

Boomi Reserves
(Boomi Nature Reserve, Boomi West Nature Reserve and Boronga Nature Reserve)
Fire Management Strategy
2013 - 2018

Office of Environment & Heritage
NSW

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

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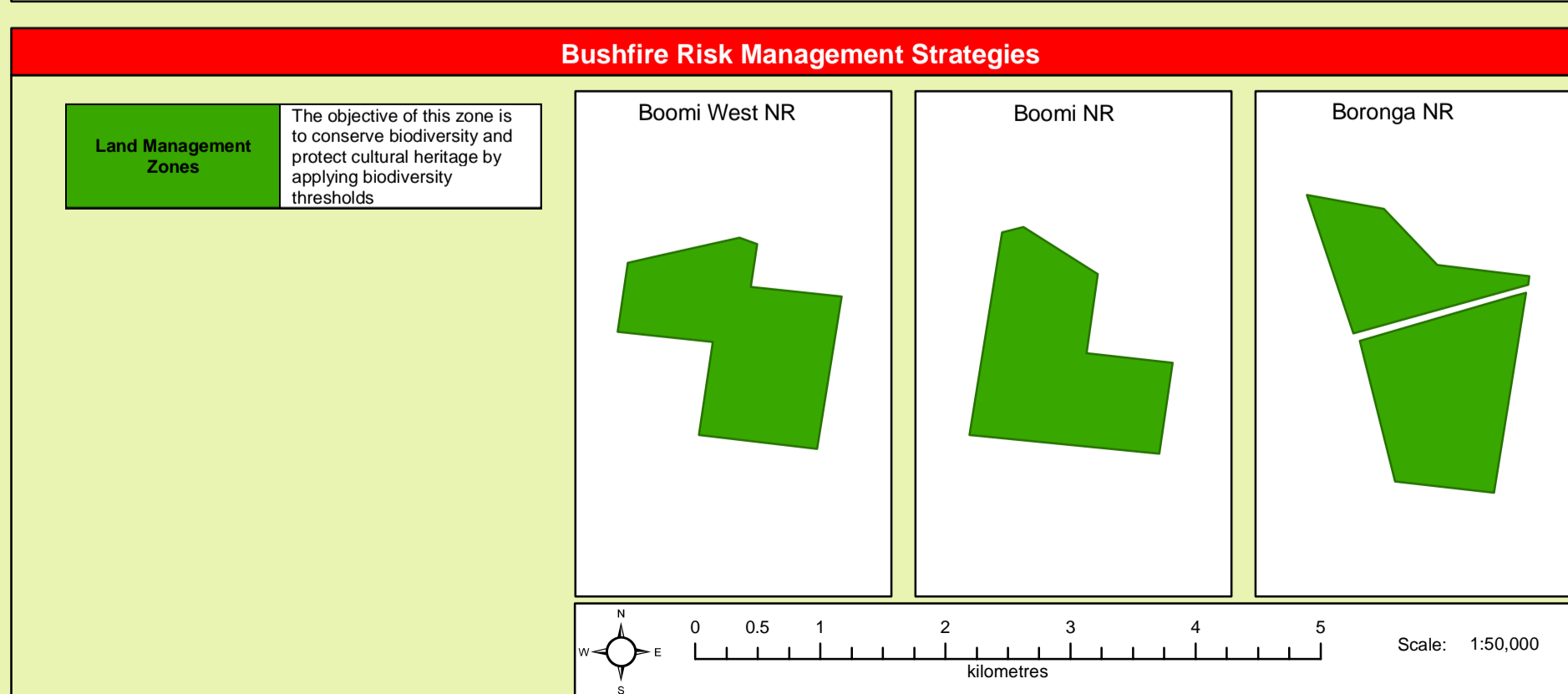
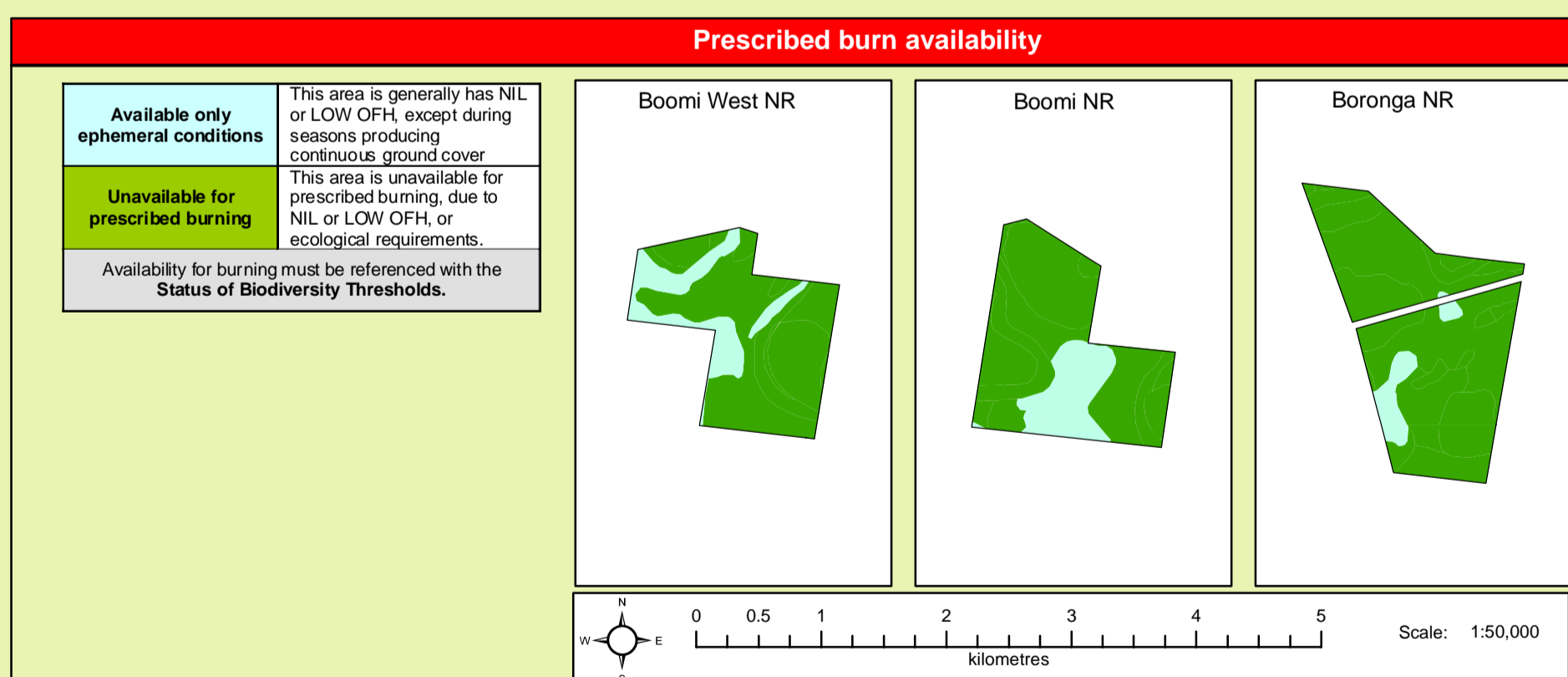
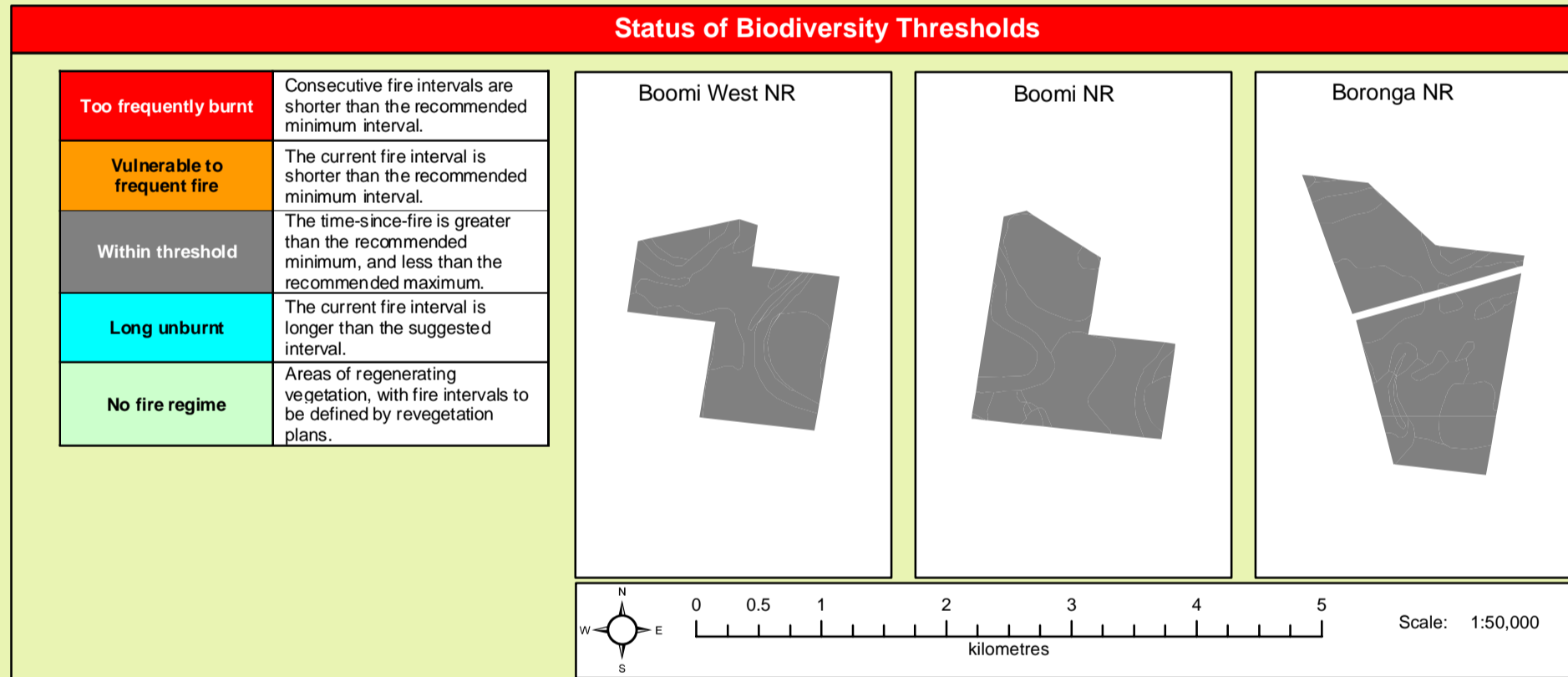
