North Coast Region
GUY FAWKES RIVER RESERVES
Fire Management Strategy (Type 3)
2006
Sheet 3 of 3

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.

Endorsed by: ______________________ Date: / /

Director Northern, Parks & Wildlife Division

N W E S

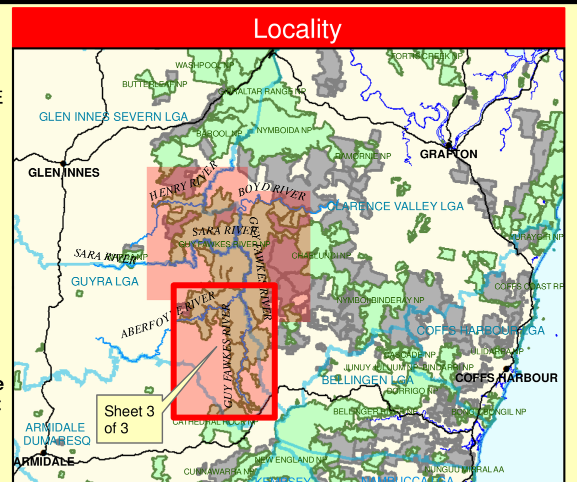
Datum: AGD66

Projection: UTM

Grid: AMG Zone 56

Noted scales are true when sheet reproduced on 840 X 1375 mm page.

Locality



Legend - All Maps

Roads & linear features
- Primary (Cat 1)
- Secondary (Cat 9)
- Closed
- Proposed Secondary
- Not Classified
- Walking Track
- Powerlines
- Contours

Contour interval 10 metres

Tenure & areas
- Fires 2005-06
- Fires 2004-05
- Fire Management Zone boundary
- Local Government Area boundary
- Aboriginal Place
- NPWS Estate
- NPWS Purchased not Gazetted
- SF Plantation
- SFNSW Estate
- Crown Land

Fire Points
- Aboriginal Site
- Airbase (runway)
- Base Camp
- Bee Hive Site
- Caution (safety hazard)
- Communications Tower or Mobile Repeater Site
- Fire Tower
- Gate - NPWS
- Assume all gates are locked unless labelled otherwise
- Gate - non NPWS
- Helipad
- Historic Site
- Loading Ramp
- Past Ignition Points
- Potential Helipad
- Recreation Area
- Refuge Area
- Sign
- Staging Area
- Threatened Fauna - see 'Thr. Spp. Protection' Table
- Threatened Flora - ditto
- Threatened Property
- Vantage Point
- Water Point Heli & Veh.
- Water Point Helicopter
- Water Point Vehicle

Vegetation legend
- Rainforest
- Wet sclerophyll forest
- Semi-mesic grassy forest
- Grassy dry sclerophyll forest
- Shrubby dry sclerophyll forest
- Grassy sclerophyll woodland
- Swamp sclerophyll forest
- Freshwater wetland
- Grassland/herbfield
- River oak forest
- Rock/river bed
- New England Blackbutt group
- Not Applicable

Derived from: RACD (2001), Completion of GIS Products For The Upper North East CRAFTI Structural And Floristic Layers, NSW Government.

Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF (incl. incident comm's)	28	Southern Guy Fawkes R. Reverse channel 72.
NPWS – VHF (incl. incident comm's)	25 & 31	North Guy Fawkes R. Reverse channels 69 & 75
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	15	Stored at Glen Innes / transportable.
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	14 Orange 16 Brown	Contact Dorrigo Plateau Area office to deploy.
NPWS / RFS (X-band Repeater)	Multiple	Stored at Glen Innes / transportable. Full range of simplex & duplex NPWS VHF & RFS PMR Ch.s.
RFS – PMR - UHF	62	Equiv. To Ch. 13 on Dorrigo IMT radio.
RFS - GRN	-	No service available in NTR.
CB – UHF (fireground chat)	1 - 99	Choose channel at fire with IC and RFS.
State Forests NSW - VHF	7 & 34	Equiv. To Ch. 83 & 80 on NPWS VHF radio.
Aircraft - VHF	23	
Mobile Phone - CDMA		Patchy coverage.
Satellite Phones North Coast 04 1511 6201 04 1615 5613 Nthn Tablelands 04 2010 0222 0147 154 353		Require clear view of the sky. Both in NC Regional communications vehicle. Glen Innes Office Armidale Office

Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone	Mobile/Fax/Pager
National Parks & Wildlife North Coast	Regional Duty Officer – North Coast	0428 345 789	016 301161 (pager)
	Dorrigo Plateau Area Manager	02 6657 2309	0427 109030
	Fire Management Officer - North Coast	02 6776 0014	0427 250122
	Regional Operations Coordinator - Nth Coast	02 6641 1505	0409 220613
	Dorrigo Plateau Area Office & A/H diverted (Rainforest Centre) Dome Rd., Dorrigo 2453	02 6657 2309	02 6657 2154 (fax)
	Incident Room – Dorrigo Office	02 6657 5942	
	Plateau Depot, Casuarina St., Dorrigo	02 6657 2961	02 6657 2945 (fax)
	Ebor Depot	02 6775 9157	02 6775 9163 (fax)
	Dalmorton Hut, Old Glenn Innes-Grafton Rd.	02 6643 4984	
	Tallagandra Field Depot, Paddys Land Rd.	02 6657 8585	
	North Coast Regional Office - Grafton	02 6776 0000	02 6771 1894 (fax)
National Parks & Wildlife Northern Tablelands	Regional Duty Officer – Northern Tablelands		016 301161 (pager)
	Glen Innes Area Manager	02 6732 5133	0409 243167
	Fire Management Officer – Northern Tablelands, Armidale Office	02 6776 0014	0409 220613 02 6771 1894 (fax)
	Regional Operations Coordinator	02 6776 0007	0427 897058
	Glen Innes Area Office, Depot &A/H diverted 68 Church St, Glen Innes 2370	02 6732 5133	02 6732 5130
	Fire Ops Room – Glen Innes Office	02 6732 5869	02 67324396 (2nd line)
	Northern Tablelands RegionalOffice Armidale	02 6776 0000	02 6771 1894 (fax)
Rural Fire Service	24 hour calls for fire emergency assistance	000	
	Fire Control Centre – Clarence Valley	02 6644 5135	0500 881866
	Fire Control Centre – Guyra	02 6671 2400	0412 583126
	Fire Control Centre – Glen Innes	02 6732 7046	0428 639116
Forests NSW	NorthEast Region, WestHigh St.CoffsHarbour	02 6652 0111	02 6655 6950 (24hrs)
	Fire Ops Room, Coffs Harbour	02 6652 0115	
	Walcha Operations Forester	02 6777 2511	0428 441723
Ambulance	24 hour emergency calls for assistance All other bookings	000 131233	
(NSW) Fire Brigade	24 hour calls for fire emergency assistance Dorrigo Station	000 02 6657 2484	
Local Government	Clarence Valley	02 6641 7300	02 6641 7271 (fax)
	Guyra	02 6779 1577	02 6779 1221 (fax)
	Glen Innes Severn	02 6732 2611	02 6732 3764 (fax)
Local Aboriginal Land Councils	Armidale	02 6772 6186	
	Dorrigo Plateau	02 6657 2606	
	Glen Innes	02 6732 1150	
	Grafton - Ngerrie	02 6642 6020	
	Guyra	02 6779 1803	
Police	24 hour emergency calls for Police assistance Police Assistance Line (PAL)	000 131444	
	Dorrigo Station	02 6657 2044	
	Glen Innes	02 6732 9799	
	Guyra Station	02 6738 4099	
	Nymboida Station	02 6649 4144	
State Emergency Service	24 hour emergency calls for assistance Dorrigo Unit Nymboida Unit	1325000 02 6657 2605 02 6649 3100	

Strategy Information

Fire Season Information

Wildfires	• Wildfires on the Tablelands have been known to start in late winter, but large fire events are most likely to occur during September to December. This period may extend into January in drier years. In very dry seasons, high intensity fires exhibiting extreme fire behaviour may occur under windy conditions.
Prescribed Burns (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.7)	• Prescribed burning is usually undertaken in late Autumn to Winter. Burning is possible in early Spring but not desirable on a regular basis for ecological or tourism management purposes.

