

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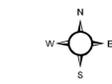
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This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997.

Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW)

Endorsed by: _____ Date: / /

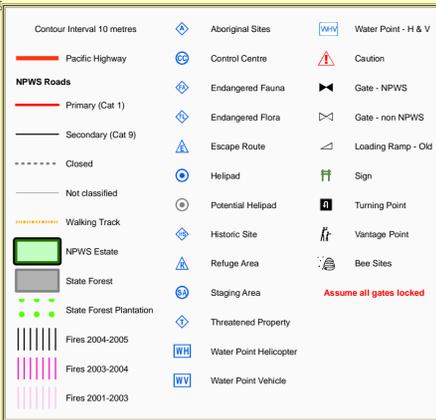
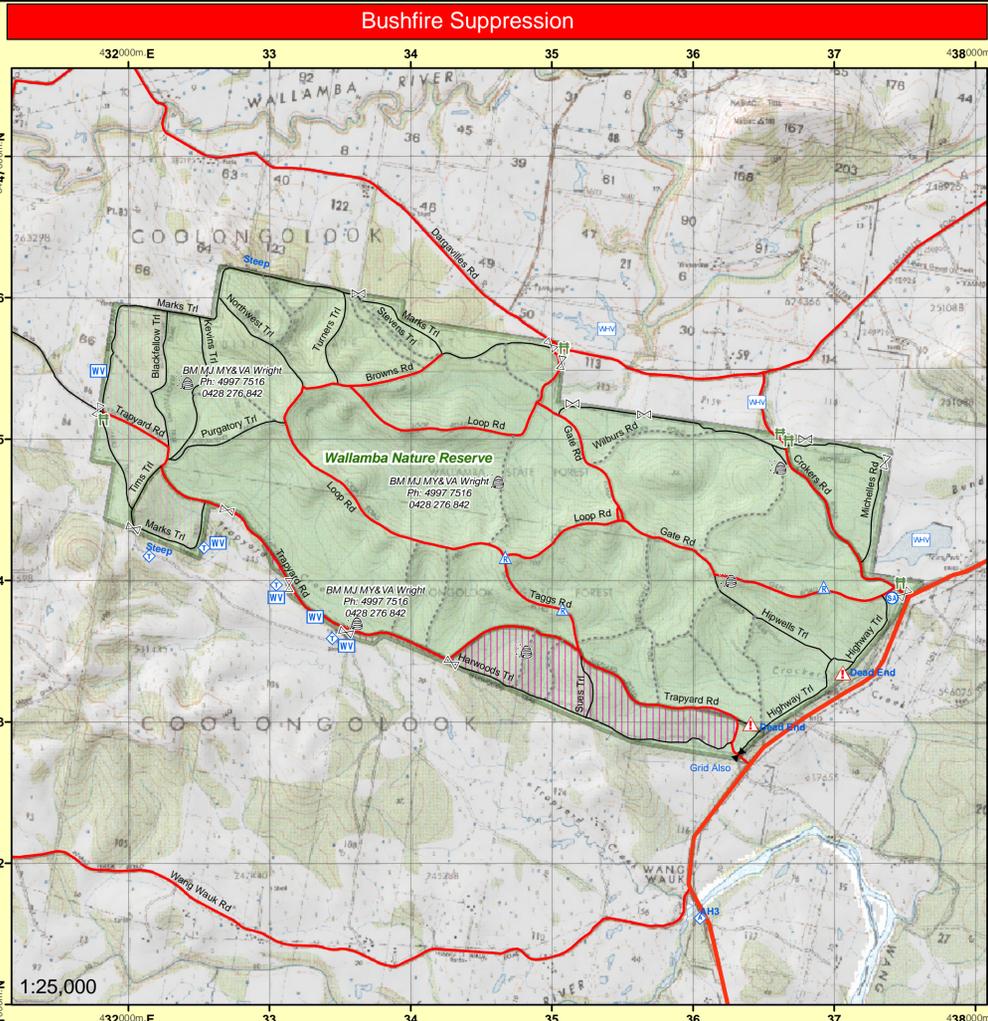
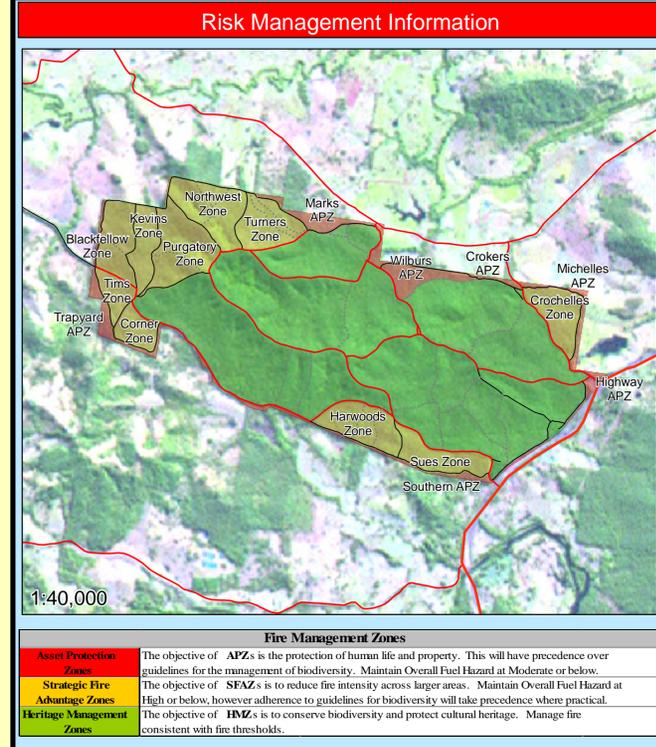
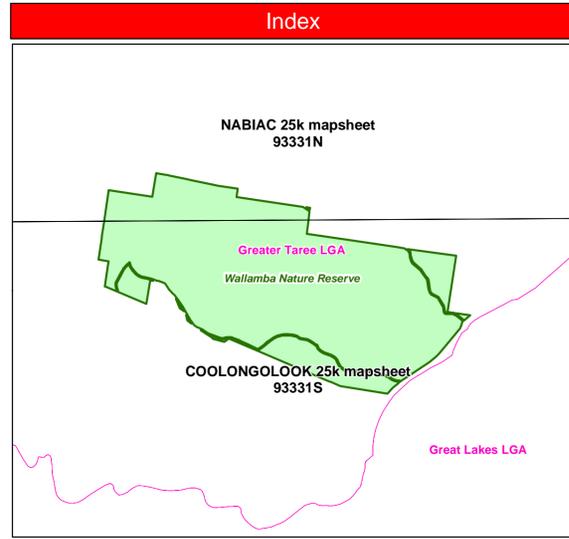
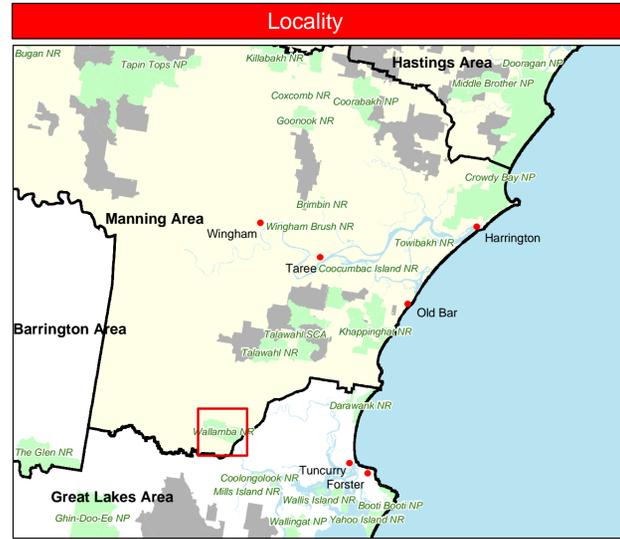
Director Northern, Parks & Wildlife Division



