



Rocky Glen National Park Fire Management Strategy 2016 – 2021

Office of Environment & Heritage

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.

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Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS VHF	372	• Wanda Trig • Needle Mountain
NPWS fireground	11-17	• NPWS fire ground channels 1 - 7
RFS	P153 P160 P138	• Wanda Trig • Tamar Mountain • Siding Spring
UHF - CB		• Small fires - Channel 10 • Large fires - determined by IMT
Aviation	126.7	• CTAF • Telstra 3G coverage unavailable in the reserve area. • Coverage available west of the reserve.
Mobile phone		

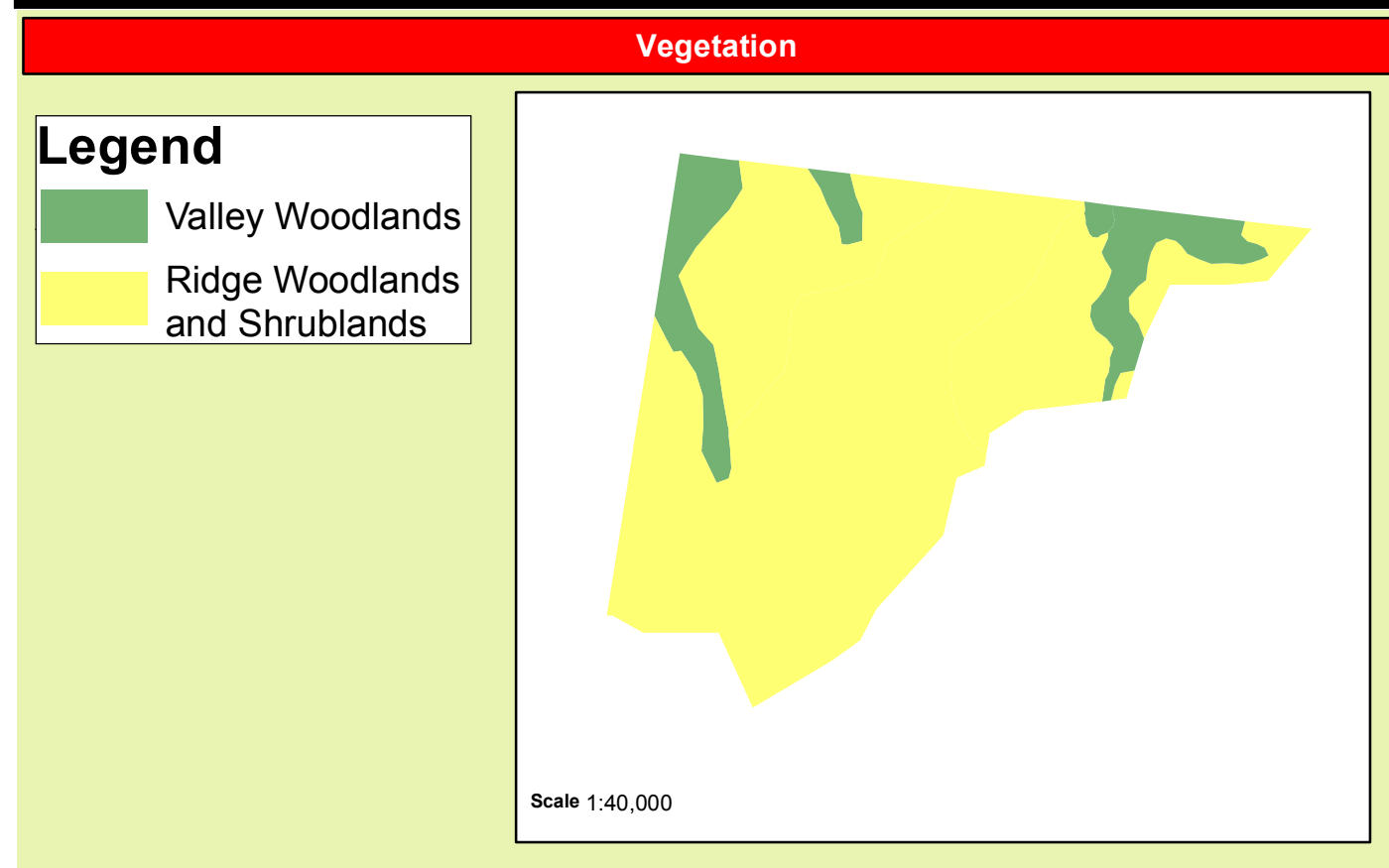
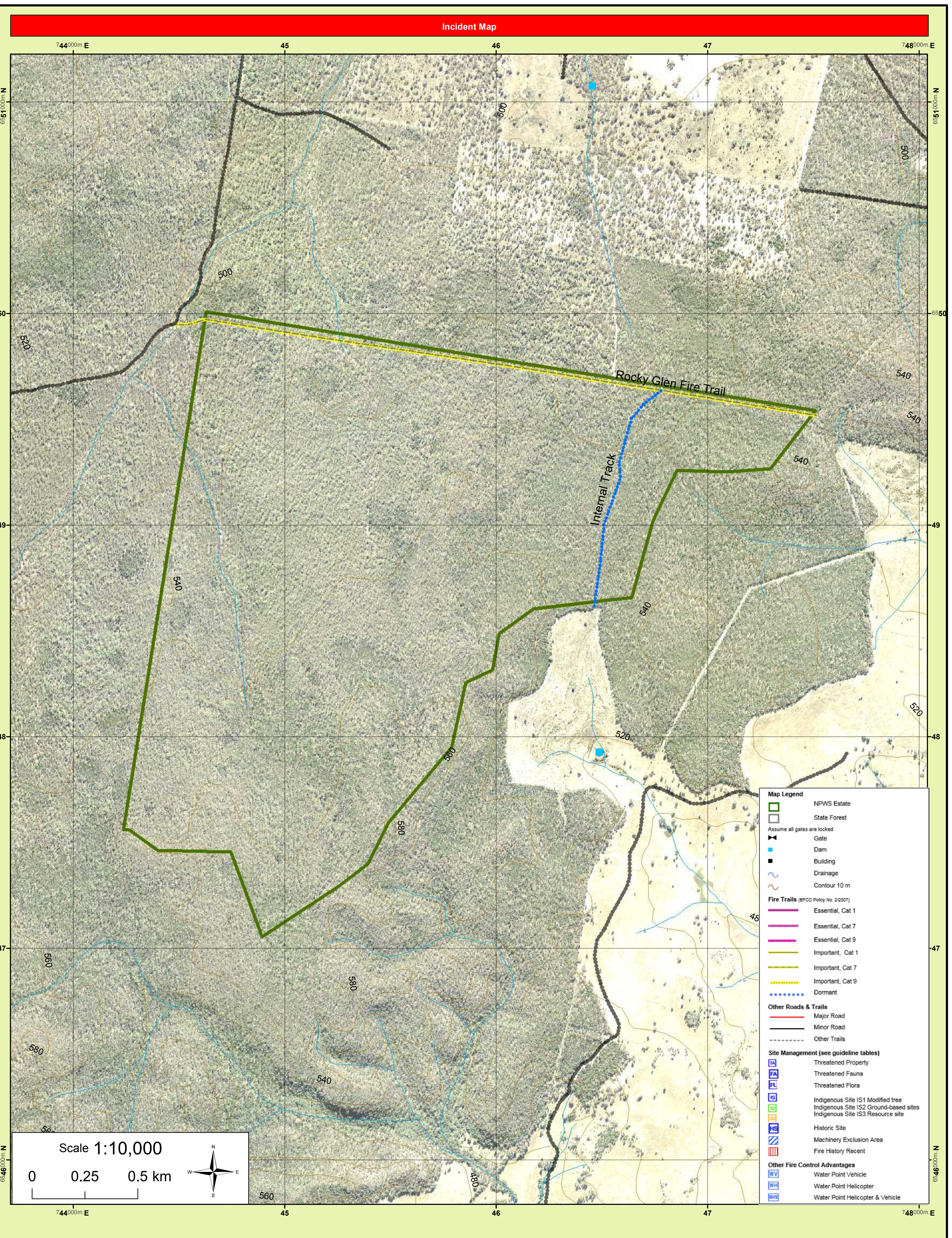
Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Duty Officer (24 hour) Dubbo Area Office (bus. hours)	6842 3041 6842 1311
NSW RFS Castlereagh Zone	Garry Wilson Duty Officer	0429 305 713 0417 419 367
RFS Rural Fire Brigades	Pinaroo - Andrew Young Garrawilla - Rob Anderson	6842 7849 6743 7985 0419 163 750
NSW Fire Brigade	Katoomba	4782 6077
Emergency Services	Police, Fire, Ambulance	000
SES		13 2900
Police	Coonabarabran	6842 7299
Council	Warrumbungle	6849 2000

