

Adapting Queensland homes to be bushfire and heat resilient

Bushfires are a natural part of the Queensland landscape. People living in bushfire prone areas need to be informed, ready and resilient to protect their home and loved ones.

Investing in resilience measures at home can significantly reduce the effort, cost and time to recover from bushfires. It not only reduces the physical and financial costs, but the social and emotional impacts as well.

Building your resilience to bushfires starts with understanding your level of risk so you can identify steps to reduce potential impacts.

Step one – understand your risk

The first step to making a home bushfire and heat resistant is to understand your level of risk. Contact your local council to understand your bushfire risk and what impact this is likely to have on your home.

Step two – reduce your risk

Invest in home improvements

Identify options to adapt your home and garden to be more bushfire and heat resistant by referring to the Bushfire Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes at www.qra.qld.gov.au/Resilient-Homes

The guide provides innovative, practical and affordable solutions for adapting homes and gardens including:

- building and landscaping design
- bushfire and heat resistant building materials
- addressing other hazards surrounding your home.

Talk to a licensed professional

The guide does not replace existing regulations, legislation or expert advice on building in bushfire prone areas. It is still necessary to comply with existing building and urban planning regulations and follow the advice and guidance provided by fire authorities and related agencies.

Talk to a licensed builder or architect about the guide to see what measures can be incorporated into your home.

Check your insurance adequately covers your level of risk

Contact your insurer to find out:

- if your current level of insurance adequately covers your home and possessions
- if undertaking any of the building upgrades identified in the guide will qualify you for a reduced insurance premium.



Find a licenced professional

Visit the following websites to find a licensed professional in your area:

Builders, tradespersons and building certifiers

Queensland Building and Construction Commission
www.qbcc.qld.gov.au

Structural engineers

Board of Professional Engineers Queensland
www.bpeq.qld.gov.au

Architects

Queensland Board of Architects
www.boaq.qld.gov.au

Did you know?

Homes built to high bushfire resilient standards are also energy efficient as they have fewer gaps and openings and better insulation from both heat and cold.

Maintain your home and have a bushfire survival plan

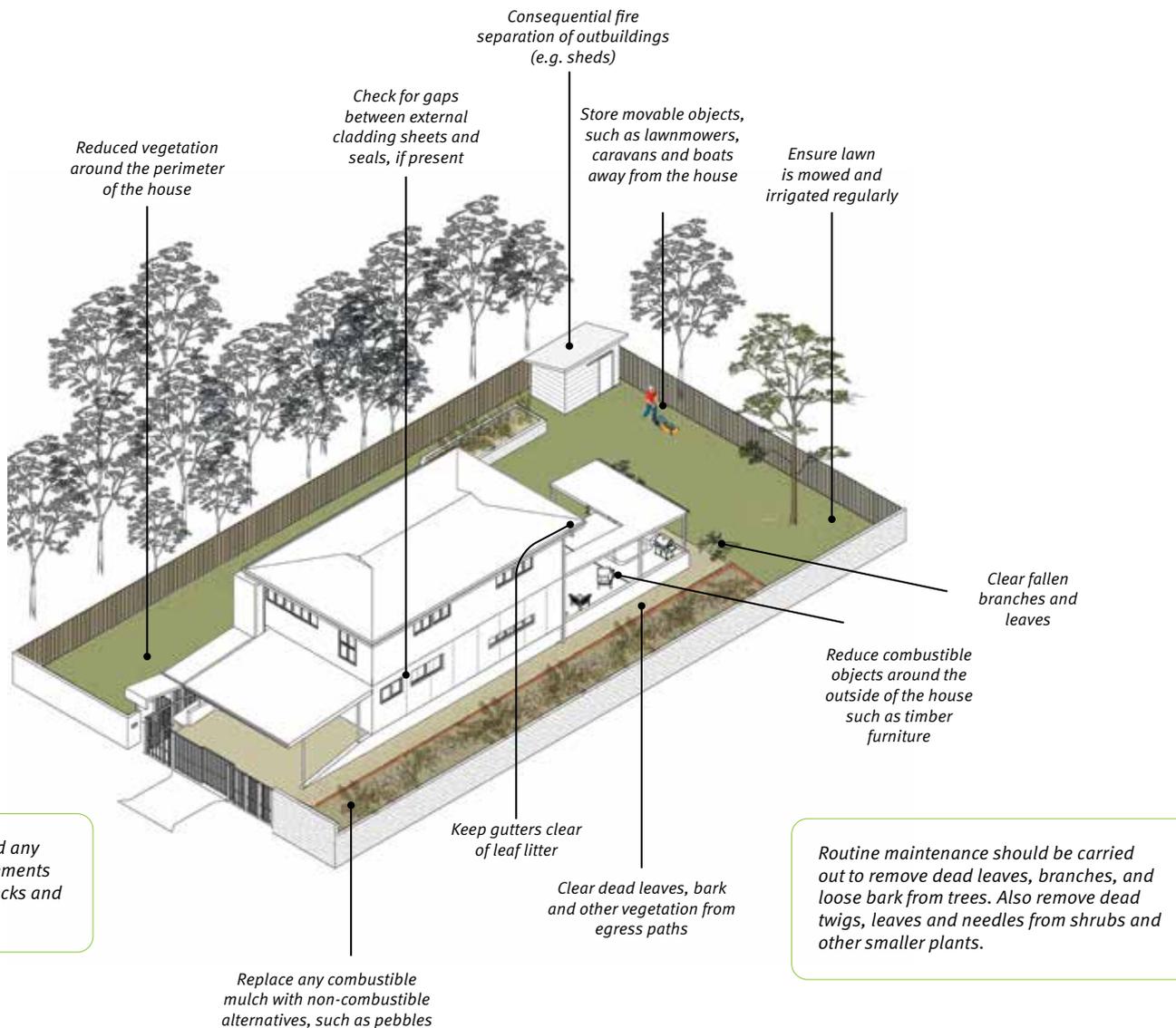
All Queenslanders living in bushfire prone areas must have a bushfire survival plan that steps through agreed decisions the household will make in the event of a bushfire.

Another important step is to undertake routine inspections and maintenance of the house and garden. The diagram below provides an overview of things to look out for in and around the home on a regular basis.

A bushfire survival plan sets out how you will respond during a bushfire such as:

- Will you stay and defend?
- Will you evacuate early?
- If you leave, what will you take with you?

Complete your bushfire survival plan online at www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au



Queenslanders are disaster resilient when...



More information



Visit www.qra.qld.gov.au/Resilient-Homes

Building resilient homes is another way Queenslanders are working together to be the most disaster resilient state in Australia.