


Northern Rivers Region Mebbin National Park Fire Management Strategy (Type 2) 2006 Sheet 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.

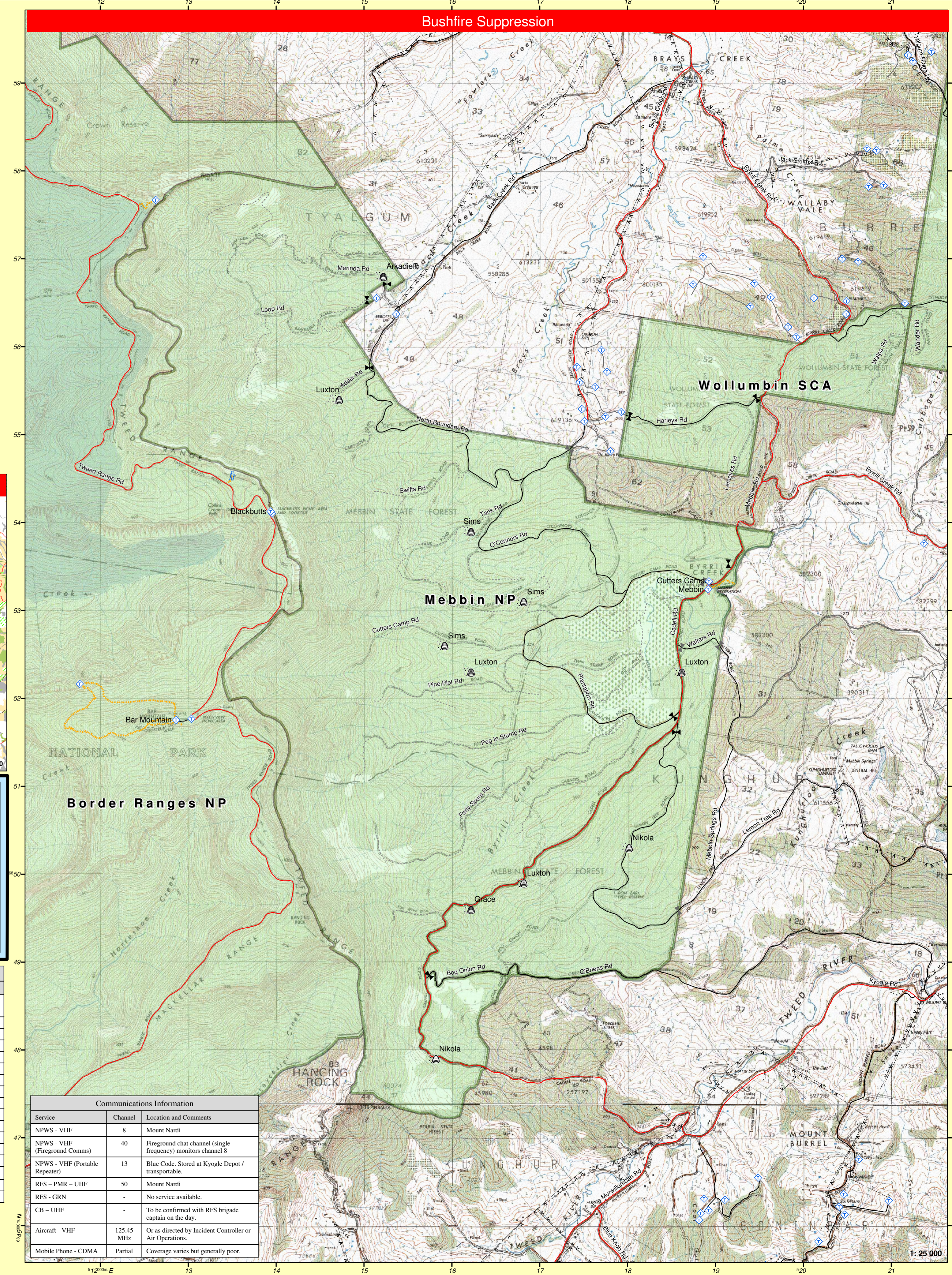
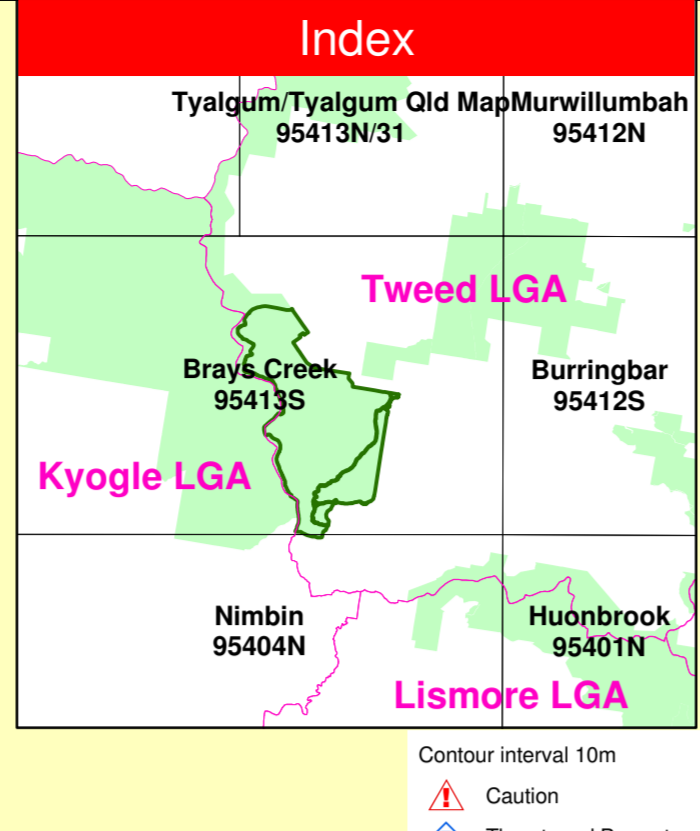
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This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997.

Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW)



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 sites are not shown on this version. Vulnerable sites will be shown on the operational version of this strategy following consultation with the Aboriginal Community.
Historic Heritage Management (NPWS FMM 4.10)	No known sites in Reserve. If new sites located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
Threatened Fauna Management (NPWS FMM 4.12 & 5.2)	Avoid impact on wetlands, rainforest and streams
Threatened Flora Management (NPWS FMM 4.12)	Protect large and hollow-bearing trees and logs and timber bridges
Threatened Property	Avoid impact on wetlands, rainforest and streams.
General	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	Guidelines
Aerial Water Bombing (NPWS FMM 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	Foam should be used to increase the effectiveness of water bombing.
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 back-burning or fuel reduction operations. Utilise incendiaries to rapidly progress back-burns down slope where required.
Backburning (NPWS FMM 4.8)	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. Avoid ignition of backburns at the bottom of slopes where a long and intense up slope burn is likely.
Command & Control	The first combatant agency on site may assume control of the fire, but then must ensure the NPWS 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	No new containment lines in wetlands. New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer. Containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
Earthmoving Equipment (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.3)	Earthmoving equipment may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer. 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. Earthmoving equipment should be washed down prior to it entering NPWS estate.
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)	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.
Rehabilitation (NPWS FMM 5.1)	Containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation. All re opened and new containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed at the cessation of the incident.
Smoke Management (NPWS FMM 3.4)	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 3.6 & 4.13)	The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations.

