

**Couradda National Park  
Community Conservation Area Zone 1  
Fire Management Strategy  
2015-2020**

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.

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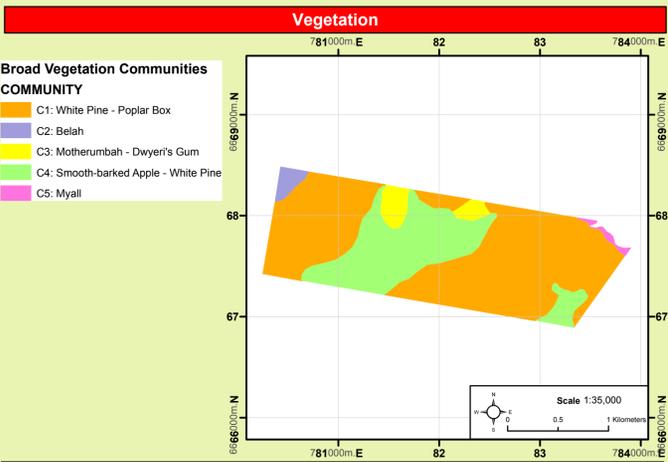
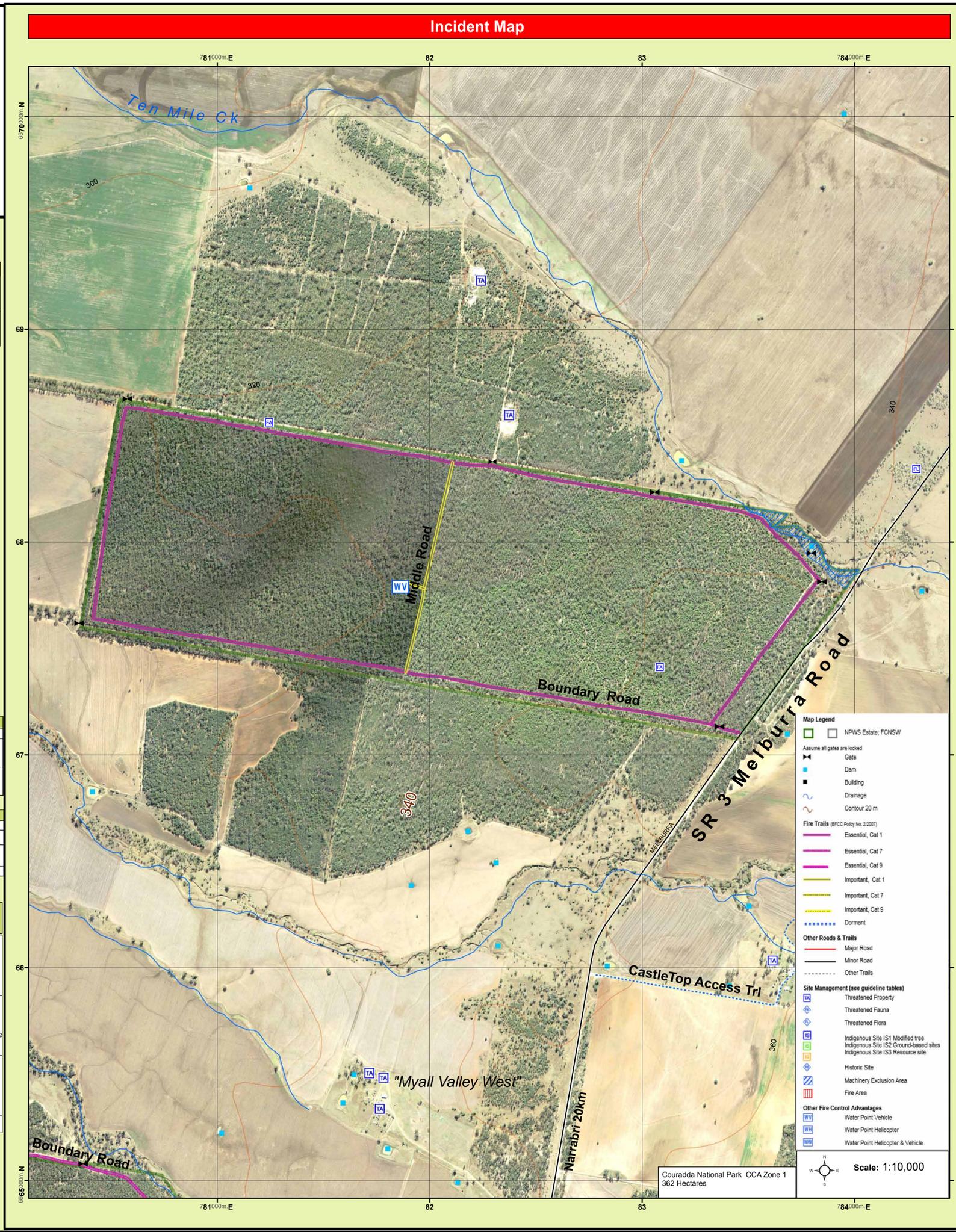
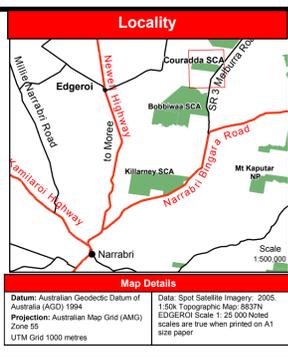
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Contact Information		
Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Duty Officer (24 hour)	6792 4680
	Narrabri Area Office (bus. hours)	6792 7300
NSW Rural Fire Service Namoi Zone	Michael Brooks	0427 101 124
	Duty Officer	6799 6707
	Zone Office	6799 6707
NSW Fire Brigade	Grattai Brigade - Nigel Guest	6793 8627 / 0429938627
	Brooklyn Brigade - Phillip O'Regan	0429 938 643
Emergency Services	Newcastle Comms Centre	4929 7177
	SES	13 2500
Police	Narrabri	6792 7199
	Narrabri	6799 6866

