

## Hunter Region Blue Gum Hills Regional Park 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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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), enter month and year here.

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ISBN: 1 74137 819 2    DEC Number: 2006/55    Last Updated: 04/04/06

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)

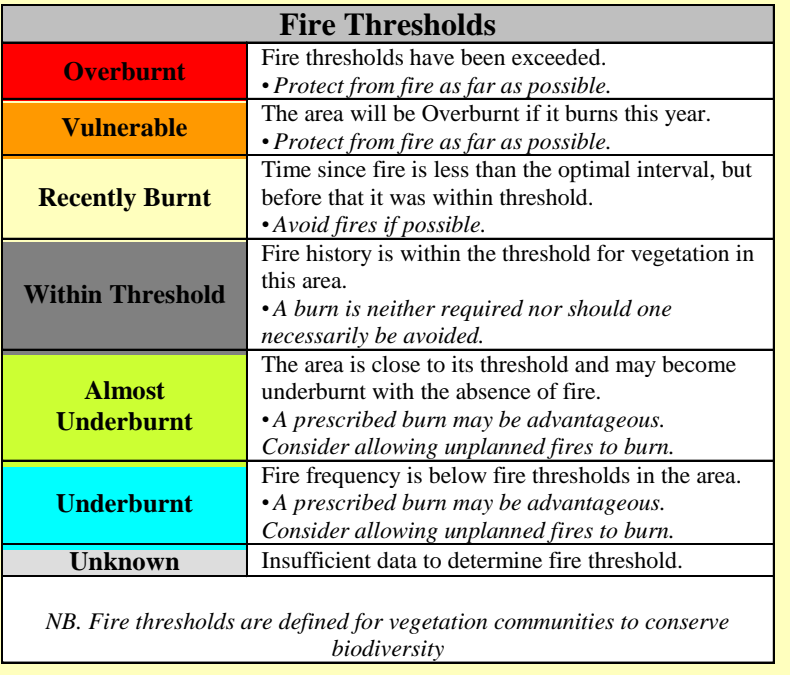
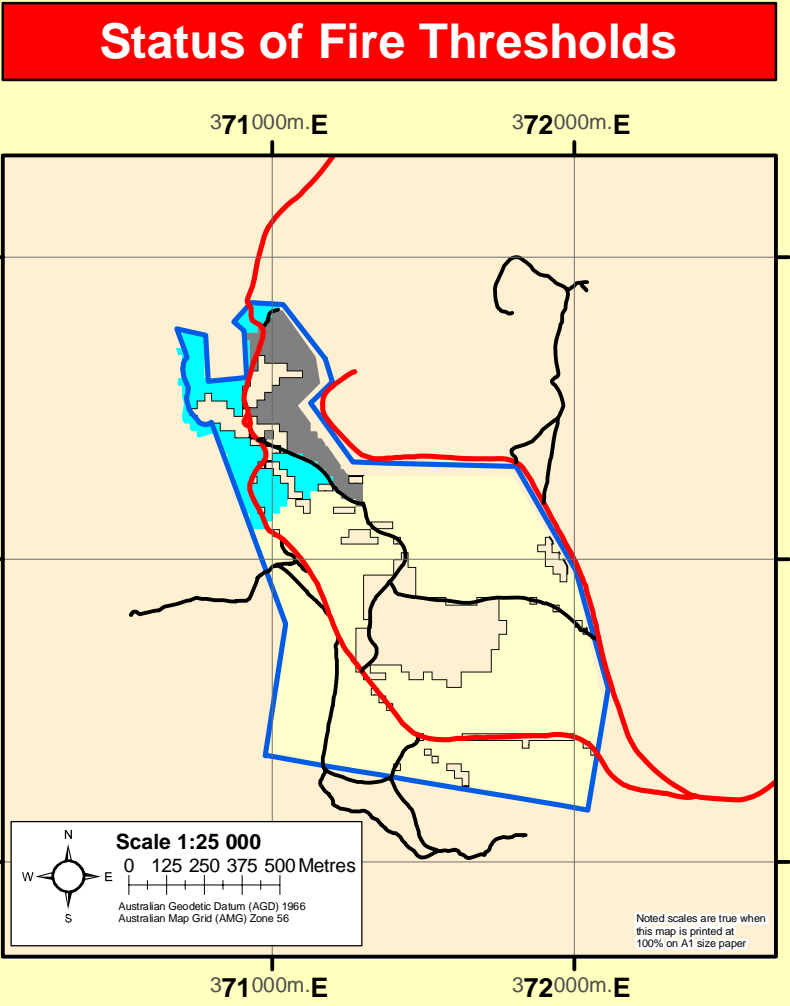
