



Sturt National Park

Fire Management Strategy 2016



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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 ISBN 978-1-74359-906-8, OEHS 2015/83 | Date Approved: 24/11/2016

Related Documents	Additional Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office of Environment and Heritage (2015/16) Fire Management Manual or other related documents 	TRIM file number DOC15/54138 EF14/29626 Authors: Julianne Doyle & Barb Hawerkamp

In case of emergency call duty officer (Fire Season) on (08) 8080 3222

Operational Guidelines - General	
General	Guidelines
Aerial operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All aerial ignition operations require the consent of the NPWS Regional Director or the Section 44 Appointee. Aerial bombing should be supported by ground based suppression crews wherever practical.
Backburning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All personnel must be fully briefed before back burning operations begin. Effective backburning in LOW – MOD OFH areas will require the use of wind, slope or low humidity. Consider clearing a 1m radius around dead and fibrous barked trees or wet down these trees prior to backburning.
Command & Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Containment Lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 newly constructed containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed immediately at the cessation of the incident and rehabilitation plans considered.
Earthmoving Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. When engaged in direct or parallel attack, this vehicle must be a fire fighting vehicle. Plant must be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS estate and again on exiting NPWS estate. The use of retardants or gel requires the approval of the Regional Director or delegate. The use of foam, gels and retardants will NOT be permitted within 50 metres of dams and watercourses.
Fire Suppression Chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider deployment of a bulk water carrier to support fire operations. Consider deployment of buoy wall to support fire operations. Local watering points subject to seasonal changes – consult local NPWS staff for information.
Smoke Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential smoke impacts and mitigation tactics will be assessed during the planning of fire operations.
Visitor Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This reserve may be closed to visitors during fire danger periods rated Extreme or higher and during Fire Ops.
WARNING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moomba to Sydney Gas Pipelines located (buried) on easement running NW-SE through Sturt NP – see main map Australian Pipeline Authority 1800 020 584. Caution when driving on tracks and sand dunes in western section of park. Watch for oncoming traffic. Crashes have occurred at dune crests. Keep to the left. Travel at safe speed. Boundary tracks become boggy when driven over frequently. You MUST contact the Wild Dog Destruction Board before using Dog Fence tracks.

Operational Guidelines - Heritage	
General	Guidelines
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management	<p>An Aboriginal Heritage Officer or local staff member should be consulted during the planning of operations.</p> <p>Modified trees (AS1), including scarred trees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect the site from fire, clear base of litter and shrubs, exclude tree from fire if possible. Foam may be used to protect the tree, or to extinguish fire. Do not cut trees. <p>Ground based sites (AS2), including artefacts, middens and hearth sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect site from any ground disturbance, including the use of earth-moving equipment, vehicles and water bombing. Apply a machinery exclusion area where there is a high concentration of known sites. Area may be burnt. <p>Burial sites (AS3):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect sites from any disturbance by excluding operations by at least 25 metres. Area may be burnt.
Historic Heritage Site Management	<p>Heritage Sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect the site from fire. Exclude site from fire wherever possible, including the construction of a control line around the perimeter. Exclude site from fire wherever possible, including the construction of a control line around the perimeter. Exclude site from fire wherever possible, including the construction of a control line around the perimeter. <p>Wooden stock yards, survey trees, old signs or trails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect the site from fire, exclude area from fire where possible. Foam may be used to protect the structures, or to extinguish fire.
Threatened Flora and Fauna Management	<p>Endangered plant species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply a machinery exclusion zone in known habitat areas. Monitoring to record fire response must be initiated after a fire event.

