



2024/2025 KURRAJONG HEIGHTS COMMUNITY BRIEFING

A Presentation by the Kurrajong Heights Rural Fire Brigade
Saturday 21ST September 2024



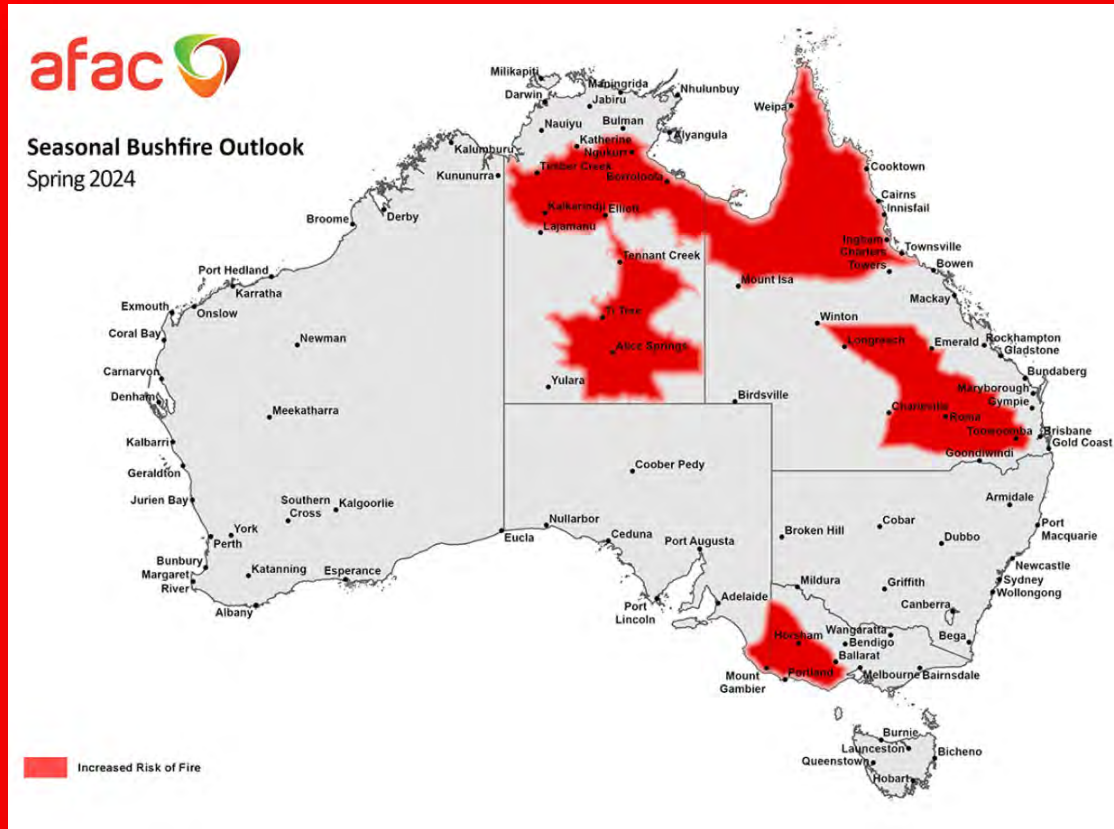
AGENDA



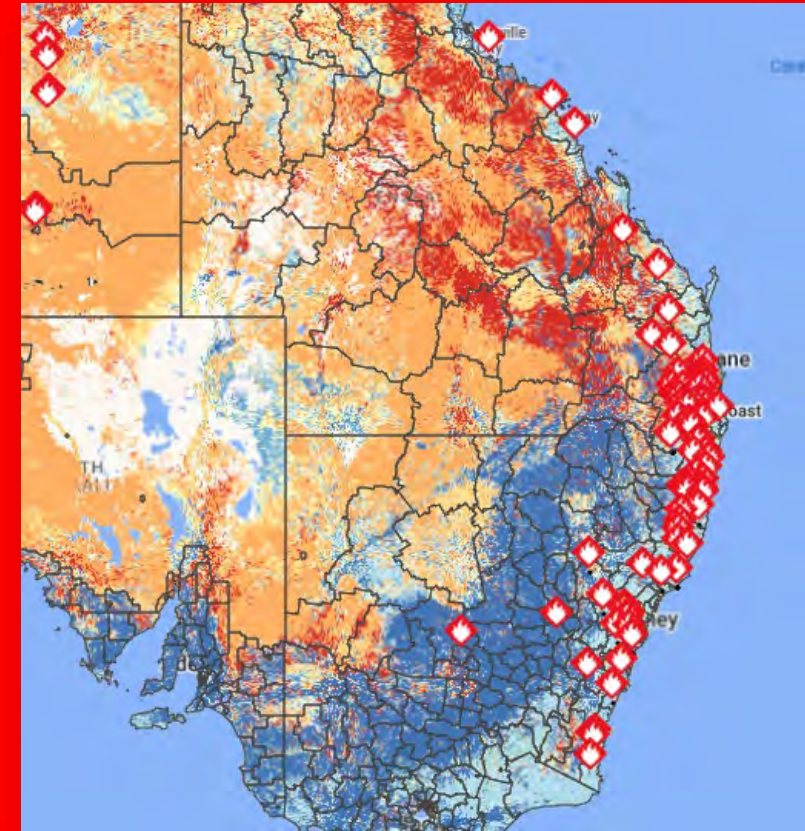
- 2024/2025 Outlook
- Fire History
- How we Protect Kurrajong Heights
- The National Park
- Brigade Overview
- Your Fire Plan
- Stay or Go?
- Preparing your place
- Staying Informed
- Planned Hazard Reduction



2024/2025 OUTLOOK



AFAC has not highlighted any increased risk of fire this spring in NSW.



