



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

Bush Fire Danger Period starts in a further 53 areas this weekend

30 August 2019

More than 50 additional areas will commence the bush fire danger period this weekend, as the drought continues to grip the state.

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) has declared that a further 53 areas will commence the Bush Fire Danger Period from Sunday 1 September 2019 – bringing the number of local government areas to 74.

“Over the past two months, we’ve seen more than 2700 bush and grass fires which have unfortunately destroyed homes, impacted property and closed roads,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“Due to the forecast of ongoing warm and dry conditions and in consultation with local volunteers, land managers and fire agencies, we’ve brought forward the start of the season in a number of areas.”

The normal Bush Fire Danger Period in NSW commences on 1 October each year, but is adjusted based on local conditions.

Anyone wishing to light a fire during the Bush Fire Danger Period must obtain a permit from their local Fire Control Centre.

“Permits ensure that fire is used safely and to minimise the danger to landholders, their property and the community,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“While hazard reductions are an important part of preparations, landholders need to be extremely careful as warmer and dry conditions mean fire can spread quickly and suddenly.

“Never leave a fire unattended and, if a fire does escape, make sure you call Triple Zero (000) immediately so that emergency services can respond and minimise the damage.”

Commissioner Fitzsimmons urged homeowners to prepare for the upcoming fire season, noting warmer than average temperatures and below average rainfall are forecast for the coming months.

“Recent research has indicated that 67 per cent of people had some sort of plan of what to do in the event a fire threatens.

“While it is encouraging that two thirds of people have discussed what they’ll do, our research also shows that many people’s plans are simple, and often not well thought through.

“We want people to ask themselves How fireproof is your plan? Have the conversation with your family about what you will do during a fire – including where you’ll go, what you’ll take and what you’ll do with animals.”



For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on 9898 1855
For current incidents or major fire updates visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

Minister for Police and Emergency Services David Elliott said NSW has some of the most experienced firefighters in the world who bravely put themselves in harm's way to protect life and property.

"The state is in the middle of a drought and it is vital residents are aware that this means an increased risk of bushfires," Mr Elliott said.

"The NSW RFS have a series of safety messages which should all be taken seriously to ensure you are best prepared in the event of a bushfire."

For information on making a bush fire survival plan, visit www.myfireplan.com.au or for information about permits, fire danger ratings and events during Get ready Weekend go to www.rfs.nsw.gov.au.

The 53 Local Government Areas commencing their Bush Fire Danger Period 1 September 2019:

- > Central Coast
- > Lake Macquarie
- > Bathurst Regional
- > Blacktown City
- > Blue Mountains City
- > Camden
- > Campbelltown City
- > Canterbury Bankstown City
- > Cessnock City
- > Dungog Shire
- > Eurobodalla
- > Fairfield City
- > Georges River
- > Gunnedah Shire
- > Gwydir Shire
- > Hawkesbury City
- > Hornsby Ku-ring-gai
- > Hunters Hill
- > Kempsey
- > Kiama
- > Lane Cove
- > Lithgow
- > Liverpool City
- > Liverpool Plains Shire
- > Maitland City
- > Mid Coast
- > Mid-Western Regional
- > Moree Plains Shire
- > Mosman
- > Muswellbrook
- > Nambucca
- > Narrabri Shire
- > Newcastle City
- > North Sydney
- > Northern Beaches
- > Oberon
- > Parramatta
- > Penrith City
- > Port Macquarie Hastings
- > Port Stephens
- > Ryde
- > Shellharbour City
- > Shoalhaven City
- > Singleton Shire
- > Snowy Monaro Regional
- > Sutherland Shire
- > Tamworth Regional
- > The Hills Shire
- > Upper Hunter Shire
- > Willoughby
- > Wingercarribee Shire
- > Wollondilly Shire
- > Wollongong City

