

## Boonalla Aboriginal Area Fire Management Strategy 2012-2016

**Office of Environment & Heritage**

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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Communications Information		
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS VHF	30	• The Governor (high points only) • Most of the reserve does not have line-of-sight NPWS communications
RFS	P037	• Black Jack Mountain (Liverpool Ranges) (high points only, or areas east of Kelvin Road)
	P006	• Mount Baldwin (Tamworth)
UHF - CB		• Small fires - Channel 10 • Large fires - determined by IMT • Do not use Ch 4 public repeater for operations
Aviation	127.4	• CTAF - Gunnedah
	119.4	• CTAF-APRU - Tamworth
Cellphone		• Telstra 3G coverage, lower at Mount Baldwin

Fire Season Information		
		• The critical wildfire season generally occurs during November and December.
		• During periods of strong negative Southern Oscillation Indices (El Niño events), this period may commence late September and extend into the first half of January.
		• The end of the critical fire season is often marked by wet storm activity.
Wildfires		• Effective prescribed burning may need to be conducted once the "critical fire season" and thunderstorm season is over. This is due to the LOW-MODERATE Overall Fuel Hazard for most vegetation types. Prescribed burning attempted after autumn rain is unlikely to be effective.

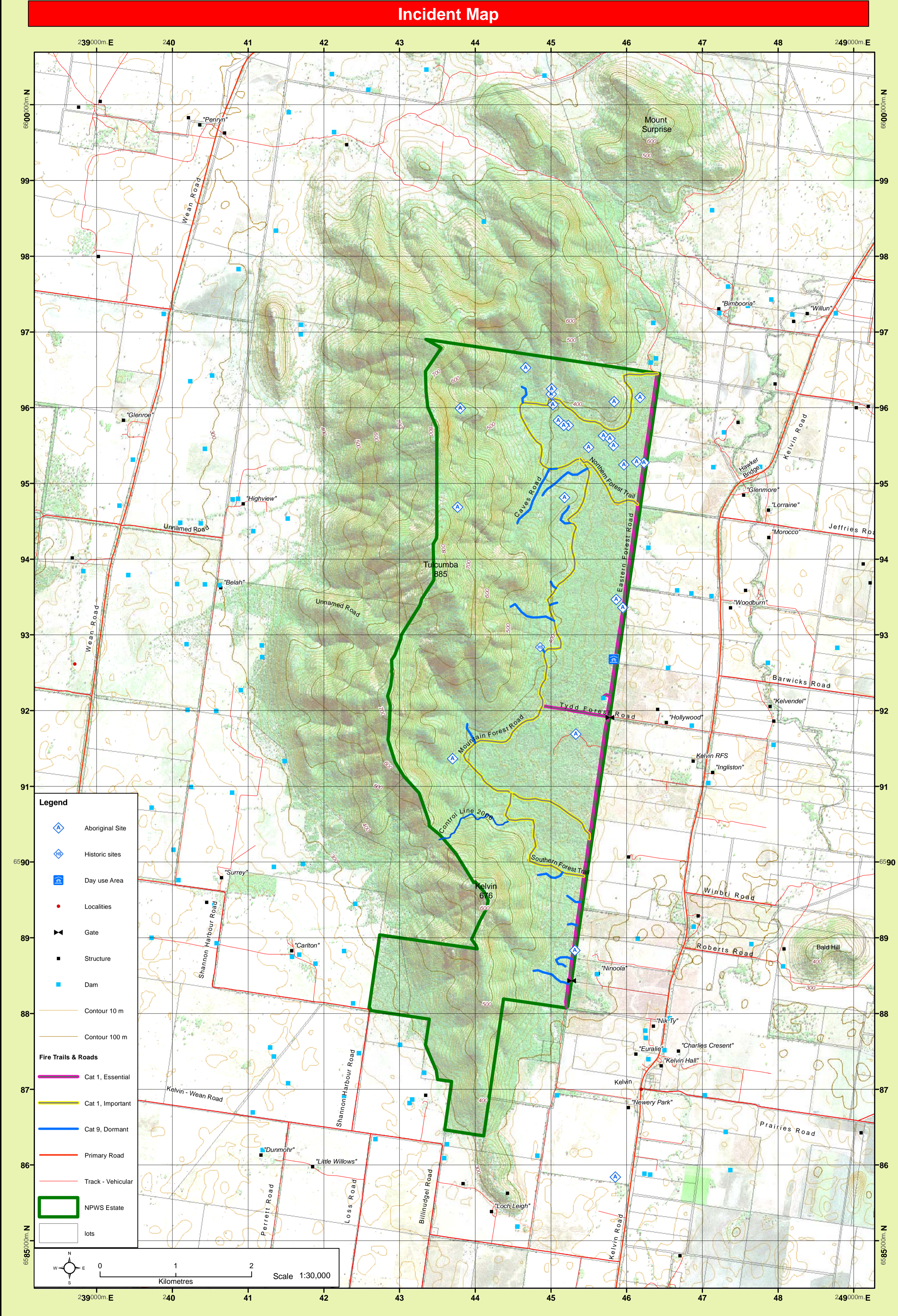
Contact Information		
Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Duty Officer (24 hour) Coonabarabran Area Office (bus. hours)	6842 3041 6842 1311
Aboriginal community	Red Chief LALC Mm Min Aboriginal Corporation Gunda Gunday GDEP	6742 3602 6742 4121 6742 5290
NSW RFS Liverpool Zone	Steve Raymond (Zone Manager) Duty Officer	0427 306 845 6747 1493
RFS Rural Fire Brigades	Kevin - Steven Carter	6743 3531
NSW Fire Brigade	NSW Fire Brigade	4929 1777
Emergency Services	Police, Fire, Ambulance	000
SES		13 2500
Police	Gunnedah	6742 3099
Council	Gunnedah	6740 2100

