

Bullala National Park

Fire Management Strategy (Type 2)

2022 - 2027

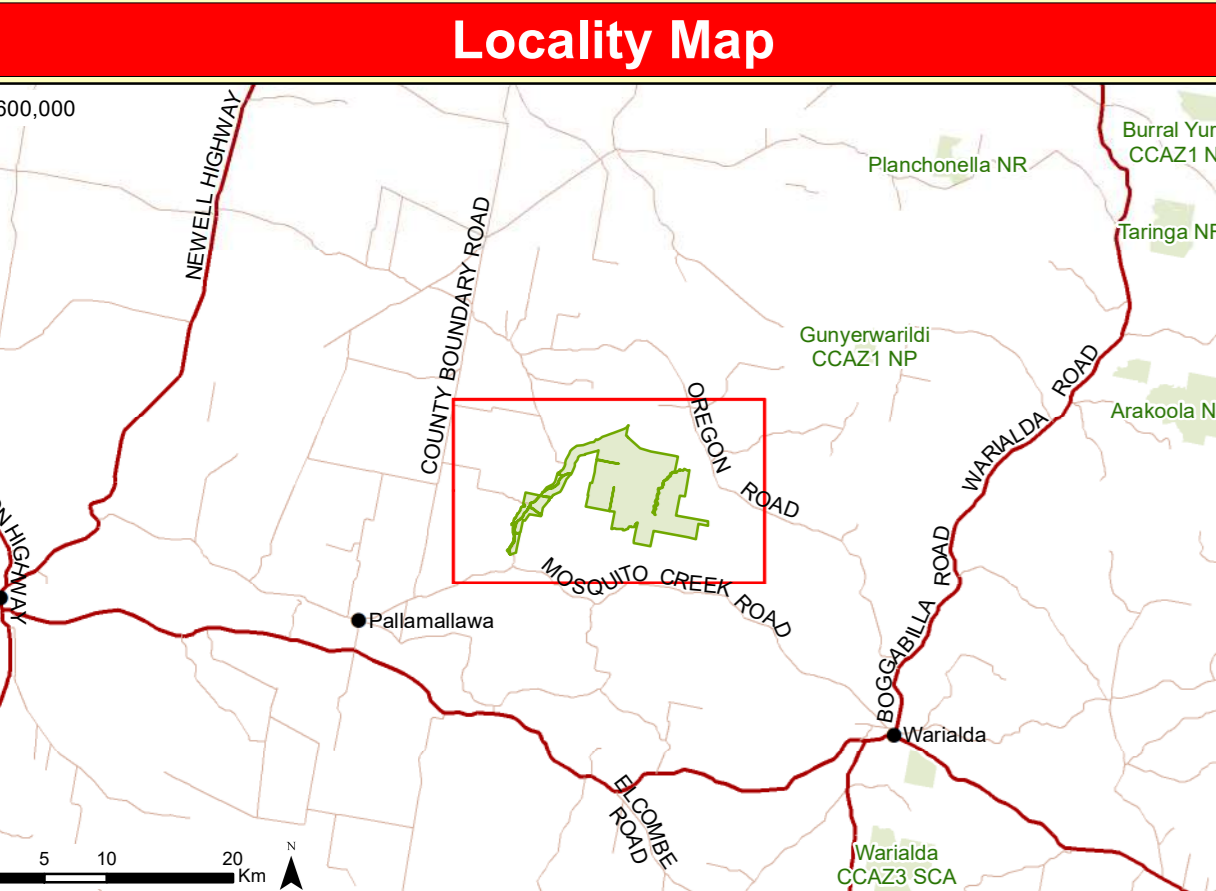
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ISBN: 978-1-92558-29-9 | DPIE Number: EES2021/0103 | Last Updated: 16/12/2021

This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of the Rural Fires Act 1997.



