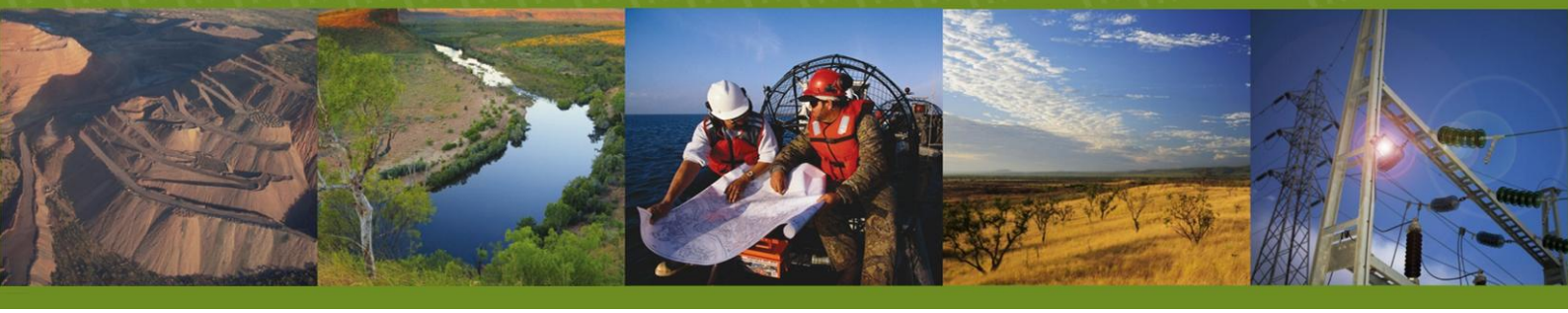

Bush fire hazard and BAL assessment

Capricorn Coastal Node

Prepared for
Acumen Development Solutions
by Strategen

July 2014

STRATEGEN
environmental consultants

Bush fire hazard and BAL assessment

Capricorn Coastal Node

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July 2014

Limitations

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In preparing the report, Strategen has relied upon data and other information provided by the Client and other individuals and organisations, most of which are referred to in the report ("the data"). Except as otherwise expressly stated in the report, Strategen has not verified the accuracy or completeness of the data. To the extent that the statements, opinions, facts, information, conclusions and/or recommendations in the report ("conclusions") are based in whole or part on the data, those conclusions are contingent upon the accuracy and completeness of the data. Strategen has also not attempted to determine whether any material matter has been omitted from the data. Strategen will not be liable in relation to incorrect conclusions should any data, information or condition be incorrect or have been concealed, withheld, misrepresented or otherwise not fully disclosed to Strategen. The making of any assumption does not imply that Strategen has made any enquiry to verify the correctness of that assumption.

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Environmental conclusions

Within the limitations imposed by the scope of services, the preparation of this report has been undertaken and performed in a professional manner, in accordance with generally accepted environmental consulting practices. No other warranty, whether express or implied, is made.

Client: Acumen Development Solutions

Report Version	Revision No.	Purpose	Strategen author/reviewer	Submitted to Client	
				Form	Date
Initial Draft Report	A	Client Review	D Panickar / R Banks	Electronic	12/06/2014
Final Draft Report	0	Client Review	D Panickar / R Banks	Electronic	16/06/2014
Final Report	1	Submission to DoP	D Panickar	Electronic	01/07/2014

Filename: ADS14159_01 R001 Rev 1 - 1 July 2014

Table of contents

List of tables

List of figures

List of appendices

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Capricorn Village Joint Venture (CVJV) is proposing to develop the Capricorn Coastal Node (CCN), located in Yanchep, Western Australia (Figure 1; Figure 2).

A Bush fire Hazard Assessment is required by the Department of Planning (DoP) that identifies the level of risk associated with vegetation in and around the subject land, in particular sites that have direct frontage to the foreshore reserve. The DoP requires recommendations focused on the direct interface lots. The CCN is surrounded by bushland, most notably Bush Forever Site No. 397 to the north and west, which will pose an inherent bushfire risk to proposed life and property assets of the subdivision.

CVJV has commissioned Strategen to undertake a bush fire hazard assessment of the proposed CCN development and surrounding vegetation to confirm the location and level of existing bush fire hazards. CVJV has also requested that Strategen complete a Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) assessment of the proposed CCN development to provide bush fire fuel hazard assessment for the future Fire Management Plan or any additional fire mitigation works to address current bush fire issues at the site.

1.2 Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to:

- document the findings of a bush fire hazard assessment and BAL assessment
- provide guidance on bushfire management considerations for the CCN
- provide bush fire fuel hazard assessment for the future Fire Management Plan or any additional fire mitigation works to address current bush fire issues at the site
- document measures to achieve an acceptable and compliant fire management outcome for the site.

The need for a Fire Management Plan, or otherwise, will be based on the level of compliance of the proposed development with performance criteria outlined in *Planning for Bush Fire Protection Guidelines (Edition 2)* (PFBFP Guidelines; WAPC et al. 2010), Draft State Planning Policy 3.7 Planning for Bushfire Risk Management (DoP & WAPC 2014a) and accompanying Draft Planning for Bushfire Risk Management Guidelines (DoP & WAPC 2014b). Of particular importance will be the application of suitable building protection and hazard separation zones (defendable space) around the proposed development and specified level of construction standard in accordance with *AS 3959–2009 Construction of Buildings in Bushfire Prone Areas* (SA 2009).

1.3 Key objectives

Key objectives of the project include:

1. Undertake a detailed bush fire hazard assessment of the proposed CCN development and surrounds.
2. Undertake a BAL assessment of the proposed CCN development in accordance with AS 3959–2009.
3. Document key findings of the bush fire hazard and BAL assessments, including mapping of bush fire hazard areas and hazard levels in accordance with methodology outlined in the Guidelines.
4. Verify compliance of the proposed development with Guideline performance criteria in light of the assessed bush fire hazard levels and BAL.
5. Provide bush fire fuel hazard assessment for the future Fire Management Plan or any additional fire mitigation works to address current bush fire issues at the site.

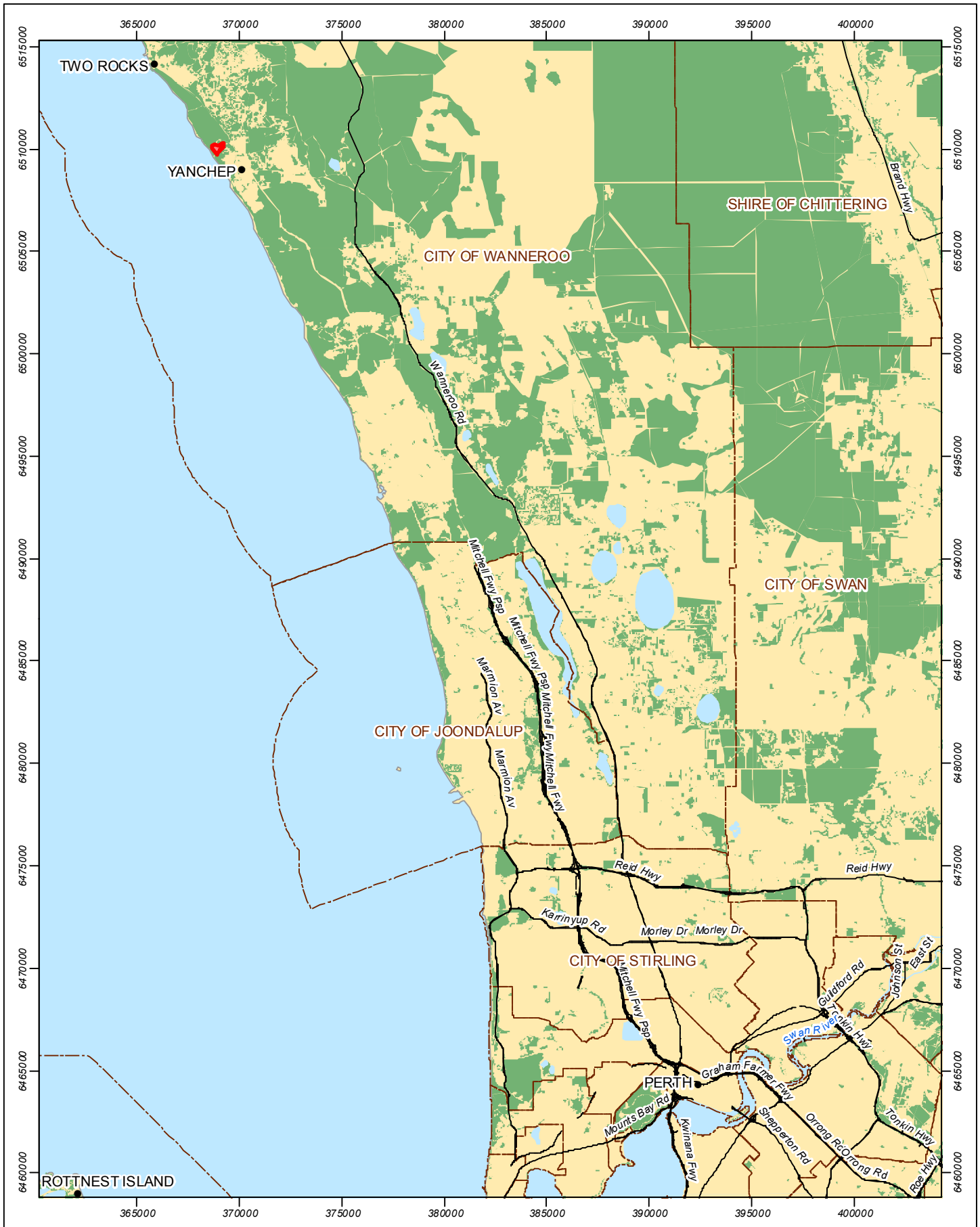

Figure 1 Regional Location

Scale 1:250,000 at A4

0 1 2 3 km

Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 50
Note that positional errors may occur in some areas
Date: 11/06/2014
Author: JCrute
Source: Topography: Geoscience Australia 2011.

Legend

- Town
- Major road
- Local government boundary
- Major river
- Lakes
- Native vegetation
- Project area boundary

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Figure 2: Concept Plan

Date: 11/06/2014
Author: JCrute
Source: Concept Plan & contours: Client 2014.

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2. Bush fire hazard assessment

2.1 Site overview

2.1.1 Location

The proposed Capricorn Coastal Node (CCN) development (the project area) is located in the Yanchep locality, approximately 51 km northwest of the Perth Central Business District (Figure 1). The CCN is within the City of Wanneroo (CoW) and includes the existing Club Capricorn Resort.

2.1.2 Site topography

The majority of the project area is dominated by undulating topography formed by dunes systems which vary in height from 6 meters Australian Height Datum (mAHD) to 36 mAHD (Figure 3).

Modifications to the topography within the project area have occurred as a result of construction of the existing Club Capricorn Resort and associated infrastructure.

2.1.3 Vegetation

The project area is located in the South Western Botanical Province of Western Australia, in the Darling Botanical District and the Swan Coastal Plain subregion of the Drummond Botanical District (Beard 1990). Vegetation types of the project area are dominated by the Quindalup vegetation complex (Heddle *et al.* 1980) as illustrated in Figure 4. This complex can be described as:

- a coastal dune complex consisting mainly of two alliances - the strand and fore dune alliance and the mobile and stable dune alliance. Local variations include low closed forest of *Melaleuca lanceolata - Callitris preissii* and closed scrub of *Acacia rostellifera*.

The project area is bound to the north and west by Bush Forever Site No. 397 (Figure 4).

2.1.4 Proposed site assets

Development of the CCN will intensify life and property assets within the area due to construction of additional residences, recreational facilities, infrastructure and attraction of visitors.

Bush Forever site 325 is located within proximity to the proposed CCN development. Consequently, native vegetation of the project area and surrounds are expected to contain high value environmental assets, including potential habitat for flora of conservation significance.

Figure 3: Topography

Scale 1:5,000 at A4

0 50 100 m

N

Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 50
Note that positional errors may occur in some areas
Date: 11/06/2014
Author: JCrute
Source: Concept Plan & contours: Client 2014.

