

# Northern Tablelands Region Gibraltar NR Fire Management Strategy (Type 2) 2005 Sheet 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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The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is part of the Department of Environment and Conservation.

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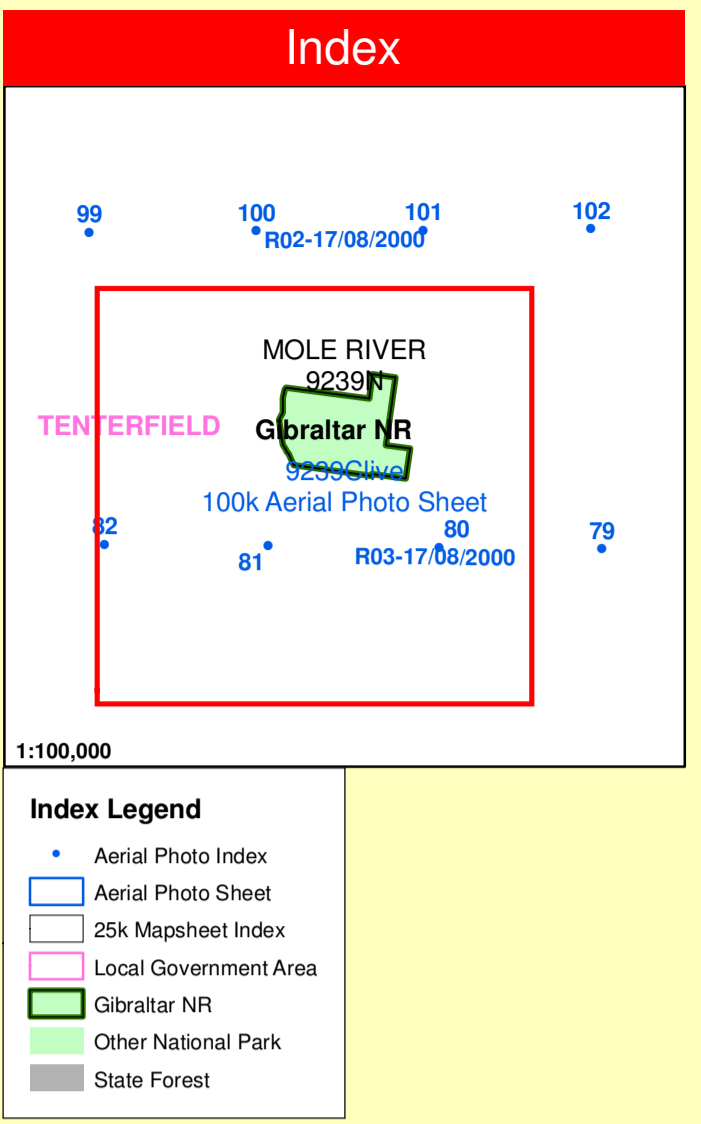
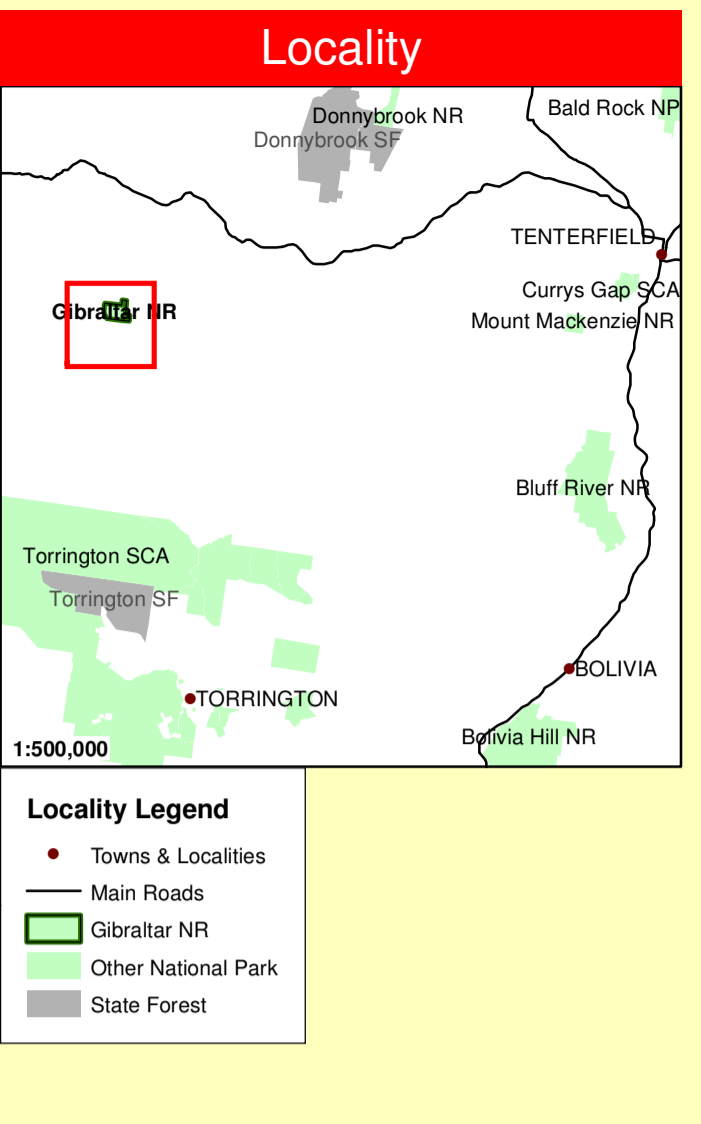
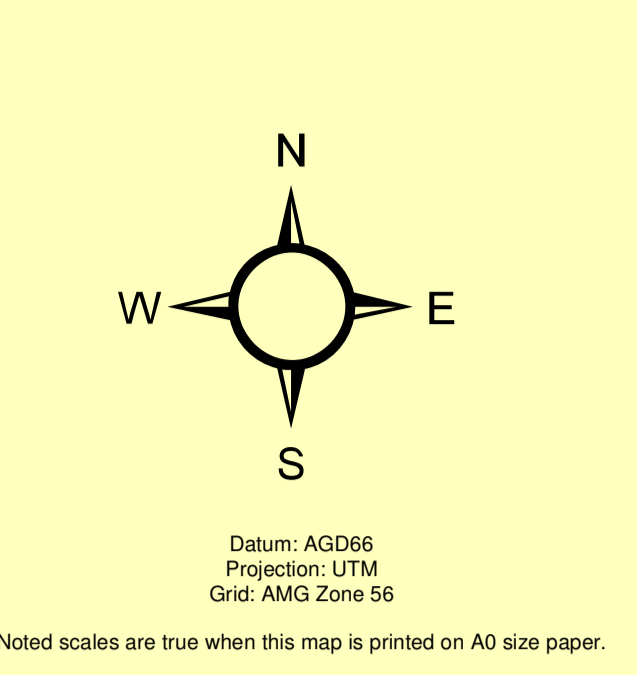
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This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997.

Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW)

Approved Date: 28 Feb 2006



### Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	27	Tenterfield NPWS
NPWS - VHF (Fireground Comms)	39	Tenterfield NPWS
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	15	Stored at Glen Innes / transportable.
RFS - PMR - UHF	28	Tenterfield
	52	Hallams
RFS - GRN	-	No service available in NTR.
CB - UHF	3	Repeater Tenterfield
FNSW - VHF	-	Not Applicable
Aircraft - VHF	119.10	
Mobile Phone - CDMA		No coverage in most places
Mobile Phone - GSM		No coverage
Satellite Phone	0147 166 331	Stored @ Tenterfield NPWS

### Strategy Information

**Fire Season Information**

**Wildfires**

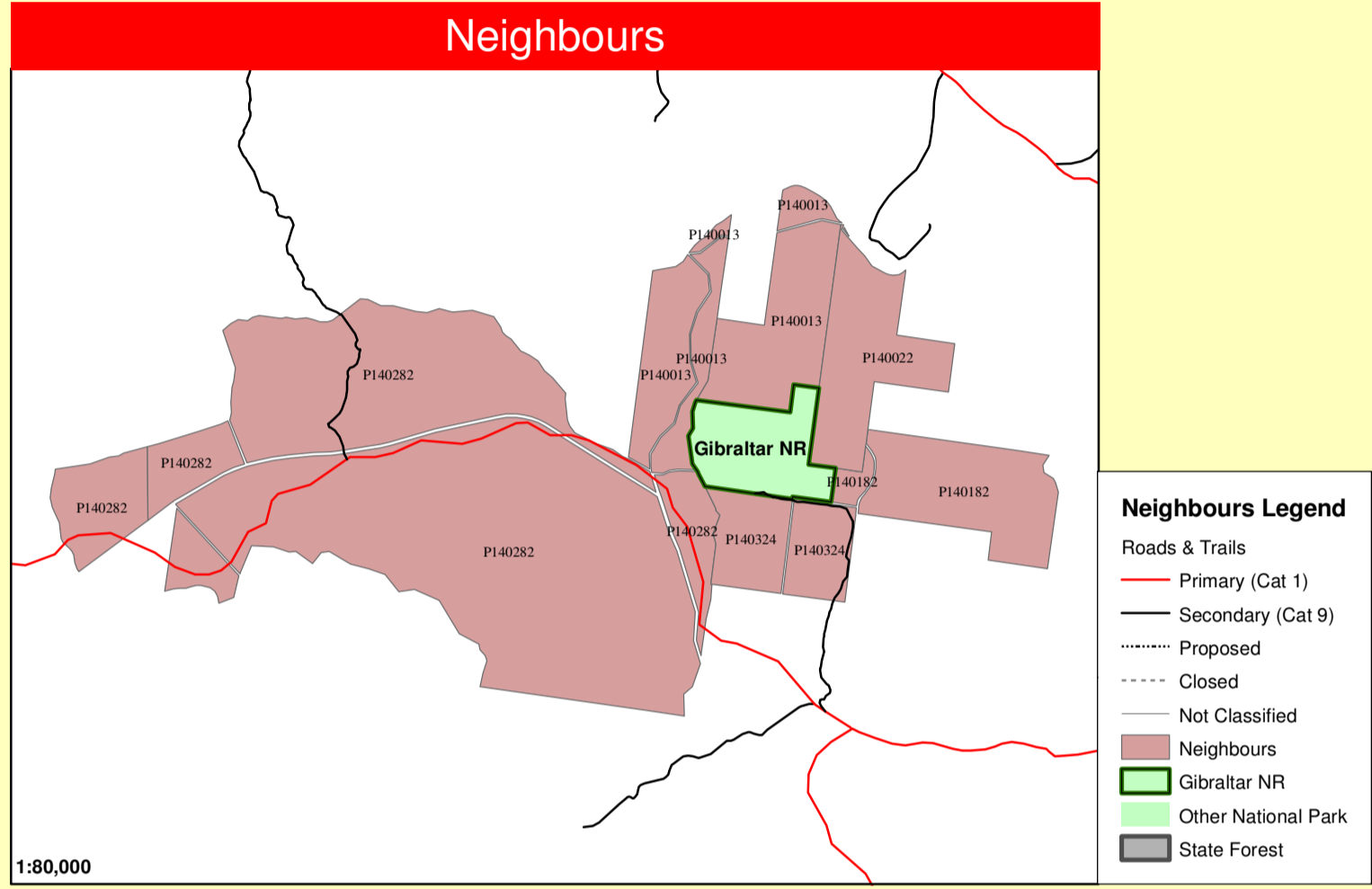
- Have been known to start as early as late August, but usually the potential for a large fire event is greatest between October and December. This period may extend into January in more severe years.
- During this period in dry seasons fires may exhibit high intensity behaviour under windy conditions.

**Prescribed Burning (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.7)**

- General season is 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.

