



Sappa Bulga National Park Fire Management Strategy 2016 – 2021

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

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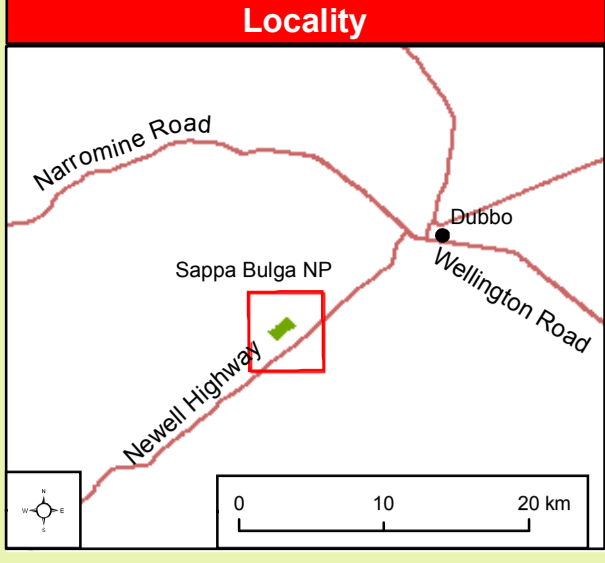
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Communications Information		
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS VHF	322	• Bodangra
NPWS Fireground	11-17	• NPWS fire ground channels 1-7
RFS	W121	• Sappa Bulga
UHF - CB		• Small fires - Channel 10
Aviation	134.0	• Large fires - determined by IMT
Mobile phone		• CTA - AFRL
		• Telstra 3G coverage available

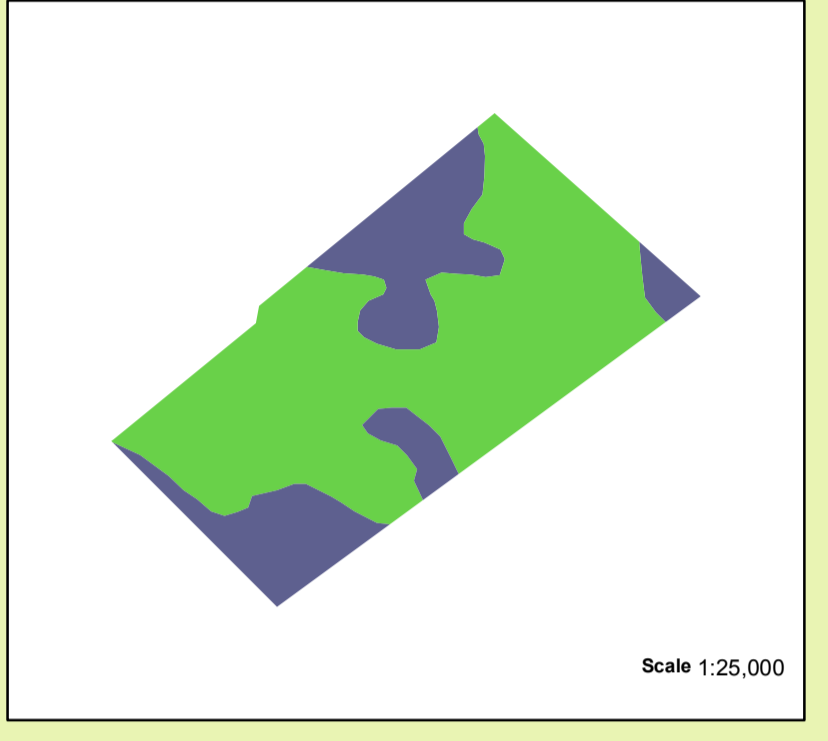
Contact Information		
Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Duty Officer (24 hour)	6841 7110
	Dubbo Area Office (bus. hours)	6841 7100
NSW RFS Orana Zone	Duty Officer	0418 636 966
	Lyndon Wieland	6884 3533
RFS Rural Fire Brigades	Minor - Mike Cavanagh	6884 9733
	Katoomba	0439 405 233
NSW Fire Brigade	Police, Fire, Ambulance	4782 6077
Emergency Services		000
SES		13 2500
Police		6883 1599
Council		6801 4800



