

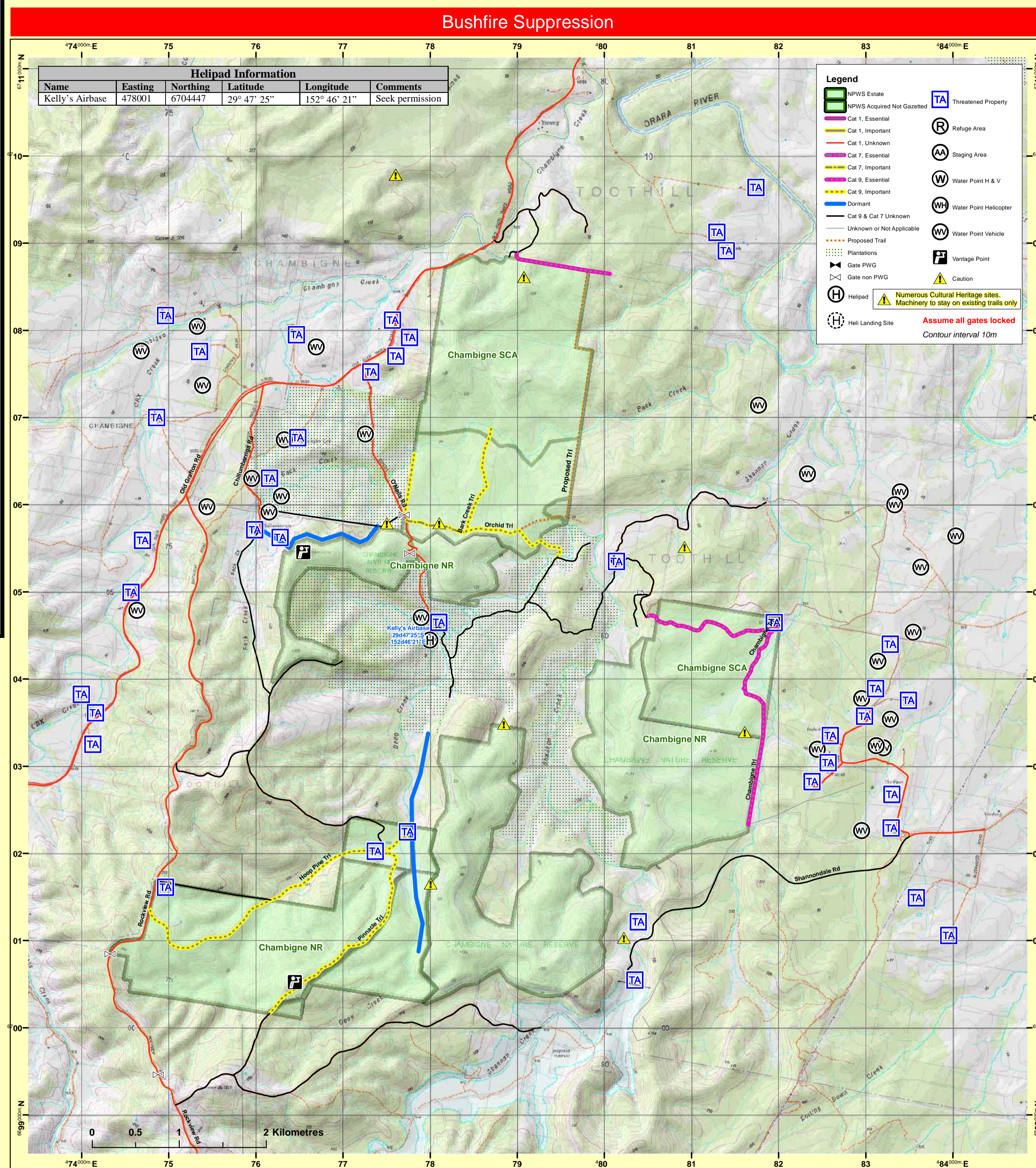
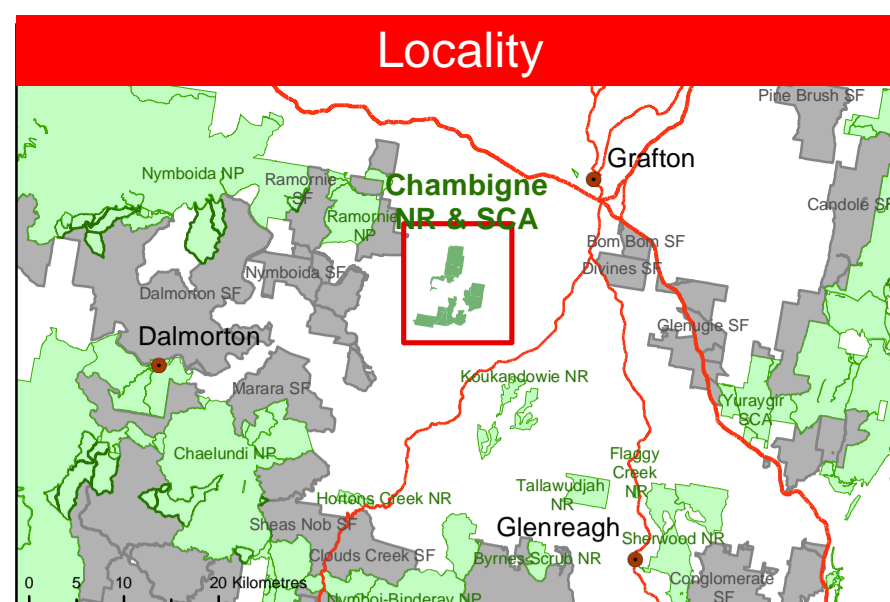
North Coast Region
Chambigne Nature Reserve & Chambigne State Conservation Area
Fire Management Strategy (Type 2)
2014
 Sheet 1 of 1

