

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

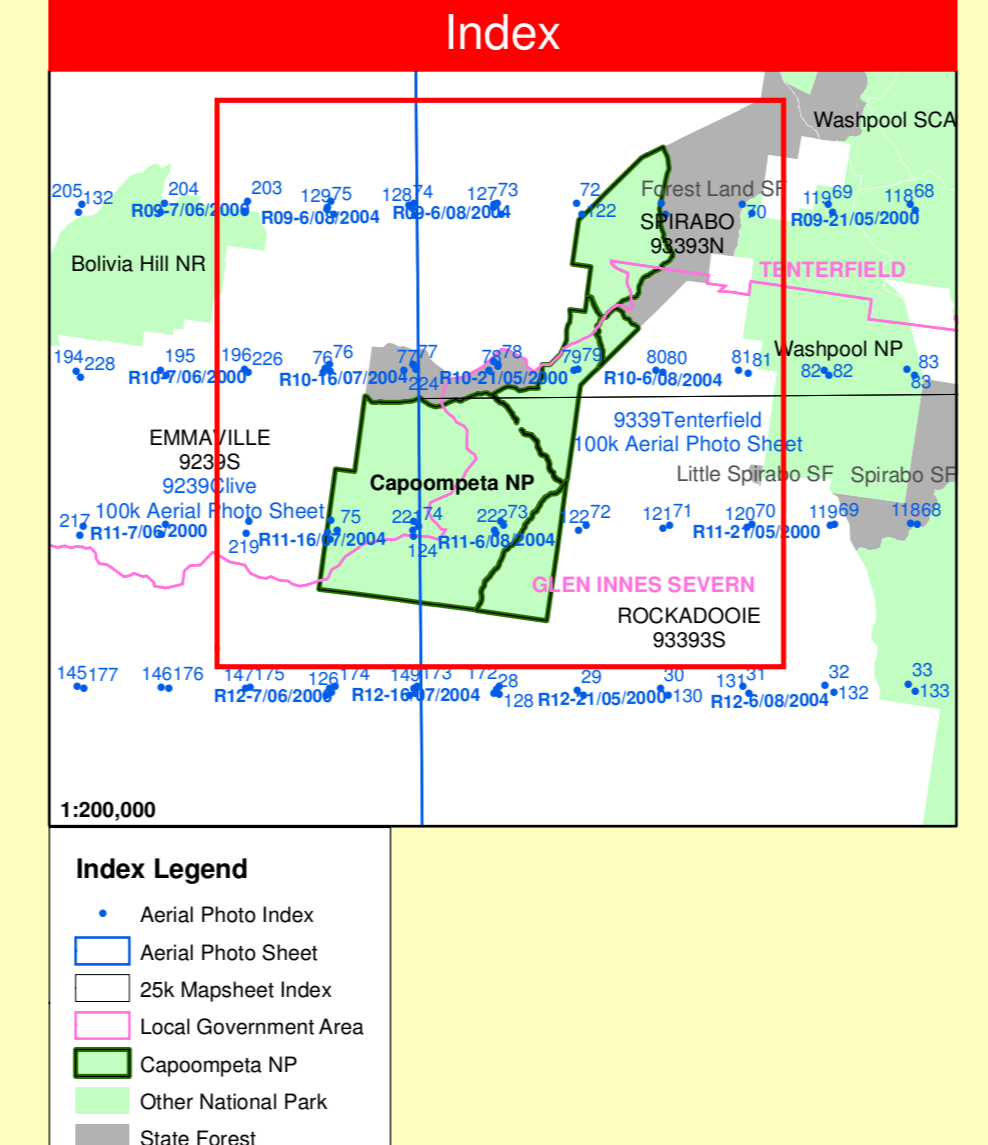
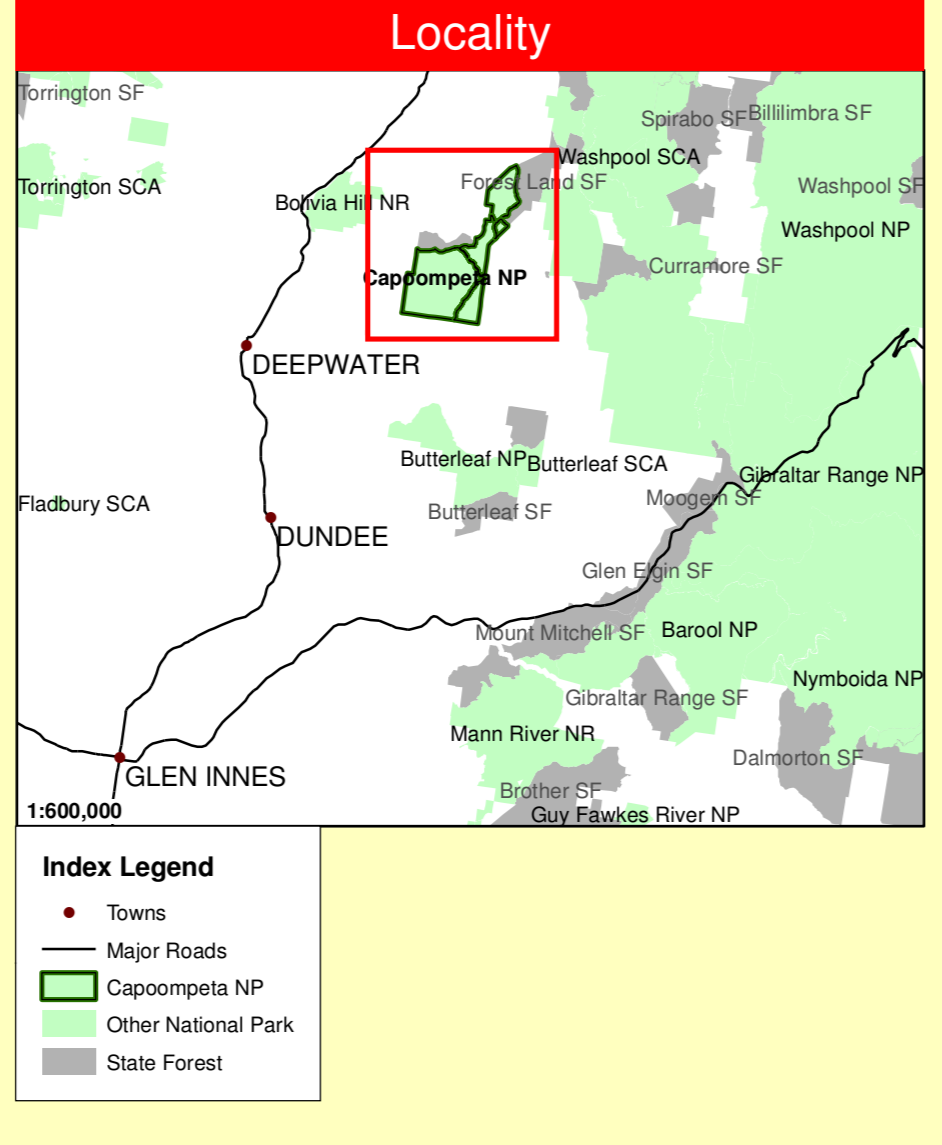
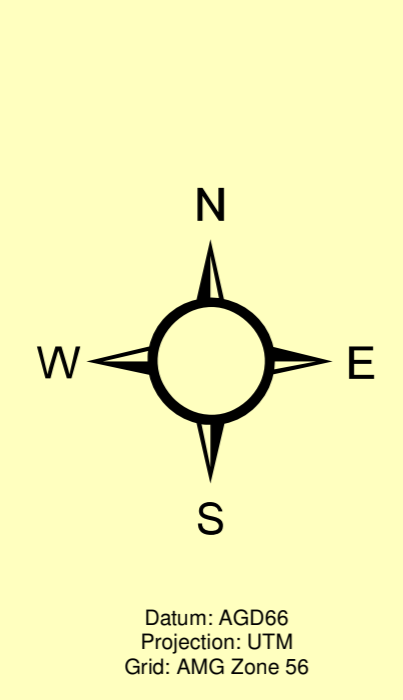
This strategy should be used in conjunction with aerial photography and field reconnaissance during incidents and the development of incident action plans.

