Mid North Coast Region
Middle Brother National Park
Fire Management Strategy (Type 2) 2005
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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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:** / /

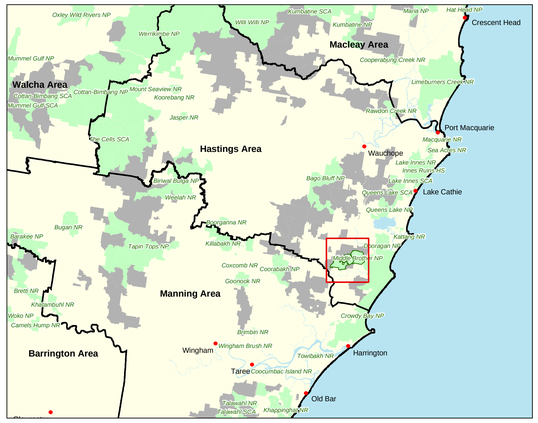
Director Northern, Parks & Wildlife Division

Datum: AGD66
Projection: UTM
Grid: AMG Zone 56

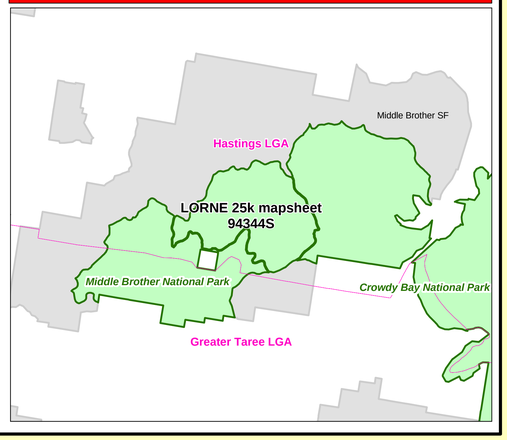
Noted scales are true when this map is printed on A0 paper

Produced by MNC GIS

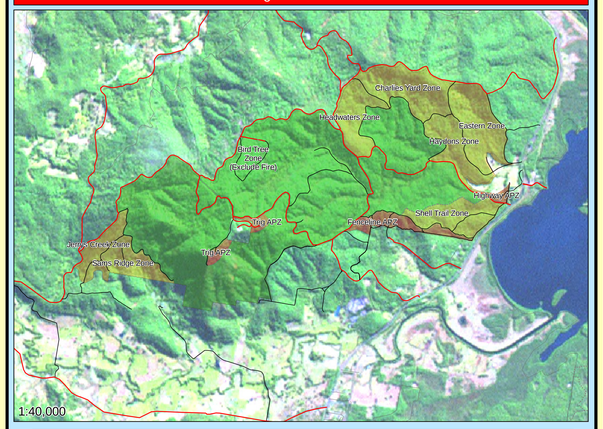
Locality



Index

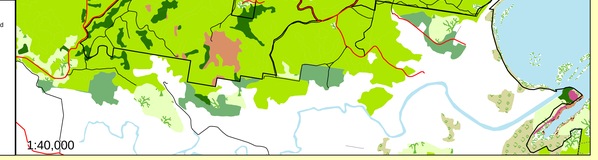


Risk Management Information



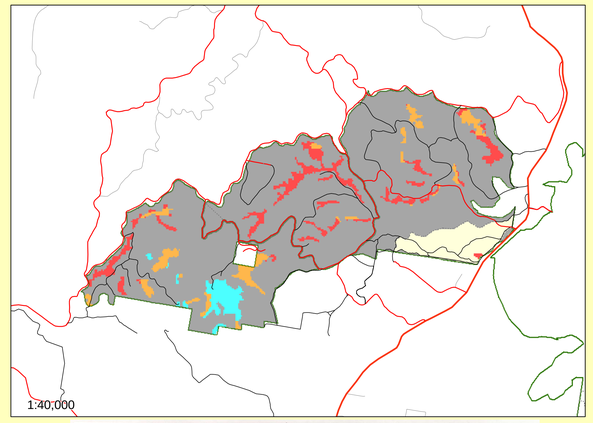
Fire Management Zones	
Asset Protection Zones	The objective of **APZ**s is the protection of human life and property. This will have precedence over guidelines for the management of biodiversity. Maintain Overall Fuel Hazard at Moderate or below.
Strategic Fire Advantage Zones	The objective of **SFAZ**s 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.

