



COMMUNITY BRIEFING

A Presentation by the Kurrajong Heights Rural Fire Brigade
Saturday 16th September 2023

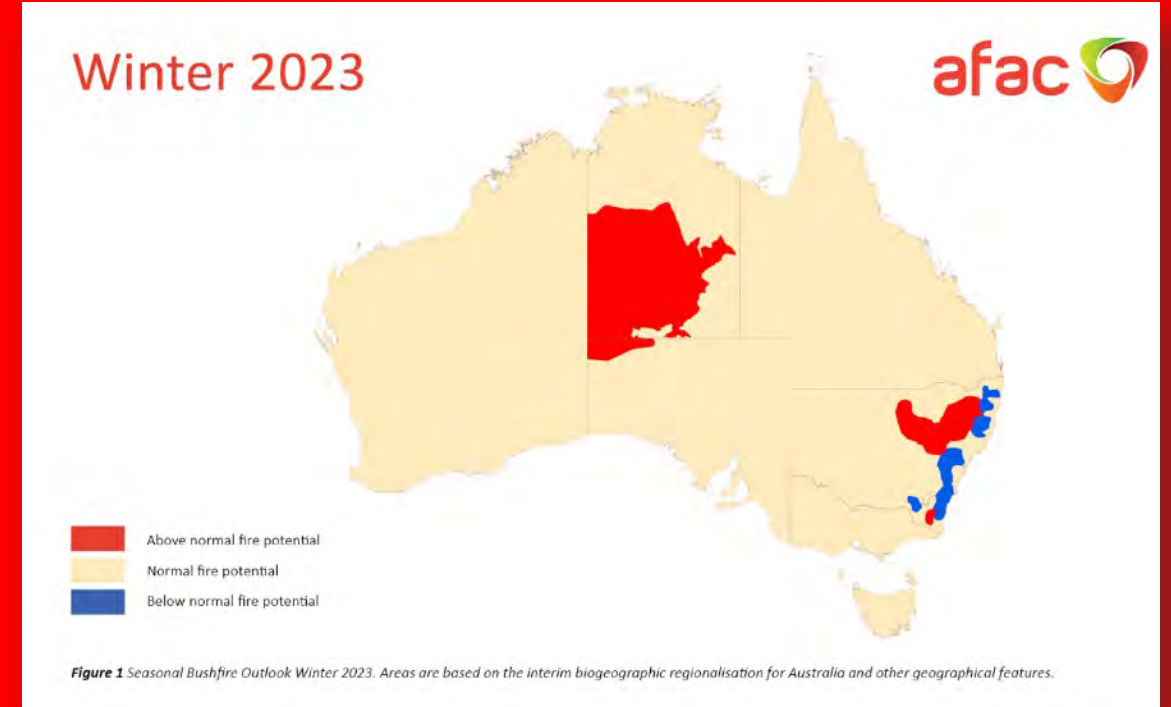
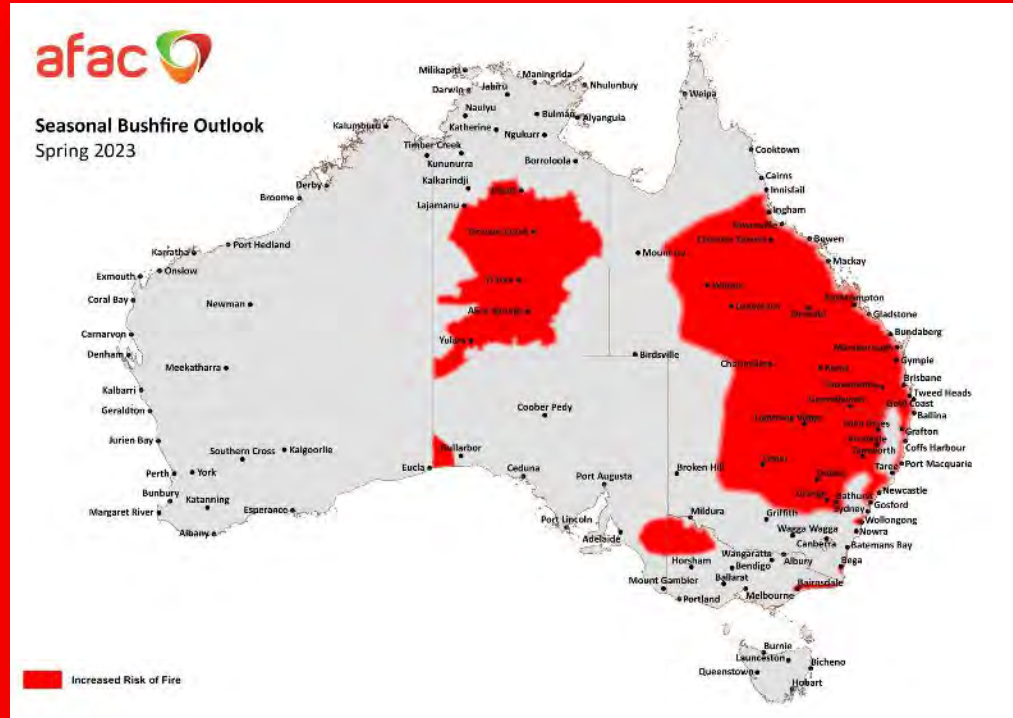


