

**Toorale National Park
Fire Management Strategy
2012 – 2016**

Office of Environment & Heritage
NSW

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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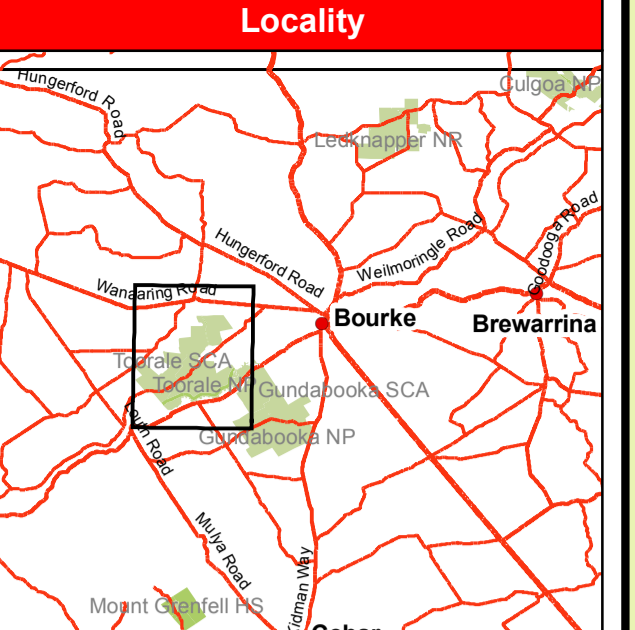
This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997.

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is part of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.
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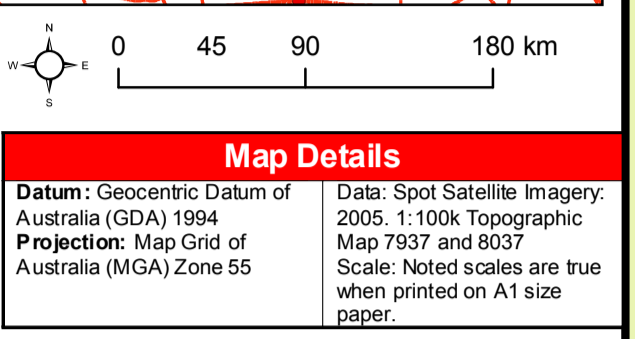
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Communications Information		
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS/Air band (Cross-band repeater)	Multiple Channels	Western Branch resources also at Dubbo transportable. Full range of both simplex and duplex NPWS VHF & RFS FM/R channels
Aircraft - VHF		Contact State Air Desk for frequency allocation
Mobile phone - Next G		Good reception with car kit
Satellite Phone		Good Reception
UHF - CB	37	



Contact Information		
Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Regional Duty Officer (24 hour)	(08) 8080 3222
	Bourke Office (bus. hours)	(02) 6830 0200
	Zone Manager: Chris Favele	0419 691 815
	Operations Manager: Robyn Favele	0407 934 949
Barwon Darling Zone NSW Rural Fire Service	Bourke Station	(02) 6872 4023
	Michael Amos	(02) 6872 4023
Emergency Services		000
Ambulance	Bookings	000 233
	Call Centre	132 500
SES	Bourke Unit	(02) 6872 1444
Police	Bourke Station	(02) 6870 0899
Council	Bourke Shire Council	(02) 6870 8000



Fire Season Information

The critical wildfire season occurs during November and February. This period may extend into the first half of March. Particular care is required during periods of negative Southern Oscillation Indices. The end of the critical fire season is often marked by wet storm activity.

Wildfires

Prescribed burning should be undertaken before autumn rain occurs to maximise effectiveness. Burning may also be considered during late winter and early spring dependent on seasonal factors. Prescribed burning undertaken near the commencement of the statutory bushfire season should be fully contained.

