

# Murrumbidgee Valley National Park Banandra & Boona Precincts Fire Management Strategy 2012

Mapsheet 1 of 1



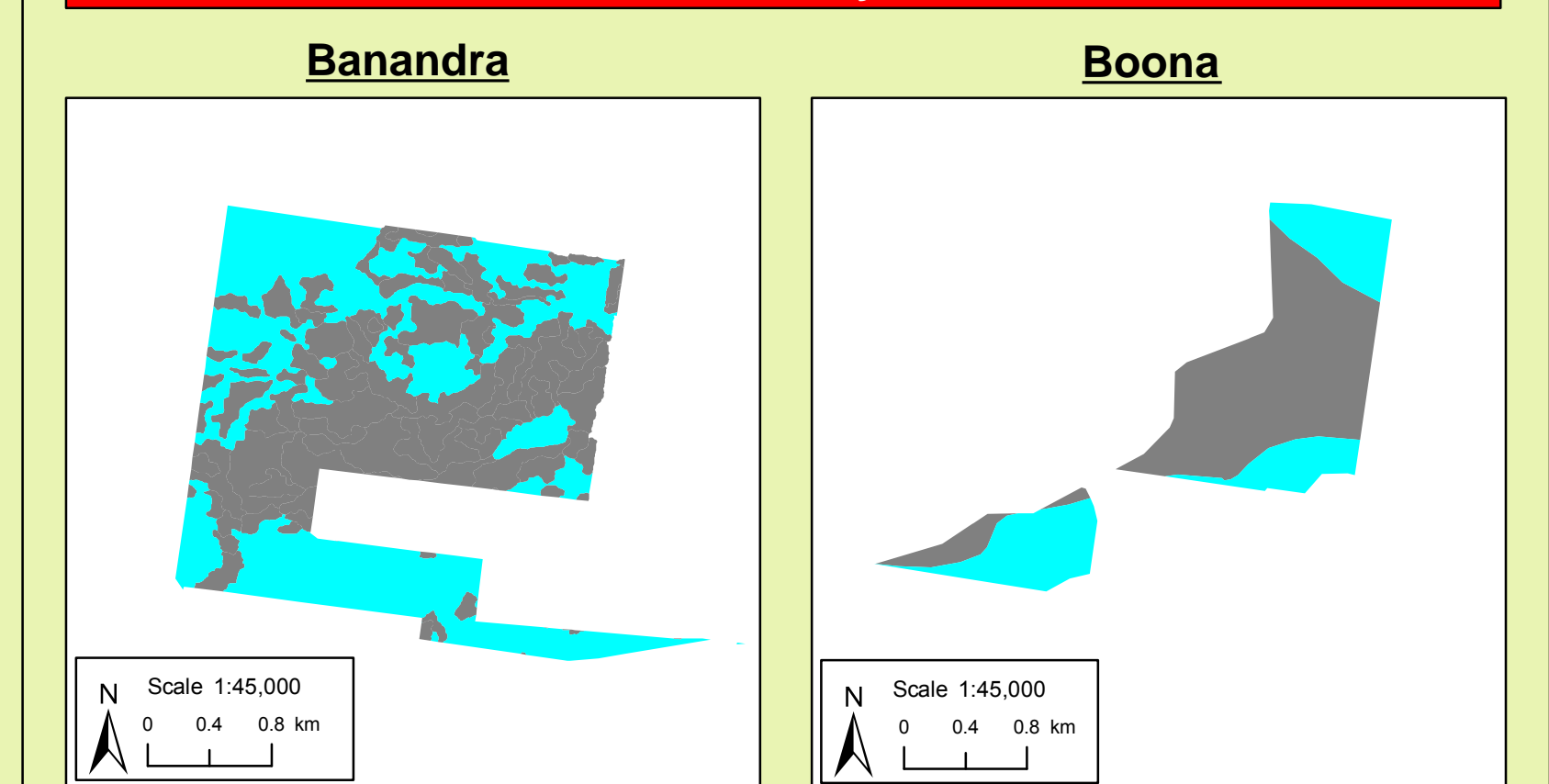
This strategy should be used in conjunction with aerial photography and field reconnaissance during incidents and the development of incident action plans. These data are not guaranteed to be free from error or omission. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife and its employees disclaim liability for any act done on the information in the data and any consequences of such acts or omissions. 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 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is part of the Office of Environment and Heritage. Published by the Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW), March 2011.

