

# Bushfire Assessment Report

## *Proposed:* Alterations & Additions

**At:**  
**56 Attunga Road**  
**Newport**

*Reference Number:* 211297B

*Prepared For:*  
Tim Wearne  
C/- Playoust Churcher

**17<sup>th</sup> November 2021**



*Prepared By:*  
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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	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Details
1	17/11/2021	Duncan Armour	Stuart McMonnies BPAD Accreditation No. 9400	Final Report

## List of Abbreviations:

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APZ	Asset Protection Zone
AS3959	Australian Standard 3959 'Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas' 2018
BAL	Bushfire Attack Level
BPMs	Bushfire Protection Measures
BPLM	Bushfire Prone Land Map
Council	Northern Beaches Council
DA	Development Application
ELVIS	Elevation and Depth Foundation Spatial Data
EP&A Act	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act - 1979</i>
FRNSW	Fire and Rescue NSW
IPA	Inner Protection Area
NASH	National Association of Steel-framed Housing
NCC	National Construction Code
NP	National Park
NSP	Neighbourhood Safer Place
OPA	Outer Protection Area
PBP	<i>Planning for Bush Fire Protection – November 2019</i>
ROW	Right of Way
RF Act	<i>Rural Fires Act - 1997</i>
RFS	NSW Rural Fire Service
SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy
SFPP	Special Fire Protection Purpose
SWS	Static Water Supply

## 1.0 Introduction

The development proposal relates to the alterations and additions to an existing residential dwelling within an existing residential allotment located at 56 Attunga Road, Newport (Lot 1 DP 124062).

The subject property has a street frontage to Attunga Road to the south, Barrenjoey Road to the north and abuts private residential allotments to the east and west.

Properties considered to be affected by possible bushfire impact are determined from the local Bushfire Prone Land Map as prepared by Council and or the Rural Fire Service. All property development within affected areas is subject to the application of the relevant specifications and requirements of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection - 2019* (PBP).

PBP formally adopted on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020 provides for the protection of property and life (including fire-fighters and emergency service personnel) from bushfire impact.

Northern Beaches Council’s Bushfire Prone Land Map identifies the subject property as containing the buffer zone from Category 1 & 2 Vegetation therefore PBP must apply in this instance.

As the subject development relates to the alterations and additions of an existing dwelling within an existing residential allotment it is classified as infill development and assessed as a s4.14 application under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and section 7 ‘Residential Infill Development’ of PBP applied.

