

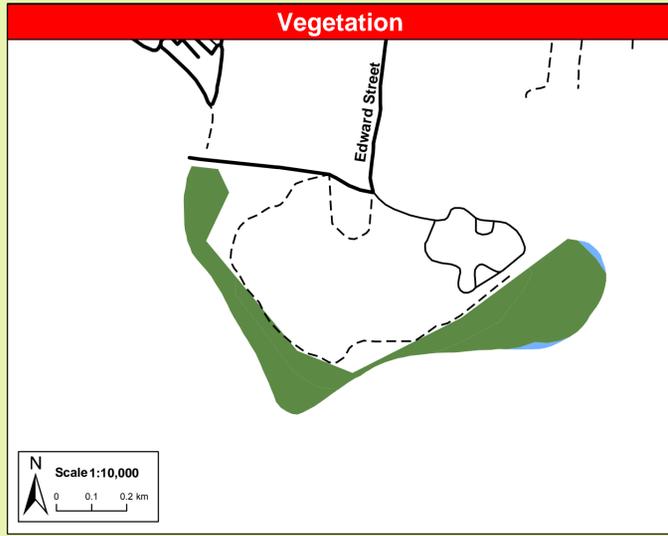
**Murray Valley Regional Park**  
**Horseshoe Lagoon Precinct**  
**Fire Management Strategy 2012**  
**Mapsheet 1 of 1**

**Office of Environment & Heritage**  
 NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service

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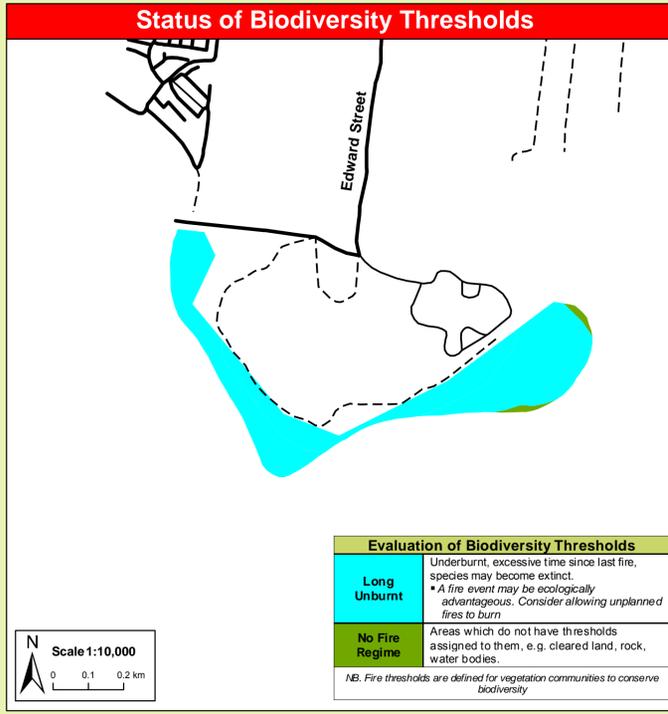
Contact: OEH PWG Regional Office: 200 Yambil St, Griffith NSW 2680. P.O. Box 1049 Griffith NSW 2680 ph. 02 6966 8100  
 ISBN 978 1 74293 648 2 OEH 2012/0414 Date: August 2012 Version No: 1

Map Details		Related Documents
Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA) 1994 Projection: Map Grid of Australia (MGA) Zone 55 Data: Spot Satellite Imagery: 2005.	1:50k Topographic Map: Moama 7825-N (AGD-1966) Scale: Noted scales are true when printed on A1 size paper	OEH Fire Management Manual 2011 - 2012.



