



District Information Pack

Northern Beaches

2025/2026

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

The Northern Beaches 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 Northern Beaches 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:	Gate 4 Thompson Drive 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:	Northern Beaches

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 coastline 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 Northern Beaches 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 Northern Beaches 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 13 May 2025)

Element (Mean)	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Max Temp (°C)	22.6	23.9	25.6	26.6	25.9	24.8	22.4	19.4	16.5	16.4	18.0	20.8
Min Temp (°C)	13.2	15.2	16.7	18.4	18.1	17.0	14.0	10.7	8.7	7.8	8.6	11.2
Rainfall (mm)	82.6	97.3	84.8	109.4	139.3	175.0	119.1	59.5	126.0	74.8	57.5	63.1
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**

