



RFS

District Information Pack

Namoi Gwydir

The Namoi-Gwydir Team area is located in North West NSW New South Wales. The area covers 40,115 square kilometres.

The population of the Namoi-Gwydir area is approximately 33,518 (2016 Census), with major population centres of Bingara, Wyallda, Wee Waa, Boggabri, Narrabri, Mungindi, Boomi and Moree.

Namoi Gwydir incorporates several additional village locations, consisting of Ashley, Baan Baa, Bellata, Biniguy, Boggabilla, Coolatai, Croppa Creek, Garah, Gravesend, Gwabegar, North Star, Pallamallawa, Pilliga, Toomelah, and Weemelah.

The Namoi-Gwydir area has on average 710 incidents per year, of which 10 on average can be considered to be major fires. The main source of ignition for larger fires in the Namoi-Gwydir area is lightning. These fires usually occur during summer as dry storm cells move throughout the area. Other causes of fires are:

- farm machinery
- arson
- escaped legal and illegal burns

1.1. Contact Information

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| District Office Address: | Old Newell Highway Narrabri NSW 2390 |
| District Office Phone: | 02 6792 3667 |
| After Hours Contact: | Via State Operations on 02 8741 5400 |
| A PSN Radio Channel: | 130 NAMGW A |
| B PSN Radio Channel: | 230 NAMGW B |
| PMR Channel: | 2230 NAMGW P- Primary Dispatch Channels |
| ESO Conversion Chart: | Please see file in folder for relevant conversion information |
| Fire Weather Forecast Area: | North Western |
| Local Government Area: | Gwydir, Narrabri, Moree Plains |

1.2. Topography

The Team area includes a majority of the volatile Pilliga Forest Complex (500,000ha). Pilliga fires tend to be fast moving, and whilst there isn't a lot of private property, there is an increasing amount of natural gas mining occurring inside the forest. This is mainly conducted by SANTOS, who has an Operations Centre in Narrabri, and they maintain over 100 well sites. These sites comply with the relevant legislation in relation to fire safety – so most of their infrastructure doesn't need RFS protection. The forest tenure is split between National Parks and Forestry Corporation.

1.3. Vegetation

The Mount Kaputar National Park, which covers the Nandewar Ranges, is a large area of fire prone land. Fires are difficult to combat due to the terrain, and private property borders the reserve. During winter it often snows at the top of the ranges. The rest of the area is split between grassland and broad acreage crops in the West and North West (cotton, wheat, sorghum etc) and dry sclerophyll forest and grassland areas everywhere else.

1.4. Climate

The typical/average climate in the Namoi-Gwydir area is characterised by warm to hot summers, moderate and variable rainfall and a winter of cool clear days and cold frosty nights, with often a rapid transition of perhaps a month from summer to winter.

Prevailing weather conditions associated with the bush fire season in the Namoi-Gwydir area are north-westerly winds accompanied by high daytime temperatures and low relative humidity. Dry lightning storms occur frequently during the bush fire season. The Bush Fire Danger Period runs from 1st October through to 30th March, however prevailing weather has the potential to extent outside this normal timeframe

1.5. Average Weather Data

Summary of major climate statistics recorded at Moree Aero 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) | 28.2 | 30.9 | 33.0 | 34.4 | 33.3 | 31.2 | 27.3 | 22.6 | 19.0 | 18.4 | 20.6 | 19.0 |
| Min Temp (°C) | 12.9 | 16.4 | 18.6 | 20.5 | 19.7 | 17.5 | 12.8 | 8.3 | 5.9 | 4.6 | 5.3 | 9.0 |
| Rainfall (mm) | 50.2 | 74.1 | 66.4 | 77.1 | 66.6 | 61.8 | 21.2 | 29.2 | 37.0 | 32.5 | 25.7 | 35.1 |
| 3pm Temp (°C) | 26.6 | 28.5 | 30.7 | 31.9 | 31.1 | 29.5 | 26.1 | 21.5 | 18.0 | 17.2 | 19.5 | 23.4 |
| 3pm wind (km/h) | 17.3 | 18.0 | 17.3 | 15.5 | 15.7 | 15.3 | 15.6 | 15.6 | 16.2 | 16.8 | 17.8 | 17.0 |
| 3pm RH (%) | 30 | 32 | 32 | 35 | 37 | 34 | 32 | 38 | 46 | 43 | 35 | 32 |

Summary of major climate statistics recorded at Mungindi 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) | 29.1 | 32.3 | 34.6 | 35.6 | 34.2 | 32.0 | 27.8 | 23.2 | 19.5 | 19.0 | 21.2 | 25.3 |
| Min Temp (°C) | 13.5 | 16.8 | 19.0 | 20.8 | 20.3 | 17.8 | 12.9 | 8.8 | 5.8 | 4.7 | 6.0 | 9.4 |
| Rainfall (mm) | 38.8 | 46.8 | 51.3 | 70.4 | 62.6 | 52.2 | 30.0 | 34.4 | 33.1 | 31.9 | 25.2 | 27.8 |
| 3pm Temp (°C) | 28.7 | 30.4 | 33.2 | 34.0 | 32.8 | 31.0 | 27.8 | 23.1 | 19.1 | 18.7 | 21.1 | 25.2 |
| 3pm wind (km/h) | 10.8 | 10.0 | 10.8 | 9.7 | 10.4 | 9.6 | 9.2 | 9.0 | 9.4 | 9.0 | 11.1 | 10.3 |
| 3pm RH (%) | 30 | 36 | 31 | 35 | 38 | 38 | 34 | 38 | 47 | 45 | 37 | 34 |

