

**Hunter Region**  
**Hunter Wetlands National Park**  
**Fire Management Strategy (Type 2)**  
**2009 Sheet 1 of 2**



This strategy should be used in conjunction with aerial photography and field reconnaissance during incidents and the development of incident action plans. These data are not guaranteed to be free from error or omission. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife 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 a part of the Department of Environment and Climate Change. Published by the Department of Environment and Climate Change (NSW), April 2005. Contact: NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Hunter Region, Locked Bag 99 Nelson Bay Delivery Centre NSW 2316.

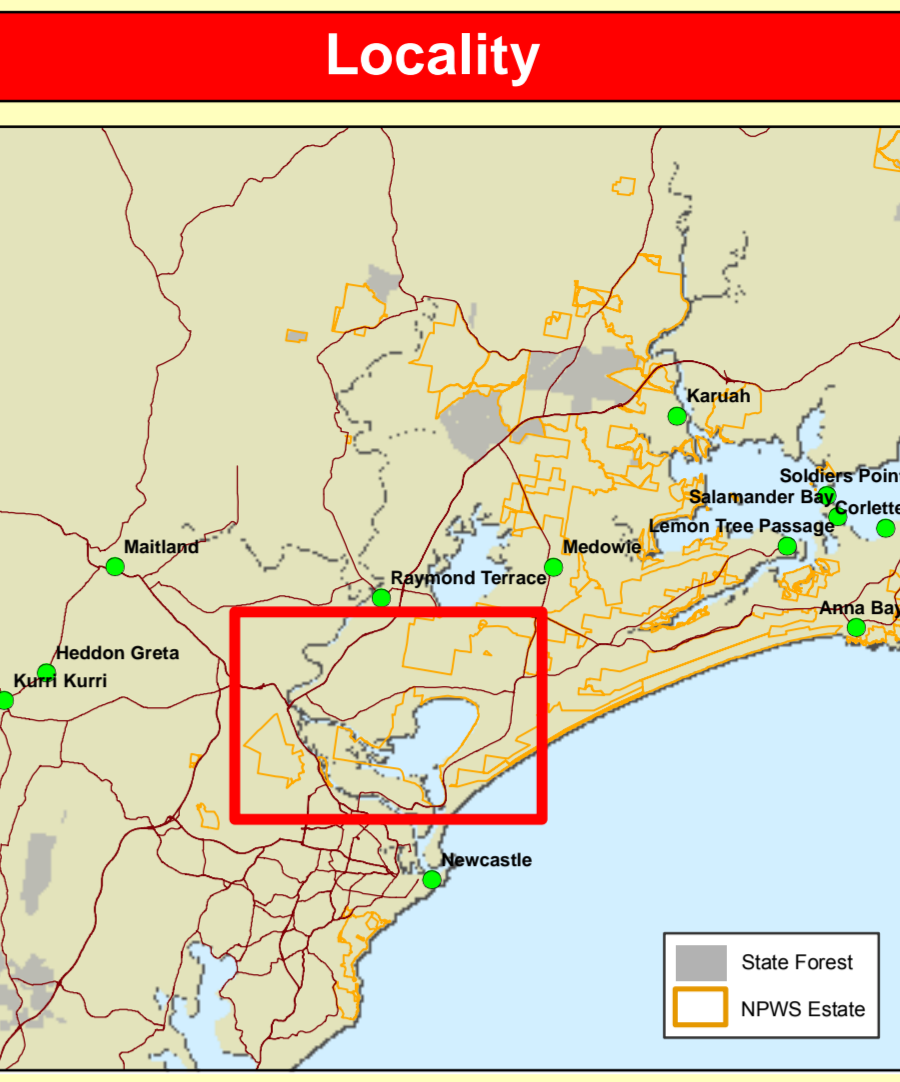
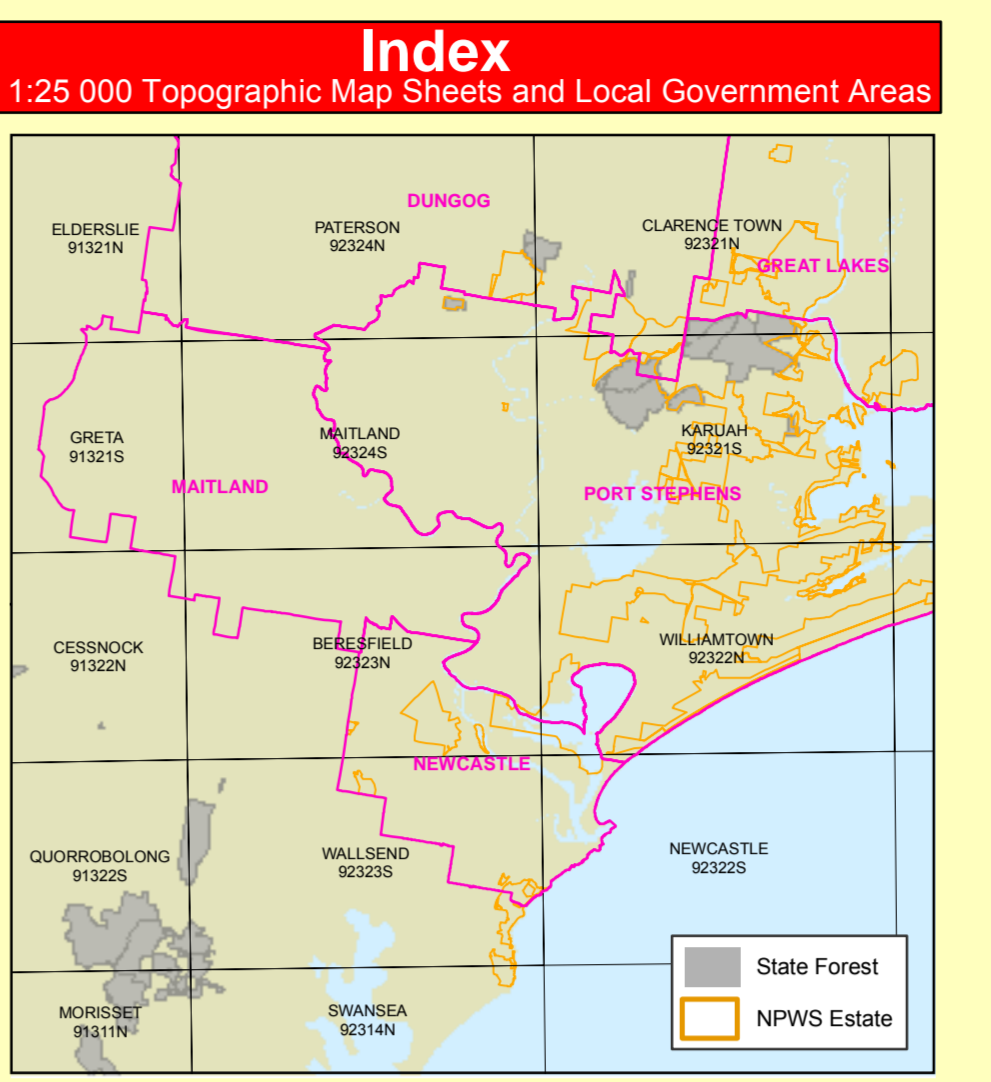
ISBN 978 1 74122 852 2      DEC 2007/540      Last Updated: 15/04/2009

