



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Northern Beaches Council
PO Box 882
MONA VALE NSW 1660

Your reference: DA2020/0096 (CNR-5165)
Our reference: DA20200224000723-Original-1

ATTENTION: Annabelle Lindsay

Date: Monday 30 March 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Development Application

s4.14 - Other - Dual Occupancy

26 Ralston Road Palm Beach NSW 2108, 5/10/DP14048

I refer to your correspondence dated 24/02/2020 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 measures is to minimise the risk of bush fire attack and provide protection for emergency services personnel, residents and others assisting fire fighting activities. To achieve this, the following conditions shall apply:

[APZ 1.0]

From the start of building works, the entire property must be managed as an inner protection area (IPA). The IPA must comprise:

- Minimal fine fuel at ground level;
 - Grass mowed or grazed;
 - Trees and shrubs retained as clumps or islands and do not take up more than 20% of the area;
 - Trees and shrubs located far enough from buildings so that they will not ignite the building;
 - Garden beds with flammable shrubs not located under trees or within 10 metres of any windows or doors;
 - Minimal plant species that keep dead material or drop large quantities of ground fuel;
 - Tree canopy cover not more than 15%;
 - Tree canopies not located within 2 metres of the building;
 - Trees separated by 2-5 metres and do not provide a continuous canopy from the hazard to the building;
- and,

Postal address

NSW Rural Fire Service
Locked Bag 17
GRANVILLE NSW 2142

Street address

NSW Rural Fire Service
4 Murray Rose Ave
SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK NSW 2127

T (02) 8741 5555
F (02) 8741 5550
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

- Lower limbs of trees removed up to a height of 2 metres above the ground.

Construction Standards

The intent of measures is that buildings are designed and constructed to withstand the potential impacts of bush fire attack. To achieve this, the following conditions shall apply:

[D&C 1.4]

New construction shall comply with Sections 3 and 9 (BAL FZ) of Australian Standard AS3959-2009 Construction of buildings in bush fire-prone areas or NASH Standard (1.7.14 updated) 'National Standard Steel Framed Construction in Bushfire Areas – 2014' as appropriate. Except for windows, flaming of the specimen is not permitted and there shall be no exposed timber.

Water and Utility Services

The intent of measures is to minimise the risk of bush fire attack and provide protection for emergency services personnel, residents and others assisting fire fighting activities. To achieve this, the following conditions shall apply:

[W&U 2.0]

Water, electricity and gas must comply with the following:

- All aboveground water pipes external to the building must be metal including and up to any taps/outlets/fittings.
- Electrical transmission lines should be located underground where possible. Overhead electricity lines must have short pole spacing (i.e. 30 metres) except where crossing gullies, gorges or riparian areas. No tree may be closer to an electricity line than the distance set out in in ISSC3 Guideline for Managing Vegetation Near Power Lines.
- Gas must be installed and maintained as set out in the relevant standard and all pipes external to the building must be metal including and up to any taps/outlets/fittings. Polymer-sheathed flexible gas supply lines must not be used.

Landscaping Assessment

The intent of measures is for landscaping. To achieve this, the following conditions shall apply:

[L 1.0]

Landscaping of the site should comply with following principles of Appendix 5 of 'Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006':

- Suitable impervious areas are provided immediately surrounding the building such as courtyards, paths and driveways.
- Grassed areas, mowed lawns or ground cover plantings are provided in close proximity to 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 should be isolated or located in small clusters).
- Landscape species are chosen in consideration needs of the estimated size of the plant at maturity.
- Species are avoided that have rough fibrous bark, or which keep/shed bark in long strips or retain dead material in their canopies.
- Smooth bark species of tree are chosen which generally do not carry a fire up the bark into the crown.
- Planting of deciduous species is avoided which may increase fuel at surface/ ground level (i.e. leaf litter).
- Climbing species are avoided to walls and pergolas.
- Combustible materials such as woodchips/mulch and flammable fuel are stored away from the building.
- Combustible structures such as garden sheds, pergolas and materials such timber garden furniture are located way from the building.
- Low flammability vegetation species are used.

General Advice - Consent Authority to Note

[GA 1.4]

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 2006'.

For any queries regarding this correspondence, please contact Alastair Patton on 1300 NSW RFS.

Yours sincerely,

Nika Fomin
Manager Planning & Environment Services
Planning and Environment Services