

BUSH FIRE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CODE - SUPPORTING DOCUMENT July 2021

BURNING ADJACENT TO POWERLINE GUIDELINES

Introduction

The Bush Fire Environmental Assessment Code (Code) provides for a 'one-stop shop' streamlined environmental assessment and approval process for mechanical and burning methods for undertaking bush fire hazard reduction work. Issuing authorities and certifying authorities can use this Code to determine Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Certificates (Certificates) that authorise the carrying out of the identified bush fire hazard reduction works in accordance with section 100C of the *Rural Fires Act 1997*.

The Code identifies potential issues of environmental concern. Works which may impact on these environmental concerns are required to be carried out in accordance with the provided conditions. The Code also identifies those circumstances for which a Certificate may not be issued based on the potential environmental impact. In these cases, a more comprehensive assessment of the potential impact is required under the relevant environmental legislation.

The Code and related documents can be located at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au,

This document has been prepared by the NSW Rural Fire Service in consultation with the NSW Department of Industry.

This document is for the use of issuing and certifying authorities (those public authorities specified in the Code and the *Rural Fires Act 1997*) when assessing the conditions required for a bush fire hazard reduction certificate. This document has been developed to support the Code. As such, a level of understanding of the Code will assist in comprehending this document.

Rules for Burning adjacent to Powerlines

In summary, clause 5.6.5 of the Bush Fire Environmental Assessment Code provides that:

In the event that 11kV or higher voltage powerlines are located within the boundaries of the proposed burn, conditions must be imposed requiring that the person acting on the certificate must:

- at least 7 days prior to the planned burn, liaise with the electricity network provider to determine when conditions are likely to be most suitable to carry out the burn and any safety requirements, and
- comply with any requirements so specified, unless those requirements are contrary to any other condition of the certificate, in which case the work may not be conducted.

Clause 5.6.5 also requires that if these guidelines provide for:

- differing triggers (in relation to the voltage of powerlines), and/or
- the conditions are varied,

then the requirements specified in these guidelines prevails.

Variation to the Requirements in Clause 5.6.5 of the Bush Fire Environmental Assessment Code

Note that these guidelines do not currently differ from the requirements in clause 5.6.5 of the Bush Fire Environmental Assessment Code.

Any variations that may occur will be included here if required.