

**Leard State Conservation Area**  
**Fire Management Strategy 2016-2021**

**Office of Environment & Heritage**

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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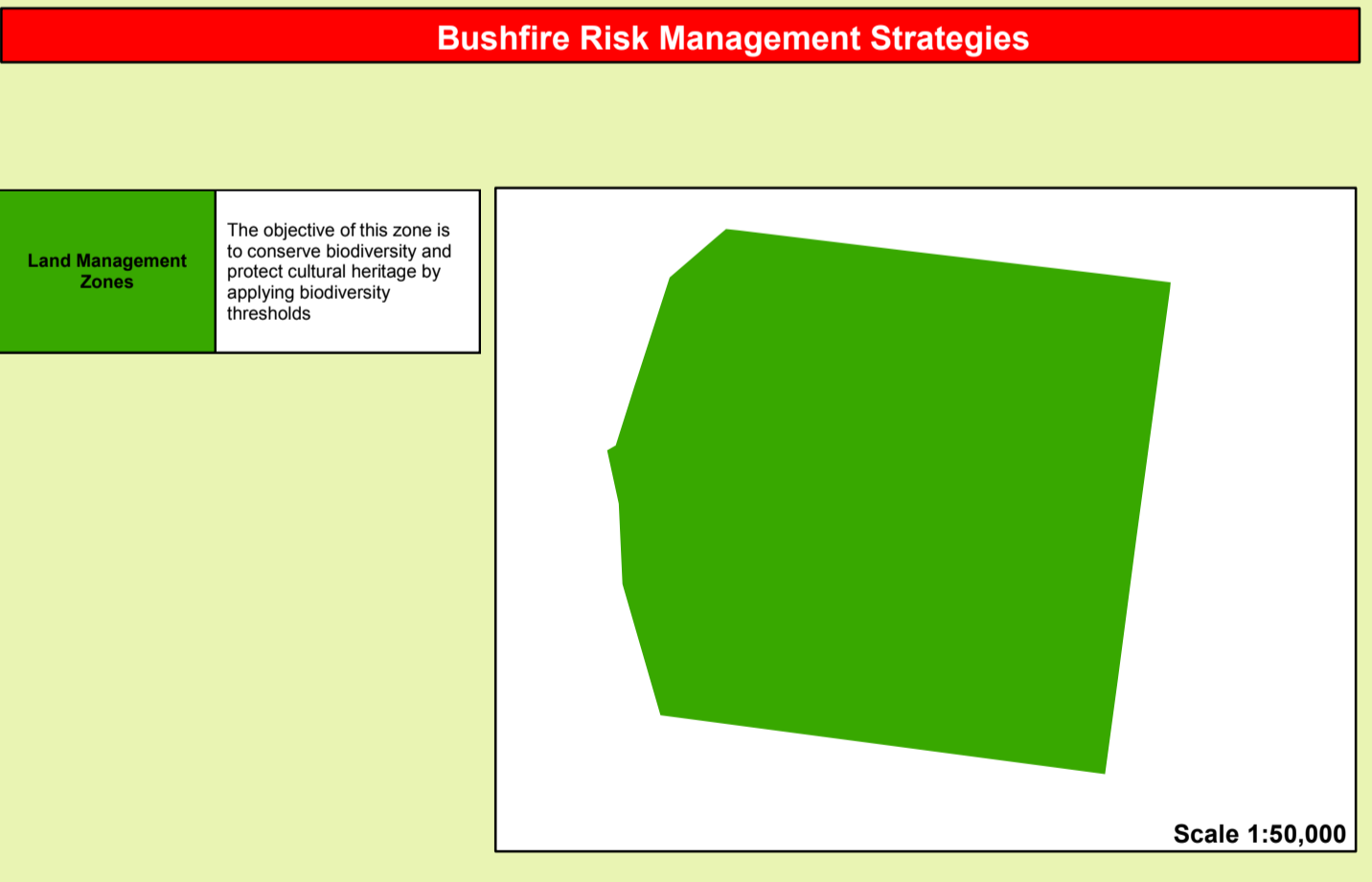
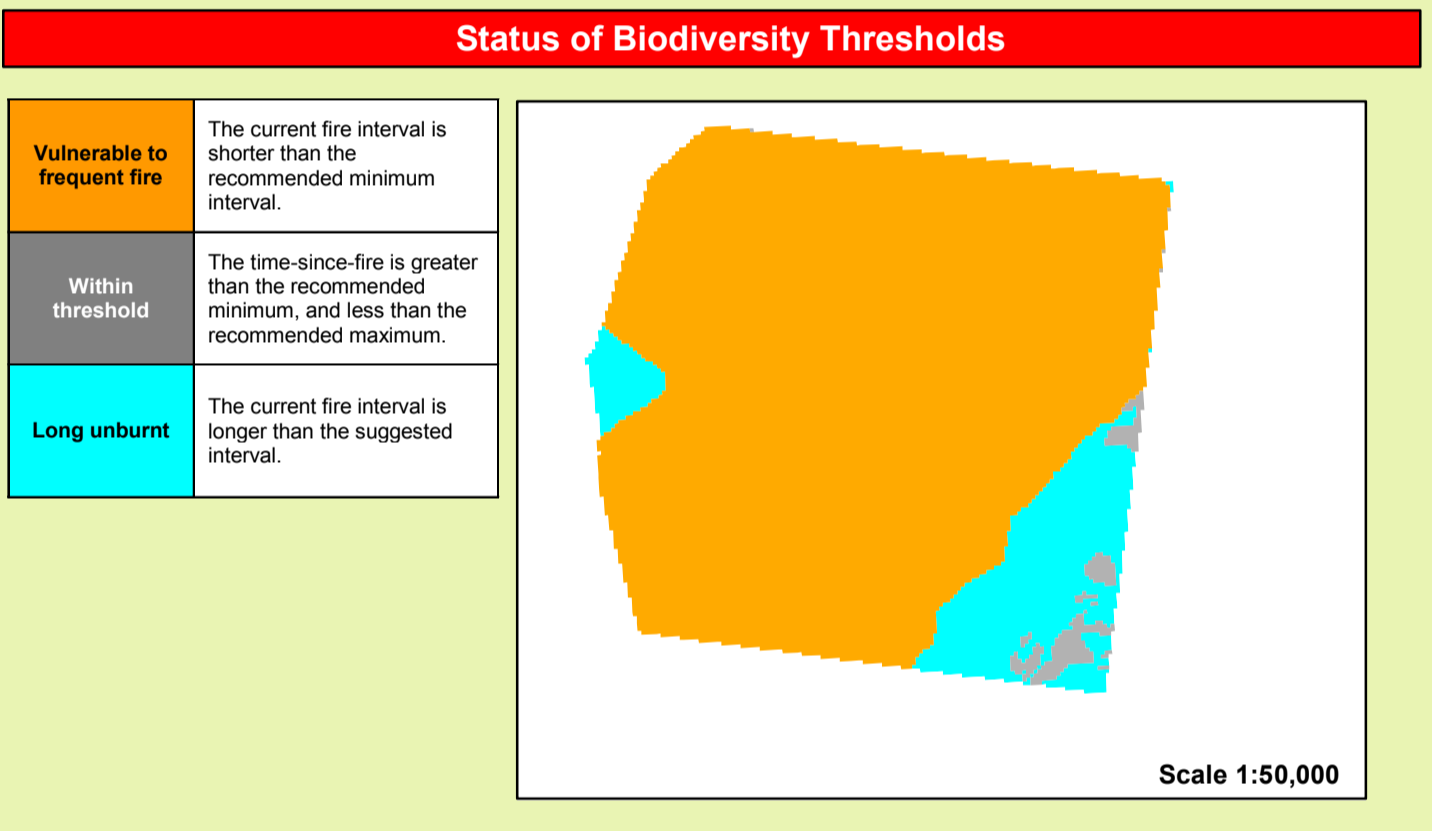
