



District Information Pack

Liverpool Range

The Liverpool Range District comprises of the local government areas south of Gunnedah, the central area of the Liverpool Plains and north of the southern boundary being Aberdeen of the Upper Hunter, Liverpool Range District covers a total area of 18,350 square kilometres. The major population centres in the District include Gunnedah, Quirindi, Scone, Merriwa and Murrurundi.

Included under the Liverpool Range Bush Fire Risk Management Plan is 70,247 hectares of National Parks and 36,670 hectares of State Forest.

There are 52 NSW RFS Brigades which vary from village to remote rural fire brigades with approx. 1500 NSW RFS Volunteers and 133 NSW RFS operational vehicles ranging from firefighting appliances to operational support vehicles.

The infrastructure supporting Liverpool Range Brigades include 42 Rural Fire Brigade Stations and 10 Rural Fire Brigades where firefighting appliances are located on remote rural third party producers properties. Liverpool Range District is currently undertaking project works to build a further three Rural Fire Brigade Stations in the communities of Bow and Gummum in the Upper Hunter Local Government Area and Gunnible in the Gunnedah Local Government Area.

Large numbers of absentee landowners in remote areas, an ageing population – particularly in rural areas, and an increase in commuting workers leaving properties in pursuit of work have been identified as potentially impacting on the ability of certain sections of the community to prepare themselves for bush fire.

The Liverpool Range area has on average 300 bush fires per year, of which around 3 can be considered to be major fires. The main sources of ignition are:

- Thunderstorm activity, particularly dry electrical storms
- Escaped private burns
- Accidental ignition, particularly through agricultural practise
- Intentionally lit fires (arson), primarily around major population centres

Located in the Upper Hunter on the Ellerston Property east of Scone hosts the “Devil Ark”, home to Tasmanian Devils as a future sanctuary against Fatal Facial Tumours, which are affecting much of the Tasmanian population of Devils.

The nominated incident management facility is located at Quirindi, with forward Operational Centres at Gunnedah and Merriwa, which are open as required.

1.1. Contact Information

District Office Address:	124 Pryor Street Quirindi NSW 2343
District Office Phone:	02 6746 5800
After Hours Contact:	Via State Operations on 02 8741 5400
A PSN Radio Channel:	121 LVPLR A
B PSN Radio Channel:	221 LVPLR B
PMR Channel:	2219 LVR NTH P & 2220 LVR STH P – Primary Dispatch Channels
ESO Conversion Chart:	Please see file in folder for relevant conversion information
Fire Weather Forecast Area:	Greater Hunter, Northern Slopes
Local Government Area:	Upper Hunter, Liverpool Plains, Gunnedah

1.2. Topography

Liverpool Range District includes areas both North and South of the Great Dividing Range (Liverpool Range) bringing a diversity in landscape, land use and culture.

The Liverpool Range starts from the volcanic plateau known as the Barrington Tops and runs for about 100 kilometres (62 mi) westwards, forming the northern boundary of the Hunter Region. Parts of the Liverpool Range form the watershed between the coastal and inland drainage of New South Wales and thus form a component of the Great Dividing Range. At about 851m above sea level, Liverpool Range is one of the higher localities in New South Wales.

The western end of the Liverpool Range merges into the Warrumbungle Range. The Liverpool Range has a reputation as a breeding ground for severe summer thunderstorms. The peaks of the range generally experience several snowfalls each winter.

The southern slopes of the Liverpool Range are drained by the headwaters of the Hunter River and its tributaries, such as the Pages River, which flows through the town of Murrurundi. The northern slopes are drained by the headwaters of the Peel River and the Mooki River. The Talbragar River and the Coolaburragundy River also rise on the range and flow south-west, joining near the town of Dunedoo.

1.3. Vegetation

The District is dissected by the Liverpool Range and vegetation ranges from native grasslands to heavy forests with a great deal of improved pasture and cropping.

The landscape varies from Pilliga type Mallee Cypress scrub in the West through alluvial Black Soil Plains, to ranges with Sub Alpine and Rainforest areas. The District stretches from the mountainous sub alpine area in the east to the flat open woodlands and black soil plains area in the west and includes the catchment areas of the Hunter and Namoi rivers.

