

**Northern Tablelands Region
Melville Range 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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This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997.

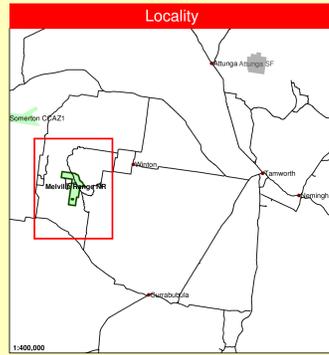
Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW)

Approved Date: 16 Aug 2006



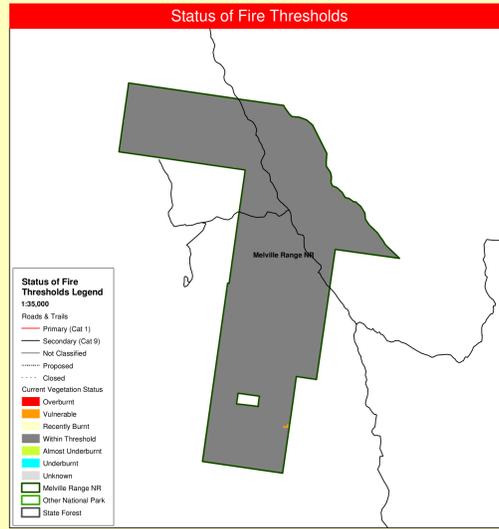
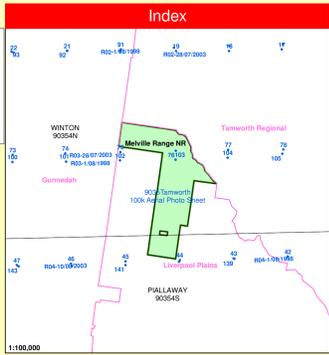
Datum: AGDS95
Projection: UTM
Gird: AMG Zone 56

Notes: scales are true when this map is printed on A4 size paper.



- Index Legend**
- Aerial Photo Index
 - Aerial Photo Sheet
 - 20m Mapsheet Index
 - Local Government Area
 - Melville Range NR
 - Other National Park
 - State Forest

- Locality Legend**
- Towns & Localities
 - Roads
 - Melville Range NR
 - Other National Park
 - State Forest



- Status of Fire Thresholds Legend**
- Overburnt
 - Vulnerable
 - Recently Burnt
 - Within Threshold
 - Almost Underburnt
 - Underburnt
 - Unknown
 - Melville Range NR
 - Other National Park
 - State Forest

Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
NPWS	Regional Duty Officer	0428 345 789
	Area Manager	02 6777 4721
	Fire Management Officer	0428 344 522 02 6776 0014 0499 220 613 02 6771 1894 (fax) 02 6776 0007 0428 977 519
	Regional Operations Coordinator	02 6777 4700 02 6777 1190 (fax) 01471 42605 (satellite phone)
Walcha Area Office		02 6776 0000 02 6771 1894 (fax)
	Emergency	000
	New England Duty Officer	02 6771 4619
	Armidale Control Centre	02 6771 2400 02 6772 2400 02 6762 7641 0427 822616 02 6762 7647 (fax)
Rural Fire Service	Emergency	000
	Armidale Control Centre	02 6771 4619
NSW Fire Brigade	Emergency	000
	Tamworth	02 6766 2319
SES	Emergency	000
	Tamworth Unit	02 6762 0711 0428 51381
Police	Emergency	000
	Tamworth Station	02 6768 2999
Ambulance	Emergency	000
	Tamworth South Station	13 1233
Hospital	Railown Base	02 6767 7200
	Inverell	02 6762 4200
D&P	Armidale	02 6762 4200
	Tamworth	02 6766 2908
Forests NSW	Tamworth Regional Council	02 6766 8154 (fax)
	Armidale	02 6766 9028
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Tamworth	02 6766 9028
	Armidale	02 6776 0038
Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Officer	Tamworth	02 6766 9028
	Armidale	02 6776 0038

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

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
Site Management (NPWS FMM 4.1.1)
Historic Heritage Management (NPWS FMM 4.1.0)

- Aboriginal sites are not indicated on this strategy. For information on Aboriginal sites contact the Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Officer or Local Aboriginal Land Council.
- Brief all personnel involved in containment line construction &/or vehicle based fire suppression operations, on site locations and the required management strategies appropriate to the site type.
- If an area is located consult with a senior NPWS officer.

