



District Information Pack

Orana

The Orana area is located in Central West New South Wales and includes the Local Government Areas of Dubbo Regional Council and the Narromine Shire. The area covered by Orana Team is approximately 1,280,600 hectares. The population of the Orana area is approximately 65,000 (Dubbo: 55,368 Narromine: 3,789 Wellington: 4,083 people).

The majority of the human settlement is centred on the City of Dubbo and townships of Wellington, Narromine and Trangie. The remaining people reside in the rural area, on large land holdings, small landholdings (hobby farms), in rural villages, or in rural residential subdivisions. Rural Villages and high population density areas include Ballimore, Brocklehurst, Dripstone, Elong, Euchareena, Eumungerie, Geurie, Reflections Holiday Parks at Lake Burrendong, Mookerawa and Cudgegong River, Minore, Mumbil, Stuart Town, Tomingley, Toongi, Wellington Correctional Centre and Wongarbon. Rural residential subdivisions adjoining Dubbo include Avoca, Bencubbin, Bodangora, Cadonia, Cumboogle, Firgrove, High Park, Jaymark, Richmond, Sappa Bulga, Villeneuve and Wattle Road

The Bush Fire Season generally commences on 1 October and concludes 31 March. Prevailing weather conditions associated with the bush fire season in the Orana area are North to Westerly winds created by consecutive high pressure systems causing the high daytime temperatures. Such hot winds are usually very dry with low relative humidity often going below 20%.

The following issues have been identified within the Orana area as potentially impacting the ability of certain sections of the community to prepare themselves in the event of a bush fire:

- An increase in the number of lifestyle blocks that are being created on the edge of towns to meet the growing demand. It is generally the less productive farming country that is being first sold off to developers. Owners tend to not have the ability to maintain the vegetation within the block to mitigate the risk of fires nor the previous experience of bush and grass fires to know and understand the risks.
- Majority of owners of these lifestyle blocks work in town or away.
- Especially within the Narromine LGA, rural properties are becoming larger with fewer people managing the land and therefore fewer resources for firefighting purposes.
- Tourism brings a fluctuating level of visitors to the Orana area. An example is Taronga Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo's main attraction which attracts approximately 220,000 people annually. The busiest periods are over the Easter and spring school holidays with an average of 1,000 people per day. Over the Easter Weekend, visitor numbers can be around 3,000 each day. Further examples are the Inland Holiday Parks at Lake Burrendong, Mookerawa and Cudgegong River, Wellington Caves, Burrendong Botanic Garden and Arboretum and Burrendong Sport and Recreation Centre.

The main sources of ignition in the Orana area are:

- Careless acts by individuals on days of high to extreme weather conditions.
- Farm Machinery and activities, including headers during harvest, welding, grinding
- Lightning Strikes.
- Burning of Stolen Vehicles.
- Escaped controlled permit burns.
- Arson activity.
- Campfire Escapes.

1.1. Contact Information

District Office Address:	8 Judy Jakins Drive Dubbo NSW 6881
District Office Phone:	02 6881 3900
After Hours Contact:	Via State Operations on 02 8741 5400
A PSN Radio Channel:	136 ORANA A
B PSN Radio Channel:	236 ORANA B
PMR Channel:	2234 ORANA P – Primary Dispatch Channel
ESO Conversion Chart:	Please see file in folder for relevant conversion information
Fire Weather Forecast Area:	Lower Central West Plains
Local Government Area:	Dubbo Regional, Narromine

1.2. Topography

The area covered by the Orana is approximately 1,280,600 hectares. The majority of land is privately owned with some small tenures of public lands such as State Forests and Reserves. Major public land holdings within the area include the majority of the Goonoo State Conservation Area, Beni State Conservation Area and the northern tip of Goobang National Park.

1.3. Vegetation

Orana is generally open grasslands and cropping in the rural areas with large areas of forested conservation areas adjoining a number of the villages. The area is characterised by pastoral lands and cropping lands dominated by grasses. The dry sclerophyll forested areas are principally Ironbark, Box, and Cypress forests.

The Ironbark forests are the most prevalent on both private land and in State Forests; however they have a lower total tree height on the ridge tops where Black Cypress, Mallee and Broom Plains also occur. This provides little distance between the shrub layer and the tree crown (2 – 6 metres), and provides almost continuous fuel under extreme conditions, even though the ground fuel may only be between 5 and 10 tonnes per hectare. In the shallow valleys, the Ironbarks, Boxes and Gums are taller,

and there is a much larger distance from the shrub layer to the tree canopy (6 – 10 metres). White cypress is sometimes present in these forests.

The Box Forests generally carry a much lower shrub layer. The White Cypress forests occur on the better soil types often associated with Narrow Leafed Ironbark.

The timbered and grasslands are very conducive of Grass Fire and Bush Fire events.

1.4. Climate

The typical / average climate in the Orana area is warm to hot summers, ranging from 17°C to 34°C with some extremes exceeding 38°C for many days.

Winter temperatures ranging from -4°C to 16°C with the regular early morning frosts in the southern area of the Dubbo Regional LGA

In general for the area, the summer is hot and dry and the winter is cold, and is described as a humid subtropical climate that borders the semi-arid climate.

