



Program Evaluation, Preparedness and Resilience

Examples from Western Australia

Rachel Armstrong – WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Disaster Resilience



Babi Island – East Nusa Tenggara



Community Preparedness Programs



Impact of preparedness programs

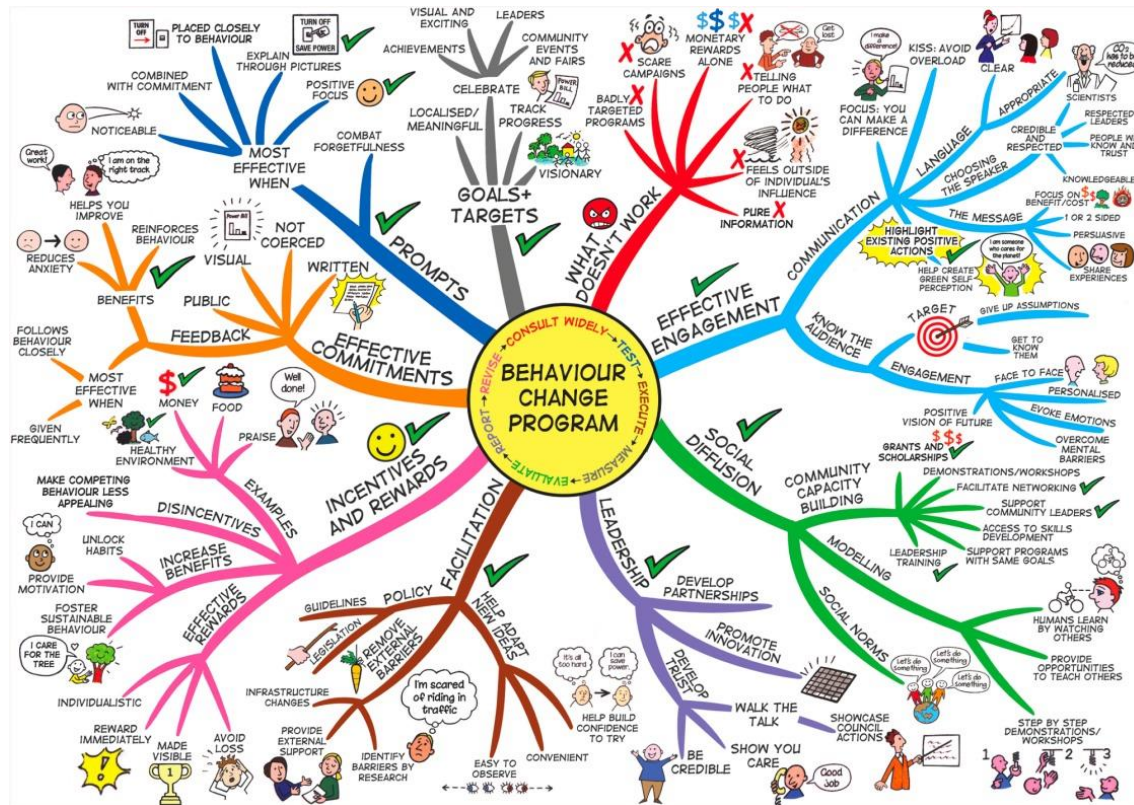
“Just a note of thanks for the incursion with your fabulous team. The children were so very excited and enthusiastic - you 'made their day'. Many of them went home saying that it was the 'best day ever! I am sure that now they will all spread the word to their families about how they must keep safe and what to do. Home fire management plans are probably being drawn up as I speak.”

Kerry King, Infant Jesus School (visited by Malaga CFRS)

“Of all the programs my son was involved in as a result of this one fire incident, I found JAFFA the most individualised, ‘on-the-same-level’, and pertinent to my son. The JSO related directly and appropriately to my son, and was a great male role model. The information that was discussed about the consequences of fire and the images was informative, and educational due to the scientific aspects of fire spread. This was engaging for my son.”