Threatened Fauna Management (NPWS FMM 4.1.2 & 5.2)

- Brief all personnel involved in containment line construction &/or vehicle based fire suppression operations, on site locations and the required management strategies appropriate to the site type.
- Where practicable, protect habitat areas and trees from the fire if the effects of the resulting fire frequency, season &/or intensity will have a significant or unknown impact.

Threatened Flora Management (NPWS FMM 4.1.2)

- Brief all personnel involved in containment line construction &/or vehicle based fire suppression operations, on site locations and the required management strategies appropriate to the site type.
- 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 &/or fire response category is unknown.
- Where possible, protect old growth habitat areas.

Threatened Property

- Where possible, protect 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

Aerial Water Bombing (NPWS FMM 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs 02 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)

- The use of bombing aircraft should support 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 (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs 02 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)

- 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.
- Utilise incendiaries to rapidly progress back-burns down slope where required.

Backburning (NPWS FMM 4.8)

- Temperature and humidity trends must be monitored carefully to determine the safe 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.
- 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.
- Avoid ignition of backburns at the bottom of slopes where a long and intense up slope burn is likely.

Command & Control (NPWS FMM 4.2)

- 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 initial incident controller will consult with regard to the ongoing command, control and incident management team requirements as per the relevant IFMC Plan of Operations.

Containment Lines (NPWS FMM 2.2 & 3.9)

- 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.
- Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
- 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.

Earthmoving Equipment (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.3)

- 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 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.
- Containment lines constructed by earthmoving equipment should consider the protection of drainage features, the Threatened Species and Cultural Heritage Operational Guidelines, and be surveyed, where possible, to identify unknown cultural heritage sites.
- Earthmoving equipment should be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS areas.
- In areas of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* infestation, the use of earthmoving equipment is not permitted. After rain, the use of vehicles is to be restricted to times when soil will not be moved off site in the form of mud etc. In the event of vehicles moving during rain, they are to be effectively washed down prior to leaving known infected sites.

Fire Advantage Recording

- 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)

- Wetting and foaming agents (surfactants) are permitted for use in wildfire suppression.
- The use of fire retardants 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 rainforests, watercourses, dams and swamps.
- Areas where fire suppression chemicals are used must be mapped and the used products name recorded.
- The Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed.
- Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.

Rehabilitation (NPWS FMM 5.1)

- Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.

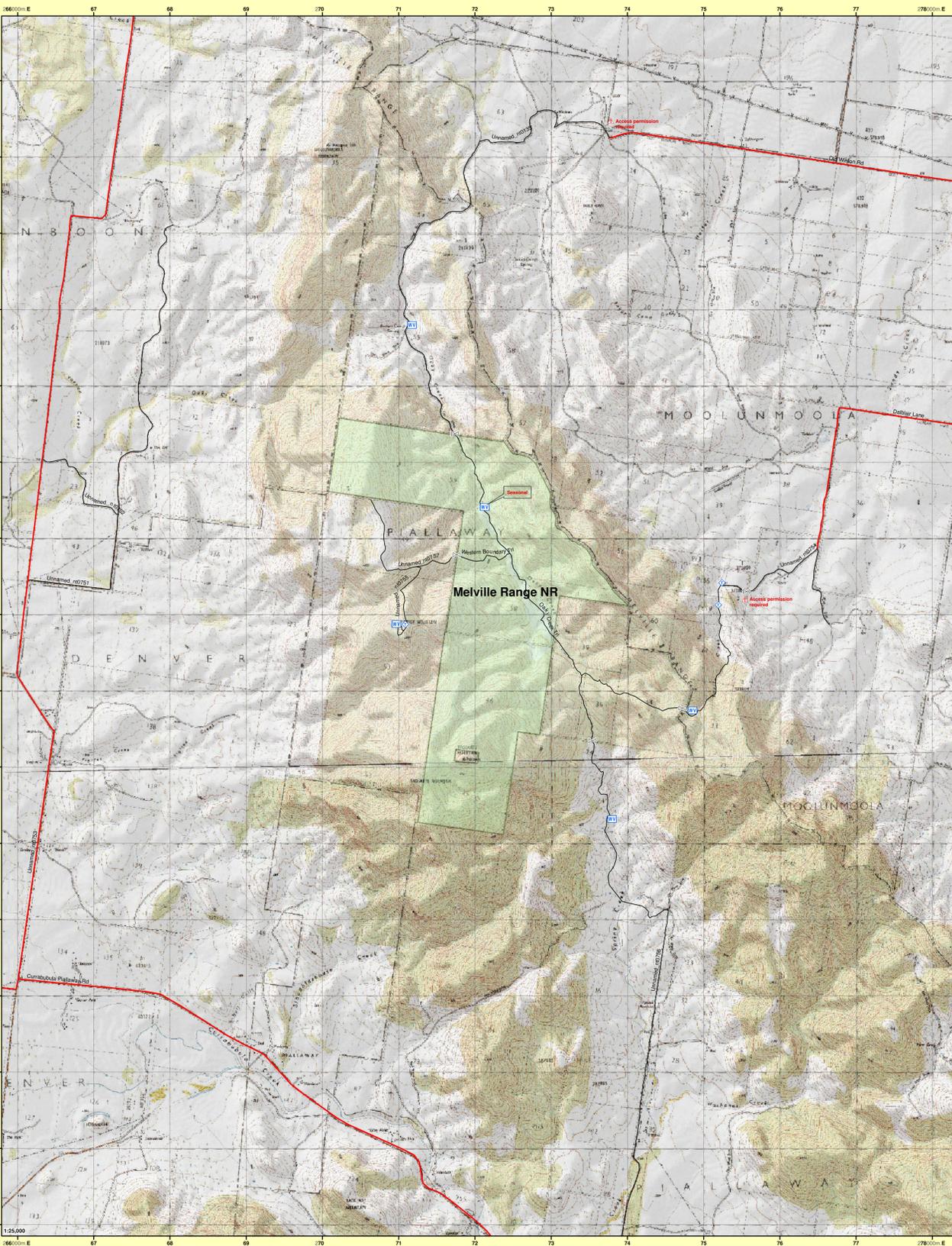
Smoke Management (NPWS FMM 3.4)