Agenda

- 2023/2024 Outlook
- Fire History
- How we Protect Kurrajong Heights
- The National Park
- Brigade Overview
- Your Fire Plan
- Stay or Go?
- Preparing your place
- Staying Informed



2023/2024 Outlook



AFAC is the Australasian Fire Authorities Council and publishes a Bushfire Outlook every quarter

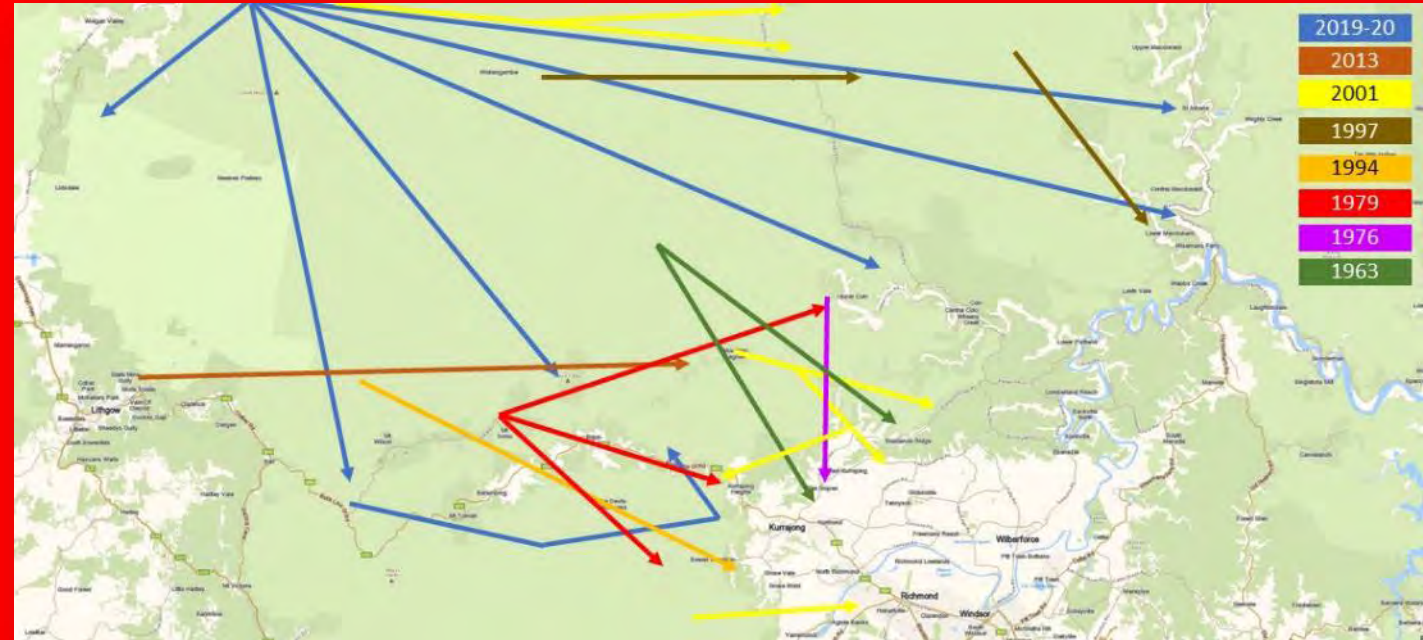
*AFAC Outlook points to a rapidly drying continent
Compare the difference to the outlook 3 months ago*



