

Hunter Region Curracabundi National Park & Surrounding Reserves Fire Management Strategy (Type 2) 2005 Sheet 1 of 2

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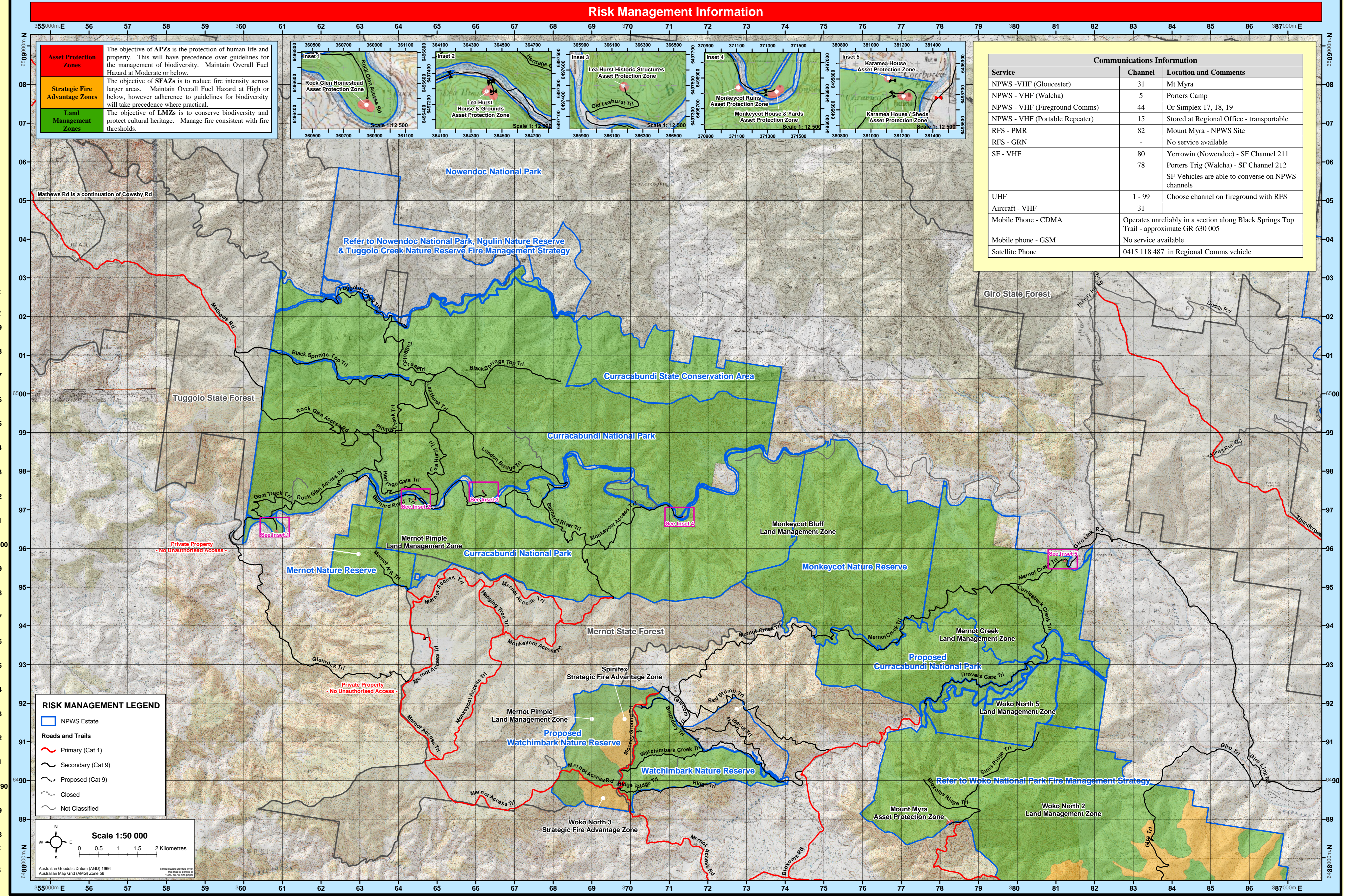