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

Endorsed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: / /  
 Director Northern Parks & Wildlife Group

Communications Information		
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	23 (preferred)	Mt Sugarloaf Mt Cabbage Tree
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	26	Can be located anywhere
RFS - PMR	34	Kept at Regional Office
CB - UHF	1-99	Available in most RFS vehicles
RFS - GRN	198	Port Stephens
Mobile Phone	-	Lake Macquarie Generally good coverage

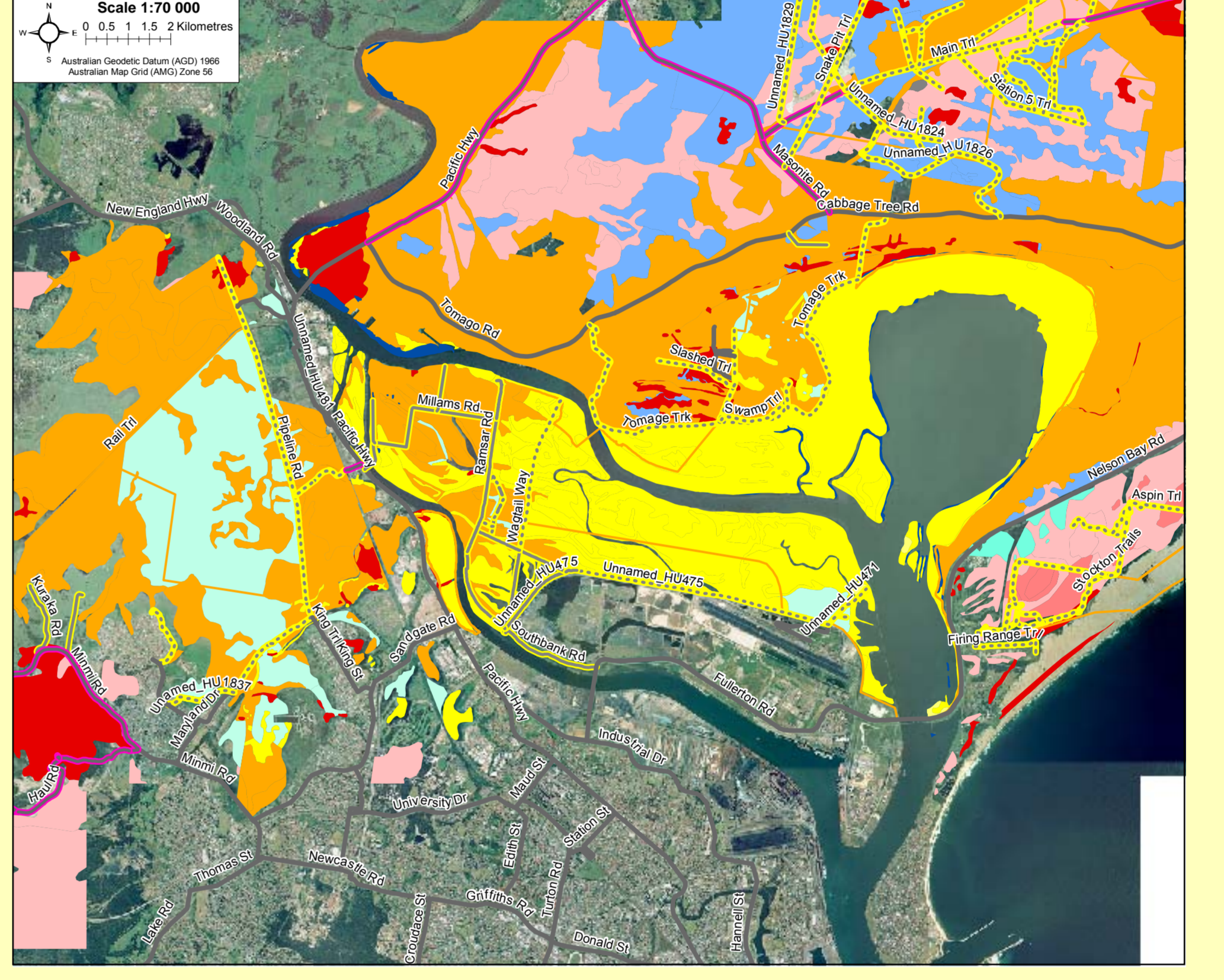
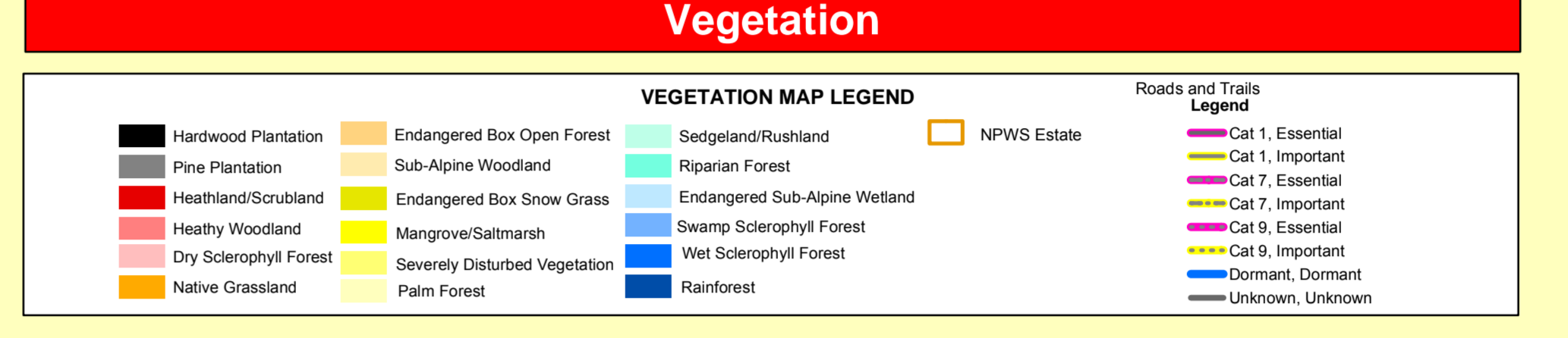
Contact Information		
Agency	Position / Location	Phone
NPWS	Regional Duty Officer	0425 444880
	Newcastle Area Manager	0412777548
	Fire Management Officer	4984 8206
	Regional Operations Coordinator	0429 444770
Rural Fire Service	Lake Macquarie	4955 2122
	Raymond Terrace (Lower Hunter Zone)	4987300 001
NSW Fire Brigade	Newcastle Communications (24 hrs)	49297 177
	Newcastle Unit	49297 280
SES	Lake Macquarie Unit	4921 0610
	Newcastle Unit	4929 8052
Police	Newcastle	4929 0999
	Raymond Terrace	(081) 4929 0762
Ambulance	Emergency	4929 6099
	Bookings	(081) 4926 4611
Hospital	John Hunter	4973 3000
	Newcastle City Council	4974 2000
Council	Newcastle City Council	(081) 4974 2222
	Port Stephens Council	4966255
Transitland	Emergency	4987612 fax
	Bookings	4974 3000
Avonahai Land Council	Emergency	29654532
	Bookings	13850300
Hunter Water	Emergency	4966708
	Bookings	131388
Energy Australia	Emergency	131388
	Bookings	1360700
KWRP - Ash Island	Emergency	4987612 fax
	Bookings	4966255
Rob Henderson	Emergency	4987612 fax
	Bookings	4966255