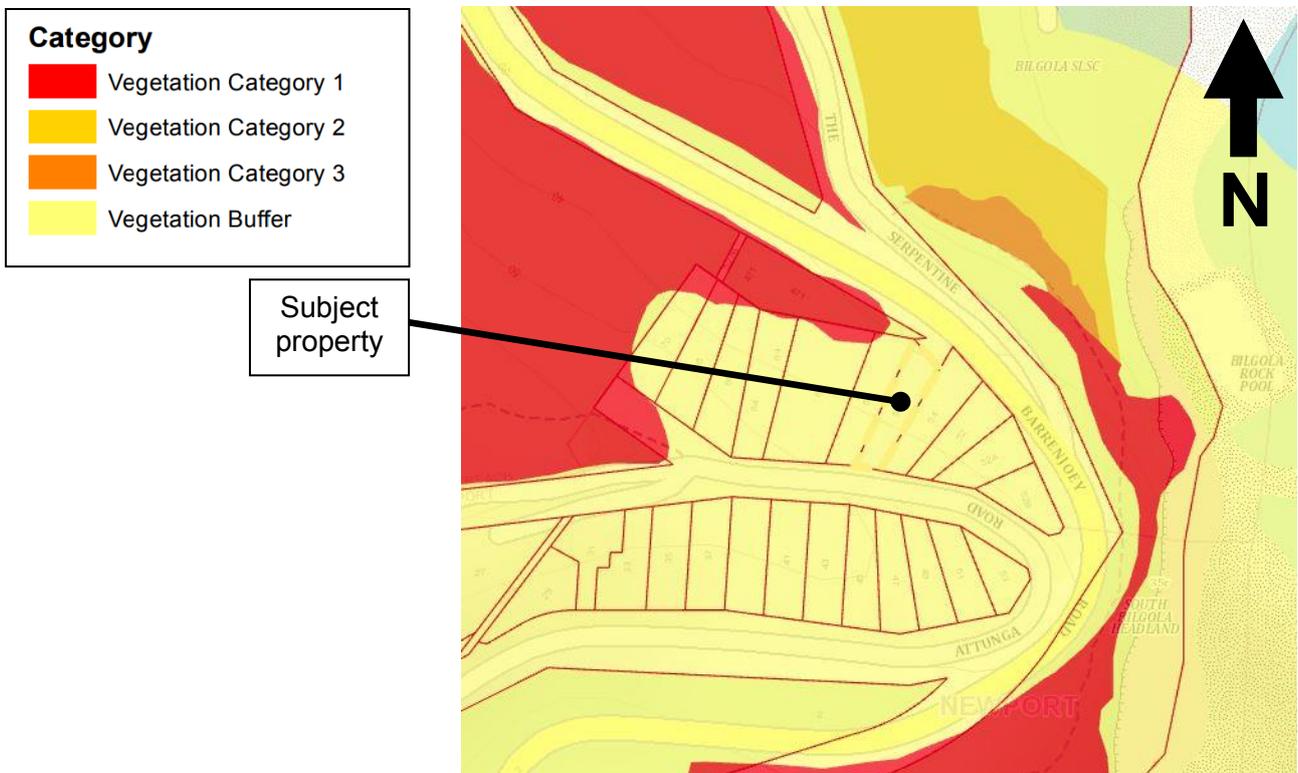


Figure 01: Extract from Northern Beaches Council’s Bushfire Prone Land Map

## 2.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this Bushfire Assessment Report is to provide owners 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 may elect to place within any consent conditions issued for the subject Development Application.

## 3.0 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.

## 4.0 Compliance Tables & Notes

The following table sets out the projects compliance with *Planning for Bush Fire Protection – 2019*.

	North	Northwest	East	West
<b>Vegetation Structure</b>	Tall Heath	Tall Heath	Remnant	Tall Heath
<b>Slope</b>	10 – 15 down	0 degrees & up	5 – 10 degrees down	0 degrees & up
<b>Asset Protection Zone</b>	>55 metres	>34 metres	>37 metres	>75 metres
<b>Significant Landscape Features</b>	Barrenjoey Road / The Serpentine / Eric Green Reserve	Neighbouring residential allotments	Neighbouring residential allotments	Neighbouring residential allotments / Attunga Reserve
<b>Threatened Species</b>	APZ Existing	APZ Existing	APZ Existing	APZ Existing
<b>Aboriginal Relics</b>	APZ Existing	APZ Existing	APZ Existing	APZ Existing
<b>Bushfire Attack Level</b>	BAL 12.5	BAL 12.5	BAL 12.5	BAL 12.5
<b>Required Construction Level</b>	BAL 12.5	BAL 12.5	BAL 12.5	BAL 12.5

Compliance Summary of Bushfire Protection Measures			
Bushfire Protection Measure (s7.4 PBP)	Acceptable Solution	Performance Solution	Report Section
Asset Protection Zones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7.02
Construction Standard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7.03
Access	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7.04
Water Supply	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7.05
Gas and Electrical Supplies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7.05

## Asset Protection Zones

The available Asset Protection Zones were measured to be >55 metres to the north, >34 metres to the northwest, >37 metres to the east and >75 metres to the west of the proposed works. The APZ consists of maintained grounds within the subject property and land equivalent to an APZ within neighbouring residential allotments, Barrenjoey Road and The Serpentine.

## Construction Level

The highest Bushfire Attack Level to the proposed works was determined from Table A1.12.5 of PBP to be 'BAL 12.5'. The proposed works will be constructed to sections 3 & 5 (BAL 12.5) under AS 3959 – 2018 and the additional construction requirements detailed in section 7.5 of PBP.

