

**Budelah Nature Reserve
Fire Management Strategy
2012 - 17**

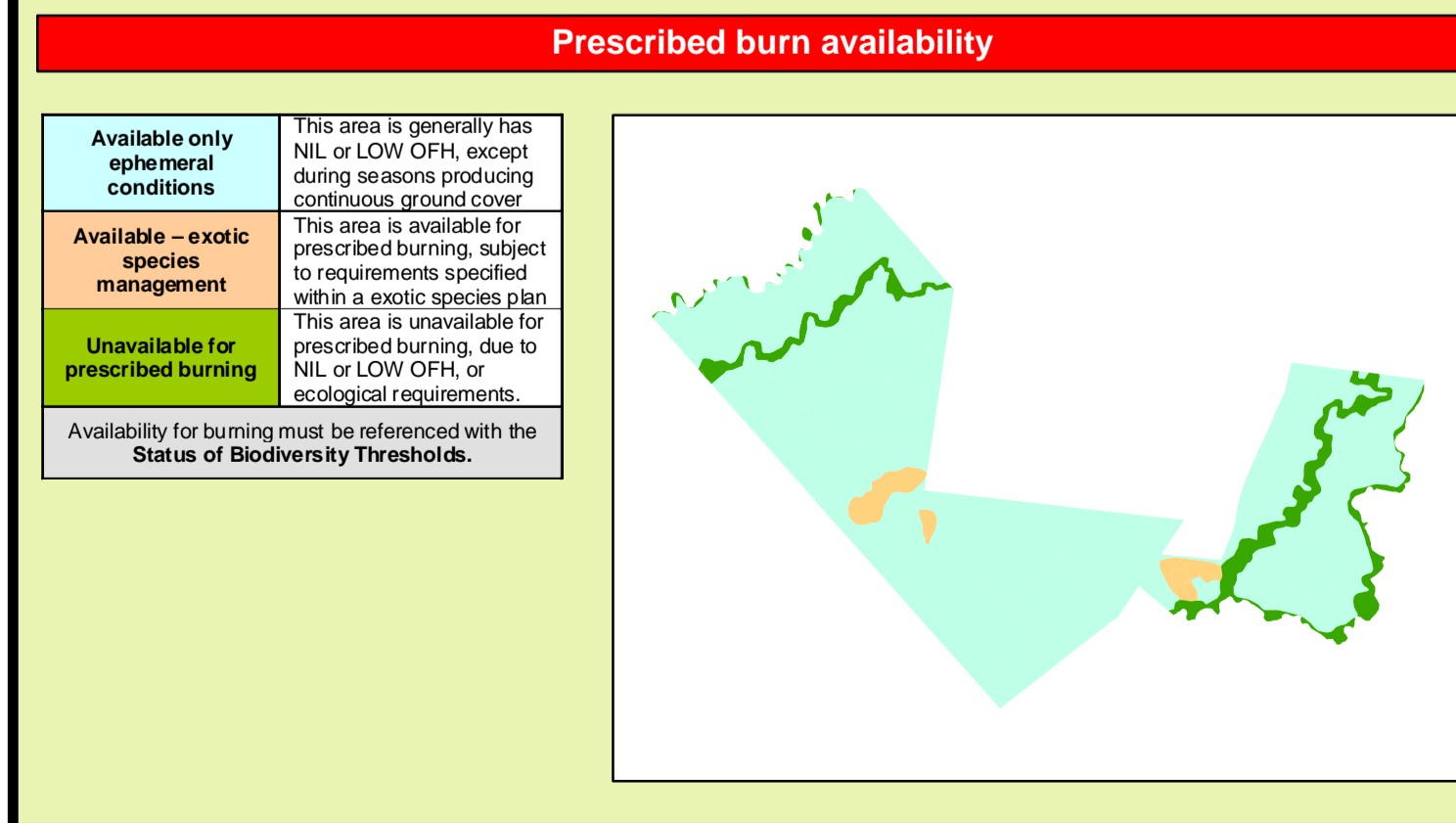
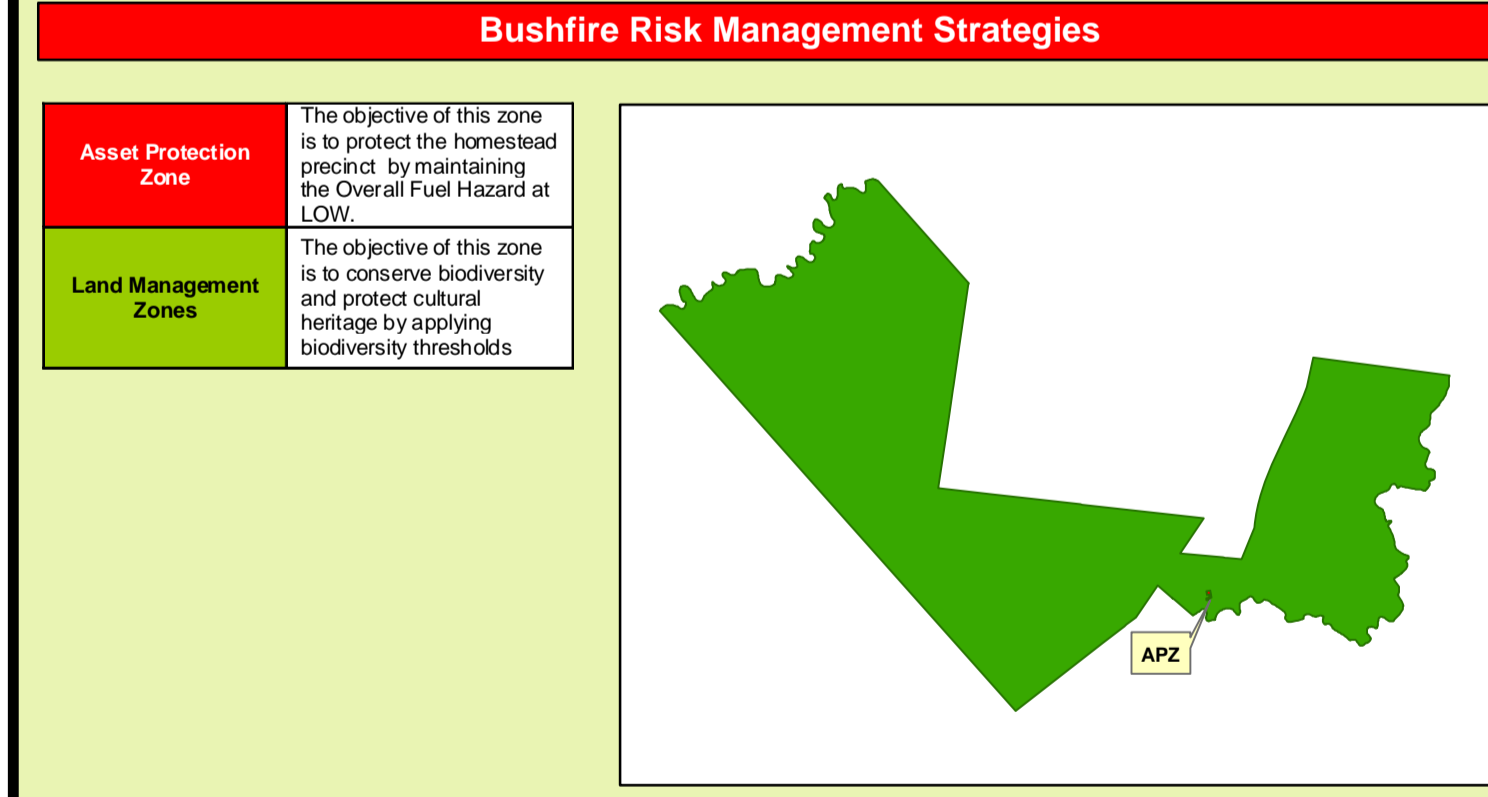
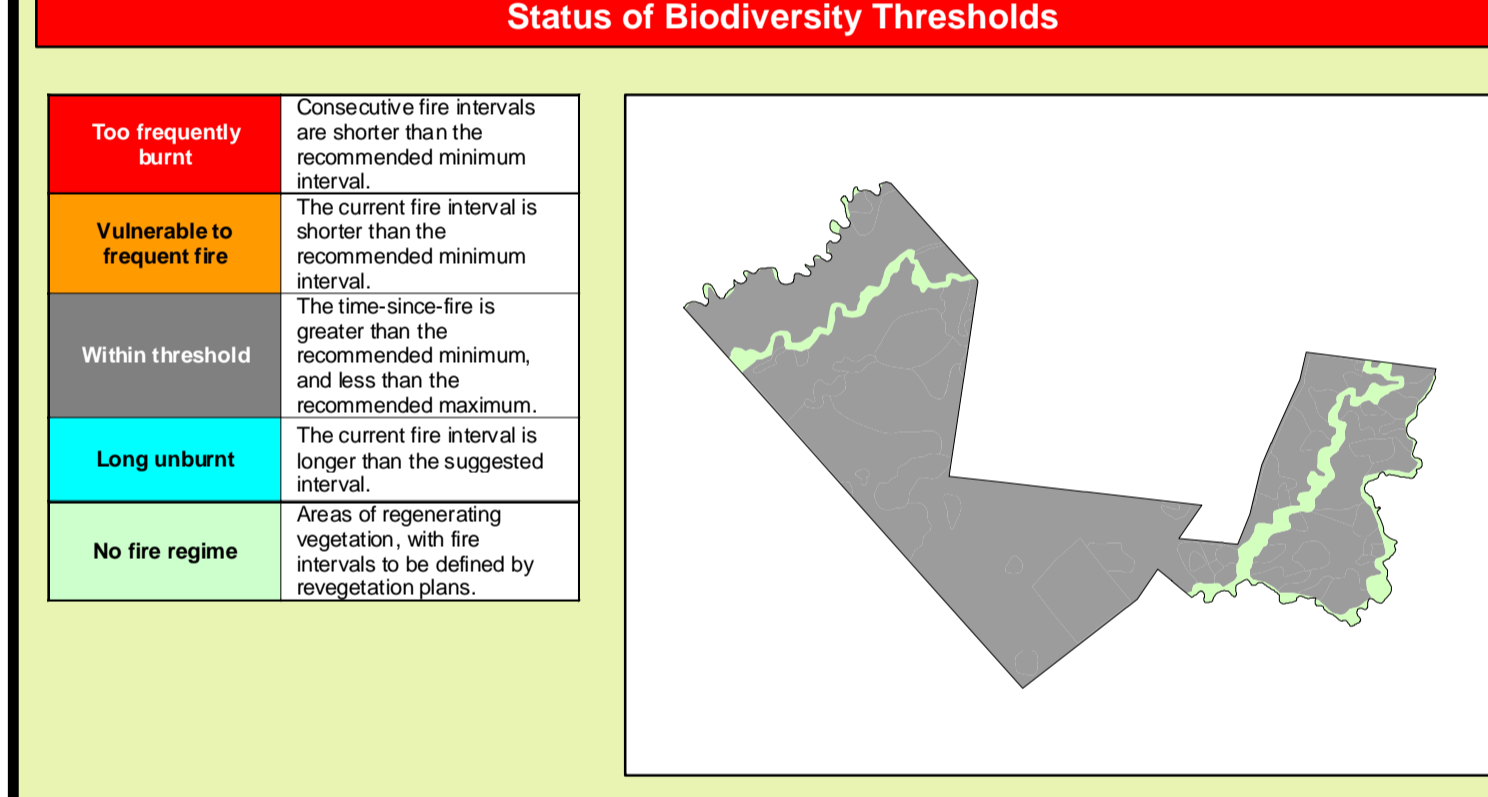
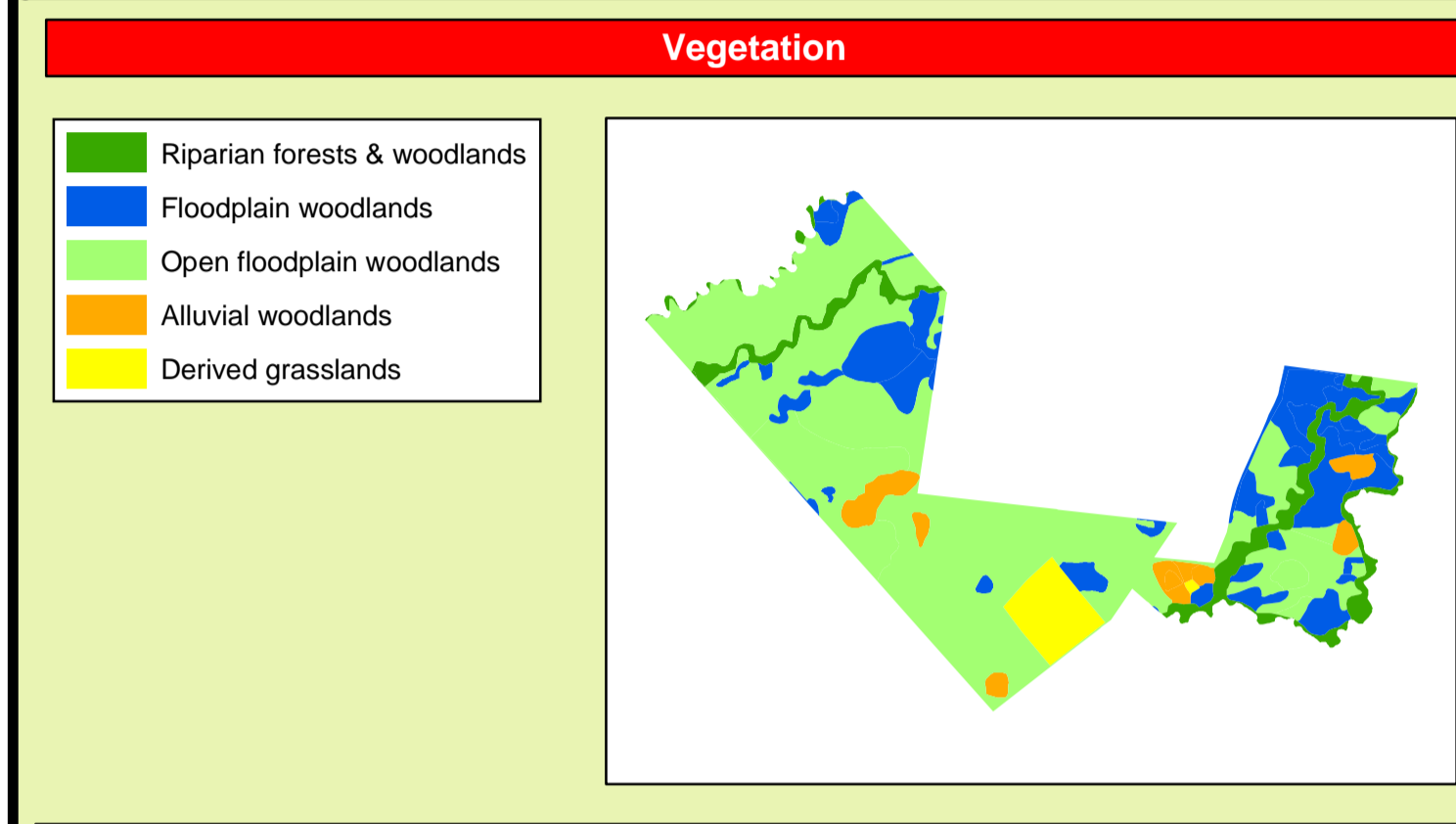
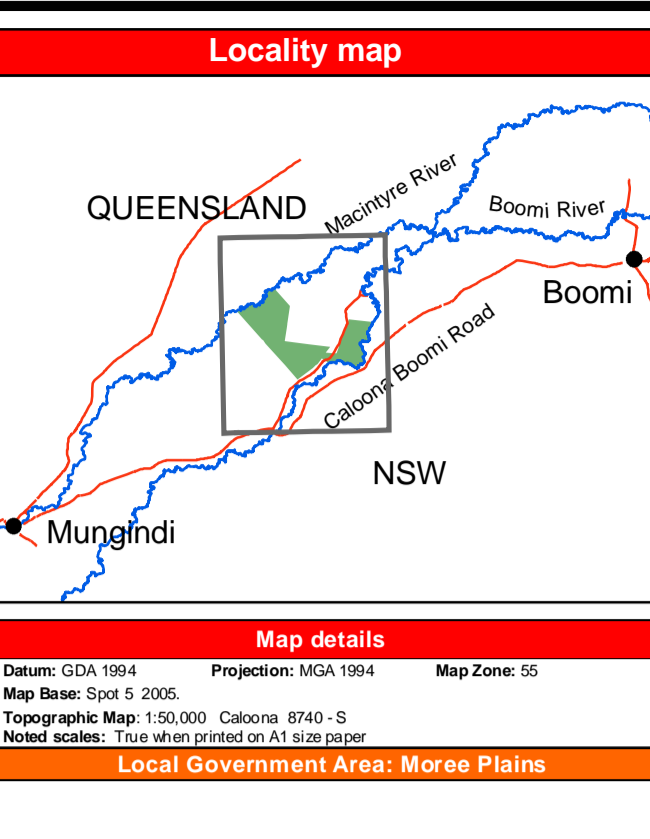
This strategy should be used with aerial photography and field reconnaissance. This is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997. These data are not guaranteed to be free from error or omission. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and its employees disclaim liability for any act done on the information in the data and any consequences of such acts or omissions. This document is copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of study, research criticism or review, as permitted under the copyright Act, no part may be reproduced by any process without written permission. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is part of the Office of Environment and Heritage. Published by: Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW). Contact: NPWS Northern Plains Region, PO Box 72 Narrabri NSW 2390. Ph 6732 7350. ISBN 978 1 74293 827 1 OEH 2012 / 0774 Date Approved: 3 April 2013

