# Drillwarrina National Park
## Fire Management Strategy
## 2015 - 2020

Office of Environment & Heritage

**This strategy should be used with aerial photography and field reconnaissance.**
**This is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997.**



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### Related and reference documents

- National Parks and Wildlife Service (2013) *Fire Management Manual*
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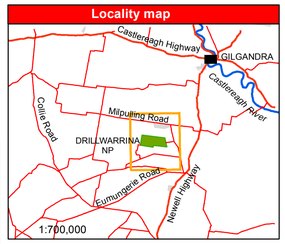
### Communications Information

| Service | Channel | Location and Comments |
|---|---|---|
| NPWS Repeaters | 31 | • Needle Mountain |
| RFS | P132 | • Needle Mountain |
| UHF - CB | | • Small fires - Channel 10<br>• Large fires - determined by IMT |
| Parks Radio | 11-17 | • NPWS Fireground channels 1-7 |
| Aviation - CTAF | 134.0<br>126.7 | • Dubbo<br>• Gilgandra |
| Mobile phone | | • Telstra 3G coverage |

### Contact Information

| Agency | Position / Location | Phone |
|---|---|---|
| **National Parks & Wildlife Service** | Duty Officer (24 hour)<br>Coonabarabran Area Office (bus. hours) | 6842 3041<br>6842 1311 |
| **Forestry NSW** | Baradine | 6843 1607 |
| **NSW RFS Castlereagh Zone** | Zone Manager<br>Zone Office | 0417 415 032<br>6842 2645 |
| **RFS Rural Fire Brigades** | Balladoran – Bruce Rodway<br>Drinane – Paul Campion<br>Kickabil – Doug Wilson | 6888 1083<br>6885 6313<br>6887 9239 |
| **Emergency Services** | Police, Fire, Ambulance | 000 |
| **SES** | | 13 2500 |
| **Police** | Dubbo | 6883 1599 |
| **Council** | Dubbo | 6841 4800 |

### Locality map




### Map details

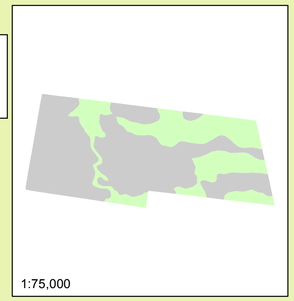
**Datum:** GDA 1994 **Projection:** MGA 1994 **Map Zone:** 55
**Map Base:** Spot 5 2010.
**Topographic Map:** 1:50,000 Balladoran 8634-S
**Noted scales:** True when printed on A1 size paper

**Local Government Area: Gilgandra**

## Vegetation

**Broad vegetation types**

- Grassy Box woodlands
- Ironbark / White Pine / Buloke woodlands

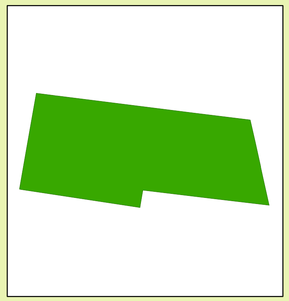



## Status of Biodiversity Thresholds

| | |
|---|---|
| **Too frequently burnt** | Consecutive fire intervals are shorter than the recommended minimum interval. |
| **Vulnerable to frequent fire** | The current fire interval is shorter than the recommended minimum interval. |
| **Within threshold** | The time-since-fire is greater than the recommended minimum, and less than the recommended maximum. |
| **Long unburnt** | The current fire interval is longer than the suggested interval. |

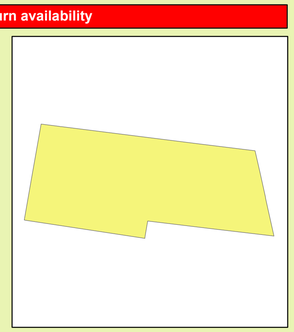
## Bushfire Risk Management Strategies

| | |
|---|---|
| **Asset Protection Zone** | The objective of this zone is to protect historic structures by maintaining the Overall Fuel Hazard at LOW. |
| **Strategic Fire Advantage Zones** | The objective of this zone 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 this zone is to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural heritage by applying biodiversity thresholds |



## Prescribed burn availability

| | |
|---|---|
| **Available for prescribed burning** | This area is available for prescribed burning, subject to fuel levels and ecological thresholds |
| **Available only during VERY HIGH FDI** | This area is generally has LOW or MODERATE OFH, prescribed burning effective only under VERY HIGH FDI |
| **Available only ephemeral conditions** | This area is generally has NIL or LOW OFH, except during seasons producing continuous ground cover |
| Availability for burning must be referenced with the **Status of Biodiversity Thresholds.** | |



