



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Northern Beaches Council
PO Box 882
MONA VALE NSW 1660

Your reference: CNR-54593 DA2023/0390
Our reference: DA20230427001740-Original-1

ATTENTION: Northern Beaches Council

Date: Thursday 4 May 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

Development Application

s4.14 - Other - Single Dwelling - Alterations & Additions
240 Whale Beach Road Whale Beach 2107, 208//DP15376

I refer to your correspondence dated 27/04/2023 seeking advice regarding bush fire protection for the above Development Application in accordance with section 4.14 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

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

Asset Protection Zones

The intent of measure is to minimise the risk of bush fire attack and provide protection for emergency services personnel, residents and others assisting firefighting activities.

1. From the commencement of building works, and in perpetuity, the property must be managed as an inner protection area for a distance of 3.6 metres to the north-west and to the property boundary in the south-west and north-east in accordance with the following requirements of Appendix 4 of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*:

- tree canopy cover should be less than 15% at maturity;
- trees at maturity should not touch or overhang the building;
- lower limbs should be removed up to a height of 2 m above the ground;
- tree canopies should be separated by 2 to 5 m;
- preference should be given to smooth-barked and evergreen trees;
- large discontinuities or gaps in the shrubs layer should be provided to slow down or break the progress of fire towards buildings;
- shrubs should not be located under trees;
- shrubs should not form more than 10% ground cover;
- clumps of shrubs should be separated from exposed windows and doors by a distance of at least twice the height of the vegetation;
- grass should be kept mown (as a guide, grass should be kept to no more than 100mm in height); and

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Locked Bag 17
GRANVILLE NSW 2142

Street address

NSW Rural Fire Service
4 Murray Rose Ave
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- leaves and vegetation debris should be removed regularly.

2. Landscaping within the required asset protection zone must comply with Appendix 4 of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*. In this regard, the following principles are to be incorporated:

- A minimum 1 metre wide area (or to the property boundary where the setbacks are less than 1 metre), suitable for pedestrian traffic, must be provided around the immediate curtilage of the building;
- Planting is limited in the immediate vicinity of the building;
- Planting does not provide a continuous canopy to the building (i.e. trees or shrubs are isolated or located in small clusters);
- Landscape species are chosen to ensure tree canopy cover is less than 15% (IPA) at maturity and trees do no touch or overhang buildings;
- Avoid species with rough fibrous bark, or which retain/shed bark in long strips or retain dead material in their canopies;
- Use smooth bark species of trees species which generally do not carry a fire up the bark into the crown;
- Avoid planting of deciduous species that may increase fuel at surface/ ground level (i.e. leaf litter);
- Avoid climbing species to walls and pergolas;
- Locate combustible materials such as woodchips/mulch, flammable fuel stores away from the building;
- Locate combustible structures such as garden sheds, pergolas and materials such as timber garden furniture away from the building; and
- Low flammability vegetation species are used.

Construction Standards

The intent of measure is to minimise the risk of bush fire attack and provide protection for emergency services personnel, residents and others assisting firefighting activities.

3. New construction must comply with Section 3 (excluding section 3.5) and Section 9 (BAL FZ) of Australian Standard AS3959-2018 *Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas* or the relevant requirements of the *NASH Standard - Steel Framed Construction in Bushfire Areas* (incorporating amendment A - 2015). New construction must also comply with the construction requirements in Section 7.5 of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*.

4. Fences and gates must comply with Section 7.6 of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*. New fences and gates are to be made of either hardwood or non-combustible material. Where a fence or gate is constructed within 6m of a dwelling or in areas of BAL-29 or greater, they must be made of non-combustible material only.

Water and Utility Services

The intent of measure is to minimise the risk of bush fire attack and provide protection for emergency services personnel, residents and others assisting firefighting activities.

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

- reticulated water is to be provided to the development where available,
- all above-ground water service pipes external to the building are metal, including and up to any taps,
- where practicable, electrical transmission lines are underground,
- all fixed gas cylinders are kept clear of all flammable materials to a distance of 10m and shielded on the hazard side,
- connections to and from gas cylinders are metal,
- polymer-sheathed flexible gas supply lines are not used, and
- above-ground gas service pipes are metal, including and up to any outlets.

General Advice – Consent Authority to Note

The NSW RFS recognises that the site is constrained and that the proposed development falls within the Flame Zone. Flame Zone development is high risk development; consequently, in situations such as this, the NSW RFS seeks to improve the overall fire safety of the existing development. This requires greater emphasis on

construction standards, landscaping, siting, and vegetation management practices to ensure improved levels of protection are afforded to the development, its occupants and fire fighters. The NSW RFS has undertaken a merit based assessment of the proposal and provides the above advice in accordance with *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*.

For any queries regarding this correspondence, please contact Nicole Van Dorst on 1300 NSW RFS.

Yours sincerely,

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