Bushfire Management Statement and 13.02-1S Assessment

14 Parallel Street Falls Creek

September 2023 ADVERTISED PLAN



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Where the term **"Bushfire prevention and mitigation related activities"** (or words to that effect) are used, this is to be defined as the clearance of vegetation in accordance with the Victorian State Government guidelines, including clearing and maintenance of existing fire breaks and/or fire access for fire fighters under electricity pylons and properties that have been constructed to Australian Standard AS3959 and/or the National Construction Code.

Introduction

This report has been developed to meet the requirements of the Bushfire Management Overlay as outlined within the Victorian Planning Provisions. The site located at 14 Parallel Street, Falls Creek is within the Bushfire Management Overlay. This report outlines the required treatments to enable compliance with the Bushfire Management Overlay. The proposal is to construct additions to the existing building.

The report has been developed following extensive assessment of the landscape and local bushfire risk along with access, egress and topography.

The report addresses the following provisions of the Victorian Planning Scheme:

Clause 13.02-15 - Bushfire Planning

Clause 44.06-3 - Bushfire Hazard Site Assessment, Bushfire Hazard Landscape Assessment and Bushfire Management Statement.

To ensure sufficient information is provided to both CFA and Council to enable a detailed understanding of bushfire risk, a Pathway 2 report has been developed along with a Clause 13.02-1S assessment. This report only addresses those parts of the Victorian Planning Provisions that relate to Bushfire.

Application Details		
Municipality:	This copied document to be made available Fails the sole pulpidse Besnabling	
Title Description:	its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the	
Overlays:	Planning and Environment Act 1987. THE USE THE MARSDAM BET SUGATAM (BMO), Desig DEVELOP MARTINA VERTAXA (PDA), Erosion Manag Overlay (EMP) right	n and Jement
Zoning:	Comprehensive Development Zone (CDZ)	

Site Description

Existing use and siting of buildings and works on and near the land:	The property is 694m ² and is surrounded by other properties of a similar size. There is an existing building on the property which provides restaurant and accommodation options.
	The surrounding properties are of a similar nature and provide various accommodation options are associated with ski clubs.
Existing access arrangements:	Access to the property is via Parallel Street which is a sealed road with a court bowl providing turn around options at the end of the street. Access is available to the central area of Falls Creek either driving or walking.
Location of nearest fire hydrant:	Fire hydrants are provided in the local area and are maintained by Alpine Resorts Victoria.



Figure 1 - Overview of the site with the BMO shaded

Access and egress

The site is accessible from Parallel Street with walking paths and roadways connecting to the surrounding areas. The surrounding road network provides multiple access and egress options from the property. Parallel Street is a dead end with a court bowl that provides turning abilities.

From the end of Parallel Street, access to Bogong High Plains Road is available from multiple paths. Bogong High Plains Road provides two options to leave the Falls Creek area. The most likely egress route will be towards Mt Bogong.

The egress options from Falls Creek are through extensive areas of forested vegetation. If a bushfire is burning in the surrounding area, it will likely be too dangerous to leave the Falls Creek area.

Topography

The topography on and surrounding the property consists of slopes and gullies associated with alpine areas. The Falls Creek area is located along a ridgeline with the landscape sloping down to gullies on all sides.

Due to the limited vegetation on and surrounding the property, it is unlikely for increased bushfire activity. In the surrounding landscape, outside the resort area, it is highly likely for the topography to influence bushfire behaviour.

Vegetation

There is minimal vegetation on the property, and this will continue to be managed to achieve the defendable, space, requirements of the Bushfire Management Overlay. Within the resort area the vegetation mainly consists of treed vegetation with limited to non-mainly defiger average area of the second the space requirement of the residential/accommod ation ascender alls Grack ascenderacy location that can be considered as classifiable when yasses and yagainst AS3959.

In the surrounding area, forests dominate the landscape. The forested areas extend for some distance and are associated with a landscape that includes numerous gullies and ridgelines.

Bushfire risk in southeast Australia

The southeast of Australia is one of the most fire prone areas in the world.

The rate a bushfire can spread is a direct result of the weather, fuel hazard (including dryness, quantity and arrangement) and the topography in which the fire is burning. Bushfire fuel is the only one of these three factors that it is possible to modify.

Extreme fire conditions can occur in south-eastern Australia when dry winters and springs are followed by summers where bushfire fuels become very dry.

