

# Build, Retrofit, Prepare and Protect Your Property from Bushfires



## Bushfire Building and Maintenance

(a subsidiary of Low Energy Homes Pty Ltd) was formed to cater for a growing need of informative people who are qualified to administer Australian Standard 3959-2009 (Construction of buildings in bushfire prone areas) new planning provisions and overlays including BMO (Bushfire Management Overlay) and WMO (Wildfire Management Overlay).

**Bushfire Building and Maintenance is a service business to cover all aspects bushfire fire related.**



## Other Services

**Compliant fire resistant gutter systems**  
BB&M have developed a compliant leafless ember guard system for bushfire prone areas.

**Bushfire sprinkler systems**  
In conjunction with a fire engineer a sprinkler system can be designed and built to reduce the impact of a bushfire. I can testify that if designed properly, they do work. I had a system on my house at Kinglake West. It saved the house and workshop and reduced the amount of damage sustained.

Through experience I have seen a sprinkler system reduce the impact of ember attack and spot fires.

**Bushfire shelters**  
In conjunction with IBS Systems a bushfire shelter has been developed and is going through the final stages of certification. This building can also double

## Low Energy Homes

LEH has been involved in rebuilding homes in the Kinglake West, Humevale and Flowerdale area since Black Saturday. We were involved in clearing sites, BAL ratings, initial building design and orientation. LEH was the first company to build a BAL FZ home with great assistance from The Building Commission, HIA and fire engineers. LEH has built two BAL FZ homes, a BAL 40 and lower BAL rating homes.

Materials used are Hebel, Timbercrete, and Corrugated iron with fire stop plaster interior exterior and less demanding products. Some of the roofing systems have included rolled over roof systems and Kevlar fire reduction systems (similar to a racing car drivers fire suit). Full auto start drenching systems (Sprinklers) with 24-hour battery back-up power and separate BAL FZ fire pump rooms have been installed.

## Experience

Former Member Kinglake West CFA  
Impacted by Black Saturday  
Fought fire. Blacked out for three weeks after fire with our own Landcruiser fitted with 1000 litre quick attack.  
Experience in BAL assessments and Bushfire Management Statements.  
Experienced builder for bushfire resistant homes.

## Qualifications and Accreditation

Registered Building Practitioner  
Greensmart Builder  
Experience and qualifications in relation to bushfire related issues  
Accreditation courses and seminars through Building Commission and DPCD  
Various trade qualifications  
O.H.S Certification Australia

## Member

HIA  
ATA (Alternate Technology Association)  
ACF (Australian Conservation Foundation)

## Retrofitting

As we have had experience in building houses to cater for extreme bushfire conditions, we are more than qualified to retrofit existing homes to guidelines set out by the CFA and Building Commission (now called the Victorian Building Authority).

Retrofitting would also look at site assessment and vegetation maintenance. A well prepared home will provide occupants protection while the fire front passes.

**It must be understood Bushfire resistant homes are not bushfire proof. Your best chance of survival is always to leave early.**

## Property Maintenance

BB&M offers a complete maintenance program in accordance with government regulations and recommendations. This would include hazard and fuel reduction. An existing BAL rating must be maintained in perpetuity.

If you do not have a BAL rating, a complete site assessment would be completed including a BAL rating to enable a maintenance programme to be implemented. Proper maintenance and combustible element reduction will help reduce fire impact.

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