Bushfire Assessment Report

Proposed:Batting Cage

At:
Aquatic Reserve,
Frenchs Forest

Reference Number: 250984

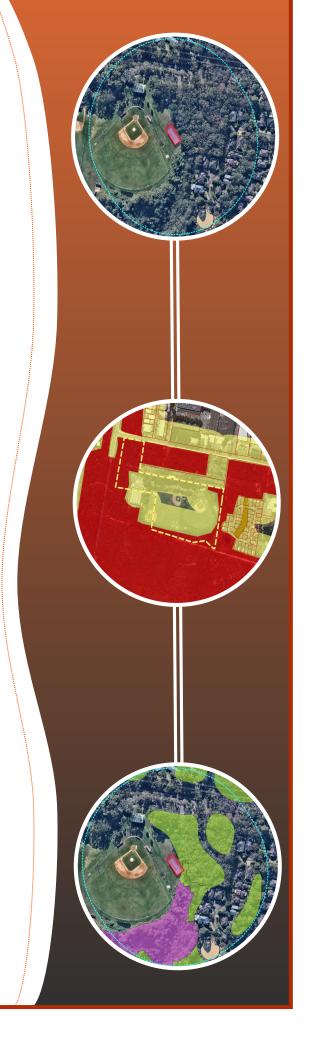
26 August 2025



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The onus is on the applicant to cross reference this document with any conditions of consent issued by Council or any requirements supplied by the NSW Rural Fire Service following development approval. BCBHS can review and cross reference these documents however the onus is on the applicant to provide them to us and request this review — Building Code and Bushfire Hazard Solutions Pty. Ltd. is not in a position to track every DA through Council and we rely upon the applicant to undertake this role as project co-ordinator.

Where any discrepancy between this document and the development approval or the NSW Rural Fire Service requirements is found, the conditions of consent always take precedence until such time as an application to review, amend or vary these conditions is approved.

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Version Control				
Version Date Author Reviewed by				Details
1	26/08/2025	Andrew Muirhead	Stuart McMonnies	Final Report

List of Abbreviations:

APZ Asset Protection Zone

AS3959 Australian Standard 3959 – 2018 as amended

BAL Bushfire Attack Level

BCA Building Code of Australia

BPMs Bushfire Protection Measures

BPLM Bushfire Prone Land Map

Council Northern Beaches Council

DA Development Application

ELVIS Elevation and Depth Foundation Spatial Data – Geoscience Australia

EP&A Act Environmental Planning and Assessment Act - 1979

ESD Ecologically Sustainable Development

FRNSW Fire and Rescue NSW

IPA Inner Protection Area

NCC National Construction Code

NP National Park

NSP Neighbourhood Safer Places

OPA Outer Protection Area

PBP Planning for Bush Fire Protection – 2019

ROW Right of Way

RF Act Rural Fires Act - 1997

RFS NSW Rural Fire Service

SEPP State Environmental Planning Policy

SFPP Special Fire Protection Purpose

SWS Static Water Supply

1.0 Introduction

Building Code and Bushfire Hazard Solutions P/L has been engaged to provide an independent Bushfire Assessment Report for the proposed Batting Cage within an existing allotment located at Aquatic Reserve, Frenches Forest (Lot 7349 DP 1167548), referred to as the subject site herein.

We have been advised that the building attracts a 9b classification under the National Construction Code 2019

Northern Beaches Council's Bushfire Prone Land Map identifies the subject property as containing Category 1 Vegetation and the Vegetation Buffer therefore PBP must apply in this instance.

The proposed building works are located on bushfire prone land and therefore captured under section 4.14 application under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act* 1979, which requires compliance with the specifications and requirements of Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019.

The application of PBP requires satisfactory demonstration of the aim and objectives and the specific objectives and bushfire protection measures relevant to the type of development.

In this instance in addition to the aim and objectives detailed in Chapter 1 'Introduction' the proposal must satisfy the specific objectives and bushfire protection measures detailed in Chapter 8 'Other Development' of PBP.

In accordance with section 8.3.11 'Public assembly buildings' of PBP as the subject building has a floor area of less than 500m² the development does <u>not</u> trigger the application of the Special Fire Protection Purpose requirements.



Figure 01: Extract from Northern Beaches Council's Bushfire Prone Land Map

2.0 Legislative Requirements

The subject site is designated as Bushfire Prone Land (Figure 01).