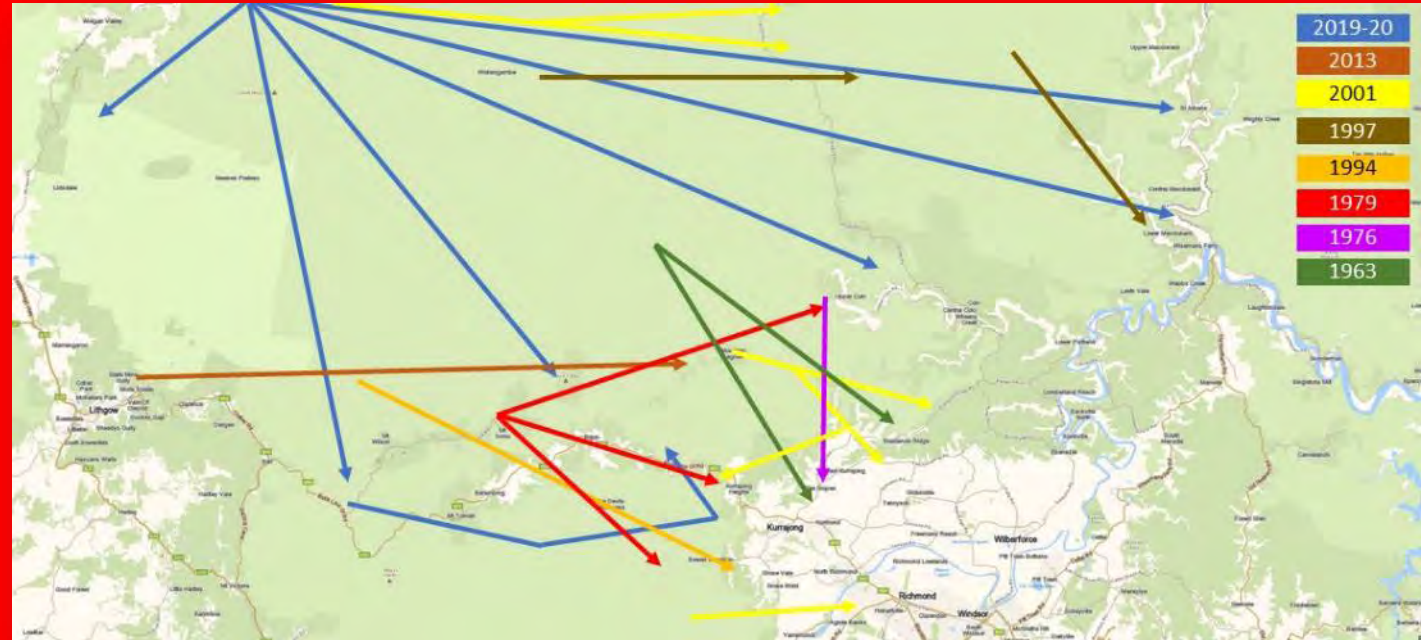
The Australian Flammability Monitoring System gives you a real time view of the potential for the country to burn: <http://wenfo.org/afms/>



