


Buddigower Nature Reserve South West Woodland Nature Reserve – Buddigower Precinct

Fire Management Strategy 2012

Mapsheet 1 of 1



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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| Map Details | Related Documents |
|--|---|
| Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA) 1994 Projection: Map Grid of Australia (MGA) Zone 55 Scale: Noted scales are true when printed on A1 size paper. Data: Spot Satellite Imagery: 2005. | 1:50k Topographic Map: Barmedman 8329-N (AGD-1968) OEH Fire Management Manual 2011 - 2012. |

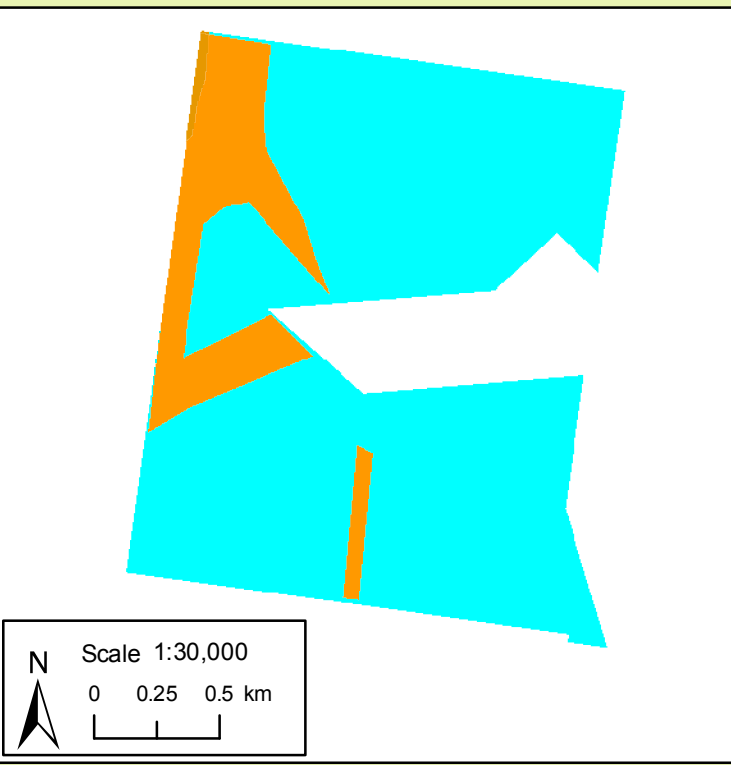
Operational Guidelines

Brief all personnel involved in suppression operations on the following issues using the SMEACS format:

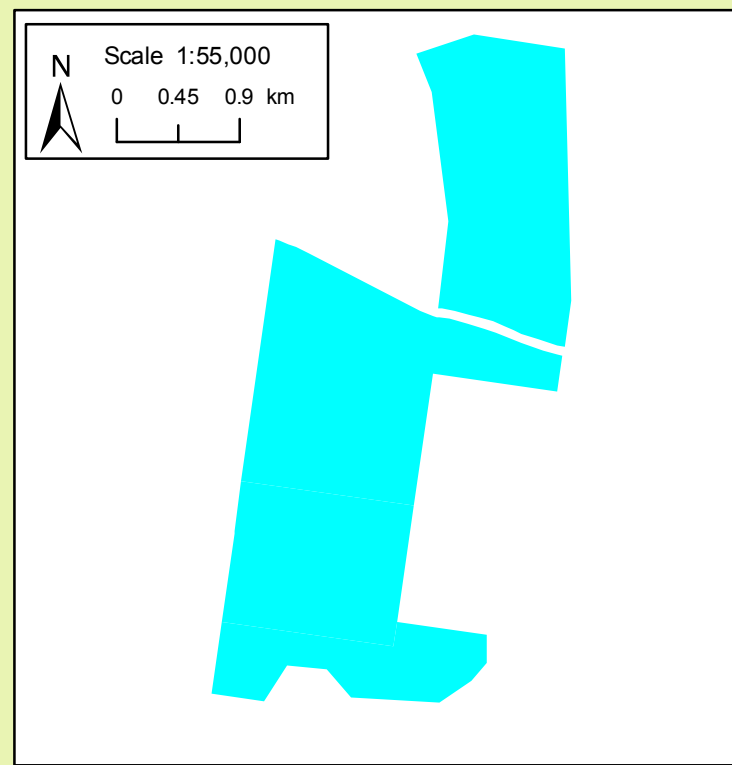
| General | Guidelines |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Aerial Water Bombing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of bombing aircraft should support containment operations by aggressively attacking hotspots and spot-overs. The use of bombing aircraft without the support of ground 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. |
| Aerial Ignition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aerial ignition may be used during back-burning or fuel reduction operations where practicable, but only with the prior consent of NPWS Regional Manager, OEH Section 44 delegate or as prescribed in an operational burn plan. Aerial ignition will only be undertaken by accredited navigators & bombardiers. The pattern for aerial ignition will be specified in the IAP during fire suppression. Utilise incendiaries to rapidly burn out large areas where required. |
| Back-burning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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, back-burning should commence when the humidity begins to rise in the late afternoon or early evening, with a lower FDI back-burning may be safely undertaken during the day. Where practicable, clear a 1m radius around dead and hollow bearing trees adjacent to containment lines prior to back-burning, or wet down these trees as part of the back-burn ignition. Use parallel containment lines when applicable. All personnel must be fully briefed before back-burning operations begin. Standard Incident Management Systems are to be applied. 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. Where OEH is not the first responding fire authority to arrive at a fire on OEH-managed lands, a competent officer of the first arriving fire authority will direct fire management activities until a competent OEH officer assumes control (unless prior agreements have been made). |
| Command & Control | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, where practicable, except where they can be constructed with minimal environmental impact. For new containment lines IMT to liaise with and receive consent from a Senior NPWS officer prior to construction. Use parallel containment lines when applicable. 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. Containment line construction using earthmoving equipment must be in accordance with the earthmoving guidelines contained within the RFMS. |
| Containment Lines | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 always be guided and supervised by an appropriately experienced person, and accompanied by a support vehicle. When engaged in direct or parallel attack this vehicle must be a fire fighting 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 must not leave tracks or create new tracks in Machinery Exclusion areas as marked on the Incident Map of a RFMS. Earthmoving equipment must be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS estate and again on exiting NPWS estate. Where multiple items of earthmoving equipment are being used, the IMT should consider the establishment of a Plant Operations Manager. |
| Earthmoving Equipment | <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 Advantage Recording | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of wetting and foaming agents (surfactants) is permitted on the reserve. The use of fire retardants are 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 watercourses, dams and swamps. Areas where fire suppression chemicals are used must be mapped and the used product's name recorded. The Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed. |
| Fire Suppression Chemicals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation. |
| Rehabilitation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. |
| Smoke Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OEH personnel are not trained in structural fire fighting and must not enter a structure in order to undertake structural fire fighting. Fire suppression activities may be undertaken from outside a structure in accordance with the policies in the NPWS FFM, in order to protect a built asset. |
| Structural Fire Fighting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during prescribed burning or wildfire suppression operations. |
| Visitor Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WARNINGS Beware of old mine sites on Crown Land Reserve (see Incident Map). |

Status of Biodiversity Thresholds

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| Evaluation of Biodiversity Thresholds | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Vulnerable to Frequent Fire | The area will be too frequently burnt if it burns this year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect from fire as far as possible. |
| Long Unburnt | Underburnt, excessive time since last fire, species may become extinct. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A fire event may be ecologically advantageous. Consider allowing unplanned fires to burn. |

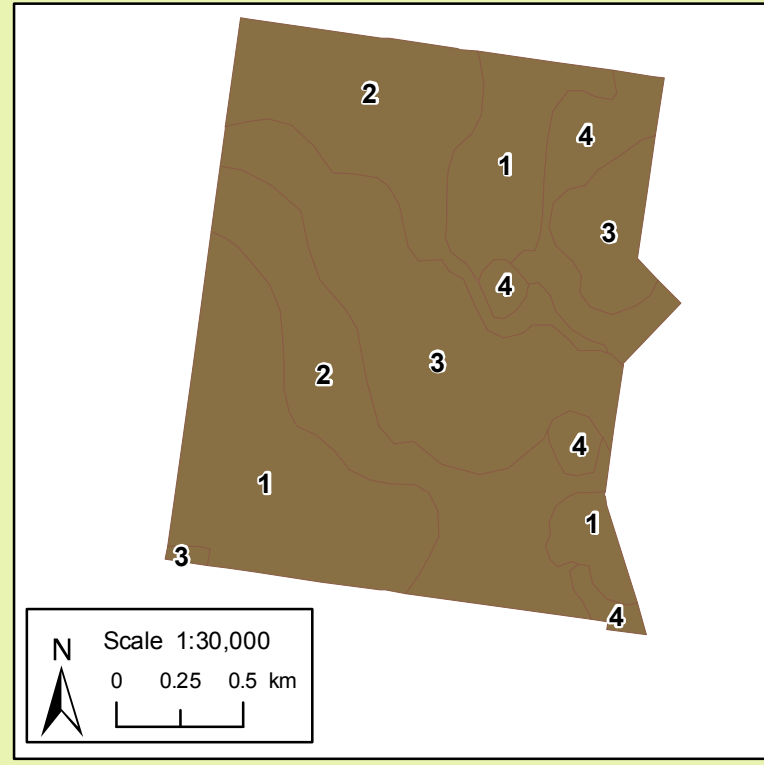
NB. Fire thresholds are defined for vegetation communities to conserve biodiversity

