Planning for Bushfire Protection



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Reference: 1396-R2 4/04/2022

Bushfire Risk Assessment Report

In relation to proposed development at:

No 259 Aumuna Road, Terrey Hills

In accordance with the requirements of 4.14 of the EP&A Act No 203 Part (1) [b] This Assessment has been prepared and Certified by: Ronald Coffey BPAD – A Certified Practitioner FPAA Cert. No: BPD-PA 09328 Can this proposal comply with AS3959, **YES** 2018 + the additional construction requirements detailed in section 7.5 of PBP? What is the recommended level of **BAL 12.5** compliance AS3959, 2018? Does this development comply with the YES requirements of PBP? Does this development comply with the YES Aims and objectives of PBP? Is referral to the NSW RFS required? NO

This assessment confirms that the proposal conforms to the specifications and requirements, that are relevant to the development, of the version (as prescribed by the regulations) of the document entitled Planning for Bushfire Protection prepared by the NSW Fire Service in co-operation with the NSW Department of Planning.

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Introduction

The purpose of this report is to determine the category of bushfire attack and subsequent construction standard for the proposed development of alterations and additions to the existing dwelling, a new class 10a shed and the rebuilding of an existing carport at No 259 Aumuna Road, Terrey Hills.

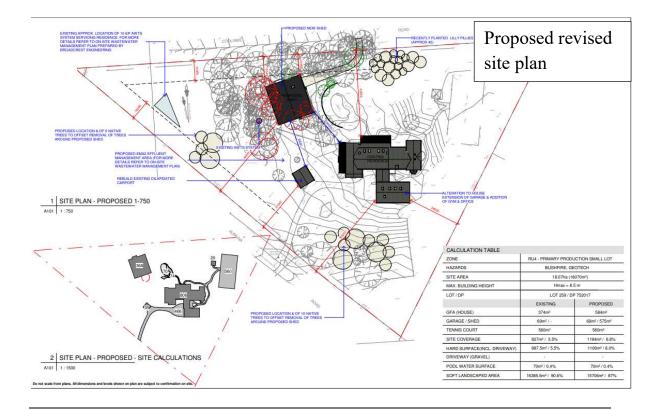
This is a revised report supporting minimal impact on native vegetation in accordance with applicable controls.

The site is identified as 'bush fire prone land' for the purposes of Section 146 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and the legislative requirements for building on bushfire prone lands are applicable.

The proposed development is an infill development as defined within Chapter 7.1 of Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019 and this report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 4.14 of the Environment Planning and Assessment Act.

This assessment includes an analysis of the hazard, threat and subsequent risk to the development proposal and provides recommendations that satisfy the Objectives and Performance requirements of the Building Code of Australia, Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019 [PBP] and Australian Standard AS3959, 2018.

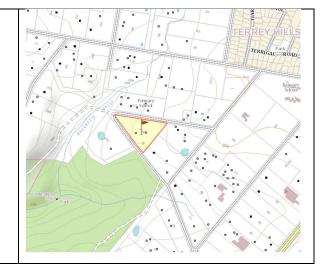
The site was inspected: 4/04/2022



1) Location

No 259 Aumuna Road, Terrey Hills Lot 259, DP 752017

LGA – Northern Beaches Council



2) Development Proposal and Building Classifications

The proposal is for alterations and additions to the existing dwelling, a new shed and the rebuilding of an existing carport

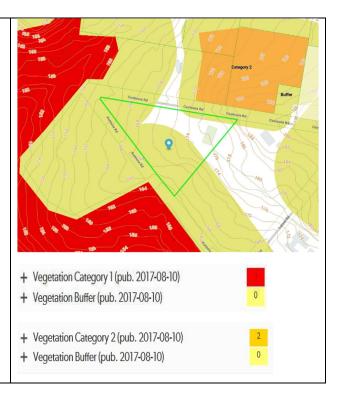
Building Classification existing dwelling: Class 1a

New garage/shed & rebuilt carport: Class 10a.

3) Description of the Subject Property

The development site is a residential lot facing south onto Aumuna Road and north onto Coolowie Road.

The following sections 4-8 describe in detail the vegetation, slope, access and egress, availability of water supplies and environmental considerations for the site. The adjacent image is the bushfire prone land map for the area.



