Australia, through its hot, dry landscape is significantly pre-disposed to bushfires. In fact, South Eastern Australia is said to have some of the most bushfire prone areas in the world. Fire has been used for many thousands of years by indigenous Australians for a variety of purposes, and several of Australia’s native flora have specifically adapted to use the natural cycle of bushfires to reproduce.

During summer, it is quite normal in Australia to have multiple bushfires at any given moment across the country. However, when these bushfires threaten property and life, it becomes very important that we can detect them as quickly as possible, and have the best possible knowledge about their direction and location. Prior to 2003, fire services from around Australia relied on “eye-witness” reports from people in vehicles, fire towers, spotter planes and helicopters to provide fire detection and mapping. With 7.6 Million square kilometres of surface to cover, this system was not perfect to say the least.

In recent years, despite improving methods of fire detection, fire mapping and fire fighting, several major Australian bushfires have killed many people and caused enormous economic damage. The black Saturday bushfires in 2009 in Victoria killed 173 people, and destroyed over 2000 houses. In 2005, 9 people were killed in a bushfire on the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia, and in 2003, major bushfires encroached on Australia’s capital Canberra killing 4 people and destroying around 500 homes. Going right back to 1983, many Australian’s would remember the Ash Wednesday fires that killed 75 people across South Australia and Victoria.

**Problem:** If bushfires are part of Australia— What do we need to know and implement in order to keep Australian communities and landscapes safe?

Your group has been asked to generate a solution to keep the people and communities effected by bushfires within Australia safe.

You and your team will take on the perspective of a **stakeholder group** affected by fires. You will be presenting your solution to your Year 6 peers, teachers and other special guests in week 9 of this term.

Your group can present their solution in many forms and here are some ideas:

- **BTN video**—using the apps (Do Ink and Premier) A Green Screen will be available to you for this.
- Creating a model and annotated diagram of your solution (Design and Create)
- Book Creator and or Explain Everything App.
- Coding— app/ website
- Glogster
- 3D printing
- **Your choice**— This option allows you to present your solution in a way that plays to your groups strengths and creative side.

This case study should let your audience know how they can help protect themselves and others in a bushfire emergency. Your stakeholder group needs to design a solution specifically for them, one that you could essentially implement **today**.

You will be setting up an exhibit to present your ideas, prototypes and solutions at our Learning Showcase at the end of the term.

**It needs the following elements:**

- A solution to the problem that people could begin implementing tomorrow.
- A team of 4 each with a specific role for the whole PBL.
- Think about the **stakeholders** involved and take on a different perspective when generating a solution.
- A scrapbook to document your teams brainstorming, thinking, analysing, ideas, prototypes etc. Remember! The focus should be on the design thinking process and not the final product.
- You will have use of the Senior School library and the media rooms to research and make this video.