

Mountain  
Planning

# BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

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Proposal: Buildings and works for the construction of a dwelling  
Address: Lot 29 Hot Plate Drive, Hotham Heights  
Applicant: Mountain Planning  
Date: June 2023

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## 1. Introduction

This Bushfire Management Statement has been prepared in response to the requirements of Clause 44.06-1 – Bushfire Management Overlay, and in accordance with the application requirements of Clause 53.02 – Planning for Bushfire.

The statement contains six components:

1. A **bushfire hazard landscape assessment** in plan form that describes the bushfire hazard of the general locality more than 150 metres from the site (this is provided at **Attachment A**).
2. A **bushfire hazard site assessment** in plan form that describes the bushfire hazard within 150 metres of the proposed development. The description of the hazard has been prepared in accordance with Section 2.2.3 to 2.2.5 of AS3959:2009 Construction of buildings in bushfire prone areas (Standards Australia) – this is provided as **Attachment B**.
3. A **bushfire management statement** which describes how the proposed development responds to the requirements of Clause 44.06 and 53.02 (this report).
4. A **bushfire management plan** – this is provided as **Attachment C**.
5. Photos of the subject land **Attachment D**.

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|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Existing use and siting of buildings and works on and near the land</b></p> | <p>The subject land is located at Lot 29 Hotplate Drive, Hotham Heights. The land is formally known as Crown Allotment 8A, Section B, Parish of Hotham. The subject land does not have street frontage to Hot Plate Drive. Lot 29 is located on the eastern side of Lot 31 and is accessed by the common staircase off Hotplate Drive which is located on the western side of Lot 22.</p> <p>Emergency vehicle access is possible via Playground Trail, a maintained 4wd track off Great Alpine Road.</p> <p>The subject land has a length along the southern boundary of approximately 13.46m. The depth of the subject land, measured along the eastern boundary, is 18.81m. The allotment is irregular in shape and comprises approximately 209 sqm.</p> <p>The subject land slopes from the south west down to the north east and has an approximate fall of 5m across the allotment which equates to a slope of approximately 20 degrees.</p> <p>The subject land does contains scattered native vegetation and is vacant.</p>  |
| <p><b>Existing vehicle arrangements</b></p>                                       | <p>There is no vehicular access to the subject land.</p>   |
| <p><b>Location of nearest fire hydrant</b></p>                                    | <p>Fire hydrants are located within Hotplate Drive.</p>  |
| <p><b>Any other features of the site relevant to bushfire considerations</b></p>  | <p>The broader landscape is defined by steep hills consisting of native vegetation. The vegetation generally above 1400m (AHD) is Woodland vegetation with the vegetation below 1400m being Forest. The subject land is located within a saddle which sits between Mt Hotham to the north and Mt Higginbotham to the south.</p> <p>The Mt Hotham village is located to the north of the subject land and there are accommodation buildings to the north, east and west. Interspersed between the buildings to the east and west are snow gums and some understorey; the land to the north is generally cleared comprising of accommodation buildings and a large car park.</p> <p>The subject land is susceptible to extremely large bushfire runs and this is compounded by the fact that the subject land is located on top of a saddle and could be subject to fires travelling from the south west, north west and north east.</p> <p>The broader landscape risk for the locality of Mount Hotham is a Type Four due to the extent of Woodland vegetation surrounding the locality, the substantial bushfire runs and only one road off the mountain; however, it is noted that the Great Alpine Road does provide access to both Bright and Omeo.</p> |

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**Refer to Attachment A for a scaled plan that shows the following:**

- 150 metre assessment around the location of proposed buildings and around reasonable siting options for proposed buildings (if they are available)
- Property boundaries
- Orientation
- Contours
- Classifiable vegetation within the assessment area
- Excludable vegetation within the assessment area
- Distance between the classifiable vegetation and the proposed buildings
- Slope under the classifiable vegetation (slope is based on the slope under the classifiable vegetation and not the slope between the vegetation and the building)

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### 3. Bushfire Hazard Assessment

Classification of the vegetation within 150 metres of the proposed development in accordance with AS3959:2009 Construction of buildings in bushfire prone areas. It is noted that the 150m assessment area is entirely within the valley floor.

