



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Northern Beaches Council
PO Box 882
MONA VALE NSW 1660

Your reference: DA2020/1007 (CNR-12477)
Our reference: DA20200917003390-Original-1

ATTENTION: Northern Beaches Council

Date: Tuesday 29 September 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Development Application

s4.14 - Infill - Single Dwelling - Alterations & Additions

77 Ballyshannon Road Killarney Heights NSW 2087, 11/82/DP758566, 11/82/DP758566

I refer to your correspondence dated 17/09/2020 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:

[1.]

From the start of building works, the entire property, where not built upon, 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,

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- 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:

[2.]

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 BAL-FZ 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.

[3.]

The existing building must be upgraded to improve ember protection by enclosing all openings (excluding roof tile spaces) or covering openings with a non-corrosive metal screen mesh with a maximum aperture of 2mm. Where applicable, this includes any sub floor areas, openable windows, vents, weepholes and eaves. External doors are to be fitted with draft excluders.

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:

[4.]

The provision of new 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.

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.

The garage conversion has been assessed as a studio associated with a single dwelling as stated within the documents referred to the NSW RFS by Council. Any future application for the use of the structure as a second dwelling or granny flat will require referral to the NSW RFS. Any such application is unlikely to be supported as the secondary dwelling would be located in the flame zone which is not supported by NSW RFS.

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

Yours sincerely,

Nika Fomin

Manager Planning & Environment Services
Planning and Environment Services