

Record of Proceedings



Community Forum Monday 9 September 2019

The Community Forum commenced at 6.30pm and was held in the Council Foyer,
62-64 Menangle Street, Picton 2571.

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Record of Proceedings of the Community Forum held in the Council Foyer, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton, on Monday 9 September 2019

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OPENING BY THE CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson, Cr Briggs opened the Community Forum at 6.30pm. The Chairperson welcomed all those in attendance at the Community Forum. The Chairperson introduced the Mayor, Councillors, the Acting Chief Executive Officer, Directors and Manager Sustainable Growth to the Community Forum participants.

The Chairperson stated that the electronic recording of the Community Forum and the use of electronic media during the proceedings is not permitted including devices such as laptops, mobile phones, tape recorders and video cameras. The Chairperson requested that participants switch off their mobile phones.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chairperson acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the Land:

I would like to pay my respect and acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which this meeting takes place, and also pay respect to Elders both past and present.

PRESENT

Councillors: Deeth (Mayor), Hannan, Gould, Banasik, Briggs and Lowry.

ALSO PRESENT

Acting Chief Executive Officer, Executive Director Community and Corporate, Acting Director Infrastructure and Environment, Manager Sustainable Growth and one Administration Officer.

APOLOGIES

Councillors: Khan, Landow and Smith; and the Director Planning.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

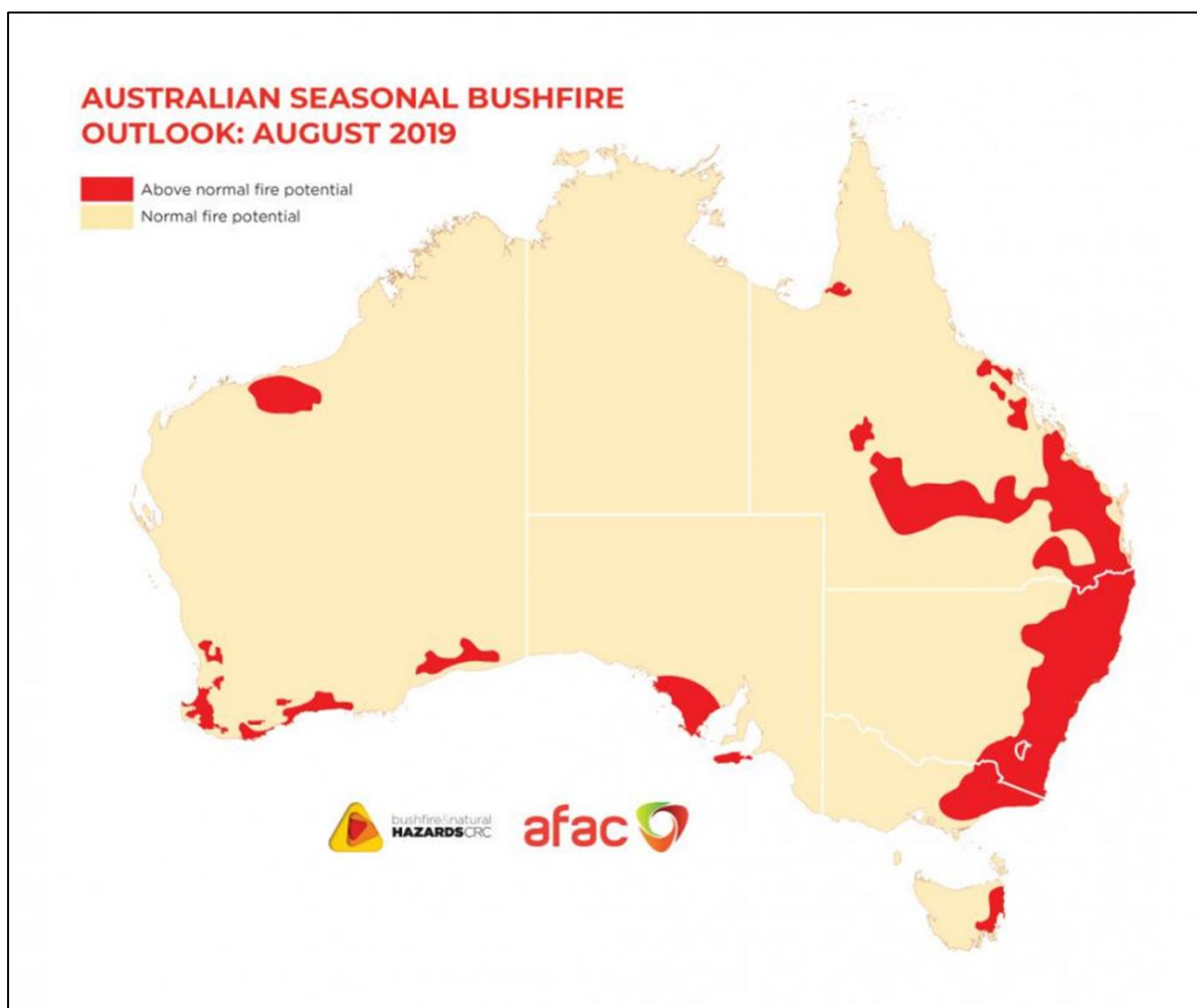
FORMAL COMMUNITY FORUM MATTERS

TRIM 2089

1. **NSW RFS Community Briefing**

Wendy Smith A/ District Officer Southern Highlands Team gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2019/20 fire season. An overview is provided below:

Potential for the 2019/20 fire season to be an active season across Australia and above average on and east of the Great Dividing Range.

