

Explanatory note

Requirements for Bushfire Planning and Building Industry Accreditation Bodies

Updates to the Western Australian Bushfire Accreditation Framework

The following key changes to the WA Bushfire Accreditation Framework came into effect on 18 November 2024:

- Level 2 and 3 practitioners are accredited to undertake the new Broader Landscape Assessment introduced by new SPP 3.7 Bushfire
- Single pathway for Level 1 BAL assessor accreditation
- An additional pathway for Level 3 practitioners to allow for assessment of alternative qualifications
- Interviews to replace workshops as part of the Level 2 and Level 3 accreditation application

See [Requirements for Bushfire Planning and Building Industry Accreditation Bodies](#) for details.

Single Pathway for Level 1 BAL assessors

There is now a single pathway for people to become an accredited Level 1 BAL assessor. The previous two pathways have been combined into a single, simplified pathway. This continues to provide for practitioners

to be provisionally accredited, at which time they may undertake all services applicable to a Level 1 BAL assessor. This recognises that some practitioners may have completed the required training but need time to gain practical experience before being fully accredited.

A successful applicant will be granted provisional accreditation until their first five BAL assessment reports have been reviewed and approved by Fire Protection Association Australia (FPAA); and two referees in relation to the BAL assessments reports have been provided.

Additional pathway for Level 3 practitioners

An additional pathway allows for a person to seek approval as an accredited Level 3 if they don't have the recognised qualification as per the BPAD Handbook (fpaa.com.au). The person must meet the competencies and knowledge requirements for a qualified Level 2 Bushfire Planning Practitioner – Prescriptive (not provisional) with at least five years experience, and meet the competency requirements of a Level 3 through alternative pathways including:

- a tertiary qualification with learning outcomes comparable to those achieved by courses of study detailed in the FPAA Handbook (through the Universities of Western Sydney or Melbourne);
- the recognition of prior learning (RPL) including the demonstration of existing skills, knowledge and experience. RPL is an assessment process that assesses the competencies/s of an individual acquired through a structured program of learning to determine the extent to which that individual meets the required competencies.

Interviews, assessing alternative qualifications and experience of Level 3 applicants will assist in determining that all relevant competencies are met.

If the application conditions are met, the applicant will sit an interview to assess their skills and knowledge as part of a robust assessment process which will recognise practitioners who are experienced to a high standard, are suitably qualified, and are good advocates for the industry. To further ensure the practitioner can

meet the performance elements of a Level 3, they will be granted provisional accreditation until their first five Level 3 reports have been reviewed and approved by FPAA and the practitioner has a successful audit undertaken by FPAA.

Interviews replace workshops for Level 2 and Level 3 applications

Interviews examining the capability of practitioners replace the requirement for Level 2 and Level 3 practitioners to attend a workshop as part of the application.

Interviews:

- better examine the capability and experience of practitioners and will identify any need for further guidance materials or training
- provide a more thorough assessment of an individual applicants skills and experience, increasing the reputation of practitioners
- are consistent with the application process in other Australian jurisdictions.

Approved Bushfire Courses

The approved courses of study for assessors and practitioners can be found at Appendix B of the FPAA [Handbook](#)

In 2025, the University of Western Sydney is offering the Graduate Certificate in Bushfire Protection course in online study mode. This and discounted student fees through the Commonwealth Supported Places program for 2025, may assist Provisional Level 2 Practitioners in WA to become fully accredited. See [WSU bushfire programs](#) for further information.

Changes to align with the new SPP 3.7 Bushfire and the Planning for Bushfire Guidelines

2015 Accreditation versus 2024 Accreditation requirements

LEVEL 1	NO CHANGE	
LEVEL 2	NEW	Now includes some ability to undertake Broader Landscape Assessment that doesn't involve an outcomes-based approach for Element 1.
LEVEL 3	NEW	Now includes the ability to undertake Broader Landscape Assessment including an outcomes-based approach for Element 1.

The updated [Requirements for Bushfire Planning and Building Industry Accreditation Bodies](#) also strengthen and clarify the accrediting bodies auditing and complaints management procedures – with a focus on observed issues to assist in the development of training opportunities and to support practitioners to improve their processes and technical capabilities.

The Bushfire Accreditation Steering Committee continually works with the FPAA to improve the accreditation framework, and the industries professionalism, integrity and training opportunities.

The FPAA Handbook has also been updated. The [Requirements for Bushfire Planning and Building Industry Accreditation Bodies document](#) can be found (under the heading 'Accreditation') at www.WA.gov.au/bushfire and the FPAA Handbook at fpaa.com.au