

BUSHFIRE THREAT ASSESSMENT

FOR A PROPOSED CHILDCARE CENTRE AT

41 RYANS ROAD, GILLIESTON HEIGHTS NSW 2321

Prepared by:

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Site Details:	41 Ryans Road, Gillieston Heights NSW 2321 For Lots 76,77,79,80, and 81 (currently unregistered as part of SWC)		
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Disclaimer

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



Executive Summary

A Bushfire Threat Assessment Report (BTA) has been prepared by Firebird ecoSultants Pty Ltd at the request of EXP Capital for a proposed Childcare Centre at 41 Ryans Road, Gillieston Heights NSW 2321 for Lots 76,77,79,80, and 81 (currently unregistered as part of SWC). The report forms part of the supporting documentation for a Development Application to be submitted to Maitland City Council (MCC).

The proposal is for a childcare centre and, as such, must meet the requirements of a Special Fire Protection Purposes (SFPP) development in accordance with Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019 (PBP 2019) (NSW RFS, 2019). Under RF Act s.100B, a BFSA from the NSW RFS is required for SFPP development. As such, an Integrated Development approval may be required under of the EP&A Act s.4.46. The report demonstrates compliance with PBP 2019 and AS3959-2018 Construction of Buildings in Bush Fire Prone Areas as well as Appendix B of PBP Addendum November 2022.

This assessment aims to consider and assess the bushfire hazard and associated potential threats relevant to the proposal. Recommendations are provided with regard to fuel management, access, provision of emergency services, building protection and construction standards to facilitate an acceptable level of bushfire protection.

In summary, the following is recommended to enable the proposal to meet the relevant legislative requirements for the proposed childcare centre:

1. Asset Protection Zones (APZ)

An APZ of 34m (a 19m APZ is required in accordance with PBP 2019) occurs to the West between the proposed childcare centre and vegetation of freshwater wetlands, and an APZ of 42m occurs to the West between the proposed childcare centre and vegetation of grassland at the site in order to get a radiant heat of <10kw/ m^2 . This is based on Table A1.12.1 in Appendix 1 of Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019. The landscape plans provided by Terras Landscape Architects details the planting schedule for the land to the West. Refer to Appendix C.

2. Bushfire Attack Level (BAL)

The BAL relates to a set of construction specifications listed within Australian Standard AS 3959-2018 Constructions of buildings in bushfire-prone areas (AS 3959) and the NSW variation to AS 3959 listed at Section 7.5.2 of PBP.

The BAL for the childcare centre has been determined as BAL-12.5 in accordance with Table A1.12.1 of PBP 2019. However, in accordance with Appendix B of PBP Addendum November 2022, the constructions requirements must comply with BAL-19 as the acceptable solution.



3. Access

PBP 2019 requires an access design that enables safe evacuation whilst facilitating adequate emergency and operational response. The Performance based criteria in accordance with Appendix B of PBP Addendum November 2022 states

Firefighting vehicles are provided with safe, all-weather access to structures and hazardous vegetation

The surrounding public roads provide satisfactory access for evacuation and emergency response. A non-perimeter road is constructed to the North of the site that provides direct access / egress to and from the childcare centres and Ryans Road to the East and Kiah Road to the South provides direct access for firefighters to the building.

4. Water Supply and Utilities

The site will be connected to the reticulated water and a hydrant is to be within 70m of the proposed childcare centre in accordance with the Acceptable Solution of PBP 2019 and Appendix B of PBP Addendum November 2022.

5. Emergency Management and Evacuation

An emergency evacuation plan is to be prepared in accordance with RFS, 2014, 'Development Planning – A Guide to developing a Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan'.



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Terms & Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning		
APZ	Asset Protection Zone		
AS2419-2017	Australian Standard – Fire Hydrant Installations		
AS3959-2018	Australian Standard – Construction of Buildings in Bush Fire Prone Areas		
BCA	Building Code of Australia		
BPA	Bush Fire Prone Area (Also Bushfire Prone Land)		
BFPL Map	Bush Fire Prone Land Map		
BPMs	Bush Fire Protection Measures		
BFSA	Bush Fire Safety Authority		
CC	Construction Certificate		
EPA Act	NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979		
FFDI	Forest Fire Danger Index		
FMP	Fuel Management Plan		
ha	hectare		
IPA	Inner Protection Area		
LGA	Local Government Area		
MCC	Maitland City Council		
ΟΡΑ	Outer Protection Area		
PBP	Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019		
PoM	Plan of Management		
RF Act	Rural Fires Act 1997		
RF Regulation	Rural Fires Regulation		



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I INTRODUCTION

A Bushfire Threat Assessment Report (BTA) has been prepared by Firebird ecoSultants Pty Ltd at the request of EXP Capital for proposed Childcare at 41 Ryans Road, Gillieston Heights NSW 2321 for Lots 76,77,79,80, and 81 (currently unregistered as part of SWC), hereafter referred to as the "site" (refer to Figure 1-1 for site locality). Refer to Appendix A for proposed site plans.

This BTA is suitable for submission with a DA and provides information on measures that will enable the development to comply with 'Planning for Bushfire Protection' (NSW RFS, 2019), hereafter referred to as PBP (RFS, 2019).

This assessment aims to consider and assess the bushfire hazard and associated potential threats relevant to such a proposal, and to outline the minimum mitigative measures which would be required in accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Planning for Bushfire Protection) Regulation 2007 and the Rural Fires Amendment Regulation 2007 (RF Amendment Regulation 2007).

I.I Site Particulars

Locality:	41 Ryans Road, Gillieston Heights NSW 2321 for Lots 76,77,79,80, and 81 (currently unregistered as part of SWC)
LGA:	Maitland City Council
Current Land Use:	R1: General Residential
Forest Danger Index:	100 FFDI



FIGURE 3-1: VEGETATION MAP

CLIENT Client Ryans Road Gillieston Heights 20 February 2025 SITE DETAILS DATE





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Ref No 3426



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I.2 Description of the Proposal

This Section DA relates to the proposal for a childcare centre. Refer to Appendix A for proposed plans.

1.3 Legislative Requirements

This report forms part of the supporting documentation for a DA to be submitted to MCC.

The site has been mapped as Bushfire Prone Land by MCC. Refer to Figure 1-2.

This BTA has been prepared using current legislative requirements and associated guidelines for assessment of bushfire protection, these being:

- PBP (RFS, 2019); and
- AS3959-2018 Construction of Buildings in Bushfire Prone Area.

