

13 May 2014

The Secretary
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attn: Megan Fu megan.fu@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Megan

Port Macquarie Hospital – MP11_02 - s75W to correct bushfire report information

In July 2012, the Deputy Director General approved the expansion of the Port Macquarie Hospital campus. A Statement of Commitment was made in the above application, and subsequently became part of the approval, to “adopt the recommendations of the Bushfire Threat Assessment Report prepared by BCA Check Pty Ltd (dated February 2012)”. Unfortunately it appears that this reference is incorrect and should have referenced a report dated 26 April 2012 which was submitted with the Preferred Project Report for the project.

The recommendations of the report dated 26 April 2012 included the adoption of requirements for the identified Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) as per AS3959-2009. This included the provision of screening aimed at ember protection for façade apertures and the like. Subsequent to the approval being issued, further analysis has been undertaken reassessing the site which was detailed in a report by Bushfire Certifiers (Ref:11186a) dated 9 January 2014.

To facilitate assessment of the required alternative solution, a report was commissioned from Simon Carroll (Bushfire Planning and Design Accredited Practitioner: Level 3) of Australian Bushfire Assessment Consultants. That report considered the following:

- The expected intensity of bushfire attack;
- Surveillance and potential for early detection of a bushfire;
- Potential for ignition of buildings; and
- Potential means of entry for embers & mitigating design elements.
- Openings for mechanical services intakes and discharges; and
- Fixed louvres to the perimeter of the Level 4 Plant area; and
- Grilles (with an aperture size of 3mm) in the west-facing Level 1 dock roller shutters.

On the basis of this assessment, it is proposed to delete the requirement for screening to the specified areas. This involves an alternative solution in relation to the building. The assessment demonstrated that the proposal to delete screening to the specified areas will not increase potential for ignition caused by burning embers generated by a bushfire that is commensurate with the expected intensity of the bushfire attack on the site. This conclusion was also based upon the acknowledgment that the buildings within the relevant part of the Hospital complex are inherently non-combustible and/or fire resisting due to the requirements of the BCA. The requirements of the BCA extend to the provision of extensive fire detection and suppression measures within the hospital buildings, and the complex is sprinkler protected throughout.

As a result Health Infrastructure (HI) wishes to amend the approval to reflect the actual reports that apply to the project. The details of the proposal have been discussed with the Rural Fire Service who will comment on the proposed amendment once lodged.

HI wishes to amend the approval as follows:

1. **Delete Statement of Commitment 3.2** from Schedule 3 of the approval dated 26 July 2012.
2. **Insert a new Statement of Commitment** which states:
"The proposed development will adopt the recommendations of the Bushfire Threat Assessment Report prepared by Bushfire Certifiers Dated 9th January 2014 (Ref:11186a) except where it is inconsistent with the recommendations of the Bushfire Assessment report prepared by Australian Bushfire Assessment Consultants dated April 2014. The latter report prevails to the extent of any inconsistency".

A copy of both the above reports is attached to this request for a modification. If you have any further questions, please contact Leone McEntee on 99785420

Yours sincerely,



Sam Sangster
Chief Executive