



1.1.5

Environment

1 Rationale

- 1.1 The objects of the Rural Fires Act, 1997 include the protection of the environment by requiring certain activities (such as the prevention, mitigation and suppression of bush and other fires) to be carried out having 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 Rural Fire Service is likewise bound by these principles [s9(3)] as well as the range of environmental legislative requirements such as the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1989, National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974, Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1998, Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995, and Native Vegetation Conservation Act, 1997. As such considerations of the environment should underpin the development of all Service Standards and activities based on them.

2 Standard

- 2.1 The principles of ecological sustainable development require a process of deliberation which will take into account:
 - the precautionary principle
 - inter-generational equity
 - conservation of biological diversity and ecological processes
 - improved valuation and pricing of environmental resourcesbefore undertaking any activity.
- 2.2 The environmental consequences of activities undertaken by the Rural Fire Service shall be minimised having regard to the protection of our air, water, land, protected areas and wilderness, threatened species and their habitat, Aboriginal heritage, historic heritage and the management of pest species, erosion and prevention of wild fire. The best way to achieve these



environmental outcomes is through appropriate planning processes prior to a fire event rather than when an emergency arises.

3 Who is responsible for implementing this Standard?

All members of the Service

4 Issue

This Service Standard was considered by the Rural Fire Service Advisory Council on 4th August 1999 and issued by the Commissioner on 1st September 1999.

5 Legislation and references

s3, s9(3) Rural Fires Act, 1997

6 Amendments

Clause 7
Typographical amendments

9 October 2001
23 July 2003

7 Document owner

The owner of this Service Standard is the Executive Director Operations Support.