



Breelong National Park Fire Management Strategy 2011 – 2016



This strategy should be used in conjunction with aerial photography and field reconnaissance during incidents and the development of incident action plans.

This document is not guaranteed to be free from error or omission. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service disclaims liability for any act done on the information in this document 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.

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

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is part of the Office of Environment & Heritage.

Published by the Office of Environment & Heritage (NSW), April 2011.

PO Box 580 Dubbo 2830 NSW Ph 02 6841 7100
Date Approved: 19/01/2012

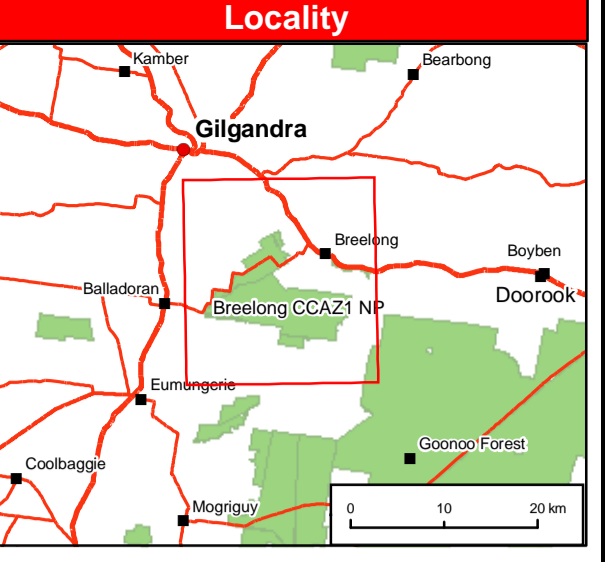
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS Repeaters	27	Wamboin
RFS	P052 P134	Needle Mountain
UHF - CB		Wongalee (Castlereagh)
Aviation - CTAIF	126.7	Wamboin Plains (Castlereagh)
Cellphone		Small fires - Channel 10, Large fires - determined by IMT
		Telstra 3G coverage variable

Fire Season Information
Wildfires
• The critical wildfire season generally occurs during December and January.
• During periods of strong negative Southern Oscillation Indices (El Niño events), this period may commence late October.
• The end of the critical fire season is often marked by wet storm activity.
Prescribed Burning
• Effective prescribed burning may need to be conducted once the "critical fire season" and thunderstorm season is over. This is due to the LOW - MODERATE Overall Fuel Hazard for most vegetation types. Prescribed burning attempted after autumn rain is unlikely to be effective.

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Duty Officer (24 hour) Dubbo Area Office (bus. hours)	6841 7110 6841 7100
NSW RFS Castlereagh Zone	Garry Wilson Duty Officer	0429 305 713 0417 419 367
NSW RFS Orana Zone	Lynette Wieland Duty Officer	0418 636 966 6884 3533
RFS Rural Fire Brigades	Boydell Brigade - Tony Quayle Breelong Brigade - Ross Gilmour	6848 8854 6848 8814
Emergency Services	Police, Fire, Ambulance	4729 6077 000
SES		13 2500
Police	Gilgandra	6847 8999
Council	Warrumbungle	6849 2000

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS Repeaters	27	Wamboin
RFS	P052 P134	Needle Mountain
UHF - CB		Wongalee (Castlereagh)
Aviation - CTAIF	126.7	Wamboin Plains (Castlereagh)
Cellphone		Small fires - Channel 10, Large fires - determined by IMT
		Telstra 3G coverage variable

