

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Get ready for increased bushfire risk this season**

Gladstone Region residents should be preparing for an increased risk of bushfires this season after a long dry period.

The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting a higher than normal fire danger rating over the next few days for the Capricornia district as the weather starts to warm up with the arrival of Spring.

Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett has warned against complacency and stressed how important it is for people to have a bushfire survival plan for their homes and families.

“Last year, Queensland firefighters attended nearly 6000 bushfires across the state so please don’t be complacent in your preparation coming into the season.

“There are simple steps you can take to prepare your property for bushfire, like clearing gutters, reducing vegetation around the home and making sure there’s easy access to your property,” Councillor Burnett said.

Police are also reminding residents to always dial 000 in a fire emergency rather than a 1300 number.

Cr Burnett said fire safety extended to when people were at the beach as a bushfire at Lilley’s Beach this week escaped and damaged foreshore vegetation.

“This was a timely reminder not to burn at the beach because fires left smouldering or covered with sand can stay hot for more than eight hours.

“Our Local laws prohibit the lighting of fires on Council controlled areas outside of a fireplace or barbecue maintained by Council,” Cr Burnett said.

For more information on how to prepare for the bushfire season please refer to Council’s Ready? Guide at [www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/web/guest/emergencies](http://www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/web/guest/emergencies)

Residents could also visit the Queensland Fire and Emergencies website for further advice [www.qfes.qld.gov.au](http://www.qfes.qld.gov.au) .