


Gubbata Nature Reserve

Fire Management Strategy 2014

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. These data are not guaranteed to be free from error or omission. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife and its employees disclaim liability for any act done on the information in the data 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 Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (b) of Rural Fires Act 1997. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is part of the Office of Environment and Heritage, published by the Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW).

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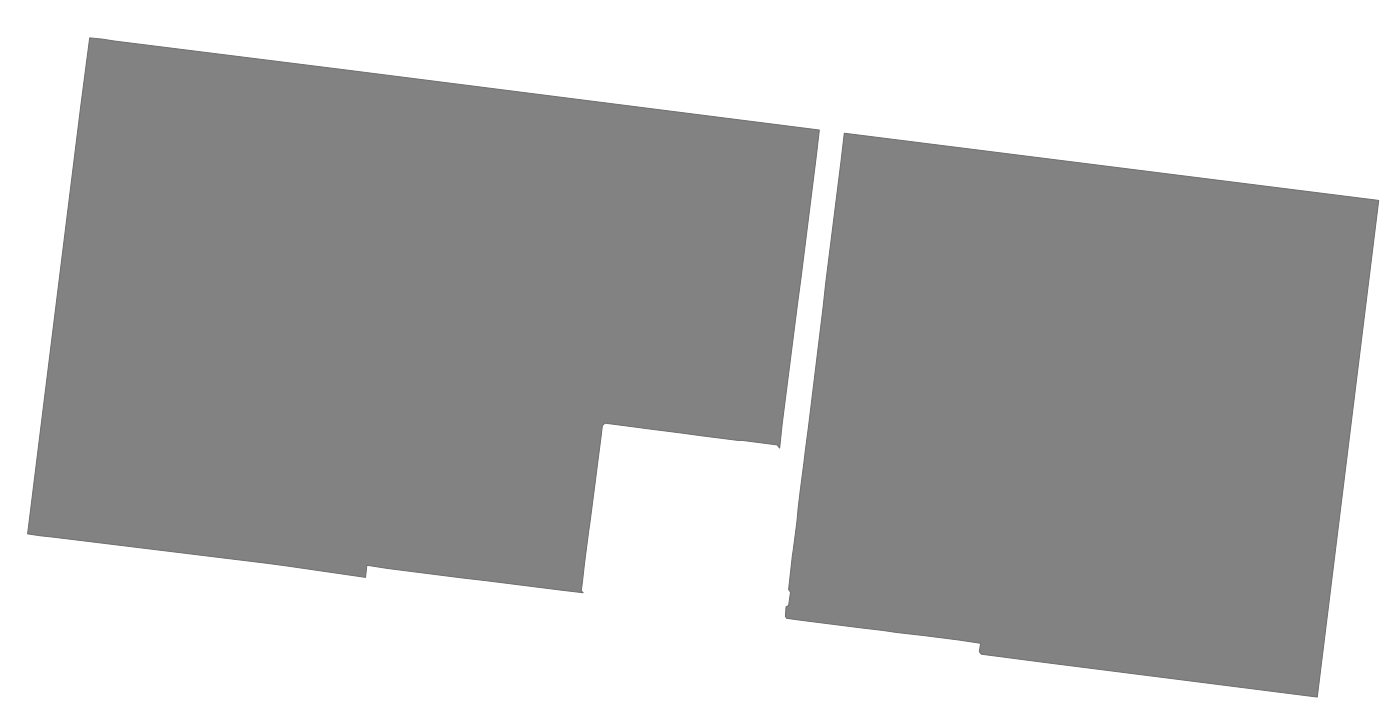
Map Details		Related Documents
Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA) 1994	1:50k Topographic Map: Ungarie 8230 – I & IV (AGD-1966)	OEH Fire Management Manual 2013 - 2014.
Projection: Map Grid of Australia (MGA) Zone 55	Scale: Noted scales are true when printed on A1 size paper	
Data: Spot Satellite Imagery; 2005.		

