



Fire Trail Reporting Responsibilities for Land Management Agencies

V1.0 2025



The following guidance has been provided in accordance with obligations under the *Rural Fires Act 1997*, NSW Fire Trail Standards Nov 2023, and draft BFCC FAFT Planning Policy (pending BFCC approval). This fact sheet provides guidance to NSW land management agencies responsible for the management and reporting of fire trails. These reporting obligations apply to: Forestry Corporation NSW, NSW Parks and Wildlife Services, Crown Lands, Local Councils, Water NSW.

Annual Condition Monitoring

Registered & Designated Fire Trails only

Land Management Agencies must:

- Assess the condition of all designated and registered fire trails on their land at least once per year.¹
- Submit an annual condition statement to the RFS Commissioner, confirming whether each trail meets the NSW Fire Trail Standards.²
- Use the reporting format specified by the Commissioner.³
- Land Management Agencies should use the latest RFS-provided schema or template when preparing their annual condition statements. This standardised format supports consistent reporting of fire trail compliance with the NSW Fire Trail Standards across NSW, including the condition of key elements such as signage, passing bays, and clearance. The data should also indicate whether each fire trail or segment is trafficable or non-trafficable at the time of inspection.

Post-Weather Event Inspections

Condition monitoring should also occur:

- Prior to each bush fire season.⁴
- Following extreme weather events,⁵ including:
 - Severe storms
 - Flooding or heavy rain
 - Declared natural disasters
 - Extreme winds (particularly for trails prone to impact)
- The format for reporting on the condition of designated and registered fire trails following weather events will be expected to be in the same format as per the annual condition statement requirements.
- Post-weather event reporting should occur proactively, however a prompt from the RFS may be provided following a significant weather event.

¹⁻⁵ NSW Fire Trail Standards V2 2023 Section 6, 6.2.

Other Identified Fire Trails

For non-registered, non-designated trails:

- An annual condition assessment should be completed by Land Management Agencies and a summary condition report provided to the relevant Bush Fire Management Committees (BFMC) for awareness.⁶
- This is limited to the operational condition of the fire trail, i.e. whether the trail is trafficable or non-trafficable at the time of inspection. The condition of attributes of the trail should be noted where available.

BFMC Progress Reporting

To support BFMCs, Land Management Agencies:

- Must regularly report on any completed or scheduled fire trail upgrade works in accordance with the approved FAFT Plan.⁷
- Reports should be submitted prior to each BFMC meeting and shared with all members.⁸

BFMCs rely on these updates to complete their Annual Reporting requirements⁹ to the Bush Fire Coordinating Committee (BFCC) prior to 31 August each year.¹⁰



Data Sharing and Integration

All Land Management Agencies are encouraged to share trail condition data through ongoing data exchange arrangements with the RFS.

Where agreements are in place, data must be:

- Submitted using an agreed schema (subject to updates).¹¹
- Aligned with the operational needs and structure of approved FAFT Plans.¹²

The Fire Trails Data Reference Group has been formed to explore the integration of multi-tenure condition monitoring data. Its purpose is to develop a single, shared operating picture of the current condition of the identified Fire Trail Network across NSW. The group will investigate how to align and consolidate existing datasets to provide a comprehensive, state-wide view across all tenures and land management agencies.

Note: Fire Trail Condition monitoring and reporting responsibilities ensure access and safety is maintained to protect life, property, and the environment. Compliance supports both operational readiness and legal obligations under the Rural Fires Act 1997.

⁶NSW Fire Trail Standards V2 2023 Section 6, 6.2.

⁷Bush Fire Management Committee Handbook 2024 Section 2.3

⁸Draft BFCC Policy Fire Access & Fire Trail Plans v0.7 (pending BFCC approval) clause 10.2

⁹As required by the Act (s51) and defined in the BFCC Policy for Bush Fire Management Committees,

¹⁰BFCC Policy 1/2017 Fire Trails (in force) Section 7.7

¹¹⁻¹²Draft BFCC Policy Fire Access & Fire Trail Plans v0.7 Annexure A Guidelines for Preparing Fire Access and Fire Trail (FAFT) Plans, clause 11.4 (pending BFCC approval)

For further information regarding this Fact Sheet, please email the RFS Fire Trails Team at fire.trails@rfs.nsw.gov.au or any RFS Area Command Office.