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***Supplementary Material for***

**Examining bushfire policy in action: Preparedness and behaviour in the 2009  
Black Saturday fires**

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***Supplementary Material***

## **POINT 1: Intentions**

### *Actions:*

An individual can have only one intention, but can have more than one action:

- 121 individuals had one recorded action,
- 37 individuals had two recorded actions, and
- 14 individuals had no recorded action.

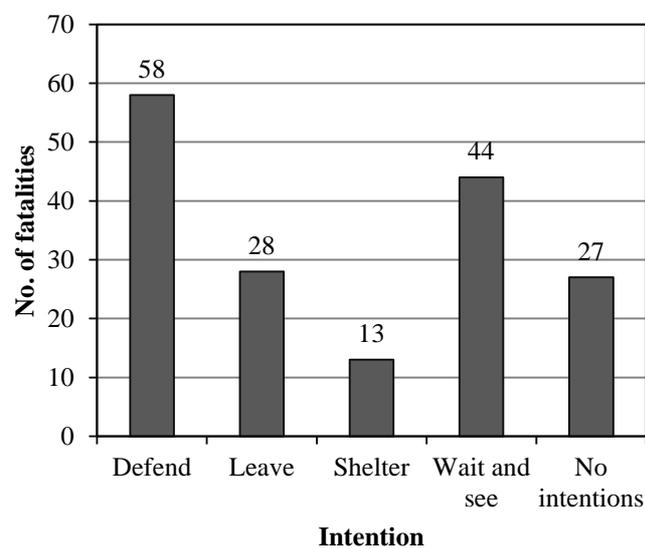
Table 1 contains a breakdown of the number of individuals who had two recorded actions.

**Table 1: The number of individuals with multiple actions**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Individuals</b>
Some defence and shelter	32
Active defence and shelter	2
Do nothing and shelter	1
Some defence and leave late	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>

### *Intentions:*

One intention is recorded for each individual, they are: stay and defend, leave, do nothing, wait and see, stay and shelter, and no intentions. The intentions of individuals are shown in Figure 1 as the number of fatalities.



**Figure 1: Intentions**

## POINT 2: Knowledge

Of the total fatalities, 53% per cent who had “knowledge of actions to deal with risk” intended to defend, while only 5% of the remaining individuals (those with no knowledge, or no response registered) intended to defend. ‘No intentions’ is the category with the highest representation among those with ‘no knowledge’ and ‘N/A’ (44% and 38%). ‘Leave’ and ‘Wait and See’ are also highly represented among those who did not have knowledge or N/A, 25% and 28%. Very few individuals with knowledge had ‘no intentions’; while very few individuals without knowledge intended to defend.

Knowledge was weakly related to the type of action,

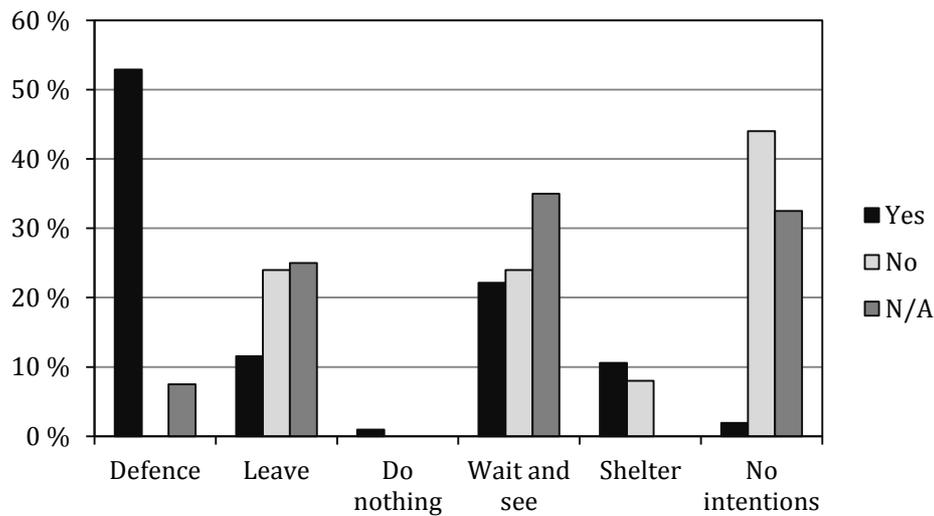


Figure 2: Intention and knowledge (“yes” = has knowledge; “no” = does not have knowledge)