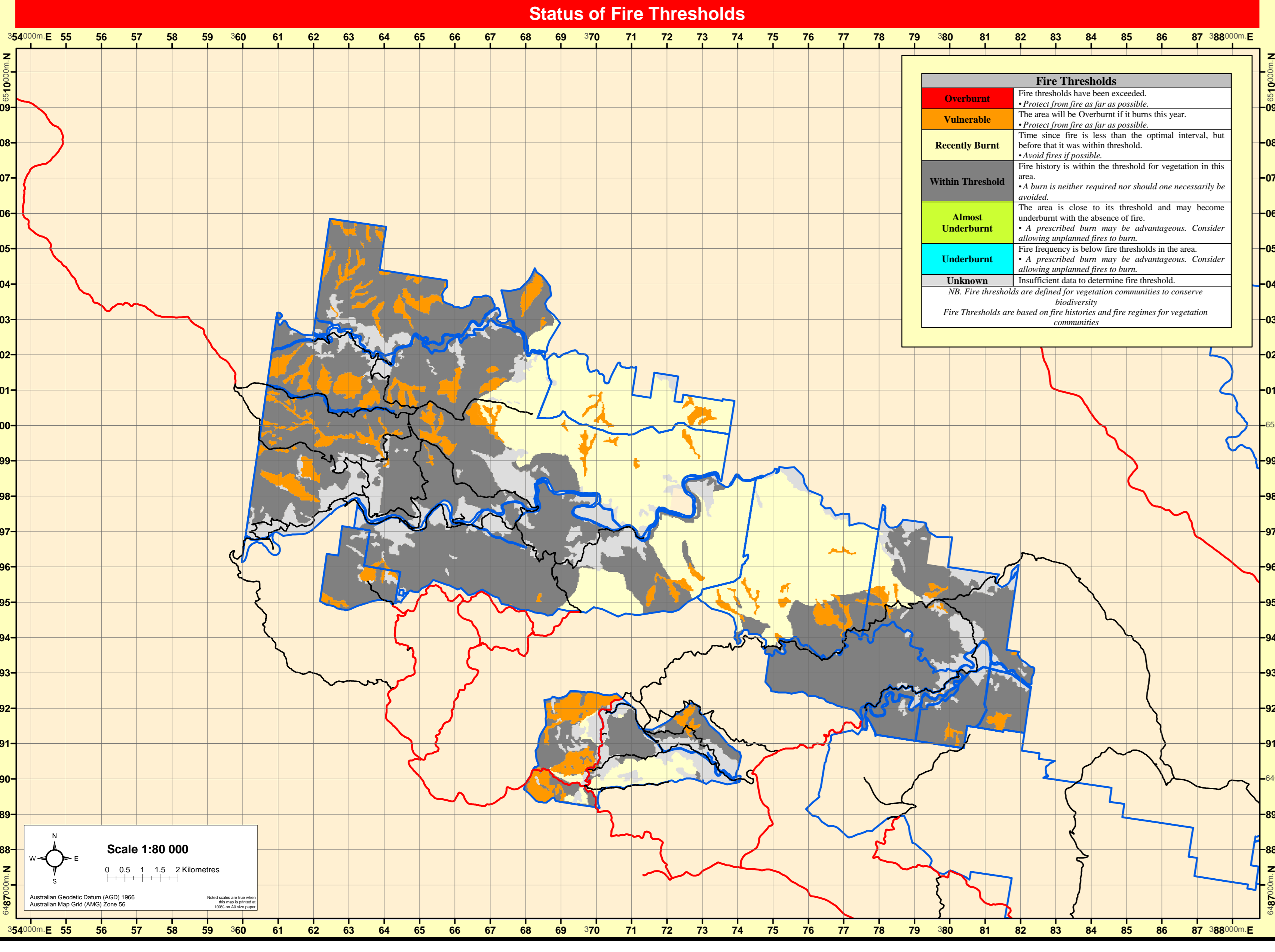
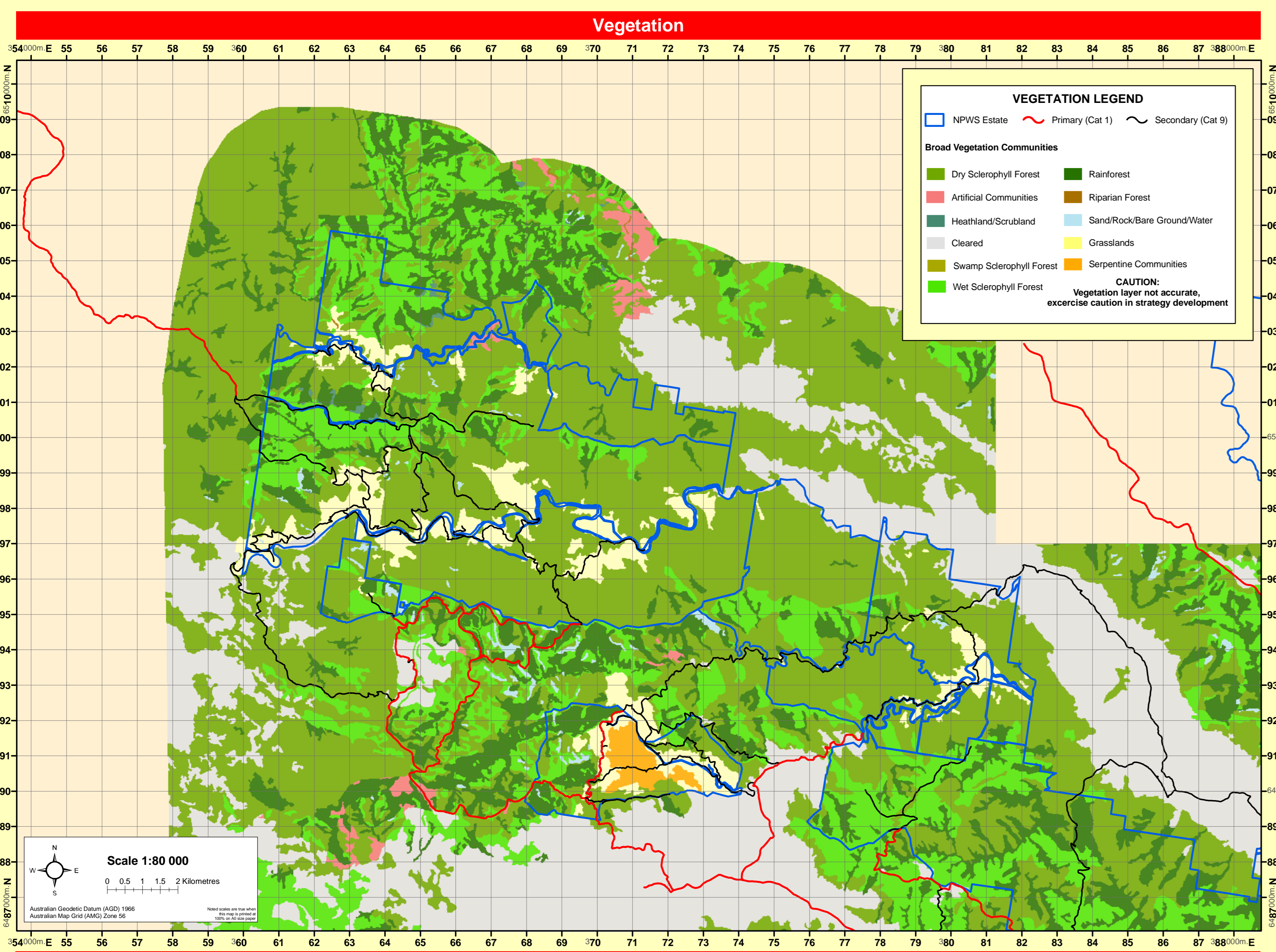
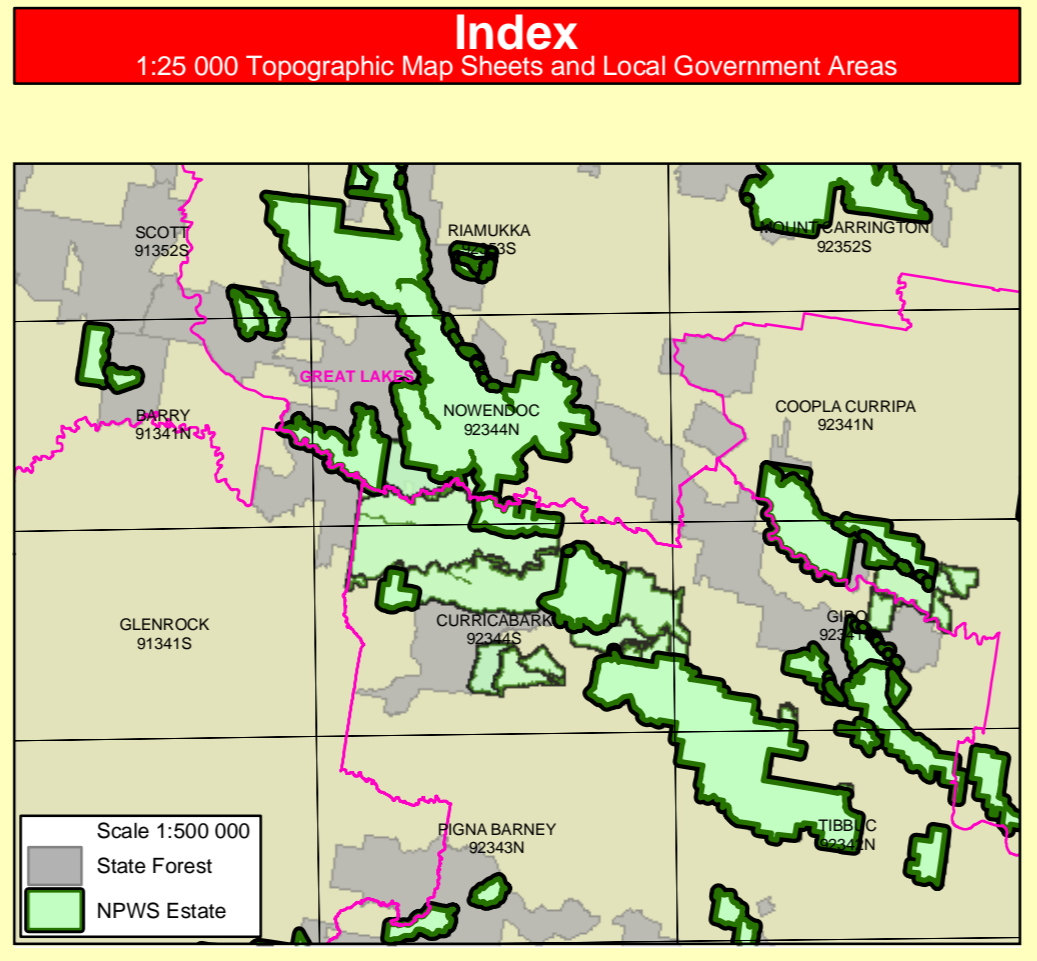
