



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Port Stephens Council
PO Box 42
RAYMOND TERRACE NSW 2324

Your reference: (CNR-55627) DA 16-2023-259-1
Our reference: DA20230621002679-Original-1

ATTENTION: Dylan Mitchell

Date: Tuesday 17 October 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

Integrated Development Application

s100B – SFPP – School

36 Elkin Avenue Heatherbrae NSW 2324, 1//DP120189, 1//DP579025, 1//DP540114

I refer to your correspondence dated 07/07/2023 seeking general terms of approval for the above Integrated Development Application.

The New South Wales Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) has considered the information submitted. General Terms of Approval, under Division 4.8 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, and a Bush Fire Safety Authority, under section 100B of the *Rural Fires Act 1997*, are now issued subject to the following conditions:

Asset Protection Zones

The intent of measure is to provide sufficient space and maintain reduced fuel loads to ensure radiant heat levels at the buildings are below critical limits and prevent direct flame contact.

1. At the commencement of building works the entire site must be maintained as an inner protection area in accordance with the requirements of Appendix 4 of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019* as follows:

- north and north west for a distance of 40 metres;
- west for a distance of 36 metres.

When establishing and maintaining an inner protection area, the following requirements apply:

- tree canopy cover should be less than 15% at maturity;
- trees at maturity should not touch or overhang the building;
- lower limbs should be removed up to a height of 2 m above the ground;
- tree canopies should be separated by 2 to 5 m;
- preference should be given to smooth-barked and evergreen trees;
- large discontinuities or gaps in the shrubs layer should be provided to slow down or break the progress of fire towards buildings;
- shrubs should not be located under trees;
- shrubs should 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;

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- grass should be kept mown (as a guide, grass should be kept to no more than 100mm in height); and
- leaves and vegetation debris should be removed regularly.

Construction Standards

The intent of measure is to minimise the risk of bush fire attack and provide protection for emergency services personnel, residents and others assisting firefighting activities.

2(a). The existing buildings must be upgraded to improve ember protection by enclosing all openings (excluding roof tile spaces) or covering openings with a non-corrosive metal screen mesh with a maximum aperture of 2mm. Where applicable, this includes any subfloor areas, openable windows, vents, weep holes and eaves. External doors are to be fitted with draft excluders.

2(b). New construction must comply with section 3 and section 5 (BAL 12.5) Australian Standard AS3959-2018 *Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas* or the relevant requirements of the *NASH Standard - Steel Framed Construction in Bushfire Areas* (incorporating amendment A - 2015). New construction must also comply with the construction requirements in Section 7.5 of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*.

Access - Internal Roads

The intent of measure is to provide safe operational access for emergency services personnel in suppressing a bush fire while residents are accessing or egressing an area.

3. Access roads for special fire protection purpose (SFPP) developments must comply with general requirements of Table 6.8b of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*:

- SFPP 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; and
- 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

Water and Utility Services

The intent of measure is to provide adequate services of water for the protection of buildings during and after the passage of a bush fire, and to locate gas and electricity so as not to contribute to the risk of fire to a building.

4. The provision of water, electricity and gas must comply with the following in accordance with Table 6.8c of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*:

reticulated water is to be provided to the development where available;

- fire hydrant, spacing, design and sizing complies with the relevant clauses of Australian Standard AS 2419;
- hydrants are and not located within any road carriageway;
- reticulated water supply to urban subdivisions uses a ring main system for areas with perimeter roads;
- fire hydrant flows and pressures comply with the relevant clauses of AS 2419;
- all above-ground water service pipes are metal, including and up to any taps;
- where practicable, electrical transmission lines are underground;
- where overhead, electrical transmission lines are proposed as follows:
 - 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*.
- 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;
- reticulated or bottled gas is installed and maintained in accordance with AS/NZS 1596:2014 - *The storage and handling of LP Gas*, the requirements of relevant authorities, and metal piping is used;

- all fixed gas cylinders are kept clear of all flammable materials to a distance of 10m and shielded on the hazard side;
- connections to and from gas cylinders are metal; polymer-sheathed flexible gas supply lines are not used; and
- above-ground gas service pipes are metal, including and up to any outlets.

Landscaping Assessment

The intent of measure is to minimise the risk of bush fire attack and provide protection for emergency services personnel, residents and others assisting firefighting activities.

5. Landscaping within the required asset protection zone must comply with Appendix 4 of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*. In this regard, the following principles are to be incorporated:

- A minimum 1 metre wide area (or to the property boundary where the setbacks are less than 1 metre), suitable for pedestrian traffic, must be provided around the immediate curtilage of the building;
- Planting is limited in the immediate vicinity of the building;
- Planting does not provide a continuous canopy to the building (i.e. trees or shrubs are isolated or located in small clusters);
- Landscape species are chosen to ensure tree canopy cover is less than 15% (IPA), and less than 30% (OPA) at maturity and trees do not touch or overhang buildings;
- Avoid species with rough fibrous bark, or which retain/shed bark in long strips or retain dead material in their canopies;
- Use smooth bark species of trees species which generally do not carry a fire up the bark into the crown;
- Avoid planting of deciduous species that may increase fuel at surface/ ground level (i.e. leaf litter);
- Avoid climbing species to walls and pergolas;
- Locate combustible materials such as woodchips/mulch, flammable fuel stores away from the building;
- Locate combustible structures such as garden sheds, pergolas and materials such as timber garden furniture away from the building; and
- Low flammability vegetation species are used

Emergency and Evacuation Planning Assessment

The intent of measure is to provide suitable emergency and evacuation arrangements for occupants of SFPP developments.

5. A Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan must be prepared in accordance with Table 6.8d of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019* and be consistent with the NSW RFS document: A Guide to Developing a Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan, NSW RFS Schools Program Guide; Australian Standard AS 3745:2010 Planning for emergencies in facilities; and Australian Standard AS 4083:2010 Planning for emergencies – Health care facilities (where applicable). The Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan should include planning for the early relocation of occupants.

General Advice – Consent Authority to Note

The recommendations are based on the Architectural Plans prepared by EJE Architecture Pty Ltd, Rev G, dated 04-9-23, Civil works drawings by Stantec Australia Pty Ltd, Rev F, dated 01-09-2023 and Bushfire report by MJD Environmental (Matt Doherty), job no. 22057, version 4, dated 09/10/2023.

Council is advised that where a minor amendment to the above-noted documents is proposed, Council may use its discretion to determine whether the minor amendment warrants further assessment by the NSW RFS.

For any queries regarding this correspondence, please contact Khatera Tokhi on 1300 NSW RFS.

Yours sincerely,



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

BUSH FIRE SAFETY AUTHORITY

SFPP – School

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This Bush Fire Safety Authority is issued on behalf of the Commissioner of the NSW Rural Fire Service under s100b of the Rural Fires Act (1997) subject to the attached General Terms of Approval.

This authority confirms that, subject to the General Terms of Approval being met, the proposed development will meet the NSW Rural Fire Service requirements for Bush Fire Safety under *s100b of the Rural Fires Act 1997*.

Timothy Carroll

Manager Planning & Environment Services
Built & Natural Environment

Tuesday 17 October 2023