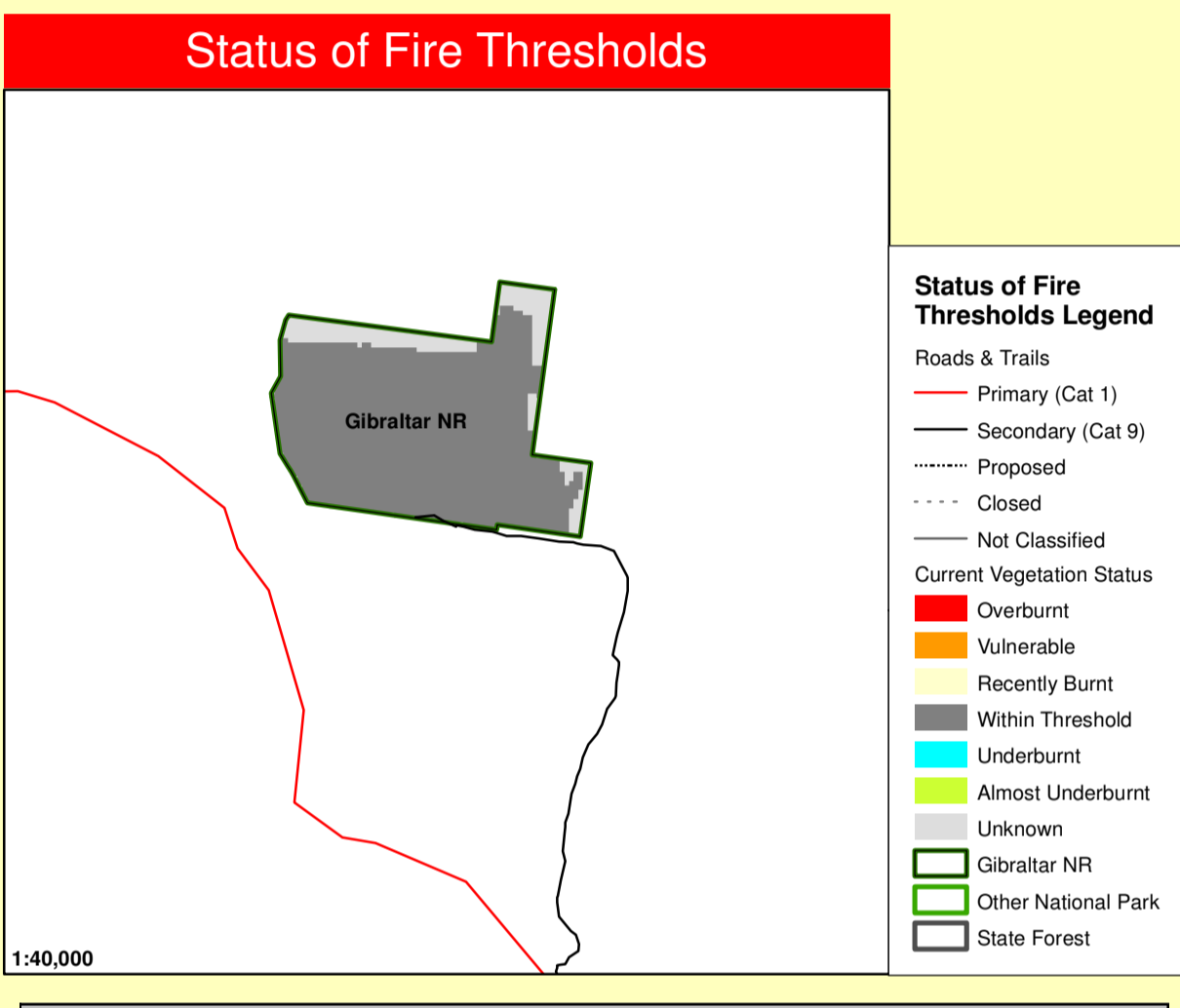
**Suppression Strategies**

Current FDR	Forecast FDR	Suppression Strategies
Low - Mod	Low - Mod	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake direct, parallel or indirect attack along existing containment lines.</li> <li>Where practicable consider maximising the fire area in accordance with the requirements of any proposed prescribed burns.</li> </ul>
Low - Mod	= > High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In order to minimise the fire area and secure the flanks as soon as possible, undertake direct, parallel or indirect attack along the closest containment lines.</li> <li>Pay particular attention to the flank on the next predicted down wind side.</li> </ul>
High	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake indirect attack along existing or newly constructed containment lines along the next predicted downwind side of the fire.</li> <li>Secure and deepen containment lines along the next predicted downwind side of the fire.</li> <li>If applicable consider broader than normal containment strategies to avoid wasted effort and high risk of failure.</li> </ul>
All	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure there is sufficient time to secure containment lines prior to the fire impacting upon them; otherwise fall back to the next potential line.</li> </ul>



### Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
NPWS	Regional Duty Officer	0428 345 789
	Area Manager	0409 224 605
	Fire Management Officer	02 6736 4850
		02 6776 0014
		0429 220 613
		02 6771 1894 (fax)
Regional Operations Coordinator		02 6776 0007
		0428 977 519
	Tenterfield Area Office	02 6736 4298
		02 6736 4301 (fax)
Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Officer	Regional Office	02 6739 0721
		02 6776 0000
RFS	Emergency	000
	Northern Tablelands Duty Officer	02 6736 4150 0427 555 155
NSW Fire Brigade	Emergency	000
	Tenterfield Station	02 6736 3835
SES	Emergency	000
	Tenterfield Unit	02 6736 2923
Police	Emergency	000
	Tenterfield Station	02 6736 1144 02 6736 2492 (fax)
Ambulance	Emergency	000
	Tenterfield Station	13 1233
Hospital	Tenterfield	02 6739 5200
DNR	Barwon Region	02 6764 5900
Forests NSW	Inverell	02 6722 4200 02 6722 5428 (fax)
Council	Tenterfield	02 6736 1744 02 6736 2669 (fax)
	Glen Innes	02 6732 1150
Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC)		



### Neighbour Information

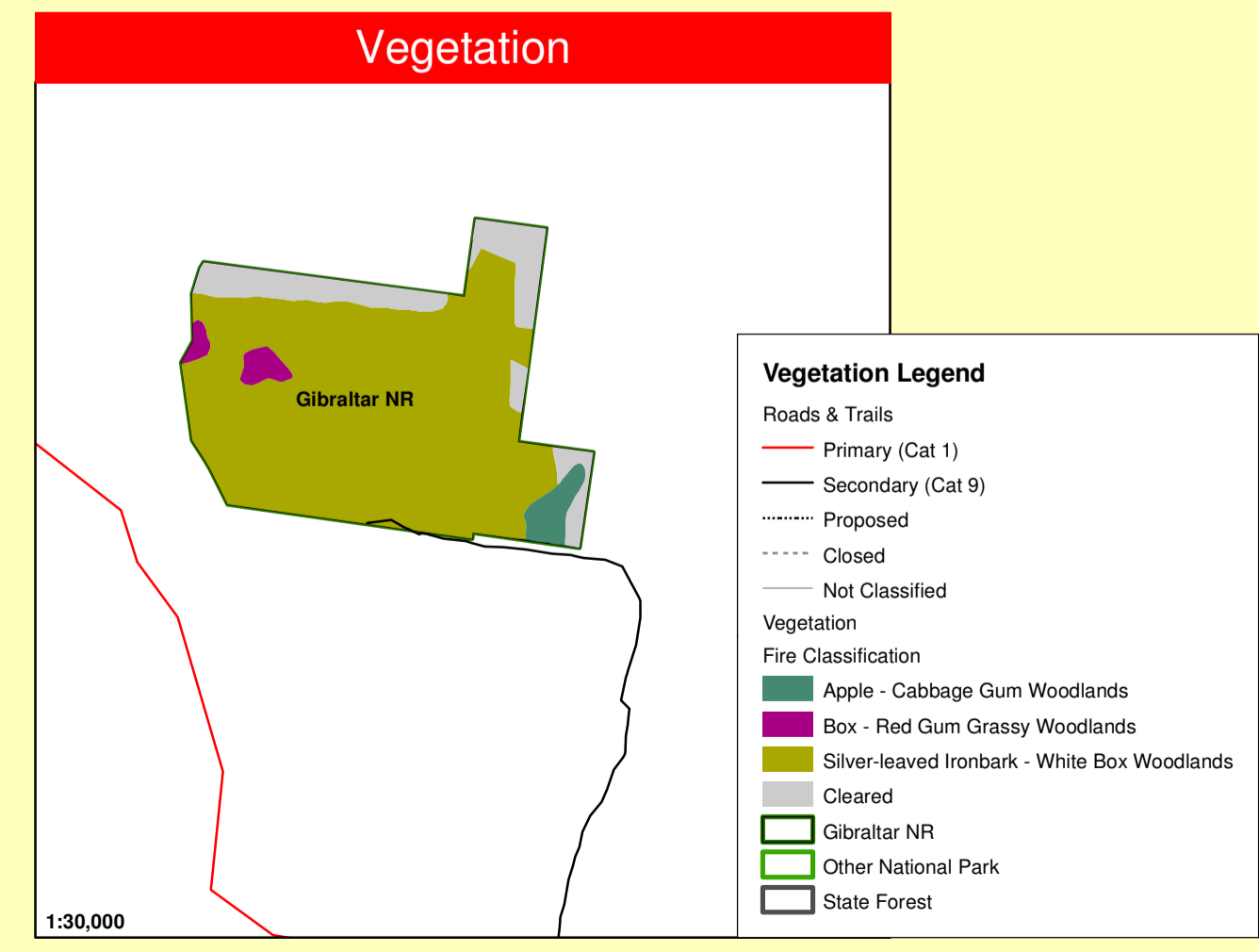
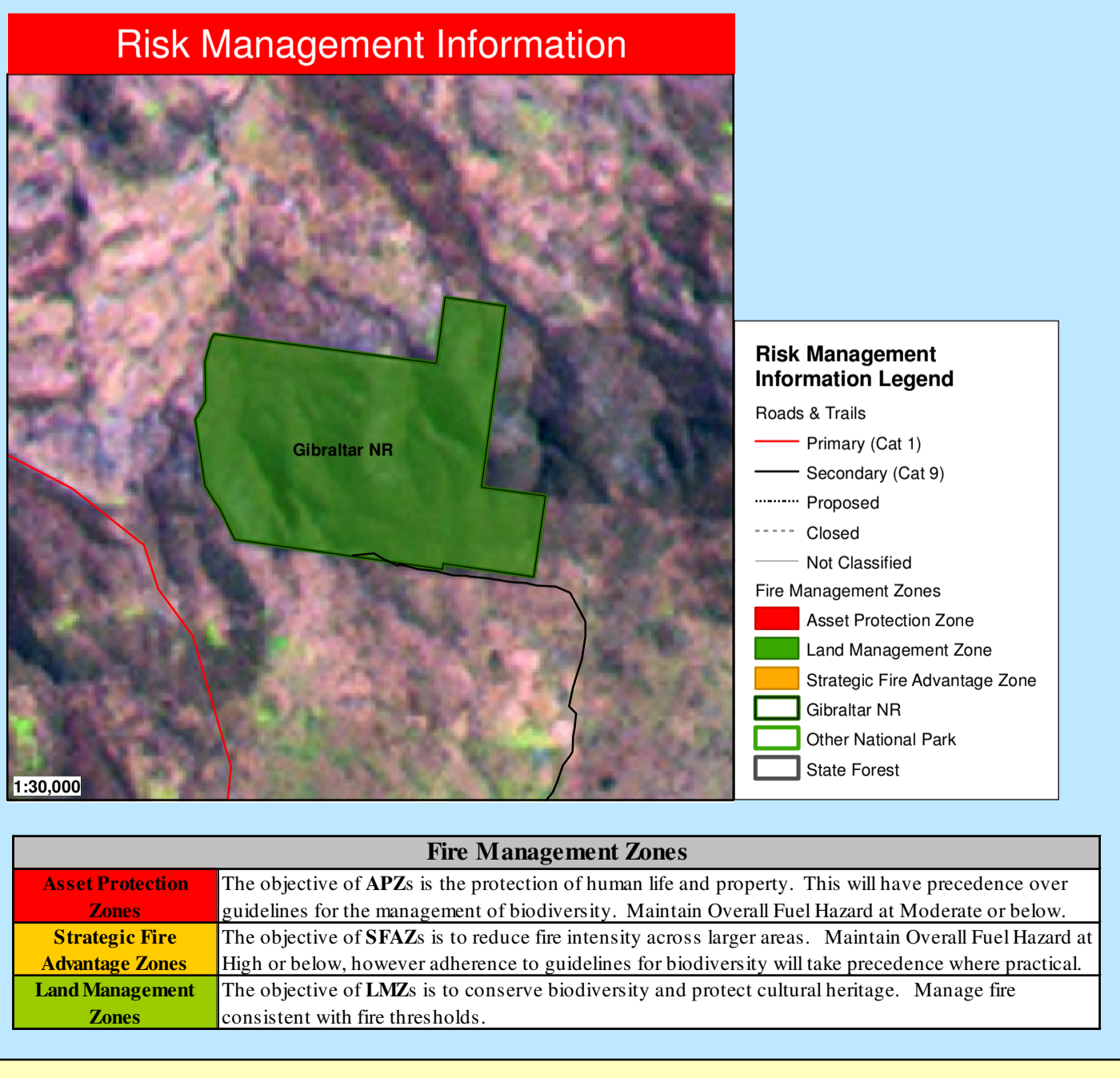
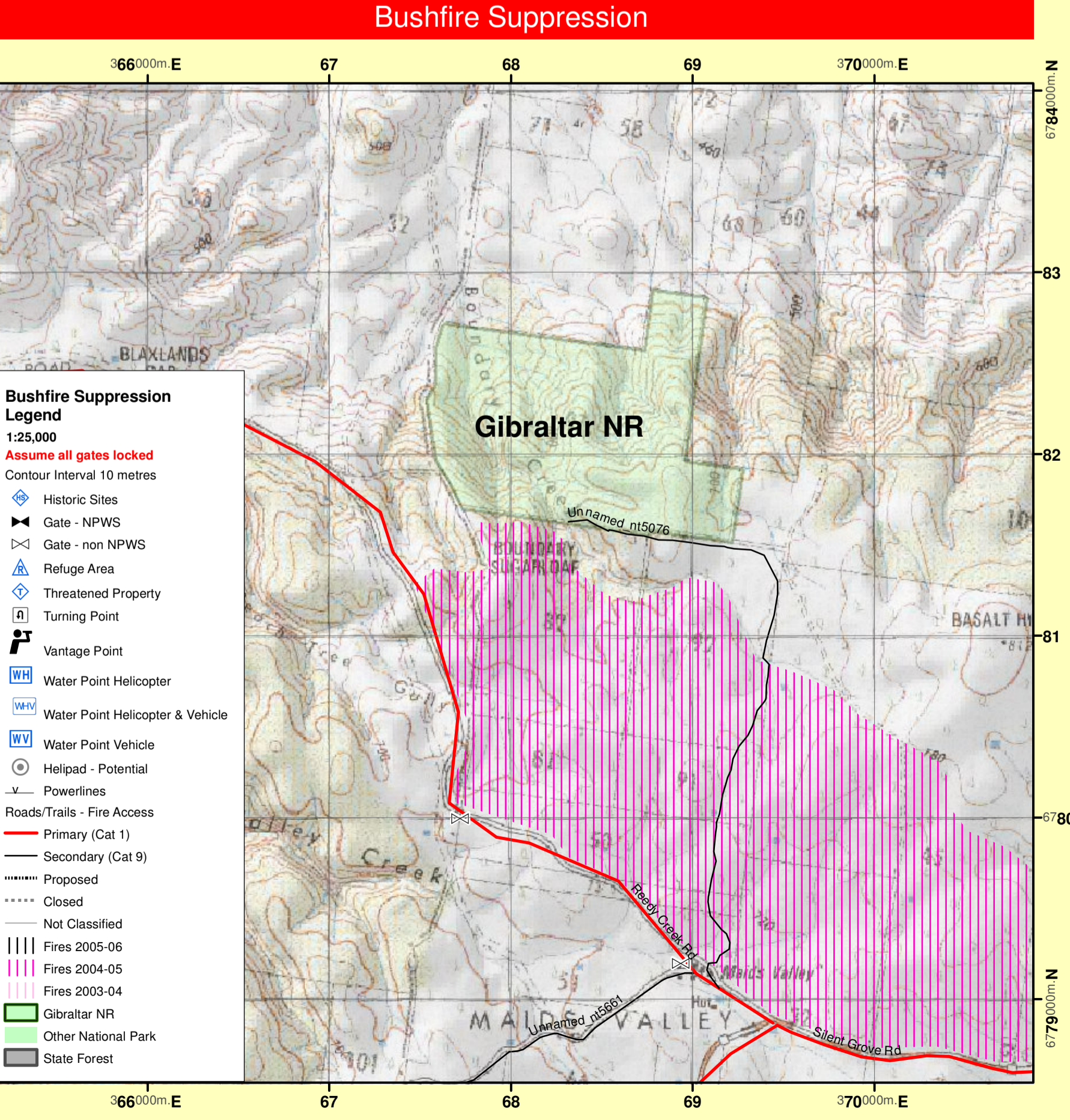
For further information, please refer to the Regional Contacts database.

