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**Sent:** 8/03/2024 11:55:32 AM  
**Subject:** NSW RFS Determination - Your Reference - CNR-66064 DA2024/0131  
**Attachments:** DA20240223000769-Original-1 - 08-03-2024 10\_09\_30 - Determination Letter.pdf;



**NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE**



**Attention:** Northern Beaches Council

**Your Reference:** CNR-66064 DA2024/0131

**Application Details:** s4.14 – Other – Original

**Site Address:**

70 Nandi Avenue  
Frenchs Forest NSW 2086

Please find attached correspondence relating to the above development.

Should you wish to discuss this matter please contact Kristy Chedid on 1300 NSW RFS and quote DA20240223000769-Original-1.



Planning and Environment Services

**NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE**

Locked Bag 17 Granville NSW 2142

**P** 1300 NSW RFS **E** [records@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@rfs.nsw.gov.au)

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**PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.**

Northern Beaches Council  
PO Box 882  
MONA VALE NSW 1660

Your reference: CNR-66064 DA2024/0131  
Our reference: DA20240223000769-Original-1

**ATTENTION:** Northern Beaches Council

Date: Friday 8 March 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Development Application**  
**s4.14 - Other - Single Dwelling - Alterations & Additions**  
**70 Nandi Avenue Frenchs Forest NSW 2086, 20//DP221359**

I refer to your correspondence dated 23/02/2024 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 measure is to minimise the risk of bush fire attack and provide protection for emergency services personnel, residents and others assisting firefighting activities.***

**1.** From the commencement of building works and in perpetuity, the entire property must be managed as an inner protection area in accordance with the following requirements of Appendix 4 of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*:

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

**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](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)

## **Construction Standards**

***The intent of measure is 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 (excluding section 3.5) and Section 9 (BAL FZ) of Australian Standard AS3959-2018 *Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas* or the relevant 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 dwelling 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 subfloor areas, openable windows, vents, weep holes and eaves. External doors are to be fitted with draft excluders.

## **Access – Property Access**

***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.***

4. To aid in fire fighting activities, unobstructed pedestrian access around the property must be provided and is to be maintained at all times.

## **Water and Utility Services**

***The intent of measure is to minimise the risk of bush fire attack and provide protection for emergency services personnel, residents and others assisting firefighting activities.***

5. The provision of water 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, pool, dam or the like, must be provided on-site;
- an outlet for firefighting purposes is located within the IPA or non-hazard side and away from the structure;
- 65mm Storz connection with a ball valve is fitted to the outlet;
- the ball valve, pipes and tank penetration are adequate for the full 50mm inner diameter water flow through the Storz fitting and are constructed of a metal material;
- 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 of the water outlet or access hole;
- above-ground tanks are manufactured from concrete or metal;
- raised tanks have their stands constructed from non-combustible material or bush fire-resisting timber. The bush fire-resisting timbers are Silvertop Ash, Blackbutt, Red or River Gum, Spotted Gum, Red Ironbark, Kwila (Merbau) or Turpentine;
- 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 must be 19mm internal diameter;
- fire hose reels are constructed in accordance with AS/NZS 1221:1997, and installed in accordance with the relevant clauses of AS 2441:2005;
- a Static Water Supply (SWS) sign must be obtained from the local NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) and positioned for ease of identification by RFS personnel and other users of the SWS. In this regard:
  - markers must be fixed in a suitable location to be highly visible, and;
  - markers should be positioned adjacent to the most appropriate access for the water supply.
- 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 measure is to minimise the risk of bush fire attack and provide protection for emergency services personnel, residents and others assisting firefighting activities.***

6. 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 (or to the property boundary where the setbacks are less than 1 metre), 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.

### **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 NSW RFS has undertaken a merit based assessment of the proposal and provides the above advice in accordance with *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*.

For any queries regarding this correspondence, please contact Kristy Chedid on 1300 NSW RFS.

Yours sincerely,

Kalpana Varghese  
**Supervisor Development Assessment & Plan  
 Built & Natural Environment**