



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Central Coast Council
PO Box 20
WYONG NSW 2259

Your reference: CNR-64057 DA/2317/2023
Our reference: DA20231221005809-Original-1

ATTENTION: Salli Pendergast

Date: Wednesday 3 January 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Development Application
s4.14 - Other - Industry
3 Warren Road Warnervale NSW 2259, 410//DP1058215

I refer to your correspondence dated 21/12/2023 seeking advice regarding bush fire protection for the above Development Application in accordance with section 4.14 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The New South Wales Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) has considered the information submitted and provides the following recommended conditions:

General Conditions

1. A Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan must be prepared consistent with the NSW RFS document: A Guide to Developing a Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan. The plan must also include the following:

- contact details for the local Rural Fire Service office;
- procedures for coordinated evacuation of the site in consultation with local emergency services.

A copy of the Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan should be provided to the Local Emergency Management Committee for its information prior to the occupation of the development.

Asset Protection Zones

The intent of measures is to minimise the risk of bush fire attack and provide protection for emergency services personnel, residents and others assisting fire fighting activities. To achieve this, the following conditions shall apply:

2. From the commencement of building works and in perpetuity, the entire property must be managed as an inner protection area in accordance with the following requirements of Appendix 4 of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*:

- tree canopy cover should be less than 15% at maturity;
- trees at maturity should not touch or overhang the building;

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- 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;
- 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 measures is that buildings are designed and constructed to withstand the potential impacts of bush fire attack. To achieve this, the following conditions shall apply:

3. New construction must be undertaken using non-combustible materials.

4. Essential equipment, fuel tanks and on site chemical storage should be designed and housed in such a way as to minimise the impact of bush fires on the capabilities of the infrastructure during bush fire emergencies. It should also be designed and maintained so that it will not serve as a bush fire risk to surrounding landscape.

Access - Internal Roads

The intent of measures is to provide safe operational access for emergency services personnel in suppressing a bush fire, while residents are accessing or egressing an area. To achieve this, the following conditions shall apply:

5. Property access roads must comply with the following requirements of Table 7.4a of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*:

- property access roads are two-wheel drive, all-weather roads;
- the capacity of road surfaces and any bridges/causeways is sufficient to carry fully loaded firefighting vehicles (up to 23 tonnes); bridges and causeways clearly, indicate load rating.
- there is suitable access for a Category 1 fire appliance to within 4m of the static water supply where no reticulated supply is available;
- minimum 4m carriageway width;
- a minimum vertical clearance of 4m to any overhanging obstructions, including tree branches;
- traffic management devices are constructed to not prohibit access by emergency services vehicles;
- parking is provided outside of the carriageway width;
- hydrants are located clear of parking areas;
- property access must provide a suitable turning area in accordance with Appendix 3 of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*;
- 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 cross fall is not more than 10 degrees;
- maximum grades for sealed roads do not exceed 15 degrees and not more than 10 degrees for unsealed roads.

Water and Utility Services

The intent of measures is to minimise the risk of bush fire attack and provide protection for emergency services personnel, residents and others assisting fire fighting activities. To achieve this, the following conditions shall apply:

6. The provision of water, electricity and gas must comply with the following in accordance with Table 7.4a of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*:

- reticulated water is to be provided to the development where available,
- all above-ground water service pipes external to the building 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,
- 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 measures is to minimise the risk of bush fire attack and provide protection for emergency services personnel, residents and others assisting fire fighting activities. To achieve this, the following conditions shall apply:

7. 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.

General Advice - Consent Authority to Note

- The recommendations of the Fire Safety Study prepared under the DPIE Hazardous Industry Planning and Assessment Papers (HIPAPs) should be considered in addition to the recommendations of this report.

For any queries regarding this correspondence, please contact Elaine Chandler on 1300 NSW RFS.

Yours sincerely,

Surbhi Chhabra

**Supervisor Development Assessment & Plan
Built & Natural Environment**