



Fire Safety Referrals

Fire & Emergency Management

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Telephone: 03 9262 8578

Our Ref: 15000-59863-71643
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Council Ref: C76
TRAX Ref: slup_psa_submission

30 June 2017

Alicia Te Wierik
Golden Plains Shire
PO Box 111
BANNOCKBURN VIC 3331

Dear Alicia

SUBMISSION TO PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT

Proposal: C76
Location: All land across Golden Plains Shire

Thank you for providing CFA notice of C76 in accordance with section 19 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

CFA has reviewed the proposed planning scheme amendment and would like to make the following submission.

Bushfire Hazard

- Fire risk, both bushfire and grassfire, is a significant issue across the Golden Plains Shire, affecting built communities and natural systems.
- There is potential for significant grass fires impacting across large tracts of the southern parts of the Shire and for significant bushfires to occur and impact on communities across many areas in the north of the Shire.
- The amendment does not change the application of the Bushfire Management Overlay or result in any increased bushfire risk.

Bushfire Mitigation Measures

- CFA is concerned that Objective 1 in clause 21.03-4 (Bushfire) is not compatible with Clause 13.05-1. The overarching strategy of clause 13.05-1 requires the prioritization of human life over other policy considerations in planning and decision-making in areas at risk from bushfire. CFA acknowledges that this Objective is unchanged from the current wording in clause 21.04-4, but suggests that an objective of “balancing” the primacy of human life with the conservation of significant vegetation does not appear to provide the required priority.

CFA supports the concept of conservation of significant vegetation but believes that the application of a Vegetation Protection Overlay (as indicated at clause 21.3-1) is an appropriate way to protect this vegetation.

CFA proposes that Objective 1 (of clause 21.03-4) be re-written to remove the term balancing primacy of human life with the conservation of significant vegetation, and focus solely on bushfire risk to human life.

- CFA proposes that Strategy 1.1 of clause 21.03-4 be re-worded to make it clearer that it is about rezoning that leads to higher density development or puts more people in areas at high risk of bushfire.

Conclusion

CFA requests a change to the form of the proposed amendment.

If you wish to discuss this matter in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact Michael Boatman, Manager Community Safety, on 5329 5511.

Yours sincerely



for

Peter O'Keefe
Assistant Chief Officer
CFA West Region