



**NATIONAL
BUSHFIRE
CONFERENCE**

FROM RISK TO READINESS

CONFERENCE PROGRAM



5-7 November 2025 | Novotel, Geelong, Victoria

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

FPA Australia acknowledges the **Wadawurrung People of the Kulin Nation**, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we will gather in Geelong, Victoria. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples attending the conference.

WELCOME TO THE NATIONAL BUSHFIRE CONFERENCE 2025 – FROM RISK TO READINESS

The National Bushfire Conference 2025, presented by Fire Protection Association Australia (FPA Australia), is the nation's premier platform dedicated to practical bushfire planning, risk reduction, and community resilience. Under the theme **From risk to readiness**, this year's conference is bringing together experts from across Australia and drawing lessons from global and national bushfire events.

This conference will:

- address how we can prepare more effectively, respond more precisely, and design more resilient built environments
- explore how land use planning, building standards, emergency services, and community preparedness must evolve
- spotlight Australia's growing network of BPAD practitioners, whose role in guiding planning and construction decisions in bushfire-prone areas has never been more critical

In addition to our insightful sessions and discussions, a dedicated tradeshow will feature the latest advancements in bushfire protection technology, materials, systems and services.

This event is tailored to those working at the coalface of bushfire risk:

- BPAD-accredited bushfire consultants and assessors
- Aspiring bushfire consultants
- Town planners and land-use professionals
- Building designers, architects, and developers
- Emergency services, incident controllers, fire services representatives
- Policymakers and regulators
- Academic researchers and technical specialists



Welcome to the National Bushfire Conference 2025

It is my privilege to welcome you to the National Bushfire Conference 2025, hosted by FPA Australia.

For many Australians, bushfire is not an abstract threat but a lived reality. Whole communities carry the memory of summers marked by smoke-filled skies, anxious nights, and the heartbreak of loss. Others remember acts of courage, resilience, and the strength of neighbours helping neighbours in their greatest time of need. These stories remind us why we gather here – the human cost of bushfire is too great for us to face unprepared.

This conference is about much more than policy or technical standards. At its heart, it is about people, about protecting lives, preserving homes, and keeping our communities safe. It is about ensuring that bushfire readiness is not confined to legislation or frameworks, but lives in the daily choices we make as individuals, as organisations, and as a nation.

Our objectives in coming together are threefold:

Advancing knowledge and best practice

Through the exchange of research, innovation, and practical experience, we raise our collective ability to prevent, prepare, and respond more effectively. Every insight shared here is a step towards safer communities.

Bridging global expertise with local insight

We are honoured to welcome distinguished international speakers alongside Australia's leading practitioners and researchers. Together, their contributions provide both a global lens and a uniquely Australian perspective ensuring our solutions are informed by the best ideas from around the world, but grounded in the reality of our landscapes, climates, and communities.

Building resilience through collaboration

Bushfire resilience cannot be achieved in isolation. It grows when governments, industry, scientists, fire services, and communities work side by side. This conference offers the platform to connect across sectors, disciplines, and experiences, forging partnerships that will last well beyond these days together.

But above all, this conference is about community. It is about the families who deserve to feel safe in their homes, the regional towns who want to thrive without fear of the next fire season, and the people on the frontline who risk so much to protect others. It is about the resilience we build not just in systems and infrastructure, but in the human spirit.

By the end of this conference, every participant should leave with clear direction and actionable outcomes. Take what you learn here and apply it. Embed new knowledge into your projects, challenge outdated assumptions, and strengthen the systems and communities you influence. Use the insights gained to lift standards, improve decision-making, and drive collaboration beyond your own discipline. Above all, take responsibility for turning these discussions into measurable progress, because readiness is not achieved by attendance alone, but by the actions that follow.

As we look ahead, we must also think about the generations to come. The decisions we make today, the standards we set, and the partnerships we forge will shape the Australia they inherit. Let this conference stand as a reminder of our shared responsibility to leave them a safer, stronger, and more resilient nation.