## Access and Services

Guideline Ref.	Proposed Development Determinations
Property Access (Driveway)	The most distant external point of the subject building is within 70 metres of a public road supporting a hydrant network and therefore the Access requirements detailed in Table 7.4a of PBP are <u>not</u> applicable.
Water Supply	The most distant external point of the building footprint is <90 metres from an operational hydrant and therefore a Static Water Supply is not required under AS2419.1 – 2021 (Appendix E, Figure E7) and section 7.4 of PBP.
Evacuation	Evacuation is possible by utilising existing road infrastructure. It is encouraged that the occupants complete a Bush Fire Survival Plan.
Electrical Supply	Existing aerial supply provided.
Gas Supply	New connections must comply with Table 7.4a of PBP 19.

## 5.0 Aerial view of the subject allotment



Figure 02: Aerial view of the subject area C/- Nearmap – October 2021

## 6.0 Site Assessment

### 6.01 Location

The subject property is known as 56 Attunga Road, Newport (Lot 1 DP 124062) and is a residential allotment (Zoned E4: Environmental Living and SP2: Infrastructure) located within Northern Beaches Councils Local Government Area.

The subject property has a street frontage to Attunga Road to the south, Barrenjoey Road to the north and abuts private residential allotments to the east and west.

The vegetation identified as being the hazard is located within Eric Green Reserve to the north, Attunga Reserve to the northwest and west and within the unformed portion of the Barrenjoey Road reserve and Eric Green Reserve to the east of the subject dwelling.



Photograph 01: View north from Attunga Road toward the subject property

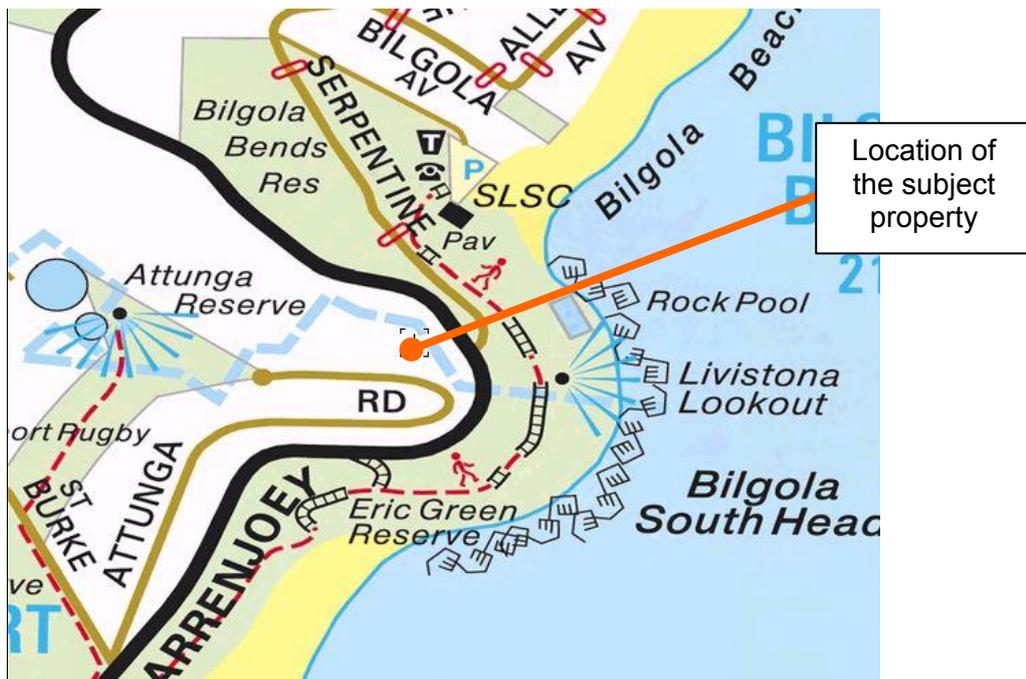


Figure 03: Extract from street-directory.com.au

## 6.02 Vegetation

The subject site and surrounding neighbouring properties were found to have maintained lawns and gardens around the existing dwellings.

