

16 November 2022

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Subject: Bushfire attack level assessment for Cadence Estate, stages 4a and 4b – 145 Binnies Road and 143-163 Daleys Road, Ripley, Queensland

## 1 Introduction

Land and Environment Consultants Pty Ltd (LEC) was engaged to undertake a bushfire attack level (BAL) assessment for the residential lots at Cadence Estate, stages 4a and 4b (stages 4a and 4b) at 145 Binnies Road and 143-163 Daleys Road, Ripley (the site), properly described as lots 349 and 366/S3173.

The approved subdivision plan for Cadence Estate which shows stages 4b and 4c is provided in Appendix 1.

The site is identified as a bushfire prone area by the Queensland State Planning Policy *Bushfire prone* area map and is a 'designated bushfire prone area' under Section 7 of the Queensland *Building Regulation 2021.* As a result, provisions of the *Building Code of Australia* (ABCB 2019) (**BCA**) and the *Queensland Development Code* (QG 2021) (**QDC**) that apply to a designated bushfire prone area apply to any building assessment work for the site.

Residential dwellings will be constructed in stages 4a and 4b. A residential dwelling is a BCA class 1a building. Compliance with the BCA and QDC requires BCA class 1a buildings, which are located in a designated bushfire prone area, to be designed and constructed in accordance with the BAL construction standards in the *Australian Standard* (AS 3959-2018) *Construction of buildings in bushfire prone areas* to reduce the risk of ignition from bushfire.

This report provides a BAL assessment for residential lots in stages 4a and 4b and identifies sections of AS 3959-2018 which are relevant to the construction of residential dwellings within these lots.

# 2 Classified vegetation and radiant heat exposure model

LEC prepared the bushfire management plan (LEC 2019) (**BMP**) for the site which includes stages 4a and 4b – Ipswich City Council application number 2834/2019/MAPDA/D.

The BMP provides an assessment of vegetation adjoining the site. It assessed land adjoining the northern and eastern boundaries of stages 4a and 4b as a non-bushfire hazard class.

Land adjoining the southern and western boundaries of stages 4a and 4b consists of other stages of Cadence Estate as shown in the approved subdivision plan in Appendix 1 and are a non-bushfire hazard class for the purpose of land use planning and development assessment.

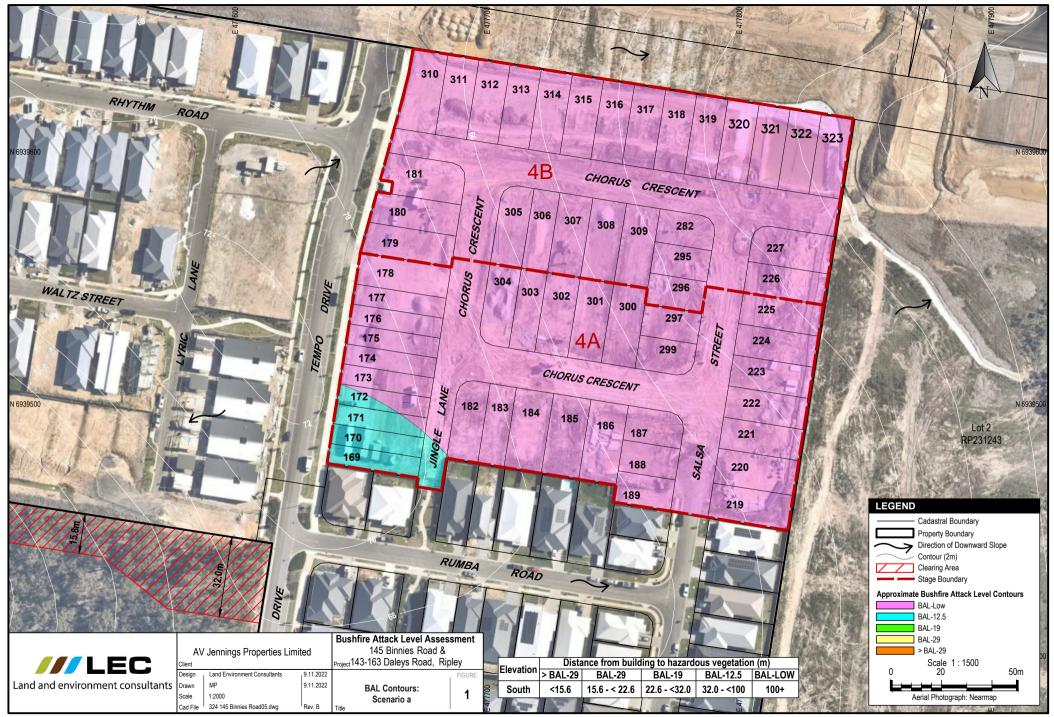
The BMP assessed vegetation within 100 metres (**m**) of the north-western and south-western corners of stages 4a and 4b as classified vegetation. The classified vegetation adjacent to the north-west has since been cleared and is now a non-bushfire hazard class. However, the classified vegetation

adjacent to the south-western corner is not cleared and remains a possible source of bushfire attack to stages 4a and 4b.

