

Draft Greater Sydney Region Plan

Submission_id: 31150

Date of Lodgment: 12 Dec 2017

Origin of Submission: Email

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Organisation type: Government Agency

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Submission content: See Attached

Number of attachments: 1



Greater Sydney
Commission GPO Box 257
Parramatta NSW 2124

Your reference
Our reference

12 December 2017

Draft Greater Sydney Regional Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Greater Sydney Regional Plan.

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) supports the approach taken in the draft Regional Plan towards building resilience in infrastructure and through land-use planning. An opportunity exists to improve the way in which natural disaster risk management is integrated into the land use planning process to achieve better outcomes for risk and resilience.

The Plan could do more to promote the range of natural hazards facing the community. The Greater Sydney Regional Plan is an important strategic document for the future development of the Sydney Region. In delivering successful and liveable places, it is imperative that future development is located appropriately to avoid placing additional people in areas of high bush fire risk.

In meeting Objective 37 of the draft Plan, the NSW RFS recommends that a Strategic Bush Fire Study be undertaken in consultation with the NSW RFS as a key stakeholder at the strategic planning stage of development which assesses the development area in its landscape context and specifically addresses the following as a minimum:

- > Likely bush fire ignition points and resultant fire runs based on vegetation, topographic and weather data;
- > Areas of the proposed development site which are inappropriate for development in a bush fire context;
- > Development of land use patterns which support locating more vulnerable uses in areas of lowest bush fire risk;
- > Evacuation scenarios for existing and proposed populations;
- > Development of appropriate infrastructure to support emergency management;
- > Consideration of implications to emergency services in the implementation of strategic bush fire management and fire suppression activities;
- > Appropriately scaled provision of utilities, including water supplies for firefighting.

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Such a study should then flow-on into the more detailed stages of development planning.

This strategic assessment process can form the basis of the policy development process for bush fire prone land.

The resilience of utilities and communication infrastructure are important tools for bush fire suppression activities and can often be compromised in a bush fire emergency event. The development of infrastructure which supports effective bush fire mitigation, bush fire suppression activities and emergency evacuation is also an imperative part of place-based planning and delivering liveable communities.

The plan focusses heavily on biodiversity protection and enhancement. Whilst this is supported in principle, it should be noted that this should be managed in conjunction with ensuring appropriate protection from bush fires and community safety.

As a key stakeholder, the NSW RFS should be consulted in the development of any policies and strategies which apply to development and infrastructure on bush fire prone land. The NSW RFS would welcome the ability to work with other NSW Government agencies collaboratively in ongoing consideration of natural and urban hazards in to land use planning.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Kind regards



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