

Northern Tablelands Region Basket Swamp NP Fire Management Strategy (Type 2) 2005 Sheet 1 of 1

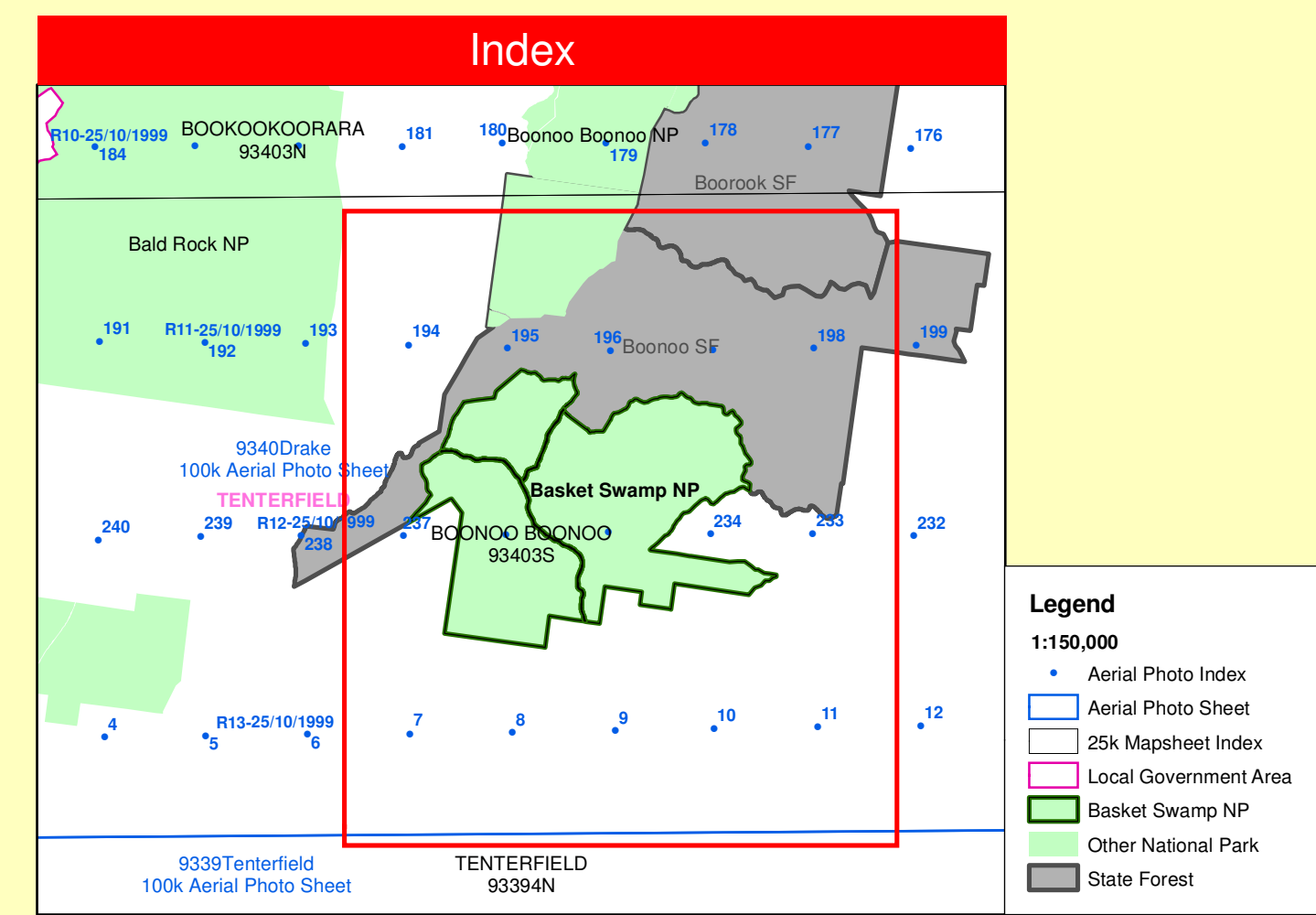
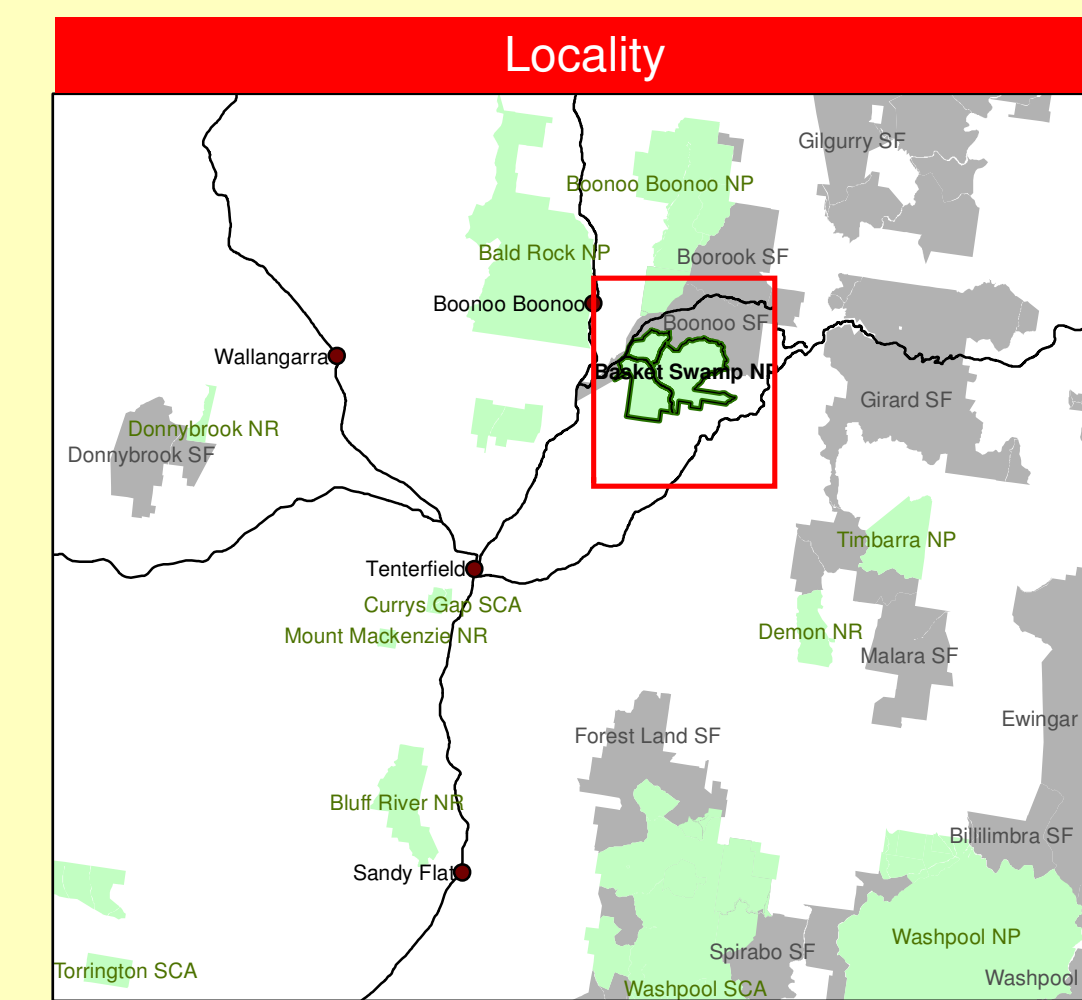
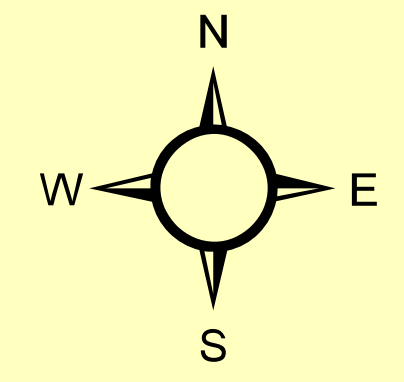


This strategy should be used in conjunction with aerial photography and field reconnaissance during incidents and the development of incident action plans. These data are not guaranteed to be free from error or omission. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service disclaims liability for any action on 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 Department of Environment and Conservation. Published by the Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW), March 2005. Contact: NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Northern Tablelands Region, PO Box 402 Armidale NSW 2350.

