

Office of Environment & Heritage
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service

Fladbury SCA
Fire Management Strategy
2009
<mapsheet 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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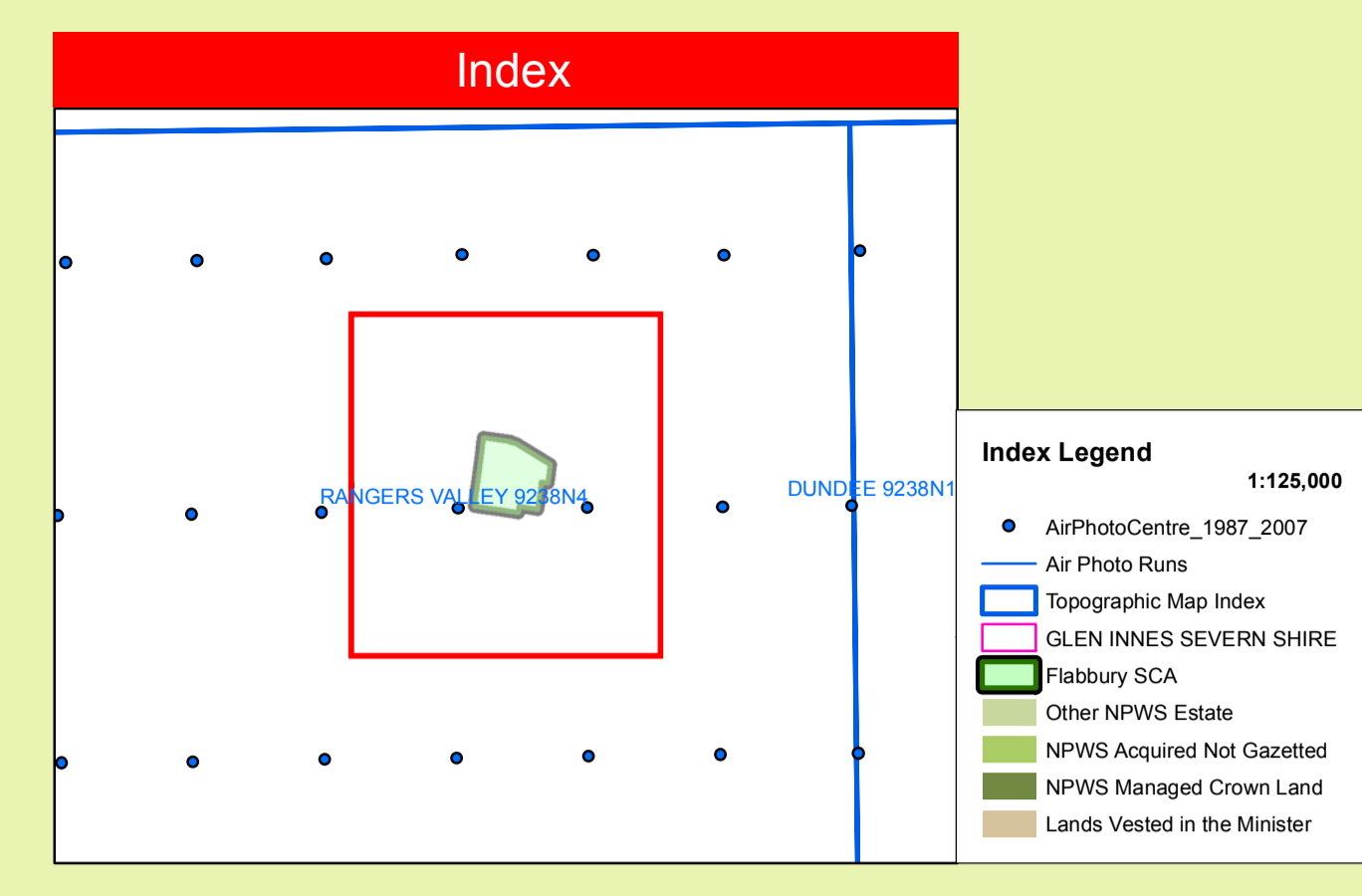
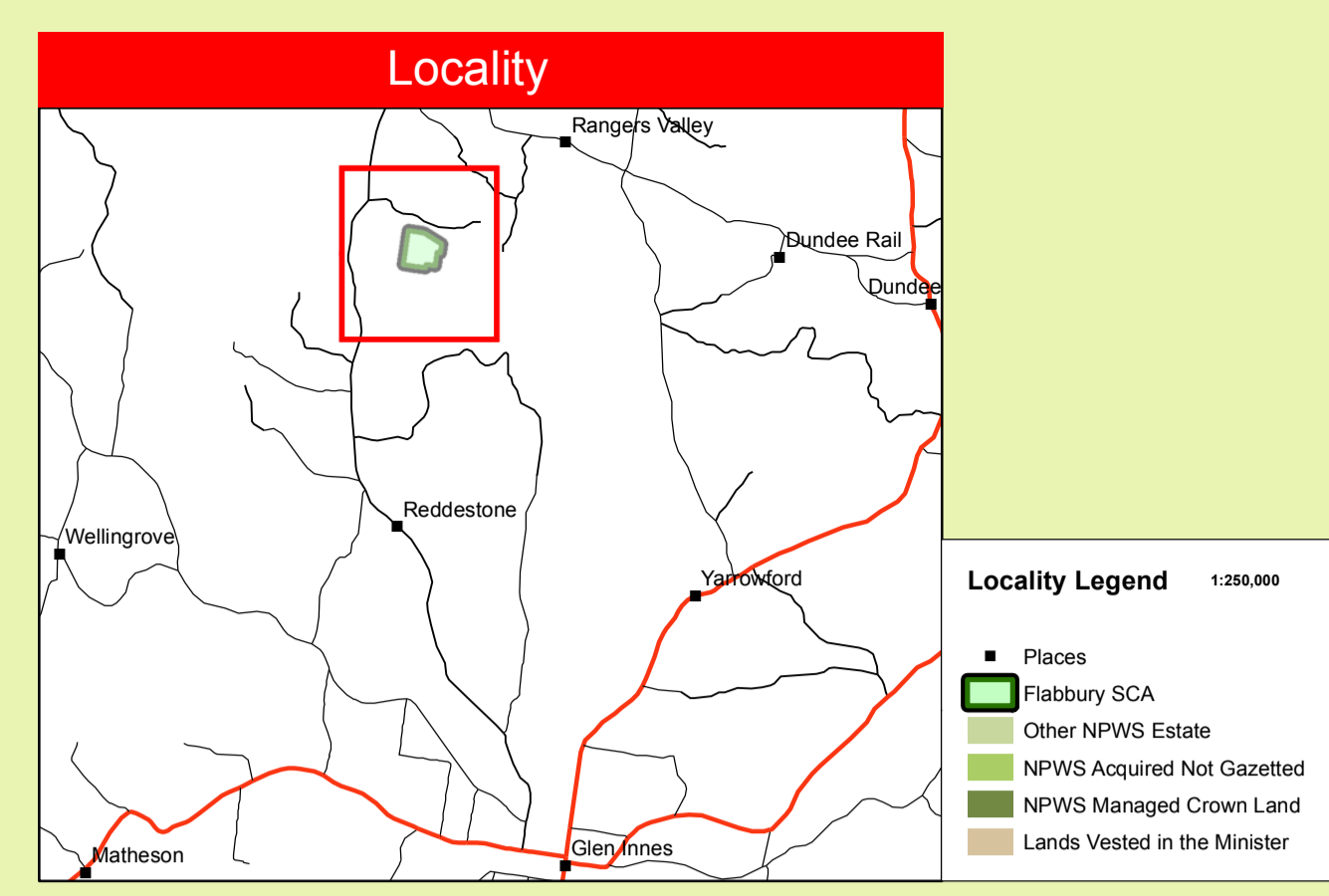
This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997.