**Vegetation Map Legend**

Broad Vegetation Class	Vegetation Type	Biodiversity Thresholds	Fire Behaviour
Forested Wetlands	River Red Gum Forests	An interval between fire events less than 10 years and greater than 35 years should be avoided. River Red Gums will only tolerate low intensity fires. Individual trees may survive canopy scorch if they are not under stress and are in older age classes. Younger trees will not survive moderate to high intensity fires. Two fires occurring in the same area in a period of less than 20 years apart may reduce the extent of River Red Gum Forests.	This vegetation community will generally not carry fire unless there are high ephemeral fuel loads, which generally occur after flooding events. In years of high ephemeral fuels, landscape fires are possible as fire potential will be very high to extreme, characterised by spotting from River Red Gums, which commonly form candles.
<b>Fire History</b>	The fire history data for this area is incomplete.		
<b>Ephemeral Conditions</b>	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 the above vegetation community. As a result expect high fire intensity.		
<b>Drought Conditions</b>	During drought conditions and when vegetation communities are visibly stressed or experiencing dieback no prescribed burning will be permitted and wildfire areas will be minimised.		



**Operational Guidelines**

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

General	Guidelines
<b>Aerial Water Bombing</b>	<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>	<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 NPWS Regional Manager, OEH Section 44 delegate or as prescribed in an operational burn plan.</li> <li>Aerial ignition will only be undertaken by accredited navigators &amp; bombardiers.</li> <li>The pattern for aerial ignition will be specified in the IAP during fire suppression.</li> <li>Utilise incendiaries to rapidly burn out large areas where required.</li> </ul>
<b>Back-burning</b>	<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, 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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Use parallel containment lines when applicable.</li> <li>All personnel must be fully briefed before back-burning operations begin.</li> </ul>
<b>Command &amp; Control</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standard Incident Management Systems are to be applied.</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 BFM/C Plan of Operations.</li> <li>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).</li> </ul>
<b>Containment Lines</b>	<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.</li> <li>For new containment lines IMT to liaise with and receive consent from a Senior NPWS officer prior to construction.</li> <li>Use parallel containment lines when applicable.</li> <li>All personnel not required for other purposes should be closed at the cessation of the incident.</li> <li>All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location.</li> <li>Containment line construction using earthmoving equipment must be in accordance with the earthmoving guidelines contained within the RFMS.</li> </ul>
<b>Earthmoving Equipment</b>	<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 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.</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 must not leave tracks or create new tracks in Machinery Exclusion areas as marked on the Incident Map of a RFMS.</li> <li>Earthmoving equipment must be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS estate and again on exiting NPWS estate.</li> <li>Where multiple items of earthmoving equipment are being used, the IMT should consider the establishment of a Plant Operations Manager.</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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of wetting and foaming agents (surfactants) is permitted on the reserve.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Exclude the use of surfactants and retardants within 50m of watercourses, dams and swamps.</li> <li>Areas where fire suppression chemicals are used must be mapped and the used product's name recorded.</li> <li>The Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed.</li> </ul>
<b>Rehabilitation</b>	Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
<b>Smoke Management</b>	<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>Structural Fire Fighting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OEH personnel are not trained in structural fire fighting and must not enter a structure in order to undertake structural fire fighting.</li> <li>Fire suppression activities may be undertaken from outside a structure in accordance with the policies in the NPWS FMM, in order to protect a built asset.</li> </ul>
<b>Visitors</b>	The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during prescribed burning or wildfire suppression operations.
<b>WARNINGS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beware of overhead powerlines.</li> <li>Reserve prone to flooding and only some trails will be trafficable after flood events or rainfall.</li> </ul>

**Bushfire Risk Management Strategies**

Scale 1:10,000

Fire Management Zones	
<b>Land Management Zones</b>	The objective of LMZs is to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural and historic heritage. Manage fire consistent with fire thresholds.