(Parent of 16 year old participant, referred from Youth Justice Service)

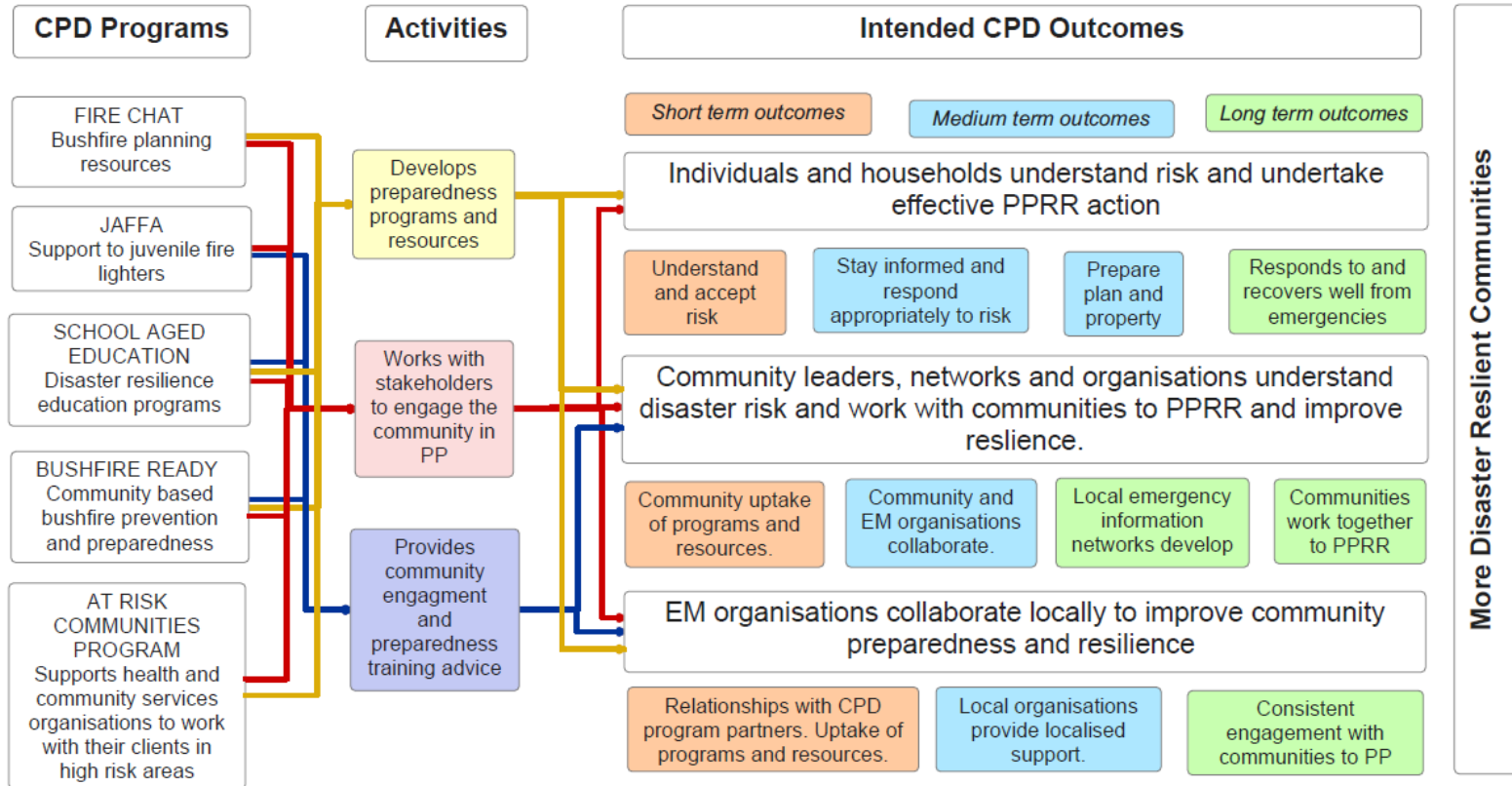
Behaviour change takes time



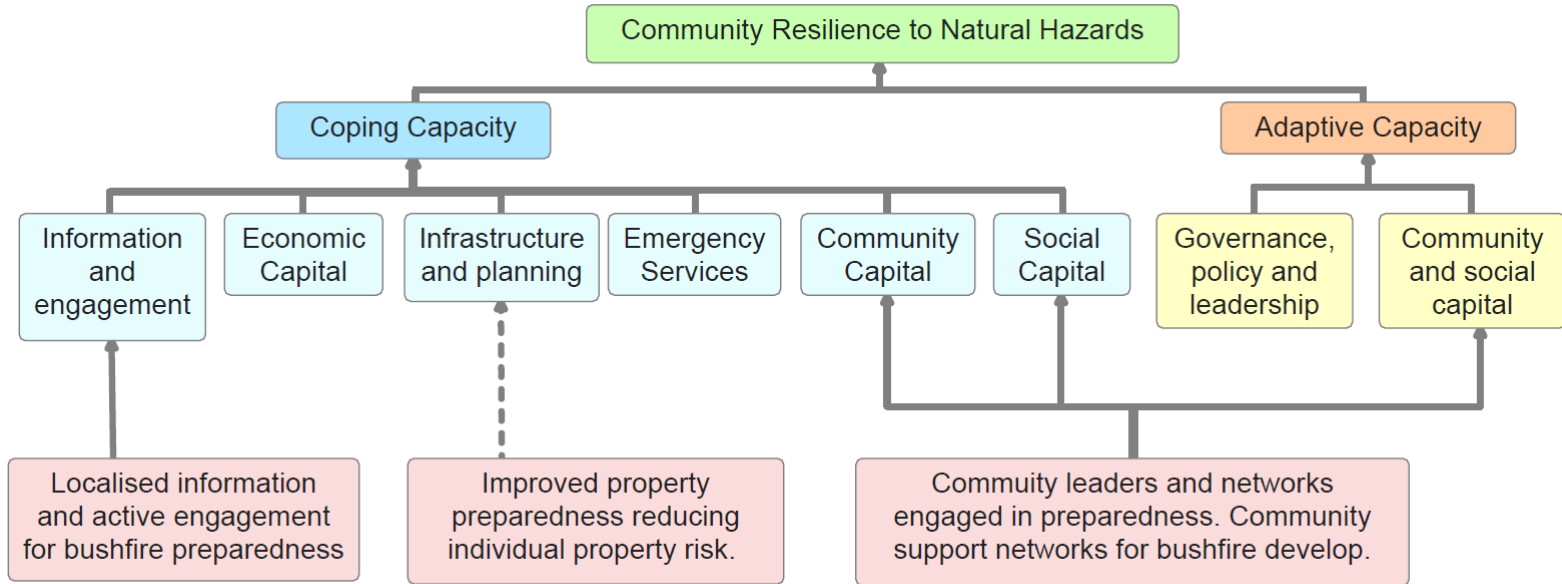
ME HATES COMPLEXITY



Program Theory - DFES Preparedness Programs



Bushfire Ready and Disaster Resilience



Results: Information and engagement



Information and engagement

Improved coping capacity

More disaster resilient

Localised information and face to face engagement

Individuals and households

Understand and accept risk

Stay informed and respond appropriately

BFR Activities

- Property walk throughs
- Meetings
- Street meets
- Station open days
- Street coordinator meetings
- Door knocks and one to one engagement

What's the impact of BFR on risk awareness?

- Positive feedback from Facilitators and stakeholders
- Argyle – Irishtown Post Incident research*
- Most BFR participants took action to improve their preparedness

Staying informed / responding appropriately?

Yallingup BFR Facilitator led survey:

- Better awareness of EmergencyWA

Argyle-Irishtown Post-incident research:

“Followed my plans and prepared to evacuate if necessary”

“Evacuated children, pets, livestock; removed pre-packaged important documents, irreplaceable items etc.; Soaked surroundings using retic.; filled and ran fire fighting unit”

(BFR Participants)

Fire Chat



SURVIVAL PLAN NEEDED AHEAD OF FIRE SEASON

COLLIE residents have been encouraged to start preparing a bushfire survival plan. Emergency Services minister Fran Logan launched the official bushfire season on October 1 and said just 16 per cent of Western Australians have discussed with their families how they

would survive a bushfire. Mr Logan said the new DFES Fire Chat tool, available online and in hard copy, would help people create a survival plan in five minutes. The Fire Chat helps people understand if they know what to do when a bushfire hits.