This strategy should be used in conjunction with aerial photography and field reconnaissance during incidents and the development of incident action plans.

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



Communications Information – Chambigne NR & Chambigne SCA
Clarence South Area

NPWS radio coverage is generally good but there are 'black spots' in deep gullies. Options to use Simplex & Reverse Ch's, portable repeaters or adjacent towers are available as required.

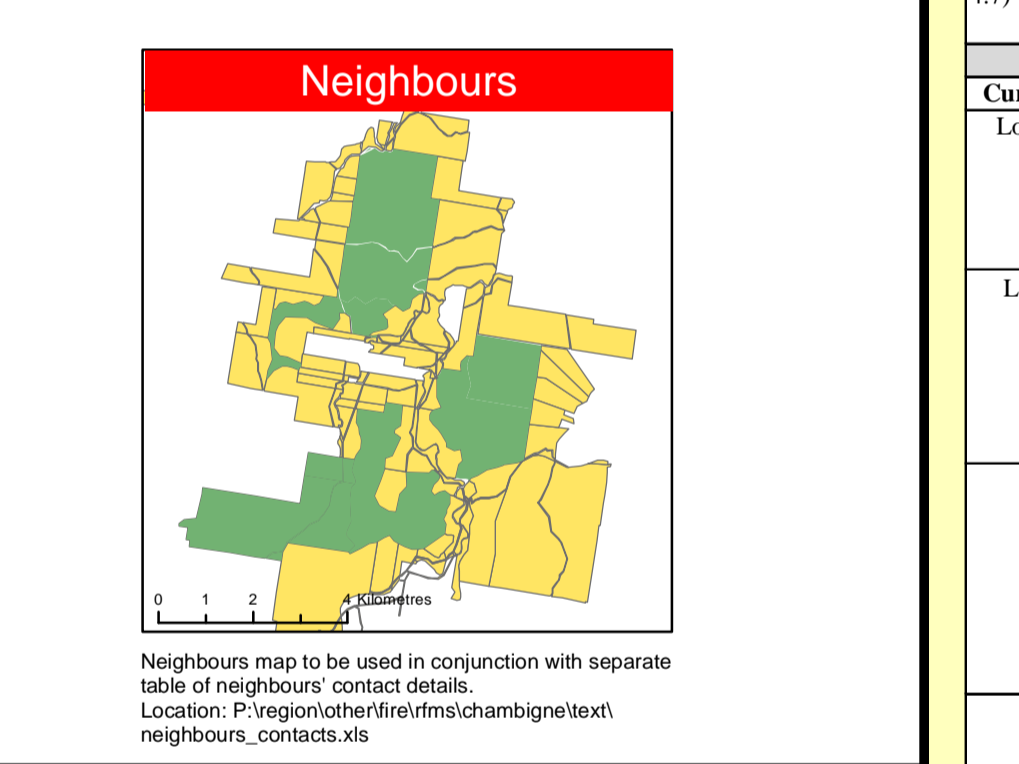
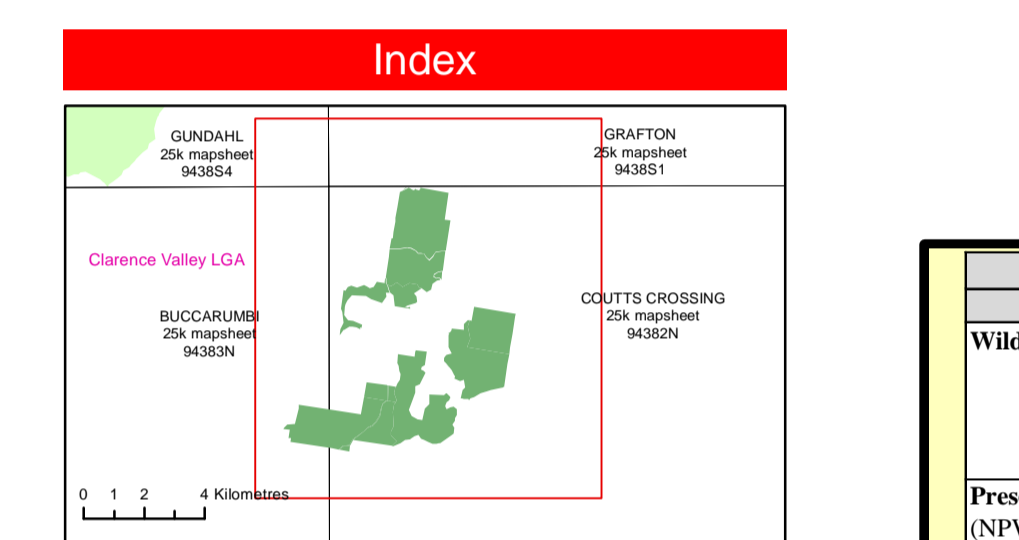
| Service | NPWS Channel | Location and Comments |
|---|-------------------|--|
| NPWS – Vote group | Vote Ch 190 | NCR North, Chs: 191, 192 |
| NPWS – hi-band VHF – Tower Channels | 191 192 | Pt Cangi East (Simplex 491, Isolate 791) Clarence Peak (Simplex 492, Isolate 192) |
| NPWS Fireground Ch | 11 – 17 | Represent NPWS Fireground Ch's 1 – 7 |
| NPWS – hi-band VHF – Portable Repeaters | 21 – 26 Duplex | Chs 21 & 31 correspond to FGI, etc. Contact Regional Office to deploy |
| RFS – Fireground Ch | 41 – 60 | Equivalent to RFS Fireground 1 - 20 |
| RFS PMR | n/a | P163 Francis LookOut, Mid North Coast P135, Mt Wandarrig, Mid North Coast |

