



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



Kristy Chan
NSW Department of Planning & Environment
320 Pitt Street
Sydney 2001

11 April 2017

Dear Kristy

Education & Child Care SEPP 2017

I refer to your call for comments on the Education & Child Care State Environmental Planning Policies Review March 2017. Thank you for the opportunity.

Based on our review of the proposed changes, the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) provides the following comments:-

- > There needs to be some sort of prompt within the draft Education SEPP to alert proponents of development that the provisions of the Rural Fires Act section 100B still applies as the SEPP appears to remain silent on this;
- > The NSW RFS has concerns regarding portable classrooms as exempt development and the potential for these to be placed on school sites in hazardous locations that would enable the spread of fire;
- > There is a possibility to develop standards to enable some complying development at schools to occur on bushfire prone land, eg development on the non-hazard side of buildings. However the NSW RFS and DPE would need to develop definitions and standards for inclusion in the SEPP;
- > The need for a bushfire safety authority should be inserted in the exempt development provisions as a condition;
- > It needs to be clear in the SEPP that any work that falls under Section 100B of the Rural Fires Act requires a bush fire safety authority from the NSW RFS;
- > The NSW RFS is eager to work with the industry groups to make sure that they make their constituents aware of the bush fire provisions for home-based child care. We are hopeful that DPE can assist with this endeavour.

Furthermore, a revised edition of Planning for Bush Fire Protection is due to be enacted later in 2017 and the NSW RFS identifies that there may be referencing issues that may need to be addressed after the SEPP is finalised.

Finally, it is requested that the NSW RFS be included in any future reviews or amendments to the State Environmental Planning Policies or other strategic matters. We would also request a meeting subsequent to this letter to review the disposition of our comments and their adoption into the SEPP.

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If you have any questions regarding this please contact me on 8741 5445 or 0458 715 952.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Boverman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Boverman
Manager
Development Planning & Policy