EmergencyWA PREPARE

Are you bushfire ready?

- Prepare your property
- Know when to leave
- Know where to go
- Know which way to go

MAKE YOUR PLAN NOW >



Balingup Fire Protection Events and Mitigation shared Peta Townsing's post.
8 December 2017 ·

Stéph DeBruin from Department of Fire and Emergency Services WA will be at the Markets this afternoon. See you there!



Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade shared City of Kalamunda's post.
8 December 2017 ·



1 WHEN will you know to leave?

2 WHERE will you go?

3 WHICH way will you go?

Peta Townsing ▸ Balingup Night Markets
8 December 2017 ·

Department of Fire and Emergency Services WA will be at the Markets this evening.
*Fire Chat at Balingup Night Markets
On the 1st of October, DFES launched Fire...
See more.



Bushfire season has begun, with the emergency services warning that the Southwest has ...
6PR, Perth, 08:00 News, Newsreader
02 Oct 2017 8:02 AM



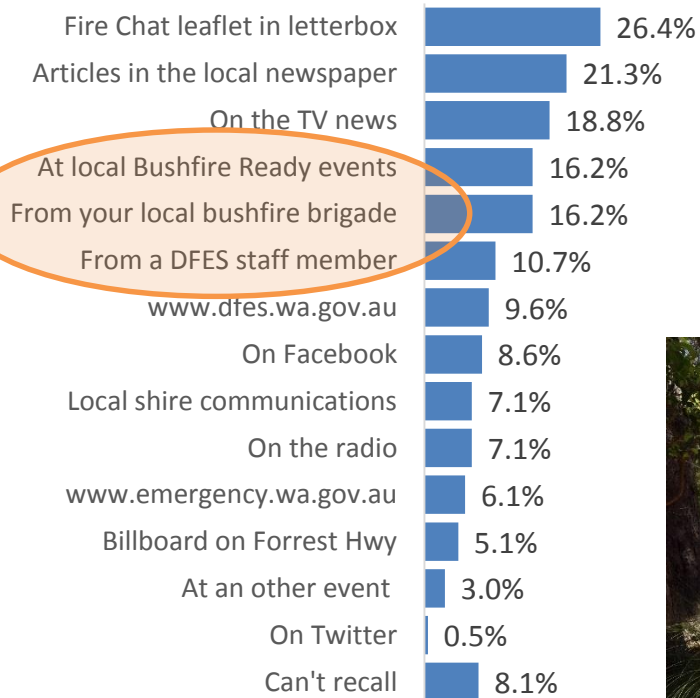
Bushfire season has begun, with the emergency services warning that the Southwest has recorded its driest autumn in five years. Emergency Services Minister Fran Logan has said that he has launched an initiative called the Fire Chat program.

DFES
Department of Fire and Emergency Services WA
@dfeswa



Promoting Fire Chat

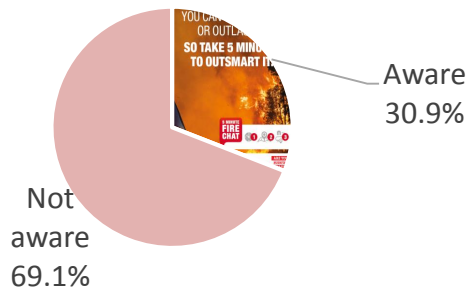
Where did you see or hear about Fire Chat?



- High value of local, face – to – face engagement in reaching communities
- Many found out about Fire Chat at Bushfire Ready events



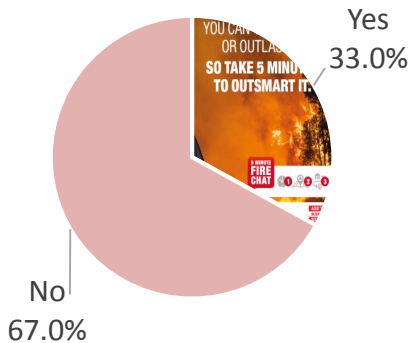
Have you ever heard of Fire Chat



Did you have a Fire Chat?



