

Warrambool State Conservation Area

Fire Management Strategy (Type 2) 2019 - 2024

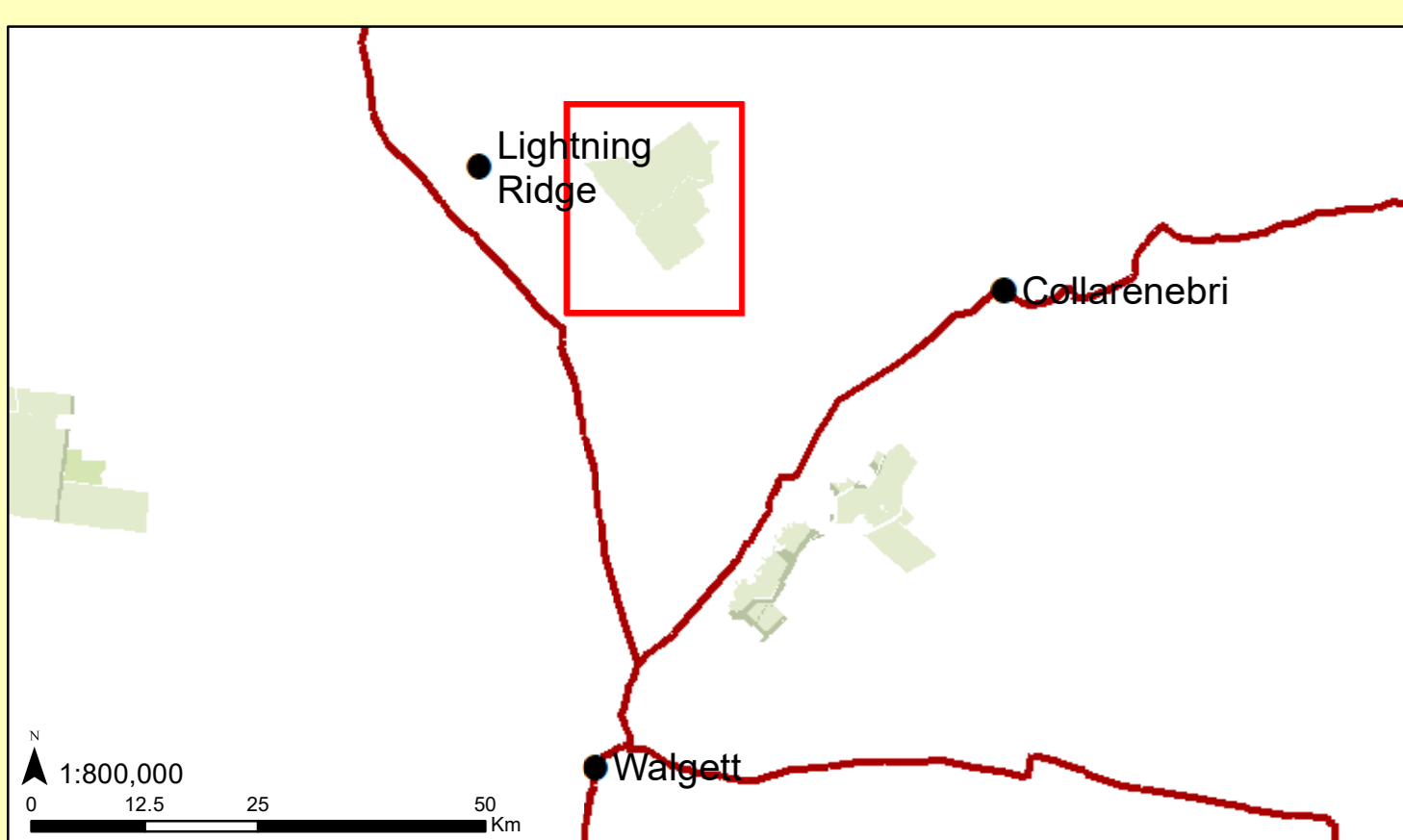
This strategy should be used in conjunction with aerial photography and field reconnaissance.

