

North Coast Region Ramornie National Park Fire Management Strategy (Type 2) 2005

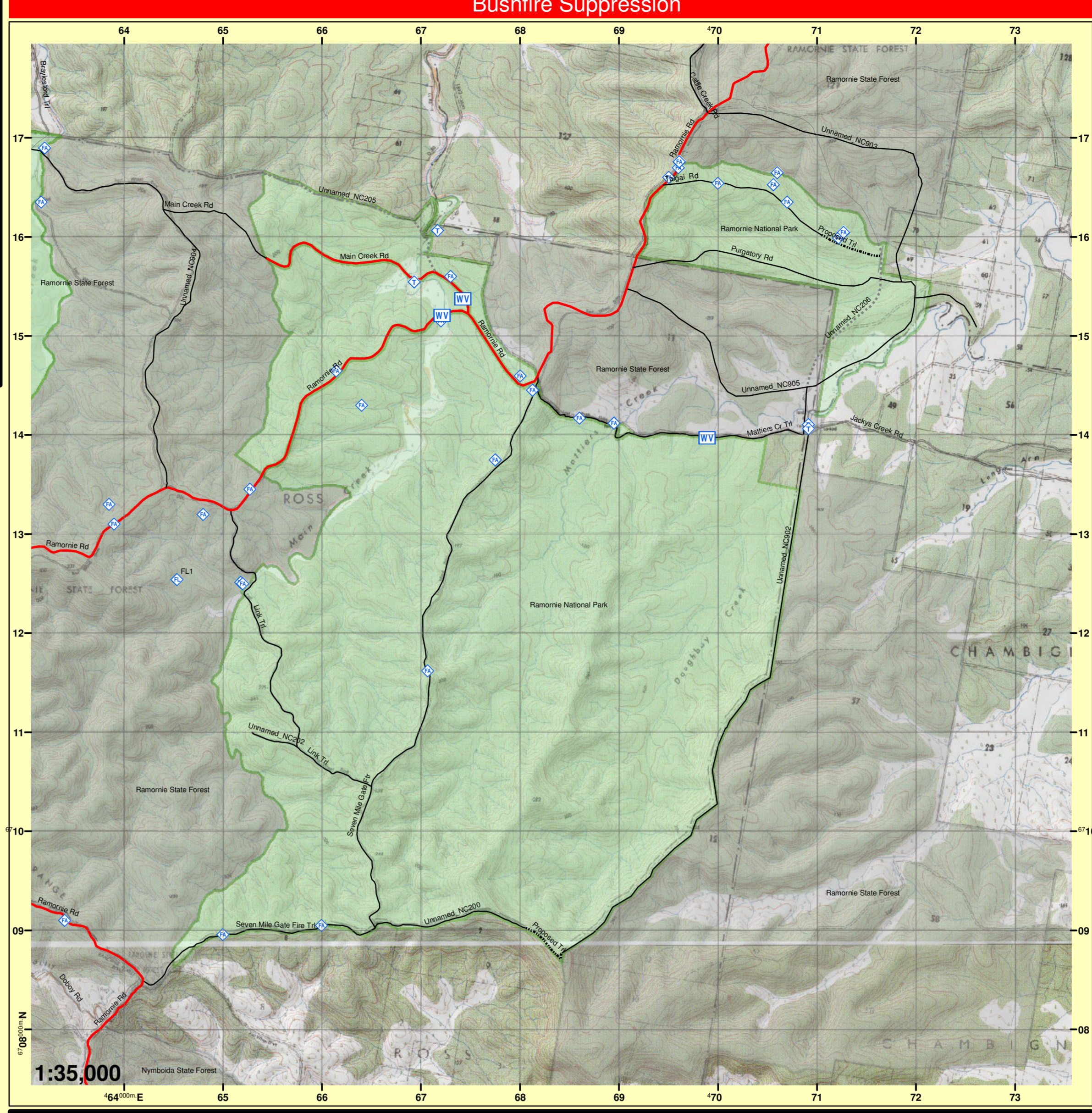
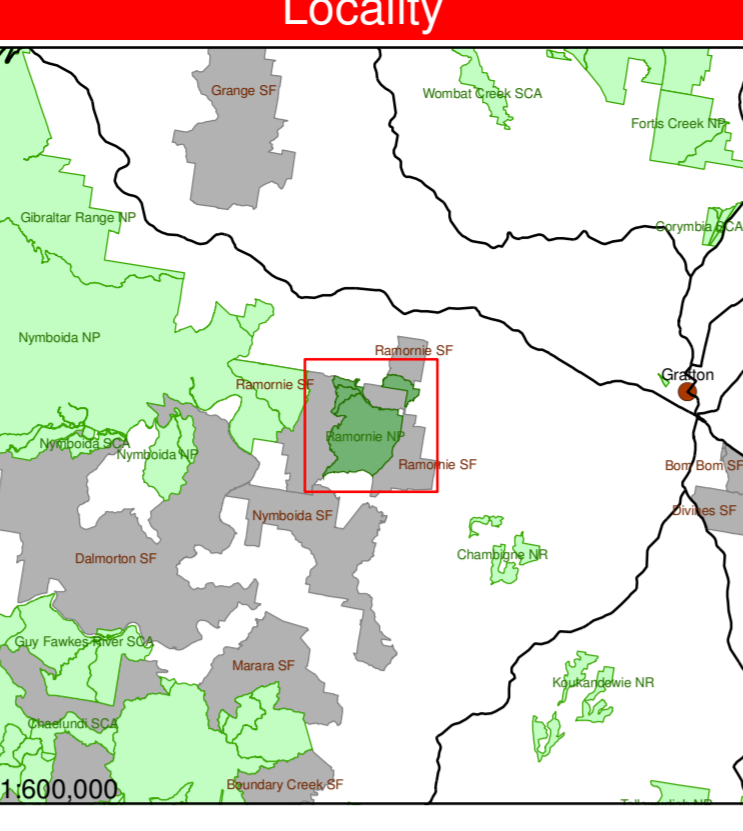
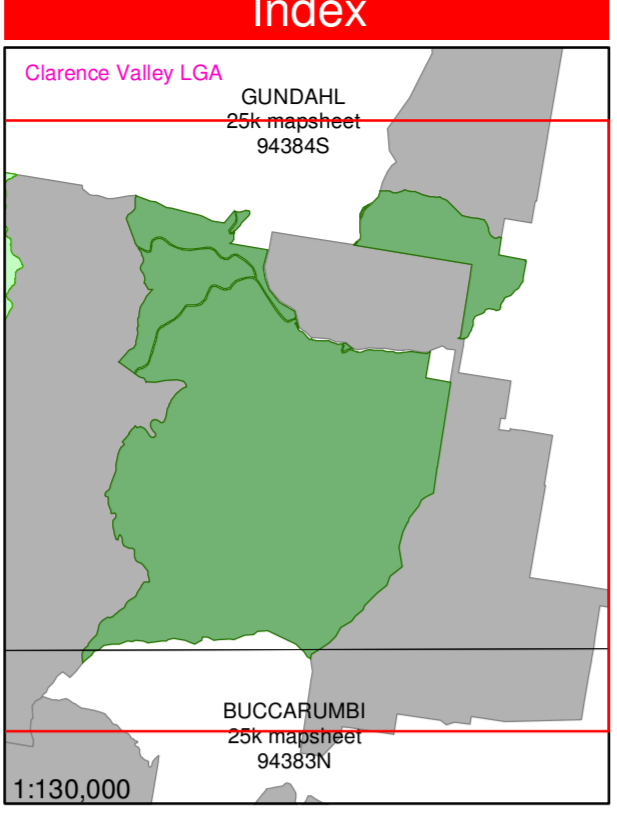
Sheet 1 of 1