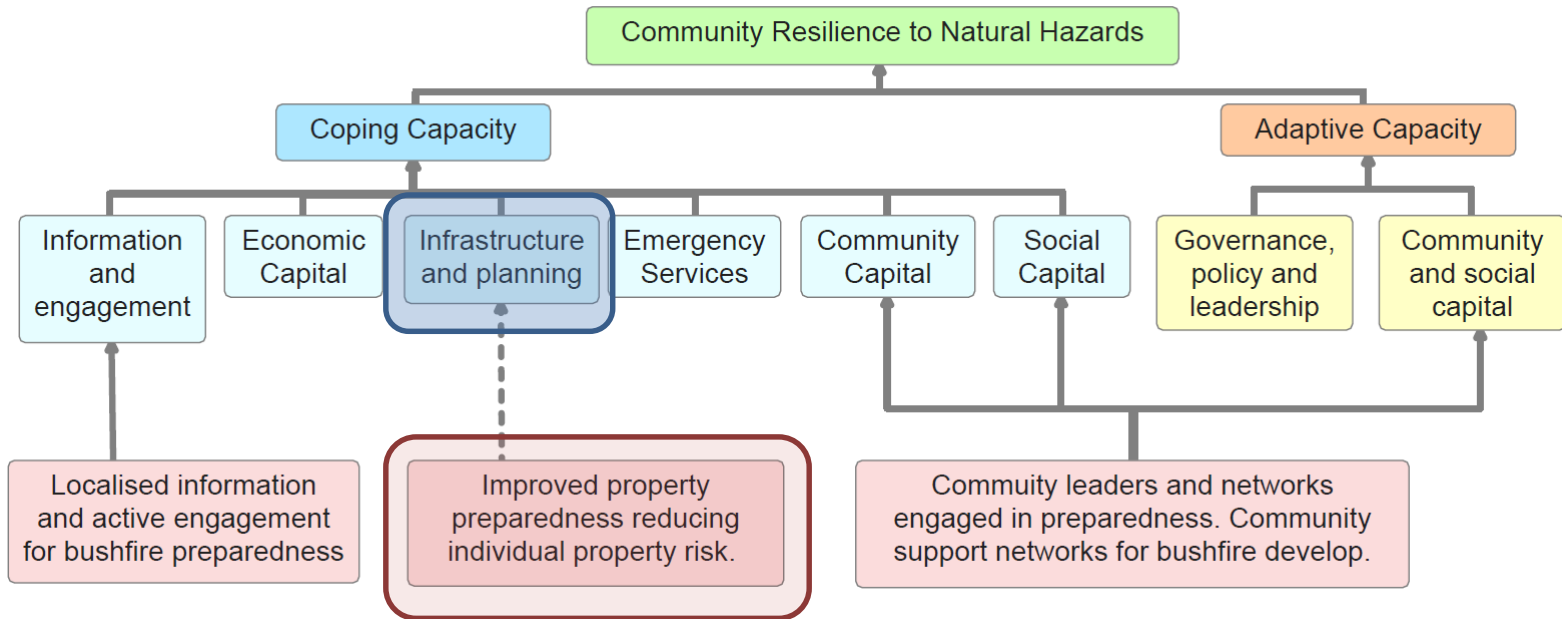
Did you access the Bushfire Preparation Toolkit



Did you use the Bushfire Preparation toolkit?



