

Closing facilities due to bushfire risk Procedure

Safer places



Council has a process for closing some community facilities during elevated fire danger weather. The aim is to minimise the number of people in high risk areas during times of heightened fire danger.

Better awareness



A risk rating has been used to classify facilities based on a number of characteristics including the number of people likely to be using a facility and how easy is it to get away from bush fire prone land in the event of an unexpected fire. Facilities on bushfire prone land will be closed at certain times during dangerous conditions.

Better communication



Facilities would close when fire danger ratings reach *high*, *extreme* or *catastrophic*. For information on what fire danger ratings mean as well as information on fire behaviour under different conditions visit rfs.nsw.gov.au

This new process focuses on organised groups such as sporting clubs and groups who have hired halls for events, but it is still good practice for individuals to avoid these higher risk places during high fire danger periods.

Better prepared for emergencies



Ovals, halls and pools on bushfire prone land

The table below outlines when higher risk facilities will be closed to community use based on fire danger ratings. For example: Canyonleigh Hall would close when the fire danger rating reaches *extreme* or *catastrophic* as it is a facility on bushfire prone land. It is also a long way to go before reaching a safer area and is often used for large group events.

Planning ahead

If you are planning an important sporting or social event during the Bush Fire Danger Period (October to March), consider using a facility that is not on bushfire prone land to avoid the need to change venues at the last minute if the fire danger rating changes. Check Council's website for information about each facility and when a facility will be closed.

How will I know if a facility is closed?

Each facility has a web page which has the information about when a facility will be closed. The website also provides a link to the fire danger rating. Fire danger ratings are updated by the Rural Fire Services generally by 4pm each afternoon.

Hirers will need to check the fire danger rating before using the sports field or halls. Sporting clubs already check the website when wet weather impacts grounds. The bushfire risk process is similar.

When you book an oval or hall, the user agreement or booking request forms will provide information about whether the facility is on bushfire prone land.

Closure triggers for sports fields, pools and halls on bush fire prone land

Facility	Fire Danger Rating for Illawarra Shoalhaven district			
	Moderate	High	Extreme	Catastrophic
Sports fields				
Mount Alexandra Mtn biking tracks	Open	Caution	Closed	Closed
Tourist Road Oval and Tennis courts	Open	Caution	Closed	Closed
Berrima District Pony Club Grounds	Open	Caution	Closed	Closed
Berrima River Campground	Open	Caution	Closed	Closed
Bill O'Reilly Oval	Open	Caution	Closed	Closed
Boronia Park Sports Fields	Open	Caution	Closed	Closed
Colo Vale Tennis courts	Open	Caution	Closed	Closed
Jurd Park Sports Fields	Open	Caution	Closed	Closed
Ferndale Reserve Sports Fields	Open	Caution	Closed	Closed
Mittagong Oval	Open	Caution	Closed	Closed
Ironmines Oval	Open	Caution	Closed	Closed
Loopline Pony Club grounds	Open	Caution	Closed	Closed
Penrose Tennis Courts	Open	Caution	Closed	Closed
Welby Hockey Fields	Open	Caution	Closed	Closed
Yerrinbool Oval	Open	Caution	Closed	Closed
Centennial Park Sports Fields	Open	Open	Caution	Closed
Eridge Park Sports Fields	Open	Open	Caution	Closed
Mittagong Tennis Courts	Open	Open	Caution	Closed
Welby Oval	Open	Open	Caution	Closed
Pools				
Mittagong Pool	Open	Caution	Closed	Closed
Halls				
Canyonleigh Community Hall	Open	Caution	Closed	Closed
Hill Top Community Centre	Open	Caution	Closed	Closed
Penrose Hall	Open	Caution	Closed	Closed
Wingello Mechanics Institute	Open	Caution	Closed	Closed
Yerrinbool Hall	Open	Caution	Closed	Closed
<p>Caution indicates that additional actions are recommended for all groups using this facility including monitoring the RFS Fires Near Me app for new fires and reviewing evacuation plans.</p> <p>Closed means that use of the site by organised groups, including those with a booking, is suspended until the Fire Danger Rating is below the closure trigger level for the site.</p>				

How can I find out more?

Visit Council's website, email or call for more information.

Connecting with Council

✉ mail@wsc.nsw.gov.au

☎ 02 4868 0888 (24hr Contact Centre)

📍 PO Box 141, Moss Vale NSW 2577

📍 Civic Centre, 68 Elizabeth Street, Moss Vale