

Murrumbidgee Valley National Park
MIA 1 Precinct
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 2012.

Contact: OEH PWG Regional Office, 200 Yambill St, Griffith NSW 2680, P.O. Box 1049 Griffith NSW 2680 ph: 02 6966 8100

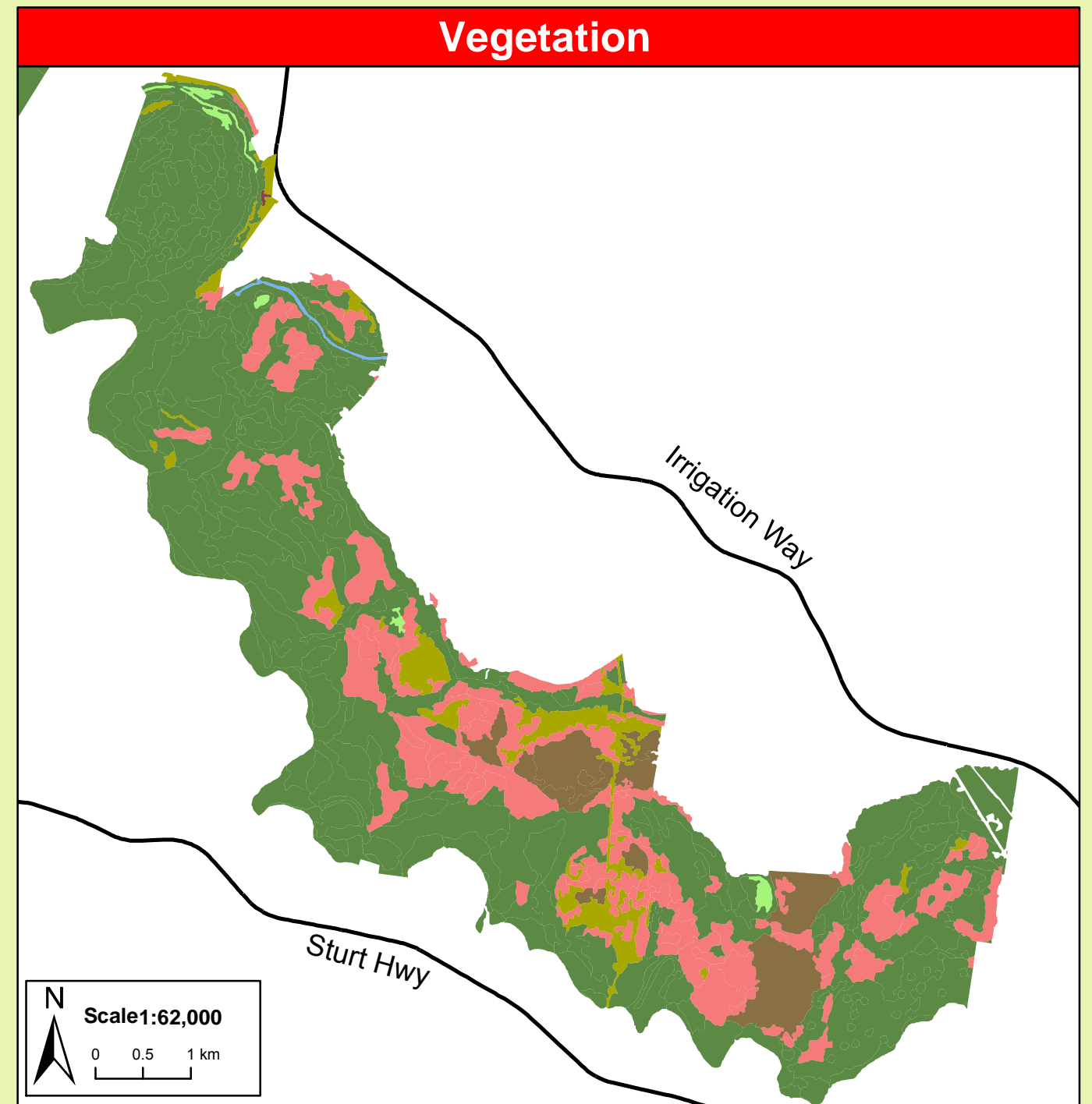
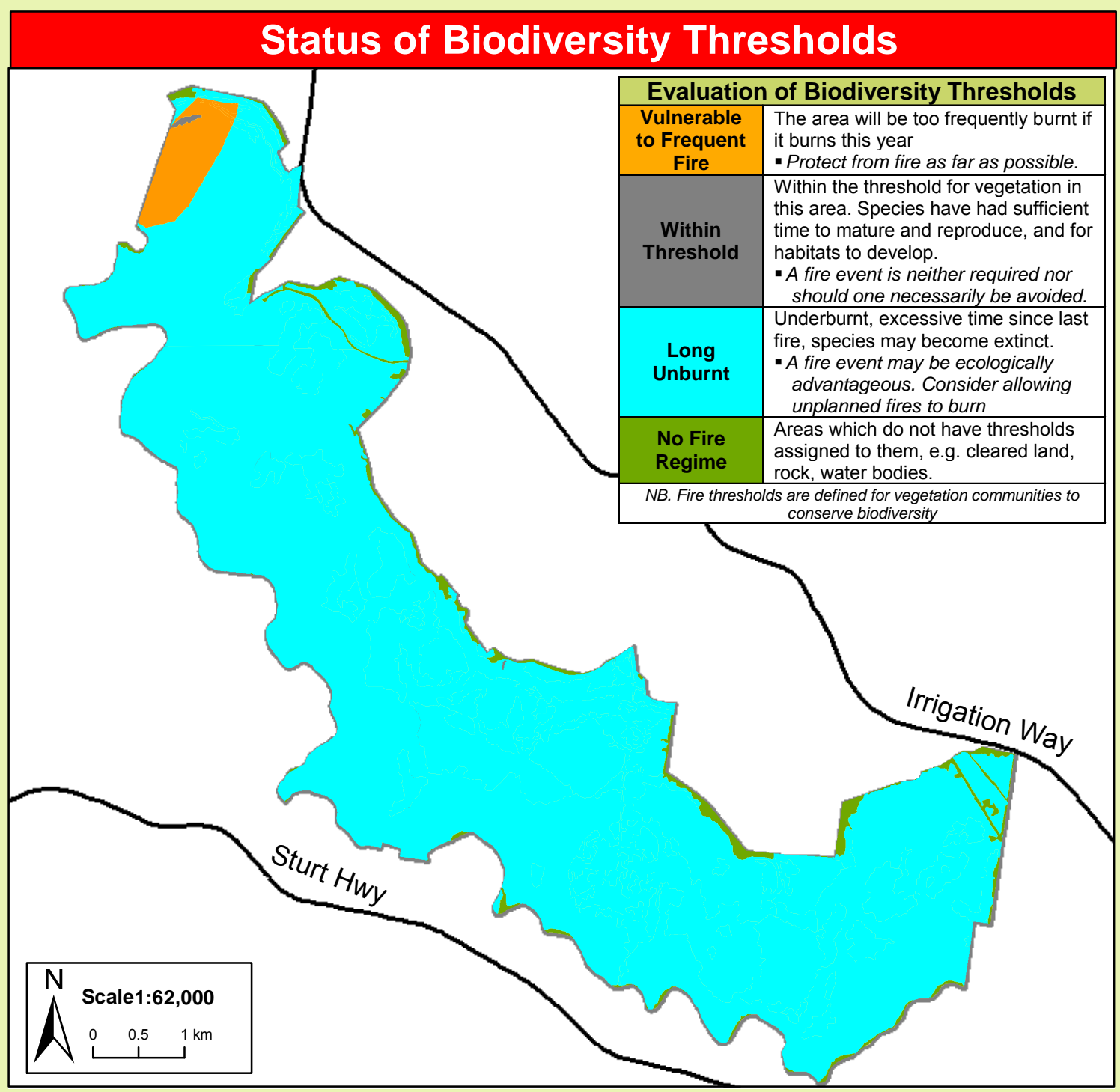
ISBN 978 1 74293 720 5 OEH 2012/0561 Date: August 2012 Version: 1