I.4 Objectives of Assessment

This report has been prepared to address the requirements of Clause 44 of the Rural Fires Regulation. This BTA also addresses the six key Bush Fire Protection Measures (BFRMs) in a development assessment context being:

- The provision of clear separation of buildings and bush fire hazards, in the form of fuel-reduced APZ (and their components being Inner Protection Areas (IPA's) and Outer Protection Areas (OPA's);
- Sitting and design of the proposal;
- Construction standards;
- Appropriate access standards for residents, fire-fighters, emergency workers and those involved in evacuation;
- Adequate water supply and pressure, and utility services; and
- Suitable landscaping, to limit fire spreading to a building.



Legend	
Building Outline	
Subject Land	
Assessment Area	
100m	
140m	
Cadastre	
Bushfire Prone Land	
Vegetation Buffe	yory 5
	-1
	Λ
Scale 1: 2,000	
0 20	40 60 Metres
R	
	firebird
Client: EXP Capital	
Project: 77-76, 79-81 Heights NSW 2321	. Ryans Road, Gillieston
Figure 1-2: Bushfire F	Prone Land
© 2025. GIS Pro makes no claims, warranties, express or implied, col implied), the reliability or the accu products, including the implied va Street Map Sources: Map data ©2 © Cocole Impacer: CNEC	no representations, and no ncerning the validity (express or iracy of the GIS data and GIS data lidity of any uses of such data. 021 Google. Hybrid Imagery: Images Maxar Technologies. OSM Streetmap:



2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Vegetation Assessment

Vegetation surveys and vegetation mapping carried out on the site has been undertaken as follows:

- Aerial Photograph Interpretation to map vegetation cover and extent
- Confirmation of the vegetation assemblage typology present.

2.2 Slope Assessment

Slope assessment has been undertaken as follows:

• Aerial Photograph Interpretation in conjunction with analysis of electronic contour maps with a contour interval of 2m.



3 SITE ASSESSMENT

The following assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of PBP (RFS, 2019).

3.1 Vegetation & Slope Assessment

In accordance with PBP (RFS 2019), an assessment of the vegetation over a distance of 140m in all directions from the site was undertaken. Vegetation that may be considered a bushfire hazard was identified in all directions from the site. This assessment is depicted in Table 3-1 and Figure 3-1 that shows the vegetation post development.

Proposed Childcare Centre			
Direction	Vegetation Type	Slope	
North	Managed Land – Future Residential Development	N/A	
East	Managed Land – Existing Residential Development	N/A	
South Low Threat Vegetation in accordance with sA1.10 in PBP 2019 being areas of <1ha in size and >100m from areas of Category 1 or 2. In any case Kiah Road separates this vegetation and the proposed childcare centre.		N/A	
West	Freshwater wetlands vegetation	Flat ground	
Further West Grassland		Upslope	

Table 3-1: Vegetation Classification



Legend	
Line Distance	
Building Outline	
Subject Land	
Assessment Area	
100m	
140m	
Classified Vegetation	
Freshwater Wetlands	
Grassland	
Modified to non vegeta	ated and low threat
—— Elevation Contours	
Cadastre	





4 BUSHFIRE PROTECTION MEASURES

PBP requires the assessment of a suite of bushfire protection measures that in total provide an adequate level of protection for SFPP development. The measures required to be assessed are listed in Table 4-1 below

Table 4-1 Bushfire Protection Measures

Bushfire	Performance	Acceptable Solution	Compliance
Protection	Criteria		
Measures			
Asset Protection Zones (APZ)	The proposed building can withstand bush fire attack in the form of wind, embers, radiant heat and flame contact.	APZs are established in accordance with the Acceptable solution APZs within Table A1.12.1 in PBP 2019.	Meets the acceptable solution
Construction Standards (BALs)	The proposed building can withstand bush fire attack in the form of wind, embers, radiant heat and flame contact. Compliance with Appendix B of PBP Addendum November 2022.	A construction level of BAL- 19 or greater under AS 3959 and section 7.5 of PBP is applied. Compliance with Appendix B of PBP Addendum November 2022.	Meets the acceptable solution – The proposed child care will be built to BAL-19
Access	Firefighting vehicles are provided with safe, all-weather access to structures and hazardous vegetation.	 Vehicular access must be capable of providing continuous access for emergency vehicles to enable travel in a forward direction from a public road around the entire building; and Must have a minimum unobstructed width of 6m with no part of its furthest boundary more than 18m from the building and in no part of the 6m width be built upon or used for any purpose other than 	 The public road providing continuous access for emergency vehicles to enable travel in a forward direction from a public road around the entire building from Kiah and Ryans Road, The proposed carpark will



Bushfire Protection	Performance Criteria	Acceptable Solution	Compliance
Measures	ontena		
		 vehicular or pedestrian movement; and Must provide reasonable pedestrian access from the vehicular access to the building; and Must have a load bearing capacity and unobstructed height to permit the operation and passage of fire fighting vehicles; and Must be wholly within the allotment except that a public road complying with above may serve as the vehicular access or part thereof. 	provide direct access along the western elevation of the building. Pedestrian access is achieved around the entire building.
		Compliance with Appendix B of PBP Addendum November 2022.	



Bushfire	Performance	Acceptable Solution	Compliance
Protection	Criteria		
Measures			
Water supply and other utilities	An adequate water supply for firefighting purposes is installed and maintained. Compliance with Appendix B of PBP Addendum November 2022	Reticulated water is to be provided to the development, where available; and Water for firefighting purposes must be made available and consist of –	Meets the acceptable solution – A fire hydrant system installed in accordance with AS2419.1
Emergency and evacuation management		Preparation of 'Bushfire Emergency Management & Evacuation Plan'.	Meets the acceptable solution - A 'Bushfire



Bushfire Protection Measures	Performance Criteria	Acceptable Solution	Compliance
			Emergency Management & Evacuation Plan', will be prepared for the childcare.

4.1 Asset Protection Zones

Using the vegetation and slope information presented in Section 3-1 and mapped on Figure 3-1, it has been determined that specific APZs are required to comply with PBP 2019.

Table 4-2: Determination of APZs for the Proposed Childcare Centre

Vegetation Type & Direction	Slope	APZ required based on Table A1.12.1	APZ provided
Managed Land to the North	N/A	N/A	>100m
Managed Land to the East	N/A	N/A	>100m
Low threat vegetation to the South	N/A	N/A	>100m
Freshwater wetlands to the West	Flat ground	19m	34m
Grassland further to the West	Upslope	36m	42m



4.2 Bushfire Attack Assessment

Building design and the materials used for construction of future dwellings should be chosen based on the information contained within AS3959-2018, and accordingly the designer / architect should be made aware of this recommendation. It may be necessary to have dwelling plans checked by the architect involved to ensure that the proposed dwellings meet the relevant Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) as detailed in AS3959-2018.

