

## Sebastian Tauni

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**From:** Martha Dotter <Martha.Dotter@rfs.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 15 December 2020 5:29 PM  
**To:** Alan Dalton; Noelle Warwar; Adrian Hohenzollern  
**Cc:** Gina Metcalfe; Sebastian Tauni; Jeff Lucas  
**Subject:** RE: Wollondilly

Good afternoon Adrian, Noelle and Alan

My apologies for the delay in getting back to you. I provide the following advice with regard to the request for the NSW RFS to provide urgent comment on 7 outstanding Wollondilly Council Planning Proposal's (PPs), which DPIE are seeking to determine in the immediate future:

- I confirm that the NSW RFS supports Wollondilly Council in carrying out its intended Shire wide Natural and Manmade Hazards a Emergency Management Study (our understanding is this is planned to occur during 2021).
- I concur that in order to give more contemporary advice on any of the 7 proposals (outlined on 10 November in the email from Adrian), at minimum the NSW RFS would require:
  - (i) a bridging study addressing the previous NSW RFS comments issued for each PP (including clear advice as to any changes which have occurred to the PP since our initial comments were issued) and
  - (ii) an assessment of the PP against Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019 provisions (specifically chapter 4 - Strategic Planning)
- Ideally Council's intended Natural and Manmade Hazards a Emergency Management Study would be first completed in order to support PPs resulting in increased residential/rural-residential densities within the LGA. As evidenced in the recent 2019/2020 bush fire season Wollondilly experienced a number of evacuation and traffic management issues as a result of bush fires, and the NSW RFS holds concerns that the cumulative impacts of 'spot rezoning's' may exacerbate these adverse experiences. A number of recommendations of the recent Royal Commission and NSW Inquiry into Bush Fires and Hazards identify evacuation and access issues as ongoing areas requiring improvements in the NSW Planning System. The NSW RFS is of the opinion that including relevant recommendations could assist Council to better inform their overarching study and would be useful to consider in any strategic study to support a site specific PP going forward.
- The NSW RFS previous comments on the 7 subject PPs should be interpreted on the basis that that the PPs were considered in light of Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006 (the applicable guideline at the time, now superseded). The current Planning for Bush Fire Protection guidelines (2019) incorporate a number of improved community protection outcomes, improved science and are considered broadly to be current best practice. In recognition that no determination has been made on the 7 PPs, the NSW RFS suggests that Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019 should, at a minimum, be considered by any approval authority in assessing undetermined PPs. Currently, the NSW RFS have not independently assessed the 7 PPs against the current guidelines, and this responsibility should therefore be assumed by the relevant approval authority.
- In conclusion, the NSW RFS would recommend the subject PPs are considered with regard to the current Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019 guidelines and importantly considered against the broader cumulative impact in the LGA, specifically with regard to strategic access and traffic considerations and there being suitable evacuation options.

Please feel free to contact me should you require any clarification or further information.

Regards  
Martha



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**From:** Alan Dalton <Alan.Dalton@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 15 December 2020 4:34 PM  
**To:** Jeff Lucas <Jeff.Lucas@rfs.nsw.gov.au>; Martha Dotter <Martha.Dotter@rfs.nsw.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Wollondilly  
**Importance:** High

Jeff and Martha

Sorry to bother, but I've not been able to get hold of you by phone and need to check in with you about the progress of legacy planning proposals at Wollondilly. One of our Dep Secs, Brett Whitworth, is briefing the local MP tomorrow to discuss his recommendation on them.

Andrew Hohenzollern emailed Martha on 9 December about this – please see first email in attached chain.

Noelle has been in contact with you about this, but is ill, so I'm doing a favour and following up in her place.

Do you have an update, please?

Thank you,

Alan

**Alan Dalton**  
**Director**

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