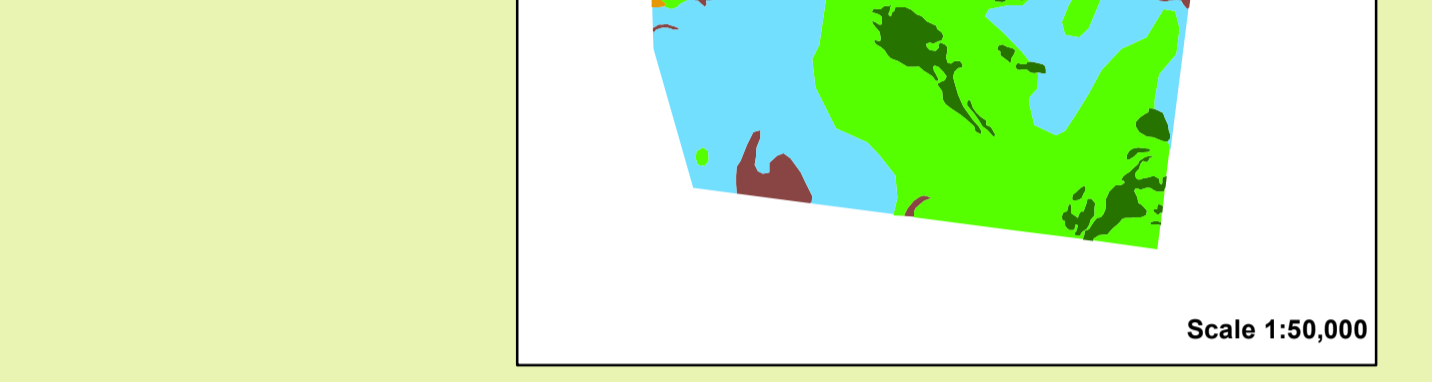
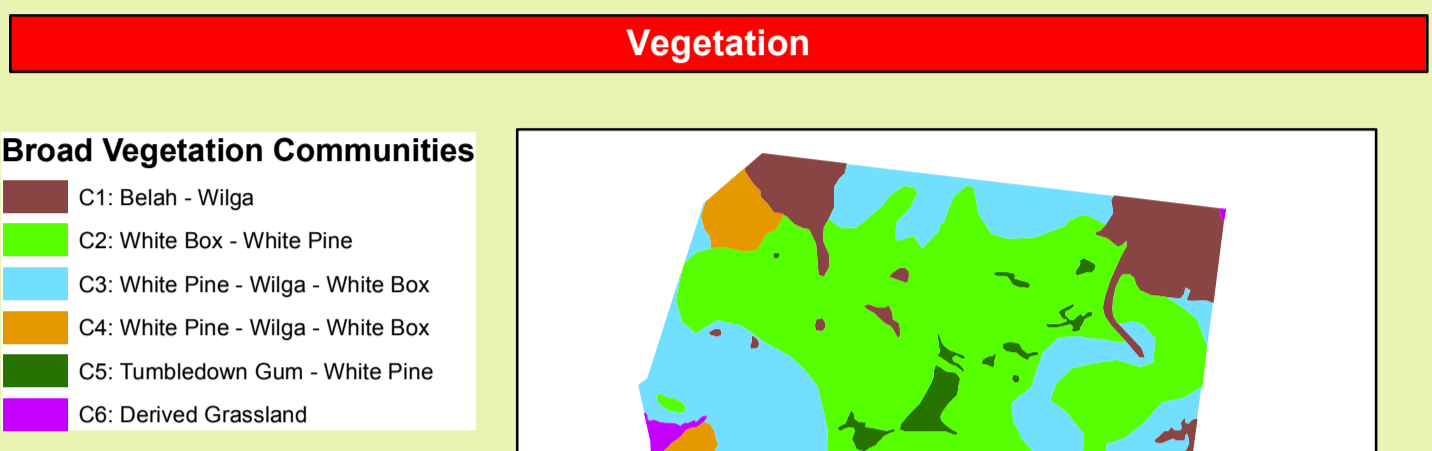
Agency	Contact Information	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Duty Officer (24 hour) Narrabri Area Office (bus. hours)	6792 4680 6792 7300
Namoi Zone NSW Rural Fire Service	Michael Brooks Duty Officer Maules Creek Brigade Capt Michael Nott	0427 101 124 6799 6707 6799 6707 67 944529 (0427 002213)
NSW Fire Brigade	Newcastle Comms Centre	4929 7177
Emergency Services	Police, Fire, Ambulance	000
SES		13 2500
Police		67 927199
Council	Narrabri	67 995 866

