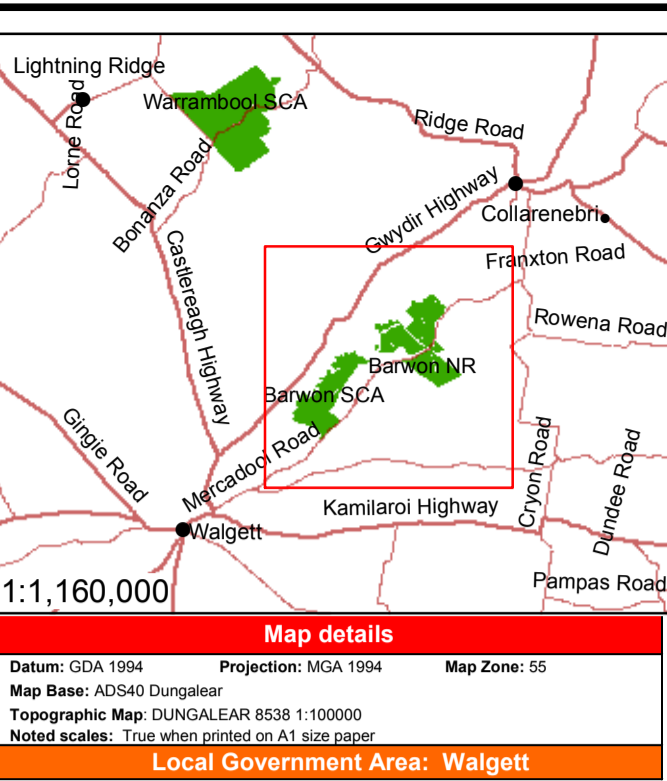


Barwon Nature Reserve and State Conservation Area Fire Management Strategy 2017 - 2022

