

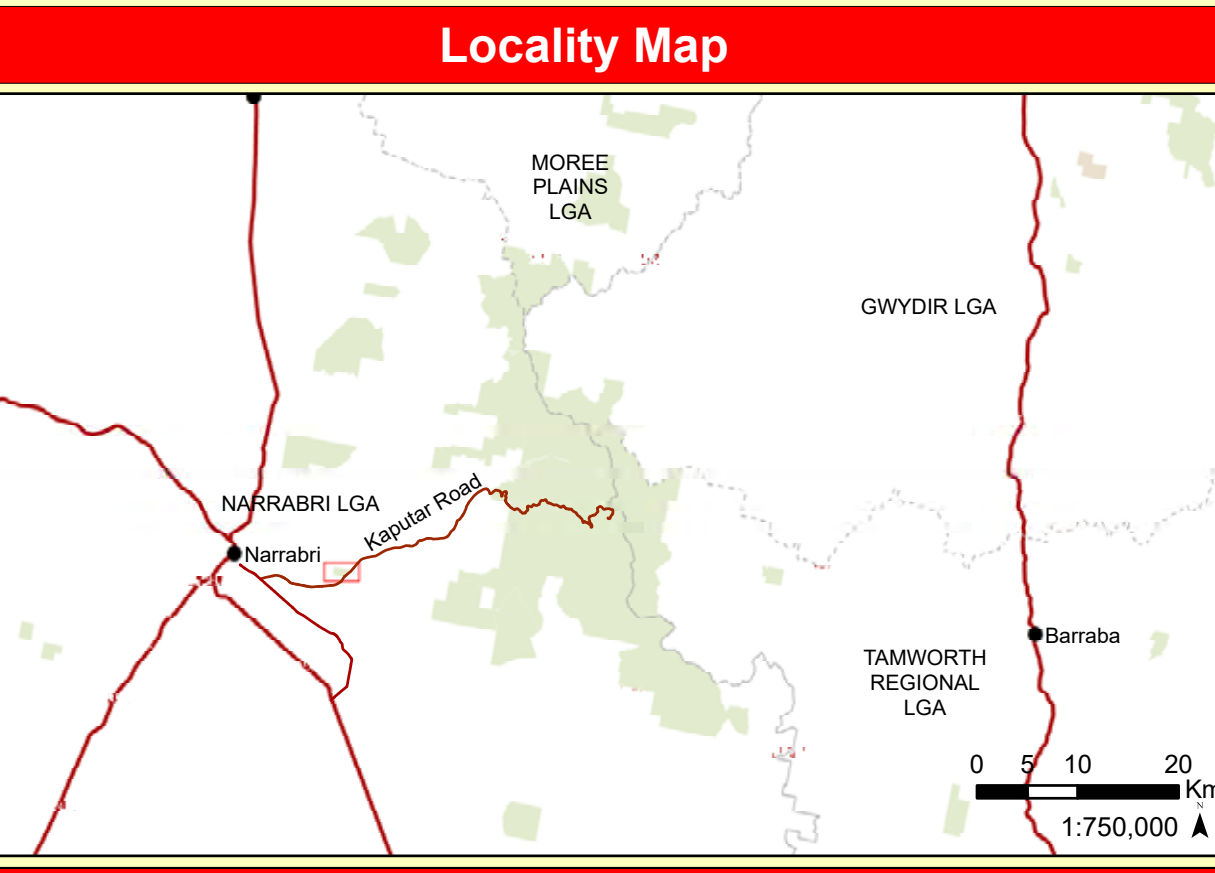
**Bullawa Creek State Conservation Area**  
 Fire Management Strategy (Type 2)  
 2019 - 2024

**NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service**

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



**Contact Information**

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Duty Officer (24 hour)	8275 1742
	Barwon Area Office (bus. hours)	6792 7200
NSW Rural Fire Service	Michael Brooks	0427 101 124
Dwyler Team	Duty Officer	6792 3697
	Zone Office	6792 3697
	Bobbeela Brigade - Steve Falkner	6793 3110 / 0427 440 881
NSW Fire Brigade	Fire and Rescue NSW	000
Emergency Services	Police, Fire, Ambulance	000
SES		132 500
Police	Narrabri	6792 7199
Council	Narrabri	6799 6666

