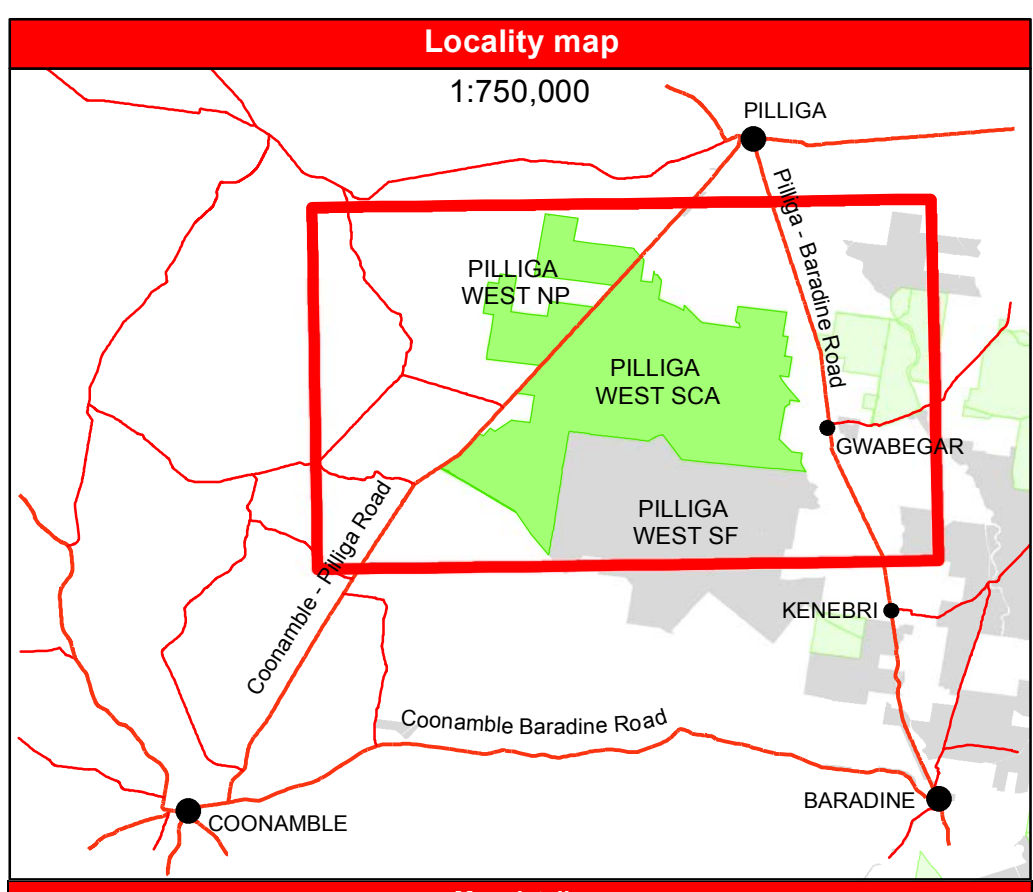


Pilliga West (Pilliga West NP & Pilliga West SCA) Fire Management Strategy 2015 - 2020
Sheet 1 of 2

Office of Environment & Heritage
NSW

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- Related and reference documents**
- Office of Environment and Heritage (2012) Fire Management Manual
 - Office of Environment and Heritage Water (2011) Pilliga West National Park & Pilliga West State Conservation Area Plan of Management
 - Porter, M.J. (2010) Vegetation of Pilliga West National Park & Pilliga West State Conservation Area. Report to NSW NPWS

