



District Information Pack

Northern Beaches

1. District Details

The Northern Beaches rural fire district is located just north of Sydney's CBD and has a population of approx. 271,278 and incorporates the Northern Beaches Council area. The overall size of the district area is 254 km² is located on a peninsula bounded by the waters of Cowan Creek, Hawkesbury River, Broken Bay, Pacific Ocean, Narrabeen Lagoon, Burnt Bridge Creek, Manly Creek, North Harbour and Middle Harbour.

Bushfire Prone Land covers most of the 52 suburbs in the Northern Beaches council with an identified 10 areas of concern from North head in the South of the District to Cottage point in the north west area of the district.

The population of the Warringah Pittwater area is approximately 264,481. The major population centres are in the eastern and southern areas of the LGAs.

The Warringah Pittwater area has on average 48 bush fires per year, of which 7 to 5 years on average can be considered to be major fires. The main sources of ignition in the Warringah Pittwater area are of a suspicious nature.

The Nominated Incident Management facility is the Northern Beaches Fire Control Centre (Gate 4 Thompson Drive Terrey Hills 2084). The Primary Local Emergency Operations centre is also located at the Northern Beaches FCC.

1.1. Contact Information

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| District Office Address: | Thompson Drive off Kamber Road Terrey Hills |
| District Office Phone: | 02 9450 3000 |
| After Hours Contact: | Via State Operations on 02 8741 5400 |
| A PSN Radio Channel: | 131 NBCHS A – Primary Dispatch Channel |
| B PSN Radio Channel: | 231 NBCHS B |
| PMR Channel: | NA |
| ESO Conversion Chart: | Please see file in folder for relevant conversion information |
| Fire Weather Forecast Area: | Greater Sydney |
| Local Government Area: | Warringah, Pittwater |

1.2. Topography

The Northern Beaches terrain consists of ocean beaches, rugged headlands, sandstone sea cliffs, waterways, steep slopes and native bushland including two (2) National Parks containing pockets of rainforest.

The Landform ranges from sea level on the coast line to 216m above sea level at the Topham Walking track.

1.3. Vegetation

The prominent vegetation is made up of a combination of Dry Sclerophyll Forest and dense coastal heath areas.

The Northern Beaches supports a rich diversity of native vegetation communities, including some Threatened Ecological Communities. They control erosion through protecting soils and creek banks, reduce land degradation, improve water quality, produce oxygen, regulate micro-climates and provide habitat for a wide range of animals, including threatened species. They also provide important recreational values and landscapes of immeasurable beauty.

1.4. Climate

The typical / average climate in the Warringah Pittwater area is for uniform rainfall throughout the year, although higher rainfall can be experienced in the months of February to March and the bush fire season generally runs from October to March.

Winds in the District can vary from westerly winds off the plains to coastal easterly winds off the ocean.

Prevailing weather conditions associated with the bush fire season in the Warringah Pittwater area are North-westerly winds accompanied by high daytime temperatures and low relative humidity.

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 (°C) | 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 (°C) | 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 (°C) | No Data Available | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3pm wind (km/h) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3pm RH (%) | | | | | | | | | | | | |

1.6. Known Radio Comms Blackspots

No known blackspots reported

1.7. Hazards

There are numerous Special Fire Protection Purpose Developments (SFPP) within the Northern Beaches area. These include numerous:

- Schools,
- Child Care Centres;
- Hospitals; (Including residential group homes)
- Hotel / Motel accommodation style facilities
- Nursing Homes and Independent Living
- Retirement Villages

In addition, a number of critical infrastructure sites are located within the area such as:

- Satellite Stations –
 - Optus Ground to Earth (Challenger Drive, Belrose)
 - Optus Earth Station (Oxford Falls Road, Oxford Falls)
 - Telstra Satellite Earth Station (Oxford Falls Road, Oxford Falls)
- Major Substations
 - Sydney East Substation (Belrose) – Feeds into Sydney CBD and majority of Northern Beaches

1.8. Land Management Authorities

| Land Manager | % of Area |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| National Parks & Wildlife Service | 40 |
| Department of Lands | 5 |
| Local Government | 16 |
| Private | 35 |
| All Other | 4 |

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

Note: This link will only work with internet coverage.

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

