

# BUSHFIRE ASSESSMENT REPORT SUBDIVISION

18-50 Mayne Drive, Westdale, NSW, 2340

Lot 1 / DP 1017953

Reference No#:241705

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<b>Title</b>	Bush Fire Assessment Report - Subdivision			
<b>Description</b>	Subdivision development – 1 into 47 Lots 18-50 Mayne Drive, Westdale, NSW - Lot 1 / DP 1017953			
<b>Created By</b>	[REDACTED]			
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<b>Prepared For</b>	[REDACTED]			
<b>Version Number</b>	<b>Modified By</b>	<b>Modifications Made</b>	<b>Date Modified</b>	<b>Status</b>
1	[REDACTED]	Draft	11/09/2024	Completed
2	[REDACTED]	Final	29/09/2024	Completed
3	[REDACTED]	Update Layout	30/10/2024	Completed
4	[REDACTED]	Update APZ	05/11/2024	Completed

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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

<b>APZ</b>	Asset Protection Zone
<b>AS/NZS 1221:1997</b>	Australian Standard – Fire hose reels
<b>AS1596-2014</b>	Australian Standard – The storage and handling of LP Gas
<b>AS2419-2021</b>	Australian Standard – Fire hydrant installations
<b>AS2441:2005</b>	Australian Standard – Fire hose reels installation
<b>AS3745:2010</b>	Australian Standard – Planning for emergencies in facilities
<b>BAL</b>	Bush fire Attack Level
<b>BCA</b>	Building Code of Australia
<b>BFAR</b>	Bush Fire Assessment Report
<b>BFSA</b>	Bush Fire Safety Authority
<b>BFSS</b>	Bush Fire Strategic Study
<b>BPA</b>	Bush fire Prone Area (Also Bush fire Prone Land)
<b>BPL Map</b>	Bush fire Prone Land Map
<b>BPMs</b>	Bush fire Protection Measures
<b>BV</b>	Biodiversity Values
<b>EP&amp;A Act</b>	<i>NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
<b>FFDI</b>	Forest Fire Danger Index
<b>GFDI</b>	Grass Fire Danger Index
<b>ha</b>	Hectare
<b>HOC</b>	Heat Of Combustion
<b>IPA</b>	Inner Protection Area
<b>kJ/kg</b>	Kilo Joules per Kilo gram
<b>LAT</b>	Large Air Tanker
<b>LGA</b>	Local Government Area
<b>NCC</b>	National Construction Code
<b>NoD</b>	Notice of Determination
<b>OPA</b>	Outer Protection Area
<b>PBP</b>	Planning for Bush fire Protection
<b>RF Act</b>	<i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i>
<b>RF Regs</b>	<i>Rural Fires Regulations 2013</i>
<b>RHG</b>	Restricted Head Growth
<b>SEED</b>	Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data in NSW
<b>SFR</b>	Short Fire Run

## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

BEMC Pty Ltd was engaged by [REDACTED] to complete a Bush Fire Assessment Report (BFAR) on proposed subdivision located at 18-50 Mayne Drive, Westdale, NSW - Lot 1 / DP 1017953 (Figure 1, page 8). The proposed development includes a 47 Lot subdivision, inclusive of an existing dwelling.

BEMC has used Method 1 assessment pathway from PBP 2019 to undertake this assessment and to prepare the Bush Fire Assessment Report (BFAR).

Based upon the assessment, perusal of the site plan prepared by Spiire (Appendix 1, page 31), and a site visit, it is recommended that development consent be granted subject to the following conditions to comply with PBP 2019:

### Recommendation 1 - Asset Protection Zones

A suitably worded instrument, pursuant to *section 88 of the Conveyancing Act 1919*, shall be placed on western edge of the western lots requiring the provision of a 10m asset protection zone (APZ) in accordance with this report which restricts the building of class 1a and class 109 buildings. The name of authority empowered to release, vary, or modify the instrument shall be Tamworth Council.

A suitably worded instrument, pursuant to *section 88 of the Conveyancing Act 1919*, shall be placed on eastern edge of the eastern lots requiring the provision of a 11m asset protection zone (APZ) in accordance with this report which restricts the building of class 1a and class 10 buildings. The name of authority empowered to release, vary, or modify the instrument shall be Tamworth Council. The establishment of this bush fire protection measure may impact on aboriginal heritage which may require further investigation.

Further detail analysis to confirm off set requirements and possibly Controlled Activity Approval (CAA) for the establishment of APZ within water coarse buffers.

At the commencement of building works and in perpetuity the property around the existing class 1a building within the residual lot shall be maintained as an inner protection area (IPA) as outlined within Appendix 4 of Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019 and the NSW RFS document Standards for Asset Protection Zones to a distance of 50m in all directions.

### Recommendation 2 - Landscaping

Street tree plantings within 100m of the bushfire threat shall consider Huber-Smith *et. al* (2023) in the selection of tree species. A Landscaping plan is required to illustrate roadside vegetation is:

- Planting does not provide a continuous canopy (trees do not touch and trees or shrubs are isolated or located in small clusters).
- Roadside plants do not impede emergency vehicle access or the ability to maintain road verge to managed grasses.

Any parks or reserves shall be managed as an Inner Protection Area (IPA) as outlined within Appendix 4 of Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019, and NSW Rural Fire Service 'Standards for Asset Protection Zones'.

### Recommendation 3 - Construction

BAL 29 or lower building envelopes are provided within all lots of the proposed subdivision.

#### **Recommendation 4 - Access**

Access to the property and development site is noted on **Figure 2, page 9** of this report and in the site plan provided in **Appendix 1, page 31**.

A traffic engineers report shall be developed to illustrate the volume of traffic generated by the proposed subdivision at Mayne Drive and Oxley Highway, and that this intersection will flow adequately during times of evacuation.

The access road central to the subdivision shall be constructed to perimeter access road requirements and shall:

- The capacity of road surfaces and any bridges/ causeways is sufficient to carry fully loaded firefighting vehicles (up to 23 tonnes); bridges and causeways are to clearly indicate load rating.
- Hydrants are located outside of parking reserves and road carriageways to ensure accessibility to reticulated water for fire suppression.
- Access roads are two-wheel drive, all-weather roads.
- Access is provided to all structures.
- Traffic management devices are constructed to not prohibit access by emergency services vehicles.
- Access roads must provide suitable turning areas in accordance with Appendix 3.
- Are two-way sealed roads.
- Minimum 8m carriageway width kerb to kerb.
- Parking is provided outside of the carriageway width.
- Hydrants are located clear of parking areas.
- Are through roads, and these are linked to the internal road system at an interval of no greater than 500m.
- Curves of roads have a minimum inner radius of 6m.
- The maximum grade road is 15 degrees and average grade of not more than 10 degrees.
- The road crossfall does not exceed 3 degrees; and
- A minimum vertical clearance of 4m to any overhanging obstructions, including tree branches, is provided.

Private property access from the provided road to the lot boundary of each proposed lot) shall comply with the below requirements:

- Minimum carriageway width of 4m.
- A minimum vertical clearance of 4m to any overhanging obstructions, including tree branches,
- Curves have a minimum inner radius of 6m and are minimal in number to allow for rapid access and egress,
- The minimum distance between inner and outer curves is 6m,
- The crossfall is not more than 10°, and
- Maximum grades for sealed roads do not exceed 15° and not more than 10° for unsealed roads.

#### **Recommendation 5 - Water Supply**

All above-ground water service pipes are metal, including and up to any taps.

Hydrants are not located within any road carriageway or parking areas.

Fire hydrant, spacing, design and sizing complies with Australian Standard AS 2419.1:2017.

Bi-direction blue cat-eyes to be establishing on the road surface associated with street hydrants in accordance with *Roads and Maritime Service, Delineation, Section 15 - Raised pavement markers*.



**Recommendation 6 - Electricity services**

Where possible electricity should be placed underground. If overhead power supply is provided, lines are installed with short pole spacing (30m), unless crossing gullies, gorges or riparian areas; and no part of a tree is closer to a power line than the distance set out in accordance with the specifications in ISSC3 Guideline for Managing Vegetation Near Power Lines.

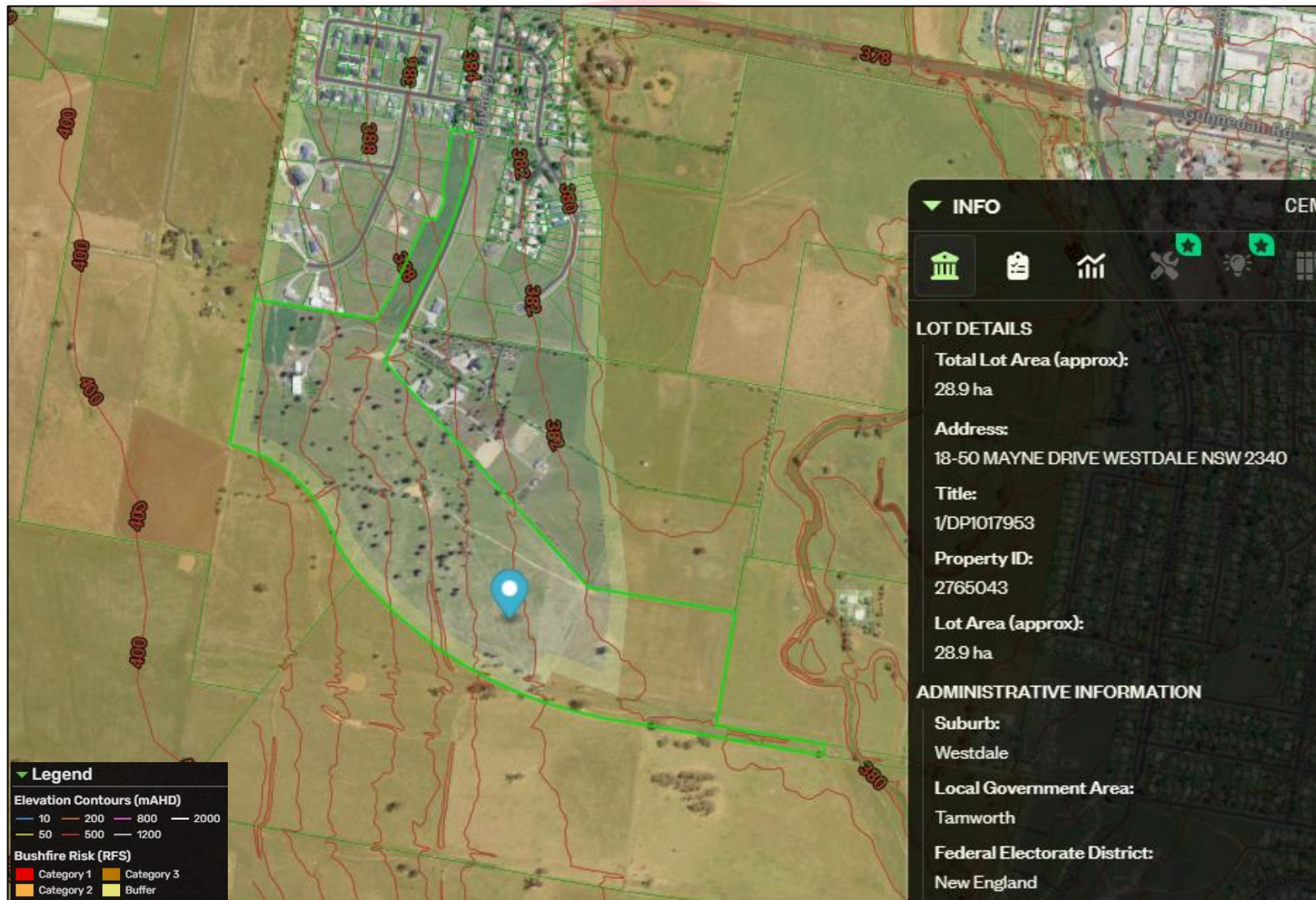
**Recommendation 7 - Gas services**

The proposed layout provides ample opportunity for future residential development to comply with gas acceptable solutions.

Furthermore, the applicant wishes the Commissioner, when determining the application, to consider whether it would be appropriate for the future erection of the dwelling houses, dual occupancies or secondary dwellings concerned to be excluded from the application of section 4.14 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Consent conditions referred to in this report can be applied for subsequent 'build-outs'. Furthermore, BAL29 easements shall be identified on the title of individual lots to ensure 'build-outs' conform with bushfire requirements.

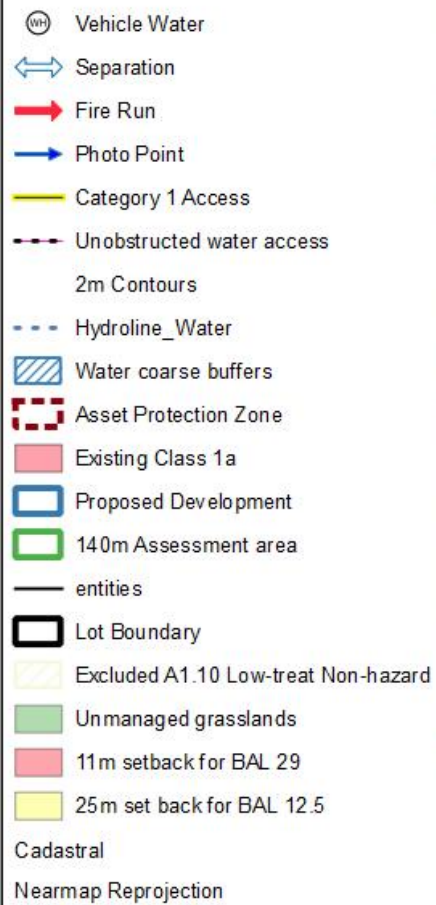




*Figure 1 Property Location of 18-50 Mayne Drive, Westdale, NSW - Lot 1 / DP 1017953 (Mecone Mosaic, 2024)*



### Figure 2 Bushfire Assessment





## 2 INTRODUCTION

BEMC Pty Ltd was engaged by [REDACTED] to complete a Bush Fire Assessment Report (BFAR) to accompany a Development Application for a proposed 47 lot subdivision at 18-50 Mayne Drive, Westdale, NSW - Lot 1 / DP 1017953, hereafter referred to as the 'site' (**Figure 1, page 8**).

The identification of bush fire prone lands (BPL Map) in NSW is required under s 10.3 of the *EP&A Act*. S. 4.14 of the *EP&A Act* requires development to compliance with Planning for Bushfire Protection, 2019 (PBP 2019) if any part of a development site is affected by bush fire hazard as indicated within the BPL Map.

