

1. Site details

Name:

Penrith Waste Services – Gas collection facility.

Location:

842 Mulgoa Road, Mulgoa.

Buildings and infrastructure:

Office / gatehouse located near entrance and Workshop to the south-east; and

No reticulated water supply however, existing dams to north and south.

Usage numbers:

Staff: three.

Public: Average 40-45 occupants daily.

Open six days a week.

Access:

Primary Access is via Mulgoa Road; and

Secondary Access via Chain-O-Ponds Road to the south.

Vehicles on site:

Various work vehicles and public users on the site at any given time.
2. Communications

Mobile:

Mobile reception is good across all networks; and

If a Smart Phone is available, RFS Fires Near Me app should be installed.

Landline / NBN:

Landline number: (02) 4773 8778.

Radio:

ABC: 702 AM.

If a Smart Phone is available, ABC Radio app should be installed.

Internet Sites:

Preparing your Property – <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/prepare-your-property>; and

RFS Fires Near Me - <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fires-near-me>.
3. Contacts

Emergency Response – Fire, police and ambulance		000
Penrith Waste Services (PWS)	Fire Warden	(02) 4773 8778
Local Council	Penrith City Council	(02) 4732 7777
Local Hospital	Nepean Hospital (Emergency Department 24 hrs)	(02) 4734 2000
SES	Penrith Unit	13 25 00
4. Characteristics of the bushfire risk

The woodland / forest vegetation on undulating slopes in all directions is the primary bushfire risk to the site, although grassland areas can increase the risk of rapid attack;

While grasslands contain less fuels than forest/woodland, grass fires can move very rapidly;

Bushfire fighter assistance cannot be relied upon. Bushfire attack could occur before their arrival or they may be fully committed elsewhere; and

Hazard reduction burning will not stop bushfires burning under adverse weather conditions; it may reduce intensity but does not remove bushfire risk.
5. Prevention

No open fires during the Bush Fire Danger Period (BFDP); fire permit only in appropriate weather conditions;

No mowing, slashing or hotworks from maintenance staff during Total Fire Ban (TOBAN);

No open fires on days of Total Fire Ban (TOBAN);

APZs to be managed around the site to the property boundary in all directions; and

Site to close on days of Extreme and Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating (FDR).
6. Preparedness

Entire property to be managed to Inner Protection Area Asset Protection Zone standards including maintain grassy areas in a minimal fuel load state; and

See preparedness matrix (overleaf) which provides a guide of monitoring actions to be completed during the Bushfire Danger Period to allow situational awareness of potential bushfires and triggers for shelter in place or evacuation.
7. Response

All bushfires are to be reported to 000; and

After reporting to 000, notify the Fire Warden who is to take the appropriate action and implement the evacuation guidance in proceeding sections.
8. Evacuation preparedness

During the NSW Bush Fire Danger Period (BFDP) (October - March) and on any days of Very High Fire Danger or above outside of the BFDP:

All staff must be briefed on bushfire evacuation procedures; and

Implement Bushfire Preparedness Action Matrix (overleaf).

9. Evacuation Plan

The primary evacuation option is **Offsite Evacuation**.

Onsite (shelter in place) evacuation is not the safest option as no buildings have been constructed to withstand bushfire attack and should only be used as a last resort to shelter in place. The last resort shelter in place building is the office area adjoining the weighbridge near Mulgoa Road.

10. Evacuation triggers

Evacuation triggers are linked to either direct instructions from Emergency services OR Bushfire warning system alerts (see decision matrix overleaf).

The site should be closed on days of Extreme and Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating (FDR). Two offsite evacuation locations are proximal to the site (north and south). These sites are as follows and are formally recognised as Neighbourhood Safer Places (NSP) by the RFS:

North - Glenmore Heritage Valley (Golf course); and

South - Mulgoa Park (Cnr Mulgoa Road and Littlefields Road, Mulgoa)

Further to this, townships to the north (Glenmore Park) and south (Mulgoa) are viable evacuation options OR alternatively Mulgoa Rise via road access to the east along St Thomas Road, Kings Hill Road and The Northern Road.