**Communications**

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS Repeaters	302	The Governor
RFS	N008	Digital Voicing
UHF - CB		Small fires channel 10, large fires determined by IMT
Aviation - CTAF	134.70	NB frequency unless another frequency is allocated on an incident
Cellphone		Telstra 3G coverage is generally available in most areas especially the ridges

**Fire Season Information**

**Wildfires**  
 The critical wildfire season occurs during November and December. This period may commence in late September and extend into the first half of January. Particular care is required during periods of negative Southern Oscillation Index. The end of the critical fire season is often marked by wet storm activity.

**Prescribed Burning**  
 Effective prescribed burning may need to be conducted once the 'critical fire season' and thunderstorm season is over. Prescribed burning attempted after autumn rain is unlikely to be effective.

**Operational Guidelines**

**Aerial Operations**  
 Aerial operations will be managed by trained and competent personnel. This includes directing aerial bombing and aerial ignition operations. 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 Approver.

**Backburning**  
 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.

**Command & Control**  
 The first combatant agency on site may assume control of the fire, but then 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**  
 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.

**Earthmoving Equipment**  
 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. The use of graders is preferred where possible. Containment lines running along valley areas should be constructed 2050 metres from the gully line to avoid severe erosion. Plant must be washed down, where practicable, prior to entering NPWS estate and again on exiting NPWS estate. 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.

**Fire Suppression Chemicals**  
 Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.

**Rehabilitation**  
 Consider deployment of a bulk water carrier to support fire operations.

**Water Points**  
 Potential smoke impacts and mitigation tactics will be assessed during the planning of fire operations.

**Smoke Management**  
 Potential smoke impacts and mitigation tactics will be assessed during the planning of fire operations.

**Visitor Management**  
 Implement the emergency management plan during Severe + Fire Danger, or when fires are threatening walking trails and public use facilities. Ensure the closure is advertised on the NPWS visitor website. A risk assessment of any guided activities will be undertaken if the FDI is Very High+, or if there is a fire in the reserve. Advise aspirants of fire threats, and the restrictions in place for entry to the reserve.

**WARNINGS**  
 Black text - general guidelines Blue text - reserve specific guidelines Red text - important warnings

**Heritage Guidelines**

**Aboriginal Cultural Heritage**  
 IS 1 - As far as possible protect site from fire. Do not cut down trees.  
 IS 2 - As far as possible protect the site from fire. Avoid all ground disturbance and driving over sites. Avoid water bombing 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 foams & retardant is acceptable.  
**Habitat sites**  
 Exclude control line construction from sites. Consider a buffer zone of about 50 metres from the sites.  
 AllMS databases must be checked as part of planning for fire operations.