On behalf of FPA Australia, I thank you for being part of this important gathering. May this conference inspire you, challenge you, and connect you with others who share the same determination: to turn risk into readiness, and to build a legacy of safety and resilience for all Australians.

I look forward to meeting you in November in Geelong,



John Collie
CEO, FPA Australia



INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS

The year's conference will bring together over 15 global and national bushfire leaders, including *James Gillespie* and *Raymi Wun* from the Newport Beach Fire Department, USA, and *Raphaelae Blanchi* from CSIRO.

See the speakers shaping the future of fire resilience, what they'll cover and why it matters in our [full program](#).

DAY 1 9:25AM

Let's talk: Fuelling resilience – How science, communities, and partnerships reduce wildfire risk

James Gillespie

Division Chief/
Fire Marshal
Newport Beach Fire
Department, USA

Raymi Wun

Deputy Fire Marshal
Newport Beach Fire
Department, USA

DAY 2 1:30PM

Fire-resilient construction, materials, compliance with AS 3959, BAL-rated design approaches, and the application of bushfire protection standards

Raphaelae Blanchi

CSIRO

MEET THE EVENT TEAM

Our dedicated team will be on-site throughout the event to assist with any queries or support.

EVENTS TEAM



Julia Barraclough

National Events Manager, FPA Australia
julia.barraclough@fpaa.com.au



Chloe Stefani

Event Coordinator, FPA Australia
chloe.stefani@fpaa.com.au

BUSHFIRE TEAM



Jason McFayden

Bushfire Technical Officer, FPA Australia
jason.mcfadyen@fpaa.com.au



Maria Kornakova

National Bushfire Manager, FPA Australia
maria.kornakova@fpaa.com.au

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER

1:00pm - 4:30pm	BPAD Forum
4:30pm - 8:00pm	Tradeshow
6:00pm - 7:30pm	Conference Opening Drinks – Novotel Geelong

DAY 1 – THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER

8:00am - 6:00pm	Tradeshow	
8:30am	Registrations and arrival catering	
9:00am	Conference Opening and Welcome to Country	
9:15am	Opening Address	
9:25am	Fuelling resilience: How science, communities, and partnerships reduce wildfire risk James Gillespie and Raymi Wun – <i>Newport Beach Fire Department (USA)</i>	
10:05am	Keynote Presentation – Grampians fire overview and lessons learned Glenn Rudolph – <i>Forest Fire Management Victoria</i>	
10:50am	Morning Tea	
11:30am	National Hazards Research Australia update – Andrew Gissing – <i>CEO, NHRA</i>	
11:50am	Gold Sponsor Presentation – FireFly	
12:00pm	Discussion + Q&A – NCC2022 and Specification 43 – Stephen Kip – <i>SKIP Consulting</i>	
1:00pm	Lunch	
	CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
1:45pm	An overview of recent CFA research into bushfire response operations Nick McCarthy – <i>CFA</i>	Understanding ember behaviour through testing using an ember generator and high-speed camera Rod O’Loan – <i>Stainless Steel Wire and Mesh</i>
2:15pm	Quantitative bushfire risk assessment for the electricity network sector Brett Cirulis and Paul Bentley – <i>FLARE Wildfire Research – The University of Melbourne</i>	Balancing the intersection between condensation management and bushfire resilience Gavin Williams – <i>FireFly</i>
2:45pm	Water-based bushfire protection – an update Mark Whybro – <i>Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition Australia</i>	National Bushfire Intelligence Capability: New mapping that describes our current and future bushfire hazard Justin Leonard – <i>CSIRO</i>
3:15pm	Afternoon Tea	
3:45pm	SA State-wide Bushfire Hazards Overlay Code Amendment update – Leah Bertolini – <i>SACFS</i>	
4:15pm	Panel Discussion	
5:30pm	End of day 1	
5:30pm - 7:00pm	Networking Drinks – Waterfront Carousel Pavilion – <i>1 Eastern Beach Road</i>	

Schedule, presentations and presenters may be subject to change without notice.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

