



**NATIONAL
BUSHFIRE
CONFERENCE**

DESIGNING THE FIRE-READY FUTURE

27-29 October 2026
Coffs Harbour, NSW

Conference Program

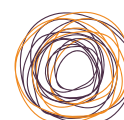
Tuesday 27 October BPAD Forum/Workshop

Time	Session
11:00am	NSW RFS PBP Update and Q&A Susan Fox – Environmental Planning Specialist at NSW RFS
12:30pm	Registrations and Lunch
1:00pm	Welcome FPA Australia BPAD update and introductions Jason McFadyen – National Bushfire Manager at FPA Australia Jodi Burley – Technical Officer, Bushfire Services at FPA Australia
1:30pm	Assessing APZs beyond the boundary. How they are being treated in NSW, VIC and WA. Lew Short – Director, Blackash Bushfire Consulting
2:30pm	Bush fire protection measures – Certification and general compliance Darryl Pendlebury – Bushfire Consultant at Built to Bushfire
3:00pm	Afternoon Tea Break
3:30pm	Water supply – Demonstrating compliance Paul Johnson – Senior Civil Engineer at Sowdes
4:00pm	Setting the stage for QGIS Jennifer Johnson – Consultant at Culingaia Flora Environmental Consultancy
4:30pm	Legal update Liam Mulligan – Partner at Lindsay Taylor Lawyers
5:00pm	BPAD Forum concludes
5:30pm	Conference Opening Drinks

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Day 1 – Wednesday 28 October

Time	Session
8:30am	Arrival Coffee/Tea and Registrations
9:00am	Welcome, housekeeping and Acknowledgement of Country Jason McFadyen – National Bushfire Manager at FPA Australia
9:15am	Opening Address
9:30am	Bushfire resilient communities require community ignition resistance – Pre-recorded Dr Jack Cohen – Retired US Forest Service Research Fire Scientist
10:15am	Turning resilience into practice – An Australian perspective Justin Leonard – Retired CSIRO Research Leader
10:45am	Morning Tea Break
11:30am	When the fire reached the hospital: Lessons from the 2026 Natimuk bushfire Alexander Glennon – Fire Safety Engineer at SKIP Consulting
12:15pm	Victorian bushfire landscape Nick McCarthy – Senior Research and Development Officer at Country Fire Authority
1:00pm	Lunch Break
1:45pm	The real cost of getting it wrong: Incorrect BAL assessments, non-compliant products and shortcuts in BAL-FZ construction – How to avoid expensive failures Maria Kornakova – National Bushfire Sales Manager at Firefly
2:15pm	Approval pathways for BAL-FZ development Wayne Tucker – Managing Director at Australian Bushfire Consulting Services
2:35pm	Concurrent A
	Common bushfire construction compliance mistakes found in the building industry Darryl Pendlebury – Bushfire Consultant at Built to Bushfire
3:05pm	Concurrent B
	Tasmanian Integrated Fire Camera Network (TIFCN) Rob Vernon – Executive Director at Fire Foresight
3:40pm	Afternoon Tea Break
4:10pm	Bunbury Hospital WA: A collaborative performance approach to the application of Spec 43 Linden Wears – Bushfire Engineer at Covey and Associates Jacob Drury – Fire Engineer at Lucid Consulting
4:45pm	Handbook 208.1 and Handbook 208.2 – The property bushfire manual Jodi Burley – Technical Officer, Bushfire Services at FPA Australia
5:30pm	Panel discussion with regulators Moderator: Jason McFadyen – National Bushfire Manager at FPA Australia
5:30pm	Networking Drinks/Conference Dinner

Day 2 – Thursday 29 October

Time	Session	
8:00am	Arrival Coffee/Tea and Registrations	
8:30am	Welcome Back	
8:35am	FPA Australia update Jason McFadyen – National Bushfire Manager at FPA Australia	
8:55am	Wildfire insurance and the cost of construction – LA fires update – <i>Pre-recorded</i> O.P. Almaraz – Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Allied Disaster Defense	
9:40am	Insights from the L.A. January 2025 fires for Perth, Western Australia Anna Durkin – Department of Fire and Emergency Services and Natural Hazards Research Australia PhD Candidate at RMIT University	
10:10am	Morning Tea Break	
10:40am	Concurrent A	Concurrent B
	Representative design fire weather: From local analysis to regional bushfire planning Anthony Power – Bushfire Technical Lead at Covey & Associates	Places of public entertainment within the bushfire landscape Katherine Kolar – Fire Safety at Fire Rescue Victoria
11:10am	Risk-based framework for addressing NCC Specification 43 for class 9 buildings Edward Wilson – Fire Safety Engineer at Lit Consulting	Bushfire place of last resort – a WA conundrum? Kathryn Kinnear – Director of Bio Diverse Solutions
11:40am	Improving the inclusion of likelihood and vulnerability in bushfire risk assessment Nathan Kearnes – Principal Consultant & Manager at Eco Logical Australia Rod Rose – Senior Principal – Bushfire with Eco Logical Australia	Renewables and the planning interface, wind farm impacts on aerial firefighting operations Rohan Williams – Fixed wing aerial firefighting pilot
12:10pm	Firefly – Sponsor Presentation	
12:20pm	Lunch Break	
1:00pm	Concurrent A	Concurrent B
	Australian Fire Danger Rating System: End user perspectives Owen Ziebell – Manager National Projects and Capability at AFAC, National Council for Fire and Emergency Services	Living with the Red Steer: Ku-ring-gai Council’s fire management program – Now and into the Pyrocene Mark Schuster – Bushfire Planner and Ecological Scientist at Ku-ring-gai Council
1:30pm	Next generation toolkits and datasets for addressing DTS and performance Alessio Arena – Senior Research Scientist at National Bushfire Intelligence Capability (NBIC)	
2:00pm	APZ landscaping performance and design: time to rethink the evidence base? Rod Rose – Senior Principal, Bushfire with Eco Logical Australia	
2:30pm	Close of Conference	