

Northern Rivers Region Brunswick Heads NR (South) Fire Management Strategy (Type 2) 2005



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.

Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW)



Strategy Information

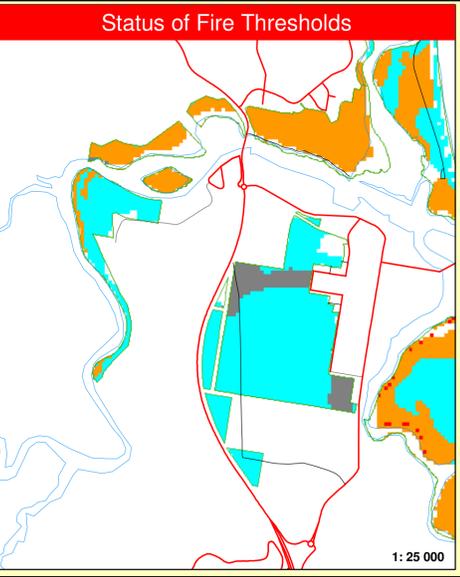
Fire Season Information	
Wildfires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have been known to start as early as late August, but usually the potential for a large fire event is greatest between October and December. This period may extend into January in more severe years. During this period in dry seasons fires may exhibit high intensity behaviour under windy conditions.
Prescribed Burning (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Autumn to late Winter. Burning is possible in early Spring but not desirable on a regular basis from an ecological or tourism point of view.
Suppression Strategies	
Current FDR	Forecast FDR
Low - Mod	Low - Mod
Low - Mod	=> High
High	All
All	All

Operational Guidelines

Refer to Strategy for Fire Management 2003 and Fire Management Manual 2004.
Brief all personnel involved in suppression operations on the following issues:

Resource	Guidelines
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management (NPWS FMM 4.1.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal sites are not shown on this version. Vulnerable sites will be shown on the operational version of this strategy following consultation with the Aboriginal Community.
Historic Heritage Management (NPWS FMM 4.1.0)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No known sites in Reserve. If new sites located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
Threatened Fauna Management (NPWS FMM 4.1.2 & 5.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid impact on wetlands, littoral rainforest and streams Protect large and hollow-bearing trees
Threatened Flora Management (NPWS FMM 4.1.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid impact on wetlands and littoral rainforest.
Threatened Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

General	Guidelines
Aerial Water Bombing (NPWS FMM 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foam should be used to increase the effectiveness of water bombing.
Aerial Ignition (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2-4 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to reserve size and proximity to urban areas, aerial ignition is not proposed for fuel reduction and will not be permitted for back-burning operations.
Backburning (NPWS FMM 4.8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Command & Control (NPWS FMM 4.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first combatant agency on site may assume control of the fire, but then must ensure the NPWS 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 (NPWS FMM 2.2 & 3.9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No new containment lines in wetlands. New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer. Containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
Earthmoving Equipment (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earthmoving equipment may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer. 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. Earthmoving equipment should be washed down prior to it entering NPWS estate.
Fire Advantage Recording	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All fire advantages used during wildfire suppression operations must be mapped and where relevant added to the database.
Fire Suppression Chemicals (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 rainforest, watercourses, dams and swamps.
Rehabilitation (NPWS FMM 5.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation. All re opened and new containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed at the cessation of the incident.
Smoke Management (NPWS FMM 3.4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Visitor Management (NPWS FMM 3.6 & 4.13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations.



Fire Thresholds

Overburnt	Fire thresholds have been exceeded. - Protect from fire as far as possible.
Vulnerable	The area will be overburnt if it burns this year. - Protect from fire as far as possible.
Recently Burnt	Time since fire is less than the optimum interval, but before that it was within threshold. - Avoid fires if possible.
Within Threshold	Fire history is within the threshold for vegetation in this area. - A burn is neither required nor should one necessarily be avoided.
Almost Underburnt	The area is close to its threshold and may become underburnt with the absence of fire. - A prescribed burn may be advantageous. Consider allowing unplanned fires to burn.
Underburnt	Fire frequency is below fire thresholds in the area. - A prescribed burn may be advantageous. Consider allowing unplanned fires to burn.
Unknown	Insufficient data to determine fire threshold.

