

# Asset Protection Zone Policy



## 1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to describe the City of Coffs Harbour (City) approach to assessing and managing requests to create Asset Protection Zones (APZs) on City managed land.

All developments on land that are designated as bush fire prone have a legal obligation to consider bush fire, and to meet the requirements of the Rural Fire Service (RFS) Planning for Bush Fire Protection (PBP) guidelines (2019). There are no requirements for owners of neighbouring land (public or private) to clear land or undertake vegetation removal.

This policy seeks to detail the City's position as a neighbouring land manager.

## 2 Policy

For new development the City will not create asset protection zones (APZs) on City owned or managed land. The City will only create APZs if directed by the Rural Fire Service (RFS).

For existing development the City will not create APZs on City owned or managed land but may undertake minor vegetation removal. In these instances, the property owner will be also be advised to undertake works to reduce the fire threat on their own property and be directed to advice on the RFS website.

## 3 Definitions

**APZ:** Asset Protection Zone

**Minor Works:** Routine maintenance works such as mowing, weed spraying, removal of trees with trunk less than 300mm circumference.

**PBP:** Planning for Bush Fire Protection

**RFS:** Rural Fire Service

## 4 Key Responsibilities

Position	Directorate	Responsibility
Mayor	Council	To lead councillors in their understanding of, and compliance with this policy.
General Manager	Executive	To lead staff (either directly or through delegated authority) in their understanding of, and compliance with this policy.
Directors	All Directorates	To communicate, implement and comply with this policy.
City Leaders	All Directorates	To implement this policy and any related procedures.
All staff	The City	To comply with this policy and any related procedures.

## 5 References (laws, standards and other Council documents)

- 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Entitlement Code of Practice
- Bush Fire Environmental Assessment Code
- Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019
- *Rural Fires Act 1997*

## 6 Details of Approval and revision

- **Approval date:** 23/11/2023
- **Responsible Group:** Transport and Open Space Services
- **Responsible Section:** Open Space Services
- **Superseded policies/procedures:**
- **Next review date:** 28/08/2025

### Table of amendments

Amendment	Authoriser	Approval ref	Date
New Policy	Council	2023/236	23/11/23