The determinations of the appropriate BAL are based upon parameters such as weather modelling, fire-line intensity, flame length calculations, as well as vegetation and fuel load analysis. The determination of the construction level is derived by assessing the:

- Relevant FFDI = 100
- Flame temperature
- Slope
- Vegetation classification; and
- Building location.

The following BAL, based on heat flux exposure thresholds, are used in the standard:

(a) **BAL – LOW** The risk is considered to be **VERY LOW**

There is insufficient risk to warrant any specific construction requirements but there are still some risks.

(b) **BAL – 12.5** The risk is considered to be **LOW**

There is a risk of ember attack.

The construction elements are expected to be exposed to a heat flux not greater than 12.5 k/m2.

(c) **BAL – 19**The risk is considered to be **MODERATE**

There is a risk of ember attack and burning debris ignited by wind borne embers and a likelihood of exposure to radiant heat.

The construction elements are expected to be exposed to a heat flux not greater than 19 kW/m2.

(d) BAL-29 The risk is considered to be HIGH

There is an increased risk of ember attack and burning debris ignited by windborne embers and a likelihood of exposure to an increased level of radiant heat.

The construction elements are expected to be exposed to a heat flux no greater than 29 kW/m2.

(e) BAL-40 The risk is considered to be VERY HIGH

There is much increased risk of ember attack and burning debris ignited by windborne embers, a likelihood of exposure to a high level of radiant heat and some likelihood of direct exposure to flames from the fire front.



The construction elements are expected to be exposed to a heat flux no greater than 40 $kW/m^2.$

(f) BAL-FZ The risk is considered to be EXTREME

There is an extremely high risk of ember attack and burning debris ignited by windborne embers, a likelihood of exposure to an extreme level of radiant heat and direct exposure to flames from the fire front.

The construction elements are expected to be exposed to a heat flux greater than 40 $kW/m^2.$

4.3 Determination of Bushfire Attack Levels

Using a FFDI of 100, the information relating to vegetation, slope and according to Table A1.12.1 of PBP 2019 that determined the appropriate BAL. The results from this bush fire risk assessment are detailed below in Table 4-1–Bush Fire Attack Assessment.

Vegetation Type & Direction	APZ Provided (OPA)	Bushfire Attack Level (BAL)
Managed land to the North	>100m	BAL-12.5
Managed land to the East	>100m	BAL-12.5
Low threat vegetation to the South	>100m	BAL-12.5
Freshwater wetlands to the West	34m	BAL-12.5*
Grassland further to the West	42m	BAL-12.5*

Table 4-3: Determination of BALs for the Proposed Childcare Centre

*The above BAL rating is based on Table A1.12.1 of PBP 2019 showing compliance with minimum APZ distances for SFPP developments to achieve <10kW/ m^2 and calculated at 1200K. All other elevations are to adopt the BAL-12.5 rating.

In accordance with Appendix B of PBP Addendum November 2022, childcare centres must meet a construction level of BAL-19 or greater under AS3959 and Section 7.5 of PBP is applied as the acceptable solution.



5 COMPLIANCE

The proposal is for a childcare centre and therefore development standards apply. Table 5-1 details the compliance with Development Standards for Special Fire Protection Purpose Developments and Compliance with Appendix B of PBP Addendum November 2022.

Acceptable Solutions	Performance Criteria	Compliance
	ASSET PROTECTION ZONE	S
 the building is provided with an APZ in accordance with PBP 2019 (Table A1.12.1 in Appendix 1). 	 radiant heat levels of greater than 10kW/m² (calculated at 1200K) will not be experienced on any part of the building. 	Complies with Acceptable Solution – The proposed childcare centre has been provided an APZ in accordance with Table A1.12.1 in Appendix 1 of PBP 2019.
 APZs are located on lands with a slope less than 18 degrees. 	 APZ maintenance is practical, soil stability is not compromised and the potential for crown fires is minimised. 	Complies with Acceptable Solution – APZs do not occur on steep land.
 the APZ is managed in accordance with the requirements of Appendix 4 of this document, and is wholly within the boundaries of the development site; APZ are wholly within the boundaries of the development site; and other structures located within the APZ need to be located further than 6m from the refuge building. 	 APZs are managed and maintained to prevent the spread of fire to the building. the APZ is provided in perpetuity 	Complies with Acceptable Solution – An APZ of 34m occurs to the West between the proposed childcare and freshwater wetlands vegetation, and an APZ of 42m occurs to the West between the proposed childcare and grassland vegetation. The APZ is established by managed land that occurs to the West between the subject site and vegetation.

Table 5-1: Proposed Childcare Centre Compliance with Special Fire Protection Purpose Development Standards



SPECIFICATION 43 NCC 2022 – CERTAIN CLASS 9 BUILDINGS			
C3 Separation between buildings	 The building must not be located not less than 12m from any other building. The separation distance required by (1) need not be complied with if the building is constructed – A) with external walls that have an FRL of not less than 60/60/60 when tested from the outside, including any openings protected in accordance with AS3959 for BAL-19 or greater; or B) for external walls and roof, using a material or system that satisfies the test criteria of AS1530.8.1 for a radiant heat flux of 10kW/m2 or greater. 	Complies – No other buildings occur within 12m and the childcare will be constructed to BAL-19.	
C4 Separation from allotment to boundaries and carparking areas	 the building must be located not less than 10m from any allotment boundary or open carparking area/spots. The separation distance required by (1) need not be complied with if the building is constructed – A) With external walls that have an FRL of not less than 60/60/60 when tested from the outside, including any openings protected in accordance with AS3959 for BAL-19 or greater; or B) For external walls and roof, using a material or system that satisfies the test criteria of AS1530.8.1 for a radiant heat flux of 10kW/m2 or greater. 	Complies – Building will be constructed to BAL-19.	
C5 Separation from hazards	The external walls and roof of the building must be protected from potential hazards on the site, such as liquefied petroleum gas bottles fuel	Complies – Building will be constructed to BAL-19.	
	and an ad aquente persionant gue borried, luci		