Related and reference documents

- National Parks and Wildlife Service (2012) Fire Management Manual
- Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (2010) Budelah Nature Reserve Plan of Management
- NFRPC (2004). Vegetation Communities of the Northern Floodplains, Western New South Wales. Northern Floodplains Regional Planning Committee, Walgett.

Communications Information		
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS VHF	17	• Fireground simplex only
RFS	P052	• Mungindi
UHF - CB		• Small fires - Channel 10
Aviation	127.4	• Large fires - determined by IAT
Cellphone		• CTAF - Mungindi (35 km), Moree (95 km)
		• Yelstra 3G coverage limited
		• Satphone recommended

Contact Information		
Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Duty Officer (24 hour)	6792 4680
	Narrabri Office (bus. hours)	6792 7300
NSW RFS Namoi-Gwydir Zone	Zone Manager	0427 101 124
	Duty Officer	6732 3667
RFS Rural Fire Brigades	Mungindi - Kym Stanford	6753 2000
	Weemelah - Joseph Robinson	0427 537 285
NSW Fire Brigade	Boomi - Steve Bryan	6753 5103
	Newcastle	4929 7177
Emergency Services	Police, Fire, Ambulance	000
	SES	13 2500
Police	Mungindi	6753 2044
	Boomi	6753 5244
Council	Moree Plains	6757 3222
	Mungindi (S 28 58.0 E 149 03.5)	
Airstrips (Moree Plains)	Boomi (S 28 44.0 E 149 36.0)	6757 3260



Fire Season Information

Wildfires	The critical wildfire season is likely to occur: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> after a prolonged period of above average rainfall, leading to prolific grass growth; and during the period November to January when there is a higher incidence of lightning.
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 (ephemeral) grass growth. The optimum time for burning ephemeral grasslands is July / August.