Summary of major climate statistics recorded at Bingara Post Office recorded by the BoM (last updated 18 april 2024)

| Element (Mean) | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep |
|-----------------|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Max Temp (°C) | 26.9 | 30.3 | 32.9 | 33.6 | 32.8 | 30.8 | 26.7 | 22.1 | 18.1 | 17.7 | 19.1 | 23.2 |
| Min Temp (°C) | 10.2 | 13.6 | 16.5 | 18.1 | 17.3 | 14.8 | 10.1 | 6.2 | 3.7 | 2.2 | 3.4 | 6.0 |
| Rainfall (mm) | 65.3 | 71.9 | 79.4 | 90.3 | 85.5 | 64.2 | 40.4 | 48.5 | 49.8 | 50.2 | 43.6 | 45.7 |
| 3pm Temp (°C) | No data available | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3pm wind (km/h) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3pm RH (%) | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Summary of major climate statistics recorded at Warialda 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) | 27.0 | 30.2 | 32.6 | 33.5 | 32.7 | 30.6 | 26.6 | 22.0 | 18.2 | 17.6 | 19.3 | 23.2 |
| Min Temp (°C) | 8.8 | 12.2 | 15.1 | 16.4 | 15.9 | 13.2 | 8.0 | 3.6 | 1.4 | 0.0 | 1.3 | 4.2 |
| Rainfall (mm) | 59.7 | 69.6 | 71.3 | 85.0 | 78.1 | 66.8 | 39.6 | 43.2 | 45.2 | 44.1 | 38.9 | 43.5 |
| 3pm Temp (°C) | No data available | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3pm wind (km/h) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3pm RH (%) | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Summary of major climate statistics recorded at Narrabri 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) | 28.2 | 31.0 | 33.6 | 35.0 | 33.6 | 31.0 | 26.9 | 22.3 | 18.5 | 18.2 | 20.2 | 24.2 |
| Min Temp (°C) | 12.2 | 16.0 | 18.5 | 20.5 | 19.4 | 16.8 | 12.3 | 7.4 | 5.6 | 4.1 | 4.7 | 8.1 |
| Rainfall (mm) | 43.7 | 75.8 | 68.0 | 66.6 | 58.3 | 65.4 | 27.3 | 26.1 | 49.7 | 28.6 | 30.7 | 34.7 |
| 3pm Temp (°C) | No data available | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3pm wind (km/h) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 Premier , Tambar Springs to Mullaley limited and certain areas no reception

1.7. Hazards

1.7.1. Transportation

Major Highways that cross our area include:

- The Newell Highway – runs north-south from Goondiwindi on the QLD border, to 80 km south of Narrabri.
- The Kamilaroi Highway – runs east-west from 10km east of Boggabri to Burren Junction 40 km west of Wee Waa.
- The Gwydir Highway – runs east-west from 30km east of Wyallda to the Bullarah area 80 km west of Moree.
- The Carnarvon Highway – runs north-west from Moree all the way to 15 km into QLD to the north-west of Mungindi.
- The Bruxner Highway – runs east-west from Mungindi through Boggabilla towards Tenterfield.

1.7.2. Significant Assets

Moree is a medium sized rural town, and has a busy main street and commercial centre as well as two supermarket complexes. There are several schools and a TAFE College as well as a large industrial area. The industrial area is primarily situated in the eastern part of the town. Moree also has a large number of motels/hotels due to its location approximately half way between Brisbane and Sydney.

Narrabri is also a medium sized rural town and has a busy main street, and two supermarket complexes. There are several schools and a TAFE College as well as a large industrial area. The industrial area is

primarily situated in the North Western part of the town. Narrabri also has a large number of motels/hotels due to its location approximately half way between Brisbane and Sydney. Narrabri also has an 880-person miner's accommodation village centre which houses out of town miners. Narrabri also has a large cinema/theatre complex.

Moree airport is located to the south of Moree with morning and evening services to Sydney. Narrabri airport is located to the north-east of Narrabri. Narrabri has flights to Sydney and Brisbane. Agricultural aircraft also use both airports.

Wee Waa has a medium sized industrial area to support the cotton and agricultural industry. The town also has two primary schools and a high school, as well as main street with associated infrastructure. The town also has a hospital complex, and a levee surrounds the town, as the town is very flood prone.

Warialda has a small industrial area, as well as main street with a supermarket complex, a hotel, club and several pubs. There are also two schools, Aged Care facility and a hospital complex. Bingara is similar in size to Warialda, and has a similar level of urban infrastructure.

Mungindi, Boggabri, and Boggabilla are all similarly sized and have industrial areas as well as silo complexes; schools and TAFE infrastructure. Mungindi and Boggabri also have hospitals and defined main streets with shops and other services.

A majority of the rural properties in the team area have sheds containing farm based chemicals and other hazards. Most of the larger properties have large sheds housing large farm machinery and extensive supplies of agricultural chemicals and other hazardous materials. Some of the larger properties also have their own airstrips and some maintain their own fixed wing agricultural aircraft.

It is also worth noting that there is an increasing amount of mining infrastructure which falls within Rural Fire Districts. These mines are both open cut and underground and have considerable risks associated with them.

1.8. Land Management Authorities

| Land Manager | % of Area |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| National Parks & Wildlife Service | 5.83 |
| Forestry Corporation NSW | 5.00 |
| Department of Lands | 0.58 |
| Local Government | 0.21 |
| Private | 88.36 |

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

Note: This link will only work with internet coverage.

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

