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| Resource title | [Fires in Australia’s Forests 2016–21 (2024) dataset](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/forest-data-maps-and-tools/spatial-data/forest-fire) |
| Graphic(s) |  |
| Citation | ABARES 2024, *Fires in Australia’s Forests 2016–21 (2024)*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra, October. CC BY 4.0 |
| Digital object identifier (DOI) | [https://doi.org/10.25814/b28t-qj03](Https://doi.org/10.25814/b28t-qj03) |
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| Custodian  Jurisdiction | Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) |
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| Abstract | *Fires in Australia’s Forests 2016-21 (2024)* is a continental spatial dataset of the extent and frequency of planned and unplanned fires occurring in forest in the five financial years between July 2016 and June 2021, assembled for the 2024 update of [Indicator 3.1b](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/sofr/criterion-3/indicator-3.1b) for [Australia's State of the Forests Report](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/sofr). It was developed from multiple fire area datasets contributed by state and territory government agencies, after consultation with Australia’s Forest Fire Management Group. The fire dataset is then combined with forest cover information sourced from the [Forests of Australia (2023)](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/forest-data-maps-and-tools/spatial-data/forest-cover) dataset, and forest tenure information sourced from the [Tenure of Australia's forests (2023)](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/forest-data-maps-and-tools/spatial-data/forest-tenure) dataset.  Planned fire: Fire started in accordance with a fire management plan or planned burning program, such as fuel-reduction burning or prescribed burning.  Unplanned fire: Fire started naturally (such as by lightning), accidentally, or deliberately (such as by arson), but not in accordance with planned fire management prescriptions. Also called bushfire or wildfire.  The dataset was compiled by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) for the National Forest Inventory (NFI), a collaborative partnership between the Australian and state and territory governments. The role of the NFI is to collate, integrate and communicate information on Australia's forests. The NFI applies a national classification to state and territory data to allow seamless integration of these datasets. Multiple independent sources of external data are used to fill data gaps and improve the quality of the final dataset.  Forest areas burnt by fire are allocated by the month of the fire to a financial year (July–June inclusive). Where more than one fire event occurs on any one hectare during a financial year, only the first fire is recorded for that area in the financial year. Fires are also classified into two categories, planned and unplanned, based on the fire seasonality and advice from state and territory agencies.  The *Fires in Australia’s forests 2016–21 (2024)* dataset is produced to fulfil requirements of Australia's *National Forest Policy Statement* and the *Regional Forests Agreement Act 2002* (Cwth), and is used by the Australian Government for domestic and international reporting. |
| Purpose | For describing fires in Australia’s forests, as reported in 2024 update of [Indicator 3.1b](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/sofr/criterion-3/indicator-3.1b) for [Australia's State of the Forests Report](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/sofr). |
| ANZLIC search words | FORESTS  FORESTS Natural  FORESTS Plantation  HAZARDS  HAZARDS fire  VEGETATION  VEGETATION Floristic  VEGETATION Structural |
| Keyword(s) | Forest  Fire  Bushfire  Wildfire  Prescribed fire  Prescribed burn  Planned fire  Unplanned fire  Australia |
| Sources used to generate this resource | Fire information used to develop the *Fires in Australia’s forests 2016–21 (2024)* dataset was sourced from:   * ACT Parks and Conservation Service * New South Wales Rural Fire Service * [Northern Australian Fire Information](https://firenorth.org.au/nafi3/) website, with advice from Northern Territory Department of Environment and Natural Resources  * [Queensland Government Open Data Portal](https://www.data.qld.gov.au/dataset/?q=fire+scar) * [South Australia Government Data Directory](https://data.sa.gov.au/) * Tasmania Department of Natural Resources and Environment  * [Victorian Government Data Portal](https://www.data.vic.gov.au/)  * [Western Australian Government Data Portal](https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-fire-history) |
| Publication date | 28 October 2024 |
| Latest date of information/currency | 30 June 2021 |
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| Data file name | Fire\_for16-21 |
| Resources for download | Spatial data:   * Esri **Grid** (raster) and **Layer file** formats (compatible with Esri ArcGIS) * **GeoTIFF** (raster) (compatible with open-source GIS software)   Tabular data:   * **Excel worksheet** containing all attributes (for joining attributes to **GeoTIFF** and to support tabular analysis) * **CSV worksheet** containing all attributes (for joining attributes to **GeoTIFF** and to support tabular analysis) * **Excel workbook** containing colour look-up-tables (LUTs) for symbolising number of times forest was burnt and forest fire type.   Due to the complexity of this dataset, a version in vector format is not available. |
| Compressed file size | ESRI GRID ZIP - 108,379 KB; GeoTIFF ZIP – 109,175 KB |
| Geographic extent | Australia’s mainland and close offshore islands, excluding external territories. |
| North bounding Latitude: -8.2°  South bounding Latitude: -44.4°  East bounding Longitude: 157.2°  West bounding Longitude: 109.5° |
| Spatial resolution/  cell size | 1 hectare/100 x 100 metre |
| Spatial reference | ESPG:3577 GDA94 Australian Albers |
| Coordinate system: GDA\_1994\_Albers  False Easting: 0  False Northing: 0  Central meridian: 132°  Standard parallels: -18°, -36°  Latitude of origin: 0°  Datum: D\_GDA\_1994 |
| Positional accuracy | Horizontal: ±100 metres  Vertical: not applicable |
| Attribute accuracy | Attributes are compiled exercising due care and skill. However, accuracy of attributes is in part dependent on accuracy of data supplied to ABARES and therefore cannot be guaranteed. |
| Completeness | Coverage: Dataset provides coverage of 100% of Australia excluding external territories.  Attributes: Fire type (planned and unplanned) information is available for all burnt forest areas. |
| Update frequency | 5 years |
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| Metadata date | 15 October 2024 |
| Additional metadata | Documentation on dataset lineage, and attribute data descriptions and lookup tables for the *Fires in Australia’s forest 2016–21 (2024)* dataset, are available from the [Fires in Australia’s forests](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/forest-data-maps-and-tools/spatial-data/forest-fire) spatial data webpage. |