Legend

- Surface elevation (mAHD)
- Project area boundary

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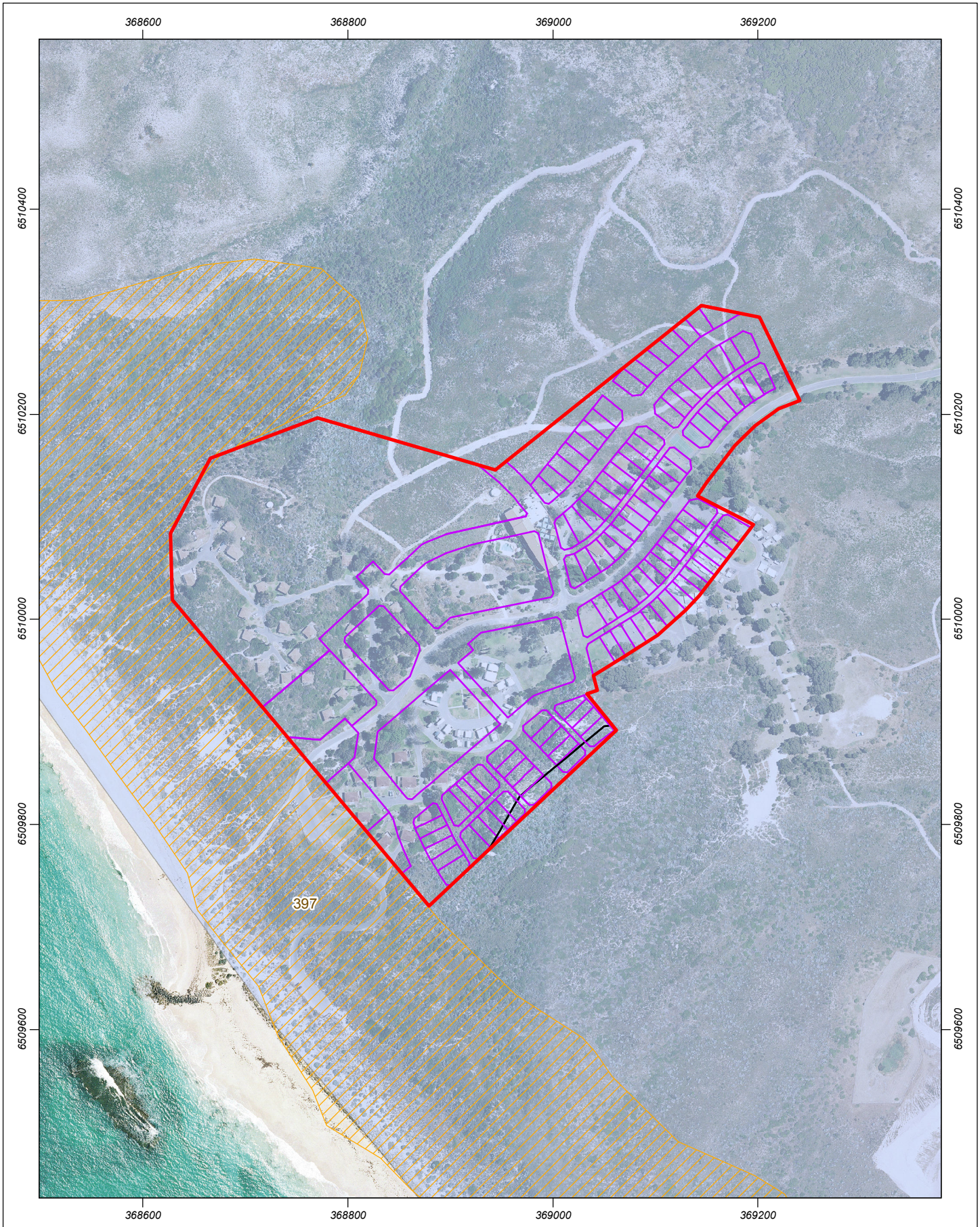

Figure 4: Vegetation complexes

Scale 1:5,000 at A4

m
0 50 100

Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 50
Note that positional errors may occur in some areas
Date: 11/06/2014
Author: JCrute
Source: Concept Plan: Client 2014. Vegetation: System 6, DEC 2012.

Legend

- Existing cadastre
- Proposed cadastre
- Project area boundary
- Bush Forever site

Vegetation complexes

- Quindalup complex

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2.2 Fuel hazard assessment

Strategen staff undertook a fuel hazard assessment of the proposed CCN development area and surrounding vegetation on 6 June 2014. The assessment, undertaken in accordance with the *Swan Coastal Plain Visual Fuel Load Guide* (FESA 2012) included on-site verification of vegetation types and an assessment of the available fuel loads contained within on-site and surrounding vegetation on the basis of a visual inspection of:

- vegetation type and structure
- vegetation condition and density
- fuel age (years since last burn)
- scrub extent
- surface litter, trash and bark accumulation.

2.2.1 Predominant fuel type and available fuel loads

Vegetation adjacent to the project area represents a typical coastal heath structure. Strategen identified one predominant fuel type that could potentially pose a fire threat to existing and potential assets within the proposed CCN development. The fuel type is a dense, closed heath with two different fuel loads dependent upon the position of the vegetation in relation to the landscape (foredunes/flats and backdunes/swales).

Foredunes/flats

This heath occurs in near shore areas and is the first terrestrial vegetation between the shoreline and dunes (Plate 1; Plate 2). Dominant species include:

- *Olearia axillaris*
- *Spyridium globulosum*
- *Threlkeldia diffusa*
- *Scaevola crassifolia*

Available fuel loads were assessed as between 2-5 t/ha (tonnes per hectare).

Backdunes/swales

This heath occurs throughout the back of the primary dunes of the area and associated swales (Plate 3; Plate 4; Plate 5). This vegetation occurs within close proximity to the proposed built assets of the CCN and poses the highest inherent bush fire risk to the CCN. Dominant species include:

- *Lepidosperma gladiatum*
- *Olearia axillaris*
- *Threlkeldia diffusa*
- *Scaevola crassifolia*

Available fuel loads were assessed as between 10-12 t/ha (tonnes per hectare).

Plate 1: Foredune/flat land vegetation

Plate 2: Foredune/flat land vegetation

Plate 3: Swale vegetation

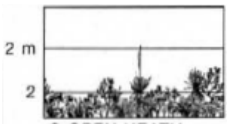
Plate 4: Foredune/swale vegetation

Plate 5: Foredune/swale vegetation

2.3 Classified vegetation types

An assessment of vegetation class and type within and adjacent to the proposed CCN development area was undertaken in accordance with procedures outlined in the PFBFP Guidelines (Table 1). The classified vegetation type aligns with the predominant fuel type identified in Section 2.2.1.

Table 1: Predominant vegetation class and type

Predominant fuel type and available fuel load	Vegetation class	Vegetation type	Figure (taken from the Guidelines)	Description
Open *Olearia-Spyridium* foredune/flat land heath (2-5 t/ha)	(C) Shrubland	Open heath		Found in wet areas but which are affected by poor soil fertility or shallow soils. Shrubs 1-2 metres high often comprising *Banksia, Acacia, Hakea* and *Grevillea*. Wet heaths occur in sands adjoining dunes of the littoral (shore) zone. Montane heaths occur on shallow or water-logged soils.
Open *Olearia-Lepidosperma* backdune/swale heath (10-12 t/ha)				

2.4 Location and levels of bush fire hazards

The location and levels of existing bush fire hazard areas both within and adjacent to the proposed CCN development is outlined in the vegetation class and bush fire hazard assessment map (Figure 5). This map has been created using the abovementioned vegetation class and type description and assessed available fuel loads.

Bush fire hazard levels within and adjacent to the proposed CCN development, are moderate to extreme. Classifying the bush fire hazard by assessing the predominant vegetation is a key to the initial determination of site suitability for development. This also leads to determination of the potential level of construction standard by the application of AS 3959–2009 for any proposed development.

2.5 Bushfire Attack Level assessment

This procedure, as outlined in the PFBFP Guidelines and AS 3959–2009, specifies the Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) by using a combination of the relevant fire danger index (FDI), vegetation class, slope and the distance maintained between the proposed development area and predominant vegetation. Based on the specified BAL, construction requirements for proposed buildings can then be assigned.

2.5.1 Fire danger index

A blanket FDI rating of 80 is adopted for Western Australian environments, as outlined in AS 3959–2009 and provided by Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC).

2.5.2 Vegetation class

One predominant vegetation classification (open heath) was identified as occurring in proximity to the proposed CCN development.

2.5.3 Distance from classified vegetation

The proposed location of the CCN is located within varying distance to classified vegetation with some buildings proposed to be located directly adjacent to vegetation (i.e. 0 m).

2.5.4 Effective slope under classified vegetation

Heath vegetation (classified as shrubland as per PFBFP Guidelines) occurs both down-slope and up-slope from the proposed development due to the nature of the coastal dune systems upon which the proposed CCN development occurs. However, for the purposes of the assessment, vegetation is considered to be downslope at a maximum angle of 7 degrees from the proposed CCN development as a worst case scenario.

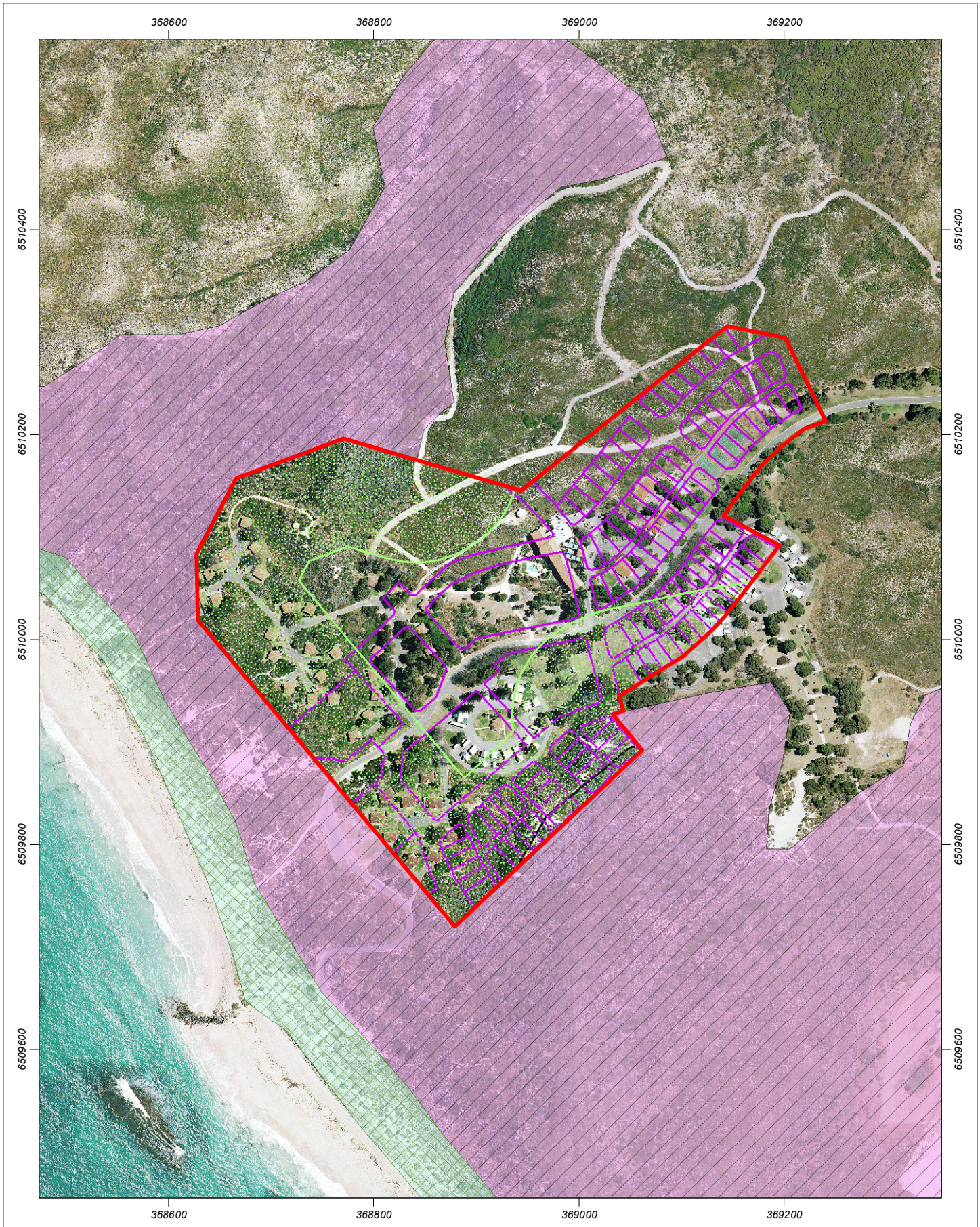


Figure 5: Vegetation class and bush fire hazard assessment map

Scale 1:5,000 at A4

0 50 100 m

N

Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 50
Note that positional errors may occur in some areas
Date: 11/06/2014
Author: JCrute
Source: Concept Plan: Client 2014.