Vegetation



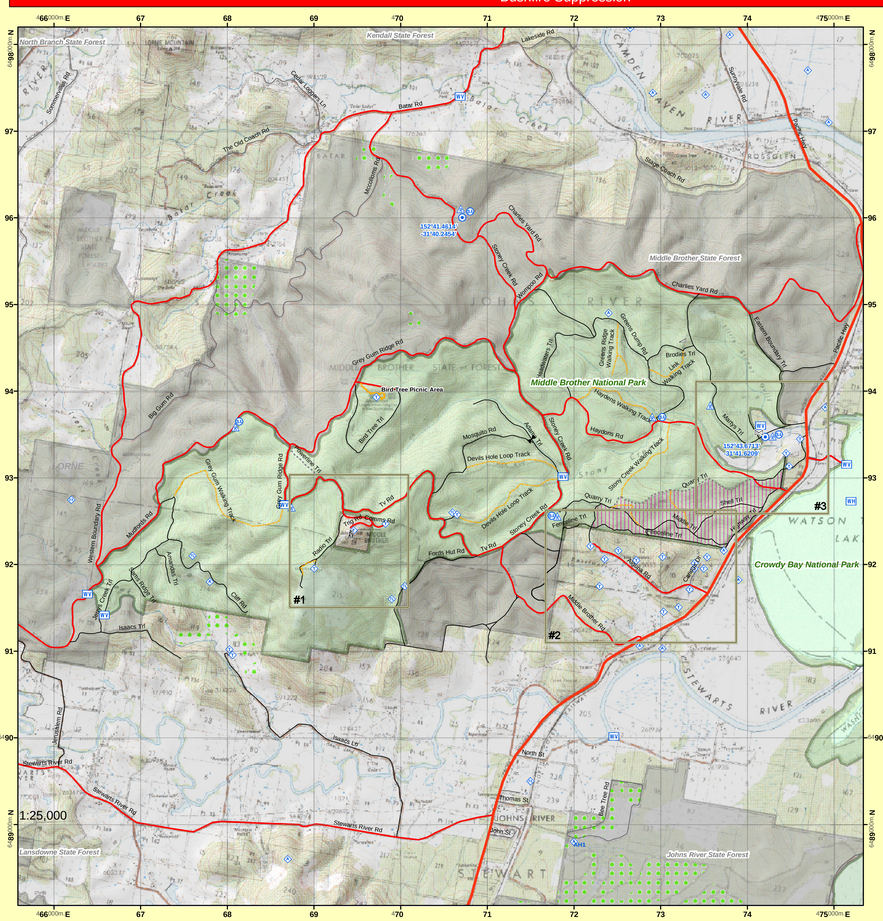
- Arid & semi-arid shrubland
- Arid & semi-arid shrubland &/or Grassland
- Rainforest
- Wet sclerophyll forest
- Swamp sclerophyll forest
- Grassy dry sclerophyll forest
- Grassland
- Semi-mesic grassy forest
- Heathland
- Freshwater wetland
- Saline wetland
- Water

Status of Fire Thresholds



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 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 fire thresholds in the area. · *A prescribed burn may be advantageous. Consider allowing unplanned fires to burn.*
Unknown	Insufficient data to determine fire threshold.
NB. Fire thresholds are defined for vegetation communities to conserve biodiversity	

Bushfire Suppression



Contact Information		
Agency	**Position / Location**	**Phone**
NPWS	Regional Duty Officer Mid North Coast	016 301 161
		6586 8329
	Fire Management Officer - MNCR	6586 8329
		0417 497 031
		6584 5894 (fax)
	Regional Operations Coordinator MNCR	6586 8317
	Hastings Area Office	6588 5555
	Mid North Coast Regional Office	6586 8300
		6584 9402 (fax)
Rural Fire Service	Hastings 24 hr Number	6585 1999
SES	Emergency	000
	Wauchope	6585 1966
Police	Emergency	000
	Wauchope Station	6585 1404
Ambulance	Emergency	000
Hospital	Wauchope Base Hospital	6585 1300
State Forests	Wauchope	6585 3744
RTA	Port Macquarie	132213
Council	Hastings Shire	6581 8111

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)	• Two sites exist within the Park, but aqre not directly affected by fire or fire fighting activities • If new sites are located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
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)	FA - Wildlife rescue program to be implemented when IC declares it safe to undertake onground rescue operations • As far as possible, protect large and hollow-bearing trees in locations where these species are known to occur. • As far as possible avoid high intensity fires that consume canopies and fallen logs in locations where these species are known to occur. • If new sites are located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
Threatened Flora Management (NPWS FMM 4.12)	FL - (*Acacia courtii*) Avoid the use of earth moving machinery in locations where these species are known to occur, Avoid the use of retardant in locations where these species are known to occur. • If new sites are located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
Threatened Property	• Where possible 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)	• The use of bombing aircraft should support ground based suppression crews and containment operations by aggressively attacking hotspots and spot-overs. • Ground crews must be alerted to water bombing operations.
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 where practicable, but only with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer. • Utilise incendiaries to rapidly progress back-burns down slope where required.
Backburning (NPWS FMM 4.8)	• Temperature and humidity trends must be monitored carefully to determine the safest times to implement back-burns. 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. • Avoid ignition of backburns at the bottom of slopes where a long and intense up slope burn is likely.
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)	• No new containment lines will be constructed except where they can be constructed by hand and will have minimal erosion potential.. New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer. • Most fire trails will benefit from a low impact surface clearing/sweeping • Where practicable, 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, 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. • Earthmoving equipment should be washed down, where practicable, 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)	• 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 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, RTA, LGA 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.

Communications Information		
Service	**Channel**	**Location and Comments**
NPWS - VHF	9	Channel 1 as alternate
NPWS - VHF (Fireground Comms)	41	Channel 33 as alternate
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	13	Held at hastings Depot in Port Macquarie.
RFS PMR - UHF	28	Channel 55 (Comboyne) or 63 (Cairncross) as alternates
RFS - GRN		Not Available
SF - VHF	32	NPWS Equivalent Channel 91
CB - UHF	12	
Aircraft - VHF	No	N/A
Mobile Phone - CDMA	Yes	
Mobile Phone - GSM	Yes	

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 point of view.
Suppression Strategies		
Current FDR	**Forecast FDR**	
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.