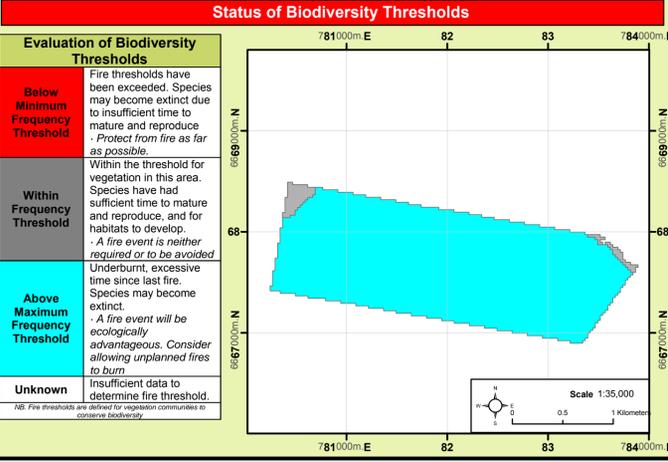
Communications Information		
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS Repeaters	29	• The Tops
RFS	90	• The Governor
RFS Stratnet	98 / F069	• The Governor
UHF - CB	128 / S12STN	• The Governor
Parks Radio	11-17	• Small fires channel 10, large fires determined by IMT
Aviation - CTAF	126.7	• NPWS Fireground channels 1-7
Mobile phone		• Telstra - available in most areas



Related Documents	
National Parks and Wildlife Service Fire Management Manual, 2015.	J. T. Hunter, 2008, Vegetation & Floristics of Moema national Park.

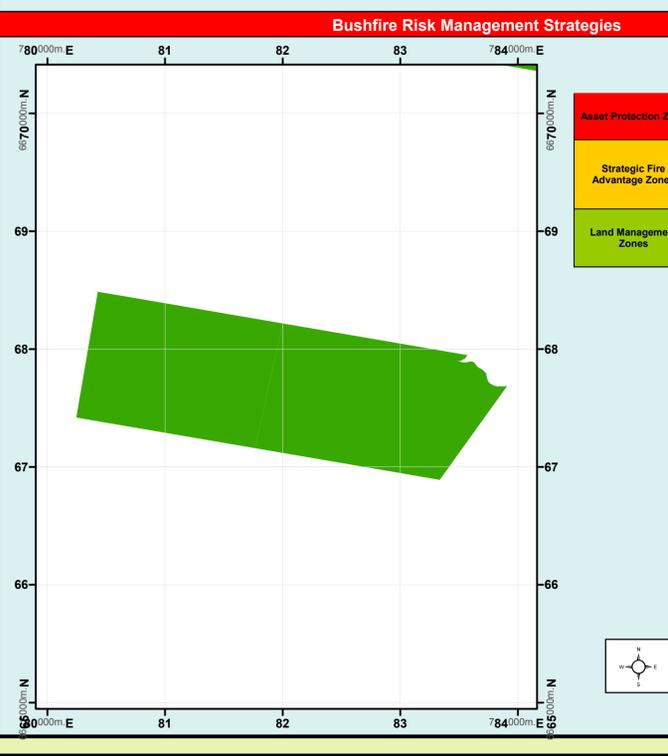
Fire Season Information	
<b>Wildfires</b>	The critical wildfire season occurs during November and December. This period may extend into the first half of January. Particular care is required during periods of negative Southern Oscillation Indices. The end of the critical fire season is often marked by wet storm activity.
<b>Prescribed Burning</b>	Prescribed burning should be undertaken before autumn rain occurs to maximise effectiveness. Burning may also be considered during late winter and early spring dependent on seasonal factors. Prescribed burning undertaken near the commencement of the statutory bushfire season should be fully contained.

