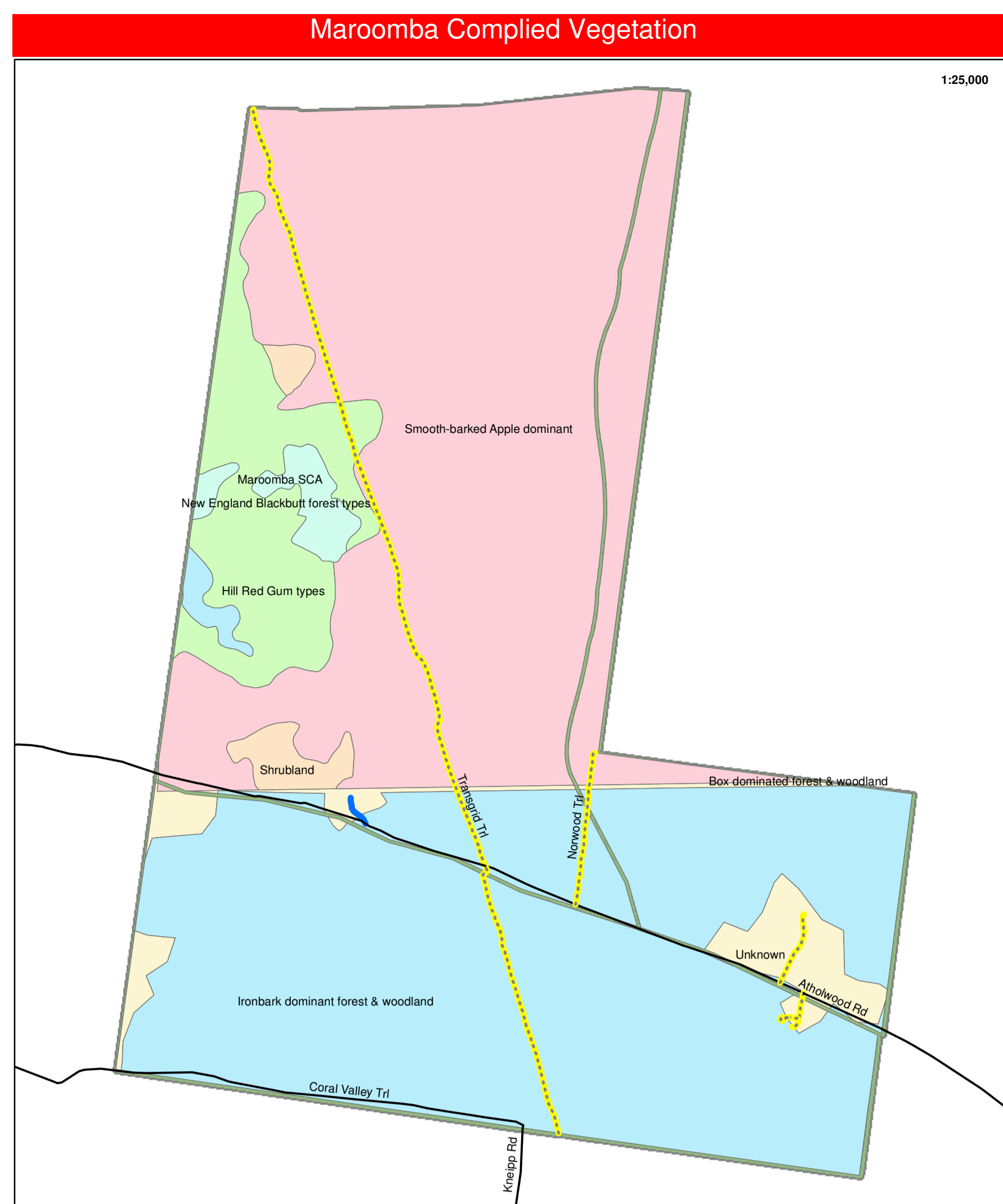
