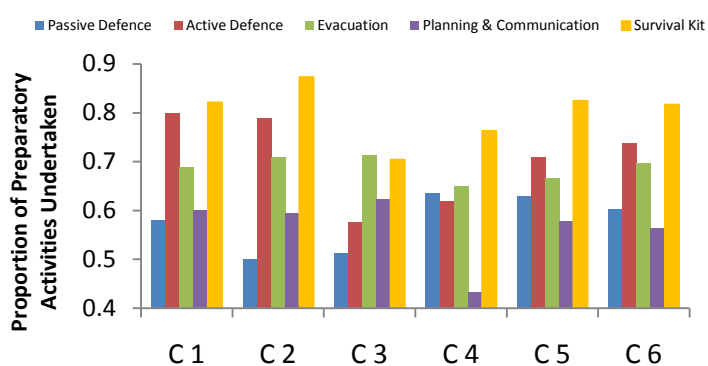


# The role of local government in influencing bushfire preparedness: Enforcement of fuel reduction on properties

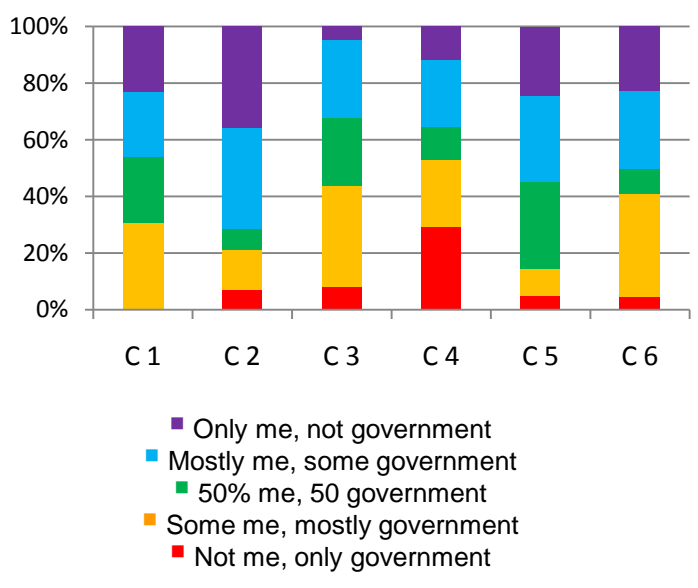
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## Research Context

A survey of six WA communities showed:  
a) differences in proportion of preparatory actions taken at the individual level:



b) differences in who residents perceive as responsible for saving their house:



### Gaps

- data on actual community-level preparedness
- central data base on householder property preparedness compliance
- communities & researchers can't assess the preparedness level of communities
- communities have no access to interventions at the community level to increase preparing

## Research Questions

- What is the nature & extent of differences between communities in preparedness?
- What community-level differences account for these difference ?

## Research Design

To address these gaps we are conducting a mixed-methods study:

### Data Collection:

- in-depth interviews & participant observation in selected fire-prone Shires in WA
  - surveys of individual preparedness
  - literature review

### Data Analysis:

- grounded theory analysis techniques
- qualitative analysis software Atlas.ti

## Key Local Government Preparedness Activities

Preparedness activities at the local government level consisted of nine major areas:

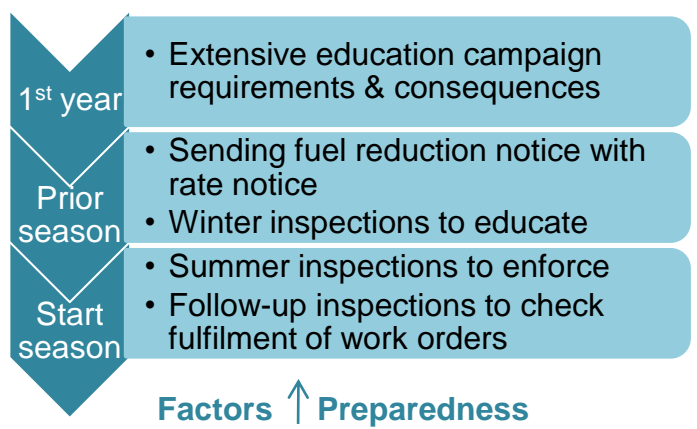


Each area consists of specific sub-activities.

## Property Clearance Compliance Reinforcement

The extent to which local governments require their residents to reduce the fuel loads on their properties & reinforce these requirements (mitigation) crystallised as one major influence on individual property preparedness.

## Enforcement Process



### Factors ↑ Preparedness

#### Local Govt

- work order, fine or court case (neg)
- acknowledging indiv & community (pos)
  - being direct, straight & hard stand
- taking time to specifically telling residents what to do & how, giving reasons and answering questions
- letting residents know consequences
- addressing residents' resentment s

#### Community members

- hearing stories from others that ranger are very strict in enforcing requirements
- perceiving enforcement process as fair
- trusting & respecting authority of rangers
- being able to, having reasons to, and being energised to implement measures
- measures match goals/ envisioned future

### Process Length

- can be long-term process → turning point after ~ 5 years of strict enforcement

	2005/6 - 2010/11	2011/12
Inspections	15000 pa	7,500
Infringements issued	1,730	119
Work orders issued	1,632	212
Money for contractors	82,189	1705

Shire of Busselton Data

## Next Steps

- finalising questionnaires designed based on qualitative data to develop an empirical model