



The Hon Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Rural Affairs
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Emergency Services
Minister for Lands

MIN05/426

Mr Geoff Brown
Convenor
ADI Residents Action Group
PO Box 4134
WERRINGTON NSW 2747

14 FEB 2005

Dear Mr Brown

Thank you for your letter of 18 November 2005 regarding bushfire asset protection zones for the ADI site at St Marys.

I am advised that the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) granted a bush fire safety authority for the subdivision of five super lots on 29 January 2004. A bush fire safety authority was granted for the Eastern Precinct Stage 1 on 29 September 2004. The authority was granted after RFS officers determined that the proposed development complied with the provisions of *Planning for Bushfire Protection 2001* and RFS development control policies. An inspection of the area by RFS officers on 16 June and 21 July 2004 confirmed this.

I am also informed that the setback distances provided are suitable for the woodland fuels and the gentle slope of the ADI site. The site comprises isolated, remnant woodland stands surrounded by significant clearing and development on gently undulating terrain. This means the surrounding topography is conducive to manageable wildfire, which its fire history confirms.

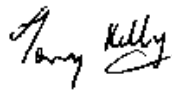
Nevertheless, the area is bushfire prone, and the safety of those who will live, work and play in the new development is paramount. The bush fire safety authority issued requires setbacks from bushfire hazards as well as Australian Standard 3959 Level 3 construction standards such as using toughened glass, ember-resistant designs and low flammability index materials.

In response to your concerns, the RFS has reviewed the site assessment. This review confirmed compliance with current legislative provisions in respect of building in bushfire prone areas. The proposed development also meets the requirements of the revised draft *Planning for Bushfire Protection 2001* and AS 3959 documents which are likely to be adopted later this year.

The research findings of Keping Chen and John McAneney from Macquarie University provide information on just one aspect of bushfire risk identification – geospatial analysis. Their research provided good data on the relationship between the location of a house, its distance from bushfire hazards and the likelihood of it being affected by bushfire. The main finding was that the closer the structure is to bushfire hazards the higher the risk. This is just one aspect of bushfire risk and doesn't take into account a range of other issues and variables that must be considered. These include fire intensity, bushfire behaviour, risk analysis, building construction and site specific details. For example, a home built to bushfire protection construction requirements is at less risk than a home built outside these requirements.

I trust this information will assist with your concerns.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tony Kelly
Minister for Emergency Services