



RFS



Northern Beaches Council
PO Box 882
MONA VALE NSW 1660

Your reference: DA2020/0231 (CNR-5852)
Our reference: DA20200324001058-S4.55-1

ATTENTION: Annabelle Lindsay

Date: Wednesday 25 September 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Development Application
s4.14 - Other - Single Dwelling - Alterations & Additions
16 Stephen Street Beacon Hill NSW 2100, 22/I/DP19657

I refer to your correspondence dated 11/09/2024 seeking advice regarding bush fire protection for the above Development Application in accordance with s4.55 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:

1. 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,
- Lower limbs of trees removed up to a height of 2 metres above the ground.

Construction Standards

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
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Intent of measures: to minimise the risk of bush fire attack and provide protection for emergency services personnel, residents and others assisting firefighting activities.

2. Proposed 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:

3. Water, electricity and gas must comply with the following:

- An SWS marker must be obtained from the local NSW RFS and positioned for ease of identification by fire fighting personnel and other users of the SWS. Markers must be fixed in a suitable location so as to be highly visible and be positioned adjacent to the most appropriate access for the static water supply.
- 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 Australian 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.
- Fixed gas cylinders must be kept at least 10 metres clear of flammable materials and be shielded on the hazard side. Connections must be metal. Cylinders near to a building must be have safety valves directed away from the building and be at least 2 metres from combustible materials.

Landscaping Assessment

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

4. 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.



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- 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

- Council is advised that 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 Service has undertaken a merit based assessment of the proposal and provides the above advice in accordance with *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006*; and,
- Council is advised that this letter is in response to a further assessment of the application submitted and supersedes our previous general terms of recommendations dated 3 April 2020.

For any queries regarding this correspondence, please contact Craig Casey on 1300 NSW RFS.

Yours sincerely,

Bryce Pascoe
**Supervisor Development Assessment & Plan
Built & Natural Environment**