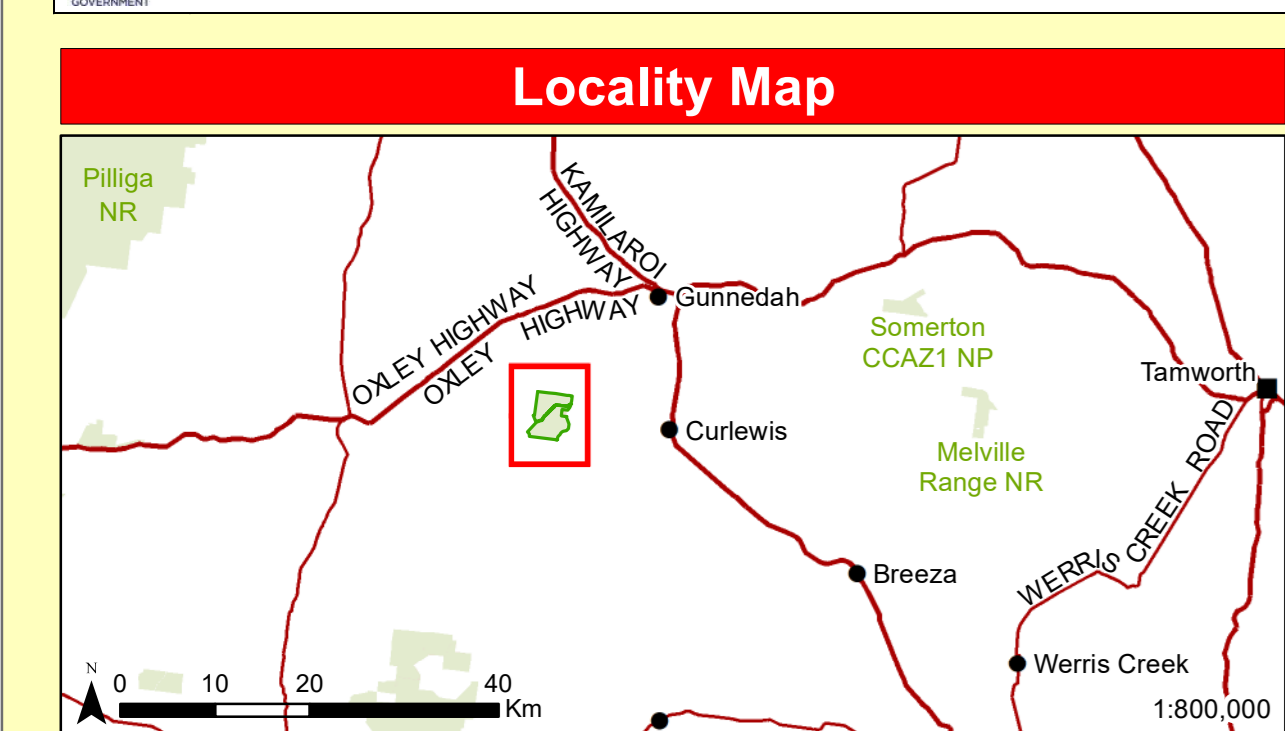


**Wondoba State Conservation Area**  
Fire Management Strategy (Type 2)  
2021 - 2026

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

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



**Map details**

Date: 02/04/2024, Zone: 56, Geographic Coordinate System: GCS\_Australian Albers, Scale: 1:25,000, Wondoba 803046, Geom: 803046

**Contact Information**

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Area Manager - John Whittall	0428 693 909
	Duty Officer (24 hour)	8275 1742
NSW Rural Fire Service Northern Tablelands	Castlereagh Area Office (bus. hours)	6843 4000
	Liverpool Range Zone District Manager Paul McGrath	6842 1311
Fire & Rescue NSW	Liverpool Range Zone Office	0414 822 159
	Police, Fire, Ambulance	000
SES	Police, Fire, Ambulance	132 500
	Police	6742 9099
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Gunnedah Shire	6740 2100
	Red Chief LALC	6742 3602

**Communications**

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NFWS Repeaters	310, 316	NIB Vite Group, Blackjack
RFS	N005	Liverpool Range
UHF - CB		Small fires channel 10, large fires determined by IMT
Aviation - CTA	134.70	NIB frequency unless another frequency is allocated on an incident
Cellphone		Coverage is unreliable for the reserve
Satellite Phone	0147 143 012	Stored at Coonabarabran Office

**Fire Season Information**

**Wildfires** The critical wildfire season occurs during November and December. This period may extend into the first half of January. Particular care is required during periods of negative Southern Oscillation indices. The end of the critical fire season is often marked by wet storm activity.

