



BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN (BMP)

Property

Edens Crossing

Lot 9002 on SP307757 and Lot 114 on SP256133 (partial)

Prepared for: PEET

November 2024

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

4WD	Four wheel drive
APZ	Asset Protection Zone - An area between an asset and a bushfire hazard where the bushfire fuel hazard has been reduced significantly to reduce the likely intensity of the any bushfire attack so that fire suppression and asset protection activities may be carried out.
AS3959	Australian Standard 3959-2018 - Construction of Buildings in Bushfire-prone Areas
Asset	Anything valued by the community that may be at risk of harm from bushfire, including people, house, crops, heritage buildings and places, infrastructure, the environment, businesses and forest resources.
BAL	Bushfire Attack Level as defined in AS3959 - A means of measuring the severity of a building's potential exposure to ember attack, radiant heat and direct flame contact, using increments of radiant heat expressed in kilowatts per metre squared and the basis for establishing the requirements for construction to improve protection of building elements from attack by bushfire.
Bushfire attack	Attack by burning debris, radiant heat or flame generated by bushfire which might result in ignition and subsequent destruction of the building.
Bushfire catchment	The geographical area surrounding a community which a bushfire ignition is likely to impact on assets valued by the community.
Bushfire hazard area	An area where the combination of fuel load, fuel arrangement and topography under particular climatic and weather conditions has the potential to sustain a bushfire of sufficient severity to pose a risk to people, property or the environment. Bushfire hazards are variable in their severity with severity levels usually measured in terms of fire intensity (kW/m ²) arising from the hazard.
Bushfire management	All activities directed to the prevention, detection, damage mitigation and suppression of bushfires and recovery after bushfire events. It includes bushfire policy, administration, law enforcement, community education, training of fire fighters, planning, communication systems, equipment, research, and the multitude of field operations undertaken by land managers and emergency service personnel relating to bushfire control and use of fire to meet land management goals and objectives.

Bushfire-prone area	An area that can support bushfire or is likely to be subject to bushfire attack due to its proximity to a bushfire hazard area.
Ember attack	Attack by smouldering or flaming windborne debris that is capable of entering or accumulating around a building and may ignite the building and other combustible materials and debris (eg garden mulch, pine fencing).
Emergency warning	<p>An emergency warning is a message signalling an imminent hazard, which may include advice on protective measures. Emergency warnings in relation to bushfires are issued by QFES and are used to inform residents of threat to properties, time to impact, the direction and strength of the fire and of the steps residents must to take to survive. There are three National bushfire warning levels defined as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADVICE: indicates a fire or other emergency has started, however there is no immediate threat. • WATCH AND ACT: there is a heightened level of threat, you need to be aware of your situation and take action to be prepared and protect yourself and your family. • EMERGENCY WARNING: you are in danger.
Environment	<p>The term environment includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities. • Natural and physical resources. • The qualities and characteristics of locations, places and areas. • Heritage value of places. • The social, economic and cultural aspects of a thing mentioned above.
FFDI	Forest Fire Danger Index (see also FDR) - A relative number denoting an evaluation of the fire rate of spread, or suppression difficulty for specific combinations of temperature, relative humidity, drought effects and wind speed. The numbers range from 1 to 100.
FDR	Fire Danger Rating - A relative class denoting an evaluation of rate of spread, or suppression difficulty for specific combinations of temperature, relative humidity, drought effects and wind speed indicating the relative evaluation of the fire danger. Ratings are low-moderate (FDI 0-11), high (FDI 12-24), very high (FDI 25-49), severe (FDI 50-74), extreme (FDI 75-99), catastrophic (FDI 100+).
Fine fuel	Fuels such as grass, leaves, bark and twigs (dead plant material less than 6mm and live plant material less than 3mm in diameter) that ignite readily and are burnt readily when dry.

Fire control line	A natural (such as a creek line) or constructed barrier (such as trail or mineral earth break), or treated fire edge used in fire suppression and prescribed burning to limit the spread of the fire.
Fire regime	The history of fire in a particular vegetation type or area including the frequency, intensity and season of burning. It may also include proposals for the use of fire in a given area.
Fuel	Any material such as grass, leaf litter, and live vegetation which can be ignited and sustains a bushfire. Fuel is usually measured in tonnes per hectare.
Fuel layer	The layering of fuels will influence fire behaviour. The five main fuel layers consist of surface fuel, near surface fuel, elevated fuel, bark fuel and canopy fuel.
GIS	Geographic Information System
LGA	Local Government Area
QFES	Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
Regional ecosystem	A grouping of vegetation classes with common ecological requirements for fire and common fire behaviour characteristics.
Residual Risk	The risk of adverse impacts from a bushfire after implementation of risk mitigation/management measures.
Risk	The likelihood of a bushfire igniting and developing to the point that it will threaten an asset and the resultant nature and magnitude of the social, economic and environmental consequences to the community or the assets they value.
Risk mitigation/management	A systematic process that provides a range of treatments which are designed to reduce bushfire risk and thereby contribute to the wellbeing of communities and the environment which may suffer the adverse impacts of bushfire.
ROS	Rate Of Spread
SPP Interactive Mapping System	The State Planning Policy (SPP) Interactive Mapping System, as amended from time to time, published by DLGIP and located at https://spp.dsdip.esriaustraliaonline.com.au/geoviewer/map/planmaking
Unacceptable risk	A situation where people or property are exposed to a predictable hazard event that may result in serious injury to, loss of life, failure of community infrastructure, or property damage that would make a dwelling unfit for habitation.

VHC	Vegetation Hazard Class (VHC) - based on the available bushfire fuel load typically associated with a particular vegetation type.
Water point	Any natural or constructed supply of water that is readily available for fire control operations.
Wildfire	Another term for a bushfire.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Queensland Bushfire Planning has been engaged on behalf of PEET to develop a site-based Bushfire Hazard Assessment and Bushfire Management Plan in relation to a Reconfiguration of Lot (RoL), 1 Lot into 301 Lots development at Edens Crossing, Lot 9002 on SP307757 and Lot 114 on SP256133 (partial). The site is captured by the State Planning Policy Natural Hazards and Resilience - *Bushfire Prone Area* mapping and in accordance with the provisions of the Ipswich City Council Planning Scheme 2006 - Bushfire Hazard Overlay Code, a detailed Bushfire Management Plan has been prepared. This report includes a number of recommendations regarding bushfire risk mitigation in accordance with AS3959-2018 and Ipswich City Council Planning Scheme 2006.

As detailed in Section 5 the bushfire hazard and risk management measures that have been incorporated into the design of the proposed development at Edens Crossing, Lot 9002 on SP307757 and Lot 114 on SP256133 (partial), combined with the implementation of the additional recommended measures during the construction and occupational phase of the development should ensure compliance with the Ipswich City Council Planning Scheme 2006 - Bushfire Hazard Overlay Code.

In conclusion, the Reconfiguration of Lot (RoL), 1 Lot into 301 Lots development at Edens Crossing, Lot 9002 on SP307757 and Lot 114 on SP256133 (partial) is a residential development associated with an acceptable level of risk with regards to people or property being exposed to harm in the event of a bushfire.

Recommendation

1. The Bushfire Management Plan (BMP) prepared by Queensland Bushfire Planning (QBP) has determined the the Potential bushfire impact on the proposed development is LOW. No further action is required.
2. Ingress and egress for residents and emergency services will be via constructed roads to Mount Juieratt Drive to the north, Watercress Boulevard to the northeast and Norton Sands Drive to the southeast.
3. Reticulated water will be provided to the reconfiguration.
4. No compliance with the requirements of the Australian Standard AS3959- 2018 - *Construction of buildings in bushfire prone areas* is required as the bushfire risk is Low.
- 5 The vegetation on Edens Crossing will be managed and will be maintained in managed low hazard state.
6. Fencing on Edens Crossing will be constructed of non – combustibile materials.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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POTENTIAL BUSHFIRE ATTACK LEVEL



APPENDIX 2

- + Bushfire assessments
- + Property vegetation assessments
- + Site planning for bushfire
- + Property management for bushfire
- + Bushfire management plans

1. INTRODUCTION

This Bushfire Management Plan has been prepared on behalf of PEET for a Reconfiguration of Lot (RoL), 1 Lot into 301 Lots development at Edens Crossing, Lot 9002 on SP307757 and Lot 114 on SP256133 (partial). The focus of this Report refers to the statutory planning and building requirements as they may apply, pursuant to all relevant policies, standards and regulation, along with end-user consideration. In addition, this report seeks to ensure fire risk and evacuation for adjoining and nearby properties is not inadvertently adversely impacted. This assessment report aims to mitigate the risk to life and property from bushfire threat and the impact of bushfire attack which includes:

- Direct flame contact;
- Ember and firebrand attack;
- Radiant heat; and
- Fire-driven wind.