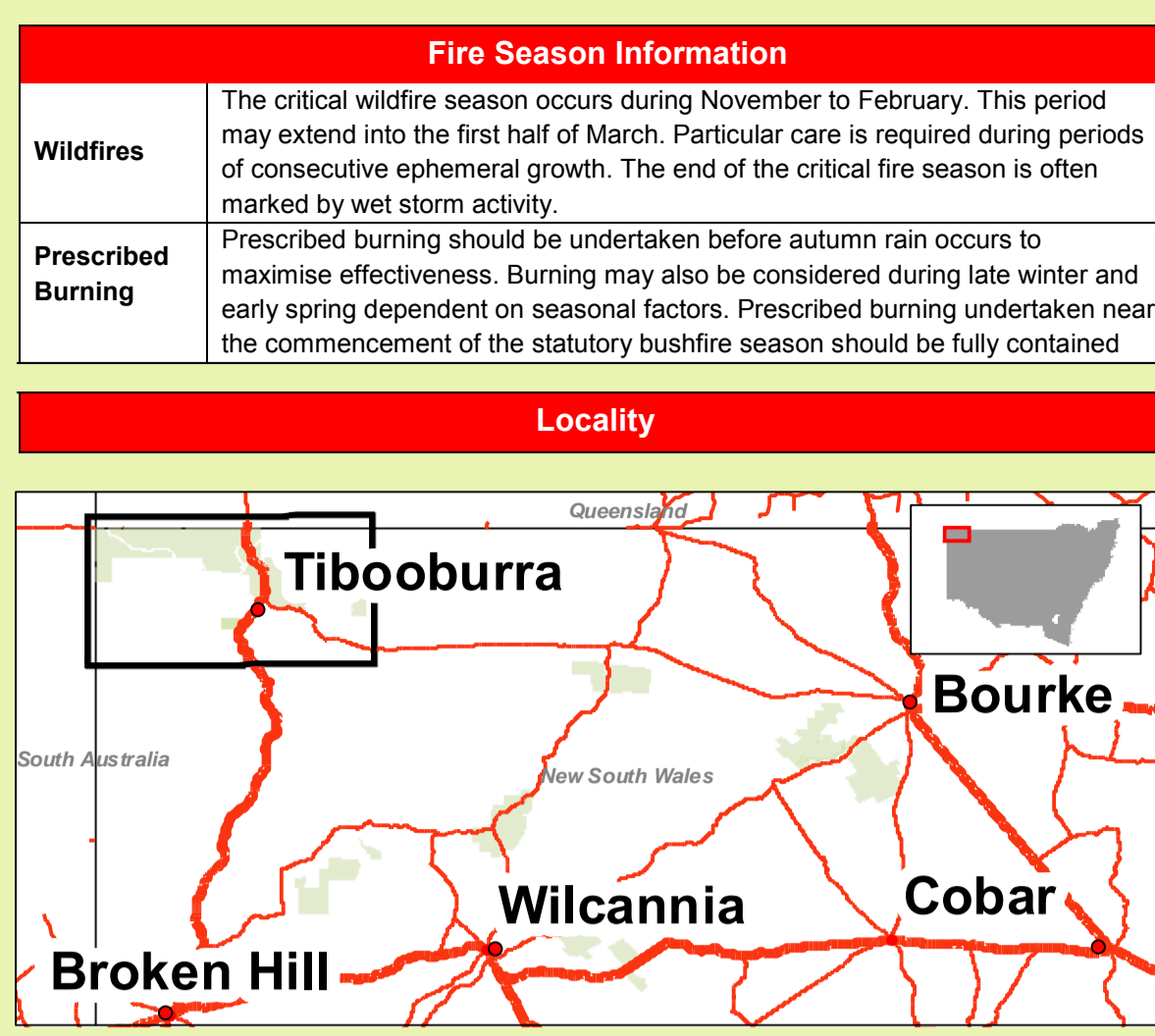
Suppression Strategies		
Vegetation Type	Fire Danger Rating	Guidelines
Arid Shrublands (Chenopod subformation)	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a broad containment strategy as this vegetation might carry a fire under dry conditions.
Arid Shrublands (Acacia subformation)	LOW- HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close parallel attack, moving around the head only when the fire stops running. Direct and parallel attack may be applied with earthmoving machinery and fire units.
	HIGH-VERY HIGH- EXTREME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a broad containment strategy using existing roads, allowing long-term management requirements for biodiversity.
Semi-Arid Woodlands (Grassy subformation)	LOW- HIGH	<p>WARNING! This vegetation burns with an extreme fire intensity. Fire runs should be anticipated with winds from any direction. Entrapment risk is very high.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a broad containment strategy using existing roads, in favour of the construction of new roads and trails. Direct and parallel attack may be applied with earthmoving machinery and fire units <u>only on dead edges, or in vegetation with LOW OFH.</u>
Freshwater wetlands	LOW-HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a broad containment strategy using existing roads, in favour of the construction of new roads and trails.

Communications Information		
Service	Location and Comments	Channel
NPWS/Air band (Cross-band repeater)	Far West Region has two portable VHF repeaters stored at Broken Hill. Full range of both simplex and duplex NPWS VHF & RFS PMR channels	TBA
Aircraft - VHF	Contact State Air Desk for frequency allocation	TBA
Mobile phone - Next G	Limited reception with car kit	
Satellite Phone	Good Reception	
UHF - CB	Limited Reception	Repeater 3

Contact Information		
Agency	Position/ Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Tibooburra Office (Mon-Fri 8:30-16:30)	08 8091 3308
	Regional Duty Officer (Fire Season)	08 8080 3222
NSW Rural Fire Service	Headquarters	02 8741 5555
Emergency Services	Police, Fire & Ambulance	000
SES	Call Centre	132 500
	Tibooburra Unit	08 8091 3475
Police	Tibooburra Station	08 8091 3303
Council	Unincorporated NSW / Western Lands	02 6883 5400
	Tibooburra Village Committee Incorporated	0428 358 101
RMS	Tibooburra Depot	08 8091 3313
Wild Dog Destruction Board	Smithville	08 8091 3582
Australian Pipeline Authority	Networks - Natural Gas	1800 GAS LEAK (1800 427 532)
	Transmission	1800 020 584
NEIGHBOURS	Neighbours contact list is located in the Regional Incident Procedures (RIP)	

Vegetation management		
Vegetation Community	Vegetation management guidelines	Fire Behaviour
Arid Shrublands (Acacia subformation)	An interval between fire events less than 6 years should be avoided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread is low due to Low – Moderate OFH. Localised areas of High OFH may produce restricted areas of higher fire intensity.
Arid shrublands (Chenopod subformation)	Fire events (including prescribed burns) should always be avoided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread is low due to Low – Moderate OFH. Chenopod formation is unlikely to carry fire unless under extreme conditions.
Freshwater wetlands	An interval of fire events less than 6 years and greater than 35 years should be avoided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localised areas of Low OFH following ephemeral years is unlikely to carry fire.
Semi-arid woodlands (Grassy formation)	An interval between fire events less than 15 years should be avoided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localised areas of Moderate to High OFH in ephemeral years may produce restricted areas of higher fire intensity.

OFH – Overall fuel hazard - A rating system that includes leaf litter, grasses, shrubs, bark type and bark condition.



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.
No Fire Regime	The vegetation has no fire requirement.
Unknown	It is unknown if these communities are within their suggested interval.

Fire History	
[Yellow horizontal lines]	Prescribed burns that occurred within the last 5 years (2009/10 to 2013/14)
[Red vertical lines]	Wildfire that occurred within the last 5 years (2009/10 to 2013/14)

