



## POSITION STATEMENT SUMMARY

# Accessibility of fire hydrants

### Position

Effective 29 April 2024, the following is a position of Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW):

FRNSW requires fire hydrants to be always accessible, and will comment on hydrant accessibility in reports issued under s28, s50 and s51 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021*.

Hydrant accessibility is determined by the applicable fire hydrant system Standard. However, FRNSW offers additional clarification on accessibility applying to any street fire hydrants or large-bore suction connections that are part of the fire hydrant system.

All proponents, including consent authorities (e.g. Council) determining the initial development application, are to consider the implications of fire hydrant accessibility and the potential loss of street parking and/or easement access necessary to required hardstands, especially for any large-bore suction connections that is required by the hydrant system.

Reference must be made to the FRNSW website to ensure this position is current at the time of use, and the position has not subsequently been superseded or revoked.

### Summary

This position statement emphasises fire hydrant systems must always be accessible for use by FRNSW. As a legislative requirement of an initial fire safety report (as defined in s25 (1)), a final fire safety report (as defined in s50 (8)) and a fire safety system report (as defined in s51 (7)) under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021*, FRNSW will comment on the accessibility of fire hydrant systems.

Informative commentary directs all building proponents to the applicable Standard for design principles relating to accessibility of the fire hydrant system. Additional clarification is provided in relation to street fire hydrants (both public and privately owned) and large-bore suction connections that may be part of any fire hydrant system.

Informative commentary also directs all building proponents to consider any consequences that may result from required fire hydrant accessibility, including loss of amenities or easement access post construction owing to any required hardstand, particularly for large-bore suction connections. Rectification works post construction may be costly.

This position statement has been authorised for release by Chief Superintendent Fire Safety, FRNSW.

### Contact us

For further information contact the Fire Safety Branch on (02) 9742 7434 or email [firesafety@fire.nsw.gov.au](mailto:firesafety@fire.nsw.gov.au).

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