



District Information Pack

Cumberland

2024/2025

1. District Details

The Cumberland Zone area is located to the west of Sydney, between Parramatta and the Blue Mountains and includes the Local Government Areas of Penrith, Blacktown and Fairfield. Penrith is 54 kilometres from Sydney. Blacktown is approximately 35 kilometres from Sydney, and Fairfield is 32 kilometres from Sydney.

Penrith has an approximate population of 214,500.

Blacktown is the 3rd largest local government area with a population of approximately 270,500.

Fairfield has an approximate population of 218,500.

The land covered under the Cumberland Bush Fire Risk Management Plan is approximately 758,000ha (758 sq kms), containing (3) main population centres (Penrith, Blacktown and Fairfield) and a small number of smaller villages and rural residential estates.

Penrith is approximately 407 sq kms.

Blacktown is approximately 247 sq kms.

Fairfield is approximately 104 sq kms

The Cumberland Zone area has on average over 450 bush and grass fires per year, of which only a few are considered to be major fires. The main source of ignition in the Cumberland Zone area is illegal burning. Car dumping and setting them alight in bush land areas is a regular occurrence, mainly in the Castlereagh and Londonderry areas.

Lightning is generally associated with the summer thunderstorm activity and mainly affects the southern areas of the Zone, however is known to occur in the northern parts of the Penrith LGA.

Deliberately lit fires are a high occurrence within the Wilmot / Bidwill, Glenmore Park, Ropes Creek areas, where there are areas of bushland around and within built up areas.

The nominated Incident Management Facility and Emergency Operations Centre for Penrith is the Cumberland Zone Fire Control Centre (8-12 Jeanette Street, REGENTVILLE NSW 2745).

The nominated location for the Blacktown EOC is SES Seven Hills – 7 St James Place, SEVEN HILLS NSW 2147

The nominated location for the Fairfield EOC is SES Fairfield – Bareena Street, CANLEY VALE NSW 2166

1.1. Contact Information

District Office Address:	8 – 12 Jeanette Street REGENTVILLE NSW 2745
District Office Phone:	02 4734 7777
After Hours Contact:	Via State Operations on 02 8741 5400
A PSN Channel:	108 CMBLD A – Primary Dispatch Channel
B PSN Channel:	208 CMBLD B
PMR Channel:	NA
ESO Conversion:	Please see file in folder for relevant conversion information
Fire Weather Forecast Area:	Greater Sydney Area
Local Government Area:	Penrith, Blacktown & Fairfield

1.2. Topography

1.2.1. Penrith

Penrith City is around 30 metres above sea level and has a relatively flat landscape (flood prone land around Nepean River and areas in the north). Penrith lies in a low rainfall area and experiences frosts in Winter and severe heat in Summer.

The Great Western Highway and the M4 Motorway cross through the middle from east to west as does the main western railway corridor.

1.2.2. Blacktown

City of Blacktown is located approximately 35 kilometres by road west of Sydney. Blacktown is around 58 meters above sea level. The zone has an undulating landscape with large grassland areas with scattered bushland throughout the northern parts of the LGA, in particular Shanes Park, Marsden Park and Riverstone. Southern areas are dominated by urban development.

The M7 motorway transverses the area from north to south. The M4 Motorway traverse from east to west.

The constituted Rural Fire District comprises of hobby farming type development, consisting of two to fourteen hectare holdings with the inclusion of the Western Sydney Regional Park and the Air Services Australia holdings comprising several hundred hectares in size.

The remainder of the area comprises subdivision developments of mainly single story dwellings with a limited amount of medium size dwellings scattered throughout. Residential developments continue to increase in the Rural Fire District.

The area has several defined industrial estates in the Seven Hills, Blacktown, Vineyard, Arndell Park, Huntingwood, Minchinbury, Wonderland Business Park, Glendenning and Plumpton.

1.2.3. Fairfield

The western third of that LGA is the Rural Fire District. The Rural Fire District consists of a large expanse of rural areas around Horsley Park and Cecil Park.

Within the area is the Western Sydney Regional Park which covers an area of 1488.2 hectares.

The M7 Motorway passes through from north to south. The area is interspersed with market garden farming and poultry sheds.

1.3. Vegetation

1.3.1. Penrith

The Penrith area comprises undulating terrain in the east and southern areas and the vegetation is largely grassland with scattered bush land throughout. The northern area is generally flat with vast areas of Cumberland Plain Woodland with an area to the west abutting the escarpment of the Blue Mountains around Emu Heights.

1.3.2. Blacktown

City of Blacktown is located approximately 35 kilometres by road west of Sydney. Blacktown is The Blacktown area comprises undulating terrain and the vegetation is largely grassland with scattered bush land throughout its northern section of Shanes Park, Marsden Park and Riverstone. The scrubland consists of eucalypt trees as the upper dominant story while the under story consists of paper bark trees and blackthorn.

1.3.3. Fairfield

The Fairfield area comprises undulating terrain and the vegetation is largely grassland with scattered bush land throughout its southern section and surrounding the Prospect Reservoir in the north.

1.4. Climate

The typical climate in the Cumberland Zone area is warm temperate experiencing warm to hot summers and cool to mild winters with predominately summer/autumn rainfall and dry winter and spring. The bushfire season generally runs from October to March and may occasionally be brought forward due to dry winter conditions.

Prevailing weather conditions associated with the bush fire season in the Cumberland area are a dry winter with increased winds transitioning into spring, providing potential fire conditions for the grasslands. North-westerly winds accompanied by high temperatures and low relative humidity providing weather conditions conducive with large spreading bush fires during the bushfire danger period.