Legend

- Existing cadastre
- Proposed cadastre
- Project area boundary
- 100 m HSZ

Vegetation class

- Open heath (10-12t/ha)
- Open heath (2-5t/ha)

Bush fire hazard level

- Extreme
- Moderate

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2.5.5 Determination of Bushfire Attack Level

Based on the above parameters, the specified BAL for the proposed CCN development is BAL FZ (Flame Zone), as indicated in Table 2 due to the proximity of some proposed buildings to classified vegetation. Development in areas specified as BAL FZ and BAL 40 are not considered appropriate and will not be endorsed by CoW, DoP or Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES). As such, appropriate separation distances from classified vegetation will need to be factored in around the proposed CCN development to create a suitable low fuel buffer and defendable space, indicative of a lower, more manageable BAL rating, such as BAL 29 or lower. The separation distance can be one or a combination of the following:

- roads
- firebreaks
- footpaths
- carparking areas
- low fuel areas
- building setbacks.

Table 2: Determination of Bushfire Attack Level

Vegetation class	Bushfire attack level (BAL)				
	BAL FZ	BAL 40	BAL 29	BAL 19	BAL 12.5
	Distance (m) of the site from the predominant vegetation class				
	Vegetation is upslope and flat land (0 degrees)				
(C) Shrubland	<8	8–<11	11–<17	17–<25	25–<100

Source: WAPC et al. 2010

A brief description of the various BALs and associated heat flux exposure threshold, bush fire attack and level of exposure, and relevant section of AS 3959–2009 is provided in Table 3. Construction standards for BAL 29, BAL 19 and BAL 12.5 are fully explained in Appendix 3.

Table 3: Construction standards

Bush fire attack level (BAL)	Classified vegetation within 100m of the site and heat flux exposure thresholds	Description of predicted bush fire attack and levels of exposure	Construction Section as per AS 3959
BAL – Low	-	There is insufficient risk to warrant specific construction requirements. Despite this, FESA strongly recommends that ember protection features be incorporated in design where practicable.	4
BAL – 12.5	≤12.5 kW/m^2	Ember attack	3 and 5
BAL – 19	>12.5 kW/m^2 ≤19 kW/m^2	Increasing levels of ember attack and burning debris ignited by windborne embers together with increasing heat flux.	3 and 6
BAL – 29	>19 kW/m^2 ≤29 kW/m^2	Increasing levels of ember attack and burning debris ignited by windborne embers together with increasing heat flux.	3 and 7
BAL – 40 (not approved in WA)	>29 kW/m^2 ≤40 kW/m^2	Increasing levels of ember attack and burning debris ignited by windborne embers together with increasing heat flux with the increased likelihood of exposure to flames.	3 and 8
BAL – FZ (not approved in WA)	>40 kW/m^2	Direct exposure to flames from fire front in addition to heat flux and ember attack.	3 and 9

Source: SA 2009

3. Bush fire mitigation and compliance

3.1 Bush fire hazard performance criteria

The PFBFP Guidelines document a suite of bush fire hazard performance criteria and acceptable solutions to guide proposed developments in achieving suitable and effective bush fire mitigation and protection of life and property. The relationship between the various bush fire hazard levels and development performance criteria is set out in Table 4.

The surrounds of the proposed CCN development has a moderate to extreme bush fire hazard rating. As development is generally to be avoided in these areas, a comprehensive suite of bush fire mitigation strategies will need to be employed to meet Guideline requirements and achieve compliance with performance criteria for a moderate hazard level or lower.

Bush fire mitigation will therefore need to focus on the key areas of development location, vehicular access, water supply, siting of development and design of development. In order to achieve a compliant development, performance criteria for these elements will need to be met through adoption of recommended and applicable acceptable solutions, as outlined in the Guidelines.

Table 4: Bush fire hazard levels and performance criteria

Bush fire hazard level	Bush fire protection performance criteria required
Low hazard	Development does not require special bush fire planning controls. Despite this, DFES strongly recommends that ember protection features be incorporated in design where practicable.
Moderate hazard	Performance criteria for: • location (Element 1) • vehicular access (Element 2) • water (Element 3) • siting of development (Element 4) • design of development (Element 5).
Extreme hazard	Development is to be avoided in areas with these hazard levels.

Source: WAPC et al. 2010

Section 3.2 provides a discussion on the range of bush fire mitigation strategies that could be employed to achieve compliance with the above performance criteria. The completed fire management compliance checklist is provided in Appendix 1.

3.2 Bush fire mitigation

3.2.1 Development location

Strategic location, layout and management of future development at the planning stage can reduce future fire threat and risk to critical life and property assets. The current situation is that the proposed CCN development is located adjacent to a moderate to extreme bush fire hazard area subject to BAL FZ construction standards. This is at variance with acceptable solution A1.1 and is subsequently non-compliant with performance criteria for development location.

Since clearing of vegetation adjacent to the proposed CCN development is not permitted, given the Bush Forever status of the vegetation, buildings will need to be located a suitable distance from vegetation to achieve a manageable BAL and reduce the bush fire hazard to a moderate level or lower.

Recommended mitigation

Strategen recommends that a minimum 11 m separation distance be maintained between classified vegetation and proposed buildings. This separation distance can be achieved by the construction of roads, firebreaks or footpaths, maintenance of low fuel areas and/or building setbacks. In addition to this separation distance, the following construction standards will be adopted for all proposed buildings:

- BAL 29 for all proposed buildings within 11-<17 m of classified vegetation
- BAL 19 for all proposed buildings within 17-<25 m of classified vegetation
- BAL 12.5 for all proposed buildings within 25-100 m of classified vegetation.

These BAL ratings meet the building construction and separation requirements outlined in Table 2 and Table 3.

This approach will create defendable space and a manageable area of low to moderate bush fire hazard around the proposed built asset, which will meet performance criteria for development location by adopting acceptable solution A1.1. These separation distance areas outlined above are a minimum, and where possible in this situation a greater separation distance from the vegetation is preferable.

3.2.2 Vehicular access

The proposed vehicular access network will provide a minimum of two links to the surrounding public road network (Figure 2). The proposed vehicular access network will also provide buffers and access for emergency service vehicles between proposed buildings and the surrounding bushland extent.

These measures adopt acceptable solution A2.1 by ensuring all residents and visitors of the development are provided with at least two vehicular access routes connecting to the surrounding public road network at all times.

All public roads, cul-de-sacs and private driveways will be constructed to specifications in accordance with Main Roads WA and DFES requirements, which align with acceptable solutions A2.2, A2.3 and A2.5.

No additional mitigation is needed.

3.2.3 Water supply

Potable water supply will be provided from the Water Corporation reticulated water supply scheme.

Recommended mitigation

The existing reticulated water supply service (including installation of fire hydrants) should be extended to the proposed CCN development to achieve full compliance with performance criteria for water supply by adopting acceptable solution A3.1.

In addition, installation of fire hose reels adjacent to proposed buildings should be considered to enhance the ability to protect the building in the event of wildfire and ember attack.

This level of bush fire mitigation should be comprehensively addressed in a detailed Fire Management Plan for the CCN and is expected to achieve compliance with performance criteria for water supply.

3.2.4 Siting of development

Current siting of the proposed CCN development is at variance with acceptable solutions A4.1, A4.3 and A4.4, and is subsequently non-compliant with performance criteria for siting of development. This is due to there being no current Hazard Separation Zone (HSZ) or building Protection Zone (BPZ) between some of the proposed building locations and surrounding areas of moderate-extreme bush fire hazard.

Recommended mitigation

As outlined in Section **Error! Reference source not found.**, construction standards applicable to BAL 29, BAL 19 and BAL 12.5 are recommended for the proposed CCN development, in addition to a minimum 11 m low fuel buffer Building Protection Zone (BPZ) (Figure 6).

The 11 m wide BPZ between the proposed CCN development and classified vegetation is to be maintained annually, with fuel loads in the area within 2 t/ha.

Fuel hazard reduction, such as implementation of a mosaic prescribed burning regime undertaken by CoW, is recommended for vegetation located within Bush Forever site 325 which will maintain the bushfire fuel loads between 5 – 8 tonnes per hectare (this program is to be developed between CoW and the Department of Parks and Wildlife) This will reduce and maintain the current high fuel loading of vegetation surrounding the proposed CCN development, which will effectively provide a large HSZ around the 11 m BPZ.

The abovementioned measures will achieve compliance with performance criteria for siting of development by adopting acceptable solutions A4.1, A4.3 and A4.4 (A4.2 and A4.5 are not applicable in this case). Provision of a plan outlining the proposed BPZ and details of any fuel hazard reduction should be included in a Fire Management Plan, prior to endorsement by DFES and CoW.

3.2.5 Design of development

Current development design indicates a non-compliant development according to acceptable solution A5.2.

Recommended mitigation

To maintain compliance with performance criteria for design of development, the proposed development will need to implement acceptable solutions A4.1–A4.4, which will result in creation of a low bush fire hazard level around the proposed buildings. Recommended measures to achieve compliance with acceptable solutions A4.1–A4.4 are documented in Section 3.2.4 which involves maintaining available fuel loads within Building Protection Zones and constructing proposed buildings to applicable BAL levels.

3.2.6 Additional bush fire mitigation strategies

The following bush fire mitigation strategies should be considered in addition to the strategies listed previously, including:

1. Emergency suppression response: in the event that wildfire occurs within or adjacent to the development area, a fast emergency suppression response time (within 15 minutes) can be achieved from local volunteer and career bush fire brigades.
2. Detailed evacuation plan and designation of safe fire refuge: on construction of the proposed development, Strategen recommends that the responsible authority have in place a detailed evacuation plan, including location and signage of designated safe fire refuge area/s. Access to and from the site is likely to be compromised in the event of a fire occurring in the area; therefore, the creation of a safe and humane refuge is an important component of any future Fire Management Plan.
3. Compliance with City of Wanneroo Fire Management Requirements: the responsible authority will be required to maintain compliance with the current City of Joondalup Fire Management Requirements (Appendix 2).
4. Ensure Muster Points are provided: Muster points should be clearly demarcated on evacuation plans and using on-site signage. Patrons should also be made aware of their location.

These additional bush fire mitigation measures should be described in a detailed Fire Management Plan.

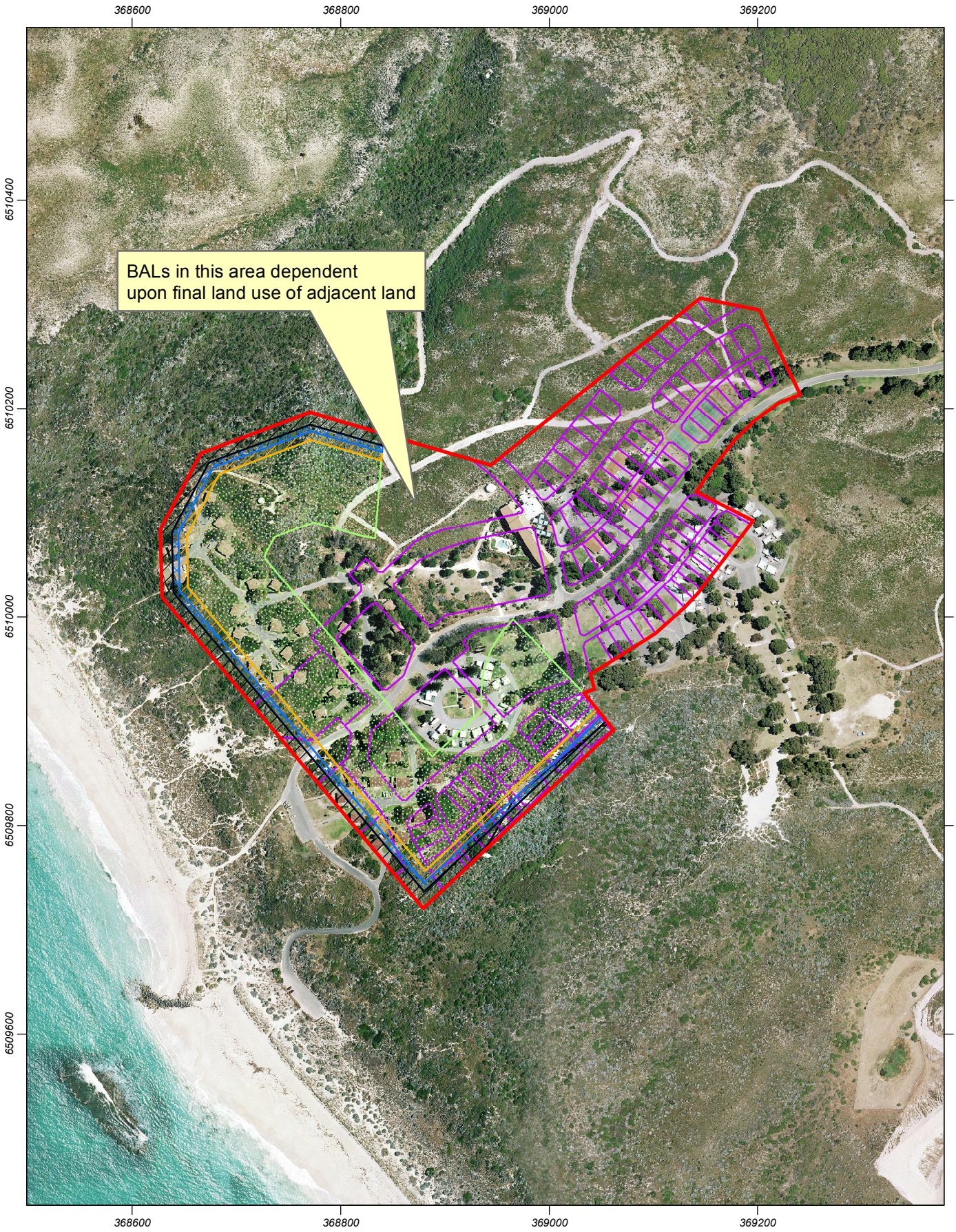

Figure 6: Indicative building protection zones and BALs

Scale 1:5,000 at A4

m
0 50 100

Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 50
Note that positional errors may occur in some areas
Date: 16/06/2014
Author: JCrute
Source: Concept Plan: Client 2014.