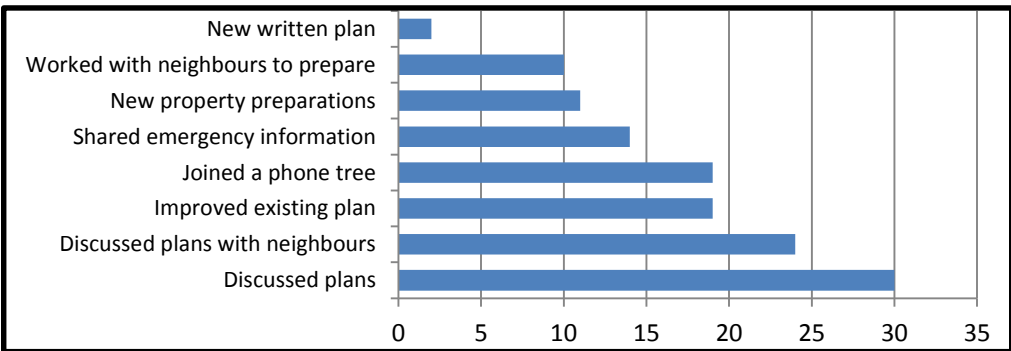
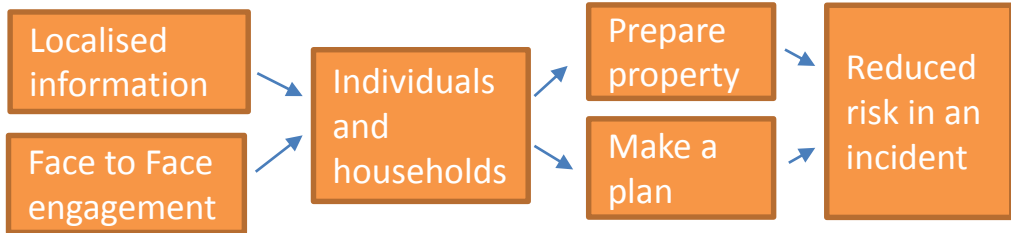
Bushfire Ready and Disaster Resilience



Results: Infrastructure and planning



Infrastructure and planning (individuals and households)

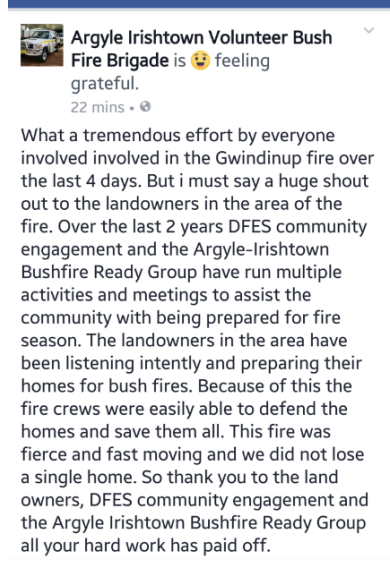


Actions of BFR Participants in Argyle Irishtown after participating in BFR activities