It is clear from the investigation and assessment of proposal, the site is located within Bush fire Prone Land. This development falls within bush fire affected land within the Tamworth Council bush fire prone land map and the applicant is required to submit a bush fire assessment consistent with PBP 2019.

If the applicant determines that the project is integrated through the Development Application process, this document can support an application for *General Terms of Agreement* via a *Bush Fire Safety Authority* (BFSa) from NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) as the report adheres to the requirements of s 45 of the *Rural Fires Regulation 2013* (RF Regs), Appendix 1, A2.1, A2.1.1 of PBP 2019. The proposed development is not listed under s 46 of the *Rural Fire Regulation 2013* (RF Regs) excluded from requirements for BFSa.

Site Particulars are illustrated within **Table 2 below** and **Figure 1, page 8**, and subdivision plans in **Appendix 1, page 31**.

### 2.1 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposed development includes a subdivision inclusive of an existing dwelling. As a result, the required objectives for subdivision development have been considered in this assessment.

**Table 1** Description of Proposed development

<b>Boundaries</b>	Existing buildings north and east, Mayne Drive running north to south through the proposed subdivision. Unmanaged grasslands in all directions.
<b>Topography</b>	Level to upslope in all directions.
<b>Type of development</b>	47 Lot subdivision
<b>Urban Release Area</b>	No
<b>Proposed dwellings</b>	Residential Subdivision
<b>Vegetation proposed to be cleared</b>	Yes
<b>Current land-use</b>	Residential
<b>Fire weather</b>	Tamworth Council – FFDI – 80

## 2.2 OBJECTIVES OF ASSESSMENT

To assess the proposed development in consideration of s4.14 of the EP&A Act 1979, PBP 2019 and AS 3959:2018 to enable council to make a determination.

This report assesses whether the development meets the six objectives listed in section 1.1 of PBP 2019, which provide for the protection of human life and minimize impacts on property as follows:

1. Afford buildings and their occupants protection from exposure to a bushfire.
2. Provide for a defensible space to be located around buildings.
3. Provide appropriate separation between a hazard and buildings which, in combination with other measures, prevent the likely fire spread to buildings.
4. Ensure appropriate operation access and egress for emergency services personnel and residents is available.
5. Provide for ongoing management and maintenance of Bush fire Protection Measures (BPMs); and
6. Ensure the utility services are adequate to meet the needs of firefighters.

## 2.3 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF RESIDENTIAL AND RURAL RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISIONS

The aims and objectives listed in section 1.1 of PBP 2019 remain applicable to residential and rural residential development, however further consideration has been given to these types of developments to ensure BPMs are fully incorporated at the design stage of the development. The specific objectives of residential and rural residential development are outlined in section 5.2 of PBP 2019 are:

- Minimise perimeters of the subdivision exposed to the bush fire hazard (hourglass shapes, which maximise perimeters and create bottlenecks should be avoided).
- Minimise vegetated corridors that permit the passage of bush fire towards buildings.
- Provide for the siting of future dwellings away from ridge-tops and steep slopes, within saddles and narrow ridge crests.
- Ensure that APZs between a bush fire hazard and future dwellings are effectively designed to address the relevant bush fire attack mechanisms; ensure the ongoing maintenance of APZs.
- Provide adequate access from all properties to the wider road network for residents and emergency services.
- Provide access to hazard vegetation to facilitate bush fire mitigation works and fire suppression; and
- Ensure the provision of an adequate supply of water and other services to facilitate effective firefighting.



### 3 BUSH FIRE RISK STRATEGIC STUDY

Planning for Bushfire Protection (2019) is based on the worst-case scenarios for each of the bush fire behaviour elements of fire weather, vegetation, slope and assumes not human intervention. All development shall be assessed on an individual basis as broad-brush approaches of documents such as PBP 2019 may not be applicable in every instance.

A Bush Fire Risk Strategic Study (BFRSS) was prepared to inform the context of the Bush Fire Assessment Report (BFAR). The level of information gathered and analysis within the BFRSS depends upon the nature and scale of the development. The BFRSS provides a broad-brush approach to determine landscape wildfire risk in considerations of vegetation continuity, distribution, and proximity to development; human intervention; access and evacuation. This enables an assessment the *actual* bushfire risk, determine if strict adherence to PBP 2019 is warranted, and if a proposed development is appropriate in the bush fire hazard context.

**Table 2** Bush fire risk strategic study

ELEMENT	Low Threat		Moderate Threat		High Threat		Extreme Threat	
<b>Adjoining Lands</b>	The proposed development and changing land use will have positive impacts on the ability of adjoining landowners to implement Bush fire Protection Measures		The proposed development and changing land use do not impact on the ability of adjoining landowners to implement Bush fire Protection Measures	✓	The proposed development and changing land use do not impact on the ability of adjoining landowners to implement Bush fire Protection Measures		The proposed development will significantly impact on the wildfire risk profile of adjoining lands.	
<b>Surrounding infrastructure</b>	The proposed development does not significantly impact on community water, electricity, or gas services.		The proposed development is associated with community water, electricity, or gas services but will not have significant impact.	✓	The proposed development impact on community water, electricity, or gas services.		The wildfire risk profile of significant infrastructure will increase due to this development.	
<b>Emergency services</b>	The proposed development does not significantly impact on the ability of emergency services to plan, prepare, respond, or recover prior, during or after a bush fire event.		The proposed development is located within 30-minute flight from a Large Air Tanker (LAT) airbase and within 30-minutes of multiple fire response units.	✓	The proposed development is located more than 30-minute flight from a Large Air Tanker (LAT) airbase and only 1 or 2 fire response units within 30-minutes.		It is unlikely emergency services will respond to wildfire in this location during extreme and catastrophic events.	

ELEMENT	Low Threat		Moderate Threat		High Threat		Extreme Threat	
Access	Good, multiple route evacuation is possible and connects with the public road network in a direction away from the wildfire threat to shelter location.		More than one access or egress routes is provided from the property to a safer location which then can access the public road network with multiple access/egress routes o shelter location.	✓	One access or egress routes is provided, which is <200m from the property to a safer location.		Only one access or egress route with no nearby safe location.	
Emergency egress	Seamless integration with existing settlement - no effect on evacuation.	✓	Short bushland pinch points that may restrict access temporarily or carry fire across roads. Unlikely impact on evacuation.		Pinch points that are likely to restrict access along evacuation routes for short periods (15-30mins) and carry fire across roads.		Large areas of bushland or multiple pinch points along evacuation routes that could block evacuation routes for an extended time.	
Vegetation continuity	Forested vegetation beyond 140m from the site is scattered with low continuity due to built development.		Forested vegetation beyond 140m from the site is scattered and isolated, forming a dominate fast moving grassland and open woodland fire event.	✓	Patches of forested vegetation associated riparian and isolated ridgelines beyond 140m from the site may result in localised fire event.		Continuous forested areas within mountainous terrain beyond 140m from the site will result in broadscale landscape emergency management operations.	
Vegetation connectiveness	Forested vegetation corridors beyond 140m are restricted and do not enable landscape fire to enter and move through the site by a continuous fire path.		Forested vegetation corridors beyond 140m from the site exist, although grasslands >100m provide separations between forested vegetation restricting the fire head progression of landscape fire.	✓	Forested vegetation corridors beyond 140m from the site exist, although grasslands <100m provide separations between forested vegetation restricting the fire head progression of landscape fire.		Forested vegetation corridors beyond 140m from the site provide for passage of landscape fire to enter and move through the site.	
Vegetation Location	Wildfire can only approach from one direction surrounded by a suburban, township or urban area managed in a minimum fuel condition.		Wildfire can only approach from two directions and the site is within a suburban, township or urban area managed in a minimum fuel condition.		Wildfire can approach from several directions although gaps within forested vegetation or are present.	✓	Wildfire can approach from several directions and have hours or days to grow and develop before impacting and/or site is surrounded by unmanaged vegetation.	
Separation	Hazard separation between extreme wildfire hazard and buildings of greater than 100m.		Hazard separation between extreme wildfire hazard and buildings of 50-100m		Hazard separation between extreme wildfire hazard and buildings of 30-50m		Hazard separation between extreme wildfire hazard and buildings of <30m	✓

ELEMENT	Low Threat		Moderate Threat		High Threat		Extreme Threat	
<b>Vegetation flammability</b>	Within the dominated fire direction, the fire fuel is restricted to surface, partially managed and separated through land use practises.	✓	Within the dominated fire direction, the fire fuel is highly aerated, with significant separations (>50m) between these patches with partially managed vegetation between.		Within the dominated fire direction, the fire fuel is highly aerated, with <50m between these patches with partially managed vegetation between		Within the dominated fire direction, the fire fuel is highly aerated, continuous continuity vertically and horizontally with flammable species.	
<b>Wildfire Behaviour</b>	Extreme Wildfire behaviour at the site is not possible given the broader landscape.		Extreme Wildfire behaviour at the site is unlikely given the broader landscape.	✓	Extreme Wildfire behaviour at the site is likely given the broader landscape.		Extreme Wildfire behaviour at the site is very likely given the broader landscape.	
<b>TOTAL</b>				✓				
<b>Overall Threat Rating:</b>			Wildfire provides <b>MODERATE</b> threat to this proposal					

In this case, a **moderate** threat has been determined and strict compliance with PBP is not warranted due to:

- Forested vegetation beyond 140m from the site is scattered and isolated, forming a dominate fast moving grassland and open woodland fire event.
- Forested vegetation corridors beyond 140m from the site exist, although grasslands >100m provide separations between forested vegetation restricting the fire head progression of landscape fire.
- Extreme Wildfire behaviour at the site is unlikely given the broader landscape.

## 4 BUSHFIRE HAZARD ASSESSMENT

This section details the site assessment methodology in Appendix 1 of PBP2019 and includes the requirements of s44 of the RF Regs. It provides detailed analysis of the vegetation, slope, vegetation exclusions and downgrades to quantify the required Bush fire Protection Measures (BPMs).

### 4.1 FIRE DANGER INDEX

This assessment utilises Tamworth Council area with a FFDI 80.

### 4.2 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Vegetation classification over the site has been carried out as follows:

- Nearmap, sixmap
- finder.
- Photo theodolite application supported by contour and LiDAR DEMs terrain profiles.
- SEED Portal - Sharing and Enabling NSW Environmental Data portal.
- Reference to regional vegetation community mapping, and
- Site assessment in December 2023.

### 4.3 VEGETATION ASSESSMENT

In accordance with PBP 2019, an assessment of the vegetation over 140m in all directions from the building was undertaken.

Vegetation that may be considered a bush fire hazard was identified and classification based on available fuel loads for sub-formations are provided through vegetation fuel monitoring project administered by the University of Wollongong, University of Melbourne and CSIRO Ecosystems Science and Bush fire Dynamics and Applications. The results of this research are commonly referred to as the 'NSW Comprehensive Fuel Loads'.

Vegetation within the 140m Assessment area is identified within the Biodiversity Values (BV) Map provided in **Appendix 4, page 36**. If this vegetation is proposed to be impacted by the application bushfire protection measures (such as APZ and access), ecological assessment will be required in accordance with the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

Stream order watercourses (Strahler system - Water Management (General) Regulation 2018) within the 140m assessment area is identified in accordance with the *Water Management Act 2000* (WM Act). The Department of Primary Industries (Office of Water) provides guidelines for riparian corridors on waterfront land. Information can be found at:

[https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/386207/licensing\\_approvals\\_controlled\\_activities\\_riparian\\_corridors.pdf](https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/386207/licensing_approvals_controlled_activities_riparian_corridors.pdf)

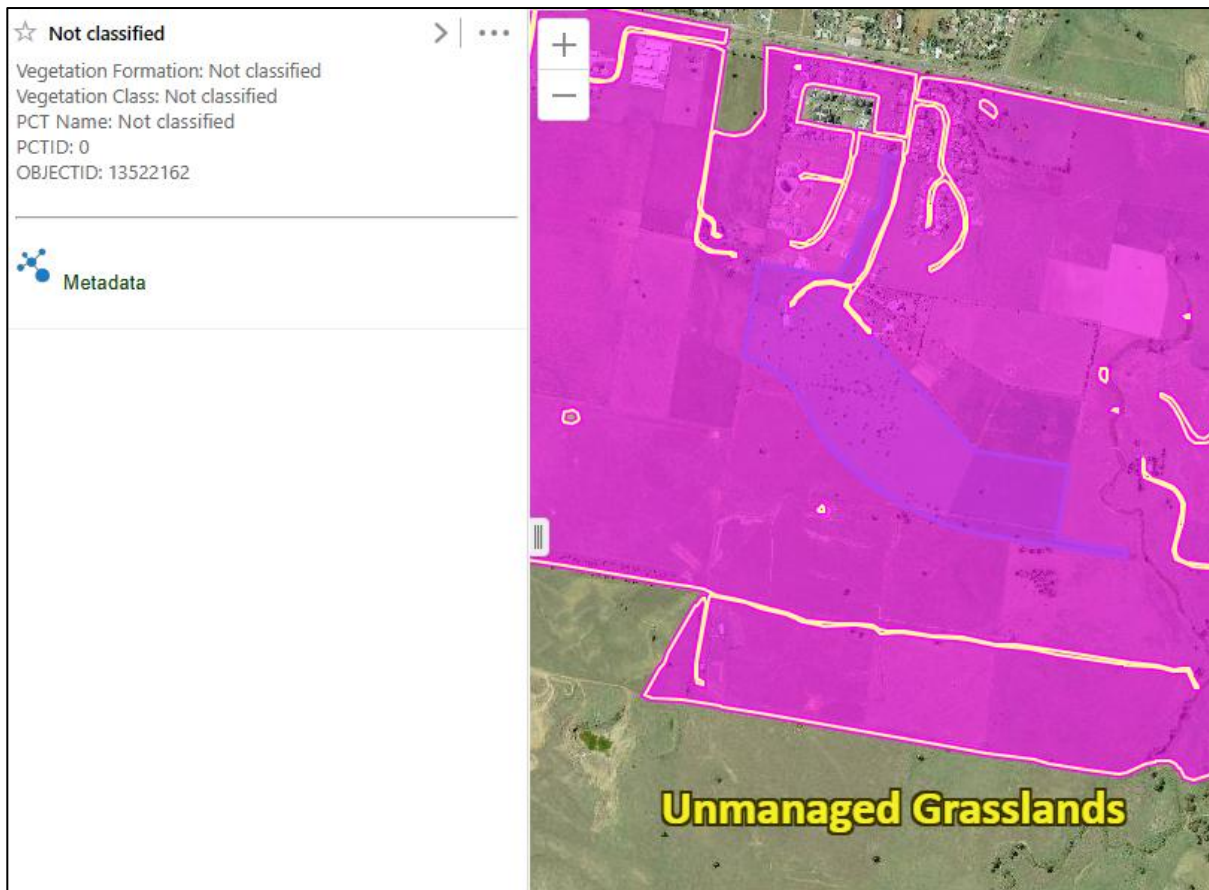
Guidelines do allow for off-setting for non-riparian corridor used as APZs are allowed within the outer 50% of the vegetated riparian zone (VRZ), if off-sets are provided in accordance with the average rule. APZs depicted in this report have not been buffered in consideration of the '50% of VRZ rule' and further detail analysis to confirm off set requirements and possibly Controlled Activity Approval (CAA).