In accordance with section 4.14 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act* 1979 development consent cannot be granted for the carrying out of development for any purpose (other than a subdivision of land that could lawfully be used for residential or rural residential purposes or development for a special fire protection purpose) on bush fire prone land unless the consent authority:

- (a) is satisfied that the development conforms to the specifications and requirements of the version (as prescribed by the regulations) of the document entitled *Planning for Bush Fire Protection*, or
- (b) has been provided with a certificate by a person who is recognised by the NSW Rural Fire Service as a qualified consultant in bush fire risk assessment stating that the development conforms to the relevant specifications and requirements.

This Bushfire Assessment Report and accompanying certificate has been prepared by persons who are recognised by the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) as qualified in bushfire risk assessment and has been accredited by the Fire Protection Association of Australia as Level 3 BPAD qualified practitioners.

3.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this Bushfire Assessment Report is to provide the applicant and Council with an independent bushfire assessment together with appropriate recommendations for both new building construction and bushfire mitigation measures considered necessary having regard to construction within a designated 'bushfire prone' area.

The recommendations contained within this report may assist in forming the basis of any specific construction conditions and/or bushfire mitigation measures that Council and/or the NSW Rural Fire Service may elect to place within any consent conditions issued for the subject Development Application.

4.0 Scope of this Report

The scope of this report is limited to providing a bushfire assessment and recommendations for the subject property. Where reference has been made to the surrounding lands, this report does not purport to directly assess those lands; rather it may discuss bushfire impact and/or progression through those lands and possible bushfire impact to the subject property.

5.0 Compliance Tables & Notes

The following table sets out the project's compliance with *Planning for Bush Fire Protection – 2019* for the proposed wors

	Northeast	Southeast	Southwest	Northwest
Vegetation Structure	Forest	Forest	Managed Land	Forest
Effective Slope	0 degrees & up	0 - 5 degrees down	N/A	0 - 5 degrees down
Available Asset Protection Zone	>6 metres	>5 metres	>140 metres	>100 metres
Significant Landscape Features	Maintained grounds	Maintained grounds	Baseball Field	Baseball Field

Asset Protection Zones

One of the objectives underpinning Planning for Bush Fire Protection is to provide appropriate separation between a hazard and buildings which, in combination with other measures, prevent the likely fire spread to buildings.

In this instance the proposal provides a 5 metre defendable space around the proposed building.

The separation from the hazard interfaces includes maintained land entirely within the subject site, including an existing baseball field.

Construction Level

In relation to the proposed batting cage section 8.3.11 of PBP states:

Public assembly buildings are not defined as SFPP by the RF Reg but require referral under EP&A Act s.4.14 to the NSW RFS. Buildings used for public assembly with a floor space area of greater than 500m² are required to consider bush fire. These developments will be treated technically as SFPP due to the evacuation challenges presented by large numbers of occupants.

The proposed building has a floor area of less than 500m² (495.3m²) and therefore does not require technical assessment as SFPP development.

Section 8.1 of PBP states that the development will need to satisfy the aim and objectives of PBP which are:

- > afford buildings and their occupants protection from exposure to a bush fire;
- provide for a defendable space to be located around buildings;
- provide appropriate separation between a hazard and buildings which, in combination with other measures, prevent the likely fire spread to buildings;
- ensure that appropriate operational access and egress for emergency service personnel and occupants is available;
- provide for ongoing management and maintenance of BPMs; and
- > ensure that utility services are adequate to meet the needs of firefighters.

The proposed building will be constructed out of non-combustible materials. The building will have ember protection to afford the building and its occupants protection from the exposures of a bushfire.

The proposed building will have a 5 metre defendable space and along with the proposed construction will prevent the likely spread of fire.