This Report provides:

- In Section 2 a description of the Reconfiguration of Lot (RoL), 1 Lot into 301 Lots development.
- In Section 3 an assessment of the bushfire hazards and risks that will be present within the Reconfiguration of Lot (RoL), 1 Lot into 301 Lots development pre and post completion.
- In Section 4 details concerning the bushfire hazard and risk management measures that have been incorporated into the Reconfiguration of Lot (RoL), 1 Lot into 301 Lots development and additional measures that are recommended for implementation during the construction and occupational phases of the development.
- In Section 5 assessment of the level of compliance of Reconfiguration of Lot (RoL), 1 Lot into 301 Lots development against the requirements of the Ipswich City Council Planning Scheme 2006 - Bushfire Hazard Overlay Code.

This assessment does not seek to remove the threat of any bushfire risk, but provide detailed siting, layout, building and/or servicing information to assist the ability of the owner(s) to manage the potential threat of this risk. This assessment report is prepared in accordance with best practice industry standards as applicable in Queensland and pursuant to both State and local government bushfire hazard policies and guidelines.

1.1 Bushfire Regulatory Framework

1.1.1 State Planning Policy (SPP)

The SPP identifies the Queensland Government's policies about matters of state interest in land use planning and development (DILGP, July 2017). The SPP is a broad and comprehensive statutory planning instrument. It sits above regional plans, standard planning scheme provisions and local government planning schemes within the hierarchy of planning instruments outlined in the Planning Act 2016.

The SPP is supported by the following guidance material:

- The SPP state interest guidance material - Natural hazards, risk and resilience – Bushfire ('SPP guidance') (DSDMIP, 2019), which provides further context to the SPP and explains how the SPP policies can be applied, in particular for local government when making or amending local planning instruments. The SPP guidance is also intended to assist assessment managers and practitioners in applying the SPP assessment benchmarks when state interests have not been integrated into the local planning scheme (where applicable).
- The 'Bushfire Resilient Communities – Technical Reference Guide for the State Planning Policy State Interest - Natural Hazards, Risk and Resilience – Bushfire ('BRC technical document') (QFES, 2019), which provides technical guidance and policy positions of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES). It includes procedures for undertaking a bushfire hazard assessment (BHA), calculating asset protection zones and preparing a Bushfire Management Plan.

1.1.2 Ipswich City Planning Scheme 2006

The *Ipswich City Council Planning Scheme 2006– Planning Scheme Policy 2: Bushfire Risk Areas* provides guidance on preparing a bushfire hazard assessment report and management plan (including information requirements), as well as guidelines for satisfying performance outcomes within the Bushfire hazard overlay code.

If an application involving land identified as within a bushfire risk area, a site specific technical assessment which:

- (a) provides an assessment of the bushfire risk for the site including consideration of the requirements of the Standard Building Regulations 1993 (including AS3959-2009 Construction of Buildings in BushfireProne Areas) and includes:
- (i) a slope and aspect analysis;
 - (ii) identification of the vegetation type;
 - (iii) details of fire history (if available);
 - (iv) identified risk from surrounding lands; and

- (v) details of proposed measures to reduce the risk of bushfire within the subject land (such as road and lot layout, proposed water storage, fire trails, standards of building construction and clearing and landscaping) including addressing the requirements of Part 11 – Overlays, Division 4 – Development Constraints Overlays – Bushfire Risk Areas;
- (b) provides details of proposed ingress and egress to the site;
- (c) provides details regarding education of buyers and advice on any necessary ongoing maintenance programs; and
- (d) includes details of consultation with the Queensland Rural Fire Services, if applicable.

1.1.3 AS3959:2018 Construction of Buildings in Bushfire Prone Area

The Australian Standard AS3959:2018 Construction of Buildings in Bushfire-Prone Areas (Standards Australia, 2009) specifies the requirements for the construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas in order to improve their resistance to bushfire attack. AS3959:2018 applies to those areas where a regulated map (i.e. a planning scheme overlay map) identifies an area as a bushfire prone area (or similar), requiring calculation of Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) in accordance with a methodology outlined in the standard. AS3959:2018 prescribes the construction details for buildings depending on the calculated BAL. The detailed requirements relating to construction methods and materials are typically dealt with as part of building design and enabled via private certification in accordance with the Building Code of Australia.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION AND DETAILS

2.1 Overview

The site is located at Edens Crossing and is described as Lot 9002 on SP307757 and Lot 114 on SP256133 (partial) within Ipswich City Council (Figure 1).



Figure 1

- + Bushfire assessments
- + Property vegetation assessments
- + Site planning for bushfire
- + Property management for bushfire
- + Bushfire management plans

Lot 9002 on SP307757 and Lot 114 on SP256133 (partial) has an area of 554 200 (total) square meters and is aligned east-west with a southerly aspect (Figure 2).



Figure 2

- + Bushfire assessments
- + Property vegetation assessments
- + Site planning for bushfire
- + Property management for bushfire
- + Bushfire management plans

Lot 9002 on SP307757 and Lot 114 on SP256133 (partial) is currently zoned Recreation; Future Urban; Conservation (Figure 3).



Figure 3

2.2 Proposed Development

The proposed development is a Reconfiguration of Lot (RoL), 1 Lot into 301 Lots (Figure 4).