If this vegetation is proposed to be impacted the proposal is likely to require assessment and approval by the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Office of Water.

The area is identified within the Areas of Regional Koala Significance (ARKS).

SEED Portal - Sharing and Enabling NSW Environmental Data portal and regional vegetation community mapping has been analysed to determine the vegetation in and around the development, which is illustrated in **Figure 3, below**.



**Figure 3** Vegetation in and around the site (Extract from the SEED Portal)

#### 4.3.1 Vegetation classification, exclusions, and downgrades

An analysis of the vegetation in and around the site has determined no vegetation exclusions or down grade are included in this assessment.

#### 4.3.2 Predominant Vegetation Classification

Vegetation in and around the site is classified *Unmanaged Grasslands* in accordance with PBP 2019.

#### 4.4 SEPARATION ASSESSMENT

The separation between the proposed building envelope and the classifiable vegetation that creates bush fire threat one of the significant BPMs to reduce the risk of bush fire impacting on the development. The land within the separation must conform to the standards of an Asset Protection Zones to be accepted within the separation areas.

The separations between the classifiable vegetation and the proposed dwellings are provided in **Table 3, page 18**, illustrated in **Figure 2 page 9**.

#### 4.5 SLOPE ASSESSMENT

This section details the site assessment methodology in Appendix 1 of PBP2019 to assess the effective slope (under classified vegetation) and site slope (slope between the vegetation and proposed development) within the 100m of the proposed building envelope.

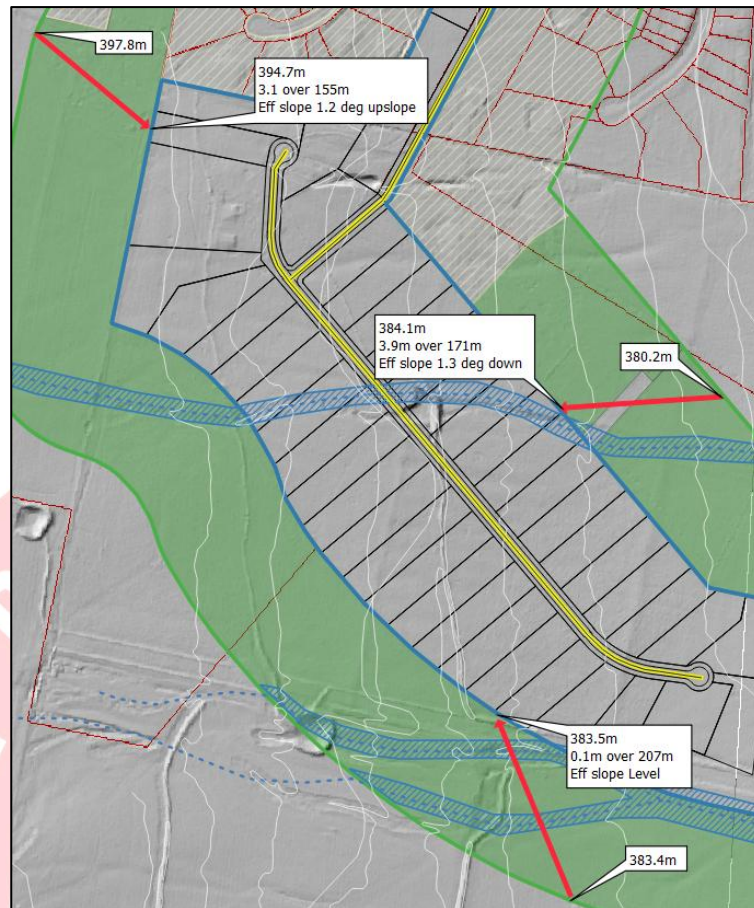
The effective and site slopes use within this assessment are provided in **Table 3, page 18** illustrated in **Figure 2 page 9**.

#### 4.6 EFFECTIVE AND SITE SLOPE ASSESSMENT

The slope of the land under the classified vegetation has a direct influence on the rate of fire spread, the intensity of the fire and the ultimate level of radiant heat flux.

The effective slope is the slope of the ground under the hazard (vegetation). The slope between the vegetation and the proposed building envelope is the site slope. When identifying the effective and site slopes, it may be found that there are a variety of slopes covering different distances. The effective slope is the slope under the vegetation which will most significantly influence the bush fire behaviour for each aspect.

The topography of the site and surrounds has been assessed to identify the maximum slope present under the classified vegetation (hazard). Slope data has been calculated from a 1m LiDAR Digital Elevation Model (DEM). The source data sets have been captured to standards that are generally consistent with the Australian ICSM LiDAR Acquisition Specifications which require a fundamental vertical accuracy of at least 0.30m (95% confidence) and horizontal accuracy of at least 0.80m (95% confidence). The slope arrows indicated in Figure 4 represent the slope calculated across the length of the arrow utilising LiDAR data within ERSI software. These values help determine the vegetation that poses a bush fire threat and significantly influences fire behaviour. Figure 4 illustrates the analysis of the LiDAR DEMs terrain profiles to determine the slope of the potential fire runs towards the site.



**Figure 4** LiDAR 1m DEMS slope analysis

Outcomes of the Bushfire Attack Level assessment implementing Method 1 PBP2019 are outlined in **Table 3, below**

**Table 3** Bushfire Hazard Assessment (PBP 2019)

Elements	Method (unit)	Fire Run 1	Fire Run 2	Fire Run 3
<b>Vegetation</b>	NSW Comprehensive Fuel Loads	Unmanaged grasslands	Unmanaged grasslands	Unmanaged grasslands
<b>Separation</b>	Spatial analysis	10m	10m	11m
<b>Effective slope</b>	Site visit – Theodolite (°)	Level	Level	0-5 deg down
<b>Fire Danger Index</b>	Council Area	80	80	80
<b>OUTPUTS PBP Table A1.12.3</b>				
<b>BAL FZ</b>		<7m	<7m	<8m
<b>Separation to Achieve BAL40</b>		7 - <10m	7 - <10m	8 - <11m
<b>Separation to Achieve BAL29</b>		10 - < 14m	10 - < 14m	11 - < 16m
<b>Separation to Achieve BAL19</b>		14 - < 20m	14 - < 20m	16 - < 23m
<b>Separation to Achieve BAL12.5</b>		20 - < 50m	20 - < 50m	23 - < 50m
<b>Separation for BAL29 building @</b>		10m	10m	11m



## 5 ADDITIONAL S. 45 RURAL FIRES REG AND NCC REQUIREMENTS

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S. 45 of the RF Reg indicates the assessment requirements for s 100B RF Act developments to obtain a bush Fire Safety Authority. This section illustrates the remaining elements identified within S. 45 of the RF Reg that are not covered within bush fire hazard assessment process (section 3 and 4 of this report) or within the performance criteria of PBP 2019 (section 6 of this report).

### 5.1 CL (2) (E) AND (F) S.45 RF REGS - THREATENED SPECIES, POPULATIONS AND COMMUNITIES

A search on the NSW Government Central Resource for Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data for significant environmental values was completed.

The search identified no Critical Endangered Ecological Communities (CEEC) or species listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* near or within the site.

The results of the Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data is provided in **Appendix 3, page 35**.

There will be no additional impacts on natural heritage values.

A search of the Aboriginal Historic Information Management System (AHIMS) was completed on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 which indicates an aboriginal site exists, further archaeological surveys and bushfire analysis may be required to ensure bushfire protection measures not impact of this site.

The output of the search is provided in **Appendix 4, page 36**.

### 5.2 CL (2) (G) ADDITIONAL BUSH FIRE ASSESSMENT

**The capacity of nearby public roads to handle increased volumes of traffic when a bush fire emergency occurs.**

The surrounding public road system is two-way and sealed. This subdivision proposes a further 47 residential lots that will be required to utilise the Mayne Drive and Oxley Highway Intersection for evacuation. This intersection is the only egress for the existing >100 residential developments.

A traffic engineers report shall be developed to illustrate the volume of traffic generated by the proposed subdivision at Mayne Drive and Oxley Highway, and that this intersection will flow adequately during times of evacuation.

**Whether or not nearby public roads that link with the fire trail network have two-way access.**

No linkages between the public road system and fire trails exist within the assessment area.

**The adequacy of sprinkler systems and other fire protection measures to be incorporated into the development.**

There are no bushfire spray systems or fire protection measure proposed outside the performance criteria for subdivisions.

**Registered fire trails on the property.**

No registered fire trails are located on the property.



## 6 BUSHFIRE ASSESSMENT AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

This section assesses Bushfire Performance Measures (BPMs) for the proposed development at 18-50 Mayne Drive, Westdale, NSW - Lot 1 / DP 1017953 in consideration of the acceptable solutions required for each performance criteria within PBP 2019. Outcomes are outlined in Table 4, below. Where acceptable solutions are not met details of the performance-based solution are provided.

**Table 4** Planning for bush fire protection compliance (PBP 2019) - Chapter 5 – Rural and Residential subdivisions developments on bushfire prone lands

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA		ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION	COMPLIANCE for 18-50 Mayne Drive, Westdale, NSW - Lot 1 / DP 1017953
APZs	Potential building footprints must not be exposed to radiant heat levels exceeding 29 kW/m <sup>2</sup> on each proposed lot.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APZs are provided in accordance with Tables A1.12.2 and A1.12.3 based on the FFDI.</li> </ul>	<b>COMPLIES - ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION</b> A 10m APZ to the west and a 11m APZ to the east is provided in accordance with Table A1.12.3 to provide a BAL 29 building envelope.
	APZs are managed and maintained to prevent the spread of a fire towards the building.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APZs are managed in accordance with the requirements of Appendix 4.</li> </ul>	<b>REFER TO LANDSCAPING COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS</b>  At the commencement of building works and in perpetuity the property around the existing class 1a building within the residual lot shall be maintained as an inner protection area (IPA) as outlined within Appendix 4 of Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019 and the NSW RFS document Standards for Asset Protection Zones to a distance of 50m in all directions.
	The APZs is provided in perpetuity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APZs are wholly within the boundaries of the development site</li> </ul>	<b>COMPLIES - ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION</b> The APZ on this site is wholly within the site boundaries and is not located on land >18 degrees slope.
	APZ maintenance is practical, soil stability is not compromised and the potential for crown fires is minimised.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APZs are located on lands with a slope less than 18 degrees.</li> </ul>	<b>COMPLIES - ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION</b> The APZ is not located on land >18 degrees slope.

ELECTRICITY	Location of electricity services limits the possibility of ignition of surrounding bush land or the fabric of buildings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where practicable, electrical transmission lines are underground; and</li> <li>• Where overhead, electrical transmission lines are proposed as follows:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lines are installed with short pole spacing (30m), unless crossing gullies, gorges or riparian areas; and</li> <li>○ No part of a tree is closer to a power line than the distance set out in accordance with the specifications in ISSC3 Guideline for Managing Vegetation Near Power Lines.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>COMPLIES - ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION</b> Were possible electricity should be placed underground.
GAS	Location and design of gas services will not lead to ignition of surrounding bushland or the fabric of buildings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reticulated or bottled gas is installed and maintained in accordance with AS/NZS 1596:2014 and the requirements of relevant authorities, and metal piping is used.</li> <li>• All fixed gas cylinders are kept clear of all flammable materials to a distance of 10m and shielded on the hazard side.</li> <li>• Connections to and from gas cylinders are metal.</li> <li>• Polymer-sheathed flexible gas supply lines are not used; and</li> <li>• Above-ground gas service pipes are metal, including and up to any outlets</li> </ul>	<b>COMPLIES - ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION</b> The proposed layout provides ample opportunity for future residential development to comply with gas acceptable solutions.
LANDSCAPING	Landscaping is designed and managed to minimise flame contact and radiant heat to buildings, and the potential for wind-driven embers to cause ignitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscaping is in accordance with Appendix 4; and</li> <li>• Fencing is constructed in accordance with section 7.6.</li> </ul>	<b>MADE CONDITION OF CONSENT</b> Street tree plantings within 100m of the bushfire threat shall consider Huber-Smith et. al (2023) in the selection of tree species. A Landscaping plan is required to illustrate roadside vegetation is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planting does not provide a continuous canopy (trees do not touch and trees or shrubs are isolated or located in small clusters).</li> <li>• Roadside plants do not impede emergency vehicle access or the ability to maintain road verge to managed grasses.</li> </ul>

ACCESS (GENERAL REQUIREMENTS)	<p>Firefighting vehicles are provided with safe, all-weather access to structures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property access roads are two-wheel drive, all-weather roads.</li> <li>• Perimeter roads are provided for residential subdivisions of three or more allotments.</li> <li>• Subdivisions of three or more allotments have more than one access in and out of the development.</li> <li>• Traffic management devices are constructed to not prohibit access by emergency services vehicles.</li> <li>• Maximum grades for sealed roads do not exceed 15 degrees and an average grade of not more than 10 degrees or other gradient specified by road design standards, whichever is the lesser gradient.</li> <li>• All roads are through roads.</li> <li>• Dead end roads are not recommended, but if unavoidable, are not more than 200 metres in length, incorporate a minimum 12 metres outer radius turning circle, and are clearly sign posted as a dead end;</li> <li>• Where kerb and guttering is provided on perimeter roads, roll top kerbing should be used to the hazard side of the road.</li> <li>• Where access/egress can only be achieved through forest, woodland and heath vegetation, secondary access shall be provided to an alternate point on the existing public road system; and</li> <li>• One way only public access roads are no less than 3.5 metres wide and have designated parking bays with hydrants located outside of these areas to ensure accessibility to reticulated water for fire suppression</li> </ul>	<p><b>PERFORMANCE SOLUTION</b></p> <p>Perimeter road is not provided and only one access in/out of the subdivision is provided. To facilitate egress in/out of the subdivision the internal road has been ungraded to perimeter road standards.</p> <p><b>MADE CONDITION OF CONSENT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property access roads are two-wheel drive, all-weather roads.</li> <li>• Traffic management devices are constructed to not prohibit access by emergency services vehicles.</li> <li>• Maximum grades for sealed roads do not exceed 15 degrees and an average grade of not more than 10 degrees or other gradient specified by road design standards, whichever is the lesser gradient.</li> <li>• All roads are through roads.</li> <li>• Dead end roads are not recommended, but if unavoidable, are not more than 200 metres in length, incorporate a minimum 12 metres outer radius turning circle, and are clearly sign posted as a dead end;</li> <li>• Where kerb and guttering is provided on perimeter roads, roll top kerbing should be used to the hazard side of the road.</li> </ul>
	<p>The capacity of access roads is adequate for firefighting vehicles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The capacity of road surfaces and any bridges/ causeways is sufficient to carry fully loaded firefighting vehicles (up to 23 tonnes); bridges and causeways are to clearly indicate load rating.</li> </ul>	<p><b>MADE CONDITION OF CONSENT</b></p> <p>The capacity of road surfaces and any bridges/ causeways is sufficient to carry fully loaded firefighting vehicles (up to 23 tonnes); bridges and causeways are to clearly indicate load rating</p>