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Office of Environment & Heritage

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

Locality Map



Map details: Datum: D_GDA_1994_Zone_55, Geographic Coordinate System: GCS_GDA_1994, Topographic Map: Dunumbal 8539, Local Government Area: Walgett

Contact Information		
Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Duty Officer (24 hour)	8275 1742
	Barwon Area Office (bus. hours)	6792 7300
	FCC Office	6822 4422
NSW Rural Fire Service North West Zone Coomaballe FCC	Duty Officer Coomaballe	0427 178 179
	Zone Office	6822 4422
NSW Fire Brigade	Fire and Rescue NSW	000
Emergency Services	Police, Fire, Ambulance	000
SES		132 500
Police	Collarenebri	6756 4999
	Walgett	6828 8899
Council	Walgett Shire	6828 1399

Communications		
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS Repeaters		No NPWS radio is available at Warrambool.
RFS	WG023	Digital Voicing
UHF - CB		Small fires channel 10, large fires determined by IMT
Aviation - CTAF	134.70	NIB frequency unless another frequency is allocated on an incident
Cellphone		Telstra 3G coverage is limited across the reserve, particularly without boosters. Some reception may be available at Warrillilla windmill.

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 a senior NPWS officer or the Section 44 Appointee.

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.

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.
- The Initial Incident Controller will liaise with the RFS to ensure that the agency in command is determined and an Incident Controller is appointed.

Containment Lines

- New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer.
- Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, 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 guided and supervised by an experienced officer and accompanied by a support vehicle (NPWS). When engaged in direct or parallel attack, this vehicle must be a fire fighting vehicle.
- Graders are the preferred equipment to maintain fire trails.
- Containment lines running along valley areas should be constructed 20-50 metres from the gully line to avoid severe erosion.
- 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, wetting agents and retardants will NOT be permitted within 50 metres of dams and watercourses holding water.
- The aerial use of gels and retardants should be approved by a senior NPWS officer.
- 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 operation.

Water 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

- Implement the emergency management plan during Severe + Fire Danger.
- Ensure the closure is advertised on the NPWS visitor website.
- A risk assessment of any guided activities will be undertaken if the FDI is Very High+, or if there is a fire in the reserve.
- Advise apiarists of fire threats, and the restrictions in place for entry to the reserve.

WARNINGS

- Risk of bogging after rain.
- Gilgai / mason holes in black soil.
- There are a number of internal fences which may disrupt access.

Black text - general guidelines Blue text - reserve specific guidelines Red text - important warnings

Heritage Guidelines

Warrambool SCA has had a rich history of Aboriginal usage. It is probable that significantly more heritage sites exist than are depicted on the map.

IS 1 - As far as possible protect site from fire. Do not cut down trees.

IS 2 - As far as practicable protect the site from fire. Avoid all ground disturbance and driving over sites. Avoid water bombing which may cause ground disturbance.

IS 3 - Avoid all ground disturbance. Avoid water bombing. Site may be burnt by fire without damage.

Modified trees

- As far as possible, protect the site from fire, and do not cut trees
- Use of foams & retardant is acceptable.

Habitat sites

- Exclude control line construction from sites. Consider a buffer zone of about 50 metres from the sites.
- Cultural Heritage Sites are known to exist in Warrambool SCA. AIMS databases must be checked as part of planning for fire operations.

Historic Sites

- Warrillilla Homestead Precinct and Woolshed are listed as heritage sites.
- It is protected from fire by an asset protection zone. As far as possible, manage the site to prevent fire entering the APZ or damaging structures.
- Use of foams & retardant is acceptable.
- The protective actions for threatened fauna have been incorporated into the Operational Guidelines.
- The standard ecological communities of Carbon Open Forest and Poplar Box - Coolibah Woodlands exist within the SCA. Avoid removal of mature trees.
- The black soils in Warrambool SCA pose a significant bogging risk when wet.

