The location and arrangement of vegetation within a garden has a greater impact on how a bushfire will spread than the flammability of individual plants. Use these four principles when designing your garden to reduce the risk of the garden contributing to house loss in a bushfire.

- **CREATE DEFENDABLE SPACE**
- **REMOVE FLAMMABLE OBJECTS FROM AROUND THE HOUSE**
- **BREAK UP FUEL CONTINUITY**
- **CAREFULLY SELECT, LOCATE AND MAINTAIN TREES**

Remember, a holistic approach to bushfire preparation is critical. While garden design and maintenance can improve the chances of a house surviving a bushfire, do not rely on these in isolation. In high risk areas, on **Severe**, **Extreme** and **Code Red** days leaving early is always the safest option.
Locate areas of low fuel such as lawn, dams and tennis courts between the house and the most likely direction of a bushfire.

Avoid planting shrubs under trees. Instead use groundcovers with low flammability and low-growing succulents under trees to provide maximum separation between fuel at the ground level and the tree canopy.

Plant trees a distance of at least 1.5 times their mature height from the house. They must not overhang the building.

Use decorative paving around the house to keep plants away from windows, doors and other vulnerable parts of the building.

Use gravel paths and lawn to provide separation between garden beds. This breaks up the continuity of vegetation in the garden to prevent fuel corridors.