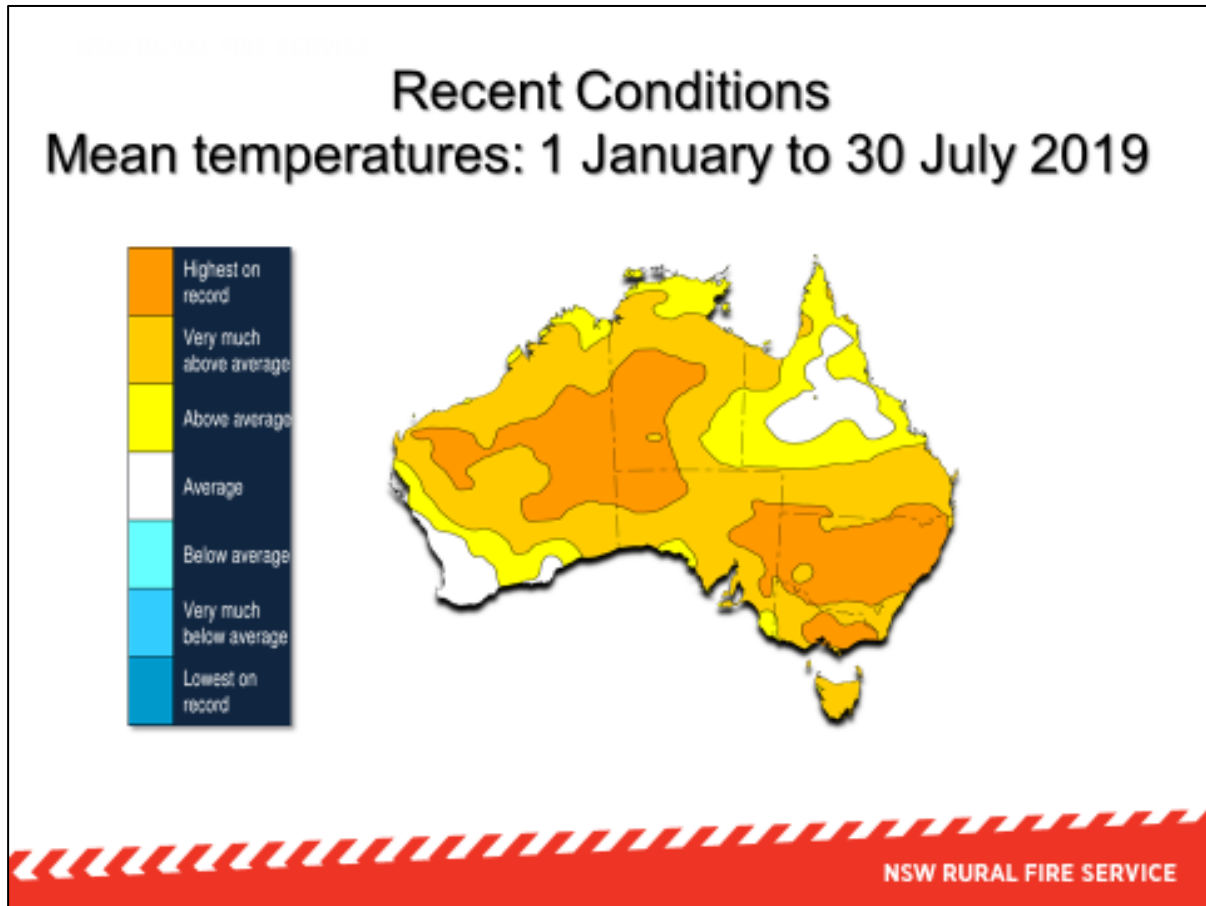


Formal Community Forum Matters

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Formal Community Forum Matters