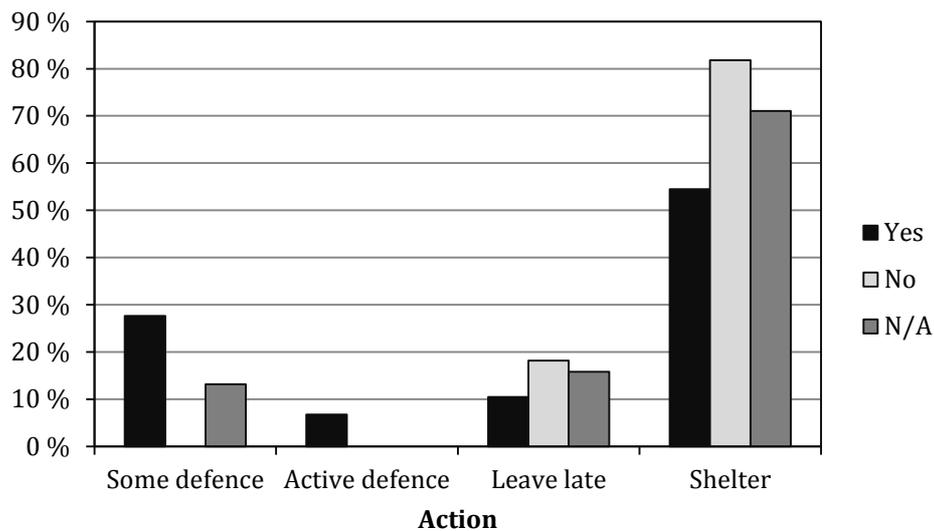


Figure 3: Action and knowledge. (yes” = has knowledge; “no” = does not have knowledge)

### POINT 3: Property defendability

Key questions concern whether individuals were trying to defend defendable or undefendable properties, and whether defendability relates to intention and action? About one third of individuals were in properties of questionable defendability.

Figure shows intention and defendability. The intention has a slightly higher proportion among those with homes of questionable defendability. Otherwise, there is very little difference between those with defendable properties and those without. Also see Figure 9 below.

