

BEN BOYD National Park and BELLBIRD CREEK Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy 2003

Sheet 1 of 3

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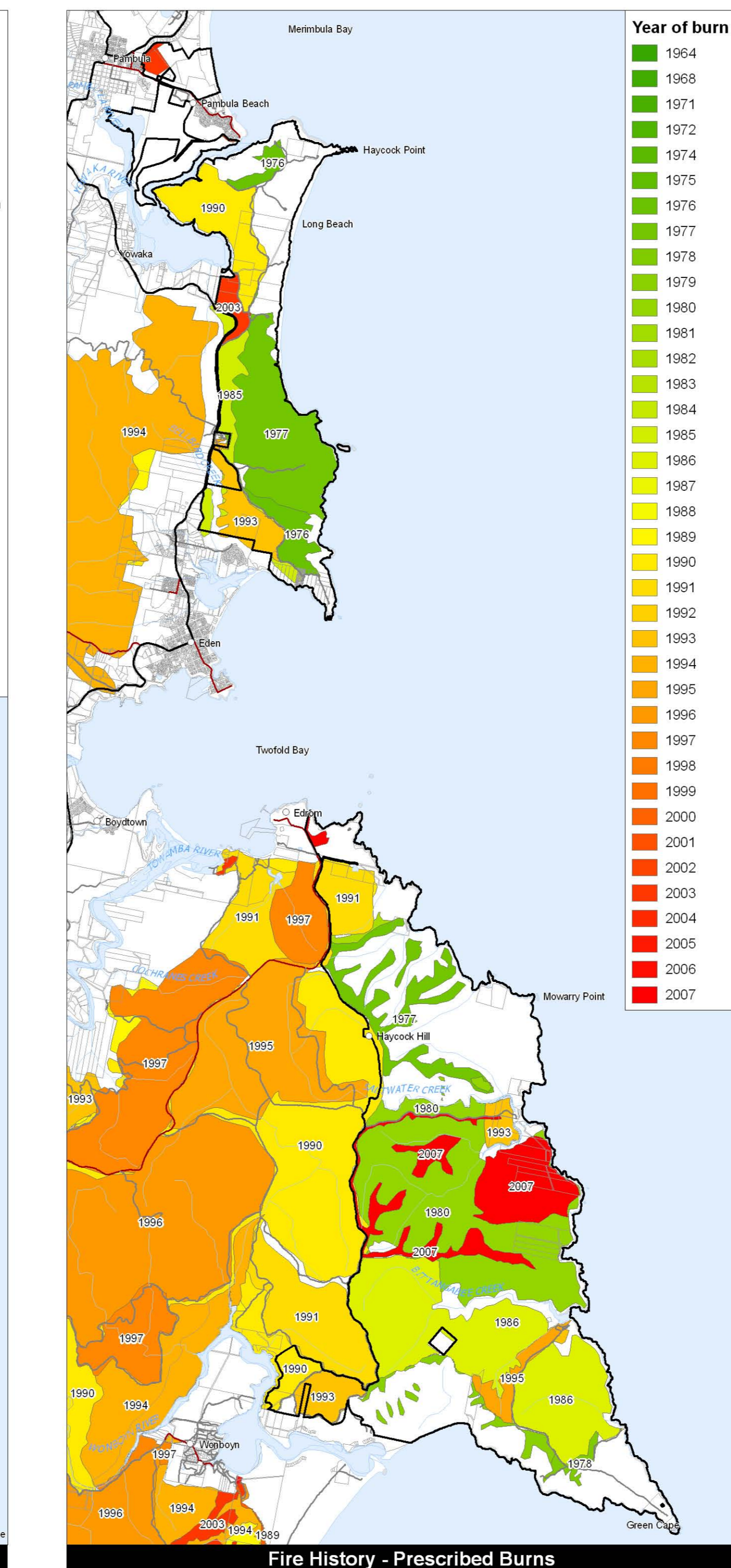
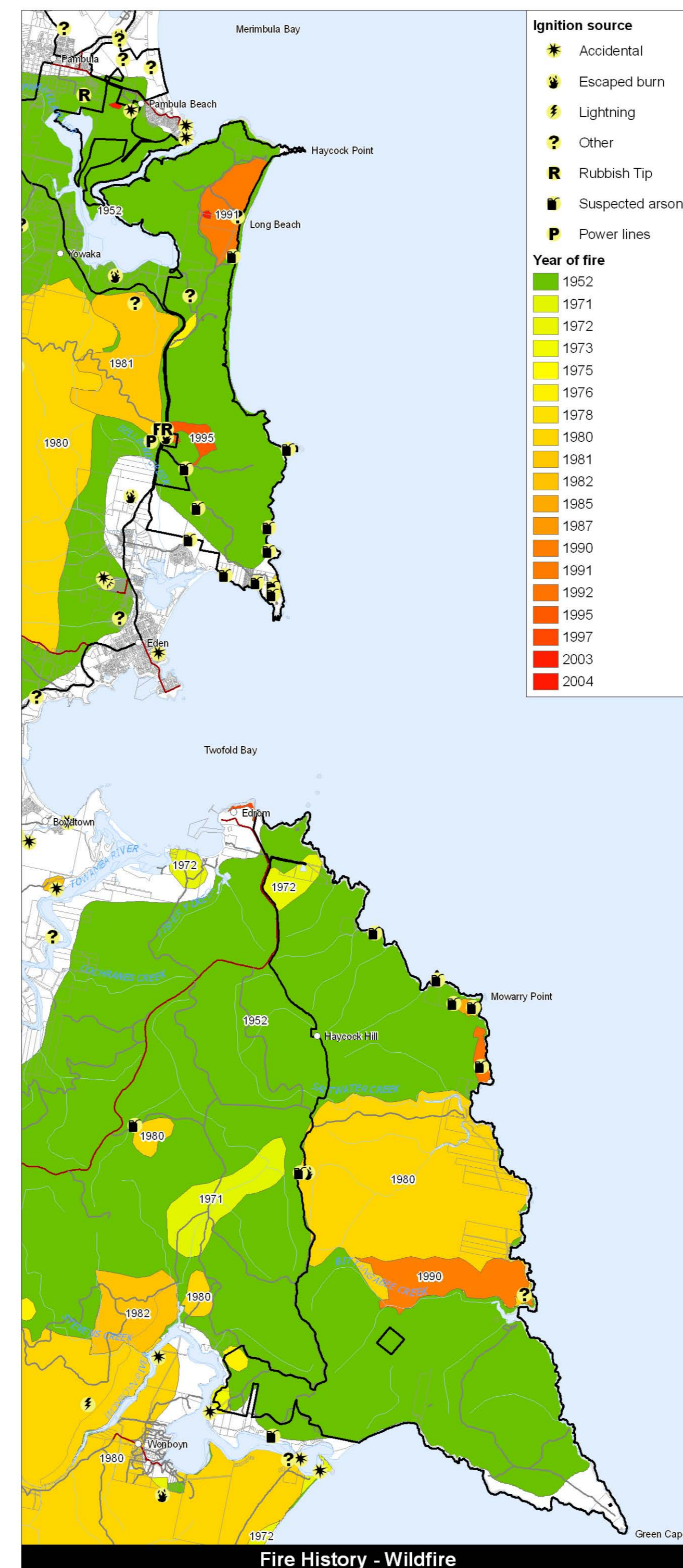
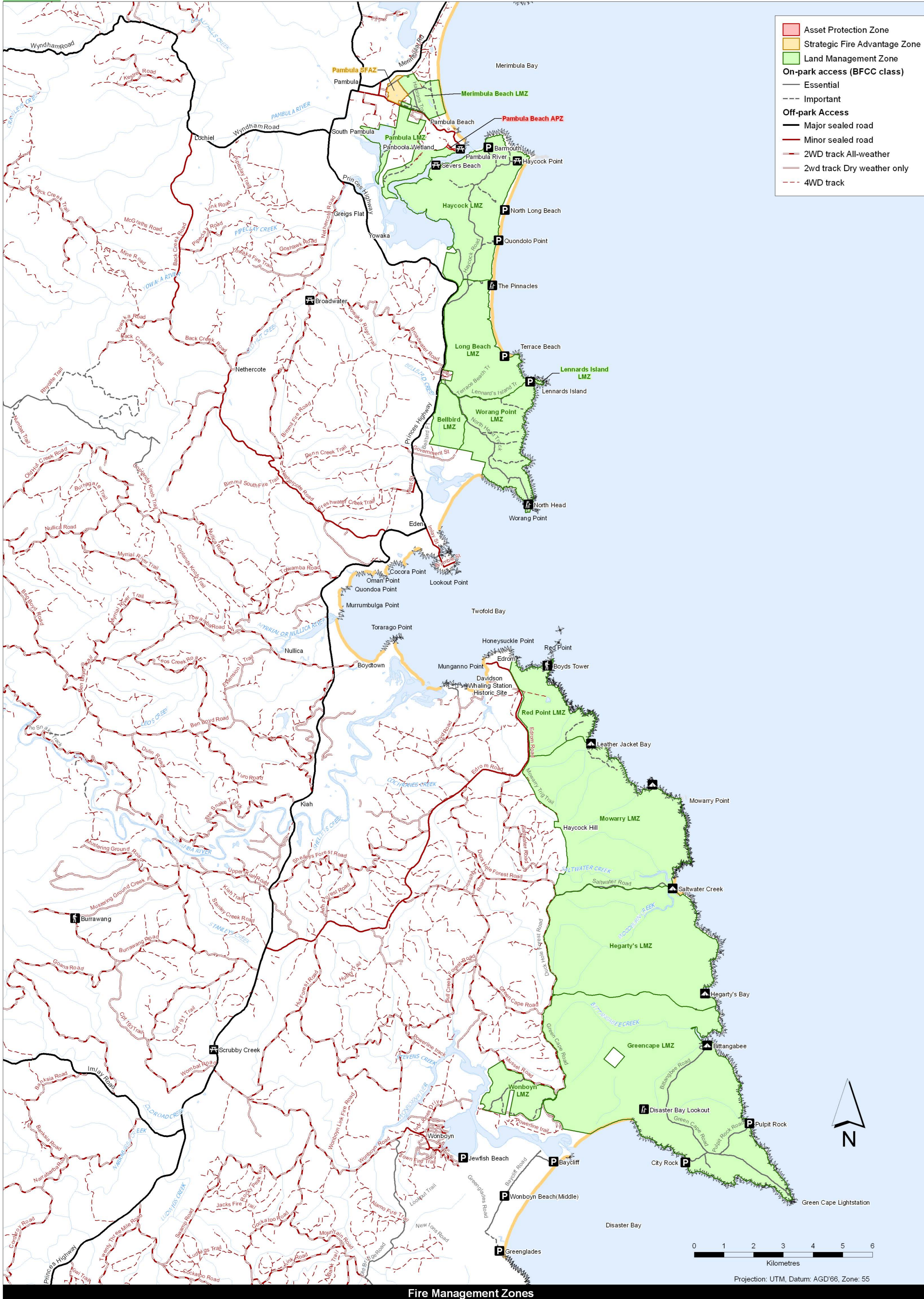
This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997.