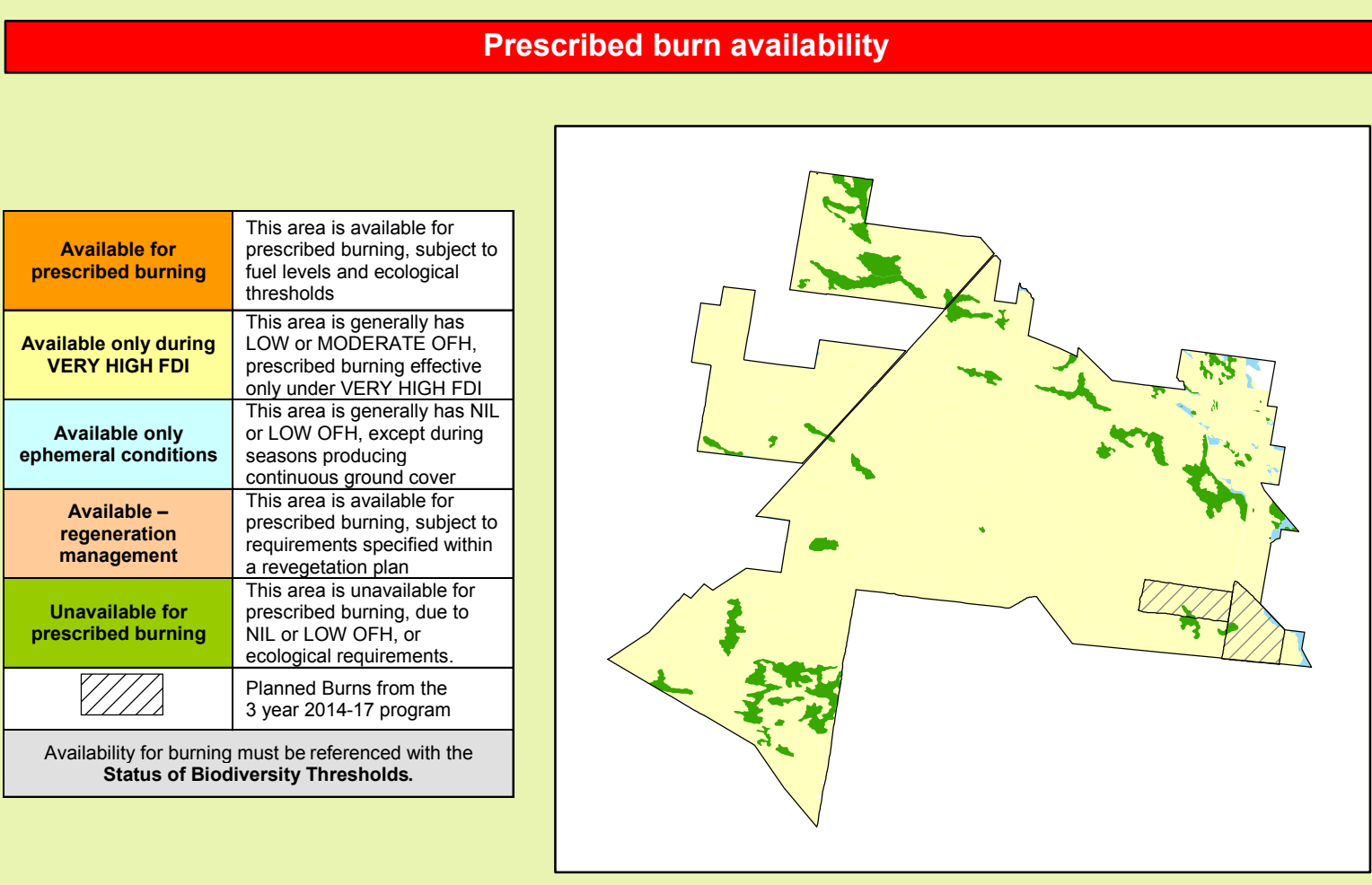
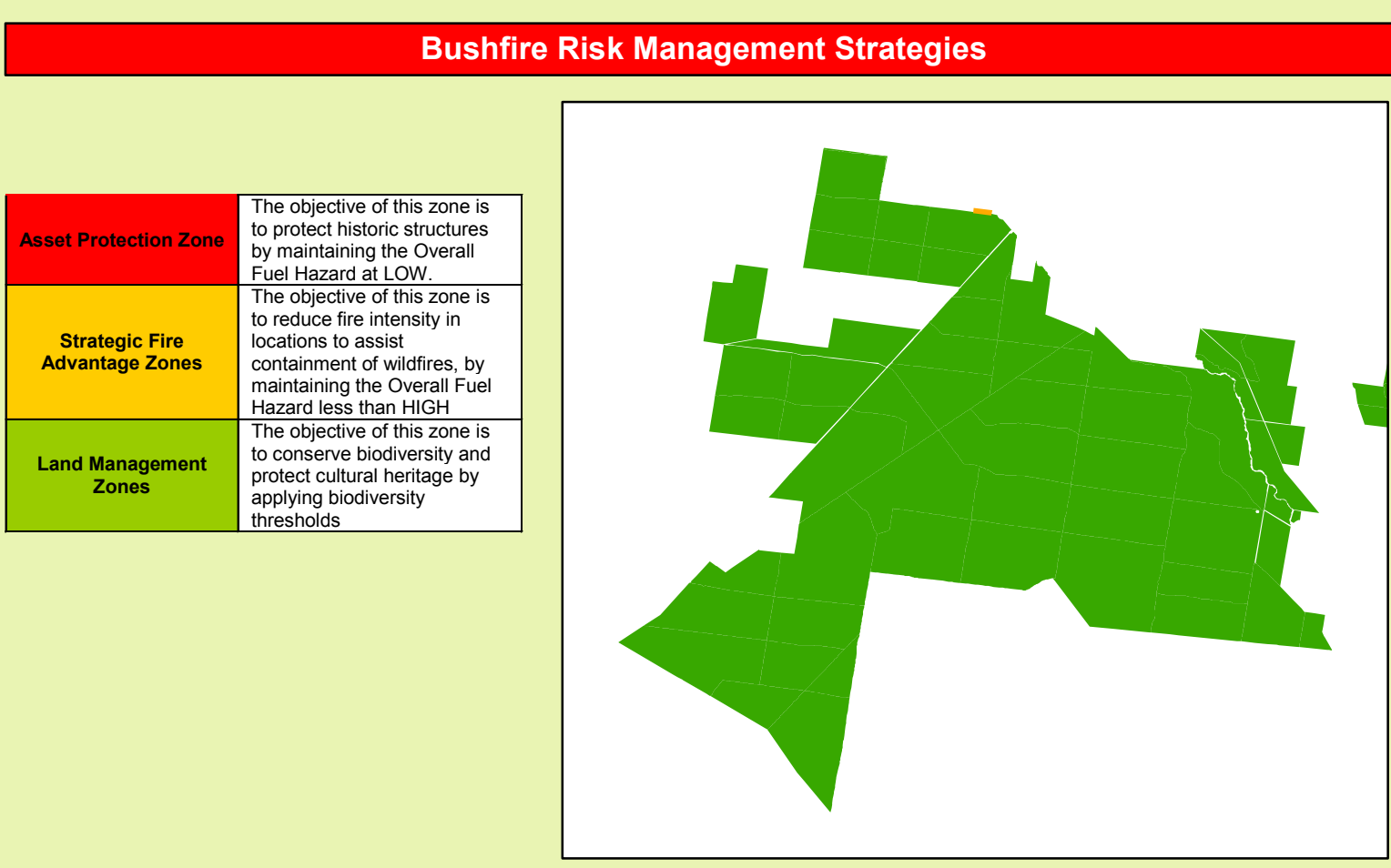