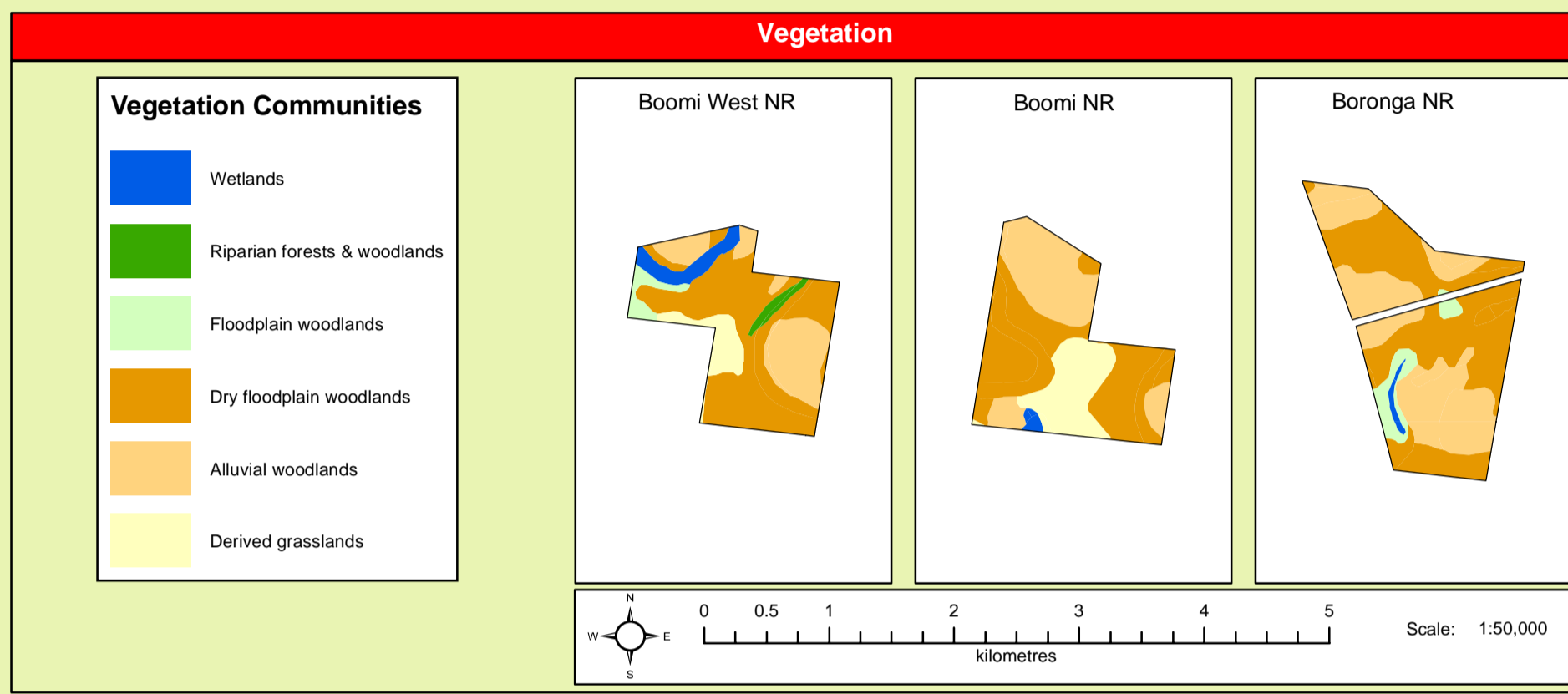
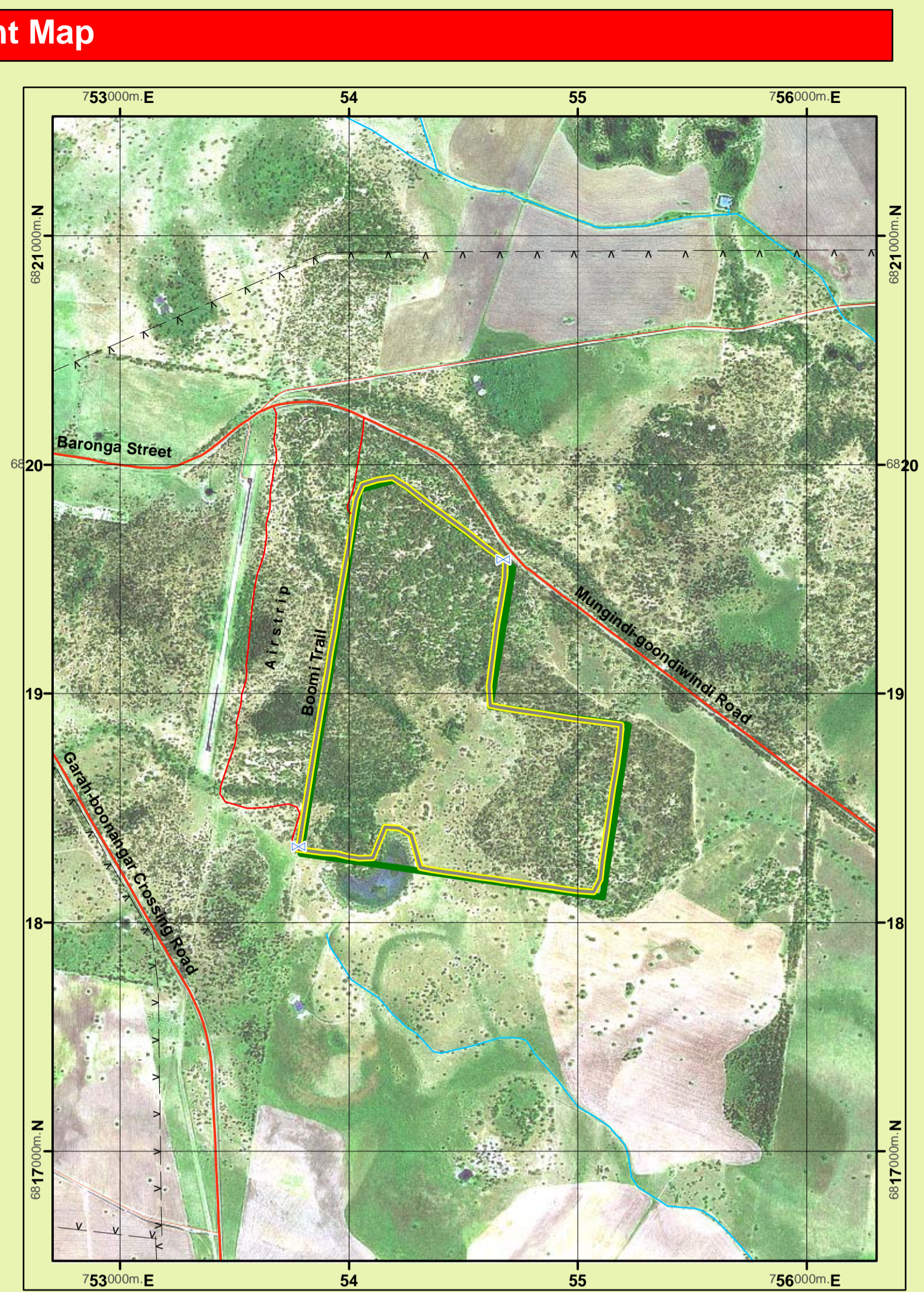
