

Far West Region Paroo-Darling National Park Tilpilly Section Fire Management Strategy 2014



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 Fire Act 1987.
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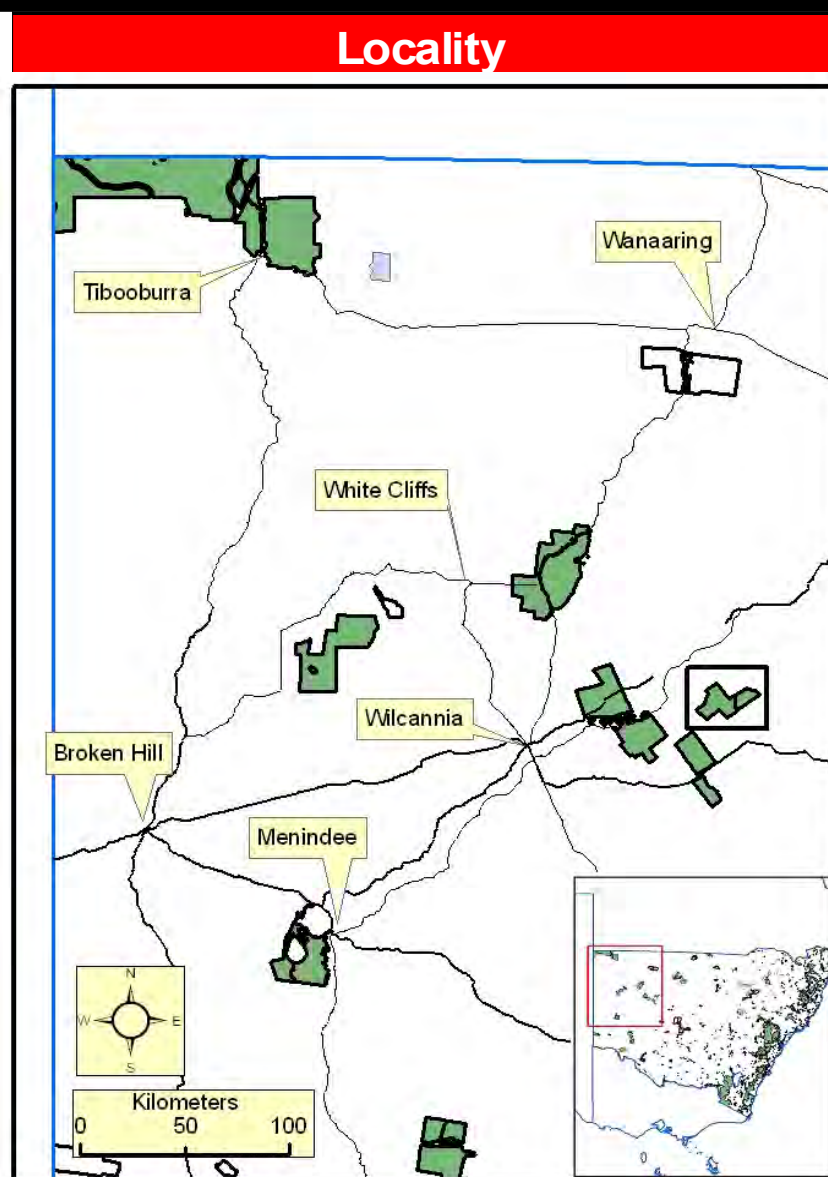
Map Details
Datum: Australian Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA) 1994
Data: Spot Satellite Imagery, 2005, 1:50k Topographic Map, Far West Region, Paroo-Darling National Park, Tilpilly Section FMS 2014
Projection: Australian Map Grid (AMG) Zone 55
Scale: Noted scales are true when printed on A3 size paper

Fire Season Information

Wildfires	< The critical wildfire season occurs during November and December. This period may extend into the first half of January. Particular care is required during periods of negative Southern Oscillation indices. The end of the critical fire season is often marked by wet storm activity >
Prescribed Burning	< Prescribed burning should be undertaken before autumn rain occurs. Burning may also be undertaken during late winter and early spring >

Communications Information		
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
PDNP UHF	35	Peery / Arrowbar / Mandalay, Wilga, Mt Murchison, Coonavitra, Tilpilly and Wilcannia Workshop.
RFS	20	
SES Wilcannia	3	
SES White Cliffs	32	

Contact Information		
Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Far West Region Duty Officer (24 hours)	08 8080 3222
	Paroo-Darling National Park Office (bus. hours)	08 8083 7900
	West Darling Area Office (bus. hours)	08 8080 3200
Far West Zone NSW Rural Fire Service	Manager - Chris Favelle (bus. hours) (mobile)	02 6836 1226 0419 691 815
	Operations - Robyn Favelle	0407 904 940
	Wilcannia Fire Control (24 hours)	08 8091 5963
Emergency Services		000
SES	Wilcannia	132 500
	White Cliffs	08 8091 5880 08 8091 6606
Police		000
	Wilcannia	08 8083 8091
Council	Central Darling Shire - Wilcannia	08 8083 8910