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

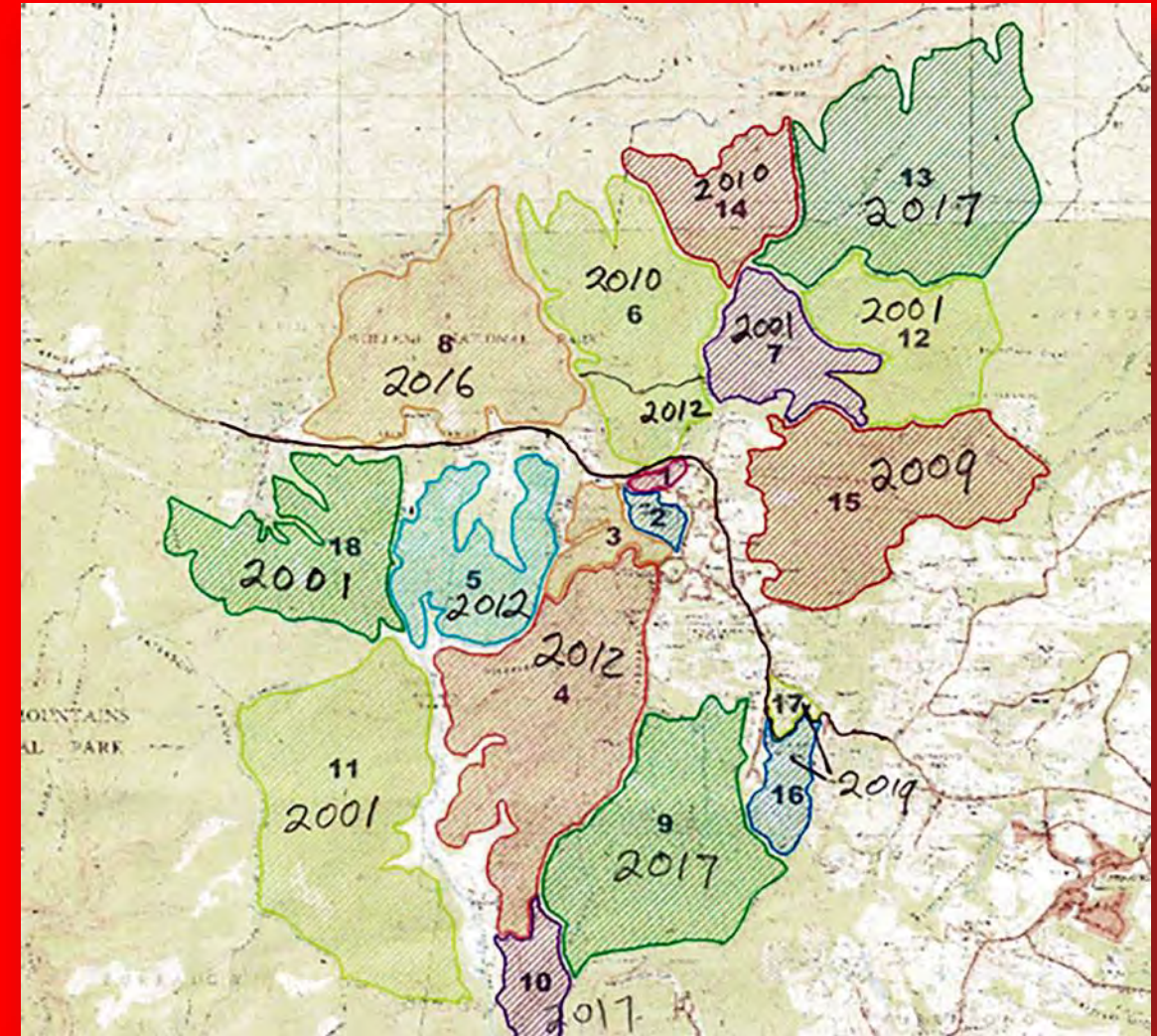




HOW WE PROTECT KURRAJONG HEIGHTS



- 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

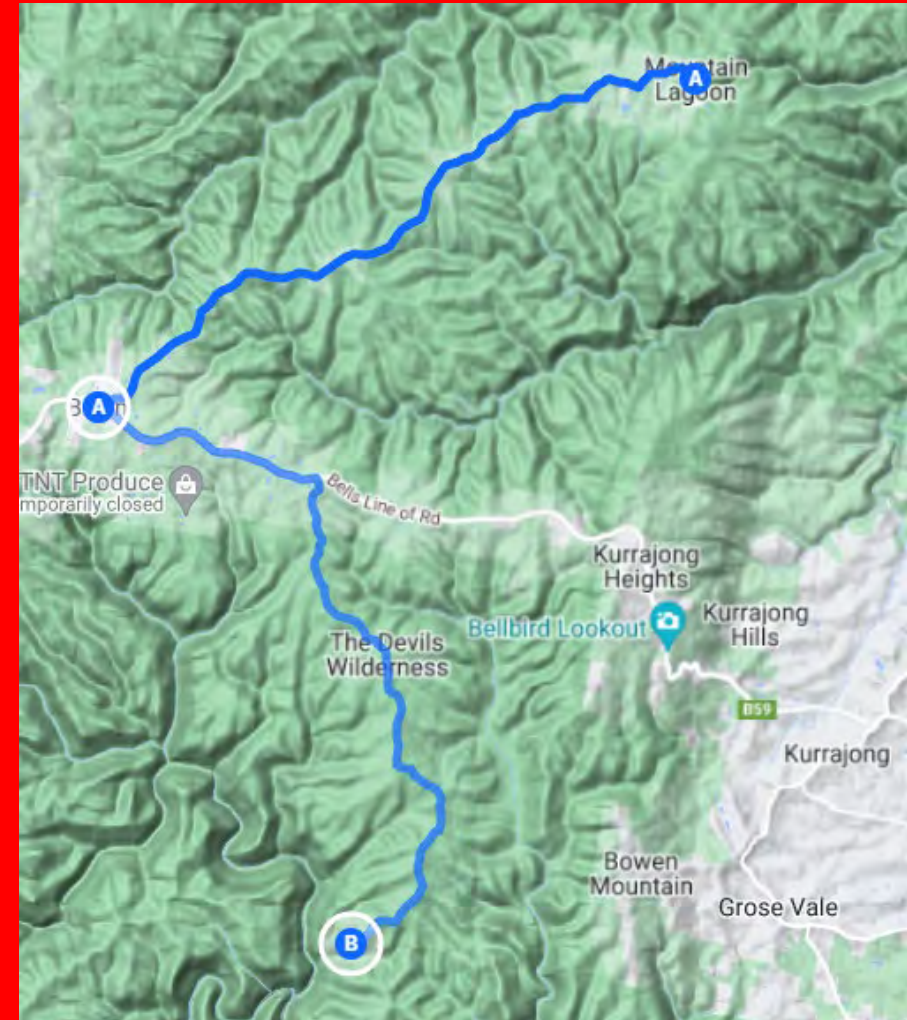




LINES OF DEFENSE



- 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





IF YOU WANT LESS POWERFUL FIRES



Take out the stuff that burns