6.0 Aerial view of the subject area

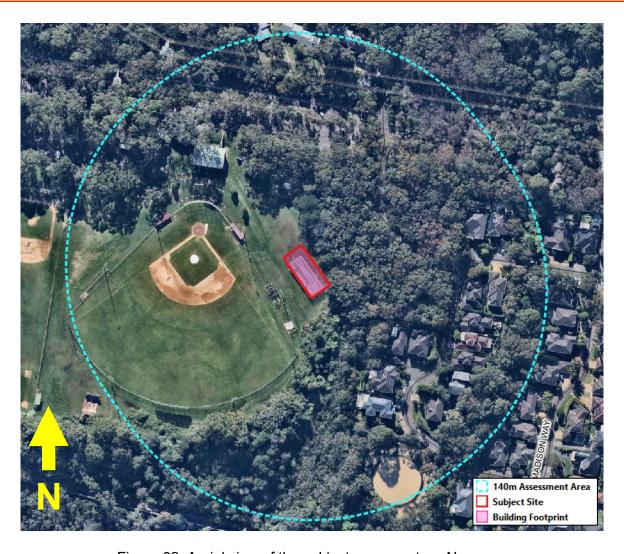


Figure 02: Aerial view of the subject area courtesy Nearmap

7.0 Site Assessment

A representative of Building Code & Bushfire Hazard Solutions completed a site inspection of the subject site and surrounding area on 13th August 2025.

In addition, the following external data sources have been relied upon for this assessment:

- Aerial imagery of the subject area (NSW Spatial Services & Nearmap);
- 1 metre contour mapping of the subject area (Elevation and Depth Foundation Spatial Data Geoscience Australia)
- NSW Planning Portal Spatial Viewer
- Vegetation mapping (NSW State Vegetation)
- NSW Bush Fire Prone Land (ePlanning Portal)

7.01 Location

The subject site is an existing allotment legally identified as Lot 7349 DP 1167548 and located at Aquatic Reserve, Frenches Forest.

The subject site is located within Northern Beaches Council's local government area and zoned RE1: Public Recreation and C2: Environmental Conservation pursuant to *Warringah Local Environmental Plan 2011*.

The overall site has street access to Aquatic Drive to the north and the batting cage is located within Aquatic Reserve.

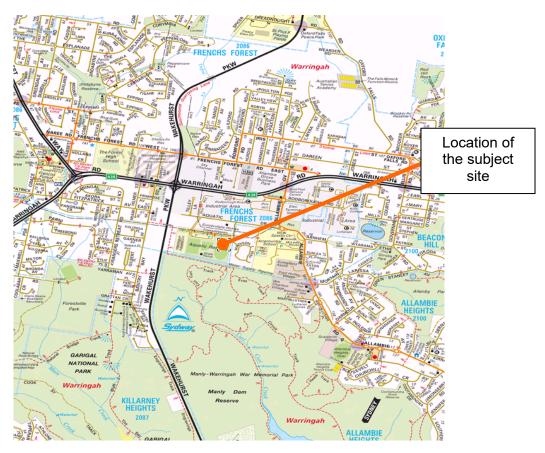


Figure 03: Extract from street-directory.com.au

7.02 Fire Weather

The Fire Danger Index (FDI) required to be used for development assessment purposes is based on the local government boundaries, being Northern Beaches Council in this instance.

In accordance with the NSW Rural Fire Service publication 'NSW Local Government Areas FDI' (2017) Northern Beaches Council forms part of the Greater Sydney Region Fire Weather District and attracts an FFDI of 100.

7.03 Vegetation

In accordance with Appendix 1 'Site Assessment Methodology' of PBP we have undertaken an assessment of all vegetation formations within 140 metres of the development for each aspect as per Keith (2004).

As part of this bushfire assessment process consideration has been given to all existing vegetation within neighbouring allotments and the subject site.

The vegetation identified as being the bushfire hazard is within subject property to the northeast and southeast of the proposed works.

The NSW Vegetation mapping identifies the vegetation posing a hazard to be Sydney Coastal Shale-Sandstone Forest (PCT: 3259), Sydney Coastal Sandstone Gully Forest (PCT: 3595) and Sydney Coastal Sandstone Bloodwood Shrub Forest (PCT: 3593). For the purpose of Planning for Bush Fire Protection the vegetation posing a hazard has been determined to be Forest.



Figure 04: Extract from Vegetation NSW



Photograph 01: View into the vegetation to the northeast.



Photograph 02: View into the vegetation to the southeast.

7.04 Slope and Topography

The slope of the land under the classified vegetation has a direct influence on the forward rate of spread, fire intensity and radiant heat exposure. The effective slope is considered to be the slope under the classified vegetation which will most significantly influence bushfire behaviour toward the development site.

In accordance with A1.4 'Determine slope' of PBP the slope assessment is to be derived from the most detailed contour data available.

