# Planning for Bushfire Protection



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Reference: 1381 9/05/2020

#### Bushfire Risk Assessment Report

In relation to proposed development at:

#### No 5 Burrendong Place, Avalon Beach

*In accordance with the requirements of 4.14 of the EP&A Act No 203 Part (1) [b] This* Assessment has been prepared and Certified by: Ronald Coffey BPAD – A Certified Practitioner FPAA Cert. No: BPD-PA 09328 Can this proposal comply with AS3959, YES 2018 + the additional construction requirements detailed in section 7.5 of PBP? What is the recommended level of **BAL 12.5** compliance AS3959, 2018? Does this development comply with the YES requirements of PBP? Does this development comply with the YES Aims and objectives of PBP? Is referral to the NSW RFS required? NO

This assessment confirms that the proposal conforms to the specifications and requirements, that are relevant to the development, of the version (as prescribed by the regulations) of the document entitled Planning for Bushfire Protection prepared by the NSW Fire Service in co-operation with the NSW Department of Planning.

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#### Introduction

The purpose of this report is to determine the category of bushfire attack and subsequent construction standard for the proposed development of alterations and additions to an existing single storey, Class 1a dwelling at No 5 Burrendong Place, Avalon Beach. The development application includes a second floor over the existing dwelling, new balcony, swimming pool and new garage with studio over at the rear of the property.

The site is identified as 'bush fire prone land' for the purposes of Section 146 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and the legislative requirements for building on bushfire prone lands are applicable.

The proposed development is an infill development as defined within Chapter 7.1 of Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019 and this report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 4.14 of the Environment Planning and Assessment Act.

This assessment includes an analysis of the hazard, threat and subsequent risk to the development proposal and provides recommendations that satisfy the Objectives and Performance requirements of the Building Code of Australia, Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019 [PBP] and Australian Standard AS3959, 2018.

The site was inspected: 9/05/2020

#### Summary of Assessment

- Building construction and design AS3959, 2018 BAL 12.5
- Asset Protection zones Conforms to the requirements of PBP
- Landscaping Conforms to the requirements of PBP
- Access and egress arrangements Conforms to the requirements of PBP
- Water supply and utilities Conforms to the requirements of PBP
- Defendable space Conforms to the requirements of PBP
- Emergency Risk Management Emergency planning has been discussed

#### 1) Location

No 15 Burrendong Place, Avalon Beach. Lot 3, DP 231 634

LGA – Northern Beaches Council



#### 2) Development Proposal and Building Classifications

The proposal is for alterations and additions to an existing class 1A dwelling.

The development application includes a second floor over the existing dwelling, new balcony, swimming pool and new garage with studio over at the rear of the property.

• Dwelling: Classs1a

• Garage: Class 10a building

• Studio: 1a part of building

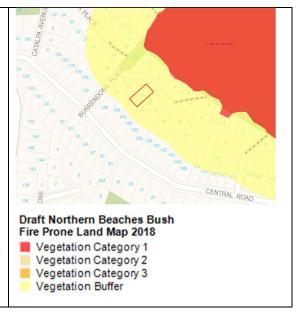
• Pool, pool fencing and landscaping: Class 10b

### 3) Description of the Subject Property

The development site is a residential lot facing north-east onto Burrendong Place.

The following sections 4-8 describe in detail the vegetation, slope, access and egress, availability of water supplies and environmental considerations for the site.

The adjacent image is the bushfire prone land map for the area.



#### 4) Classification of the Vegetation on and surrounding the Site

The site is developed and maintained and there is no threat from bushfire attack on the site.



Properties <u>north</u>, <u>south and west</u> of the subject site are developed and maintained and there is no threat of bushfire attack from these directions for more than 100m.

<u>55m east</u> of the subject site is an area of bushland that is considered a threat from bushfire attack to the site. With reference to PBP and the bushfire prone land map for the area the classification of vegetation for this hazard is forest.

#### 5) Assessment of Effective Slope

Effective slope away from the development

site:

North: No hazard for >100m

South: No hazard for >100m

East & NE: Upslope

West: No Hazard for >100m



#### 6) Access and Egress

The site has direct access to Burrendong Place, which is a public road, and access and egress for emergency vehicles and evacuation appears adequate.

#### 7) Adequacy of water supply

The area has reticulated water supply and hydrants are spaced at regular distances along Burrendong Place.