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.
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.
Command & Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard Incident Management Systems are to be applied. 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 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	<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. Any containment lines constructed must be closed and rehabilitated 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.
Earthmoving Equipment	<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 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.
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	<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.
Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation. The potential impacts of smoke and possible mitigation tactics must be considered when planning for wildfire suppression and prescribed burning operations.
Smoke Management	<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	<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.
Water Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible water points at house and dam as visible on Incident map.
Warnings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beware of overhead powerlines.

Status of Biodiversity Thresholds




Scale 1:12,000

Evaluation of Biodiversity Thresholds	
Within Threshold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within the threshold for vegetation in this area. Species have had sufficient time to mature and reproduce, and for habitats to develop. A fire event is neither required nor should one necessarily be avoided.

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

Vegetation



Scale 1:12,000


Vegetation Map Legend

Broad Vegetation Class	Vegetation Type	Biodiversity Thresholds	Fire Behaviour
Semi-arid Woodlands (Shrubby sub-formation)	Sand Plain Mallee woodlands with <i>Eucalyptus socialis</i> & <i>E. dumosa</i> . Scattered small patches of <i>E. sideroxylon</i> , <i>E. microcarpa</i> , & <i>Callitris glaucophylla</i>	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. Fire may be considered as a useful tool to stimulate regeneration as much of this community consists of mature trees.	Mallee woodlands fire intensity ranges from moderate to high and is largely influenced by ephemeral growth. Backburning 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.
Fire History		Wildfires are generally attributed to humans either from escaped campfires, discarded cigarettes or matches and deliberate ignitions with a lower number of fires being attributed to lightning strikes. The fire history data for this area is incomplete.	
Ephemeral Conditions		Ephemeral fuel conditions occur after years of effective rainfall. 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 this vegetation community.	
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. Wildfires are likely to be difficult to control due to extreme conditions during the day and areas of low fuel that are difficult to back-burn in under night-conditions.	
Mosaic Burning		Apply fire in a pattern across the reserve that allows gaps in both time and space, small versus large areas, scattered and variable times between fires in any location. If possible leave some areas of the vegetation community unburnt, as an end stage and reference site. IF AT ALL POSSIBLE AVOID BURNING ENTIRE RESERVE IN ONE FIRE EVENT	

Threatened Species Guidelines

Site	Guidelines
	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management
Note	An aboriginal sites survey is yet to be conducted for this reserve (as of January 2014). Therefore aboriginal sites may be present although not shown in this document
	Threatened Fauna Management
	Threatened species that have been sighted in the reserve include
	Endangered – Mallee Worm-lizard and Malleefowl.
	Vulnerable – Masked Owl, Brown Treecreeper, Grey-crowned Babbler, Varied Sitella, Hooded Robin and the Diamond Firetail

Bushfire Risk Management Strategies



Scale 1:12,000

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	
Typical Conditions	Indicative Suppression Strategies
<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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial attacks should be to try to extinguish or to contain to the smallest possible area. <p>Indirect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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>Direct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate the biodiversity thresholds and use direct attack methods to extinguish if required. <p>Indirect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a fire suppression plan to the maximum allowable perimeter based on Biodiversity thresholds.
<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. 	

Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Duty Officer Mid West Area & Regional Office – 200 Yambil St Griffith	02 6332 6350 02 6966 8100
NSW Rural Fire Service Bland/Temora Zone	Temora Fire Control Centre Bland Fire Control Centre Duty Officer	02 6977 4737 02 6970 1100 02 6972 0038
Fire and Rescue NSW Emergency Services SES	West Wyalong Fire Station	02 6972 3120 000 13 2500
Police Station (not open 24 hrs)	West Wyalong	02 6972 2444
Police - Local Area Command	Griffith	02 6969 4310
Hospital	West Wyalong	02 6979 0000
Council	Temora Shire Council Bland Shire Council	02 6980 1100 02 6972 2266
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Murrin Bridge (Lake Carrigilligo)	02 6898 1119

Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS	11	•VHF Fire Ground 1 •UHF Griffith
RFS UHF	01	•Gubbata, Kikoira, Anona Brigades
RFS PMR	P052 P012 P036 P041	•Narriah Mountain •Booberoi Hills •Gorman Hill •Conapaira Trig
State Forests VHF VHF Repeater	26 275	•Manna Mountain

Mobile phone coverage likely to be unreliable.

