



District Information Pack

Shoalhaven

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The Shoalhaven District is located on the New South Wales South Coast. The area covered is 4,531 km², spanning 160 kilometres of coast between Berry to Durras Lake. The population of the Shoalhaven area is approximately 100,000. The major population centres are Nowra/Bomaderry, Jervis Bay/St Georges Basin villages and Ulladulla/Milton.

The area has high levels of tourism during the warmer months of the year, which can see the population increase to 320,000. There are also over 12,000 out of area owners of residential properties in Shoalhaven. These have been identified as potentially impacting on the ability of certain sections of the community to prepare for bush fire.

The Shoalhaven area has on average 600 bush fire per year, of which an average of twenty fires can be considered to be major fires. The main sources of ignition are:

- arson
- lightning
- accidental ignitions

Jervis Bay

The Jervis Bay fire management area is a Commonwealth Territory on the NSW South Coast. The area is 7530ha and includes Booderee National Park, Wreck Bay Aboriginal Land, Department of Defence Land and Commonwealth leases.

The population of the fire management area fluctuates significantly through the seasons. The main residential areas are the villages of Jervis Bay, including HMAS Creswell and Wreck Bay. Small isolated residential areas are located in the Christians Minde and Lumeah localities (The Cove and RTBU). At maximum, when HMAS Creswell is at capacity, the residential population of the Territory is approximately 1,000. Up to another 1,000 campers can be located in Booderee National Park during peak visitation in summer and a further 600 accommodated in the Christian Minde and Lumeah localities.

High levels of tourism during December and January can see the population increase to near 3,000, with up to 1,500 additional visitors per day during the summer months. This has been identified as potentially impacting on the ability of certain sections for the community to prepare for bush fire.

The Jervis Bay Bush Fire Management Area has on average 3 bushfires per year of which an average of 20% over time have been major fires. The main sources of ignition are:

- arson
- accidental ignitions
- camp fires

- residential fires and tip fires
- prescribed burns
- lightning

The nominated Incident Management Facility for Shoalhaven and Jervis Bay fire management areas is the Shoalhaven District Fire Control Centre.

1.1. Contact Information

District Office Address:	92 Albatross Road Nowra NSW 2541
District Office Phone:	02 4424 4424
After Hours Contact:	District Duty Officer - 9123 7837
A PSN Radio Channel:	139 SHOAL A – Primary Dispatch Channel
B PSN Radio Channel:	239 SHOAL B
PMR Channel:	NA
ESO Conversion Chart:	Please see file in folder for relevant conversion information
Fire Weather Forecast Area:	Illawarra/Shoalhaven
Local Government Area:	Shoalhaven

1.2. Topography

Terrain varies from coastal plains to mountain ranges and river gorges. Within the Shoalhaven boundaries are large areas of State Forest, National Parks and vacant Crown Land making up approximately 73 percent of the total area.

A number of waterways and lakes throughout the Shoalhaven with marine capability providing best access to isolated beaches, coves and points.

1.3. Vegetation

Vegetation varies from improved pasture in the farming areas, wet and dry swamps, wet and Dry Sclerophyll forests and rainforests, large areas of heath, State Forest plantations

1.4. Climate

The typical / average climate in the area is generally mild. Rainfall is more pronounced in Summer/Autumn. The bush fire season generally runs between September and March each year.

Weather conditions that bring fire weather to the area are north-westerly, westerly and south-westerly winds, accompanied by high daytime temperatures and low relative humidity. There are often lightning storms, occasionally dry, during the bushfire season.

Prevailing sea-breezes generally mitigate the effect of inland fire weather. However, the transition to fire weather on the coast can be extremely rapid.

Prevailing weather conditions during bush fire season (September to March) are north westerly winds accompanied by high day time temperatures and low relative humidity. There are often lightning storms, occasionally dry during the bushfire season.

1.5. Average Weather Data

Summary of major climate statistics recorded at Nowra RAN Air Station AWS recorded by the BoM (last updated 11 July 2024)

Element (Mean)	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Max Temp (°C)	23.2	24.7	26.1	27.6	26.4	25.2	22.9	19.7	17.0	16.8	18.3	21.1
Min Temp (°C)	10.9	13.5	14.9	16.8	16.7	15.3	12.5	9.4	7.7	6.7	6.9	8.8
Rainfall (mm)	75.9	87.7	72.2	76.5	138.7	138.2	75.4	58.5	106.3	78.8	6.9	8.8
3pm Temp (°C)	20.4	22.7	23.8	25.4	24.3	23.4	21.0	18.1	15.9	15.2	16.7	19.1
3pm wind (km/h)	21.7	21.3	22.0	21.4	19.5	19.2	18.1	16.7	16.7	18.2	21.8	22.9
3pm RH (%)	52	56	55	57	63	59	57	55	56	53	46	47