	<p>There is appropriate access to water supply</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hydrants are located outside of parking reserves and road carriageways to ensure accessibility to reticulated water for fire suppression.</li> <li>Hydrants are provided in accordance with the relevant clauses of AS 2419.1:2017 - Fire hydrant installations System design, installation and commissioning; and</li> <li>There is suitable access for a Category 1 fire appliance to within 4m of the static water supply where no reticulated supply is available.</li> </ul>	<p><b>MADE CONDITION OF CONSENT</b></p> <p>Hydrants are located outside of parking reserves and road carriageways to ensure accessibility to reticulated water for fire suppression.</p> <p>Hydrants are provided in accordance with the relevant clauses of AS 2419.1:2017 - Fire hydrant installations System design, installation and commissioning.</p>
PERIMETER ROADS	<p>Access roads are designed to allow safe access and egress for firefighting vehicles while residents are evacuating as well as providing a safe operational environment for emergency service personnel during firefighting and emergency management on the interface.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are two-way sealed roads.</li> <li>Minimum 8m carriageway width kerb to kerb.</li> <li>Parking is provided outside of the carriageway width.</li> <li>Hydrants are located clear of parking areas.</li> <li>Are through roads, and these are linked to the internal road system at an interval of no greater than 500m.</li> <li>Curves of roads have a minimum inner radius of 6m.</li> <li>The maximum grade road is 15 degrees and average grade of not more than 10 degrees.</li> <li>The road crossfall does not exceed 3 degrees; and</li> <li>A minimum vertical clearance of 4m to any overhanging obstructions, including tree branches, is provided.</li> </ul>	<p><b>MADE CONDITION OF CONSENT</b></p> <p>Perimeter road not provided.</p> <p>Non-perimeter road provided, which shall be constructed to perimeter road requirements to facilitate egress. The central road shall be constructed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are two-way sealed roads.</li> <li>Minimum 8m carriageway width kerb to kerb.</li> <li>Parking is provided outside of the carriageway width.</li> <li>Hydrants are located clear of parking areas.</li> <li>Are through roads, and these are linked to the internal road system at an interval of no greater than 500m.</li> <li>Curves of roads have a minimum inner radius of 6m.</li> <li>The maximum grade road is 15 degrees and average grade of not more than 10 degrees.</li> <li>The road crossfall does not exceed 3 degrees; and</li> <li>A minimum vertical clearance of 4m to any overhanging obstructions, including tree branches, is provided.</li> </ul>



NON-PERIMETER ROADS	<p>Access roads are designed to allow safe access and egress for firefighting vehicles while residents are evacuating.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum 5.5m carriageway width kerb to kerb.</li> <li>• Parking is provided outside of the carriageway width.</li> <li>• Hydrants are located clear of parking areas.</li> <li>• Roads are through roads, and these are linked to the internal road system at an interval of no greater than 500m.</li> <li>• Curves of roads have a minimum inner radius of 6m.</li> <li>• The road crossfall does not exceed 3 degrees; and</li> <li>• A minimum vertical clearance of 4m to any overhanging obstructions, including tree branches, is provided.</li> </ul>	<p><b>MADE CONDITION OF CONSENT</b></p> <p>Non-perimeter road provided, which shall be constructed to perimeter road requirements to facilitate egress.</p>
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PROPERTY ACCESS	<p>Firefighting vehicles can access the dwelling and exit the property safely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no specific access requirements in an urban area where an unobstructed path (no greater than 70m) is provided between the most distant external part of the proposed dwelling and the nearest part of the public access road (where the road speed limit is not greater than 70kph) that supports the operational use of emergency firefighting vehicles.</li> </ul> <p>In circumstances where this cannot occur, the following requirements apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum 4m carriageway width.</li> <li>• In forest, woodland and heath situations, rural property access roads have passing bays every 200m that are 20m long by 2m wide, making a minimum trafficable width of 6m at the passing bay.</li> <li>• A minimum vertical clearance of 4m to any overhanging obstructions, including tree branches.</li> <li>• Provide a suitable turning area in accordance with Appendix 3.</li> <li>• Curves have a minimum inner radius of 6m and are minimal in number to allow for rapid access and egress.</li> <li>• The minimum distance between inner and outer curves is 6m.</li> <li>• The crossfall is not more than 10 degrees.</li> <li>• Maximum grades for sealed roads do not exceed 15 degrees and not more than 10 degrees for unsealed roads; and</li> <li>• A development comprising more than three dwellings has access by dedication of a road and not by right of way.</li> </ul>	<p><b>MADE CONDITION OF CONSENT</b></p> <p>Private property access from the provided road to the lot boundary of each proposed lot) shall comply with the below requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum carriageway width of 4m;</li> <li>• A minimum vertical clearance of 4m to any overhanging obstructions, including tree branches, and</li> <li>• Curves have a minimum inner radius of 6m and are minimal in number to allow for rapid access and egress</li> <li>• The minimum distance between inner and outer curves is 6m, and</li> <li>• The crossfall is not more than 10°, and</li> <li>• Maximum grades for sealed roads do not exceed 15° and not more than 10° for unsealed roads.</li> </ul>
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WATER SUPPLIES	Adequate water supplies is provided for firefighting purposes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reticulated water is to be provided to the development where available.</li> <li>• A static water and hydrant supply is provided for non-reticulated developments or where reticulated water supply cannot be guaranteed; and static water supplies shall comply with Table 5.3d.</li> </ul>	<p><b>COMPLIES - ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION</b></p> <p>Reticulated water supplied for firefighting purposes.</p> <p>Street hydrant shall be located within 70m of the lot which allows for 50m to a hard stand and all parts of a building or open yard are protected within 70m of the hardstand to comply with 5.3.3.3(b) of AS 2419.1:2021.</p> <p>Bi-direction blue cat-eyes to be establishing on the road surface associated with street hydrants in accordance with <i>Roads and Maritime Service, Delineation, Section 15 - Raised pavement markers</i>.</p>
	Water supplies are located at regular intervals, and The water supply is accessible and reliable for firefighting operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire hydrant, spacing, design and sizing complies with the relevant clauses of Australian Standard AS 2419.1:2021.</li> <li>• Hydrants are not located within any road carriageway; and</li> <li>• Reticulated water supply to urban subdivisions uses a ring main system for areas with perimeter roads.</li> </ul>	<p><b>MADE CONDITION OF CONSENT</b></p> <p>Fire hydrant, spacing, design and sizing complies with the relevant clauses of Australian Standard AS 2419.1:2021.</p> <p>Hydrants are not located within any road carriageway</p>
	Flows and pressure are appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire hydrant flows and pressures comply with Table 2.2 of AS 2419.1:2005.</li> </ul>	<p>N/A</p> <p>This report has not tested or determined if the fire hydrant flow and pressures to comply with Table 2.2 of AS 2419.1:2017.</p>
	The integrity of the water supply is maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All above-ground water service pipes are metal, including and up to any taps; and</li> <li>• Above-ground water storage tanks shall be of concrete or metal.</li> </ul>	<p><b>MADE CONDITION OF CONSENT</b></p> <p>All above-ground water service pipes are metal, including and up to any taps.</p>

## 7 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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It is clear from this investigation and assessment that the site is located within Bushfire Prone Land. An assessment in accordance with Appendix 1 of PBP2019 has been undertaken. This BFAR found the classifiable vegetation of unmanaged grasslands as described by NSW Comprehensive Fuel Loads both level and downslope to the south, west and east of the site creates the greatest bushfire threat.

In accordance with the provisions of PBP 2019, the recommendations outlined within this assessment will reduce the risk of damage and/or harm in the event of a bushfire event to acceptable levels. The following recommendations are provided to inform the planning of the development to obtain development consent.

### **Asset Protection Zones**

A suitably worded instrument, pursuant to *section 88 of the Conveyancing Act 1919*, shall be placed on western edge of the western lots requiring the provision of a 10m asset protection zone (APZ) in accordance with this report which restricts the building of class 1a and class 109 buildings. The name of authority empowered to release, vary, or modify the instrument shall be Tamworth Council.

A suitably worded instrument, pursuant to *section 88 of the Conveyancing Act 1919*, shall be placed on eastern edge of the eastern lots requiring the provision of a 11m asset protection zone (APZ) in accordance with this report which restricts the building of class 1a and class 109 buildings. The name of authority empowered to release, vary, or modify the instrument shall be Tamworth Council. The establishment of this bush fire protection measure may impact on aboriginal heritage which may require further investigation.

Further detail analysis to confirm off set requirements and possibly Controlled Activity Approval (CAA) for the establishment of APZ within water coarse buffers.

A 50m APZ established around existing dwelling.

### **Landscaping**

Street tree plantings within 100m of the bushfire threat shall consider Huber-Smith *et. al* (2023) in the selection of tree species. A Landscaping plan is required to illustrate roadside vegetation is:

- Planting does not provide a continuous canopy (trees do no touch and trees or shrubs are isolated or located in small clusters).
- Roadside plants do not impede emergency vehicle access or the ability to maintain road verge to managed grasses.

Any parks or reserves shall be managed be managed as an Inner Protection Area (IPA) as outlines within Appendix 4 of Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019, and NSW Rural Fire Service 'Standards for Asset Protection Zones'.

### **Construction**

BAL 29 or lower building envelopes are provided within all lots within the proposed subdivision.



### Access

Access to the property and development site is noted on **Figure 2, page 9** of this report and in the site plan provided in **Appendix 1, page 31**.

A traffic engineers report shall be developed to illustrate the volume of traffic generated by the proposed subdivision at Mayne Drive and Oxley Highway, and that this intersection will flow adequately during times of evacuation.

The access road central to the subdivision shall be constructed to perimeter access road requirements and shall:

- The capacity of road surfaces and any bridges/ causeways is sufficient to carry fully loaded firefighting vehicles (up to 23 tonnes); bridges and causeways are to clearly indicate load rating.
- Hydrants are located outside of parking reserves and road carriageways to ensure accessibility to reticulated water for fire suppression.
- Access roads are two-wheel drive, all-weather roads.
- Access is provided to all structures.
- Traffic management devices are constructed to not prohibit access by emergency services vehicles.
- Access roads must provide suitable turning areas in accordance with Appendix 3.
- Are two-way sealed roads.
- Minimum 8m carriageway width kerb to kerb.
- Parking is provided outside of the carriageway width.
- Hydrants are located clear of parking areas.
- Are through roads, and these are linked to the internal road system at an interval of no greater than 500m.
- Curves of roads have a minimum inner radius of 6m.
- The maximum grade road is 15 degrees and average grade of not more than 10 degrees.
- The road crossfall does not exceed 3 degrees; and
- A minimum vertical clearance of 4m to any overhanging obstructions, including tree branches, is provided.

Private property access from the provided road to the lot boundary of each proposed lot) shall comply with the below requirements:

- Minimum carriageway width of 4m.
- A minimum vertical clearance of 4m to any overhanging obstructions, including tree branches,
- Curves have a minimum inner radius of 6m and are minimal in number to allow for rapid access and egress,
- The minimum distance between inner and outer curves is 6m,
- The crossfall is not more than 10°, and
- Maximum grades for sealed roads do not exceed 15° and not more than 10° for unsealed roads.

### Water Supply

All above-ground water service pipes are metal, including and up to any taps.

Hydrants are not located within any road carriageway or parking areas.

Fire hydrant, spacing, design and sizing complies with Australian Standard AS 2419.1:2017.

Bi-direction blue cat-eyes to be establishing on the road surface associated with street hydrants in accordance with *Roads and Maritime Service, Delineation, Section 15 - Raised pavement markers*.

**Electricity services**

Where possible electricity should be placed underground. If overhead power supply is provided, lines are installed with short pole spacing (30m), unless crossing gullies, gorges or riparian areas; and no part of a tree is closer to a power line than the distance set out in accordance with the specifications in ISSC3 Guideline for Managing Vegetation Near Power Lines.

**Gas services**

The proposed layout provides ample opportunity for future residential development to comply with gas acceptable solutions.

**Emergency Management**

There are no performance criteria requirements for this type of development within PBP 2019.

