

**Careunga Nature Reserve
Fire Management Strategy
2013 - 2018**

This strategy should be used with aerial photography and field reconnaissance. This is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997. These data are not guaranteed to be free from error or omission. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife and its employees disclaim liability for any act done on the information in the data and any consequences of such acts or omissions. This document is copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of study, research criticism or review, as permitted under the copyright Act, no part may be reproduced by any process without written permission. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is part of the Office of Environment and Heritage. Published by: Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW). Contact: NPWS Northern Plains Region, PO Box 72 Narrabri NSW 2390. Ph 67927350

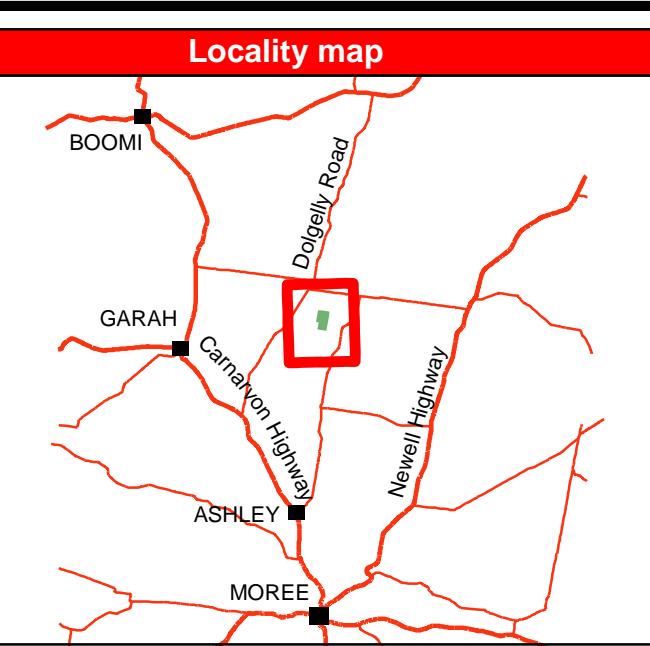
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Related and reference documents