DAY 2 – FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER

8:00am - 3:00pm Tradeshow		
8:00am	Arrival tea & coffee	
8:30am	Welcome back and FPA Australia update Dr Maria Kornakova – <i>FPA Australia</i>	
8:45am	Geographic tools for fire assessment on the wildland urban interface Dr David Bowman – <i>UTAS</i>	
9:15am	AFDRS (Australian Fire Danger Rating System) Bart Pindor – <i>CFA</i>	
9:45am	Managing bushfire risk: The curious case of private bushfire shelters Stephen Kip – <i>SKIP Consulting</i>	
10:15am	Morning Tea	
	CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
10:45am	A brave new world: calculation of radiant heat flux and bushfire attack levels with Vesta Mk 2 forest model Anthony Power – <i>Covey Associates & Cedaryn</i>	Performance-based strategy for underground bushfire shelter Camilo Montoya – <i>Stantec</i>
11:15am	A comprehensive approach to bushfire safety for vulnerable occupancies Alexander Glennon – <i>SKIP Consulting</i>	Building the next generation of post-disaster survey tools Elana Berton – <i>CSIRO, National Bushfire Intelligence Capability</i>
11:45am	Stay or go and beyond: Household evacuation decisions and travel behaviour during three recent Australian bushfires Erica Kuligowski – <i>RMIT University</i>	Novel approaches for spatial bushfire risk modelling James Hilton – <i>Covey/Cedaryn</i>
12:15pm	Lunch	
1:00pm	International Speaker: Directional analysis of community wildfire evacuation capabilities Dr. Jen Beverly – <i>Associate Professor, Department of Renewable Resources, University of Alberta, CA</i>	
1:30pm	Bushfire-adaptive homes: Fire-resilient construction, materials, compliance with AS 3959, BAL-rated design approaches, and the application of bushfire protection standards Dr Raphaele Blanchi – <i>CSIRO</i>	
2:00pm	Exploring FZ design and construction, with Q&A Nat Andrews and David Boverman	
2:30pm	Panel discussion – Barriers to developing gold standard bushfire resilient designs	
3:30pm	Conference close	

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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS AND EXHIBITORS

Gold Sponsor



FIREFLY specialises in advanced passive fire protection solutions designed for safety in all environments, with a strong focus on bushfire-prone areas.

Backed by decades of expertise and as part of TBA Protective Technologies Ltd, FIREFLY deliver rigorously tested, compliant solutions and wall systems including the only BAL FZ roof tested system with ventilation – a global breakthrough in fire safety and condensation control.

Their innovative App simplifies project management across over 85,000 installation combinations, making fire stopping more accessible and effective for all building types.

FIREFLY ensures superior protection that safeguards lives and properties from fire risks – whether in bushfire zones or urban settings – providing peace of mind through trusted technology and comprehensive passive fire solutions.

[Learn more about FIREFLY here.](#)

Bronze Sponsors

Country Fire Authority

The **Country Fire Authority (CFA)** is a volunteer fire service responsible for fire suppression, rescues, and response to other accidents and hazards across most of the state of Victoria, known as the Country Area of Victoria. CFA comprises over 1,200 brigades organised in 21 districts, who are managed by 5 regions.

[Learn more about the CFA here.](#)

