



Sharing knowledge: Last year's bushfire expo in the Blue Mountains.

## Businesses invited to take part in bushfire expo

Local builders, architects, designers and landscapers are invited to join leading planners, researchers, regulators and insurers at the upcoming Bushfire Building Conference and Expo in Springwood on September 18-19.

Presented by Blue Mountains Economic Enterprise (BMEE), the building conference on Friday, September 18 is the first of its kind in Australia.

SBS Insight's Jenny Brockie will MC the conference, which will include panel discussions, talks and Q&As around the key issues of planning and building in a bushfire zone.

"The conference is a must-attend event for builders, landscapers, designers, architects, regulators, planners, building certifiers and suppliers and manufacturers of building products suitable for bushfire-prone areas," said BMEE chairman Donald Luscombe.

"As a member of the Rural Fire Service for nearly 40 years, I am delighted that BMEE is hosting the Bushfire Building Conference and Expo to help inform industry and residents alike about the important issues around building in a bushfire zone."

Members of key industry organisations will receive continuous professional development (CPD) points for attending the conference. A limited number of early bird tickets are still available at [www.bmee.org.au](http://www.bmee.org.au).

Local businesses are also invited to take part in the Bushfire Building Expo on Saturday, September 19.

The expo, which will be held in the Blue Mountains Community Hub at Springwood is an exhibition of leading technology, products and professional services necessary to build in a bushfire zone.

"More than half the trade

booths at the expo are already sold, so we urge local businesses wishing to promote their building products and services to register now," said BMEE CEO, Jacqueline Brinkman.

"This is a great opportunity to showcase the vast expertise and experience that exists in the Blue Mountains' building and design industries," said Ms Brinkman.

The expo, which last year attracted more than 750 people, will also feature free community information sessions, presenting essential knowledge and information for all residents living in a bushfire-prone area.

"The expo is a great way for builders, architects, designers, bushfire consultants and specialist manufacturers and suppliers to speak directly with their target audiences," said Ms Brinkman.

To find out more, contact Michelle Locke on 4782 6555 or visit [www.bmee.org.au](http://www.bmee.org.au).

## Backing for economic body

Blue Mountains Economic Enterprise (BMEE) has received a positive report card when the Blue Mountains City Council voted unanimously to renew its funding for a further four years at the last council meeting.

BMEE's mission is to stimulate economic development in the Blue Mountains through advocacy, investment and job creation.

"This funding will allow BMEE to continue its employment-generating initiatives in a range of areas, continue to advocate on behalf of Blue Mountains business and industry and continue to attract investors and opportunities to the region," said BMEE chairman Donald Luscombe.

Blue Mountains mayor Mark Greenhill said BMEE has "made a valuable contribution to developing economic diversity within the city and ensuring that funding and employment initiatives are not lost to other regions".

"The nature of our city, surrounded by a world heritage area, has both opportunities and challenges. In only a few short years, BMEE has met,

and, in many areas, exceeded expectations. I am pleased that the BMEE model, put in place by the council, is working as intended."

In addition to the funding from council, BMEE secured more than \$260,000 in 2014 from a range of sources. Current initiatives include the Bushfire Building Conference and Expo, and the Local Food Industry Development Project.

"I am delighted that BMEE has been acknowledged by council for providing a good return on its investment. This is testament to the hard work of our team, led by CEO, Jacqueline Brinkman and our dedicated board of directors," said Mr Luscombe.

"We look forward to continuing the various projects that will provide jobs and opportunities for Blue Mountains residents and businesses, including our work to establish a tertiary education campus in the region, the launch of a regional creative industries brand, the positioning of the region as a quality food destination and the transition of the Blue Mountains to a thriving digital economy."