Legend

- Existing cadastre
- Proposed cadastre
- Project area boundary
- 11 m wide BPZ
- BAL 29
- BAL 19
- BAL 12.5

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3.3 Compliance with PFBFP Guidelines

Current development design, location and layout will not achieve full compliance with PFBFP Guideline requirements for planning in bush fire prone areas. However, consideration and implementation of the numerous bush fire mitigation measures outlined in Section 3.2 will assist in achieving a compliant development and a suitable and effective fire management outcome.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

Strategen has undertaken a bush fire hazard assessment as well as a BAL assessment of the proposed Capricorn Coastal Node (CCN) development and surrounding vegetation. Findings of the assessments have revealed that the proposed development is situated in a moderate to extreme bush fire hazard area subject to BAL FZ construction requirements, which are not supported in Western Australia.

However, implementation of a range of bush fire mitigation strategies, as outlined in Section 3.2, will ensure that a **compliant development** is achieved resulting in a suitable and effective fire management outcome ensuring the ongoing protection of life and property. To achieve compliance with the full suite of bushfire planning requirements, the following items will need to be implemented in the detailed design phase:

- construction of all proposed buildings to relevant BAL levels (Section 3.2.1)
- Ensuring appropriate BPZs exist between classified vegetation and proposed buildings (Section 3.2.1)
- maintaining available fuel loads within Building Protection Zones.

Implementation of mitigation measures will reduce the BAL-FZ rating to an acceptable outcome of BAL 29 or lower for the proposed development.

As a first priority, Strategen recommends that a detailed and comprehensive Fire Management Plan be prepared for the proposed CCN development for submission to, and endorsement by DFES, CoW and DoP. The Fire Management Plan will need to fully address the complexities of the environment (dune terrain, long unburnt vegetation, very high available fuel loads and extreme bush fire hazard areas) and associated level of bush fire risk to proposed life and property assets. It is also advised that Strategen advise the Local Structure Plan development to ensure compliance with a Fire Management Plan can be achieved.

The Fire Management Plan should be prepared in accordance with the PFBFP Guidelines, with consideration given to the Draft State Planning Policy 3.7 Planning for Bushfire Risk Management and accompanying Draft Planning for Bushfire Risk Management Guidelines including application of AS 3959–2009, and should address all elements requiring compliance (development location, vehicular access, water supply, siting of development and design of development). The Fire Management Plan should also take into consideration the fire management planning advice and recommended mitigation measures detailed in this report.

5. References

Department of Planning and Western Australian Planning Commission (DoP & WAPC) 2014a, *Draft State Planning Policy 3.7 Planning for Bushfire Risk Management*, Western Australian Planning Commission, Perth.

Department of Planning and Western Australian Planning Commission (DoP & WAPC) 2014b, *Draft Planning for Bushfire Risk Management Guidelines,* Western Australian Planning Commission, Perth.

Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) 2012, *Visual Fuel Load Guide for the scrub vegetation of the Swan Coastal Plain and Darling Scarp including Geraldton Sandplains & Leeuwin Ridge Regions of Western Australia*, Bush Fire and Environmental Protection Branch, Fire and Emergency Services Authority, Perth.

Heddle EM, Loneragan OW & Havel JJ 1980, *Darling System, Vegetation Complexes*, Forest Department, Perth.

Standards Australia (SA) 2009, *Australian Standard AS 3959–2009 Construction of Buildings in Bushfire-Prone Areas*, Standards Australia, Sydney, New South Wales.

Western Australian Planning Commission, Department of Planning and Fire and Emergency Services Authority (WAPC et al.) 2010, *Planning for Bush Fire Protection Guidelines (Edition 2)*, Western Australian Planning Commission and Fire and Emergency Services Authority, Western Australia.

Appendix 1
Compliance checklist

Compliance checklist for performance criteria and acceptable solutions

Element	Acceptable solution	Compliance	Yes/No	Explanation (if no)
1. Location	A1.1 Development location	Does the proposal comply with performance criteria P1 by applying acceptable solution A1.1?	No	Will be compliant after mitigation measures
2. Vehicular access	A2.1 Two access routes	Does the proposal comply with performance criteria P2 by applying acceptable solution A2.1?	Yes	
	A2.2 Public roads	Does the proposal comply with performance criteria P2 by applying acceptable solution A2.2?	Yes	
	A2.3 Cul-de-sacs	Does the proposal comply with performance criteria P2 by applying acceptable solution A2.3?	Yes	
	A2.4 Battle axes	Does the proposal comply with performance criteria P2 by applying acceptable solution A2.4?	N/A	
	A2.5 Private driveways	Does the proposal comply with performance criteria P2 by applying acceptable solution A2.5?	Yes	
	A2.6 Emergency access ways	Does the proposal comply with performance criteria P2 by applying acceptable solution A2.6?	N/A	
	A2.7 Fire service access routes	Does the proposal comply with performance criteria P2 by applying acceptable solution A2.7?	Yes	
	A2.8 Gates	Does the proposal comply with performance criteria P2 by applying acceptable solution A2.8?	N/A	
	A2.9 Firebreak widths	Does the proposal comply with performance criteria P2 by applying acceptable solution A2.9?	N/A	If needed, firebreaks will comply with A2.9
	A2.10 Signs	Does the proposal comply with performance criteria P2 by applying acceptable solution A2.10?	N/A	
3. Water	A3.1 Reticulated areas	Does the proposal comply with performance criteria P3 by applying acceptable solution A3.1?	Yes	
	A3.2 Non-reticulated areas (a)	Does the proposal comply with performance criteria P3 by applying acceptable solution A3.2?	N/A	
	A3.3 Non-reticulated areas (b)	Does the proposal comply with performance criteria P3 by applying acceptable solution A3.3?	N/A	
4. Siting of development	A4.1 Hazard separation – moderate to extreme bush fire hazard level	Does the proposal comply with performance criteria P4 by applying acceptable solution A4.1?	No	Will be compliant after mitigation measures
	A4.2 Hazard separation – low bush fire hazard level	Does the proposal comply with performance criteria P4 by applying acceptable solution A4.2?	Yes	
	A4.3 Building protection zone	Does the proposal comply with performance criteria P4 by applying acceptable solution A4.3?	No	Will be compliant after mitigation measures
	A4.4 Hazard separation zone	Does the proposal comply with performance criteria P4 by applying acceptable solution A4.4?	No	Will be compliant after mitigation measures

Element	Acceptable solution	Compliance	Yes/No	Explanation (if no)
	A4.5 Reduction in bush fire attack level due to shielding	Does the proposal comply with performance criteria P4 by applying acceptable solution A4.5?	Yes	
5. Design of development	A5.1 Compliant development	Does the proposal comply with performance criteria P5 by applying acceptable solution A5.1?	Yes	
	A5.2 Non-compliant development	Does the proposal comply with performance criteria P5 by applying acceptable solution A5.2?	N/A	

Note: Performance criteria and acceptable solutions are in accordance with *Planning for Bush Fire Protection Guidelines (Edition 2)* (WAPC et al. 2010).

Applicant Declaration

I declare that the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Full name: Roger Banks

Applicant signature: 

Date: 12/06/2014

Appendix 2
City of Wanneroo firebreak order 2014

Protect your home and property from bushfires

NOTICE TO ALL OWNERS OR OCCUPIERS OF LAND IN THE DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF WANNEROO REGARDING FIREBREAKS.

The City of Wanneroo hereby gives notice pursuant to Section 33 of the **Bush Fires Act 1954** to all owners or occupiers of land in its district that they are required on or before 15 November, or within 14 days of becoming the owner or occupier of the land if that occurs after the 15 November, to annually plough, cultivate, scarify, or otherwise clear firebreaks as specified in this Notice and thereafter up to, and including the 30 April, annually, to maintain the firebreaks clear of flammable matter.

1. Land having an area of 2000m2 or more
A firebreak not less than 3 metres wide and 3 metres high immediately inside and around all external boundaries of the land must be cleared.

2. Land having an area of less than 2000m²
A firebreak not less than 2 metres wide and 2 metres high immediately inside and around all external boundaries of the land must be cleared.

3. Buildings
A firebreak not less than 3 metres wide immediately around all external walls of every building must be cleared. Whenever a firebreak is cleared by burning the provisions of the Act and Regulations made thereunder must be observed. If pursuant to Item (2) of this Notice, mowing or slashing is carried out the height of vegetation thereafter must not exceed, as far as is reasonably practicable, 20mm over the entire area of the firebreak. The use of chemicals is subject to all restrictions imposed by the Department of Agriculture. Attention is drawn to the Flammable Liquids Regulations made under the Explosives and Dangerous Goods Act 1961,which requires a site on which flammable liquid is stored to be totally cleared of all flammable material for a minimum distance of 5 metres surrounding the site.

If it is considered to be impracticable for any reason to comply with the provisions of this Notice, application may be made not later than the 1st day of November annually to the Council or its authorised officer for permission to provide alternative fire protection measures. If permission is not granted the requirements of this Notice must be complied with.

Penalty
An owner or occupier of land who fails or neglects in any respect to comply with the requirements of this Notice is liable to a maximum fine of $5,000.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Firebreaks must be cleared by 15 November (AND KEPT CLEAR UNTIL APRIL 30)**
- **Burning permits required all year round**
- **Burning prohibited between 1 December to 31 March**

When and how to obtain a fire permit

Permits are available from the City of Wanneroo at the following locations:

WANNEROO ANIMAL CARE CENTRE
Located at the rear of the Ashby Operations Centre, 1204 Wanneroo Road, Ashby
The City's Rangers / Fire Control Officers are available to issue permits 7 days a week* from 4pm - 6pm
*Except Good Friday

CITY OF WANNEROO CIVIC CENTRE
23 Dundebar Road, Wanneroo
The City's Fire Control Officers / Permit Issuing Officers are available to issue permits Monday to Friday 9am - 4pm

TWO ROCKS VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE
Captain / Fire Control Officer
Seatrees Estate,Two Rocks
Please phone 0427 026 000 before attending

NEED ADVICE?
Further advice about how to protect your home, constructing firebreaks, and when and how to burn off, is available from the City of Wanneroo during office hours on 9405 5000.

City of Wanneroo
23 Dundebar Road, Wanneroo, WA 6065
Locked Bag 1, Wanneroo, WA 6946
T : (08) 9405 5000 F : (08) 9405 5499
After Hours : 1300 13 83 93
E : enquiries@wanneroo.wa.gov.au
wanneroo.wa.gov.au

PROTECT YOUR HOME AND PROPERTY FROM BUSHFIRES

City of Wanneroo

Keeping your home safe from fire

There are a number of ways you can help keep your home safe from fire:

- Install smoke detectors in your home
- Clear vegetation away from the walls of your home
- Clear all rubbish and flammable material from around your home to create a 20 metre circle of safety
- Store firewood, timber, petrol, and kerosene well away from your home
- Prior to summer, clean all leaves and debris from your gutters
- Don't have flammable trees such as conifers near buildings
- Have branches trimmed that overhang the house or powerlines
- Fit wire insect screens or shutters to windows and glass doors

If a firebreak is impractical along your boundary for environmental or other reasons notify the City of Wanneroo by 1 October to obtain permission to install firebreaks in alternative positions, or of a different nature.

ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF REDUCING FIRE HAZARDS ON VACANT LAND

- For urban land less than 2000m^2, if mowing or slashing is carried out, the height of the vegetation must not exceed, as far as is reasonably practical, 20mm over the entire area of the firebreak
- The use of chemicals is subject to all restrictions imposed by the Department of Agriculture
- Mulching • Disposal at an authorised rubbish tip site

When and how to burn

NO BURNING FROM 1 DECEMBER - 31 MARCH

Burning off - that is, bush/running fire including grass, on any land is totally prohibited between 1 December and 31 March. Fire permits for burning material other than garden rubbish are required all year round.

A person in control of the fire must stay with the fire until it is completely extinguished.

GARDEN RUBBISH AND REFUSE

The burning of garden refuse is permitted between the hours of 6pm and 11pm, provided the fire danger rating is not VERY HIGH, SEVERE, EXTREME or CATASTROPHIC or a TOTAL FIRE BAN has been declared.

Fire danger rating signs are located at the following locations:

• Corner of Joondalup Drive and Wanneroo Road
• Wanneroo Road, south of the Yanchep Beach Road turn off
• Wanneroo Road, Carabooda • Marmion Avenue, Jindalee
• Neaves Road, Mariginiup • Old Yanchep Road, Pinjar
• Gnangara Road, Landsdale • Country Side Drive, Two Rocks

Other points to remember when burning garden refuse and rubbish are:

- All bush and flammable material must be thoroughly cleared within two metres of all points of the site of the fire
- The material must be on the ground, and be no more than one metre wide and one metre high

Only one heap may be burnt at any one time Incinerators may be used providing:

- The incinerator is properly constructed and designed to prevent the escape of sparks of burning material
- The incinerator is situated not less than two metres away from a building or fence
- An area of two metres surrounding the incinerator is clear of all flammable material

BARBECUES

Only gas or electric barbecues may be lit during VERY HIGH, SEVERE, EXTREME or CATASTROPHIC fire danger rating or declared TOTAL FIRE BAN. The lighting of solid fuel barbecues is not permitted on these days.

SMOKE NUISANCES

City of Wanneroo residents are advised to be mindful of smoke issues associated with any burning that they conduct. Steps should be taken to avoid undue smoke impact to neighbours and adjacent roads. Smoke across roadways can severely impact motorists' visibility and therefore road safety. Issues of smoke nuisance are regulated by the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007.

CAMPFIRES

Campfires must not be lit on VERY HIGH, SEVERE, EXTREME or CATASTROPHIC fire danger days or declared TOTAL FIRE BAN. A person must remain in attendance at the site during the whole time the fire is burning. The user must extinguish the fire using water or earth before leaving the area.

Hints for safer burning

- Don't light a fire on a hot or windy day
- Don't burn more than you can control
- Let your neighbours know you'll be burning material
- Make sure smoke and sparks will not affect your neighbour's washing or enter open windows
- Cut or rake long grass around trees, building and fences before burning
- Burn against the wind
- On a sloping block, burn from the top down
- Keep a hose or spray pack at hand to dampen down fierce fires
- If in doubt, don't burn material yourself - call the Volunteer Fire Brigade
- Stay with the fire until it is completely extinguished
- Where possible, don't burn any closer than 20 metres from your home or other buildings

Penalties

Under the Bush Fires Act 1954, failing to comply with regulations can result in a fine ranging from $250 to $250,000 or imprisonment.

Failure to maintain 2/3 metre firebreak as per firebreak order	$250
Offence relating to lighting fire in the open air	$250
Setting fire to bush during prohibited burning times	$250
Failure of occupier to extinguish bush fire	$250

Major offences result in Court action with fines ranging from $250 to $250,000 or imprisonment for 14 years.

THE BIGGEST PENALTY OF ALL

The biggest penalty of all would be losing your loved ones or home to fire. Please ensure you, your family and your home are kept safe by taking the necessary precautions.

Special rural and residential land

Owners and occupiers of special rural and special residential land should be aware of their responsibilities to take bush fire prevention measures, while ensuring they do not contravene Town Planning Scheme provisions which control the removal of vegetation in Special Residential and Special Rural Zones.

These special rural zones were created in areas of natural flora, and the Scheme recognises the importance of preserving the natural environment in these areas. Anyone found cutting down, lopping or damaging trees in these areas without City approval may be guilty of an offence.

However, bush fire prevention, including the installation of firebreaks, is essential regardless of the zoning of the land.

Below are some guidelines for installing firebreaks in special rural zones to prevent bush fires, while minimising damage to the natural environment.

- A 3 metre wide and 3 metre high firebreak should be cleared around the perimeter of special rural or special residential lots
- These firebreaks need not be strictly around the perimeter, but may deviate according to the flora
- The firebreak does not have to be ploughed but can instead be created by clearing and removing all flammable material
- Care should be taken to avoid damaging or removing significant trees and shrubs
- Avoid the build up of undergrowth and leaf litter

Appendix 3
Construction standards for BAL 29, BAL 19 and BAL 12.5 as per AS 3959-2009

SECTION 7 CONSTRUCTION FOR BUSHFIRE ATTACK LEVEL 29 (BAL — 29)

7.1 GENERAL

A building assessed in Section 2 as being BAL—29 shall comply with Section 3 and Clauses 7.2 to 7.8.

NOTE: There are a number of Standards that specify requirements for construction; however, where this Standard does not provide construction requirements for a particular element, the other Standards apply.

Any element of construction or system that satisfies the test criteria of AS 1530.8.1 may be used in lieu of the applicable requirements contained in Clauses 7.2 to 7.8 (see Clause 3.8).

NOTE: BAL—29 is primarily concerned with protection from ember attack and radiant heat greater than 19 kW/m2 up to and including 29 kW/m2.

7.2 SUBFLOOR SUPPORTS

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for subfloor supports where the subfloor space is enclosed with—

(a) a wall that complies with Clause 7.4; or

(b) a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium; or

(c) a combination of Items (a) and (b) above.

Where the subfloor space is unenclosed, the support posts, columns, stumps, piers and poles shall be—

(i) of non-combustible material; or

(ii) of bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F); or

(iii) a combination of Items (i) and (ii) above.

NOTE: This requirement applies to the principal building only and not to verandas, decks, steps, ramps and landings (see Clause 7.7).

C7.2 Combustible materials stored in the subfloor space may be ignited by embers and cause an impact to the building.

7.3 FLOORS

7.3.1 Concrete slabs on ground

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for concrete slabs on ground.

7.3.2 Elevated floors

7.3.2.1 *Enclosed subfloor space*

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for elevated floors, including bearers, joists and flooring, where the subfloor space is enclosed with—

(a) a wall that complies with Clause 7.4; or

(b) a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium; or

(c) a combination of Items (a) and (b) above.

7.3.2.2 *Unenclosed subfloor space*

Where the subfloor space is unenclosed, flooring material, including bearers, joists and flooring less than 400 mm above finished ground level, shall be—

(a) non-combustible (e.g., concrete, steel); or

(b) of bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F); or

(c) particleboard or plywood flooring where the underside is lined with sarking-type material or mineral wool insulation; or

(d) a system complying with AS 1530.8.1; or

(e) a combination of any of Items (a), (b), (c) or (d) above.

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for elements of elevated floors, including bearers, joists and flooring, if the underside of the element is 400 mm or more above finished ground level.

7.4 EXTERNAL WALLS

7.4.1 Walls

Walls shall be one of the following:

(a) Made of non-combustible material (e.g., full masonry, brick veneer, mud brick, concrete, aerated concrete).

or

(b) Made of timber-framed or steel-framed walls that are sarked on the outside of the frame and clad with—

(i) fibre-cement external cladding, a minimum of 6 mm in thickness; or

(ii) steel sheet; or

(iii) bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F); or

(iv) a combination of any of Items (i), (ii) or (iii) above.

or

(c) A combination of Items (a) and (b) above.

7.4.2 Joints

All joints in the external surface material of walls shall be covered, sealed, overlapped, backed or butt-jointed to prevent gaps greater than 3 mm.

Alternatively, sarking-type material can be applied over the frame prior to fixing any external cladding.

7.4.3 Vents and weepholes

Vents and weepholes in external walls shall be screened with a mesh with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium, except where they are less than 3 mm (see Clause 3.6).

7.5 EXTERNAL GLAZED ELEMENTS AND ASSEMBLIES AND EXTERNAL DOORS

7.5.1 Bushfire shutters

Where fitted, bushfire shutters shall comply with Clause 3.7 and be made from—

(a) non-combustible material; or

(b) bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F); or

(c) a combination of Items (a) and (b) above.

7.5.2 Windows

Windows shall comply with one of the following:

(a) They shall be completely protected by a bushfire shutter that complies with Clause 7.5.1.

or

(b) They shall comply with the following:

(i) Window frames and window joinery and shall be made from one of the following:

(A) Bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F).

or

(B) Metal.

or

(C) Metal-reinforced PVC-U. The reinforcing members shall be made from aluminium, stainless steel, or corrosion-resistant steel, and the frame and the sash shall satisfy the design load, performance and structural strength of the member.

(ii) Externally fitted hardware that supports the sash in its functions of opening and closing shall be metal.

(iii) Glazing shall be toughened glass minimum 5 mm.

(iv) Where glazing is less than 400 mm from the ground or less than 400 mm above decks, carport roofs, awnings and similar elements or fittings having an angle less than 18 degrees to the horizontal and extending more than 110 mm in width from the window frame (see Figure D3, Appendix D) that portion shall be screened with a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

(v) The openable portions of windows shall be screened with a mesh with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

7.5.3 Doors—Side-hung external doors (including French doors, panel fold and bi-fold doors)

Side-hung external doors, including French doors, panel fold and bi-fold doors, shall comply with one of the following:

(a) They shall be protected by a bushfire shutter that complies with Clause 7.5.1.

or

(b) They shall be completely protected externally by screens with a mesh with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium

or

(c) They shall comply with the following:

(i) Doors shall be—

(A) non-combustible; or

(B) a solid timber door, having a minimum thickness of 35 mm for the first 400 mm above the threshold; or

(C) a door, including a hollow core door, protected on the outside by a screen door or a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium; or

(D) a fully framed glazed door, where the framing is made from non-combustible materials or from bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F).

(ii) Externally fitted hardware that supports the panel in its functions of opening and closing shall be metal.

(iii) Where doors incorporate glazing, the glazing shall be toughened glass, minimum 5 mm.

(iv) Where glazing is less than 400 mm from the ground or less than 400 mm above decks, carport roofs, awnings and similar elements or fittings having an angle less than 18 degrees to the horizontal and extending more than 110 mm in width from the door (see Figure D3, Appendix D), that portion shall be screened with a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

(v) Doorframes shall be made from one of the following:

(A) Bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F).

or

(B) Metal.

or

(C) Metal-reinforced PVC-U. The reinforcing members shall be made from aluminium, stainless steel, or corrosion-resistant steel and the door assembly shall satisfy the design load, performance and structural strength of the member.

(vi) Doors shall be tight-fitting to the doorframe and to an abutting door, if applicable.

(vii) Weather strips, draught excluders or draught seals shall be installed at the base of side-hung external doors.

7.5.4 Doors—Sliding doors

Sliding doors shall comply with one of the following:

(a) They shall be protected by a bushfire shutter that complies with Clause 7.5.1.

or

(b) They shall be completely protected externally by screens with a mesh with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

or

(c) They shall comply with the following:

(i) Doorframes shall be of bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F) or aluminium or steel.

(ii) Externally fitted hardware that supports the panel in its functions of opening and closing shall be metal.

(iii) Where sliding doors incorporate glazing, the glazed assembly shall be toughened glass minimum 6 mm except where both the fixed and openable portions of doors are screened by a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

(iv) Sliding doors shall be tight-fitting in the frames.

7.5.5 Doors—Vehicle access doors (garage doors)

The following apply to vehicle access doors:

(a) Vehicle access doors shall be made from—

(i) non-combustible material; or

(ii) bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F); or

(iii) fibre-cement sheet, a minimum of 6 mm in thickness; or

(iv) a combination of any of Items (i), (ii) or (iii) above.

(b) Panel lift, tilt doors or side-hung doors shall be fitted with suitable weather strips, draught excluders, draught seals or guide tracks, as appropriate to the door type, with a maximum gap no greater than 3 mm.

(c) Roller doors shall have guide tracks with a maximum gap no greater than 3 mm and shall be fitted with a nylon brush that is in contact with the door (see Figure D4, Appendix D).

(d) Vehicle access doors shall not include ventilation slots.

