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1. OVERVIEW

Forestry Corporation of NSW (FCNSW) manages a significant estate of fire prone forests and plantations in NSW. Uncontrolled bushfires are a major and recurring threat to FCNSW business objectives, to communities living in or near forested landscapes, and to people and businesses whose livelihoods rely on forest and plantation resources.

FCNSW is responsible for sustainably managing native forest ecosystems that have evolved with fire and require a range of different fire regimes to maintain their health, diversity and vitality. In addition, FCNSW has statutory obligations to manage fire. Accordingly, FCNSW recognises the need for a risk-based approach to fire management which gives appropriate protection to the range of social, economic and environmental values.

2. BACKGROUND

Forestry Corporation's statutory obligations for fire management arise from the *Forestry Act 2012* and the *Rural Fires Act 1997*. These Acts place a responsibility on FCNSW to

- » protect life and property from fire,
- » minimize the spread of fire from State forests and other lands managed by FCNSW, and
- » protect State forests from the damaging effects of fires.

The Rural Fires Act recognises FCNSW as one of four Fire Authorities, a member of the NSW Bush Fire Coordinating Committee, and subjects FCNSW to the coordinated fire management provisions of the *Rural Fires Act*.

3. SCOPE

This policy covers FCNSW' fire and fuel management activities.

4. POLICY

1. FCNSW' undertakes fire management planning at strategic, tactical and operational levels.
 - a. Pre-incident Plans establish preparedness, detection and response arrangements for wildfire.
 - b. Fuel management plans define the preventative measures taken by FCNSW to minimise the risk of wildfires.
 - c. Operational planning processes for each site identify a range of values, including areas of environmental and cultural significance.
2. FCNSW implements the Australian standard control and command structure for wildfire suppression, which follows the Australian Inter-Service Incident Management System (AIIMS).
3. FCNSW applies national competency standards in fire training for Incident Management roles and firefighting personnel
4. FCNSW collaborates with other landowners and land managers, fire authorities and the community to

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- a. develop bushfire risk management and operations plans
 - b. implement programs for bushfire prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.
 - c. respond to bushfires to minimise the adverse impacts on human life, and on social, economic and environmental values.
5. FCNSW use fire as a tool to promote ecosystem health, diversity and resilience in native forests, and as a risk reduction strategy to minimise the adverse impacts of wildfire.
6. FCNSW maintains appropriate levels of fire management capability to effectively discharge its responsibilities as a sustainable forest manager and statutory fire authority.

5. RELATED LEGISLATION

- » Forestry Act 2012
- » Rural Fires Act 1997
- » Environment Planning & Assessment Act 1979
- » National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974
- » Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
- » Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999,
- » Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- » Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)

6. RELATED POLICIES

- » Forest Management policy
- » Health and Safety policy
- » Training and Development Policy
- » Fire Training Currency and Competency Policy

7. RELATED DELEGATIONS

- » Fire Fighting and Estate Management Arrangements between Divisions, including Fire Management Responsibility

8. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- » FCNSW Fire Management Plan
- » Pre-Incident Plans
- » SPD and HFD Fuel Management Plans
- » Fire Management Manual - directives, guidelines and procedures.

9. REVISION HISTORY

Version	Policy Number	Date
1	P2012/07	9/9/2012
2	P2016/01	20/5/2016
3	P2020/05	12/05/2020

10. CONTACT OFFICER

State Fire Manager

Approved



Acting Chief Executive Officer

Anshul Chaudhary

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