Cobbora
State Conservation Area
Fire Management Strategy
2016-21

NSW Environment, Climate Change & Water

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

This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997.
The NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service is part of the Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water.
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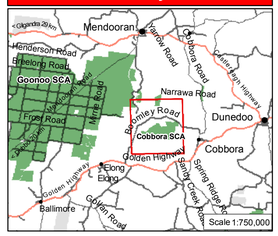
Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Duty Officer (24 hour)	6842 3041
	Dubbo Office (bus. hours)	6841 7100
NSW RFS Castlereagh Zone	Garry Wilson Duty Officer	0429 305 713 0417 419 367
NSW RFS Orana Zone	Lyndon Wieland Duty Officer	0418 636 966 6884 3533
RFS Rural Fire Brigades	Boomley Brigade – Damien O'Leary	6886 6141 0439 172 893
	Cobbora Brigade – Garry Cox	6375 1972 0427 456 125
NSW Fire Brigade	Katoomba	4782 6077
Emergency Services	Police, Fire, Ambulance	000
SES		13 2500
Police	Dubbo	6883 1599
	Dunedoo	6375 1208
Council	Warrumbungle	6849 2000

Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS VHF	322 323	• Bodangora • Goonoo
NPWS Fireground	11-17	• NPWS Fireground channels 1-7
RFS	N026 W119	• Wamboin Plains (Castlereagh) • Bodangora (Orana)
UHF - CB		• Small fires - Channel 10, • Large fires - determined by IMT
Aviation - CTAF	134.0 126.7	• Dubbo • Wellington
Mobile phone		• Telstra 3G coverage is generally unavailable for most of the reserve

Locality



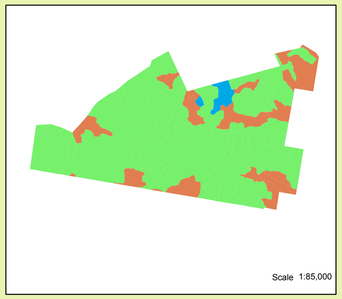
Map Details

Datum: Geodetic Datum of Australia (GDA) 1994
Projection: Australian Map Grid (AMG) Zone 55

Data: Spot Satellite Imagery: 2005, 1:50k
Topographic Map Dunedoo 8733N
Scale: Noted scales are true when printed on A1 size paper.

Vegetation

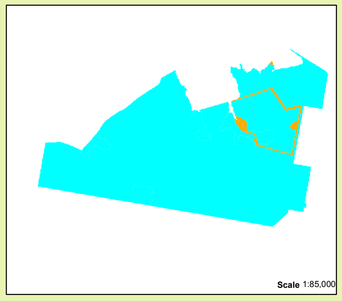
Legend
- Valley and Box Woodlands
- Ridge Woodlands and Shrublands
- Regenerating vegetation



Scale 1:85,000

Status of Biodiversity Thresholds

Vulnerable to frequent fire	The current fire interval is shorter than the recommended minimum interval.
Long unburnt	The current fire interval is longer than the suggested interval.



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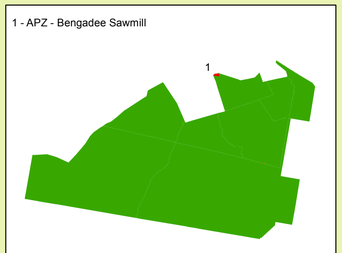
Bushfire Risk Management Strategies

Asset Protection Zone	The objective of this zone is to protect a communications facility by maintaining the Overall Fuel Hazard at LOW.
Land Management Zones	The objective of this zone is to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural heritage by applying biodiversity thresholds

1 - APZ - Bengadee Sawmill



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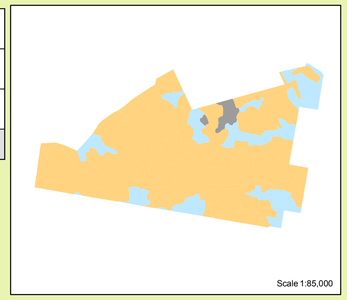
Vegetation Suitability for Prescribed Burning

Available only during VERY HIGH FDI	This area generally has LOW or MODERATE OFH, prescribed burning effective only under VERY HIGH FDI
Available - only ephemeral conditions	This area is generally has NIL or LOW OFH, except during seasons producing continuous ground cover
Available – regeneration management	This area is available for prescribed burning, subject to requirements specified within a revegetation plan
Availability for burning must be referenced with the **Status of Biodiversity Thresholds.**	



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Fire Season Information

Wildfires	The critical wildfire season occurs during December and January. This period may commence earlier. Particular care is required during periods of negative Southern Oscillation Indices. 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.