Strategy Information

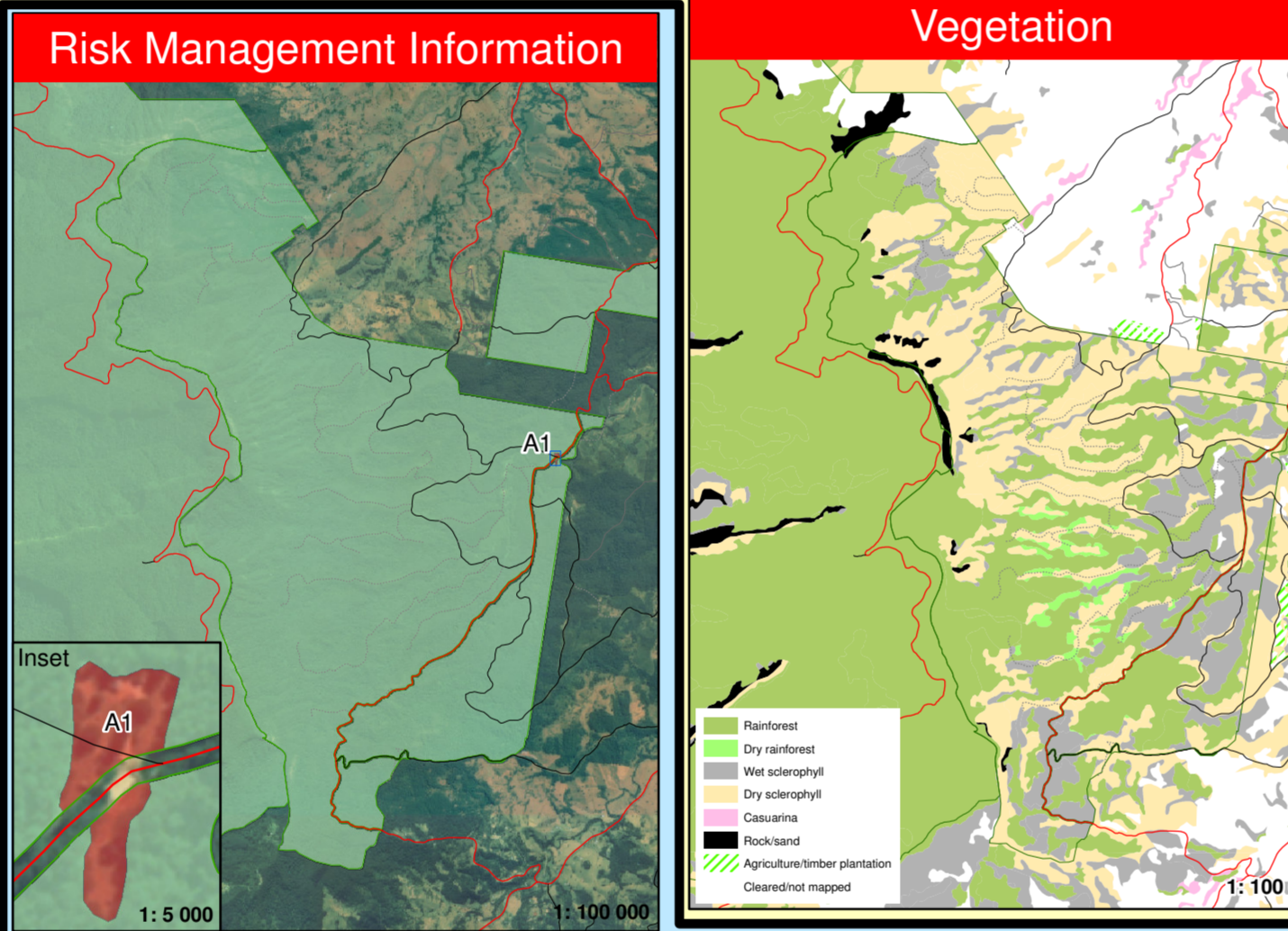
Fire Season Information

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 FMM 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.

