

**North Coast Region**  
**New England & Cunnawarra (part)**  
**National Parks, Jobs Mountain & Pee Dee Nature Reserves**  
**Fire Management Strategy (Type 2)**  
**2014 (external version) Sheet 4 of 4**

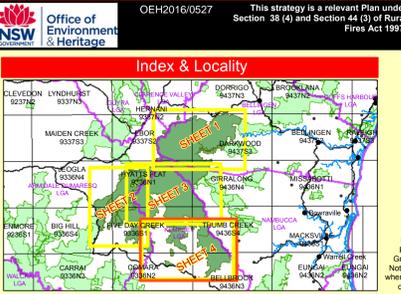
This strategy should be used in conjunction with aerial photography and field reconnaissance during incidents and the development of incident action plans.

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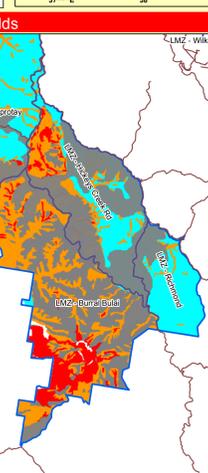
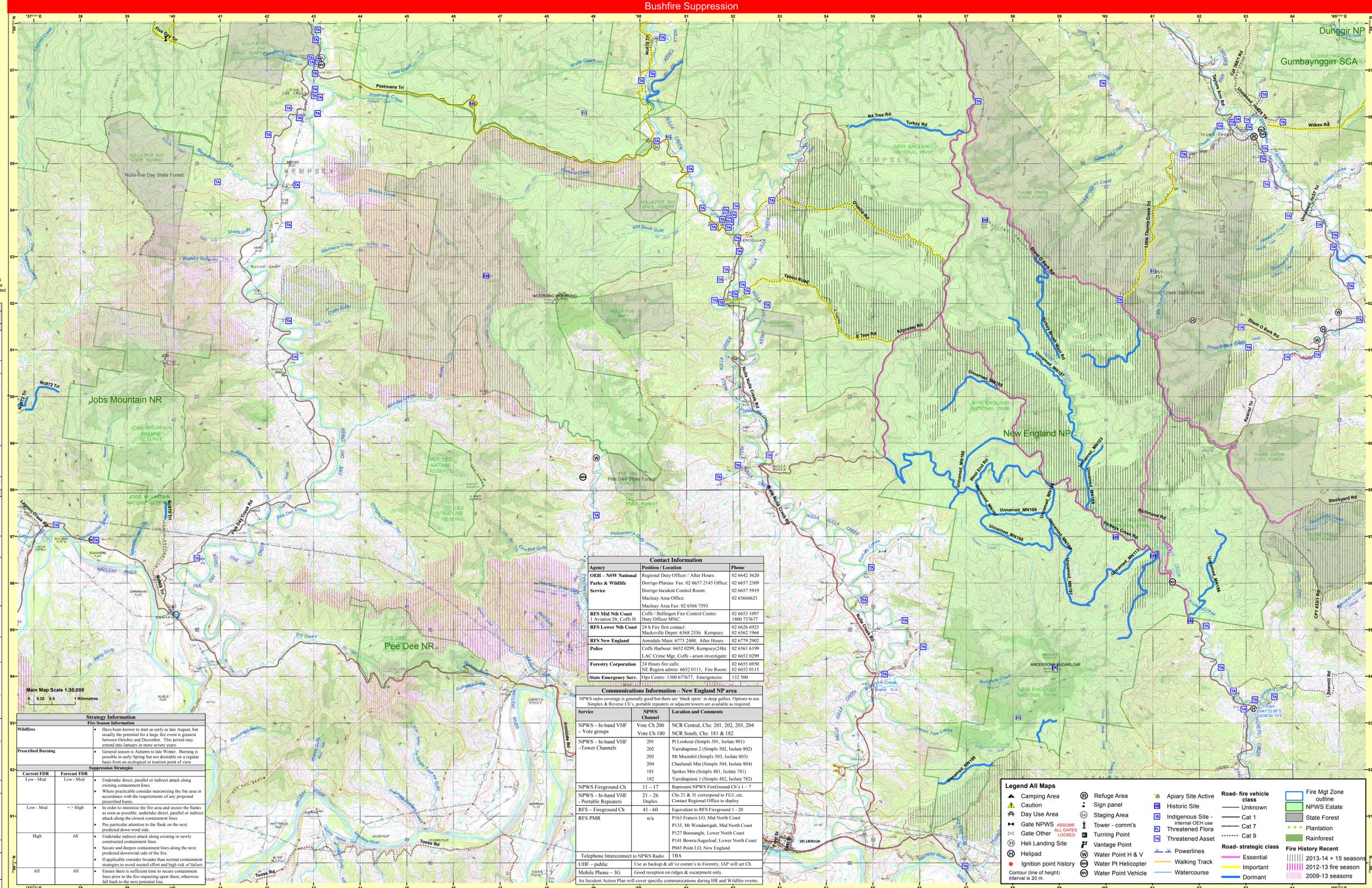
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 Contact: NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service, North Coast Region, PO Box 563, Grafton NSW 2460  
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**Office of Environment & Heritage**  
 OEH2016/0527 This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997.