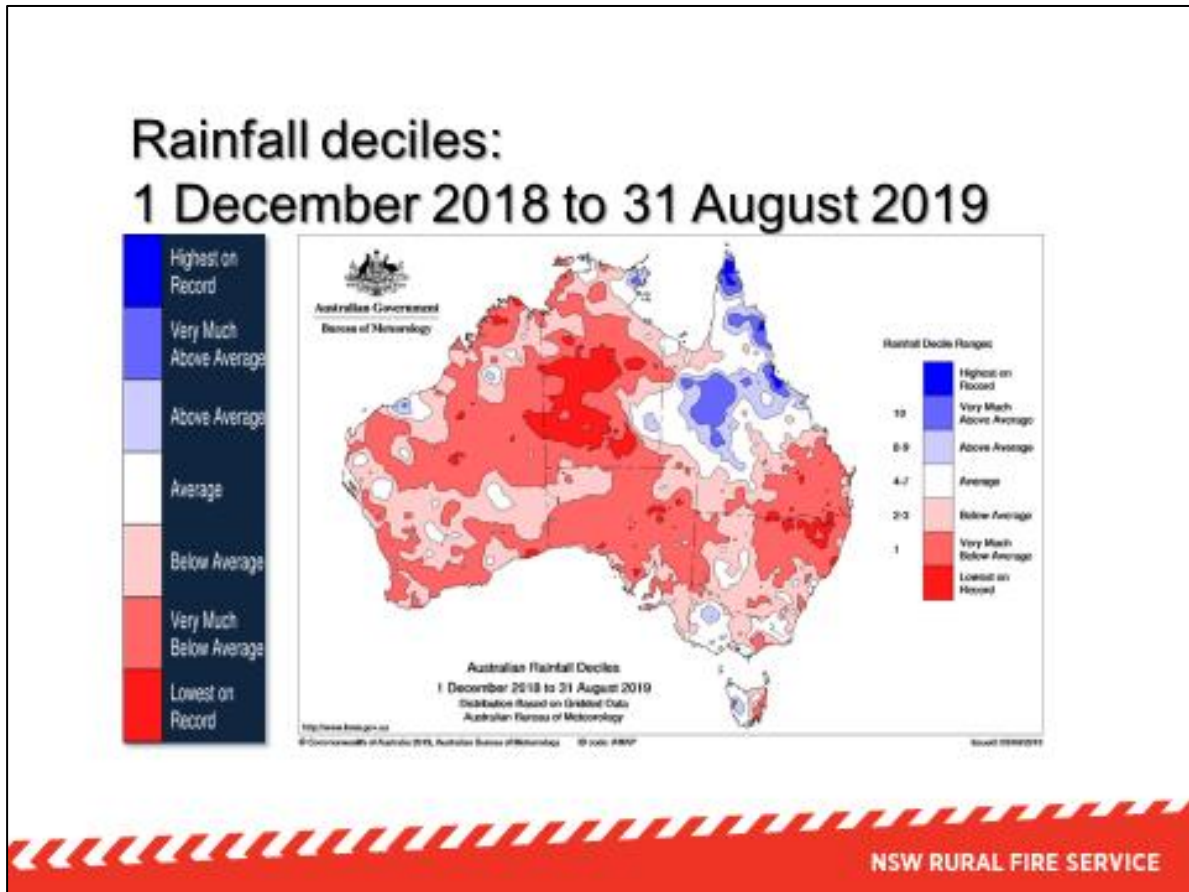
Formal Community
Forum Matters



Mean temperatures 1 January to 30 July 2019 for most of NSW are the warmest on record.

