

**HOW KNOWLEDGEABLE ARE
PEOPLE? WHAT ARE THEIR
PERCEPTIONS OF SERVICE
PROVIDERS AND OTHERS IN THEIR
LOCALITY?**

This bulletin summarises results from the Thuringowa

There may also be a relationship between perception of fire services and perception of controlled burning; the better the perception of fire services the more positively controlled burning is viewed.

A majority of residents (63%) agreed that the fire levy component of their council rates provides value for money, particularly residents with household _ mavided f cud

→ PERCEPTION OF THE BUSHFIRE HAZARD AND OTHERS

overall, residents perceived the bushfire hazard in their locality as high, particularly those who lived on larger blocks and with past bushfire experience. Furthermore, most residents (61%) perceived others in their locality to be at risk from hazards. Despite this, residents tended to perceive the hazard to their own house as moderate to low. Therefore, residents appeared to believe that they are less vulnerable to hazards than others in the same locality, and others probably exposed to the same level of risk as themselves. This may be because residents perceive their neighbours to be less prepared, or because of other factors such as the location of their property (e.g., too close to bushland), or an inability to prepare for or escape from a hazard (e.g., the elderly), or 'it wouldn't happen to me' - denial.

Most residents (73%) were concerned about neighbours who did not clean up their property, particularly those who undertook preparation activities themselves, but a minority (29%) agreed that they talked to neighbours about the importance of cleaning up their property. Those who are more likely to talk to neighbours appear to be longer-term residents, over the age of 70 and without post-secondary education. The general lack of neighbourhood communication about hazard preparation could be due to a perception that people in their locality would be able to recover from a natural disaster in a short time (only 16% of residents thought that their community may not be able to do so).

PERCEPTION OF SERVICE PROVIDERS AND BUSHFIRE HAZARD MANAGEMENT

An overwhelming majority of residents agreed that the local fire brigade does a good job preparing for (80%) and fighting (87%) bushfires. A majority were also in agreement with controlled burning, they believed it makes the area safer from bushfires (92%), is necessary to maintain plant growth (64%) and that the smoke is an acceptable nuisance (75%). however, a number of residents (63%) were concerned for wildlife, particularly females and those who had not experienced a bushfire, and some (13%) believed that the smoke causes respiratory problems, particularly those with post-secondary education.