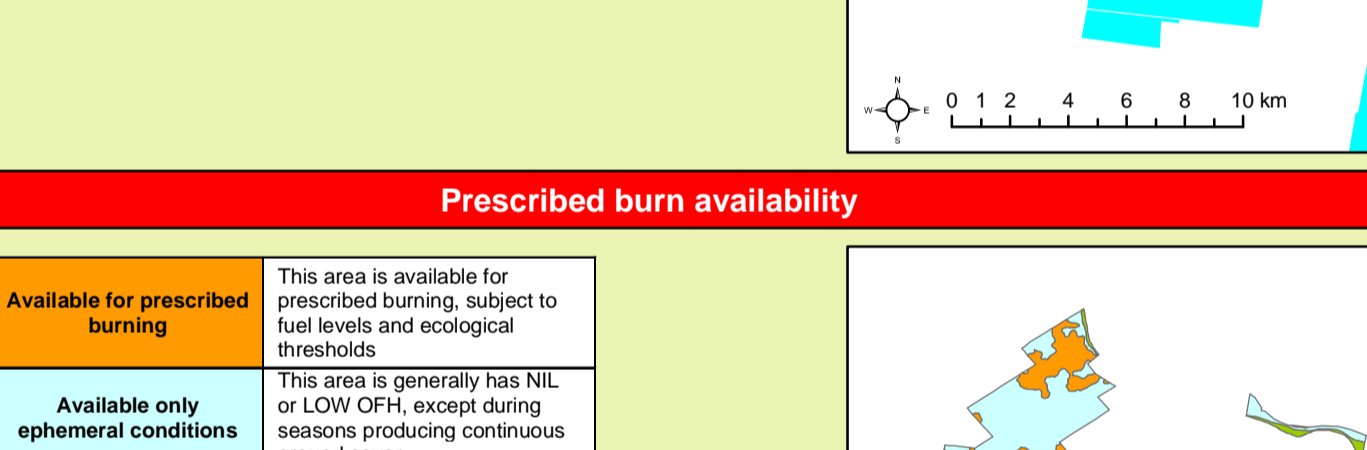
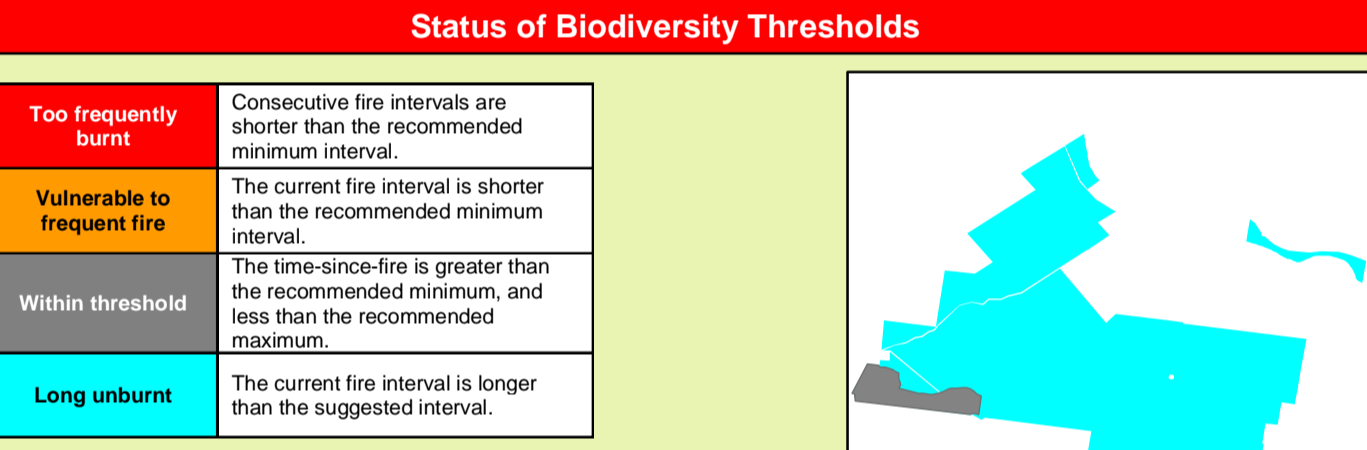
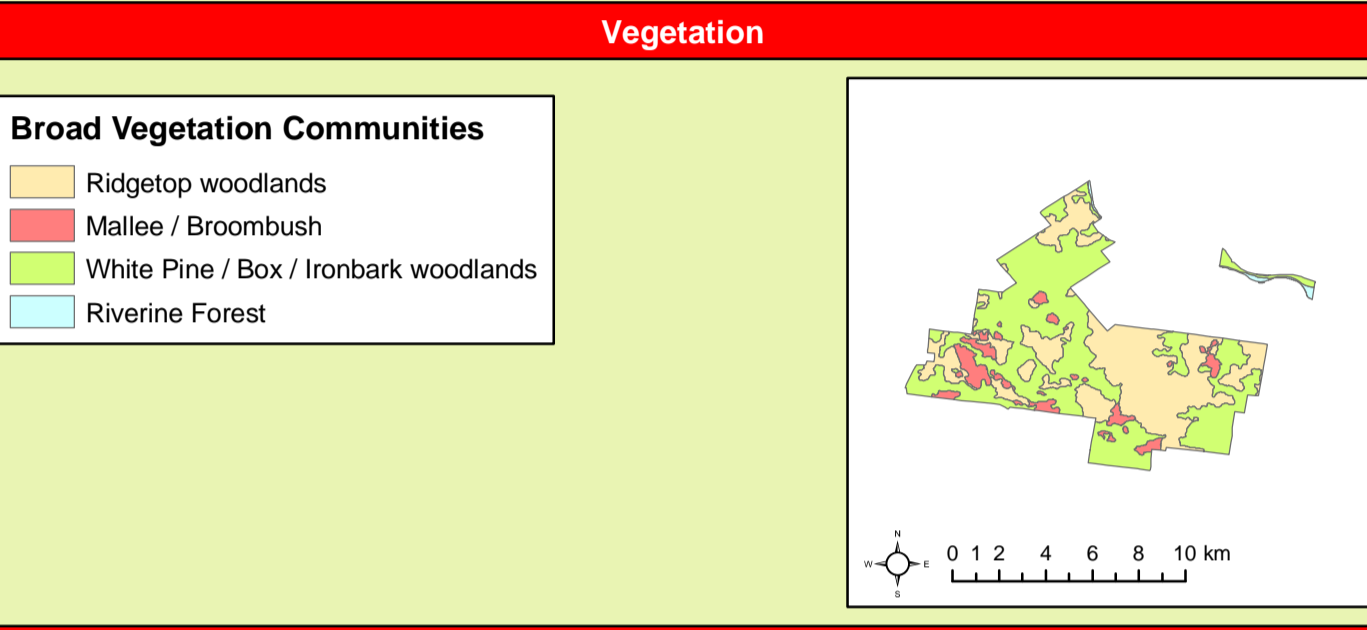
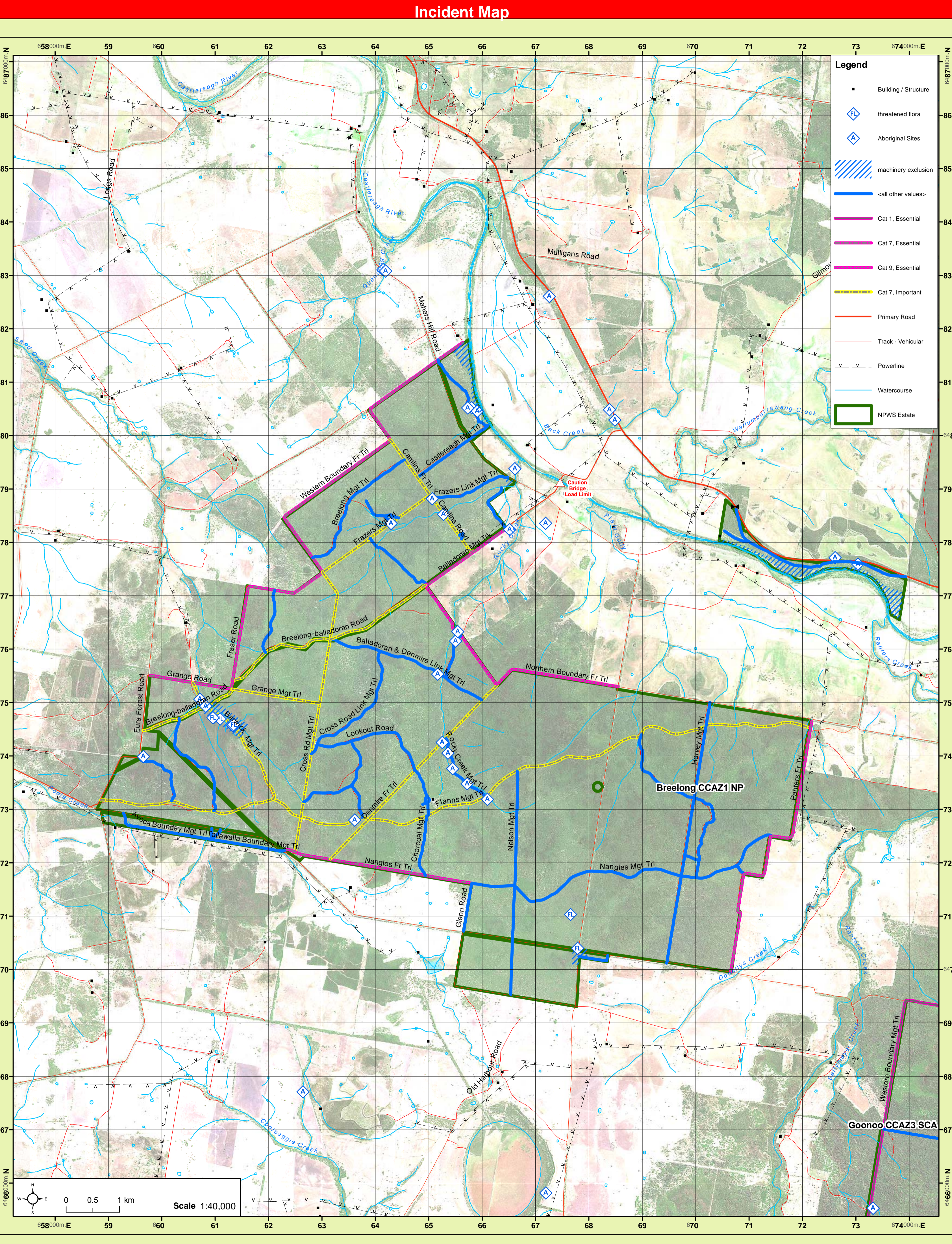
Additional notes
• The reserve's fire trail system will be finalised after negotiations with landholders on various land management issues. When these have been finalised, this fire management strategy will be updated.



