



RFS

District Information Pack

Northern Tablelands

The Northern Tablelands Team is located on the northern inland of New South Wales and stretches from the Queensland border to the north, Inverell and Delungra to the west, Gibraltar Range to the east and New England zone to the south.

The land covered under the Northern Tablelands Bush Fire Risk Management Plan is 21,399.98km² and contains three the Local Government Areas (LGA) of Glen Innes – Severn, Tenterfield and Inverell. These 3 LGAs have a combined population of approximately 78,321 people.

The Northern Tablelands area has on average 170 bush fires per year, of which five on average can be considered to be major fires. The main sources of ignition in the Northern Tablelands area are:

- Escaped private burns
- Lightning
- Machinery

The Northern Tablelands area includes a large number of absentee landowners with property, mostly small holdings, and “Weekender” type dwellings, which presents an issue and potentially impacts the ability of certain sections of the community to prepare for bush fire. Some of these properties are only visited by the owners on an annual basis with no Hazard Reduction works being done between visits. These “Weekenders” are generally located in high fire danger areas in Glen Innes and Tenterfield Shires.

The nominated Incident Management Facility is the Northern Tablelands Fire Control Centre located at 100 Lambeth St, Glen Innes 2370.

1.1. Contact Information

District Office Address:	100 Lambeth Street Glen Innes NSW 2370
District Office Phone:	02 6739 6900
After Hours Contact:	Via State Operations on 02 8741 5400
A PSN Radio Channel:	133 NTHTB A – Primary Dispatch Channel
B PSN Radio Channel:	233 NTHTB B
PMR Channel:	2232 NTHTB P – Primary Dispatch Channel
ESO Conversion Chart:	Please see file in folder for relevant conversion information
Fire Weather Forecast Area:	New England
Local Government Area:	Inverell, Glen Innes, Tenterfield

1.2. Topography

The Northern Tablelands area is predominately agricultural with areas of National Parks opening on to plateau and plains.

The area forms part of a region of the Great Dividing Range, including the New England Range, the narrow highlands area of the New England region, stretching from the Moonbi Range in the south to the Queensland border in the north.

1.3. Vegetation

The Northern Tablelands Team's area has a combination of rainforests, timbered areas, pine plantations and grasslands that predominate throughout the ranges as well as extensive grassland plains.

Variations in soils, landscapes and climate across the area have fostered a great diversity of flora and fauna.

The World Heritage Listed Wilderness areas along the edge of the Great Dividing Range provide safe haven for the many threatened species that reside within the deeply penetrating gorges and valleys.

1.4. Climate

The typical/average climate in the Northern Tablelands area is consistent with a Temperate Zone (warm summer, cool winter). As the name implies, most people find this climate acceptable at any time of year. Autumn and spring are the most comfortable seasons in most parts. The weather is more changeable than in the tropics, with cool cloudy days alternating with warmth and sunshine. Rain falls occasionally but doesn't usually last very long and the bush fire season generally runs from August to March annually.

Prevailing weather conditions associated with the bush fire season in the Northern Tablelands area are north-westerly winds accompanied by high daytime temperatures and low relative humidity. Dry lightning storms occur frequently during the bush fire season.

1.5. Average Weather Data

Summary of major climate statistics recorded at Glen Innes Airport AWS recorded by the BoM (last update 19 April 2024)

Element (Mean)	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Max Temp (°C)	21.3	23.2	25.3	26.7	25.9	24.1	20.7	16.8	13.9	13.4	15.0	18.5
Min Temp (°C)	5.8	9.0	11.4	13.1	12.9	11.1	6.7	2.1	0.2	-1.0	-0.9	2.5
Rainfall (mm)	79.9	117.7	108.2	99.1	86.7	89.9	47.7	47.7	23.1	52.1	49.6	56.3
3pm Temp (°C)	19.4	20.5	22.9	24.2	23.6	22.2	19.3	15.4	12.4	11.9	13.5	17.0
3pm wind (km/h)	20.5	18.9	19.1	19.6	19.3	18.9	18.5	18.5	20.1	19.8	22.0	21.7
3pm RH (%)	46	54	51	52	56	52	50	51	56	52	46	45

