

FAQs for Firesight Bushfire Risk Assessment Mt Glorious/Mt Nebo

Prepared by the 'Bushfire Risk' Subcommittee of Mount Nebo Residents Association - Jan 2024

Question	Response
What is Bushfire Modelling?	Here's an article on Wikipedia that provides an overview of Wildfire/Bushfire modelling: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wildfire_modeling
What will the data (generated by the model) be used for?	By identifying areas of highest bushfire risk, the data can be used to help prioritise actions for fire mitigation eg identify key areas for fuel reduction. Mitigation is a shared responsibility. The results will assist residents to better prepare for wildfires by increasing their knowledge and understanding of the risks specific to our communities. This will enable residents to better formulate informed bushfire plans.
If QPWS and QFES ("the agencies") use Phoenix modelling don't they already have this data?	Phoenix is a bushfire characterisation program that can be used to generate information for a range of purposes. The Firesight proposal covers a very specific area, comprehensively, and will draw together current data in new and unique ways specific to our area and create enhanced understanding to support better fire management at a local scale. The agencies have a much broader remit and view of risk.
Why don't we just ask the agencies for this data?	They don't have the specific data that we need. This level of detail is not available anywhere else.
Why aren't the agencies doing this modelling?	We can't really answer this Q but there are most likely many factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • multiple agencies involved with multiple different tenures and no one agency responsible. • lack of resources. • the Mountain communities are small in the scheme of things, just one of many communities at serious risk from bushfire.
What guarantee do we have that the agencies will act on this report?	We have no guarantee, but the data will be useful to the agencies in helping to set priorities eg for hazard reduction burns, and also for justifying more funding to undertake this work. Ideally agencies will act but if not the community will be better informed as a result of this work.

<p>QPWS is already doing hazard reduction burning so why do we need the modelling?</p>	<p>The modelling may indicate additional areas that need to be targeted for hazard reduction that are currently not on the burn program, or require repeated efforts because they are difficult to burn. Data can also be used to inform bushfire preparedness measures. In an earlier iteration of the FireSight company, QPWS has invested in the FireSight modelling. It provides an objective assessment of risk to support their planning.</p>
<p>Have other communities undertaken this kind of modelling and what help has it been to them?</p>	<p>FireSight is working with several of the local governments in SEQ. There is much talk about place based solutions but this is ground breaking work focussed specifically on a local community. Please see the LinkedIn profile of Andrew Sturgess - Director of FireSight.</p>
<p>How much is it going to cost and who is going to pay for it?.</p>	<p>\$16500 in total, \$11000 Mount Glorious Community Association (MGCA), \$6,050 to \$7,865 Mount Nebo Residents Association (MNRA) - this is subject to approval at the special general meeting 24th Jan 2024. Note that additional costs may apply (such as travel expenses). (MGCA commissioned the original proposal to assess bushfire risk of all bushland surrounding Mt Glorious village. MNRA was offered the opportunity to join the proposal by contributing funds to extend the survey area to include all bushland surrounding Mt Nebo village.)</p>
<p>How will the fuel loads be accurately calculated over such a big area?</p>	<p>Initial desktop assessments using the most current vegetation maps for the area, plus satellite imagery, burn history maps, informed by local knowledge and ground-truthed by on-ground fuel assessments, in representative areas. Assessing and maintaining fuel load and arrangement data is a keystone of the FireSight modelling. We have years of experience in this specialised skill.</p>