Map details
Datum: GDA 1994, Zone 55
Geographic Coordinate System: GCS, GDA, 1994
Nodal scales: True when printed on A3 size paper
Topographic Map: 1:50,000 Pallamallawa 82305

Local Government Area: Guydir

Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Duty Officer (24 hour)	6275 1742
	Area Manager - Martin Linehan Narrabri Area Office (bus. hours)	0800 501 889 6792 7300
NSW Rural Fire Service	Michael Brooks Duty Officer	0427 101 124 6792 3667
	Zone Office	6792 3667
Emergency Services	Police	000
	Public Ambulance, Fire and Rescue NSW	000
SES	Warralala	132 500
Police	Warralala	6729 1144
Council	Guydir Shire Council - Warralala Office	6792 5000

Communications

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS Repeaters	300	• Vole Group West • The Top
RFS	301	• Nemo Guydir
UHF - CB	N008	• Small fire channel 10, large fires determined by IRT • IRT frequency unless another frequency is allocated on an incident
Aviation - CTAF	134.70	• Mobile coverage is generally poor for most of the reserve • Satphone is essential for fire operations
Mobile Phone		

Fire Season Information

Wildfire
The critical wildfire season occurs during November and December. During periods of strong negative Southern Oscillation Index (EI) Niño events, this period may commence in late September and extend into late January. The end of the critical fire season is often marked by wet storm activity.

Prescribed Burning
Prescribed burning should take place before autumn rain occurs to maximise effectiveness. Burning may also be considered during late winter and early spring dependent on seasonal factors. Prescribed burning undertaken near the commencement of the statutory bushfire season should be fully contained.

Operational Guidelines

Hazard Reduction Burning	Guidelines
Aerial Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hazard reduction burning should aim to develop a mosaic of fine fire burn blocks across the reserve. The use of bombing aircraft without the support of ground based suppression crews should be limited to very specific circumstances. All aerial ignition operations require the consent of a senior NPWS officer or the Section 44 Appointee.
Backburning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All personnel must be fully briefed before back burning operations begin. Backburning in areas of Low - Moderate OFH will require the use of wind, or low humidity to maximise effectiveness. Where possible clear around dead and fibrousarked trees adjacent to control lines prior to backburning.
Command & Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first combatant agency on site may assume control of the fire, but then must ensure the relevant land management agency is notified promptly. The initial Incident Controller will liaise with the RFS to ensure that the agency in command is determined and an Incident Controller is appointed.
Containment Lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer. Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, where practicable, except where they can be constructed with minimal environmental impact. All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on, and must consider both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location. All containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed immediately at the cessation of the incident. Where possible, new containment lines should not be constructed in areas where Yedman Wallis and Carbeon occur. These populations are marked as machinery exclusion zones.
Earthmoving Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS Officer. Plant must always be guided and supervised by an experienced officer and accompanied by a support vehicle (NPWS). When engaged in direct or parallel attack, this vehicle must be a fire fighting vehicle. Plant must be washed down, where practicable, prior to entering NPWS estate and again on exiting NPWS estate.
Fire Suppression Chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of foam, wetting agents and retardants will NOT be permitted within 50 metres of dams and watercourses holding water. The aerial use of gels and retardants should be approved by a senior NPWS officer. The use of retardants requires the approval of a senior NPWS officer.
Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
Water Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water points are limited and not always reliable. Consider deployment of a bulk water carrier to support fire operations.
Smoke Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential smoke impacts and mitigation tactics will be assessed during the planning of fire operations.
Visitor Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Extremis Fire Danger at the Branch Director's discretion, reserves or sections of the reserve may be closed or evacuated. Ensure the closure is advertised on the NPWS visitor website.
WARNINGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creek banks may collapse unexpectedly along creeks. Be aware if driving near watercourses. Dry logging is a risk on sandy tracks across the reserve.

Heritage Guidelines

IS 1 - As far as possible protect from fire. Do not cut down trees.
IS 2 - As far as practicable protect the site from fire. Avoid all ground disturbance and driving over sites. Avoid wetland burning which may cause ground disturbance.
IS 3 - Avoid all ground disturbance. Avoid water bombing. Site may be burnt by fire without damage.