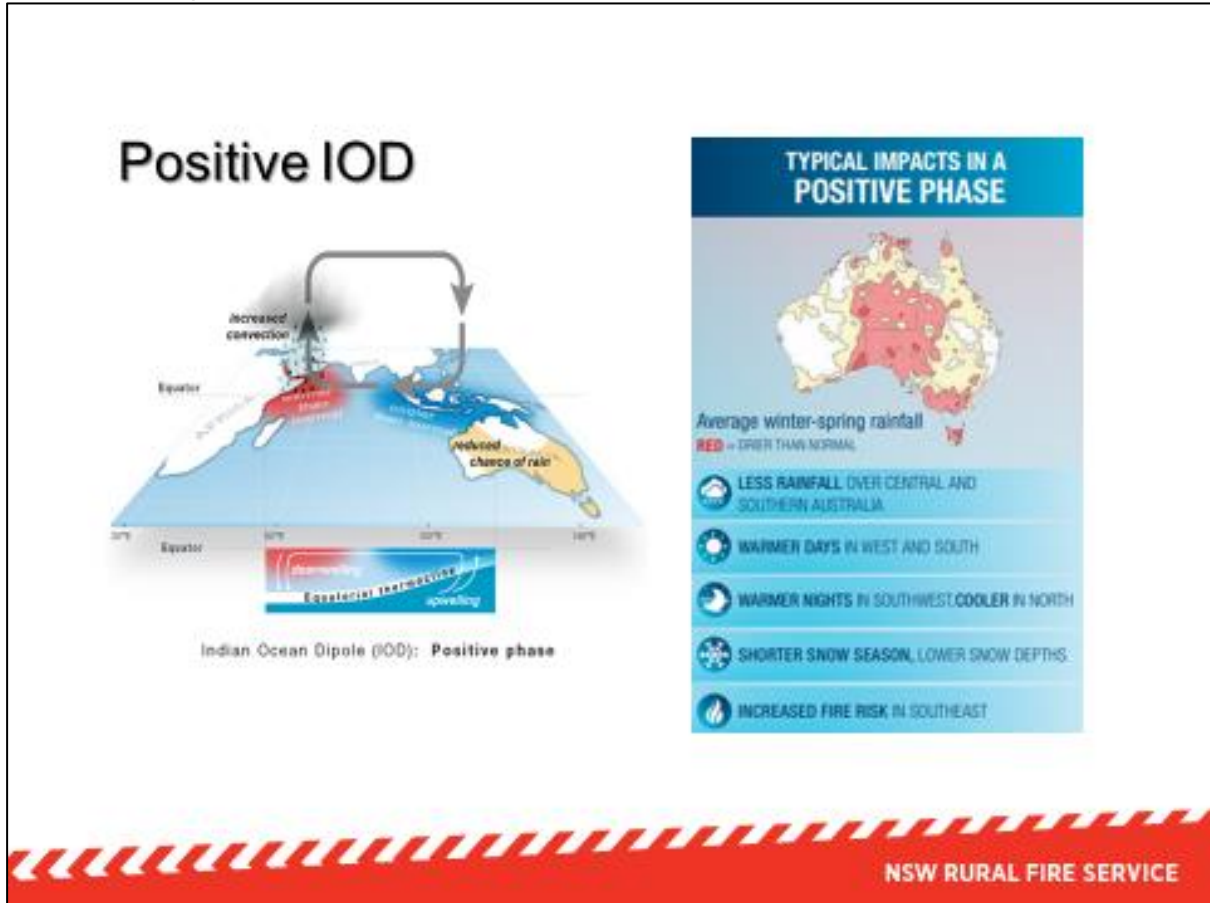
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Formal Community Forum Matters



- Below average rainfall for most of NSW
- 10th driest summer on record
- Year to date rainfall is likely to be in the driest 5 years on record and lowest since 1970
- Soil moisture below average in many regions.

Australia's high variable climate is influenced by the broad patterns in the oceans around it and the atmosphere above it.



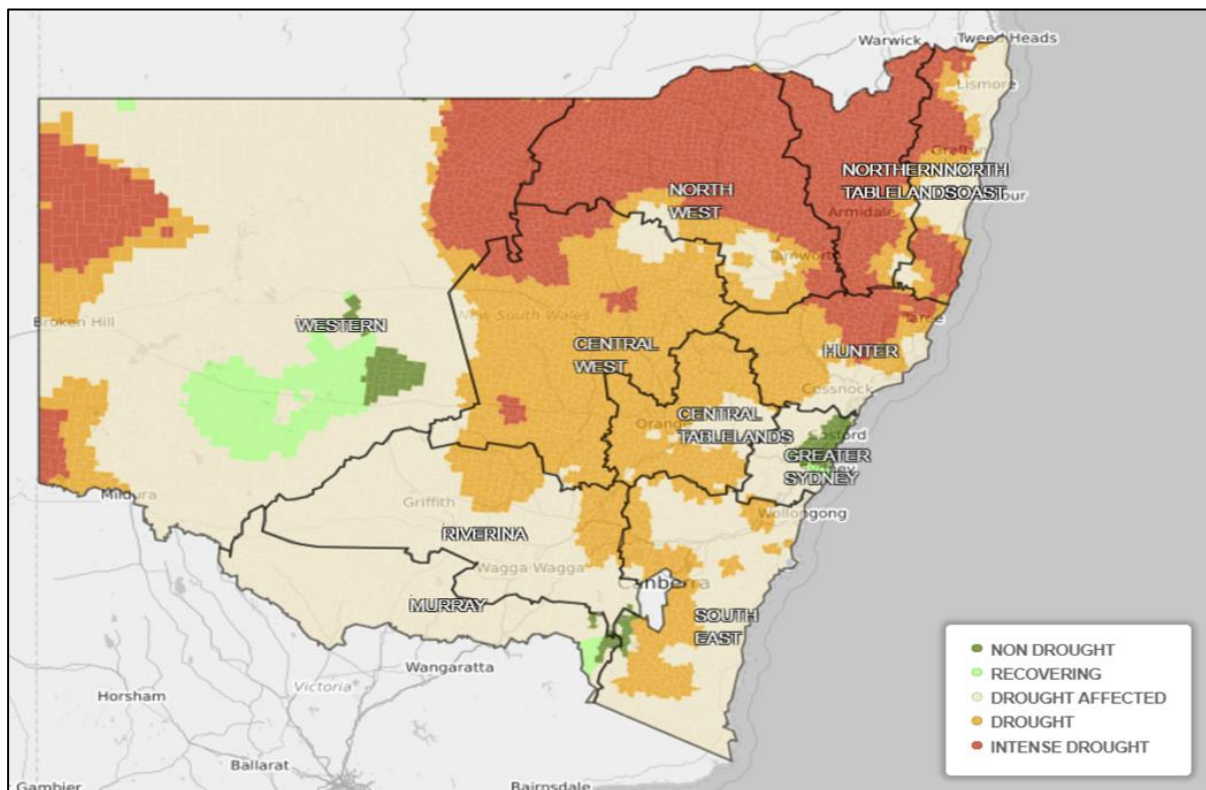
History has shown that even in neutral ENSO years extreme bushfires can occur (Sir Ivan 2017, State Mine 2013, Wambelong 2013, Hall Road Fire Balmoral)

