NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Northern Beaches Council
PO Box 882
MONA VALE NSW 1660

Your reference: DA2021/2362 (CNR-33345)
Our reference: DA20211222005679-Original-1

ATTENTION: Northern Beaches Council

Date: Thursday 10 February 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

Development Application
s4.14 – Other – Other
1105 Barrenjoey Road Palm Beach NSW 2108, //SP87024

I refer to your correspondence dated 21/12/2021 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:

General Conditions
Intent of measures: to provide suitable emergency and evacuation arrangements for occupants of SFPP developments.

1. A Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan must be prepared and be consistent with the NSW RFS document: A Guide to Developing a Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan.

The Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan should include planning for the early relocation of occupants.

Note: A copy of the Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan should be provided to the Local Emergency Management Committee for its information prior to occupation of the development.

Asset Protection Zones
Intent of measures: to provide suitable building design, construction and sufficient space to ensure that radiant heat levels do not exceed critical limits for firefighters and other emergency services personnel undertaking operations, including supporting or evacuating occupants.

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

2. From the start of building works, and in perpetuity to ensure ongoing protection from the impact of bush fires, the entire property must be managed as an inner protection area (IPA) 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 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

Intent of measures: to provide suitable building design, construction and sufficient space to ensure that radiant heat levels do not exceed critical limits for firefighters and other emergency services personnel undertaking operations, including supporting or evacuating occupants.

3. New construction must comply with Sections 3 and 5 (BAL 12.5) 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

Intent of measures: to provide adequate services of water for the protection of buildings during and after the passage of a bush fire, and to locate gas and electricity so as not to contribute to the risk of fire to a building.

4. The provision of water, electricity and gas must comply the following in accordance with Table 6.8c of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*:

- all above-ground water service pipes 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;
- reticulated or bottled gas is installed and maintained in accordance with AS/NZS 1596:2014 - The storage and handling of LP Gas, 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

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

5. 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, 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), and less than 30% (OPA) 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.

For any queries regarding this correspondence, please contact Marc Ellwood on 1300 NSW RFS.

Yours sincerely,

Kalpana Varghese
Supervisor Development Assessment & Plan
Built & Natural Environment