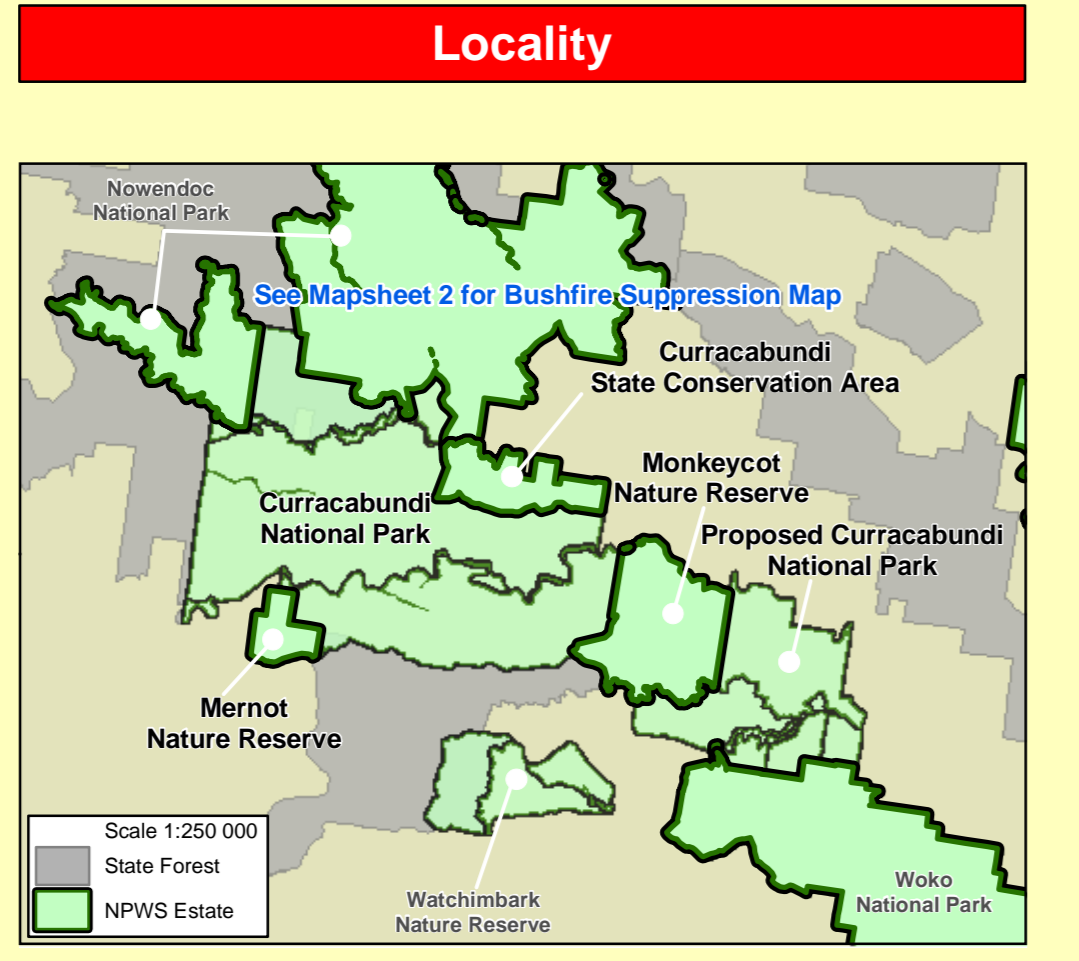
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Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW)
This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997.