If Emergency Services provides alternate advice, then it should be followed.

11. Evacuation notifications

A decision to evacuate offsite is to be communicated to every person known to be present on site; and

Fire warden to ensure everyone evacuates safely offsite and access to the facility is closed.

12. Evacuation procedures

Offsite evacuation guidance

Actions for offsite evacuation have been aligned to triggers associated with bushfire warnings and are detailed in the bushfire action matrix (overleaf);

Ensure the welfare of all occupants through advice and first aid where required; and

Evacuate either to the north or south to the predefined evacuation locations OR as advised by Emergency Services only if safe to do so.

Shelter-in-place (Last Resort) Guidance

Shelter-in-place IS THE LAST RESORT OPTION, when it is not safe to leave the site;

The last resort shelter in place building is the office adjoining the weighbridge near Mulgoa Road;

Fire Warden to notify all staff and visitors of the need to seek immediate shelter on site and activate the Bushfire Evacuation Plan;

Notify 000;

Close all windows and doors and draw curtains and blinds. Ensure backup lighting and power are available in the event of a power blackout;

Ensure the welfare of all occupants through advice and first aid where required;

Watch for sparks entering the site and extinguish where safe to do so; and

Occupants to stay inside building until instructed otherwise by emergency services or Fire Warden.

If caught in a bushfire, Section 14 provides recommendations on what to do.

13. Notes on Fire Danger Rating and Total Fire Ban Declaration

The Fire Danger Rating (FDR) gives an indication of the consequences of a fire, if a fire was to start;

The rating is based on predicted conditions such as the forecast temperature, humidity, wind and dryness of the landscape;

The higher the FDR, the more dangerous the conditions;

During the Bushfire Danger Period (October - March) the forecast FDR for the following day is released around 4pm;

The FDR actually achieved on any given day may differ from that which was forecast; and

Both predicted and current FDR are available from the RFS or BoM website.

A ‘Total Fire Ban’ (known as TOBAN) is a separate declaration (i.e. a particular day may have both ‘Severe’ FDR and a TOBAN, but not all ‘Severe’ FDR days will have a TOBAN)

14. What to do if caught in a bushfire

The following provide current guidelines from the NSW RFS on what to do if caught in a bushfire in a vehicle or on foot. Each requires a different response involving critical decisions for your survival (adapted from NSW RFS bushfire training modules).

What to do if caught in a bushfire IN A VEHICLE

A vehicle can provide protection when caught in a bush fire;

If caught by a bush fire STOP immediately and look for a clear area, preferably off the road;

Look for large areas clear of grass or bush as these may not sustain fires of high intensity e.g. places where you can be over 100 m from the trees or thicker bushes;

Look for grazed paddocks, large gravel surfaces or large water bodies;

Avoid sites with dense bush or trees and where the fire can approach uphill toward you;

If you shelter in your vehicle:

Do not leave your vehicle (until it is safe to do so);

Drive your car into a bare, clear area well away from surrounding trees;

Determine the direction the fire will approach from, and if you can position your vehicle in the centre of the chosen cleared area and then move slightly further from the centre in the direction away from the approaching fire;

Face in the direction of escape;

Apply the hand brake;

Leave your headlights and hazard lights on, turn ignition off;

Do not lock the doors or remove ignition keys;

Close all windows and shelter below window level;

Close all vents;

Cover all parts of the body with woollen or cotton blankets to protect all passengers from radiant heat (do not use synthetic blankets);

Drink water frequently;

Stay in vehicle until fire front has passed;

When fire front has passed exit vehicle and inspect for damage; and

If possible report your situation and location to 000.

