

APPENDIX C – Comments from NSW Police and Rural Fire Service

Alexandra Plumb

From: Jonathan Gross [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 31 August 2015 9:53 AM
To: Alexandra Plumb
Cc: David Jones
Subject: Re: Follow up - Meeting Ku-ring-gai Council - Bushfire Evacuation Risk

Hi Alex

Superintendent Jones has asked me to respond to your enquiry. Thankyou for the invite. I note that a number of the attached questions are a matter for Council to decide. Having said that, the denser the population the more resources are required to evacuate them. Further, if there is one way in and one way out, bottlenecks can occur. There will not likely be an issue with transport as most of the population will have access to a vehicle. Evacuations, if required, would generally occur in stages, with the most effected area evacuated first.

Plans may revolve around 'worst case scenario' based on the likelihood of 'high'. If we expect a fire storm to hit (based on some history) it makes sense to limit the population or provide a higher fire fighting capacity with building code restrictions, increased fire service connections and to limit development. Development restriction however, would have to consider the likelihood of a catastrophic event and what that rating may be low, medium or high.

Many thanks

J A Gross
Detective Inspector
Kuring-Gai LAC
Duty Officer

Alexandra Plumb

From: David Boverman [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 31 August 2015 2:05 PM
To: Alexandra Plumb
Cc: Peter Marshall; Corey Shackleton
Subject: Follow up - Meeting Ku-ring-gai Council - Bushfire Evacuation Risk

Hi Alexandra,

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the workshop and to comment on the questions below. Please find answers to the questions following each question.

The NSW RFS is committed to continuing to work with you on the bush fire prone land mapping evacuation exclusion zones and in addressing associated issues.

If you have any questions please let me know.

Kind Regards,
David



David Boverman | Manager | Development Planning & Policy
NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE
Headquarters 15 Carter Street Lidcombe NSW 2141 | Locked Bag 17 Granville NSW 2142
24 Hour Media Enquires 02 9896 1855
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au | www.facebook.com/nswrfs | www.twitter.com/nswrfs
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Deferred Areas – Bushfire Evacuation Risk and Strategic Land Management

- **What are the issues for evacuation within these 13 areas?** – Bush fire evacuation issues are complex in nature and arise when evacuation times become excessive. Single evacuation routes may become blocked due to fire scenarios and occupants may need to shelter as a last resort. In these areas, increasing population densities and certain land uses may be problematic and should be carefully considered. Because of the complexities involved, the NSW RFS is proposing to undertake an evacuation risk modelling study which is intended to be used to assess evacuation risk issues and may be applied to areas such as these. It is hoped that this will be undertaken within a year's time.
- **What are your views on the methodologies and assumptions that Council has used to inform our decisions?** – We believe that the methodologies and assumptions are objective and methodical and that they form a good starting point for assessing the issues addressed for land-use planning decisions in the areas in question. However, the issue of land-use planning for bush fires is a complex one which requires further work. The NSW RFS supports the concepts used for decision making but believes that the approach is more complex than the one adopted. It should be noted that the results of the Cova study may not be practical on a landscape scale due to limitations inherent in urban planning.
- **Based on the methodology and assumptions, is Council making responsible, reasonable and realistic decisions?** – Yes we agree that council is making responsible, reasonable and realistic decisions within the context that each council has the responsibility to determine adequate levels of safety in their respective communities. The NSW RFS will continue mapping areas identified as bush fire evacuation risk exclusion zones as part of the Ku-ring-gai bush fire prone land map. It should be noted that as discussed above this is a very complex matter and therefore additional work is proposed to address the issues.

- ***Are Council's proposed planning measures to prevent increase in density and development types that increase evacuation risks supported?*** – The concept adopted is supported by the NSW RFS. The NSW RFS will continue to work with council towards addressing the complexities associated with evacuating from bush fires, in particular for those areas identified.
- ***What are the evacuation risks for South Turrumurra as a whole? Would the proposed planning measures be necessary or appropriate for the whole of the South Turrumurra peninsular?*** – As discussed above, evacuation from bush fires is a complex matter and as such the NSW RFS is proposing to undertake an evacuation risk modelling study which is intended to be used to assess evacuation risk issues and may be applied to areas such as these. It is hoped that this will be undertaken within a year's time. Should council have concerns regarding bush fire evacuation in areas beyond those currently captured on the Ku-ring-gai bush fire prone land map, the NSW RFS is happy to discuss and consider options.