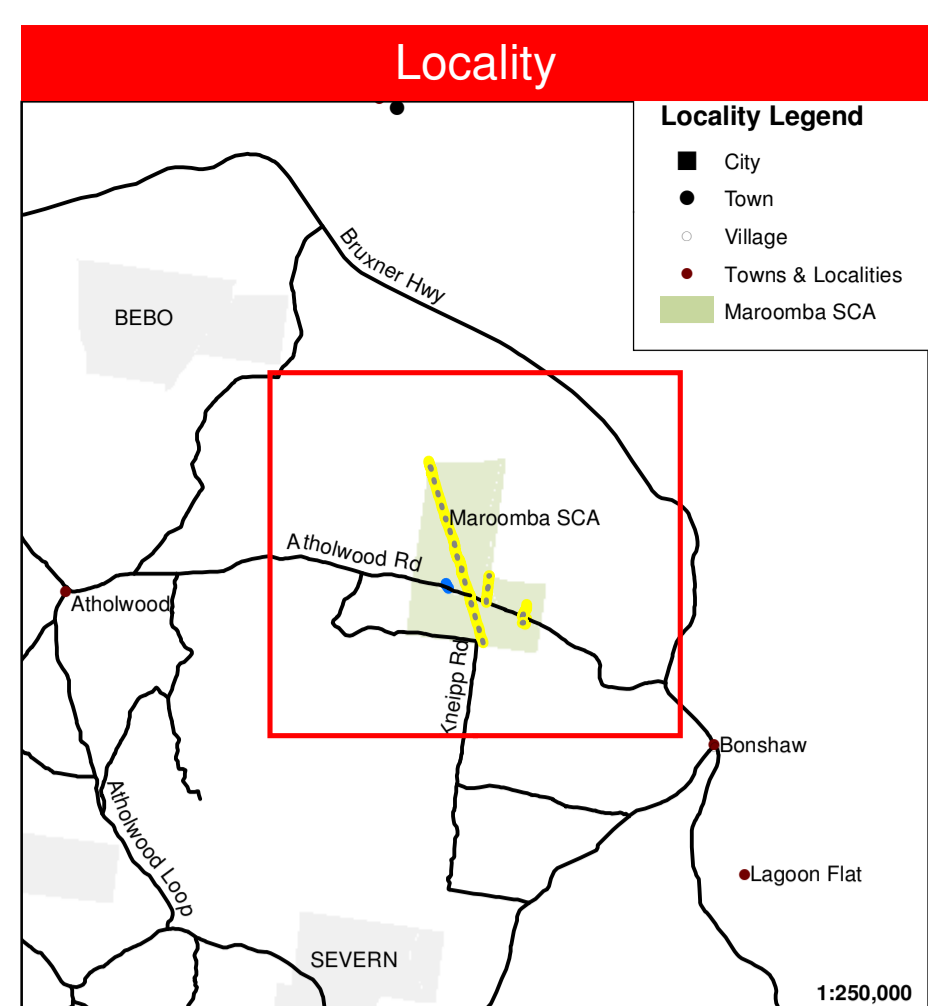


