

# Northern Rivers Region Cape Byron SCA Fire Management Strategy (Type 3) 2004



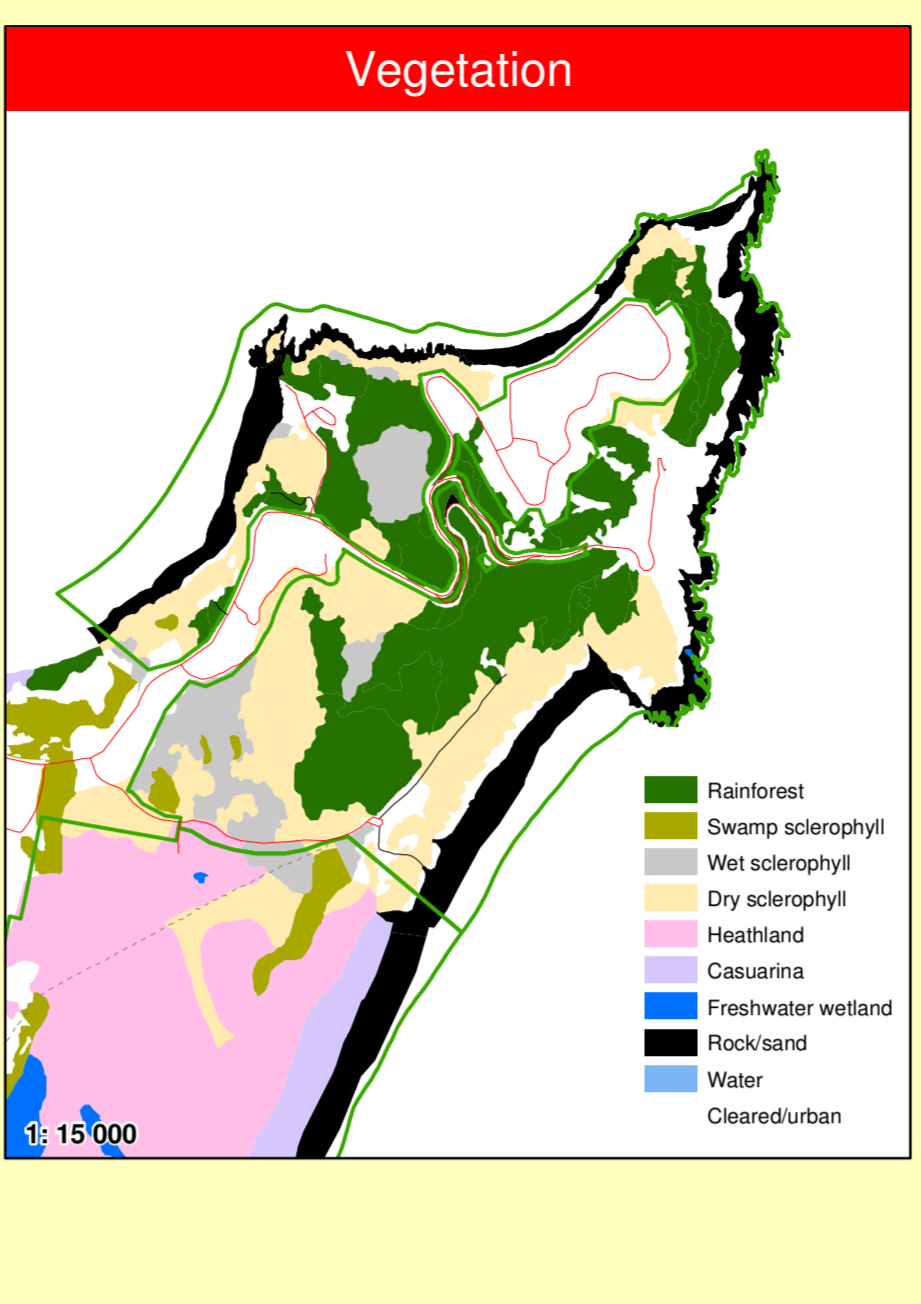
This strategy should be used in conjunction with aerial photography and field reconnaissance during incidents and the development of incident action plans.