Suppression Strategies

Conditions	Guidelines
All vegetation types	
Fire danger rating LOW - HIGH	Consider a broad containment strategy using existing roads, allowing long-term management requirements for biodiversity.
Fire danger rating VERY HIGH - EXTREME	Direct and parallel attack may be applied with earthmoving machinery and fire units.
	Close parallel attack, moving around the head only when the fire stops running.
	Distance between the flank and machinery and fire units should be kept to a minimum.

Fire Season Information

Wildfires	The critical wildfire season occurs during November and March. Particular care is required during periods of negative Southern Oscillation Indices. Bushfire risk may be elevated after successive wet seasons due to increased grass growth. The end of the critical fire season is often marked by wet storm activity.
Prescribed Burning	Prescribed burning is unlikely to be effective in most years. The exception will be after a prolonged period of above average rainfall, leading to prolific grass growth.

Vegetation

Vegetation Class (Keth)	Vegetation Management Guidelines	Fire Behaviour
Riverine Cheopend Strublands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire-intake Grass - Spined Rice Flower. A fire interval of less than 20 years and greater than 50 years should be avoided. Avoid high intensity fire events. Burning may only be conducted during late winter and early spring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread are usually Low due to Low OFH. Fire may carry through this vegetation class after successive wet seasons that produce a grassy understorey.
Gilbar Transition Strublands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bushes - Leppasheet. A fire interval of less than 10 years and greater than 50 years should be avoided. Avoid high intensity fire events. Burning may only be conducted during late winter and early spring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread are usually Low due to Low OFH. Fire may carry through this vegetation class after successive wet seasons that produce a grassy understorey.
North-west Abundant Sand Woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White Cypress Pine - Cupress. Avoid prescribed burning and high intensity fires. No fire thresholds to be applied - ecological thresholds are food based. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread are usually Low due to Low OFH. Fire may carry through this vegetation class after successive wet seasons that produce a grassy understorey.
North-west Floodplain Woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coolibah - Balm - Lignum. A fire interval of less than 10 years should be avoided. Avoid high intensity fire events. Burning may only be conducted during late winter and early spring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread are usually Low due to Low OFH. Fire may carry through this vegetation class after successive wet seasons that produce a grassy understorey.
Riverine Plain Woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetland Mallee. A fire interval of less than 10 years should be avoided. Avoid high intensity fire events. Burning may only be conducted during late winter and early spring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread are usually Low due to Low OFH. Fire may carry through this vegetation class after successive wet seasons that produce a grassy understorey.
Western Peppercorn Woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peppercorn - Bushes. A fire interval of less than 20 years and greater than 50 years should be avoided. Avoid high intensity fire events. Burning may only be conducted during late winter and early spring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread are usually Low due to Low OFH. Fire may carry through this vegetation class after successive wet seasons that produce a grassy understorey.

Vegetation Fire Thresholds

Vegetation Threshold	Treatment
Too Frequently Burnt	Fire thresholds have been exceeded. Protect from fire as far as possible.
Vulnerable to Frequent Fire	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.
No Regime Assigned	Areas which do not have recommended fire intervals assigned to them eg. cleared land, rock

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

Fire History

Fire Type	Fire Details
Prescribed Burn	NPWS records indicate hazard reduction burning has not been undertaken in this Reserve. Vegetation types indicate Low OFH in most years and a general inability to conduct prescribed burning.
Wildfire	NPWS and Rural Fire Service data have not recorded wildfires in this Reserve.

Risk Management Information

Fire Management Zone	Treatment
Asset Protection Zones	The objective of APZs is the protection of human life and property. This will have precedence over guidelines for the management of biodiversity. Maintain Overall Fuel Hazard at Moderate or below.
Strategic Fire Advantage Zones	The objective of SFAZs 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 LMZs is to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural heritage. Manage fire consistent with fire thresholds.

