

Response to a question from the Independent Planning Commission in relation to Blue Gum Community School (SSD 10444)

The Independent Planning Commission (the Commission) queried the Department during the IPC Presentation on 4 February 2021, seeking clarification whether the NSW RFS had seen the addendum bushfire report as part of the Applicant's Response to Submissions Report. The Department's response is provided below:

Question (from IPC transcript, 4th February 2021)

1. *Can I please just ask for you to confirm that the RFS (Rural Fire Service NSW) have seen that attachment 5 document and they concur with the findings. Is that what you said?*

Department Response:

An initial bushfire report prepared by the Austrian Bushfire Consulting Services, providing an assessment of bushfire risk and management recommendations, was submitted with the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for SSD-10444. NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) reviewed the EIS and concurred with the assessment and the recommendations of the bushfire consultant and confirmed that the site can be managed as an Inner Protection Area (IPA).

Concerns were raised by the community about bushfire issues during the exhibition of the EIS. Council and the community raised concerns that additional vegetation clearing (beyond that proposed in the SSD) may need to be cleared to meet the IPA management requirements. Consequently, the Applicant submitted an addendum bushfire report with the Response to Submissions Report.

The addendum bushfire report responds primarily to the community and Council submission regarding impact on vegetation within the site in relation to management of an IPA at this location. It provides a detailed analysis in relation to the particulars of the subject site, its context in the locality, the existing dwelling location, as well as both the existing and proposed vegetation to provide evidence how the requirements for an IPA can be managed on site. The addendum report confirms that the landscaping as proposed, including the required replacement planting, can be undertaken whilst still meeting the IPA management requirements of the NSW RFS document Standards for Asset Protection Zones and without the need for further vegetation clearing.

The addendum report was not required to be referred to the NSW Rural Fire Service given the assessment and recommendation of the original assessment were not changed by the amended bushfire report and the NSW RFS concurred with the recommendations in the original report.

The Department did however consider the adequacy and appropriateness of the addendum bushfire reports submitted by the applicant. The Department considers that subject to the recommended conditions the functionality of the proposed development would not be compromised to meet the IPA.

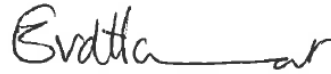
This note corrects the previous verbal response provided by Department Representative which implied that the addendum bushfire report had been referred to the NSW RFS. It was not.

Recommended:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "KH" followed by a flourish.

Karen Harragon
Director
Social Infrastructure Assessments

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Erica" followed by a flourish.

Erica Van Den Honert
Executive Director
Infrastructure Assessments