The slope that would most significantly influence bushfire behaviour was determined from topographic imagery in conjunction with site observations to be:

- O degrees and up slope within the hazard to the northeast
- > 0 5 degrees and down slope within the hazard to the southeast

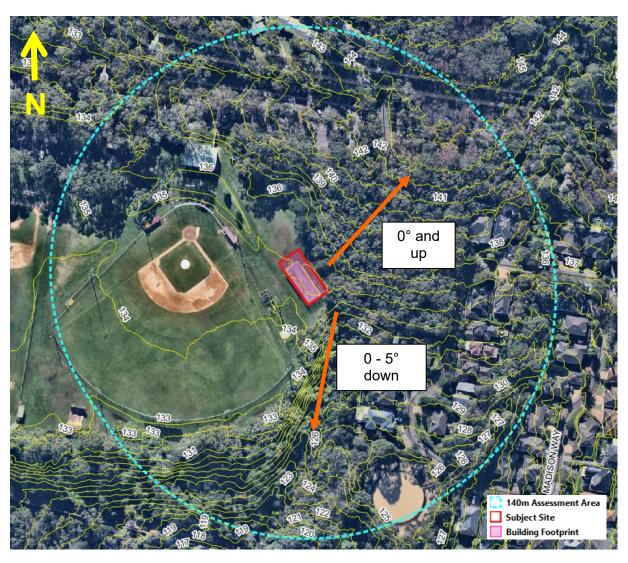


Figure 06: Extract from ELVIS (1m Contours)

8.0 Bushfire Protection Measures

8.01 Planning for Bush Fire Protection - 2019

Planning for Bush Fire Protection – 2019 (PBP) is applicable to development located on land determined as being 'bushfire prone' in accordance with the local Bushfire Prone Land Map.

Bushfire prone land are defined as those areas;

- containing or within 100m of Category 1 Vegetation; or
- containing or within 30m of Category 2 or 3 Vegetation.

The subject site is depicted on Northern Beaches Council's Bushfire Prone Land Map identifies the subject property as containing Category 1 Vegetation and the Vegetation Buffer therefore PBP must apply in this instance.

The application of PBP requires satisfactory demonstration of the aim and objectives and the specific objectives and bushfire protection measures relevant to the type of development.

In this instance in addition to the aim and objectives detailed in Chapter 1 'Introduction' the proposal must satisfy the specific objectives and bushfire protection measures detailed in Chapter 8 'Other Development' of PBP.

In relation to the proposed building section 8.3.11 of PBP states:

Public assembly buildings are not defined as SFPP by the RF Reg but require referral under EP&A Act s.4.14 to the NSW RFS. Buildings used for public assembly with a floor space area of greater than 500m² are required to consider bush fire. These developments will be treated technically as SFPP due to the evacuation challenges presented by large numbers of occupants.

In accordance with section 8.3.11 'Public assembly buildings' of PBP as the subject building has a floor area of less than 500m² the development does <u>not</u> trigger the application of the Special Fire Protection Purpose requirements.

8.02 Asset Protection Zones & Landscaping

One of the objectives underpinning Planning for Bush Fire Protection is to provide appropriate separation between a hazard and buildings which, in combination with other measures, prevent the likely fire spread to buildings.

In relation to the proposed batting cage section 8.3.11 of PBP states:

Public assembly buildings are not defined as SFPP by the RF Reg but require referral under EP&A Act s.4.14 to the NSW RFS. Buildings used for public assembly with a floor space area of greater than 500m² are required to consider bush fire. These developments will be treated technically as SFPP due to the evacuation challenges presented by large numbers of occupants.

In accordance with section 8.3.11 'Public assembly buildings' of PBP as the subject building has a floor area of less than 500m² the development does <u>not</u> trigger the application of the Special Fire Protection Purpose requirements.

The National Construction Code does not provide for any bush fire specific performance requirements for Class 9 structures that are not SFPPs.

In this instance the proposal provides a 5 metre defendable space around the proposed building.

The separation from the hazard interfaces includes maintained land entirely within the subject site.



Photograph 04: View of the existing batting cage and the management around it



Photograph 05: View of the existing batting cage and the management around it

8.03 Building construction, siting & design

The building has a floor area of less than 500m² and therefore does not require technical assessment as SFPP development.

Section 8.1 of PBP states that the development will need to satisfy the aim and objectives of PBP which are:

- afford buildings and their occupants protection from exposure to a bush fire;
- provide for a defendable space to be located around buildings;
- > provide appropriate separation between a hazard and buildings which, in combination with other measures, prevent the likely fire spread to buildings;
- ensure that appropriate operational access and egress for emergency service personnel and occupants is available;
- provide for ongoing management and maintenance of BPMs; and
- > ensure that utility services are adequate to meet the needs of firefighters.

