# District Information Pack

**Hornsby Ku-ring-gai**  **2024/2025**

## 1. District Details

The Hornsby /Ku-ring-gai District is located in the north of Sydney, New South Wales and includes the Local Government Areas of Hornsby Shire Council and Ku-ring-gai council.

The population of the Hornsby / Ku-ring-gai BFMC is approximately 266,000 people.  The major population centre in Hornsby LGA is the suburb of Hornsby, with Epping and Pennant Hills as secondary centres.  There are also many other suburbs, villages, islands and river communities.  Ku-ring-gai LGA is made up of established suburbs including Gordon.  North Turramurra and Roseville with no defined population centre.

Bushfire frequency within the district is expected to experience major bushfire every 7-10 years, on average 40 bushfires occur annually.  The sources of ignition in the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai District areas are:

– deliberate

– camp fires

– debris burning

– machinery use

– electrical

– lightning

The nominated Incident Management facility is the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Fire Control Centre (1049 Pacific Hwy Cowan NSW 2081).  The local emergency Operations Centre is located within this facility.

## 1.1. Contact Information

| | |
|---|---|
| **District Office Address:** | 1049 Pacific Highway Cowan NSW 2077 |
| **District Office Phone:** | 02 9883 2000 |
| **After Hours Contact:** | Via State Operations on 02 8741 5400 |
| **A PSN Radio Channel:** | 115 HRNSBY A – **Primary Dispatch Channel** |
| **B PSN Radio Channel:** | 215 HRNSBY B |
| **PMR Channel:** | 2213 HRNSBY P |
| **ESO Conversion:** | Please see file in folder for relevant conversion information |
| **Fire Weather Forecast Area:** | Greater Sydney |
| **Local Government Area:** | Hornsby, Ku-Ring-Gai |

## 1.2. Topography

Berowra Creek dissects the district into East and West. To the West is mostly rural zoning with rural residential development, some vacant crown land, and national park. A number of village areas exist within this Western side of the district as well as some village areas to the North.

There is extensive residential development in the South-Eastern parts of the district extending North to Berowra along the Pacific Highway and also North to Somerville Road at Hornsby Heights.

The outer limits of residential zoning consist of ridge top development surrounded generally by open bushland valleys comprising Garigal National Park, Lane Cove River Park, Pennant Hills Park, Berowra Valley Bushland Park, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, recreation reserves and vacant crown land.

There are some pockets of residential development along the foreshores of Berowra Creek and the Hawkesbury River. These present fire protection challenges as access to most of this area is by water only. Increasingly this area is attracting larger commercial and pleasure craft together with a steady increase in residential development.

## 1.3. Vegetation

The dominant Vegetation formations within the District include:

– Rainforest.
– Wet Sclerophyll forest
– Grassy woodland
– Grassland
– Dry sclerophyll forest
– Heath lands
– Freshwater wetlands
– Forested wetlands
– Saline wetlands

## 1.4. Climate

The typical / average climate in the Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai BFMC area is for uniform rainfall throughout the year, although higher rainfall can be experienced in the months of February to March. The bush fire season generally runs from October to March, in which high daytime temperatures are expected.

Prevailing weather conditions associated with the bush fire season in the Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai area are strong northwest winds, low humidity and high temperatures. These conditions combined with dry vegetation dramatically influence the behaviour of bush fires in the area. Although bush fires may occur at any time of the year, the highest probability of bush fires occurs in December and January.

