

SPECIAL FIRE PROTECTION DEVELOPMENT BUSHFIRE ASSESSMENT REPORT

2x 2 bed SDA dwellings & 2x 1 bed SDA dwellings 31 & 33 Caputar Way, Lochinvar, NSW, 2321 Lot 321 & 322 / DP 1299272

Reference #:242007





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Title	Bush Fire Assessment Report – Special Fire Protection Purpose							
Description	Special Fire Protection Purpose 31 & 33 Caputar Way, Lochinvar, NSW – Lot 321 & 322 / DP 1299272							
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Version Number	Modified By Modifications Made Date Modified Status							
1	SJ Draft 10/10/2024 Draft							
2	DSL Final 25/10/2024 Completed							

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AHIMS	Aboriginal Historic Information Management System						
APZ	Asset Protection Zone						
AS/NZS 1221:1997	Australian Standard – Fire hose reels						
AS1596-2014	Australian Standard – The storage and handling of LP Gas						
AS2419-2021	Australian Standard – Fire hydrant installations						
AS2441:2005	Australian Standard – Fire hose reels installation						
AS3745:2010	Australian Standard – Planning for emergencies in facilities						
AS3959-2018	Australian Standard – Construction of buildings in bush fire prone areas						
AS4083:2010	Planning for emergencies – Health care facilities						
BAL	Bush fire Attack Level						
BCA	Building Code of Australia						
BFSS	Bush Fire Strategic Study						
BPA	Bush fire Prone Area (Also Bush fire Prone Land)						
BPL Map	Bush fire Prone Land Map						
BPMs	Bush fire Protection Measures						
BV	Biodiversity Values						
EP&A Act	NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979						
FFDI	Forest Fire Danger Index						
GFDI	Grass Fire Danger Index						
ha	Hectare						
НОС	Heat Of Combustion						
IPA	Inner Protection Area						
kJ/kg	Kilo Joules per Kilo gram						
LGA	Local Government Area						
LAT	Large Air Tanker						
OPA	Outer Protection Area						
PBP	Planning for Bush fire Protection						
RF Act	Rural Fires Act 1997						
RF Regs	Rural Fires Regulations 2013						
RHG	Restricted Head Growth						
SEED	Central Resource for Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data						
SFR	Short Fire Run						
SFPP	Special Fire Protection Purpose						

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BEMC Pty Ltd was engaged by Murphy Property Group to complete a Bush Fire Assessment Report (BFAR) to on the proposed Special Fire Protection Purpose at 31 & 33 Caputar Way, Lochinvar, NSW – Lot 321 & 322 / DP 1299272, **(Figure 1, page 6).** The proposed development includes 2x 2 bed SDA dwellings & 2x 1 bed SDA dwellings.

An assessment in accordance with Appendix 1 of PBP2019 has been undertake.

It is clear from this investigation and assessment that the site is *NOT* located within Bush fire Prone Land.

The analysis completed above indicates the existing vegetation within the 140m assessment area can be excluded as a bushfire threat and greater that 100m distance (Bushfire prone area 100m buffer) from classifiable vegetation in accordance with Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019.

The requirements for a bushfire assessment to accompany the Development Application is triggered due to out-of-date s10.3 Bush fire Prone Land Mapping.