Fire History



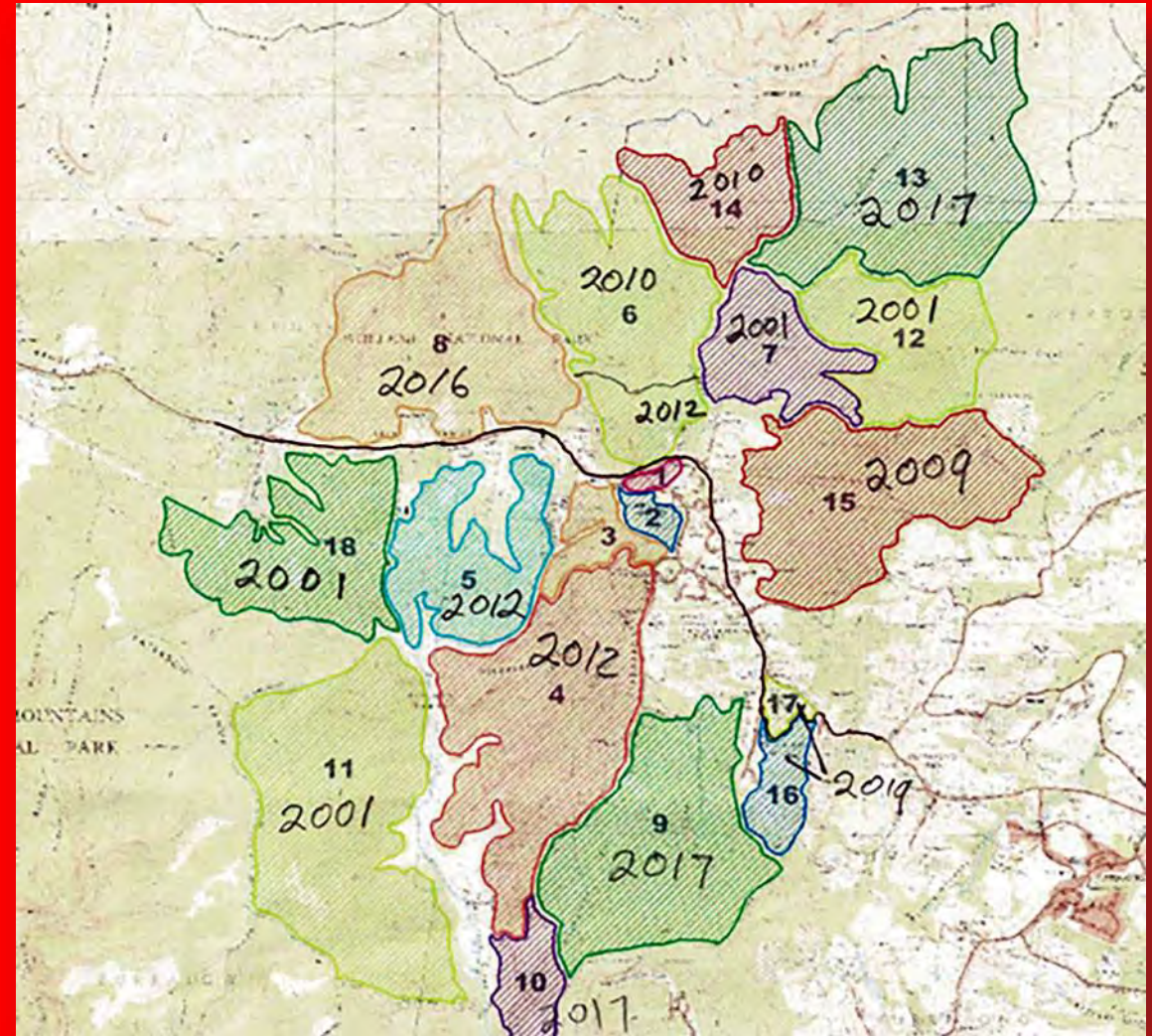
- All recent fires have come from the West
- In 1976 and 2001 there were Northerly and Easterly threats
- In 2019/20 if the Southerly had arrived a little later, we would have had to cope with a fire from the South