Summary of major climate statistics recorded at Jervis Bay Point Perpendicular AWS recorded by the BoM (last updated 11 July 2024)

Element (Mean)	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Max Temp (°C)	20.9	22.2	23.5	25.0	24.4	23.5	21.4	18.7	16.6	16.1	17.0	19.2
Min Temp (°C)	13.4	15.4	16.9	18.6	18.6	17.7	15.4	12.8	16.6	16.1	17.0	19.2
Rainfall (mm)	84.3	95.2	81.7	92.8	144.0	139.5	141.7	124.3	145.2	111.6	77.5	63.3
3pm Temp (°C)	No data available											
3pm wind (km/h)												
3pm RH (%)												

Summary of major climate statistics recorded at Ulladulla AWS recorded by the BoM (last updated 11 July 2024)

Element (Mean)	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Max Temp (°C)	20.8	21.6	23.1	24.4	24.3	23.4	21.5	19.1	16.9	16.5	17.4	19.3
Min Temp (°C)	12.5	14.2	16.0	17.7	17.7	16.6	14.1	11.8	10.0	9.0	9.3	10.9
Rainfall (mm)	90.9	101.9	78.7	91.9	125.6	140.2	105.9	104.9	116.8	83.3	72.5	73.4
3pm Temp (°C)	18.5	19.5	21.2	22.5	23.9	22.1	19.9	17.7	15.6	15.0	15.9	17.2
3pm wind (km/h)	20.1	21.2	20.1	19.8	19.3	18.4	17.8	16.4	16.3	16.3	18.1	19.2
3pm RH (%)	63	67	61	71	73	70	67	64	62	59	56	60

1.6. Known Radio Comms Blackspots

- Areas West of Nowra around Burrier, Tallowal, Bulee, Sassafras, St George, Tolwong and Touga
- In and around Kangaroo Valley, Bendella, Budgong, Beaumont, Tallowa Dam
- Also areas of Tianjara, Jerrawangala, Endrick and Pointer Mountain
- Areas Between Tabourie and Batemans Bay, especially West of the Princes Highway – Brooman, Mogood and Currowan

1.7. Hazards

1.7.1. Transportation

The Princes Highway is the main transportation route running in North South direction through Nowra, Ulladulla and Batemans Bay. Most responses by the Districts busiest village brigades are to motor vehicle accidents (MVA). The Princes highway and surrounding areas have a significant number of accidents. The risk of MVAs are heightened during school holiday and seasonal periods due to the large influx of tourists to these areas.

There is also a Rail network terminating Bomaderry for passengers and commercial ending at Manildra Mill.

A small aerodrome to the North in Jaspers Brush.

Heightened aviation traffic with HMAS Creswell and HMAS Albatross aviation sections.

1.7.2. Infrastructure

A 132Kv South coast overhead feeder network from Wollongong through to Batemans Bay, predominately runs parallel with the Princes Highway

1.7.3. Tourism

The population of Shoalhaven District is approximately 110,000. The high levels of tourism during warmer months of the year can see the population increase to 330,000.

Snowy 2.0 construction site in the Lobs Hole area of Kosciuszko National Park.

1.7.4. Defence Land

Tumut has one major highway passing through It (Snowy Mountains Highway). This corridor connects HMAS Creswell - is the naval academy of the Royal Australian Navy.

HMAS Albatross - HMAS Albatross is the largest operational Naval establishment and the Navy's only Air Station.

Tianjara unexploded ordnates (UXO) Area: 25,000 hectares of Defence land used for live ordinance training. Unexploded ordinance litters the area and impairs firefighting efforts. Located in the Moreton National Park. Tianjara Operational Procedures and Map [here](#).

Beecroft UXO Peninsula: 4,200 hectares of Defence land used for live ordinance training. Unexploded ordinance also litters the area and impairs firefighting efforts. Located south of Currarong on the coastline and used by the Navy.

1.8. Land Management Authorities

Land Manager	% of Area
National Parks & Wildlife Service	49.00
Forests NSW	11.40
Department of Lands	6.40
Local Government	1.00
Defence	0.09
Private	27.00
Commonwealth	0.19
All Other	4.92

For more specific data on the Shoalhaven District, please follow the link to the Shoalhaven Bush Fire Risk Management Plan [here](#), and the Jervis Bay Territory Fire Management Committee Bush Fire Risk Management Plan [here](#).

Note: These links will only work with internet coverage.

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