Operational Guidelines	
General	Guidelines
<b>Aerial operations</b>	<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> </ul>
<b>Backburning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All personnel must be fully briefed before back burning operations begin.</li> <li>Backburning in areas of Low - Moderate OFH will require the use of wind, or low humidity to maximise effectiveness.</li> <li>Where practicable to mop-up efforts, clear a 1m radius around dead and fibrous barked trees adjacent to containment lines prior to backburning, or wet down these trees during the ignition.</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 relevant land management agency is notified promptly.</li> <li>On the arrival of other combatant agencies, the Initial Incident Controller will liaise with the RFS to ensure that the agency in command and control is determined and an Incident Controller is appointed.</li> <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>Containment lines running along valley areas should be constructed at 20-50 metres from the gullyline to avoid severe erosion.</li> <li>No containment lines to be constructed in the Myall vegetation community or in that area marked as machinery exclusion due to the probability of cultural sites occurring.</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> </ul>
<b>Containment Lines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earthmoving equipment may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS Officer.</li> <li>Light blading techniques should be used to minimise soil disturbance and soil erosion potential. Where possible, sick rakes should be fitted.</li> <li>Earthmoving machinery should not work off existing tracks in machinery exclusion areas due to threatened species and/or the likelihood of cultural sites being impacted.</li> <li>Earthmoving equipment 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>Earthmoving equipment must be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS estate and again on exiting NPWS estate.</li> </ul>
<b>Earthmoving Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The use of foam, wetting agents and retardants will be permitted on the reserve.</li> <li>Fire suppression chemicals are not to be applied within 50m of water courses, dams and swamps.</li> <li>The use of retardants requires the approval of the Regional Manager or delegate.</li> </ul>
<b>Fire Suppression Chemicals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.</li> </ul>
<b>Rehabilitation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider deployment of a bulk water carrier for fire operations.</li> </ul>
<b>Watering points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential smoke impacts and mitigation tactics will be assessed during the planning of fire operations.</li> </ul>
<b>Smoke Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during fire operations.</li> </ul>
<b>Visitor Management</b>	



Operational Guidelines Continued	
Resource	Guidelines
<b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No sites have been identified in the reserve to date.</li> <li>Earthmoving machinery should not work off existing tracks in areas shown as machinery exclusion.</li> </ul>
<b>Threatened Fauna and Flora Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Machinery should be excluded from areas with C6 Myall woodland.</li> <li>The protective actions for threatened fauna have been incorporated into the Operational Guidelines.</li> </ul>

Suppression Strategies	
Conditions & forecast	Guidelines
Fire danger rating <b>LOW - HIGH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A broad containment strategy using existing roads, tracks, rocky areas and recently burnt areas.</li> </ul>
Fire danger rating <b>VERY HIGH - EXTREME</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider direct or parallel attack with plant and fire units.</li> <li>Secure flank as soon as possible on the next predicted downwind side.</li> </ul>
Catastrophic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revert to property protection.</li> </ul>



Vegetation Communities and Biodiversity Thresholds		
<b>Floodplain forest and woodland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An interval between fire events less than 20 years should be avoided.</li> <li>No prescribed burning to be conducted.</li> <li>Exclude use of machinery from C5 Myall woodland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential rates of spread is low due to <b>Low - Moderate OFH</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Communities C2 &amp; C5</b>	<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 a fire free period 30 - 50 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential rates of spread is low due to <b>Low - Moderate OFH</b>.</li> <li>Localised areas of <b>High OFH</b> may produce restricted areas of higher fire intensity.</li> </ul>
<b>White Pine / Ironbark / Box Woodland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An interval between fire events less than 15 years and greater 40 years should be avoided.</li> <li>A high intensity fire may be permitted after a fire free period 25 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential rate of spread is highest in areas of Angophora with <b>High OFH</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Motherum / Red Gum Woodland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An interval between fire events less than 15 years and greater 40 years should be avoided.</li> <li>A high intensity fire may be permitted after a fire free period 25 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential rate of spread is highest in areas of Angophora with <b>High OFH</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Communities C3 &amp; C4</b>		
<b>OFH - Overall fuel hazard - A rating system that includes leaf litter, grasses, shrubs, bark type and bark condition</b>		