Locality

Orley Highway
Coonabarabran 5.5km
Rocky Glen
Garrawilla
Needle Mountain
Wanda Trig
Siding Spring
Rough-barked Apple

Map Details

Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia 1984 GDA 84
Data: ADS40 Imagery 2009
Projection: Map Grid Australia Zone 55
MULLALEY 8835
Scale: Noted scales are true when printed on A1 size paper

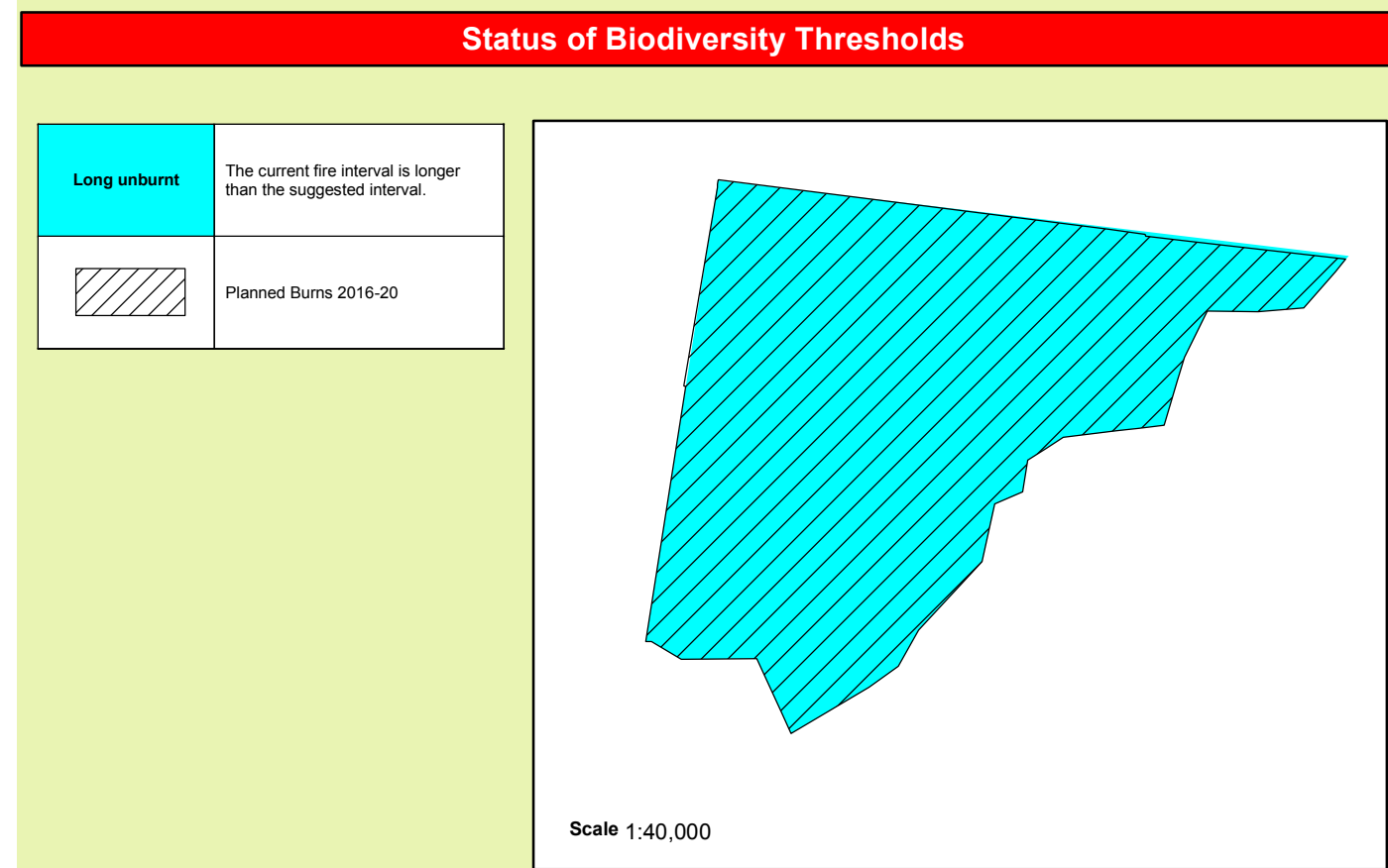


Fire Season Information

Wildfires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The critical wildfire season generally occurs during November and December. During periods of strong negative Southern Oscillation Indices (El Niño events), this period may commence late September and extend into the first half of January. The end of the critical fire season is often marked by wet storm activity.
Prescribed Burning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prescribed burning should be undertaken before late autumn rainfall to maximise effectiveness.