The vegetation identified as being the hazard is located within Eric Green Reserve to the north, Attunga Reserve to the northwest and west and within the unformed portion of the Barrenjoey Road reserve and Eric Green Reserve to the east of the subject dwelling.

The vegetation to the north of the subject dwelling within Eric Green Reserve was found to comprise of shrubs to 2 metres with some scattered over storey trees. It was observed that the vegetation transitions to Forest greater than 100 metres from the subject dwelling. The highest hazard to the north was determined to be Tall Heath.

The vegetation posing a hazard to the east was found to have a potential fire run of <50 metres towards the subject property. In accordance with A1.11 of Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019 for the purpose of assessment under PBP the vegetation posing a hazard to the northwest was determined to be Rainforest (Remnant).

The vegetation posing a hazard to the northwest and west was found to comprise of shrubs to 2 metres with some scattered over storey trees.

For the purpose of assessment under PBP the vegetation posing a hazard to the north, northwest and west was determined to be Tall Heath and vegetation posing a hazard to the east was determined to be Remnant.



Photograph 02: View from Attunga Road into Attunga Reserve to the west of the subject dwelling



Photograph 03: View into Attunga Reserve from Barrenjoey Road



Photograph 04: View from Attunga Road toward the Remnant hazard to the east of the subject property, between Attunga Road and Barrenjoey Road.



Photograph 05: View from Attunga Road toward the Remnant hazard to the east of the subject property, between Attunga Road and Barrenjoey Road.

### 6.03 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:

- 10 – 15 degrees down within the hazard to the north
- 0 degrees and up slope within the hazard to the northwest
- 5 - 10 degrees down slope within the hazard to the east
- 0 degrees and up slope within the hazard to the west



Figure 05: Extract from ELVIS - Geoscience Australia (1 metre contours)

## 7.0 Bushfire Protection Measures

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### 7.01 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.

Northern Beaches Council's Bushfire Prone Land Map identifies the subject property as containing the buffer zone from Category 1 & 2 Vegetation therefore PBP must apply in this instance.

The application of Planning for Bush Fire Protection requires satisfactory demonstration of the aim and objectives and the following bushfire protection measures (BPMs):

- Asset Protection Zones
- Building construction, siting & design
- Access arrangements
- Water supply & utilities
- Emergency management arrangements
- Landscaping

As the proposal relates to the alterations and additions to an existing residential dwelling in addition with the aim and objectives the proposal must comply with the bushfire protection measures detailed within Chapter 7 'Residential Infill Development' of PBP.

### 7.02 Asset Protection Zones

The subject property is a residential allotment located in an area of similar properties. The vegetation identified as being the hazard is located within Eric Green Reserve to the north, Attunga Reserve to the northwest and west and within the unformed portion of the Barrenjoey Road reserve and Eric Green Reserve to the east of the subject dwelling.

The available Asset Protection Zones were measured to be >55 metres to the north, >34 metres to the northwest, >37 metres to the east and >75 metres to the west of the proposed works. The APZs consist of maintained grounds within the subject property and land equivalent to an APZ within neighbouring residential allotments, Barrenjoey Road and The Serpentine.

All grounds within the subject property are to continue to be maintained in accordance with an Inner Protection Area (IPA) as detailed in the NSW Rural Fire Service's document 'Standards for Asset Protection Zones'.

## 7.03 Building construction, siting & design

Australian Standard 3959 – 2018 ‘Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas’ (AS3959) specifies construction standards for buildings within various Bushfire Attack Levels as determined by Planning for Bush Fire Protection – 2019.

AS3959 provides for six (6) levels of building construction these being BAL - Low, BAL - 12.5, BAL - 19, BAL - 29, BAL - 40 and BAL - FZ.

Bushfire Attack Level	Maximum radiant heat impact (kW/m <sup>2</sup> )	Level of construction under AS3959-2018
Low		No special construction requirements
12.5	≤12.5	BAL - 12.5
19	12.6 to 19.0	BAL - 19
29	19.1 to 29.0	BAL - 29
40	29.1 to 40.0	BAL - 40
Flame Zone	>40.0	BAL FZ No deemed to satisfy provisions

Table 01: Correlation between bushfire impact and AS3959

The highest Bushfire Attack Level to the proposed works was determined from Table A1.12.5 of PBP to be ‘BAL 12.5’. The proposed works are required to be constructed to sections 3 & 5 (BAL 12.5) under AS 3959 – 2018 and the additional construction requirements detailed in section 7.5 of PBP.