Vegetation Map Legend

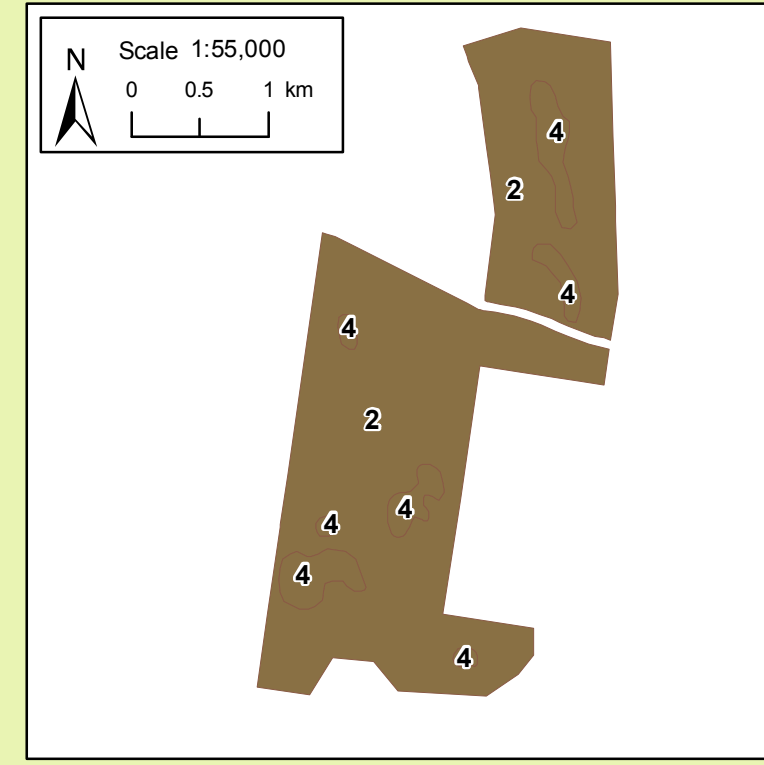
| Broad Vegetation Class | Vegetation Type | Biodiversity Thresholds | Fire Behaviour |
|--|---|--|---|
| Semi-arid Woodlands (Shrubby sub-form) | Broombush – Green Mallee – Blue Mallee Tall Shrubland (1) | An interval between fire events less than 15 years should be avoided. There is no maximum interval between fire events specified for this vegetation type as there was insufficient data to give definite intervals. | These vegetation communities generally have a moderate fire potential. Fire intensities range from moderate to high and is largely influenced by ephemeral growth. Low ground fuels in normal years will only allow for patchy fires unless weather conditions are extreme. Back-burning may be difficult in years with low ephemeral fuels. Crown fires are likely in high to very high and above fire danger periods in the Mallee areas. |
| | Blue Mallee – Bull Mallee – Green Mallee Tall Shrubland (2) | | |
| | Mugga Ironbark – Grey Box – Cypress Pine Woodland (3) | | |
| | Dwyer's Red Gum – Black Cypress – Currawang Low Woodland (4) | | |
| Fire History | The fire history data for these reserve areas show prescribed burns of 46 Ha and 4 Ha in 2008 but no wildfire history. | | |
| Ephemeral Conditions | Ephemeral fuel conditions occur after consecutive years of effective rainfall and significant flooding events. This in turn leads to the growth and build up of fine surface fuels such as grasses and herbs, which can create a continuous fuel load across all of the above vegetation communities. As a result expect higher fire intensity. | | |
| Drought Conditions | During drought conditions and when vegetation communities are visibly stressed it will be very difficult to undertake prescribed burning across many communities as the surface fuels will be very low. Wildfire areas will be minimised. | | |
| Prescribed Burning | This reserve contains the critically endangered ecological community of Mallee and Mallee-Broombush dominated woodland and shrubland, lacking <i>Triclia</i> found in the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion as listed under the Threatened Species Conservation Act. As a result any prescribed burning must be considered by a Review of Environmental Factors. | | |