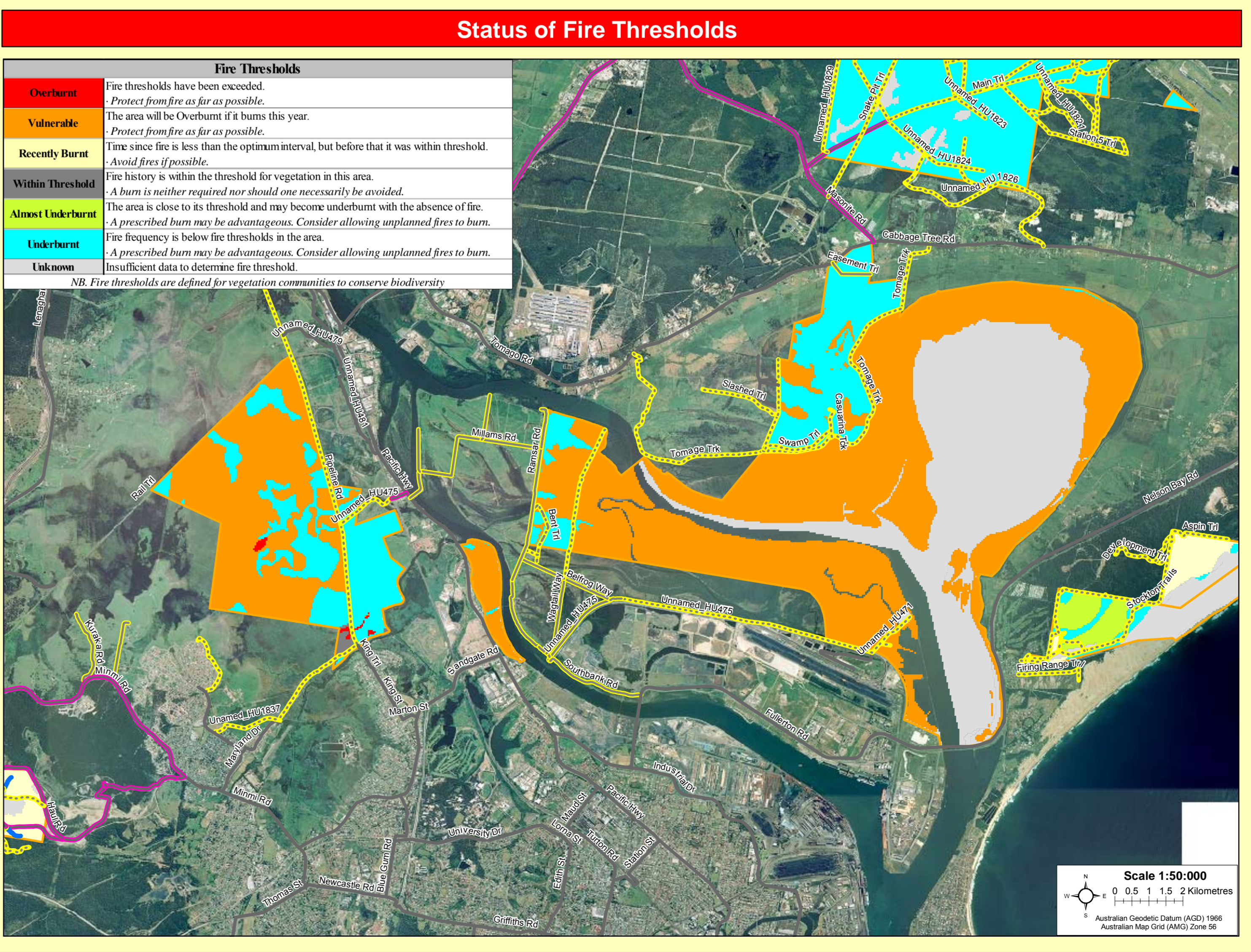
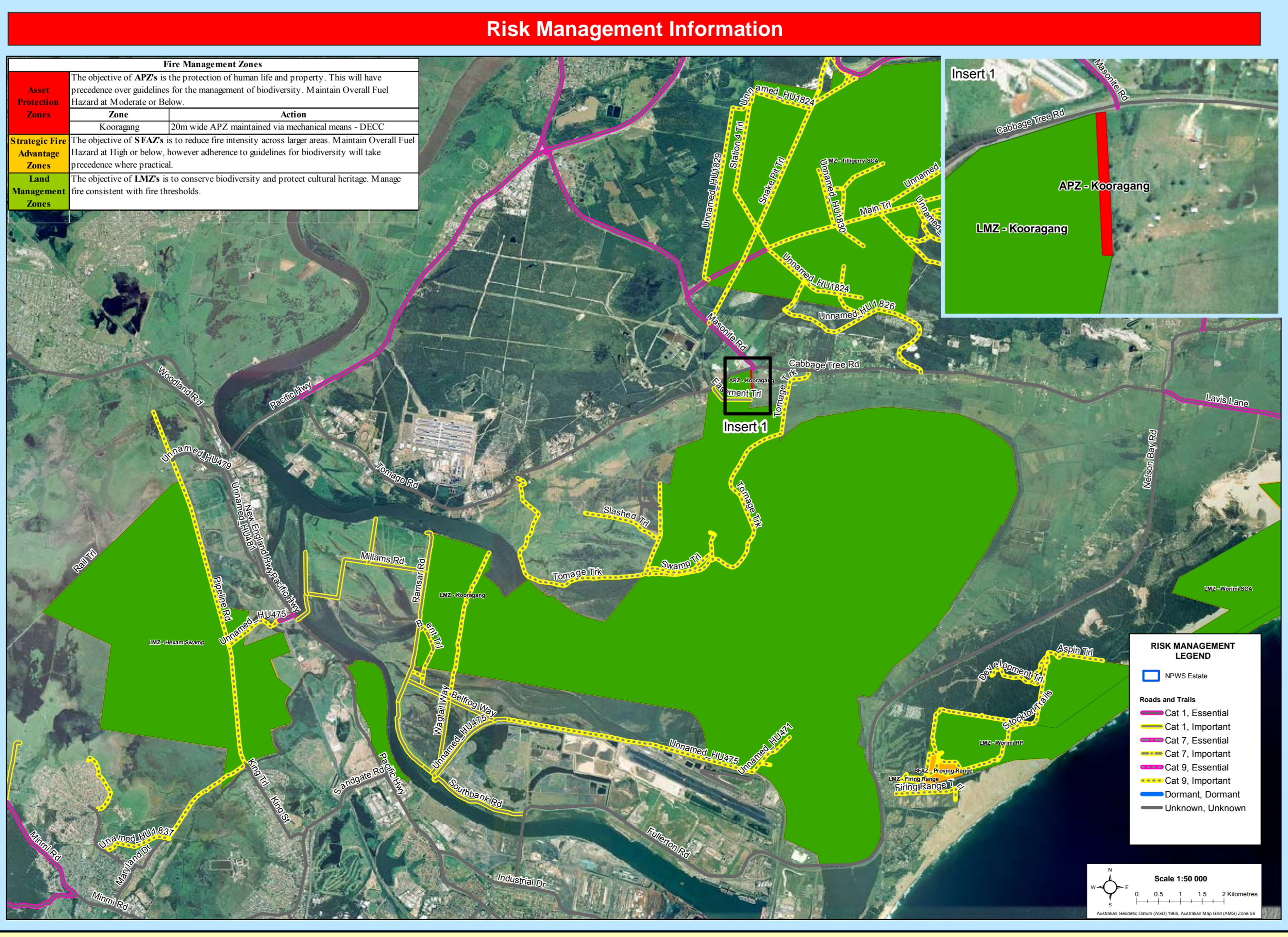
Operational Guidelines	
Refer to the Fire Management Manual.	
Brief all personnel involved in suppression operations on the following issues:	
<b>Resource</b>	<b>Guidelines</b>
<b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management</b>	A1 - As far as possible protect site from fire. Do not cut down trees. A2 - As far as possible protect site from fire. Avoid all ground disturbance including the use of earthmoving machinery, landfill construction and driving over sites. A3 - Avoid all ground disturbance. Avoid water bombing. Site may be burnt by bushfire, back-burn or prescribed burn without damage.
<b>Historic Heritage Management</b>	H1 - As far as possible protect site from fire. Avoid all ground disturbance including the use of earthmoving machinery, landfill construction and driving over sites. H2 - As far as possible protect site from fire. Avoid all ground disturbance including the use of earthmoving machinery, landfill construction and driving over sites.
<b>Threatened Fauna Management</b>	FA1 - As far as possible, protect large and hollow-bearing trees in locations where these species are known to occur. FA2 - As far as possible, protect large and hollow-bearing trees in locations where these species are known to occur. Avoid use of retardant in locations where these species are known to occur. Avoid high intensity fires that consume canopies and fall logs in locations where these species are known to occur.
<b>Threatened Flora Management</b>	FL1 - Avoid inter-fire intervals of <10 years in locations where these species are known to occur. Avoid the use of earth moving machinery in locations where these species are known to occur. FL2 - As far as possible, exclude all fire from locations where these species are known to occur. Avoid the use of earth moving machinery in locations where these species are known to occur. Avoid the use of retardant in locations where these species are known to occur.
<b>Threatened Property</b>	Where possible property owners with assets at risk from a wildfire event should be kept informed regarding the progress of the fire, and asked for an assessment of their current level of asset protection preparedness.
<b>General</b>	<b>Guidelines</b>
<b>Aerial Water Bombing</b> (NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOP 02 - NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	The use of bombing aircraft should support containment operations by aggressively attacking hotspots and spot-overs. The use of bombing aircraft without the support of ground based suppression crews should be limited to very specific circumstances. Where practicable foam should be used to increase the effectiveness of the water. Ground crews must be alerted to water bombing operations.
<b>Aerial Ignition</b> (NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOP 02 - NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	Aerial ignition may be used during back-burning or fuel reduction operations where practicable, but only with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer. Utilise retardant to rapidly progress back-burns down slope where required.