|   | Direction (Aspect)      |                   |                           |                 |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
|   | North                   | South             | East                      | West            |
| <b>Vegetation</b><br>(within 150m of proposed building/works)             | Woodland                | Woodland          | Woodland                  | Low threat      |
| <b>Effective Slope</b><br>(under the classifiable vegetation within 150m) | Downslope<br>30 degrees | Upslope           | Downslope<br>5-10 degrees | Upslope         |
| <b>Distance (m) to Classifiable Vegetation</b>                            | 9.18m (Woodland)        | 34.24m (Woodland) | 24m (Woodland)            | 235m (Woodland) |

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## 4. 53.02-4.1 Landscape, siting and design objectives

### Objective

Development is appropriate having regard to the nature of the bushfire risk arising from the surrounding landscape.

Development is sited to minimise the risk from bushfire.

Development is sited to provide safe access for vehicles, including emergency vehicles.

Building design minimises vulnerability to bushfire attack.

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### 4.1 Approved Measures AM 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3

#### Approved measures

**The bushfire risk to the development from the landscape beyond the site can be mitigated to an acceptable level.**

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The village is covered by Schedule 1 to the Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) which provides alternative measures for bushfire mitigation to those specified within Clause 53.02. These alternative measures seek to ensure that bushfire is mitigated to prevent the loss of life and property.

Bushfire mitigation is also assisted through the implementation of the Mount Hotham Alpine Resort Community Bushfire Emergency Management Plan (BEMP).

The implementation of the Schedule 1 requirements to the BMO and the BEMP are required given the substantial landscape risk of the subject land.

Given the significant landscape risk the Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) of the proposed dwelling will be a BAL 40 with defensible space maintained to the property boundary. In addition, the implementation of the BEMP by the Resort Management Board will ensure that life is protected through the evacuation of the village in the event of a bushfire.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>A building is sited to ensure the site best achieves the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>The maximum separation distance between the building and the bushfire hazard.</b></li> <li>● <b>The building is in close proximity to a public road.</b></li> <li>● <b>Access can be provided to the building for emergency service vehicles.</b></li> </ul> <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 10px; margin: 20px 0;"> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;"><b>This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright</b></p> </div> | <p>The subject is located approximately 16m from a bushfire approaching from the north and 150m from the south west. The south west direction is relatively protected by the hard surface of Hotplate Drive, however, the close proximity to the north abutting Woodland vegetation means that the threat from the north would be substantial.</p> <p>We submit that these distances will minimise the risk of direct flame attack, however, significant ember attack is likely. The subject land is extremely small and therefore siting options for bushfire mitigation is difficult to achieve. That said, the implementation of the resort BEMP and the ability for the resort to be evacuated and closed during a bushfire event means that people should not be within the subject buildings in the event of a bushfire.</p> <p>The subject dwelling is located as close to Hotplate Drive as possible.</p> <p>The subject land does have access to Hotplate Drive which has access to the Great Alpine Road which will provide egress to Bright or Omeo depending on the direction of the bushfire front. These roads also provide excellent access for emergency services vehicles.</p> |
| <p><b>A building is designed to be responsive to the landscape risk and reduce the impact of bushfire on the building.</b></p>  | <p>The proposed building will be required to be constructed to a BAL 40. The built form is relatively regular in shape with a simple skillion roof.</p>   |
| <p><b>Any other comments</b></p>  | <p>The surrounding vegetation is Woodland and the broader bushfire risk can be mitigated through maintaining vegetation on the land, constructing the building to BAL 40, by providing access to the subject land for emergency services vehicles and the implementation of the BEMP.</p>   |
| <p><b>Has Approved Measures AM 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 been fully met?</b></p>   | <p><b>YES</b></p>   |

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## 5 53.02-4.2 Defendable space and construction objective

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### Objective

Defendable space and building construction mitigate the effect of flame contact, radiant heat and embers on buildings.

### 5.1 Approved Measures AM 3.1 and 3.2

#### Approved measures

**A building used for a dwelling (including an extension or alteration to a dwelling), a dependant person's unit, industry, office or retail premises is provided with defendable space in accordance with:**

- **Table 2 Columns A, B or C and Table 6 to Clause 52.03-5 wholly within the title boundaries of the land; or**
- **If there are significant siting constraints, Table 2 Column D and Table 6 to Clause 52.03-5.**

**The building is constructed to the bushfire attack level that corresponds to the defendable space provided in accordance with Table 2 to Clause 52.03-5.**

The table at Section 3 of this report provides a summary of the surrounding vegetation, distance to classifiable vegetation and slope. This details that the surrounding vegetation is either Woodland or low threat.