7.6 ROOFS (INCLUDING VERANDA AND ATTACHED CARPORT ROOFS, PENETRATIONS, EAVES, FASCIAS, GABLES, GUTTERS AND DOWNPIPES)

7.6.1 General

The following apply to all types of roofs and roofing systems:

(a) Roof tiles, roof sheets and roof-covering accessories shall be non-combustible.

(b) The roof/wall junction shall be sealed, to prevent openings greater than 3 mm, either by the use of fascia and eaves linings or by sealing between the top of the wall and the underside of the roof and between the rafters at the line of the wall.

(c) Roof ventilation openings, such as gable and roof vents, shall be fitted with ember guards made of non-combustible material or a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

(d) A pipe or conduit that penetrates the roof covering shall be non-combustible.

7.6.2 Tiled roofs

Tiled roofs shall be fully sarked. The sarking shall—

(a) have a flammability index of not more than 5, when tested to AS 1530.2;

(b) be located directly below the roof battens;

(c) cover the entire roof area including the ridge; and

(d) extend into gutters and valleys.

7.6.3 Sheet roofs

Sheet roofs shall—

(a) be fully sarked in accordance with Clause 7.6.2, except that foil-backed insulation blankets may be installed over the battens;

or

(b) have any gaps greater than 3 mm under corrugations or ribs of sheet roofing and between roof components sealed at the fascia or wall line and at valleys, hips and ridges by—

(i) a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium; or

(ii) mineral wool; or

(iii) other non-combustible material; or

(iv) a combination of any of Items (i), (ii) or (iii) above.

7.6.4 Veranda, carport and awning roofs

The following apply to veranda, carport and awning roofs:

(a) A veranda, carport or awning roof forming part of the main roof space [see Figure D1(a), Appendix D] shall meet all the requirements for the main roof, as specified in Clauses 7.6.1, 7.6.2, 7.6.3, 7.6.5 and 7.6.6.

(b) A veranda, carport or awning roof separated from the main roof space by an external wall [see Figures D1(b) and D1(c), Appendix D] complying with Clause 7.4 shall have a non-combustible roof covering and the support structure shall be—

(i) of non-combustible material; or

(ii) bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F); or

(iii) timber rafters lined on the underside with fibre-cement sheeting a minimum of 6 mm in thickness, or with material complying with AS 1530.8.1; or

(iv) a combination of any of Items (i), (ii) or (iii) above.

7.6.5 Roof penetrations

The following apply to roof penetrations:

(a) Roof penetrations, including roof lights, roof ventilators, roof-mounted evaporative cooling units, aerials, vent pipes and supports for solar collectors, shall be adequately sealed at the roof to prevent gaps greater than 3 mm. The material used to flash the penetration shall be non-combustible.

(b) Openings in vented roof lights, roof ventilators or vent pipes shall be fitted with ember guards made from a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

(c) All overhead glazing shall be Grade A laminated safety glass complying with AS 1288.

(d) Glazed elements in roof lights and skylights may be of polymer provided a Grade A safety glass diffuser, complying with AS 1288, is installed under the glazing. Where glazing is an insulating glazing unit (IGU), Grade A toughened safety glass, minimum 4 mm, shall be used in the outer pane of the IGU.

(e) Where roof lights are installed in roofs having a pitch of less than 18 degrees to the horizontal, the glazing shall be protected with ember guards made from a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

(f) Evaporative cooling units shall be fitted with butterfly closers at or near the ceiling level, or the unit shall be fitted with non-combustible covers with a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

7.6.6 Eaves linings, fascias and gables

The following apply to eaves linings, fascias and gables:

(a) Joints in eaves linings, fascias and gables may be sealed with plastic joining strips or timber storm moulds.

(b) Gables shall comply with Clause 7.4.

(c) Fascias and bargeboards shall—

(i) where timber is used, be made from bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F); or

(ii) where made from metal, be fixed at 450 mm centres; or

(iii) be a combination of Items (i) and (ii) above.

(d) Eaves linings shall be—

(i) fibre-cement sheet, a minimum 4.5 mm in thickness; or

(ii) bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F); or

(iii) a combination of Items (i) and (ii) above.

(e) Eaves penetrations shall be protected the same as for roof penetrations (see Clause 7.6.5).

(f) Eaves ventilation openings greater than 3 mm shall be fitted with ember guards made of non-combustible material or a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

7.6.7 Gutters and downpipes

This Standard does not provide construction-specific material requirements for downpipes.

If installed, gutter and valley leaf guards shall be non-combustible.

With the exception of box gutters, gutters shall be metal or PVC-U.

Box gutters shall be non-combustible and flashed at the junction with the roof, with non-combustible materials.

7.7 VERANDAS, DECKS, STEPS, RAMPS AND LANDINGS

7.7.1 General

Decking shall be either spaced or continuous (i.e., without spacing).

There is no requirement to enclose the subfloor spaces of verandas, decks, steps, ramps or landings.

C7.7.1 Spaced decking is nominally spaced at 3 mm (in accordance with standard industry practice); however, due to the nature of timber decking with seasonal changes in moisture content, that spacing may range from 0–5 mm during service. The preferred dimension for gaps is 3 mm (which is in line with other ‘permissible gaps’) in other parts of this Standard. It should be noted that recent research studies have shown that gaps at 5 mm spacing afford opportunity for embers to become lodged in between timbers, which may contribute to a fire. Larger gap spacings of 10 mm may preclude this from happening but such a spacing regime may not be practical for a timber deck.

7.7.2 Enclosed subfloor spaces of verandas, decks, steps, ramps and landings

7.7.2.1 *Materials to enclose a subfloor space*

The subfloor spaces of verandas, decks, steps, ramps and landings are considered to be ‘enclosed’ when—

(a) the material used to enclose the subfloor space is—

(i) non-combustible; or

(ii) bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F); or

(iii) a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium; or

(iv) a combination of any of Items (i), (ii) or (iii) above; and

(b) all openings greater than 3 mm are screened with a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

7.7.2.2 *Supports*

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for support posts, columns, stumps, stringers, piers and poles.

7.7.2.3 *Framing*

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for the framing of verandas, decks, ramps or landings (i.e., bearers and joists).

7.7.2.4 *Decking*

Decking shall be—

(a) of non-combustible material; or

(b) of bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F); or

(c) a combination of Items (a) and (b) above.

7.7.3 Unenclosed subfloor spaces of verandas, decks, steps, ramps and landings

7.7.3.1 *Supports*

Support posts, columns, stumps, stringers, piers and poles shall be—

(a) of non-combustible material; or

(b) of bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F); or

(c) a combination of Items (a) and (b) above.

7.7.3.2 *Framing*

Framing of verandas, decks, ramps or landings (i.e., bearers and joists) shall be—

(a) of non-combustible material; or

(b) of bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F); or

(c) a combination of Items (a) and (b) above.

7.7.3.3 *Decking*

Decking shall be—

(a) of non-combustible material; or

(b) of bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F); or

(c) a combination of Items (a) and (b) above.

7.7.4 Balustrades, handrails or other barriers

Those parts of the handrails and balustrades less than 125 mm from any glazing or any combustible wall shall be—

(a) of non-combustible material; or

(b) bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F); or

(c) a combination of Items (i) and (ii) above.

Those parts of the handrails and balustrades that are 125 mm or more from the building have no requirements.

7.8 WATER AND GAS SUPPLY PIPES

Above-ground, exposed water and gas supply pipes shall be metal.

SECTION 6 CONSTRUCTION FOR BUSHFIRE ATTACK LEVEL 19 (BAL — 19)

6.1 GENERAL

A building assessed in Section 2 as being BAL—19 shall comply with Section 3 and Clauses 6.2 to 6.8.

NOTE: There are a number of Standards that specify requirements for construction; however, where this Standard does not provide construction requirements for a particular element, the other Standards apply.

Any element of construction or system that satisfies the test criteria of AS 1530.8.1 may be used in lieu of the applicable requirements contained in Clauses 6.2 to 6.8 (see Clause 3.8).

NOTE: BAL—19 is primarily concerned with protection from ember attack and radiant heat greater than 12.5 kW/m2 up to and including 19 kW/m2.

6.2 SUBFLOOR SUPPORTS

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for subfloor support posts, columns, stumps, piers and poles.

NOTE: The exclusion of requirements for subfloor supports applies to the principal building only and not to verandas, decks, steps, ramps and landings (see Clause 6.7).

C6.2 Ideally, storage of combustible materials beneath a floor at this BAL would not occur and on this assumption, there is no requirement to enclose the subfloor space or to protect flooring materials from bushfire attack. However, should combustible materials be stored, it is recommended the area be protected as materials stored in the subfloor space may be ignited by embers and cause an impact to the building.

6.3 FLOORS

6.3.1 Concrete slabs on the ground

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for concrete slabs on ground.

6.3.2 Elevated floors

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for elevated floors, including bearers, joists and flooring.

6.4 EXTERNAL WALLS

6.4.1 Walls

That part of an external wall surface that is less than 400 mm from the ground or less than 400 mm above decks, carport roofs, awnings and similar elements or fittings having an angle less than 18

degrees to the horizontal and extending more than 110 mm in width from the wall (see Figure D3, Appendix D) shall be made from—

(a) non-combustible material; or

(b) fibre-cement external cladding, a minimum of 6 mm in thickness; or

(c) bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F); or

(d) a timber species, as specified in Paragraph E1 and listed in Table E1, Appendix E; or

(e) a combination of any of Items (a), (b), (c) or (d) above.

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for external wall surfaces 400 mm or more from the ground or for external wall surfaces 400 mm or more above decks, carport roofs, awnings and similar elements or fittings having an angle less than 18 degrees to the horizontal and extending more than 110 mm in width from the wall (see Figure D3, Appendix D).

6.4.2 Joints

All joints in the external surface material of walls shall be covered, sealed, overlapped, backed or butt-jointed to prevent gaps greater than 3 mm.

Alternatively, sarking-type material may be applied over the outer face of the frame prior to fixing any external cladding.

6.4.3 Vents and weepholes

Vents and weepholes in external walls shall be screened with mesh with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium, except where they are less than 3 mm (see Clause 3.6), or are located in an external wall of a subfloor space.

6.5 EXTERNAL GLAZED ELEMENTS AND ASSEMBLIES AND EXTERNAL DOORS

6.5.1 Bushfire shutters

Where fitted, bushfire shutters shall comply with Clause 3.7 and be made from—

(a) non-combustible material; or

(b) a timber species, as specified in Paragraph E1 and listed in Table E1, Appendix E; or

(c) bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F); or

(d) a combination of any of Items (a), (b), or (c) above.

6.5.2 Windows

Window assemblies shall comply with one of the following:

(a) They shall be completely protected by a bushfire shutter that complies with Clause 6.5.1.

or

(b) They shall be completely protected externally by screens with a mesh with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

or

(c) They shall comply with the following:

(i) For window assemblies less than 400 mm from the ground or less than 400 mm above decks, carport roofs, awnings and similar elements or fittings, having an angle less than 18 degrees to the horizontal and extending more than 110 mm in width from the window frame (see Figure D3, Appendix D), window frames and window joinery, shall be made from one of the following:

(A) Bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F).

or

(B) A timber species, as specified in Paragraph E2 and listed in Table E2, Appendix E.

or

(C) Metal.

or

(D) Metal-reinforced PVC-U. The reinforcing members shall be made from aluminium, stainless steel, or corrosion-resistant steel and the frame and the sash shall satisfy the design load, performance and structural strength of the member.

(ii) Externally fitted hardware that supports the sash in its functions of opening and closing, shall be metal.

(iii) Where glazing is less than 400 mm from the ground or less than 400 mm above decks, carport roofs, awnings and similar elements or fittings, having an angle less than 18 degrees to the horizontal and extending more than 110 mm in width from the window frame (see Figure D3, Appendix D), the glazing shall be toughened glass, minimum 5 mm, or glass blocks with no restriction on glazing methods.

NOTE: Where double-glazed units are used, the above requirements apply to the external face of the window assembly only.

(iv) Where glazing is other than that specified in Item (iii) above, annealed glass may be used. Where annealed glass is used, the fixed and openable portions of windows shall be screened externally with a mesh with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

(v) Where toughened glass is used, the openable portions of windows shall be screened internally or externally with a mesh with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

(vi) Glazed elements that are designed to take internal screens shall use toughened glass and the openable portion shall be screened in such a way to have no gaps greater than 3 mm in diameter. Screening material shall be a mesh with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

6.5.3 Doors—Side-hung external doors (including French doors, panel fold and bi-fold doors)

Side-hung external doors, including French doors, panel fold and bi-fold doors, shall comply with one of the following:

(a) They shall be protected by a bushfire shutter that complies with Clause 6.5.1.

or

(b) They shall be completely protected externally by screens with a mesh with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

or

(c) They shall comply with the following:

(i) Doors shall be—

(A) non-combustible; or

(B) a solid timber door, having a minimum thickness of 35 mm for the first 400 mm above the threshold; or

(C) a door, including a hollow core door, with a non-combustible kickplate on the outside for the first 400 mm above the threshold; or

(D) a fully-framed glazed door, where the framing is made from materials specified for bushfire shutters (see Clause 6.5.1).