4) Classification of the Vegetation on and surrounding the Site

The site is developed and maintained and there is no threat from bushfire attack on the site. There are areas of shrubs and trees on the site, however, these areas are managed, not shown on the bushfire prone land map as a hazard and are not continuous with hazards to the north, south or west. A previous bushfire risk assessment included a recommendation that the entire site should be established as an Inner Protection Area. This was included in accordance with standard RFS recommendations; however, as the existing vegetation on the site is not considered a hazard and the site is almost entirely managed as an effective IPA, additional clearing is not necessary.



Properties <u>east</u> of the subject site are developed and maintained and there is no threat of bushfire attack from these directions for more than 100m.

<u>North</u>: There is an area of vegetation north of the proposed development considered a hazard. This area of hazard is isolated and shown on the bushfire prone land map as a remnant. <u>South and west</u> of the proposed development is an area of bushland that is considered a threat from bushfire attack to the site. With reference to PBP and the bushfire prone land map for the area the classification of vegetation for this hazard is forest.

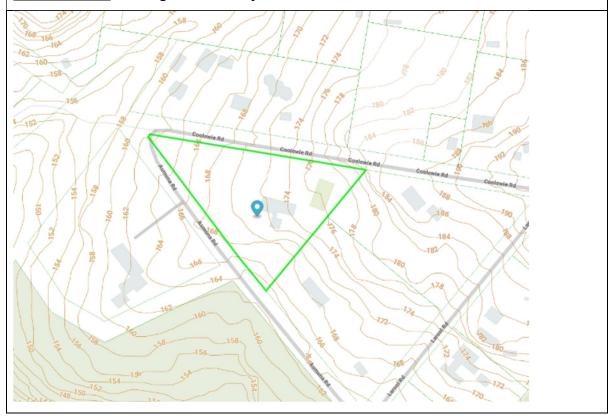
Distances to hazards from existing dwelling	Distances to hazards from proposed shed
North – Remnant – 65m	North – Remnant – 45m
South – Forest – 72m	South – Forest – 105m
East – n/a	East – n/a
West – 190m	West – 120m

5) Assessment of Effective Slope

Effective slope away from the development site:

North & east: 0-5 degrees upslope

South and west: 0-5 degrees downslope



6) Access and Egress

The site has direct access to Aumuna Road and Coolowie Road. Both are public roads, and access and egress for emergency vehicles and evacuation appears adequate.

7) Adequacy of water supply

The area has reticulated water supply and hydrants are spaced at regular distances along Aumuna and Coolowie Roads.

8) Environmental Considerations

The scope of this assessment has not been to provide an environmental assessment; however, the subject site is a residential lot that has been developed for many years and it appears that the proposed development will have no adverse environmental effect.

9) Bushfire Risk Assessment

Table 1: Reference PBP Table A1.12.5

Determination of category of bushfire attack for the site and subsequent required building standards for alterations and additions to the existing dwelling

Direction	Distance of APZ	Vegetation Classification	Assessment of Effective Slope	Anticipated Radiant heat	Bushfire Attack Level (BAL)
North	45m	Remnant	0-5 degrees upslope	<12.5kw/m2	BAL 12.5
South	105mm	Forest	0-5 degrees downslope	<12.5kw/m2	BAL 12.5
East	>140m	Developed sites	0-5 degrees upslope	<12.5kw/m2	BAL Low
West	190m	Forest	0-5 degrees downslope	<12.5kw/m2	BAL Low

Summary: Based upon the relevant provisions of PBP the anticipated radiant heat attack for the site is <12.5kw/m2 and the subsequent minimum construction standard is BAL 12.5 AS3959, 2018.

10) Assessment of the extent to which the construction conforms or deviates from Chapter 7 of 'Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019'

Performance Criteria	Acceptable Solutions	Meets Performance Criteria
The intent may be achieved where:		
In relation to APZ's: - Defendable space is provided - An APZ is provided and maintained for the life of the building.	Defendable space is provided on all sides of the existing and proposed buildings. Asset protection zones are provided partially on site and by adjoining development and public roads.	Yes
In relation to siting and design: Buildings are sited and designed to minimise the risk of bushfire attack.	The siting of the buildings has been determined in accordance with local council requirements and no advantage could be gained by recommending a resiting of the building.	Yes
In relation to construction standards: It is demonstrated that the proposed building can withstand bushfire attack in the form of wind, smoke, embers, radiant heat and flame contact.	Construction standards have been recommended in accordance with the requirements of PBP.	Yes
In relation to access requirements: Safe operational access is provided [and maintained] for emergency services personnel in suppressing a	The access and egress requirements have been designed to provide safe and effective evacuation from the subject site	Yes

