



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Northern Beaches Council
PO Box 882
MONA VALE NSW 1660

Your reference: Mod2020/0325 (CNR-10448)
Our reference: DA-2019-01449-S4.55-1

ATTENTION: Carina Palummo

Date: Friday 7 August 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Development Application

s4.14 - Infill - Single Dwelling - Alterations & Additions
51 Plateau Rd Avalon Beach NSW 2107 AUS, 171//DP16902

I refer to your correspondence dated 24/07/2020 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:

Recommendation 1:

From the start of building works, the property around the building must be managed as an inner protection area (IPA) for a distance of 10 metres to the South and to the property boundary in all other directions. in accordance with the requirements of Appendix 4 of Planning for *Bush Fire Protection 2019*. When establishing and maintaining an IPA the following requirements apply:

- 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 2m above the ground;
- tree canopies should be separated by 2 to 5m;
- preference should be given to smooth barked and evergreen trees;
- large discontinuities or gaps in vegetation 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

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height of the vegetation.

- grass should be kept mown (as a guide grass should be kept to no more than 100mm in height); and
- leaves and vegetation debris should be removed.

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:

Recommendation 2:

New construction must comply with Sections 3 and 9 (BAL FZ) of Australian Standard AS3959-2018 *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 and Section 7.5 of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*.

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:

Recommendation 3:

The provision of water, electricity and gas must comply 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;
- where overhead, electrical transmission lines are proposed as follows:
 - a) lines are installed with short pole spacing (30m), unless crossing gullies, gorges or riparian areas; and
 - b) no part of a tree is closer to a power line than the distance set out in accordance with the specifications in ISSC3 Guideline for *Managing Vegetation Near Power Lines*.
- reticulated or bottled gas is installed and maintained in accordance with AS/NZS 1596:2014 and the requirements of relevant authorities, and metal piping is used;
- 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.

Landscaping Assessment

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

Recommendation 4:

Landscaping of the site should comply with following principles of section 3.7 of 'Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019':

- 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

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 2019*.

This advice is in response to additional information submitted and supersedes our previous advice dated 01/05/2019.

For any queries regarding this correspondence, please contact Luc Roberts on 1300 NSW RFS.

Yours sincerely,

Kalpana Varghese

**Team Leader, Dev. Assessment & Planning
Planning and Environment Services**