BRIGADE OVERVIEW



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

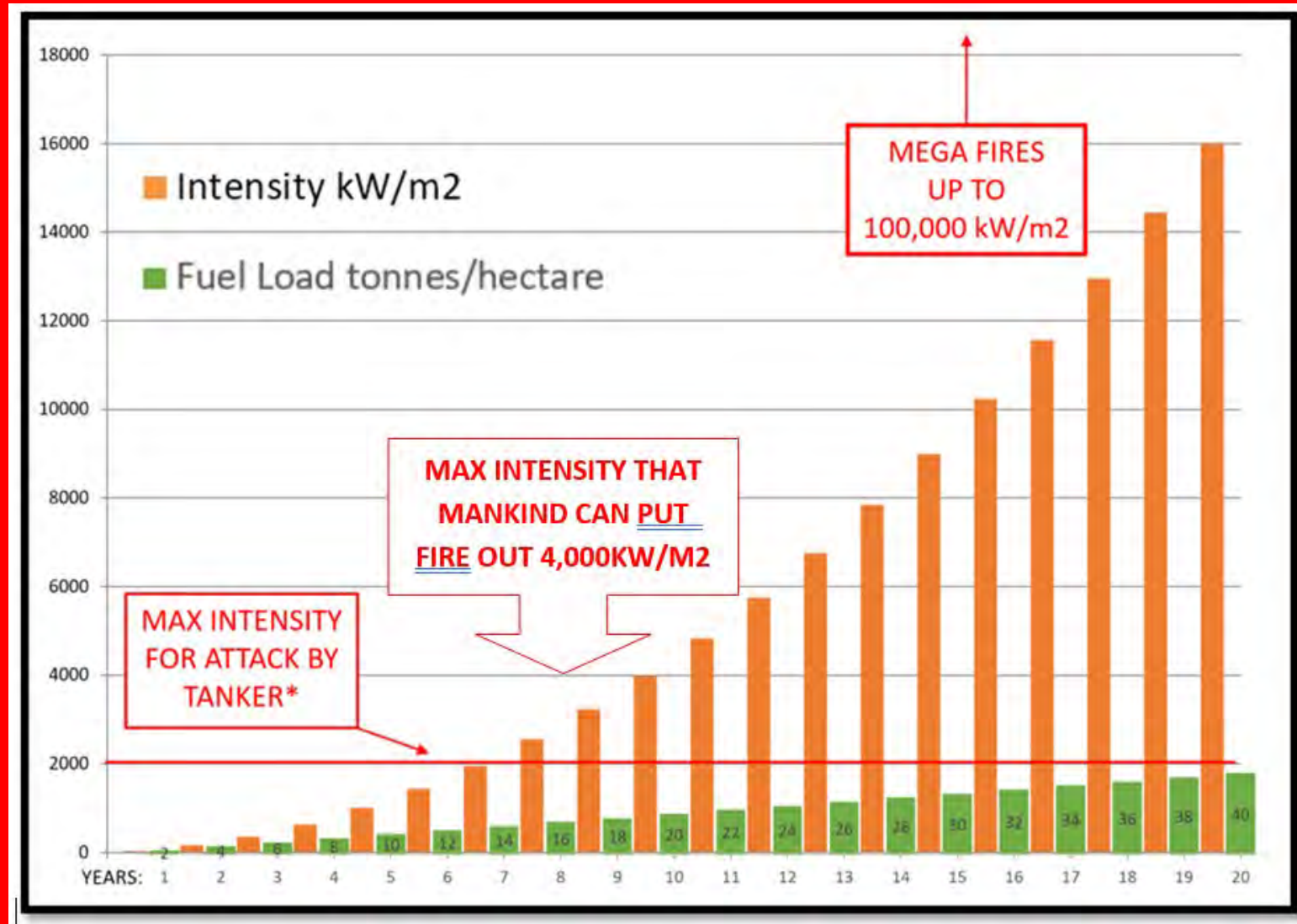


Events are managed by the RFS using a Computer Aided Despatch system. When our brigade is called to an event our firefighters are paged on a mobile app called RFS Activ; they can accept or decline the page





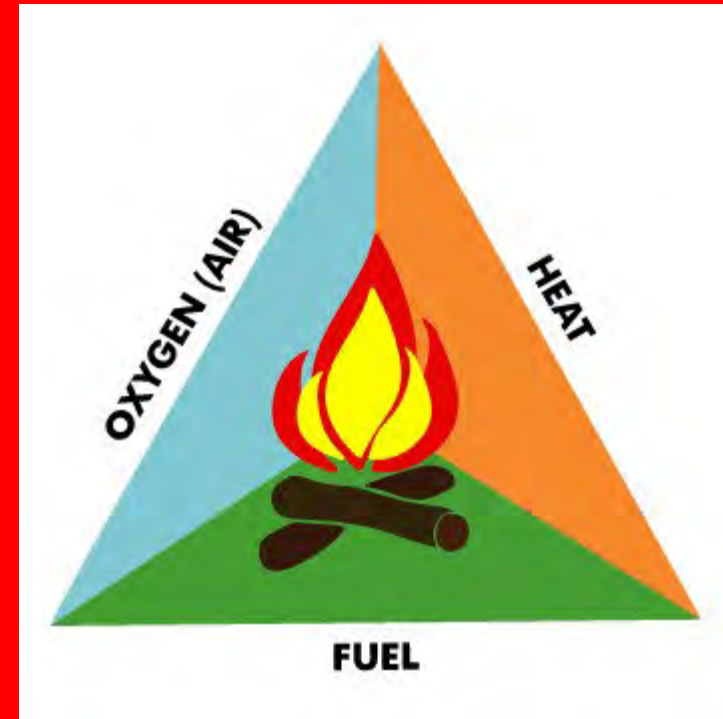
WHAT CAN WE PUT OUT?





