

Fact Sheet

Bushfire Resilience Major Amendment



Bushfire Resilience Amendment

The Bushfire Resilience Amendment is a major amendment to the City Plan. It changes parts of the City Plan to improve how bushfire risk is identified, assessed and managed. The amendment aims to support safer, more resilient communities by ensuring future development is appropriately planned and designed in areas that may be affected by bushfire hazards.

Why is it Necessary

The Amendment will strengthen how bushfire risk is considered in the City Plan to help protect people, property, infrastructure and the environment by:

- Improving the identification and management of bushfire risk across Townsville.
- Ensuring new development avoids bushfire prone areas where possible and appropriately manages risk where development proceeds.
- Providing clear, consistent and contemporary planning requirements for development in bushfire prone areas while supporting safe, resilient and sustainable growth.
- Aligning the City Plan with current State planning policies.

Key Changes

The Bushfire Resilience Amendment proposes changes to the City Plan, including:

- Updated bushfire policy within the Strategic Framework to strengthen the approach to bushfire resilience.
- Development of locally refined Bushfire Prone Area overlay mapping.
- Impact assessment will no longer be triggered by the Bushfire overlay, only Code assessment.
- No change to the level of assessment for certain development that is appropriately located, involves an existing building, or only requires minor building work.
- Assessment benchmarks restrict vulnerable uses and critical infrastructure in bushfire prone areas unless overriding need can be demonstrated. Guidance material on how overriding need can be demonstrated is included in the policy.
- New requirements for tourist accommodation uses to support evacuation planning and emergency management.
- Assessment benchmarks deter clearing of high ecological value vegetation for bushfire mitigation purposes.
- Subdivision design requirements, including measures that improve emergency access, evacuation and firebreaks.
- Enhanced requirements to ensure development can be safely accessed by emergency services during bushfire events.
- Updated guidance for the preparation of bushfire hazard assessments and bushfire management plans.