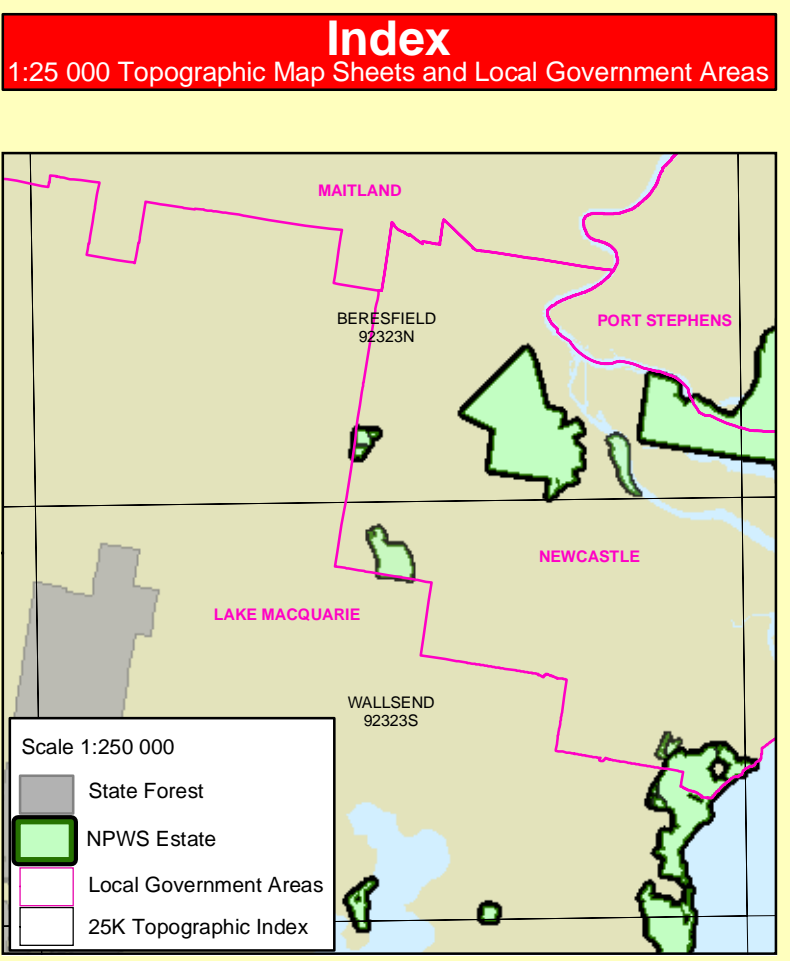
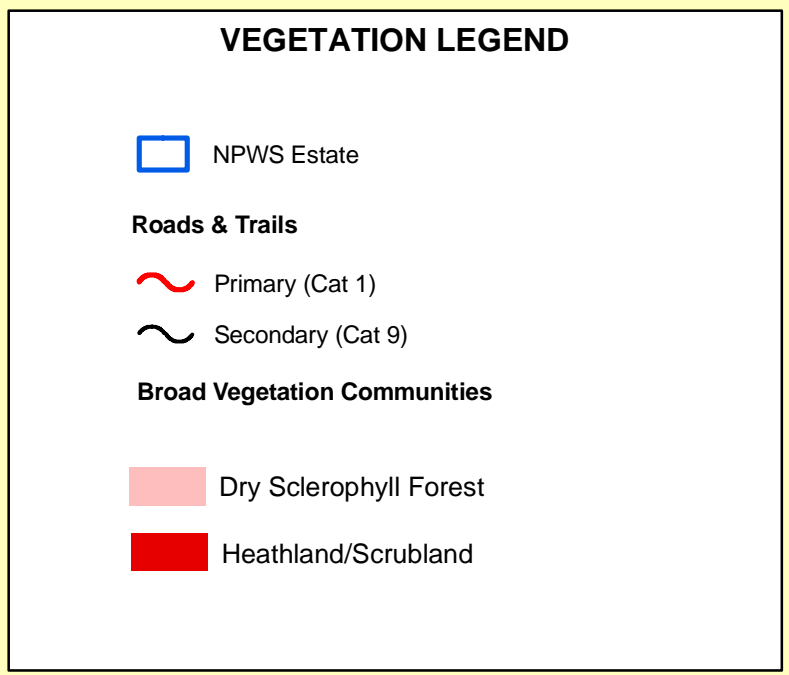
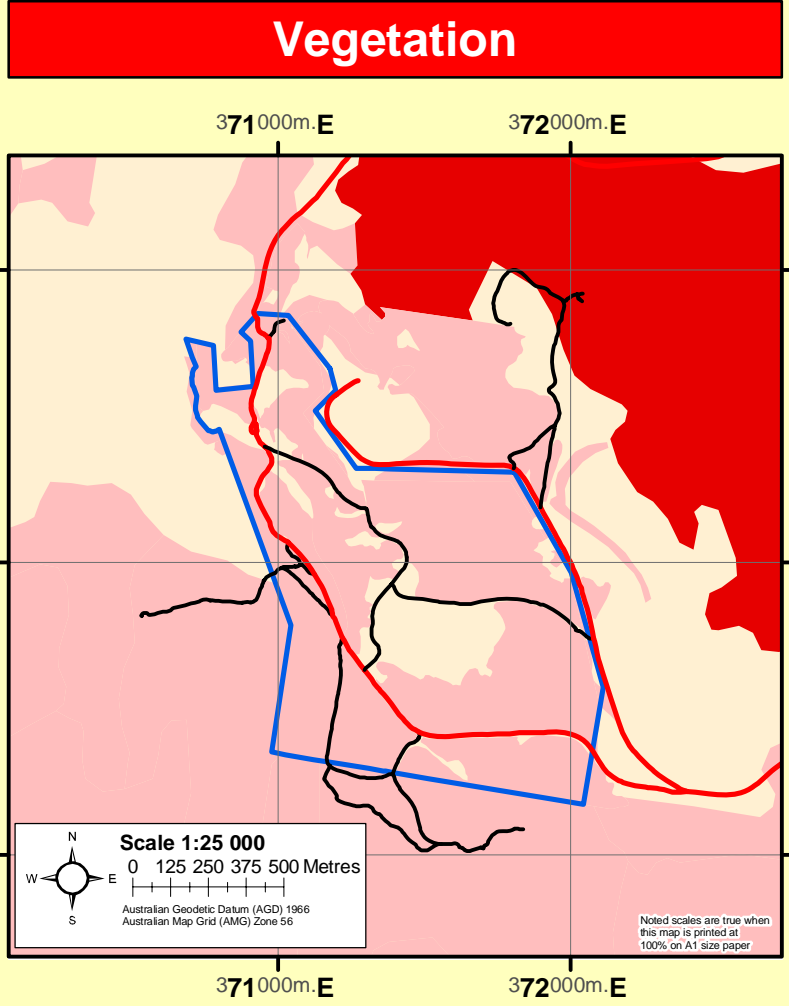
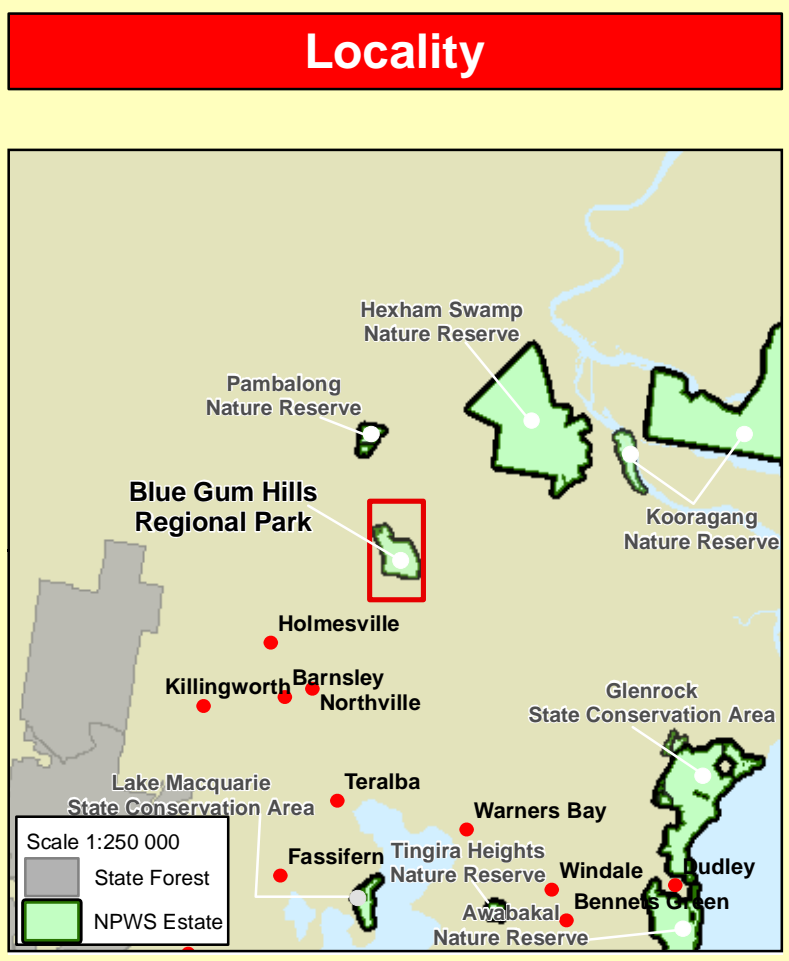
Endorsed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: / /