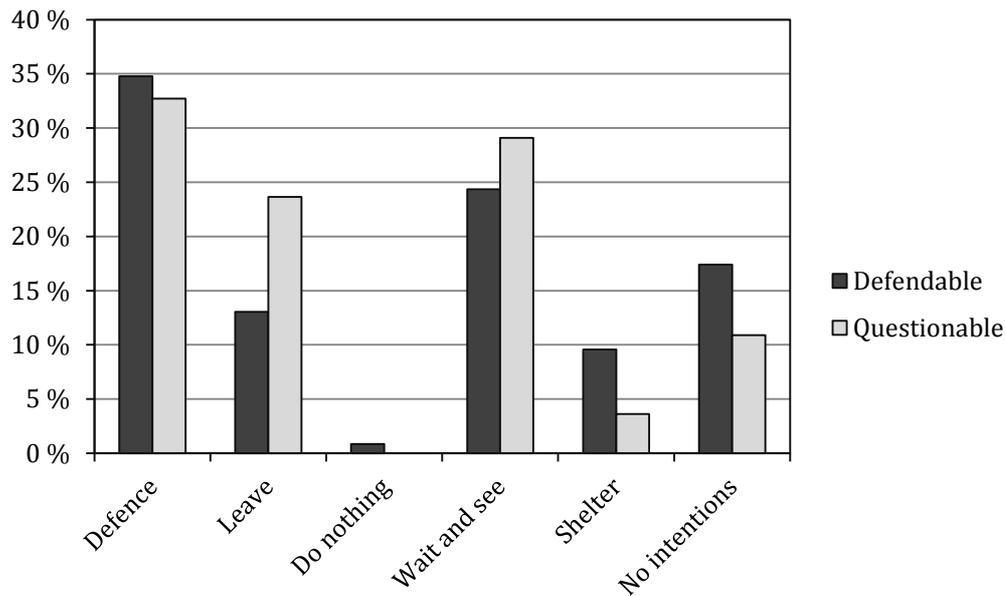


Figure 4: Defendability and intention

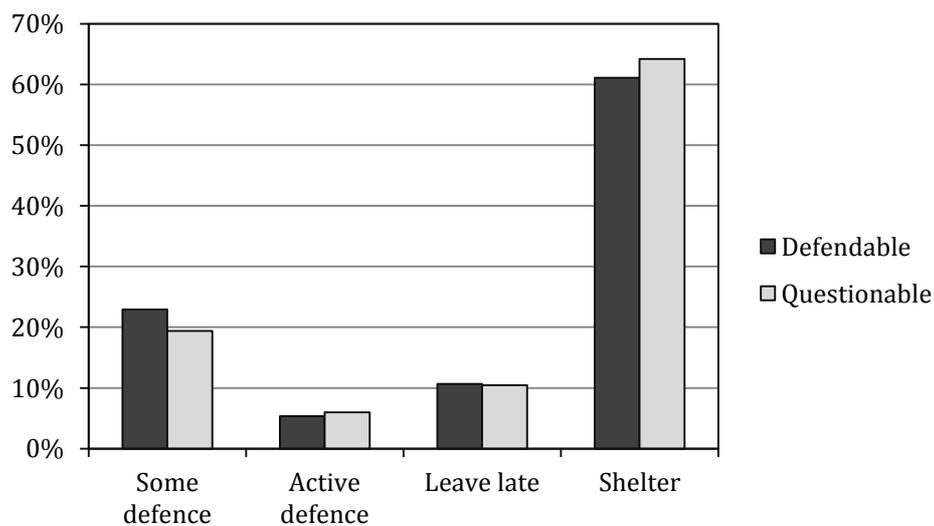


Figure 5: Defendability and action

#### POINT 4: Surprise

A total of 52 (30% of the total) individuals were taken by surprise. The proportions surprised by action are shown in Figure 6. Leaving late has the highest representation of those caught by surprise (excluding 'do nothing'). "Surprised" was defined as less than one hour between realising that a fire was threatening and the fire's arrival at the home address.