	storage, storage of combustible materials,	
	waste bins, vehicles, machinery and the like by:	
	 a separation distance of not less than 10m; or 	
	b) where within the 10m separation	
	distance described in (a), constructed	
	with external walls that have an FRL of	
	not less than 60/60/60 when tested	
	from the outside, including any	
	AS2050 for PAL 10 or groater: or	
	c) for external walls and roof using a	
	material or system that satisfies the test	
	criteria of AS1530.8.1 for radiant heat	
	flux of 10kW/m2 of greater.	
C6 Non-combustible path around building	A non-combustible pathway directly adjacent to	Complies
	the building and not less than 1.5m wide must	
	be provided around the perimeter of the	
	building.	
C7 Access pathways	1) access pathways that lead to a road or	Complies
	open space must –	
	a) be readily identifiable; and	
	b) have an even surface; and	
	c) have minimum clear width of hot less	
	(11d) 111. 2) if the access is an accessway that is	
	required to comply with Part D4 the	
	requirements of Part D4 override (1) to the	
	extent of any inconsistency.	
C8 Exposed external areas	An external area designed to hold people	Complies
	unable to be safely accommodated within the	
	building, that may be exposed to radiant heat	
	flux from a fire front during a bushfire event,	
	must not be exposed to an incident radiant heat	
	indet net be expected to an incluent radiant neat	



	flux from the fire front exceeding 1kW/m2 above	
	background solar radiant heat flux.	
C9 Internal tenability	To maintain internal tenability throughout the	Able to comply
	duration of occupancy during a bushfire event,	
	the building must comply with the following:	
	a) an air handling system must be	
	provided that is capable of –	
	I. being adjusted for full recycling	
	of internal air for a period of not	
	less than 4 hours to avoid the	
	Introduction of smoke into the	
	II maintaining an internal air	
	temperature of not more than 25	
	degrees Celsius.	
	b) The building envelope must be	
	designed such that if an air handling	
	system required by (a) fails, then –	
	i) Internal air temperatures can be	
	maintained below 39 degrees	
	ii) Internel surface temperatures	
	(i) internal surface temperatures	
	degrees Celsius	
	c) If the building is divided into separate	
	compartments, then, for the purposes	
	of (a), each compartment must have a	
	separate air handling system.	
	d) Each air handling system required by	
	(a) must be designed to account for the	
	activation of smoke detectors from low	
	concentrations of smoke from external	
	conditioning and other essential	
	systems remain operational.	
	eyeteme remain operational	



C10 Building envelope	The building envelope must be constructed in	Complies
	accordance with AS3959-BAL-19 or greater,	
	except that where the use of combustible	
	materials is permitted by AS3959, they are not	
	to be used unless permitted by C2D10(4), (5) or	
	(6).	
C11 Supply of water for firefighting purposes	Water for firefighting purposes must be	Able to comply
	available and consist of -	
	a) A fire hydrant system complying E1D2,	
	or	
	b) A static water supply consisting of	
	tanks, swimming pools, dams or the	
	like, or a combination of these, together	
	capable of providing the required flow	
	rate for a period of not less than 4	
	hours, determined in consultation with	
	the relevant fire brigade.	
C12 Emergency power supply	1) Emergency power must be provided to	Able to comply
	support, for not less than 4 hours before	
	and 2 hours after the passing of the fire	
	front during a bushfire event, the ongoing	
	operation of –	
	a) all handling systems to maintain	
	b) any pumps for firefighting: and	
	c) any emergency lighting and exit signs:	
	and	
	d) any other emergency equipment listed	
	in C3D14(6) and required to be	
	provided.	
	Manual control for emergency back-up power	
	supply must be provided to facilitate manual	



		int	ervention where the power supply fails or	
C14 Vehicular access		Ve pro bu pu Se	thicular access to the building must be by by by by building must be by by building were a large isolated building for the rposes of C3D4. The below for C3D5(2)	Complies – Pedestrian access is provided around the building, Performance Criteria – Regards to vehicle access, Kiah Road occurs to the South, Ryans Road occurs to the East and a non- perimeter road is under construction to the North. These public roads are within 18m of the building and have acceptable widths for firefighting purposes.
		1	LANDSCAPING	
> >	landscaping is in accordance with Appendix 4; and fencing is constructed in accordance with section 7.6.	>	landscaping is designed and managed to minimise flame contact and radiant heat to buildings, and the potential for wind-driven embers to cause ignitions	Complies with Acceptable Solution – the site is to be managed to the requirements of PBP Appendix 4 (summarised in Appendix B here).
		C	ONSTRUCTION STANDARI	DS
>	a construction level of BAL-19 or greater under AS 3959 or NASH Standard and section 7.5 of PBP is applied.	>	the proposed building can withstand bush fire attack in the form of wind, embers, radiant heat and flame contact.	Complies with Acceptable Solution – The proposed childcare centre has been assessed as BAL-12.5 in accordance with Appendix 1 of PBP 2019 however in accordance with Appendix B of PBP 2019 Addendum 2022, a construction level of BAL-19 or greater is applied.
			ACCESS	
	vehicular access must be capable of providing continuous access for emergency vehicles to enable travel in a forward direction from a public road around the entire	>	firefighting vehicles are provided with safe, all-weather access to structures and hazard vegetation.	Complies with Performance Criteria – All roads surrounding the site provide safe, all-weather access to structures and hazard vegetation.



\rangle \rangle \rangle	building; and must have a minimum unobstructed width of 6m with no part of its furthest boundary more than 18m from the building and in no part of the 6m width be built upon or used for any purpose other vehicular or pedestrian movement; and must provide reasonable pedestrian access from the vehicular access to the building; and must have a load bearing capacity and unobstructed height to permit the operation and passage of fire fighting vehicles; and must be wholly within the allotment except that a public road complying with the above may serve as the vehicular access or part thereof.		An existing public road provides access from the eastern and southern elevations and a non-perimeter provides access / egress from the Norther elevation. The APZ is established to the Western elevation and can be access directly from the North and South.
		PERIMETER ROADS	
$ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\$	there are two-way sealed roads; minimum 8m carriageway width kerb to kerb; parking is provided outside of the carriageway width; hydrants are to be located clear of parking areas; there are through roads, and these are linked to the internal road system at an interval of no greater than 500m; curves of roads have a minimum inner radius of 6m; the maximum grade road is 15 degrees and average grade of not more than 10 degrees; the road crossfall does not exceed 3 degrees; and	 perimeter access roads are designed to allow safe access and egress for firefighting vehicles while occupants are evacuating as well as providing a safe operational environment for emergency service personnel during firefighting and emergency management on the interface. 	N/A – Perimeter roads are not proposed. The public road system is already existing.



