



SERVICE STANDARD 4.2.1

BUSH FIRE DANGER PERIODS

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
Version Number	3.1
SOPs	> None
Owner	Executive Director, Operations
Contact	Director, Response and Coordination
Approved Date	14 August 2017
Effective Date	4 September 2017
Next Review Date	4 September 2022
Document Control	Electronic - Printed Copies are Uncontrolled

1 Purpose

- 1.1 Section 81 of the *Rural Fires Act 1997* (the Act) provides for a bush fire danger period to apply throughout New South Wales from 1 October to 31 March each year.
- 1.2 Section 82 of the Act provides for the Commissioner to make declarations varying (by extension or reduction) the bush fire danger period specifically for local government areas.
- 1.3 Section 83 of the Act provides that the Commissioner must, before making a declaration under Section 82, consult with and take into consideration recommendations by:
 - a. The local authority for any area to which the declaration relates; and
 - b. Any fire fighting authority exercising functions in the rural fire district or fire district constituted for the area.

2 Policy

- 2.1 The Commissioner may vary the local bush fire danger period on his own initiative, in consultation with, or on the recommendation of, the local Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC).
- 2.2 When varying a bush fire danger period, the Commissioner is required to publish a notice in a newspaper circulating in the area/s in which the variation applies, and as soon as practicable, must publish a copy of the notice in the Government Gazette of NSW.
- 2.3 The Director Response and Coordination will provide advice to the Commissioner and Executive Director Operations, along with Regional and District managers (in their capacity as BFMC executive officers), relating to actual or forecast conditions which may warrant consideration of a variation to a Bush Fire Danger Period (BFDP) by the Commissioner.
- 2.4 The BFMC Executive Officer is responsible for recommending whether a local BFDP should be varied on a permanent or temporary basis, using the forms and procedures prescribed within this standard.

Permanent bush fire danger period variation

2.5 Where the relevant BFMC is seeking approval of the Commissioner to permanently vary the BFDP, this must be a consensus decision of the whole BFMC.

Temporary bush fire danger period variation

2.6 Where the relevant BFMC is seeking approval for the Commissioner to temporarily vary the BFDP, this must be with consensus of the relevant fire authorities in the BFMC area of responsibility.

2.7 A BFMC that seeks to temporarily vary the BFDP must ensure the request is submitted no less than 14 days before the proposed variation start date.

Bush fire danger period variation procedure

2.8 Where the BFMC recommends that a variation of the local bush fire danger period occur, the BFMC Executive Officer shall request such variation using OMP 4.13.02 Application for Variation to Local Bush Fire Danger Period.

2.9 Once approved by the Commissioner or delegated officer, a notice varying the bush fire danger period must:

- a. Specify the name/s of the local government area/s or part area affected by the declaration;
- b. Specify the amended bush fire danger period; and
- c. Be signed and dated by the Commissioner or his authorised delegate.

2.10 The notice of variation, once approved, shall be published by the District Manager in a newspaper circulated generally in the affected local government area/s.

2.11 A copy of the notice must be published in the Government Gazette of NSW.

2.12 Any variation to a bush fire danger period will be processed by the NSW RFS Response and Coordination Unit in accordance with OMP 4.13.02 Application for Variation to Local Bush Fire Danger Period.

3 Related documents

- > *Rural Fires Act 1997*
- > OMP 4.13 Section 82 Local Bush Fire Danger Period
 - > [4.13.02 Application for Variation to Local Bush Fire Danger Period](#)
 - > [4.13.03 Memorandum to District/Team/Zone re Variation to Local Bush Fire Danger Period](#)
 - > [4.13.04 Instrument for Variation to Local Bush Fire Danger Period](#)
 - > [4.13.05 Procedure for Bush Fire Danger Period Variations](#)

4 Amendments

AMENDMENT DATE	VERSION NO	DESCRIPTION
1 September 1999	1.0	Initial release
15 October 2001	1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Repealed and remade v1.0> Clauses 1.1, 1.4 and 7
1 August 2002	2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Repealed and remade v1.1> Clauses 1,2,3,4,5 and 7> Appendices 1, 2 and 3 added
29 August 2002	2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Repealed and remade v2.0> Appendix 3 – correction to <i>Rural Fires Act</i> date> Appendix 4 added

AMENDMENT DATE	VERSION NO	DESCRIPTION
23 April 2004	2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Repealed and remade v2.1 > Clauses 2.2, 2.3, 2.5, 2.6, 2.8, 2.9, 2.10, 2.10.1, 2.10.2, 2.10.3, 3, and 7 > Appendices 2, 3, 4 removed
1 September 2004	2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Repealed and remade v2.2
29 October 2004	2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Repealed and remade v2.3 > Heading "Issue" to include RFSAC endorsement
30 May 2005	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Repealed and remade v2.4 > Re-titled to Variation to Bush Fire Danger Periods
10 October 2013	3.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Repealed and remade v2.5 > Re-titled to Bush Fire Danger Periods > Clauses 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9 > Clauses 2.5 and 2.10 removed
4 September 2017	3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Repeals and remakes v3.0 > Clarifies current processes