Endorsed by: _____ Date: / /
Director Northern Parks & Wildlife Division



Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF (Gloucester)	31	Mi Myra
NPWS - VHF (Walcha)	5	Porters Camp
NPWS - VHF (Fireground Comms)	44	Or Simplex 17, 18, 19
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	15	Stored at Regional Office - transportable
RFS - PMR	82	Mount Myra - NPWS Site
RFS - GRN		No service available
SF - VHF	80	Yerrowin (Nowendoc) - SF Channel 211
	78	Porters Trig (Walcha) - SF Channel 212
		SF Vehicles are able to converse on PWS channels
UHF	1 - 99	Choose channel on fireground with RFS
Aircraft - VHF	31	
Mobile Phone - CDMA		Operates unreliably in a section along Black Springs Top Trail - approximate GR 630 005
Mobile phone - GSM		No service available
Satellite Phone		0415 118 487 in Regional Comms vehicle

Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
NPWS	Hunter Regional Duty Officer / After Hours	016 301161 / 0429 144880
	Barrington Area Manager	6538 5301 / 0429 144 873
	Fire Management Officer	4984 8206 / 0429 144 870
	Regional Operations Coordinator	4984 8212 / 0429 144 872
	Barrington Area Office	6538 5300 / (fax) 6538 2476
	Hunter Regional Office	4984 8200 / (fax) 4981 3913
RFS Manning Team	Northern Tablelands Region Duty Officer	0428 345 789
	Walcha Area Manager	6777 4721 / 0428 364 522 (fax) 6777 2179
SES	Fire Control Centre Gloucester District	6558 9222 / (fax) 6558 1723
	24 Hour Duty Officer	0500 589222
	Fire Control Centre Taree District	6592 6990 / (fax) 6592 6970
	24 Hour Duty Officer	6592 6666
NSW Fire Brigade	State Operations	8741 5400 / 8741 5300
	Emergency	000
Newcastle Communications (24hr)	Emergency	4929 7177 / (fax) 4927 2580
	Emergency	000 / 132500
Gloucester Unit	Emergency	6558 1788 / (fax) 6558 1636
	Emergency	000
Gloucester Station	Emergency	6558 1204 / (fax) 6558 2629
	Emergency	000
Bookings	Emergency	000
	Bookings	131 233
Hospital	Gloucester	6558 1307
	Newcastle	4929 4346 / (fax) 4929 6364
DPI State Forests	Hunter Region Newcastle	4931 6666 / (fax) 4933 0772
	Gloucester State Council	6538 5250 / (fax) 6538 2343
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Purfleet-Taree Local Aboriginal Land Council	6552 4106 / 6552 0847

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 Site Management (NPWS FMM 4.11)	
AH1	As far as possible protect site from fire. Do not cut down trees. Use of foams, wetting agents & retardant is acceptable.
AH2	As far as possible protect site from fire. Avoid ground disturbance including handtools, dozers. Avoid water bombing which may cause ground disturbance. Avoid ground disturbance including handtools, dozers. Avoid water bombing which may cause ground disturbance. Site may be burnt by wildfire, backburn, prescribed burn.
AH3	Avoid high intensity fire. Avoid low intensity fire. Avoid fire including wildfire, backburning & HR, as far as possible in wetland habitat.
Historic Heritage Management (NPWS FMM 4.10)	
HH1	High RCHMS* priority. Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & HR, as far as possible in wetland habitat.
HH2	High RCHMS* priority. Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & HR, as far as possible in wetland habitat.

Operational Guidelines (continued)

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
HH3	High or low RCHMS* priority. Heritage site unlikely to be affected by fire. Danger to any fire crew activity. Avoid site at all costs.
HH4	Low RCHMS* priority. Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & HR, as far as possible in wetland habitat.
HH5	Low RCHMS* priority. Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & HR, as far as possible in wetland habitat.
HH6	High or low RCHMS* priority. Heritage site unlikely to be affected by fire. Avoid use of earth moving machinery.
HH7	High or low RCHMS* priority. Heritage site unlikely to be affected by fire. Avoid use of earth moving machinery. Avoid all water bombing activities.
Threatened Fauna Management (NPWS FMM 4.12 & 5.2)	
FA1	Protect large and hollow bearing trees. Protect large and hollow bearing trees. Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & HR, as far as possible in wetland habitat.
FA2	Protect large and hollow bearing trees. Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & HR, as far as possible in wetland habitat.
FA3	Habitat unlikely to be affected by fire. Avoid use of earth moving machinery in wetland habitats. Avoid use of retardant and foam in wetland habitats.
FA4	Habitat unlikely to be affected by fire. Avoid use of earth moving machinery in dune habitats.
FA5	Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & HR, as far as possible in wetland habitat.
FA6	Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & HR, as far as possible in wetland habitat. Avoid use of earth moving machinery in wetland habitats. Avoid use of retardant and foam in wetland habitats. Avoid high intensity fires that consume tree canopies and fallen logs.
FA7	Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & HR, as far as possible in wetland habitat.
FA8	Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & HR, as far as possible in wetland habitat. Avoid use of earth moving machinery.
Threatened Flora Management (NPWS FMM 4.12)	
FL1	Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & HR, as far as possible in wetland habitat. Avoid use of earth moving machinery.
FL2	Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & HR, as far as possible in wetland habitat. Avoid use of earth moving machinery.
FL3	Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & HR, as far as possible in wetland habitat. Avoid use of earth moving machinery.
FL4	Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & HR, as far as possible in wetland habitat. Avoid use of earth moving machinery.
FL5	Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & HR, as far as possible in wetland habitat. Avoid use of earth moving machinery.
Threatened Property	All property owners with assets at possible risk from a wildfire event will be: Kept informed regarding progress of the fire; and Asked for an assessment of their current level of asset protection preparedness.