Operational Guidelines - Heritage

Resource	Guidelines
Aerial operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aerial operations will be managed by trained and competent personnel. The use of bombing aircraft should be with ground based suppression crews, in most situations. All aerial ignition operations require the consent of a NPWS Senior Officer or the Section 44 Appointee.
Backburning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All personnel must be fully briefed before back burning operations begin.
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 containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed immediately at the cessation of the incident.
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. Preferred plant is graders. Avoid the removal of trees during suppression operations. Graders will not be permitted to construct containment lines in designated machinery exclusion areas, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sand Ridge woodlands (ecologically endangered community) Floodplain forests and areas within 50 metres (high incidence of Aboriginal sites) Plant must be washed down, where practicable, prior to entering NPWS estate and again on exiting NPWS estate.
Fire Suppression Chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of foam, gels and retardants will NOT be permitted within 50 metres of dams and watercourses holding water. The aerial application use foam, gels and retardants requires the approval of a NPWS Senior Officer.
Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
Watering points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider deployment of a bulk water carrier to support fire operations.
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 is closed to visitors.

WARNINGS

- AVIATION HAZARD - Powerlines near homestead
- Bridge Load Limit at Boomangera Creek - Restricted to CAT 9 Units.
- Black soil plains - High risk of bogging after rain events.
- Gilgais and melonholes in black soil country - This significantly reduces vehicle speeds.
- Mimosa Bush occurs on floodplains - High risk of vehicle wheel punctures.
- Tree stumps in Open Woodlands - Not visible in high continuous grass, and will cause vehicle damage
- Sand ridges - Dry bogging risk.

Operational Guidelines - Heritage

Resource	Guidelines
Modified trees (AS1), including scarred trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground based sites (AS2), including: artefacts Protect site from any ground disturbance, including the use of earth-moving equipment and vehicles <p>There is a high incidence, and a high potential, for Aboriginal sites in Alluvial woodlands and in and near Riparian forests and woodlands. Heavy plant will be excluded from these areas.</p>
Threatened Flora and Fauna Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endangered ecological communities - Sand Ridge Woodlands Mechanical construction of control lines not permitted Endangered ecological communities - Floodplain Woodlands Avoid the removal of trees, where practical.

Vegetation management

Community	Vegetation management guidelines	Fire Behaviour
Riparian forests & woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An interval between fire events less than 20 years should be avoided. No maximum interval is applied, as ecological threshold is flood associated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread would be low due to Low - Moderate OFH Potential for more rapid rates of spread during ephemeral years of continuous ground cover
Floodplain Woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An interval between fire events less than 20 years should be avoided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread is potentially high due to Buffel Grass
Alluvial Woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buffel Grass areas should not be burnt, except as part of an integrated weed management program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary fuel is grass Potential rates of spread dependant on seasonal conditions A Low OFH occurs during dry seasons A Moderate - High OFH may develop after successive wet seasons producing continuous cover
Open floodplain woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum interval between fire events should be greater than 2 years, with an optimum interval between 5 - 7 years 	
Derived Grasslands		

Suppression Strategies

Conditions & forecast	Guidelines
Moderate conditions, Low % curing with minimal winds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A broad containment strategy using existing tracks, low fuel areas, open areas and recently burnt areas.
High % curing, Continuous ground cover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immediate requirement for joint agency response Aggressive direct or parallel attack, supported by graders. Ensure containment lines are placed outside machinery exclusion areas.

