

# Fire Plan for Hawke's Bay, Te Ūpoko

2021 - 2024



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**Status of this document**

This document is issued by Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

**Recommendations for change**

The document, its content and specific processes are not to be altered except through Fire and Emergency New Zealand document management processes.

Requests or recommendations for changes to this material should be sent to Region Manager, Te Ūpoko

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**Approval**

Full Name: Bruce Stubbs

Title: Region Manager, Te Ūpoko

Date: 27 July 2021

Signature

## Introduction

### How to use this document

The front sections of this document contain information about fire plans in general, and the basics of Fire and Emergency New Zealand's fire control powers and how we use them to reduce the risk of unwanted fires, particularly around fires in the open air.

The back portion of this document contains the locally specific information relevant to this fire plan area, as these fire plans must take the local fire risk conditions into account, and not just apply a blanket standard across the country. All of our areas have different levels of risk, so what may be appropriate for one area of the country may not apply somewhere else.

### Why do we have fire plans?

Fire plans are required by [section 22](#) of the [Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017](#) and the [Fire and Emergency New Zealand \(Fire Plans\) Regulations 2018](#).

According to [Regulation 5](#) of the Regulations, the purpose of a fire plan is to:

- provide transparency and predictability in relation to the use of Fire and Emergency's fire control powers under sections [52 to 58](#) and [62 to 68](#) of the [Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017](#) in each local area; and
- ensure that the particular fire risk conditions in each local area are considered by Fire and Emergency when it establishes policies and procedures for, and exercises fire control powers within, that local area.

This means that we need to explain how we set locally-appropriate triggers for changing fire seasons for outdoor fires to require permits, or to prohibit fires and even restrict activities that may cause unwanted fires, and how we apply our other powers to manage fire hazards or require firebreaks. This helps people to understand what to expect, how to plan for this and what they need to do to comply with any requirements.

### Content of the fire plans

Fire plans must:

- describe the particular fire risk conditions that exist or are likely to exist in the local area. This means that each fire plan is accurate and relevant for its area, and the fire plan can be broken down into specific zones within the area where fire risk conditions or control measures differ.
- set out the policy for fire control in the local area. This sets out when and why we restrict or prohibit fires in the outdoors, or restrict activities that may cause unwanted fires, and manage fire hazards or require firebreaks
- set out the procedures to be followed for fire control in the local area, including details of the processes that Fire and Emergency will follow, and the factors that Fire and Emergency will consider, when deciding to:
  - issue notices of prohibitions or restrictions for fire control under [section 52](#) of the Act
  - declare a prohibited or restricted fire season in relation to the local area, or a part of that area, under [section 56](#) of the Act
  - issue notices in relation to firebreaks under [section 62](#) of the Act
  - issue notices to remove or destroy vegetation or other things on land under [section 65](#) of the Act.

This means that our communities understand how we have come to those decisions, and that we can show that they are evidence-based decisions that don't impact on recreational and economic activities unnecessarily.

A fire plan must be consistent with:

- Fire and Emergency's national strategy
- any local planning by Fire and Emergency in respect of the local area
- any current operational service agreement and memorandum of understanding that Fire and Emergency has with other agencies or people relevant to the local area
- any relevant Fire and Emergency policies.

A fire plan must cover the entire local area that it relates to, but we can break each area down into smaller zones to manage them individually. This ensures that each fire plan is relevant to everywhere within its area.

Fire plans are not about how we fight fires in the local area, or the resources available to do so. This plan is about how, when and why Fire and Emergency will exercise its fire control powers to reduce the incidence of unwanted fires in the area.

## Local area and zones

### Local area

In the context of these fire plans, local area is the area within each Local Advisory Committee's boundaries.

The Fire and Emergency New Zealand (Fire Plans) Regulations 2018 indicate that Fire and Emergency must prepare and issue a fire plan for each local area as soon as possible after the boundaries of the Local Advisory Committee in respect of the local area are set.

In May 2019, the Board of Fire and Emergency New Zealand approved Local Advisory Committee boundaries aligned with the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEMG) boundaries as originally proposed and publicly consulted, with one modification to include the Tararua District in the Hawke's Bay Local Advisory Committee area.

### Zones

Zones within an area can be based on climatic conditions, geographical features or land use based on previous work on analysing the wildfire threat, or territorial authority, to enable fire seasons to be applied to the zone in a way that makes sense from a fire science point of view, and our ability to communicate where the boundaries are with the public.

## Consultation

Before issuing a fire plan for a local area, or an amended fire plan, Fire and Emergency must:

- publish a notice that:
  - gives an overview of the content of the proposed plan
  - states where you can see and read a copy of the plan
  - specifies how you can make a submission on the plan and where to send your submissions
  - specifies the closing date and time for submissions
- consider every submission received by the closing date and time for submissions.

This notice must be published in the Gazette, or in a newspaper circulating in the local area, or a website.



**Key stakeholders**

A list of key stakeholders involved in the creation of the plan, those who should contribute to its maintenance and relevant decision making is included as the stakeholder schedules in the local area and zone information in this plan.

**Review and amendment**

Fire and Emergency may amend a fire plan at any time, but we must review the fire plan for each local area at least once every 3 years, or if there are significant changes to the boundaries of the local area.

When we review the fire plan for a local area, we must confirm that the fire plan remains appropriate for that area; or amend the fire plan as necessary, and consult on changes.

This is the first time that fire plans of this nature have been developed under the new legislation. These plans may be reviewed and amended sooner than the 3 year time limit to ensure we can continue working with stakeholders to improve the plans.

## 4 Rs of emergency management

New Zealand's approach to emergency management can be described by the four areas of activity, known as the '4 Rs' – reduction, readiness, response and recovery.

Fire plans are a part of our work in the Reduction space. Previous fire plans under the old rural fire authorities also had components of Readiness and Response, and that information is now incorporated into other planning work and operational procedures.

Have a look at the range of work that Fire and Emergency does in each of the 4 Rs.



### Reduction

Identifying and analysing long-term risks to human life and property; taking steps to eliminate these risks if practicable, and, if not, reducing their impact and the likelihood of them occurring.

The first of Fire and Emergency's principal objectives is to reduce unwanted fires.

For Fire and Emergency, this work includes:

- our national framework for fire control, which includes these fire plans, and our fire control powers for reducing the likelihood of unwanted fire from the use of fire in the open air, and other causes of wildfire through setting fire seasons, requiring fire permits, firebreaks and fire hazard removal.
- evacuation procedures and evacuation schemes for buildings
- input into building design for fire safety, and our part in the building consent application process
- the national automatic fire alarm system
- influencing policies within standard-setting bodies and with central and local government
- public education campaigns around escape planning, fire safety, and smoke alarms.

## Readiness

Developing operational systems and capabilities before an emergency occurs, including self-help initiatives for the public, specific programmes for emergency services, lifeline utilities and other services.

For Fire and Emergency, this includes:

- establishing and maintaining our response capability (our fire stations and trained people) across the country
- the 111 call centre where the public can report fires and other emergencies
- contact lists and contracts with service providers that we can use in response
- tactical plans (how we plan to respond to a particular site or location)
- community planning
- work with local government around provision of water for firefighting

## Response

Attending incidents and taking immediate action before, during or directly after an incident to protect and preserve life, prevent or limit injury, reduce damage to land or property, protect the environment and help people begin recovery.

For Fire and Emergency, this includes:

- firefighting
- responding to hazardous substance incidents
- rescuing trapped people
- urban search and rescue

It can also include responding to:

- medical emergencies
- maritime incidents
- other rescues
- weather events and disasters
- incidents where substances present a risk to people, property or the environment
- any other situation where we can assist.

## Recovery

Helping people who have suffered loss and trauma to receive the appropriate support. Coordinated efforts and processes to bring about the immediate, medium-term and long-term recovery of a community following a major emergency.

For Fire and Emergency, this includes:

- our immediate actions at emergencies following good incident management practices that minimise the short-term and long-term impact and consequences of the original event
- ensuring those immediately affected by the emergency get the support they need, including making sure people suffering loss and trauma receive appropriate support from the relevant agency.
- In addition, as a precursor to recovery, we support and encourage community pre-planning for major events and support recovery/clean-up activities to strengthen community resilience following an incident.

## Our commitment to working with Māori as tangata whenua

Fire and Emergency recognises the status of Māori as tangata whenua and, as such, the importance of Māori communities as key stakeholders in Fire and Emergency's work.

We recognise:

- Iwi and Māori as community leaders with an important role to play in preventing fires and other emergencies, building community resilience, and informing emergency response
- Iwi as our partners in risk reduction as significant and growing land and forest owners
- Māori are disproportionately affected by unwanted fires, and that needs to change.

By committing to work with tangata whenua, we contribute to a safer environment not only for Māori but for all New Zealand communities.

We will do this by building strong relationships that enable us to engage with iwi and Māori as we design and deliver services. This will require us to engage in culturally appropriate ways. We will strengthen our cultural capability, diversity and inclusion, so that we better reflect and engage with the communities we serve.

## National Framework for Fire Control

Not all fires are unwanted. New Zealand has a long history of using fire as a tool, for land management, or for cooking, comfort and warmth.

The National Framework for Fire Control consists of policies, procedures and tools that enable Fire and Emergency to manage fires – supporting people to safely use fire where appropriate and restricting or prohibiting its use when there is a risk of unwanted fire.

The public face of this is the [Checkitsalright.nz](https://checkitsalright.nz) website, the [fire permit application system](#), these fire plans, and additional information on our public website – [fireandemergency.nz](https://fireandemergency.nz).

Fire and Emergency has a number of statutory fire control powers that can be applied to help reduce risk, as follows:

- Setting fire seasons
- Prohibiting fire in open air or revoking the prohibition
- Prohibiting or restricting activities or revoking the prohibition or restriction
- Fire permitting
- Control of firebreaks
- Fire hazard removal

## Our policies

The current internal policies and supporting processes that guide our decisions and actions are:

Policy	Detail
Fire seasons, prohibitions and restrictions policy	<p>Relating to sections 52 to 58 of the Act and decisions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• declare or revoke a prohibited or restricted fire season</li> <li>• prohibit fire in open air or revoke a prohibition</li> <li>• prohibit or restrict activities that may cause a fire to start or spread, and revoke prohibition or restriction.</li> </ul>

Policy	Detail
Fire permitting policy	Supporting the policy above and also defining actions for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• supporting a member of the public who is applying for a fire permit</li> <li>• assessing a fire permit application</li> <li>• granting or renewing a fire permit</li> <li>• refusing to grant or renew a fire permit</li> <li>• suspending or cancelling a fire permit</li> <li>• operational decisions when responding to an alarm of fire in open air.</li> </ul>
Fire hazard removal policy	Relating to sections 65 to 67 of the Act and decisions about what to do when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a potential fire hazard is reported to Fire and Emergency</li> <li>• we assess a potential fire hazard</li> <li>• we arrange for the removal or destruction of a confirmed fire hazard.</li> </ul>
Compliance and enforcement policy	Covering how we monitor and take action to identify and influence landowners and others to comply with the requirements of the Act and other relevant legislation. This covers activities which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduce harm from unwanted fire</li> <li>• support the safe use of fire as a land management tool and reduce harm if fire escapes control</li> <li>• minimise avoidance of the Fire Emergency levy</li> <li>• reduce non-compliance with any legislation or regulations under which Fire and Emergency New Zealand has a compliance function.</li> </ul>

**Note:** work is also under way to define policy and guidance for both internal and stakeholder audiences, covering:

Policy	Detail
Firebreaks	Relating to sections 62 to 64 of the Act to support decisions and actions relating to requirements for landholders to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• make and clear any firebreak on the landholder's land</li> <li>• remove any vegetation or other thing from an existing firebreak.</li> </ul>

## Fire risk conditions

The circumstances where we can use our fire control powers to prohibit fire and or restrict other activities are defined in the Act as when:

- fire risk conditions exist or are likely to exist in the area; and
- the prohibition or restriction is necessary or desirable for fire control.

We also take these into account when setting fire seasons.

Fire risk conditions are defined in the Act as weather or other conditions that will, or are likely to, endanger persons or property by increasing the risk of the outbreak or spreading of fire.

Other conditions, considered to be fire risk conditions for the purposes of exercising our fire control powers, include:

Condition	Description
Fire weather science	The NZ Fire Danger Rating System includes measures, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build-up Index (BUI)</li> <li>• Initial Spread Index (ISI)</li> <li>• Fire Weather Index (FWI)</li> <li>• Grass curing percentage</li> <li>• Fine Fuel Moisture Code (FFMC)</li> <li>• Drought code (DC).</li> </ul>
Topography	Factors that influence how a fire spreads, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• steepness of slope</li> <li>• direction fire is facing, i.e. aspect</li> <li>• terrain features, e.g. gullies and chimneys.</li> </ul>
Fuel behaviour models	The characteristics of fuel, or vegetation, that contribute to fire ignition and spread.
History of fires	History of recent fires in the area, based on available fire data.
Socio-economic factors	Factors that influence the likelihood of fires being lit for cooking purposes and to dispose of rubbish in backyards, e.g. absentee owners and lifestyle blocks burning during holiday season.  Expectations of the public to be able to light certain types of fires, e.g. cultural cooking fires.
Time of year	Time of year, e.g. land clearing forestry, land clearing hill and high country, late winter to spring.
Public knowledge – awareness of the risks	The expected public awareness of risks may be low, e.g. a large influx of visitors during summer holiday periods, who may reasonably be expected to have little understanding of the risks of lighting fires in an area.
Proximity to property or other values	The closeness of property or other valuables to fire, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• life values, e.g. size of land parcels in an urban area</li> <li>• distance from commercial forestry.</li> </ul>
Ability to provide an effective response	Factors that contribute to our ability to respond to an out of control fire include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• availability of response resources, i.e. people and equipment</li> <li>• isolation</li> <li>• accessibility issues</li> <li>• availability of water supplies.</li> </ul>

Condition	Description
Impacts from natural disasters	Natural disasters are likely to influence resource availability and the likelihood of fires.
People	The presence of people increases the risk of fire.
Impact of other events that increase the risk of the outbreak or spread of fire	Events that increase the risk of potential fire, e.g. the rupture of an oil pipeline.

## Fire seasons

Fire seasons are used to inform people about the requirements for or restrictions on lighting fires in the open air, and to manage the use of fire to protect communities from the consequences of unwanted fire.

Fire and Emergency can declare or revoke a prohibited or restricted fire season in an area, and uses its Fire seasons, prohibitions and restrictions policy and associated processes to manage this.

Fire seasons are applied to geographic zones based on:

- the fire environment (fuel types, curing, weather, topography, historic trends)
- fire climatic zones
- topographical boundaries/features (rivers, roads, coast lines, forest and national park boundaries)
- fire control considerations.

One of three types of fire season is in force at any time in an area or zone:

### Open fire season



Fires may be lit in open air, without restriction. Applies whenever there is not a prohibited or restricted fire season in place.

### Restricted fire season



Lighting a fire is riskier than usual. A fire permit is required and may also have specific conditions to make sure fires can be safely lit and remain under control.

### Prohibited fire season



Lighting fires in the open air is not permitted. Existing fire permits are suspended, though fire permits may still be granted in exceptional circumstances.

It is important that stakeholders know what the current fire season is, and understand how they can comply with the requirements.

To see what the current fire season is within a local area (or zone within an area) go to [checkitsalright.nz](https://checkitsalright.nz).

## Open fire seasons

We use an open fire season when the fire danger is consistently low enough that Fire and Emergency does not need to apply additional controls on when people can light fires in the open air.

Note that this does not mean that you can light fires anywhere you want to. Department of Conservation, local council or regional council bylaws or air quality plans may apply additional restrictions, or not allow you to light a fire at all.

You must also have permission from the landowner or occupier to light a fire, even in an open fire season.

We still like to hear from you if you are lighting a large fire, e.g. for land clearing or burning crop stubble, so that we can share advice on how and when to conduct your fire safely.

## Restricted fire seasons

We use restricted fire seasons when the fire danger has increased enough that we need more control over where, when and how people use fire.

Requiring permits for particular types of fires in the open air means that we can understand where and when fire is being used, so that our fire brigades don't need to respond unnecessarily.

It also gives us an opportunity to give advice about how the fire can be conducted safely, or we can apply conditions around when the fire can be lit, how big it can be, or any other requirements that reduce the chance of the fire escaping control.

## Prohibited fire seasons

When the fire danger reaches higher levels, we need to stop people from lighting fires that may escape, as the fire behaviour during these conditions makes fires very difficult and dangerous to contain, control and extinguish.

Certain types of fires may still be used, but people need to be very careful with fire during these times. See the section on [Authorised fire types in a prohibited fire season](#).

## Trigger thresholds for changing fire seasons

The New Zealand Fire Danger Rating System and its component Fire Weather System provide us with a consistent, scientific way to monitor the fire danger in an area.

Trigger thresholds, based on relevant fire weather measurements and values are set in consultation with stakeholders for declaring restricted and prohibited fire seasons within the fire plan area or fire permit zone within that area. The trigger thresholds identify when prevailing weather conditions create ongoing potential for problem fires.

The trigger thresholds make use of:

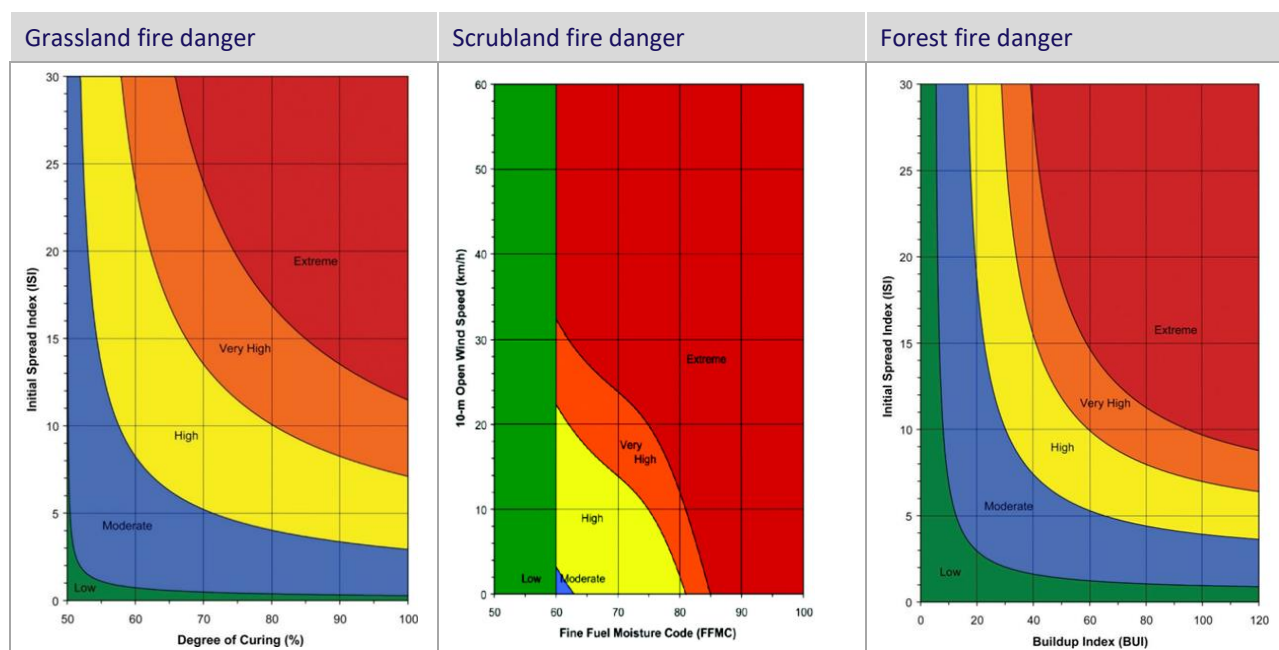
- the Remote Automatic Weather Station (RAWS) climatology data for the fire plan area or zone.
- historical fire data for the fire plan area or zone.

Other factors such as resource availability, other emergency events etc., may also feed into a decision to declare or revoke a fire season earlier or later than the trigger threshold would indicate.

Forecast weather trends must be taken into consideration when declaring a change in fire season. An upcoming rain event may defer a change in fire season, or forecast dry weather and strong winds may indicate a need to change fire season days before the trigger threshold would otherwise be reached.

Locally agreed thresholds will be listed in the zone information in this document.





## Prohibiting fires in open air (section 52)

There are times when Fire and Emergency may need to prohibit fires in the open air, outside of the usual fire season changes. This control is used very rarely, in exceptional circumstances, for example when:

- large or multiple incidents occur that put firefighting resources under strain
- extreme fire weather conditions occur during a restricted fire season, e.g. strong dry winds, high temperatures associated with very low humidity
- emergency events occur, e.g. the rupture of the Marsden Point fuel pipeline, increasing the fire hazard in a specific area.

We can only prohibit fires in the open air when fire risk conditions indicate that the prohibition or restriction is necessary or desirable for fire control.

Fire and Emergency may also prohibit fires in the open air while the Epidemic Preparedness (COVID-19) Notice 2020 is in force, without needing to consider fire risk conditions or other factors. This might happen if our response capabilities are affected by COVID, and we aren't able to respond effectively if there is an unwanted fire.

Fire and Emergency can create temporary zones that are smaller than the zones in this fire plan for the purposes of limiting the impact of prohibiting fires in open air under [section 52](#).

If someone breaches the ban, they can be charged under [section 54](#) of the Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017.

## Trigger thresholds for prohibiting fire in open air

We can use the same Fire Weather System trigger thresholds for prohibiting fires in the open air under [section 52](#) as we do for changing to a prohibited fire season, but use [section 52](#) when the fire risk conditions are not expected to last long enough to make changing to a prohibited fire season practical.

If Fire and Emergency has come to an agreement with stakeholders on other thresholds for when to implement a [section 52](#) prohibition of fire in open, these will be included in the zone information in this document.

## Restricting and prohibiting activities (section 52)

There are times when fire risk conditions are elevated to an extent that certain activities may cause a fire to start or spread. Examples of these activities include but are not limited to:

- roadside mowing
- cutting or welding operations outdoors that involve the use of portable gas, disc grinder or arc welding equipment that produces sparks, flames or heat, generally known as 'hot works'
- chainsaw thinning to waste/tree felling
- mowing, ploughing or harrowing fields
- use of fireworks and flying lanterns
- firing tracer bullets.

[Section 52](#) of the Act allows us to prohibit or restrict one or more activities in an area or areas, when our assessment is that:

- the activity, (including access to an area) may cause a fire to start or spread and adequate controls are not available
- [fire risk conditions](#) exist or are likely to exist in the area
- the prohibition or restriction is necessary or desirable for fire control purposes
- there is an inability to adequately mitigate the assessed risk.

Prohibition or restriction means:

When an activity is...	It means the activity...
Prohibited	must not be undertaken at all by any person while the prohibition is in effect (except if it is an excluded activity that relates to the carrying out of essential services in the area).
Restricted	can be undertaken subject to certain conditions, such as restrictions on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the times of the day</li> <li>• the manner in which it is undertaken.</li> </ul>

If we have restricted or prohibited access to a location under [section 52](#), we can't prevent someone who lives or works in the location from entering. [Section 52](#) also doesn't prevent someone from carrying out essential services where it applies.

Essential services are:

- for the supply and distribution of food, water, fuel, power, and other necessities
- for the maintenance of transport and communication facilities that are essential to the well-being of the community
- for the maintenance of the health of the community
- for the maintenance of law and order, public safety, and the defence of New Zealand
- for the preservation of property at immediate risk of destruction or damage.

Fire and Emergency can create temporary zones that are smaller than the zones in this fire plan for the purposes of limiting the impact of restricting or prohibiting activities under [section 52](#).

If someone fails to comply with the restriction or prohibition, they can be charged under [section 54](#) of the Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017.

## Trigger thresholds for restricting or prohibiting activities under section 52

Some industries have their own restrictions that they place on themselves when fire risk increases. However, when these voluntary restrictions are not enough to reduce the risk of a fire starting or spreading, or we need to restrict or prohibit the public from the same high risk activities, then we will use [section 52](#) to apply the restrictions or prohibitions to everyone within the zone.

Our policy for fire seasons, prohibitions and restrictions says that we only prohibit or restrict activities if we have engaged with stakeholders and they are unable to satisfactorily mitigate the identified risks.

Legally restricting or prohibiting activities can have a significant economic impact, so should not be done without due consideration.

If Fire and Emergency has come to an agreement with stakeholders on set thresholds for when to implement a [section 52](#) restriction or prohibition of activities, these will be included in the zone information in this document.

## Activities and risk mitigation

### Forestry operations

The NZ Forest Owners Association have developed the [Forest fire risk management guidelines](#) (2018) which contains trigger point tables and what fire prevention actions are required during different fire danger levels. These guidelines are supported by Fire and Emergency.

If local trigger values have been set, they will be listed in the zone information in this document. NIWA's website will be updated to display the levels decided locally.

### Powerline auto-reclosers

Most power companies use a computer-controlled auto recloser system which attempts to reconnect the power up to three times following a fault before a technician needs to be sent. If the fault was the result of a downed wire(s), this creates three potential sparking events.

If local trigger values have been set, they will be listed in the zone information in this document. NIWA's website will be updated to display the levels decided locally.

Power companies also make use of other reduction activities, following the [Electricity \(Hazards from Trees\) Regulations 2003](#), such as trimming trees around power lines, providing fault reporting to public, undergrounding power lines, and providing tree planting guidance.

### Hot works

This includes activities such as welding, grinding, chain sawing, metal cutting, mowing and railway track maintenance.

If local trigger values have been set, they will be listed in the zone information in this document. NIWA's website will be updated to display the levels decided locally.

Fire and Emergency will work with Waka Kotahi (NZTA) and local councils on roadside mowing issues during days with elevated fire danger, and changing operations to suit conditions.

We will also work with Federated Farmers through the Land Management Forums to discuss the approach to fire measures, the use of machinery and equipment during high fire danger periods and the potential effect on local landholders.

## Fireworks

Fire and Emergency does not regulate the use of fireworks when fire risk conditions are not elevated.

Sale of fireworks is regulated by the [Hazardous Substances \(Fireworks\) Regulations 2001](#) and storage by the [Health and Safety at Work \(Hazardous Substances\) Regulations 2017](#).

Council bylaws may limit where and when fireworks may be used.

When fire risk conditions are elevated, Fire and Emergency can restrict or prohibit the use of fireworks as an activity under [section 52](#) of the Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017.

This prohibition does not include pyrotechnics displays as these are permitted activities that are assessed by risk management staff as part of their application for approval of the pyrotechnics display.

Whether fireworks should be banned is a decision for Government, and our work related to fireworks will continue to reflect decisions made by central Government.

Fire and Emergency is responsible for promoting fire safety, and provides advice to the public to promote the safe use of fireworks. We recommend people attend publicly organised displays where possible.

## Communicating changes in fire seasons and restrictions or prohibitions

It's important that people planning to light fires in the open air know whether they can do so safely and legally, so they need to know what the current fire season is in the area, whether any other prohibition applies, and whether a permit is required.

Fire season changes, and restrictions and prohibitions under [section 52](#) of the Act, are publicly notified to our communities, stakeholders and partners in a number of ways.

Modes of communication can include, but are not limited to:

- Direct contact with our partners and stakeholders, including email
- Local newspaper and radio ads
- Social media and media
- Email and text directly to permit holders
- Check It's Alright website [www.checkitsalright.nz](http://www.checkitsalright.nz) or information available by phoning 04 496 3600
- Fire danger or fire season signs – these are changed to reflect season status with additions of “Fire by permit only” or “Total fire ban” or similar messaging.

During periods of elevated and extreme fire danger days, we increase our communication of fire safety and prevention messages to build awareness of the dangers of wildfires and promote positive behaviour changes.

Messaging using traditional and digital media, such as social media and on-demand video can be targeted at affected areas at effective times.

When a fire season change affects public conservation land (PCL), we must also notify the Department of Conservation (DOC) of any intention to declare or revoke a prohibited or restricted fire season on public conservation land. This must also be followed up with a written notification.

Department of Conservation informs visitors of the controls or bans on lighting fires, including for cooking, warmth and campground fires, through notices and advertising.

## Fire permits

The information included with a fire permit helps people understand how to light a fire safely, and to reduce the risk of their fire burning out of control. Fire permits carry conditions which vary based on the current local fire risk conditions.

Fire risk conditions vary by time and other factors such as fuel, weather and topography, so the acceptable conditions for burning are set for each fire permit.

Fire permits may also be suspended or cancelled in certain circumstances, such as: where fire risk conditions change, for fire control purposes, or as fire seasons change/prohibitions are imposed.

No liability is imposed on Fire and Emergency because of the granting of a fire permit, under [section 190\(8\)](#) of the Act.

## Council bylaws, regional plans, legal covenants or restrictions

Fire and Emergency must only consider the fire risk conditions when issuing permits. We can't apply other organisations' requirements when issuing permits, so even if Fire and Emergency has issued a fire permit, you may not be allowed to light your fire due to other requirements.

Even if a fire permit is not required from us, due to an open fire season etc., you may not be able to light fires in some places.

Council bylaws and regional plan rules relating to smoke and air pollution must also be followed.

Managing smoke nuisance comes under local government jurisdiction and not Fire and Emergency, unless the smoke is an immediate threat to life, however we will still promote good practice and suggest alternatives.

There may also be legal covenants or restrictions which restrict the ability to light a fire in some areas, regardless of the fire season. For example, if there are power pylons or other infrastructure nearby.

You will also need private landowner or occupier approval before lighting a fire, even if Fire and Emergency has issued a fire permit.

If there is signage in a location that says to light no fires or equivalent, then you must follow those instructions.

Where relevant, information about applicable bylaws and regional plans is included in the area overview of this document.

## When a permit is needed

The need for a fire permit is based on:

- type of fire
- the fire season or restrictions or prohibitions on fires in the open air.

## Fire types

Some fire types may be allowed in restricted and prohibited fire seasons by making them:

- Authorised (no permit required)
- Permit required

For more information on fire types, see [Open air fires – rules and permits](#) on the Fire and Emergency website [www.fireandemergency.nz](http://www.fireandemergency.nz).

## Authorised fire types, descriptions and conditions in a restricted fire season

Authorised fire types in a restricted fire season, i.e. those fire types not requiring a fire permit because they are not considered 'fires in open air' are listed below:

Fire type	Description and conditions
Gas-operated appliances	<p>Manufactured gas-operated appliances, such as barbeques, outdoor fireplaces and outdoor gas heaters.</p> <p>Find out more about the safe use of <a href="#">barbeques and gas cylinders</a> and <a href="#">outdoor gas-operated appliances</a>.</p>
Charcoal barbeques or grills	<p>Barbeques or grills that use either charcoal briquettes or natural lump charcoal as their fuel source.</p> <p>Condition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Don't use on an apartment balcony, deck, under a roof overhang or within other enclosed areas.</li> </ul> <p><i>If you cannot meet this condition, you must apply for a permit.</i></p>
Wood-fire pizza oven	<p>Also known as wood ovens, these are ovens that use wood fuel for cooking.</p> <p>Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Don't light your fire within three metres of any part of a building, hedge, shelter belt or any combustible material.</li> <li>In case your fire gets out of control, you must have a suitable way to extinguish it within five metres of your pizza-oven, such as a water hose, mechanical digger, or water sprayer.</li> </ul> <p><i>If you cannot meet these conditions, you must apply for a permit.</i></p>
Chiminea	<p>A freestanding front-loading fireplace or oven with a bulbous body, and usually has a vertical smoke vent or chimney.</p> <p>Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Don't light your fire within three metres of any part of a building, hedge, shelter belt or any combustible material.</li> <li>In case your fire gets out of control, you must have a suitable way to extinguish it within five metres of your chiminea, such as a water hose, mechanical digger, or water sprayer.</li> </ul> <p><i>If you cannot meet these conditions, you must apply for a permit.</i></p>
Hāngī, umu, braai and lovo cultural cooking fires	<p>Conditions:</p> <p>Your fire area must be less than two square metres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Don't light your fire within three metres of any part of a building, hedge, shelter belt or any combustible material.</li> <li>In case your fire gets out of control, you must have a suitable way to extinguish it within five metres of your cultural fire, such as a water hose, mechanical digger, or water sprayer.</li> </ul> <p>Find out more about the safe use of <a href="#">cultural fires</a>.</p> <p><i>If you cannot meet these conditions, you must apply for a permit.</i></p>

Fire type	Description and conditions
Braziers	<p>A container for hot coals – usually an upright standing or hanging metal bowl or box.</p> <p>Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your fire area must be less than 0.5 square metres.</li> <li>• Don't light your fire within three metres of any part of a building, hedge, shelter belt or any combustible material.</li> <li>• In case your fire gets out of control, you must have a suitable way to extinguish it within five metres of your brazier, such as a water hose, mechanical digger, or water sprayer.</li> </ul> <p><i>If you cannot meet these conditions, you must apply for a permit.</i></p>
Fire pits/bowls	<p>A pit dug in the ground made from stone, brick or metal or a bowl on an upright stand, for recreational use.</p> <p>Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your fire area must be less than 0.5 square metres.</li> <li>• Don't light your fire within three metres of any part of a building, hedge, shelter belt or any combustible material.</li> <li>• In case your fire gets out of control, you must have a suitable way to extinguish it within five metres of your fire pit/bowl, such as a water hose, mechanical digger, or water sprayer.</li> </ul> <p><i>If you cannot meet these conditions, you must apply for a permit.</i></p>
Open drum and manufactured incinerators	<p>A drum or container with a mesh or solid lid designed to prevent the escape of hot ash or fire, and designed exclusively for incineration.</p> <p>Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't light your fire within five metres of any part of a building, hedge, shelter belt or any combustible material.</li> <li>• In case your fire gets out of control, you must have a suitable way to extinguish it within five metres of your incinerator, such as a water hose, mechanical digger, or water sprayer.</li> </ul> <p><i>If you cannot meet these conditions, you must apply for a permit.</i></p>

### Authorised fire types on public conservation land in a restricted fire season

Authorised fire types on public conservation land (PCL) in a restricted fire season, i.e. those fire types not requiring a fire permit because they are not considered 'fires in open air' are listed below:

Fire type	Description and conditions
Gas-operated appliances	<p>Manufactured gas-operated appliances, such as barbeques, outdoor fireplaces and outdoor gas heaters.</p> <p>Find out more about the safe use of <a href="#">barbeques and gas cylinders</a> and <a href="#">outdoor gas-operated appliances</a>.</p>
Pressurised liquid cookers	Small cookers that use kerosene or other similar liquids as fuel.
Campfires in a permanent fireplace	Positioned and constructed by the Department of Conservation (DOC) to minimise the threat of fire spread and located within formally established DOC overnight campsites or daytime amenity areas.
Cooking and warming fires	<p>Fires lit in the backcountry (over one-hour walking time from the nearest road end) of public conservation land.</p> <p>Conditions:</p> <p>The fire must not be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• within three metres of any tree or any place underneath overhanging vegetation; and</li> <li>• within three metres of any log or any dry vegetation; and</li> <li>• lit unless and until the ground surface within three metres of the site of the fire has been cleared of all combustible material; and</li> <li>• lit where notices and advertising are present which specifically prohibit the lighting of fires or specify the lighting of fires only in other types of receptacles or places; and</li> <li>• lit during a prohibited fire season; and</li> <li>• lit in conditions where wind or other factors may cause the fire to spread to surrounding flammable material.</li> </ul> <p>Find out more about the safe use of <a href="#">campfires</a>.</p>



## Authorised fire types, descriptions and conditions in a prohibited fire season

Authorised fire types in a prohibited fire season, i.e. those fire types not requiring a fire permit because they are not considered 'fires in open air' are listed below

Fire type	Description and conditions
Gas-operated appliances	<p>Manufactured gas-operated appliances, such as barbeques, outdoor fireplaces and outdoor gas heaters.</p> <p>Find out more about the safe use of <a href="#">barbeques and gas cylinders</a> and <a href="#">outdoor gas-operated appliances</a>.</p>
Charcoal barbeques or grills	<p>Barbeques or grills that use either charcoal briquettes or natural lump charcoal as their fuel source.</p> <p>Condition:</p> <p>Don't use on an apartment balcony, deck, under a roof overhang or within other enclosed areas.</p> <p><i>If you cannot meet this condition, you must apply for a permit.</i></p>
Wood-fire pizza oven	<p>Also known as wood ovens, these are ovens that use wood fuel for cooking.</p> <p>Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't light your fire within three metres of any part of a building, hedge, shelter belt or any other combustible material.</li> <li>• In case your fire gets out of control, you must have a suitable way to extinguish it within five metres of your pizza-oven, such as a water hose, mechanical digger, or water sprayer.</li> </ul> <p><i>If you cannot meet these conditions, you must apply for a permit.</i></p>
Chiminea	<p>A freestanding front-loading fireplace or oven with a bulbous body, and usually has a vertical smoke vent or chimney.</p> <p>Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't light your fire within three metres of any part of a building, hedge, shelter belt or any other combustible material.</li> <li>• In case your fire gets out of control, you must have a suitable way to extinguish it within five metres of your chiminea, such as a water hose, mechanical digger, or water sprayer.</li> </ul> <p><i>If you cannot meet these conditions, you must apply for a permit.</i></p>
Hāngī, umu, and lovo and cultural cooking fires	<p>Conditions:</p> <p>Your fire area must be less than two square metres.</p> <p>Don't light your fire within three metres of any part of a building, hedge, shelter belt or any other combustible material.</p> <p>In case your fire gets out of control, you must have a suitable way to extinguish it within five metres of your cultural fire, such as a water hose, mechanical digger, or water sprayer.</p> <p>Find out more about the safe use of <a href="#">cultural fires</a>.</p> <p><i>If you cannot meet these conditions, you must apply for a permit.</i></p>

## Authorised fire types on public conservation land in a prohibited fire season

Authorised fire types on public conservation land in a prohibited fire season, i.e. those fire types not requiring a fire permit because they are not considered 'fires in open air' are listed below:

Fire type	Description and conditions
Gas-operated appliances	Manufactured gas-operated appliances, such as barbeques, outdoor fireplaces and outdoor gas heaters.  Find out more about the safe use of <a href="#">barbeques and gas cylinders</a> and <a href="#">outdoor gas-operated appliances</a> .
Pressurised liquid cookers	Small cookers that use kerosene or other similar liquids as fuel

## Permits in prohibited fire seasons or during prohibitions under section 52

Fire and Emergency may grant permits during a prohibited fire season, or when there is a prohibition under [section 52](#) of the Act, when the fire or activity is necessary to prevent, reduce, or overcome any hazard to life or because of any other serious emergency.

We may grant fire permits during a prohibited fire season if weather or other conditions have temporarily reduced the fire hazard, so as to make it apparently safe to light a fire.

Permits issued in a prohibited fire season (e.g. for biosecurity reasons) remain active when the fire season changes.

## Applying for a permit

When a fire permit is required, or if you'd like to check whether you need a permit, you can apply:

- Online through Fire and Emergency's fire permitting system – [firepermit.nz](https://firepermit.nz)
- Over the phone -0800 658 628 - Your application is then completed in the online system on your behalf.
- In person, by asking local Fire and Emergency fire permitting personnel for a fire permit.
- By email or post, using the manual [fire permit application form](#). You can print and complete the form by hand, or complete the editable pdf and send it back to us.

## Assessment

The fire permit assessors will make a risk-based decision about whether a desk-based assessment or an on-site inspection of the burn location is required before deciding to grant or refuse the fire permit.

Note: Where an application has multiple burn locations, each location must be considered.

Permit applications must be inspected if the assessor has insufficient information to make a desk-based assessment, or where any of the following apply to the proposed fire:

- it is during a prohibited fire season
- it requires a burn plan
- it is in a location where the predominant fuel type is considered to be of high flammability
- it is in a location that is adjacent to areas of significant commercial or environmental values
- it involves multiple fires burning at the same time in different locations on a property
- it is located on steep or complex terrain; or
- it involves burning large amounts of material unless the applicant has a history of successfully managing similar fires.

Additional factors that can be considered to be fire risk conditions or relevant fire control matters when assessing a fire permit application are:

- the environment around the burn site
- the actual site area and boundaries of the proposed burn
- other property and/or values at risk from a possible escaped fire
- other relevant hazards
- time of ignition, light up sequence and method of the proposed fire
- potential fire behaviour and rate of fire spread
- firebreaks around the area to be burnt
- resources available to carry out the burn safely and effectively
- the applicant's understanding of the risks associated with the proposed fire, and their ability to manage those risks effectively.

Prescribed burn plans may be required for complex and higher-risk burns, e.g. land clearing. They help the person proposing to burn to go through a planning process and consider how to undertake the proposed fire safely.

Developing the [prescribed burn plan](#) is the responsibility of the applicant, however we can provide help and support on what the plan should contain in order to undertake the proposed fire safely.

## Mandatory conditions

Every permit must contain standard conditions that are required by the [Fire and Emergency New Zealand \(Fire Permits\) Regulations 2017](#) and cannot be removed. These are:

- You must not light a fire in fire risk conditions that make it likely that the fire will spread beyond the limits of the location or property specified in the permit as the location of the fire.
- If this permit was issued for a proposed fire in an area which is in a restricted fire season:
  - it is suspended if we declare a prohibited fire season or prohibit fire in open air
  - you must, immediately before lighting a fire, make reasonable efforts to confirm that, in the location of the fire:
    - no prohibited fire season is in place; and
    - no prohibition on the lighting of fires in open air is in place.

If the fire permit is issued when fire has been prohibited in open air ([section 52](#) (1) of the Act) the following condition must be included on the permit:

- You must, immediately before lighting a fire, make reasonable efforts to confirm that no restricted or prohibited fire season under [section 56](#) (1) of the Act is in place in the location of the fire.

The permit must also include a condition to notify the Communications Centre immediately prior to lighting the fire, with the relevant phone number, for all fire permits where the fire is likely to be noticed by the public and reported as a 111 call, e.g. where the fire is close to a road or to other houses or buildings, or the fire covers a large area such as land clearing.

When our Communication Centre receives the notification from the fire permit holder they are able to flag the location in their system so that if a 111 call is received it is clear there is a permitted fire.

## Firebreaks

Fire and Emergency has the authority under [section 62](#) of the Act to require landholders to make or clear firebreaks on the landholder's land, or keep them clear, if we think it's needed for fire control. This can include green firebreaks of strips of low-flammability vegetation, or removing all vegetation down to mineral earth.

We plan to develop a guideline to provide clarity around the times and circumstances when applying this power may be necessary. Our approach is to work with affected landholders to try to reach a voluntary solution before we would use our powers to require firebreaks.

This power relates to making and clearing firebreaks outside of incident response – before a fire happens. Our powers during response in [section 43](#) allow us to create firebreaks as needed to prevent the spread of fire.

## Fire hazard removal

If Fire and Emergency reasonably consider that vegetation, or some other thing, is a fire hazard, meaning that it is likely to endanger people or property by increasing the risk of outbreak or spread of fire, we can require that the vegetation or thing be removed or destroyed.

We will work with affected people to fix the issue first, but Fire and Emergency has the authority under [section 65](#) of the Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017 to legally require action. You then have one month to fix the problem, although you can appeal against the requirement. Any appeal must be made within 14 days and will be handled through Fire and Emergency's dispute resolution scheme.

Our fire hazard removal powers apply to land, but not to anything on or inside a building. Local councils have the authority to address fire risk related to buildings, such as hoarding.

If it's urgent (an imminent threat) we can tell you, and immediately fix the problem ourselves in order to keep people and property safe.

## Reporting fire hazards

Anyone who becomes aware of a fire hazard or is worried about the potential of something being a fire hazard can report it to Fire and Emergency – see [Submit a Fire Hazard Assessment Request](#) at [www.fireandemergency.nz/at-home/fire-hazards-in-your-community/](http://www.fireandemergency.nz/at-home/fire-hazards-in-your-community/) for the Potential Fire Hazard Advice form.

## Assessment of fire hazards

Fire and Emergency will assess whether there is a potential for the fuel to cause harm or damage to people or property if a fire starts. We will assess the likelihood of a fire starting and the consequences in terms of risk to human life, structures and other values.

We use an assessment tool to provide a structured framework for determining whether:

- it is appropriate for us to exercise our fire hazard removal powers under [sections 65–68](#) of the Act
- providing education to the complainant or occupier/owner of the location of the potential fire hazard on how to mitigate risks from fires is more appropriate
- the matter should be referred to another jurisdiction
- no further action is required.

## Initial review

The assessor starts by answering four key questions:

- Is the potential hazard: trees close to power lines, or hoarding inside a building? If yes, then the hazard is referred to the relevant lines company or local council for action.
- Is the material involved likely to pose a risk to life or property through ignition without spreading? This covers fuel types that are likely to endanger adjacent or downwind properties (either through creating significant health concerns or possible contamination damage), without spreading. This could be due to smoke toxicity or high intensity of burning.
- Is there sufficient material of appropriate type and composition to support a fire spreading to adjacent property or values? This captures the spread potential, taking into consideration the physical properties of the fuel as well as the general topography and onsite conditions. That includes continuity, size and shape, fuel load and flammability, as well as likely direction of fire travel.
- Is the burning material likely to produce enough heat to cause damage to property? Gives consideration to the fire having sufficient energy to actually cause damage to property if spread to it, or to compromise the health of property users.

## Risk assessment matrix

If it's appropriate, we then use a risk assessment matrix. This involves:

- assigning a risk of ignition rating, where 'rare' is a low rating and 'almost certain' is a high rating
- assigning a likely consequence rating for each component, and using the highest value of:
  - human life at risk
  - structure at risk
  - other values at risk
- using the risk of ignition and likely consequence ratings to determine the risk assessment score in the matrix

		Likely consequence (highest consequence rating)				
		1	2	3	4	5
Risk of ignition rating	5	5	10	15	20	25
	4	4	8	12	16	20
	3	3	6	9	12	15
	2	2	4	6	8	10
	1	1	2	3	4	5

- using the risk assessment matrix score to determine the next course of action.

Score	Next course of action
20, 25	Must issue a <i>Fire hazard removal notice</i> (s 65). Consider if an <i>Imminent danger notice</i> (s 68) is appropriate.
15, 16	Consider issuing a <i>Fire hazard removal notice</i> (s 65), otherwise provide information/education to the occupier/owner /complainant on how to mitigate risks from fire.
10, 12	Provide information/education to occupier/owner/complainant on how to mitigate risks from fire.
6, 8, 9	Consider providing information/education to occupier/owner/complainant on how to mitigate risks from fire.
1–5	No further action.

## Outcomes from the fire hazard assessment

The assessment will recommend one of the following courses of action:

1. No further action, because the vegetation or other thing does not present a fire hazard. The matter may be referred to another agency such as the local council if appropriate, e.g. hoarding or vermin infestation.
2. Providing education and information to the occupier or owner of the land, and/or to the complainant, on how to mitigate any risks from fire, where the notice threshold has not been reached but the assessment indicates that proactive action would be helpful.
3. Providing the occupier or owner with the opportunity to voluntarily mitigate the risk within an appropriate time period, as the threshold for issuing a Fire hazard removal notice ([section 65](#)) has been met. If they won't do this voluntarily, we will issue a Fire hazard removal notice ([section 65](#)) to the occupier or owner of the land. The notice gives them one month to remove or destroy the vegetation or other thing increasing the risk of the outbreak or spread of fire.
4. Providing verbal notice to the owner or occupier of the land that we are taking immediate action to remove or destroy any vegetation or other thing on the land, that is a source of imminent danger, under [section 68](#). This power would only be used where there is an 'almost certain' likelihood of a fire starting or spreading at any moment, which would put life or property at risk. Note: This power will be used very rarely.

## Powers of entry

We will not enter a property (other than going to the front door) without permission from the occupier.

If permission is not granted or an occupier cannot be located, we will assess the potential fire hazard from outside of the property or speak with the occupier of the neighbouring property to request access to better view the potential fire hazard.

If we need to, a Fire and Emergency inspector can enter and inspect land that is not a home or marae (or a building associated with a marae) in order to determine whether certain materials (including timber, dry plant cuttings and other flammable material) are being stored outside a building in a way that creates a fire hazard to the building, another building, or to any road or other public place (see [regulation 13\(4\)](#) of the [Fire and Emergency New Zealand \(Fire Safety, Evacuation Procedures, and Evacuation Schemes\) Regulations 2018](#)).

A Fire and Emergency inspector must obtain a warrant to enter and inspect land that is a home or marae (or a building associated with a marae).

We can take photographs of private land (or things on private land) from public land, so long as we don't take pictures of an area or thing that a person can reasonably expect to be private (e.g. a photo that includes a view into a shower or a secluded area where someone is sunbathing).

## Fire hazard removal notice (section 65)

Fire hazard removal notice ([section 65](#)) is formal written notification under [section 65](#) of the Act to an occupier or owner of land that they must remove or destroy the 'vegetation or other thing' that has been assessed as meeting the threshold for issuing a notice.

The notice:

- describes the vegetation or other thing that must be removed or destroyed, including a map if practicable identifying the specific location or extent of the vegetation or other thing
- explains the risk that Fire and Emergency reasonably considers that the vegetation or other thing presents
- specifies the actions that must be taken to mitigate the fire hazard risk, e.g. how much vegetation must be removed or destroyed.

We will always attempt to negotiate with the occupier or owner to give them an opportunity to fix the issue voluntarily, before we go with issuing a fire hazard removal notice.

The occupier of the land where the fire hazard is located is primarily responsible for its removal or destruction. If the land is unoccupied, then the responsibility passes to the owner of the land.

Occupier, in relation to any place or land, means any person in lawful occupation of that place or land; and includes any employee or other person acting under the authority of any person in lawful occupation of that place or land.

## Imminent danger notice (section 68)

An Imminent danger notice is verbal notification under [section 68](#) of the Act to an occupier or owner of land that Fire and Emergency is going to enter the land and remove or destroy any vegetation or other thing on land that we consider is a source of imminent danger from fire to life, property, or any road.

Anyone receiving the verbal notice should be able to understand:

- that Fire and Emergency has decided that [description of fire hazard] is a source of imminent danger to [life, property, and/or road]
- why the fire hazard is a source of imminent danger
- that Fire and Emergency has arranged for the [removal or destruction] of the fire hazard under [section 68](#) of the Act by [name of contractor] on [date]
- any arrangements for the storage of items removed from the land, and the terms under which the owner/occupier can retrieve those items.

In the event of an actual fire, we can use all of our powers to deal with the emergency, including [sections 42 and 43](#) to remove vegetation or material without telling you.

## Regulatory compliance

### Fire and Emergency's role

The Act gives Fire and Emergency compliance and enforcement responsibilities, and powers to support interventions in cases of non-compliance. In line with this, we have developed a comprehensive [Risk Reduction Strategy](#), supported by a [Compliance and enforcement policy](#).

Compliance activities generally focus on education and awareness, followed by issuing warnings. If compliance is still an issue, then more formal enforcement powers may be used.

If there are cases of serious or repeated non-compliance, Fire and Emergency may use infringement notices or prosecute. For more information on Fire and Emergency's regulatory compliance policies and procedures and other relevant topics, visit [www.fireandemergency.nz/about-us/compliance-and-enforcement](http://www.fireandemergency.nz/about-us/compliance-and-enforcement).

## Contact Fire and Emergency

**In case of an emergency please call 111**

### General enquiries and questions

- Recruitment/volunteering
- Fire safety information
- Fire permits and seasons
- Evacuation schemes
- Request for access to the site of an emergency

[Submit a general enquiry or question](#) or call **04 496 3600**

### Lodge a complaint

<https://www.fireandemergency.nz/contact-us/complaints/>

### Fire hazards

- Complete [this online form](#)
- You can also call the Fire Information Unit on **0800 336 942**.

### Local contacts for this plan

Local contacts specific to this fire plan are included with the area information in this document.



## Glossary

**4R's** - Reducing risk, ensuring response readiness, providing emergency response and making coordinated efforts to enable recovery following an emergency.

**Build-up Index (BUI)** - A component of the Fire Weather System. This index shows the amount of fuel available for combustion indicating how the fire will develop after the initial spread. It is calculated using the Duff Moisture and Drought Code.

**Duff Moisture Code (DMC)** - A numerical rating of the average moisture content of loosely compacted organic layers of moderate depth. This code gives an indication of fuel consumption in moderate duff layers and medium-size woody material.

**Firebreak** - A natural or an artificial physical barrier against the spread of fire from or into any area of continuous flammable material – e.g., a track bulldozed clear of all vegetation.

**Fire control** - Preventing, detecting, controlling, and putting out fire, and protecting persons and property from fire.

**Fire control powers** - Our ability to legally require people to stop doing things that increase the risk of a fire, e.g. restricting where and when they can use fire, requiring vegetation to be removed to prevent the spread of fire, etc.

**Fire danger** – A rating of difficult a fire will be to control once it starts - e.g. low to extreme, low being easy to contain, extreme very difficult to contain.

**Fire Danger Rating System** - A relative class denoting the potential rates of spread, or suppression difficulty for specific combinations of temperature, relative humidity, drought effects and wind speed, indicating the relative evaluation of fire danger.

**Fire environment** - The surrounding conditions, influences, and modifying forces of topography, fuel, and weather that determine fire behaviour.

**Fire hazard** - Vegetation or other thing on the land that Fire and Emergency reasonably considers likely to endanger persons or property by increasing the risk of the outbreak or spread of fire.

**Fire in open air** - Fire that isn't in a fireplace in a building or structure, or isn't in something else that Fire and Emergency says is not in the open air.

**Fire risk conditions** - Weather or other conditions that will, or are likely to, endanger persons or property by increasing the risk of the outbreak or spreading of fire.

**Fire seasons** – Period when we restrict or prohibit the use of fire in the open air. Areas that are not in a Restricted or Prohibited fire season are in an Open fire season. Can also refer to the October to May period when fires are more likely.

**Fire weather** – Weather conditions which influence fire ignition, behaviour, and suppression.

**Fire Weather System** - numerical values that indicate weather and fuel conditions that influence fire behaviour, which feeds into the Fire Danger Rating System.

**Grass curing (GC)** – A component of the Fire Weather System. Grass goes through a natural process where after flowering/seeding it changes colour as it dies off. This process is known as 'curing.' The degree of curing (%) is the portion of dead grass vs live. Dead grass allows fire to spread easily.

**Important Bird Areas (IBAs)** - Sites recognised as internationally important for bird conservation and known to support key bird species and other biodiversity. Legal protection, management and monitoring of these crucial sites are all important targets for action. Many bird species may be effectively conserved by these means.

**Land cover** – What covers the land – trees, grasslands, scrub, residential property.

**Land use** – How the land is used – e.g. farming, forestry, residential, industrial.

**Local area** - The area within the boundaries of a local advisory committee that are set in accordance with section 16 of the Act.

**Primary production** - Livestock farming for dairy, meat and wool. Horticulture, including kiwifruit, apples, avocados, grapes for wine production, vegetables, arable and seed crops, other horticultural crops, cut flowers, and other animal products. Also includes forestry, but this is dealt with separately in fire plans.

**Public conservation land (PCL)** – land used for conservation purposes, including National Parks and forest parks. Often managed by Department of Conservation or the regional council.

**Remote Automatic Weather Station (RAWS)** - Weather station that automatically provides the data used to determine weather and fuel conditions. Results are available from <https://fireweather.niwa.co.nz> and products such as Eco Connect.

**Scientific Reserves** - Per the Reserves Act 1977, the principal purpose of these reserves is the protection and preservation in perpetuity of areas for scientific study, research, education and the benefit of the country.



## Area overview

### Geography

The Hawke's Bay area stretches from Māhia Peninsular in the north to Eketāhuna in the south, the main North Island divide (Taratua, Ruahine, Kaweka ranges and Te Urewera) in the west to the Pacific Ocean in the east.

This encompasses coastal hills, fertile plains, foothills and high country.

Peri-urban small block owners are developing in the rural hill country around the major towns and cities.

### Demographics

Demographics help us understand how our communities use fire, and the type of support they might need and how we communicate with them.

Data is Usually Resident Population(URP) from the Census 2018.

People may identify as more than one ethnicity so % will exceed 100% for a location.

Territorial Local Authority	Deprivation Index	Usual Resident Population	Age 0 to 9 %	Age 10 to 19 %	Age 20 to 64 %	Age 65 Over %
Central Hawke's Bay District	6.7	14,810	14.2	12.6	53.3	19.4
Hastings District	6.6	76,282	14.5	14.1	54.4	17.0
Napier City	6.4	66,997	13.0	12.7	54.5	19.5
Taratua District	7.9	17,887	14.3	13.4	54.3	18.4
Wairoa District	9.9	8,366	16.1	14.2	52.4	17.1
Hawke's Bay District	7.0	184,342	13.99	13.41	54.31	18.25

#### Ethnicity data

Territorial Local Authority	European NZer %	Māori %	Pacific %	Asian %	All Other Ethnicities %
Central Hawke's Bay District	84.02	23.98	2.76	2.35	1.57
Hastings District	71.72	27.81	8.28	5.86	1.77
Napier City	82.56	21.91	3.45	4.74	2.01
Taratua District	85.62	24.83	1.91	2.78	1.45
Wairoa District	48.29	65.71	3.39	2.22	1.02
Hawke's Bay District	76.94	26.94	5.24	4.70	1.79

## Zones

Because the different fire risk conditions that exist in different parts of the fire plan area, the area is divided into a number of different fire season zones to allow for appropriate fire control measures to be applied locally:

- [Hawke's Bay Urban](#)
- [Māhia Peninsula and Coastal Wairoa](#)
- [Wairoa Rural](#)
- [Napier/Hastings Rural](#)
- [Hawke's Bay Central Rural](#)
- [Taranua](#)
- [Forestry](#)
- [Public Conservation Land](#)

Each zone is described and its relevant trigger thresholds and other factors for changing fire seasons are listed in the zone information.

## Defence Areas

Fire and Emergency has entered into an operational service agreement with the New Zealand Defence Force. The New Zealand Defence Force exercises fire control powers in relation to certain Defence Areas listed in a schedule to the agreement, where they have their own fire plans.

None of the scheduled Defence Areas are in the Hawke's Bay local area. Any New Zealand Defence Force activities, including training activities, in other Defence Areas are subject to Fire and Emergency's fire permit requirements, though not our other fire control powers.

## Frequency of elevated fire danger

On average, this area experiences:

- 10.2 days of extreme fire danger
- 8.1 days of very high fire danger

Due to the significant variations in climate in the area, north to south and east to west, fire severity is quite varied.

## Fire history

The known fire history for this zone for wildfires or fires caused by activities regulated by our fire control powers includes:

Year	Fire	Cause
2008	Hawke Packaging fire	Undetermined
2009	Māhia fire	Powerlines in trees
2017	Lion's fire	Powerlines in trees
2017	Dartmoor Road fire	Powerlines in trees
2017	Ripia fire	Fishermen discharge of burning material
2017	Colin White Road fire	Farming operations – gas torch
2017	Waimarama fire	Powerline fault
2020	Brownrigg's fire	Farm vehicle discharge
2020	Tangoio fire	Forest machinery discharge
2020	Wakarara Road fire	Powerlines in trees
2020	SH50 Fire	Farming operations - mowing

## Total incident data for local area to end of 2019:

Incident group	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total	% of total incidents
Structure fire	273	267	248	229	229	1246	7.6%
Vegetation fire	317	287	246	248	239	1337	8.2%
Other fire	516	562	586	530	554	2748	16.8%
Rescue	111	122	128	65	29	455	2.8%
Heat/ Pressure	25	17	30	22	11	105	0.6%
Medical	554	564	525	459	417	2519	15.4%
HAZMAT	24	32	44	29	31	160	1.0%
Special service	178	177	247	203	168	973	5.9%
Assist public	106	78	239	124	117	664	4.0%
Vehicle accident	255	245	258	352	449	1559	9.5%
False alarm	797	880	994	1007	946	4624	28.2%
Not recorded			4	3	4	11	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3156</b>	<b>3231</b>	<b>3549</b>	<b>3271</b>	<b>3194</b>	<b>16401</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Local contacts

Hawke's Bay -Te Matau o Māui District  
 District Manager, Ph 06 835 2114  
 Email – enquiries.hawkesbay@fireandemergency.nz

## Schedule of stakeholders

This schedule of stakeholders includes those who should be involved in the creation of these fire plan and their amendments, or consulted before making use of the powers of section 52 of the Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017, or notified when this happens. Zone-level stakeholders are listed with each zone description.

When we say...	What we mean is...
Consult while amending plan	You will have the opportunity for input into the fire plan before it is released for public consultation. Can include workshops and other opportunities to contribute.
Public consultation	You will have the opportunity to comment during the 6-week public consultation period.
Consult during decision making	The plan to change to a prohibited fire season or use section 52 will be discussed with you before it is implemented.
Notify of decision	You will be contacted directly when there is a change to a prohibited fire season, or when section 52 is implemented.
Notify using public channels	You will find out about the change in fire season etc. the same way as other members of the public.

## National-level stakeholders

Stakeholders who have an interest in this fire plan area, but are managed at national level.

Stakeholder	Fire plan development	Fire plan amendment	Changing fire season to prohibited	Section 52 fire prohibitions	Section 52 restrictions/prohibitions on activities
Department of Conservation	Consulted while creating plan	Consult while amending plan	Consult during decision making	Consult during decision making	Consult during decision making
NZ Defence Force	Consulted while creating plan	Consult while amending plan	Consult during decision making	Consult during decision making	Consult during decision making
Environmental Protection Authority	Consulted while creating plan	Consult while amending plan	Notify using public channels	Notify using public channels	Notify using public channels
Federated Farmers NZ	Public consultation	Consult while amending plan	Consult during decision making	Consult during decision making	Consult during decision making

Stakeholder	Fire plan development	Fire plan amendment	Changing fire season to prohibited	Section 52 fire prohibitions	Section 52 restrictions/prohibitions on activities
Land Information NZ	Consulted while creating plan	Consult while amending plan	Notify using public channels	Notify using public channels	Notify using public channels
Taituarā - Local Govt Professionals Aotearoa (SOLGM)	Consulted while creating plan	Consult while amending plan	Notify using public channels	Notify using public channels	Notify using public channels
Local Government NZ	Consulted while creating plan	Consult while amending plan	Notify using public channels	Notify using public channels	Notify using public channels
Forest Owners Association	Consulted while creating plan	Consult while amending plan	Consult during decision making	Consult during decision making	Consult during decision making
Ministry for Primary Industries - Te Uru Rākau and Crown Forestry	Consulted while creating plan	Consult while amending plan	Notify of decision	Notify of decision	Consult during decision making
NZ Farm forestry Association	Public consultation	Consult while amending plan	Consult during decision making	Consult during decision making	Consult during decision making
Te Puni Kōkiri	Public consultation	Consult while amending plan	Notify using public channels	Notify using public channels	Notify using public channels
Ngā Whenua Rāhui	Public consultation	Consult while amending plan	Notify using public channels	Notify using public channels	Notify using public channels
Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency	Public consultation	Consult while amending plan	Notify using public channels	Notify using public channels	Consult during decision making
New Zealand Police	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify of decision	Notify using public channels	Notify using public channels

If your organisation should be involved in fire plans at a national level, please contact us.



## Area-level stakeholders

This list is for stakeholders who have an interest across the fire plan area. Stakeholders that have a particular interest in a zone are included in the relevant zone information.

Stakeholder	Fire plan development	Fire plan amendment	Changing fire season to prohibited	Section 52 fire prohibitions	Section 52 restrictions/prohibitions on activities
Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc	Consulted while creating plan	Consult while amending plan	Notify of decision	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels
Department of Conservation	Consulted while creating plan	Consult while amending plan	Notify via email group	Notify via email group	Notify via email group
Forestry companies	Consulted while creating plan	Consult while amending plan	Notify via email group	Notify via email group	Notify via email group
Public	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels
Hawke's Bay Local Advisory Committee	Consulted while creating plan	Consult while amending plan	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels
Hawke's Bay Regional Council	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via email group	Notify via email group	Notify via email group
Coordinating Executive Group (CEG)	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels
Emergency Services Coordinating Committee (ESCC)	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels
Eastland Network	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify of decision	Notify of decision	Notify of decision
Unison Power	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify of decision	Notify of decision	Notify of decision
Central Lines	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify of decision	Notify of decision	Notify of decision
Contact Energy	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify of decision	Notify of decision	Notify of decision
Trust Power	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify of decision	Notify of decision	Notify of decision
Safer Hawke's Bay strategic groups	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels

If your organisation should be involved in fire plans, and have an interest across the whole fire plan area, please contact us about being added to this list.

## Zone information

### Hawke's Bay Urban

#### Geography

This zone represents the major urban towns and city environments throughout Hawke's Bay.

- Wairoa, Waipawa and Wiapukurau townships,
- Napier and Hastings cities,
- Whakatu, Clive, Haumoana, Te Awanga and Havelock North villages

#### Demographics

Refer to the [area overview](#) for demographics in this zone.

#### Climate/weather

Hawke's Bay has a usually temperate climate, however, can be vulnerable to extreme weather conditions.

Summer period is extending each year with the number of days exceeding 25 deg c increasing. Hawke's bay can also be prone to localised drought with extended periods of below average rainfall.

Severe weather, especially cyclones from the tropics, can then bring significant rainfall resulting in landslips, high river and stream flows and localised flooding. Storms can also bring high seas, resulting in sea water inundation along the coast, property damage and erosion of beaches.

It's not uncommon for strong wind warnings to be issued for Hawke's Bay, particularly across the exposed plains.

#### Land cover/land use

Built environment developments comprising residential and commercial properties. Industrial zones feature in most towns.

#### Industry

Industry	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
Commercial and industrial premises, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Meat processing and freezing work</li> <li>○ Industrial cool stores and packing sheds</li> <li>• use of machinery – sparks</li> <li>• relevant operations affected</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emmerson Transport (HazSubs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has a tactical response plan</li> <li>• Protected by own controls on use of fire and other activities in vicinity</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industry	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire

			control measures
Leicester NZ Ltd (Chemicals) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has a tactical response plan</li> <li>Protected by own controls on use of fire and other activities in vicinity</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Tactical plans are prepared for all major hazard facilities.

#### Lifeline utilities/other infrastructure

Lifeline utility/ other infrastructure	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
NZ Oil Services Ltd - Fuel pipeline from Port of Napier to bulk oil supply terminal in Napier <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has a tactical response plan</li> <li>Protected by own controls on use of fire and other activities in vicinity</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Elgas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has a tactical response plan</li> <li>Protected by own controls on use of fire and other activities in vicinity</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Railway line <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sparks from passing trains and during track maintenance</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roothing network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sparks from vehicle malfunction, discarded cigarettes</li> <li>Spark causing activities during road maintenance and mowing</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawke's Bay Airport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requirement for notification and permission for burns in flight path, under CAA rules</li> <li>Protected by own controls on use of fire and other activities in vicinity</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Port of Napier <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has a tactical response plan</li> <li>Impacted by restrictions on activities for suppliers</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Recreational locations

Recreational locations that will be affected by Fire and Emergency exercising its fire control powers:

- Local and Regional Council parks and reserves
- Public concerts and events
- Cycleways
- Beaches

## Cultural and recreational activities and events

Tangata whenua have very strong ties to their whenua (land) and culture, and value being able to use their whenua without unnecessary restrictions.

We will consult with tangata whenua and consider the needs of iwi when making decisions about implementing restrictions or prohibitions with our fire control powers. The relevant iwi for this zone are listed as stakeholders.

Large scale events that might be cancelled because a restriction on activities can have a significant economic impact.

Placing restrictions or prohibitions on fire hazardous activities should not impose any unreasonable restrictions on people living and enjoying recreational activities in this zone.

Activity and/or events	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
Art Deco week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large visitor numbers</li> <li>• High fire danger time of year</li> <li>• Spark hazardous activities</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Various concerts and music festivals (Mission Concert) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peri-urban locations</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matariki celebrations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditional fires</li> <li>• Fireworks</li> <li>• But generally at low risk periods</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Various cultural events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peri-urban locations</li> <li>• High fire danger time of year</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fireworks displays <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher fire risk for New Year and other summer events</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Special risk areas**

Special risk area	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
Marae and places of cultural significance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural fires</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Heritage Buildings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally wooden construction</li> <li>Difficult to protect</li> <li>Difficult to save if involved in fire.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wairoa township can become isolated in adverse events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unable to provide support</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tyre dump at Whakatu <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has a tactical response plan</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Seasonal worker accommodation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports the horticulture sector</li> <li>Required for business continuity for the processing sector</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Fire tactical plans are prepared for major hazard facilities and other special risk areas.

**Known fire hazards**

There are no recorded fire hazards in this zone.

**Frequency of elevated fire danger**

On average, this zone experiences:

- 15 of days of extreme fire danger per fire season
- 12.5 of days of very high fire danger per fire season

**Fire history**

The known fire history for this zone includes:

Year	Fire	Cause
2008	Hawke Packaging fire	Undetermined
2009	Waipukurau Hospital fire	Deliberately Lit
2020	Port of Napier ship fire	Under Investigation

- Structure fires remain one of our core focus areas
- Hawke's Bay experiencing high number of suspicious or unlawful fires
- Unattended cooking in the home is our number one cause fire

**Predominant fuel type**

The predominant fuel type in this zone is residential and urban parks and reserves.

## Thresholds

### Fire seasons

Grass Curing is the most relevant fire weather index to monitor for where parks and reserves provide the dominant fuel type.

Grass Curing (%)		
0-50	50 - 80	>80
Open	Restricted	Prohibited

### Prohibition on fires in open air (section 52)

We can use the same Fire Weather System trigger thresholds for prohibiting fires in the open air under section 52 as we do for changing to a prohibited fire season, but use section 52 when the fire risk conditions are not expected to last long enough to make changing to a prohibited fire season practical.

Other local thresholds have not been set.

### Prohibitions or restrictions on activities (section 52)

Localised trigger thresholds for applying section 52 to activities have not yet been developed, however there are some local mitigations used to reduce the need to implement it.

#### Forestry operations

A Hawke's Bay Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer liaises with local forestry companies about what mitigations they will apply during times of increased fire risk. Most Hawke's Bay forest companies use the Hawke's Bay Forestry Operations Fire Danger Codes developed by the old Bay Forests Rural Fire Authority trigger points to mitigate fire risk.

The NZ Forest Owners Association Forest Fire Risk Management Guidelines also contain advice on mitigating the risks.

#### Hotworks and mowing

The Principal Rural Fire Officer maintains a Hotworks and Mowing Group of contacts to provide with mitigation and fire danger advice.

#### Horticulture and agriculture

The Principal Rural Fire Officer is a member of the Hawke's Bay Rural Advisory Group to which mitigation and fire danger advice is provided. The members of the group pass this information onto their organisational contacts in the rural communities of Hawke's Bay.

#### Powerline auto-reclosers

Unison Power have developed trigger points based on fire danger conditions when they stop using automatic reclosers on their Hawke's Bay network.

### Representative remote automated weather stations

The Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) used to determine whether we have reached the trigger thresholds are:

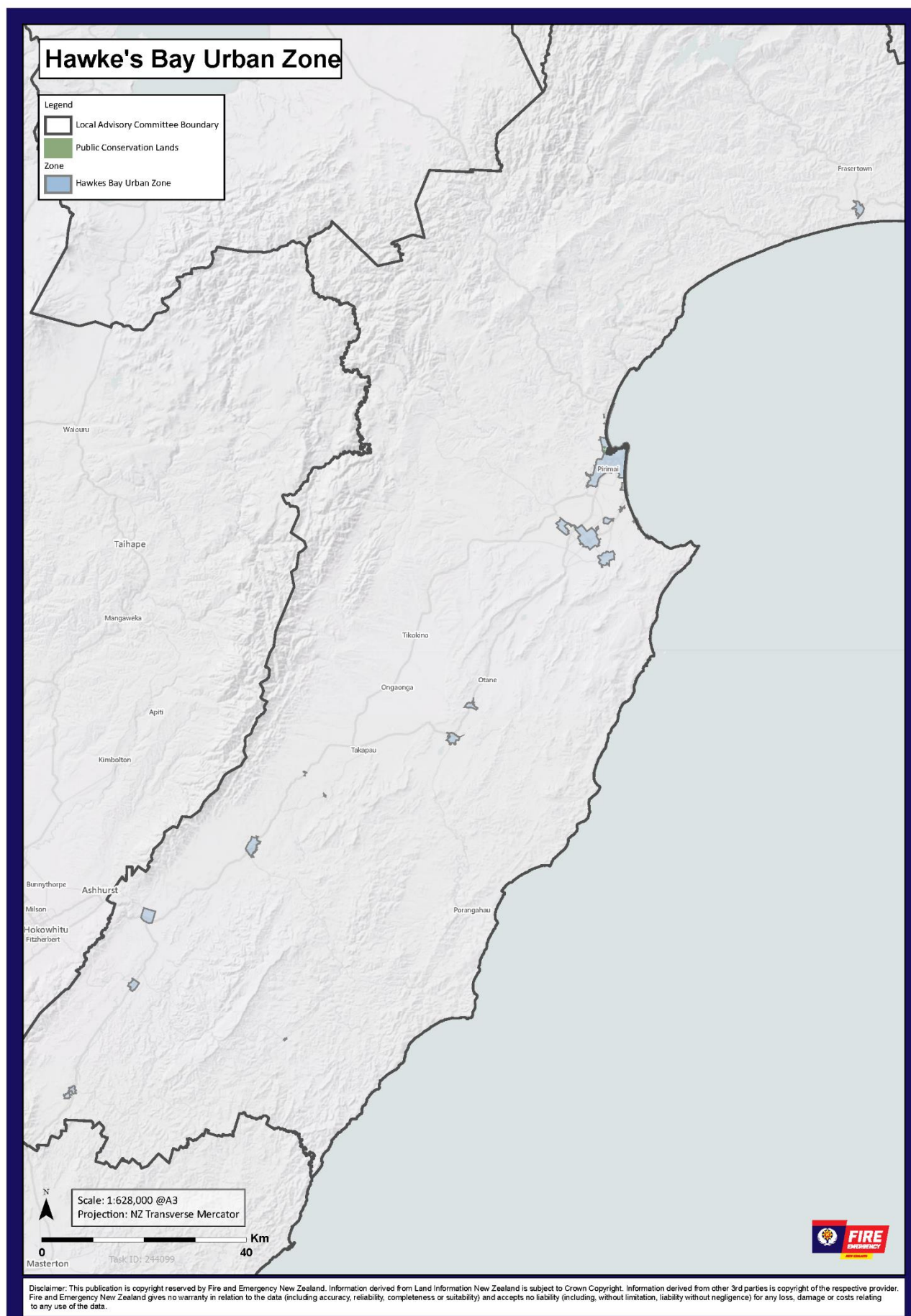
Wairoa

Napier

Waipukurau

We will consider the forecast for these locations when declaring or revoking a fire season.

## Hawke's Bay Urban zone map



**Hawke's Bay Urban stakeholders**

Stakeholder	Fire plan development	Fire plan amendment	Changing fire season to prohibited	Section 52 fire prohibitions	Section 52 restrictions/prohibitions on activities
Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc	Consulted while creating plan	Consult while amending plan	Notify of decision	Notify of decision	Consult during decision making
Wairoa District Council	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify of decision	Notify of decision	Notify of decision
Napier City Council	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify of decision	Notify of decision	Notify of decision
Hastings District Council	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify of decision	Notify of decision	Notify of decision
Central Hawke's Bay District Council	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify of decision	Notify of decision	Notify of decision
Hawke's Bay Regional Council	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify of decision	Notify of decision	Notify of decision
Public	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify of decision	Notify of decision	Notify of decision

If your organisation should be involved in fire plans, and have an interest in this zone, please contact us about being added to this list.



## Māhia Peninsula and Coastal Wairoa

**Geography** This zone extends from Mahanga Beach on the northern side of the Māhia Peninsula isthmus south to the Wairoa River and from SH 2 to the coast encompassing the dry coastal sand strip and the Māhia Peninsula.

**Demographics** Refer to the [area overview](#) for demographics in this zone.

**Climate/weather** This area has quite a special climate zone with the weather governed by the peninsula. The area is either wetter or drier than the rest of Wairoa District.

Ex-tropical cyclones have caused a number of weather bomb events that have isolated the zone for a number of days.

**Land cover/land use** Predominantly pastoral farming, but with increasing areas of the peninsula being established in commercial forest.

### Industry

Industry	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
Primary production, including horticulture and agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of machinery – sparks</li> <li>• use of fire for land management</li> <li>• relevant operations affected</li> </ul>	☒	☒	☒
Forestry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of machinery – sparks</li> <li>• relevant operations affected</li> <li>• Use of firebreaks</li> </ul>	☒	☒	☒
Rocket Lab launch facility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire tactical plans in place</li> <li>• Loss of vehicle and payload</li> </ul>	☒	☒	☒
Holiday destination-tourism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in population</li> <li>• Unfamiliar with fire risk and rules</li> <li>• Access to locations may be restricted during high fire danger</li> </ul>	☒	☐	☒

**Lifeline utilities/other infrastructure**

Lifeline utility/ other infrastructure	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
Māhia village auxiliary generator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not at imminent risk</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roading network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sparks from vehicle malfunction, discarded cigarettes</li> <li>Spark causing activities during road maintenance and mowing</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electricity transmission lines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sparking during high winds</li> <li>Use of auto-reclosers limited in high fire danger</li> <li>Recommended vegetation mitigation practices</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural gas distribution network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gas leaks</li> <li>Protected by own controls on use of fire and other activities in vicinity</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Recreational locations**

Māhia peninsula – the holiday population increases from about 1100 permanent residents to 17000 revellers for New Year's Eve

**Cultural and recreational activities and events**

Tangata whenua have very strong ties to their whenua (land) and culture, and value being able to use their whenua without unnecessary restrictions.

We will consult with tangata whenua and consider the needs of iwi when making decisions about implementing restrictions or prohibitions with our fire control powers. The relevant iwi for this zone are listed as stakeholders.

Large scale events that might be cancelled because a restriction on activities can have a significant economic impact.

Placing restrictions or prohibitions on fire hazardous activities should not impose any unreasonable restrictions on people living and enjoying recreational activities in this zone.

Activity and/or events	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
Fishing competitions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>beach fires</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Special risk areas**

Special risk area	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
11 marae in this zone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural fires</li> <li>Wāhi tapu and taonga</li> </ul>	☒	☒	☒
Rocket Lab launch facility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nationally and internationally significant</li> <li>The Rocket Lab has a site fire response plan and a tactical fire response plan.</li> </ul>	☒	☒	☒
Māhia isthmus during holiday periods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in population</li> <li>Only 1 road in and out of the isthmus</li> </ul>	☒	☒	☒
Opoutama wilding pines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very volatile fuels</li> <li>High intensity fires</li> <li>Some homes within this area at risk</li> </ul>	☒	☐	☒

**Known fire hazards** No recorded fire hazards

**Frequency of elevated fire danger**

On average, this zone experiences:  
 4.1 of days of extreme fire danger per fire season  
 5.1 of days of very high fire danger per fire season

**Fire history**

None listed

**Predominant fuel type**

This zone is a mixture of forestry and grasslands.

**Thresholds****Fire seasons**

Build-up Index (BUI) and the degree of grass curing (GC%) are the most relevant fire weather indices to monitor where there is a mixture of forestry and grasslands as the predominant fuel types.

Grass Curing (GC%)	Build Up Index (BUI)		
(%)	0-40	40-80	>80
0-50	Open	Open/Restricted	Restricted/Prohibited
50-70	Open/Restricted	Restricted	Prohibited
>70	Restricted/Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited

In the Hawke's Bay fire environment, grasses are the main contributor to out of control fires on windy days, so a lower curing threshold is preferred. Fire permitting mitigates the risk of fires in heavier fuel types providing for a higher BUI threshold.

Interpreting this matrix:

Open	Open fire season
Open/Restricted	Open fire season but we may move to a restricted season earlier if forecast conditions support this.
Restricted	Restricted fire season
Restricted/prohibited	Restricted Fire Season but we may move to a prohibited season earlier if forecast conditions support this or stay in a prohibited season longer if grasses remain dry and cured.
Prohibited	Prohibited fire season

### Prohibition on fires in open air (section 52)

We can use the same Fire Weather System trigger thresholds for prohibiting fires in the open air under section 52 as we do for changing to a prohibited fire season, but use section 52 when the fire risk conditions are not expected to last long enough to make changing to a prohibited fire season practical.

Other local thresholds have not been set.

### Prohibitions or restrictions on activities (section 52)

Localised trigger thresholds for applying section 52 to activities have not yet been developed, however there are some local mitigations used to reduce the need to implement it.

#### Forestry operations

A Hawke's Bay Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer liaises with local forestry companies about what mitigations they will apply during times of increased fire risk. Most Hawke's Bay forest companies use the Hawke's Bay Forestry Operations Fire Danger Codes developed by the old Bay Forests Rural Fire Authority trigger points to mitigate fire risk.

The NZ Forest Owners Association Forest Fire Risk Management Guidelines also contain advice on mitigating the risks.

#### Hotworks and mowing

The Principal Rural Fire Officer maintains a Hotworks and Mowing Group of contacts to provide with mitigation and fire danger advice.

#### Horticulture and agriculture

The Principal Rural Fire Officer is a member of the Hawke's Bay Rural Advisory Group to which mitigation and fire danger advice is provided. The members of the group pass this information onto their organisational contacts in the rural communities of Hawke's Bay.

#### Powerline auto-reclosers

Unison Power have developed trigger points based on fire danger conditions when they stop using automatic reclosers on their Hawke's Bay network.

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**Representative  
remote automated  
weather stations**

The Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) used to determine whether we have reached the trigger thresholds are:

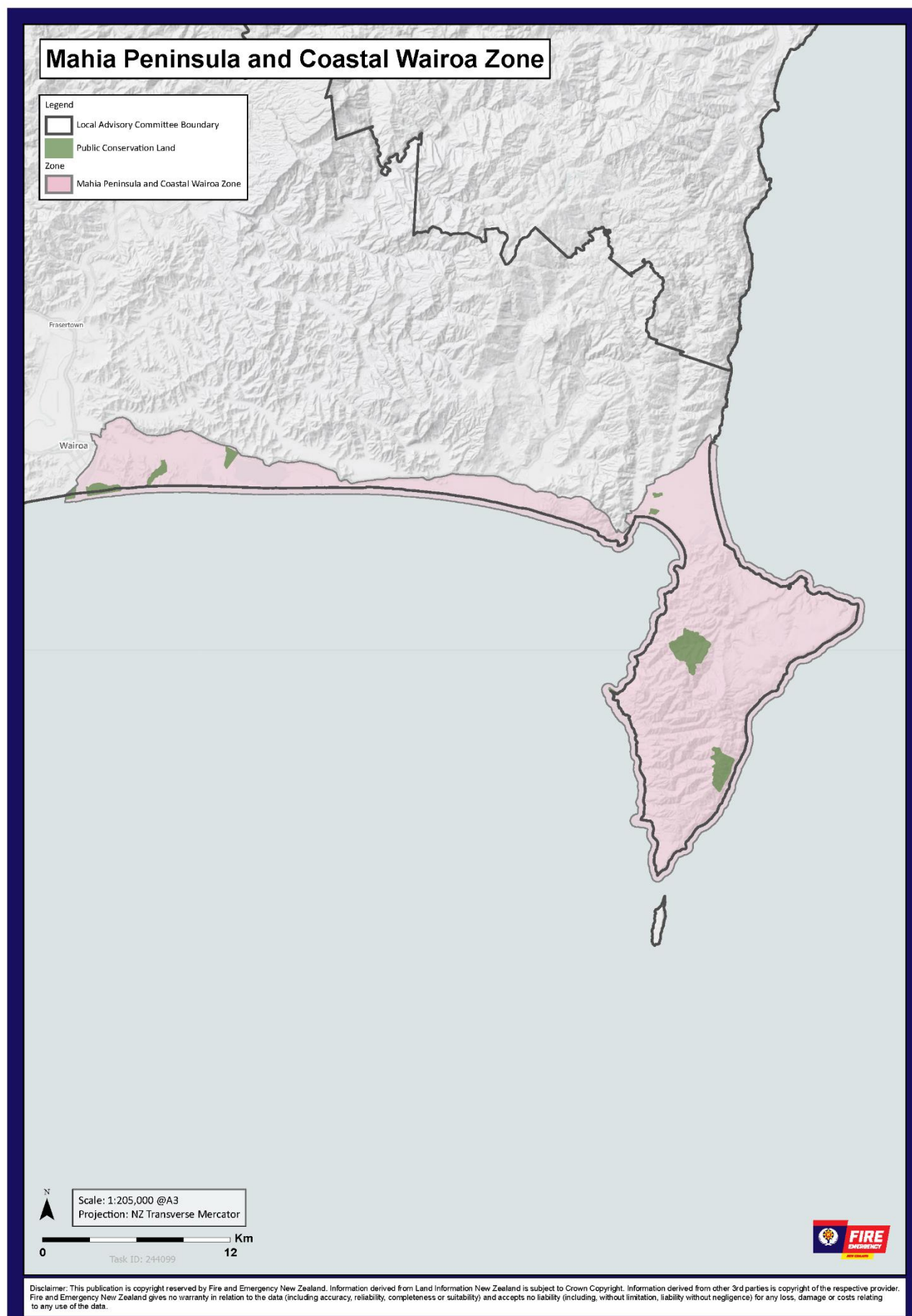
Māhia

Wairoa

We will consider the forecast for these locations when declaring or revoking a fire season.

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## Māhia Peninsula and Coastal Wairoa zone map



**Māhia Peninsula and Coastal Wairoa stakeholders**

Stakeholder	Fire plan development	Fire plan amendment	Changing fire season to prohibited	Section 52 fire prohibitions	Section 52 restrictions/prohibitions on activities
Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels
Rongomaiwahine Iwi Trust	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels
Wairoa District Council	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via group email	Notify via group email	Notify via group email
Forestry companies	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via group email	Notify via group email	Notify via group email
Department of Conservation	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via group email	Notify via group email	Notify via group email
Rocket Lab	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via group email	Notify via group email	Notify via group email
Public	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels

If your organisation should be involved in fire plans, and have an interest in this zone, please contact us about being added to this list.

## Wairoa Rural

### Geography

This zone extends from the coast to the main divide and Te Urewera and from the Wharerata to Mohaka River. It includes coastal hill country, areas of steep limestone escarpments and clays with a Tāupo pumice topsoil.

### Demographics

Refer to the [area overview](#) for demographics in this zone.

### Climate/weather

The climate in this zone varies from inland coastal country that often dries in summer months, to rainforest in the back country and Te Urewera.

The zone is not usually impacted by east coast droughts and has regular rainfall.

Ex-tropical cyclones have caused a number of weather bomb events that have isolated the zone for a number of days.

### Land cover/land use

The predominant land cover in the zone is pastoral but there are still large areas of forestry along the northern section of the zone and Patunamu Forest.

There are also some large areas of reverting farmland with mānuka, kānuka and gorse. A lot of these areas use fire as a land management tool.

Land use is beef, sheep and deer farming and commercial forestry-including carbon credit forestry.

### Industry

Industry	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
Primary production, including horticulture and agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of machinery – sparks</li> <li>• use of fire for land management</li> <li>• relevant operations affected</li> </ul>	☒	☒	☒
Forestry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of machinery – sparks</li> <li>• relevant operations affected</li> <li>• Use of firebreaks</li> </ul>	☒	☒	☒
Apiculture (beekeeping) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of smoke</li> <li>• Use of fire to destroy infested hives</li> </ul>	☒	☒	☐



**Lifeline  
utilities/other  
infrastructure**

Lifeline utility/ other infrastructure	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
Roothing network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sparks from vehicle malfunction, discarded cigarettes</li> <li>Spark causing activities during road maintenance and mowing</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Power generating facilities at Tuai and Waihi Electricity transmission lines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sparking during high winds</li> <li>Use of auto-reclosers limited in high fire danger</li> <li>Recommended vegetation mitigation practices</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Railway line <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sparks from passing trains and during track maintenance</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

National grid and local supply power transmission lines cross through or alongside many forest blocks. Main transmission lines feed the national grid from power stations at Tuai and Waihi.

State Highway 2 and Waikaremoana roads are prone to closure from weather related events which has made the communities quite resilient and can prevent Brigades responding to emergencies.

**Recreational  
locations**

Te Urewera and Great Walk around Lake Waikaremoana.

**Cultural and  
recreational  
activities and  
events**

Tangata whenua have very strong ties to their whenua (land) and culture, and value being able to use their whenua without unnecessary restrictions.

Large areas of Māori land are leased or under trust for farming, forestry, or rāhui whenua (conservation covenants protecting indigenous ecosystems), so we will consult with tangata whenua and consider the needs of iwi when making decisions about implementing restrictions or prohibitions with our fire control powers. The relevant iwi for this zone are listed as stakeholders.

Large scale events that might be cancelled because a restriction on activities can have a significant economic impact.

Placing restrictions or prohibitions on fire hazardous activities should not impose any unreasonable restrictions on people living and enjoying recreational activities in this zone.

Activity and/or events	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
19 marae in this zone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural fires</li> <li>Wāhi tapu and taonga</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fishing competitions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>beach fires</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hunting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>camp fires</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Special risk areas**

Special risk area	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
Te Urewera <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restriction on recreational users</li> <li>Area is wāhi tapu and taonga</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Fire tactical plans are prepared for high risk areas as identified by the Hawke's Bay Wildfire Threat Analysis.

**Known fire hazards**

There are no known fire hazards registered for this zone

**Frequency of elevated fire danger**

On average, this zone experiences:

- 9 of days of extreme fire danger per fire season
- 6.2 of days of very high fire danger per fire season

The major impact of elevated fire danger is the restriction on the use fire as a land management tool during these periods

**Fire history**

Fire is used extensively as a land management tool with advice on safe and effective burning provided by Fire and Emergency.

The zone has several out of control fires each summer caused by unpermitted burning, but these have not developed into large fires.

**Predominant fuel type**

This zone is a mixture of forestry and grasslands.

## Thresholds

### Fire seasons

Build-up Index (BUI) and the degree of grass curing (GC%) are the most relevant fire weather indices to monitor where there is a mixture of forestry and grasslands as the predominant fuel types.

Grass Curing (GC%)	Build Up Index (BUI)		
(%)	0-40	40-80	>80
0-50	Open	Open/Restricted	Restricted/Prohibited
50-70	Open/Restricted	Restricted	Prohibited
>70	Restricted/Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited

In the Hawke's Bay fire environment, grasses are the main contributor to out of control fires on windy days, so a lower curing threshold is preferred. Fire permitting mitigates the risk of fires in heavier fuel types providing for a higher BUI threshold.

Interpreting this matrix:

Open	Open fire season
Open/Restricted	Open fire season but we may move to a restricted season earlier if forecast conditions support this.
Restricted	Restricted fire season
Restricted/prohibited	Restricted Fire Season but we may move to a prohibited season earlier if forecast conditions support this or stay in a prohibited season longer if grasses remain dry and cured.
Prohibited	Prohibited fire season

### Prohibition on fires in open air (section 52)

We can use the same Fire Weather System trigger thresholds for prohibiting fires in the open air under section 52 as we do for changing to a prohibited fire season, but use section 52 when the fire risk conditions are not expected to last long enough to make changing to a prohibited fire season practical.

Other local thresholds have not been set.

### Prohibitions or restrictions on activities (section 52)

Localised trigger thresholds for applying section 52 to activities have not yet been developed, however there are some local mitigations used to reduce the need to implement it.

#### Forestry operations

A Hawke's Bay Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer liaises with local forestry companies about what mitigations they will apply during times of increased fire risk. Most Hawke's Bay forest companies use the Hawke's Bay Forestry Operations Fire Danger Codes developed by the old Bay Forests Rural Fire Authority trigger points to mitigate fire risk.

The NZ Forest Owners Association Forest Fire Risk Management Guidelines also contain advice on mitigating the risks.

#### Hotworks and mowing

The Principal Rural Fire Officer maintains a Hotworks and Mowing Group of contacts to provide with mitigation and fire danger advice.

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**Horticulture and agriculture**

The Principal Rural Fire Officer is a member of the Hawke's Bay Rural Advisory Group to which mitigation and fire danger advice is provided. The members of the group pass this information onto their organisational contacts in the rural communities of Hawke's Bay.

**Powerline auto-reclosers**

Unison Power have developed trigger points based on fire danger conditions when they stop using automatic reclosers on their Hawke's Bay network.

**Representative  
remote automated  
weather stations**

The Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) used to determine whether we have reached the trigger thresholds are:

Wairoa

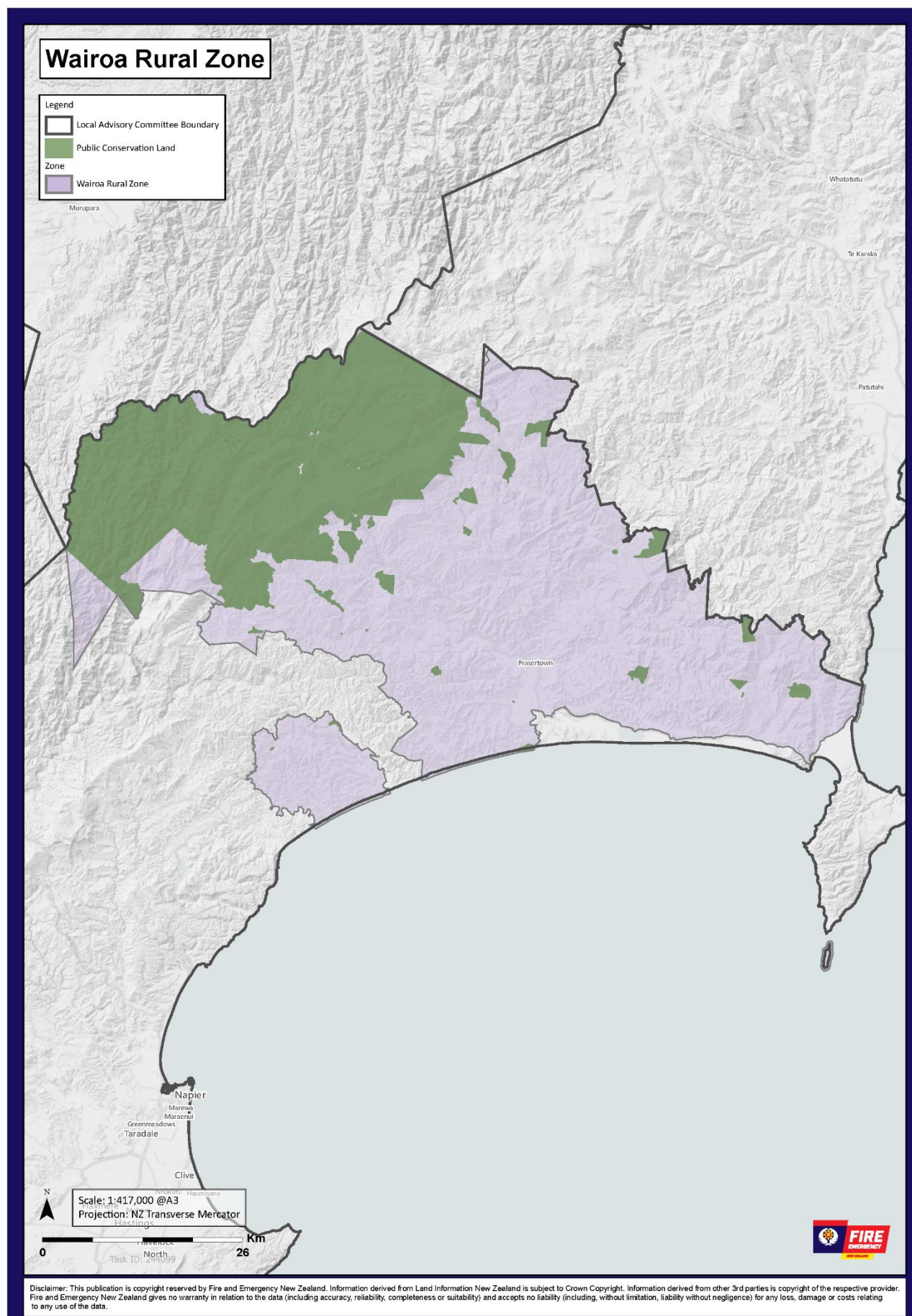
Kaitawa

Cricklewood

We will consider the forecast for these locations when declaring or revoking a fire season.

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## Wairoa Rural zone map



**Wairoa Rural stakeholders**

Stakeholder	Fire plan development	Fire plan amendment	Changing fire season to prohibited	Section 52 fire prohibitions	Section 52 restrictions/prohibitions on activities
Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels
Tuhoe Iwi	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels
Forestry companies	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via group email	Notify via group email	Notify via group email
Department of Conservation	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via group email	Notify via group email	Notify via group email
Wairoa District Council	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via group email	Notify via group email	Notify via group email
Public	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels

If your organisation should be involved in fire plans, and have an interest in this zone, please contact us about being added to this list.

## Napier/Hastings Rural

<b>Geography</b>	This zone extends from the main divide of the northern Ruahine and Kaweka Ranges to the west to the east coast and from the Waikare River in the north to Ōtāne in the south. It includes the Heretaunga flood plains, coastal hill country, areas of steep limestone escarpments and clays with a Tāupo pumice topsoil.
<b>Demographics</b>	Refer to the <a href="#">area overview</a> for demographics in this zone.
<b>Climate/weather</b>	<p>Dominant northerly or nor westerly systems bring strong winds and hot, dry days that elevate the fire dangers to Extreme, especially with the season equinox.</p> <p>Easterly patterns bring rain and occasional ex-tropical cyclones and southerlies can bring some rain to the coastal areas but little elsewhere in the zone.</p> <p>This zone is prone to summer dryness and drought</p>
<b>Land cover/land use</b>	<p>The main land use for the zone is pastoral farming, dairy, beef lamb and deer.</p> <p>The Heretaunga Plains and surrounds supports a vibrant viticulture industry along with extensive areas of orchards and cropping.</p> <p>Commercial forestry supports the PanPac Mill and Napier Port.</p>

Industry	Industry	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
	Primary production, including horticulture and agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of machinery – sparks</li> <li>• use of fire for land management</li> <li>• relevant operations affected</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Forestry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of machinery – sparks</li> <li>• relevant operations affected</li> <li>• Use of firebreaks</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	PanPac Timber mill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of machinery – sparks</li> <li>• relevant operations affected</li> <li>• impact from forestry operations stopping</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Tourism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in population</li> <li>• Unfamiliar with fire risks and fire rules</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Industry	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
Large industrial cool stores and packing sheds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of machinery – sparks</li> <li>• relevant operations affected</li> <li>• Impact from restrictions on activities at supplier</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ravensdown Fertiliser <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of machinery – sparks</li> <li>• relevant operations affected</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Recreational locations

- Te Mata Peak Park which has a Tactical Fire Response Plan
- Whirinaki Mountain Bike Park
- Mohaka River including fishing and rafting
- Ngaruroro River including fishing and rafting
- Department of Conservation and Regional Council parks and picnicking areas
- Vineyards / Wineries for functions and events

### Cultural and recreational activities and events

Tangata whenua have very strong ties to their whenua (land) and culture, and value being able to use their whenua without unnecessary restrictions.

Large areas of Māori land are leased or under trust for farming, forestry, or rāhui whenua (conservation covenants protecting indigenous ecosystems), so we will consult with tangata whenua and consider the needs of iwi when making decisions about implementing restrictions or prohibitions with our fire control powers. The relevant iwi for this zone are listed as stakeholders.

Large scale events that might be cancelled because a restriction on activities can have a significant economic impact.

Placing restrictions or prohibitions on fire hazardous activities should not impose any unreasonable restrictions on people living and enjoying recreational activities in this zone.

Activities and/or events	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
25 marae in this zone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural fires</li> <li>• Wāhi tapu and taonga</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Special risk areas**

Activities and/or events	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
Concerts and private functions with pyrotechnics (wineries and vineyards) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peri-urban locations</li> <li>• High fire danger time of year</li> <li>• Pyrotechnics managed by other processes</li> <li>• Public use of fireworks may be restricted during high fire danger</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special risk area	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
Te Mata Peak Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High fuel load</li> <li>• High public use</li> <li>• Restrictions on activities</li> <li>• Area is waihi tapu and a taonga</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Extensive small block properties around Hastings, Napier and Havelock North <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High summer fuel loads</li> <li>• Lack of understanding of the use of fire as a land management tool</li> <li>• Restrictions on activities</li> <li>• Peri-urban assets</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tangoio Waste Tyre Dump <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located in a peri-urban area</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Omarunui Landfill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hot material waste disposed of at the tip</li> <li>• Lithium Iron batteries disposed of in the tip</li> <li>• use of machinery – sparks</li> <li>• relevant operations affected</li> <li>• Located in a summer dry area close to peri-urban developments.</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Fire tactical plans are prepared for high risk operations, businesses and areas as identified by the Hawke's Bay Wildfire Threat Analysis.

**Known fire hazards**

There are no recorded fire hazards.

**Frequency of elevated fire danger**

On average, this zone experiences:

- 10 days of extreme fire danger per fire season (Oct-May)
- 7.5 days of very high fire danger per fire season (Oct- May)

**Fire history**

The known fire history for this zone for wildfires or fires caused by activities regulated by our fire control powers includes:

Year	Fire	Cause
2021	Korokipo Road fire threatened 6 homes and caused significant damage to the power supply network.	Suspicious
2020	Tangoio Forest fire (400 ha) commercial forest	Caused by forest operations
2020	Brownrigg fire (90 ha) pasture and crop.	Caused by farm machinery
2020	Tikokino/SH50 fire (27 ha) pasture, commercial forest and bush, threatened 3 homes.	Farming operations (mowing)
2017	Ripia Fire (90 ha) kānuka/mānuka and beech forest took several weeks to extinguish.	Fishermen in the remote Ripia Valley
2017	Raukawa Road/ Colin White fire (165 ha) pasture.	Farming operations
2017	Waimārama Fire (168 ha) pasture and commercial forest destroyed 1 house.	Believed to have been caused by powerlines
2017	Raukawa Road fire (14.8 ha) destroyed a shed and damaged a house	Caused by trees in powerlines
2017	Dartmoor Road fire (8.6 ha) threatened 3 homes.	Caused by trees in powerlines
2006	Omarunui Landfill fire	Unknown

This zone is prone to fire danger spike days due to strong, hot and dry westerly winds. These conditions can cause several fires on the same day, exhausting human and equipment resources.

Fires caused by powerlines have significantly reduced due to Unison Power Co adopting a process to manage auto-reclosers when fire risk is elevated.

Historically fires have been caused by carelessness, escaped unpermitted burning, mowing and crop harvesting, arson and powerlines.

**Predominant fuel type**

This zone is a mixture of forestry and grasslands.

## Thresholds

### Fire seasons

Build-up Index (BUI) and the degree of grass curing (GC%) are the most relevant fire weather indices to monitor where there is a mixture of forestry and grasslands as the predominant fuel types.

Grass Curing (GC%)	Build Up Index (BUI)		
(%)	0-40	40-80	>80
0-50	Open	Open/Restricted	Restricted/Prohibited
50-70	Open/Restricted	Restricted	Prohibited
>70	Restricted/Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited

In the Hawke's Bay fire environment, grasses are the main contributor to out of control fires on windy days, so a lower curing threshold is preferred. Fire permitting mitigates the risk of fires in heavier fuel types providing for a higher BUI threshold.

Interpreting this matrix:

Open	Open fire season
Open/Restricted	Open fire season but we may move to a restricted season earlier if forecast conditions support this.
Restricted	Restricted fire season
Restricted/prohibited	Restricted Fire Season but we may move to a prohibited season earlier if forecast conditions support this or stay in a prohibited season longer if grasses remain dry and cured.
Prohibited	Prohibited fire season

### Prohibition on fires in open air (section 52)

We can use the same Fire Weather System trigger thresholds for prohibiting fires in the open air under section 52 as we do for changing to a prohibited fire season, but use section 52 when the fire risk conditions are not expected to last long enough to make changing to a prohibited fire season practical.

Other local thresholds have not been set.

### Prohibitions or restrictions on activities (section 52)

Localised trigger thresholds for applying section 52 to activities have not yet been developed, however there are some local mitigations used to reduce the need to implement it.

#### Forestry operations

A Hawke's Bay Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer liaises with local forestry companies about what mitigations they will apply during times of increased fire risk. Most Hawke's Bay forest companies use the Hawke's Bay Forestry Operations Fire Danger Codes developed by the old Bay Forests Rural Fire Authority trigger points to mitigate fire risk.

The NZ Forest Owners Association Forest Fire Risk Management Guidelines also contain advice on mitigating the risks.

#### Hotworks and mowing

The Principal Rural Fire Officer maintains a Hotworks and Mowing Group of contacts to provide with mitigation and fire danger advice.

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### **Horticulture and agriculture**

The Principal Rural Fire Officer is a member of the Hawke's Bay Rural Advisory Group to which mitigation and fire danger advice is provided. The members of the group pass this information onto their organisational contacts in the rural communities of Hawke's Bay.

### **Powerline auto-reclosers**

Unison Power have developed trigger points based on fire danger conditions when they stop using automatic reclosers on their Hawke's Bay network.

### **Representative remote automated weather stations**

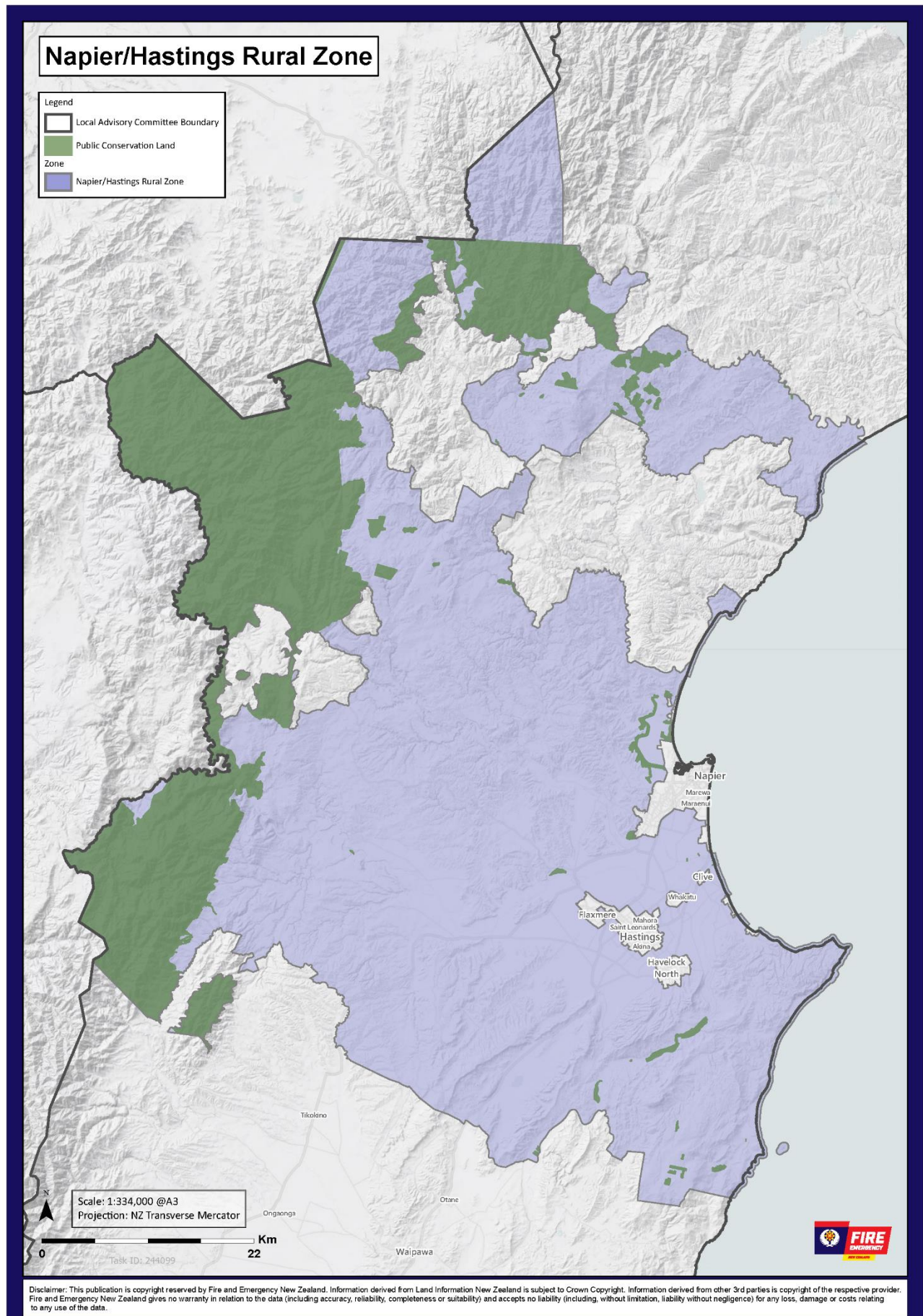
The Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) used to determine whether we have reached the trigger thresholds are:

Napier	Bridge Pa	Te Pōhue,
Crownthorpe	Te Apiti	

We will consider the forecast for these locations when declaring or revoking a fire season.

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## Napier/Hastings Rural zone map



**Napier/Hastings Rural stakeholders**

Stakeholder	Fire plan development	Fire plan amendment	Changing fire season to prohibited	Section 52 fire prohibitions	Section 52 restrictions/prohibitions on activities
Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels
Forestry companies	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via group email	Notify via group email	Notify via group email
Napier City Council	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via group email	Notify via group email	Notify via group email
Hastings District Council	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via group email	Notify via group email	Notify via group email
Public	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels

If your organisation should be involved in fire plans, and have an interest in this zone, please contact us about being added to this list.

## Hawke's Bay Central Rural

<b>Geography</b>	Central Hawke's Bay extends from the Ruahine Range in the west to the coast in the east and from Ōtāne in the north to Takapau in the south
<b>Demographics</b>	Refer to the <a href="#">area overview</a> for demographics in this zone.
<b>Climate/weather</b>	<p>The climate in this zone is almost continental and is dominated by the main divide. Predominantly strong, dry, westerly föhn winds dominate. There is seasonal dryness with droughts. Very hot dry periods create extreme fire dangers throughout summer.</p> <p>North easterly weather systems are usually dry and extend dry periods in the zone.</p> <p>Coastal areas are especially susceptible to these weather patterns but do benefit from southerly systems that bring coastal rain.</p>
<b>Land cover/land use</b>	<p>The predominant land use in the zone is dry stock farming but there are also extensive areas of irrigated cropping.</p> <p>There are some areas of commercial forest, but these are not extensive.</p>

### Industry

Industry	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
Primary production, including horticulture and agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of machinery – sparks</li> <li>• use of fire for land management</li> <li>• relevant operations affected</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Forestry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of machinery – sparks</li> <li>• relevant operations affected</li> <li>• Use of firebreaks</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr Apple packhouse in Waipawa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact from restrictions on activities at supplier</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Silver Fern Farms meat processing facility at Takapau <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact from restrictions on activities at supplier</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Lifeline utilities/other infrastructure**

Lifeline utility/ other infrastructure	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
Electricity transmission lines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sparking during high winds</li> <li>• Use of auto-reclosers limited in high fire danger</li> <li>• Recommended vegetation mitigation practices</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Road network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sparks from vehicle malfunction, discarded cigarettes</li> <li>• Spark causing activities during road maintenance and mowing</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural gas distribution network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gas leaks</li> <li>• Protected by own controls on use of fire and other activities in vicinity</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Railway line <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sparks from passing trains and during track maintenance</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Recreational locations**

No locations in this zone

**Cultural and recreational activities and events**

Tangata whenua have very strong ties to their whenua (land) and culture, and value being able to use their whenua without unnecessary restrictions.

Large areas of Māori land are leased or under trust for farming, forestry, or rāhui whenua (conservation covenants protecting indigenous ecosystems), so we will consult with tangata whenua and consider the needs of iwi when making decisions about implementing restrictions or prohibitions with our fire control powers. The relevant iwi for this zone are listed as stakeholders.

Large scale events that might be cancelled because a restriction on activities can have a significant economic impact.

Placing restrictions or prohibitions on fire hazardous activities should not impose any unreasonable restrictions on people living and enjoying recreational activities in this zone.

Special risk area	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
9 Marae in this zone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural fires</li> <li>• Wāhi tapu and taonga</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Special risk area	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
Events and concerts with bonfires <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peri-urban locations</li> <li>• High fire danger time of year</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Fire tactical plans are prepared for high risk areas as identified by the Hawke's Bay Wildfire Threat Analysis.

**Special risk areas** Fire tactical plans are prepared for high risk areas as identified by the Hawke's Bay Wildfire Threat Analysis.

**Known fire hazards** No hazards listed in the Fire Hazard removal system

**Frequency of elevated fire danger** On average, this zone experiences:

- 13.7 days of extreme fire danger per fire season (Oct-May)
- 13 days of very high fire danger per fire season (Oct- May)

Rural dwellers in this zone are used to dry summer conditions and are very aware of the risks from wildfires. They farm for summer dry conditions.

**Fire history** The known fire history for this zone for wildfires or fires caused by activities regulated by our fire control powers includes:

Year	Fire	Cause
2021	Takapau stubble burn (30 ha)	Caused by a mower
2019	Wakarara Road	Powerlines.
1991	Tikokino Fire (130 ha).	

**Predominant fuel type** This zone is a mixture of forestry and grasslands.

## Thresholds

**Fire seasons** Build-up Index (BUI) and the degree of grass curing (GC%) are the most relevant fire weather indices to monitor where there is a mixture of forestry and grasslands as the predominant fuel types.

Grass Curing (GC%)	Build Up Index (BUI)		
(%)	0-40	40-80	>80
0-50	Open	Open/Restricted	Restricted/Prohibited
50-70	Open/Restricted	Restricted	Prohibited
>70	Restricted/Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited

In the Hawke's Bay fire environment, grasses are the main contributor to out of control fires on windy days, so a lower curing threshold is preferred.

Fire permitting mitigates the risk of fires in heavier fuel types providing for a higher BUI threshold.

Interpreting this matrix:

Open	Open fire season
Open/Restricted	Open fire season but we may move to a restricted season earlier if forecast conditions support this.
Restricted	Restricted fire season
Restricted/prohibited	Restricted Fire Season but we may move to a prohibited season earlier if forecast conditions support this or stay in a prohibited season longer if grasses remain dry and cured.
Prohibited	Prohibited fire season

### Prohibition on fires in open air (section 52)

We can use the same Fire Weather System trigger thresholds for prohibiting fires in the open air under section 52 as we do for changing to a prohibited fire season, but use section 52 when the fire risk conditions are not expected to last long enough to make changing to a prohibited fire season practical.

Other local thresholds have not been set.

### Prohibitions or restrictions on activities (section 52)

Localised trigger thresholds for applying section 52 to activities have not yet been developed, however there are some local mitigations used to reduce the need to implement it.

#### Forestry operations

A Hawke's Bay Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer liaises with local forestry companies about what mitigations they will apply during times of increased fire risk. Most Hawke's Bay forest companies use the Hawke's Bay Forestry Operations Fire Danger Codes developed by the old Bay Forests Rural Fire Authority trigger points to mitigate fire risk.

The NZ Forest Owners Association Forest Fire Risk Management Guidelines also contain advice on mitigating the risks.

#### Hotworks and mowing

The Principal Rural Fire Officer maintains a Hotworks and Mowing Group of contacts to provide with mitigation and fire danger advice.

#### Horticulture and agriculture

The Principal Rural Fire Officer is a member of the Hawke's Bay Rural Advisory Group to which mitigation and fire danger advice is provided. The members of the group pass this information onto their organisational contacts in the rural communities of Hawke's Bay.

#### Powerline auto-reclosers

Unison Power have developed trigger points based on fire danger conditions when they stop using automatic reclosers on their Hawke's Bay network.

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**Representative  
remote automated  
weather stations**

The Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) used to determine whether we have reached the trigger thresholds are:

Ongaonga and

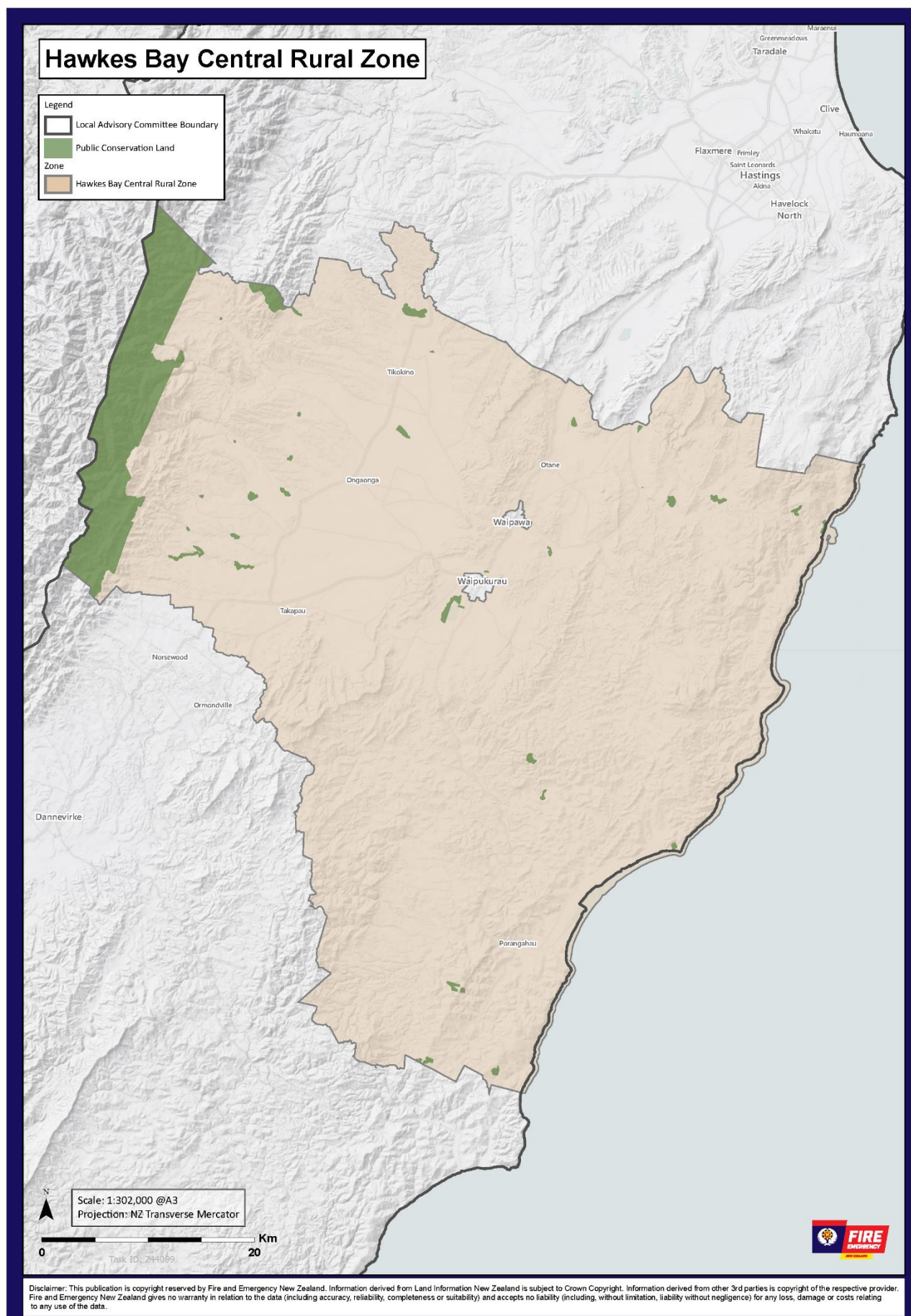
Waipukurau

Porangahau

We will consider the forecast for these locations when declaring or revoking a fire season.

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## Hawke's Bay Central Rural zone map



**Hawke's Bay Central Rural stakeholders**

Stakeholder	Fire plan development	Fire plan amendment	Changing fire season to prohibited	Section 52 fire prohibitions	Section 52 restrictions/prohibitions on activities
Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels
Central Hawke's Bay District Council	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via group email	Notify via group email	Notify via group email
Forestry companies	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via group email	Notify via group email	Notify via group email
Public	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels

If your organisation should be involved in fire plans, and have an interest in this zone, please contact us about being added to this list.

## Tararua

### Geography

This zone extends from the east coast to the main divide of the southern Ruahine and northern Tararua ranges. From the Takapau Plains in the north to Eketāhuna in the south.

### Demographics

Refer to the [area overview](#) for demographics in this zone.

### Climate/weather

The zone's weather is largely influenced by the Manawatu Gorge that provides westerly weather to spill over to the eastern side of the divide, strong westerly föhn winds and southerly weather systems that affect the coastal strip.

This creates areas that are very dry and areas that can remain quite wet and green

### Land cover/land use

The predominant land use in the zone is pastoral farming with significant dairy farming in the less drought prone areas.

There are some more extensive areas of commercial forestry towards the coast.

### Industry

Industry	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
Primary production, including horticulture and agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of machinery – sparks</li> <li>• use of fire for land management</li> <li>• relevant operations affected</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Forestry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of machinery – sparks</li> <li>• relevant operations affected</li> <li>• Use of firebreaks</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Apiculture (beekeeping) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of smoke</li> <li>• Use of fire to destroy infested hives</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meat processing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• affected by restrictions on activities at supplier</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Lifeline utilities/other infrastructure**

Lifeline utility/ other infrastructure	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
Electricity transmission lines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sparking during high winds</li> <li>• Use of auto-reclosers limited in high fire danger</li> <li>• Recommended vegetation mitigation practices</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Railway line <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sparks from passing trains and during track maintenance</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural gas distribution network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gas leaks</li> <li>• Protected by own controls on use of fire and other activities in vicinity</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Road network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sparks from vehicle malfunction, discarded cigarettes</li> <li>• Spark causing activities during road maintenance and mowing</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Recreational locations**

Pūkaha Mt Bruce National Wildlife Centre

**Cultural and recreational activities and events**

Tangata whenua have very strong ties to their whenua (land) and culture, and value being able to use their whenua without unnecessary restrictions.

Large areas of Māori land are leased or under trust for farming, forestry, or rāhui whenua (conservation covenants protecting indigenous ecosystems), so we will consult with tangata whenua and consider the needs of iwi when making decisions about implementing restrictions or prohibitions with our fire control powers. The relevant iwi for this zone are listed as stakeholders.

Large scale events that might be cancelled because a restriction on activities can have a significant economic impact.

Placing restrictions or prohibitions on fire hazardous activities should not impose any unreasonable restrictions on people living and enjoying recreational activities in this zone.

Activities and/or events	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
Campfires and bonfires on the beaches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Special risk areas**

Special risk areas	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
6 marae in this zone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural fires</li> <li>Wāhi tapu and taonga</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Known fire hazards**

There are no locations registered in the national fire hazard removal system

**Frequency of elevated fire danger**

On average, this zone experiences:

- 5 days of extreme fire danger per fire season (Oct-May)
- 3.5 days of very high fire danger per fire season (Oct- May)

When compared with Hawke's Bay and Wairarapa, the Tararua zone has a lower fire danger severity, and it is unusual for the fire climate to impact other activities apart from the normal controls and constraints on the use fire which are applied through a restricted or prohibited fire season.

**Fire history**

No nationally significant fires to date.

Unwanted vegetation wildfires do occur as a consequence of:

- using fire as a land management tool
- using fire for cooking, warmth, cultural or recreational purposes
- Powerlines in trees, broken lines
- Transportation
- Power tools, including chainsaws
- Pyrotechnics and fireworks

**Predominant fuel type**

This zone is a mixture of forestry and grasslands.

**Thresholds****Fire seasons**

Build-up Index (BUI) and the degree of grass curing (GC%) are the most relevant fire weather indices to monitor where there is a mixture of forestry and grasslands as the predominant fuel types.

Grass Curing (GC%)	Build Up Index (BUI)		
(%)	0-40	40-80	>80
0-50	Open	Open/Restricted	Restricted/Prohibited
50-70	Open/Restricted	Restricted	Prohibited
>70	Restricted/Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited

In the Hawke's Bay fire environment, grasses are the main contributor to out of control fires on windy days, so a lower curing threshold is preferred. Fire permitting mitigates the risk of fires in heavier fuel types providing for a higher BUI threshold.



## Interpreting this matrix:

Open	Open fire season
Open/Restricted	Open fire season but we may move to a restricted season earlier if forecast conditions support this.
Restricted	Restricted fire season
Restricted/prohibited	Restricted Fire Season but we may move to a prohibited season earlier if forecast conditions support this or stay in a prohibited season longer if grasses remain dry and cured.
Prohibited	Prohibited fire season

**Prohibition on fires in open air (section 52)**

We can use the same Fire Weather System trigger thresholds for prohibiting fires in the open air under section 52 as we do for changing to a prohibited fire season, but use section 52 when the fire risk conditions are not expected to last long enough to make changing to a prohibited fire season practical.

Other local thresholds have not been set.

**Prohibitions or restrictions on activities (section 52)**

Localised trigger thresholds for applying section 52 to activities have not yet been developed, however there are some local mitigations used to reduce the need to implement it.

**Forestry operations**

A Hawke's Bay Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer liaises with local forestry companies about what mitigations they will apply during times of increased fire risk. Most Hawke's Bay forest companies use the Hawke's Bay Forestry Operations Fire Danger Codes developed by the old Bay Forests Rural Fire Authority trigger points to mitigate fire risk.

The NZ Forest Owners Association Forest Fire Risk Management Guidelines also contain advice on mitigating the risks.

**Hotworks and mowing**

The Principal Rural Fire Officer maintains a Hotworks and Mowing Group of contacts to provide with mitigation and fire danger advice.