Operational Guidelines

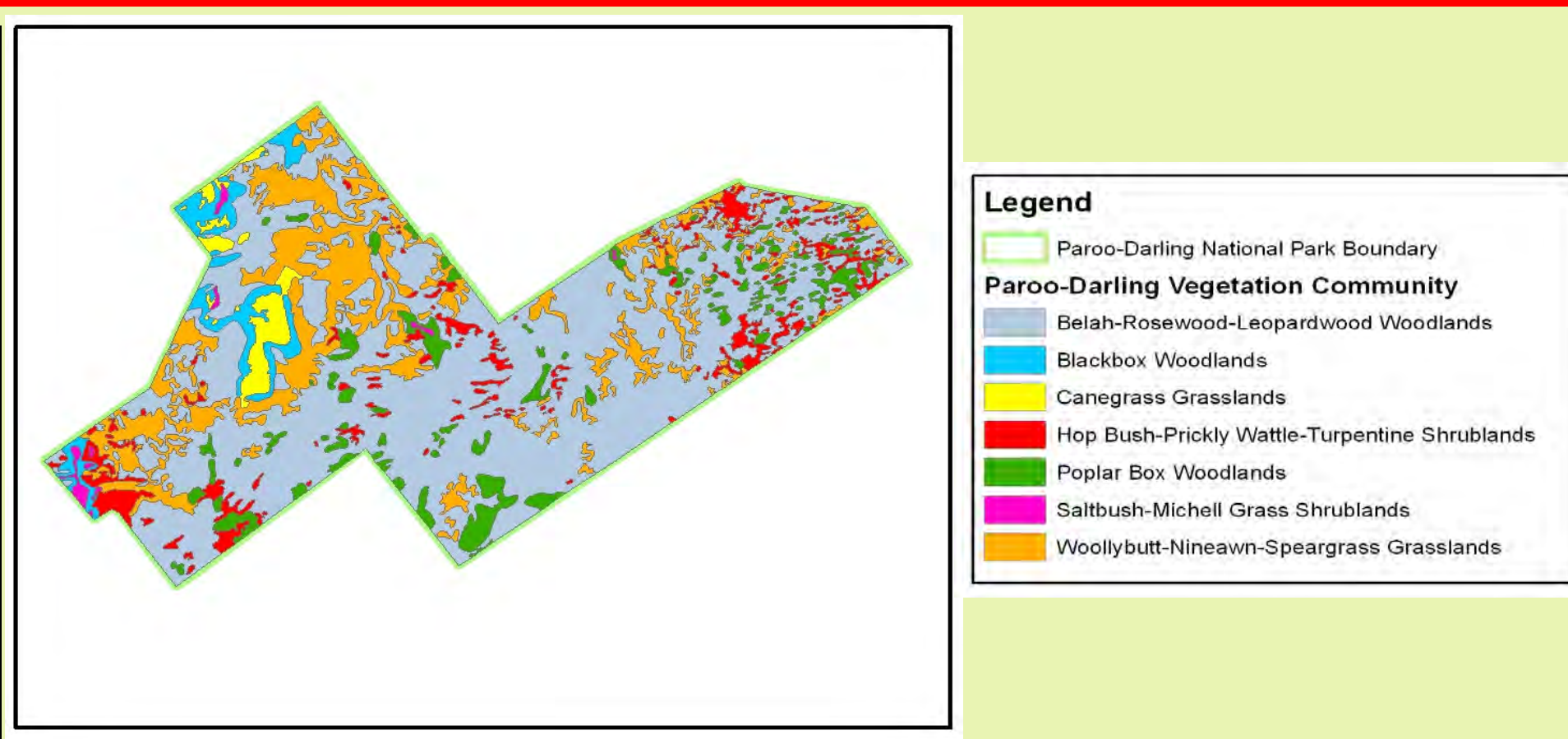
Operational Guidelines – Managed Sites	
Resource	Guidelines
IS Indigenous Sites - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some Aboriginal cultural sites are identified in this plan on the Incident Map. For further information concerning Aboriginal sites search AHIMS. Brief all personnel involved in containment line construction &/or vehicle based fire suppression operations regarding site locations. No ground disturbance including the use of earth moving machinery to construct new trails, hand line construction, vehicles, back burning or water bombing in the vicinity of Aboriginal sites. Maintain vigilance for identifying unknown sites during operations. As far as possible protect sites from fire. Do not cut down modified trees. Use of foams, wetting agents & retardant is acceptable.
HS Historic Heritage Site Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief all personnel involved in containment line construction &/or vehicle based fire suppression operations regarding site locations (see main map). Appropriate fire season preparation will be undertaken around heritage assets, particularly the homestead complexes.
Threatened Fauna Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A large number of fauna species listed as threatened are recorded and these utilise a wide range of habitats in the Park. Bushfire control operations should aim to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> minimise area affected by wildfire; utilise the identified trails for containment; avoid the construction of new control lines; and minimise impact of control operations on key habitat Where practicable, avoid damaging or removing existing and future hollow bearing trees and protect them from fire. NO earth moving machinery, NO new control lines, NO foaming agents within 50m of wetlands, watercourses or dams wherever possible.
Threatened Flora Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire should be avoided in Black Box, Hoppush, Prickly wattle and Turpentine vegetation communities (see vegetation map).
Machinery Exclusion Zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within 50m of wetlands, watercourses or dams wherever possible.

