# Bushfire Hazard Assessment Report

*Proposed:* New Sole Occupancy

*At:* 967 Barrenjoey Road, Palm Beach

Reference Number: 160070

Prepared For: Stephen Girdis

# 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016



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# List of Abbreviations:

APZ	Asset Protection Zone
AS3959	Australian Standard 3959 – 2009 as amended.
BAL	Bushfire Attack Level
BCA	Building Code of Australia
BPMs	Bushfire Protection Measures
BPLM	Bushfire Prone Land Map
Council	Pittwater Council
DA	Development Application
EP&A Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act - 1979
ESD	Ecologically Sustainable Development
IPA	Inner Protection Area
NASH	National Association of Steel-framed Housing
NCC	National Construction Code
NP	National Park
NSP	Neighbourhood Safer Place
NSWFB	NSW Fire Brigades
OPA	Outer Protection Area
PBP	Planning for Bush Fire Protection – 2006
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

# **1.0 Introduction**

The development proposal relates to the demolition of an existing dwelling and the construction of a new sole occupancy dwelling within an existing residential allotment located at 967 Barrenjoey Road, Palm Beach.

The subject property has street frontage to Barrenjoey Road to the east, Pittwater / Careel Bay to the west and abuts private residential allotments to the north and south. The vegetation identified as being the hazard is within the rear of private allotments and McKay Reserve to the east of the proposed dwelling.

Pittwater Council's Bushfire Prone Land Map identifies the subject property as being within the 100 metre buffer zone from designated Category 1 Vegetation and therefore the application of Planning for Bush Fire Protection - 2006 (PBP) must apply in this instance.

#### 2.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this Bushfire Assessment Report is to provide the owners, and Council with an independent bushfire hazard determination 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.

#### **3.0 Scope of this Report**

The scope of this report is limited to providing a bushfire hazard 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.

Where Council considers a bushfire risk is associated with surrounding private lands or lands owned by an authority, Council could seek to issue notice under Section 66 of the Rural Fires Act on any or all surrounding properties for the purposes of reducing and maintaining safe levels of vegetation and thus reducing the possibility of bushfire impact to the subject property and any adjoining properties.

#### 4.0 Referenced Documents and Persons

Comments provided are based on the requirements of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act - 1979 (EP&A Act), the RFS document known as 'Planning for Bush Fire Protection – 2006' for the purposes of bushfire hazard determination and Australian Standard 3959 – 2009 titled 'Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas' and NASH Standard for steel framed housing in bushfire prone areas 2014 (NASH Std) as amended for building/structural provisions.

A company representative has made a site inspection of the subject property and the surrounding area. The Site Plan prepared by Blue Sky Building Designs; Project No: DA012016SG; Dated: 22/02/2016; Drawing No: A-101 has been relied upon for this assessment.

# 5.0 Summary Tables & Notes

The following table sets out the projects compliance with *Planning for Bush Fire Protection – 2006*.

	North / South	East	Southeast	West
Vegetation Structure	Maintained curtilages	Forest	Maintained curtilages	Pittwater / Careel Bay
Slope	N/A	0 degrees & up	N/A	N/A
Asset Protection Zone	N/A	>63 metres	N/A	N/A
Significant Environmental Features	Neighbouring residential allotments	Neighbouring residential allotments / Barrenjoey Road	Barrenjoey Road	Pittwater / Careel Bay
Threatened Species	APZ Existing	APZ Existing	APZ Existing	APZ Existing
Aboriginal Relics	APZ Existing	APZ Existing	APZ Existing	APZ Existing
Bushfire Attack Level	N/A	BAL 12.5	N/A	N/A
Required Construction Level	BAL 12.5	BAL 12.5	BAL 12.5	BAL 12.5

# **Asset Protection Zones Compliance**

The separation from the hazard interface to the proposed dwelling includes maintained land within the subject site and land considered to be "*equivalent to an Asset Protection Zone*" being Barrenjoey Road and maintained land within neighbouring private residential allotments.

# **Construction Level Compliance**

The highest Bushfire Attack Level to the proposed dwelling was determined from Table 2.4.2 of AS3959 - 2009 to be 'BAL 12.5'. The proposed dwelling is required to comply with section 3 and BAL 12.5 section 5 under AS 3959 – 2009 and Appendix 3 under PBP 2006.