- Westerly winds at equator weaken and sometimes reverse, pushing warm water towards Africa
- Cooler than normal water upwells off the NW coast of Australia. Coupled with descending air over the eastern Indian ocean, less clouds form, less moisture becomes available for weather systems
- Return to neutral on the end of spring when the northern Australian Monsoon arrives.

Positive event:

- Warmer sea surface temperatures in the western Indian Ocean relative to the east
- Easterly wind anomalies across the Indian Ocean and less cloudiness to Australia's northwest
- Less rainfall over southern Australia and the Top End
- International models are in good agreement (5 out of 6) for IOD to remain positive over winter/spring.

Combined Drought Index



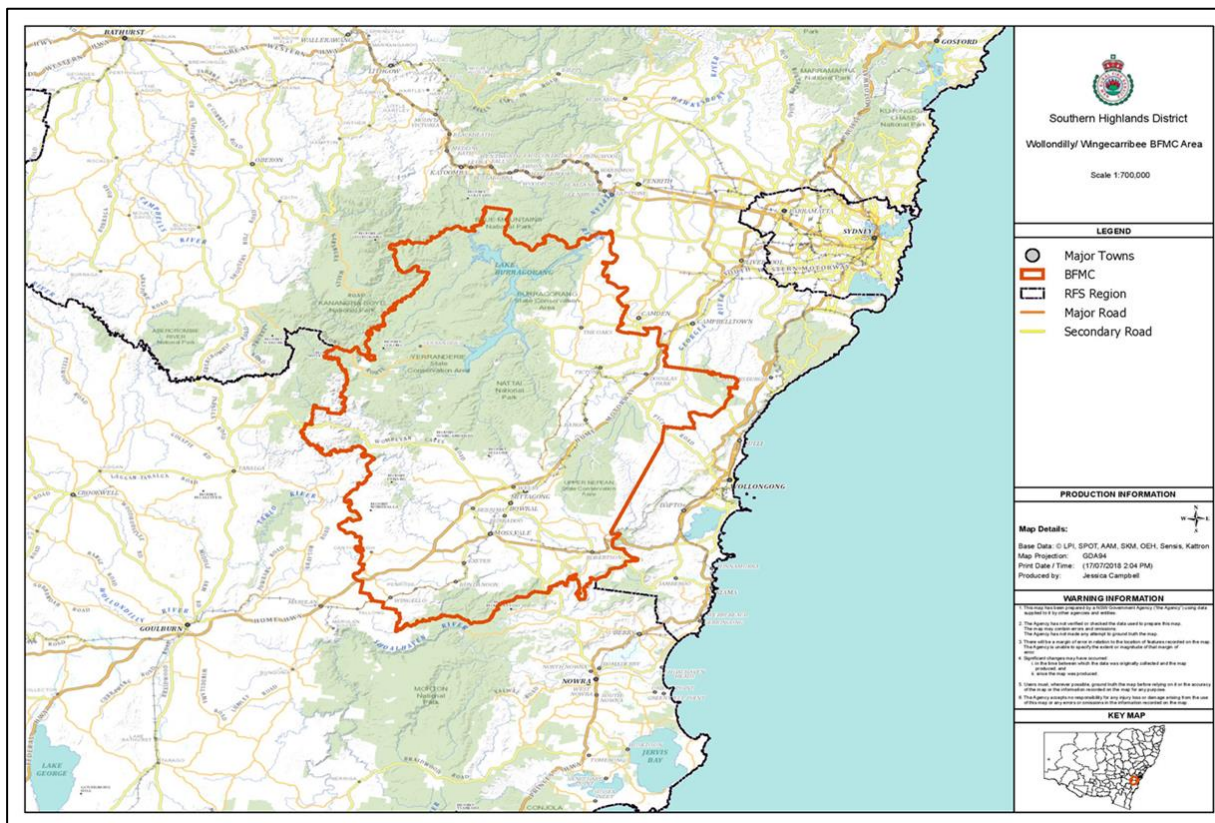
<https://edis.dpi.nsw.gov.au/>

- Soil Water, Plant Growth and Rainfall trends
- >98% of NSW in one of 3 drought categories
- 22.5% Intense Drought
- 24% Drought
- 48% Drought affected
- Studies from the Australian National University suggest the current drought is worse than the Millennium drought with less water in the landscape.