ISBN 978 1 74293 725 0	OEH 2012/0566	Date: August 2012	Version: 1
<b>Map Details</b>		<b>Related Documents</b>	
Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA) 1994 Projection: Map Grid of Australia (MGA) Zone 55 Data: Spot Satellite Imagery: 2005.		1:50K Topographic Map: Coleambally 8028-S, 1:25K, Tubbo 81284-S (AGD-1966) Scale: Noted scales are true when printed on A1 size paper	
		OEH Fire Management Manual 2011 - 2012.	

## Operational Guidelines

General	Guidelines
<b>Aerial Water Bombing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The use of bombing aircraft should support containment operations by aggressively attacking hotspots and spot-overs.</li> <li>The use of bombing aircraft without the support of ground based suppression crews should be limited to very specific circumstances.</li> <li>Where practicable foam should be used to increase the effectiveness of the water.</li> <li>Ground crews must be alerted to water bombing operations.</li> </ul>
<b>Aerial Ignition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aerial ignition may be used during back-burning or fuel reduction operations where practicable, but only with the prior consent of NPWS Regional Manager, OEH Section 44 delegate or as prescribed in an operational burn plan.</li> <li>Aerial ignition will only be undertaken by accredited navigators &amp; bombardiers.</li> <li>The pattern for aerial ignition will be specified in the IAP during fire suppression.</li> <li>Utilise incendiaries to rapidly burn out large areas where required.</li> </ul>
<b>Back-burning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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, back-burning should commence when the humidity begins to rise in the late afternoon or early evening, with a lower FDI back-burning may be safely undertaken during the day.</li> <li>Where practicable, clear a 1m radius around dead and hollow bearing trees adjacent to containment lines prior to back-burning, or wet down these trees as part of the back-burn ignition.</li> <li>Use parallel containment lines when applicable.</li> <li>All personnel must be fully briefed before back-burning operations begin.</li> </ul>
<b>Command &amp; Control</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standard Incident Management Systems are to be applied.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Where OEH is not the first responding fire authority to arrive at a fire on OEH-managed lands, a competent officer of the first arriving fire authority will direct fire management activities until a competent OEH officer assumes control (unless prior agreements have been made).</li> </ul>
<b>Containment Lines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, where practicable, except where they can be constructed with minimal environmental impact.</li> <li>For new containment lines IMT to liaise with and receive consent from a Senior NPWS officer prior to construction.</li> <li>Use parallel containment lines when applicable.</li> <li>All containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed at the cessation of the incident.</li> <li>All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location.</li> <li>Containment line construction using earthmoving equipment must be in accordance with the earthmoving guidelines contained within the RFMS.</li> </ul>
<b>Earthmoving Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Earthmoving equipment must always be guided and supervised by an appropriately experienced person, and accompanied by a support vehicle. When engaged in direct or parallel attack this vehicle must be a fire fighting vehicle.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Earthmoving equipment must not leave tracks or create new tracks in Machinery Exclusion areas as marked on the Incident Map of a RFMS.</li> <li>Earthmoving equipment must be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS estate and again on exiting NPWS estate.</li> <li>Where multiple items of earthmoving equipment are being used, the IMT should consider the establishment of a Plant Operations Manager.</li> </ul>
<b>Fire Advantage Recording</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All fire advantages used during wildfire suppression operations must be mapped and where relevant added to the database.</li> </ul>
<b>Fire Suppression Chemicals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of wetting and foaming agents (surfactants) is permitted on the reserve.</li> <li>The use of fire retardants are only permitted with the prior consent of the senior NPWS officer and should be avoided where reasonable alternatives are available.</li> <li>Exclude the use of surfactants and retardants within 50m of watercourses, dams and swamps.</li> <li>Areas where fire suppression chemicals are used must be mapped and the used product's name recorded.</li> <li>The Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed.</li> </ul>
<b>Rehabilitation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.</li> </ul>
<b>Smoke Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The potential impacts of smoke and possible mitigation tactics must be considered when planning for wildfire suppression and prescribed burning operations.</li> <li>If smoke becomes a hazard on local roads or highways, the police and relevant media must be notified.</li> <li>Smoke management must be in accordance with relevant RTA traffic management guidelines.</li> </ul>
<b>Structural Fire Fighting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OEH personnel are not trained in structural fire fighting and must not enter a structure in order to undertake structural fire fighting.</li> <li>Fire suppression activities may be undertaken from outside a structure in accordance with the policies in the NPWS FMM, in order to protect a built asset.</li> </ul>
<b>Visitor Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger Prescribed burning or during wildfire suppression operations.</li> </ul>
<b>WARNINGS</b>	Beware of overhead powerlines.