(ii) Where doors incorporate glazing, the glazing shall be toughened glass minimum 5 mm.

(iii) Doors shall be tight-fitting to the doorframe and to an abutting door, if applicable.

(iv) Where the doorframe is less than 400 mm from the ground or less than 400 mm above decks, carport roofs, awnings and similar elements or fittings having an angle less than 18 degrees to the horizontal and extending more than 110 mm in width from the door (see Figure D3, Appendix D) the doorframe shall be made from one of the following:

(A) Bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F).

or

(B) A timber species, as specified in Paragraph E2 and listed in Table E2, Appendix E.

or

(C) Metal.

or

(D) Metal-reinforced PVC-U. The reinforcing members shall be made from aluminium, stainless steel, or corrosion-resistant steel and the door assembly shall satisfy the design load, performance and structural strength of the member.

(v) Weather strips, draught excluders or draught seals shall be installed at the base of side-hung external doors.

6.5.4 Doors—Sliding doors

Sliding doors shall comply with one of the following:

(a) They shall be completely protected by a bushfire shutter that complies with Clause 6.5.1.

or

(b) They shall be completely protected externally by screens with a mesh with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

or

(c) They shall comply with the following:

(i) Any glazing incorporated in sliding doors shall be toughened glass, minimum 5 mm.

(ii) There is no requirement to screen the openable part of the sliding door. However, if screened, the screens shall be mesh or perforated sheet made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

NOTE: The construction of manufactured sliding doors should prevent the entry of embers when the door is closed. There is no requirement to provide screens to the openable part of these doors as it is assumed that a sliding door will be closed if occupants are not present or during a bushfire event. Screens of materials other than those specified may not resist ember attack.

(iii) Sliding doors shall be tight-fitting in the frames.

6.5.5 Doors—Vehicle access doors (garage doors)

The following apply to vehicle access doors:

(a) The lower portion of a vehicle access door that is within 400 mm of the ground when the door is closed (see Figure D4, Appendix D) shall be made from—

(i) non-combustible material; or

(ii) bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F); or

(iii) fibre-cement sheet, a minimum of 6 mm in thickness; or

(iv) a timber species, as specified in Paragraph E1 and listed in Table E1, Appendix E; or

(v) a combination of any of Items (i), (ii), (iii) or (iv) above.

(b) Panel lift, tilt doors or side-hung doors shall be fitted with suitable weather strips, draught excluders, draught seals or guide tracks, as appropriate to the door type, with a maximum gap no greater than 3 mm.

(c) Roller doors shall have guide tracks with a maximum gap no greater than 3 mm and shall be fitted with a nylon brush that is in contact with the door (see Figure D4, Appendix D).

(d) Vehicle access doors shall not include ventilation slots.

6.6 ROOFS (INCLUDING VERANDA AND ATTACHED CARPORT ROOFS, PENETRATIONS, EAVES, FASCIAS, GABLES, GUTTERS AND DOWNPIPES)

6.6.1 General

The following apply to all types of roofs and roofing systems:

(a) Roof tiles, roof sheets and roof-covering accessories shall be non-combustible.

(b) The roof/wall junction shall be sealed, to prevent openings greater than 3 mm, either by the use of fascia and eaves linings or by sealing between the top of the wall and the underside of the roof and between the rafters at the line of the wall.

(c) Roof ventilation openings, such as gable and roof vents, shall be fitted with ember guards made of non-combustible material or a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

6.6.2 Tiled roofs

Tiled roofs shall be fully sarked. The sarking shall—

(a) have a flammability index of not more than 5, when tested to AS 1530.2;

(b) be located directly below the roof battens;

(c) cover the entire roof area including the ridge; and

(d) be installed so that there are no gaps that would allow the entry of embers where the sarking meets fascias, gutters, valleys and the like.

6.6.3 Sheet roofs

Sheet roofs shall—

(a) be fully sarked in accordance with Clause 6.6.2, except that foil-backed insulation blankets may be installed over the battens;

or

(b) have any gaps greater than 3 mm under corrugations or ribs of sheet roofing and between roof components sealed at the fascia or wall line and at valleys, hips and ridges by—

(i) a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium; or

(ii) mineral wool; or

(iii) other non-combustible material; or

(iv) a combination of any of Items (i), (ii), or (iii) above.

6.6.4 Veranda, carport and awning roofs

The following apply to veranda, carport and awning roofs:

(a) A veranda, carport or awning roof forming part of the main roof space [see Figure D1(a), Appendix D] shall meet all the requirements for the main roof, as specified in Clauses 6.6.1, 6.6.2, 6.6.3, 6.6.5 and 6.6.6.

(b) A veranda, carport or awning roof separated from the main roof space by an external wall [see Figures D1(b) and D1(c), Appendix D] complying with Clause 6.4 shall have a non-combustible roof covering.

NOTE: There is no requirement to line the underside of a veranda, carport or awning roof that is separate from the main roof space.

6.6.5 Roof penetrations

The following apply to roof penetrations:

(a) Roof penetrations, including roof lights, roof ventilators, roof-mounted evaporative cooling units, aerials, vent pipes and supports for solar collectors shall be adequately sealed at the roof to prevent gaps greater than 3 mm. The material used to seal the penetration shall be non-combustible.

(b) Openings in vented roof lights, roof ventilators or vent pipes shall be fitted with ember guards made from a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

(c) All overhead glazing shall be Grade A laminated safety glass complying with AS 1288.

(d) Glazed elements in roof lights and skylights may be of polymer provided a Grade A safety glass diffuser, complying with AS 1288, is installed under the glazing. Where glazing is an insulating glazing unit (IGU), Grade A toughened safety glass of minimum 4 mm shall be used in the outer pane of the IGU.

(e) Flashing elements of tubular skylights may be of a fire-retardant material, provided the roof integrity is maintained by an under-flashing of a material having a flammability index no greater than 5.

(f) Evaporative cooling units shall be fitted with butterfly closers at or near the ceiling level, or the unit shall be fitted with non-combustible covers with a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

6.6.6 Eaves linings, fascias and gables

The following apply to eaves linings, fascias and gables:

(a) Gables shall comply with Clause 6.4.

(b) Eaves penetrations shall be protected the same as for roof penetrations, as specified in Clause 6.6.5.

(c) Eaves ventilation openings greater than 3 mm shall be fitted with ember guards made of non-combustible material or a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

Joints in eaves linings, fascias and gables may be sealed with plastic joining strips or timber storm moulds.

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for fascias, bargeboards and eaves linings.

6.6.7 Gutters and downpipes

This Standard does not provide material requirements for—

(a) gutters, with the exception of box gutters; and

(b) downpipes.

If installed, gutter and valley leaf guards shall be non-combustible.

Box gutters shall be non-combustible and flashed at the junction with the roof with non-combustible material.

6.7 VERANDAS, DECKS, STEPS, RAMPS AND LANDINGS

6.7.1 General

Decking shall be either spaced or continuous (i.e., without spacings).

There is no requirement to enclose the subfloor spaces of verandas, decks, steps, ramps or landings.

C6.7.1 Spaced decking is nominally spaced at 3 mm (in accordance with standard industry practice); however, due to the nature of timber decking with seasonal changes in moisture content, that spacing may range from 0–5 mm during service. The preferred dimension for gaps is 3 mm (which is in line with other ‘permissible gaps’) in other parts of this Standard. It should be noted that recent research studies have shown that gaps at 5 mm spacing afford opportunity for embers to become lodged in between timbers, which may contribute to a fire. Larger gap spacings of 10 mm may preclude this from happening but such a spacing regime may not be practical for a timber deck.

6.7.2 Enclosed subfloor spaces of verandas, decks, steps, ramps and landings

6.7.2.1 *Materials to enclose a subfloor space*

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for the materials used to enclose a subfloor space except where those materials are less than 400 mm from the ground.

Where the materials used to enclose a subfloor space are less than 400 mm from the ground, they shall comply with Clause 6.4.

6.7.2.2 *Subfloor supports*

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for subfloor support posts, columns, stumps, stringers, piers and poles.

6.7.2.3 *Framing*

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for the framing of verandas, decks, ramps or landings (i.e., bearers and joists).

6.7.2.4 *Decking*

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for decking that is more than 300 mm from a glazed element.

Decking less than 300 mm (measured horizontally at deck level) from glazed elements that are less than 400 mm (measured vertically) from the surface of the deck (see Figure D2, Appendix D) shall be made from—

(a) non-combustible material; or

(b) bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F); or

(c) a timber species, as specified in Paragraph E1 and listed in Table E1, Appendix E; or

(d) a combination of any of Items (a), (b), or (c) above.

6.7.3 Unenclosed subfloor spaces of verandas, decks, steps, ramps and landings

6.7.3.1 *Supports*

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for support posts, columns, stumps, stringers, piers and poles.

6.7.3.2 *Framing*

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for the framing of verandas, decks, ramps or landings (i.e., bearers and joists).

6.7.3.3 *Decking*

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for decking that is more than 300 mm from a glazed element.

Decking less than 300 mm (measured horizontally at deck level) from glazed elements that are less than 400 mm (measured vertically) from the surface of the deck (see Figure D2, Appendix D) shall be made from—

(a) non-combustible material; or

(b) bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F); or

(c) a timber species, as specified in Paragraph E1 and listed in Table E1, Appendix E; or

(d) a combination of any of Items (a), (b), or (c) above.

6.7.4 Balustrades, handrails or other barriers

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for balustrades, handrails and other barriers.

6.8 WATER AND GAS SUPPLY PIPES

Above-ground, exposed water and gas supply pipes shall be metal.

SECTION 5 CONSTRUCTION FOR BUSHFIRE ATTACK LEVEL 12.5 (BAL — 12.5)

5.1 GENERAL

A building assessed in Section 2 as being BAL—12.5 shall comply with Section 3 and Clauses 5.2 to 5.8.

NOTE: There are a number of Standards that specify requirements for construction; however, where this Standard does not provide construction requirements for a particular element, the other Standards apply.

Any element of construction or system that satisfies the test criteria of AS 1530.8.1 may be used in lieu of the applicable requirements contained in Clauses 5.2 to 5.8 (see Clause 3.8).

NOTE: BAL—12.5 is primarily concerned with protection from ember attack and radiant heat up to and including 12.5 kW/m^2 where the site is less than 100 m from the source of bushfire attack.

5.2 SUBFLOOR SUPPORTS

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for subfloor support posts, columns, stumps, piers and poles.

NOTE: The exclusion of requirements for subfloor supports applies to the principal building only and not to verandas, decks, steps, ramps and landings (see Clause 5.7).

C5.2 *Ideally, storage of combustible materials beneath a floor at this BAL would not occur and on this assumption, there is no requirement to enclose the subfloor space or to protect flooring materials from bushfire attack. However, should combustible materials be stored, it is recommended the area be protected as materials stored in the subfloor space may be ignited by embers and cause an impact to the building.*

5.3 FLOORS

5.3.1 Concrete slabs on ground

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for concrete slabs on the ground.

5.3.2 Elevated floors

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for elevated floors, including bearers, joists and flooring.

5.4 EXTERNAL WALLS

5.4.1 Walls

That part of an external wall surface that is less than 400 mm from the ground or less than 400 mm above decks, carport roofs, awnings and similar elements or fittings having an angle less

than 18 degrees to the horizontal and extending more than 110 mm in width from the wall (see Figure D3, Appendix D) shall be of—

(a) non-combustible material; or

(b) fibre-cement external cladding, a minimum of 6 mm in thickness; or

(c) bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F); or

(d) a timber species as specified in Paragraph E1 and listed in Table E1, Appendix E; or

(e) a combination of any of Items (a), (b), (c) or (d) above.

There are no requirements for external wall surfaces 400 mm or more from the ground or for external wall surfaces 400 mm or more above decks, carport roofs, awnings and similar elements or fittings having an angle less than 18 degrees to the horizontal and extending more than 110 mm in width from the wall (see Figure D3, Appendix D).

5.4.2 Joints

All joints in the external surface material of walls shall be covered, sealed, overlapped, backed or butt-jointed to prevent gaps greater than 3 mm.

Alternatively, sarking-type material may be applied over the outer face of the frame prior to fixing any external cladding.