What to do if caught in a bushfire ON FOOT

Try to move on to bare or burnt ground at least 100 m from where fire is likely to burn, if this is not feasible find the largest bare or burnt ground possible;

Do not run uphill or away from the fire unless you know a safe refuge is able to be reached before the fire arrives;

Move across the slope out of the path of the fire front and work your way downslope towards the back of the fire or onto burnt ground;

Do not attempt to run through flames unless you can see clearly behind them. This generally means that the flames are less than 1 metre high and less than 1 to 2 metres deep at the back or on the flanks of the fire;

Lulls in the fire often result in the flames in these parts being low enough to step or run through to the burnt ground beyond;

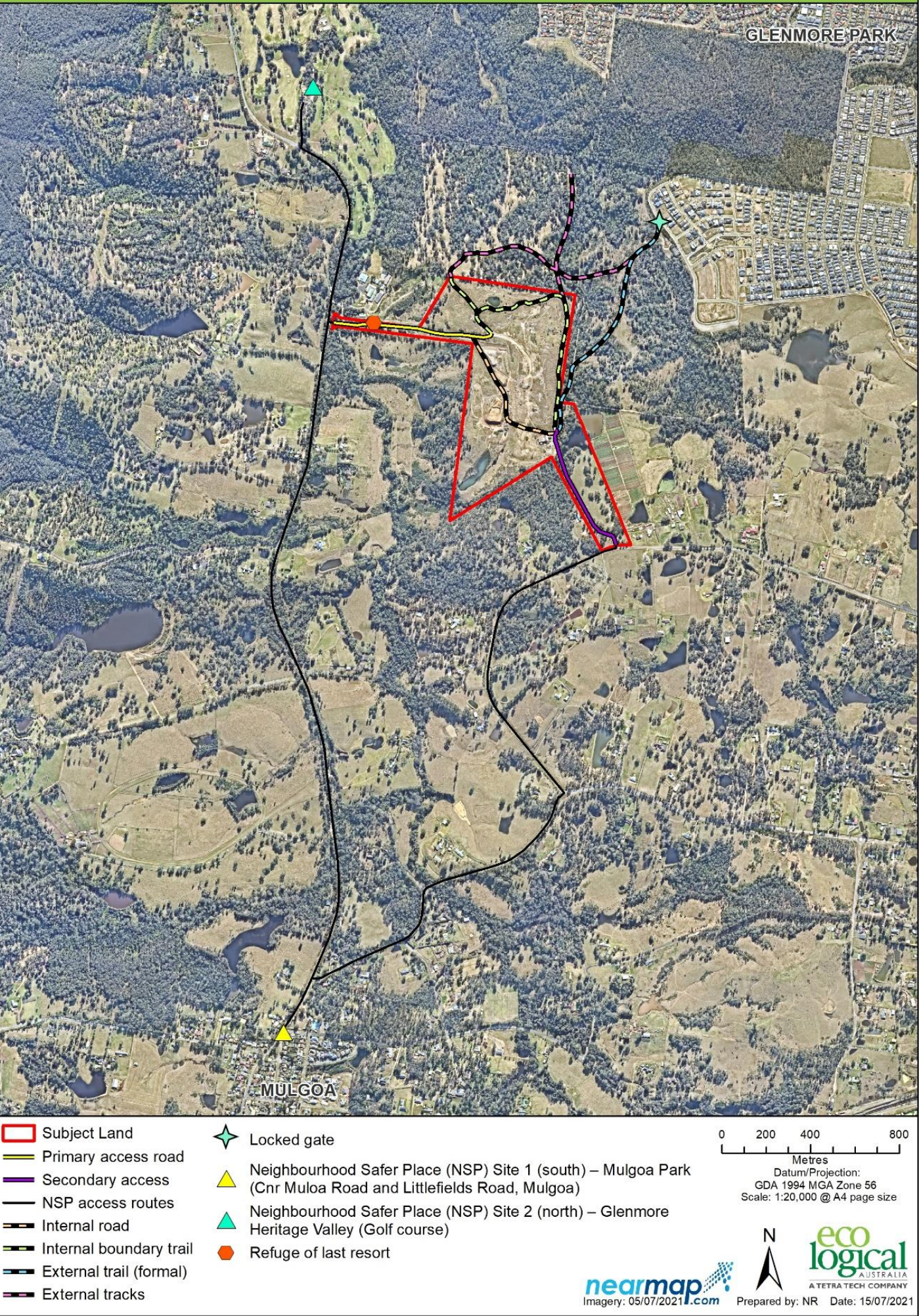
When conditions become severe use every possible means to protect yourself from radiation. On bare ground cover yourself, use wheel ruts, depressions, large rocks or logs to give protection;