>	a minimum vertical clearance of 4m to any overhanging obstructions, including tree branches, is provided.			
			NON-PERIMETER ROADS	
\rangle	minimum 5.5m carriageway width kerb to kerb; parking is provided outside of the	>	non-perimeter access roads are designed to allow safe access and egress for firefighting vehicles while occupants are	N/A – Non-perimeter roads are not proposed. The public road system is already existing.
\rangle \rangle \rangle \rangle \rangle	carriageway width; hydrants are located clear of parking areas; there are through roads, and these are linked to the internal road system at an interval of no greater than 500m; curves of roads have a minimum inner radius of 6m; the maximum grade road is 15 degrees and average grade of not more than 10 degrees; the road crossfall does not exceed 3 degrees; and a minimum vertical clearance of 4m to any overhanging obstructions, including tree branches is provided		evacuating.	
			WATER SUPPLY	
>	reticulated water is to be provided to the development, where available; or a 10,000 litres minimum static water supply for firefighting purposes is provided for each occupied building where no reticulated water is available.	>	an adequate water supply for firefighting purposes is installed and maintained.	Complies with Acceptable Solution – The site will be connected to reticulated water.



 fire hydrant spacing, design and sizing comply with the relevant clauses of AS 2419.1:2017; hydrants are not located within any road carriageway; and reticulated water supply to urban subdivisions uses a ring main system for areas with perimeter roads. 	 water supplies are located at regular intervals; and the water supply is accessible and reliable for firefighting operations. 	Complies with Acceptable Solution – a hydrant will be located within 70m of the proposed childcare centre.
 fire hydrant flows and pressures comply with the relevant clauses of AS 2419.1:2017. 	flows and pressure are appropriate.	Complies with Acceptable Solution – Flow and pressure compliant with AS 2419.1:2017
 all above-ground water service pipes external to the building are metal, including and up to any taps. 	the integrity of the water supply is maintained.	Complies with Acceptable Solution – All above ground pipes will comply with requirements
> where no reticulated water supply is available, water for firefighting purposes is provided in accordance with Table 5.3d.	a static water supply is provided for firefighting purposes in areas where reticulated water is not available.	Complies with Acceptable Solution – The site is connected to reticulated water
	ELECTRICTY SERVICES	
 practicable, electrical transmission lines are ground; where overhead, electrical transmission lines are proposed as follow: lines are installed with short pole spacing (30m), unless crossing gullies, gorges or riparian areas; and no part of a tree is closer to a power line than the distance set out in accordance with the specifications in 	 location of electricity services limits the possibility of ignition of surrounding bush land or the fabric of buildings. 	Complies with Acceptable Solution – Electrical transmission lines are to comply with the acceptable solution.



	ISSC3 Guideline for Managing Vegetation Near Power Lines.			
			GAS SERVICES	
> > > >	reticulated or bottled gas is installed and maintained in accordance with AS/NZS 1596:2014 and the requirements of relevant authorities, and metal piping is used; all fixed gas cylinders are kept clear of all flammable materials to a distance of 10m and shielded on the hazard side; connections to and from gas cylinders are metal; if gas cylinders need to be kept close to the building, safety valves are directed away from the building and at least 2m away from any combustible material, so they do not act as a catalyst to combustion; polymer-sheathed flexible gas supply lines to gas meters adjacent to buildings are not to be used; and above-ground gas service pipes external to the building are metal, including and up to any outlets.	>	location and design of gas services will not lead to ignition of surrounding bushland or the fabric of buildings.	Complies with Acceptable Solution – Gas services are to comply with the acceptable solution.
		E	MERGENCY MANAGEMEN	T
	 > Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan is prepared consistent with the: The NSW RFS document: A Guide to Developing a Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan; NSW RFS Schools Program Guide; 		 a Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan is prepared. 	Complies with Acceptable Solution – An emergency evacuation plan shall be prepared for the childcare centre.



0	Australian Standard AS 3745:2010	
	Planning for emergencies in facilities;	
	and	
0	Australian Standard AS 4083:2010	
	Planning for emergencies – Health	
	care facilities (where applicable).	
0	the Bush Fire Emergency	
	Management and Evacuation Plan	
	should include planning for the early	
	relocation of occupants	
Ν	ote: A copy of the Bush Fire	
E	mergency Management and	
E	vacuation Plan should be provided to	
tł	ne Local Emergency Management	
C	committee for its information prior to	
0	ccupation of the development.	

C3D5(2)

Vehicular access *required* by this Part—

- a. must be capable of providing continuous access for emergency vehicles to enable travel in a forward direction from a public road around the entire building; and
- b. must have a minimum unobstructed width of 6 m with no part of its furthest boundary more than 18 m from the building and in no part of the 6 m width be built upon or used for any purpose other than vehicular or pedestrian movement; and
- c. must provide reasonable pedestrian access from the vehicular access to the building; and
- d. must have a load bearing capacity and unobstructed height to permit the operation and passage of *fire brigade* vehicles; and
- e. must be wholly within the allotment except that a public road complying with (a), (b), (c) and (d) may serve as the vehicular access or part thereof.



6 CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

In summary, a Bushfire Risk Assessment has been undertaken for a proposed childcare centre at 41 Ryans Road, Gillieston Heights NSW 2321 for Lots 76,77,79,80, and 81 (currently unregistered as part of SWC). The report forms part of the supporting documentation for a to DA to be submitted to MCC.

If the recommendations contained within this report are duly considered and incorporated, it is considered that the fire hazard present is containable to a level necessary to provide an adequate level of protection to life and property on the site. In summary, the following is recommended to enable the proposal to meet the relevant legislative requirements for the proposed childcare centre:

1. Asset Protection Zones (APZ)

An APZ of 34m (a 19m APZ is only required in accordance with PBP) occurs to the West between the proposed childcare centre and vegetation of freshwater wetlands, and an APZ of 42m occurs to the West between the proposed childcare centre and vegetation of grassland at the site in order to get a radiant heat of <10kw/m². This is based on Table A1.12.1 in Appendix 1 of Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019. The landscape plans provided by Terras Landscape Architects details the planting schedule for the land to the West. Refer to Appendix C.

2. Bushfire Attack Level (BAL)

The BAL relates to a set of construction specifications listed within Australian Standard AS 3959-2018 Constructions of buildings in bushfire-prone areas (AS 3959) and the NSW variation to AS 3959 listed at Section 7.5.2 of PBP.

The BAL for the childcare centre has been determined as BAL-12.5 in accordance with Table A1.12.1 of PBP 2019. However, in accordance with Appendix B of PBP Addendum November 2022, the constructions requirements must comply with BAL-19 as the acceptable solution.

3. Access

PBP 2019 requires an access design that enables safe evacuation whilst facilitating adequate emergency and operational response. The Performance based criteria in accordance with Appendix B of PBP Addendum November 2022 states

Firefighting vehicles are provided with safe, all-weather access to structures and hazardous vegetation



The surrounding public roads provide satisfactory access for evacuation and emergency response. A non-perimeter road is constructed to the North of the site that provides direct access / egress to and from the childcare centres and Ryans Road to the East and Kiah Road to the South provides direct access for firefighters to the building.