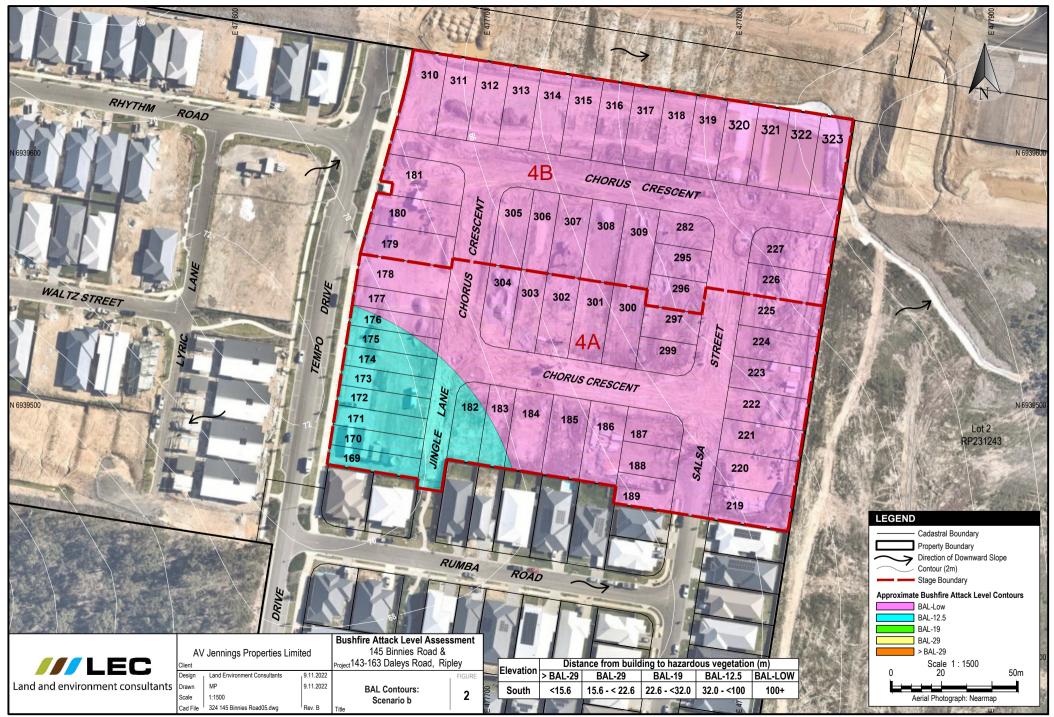
This report considers two scenarios for vegetation retention/management adjacent the south-western corner of stages 4a and 4b. The two scenarios are as follows:

- a) a corridor of vegetation is cleared adjacent to the south-western corner of stages 4a and 4b as shown in Figure 1 (Scenario a); and
- b) vegetation is not cleared adjacent to the south-western corner of stages 4a and 4b as shown in Figure 2 (Scenario b).

A radiant heat exposure model of bushfire attack from the classified vegetation adjacent to the southwestern corner of stages 4a and 4b was prepared for the BMP and is provided in Appendix 2. It has been used in this report to assign BAL ratings to the residential lots within stages 4a and 4b under Scenario a and Scenario b of vegetation retention/management adjacent to the south-western corner of stages 4a and 4b.



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# 3 Bushfire attack level assessment

AS 3959-2018 sets out the requirements for the construction of buildings in bushfire prone areas to improve their safety when they are subjected to burning debris, radiant heat or flame contact generated from a bushfire.

BALs are a means of measuring the severity of a building's potential exposure to ember attack, radiant heat and direct flame contact, using increments of radiant heat expressed in kilowatts/square metre, and are the basis for establishing requirements for construction to improve the protection of building elements to attack by bushfire.

The radiant heat exposure model in Appendix 2 identifies the separation distances required from the classified vegetation adjacent to the south-western corner of stages 4a and 4b to achieve different BAL ratings. The separation distances are summarised in Table 1.

Bushfire attack	Separation distances to achieve BAL ratings (metres)				
	>BAL-29	BAL-29	BAL-19	BAL-12.5	BAL-LOW
South-western corner	< 15.6	15.6 - < 22.6	22.6 - < 32	32 - < 100	100+

**Table 1 BAL separation distances** 

The BAL contours over the residential lots within stages 4a and 4b under Scenario a and Scenario b of vegetation retention/management adjoining the south-western corner of stages 4a and 4b are shown in Figures 1 - 2, respectively. The BAL rating of the residential lots under these scenarios are identified in Table 2.

