

17th July 2019

Byron Shire Council
PO BOX 217
BYRON BAY NSW 2478

Dear Sir/Madam,

Subject Development: Lot 2 DP 445771, 183 Coopers Lane West, Main Arm.

Re: Bushfire Assessment – Asset Protection Zones and Access

Ref. D18/6791.

I have been requested by the owner of the subject property to respond to a query raised at a Council meeting in relation to the effective slope analysis outlined in our correspondence dated 22nd March 2019.

I attended the site prior to the preparation of the aforementioned correspondence and undertook a thorough inspection of the site, including an effective slope analysis. As outlined in Planning for Bushfire Protection 2006 the effective slope *'is the slope within the hazard which most significantly affects fire behaviour of the site having regard to the vegetation class found'*. As detailed in our previous correspondence which was accepted by NSW Rural Fire Service following consultation and ultimately in the preparation of final reporting, the gully had been taken into account in the assessment of effective slope.

The slope directly into the gully, the orientation of the gully and the relationship to the asset (dwelling) was specifically assessed and discounted as having the most influence the forecast bushfire behaviour. A knowledge of fire behaviour and in particular acceleration and deceleration of rate of spread in forest fires through slope transitions is required to determine the slope that will most influence the bushfire behaviour. This has been demonstrated in the aforementioned correspondence and concurred with by NSW RFS. It is noted this assessment is also consistent with the NSW RFS methodology in the initial response dated 22nd November 2018.