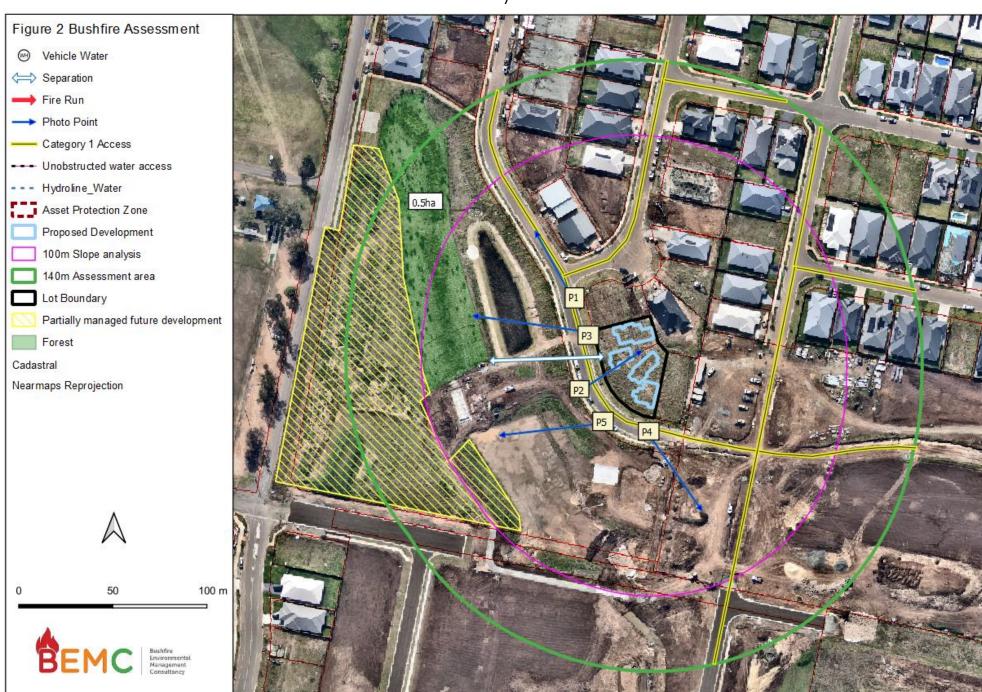
The bushfire risk to a building outside 100m distance from classifiable vegetation are considered low risk. The risk of a bushfire to these buildings is so low that specific bushfire planning and construction requirements are not required in accordance with Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019.

This proposed development does not require further assessment in accordance with the EP&A Act and PBP2019. The risk of bushfire is does not require any specific bushfire construction or planning standards and the bushfire prone area map of Maitland Council requires to be updated.





Figure 1 Property Location of 31 & 33 Caputar Way, Lochinvar, NSW – Lot 321 & 322 / DP 1299272 (Mecone Mosaic, 2024)



2 Introduction

BEMC Pty Ltd was engaged by Murphy Property Group to complete a Bush Fire Assessment Report (BFAR) to accompany a Development Application for the Special Fire Protection Purpose development located at 31 & 33 Caputar Way, Lochinvar, NSW – Lot 321 & 322 / DP 1299272, (Figure 1, page 6).

The identification of bush fire prone lands (BPL Map) in NSW is required under s 10.3 of the *EP&A Act*. S. 4.14 of the *EP&A Act* requires development to compliance with Planning for Bushfire Protection, 2019 (PBP 2019) if any part of a development site is affected by bush fire hazard as indicated within the BPL Map.

This development currently falls within identified bush fire affected land within the Maitland Council bush fire prone land map and the applicant is required to submit a bush fire assessment consistent with PBP 2019.

2.1 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposed development includes 2x 2 bed SDA dwellings & 2x 1 bed SDA dwellings.

Table 1 Description of Proposed development

Boundaries	New development in all directions, Caputar Way west, vegetation north-west
Topography	Slight downslope west, slight upslope east.
Type of development	SFPP – SDA dwellings.
Proposed dwellings	4
Landscaping plan provided	No
Current land-use	Vacant
Fire weather	Maitland Council – FFDI – 100

The proposed location of the development is provided in **Figure 1**, page 6 with further development details provided in **Appendix 1**, page 18.

2.2 OBJECTIVES OF ASSESSMENT

To assess the proposed development in consideration of s4.14 of the EP&A Act 1979, PBP 2019 and AS 3959:2018 to enable council to make a determination.

This report assesses whether the development meets the six objectives listed in section 1.1 of PBP 2019, which provide for the protection of human life and minimize impacts on property as follows:

- 1. Afford buildings and their occupants protection from exposure to a bush fire.
- 2. Provide for a defendable space to be located around buildings.
- 3. Provide appropriate separation between a hazard and buildings which, in combination with other measures, prevent the likely fire spread to buildings.
- 4. Ensure appropriate operation access and egress for emergency services personnel and residents is available.
- 5. Provide for ongoing management and maintenance of Bush fire Protection Measures (BPMs); and
- 6. Ensure the utility services are adequate to meet the needs of firefighters.