<b>Backburning</b>	Temperature and humidity trends must be monitored carefully to determine the safest times to implement back-burns. Generally, when the FDI is Very High or greater, backburning should commence when the humidity begins to rise in the late afternoon or early evening. With a lower FDI backburning may be safely undertaken during the day. Where practicable, clear a 1m radius around dead and fibrous barked trees adjacent to containment lines prior to backburning, or wet down these trees as part of the backburn ignition. Avoid ignition of backburns at the bottom of slopes where a long and intense up slope burn is likely.
<b>Command &amp; Control</b>	The first compliant 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 compliant agencies, the initial incident controller will consult with regard to the ongoing command, control and incident management team requirements as per the relevant BEMC Plan of Operations.
<b>Containment Lines</b>	Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, where practicable, except where they can be constructed with minimal environmental impact. New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer. Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation. All containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed at the cessation of the incident. All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location.
<b>Earthmoving Equipment</b>	Earthmoving equipment may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer, and then only if the probability of its success is high. Earthmoving equipment must be always 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 firefighting vehicle. Containment lines constructed by earthmoving equipment should consider the protection of drainage features, observe the Threatened Species and Cultural Heritage Operational Guidelines, and be surveyed, where possible, to identify unknown cultural heritage sites. Earthmoving equipment should be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS estate.
<b>Fire Advantage Recording</b>	All fire advantages used during wildfire suppression operations must be mapped and where relevant added to the database. Writing and foam agents (surfactants) are permitted for use in wildfire suppression.
<b>Fire Suppression Chemicals</b>	The use of fire retardant is only permitted with the prior consent of the senior NPWS officer, and should be avoided where reasonable alternatives are available. Exclude the use of surfactants and retardants within 50m of rainforests, watercourses, dams and swamps. Areas where fire suppression chemicals are used must be mapped and the used products name recorded. The Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed. Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
<b>Rehabilitation</b>	Note the Reserve is located within a large urban interface, therefore consider all smoke management control measures. The potential impacts of smoke and possible mitigation tactics must be considered when planning for wildfire suppression and prescribed burning operations. If smoke becomes a hazard on local roads or highways, the police and relevant media must be notified. Smoke management must be in accordance with relevant RTA traffic management guidelines. The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations.
<b>Smoke Management</b>	
<b>Visitor Management</b>	

