



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Northern Beaches Council
PO Box 882
MONA VALE NSW 1660

Your reference: CNR-62126 DA2023/1536
Our reference: DA20231106005007-Original-1

ATTENTION: Northern Beaches Council

Date: Tuesday 21 November 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

Development Application
s4.14 - Other - Place of Public Worship
173 Mona Vale Road Ingleside NSW 2101, 52//DP1152609

I refer to your correspondence dated 06/11/2023 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 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.

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:

- North for a distance of 30 metres;
- East for a distance of 30 metres;
- South for a distance of 30 metres; and,
- West for a distance of 30 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 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.

2. Proposed construction must be undertaken using non-combustible materials.

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.

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

- reticulated water is to be provided to the development where available;
- fire hydrant, spacing, design and sizing complies with the relevant clauses of Australian Standard AS 2419.1:2005;
- hydrants are and not located within any road carriageway;
- reticulated water supply to urban subdivisions uses a ring main system for areas with perimeter roads;
- fire hydrant flows and pressures comply with the relevant clauses of AS 2419.1:2005;
- 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.

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.

For any queries regarding this correspondence, please contact Craig Casey on 1300 NSW RFS.

Yours sincerely,

Nika Fomin
Manager Planning & Environment Services
Built & Natural Environment