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Datum: GDA 94 Projection: UTM Grid: MGA Zone 56 Noted scales are true when this map is reproduced on A1 size paper

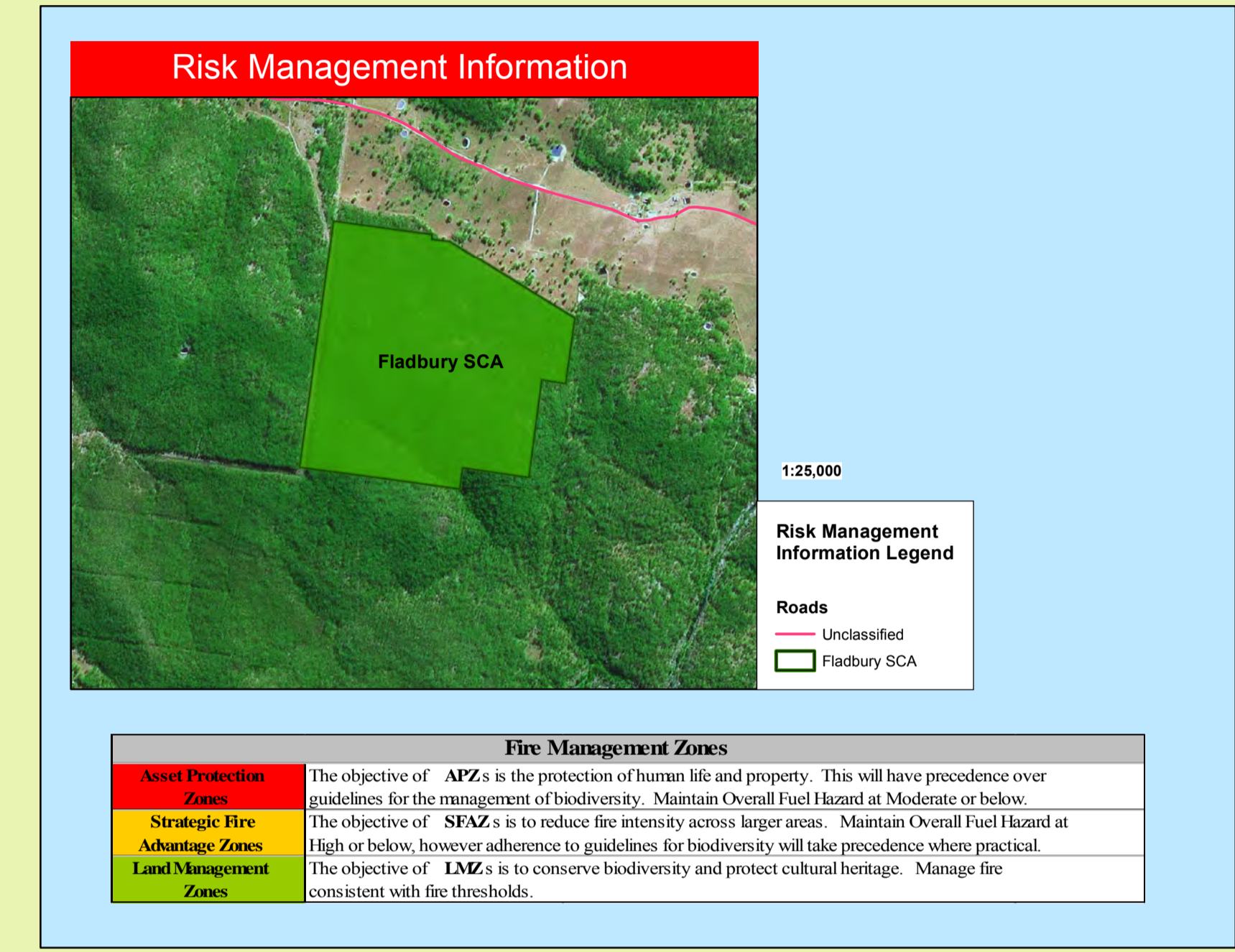
Assume all gates locked Contour interval 10 metres



Operational Guidelines

Refer to Strategy for Fire Management 2003 and Fire Management Manual 2007.
Brief all personnel involved in suppression operations on the following issues:

Resource	Guidelines
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management (NPWS FMM 4.11)	• Ensure close liaison with the relevant Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Officer in order to check for &/or identify new sites.
Historic Heritage Management (NPWS FMM 4.12)	• Brief all personnel involved in containment line construction &/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 &/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 intensity will have a significant or unknown impact. • As far as possible, protect large and hollow bearing trees. • Avoid the use of retardants and chemicals in drainage and creek line areas.
Threatened Flora Management (NPWS FMM 4.12 & 5.1)	• Brief all personnel involved in containment line construction &/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
Aerial Water Bombing (NPWS FMM 4.5 & 5.1 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	• The use of bombing aircraft should support containment operations by aggressively attacking hotspots and spotovers. • 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 (NPWS FMM 4.8 & 4.5 & 2.12 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2-4 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	• Aerial ignition may be used during fuel reduction and backburning operations where practicable, but only with the prior consent of the senior NPWS officer.
Backburning (NPWS FMM 4.8)	• Temperature and humidity trends must be monitored carefully to determine the safest times to implement backburns. Generally, when the FDI is Very High or greater, backburning should commence when the humidity begins to rise in the late afternoon or early evening. With a lower FDI backburning may be safely undertaken during the day. • Where practicable, 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. • 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 4.3)	• 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 BFMC Plan of Operations.
Containment Lines (NPWS FMM 2.3 & 4.9)	• 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 4.4 & 2.3)	• 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 it 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	• All fire advantages used during wildfire suppression operations must be mapped and where relevant added to the database.
Fire Suppression Chemicals (NPWS FMM 4.5 & 4.10)	• Wetting 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 product's name recorded. • Observe the Threatened Species Operational Guidelines.
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 2.10)	• 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 2.13 & 3.4)	• The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations.



First Response Communications Plan – Fladbury SCA

Service	Channel	Incident	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	331	IMT to Div Com	Mnt Ross
NPWS - VHF	631	Fireground	Car to Car channel (all classes)
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	24	Fireground	Stored at Glen Innes (Transportable). Source and deploy as required.
RFS - PMR - UHF		IMT to Div Com	
Forests NSW - VHF		Fireground	
CB - UHF	15	Fireground	Channel as appropriate. (Div Com, CL to Contractors)
Aircraft - VHF	119.10	IMT - Aircraft	
Mobile Phone – Next G	Yes	IMT – Div Com	On high ground
Satellite Phone	0147162100	IMT – Div Com	Stored at Glen Innes

Strategy Information

Fire Season Information

Wildfires

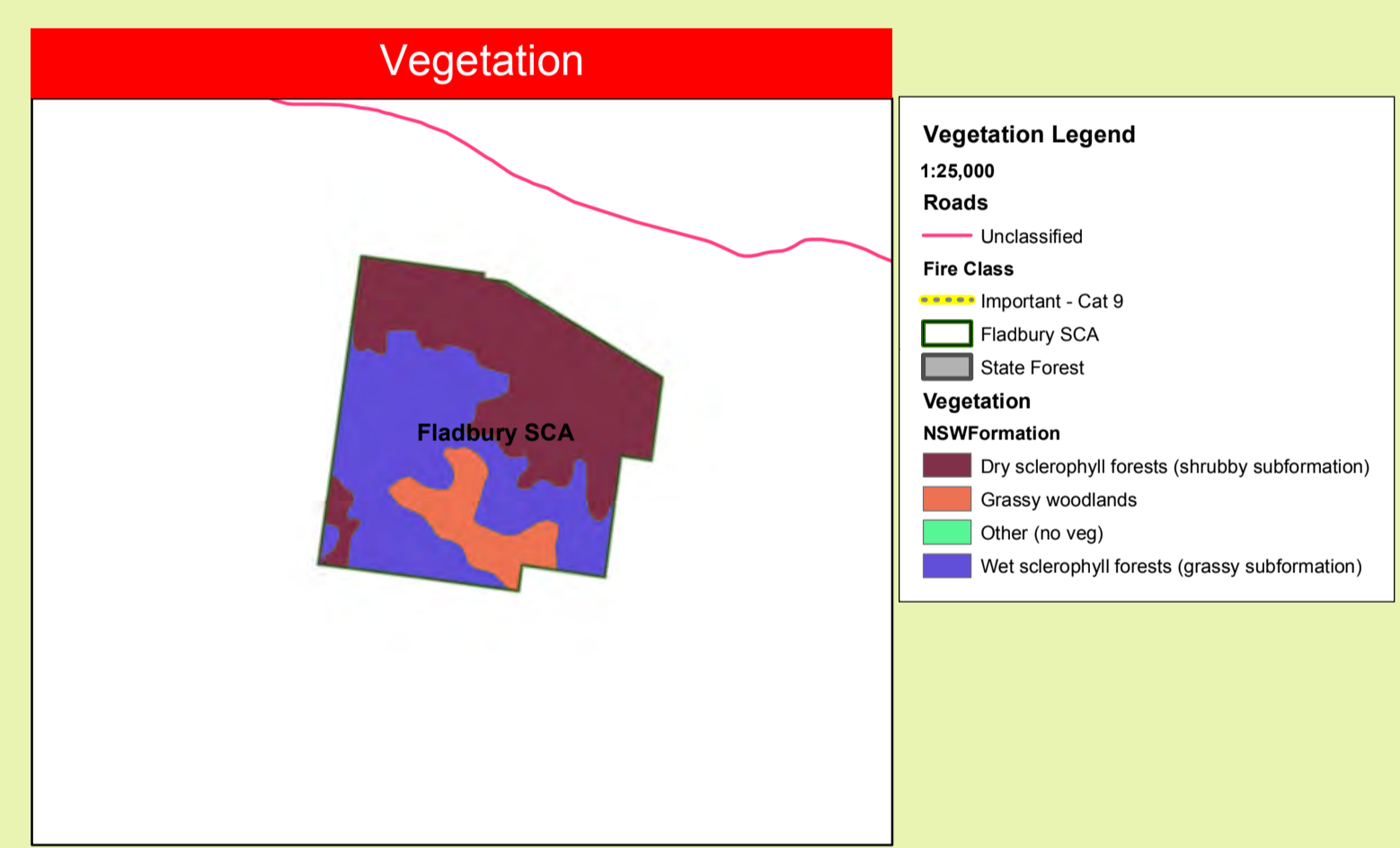
- Have been known to start as early as late August, but usually the potential for a large fire event is greatest between October and December. This period may extend into January in more severe years.