1.5. Average Weather Data

Summary of major climate statistics recorded at Penrith Lakes AWS (Penrith) 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)	25.9	27.5	29.7	30.8	29.6	27.6	24.7	21.2	18.2	18.1	20.0	23.4
Min Temp (°C)	12.3	15.0	17.0	18.6	18.5	16.8	13.2	9.2	6.8	5.4	6.2	9.3
Rainfall (mm)	54.9	83.5	65.0	95.1	118.8	104.7	57.6	36.1	46.0	37.2	30.4	30.8
3pm Temp (°C)	23.7	25.3	27.6	29.0	27.7	26.1	23.3	19.8	17.1	16.6	18.6	21.7
3pm wind (km/h)	18.0	17.4	16.4	15.7	14.3	13.7	13.2	12.2	12.7	13.5	16.5	18.4
3pm RH (%)	41	46	45	47	53	52	49	52	55	50	41	40

Summary of major climate statistics recorded at Prospect Reservoir (Blacktown) 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)	24.0	25.6	27.6	28.5	28.1	26.4	23.8	20.4	17.4	16.9	18.7	21.5
Min Temp (°C)	12.1	14.4	16.4	17.7	17.8	16.2	13.0	9.9	7.5	6.1	6.8	9.4
Rainfall (mm)	59.9	73.0	75.7	95.2	99.0	102.5	76.5	68.7	75.9	57.8	50.2	46.3
3pm Temp (°C)	22.1	23.4	25.9	26.8	26.3	24.8	22.4	19.2	16.5	15.9	17.4	19.6
3pm wind (km/h)	15.4	14.4	14.5	12.7	12.4	12.0	11.5	10.3	12.3	12.4	14.3	15.3
3pm RH (%)	46	50	49	52	54	55	52	57	55	50	45	45

Summary of major climate statistics recorded at Bankstown Airport AWS (Fairfield) 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)	24.0	25.4	27.6	28.5	27.9	26.4	23.9	20.6	17.8	17.4	19.1	21.8
Min Temp (°C)	11.9	14.5	16.8	18.3	18.2	16.4	12.8	9.4	6.7	5.2	6.1	8.8
Rainfall (mm)	61.4	76.4	67.1	93.8	109.6	112.0	84.2	63.4	78.2	48.4	49.4	44.5
3pm Temp (°C)	22.1	23.5	25.9	26.8	26.4	25.0	22.6	19.5	17.0	16.4	18.0	20.2
3pm wind (km/h)	20.9	21.6	22.6	20.9	19.0	17.6	15.3	12.9	13.6	14.1	17.6	19.9
3pm RH (%)	48	52	51	54	57	55	54	55	55	50	44	45

1.6. Known Radio Comms Blackspots

- Nil

1.7. Hazards

1.7.1. Transportation

- M4 Motorway (east / west through centre of the zone)
- Great Western Highway (east / west through centre of the zone)
- M7 Motorway (north / south through Blacktown and Fairfield LGA. Intersects M4 at Eastern Creek at the light Horse Interchange)
- The Northern Road (north / south through middle of Penrith LGA. Links Camden to Richmond)
- Elizabeth Drive (east / west along southern border of Penrith LGA to Fairfield)
- East- West Railway Line runs through the Middle of the zone
- North-west Rail Link crosses Windsor Road from The Hills into Schofields running parallel into Cudgegong Road.

1.7.2. Military

Defence Establishment Orchard Hills (DOEH) – 2181 The Northern Road, ORCHARD HILLS NSW 2745:

- Area of grasslands is approximately 1,740 Hectares (4,300acres)
- Storage and maintenance of munitions onsite
- Area has a firing range
- Fire training areas
- Fuel storage
- Ordinance Training Centre
- RAAF run Defence Explosives Ordinance Training School

1.7.3. Flooding

Under extreme wet weather conditions, the Nepean River has the potential to flood in low lying areas affecting communities at North Richmond, Windsor and Sackville.

1.7.4. Energy and Utilities

There are a number of electricity substations and high voltage infrastructure located within and transiting the Cumberland Zone. TransGrid and Endeavour energy are the network operators and are responsible for the maintenance of the networks within the Zone.

- TransGrid Sydney West 330/132KV Substation & Switchyard - 200 Old Wallgrove Rd, Eastern Creek NSW 2766
- Prospect Reservoir (Sydney main drinking water supply) – Cowpasture road, Wetherill park, NSW, 2164
- Sydney water pipeline between Warragamba dam and Prospect runs between the M4 and Elizabeth drive.

1.7.5. Special Fire Protection Purpose

There are 4 primary hospital precincts within the Cumberland Zone (Penrith, Mt Druitt, Blacktown and Fairfield), as well as many aged care facilities throughout all built areas.

Across the Zone there are many schools, TAFE and University campuses and pre-School facilities. Many of these are within suburban built areas, however there are a number scattered within the rural land areas of Penrith and Blacktown Council LGAs.

John Morony correctional complex (2 The Northern Road, Berkshire Park, NSW. 2756) is home to 4 separate Correctional Centres

- Geoffrey Pearce
- Dilwynia,
- Francis Greenway and
- John Morony

The site also has specialised facilities including commercial kitchen.

1.8. Land Management Authorities

The area covered by the Cumberland is 75,380 hectares and includes the main land tenures of:

- National Parks and Wildlife Services
- Local Government Authorities
- Department of Industry – Land and Water
- Water NSW
- Sydney Water
- Department of Defence

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

Note: This link will only work with internet coverage.

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