- 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.

Visitor Management (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.

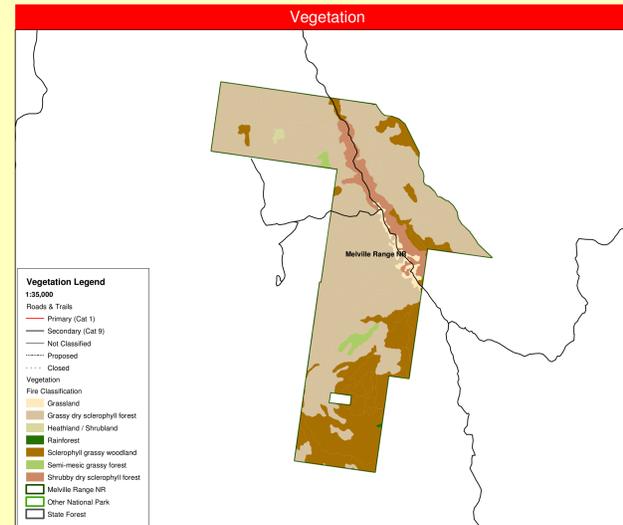
Bushfire Suppression



Fire Thresholds

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

NP: Fire thresholds are defined for vegetation communities to conserve biodiversity.



- Vegetation Legend**
- Roads & Trails
 - Primary (Cat 1)
 - Secondary (Cat 9)
 - Not Classified
 - Proposed
 - Closed
 - Vegetation
 - Fire Classification
 - Grassland
 - Grassy dry sclerophyll forest
 - Heathland / Shrubland
 - Rainforest
 - Sclerophyll grassy woodland
 - Semi-medic grassy forest
 - Strubby dry sclerophyll forest
 - Melville Range NR
 - Other National Park
 - State Forest

Strategy Information

Fire Season Information

- 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.
- 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.