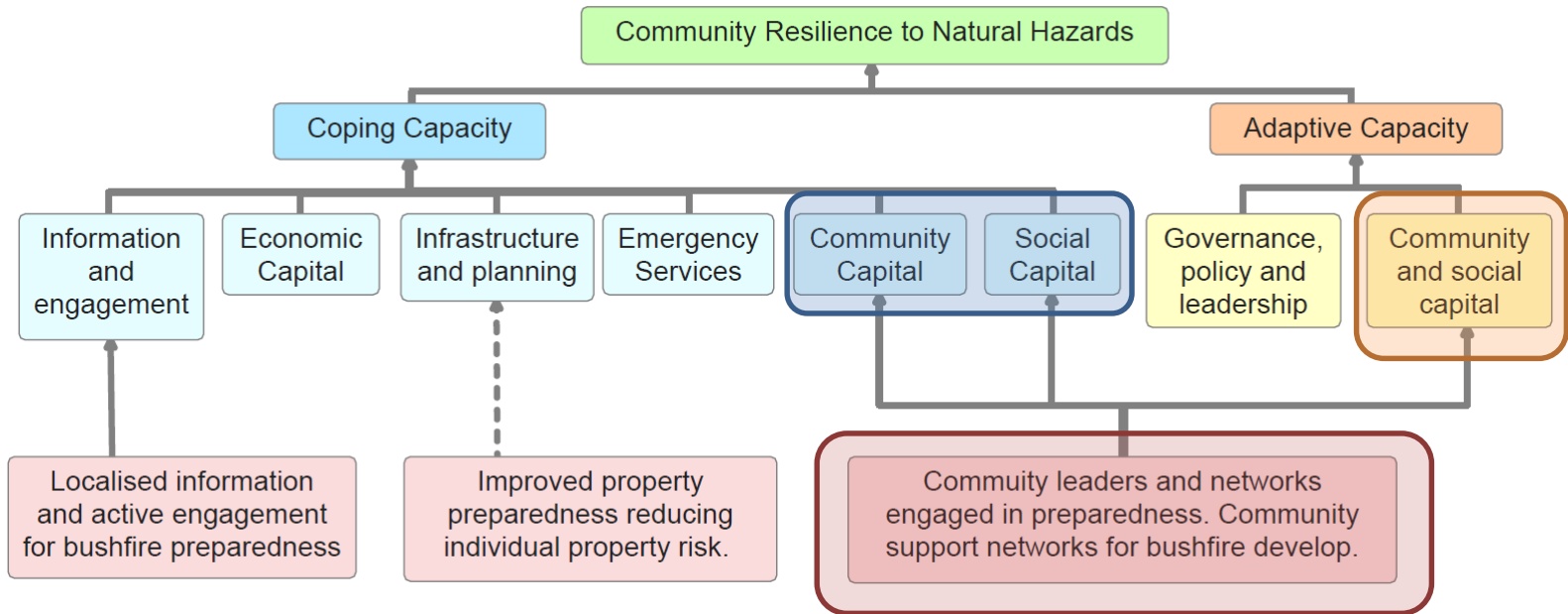
Improved coping capacity

More disaster resilient

- ### Impact on property preparation
- Feedback support better property preparation and maintenance
 - Some LG report reduced infringements
- ### Impact on bushfire plans
- Argyle-Irishtown post-incident research
- More likely to have a bushfire plan



Bushfire Ready and Disaster Resilience



Results: Community and Social Capital



Community and social capital

Improved coping and adaptive capacities

More disaster resilient

Communities participate

Local emergency information networks develop

EM organisations collaborate

Communities work together to plan and prepare for bushfires

"I like the sense of 'community' that BFR is encouraging. Getting to know your neighbours must improve the general resilience of communities should they be impacted by fires."
Bushfire Ready Facilitator

Bushfire Ready Program is growing

- 70 BFR Facilitators
- 270 BFR groups
- > 4000 attended events (2017-18)

EM organisations include:

- 47 Volunteer bushfire services
- DFES community preparedness
- DFES regional operations
- LG emergency services
- DBCA

Communities work together

"It brings people together to work as a community to become more BFR. They understand the limited resource of the fire brigades and police and accept responsibility for their own readiness"

Local information networks

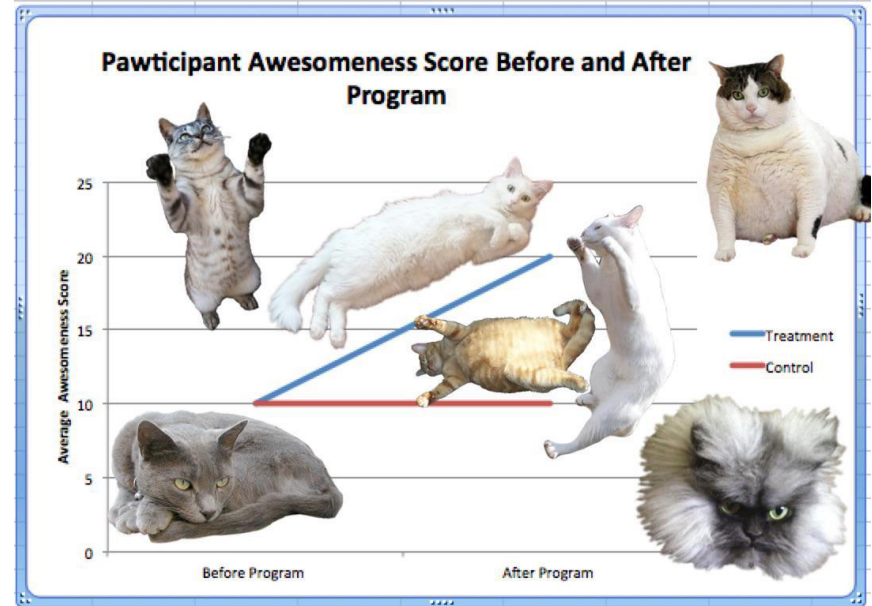
- Phone trees
 - Facebook
- Yallingup BFR Facilitator led survey:*
- Reach BFR communications networks
- Argyle Irishtown Post-incident research*
- Local information networks during the Gwindinup Fire.