Map Details	
Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994, GDA 94	Data: Spot Satellite Imagery: 2005, 1:50k Topographic Map: Wilton 893613 & Kelvin 893624, Scale: Noted scales are true when printed on A1 size paper
Projection: Map Grid Australia Zone 56	

Related documents	
• Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (2010) <i>Fire Management Manual</i>	
• Hunter, JT (2008) <i>Vegetation and floristics of Kelvin Aboriginal Area</i> . Report to NSW NPWS	



Operational Guidelines - Heritage	
Resource	Guidelines
Modified trees (AS1), including scarred trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect the site from fire, clear base of litter and shrubs, exclude site tree from fire where possible</li> <li>Foam may be used to protect the tree, or to wetting fire</li> <li>Do not cut trees</li> </ul>
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management	<p>Ground based sites (AS2), including: artefacts, grinding grooves and stone arrangements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect site from any ground disturbance, including the use of earth-moving equipment and vehicles</li> <li>Apply a machinery exclusion area where there is a high concentration of known sites</li> </ul> <p>Shelter based sites (AS3), including: habitations sites and deposits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect sites from any disturbance by excluding operations by at least 25 metres</li> </ul>
Historic Heritage Site Management	<p>Chinese built fence line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect the site from fire, exclude area from fire where possible</li> <li>Foam may be used to protect the structure</li> </ul>

Vegetation management		
Vegetation Community	Vegetation management guidelines	Fire Behaviour
White Box / Ironbark Woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An interval between fire events less than 20 years should be avoided</li> <li>A high intensity fire may be permitted after an interval &gt; 30 years</li> <li>Burning should be considered after an interval of 40 - 50 years</li> <li>A higher frequency of low - moderate intensity burns may be considered in areas designated as Greasy Box Woodlands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential rates of spread is low to moderate due to LOW - MODERATE OFH</li> <li>Localised areas of HIGH OFH may produce restricted areas of higher fire intensity</li> </ul>
White Pine / Ironbark Woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An interval between fire events less than 20 years should be avoided</li> <li>A high intensity fire may be permitted after an interval &gt; 30 years</li> <li>Burning should be considered after an interval of 40 - 50 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential rates of spread/drop is low due to LOW OFH</li> <li>Upslope runs during Severe + FDI may result in spotting</li> </ul>
Rocky Outcrop Woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An interval between fire events less than 20 years should be avoided</li> <li>Exclude use of retardants</li> <li>Exclude prescribed burning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential rates of spread is nil to low due to NIL - LOW OFH</li> </ul>
Valley Forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An interval between fire events less than 15 years should be avoided</li> <li>Burning should be considered after an interval of 40 - 50 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential rates of spread is low to moderate due to LOW - MODERATE OFH</li> </ul>