#### 8) Environmental Considerations

The scope of this assessment has not been to provide an environmental assessment; however, the subject site is a small residential lot that has been developed for many years and it appears that the proposed development will have no adverse environmental effect.

#### 9) Bushfire Risk Assessment

Table 1; Reference PBP Table A1.12.5

Determination of category of bushfire attack for the site and subsequent required building standards

Direction	Distance of APZ	Vegetation Classification	Assessment of Effective Slope	Anticipated Radiant heat	Bushfire Attack Level (BAL)
					(DAL)
North	>140m	Developed sites	n/a	-	-
South	>140m	Developed sites	n/a	-	-
East	55m	Forest	Upslope	<12.5kw/m2	BAL 12.5
West	>140m	Developed sites	n/a	-	-

Summary: Based upon the relevant provisions of PBP the anticipated radiant heat attack for the site is <12.5kw/m2 and the subsequent minimum construction standard is BAL 12.5 AS3959, 2018.

# 10) Assessment of the extent to which the construction conforms or deviates from Chapter 7 of 'Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019'

Performance Criteria	Acceptable Solutions	Meets Performance Criteria	
The intent may be achieved where:			
In relation to APZ's: - Defendable space is provided - An APZ is provided and maintained for the life of the building.	Defendable space is provided on all sides of the building Asset protection zones are provided partially on site and by adjoining development and public roads.	Yes	
In relation to siting and design: Buildings are sited and designed to minimise the risk of bushfire attack.	The siting of the building has been previously determined in accordance with local council requirements and the proposed additions and alterations will not involve a re-siting of the building [no advantage could be gained by recommending a re-siting of the building].	Yes	
In relation to construction standards: It is demonstrated that the proposed building can withstand bushfire attack in the form of wind, smoke, embers, radiant heat and flame contact.	Construction standards have been recommended in accordance with the requirements of PBP.	Yes	
In relation to access requirements: Safe operational access is provided [and maintained] for emergency services personnel in suppressing a bushfire while residents are seeking to relocate, in advance of a bushfire.	The access and egress requirements have been designed to provide safe and effective evacuation from the subject site and appear to be adequate for fire brigade personnel and fire-fighting equipment.	Yes	
In relation to water and utility services: - Adequate water and electricity services are provided for fire-fighting operations - gas and electricity services are located so as to not contribute to the risk to a building.	The area has reticulated water supply and the nearest street hydrant is within the minimum required distance from the most distant point of the subject site in accordance with the requirements of PBP and AS2419.1 2005.  This report shall recommend compliance with PBP 7.4a for services including electricity and gas.	Yes	
In relation to landscaping: It is designed and managed to minimise flame contact and radiant heat to buildings, and the potential for wind driven embers to cause ignitions.	The site is landscaped and managed and no part of the site is shown on the bushfire prone land map as a hazard.	Yes	
In relation to Emergency and Evacuation Planning:	The need to formulate an emergency evacuation plan has been discussed and it is advised that the residents should complete a <i>Bush Fire Survival Plan</i> as formulated by the NSW Rural Fire Service.  An emergency evacuation plan is not recommended as a condition of consent.	Yes	

# 11) Assessment of the extent to which the construction conforms or deviates from the Aims and Objectives of 'Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019'

Aim Meets Comment				
Ailli	Criteria	Comment		
All development on BFPL must satisfy the aim and objectives of PBP.  The aim of PBP is to provide for the protection of human life and minimise impacts on property from the threat of bushfire, while having due regard to development potential, site characteristics and protection of the environment.	Yes	The threat assessment has determined that the category of bushfire attack for the site is not within the flame zone. Landscaping, defendable space, access and egress, emergency risk management and construction standards are in accordance with the requirements of PBP and the aims of PBP have been achieved		
Objectives	Meets Criteria	Comment		
Afford buildings and their occupants protection from exposure to a bushfire	Yes	The maximum exposure to a bushfire for the area where the development is proposed is <12.5kw/m2.		
Provide a defendable space to be located around buildings	Yes	Defendable space is provided on all sides of the proposed development.		
Provide appropriate separation between a hazard and buildings which, in combination with other measures, prevent the likely fire spread to buildings.	Yes	The entire site is managed as an asset protection zone and appropriate separation has been provided by a combination of the onsite APZ and adjoining developed sites.		
Ensure that appropriate operational access and egress for emergency service personnel and occupants is available	Yes	Internal road widths and design appear to be adequate for safe access for emergency services and for crews to work with equipment about the vehicles.  The site has direct access to public roads, and access and egress for emergency vehicles and evacuation appears adequate.		
Provide for ongoing management and maintenance of bushfire protection measures	Yes	The entire site where not built on is an APZ and there are no fuel loads to consider.		
Ensure that utility services are adequate to meet the needs of firefighters	Yes	The area has reticulated water supply and combined with the availability of a large volume of water available from the existing inground pool, the needs of firefighters, in terms of water supplies for firefighting, appears adequate.		