Director Northern, Parks & Wildlife Division

Communications Information		
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	23 (preferred)	• Mt Sugarloaf
NPWS - VHF (Fireground Comms)	17, 18 & 19	• Choose channel on fireground
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	15	• Can be located anywhere • Kept at Regional Office
NSW Fire Brigade GRN (Newcastle Comms room)	201	• From Nelson Bay to Umina communications through Newcastle Comms room (cnr Union/Bull)
During incident	500-600	
Shared channel with RFS		
RFS - GRN	198	• Port Stephens (Raymond Terrace)
	195	• Lake Macquarie RFS
RFS - PMR	27	• Lake Macquarie RFS
SF - VHF	79	• Mt Cabbage Tree • Use 79 on NPWS VHF radios
CB - UHF	1-99	• Available on most RFS vehicles
Mobile Phone - CDMA	Generally good coverage	
Mobile Phone - GSM	Generally good coverage	
Satellite Phone	Generally good coverage	

Contact Information		
Agency	Position / Location	Phone
NPWS	Hunter Region Duty Officer (24hr)	016 301161 / 0429 144880
	Hunter Coast Area Manager	4984 8256 / 0429 144875
	Fire Management Officer	4984 8206 / 0429 144870
	Regional Operations Coordinator	4984 8212 / 0429 144872
	Hunter Coast Area Office	4984 8200 / (fax) 4981 5913
	Hunter Regional Office	4984 8200 / (fax) 4981 5913
RFS	Reporting Fires	000
	Lake Macquarie Fire Control Centre	4955 2222
NSW Fire Brigade	Emergency	000
	Minni Station	4955 1754
	Newcastle Communications (24hr)	4929 7177 / (fax) 4927 2580
SES	Emergency	000
	Newcastle Unit	4940 8064
	Lake Macquarie Unit	4921 0610
Police	Emergency	000
	Waratah Station	4926 6599
Ambulance	Emergency	000
	Bookings	131 233
Hospital	John Hunter	4921 3000
	Newcastle	4929 4346
DPI - Forests	Resource Protection Manager	4931 6519
	Fire Officer	4931 6538
	Fire Mobile	0429 491868
Council	Newcastle City Council	4974 2000 / (fax) 4974 2222 4974 1399 (Ah)
	Local Aboriginal Land Council	Awabakal Mandaribba Sites Officer

