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RURAL FIRES ACT 1997

NOTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 99

IN pursuance of the powers conferred upon me by section 99 of the Rural Fires Act 1997, I, PHILIP KOPERBERG, Commissioner of N.S.W. Rural Fire Service, under delegation and dated 22nd October 1997 from the Hon BOB DEBUS, Minister for Emergency Services, do, by this notification, direct that the lighting, maintenance or use of all fires in the open air, with the exception of the classes of fire as specified in Schedules 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 hereto, is prohibited in the parts of the State set out in Schedule A hereto, from midnight on 23rd December 2002 to midnight on 24th December 2002.

Dated this 23rd day of December 2002.

PHIL KOPERBERG, A.M., A.F.S.M., B.E.M.,
Commissioner.

SCHEDULE 1

Fire lit, maintained or used for the purpose of suppressing or controlling any existing bush fire where such fire is lit, maintained or used under the direction of the Commissioner of the N.S.W. Rural Fire Service, any officer of the N.S.W. Fire Brigade, any officer authorised by the Forestry Commission of New South Wales, any officer authorised by the Director of National Parks and Wildlife Service, or any Fire Control Officer, Captain, Deputy Captain, Group Captain or Deputy Group Captain of any bush fire brigade organised or authorised under the Rural Fires Act 1997.

SCHEDULE 2

Fire lit, maintained or used at a registered factory within the meaning of the Factories, Shops and Industries Act 1962, subject to observance of the special condition that all reasonable steps are taken to prevent the escape of fire, sparks or incandescent or burning material therefrom.

SCHEDULE 3

Fire lit, maintained or used at a hospital within the meaning of the Public Hospitals Act 1929, subject to observance of the special condition that the fire is lit in a properly constructed incinerator designed to prevent the escape of fire, sparks or incandescent or burning material therefrom.

SCHEDULE 4

Fire lit, maintained or used by, or under the authority of, a Council as defined in the dictionary of the Rural Fires Act 1997, for the destruction of garbage or other refuse at any sanitary depot provided and controlled by such Council subject to observance of the following special conditions:

- (1) a fire break shall be established and maintained around such depot to a width of not less than thirty metres;
- (2) at least one person shall be in attendance continuously at such depot for the duration of the fire;
- (3) all reasonable steps shall be taken to prevent the escape of fire, sparks or incandescent or burning material therefrom.

SCHEDULE 5

Fire lit, maintained or used by or under the authority of any person or body of persons, corporate or unincorporate, for or in connection with essential repair, or maintenance of services or equipment required for continuance or restoration of the supply or provision of heat, light, power, water, sewerage, transport or communication subject to observance of the special condition that all reasonable steps are taken to prevent the escape of fire, sparks or incandescent or burning material therefrom.

SCHEDULE 6

Fire lit, maintained or used by a Public Authority as defined in the dictionary of the Rural Fires Act 1997, for the disposal of waste or putrescent material likely to cause a health hazard subject to observance of the special condition that the fire is lit in a properly constructed incinerator designed to prevent the escape of fire, sparks or incandescent or burning material therefrom.

SCHEDULE 7

Fire lit, maintained or used between the hours of 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. for a purpose associated with the harvesting of sugar cane subject to observance of the special condition that all reasonable steps are taken to prevent the escape of fire, sparks or incandescent or burning material therefrom.

SCHEDULE 8

Fire lit by the Roads and Traffic Authority of New South Wales or its contractors for the purpose of heating bitumen in tankers, sprayers, storage units, mobile asphalt plants, mobile asphalt pavers and pavement recycling machines for road repair and construction activities subject to the observance of a special condition that adequate fire fighting equipment to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of the Rural Fire Service, or his nominee, is immediately available to prevent the escape of any such fire under circumstances as to cause or to be likely to cause injury or damage to any person or the land or property of the Crown or a Public Authority as defined in the Rural Fires Act 1997, or any other person.

SCHEDULE 9

Fire lit, maintained or used for the purpose associated with the drying of products from vineyards within Wentworth and Balranald Council areas subject to observance of the special condition that inflammable material is removed from around the heating apparatus for a distance of not less than ten metres to the specification of the Fire Control Officer.

SCHEDULE 10

Fire lit by a company contracted for the construction of a natural gas pipeline from Young to Lithgow within the Central Tablelands, Central West Slopes and South West Slopes Weather Forecast Districts provided that adequate fire fighting equipment is immediately available to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of the N.S.W. Rural Fire Service or his nominee to prevent the escape of any such fire under circumstances as to cause or to be likely to cause injury or damage to any person or the land or property of the Crown or a Public Authority as defined in the dictionary of the Rural Fires Act 1997, or any other person.

SCHEDULE 11

Fire lit, maintained or used, for the purpose of food preparation on a gas fired or electric appliance where:

- (a) such appliance is under the direct control of a responsible adult person, present at all relevant times;
- (b) no combustible material of any kind is allowed within three metres of the appliance when it is operating;
- (c) a system of applying an adequate stream of water to the appliance and its surrounds is available for immediate and continuous use; and
- (d) where the appliance is not on premises containing a permanent private dwelling or is more than twenty metres from such dwelling, both the appliance and the land on which it is to be placed have been approved for the purpose by the Council of the area.

SCHEDULE 12

Fire lit, maintained or used in accordance with Regulation 27 of the Rural Fires Regulation 1997, for the production of charcoal, 'but not for the destruction of waste arising therefrom,' subject to the observance of the special condition that all reasonable steps are taken to prevent the escape of fire, sparks or incandescent or burning material therefrom.

SCHEDULE 13

"Oxy-acetylene and electric welding apparatus used in accordance with the N.S.W. Coal Mine Regulations Act 1982, for the purpose of the maintenance and repair of mining equipment subject to a special condition that adequate fire fighting equipment is available and the operation is conducted within an area identified as a colliery holding."

SCHEDULE 14

"Oxy-acetylene and electric welding apparatus used by the company contracted for the construction of an ethane gas pipeline from Young to Leppington within the Metropolitan, Southern Tablelands, Illawarra and Riverina weather forecast districts provided that adequate fire fighting equipment to the satisfaction of Commissioner of the N.S.W. Rural Fire Service, or his nominee, is immediately available to prevent the escape of any such fire under circumstances as to cause or be likely to cause injury or damage to any person or the land or property of the Crown or a Public Authority as defined in the dictionary of the Rural Fires Act 1997, or any other person."

SCHEDULE 15

Any conditions notified in writing by the Commissioner of the N.S.W. Rural Fire Service to individuals or organisations.

SCHEDULE A

Zone A – Upper Western Weather Forecast District.

Zone B – Lower Western Weather Forecast District.

Zone C – Riverina Weather Forecast District.

Zone H – Central West Plains Weather Forecast District.

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