Prescribed Burning (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.7)

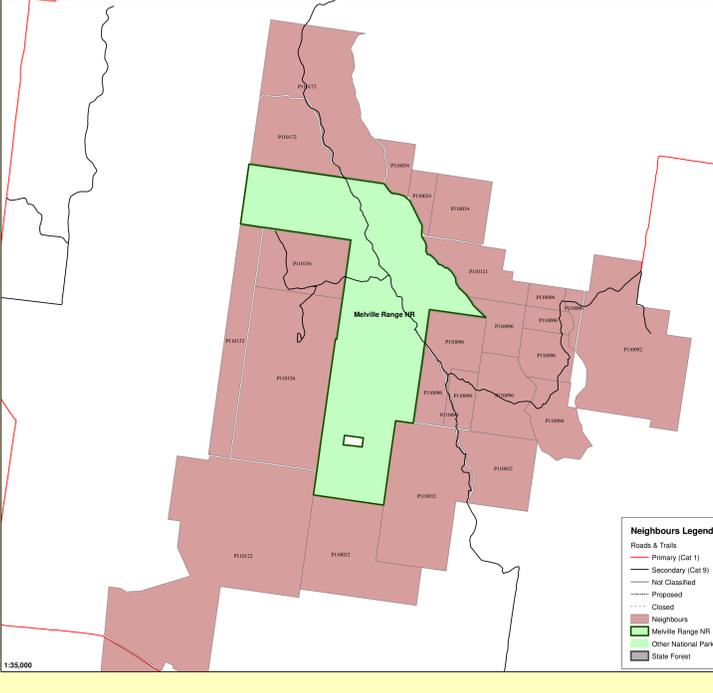
Suppression Strategies

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

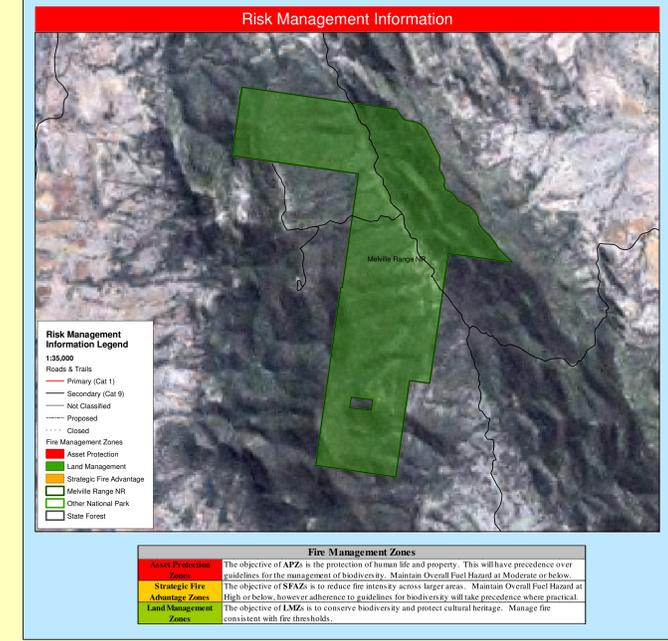
Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	7	Melrose
NPWS - VHF (Fireground Comms)	18	Simplex vehicle to vehicle.
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	15	Stored at Armidale / transportable.
RFS - PMR - UHF	23	Manilla
RFS - GRN	36	Tamworth
RFS - VHF	NPWS 7	FNSW 407 Melrose
CB - UHF		Channel as appropriate.
Aerial - VHF	119.10	No service available in NTR.
Mobile Phone - CDMA	Yes	On high points.
Mobile Phone - GSM	No	
Satellite Phone	0147 154353	Stored at Walcha

Neighbours



- Neighbours Legend**
- Roads & Trails
 - Primary (Cat 1)
 - Secondary (Cat 9)
 - Not Classified
 - Proposed
 - Closed
 - Neighbours
 - Melville Range NR
 - Other National Park
 - State Forest



- Risk Management Information Legend**
- Roads & Trails
 - Primary (Cat 1)
 - Secondary (Cat 9)
 - Not Classified
 - Proposed
 - Closed
 - Fire Management Zones
 - Asset Protection
 - Land Management
 - Strategic Fire Advantage Zones
 - Melville Range NR
 - Other National Park
 - State Forest

Fire Management Zones

Asset Protection The objective of APZs is the protection of human life and property. This will have precedence over guidelines for the management of biodiversity. Maintain Overall Fuel Hazard at Moderate or below.

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.

Land Management Zones The objective of LMZs is to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural heritage. Manage fire consistent with fire thresholds.

Neighbour Information

For further information, please refer to the Regional Contact Database.

Map ID	Property Name	Surname	First Name	Phone
P110032	Carrubulla Stn			
P110034	Dulblair			
P110092	Kevic			
P110096	Unknown			
P110121	Unknown			
P110122	Pathway			
P110132	Royston			
P110156	Unknown			
P110172	Wolli			
P110225	Abbey Farm			