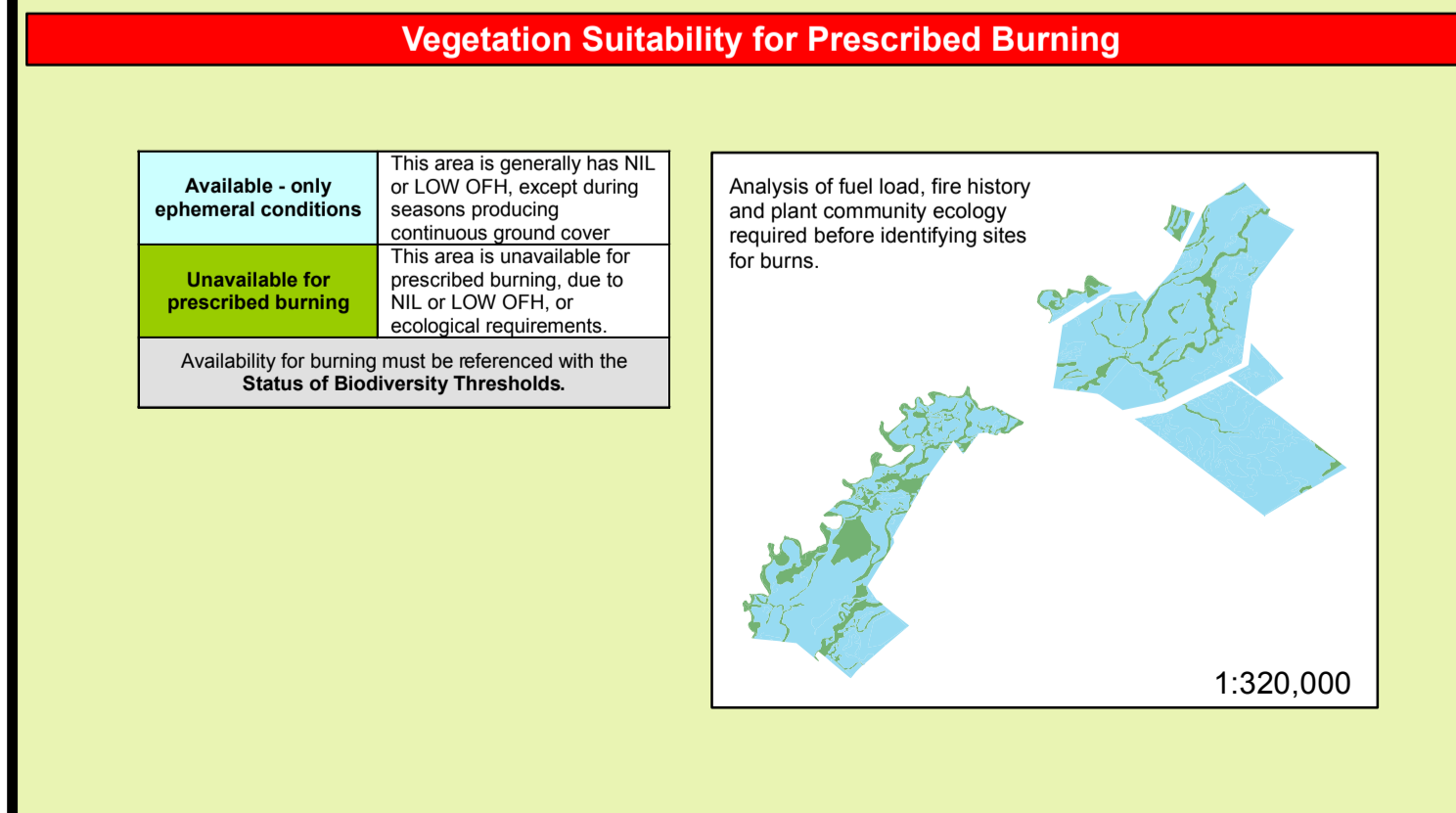
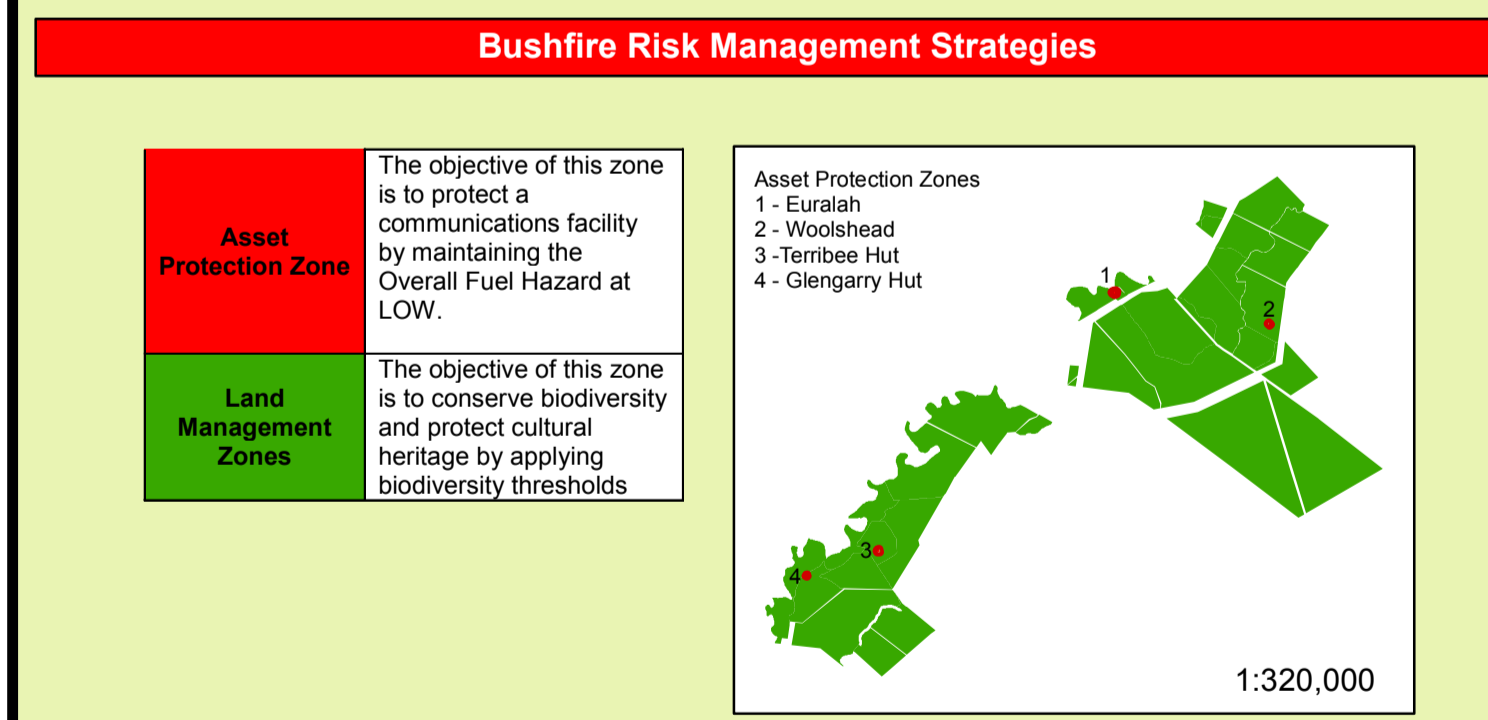
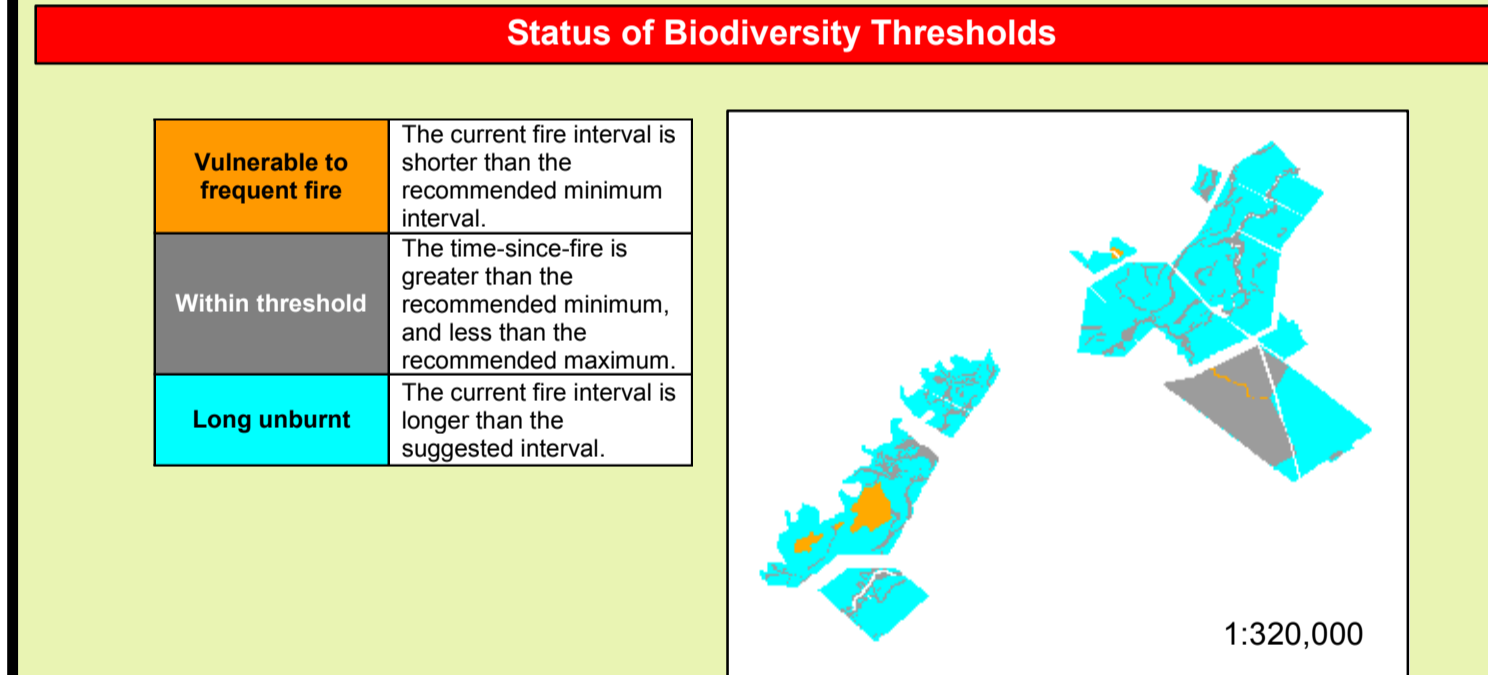
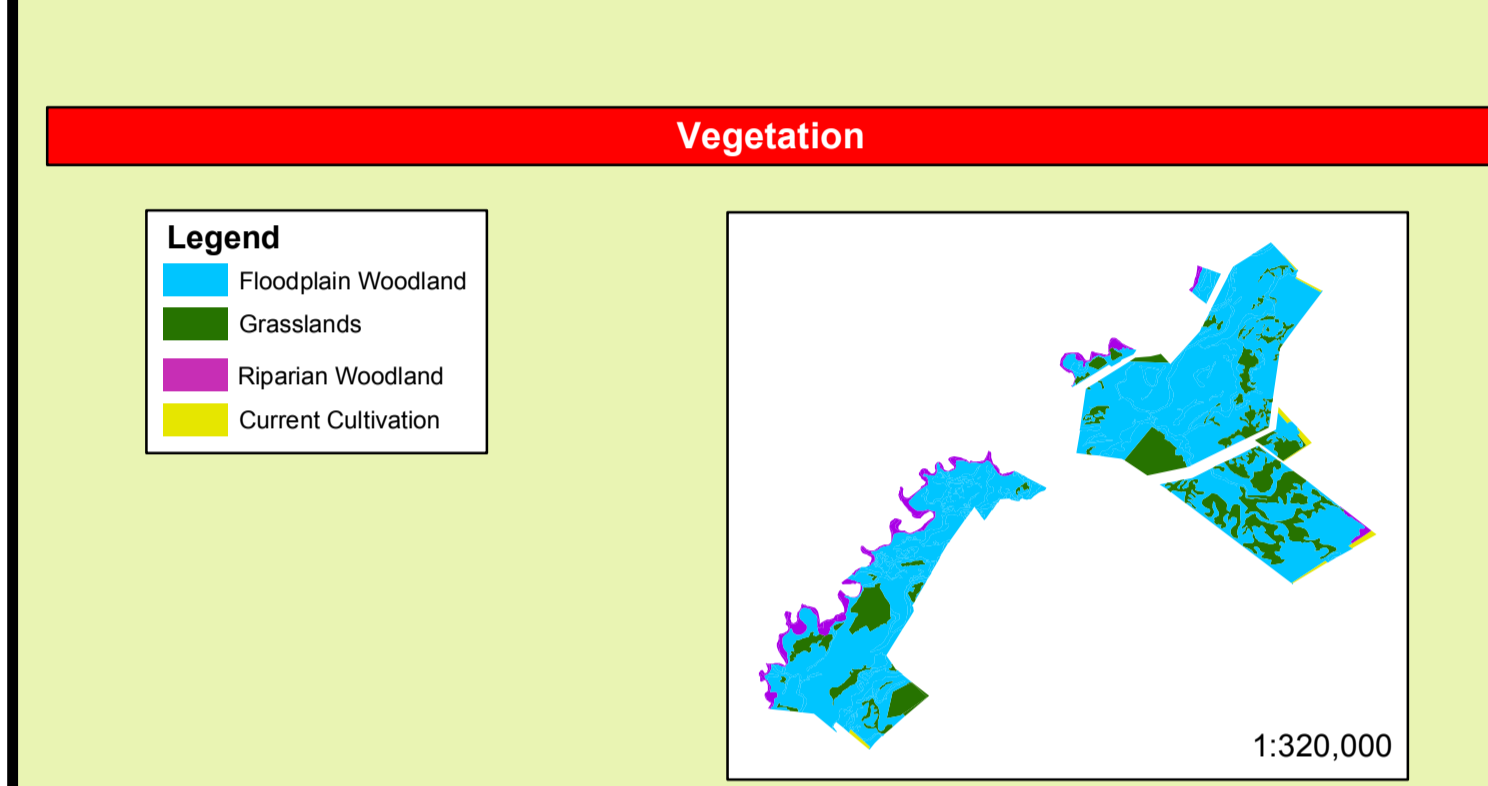
This strategy should be used with aerial photography and field reconnaissance. This is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997. These data are not guaranteed to be free from error or omission. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife and its employees disclaim liability for any act done on the information in the data and any consequences of such acts or omissions. This document is copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of study, research criticism or review, as permitted under the copyright Act, no part may be reproduced by any process without written permission. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is part of the Office of Environment and Heritage. Published by: Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW). Contact: NPWS Northern Plains Region. PO Box 848 Narrabri NSW 2390. Ph 6792 7350. ISBN: 978-1-925753-33-2 OEH2018/0126 Date Approved: 18 December 2017