## Status of Biodiversity Thresholds



Evaluation of Biodiversity Thresholds	
<b>Within Threshold</b>	Within the threshold for vegetation in this area. Species have had sufficient time to mature and reproduce, and for habitats to develop. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A fire event is neither required nor should one necessarily be avoided.</li> </ul>
<b>Long Unburnt</b>	Underburnt, excessive time since last fire, species may become extinct. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A fire event may be ecologically advantageous. Consider allowing unplanned fires to burn.</li> </ul>

*NB. Fire thresholds are defined for vegetation communities to conserve biodiversity*

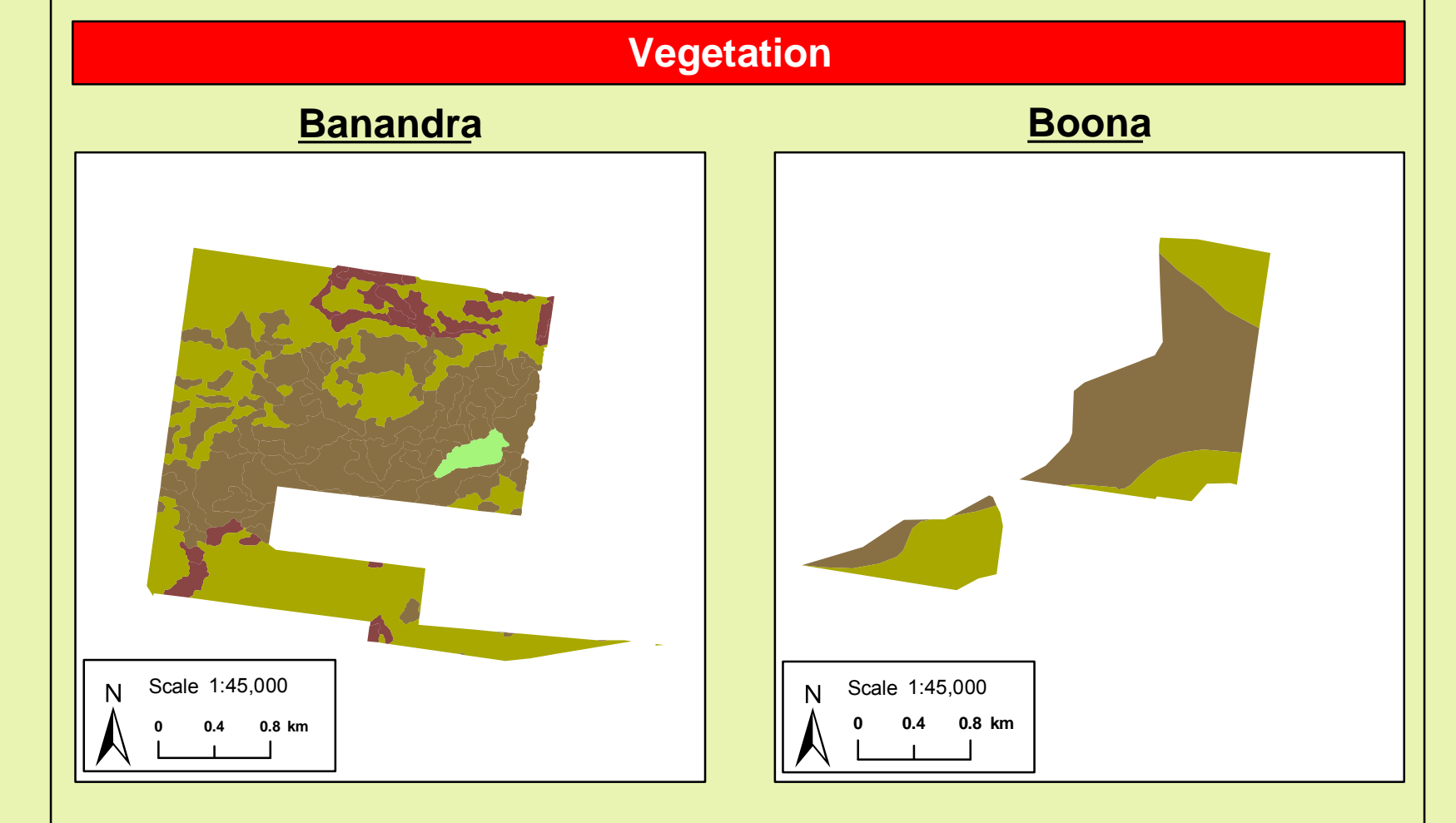
### Vegetation Map Legend

Broad Vegetation Class	Vegetation Type	Biodiversity Thresholds	Fire Behaviour
Freshwater Wetlands	Shallow Swamp	An interval between fire events less than 10 years and greater than 35 years should be avoided.	In periods of high ephemeral fuel loads the wetlands pose a risk of extreme fire intensities, hot – fast moving fires and rapid change in direction associated with wind. These vegetation communities will generally not carry fire unless there are high ephemeral fuel loads, which generally occur after flooding events. In years of high ephemeral fuels, landscape fires are possible as fire potential will be very high to extreme, characterised by spotting from Black Box and River Red Gum communities and fast moving fires in other communities.
Semi-arid Woodlands (Grassy sub-formation)	Black Box Grassy Open Woodland Wetland	An interval between fire events less than 9 years should be avoided. There is no maximum interval between fire events specified for this vegetation type as there was insufficient data to give definite intervals. Fire should be avoided where Chenopod species occur. Two fires in the same area in a period of less than 10 years apart may remove younger Black Box trees.	The Cypress Pine Woodlands generally occur on source-bordering dunes and the potential rate of spread would be low due to low overall fuel hazard. Fire runs are likely to slow down when entering this vegetation. Grassy areas will behave as below.