When these conditions combine, fires can be expected to move quickly under the influence of strong, gusty north westerly winds. These fires can then move rapidly in a different direction when the subsequent south–westerly wind change arrives. Fires that start under these conditions can reach a very high intensity, even in areas of relatively low fuel loads and can be difficult to control until the weather conditions abate.

The height of a bushfire's intensity is directly linked to its destructiveness and the more difficult it is to control. As the intensity increases so does the difficulty of containment and effective suppression. Very high intensity fires with flame heights greater than 10 metres are generally uncontrollable.

Bushfire intensity is a function of the heat content of the fuel, the quantity of fuel and the rate of spread of the bushfire. The heat content of vegetation fuels is roughly constant. It has been found that the quantity and distribution of fine fuels are the main factor influencing bushfire behaviour. Larger fuels burning during a bushfire do not contribute significantly to the spread of a bushfire.

Fine fuels available to a bushfire are fuels such as grass, leaves, dead pine needles and twigs that ignite readily and are consumed rapidly when dry. They are often defined as those dead fuels less than 6mm in thickness. Fine fuel load (measured in tonnes per hectare) has therefore been used as a convenient measure of the underlying bushfire hazard in areas dominated by woody vegetation. The fine fuel load at any given time is a balance between the rate of fuel build up, and factors that remove fuel such as litter decomposition and fire. In the absence of fire, fuel loads in forests and woodlands with a shrubby or heathy understorey build up to a quasi-equilibrium state where the rate of fuel production equals the rate of decomposition. The maximum levels vary for different vegetation types and for the same vegetation types in different locations.

It has been found that fuel structure is possibly more important than the total fine fuel load in determining bushfire behaviour. Fuels in forests, woodlands and shrublands can be categorised into four layers with differing effects on fire behaviour (Hines, et al., 2010). These layers are:

<u>Surface fine fuels</u>: leaves, bark, small twigs and other fine fuel lying on the ground. These fuels provide the horizontal continuity that allows a bushfire to spread

<u>Near surface fine fuels:</u> grasses, low shrubs, bracken etc. up to about .5 m above the ground surface. Fuels in this layer will burn when the surface fuel layer burns and will increase bushfire intensity

<u>Elevated fuels:</u> larger shrubs and small saplings with most of the fuel closer to the top of this layer and a clear gap between them and the surface fuels. These interact with the two-layer fuel layers to further increase bushfire intensity. They also contribute to the vertical continuity of fire that allows fire to 'climb' into the tree canopy

<u>Bark fuels:</u> flammable bark on trees, saplings and large bushes from ground level to the canopy. Loose fibrous bark on string-bark eucalypts, and candle bark on some gums can generate large amounts of burning embers which can start spot fires ahead of the main fire front.

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Figure 2 - Overview of fuel structure that affects bushfire behaviour

Bushfire Hazard Landscape Assessment

The Bushfire Hazard Landscape Assessment is completed to provide an assessment of the bushfire hazard more than 150 metres away from the subject site. This assessment considers all available information to determine the effects of a bushfire from more than 150m from the site.

For this assessment, the landscape risk has been assessed at one kilometre and 10 kilometres.

Fire History

The available records demonstrate that there is bushfire history in the surrounding landscape. Major bushfires have threatened the Falls Creek area in 2003 and 2007. These bushfires did not enter the Falls Creek community but threatened the surrounding area for a period of time.

Other smaller fires have occurred within the surrounding landscape, but these have not escalated into large bushfire events.

Due to the surrounding vegetation, there is the potential for bushfires to occur in the future if the conditions are elevated.

Figure 3 shows the bushfire history according to DEECA records.





Figure 3 - Bushfire History with the property identified. The shapes represent multiple bushfire and fuel reduction burning events.

Likely Bushfire Scenarios

Figures 4 and 5 indicate the likely scenarios from a bushfire in the surrounding area and how they may impact on the proposed building. This assessment considers all aspects however history shows us that bushfires would be likely to impact on the property from a north westerly direction and then subsequently from a south westerly direction after the wind change. These two fire scenarios cause the greatest amount of damage, including loss of life, in south-eastern Australia during bushfire events.