Suppression Strategies

Current FDR*	Forecast FDR*	* Fire Danger Rating
Low – Mod	Low – Mod	• Undertake direct, parallel or indirect attack along pre-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 pre-existing or new 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.

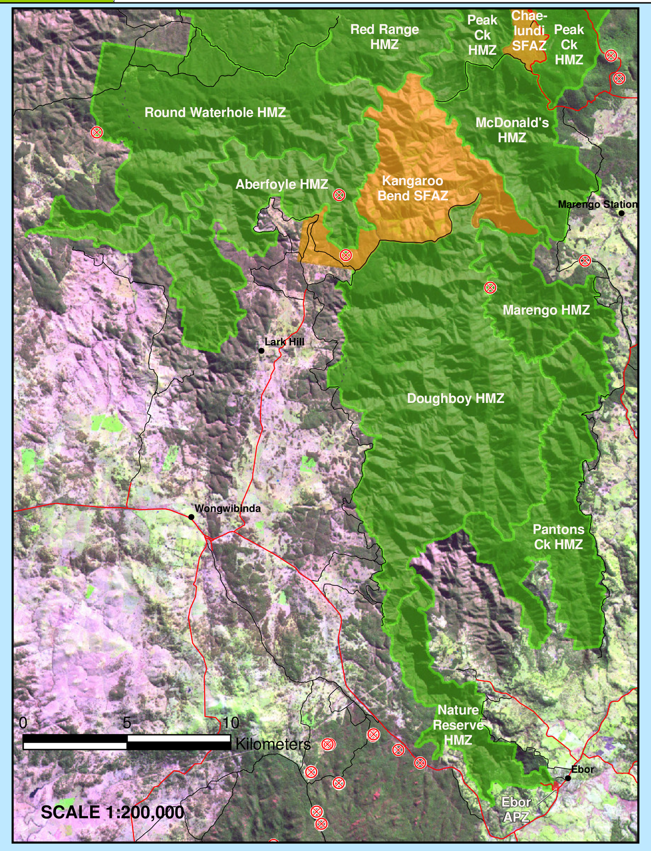
Operational Guidelines

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)	• *Aboriginal site locations are not shown on the exhibited strategy for confidentiality.* Liaise with the relevant DEC Aboriginal Heritage Officer to check for sites. • Aboriginal Heritage Prescriptions: AH1 - As far as possible, protect Site from fire. Do NOT cut down trees. Use of foams, wetting agents and retardant is acceptable. AH2 - As far as possible, protect Site from fire. Avoid ground disturbance including, handtools and dozers. Avoid water bombing that may cause ground disturbance. AH3 - Avoid ground disturbance including handtools and dozers. Avoid water bombing that may cause ground disturbance. Site may be burnt by wildfire, backburn or prescribed burn if unavoidable.
Historic Heritage Management (NPWS FMM 4.10)	• Historic Heritage Prescriptions: HS1 - Protect Site from fire and maintain an asset protection buffer around Site. Avoid all ground disturbance including waterbombing. Use of foams, wetting agents and retardant is acceptable. HS2 - Protect Site from fire and maintain an asset protection buffer around Site. Avoid all ground disturbance including waterbombing. Avoid use of foams, wetting agents and retardant. HS3 - Avoid all ground disturbance including waterbombing.
Threatened Fauna Management (NPWS FMM 4.12 & 5.2)	• Refer to "Fire Suppression Chemicals" and accompanying report. • 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. • Threatened Fauna Prescriptions: Old Growth Habitat - As far as possible, exclude fire from areas of Candidate Old Growth. Where possible, protect old growth habitat trees.
Threatened Flora Management (NPWS FMM 4.12)	• Refer to "Fire Suppression Chemicals" and accompanying report. • Where practicable, protect threatened flora 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. • Threatened Flora Prescriptions: FL1 - Avoid all fire, where possible; Avoid using earthmoving machinery; Avoid firefighting chemicals. Nb: refer to status of Dorrigo Daisy population prior to any earth moving. FL2 - Avoid frequent fire (i.e. avoid <10 years between fires); Avoid using earthmoving machinery; Avoid firefighting chemicals. FL3 - Requires frequent fire (i.e. avoid periods >10 years between fires); Avoid using earthmoving machinery; Avoid firefighting chemicals.