Semi-arid Woodlands (Shrubby sub-formation)	Yellow Box/White Cypress Pine Grassy and Open Woodlands	An interval between fire events less than 15 years should be avoided. There is no maximum interval between fire events specified for this vegetation type as there was insufficient data to give definite intervals.	High intensity fast moving fire once grasses have cured. Fire behaviour is dominated by winds, both speed and direction. Even in very low fuel, grass fires can erratic and fast moving. In ephemeral years intensity will be higher and in drought years minimal growth will result in moderate fire behaviour but potentially still fast moving depending on weather conditions at the time.
Grassland	Native Grassland Complex	An interval between fire events less than 3 years and greater than 10 years should be avoided.	Wildfires are generally attributed to humans, either from escaped campfires, discarded cigarettes or matches or deliberate ignitions. A lower number of fires can be attributed to lightning strikes. The fire history data for this area is incomplete.

**Fire History** Wildfires are generally attributed to humans, either from escaped campfires, discarded cigarettes or matches or deliberate ignitions. A lower number of fires can be attributed to lightning strikes. The fire history data for this area is incomplete.

**Ephemeral Conditions** Ephemeral fuel conditions occur after consecutive years of effective rainfall and significant flooding events. This in turn leads to the growth and build up of fine surface fuels such as grasses and herbs, which can create a continuous fuel load across all of the above vegetation communities and give an increase in fire intensity.