Map ID	Property Name	Surname	Firstname	Phone
P140013	Benalboe			
P140022	Bondonga			
P140182	Maids Valley			
P140282	Taronga			
P140324	Willowdale			

### Fire Thresholds

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

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



### 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
<b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.11)	Aboriginal sites are not indicated on this strategy. For information on Aboriginal sites contact the Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Officer or Local Aboriginal Land Council.
<b>Historic Heritage Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.10)	No known sites in Reserve. If new sites located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
<b>Threatened Fauna Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.12 & 5.2)	No known sites in Reserve. If new sites located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
<b>Threatened Flora Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brief all personnel involved in containment line construction &amp;/or vehicle based fire suppression operations, on site locations and the required management strategies appropriate to the site type.</li> <li>Where practicable, protect populations or individuals from fire if the fire frequency threshold has been exceeded, or the species is an obligate seeder (fire response category), or if the fire frequency threshold &amp;/or fire response category is unknown.</li> </ul>
<b>Threatened Property</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where possible 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.</li> </ul>
<b>General</b>	<b>Guidelines</b>
<b>Aerial Water Bombing</b> (NPWS FMM 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The use of bombing aircraft should support containment operations by aggressively attacking hotspots and spot-overs.</li> <li>The use of bombing aircraft without the support of ground based suppression crews should be limited to very specific circumstances.</li> <li>Where practicable foam should be used to increase the effectiveness of the water.</li> <li>Ground crews must be alerted to water bombing operations.</li> </ul>
<b>Aerial Ignition</b> (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"> <li>Aerial ignition may be used during back-burning or fuel reduction operations where practicable, but only with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer.</li> <li>Utilise incendiaries to rapidly progress back-burns down slope where required.</li> </ul>
<b>Backburning</b> (NPWS FMM 4.8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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, backburning should commence when the humidity begins to rise in the late afternoon or early evening. With a lower FDI backburning may be safely undertaken during the day.</li> <li>Where practicable, 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.</li> <li>Avoid ignition of backburns at the bottom of slopes where a long and intense up slope burn is likely.</li> </ul>
<b>Command &amp; Control</b> (NPWS FMM 4.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first combatant agency on site may assume control of the fire, but then must ensure the relevant land management agency is notified promptly.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<b>Containment Lines</b> (NPWS FMM 2.2 & 3.9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, where practicable, except where they can be constructed with minimal environmental impact. New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer.</li> <li>Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.</li> <li>Where practicable, erosion control works should be incorporated into the containment line construction phase.</li> <li>All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location.</li> </ul>
<b>Earthmoving Equipment</b> (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Earthmoving equipment should be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS estate.</li> </ul>
<b>Fire Advantage Recording</b>	All fire advantages used during wildfire suppression operations must be mapped and where relevant added to the database.
<b>Fire Suppression Chemicals</b> (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wetting and foaming agents (surfactants) are permitted for use in wildfire suppression.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Exclude the use of surfactants and retardants within 50m of rainforest, watercourses, dams and swamps.</li> <li>Areas where fire suppression chemicals are used must be mapped and the used products name recorded.</li> <li>The Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed.</li> </ul>
<b>Rehabilitation</b> (NPWS FMM 5.1)	Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
<b>Smoke Management</b> (NPWS FMM 3.4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The potential impacts of smoke and possible mitigation tactics must be considered when planning for wildfire suppression and prescribed burning operations.</li> <li>If smoke becomes a hazard on local roads or highways, the police and relevant media must be notified.</li> <li>Smoke management must be in accordance with relevant RTA traffic management guidelines.</li> </ul>
<b>Visitor Management</b> (NPWS FMM 3.6 & 4.13)	The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations.