



RFS

District Information Pack

Lake George

The Lake George District is located directly to the East of the ACT and covers approximately 5316 square kilometres.

The major commercial and population centre for the District is Queanbeyan City with a population of 53,512 with an overall population exceeding 70 000. The towns of Bungendore and Braidwood are the next largest population centres with estimated populations of 4,000 and 2,200 respectively. Smaller and more remote communities include Captains Flat, Nerriga, Majors Creek, Araluen and Googong.

Googong is expected to get to 18000 people by 2030. Many residents commute daily to Canberra or Queanbeyan.

The area has a high proportion of residents who travel to work out of the area, as well as many absentee residents who are considered weekend occupants only. These points of note have been identified as potentially impacting on the ability of certain sections of the community to prepare themselves for bush fire.

The Lake George District has 22 brigades with approximately 1150 members

On average the district has around 450 incidents per year, and over the last few years, 3 can be considered to have been major fires. The main sources of ignition in the Lake George District are:

- lightning
- human activity (accidental or deliberate)
- illegal burning off
- legal burning off
- camp fires

The nominated Incident Management Facility is the Lake George District Fire Control Centre.

The primary Local Emergency Operations Centre is also located at the Lake George District Fire Control Centre.

1.1. Contact Information

District Office Address:	10 Ellerton Road Queanbeyan NSW 2620
District Office Phone:	02 6128 0600
After Hours Contact:	Via State Operations on 02 8741 5400
A PSN Radio Channel:	119 LKGRG A - Primary Dispatch Channels
B PSN Radio Channel:	219 LKGRG B – Command Channel
PMR Channel:	2216 LKGRG P
ESO Conversion Chart:	Please see file in folder for relevant conversion information
Fire Weather Forecast Area:	Southern Ranges
Local Government Area:	Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council

1.2. Topography

The Lake George area has a varied physical environment comprising flatlands, grassland, bushland, valleys and undulating and mountainous topography. The geological features within the LGA tend to run south to north including the Great Dividing 10 klms east of Bungendore, the escarpment to the west of Bungendore, and the escarpment to the east of Queanbeyan. The vast majority of the LGA comprises rural landscapes with a large portion of the LGA falling into what is categorised as bush fire prone.

The LGA falls into the Murrumbidgee, Shoalhaven, Lake George, Molonglo and Queanbeyan River catchments. The Rivers and natural bodies of water include the Queanbeyan River, Molonglo river, Jerrabomberra Creek watershed and Lake George. Water storage in the LGA and surrounds includes Googong Dam, Lake Burley Griffin and Captains Flat Dam.

1.3. Vegetation

Lake George District has a combination of grassland (pasture) and timbered areas throughout. There are also pine plantations which technically sit within ACT but are geographically located in the District.

Forest Corp have both hard wood forest and soft wood plantations with the District, with National Parks holding tenure in the District, along with many private plantations around Nerriga/Mongarlowe also present.

Grasslands typically begin to cure during the month of October and are fully cured by December. Fuel loads in grassland areas are subject to variation based upon grazing levels and rainfall received during winter/spring and the previous season. Some areas are grazed with various stock level depending on markets;

Surface fuels in timbered areas average around 20t/ha with mainly surface and near-surface fuel.

1.4. Climate

The typical / average climate in the Lake George area is warm and dry and in eastern part cooled by afternoon sea breezes or south east cool changes. The southern ranges within the area experience significant thunderstorm activity during summer, causing many lightning strikes. Access to these lightning strikes can cause problems due to inaccessibility created by rough terrain. The bush fire season generally runs from October to March with September and/or April included some years.

Prevailing weather conditions associated with the bush fire season in the Lake George area consist of strong north-westerly fronts generated from the interior, which may be extremely dry and hot. Most of the major fires in recent times have occurred when strong north-westerly winds precede a southerly change. Dry thunderstorms can occur at any time during summer, but are a significant problem between December-February where fires started by lightning strikes in remote areas can reach a large size quickly

1.5. Average Weather Data

Summary of major climate statistics recorded at Canberra Airport recorded by the BoM (last updated 11 July 2024)

Element (Mean)	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Max Temp (°C)	21.3	24.7	27.2	30.0	27.9	25.2	20.8	16.5	13.2	12.9	14.2	17.9
Min Temp (°C)	6.3	9.7	12.0	14.2	13.4	11.2	6.8	2.4	1.1	0.0	1.0	3.1
Rainfall (mm)	55.9	77.8	75.8	55.9	65.1	62.6	42.8	33.4	47.9	31.0	49.5	51.0
3pm Temp (°C)	No data available											
3pm wind (km/h)												
3pm RH (%)												

Summary of major climate statistics recorded at Braidwood (Monkittee Street) recorded by the BoM (last updated 31 May 2024)

Element (Mean)	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Max Temp (°C)	19.5	22.0	25.1	25.9	25.4	23.1	19.0	15.0	11.8	11.3	13.1	16.4
Min Temp (°C)	5.4	7.6	9.6	10.9	11.1	9.3	5.9	2.6	0.7	-0.2	0.8	2.7
Rainfall (mm)	62.6	66.1	65.8	70.4	68.0	70.5	53.8	55.6	65.2	45.3	49.4	49.7
3pm Temp (°C)	No data available											
3pm wind (km/h)												
3pm RH (%)												

1.6. Known Radio Comms Blackspots

- Tinderry Nature Reserve, west of Queanbeyan River
- Parts of the Tallaganda National Park around Mt Palerang
- Areas around Nerriga especially east around Quiltys Mountain
- Areas around Araluen and Neringla
- Areas to the south of the district around Snowball

1.7. Hazards

The potential exists for significant wildfire activity throughout the district by virtue of the natural environment. Proximity to the major population centres of Queanbeyan and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) provide significant potential for a range of incidents in both urban and rural settings. Significant existing and expanding rural residential development and subdivisions in various areas provides increased potential for interface fires and general increase in future demands on RFS resources.

1.7.1. Transportation

Major transportation thoroughfares within or bordering the district include the Kings, Monaro & Federal Highways which continue to require a significant operational commitment. MVA's comprise the majority of responses by the districts busiest Village Brigades.

The potential for road trauma, transport and hazardous materials incidents is ever present and the Canberra rail-link presents the potential for rail incidents in the district.

1.7.2. Structure Fires

Structure fires remain a threat in both remote and village environments. The town of Bungendore continues to expand, increasing the frequency and variety of village incidents responded to. Major urban developments in Googong and Tralee on the outskirts of Queanbeyan have the potential to increase operational demands as they currently remain within the rural fire district.

1.7.3. Aviation

The Canberra airport is in close proximity to the districts border with the ACT, placing RFS resources in close proximity to a busy passenger and freight flight path.

1.7.4. Defence Location

The Defence Headquarters Joint Operations Centre (HQJOC) between Queanbeyan and Bungendore is a significant asset which poses various operational challenges due to a range of NSW, ACT and Commonwealth legislative and combat agency jurisdictions.

1.7.5. Mining

The gold mine at Major's Creek (explosives bunker)

1.8. Land Management Authorities

Land Manager	% of area
National Parks & Wildfire Service	15.6%
Forests NSW	5.5%
Depart: of Industry Crown Lands & Water	9.8%
Water NSW	3.3%
Local Government	0.5%
Private	64.5%
All Other	0.5%
Local Aboriginal Lands Council	0.3%

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

Note: This link will only work with internet coverage.

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