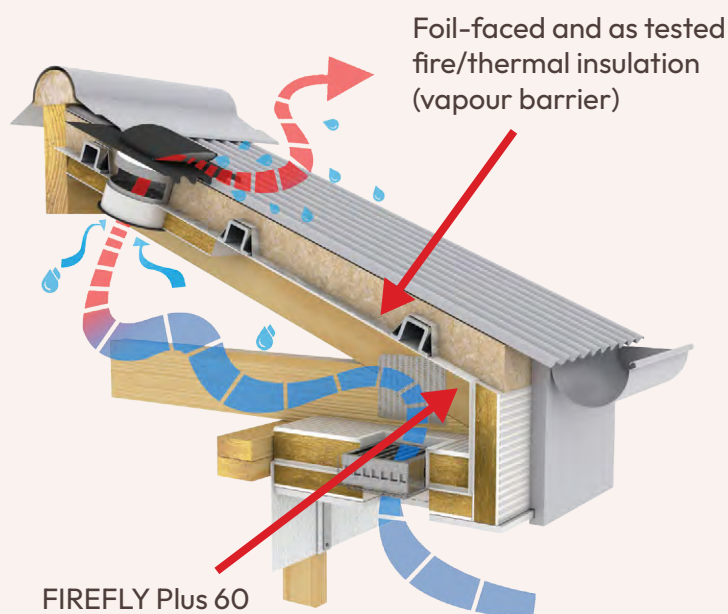


Weepa Products is an Australian family company specialising in innovative patented products for weep holes in cavity brick walls. With the goal to make it simple to create beautiful, functional and compliant weep holes, which exclude both pests and burning embers from bushfires. [Learn more about Weepa here.](#)

Exhibitors



Introducing the FIREFLY BAL-FZ roof system with ventilation. A game-changing innovation in fire-resistant roofing.



- System tested to AS1530.8.2
- Compliant to BAL-FZ requirements in AS3959: 2018
- Promotes air flow

Tested and assessed to AS1530.8.2 (flame zone) standards, it is the first of its kind to combine ventilation with exceptional fire resistance, addressing condensation buildup and bushfire resilience.

Traditionally, ensuring effective ventilation while offering exceptional BAL-FZ protection has been challenging for bushfire professionals. Inadequate ventilation can lead to moisture vapour buildup from daily activities within the home, resulting in rot, mold and structural deterioration, particularly in cooler climates.

The groundbreaking FIREFLY BAL-FZ roof system integrates ventilators tested to AS1530.8.2 standards to provide superior ventilation with exceptional fire protection. This effectively removes moisture and enhances thermal efficiency, ensuring energy efficiency goals are met. In the event of a bushfire, the vents automatically close off to prevent ignition within the roof. Additionally, the system has successfully passed testing with various service penetrations, including solid fuel heater flue systems, electrical and coaxial cables, and metal sewer vent pipes, underscoring its reliability and performance.

An essential component of the system is the lightweight FIREFLY Plus 60, a high-temperature resistant insulating blanket that offers numerous advantages, such as an R-Value of 0.36 for greater energy efficiency and thermal performance compared to gypsum-based systems. At a light weight of just 2.2kg m², it is easier and more cost-effective to install than solid board systems that weigh over 10kg m². Additionally, it offers a thermal break for steel framed roofs and can be installed in a wide range of roof pitches and roofing profiles, including metal and tile. Plus it comes in rolls instead of sheets, reducing cut-offs and waste onsite for an eco-friendlier solution.

By addressing both fire protection and condensation buildup, the FIREFLY system sets a new standard in BAL-FZ safety in Australia.

ATTENDEE INFORMATION & FAQ

Will the sessions be recorded?

Yes. All sessions will be recorded and made available post-event via FPA Australia's webinar library at

www.fpaaplus.com.au.

How do I get my CPD certificate?

CPD certificates will be sent after the event. **Please remember to scan the QR code on the day** to ensure your attendance is recorded and CPD points are correctly allocated.

Will we receive a copy of the presentations?

Presentation copies will be available on the National Bushfire Conference website after the event, subject to each speaker's approval. www.bushfireaus.com.au

Is Wi-Fi available at the venue?

Yes. Complimentary Wi-Fi will be available throughout the venue. Network details will be available upon check-in/registration.

How do I get to the venue?

The conference is being held at **The Novotel Geelong**.

The venue is easily accessible by train from Melbourne (approx. 1 hour) or by car via the Princes Freeway. Paid parking is available nearby. More details about parking at Novotel Geelong are [available here](#).

Who can I contact for help during the conference?

Please reach out to one of our friendly Event Team members ([see page 4](#)) or visit the registration desk for assistance.



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CONFERENCE**

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