How we Protect Kurrajong Heights

- We use mosaic-based hazard reduction burning to ensure that any approaching fire will have to cross a recently burnt part of the mosaic
- This was the status before Gospers Mountain Fire in 2019
- Much of the area to the West and SW of the Heights as far as the Grose River was then burnt on 21.12.2019 in a successful backburn





Lines of Defense



- Mountain Lagoon Road from Bilpin to Mountain Lagoon
- Bilpin to Donna's Track and then down into the Grose River
 - If this had not been successfully defended in 2019/2020 Bowen Mountain would have been threatened





The National Park



- The dark areas show where the 2019 fires destroyed the canopy
- The sun has been able to penetrate and with huge volumes of rain we have seen unprecedented growth





Brigade Overview



- 1 x Cat 1 Tanker
 - Delivered January 2023
 - 5 crew
- 1 x Cat 7 Tanker
 - 3 crew
- 60+ Brigade members



Events are managed by the RFS using a Computer Aided Despatch system. When our brigade is called to an event our firefighters are paged on a mobile app called RFS Active; they can accept or decline the page





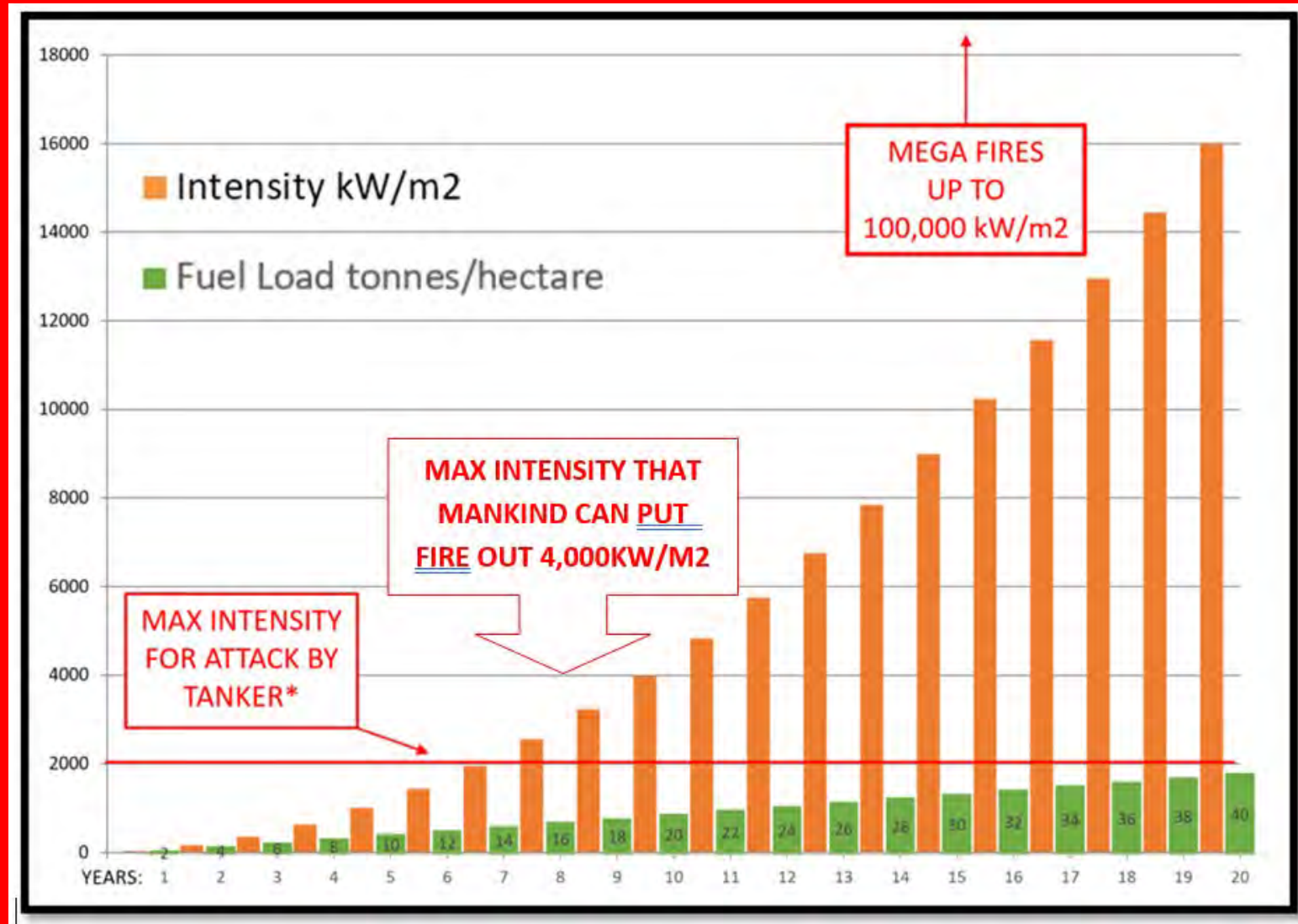
Your Fire Plan

- You can download the bushfire plan here:
https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/36597/BFSP-Complete.pdf
- You need to complete it as a family
- The BIG decision is whether to stay or go
 - It's a good idea to prepare your place to stay .. as a fast-moving fire can mean its 'too late to leave'





What can we put out?



What Sustains a Fire?

THE FIRE TRIANGLE



The fire triangle shows that fire requires three elements -
