

Wallarah National Park Fire Management Strategy 2006

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.

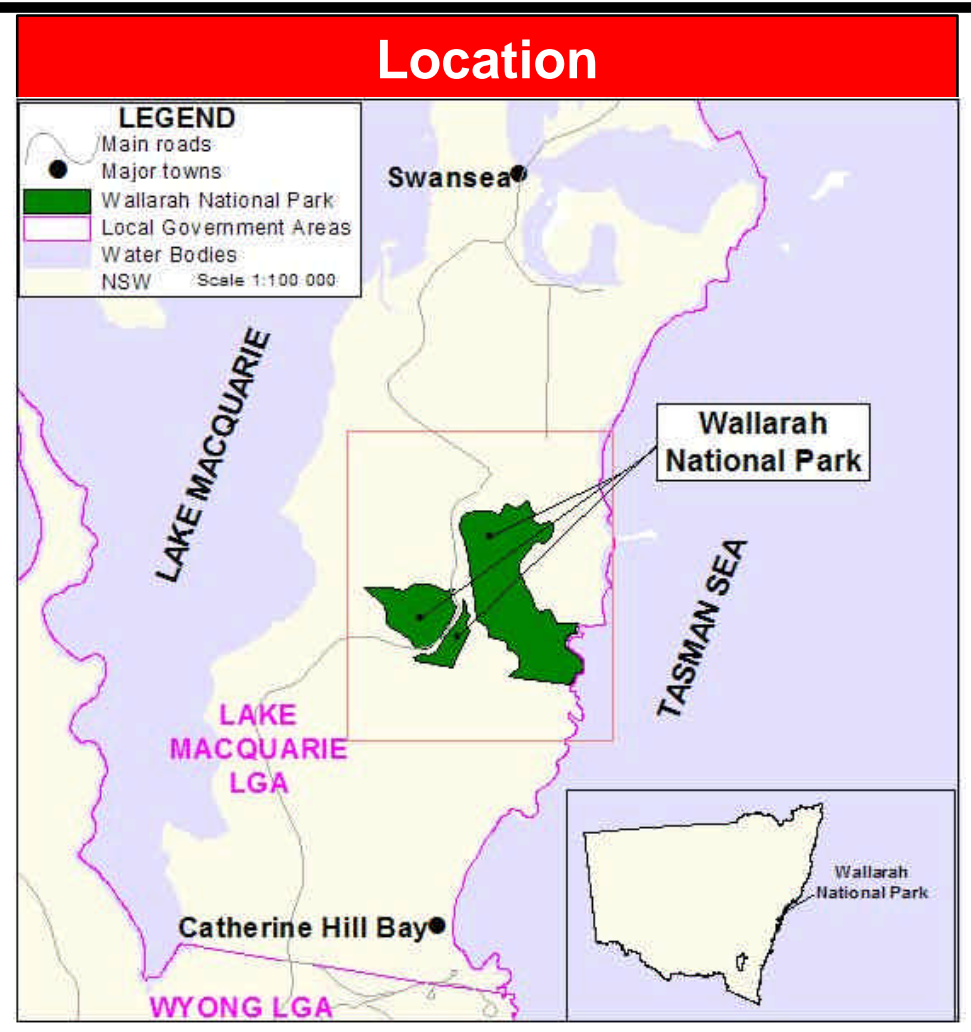
The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is part of the Department of Environment and Conservation.

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Contact: NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Central Coast Hunter Range Region, PO Box 1477, Gosford NSW 2250.

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Contact Details		
Agency	Position	Number
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service	Duty Officer	4320 4265
	Regional Manager	4320 4201 / 0428 218 015
	Regional Operations Coordinator	4320 4232 / 0418 433 203
	Gosford Regional Office	4320 4200
Central Coast Hunter Range Region (CCHRR)	Lakes Area Office	4358 0400
	Duty Officer / Emergency	4955 2122 / 0418 684 681
Rural Fire Service	Lake Macquarie Fire Control Centre	4955 2222
SES	District Emergency Management Officer	4937 2912 / 0417 416 590
	Lake Macquarie	4921 0610
Police	Toronto	4950 3699
	Swansea	4971 1121
	Lake Macquarie	4942 9904
	Monisset	4975 1444
Ambulance	Bookings	131 233
	Emergency	000
Hospital - Hunter Area Health Services	John Hunter Hospital	4921 3000
	Belmont Hospital	4923 2300
Council	Monisset Hospital	4924 6500 (via Newcastle office)
	Lake Macquarie City Council	4921 0333
Stockland	Land Management Coordinator	0418 390 793