Telephone Interconnect to NPWS Radio: TBA
 UHF – public: Use as backup & alt. comm's to Forestry, IAP will set Ch.
 Mobile Phone – 3G: Good reception on ridges & escarpment only.

An Incident Action Plan will cover specific communications during HR and Wildfire events.

Contact Information

| Agency | Position / Location | Phone |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| NPWS | Regional Duty Officer (24 hrs) | 02 6642 3620 |
| | Area Manager (Clarence South) | 02 6641 1500 |
| | Works depot - Grafton | 0429 695 552 |
| Rural Fire Service | Regional Office | 02 6641 1500 |
| | Clarence Valley Fire Control Centre | 02 6643 5569 (fax) |
| NSW Fire Brigade | Duty Officer | 0500 881 866 |
| | Clarence Valley Fire Control Centre | 02 6644 5135 |
| SES | Emergency | 000 |
| | South Grafton Station | 02 6642 7655 |
| Police | Emergency | 000 |
| | Grafton Unit | 02 6643 3348 |
| Ambulance | Police Assistance Line | 131444 |
| | Grafton | 02 6642 0222 |
| Hospital | Emergency | 000 |
| | Grafton Base Hospital | 02 6640 2232 |
| Forests NSW | 24 hour fire calls | 02 6655 6950 |
| | Grafton SF | 02 6643 0400 |
| Council | Clarence Valley | 02 6643 3886 |
| | Grafton-Ngerrie | 02 6642 6020 |