Summary of major climate statistics recorded at Federation Park Tenterfield recorded by the BoM (last update 18 April 2024)

Element (Mean)	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Max Temp (°C)	22.4	24.8	26.6	27.1	26.1	24.6	21.7	18.0	15.0	14.5	16.1	19.5
Min Temp (°C)	8.0	10.8	13.0	14.4	14.3	12.5	8.5	4.8	2.4	1.0	1.7	4.6
Rainfall (mm)	76.1	84.5	105.3	113.7	93.1	82.6	47.1	48.4	49.6	52.6	43.2	49.7
3pm Temp (°C)	21.3	23.0	25.2	25.8	24.8	23.5	20.9	17.3	14.4	13.9	15.6	18.6
3pm wind (km/h)	13.6	13.6	12.9	12.1	12.0	12.6	12.4	12.6	13.3	14.4	14.1	13.6
3pm RH (%)	47	53	53	56	58	58	58	61	60	56	50	46

Summary of major climate statistics recorded at Raglan Street Inverell recorded by the BoM (last update 19 April 2024)

Element (Mean)	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Max Temp (°C)	25.0	27.2	29.3	31.0	30.1	28.2	24.6	20.4	17.2	16.6	18.5	21.9
Min Temp (°C)	8.1	11.7	14.0	15.5	14.9	12.4	7.6	3.4	1.3	0.0	0.5	4.1
Rainfall (mm)	70.0	97.8	111.6	92.0	80.4	85.9	33.8	38.0	48.3	43.0	37.5	50.9
3pm Temp (°C)	23.6	25.2	27.3	29.0	28.3	27.0	23.5	19.4	16.2	15.3	17.5	20.7
3pm wind (km/h)	8.1	7.1	6.9	5.9	6.6	6.0	6.4	6.7	7.3	7.4	8.3	7.5
3pm RH (%)	36	42	41	40	43	39	38	42	47	45	38	38

1.6. Known Radio Comms Blackspots

- Wyaliba
- Mingoola
- Torrington
- Aberdeen/Stanborough/Gilgai

1.7. Hazards

1.7.1. Transportation and Freight

- The New England Highway (A15) is the main arterial highway dissecting the New England Zone, running North – South and providing a vital road link with the New England and Queensland Border region.
- Further inland the Gwydir Highway links the Northern Tablelands to the Clarence Valley in the East and Inverell in the west.
- The Bruxner Highway also links the Northern Tablelands at Tenterfield with the Northern Rivers and several smaller communities along its path.

1.7.2. Agriculture

Whilst traditional agribusinesses are prevalent throughout the area, there is a mix of rural holdings and a number of absentee owners of ‘weekender’ type properties impacting sections of the community to prepare and deal with bushfire. There are also areas of multiple occupancy properties with remoteness and a limited amount of hazard reduction also impacting bushfire preparedness.

1.7.3. Energy and Water

- Essential Energy is the primary provider of electrical substations and high voltage infrastructure throughout the Northern Tablelands.
- Copeton Dam, near Inverell is used as a water supply and significant recreational purposes.
- Pindari Dam, north of Inverell is used for Agriculture and recreational purposes.

1.7.4. Other Identified Hazards

- Glen Innes Correctional Centre – Gwydir Highway, Glen Elgin
- Wind Turbine farms – Comprising 136 Turbines between Glen Innes and Inverell.
- Isolated Communities - Various
- Tank Traps – Tenterfield
- Isolated Multiple Occupancies – Various

1.8. Land Management Authorities

Land Manager	% of Area
National Parks & Wildlife Service	9.53
Forestry Corporation NSW	9.13
Department of Lands	0.79
Local Government	0.93
Private	79.49
All other	0.13

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

Note: This link will only work with internet coverage.

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

