

NSW Bush Fire Policy for Land-use Planning

This policy seeks to protect life and safety and enhance existing and future communities' bush fire resilience by avoiding and minimising bush fire impacts on property and environment. This policy provides objectives and strategic planning principles to guide planning authorities when making merit-based decisions on or near bush fire prone land.

Policy objectives

The primary objectives of this policy are to:

- make sure areas identified for population growth and development are planned and designed to improve resilience and minimise the risk to life and property
- consider and plan for the impact of changing climate conditions on bushfire behaviour in areas identified for population growth and development
- provide adequate evacuation capacity and capability for existing and future communities in the event of a bush fire.

Strategic planning principles

The following principles are intended to guide regional strategic plans, district strategic plans, precinct and master plans, place-based strategies, local strategic planning statements, and local planning (including planning proposals):

- consider bush fire risk in a landscape context
- avoid inappropriate developments in high risk bush fire locations or circumstances, in particular development of a higher vulnerability such as for a Special Fire Protection Purpose within the meaning of the *Rural Fires Act, 1997* where the level of bush fire risk is not considered appropriate.
- identify and consider the cumulative impacts of bush fire risk for existing and future communities.