

How fires react in our bushland areas

Australian bushland is generally made up of shrubs bushes and trees. The most common is the eucalypt, which contains a highly flammable oil. Bush fires are a natural essential and complex part of the Australian environment and have been for thousands of years. It's important to remember that many species are fire resistant. Some depend on fire to trigger new growth and to germinate seeds. A fire has three essential requirements. Fuel, heat and oxygen. Deprive it of any one of these and it will go out. Different types of bushfire fuel or vegetation burn differently. Finer fuels like grasses burn more quickly. While more substantial woodier fuels burn with higher intensity. Generally, in Western Australia, the highest risk is from east to north easterly winds. With unstable atmospheres causing turbulent and difficult to control bush fires. A Bushfire can occur when there a sufficient dry fuel to burn. The weather conditions are hot, dry and windy Or when there is something to spark a flame like lightning. Bushfire danger increases when the temperature is over 30 degrees. The wind is more than 20 kilometres an hour and the air is dry less than 30 percent humidity. If you live in a bushfire prone area in the City of Cockburn, make sure you have a Bushfire Survival Plan and are ready at all times to carry it out. For more information, check out cockburn.wa.gov.au or you can visit the DFES website.