**Operational Guidelines**  
 Refer to Refer to NPWS Fire Management Manual  
 Brief all personnel involved in suppression operations on the following issues:

Resource	Guidelines
<b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.1.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AH2 - As far as possible protect site from fire. Avoid all ground disturbance including the use of earthmoving machinery, handline construction and driving over sites. Avoid water bombing which may cause ground disturbance.</li> <li>AH3 - Avoid all ground disturbance. Avoid water bombing. Site may be burnt by bushfire, back-burn or prescribed burn without damage.</li> </ul>
<b>Historic Heritage Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.1.2 & 5.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect Site from fire and maintain an asset protection buffer. Avoid all ground disturbance, including water bombing.</li> <li>Where practicable protect habitat areas and trees from the fire if the effects of the resulting fire frequency, season &amp; intensity will have a significant or unknown impact.</li> <li>Specific Fauna Prescriptions relevant to Dorrigo and Bellinger River NPs:</li> <li>FA3 Treatment: Exclude fire habitat (rainforest) (most forest)</li> <li>FA4 Treatment: Mosaic burns to diversify understorey. Protect casuarina stands.</li> <li>FA7 Treatment: As far as possible, protect large and hollow-bearing trees in locations where these type of species are known to occur.</li> <li>FA8 Treatment: Avoid frequent fire (prefer &gt; 10 yrs apart) and mosaic burn pattern.</li> <li>FA9 Treatment: Protect habitat from disturbance with heavy machinery or chemicals.</li> <li>FA13 Treatment: Protect ground habitat (logs), drainage lines and hollow-bearing trees.</li> <li>For other Threatened Fauna sitings, consult with a senior NPWS officer and the "Threatened" Prescriptions in the "Look-up Tables" folder in P-Region/Other Fire/REMS.</li> </ul>
<b>Threatened Fauna Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.1.2 & 5.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FL1 - Avoid inter-fire intervals of &lt;10 years in locations where these species are known to occur. Avoid the use of earth moving machinery and retardant in locations where these species are known to occur.</li> <li>FL2 - As far as possible, exclude fire and avoid the use of earth moving machinery or retardant from where these species are known to occur.</li> </ul>
<b>Threatened Flora Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.1.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where possible, keep property owners with assets at risk from a wildfire informed on the fire progress and ask for an assessment of their current asset protection preparedness.</li> </ul>
<b>Threatened Property</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where possible, keep property owners with assets at risk from a wildfire informed on the fire progress and ask for an assessment of their current asset protection preparedness.</li> </ul>
<b>General</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The use of bombing aircraft should support containment operations by aggressively attacking hotspots and spotters.</li> <li>The use of bombing aircraft without the support of ground based suppression crews should be limited to very specific circumstances assessed in an Incident Action Plan.</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> <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>Aerial Water Bombing</b> (NPWS FMM 4.1.2) NSW Fire Agencies SOP 02: NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aerial Management	<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>When practicable, clear a 1m radius around dead and thinningarked trees adjacent to containment lines prior to backburning, or wet down these trees.</li> <li>Avoid ignition of backburns at the bottom of slopes where a long and intense up slope burn is likely.</li> </ul>
<b>Aerial Ignition</b> (NPWS FMM 4.2.20, 4.4) NSW Fire Agencies SOP 02: NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aerial Mgt	<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>Backburning</b> (NPWS FMM 4.2)	<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>All containment lines 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> </ul>
<b>Command &amp; Control</b> (NPWS FMM 4.2)	<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>All containment lines 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> </ul>
<b>Containment Lines</b> (NPWS FMM 2.2.3, 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>All containment lines 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> </ul>
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<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 Op's Guidelines, &amp; be surveyed, where possible, to identify unknown heritage sites.</li> <li>Earthmoving equipment should be washed down, where practicable, prior to entering NPWS estate.</li> </ul>
<b>Fire Advantage Recording</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All fire advantages used during wildfire suppression operations must be mapped and where relevant added to the database.</li> <li>Wetting and foaming agents (surfactants) are permitted for use in wildfire suppression. 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 is used must be mapped &amp; chem. used recorded.</li> <li>The Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed.</li> </ul>
<b>Fire Suppression Chemicals</b> (NPWS FMM 4.2.20, 4.9)	<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 public roads, notify the police and relevant media.</li> <li>Smoke management must be in accordance with relevant RTA traffic mgt guidelines.</li> <li>The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations.</li> </ul>
<b>Rehabilitation</b> (NPWS FMM 5.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.</li> </ul>
<b>Smoke Management</b> (NPWS FMM 5.1)	<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 public roads, notify the police and relevant media.</li> <li>Smoke management must be in accordance with relevant RTA traffic mgt guidelines.</li> <li>The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations.</li> </ul>
<b>Visitor Management</b> (NPWS FMM 5.4, 4.13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations.</li> </ul>



