



## MEDIA RELEASE

04 SEPTEMBER 2020

### Have a Get Ready Weekend with family, friends and neighbours

Walcha Council is encouraging families, friends and neighbours to use the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) Get Ready Weekend (19-20 September 2020) to prepare for bushfire season and start a broader conversation about being aware of and prepared for all hazards.

Walcha Mayor Eric Noakes said *“The 2019/20 bushfire season was the most devastating bushfire season in our State’s history. It was a stark reminder of the danger of fire. It was also a reminder of the importance of being prepared and having a plan.”*

*“In the lead up to our next fire season - with the previous one in the not so distant past and the impacts still being felt across NSW - communities are understandably keen to know more about getting ready.*

*“To support early planning and preparation, NSW RFS will once again host their annual Get Ready Weekend on 19-20 September. You can also visit [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) for more information, and also follow our local Walcha Fire and Rescue Service Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/481Walcha/>”*

Commissioner of Resilience NSW, Shane Fitzsimmons encouraged everyone to have a conversation around being prepared for emergency, whatever the hazard may be.

*“Each year, communities across NSW may experience bushfires, home fires, floods, storms, heatwaves, power outages and other emergencies,”* Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

*“This year alone has been one of unparalleled emergencies. Communities across NSW were first impacted by drought, bushfire, then storm and flood, now pandemic - and all in quick succession. This has highlighted how important it is to be prepared for all hazards.*

*“Our emergency service organisations do an incredible job keeping us safe, but they can only do so much. Being aware and prepared is everyone’s responsibility.”*

Get Ready in five simple steps:

1. **Know your risk** - think about the area you’re in and the types of disasters that could affect you;
2. **Plan now for what you will do** - sit down and talk with your family and plan for what you will do if a disaster affects your area;
3. **Get your home ready** - prepare your home by doing general home maintenance and checking your insurance coverage;
4. **Be aware** - find out how to prepare, what to do if there is a disaster in your area and connect with NSW emergency services to stay informed;
5. **Look out for each other** - share information with your family, friends, neighbours and those who may need assistance.

For interviews phone Walcha Mayor Eric Noakes on 0428 774 504

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