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Fire Management Zones

Asset Protection Zones	The objective of APZs is the protection of human life and property. This will have precedence over guidelines for the management of biodiversity. Maintain Overall Fuel Hazard at Moderate at below.
Strategic Fire Advantage Zones	The objective of SFAZs is to reduce fire intensity across larger areas. Maintain Overall Fuel Hazard at High or below, however adherence to guidelines for biodiversity will take precedence where practical.
Land Management Zones	The objective of LMZs is to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural and historic heritage. Manage fire consistent with fire thresholds.



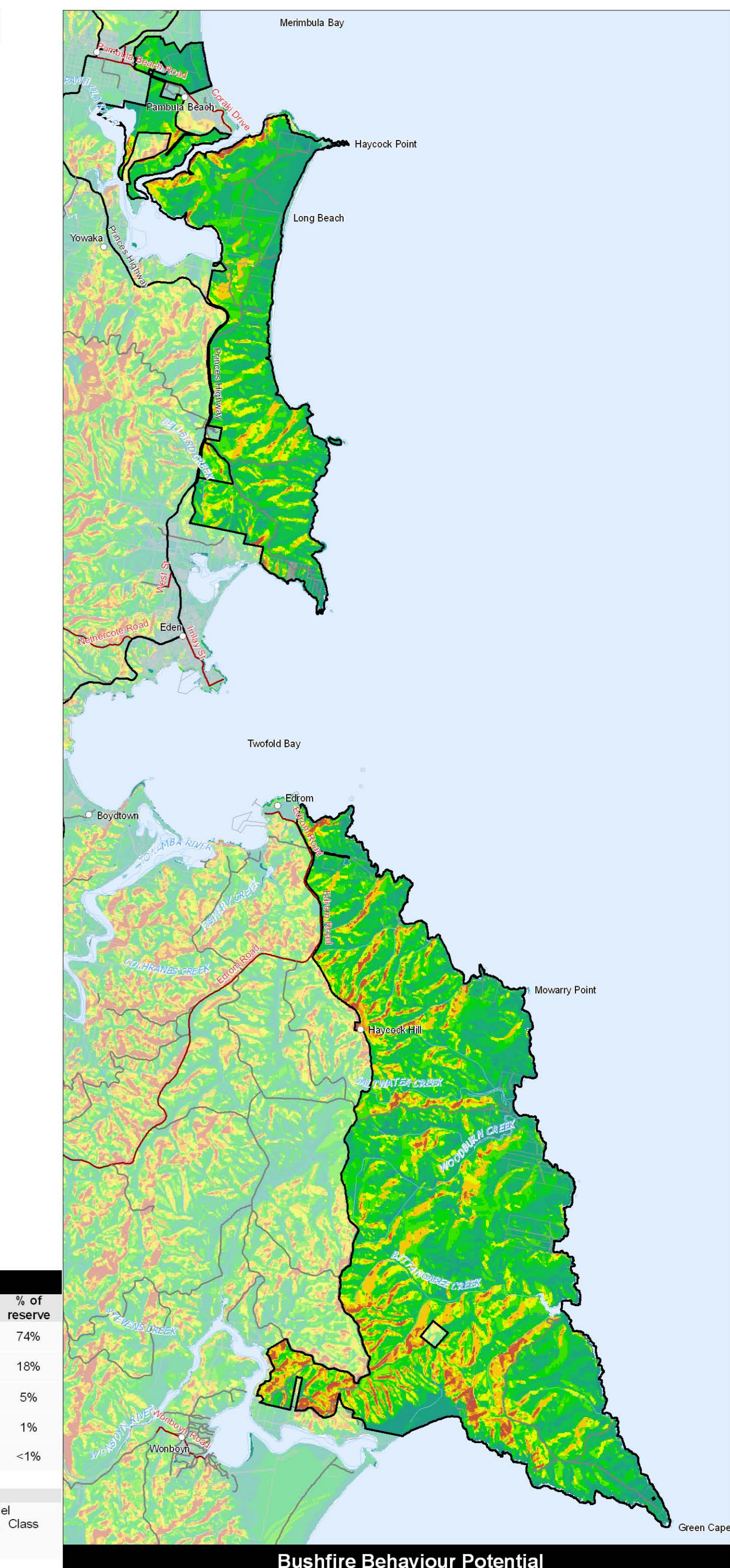
Fire Season Information

Wildfires

- Have been known to occur as early as Spring, but the potential for fires is greatest between November and February
- During this period in dry seasons, fires may exhibit high intensity behaviour in windy conditions
- A likelihood of Arson in North Ben Boyd

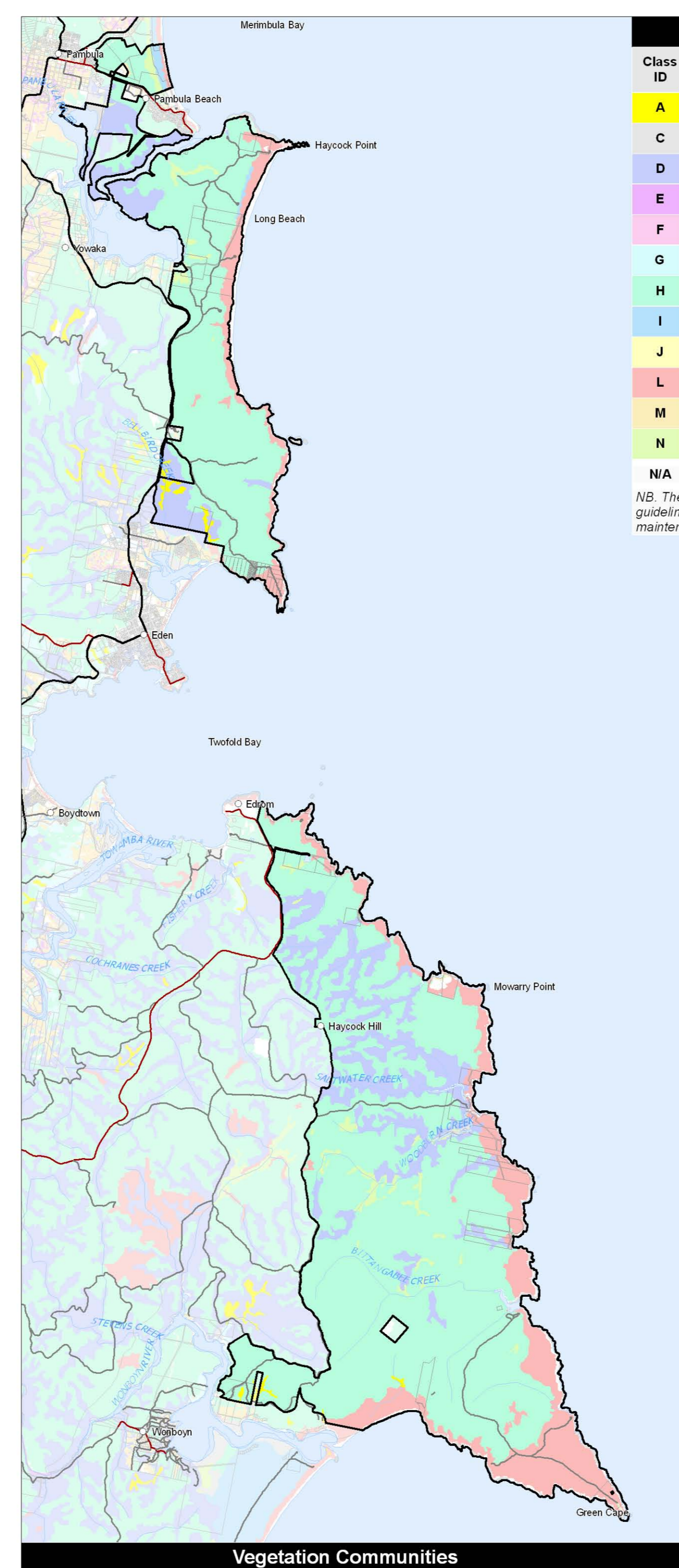
Prescribed Burning (NPWS FMM 4.7)