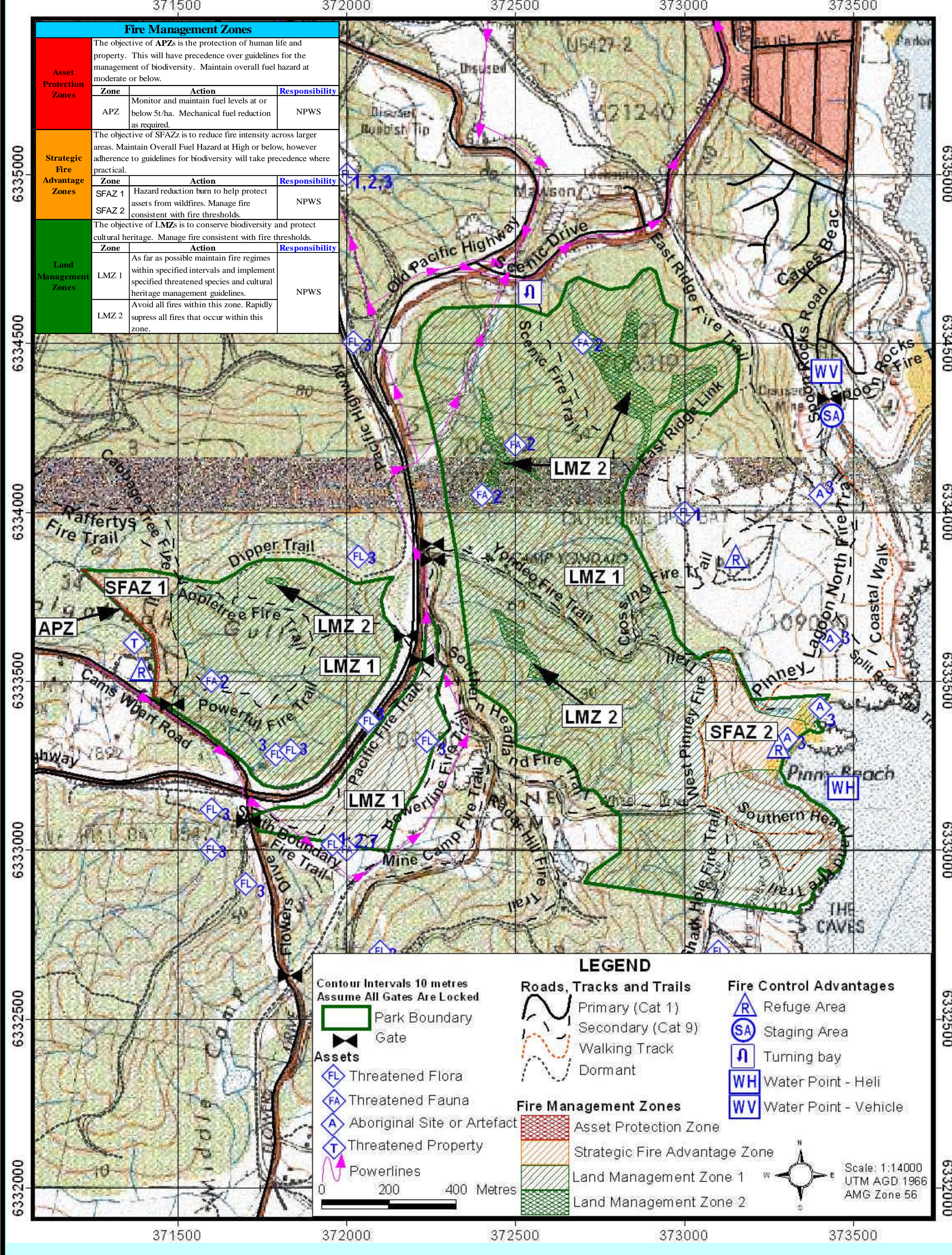


Fire Season Information		
Wildfires	The statutory wildfire season occurs between 1 st October and 31 st March. This may be extended if weather conditions lead to increased fire danger outside of this period.	NPWS - VHF RFS - PMR (Fire Control Centre) RFS - GRN (Fire Control Centre) LHF - CB Mobile Phone Coverage
Prescribed Burning (NPWS FMM 4.7)	Prescribed burning in this area is normally undertaken in Spring through to Autumn.	118 7276 1881 578