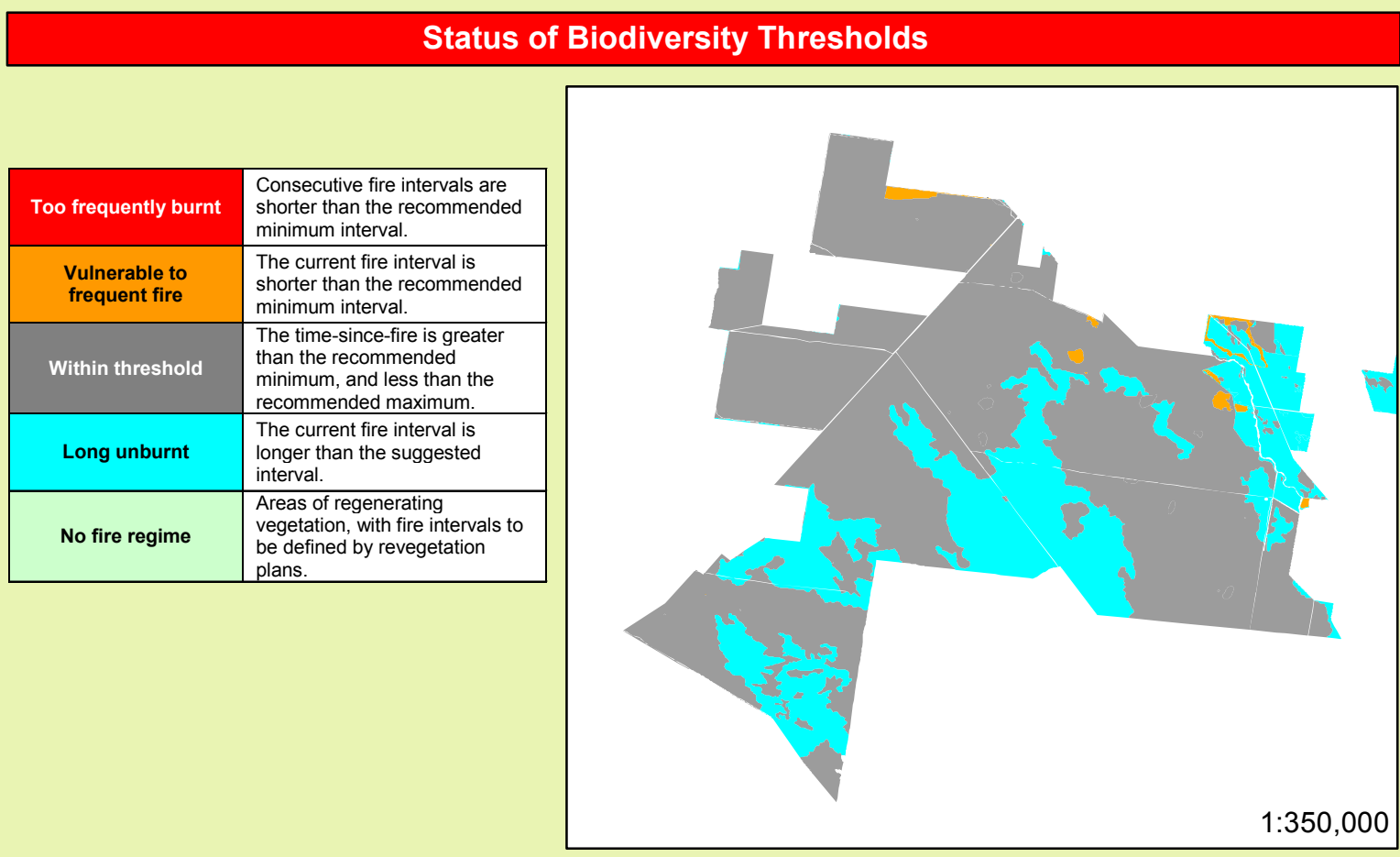


Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS Repeaters	26	Gwabegar
NSW Forests	266 (NP82)	Needle Mountain
RFS	P032	Mount Dove
UHF - CB	P025	Gwabegar (Namoi - Gwydir)
Parks Radio	11-17	Come-by-Chance (North-west)
Aviation - CTAF	128.7	Small fires channel 10, large fires determined by IMT
Mobile phone		NPWS fire ground channels 1-7
		Telstra 3G coverage is generally unavailable for most of the reserve

Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service Forestry NSW	Duty Officer (24 hour) Baradine Area Office (bus. hours) Baradine	6843 1370 6843 4000 6843 1607
NSW RFS Namoi Zone	Zone Manager Zone Office	0427 101 124 6792 3667
NSW RFS North-West Zone	Zone Manager Zone Office	0426 253 224 6822 4422
NSW RFS Castlereagh Zone	Zone Manager Zone Office	0417 415 032 6842 2645
RFS Rural Fire Brigades	Gwabegar Brigade - Bruce McConaughy Pilliga Brigade - Mark Wilkins	6843 6258 6796 4416
Emergency Services	Police, Fire, Ambulance	000
SES		13 2500
Police	Baradine	6843 1149
Council	Narrabri	6799 6866



Fire Season Information

Wildfires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The critical wildfire season generally occurs during November and December. During periods of strong negative Southern Oscillation Indices (El Niño events), this period may commence late September and extend into the first half of January. The end of the critical fire season is often marked by wet storm activity.
Prescribed Burning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective prescribed burning may need to be conducted once the "critical fire season" and thunderstorm season is over. This is due to the LOW - MODERATE Overall Fuel Hazard for most vegetation types. Prescribed burning attempted after autumn rain is unlikely to be effective.