WHAT SUSTAINS A FIRE?

- The fire triangle shows fire requires all three elements to be sustained:
 - Oxygen
 - Heat
 - Fuel
- We can only control the fuel





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 best to prepare your place to stay .. as a fast-moving fire can mean its 'too late to leave'





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 can 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

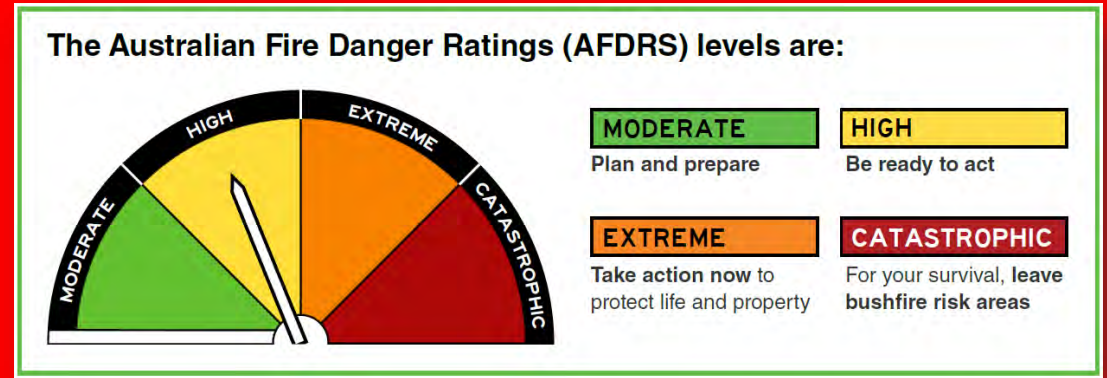


FIRE DANGER RATING SYSTEM



- 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/>





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