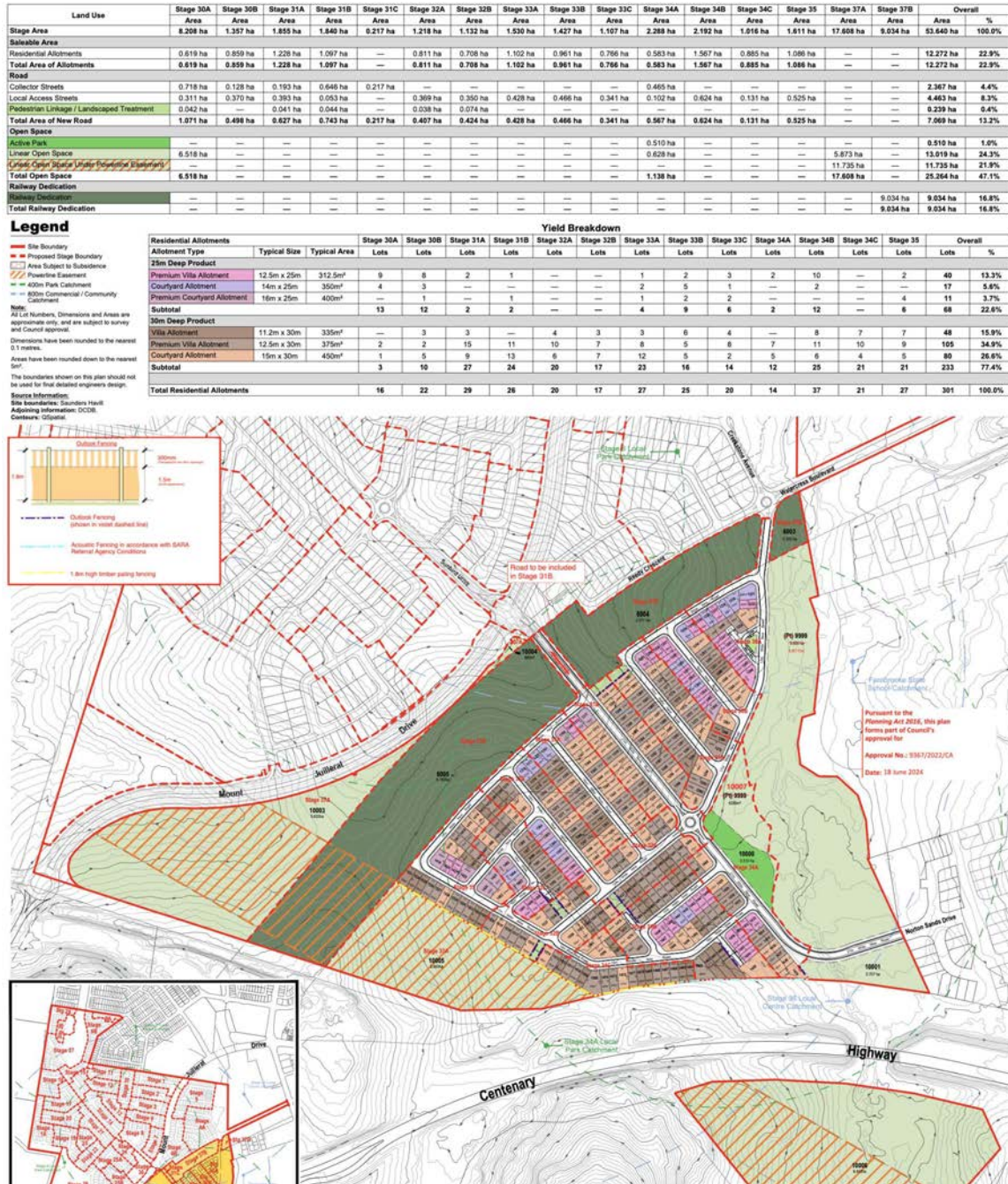


Figure 4

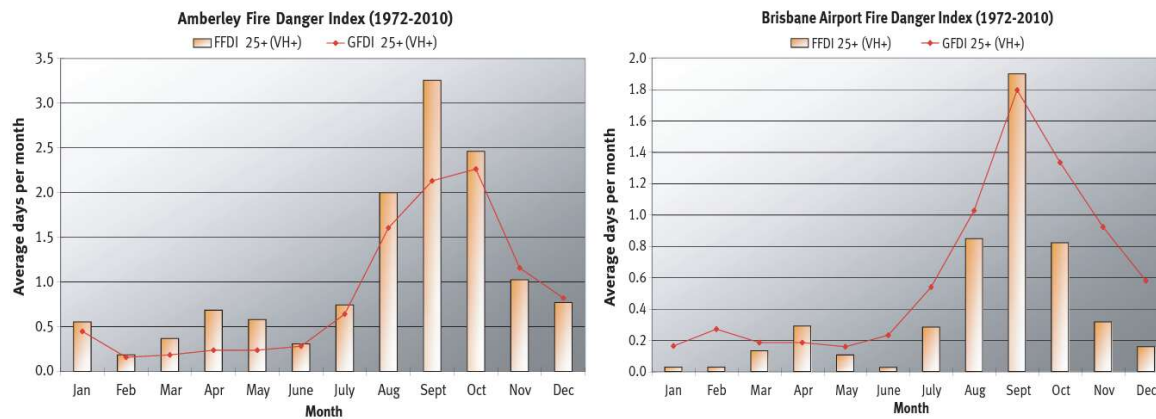
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3. BUSHFIRE HAZARD AND RISK ASSESSMENT

3.1 Overview

Ipwich City Council is situated in Southeast Queensland, an area characterised by a mild sub-tropical coastal climate which does not normally experience extended periods of server fire weather that are frequently experienced in southern Australia. The number of days each year characterised by weather conditions conducive to the ignition and rapid spread of a high intensity bushfire are limited. The Southeast Queensland (SEQ) fire season (when more severe wildfires normally occur) is generally recognised as September to December. In the southern part of SEQ, as indicated by analysis of fire weather data from Brisbane Airport and Amberley, August is also a period of elevated fire risk, and more significant than November which has a lower risk with the commencement of storm rains. September, the peak month for wildfires is characterised by frequent westerly winds, typically low rainfall, low humidity and increasing temperatures.

The graphic below illustrates the average number of days per month that were characterised by Forest Fire Danger Index (FFDI) of 25 or greater using data from the Amberley and Brisbane Airport weather stations for the period 1972 to 2010. FFDI of 25 is the base FFDI value for the Very High Fire Danger rating used in Queensland. This analysis indicates that on average there are less than 14 days per year where an FFDI of 25 or greater can be expected. For the rest of the year the prevailing meteorological conditions mean if a bushfire starts it can most likely be contained without significant risk to human health or property.



Consistent with the relatively low frequency of high risk bushfires in SEQ compared to southern states, the number of lives and houses lost as a result of bushfire is also relatively low. Notwithstanding, bushfires still do frequently occur in Southeast Queensland and present a risk that needs to be considered as part of a comprehensive approach to land use planning and development.

3.2 Bushfire Hazard Assessment

3.2.1 Ipswich City Planning Scheme Bushfire Risk Map

Figure 5 shows the bushfire hazard overlay mapping in the Ipswich City Planning Scheme.

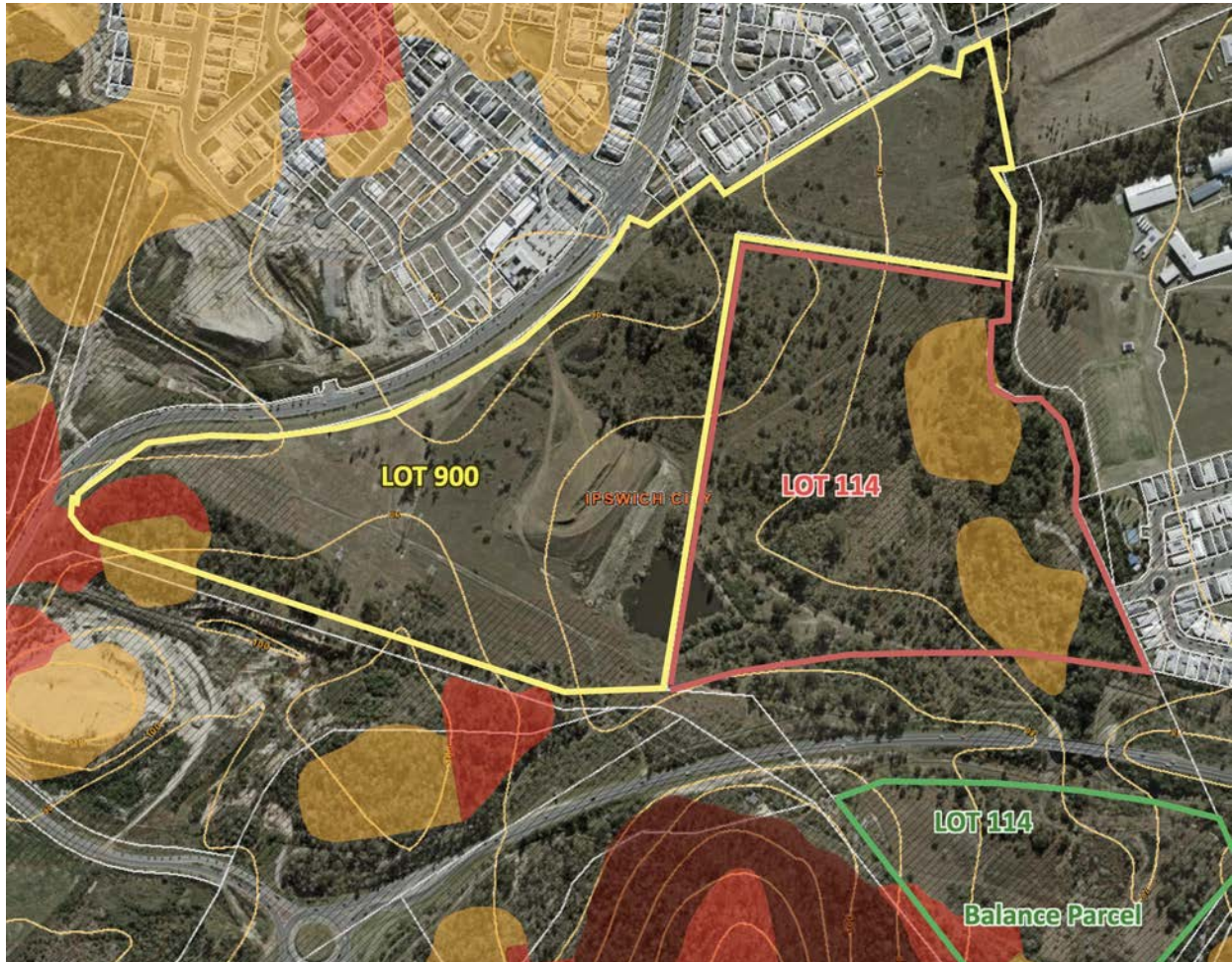


Figure 5



- + Bushfire assessments
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3.2.2 SPP Natural Hazard Mapping

