



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

THE INTERFACE PROJECT UPDATE FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Welcome to the Interface Project managed by your NSWRFSA Area Command Community Risk Team.

To ensure our Communities are getting what they need in the Community Risk space, we must invest in hazard management programs. Currently, we are focused on the Interface Project.

The project is specifically looking at interfaces - that is, areas where a group of assets meet vegetation. This is an ongoing project which will have our teams in the field inspecting then implementing works.

We are working with our local NSWRFSA Districts and Brigades to assist in the identification of heavily vegetated areas adjacent to assets, to ensure there is a defensible space for residents and firefighters.



Interface - Inspected.



Interface - Works completed.

So what does this mean for Communities, and how can you be involved?

Bush Fire Management is a shared responsibility between all agencies and the community. Community members can assist in preparing their own properties for fire impact. No amount of hazard reduction works conducted adjacent to your boundary will provide you the protection you need if your own asset protection zone isn't prepared.

We encourage you to maintain your property to reduce the risk of fire near your assets. Not sure where to start? Check out information in our QR code on how to prepare you, your family, and your property. Or you can find a wealth of information on the NSWRFSA website at: <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare>



Stay tuned as we work through the project with you - a collaboration between Communities, Brigades, Districts and Area Command.

THE INTERFACE PROJECT INFORMATION FOR COMMUNITIES

Asset Protection Zone

An Asset Protection Zone (APZ) is a fuel-reduced area surrounding a built asset or structure.

An APZ provides:

- A buffer zone between a bush fire hazard and an asset;
- an area of reduced bush fire fuel that allows suppression of fire;
- an area which allows emergency services access and provides a relatively safe area for fire fighters and home owners to defend property.

Potential bush fire fuels should be minimized within an APZ, so that the vegetation within the zone does not provide a path for the transfer of fire to the asset either from the ground level or through the tree canopy.

Landscaping principles for bush fire protection

The principles of landscaping for bush fire protection aim to:

- prevent flame impingement on the dwelling
- provide a defensible space for property protection
- reduce fire spread
- deflect and filter embers
- provide shelter from radiant heat
- Reduce wind speed.

Asset Protection Zone Management Options.

No amount of hazard reduction works conducted adjacent to your boundary will provide the protection you need, if your own asset protection zone is the risk to your family and assets.

We encourage you to maintain your property to reduce the risk of fire near to your assets by considering the following options:

1. Your current approved development application from Council. If you have built since 2002, your development application could list the bush fire hazard reduction works already approved on your property adjacent to your assets.
2. The 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Scheme gives people living near the bush an additional way of being better prepared for bush fires, whether approval for clearing on your land is covered under the 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Entitlement follow the link <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/1050-vegetation-clearing>
3. Apply for a hazard reduction certificate approval to undertake works https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0017/13319/CMR1474-Standards-HRC-Application-Form-update-2021-final.pdf