

# Pleasant Heights Public School

Works notification | 9 December 2022

Dear neighbour

As part of the NSW Department of Education's commitment to safety, and as part of our responsibility to manage the risk of bushfires, we are proposing to undertake bushfire mitigation maintenance activities at Pleasant Heights Public School, which includes area referred to as bushland within the school boundary.

The proposed works are being reviewed by the Department of Planning and Environment before they are scheduled.

## Why is this important?

Pleasant Heights Public School is located on bushfire prone land and is considered a high-risk school. A Bushfire Risk Assessment has been undertaken resulting in the development of a Bushfire Vegetation Management Plan. This plan underpins the Asset Protection Zones Scope of Work, which details the works required at the school (see overleaf).

We understand the importance of natural foliage and vegetation to the school and local community. It is important that we balance that with the department's obligation under NSW Legislation and the Rural Fires Act 1997 to undertake periodic maintenance to the Asset Protection Zones, such as the ones indicated on the reference map.

This work aims to minimise bushfires occurring on school premises and to protect the wellbeing of our students, staff and the surrounding community.

## What work will be done?

The Bushfire Vegetation Management Plan requires that the following actions are conducted on a regular basis:

- Removal of dead material regularly from the base of the plants and fences
- Prune trees and shrubs and mow lawns as required
- Preserve significant flora identified.

The Asset Protection Zones Scope of Work requires some trees and vegetation up to a height of 4 metres to be removed to create the necessary buffer zone. The map overleaf outlines the different measures at each location within the school site, to help protect our assets, neighbouring assets, and life. Any tree above 4 metres will be retained.

The department has consulted NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS), and Wollongong City Council about the works. We are now working with the Department of Planning and Environment who is assessing the proposed works to ensure they are done in accordance with relevant legislation, and ecological assessments and recommendations.

Please note that Zone 4D confirms that canopy trees in this zone do not meet standard Outer Protection Area conditions, and that species that are not indigenous to the area must not be planted. A Bushcare sign had previously been incorrectly placed on school land. We have worked with Council to relocate the sign appropriately. Planting by local residents is not permitted on school property.

The health and safety of the school and the local community is our highest priority. Please be assured the maintenance work will not interrupt teaching and learning and is not expected to generate impacts to local residents.

**Thank you for your understanding during this important work. We will notify the community ahead of the works taking place.**

Please contact School Infrastructure NSW if you have any questions

Email: [schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au)

Phone: 1300 482 651

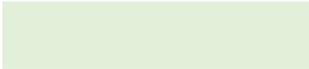
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Asset Protection Zones for Pleasant Heights Public School



Bushfire Vegetation Management Plan for Pleasant Heights Public School

Zone	Actions	Restrictions
<p><b>Zone 1</b></p>  <p>Areas with no bushfire protection or environmental constraints</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain area by current practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
<p><b>Zone 2A</b></p>  <p>Inner Protection Area (IPA) surrounding buildings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove leaf litter from around buildings and garden beds</li> <li>Prune trees, shrubs and mow lawns regularly, especially around doors and windows</li> <li>Tree canopies are to have 2m – 5m separation from building</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No additional trees or shrubs to be planted</li> </ul>
<p><b>Zone 4C</b></p>  <p>IPA flora preservation</p> <p>Magenta Lilly Pilly, hollow bearing trees and Rainforest Cassia to be protected (refer Eco Logical Report 6 April 2010)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove dead material regularly from the base of the plants and fences</li> <li>Prune trees and shrubs and mow lawns as required</li> <li>Preserve significant flora identified.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional trees must not be planted to exceed a 15% canopy cover of the Inner Protection Area.</li> <li>Species that are not indigenous to the local on-site community must not be planted.</li> <li>Minimise impact on the boundaries from the spread of weeds, dumping of garden waste and the use of herbicide.</li> <li>Actions that impact on the flora may require a licence from Office of Environmental and Heritage.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Zone 4D</b></p>  <p>IPA flora preservation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove dead material regularly from the base of the plants and fences</li> <li>Prune trees and shrubs and mow lawns as required</li> <li>Preserve significant flora identified.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional trees must not be planted to exceed a 30% canopy cover of the Outer Protection Area.</li> <li>Species that are not indigenous to the local on-site community must not be planted.</li> <li>Minimise impact on the boundaries from the spread of weeds, dumping of garden waste and the use of herbicide.</li> <li>Actions that impact on the flora may require a licence from Office of Environmental and Heritage.</li> </ul>

