Department of **Planning,** Lands and Heritage

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EXPLANATORY NOTE



PUBLIC CONSULTATION: DRAFT STATE PLANNING POLICY 3.7 BUSHFIRE AND PLANNING FOR BUSHFIRE GUIDELINES

SUMMARY OF KEY POLICY CHANGES

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 Outdated government department references and agency roles and responsibilities. Outdated references to other legislation and policy instruments. Does not provide in-depth information for consideration at each planning stage. Includes reference to some seldom-used, technically complex processes. The entire lot needs to address SPP 3.7 if any portion is designated bushfire prone. 	VS Key content changes and additions	 NEW PLANNING FRAMEWORK Stronger emphasis on considering bushfire early in the planning stages. Restructure clarifies provisions to be considered at each planning stage. An outcomes-based approach to facilitate improved flexibility and ability to satisfy requirements where the acceptable solutions cannot be achieved, especially where there are site and/or environmental constraints. Clearer guidance included on the preparation of bushfire management plans. More detailed guidance on environmental and design considerations. A new methodology to assess the broader landscape to demonstrate Element 1: Location. Provisions respond to different categories on the Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas (i.e. Area 1 and Area 2). New section on non-residential development provides information for commercial/industrial/community development. New bushfire protection measures and guidance to assist where development is within Bushfire Attack Level (BAL)-40 or BAL-Flame Zone (BAL-FZ). Only the proposed lot(s) within a strategic planning proposal, which are designated as bushfire prone, need to address SPP 3.7. New provisions for an existing dwelling (or lot), when the dwelling is being retained as part of a subdivision. Updated referencing and terminology for technical processes, and agency roles and responsibilities.
CURRENT FRAMEWORK	vs	NEW FRAMEWORK
 Current mapping does not provide a nuanced response to levels of risk between urban and vegetated areas. Mapping updates are suggested by local government and requires resourcing. Current mapping is binary. Applies to most of the State. 	Mapping	 Different policy responses for proposals within Area 1 and Area 2 on the Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas. Four-month transition period will be retained. New draft Map introduces Area 1 for locations that satisfy criteria for an urban built-up area, presenting less risk to life and/or property than Area 2 in the event of a bushfire.
CURRENT FRAMEWORK	VS	NEW FRAMEWORK
 Complex and lengthy policy. Less than satisfactory connection and cross-references between the SPP and guidelines. 	Structural arrangements	 A clearer focus on strategic planning and decisions under the <i>Planning and Development Act 2005</i>. Policy is focused on what land use planning can deliver in terms of bushfire mitigation measures and protection for each planning stage.
CURRENT FRAMEWORK	VS	NEW FRAMEWORK
 Inconsistent drafting style. Inconsistencies and content duplication. Some existing measures are ambiguous and difficult to implement and/or quantify. 	Drafting style	 Clear, modern writing style for consistent implementation. Inclusion of planning outcomes and principles to guide discretion in decision-making and to provide line-of-sight from policy outcomes to policy measures through to guideline content.



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- Wording of measures is direct, and the responsibilities
- and/or requirements of each stakeholder are clear.
- Policy content is concise with a clear delineation between what is relevant at different planning stages.