## 7.04 Access

The subject property has a street frontage to Attunga Road to the south and Barrenjoey Road to the north. Persons seeking to egress from the subject property are able to do so via the existing access drive and public roads.

The most distant external point of the proposed works to the subject dwelling is less than 70 metres from a public road supporting the operational use of fire fighting vehicles and therefore the Access requirements detailed in Table 7.4a of PBP are not applicable.

Access to the hazard is available via Attunga Road, Barrenjoey Road and The Serpentine for hazard reduction or fire suppression activities.

The existing access is considered adequate and will not be altered as part of this development.

## 7.05 Water Supply & Utilities

Hydrants are available throughout Attunga Road and surrounding streets for the replenishment of fire service vehicles. The most distant external point of the building footprint is <90 metres from an operational hydrant and therefore a Static Water Supply is not required under AS2419.1 – 2021 (Appendix E, Figure E7) and section 7.4 of PBP. Regardless, the existing pool provides an additional supply.

The existing water supply is considered adequate for this development.

The existing dwelling has an aerial connection to the existing electrical network.

Any new gas connections must comply with Table 7.4a of PBP.

## 7.06 Emergency management arrangements

Evacuation is possible by utilising existing road infrastructure.

It is encouraged that the occupants complete a Bush Fire Survival Plan. The template for this plan is available at <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources/bush-fire-survival-plan>.

## 7.07 Landscaping

Any new landscaping must comply with Section 3.7 'Landscaping' of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection* 2019.

## 7.08 Aim & Objectives of PBP

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

Aim / Objective	Comment
<b>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.</b>	With the inclusion of the recommendations made herein it is of our opinion that the aim of PBP has been satisfied.
<b>(i) afford buildings and their occupants protection from exposure to a bush fire;</b>	The proposed works will be constructed to BAL 12.5 under section 5 of AS3959 – 2018 being the relevant Bushfire Attack Level.
<b>(ii) provide for a defensible space to be located around buildings;</b>	The maintained lawns and gardens and Attunga Road provide a suitable defensible space for attending fire services.
<b>(iii) provide appropriate separation between a hazard and buildings which, in combination with other measures, prevent the likely fire spread to buildings;</b>	The proposed works being constructed to BAL 12.5 will minimise potential material ignition.

Aim / Objective	Comment
<p><b>(v) provide for ongoing management and maintenance of bush fire protection measures, (BPMs); and</b></p>	<p>All grounds within the subject site will be maintained in accordance with an Inner Protection Area as detailed in Appendix 4 of Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019 and the NSW Rural Fire Service publication 'Standards for Asset Protection Zones'.</p> <p>Any new landscaping is to comply with the provisions of Table 7.4a and Appendix 4 of PBP – 2019.</p>
<p><b>(vi) ensure that utility services are adequate to meet the needs of firefighters.</b></p>	<p>Hydrants are available throughout Attunga Road and surrounding streets for the replenishment of fire service vehicles.</p> <p>The most distant external point of the subject building is within 90 metres of a hydrant.</p>

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

## 8.0 Recommendations

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The following recommendations are provided as the minimum necessary for compliance with Planning for Bush Fire Protection – 2019 and Australian Standard 3959 'Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas - 2018. Additional recommendations are provided to supplement these minimum requirements where considered necessary.

### Asset Protection Zones

1. That all grounds within the subject property be maintained as an Asset Protection Zone (Inner Protection Area) as detailed in the NSW Rural Fire Service's document 'Standards for Asset Protection Zones' and Appendix 4 of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*.

### Construction

2. That all new works shall comply with Australian Standard 3959 - 2018 "Construction of buildings in bush fire-prone areas" Sections 3 & 5 (BAL 12.5) and Section 7.5 of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*.

