



District Information Pack

Bland Temora

Bland Temora Zone is located in the Lower Central West of NSW approx. 450km WSW of Sydney (270km north west of Canberra, 130km north of Wagga Wagga and 120km east of Griffith). The Zone incorporates the two Local Government Areas of Bland and Temora, with a combined population of 12,105 and covering a total of 11,302sq km of land.

There are two major towns being Temora and West Wyalong with West Wyalong being the most geographically centre of the Zone. There are eight populated villages and numerous settlements scattered across the Zone.

Bland Temora Zone experiences approximately 150 bush and/or grass fires annually with two of these considered to be a major fire. There are three main sources of ignition across the area, and include:

- machinery operations during harvesting operations of winter crops (November – January)
- lightning strike
- escape permit burns

The typical Bushfire Danger Period (BFDP) commences from the 1st October to 31st March. This may be altered in consultation with Group Officer, Captains, Stakeholders and the Bush Fire Management Committee. Days of increased fire danger weather will generally occur during January and February.

The nominated Incident Management Facility is the Temora Fire Control Centre.

1.1. Contact Information

District Office Address:	108 Vesper Street Temora NSW 2666
District Office Phone:	02 6977 4737
After Hours Contact:	Via State Operations on 02 8741 5400
A PSN Radio Channel:	102 BLTEM A
B PSN Radio Channel:	202 BLTEM B
PMR Channel:	2202 BLTEM P– Primary Dispatch Channel
ESO Conversion Chart:	Please see file in folder for relevant conversion information
Fire Weather Forecast Area:	Lower Central West Plains
Local Government Area:	Bland, Temora

1.2. Topography

The Bland Temora Zone is undulating agricultural land (broad acre cropping and grazing) ranging between 260 – 370m ASL. There are scatterings of larger ranges, hills and mountains ranging from 206 – 447m ASL.

1.3. Vegetation

Bland Temora Zone is predominantly grasslands (broad acre winter cropping, improved pastures, native grasslands).

Typically fuel loads throughout the BFDP range 3-5t/ha. In higher than average rainfall years it is possible to see areas exceeding this in un-grazed areas. Curing rates will be of 70% or greater by late October in the western areas of the zone and 60% in the east around Temora. By December grassland curing is typically fully cured.

There are larger tenures of timbered National Parks and Nature Reserves (grassy woodlands to dry sclerophyll forests (200 – 4000ha).

To the west and south west of West Wyalong there are tracks of Mallee vegetation although they are mostly mosaic in fashion broken up by open cropping country and don't form a continuous fuel source.

1.4. Climate

The typical/average climate in the Bland Temora Zone experiences temperatures between 26 – 34 degrees Celsius with some periods exceeding 35 degrees, relative humidity of less than 15% and dry westerly winds. This will generally occur from October to March. Rainfall within the area is commonly recognised as being 584mm per year. Rainfall in the summer months is usually attached with storm events producing short heavy downpours, resulting in minor to local short term flooding.

1.5. Average Weather Data

Summary of major climate statistics recorded at West Wyalong Airport AWS recorded by the BoM (last updated 18 July 2024)

Element (Mean)	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Max Temp (°C)	24.6	28.4	31.3	34.1	32.4	29.1	24.1	19.0	15.0	14.5	16.1	20.6
Min Temp (°C)	9.0	13.0	15.4	18.4	17.5	14.5	9.7	5.7	3.9	3.0	3.4	5.6
Rainfall (mm)	46.7	52.8	47.1	38.4	44.5	41.0	27.2	33.6	44.9	41.2	38.5	37.1
3pm Temp (°C)	22.7	26.8	29.0	32.2	30.5	27.7	23.1	18.4	14.3	13.4	15.0	19.3
3pm wind (km/h)	20.4	19.6	20.4	19.0	18.2	16.9	16.4	15.6	16.3	15.9	18.2	19.4
3pm RH (%)	36	31	28	25	33	33	38	47	62	62	53	44

Summary of major climate statistics recorded at Temora Airport recorded by the BoM (last updated 18 July 2024)

Element (Mean)	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Max Temp (°C)	24.3	28.0	30.9	33.7	31.6	28.7	23.6	18.6	14.6	13.8	15.4	19.5
Min Temp (°C)	7.2	11.7	14.0	17.3	16.2	13.8	8.6	4.5	3.0	2.2	2.0	3.5
Rainfall (mm)	39.1	61.5	41.3	54.1	44.7	47.3	34.9	32.6	51.6	39.2	38.1	42.6
3pm Temp (°C)	No data available											
3pm wind (km/h)												
3pm RH (%)												

1.6. Known Radio Comms Blackspots

- GRN and PMR is patchy to the west near Naradhan close to Naradhan State Forest and also on South Western border around Sandy Creek.
- There is no GRN in Temora LGA and PMR has some concerns around Sebastopol.
- GRN (PSN) coverage is **NOT** reliable east of the Newell Hwy

1.7. Hazards

1.7.1. Transportation

There are five major road transport routes networks that transect the Bland Temora Zone:

- Newell Hwy (interconnecting Brisbane to Melbourne)
- Mid-Western Hwy B64 (interconnecting Sydney to Adelaide)
- Burley Griffin Way B94 (Hume Hwy to Griffith)
- Mary Gilmore Way (link Mid-Western Hwy, Grenfell to Burley Griffin Way, Ardlethan)
- Goldfields Way B85 (link Olympic Way, Junee – Newell Hwy, Wyalong)

Operational railway lines are scattered across the Zone. There are no passenger services with the majority of freight being grain transported from silo terminals in the two major centres of Temora and West Wyalong along with various villages and remote grain receival sites adjacent to rail corridors.

Temora and West Wyalong both have airports. No regular passenger flights into or out of either centre. Temora is used quite frequently by recreational aircraft and houses the Temora aviation museum which conducts regular fly in weekends. Both airports support agricultural aviation aircraft on a seasonal basis with most movements between July and October.

1.7.2. Mining

There is only one operational mining operation located at Evolution Mining, Lake Cowal Rd, Lake Cowal (25km north east of West Wyalong). Whilst there are scattered mine sites from early settlement the only disused mine site of significance is Barrick Gold, Schmidts Rd, Giddginbung (20km north west of Temora).

1.7.3. Renewable Energy

There is currently one operational solar farm (70MW) situated on Eurolee Road, Sebastapol, south of Temora on the LGA boundary with Junee Shire Council adjacent to the Goldfields Way.

A second (75MW) solar farm is set to commence construction in February 2022. This is located at the intersection of Newell Hwy x Spauls Ln 10km north east of West Wyalong.

1.8. Land Management Authorities

Land Manager	% of Area
National Parks & Wildlife Service	1.96
Forestry Corporation of NSW	0.53
Department of Industry – Lands	1.10
Private	96.41

For more specific data on the Bland Temora Zone, please follow the link to the Bland Temora Bush Fire Risk Management Plan [here](#).

Note: This link will only work with internet coverage.

For further information regarding the Bland Temora District Information pack, please contact the Operational Improvement team via **email at** operational.improvement@rfs.nsw.gov.au