4. Water Supply and Utilities

The site will be connected to the reticulated water and a hydrant is to be within 70m of the proposed childcare centre in accordance with the Acceptable Solution of PBP 2019 and Appendix B of PBP Addendum November 2022.

5. Emergency Management and Evacuation

An emergency evacuation plan is to be prepared in accordance with RFS, 2014, 'Development Planning – A Guide to developing a Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan'.



7 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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APPENDIX A PROPOSED SITE PLANS

CHILDCARE FACILITY LOTS 77-76 & 79-81 **RYANS ROAD GILLIESTON HEIGHTS NSW 2321** DRAWING SCHEDULE: PRELIMINARY DA

ARCHITECTURAL SET:

- SCHEDULE & SITE ANALYSIS A01
- **EXISTING SITE PLAN** A02
- PROPOSED SITE PLAN A03
- FLOOR PLAN A04
- **AREA DIAGRAM** A05
- ROOF PLAN A06
- A07 **ELEVATIONS 1**
- **ELEVATIONS 2** A08
- SECTIONS A09
- **EXTERNAL GLAZING SCHEDULE** A10
- A11 VISUAL 1
- A12 VISUAL 2
- VISUAL 3 A13
- VISUAL 4 A14
- VISUAL 5 A15
- A16 VISUAL 6
- A17 VISUAL 7
- VISUAL 8 A18
- MATERIALS SCHEDULE A19
- A20 **FSR & STORAGE SUMMARY**





EXISTING SITE PLAN

ROAD

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PRELIMINARY DA

PRELIMINARY DA

PRELIMINARY DA

REVISION

10

NO.

13.02.2025

03.02.2025

24.01.2025

DATE

PROJECT	DRAWING TITLE	
CHILD CARE FACILITY	EXISTING S	SITE PLAN
LOCATION 77-76, 79-81 RYANS ROAD GILLIESTON HEIGHTS, NSW, 2321	SCALE 1:150 @ A1 No. IN SET 2 of 20 PROJECT No. 1302	dwg No.
EXP GILLIESTON HEIGHTS PTY. LTD.	SHAD Archi	DOCK TECTS





CHILD CARE FACILITY	DRAWING TITLE PROPOSED SITE PLAN	
[™] 77—76, 79—81 RYANS ROAD ILLIESTON HEIGHTS, NSW, 2321	SCALE 1:150 @ A1 No. IN SET 3 of 20 PROJECT NO. 1302	dwg no.
XP GILLIESTON HEIGHTS PTY. LTD.	SHADDOCK ARCHITECTS	



LEGEND:

AW	AWNING
EG	EAVES GUTTER
MRS	METAL ROOF SHEETING
SK1	SKYLIGHT TYPE 1
SK2	SKYLIGHT TYPE 2

NOTES:

THESE DRAWINGS ARE TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FULL DA DOCUMENTATION PACKAGE. THESE DRAWINGS ARE FOR THE PURPOSE OF A DA ONLY AND ARE NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY WORK ON-SITE. SITE BOUNDARIES & LEVELS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED UTILIZING PROPOSED SUBDIVISION PLAN PRODUCED BY ADW JOHNSON DATED 20/09/2024 REF: 190682 (DA/2020/1347)



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to cons be read	truction or fabrication of any item. This nonfunctional with the total documento	drawing is to ation package.	77–76, 79–81 RYANS ROAD	SCALE 1:150 @ A1	DWG No.	
10	PRELIMINARY DA	13.02.2025		4 of 20	A04	
9	PRELIMINARY DA	03.02.2025	GILLIESTON HEIGHTS, NSW, 2321	PROJECT No. 1302		
8	PRELIMINARY DA	24.01.2025		SHAD	DOCK	
NO.	REVISION	DATE	EXP GILLIESTON HEIGHTS PTY. LTD.	ARCHI	HITECTS	
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LEGEND:

AB AW B	ACOUSTIC BARRIER TYPE AWNING BOLLARD
CS	CRAFT SINK
CTS	CHILD TOILET SUITE
CWB	CHILD WASH BASIN
D	DOOR NUMBER
DW	DISHWASHER
ES	EQUIPMENT STORAGE
F	FRIDGE
FT	FENCE TYPE
G	GATE NUMBER
GU	GLAZING UNIT
HB	HAND BASIN
JU	JOINERY UNIT
LO	LOCKER
NC	NAPPY CHANGE
OV	OVEN
RW	RETAINING WALL
SC	STEEL COLUMN
SK1	SKYLIGHT TYPE 1
SK2	SKYLIGHT TYPE 2
SSK	SINK
ST	STOVE
SU	STORAGE UNIT
W	WINDOW NUMBER
WS	WHEEL STOP
KEV.	
NEI:	
	PAVED AREA
ψ ψ ψ	DENSE LANDSCAPING

SOFT LANDSCAPING

NOTES:

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A09



	DRAWING TITLE		
CHILD CARE FACILITY	PROPOSED FLOOR PLAN		
77-76 79-81 RYANS ROAD	scale 1:100 @ A1	DWG No.	
	A No. IN SET	A05	
ILLIESTON HEIGHTS, NSW, 2321 PROJECT No. 1302	PROJECT No. 1302		
XP GILLIESTON HEIGHTS PTY. LTD.	SHADDOCK ARCHITECTS		



CHILD CARE FACILITY	AREA D	IAGRAM
77—76, 79—81 RYANS ROAD LIESTON HEIGHTS, NSW, 2321	SCALE 1:150 @ A1 No. IN SET 6 of 20 PROJECT No. 1302	dwg no. A06
P GILLIESTON HEIGHTS PTY. LTD.	SHADDOCK ARCHITECTS	
T, NEWCASTLE 2300 - 02 4926 4800 - MAIL@SHADDOCKARCHIT	ECTS.COM - NOMINATED ARCHITECT P	ETER SHADDOCK NSW REG. NO.5388

DRAWING TITLE

MARY	AGES	NO. OF CHILDREN	REQUIRED		ACHIEVED
	0 - 1	18	58.5 sqm	(3.25sqm PER CHILD)	64 sqm
	1 – 2	18	58.5 sqm	(3.25sqm PER CHILD)	63 sqm
	2 - 3	20	65 sqm	(3.25sqm PER CHILD)	80 sqm
	2 - 3	20	65 sqm	(3.25sqm PER CHILD)	80 sqm
	4 - 5	20	65 sqm	(3.25sqm PER CHILD)	77.9 sqm
AREA 1	0 - 2	36	252 sqm	(7sqm PER CHILD)	252 sqm
AREA 2	2 - 5	60	420 sqm	(7sqm PER CHILD)	437.4 sqm