NB. Fire thresholds are defined for vegetation communities to conserve biodiversity

Contact Numbers

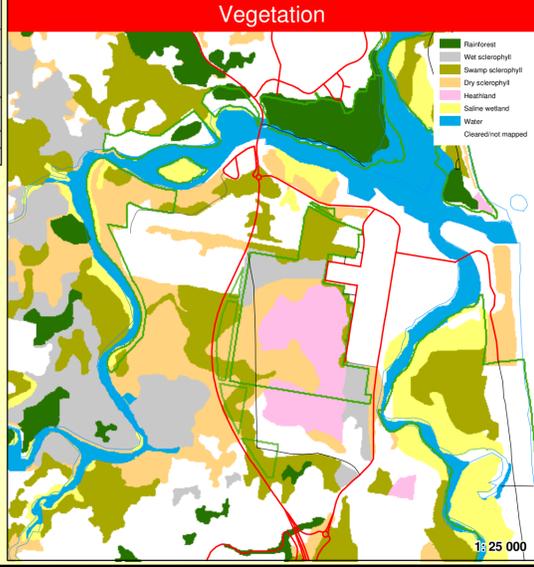
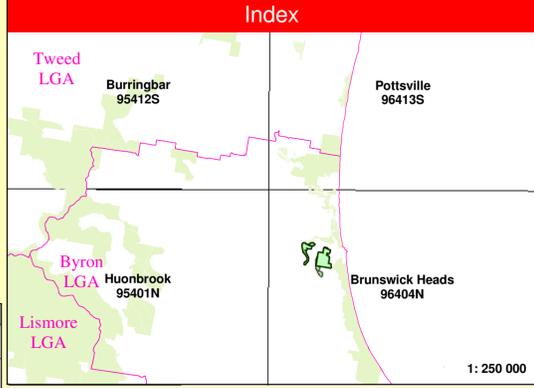
NPWS	
Regional Office - Alstonville	6627 0200
Byron Coast Area Office	6685 8565
Byron Coast Area Depot	6680 9203
Aboriginal Heritage Management Officer	6627 0205
NSW Rural Fire Service	
Fire Reports	
Duty Officer (Northern Rivers)	6632 3044
Fire Control Centre - Mullumbimby	6684 3662
NSW Fire Brigade - Fire Reports	000
Brunswick Heads - General business	6685 1710
Byron Shire Council	
	6626 7000
	6622 7022 (ah)
Police	
Brunswick Heads	6685 1277
State Emergency Services (SES)	
Mullumbimby	6684 3444
Emergencies	132 500
Ambulance - Emergency	000
Bookings	131 233
Country Energy	132 080 / 132 356

Fire Management Zones

Asset Protection Zones	Zone	Action	Responsibility
	Byron/Newberry APZ (A1) 205m x 15m	Establish and/or maintain APZs adjacent to adjoining capital assets. Mechanical treatment as per RFS Bush Fire Environmental Assessment Code.	NPWS
	Fingal St APZ (A2) 175m x 15m		
	Booyum St APZ (A3) 60m x 20m	Recommendations: 1. Reduce ground fuels and suspended fuels to near nil by raking, mowing, pruning and leaf blowing. 2. Remove sclerophyll trees and shrubs less than 3m in height 3. Remove trees within 5m of buildings. 4. Retain mesic trees and shrubs. 5. Retain smooth barked trees where possible.	
Strategic Fire Advantage Zones	The objective of SFAZs is to reduce fire intensity across larger areas. Maintain overall fuel hazard at high or below, however adherence to guidelines for biodiversity will take precedence where practical.		
Heritage Management Zones	The objective of HMZs is to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural heritage. Manage fire consistent with fire thresholds.		

Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	8	Mount Nardi
NPWS - VHF (Fireground Comms)	40	Fireground chat channel (single frequency) monitors channel 8
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	13	Blue Code. Stored at Kyogle Depot / transportable.
RFS - PMR - UHF	48	Byron Bay
RFS - GRN	-	No service available.
CB - UHF	-	To be confirmed with RFS brigade captain on the day.
Aircraft - VHF	125.45 MHz	Or as directed by Incident Controller
Mobile Phone - CDMA	Partial	Coverage varies but generally good.



Projection: UTM
Datum: AGD66
Grid: AMG 66 Zone 56J
Noted scale values are true on A1 paper