2.3 Specific Objectives of Special Fire Protection Purpose Developments

The aims and objectives listed in section 1.1 of PBP 2019 remain applicable to Special Fire Protection Purpose developments, however further consideration has been given to these types of developments to ensure Bush fire Protection Measures (BPMs) are fully incorporated at the design stage of the development. The specific objectives of Special Fire Protection Purpose developments outlined in section 6.2 of PBP 2019 are:

- Minimise levels of radiant heat, localised smoke and ember attack through increased APZ, building design and siting.
- Provide an appropriate operational environment for emergency service personnel during firefighting and emergency management.
- Ensure the capacity of existing infrastructure (such as roads and utilities) can accommodate the increase in demand during emergencies as a result of the development, and
- Ensure emergency evacuation procedures and management which provides for the special characteristics and needs of occupants.

2.4 PBP 2019 ADDENDUM AND NCC

The 2022 edition of the National Construction Code (NCC 2022) contains amendments to its bush fire protection provisions. This includes a suite of new provisions for Class 3 Buildings in bush fire prone areas that accommodate certain types of vulnerable occupants. This Addendum aligns Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019 (PBP 2019) with NCC 2022.

The effective date of this Addendum is 1 May 2023 to coincide with adoption of the National Construction Code 2022.

Developments in bush fire prone areas must comply with both the requirements of PBP and the NCC.

NCC 2022 identifies additional bush fire provisions for the construction, separation and access requirements for certain Class 3 buildings accommodating vulnerable occupants on bush fire prone land.

Class 3 buildings include some Special Fire Protection Purpose (SFPP) developments under section 100B of the Rural Fires Act 1997, such as Class 3a hospitals, Class 3b schools and child care centres and Class 3c residential care buildings.

Additional Performance Criteria and Acceptable Solutions relevant to BPMs within PBP for SFPP Class 3 buildings are identified in Appendix B of this Addendum. These Acceptable Solutions are consistent with the relevant provisions of NCC 2022.

Consistent with section 100B of the Rural Fires Act 1997, proposed SFPP's that are Class 3 Buildings in bush fire prone areas may be required to have bush fire protection measures additional to those specified in NCC 2022.

3 BUSH FIRE STRATEGIC STUDY

Planning for Bushfire Protection (2019) is based on the worst-case scenarios for each of the bush fire behaviour elements of fire weather, vegetation, slope and assumes not human intervention. All development shall be assessed on an individual basis as broad-brush approaches of documents such as PBP 2019 may not be applicable in every instance.

A Bush Fire Risk Strategic Study (BFRSS) was prepared to inform the context of the Bush Fire Assessment Report (BFAR). The level of information gathered and analysis within the BFRSS depends upon the nature and scale of the development. The BFRSS provides a broad-brush approach to determine landscape wildfire risk in considerations of vegetation continuity, distribution, and proximity to development; human intervention; access and evacuation. This enables an assessment the *actual* bushfire risk, determine if strict adherence to PBP 2019 is warranted, and if a proposed development is appropriate in the bush fire hazard context.

Table 2 Bush fire risk strategic study

ELEMENT Low Threat		Moderate Threat		High Threat		Extreme Threat	
Adjoining Lands	The proposed development and changing land use will have positive impacts on the ability of adjoining landowners to implement Bush fire Protection Measures		The proposed development and changing land use do not impact on the ability of adjoining landowners to implement Bush fire Protection Measures	V	The proposed development and changing land use will impact on the ability of adjoining landowners to implement Bush fire Protection Measures		The proposed development will significantly impact on the wildfire risk profile of adjoining lands.
Surrounding infrastructure	The proposed development does not significantly impact on community water, electricity, or gas services.		The proposed development is associated with community water, electricity, or gas services but will not have significant impact.	٧	The proposed development impact on community water, electricity, or gas services.		The wildfire risk profile of significant infrastructure will increase due to this development.
Emergency services	The proposed development does not significantly impact on the ability of emergency services to plan, prepare, respond, or recover prior, during or after a bush fire event.		The proposed development is located within 30-minute flight from a Large Air Tanker (LAT) airbase and within 30-minutes of multiple fire response units.	V	The proposed development is located more than 30-minute flight from a Large Air Tanker (LAT) airbase and only 1 or 2 fire response units within 30-minutes.		It is unlikely emergency services will respond to wildfire in this location during extreme and catastrophic events.