Map Details		Related Documents
Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA) 1994	1:25k Topographic Map: Euroley 81281-S (AGD-1996)	OEH Fire Management Manual 2011 - 2012.
Projection: Map Grid of Australia (MGA) Zone 55	Scale: Notes scales are true when printed on A1 size paper	
Data: Spot Satellite Imagery, 2005.		

Operational Guidelines

Brief all personnel involved in suppression operations on the following issues using the SMEACS format:

General	Guidelines
Aerial Water Bombing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of bombing aircraft should support containment operations by aggressively attacking hotspots and spot-overs. The use of bombing aircraft without the support of ground based suppression crews should be limited to very specific circumstances. Where practicable foam should be used to increase the effectiveness of the water. Ground crews must be alerted to water bombing operations.
Aerial Ignition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Aerial ignition will only be undertaken by accredited navigators & bombardiers. The pattern for aerial ignition will be specified in the IAP during fire suppression. Utilise incendiaries to rapidly burn out large areas where required.
Back-burning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. Use parallel containment lines when applicable. All personnel must be fully briefed before back-burning operations begin. Standard Incident Management Systems are to be applied. 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. Where OEH is not the first responding fire authority to arrive at a fire on OEH-managed land, 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).
Command & Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, where practicable, except where they can be constructed with minimal environmental impact. For new containment lines MT to liaise with and receive consent from a Senior NPWS officer prior to construction. Use parallel containment lines when applicable. 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. Containment line construction using earthmoving equipment must be in accordance with the earthmoving guidelines contained within the RFMS.
Containment Lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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. 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 must not leave tracks or create new tracks in Machinery Exclusion areas as marked on the Incident Map of a RFMS. Earthmoving equipment must be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS estate and again on exiting NPWS estate. Where multiple items of earthmoving equipment are being used, the IMT should consider the establishment of a Plant Operations Manager.
Earthmoving Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All fire advantages used during wildfire suppression operations must be mapped and where relevant added to the database.
Fire Advantage Recording	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of wetting and foaming agents (surfactants) is permitted on the reserve. 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. Exclude the use of surfactants and retardants within 50m of watercourses, dams and swamps. Areas where fire suppression chemicals are used must be mapped and the used product's name recorded. The Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed.
Fire Suppression Chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Smoke Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OEH personnel are not trained in structural fire fighting and must not enter a structure in order to undertake structural fire fighting. 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.
Structural Fire Fighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations. Areas of the reserve may be closed for prescribed burning operations.
Visitor Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beware of overhead powerlines. Reserve prone to flooding and only some trails will be trafficable after flood events or rain fall.



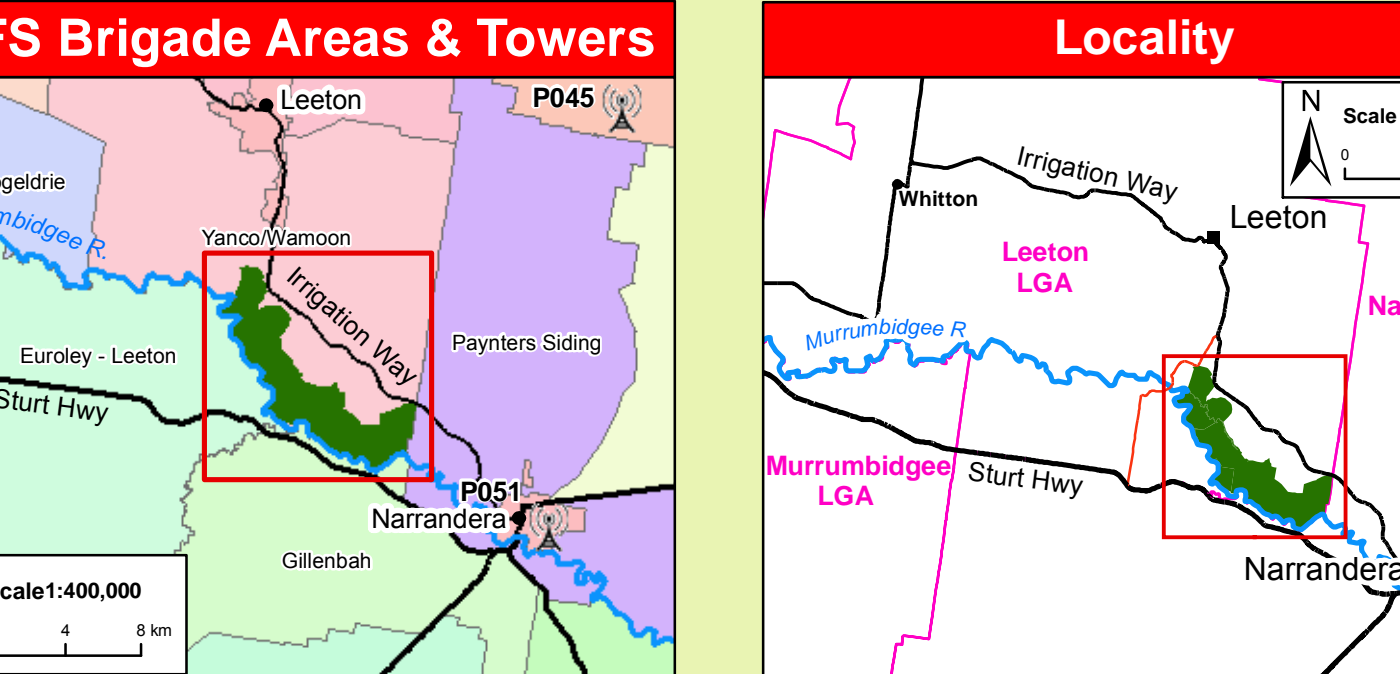
Vegetation Map Legend

Broad Vegetation Class	Vegetation Type	Biodiversity Thresholds	Fire Behaviour
Forested Wetlands	River Red Gum Forests (Tall Open & Sedge Dominated)	An interval between fire events less than 10 years and greater than 35 years should be avoided. River Red Gums will only tolerate low intensity fires. Individual trees may survive canopy scorch if they are not under stress and are in older age classes. Younger trees will not survive moderate to high intensity fires. Two fires occurring in the same area in a period of less than 20 years apart may reduce the extent of River Red Gum Forests.	These vegetation communities will generally not carry fire unless there are high ephemeral fuel loads, which generally occur after flooding events. In favourable years the River Red Gum forests can be scattered with 2m high reed beds, which can result in isolated areas of very high to extreme fire behaviour. 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. Red Gum trees commonly form canopies. 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.
Freshwater Wetlands	Shallow Swamp	An interval between fire events less than 10 years and greater than 35 years should be avoided.	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.
Semi-arid Woodlands (Grassy sub-formation)	Weeping Myall Open Woodland	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.	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. Potential spotting from trees.
Semi-arid Woodlands (Shrubby sub-formation)	Cypress Pine Woodland of source-bordering dunes	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.	
Grassy Woodlands	Yellow Box/River Red Gum/Tall Grassy Woodland Some Grey Box	An interval between fire events less than 8 years and greater than 40 years should be avoided.	
Grassland	Native Grasslands	An interval between fire events less than 3 years and greater than 10 years should be avoided.	
Water	Swampy Lagoon	No fire regime	
Other	Planted Woody Vegetation	No fire regime	

Fire History
 The only fire to be recorded for this precinct was in 2006 and was quite large with a little over 90 Ha being burnt. Fires are generally attributed to humans from either escaped campfires, discarded cigarettes and matches or deliberate ignitions.

