

Far West Region
Fire Management Strategy
Pindera Downs Aboriginal Area
2005

This strategy should be used in conjunction with field reconnaissance during incidents and the development of incident action plans. This strategy is a relevant plan under Sections 38(4) & 44(3) of the Rural Fires Act 1997. Published by the Department of Environment and Climate Change (NSW), January 2005. Contact: NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Far West Region. Bricco St, Tibooburra NSW 2860. Phone 08 6991 3308.

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TELEPHONE AND RADIO CONTACTS
 Area code = 08 unless otherwise listed
 UHF channel 3 is on repeater

NPWS office contacts – Pindera Downs Aboriginal Area	Phone	Fax	UHF	HF
Tibooburra Area Office	8091 3308	8091 3309	3	3101
Tibooburra Workshop	8091 3467		3	-

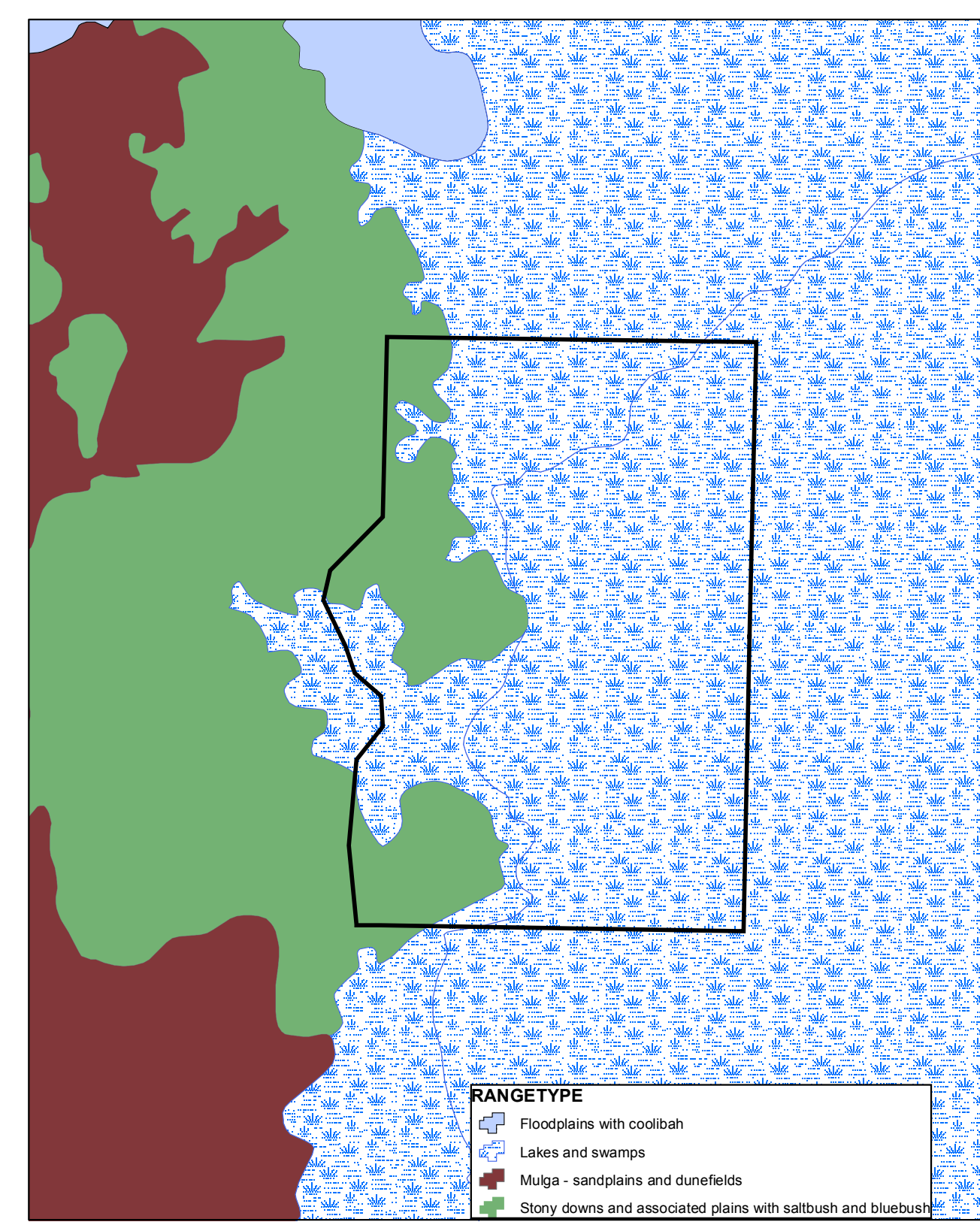
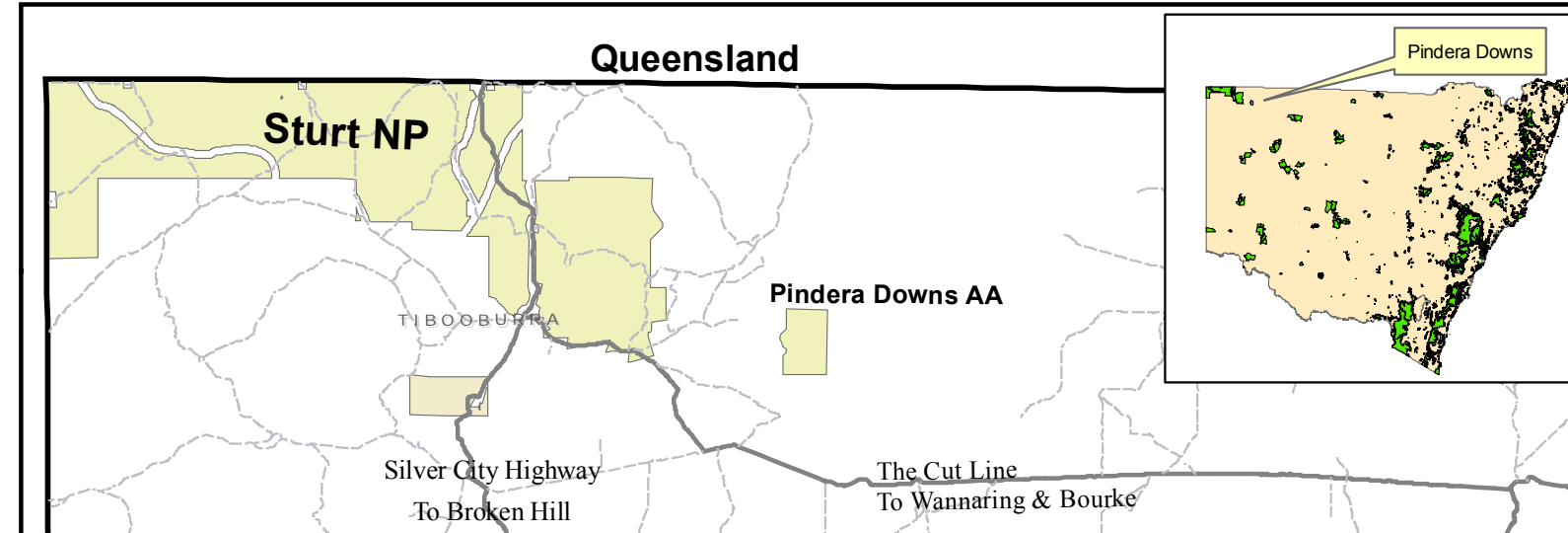
NPWS staff contacts – Sturt National Park	Name	Bus. Hours	After Hours	UHF	HF
Area Manager (Mt Wood)	Ingrid Witte	8091 3308 0428 716 075	8091 3541	3	-