5.4.3 Vents and weepholes

Vents and weepholes in external walls shall be screened with a mesh with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium, except where the vents and weepholes are less than 3 mm (see Clause 3.6), or are located in an external wall of a subfloor space.

5.5 EXTERNAL GLAZED ELEMENTS AND ASSEMBLIES AND EXTERNAL DOORS

5.5.1 Bushfire shutters

Where fitted, bushfire shutters shall comply with Clause 3.7 and be made from—

(a) non-combustible material; or

(b) a timber species as specified in Paragraph E1 and listed in Table E1, Appendix E; or

(c) bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F); or

(d) a combination of any of Items (a), (b) or (c) above.

5.5.2 Windows

Window assemblies shall comply with one of the following:

(a) They shall be completely protected by a bushfire shutter that complies with Clause 5.5.1.

or

(b) They shall be completely protected externally by screens with a mesh with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

or

(c) They shall comply with the following:

(i) For window assemblies less than 400 mm from the ground or less than 400 mm above decks, carport roofs, awnings and similar elements or fittings having an angle less than 18 degrees to the horizontal and extending more than 110 mm in width from the window frame (see Figure D3, Appendix D), window frames and window joinery shall be made from one of the following:

(A) Bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F).

or

(B) A timber species specified in Paragraph E2 and listed in Table E2, Appendix E.

or

(C) Metal.

Or

(D) Metal-reinforced PVC-U. The reinforcing members shall be made from aluminium, stainless steel, or corrosion-resistant steel and the frame and sash shall satisfy the design load, performance and structural strength of the member.

(ii) Externally fitted hardware that supports the sash in its functions of opening and closing shall be metal.

(iii) Where glazing is less than 400 mm from the ground or less than 400 mm above decks, carport roofs, awnings and similar elements or fittings having an angle less than 18 degrees to the horizontal and extending more than 110 mm in width from the window frame (see Figure D3, Appendix D), the glazing shall be Grade A safety glass minimum 4 mm, or glass blocks with no restriction on glazing methods.

NOTE: Where double glazed units are used the above requirements apply to the external face of the window assembly only.

(iv) Where glazing is other than that specified in Item (iii) above, annealed glass may be used.

(v) The openable portions of windows shall be screened with mesh with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

5.5.3 Doors—Side-hung external doors (including French doors, panel fold and bi-fold doors)

Side-hung external doors, including French doors, panel fold and bi-fold doors, shall comply with one of the following:

(a) They shall be protected by a bushfire shutter that complies with Clause 5.5.1.

or

(b) They shall be completely protected externally by screens with a mesh with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

or

(c) They shall comply with the following:

(i) Doors shall be—

(A) non-combustible; or

(B) a solid timber door, having a minimum thickness of 35 mm for the first 400 mm above the threshold; or

(C) a door, including a hollow core door, with a non-combustible kickplate on the outside for the first 400 mm above the threshold; or

(D) a fully framed glazed door, where the framing is made from materials required for bushfire shutters (see Clause 5.5.1), or from a timber species specified in Paragraph E2 and listed in Table E2, Appendix E.

(ii) Where doors incorporate glazing, the glazing shall comply with the glazing requirements for windows.

(iii) Doors shall be tight-fitting to the doorframe and to an abutting door, if applicable.

(iv) Where any part of the door assembly is less than 400 mm from the ground or less than 400 mm above decks, carport roofs, awnings and similar elements or fittings having an angle less than 18 degrees to the horizontal and extending more than 110 mm in width from the door (see Figure D3, Appendix D), that part of the door assembly shall be made from one of the following:

(A) Bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F).

or

(B) A timber species specified in Paragraph E2 and listed in Table E2, Appendix E.

or

(C) Metal.

or

(D) Metal-reinforced PVC-U. The reinforcing members shall be made from aluminium, stainless steel, or corrosion-resistant steel and the door assembly shall satisfy the design load, performance and structural strength of the member.

(v) Weather strips, draught excluders or draught seals shall be installed at the base of side-hung external doors.

5.5.4 Doors—Sliding doors

Sliding doors shall comply with one of the following:

(a) They shall be protected by a bushfire shutter that complies with Clause 5.5.1.

or

(b) They shall be completely protected externally by screens with a mesh with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

or

(c) They shall comply with the following:

(i) Any glazing incorporated in sliding doors shall be Grade A safety glass complying with AS 1288.

(ii) There is no requirement to screen the openable part of the sliding door. However, if screened, the screens shall be a mesh or perforated sheet made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

NOTE: The construction of manufactured sliding doors should prevent the entry of embers when the door is closed. There is no requirement to provide screens to the openable part of these doors as it is assumed that a sliding door will be closed if occupants are not present or during a bushfire event. Screens of materials other than those specified may not resist ember attack.

(iii) Sliding doors shall be tight-fitting in the frames.

5.5.5 Doors—Vehicle access doors (garage doors)

The following apply to vehicle access doors:

(a) The lower portion of a vehicle access door that is within 400 mm of the ground when the door is closed (see Figure D4, Appendix D) shall be made from—

(i) non-combustible material; or

(ii) bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F); or

(iii) fibre-cement sheet, a minimum of 6 mm in thickness; or

(iv) a timber species specified in Paragraph E1 and listed in Table E1, Appendix E; or

(v) a combination of any of Items (i), (ii), (iii) or (iv) above.

(b) Panel lift, tilt doors or side-hung doors shall be fitted with suitable weather strips, draught excluders, draught seals or guide tracks, as appropriate to the door type, with a maximum gap no greater than 3 mm.

(c) Roller doors shall have guide tracks with a maximum gap no greater than 3 mm and shall be fitted with a nylon brush that is in contact with the door (see Figure D4, Appendix D).

(d) Vehicle access doors shall not include ventilation slots.

5.6 ROOFS (INCLUDING VERANDA AND ATTACHED CARPORT ROOFS, PENETRATIONS, EAVES, FASCIAS, GABLES, GUTTERS AND DOWNPIPES)

5.6.1 General

The following apply to all types of roofs and roofing systems:

(a) Roof tiles, roof sheets and roof-covering accessories shall be non-combustible.

(b) The roof/wall junction shall be sealed, to prevent openings greater than 3 mm, either by the use of fascia and eaves linings or by sealing between the top of the wall and the underside of the roof and between the rafters at the line of the wall.

(c) Roof ventilation openings, such as gable and roof vents, shall be fitted with ember guards made of non-combustible material or a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

5.6.2 Tiled roofs

Tiled roofs shall be fully sarked. The sarking shall—

(a) have a flammability index of not more than 5;

(b) be located directly below the roof battens;

(c) cover the entire roof area including the ridge; and

(d) be installed so that there are no gaps that would allow the entry of embers where the sarking meets fascias, gutters, valleys and the like.

5.6.3 Sheet roofs

Sheet roofs shall—

(a) be fully sarked in accordance with Clause 5.6.2, except that foil-backed insulation blankets may be installed over the battens;

or

(b) have any gaps greater than 3 mm, under corrugations or ribs of sheet roofing and between roof components, sealed at the fascia or wall line and at valleys, hips and ridges by—

(i) a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium; or

(ii) mineral wool; or

(iii) other non-combustible material; or

(iv) a combination of any of Items (i), (ii) or (iii) above.

5.6.4 Veranda, carport and awning roofs

The following apply to veranda, carport and awning roofs:

(a) A veranda, carport or awning roof forming part of the main roof space [see Figure D1(a), Appendix D] shall meet all the requirements for the main roof, as specified in Clauses 5.6.1, 5.6.2, 5.6.3, 5.6.5 and 5.6.6.

(b) A veranda, carport or awning roof separated from the main roof space by an external wall [see Figures D1(b) and D1(c), Appendix D] complying with Clause 5.4 shall have a non-combustible roof covering.

NOTE: There is no requirement to line the underside of a veranda, carport or awning roof that is separated from the main roof space.

5.6.5 Roof penetrations

The following apply to roof penetrations:

(a) Roof penetrations, including roof lights, roof ventilators, roof-mounted evaporative cooling units, aerials, vent pipes and supports for solar collectors, shall be adequately sealed at the roof to prevent gaps greater than 3 mm. The material used to seal the penetration shall be non-combustible.

(b) Openings in vented roof lights, roof ventilators or vent pipes shall be fitted with ember guards made from a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

(c) All overhead glazing shall be Grade A laminated safety glass complying with AS 1288.

(d) Glazed elements in roof lights and skylights may be of polymer provided a Grade A safety glass diffuser, complying with AS 1288, is installed under the glazing. Where glazing is an insulating glazing unit (IGU), Grade A toughened safety glass, minimum 4 mm, shall be used in the outer pane of the IGU.

(e) Flashing elements of tubular skylights may be of a fire-retardant material, provided the roof integrity is maintained by an under-flashing of a material having a flammability index no greater than 5.

(f) Evaporative cooling units shall be fitted with butterfly closers at or near the ceiling level or, the unit shall be fitted with non-combustible covers with a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

(g) Vent pipes made from PVC are permitted.

5.6.6 Eaves linings, fascias and gables

The following apply to eaves linings, fascias and gables:

(a) Gables shall comply with Clause 5.4.

(b) Eaves penetrations shall be protected the same as for roof penetrations, as specified in Clause 5.6.5.

(c) Eaves ventilation openings greater than 3 mm shall be fitted with ember guards made of non-combustible material or a mesh or perforated sheet with a maximum aperture of 2 mm, made of corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium.

Joints in eaves linings, fascias and gables may be sealed with plastic joining strips or timber storm moulds.

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for fascias, bargeboards and eaves linings.

5.6.7 Gutters and downpipes

This Standard does not provide material requirements for—

(a) gutters, with the exception of box gutters; and

(b) downpipes.

If installed, gutter and valley leaf guards shall be non-combustible.

Box gutters shall be non-combustible and flashed at the junction with the roof with non-combustible material.

5.7 VERANDAS, DECKS, STEPS, RAMPS AND LANDINGS

5.7.1 General

Decking shall be either spaced or continuous (i.e., without spacing).

There is no requirement to enclose the subfloor spaces of verandas, decks, steps, ramps or landings.

C5.7.1 *Spaced decking is nominally spaced at 3 mm (in accordance with standard industry practice); however, due to the nature of timber decking with seasonal changes in moisture content, that spacing may range from 0–5 mm during service. The preferred dimension for gaps is 3 mm (which is in line with other 'permissible gaps') in other parts of this Standard. It should be noted that recent research studies have shown that gaps at 5 mm spacing afford opportunity for embers to become lodged in between timbers, which may contribute to a fire. Larger gap spacings of 10 mm may preclude this from happening but such a spacing regime may not be practical for a timber deck.*

5.7.2 Enclosed subfloor spaces of verandas, decks, steps, ramps and landings

5.7.2.1 *Materials to enclose a subfloor space*

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for the materials used to enclose a subfloor space except where those materials are less than 400 mm from the ground.

Where the materials used to enclose a subfloor space are less than 400 mm from the ground, they shall comply with Clause 5.4.

5.7.2.2 *Supports*

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for support posts, columns, stumps, stringers, piers and poles.

5.7.2.3 *Framing*

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for the framing of verandas, decks, ramps or landings (i.e., bearers and joists).

5.7.2.4 *Decking*

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for decking that is more than 300 mm from a glazed element.

Decking less than 300 mm (measured horizontally at deck level) from glazed elements that are less than 400 mm (measured vertically) from the surface of the deck (see Figure D2, Appendix D) shall be made from—

(a) non-combustible material; or

(b) bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F); or

(c) a timber species, as specified in Paragraph E1 and listed in Table E1 of Appendix E;

(d) PVC-U; or

(e) a combination of any of Items (a), (b), (c) or (d) above.

5.7.3 Unenclosed subfloor spaces of verandas, decks, steps, ramps and landings

5.7.3.1 *Supports*

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for support posts, columns, stumps, stringers, piers and poles.

5.7.3.2 *Framing*

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for the framing of verandas, decks, ramps or landings (i.e., bearers and joists).

5.7.3.3 *Decking*

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for decking unless it is less than 300 mm from a glazed element.

Decking less than 300 mm (measured horizontally at deck level) from glazed elements that are less than 400 mm (measured vertically) from the surface of the deck (see Figure D2, Appendix D) shall be made from—

(a) non-combustible material; or

(b) bushfire-resisting timber (see Appendix F); or

(c) a timber species, as specified in Paragraph E1 and listed in Table E1, Appendix E; or

(d) a combination of any of Items (a), (b) or (c) above.

5.7.4 Balustrades, handrails or other barriers

This Standard does not provide construction requirements for balustrades, handrails and other barriers.

5.8 WATER AND GAS SUPPLY PIPES

Above-ground, exposed water and gas supply pipes shall be metal.