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.

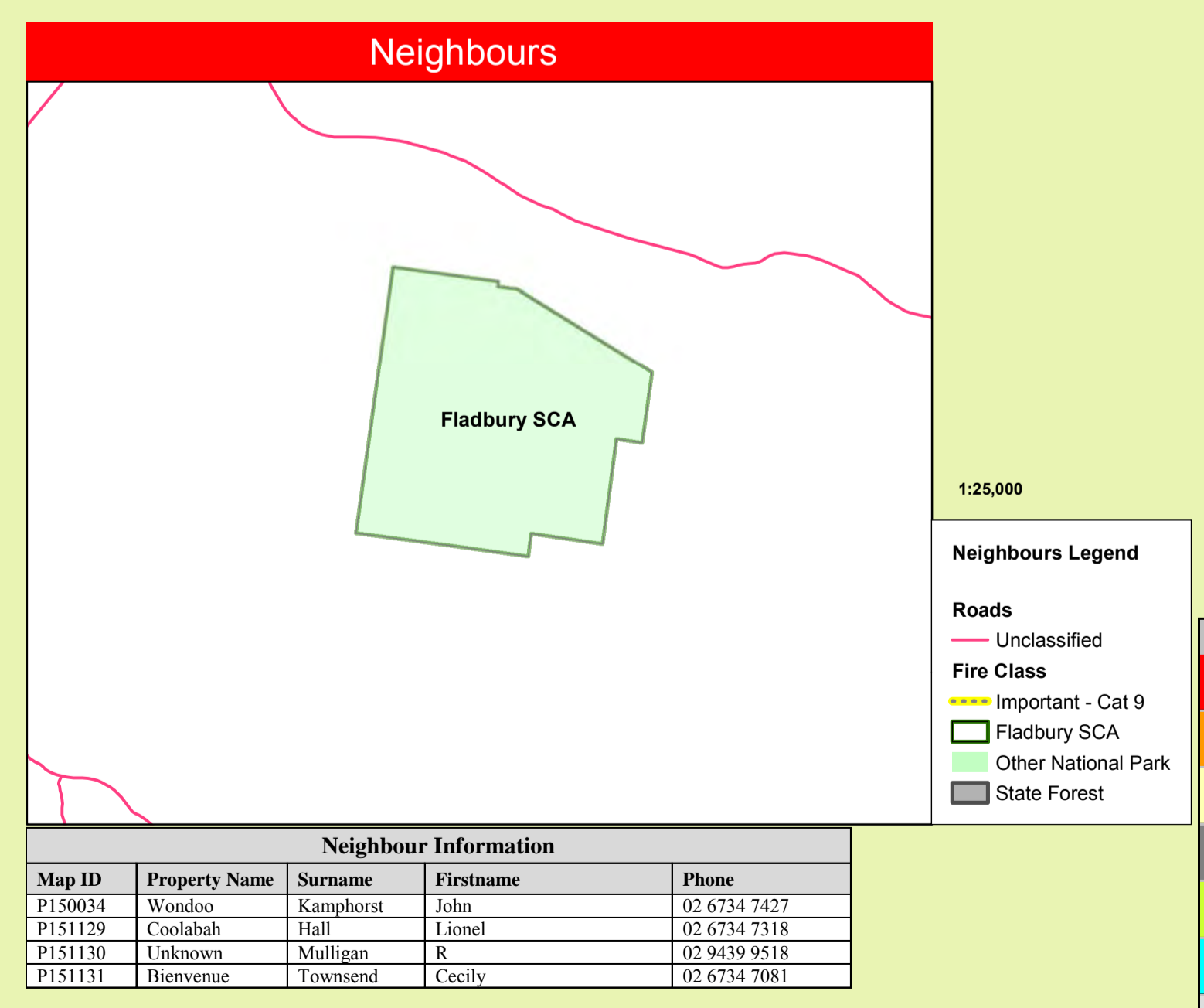
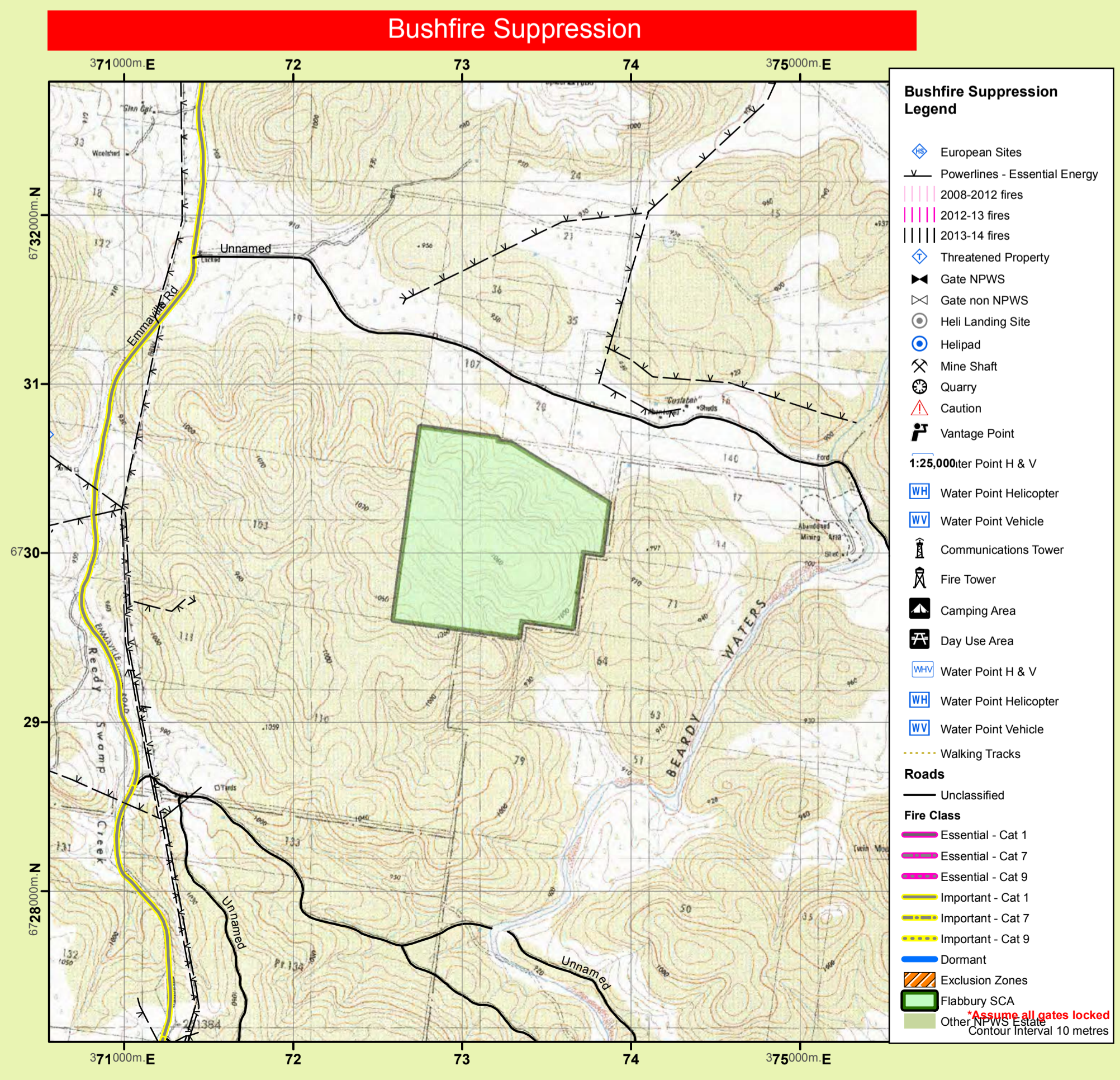
Suppression Strategies