Strategy Information
Fire Season Information

Wildfires

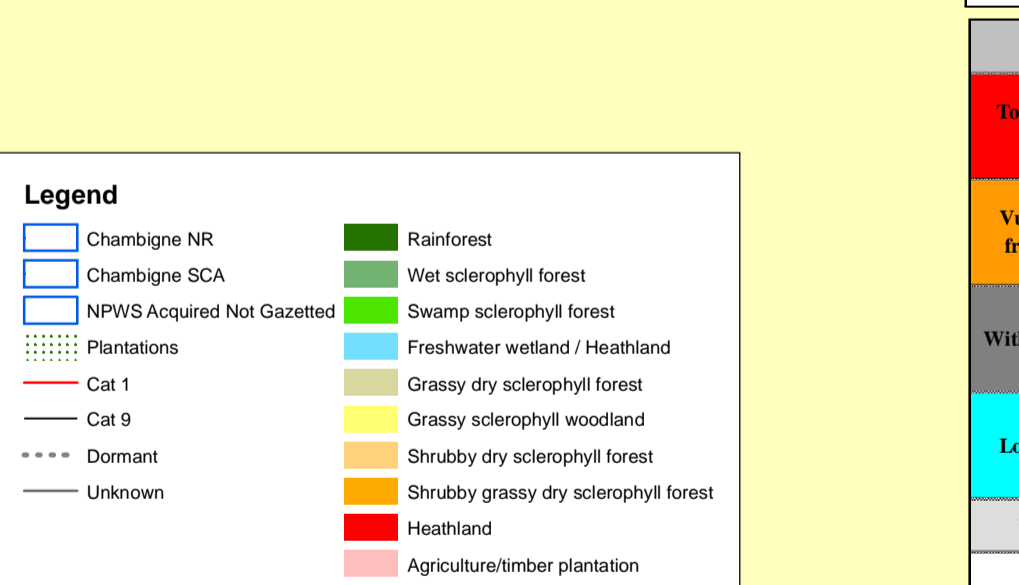
- Have been known to start as early as late August, but usually the potential for a large fire event is greatest between October and December. This period may extend into January in more severe years.

Prescribed Burning (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.7)

- General season is Autumn to late Winter. Burning is possible in early Spring but not desirable on a regular basis from an ecological or tourism point of view.

Suppression Strategies

| Current FDR | Forecast FDR | Suppression Strategies |
|-------------|--------------|---|
| Low – Mod | Low – Mod | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake direct, parallel or indirect attack along existing containment lines. Where practicable consider maximising the fire area in accordance with the requirements of any proposed prescribed burns. |
| Low – Mod | => High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to minimise the fire area and secure the flanks as soon as possible, undertake direct, parallel or indirect attack along the closest containment lines. Pay particular attention to the flank on the next predicted down wind side. |
| High | All | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake indirect attack along existing or newly constructed containment lines. Secure and deepen containment lines along the next predicted downwind side of the fire. If applicable consider broader than normal containment strategies to avoid wasted effort and high risk of failure. |
| All | All | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure there is sufficient time to secure containment lines prior to the fire impacting upon them; otherwise fall back to the next potential line. |