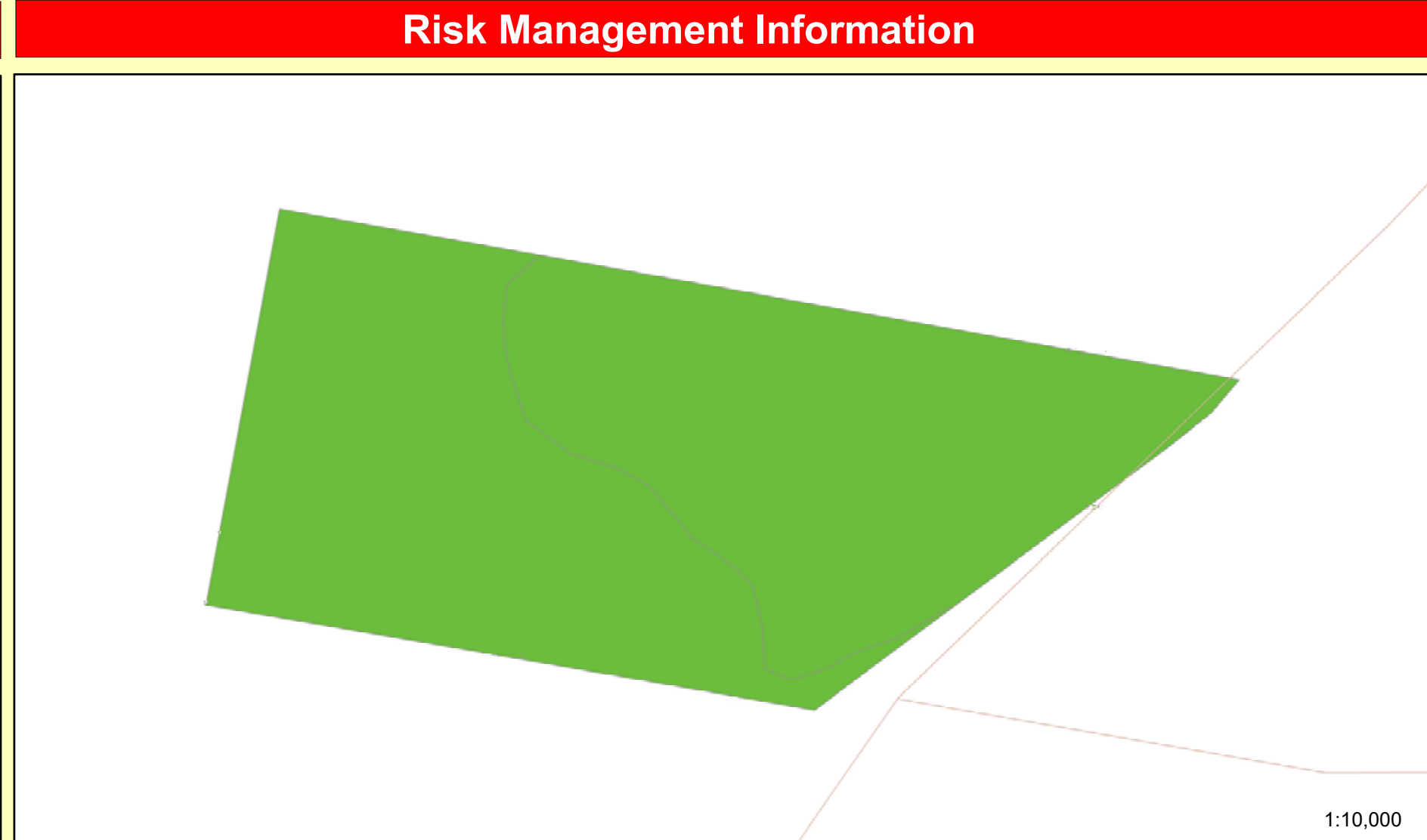
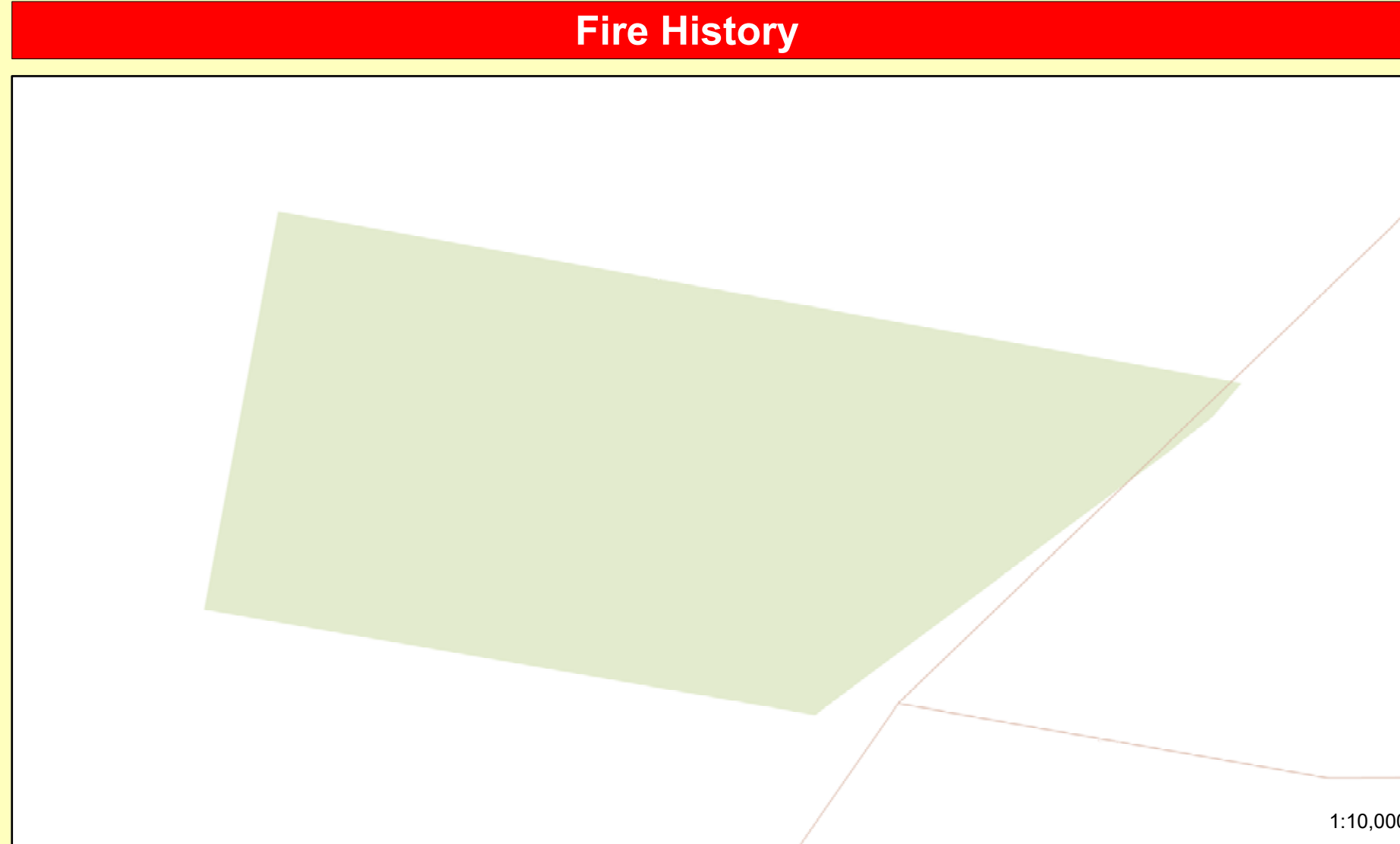
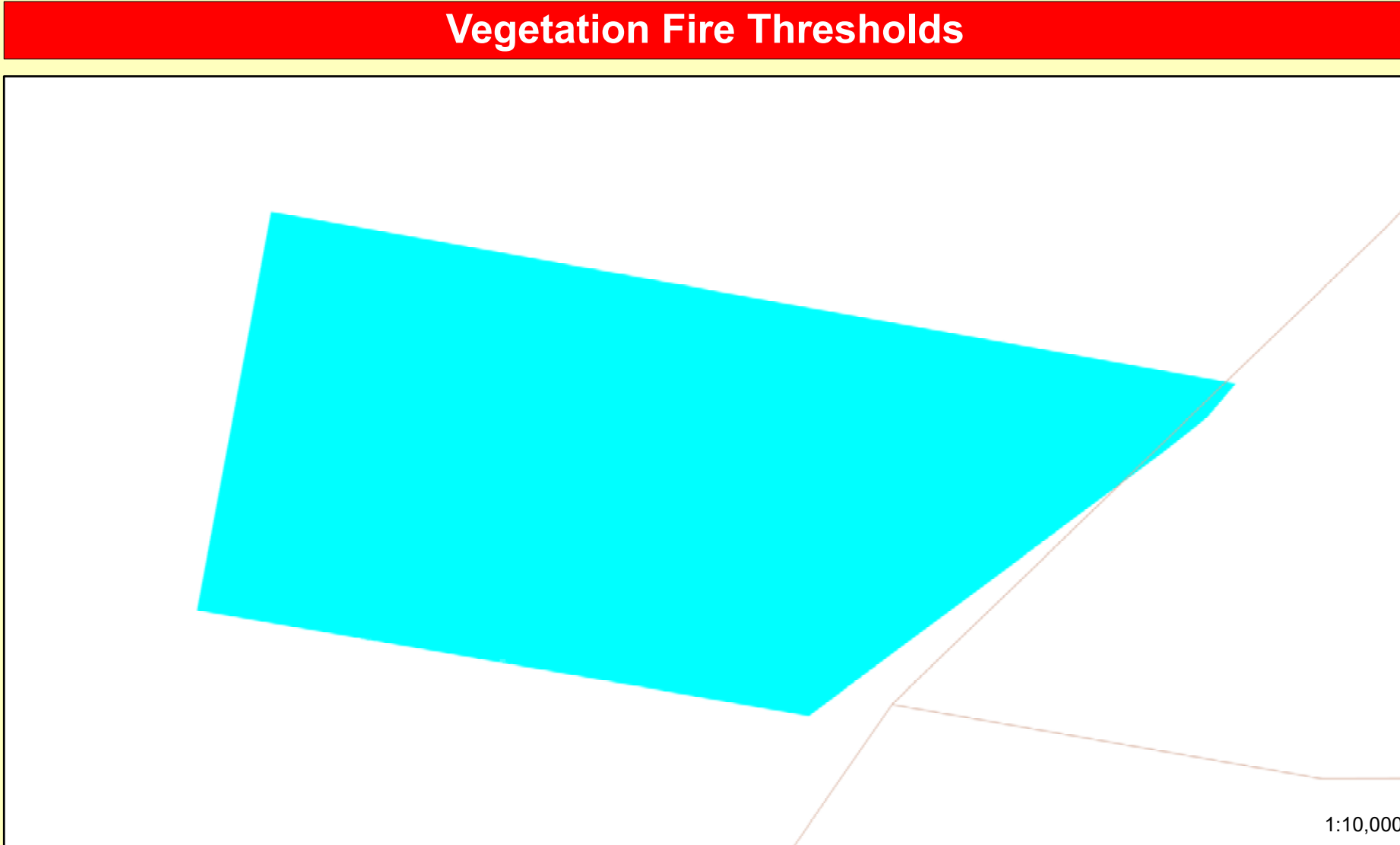