Operational Guidelines (continued)

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
Aerial Water Bombing (NPWS FMM 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs 02 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	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.
Containment Lines (NPWS FMM 2.2 & 3.9)	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)	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. Where necessary, earthmoving equipment must be washed down prior to entering NPWS Estate. 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.
Fire Advantage Recording	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)	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.
Rehabilitation (NPWS FMM 5.1)	Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
Smoke Management (NPWS FMM 3.4)	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)	The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations.

Operational Guidelines (continued)

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
Aerial Ignition (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs 02 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	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.
Backburning (NPWS FMM 4.8)	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 backed trees adjacent to containment lines prior to backburning, or wet down these trees as part of the backburn ignition. Aerial ignition of backburns at the bottom of slopes where a long and intense up slope burn is likely. Brief all personnel involved on the location of cultural sites and threatened species management prior to backburning and adhere to the above guidelines.
Command & Control (NPWS FMM 4.2)	The first combatant agency on site may assume control of the fire, but then must ensure the relevant land management agency is notified promptly. On the arrival of other combatant 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.

Strategy Information

Fire Season Information

Wildfires	Prescribed Burning (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.7)
Low - Mod	Low - Mod
High	All
All	All

Suppression Strategies

Current FDR	Forecast FDR	Guidelines
Low - Mod	Low - Mod	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	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 risk on the next predicted down wind side.
High	All	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	Ensure there is sufficient time to secure containment lines prior to the fire impacting upon them; otherwise fall back to the next potential line.

Bushfire Suppression

**Hunter Region
Curracabundi National Park &
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Draft Fire Management Strategy (Type 2)
2005**

