

# CFS FACT SHEET - BUNKERS



## **South Australia has adopted the National Standard for private bushfire shelters.**

The Minister for Urban Development and Planning has announced the introduction of a process in South Australia for the processing of building applications for private bushfire shelters from 26<sup>th</sup> August 2010.

The changes to development regulations now in force in South Australia require any application for a private bushfire shelter to be referred to the Building Rules Assessment Commission to ensure that the proposed design complies with the new national standard.

The State Government's decision to refer all applications to the Building Rules Assessment Commission (a subcommittee of the Development Assessment Commission) follows the Australian Building Codes Board's publication in April 2010 of a performance standard for private bushfire shelters. The Building Rules Assessment Commission comprises technical experts appointed for ensuring national consistency and timely decision-making on technical matters relating to compliance with the Building Code of Australia.

Interstate accreditation of a manufactured bushfire shelter does not mean automatic approval in South Australia.

## **The process in a nutshell**

- You can now seek a development approval from your local council to build a private bushfire shelter.
- In most instances it will not require a planning approval but will require a building consent.
- Whoever does the building assessment (either the council or private certifier) must refer the application to the Building Rules Assessment Commission for their concurrence before the consent can be granted.

**If you are intending to buy or build a bunker, please consider the following information.**

## **A bunker is not a substitute for other bushfire measures such as:**

- vegetation management
- protecting the house (ensuring the building meets current fire protection standards)
- water storage and
- regular maintenance of the house (i.e. cleaning out gutters).

## **You should only install a bunker if:**

- you are confident that the level of fire protection exceeds that of your house
- you can afford to build a good quality, appropriately positioned bunker
- you are committed to maintaining it in good order
- you have considered the proximity of nearby buildings which could threaten your safety if they catch fire, and
- you have considered how the bunker will fit into your family's Bushfire Survival Plan.

## **Further Information**

Download a copy of the Private Bushfire Shelter Performance Standard from the Australian Building Codes Board: [www.abcb.gov.au](http://www.abcb.gov.au)