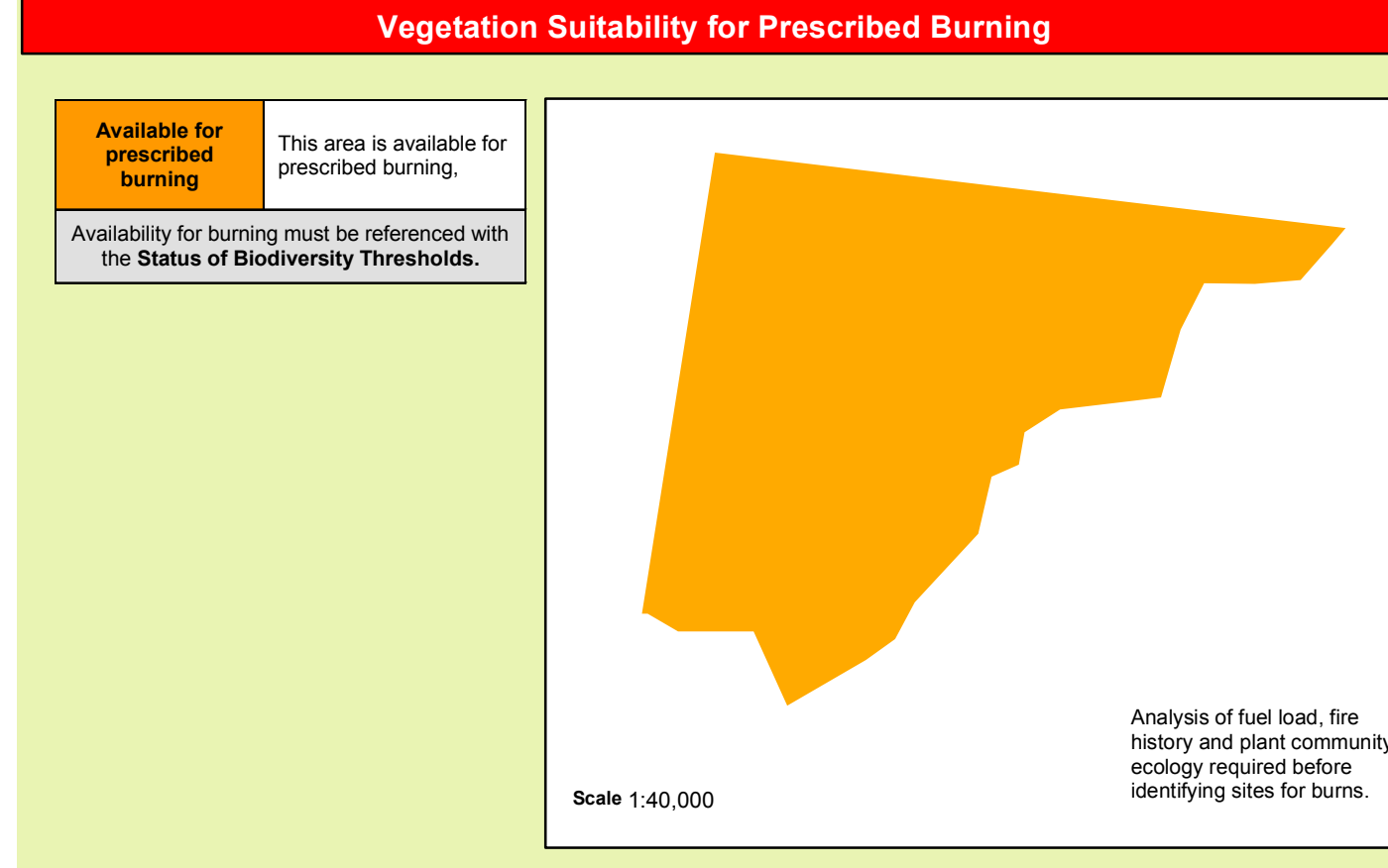
Operational Guidelines

Aerial operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aerial operations will be managed by trained and competent personnel. This includes directing aerial bombing and aerial ignition operations. The use of bombing aircraft without the support of ground-based suppression crews should be limited to very specific circumstances. All aerial ignition operations require the consent of the Incident Controller.
Backburning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All personnel must be fully briefed before back burning operations begin. Backburning in areas of Low - Moderate OFH will require the use of wind, or low humidity to maximise effectiveness. Backburning should be timed for late afternoon and early evening. Where practicable to assist mop-up efforts, clear a 1m radius around dead and fibrous barked trees adjacent to containment lines prior to backburning, or wet down these trees during the ignition.
Command & Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first combatant agency on site may assume control of the fire, but then must ensure the relevant land management agency is notified promptly. A senior NPWS officer is to liaise with the RFS to ensure that the agency in command and control is determined and an Incident Controller is appointed.
Containment Lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing or previous roads, tracks and control lines should be used wherever possible. New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer. Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, where practicable, except where they can be constructed with minimal environmental impact. All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on, and must consider both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location. All containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed immediately at the cessation of the incident.
Earthmoving Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer. Plant must always be supervised by an experienced officer, and accompanied by a fire-fighting vehicle when engaged in direct or parallel attack. Plant must be washed down, where practicable, prior to entering and exiting NPWS estate.
Fire Suppression Chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of foam, wetting agents and retardants will be permitted on the reserve. Fire suppression chemicals are not to be applied within 50m of water courses and dams. The use of retardants requires the approval of a senior NPWS officer.
Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
Watering points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider deployment of bulk water carriers to support fire operations.
Smoke Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential smoke impacts and mitigation tactics will be assessed during the planning of fire operations.
Visitor Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger, and will be closed during fire operations.
WARNINGS	Black text - general guidelines Blue text - reserve specific guidelines Red text - Major warnings