Communications Information		
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS VHF	11-17	NPWS Fireground channels 1-7 only
RFS	W114	Cygon
UHF - CB		Small fires - Channel 10 Large fires - determined by IMT
Aviation	127.4	CTAF - Moree (55 km)
Mobile phone		varying reception
Satellite phone		Division Commander will need to use a Sat Phone to communicate with the IMT

Contact Information		
Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Duty Officer (24 hours)	6792 4680
	Narrabri Office (bus. hours)	6792 7300
NSW RFS North West Zone		6822 4422
RFS Rural Fire Brigades		
NSW Fire Brigade	Newcastle	4929 7177
Emergency Services	Police, Fire, Ambulance	000
SES		13 2500
Police	Collarenebri	6756 4999
	Walgett	6828 6899
Council	Walgett	6828 1399



Fire Season Information	
Wildfires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The critical wildfire season is likely to occur in the November to March period when there is a higher incidence of lightning. Bushfire risk may be elevated after a prolonged period of above-average rainfall due to increased growth of near surface fuels, such as grasses.
Prescribed Burning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prescribed burning is unlikely to be effective in most years. The exception will be after a prolonged period of above-average rainfall, which results in prolific grass growth



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 Incident Controller. All personnel must be fully briefed before backburning operations begin. Backburning in areas of Low - Moderate OFH will require the use of wind, or low humidity to maximise effectiveness. Backburning should be timed for late afternoon and early evening. Where practicable to assist 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. The first combatant agency on site may assume control of the fire, but must ensure the relevant land management agency is notified promptly. A senior NPWS officer is to liaise with the RFS to ensure that the agency in command and control is determined and an Incident Controller is appointed.
Backburning	<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. All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on, and must consider both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location. All containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed immediately at incident end.
Command & Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer. The grader is the preferred type of earthmoving equipment. Graders must always be guided and supervised by an experienced officer, and accompanied by a fire fighting vehicle. Graders will not construct containment lines within designated machinery exclusion areas. Graders must be washed down, where practicable, prior to entering NPWS estate and again on exiting NPWS estate.
Containment Lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of foam, gels and retardants will NOT be permitted within 100 metres of dams and watercourses holding water. The general use of foam, gels and retardants should be approved by a senior NPWS officer. Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
Earthmoving Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential smoke impacts and mitigation tactics will be assessed during the planning of fire operations. The area is generally closed to the public. No guided visitor activities will be permitted during periods of Severe + Fire Danger or during fire operations.
Fire Suppression Chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The highest risk of running grass fires is likely to occur after prolonged periods of above-average rainfall and wet likely coincide with times when lagoons, creeks and shallow channels are moist. There is a risk of bogging under these conditions. Crews must be aware of potentially boggy areas to avoid the risk of entrapment.
Rehabilitation	Black text - General guidelines Blue text - Reserve specific guidelines Red text - Major warnings
Smoke Management	
Visitor Management	
WARNING	