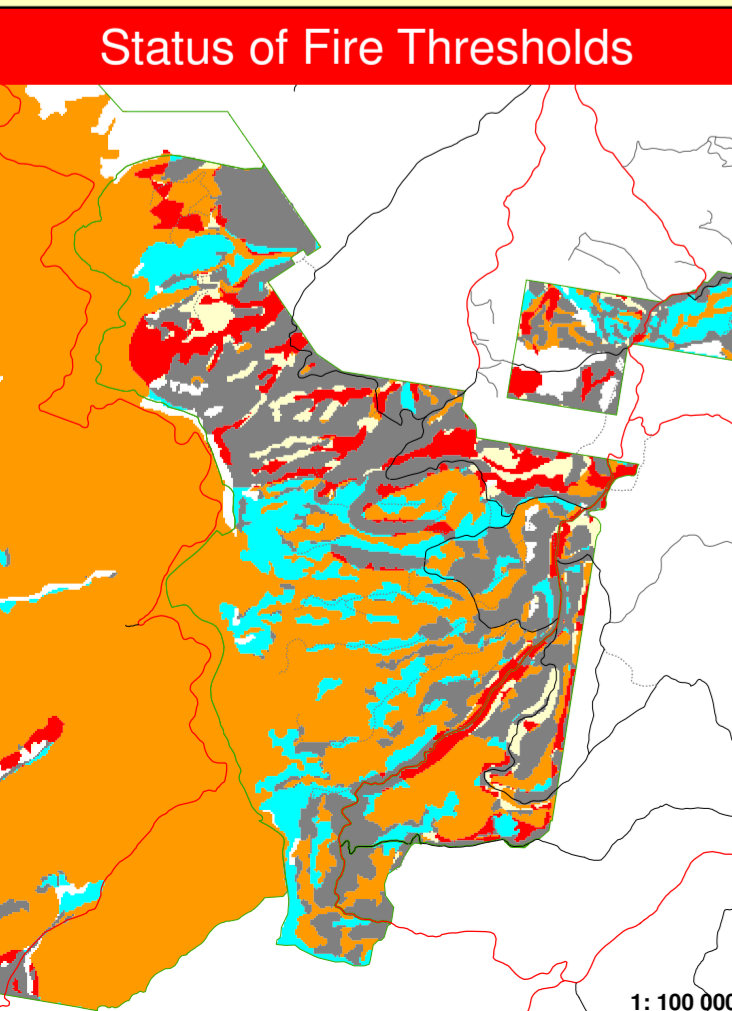
Suppression Strategies

Current FDR	Forecast FDR	Suppression Strategies
Low - Mod	Low - Mod	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.



Fire Management Zones

Asset Protection Zones	Zone	Action	Responsibility
Asset Protection Zones	Cutters Camp (A1) 140m x 60m	Mechanical treatment when overall fuel hazard reaches moderate.	NPWS
Strategic Fire Advantage Zones		The objective of SFAZs is to reduce fire intensity across larger areas. Maintain overall fuel hazard at high or below, however adherence to guidelines will take precedence where practical.	
Heritage Management Zones		The objective of HMZs is to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural heritage. Manage fire consistent with fire thresholds.	
Heritage Management Zones	Mebbin NP 3780 ha	Refer to fire thresholds map and table as part of decision making process regarding suppressing or applying fire.	NPWS / Incident Controllers



Fire Thresholds

Overburnt	Fire thresholds 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 threshold. 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.
Almost Underburnt	The area is close to its threshold and may become underburnt with the absence of fire. A prescribed burn may be advantageous.
Underburnt	Fire frequency is below fire thresholds in the area. A prescribed burn may be advantageous.
Unknown	Insufficient data to determine fire threshold.

NB. Fire thresholds are defined for vegetation communities to

Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
NPWS	NRR Regional Office - Alstonville	6627 0200
	Tweed Area Office	6670 8600
	Tweed Area Depot	6672 8153
	Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Officer	6627 0205
Rural Fire Service	Duty Officer	0500 500 521
	Tweed Fire Control Centre	6672 7888
Emergency	All emergency services	000
NSW Fire Brigade	Murwillumbah - General business	6672 8305
Police	Police Assistance Line	131444
	Murwillumbah	6672 9499
Ambulance	All other bookings	131 233
Hospital	Lismore Base Hospital	6621 8000
SES	Murwillumbah	6670 2460
	Emergencies	132 500
Council	Tweed Shire Council	6670 2400
		(AH) 1800 818 326
Country Energy	Country Energy	132 080 / 132 356
Aboriginal contacts	Tweed Byron LALC	6674 3600

Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	8	Mount Nardi
NPWS - VHF (Fireground Comms)	40	Fireground chat channel (single frequency) monitors channel 8
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	13	Blue Code. Stored at Kyogle Depot / transportable.
RFS - PMR - UHF	50	Mount Nardi
RFS - GRN	-	No service available.
CB - UHF	-	To be confirmed with RFS brigade captain on the day.
Aircraft - VHF	125.45 MHz	Or as directed by Incident Controller or Air Operations.
Mobile Phone - CDMA	Partial	Coverage varies but generally poor.