Strategy Information		
Fire Season Information		
Wildfires	Reserves of the Hunter Region are located in a zone between subtropical, summer maximum rainfall patterns to the north and temperate, winter maximum patterns to the south.	
	Most extreme fire weather conditions occur during spring and early summer resulting in moderate temperatures, low relative humidity and strong winds.	
Prescribed Burning (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.7)	Subtropical rainfall in January usually ends the fire season in most years, however, if rain events do not occur the fire season may last from August to March.	
	General season is Autumn to late Winter. Burning is possible in early Spring given desirable weather patterns.	
Suppression Strategies		
Current FDR	Forecast FDR	Suppression Strategies
Low - Mod	Low - Mod	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake direct, parallel or indirect attack along existing containment lines taking advantage of natural fire control advantages.</li> <li>Where practicable consider maximising the fire area in accordance with the requirements of any proposed prescribed burns.</li> <li>Identify and survey backup control lines.</li> <li>In order to minimise the fire area and secure the flanks as soon as possible, undertake direct, parallel or indirect attack along the closest containment lines.</li> <li>Pay particular attention to the flank on the next predicted down wind side.</li> <li>Identify and survey backup control lines.</li> <li>Construct new control lines if necessary to minimise the time to contain the fire.</li> <li>Undertake indirect attack along existing or newly constructed containment lines.</li> <li>Secure and deepen containment lines along the next predicted downwind side of the fire.</li> <li>If applicable consider broader than normal containment strategies to avoid wasted effort and high risk of failure.</li> </ul>
Low - Mod	=> High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure there is sufficient time to secure containment lines prior to the fire impacting upon them; otherwise fall back to the next potential line.</li> </ul>
High	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure and deepen containment lines along the next predicted downwind side of the fire.</li> <li>If applicable consider broader than normal containment strategies to avoid wasted effort and high risk of failure.</li> </ul>
All	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure there is sufficient time to secure containment lines prior to the fire impacting upon them; otherwise fall back to the next potential line.</li> </ul>



### 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
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management (NPWS FMM 4.11)	<b>A1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As far as possible protect site from fire.</li> <li>Do not cut down trees.</li> <li>Use of foams, wetting agents &amp; retardant is acceptable.</li> </ul>
	<b>A2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As far as possible protect site from fire.</li> <li>Avoid ground disturbance including handtools, dozers.</li> <li>Avoid water bombing which may cause ground disturbance.</li> </ul>
	<b>A3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid ground disturbance including handtools, dozers.</li> <li>Avoid water bombing which may cause ground disturbance.</li> <li>Site may be burnt by wildfire, backburn, prescribed burn.</li> <li>RCMHS Regional Cultural Heritage Management Strategy.</li> <li>In areas where the asset may be in or close to a water body, wetland or swamp, no foam or retardant is to be used.</li> <li>Earth-moving machinery is to be used around, rather than over/through assets.</li> </ul>
Historic Heritage Management (NPWS FMM 4.10)	<b>HS1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High RCHMS* priority.</li> <li>Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning &amp; HR.</li> <li>Avoid all water bombing activities.</li> </ul>
	<b>HS2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High RCHMS* priority.</li> <li>Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning &amp; HR.</li> </ul>
	<b>HS3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High or low RCHMS* priority.</li> <li>Heritage site unlikely to be effected by fire.</li> <li>Danger to any fire crew activity. Avoid site at all costs.</li> </ul>
	<b>HS4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low RCHMS* priority.</li> <li>Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning &amp; HR.</li> <li>Avoid all water bombing activities.</li> </ul>
	<b>HS5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low RCHMS* priority.</li> <li>Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning &amp; HR.</li> </ul>
	<b>HS6</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High or low RCHMS* priority.</li> <li>Heritage site unlikely to be effected by fire.</li> <li>Avoid use of earth moving machinery.</li> </ul>
	<b>HS7</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High or low RCHMS* priority.</li> <li>Heritage site unlikely to be effected by fire.</li> <li>Avoid use of earth moving machinery.</li> <li>Avoid all water bombing activities.</li> </ul>
Threatened Fauna Management (NPWS FMM 4.12 & 5.2)	<b>FA1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect large and hollow bearing trees.</li> </ul>