Alternatively new construction shall comply with Sections 1 - 5 & BAL 12.5 construction as detailed within the NASH Standard for steel framed construction in bushfire areas 2014.

A copy of these requirements has been provided to the client.

# Access and Services

Guideline Ref.	Proposed Development Determinations	Compliance
Property Access (Driveway)	The most distant external point of the proposed dwelling is within 70 metres of a public road supporting a hydrant network and therefore the Property Access requirements detailed in section 4.1.3 (2) of PBP are <u>not</u> applicable.	Yes
Water Supply	The most distant external point of the building footprint will be within 70 metres from a public road supporting a hydrant network and therefore a Static Water Supply is <u>not</u> required.	Yes
Evacuation	Evacuation is possible by utilising existing road infrastructure. It is encouraged that the occupants complete a Bush Fire Safety Plan addressing "Prepare, Act, Survive" as advocated by the NSW RFS http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/ under publications / bushfire safety	Yes
Electrical Supply	Supply provided.	N/A

# 6.0 Aerial view of the subject allotment



Image 01: Aerial view of the subject area Land and Property Management Authority 2015

# 7.0 Bushfire Hazard Assessment

#### 7.01 Preface

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 conditions detailed in the document 'Planning for Bush Fire Protection - 2006' (PBP). Set back distances for the purpose of creating Asset Protection Zones (APZ's) must be applied and any buildings must then conform to corresponding regulations detailed in Australian Standard 3959 – 2009 'Construction of buildings in bushfire prone areas' or the NASH Standard for steel framed housing in bushfire prone areas 2014.

Planning for Bush Fire Protection – 2006, (PBP) formally adopted on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007 and amended May 2010 (Appendix 3) provides for the protection of property and life (including fire-fighters and emergency service personnel) from bushfire impact.

The thrust of the document is to ensure that developers of new properties or sub-divisions include the constraints associated with the construction of buildings in bushfire prone areas within their proposed development sites. PBP is applicable to proposed development inside a determined Category 1 or 2 areas and also inside a buffer zone radius of 100m from a Category 1 bushfire area or 30m from a Category 2 bushfire area.

The document also acknowledges 'infill' developments associated with re-development of existing properties and allows some higher levels of building safety where the increased 'set backs' (APZ's) may not be achievable.

The subject development relates to the construction of a sole occupancy dwelling within an existing residential allotment. To accord with PBP the development is classified as infill development and assessed as a 79ba application under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.



Image 02: Extract from Pittwater Council's Bushfire Prone Land Map

#### 7.02 Location

The subject property is known as 967 Barrenjoey Road, Palm Beach (Lot 46 in DP 13620) and is a residential allotment located within Pittwater Councils Local Government Area. The subject property has street frontage to Barrenjoey Road to the east, Pittwater / Careel Bay to the west and abuts private residential allotments to the north and south.

The property is susceptible to possible bushfire impact from vegetation within the rear of neighbouring private allotments and McKay Reserve to the east.



Photograph 01: View northwest from Barrenjoey Road toward the subject property



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

### 7.03 Vegetation

The predominate vegetation found within most neighbouring private residential was found to consist of landscaped gardens and mown lawns.

The vegetation identified as posing a potential bushfire threat to the subject property was found to be located within the rear of neighbouring private allotments and McKay Reserve to the east. The vegetation posing a hazard was found to consist of trees 10-20 metres in height with a 30-70% canopy foliage cover and an understorey of low trees, shrubs and grasses.

For the purpose of this assessment the vegetation posing a hazard to the subject property has been determined to be the Forest.

There was also found to be a narrow strip of vegetation to the southeast of the subject allotment associated with a common access drive to properties to the east of Barrenjoey Road. This vegetation is not mapped as a bushfire hazard on Pittwater Councils BPLM. This vegetation was ground truthed and is not considered to pose a bushfire risk.

# 7.04 Slope and Topography

The slope that would most significantly affect bushfire behaviour must be assessed for at least 100 metres from the proposed dwelling.

The most significant bushfire impact from the east is expected to be from a bushfire burning downslope toward the subject site.