Operational Guidelines

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 crews 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 practicable to mop-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. • A senior NPWS officer is to liaise with the RFS to ensure that the agency in command and control is determined and an Incident Controller is appointed.
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. • No machinery constructed containment lines will be permitted in *Zieria ingramii* habitat and Grey Box woodland – see Operations Map for known locations. • All personal involved in containment line construction should be briefed on, and must consider both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location.
Earthmoving Equipment	• 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 must not work in machinery exclusion areas due to the presence of Aboriginal sites, endangered species and an endangered ecological community. • Earthmoving equipment must be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS estate and again on exiting NPWS estate.
Fire Suppression Chemicals	• The use of foam, 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 a Senior NPWS officer.
Rehabilitation	• Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
Watering points	• Consider deployment of a bulk water carrier to support fire operations.
Smoke Management	• Potential smoke impacts and mitigation tactics will be assessed during the planning of fire operations.
Visitor Management	• The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger, and will be closed during fire operations.
	• Black text – General guidelines Blue text – Reserve specific guidelines Red text – Major warnings

Operational Guidelines - Heritage

General	Guidelines
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management	• Machinery will be excluded from the creekline running parallel to the Boomley Road, adjacent to the northern boundary *Modified trees (IS1), including scarred trees* • *Protect the site from fire, clear base of litter and shrubs, exclude site tree from fire where possible* • *Foam may be used to protect the tree, or to extinguish fire* • *Do not cut trees* *Ground based sites (IS2), including: camp sites, artefacts, grinding grooves, waterholes and quarries* • *Protect site from any ground disturbance, including the use of earth-moving equipment and vehicles* *Resource sites (IS3), including fig-tree groves* • Protect site from physical disturbance • Avoid any burning into Dry Vine Rainforests AIIMS database must be checked as part of planning for fire operations
Threatened Flora and Fauna Management	*Endangered flora – Zieria ingramii* • Maintain fire trails and turning bays to avoid any widening during incidents • Machinery will be excluded from known habitat areas • The minimum fire free interval should be 10 years, with a maximum fire free interval of 25 years *Endangered ecological community – Grey Box* • Machinery will be excluded from known community areas *Threatened fauna* • The protective actions for threatened fauna have been incorporated into the Operational Guidelines
Historic Heritage Site Management	• Bengadee Sawmill

Vegetation Communities and Biodiversity Thresholds

Vegetation Community	Vegetation management guidelines	Fire Behaviour
Valley and Box Woodlands Blakelys Red Gum / Western Grey Box/ Yellow Box / Fuzzy Box	• An interval between fire events less than 10 years should be avoided	• Potential rates of spread is low due to **Low / Moderate OFH**, except during Severe+ • Localised areas of **HIGH elevated fuel hazard** will have rapid rates of spread. • Prescribed burning will not be effective during periods of lower fire danger in most areas.
Ridge Woodlands and Shrublands Blue-leaved Ironbark / Narrow leaved Ironbark / Dywers Red Gum / Black Cypress Pine / Acacia shrubland	• An interval between fire events less than 10 years should be avoided • A high intensity fire may be permitted after a fire free period 25 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 • Prescribed burning will not be effective during periods of lower fire danger in most areas.
Regenerating vegetation	• Interval between fires to be determined revegeation guidelines for the reserve	• Potential rates will be dependant on the **elevated fuel hazard**
OFH – Overall fuel hazard - A rating system that includes leaf litter, grasses, shrubs, bark type and bark condition. Consists of ratings for surface fuel, near-surface fuel, elevated fuel and bark.		

Suppression Strategies

Conditions & forecast	Guidelines
Fire danger rating LOW - HIGH	• Consider a broad containment strategy using existing tracks, low fuel areas, open areas and recently burnt areas.
Fire danger rating VERY HIGH - EXTREME	• Consider a strategy containing the fire to the smallest area practicable, using a combination of ground crews, fire units, machinery and aircraft. • Secure flank as soon as possible on the next predicted downwind side. • Any proposed back burning must be assessed on the required resources, their capacity and the time required to mop-up and secure proposed burn edges prior to the onset of Severe + conditions, and then hold.
Catastrophic	• Revert to property protection.

Incident Map