Threatened Property	• Where possible, property owners with assets at risk from a wildfire event will be kept informed regarding the progress of the fire. Also, they will be asked for an assessment of their current level of asset protection preparedness so that appropriate actions can be incorporated into the incident response.
General	**Guidelines**
Aerial Ignition (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.4 / 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.
Aerial Water Bombing (NPWS FMM 4.4 / 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.
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 1 m 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.
Briefing Personnel	• Brief all personnel involved in containment line construction &/or vehicle based fire suppression operations on: the locations of Aboriginal and Historic Heritage, Threatened Species and Threatened Property and the required incident management strategies appropriate to each site type.
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 BFMC Plan of Operations.
Containment Lines (NPWS FMM 2.2 & 3.9)	• Construction of new containment lines should be avoided (i.e. aim to use existing roads and trails). If construction is necessary, however, ensure it is done with minimal environmental impact and erosion potential. New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer. • Containment lines requiring preparation works should be prioritised in consultation with relevant IMT and Fire Ground staff. • All containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed at the cessation of the incident. • Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation. • All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location.
Detection of Wildfires	• Early detection of fire will be achieved via the use of observation towers, aerial patrols, automated lightning strike detection and neighbour contact. • Aerial patrols for fire detection must be co-ordinated with adjacent NPWS Regions & other relevant agencies so as to maximise effectiveness and efficiency.
Earthmoving Equipment (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 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 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 50 m 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 4.2.20 & 4.9)	• 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 50 m 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 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.

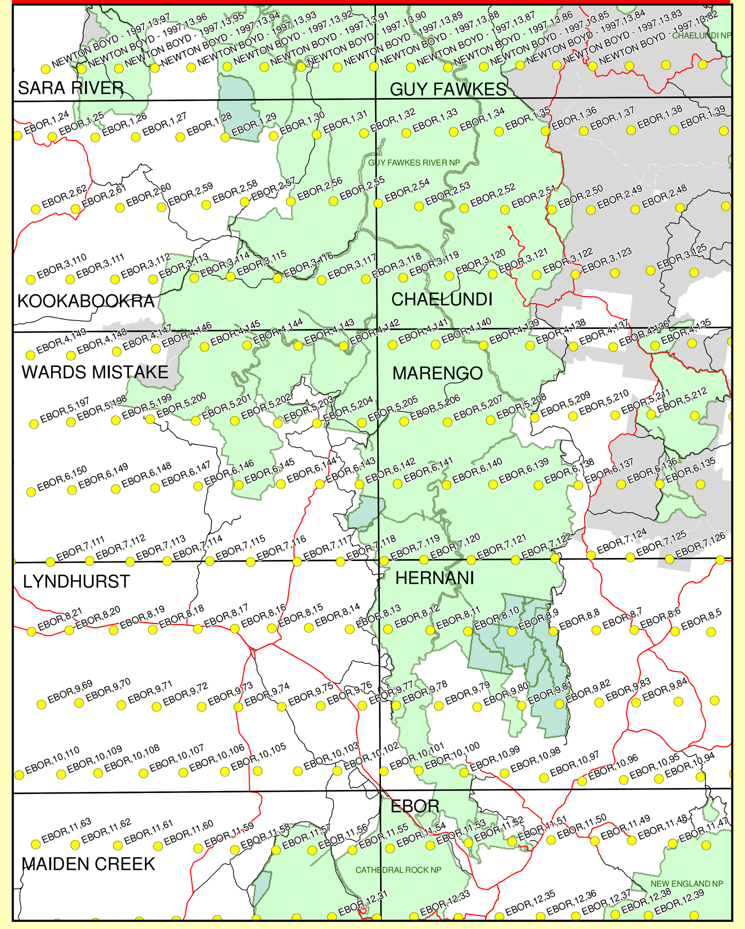
Risk Management Information

Asset Protection Zones	The objective of **APZ**s 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 **SFAZ**s 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.
Heritage Management Zones	The objective of **HMZ**s is to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural heritage. Manage fire consistent with fire thresholds.