The slope that would **most significantly** influence bushfire impact was determined onsite using an inclinometer and verified from topographic imagery to be:



> 0 degrees and up slope within the hazard to the east

Photograph 02: View east from Barrenjoey Road toward the bushfire hazard



Image 04: Extract from Land and Property Management Authority Spatial Information Exchange

### 7.05 Asset Protection Zones

The proposed dwelling is within the existing pattern of development and was found to be located >63 metres from the hazard interface to the east. The Asset Protection Zone includes maintained land considered to be "*equivalent to an Asset Protection Zone*" being Barrenjoey Road and within neighbouring private residential allotments.

All grounds within the subject property not built upon will 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'. Note: This will allow for gardens (including native trees and shrubs) in the APZ managed as clumps or islands, covering no more than 20% of the area.



Photograph 03: View north from Barrenjoey Road

#### 7.06 Property Access – Fire Services & Evacuation

The subject property has street frontage to Barrenjoey Road to the north. Persons seeking to egress the proposed dwelling will be able to do so via the access drive and existing road infrastructure.

The most distant external point of the building footprint will be within 70 metres of a public road supporting a hydrant network and therefore the Property Access requirements detailed in section 4.1.3 (2) of PBP are <u>not</u> applicable.

Attending fire crews can access the hazard via Barrenjoey Road and neighbouring private allotments for hazard reduction or fire suppression activities without the need to enter the subject property.

Access for fire services and opportunities for occupant evacuation are considered adequate for this property.

# 7.07 Fire Fighting Water Supply

The proposed dwelling will be connected to the reticulated town's water main in Barrenjoey Road for its domestic needs. Existing in ground hydrants are available along Barrenjoey Road and surrounding streets for the replenishment of attending fire services.

The most distant external point of the building footprint will be less than 70 metres from a public road supporting a hydrant network and therefore a Static Water Supply is <u>not</u> required. Regardless the proposed swimming pool and direct access to Pittwater/Careel Bay provide a static water supply to the subject property.

The existing water supply is considered adequate for the replenishment of attending fire services.



Photograph 04: View west from an existing hydrant toward the subject property

# 8.0 Site & Bushfire Hazard Determination

## 8.01 Planning for Bush Fire Protection - 2006

Planning for Bush Fire Protection – 2006 (PBP) is applicable to those lands determined as being within a 'bushfire prone area' in accordance with a local Bushfire Prone Land Map as provided by the Rural Fire Service and Council.

The most appropriate method of determining site bushfire hazard under the terms of PBP is to consider the site in a singular form.

Bushfire prone areas are defined as those areas;

- within or within 100m of high or medium bushfire hazards; or
- within or within 30m of low bushfire hazards.

In this instance the subject property has been identified as being bushfire prone land therefore it is appropriate to apply PBP as follows:

#### Eastern Aspect:

- a) Vegetation Structure Forest
- b) Slope 0 degrees & upslope
- c) A >63 metre APZ is available
- d) The Bushfire Attack Level was determined to be 'BAL 12.5'
- e) The proposed dwelling must be constructed to that of BAL 12.5 under Section 3 and 5 of AS3959 – 2009 inclusive of NSW amendments detailed within Appendix 3 Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006.
- f) Alternatively new construction shall comply with Sections 1 5 & BAL 12.5 construction as detailed within the *NASH Standard for steel framed construction in bushfire areas 2014.*

## 8.02 Australian Standard AS 3959 – 2009 'Construction of buildings in bushfire –prone areas' & NASH Standard for steel framed housing in bushfire prone areas 2014 (NASH Std)

The NASH Std and Australian Standard 3959 – 2009 'Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas' provides for six (6) levels of building construction these being BAL - Low, BAL - 12.5, BAL - 19, BAL - 29, BAL - 40 and BAL - FZ. The standards specifies construction standards for buildings within various Bushfire Attack Levels as determined by the Planning for Bush Fire Protection – 2006 document. The NSW Rural Fire Service will not accept deemed to satisfy provisions for BAL Flame Zone and therefore have a NSW variation to the listed standard provisions of BAL FZ under both standards.