ELEMENT Low Threat			Moderate Threat		High Threat		Extreme Threat	
Access	Good, multiple route evacuation is possible and connects with the public road network in a direction away from the wildfire threat to shelter location.	٧	More than one access or egress routes is provided from the property to a safer location which then can access the public road network with multiple access/egress routes o shelter location.		One access or egress routes is provided, which is <200m from the property to a safer location.		Only one access or egress route with no nearby safe location.	
Emergency egress	Seamless integration with existing settlement - no effect on evacuation.	٧	Short bushland pinch points that may restrict access temporarily or carry fire across roads. Unlikely impact on evacuation.		Pinch points that are likely to restrict access along evacuation routes for short periods (15-30mins) and carry fire across roads.		Large areas of bushland or multiple pinch points along evacuation routes that could block evacuation routes for an extended time.	
Vegetation continuity	Forested vegetation beyond 140m form the site is scattered with low continuity due to built development.	^	Forested vegetation beyond 140m form the site is scattered and isolated, forming a dominate fast moving grassland or open woodland fire event.		Patches of forested vegetation associated riparian and isolated ridgelines beyond 140m from the site may result in localised forest fire event.		Continuous forested areas within mountainous terrain beyond 140m from the site will result in broadscale landscape emergency management operations.	
Vegetation connectiveness	Forested vegetation corridors beyond 140m are restricted and do not enable landscape fire to enter and move through the site by a continuous fire path.	٧	Forested vegetation corridors beyond 140m from the site exist, although grasslands >100m provide separations between forested vegetation restricting the fire head progression of landscape fire.		Forested vegetation corridors beyond 140m from the site exist, although grasslands <100m provide separations between forested vegetation restricting the fire head progression of landscape fire.		Forested vegetation corridors beyond 140m from the site provide for passage of landscape fire to enter and move through the site.	
Vegetation Location	Wildfire within forests can only approach from one direction surrounded by a suburban, township or urban area managed in a minimum fuel condition.	٧	Wildfire within forests can only approach from two directions and the site is within a suburban, township or urban area managed in a minimum fuel condition.		Wildfire within forests can approach from several directions although gaps within forested vegetation or are present.		Wildfire within forests can approach from several directions and have hours or days to grow and develop before impacting and/or site is surrounded by unmanaged vegetation.	
Separation	Hazard separation between forested hazard and buildings of greater than 100m.	٧	Hazard separation between forested hazard and buildings of 50-100m		Hazard separation between forested hazard and buildings of 30-50m		Hazard separation between forested hazard and buildings of <30m	

ELEMENT Low Threat			Moderate Threat		High Threat		Extreme Threat	
Vegetation flammability	Within the dominated fire direction, the fire fuel is restricted to surface, partially managed and separated through land use practises.	٧	Within the dominated fire direction, the fire fuel is highly aerated, with significant separations (>50m) between these patches with partially managed vegetation between.		Within the dominated fire direction, the fire fuel is highly aerated, with <50m between these patches with partially managed vegetation between		Within the dominated fire direction, the fire fuel is highly aerated, continuous continuity vertically and horizontally with flammable species.	
Wildfire Behaviour	Extreme Wildfire behaviour at the site is not possible given the broader landscape.	٧	Extreme Wildfire behaviour at the site is unlikely given the broader landscape.		Extreme Wildfire behaviour at the site is likely given the broader landscape.		Extreme Wildfire behaviour at the site is very likely given the broader landscape.	
Overall Threat Rating:	Wildfire provides LOW threat to this prop <mark>osa</mark> l	٧	11		1 19			

In this case, a low threat has been determined and strict compliance with PBP is not warranted due to:

- Good, multiple route evacuation is possible and connects with the public road network in a direction away from the wildfire threat to shelter location.
- Forested vegetation beyond 140m form the site is scattered with low continuity due to built development.
- Within the dominated fire direction, the fire fuel is restricted to surface, partially managed and separated through land use practises.

4 Bush fire Hazard Assessment

This section details the site assessment methodology in Appendix 1 of PBP2019. It provides a detailed analysis of the vegetation, slope, exclusions, vegetation downgrades and shielding elements to provide the required Bush fire Protection Measures.