Ebor Village Protection

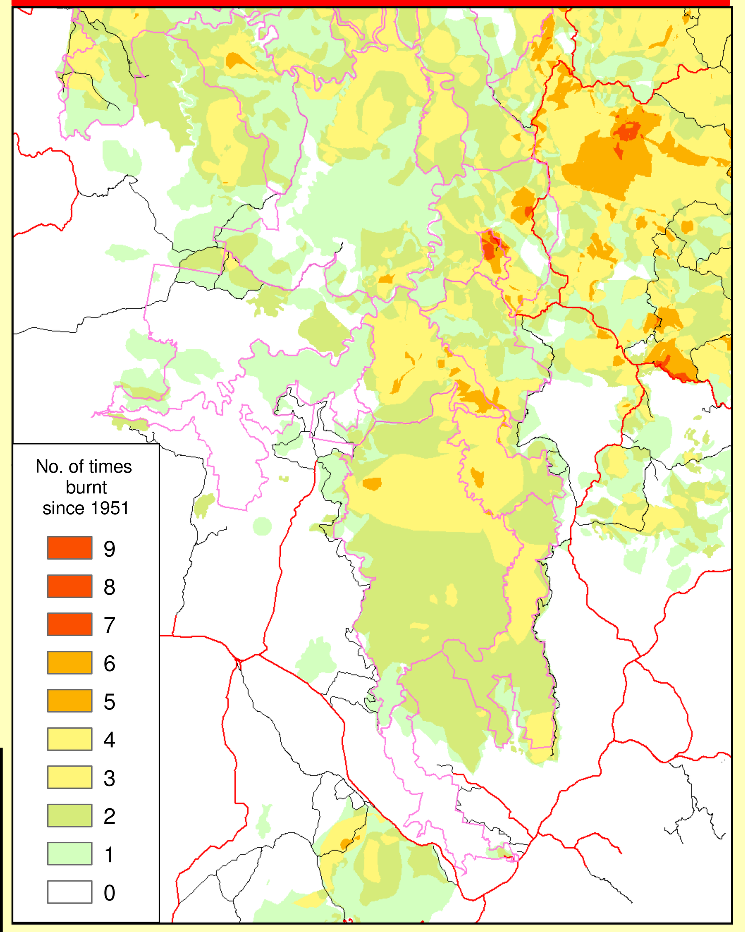
Index to 1:25K Topo Maps and Aerial Photos



Fire Thresholds (of vegetation communities to conserve biodiversity)