Operational Guidelines	
General	Guidelines
Aerial operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aerial operations will be managed by trained and competent personnel. This includes directing aerial bombing and aerial ignition operations</li> <li>The use of bombing aircraft without the support of ground based suppression crews should be limited to very specific circumstances</li> <li>All aerial ignition operations require the consent of the NPWS Regional Manager or the Section 44 Appointee</li> <li>All personnel must be fully briefed before back burning operations begin</li> <li>Restrictions for backburning listed in Suppression Strategies</li> <li>Backburning in areas of Low - Moderate OFH will require the use of wind, slope or low humidity to maximise effectiveness</li> </ul>
Backburning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first combatant agency on site may assume control of the fire, but then must ensure the relevant land management agency is notified promptly</li> <li>On the arrival of other combatant agencies, the initial Incident Controller will consult with regard to the ongoing command, control and incident management requirements as per the relevant BFMC Plan of Operations</li> </ul>
Command & Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer</li> <li>Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, where practicable, except where they can be constructed with minimal environmental impact</li> <li>All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on, and must consider both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location</li> <li>All containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed immediately at the cessation of the incident</li> <li>Plant may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS Officer</li> <li>Plant must always be 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 fire fighting vehicle</li> <li>Containment lines running along valley areas should be constructed at 20 - 50 metres from the gullyline to avoid severe erosion</li> <li>Plant use will be excluded from steep terrain and areas with a high incidence of Aboriginal sites (see map)</li> <li>Plant must be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS estate and again on exiting NPWS estate</li> <li>The use of foam, gels and retardants will NOT be permitted within 50 metres of dams and watercourses holding water</li> <li>The application of retardants is excluded from deep valley areas and rocky areas (see map)</li> <li>The aerial application use foam, gels and retardants requires the approval of the Regional Manager or delegate</li> </ul>
Containment Lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation</li> <li>Consider deployment of a bulk water carrier to support fire operations</li> <li>Potential smoke impacts and mitigation tactics will be assessed during the planning of fire operations</li> <li>This reserve will be closed to visitors during fire danger periods rated Severe or higher</li> </ul>
Earthmoving Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Caution should be exercised during RAFT operations when an evening easterly change is forecast</li> <li>Winds from the NW to SW can produce severe turbulence along the Boonalla Range. The turbulence may extend some distance</li> <li>The risk of turbulence should be assessed on the lee-side of steep terrain. Operations must be suspended during periods of high turbulence</li> </ul>
Fire Suppression Chemicals	
Rehabilitation	
Watering points	
Smoke Management	
Visitor Management	
WARNINGS	
AVIATION HAZARDS	

Suppression Strategies	
Conditions & forecast	Guidelines
<p>NOTES: The steep terrain and geology will act to limit the spread of wildfires. It may take a long time for a fire to burn down slope.</p> <p>LOWER LEVELS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A broad containment strategy using existing tracks, low fuel areas, open areas and recently burnt areas</li> </ul> <p>BKDI &lt; 100, or BKDI &gt; 100+ and outside critical fire season</p> <p>Stable conditions forecast</p> <p>STEEP TERRAIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor fire spread</li> <li>Prepare control lines at base of steep terrain (usually existing roads). These may be supported by handtool lines on spurs</li> <li>Backburn upslope only when fire fronts are close to containment lines</li> </ul> <p>LOWER LEVELS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contain fire to the smallest area practical</li> </ul> <p>BKDI &gt; 100 &amp; within critical fire season, or Severe+ FDI forecast</p> <p>STEEP TERRAIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider deployment of RAFT crews as a first response in steep terrain</li> <li>Backburn upslope only when fire fronts are close to containment lines, to avoid spotting</li> <li>Use aerial incendiaries to remove unburnt areas that may cause upslope runs</li> </ul>	

