

Mid North Coast Region Yarravel Nature Reserve & Skillion 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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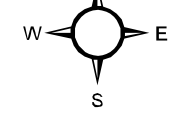
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This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997.

Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW)

Endorsed by: _____ **Date:** / /

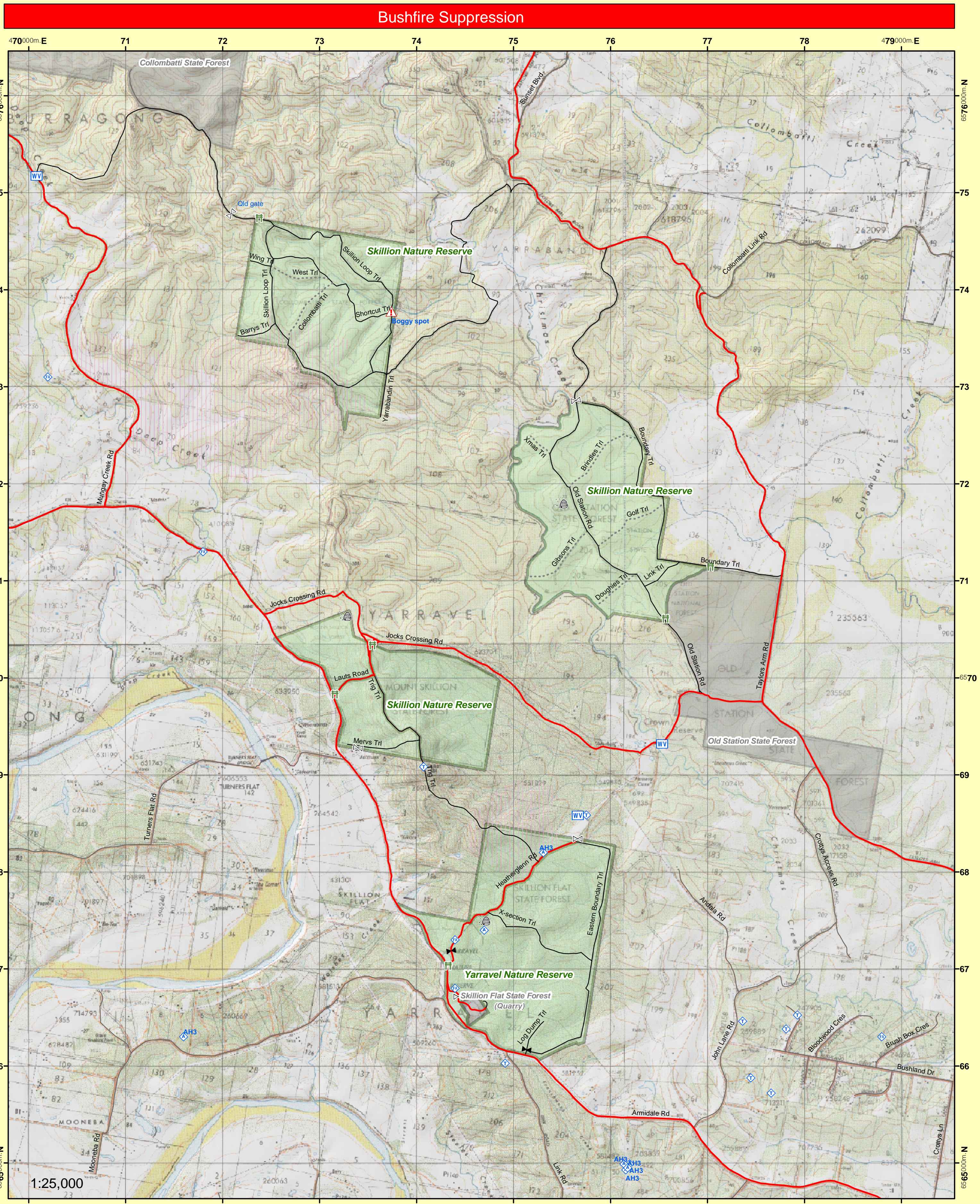
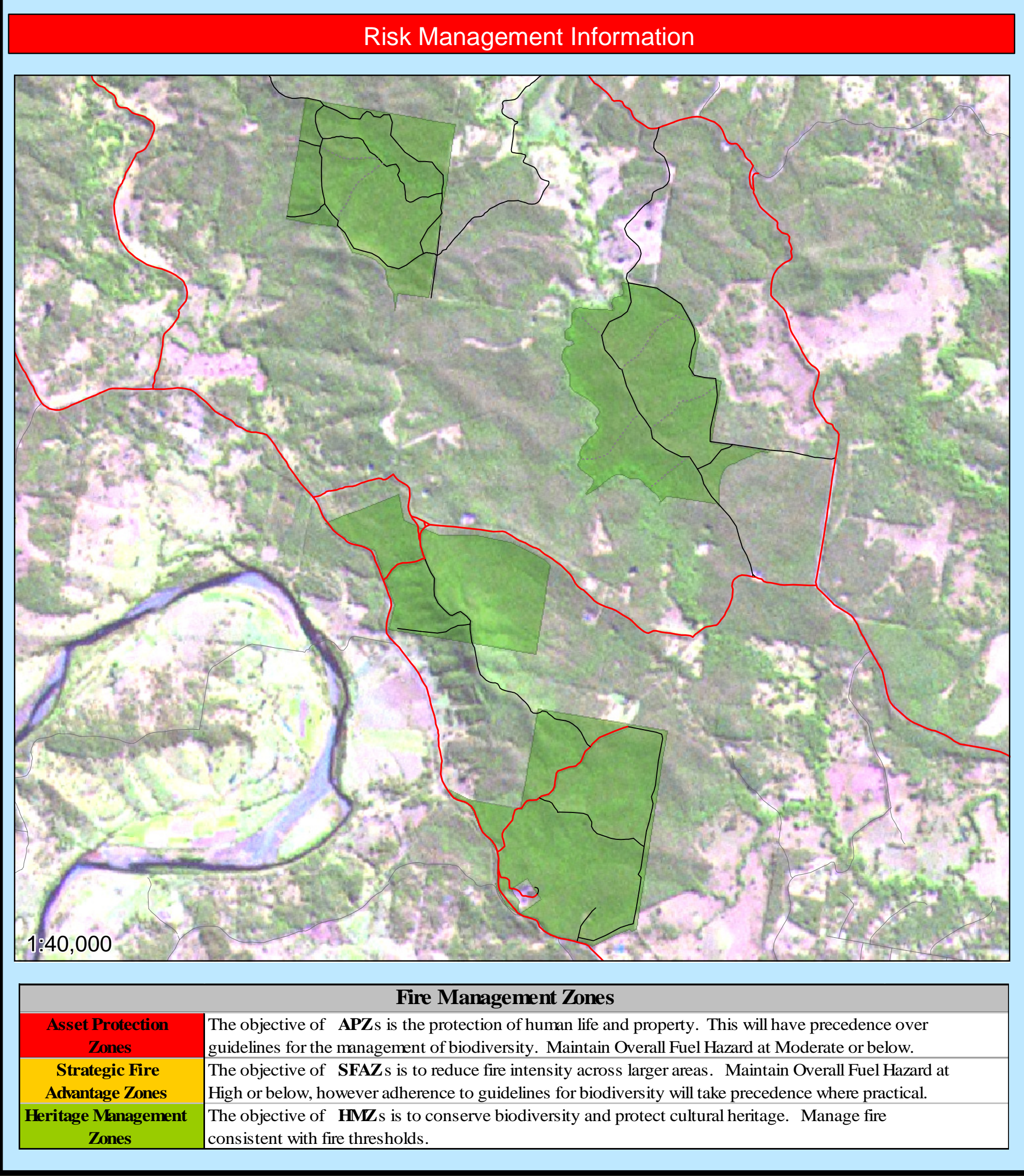
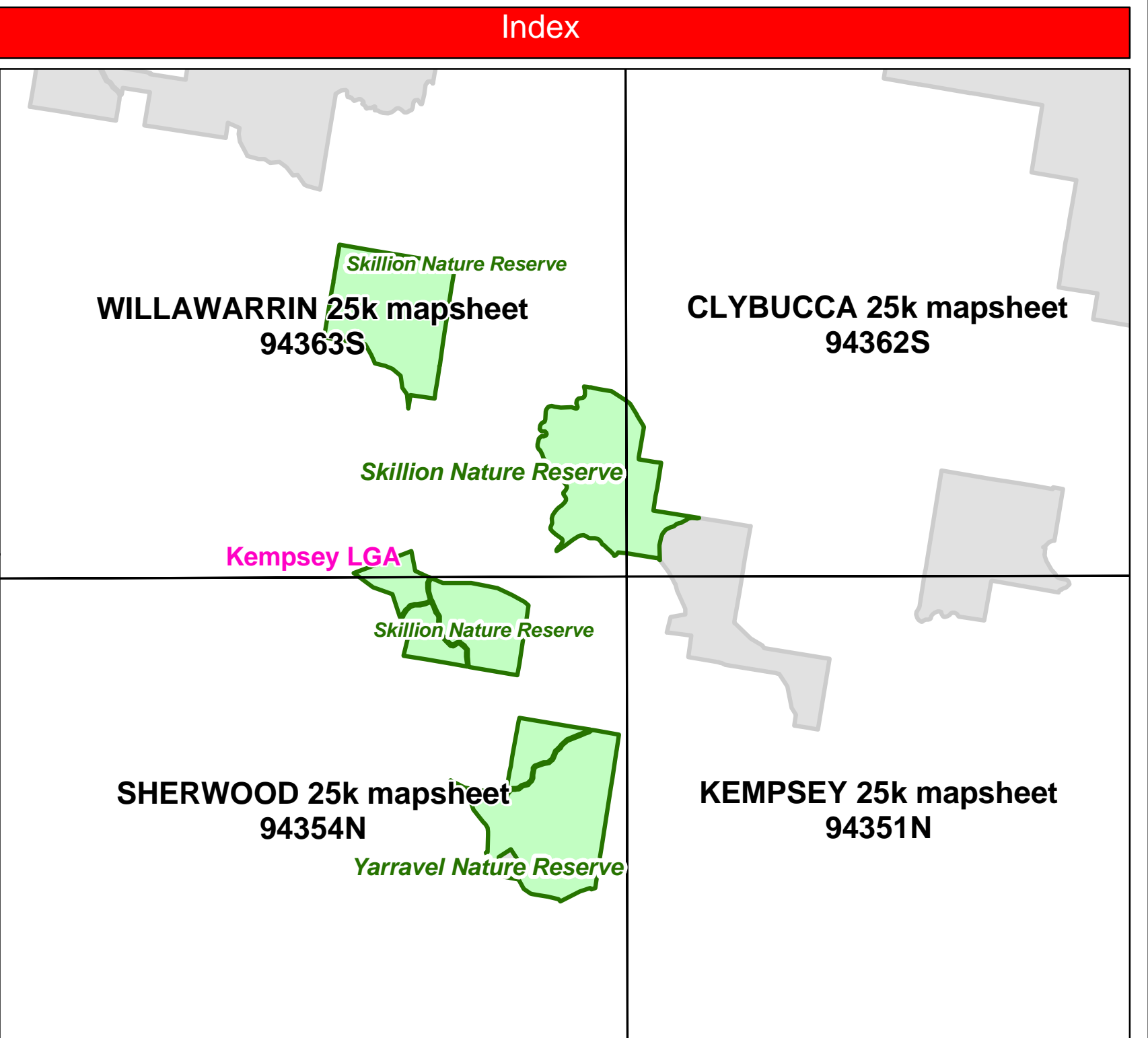
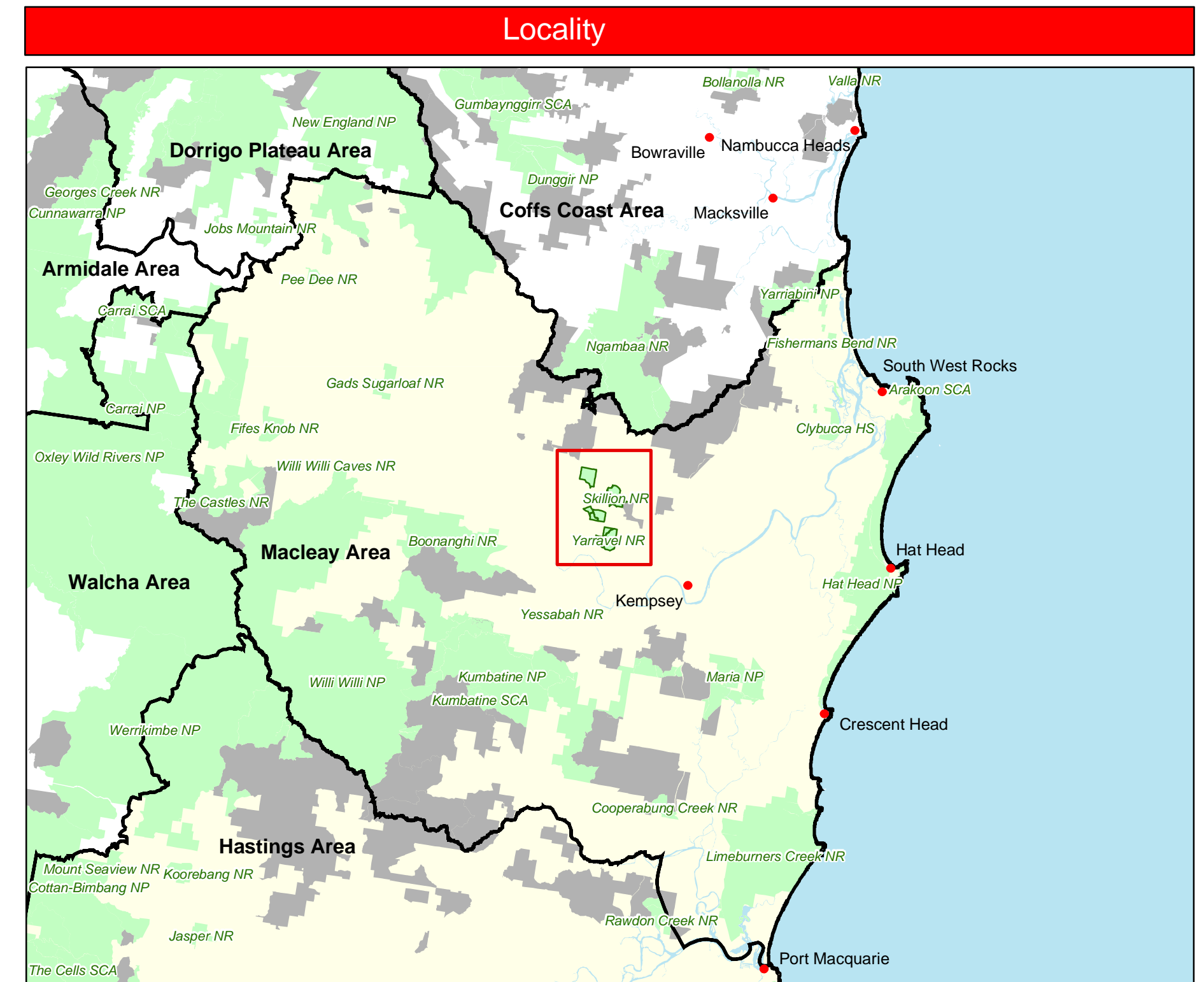
Director Northern, Parks & Wildlife Division