bushfire while residents are seeking to relocate, in advance of a bushfire.	and appear to be adequate for fire brigade personnel and fire-fighting equipment.	
In relation to water and utility services: - Adequate water and electricity services are provided for fire-fighting operations - gas and electricity services are located so as to not contribute to the risk to a building.	The area has reticulated water supply and the nearest street hydrant is within the minimum required distance from the most distant point of the subject site in accordance with the requirements of PBP and AS2419.1 2005. This report shall recommend compliance with PBP 7.4a for services including electricity and gas.	Yes
In relation to landscaping: It is designed and managed to minimise flame contact and radiant heat to buildings, and the potential for wind driven embers to cause ignitions.	The site is landscaped and managed and no part of the site is shown on the bushfire prone land map as a hazard.	Yes
In relation to Emergency and Evacuation Planning:	The need to formulate an emergency evacuation plan has been discussed and it is advised that the residents should complete a <i>Bush Fire Survival Plan</i> as formulated by the NSW Rural Fire Service. An emergency evacuation plan is not recommended as a condition of consent.	Yes

11) Assessment of the extent to which the construction conforms or deviates from the Aims and Objectives of 'Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019'

Aim	Meets Criteria	Comment
All development on BFPL must satisfy the aim and objectives of PBP. The aim of PBP is to provide for the protection of human life and minimise impacts on property from the threat of bushfire, while having due regard to development potential, site characteristics and protection of the environment.	Yes	The threat assessment has determined that the category of bushfire attack for the buildings on the site is not within the flame zone. Landscaping, defendable space, access and egress, emergency risk management and construction standards are in accordance with the requirements of PBP and the aims of PBP have been achieved
Objectives	Meets Criteria	Comment
Afford buildings and their occupants protection from exposure to a bushfire	Yes	The maximum exposure to a bushfire for the area where the development is proposed is <12.5kw/m2.
Provide a defendable space to be located around buildings	Yes	Defendable space is provided on all sides of the proposed development.
Provide appropriate separation between a hazard and buildings	Yes	The entire site is managed as an asset protection zone and appropriate separation has

which, in combination with other measures, prevent the likely fire spread to buildings.		been provided by a combination of the onsite APZ and adjoining developed sites.
Ensure that appropriate operational access and egress for emergency service personnel and occupants is available	Yes	Internal road widths and design appear to be adequate for safe access for emergency services and for crews to work with equipment about the vehicles. The site has direct access to public roads, and access and egress for emergency vehicles and evacuation appears adequate.
Provide for ongoing management and maintenance of bushfire protection measures	Yes	The entire site where not built on is not considered a hazard and this report will recommend continued maintenance.
Ensure that utility services are adequate to meet the needs of firefighters	Yes	The area has reticulated water supply and combined with the availability of a large volume of water available from the existing inground pool, the needs of firefighters, in terms of water supplies for firefighting, appears adequate.

12) Recommendations

The following recommendations are made for the bushfire protection measures for the proposed residential development of alterations and additions to the existing dwelling, a new shed and the rebuilding of an existing carport at No 259 Aumuna Road, Terrey Hills. These recommendations are based upon the relevant provisions of the NSW Rural Fire Service guideline entitled *Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019*.

- 1) Construction Standard alterations and additions to the existing dwelling: The alterations and additions to the existing dwelling shall be constructed to a minimum standard of Section 3 [construction general] and Section 5 [BAL 12.5] of AS3959, 2018 'Construction of Buildings in Bushfire Prone Areas' and the additional construction requirements contained within section 7.5, 7.51, 7.52, 7.53 and 7.54 [where applicable] of Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019.
- 2) Construction Standard Proposed New Shed and Rebuilt Carport.

 PBP 2019 8.3.2 Class 10a and 10b structures: The NCC defines a Class 10 building as a non-habitable building or structure such as:
 - a) Class 10a a non-habitable building being a private garage, carport, shed or the like; or
 - b) Class 10b a structure being a fence, mast antenna, retaining wall or freestanding, swimming pool. Or the like; or

c) Class 10c - a private bushfire shelter.