The State Government Single State Planning Policy (SPP) released in 2017, includes mapping that is an outcome of the new bushfire hazard mapping methodology developed by the CSIRO and the Queensland Government. The new Bushfire Prone Area mapping was found to have an average reliability of 85%. The new methodology provides a major improvement in Bushfire hazard mapping. The new modified approach calculates potential fire line intensity using total fuel loads, landscape slope and fire weather severity. A default 100-metre buffer was determined from analysis of heat and radiation decay curves and research that indicates 80% of housing loss and 80% of life loss occurred within 100 metres of bushland.

The subject site is identified on the State Planning Policy Natural Hazards Risk and Resilience mapping as being within potential bushfire impact zone, requiring the bushfire hazard impacts be addressed (Figure 6).

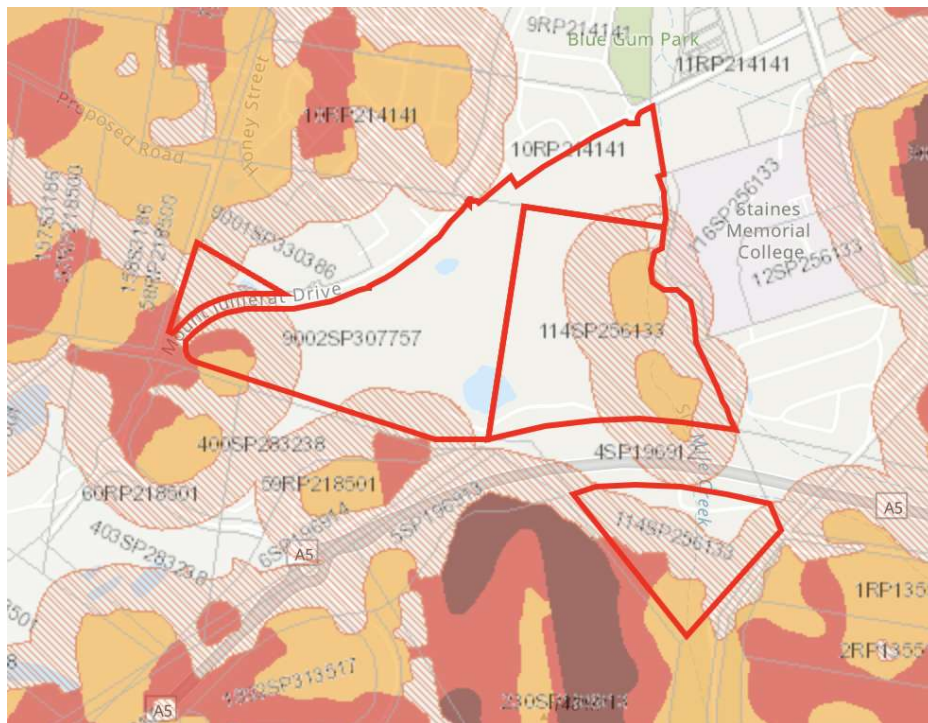


Figure 6



- + Bushfire assessments
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3.3 Site Assessment

The site specific assessment of the bushfire hazard classification for the development at Edens Crossing, Lot 9002 on SP307757 and Lot 114 on SP256133 (partial) and immediate locality has been completed based on a review of aerial imagery, topographic data, available vegetation mapping and a physical site inspection conducted on October 9, 2024. The site inspection was conducted to confirm and record the relevant information to determine the bushfire hazard in accordance with the requirements of the Ipswich City Planning Scheme 2006. These assessments account for changes that will occur to the extent and nature of the vegetation types as a result of the proposed development at Edens Crossing. The site specific assessments were based on the methodology specified in Australian Standard AS3959:2018 - Construction of Building in Bushfire Prone Areas.

The classification of an area's Potential Bushfire Intensity takes into account three key variables:

- Total Fuel Load - primarily a function of the vegetation type(s) in an area.
- McArthur Forest Fire Danger Index (FFDI) - an index that considers variability in fire intensity associated with a range of weather variable including recent precipitation, current wind speed, relative humidity and temperature.
- Slope - an important variable controlling the rate of fire spread and fuel consumption.

3.3.1 Pre Development Vegetation

Table 1 shows the original vegetation on and about the site identified using the *Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA) State-wide Bushfire Hazard (Bushfire Prone Area)* mapping.

VHC Description	Regional Ecosystem (RE)	Site Specific Assessment of Presence	Potential Fuel Load (t/Ha) Surface	Potential Fuel Load (t/Ha) Total
1. VHC: 16.2 (Photo 1)	12.3.3 Eucalyptus tereticornis woodland on Quaternary alluvium	Original vegetation along drainage lines and alluvial flats.	13.8	16.0
2. VHC: 16.2 (Photo 2)	12.3.7 Eucalyptus tereticornis, Casuarina cunninghamiana subsp. cunninghamiana ± Melaleuca spp. fringing woodland	Eucalyptus dominated woodland on drainage lines and alluvial plains.	13.8	16.0

Table 1



Photo 1



Photo 2

3.3.2 Classified Vegetation

Australian Standard, *Construction of Buildings in Bushfire Prone Areas* (AS 3959–2018) requires any classified vegetation within 100 metres of the proposed works must be assessed. Table 2 shows the vegetation on and about the site identified using the *Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA) State-wide Bushfire Hazard (Bushfire Prone Area)* mapping. No significant classified vegetation remains within 100 metres of the proposed development.

VHC Description	Regional Ecosystem (RE)	Site Specific Assessment of Presence	Potential Fuel Load (t/Ha) Surface	Potential Fuel Load (t/Ha) Total
1. VHC: 41.4	Low to moderate ground cover.	Vegetation on and about the proposed development.	4.5tonnes/Ha	5 tonnes/Ha
1. VHC: 39.2 (Photo 3)	Low to moderate tree cover in built-up areas	Linear disturbed and modified vegetation fringing drainage lines and alluvial flats (Six Mile Creek).	5 tonnes/Ha	8 tonnes/Ha

Table 2



Photo 3

Based on the above, the Potential Fuel Loads available within and adjacent to Lot 9002 on SP307757 and Lot 114 on SP256133 (partial) range from:

- a minimum of 4.5 associated with existing and proposed fuel load: to
- a maximum of 8.0 associated with areas of remnant vegetation located within 100m of the development.

3.3.3 Forest Fire Danger Index

For land use planning purposes in Queensland the 1:20 year Forest Fire Danger Index, adjusted to reflect the expected climate in the year 2050, has been adopted as the design fire weather conditions. The FFDI for a 1:20 year is equivalent to a 5% annual exceedance probability (ie. 5% chance of occurring in any given year) and integrates the combined effect of a range of weather variables including long term dryness, recent precipitation, current wind speed, relative humidity and temperature.

The QFES Redi-Map Portal provides more refined mapping of FFDI (1 in 20 years) index values. Utilising this mapping the applicable FFDI for the development at Edens Crossing has resulted in an FFDI for the development of 57. An FFDI of 57 falls within the Severe Fire Danger Rating (FDR) according to the FDR system developed by Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC) and summarised in Table 3.

Fire Danger Rating	AFAC Description of Likely Fire Behaviour and Consequence
<p>Catastrophic FFDI > 100</p>	<p>Fires will be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving. These are the worst conditions for a bush or grass fire. If a fire starts and takes hold, it will be extremely difficult to control. It will take significant fire fighting resources and cooler conditions to bring it under control. Spot fires will start well ahead of the main fire and cause rapid spread of the fire. Embers will come from many directions. Homes are not designed or constructed to withstand fires in these conditions. The safest place to be is away from bushfire prone areas.</p>
<p>Extreme FFDI 75-99</p>	<p>Fires will be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving. These are very hot, dry and windy conditions for a bush or grass fire. If a fire starts and takes hold, it will be unpredictable, move very fast. It will be very difficult for fire fighters to bring under control. Spot fires will start and move quickly. Embers may come from many directions. Homes that are prepared to the highest level, have been constructed to bushfire protection levels and are actively defended, may provide safety. You must be prepared physically and mentally to defend in these conditions. The safest place to be is away from bushfire prone areas.</p>

Fire Danger Rating	AFAC Description of Likely Fire Behaviour and Consequence
<p>Severe FFDI 50-74</p>	<p>Fires will be uncontrollable and move quickly .These are hot, dry and possibly windy conditions for a bush or grass fire. If a fire starts and takes hold, it will be hard for fire fighters to bring under control. Well-prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety. You must be prepared physically and mentally to defend in these conditions.</p>
<p>Very High FFDI 25-49</p>	<p>Fires Can be difficult to control. Flames may burn into the tree tops. There is a chance people may die or be injured. Some homes and businesses may be damaged or destroyed. Well prepared and actively defended house can offer safety during a fire. Embers may be blown ahead of a fire. Spot fires may occur up to 2km ahead of the fire. Leaving is the safest option for your survival. Your home will only offer safety if it and you are well prepared and you can actively defend during a fire.</p>
<p>High FFDI 12-24</p>	<p>Fires can be controlled. Loss of life is highly unlikely and damage to property will be limited. Well prepared and actively defended houses can offer safety during a fire. Embers may be blown ahead of the fire. Spot fires can occur close to the main fire. Know where to get more information and monitor the situation for any changes.</p>
<p>Low-Moderate FFDI <12</p>	<p>Fires can be easily controlled. Little or no risk to life and property. Know where to get more information and monitor the situation for any changes</p>

Table 3

Note: An FFDI of 57 specified for use in the SPP for land use planning purpose is higher than the FFDI of 40 specified in AS3959-2018 for all of Queensland for building design and approval purposes.

3.3.4 Slope Assessment

From a bushfire hazard perspective slope of the land under the bushfire prone vegetation can greatly influence fire behaviour. This slope is referred to as the **effective slope**. If the potentially hazardous vegetation is located upslope of the asset(s) the contribution that slope makes towards the intensity and rate of spread of the fire is negligible. **Site slope** is the gradient of the land between retained vegetation and adjoining assets. The site slope influences the 'view factor' of the flame geometries in Bushfire Attack Level models.

Where potentially hazardous vegetation is located downslope of the asset(s) the effective slope gradient of the vegetated land will have significant influence on bushfire intensity and rate of spread. Typically, for each 18-20% (or 10 degrees) increase in slope gradient the rate of forward spread and intensity of a bushfire will double for a fire moving up the slope towards an asset. Similarly if the fire is moving down the slope the rate of spread will decrease by approximately double for each 18-20% (or 10 degrees) increase in slope gradient. As the rate of spread of a bushfire increase so does its intensity.

The effective and site slope for the proposed development at Edens Crossing were measured on site using a Nixon Forestry Pro II laser rangefinder/hypsometer as 3 degree effective slope and 3 degrees site slope.

NOTE: As fire travels slower down a hill, all classified vegetation that is upslope will assume a value of 0 degrees (i.e. flat land) (AS3959:2018).

3.4 Bushfire Risk Assessment

3.4.1 Risk Classification

With reference to AS/NZS ISO 31000 Risk Management - Principles and Guidelines, The bushfire risk profile of an asset may be defined as "*the chance of something happening that will have an impact on objectives*" and can be qualified in terms of:

- **Likelihood:** the frequency with which it is expected a bushfire of a particular level of intensity will threaten an asset via smoke, embers, radiant heat or flame attack. This can be influenced by local environmental factors, fuel biomass and structure, density of potential ignition sources, fire management and intervention capability etc. , all of which can vary over time due to the influence of resource availability, weather and climate variability.
- **Consequences:** The nature and significance of the potential adverse outcomes for an asset exposed to a certain intensity of bushfire attack (eg. health effects, damage to structures, economic loss, interference with ecosystem processes, loss of biodiversity). This can be influenced by the vulnerability and resilience of the asset to bushfire exposure, the social, economic and environmental values of the asset, post fire recovery and prospects, costs and timeframes.

Assessing the risks to people and property posed by bushfires requires an understanding of the tolerances of people and property to different levels of bushfire attack, in particular attack by flames and radiant heat. For people there is generally no safe level of direct flame exposure and radiant heat is recognised as the biggest killer in a bushfire. Radiant heat levels increase with the increase in the proximity and intensity of bushfire.

The vulnerability of buildings and structures to bushfire attack is largely determined by:

- The material used in their construction.
- The severity and duration of the exposure to radiant heat or flame attack.

For land use planning purposes a maximum radiant heat flux exposure of 29 kW/m² for residential dwellings on newly created lots is increasingly being recognised as the benchmark for an acceptable level of risk exposure. In this respect the building setback distance needed to achieve a 29 kW/m² heat flux exposure:

- Reduces potential exposure to bushfire attack, particularly direct flame contact.
- Reduces the likelihood of piloted ignition due to radiant heat exposure.
- Provides opportunities for emergency access and operational space for firefighters before the arrival of a bushfire,
- Improves consistency between planning and building outcomes, thereby reducing the potential for conflicts between planning and building approvals.
- Avoids duplication and regulatory burden on home owners.

3.4.2 Bushfire Behaviour and Risk Exposure Modelling

For land use planning purposes, an important element of a "fit for purpose" method of assessing whether or not a proposed development provides a tolerable or acceptable level of bushfire risk is to consider likely bushfire behaviour and consequences for future residents, QFES personnel and built infrastructure under a design bushfire event. One method for assessing bushfire risk exposure levels examining the likely levels of flame, radiant heat and ember attack that people and property would be exposed to under a design fire event using the Australian Standard AS3959-2018: Construction of buildings in Bushfire Prone Areas - Bushfire Attack Level Method 2. This approach involves:

- **Step 1:** Determine the relevant FDI.
- **Step 2:** Determine the vegetation classification, fuel loads.
- **Step 3:** Determine the effective slope in degrees under the classified vegetation.
- **Step 4:** Determine the slope in degrees of the land between the site and the classified vegetation.
- **Step 5:** Determine the distance of the site from classified vegetation.
- **Step 6:** Determine the BAL rating using Method 2.

For the purposes of this assessment the relevant FFDI, classified vegetation types and slope characteristics used in this assessment are detailed in Section 3.3.2 and 3.3.4 of this Report.

3.4.3 Assessment of Bushfire Hazard

Australian Standard - *Construction of Buildings in Bushfire Prone Areas (AS 3959–2018)* requires that any classified vegetation within 100 metres of the proposed works must be assessed. Figure 9 and Figure 10 show the extent of the 100-metre separation zone (BAL Impact Zone).