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS Repeaters	300 324	• Coverage – most of reserve except southern areas • Coverage – available for southern areas
RFS	N077	• The Governor • Small fires channel 10 • large fires determined by IMT
UHF - CB		• NPWS Fireground channels 1-7
Parks Radio	11.17	• Telstra – available most areas
Aviation - CTAf	126.7	
Mobile phone		

Map Details	
Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA) 1994	Data: Spot Satellite Imagery - 2005, 1:20k Topographic Map: 883648 THEARRABRI Scale: Noted scales are true when printed on A1 size paper
Projection: Map Grid Australia (MGA) Zone 56	



### Fire Season Information

**Wildfires** 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.

**Prescribed Burning** 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

<b>Aerial operations</b>	• Aerial operations will be managed by trained and competent personnel. This includes directing aerial bombing and aerial ignition operations • The use of bombing aircraft without the support of ground-based suppression crews should be limited to very specific circumstances • All aerial ignition operations require the consent of the Incident Controller • All personnel must be fully briefed before back burning operations begin
<b>Backburning</b>	• Backburning in areas of Low - Moderate OFH will require the use of wind, or low humidity to maximise effectiveness. Backburning should be timed for late afternoon and early evening • Where practicable to assist 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
<b>Command &amp; Control</b>	• The first combatant agency on site may assume control of the fire, but then must ensure the relevant land management agency is notified promptly • A senior NPWS officer is to liaise with the RFS to ensure that the agency in command and control is determined and an Incident Controller is appointed
<b>Containment Lines</b>	• Existing or previous roads, tracks and control lines should be used wherever possible • New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer • Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, where practicable, except where they can be constructed with minimal environmental impact • 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
<b>Earthmoving Equipment</b>	• Plant may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer • Plant must always be supervised by an experienced officer, and accompanied by a fire-fighting vehicle when engaged in direct or parallel attack • Plant must be washed down, where practicable, prior to entering and exiting NPWS estate • <b>Maximum dozer - D6 equivalent</b>
<b>Fire Suppression Chemicals</b>	• The use of foam, wetting agents and retardants will be permitted on the reserve • Fire suppression chemicals are not to be applied within 50m of water courses and dams • The use of retardants requires the approval of the Regional Manager or delegate
<b>Rehabilitation</b>	• Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation
<b>Watering points</b>	• Consider deployment of bulk water carriers to support fire operations.
<b>Smoke Management</b>	• Potential smoke impacts and mitigation tactics will be assessed during the planning of fire operations.
<b>Visitor Management</b>	• The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger, and will be closed during fire operations

**WARNINGS**  
 Black text – general guidelines Blue text – reserve specific guidelines Red text – Major warnings

### Operational Guidelines Continued

Resource	Guidelines
<b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management</b>	No sites have been identified in the reserve to date
<b>Threatened Fauna and Flora Management</b>	The potential extent of habitat for Spiny Peppergrass ( <i>Lepidium aschersonii</i> ) is limited to the Belah - Wilga vegetation community where it occurs on gilgai soil. This is limited to the mapped area of this vegetation community on the eastern boundary. Where possible, machinery and backburning operations should be excluded from this habitat.

### Suppression Strategies

Conditions & forecast	Guidelines
Fire danger rating <b>LOW - HIGH</b>	• A broad containment strategy using existing roads, tracks, rocky areas and recently burnt areas.
Fire danger rating <b>VERY HIGH - EXTREME</b>	• Consider a strategy that uses a combination of ground crews, machinery and fire units to contain the fire. • Secure flank as soon as possible on the next predicted downwind side.
Catastrophic	• Revert to property protection

### Vegetation Communities and Biodiversity Thresholds

Vegetation Community	Biodiversity Thresholds	Fire Behaviour
Floodplain Forest and Woodland Community C1	• An interval between fire events less than 20 years should be avoided • Exclude prescribed burning and backburning from areas with Spiny Peppergrass, where possible	• Potential rates of spread is low due to <b>Low - Moderate</b> OFH
Woodland - Slopes and ridges Communities C2, C3, C4, C5 & C6	• An interval between fire events less than 20 years should be avoided • A high intensity fire may be permitted after a fire free period 30 - 50 years • A higher frequency may be applied to areas with a grassy understorey	• Potential rates of spread is low due to <b>Low - Moderate</b> OFH • Localised areas of <b>High</b> OFH may produce restricted areas of higher fire intensity • Some areas will not carry any fire due to rock cover
Strategic Zones	Prescribed burn should be considered where the OFH has been assessed at <b>HIGH</b>	

**OFH - Overall fuel hazard - A rating system that includes leaf litter, grasses, shrubs, bark type and bark condition**