#### 12) Recommendations

The following recommendations are made for the bushfire protection measures for the proposed residential development of alterations and additions to an existing single storey, Class 1a dwelling at No 5 Burrendong Place, Avalon Beach. The development application includes a second floor over the existing dwelling, new balcony, swimming pool and new garage with studio over at the rear of the property. These recommendations are based upon the relevant provisions of the NSW Rural Fire Service guideline entitled *Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019*.

- 1) Construction Standard alterations an additions to the existing dwelling and the garage with studio over: The proposed development shall be constructed to a minimum standard of Section 3 [construction general] and Section 5 [BAL 12.5] of AS3959, 2018 'Construction of Buildings in Bushfire Prone Areas' and the additional construction requirements contained within section 7.5, 7.51, 7.52, 7.53 and 7.54 [where applicable] of Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019.
- 2) <u>Class 10b Structures</u>: There is no bushfire protection requirement for Class 10a and 10b structures located more than 6m from a dwelling in bushfire areas. Where a Class 10a and 10b structure is located within 6m of a dwelling it must be constructed in accordance with the NCC.
- 3) Sarking: To comply with the NSW State variation any sarking used for BAL 12.5 shall be Non-combustible or Comply with AS/NZ 4200.1, be installed on the outside of the frame and have a flammability index of not more than 5 as determined by AS1530.2
- 4) <u>Fences and Gates</u>: All fences in bushfire prone areas shall be constructed of hardwood or non-combustible material; however, where a fence is within 6m of a building or in areas of BAL29 or greater, they shall be of non-combustible material only.
- 5) <u>Gutter Guards:</u> Roofing shall be gutterless or have leafless guttering and valleys to prevent the build-up of flammable material. Any materials used shall have a flammability index no greater than 5.
- 6) <u>Electricity and Gas Supplies</u>: As far as practical, new electricity and gas supplies shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of 7.4a of PBP. Note: 7.4a of PBP requires that 'where practical, electrical transmission lines should be underground.'

7) <u>Asset Protection Zones</u>: New landscaping should be designed in accordance with the inner protection area requirements as outlined within PBP and the NSW RFS document 'Standards for asset protection zones'.

The following points are a guide to Inner Protection area requirements.

The Inner Protection Area should comprise of the following:

- Minimal fine fuel on the ground.
- Vegetation that does not provide a continuous path to the building for the transfer of fire.
- Shrubs and trees that do not form a continuous canopy and vegetation is planted in clumps rather than continuous rows.
- Species that retain dead material or deposit excessive quantities of ground fuel are avoided.
- Shrubs and trees are pruned so that they do not touch or overhang the building;
   and
- Vegetation is located far enough away from the building so that plants will not ignite the building by direct flame contact or radiant heat emission.
- 8) <u>Emergency and Evacuation Planning</u>: The need to formulate an emergency evacuation plan has been discussed and it is advised that the residents should complete a *Bush Fire Survival Plan* as formulated by the NSW Rural Fire Service.
  - An emergency evacuation plan is not recommended as a condition of consent.
- 9) <u>Water Supplies</u>: Reticulated water supply is located on the adjoining road at regular intervals and is easily accessible. No additional water supplies have been recommended

#### 13) Summary

This report consists of a bushfire risk assessment for the proposed residential development of alterations and additions to an existing single storey Class 1a dwelling at No 5 Burrendong Place, Avalon Beach.

The report concludes that the proposed development is on designated bushfire prone land and the legislative requirements for development in bushfire prone areas are applicable.

The proposed development will be constructed to the minimum standards required in accordance with the guidelines of *Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019*.

This report has considered all the elements of bushfire attack and provided the proposed development is constructed in accordance with the recommendations included in section 12 of this report, it is my considered opinion that the development satisfies the Objectives and Performance requirements of the NCC, Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019 and Australian Standard AS3959, 2018.