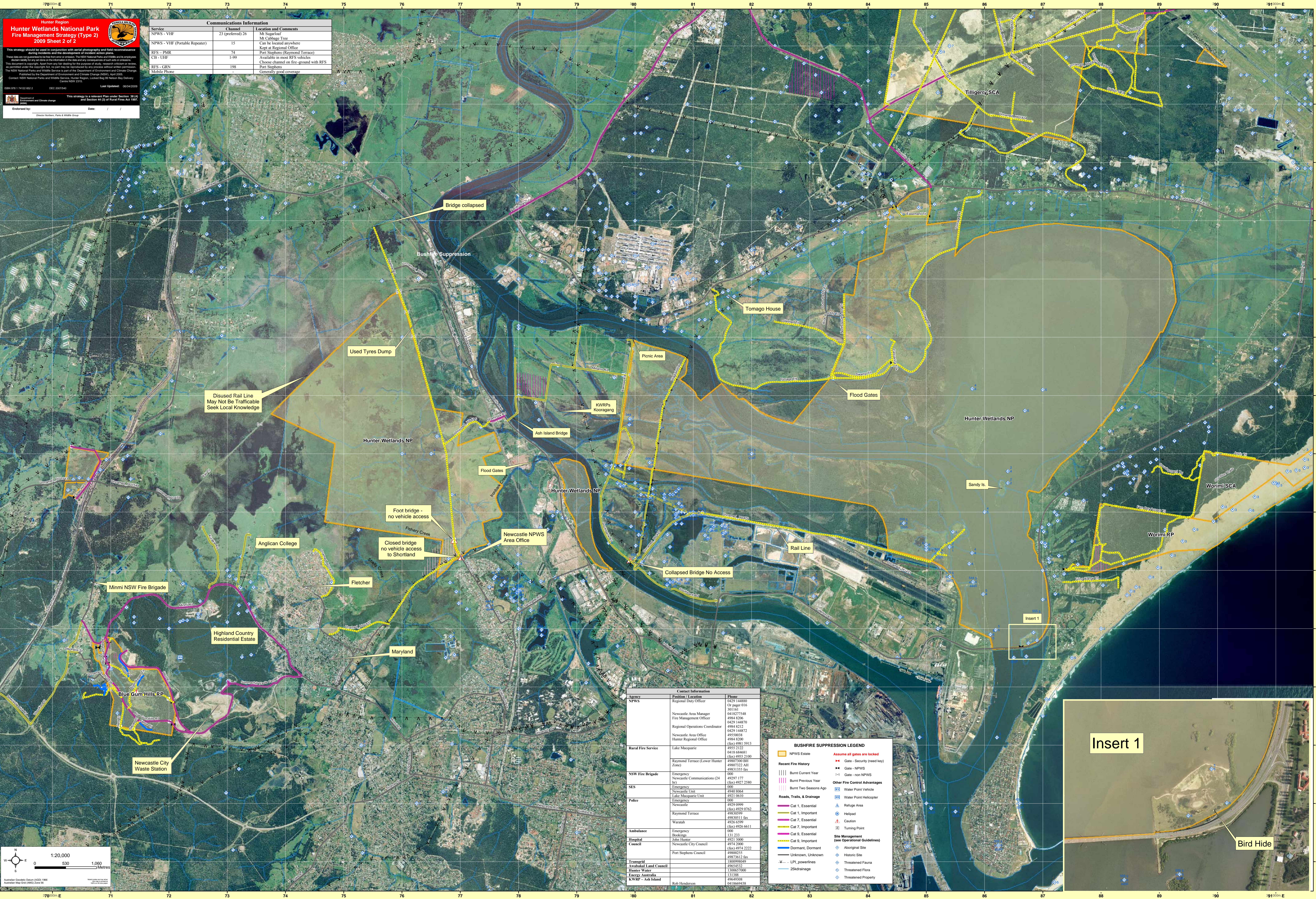
Strategy Information	
Fire Season Information	
<b>Wildfires</b>	Reserves of the Hunter Region are located in a zone between subtropical, summer maximum rainfall patterns to the north and temperate, winter maximum rainfall patterns to the south. <b>Heckham Swamp</b> - recent history and local knowledge indicate that wildfires are generally ignited (arson) at the southern end of the Reserve and spread northwards into the Reserve. Most extreme fire weather conditions occur during spring and early summer resulting from moderate temperatures, low relative humidity and strong winds. Subtropical summer rainfall in January usually ends the fire season in most years, however, if rain events do not occur the fire season may last from August to March. The coastal reserves mostly occur on sandy soils which facilitate the rapid drainage of water resulting in dry fuel loads throughout the year. Very strong sea breezes from the north east and east in late spring and summer often exceed 50km/h which can result in very high intensity fire weather. General season is Autumn to late Winter. Burning is ecological in early Spring but not desirable on a regular basis from an ecological or tourism point of view.
<b>Prescribed Burning</b>	General season is Autumn to late Winter. Burning is ecological in early Spring but not desirable on a regular basis from an ecological or tourism point of view.
Suppression Strategies	
<b>Current FDR</b>	<b>Forecast FDR</b>
Low - Mod	Low - Mod
Low - Mod	==> High
High	All
All	All



