

**Northern Rivers Region  
Couchy Creek Nature Reserve  
Fire Management Strategy (Type 2)  
2007**  
Sheet 1 of 1

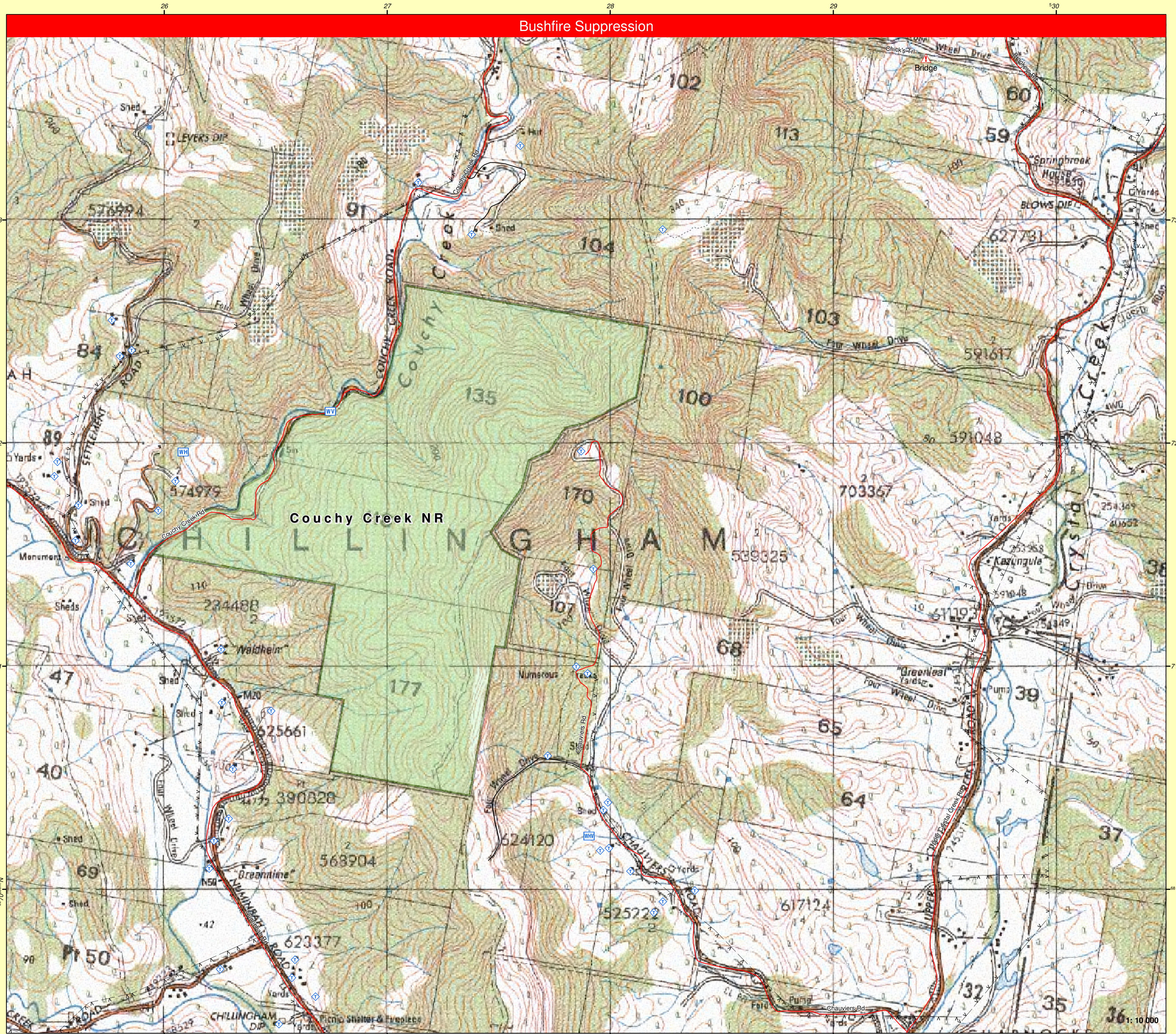
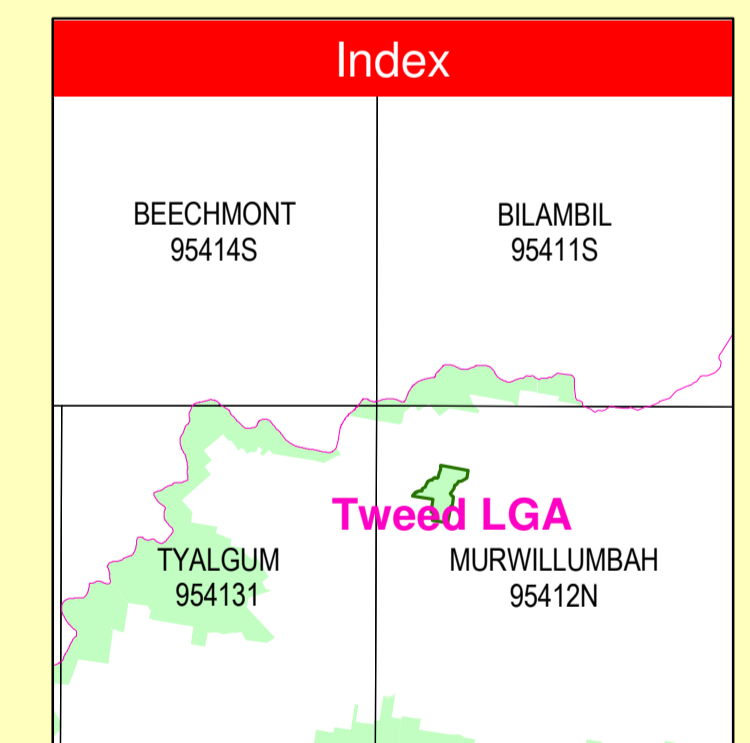
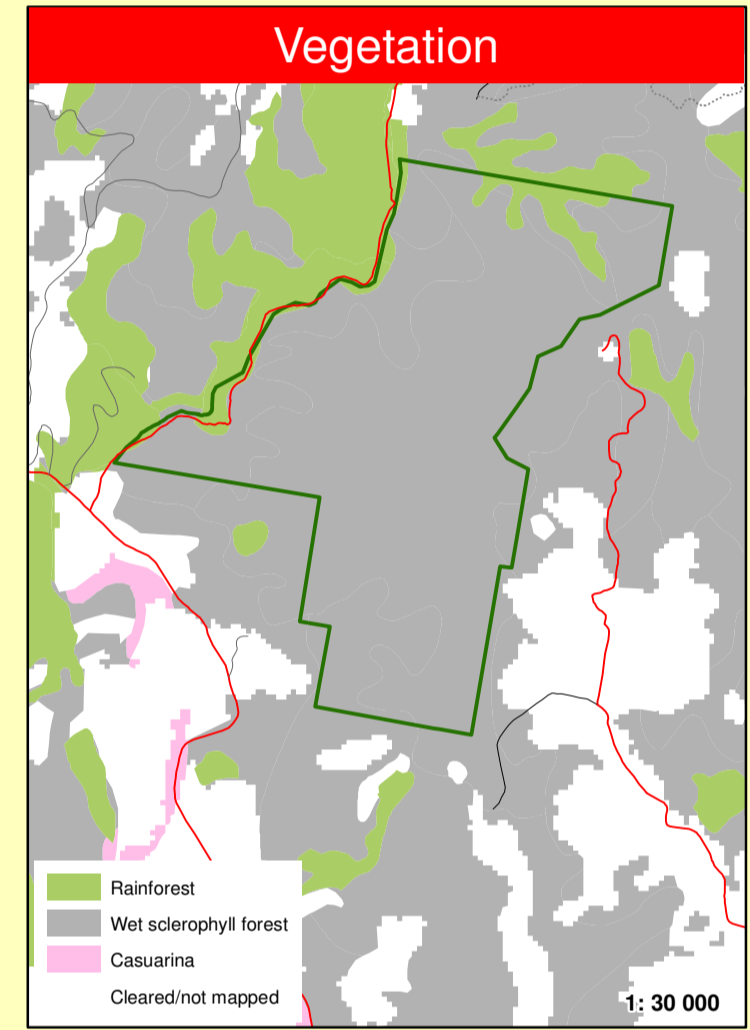