Prescribed Burning

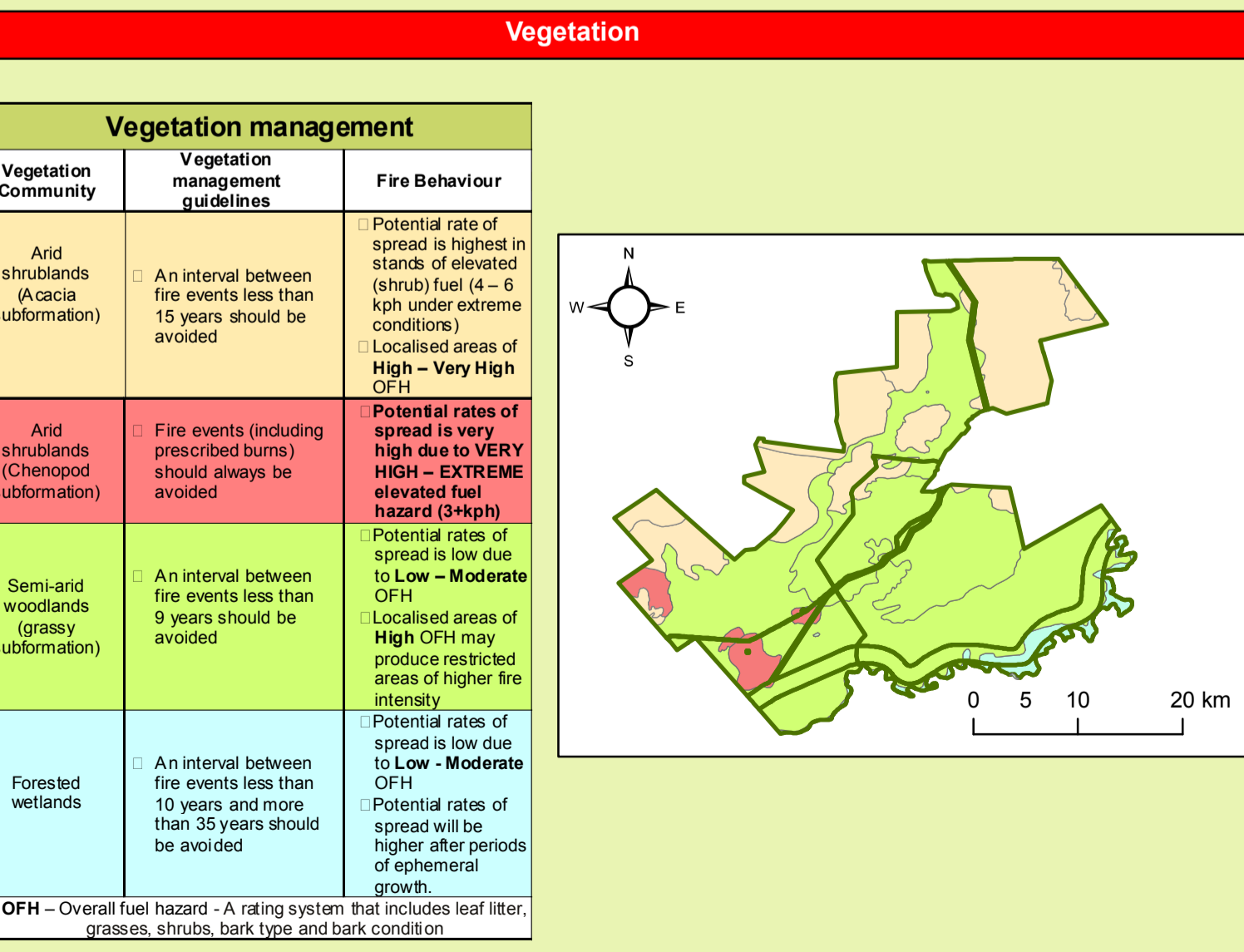
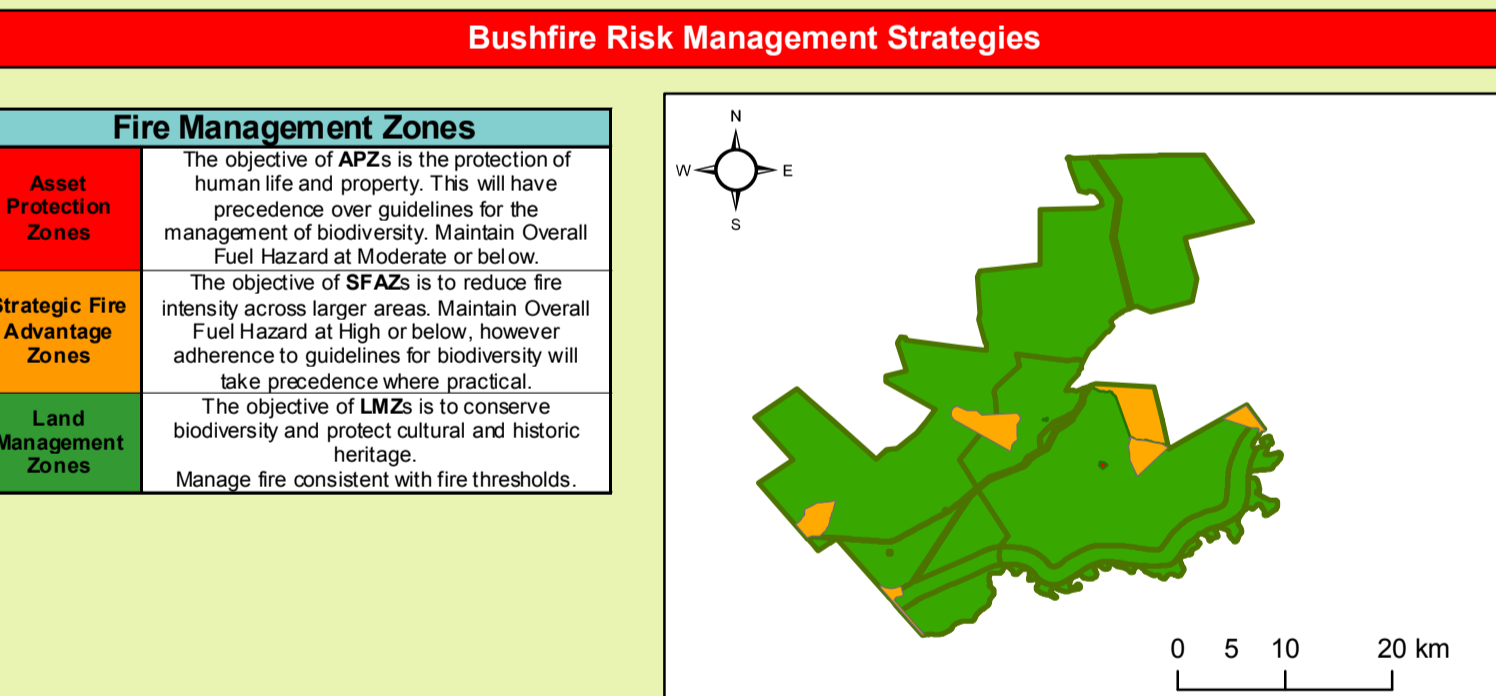