Vegetation

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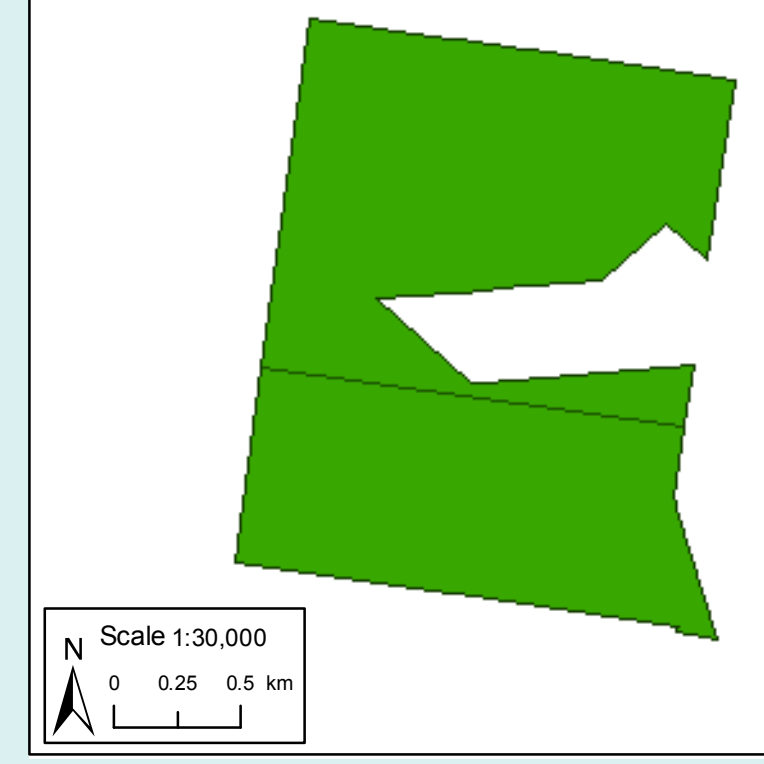


Threatened Sites Guidelines

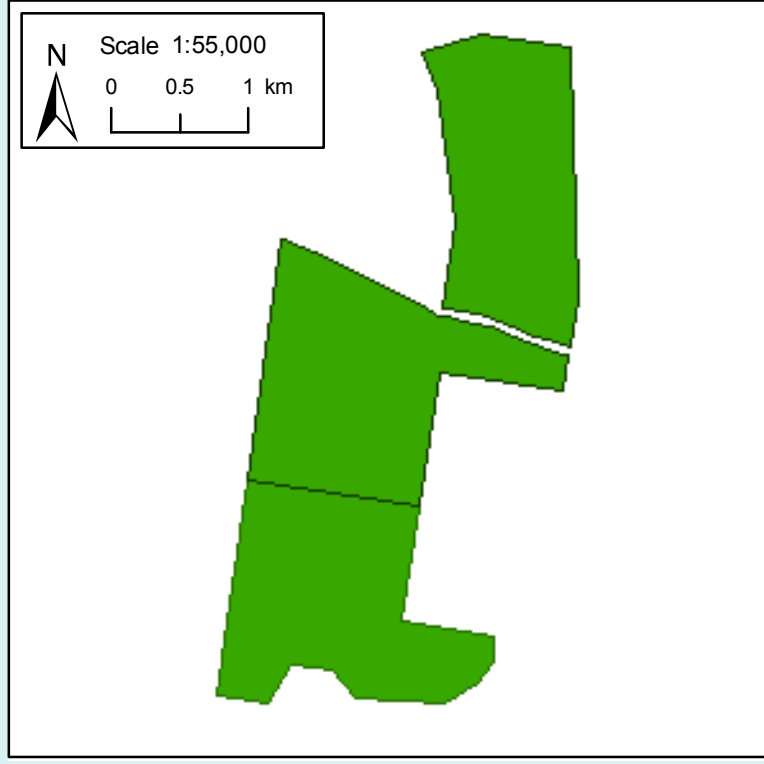
| Site | Guidelines |
|---|---|
| Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management | |
| Note | An aboriginal sites survey is yet to be conducted for this reserve (as of August 2012). Therefore aboriginal sites may be present although not shown in this document |
| Threatened Fauna Management | |
| FA1 | Utilise mosaic burning and avoid disturbance at known sightings, roostings or refuges and avoid frequent fire (<6 years). |
| FA2 | Utilise mosaic burning, avoid disturbance at known sightings, roostings or refuges, avoid frequent fire (<6 years) and exclude chemical use. |
| FA3 | Utilise mosaic burning and protect hollow bearing trees. |
| FA4 | Utilise mosaic burning, protect hollow bearing trees and avoid frequent fire (< 6—10 years). |
| FA5 | Utilise mosaic burning. |