This strategy should be used in conjunction with aerial photography and field reconnaissance during incidents and the development of incident action plans. These data are not guaranteed to be free from error or omission. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife and its employees disclaim liability for any 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 Department of Environment and Conservation. Published by the Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW), April 2007. Contact: NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Northern Rivers Region, PO Box 856 Alstonville 2477. ISBN: 978 1 74122 430 6 DEC Number: 2007/185 Last Updated: 16 April 2007

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



Communications Information		
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	8	Mount Nardi
NPWS - VHF (Fireground Comms)	40	Fireground chat channel (single frequency) monitors channel 8
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeaters)	13	Blue Code. Stored at Kyogle Depot / transportable.
RFS - PMR - UHF	50	Mount Nardi
RFS - GRN	-	No service available.
CB - UHF	-	To be confirmed with RFS brigade captain on the day.
Aircraft - VHF	125.45 MHz	Or as directed by Incident Controller or Air Operations.
Mobile Phone - CDMA	Partial	Generally poor coverage.

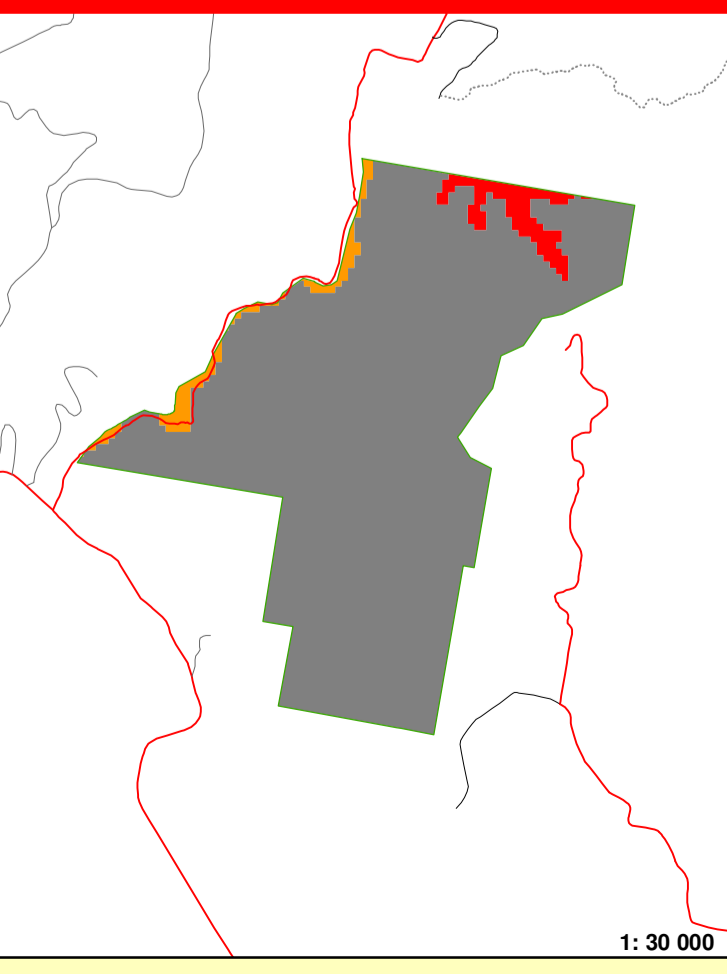


**Operational Guidelines**

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
<b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.11)	Aboriginal sites are not shown on this version. Vulnerable sites will be shown on the operational version of this strategy following consultation with the Aboriginal Community.
<b>Historic Heritage Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.10)	No known sites in Reserve. If new sites located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
<b>Threatened Fauna Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.12 & 5.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid impact on rainforest and streams</li> <li>Protect large and hollow-bearing trees and logs and timber bridges</li> </ul>
<b>Threatened Flora Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid impact on rainforest and streams.</li> </ul>
<b>Threatened Property</b>	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.
<b>General</b>	<b>Guidelines</b>
<b>Aerial Water Bombing</b> (NPWS FMM 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2 / 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> <li>Avoid ignition of backburns at the bottom of slopes where a long and intense up slope burn is likely.</li> </ul>
<b>Command &amp; Control</b>	<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>
<b>Containment Lines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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)	The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations.

