

Northern Rivers Region Nightcap NP, Whian Whian SCA & Snows Gully NR Fire Management Strategy (Type 2) 2005



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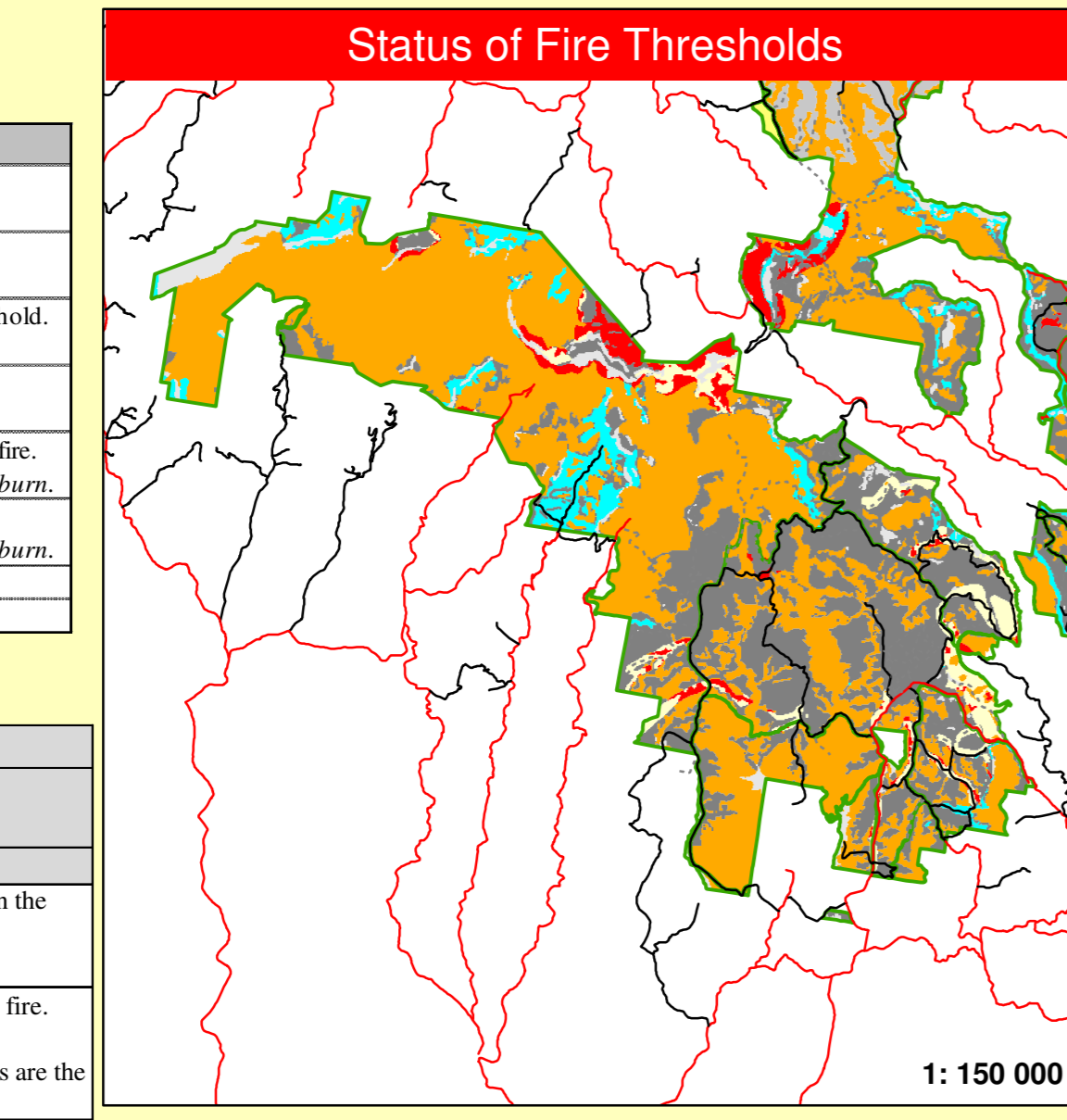
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This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997.

Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW)

Projection: UTM
Datum: AGD66
Grid: AMG66 Zone 56J

Noted scales are true when reproduced on A0 paper



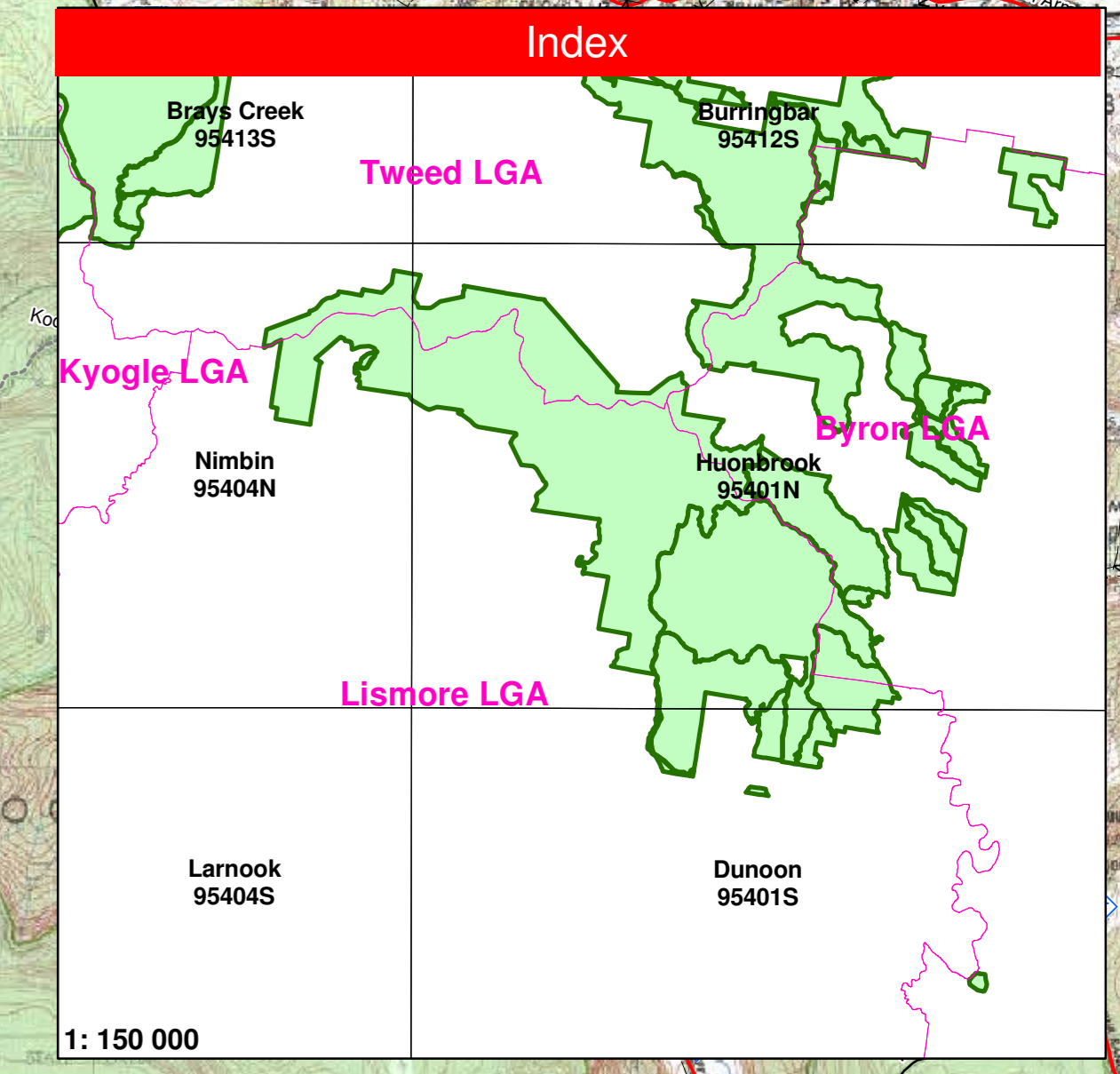
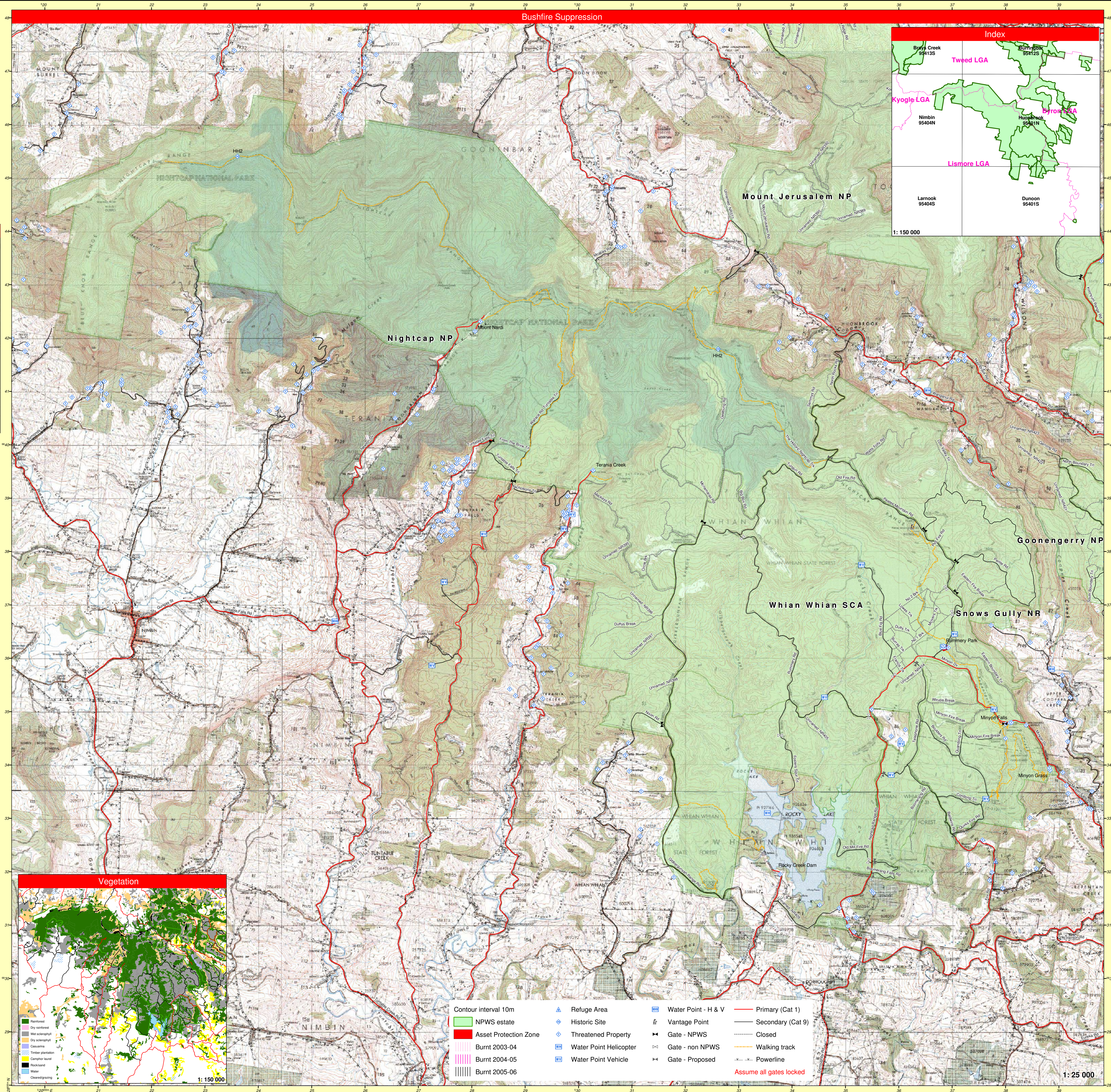
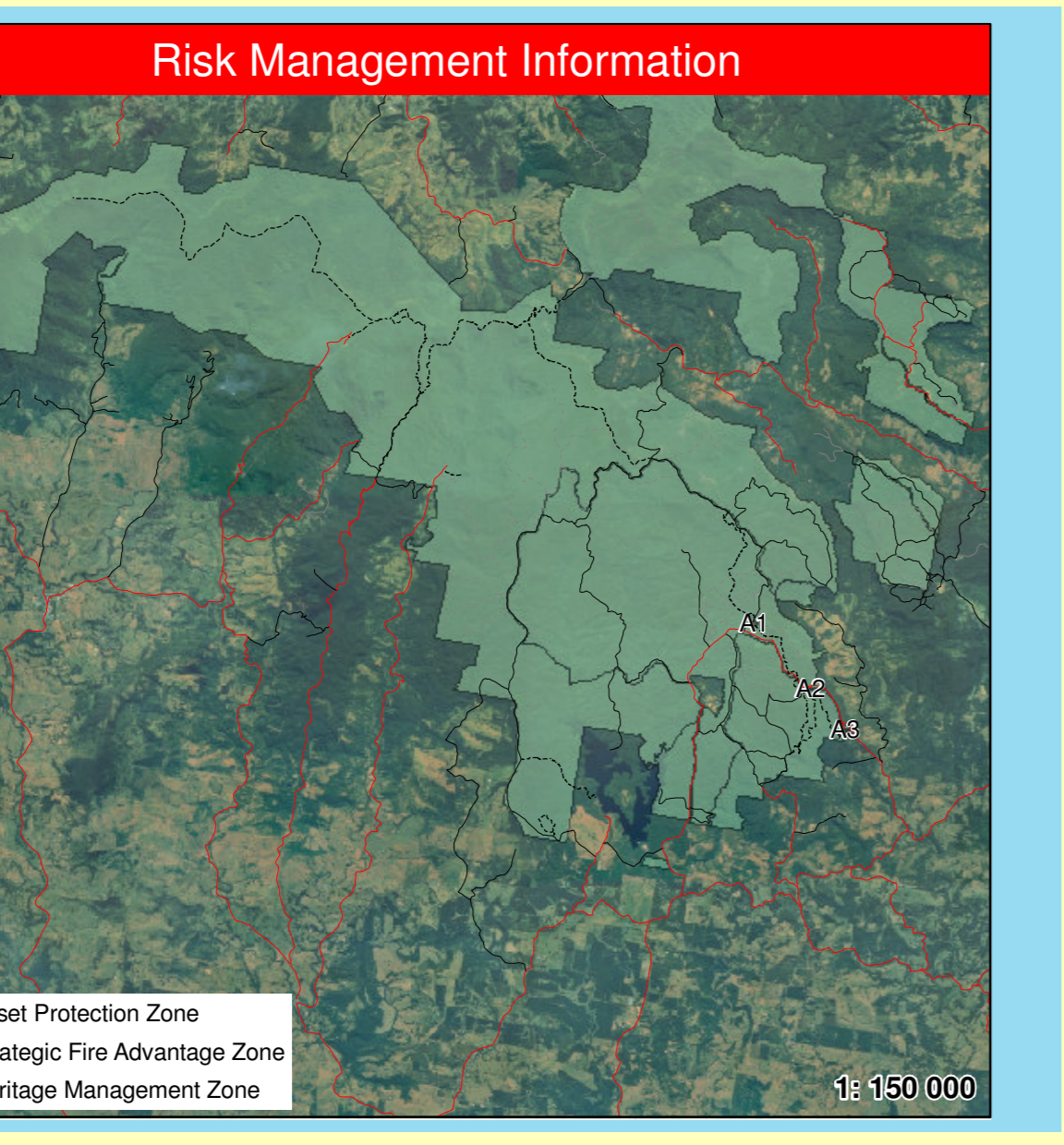
Operational Guidelines	
Refer to Strategy for Fire Management 2003 and Fire Management Manual 2004. Brief all personnel involved in suppression operations on the following issues:	
Resource	Guidelines
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management (NPWS FMM 4.11)	Aboriginal sites are not shown on this 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)	There are two known European historic sites. Both of these could be affected by fire. HH2 - Protect sites from fire. Avoid all ground disturbance including the use of earthmoving machinery, handline construction and driving over sites. These sites are the Kangaroo Flying Fox and The Postmans Tree.
Threatened Fauna Management (NPWS FMM 4.12 & 5.2)	Avoid impact on rainforest. Avoid impact on streams.
Threatened Flora Management (NPWS FMM 4.12)	Protect large and hollow-bearing trees. Avoid impact on rainforest.
Threatened Property	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	There are five facility areas within the planning area. Of these, three have the potential to be affected by fire. Asset Protection Zones are maintained adjacent to them on a regular basis.
Aerial Water Bombing (NPWS FMM 4.1 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs 02 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	Foam should be used to increase the effectiveness of water bombing. No foam to be used within the Rocky Creek Catchment Area within the NPWSA Rocky Creek Dam only to be used for a water source if no other sources are available.
Aerial Ignition (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs 02-4 / 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 (NPWS FMM 4.2)	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 BFM Plan of Operations.
Containment Lines (NPWS FMM 2.2 & 3.9)	No new containment lines in rainforest. 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 entering NPWS state.
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)	No fire retardants to be used within the Rocky Creek Catchment Area. 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.