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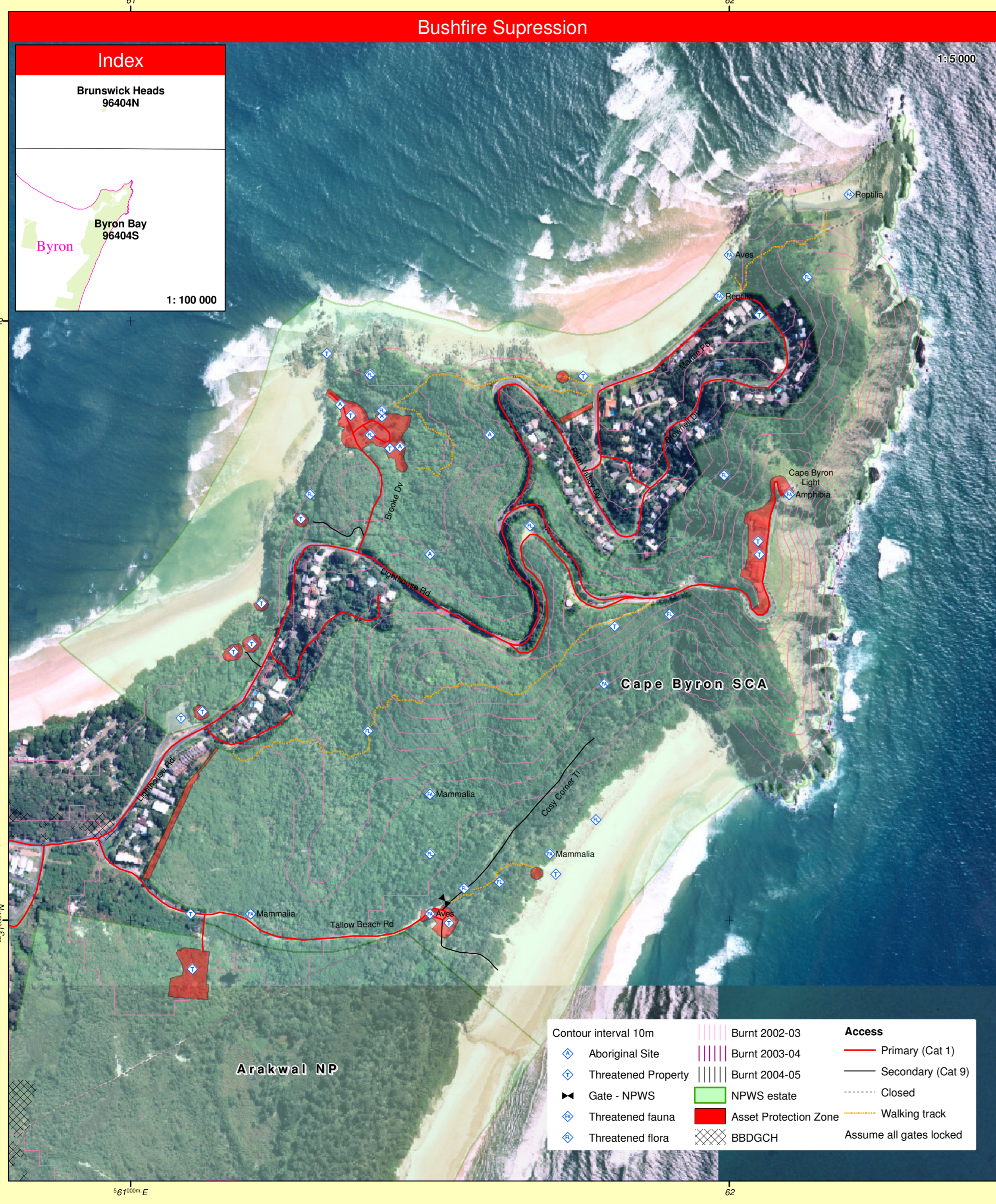
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This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997.

Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW)