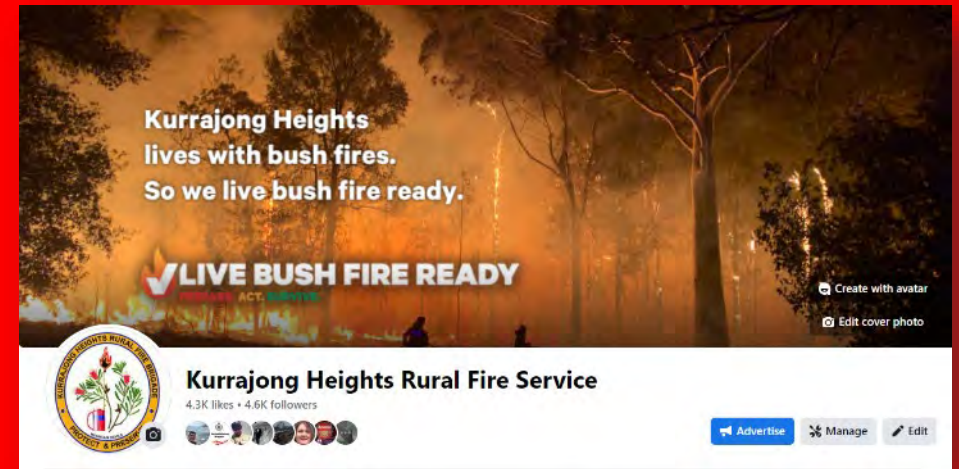




STAYING INFORMED



- 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/>



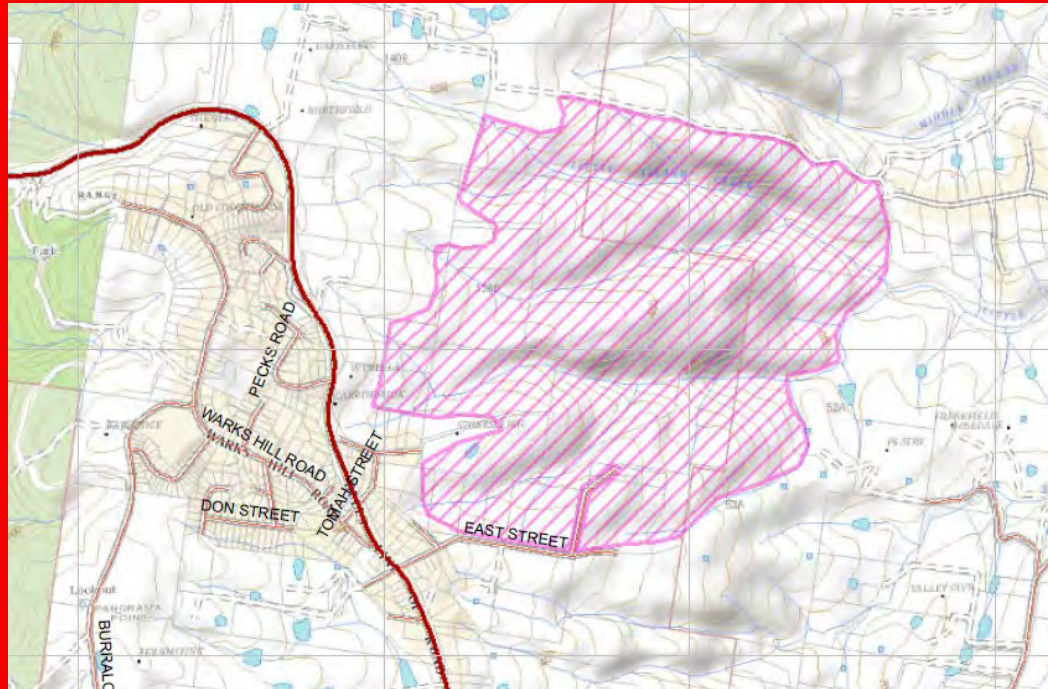
Our website: www.khrfs.org



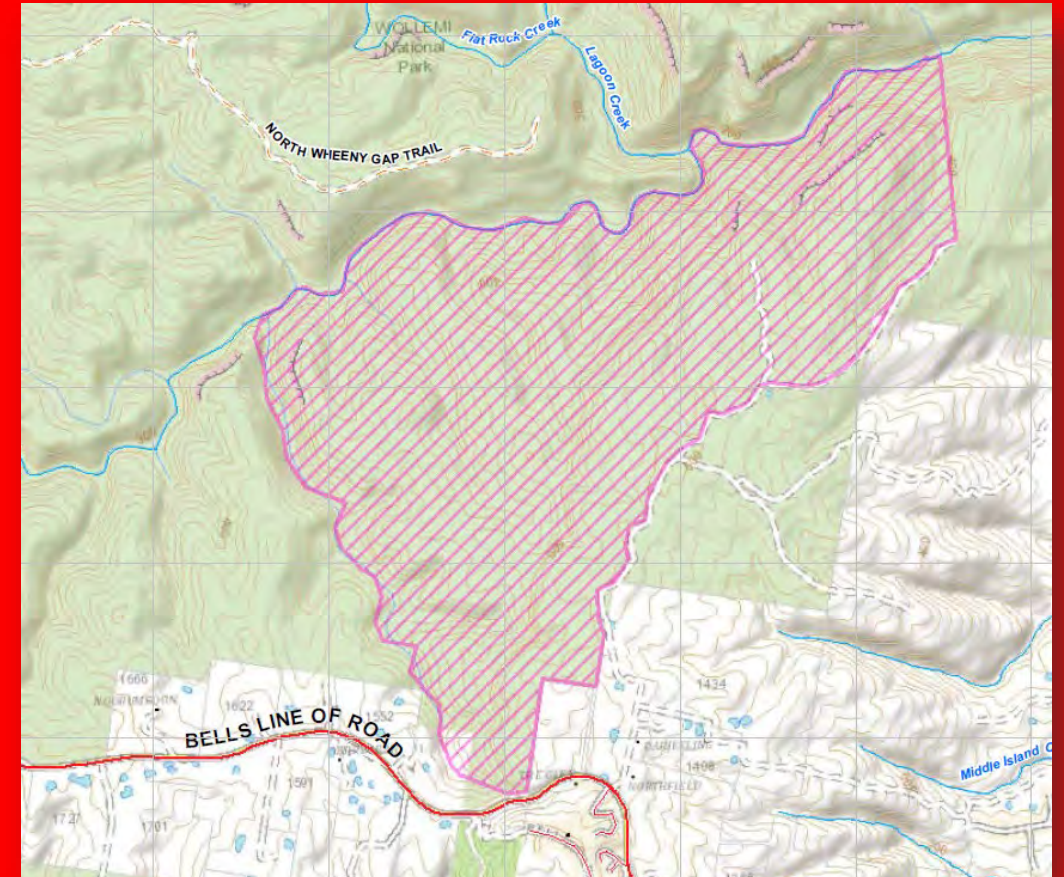
PLANNED HAZARD REDUCTION



LITTLE ISLANDS



WHEENY GAP

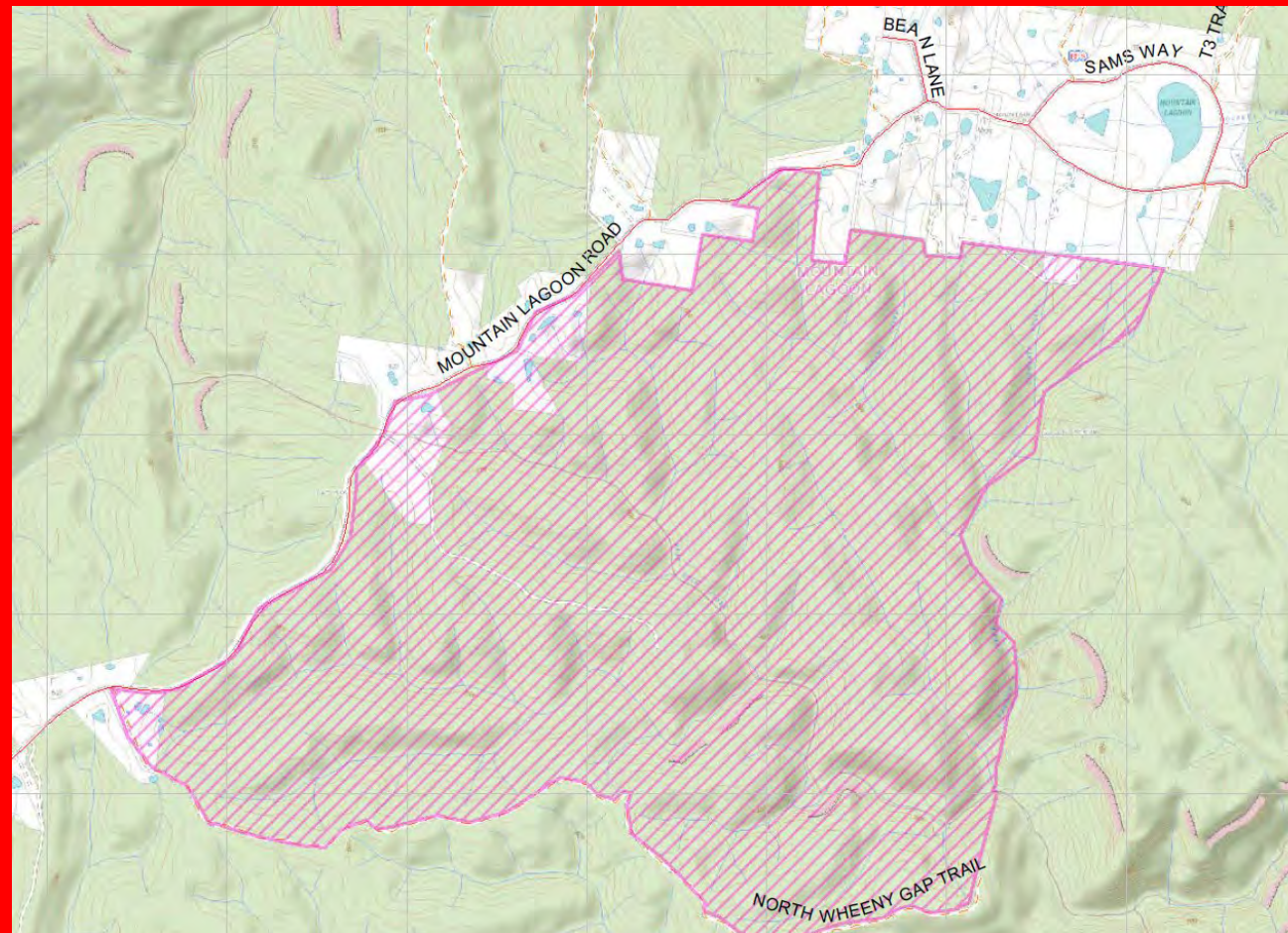