Operational Guidelines

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 to mop up 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 wind, slope or low humidity to maximise effectiveness
Command & Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 liaise with the RFS to ensure that the agency in command and control is determined and an Incident Controller is appointed.
Containment Lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer. Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, where practicable, except where they can be constructed with minimal environmental impact. All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on, and must consider both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location. All containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed immediately at the cessation of the incident.
Earthmoving Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer. Plant 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. Containment lines running along valley areas should be constructed at 20 - 50 metres from the gullyline to avoid severe erosion. Plant must be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS estate and again on exiting NPWS estate.
Fire Suppression Chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of foam, gels and retardants will NOT be permitted within 50 metres of dams and watercourses holding water. The aerial use of foam, gels and retardants should be approved by Regional Manager or delegate. Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider deployment of a bulk water carrier to support fire operations.
Watering points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential smoke impacts and mitigation tactics will be assessed during the planning of fire operations.
Smoke Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This reserve will be closed to visitors during fire danger periods rated Extreme or higher and during fire operations
Visitor Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bogging hazards in creek areas

Operational Guidelines - Heritage

General	Guidelines
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management	<p>An Aboriginal Heritage Officer or Co-management Committee member should be consulted during the planning of operations.</p> <p>Modified trees (S1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect the site from fire, clear base of litter and shrubs, exclude site tree from fire where possible Foam may be used to protect the tree, or to extinguish fire Do not cut trees <p>Ground based sites (S2), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> middens, artefact scatters, quarry sites, grinding grooves, hearths Protect sites from any ground disturbance, including the use of earth-moving equipment and vehicles
Historic Heritage Site Management	<p>Modified trees (Blaze trees)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As far as possible, protect the site from fire Do not cut trees, rake fuel from the base of trees Use of foams & retardant is acceptable. <p>Old mill sites, old dog fences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As far as possible, protect the site from fire Use of foams & retardant is acceptable.
Threatened Flora and Fauna Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The protective actions for threatened fauna have been incorporated into the Operational Guidelines