*Finally, the implementation of the adopted measures and recommendations forwarded within this report comply with PBP (2019) and will contribute to the amelioration of the potential impact of any bushfire upon the development, but they do not and cannot guarantee that the area will not be affected by bushfire at some time.*



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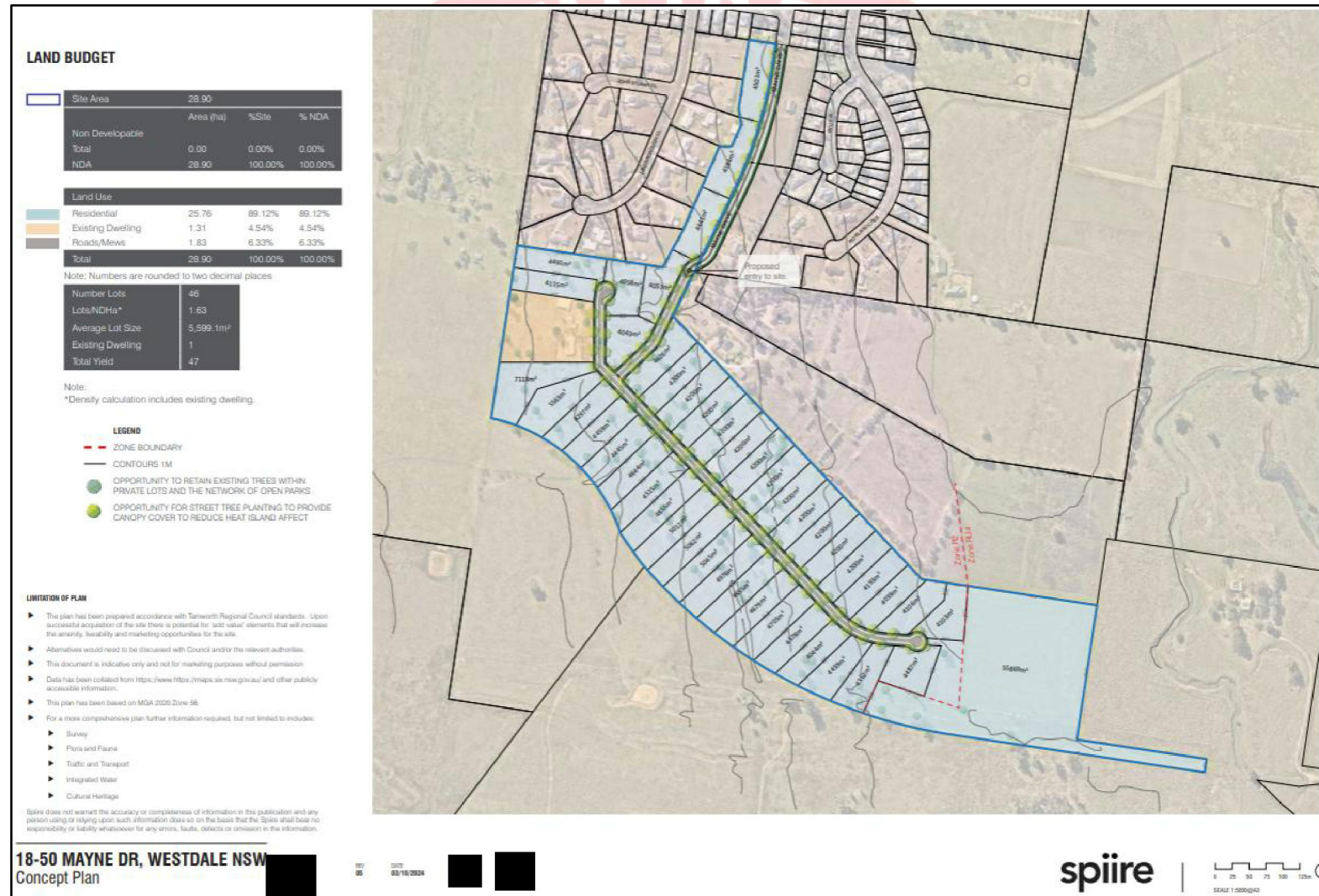
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## 9 APPENDIX 1 SUBDIVISION PLANS



## 10 APPENDIX 2 PLATES (PHOTOGRAPHS) AND FIRE RUNS

**Plates 1 – 6** depict the elements in and around the site that are considered within the bush fire hazard assessment. The classified vegetation, separations, effective and site slope are identified in **Table 3**, **page 18** and displayed in **Figure 2**, **page 9**.



**Plate 1 (P1)** Access along Myne Drive



**Plate 2 (P2)** Entrance into the subdivision





**Plate 3 (P3)** Vegetation to the west



**Plate 4 (P4)** Vegetation within the subdivision site





**Plate 5 (P5)** *Vegetation to the west*



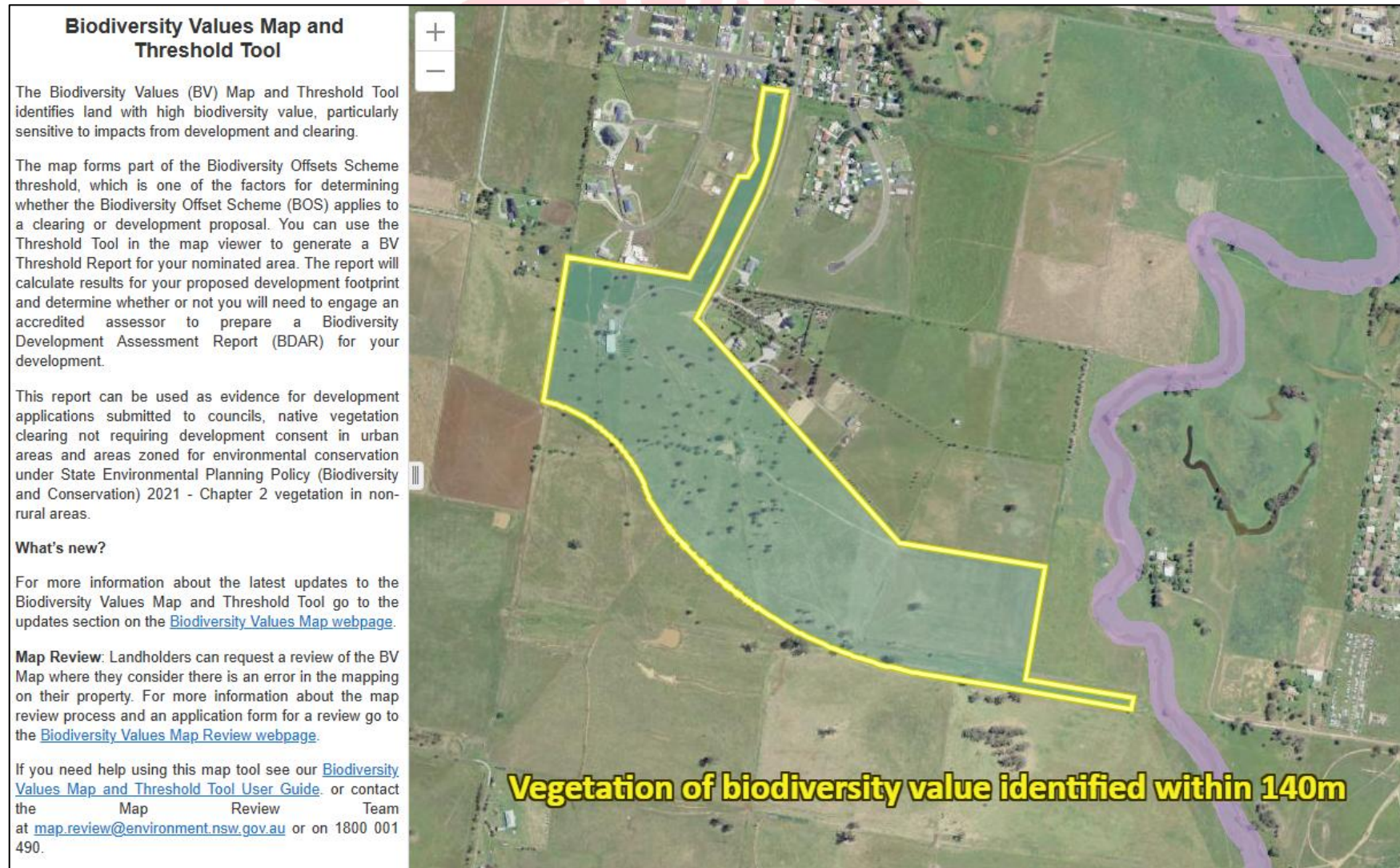
**Plate 6 (P6)** *Remaining class 1a development*

## 11 APPENDIX 3 NSW SHARING AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENTAL DATA



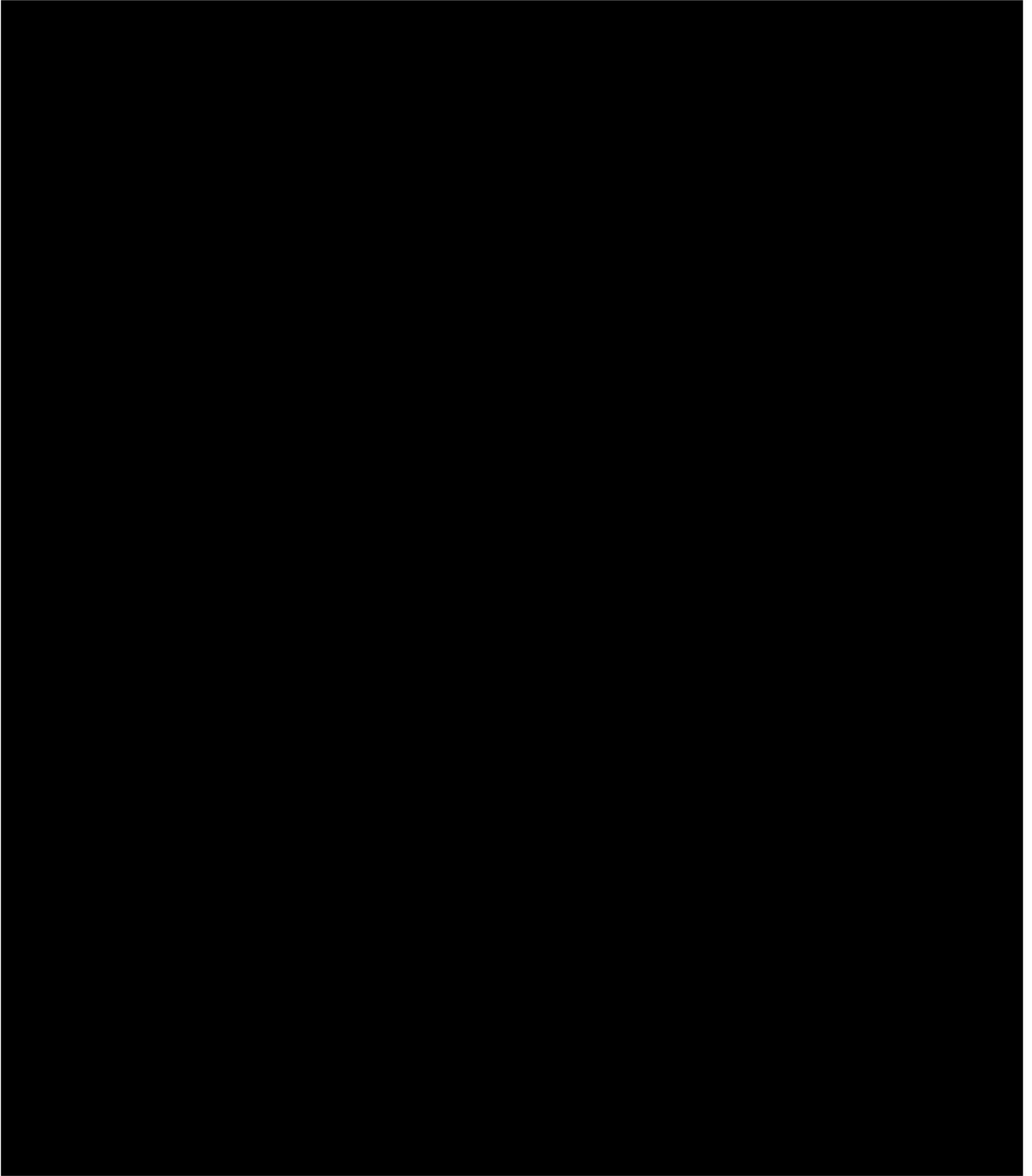


## 12 APPENDIX 4 BIODIVERSITY MAP





## 13 APPENDIX 5 AHIMS SEARCH



## 14 APPENDIX 8 NSW BUSHFIRE PLANNING PROTECTION MEASURES

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The following information on building survivability and the application of Bushfire Protection Measures should be considered continually for the life of the development. These measures facilitate meeting the aims and objectives of PBP 2019 and mitigating bushfire risk and are provided to inform the client.

### **Why do buildings burn during bush fires?**

Research has been undertaken over the last decades to analyse and determine the elements that determine the survivability of a building during a bush fire event. As the research is validated, these elements are incorporated into planning documentation that guides construction in bush fire prone areas, such as Australian Standard 3959 and NSW RFS Planning for Bushfire Protection.

Research has illustrated that there are three ways a bush fire impacts a building:

1. Direct flame contact,
2. Radiant heat from the bush fire, and
3. Embers generated by the bush fire.

Most people expect direct flame contact to be the biggest risk to homes in a bush fire, but this is not the case. Over 80% of house loss during bush fires occurs because of ember attack; the burning firebrands of bark, leaves and twigs with winds drive away from the main fire front. They find weaknesses in houses such as gaps, cracks to combustible construction materials and can quickly lead to ignition of the building.

**Significantly, vegetation that is established adjacent to the building and within the Asset Protection Zone following the construction of the building, which provides fuel for burning embers to ignite and increase the ignitability of the building.** It is critical that the Asset Protection Zone are maintained throughout the life of the property, so that wildfire is not encouraged closer to the building.

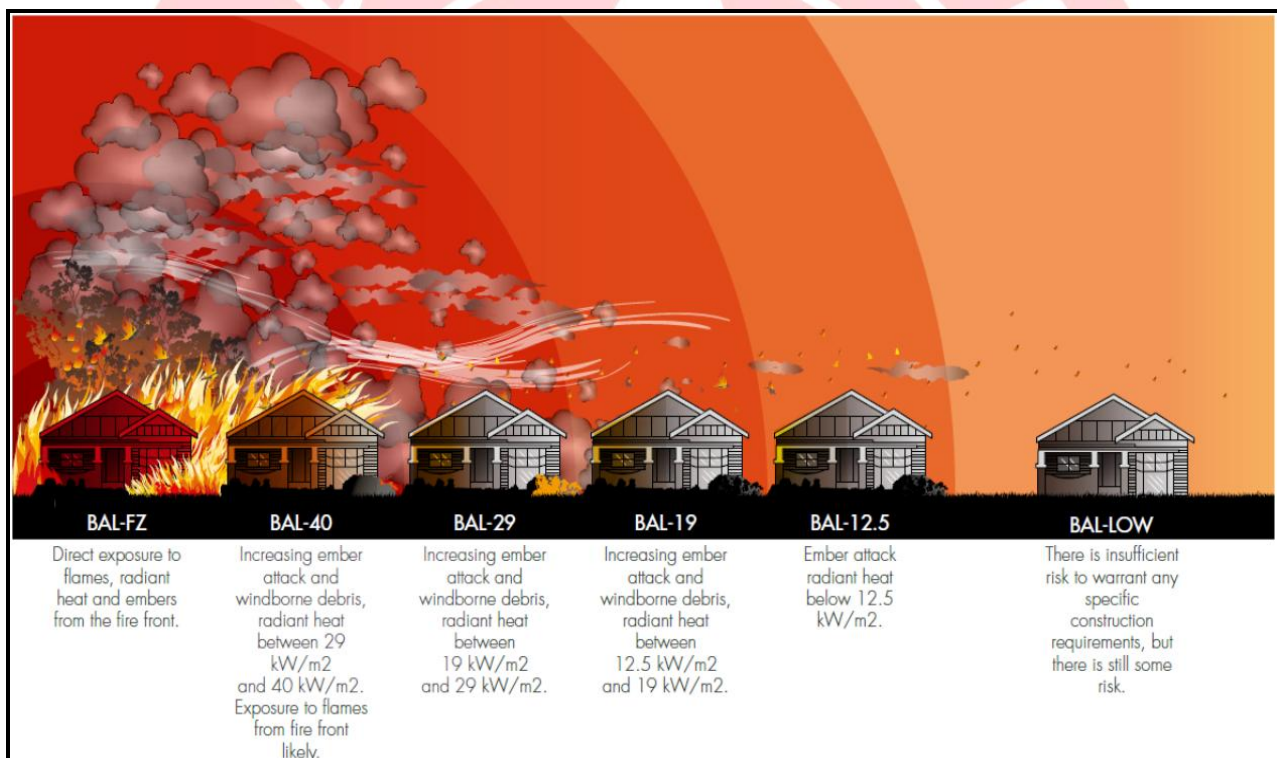
**The research has illustrated the separation between the bushfire threat and building; and the construction standards of the building are the principal elements to building survivability. It is critical that:**

1. Any future alterations and additions to the building are undertaken with materials that comply with the relevant BAL of the building.
2. The separations between the building and bush fire threat (known as the Asset Protection Zones (APZ)) are maintained to low flammability. This means restricted gardens and combustible elements, such as timber landscaping and furnishings. It is critical to maintain 'fire hygiene' around the building.