#### 8.03 Correlation between bushfire impact and BAL Rating

Bushfire Attack Level	Maximum radiant heat impact (kW/m <sup>2</sup> )	Level of construction
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

# 8.04 Site Specific Bushfire Hazard Determination

All property development must be assessed on an individual basis as broad-brush approaches of documents such as PBP may not be applicable in every instance. The proposed development located at 967 Barrenjoey Road, Palm Beach was assessed against the requirements of Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006 noting the following:

- a) Existing water supplies for fire fighting purposes are adequate and will be supplemented as part of this development.
- b) Access to the subject property will be available from Barrenjoey Road and the proposed access drive.
- c) Access to the hazard is available without the need to enter the subject site.
- d) The proposed development is within the existing pattern of development.
- e) Recommendations to maintain the Asset Protection Zones within the subject property will be included.

# 8.05 Viable Construction Method

The objectives of Planning for Bush Fire Protection – 2006 are for the protection of life including fire fighters. Provided these objectives can be met the construction of buildings is feasible and both the Rural Fire Service and Council should be in a position to consider such applications.

The highest Bushfire Attack Level to the proposed dwelling was determined from Table 2.4.2 of AS3959 – 2009 to be 'BAL 12.5'. The proposed dwelling is required to comply with BAL 12.5 section 5 under AS 3959 – 2009 and Appendix 3 under PBP 2006.

Alternatively new construction shall comply with Sections 1 - 5 & BAL 12.5 construction as detailed within the NASH Standard for steel framed construction in bushfire areas 2014.

#### 8.06 Risk Rating

In assessing the bushfire threat to the site and its structures it is important to have a holistic approach and assess the risk of a bushfire occurring and impacting the subject property. It is also important to include the risk the site poses to neighbouring properties.

Image 05 is an overview of risk to the proposed dwelling. This model takes a holistic approach and assesses the risk of a bushfire occurring and impacting the site. This risk level can be reduced by either an increase in preparedness by the owners/occupants of the dwelling (e.g. good house keeping, maintained lawns & bushfire awareness) and/or hazard reduction activities by local fire agencies. Alternatively this risk level can increase if the preparedness level decreases and/or hazard reduction activities are neglected for the area.

The below matrix is for risk only, it does not reflect the Bushfire Attack Level determined within PBP 2006. Note: All new work will comply with the requirements of Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006.

		CONSEQUENCE			
		Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
L	Almost Certain	High	Very High	Extreme	Extreme
K M L – H O O D	Likely	Medium	High	Very High	Extreme
	Possible	Low	Medium	High	Very High
	Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	High

Image 05: Risk Matrix

#### 9.0 Recommendations

The following recommendations are provided as the minimum necessary for compliance with Planning for Bush Fire Protection – 2006. Additional recommendations are provided to supplement these minimum requirements where considered necessary.

#### **Asset Protection Zones**

1. That all grounds not built upon 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 2 of Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006.

#### Construction

2. That construction complies with the National Construction Code of Australia 2015 by means of;

#### a) <u>AS3959 – 2009</u>

- That the roof and all construction be constructed to that of BAL 12.5 under section 5 of AS3959 2009.
- That the proposed dwelling be constructed to that of the 'Additional Construction Requirements' detailed in A3.7 of the Addendum to Appendix 3 of Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006 and NSW Rural Fire Service Fast Facts, Development Control Notes and Practice Notes.

or

- b) <u>NASH Standard for steel framed housing in bushfire prone areas 2014</u> (NASH Std)
  - That the roof and all construction be constructed to that of Section 1 5 and BAL 12.5 of the NASH Std.
  - Note Please refer to the NSW RFS Community resilience Fact Sheet 2/15 for further information

#### Landscaping

3. That all new landscaping is to comply with Appendix 5 'Landscaping and Property Maintenance' under Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006.

# **New Fencing**

- 4. It is recommended that the existing brushwood fence be removed and replaced with a complying fence. The RFS does not recommend the use of softwood and treated pine fences in bushfire prone areas and does not support the use of brushwood fencing unless an applicable performance solution can be proven to meet the criteria of Planning for Bush Fire Protection (FF 2/06).
- 5. Where a fence does not connect to a dwelling and has a minimum of 1 metre separation from the dwelling then the fence may be constructed from hardwood, or non-combustible material.
- 6. Where a fence connects directly to or has less than 1 metre separation from a dwelling it should be constructed from non-combustible materials only.
- 7. In all cases where timber fences are proposed, care should be taken in the selection, location and maintenance of landscaping adjoining the fence. Unmanaged landscaping could promote fire activity due to ember, radiant heat and direct flame contact and then further impact timber fencing.