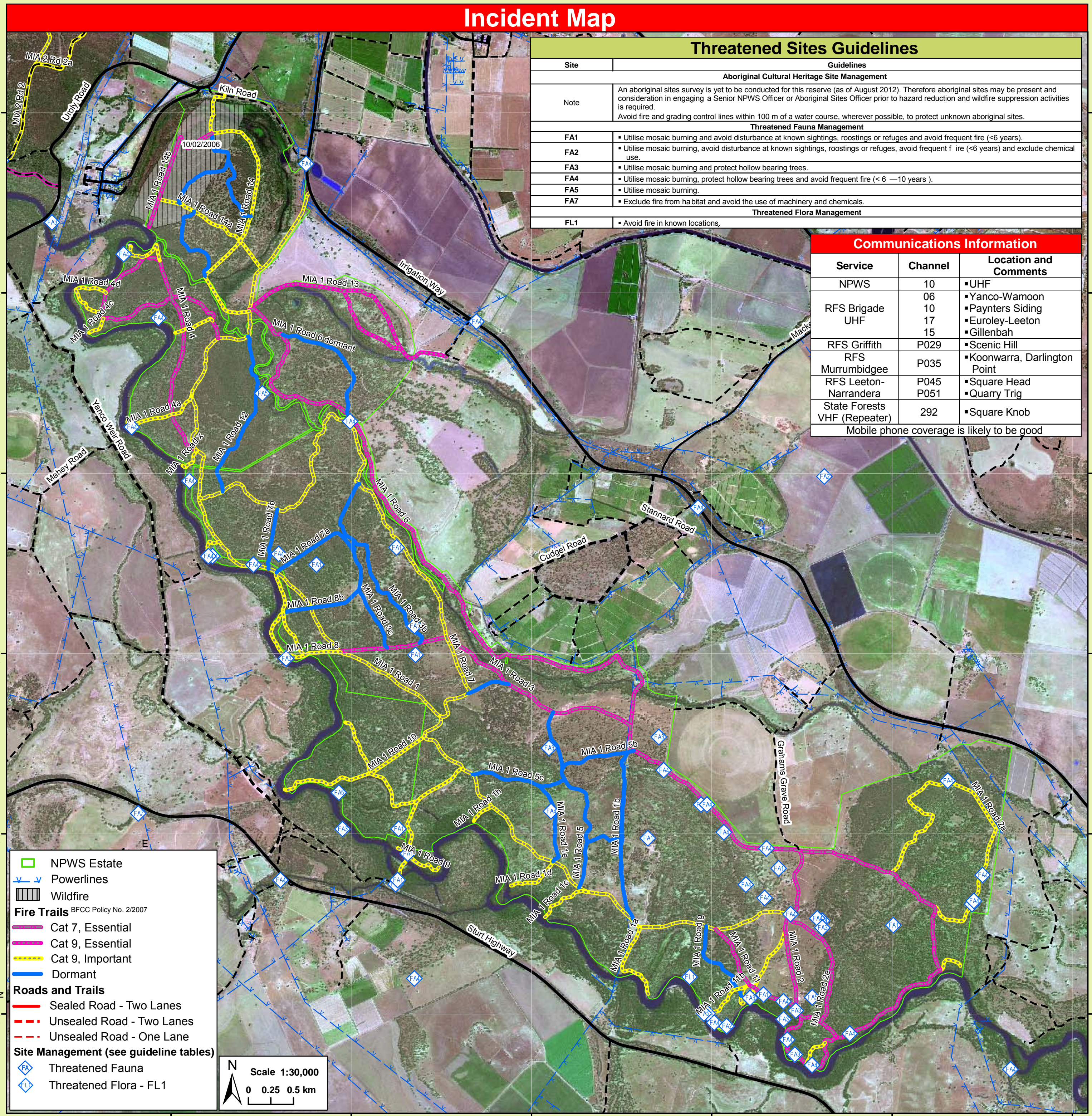
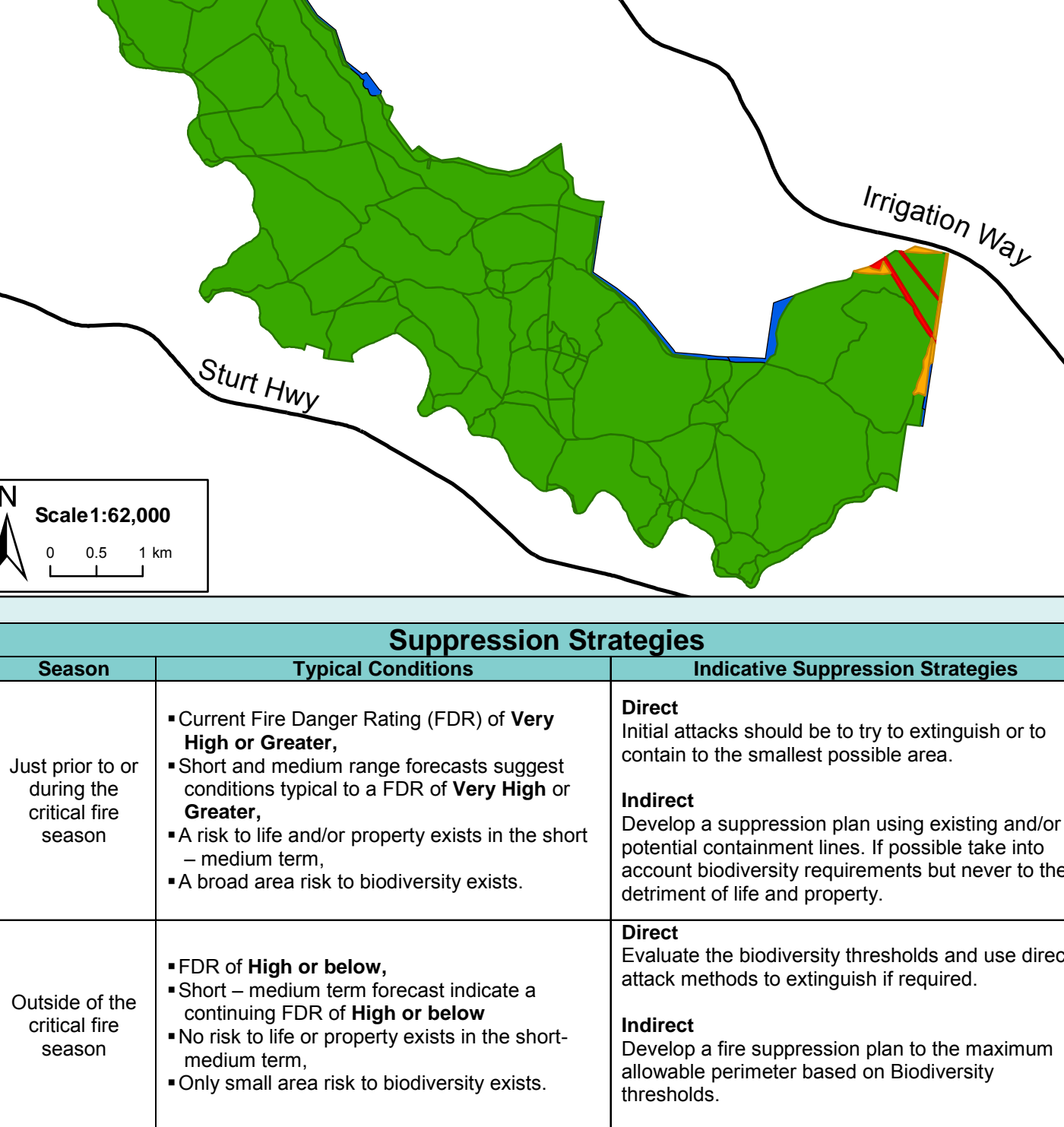
Ephemeral Conditions
 Ephemeral fuel conditions occur after consecutive years of effective rainfall and significant flooding events. This in turn leads to the growth and build up of fine surface fuels such as grasses and herbs, which can create a continuous fuel load across all of the above vegetation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

