

Mid North Coast Region

Wallamba Nature Reserve

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.

Endorsed by:

Date: / /

Director Northern, Parks & Wildlife Division

Datum: AGD66
Projection: UTM
Grid: AMG Zone 56

Noted scales are true when this map is printed on A1 paper

Produced by MNC GIS

Locality

Index

Risk Management Information

Bushfire Suppression

Legend

- Contour Interval 10 metres
- NPWS Roads
 - Primary (Cat 1)
 - Secondary (Cat 9)
 - Closed
 - Not classified
 - Walking Track
- NPWS Estate
- State Forest
- State Forest Plantation
- Fires 2004-2005
- Fires 2003-2004
- Fires 2001-2003
- Aboriginal Sites
- Control Centre
- Endangered Fauna
- Endangered Flora
- Escape Route
- Helipad
- Potential Helipad
- Refuge Area
- Staging Area
- Threatened Property
- Water Point Helicopter
- Water Point Vehicle
- Water Point - H & V
- Caution
- Gate - NPWS
- Gate - non NPWS
- Loading Ramp - Old
- Sign
- Turning Point
- Vantage Point
- Bee Sites
- Assume all gates locked

Communications Information		
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	7	Mt Marie, Channel 9 as alternate
NPWS - VHF (Fireground Comms)	39	Channel 41 as alternate
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	13	Held at Hastings Depot in Port Macquarie.
RFS - PMR - UHF	34	Channel 19 as alternate
RFS - GRN		Not Available
SF - VHF	18	NPWS Channel 86
CB - UHF	23	
Aircraft - VHF		Not Available
Mobile Phone - CDMA	Yes	
Mobile Phone - GSM	Yes	

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	Guidelines
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management (NPWS FMM 4.11)	No known sites in Reserve. If new sites are located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
Historic Heritage Management (NPWS FMM 4.10)	No known sites in Reserve. If new sites located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
Threatened Fauna Management (NPWS FMM 4.12 & 5.2)	No known sites in Reserve. If new sites are located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
Threatened Flora Management (NPWS FMM 4.12)	No known sites in Reserve. If new sites are located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
Threatened Property	- Where possible 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. - Beekeepers must be notified within the first four hours of a reported ignition. For their safety bee keepers are to be accompanied by a Cat 9 and crew, if the bee sites are either in the predicted path of the fire, on, or adjacent to, the fireground. Contact MNC Regional Office for telephone numbers of Beekeepers - Licensee No. 1 CAN BE CONTACTED ON (02) 4997 7516 or Mobile 0428 276 842. Bee sites at : Coolongolook Mapsheet E434600 N6444700, E432400 N6445400, E433600 N6443700 - Licensee No. 2 Bee sites at : Coolongolook Mapsheet:GR E436250 N6444000 & E434800 N6443500 - Licensee No. 3 Bee site at Coolongolook Mapsheet GR E436600 N6444800
General	Guidelines
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 ground based suppression crews in containment operations by aggressively attacking hotspots and spot-overs. - The use of bombing aircraft without the 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 02-4 / 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 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. - 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.
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 BFMC Plan of Operations.
Containment Lines (NPWS FMM 2.2 & 3.9)	- Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, except where they can be built by hand with minimal erosion potential. 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.
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. - Earthmoving equipment should be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS estate.
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 retardant 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 rainforest, 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.
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.

Strategy Information	
Fire Season Information	
Wildfires	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.
Prescribed Burning (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.7)	General season is Autumn to late Winter. Burning is possible in early Spring but not desirable on a regular basis from an ecological point of view.
Suppression Strategies	
Current FDR	Forecast FDR
Low - Mod	Low - Mod
Low - Mod	= > High
High	All
All	All

Contact Information		
Agency	Position / Location	Phone
NPWS	Regional Duty Officer / After Hours Pager	016 301 161
	Area Manager	6586 8300
	Fire Management Officer	6539 4101
	Regional Operations Coordinator	0407 758 804
	Manning Area Office	6586 8329
RFS	Regional Office	0417 497 031
	Operations Officer	6586 8317
	Team Manager	0417 260 055
	Taree Fire Control 24hr Number	6552 4097
	Emergency	6551 0575
SES	Emergency	6586 8300
	Taree Unit	6592 6990
Police	Emergency	0427 229 131
	Taree Station	6558 9222
Ambulance	Emergency	0427 260 383
	All Stations	6592 6999
Hospital	Manning Base	000
	Wauchope Regional Office	6552 5866
Forests NSW	Taree Operations Office	000
	Emergency AH Number	13 1233
Council	Greater Taree City Council	6592 9111
	Emergency AH Number	6585 3744
Local Aboriginal Land Councils	Purfleet/Taree	6551 0074
	Foster	6592 5399

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

NB. Fire thresholds are defined for vegetation communities to conserve biodiversity

Vegetation

Status of Fire Thresholds