Bushfire Risk Management Strategies

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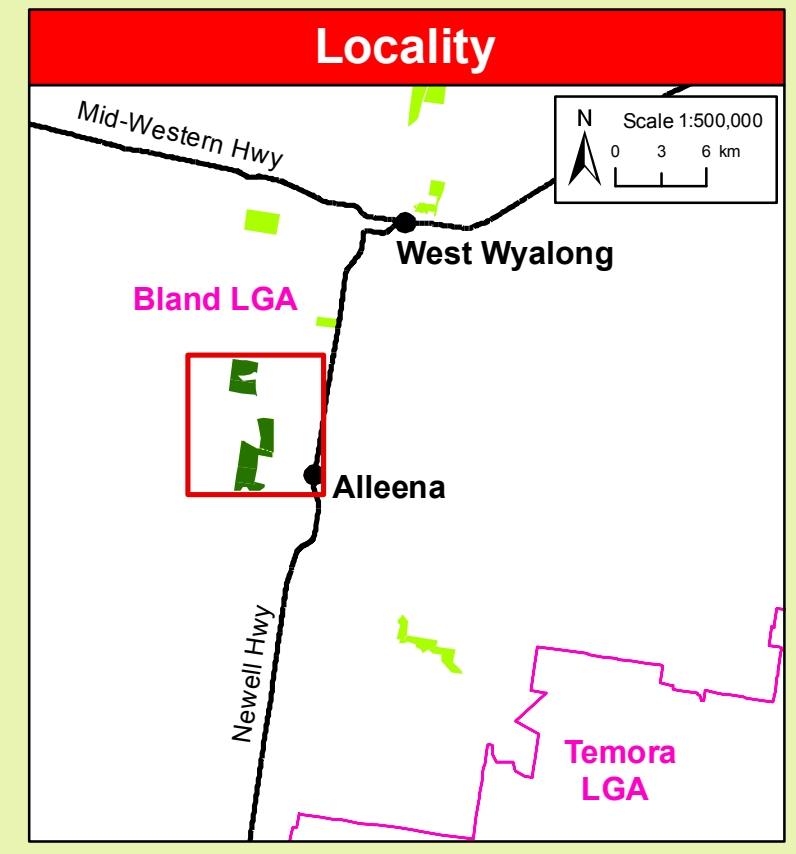
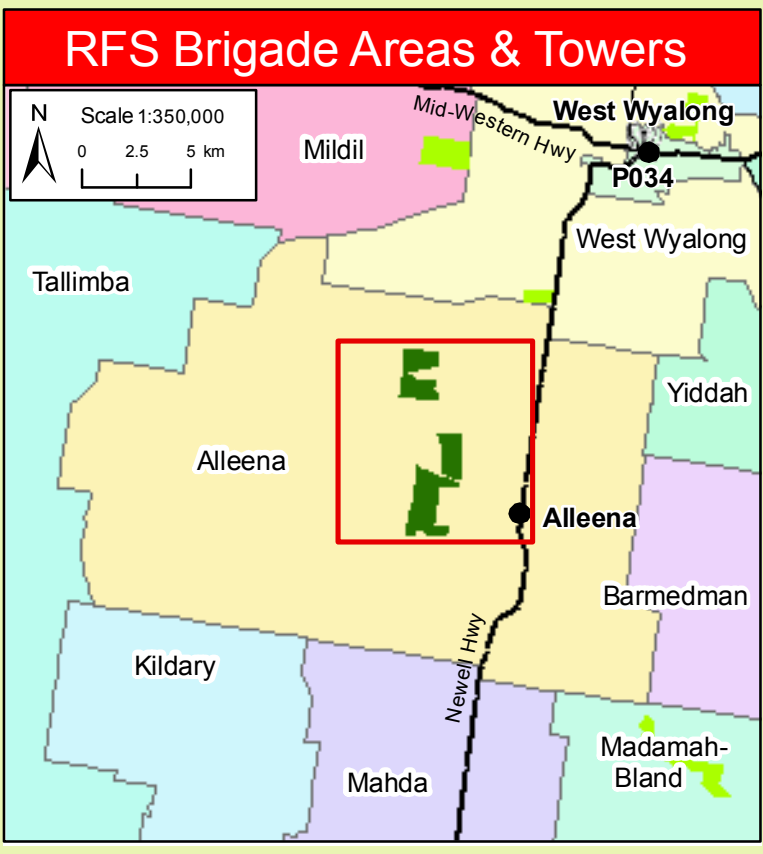
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| Fire Management Zones | | |
|--|--|--|
| Land Management Zones | The objective of LMZs is to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural and historic heritage. Manage fire consistent with fire thresholds. | |
| Suppression Strategies | | |
| Season | Typical Conditions | Indicative Suppression Strategies |
| Just prior to or during the critical fire season | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current Fire Danger Rating (FDR) of Very High or Greater. Short and medium range forecasts suggest conditions typical to a FDR of Very High or Greater. A risk to life and/or property exists in the short – medium term. A broad area risk to biodiversity exists. | <p>Direct Initial attacks should be to try to extinguish or to contain to the smallest possible area.</p> <p>Indirect Develop a suppression plan using existing and/or potential containment lines. If possible take into account biodiversity requirements but never to the detriment of life and property.</p> |
| Outside of the critical fire season | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FDR of High or below. Short – medium term forecast indicate a continuing FDR of High or below. No risk to life or property exists in the short-medium term. Only small area risk to biodiversity exists. | <p>Direct Evaluate the biodiversity thresholds and use direct attack methods to extinguish if required.</p> <p>Indirect Develop a fire suppression plan to the maximum allowable perimeter based on Biodiversity thresholds.</p> |