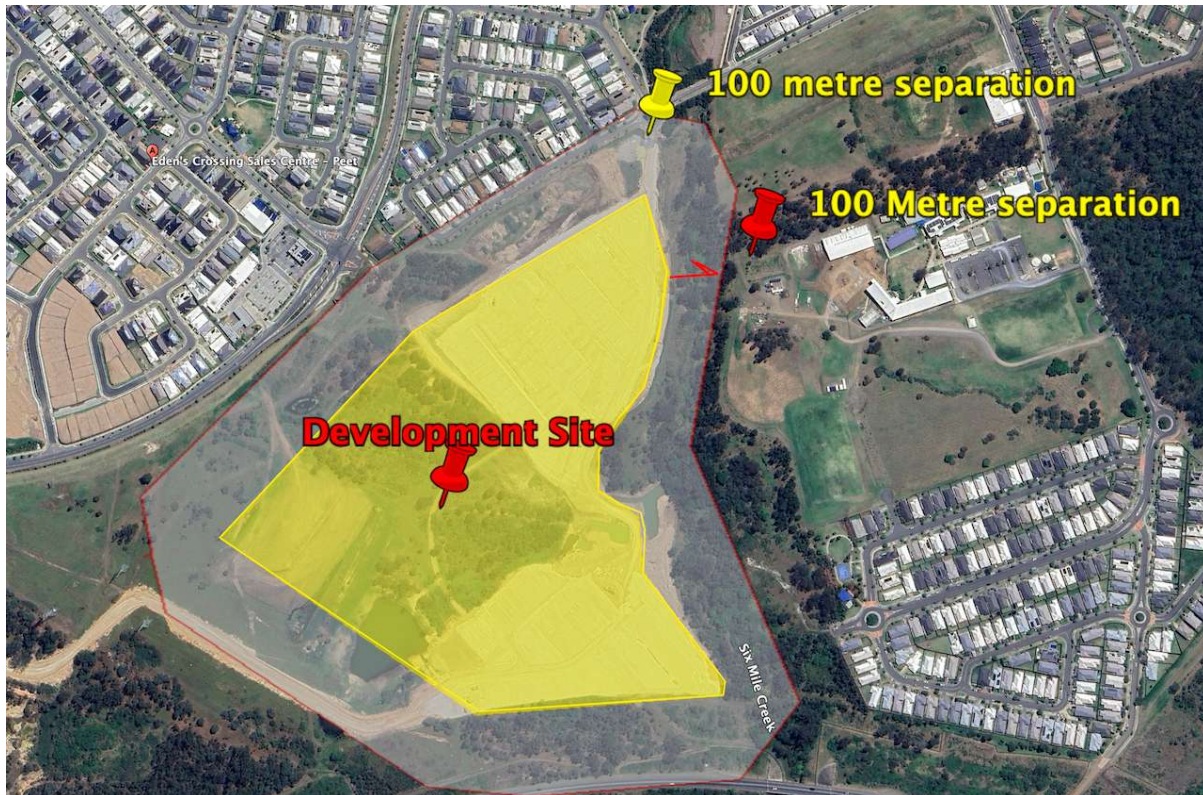


Figure 9

No significant classified vegetation remains within 100 metres of the proposed RoL on 9002 on SP307757. A disturbed and modified linear non-remnant area will remain, fringing Six Mile Creek at the eastern extent. Such isolated and discrete non-contiguous patches of vegetation are not likely to ignite due to their disconnection with fuels that can carry running fire fronts. If ignited, they are most likely to be caused by point ignitions that require both distance and area to develop into a fire front of considerable hazard. If a fire front emerges from a one-hectare patch, it is likely to be narrow and significantly less intense than a fire front that has had sufficient time and area to develop. The combination of these likelihood and intensity estimates, deems it to be equivalent to a less than 4,000 kW/m Fireline intensity and accordingly are considered as low hazard for the purpose of land use planning and development assessment.

Calculations using AS 3959-2018, in accordance with Appendix B - *Detailed Method for Determining the Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) – Method 2 (Normative)*, indicate that at a separation distance of greater than 100 metres a building located on the proposed site will be exposed to a radiant heat flux of Low kW/m² equating to a Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) of LOW (Appendix 1). Table 4 describes the six (6) Bushfire Attack Levels.

Bushfire Attack Level (BAL)	Radiant Heat Exposure (AS3959)	Description of Predicted Bushfire Attack and Levels of Exposure
BAL - Low	Insignificant	The risk is very low, radiant heat on the building is insignificant to warrant specific construction requirements. However, ember attack may still occur.
BAL 12.5	0 to 12.5kW/m ²	Primarily risk of ember attack. Risk of radiant heat is considered low.
BAL 19	12.5 to 19kW/m ²	Risk is considered moderate with increasing levels of ember attack and burning debris ignited by wind borne embers. Increasing likelihood of exposure to radiant heat.
BAL 29	19 to 29kW/m ²	Risk is considered to be high. Increasing levels of ember attack and burning debris ignited by wind borne embers. Increasing likelihood of exposure to radiant heat.
BAL 40	29 to 40kW/m ²	Risk is considered to be very high. Increasing levels of ember attack and burning debris ignited by wind borne embers. Increasing likelihood of exposure to radiant heat and some direct exposure to flames possible.
BAL FZ	40kW/m ² plus (flame contact)	Risk is considered to be extreme. Direct exposure to flame from the fire front is likely in addition to high levels of radiant heat exposure and ember attack.

Table 4

4. BUSHFIRE HAZARD AND RISK MITIGATION

Figure 11 illustrates that effective protection against bushfire can only be achieved by the integration of multiple measures. Removing the bushland (hazard) will remove the risk but this option is neither necessarily possible nor desirable. An acceptable level of protection of life and property can be achieved while still retaining and protecting biodiversity and the natural values of the bushland.



Figure 11

The appropriate mitigation and management of bushfire hazards and risks involves the integration of a combination of bushfire hazard mitigation measures during the design, construction and operational phase of any development, including:

- Ensuring development design, including the layout of roads and driveways and the location, size and orientation of residential lots and buildings, is responsive to bushfire hazards;
- Appropriate firefighting and management infrastructure is provided, including an adequate and accessible water supply, fire breaks and maintenance/access trails;
- Specifications and materials for building design and construction are in accordance with AS3959-2018 Construction of Buildings in Bushfire Prone Areas;
- Management of potentially hazardous vegetation taking into account the conservation values of that vegetation and the important role fire plays in the functioning of many Australian ecosystems;
- Landscape design and property maintenance requirements;
- Community awareness, education and training; and
- Identification of parties to be responsible for specific bushfire management tasks and actions.

The design of the Reconfiguration of Lot (RoL), 1 Lot into 301 Lots development at Edens Crossing has been informed by the above. The following sections provide detail concerning some of the key design elements which have been incorporated into the design of the development to ensure an acceptable level of risk to human safety and property is maintained in the event of a bushfire occurring in the general locality. Where appropriate, details concerning measures that need to be taken during construction and occupational phases of the development are also provided.

4.1 Access and Evacuation

The intent of design requirements for roads is to provide safe egress for residents and access for attending firefighting vehicles. A road system that is compliant with guideline measures provides fire services with easier access to buildings, a safe retreat for firefighters and residents, and can provide a fire control line where hazard reduction and back burning can take place. In determining safe access to a site, consideration is given to the fire brigade vehicles which are required to access public and private roads. Given the size of these vehicles and the poor visibility in which they often operate, roads need to be designed to specific requirements, including road width, grade, cross-fall, weight capacity, passing bays and turnaround areas, all of which may vary depending on whether it is a perimeter, access, cul-de-sac or battle-axe road type.

Ultimately egress and ingress to the Reconfiguration of Lot (RoL), 1 Lot into 301 Lots development will be via constructed roads to Mount Jueratt Drive to the north, Watercress Boulevard to the northeast and Norton Sands Drive to the southeast. There is likely to be substantial warning of a major bushfire front approaching the development allowing site occupants sufficient time to implement their bushfire emergency plans.

4.2 Water Supply

Providing a sufficient water supply provides firefighters and residents with the appropriate levels of water to undertake building defense. There are two options in which a house site can be supplied with a sufficient water supply; from either reticulated water accessible via a hydrant, or a dedicated static water supply.

Reticulated water will be supplied to the development meeting the required statutory standards.

4.3 Building Design and Construction

Buildings within the Reconfiguration of Lot (RoL), 1 Lot into 301 Lots development at Edens Crossing situated within 100metres of areas of hazardous vegetation (ie. bushfire prone vegetation with the capacity to support bushfires with an intensity of 4000kW/m² or greater under design fire weather conditions) need to be designed and constructed in accordance with AS3959-2018: *Construction of Buildings in Bushfire Prone Areas*.