### **Australia Standard 3959 Construction of buildings in Bush fire prone areas and Bush fire Attack Level (BAL)**

Bush fire Attack Level (BAL) ratings refer to the fire intensity your house is likely to be subjected to in a bush fire, expressed in terms of radiant heat. The BAL assessment forms the construction component of the bush fire assessment process. The other component is the Bush fire planning, which includes Asset Protection Zones (APZ), separation to provide defensible spaces, access, water, electricity, gas, landscaping and emergency management.

Furthermore, the measures contained in the *Australian Standard 3959 Construction of buildings in Bushfire Prone Areas* for each BAL construction level are not for fire resistance. The building will burn. The construction standards are aimed at slowing the ignition and fire spread of the building to provide adequate time to enable occupants to shelter within the building as the bushfire front passes. The degree of vegetation management within the APZ, the unpredictable nature of behaviour of fire, and extreme weather conditions make building adjacent to vegetation very dangerous.



*Relationship between fire behaviour and BAL (WA Guidelines for Planning in Bush fire Prone Areas, 2017)*



## **Design and Siting**

The design and siting of a building can be of critical importance during bush fire attack event. The appropriate design and siting can reduce the impact of bush fire attack mechanisms of direct flame, radiant heat, ember attack, smoke, and wind. Key principles to consider when designing and siting a new development include the following:

- Avoid building on ridges, saddles and build on level ground wherever possible.
- Utilise cut-in benches, rather than elevating the building when building on sloping land.
- Avoid raised floors and protect the sub-floor areas by enclosing or screening.
- Provide an appropriate shelter room that is located on the lowest or non-bush fire hazard side of the building, near building exits and provides the occupant views of the outside environment.
- Reduce bulk of building, limit re-entrant corners, and incorporate simplified roof that are able to self-clean of debris.
- No gutters on second or consecutive storeys of building and avoid box gutters.
- If gutters are installed, incorporate gutter guards with a flammability index more than 5 when tested to AS1530.2, or aluminium, bronze, or stainless steel with maximum aperture of 5mm.
- Limit glazing elements on the sides of the building exposed to the bush fire threat and use shutters to protect glazing elements.
- Carparking provided in a location that does not interfere with escape routes.
- Position development so any gas supplies and overhead electricity are positioned not to impede egress to and from the site.
- Class 10a buildings (such as shed, carport, and garages) should be a minimum of 6m away from any other building. Consider the storage of hazardous materials (petrol, kerosene, alcohol, LPG, natural gas, acetylene, vehicle, machinery etc.) within Class 10a buildings when siting in proximity to Class 1a occupied building and escape routes.
- Provide unobstructed access around the entire building supported by a minimum 1m wide concreted path to the external wall.

## **Asset Protection Zones**

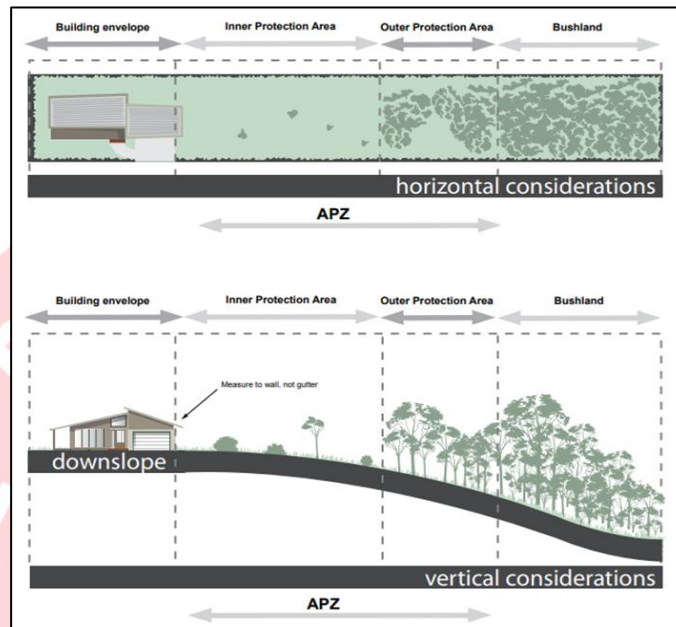
An APZ is an area surrounding a development that is managed to reduce the bushfire hazard to an acceptable level to mitigate the risk to life and property. The required width of the APZ varies with slope and the type of hazard. An APZ should be maintained in perpetuity to ensure ongoing protection from the impact of bush fires. Maintenance to the below standards should be undertaken on an annual basis, in advance of the fire season, as a minimum.

For a complete guide to APZs and landscaping, download the NSW RFS document Standards for Asset Protection Zones at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources/publications](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources/publications).

An APZ can consist of both an Inner Protection Area (IPA) and an Outer Protection Area (OPA) as indicated below. An APZ can include the following:

Footpaths	Driveways
Lawns	Unattached non-combustible garages as long as suitably separated
Discontinuous gardens	Open space / parkland
Swimming pools	Car parking

Isolated areas of shrub and timbered vegetation are generally not a bush fire hazard as they are not large enough to produce fire of an intensity that will threaten dwellings. These areas include narrow strips of vegetation along road corridors.



Components of an APZ (Figure A4.1 - PBP 2019)

Any areas that are designated Asset Protection Zones, should be delineated by rural fencing, signposted or bollards (whatever is practical in the circumstances) to ensure vegetation creep does not occur and further landowners and ground management are aware that the area is to be maintained for Bush fire protection purposes. Examples are provided below:



### ***Inner Protection Area (IPA)***

The IPA extends from the edge of the OPA to the development. The IPA is the area closest to the asset and creates a fuel-managed area which can minimise the impact of direct flame contact and radiant heat on the development and be a defensible space. The intent of an IPA is to stop the transmission of flame and reduce the transmission of radiant heat by the elimination of available fire fuel. This area also allows

airborne embers to fall safely without igniting further outbreaks and provides a safer firefighting position and is operationally important for implementation of clear fire control lines.

In practical terms the IPA is typically the curtilage around the dwelling, consisting of a mown lawn and well-maintained gardens. When establishing and maintaining an IPA the following requirements apply:

- Vegetation within the IPA should be kept to a minimum level. Litter fuels (leaves and vegetation debris) within the IPA should be continually removed and kept below 1cm in height and be discontinuous. There is minimal fine fuel at ground level which could be set alight by a bushfire.
- Canopy cover should be less than 15% (at maturity). Trees (at maturity) should not touch or overhang the building and should be separated by 2 to 5m.
- Lower limbs of canopy trees should be removed up to a height of 2m above ground.
- Preference should be given to smooth barked and evergreen trees.
- Large discontinuities or gaps in the shrub vegetation shall be established to slow down or break the progress of fire towards buildings.
- Shrubs should not be located under trees and not form more than 10% ground cover
- Clumps of shrubs should be separated from exposed windows and doors by a distance of at least twice the height of the vegetation.
- Grasses should be kept mown (as a guide grass should be kept to no more than 100mm in height), and
- Woodpiles, wooden sheds, combustible material storage areas, large areas / quantities of garden mulch, stacked flammable building materials etc. are not permitted in the IPA.

### ***Outer Protection Area (OPA)***

An OPA is located between the IPA and the unmanaged vegetation. Vegetation within the OPA can be managed to a more moderate level. The reduction of fuel in this area substantially decreases the intensity of an approaching fire and restricts the pathways to crown fuels, reducing the level of direct flame, radiant heat and ember attack on the IPA.

Because of the nature of an OPA, they are only applicable in forest vegetation.

In practical terms the OPA is an area where there is maintenance of the understorey and some separation in the canopy. When establishing and maintaining an OPA the following requirements apply:

- Tree canopy cover should be less than 30%, canopies should be separated by 2 to 5m
- Shrubs should not form a continuous canopy and form no more than 20% of ground cover
- Grasses should be kept to no more than 100mm in height with leaf and other debris should be mown, slashed or mulched.

Furthermore, the edge of the APZ should be clearly delineated to ensure vegetation creep does not occur over time, reducing the separation between the bushfire hazard and building.



## **Gardens and vegetation within the APZ**

All vegetation will burn under the right conditions.

In choosing plants for landscaping consideration should be given to plants that possess properties, which help to protect buildings. If the plants themselves can be prevented from ignition, they can improve the defence of buildings by:

- Filtering out wind-driven burning debris and embers.
- Acting as a barrier against radiation and flame, and
- Reducing wind forces.

Consequently, landscaping with vegetation of the site should consider the following:

- Meet the specifications of an Inner Protection Area (IPA) detailed in PBP 2019.
- Priority given to retaining or planting species which have a low flammability and high moisture content.
- Priority given to retaining or planting species which do not drop much litter in the bushfire season, and which do not drop litter that persists as ground fuel in the bush fire season, and
- Create discontinuous or gaps in the vegetation to slow down or break the progress of fire towards the dwellings.
- Avoid gardens within 10m of the exterior building envelop.
- Trees and shrubs within 40m are not continuous, but instead arranged as discrete patches separated by a ground layer with low fuel hazard, such as mown grass.
- Position courtyards, gardens, and grassed areas in locations that facilitate the protection of the building.
- Install pebble/rock garden beds avoiding the use of mulch and wood chip.

Consideration should be given to vegetation fuel loads present on site. Careful thought must be given to the type and physical location of any proposed site landscaping.

**Inappropriately selected and positioned vegetation has the potential to ‘replace’ any previously removed fuel load.**

Whilst it is recognised that fire-retardant plant species are not always the most aesthetically pleasing choice for site landscaping, the need for adequate protection of life and property requires that a suitable balance between visual and safety concerns be considered. The below list of well know ground fire-retardant plants is intended as a guide only, check with your local council for information more specific to your area.

<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	<i>Dampiera</i>
<i>Lomandra hystrix</i>	<i>Scaevola aemula</i>
<i>Anigozanthos hybrids</i>	<i>Succulents (most)</i>
<i>Agapanthus orientalis</i>	<i>Carpobrotus (Pigface)</i>
<i>Liriope muscari</i>	<i>Cotyledon</i>
<i>Carpobrotus glaucescens</i>	<i>Ajuga australis</i>
<i>Casuarina glauca</i>	<i>Myoporum</i>
<i>Ajuga</i>	<i>Nepeta (catmint)</i>
<i>Brachyscome</i>	<i>Mesembryanthemum</i>

Strategically positioned elevated vegetation (fire-retardant tree and shrub species) can act as 'windbreaks' and 'ember filter', reducing wind velocities and suppressing the density of embers attacking a building. It is critical that this vegetation is:

- On flat ground place >30m from the building (ideally 40m forming the outer perimeter of the IPA).
- >20m separation from the hazardous vegetation.
- Located on the side of the bush fire hazard.
- No gardens of shrubs under the trees.
- Shrub patches no greater than 10m<sup>2</sup>.

The below list of well know fire-retardant trees and shrubs is intended as a guide only, check with your local council for information more specific to your area:

<i>Melia azederach (Cape Lilac)</i>	<i>Citrus trees</i>
<i>Brachychiton acerifolius (Flame tree)</i>	<i>Loquat</i>
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	<i>Arbutus Quercus (only the deciduous oak)</i>
<i>Pyrus (most ornamental pears)</i>	<i>Feijoa</i>
<i>Magnolia Little Gem</i>	<i>Gleditzia</i>
<i>Ulmus chinensis (Chinese Elm)</i>	<i>Ficus (all including edible)</i>
<i>Acacia howitii</i>	<i>Aloe (all)</i>
<i>Cercis (Judus Tree)</i>	<i>Correa</i>
<i>Acmena smithii (Lilypilly)</i>	<i>Acacia iteaphyla</i>
<i>Prunus (all including ornamental)</i>	<i>Scaevola crassifolia</i>
<i>Cupaniopsis anacardiopsis (Tuckeroo)</i>	<i>Viburnum tinus</i>
<i>Malus (apple trees)</i>	<i>Atriplex (saltbush)</i>
<i>Eleocarpus</i>	<i>Escallonia</i>
<i>Mullbery</i>	<i>Maireana (Cottonbush)</i>
<i>Eremophila (Emu bush)</i>	<i>Leucophyta brownii</i>
<i>Melaleuca nodosa</i>	<i>Plectranthus</i>
<i>Syzygium (lilypilly)</i>	<i>Santolina</i>
<i>Photinia</i>	<i>Coprosma</i>
<i>Rhagodia (saltbush)</i>	<i>Strelitzia</i>
<i>Acacia Cyclops</i>	<i>Senna (Silver Cassia)</i>

Recent post-fire research from the 2019/20 bushfire season suggests greenness factor (the extent to which plants are actively growing) had an impact on building survivability to a bushfire, indicating that maintained green grasses and landscape watering features are beneficial during a bushfire.

**It is essential that any vegetation and landscaped areas and surrounds are subject to ongoing fuel management and reduction to ensure that fine fuels do not build up.**

### **Landscaping features within the APZ**

A combination of hard (materials) and soft (design) landscaping will benefit the survivability of a building during a bushfire event. The type, quantity and condition of fuel has a very important effect on bushfire behaviour in proximity to a building. Poorly located vegetation that burns readily may expose a house to increased levels of radiant heat and flame contact.