**Vegetation Note:**  
 Pre installation of water gates - Freshwater wetlands consisting mainly of pranglyns.  
 Post installation of water gates - aiming for suitable habitat for migratory birds, saltmarsh, mangroves



Bushfire Suppression



**Hunter Region  
Hunter Wetlands National Park  
Fire Management Strategy (Type 2)  
2009 Sheet 2 of 2**

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ESD 2007/540

This strategy is a relevant plan under Section 55(1) and Section 54(1) of Rural Fire Act 1997.

Endorsed by:   
 Director, Hunter, Parks & Wildlife Group

Communications Information		
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	23 (preferred), 26	Mt Sugarhead
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	15	Mt Cabbage Tree
RFS - PMR	74	Port Stephens (Raymond Terrace)
CB - UHF	1, 999	Available in most RFS vehicles
RFS - UHF	198	Choose channel on fire-ground with RFS
Mobile Phone		Generally good coverage

Contact Information		
Agency	Position / Location	Phone
NPWS	Regional Duty Officer	0429 144800
	Newcastle Area Manager	0418277548
	Fire Management Officer	0484 8206
	Regional Operations Coordinator	0429 144870
	Newcastle Area Office	0494 8212
Rural Fire Service	Lake Macquarie	0494 8206
	Lake Macquarie	(Fax) 4981 5913
	Lake Macquarie	4955 7123
NSW Fire Brigade	Emergency	000
	Newcastle Communications (24 hr)	0429 177
	Emergency	(Fax) 4972 2580
SIS	Emergency	000
	Newcastle Unit	4940 3064
	Lake Macquarie Unit	4921 0610
Police	Newcastle	000
	Newcastle	4929 0999
	Raymond Terrace	(Fax) 4929 0762
	Warrabah	49850111 fax
Ambulance	Emergency	000
	Bookings	131 333
Hospital	John Hunter	4921 3000
	Newcastle City Council	4974 2000
Council	Newcastle City Council	(Fax) 4974 2222
	Port Stephens Council	4987612 fax
Transport	Aboriginal Land Council	1800980849
	Hunter Water	1300637000
Energy Australia	Hunter Water	131330
	KWRP - Ash Island	89649308
	Rob Henderson	0416649418

BUSHFIRE SUPPRESSION LEGEND	
NPWS Estate	Assume all gates are locked
Recent Fire History	Gate - Security (need key)
Burn Current Year	Gate - NPWS
Burn Previous Year	Gate - non NPWS
Other Fire Control Advantages	Gate - Burn Two Seasons Ago
Water Point Vehicle	Water Point Helicopter
Water Point Helicopter	Refuge Area
Refuge Area	Helipad
Helipad	Caution
Caution	Turning Point
Turning Point	Site Management (see Operational Guidelines)
Aboriginal Site	Historic Site
Historic Site	Threatened Fauna
Threatened Fauna	Threatened Flora
Threatened Flora	Threatened Property
Threatened Property	



Scale: 1:20,000

0 530 1,060 Metres

North Arrow

Authorised Geographic Data (ASD) 1996  
Australian Map Grid (MGA) Zone 56