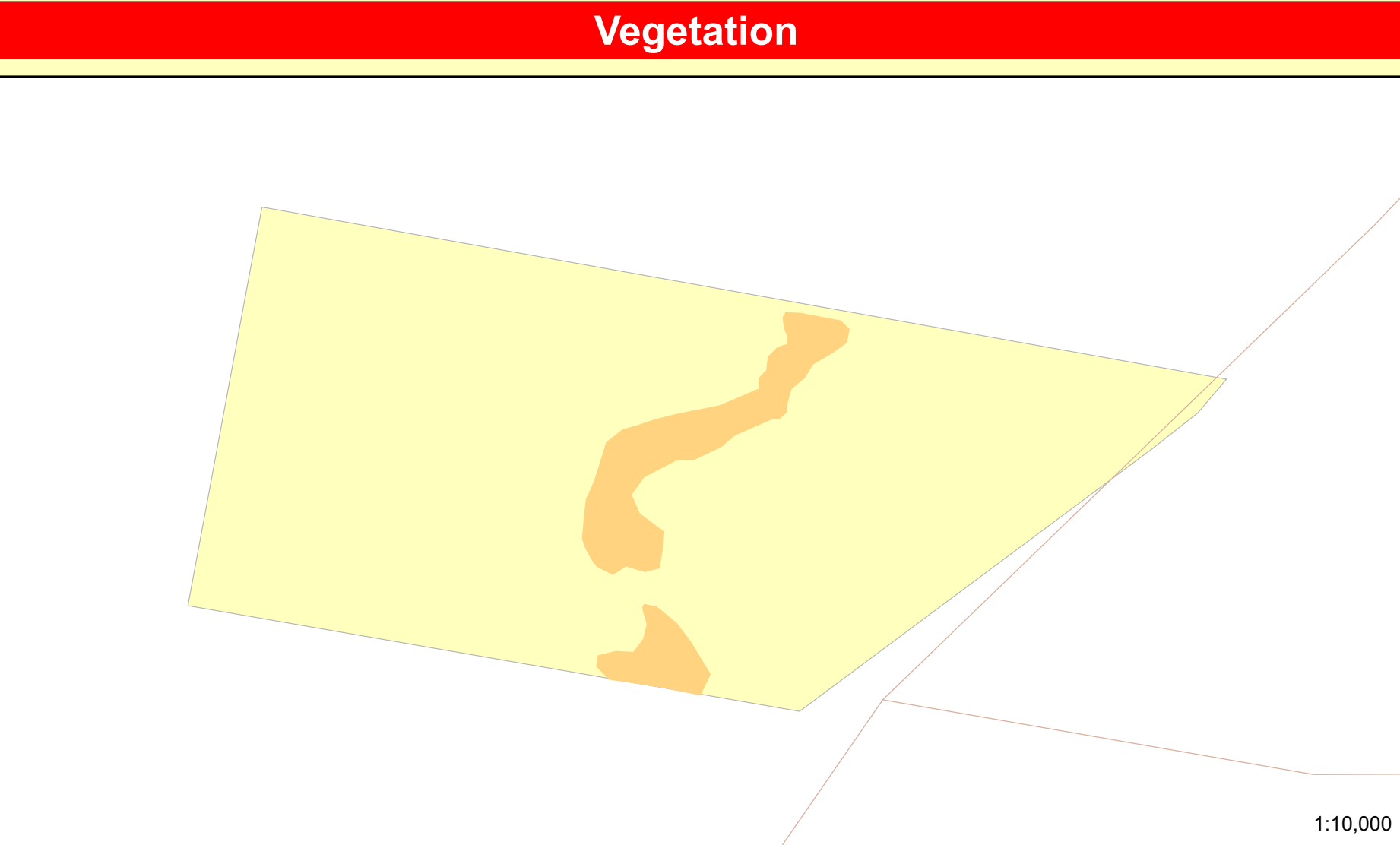
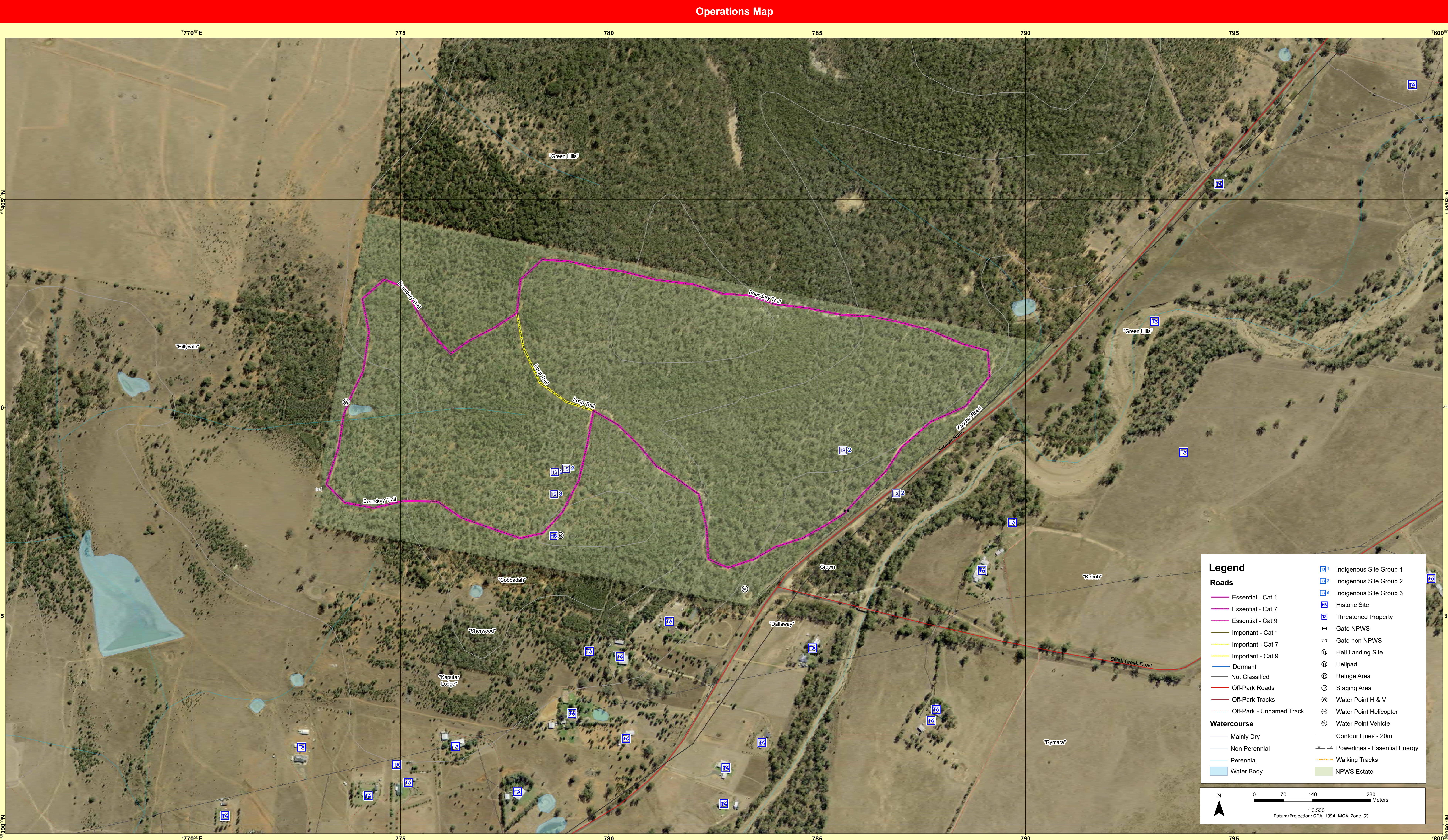
**Historic Sites**  
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**Threatened Fauna & Flora**  
 The protective actions for threatened fauna have been incorporated into the Operational Guidelines

