



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

14th August 2008

BUSH FIRE DANGER PERIOD FIRE PERMITS REQUIRED

Kempsey Rural Fire Service

The NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) has declared an early start to the Bush Fire Danger Period in the **Kempsey Rural Fire Service District** which will commence on **1st September 2008** and covers the local government areas of **Kempsey**.

As of **1st September 2008** any person wishing to light a fire in **Kempsey Local Government Area** will require a permit. These are free and are available by calling your **local permit issuing officer or Kempsey Fire Control Centre on 6562 1964 and Nambucca Fire Control Centre on 6568 2536**.

"Given the current conditions, any landholder who is planning to use fire in the open will need to take extra precautions and get a fire permit.

"Permits enable us to regulate use of fire so we can apply conditions to encourage safer burning and fire authorities are aware of exactly where and when fire is being used.

"Weather conditions are generally hotter, drier and windier during the bushfire danger period, meaning fires are more likely to escape and become major bushfires with the potential to threaten life, property and the environment.

"The RFS reminds all landholders that fire permits are suspended during days of Total Fire Ban. It is an offence to allow a fire to escape from your property and it is your responsibility to ensure that fires are not left unattended.

"Commencement of the Bush Fire Danger Period does not prohibit landholders from doing hazard reduction burning. In fact, we continue to encourage properly prepared and managed hazard reductions. However, it does mean that under section 85 of Rural Fire Act, permits will be required for lighting fires."

If you do have to burn ask the RFS for advice, permits and approvals:

- give fire authorities and neighbours 24 hours notice
- check weather conditions/Total Fire Bans
- delay the burn if concerning winds are forecast
- create proper fire breaks
- have adequate water resources on hand
- supervise the fire at all times
- call triple zero (000) immediately if fire escapes.

NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE STATEWIDE DUTY MEDIA OFFICER (02) 9898 1855

For more information contact Kempsey Fire Control Centre on 6562 1964 or visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au