Fuel,
Oxygen
and Heat.

Without ALL three elements
a fire cannot be sustained.



Stay or Go?



DON'T LEAVE TOO LATE

- Up to one third of all bushfire deaths are caused by late leavers
- We only have BLOR. It can easily get blocked & Police may prevent access
- If you are not certain of having a clear evacuation route you should stay

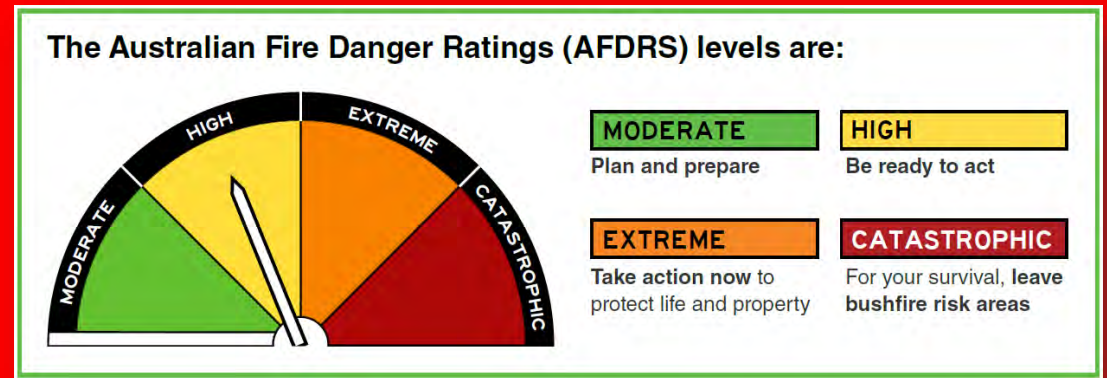
DON'T BE AFRAID TO STAY

- Your house structure will protect you as the fire passes
- If you are well prepared, you can make the difference between the house surviving as well
- Many houses catch alight long after the fire has passed



Fire Danger Rating System

- It's a new system so please familiarise yourself with it
- Full explanation on our website:
<https://www.khrfs.org/australian-fire-danger-rating-system-2/>
- See also the new Australian Flammability Monitoring System:
<http://wenfo.org/afms/>





Preparing your place

- Keep some water for us please
- Prepare your home
<https://www.khrfs.org/fireproofing-your-home/>
- Plant Fire retardant plants
- Make sure we can get a tanker up your drive
- Invest in a fire pump & fit sprinklers to your house
- Get a generator
 - And then your electric water pumps will still work





Staying Informed



- Monitor our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/KurrajongHeightsRFS>
- Download Hazards Near Me – the RFS app – but don't rely on it
- Form a WhatsApp group with your neighbours so you can share information and look out for each other
- Lots more info sources on our website:
<https://www.khrfs.org/staying-informed/>



Our website: www.khrfs.org