Fire Management Zones	Responsibility	Prescription
<b>Asset Protection Zones</b>		
Captain Cook toilets (A1)	NPWS / CBT	Mowing: 5 m wide APZ around asset
Putridge Cottage (A2)	NPWS / CBT	Hand clearing / mowing, where assets interface bushland: 10 m wide.
Mildenhall Cottage (A3)	NPWS / CBT	Hand clearing / mowing, where assets interface bushland: 10 m wide.
Clarks Beach Cottage (A4)	NPWS / CBT	Hand clearing / mowing, where assets interface bushland: 10 m wide.
Parkers Cottage (A5)	NPWS / CBT	Hand clearing / mowing, where assets interface bushland: 10 m wide.
Palm Valley Picnic Area (A6)	NPWS / CBT	Hand clearing / mowing at urban interface, 5m wide.
Pass Cafe (A7)	NPWS / CBT	Hand clearing / mowing, where assets interface bushland: 10 m wide.
Cosy Corner (A8)	NPWS / CBT	Hand clearing / mowing, where assets interface bushland: 10 m wide.
Cosy Corner viewing platform (A9)	NPWS / CBT	Hand clearing / mowing, where assets interface bushland: 2 m wide.
Hanglider Ramp (A10)	NPWS / CBT	Hand removal of fuels underneath ramp
Lighthouse Precinct (A11)	NPWS / CBT	Hand clearing / mowing, where assets interface bushland: 20 m wide.
Wategos toilets (A12)	NPWS / CBT	Hand clearing / mowing, where assets interface bushland: 5 m wide.
Tallow Beach Rd (A13)	NPWS / CBT	Hand clearing / mowing, where assets interface bushland: 10-20 m wide.
Palm Valley Dr houses (A14)	NPWS / CBT	Hand clearing / mowing, where assets interface bushland: 10 m wide.
No Name Lane (A15) (proposed)	NPWS / CBT	Hand clearing / mowing, where assets interface bushland: 10-15 m wide.
Adjoining private properties	Private landholders	As per development consent or advice from RFS.
<b>Heritage Management Zones</b>		
Cape Byron	NPWS / CBT, RFS, Incident Controllers	Suppress bushfires where possible and conduct prescribed burns to manage fire regime as appropriate for vegetation communities present - refer to Vegetation Status map as a guide for decision making



### Suppression Strategies

<b>Fire Weather</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The wildfire season is known to start as early as the beginning of August, usually beginning in September, running through to December with the arrival of typical summer weather patterns. The summer weather pattern is often characterised by north to north westerly winds, high temperatures and low humidity. During drought years the fire season may start as early as July and finish as late as May.</li> <li><b>Southerly changes require special attention.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Hazard Reduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The optimum period for hazard reduction burning is autumn and winter. Hazard reduction burning is achievable in early spring but not desirable ecologically and there is a risk of impacts by dry west winds associated with August / September.</li> </ul>
<b>Wildfire Suppression</b>	<p><b>FDR - Low to Moderate</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct attack where possible.</li> <li>Parallel attack using the closest containment line</li> <li>Consider allowing the fire to burn adjoining areas identified as underburnt in the current vegetation status map.</li> </ol> <p><b>FDR - Moderate to High</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parallel attack using the closest containment line</li> <li>Use water bombing and surfactants to slow rate of spread of fire.</li> </ol> <p><b>FDR - High to Extreme</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fallback to safe areas - primary roads and trails, recently burnt areas, APZ and refuges.</li> <li>Undertake property protection as required.</li> <li>Use water bombing and surfactants to slow the fires rate of spread.</li> <li>Identify containment strategy.</li> </ol>

### Contact Numbers

NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service	(BH) (02) 6627 0200
NRR Regional Office - Alstonville	(BH) (02) 6685 8565
Byron Coast Area Office	(BH) (02) 6680 9203
Arakwal Field Service Centre	(BH) (02) 66843662
NSW Rural Fire Service - Mullumbimby	(AH) 0418 975 998
Operations Officer Far North Coast Zone (Noel Blizzard)	(AH) 0428 666 965
Learning and Development (Bob Wilcox)	(02) 6624 5384
NSW Fire Brigade - Zone Commander	(BH) (02) 6626 7000
Byron Shire Council	(AH) (02) 6622 7022
Police - Byron Bay	(02) 6685 9499
State Emergency Services (SES) - Mullumbimby	(02) 6684 3444
Emergencies	0414 243 966
Ambulance / Bookings	000 / 13 1233