- Non-flammable features such as tennis courts, swimming pools, dams, patios, driveways or paths should be incorporated into the proposal, especially on the northern and western sides of the proposed building.
- Remove other flammable objects from around the house. These include sheds, caravans, outdoor furniture, barbeques, gas bottles, wood piles and organic mulch.
- Avoid flammable mulches within the APZ. Alternatives include gravel, scoria, pebbles, shells or recycled crushed bricks.
- Use non-combustible, moveable containers and pots that can be relocated in the summer.
- Restrict the use of door mats and place firewood stacks >10m from building.
- Restrict the use of timber and use materials such as brick, earth, stone, concrete and galvanised iron
- Metal screens can help to shield your house from radiant heat, direct flame contact and ember attack.
- An intensive area of planting centred on a contoured garden mound provide an effective screening.
- Fencing in BAL 29 or within 6m of a building should be of non-combustible materials.
- Establish a path immediately around the external wall of the building. Do not place garden beds adjacent to the external fabric of the building and under windows.
- Clumping shrubs and trees so they do not form a continuous canopy and are separated by areas of low fuel (maintained green grass lawn).

Further information can be found here - [Landscaping for bushfires](#)

### **Access Requirements**

In the event of a serious bushfire threat to the proposed development, it will be essential to ensure that adequate ingress/ egress and the provision of defensible space are afforded in the development/building design.

#### **Local Area Traffic Management (LATM)**

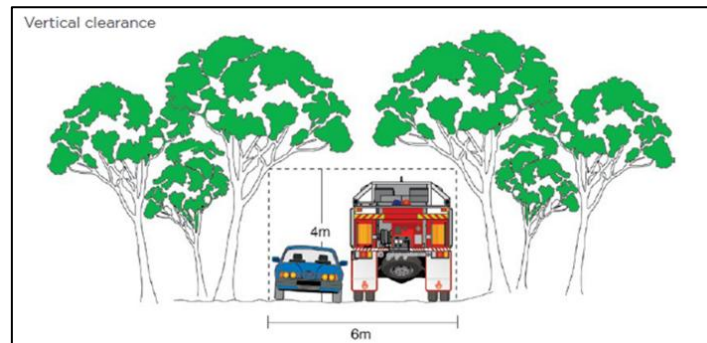
The objective of LATM is to attain an acceptable level of speed, volume, and composition of traffic within a local area and reduce the number of road accidents. This is achieved by modifying the street environment through the installation of various traffic control devices. LATM devices by their nature are designed to restrict and or impede the movement of traffic, especially large vehicles, which conflicts with the intent for access required by the NSW RFS and may significantly increase response times for emergency services.

Where LATM devices are provided they are to be designed so that they do not impede fire vehicle access.

#### **Vertical clearance**

An unobstructed clearance height of 4 metres should be maintained above all access ways including clearance from building construction, archways, gateways/doorways, and overhanging structures (e.g., ducts, pipes, sprinklers, walkways, signs and beams). This also applies to vegetation overhanging roads and fire trails.

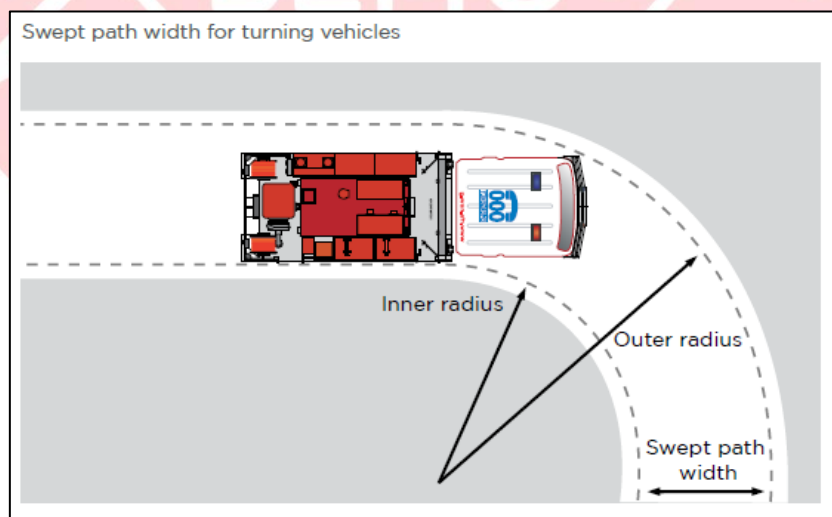


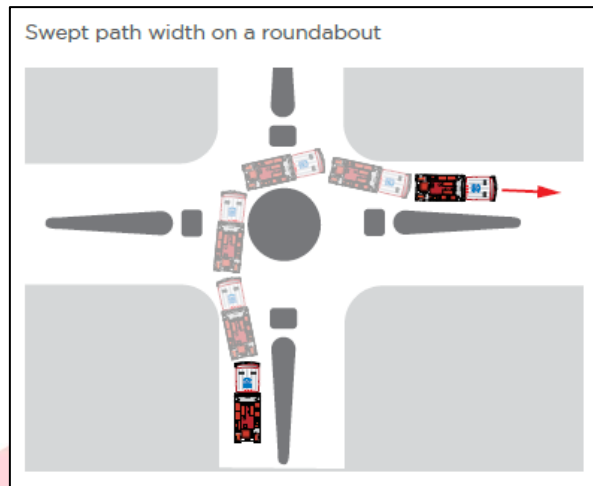


### Vehicle Turning Requirements

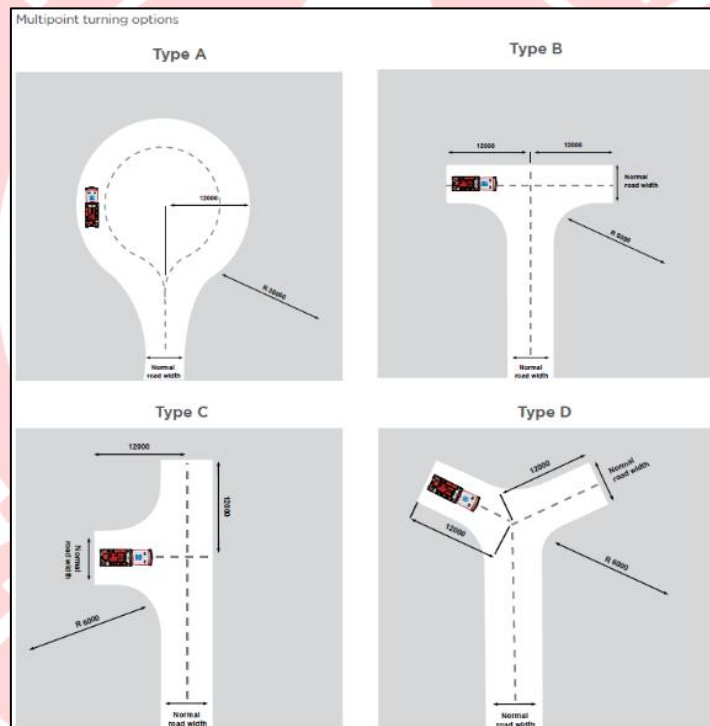
Fire crews must have rapid access and egress for vehicles, therefore curved carriageways should be constructed using the minimum swept path. The below diagrams from PBP2019 provide indication of the requirements to be achieved.

Minimum curve radius (inside edge (m))	Swept path (m) wide
<40	4.0
40 -69	3.0
70 - 100	2.7
>100	2.5





Where a turning head is proposed the NSW RFS requires that dead ends having a length greater than 20 metres should be provided with a turning head area which avoids multipoint turns.



### **Passing Bays**

The construction of passing bays, where required, shall be 20m in length, provide a minimum trafficable width at the passing point of 6m.



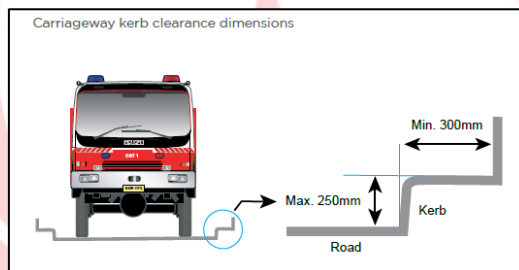
### **Parking**

Parking can create a pinch point within the road reserve. The location of parking should be carefully considered to ensure fire appliance access is unimpeded. Hydrants should be located clear of any parking areas to ensure that access is always available.



### **Kerb Dimensions**

All kerbs constructed around access lanes should be no higher than 250mm and free of vertical obstructions at least 300mm back from the kerb face to allow clearance for front and rear body overhang.



### **Road Types**

Property access is required to be 4m wide all-weather road. Can be sealed or unsealed.





## **Water Supply**

The intent of water measures is to provide adequate services of water for the protection of dwellings during and after the passage of a bush fire.

Where reticulated water supply is not provided, a static water supply for fire-fighting purposes should be above-ground, accessible, clearly marked and manufactured from concrete or metal. If raised, the tank stand should be made from non-combustible material. These static water supplies (tanks) should be positioned on the non-hazard side of the building and have 65mm Storz outlet with a ball valve fitted to the outlet within the IPA. If not appropriate, they should be appropriately shielded to protect the tank and fire fighters accessing the water. Category 1 fire appliances should be able to access within 4 m of static water supply with a hardened ground surface to support this access.

All exposed water pipes, valves, taps and fittings should be metal and the supply line from tank to ball valve have the same bore size.

Where pumps are provided, they are a minimum 5hp or 3kW petrol or diesel-powered pump and are shielded against bush fire attack. Any hose and reel for firefighting connected to the pump shall be 19mm (internal diameter), and fire hose reels are constructed in accordance with AS/NZS 1221:1997 Fire hose reels and installed in accordance with AS 2441:2005 Installation of fire hose reels.

Where static water supply is provided the following signage should be installed at the front gate and at a location that is clearly visible (assume smoke) to approaching emergency services to guide them to the static water supply.

**STATIC WATER SUPPLY (SWS) PROGRAM**

During bush fires, firefighters often have difficulty accessing water to protect lives and property, with mains supply often not adequate during major bush fires.

The Static Water Supply (SWS) program aims to identify properties with sources of water that can be used for firefighting purposes.

Static water supplies include:

- > Swimming pools
- > Dams
- > Creeks
- > Rainwater tanks

If your house or property has a water source, such as a swimming pool, tank or dam, you can assist firefighters by prominently displaying a SWS plate at your property boundary so that it is readily visible from the road.

**! SWS signs are provided free of charge.**

Being a part of the SWS program may assist fire fighters to protect you and your neighbours' properties should a fire threaten.

If you have a pool, tank or dam with at least 3,000 litre capacity and wish to participate in the SWS Program, please contact your nearest NSW RFS Fire Control Centre.

For more information on what you can do to prepare for bush fire this season:

**NSW Rural Fire Service Website**  
[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.myfireplan.com.au](http://www.myfireplan.com.au)

**Bush Fire Information Line**  
 1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737)

**Your nearest NSW RFS Fire Control Centre:**

**NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE**

**SWS**

**NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE**

**PREPARE ACT SURVIVE**

## **Electricity, Gas supplies and Hazardous materials**

The intent of electricity, gas and hazardous material measures is to locate these utilities and materials so as not to contribute to the risk of fire to a building.

### ***Electricity***

Location of electricity services should limit the possibility of igniting the surrounding bush land or the fabric of buildings. Where practicable, electrical transmission lines are underground. If overhead, electrical transmission lines are installed with short pole spacing (30m), unless crossing gullies, gorges, or riparian areas, then no part of a tree is closer to a power line than the distance set out in accordance with the specifications in ISSC3 Guideline for Managing Vegetation Near Power Lines.

For further information visit <https://www.electricalsafety.com.au/>

### ***Gas***

Any reticulated or bottled gas should be installed and maintained according to the requirements of the relevant authorities and AS/NZS 1596:2014. All fixed gas cylinders are kept clear of all flammable materials to 10m and shielded on the hazard side. All above-ground pipes and connections to and from gas cylinders are metal, and polymer-sheathed flexible gas supply lines to gas meters adjacent to buildings are not permitted. Furthermore, if gas cylinders need to be kept close to the building, safety valves are directed away from the building and at least 2m away from any combustible material, so they do not act as a catalyst to combustion. Gas utilities should be positioned to not impede fire fighters accessing water supplies while undertaking suppression operations.

### ***Hazardous Materials***

Hazardous materials are any materials that can fuel the fire, such as leaf litter, grass, garden mulch and woodpiles. They can also be made up of solid combustibles or flammable liquids and gases such as petrol, kerosene, alcohol, LPG, natural gas, and acetylene. Vehicle, machinery, and other mechanical equipment that utilise fuels for operations can also be considered hazardous. The incorrect design and placement of carport and garages in residential developments could propagate fire towards the residential dwelling. Any liquids or fuels that are considered hazardous should be positioned away from the dominant bush fire threat. If located in a building/structure, it should be a minimum of 6m away from any other building. Vegetation surrounding these locations shall be maintained to IPA standards and the construction standards shall minimise the impact of ember attack to ignite the structure.

## **Construction Requirements**

### ***Groundwork and Sub-structure construction phase***

During the ground phase potential ignition sources of the subject development may include hot works, incorrect disposal of cigarette butts and hot exhausts from vehicles, electrical failures, and sparks from metal contact.

Groundwork and Sub-structure construction phase fire management plan should be developed. Preparation of the site should include mitigating fire ignition sources. This should include vegetation management such as slashing and mowing long grasses in and around the development site, car parking

and access tracks. This is especially important during summer months where Rates of Spread of fire can significantly increase due to the prevailing weather condition.

Handheld fire extinguishers should be carried on each vehicle and on site for quick access and suppression of fires.

Where neither reticulated water nor an existing static water supply is available during the construction phase, a temporary 10,000 litre Static Water Supply within proximity of the development site shall be provided before the commencement of any construction works. This temporary supply will allow for the replenishment of attending fire services which will facilitate the rapid suppression of any potential ignitions. The temporary supply may be removed when the prescribed fire-fighting water supply is installed.

### ***Ongoing Operations***

Routine inspections of bush fire safety systems and equipment generally occur annually and are supported by a Bushfire Plan. Ideally these inspections should occur moving out of the colder months in preparation for the bushfire season. The most common types of inspections that are required are surface, near surface (grasses and debris) and elevated (shrub) fire fuel level accumulation in APZs, canopy separation reequipments in APZs, and maintaining building fire hygiene such as cleaning gutters and down pipes.

Developing and annually reviewing a bushfire plan, no matter how big or small the development, is critical to the ongoing maintenance of the Bushfire Protection Measures identified within this report.

