



# SERVICE STANDARD 1.5.2

## ENVIRONMENT

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
Version Number	1.0
SOPs	> None
Owner	Executive Director, Operations
Contact	Director, Community Resilience
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## 1 Purpose

- 1.1 The objects of the *Rural Fires Act 1997* (the Act) include:
- the protection of environmental assets from damage arising from fires; and
  - that activities referred to in the objects of the Act (such as the prevention, mitigation and suppression of bush and other fires, co-ordination of bush fire fighting, protection of persons from injury or death, and property from damage, arising from fires) have regard to the principles of ecological sustainable development described in section 6(2) of the *Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991*.
- 1.2 The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) is likewise bound by these principles [s9(3) of the Act] in carrying out any function that affects the environment as well as the range of environmental legislative requirements such as the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*, *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, *Fisheries Management Act 1994*, *Soil Conservation Act 1938* and *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. Environmental considerations should underpin the development of all Service Standards and activities based on them.

## 2 Policy

- 2.1 Ecologically sustainable development requires the effective integration of social, economic and environmental considerations in decision-making processes. Ecologically sustainable development can be achieved through the implementation of the following principles and programs:
- the precautionary principle;
  - inter-generational equity;
  - conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity; and
  - improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms
- prior to undertaking any activity.

- 2.2 The environmental consequences of activities undertaken by the NSW RFS shall be minimised having regard to the protection of air, water, land, protected areas and wilderness, threatened species and ecological communities and their habitat, Aboriginal heritage, historic heritage and the management of pest species, erosion and prevention of bush fire. The best way to achieve these environmental outcomes is through appropriate planning processes prior to undertaking activities.

### 3 Related Documents

- > [Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016](#)
- > [Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979](#)
- > [Fisheries Management Act 1994](#)
- > [National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974](#)
- > [Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991](#)
- > [Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997](#)
- > [Rural Fires Act 1997](#)
- > [Soil Conservation Act 1938](#)

### 4 Amendments

AMENDMENT DATE	VERSION NO	DESCRIPTION
[date]	1.0	Initial release
9 October 2001	1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Repealed and remade SS 1.1.5 v1.0</li> <li>&gt; Clause 7</li> </ul>
23 July 2003	1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Typographical amendments only – version number not changed</li> </ul>
17 May 2019	1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Repeals and remakes SS 1.1.5 v1.1</li> <li>&gt; Updates SS number to SS 1.5.2 (v1.0) to align with SS Index categories</li> <li>&gt; Update of legislation through the document</li> <li>&gt; Minor rewording of clauses</li> </ul>