NSW Government
Environment, Climate Change & Water
 National Parks & Wildlife Service

Northern Tablelands Region
Maroomba SCA
Fire Management Strategy
2009

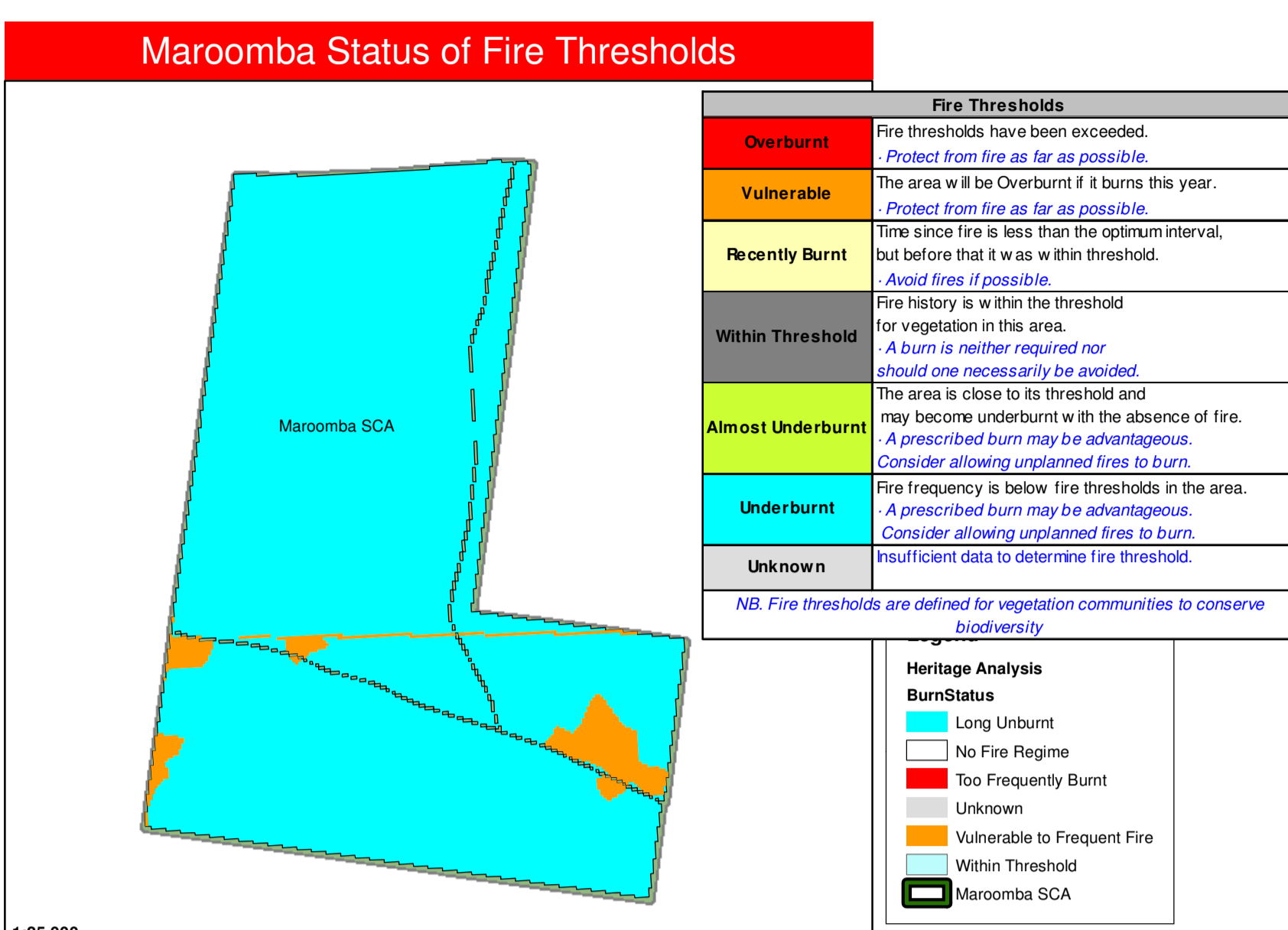