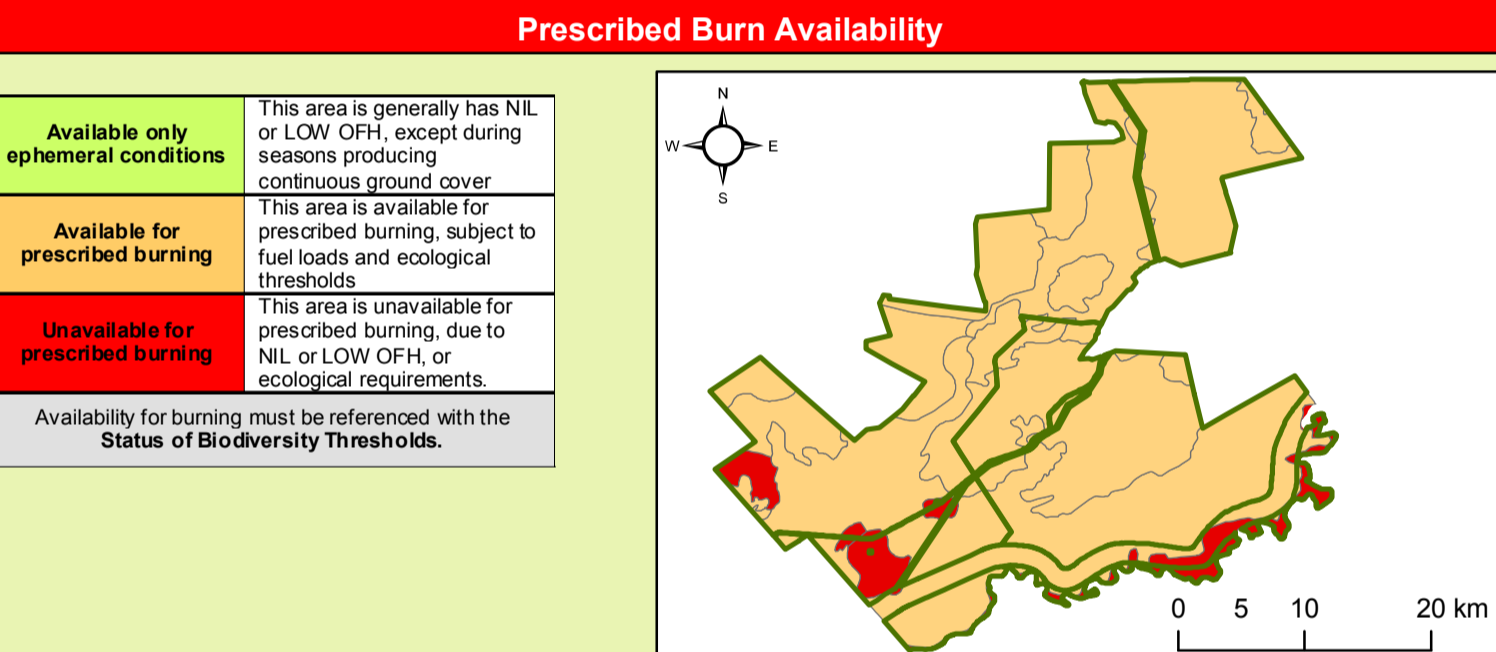
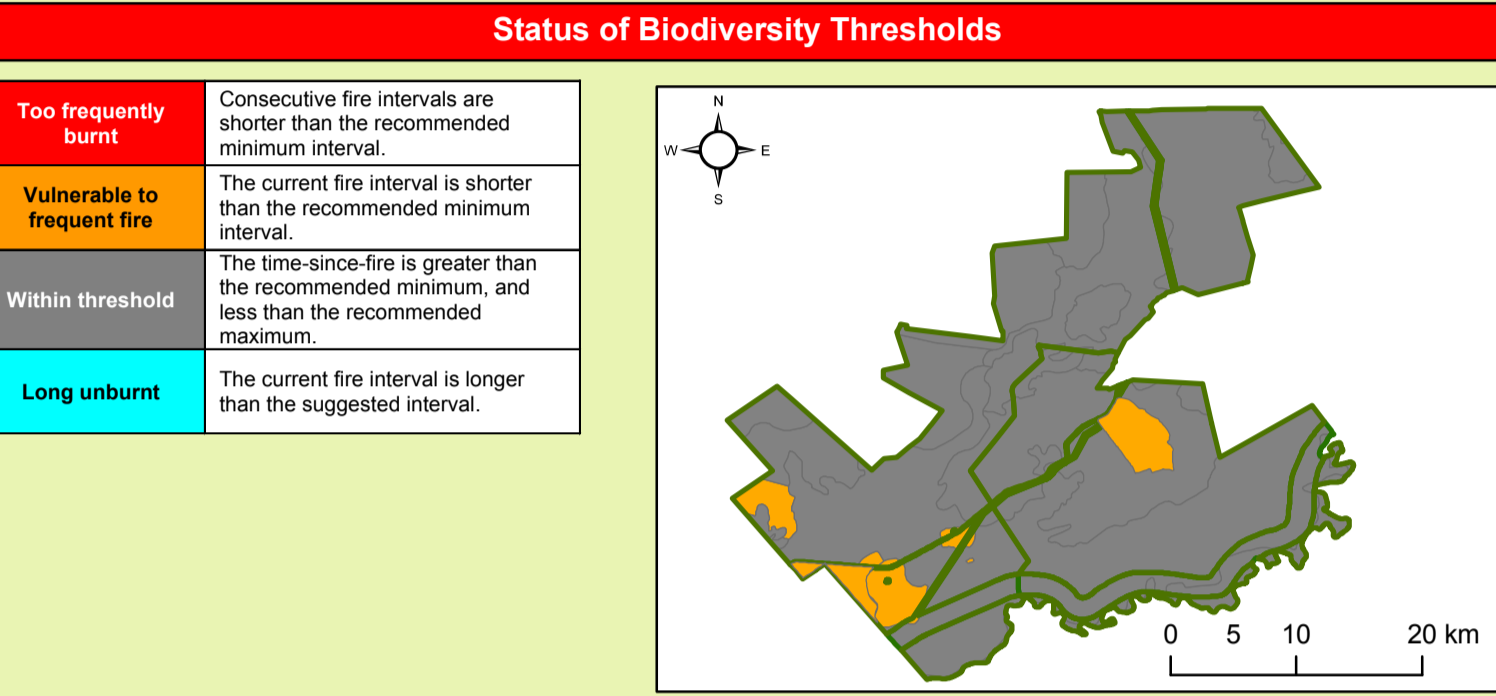
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Related documents

