

LIVING IN A HIGH-RISK ENVIRONMENT



NEAR COASTAL SCRUB



**WHERE SUBURBS MEET
THE BUSH OR GRASSLANDS**

NEAR COASTAL SCRUB

> KEY POINTS

Burning scrub, heath or other coastal vegetation can create hot, dangerous bushfires. If you live by, work by or travel to the coast you are at risk. Beaches, foreshores and shallow waters may not be safe or protect you from radiant heat. Often a fire will be burning between you and the beach.

- > Very hot and fast-moving fires.
- > Gusty ocean winds causing fire to behave erratically.
- > A lot of embers are generated from the vegetation.
- > Fire can reach houses quickly.
- > Busy, congested coastal roads can be another danger.

Questions for discussion

Why can bushfires in this environment spread rapidly and generate dangerous amounts of radiant heat?

(Strong gusty winds from the ocean, close and dense vegetation such as teatree plantations).

WHERE SUBURBS MEET THE BUSH OR GRASSLANDS

> KEY POINTS

You do not have to live in the bush to be at risk of bushfire. Suburban homes can burn down in bushfire too.

- > Scrub, forest and grass can catch fire in this environment.
- > A fire in a park or reserve can quickly spread to timber fences and gardens. Fire can also spread from house to house once houses start to burn.
- > High risk of ember attack if the house is near dense bushland environments.
- > Embers falling close to or on houses can start a new fire.
- > Strong winds can bring embers from far away.

Questions for discussion

Do bushfires only happen 'in the bush'?

(No, they can happen wherever there is vegetation such as the urban fringe, suburbs and coastal areas).