Map Details	
Date: Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994 GDA 94	Data: ADS40 Dubbo data (2004/05)
Projection: Map Grid Australia Zone 55	Scale: Noted scales are true when printed on A1 size paper

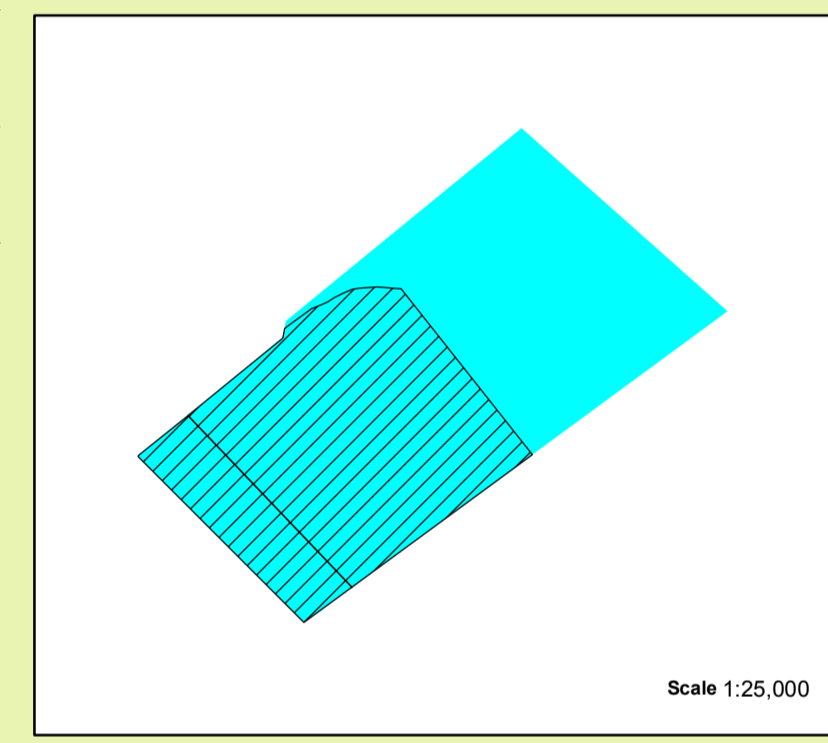
Vegetation

- Broad Vegetation Communities**
- Box woodlands
 - Ridge-top vegetation



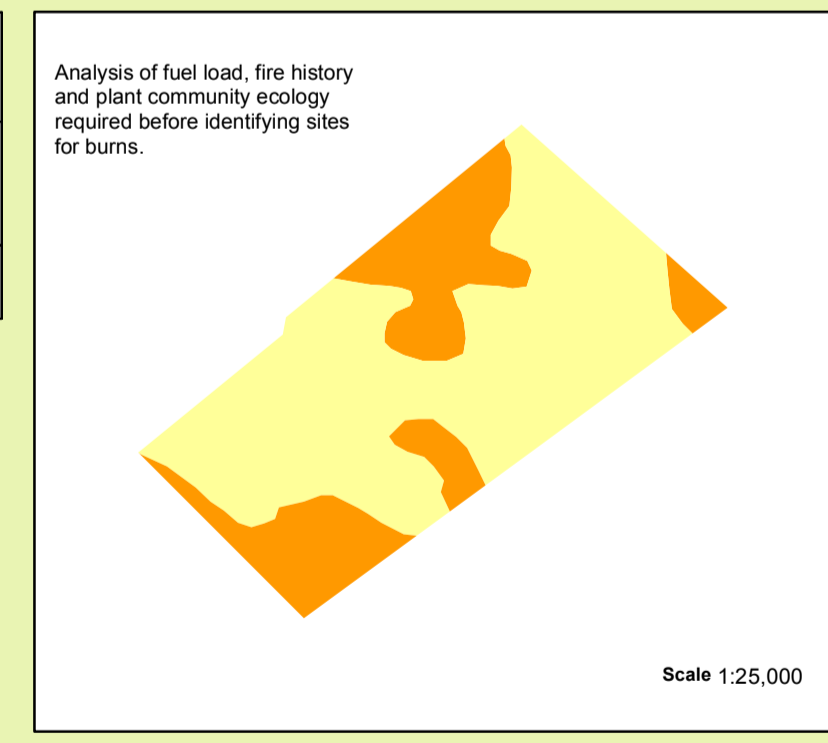
Status of Biodiversity Thresholds

- Long unburnt** The current fire interval is longer than the suggested interval.
- Planned Burns 2016-20**



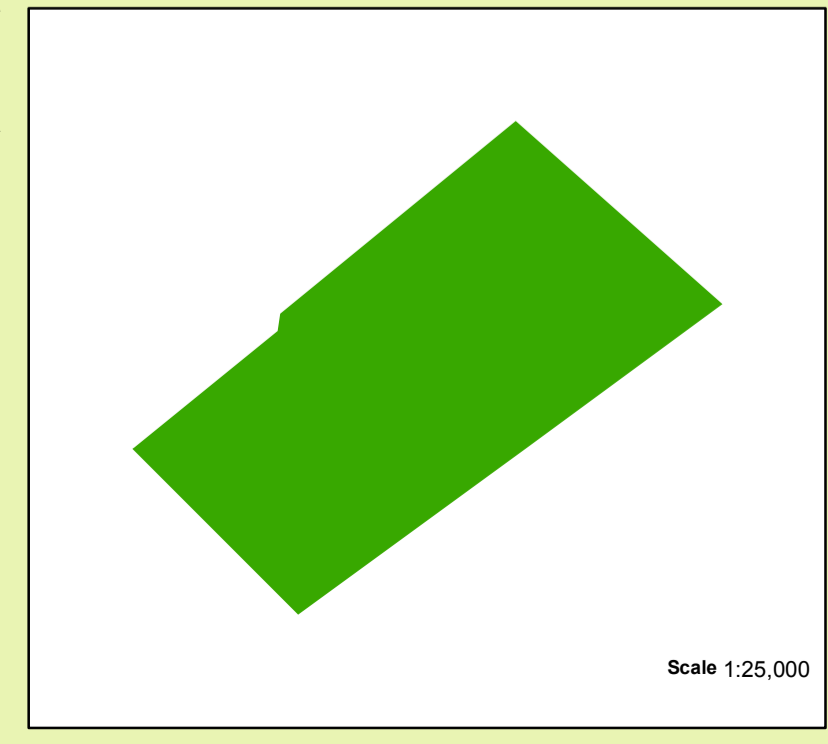
Vegetation Suitability for Prescribed Burning

- Available for prescribed burning** This area is available for prescribed burning, subject to fuel loads and fire interval thresholds.
- Available only during VERY HIGH FDI** This area is generally has LOW or MODERATE OFH, prescribed burning effective only under VERY HIGH FDI.
- Availability for burning must be referenced with the Status of Biodiversity Thresholds.



Bushfire Risk Management Strategies

- Land Management Zones** The objective of this zone is to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural heritage by applying biodiversity thresholds.



