



# Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee

**Hearing date:** 30/04/2026

**Questions taken on notice**

**Date received:** 2/06/2026

## 1. P.36 Rikkie-Lee Tyrell

**Question:** Good. I am targeting this one at both you and Mike, because, Mike, you said that you have spent thousands of dollars to make your property defensible. What measures have you taken and what worked? What did you do? We have not really discussed this with anybody yet, so I am excited-Chair, if I may, can I put that as a question on notice for Mike?

**The CHAIR:** Yes, of course.

Hi, I am sorry if this is too late but I'll put it in anyway. I've been unwell with some kind of virus and it has taken two or three weeks to even approach getting back to normal!

My home has both passive and active systems. The passive systems include ember protection under-floor and over all gutters, powder-coated steel mesh maximum hole size 1.6mm. I have aluminium shutters on three windows facing the south exposure of the house, where embers could be expected from a southerly wind change. The ridge capping has fibre-glass packing under it to prevent wind-carried embers from penetrating the roof. I have removed all eucalypts within 30 metres of the house and there is no vegetation close to the house except for one Wisteria which is not highly flammable. I keep my verandahs clear of flammable objects and my woodshed has a tight-fitting front (which also keeps snakes out!)

Active systems are two firefighting pumps from separate water sources.

One pump is mounted 3 metres from the back door which supplies 8 roof-mounted medium sized knocker-style sprinklers. The sprinkler configuration is 4 to the south and 4 to the north side of the roof, to allow for different wind conditions, and the aim is to wet the roof and keep the gutters wet. This pump is supplied from two tanks, one concrete and one steel with a combined capacity of 8,000 gallons (approximately 35,000 litres) which are about 20 metres from the house on the uphill side, with about 5 metres pressure head.

The second pump is at a small dam below the house and it supplies a number of sprinklers surrounding the house, which wet the walls and the surrounding garden, including the Wisteria. It takes about 5 minutes to wet down the area and the house.

Thank you for allowing me to speak at the inquiry. I guess my ideas are a bit unusual regarding the type of support the CFA needs but somebody has to say it.