- Autumn to late Winter. Burning is possible in early Spring but not desirable on a regular basis for ecological reasons. Furthermore, any fire ignited in Spring has the potential to be problematic if not contained within safe boundaries.



Score	Slope*	X	Aspect	X	Veg. class	Score	Area (Ha)	% of reserve
1	0 - 5°		90 - 170°		Rainforest, Wetland	Very Low (1-16)	7,837	74%
2	6 - 10°		180 - 224°		Grassland, Wet sclerophyll forest	Low	1,014	18%
3	11 - 15°		0 - 44°		Woodland, Heathland	Medium (23-43)	517	5%
4	15 - 18°		270 - 359°		Dry Sclerophyll Forest	High (49-64)	71	1%
5	> 18°					Very High (65-80)	17	<1%

*Model details: Bushfire behaviour potential was modelled using a combination of slope, aspect and vegetation type. The model equation is: Slope score (1-5) x Aspect score (1-4) x Vegetation score (1-4). Class intervals were defined as: Very Low (1-16), Low (17-32), Medium (33-48), High (49-64), Very High (65-80).
*Source: Planning for Bushfire Protection, NSW Planning 2001



Biodiversity Threshold

Class ID	Vegetation Communities	Minimum Fire Interval	Maximum Fire Interval	Notes
A	Rainforest	n/a	n/a	Fire should be avoided
C	Saline Wetland	n/a	n/a	Fire should be avoided
D	Wet Sclerophyll Forest	25	60	Crown fires should be avoided in the lower end of the interval range
E	Semi-mesic Grassy Forest	10	50	Crown fires should be avoided in the lower end of the interval range
F	Swamp Sclerophyll Forest	7	35	
G	Sclerophyll Grassy Woodland	5	40	
H	Grassy Dry Sclerophyll Forest	5	50	
I	Shrubby Dry Sclerophyll Forest	7	30	
J	Semi-rigid Woodland	6	40	There was insufficient data to give definite intervals. Available data indicates min. intervals should be at least 5-10 years, & maximum intervals approximately 40 years
L	Heathland	7	30	
M	Grassland	2	10	Some intervals greater than 7 years should be included in coastal areas. Available evidence indicates maximum intervals should be approximately 10 years
N	Freshwater Wetland	6	35	
N/A	Rock / Sand / Agricultural Areas	n/a	n/a	

NB: These are indicative guidelines based on broad statewide vegetation formations (using the classification of Keith (2002)). These guidelines are not intended to be interpreted as prescriptions. They define a domain of 'acceptable' fire intervals consistent with the maintenance of existing plant species.

Vegetation Threshold Analysis

Below threshold	The area will be Overburnt if it burns this year. Protect from fire as far as 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.
Above Threshold	Fire frequency is above maximum inter-fire interval in the area. A prescribed burn may be advantageous. Consider allowing unplanned fires to burn.
Fire Intolerant	The vegetation in this area is fire intolerant. Protect from fire as far as possible.
Area not assessed	Insufficient data to determine fire threshold or outside area of analysis for this plan.

NB: Fire thresholds are defined for vegetation communities to conserve biodiversity.