**Prescribed Burning** The preferred period for prescribed burning is autumn to early spring when conditions favour self-extinguishment over night and fire lines less impact on critical life stages of biodiversity. Prescribed burning should consider the low density of fire trails and the possibility of dry westerly winds causing reignition well after the burn is complete.

**Operational Guidelines**

**Hazard Reduction Burning** The majority of the reserve generally has LOW to MODERATE OFH and fuels are only available for effective burning under VERY HIGH FDI.

**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, 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 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. Plant must be washed down, where practicable, prior to 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 drift onto Wondoba Road will be a major risk during fire operations.

**Smoke Management** In Extreme + Fire Danger at the Branch Directors discretion, reserves or sections of the reserve may be closed or evacuated. Ensure the closure is advertised on the NPWS visitor website. Consider checking the car park for vehicles if there is a fire in the reserve. Advise the archery club of fire threats, and the restrictions in place for entry to the reserve.

**Visitor Management** Gascombe Road (council) and North west trail are black soil and are not trafficable when wet.

**Heritage Guidelines**

**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.

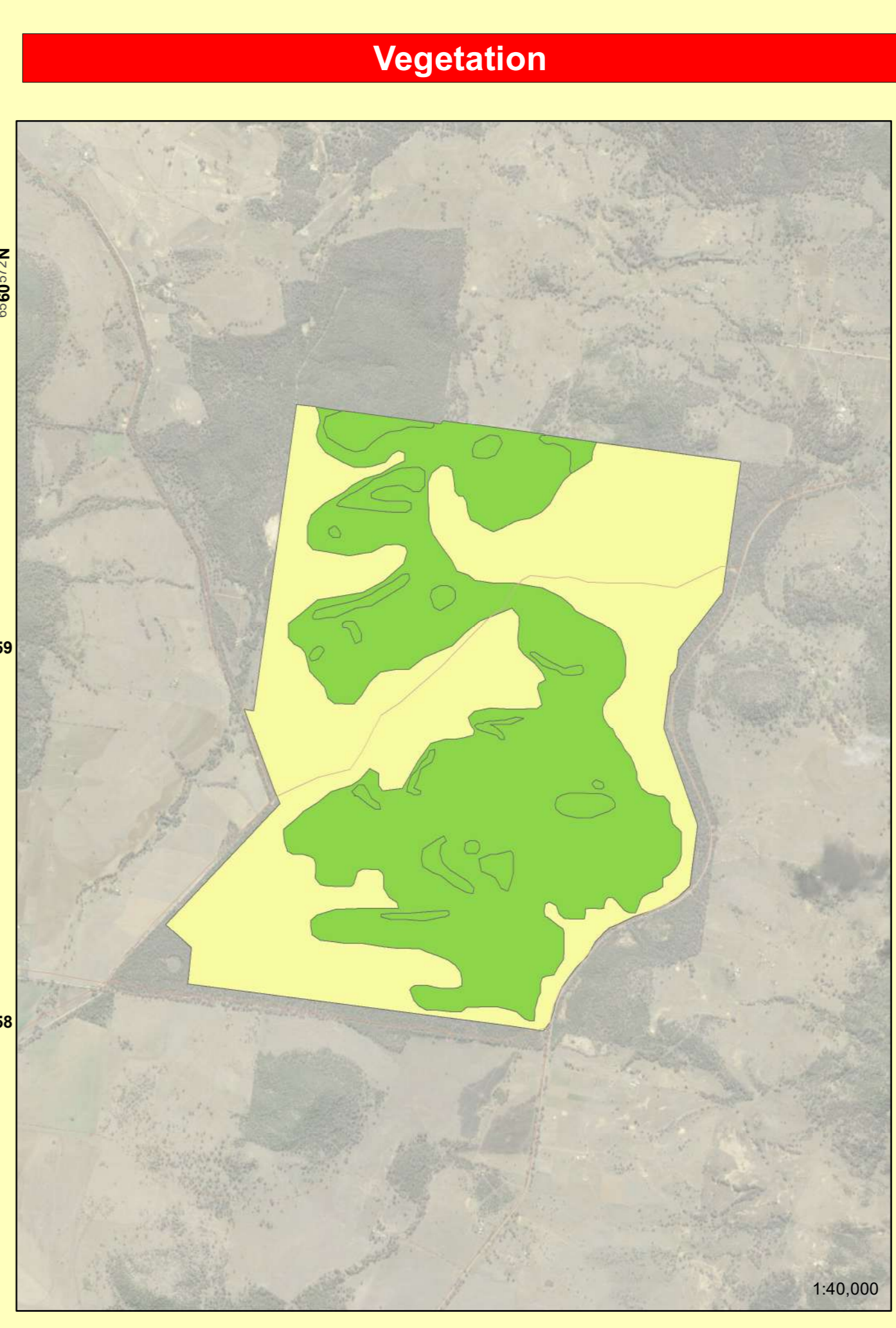
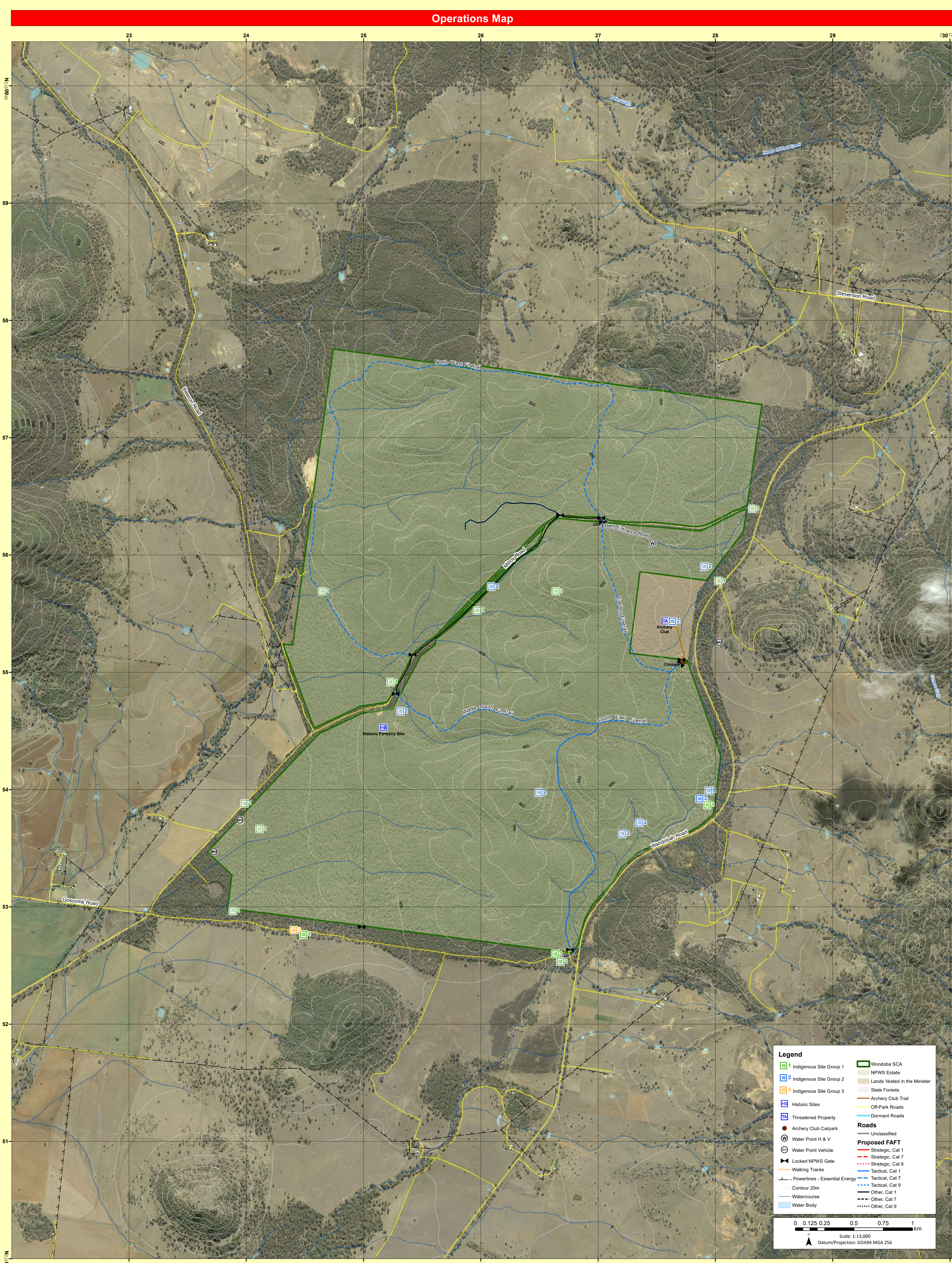
**Aboriginal Cultural Heritage** Modified trees: As far as possible, protect the site from fire, and do not cut trees. Use of foams & retardant is acceptable. Habitation sites: Exclude control line construction from sites. Consider a buffer zone of about 50 metres from the sites. AIMS databases must be checked as part of planning for fire operations.