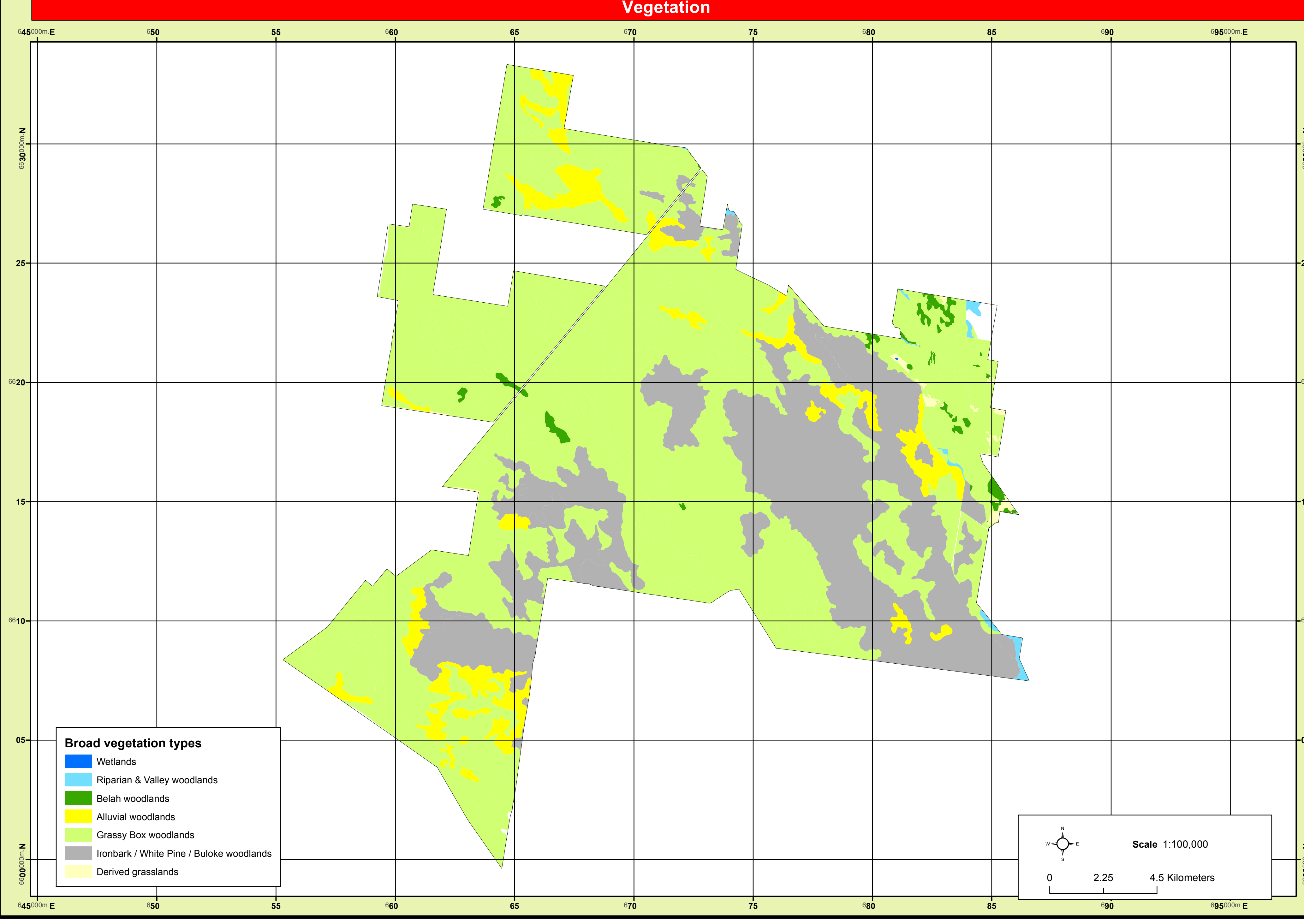
Vegetation management guidelines

Community	Management guidelines	Fire Behaviour
Riparian / Valley woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An interval between fire events less than 15 years and greater 40 years should be avoided A high intensity fire may be permitted after a fire free period 25 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread is higher due to Moderate ground and near surface hazard
Belah woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An interval between fire events less than 20 years should be avoided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread is low due to Low OFH Fire runs are likely to slow down when entering this vegetation
Alluvial woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An interval between fire events less than 20 years should be avoided A high intensity fire may be permitted after a fire free period 30 - 50 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread is low due to Low OFH Fire runs are likely to slow down when entering this vegetation
Grassy Box woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An interval between fire events less than 20 years should be avoided A high intensity fire may be permitted after a fire free period 30 - 50 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread is low due to Low - Moderate OFH Localised areas of High OFH may produce restricted areas of higher fire intensity
Ironbark / White Pine / Bullock woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An interval between fire events less than 20 years should be avoided A high intensity fire may be permitted after a fire free period 30 - 50 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread is low due to Low - Moderate OFH Localised areas of High OFH may produce restricted areas of higher fire intensity

OFH - Overall fuel hazard - A rating system that includes surface (leaf litter), near surface (low shrubs & grasses), elevated (shrubs), and bark fuels.
Long Unburnt - It is desirable in woodland plant communities to retain some parts of the landscape in a long unburnt state to promote the presence of species that are sensitive to fire and to maintain old-growth trees capable of forming hollows.

Suppression Strategies

Conditions & forecast	Guidelines
All vegetation types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a broad containment strategy using existing roads, allowing long-term management requirements for biodiversity Direct and parallel attack may be applied with earthmoving machinery and fire units.
Fire danger rating LOW - HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parallel attack, moving around the head only when the fire stops running Distance between the flank and machinery and fire units may be kept to a minimum, particularly in Belah, Bimble Box and Pilliga Box country
Fire danger rating VERY HIGH - EXTREME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If fire is running, it will slow considerably when it reaches Belah, Bimble Box and Pilliga Box country Higher rates of spread may occur in Red Gum vegetation due to a higher surface ground fuel
Catastrophic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revert to property protection