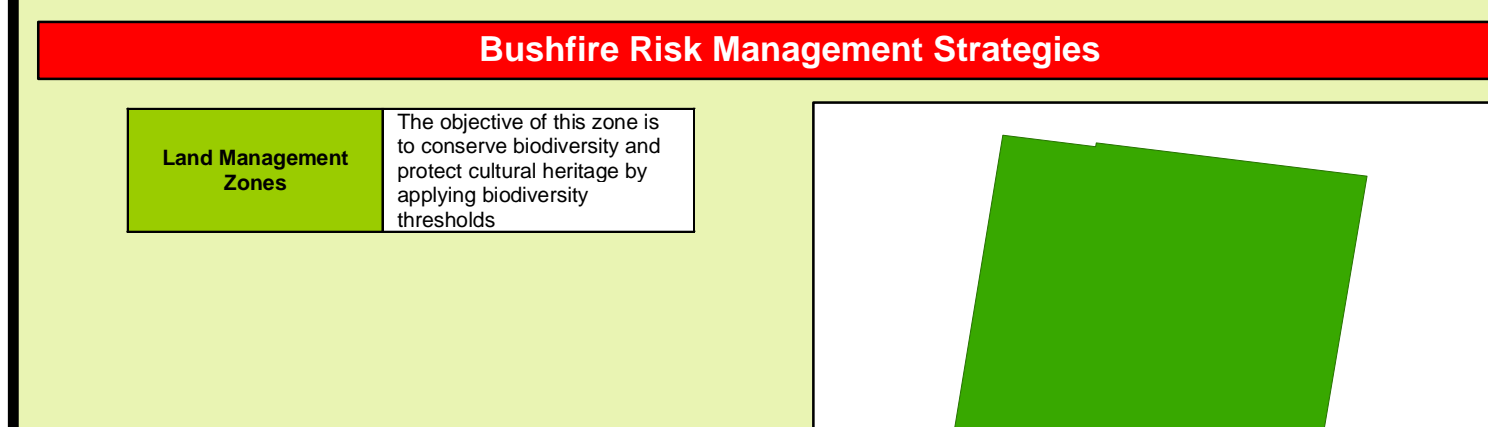
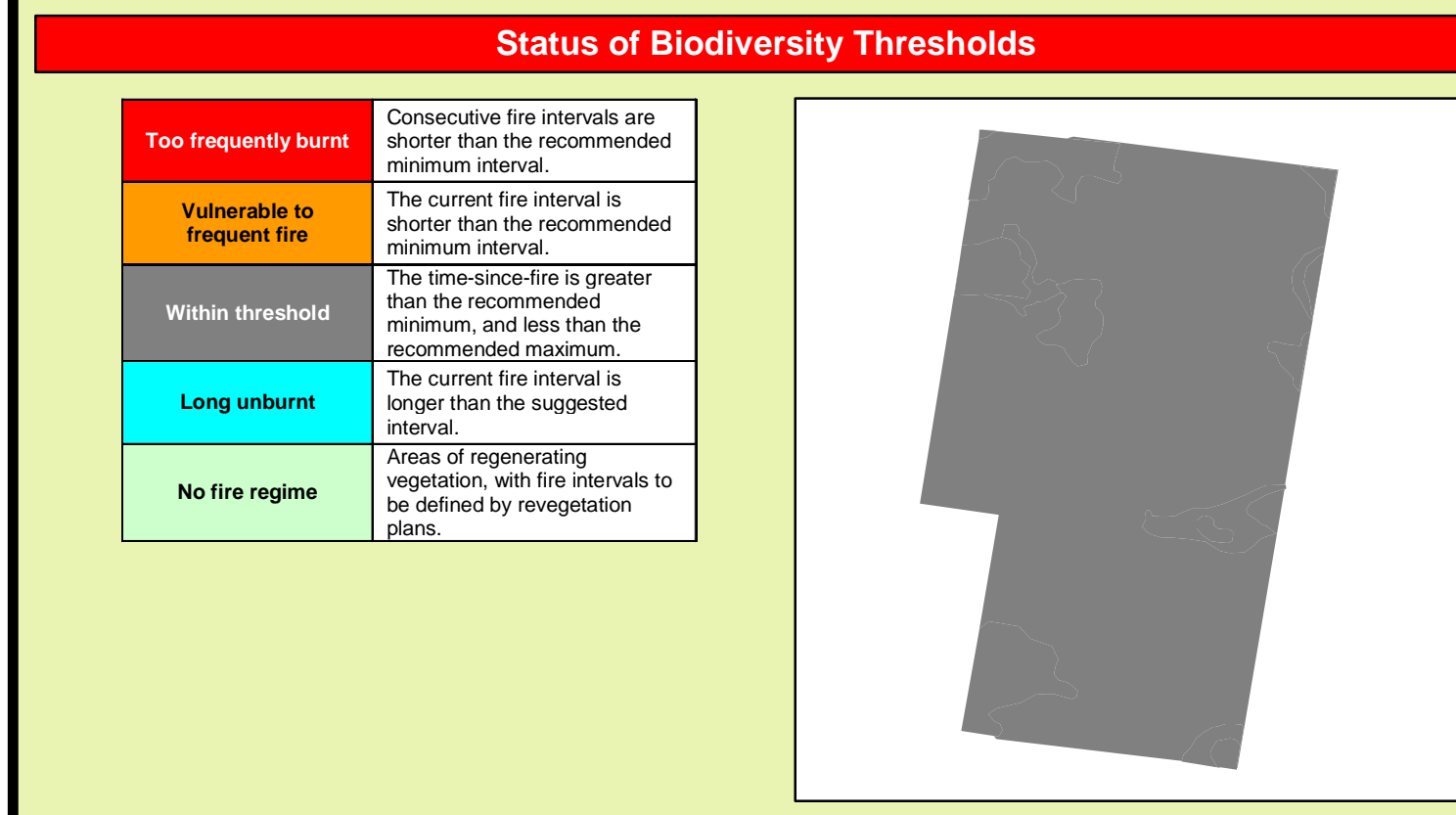
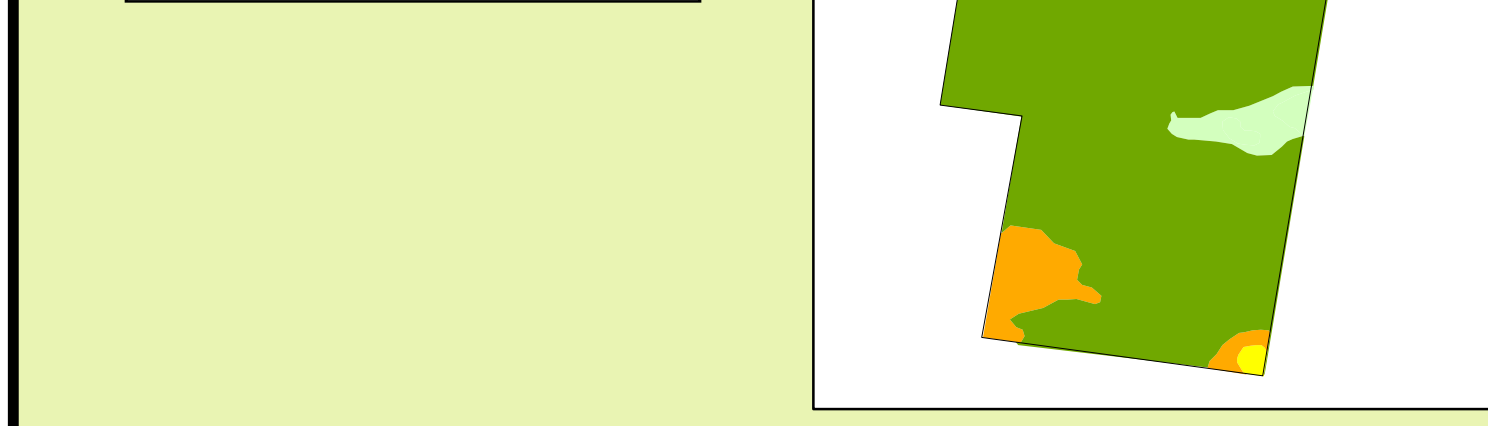
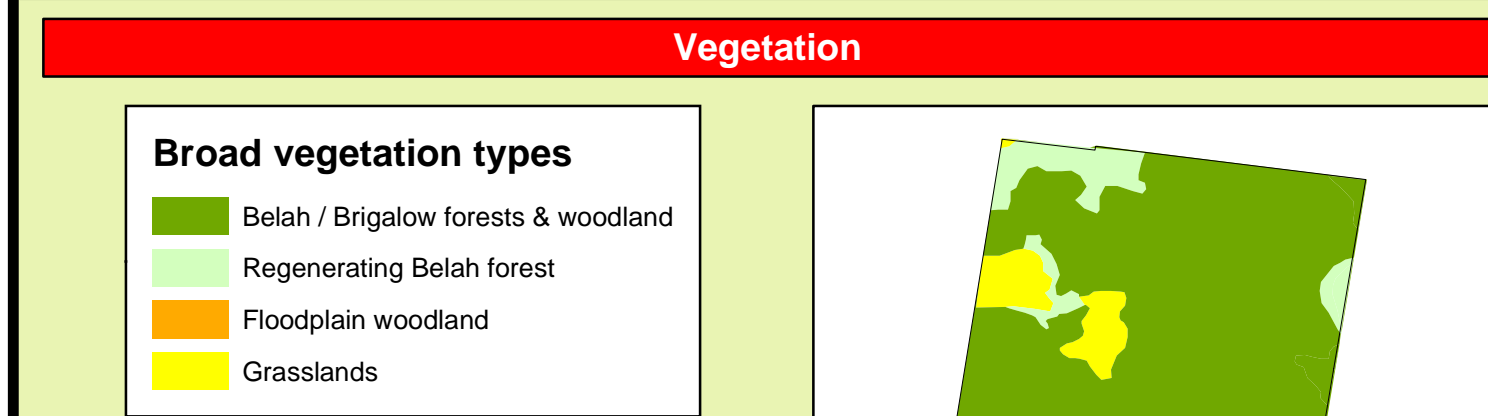
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (2011) Fire Management Manual
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (2004) Careunga Nature Reserve Plan of Management
- Hunter, JT (2006) Vegetation and floristics of Careunga Nature Reserve. Report to NSW NPWS