4.1 Forest Fire Danger Index

This assessment utilises Maitland Council area with a FFDI 100.

4.2 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The assessment of the vegetation, slope and other bush fire characteristics within and surrounding the site has been carried out with the aid of the following:

- Nearmap, sixmap aerial photograph interpretation.
- Kogan 6*25 laser distance finder.
- Photo theodolite application supported by contour and LiDAR DEMs terrain profiles.
- Sharing and Enabling NSW Environmental Data (SEED Portal)
- Reference to regional vegetation community mapping, and
- Site assessment in October 2024.

4.3 VEGETATION ASSESSMENT

In accordance with PBP 2019, an assessment of the vegetation over 140m in all directions from the building was undertaken. Consideration is provided to any clearing, re-vegetation or landscaping likely to occur to obtain the worst-case scenario and derived maximum fuel loads.

Vegetation that may be considered a bush fire hazard was identified and classification based on available fuel loads for sub-formations are provided through vegetation fuel monitoring project administered by the University of Wollongong, University of Melbourne and CSRO Ecosystems Science and Bush fire Dynamics and Applications. The results of this research are commonly referred to as the 'NSW Comprehensive Fuel Loads'.

An arborist and/or a biodiversity report has not been provided to inform the vegetation assessment.

Stream order watercourses (Strahler system - Water Management (General) Regulation 2018) within the 140m assessment area have been identified. If this vegetation is proposed to be impacted the proposal may require assessment and Controlled Activity Approval (CAA).

Native Vegetation Regulation 2013 does not permit the removal of paddock trees within 30 metres of water bodies and restricts the clearing of native shrub and other forms of vegetation thinning within 30 metres of water bodies.

No vegetation within the 140m Assessment has been identified within the Biodiversity Values (BV) Map provided in **Appendix 4**, page 23.

The area is not identified within the Areas of Regional Koala Significance (ARKS).

SEED Portal (State Vegetation Type Mapping) and where available regional vegetation community mapping has been analysed to determine the vegetation in and around the development, which is illustrated in **Figure 3**, **page 14**.

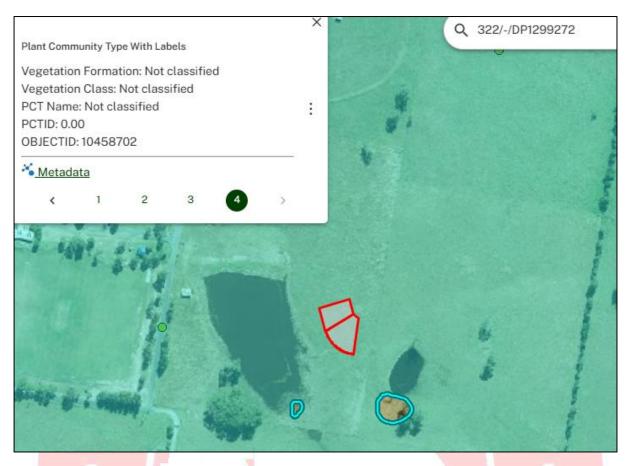


Figure 3 Vegetation in and around the site (Extract from the SEED Portal)

4.3.1 Vegetation classification, exclusions, and downgrades

The landscape to the west of the development has been landscaped for a water retention basin and be excluded for being considered a bushfire threat. The western side of the retention basing has been replanted with vegetation that at maturity can support localised fire event. This vegetation has been classified as forest and has a size of 0.5ha with a linear shape that does not support fire run direct to the proposed development. Section A1.10 of PBP 2019 provides for low-threat vegetation to be excluded as a bushfire threat due to limited size, separation from other classifiable vegetation and site, and management of ground and shrub vegetation (modified landscape). The vegetation to the west of the development, illustrated in Plate 5, page 21 excluded as a bushfire threat due <1ha and greater that 100m form any other classifiable vegetation.

Further to the west of the regeneration area is partially managed grasslands which is identified for future development.

4.3.1 Predominant Vegetation Classification

Vegetation in and around the site has been excluded as possessing a bushfire threat due to size, orientation, separations from the site and other bushfire classifiable vegetation.

