

Appendix 2

Griffith

Relevant Condition of Approval

Operating Conditions

28. The Applicant shall:

(a) ensure that the development:

- complies with the relevant asset protection requirements in the RFS's *Planning for Bushfire Protection 2006* (or equivalent);
- minimises the fire risks of the development;
- is suitably equipped to respond to any fires on site; and

(b) assist the RFS and emergency services as much as practicable if there is a fire in the vicinity of the site.

Existing Environment

The proposal site is flat and largely cleared of overstorey and midstorey vegetation. The proposal site is mostly surrounded by other cropping paddocks. Tree plantings are present along the Hamilton Road boundary, to the north of the site. The southern boundary includes an irrigation channel heavily dominated by weeds with no shrub or over storey present.

The proposed transmission line route runs approximately 300 m north west traversing Ross Road, a paddock and Hamilton Road to meet the existing Griffith/Yoogali Transgrid substation. Adjacent to Ross Road and within the paddock is no to little shrub or over storey. Along Hamilton Road, trees line the roadside and fence. A dwelling is approximately 100m from the proposed transmission line route. The dwelling is screened and includes plantings of shrubs and trees.

The local bush fire season generally occurs between November and March. The local area experiences hot dry summers, with low rainfall levels. Hot dry north-westerly winds are common with high daytime temperatures, which increases bush fire risk. Fire danger is highest during December after high rainfall in spring increasing the quantity of grass fire fuel available (MIA BFRMP, 2008). Historically, the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area Bush Fire Management Committee area has experienced 495 bush fires on average per year, including approximately 10 major fires per year. For Griffith, the area has an average of 250 fires per year. The MIA Bush Fire Risk Management Plan (MIA BFRMP, 2008) identifies the main ignition sources as natural causes such as lightning and escapes from agricultural burns.

The MIA BFRMP, prepared in accordance with the Rural Fires Act 1997, sets out a five year strategic management plan to reduce bush fire risk on private and public land within the MIA. The proposal area does not lie within any of the bush fire management zones identified in this plan.

The proposal includes two infrastructure components, inverters and transmission lines, with a risk of exacerbating or causing fire.

The site is located within the Bilbul Brigade area, but the primary brigade that would respond will be the Hanwood Brigade due to their proximity across Irrigation way. The next responding brigade will then be Widgelli Brigade if they are required. The Captains contact details below;

Bilbul (The site Brigade area)

Captain – Jonathon Condon

Mobile – 0429 907 203

Hanwood (Primary response Brigade) Acting

Captain – Darrell Wallace

Mobile – 0430 144 911

Widgelli

Captain – John Payne

Mobile – 0428 764 720

Rural Fire Service

RFS advised the following by email (dated 18 February 2016):

- The site does not appear to be mapped as bush fire prone land

****Reference GR-1000-B PV-General Layout drawing for detail regarding APZ and fire protection water tank locations***