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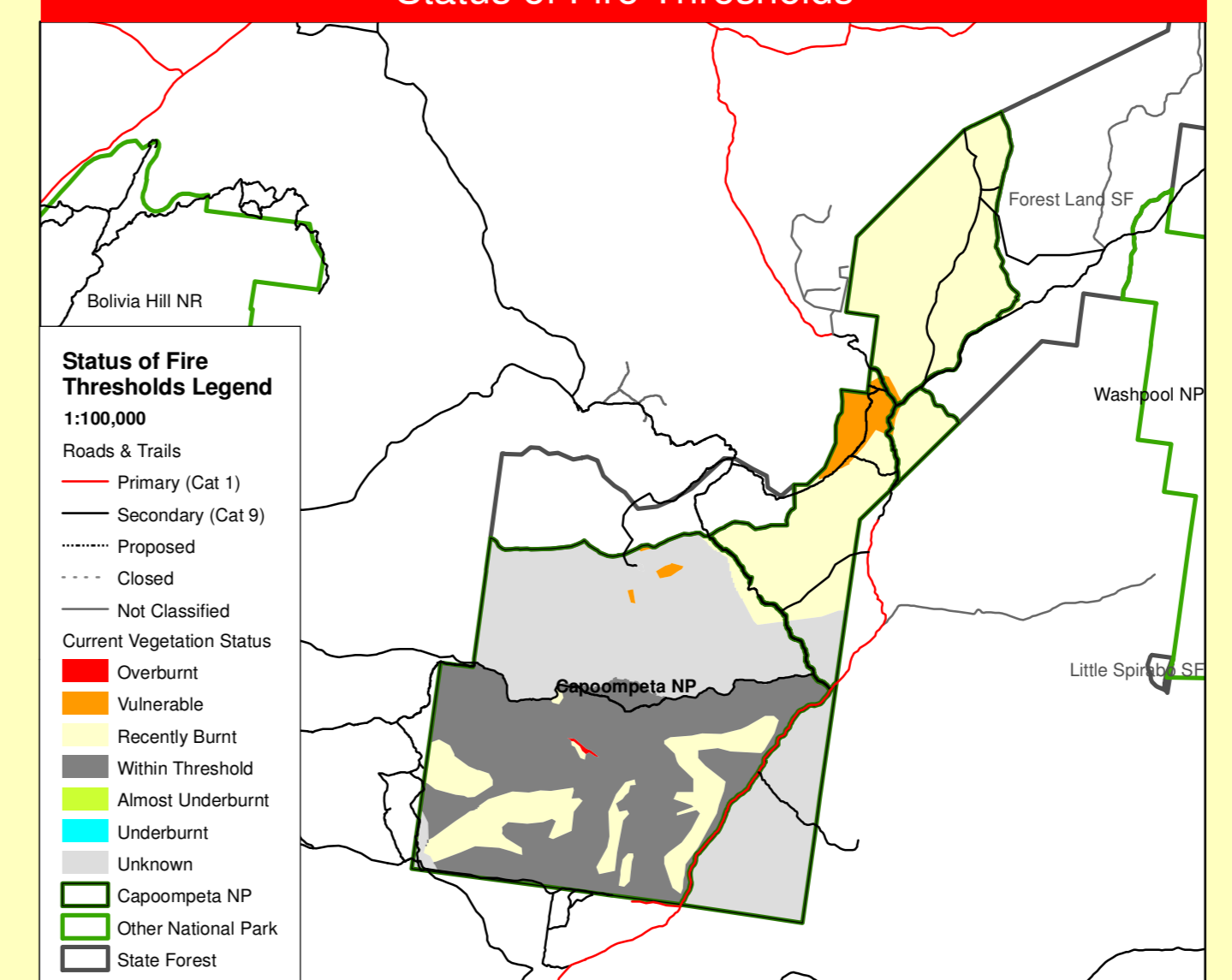
Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW) This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997.