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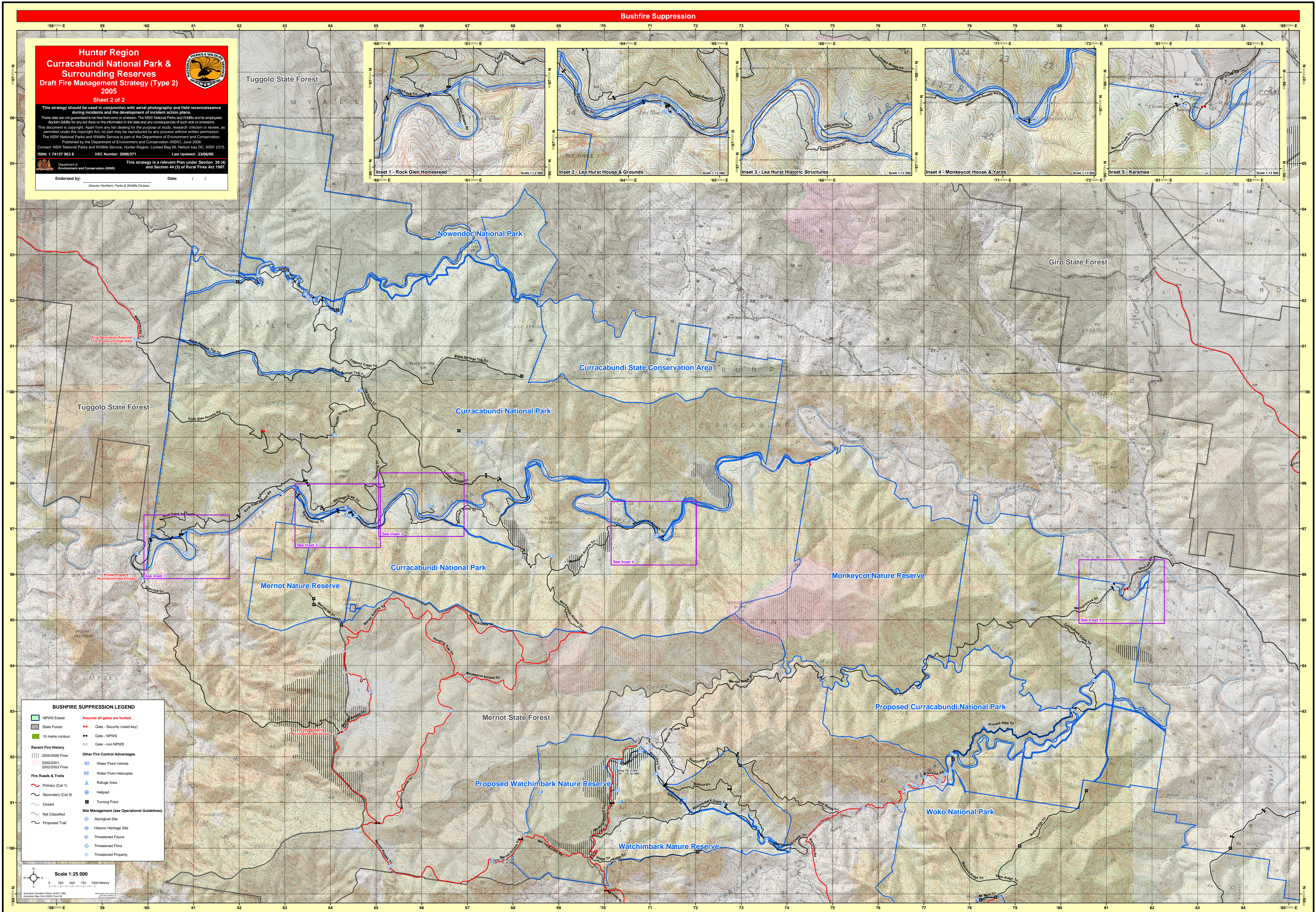
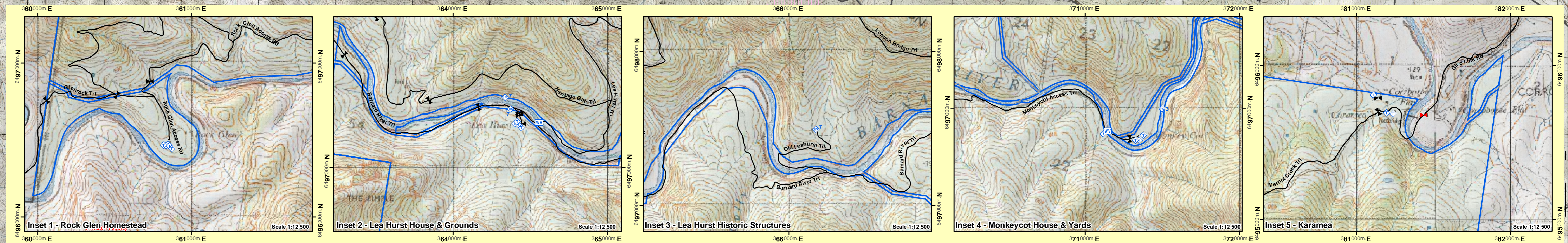
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Endorsed by: _____ Date: / /
Director Northern Parks & Wildlife Division



BUSHFIRE SUPPRESSION LEGEND

NPWS Estate	Assume all gates are locked
State Forest	Gate - Security (need key)
10 metre contour	Gate - NPWS
Recent Fire History	Gate - non NPWS
2005/2006 Fires	Other Fire Control Advantages
2002/2003 Fires	Water Point Vehicle
Fire Roads & Trails	Water Point Helicopter
Primary (Cat 1)	Refuge Area
Secondary (Cat 9)	Helipad
Closed	Turning Point
Not Classified	Site Management (see Operational Guidelines)
Proposed Trail	Aboriginal Site
	Historic Heritage Site
	Threatened Fauna
	Threatened Flora
	Threatened Property

