



RFS



Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure (Parramatta)
Locked Bag 5022,
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124
Australia

Your reference: SSD-63741210
Our reference: DA20240728003078-Original-1

ATTENTION: Shaun Williams

Date: Tuesday 6 August 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Development Application

Other – Other Assessment – Commercial Premises

NEXTDC S4 Data Centre 16 Johnston Crescent Horsley Park NSW 2175, 305//DP1275011

I refer to your correspondence regarding the above proposal which was received by the NSW Rural Fire Service on 26/07/2024.

The NSW RFS has reviewed the documentation in relation to the NEXTDC S4 Data Centre Horsley Park, including the Bushfire Protection Assessment (dated 14 June 2024, ref: B213804-2, prepared by Australian Bushfire Protection Planners) and provides the following recommended conditions:

Asset Protection Zones

The intent of measures is to minimise the risk of bush fire attack and provide protection for emergency services personnel, residents and others assisting fire fighting activities. To achieve this, the following conditions shall apply:

1. From the start of building works, and in perpetuity to ensure ongoing protection from the impact of bush fires, the entire property must be managed as an inner protection area (IPA) in accordance with the requirements of Appendix 4 of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*. When establishing and maintaining an IPA the following requirements apply:

- tree canopy cover should be less than 15% at maturity;
- trees at maturity should not touch or overhang the building;
- lower limbs should be removed up to a height of 2 metres above the ground;
- tree canopies should be separated by 2 to 5 metres;
- preference should be given to smooth barked and evergreen trees;
- large discontinuities or gaps in vegetation should be provided to slow down or break the progress of fire towards buildings;
- shrubs should not be located under trees;
- shrubs should not form more than 10% ground cover;
- clumps of shrubs should be separated from exposed windows and doors by a distance of at least twice the height of the vegetation.
- grass should be kept mown (as a guide grass should be kept to no more than 100 mm in height); and
- leaves and vegetation debris should be removed.

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Construction Standards

The intent of measures is to minimise the risk of bush fire attack and provide protection for emergency services personnel, residents and others assisting firefighting activities. To achieve this, the following conditions shall apply:

2. New construction on the southern and eastern elevations and roof of proposed Building E must comply with section 3 and section 6 (BAL 19) Australian Standard AS3959-2018 *Construction of buildings in bush fire-prone areas* or NASH Standard (1.7.14 updated) *National Standard Steel Framed Construction in Bushfire Areas – 2014* as appropriate and Section 7.5 of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*.

3. New construction of northern and western elevations of proposed Building E and entirety of Buildings B, C and D must comply with Sections 3 and 5 (BAL 12.5) Australian Standard AS3959-2018 *Construction of buildings in bush fire-prone areas* or NASH Standard (1.7.14 updated) *National Standard Steel Framed Construction in Bushfire Areas – 2014* as appropriate and Section 7.5 of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*.

4. The following additional measures also apply to Building No. E:

- Access doors [PA and Vehicle] to the building shall be fitted with seals that seal the bottom, stiles and head of the door against the opening/frame to prevent the entry of embers into the building. Particular attention shall be given to the gap at the head of the curtain of the roller doors, where mohair type seals shall be used;
- Any external vents, grilles and ventilation louvres shall have stainless steel mesh with a maximum aperture of 2mm square fitted to prevent the entry of embers into the building or be fitted with a louvre system which can be closed in order to maintain a maximum aperture or gap of no more than 2mm.