**Soil Erosion Management**  
 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 blading must be employed during control line construction  
 Bar drains or roll-overs must be constructed as soon as possible.

**Suppression Strategies**

**All vegetation types**  
 Consider a broad containment strategy using existing roads, allowing long-term management requirements for biodiversity  
 Direct and parallel attack may be applied with earthmoving machinery and fire units.  
 Close parallel attack, moving around the head only when the fire stops running  
 Distance between the flank and machinery and fire units should be kept to a minimum  
 Any proposed back burning must be assessed on the required resources, their capacity and the time required to mop-up and secure proposed burn edges prior to the onset of Severe + conditions, and then held.



Vegetation Class (Keith)	Vegetation Management Guidelines	Fire Behaviour
Western Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open forest dominated by ironbark eucalypts and cypress pine, 10 -25m tall.</li> <li>An interval of fire events less than 15 years and greater than 40 years should be avoided, but</li> <li>A higher fire interval may be permitted after a fire free interval of 25 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential rate of spread is Low in most areas due to Low to Moderate OFH</li> <li>Localised higher fire intensity may occur in higher ground / near surface fuels (riparian areas) or higher elevated fuels (sandstone shrubby woodlands)</li> </ul>
Floodplain Transitional Woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White box, white cypress, silver leaved ironbark</li> <li>A fire interval of events less than 7 years should be avoided.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential rate of spread is Low in most areas due to Low to Moderate OFH</li> <li>Localised higher fire intensity may occur in higher ground / near surface fuels (riparian areas) or higher elevated fuels (sandstone shrubby woodlands)</li> </ul>

Vegetation Threshold	Treatment
Too Frequently Burnt	Fire thresholds have been exceeded. Protect from fire as far as possible.
Vulnerable to Frequent Fire	The area will be Too Frequently Burnt if it burns this year. Protect from fire as far as possible.
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 Type	Fire Details
Prescribed Burn	NPWS records indicate hazard reduction burning has not been undertaken in this Reserve. Vegetation types indicate Low OFH in most years and a general inability to conduct prescribed burning.
Wildfire	NPWS and Rural Fire Service data have not recorded wildfires in this Reserve.

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 less than HIGH.
Land Management Zones	The objective of LMZs is to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural heritage. Manage fire consistent with the fire thresholds.