Operational Guidelines - Heritage

General	Guidelines
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modified trees (IS1), including scarred trees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect the site from fire, clear base of litter and shrubs, exclude site tree from fire where possible Foam may be used to protect the tree, or to extinguish fire Do not cut trees Ground based sites (IS2), including: camp sites, artefacts, grinding grooves, waterholes and quarries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect site from any ground disturbance, including the use of earth-moving equipment and vehicles Resource sites (IS3), including fig-tree groves <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect site from physical disturbance Avoid any burning into Dry Vine Rainforests
Historic Heritage Site Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AIIMS database must be checked as part of planning for fire operations Where possible, bushfire suppression activities to be carried out with the aid of an operations map, showing location of cultural assets. These structures that are considered to have potential historic heritage values are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ivanhoe Shearing Shed and associated sheds, which were in use until 2008; Ivanhoe Homestead, built during the 1920s, abandoned in 1976, and ruined beyond repair Euralah homestead and precinct, continuously occupied from circa 1890 to 2009 Glengarry Hut.
Threatened Flora and Fauna Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The protective actions for threatened fauna have been incorporated into the operational guidelines.

Vegetation management guidelines

Community	Management guidelines	Fire Behaviour
Floodplain Woodlands Coolibah - Black Box - Rosewood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burning should only be conducted during late winter - spring Minimum interval 5-10 years between fire events No maximum interval has been set as flood events and regimes are considered to be the most important environmental factor influencing vegetation community structures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Overall Fuel Hazard (OFH) is LOW, with total fuel loads below 5 tonnes/hectare. Fuels likely to cause spread of a wildfire are near surface and elevated vegetation such as grasses, chenopods and burs. These fuel types may increase in growth following prolonged wet periods.
Riparian Woodlands River Red Gum - Tea Tree - Black Box	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid prescribed burning An interval between fire events less than 20 years should be avoided Avoid high intensity fire events No maximum interval is applied, as ecological thresholds are flood based 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rate of spread is usually LOW due to low OFH Fire may carry through this community after successive wet seasons produce a grassy understorey
Grasslands Mitchell Grass - Fairy Grass - Roly Poly - Low density Coolibah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum interval between fire events should be 2 years, with a maximum interval between 5-7 years Available for prescribed burning following prolonged wet periods once grasses have dropped seed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary fuel is grass Potential rate of spread is dependent on seasonal conditions A LOW OFH occurs during dry seasons A MODERATE - HIGH OFH may develop after successive wet seasons leading to development of continuous cover

OFH - Overall fuel hazard - A rating system that includes surface (leaf litter), near surface (low shrubs & grasses), elevated (shrubs), and bark fuels.

Suppression Strategies

Conditions & forecast	Guidelines
Fire danger rating LOW - HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a broad containment strategy using existing tracks, low fuel areas, open areas and recently burnt areas.
Fire danger rating VERY HIGH - EXTREME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a strategy containing the fire to the smallest area practicable, using a combination of ground crews, fire units, machinery and aircraft. Secure flank as soon as possible on the next predicted downwind side. Any proposed back burning must be assessed on the required resources, their capacity and the time required to mop-up and secure proposed burn edges prior to the onset of Severe + conditions, and then hold.
Catastrophic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revert to property protection.