Current FDR	Forecast FDR	Strategy
Low-Mod	Low-Mod	• Undertake direct, parallel or indirect attack along existing containment lines. • Where practicable consider maximising the fire area in accordance with the requirements of any proposed prescribed burns.
Low-Mod	=> High	• In order to minimise the fire area and secure the flanks as soon as possible, undertake direct, parallel or indirect attack along the closest containment lines. • Pay particular attention to the flank on the next predicted down wind side.
High	All	• Undertake indirect attack along existing or newly constructed containment lines. • Secure and deepen containment lines along the next predicted downwind side of the fire. • If applicable consider broader than normal containment strategies to avoid wasted effort and high risk of failure.
All	All	• Ensure there is sufficient time to secure containment lines prior to the fire impacting upon them, otherwise fall back to the next potential line.



Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
DEC - NPWS	Regional Duty Officer	0428 345 789
	Area Manager	02 6732 5133 0409 243 167 02 6732 5130 (fax)
	Fire Management Officer	02 6776 0014 0429 220 613 02 6771 1894 (fax)
	Glen Innes Area Office	02 6732 5133 02 6732 5130 02 6776 0000 02 6771 1894 (fax)
Rural Fire Service	Fire Control Officer	0428 639 116
	Severn Fire Control Centre	02 6732 3746 02 6732 7046 02 6732 3746
NSW Fire Brigade	Emergency	000
	Glen Innes Station	02 6732 5379
SES	Emergency	000
	Glen Innes Unit	02 6732 5228 02 6732 4442 (fax)
Police	Emergency	000
	Glen Innes Station	02 6732 9799 02 6732 9711 (fax)
Ambulance	Emergency	000
	Glen Innes Station	13 1233 02 6766 7429 (fax)
Hospital	94 Taylor St, Glen Innes	02 6730 2000 02 6730 2143
	134-136 Meade St, Glen Innes	02 6732 5901 02 6732 4059 (fax)
Forests NSW	Coffs Harbour	02 6652 0111 02 6651 9891 (fax)
	Severn Shire	02 6732 2555 02 6732 3634 (fax) 02 6779 1577 02 6779 1221 (fax)
Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC)	Glen Innes Northern Zone	02 6732 1150 02 6659 1200
	Glen Innes Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Officer	02 6739 0721



Fire Thresholds

Overburnt	Fire thresholds have been exceeded. • Protect from fire as far as possible. The area will be Overburnt if it burns this year.
Vulnerable	• Protect from fire as far as possible. Time since fire is less than the optimum interval, but before that it was within threshold
Recently Burnt	• Avoid fires if possible. Fire history is within the threshold for vegetation in this area.
Within Threshold	• A burn is neither required nor should one necessarily be avoided. The area is close to its threshold and may become underburnt with the absence of fire.
Almost Underburnt	• A prescribed burn may be advantageous. Consider allowing unplanned fires to burn
Underburnt	Fire frequency is below fire thresholds in the area. • A prescribed burn may be advantageous. Consider allowing unplanned fires to burn
Unknown	Insufficient data to determine fire threshold or no regime assigned NB. Fire thresholds are defined for vegetation communities to conserve biodiversity