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

Approved Date: 7 Oct 2005



Contact Information

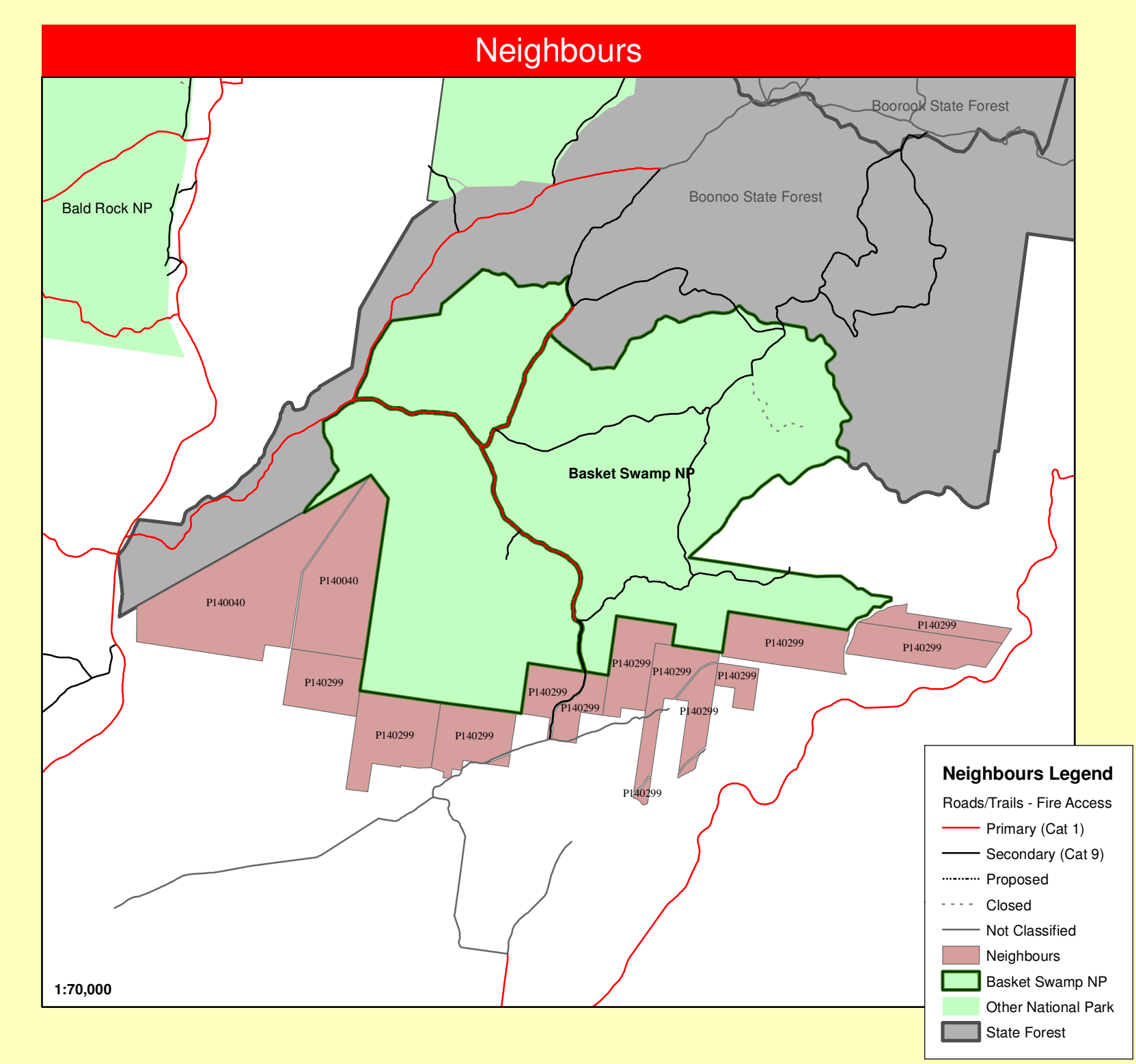
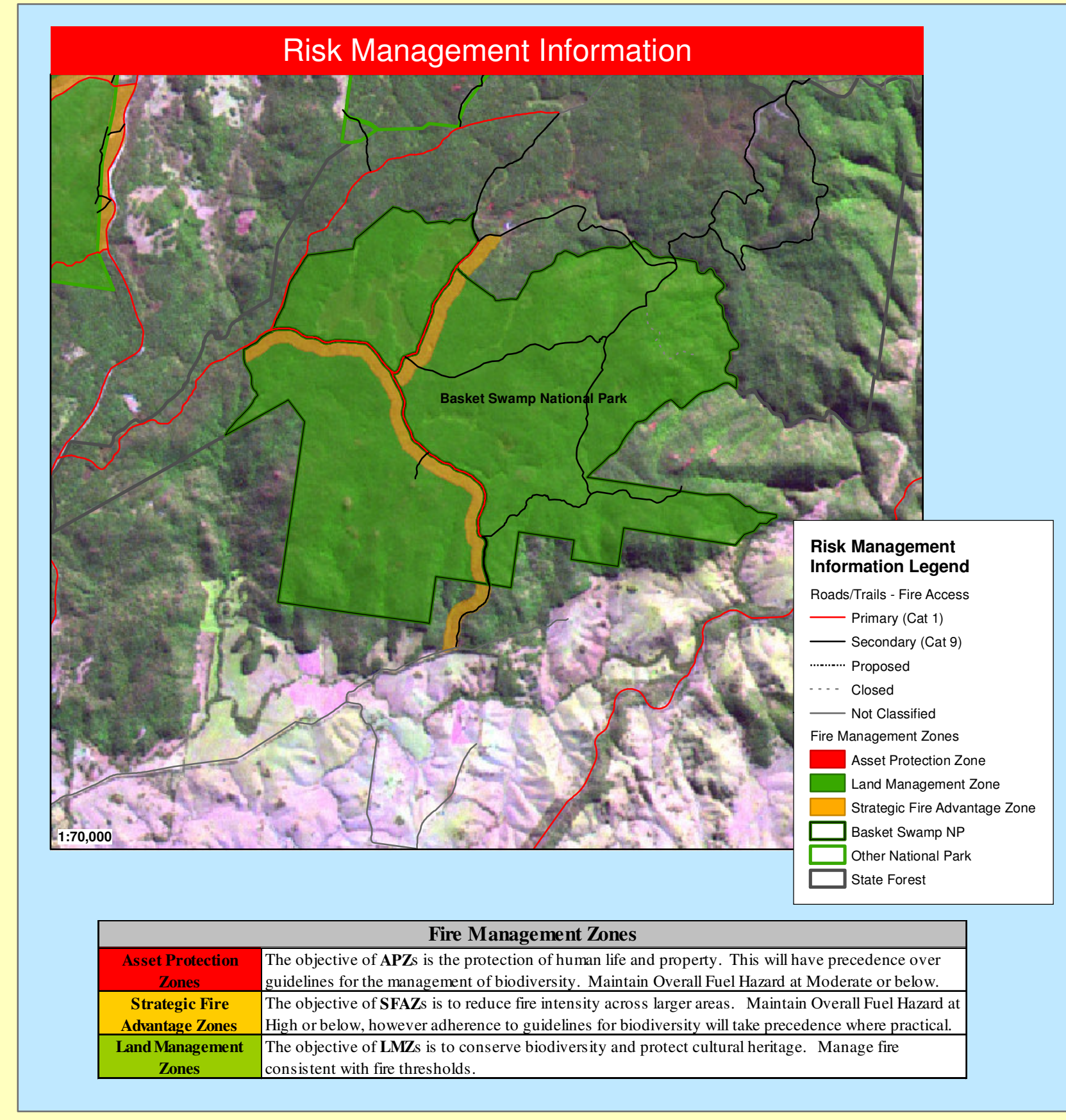
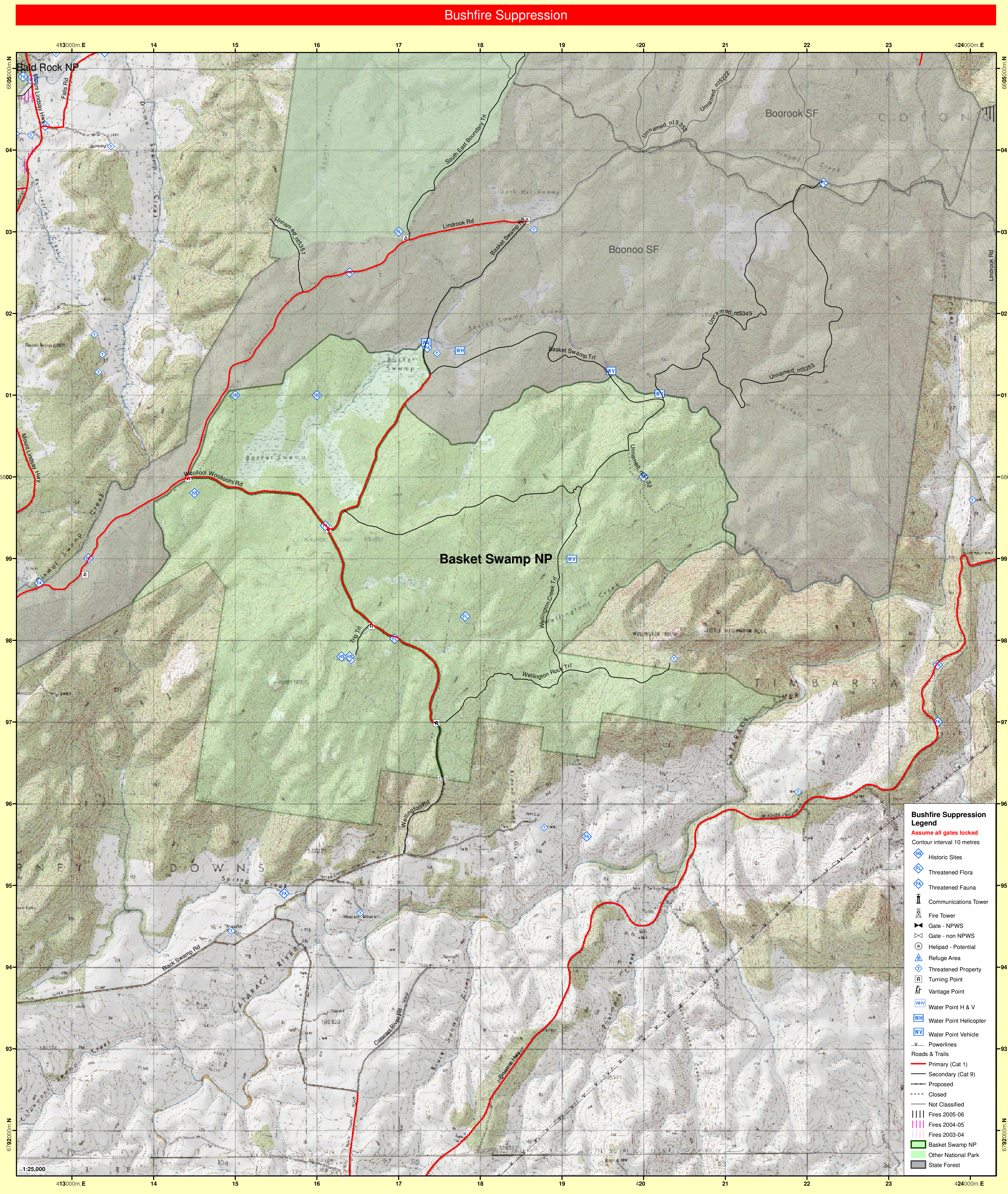
Agency	Position / Location	Phone
DEC - NPWS	Regional Duty Officer	0428 345 789
	Area Manager	02 6736 4850 0409 224 605 02 6736 4301 (fax)
	Fire Management Officer	02 6776 0014 0409 220 613 0427 555 155 02 6736 4298
Terenure Area Office	Terenure Area Office	02 6736 4301 (fax)
	Aboriginal Sites Officer	02 6772 5133 02 6776 0000 02 6771 1894 (fax)
Rural Fire Service	Fire Control Officer	02 6736 4150
	Terenure Fire Control Centre	02 6736 4150 02 6736 3756 (fax)
NSW Fire Brigade	Emergency	000
	Terenure Station	02 6736 3855
SES	Emergency	000
	Terenure Unit	02 6736 2923
Police	Emergency	000
	Terenure Station	02 6736 1144
Ambulance	Emergency	000
	Terenure Station	13 1233
Hospital	Terenure	02 6736 3144
	Tamworth Regional Office	02 6736 1452 (fax)
DNR	Case Office	02 6764 5900
		02 6662 9006 02 6662 9236 (fax)
Forests NSW	Case Office	02 6662 9006
		02 6662 9236 (fax)
Council	Terenure Shire Council	02 6736 1744
		02 6736 2669 (fax)
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Moonbale LALC	02 6736 3219

Strategy Information

Category	Details
Wildfires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. General season is Autumn to late Winter. Burning is possible in early Spring but desirable on a regular basis from an ecological or tourism point of view.