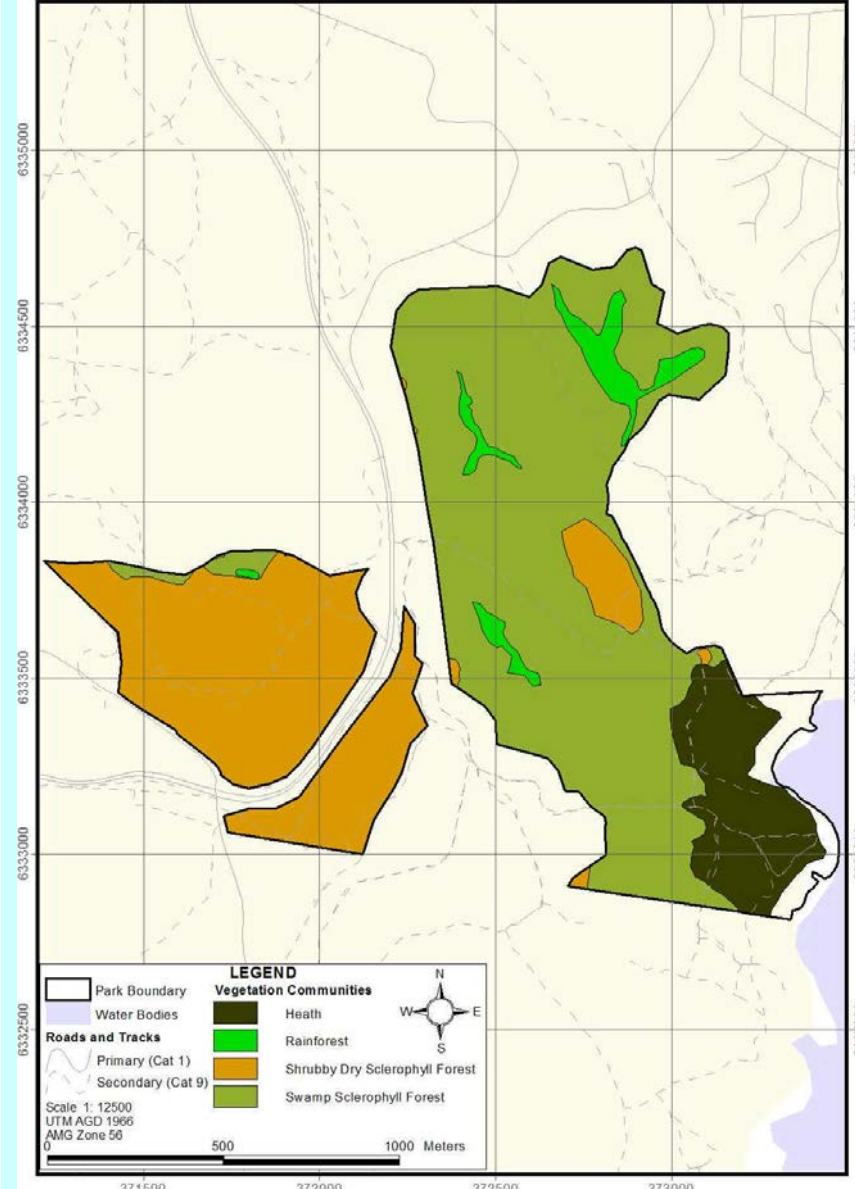
Communication Resources		
Service	Channel	Location / Comments
NPWS - VHF	24	Warrawalling
RFS - PMR (Fire Control Centre)	Main - 58 Other - 22	Lake Macquarie
RFS - GRN (Fire Control Centre)	193	Lake Macquarie
LHF - CB		Good
Mobile Phone Coverage		Poor
Satellite Phone	118 7276 1881 578	The region has one satellite phone.

Map Details		Related Documents	
Datum	Australian Geodesic Datum of Australia (AGD) 1986	National Parks and Wildlife Service Fire Management Manual, Sept 2005.	
Projection	Australian Map Grid (AMG) Zone 56	Wallahah National Park Interim Management Guidelines (2004)	
Aerial Photography	LEIS, September 2005, 2006, 2007	The Lennoxville Wallarah Peninsula Fuel Management Plan, Volume 4, March 2004 establishes Fire Management Zones on land adjoining NPWS estate. There is a MoU between Stockland and DEC for joint management of the Wallarah Peninsula.	
Topographic Map	Swansea 92314-N (LPI)		
LIDAR Map	Catherine Hill Bay 92314-S (LPI)		
LGA	Newcastle Director Maps 186, 184		
Electorate	Lake Macquarie		