### Landscaping

3. That any new landscaping is to comply with Section 3.7 'Landscaping' under *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*.

### Emergency management

4. That the occupants of the subject building complete a Bush Fire Survival Plan.

## 9.0 Conclusion

Given that the property is deemed bushfire prone under Northern Beaches Council's Bushfire Prone Land Map any development would need to meet the requirements of Planning for Bush Fire Protection – 2019 and of the construction requirements of AS3959 – 2018. The determination of any bushfire hazard must be made on a site-specific basis that includes an assessment of the local bushland area and its possible impact to the subject property.

The subject property is a residential allotment within an area of similar properties. The vegetation identified as being the hazard is located within Eric Green Reserve to the north, Attunga Reserve to the northwest and west and within the unformed portion of the Barrenjoey Road reserve and Eric Green Reserve to the east of the subject dwelling.

The highest Bushfire Attack Level to the proposed works was determined from Table A1.12.5 of PBP to be 'BAL 12.5'. The proposed works must be constructed to sections 3 & 5 (BAL 12.5) under AS 3959 – 2018 and the additional construction requirements detailed in section 7.5 of PBP 2019.

The existing water supply and access provisions are considered adequate.

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 me at our office.

Prepared by  
Building Code & Bushfire Hazard Solutions



**Duncan Armour**

Reviewed and endorsed by  
Building Code & Bushfire Hazard Solutions P/L



**Stuart McMonnies**

G. D. Design in Bushfire Prone Areas.  
Certificate IV Fire Technology  
FPA Australia BPAD Level 3 Accredited Practitioner  
BPAD Accreditation No. BPAD9400



## 10.0 Annexure 01

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### List of Referenced Documents

Australian Building Codes Board (2019). *National Construction Code Volume Two - Building Code of Australia*. ABCB

*ELVIS -Elevation -Foundation Spatial Data*. Elevation.fsd.org.au. Available at:  
<http://elevation.fsd.org.au/>

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

NSW Department of Planning and Environment (2019). *Planning Portal*. Accessed at:  
<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/>

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

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

Site Plan prepared by Playoust Churcher, Project No. 19-778, Revision A, Dated 26/10/2021

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

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

Acknowledgements to:

Geoscience Australia  
Nearmap  
Street-directory.com.au

### Attachments

Attachment 01: s4.14 Compliance Certificate



# Building Code & Bushfire Hazard Solutions

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## BUSHFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT CERTIFICATE UNDER PART 4 DIVISION 4.3 SECTION 4.14 OF THE EP&A ACT 1979 NO 203

PROPERTY ADDRESS:	56 Attunga Road, Newport
DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:	Alterations and additions
PLAN REFERENCE: (relied upon in report preparation)	Site Plan prepared by Playoust Churcher, Project No. 19-778, Revision A, Dated 26/10/2021
BAL RATING:	BAL 12.5 <small>(If the BAL rating is FZ the application is to be referred to NSW RFS for assessment)</small>
BUSHFIRE ASSESSMENT REPORT REFERENCE:	211279B
REPORT DATE	17 <sup>th</sup> November 2021
CERTIFICATION NO/ACCREDITED SCHEME	BPAD9400

I Stuart McMonnies of Building Code and Bushfire Hazard Solutions Pty Ltd hereby certify, in accordance with Part 4 Division 4.3 Section 4.14 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 No 203* 

1. That I am a person recognised by the *NSW Rural Fire Service* as a qualified consultant in bushfire risk assessment; and
2. That subject to the recommendations contained in the Bushfire Risk Assessment Report the proposed development conforms specifications and requirements of the documents entitled *Planning for Bush Fire Protection* prepared by the *NSW Rural Fire Service* in co-operation with the Department of Planning and any other documents as prescribed by Part 4 Division 4.3 Section 4.14 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 No 203*.

I am aware that the Bushfire Assessment Report, prepared for the above mentioned site is to be submitted in support of a development application for this site and will be relied upon by Council as the basis for ensuring that the bushfire risk management aspects of the proposed development have been addressed in accordance with *Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019*.

Signature:  Date: 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021