Modified trees

- As far as possible, protect the site from fire, and do not cut trees
- Use of chains is restricted to acceptable

Habitat sites

- Exclude control line construction from sites. Consider a buffer zone of about 50 metres from the sites.
- AJMS databases must be checked as part of planning for fire operations.
- Use of chains is restricted to acceptable

Threatened Fauna & Flora

- The protective actions for threatened fauna have been incorporated into the Operational Guidelines.
- Where possible machinery will be avoided from areas with vegetation of high conservation value, including areas with Yedman Wallis (Acacia juncea) and White Pine - Carbeon vegetation community.
- The soils within the reserve are generally highly dispersive, and very susceptible to erosion after disturbance. The construction of control lines aligned to the direction of water flow will be particularly vulnerable.
- Light hosing must be employed during control line construction.
- Removal of windrows after fire operations to allow water disposal should occur as soon as operations are complete.

Soil Erosion Management

Suppression Strategies

Guidelines

- Consider a broad containment strategy using existing roads, allowing long-term management requirements for landholders.
- Direct and parallel attack may be applied with earthmoving machinery and fire units.
- Follow back existing trails and roads, recently burnt areas or vegetation with LOW OFH, when fire runs exceed control line construction rates.
- Secure and deepen control lines on the most predicted downwind side of the fire.
- Backburning effectiveness will drop significantly when humidity starts to rise in the early evening.
- Revert to property protection.