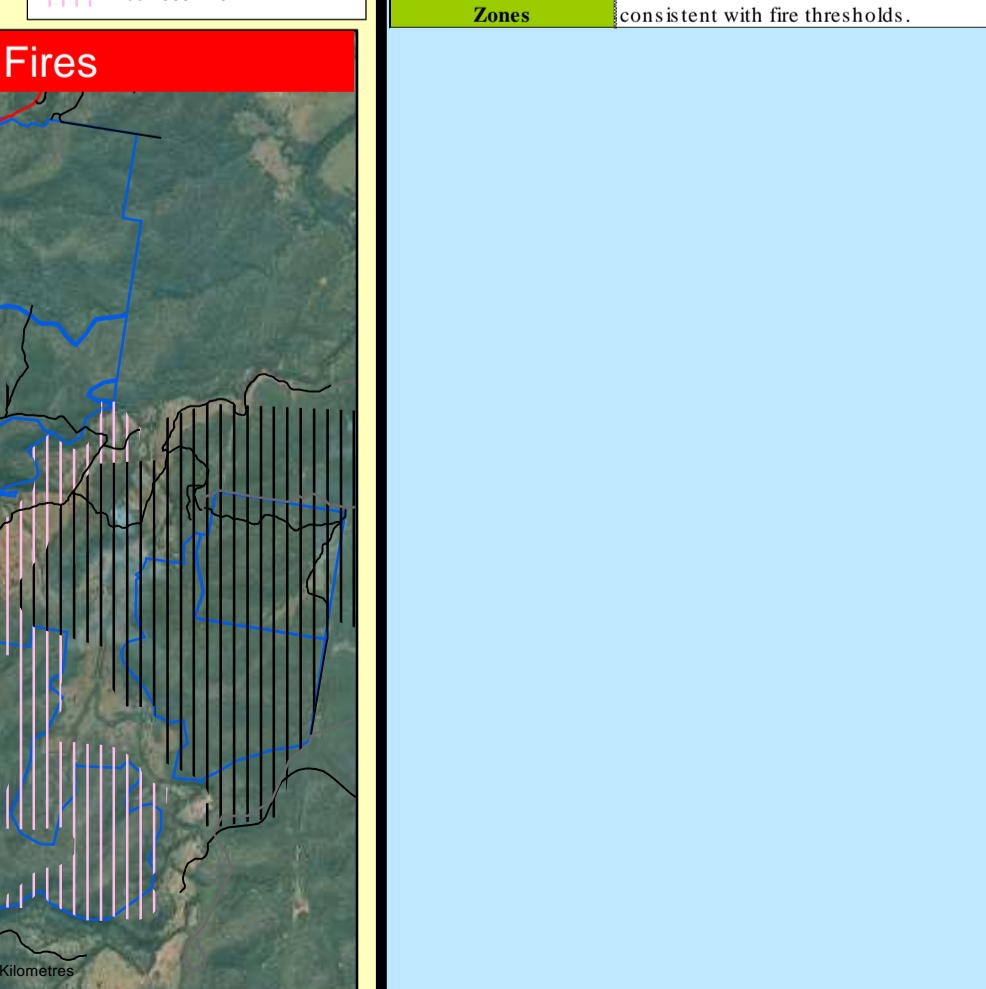
