



Bushfire Management

Eraring Power Station is located on the western side of Lake Macquarie and is situated on 1140 hectares of land holdings. Eraring Energy has developed and implemented a Land Management Plan (LMP) that coordinates on-site activities to enhance site biodiversity.

The LMP consists of a number of individual plans that address specific areas, one of these being Bushfire Management. Bushfire Management is an important consideration for Eraring Energy as the Power Station is surrounded by large areas of native bushland.

Eraring Energy has developed a Bushfire Management Plan (BMP) in consultation with the Rural Fire Service and local stakeholders. The BMP outlines the schedule of fire management activities necessary to minimise the risk of uncontrolled bushfires on Eraring Power Station land.



Controlled burn activities at Eraring Power Station

Eraring Power Station

The primary objective of the BMP is to protect life, property and community assets from the adverse impacts of fire. The BMP is developed to coordinate fire management activities with all stakeholders.

The BMP classifies Eraring Power Station's landholdings into fire management zones. These zones are defined as:

- Asset protection zones;
- Strategic fire management zones; and
- Natural heritage management zones.

These zones identify specific management aims and objectives for separate areas within the Station's management area, and describe strategic actions for their achievement.

Fire management activities described in the BMP are designed to reduce the available fuel load and provide access for fire fighting operations. This is achieved by:

- Clearing activities (such as mowing and slashing);
- Maintenance of fire trails; and
- Performing controlled burns.



Eraring Power Station

Maintaining low fuel loads minimises the risks to the power station, surrounding communities and the environment as any subsequent bushfire will:

- Generate less heat;
- Travel more slowly;
- Have a lower flame height; and
- Be less likely to produce embers that can cause spot fires.

Due to the size of the land holdings and access difficulties, it is necessary to perform controlled burns at Eraring Power Station. All controlled burns at Eraring Power Station are approved and performed by the Rural Fire Service.



Controlled burn regrowth at Eraring Power Station

Controlled burns are performed on management zones (excluding the natural heritage management zones) on a rotating basis. Fuel loads are monitored on each of the zones and burns are performed every five to eight years as required. The frequency of controlled burns is kept to a minimum to conserve the biodiversity of the management area.