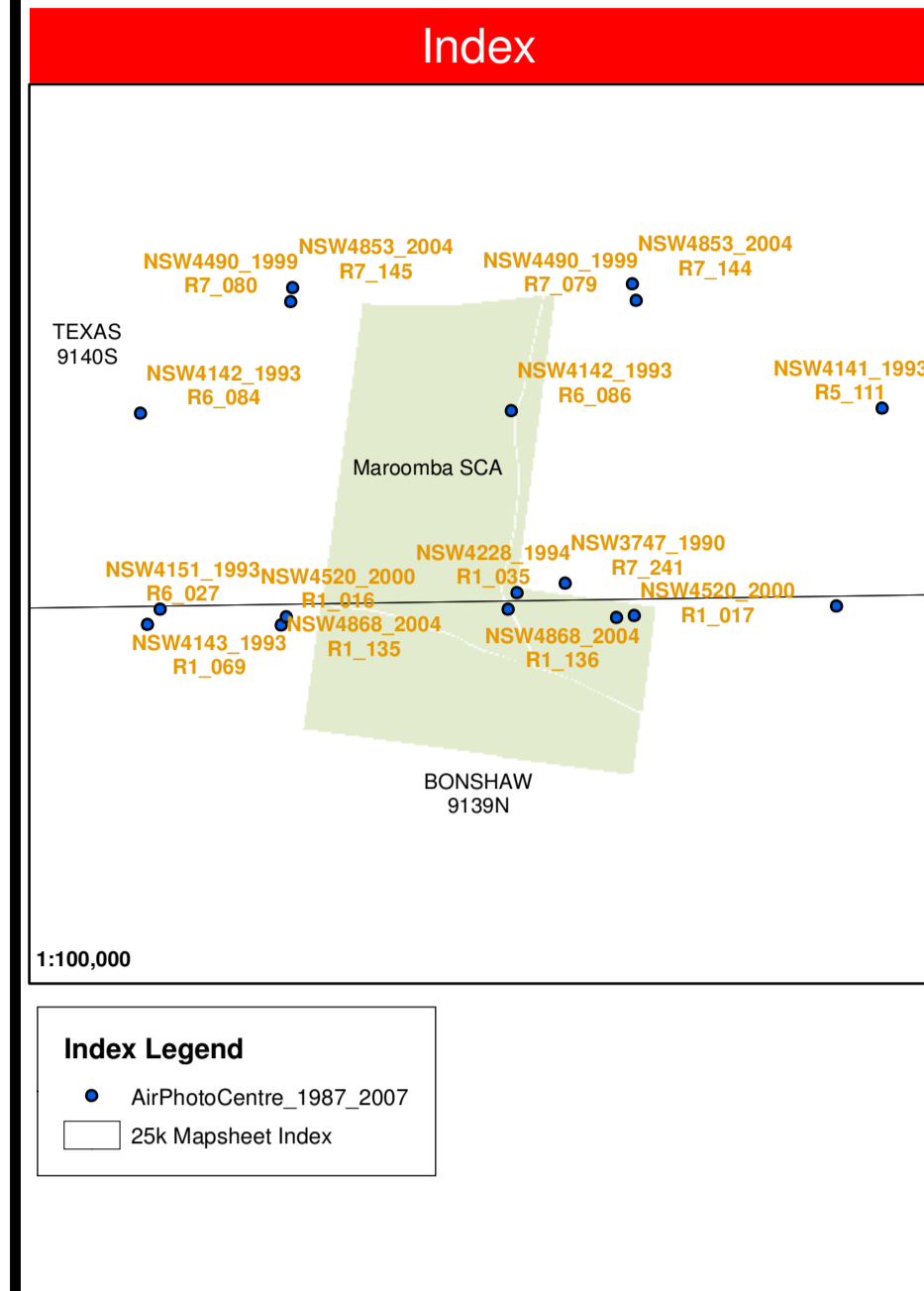
ISBN: 978 1 74293 544 7 OEH No. 2012/0185
 Date Approved: 30/09/2009
 Noted scales are true when this map is reproduced on A0 size paper
 Contour interval 10 metres