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

Fire History

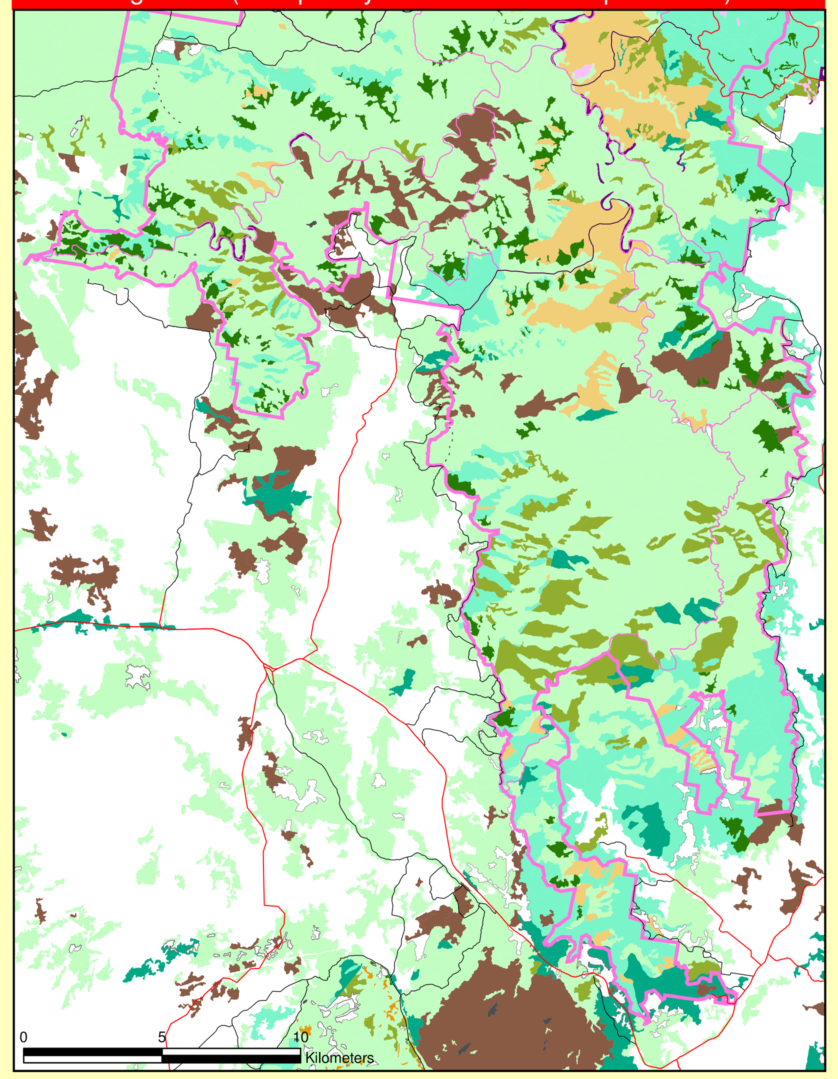


Neighbours information is to be kept CONFIDENTIAL.

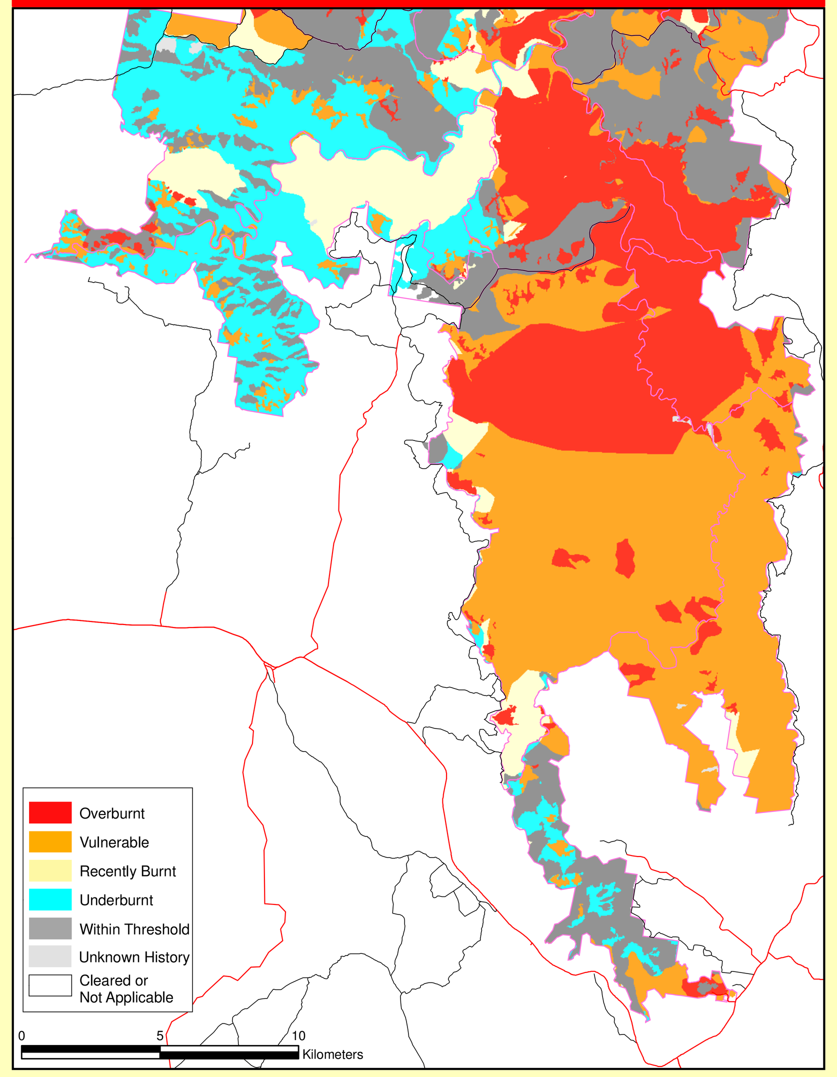
Northern Tablelands Region information is stored on the Regional Neighbours Database.