### Operational Guidelines (continued)

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
Threatened Flora Management (NPWS FMM 4.12)	<b>FA2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect large and hollow bearing trees.</li> <li>Avoid interfire intervals of &lt; 10 yrs.</li> <li>Avoid high intensity fires that consume tree canopies and fallen logs.</li> </ul>
	<b>FA3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid interfire intervals of &lt; 10 yrs.</li> </ul>
	<b>FA4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitat unlikely to be effected by fire.</li> <li>Avoid use of earth moving machinery in wetland habitats.</li> <li>Avoid use of retardant and foam in wetland habitats.</li> </ul>
	<b>FA5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitat unlikely to be effected by fire.</li> <li>Avoid use of earth moving machinery in dune habitats.</li> </ul>
	<b>FA6</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning &amp; HR, as far as possible in wetland habitat.</li> <li>Avoid use of earth moving machinery in wetland habitats.</li> <li>Avoid use of retardant and foam in wetland habitats.</li> </ul>
	<b>FA7</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid high intensity fires that consume tree canopies and fallen logs.</li> </ul>
	<b>FA8</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning &amp; HR, as far as possible.</li> <li>Avoid use of earth moving machinery.</li> </ul>
	<b>Threatened Property</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
General Rehabilitation (NPWS FMM 5.1)	<b>Guidelines</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.</li> </ul>

### Operational Guidelines (continued)

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

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

General	Guidelines
Aerial Ignition (NPWS FMM 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2-4 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Utilise incendiaries to rapidly progress back-burns down slope where required.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insert reserve specific or generic guidelines (select from/modify following):</li> <li>The use of bombing aircraft should support containment operations by aggressively attacking hotspots and spot-overs.</li> <li>The use of bombing aircraft without the support of ground based suppression crews should be limited to very specific circumstances.</li> <li>Where practicable foam should be used to increase the effectiveness of the water.</li> <li>Ground crews must be alerted to water bombing operations.</li> </ul>
Aerial Water Bombing (NPWS FMM 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Temperature and humidity trends must be monitored carefully to determine the safest times to implement back-burns. Generally, 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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Avoid ignition of backburns at the bottom of slopes where a long and intense up slope burn is likely.</li> <li>Brief all involved personnel on the location of cultural sites and threatened species prior to backburning, and adhere to the above guidelines.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.</li> <li>All containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed at the cessation of the incident.</li> <li>All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location.</li> </ul>
Backburning (NPWS FMM 4.8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
Containment Lines (NPWS FMM 2.2 & 3.9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations.</li> </ul>
Visitor Management (NPWS FMM 3.6 & 4.13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.</li> </ul>

### Operational Guidelines (continued)

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

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

Command & Control (NPWS FMM 4.2)	Guidelines
Smoke Management (NPWS FMM 3.4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The potential impacts of smoke and possible mitigation tactics must be considered when planning for wildfire suppression and prescribed burning operations.</li> <li>If smoke becomes a hazard on local roads or highways, the police and relevant media must be notified.</li> <li>Smoke management must be in accordance with relevant RTA traffic management guidelines.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Containment lines constructed 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.</li> <li>Earthmoving equipment should be washed down, where practicable, prior to entering NPWS estate.</li> </ul>
Fire Advantage Recording	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All fire advantages used during wildfire suppression operations must be mapped and where relevant added to the database.</li> </ul>
Fire Suppression Chemicals (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wetting and foaming agents (surfactants) are permitted for use in wildfire suppression.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Exclude the use of surfactants and retardants within 50m of rainforest, watercourses, dams and swamps.</li> <li>Areas where fire suppression chemicals are used must be mapped and the used products name recorded.</li> <li>The Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed.</li> </ul>

