

MEMO

Topic: Central Coast Council Query regarding SSD-63475709;
Fire Brigade Access Commentary

Date: 2025-10-13

Attention: Michael Cardillo

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The purpose of this memo is to respond to the query raised by the Central Coast Council on 22/08/2025 regarding fire truck access to the project, specifically: *'Fire services vehicles cannot park out the front of the development to fight a fire within the development. Firefighters cannot simply jump out of the fire truck and walk along the pathway to the fire hydrant to connect a hose. Fire trucks and other emergency response vehicles will need to be able to get access to every building.'*

1. General Firefighting Process

- On arrival, FRNSW typically parks the fire truck on the designated fire truck hardstand near the fire booster assembly set close to the designated 'main entrance' of the development.
- The fire truck functions as a pump, usually by:
 - Connecting to the fire booster assembly set to drive the site's wet fire systems (bypassing on-site fire pumps and tanks).
 - Connecting to a street hydrant for additional water supply.
 - The fire truck has controls to manage water pressure and flow throughout the wet fire system
- Firefighters access the Fire Control Centre, also located near the main entry, to review Fire Indicator Panels (FIP), mimic/indicator panels, and use the EWIS/intercom system to determine the appropriate response and how to attack the fire.

2. Tumby Umbi Configuration

- Shared System: One booster, fire pump, and fire tank serve all buildings via a ring main loop that connects to all hydrants and sprinklers in all buildings.
- Operation: The fire truck pressurises the ring main from a single location.
- Coverage:
 - External and on-site hydrants.
 - Internal hydrants are located in every building's fire stairs across all levels.
 - Automatic sprinklers throughout each building.
- Each building lobby includes a mimic panel providing event and location information.
- The villa buildings will also be served from these combined shared infrastructure with hydrant coverage and wet and dry provisions in accordance with AS2419-2021, serving all buildings. This is noted in the Concept Fire Engineering Strategy submitted with the original SSDA submission and accepted by Fire Rescue NSW

3. FRNSW Operations on Site

From the Fire Control Centre, FRNSW identifies the building/level in alarm.

They then:

- Plan the fire attack strategy.
- Typically, access the building via fire-rated stairs and egress points, and walk up those stairs with their firefighting equipment to the fire-affected level. Should they decide to attack the fire with fire hydrants, they would connect their fire hose that they have carried up the fire stairs to the fire hydrants at that level.
- Execute controlled entry and fire attack procedures as required. They sometimes use the lifts as part of the access strategy, also. Most fires start within the units.
- For the villas, a similar approach is expected; however, FRNSW may choose to connect their hoses to one of the external fire hydrants to fight the fire, depending on the location of the fire. Given the limited number of levels in that building, evacuation would be expected to be faster than in the taller buildings. Access via the stairs/lifts would also be expected in most fire scenarios for the villas.

4. Approvals & Compliance

- Design Review: Assessed and approved by FRNSW through the FEBQ process during design and final certification at project completion.
- Regulation: Systems are designed to comply with Australian Standards and the NCC. These frameworks set the technical requirements, with no additional written requirements usually needed beyond this process.
- Access: FRNSW reviews and signs off on all access provisions as part of their approval.

The above process ensures the fire brigade gets to personally review the access strategy and infrastructure in place and sign it off prior to consent being granted. This process is industry standard, robust, and comprehensive, ensuring any risks or concerns they might have with firefighting, including related access strategy, are reviewed and signed off as part of that process.

Should you have any queries, please feel free to contact me to discuss.

Kind regards,

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