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 errors or omissions. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and its employees disclaim liability for any act done on the information in this document. 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.
 This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (1) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997.
 The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is part of the Department of Environment and Climate Change.
 Published by the Department of Environment and Climate Change (NSW), June 2009 (Last Updated 27/02/2012)
 Contact: Northern Tablelands Region, P.O. Box 402 Armidale NSW 2350, Ph 6776 0000



Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	32	Hallams Hill
NPWS - VHF (Fireground Channel)	44	Vehicle to Vehicle
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	32	Stored @ Glen Innes (transportable)
RFS - PMR - UHF	58	No service in NTR.
RFS - GRN	-	No service in NTR.
FNSW - VHF	NPWS 26	Manuk Mt Frequencies: mobile to repeater 81.7125 and receive on 79.2125. CTCSS tone needs to be 816.2Hz
CB - UHF	12	Channel as appropriate.
Aircraft - VHF	119.10	
Mobile Phone - Next G	Yes	On high ground with high gain antenna.
Mobile Phone - GSM	No	
Mobile Phone - 3G	Partly	
Satellite Phone	0147 166 331	Stored @ Tennerfield Area office



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.
- 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.

Prescribed Burning (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.7)

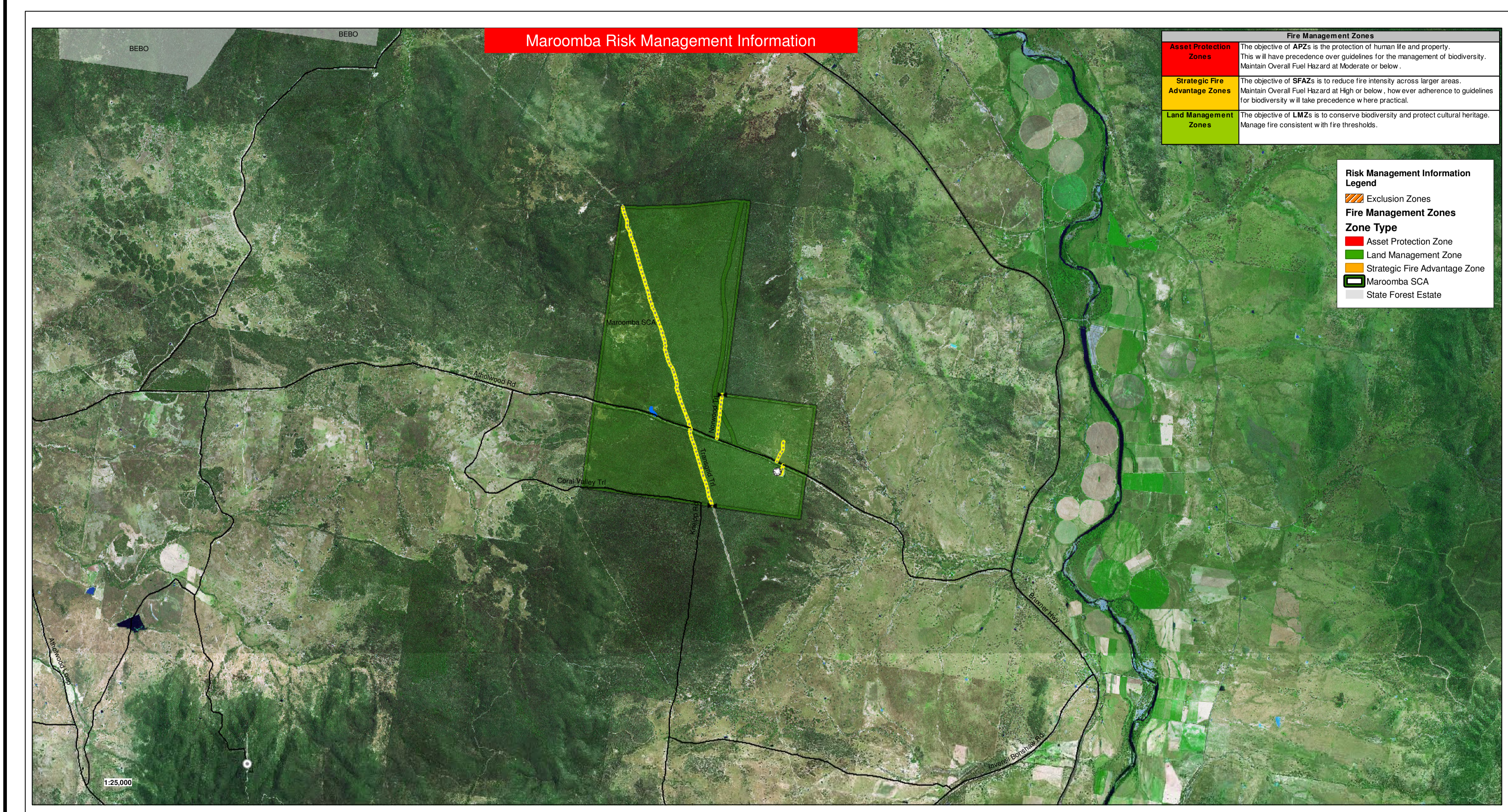
- General season is Autumn to late Winter. Burning is possible in early Spring but not desirable on a regular basis from an ecological or tourism point of view.