Where to next

Community bushfire surveys

Measure change over time Baseline, 2 years and 5 years. Indicators include:

- Bushfire plans
- Property preparation
- Confidence in capacity to plan and prepare
- Community support networks for bushfire
- Preparedness to stay and defend (for those who intend to do so)
- Participation in community preparedness activities (including BFR)

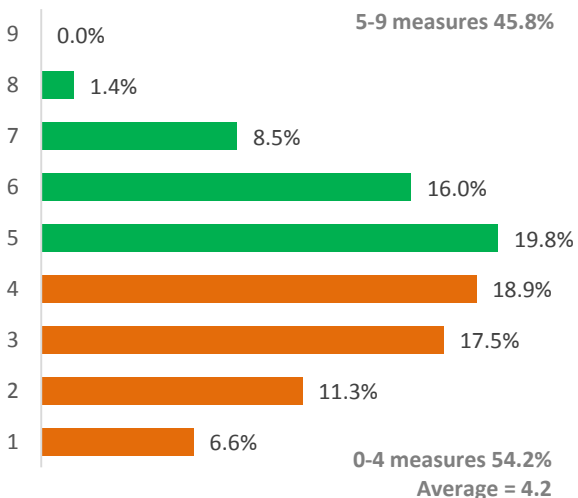


The current state of bushfire preparations for the property

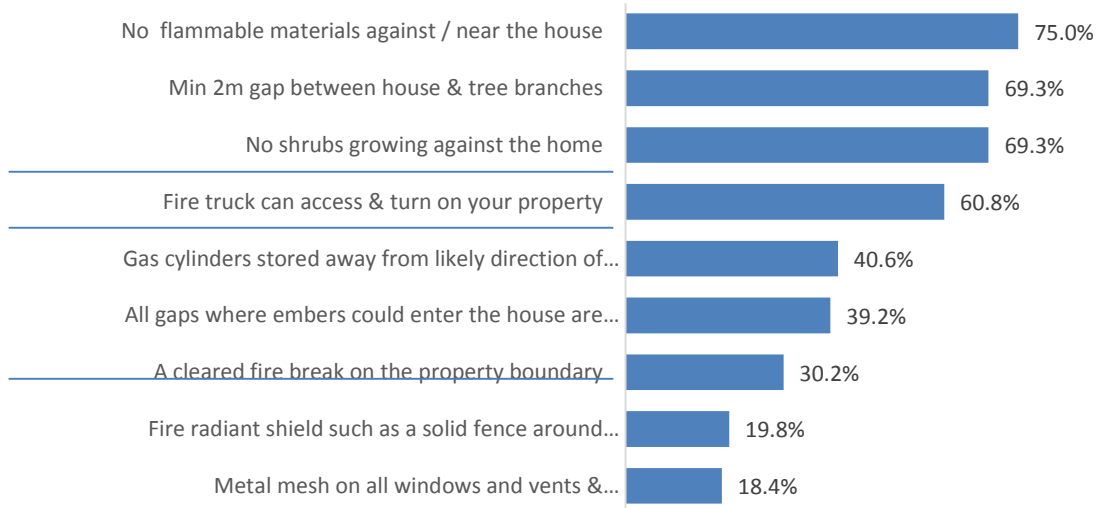
No householders had all 9 measures in place and only 1 in 10 had 7 or more measures.

The most popular protective measures related to vegetation and other flammable materials near the house. These are cheap and easy to do but not permanent protective measures.

Total number of listed bushfire protective measures (1-9) currently true for their property



Current state of property bushfire protective measures



Conclusion and discussion

- Community Preparedness work is essential to improving community disaster resilience.
- We need to know what works and what doesn't.
- We need to communicate our results to keep up the interest and get others involved.



Contact: Rachel.Armstrong@dfes.wa.gov.au