1.4. Climate

The typical/average climate in the Liverpool Range area is varied, with warm to hot conditions prevalent across the central and western areas, and temperate to cold in the higher areas, predominately in the east. The area typically has major summer rainfall from December to February and the bush fire season generally runs from October to the end of March.

Prevailing weather conditions associated with the bush fire season in the Liverpool Range area are strong south-westerly to north-westerly winds accompanied by high daytime temperatures and low relative humidity. Dry lightning storms are also frequent across the Liverpool Range area.

1.5. Average Weather Data

Summary of major climate statistics recorded at Gunnedah Airport AWS recorded by the BoM (last updated 19 April 2024)

Element (Mean)	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Max Temp (°C)	27.5	30.4	32.7	34.6	33.1	30.3	26.4	21.7	18.0	17.5	19.6	23.6
Min Temp (°C)	10.0	14.1	16.4	18.6	17.9	15.4	10.7	5.5	3.7	2.0	2.5	5.8
Rainfall (mm)	50.8	74.3	80.4	46.1	62.9	57.4	21.3	27.2	41.0	29.8	32.2	43.1
3pm Temp (°C)	No data available											
3pm wind (km/h)												
3pm RH (%)												

Summary of major climate statistics recorded at Quirindi Post Office recorded by the BoM (last updated 19 April 2024)

Element (Mean)	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Max Temp (°C)	25.4	28.6	31.3	32.4	31.4	29.3	25.1	20.5	16.6	16.0	18.1	21.7
Min Temp (°C)	8.8	12.1	14.9	16.6	16.1	13.7	9.1	5.1	2.8	1.6	2.4	5.1
Rainfall (mm)	60.1	67.0	79.9	79.9	64.4	54.8	40.7	43.8	51.3	47.1	44.2	46.5
3pm Temp (°C)	23.9	27.0	29.7	30.3	29.7	27.8	24.2	18.7	15.1	14.9	16.6	19.6
3pm wind (km/h)	No data available											
3pm RH (%)												

Summary of major climate statistics recorded at Scone Airport AWS recorded by the BoM (last updated 19 April 2024)

Element (Mean)	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Max Temp (°C)	25.6	28.2	30.5	31.8	30.7	28.1	24.6	20.4	17.1	16.7	18.9	22.3
Min Temp (°C)	9.7	13.0	15.4	17.2	16.7	14.3	10.0	6.5	4.8	3.3	3.7	6.7
Rainfall (mm)	52.0	77.9	74.3	61.2	58.3	63.0	32.4	34.3	43.6	38.8	36.1	35.4
3pm Temp (°C)	23.6	26.0	28.4	29.9	28.9	26.7	23.4	19.4	16.1	15.6	17.7	20.8
3pm wind (km/h)	20.6	20.0	18.4	19.2	18.7	18.6	18.0	16.1	16.0	16.5	18.7	18.9
3pm RH (%)	42	43	42	41	47	47	49	51	58	55	47	44

Summary of major climate statistics recorded at Merriwa (Roscommon) recorded by the BoM (last updated 19 April 2024)

Element (Mean)	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Max Temp (°C)	25.3	27.9	29.8	31.4	30.0	27.8	23.6	19.7	16.3	16.2	18.2	21.8
Min Temp (°C)	8.6	12.2	14.5	16.8	15.8	13.8	9.4	5.2	3.8	2.3	2.8	5.2
Rainfall (mm)	51.7	61.7	73.8	78.7	56.6	58.0	33.1	36.4	38.5	36.3	33.0	38.6
3pm Temp (°C)	No data available											
3pm wind (km/h)												
3pm RH (%)												

Summary of major climate statistics recorded at Murrurundi Gap AWS recorded by the BoM (last updated 10 April 2024)

Element (Mean)	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Max Temp (°C)	21.9	24.3	26.6	28.5	27.2	24.5	20.9	16.7	12.9	12.6	14.8	18.5
Min Temp (°C)	11.0	13.0	14.8	16.5	15.8	14.2	11.2	8.1	5.8	5.0	5.8	8.5
Rainfall (mm)	55.7	86.8	83.6	69.9	68.3	78.4	32.4	34.7	63.9	47.5	42.3	46.2
3pm Temp (°C)	No data available											
3pm wind (km/h)												
3pm RH (%)												

1.6. Known Radio Comms Blackspots

There are several black spot locations within the Liverpool Range District Being:

- Barrington Tops Top of the tops along Barrington Tops Range – East of Scone (Ellerston RFB Area)
Currently when the Brigade enters this area they use a Sat Phone
- Cassilis – West of Merriwa along the Golden Highway between Cassilis and Dunndoo
- Timor – South East of Murrurundi due to tower location
- Quia – North West from Gunnedah Station Road
- Kelvin – North of Kelvin along Kelvin Road
- Black Stump Way Premer , Tambar Springs to Mullaley limited and certain areas no reception

1.7. Hazards

1.7.1. Bush and Grass Fires

Liverpool Range District includes some very fire prone areas, including all the western side of the Barrington Tops National Park, the northern side of the Goulburn River National Park (all areas north of the Goulburn River), Coolah Tops National Park and some areas of the Pilliga Forest. Smaller National Parks include Wingen Maid, Crawney Pass Nature Reserve, Wallabadah Nature Reserve, Towarri National Park, Ben Halls Gap, Durridgerie State Conservation area, Turill Nature Reserve.

1.7.2. Agricultural

There are a number of feedlots within the area as well as a number of mining concerns dispersed throughout the District, which are increasing in number and output annually. Industries include agricultural pursuits such as cotton, grain crops, Lucerne, vineyards, as well as cattle, horses, pigs and sheep.

The Upper Hunter LGA hosts some of the prestige Horse Studs in NSW including the Packer Property at Elliston being 65 Kilometres East of Scone, the Elliston Property being well known for its contribution to the Polo Industry and hosts major Polo competitions attracting competitors from all states and territories of Australia and overseas.

1.7.3. Transportation

Within the District there is 800km of State Rail, the main rail corridor north and south of the district being the main transportation route for the dispatch of coal, timber and grain produce. There is also approximately 856km of major highways throughout the District, including New England Highway, Golden Highway, Oxley Highway and the Kamilaroi Highway.

1.7.4. Mining

There are extensive coal resources underground across the area. Mining is a major industry within the District, with both open-cut and underground mining operations in Quirindi, Werris Creek and Gunnedah.

The Coal industry provides the population of Liverpool Range employment opportunities and supports all types of large and small business across the District.

1.7.5. Renewable Energy

As part of the NSW Government Renewable Energy, there is currently one operational solar farm Gunnedah and one development being the “Hills Of Gold” wind farm current under community consultation Nundle / Crawney communities.

1.7.6. Aviation

The District has a number of commercial airstrips located in Scone, Quirindi and Gunnedah, the Liverpool Range incident management facility host (2) helipads one of which supported by night landing lights and also used by the likes of NSW Ambulance, Careflight, Westpac, Toll Air Ambulance and NSW RFS Aviation Helicopter assets for Air Observation, Remote Area Firefighting Teams, Aviation Down the Wire Crews for Flood Events and for Transportation of crews for remote areas. Private airstrips are also located in the Gunnedah, Liverpool Plains and Upper Hunter Local Government Areas. These host private light aircraft, ultra-lights and gyrocopters.

1.7.7. Special Fire Protection Facility

There are four hospitals located within the Liverpool Range District (Gunnedah, Werris Creek, Quirindi and Scone), as well as a number of aged care facilities primarily situated in the main localities.

1.7.8. Schools

Liverpool Plains LGA hosts one High Schools, nine Primary Schools, several daycare facilities and one TAFE NSW campus.

Gunnedah LGA hosts two High Schools, six Primary Schools, several daycare facilities and one TAFE NSW campus.

Upper Hunter LGA Hosts 10 Primary Schools and four High Schools:

1.7.9. Walhallow Community

The village consists of 42 houses of brick and tile construction. Since 1979, construction of these houses replaced timber and fibro houses built in the 1940s. Management of these houses is divided between two corporations; 23 houses by the Walhallow Local Aboriginal Land Council and the remainder by the Walhallow Aboriginal Corporation. The village also has a community hall, church and a primary health post (clinic). The former health post building is now used as the Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) offices. Walhallow Public School is one of only five schools in New South Wales with an all-Aboriginal enrolment.

1.8. Land Management Authorities

Land Manager	% of Area
National Parks & Wildlife Service	5.0
Forestry Corporation of NSW	3.3
Department of Lands	1.9
Local Government	0.2
Private	73.2
All other	16.4

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

Note: This link will only work with internet coverage.

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