### 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:

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Guidelines</b>
<b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid all ground disturbance; avoid water bombing, site may be burnt by bushfire, back-burn or prescribed burn without damage.</li> </ul>
<b>Historic Heritage Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Cape Byron Lighthouse Precinct is a Historic Heritage site and is identified as a Threatened Property - as far as possible protect site from fire; avoid all ground disturbance including the use of earthmoving machinery, handline construction and driving over sites.</li> </ul>
<b>Threatened Fauna Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.12 & 5.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid impact on wetlands, littoral rainforest and streams</li> <li>FA1 - protect large and hollow bearing trees.</li> <li>FA2 - avoid high intensity fires which consume tree canopies.</li> <li>FA3 - protect large and hollow bearing trees, avoid inter - fire intervals of &lt;10 years and avoid high intensity fires that consume canopies and fallen logs.</li> <li>FA4 - avoid the use of earthmoving machinery.</li> <li>FA5 - as far as possible exclude fire, foams, retardants and earthmoving machinery from wetlands.</li> </ul>
<b>Threatened Flora Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid impact on wetlands and littoral rainforest.</li> <li>FL - As far as possible exclude fire, earthmoving machinery and retardants from these locations.</li> <li>BBDGCH (Byron Bay Dwarf Graminoid Clay Heath) - Endangered Ecological Community - NO earthmoving machinery.</li> </ul>
<b>Threatened Property</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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>
<b>General</b>	<b>Guidelines</b>
<b>Aerial Water Bombing</b> (NPWS FMM 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2-4 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foam should be used to increase the effectiveness of water bombing.</li> </ul>
<b>Aerial Ignition</b> (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 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.</li> <li>Utilise incendiaries to rapidly progress back-burns down slope where required.</li> </ul>
<b>Backburning</b> (NPWS FMM 4.8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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> </ul>
<b>Command &amp; Control</b> (NPWS FMM 4.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first combatant agency on site may assume control of the fire, but then must ensure the NPWS 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 team requirements as per the relevant BFMC Plan of Operations.</li> </ul>

### Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	8	Mt Nardi
NPWS - VHF (Fireground Comms)	40	Finground chat channel (single frequency) monitors channel 8
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	13	Portable repeater, Blue Code. Stored at Kyogle NPWS Depot / transportable.
RFS - PMR - UHF	48 / 68	Cape Byron and Koomyung Range
RFS - GRN	-	No service available.
CB - UHF	-	To be confirmed with RFS brigade captain on the day.
Aircraft - VHF	4	Or as directed by Incident Controller
Mobile Phone - CDMA	Fair	Best reception at elevated points.
Mobile Phone - GSM	No	

### Fire Interval Guidelines

Vegetation type	Min. interval	Max. interval	Notes
Rainforest	n/a	n/a	Fire should be avoided
Saline wetland	n/a	n/a	Fire should be avoided
Wet sclerophyll forest	25	60	Crown fires should be avoided in the lower end of the interval range
Swamp sclerophyll forest	7	35	
Shrubby dry sclerophyll forest	7	30	
Heathland	7	30	
Grassland	2	10*	Some intervals greater than 7 years should be included in coastal areas. There was insufficient data to give a definite maximum interval; available evidence indicates maximum intervals should be approximately 10 years.
Freshwater wetland	6	35	

General	Guidelines
<b>Containment Lines</b> (NPWS FMM 2.2 & 3.9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No new containment lines in wetlands.</li> <li>New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer.</li> <li>Containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.</li> </ul>
<b>Earthmoving Equipment</b> (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earthmoving equipment may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer.</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>Earthmoving equipment should be washed down prior to it entering NPWS estate.</li> </ul>
<b>Fire Advantage Recording</b>	<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>
<b>Fire Suppression Chemicals</b> (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> </ul>
<b>Rehabilitation</b> (NPWS FMM 5.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.</li> <li>All re opened and new containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed at the cessation of the incident.</li> </ul>
<b>Smoke Management</b> (NPWS FMM 3.4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
<b>Visitor Management</b> (NPWS FMM 3.6 & 4.13)	<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>

### Status of Fire Thresholds

Current vegetation status (status of vegetation under recorded fire regime)

Two consecutive inter-fire intervals have been too short to maintain biodiversity. (Burnt rainforest will fall into this category)	Overburnt
Will be overburnt if it burns this year. (All unburnt rainforest will fall into this category)	Vulnerable
Time since fire is less than the optimum interval, but before that it was within thresholds; if it burns this year it will become vulnerable.	Recently Burnt
The fire history is within the thresholds for the vegetation of the area. A barn is neither required nor necessarily to be avoided.	Within Thresholds
Possible biodiversity declines due to insufficient burning. If no fire occurs this year it will fall into the underburnt category.	Almost Underburnt
Possible biodiversity declines due to insufficient burning. The fire history is too short to determine whether the area is underburnt or overburnt.	Underburnt
	Unknown