Prescribed Burning (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General season is Autumn to late Winter. Burning is possible in early Spring but desirable on a regular basis from an ecological or tourism point of view.
Suppression Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake direct, parallel or indirect attack along existing containment lines. Where practicable consider maximizing the fire area in accordance with the requirements of any proposed prescribed burns. In order to minimize the fire area and secure the flanks as soon as possible, undertake direct, parallel or indirect attack along the closest containment lines. Pay particular attention to the flank on the next predicted down wind side. Undertake indirect attack along existing or newly constructed containment lines. Secure and deepen containment lines along the next predicted downwind side of the fire. If applicable consider broader than normal containment strategies to avoid wasted effort and high risk of failure. Ensure there is sufficient time to secure containment lines prior to the fire impacting upon them; otherwise fall back to the next potential line.
Current FDR	Low - Mod
Forecast FDR	Low - Mod
Low - Mod	=> High
High	All
All	All

Communications Information

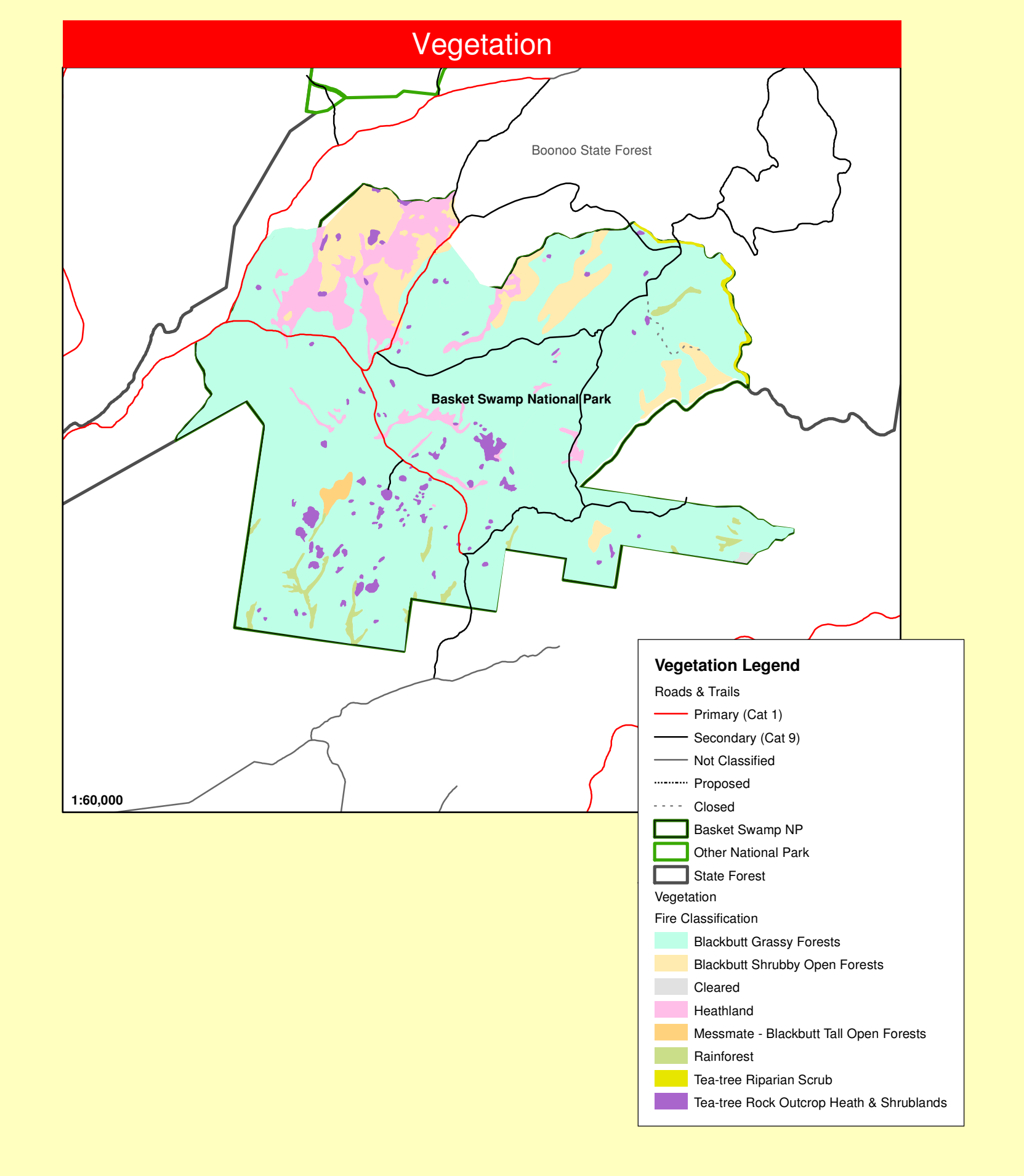
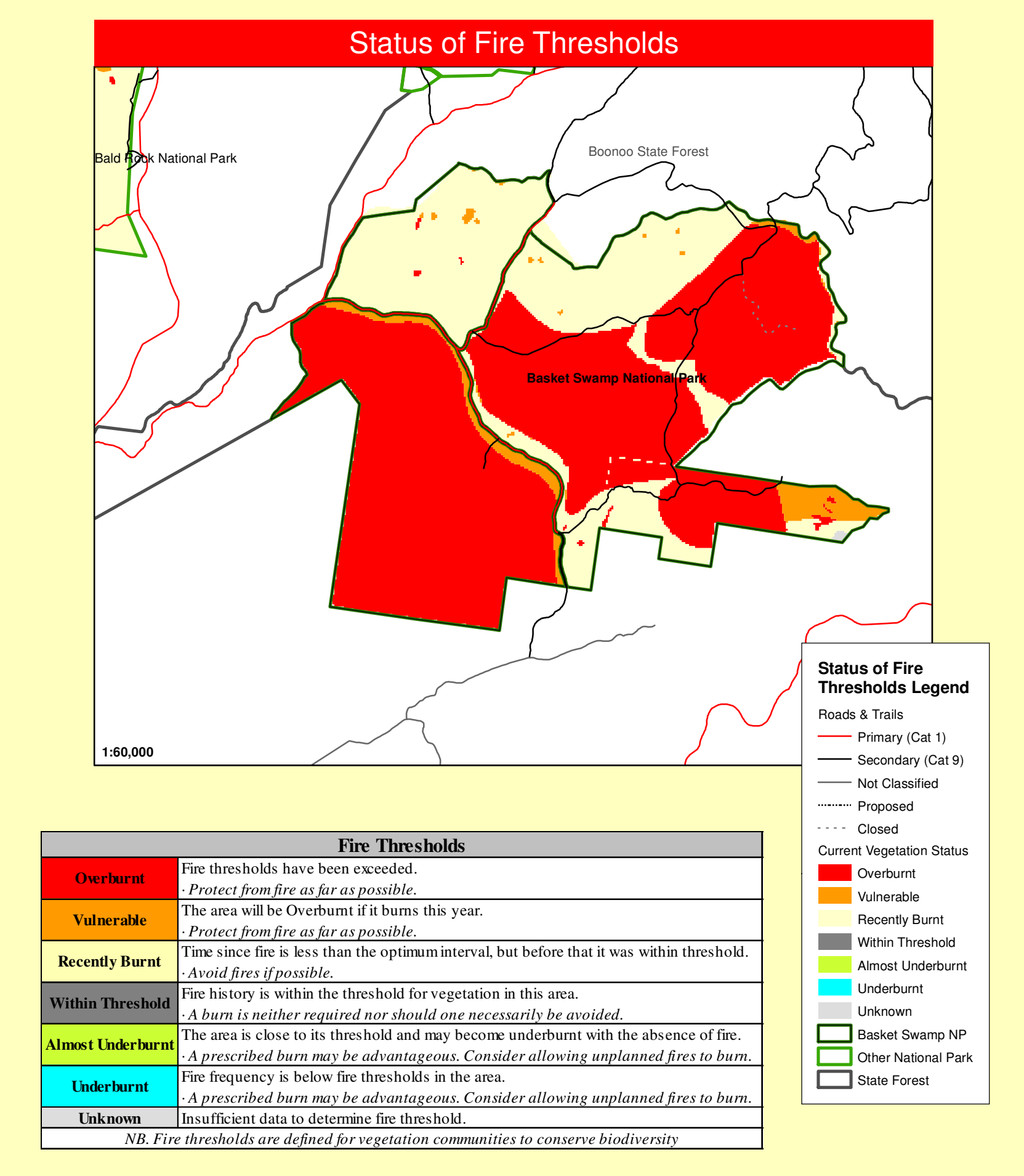
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	30	Mount Prentice, Boonoo Boonoo National Park
NPWS - VHF (Fireground Comms)	42	Mount Prentice, Boonoo Boonoo National Park
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	15	Stored at Armidale / transportable
RFS - PMR - UHF	28	
RFS - GRN	-	No service available in NTR
CD - UHF	-	As appropriate on the day
Aircraft - VHF	119.10	
Mobile Phone - CDMA	None	patchy
Mobile Phone - GSM	Nil	coverage
Satellite Phone	0147 166 331	stored at Terenure NPWS



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	Operational Guidelines
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management (NPWS FMM 4.11)	Aboriginal sites are not indicated on this strategy. For information on Aboriginal sites contact the Aboriginal Conservation Heritage Officer or Local Aboriginal Land Council.
