



Minister for Planning; Disability Services

Our Ref: 40-14721
Your Ref: 2739048

Mayor Grant Henley
City of Busselton
c/o The Chief Executive Officer
Locked Bag 1
BUSSELTON WA 6280

City of Busselton	Application No	Receipt No	City of Busselton
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Dear Mayor Henley

COMPULSORY ACCREDITATION FOR BUSHFIRE CONSULTANTS

Thank you for your letter of 4 August 2016 regarding the above matter.

I congratulate the City on its work to protect the City's residents from the impact of bushfire.

As part of the Government's significant reforms to improve bushfire safety, a formal accreditation scheme for bushfire planning and design practitioners has been established to ensure a level of oversight of the industry and to address the issues you raise in relation to consistency, experience and capability. The scheme ensures that an accredited assessor has minimum training requirements, has ongoing professional development requirements, adheres to a Code of Practice and is covered by liability insurance. These minimum requirements provide assurances that accredited bushfire practitioners have an operational understanding of both bushfire behaviour and the planning system.

The scheme is currently self-regulated. However, *State Planning Policy 3.7: Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas* states that accredited Bushfire Planning Practitioners should be used in providing bushfire assessments. Local governments may request a new assessment if there are doubts about the accuracy of an assessment or it does not address the policy's requirements.

The accreditation framework requires continuous professional development to ensure that industry standards continue to improve over time. If you have concerns regarding the standard of assessments, including in relation to specific individuals, I encourage you to contact the government-approved accrediting body, the Fire Protection Association of Australia.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Hon Donna Faragher JP MLC
MINISTER FOR PLANNING; DISABILITY SERVICES

22 SEP 2016