Conditions

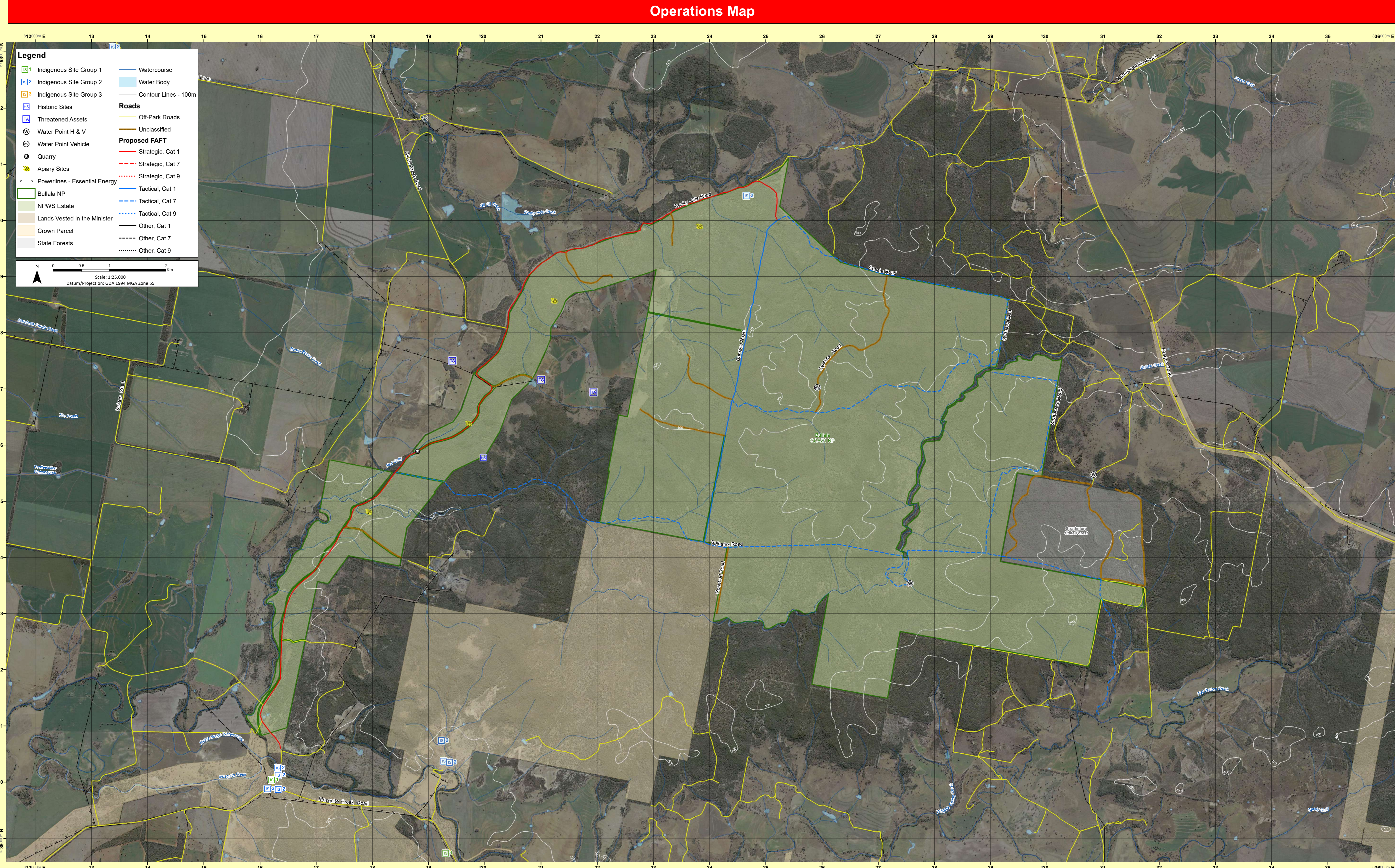
Fire danger rating
LOW - HIGH

- Consider a broad containment strategy using existing roads, allowing long-term management requirements for landholders.

Fire danger rating
VERY HIGH - EXTREME

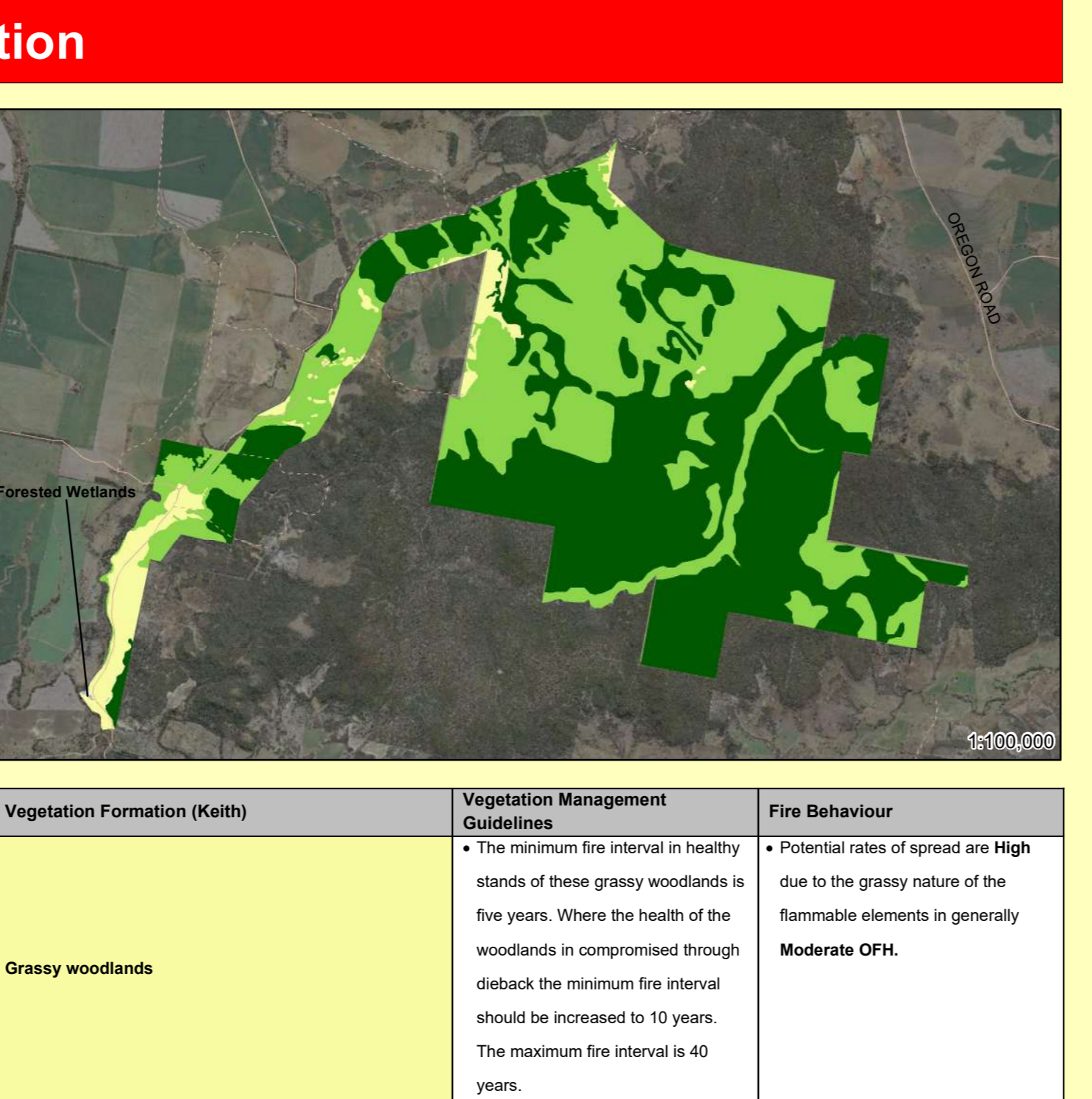
- Secure and deepen control lines on the most predicted downwind side of the fire.
- Backburning effectiveness will drop significantly when humidity starts to rise in the early evening.
- Revert to property protection.

