



RFS

District Information Pack

Coffs Coast

The Coffs Coast Team is centred on Coffs Harbour and Bellingen, on the NSW North Coast. The District extends along the coast and hinterland from its southern edge at Urunga and inland to the Dorrigo Plateau and north to the villages of Corindi & Red Rock.

The area covered by Coffs Coast is 2,774.17 km² and contains, among others, the population centres of Coffs Harbour, Sawtell, Toormina, Nana Glen, Coramba, Woolgoolga, Corindi, Bellingen, Urunga and Dorrigo.

The Coffs Coast area has on average 185 bush fires per year, of which two on average can be considered to be major fires.

High numbers of tourist in coastal areas over the summer season, and high use of itinerant labour on local farms have been identified within the Coffs Coast area as potentially impacting on the ability of certain sections of the community to prepare themselves for bush fire

The main sources of ignition in the Coffs Coast area are:

- Escaped private hazard reduction burns
- Lightning strikes
- Suspicious Fire

The nominated Incident Management Facility is the Coffs Coast Fire Control Centre located at 4 De Havilland Way, Coffs Harbour 2450.

1.1. Contact Information

District Office Address:	4 De Havilland Way Coffs Harbour NSW 2450
District Office Phone:	02 6659 7800
After Hours Contact:	Via State Operations on 02 8741 5400
A PSN Radio Channel:	109 COFFS A - Primary Dispatch Channel
B PSN Radio Channel:	209 COFFS B
PMR Channel:	Not Applicable
ESO Conversion Chart:	Please see file in folder for relevant conversion information
Fire Weather Forecast Area:	North Coast
Local Government Area:	Coffs Harbour, Bellingen

1.2. Topography

Areas of heavily timbered forests and World Heritage Listed National Parks abound as the land rises from the coastal strip, opening on to improved pasture land and grasslands further inland.

1.3. Vegetation

The Coffs Coast Team has a combination of coastal heaths and wetlands, rising to timbered areas, warm temperate rainforests, grasslands and pastures continuing to seafood and tourism industries along the Bellinger and Kalang Rivers towards the coast.

Variations in soils, landscapes and climate across the area have fostered a great diversity of flora and fauna. World Heritage Listed Wilderness areas provide safe haven for the many threatened species that reside within the deeply penetrating gorges and valleys of the outer reaches of the team area.

1.4. Climate

The typical / average climate in the Coffs Coast area is sub-tropical, characterised by warm, wet summers. The bushfire season generally runs from September to January, but has been known to start as early as July in the colder, drier parts of the team area.

Prevailing weather conditions associated with the bushfire season in the area are strong west to north westerly winds accompanied by high temperatures and lower relative humidity.

1.5. Average Weather Data

Summary of major climate statistics recorded at Lower Bucca recorded by the BoM (Last updated 31 March 2024)

Element (Mean)	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Max Temp (°C)	24.7	27.1	28.3	28.3	27.7	26.7	24.4	21.7	19.8	19.2	20.4	22.8
Min Temp (°C)	12.0	14.8	16.8	17.3	18.6	17.2	12.9	8.7	6.3	4.2	5.3	8.9
Rainfall (mm)	92.3	113.7	135.4	169.7	206.3	214.1	151.7	133.7	115.0	70.7	55.5	55.3
3pm Temp (°C)	No data available											
3pm wind (km/h)												
3pm RH (%)												

1.6. Known Radio Comms Blackspots

There are no known radio communications blackspots in the Coffs Coast District that affect operational capability.

1.7. Hazards

1.7.1. Transportation

The Pacific Highway (A1) is the main arterial highway dissecting the Coffs Coast Team, running north – south along the coastal strip.

Further inland the Orara Way links with the Clarence Valley to the west, the Waterfall Way with Armidale and the New England to the South West are critical passenger and freight transport routes throughout the Area.

The Sydney to Brisbane rail corridor also transverses the area, with several remote area level crossings along its path. The Coffs Coast Regional Airport also services as the Rural Fire Service's Airbase with its permanent Helicopter and domestic jet passenger movements through the area are increasing as services expand.

1.7.2. Agriculture

Whilst traditional agricultural industries abound throughout the area, the area boasts a timber industry scattered throughout the landscape, significant tourism assets along its coastal strip and agricultural pursuits all the way through the Coffs Coast.

1.7.3. Energy and Water

Essential Energy is the primary provider of electrical substations and high voltage infrastructure throughout the Coffs Coast Team.

The Shannon Creek Dam, situated in the Clarence Valley supplies drinking water to Coffs Harbour and Clarence Valley LGAs and water is piped throughout the Orara Valley to Karangi Dam, situated to the west of Coffs Harbour.

1.7.4. Other Identified hazards

- Karangi Dam – Karangi: Critical water supply
- Disused Mines – Various mine shafts throughout higher ground Isolated Communities

1.8. Land Management Authorities

Land Manager	% of Area
National Parks & Wildlife Service	23.2
Forestry Corporation NSW	28.7
Department of Lands	1.7
Local Government	1.4
Private	45.0

For more specific data on the Coffs Coast District, please follow the link to the Mid North Coast Bush Fire Risk Management Plan [here](#).

Note: This link will only work with internet coverage.

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