Bushfire Risk Management Strategies



Vegetation Communities

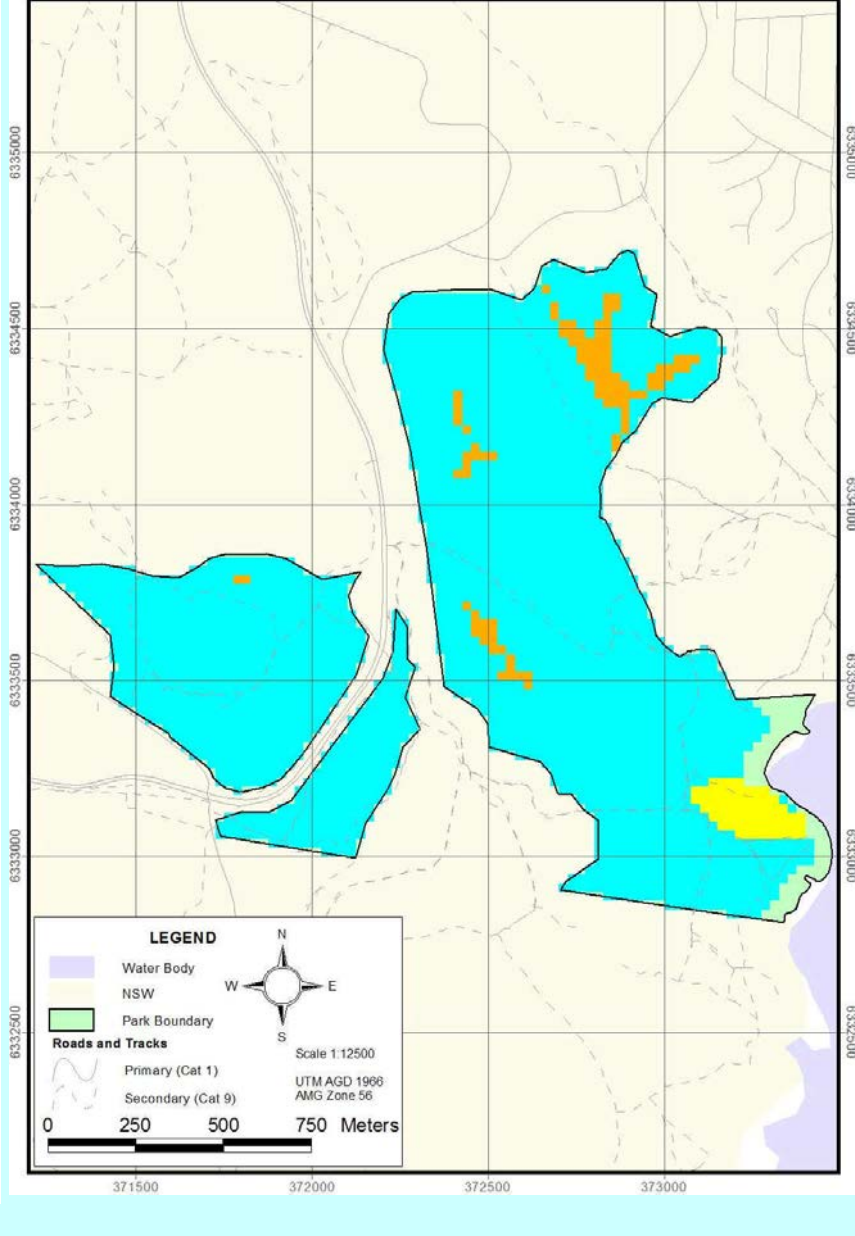


Fire Thresholds

Overburnt	Fire thresholds have been exceeded. Protect from fire as far as possible.
Vulnerable	The area will be Overburnt if it burns this year. Protect from fire as far as possible.
Recently Burnt	Time since fire is less than the optimal 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 Burnt	The area is close to its threshold and may become overburnt with the absence of fire. A prescribed burn may be advantageous. Consider allowing unplanned fires to burn.
Upper Threshold Exceeded	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.