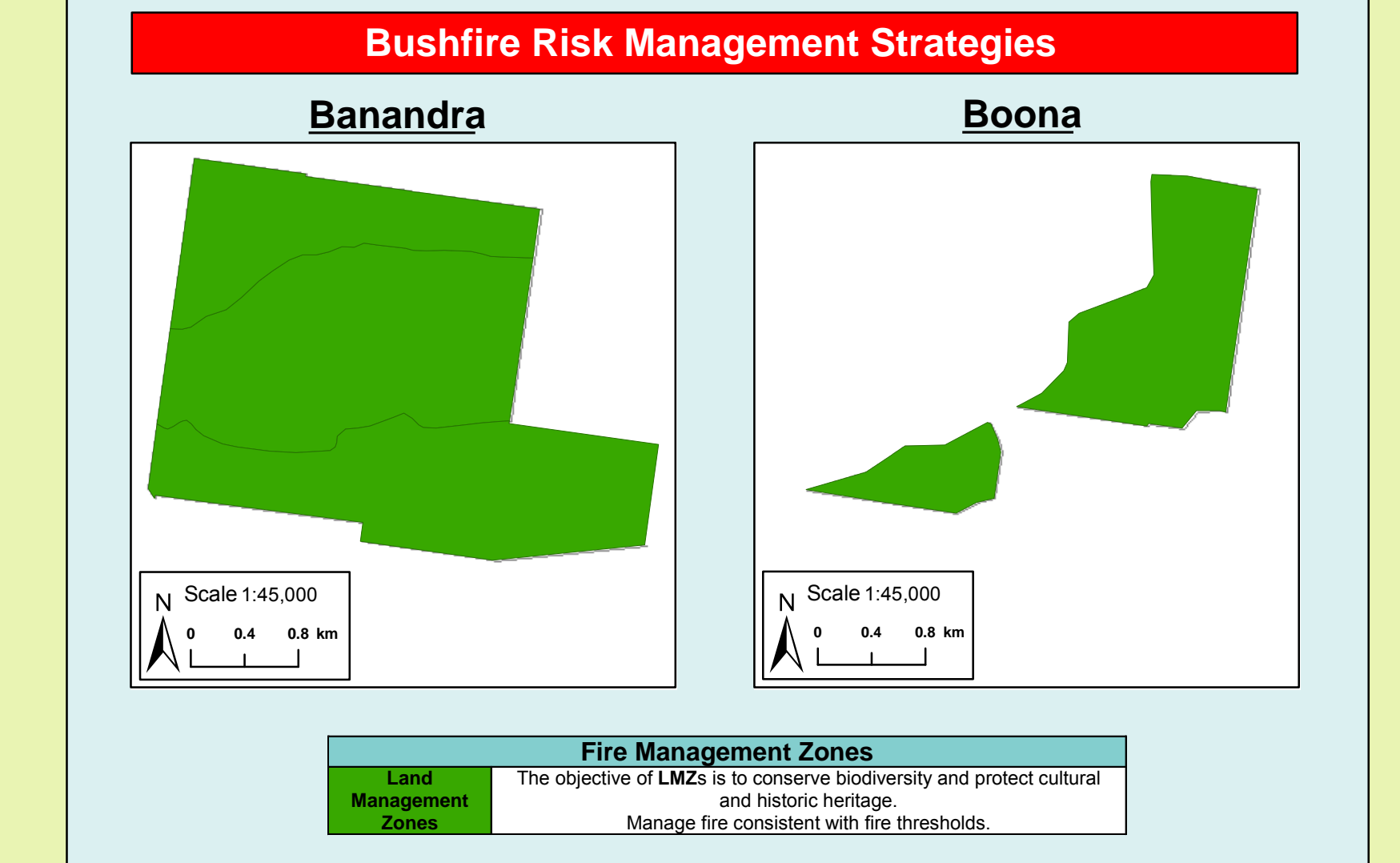
**Drought Conditions** During drought conditions and when vegetation communities are visibly stressed or experiencing dieback no prescribed burning will be permitted and wildfire areas will be minimised.



