

Media release

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Free Expo and Community day provides answers for residents living and building in a bushfire prone area

Residents from the Blue Mountains and beyond are expected to gather in large numbers for the much anticipated Bushfire Building Expo and Community Forum on Saturday 19 September at the Blue Mountains Theatre and Community Hub in Springwood.

The Expo, presented by Blue Mountains Economic Enterprise (BMEE), is a showcase of more than 40 exhibitors of leading technology, products and professional services necessary to build in a bushfire prone area, including building products, bushfire consultants, architects, builders, landscapers, designers and insurers.

The Expo will also feature free Community Information Sessions, presenting essential information for all residents living in bushfire-prone areas. Information session topics include:

- Surviving a bushfire
- Bushland management
- Risk and resilience
- What the heck is a BAL (bushfire attack level)?
- Insurance
- Retrofitting in bushfire zones.

“Over 750 people attended the first Bushfire Building Expo we held in 2014. There was strong demand to hold a similar event in the lead up to the 2015 bushfire risk season and we hope the community enjoys the day and benefits from the vast range of information on offer,” said Jacqueline Brinkman, CEO, Blue Mountains Economic Enterprise.

Major partner, GIO Insurance, will be on hand all day to help residents better understand the impact bushfire risk can have on insurance. GIO spokesman, Stephen Bell, said: “Insurance is one of the most critical financial decisions homeowners will make which is why we have partnered with the Blue Mountains Bushfire Building Conference and Expo.

“We will be available to provide information to residents that will help them to make more informed decisions when it comes to choosing appropriate levels of cover and ensure they are getting the best possible protection from their insurance,” said Mr Bell.

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) is also a major partner of the event and will be providing information regarding bushfire BAL ratings and how to prepare for the bushfire season. Firetrucks and a free BBQ promise to be a big hit for families also.

NSW RFS Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers urged residents of the Blue Mountains to understand the bush fire risk in their area and how to best prepare. “Research conducted following the October 2013 Blue Mountains bush fires found that while people living in bushfire prone areas have a general understanding that their area is at risk, many don’t act on that risk,” Deputy Commissioner Rogers said.

“A well constructed and well prepared property can make a significant difference to the safety of you and your family should a fire impact on your home, however it is equally as important that everyone has a plan of what to do in the event of a fire,” said the Deputy Commissioner.

The Expo is open from 9am – 5pm. The free information sessions will be repeated throughout the day. For the full program and further information: www.bmee.org.au.

The Bushfire Building Conference and Expo is proudly supported by the New South Wales and Australian Governments, and is made possible thanks to Major Partners NSW Rural Fire Service and GIO.

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