



Policy P6.1.3

Environmental Assessment for Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Works

Date of Issue 4 September 2007

Version Number 2.0

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This policy outlines the NSW Rural Fire Service's ("**RFS**") requirements for environmental assessment of bush fire hazard reduction works, including:
- (a) assessing and determining whether Bushfire Hazard Reduction Certificates ("**HRCs**") may be issued for bush fire hazard reduction works; and
 - (b) preparing Reviews of Environmental Factors ("**REFs**") for the purpose of assessing and determining bush fire hazard reduction proposals under Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* ("**EP&A Act**").

2. Policy

- 2.1 The RFS shall:
- (a) in cases where the relevant function(s) has/have been conferred by the council to the RFS under the Rural Fire District Service Agreement, assess and determine in accordance with *SOP P6.1.3-1* whether HRCs may be issued for bush fire hazard reduction works proposed for private land, or other land not covered by a certifying authority, when:
 - (i) an application is received from the owner or occupier of the land. This type of HRC is issued under *s100F of the Rural Fires Act 1997* ("**RF Act**");
 - (ii) the RFS issues a notice (under *s66 of the RF Act*) in accordance with *SS 4.2.6 Bush Fire Hazard Complaints*. This type of HRC is issued under *s100G* of the *RF Act*;
 - (iii) the RFS carries out works (under *s70 of the RF Act*). This type of HRC is issued under *s100G of the RF Act*;
 - (b) assess and determine in accordance with *SOP P6.1.3-1* whether HRCs may be issued for bush fire hazard reduction works proposed for private land, or a public authority, when:
 - (i) the RFS carries out works (under *s73 of the RF Act*). This type of HRC is issued under *s100G of the RF Act*;

- (c) undertake an REF in accordance with the EP&A Act and *SOP P6.1.3-2* where a HRC cannot be issued but an environmental approval is required:
 - (i) for the purpose of the RFS serving a notice or carrying out works under *s66, 70 or 73 of the RF Act*; or
 - (ii) as a result of the RFS seeking to undertake a prescribed burn on privately owned land for the purpose of bush fire hazard reduction (in accordance with *SS 3.1.6 Fireground Procedures*).
- (d) register details of all environmental assessments that the RFS undertakes (including HRCs and REFs) for hazard reduction proposals on BRIMS;
- (e) maintain a sufficient number of suitably qualified and trained Certificate Issuing Officers (CIO) in accordance with the *Requirements for Attainment of NSW RFS Certificate Issuing Officer Competency and Authorities*; and
- (f) monitor and review the effectiveness of the HRC and REF process and CIO conduct to identify opportunities for improvement.

3. Links

- SOP P6.1.3-1 Hazard Reduction Certificates, including:
 - Hazard Reduction Certificate Assessment Guidelines
 - Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Certificate Application Form
 - Hazard Reduction Certificate Assessment Form
 - Requirements for Attainment of NSW RFS Certificate Issuing Officer Competency and Authorities
- SOP P6.1.3-2 Review of Environmental Factors (REF):
 - REF Application Form
 - REF Template
 - REF Assessment Guidelines
 - REF Approval Letter Template
 - REF Approval Form Template
- *Rural Fires Act, 1997*,
- The Bush Fire Environmental Assessment Code including:
 - Threatened Species Hazard Reduction List
 - Conditions for Hazard Reduction and Aboriginal Heritage
 - Guidelines for Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Works Affecting Heritage Items (under preparation)
- The following RFS Community Education documents:
 - Application Instructions for a Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Certificate
 - Before You Light that Fire
 - Standards for Asset Protection Zones
 - Standards for Low Intensity Hazard Reduction Burning,
 - Standards for Pile Burning
 - Standards for Windrow Burning
- SS 4.2.2 Permits to Burn
- SS 4.2.3 Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Notices,
- SS 4.2.6 Bush Fire Hazard Complaints,

- SS 1.3.4 Application of Delegations and Rural Fire District Service Agreements to Service Standards
- SS 1.1.7 Code of Conduct and Ethics
- SS 1.1.4 Health and Safety
- Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) 'Threatened Biodiversity Survey and Assessment Guidelines for Developments and Activities'
- DEC 'Assessment of Significance (Seven Part Test) Guidelines'

4. Who is responsible for implementing the Policy?

Executive Director Community Safety

5. Amendments

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| ▪ Clause 2.1(c) | September 2007 |
| ▪ SOP P6.1.3-1 (reformatted – no content change) | September 2007 |
| – New clause 2.1 | |
| ▪ SOP P6.1.3-2 (new SOP) | September 2007 |