Fire Season Information

- Wildfires**
- The critical wildfire season generally occurs during December and January.
 - During periods of strong negative Southern Oscillation Indices (El Nino events), this period may commence late October.
 - 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. This is due to the LOW - MODERATE Overall Fuel Hazard for most vegetation types. 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 the Incident Controller.
- 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. Backburning should be timed for late afternoon and early evening.
 - Where practicable to assist mop-up efforts, clear a 1m radius around dead and fibrous barked trees adjacent to containment lines prior to backburning, or wet down these trees during the ignition.
- 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.
 - A senior NPWS officer is to liaise with the RFS to ensure that the agency in command and control is determined and an Incident Controller is appointed.
- Containment Lines**
- Existing or previous roads, tracks and control lines should be used wherever possible.
 - 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 supervised by an experienced officer, and accompanied by a fire-fighting vehicle when engaged in direct or parallel attack.
 - Plant must be washed down, where practicable, prior to entering and exiting NPWS estate.
- Fire Suppression Chemicals**
- The use of foam, wetting agents and retardants will be permitted on the reserve.
 - Fire suppression chemicals are not to be applied within 50m of water courses and dams.
 - The use of retardants requires the approval of a senior NPWS officer.
- Rehabilitation**
- Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operations.
- Watering points**
- Consider deployment of bulk water carriers to support fire operations.
- Smoke Management**
- Potential smoke impacts and mitigation tactics will be assessed during the planning of fire operations.
 - Rural residences are located within 200m of the reserve boundaries.
- Visitor Management**
- The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger, and will be closed during fire operations.
- WARNINGS**
- No access to reserve from Dungary Road off Newell Highway road - access road is fenced
- Black text - general guidelines Blue text - reserve specific guidelines Red text - Major warnings

Operational Guidelines - Heritage

- Resource**
- No Aboriginal sites have been identified on the reserve
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management**
- Modified trees (IS1), including scarred trees*
- Protect the site from fire, clear base of litter and shrubs, exclude site tree from fire where possible
 - Foam may be used to protect the tree, or to extinguish fire
 - Do not cut trees
- Ground based sites (IS2), including: camp sites, artefacts, grinding grooves, waterholes and quarries*
- Protect site from any ground disturbance, including the use of earth-moving equipment and vehicles
- Resource sites (IS3) including fig-tree groves*
- Protect site from physical disturbance
 - Avoid any burning into Dry Vine Rainforests
- AIMS database must be checked as part of planning for fire operations
- Historic Heritage Site Management**
- Exclude site from fire, where possible.
 - Foam and gel may be used to protect structures, or to extinguish fire.
- Threatened Species Management**
- Protective actions are incorporated in the Operational Guidelines

