



**NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE**



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **NEW ONLINE TOOL HELPS RESIDENTS PREPARE FOR BUSH FIRES**

**12<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

NSW residents now have access to an easy to use online tool that will help assess their bush fire risk, NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons announced today.

The NSW RFS has developed the new programme to enable residents to identify whether their home sits within a bush fire prone area.

“NSW has more than 1.3 million properties situated on bush fire prone land, and we want to make it as easy as possible for the people living in these areas to prepare for bush fire,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“Previously, people living in bush fire prone areas would have to source maps from their local council, to determine their risk.

“For the first time this new tool places the information from every local government area at your fingertips, making it easier and faster to find out if your home is at risk.

“By simply entering your address, the website will tell you if your home is on bush fire prone land.”

Emergency Services Minister the Hon David Elliot said that the NSW RFS has a number of valuable tools available to help people plan and prepare for bush fires.

“One of the best assets during a bush fire is a well prepared community. If you live in a bush fire prone area, it is your responsibility to make a plan, and get ready. Familiarise yourself with the advice and information available and ensure you are prepared.

“The NSW RFS recently introduced a new guide to making your bush fire survival plan, including easy checklists to make sure you’re ready. There really is no excuse for complacency.

“We may be heading into the cooler months, but now is the perfect time to sit down and discuss with your family what you will do in the event of a fire – well before we see the return of bush fire conditions,” Mr Elliot said.

The new tool is available at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)

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**For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on (02) 9898 1855  
For current incidents or major fire updates visit [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)**

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