

# **FARM FIREWISE - Preparing your property, Protecting your community.**

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Following the 2003 bushfires the ACT Government introduced new legislation (*Emergencies Act 2004*), requiring rural land managers to prepare a bushfire operational plan consistent with the ACT's Strategic Bushfire Management Plan. To stream line this requirement and minimise the workload for land holders the Farm FireWise program was developed.

A Risk Assessment Worksheet forms the main component of "Farm Firewise" and addresses PPRR aspects of bushfire management. It provides a simple process, which captures details on individual property maps.

It requires an estimated 4 hours from initial introduction and on-site assessment to complete.

The program has been designed to capture several deliverables:

1. Provides support and community education and recognises existing skills and knowledge.
2. Stimulates different methods of approaching bushfire risk mitigation.
3. Meets legislative requirements.
4. Ensures accurate and useful data collection and effective recording.
5. Provides a bushfire action plan based on strategic risk across the landscape and individual properties.
6. Produces detailed and accurate bushfire maps with multi functional use.
7. Creates a map book for fire fighters identifying critical information such as number, type and location of built assets, access, existing fuel management, and water points.
8. Inform planning decisions by ACT RFS and Government land managers.

The ACT RFS acknowledge the support and materials provided by Emergency Management Australia (EMA), NSW Rural Fire Service, Victorian Country Fire Authority and the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of WA (FESA).

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## **Key Words**

Farm FireWise, land management, farmers, rural land holders, bushfire action plan, community engagement, bushfire risk assessment, bushfire mitigation, shared responsibility, information sharing