WITH THE FULL DA DOCUMENTATION PACKAGE. THESE DRAWINGS ARE FOR THE PURPOSE OF A DA ONLY AND ARE NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY WORK ON-SITE. SITE BOUNDARIES & LEVELS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED UTILIZING PROPOSED SUBDIVISION PLAN PRODUCED BY ADW JOHNSON DATED 20/09/2024 REF: 190682 (DA/2020/1347)

THESE DRAWINGS ARE TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION

NOTES:



PROJECT	All dimensions are in millimeters unless otherwise shown. All levels are in metes to AHD unless otherwise noted. Work to figured dimensions. Do not scale from drawings. Check all dimensions on site and report any discrepancies to Shaddock Architects prior to construction or fabrication of any item. This drawing is to be read nonfunctional with the total documentation package.		
	13.02.2025	PRELIMINARY DA	10
GI	03.02.2025	PRELIMINARY DA	9
CLIENT	24.01.2025	PRELIMINARY DA	8
EX	DATE	REVISION	NO.



PROJECT	All dimensions are in millimeters unless otherwise shown. All levels are in metes to AHD unless otherwise noted. Work to figured dimensions. Do not scale from drawings. Check all dimensions on site and report any discrepancies to Shaddock Architects prior to construction or fabrication of any item. This drawing is to be read nonfunctional with the total documentation package.		
	13.02.2025	PRELIMINARY DA	10
GII	03.02.2025	PRELIMINARY DA	9
CLIENT	24.01.2025	PRELIMINARY DA	8
EX	DATE	REVISION	NO.



PROJECT	All dimensions are in millimeters unless otherwise shown. All levels are in metes to AHD unless otherwise noted. Work to figured dimensions. Do not scale from drawings. Check all dimensions on site and report any discrepancies to Shaddock Architects prior to construction or fabrication of any item. This drawing is to be read nonfunctional with the total documentation package.				
	13.02.2025	PRELIMINARY DA	10		
GIL	03.02.2025	PRELIMINARY DA	9		
CLIENT	24.01.2025	PRELIMINARY DA	8		
EX	DATE	REVISION	NO.		







EXTERNAL GLAZING SCHEDULE

NOTES:

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W.08, W.09, W.10, W.14

W.11, W.12, W.13

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10 PRELIMINARY DA 13.02.2025 GI 9 PRELIMINARY DA 03.02.2025 GI 8 PRELIMINARY DA 24.01.2025 CLIENT NO. REVISION DATE EX	All dimensions are in millimeters unless otherwise shown. All levels are in metes to AHD unless otherwise noted. Work to figured dimensions. Do not scale from drawings. Check all dimensions on site and report any discrepancies to Shaddock Architects prior to construction or fabrication of any item. This drawing is to be read nonfunctional with the total documentation package.				
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LEGEND:

AF	ALUMINIUM FRAME
AW	OPERABLE AWNING GLAZED WINDOW
CRS	COLORBOND ROLLER SHUTTER
D	DOOR NUMBER
DH	DOOR HARDWARE
FG	FIXED GLAZING
GHD	GLAZED HINGED DOOR
GSL	GLAZED SLIDING
LC	LUMINANCE CONTRAST STRIP
OL	OPERABLE GLAZED LOUVRE
RS	ROLLER SHUTTER NUMBER
SK	SKYLIGHT TYPE
W	WINDOW NUMBER





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to construction or fabrication of any item. This drawing is to be read nonfunctional with the total documentation package.		drawing is to ation package.	77-76, 79-81 RYANS ROAD	SCALE NTS @ A1	DWG No.	
10	PRELIMINARY DA	13.02.2025		11 of 20	A11	
9	PRELIMINARY DA	03.02.2025	GILLIESTON HEIGHTS, NSW, 2321	PROJECT No. 1302		
8	PRELIMINARY DA	24.01.2025		SHAD	DOCK	
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10	PRELIMINARY DA	13.02.2025		12 of 20	A12	
9	PRELIMINARY DA	03.02.2025	GILLIESTON HEIGHTS, NSW, 2321	PROJECT No. 1302		
8	PRELIMINARY DA	24.01.2025		SHAD	DOCK	
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to construction or fabrication of any item. This drawing is to be read nonfunctional with the total documentation package.		a drawing is to ation package.	77–76, 79–81 RYANS ROAD	SCALE NTS @ A1	DWG No.
10	PRELIMINARY DA	13.02.2025		13 of 20	A13
9	PRELIMINARY DA	03.02.2025	GILLIESTON HEIGHTS, NSW, 2321	PROJECT No. 1302	
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to construction or fabrication of any item. This drawing is to be read nonfunctional with the total documentation package.		drawing is to ation package.	DOCATION 77-76, 79-81 RYANS ROAD	SCALE NTS @ A1	DWG No.
10	PRELIMINARY DA	13.02.2025		14 of 20	A14
9	PRELIMINARY DA	03.02.2025	GILLIESTON HEIGHTS, NSW, 2321	PROJECT No. 1302	
8	PRELIMINARY DA	24.01.2025		SHAD	DOCK
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LOCATION	site and report any discrepancies to Shaddock Architects prior to construction or fabrication of any item. This drawing is to be read nonfunctional with the total documentation package.					
	13.02.2025	PRELIMINARY DA	10			
GII	03.02.2025	PRELIMINARY DA	9			
CLIENT	24.01.2025	PRELIMINARY DA	8			
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to construction or fabrication of any item. This drawing is to be read nonfunctional with the total documentation package.		drawing is to ation package.	^{LOCATION} 77–76, 79–81 RYANS ROAD	SCALE NTS @ A1	DWG No.	
10	PRELIMINARY DA	13.02.2025		16 of 20	A16	
9	PRELIMINARY DA	03.02.2025	GILLIESTON HEIGHTS, NSW, 2321	PROJECT No. 1302		
8	PRELIMINARY DA	24.01.2025		SHAD	DOCK	
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to construction or fabrication of any item. This drawing is to be read nonfunctional with the total documentation package.		drawing is to ation package.	77–76, 79–81 RYANS ROAD	SCALE NTS @ A1	DWG No.	
10	PRELIMINARY DA	13.02.2025		17 of 20	A1/	
9	PRELIMINARY DA	03.02.2025	GILLIESTON HEIGHTS, NSW, 2321	PROJECT No. 1302		
8	PRELIMINARY DA	24.01.2025		SHAD	DOCK	
NO.	REVISION	DATE	EXP GILLIESTON HEIGHTS PTT. LTD.		ΤΕСΤS	
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VISUAL 8