5 Additional S. 45 Requirements

S. 45 of the RF Reg indicates the assessment requirements for s 100B RF Act developments to obtain a bush Fire Safety Authority. This section illustrates the remaining elements identified within S. 45 of the RF Reg that are not covered within bush fire hazard assessment process (section 3 and 4 of this report) or within the performance criteria of PBP 2019 (section 6 of this report).

5.1 CL (2) (E) AND (F) S.45 RF REGS - THREATENED SPECIES, POPULATIONS AND COMMUNITIES A search on the NSW Government Central Resource for Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data for significant environmental values was completed.

The search identified no Critical Endangered Ecological Communities (CEEC) or species listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* near or within the site.

The results of the Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data is provided in Appendix 3, page 22.

There will be no additional impacts on natural heritage values.

No vegetation within the 140m Assessment has been identified within the Biodiversity Values (BV) Map provided in Appendix 3, page 23.

A search of the Aboriginal Historic Information Management System (AHIMS) was completed on the 10^h October 2024 which indicated the development area is not known to have any Aboriginal significance.

The output of the search is provided in Appendix 5, page 24.

There will be no additional impacts on cultural heritage values.

5.2 CL (2) (G) ADDITIONAL BUSH FIRE ASSESSMENT

The capacity of nearby public roads to handle increased volumes of traffic when a bush fire emergency occurs.

The surrounding public road system is two-way, sealed with multiple routes to safer places away from the bush fire threat. This designed will be able to accommodate the elevated level of traffic created by this development.

Whether or not nearby public roads that link with the fire trail network have two-way access.

No linkages between the public road system and fire trails exist within the assessment area.

The adequacy of sprinkler systems and other fire protection measures to be incorporated into the development.

There are no bushfire spray systems or fire protection measure proposed outside the performance criteria for subdivisions.

Registered fire trails on the property.

No registered fire trails are located on the property.

6 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

An assessment in accordance with Appendix 1 of PBP2019 has been undertake.

It is clear from this investigation and assessment that the site is *NOT* located within Bush fire Prone Land.

The analysis completed above indicates the existing vegetation within the 140m assessment area can be excluded as a bushfire threat and greater that 100m distance (Bushfire prone area 100m buffer) from classifiable vegetation in accordance with Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019.

The requirements for a bushfire assessment to accompany the Development Application is triggered due to out-of-date s10.3 Bush fire Prone Land Mapping.

The bushfire risk to a building outside 100m distance from classifiable vegetation are considered low risk. The risk of a bushfire to these buildings is so low that specific bushfire planning and construction requirements are not required in accordance with Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019.

This proposed development does not require further assessment in accordance with the EP&A Act and PBP2019. The risk of bushfire is does not require any specific bushfire construction or planning standards and the bushfire prone area map of Maitland Council requires to be updated.



7 REFERENCES

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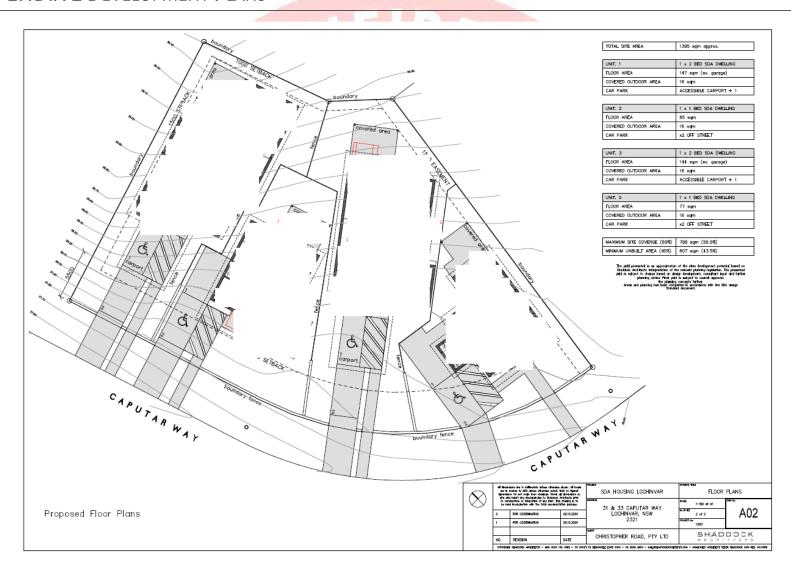
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8 APPENDIX 1 DEVELOPMENT PLANS



9 APPENDIX 2 PLATES (PHOTOGRAPHS)

Plates 1 – 5 depict the elements in and around the site that are considered within the bush fire hazard assessment. The classified vegetation, separations, effective and site slope are identified and displayed in Figure 2, page 7.