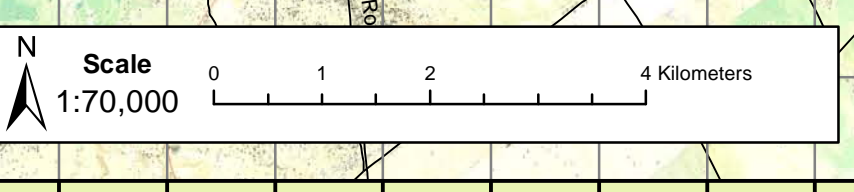
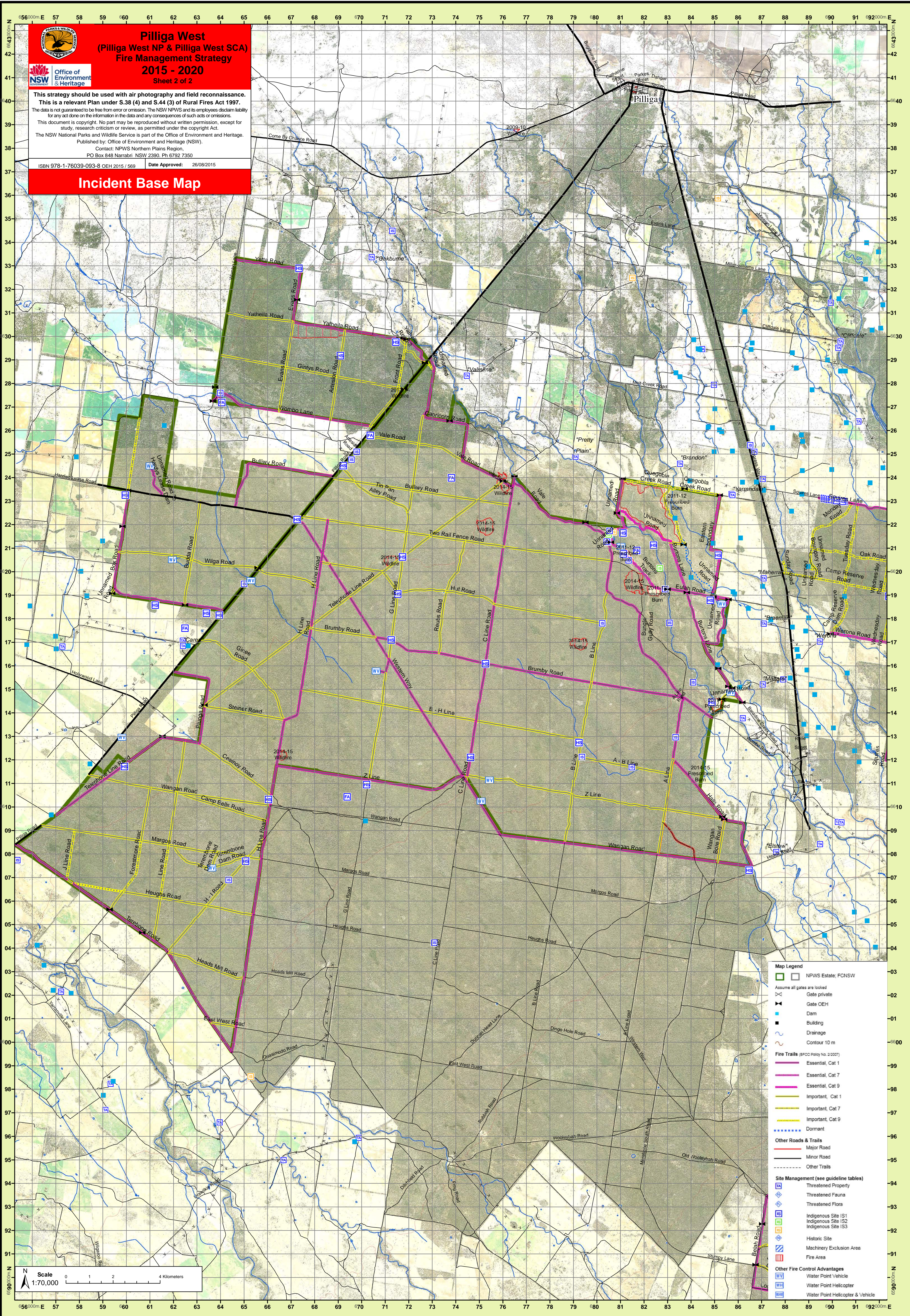


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PO Box 848 Narrabri NSW 2390. Ph 6792 7350
ISBN 978-1-76039-093-8 OEH 2015 / 569 Date Approved: 26/08/2015

Incident Base Map



Map Legend

- NPWS Estate, FCNSW
- Assume all gates are locked
- Gate private
- Gate OEH
- Dam
- Building
- Drainage
- Contour 10 m

Fire Trails (SPCC Policy No. 2007)

- Essential, Cat 1
- Essential, Cat 7
- Essential, Cat 9
- Important, Cat 1
- Important, Cat 7
- Important, Cat 9
- Dormant

Other Roads & Trails

- Major Road
- Minor Road
- Other Trails

Site Management (see guideline tables)

- Threatened Property
- Threatened Fauna
- Threatened Flora
- Indigenous Site IS1
- Indigenous Site IS2
- Indigenous Site IS3
- Historic Site
- Machinery Exclusion Area
- Fire Area

Other Fire Control Advantages

- Water Point Vehicle
- Water Point Helicopter
- Water Point Helicopter & Vehicle