Approved Date: 27 Oct 2005



Strategy Information

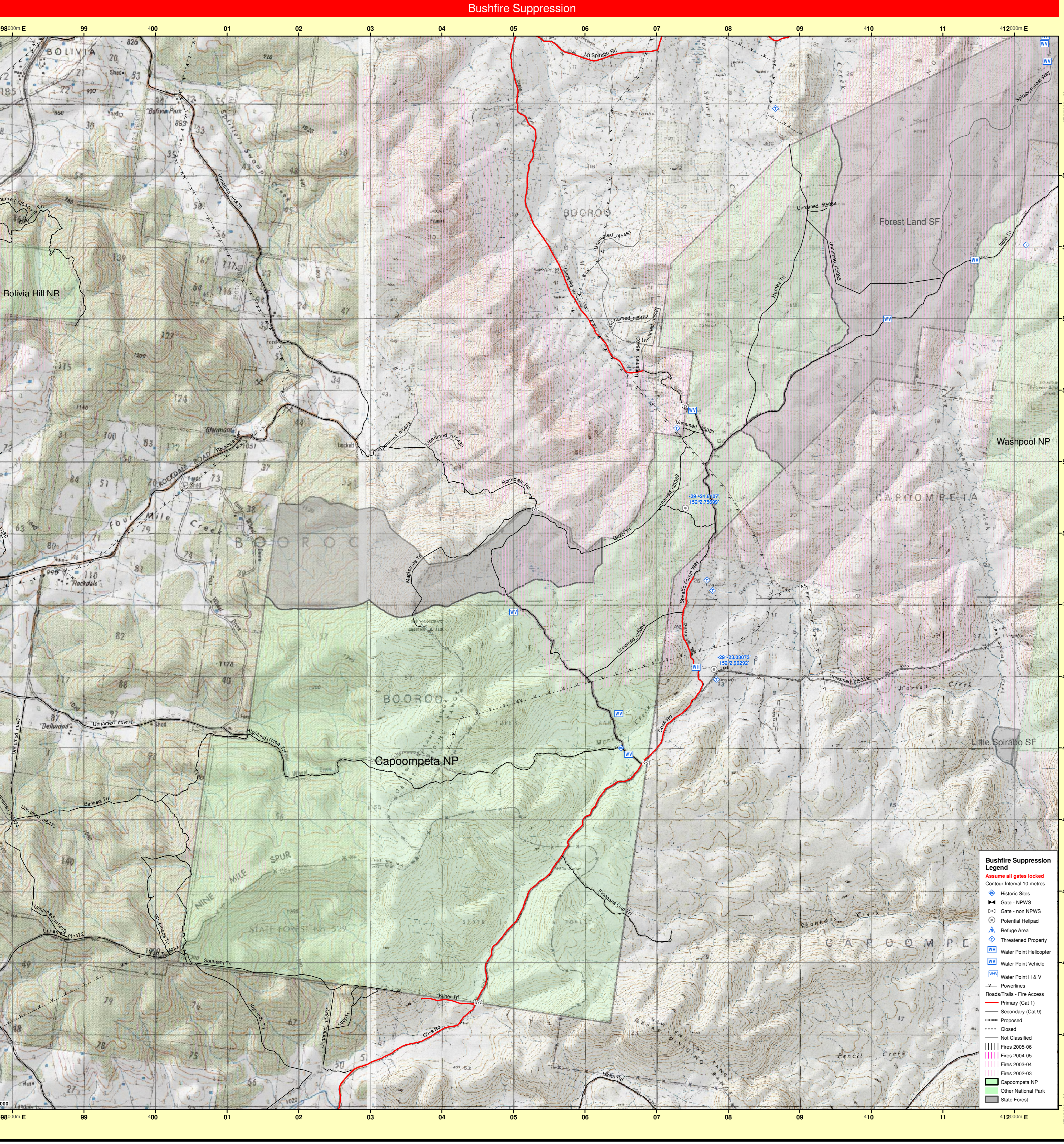
Fire Season Information	
Wildfires	Have been known to start as early as late August, but usually the potential for a large fire event is greatest between October and December. This period may extend into January in more severe years.
Prescribed Burning (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.7)	General season is Autumn to late Winter. Burning is possible in early Spring but not desirable on a regular basis from an ecological or tourism point of view.
Suppression Strategies	
Current FDR	Forecast FDR
Low - Mod	Low - Mod
Low - Mod	>> High
High	All
All	All



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:

