

Southern Highlands Zone

Fire Threshold (October 2015)*

*Calculated using Vegetation Formations of NSW (version 3.00)

Vegetation categories (Keith, D. 2004) and Time Since Fire datasets have been combined to produce this Fire Threshold map. Table 1 (interpretation of Kenny et al. 2004; NSW RFS, 2006) lists the Fire Threshold values used for each vegetation community to calculate the Fire Threshold categories.

Each vegetation community has a minimum and maximum fire regime threshold (Kenny et al. 2004). A fire interval between these thresholds (within threshold) is the time between fire events that a specific plant or vegetation community needs, to avoid being at risk from a decline in biodiversity. A decline in biodiversity usually occurs as a result of either too infrequent (above maximum threshold) or too frequent burning (below minimum threshold). Some vegetation formations are classified as fire intolerant and therefore do not have a fire threshold.

Fire frequency, fire intensity, season, extent (patchiness) and type of fire also influence whether or not a specific fire event has caused or is likely to cause a decline in biodiversity.

The map will be used to assist the BFMCI in developing appropriate fire management strategies to reduce the risk of assets being affected by wildfire, and where possible, not impacting negatively on local biodiversity.

Additional information about the fire threshold map may be found in the document 'Bush Fire Risk Management Planning Guidelines for BFMCI'.

References:

- Keith, D. (2004). Ocean Shores to Desert Dunes: The Native Vegetation of NSW and the ACT. Department of Environment and Conservation.
- Kenny, B., Sutherland, E., Tasker, E., and Bradstock, B. (2004). Guidelines for Ecologically Sustainable Fire Management. NSW Biodiversity Strategy. NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Table 1: Fire Threshold Values

Vegetation Formation	Min. Threshold (LMZ)	Max. Threshold
Rainforest	NA	NA
Alpine Complex	NA	NA
Wet Sclerophyll Forest (Shrubby)	30	60
Wet Sclerophyll Forest (Grassy)	15	50
Grassy Woodland	8	40
Grassland	3	10
Dry Sclerophyll Forest (Shrubby / Grassy)	8	50
Dry Sclerophyll Forest (Shrubby)	10	30
Heathlands	10	30
Freshwater Wetlands	10	35
Forested Wetlands	10	35
Saline Wetlands	NA	NA
Semi-arid Woodlands (Grassy)	9	No Max
Semi-arid Woodlands (Shrubby)	15	No Max
Arid Shrublands (Chenopod)	NA	NA
Arid Shrublands (Acacia)	15	No Max

Legend

Major Roads

- Major Road Sealed
- Major Road Unsealed
- Secondary Road Sealed
- Secondary Road Unsealed

Threshold

- Above
- Within
- Below
- Intolerant

Hydrology

- Hydro-Line Perennial
- Hydro-Line Non Perennial
- Drainage Perennial
- Drainage Non Perennial

Jurisdiction

- Jurisdiction
- BFMC 5km Buffer
- Other States
- NSW

Data Dictionary:

Data Type	Source	Date
BFMC Boundaries (incl 5km Buffer)	NSW RFS	October 2015
Towns or Locations	NSW LPI	October 2015
Road Network	NSW LPI	October 2015
Drainage	NSW LPI	October 2015
Fire Threshold	NSW RFS	October 2015
State Backdrop	NSW LPI	October 2015

Disclaimer:

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