

## GLOSSARY

Land use definitions can be found at Clause 74 of the planning scheme.

### **Alternative method**

The Appendix B process from AS 3959-2009 *Construction of buildings in bushfire prone areas* for demonstrating how the standards for defendable space and construction requirements have been met.

### **Alternative solution**

An alternative solution applies in particular circumstances as set out in Mandatory Standard BF6.3 of Clause 52.47-6 of planning schemes. An alternative solution is a proposal by the applicant that demonstrates how additional bushfire protection measures have been used to mitigate the bushfire risk of a particular site. An alternative method may form part of an alternative solution.

### **BMO**

Clause 44.06 *Bushfire Management Overlay*.

### **BAL (Bushfire Attack Level)**

A means of measuring the severity of a building's potential exposure to ember attack, radiant heat and direct flame contact, using increments of radiant heat expressed in kilowatts per square metre, which is the basis for establishing the requirements for construction to improve protection of building elements from attack by a bushfire (AS 3959-2009).

### **BAL ratings**

Used as the basis for establishing the requirements for construction to improve protection of a (proposed) building from bushfire attack. There are 6 BAL ratings; low, 12.5, 19, 29, 40 and FZ.

### **Bushfire Management Statement**

A document prepared by or on behalf of the permit applicant and used to determine if the requirements of the Bushfire Management Overlay have been met and whether a planning permit should be granted.

### **Bushfire Site Assessment**

An assessment of the bushfire exposure to a site based on slope, vegetation and the type of development proposed. A Bushfire Site Assessment is required by Clause 52.47-6 of planning schemes and used to determine the requirements for defendable space and building construction for development in the BMO.

### **Defendable space**

An area of land around a building where vegetation is modified and managed to reduce the effects of flame contact and radiant heat associated with a bushfire. Defendable space generally comprises an inner and outer zone.

### **Fire Resistance Level (FRL)**

Has the same meaning as the National Construction Code Australia.

### **Inner zone**

An area immediately surrounding a (proposed) building where fuel is managed to a minimum condition. The inner protection zone aims to:

- reduce radiant heat on a building through the reduction of fire intensity to a level where the building is unlikely to be ignited during the passage of a fire
- eliminate direct flame contact of the building from the outer protection zone or the unmodified vegetation
- reduce ember attack on the building by reducing the amount of potential fire brands (embers).

### **Outer zone**

An area around the building between the inner zone and the unmodified vegetation that substantially decreases the intensity of an approaching fire and restricts the pathway to crown fuels. Fuel is managed to:

- moderate fire behaviour coming from the unmodified fuel
- reduce radiant heat on the (proposed) building and to draw fire out of the canopy to a level where the building is unlikely to be subject to flame contact, excessive radiant heat and ember attack arising from fire brands.

### **Classified vegetation**

The vegetation that presents a bushfire hazard within 150 metres of the development and is classified in accordance with Clause 2.2.3 of AS 3959-2009.

### **Effective slope**

The slope under the classified vegetation in relation to the (proposed) building.

### **Excludable vegetation**

Vegetation that does not need to be classified as part of the Bushfire Site Assessment. It may include 'low threat' and 'non-vegetated' areas as defined by Section 2 of AS 3959-2009.

### **Relevant fire authority**

The relevant fire authority within the Bushfire Management Overlay will generally be the CFA. However, there are small areas where the MFB or DSE will be the relevant fire authority. DSE are responsible for fire management on public land including National and State parks and forests. MFB cover the metropolitan area of Melbourne. A map of the CFA/MFB border is available on the CFA website.

### **Steady State Fuel Load**

The amount of available fire fuel when the fuel bed is in equilibrium and the rate of accumulation is equal to the rate of decomposition.

*NB: Terms that are defined in AS 3959-2009 or the planning scheme have the same definition in this document.*