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Formal Community Forum Matters

Wollondilly/Wingecarribee Bushfire Management Committee (BFMC) Area



Formal Community Forum Matters

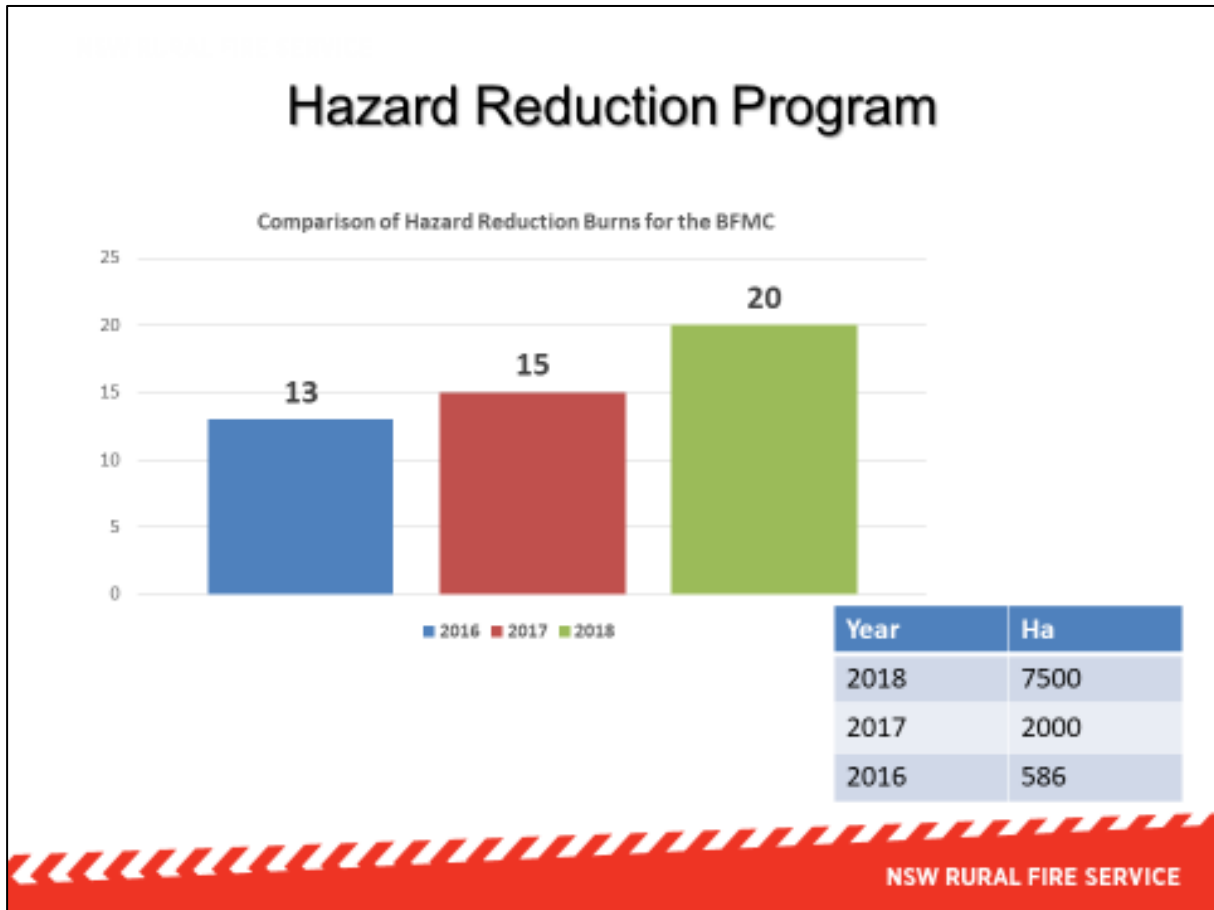
Hazard Reduction highest in the state in line with the Wollondilly/ Wingecarribee BFRMP

Local Government Areas Wollondilly & Wingecarribee Shires

- 525,700ha - 60% covered by forest vegetation
- Well over 60% classified as water catchment and provides a significant proportion of Sydney's water supply
- Significant Koala Habitat
- Major Stakeholders
 - Water NSW, NPWS, Private, Forestry Corporation of NSW, Local Government, DPI-Crown Lands
 - Coordinating risk management approach to prioritising identified treatments across multi agencies
 - Commitment by agencies to treatment programme implementation
 - Incorporating flexibility within adjust and adapt where required
 - Understanding the constraints and other priorities associated with land management agencies.