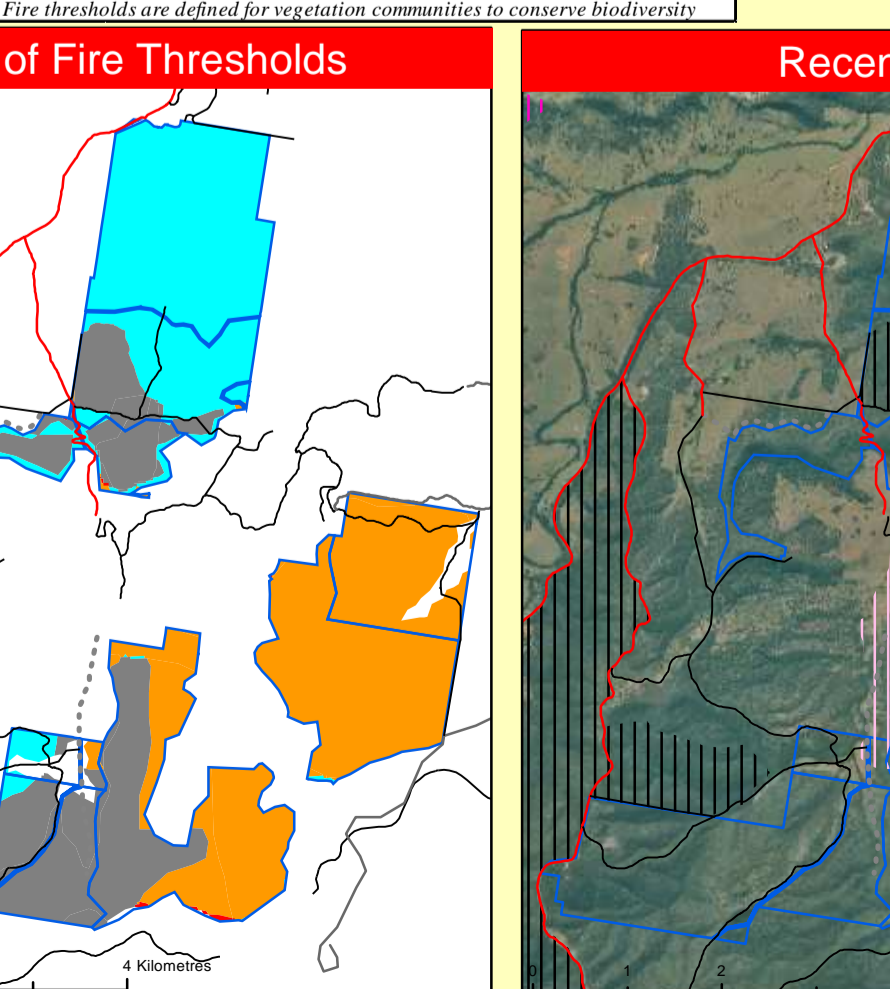
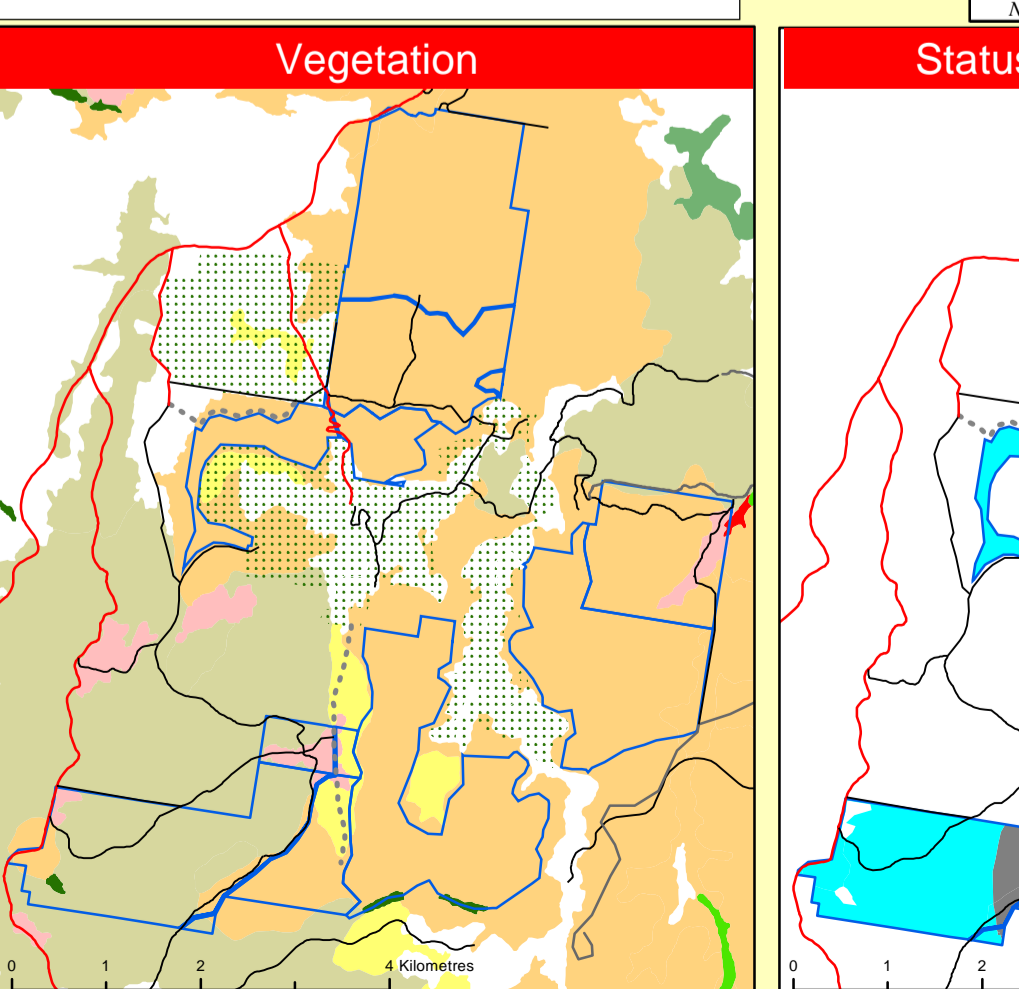