- Office of Environment and Heritage (2011) Fire Management Manual

Additional notes

- The reserve's fire trail system will be finalised after negotiations with landholders on various land management issues. When these have been finalised, this fire management strategy will be updated.



Operational Guidelines	
General	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 NPWS Regional Manager or the Section 44 Appointee.
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 slope or wind, or low humidity to maximise effectiveness. Where practicable to 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. 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.
Containment Lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Containment lines running along valley areas should be constructed at 20 – 50 metres from the gullyline to avoid severe erosion. All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on, and must consider both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location.
Earthmoving Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earthmoving equipment may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS Officer. Earthmoving equipment must always be 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 fire fighting vehicle. Earthmoving equipment will be excluded from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The banks of the Warrego and Darling Rivers Culturally significant sites – consult with local area staff for site locations Earthmoving equipment must be washed down, where practicable, prior to entering NPWS estate and again on exiting NPWS estate.
Fire Suppression Chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of foam, gels 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 the Regional Manager or delegate.
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 a bulk water carrier 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. During fire operations, signage may be required on Toorale Road RLR 10.
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.

Operational Guidelines - Heritage	
Resource	Guidelines
Modified trees (AS1), including scarred trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect the site from fire, clear base of litter and shrubs, exclude tree from fire if possible Foam may be used to protect the tree, or to extinguish fire Do not cut trees
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground based sites (AS2), including artefacts and grinding grooves Protect site from any ground disturbance, including the use of earth-moving equipment, vehicles and water bombing Apply a machinery exclusion area where there is a high concentration of known sites Area may be burnt
Burial sites (AS3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect sites from any disturbance by excluding operations by at least 25 metres Area may be burnt
Heritage Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect the site from fire Exclude site from fire where possible, including the construction of a control line around the perimeter Foam may be used to protect the site, or to extinguish fire
Historic Heritage Site Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wooden cattle grids, coupe trees and survey trees Protect the site from fire, clear base of litter and shrubs, exclude tree from fire if possible Foam may be used to protect the tree, or to extinguish Do not cut trees Machinery to go around cattle grids
Threatened Species Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threatened plant species – <i>Synostemon trachyspermus</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Machinery will be excluded from known habitat areas Apply minimum interval of 10 years between fire events Monitoring to record fire response must be initiated after a fire event Maintain fire trails and turning bays to avoid any widening during incidents Ecologically Endangered Communities – Coolibah Blackbox woodlands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All efforts to be made to protect

Suppression Strategies	
Conditions	Guidelines
Gidgee / Box / Ironwood woodlands	
Fire danger rating LOW - HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a broad containment strategy using existing roads, allowing long-term management requirements for biodiversity Direct and parallel attack may be applied with earthmoving machinery and fire units, except riverine forests.
Fire danger rating VERY HIGH - EXTREME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close parallel attack, moving around the head only when the fire stops running Distance between the flank and machinery and fire units should be kept to a minimum
Ridgetop vegetation	
Fire danger rating LOW - HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a broad containment strategy using existing roads, allowing long-term management requirements for biodiversity Direct and parallel attack may be applied with earthmoving machinery and fire units.
Fire danger rating VERY HIGH - EXTREME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fallback to existing trails and roads, recently burnt areas or vegetation with LOW OFH, when fire runs exceed control line construction rates Secure and deepen control lines on the next predicted downwind side of the fire Backburning effectiveness will drop significantly in the after humidity starts to rise in the early evening.
Grasslands	<p>WARNING: This vegetation burns with an extreme fire intensity. Fire runs should be anticipated with winds from any direction. Entrapment risk is very high.</p>
Fire danger rating LOW - HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a broad containment strategy using existing roads, allowing long-term management requirements for biodiversity Direct and parallel attack may be applied with earthmoving machinery and fire units only on dead edges, or in vegetation with LOW OFH. Do not attempt backburning in the predicted path of running fire in this vegetation.
Fire danger rating VERY HIGH - EXTREME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Backburning must be carefully timed and planned to avoid adding to fire runs. Backburning effectiveness will drop significantly in the after humidity starts to rise, and wind drops, in the early evening. Parallel attack may be applied with earthmoving machinery and fire units only on dead edges, or in vegetation with LOW OFH.