Map Details

Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994 GDA 94
Projection: Map Grid Australia Zone 55

Data: Satellite Image Spot 2005.
1:50K Topographic Map: BALLS, BALLADONAN 8634S
Scale: Noted scales are true when printed on A1 size paper



Vegetation Community	Vegetation management guidelines	Fire Behaviour
Ridgetop vegetation	• An interval between fire events less than 15 years and greater 40 years should be avoided • A high intensity fire may be permitted after a fire free period 25 years	• Potential rate of spread is highest in stands of elevated (shrub) fuel (4 – 6 kph under extreme conditions) • Localised areas of High – Very High OFH
Mallee / Broom / Ironbark shrublands	• An interval between fire events greater than 25 years should be avoided	• Potential rates of spread is very high due to High – Very High OFH
White Pine / White Box / Ironbark woodlands	• An interval between fire events less than 20 years should be avoided • A high intensity fire may be permitted after a fire free period 30 – 50 years	• Potential rates of spread is low due to Low – Moderate OFH • Localised areas of High OFH may produce restricted areas of higher fire intensity
Riverine Forest	• An interval between fire events less than 20 years should be avoided • Avoid prescribed burning	• Potential rates of spread is low due to Low – Moderate OFH • Potential rates of spread will be higher after periods of ephemeral growth.

