



BALTAS
BUSHFIRE PRACTITIONER

What your BAL rating means

A simple guide to Bushfire Attack Levels (BAL) for building in Tasmania

BAL	What it means	Radiant heat	AS 3959-2018	Typical construction examples
BAL-LOW	Very low risk. Little or no exposure to embers or heat is expected.	Not applicable	None	No bushfire construction requirements. A BAL-LOW site may be certified as exempt from needing a Bushfire Hazard Management Plan.
BAL-12.5	Ember attack and burning debris.	Up to 12.5 kW/m ²	Sections 3 & 5	Gaps around the roof, walls, vents and openings sealed or fitted with ember-proof mesh. Screens on openable windows. Minimum requirements for glazing, doors and subfloors.
BAL-19	Increasing ember attack and burning debris, with more radiant heat.	12.5 – 19 kW/m ²	Sections 3 & 6	As for BAL-12.5, plus tougher glazing close to the ground and decks, and more fire-resistant materials for walls, decks and subfloors near ground level.
BAL-29	Increasing ember attack and burning debris, with higher radiant heat.	19 – 29 kW/m ²	Sections 3 & 7	Toughened glass, non-combustible or bushfire-resisting materials for cladding, decking and frames, and metal-framed screens.
BAL-40	Heavy ember attack and high radiant heat. Flames from the fire front are likely to reach the building.	29 – 40 kW/m ²	Sections 3 & 8	Heavier glazing or bushfire shutters, non-combustible cladding and decking, and some parts of the building tested for bushfire resistance.
BAL-FZ	Flame Zone. Direct exposure to flames from the fire front.	More than 40 kW/m ²	Sections 3 & 9	Tested building systems or specialist design. Often best avoided by siting the building further from bushland where possible.

Please note: This guide is a simplified summary only and is not a design or construction guide. Building work must follow AS 3959-2018 *Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas* and the requirements in your Bushfire Hazard Report and Bushfire Hazard Management Plan. Your designer and building surveyor will confirm the exact requirements for your project.

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