**Historic Sites** Historic forestry site near Middle South Firetrail (refer to Operations Map). The protective actions for threatened flora and fauna have been incorporated into the Operational Guidelines.

**Threatened Fauna & Flora** Koala's have been found in the reserve. Avoid intense prescribed burns that scorch or burn the tree canopy.

**Suppression Strategies**

Conditions	Guidelines
<b>All vegetation types</b>	Consider a broad containment strategy using existing roads, allowing long-term management requirements for biodiversity. Direct and parallel attack may be applied with earthmoving machinery and fire units.
<b>Fire danger rating LOW - HIGH</b>	Close parallel or direct attack may be an option at night depending on weather conditions. Distance between the flank and machinery and fire units should be kept to a minimum. Secure and deepen containment lines on the next predicted downwind side of the fire. May require aerial support to manage spot covers and monitor fire spread.
<b>Fire danger rating VERY HIGH</b>	Firefighter safety is the paramount consideration in deployment. Undertake broad containment strategies using main fire trails and cleared country. Tactics will include property protection where safe and necessary. Close parallel or direct attack and / or mop up of fire edge may be an option at night depending on weather conditions. Warning: Fire runs should be anticipated with winds from any direction. Entrapment risk is very high.

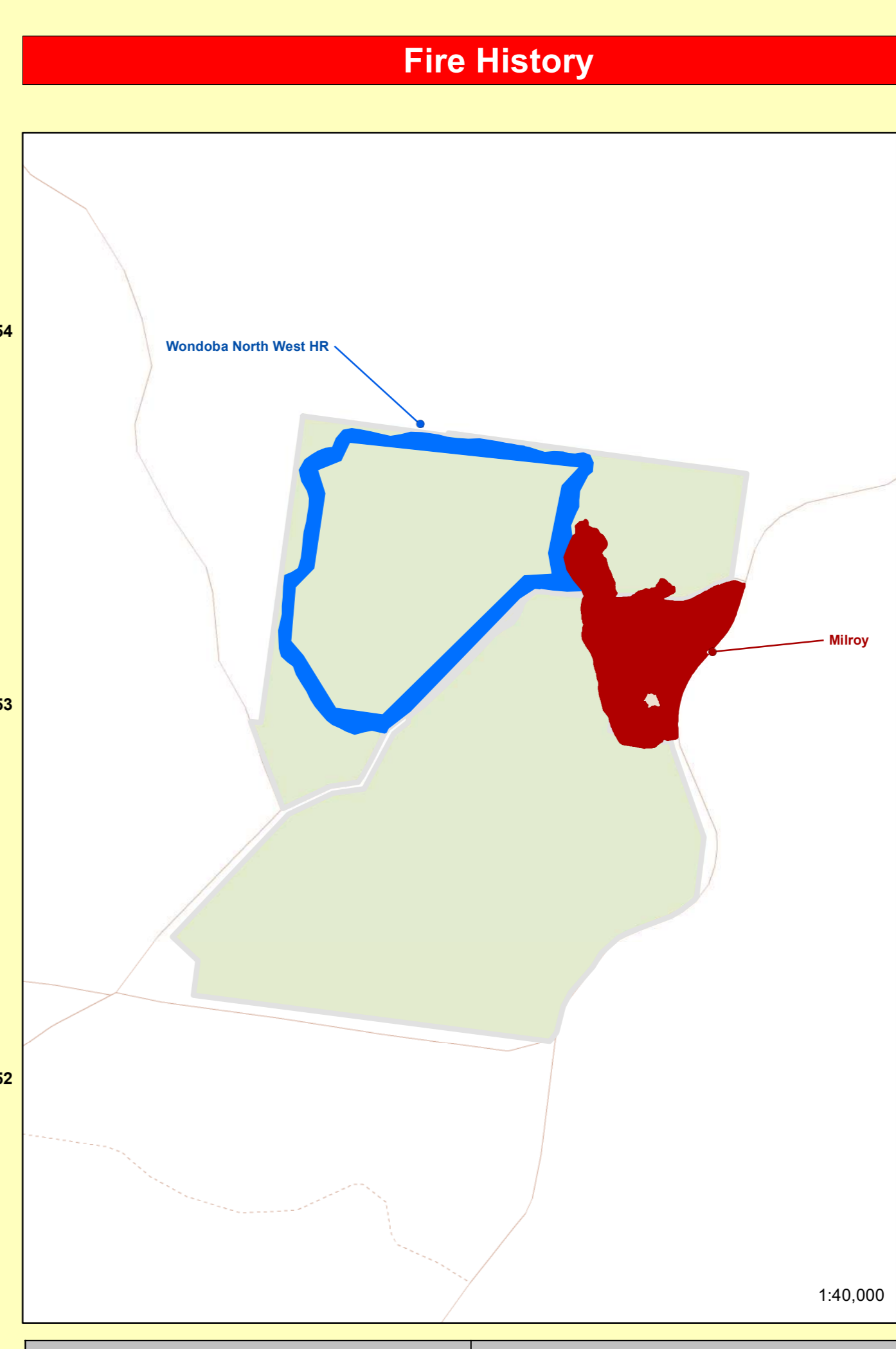


Vegetation Formation (Kaib)	Vegetation Management Guidelines	Fire Behaviour
<b>Grassy Woodlands</b>	• The minimum fire interval in healthy stands of these grassy woodlands is five years. Where the health of the woodlands is compromised through dieback the minimum fire interval should be increased to 10 years. • Burning may be considered after a fire interval of more than 40 years.	• Potential rates of spread are High due to the grassy nature of the flammable elements in generally Moderate OFH.
<b>Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrub/grass sub-formation)</b>	• The minimum interval between low intensity fires is more than 5 years. • Burning may be considered after a fire interval of more than 50 years. • The minimum interval between high intensity fires should be evaluated on forest condition. • Many sites with this vegetation class have been exposed to frequent fires for extended periods.	• This class of vegetation is often associated with hilly and steep terrain which cause variable fire behaviour with due to terrain driven factors. • The potential rates of spread during extended dry season can be very high due to terrain factors. The very steep terrain, skeletal soils and droughty nature of these escarpment sites mean OFH is normally in the range of Moderate to Very High. • Spotting associated with uphill fire runs can be severe.