#### Gas

8. That reticulated or bottled gas is installed and maintained in accordance with AS 1596 and the requirements of relevant authorities. Metal piping is to be used. All fixed gas cylinders are kept clear of all flammable materials to a distance of 10 metres and shielded on the hazard side of the installation. If gas cylinders need to be kept close to the building, the release valves are directed away from the building and at least 2 metres away from any combustible material, so that they do not act as a catalyst to combustion. Connections to and from gas cylinders are metal. Polymer sheathed flexible gas supply lines to gas meters adjacent to buildings are not used.

#### **10.0 Conclusion**

Given that the property is deemed bushfire prone under Warringah Council's Bushfire Prone Land Map any development would need to meet the requirements of Planning for Bush Fire Protection – 2006. 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 hazard was identified as being located within the rear of neighbouring private allotments and McKay Reserve to the east of the proposed dwelling. The vegetation posing a hazard was determined to be Forest on a 0 degree and up slope.

The proposed dwelling was found to be located >63 metres from the hazard interface. The Asset Protection Zone includes existing maintained land considered to be "*equivalent to an Asset Protection Zone*" being Barrenjoey Road and within neighbouring private allotments.

The highest Bushfire Attack Level to the proposed dwelling was determined to be 'BAL 12.5'.

Existing access provisions and water supply 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 and also satisfy both the Rural Fire Service's concerns and those of Council in this area.

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

Ian Tyerman Bushfire Consultant Planning for Bushfire Prone Areas UTS Sydney

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

**Stuart McMonnies** G. D. Design in Bushfire Prone Areas. Certificate IV Fire Technology Fire Protection Association of Australia BPAD – L3 Accredited Practitioner Certification number – BPAD 9400



Disclaimer:

Quote from Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006, 'Any representation, statement opinion, or advice expressed or implied in this publication is made in good faith on the basis that the State of New East Wales, the NSW Rural Fire Service, its agents and employees are not liable (whether by reason of negligence, lack of care or otherwise) to any person for any damage or loss whatsoever which has occurred or may occur in relation to that person taking or not taking (as the case may be) action in respect of any representation, statement or advice referred to above..'

Similarly the interpretations and opinions provided by Building Code and Bushfire Hazard Solutions in regard to bushfire protection are also given in the same good faith.

# 11.0 Annexure 01

# **List of Referenced Documents**

- a) Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- b) 'Planning for Bush Fire Protection'- 2006
- NSW Rural Fire Services & Planning NSW
- c) 'Construction of buildings in bushfire prone areas'
- AS 3959 2009 (as amended) – Standards Australia
- d) NASH Standard for steel framed housing in bushfire prone areas 2014
- e) 'Pittwater Council's Bushfire Prone Land Map'
- f) Acknowledgements to:

NSW Department of Lands – SIXMaps Street-directory.com.au

g) Site Plan prepared by Blue Sky Building Designs; Project No: DA012016SG; Dated: 22/02/2016; Drawing No: A-101
Attachments

Attachment 01:

79BA Certificate

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

THIS FORM IS TO BE COMPLETED BY A RECOGNISED CONSULTANT IN BUSHFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 79BA 1(b) OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT 1979 NO 203

PROPERTY ADDRESS:	967 Barrenjoey Road, Palm Beach		
DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:	The demolition of an existing dwelling to allow for the construction of a new sole occupancy dwelling.		
PLAN REFERENCE: (relied upon in report preparation)	Site Plan prepared by Blue Sky Building Designs; Project No: DA012016SG; Dated: 22/02/2016; Drawing No: A-101		
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.)		

J Stuart McMonnies

of Building Code & Bushfire Hazard Solutions Pty Ltd

(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:	160070
REPORT DATE:	7 <sup>th</sup> March 2016
CERTIFICATION NO/ACCREDITED SCHEME:	BPAD 9400

I hereby certify, in accordance with 79BA 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

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*.

SIGNATURE:	from 2	DATE: 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2016
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Note: this certificate must be completed and signed by a person recognised by the NSW Rural Fire Service as a qualified consultant in bush fire risk assessment in accordance with 79BA of the EP&A Act 1979 No 203.

This form has been prepared by Pittwater Council for attachment to the Bushfire Assessment Report.