North Coast Region information is stored at Dorrigo S: \LOCAL\NEIGHBOU\NEIGHLIS\Current_neighbours_list\ All_Neighbours_Dorrigo_Coffs.xls

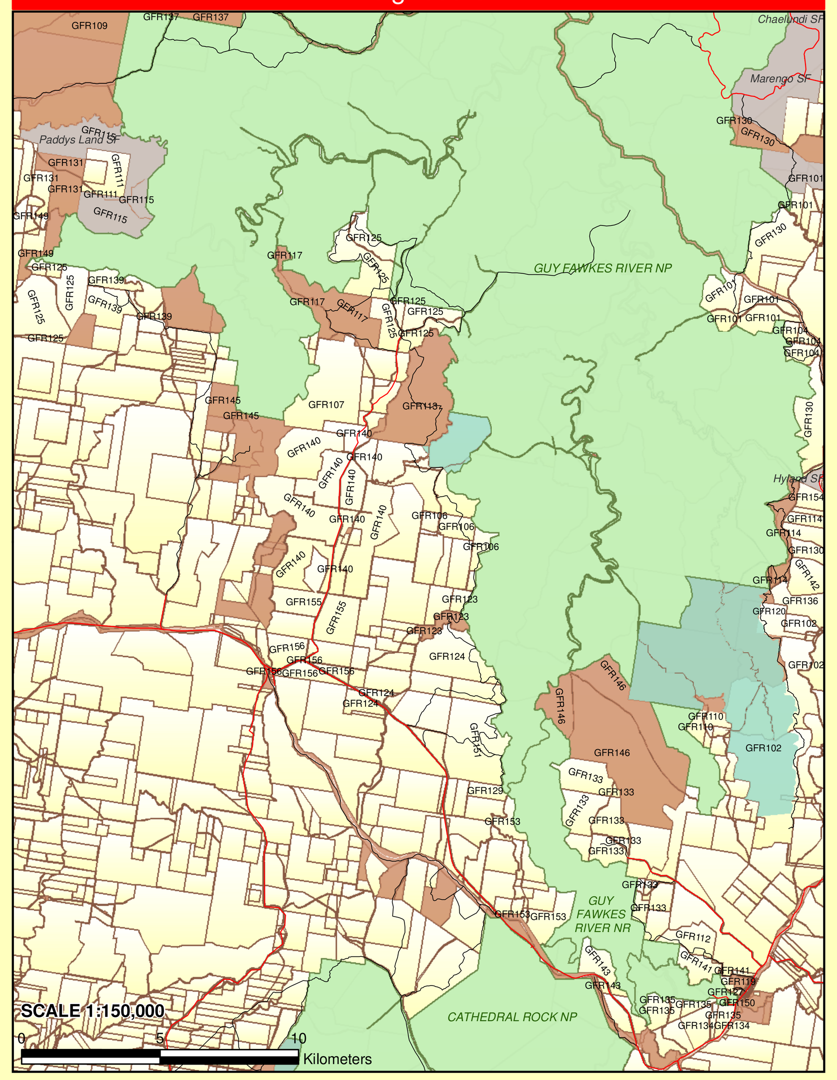