### Threatened Sites Guidelines

Site	Guidelines
<b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management</b>	
Note	An aboriginal sites survey is yet to be conducted for this reserve (as of August 2012). Therefore aboriginal sites may be present and consideration in engaging a Senior NPWS Officer or Aboriginal Sites Officer prior to hazard reduction and wildfire suppression activities is required.
<b>Threatened Fauna Management</b>	
FA1	Utilise mosaic burning and avoid disturbance at known sightings, roosting or refuges and avoid frequent fire (<6 years).
FA4	Utilise mosaic burning, protect hollow bearing trees and avoid frequent fire (< 6 –10 years).
FA7	Exclude fire from habitat and avoid the use of machinery and chemicals.

## Bushfire Risk Management Strategies



### Suppression Strategies

Season	Typical Conditions	Indicative Suppression Strategies
Just prior to or during the critical fire season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current Fire Danger Rating (FDR) of Very High or Greater.</li> <li>Short and medium range forecasts suggest conditions typical of a FDR of Very High or Greater.</li> <li>A risk to life and/or property exists in the short – medium term.</li> <li>A broad area risk to biodiversity exists.</li> </ul>	<b>Direct</b> Initial attacks should be to try to extinguish or to contain to the smallest possible area.
Outside of the critical fire season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FDR of High or below.</li> <li>Short – medium term forecast indicate a continuing FDR of High or below.</li> <li>No risk to life or property exists in the short-medium term.</li> <li>Only small area risk to biodiversity exists.</li> </ul>	<b>Indirect</b> Develop a suppression plan using existing and/or potential containment lines. If possible take into account biodiversity requirements but never to the detriment of life and property.