The following table describes the scenarios that may impact on the building:

Scenario reference	Description
Scenario A	Figure 4 and 5 outlines the potential for a bushfire to approach the property under a north westerly wind influence. The dominant vegetation to the north west of the property are forested areas that extends more than 10 kilometres from the site.
	The surrounding landscape is conducive to supporting large bushfires that can burn for many days or weeks prior to impacting on the area. The managed areas immediately surrounding the property and in the Falls Creek developed area will support the reduction in bushfire behaviour as the bushfire approaches. It is likely for a bushfire approaching from the north west to generate significant embers that will impact on the building and surrounding areas.
Scenario B	To the southwest of the property, the immediate landscape is dominated by a similar landscape to Scenario A. The forested vegetation mixed with undulating topography will allow bushfires to burn for days or weeks prior to impacting on the property.
	The landscape to the immediate south west is dominated by other structures and managed properties and it is unlikely for a bushfire front to directly impact. The topography and vegetation is conducive to generating significant embers that will land on and around the property.

In summary, both scenarios are possible with ember attack, radiant heat and direct flame contact likely if no defendable space is implemented as part of this project.

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Landscape type

The determination of the landscape type enables the consideration of other treatments depending on the level of risk. These treatments may include additional construction requirements, vegetation management or other solutions. Note that whilst the determination of a landscape risk level is part of this analysis, the determination of the need for additional treatments will be considered as part of further assessments within this report.

Table 2 -	-Bushfire	landscape	assessment
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	Landscape risk descriptors
Type 1	 There is little vegetation beyond 150 metres of the site (except grasslands and low threat vegetation). Extreme bushfire behaviour is not possible. The type and extent of vegetation is unlikely to result in neighbourhood-scale destruction of property. Immediate access is available to a place that provides shelter from bushfire.
Type 2	 The type and extent of vegetation located more than 150 metres from the site may result in neighbourhood-scale destruction as it interacts with the bushfire hazard on and close to a site. Bushfire can only approach from one aspect and the site is located in a suburban, township or urban area managed in a minimum fuel condition. Access is readily available to a place that provides shelter from
Type 3	 The type and extent of vegetation located more than 150 metres from the site may result in neighbourhood-scale destruction as it interacts with the bushfire hazard on and close to a site. Bushfire can approach from more than one aspect. The site is located in an area that is not managed in a minimum fuel condition. Access to an appropriate place that provides shelter from bushfire is not certain
Type 4	 he broader landscape presents an extreme risk. Fires have hours or days to grow and develop before impacting. Evacuation options are limited or not available.

In accordance with the Technical Guide, the landscape has been assessed as Type 4.

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Figure 4 - Aerial photo showing site and identified bushfire attack scenarios (1 kilometre)



Figure 5 - Aerial photo showing landscape 10 km from site and potential bushfire scenarios



Clause 13.02 assessment

Clause 13.02 of the Planning Scheme outlines its objective as:

To strengthen the resilience of settlements and communities to bushfire through risk-based planning that prioritises the protection of human life.

The analysis against Clause 13.02 is reliant on the information contained within the Bushfire Hazard Landscape Assessment.

The following strategies from Clause 13.02-1S are aimed at ensuring a focus on the protection of life is achieved:

Table 3 - Clause 13.02 strategy assessment

	Strategy		Response
1	Prioritising the protection of human life over all other policy considerations.		Compliance with the Bushfire Management Overlay has ensured that the prioritisation of human life is achieved. The Alpine Planning Scheme specifies elevated risk treatment requirements to offset the landscape risk that is present. For this development, a solution is proposed that achieves the BMO
		This copied for th	requirements. document to be made available The design solution includes: e sole purpose of enabling
		its co part of a Planning The docu purpo	 idention and review be upgraded to meet the BAL 29 planed in entry and be the summer backers of the property management boundary on addition to the property management that is occurring off the adjoining properties and the suffounding area. Fire hydrants are located in Parallel Street. The building will comply with the National Construction Code which requires suitable fire safety systems and egress routes. These systems will also be required to be maintained for the life of the building.
2	Directing population and development to locations and ensuri availability of, and s access to, areas whe human life can be be protected from the e bushfire.	growth low risk ng the afe ere etter effects of	The building is located on an existing property with other buildings in the surrounding area. The development is occurring within a zone that which is supportive of development. The development of this property will see a reduction in bushfire risk to the adjoining landowners due to the increased management of the vegetation on the property.
3	Reducing the vulnerability of communities to bushfire through the consideration of bushfire risk in decision making at all stages of the planning process.		This report addresses the Bushfire Management Overlay and has considered the bushfire risk and identified treatments based on this risk.

Bushfire Hazard Site Assessment

The bushfire hazard within 150 metres is outlined within Figure 6 and Table 4.



