MEDIA RELEASE

Six areas begin Bush Fire Danger Period early in NSW

27 July 2021

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) today announced six Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the New England and Northern Tablelands areas will commence the Bush Fire Danger Period (BFDP) early, due to prevailing local conditions.

NSW RFS Superintendent Chris Wallbridge said the six LGAs that will enter the BFDP on 1 August 2021 are Armidale Regional, Walcha, Uralla, Glen Innes Severn, Inverell and Tenterfield.

"During the Bush Fire Danger Period, landowners and managers are required to obtain a Fire Permit from their local Fire Control Centre before lighting any fires, including hazard reduction burns," Supt Wallbridge said.

"I strongly urge people to exercise extreme caution when carrying out these activities as we have all seen the devastation that bush fires can inflict on a community.

"Never leave a fire unattended and if a fire does escape, it is essential to call Triple Zero (000) immediately so that emergency services can respond and minimise the damage."

Fire Permit holders are required to let fire authorities and their neighbours know at least 24 hours before lighting up. You can notify your intention to burn by visiting www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/notify or for Northern Tablelands residents phoning 1300 141 119.

"Bush and grass fires can strike at any time and it is vitally important for residents and land managers to be prepared.

"This means doing simple things like cleaning your gutters, removing combustibles from your yard, ensuring hoses can reach all corners of your property and updating and discussing your bush fire survival plan, so you and your family know what you will do in the event of a bush fire.

"Helpful information about preparing and what to do in the event of a fire are contained in the Bush Fire Survival Plan and Farm Fire Plan guides available on the NSW RFS website.

Information about hazard reduction burning, required notifications and obtaining fire permits is available on the NSW RFS website at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/BFDP.