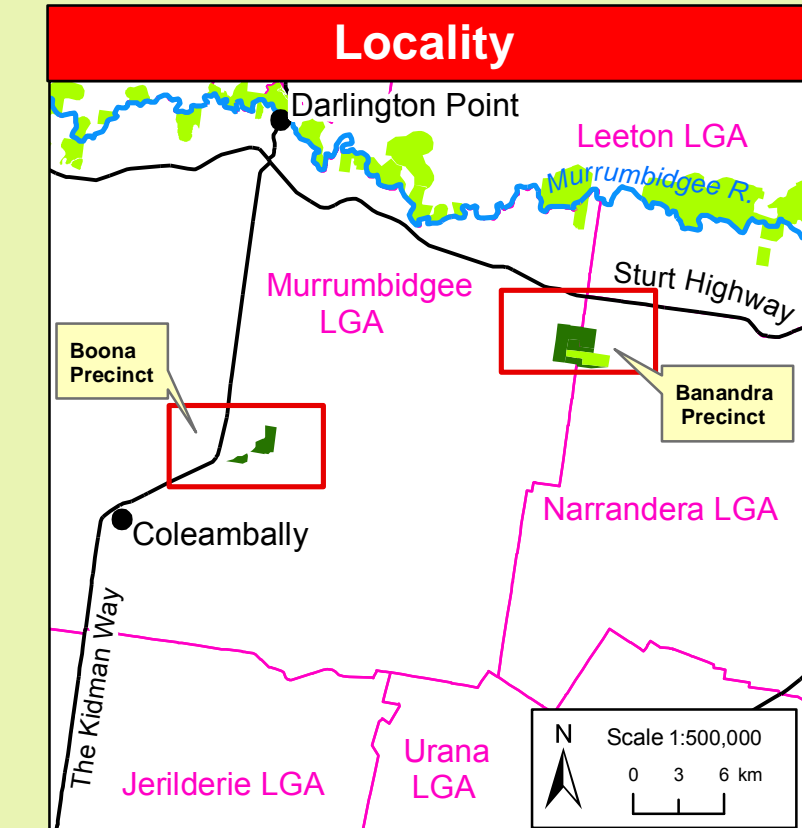
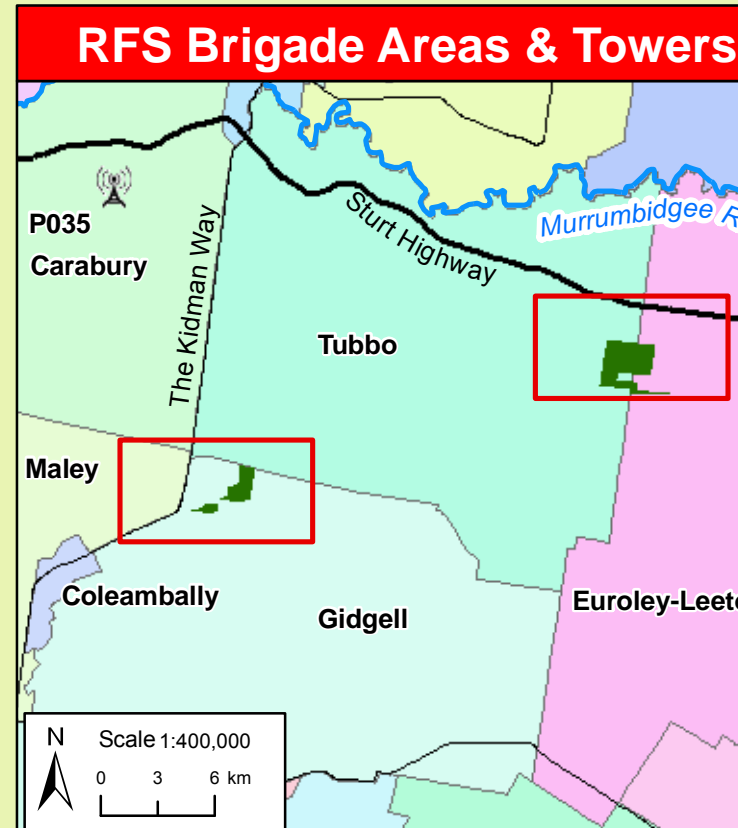
### Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
<b>National Parks &amp; Wildlife Service</b>	Duty Officer (8am-10pm)	02 6332 6350
	Regional Office – 200 Yambil St Griffith	02 6966 8100
	Fire Control Centre	02 6964 1144
<b>NSW Rural Fire Service (MIA)</b>	46 Jensen Rd Griffith	02 6964 5400 (AH)
<b>NSW Fire Brigades</b>	Tubby Officer	02 6964 4152
<b>State Forests</b>	Griffith Fire Station	02 6963 6786
<b>Emergency Services</b>	Leeton Fire Station	0428 696 678
<b>SES</b>	Forbes – Duty Mobile	000
<b>Police Station (not open 24 hrs)</b>	Leeton	13 2500
<b>Police - Local Area Command</b>	Darlington Point	02 6953 1399
<b>Hospital</b>	Griffith	02 6968 4114
<b>Council</b>	Griffith Base Leeton	02 6969 5555
	Narrandera Shire Council	02 6953 1111
	Leeton Shire Council	02 6959 5510
	Murrumbidgee Shire Council	02 6953 0911
		02 6960 5500

### Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS	10	•UHF
RFS Brigades UHF	09	•Tubbo
	17	•Euroley-Leeton
	29	•Giddell
RFS Griffith	P029	•Scenic Hill
RFS Murrumbidgee	P035	•Koonwarra, Darlington Point
RFS Leeton	P045	•Square Knob
State Forests VHF (Repeater)	292	•Square Knob

Mobile phone coverage is likely to be reliable



## Fire Season Information

<b>Wildfires</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The critical wildfire season generally occurs from October/November to March/April.</li> <li>Dry lightning storms frequently occur and typical fire weather conditions are winds from the west to the north, high day time temperatures and low humidity</li> <li>Particular care is required following periods of Winter rain and after periods of negative Southern Oscillation Indices.</li> </ul>
<b>Prescribed Burning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prescribed burning should generally be undertaken during winter or early Spring</li> <li>Care should be taken to ensure a low intensity burn over most of the area treated.</li> </ul>