Plate 1 (P1) Access along Capture Way



Plate 2 (P2) Existing private property access from Capture Way.



Plate 3 (P3) Water retention basin and replants program.



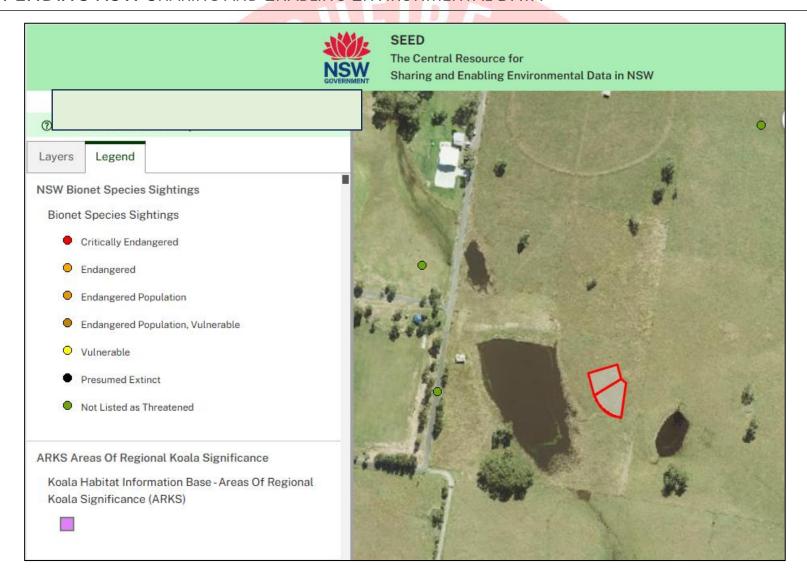
Plate 4 (P4) Current development to the south-east



Plate 5 (P5) Water retention basin and partially manage grasslands to the south-west



10 APPENDIX 3 NSW SHARING AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENTAL DATA



11 APPENDIX 4 BIODIVERSITY MAP

Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold Tool

The Biodiversity Values (BV) Map and Threshold Tool identifies land with high biodiversity value, particularly sensitive to impacts from development and clearing.

The map forms part of the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme threshold, which is one of the factors for determining whether the Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS) applies to a clearing or development proposal. You can use the Threshold Tool in the map viewer to generate a BV Threshold Report for your nominated area. The report will calculate results for your proposed development footprint and determine whether or not you will need to engage an accredited assessor to prepare a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) for your development.

This report can be used as evidence for development applications submitted to councils, native vegetation clearing not requiring development consent in urban areas and areas zoned for environmental conservation under State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021 - Chapter 2 vegetation in non-rural areas.

What's new?

For more information about the latest updates to the Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold Tool go to the updates section on the <u>Biodiversity Values Map webpage</u>.

Map Review: Landholders can request a review of the BV Map where they consider there is an error in the mapping on their property. For more information about the map review process and an application form for a review go to the Biodiversity Values Map Review webpage.

If you need help using this map tool see our <u>Biodiversity</u>

<u>Values Map and Threshold Tool User Guide</u> or contact
the Map Review Team
at <u>map.review@environment.nsw.gov.au</u> or on 1800 001



12 APPENDIX 5 AHIMS SEARCH



Your Ref/PO Number : Lochinvar

Client Service ID: 938658

Duncan Scott-Lawson Date: 10 October 2024

Attention: Duncan Scott-Lawson

Email: duncan@emconsultancy.com.au

Dear Sir or Madam:

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Lat, Long From: -32.7054, 151.4592 - Lat, Long To: -32.7043, 151.4611, conducted by Duncan Scott-Lawson on 10 October 2024.

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of Heritage NSW AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

- 0 Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
- O Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *