

To reduce the risks during the bushfire danger period (1st October to 31st March) and ensure early evacuation if required, schools are asked to have their bus provider stay onsite in case of any bushfire and grassfire emergencies.

Through consultations by the Department of Education, Brewongle EEC has been classified a Category 1 School – meaning we are located in an extreme landscape-to-site bushfire risk area.

Continual review of our [Bushfire & Grassfire Response Plan](#) (available on our website), weather forecasts and monitoring of the Hazards Near Me App occurs to ensure we are vigilant and informed of the local conditions.

As a Category 1 school, when the NSW RFS has declared a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating for a particular day, we will be directed to cease operations. We may also be directed to temporarily cease operations at any time from the advice of emergency services or the State Emergency Operations Centre. These days would usually have unfavorable weather (e.g. extremely hot) and fall within Brewongle EEC's set of parameters for cancelling/postponing excursions. If this does occur, all efforts will be made to rebook your visit when it is appropriate and safe to do so. Schools would be contacted and consulted about any required program changes.

What are the bushfire and grassfire risk rating categories?

- **Category 1** – School is in a bushfire prone area and has an extreme landscape-to-site bushfire risk. The school will need to proactively temporarily cease school operations when a catastrophic fire danger rating is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology, or in line with local arrangements. The school will need to watch and act for all fire danger ratings.
- **Category 2** – School is in a bushfire prone area with high landscape-to-site bushfire risk. The school will need to proactively temporarily cease school operations when a catastrophic fire danger rating is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology, or in line with local arrangements. The school will need to watch and act for all fire danger ratings.
- **Category 3** – School is in a bushfire prone area with moderate landscape-to-site bushfire risk. The school may need to proactively temporarily cease school operations when a catastrophic fire danger rating is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology, or in line with

local arrangements. The school will need to watch and act for all fire danger ratings.

- **Category 4** – School is not in a bushfire prone area and is at a negligible risk of being impacted by bushfire. The school can remain open under all fire danger ratings; however, may need to proactively temporarily cease school operations when a catastrophic fire danger rating is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology, or in line with local arrangements.

These risk rating categories work in conjunction with the [Australian Fire Danger Rating System](#). The system has four levels; moderate, high, extreme and catastrophic. When a catastrophic fire danger rating is issued for the following day, the department directs Category 1 and 2 schools to become non-operational.