1.5. Average Weather Data

Summary of major climate statistics recorded at Dubbo Airport AWS recorded by the BoM (last updated 25 July 2024)

Element (Mean)	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Max Temp (°C)	25.2	28.6	31.5	33.6	32.1	29.2	24.8	20.0	16.4	15.7	17.6	21.5
Min Temp (°C)	9.5	13.5	15.9	18.4	17.6	14.9	10.3	6.5	4.3	3.1	3.3	6.1
Rainfall (mm)	50.2	61.6	60.0	60.1	46.8	66.8	39.5	38.4	48.3	43.7	36.2	42.4
3pm Temp (°C)	23.5	27.0	29.7	31.6	30.2	27.6	23.7	19.2	15.4	14.5	16.5	19.9
3pm wind (km/h)	20.1	20.2	19.4	18.9	18.1	17.9	16.8	16.2	17.1	17.1	19.0	19.7
3pm RH (%)	36	35	30	32	36	36	37	47	57	55	47	33

1.6. Known Radio Comms Blackspots

PMR

- Parts of the Goonoo State conservation area NE of Elong.
- Along the Obley Rd around the Orana / Canobolas boundary. (this would also effect the Canobolas Zone)

GRN

- Along the Obley Rd around the Orana / Canobolas boundary. (this would also effect the Canobolas Zone)
- Around the Ballimore area.
- North of Yeoval towards Wellington.
- Parts of the Goonoo State conservation area NE of Elong

- Area around Euchareena/ Burrendong Dam

At the time of publication, the Dewars Trig and Karuga Park towers were being upgraded. Once these works have been completed, the GRN coverage will improve.

1.7. Hazards

1.7.1. Human Settlement

Dubbo is located on the Macquarie River at the intersection of the Mitchell, Newell and Golden Highways, 388km north-west of Sydney and is a major road and freight hub to other parts of New South Wales. Dubbo is a prominent regional service centre and a vital commercial, industrial and administrative centre for the New South Wales Central West. It is characterised by substantial shopping areas, a large number of historic buildings, hospitals, aged care facilities, schools, regional airport and large industrial area.

Wellington sits at the foot of Mount Arthur between the Macquarie and Bell Rivers. Wellington has a medium retail shopping centre along with 2 major supermarkets, several motels, fuel stations, mechanical workshops, schools, correctional centres, aged care facilities and a hospital.

Narromine is in the heart of the Macquarie Valley, 37 kilometres west of Dubbo and provides services to the smaller settlements of Trangie and Tomingley. The township of Narromine includes a small retail shopping centre along with one major supermarket, several motels, fuel stations, mechanical workshops, schools, aged care facilities and a hospital. Narromine is also an aviation hub, with gliding and aviation-related development around Narromine Aerodrome including Skypark, a residential aviation precinct.

Trangie is located 35km to the north-west of Narromine. It has a hospital, a small commercial area with 3 hotels and a multipurpose complex; fuel storage, a mechanical workshop, school and an aged care facility.

Rural localities contain many farms with attached sheds, fuel and chemical storage and machinery sheds and related agricultural infrastructure.

1.7.2. Economic

Tourism brings a fluctuating level of visitors to the Orana area. Taronga Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo's main attraction attracts approximately 220,000 people annually. Holiday Parks at Lake Burrendong, Mookerawa and Cudgegong River

It is also worth noting that there is an increasing amount of mining infrastructure, which all falls within Rural Fire Districts. These mines are both open cut and underground and have considerable risks associated with them. Tomingley gold operations are located approximately 50 kilometres south-west of Dubbo. The Dubbo Zirconia mine is a proposed open-cut mine located near Toongi village, approximately 25km south of Dubbo.

There is also significant renewable energy infrastructure projects being undertaken across the Dubbo and Narromine shire LGA's. There are wind turbine farms around Wellington and large solar farms around Wellington, Narromine, and Trangie. There are proposals to build wind turbine farms at Burrendong with the ongoing expansion of these projects being considered by council.

1.7.3. Transportation

The Newell Highway is a popular National Highway that provides the major road link between south-eastern Queensland and Victoria via central NSW and as such carries large amounts of freight. Many heavy vehicles use the Newell Highway with average daily traffic volumes of 20,000 vehicles a day through Dubbo.

The Mitchell Highway is a busy State Highway that forms part of the National Highway A32 corridor, which stretches from Sydney to Adelaide via Dubbo and Broken Hill and is an important road link for the transport of passengers and freight for regional New South Wales and Queensland. It passes through Narromine and then east to Dubbo where it meets with the Newell Highway and connects to the Golden Highway then south through Wellington, then to Molong and Orange.

The Golden Highway runs eastward from Dubbo to Newcastle and is a popular transport alternative to avoid going over the Blue Mountains to Sydney.

Both freight and passenger trains run through the Orana. The Main Western railway line between Sydney and Bourke travels through Wellington, Dubbo and Narromine. Dubbo station is the terminus for the daily NSW Train Link Central West XPT service from Sydney with connecting road coach services to Broken Hill, Bourke, Cootamundra, Lightning Ridge and Nyngan. Construction is also underway for the Inland Rail, which travels from Melbourne to Brisbane and will intersect with existing rail freight infrastructure at Narromine.

1.7.4. Aviation

Dubbo City Regional Airport (DCRA) is one of the leading regional airports in Australia and is located 5km northwest of Dubbo on the Mitchell Highway. The Airport, with over 200 flights per week, provides direct return services from Dubbo to Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne (Essendon), Newcastle and Broken Hill, and is serviced by Regional Express (Rex), QantasLink, Fly Corporate and Fly Pelican. Narromine Airport has a significant number of gliding operations

1.8. land management authorities

Land Manager	% of Area
Data not available	

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

Note: This link will only work with internet coverage.

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