Notwithstanding the precautions adopted, it should always be remembered that bushfires burn under a wide range of conditions and an element of risk, no matter how small always remains, and although the standard is designed to improve the performance of such buildings, there can be no guarantee, because of the variable nature of bushfires, that any one building will withstand bushfire attack on every occasion.

This Report is a Bush Fire Hazard Assessment that provides the required information to assist Local Council and the Rural Fire Service in determining compliance in accordance with Planning for Bushfire Protection and AS 3959, 2018. The Local Council is the Final Consenting Authority and the construction of the building must comply with the recommendations included in the Council's conditions of consent.

RE GHS

Ron Coffey – Bushfire Safety Engineer
Grad I Fire E [Institute of Fire Engineers - 1973]
Grad Cert Fire Safety Eng. [UWS - 2003]
Grad Dip Building in Bushfire Prone Areas [UWS – 2005]
Ass Prof Cert in Expert Evidence in the Land & Environment Court [UTS – 2005]
Member - Institute of Fire Engineers
Corporate Member - Fire Protection Association Australia



### 14) References Australian Building Codes Board

Building Code of Australia Volumes 1&2 Canprint

#### **Australian Building Codes Board [2001]**

Fire Safety Engineering Guidelines Edition 2001 ABCB Canberra

#### **D. Drysdale D. [1998]**

Introduction to Fire Dynamics 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition John Wiley & Sons Ltd

#### NSW Government Environmental Planning and Assessment Act [1979]

Part 79BA – Consultation and development Consent – Certain Bushfire Prone Land NSW Government Printer

#### **Planning NSW**

Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019

A Guide for Councils, Planners, Fire Authorities, Developers and Home Owners This document provides the necessary planning considerations when developing areas for residential use in residential, rural residential, rural and urban areas when development sites are in close proximity to areas likely to be affected by bushfire events and replaces Planning for Bushfire Protection 2001.

This document is essential reading: Download a copy from the RFS website or purchase a copy through the NSW Government Online Shop or phone 9228 6333

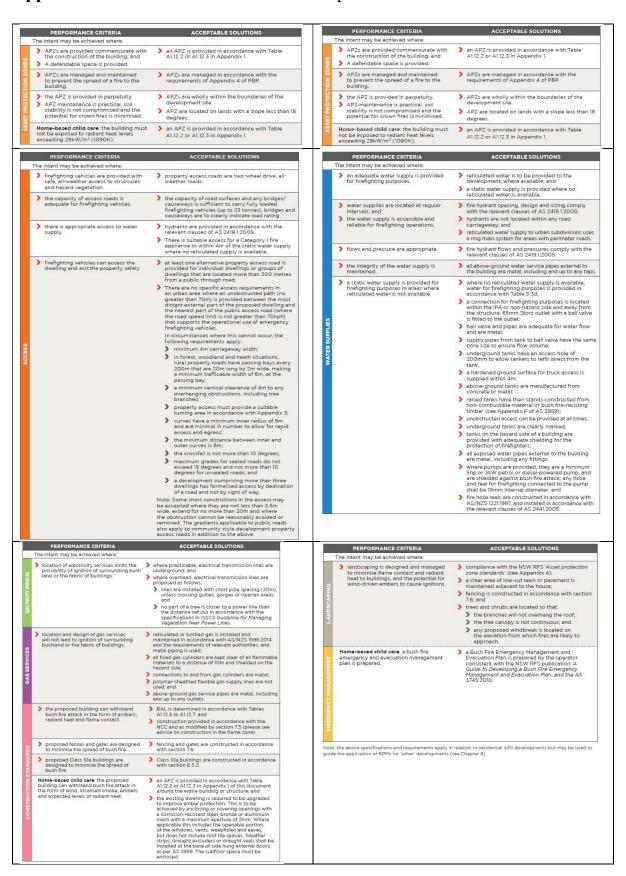
#### Ramsay C & Rudolph L [2003]

Landscape and Building Design for Bushfire Prone Areas CSIRO Publishing

#### Standards Australia [2018]

Australian Standards 3959 Australian Building Code Board

#### **Appendix 1:** Performance criteria and acceptable solutions PBP Part 7.4a



#### Appendix 2: 7.5.2 NSW State Variations under G5.2(a)(i) and 3.10.5.0(c)(i) of the NCC

Certain provisions of AS 3959 are varied in NSW based on the findings of the Victorian Bush Fires Royal Commission and bush fire industry research.