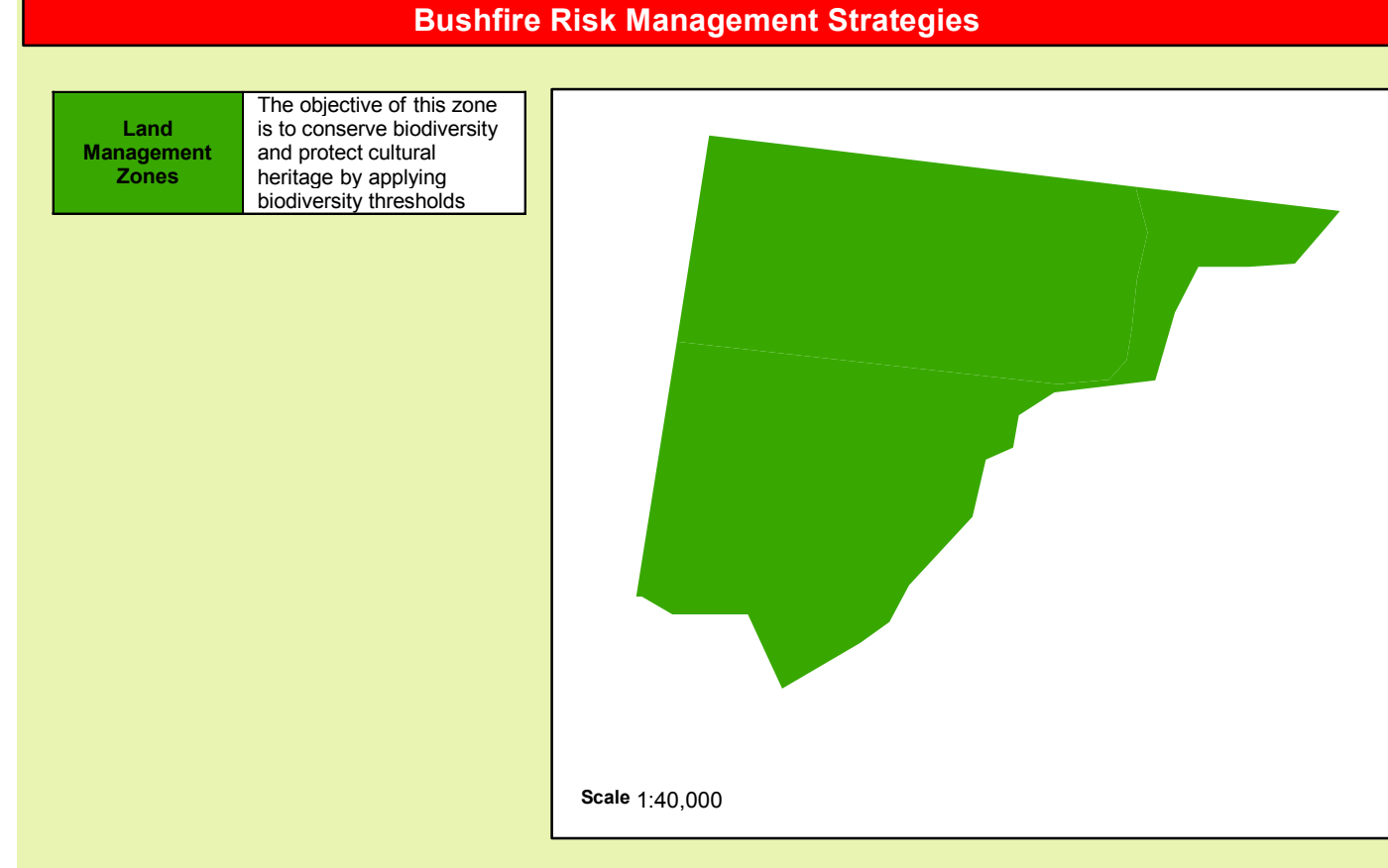
Operational Guidelines - Heritage

Resource	Guidelines
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Aboriginal sites have been identified on the reserve. Modified trees (IS1), including scarred trees Protect the site from fire, clear base of litter and shrubs, exclude site tree from fire where possible Foam may be used to protect the tree, or to extinguish fire Do not cut trees Ground based sites (IS2), including: camp sites, artefacts, grinding grooves, waterholes and quarries Protect site from any ground disturbance, including the use of earth-moving equipment and vehicles Resource sites (IS3), including fig-tree groves Protect site from physical disturbance Avoid any burning into Dry Vine Rainforests
Historic Heritage Site Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AIIMS database must be checked as part of planning for fire operations No historic structures and sites have been identified
Threatened Species Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protective actions are incorporated in the Operational Guidelines



Suppression Strategies

Conditions & forecast	Guidelines
All vegetation types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a broad containment strategy using existing trails and roads, recently burnt areas, creeklines or vegetation with LOW OFH.
Years with saturated soils and sub-soils	<p>NOTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is necessary due to the high risk of vehicles and machines bogging. Both access routes have sections susceptible to water-logging. Access may be restricted to quads.
Fire danger rating LOW - HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a broad containment strategy using existing trails, allowing long-term management requirements for biodiversity Direct and parallel attack may be applied with earthmoving machinery and fire units. Fallback to existing trails and roads and recently burnt areas when fire runs exceed control line construction rates Consider falling-back to cleared country
Fire danger rating VERY HIGH +	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure and deepen control lines on the next predicted downwind side of the fire Target backburning operations when the humidity rises in late afternoon and early evening. Backburning effectiveness will drop significantly with rising humidity.
