

<b>Title</b>	Fire Management	<b>Version</b>	2
<b>Policy No.</b>	P 2016/01	<b>Effective date</b>	20/05/2016

## 1. OVERVIEW

The 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 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. 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

FCNSW'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; to minimize the spread of fire from State forests and other lands managed by FCNSW, and to protect State forests from the damaging effects of fires.

FCNSW is recognized as one of four Fire Authorities under the *Rural Fires Act*, is a member of the NSW Bush Fire Coordinating Committee, and is subject to the coordinated fire management provisions of the *Rural Fires Act*.

## 3. SCOPE

This policy covers all FCNSW's fire and fuel management activities.

## 4. MISSION STATEMENT

In cooperation with the community and other NSW fire authorities, FCNSW will manage fire in a way that will complement the sustainable management of its estate in supplying timber to the community as well as a range of environmental, social and economic benefits.

## 5. FIRE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS

1. FCNSW will work collaboratively with other NSW fire authorities to develop bushfire risk management and operations plans, and will implement programs for bushfire prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.
2. FCNSW will work cooperatively with other NSW fire authorities to respond to bushfires to minimise the adverse impacts on human life, and on social, economic and environmental values.
3. FCNSW will use fire under appropriate conditions to promote ecosystem health, diversity and resilience in native forests, and as a risk reduction strategy.
4. Recognising that bushfire risk management is a shared responsibility (involving other NSW fire authorities, state and local government, communities and individuals), FCNSW will maintain appropriate levels of fire management capability to effectively discharge its responsibilities as a sustainable forest manager and statutory fire authority.

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## Implementation

- FCNSW undertakes fire management planning at strategic, tactical and operational levels and collaborates with other landowners and land managers, fire authorities and the community.
- Fire management activities will be undertaken in accordance with the FCNSW Fire Management Manual, and fire suppression capability will be maintained to manage an acceptable level of risk.
- Details of FCNSW fire management planning and procedures is contained within the following documentation housed in the FCNSW Intranet site under Fire :
  - Pre- Incident Plans and Fuel Management plans.
  - Fire Management Manual - directives, guidelines and procedures.

## 6. RELATED LEGISLATION

The following list of legislation has implications on the way that Forests NSW manages fire on its estate.

- *Forestry Act 2012*
- *Rural Fires Act 1997*
- *Environment Planning & Assessment Act 1979*
- *Forestry & National Parks Estates Act 1998*
- *National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974*
- *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*
- *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*
- *Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997*
- *Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991*
- *Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999, and*
- *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)*

## 7. RELATED POLICIES

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

## 8. RELATED DELEGATIONS

- None

## 9. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Fire Management Manual
- FCNSW Safety Management System

## 10. REVISION HISTORY

Version	Policy Number	Date
1	P2012/07	4/07/2013
2	P2016/01	20/05/2016

## 11. DATE OF NEXT REVIEW

May 2019

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## 12. CONTACT OFFICER

The FCNSW State Fire Manager will be responsible for maintenance and review of this policy. Future policy changes may occur in line with changes to National Fire management policies, NSW coordinated Fire Fighting arrangements, or changes to the FCNSW business model.

### Executive Endorsement

#### Chief Forester

Ross Dickson  
Corporate Resources Division



**Chief Executive Officer**

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