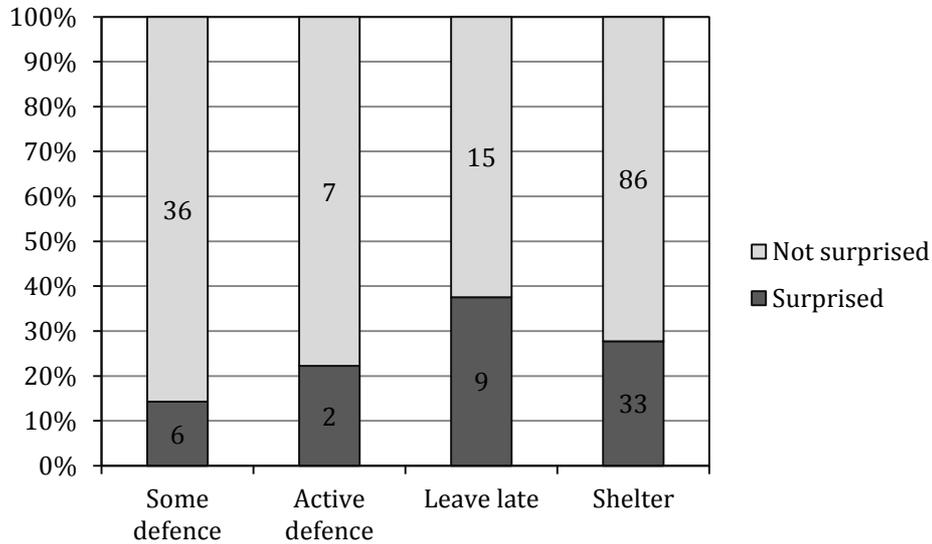


Figure 6: Surprise and action

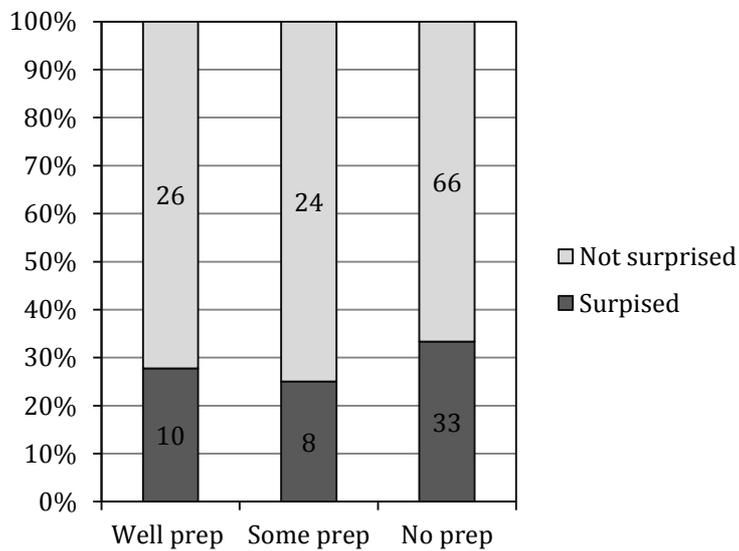


Figure 7: Surprise and level of preparation

### Point 5: Age, intention and action

Those over 30 years old mostly intended to defend or “wait and see”. The main action across all age groups was to shelter. A small proportion across all age groups defended.

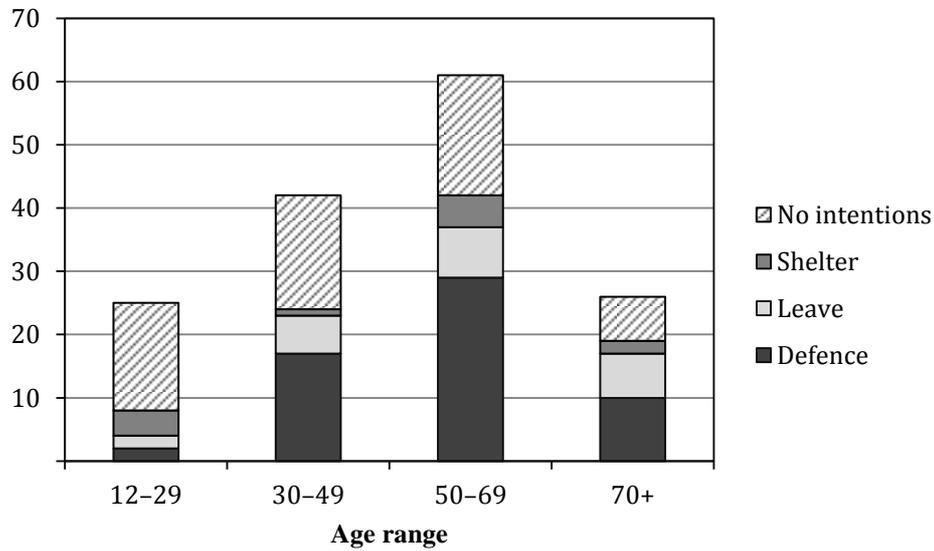


Figure 8: Intention by age. Intentions were to shelter, leave before the fire arrived or to defend the property.