**Fire Regime Group**

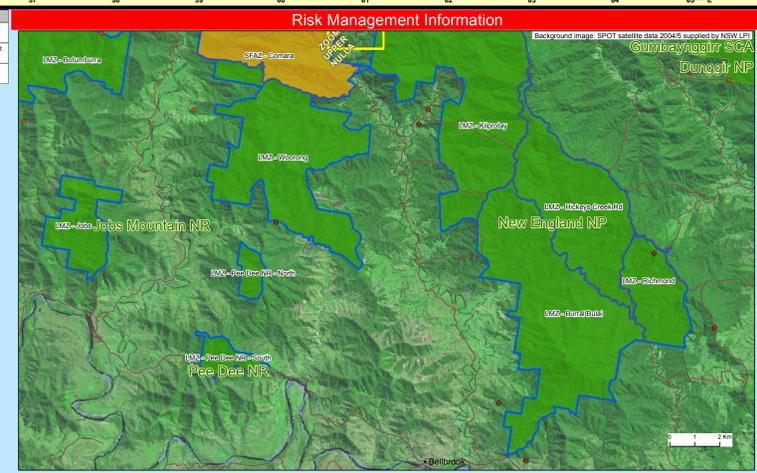
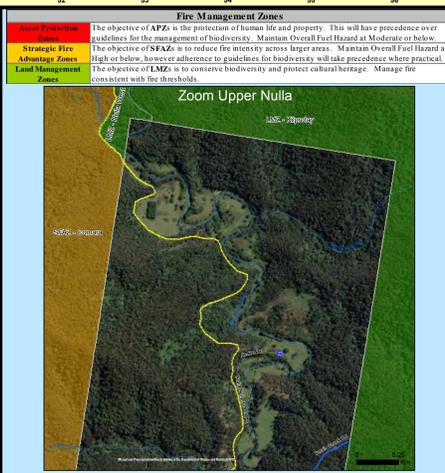
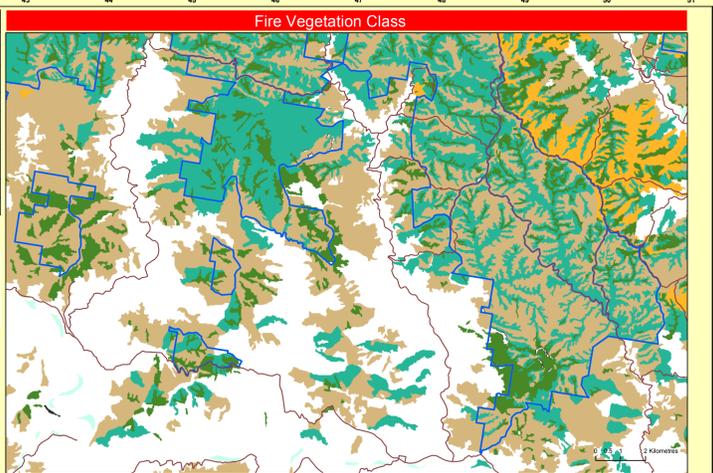
Fire Regime Group	Preferred fire interval years	CONDITIONS	VEGETATION
Rainforest	9999-9999	Exclude fire	Rainforest - mixed types
Wet sclerophyll forest	25-60	Avoid crown fires at lower and interval range	Blush flow, Tallwood, Sydney Blue Gum, NE Blackbutt, Messmate
Semi-mesic sclerophyll forest	10-50	Avoid retrospective low intensity fires	Grey Gum Ironbark Mahogany most complex, Lerpodrup, E. glauca, E. obliqua, C. intermedia, NE Blackbutt
Shrubby dry sclerophyll forest	7-35	Some intervals > 20 yrs may be desirable	Other forest over oak
Shrubby dry sclerophyll forest	5-50	Occasional intervals > 25 yrs may be desirable	Blackbutt, Pepperment
Grassy sclerophyll woodland	5-40	Occasional intervals > 25 yrs may be desirable	Grey Gum Ironbark Mahog, Cold Tallwood Gum
Heathland	7-30	Occasional intervals > 20 yrs may be desirable	Allocas, Rigida, Pinewood, Leptospermum spp, scrub
Grassland	2-10	Max interval is estimate	Poa subserotina
Freshwater wetland	6-35	Occasional intervals > 30 yrs may be desirable	Leptospermum spp, Tetraena spp
Reference: Ken B. Sutherland, E. Tasker, E. Davidson & 2004 Guidelines for Ecologically Sustainable Fire Management - NSW Biodiversity Strategy, NSW NPWS			

**Reserves Fire Veg Classes**

- Grassland
- Grassy dry sclerophyll forest
- Heathland
- Rockland
- Semi-mesic grassy forest
- Sclerophyll grassy woodland
- Shrubby dry sclerophyll forest
- Swamp sclerophyll forest
- Freshwater wetland
- Water
- Wet sclerophyll forest
- Rainforest
- not applicable or unknown

**Biodiversity thresholds for Land Management Zones**

Threshold	Description
Fire frequency	Fire thresholds have been exceeded.
Vulnerable to frequent fire	Fire thresholds have not been exceeded.
Within threshold	The area will be less frequently burnt if it burns this year.
Long unburnt	Fire frequency is below fire thresholds in this area. A burn is neither required nor should necessarily be avoided.
Unknown	Insufficient data to determine fire threshold.



**Contact Information**

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
OEH - NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service	Regional Duty Officer / After Hours: Dorrigo Plateau Fax: 02 6657 2145 Office: 02 6657 2309 Dorrigo Incident Control Room: 02 6657 5919 Macleary Area Office: 02 65666621 Macleary Area Fax: 02 6566 7593	02 6642 3620 02 6657 2309 02 6657 5919 02 65666621
RFS Mid Nth Coast	Coffs / Bellinger Fire Control Centre: Dora Officer MNC	02 6653 1097 1800 736272
RFS Lower Nth Coast	24 hr fire first contact: Macksville Depot: 6568 2536 Kempsey: 02 6626 6923 02 6562 1964	02 6626 6923 02 6562 1964
RFS New England	Armidale Main: 6771 2400, After Hours: Coffs Harbour: 6652 9299, Kempsey: 6431, LAC Crime Mgr, Coffs - arson investigation: 02 6652 9299	02 6779 2902 02 664 6199 02 6652 9299
Forestry Corporation	24 hours fire calls: NE Region admin: 6652 0111, Fire Room: 02 6652 0115	02 6655 6950 02 6652 0115
State Emergency Serv.	Ops Centre: 1300 677677, Emergencies: 132 500	132 500

**Communications Information - New England NP area**

NPWS radio coverage is generally good but there are 'black spots' in deep gullies. Options to use Simplex & Reverse Ch's, portable repeaters or adjacent towers are available as required.

Service	NPWS Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - hi-band VHF - Vote groups	Vote Ch 200 NCR South, Chs: 181 & 182	NCR Central, Chs: 201, 202, 203, 204
NPWS - hi-band VHF - Tower Channels	201 202	Pt Lookout (Simples 501, Isolate 801) Yarrapinnin 2 (Simples 502, Isolate 802)
NPWS Fireground Ch	11 - 17	Represent NPWS Fireground Ch's 1 - 7
NPWS - hi-band VHF - Portable Repeaters	21 - 26 Duplex	Chs 21 & 31 correspond to FGI, etc. Contact Regional Office to deploy
RFS - Fireground Ch	41 - 60	Equivalent to RFS Fireground 1 - 20
RFS PMR	n/a	P163 Francis L.O. Mid North Coast P135 Mt Wondandragh, Mid North Coast P127 Bounahg, Lower North Coast P141 Bowna-Sugarloaf, Lower North Coast P045 Point L.O. New England
Telephone Interconnect to NPWS Radio	TBA	
UHF - public	Use as backup & alt 've comm's to Forestry, IAP will set Ch.	
Mobile Phone - 3G	Good reception on ridges & escarpment only.	

An Incident Action Plan will specify communications during HR and Wildfire events.