Contact Numbers	
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service	
NRR Regional Office - Astorville 24 hrs	6627 0200
Richmond River Area Office	6627 0200
Richmond River Area Depot	6628 3786
Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Officer	6627 0200
Rural Fire Service Northern Rivers Duty Officer	6627 0444
Fire Brigade - Zone Commander (Kevin Cook)	6623 3344 (AU) 0429 640 775
Lismore Shire Council	6625 0300 (AU) 6623 4084
Police - Lismore	6623 1599
State Emergency Services (SES) - Richmond/Tweed	6625 2070 (048) 660 725
Ambulance / Bookings	000 / 13 1233

Communications Information		
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	8	Mt Nardi
NPWS - VHF (Fireground/Command)	40	Fireground chat channel (single frequency) monitors channel 8
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	13	Blue Code. Stored at Kyogle/NPWS Depot / transportable.
RFS - PMR - UHF	59	Nightcap West
RFS - GPM	63	Ramsey Park, Myrion Falls
CB - UHF	-	To be confirmed with RFS brigade captain on the day
Aircraft - VHF	125.45 MHz	As directed by Incident Controller or Air Operations
Mobile Phone - CDMA	Partial	Coverage varies. Best reception at elevated points.
Mobile Phone - GSM	No	

Suppression Strategies	
Wildfire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A typical wildfire season begins in early September through to December, with the arrival of typical summer weather patterns. Summer weather patterns are characterised by north to northwesterly winds, high temperatures and low humidity. During drought years the fire season may start as early as June and finish as late as March.
Hazard Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late Autumn and Winter - HR is achievable in early spring but not desirable ecologically, running the risk of impacts by dry westerly winds associated with August/September.
Moderate & Extreme Fire Weather	<p>Moderate conditions - containment options/guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural control advantages such as sub-tropical rainforest, wet pulley, rocky areas and escarpments are most likely to be effective. Direct and indirect (parallel) attacks with fire units to minimise fire spread and suppress and contain flanks using the closest control line. During wildfires, exploit opportunities to achieve approved hazard reduction objectives. <p>Extreme conditions - containment options / guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural control advantages such as sub-tropical rainforest, wet pulley, rocky areas and escarpments unlikely to be 100% effective for containment strategies. Protect rainforest communities and margins by use of aerial ignition on upper slopes. Use water bombing and surfactants (where permissible) to slow the fire rate of spread and protect rainforest. Indirect attack from existing trails, road, newly constructed containment lines, recently burnt areas, refuges and built assets with APZ in place. Followback to recently burnt areas, refuge areas and built assets with adequate APZ in place. Understand property protection. Understand surveillance to identify possible containment strategies. Ensure sufficient lead time to implement & secure full back containment strategies.

Fire Management Zones	
Asset Protection Zones	The objective of APZs is the protection of human life and property. This will be achieved by the implementation of guidelines for the management of biodiversity. Maintain Overall Fuel Hazard at Moderate or below.
Strategic Fire Advantage Zones	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 containment strategies will take precedence where practical. Areas of rainforest function as strategic fire advantages.
Heritage Management Zones	The objective of HMZs is to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural heritage. Refer to fire thresholds map and table in part of decision making process regarding suppressing or applying fire.



Vegetation	
Forest	Forest
Dry rainforest	Dry rainforest
Wet sclerophyll	Wet sclerophyll
Dry sclerophyll	Dry sclerophyll
Coastal	Coastal
Timber plantation	Timber plantation
Grassland	Grassland
Rehabilitated	Rehabilitated
Water	Water
Clearing/grazing	Clearing/grazing

Contour interval 10m	Refuge Area	Water Point - H & V	Primary (Cat 1)
NPWS estate	Historic Site	Vantage Point	Secondary (Cat 9)
Asset Protection Zone	Threatened Property	Gate - NPWS	Closed
Burnt 2003-04	Water Point Helicopter	Gate - non NPWS	Walking track
Burnt 2004-05	Water Point Vehicle	Gate - Proposed	Powerline
Burnt 2005-06			Assume all gates locked