The National Construction Code does not provide for any bush fire specific performance requirements for Class 9 structures that are not SFPPs.

The subject building is not a listed SFPP development and as such Australian Standard 3959 'Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas' 2018 does not apply as a set of 'deemed to satisfy' provisions.

To provide further confidence in the resilience against bushfires the building will provide ember protection. This is to be achieved 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 openable windows, vents, weepholes and eaves. External doors are to be fitted with draft excluders.

8.04 Access

The site has existing access to Aquatic Drive to the north.

The subject site has an existing carpark to the northern section and the access is not being altered as part of this development.

The logical firefighting platform would be carpark or existing public roads.

Persons seeking to egress the proposed development will be able to do so via the existing road network.

It is of our opinion that the existing access arrangements provide safe access to/from the public road system for firefighters providing property protection during a bushfire and for occupant egress or evacuation.

It is recommended that the Bush Fire Emergency Management Plan be prepared / updated in accordance with the NSW Rural Fire Service guidelines for emergency management plans.

8.05 Services - Water, electricity & gas

The building will be fitted with relevant essential fire services (i.e. fire hose reels and fire extinguishers) as required by the NCC.

The most distant external point of the building footprint will be >90 metres from an existing hydrant point.

The site has existing static water supplies in which can be used to refill incoming emergency services.

As the access is not being upgraded as part of these works and nature of the use of the building the existing supply is considered adequate.

The building will be connected to the existing approved electrical network.

Any new gas connections must comply with Table 6.8c of PBP.

8.06 Bushfire Emergency Management Plan

The intent of the Bushfire Emergency Management Plan measure is to provide suitable emergency and evacuation arrangements for occupants during a bushfire emergency.

We recommended that a Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan be prepared / updated and is to comply with relevant requirements detailed in *Planning for Bush Fire Protection* 2019. This plan should include that the batting cage is not to be used on days of elevated fire danger being Extreme and Catastrophic Fire Danger.

8.07 Aim & Objectives

The following table details the aim and objectives of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection* 2019 and the proposal's ability to comply.

Aim / Objective	Comment
The aim of PBP is to provide for the protection of human life and minimise impacts on property from the threat of bush fire, while having due regard to development potential, site characteristics and protection of the environment.	With the inclusion of the recommendations made herein it is of our opinion that the aim of PBP has been satisfied.
(i) afford buildings and their occupants protection from exposure to a bush fire;	The proposal provides a 5 metre APZ around the proposed building.
	In conjunction with the proposed ember protection and bushfire management procedures the building and its occupants are afforded protection from exposure to a bushfire.
(ii) provide for a defendable space to be located around buildings;	The proposal provides a 5 metre APZ around the proposed building.
	A defendable space has been provided.
(iii) provide appropriate separation between a hazard and buildings which, in combination with other measures minimise material ignition;	The available Asset Protection Zones to the building, coupled with ember protection package provides for appropriate setbacks and minimises potential material ignition.
(iv) ensure that appropriate operational access and egress for emergency service personnel and residents is available;	The access arrangements have been reviewed and are considered adequate for fire-fighter access and occupant evacuation.
(v) provide for ongoing management and maintenance of bush fire protection measures, (BPMs); and	A Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan is to be prepared
(vi) ensure that utility services are adequate to meet the needs of firefighters.	The existing and required water requirements are adequate for the replenishment of attending fire services.

It is therefore of our opinion that the proposal can satisfactorily comply with the aim and objectives of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection* 2019.

9.0 Recommendations

The following recommendations are provided as the minimum necessary for compliance with *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*. Additional recommendations are provided to supplement these minimum requirements where considered necessary.

Asset Protection Zones

At the commencement of construction and in perpetuity all grounds within 5 metres
of the batting cage shall continue to be maintained as an Asset Protection Zone
(Inner Protection Area) in accordance with Appendix 4 'Asset Protection Zone
Standards' of PBP and the NSW RFS publication Standards for Asset Protection
Zones'.

Note: The APZ is existing and no canopy trees are required to be removed only ongoing weeds and exotic vegetation management is required.

2. Any new landscaping around the building is to comply with the provisions of Appendix 4 of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection* 2019.