Property Access

The intent of measures is to minimise the risk of bush fire attack and provide protection for emergency services personnel, residents and others assisting fire fighting activities. To achieve this, the following conditions shall apply:

5. Proposed access roads must comply with the following requirements of Table 5.3b of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*:

- are two-way sealed roads with minimum 5.5 metre carriageway width kerb to kerb;
- a minimum vertical clearance of 4 metre to any overhanging obstructions, including tree branches, is provided.
- parking is provided outside of the carriageway width;
- curves of roads have a minimum inner radius of 6 metre;
- the maximum grade road is 15 degrees and average grade of not more than 10 degrees;
- the road crossfall does not exceed 3 degrees;
- traffic management devices are constructed to not prohibit access by emergency services vehicles;
- dead end roads are not recommended, but if unavoidable, are not more than 200 metres in length, incorporate a minimum 12 metres outer radius turning circle, and are clearly sign posted as a dead end;
- the capacity of perimeter and non-perimeter road surfaces and any bridges/causeways is sufficient to carry fully loaded firefighting vehicles; bridges/causeways are to clearly indicate load rating;
- hydrants are located outside of parking reserves and road carriageways to ensure accessibility to reticulated water for fire suppression; and
- hydrants are provided in accordance with the relevant clauses of AS 2419.1:2005 - *Fire hydrant installations System design, installation and commissioning*.



Water and Utility Services

The intent of measures is to minimise the risk of bush fire attack and provide protection for emergency services personnel, residents and others assisting fire fighting activities. To achieve this, the following conditions shall apply:

6. The provision of water, electricity and gas must comply with the following in accordance with Table 5.3c of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*:

- reticulated water is to be provided to the development where available;
- fire hydrant, spacing, design and sizing complies with the relevant clauses of Australian Standard AS 2419.1:2021;
- hydrants are not located within any road carriageway;
- fire hydrant flows and pressures comply with the relevant clauses of AS 2419.1:2021;
- all above-ground water service pipes are metal, including and up to any taps;
- where practicable, electrical transmission lines are underground;
- where overhead, electrical transmission lines are proposed as follows:
 - a. lines are installed with short pole spacing (30 metres), unless crossing gullies, gorges or riparian areas; and
 - b. no part of a tree is closer to a power line than the distance set out in accordance with the specifications in *ISSC3 Guideline for Managing Vegetation Near Power Lines*.
- reticulated or bottled gas is installed and maintained in accordance with AS/NZS 1596:2014 and the requirements of relevant authorities, and metal piping is used;
- all fixed gas cylinders are kept clear of all flammable materials to a distance of 10 metres and shielded on the hazard side;
- connections to and from gas cylinders are metal; polymer-sheathed flexible gas supply lines are not used; and
- above-ground gas service pipes are metal, including and up to any outlets.

Landscaping

The intent of measures is to minimise the risk of bush fire attack and provide protection for emergency services personnel, residents and others assisting fire fighting activities. To achieve this, the following conditions shall apply:

7. Landscaping within the required asset protection zone must comply with Appendix 4 of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*. In this regard, the following principles are to be incorporated:

- A minimum 1 metre wide area (or to the property boundary where the setbacks are less than 1 metre), suitable for pedestrian traffic, must be provided around the immediate curtilage of the building;
- Planting is limited in the immediate vicinity of the building;
- Planting does not provide a continuous canopy to the building (i.e. trees or shrubs are isolated or located in small clusters);
- Landscape species are chosen to ensure tree canopy cover is less than 15% (IPA), and less than 30% (OPA) at maturity and trees do not touch or overhang buildings;
- Avoid species with rough fibrous bark, or which retain/shed bark in long strips or retain dead material in their canopies;
- Use smooth bark species of trees species which generally do not carry a fire up the bark into the crown;
- Avoid planting of deciduous species that may increase fuel at surface/ ground level (i.e. leaf litter);
- Avoid climbing species to walls and pergolas;
- Locate combustible materials such as woodchips/mulch, flammable fuel stores away from the building;
- Locate combustible structures such as garden sheds, pergolas and materials such as timber garden furniture away from the building; and



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- Low flammability vegetation species are used.

General Advice

- Fences and gates must comply with Section 7.6 of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*.

For any queries regarding this correspondence, please contact Rohini Belapurkar on 1300 NSW RFS.

Yours sincerely,

Adam Small
Manager Planning & Environment Services
Built & Natural Environment