Emergency Service Contacts	Phone	After Hours	Fax	UHF
Police				
Tibooburra	8091 3303	8091 3957	8091 3394	3
Ambulance				
Tibooburra Health Service	8091 3302	8091 3302	8091 3357	
State Emergency Service				
Tibooburra	8091 3475	8091 3475	8091 3476	3

Rural Fire Service	Position	Phone
Matthew McGeorge	Captain	8091 3333
Kevin Sherrit	Deputy Captain	8091 3493
Chris Favelle	Team Manager (Cobar)	02 68 361 226 0419 691 815

Telstra Towers	Phone
Repeater Towers for land line phones	24 Hour 1800 020 584
1) Olive Downs MW191	
2) Binerah Downs MW162	

NOTE:-
 UHF Channel 3 repeater is not effective over the entire reserve.



OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

Resource	Guidelines
Cultural Heritage Sites (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.11)	<input type="checkbox"/> CHMZ 1: Howitt's tree located at AGD 66, Zone 54 0653081E 6742886N, should be protected from fire. <input type="checkbox"/> CHMZ 2: Avoid all ground disturbances including the use of earthmoving machinery, handline construction and water bombing. The only vehicle access permitted in the reserve is on the existing boundary track, therefore no off road driving.
Threatened Property (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.10)	<input type="checkbox"/> The boundary fencing is the only infrastructure on this reserve. <input type="checkbox"/> The owners/occupiers of Pindera Downs Station will be asked to supply a verbal assessment on their preparedness of asset protection.
Threatened Fauna (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.12 & 5.2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Due to the fire frequency threshold for the 5 threatened bird spp (no other spp listed) not being known and extensive cultural heritage sites requiring NO ground disturbance, fire protection areas are not considered a requirement for these spp.
Threatened Flora (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.12)	<input type="checkbox"/> No threatened flora has been recorded for this reserve
Fire Fighting Activity	Guidelines
Command and Control	<input type="checkbox"/> The first fire agency on site may assume control of the fire, but then must ensure the NPWS is notified promptly. <input type="checkbox"/> Upon arrival of other fire fighting agencies, liaison will take place to determine suitable in-charge arrangements and strategies.
Containment Lines (NPWS Fire Management Manual 2.2 & 3.9)	<input type="checkbox"/> The construction of new containment lines is prohibited.
Backburning (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.8)	<input type="checkbox"/> Approval must be granted by senior PWD officer <input type="checkbox"/> Inform all ground crew of when and where backburning will occur. <input type="checkbox"/> Howitt's Tree is to be protected from backburning, refer to the Cultural Heritage Guidelines.
Earthmoving Equipment (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Earthmoving equipment is not to be used within the reserve.
Fire Suppression Chemicals (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.9)	<input type="checkbox"/> The use of fire suppression chemicals is only acceptable from ground based firefighting activities, see the Cultural Heritage Guidelines, approval must be granted by the senior PWD officer. <input type="checkbox"/> The use of retardants and surfactants should not be used within 50m of dams and creek lines. <input type="checkbox"/> All fire suppression chemicals that have been used need to be recorded and the treated area is to be mapped. <input type="checkbox"/> NO FIRE SUPPRESSION CHEMICALS ARE KEPT ON SITE.
Aerial Water Bombing (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.4)	<input type="checkbox"/> NO aerial water bombing is permitted in the reserve (see Cultural Heritage Guidelines)
Rehabilitation (NPWS Fire Management Manual 5.1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Increased use of the existing boundary road may be considered as site disturbance (eg erosion), and if required should be rehabilitated as soon as possible after discussions with the senior PWD officer <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure damage (boundary fencing) must be reported to the senior NPWS officer.
Visitor Safety (NPWS Fire Management Manual 3.6)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pindera Downs is a 'no public' access area, however, occasionally scientists or other research staff may be working in the area. PWD will have a list of any approved research staff that is working in Pindera Downs Aboriginal Area.
Fire Advantage Points	<input type="checkbox"/> The existing boundary road is the only fire advantage point on the reserve.
Safety and Welfare (NPWS Fire Management Manual 6.3)	Pindera Downs Aboriginal Area covers 11455 ha of remote, semi desert country. The senior PWD officer will ensure all incident personnel (particularly out-of-area support staff) are aware of the extreme weather conditions and are fully prepared to operate safely in those conditions. In the event Out-of-Area Support Staff attend a fire, where possible, at least one local incident personnel will be placed in the same team.

WORKS PROGRAM

Fuel Management Strategies	<input type="checkbox"/> Fuel management strategies will not be used on the reserve, with the exception of the area immediately around Howitts Tree. In years of above average rainfall (if access permits) the area surrounding Howitt's tree will be monitored and if necessary the fuel load will be removed (with hand tools only)
Management Trails	<input type="checkbox"/> The Boundary access trail will be maintained to a Primary Trail access level.
Community Awareness and Cooperation Strategies	<input type="checkbox"/> The Pindera Downs owners/occupiers will be notified of any management decisions and/or issues that will effect fire management and control on Pindera Downs Aboriginal Area. The Tibooburra RFS will be updated on any relevant fire management issues/strategies.

FIRE HISTORY, ACCESS AND FIRE SEASON

Wildfire Frequency	<input type="checkbox"/> Past fire behaviour of the area would indicate that 2 or more consecutive years of above average rainfall would be required to encourage enough vegetation growth to support any significant fires. <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfires are predicted to generally occur during the extreme heat conditions from Oct to March, the main cause of wildfire is thought to be lightning.
Vehicle Access	<input type="checkbox"/> Access to Pindera Downs may be restricted after recent rainfall events. Much of the Pindera Downs Aboriginal Area is covered by the Bulloo River Overflow, which may be impassible for months after good rainfall seasons. Therefore vehicle fire fighting access may be restricted to the western and south western section of the reserve.
Fire Regime Status	<input type="checkbox"/> There are no records of wildfires on the reserve.

FUEL CHARACTERISTICS AND FIRE BEHAVIOUR INFORMATION

Fuels and Fire Behaviour	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire occurrence and intensity is characteristically very low in the arid areas of the state. The reserves naturally arid environment supports a very sparse vegetation cover and extremely low fuel loads for the majority of years. Generally, the sparse perennial plants do not provide sufficient leaf litter to carry a fire. <input type="checkbox"/> The major ephemeral creek line supports a denser vegetation cover (Trees) and fuel load (leaf litter) than the surrounding vegetation communities.
Guidance for Fire Regimes	<input type="checkbox"/> Semi-arid woodland - Minimum intervals should be at least 5-10 years and maximum intervals approximately 40 years. <input type="checkbox"/> Arid and semi-arid shrubland - A minimum of 6 years and a maximum of 40 years would be most suitable. <input type="checkbox"/> Grassland - Maximum intervals for grass fires are 10 years and a suggested 2 years for minimum intervals. <input type="checkbox"/> Freshwater wetland - Minimum interval of 6 years and maximum interval of 35 years <input type="checkbox"/> The above Fire Regime Guidance does not take into account threatened species (please refer to Operational Guidelines Table).