Construction

3. The proposed building is to be provided ember protection. This is to be achieved 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 openable windows, vents, weepholes and eaves. External doors are to be fitted with draft excluders.

Emergency management

4. That a Bushfire Emergency Management Plan be prepared / updated consistent with the NSW Rural Fire Service Guidelines for developing a Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan.

10.0 Conclusion

Northern Beaches Council's Bushfire Prone Land Map identifies the subject property as containing Category 1 Vegetation and the Vegetation Buffer therefore PBP must apply in this instance.

One of the objectives underpinning Planning for Bush Fire Protection is to provide appropriate separation between a hazard and buildings which, in combination with other measures, prevent the likely fire spread to buildings.

In relation to the proposed batting cage section 8.3.11 of PBP states:

Public assembly buildings are not defined as SFPP by the RF Reg but require referral under EP&A Act s.4.14 to the NSW RFS. Buildings used for public assembly with a floor space area of greater than 500m² are required to consider bush fire. These developments will be treated technically as SFPP due to the evacuation challenges presented by large numbers of occupants.

In accordance with section 8.3.11 'Public assembly buildings' of PBP as the subject building has a floor area of less than 500m² the development does <u>not</u> trigger the application of the Special Fire Protection Purpose requirements.

We are of the opinion that the proposed development satisfies the relevant specifications and requirements of Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019.

In accordance with the bushfire safety measures contained in this report, and consideration of the site specific bushfire risk assessment it is our opinion that when combined, they will provide a reasonable and satisfactory level of bushfire protection to the subject development.

We are therefore in support of the development application.

Should you have any enquiries regarding this project please contact our office.

Prepared by

Building Code & Bushfire Hazard Solutions

Reviewed by

Building Code & Bushfire Hazard Solutions P/L

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Bachelor of Engineering Technology Major in Civil UniSQ
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FPA Australia BPAD Level 3 Accredited Practitioner
BPAD Accreditation No. BPAD9400



11.0 Annexure 01

List of Referenced Documents

Andy's Home Design (2025). Site Plan, Analysis & Roof Plan (Project Name: Project MEBC, Drawing No: DA101, Revisions: 03, Date: 3/06/2025)

Australian Building Codes Board (2022). National Construction Code Volume One - Building Code of Australia, ABCB

ELVIS -Elevation -Foundation Spatial Elevation.fsdf.org.au. Data. Available at: http://elevation.fsdf.org.au/

Keith, D. (2004). "Ocean Shores to Desert Dunes" Department of Environment and Conservation, Sydney

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NSW Rural Fire Service (2019). Planning for Bushfire Protection. A Guide for Councils, Planners, Fire Authorities and Developers.

Standards Australia (2018). AS3959, Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas.

Standards Australia (2014). AS/NZS 1596 The storage and handling of LP Gas

Rural Fire Service NSW (2005). Standards for Asset Protection Zones

Acknowledgements to:

Geoscience Australia Nearmap.com Street-directory.com.au

Attachments

Attachment 01: s4.14 Compliance Certificate





Bush Fire Certificate

Certificate issued unders4.14(1)(b) of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, 1979* and *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*

This Certificate has been issued by a person accredited by Fire Protection Association Australia (FPA Australia) under the Bush Fire Planning and Design (BPAD) Accreditation Scheme and who is recognised by the NSW Rural Fire Service as a qualified consultant in bushfire risk assessment within the meaning of section 4.14(1)(b) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW).

Property Details and Description of Works					
	Unit no	Street no	Street name		Lot/Sec/DP
Address Details	Oubout			04-4-	Bartan
	Suburb			State	Postcode
Local Government					
Area					
BCA class of the building					
Description of the					
proposal					
Development Application					
Reference					
Bush Fire Assessme	nt Report				
A detailed Bush Fire Assessment Report is attached, which includes the relevant submission requirements set out in <i>Appendix</i> 2 of <i>Planning for Bush Fire Protection</i> 2019 together with recommendations as to how the relevant specifications and requirements are to be achieved.				ES 🗌 NO	
Report Reference and date					
BPAD Certification					
Name	····· , ·· , ·· , ·				
Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 that: I am a person recognised by the NSW Rural Fire Service as a qualified consultant in bush fire risk assessment; and the development conforms to the relevant specifications and requirements of Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019 in accordance with section 4.14(1)(b) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW).				e Service as a ; and ications and on 2019 in accordance	
BPAD Accreditation Number			ignature		Date
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