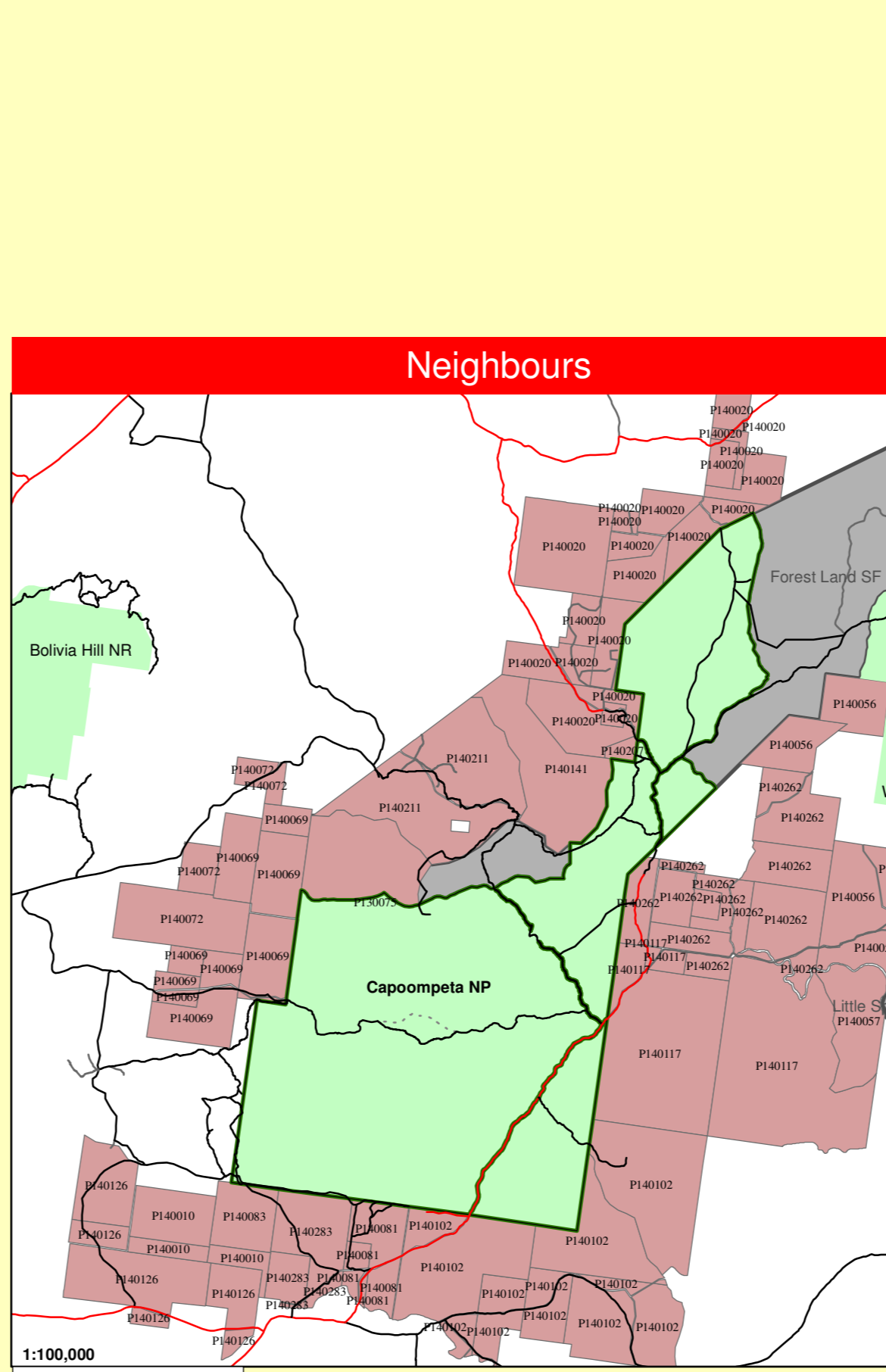
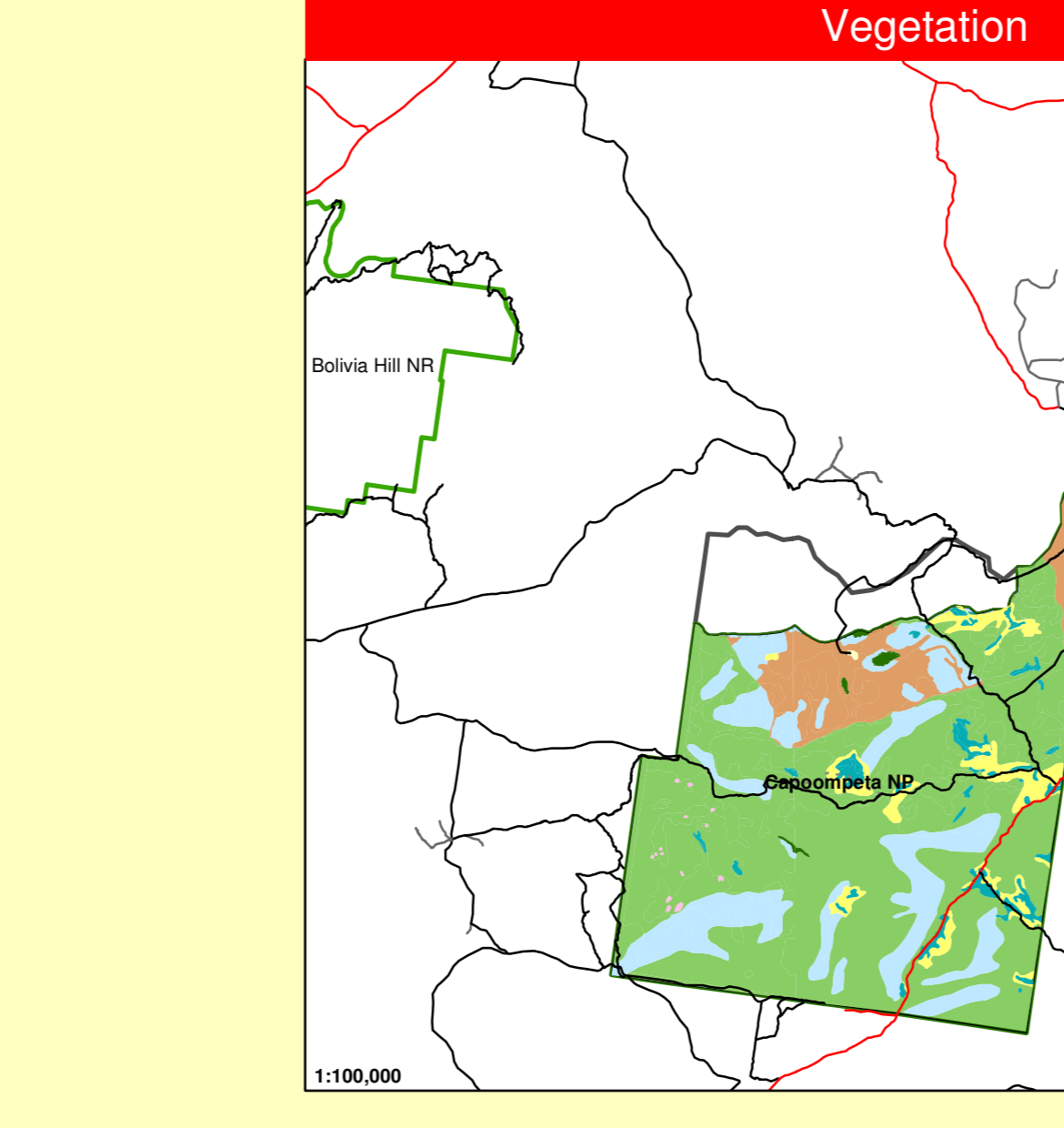
Resource	Guidelines
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management (NPWS FMM 4.11)	Brief all personnel involved in containment line construction and/or vehicle based fire suppression operations, on site locations and the required management strategies appropriate to the site type. Ensure close liaison with the relevant Sites Officer in order to check for &/or identify new sites. 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)	Brief all personnel involved in containment line construction and/or vehicle based fire suppression operations, on site locations and the required management strategies appropriate to the site type.
Threatened Fauna Management (NPWS FMM 4.12 & 5.2)	Brief all personnel involved in containment line construction and/or vehicle based fire suppression operations, on site locations and the required management strategies appropriate to the site type. Where practicable, protect habitat areas and trees from the fire if the effects of the resulting fire frequency, season or fire intensity will have a significant or unknown impact.
Threatened Flora Management (NPWS FMM 4.12)	Brief all personnel involved in containment line construction and/or vehicle based fire suppression operations, on site locations and the required management strategies appropriate to the site type. Where practicable, protect populations or individuals from fire if the fire frequency threshold has been exceeded, or the species is an obligate seeder (fire response category), or if the fire frequency threshold &/or fire response category is unknown. Where possible, protect old growth habitat trees.
Threatened Property	All property owners with assets at possible risk from a wildfire event will be: Kept informed regarding the progress of the fire, and Asked for an assessment of their current level of asset protection preparedness.
General	Guidelines 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 may be used during back burning or fuel reduction operations where practicable, but only with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer.
Aerial Ignition (NPWS FMM 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs 02 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	Temperature and humidity trends must be monitored carefully to determine the safest times to implement back burns. Generally, when the FDR is Very High or greater, backburning should commence when the humidity begins to rise in the late afternoon or early evening. With a lower FDR backburning may be safely undertaken during the day. Where practicable, clear a 1m radius around dead and fibrousarked 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.
Command & Control (NPWS FMM 4.2)	The first combatant 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 combatant agencies, the initial incident controller will consult with regard to the ongoing command, control and incident management team requirements as per the relevant BPMC Plan of Operation.
Containment Lines (NPWS FMM 2.2 & 3.9)	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 IMT 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 4.2.2 & 4.3)	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.
Fire Advantage Recording (NPWS FMM 4.2.2 & 4.9)	All fire advantages used during wildfire suppression operations must be mapped and where relevant added to the database. Writing 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 products name recorded. The Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed.
Rehabilitation (NPWS FMM 5.1)	Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
Smoke Management (NPWS FMM 3.4)	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 3.6 & 4.13)	The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations.