Communications Information		
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS VHF	17	• Fireground simplex only
RFS	P070	• Moree
UHF - CB		• Small fires - Channel 10
Aviation	127.4	• Large fires - determined by IMT
Cellphone		• CTAF - Moree (50 km)
		• Telstra 3G coverage available

Contact Information		
Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Duty Officer (24 hour)	6792 4680
	Narrabri Office (bus. hours)	6792 7300
NSW RFS Namoi-Gwydir Zone	Zone Manager	0427 101 124
	Duty Officer	6792 3667
RFS Rural Fire Brigades	Ashley - Geoff Worgan	6754 2218
	Garah - Graham Gainey	6754 3240
NSW Fire Brigade	Newcastle	4929 7177
Emergency Services	Police, Fire, Ambulance	000
SES	Moree	13 2500
Police	Moree	6752 9499
Council	Moree Plains	6757 3222



Map details		
Date:	GDA 1984	Projection: MGA 1984
Map Base:	Spot 5 2005	Map Zone: 55
Topographic Map:	1:50k - Mapsheet name & no.	
North Scale:	True when printed on A1 size paper	
Local Government Area: Moree Plains		



Fire Season Information

Wildfires	The critical wildfire season in the broad locality of the reserves is likely to occur: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> after a prolonged period of above average rainfall, leading to prolific grass growth; and during the period November to January when there is a higher incidence of lightning. The reserve is considered to pose a low risk of bushfire hazard.
Prescribed Burning	Prescribed burning is not proposed for Careunga Nature Reserve because of its low flammability, and LOW Overall Fuel Hazard.

Operational Guidelines

General Guidelines	
Aerial operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aerial operations will be managed by trained and competent personnel. The use of bombing aircraft should be with ground based suppression crews, in most situations. All aerial ignition operations require the consent of a NPWS Senior Officer or the Section 44 Appointee.
Backburning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All personnel must be fully briefed before back burning operations begin.
Command & Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Operations.
Containment Lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS Officer. Construction of new containment lines should be avoided. All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on, and must consider both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location. All containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed immediately at the cessation of the incident.
Earthmoving Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS Officer. Graders may be used to "sweep" existing fire trails. Heavy machinery is excluded from all areas, other than existing fire trails. Light plant, such as Bobcats and Positraks may be used to construct low impact control lines. Plant must be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS estate and again on exiting NPWS estate.
Fire Suppression Chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of foam, gels and retardants will NOT be permitted within 50 metres of dams and gilgais holding water. The aerial application use foam, gels and retardants requires the approval of a NPWS Senior Officer.
Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
Watering points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider deployment of a bulk water carrier to support fire operations.
Smoke Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential smoke impacts and mitigation tactics will be assessed during the planning of fire operations.
Visitor Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This reserve is closed to visitors.
WARNINGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black soil plains - High risk of bogging after rain events. Gilgais and melonholes in black soil country - This significantly reduces vehicle speeds.

Operational Guidelines - Heritage

Resource Guidelines	
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management	No Aboriginal sites have been recorded in these reserves
Threatened Flora and Fauna Management	Endangered ecological communities - Brigalow Forests and woodlands, Myall Floodplain woodlands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of control lines with heavy plant not permitted

Vegetation management

Vegetation Community	Management guidelines	Fire Behaviour
Brigalow / Belah forests & woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An interval between fire events less than 20 years should be avoided. No maximum interval is applied. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread would be low due to Low OFH
Open floodplain woodland Grassland Waving Myall Quarried Blue Grass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum interval between fire events should be greater than 2 years, with an optimum interval between 5 - 7 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread dependant on seasonal conditions A Low OFH occurs during dry seasons A Moderate - High OFH may develop after successive wet seasons producing continuous cover

OFH - Overall fuel hazard - A rating system that measures leaf litter, grasses, shrubs, bark type and bark condition. Consists of ratings for surface fuel, near-surface fuel, elevated fuel and bark.

Suppression Strategies

Careunga Nature Reserve is a small conservation reserve. Its conservation value would be seriously damaged with the construction of wide containment lines with earth-moving machinery. Belah and Brigalow woodlands have a low potential fire behaviour, and direct or parallel attack has a high probability of success.

Conditions & forecast	Guidelines
LOW - SEVERE FDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct or parallel attack by ground crews supported by light machinery
EXTREME - CATASTOPHIC FDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A broad containment strategy using existing tracks, low fuel areas and open areas.