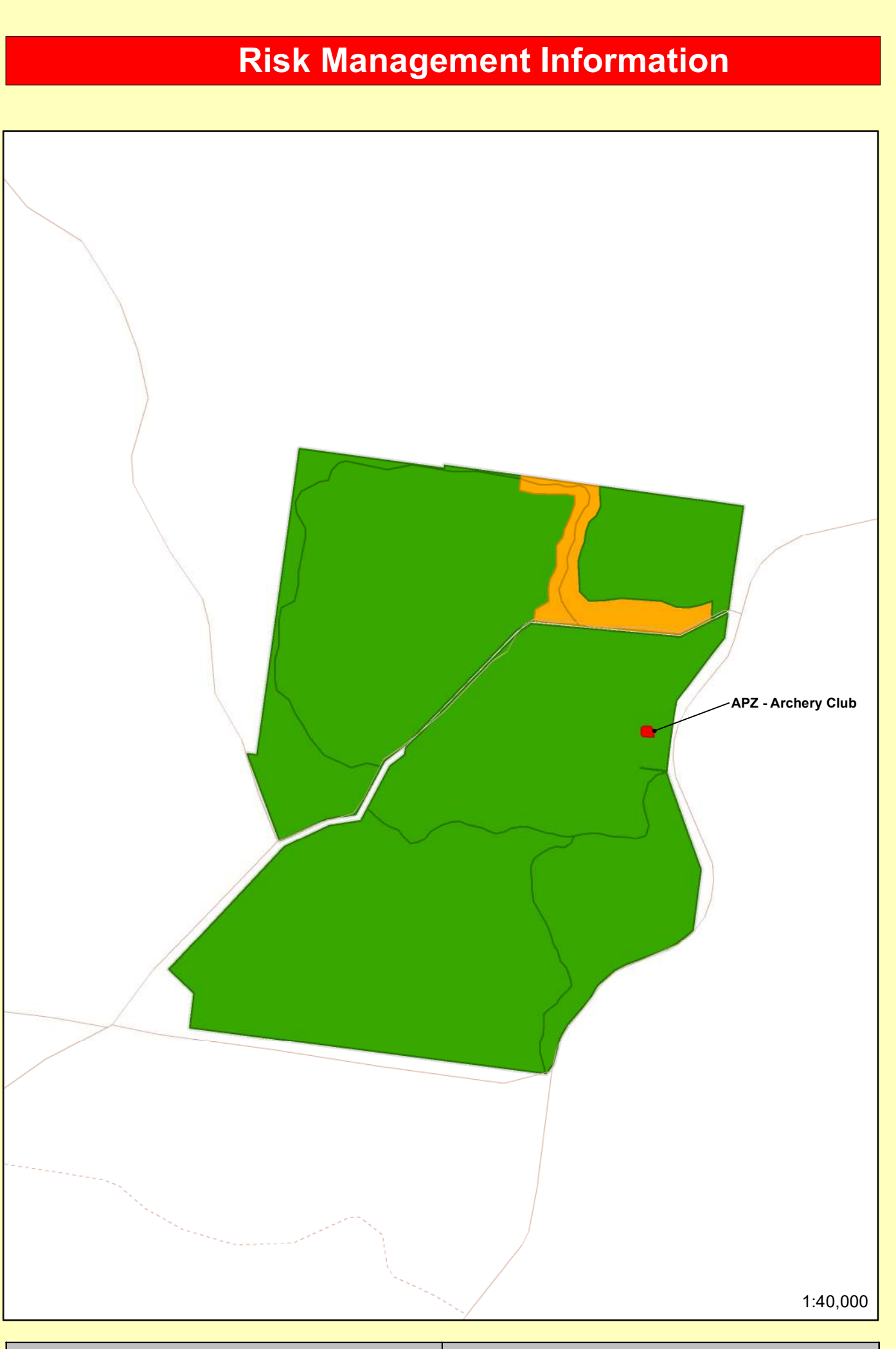


Vegetation Threshold	Treatment
<b>Too Frequently Burnt</b>	Fire thresholds have been exceeded. Protect from fire as far as possible.
<b>Vulnerable to Frequent Fire</b>	The area will be Too Frequently Burnt if it burns this year. Protect from fire as far as possible.
<b>Within Threshold</b>	Fire history is within the threshold for vegetation in this area. A burn is neither required nor should one necessarily be avoided.
<b>Long Unburnt</b>	Fire frequency is below fire thresholds in the area. A prescribed burn may be advantageous. Consider allowing unplanned fires to burn.
<b>Unknown</b>	Insufficient data to determine fire threshold.
<b>No Regime Assigned</b>	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 Type	Fire Details
<b>Prescribed Burn</b>	2018-19: NPWS-CBRN-Wondoba-North West
<b>Wildfires</b>	2013-14: Minroy



Fire Management Zone	Treatment
<b>Asset Protection Zones</b>	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.
<b>Strategic Fire Advantage Zones</b>	The objective of SFAZs is to reduce fire intensity in locations to assist containment of wildfires, by maintaining the Overall Fuel Hazard at HIGH or below.
<b>Land Management Zones</b>	The objective of LMZs is to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural heritage. Manage fire consistent with fire thresholds.