Fire Thresholds

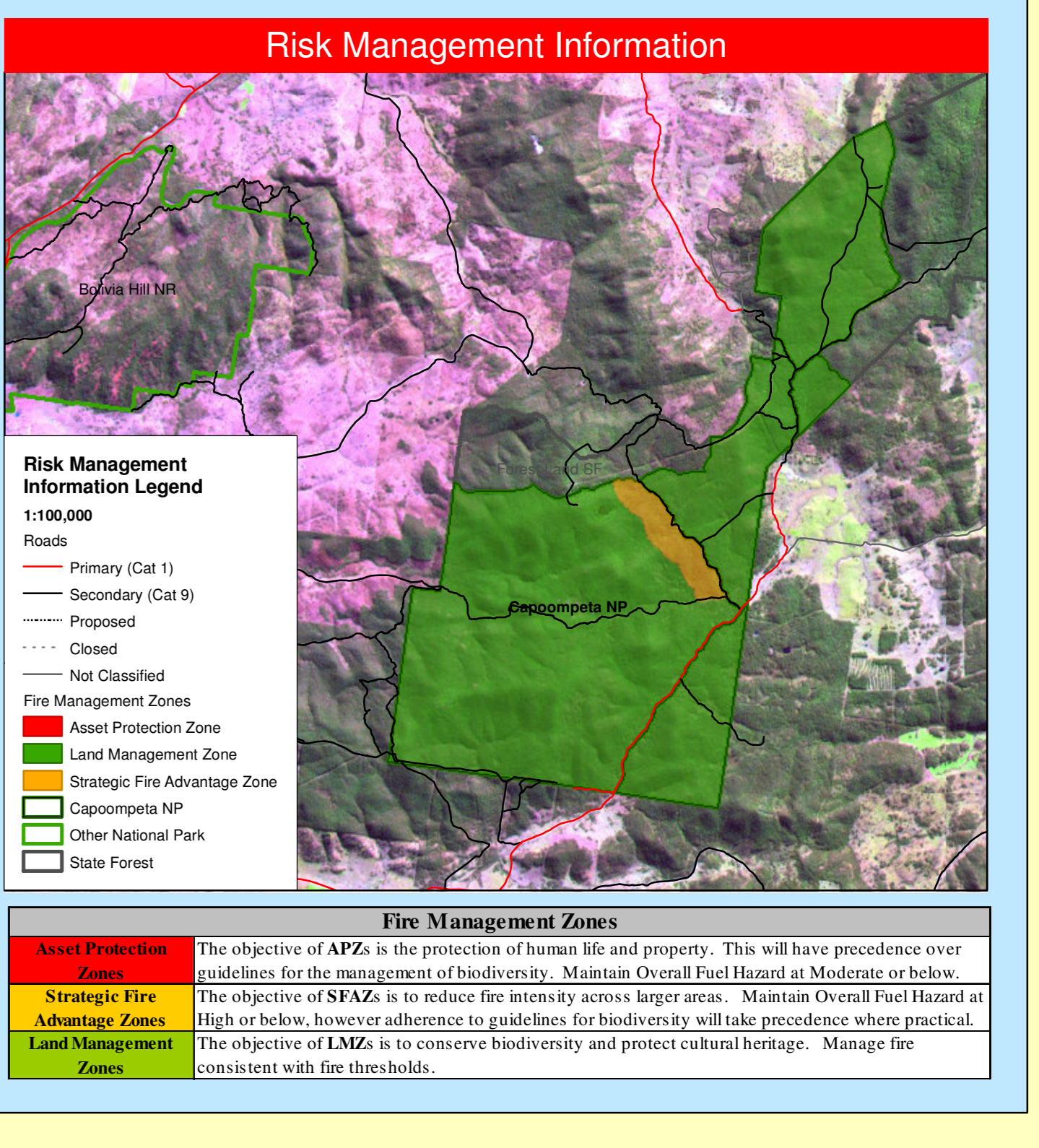
Threshold	Description
Overburnt	The thresholds have been exceeded. <i>Protect from fire as far as possible.</i>
Vulnerable	The area will be Overburnt if a burn this year. <i>Protect from fire as far as possible.</i>
Recently Burnt	Fire since fire is less than the optimum interval, but before that it was within threshold. <i>Avoid fires if possible.</i>
Within Threshold	Fire history is within the threshold for vegetation in this area. <i>A burn is neither required nor should one necessarily be avoided.</i>
Almost Underburnt	The area is close to its threshold and may become underburnt with the absence of fire. <i>A prescribed burn may be advantageous. Consider allowing unplanned fires to burn.</i>
Underburnt	Fire frequency is below the thresholds in the area. <i>A prescribed burn may be advantageous. Consider allowing unplanned fires to burn.</i>
Unknown	Insufficient data to determine fire threshold.

NR. Fire thresholds are defined for vegetation communities to conserve biodiversity.



Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
DEC - NPWS	Regional Duty Officer / After Hours	0428 345 789
	Area Manager	02 6736 4850
	Fire Management Officer	0409 221 405
		02 6736 0014
		0409 220 613
		02 6771 1894 (fax)
Tenterfield Area Office		02 6736 4298