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 located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
Threatened Flora Management (NPWS FMM 4.12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief all personnel involved in fire suppression operations on site location and the required management strategies appropriate to the site type. Where practicable protect populations or individuals from fire if the fire threshold has been exceeded or if the species is an obligate seeder or if the fire threshold and/or the fire response category is unknown.
Threatened Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Utilise incendiaries to rapidly progress back-burns down slope where required.
Aerial Water Bombing (NPWS FMM 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOP 02 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOP 02 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temperature and humidity trends must be monitored carefully to determine the safest times to implement backburns. 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. Avoid ignition of backburns at the bottom of slopes where a long intense up slope burn is likely.
Command & Control (NPWS FMM 4.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, where practicable, except where they can be constructed with minimal environmental impact. 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. All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location.
Backburning (NPWS FMM 4.8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temperature and humidity trends must be monitored carefully to determine the safest times to implement backburns. 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. Brief all involved personnel on the location of cultural sites and threatened species prior to backburning, and adhere to the above guidelines. 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.
Command & Control (NPWS FMM 4.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, except where they can be built by hand with minimal erosion potential. Only existing or previous trails or containment line routes will be used. Roads and trails to be used as containment lines but requiring works should be prioritised in consultation with relevant MT and Fire Ground staff. All containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed immediately at the cessation of the incident. Where practicable, erosion control works should be incorporated into the containment line construction phase. 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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earthmoving equipment may only be used with the prior consent of the senior NPWS officer, and then only if the probability of its success is high. Earthmoving equipment must be washed down prior to entering NPWS estate. As far as possible, restrict its use to previously used containment lines. Earthmoving equipment must be always guided and supervised by an experienced NPWS officer, and accompanied by a support vehicle. When engaged in direct or parallel attack this vehicle must be a firefighting vehicle. Containment lines constructed by earthmoving equipment should be at least 50m from depression lines in order to avoid erosion problems. Observe the Threatened Species and Cultural Heritage Operational Guidelines. Proposed containment lines to be constructed with earthmoving equipment should be surveyed to identify unknown cultural heritage sites. All fire advantages used during wildfire suppression operations must be mapped and where relevant added to the database.
Fire Advantage Recording	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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's name recorded. Observe the Threatened Species Operational Guidelines.
Rehabilitation (NPWS FMM 5.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
Smoke Management (NPWS FMM 3.4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Visitor Management (NPWS FMM 1.6 & 4.13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations.



Fire Thresholds

Threshold	Description
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 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 (either required or should not 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.