Fire danger rating
CATASTROPHIC



Vegetation

Vegetation Formation (Keith)	Vegetation Management Guidelines	Fire Behaviour
Dry sclerophyll forests (shrub/grass sub-formation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minimum interval between low intensity fires should be more than 5 years. The maximum interval between fire should be less than 50 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This class of vegetation is often associated with hilly and steep terrain which cause variable fire behaviour with due to terrain driven factors. The potential rates of spread during extended dry season can be very high due to terrain factors. The very steep terrain, skeletal soils and droughty nature of these escarpment sites mean OFH is normally in the range of Moderate to Very High. Spotting associated with uphill fire runs can be severe. OFH reflects seasonal conditions rather than time since fire. Ground fuel can accumulate rapidly following consecutive summers of above average rainfall.
Dry sclerophyll forests (shrubby sub-formation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid fire intervals of less than 7 years and more than 35 years. The minimum interval between high intensity fires should be evaluated on forest condition. A diversity of fire intervals across the local landscape should be maximised. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread are dependent on seasonal conditions. Low OFH and hence low rates of spread occur in dry years. A Low - Moderate OFH may develop after successive wet seasons producing continuous ground cover. In these conditions potential rate of spread may be Moderate.
Forested wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid fire intervals of less than 7 years and more than 35 years. Avoid high intensity fires Minimum fire interval of 7 years (12 years if Callitis is present). A maximum fire interval of 40 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minimum fire interval in healthy stands of these grassy woodlands is five years. Where the health of the woodlands is compromised through dieback the minimum fire interval should be increased to 10 years. The maximum fire interval is 40 years.



Vegetation Threshold

Vegetation Threshold	Treatment
Too Frequently Burnt	Fire thresholds have been exceeded. Protect from fire as far as possible.
Vulnerable to Frequent Fire	The current interval since last fire is shorter than the recommended minimum interval.
Within Threshold	Fire history is within the threshold for vegetation in this area. A burn is neither required nor should one necessarily be avoided.
Long Unburnt	Fire frequency is below fire thresholds in the area. A prescribed burn may be advantageous. Consider allowing unplanned fires to burn.
Unknown	Insufficient data to determine fire threshold.
No Regime Assigned	Areas which do not have recommended fire intervals assigned to them eg. cleared land, rock.

NB. Fire thresholds are defined for vegetation communities to conserve biodiversity.

Fire History

Scale: 1:100,000

Fire Type	Fire Details
Prescribed Burn	2019-20: Mosquito Creek HR
	2018-19: Mynock North LMZ
	2016-17: NPWS-NBR-BULLALA NP-Bamboo West
Wildfire	2015-16: Carbeon-Acacia
	2012-13: Bullala East
	2011-12: Rosebud HR

Risk Management Information

Scale: 1:100,000

Fire Management Zone	Treatment
Asset Protection Zones	The objective of APZs is the protection of human life and property. This will have precedence over guidelines for the management of biodiversity. Maintain Overall Fuel Hazard at Moderate or below.
Strategic Fire Advantage Zones	The objective of SFAZs is to reduce fire intensity in locations to assist containment of wildfires, by maintaining the Overall Fuel Hazard at HIGH or below.
Land Management Zones	The objective of LMZs is to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural heritage. Manage fire consistent with fire thresholds.