Conditions	Guidelines
White Pine / Box / Ironbark woodlands	• 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, except riverine forests.
Ridgetop vegetation	• 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.
Mallee / Broom / Ironbark shrublands	• 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 only on dead edges, or in vegetation with LOW OFH. • Fall back to existing trails and roads, recently burnt areas or vegetation with LOW OFH. • Do not attempt backburning in the predicted path of running fire in this vegetation. • Backburning must be carefully timed and planned to avoid adding to fire runs. • Backburning effectiveness will drop significantly in the after humidity starts to rise, and wind drops, in the early evening. • Parallel attack may be applied with earthmoving machinery and fire units only on dead edges, or in vegetation with LOW OFH.

General	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 should be limited to very specific circumstances. • All aerial ignition operations require the consent of the NPWS Regional Manager 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. • Where practical to top-up efforts, clear a 1m radius around dead and fibrous barked trees adjacent to containment lines prior to backburning, or wet down these trees during the ignition.
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. • 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	• 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. • Containment lines running along valley areas should be constructed at 20 – 50 metres from the gullyline to avoid severe erosion. • All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on, and must consider both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location. • Earthmoving equipment may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS Officer. • Earthmoving equipment 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. • Earthmoving equipment will be excluded from: • the banks of the Castlereagh River • habitat areas of plant <i>Tylophora linearis</i> • Fuzzy Box woodlands • Earthmoving equipment must be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS estate and again on exiting NPWS estate.
Earthmoving Equipment	• The use of foams, gels and retardants will be permitted on the reserve • Fire suppression chemicals are not to be applied within 50m of water courses and dams. • The use of retardants requires the approval of the Regional Manager or delegate
Fire Suppression Chemicals	• Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
Rehabilitation	• Consider deployment of a bulk water carrier to support fire operations.
Watering points	• Potential smoke impacts and mitigation tactics will be assessed during the planning of fire operations. • During fire operations, signage may be required on Matala Road or Castlereagh Highway.
Smoke Management	• The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger, and will be closed during fire operations.
Visitor Management	

Resource	Guidelines
Modified trees (AS1), including scarred trees	• Protect the site from fire, clear base of litter and shrubs, exclude tree from fire if possible • Foam may be used to protect the tree, or to extinguish fire • Do not cut trees
Ground based sites (AS2), including artefacts and grinding grooves	• Protect site from any ground disturbance, including the use of earth-moving equipment, vehicles and water bombing • Apply a machinery exclusion area where there is a high concentration of known sites • Area may be burnt
Burial sites (AS3)	• Protect sites from any disturbance by excluding operations by at least 25 metres • Area may be burnt
Forestry Huts	• Protect the site from fire • Exclude site from fire where possible, including the construction of a control line around the perimeter • Foam may be used to protect the site, or to extinguish fire
Charcoal production sites	• Protect site from any ground disturbance, including the use of earth-moving equipment, vehicles and water bombing
Threatened plant species – Tylophora linearis	• Machinery will be excluded from known habitat areas • Apply minimum interval of 10 years between fire events • Monitoring to record fire response must be initiated after a fire event
Threatened plant species – <i>Phallotheca ericifolia</i>	• Maintain fire trails and turning bays to avoid any widening during incidents
Ecologically Endangered Communities – Fuzzy Box woodlands	• Machinery will be excluded from known habitat areas

Conditions	Guidelines
White Pine / Box / Ironbark woodlands	• 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, except riverine forests.
Ridgetop vegetation	• 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.
Mallee / Broom / Ironbark shrublands	• 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 only on dead edges, or in vegetation with LOW OFH. • Fall back to existing trails and roads, recently burnt areas or vegetation with LOW OFH. • Do not attempt backburning in the predicted path of running fire in this vegetation. • Backburning must be carefully timed and planned to avoid adding to fire runs. • Backburning effectiveness will drop significantly in the after humidity starts to rise, and wind drops, in the early evening. • Parallel attack may be applied with earthmoving machinery and fire units only on dead edges, or in vegetation with LOW OFH.