4.4 Vegetation Management

The bushfire severity potential of an area can be substantially reduced by managing vegetation in a manner that reduces or removes potential bushfire fuel loads. This includes management of areas that are intended to provide a conservation function. The failure to manage vegetation fuel loads in conservation reserves can result in high intensity wildfires that have adverse ecological impacts for the reserve as well as creating an unnecessary hazard for adjacent urban areas.

Onsite vegetation and landscape management are important to maintaining low hazard conditions by:

- Limiting fuel accumulation;
- Reducing connectivity of fuels;
- Establishing and maintaining defensible space;
- Appropriate landscaping; and
- The proposed lot size of the development will constrain the development of any additional bushfire hazard.

No significant classified vegetation remains within 100 metres of the proposed site. S2.2.3.2 (a) of the AS3959 - 2018, Exclusions: vegetation of any type more than 100 metres from the site is now excluded.

4.5 Residential Landscape Design

Inappropriate landscape design in bushfire prone areas (ie. any land within 100m of bushfire prone vegetation) may expose a dwelling to increased levels of ember attack, radiant heat and flame contact. Well designed and maintained landscaping with appropriate plant species can actually help protect houses by:

- Reducing the amount of radiant heat received by a house;
- Reducing the chance of direct flame contact with the house;
- Deflecting and filtering embers; and
- Reducing flammable landscaping materials within the defensible space.

All vegetation material can burn under the influence of a bushfire, therefore landscape designs in bushfire prone areas should give careful consideration to:

- Species selection;
- Species planting proximity to assets and access paths relative to their flammability.
- Avoidance of both horizontal and vertical continuity of vegetation.

In general "mesic" plant species that have a higher leaf moisture content, less bark and a lower rate of leaf drop will assist with reducing available bushfire fuel loads thereby assisting in reducing the likelihood and severity of bushfire attack. The use of mesic plant species in combination with the following guidelines form the basis for a low risk landscape design in bushfire prone areas:

- Establish and maintain lawn or paved areas such as paths and/or pebble garden with herbs near to the house.
- Maintain cleared areas around all driveways, pathways, fire trails and roadways that may be need to used as access/egress route during a bushfire.
- Plant trees at least 5m from any dwelling house to allow clear access and minimise canopy overhang of roofs and associated accumulation of leaf litter.
- Space trees and shrubs to avoid the creation of continuous canopy that may carry fire.
- Prune lower limbs of trees to height of 2m above ground level.
- Avoid using confers, paperbarks (ie. *Melaleuca* species), stringy bark and ribbon bark eucalyptus in landscape planting.
- Avoid using organic mulch with preference given to non-flammable mulches such as scoria (light weight volcanic stone), pebbles, recycled crushed bricks.
- Regularly water landscape plantings to maintain plant health and moisture levels.

4.5 Fencing

Fencing materials have the capacity to contribute to fire spread and intensity.

4.6 Community Awareness

Property owners are responsible for developing their own knowledge and understanding of the level of bushfire risk specific to their respective properties. A household bushfire plan is required and must take account of matters such as where occupants are during the day (at home, work or school), if any occupants require special assistance (i.e. infants, the elderly or the ill), evacuation routes available, evacuation destinations, property maintenance and preparation and arrangements for pets. Planning ahead of any perceived bushfire event is essential.

The warning systems now implemented by Emergency Services and Local Authorities provide timely information and advice to occupants. Understanding what to do in the event of bushfire emergency is critical. Prior knowledge as to the steps to take during the lead up to a fire event, during the passage of bushfire, and what to do immediately after the fire front has passed is critical. The Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) 'Bushfire Survival Plan' provides detailed information on how to prepare for the bushfire season and how to take action to survive in the event of bushfire. A copy of this publication can be obtained from the RFSQ website. <https://bushfire-survival-plan.qfes.qld.gov.au/>

5. COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT

Bushfire Hazard Overlay Code - Ipswich City Planning Scheme 2006 - Section 11.4.4

Performance Outcomes	Acceptable Outcomes	Compliance
<p>Design, Siting and Construction</p> <p>(1) Uses and works in bushfire risk areas are designed, sited, and constructed to—</p> <p>(a) minimise the number of people and properties subject to bushfire risk;</p> <p>(b) improve the survivability of buildings and the protection of life during the passage of a firefront;</p> <p>(c) minimise costs and threats to emergency services; and</p> <p>(d) facilitate evacuation in the event of a bushfire.</p>	<p>Design, Siting and Construction</p> <p>(1) (a) Uses and works are sited—</p> <p>(i) in existing cleared areas able to accommodate the use within an adequate fire protection buffer as identified in (iii) below; and</p> <p>(ii) where possible, on land and parts of a site which are least prone to bushfire risk with regard to aspect, slope, elevation and vegetation type—</p> <p>(A) away from the tops of ridgelines and other than on a North to West facing slope, with the flatter portion of the lot being used as building sites (refer Figure 11.4.1); and</p> <p>(B) on land with a slope gradient less than 15%, and on level ground wherever possible; and</p> <p>(iii) with a minimum 20 metre wide area (measured from the horizontal from the building) serving as a fire protection buffer around the building of which at least the first 10 metres from the building is a cleared area (fuel free inner zone), while the outer 10 metres (fuel reduced outer zone) may be planted with fire retardant vegetation species or grassed (refer Figure 11.4.2) [No habitable or storage structures are located in this area.]; and</p>	<p>The Bushfire Management Plan (BMP) prepared by Queensland Bushfire Planning (QBP) has determined the potential bushfire impact on the proposed development is LOW. No further action is required.</p>

Performance Outcomes	Acceptable Outcomes	Compliance
	<p>iv) to ensure that any outbuilding (such as garages and carports) is built as part of the main building or located at least 5 metres from the main building (refer Figure 11.4.3).</p> <p>(b) If trees are planted they—</p> <p>(i) are of a species that grow to over 2 metres in height to maintain separation between lower canopy and the ground;</p> <p>(ii) have vertical and horizontal separation between each plant to ensure the canopy is not continuous; and</p> <p>(iii) do not grow closer to the building than a distance equivalent to the tree’s expected mature height so that branches do not overhang the eaves of the building (refer Figure 11.4.4).</p> <p>(c) Buildings—</p> <p>(i) have a continuous roof line avoiding roof valleys, multiple hips and a combination of pitched and flat roofs on the same building – as these provide catchment areas for debris (refer Figure 11.4.5); and</p> <p>(ii) have low pitched roofs between 12 and 21 degrees to reduce radiation pick up (refer Figure 11.4.6); and</p> <p>(iii) are of slab-on-ground construction where this is responsive to the site; or</p> <p>(iv) “pole homes” with floors elevated off the ground with all external openings (between the floor and the ground) sealed to prevent the entry of burning debris; and</p>	

Performance Outcomes	Acceptable Outcomes	Compliance
	<p>(v) minimise large expansive walls as these expose a greater surface area to a bushfire; and</p> <p>(vi) are constructed in accordance with the relevant Bushfire provisions of the Standard Building Regulation 1993.</p> <p>(d) Masonry, stone, steel, colourbond or wire fencing is used and timber fencing is avoided.</p>	
<p>Uses and works avoid a high concentration of people living or congregating in a high bushfire risk area.</p>	<p>Uses where people are likely to congregate, including an educational establishment, community building, place of worship, hospital, retirement community, caravan park, camping ground, child care centre, correctional centre and tourist facility—</p> <p>(a) are not located within a bushfire risk area; or</p> <p>(b) where this is not possible, are constructed in accordance with Probable Solution 1, above.</p>	<p>The proposed RoL is not located within a bushfire risk area.</p>
<p>Water Storage and Supply</p> <p>Uses and works provide sufficient and accessible water storage and supply for firefighting purposes by—</p> <p>(a) connection to a reticulated water supply, if available to the site, having sufficient pressure and flow for firefighting purposes; or</p>	<p>Water Storage and Supply</p> <p>Where reticulated water supply is not available—</p> <p>(a) the site has a minimum water supply of 5000 litres (per dwelling) available for firefighting purposes as either—</p>	