Operational Guidelines – General Operations	
General	Guidelines
Aerial operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aerial operations will be managed by trained and competent personnel. This includes directing aerial bombing and aerial ignition operations The use of bombing aircraft without the support of ground based suppression crews should be limited to very specific circumstances. All aerial ignition operations require the consent of the NPWS Regional Manager or the Section 44 Appointee.
Backburning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All personnel must be fully briefed before back burning operations begin. Backburning in areas of Low – Moderate OFH will require the use of slope, or wind, or low humidity to maximise effectiveness. 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. This will reduce mop-up efforts.
Command & Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The primary objectives of fire suppression activities on NPWS managed lands are to ensure the safety of incident personnel and the public, protect life and property, conserve natural and cultural heritage and maintain cost effectiveness. NPWS should be notified immediately of any fire within or near a NPWS reserve. Where NPWS is not the first responding fire authority to arrive at a fire on NPWS-managed lands, a competent officer of the first arriving fire authority will direct fire management activities until a competent NPWS officer assumes control. 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. Standard Incident Management Systems are to be applied.
Containment Lines	<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. New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer. Hand tool lines may be used to contain wildfires to smaller areas where possible. Where practicable, containment lines should consider the protection of drainage features. All personal involved in containment line construction should be briefed on, and must consider both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location. Where possible under benign weather conditions, consider allowing fires to be contained by previously burnt areas and natural low fuel areas in preference to the construction of new control lines. If containment lines are required, where possible they should link up with fire trails, recently burnt areas and natural low fuel areas and utilise identified primary and secondary trails and existing cleared areas as containment lines. Dozers will operate with scrub-rakes in preference to blades to limit soil disturbance and graders will be preferred in speargrass fuel conditions in open vegetation communities
Earthmoving Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment Location: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cat 9 slip-on units are based at Wilcannia, Peery and Tilpilly Caterpillar 140H grader (within West Darling Area) Caterpillar 908 loader with scrub-rake (within West Darling Area) Cat 9 appliances are the preferred vehicle on Paroo-Darling NP. Earth moving equipment may only be used with the prior consent of the Senior NPWS Officer, and then only if the probability of its success is high. Earthmoving equipment must always be 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 fire fighting vehicle. Earthmoving equipment must be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS estate and again on exiting NPWS estate. Observe the threatened species and cultural heritage operational guidelines.
Fire Suppression Chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of foam, wetting agents and retardants will be permitted on the reserve The use of fire suppression chemicals are not to be applied within 50m of water courses, dams and swamps. The use of retardants requires the approval of the Regional Manager or delegate
Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where practical, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
Smoke Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential smoke impacts and mitigation tactics will be assessed during the planning of fire operations. If smoke becomes a hazard on roads / highways, management must be in accordance with relevant RTA traffic management guidelines.
Visitor Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during fire operations.
WARNINGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beware overhead powerlines Beware of Moomba to Sydney high pressure gas pipeline in the Northern and Tilpilly sections of PDNP.

Vegetation and Biodiversity Thresholds

Vegetation Communities, Biodiversity Thresholds Fire Behaviour and Availability for Prescribed Burns

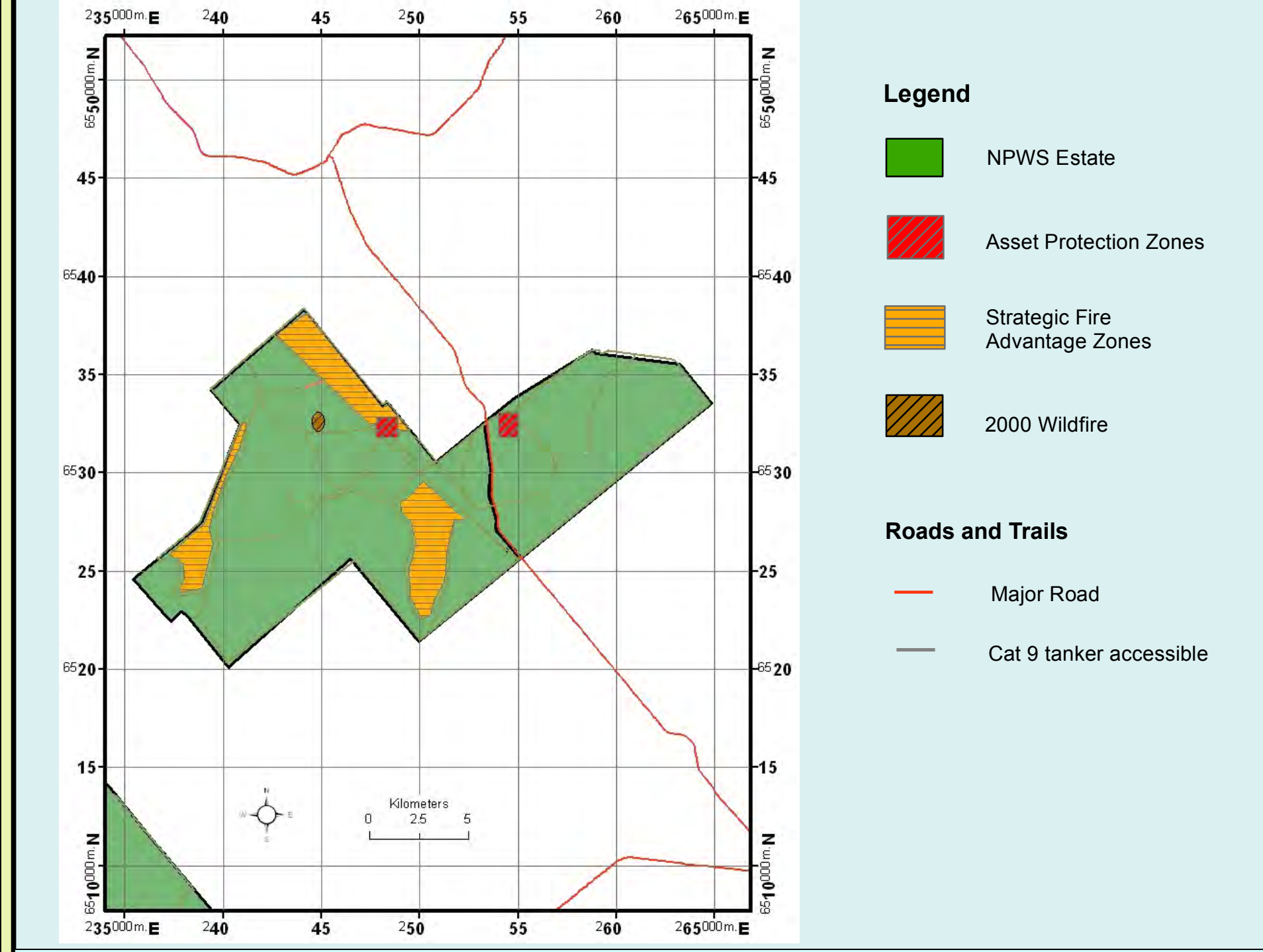
Vegetation Community	Biodiversity Thresholds	Fire Behaviour / Availability for Prescribe Burns
Woollybutt – Nineawn – Speargrass Canegrass Poplar Box	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fires once every 10 years The interval for fire events in grasslands should be greater than 2 years and less than 10 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speargrass and Canegrass species are available for prescription burns in ephemeral conditions. Poplar Box can benefit from occasional fire events. This species is a major hollow forming tree species
Rosewood-Leopardwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fires once every 15 years Fire can help suckering and regeneration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These species benefit from occasional fire events
Belah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No more than one fire every 20 years Protect Belah from intense fires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This species is sensitive to fires and can be severely affected by intense fire events
Black Box Hoppush - Prickly wattle - Turpentine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No tolerance for fire Protect from intense fires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where fuel loads are extreme these species can produce fires of a high intensity



Recent Fire History

The frequency of fire in the Paroo-Darling National Park area is low. Previously, large scale fires have occurred in the region following consecutive years of above average winter/spring rainfall such as the LaNina event in 2010/11. This occurred in the early 1950's, mid 1970's and mid 1980's. These fires were ignited by lightning strikes in the south of the Emmdale district and travelled north towards the Darling River. Vegetation communities on the Park do not generally carry sufficient fuel loads for large scale fires to develop. This is a result of low fuel levels in the understorey and the lack of spatial continuity caused by intermittent areas of bare earth or rocky ground. However speargrass and other annual grasses can form continuous fuel loads during ephemeral conditions. The last fire to occur in the Tilpilly section of the PDNP was a small 48ha wildfire in 2000 in the Woollybutt- Nineawn – Speargrass and Belah – Rosewood – Leopardwood vegetation communities prior to gazettal. The majority of the vegetation communities in the Tilpilly section have no requirement for fire (see above). Consecutive fire events should be spaced at approximately 20 year intervals to ensure plant species across the park have the opportunity to reproduce.

Fire History & Bushfire Risk Management Strategies



Asset Protection Zones		
Asset	Location	AMS Equipment Number
Tilpilly Homestead / Workshop Complex	Off Cobar Shire Road 2; Jacobs Well / Budda Road to Tilpa via Manara – Tilpilly Section Map: Nelyambo (7735) - 1:100,000 Grid Reference - 0254600, 6533000	1297735
Tilpilly Woolshed / Shearers Quarters	Off Cobar Shire Road 2; Jacobs Well / Budda Road to Tilpa via Manara – Tilpilly Section Map: Nelyambo (7735) - 1:100,000 Grid Reference - 0248200, 6532300	1317658

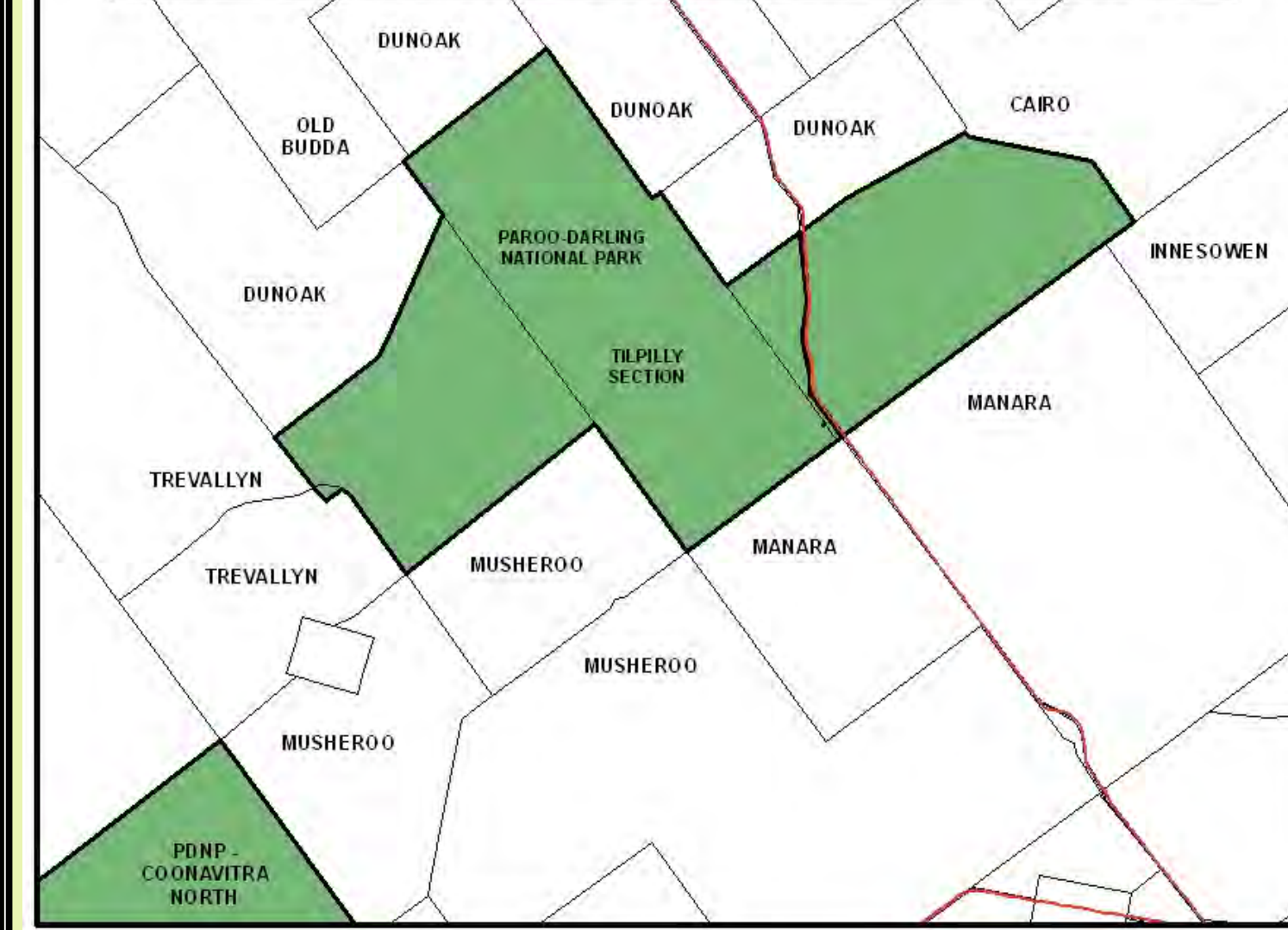
Fire season preparation activities are to be carried out annually within and surrounding asset protection zones prior to the beginning of fire season. Where ephemeral growth creates elevated fuel loads further treatment of the APZ should be completed as required.

The perimeter of all building assets (including homestead yard fences), heritage stockyards, park signage, entry bays and other assets are to have vegetation pruned away and ground cover slashed to two widths of the slasher (5-6m) away from asset

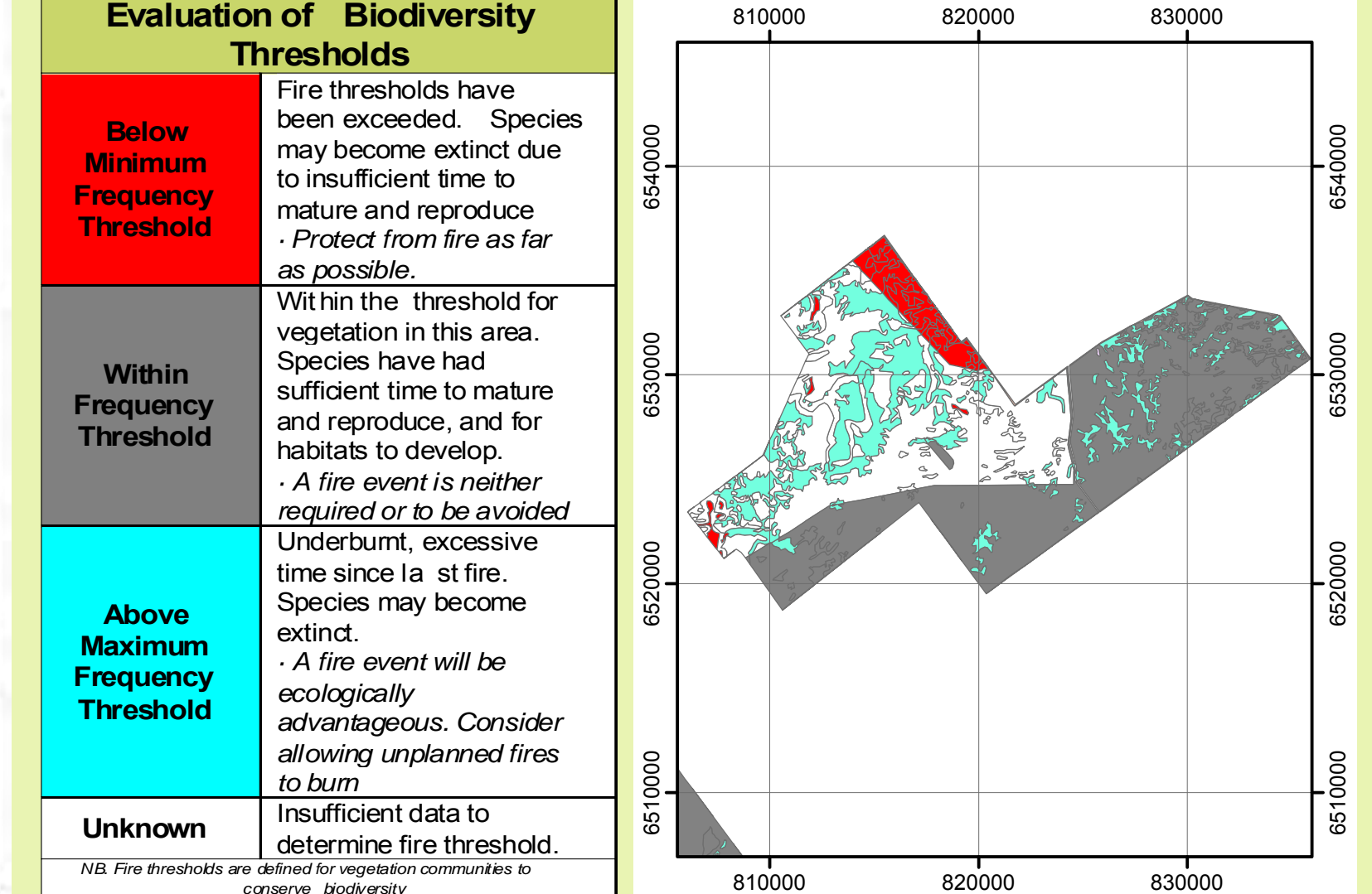
Reference Documents

- <National Parks and Wildlife Service Fire Management Manual, 2013-14.>

NEIGHBOURS CONTACT DETAILS AVAILABLE IN THE FAR WEST REGIONAL INCIDENT PROCEDURES BOOKLET



Status of Biodiversity Thresholds



Incident Map – Paroo-Darling NP Tilpilly