		02 6736 4301 (fax)
Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Officer	Regional Office	02 6739 0721
		02 6771 1894 (fax)
Rural Fire Service	Fire Control Officer	02 6736 4150
	Tenterfield Fire Control Centre	0438 555 155
NSW Fire Brigade	Emergency	000
	Tenterfield Station	02 6736 3835
SES	Emergency	000
	Tenterfield Unit	02 6736 2923
Police	Emergency	000
	Tenterfield Station	02 6736 1144
Ambulance	Emergency	000
	Tenterfield Station	13 1233
Hospital	Tenterfield	02 6736 3144
	Armidale	02 6773 5299
DPI - FNSW	Casino - Bob Williams	02 6662 0900
Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC)	Tenterfield	02 6736 1744
		02 6736 2669 (fax)
	Moombahlene LALC	0412 524 016



Fire Management Zones

Zone	Description
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 or 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 heritage. Manage fire consistent with fire thresholds.

Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF		
NPWS - VHF (Fireground Comms)		
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	15	Stored at Glen Innes / transportable
RFS - PMR - UHF		
RFS - GRN		No service available in NTR
CB - UHF		As appropriate on the day
Aircraft - VHF	119.10	
Mobile Phone - CDMA		
Mobile Phone - GSM		
Satellite Phone	0147 166 331 stored at Tenterfield NPWS	