



## NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Northern Beaches Council  
PO Box 882  
MONA VALE NSW 1660

Your reference: DA2021/0020 (CNR-18869)  
Our reference: DA20210308000886-Original-1

**ATTENTION:** Lina Polito

Date: Friday 19 March 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

### Development Application

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

**10 Wurringulla Avenue Elvina Bay NSW 2105, 3//DP1023404, 3//DP1023404**

I refer to your correspondence dated 05/03/2021 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:

### Asset Protection Zones

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

1. 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.

#### 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  
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- 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 minimise the risk of bush fire attack and provide protection for emergency services personnel, residents and others assisting firefighting activities.***

2. New construction must comply with section 3 and section 7 (BAL 29) 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 minimise the risk of bush fire attack and provide protection for emergency services personnel, residents and others assisting firefighting activities.***

3. The provision of water, electricity and gas must comply with the following in accordance with Table 7.4a of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*:

- A 5,000 litre static water supply tank must be provided on site;
- a connection for firefighting purposes is located within the IPA or non-hazard side and away from the structure;
- 65mm Storz outlet with a ball valve is fitted to the outlet;
- ball valve and pipes are adequate for water flow and are metal;
- supply pipes from tank to ball valve have the same bore size to ensure flow volume;
- underground tanks have an access hole of 200mm to allow tankers to refill direct from the tank;
- a hardened ground surface for truck access is supplied within 4m;
- above-ground tanks are manufactured from concrete or metal;
- raised tanks have their stands constructed from non-combustible material or bush fire-resisting timber (see Appendix F of AS 3959);
- unobstructed access can be provided at all times;
- underground tanks are clearly marked;
- tanks on the hazard side of a building are provided with adequate shielding for the protection of firefighters;
- all exposed water pipes external to the building are metal, including any fittings;
- where pumps are provided, they are a minimum 5hp or 3kW petrol or diesel-powered pump, and are shielded against bush fire attack; any hose and reel for firefighting connected to the pump shall be 19mm internal diameter; and
- fire hose reels are constructed in accordance with AS/NZS 1221:1997, and installed in accordance with the relevant clauses of AS 2441:2005;
- where practicable, electrical transmission lines are underground;
- where overhead, electrical transmission lines are proposed as follows:
  - lines are installed with short pole spacing (30m), unless crossing gullies, gorges or riparian areas; and
  - 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

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

4. 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 not 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.

5. Any new fencing must be either hardwood or non-combustible materials. Where a fence is located within 6 metres of a building or in areas of BAL-29 or greater, they must be made of non-combustible material.

### **General Advice – Consent Authority to Note**

The property is located such that access/egress presents an ongoing bush fire hazard. As such a Bush Fire Survival Plan is to be prepared by the residents of the dwelling. Information to assist in the preparation of a Bush Fire Survival Plan can be found at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au).

For any queries regarding this correspondence, please contact Bryce Pascoe on 1300 NSW RFS.

Yours sincerely,

Kalpana Varghese

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