Contact Information

| Agency | Position / Location | Phone |
|---|--|--------------|
| National Parks & Wildlife Service | Duty Officer (8am-10pm) | 02 6332 6350 |
| | Regional Office – 200 Yambil St Griffith | 02 6966 8100 |
| NSW Rural Fire Service Bland/Temora Zone | Fire Control Centre | 02 6980 2060 |
| | Duty Officer | 02 6972 0038 |
| NSW Fire Brigades | Steve Holden (Zone Manager) | 0409 919 007 |
| | West Wyalong Fire Station | 02 6972 3120 |
| State Forests | Forbes – Duty Mobile | 0428 696 678 |
| Emergency Services SES | | 000 |
| | | 13 2500 |
| Police Station (not open 24 hrs) | West Wyalong | 02 6972 2444 |
| Police - Local Area Command | Griffith | 02 6969 4310 |
| Hospital | Wyalong | 02 6979 0000 |
| Council | Temora Shire Council | 02 6980 1100 |
| | Bland Shire Council | 02 6972 2266 |



Communications Information

| Service | Channel | Location and Comments |
|--------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| NPWS UHF | 10 | Griffith |
| RFS UHF | 03 | Alleena Brigade |
| RFS Bland | P034 | West Wyalong |
| | P027 | Billy's Lookout |
| State Forests VHF VHF Repeater | 26 | Manna Mountain |
| | 275 | |

NPWS VHF coverage patchy, use mobile repeater for fire ground, **VHF 13 (Blue)**, **14 (Orange)** or **15 (Green)**. Mobile phone coverage likely to be unreliable.

Fire Season Information

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Wildfires | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The critical wildfire season generally occurs from October/November to March/April. Dry lightning storms frequently occur and typical fire weather conditions are winds from the west to the north, high day time temperatures and low humidity. Particular care is required following periods of Winter rain and after periods of negative Southern Oscillation Indices. |
| Prescribed Burning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prescribed burning should generally be undertaken during Autumn, Winter or early Spring. Care should be taken to ensure a medium to high intensity burn over most of the area treated. |