Lot number	BAL LOW	BAL-12.5	BAL-19	BAL-29
Scenario a	173, 174, 175, 176,	169, 170, 171 and 172	-	-
	177, 178, 179, 180,			
	181, 182, 183, 184,			
	185, 186, 187, 188,			
	189, 219, 220, 221,			
	222, 223, 224, 225,			
	226, 227, 282, 295,			
	296, 297, 299, 300,			
	301, 302, 303, 304,			
	305, 306, 307, 308,			
	309, 310, 311, 312,			
	313, 314, 315, 316,			
	317, 318, 319, 320,			
	321, 322 and 323			
Scenario b	177, 178, 179, 180,	169, 170, 171, 172, 173,		
	181, 185, 186, 187,	174, 175, 176, 182, 183		
	188, 189, 219, 220,	and 184 <sup>1</sup>		
	221, 222, 223, 224,			
	225, 226, 227, 282,			
	295, 296, 297, 299,			
	300, 301, 302, 303,			
	304, 305, 306, 307,			
	308, 309, 310, 311,			
	312, 313, 314, 315,			
	316, 317, 318, 319,			
	320, 321, 322 and 323			

#### **Table 2 BAL ratings of lots**

## 4 BAL construction requirements

A residential dwelling must be constructed in accordance with the relevant BAL requirements of AS 3959-2018 based on the BAL rating of the lot which is identified in Table 2.

Please note, Table 2 identifies that the BAL rating of lot 184 under Scenario b of vegetation retention/management adjoining the southern boundary of the site could be reduced to the next lowest level with micro-siting of the residential dwelling within the lot.

Building design and construction specifications for BAL-LOW and BAL-12.5 are provided in the following sections of AS 3959-2018:

- BAL-LOW section 4; and
- BAL-12.5 sections 3 and 5.

### 5 Closing

This report provides a BAL assessment for the residential lots within stages 4a and 4b shown in the approved subdivision plan in Appendix 1. It considers Scenario a and Scenario b of vegetation retention/management adjoining the south-western corner of stages 4a and 4b and identifies sections of AS 3959-2018 which are relevant to the construction of residential dwellings within stages 4a and 4b.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions about this report.

Yours sincerely,

K. Janssen.

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#### Disclaimer

Notwithstanding the precautions adopted in this report, it should always be remembered that bushfires burn under a range of conditions. An element of risk, no matter how small always remains, and although AS 3959-2018 is designed to improve the performance of such buildings, there can be no guarantee, because of the variable nature of bushfires, that any building will withstand bushfire attack on every occasion.

It should be noted that upon lodgement of a development proposal, State Government, council and/or the fire service may recommend additional construction requirements.

Although every care has been taken in the preparation of this report, Land and Environment Consultants Pty Ltd accept no responsibility resulting from the use of the information in this report.

## References

Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) 2019, National Construction Code Series, Building Code of Australia Class 1 and Class 10 Buildings, Volume 2, Australian Government and States and Territories of Australia, Version 2.1 July 2020

Land and Environment Consultants (LEC) 2019, Bushfire management plan – proposed development at 145 Binnies Road and 143-163 Daleys Road, Ripley, Queensland, Report 19006, Final, 23 May 2019

Queensland Government (QG) 2021, *Queensland Development Code*, accessed online at <u>https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/building-property-development/building-</u> <u>construction/laws-codes-standards/queensland-development-code</u>, last updated March 2021

Standards Australia Limited (Standards Australia) 2018, *Australian Standard 3959-2018 Construction of buildings in bushfire prone areas*, Fourth edition, November 2018

Appendix 1 Approved subdivision plan



Appendix 2 Radiant heat exposure model

#### Bushfire attack from the south-west

- Forest fire danger index 58
- Vegetation VHC 10.1 Spotted gum dominated open forest
- Understorey fuel load 20.8 t/ha
- Total fuel load 20.8 t/ha<sup>1</sup>
- Effective slope 3° down slope
- Site slope 0° slope
- Flame width –100 m

Note 1 Total fuel load taken from Bushfire Resilient Communities Technical Reference Guide for the State Planning Policy State Interest 'Natural Hazards, Risk and Resilience – Bushfire' (QFES 2019) (Bushfire resilient communities).



Calculated February 11, 2019, 3:22 pm (MDc v.4.8)

J19006	(N, S1)
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Minimum Distance Calculator - AS3959-2009 (Method 2)					
Inputs		Outputs			
Fire Danger Index	58	Rate of spread	1.78 km/h		
Vegetation classification	Forest	Flame length	14.07 m		
Surface fuel load	20.8 t/ha	Flame angle	50 °, 60 °, 69 °, 75 °, 76 ° & 82 °		
Overall fuel load	20.8 t/ha	Elevation of receiver	4.8 m (user defined value)		
Vegetation height	n/a	Fire intensity	19,135 kW/m		
Effective slope	3 °	Transmissivity	0.874, 0.856, 0.83, 0.804, 0.791 & 0.728		
Site slope	0 °	Viewfactor	0.597, 0.4425, 0.3005, 0.204, 0.1658 & 0.045		
Flame width	100 m	Minimum distance to < 40 kW/m <sup>2</sup>	11.69999999999997 m		
Windspeed	n/a	Minimum distance to < 29 kW/m <sup>2</sup>	15.59999999999996 m		
Heat of combustion	18,600 kJ/kg	Minimum distance to < 19 kW/m <sup>2</sup>	22.6000000000005 m		
Flame temperature	1,090 K	Minimum distance to < 12.5 kW/m <sup>2</sup>	32.0000000000018 m		
		Minimum distance to $< 10 \text{ kW/m}^2$	38.0000000000027 m		