In normal circumstances, where a schedule to the BMO does not exist, Table 2 of Clause 53.02-5 applies to determine the defendable space and BAL. However, Schedule 1 to the BMO provides an alternative approved measure which requires the building to be constructed to a BAL 40.

With the implementation of a BAL 40 construction standard and defendable space to the property boundary it is submitted that the proposal complies with AM 3.1.

The Bushfire Management Plan show the areas of defendable space proposed.

**A building used for accommodation (other than a dwelling or dependent person's unit), a child care centre, an education centre, a hospital, leisure and recreation or a place of assembly is:**

- **Provided with defendable space in accordance with Table 3 and Table 6 to Clause 52.03-5 wholly within the title boundaries of the land.**
- **Constructed to a bushfire attack level of BAL12.5.**

N/A

**Has Approved Measure AM 3.1 and 3.2 been fully met?**

**Yes**

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## 6 53.02-43 Water supply and access objectives

### Objective

A static water supply is provided to assist in protecting property.

Vehicle access is designed and constructed to enhance safety in the event of a bushfire.

### 6.1 Approved Measures AM 4.1 and 4.2

#### Approved measures

**A building used for a dwelling (including an extension or alteration to a dwelling), a dependant person's unit, industry, office or retail premises is provided with:**

- **A static water supply for fire fighting and property protection purposes specified in Table 4 to Clause 52.03-5.**
- **Vehicle access that is designed and constructed as specified in Table 5 to Clause 52.03-5.**

**The water supply may be in the same tank as other water supplies provided that a separate outlet is reserved for fire fighting water supplies.**

Schedule 1 to the BMO requires that new buildings meet the access and egress requirements of AM 4.1 only, there are no water supply requirements.

It is submitted that pursuant to Table 5 of Clause 53.02 there are no access and egress requirements as the proposed access is less than 30m in length.

**A building used for accommodation (other than a dwelling or dependent person's unit), child care centre, education centre, hospital, leisure and recreation or place of assembly is provided with:**

- **A static water supply for fire fighting and property protection purposes of 10,000 litres per 1,500 square metres of floor space up to 40,000 litres.**
- **Vehicle access that is designed and constructed as specified in Table 5 to Clause 52.03-5.**
- **An integrated approach to risk management that ensures the water supply and access arrangements will be effective based on the characteristics of the likely future occupants including their age, mobility and capacity to evacuate during a bushfire emergency.**

N/A

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The water supply may be in the same tank as other water supplies provided that a separate outlet is reserved for fire fighting water supplies.

Has Approved Measure AM 4.1 and 4.2 been fully met?

YES

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## Attachment A – Bushfire Hazard

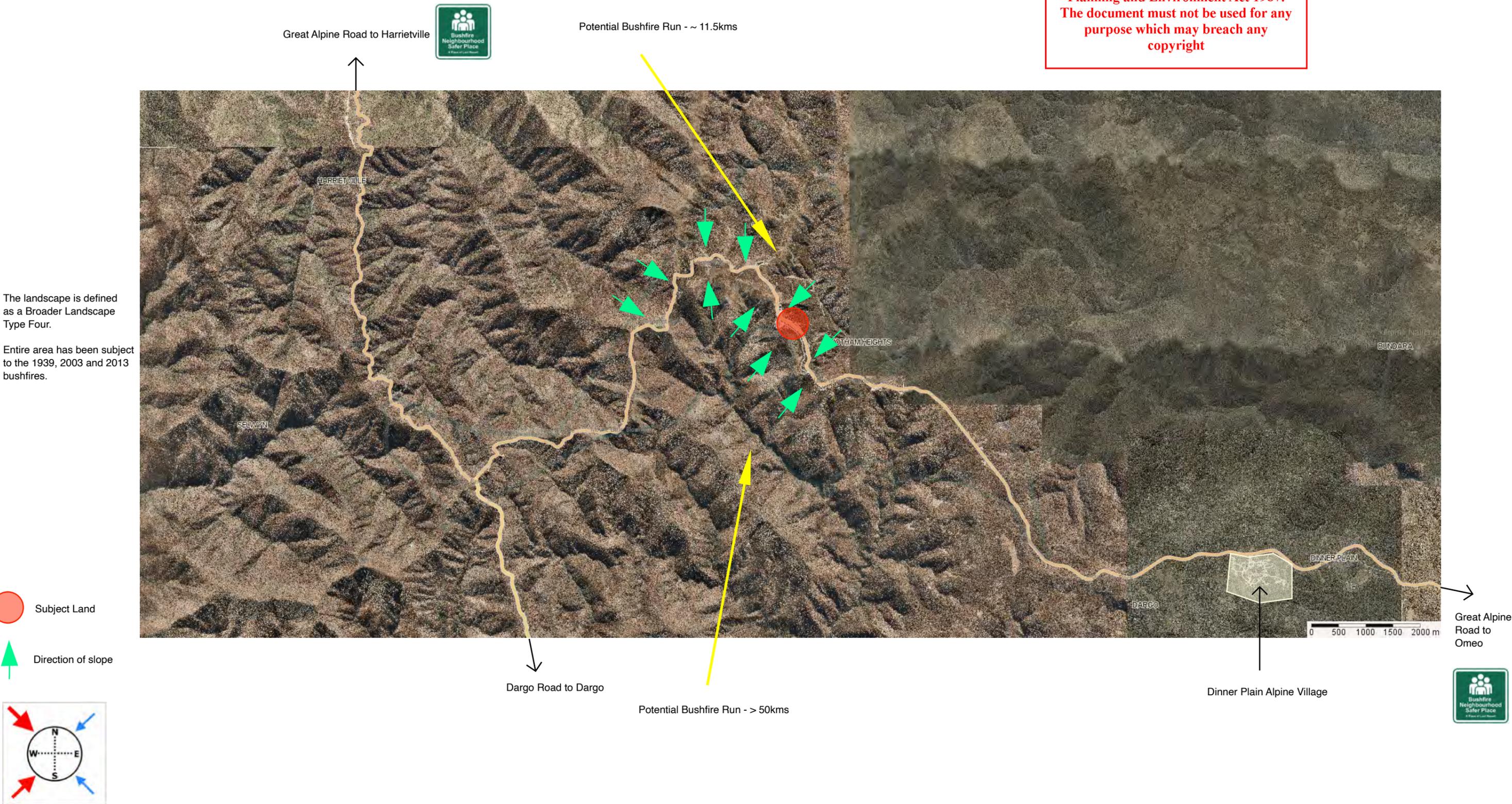
## Landscape Assessment

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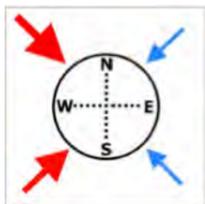


The landscape is defined as a Broader Landscape Type Four.

Entire area has been subject to the 1939, 2003 and 2013 bushfires.

Subject Land

Direction of slope



## Attachment B – Bushfire Hazard

### Site Assessment

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## Attachment C – Bushfire Management Plan

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**Bushfire Protection Measures**

The buildings must be constructed to a BAL-40

Defendable space will be provided to the boundary and the vegetation will be managed in accordance with the following requirements:

- Grass must be short cropped and maintained during the declared fire danger period.
- All leaves and vegetation debris must be removed at regular intervals during the declared fire danger period.
- Within 10 metres of a building, flammable objects must not be located close to the vulnerable parts of the building.
- Plants greater than 10 centimetres in height must not be placed within 3 metres of a window or glass feature of the building.
- Shrubs must not be located under the canopy of trees.
- Individual and clumps of shrubs must not exceed 5 square metres in area and must be separated by at least 5 metres.
- Trees must not overhang or touch any elements of the building.
- The canopy of trees must be separated by at least 5 metres.
- There must be a clearance of at least 2 metres between the lowest tree branches and ground level.

Vehicle access must be in accordance with Table 5 to Clause 53.02.

The owner must comply with the Mount Hotham Alpine Resort Community Bushfire Emergency Management Plan and any directions by the Hotham Resort Management and the CFA.

 Defendable Space

 Proposed Buildings

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