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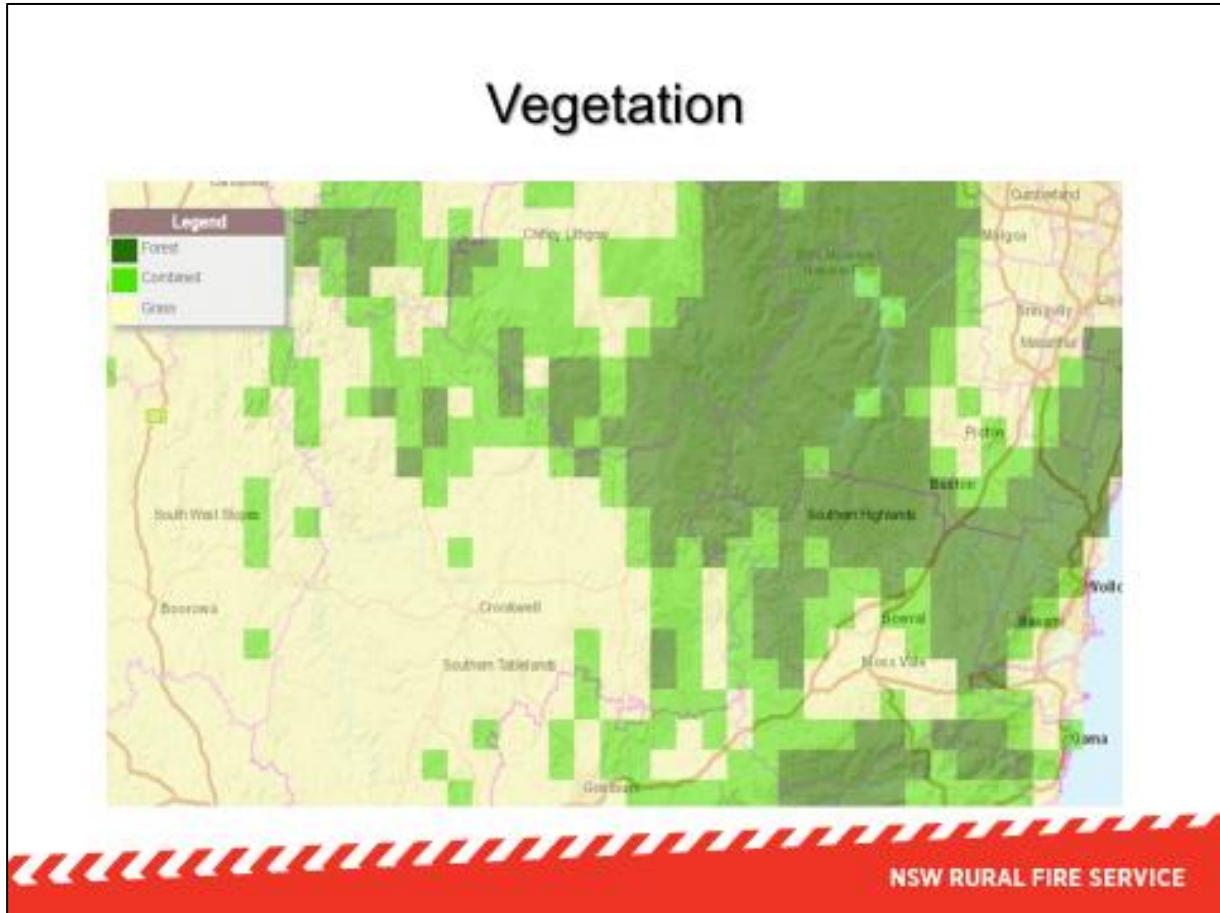


2019 around 9500ha across BFMC.

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Formal Community Forum Matters

Formal Community
Forum Matters



Bush Fire Survival Plan






DISCUSS

STEP 1
DISCUSS WHAT TO DO IF A BUSH FIRE THREATENS YOUR HOME
Many households find that having a discussion over dinner works best as everybody is together and focused.

PREPARE

STEP 2
PREPARE YOUR HOME AND GET IT READY FOR BUSH FIRE SEASON
There are simple things you can do around your home to prepare it for a bush fire, like keeping the grass low and having a cleared area around your home.

KNOW

STEP 3
KNOW THE BUSH FIRE ALERT LEVELS
If there is a fire in your area you will find its alert level on the NSW RFS website and in the 'Fire Near Me' app. You need to keep track of the alert level so you know what you should do.


KEEP

STEP 4
KEEP ALL THE BUSH FIRE INFORMATION NUMBERS, WEBSITES AND THE SMARTPHONE APP
In a bush fire, it's important that you stay up to date on conditions in your area.

**NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE**

Formal Community Forum Matters

Fire Danger Ratings

FIRE DANGER RATING	WHAT YOU SHOULD DO
 <p>CATASTROPHIC</p>	<p>For your survival, leaving early is the only option.</p> <p>Leave bush fire prone areas the night before or early in the day – do not just wait and see what happens.</p> <p>Make a decision about when you will leave, where you will go, how you will get there and when you will return.</p> <p>Homes are not designed to withstand fires in catastrophic conditions so you should leave early.</p>
<p>EXTREME</p>	<p>Leaving early is the safest option for your survival.</p> <p>If you are not prepared to the highest level, leave early in the day.</p> <p>Only consider staying if you are prepared to the highest level – such as your home is specially designed, constructed or modified, and situated to withstand a fire, you are well prepared and can actively defend it if a fire starts.</p>
<p>SEVERE</p>	<p>Leaving early is the safest option for your survival.</p> <p>Well prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety – but only stay if you are physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions.</p> <p>If you're not prepared, leave early in the day.</p>
<p>VERY HIGH</p>	<p>Review your Bush Fire Survival Plan with your family.</p>
<p>HIGH</p>	<p>Keep yourself informed and monitor conditions.</p>
<p>LOW MODERATE</p>	<p>Be ready to act if necessary.</p>



Advice - A fire has started, no immediate danger
Watch and Act - Heightened level of threat - Take action
Emergency Warning - Highest level of bush fire alert.

Fires near me App was highlighted as a handy tool to keep an eye on the status of active fires throughout the season.

The Chairperson thanked Ms Smith for the presentation.

Questions were asked and answered on the night.

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Formal Community Forum Matters

TRIM 1806

2. **Western Sydney Airport Construction Update**

The Chairperson approved a late presentation from Mr Donson Phetrasy, Senior Community Advisor for the Western Sydney Airport.

Mr Phetrasy provided the participants with updates relating to general construction such as early earthworks, experience centre and the bulk earthworks contract.

Questions were asked and responded to on the night.

Community Question/Statement Time

COMMUNITY QUESTION/STATEMENT TIME

In line with the Community Forum Guidelines matters must be submitted on the *Community Forum Question/Statement Form* in order to be addressed. The Record of Proceedings will only record the name of the person who raised the Question/Statement, who they represent and the topic discussed. Any additional documents handed in on the night will be noted. No verbal comments from the speaker will be documented.

A copy of all questions submitted by the cut off time is given to Councillors to consider regardless of whether they are addressed during the proceedings.

The Chairperson stated that Community Question/Statement Time is for matters that relate to items in Council's Ordinary Meeting Agenda. Reports are written by Council officers and reflect the views of the applicants' proposal, community views, legal aspects and where appropriate, comments.

All questions must be submitted in writing by 12 noon on the day of the Forum. There will be a maximum of two speakers for and against a matter with each speaker limited to five minutes.

The Chairperson reinforced that Community Forums are to provide information and to allow comment and are not a debate night. The Chairperson asked that speakers address them and Councillors on all occasions, to stay on the subject matter and avoid making personal remarks about individuals.

The Acting Chief Executive Officer, Michael Malone read out the Executive Summary from the Council report for each agenda item discussed throughout the night.

TRIM 10491

Ques 1 Rowland Ware representing National Parks Association
Matter raised: 11.1 - LEP Review Program

Mr Ware addressed the Forum.

Additional documentation was handed in on the night.

Community
Question/Statement
Time

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Informal Question/Statement Time

INFORMAL QUESTION/STATEMENT TIME

In line with Council's Community Forum Guidelines matters must be submitted on the *Community Forum Question/Statement Form* in order to be addressed. The Record of Proceedings will only record the name of the person who raised the Question/Statement, who they represent and the topic discussed. Any additional documents handed in on the night will be noted. No verbal comments from the speaker will be documented.

A copy of all questions submitted by the cut off time is given to Councillors to consider regardless of whether they are addressed during the proceedings.

The Chairperson stated that this section of the Forum is for general issues which are not on the Council's current Ordinary Meeting Agenda.

All questions must be submitted in writing by 12 noon on the day of the Forum. There will be a maximum of two speakers for and against a matter with each speaker limited to five minutes.

TRIM 8529

Ques 1 Sue Gay representing Help Save Appin Inc
Matter raised: Appin Water Supply and Pending Development Application.

Ms Gay addressed the Forum.

Additional documentation was handed in on the night.

Informal Question
/Statement Time

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Conclusion and Informal Discussions

CONCLUSION AND INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS

The Chairperson thanked those present for attending, for the feedback provided and interest shown in the matters discussed. The Chairperson invited everyone to tea and coffee and to speak openly to Councillors about any matter they wish to raise.

Approximately 15 people present.

The Forum closed at 7.03pm.

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Your Councillors

YOUR COUNCILLORS

East Ward

Cr M (Matthew) Deeth
Mayor

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Cr M (Matt) Smith

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Cr N (Noel) Lowry

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Cr R (Robert) Khan

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Community Forum Dates

COMMUNITY FORUM DATES

Community Forums will generally be held on the second Monday of each month and will commence at 6.30pm except in the case of a public holiday when it will be held on the second Tuesday.

Dates for upcoming Community Forums in 2019 are as follows:

- Wednesday 16 October 2019
- Monday 11 November 2019
- Monday 2 December 2019