The following variations to AS 3959 apply in NSW for the purposes of NSW G5.2(a)(i) of Volume One and NSW 3.10.5.0(c)(i) of Volume Two of the NCC; clause 3.10 of AS 3959 is deleted and any sarking used for BAL-12.5, BAL-19, BAL-29 or BAL-40 shall:

- be non-combustible; or
- comply with AS/NZS 4200.1, be installed on the outside of the frame and have a flammability index of not more than 5 as determined by AS 1530.2; and
- clause 5.2 and 6.2 of AS 3959 is replaced by clause 7.2 of AS 3959, except that any wall enclosing the subfloor space need only comply with the wall requirements for the respective BAL; and
- clause 5.7 and 6.7 of AS 3959 is replaced by clause 7.7 of AS 3959, except that any wall enclosing the subfloor space need only comply with the wall requirements for the respective BAL; and
- fascias and bargeboards, in BAL-40, shall comply with:
- clause 8.4.1(b) of AS 3959; or
- clause 8.6.6 of AS 3959.

The interpretation of this variation is:

<u>Enclosed subfloors</u>: For subfloor supports there are no requirements for supporting posts, columns, stumps, stringers piers and poles for subfloor supports for BAL 12.5 and BAL 19 when the subfloor space is enclosed with a wall that complies with the determined BAL level for the site.

<u>Unenclosed subfloors</u>: For unenclosed subfloor supporting posts, columns, stumps, stringers piers and poles the requirements are upgraded from BAL 12.5 and BAL 19 to BAL 29 level.

<u>Enclosed verandas</u>: There are no requirements for supporting posts, columns, stumps, stringers piers and poles for verandas, decks, steps and landings when the subfloor space is enclosed with a wall that complies with the determined BAL level for the site.

<u>Unenclosed verandas</u>: The requirements for supporting posts, columns, stumps, stringers piers and poles for verandas, decks, steps, and landings are upgraded from BAL 19 and BAL 12.5 to BAL 29 level.

For unenclosed subfloors of the main building or verandas, decks, steps and landings for BAL 12.5, 19 and BAL29 supporting posts, columns, stumps, stringers piers and poles shall be:

- 1. A non-combustible material; or
- 2. A Bushfire resistant timber; or
- 3. A combination of 1 and 2

#### Acceptable timber species:

Black-butt, Turpentine, Silver Top Ash, Spotted Gum, Red Iron Bark, Kwila, Red River Gum

Sarking: To comply with the NSW State variation any sarking used for BAL 12.5 shall:

- Be Non-combustible; or
- Comply with AS/NZ 4200.1 be installed on the outside of the frame and have a flammability index of not more than 5 as determined by AS1530.2

#### **BUSHFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT CERTIFICATE**

THIS FORM IS TO BE COMPLETED BY A RECOGNISED CONSULTANT IN BUSHFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 4.14 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT 1979 NO 203

PROPERTY ADDRESS:	No 15 Burrendong Parade, Avalon Beach	
DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:	Alterations and additions to an existing Class 1A dwelling	
PLAN REFERENCE: (relied upon in report preparation)	This assessment is based on plans: Provided by: Laura Cook Architect Dated: 06 May 2020 Project No: Ryan – Musacchio Residence	
BAL RATING:	BAL 12.5 (If the BAL rating is <b>FZ</b> the application is to be referred to NSW RFS for assessment.)	
DOES THE PROPOSAL RELY ON ALTERNATE SOLUTIONS:	YES (Circle the relevant response) (If YES the application is to be referred to NSW RFS for assessment.)	

## I Ronald Coffey of Planning for Bushfire Protection (Print Name) (Trading or Company Name)

have carried out a bushfire risk assessment on the above-mentioned proposal and property. A detailed Bushfire Assessment Report is attached which includes the submission requirements set out in *Appendix 4* of *Planning for Bushfire Protection 2006* together with recommendations as to how the relevant specifications and requirements are to be achieved.

REPORT REFERENCE:	1381
REPORT DATE:	9/05/2020
CERTIFICATION NO/ACCREDITED SCHEME:	Fire Protection Association Australia BPAD A Certified Practitioner No: BPD-PA-0938 Certified Business No: BPD-BA-0938

I hereby certify, in accordance with 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 attached Bushfire Risk Assessment Report the proposed development conforms to the relevant specifications and requirements

#### **BUSHFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT CERTIFICATE**

THIS FORM IS TO BE COMPLETED BY A RECOGNISED CONSULTANT IN BUSHFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH 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 Pittwater 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 2006*.