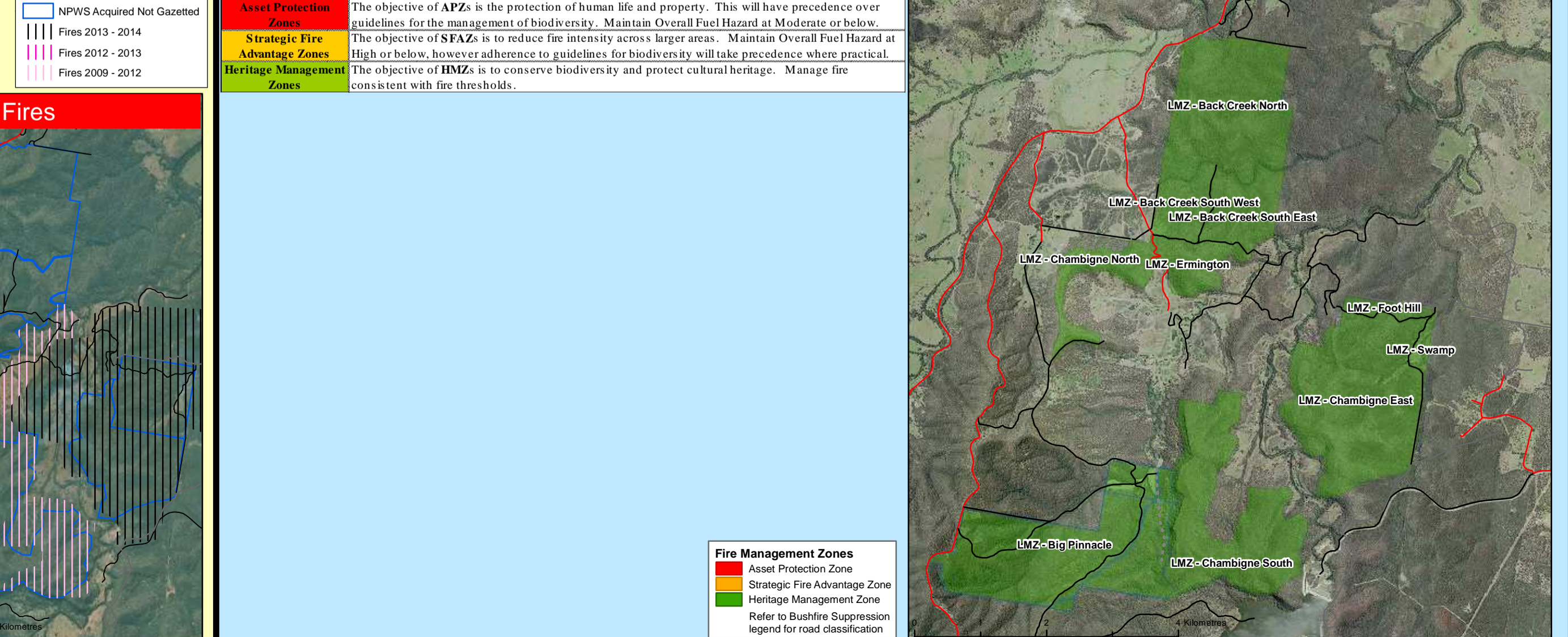