### Fire Season Information

| | |
|---|---|
| **Wildfires** | • The critical wildfire season generally occurs during December and early January.<br>• During periods of strong negative Southern Oscillation Indices (El Nino events), this period may commence October and extend to the end of January. |
| **Prescribed Burning** | • Effective prescribed burning may need to be conducted once the "critical fire season" is over. This is due to the LOW - MODERATE Overall Fuel Hazard for most vegetation types.<br>• Prescribed burning attempted after autumn rain is unlikely to be effective. |

### Operational Guidelines

| General | Guidelines |
|---|---|
| **Aerial operations** | • Aerial operations will be managed by trained and competent personnel. This includes directing aerial bombing and aerial ignition operations<br>• The use of bombing aircraft without the support of ground based suppression crews should be limited to very specific circumstances.<br>• All aerial ignition operations require the consent of the NPWS Regional Manager or the Section 44 Appointee. |
| **Backburning** | • All personnel must be fully briefed before back burning operations begin.<br>• Backburning in areas of Low – Moderate OFH will require the use of wind, slope or low humidity to maximise effectiveness. |
| **Command & Control** | • The first combatant agency on site may assume control of the fire, but then must ensure the relevant land management agency is notified promptly.<br>• On the arrival of other combatant agencies, the initial Incident Controller will liaise with the RFS to ensure that the agency in command and control is determined and an Incident Controller is appointed. |
| **Containment Lines** | • New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer.<br>• Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, where practicable, except where they can be constructed with minimal environmental impact.<br>• All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on, and must consider both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location.<br>• 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.<br>• Plant must always be 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 fire fighting vehicle.<br>• Plant must be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS estate and again on exiting NPWS estate. |
| **Fire Suppression Chemicals** | • The use of foam, gels and retardants will NOT be permitted within 50 metres of dams and watercourses holding water.<br>• The aerial use of foam, gels and retardants should be approved by Regional Manager or delegate. |
| **Rehabilitation** | • Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation. |
| **Watering points** | • Consider deployment of a bulk water carrier to support fire operations. |
| **Smoke Management** | • Potential smoke impacts and mitigation tactics will be assessed during the planning of fire operations. |
| **Visitor Management** | • This reserve will be closed to visitors during fire danger periods rated Extreme or higher. |

### Operational Guidelines - Heritage

| General | Guidelines |
|---|---|
| **Biodiversity & Cultural Heritage Site Management** | • *No specific sites have been identified requiring special management* |

### Suppression Strategies

| Conditions & forecast | Guidelines |
|---|---|
| **All vegetation types** | |
| Fire danger rating LOW-High | • Consider a broad containment strategy using existing tracks, low fuel areas, open areas and recently burnt areas. |
| Fire danger rating VERY HIGH- EXTREAM | • Consider a strategy containing the fire to the smallest area practicable, using a combination of ground crews, fire units, machinery and aircraft.<br>• Any proposed backburning must be assessed on the resources, their capacity and the time required to secure and mop-up proposed burn edges prior to the onset of Severe + conditions. |
| CATASTROPHIC | • Revert to property protection. |
| Fire behaviour calculations should consider both *Surface* and *1500 metres* wind forecasts | |

### Vegetation management guidelines

| Community | Management guidelines | Fire Behaviour (under less than Extreme FDI) |
|---|---|---|
| Grassy Box woodlands | • An interval between fire events less than 20 years should be avoided<br>• A high intensity fire may be permitted after a fire free period 30 – 50 years | • Potential rates of spread is low due to **Low** OFH<br>• Fire runs are likely to slow down when entering this vegetation |
| Ironbark / White Pine / Bulloak woodlands | • An interval between fire events less than 20 years should be avoided<br>• A high intensity fire may be permitted after a fire free period 30 – 50 years | • Potential rates of spread is low due to **Low – Moderate** OFH<br>• Localised areas of **High** OFH may produce restricted areas of higher fire intensity |

**OFH** – Overall fuel hazard - A rating system that includes surface (leaf litter), near surface (low shrubs & grasses), elevated (shrubs), and bark fuels.
**Strategic Zones** - Prescribed burn should be considered where the OFH has been assessed at HIGH, after an interval of 7 years.
**Ephemeral fuels -** Ephemeral fuel conditions occur after consecutive years of effective rainfall. This in turn leads to the growth and buildup of fine surface fuels such as grasses and herbs, which can create a continuous fuel load across all of the above vegetation communities.
**Long Unburnt –** It is desirable in woodland plant communities to retain some parts of the landscape in a long unburnt state to promote the presence of species that are sensitive to fire and to maintain old-growth trees capable of forming hollows.

## Incident Map