



PLANNING FOR BUSHFIRE PROTECTION 2018

PBP 2006 to PBP 2018 – What has changed?

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FACT SHEET- MAY 2018

This fact sheet provides an overview of the key differences between Planning for Bush Fire Protection (PBP) 2006 and the PBP 2018.

> Document Structure

The Performance Based Controls contained within Chapter 4 of the 2006 PBP have been broken down into separate chapters in PBP 2018. There is now a separate chapter for each development type.

> 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

New information has been introduced within the separate chapters covering development in grassland areas. 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 prepared 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 having a less vulnerable risk profile. Varied performance criteria have been developed for these particular specified uses.

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> Fuel Loads

A different set of fuel loads have been used to define the setbacks required for development in NSW. The vegetation classification system used within PBP 2018 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 PBP replace the distances within AS 3959:2009 in NSW.

> Fire Weather Areas

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

The fire weather area information has been removed from PBP and have been 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*.