Performance Outcomes	Acceptable Outcomes	Compliance
<p>(b) where reticulated water supply is not available to the site, a dam, lake, water tank or swimming pool are provided with sufficient capacity for water pumping in times of bushfire.</p>	<p>(i) a separate on-site water tank; or (ii) a reserve section in the bottom part of the main water supply tank; or (iii) a swimming pool installed immediately upon construction of the dwelling; or (iv) a dam or lake; and (b) where on-site water supply tanks are provided they are— (i) above ground and located adjacent to the building; (ii) fitted with a 50mm outlet pipe and a 50mm male camlock coupling (standard rural fire brigade fitting) to allow fire hose connection; (iii) of precast concrete construction and supported by a fireproof structure; and (iv) supported by a stand-by diesel or petrol powered pump should electricity be cut off during a bushfire. (4) Where reticulated water supply is available— (a) if reconfiguring a lot, water supply outlet pipes are located— (i) within 40 metres of the building envelope on each lot; or (ii) where no building envelope is indicated on a lot, within 40 metres of the centre of the lot; or (b) if for the erection of a building, the water supply outlet pipe is located within 40 metres of the building.</p>	<p>Reticulated water will be supplied to the proposed RoL to meet statutory standards.</p>

Performance Outcomes	Acceptable Outcomes	Compliance
<p>Vehicular Access and Fire Trails Fire trails or perimeter roads are provided to mitigate against bushfire risk by—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) separating uses and works from surrounding vegetated areas; and (b) being of sufficient width to serve as an effective fire trail which allows continuous access for firefighting vehicles; and (c) being in secure tenure and maintained. <p>Residential uses and works (including reconfiguring a lot) are designed to mitigate potential bushfire risk and provide safe sites for dwellings.</p> <p>Where the use involves reconfiguring a lot and the opening of a new road, the road layout provides vehicular access which is designed to—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) mitigate against bushfire risk by ensuring adequate access for firefighting and other emergency vehicles; and (b) allow for evacuation in the event of a bushfire; and (c) provide for the safe and effective operation of water supply and equipment for fire fighting vehicles. 	<p>Vehicular Access and Fire Trails Uses and works (including where reconfiguring a lot) incorporate—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a perimeter road— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) located between the boundary of the lot(s) and adjacent vegetated lands; and (ii) with a minimum cleared width of 20 metres; and (iii) with a constructed road width of 6 metres; and (iv) constructed to an all weather standard; or (b) a fire trail— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) having a minimum cleared width of 6 metres; and (ii) having a minimum formed width of 4 metres; and (iii) having a maximum gradient of 15%; and (iv) that is constructed and maintained to prevent erosion and provide continuous access for firefighting vehicles; and (v) allowing vehicular access at least every 200 metres; and (vi) that has vehicular access at each end and links to either existing fire trails or roads, or has a turning circle, or turnaround area at the end of the trail for the turning of firefighting vehicles; or (vii) which has passing or turning areas with a maximum gradient of 5% (1 in 20) at intervals of at least every 400 metres; and 	<p>No construction of Fire trails required.</p>

Performance Outcomes	Acceptable Outcomes	Compliance
<p>The size and shape of residential lots and the design and location of access paths facilitate emergency access to buildings and firefighting infrastructure, and the incorporation of suitable on-site bushfire mitigation measures.</p>	<p>(viii) are situated on public land which may also be used for pedestrian or cycling access; or (ix) on private land by way of an access easement granted in favour of the local government and Queensland Fire Services, where the fire trail is unfenced and maintained by the private owner to enable access at all times by firefighting vehicles; or (c) a combination of perimeter roads and fire trails as per (a) and (b) above; and (d) vehicular access points to properties are a minimum of 3 metres in width and 4.5m in height in order to permit ready access by fire and rescue vehicles; and (e) access driveways maintain a minimum horizontal clearance of 5m from all powerlines.</p> <p>Wherever possible the road layout provides through roads and avoids the use of cul-de-sac and dead end roads (refer Figure 11.4.7).</p> <p>Road gradients are generally no more than 12.5%, or are from 12.5% to not more than 20% over a maximum distance of 50 metres.</p>	

Performance Outcomes	Acceptable Outcomes	Compliance
<p>New residents are informed about the nature of the bushfire hazard and mitigation measures.</p>	<p>The developer provides potential purchasers of lots and the local government with detailed information including—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the nature of the bushfire hazard present on the lot; (b) responsibilities for fire management (including fuel in vegetated areas, maintenance of open areas and buildings, separation of assets); (c) measures available for ongoing fire hazard mitigation (including planting of fire resistant species, use of non-flammable fencing and screens, separation of assets from hazards); and (d) the intended management of retained internal vegetated strips and public areas. 	<p>Not Applicable</p>



Appendices

APPENDIX 1

POTENTIAL BUSHFIRE ATTACK LEVEL

The Australian Standard, Construction of Buildings in Bushfire Prone Areas (AS 3959-2018) provides a suitable methodology for identifying assessable vegetation and determining the requirements for the construction of buildings in order to improve their resistance to bushfire attack from burning embers, radiant heat, flame contact and a combination of the three attack forms.

Determination of BAL

Step 1. Relevant Fire Danger Index

The PSBA bushfire hazard mapping identifies the FFDI as 57.

Step 2. Vegetation Classification - Fuel Loads

The vegetation type was classified as eucalyptus dominated woodland on drainage lines and alluvial plains. Available fuel weights were derived from *PSBA State – Wide Bushfire Hazard (Bushfire Prone Area) Mapping. Fuel weight was determined as: 11.6 tonne/hectare.*

Fuel weights were determined as:

- 7.5 tonne/hectare surface fuels
- 3.6 tonne/hectare near surface fuels
- 0.5 tonne/hectare elevated fuels
- 0.0 tonne/hectare bark fuels
- Total fuel weight = 11.6 tonne/hectare.

Step 3. Determine the effective slope in degrees under the classified vegetation

The classified vegetation is downslope at 3 degrees, calculated using a Nikon Forestry Pro Range Finder and Inclinometer.

Step 4. Determine the slope in degrees of the land between the site and the classified vegetation

The slope between the site and the classified vegetation is with an average slope of 3 degrees.

Step 5. Determine the distance of the site from classified vegetation

Distance is calculated from the closest edge of the classified vegetation. Classified vegetation under AS 3959-2018 does not include low threat vegetation. The distance to the classified vegetation was calculated using a Nikon Forestry Pro Range Finder and Inclinometer at > 100 metres.

:S2.2.3.2 (a) of the AS3959 - 2018, Exclusions: vegetation of any type more than 100 metres from the site is now excluded under section 2.2.3.2 (a) of the Australian Standard for construction in bushfire prone areas.

Step 6. Calculations

Effective slope (°) - 3

Site slope (°) - 3

Distance (m) - > 100 metres

Vegetation classification — eucalyptus dominated woodland on drainage lines and alluvial plains

Forest Fire Danger Index (FFDI) – 57

Surface fuel load (t/ha) – 7.5

Overall fuel load (t/ha) – 11.6

Heat of combustion (kJ/kg) – 18 600

Flame temperature (K) – 1200

Outcomes

Intensity (kW/m²) – 4 311

Radiant heat flux (kW/m²) – Low

Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) - LOW

APPENDIX 2

About the Report Author



This Report was prepared by Bushfire Specialist Bernard Trembath. Bernard has extensive practical knowledge and experience in bushfire planning and management and an intimate working knowledge of Queensland vegetation and climate, particularly in relation to fire prediction and behaviour.

Prior to establishing Queensland Bushfire Planning in 2014, Bernard was the Regional Manager Rural Operations, Brisbane Region, for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES). As Regional Manager, Bernard was responsible for bushfire mitigation within the Brisbane Region, working with Local Governments and many other organisations to help reduce the impacts of bushfires. Bernard was also the QFES bushfire planning specialist, providing specialist bushfire planning and management advice on behalf of QFES.

Since 2014, Bernard has provided his specialist bushfire planning knowledge to advise and assist a large number of individuals, companies and government agencies.