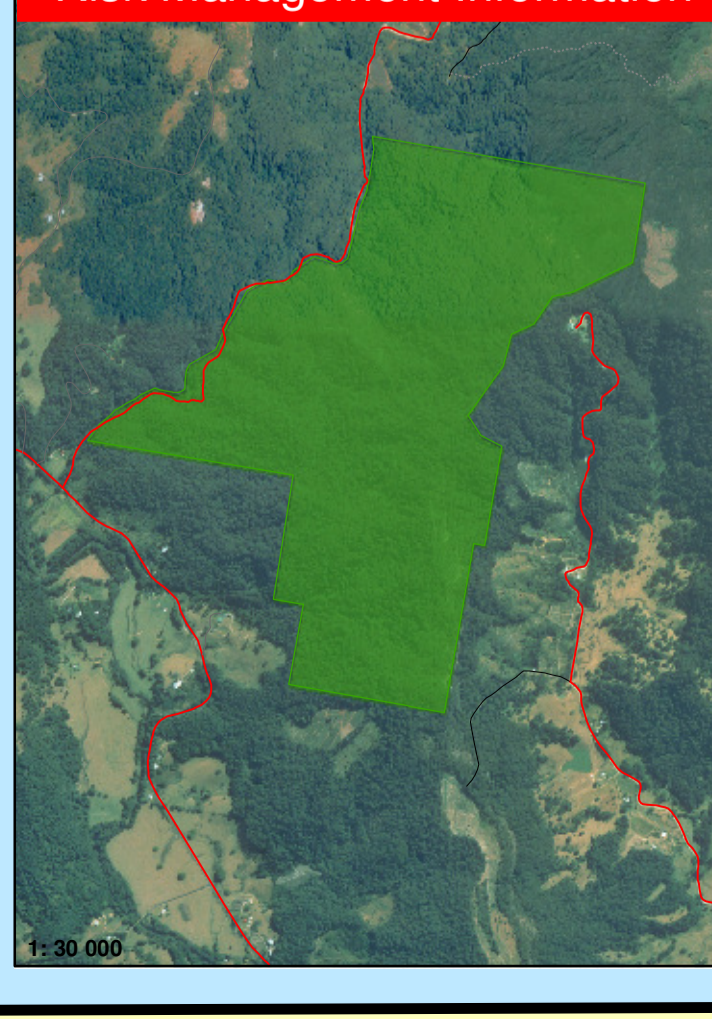
**Status of Fire Thresholds**



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

*NB. Fire thresholds are defined for vegetation communities*

**Risk Management Information**



Fire Management Zones		
<b>Asset Protection Zones</b>	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.	
<b>Strategic Fire Advantage Zones</b>	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.	
<b>Land Management Zones</b>	The objective of LMZs is to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural heritage. Manage fire consistent with fire thresholds.	
	<b>Zone</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
	Couchy Creek NR 217 ha	Refer to fire thresholds map and table as part of decision making process regarding suppressing or applying fire.

Contact Information	
Agency	Position / Location
NPWS	NRR Regional Office - Alstonville
	Tweed Area Office
	Tweed Area Depot
	Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Officer
Rural Fire Service	Duty Officer
	Tweed Fire Control Centre
Emergency	All emergency services
NSW Fire Brigade	Murwillumbah - General business
Police	Police Assistance Line
	Murwillumbah
Ambulance	All other bookings
Hospital	Lismore Base Hospital
SES	Murwillumbah
	Emergencies
Council	Tweed Shire Council
	(AH) 1800 818 326
Country Energy	Country Energy
Aboriginal contacts	Tweed Byron LALC

Strategy Information	
<b>Fire Season Information</b>	
<b>Wildfires</b>	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.
<b>Prescribed Burning</b> (NPWS FMM 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.
<b>Suppression Strategies</b>	
<b>Current FDR</b>	<b>Forecast FDR</b>
Low - Mod	Low - Mod
Low - Mod	= > High
High	All
All	All

Contour interval 10m  
Datum: AGD66  
Projection: UTM  
Grid: AMG Zone 56J  
Noted scales are true on A1 paper