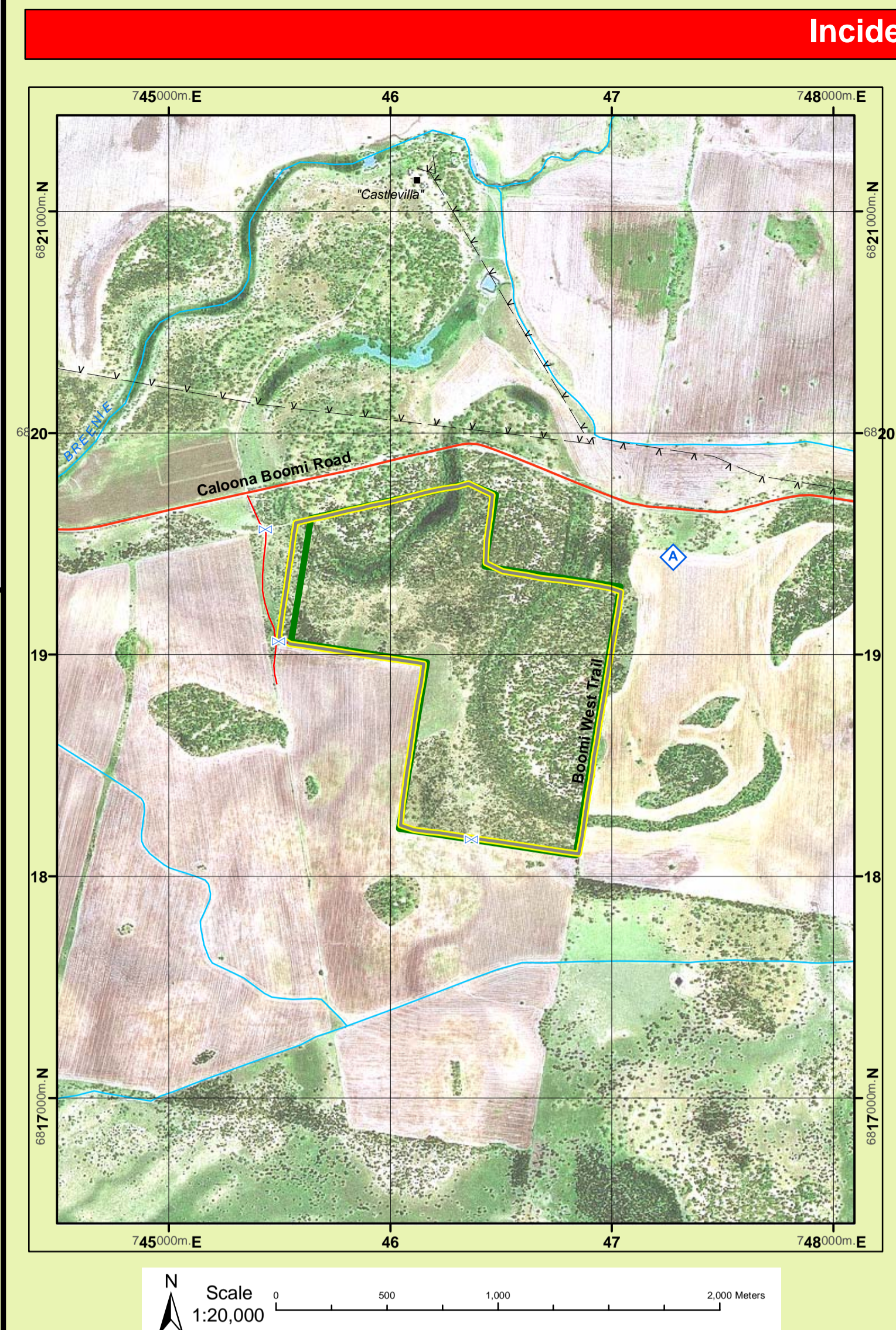
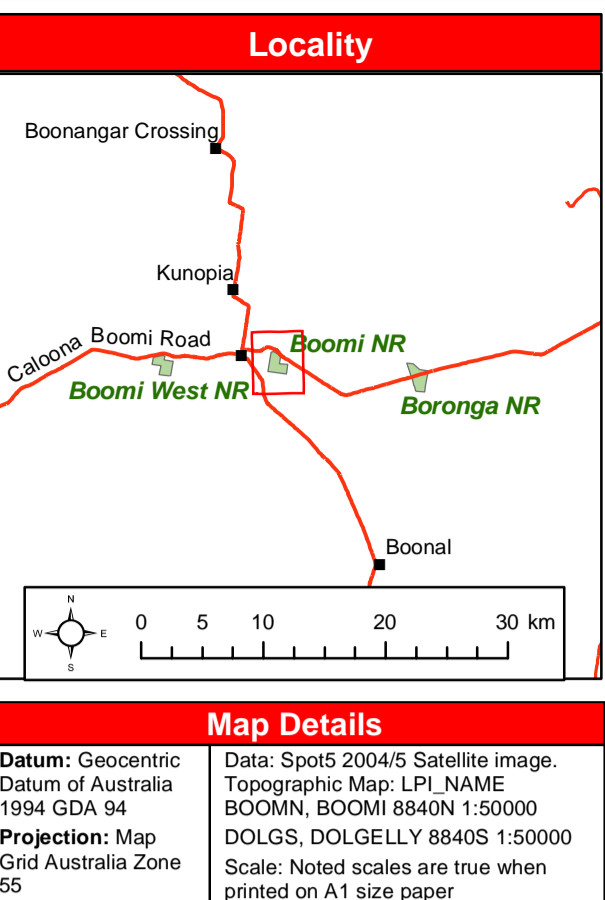
Related documents