Figure 6 - Bushfire Site Hazard Assessment



Table 4 -	Bushfire	Site	Hazard	Assessment	vegetation	assessment
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Plot	Vegetation classification	Slope	Separation distance	Description
1	Class A - Forest	Upslope	43 metres	The vegetation to the south is a typical forested environment that is located within an Alpine area of Victoria.
2	Class B - Woodland	Upslope	32 metres	The vegetation to the east of the building is modified and due to the presence of trails and cleared areas, it is aligned to the woodland descriptors contained within AS3959.
3	Excluded	N/A	N/A	Whilst there are scattered trees in the landscape, the undergrowth has been removed and is considered managed vegetation. These meet the descriptors outlined within clause 2.2.3.2 of AS3959.

*The 150 metre assessment area has been measured from the property boundary.

The assessment of vegetiation assessment area outlined in the 150 metre

its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the

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Bushfire Management be used for any purpose which may breach any

53.02-4.1 Landscape, siting and design objectives

- 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.

Approved Measure (AM) 2.1 – Landscape

Requirement

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

The bushfire risk to the development from the surrounding landscape can be considered elevated. However, due to the high levels of vegetation fragmentation in the immediate surrounding area bushfire behaviour could be reduced.

The requirement to develop a design that meets the Bushfire Management overlay – Schedule 1 of the Alpine Planning Scheme allows the building to comply with this requirement. The Schedule requires the building to achieve a BAL29 construction level. This is more than the outcome of an assessment against

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AS3959 and can therefore support the design of the building to reduce the risk from the landscape.

The landscape bushfire risk has been classified as Type 4¹.

Yes 🗸 No Has Approved Measure (AM) 2.1 been fully met?

Approved measure (AM) 2.2 – Siting

Requirement

A building is sited to ensure the site best achieves the following:

The maximum separation distance between the building and bushfire hazard

The building is being constructed within the property and there are limited siting options due to an existing building being extended. The risk will be reduced through the upgrade of the entire building to BAL29.

The closest classifiable vegetation is approximately 32 metres to the south.

The building is in close proximity to a public road

The building is accessible from Parallel Street with the building set back from the road edge a short distance. It is likely that firefighters will operate from the road in the event of a fire ϕ n the property.

Access can be provided to the building for emergency service vehicles r the sole purpo

Emergency service vehicles tanget the building The access provisions outlined within the Bushfire Managament Overlay paneberade eved.

Any other comments Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any

The landscape risk has been assessed and compliance with the Bushfire Management Overlay will assist with managing the elevated landscape risk.

Has Approved Mea	sure (AM) 2.2 been fully met?	Yes 🗸	No	
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Approved Measure (AM) 2.3 – Building design

Requirement

A building is designed to be responsive to the landscape risk and reduce the impact of bushfire on the building.

The building will be designed to reflect the risk from the vegetation in the surrounding landscape and comply with the BMO Schedule requirements. The BAL29 construction requirements ensures an elevated level of protection from the surrounding landscape. As outlined previously, the landscape risk has been classified as Type 4.

The building will be constructed to a minimum of **BAL 29**.

Has Approved Measure	(AM) 2.3 been fully met?	Yes √	No		
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¹https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/ data/assets/pdf file/0029/107669/Technical-Guide-Planning-Permit-Applications-Bushfire-Management-Overlay.pdf

53.02-4.2 – Defendable Space and Construction Objectives

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

Approved Measure (AM) 3.1 – Bushfire Construction and Defendable Space

The construction of buildings must be one of the following:

- BAL-40 construction in accordance with AS3959 Building in Bushfire Prone Areas (Standards Australia).
- Determined by a suitably qualified and experienced practitioner that the building will be capable of withstanding an equivalent level of predicted bushfire attack and levels of exposure.
- A suitably qualified and experienced practitioner has the same meaning as 'fire safety engineer' within the Building Regulations 2006.
- Determined using an alternative methodology to the satisfaction of the relevant fire authority.

Buildings must be provided with defendable space to the satisfaction of the relevant fire authority.

The building has been designed for the existing and proposed areas to meet the BAL29 requirements of AS3959. It is acknowledged that the outcomes of the AS3959 assessment without consideration of the landscape risk indicates that a BAL12.5 requirement is is acknowledged that there is a policy in place within the Alpine for sorte area othat eperimes buildings that are being upgraded to meet the BAL29 requirement and denote BAL40 as specified within the BMO Schedule.