There is no bushfire protection requirement for Class 10a structures located more than 6m from a dwelling in bushfire areas. In this instance the proposed new shed and the existing carport are not within 6m of the dwelling on the site and the Building Code of Australia [BCA] does not provide for any bushfire specific performance requirements for the proposed development and as such AS3959, 2018 does not apply as a deemed to satisfy provision. PBP accepts the general fire safety construction provisions of the National Construction Code [NCC] are taken as acceptable solution

- 3) <u>Electricity and Gas Supplies</u>: As far as practical, new electricity and gas supplies shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of 7.4a of PBP. Note: 7.4a of PBP requires that 'where practical, electrical transmission lines should be underground.'
- 4) Asset Protection Zones: The site is developed and maintained and there is no threat from bushfire attack on the site. There are areas of shrubs and trees on the site, however, these areas are managed, not shown on the bushfire prone land map as a hazard and are not continuous with hazards to the north, south or west. A previous bushfire risk assessment included a recommendation that the entire site should be established as an Inner Protection Area. This was included in accordance with standard RFS recommendations; however, as the existing vegetation on the site is not considered a hazard and the site is almost entirely managed as an effective IPA, additional clearing is not necessary. All ongoing maintenance and new landscaping shall consider the asset protection zone requirements as outlined within PBP and the NSW RFS document 'Standards for asset protection zones'
- 5) Emergency and Evacuation Planning: The need to formulate an emergency evacuation plan has been discussed and it is advised that the residents should complete a *Bush Fire Survival Plan* as formulated by the NSW Rural Fire Service.

 An emergency evacuation plan is not recommended as a condition of consent.
- 6) <u>Water Supplies</u>: Reticulated water supply is located on the adjoining road at regular intervals and is easily accessible. No additional water supplies have been recommended.

13) Summary

This report consists of a bushfire risk assessment for the proposed residential development of alterations and additions to the existing dwelling, a new shed, and the rebuilding of an existing carport at No 259 Aumuna Road, Terrey Hills.

The proposed development will be constructed to the minimum standards required in accordance with the guidelines of *Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019*.

This report has considered all the elements of bushfire attack and provided the proposed development is constructed in accordance with the recommendations included in section 12 of this report, it is my considered opinion that the development satisfies the Objectives and Performance requirements of the *Building Code of Australia, Planning for Bushfire Protection 2006 and Australian Standard AS3959, 2018.*

Notwithstanding the precautions adopted, it should always be remembered that bushfires burn under a wide range of conditions and an element of risk, no matter how small always remains, and although the standard is designed to improve the performance of such buildings, there can be no guarantee, because of the variable nature of bushfires, that any one building will withstand bushfire attack on every occasion.

This Report is a Bush Fire Hazard Assessment that provides the required information to assist Local Council and the Rural Fire Service in determining compliance in accordance with Planning for Bushfire Protection and AS 3959, 2019. The Local Council is the Final Consenting Authority, and the construction of the building must comply with the recommendations included in the Council's conditions of consent.

RE Off

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Grad I Fire E [Institute of Fire Engineers - 1973]
Grad Cert Fire Safety Eng. [UWS - 2003]
Grad Dip Building in Bushfire Prone Areas [UWS – 2005]
Ass Prof Cert in Expert Evidence in the Land & Environment Court [UTS – 2005]
Member - Institute of Fire Engineers
Corporate Member - Fire Protection Association Australia



Planning for Bushfire Protection
Fire Protection Association of Australia
BPAD-A Certified Practitioner/Corporate Bronze Certified Business
Certification No BPD-PA09328
0408 220 443

14) References Australian Building Codes Board

Building Code of Australia Volumes 1&2 Canprint

Australian Building Codes Board [2001]

Fire Safety Engineering Guidelines Edition 2001 ABCB Canberra

D. Drysdale D. [1998]

Introduction to Fire Dynamics 2nd Edition John Wiley & Sons Ltd

NSW Government Environmental Planning and Assessment Act [1979]

Part 79BA – Consultation and development Consent – Certain Bushfire Prone Land NSW Government Printer

Planning NSW

Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019

A Guide for Councils, Planners, Fire Authorities, Developers and Home Owners This document provides the necessary planning considerations when developing areas for residential use in residential, rural residential, rural and urban areas when development sites are in close proximity to areas likely to be affected by bushfire events and replaces Planning for Bushfire Protection 2001.