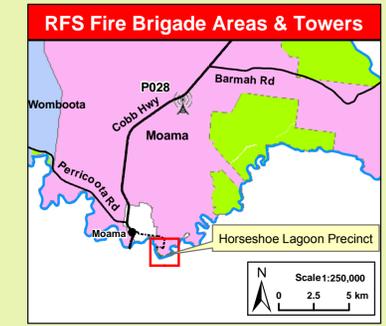
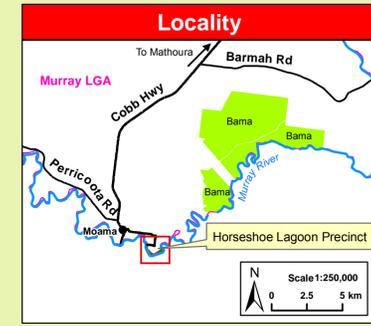
Suppression Strategies		
Season	Typical Conditions	Indicative Suppression Strategies
Just prior to or during the critical fire season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current Fire Danger Rating (FDR) of Very High or Greater.</li> <li>Short and medium range forecasts suggest conditions typical to a FDR of Very High or Greater.</li> <li>A risk to life and/or property exists in the short - medium term.</li> <li>A broad area risk to biodiversity exists.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Direct</b></p> <p>Initial attacks should be to try to extinguish or to contain to the smallest possible area.</p> <p><b>Indirect</b></p> <p>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"> <li>FDR of High or below.</li> <li>Short - medium term forecast indicate a continuing FDR of High or below</li> <li>No risk to life or property exists in the short-medium term.</li> <li>Only small area risk to biodiversity exists.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Direct</b></p> <p>Evaluate the biodiversity thresholds and use direct attack methods to extinguish if required.</p> <p><b>Indirect</b></p> <p>Develop a fire suppression plan to the maximum allowable perimeter based on Biodiversity thresholds.</p>

**Threatened Sites Guidelines**

Site	Guidelines
<b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management</b>	
AH1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not cut down trees</li> <li>As far as possible protect the site from fire</li> <li>Use of foams, wetting agents &amp; retardant is acceptable.</li> </ul>
AH3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid all ground disturbance including the use of earthmoving machinery, handline construction and driving over sites</li> <li>As far as possible protect the site from fire</li> <li>Avoid water bombing which may cause ground disturbance</li> <li>Permission required from Aboriginal Heritage Environmental Officer and Aboriginal community.</li> </ul>

**Contact Information**

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
<b>National Parks &amp; Wildlife Service</b>	Duty Officer (8am-10pm)	02 6332 6350
	Regional Office - 200 Yambil St, Griffith Murray Area Office	02 6966 8100 03 5483 9100
<b>Mid Murray Zone NSW Rural Fire Service</b>	Duty Officer	03 5881 6297 (AH)
<b>NSW Fire Brigades</b>	Deniliquin FCC 305 Duncan St, Deniliquin	03 5881 5351
<b>State Forests Emergency Services</b>	Deniliquin Fire Station Moama Fire Station	03 5881 7401 03 5482 1653
<b>SES</b>	Deniliquin - Duty Mobile	0408 675 211 000
<b>Police Station (not open 24 hrs)</b>	Deniliquin Moama Mathoura	13 2500 03 5881 9499 03 5482 0099 03 5884 3244
<b>Police - Local Area Command</b>	Deniliquin	03 5881 9437
<b>Hospital</b>	Deniliquin Echuca	03 5882 2800 03 5485 5000
<b>Parks Victoria Council</b>	Duty Officer Murray Murray Shire Council	0417 351 668 03 5884 3302



**Fire Season Information**

<b>Wildfires</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The critical wildfire season generally occurs from October/November to March/April.</li> <li>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</li> <li>Particular care is required following periods of Winter rain and after periods of negative Southern Oscillation Indices.</li> </ul>
<b>Prescribed Burning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prescribed burning should generally be undertaken during Autumn, Winter or early Spring</li> <li>Care should be taken to ensure a low intensity burn over most of the area treated.</li> <li>An exception to these guidelines is burns targeting the thinning of artificially created dense stands of trees, which may require a higher intensity fire. Also the timing may occur in either Autumn or late Spring to achieve a higher intensity result.</li> </ul>

**Communications Information**

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS Repeater	29	Mathoura
RFS UHF	10	All Brigades
RFS Murray	P019	Mathoura
	P022	Calimo
	P039	Finley
	P011	Bunnaloo
RFS Deniliquin	P028	Moama
	P053	Deniliquin
State Forests UHF - CB	19	Deniliquin/Mathoura
State Forests VHF	30	Barooga
State Forests VHF	223	Mathoura