Defendable space will be provided as outlined in the Bushfire Management Plan and in accordance with Tabler 6 (below) may for the Bushfire Management Plan (Appendix 2) for further details. copyright

Table 6 of Clause 53.02-5 – Vegetation management requirements

Defendable space is provided and is managed in accordance with the following requirements:

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

A building is constructed to the bushfire attack level:

That corresponds to the defendable space provided in accordance with Table 2 to Clause 53.02-5. The building will be constructed to **BAL 29.**

Any other comments?

Additional managed areas in the surrounding landscape can be relied upon to reduce the bushfire risk.

Has Approved Measure	(AM) 3.1 been fully met?	Yes 🗸	No	
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53.02-4.3 – Water Supply and Access Objectives

- The allotment is serviced by the installation of ground ball street hydrants.
- Vehicle access is designed and constructed to enhance safety in the event of a bushfire.

Approved Measure AM 4.1 – Water Supply and Access

Water Supply Requirement

The building is provided with a static water supply for firefighting and property protection purposes as specified in Table 4 to Clause 53.02-5.

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

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Less than 500	Not Applicatewi	ii 2h50 0y breach	antyo			
500 - 1000*	Yes	5,000	No		✓	
500 - 1000	No	10,000	Yes			
1001 and above	Not Applicable	10,000	Yes			
*Note: a hydrant is available if it is located within 120 metres of the rear of the building						
Note: Fittings must be in accordance with the published requirements of the relevant fire authority						
Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the relevant fire authority, the 5,000 litre water supply must:					vant fire	
Water Supply meets the following requirements	 Be stored in an above ground water tank constructed of concrete or metal. Have all fixed above-ground water pipes and fittings required for firefighting purposes made of corrosive resistant metal. Include a separate outlet for occupant use. 					

Additional Information:



The site will be provided with a minimum of 5,000 litre static water supply. This will be in addition to water supplies required for domestic use.

Has Approved Measure AM 4.1 (Water Supply)

been fully met?



Access Requirement

Vehicle access is designed and constructed as specified in Table 5 to Clause 53.02-5.

Column A	Column B		
Length of access is less than 30 metres	✓ There are no design and construction requirements if fire authority access to water supply is not required under AM 1.3		
Length of access is less than 30 metres	□ Where fire authority access to the water supply is required under AM1.3 fire authority vehicles must be able to get within 4 metres of the water supply outlet		
Length of access is greater than 30 metres	 The following design and construction requirements apply: All weather construction Chis copied that dimit to be that it is to be that it is consideration and review as the construction and review as the constructi		
Length of access is greater than 100 metres	 turning area for fire fighting vehicles must be provided lose to the building by one of the following: A turning circle with a minimum radius of eight metres A driveway encircling the dwelling The provision of other vehicle turning heads such as a T head or Y Head – which meet the specification of Austroad Design for an 8.8 metre service vehicle. 		
Length of access is greater than 200 metres	 Passing bays must be provided at least every 200 metres. Passing bays must be a minimum of 20 metres long with a minimum trafficable width of 6 metres. 		

Additional Information:

There are no access requirements due to the proximity of the building to the road and that access is not required to the static water supply by firefighters.

Has Approved Measure AM 4.1 (Access)				
been fully met?	Yes	\checkmark	No	

Conclusion

The construction of the new building on this site can be achieved safely and in accordance with the Bushfire Management Overlay.

Due to the location of the building, the likely bushfire impact will be through embers landing on and around the property and low levels of radiant heat from a bushfire that approaches from the north and south.

The outcome of the landscape assessment has identified the bushfire risk to the property and demonstrates how this can be managed.

The design solution including water supply, emergency vehicle access, construction level and defendable space will ensure this design achieves the requirements of the Bushfire Management Overlay and Clause 13.02 of the Planning Scheme.

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Appendix 1 – Bushfire Management Statement

The building will be designed and constructed to a minimum Bushfire Attack level of **BAL 29.**

Defendable Space

Defendable space to the property boundary must be provided where vegetation (and other flammable materials) will be modified and 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 3m 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 sq. 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.

Water Supply

Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the relevant fire authority, the 5,000 litres water supply must:

- Be stored in an above ground water tank constructed of concrete or metal.
- Have all fixed above-ground water pipes and fittings required for firefighting purposes made of corrosive resistant metal.
- Include a separate outlet for occupant use.

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Appendix 2 – Photos



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BMS -14 Parallel Street, Falls Creek V2



Appendix 4 – BAL levels explained

The following diagram outlines the type of bushfire attack method that may impact on the building. This then indicates the relevant BAL construction level as determined by the Bushfire Management Overlay.



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