Suppression Strategies

Current FDR	Forecast FDR	Suppression Strategies
Low - Mod	Low - Mod	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 prescriptions.
Low - Mod	=> High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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

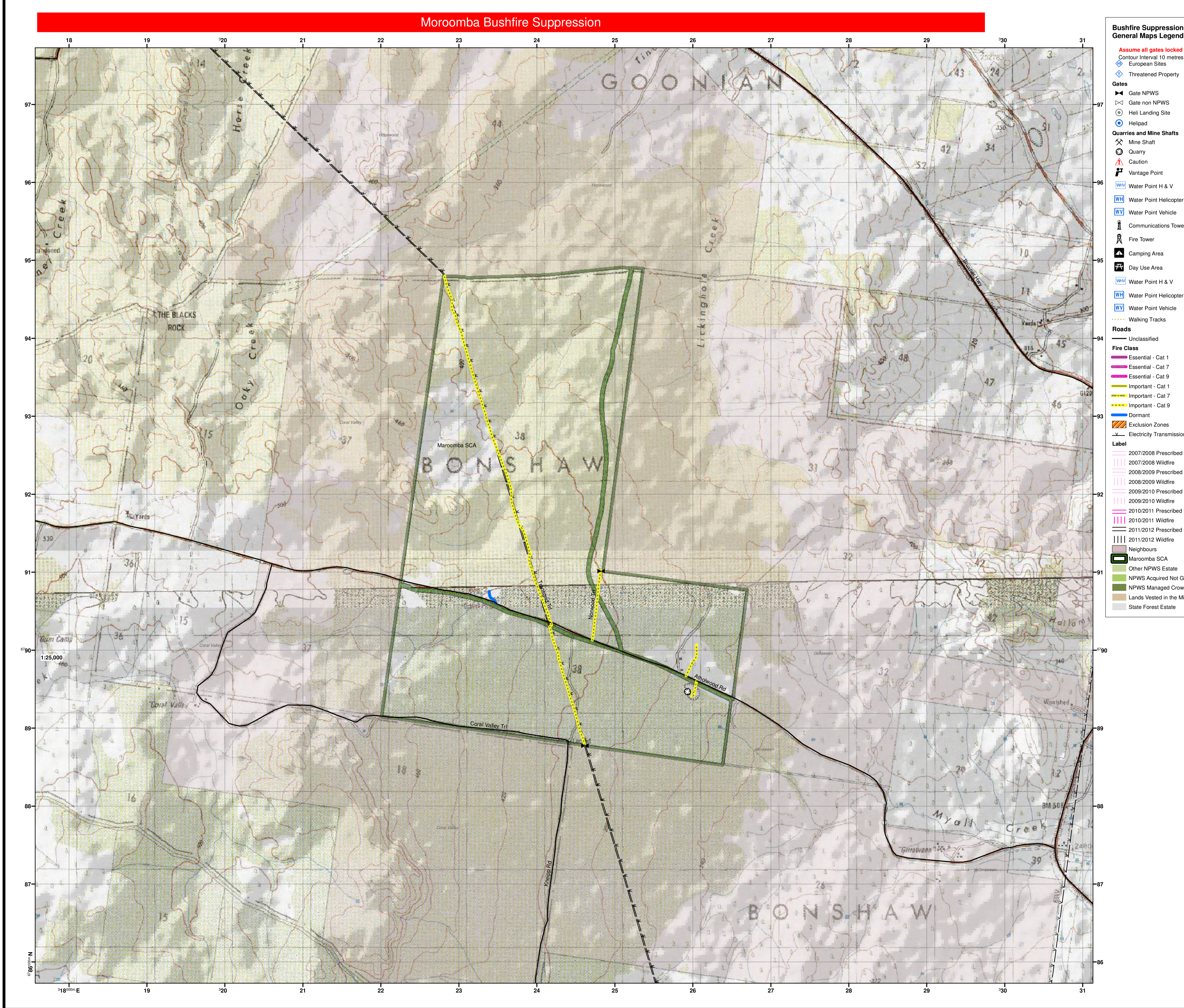
Agency	Position / Location	Phone
NPWS	Regional Duty Officer	0423 345 789
	Area Manager	0499 224 665
	Fire Manager	02 6736 4850
	Fire Manager Officer	0429 220 613
	Regional Operations Coordinator	02 6776 0014
	Tennerfield Area Office	02 6771 1894 (fax)
	Tennerfield Area Office	02 6776 0007
	Tennerfield Area Office	0428 977 516
	Regional Office	02 6736 4258
	Regional Office	02 6736 4301 (fax)
Regional Office	02 6776 0000	
Regional Office	02 6771 1894 (fax)	
RFS	Emergency	000
	Fire Control Officer	02 6732 7046
NSW Fire Brigade	Emergency	000
	Inverell Fire Station	02 6721 0015
SES	Emergency	000
	Inverell Unit	02 6721 4027
Police	Emergency	000
	Ashford Station	02 6725 4004
Ambulance	Emergency	000
	Ashford Station	13 1233
Hospital	Texas Hospital	07 4653 1233
	Armidale Land Management Officer	02 6770 3101
Forests NSW	Inverell	02 6722 4200
	24 hr fire calls	02 6655 6950
Council	Inverell	02 6728 8288
	Toomelah Aboriginal Council	07 4676 2862
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Officer	02 6739 0721
	Glen Innes	