### ***Construction Standards***

Australian Standard 3959 "Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas" provides for six (6) levels of building construction these being BAL - Low, BAL - 12.5, BAL - 19, BAL - 29, BAL - 40 and BAL - FZ. The Australian Standard 3959 specifies construction standards for buildings within various Bushfire Attack Levels as determined by the Planning for Bushfire Protection – 2019 document.

### ***Retrofitting***

Any future alterations, extension to structures, even if they are complying, should consider the appropriate bushfire construction standards at that time. Homes built prior to August 2002 were not required to be built to meet bush fire construction standards. Constructions in Bush fire prone lands after August 2002 required bush fire construction standards, which have also changed over time.

The current construction standards are based on your Bush fire Attack Level (BAL). Evidence from large wildfire events over the last 20 years illustrate that house ignition is concentrated within 100m from the vegetation, although it can occur kilometres from the burning vegetation under worst case scenarios. Developments outside the bush fire prone area (100m from the vegetation) will benefit from increasing construction standards to withstand ember-attack to protect the building during a bush fire event.

When undertaking alterations and additions to a dwelling in Bush fire prone land only the new construction is required to conform with the current requirements, although this only partially protects your home.

Research has illustrated that ember-attack from the wildfire is the principal mechanism that ignites homes. The most vulnerable elements are timber decks, Eave fascia boards, gutters timber window frames and timber stairs. Furthermore, house-to-house fires occur following the ignition of a neighbouring



property. Appropriate amount of effort should be placed to ensure that vegetation and landscaping should be maintained to reduce the likelihood of ember attack igniting fire fuels near the house, and separation between neighbouring houses is achieved to reduce house-to-house fires. The use of non-combustible fencing and appropriately positioned windows can go a long way to reducing the risk of house-to-house fires.

While retrofitting identifies available construction protection methods as per AS3959 – *Construction of buildings in Bushfire Prone Area*, **it should be clearly understood that such building enhancements are complementary to good site preparation and vegetation management in the context of the bushfire survival plan.**

Routine maintenance is an important part of bushfire protection for your home, out-buildings and garden. For example, if a window/door metal shutter is fitted, it needs to work at the time of a bushfire threat just like your fire equipment needs to be ready to go.

Each retrofitting measure is a step towards making your home safer against the impact of embers and radiant heat in the event of a bushfire. If you want your home to be comparable to the construction requirements under AS 3959, then *ALL* the works associated with a particular BAL category will need to be undertaken.

Some of the basic retrofitting that can be undertaken:

- Enclose existing sub floors with suitable materials or construct the floor and structure with non-combustible materials
- Cover, seal, overlap, back or butt-joint all joints in the external surface material of walls to prevent gaps greater than 2mm.
- Seal vents, weepholes, breathers and openings with metal screens of aperture <2mm.
- Replace flammable external walls with non-combustible materials.
- Apply sarking-type material (flammability index >5) over the outer face of the building frame prior to re-fixing of any external cladding.
- Screen all windows and doors with metal screens of aperture <2mm and metal frames.
- Establish weather strips, draught excluders or draught seals around doors and panel lift garage doors.
- Garage roller doors could have guide tracks with a maximum gap area of 3mm and be fitted with a nylon brush in contact with the door.
- Above-ground, exposed water, gutter downpipes and gas supply pipes should be metal.
- incorporate gutter guards with a flammability index more than 5 when tested to AS1530.2, or aluminium, bronze, or stainless steel with maximum aperture of 5mm.
- Only use Bushfire resisting timber as specified in AS 3959 Appendix F.

Further information can be found at [Guide-retrofit-your-home-for-better-bushfire-protection.](#)

### **Electric Vehicles (EVs)**

EVs are an ever-growing part of the transport environment with government aims of EV vehicles dominating throughout the 2030's. There are a variety of different technologies, battery types, and chemistries in vehicles, e-scooter and e-bikes creating complexity on the risk of 'thermal runaway'.

Thermal runaway is an unstable chemical process that begins when heat generated within a battery exceeds the amount of heat that is dissipated to its surroundings, which can lead to the battery catch fire. EV batteries tend to put out toxic fumes resulting in suppression difficulties.

Although the chances of batteries catching fire is relatively small <0.1%, approximately 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of fires occur during charging. the location of residential parking of Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs) vehicles should be considered when planning inconsideration of occupied buildings and extinguishment requirements.

Having a smoke/heat alarm, a F-500 (class A, B and F) Lithium-Ion Battery fire extinguisher in an open-air charging station (unenclosed building) that is location >6m from any building or flammable vegetation will significantly mitigate risk of a EV fire spreading.

Further information can be obtained at: <https://www.evfiresafe.com/>

### **Bushfire Emergency / Survival Plan**

No matter how big or small the development is within a bush fire prone area, a bush fire plan is critical to preparing the property in the event of a bush fire. To ensure appropriate measures are taken, the worst-case scenario bush fire behaviour should be used to determine the course of action.

There is extreme noise, smoke, heat, and wind during the passing of a bush fire front under worst-case conditions. Vision, hearing, breathing, and communication are significantly affected during this period.

State bush fire authorities have established kits to help residential and small property owners to develop appropriate plans to plan and prepare for bush fire events. In NSW Bush fire survival Plans can be accessed from <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/bush-fire-survival-plan>.

The principal elements of the Bush fire survival Plans are:

- Know your risk.
- Know and understand the bush fire alert levels.
- Access to 'Fires Near Me' app.
- Knowledge of Local radio, local ABC/emergency broadcaster frequency, and TV.
- Prepare yourself, your home and your family.
- Leave early or prepare to stay.
  - If leaving, when to leave, where will you go, how will I get there, what will I take, who will you call, what is your back-up plan.
  - If you stay, do you have all the equipment you need, what are the signal to start defending the dwelling, what to do before, during and after the passing of the fire front, do all members of the household know what to do, check your equipment, develop action checklist, what is your back-up plan.
- Discuss all elements with your family and neighbours.

Furthermore, knowledge of escape routes (generally the public road system around your dwelling), refuges and location of any nearby Neighborhood Safer Places is critical knowledge prior to a bush fire event.

A bushfire emergency management and evacuation plans are prepared consistent with Australian Standard AS 3745:2010 Planning for emergencies in facilities. State agencies also have developed guidelines to facilitate the development of the documents and other Australian Standards are relevant for different development type. Bushfire emergency management and evacuation plans should be complemented with a Bushfire Management Plan (BMP).

## **A simple 4 step process can be undertaken to develop a basic bushfire emergency survival plan:**

### **DISCUSS**

#### **STEP 1**

#### **DISCUSS WHAT TO DO IF A BUSH FIRE THREATENS YOUR HOME**



Many households find that having a discussion over dinner works best as everybody is together and focussed.

[Download the Step 1 discussion guide \(PDF, 985.3 KB\).](#)

### **PREPARE**

#### **STEP 2**

#### **PREPARE YOUR HOME AND GET IT READY FOR BUSH FIRE SEASON**



There are simple things you can do around your home to prepare it for a bush fire, like keeping the grass low and having a cleared area around your home.

[Download the Step 2 checklist \(PDF, 595.5 KB\).](#)

### **KNOW**

#### **STEP 3**

#### **KNOW THE BUSH FIRE ALERT LEVELS**



If there is a fire in your area you will find its alert level on the NSW RFS website and in the 'Fires Near Me' app. You need to keep track of the alert level so you know what you should do.

[Download Step 3 \(PDF, 166.1 KB\).](#)

### **KEEP**

#### **STEP 4**

#### **KEEP ALL THE BUSH FIRE INFORMATION NUMBERS, WEBSITES AND THE SMARTPHONE APP**



In a bush fire, it's important that you stay up to date on conditions in your area.

[Download Step 4 \(PDF, 219.1 KB\).](#)



## **Bushfire Management Plan**

No matter how big or small the development is within a bushfire prone area, a bushfire plan is critical to preparing the property in the event of a bushfire. To ensure appropriate measures are taken, the worst-case scenario bushfire behaviour should be used to determine the course of action.

State bushfire authorities have established kits to help residential and small property owners to develop appropriate plans to plan and prepare for bushfire events. These can be accessed by contacting your local fire authority.

For larger development such as industrial, commercial and developments that accommodate vulnerable people, more comprehensive emergency management requirements and procedures should be developed.

At a minimum, the Bushfire Management Plan should illustrate the Bushfire Protection Measures (location and type of hazard (vegetation), defensible space, access, water, and construction standards) that will be implemented as part of the development to reduce the risk from bushfire to an acceptable level and should be clearly displayed within the property to ensure current occupants are aware of the bush fire risk.

Furthermore, the BMP can provide information that assists in wildfire suppression operations, such as:

- 24/7 emergency contact details including alternative telephone contact.
- Location of site infrastructure and assets.
- Fire-fighting water supply plan.
- Site access and neighbour/ internal road plan.
- Identification of built, natural and cultural assets in and around the site.
- Emergency escape routes, refuges, and location of any nearby Neighbourhood Safer Places.
- Location of Fire Management Zone, specifically Asset Protection Zones.
- Location of hazards (Physical, Chemical and Electrical) that will impact on fire-fighting operations and procedures to manage identified hazards during fire-fighting operations.
- Aviation assets (helipads and aviation water supplies) and risks (powerlines).
- Fire history in and around the site, and
- Schedule of on-ground works and review and updating schedule.

### **Construction in Flame Zones**

Flame zone is defined as 'radiant heat received by the proposed building exceeds 40kW/m<sup>2</sup> or calculated by the point of potential flame contact, whichever occurs first'.

BAL FZ development applications should be referred to the NSW RFS. To satisfy the performance requirement the following applies:

1. Buildings subject to BAL FZ must comply with specific conditions of development consent for construction at this level.
2. The requirements above as modified by the development consent following consultation with the RFS under Section 4.14 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979; or
3. The requirements of (a) as modified by development consent with a bush fire safety authority under Section 100b of the Rural Fires Act 1997 for the purposes of integrated development

Although Section 9 of AS3959 2009 is excluded in NSW, it nonetheless should be used as a basis for assessment of compliance for construction in the flame zone.

For developments in the flame zone (as determined above), systems complying with AS3959 Section 9 will be considered, except that there is to be no flaming of the specimen unless:

1. The situation is infill development and specifically alterations and additions,
2. The outcome as the result of the alterations and additions is positive regarding bush fire safety (i.e., a better outcome is achieved),
3. The applicants are referred to the link that has the Bush Fire Survival Plan and engaged in the bush fire issues associated with their situation, and
4. The flaming is not considered to add to the existing overall bush fire risk of the development.

Materials that allow flaming can be problematic in flame zone and are not generally supported by the NSW RFS.

**Construction elements of the building with 10m of the bushfire hazard are generally required to conform with AS1530.8.2.**

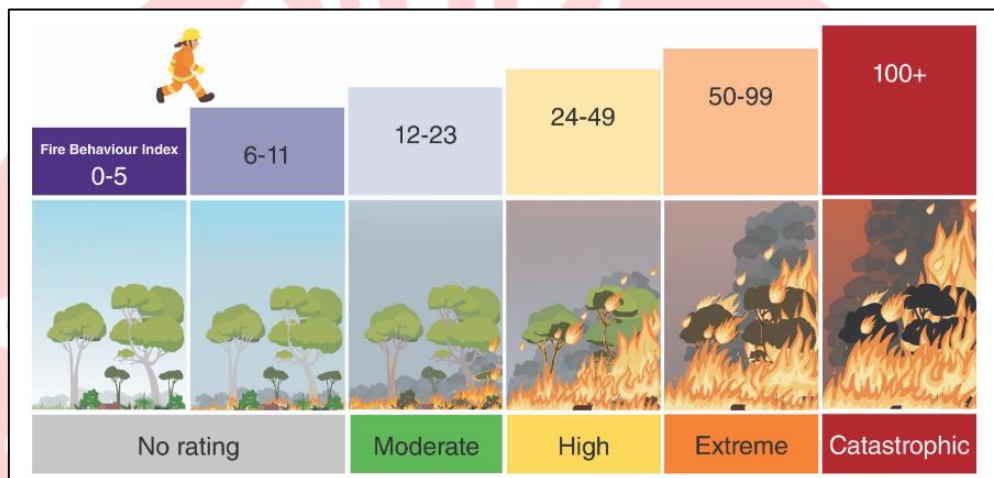
An integrated approach to the construction standards, design, and type of hazardous industry in Flame Zones will provide the best outcome to establish a development that will sustain bush fire attack.

## **Updated Australian Fire Danger Rating System**

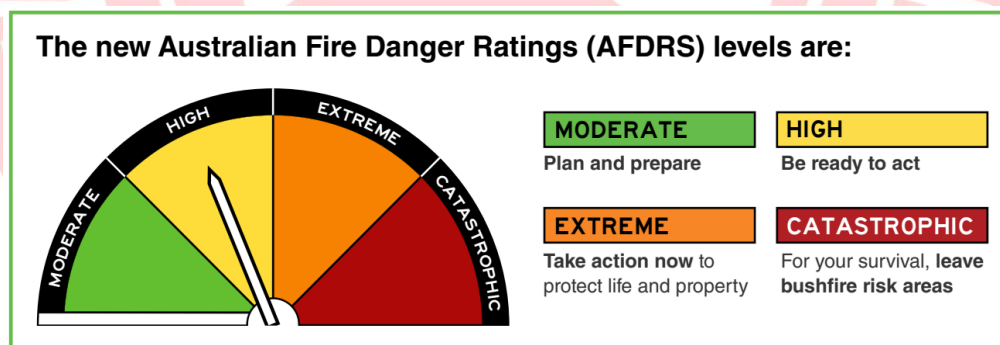
The principal objective of the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) is to implement a more accurate and nationally consistent system that will enable improved decision-making by response agencies and industry and provoke the desired community response to messaging in order to improve public safety. More information at <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/news-and-media/newfdr>

The AFDRS uses the latest scientific understanding about weather, fuel and how fire behaves in different types of vegetation to improve the reliability of fire danger forecasts. This strengthens the ability of those working in emergency services to be better prepared, make improved decisions, and provide better advice to the community.

It is aimed at a simplified, action-oriented Fire Danger Rating System.



Accessed from AFAC: <https://www.afac.com.au/initiative/afdrs/afdrs-faqs>



Accessed from AFAC: <https://www.afac.com.au/initiative/afdrs/afdrs-faqs>

**MODERATE:** *Plan and Prepare* - Have a plan and be ready to act if a fire starts.

**HIGH:** *Be ready to act* - Be alert for fires in your area and be ready to leave or be ready to defend.

**EXTREME:** *Take action* - Act before a fire starts.

**CATASTROPHIC:** *Leave high risk areas* - Protect your life, leave early.