**Horticulture and agriculture**

The Principal Rural Fire Officer is a member of the Hawke's Bay Rural Advisory Group to which mitigation and fire danger advice is provided. The members of the group pass this information onto their organisational contacts in the rural communities of Hawke's Bay.

**Powerline auto-reclosers**

Unison Power have developed trigger points based on fire danger conditions when they stop using automatic reclosers on their Hawke's Bay network.

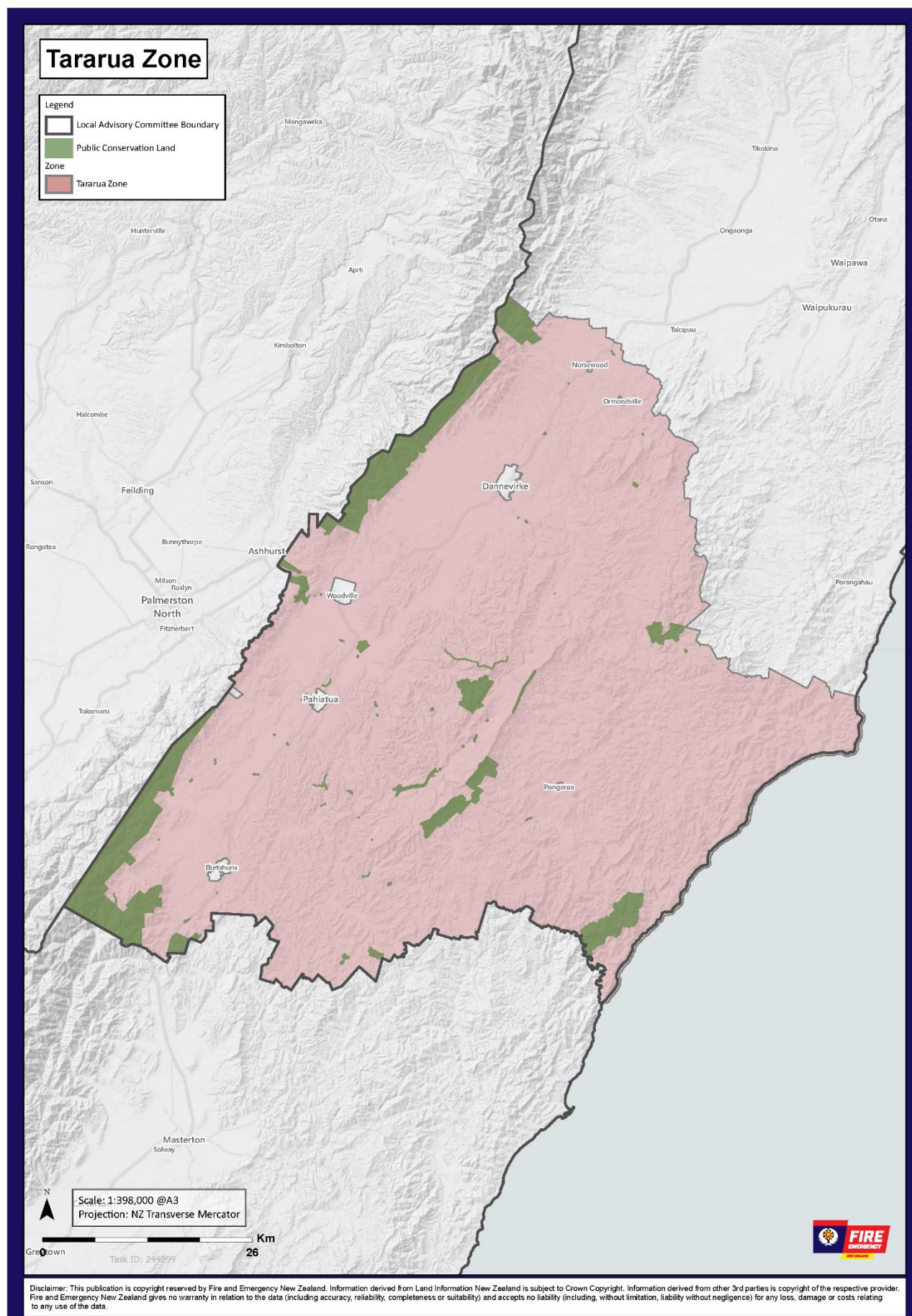
**Representative  
remote automated  
weather stations**

The Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) used to determine whether we have reached the trigger thresholds are:

Alfredton South	Pahiatua	Tinui
Gwavas	Waione East	Crofoot
Dannevirke	Ākitio	

We will consider the forecast for these locations when declaring or revoking a fire season.

## Tatarua zone map



**Tararua stakeholders**

Stakeholder	Fire plan development	Fire plan amendment	Changing fire season to prohibited	Section 52 fire prohibitions	Section 52 restrictions/prohibitions on activities
Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels
Forestry companies	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via group email	Notify via group email	Notify via group email
Tararua District Council	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via group email	Notify via group email	Notify via group email
Public	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels

If your organisation should be involved in fire plans, and have an interest in this zone, please contact us about being added to this list.

## Forestry

### Geography

Commercial and carbon farming forestry is an expanding land use throughout the Hawke's Bay area. This includes small woodlots and extensive commercial plantations, these are generally located in the rolling and steeper country.

Many of these are isolated with difficult access especially for standard fire appliances.

The zone identified in this plan is the fire permitting zone from the old Bay Forests Rural Fire Authority. This is being redefined and consulted on with our forestry partners for inclusion in the next edition of the fire plan.

### Climate/weather

Forestry is spread throughout the Hawke's Bay therefore the climate for Forestry encompasses all the rural areas from the Wharerata to Ekatāhuna.

### Land cover/ land use

This zone is a commercial forest zone predominantly consisting of mixed age and multi-rotational radiata pine. This makes for complex fire management both for reduction and mitigation as well as response.

### Industry

Industry	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
Primary production, including horticulture and agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of machinery – sparks</li> <li>• use of fire for land management</li> <li>• relevant operations affected</li> </ul>	☒	☒	☒
Forestry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of machinery – sparks</li> <li>• relevant operations affected</li> <li>• Use of firebreaks</li> </ul>	☒	☒	☒
Spark hazardous operations such as roadside mowing, harvesting, well drilling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• relevant operations affected</li> </ul>	☒	☒	☒

Commercial forestry contributes about \$1 billion and 2400 jobs to the Hawke's Bay area.

Significant loss of forest estate due to fire has a flow on impact on the whole Hawke's Bay economy with several sawmills, supporting businesses, infrastructure and the Napier Port impacted by adverse events such as fire

**Lifeline utilities/other infrastructure**

Lifeline utility/ other infrastructure	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
Electricity transmission lines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sparking during high winds</li> <li>• Use of auto-reclosers limited in high fire danger</li> <li>• Recommended vegetation mitigation practices</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roading network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sparks from vehicle malfunction, discarded cigarettes</li> <li>• Spark causing activities during road maintenance and mowing</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Railway line <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sparks from passing trains and during track maintenance</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Recreational locations**

Forest areas are extensively used for recreational activities that will be affected by Fire and Emergency exercising its fire control powers.

**Cultural and recreational activities and events**

Activities and/or events	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
Hunting and fishing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to out of control fires escaping from unpermitted fires</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Motorsport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spark hazardous activity</li> <li>• Affected by restrictions on activities</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mountain biking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to sites affected by restrictions on activities</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Several forest blocks are either under Māori ownership, in partnership with Māori or subject to Te Tiriti o Waitangi claim processes. The owners should be consulted with when considering exercising our fire control powers to restrict access to lands or restrict activities and use.

**Special risk areas**

Commercial forestry contributes about \$1 billion and 2400 jobs to the Hawke's Bay area.

Significant loss of forest estate due to fire has a flow on impact on the whole Hawke's Bay economy with several sawmills, supporting businesses, infrastructure and the Napier Port impacted by adverse events such as fire.

**Known fire hazards** No locations listed in the Fire hazard removal system

**Frequency of elevated fire danger**

On average, this zone experiences:

- 9 days of extreme fire danger per fire season (Oct-May)
- 8 days of very high fire danger per fire season (Oct- May)

The impact of stopping harvesting operations due to elevated fire risk is considerable immediately affecting forestry crews, transport, sawmills, Napier Port exports and customers.

Most forestry companies manage and mitigate their own fire risk.

Some companies use the NZ Forest Owners Forest Fire Risk Management Guidelines to help manage risk.

**Fire history**

The known fire history for this zone for wildfires or fires caused by activities regulated by our fire control powers includes:

Year	Fire	Cause
2020	Tangoio fire (400 ha)	Harvesting operations.
2017	Ripia fire (90 ha) native forest and threatened Awahohonu Forest.	
2017	Waimarama fire (178 ha) including a large area of commercial forest.	
2005	Mohaka forest fire (204 ha)	
1996	Mohaka forest fire (241 ha)	
1973	Mohaka forest fire (368 ha)	

**Predominant fuel type**

This zone is a predominantly commercial forestry.

**Thresholds**

**Fire seasons**

Build-up Index is the most relevant fire weather indices to monitor where forestry is the predominant fuel types.

Build Up Index (BUI)		
0-20	20-80	>80
Restricted	Restricted	Prohibited

Due to the status of many forests in the area either being harvested or recently harvested, forest fuel complex is more available to burn with a lower BUI.

Measures adopted by most forest owners in Hawke's Bay mitigates the risk of fires becoming large, so a higher BUI can be used for prohibitions.

**Prohibition on fires in open air (section 52)**

We can use the same Fire Weather System trigger thresholds for prohibiting fires in the open air under section 52 as we do for changing to a prohibited fire season, but use section 52 when the fire risk conditions are not expected to last long enough to make changing to a prohibited fire season practical.

Other local thresholds have not been set.



## Prohibitions or restrictions on activities (section 52)

Localised trigger thresholds for applying section 52 to activities have not yet been developed, however there are some local mitigations used to reduce the need to implement it.

### Forestry operations

A Hawke's Bay Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer liaises with local forestry companies about what mitigations they will apply during times of increased fire risk. Most Hawke's Bay forest companies use the Hawke's Bay Forestry Operations Fire Danger Codes developed by the old Bay Forests Rural Fire Authority trigger points to mitigate fire risk.

The NZ Forest Owners Association Forest Fire Risk Management Guidelines also contain advice on mitigating the risks.

### Hotworks and mowing

The Principal Rural Fire Officer maintains a Hotworks and Mowing Group of contacts to provide with mitigation and fire danger advice.

### Horticulture and agriculture

The Principal Rural Fire Officer is a member of the Hawke's Bay Rural Advisory Group to which mitigation and fire danger advice is provided. The members of the group pass this information onto their organisational contacts in the rural communities of Hawke's Bay.

### Powerline auto-reclosers

Unison Power have developed trigger points based on fire danger conditions when they stop using automatic reclosers on their Hawke's Bay network.

## Representative remote automated weather stations

The Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) used to determine whether we have reached the trigger thresholds are

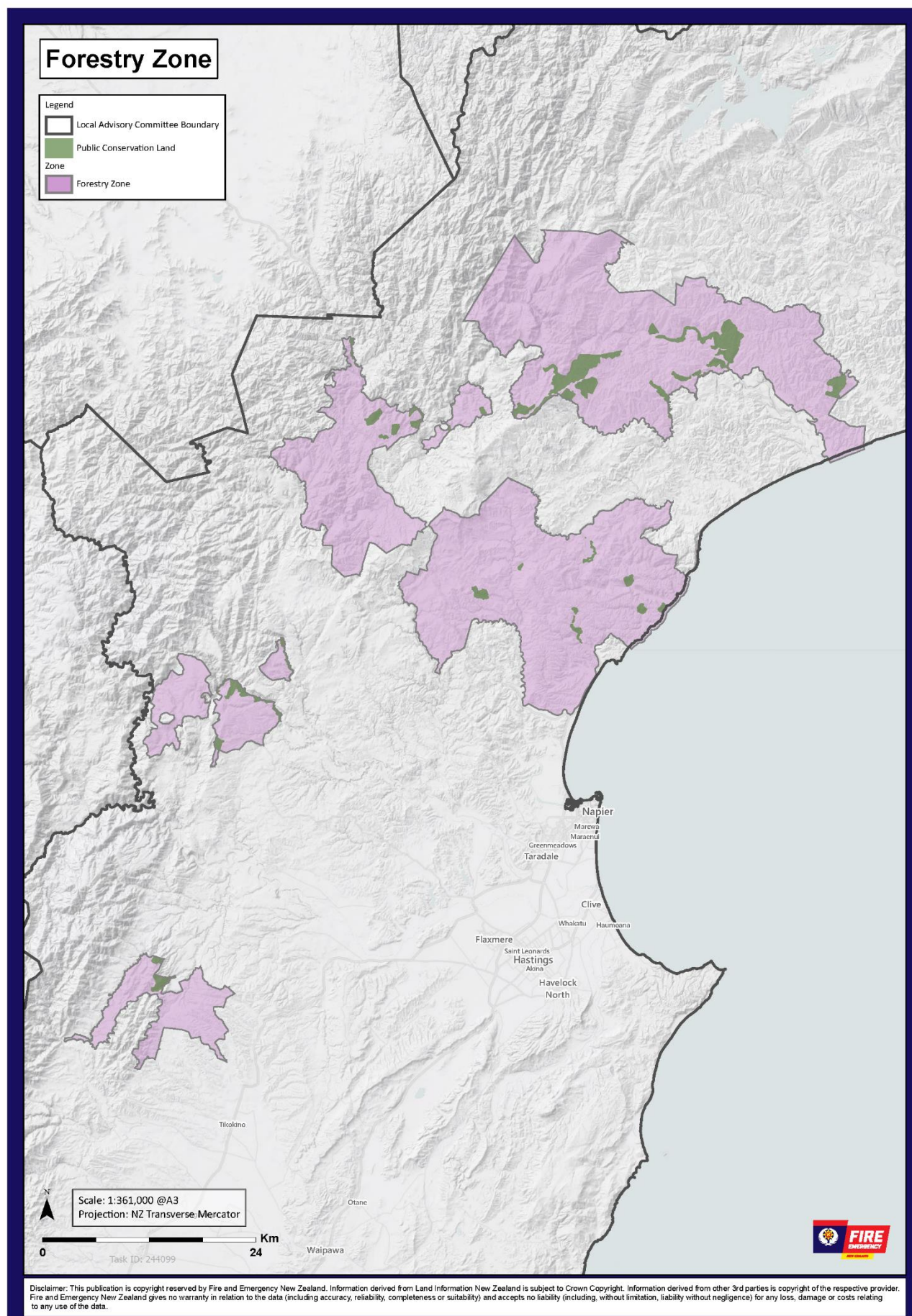
Cricklewood	Kaiwaka,	Te Haroto
Te Pohue	Napier	Gwavas

We will consider the forecast for these locations when declaring or revoking a fire season.

Forest companies monitor the closest or most representative RAWS to implement forest operational triggers in accordance with their own fire management plans.



## Forestry zone map



**Forestry stakeholders**

Stakeholder	Fire plan development	Fire plan amendment	Changing fire season to prohibited	Section 52 fire prohibitions	Section 52 restrictions/prohibitions on activities
Department of Conservation	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via group email	Notify via group email	Notify via group email
Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels
Forestry companies	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via group email	Notify via group email	Notify via group email
Public	Public consultation	Public consultation	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels	Notify via public channels

If your organisation should be involved in fire plans, and have an interest in this zone, please contact us about being added to this list.

## Public conservation land

The information relating to Public Conservation Land has been provided by the Department of Conservation.

### Geography

Kaweka Forest Park is in the Hawke's Bay region of New Zealand, adjacent to Kaimanawa Forest Park. This region of the central North Island contains large tracts of pine plantations, some of them also within the park, and as a consequence, invasive wilding conifers are present throughout the 594 km<sup>2</sup> park.

The highest peak in the park is Kaweka at 1.724 metres.

The main Kaweka range extends from Kuripapango in the south to the Mohaka river in the north.

The majority of the Kaweka Forest Park is on the western side of the main range.

The main vehicle access points are via the Napier-Taihape road in the south, Kaweka road to Makahu saddle, Lotkow road and Makahu road to the Mangatutu campsite in the north.

There is no road access to the western parts of the Kaweka Forest Park.

Access to the majority of the Kaweka Forest Park is via aircraft, there are no aeroplane landing strips in the Kaweka Forest park.

### Climate/weather

Predominantly north west winds between October to late February.

Wind conditions around the Kuripapango area are sometime unpredictable and may cause issues with aerial firefighting techniques.

The Kaweka Forest Park receives a range of seasonal weather condition from low level snow through to drought conditions in the summer.

### Land cover

Kaweka Forest Park has alpine shrublands, tussock valleys and beech forests with large tracts of wilding pines, mainly in the south eastern region of the park.

### Special risk areas

Special risk area	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
Maungaharuru Mainland Island <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>high value biodiversity site</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mangatutu Hot Springs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>popular camping area</li> <li>only one access road through approximately 7 kilometres of scrub land.</li> <li>known site for illegal camp fires</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Special risk area	Contributes to increased risk of fire in high risk conditions	Affected by use of fire control measures	Needs to be protected by using fire control measures
<b>Kuripapango Campsite</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>popular camping area on the side of the Napier-Taihape road.</li> <li>next to Pan Pac pine plantation to the East and Māori land to the west</li> <li>known site for illegal camp fires</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Tussock Valley</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>significant valley with a vast tract of red tussock.</li> <li>Approximately 270 hectares in the extreme western region of the park bordering the Ngaruroro River and Kaimanawa Forest Park</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Te Urewera</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Known fire hazards** Ongoing wilding pine control operation which will result in dead *Pinus Contorta* in some parts of the Kaweka Forest Park. This is managed by Department of Conservation.

**Fire history** The known fire history in public conservation lands zone includes:

Year	Fire	Cause
2017	Ripia (90 ha) native forest and threatened Awahohonu Forest	Undetermined
1980s	Gold Creek (several hundred ha)	Undetermined

## Thresholds

**Restricted seasons year round** Due to the values at risk, public conservation lands are kept in a restricted fire season when they are not in a prohibited fire season. Even when the surrounding zone goes to an open fire season, public conservation land will remain in a restricted fire season.

Thresholds for declaring or revoking a prohibited fire season are the same as the thresholds for the surrounding zone.



