Having a gender lens in fire planning will increase community preparedness, survival and resilience

In the event of a high risk day, where will you be? And your partner?[1] Where will the kids be?

What do you plan to be doing on a high risk day?

If you’re thinking, ‘I’m a man so I should stay and defend property’ or ‘I’m a woman, so I should leave with the children/others/alone’:

♦ What do you think is behind each of your decisions?
♦ In your case as a couple, and a family, does it make sense for you (the man) to stay and try to defend property? Does it make sense for you (the woman) to try to escape?
♦ If the plan is to leave early, what is early?
♦ Will you (the woman) be happy to drive away leaving your partner alone to defend the house on a high risk day?
♦ Is trying to persuade him to leave with you likely to delay your leaving?
♦ What’s the worst that could happen, if you follow your original plan (of him staying, her leaving)?
♦ Do you know that over 40% of those who die in bushfires are female?
♦ Does it still seem like the best option?

See Postcard 2: ‘The Facts’

1. These postcards focus on heterosexual couples and fire plans, recognising the constraints on women’s autonomy.