



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



The Secretary
Planning, Industry & Environment
4 Parramatta Square
12 Darcy Street
Parramatta NSW

Your reference: SSD-9832
Our reference: DA20200311000926

17 April 2020

Attention: Erin White

Dear Madam,

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the University of Newcastle STEMM Building (SSD-9832).

Reference is made to your correspondence inviting comments on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS) prepared for the State Significant Development, the proposed University of Newcastle STEMM Building.

The New South Wales Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) has reviewed the information provided and advises the following recommended conditions:

1. A *Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan* shall be prepared for the University, or the existing plan shall be updated to include the new building. The plan shall be prepared by a suitably qualified person and shall be consistent with the NSW RFS document: *A Guide to Developing a Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan*.
2. The provision of water, electricity and gas supplies to the new building must comply with Table 6.8c of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*.
3. Landscaping within the curtilage of the new building shall comply with following principles:
 - Suitable impervious areas are provided immediately surrounding the building such as courtyards, paths and driveways.
 - Grassed areas, mowed lawns or ground cover plantings are provided in close proximity to the building.
 - Planting is limited in the immediate vicinity of the building.
 - Planting does not provide a continuous canopy to the building (i.e. trees or shrubs should be isolated or located in small clusters).
 - Landscape species are chosen in consideration needs of the estimated size of the plant at maturity.

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- Species are avoided that have rough fibrous bark, or which keep/shed bark in long strips or retain dead material in their canopies.
- Smooth bark species of tree are chosen which generally do not carry a fire up the bark into the crown.
- Planting of deciduous species is avoided which may increase fuel at surface/ ground level (i.e. leaf litter).
- Climbing species are avoided to walls and pergolas.
- Combustible materials such as woodchips / mulch and flammable fuel are stored away from the building.
- Combustible structures such as garden sheds, pergolas and materials such timber garden furniture are located way from the building.
- Low flammability vegetation species are used.

If you have any queries regarding this advice, please contact Garth Bladwell, Development Assessment and Planning Officer, on 1300 NSW RFS.

Yours sincerely,

Nika Fomin

Nika Fomin
Manager
Planning and Environment Services (East)