Datum: AGD66
Projection: UTM
Grid: AMG Zone 56

Noted scales are true when this map is printed on A0 paper

Produced by MNC GIS



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)	• AHS - Avoid all ground disturbance. Avoid water bombing. Site may be burnt by bushfire, back-burn or prescribed burn without damage.
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)	• FA - Wildlife rescue program to be implemented when IC declares it safe to undertake onground rescue operations. • As far as possible, protect large and hollow-bearing trees in locations where these species are known to occur. • As far as possible avoid high intensity fires that consume canopies and fallen logs in locations where these species are known to occur.
Threatened Flora Management (NPWS FMM 4.12)	• No known species 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. • Beekkeepers must be notified within the first four hours of a reported ignition. For their safety bee keepers are to be accompanied by a Car 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 Beekkeepers. • License No. 1 Bees Sites at: Willawarrin Mapsheet GR475500-6571800 and GR475300-6570700; Contact Mid North Coast Regional Office for Licensee's Telephone Numbers. • License No. 2 Bees Site at: Sherwood Mapsheet GR474700-6567500; Contact Mid North Coast Regional Office for Licensee's Telephone Numbers.
General	Guidelines
Aerial Water Bombing (NPWS FMM 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2.7 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	• The use of bombing aircraft should support containment operations by aggressively attacking hotspots and spot-overs. • The use of bombing aircraft without the support of ground based suppression crews 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 may be used during back-burning or fuel reduction operations where practicable, but only with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer.
Aerial Ignition (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2.4 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	• 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.
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 containment 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 containment agencies, the initial incident controller will consult with regard to the ongoing command, control and incident management team requirements as per the relevant BFM Plan of Operations.
Containment Lines (NPWS FMM 2.2 & 3.9)	• No new machine made containment line to be constructed in this reserve. Seek field intelligence about the state of existing containment lines. Machine clearance may be needed. • Where practicable, heavily used containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation. • All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location.
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. • Containment lines clearance 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 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 product name recorded.
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.