This document is essential reading: Download a copy from the RFS website or purchase a copy through the NSW Government Online Shop or phone 9228 6333

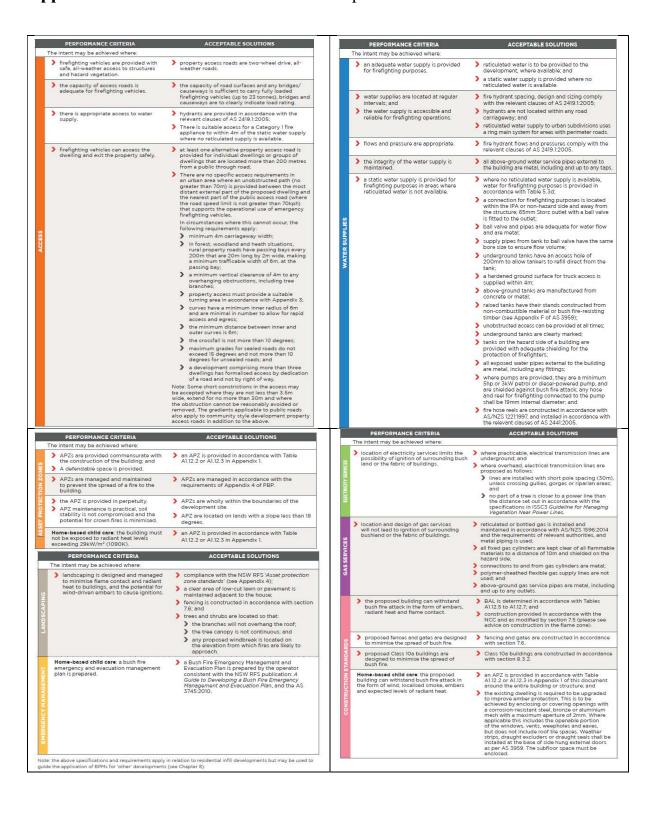
Ramsay C & Rudolph L [2003]

Landscape and Building Design for Bushfire Prone Areas CSIRO Publishing

Standards Australia [2018]

Australian Standards 3959 Australian Building Code Board

Appendix 1: Performance criteria and acceptable solutions PBP Part 7.4a



Appendix 2: 7.5.2 NSW State Variations under G5.2(a)(i) and 3.10.5.0(c)(i) of the NCC

Certain provisions of AS 3959 are varied in NSW based on the findings of the Victorian Bush Fires Royal Commission and bush fire industry research.

The following variations to AS 3959 apply in NSW for the purposes of NSW G5.2(a)(i) of Volume One and NSW 3.10.5.0(c)(i) of Volume Two of the NCC; clause 3.10 of AS 3959 is deleted and any sarking used for BAL-12.5, BAL-19, BAL-29 or BAL-40 shall:

- be non-combustible; or
- comply with AS/NZS 4200.1, be installed on the outside of the frame and have a flammability index of not more than 5 as determined by AS 1530.2; and
- clause 5.2 and 6.2 of AS 3959 is replaced by clause 7.2 of AS 3959, except that any wall enclosing the subfloor space need only comply with the wall requirements for the respective BAL; and
- clause 5.7 and 6.7 of AS 3959 is replaced by clause 7.7 of AS 3959, except that any wall enclosing the subfloor space need only comply with the wall requirements for the respective BAL: and
- fascias and bargeboards, in BAL-40, shall comply with:
- clause 8.4.1(b) of AS 3959; or
- clause 8.6.6 of AS 3959.

The interpretation of this variation is:

<u>Enclosed subfloors</u>: For subfloor supports there are no requirements for supporting posts, columns, stumps, stringers piers and poles for subfloor supports for BAL 12.5 and BAL 19 when the subfloor space is enclosed with a wall that complies with the determined BAL level for the site.

<u>Unenclosed subfloors</u>: For unenclosed subfloor supporting posts, columns, stumps, stringers piers and poles the requirements are upgraded from BAL 12.5 and BAL 19 to BAL 29 level.

<u>Enclosed verandas</u>: There are no requirements for supporting posts, columns, stumps, stringers piers and poles for verandas, decks, steps and landings when the subfloor space is enclosed with a wall that complies with the determined BAL level for the site.

<u>Unenclosed verandas</u>: The requirements for supporting posts, columns, stumps, stringers piers and poles for verandas, decks, steps, and landings are upgraded from BAL 19 and BAL 12.5 to BAL 29 level.

For unenclosed subfloors of the main building or verandas, decks, steps and landings for BAL 12.5, 19 and BAL29 supporting posts, columns, stumps, stringers piers and poles shall be:

- 1. A non-combustible material; or
- 2. A Bushfire resistant timber; or
- 3. A combination of 1 and 2

Acceptable timber species:

Black-butt, Turpentine, Silver Top Ash, Spotted Gum, Red Iron Bark, Kwila, Red River Gum

Sarking: To comply with the NSW State variation any sarking used for BAL 12.5 shall:

- Be Non-combustible; or
- Comply with AS/NZ 4200.1 be installed on the outside of the frame and have a flammability index of not more than 5 as determined by AS1530.2