



PBP 2006 TO DRAFT PBP 2017 – WHAT HAS CHANGED?

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

May 2017

This fact sheet provides an overview of the key differences between Planning for Bush Fire Protection (PBP) 2006 and the draft PBP 2017.

Document Structure

The Performance Based Controls contained within Chapter 4 of the 2006 PBP have been broken down into separate chapters. There is now a separate chapter for each development type.

Alignment with Standards

Addendum Appendix 3 from PBP 2006 has been incorporated into the main body of Draft PBP 2017. The document is now aligned with AS3959:2009.

Fuel Loads

A different set of fuel loads have been used to define the setbacks required for development in New South Wales (NSW). The vegetation classification system used within Draft PBP 2017 is based on the Keith (2004) framework. Available fuel loads are based on recent information provided by:

- The University of Wollongong's (UoW) Fuels Modelling Project.
- The University of Melbourne (UoM) which reference the fuel classifications found in Keith (2004).
- CSIRO Ecosystems Sciences and Bushfire Dynamics and Applications.

The setbacks published in Draft PBP 2017 replace the distances within Tables 2.4.2-2.4.5 in AS 3959:2009 in NSW.

Fact Sheets

Fact Sheets and Development Control Practice Notes have been developed by the NSW RFS to clarify the use of Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006. Wherever possible, these Fact Sheets have been incorporated into Draft PBP 2017.

Strategic Planning

A new chapter has been added on strategic planning. The aim of this chapter is to ensure that bush fire is properly considered at the rezoning phase of development to ensure that appropriate bush fire protection measures can be implemented at subdivision or design and build stage.

Grasslands

A new chapter has been introduced covering development in areas of grassland. Where grass poses a fire hazard, development should be designed to incorporate appropriate protection measures. The threat from a grass fire is different to the threat from a forest fire and a one size fits all set of protection measures has been developed for development in grass fire hazard areas.

Special Fire Protection Purposes

A number of uses that are captured by the Rural Fires Act as Special Fire Protection Purpose (SFPP) development have been identified as being less vulnerable. Varied performance criteria have been developed for these particular specified uses.

Fire Weather Areas

Fire weather areas across the State are currently under review. Local government boundaries in NSW are also under review.

The fire weather area information has been removed from Draft PBP 2017 and will be published on the NSW RFS website separately.

Landscaping

Standards have been introduced within PBP for assessing what constitutes an Inner Protection Area and an Outer Protection Area within the asset protection zone. All other

landscaping guidance has been removed from the document and will be published within a revised version of the NSW RFS document 'Standards for Asset Protection Zones'.

Upgrading Existing Buildings

Any guidance on the upgrade of existing buildings has been removed from PBP and will be published in a separate fact sheet on the NSW RFS website.

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