- National Parks and Wildlife Service (2011) Fire Management Manual
- Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (2003) Boronga Nature Reserve, Boomi Nature Reserve and Boomi West Nature Reserve Plan of Management
- Hunter, JT (2006) Vegetation and floristics of Boronga, Boomi and Boomi West Nature Reserves. Report to NSW NPWS

Communications Information		
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS VHF	17	• Fireground simplex only
RFS	P052	• Mungindi
UHF - CB		• Small fires - Channel 21
Aviation	127.4	• Large fires - determined by IMT
Cellphone		• CTAF - Boomi, Moree (85 km)
		• Telstra 3G coverage variable Tower at Boomi

Contact Information		
Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Duty Officer (24 hours) Narrabri Office (bus. hours)	6792 4860 6792 7300
NSW RFS Namoi-Gwydir Zone	Zone Manager Duty Officer	0427 101 124 6792 3667
RFS Rural Fire Brigades	Boomi - Steve Bryan	6753 5103
NSW Fire Brigades	Newcastle	4929 7177
Emergency Services	Police, Fire, Ambulance	000
SES		13 2500
Police	Boomi	6753 5244
Council	Moree Plains	6757 3222
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 grass growth



Operational Guidelines

General	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 Approver.
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 BEMC 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. • 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 for the "sweeping" of existing fire trails. • Light plant only should be used in the construction of new control lines. This is due to the NIL / LOW / MODERATE OFH levels inside the majority of the reserves. • Plant must be washed down, where practicable, prior to it 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black soil plains - High risk of bogging after rain events. • Gilgais and melonholes significantly reduce vehicle speeds. • Sand monkeys - dry bogging risk.

Operational Guidelines - Heritage

Resource	Guidelines
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management	No Aboriginal sites have been recorded in these reserves
Threatened Flora and Fauna Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a high potential, for Aboriginal sites in Alluvial woodlands. Machinery use will be minimised in these areas. • Endangered ecological communities - Alluvial Woodlands containing Carbeen includes potential habitat for the endangered plant species Shrub Sida (<i>Sida rohlenae</i>) • Avoid mechanical construction of control lines, where possible

Suppression Strategies

The Boomi Reserves are small nature reserves. Their values would be seriously damaged with the construction of wide containment lines with earth-moving machinery. Low fuel levels do not warrant wide control lines

Conditions & forecast	Guidelines
Low rate of spread	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A broad containment strategy using existing tracks, low fuel areas and open areas. • Direct or parallel attack by fire units supported by light machinery • Ensure containment lines are placed outside machinery exclusion areas.
Severe conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A broad containment strategy using perimeter fire trails, or open areas.

Vegetation management

Vegetation 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential rates of spread would be low due to Low-Moderate OFH
Floodplain Woodlands Cooberah, Biah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No maximum interval is applied, as ecological threshold is flood associated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for more rapid rates of spread during ephemeral years of continuous ground cover
Dry floodplain woodlands Alluvial Woodlands Carbeen, Birnie Box	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An interval between fire events less than 20 years should be avoided. • Buffel Grass infestation may require fire exclusion to minimise spread 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential rates of spread would be low due to Low-Moderate OFH • Potential rates of spread is potentially high due to Buffel Grass. Areas of infestation are generally limited to edges of the reserves, on sandy soils, along fire trails
Wetlands	<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential rates of spread dependent on seasonal conditions • A Low OFH occurs during dry seasons • A Moderate - High OFH may develop after successive wet seasons producing continuous cover

OFH - Overall fuel hazard - A rating system that measures leaf litter, grasses, shrubs, bark type and bark condition. Consists of ratings for surface fuel, near-surface fuel, elevated fuel and bark

Mapping based on: NFRPC (2004). *Vegetation Communities of the Northern Floodplains, Western New South Wales*. Northern Floodplains Regional Planning Committee, Walgett. NOTE: Some editing has occurred based on field observation and air photo interpretation.

