



Caring for Mob, Caring for Country

Artist: Emma Bamblett (Wemba Wemba, Gunditjmara, Ngadjonji and Taungurung)

This artwork was created to highlight the importance of communication when planning, preparing for fire risk and ensuring we are working together to ensure families and Communities are kept safe.

The green section at the bottom of the artwork represents the connection to Country and the hill formations represent the Land.

The white line above the green hill formations represents the **No Rating** scale on the Australian Fire Danger Rating System. It is there to let people know to be calm and wait.

The mid section represents the Australian Fire Danger Rating System levels.

The green section with circles connected by curved lines represents the **Moderate** rating, which is the time to plan and prepare. The white dots around the circles are people meeting, gaining knowledge, awareness and information to prepare. The white lines with the straight lines represent moving, cleaning, and caring for Country. There are kangaroo prints across the land to represent the new life of nature and animals.

The next section is yellow to represent the **High** rating. It lets Community know to be ready and act on their plans to keep safe. The lines within the section are the plans and actions that have been prepared.

The orange section represents the **Extreme** rating, this is where you are acting to keep you and your family safe. The Black Cockatoo is sitting in the tree looking down and acting on the conditions, he has a bird's eye view and is alerting everyone to the conditions on the ground. The curved grey lines with the dots are Community acting and following safety plans and announcements.

The red sections represents the **Catastrophic** rating. This is when you must leave bush fire risk areas for your survival. The lines within the section are of markings on the trees that leave behind the stories of what has happened. They are there to tell a story and to share awareness.

The blue section above, represents the streams, rivers and waterways that are used when bushfires are occurring. Rivers also represent flow of knowledge and support to respond to bushfires.

The section with the curved blue lines represents the winds. They are going in different directions to highlight the way we use the winds and the climate to forecast fire behaviour.

The Wedge Tail Eagle and the Crow are birds that depict our dreamtime creation stories, are there to care for the people and care for the Land. They are our eyes in the skies similar to the equipment and technology used in today's aerial firefighting.

The small blue circles are our emergency services professionals that are working together to support our work in research, awareness, and training to build resilience against the impacts of bushfires.

The figures that are gathered in the white section with the sun represents Traditional Owners and Elders. The sun influences fire behaviour with the heat it creates, and the Elders are guiding, supporting and sharing knowledge of the ways our people cared for Country. The dots streaming around them are their voices.

To the right side of the artwork is a brown section with purple circles and connecting lines. This area represents land management, working together to holistically care for Land, Country and Communities, and collaborating for knowledge development and continuous improvement.