



RFS

Media release

Ideal conditions embraced for hazard reduction activities

13 March 2024

Clear skies will provide a chance for fire agencies and land managers to carry out crucial hazard reduction efforts throughout the state over coming days.

Favourable weather conditions will allow for planned burns to be undertaken across NSW, including the Moree Plains, Oberon, South Coast and Greater Sydney regions.

Over the coming days prescribed burns are taking place in the Berowra, Northern Beaches, Hawkesbury and Southerland Highlands areas, taking advantage of the favourable weather.

The burns reduce fuel loads, lessening the intensity of a bush fire should they occur, and enhance the protection of thousands of homes against bush fires.

While smoke may settle in localised areas across the Sydney region, it is expected to clear later in the week under a southerly change and forecast rain.

Residents in smoke-affected areas should minimise outdoor activities, secure doors and windows, shelter pets, and, when driving, exercise caution by slowing down and using headlights.

Those with respiratory or heart conditions, especially asthmatics, are advised to take necessary precautions, follow treatment plans, and keep medications readily available.

Further information on dealing with bushfire smoke can be found at www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/bushfire/Pages/default.aspx.

For a comprehensive list and map of scheduled hazard reduction burns in the coming week, visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/hr.

Minister for Emergency Services Jihad Dib said:

“As we approach the end of the official bush fire season, it is important to focus on the work that can be done ahead of the next fire season.”

“Wet weather and unfavourable conditions in recent years have contributed to a significant backlog in hazard reduction which we are now working to get on top of. Government agencies are coming together to take advantage of favourable conditions and we have been presented with an early window.”

“Traditionally, agencies undertake a significant amount of hazard reduction burning in autumn so it is good to see this important work now ramping up, when and where possible, to minimise the impact of fires on NSW communities.”

“It is great to see the RFS, Fire and Rescue NSW, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Forestry Corporation, local government and landholders get stuck into the important task of reducing the threat to communities.”

Commissioner of the RFS Rob Rogers said:

“We must seize every hazard reduction opportunity, considering past challenges like wet weather and unfavourable conditions that led to the postponement of controlled burns across the state last year and in recent months.

“We also saw fire activity from mid-October 2023 to mid-January, particularly in the north of the state which has made prescribed burning difficult.

“I thank our RFS members and those from partner agencies who are working over coming weeks to complete these burns while the weather allows for it.

“While you may see and smell smoke from hazard reduction burning, residents are reminded to only call Triple Zero (000) if they witness a fire without a fire truck present.”