Communications Information

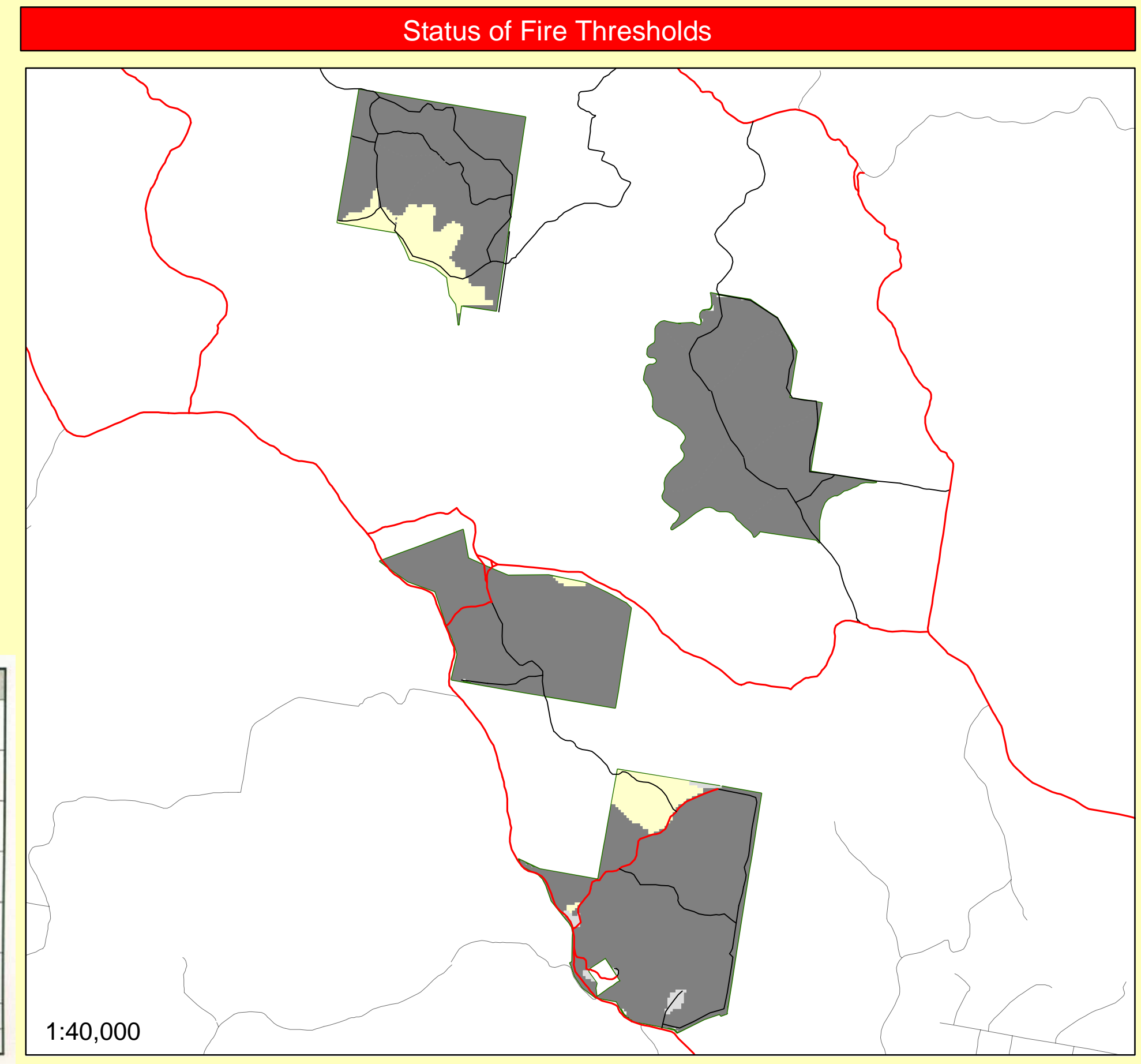
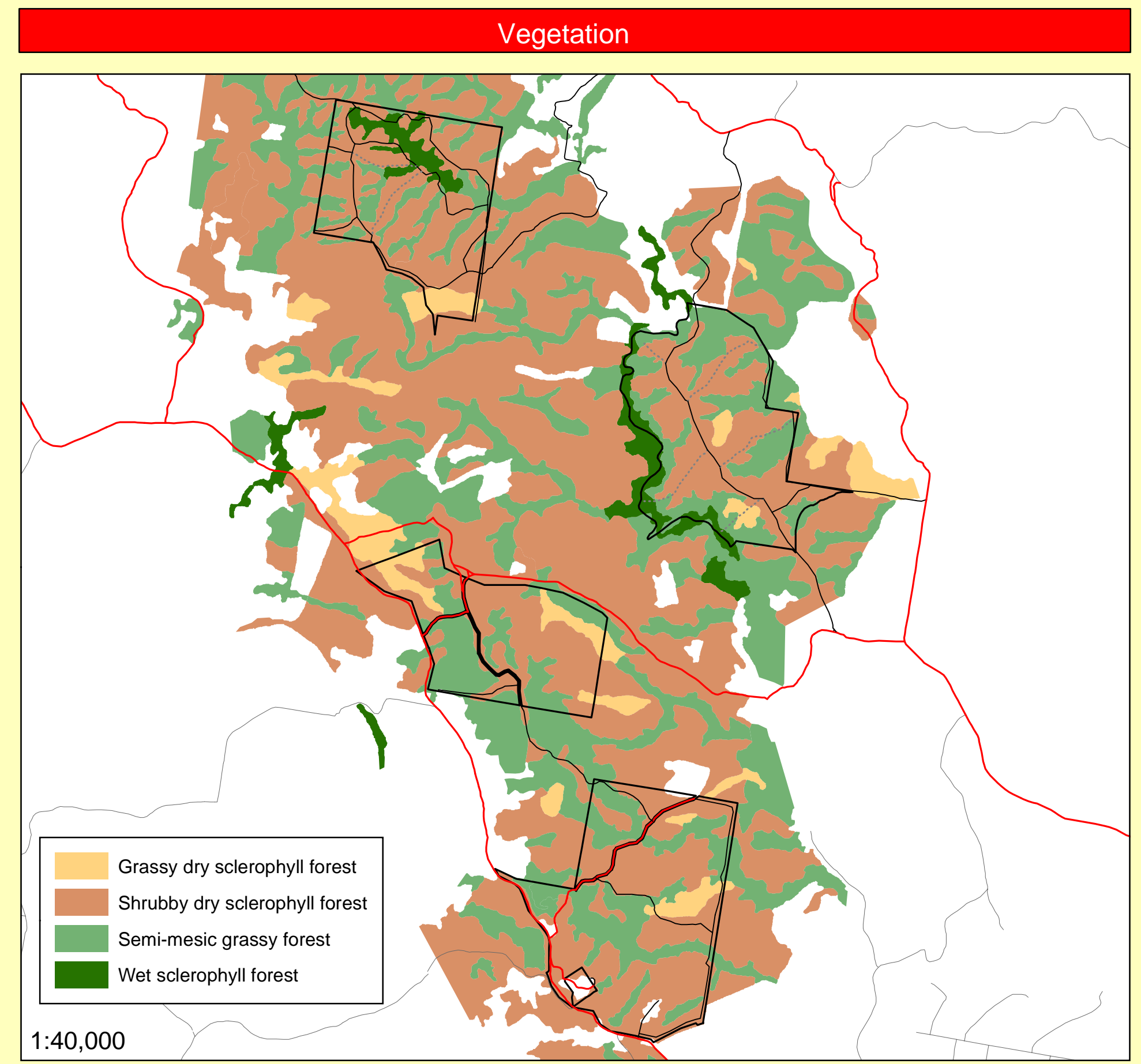
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	2	Channel One (1) as alternate
NPWS - VHF (Fireground Comms)	34	Channel 33 as alternate
NPWS - VHF (Portable Radio)	13	Held at Hastings Depot in Port Macquarie.
RFS - PMR - UHF	72	Channel 36
RFS - GMN	6	Not Available
SF - VHF	12	
CB - UHF	6	
Aircraft - VHF	No	N/A
Mobile Phone - CDMA	Yes	
Mobile Phone - GSM	Yes	

Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
NPWS	Regional Duty Officer / After Hours	Pager
		016 301 161
	Area Manager	6566 7251
	Fire Management Officer	0417 261 064
RFS	Regional Operations Coordinator	6586 8329
		0417 497 031
	Macleay Area Office	6562 6621
SES	Emergency	6562 8300
	Kempsey Unit	6568 2536
Police	Emergency	6651 9490
	Kempsey Station	6562 1964
Ambulance	Emergency	000
	All Stations	6562 2228
Hospital	Emergency	000
	Kempsey Base Hospital	6562 6444
Forests NSW	All Stations	13 1233
	Mid North Coast Region	6562 6155
Council	Emergency	6585 3744
	Kempsey	6566 3200
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Emergency AH Number	1300 663 211
	Regional Aboriginal Land Council	6563 1862
	Kempsey Aboriginal Land Council	6562 8688

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



Contour Interval 10 metres	NPWS Estate	Aboriginal Sites	Potential Helpad	Water Point - H & V	Vantage Point
Pacific Highway	State Forest	Control Centre	Historic Site	Caution	Bee Sites
NPWS Roads	State Forest Plantation	Endangered Fauna	Refuge Area	Gate - NPWS	Assume all gates locked
Primary (Cat 1)	Fires 2004-2005	Endangered Flora	Staging Area	Gate - non NPWS	
Secondary (Cat 2)	Fires 2003-2004	Escape Route	Threatened Property	Loading Ramp - Old	
Closed	Fires 2001-2003	Helpad	Water Point Helicopter	Sign	
Not classified		Water Point Vehicle	Turning Point		
Walking Track					