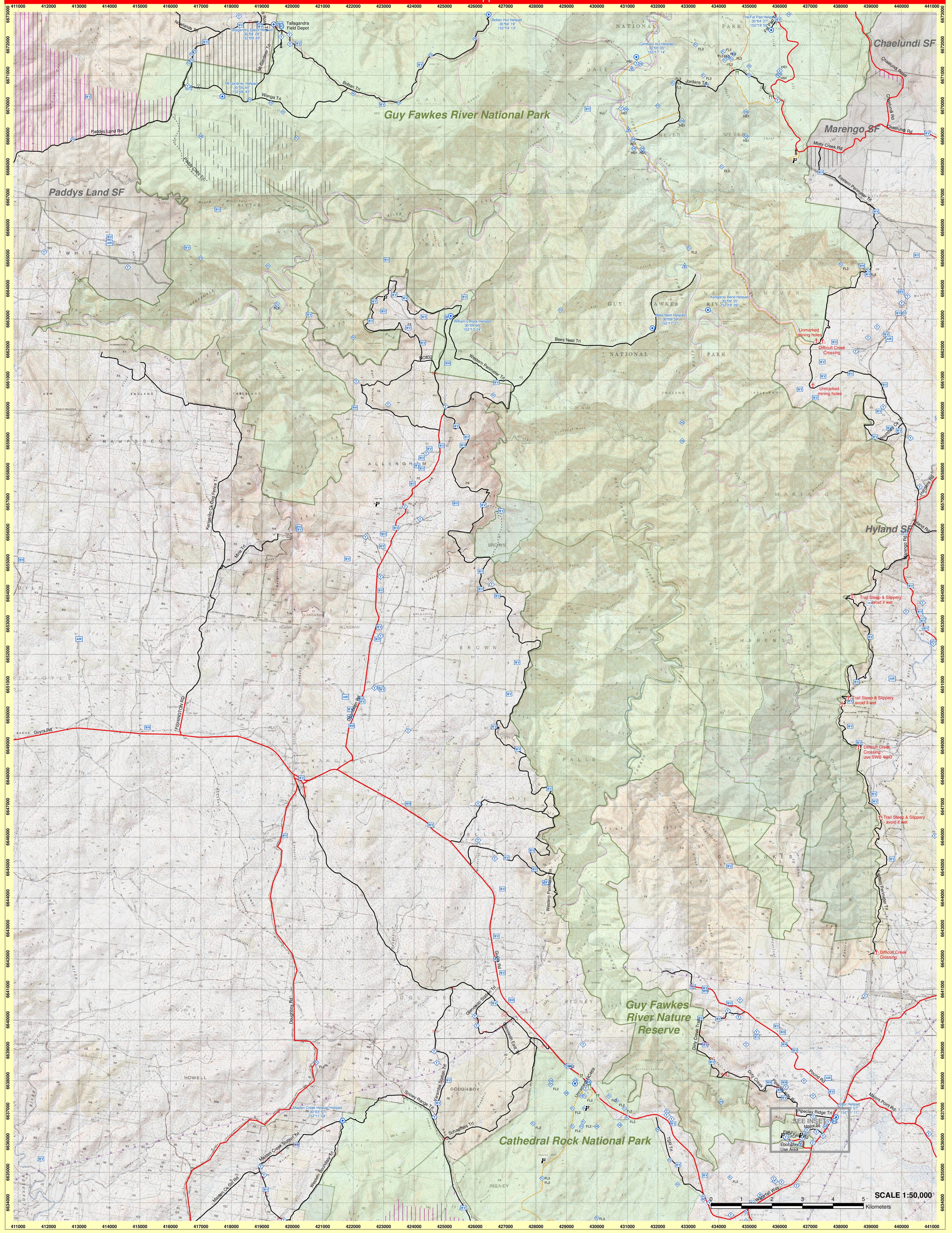
Vegetation (Grouped by Fire Threshold Requirements)



Status of Fire Thresholds



Neighbours



Bushfire Suppression