Not a barrier 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 A barrier N/A

- 87.** There are local laws that get in the way.
 Not a barrier 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 A barrier N/A

- 88.** My neighbors aren't doing their part.
 Not a barrier 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 A barrier N/A

- 89.** It's hard to get members of my household to cooperate
 Not a barrier 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 A barrier N/A

How much do you trust each of the following people or institutions to do a good job in handling bushfires? Mark "N/A" if you do not think a person or institution has a job to do in handling bushfires.

- 90.** The state headquarters of the Rural Fire Service
 Distrust 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Trust N/A

- 91.** Your local fire brigade
 Distrust 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Trust N/A

- 92.** The National Parks Service
 Distrust 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Trust N/A

- 93.** Your neighbors
 Distrust 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Trust N/A

- 94.** Your local government
 Distrust 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Trust N/A

- 95.** State government
 Distrust 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Trust N/A

- 96.** The news media
 Distrust 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Trust N/A

- 97.** Scientists and other experts
 Distrust 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Trust N/A

Part F: *This section asks about you and your household, so that we can see if different types of people have different views.*

98. How many adults (18 years or older) **including yourself**, and how many children (under 18), live in your house?

_____ adults and _____ children

➔ *If you are the only member of your household, skip to question 109. If at least one other person lives with you, go to question 99.*

99. I consider my household to be very orderly.

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

100. Each person in my household has their own individual hobbies.

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

101. My household has a lot of traditions that we try to preserve.

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

102. My household has a lot of routines and activities that we do at scheduled times.

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

103. My household does a lot of activities together as a group.

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

104. In my household, people mostly try to solve their own problems.

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

105. My household is very “tight-knit.”

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

106. When there’s an important decision to be made, everyone in the household gets to have an equal say.

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

107. Each member of my household has their own friends -- we don’t all socialize with the same people.

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

108. There’s one person who’s clearly the “head of the household.”

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Agree N/O

109. Do you own or rent your home?

- I own my home
- I rent my home
- Another member(s) of my household owns our home

110. Are you, or have you been, a member of the Rural Fire Service or another fire service?

- Yes, I am currently a member of a fire service
- No, I am not currently a member, but I was in the past
- No, I have never been a member of a fire service

111. What is your race?

112. What is your gender?

113. What is your religion? (*if you are not religious, write “N/A”*)

114. What was your total household income for 2005?

- less than \$20,000
- \$20,001-\$50,000
- \$50,001-\$100,000
- \$100,001-\$200,000
- more than \$200,000

115. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed?

- Did not complete high school
- High school
- TAFE diploma or certificate
- Bachelor’s degree
- Master’s degree
- Ph.D.

116. What is your age?

- 18-29 years
- 30-39 years
- 40-59 years
- 60 years or older

117. What is your political stance?

- Conservative/Right
- Moderate
- Liberal/Left
- Libertarian
- Other: _____

118. If you are employed or a student, how long is your commute (one way) to work or school on a normal workday or school day?

- I work or study at home
- Less than 15 minutes
- 15 minutes to half an hour
- Half an hour to an hour
- More than an hour
- I am not employed or a student

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your answers are important for helping us understand what residents of New South Wales think about bushfires. If you have any additional comments about the bushfire issue, or about this survey, use the space below to share your thoughts.

Please return this survey in the enclosed envelope. You do not need to write your name or other identifying information on the survey or envelope. If you have lost the envelope, you may mail the survey to:

Stentor Danielson
P.O. Box 296
Richmond, NSW 2753

If you have any questions about this survey, you may ring me on 0406 793 202, or send an email to sdanielson@clarku.edu.