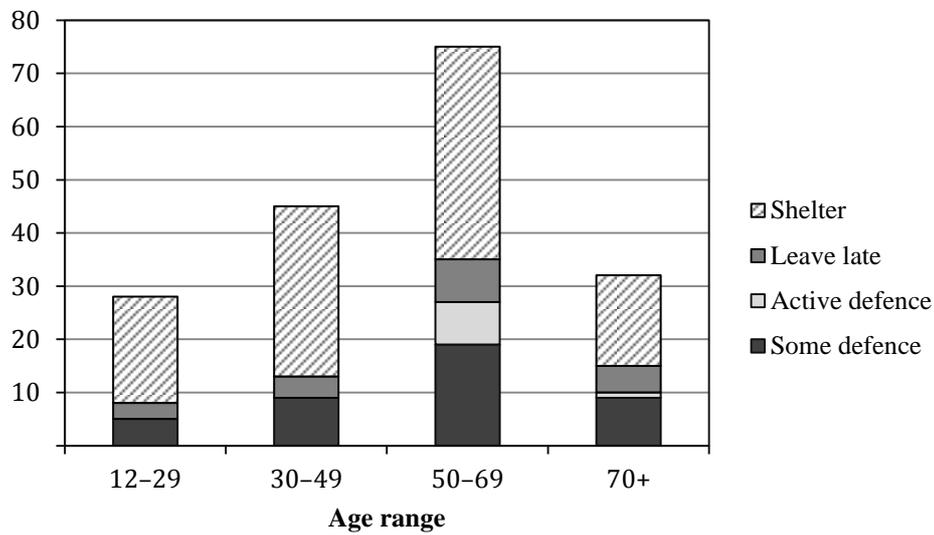


Figure 9: Action by age. Actions were to shelter, leave late, defend actively, or to undertake some defence.

### Point 6: Gender

The dashed line in Figure 10 and Figure 2 is the proportion of fatalities who were male as represented in intentions and actions, 57% and 59% respectively. (The difference is due to more than one action being recorded for some individuals. Defence was often carried out along with sheltering.)

Disproportionately more men intended to defend and more females intended to leave, but the differences are not large. With actions, a higher proportion of men defended. Differences for leaving or sheltering are very small.

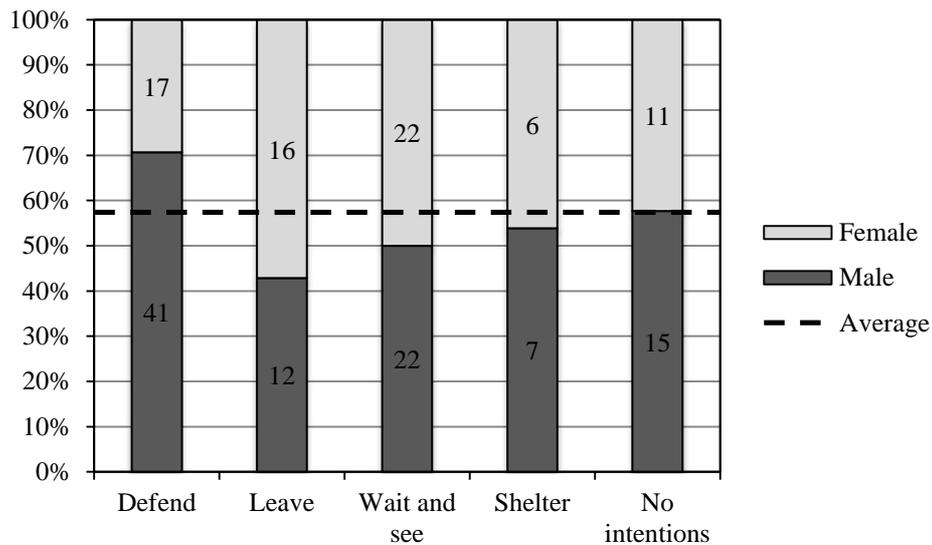


Figure 10: Intention and gender. Intentions were to defend, leave before the fire arrived, to “wait and see”, or to shelter.

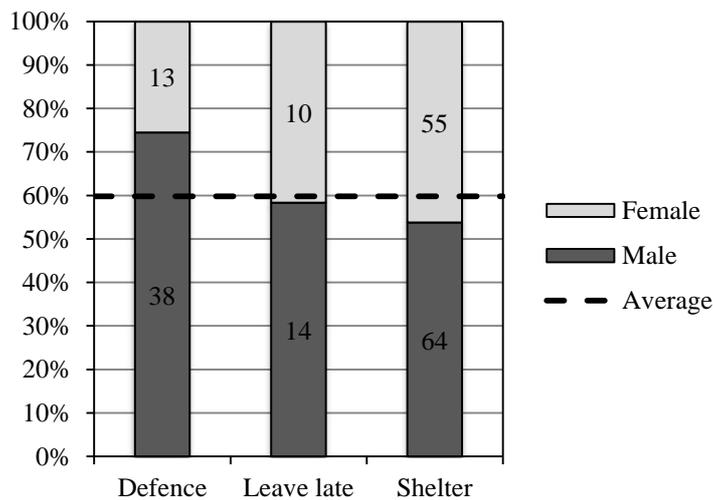


Figure 21: Action and gender (includes more than one action per person to give a total count of 194. See Point 1 above)