## 1.5. Average Weather Data

**Summary of major climate statistics recorded at Terrey Hills AWS recorded by the BoM (Last updated 4 July 2024)**

| Element (Mean) | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Max Temp (ºC) | 22.6 | 23.8 | 25.5 | 26.7 | 25.9 | 24.7 | 22.3 | 19.4 | 16.5 | 16.4 | 17.9 | 20.7 |
| Min Temp (ºC) | 13.2 | 15.2 | 16.6 | 18.5 | 18.1 | 16.9 | 14.0 | 10.7 | 8.7 | 7.8 | 8.4 | 11.1 |
| Rainfall (mm) | 85.6 | 98.2 | 87.6 | 105.1 | 144.5 | 177.5 | 120.5 | 59.5 | 126.0 | 74.1 | 58.5 | 62.0 |
| 3pm Temp (ºC) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3pm wind (km/h) | | | | | No Data Available | | | | | | | |
| 3pm RH (%) | | | | | | | | | | | | |

## 1.6. Known Radio Comms Blackspots

– **BROOKLYN:**, Between M1 Pacific Motorway, (south of Hawkesbury River Bridge in the rock cuttings), to Brooklyn RFS station.

– **CANOELANDS** – SPENCER (Water front): On the Hawkesbury River between the townships of Singletons Mill & Marlow.

– **BOBBIN HEAD** (Waterfront) – on Cowan Creek between Bobbin Head & Cottage Point

– Parts of Berowra and Cowan Creek (use PMR 009)

– Lower parts of Marramarra Creek, Marramarra National Park (use PMR 009)

– Portions of the Brooklyn Area

– Parts of Galstone Gorge Area

– Devlin's Creek Pennant Hills

– Portions of Garigal National Park along creek line

## 1.7. Hazards

### 1.7.1. Urban/Structural Hazards

The Hornsby Ku-ring-gai district has a high level of urban area adjoining bushland, there is approximately 310 kilometres of interface, this sees many communities, schools and retirement

villages in bush fire prone area. Whilst many areas may become threatened by fast moving bushfires, the main areas of concern, due to access restrictions to and from the area and the high level of impact the community would face, are listed below:

– Cowan township
– Along Somerville Rd, Hornsby Heights
– Mt Ku-ring-gai Business Park
– North Turramurra (includes many nursing home a hospital and a school)
– Along Old Northern Rd, north of Glenorie

### 1.7.2. Transport

Traffic hazards exist in the Hornsby area due to most of the district being divided into two areas, a west side and an east side, by the Galston Gorge (Berowra Valley Regional Park) Berowra Creek that runs to the Hawkesbury River. Movement between both sides are made by only 3 points, these are expected to be heavily congested with traffic in the event of major fires in the area. These points are Pennant hills Rd (heavy congestion), Galston Rd through Galston Gorge (3-ton limit) and the Berowra Waters ferry in Berowra (limited carrying capacity).

Ku-ring-gai district has many communities that only have one or two ways of egress.

Both these issues create delays in moving firefighting resources around the Districts, and pose a significant disruption to the normality of public travel.

The Hornsby District has the M1 Motorway, as well as the Northern Rail Line, travelling north to south through the district. Both are used as main travel routes in and out of Sydney and are often subject to closure due to bush fire impact, further limiting movement of resources.

Both Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai have the Pacific Hwy running thought them. The Hwy extends from the City in a north westerly direction to Hornsby where it then runs parallel to the M1 north to Gosford. The Hwy often becomes closed when the M1 is also closed. At times this has totally blocked egress in and out of Sydney from the north.

### 1.7.3. Special Hazards

There is a 330KV power line that runs from the north west to the south east of both districts. These lines also feed into the Sydney North Substation in Galston, then into the Sydney East Substation at Belrose (Warringah LGA). This grid powers most of the northern parts of Sydney and some parts of central Sydney. There are 132KV power lines that run from the substation in Galston to the west, north, south and east, snaking throughout the districts. This means many of the bush areas have high power electricity lines running through them.

## 1.8. Land Management Authorities

| Land Manager | % of BFMC Area |
|---|---|
| National Parks & Wildlife Service | 54 |
| Hornsby Local Government | 6 |
| Ku-Ring-Gai Local Government | 3 |
| Department of Lands | 9 |
| Private | 28 |

For more specific data on the Hornsby Ku-Ring-Gai District, please follow the link to the Hornsby Ku-Ring-Gai Bush Fire Risk Management Plan here.

*Note: This link will only work with internet coverage.*

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