PLANNED HAZARD REDUCTION



LAGOON CREEK

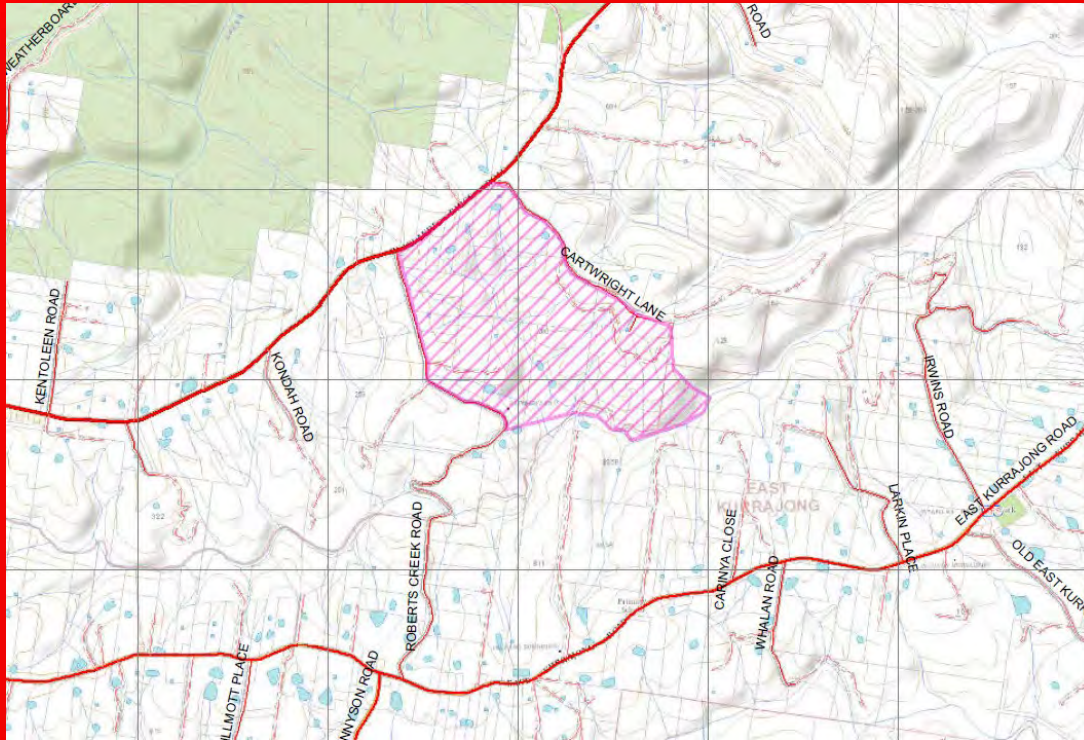




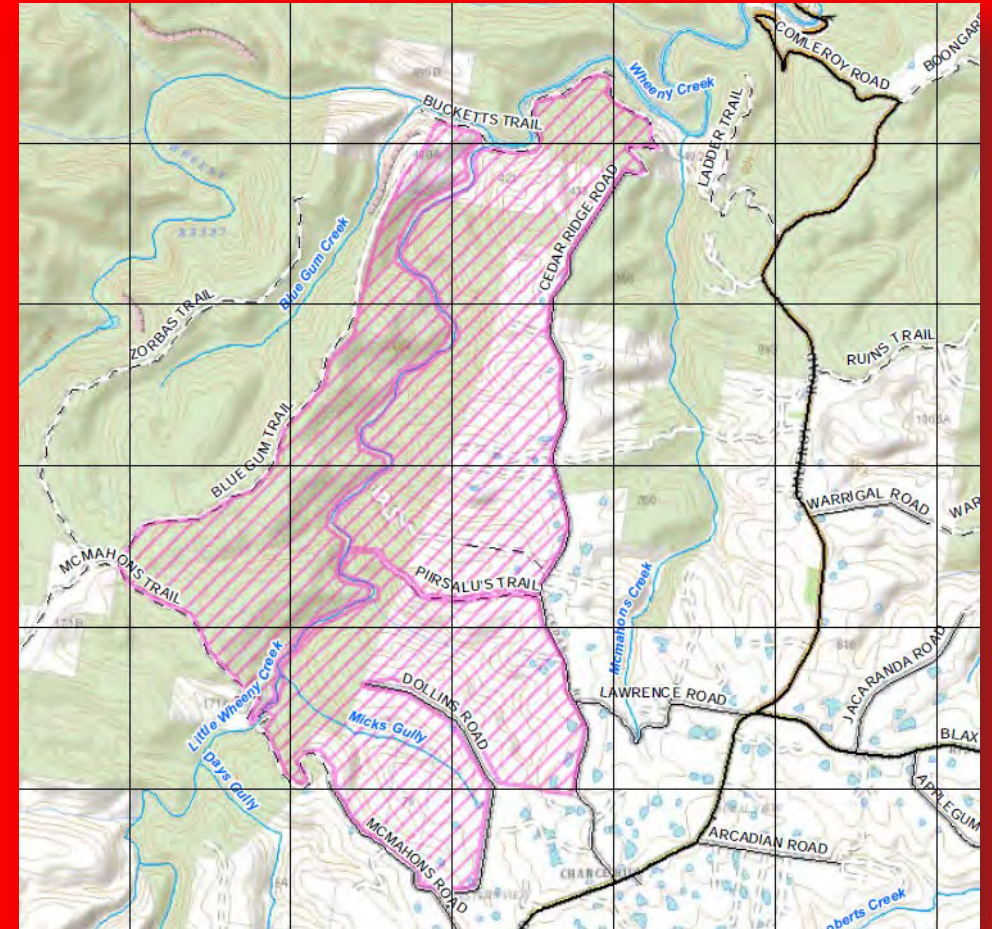
PLANNED HAZARD REDUCTION



ROBERTS CREEK



LITTLE WHEENY

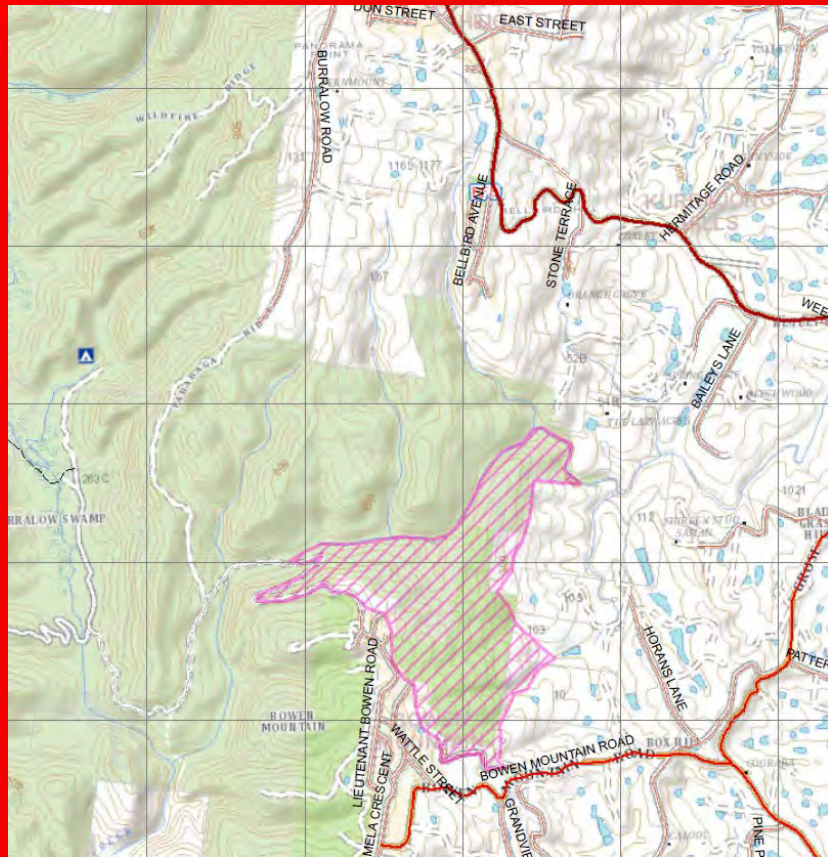




PLANNED HAZARD REDUCTION



DEVIL'S HOLE



BURRALOW CREEK WEST

