

This bulletin is a summary of the review '*Living with Bushfire: What do People Expect?*' by Sally Bushnell and Alison Cottrell, which will be published as a book chapter in '*Communities Living with Hazards*' by the Centre for Disaster Studies, James Cook University. This bulletin also provides the background information for the following four bulletins (# 7, 8, 9 & 10), which present results of the Thuringowa Bushfire Survey 2005. Please refer to the Bushfire CRC Understanding Communities Project website for further information  
<https://www.jcu.edu.au/centre-for-disaster-studies>

Reducing the risk and impact of bushfire is a problematic and complex challenge, but it is recognised that the key to successful policies and management strategies

There is evidence of a link between community cohesiveness and bushfire preparation, a cohesive community is usually better prepared because of a good knowledge base and support network. However, when there is not a shared perception of risk, community norms such as maintaining the 'natural' look of the area may compromise bushfire preparation (e.g., preparation of a firebreak). Particularly in a cohesive community, people often do what they perceive to be expected by the community, and the community expects its individuals to act collectively. Newcomers who are often not part of the 'community', can be oblivious to community norms, and are thus often identified as people who do not undertake bushfire preparation.



The public perceive the primary responsibility of fire services to be fire suppression and protecting people and property. Most evidence indicates that the public highly values and are confident in local brigades. Furthermore, people generally appreciate all communication efforts,