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to construction or fabrication of any item. This drawing is to be read nonfunctional with the total documentation package.		ation package.	^{LOCATION} 77–76, 79–81 RYANS ROAD	SCALE NTS @ A1	DWG No.	
10	PRELIMINARY DA	13.02.2025		18 of 20	A18	
9	PRELIMINARY DA	03.02.2025	GILLIESTON HEIGHTS, NSW, 2321	PROJECT No. 1302		
8	PRELIMINARY DA	24.01.2025		SHAD	DOCK	
NO.	REVISION	DATE	EXP GILLIESTON HEIGHTS PTY. LID.		ΤΕСΤS	

SCHEDULE OF MATERIALS

METAL aw - awnings

BRICKWORK

FENCE 2 ft.2 – fence type vertical pickets

FENCE 3 AB.1 – ACOUSTIC BARRIER LAPPED & CAPPED

WINDOWS/DOORS BLACK POWDERCOATED FRAME

All dimens are in r dimension site and to cons be read	ions are in millimeters unless otherwise netes to AHD unless otherwise noted. W s. Do not scale from drawings. Check a report any discrepancies to Shaddock / truction or fabrication of any item. This I nonfunctional with the total documento	shown. All levels ork to figured Il dimensions on Architects prior drawing is to ution package.	PROJECT
10	PRELIMINARY DA	13.02.2025	
9	PRELIMINARY DA	03.02.2025	GIL
8	PRELIMINARY DA	24.01.2025	CLIENT
NO.	REVISION	DATE	EX

CHILD CARE FACILITY	DRAWING TITLE MATERIALS SCHEDULE	
™ 77–76, 79–81 RYANS ROAD SILLIESTON HEIGHTS, NSW, 2321	SCALE NTS @ A1 No. IN SET 19 of 20 PROJECT No. 1302	dwg No.
XP GILLIESTON HEIGHTS PTY. LTD.	SHADDOCK ARCHITECTS	

REQUIRED			ACHIEVED
19.2m ³	(0.2m ³	PER CHILD)	29.14m ³
28.8m ³	(0.3m ³	PER CHILD)	28.85m ³

FLOOR SPACE RATIO (FSR) SUMMARY

A	2493.4sqm
REA	689.5sqm
	0.27 : 1

CHILD CARE FACILITY	FSR & STORAGE SUMMARY		
77–76, 79–81 RYANS ROAD ILLIESTON HEIGHTS, NSW, 2321	SCALE 1:150 @ A1 №. IN SET 20 of 20 PROJECT No. 1302	dwg no.	
XP GILLIESTON HEIGHTS PTY. LTD.	SHADDOCK architects		

APPENDIX B ASSET PROTECTION ZONES

APPENDIX 4 ASSET PROTECTION ZONE REQUIREMENTS

In combination with other BPMs, a bush fire hazard can be reduced by implementing simple steps to reduce vegetation levels. This can be done by designing and managing landscaping to implement an APZ around the property.

Careful attention should be paid to species selection, their location relative to their flammability, minimising continuity of vegetation (horizontally and vertically), and ongoing maintenance to remove flammable fuels (leaf litter, twigs and debris).

This Appendix sets the standards which need to be met within an APZ.

A4.1 Asset Protection Zones

An APZ is a fuel-reduced area surrounding a building or structure. It is located between the building or structure and the bush fire hazard.

For a complete guide to APZs and landscaping, download the NSW RFS document *Standards for Asset Protection Zones* at the NSW RFS Website www.rfs.nsw.gov.au.

An APZ provides:

- a buffer zone between a bush fire hazard and an asset;
- an area of reduced bush fire fuel that allows for suppression of fire;
- an area from which backburning or hazard reduction can be conducted; and
- an area which allows emergency services access and provides a relatively safe area for firefighters and home owners to defend their property.

Bush fire fuels should be minimised within an APZ. This is so that the vegetation within the zone does not provide a path for the spread of fire to the building, either from the ground level or through the tree canopy.

An APZ, if designed correctly and maintained regularly, will reduce the risk of:

- direct flame contact on the building;
- damage to the building asset from intense radiant heat; and
- > ember attack.

The methodology for calculating the required APZ distance is contained within Appendix 1. The width of the APZ required will depend upon the development type and bush fire threat. APZs for new development are set out within Chapters 5, 6 and 7 of this document.

In forest vegetation, the APZ can be made up of an Inner Protection Area (IPA) and an Outer Protection Area (OPA).

Figure A4.1

Typlical Inner and Outer Protection Areas.

A4.1.1 Inner Protection Areas (IPAs)

The IPA is the area closest to the building and creates a fuel-managed area which can minimise the impact of direct flame contact and radiant heat on the development and act as a defendable space. Vegetation within the IPA should be kept to a minimum level. Litter fuels within the IPA should be kept below 1cm in height and be discontinuous.

In practical terms the IPA is typically the curtilage around the building, consisting of a mown lawn and well maintained gardens.

When establishing and maintaining an IPA the following requirements apply:

Trees

- tree canopy cover should be less than 15% at maturity;
- trees at maturity should not touch or overhang the building;
- Iower limbs should be removed up to a height of 2m above the ground;
- tree canopies should be separated by 2 to 5m; and
- > preference should be given to smooth barked and evergreen trees.

Shrubs

- create large discontinuities or gaps in the vegetation to slow down or break the progress of fire towards buildings should be provided;
- shrubs should not be located under trees;
- shrubs should not form more than 10% ground cover; and
- clumps of shrubs should be separated from exposed windows and doors by a distance of at least twice the height of the vegetation.

Grass

- grass should be kept mown (as a guide grass should be kept to no more than 100mm in height); and
- > leaves and vegetation debris should be removed.

A4.1.2 Outer Protection Areas (OPAs)

An OPA is located between the IPA and the unmanaged vegetation. It is an area where there is maintenance of the understorey and some separation in the canopy. The reduction of fuel in this area aims to decrease the intensity of an approaching fire and restricts the potential for fire spread from crowns; reducing the level of direct flame, radiant heat and ember attack on the IPA.

Because of the nature of an OPA, they are only applicable in forest vegetation.

When establishing and maintaining an OPA the following requirements apply:

Trees

- > tree canopy cover should be less than 30%; and
- > canopies should be separated by 2 to 5m.

Shrubs

- > shrubs should not form a continuous canopy; and
- shrubs should form no more than 20% of ground cover.

Grass

- grass should be kept mown to a height of less than 100mm; and
- > leaf and other debris should be removed.

An APZ should be maintained in perpetuity to ensure ongoing protection from the impact of bush fires. Maintenance of the IPA and OPA as described above should be undertaken regularly, particularly in advance of the bush fire season.