Fire danger rating CATASTROPHIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas with grassy understorey may carry fire 1+ years after fire. Fire runs under extreme conditions may travel at 4-6 km/hr. Burn areas with LOW OFH may hold fire heat if deep enough Burn areas with MODERATE OFH will reduce intensity. Containment may require inclusion of vacant Crown lands and uncleared private land. Revert to property protection



Vegetation Community	Vegetation management guidelines	Fire Behaviour
Ridge Woodlands and Shrublands Bloodwood / Narrow-leaved Ironbark / Black Cypress Pine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An interval between fire events less than 15 years should be avoided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread is high due to HIGH - VERY HIGH OFH, particularly in areas of Bloodwood and Scribbly Gum Potential rates of spread varies according to elevated fuel. Low / Moderate elevated fuel will have moderate spread. High / Very High elevated fuel will have high rate of spread. Potential for intense short distance spotting for areas of long unburnt Apple.
Valley Woodlands Blakelys Red Gum / Rough-barked Apple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An interval between fire events less than 10 years should be avoided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for intense short distance spotting for areas of long unburnt Apple.

OFH - Overall fuel hazard - A rating system that includes surface (leaf litter), near surface (low shrubs & grasses), elevated (shrubs), and bark fuels.

Map Legend

- NPWS Estate
- State Forest
- Assume all gates are locked
- Gate
- Dam
- Building
- Drainage
- Contour 10 m

Fire Trails (EPCC Policy No. 20027)

- Essential, Cat 1
- Essential, Cat 7
- Essential, Cat 9
- Important, Cat 1
- Important, Cat 7
- Important, Cat 9
- Dormant

Other Roads & Trails

- Major Road
- Minor Road
- Other Trails

Site Management (see guideline tables)

- Threatened Property
- Threatened Fauna
- Threatened Flora
- Indigenous Site IS1 Modified tree
- Indigenous Site IS2 Ground-based sites
- Indigenous Site IS3 Resource site
- Historic Site
- Machinery Exclusion Area
- Fire History Recent

Other Fire Control Advantages

- Water Point Vehicle
- Water Point Helicopter
- Water Point Helicopter & Vehicle