Status of Fire Threshold



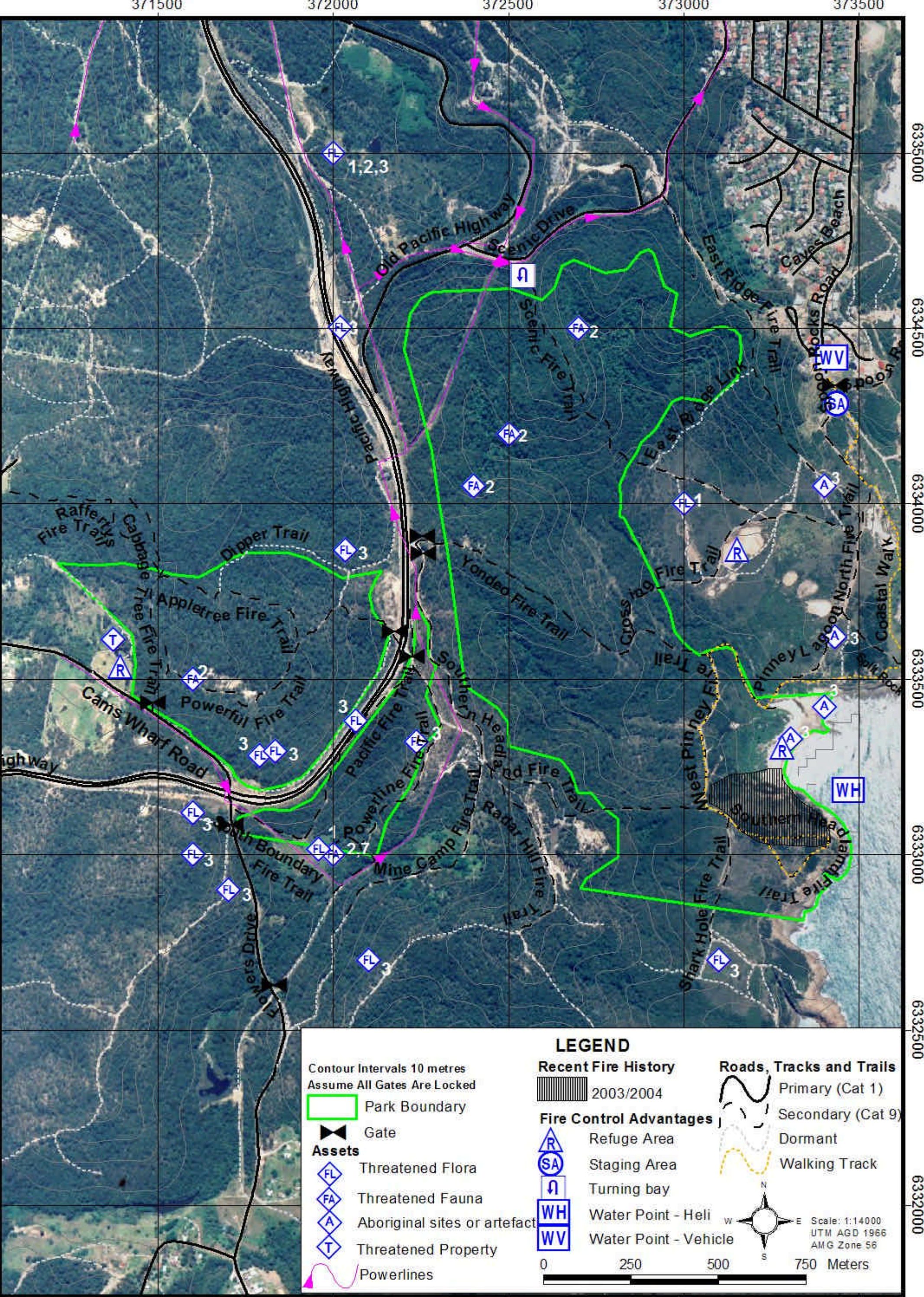
Operational Guidelines

Refer to Strategy for Fire Management 2003 and Fire Management Manual 2005.

Brief all personnel involved in suppression operations on the following issues:

Resource	Guidelines																		
Visitor Management (NPWS FMM 3.6 & 4.13)	- The park may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations.																		
Command & Control (NPWS FMM 4.2)	- The first combatant agency onsite may assume control of the fire, but then must ensure the relevant land management agency is promptly notified. - On the arrival of other combatant agencies, the initial incident controller will coordinate and report on the ongoing command, control and incident management requirements as per the relevant BFMC Plan of Operations.																		
Backburning (NPWS FMM 4.8)	- Due to small area of reserve and sensitive vegetation, containment strategies should minimise the area of backburning. - Temperature and humidity should be carefully monitored to determine the safest times to implement backburns. Generally, when FDI=very high or greater, backburning should commence when humidity begins to rise in the late afternoon/early evening. With lower FDI's, backburning may be undertaken during the day.																		
Smoke Management (NPWS FMM 3.4)	- Potential impacts of smoke and possible mitigation tactics must be considered when planning for wildfire suppression and prescribed burning operations. - Smoke could potentially impact Pacific Highway - closures may be required. If smoke becomes a hazard on local roads or highways, police, RTA and relevant media must be contacted. - Smoke management must be in accordance with relevant RTA traffic management guidelines.																		
Containment Lines (NPWS FMM 2.2 and 3.9)	- Construction of new containment lines should be avoided where practicable, except where they can be constructed with minimal environmental impact. New containment lines require prior consent from senior NPWS Officer. - Where practical containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operations. - All containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed at the cessation of the incident. - All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on the natural and cultural heritage sites in the location.																		
Earthmoving Equipment (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.3)	- Earth moving equipment may only be used with prior consent of a senior NPWS officer, and then only if the probability of its success is high. - Earth moving 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 firefighting vehicle. - Containment line construction by earthmoving equipment should consider the protection of drainage features, observe the Threatened Species and Cultural Heritage Operational Guidelines, and be surveyed where possible to identify unknown cultural heritage sites. - Earthmoving equipment should be washed down, where practicable, prior to entering NPWS estate.																		
Aerial Ignition (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.4 / NSW 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 NPWS Area Manager or Section 44 delegate. - Unusual incidencies to rapidly progress backburns down slope where required.																		
Aerial Water Bombing (NPWS FMM 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	- Water bombing aircraft can be used to support fire suppression operations by aggressively attacking hotspots and spot-overs. - Lake Macquarie and ocean are water sources. Helibase at Birdie Beach car park (Latitude: 151°36'16; Longitude: -33°12'21) - The use of bombing aircraft without the support of ground based suppression crews should be limited to very specific circumstances. - Where practical foam should be used to increase the effectiveness of the water. - Wetting and foaming agents 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 50 metres of rainforest, watercourses, dams and swamps. - Areas where fire suppression chemicals are used must be mapped and the used products name recorded. - Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed.																		
Fire Suppression Chemicals (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.9)	- Where practical containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation. - All fire advantages used in fire suppression operations must be mapped and where relevant added to the database.																		
Rehabilitation (NPWS FMM 5.1)	- Where practical containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.																		
Fire Advantage Recording	- All fire advantages used in fire suppression operations must be mapped and where relevant added to the database.																		
Threatened Fauna Management (NPWS FMM 4.12 & 5.2)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Resource</th> <th>Guidelines</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>FA1</td> <td>- Protect large and hollow bearing trees. - Protect large and hollow bearing trees. - Avoid interfere intervals of < 10 yrs.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FA2</td> <td>- Avoid high intensity fires that consume tree canopies and fallen logs. - Avoid interfere intervals of < 10 yrs.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FA3</td> <td>- Habitat unlikely to be effected by fire. - Avoid use of retardant and foam in wetland habitats.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FA4</td> <td>- Habitat unlikely to be effected by fire. - Avoid use of earth moving machinery in dune habitats.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FA5</td> <td>- Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & HR, as far as possible in wetland habitat. - Avoid use of earth moving machinery in wetland habitats.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FA6</td> <td>- Avoid use of retardant and foam in wetland habitats. - Avoid use of earth moving machinery.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FA7</td> <td>- Avoid high intensity fires that consume tree canopies and fallen logs.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FA8</td> <td>- Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & HR, as far as possible. - Avoid use of earth moving machinery.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Resource	Guidelines	FA1	- Protect large and hollow bearing trees. - Protect large and hollow bearing trees. - Avoid interfere intervals of < 10 yrs.	FA2	- Avoid high intensity fires that consume tree canopies and fallen logs. - Avoid interfere intervals of < 10 yrs.	FA3	- Habitat unlikely to be effected by fire. - Avoid use of retardant and foam in wetland habitats.	FA4	- Habitat unlikely to be effected by fire. - Avoid use of earth moving machinery in dune habitats.	FA5	- Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & HR, as far as possible in wetland habitat. - Avoid use of earth moving machinery in wetland habitats.	FA6	- Avoid use of retardant and foam in wetland habitats. - Avoid use of earth moving machinery.	FA7	- Avoid high intensity fires that consume tree canopies and fallen logs.	FA8	- Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & HR, as far as possible. - Avoid use of earth moving machinery.
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Threatened Property Management (NPWS FMM)	- 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.																		

Bushfire Suppression



Operational Guidelines (continued)		Vegetation Communities and Biodiversity Thresholds																													
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