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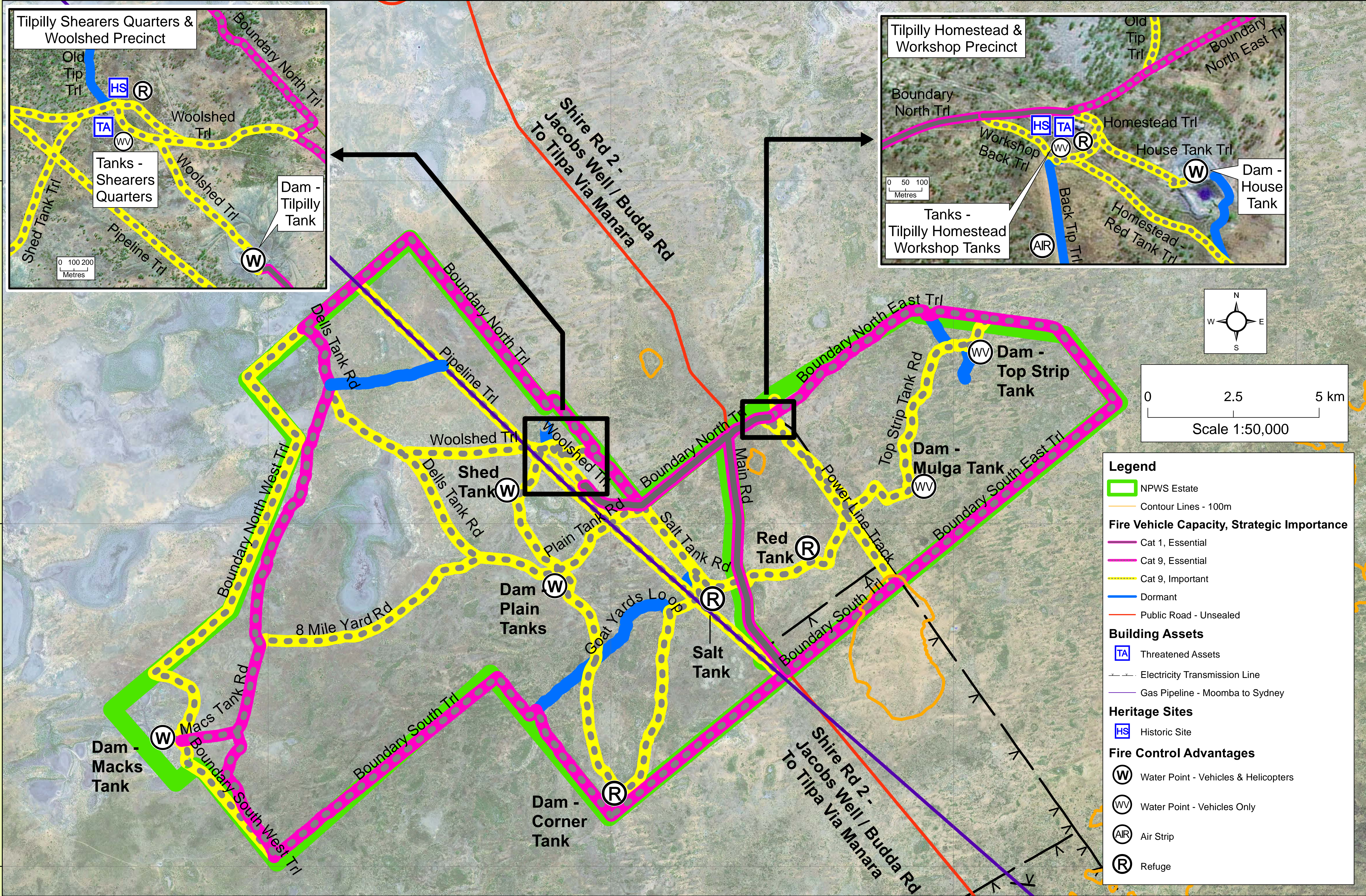
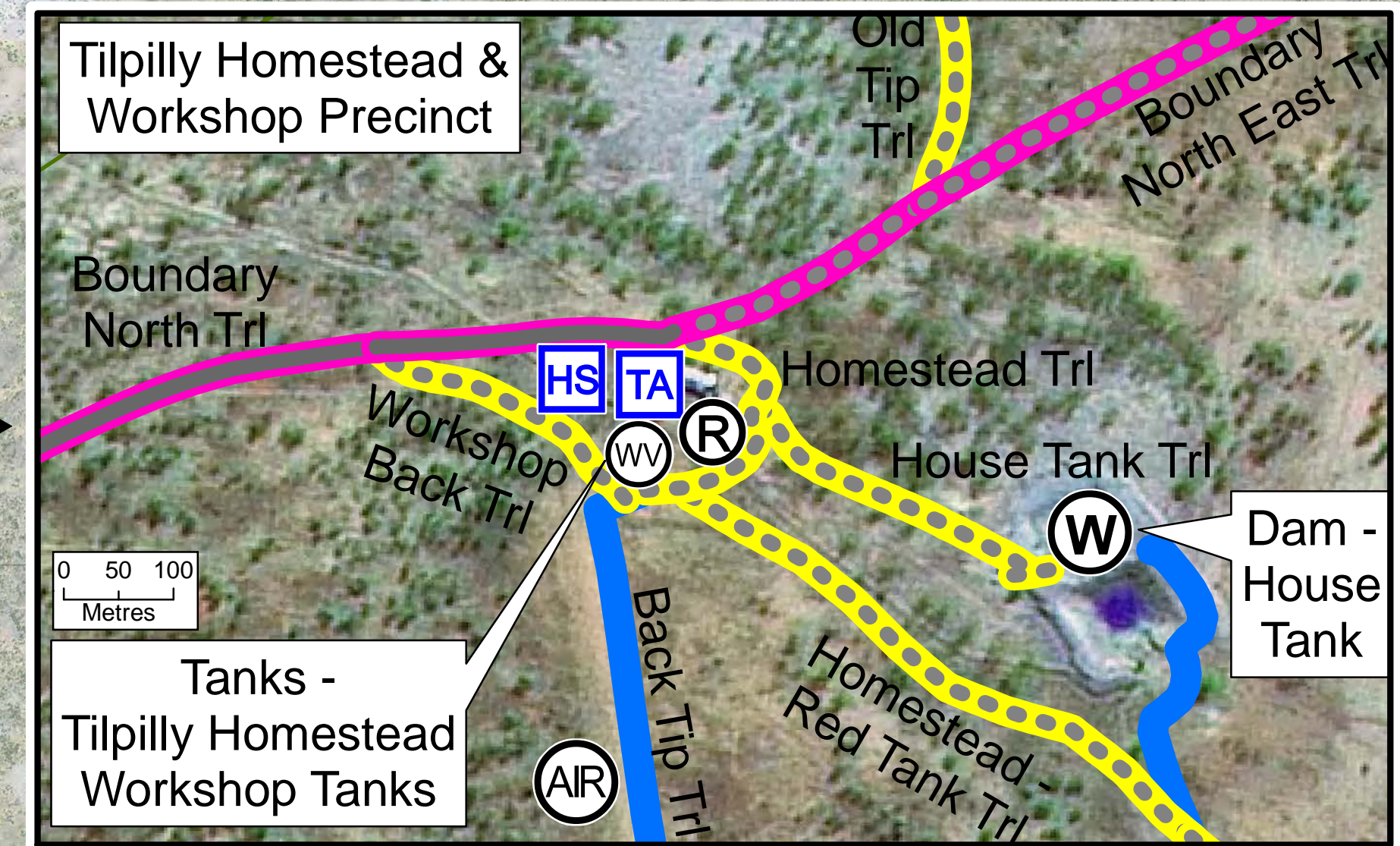
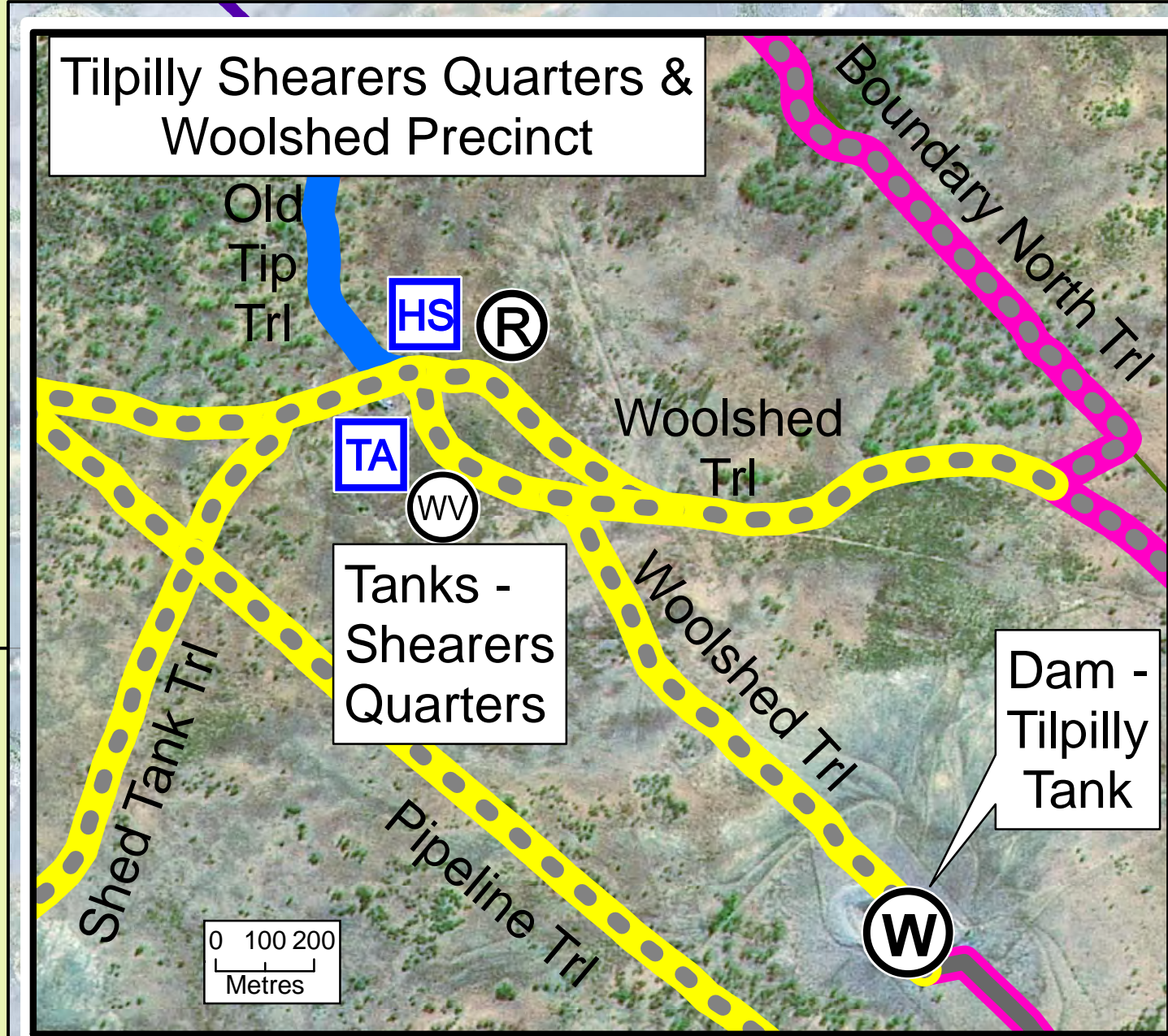
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Legend

- NPWS Estate
- Contour Lines - 100m
- Fire Vehicle Capacity, Strategic Importance**
 - Cat 1, Essential
 - Cat 9, Essential
 - Cat 9, Important
 - Dormant
 - Public Road - Unsealed
- Building Assets**
 - Threatened Assets
 - Electricity Transmission Line
 - Gas Pipeline - Moomba to Sydney
- Heritage Sites**
 - Historic Site
- Fire Control Advantages**
 - Water Point - Vehicles & Helicopters
 - Water Point - Vehicles Only
 - Air Strip
 - Refuge