Take refuge in ponds, running streams or culverts, but behind solid objects such a rock; and

Remain calm and do not run blindly from the fire. If you become exhausted, you are much more prone to heat stroke and you may easily overlook a safe refuge. Consider an alternative course of action.

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Offsite Evacuation



Bushfire Alerts Action Matrix

ALERT	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
Advice	A fire has started but there is no known danger, this is general information to keep you informed and up to date with developments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">If a fire is spotted, report immediately to 000 and initiate 'shelter-in-place' plan (Section 9-12 overleaf) if there is the potential for the fire to rapidly reach the site and place life and property at risk.Establish communication between the Fire Warden and all staff, contractors and visitors to provide awareness of potential bushfire threat.Follow all advice in issued Bushfire Alert or directly from Emergency Services.Continually monitor Fire alerts for change in conditions and advice.Close the site to public access if fire is within 2 km of site or heading towards site.
Watch and Act	There is a possible threat to lives and homes. Conditions are changing, you need to leave the area or prepare to actively defend.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">If a fire is spotted, report immediately to 000 and initiate 'shelter-in-place' plan (Section 9-12 overleaf) if there is the potential for the fire to reach the site and place life and property at risk.Close site to public access.Follow all advice in issued Bushfire Alert or directly from Emergency Services.Evacuate the site if safe to do so in a direction away from on-coming fire; Neighbourhood Safer Places (NSP) are available to the north or south.
Emergency Warning	You are in danger as your area will be impacted by fire. You need to take immediate action to survive. Listen carefully as you will be advised whether you can leave the area or if you must shelter where you are as the fire burns through your area. An emergency warning may be supported with a siren sound called the Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS). These factors should be reviewed on a regular basis as they may change at any time and without notice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">If a fire is spotted, report immediately to 000 and initiate 'shelter-in-place' plan (Section 9-12 overleaf).Establish communication between the Fire Warden and all staff, contractors and visitors to provide awareness of potential bushfire threat.Establish communication with Emergency Services and seek advice on evacuation or sheltering in place.Close site to public access.Follow all advice in issued Bushfire Alert or directly from Emergency Services.Evacuate the site if safe to do so; Neighbourhood Safer Places (NSP) are available to the north or south otherwise continue to 'shelter-in-place' plan (Section 9-12 overleaf).
All clear	The danger has passed and the fire is under control, but you need to remain vigilant in case the situation changes. It may still not be safe to return.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">If a fire restart or flare up is spotted, report immediately to 000 and initiate 'shelter-in-place' plan or evacuate if instructed by Emergency Services.Remain vigilant and ensure regular communication is established between the Fire Warden and all people onsite to confirm personnel locations and consider evacuation strategies in the event of a change in warning level.

Bushfire Preparedness Action Matrix

ACTION by Fire Danger Rating (FDR)	LOW/MOD	HIGH	VERY HIGH	SEVERE	EXTREME	CATASTROPHIC
Pre-emptive site closure responding to extreme bushfire weather conditions	No specific requirement				Facility to close	Facility to close
Fire Warden to monitor BOM website for FDR	Daily	Daily	At 9 am and 12 pm	At 9 am and 12 pm	Facility to close	Facility to close
Fire Warden to monitor Fires Near Me app or RFS website for bushfire alerts / nearby incidents (refer to Alert Matrix for further actions if required)	Refer to Alert Matrix for further actions if required	At 9 am, 12 pm and 3 pm	At 9 am, 12 pm and 3 pm	Minimum hourly	Facility to close	Facility to close