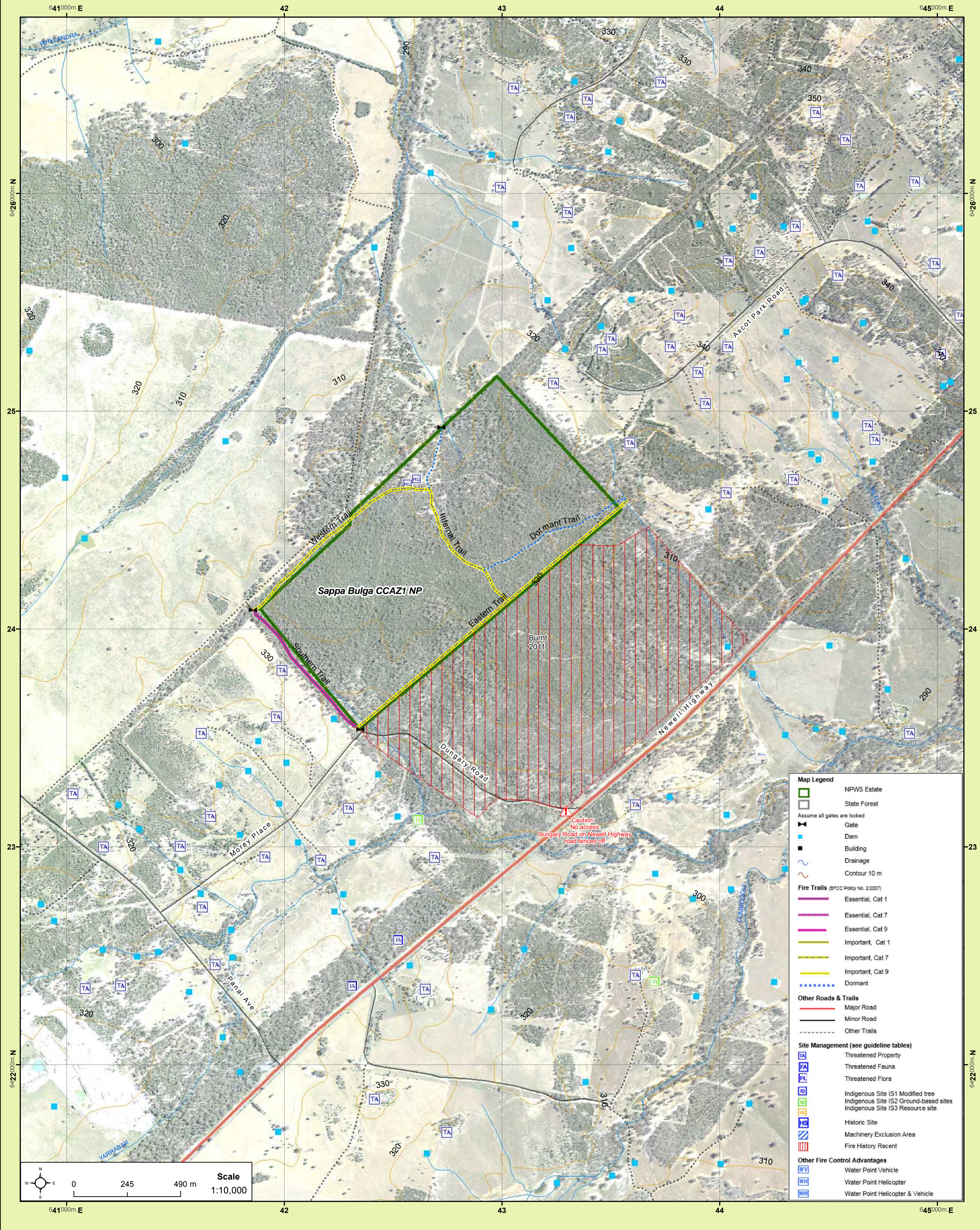
Suppression Strategies

- Conditions & forecast**
- 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 - EXTREME**
- Consider a strategy containing the fire to the smallest area practicable, using a combination of ground crews, fire units, machinery and aircraft.
 - Secure flank as soon as possible on the next predicted downwind side.
 - 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 hold.
- Catastrophic**
- Revert to property protection.

Vegetation Community

- | Vegetation Community | Vegetation management guidelines | Fire Behaviour |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Ridge Woodlands and Shrublands | An interval between fire events less than 15 years should be avoided | Potential rates of spread is low during most conditions due to LOW - MODERATE OFH |
| Ironbark / Black Cypress Pine | | Localised areas of VERY HIGH OFH which will result in intense fire behaviour |
| Grassy Box Woodlands | A minimum interval of 5 - 8 years between low - moderate intensity burns. These burns are to target grassy understorey. Recommended timing for these burns is late winter, prior to spring "green-up" | Potential rates of spread is generally low to moderate due to LOW - MODERATE OFH |
| Western Grey Box / Red Gum woodlands | Proposed burning to be referenced to conservation guidelines for the community type. | Seasonal conditions with continuous grass cover will increase potential fire behaviour |
- OFH - Overall fuel hazard - A rating system that includes surface (leaf litter), near surface (low shrubs & grasses), elevated (shrubs), and bark fuels.

Incident Map



- Map Legend**
- NPWS Estate
 - State Forest
 - Assume all gates are locked
 - Gate
 - Dam
 - Building
 - Drainage
 - Contour 10 m
- Fire Trails** (RFS Policy No. 22007)
- Essential, Cat 1
 - Essential, Cat 7
 - Essential, Cat 9
 - Important, Cat 1
 - Important, Cat 7
 - Important, Cat 9
 - Dormant
- Other Roads & Trails**
- Major Road
 - Minor Road
 - Other Trails
- Site Management (see guideline tables)**
- Threatened Property
 - Threatened Fauna
 - Threatened Flora
 - Indigenous Site IS1 Modified tree
 - Indigenous Site IS2 Ground-based sites
 - Indigenous Site IS3 Resource site
 - Historic Site
 - Machinery Exclusion Area
 - Fire History Recent
- Other Fire Control Advantages**
- Water Point Vehicle
 - Water Point Helicopter
 - Water Point Helicopter & Vehicle