Datum: AGD66
Projection: UTM
Grid: AMG Zone 56

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

Produced by MNC GIS



| 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 | Not Available |
| Aircraft - VHF | | Not Available |
| Mobile Phone - CDMA | Yes | |
| Mobile Phone - GSM | Yes | |

| Operational Guidelines | |
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| 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 : Coolonglook Mapsheet E434600 N6444700, E432400 N6445400, E433600 N6443700 • Licensee No. 2 Bee sites at : Coolonglook Mapsheet:GR E436250 N6444000 & E434800 N6443500 • Licensee No. 3 Bee site at Coolonglook Mapsheet GR E436600 N6444800 |
| General | Guidelines |
| Aerial Water Bombing (NPWS FMM 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2 / 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 O2-4 / 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 | |
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| 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 6539 4101 0407 758 804 |
| | Fire Management Officer | 6586 8329 0417 497 031 |
| | Regional Operations Coordinator | 6586 8317 0417 260 055 |
| | Manning Area Office | 6552 4097 |
| | Fax | 6551 0575 |
| | Regional Office | 6586 8300 |
| RFS | Operations Officer | 6592 6990 0427 229 131 |
| | Team Manager | 6558 9222 0427 260 383 |
| | Taree Fire Control 24hr Number | 6592 6999 |
| SES | Emergency | 000 |
| Police | Taree Unit | 6552 5866 |
| | Emergency | 000 |
| Ambulance | Taree Station | 6552 0399 |
| | Emergency | 000 |
| Hospital | All Stations | 13 1233 |
| | Manning Base | 6592 9111 |
| Forests NSW | Wauchope Regional Office | 6585 3744 |
| | Taree Operations Office | 6551 0074 |
| | Taree Operations Office | 6592 5399 |
| Council | Greater Taree City Council | 0428 654 025 |
| | Emergency AH Number | 6552 4106 |
| Local Aboriginal Land Councils | Purfleet/Taree | 6552 4106 |
| | Foster | 6555 5411 |

| 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 |