Biodiversity thresholds for Land Management Zones

| Threshold | Description |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 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. |

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

Risk Management Information



Operational Guidelines
 Refer to Strategy for Fire Management 2003 and Fire Management Manual 2004.
 Brief all personnel involved in suppression operations on the following issues:

| Resource | Guidelines |
|--|---|
| Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management (NPWS FMM 4.1.1) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AH2 - As far as possible protect site from fire. Avoid all ground disturbance including the use of earthmoving machinery, handline construction and driving over sites. Avoid water bombing which may cause ground disturbance. AH3 - Avoid all ground disturbance. Avoid water bombing. Site may be burnt by bushfire, back-burn or prescribed burn without damage. |
| Historic Heritage Management (NPWS FMM 4.1.0) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no recorded sites within the reserve, should new sites be located consult with a senior NPWS officer. |
| Threatened Fauna Management (NPWS FMM 4.1.2 & 5.2) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FA3 - As far as possible protect site from fire. Avoid the use of earth moving machinery in locations where these species are known to occur. Avoid the use of retardant in locations where these species are known to occur. FA4 - Mosaic burn to diversify understorey; protect casuarina stands FA6 - Protect hollow-bearing trees; reduce fire frequency FA7 - Protect hollow-bearing trees FA8 - Avoid frequent fire (<10yrs); use mosaic burn pattern FA9 - Protect known habitat from disturbance; avoid use of earthmoving machinery and fire fighting chemicals. |
| Threatened Flora Management (NPWS FMM 4.1.2) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FL1 - Avoid the use of earth moving machinery in locations where these species are known to occur. Avoid the use of retardant in locations where these species are known to occur. |
| Threatened Property | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where possible property owners with assets at risk from a wildfire event should be kept informed regarding the progress of the fire and asked for an assessment of their current level of asset protection preparedness. |
| General | Guidelines |
| Aerial Water Bombing (NPWS FMM 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOP 02 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of bombing aircraft should support containment operations by aggressively attacking hotspots and spot-overs. The use of bombing aircraft without the support of ground based suppression crews should be limited to very specific circumstances. Where practicable foam should be used to increase the effectiveness of the water. Ground crews must be alerted to water bombing operations. |
| Aerial Ignition (NPWS FMM 4.2.20, 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs 02-4 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aerial ignition may be used during back-burning or fuel reduction operations where practicable, but only with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer. Utilise incendiaries to rapidly progress back-burns down slope where required. |
| Backburning (NPWS FMM 4.8) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temperature and humidity trends must be monitored carefully to determine the safest times to implement back-burns. Generally, when the FDI is Very High or greater, backburning should commence when the humidity begins to rise in the late afternoon or early evening. With a lower FDI backburning may be safely undertaken during the day. Where practicable, clear a 1m radius around dead and fibrous barked trees adjacent to containment lines prior to backburning, or wet down these trees as part of the backburn ignition. Avoid ignition of backburns at the bottom of slopes where a long and intense up slope burn is likely. |
| Command & Control (NPWS FMM 4.2) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first combant agency on site may assume control of the fire, but then ensure the relevant land management agency is notified promptly. On the arrival of other combant agencies, the initial incident controller will consult with regard to the ongoing command, control and incident management team requirements as per the relevant BFMC Plan of Operations. |
| Containment Lines (NPWS FMM 2.2, 3.9) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, where practicable, except where they can be constructed with minimal environmental impact. New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer. Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation. All containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed at the cessation of the incident. All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location. |
| Earthmoving Equipment (NPWS FMM 4.2.20, 4.3) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earthmoving equipment may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer, and then only if the probability of its success is high. Earthmoving equipment must be always guided and supervised by an experienced officer, and accompanied by a support vehicle. When engaged in direct or parallel attack this vehicle must be a firefighting vehicle. Containment lines constructed by earthmoving equipment should consider the protection of drainage features, observe the Threatened Species and Cultural Heritage Operational Guidelines, and be surveyed, where possible, to identify unknown cultural heritage sites. Earthmoving equipment should be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS estate. |
| Fire Advantage Recording | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All fire advantages used during wildfire suppression operations must be mapped and where relevant added to the database. |
| Fire Suppression Chemicals (NPWS FMM 4.2.20, 4.9) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetting and foaming agents (surfactants) are permitted for use in wildfire suppression. The use of fire retardant is only permitted with the prior consent of the senior NPWS officer, and should be avoided where reasonable alternatives are available. Exclude the use of surfactants and retardants within 50m of rainforest, watercourses, dams and swamps. Areas where fire suppression chemicals are used must be mapped and the used products name recorded. The Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed. |
| Rehabilitation (NPWS FMM 5.1) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation. |
| Smoke Management (NPWS FMM 3.4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential impacts of smoke and possible mitigation tactics must be considered when planning for wildfire suppression and prescribed burning operations. If smoke becomes a hazard on local roads or highways, the police and relevant media must be notified. Smoke management must be in accordance with relevant RTA traffic management guidelines. |
| Visitor Management (NPWS FMM 3.6, 4.13) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations. |