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



Bushfire Risk Management Strategies

Asset Protection Zones	Fire Management Zones
The objective of APZs 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.	The objective of SFZs 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.
The objective of SFZs 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.	The objective of LMZs is to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural and historic heritage. Manage fire consistent with fire thresholds.
	Fire should be avoided wherever possible from these areas as they will cause detrimental damage to the environment.



Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Duty Officer (8am-10pm) Regional Office - 200 Yambill St Griffith	02 6332 6350 02 6966 8100
NSW Rural Fire Service (MIA)	Fire Control Centre 46 Jensen Rd Griffith Duty Officer	02 6964 1144 02 6964 5400 (AH)
NSW Fire Brigades	Narrandera Fire Station Leeton Fire Station	02 6959 1380 02 6953 6786
State Forests Emergency Services	Forbes - Duty Mobile	0428 696 678 000
SES		13 2500
Police Station (not open 24 hrs)	Leeton Narrandera	02 6953 1399 02 6959 5999
Police - Local Area Command	Griffith	02 6969 4310
Hospital	Griffith Base Leeton	02 6969 5555 02 6953 1111
Council	Narrandera Shire Council Leeton Shire Council Murrumbidgee Shire Council	02 6959 5510 02 6953 0911 02 6960 5500

Fire Season Information

Wildfires

- The critical wildfire season generally occurs from October/November to March/April.
- 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
- Particular care is required following periods of Winter rain and after periods of negative Southern Oscillation indices.

Prescribed Burning

- Prescribed burning should generally be undertaken during winter or early Spring
- Care should be taken to ensure a low intensity burn over most of the area treated.