



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Northern Beaches Council
PO Box 882
MONA VALE NSW 1660

Your reference: CNR-34379 DA2021/2592
Our reference: DA20220121000988-Original-1

ATTENTION: Northern Beaches Council

Date: Sunday 6 February 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

Development Application

s4.14 - Infill - Single Dwelling - New Dwelling
88 Eurabba Road Duffys Forest NSW 2084, 88//DP752017

I refer to your correspondence dated 21/01/2022 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 property around the building must be maintained as an inner protection area (IPA), in accordance with the requirements of Appendix 4 of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*, as follows:

- northeast up to the property boundary;
- southeast up to the property boundary;
- southwest for a distance of 47 metres; and,
- northwest for a distance of 16 metres.

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;

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- shrubs should not be located under trees;
- shrubs should not form more than 10% ground cover; and
- 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 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 sections 3 and 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*.

Access – Property Access

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. Property access roads must comply with the following requirements of Table 7.4a of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*:

- property access roads are two-wheel drive, allweather roads;
- there is suitable access for a Category 1 fire appliance to within 4m of the static water supply where no reticulated supply is available;
- minimum 4m carriageway width;
- in forest, woodland and heath situations, rural property roads have passing bays every 200m that are 20m long by 2m wide, making a minimum trafficable width of 6m, at the passing bay;
- a minimum vertical clearance of 4m to any overhanging obstructions, including tree branches;
- property access must provide a suitable turning area in accordance with Appendix 3 of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*;
- curves have a minimum inner radius of 6m and are minimal in number to allow for rapid access and egress;
- the minimum distance between inner and outer curves is 6m;
- the crossfall is not more than 10 degrees; and,
- maximum grades for sealed roads do not exceed 15 degrees and not more than 10 degrees for unsealed roads.

Note: Some short constrictions in the access may be accepted where they are not less than 3.5m wide, extend for no more than 30m and where the obstruction cannot be reasonably avoided or removed. The gradients applicable to public roads also apply to community style development property access roads in addition to the above.

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.

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

- A 25,000 litre minimum capacity static water supply (SWS) 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 fitting with a ball valve is fitted to the outlet;
- ball valve and pipes are adequate for water flow and are metal;
- supply pipes from SWS to ball valve have the same bore size to ensure flow volume;
- underground tanks have an access hole of 200mm and a hardened ground surface for truck access is supplied within 4m to allow tankers to refill direct from the tank;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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

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

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 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.

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

Yours sincerely,