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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. AH1 - As far as possible protect site from fire. Do not cut down trees. AH2 - As far as possible protect site from fire. Avoid all ground disturbance including the use of earthmoving machinery, handline construction and driving over sites. Avoid water bombing which may cause ground disturbance. AH3 - Avoid all ground disturbance. Avoid water bombing. Site may be burnt by bushfire, back-burn or prescribed burn without damage. 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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. HS1 - As far as possible protect site from fire. Avoid all ground disturbance including the use of earthmoving machinery, handline construction and driving over sites. Avoid water bombing, which may damage site. HS2 - As far as possible protect site from fire. Avoid all ground disturbance including the use of earthmoving machinery, handline construction and driving over sites. If any sites are located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
Threatened Fauna Management (NPWS FMM 4.12 & 5.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. FA1 - As far as possible, protect large and hollow-bearing trees in locations where these species are known to occur. FA2 - As far as possible, protect large and hollow-bearing trees in locations where these species are known to occur. Avoid inter-fire intervals of (10 years in locations where these species are known to occur. Avoid high intensity fires that consume canopies and fallen logs in locations where these species are known to occur. 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 Flora Management (NPWS FMM 4.12 & 5.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. FL1 - Avoid inter-fire intervals of <10 years in locations where these species are known to occur. Avoid the use of earth moving machinery in locations where these species are known to occur. FL2 - As far as possible, exclude all fire from locations where these species are known to occur. Avoid the use of earth moving machinery in locations where these species are known to occur. 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where possible, protect 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.



General

Aerial Water Bombing (NPWS FMM 4.5 & 5.1) / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOP O2 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management

- The use of bombing aircraft should support containment operations by aggressively attacking hotspots and spot fires, when the FDR is Very High or greater. Backburning should commence when the humidity begins to rise in the late afternoon or early evening. With a lower FDR backburning may be safely undertaken during the day.
- Where practicable, clear a 1m radius around dead and fireless barbed trees adjacent to containment lines prior to backburning, or wet down these trees as part of the backburn operation.
- Avoid ignition of backburns at the bottom of slopes where a long and intense up slope burn is likely.
- The fire command 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.

Aerial Ignition (NPWS FMM 4.8)

- Temperature and humidity trends must be monitored carefully to determine the safest times to implement backburns. Generally, when the FDR is Very High or greater, backburning should commence when the humidity begins to rise in the late afternoon or early evening. With a lower FDR backburning may be safely undertaken during the day.
- Where practicable, clear a 1m radius around dead and fireless barbed trees adjacent to containment lines prior to backburning, or wet down these trees as part of the backburn operation.
- Avoid ignition of backburns at the bottom of slopes where a long and intense up slope burn is likely.
- The fire command 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, where practicable, except where they can be constructed with minimal environmental impact. New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer.
- Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
- All containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed at the cessation of the incident.
- 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 a senior NPWS officer, and then only if the probability of its success is high.
- 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.
- Containment lines constructed by earthmoving equipment should consider the protection of drainage features, observe the Threatened Species and Cultural Heritage Operational Guidelines, and be surveyed, where possible, to identify unknown cultural heritage sites.
- Earthmoving equipment should be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS estate.
- In areas of Phytolithora citrinum infestation, the use of earthmoving equipment is not permitted. After rain, the use of vehicles is to be restricted to times when soil will not be moved off site in the form of mud etc. In the event of vehicles moving during rain, they are to be effectively washed down prior to leaving known infested 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 products name recorded.
- The Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed.

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.
- Smoke management must be in accordance with relevant RTA traffic management guidelines.

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.