This strategy should be used in conjunction with aerial photography and field reconnaissance during incidents and the development of incident action plans.

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

Endorsed by: _____ Date: / /
Director Northern, Parks & Wildlife Division



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 Management (NPWS FMM 4.11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on sites of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance is stored separately for confidentiality. Refer to Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database and regional Cultural Heritage Conservation Officers.
Historic Heritage Management (NPWS FMM 4.10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites within the reserve are natural features, which would not be detrimentally affected by fire. If new sites are located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
Threatened Fauna Management (NPWS FMM 4.12 & 5.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where practicable, protect habitat areas and trees from the fire if the effects of the resulting fire frequency, season &/or intensity will have a significant or unknown impact. Where practicable, protect large and hollow-bearing trees.
Threatened Flora Management (NPWS FMM 4.12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FL1 - Avoid the use of earth moving machinery in locations where these species are known to occur. Avoid the use of retardant in locations where these species are known to occur.
Threatened Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where possible 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	Guidelines
Aerial Water Bombing (NPWS FMM 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	<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 (NPWS FMM 4.2.20, 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2-4 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	<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 a senior NPWS officer. Utilise incendiaries to rapidly progress back-burns down slope where required.
Backburning (NPWS FMM 4.8)	<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, backburning should commence when the humidity begins to rise in the late afternoon or early evening. With a lower FDI backburning may be safely undertaken during the day. 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. 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)	<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 consult with regard to the ongoing command, control and incident management team requirements as per the relevant BFMC Plan of Operations.
Containment Lines (NPWS FMM 2.2, 3.9)	<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. Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation. 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.
Earthmoving Equipment (NPWS FMM 4.2.20, 4.3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earthmoving 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 be washed down prior to it entering NPWS estate. As far as possible, restrict its use to previously used containment lines. Earthmoving equipment must be always guided and supervised by an experienced NPWS officer, and accompanied by a support vehicle. When engaged in direct or parallel attack this vehicle must be a firefighting vehicle. Containment lines constructed by earthmoving equipment should be at least 50m from depression lines in order to avoid erosion problems. Observe the Threatened Species and Cultural Heritage Operational Guidelines. Proposed containment lines to be constructed with earthmoving equipment should be surveyed to identify unknown cultural heritage sites. In areas determined to have cultural heritage significance, earthmoving equipment must not be used in any location other than established Primary and Secondary fire trails. Proposed containment lines to be constructed with earthmoving equipment should be surveyed to identify unknown cultural heritage sites.
Fire Advantage Recording	<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 Suppression Chemicals (NPWS FMM 4.2.20, 4.9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetting and foaming agents (surfactants) are permitted for use in wildfire suppression. 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. Areas where fire suppression chemicals are used must be mapped and the used products name recorded. The Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed.
Rehabilitation (NPWS FMM 5.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
Smoke Management (NPWS FMM 3.4)	<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.
Visitor Management (NPWS FMM 3.6, 4.13)	<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.

Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
NPWS	Regional Duty Officer (24 hrs)	02 6641 1500
	Area Manager (Clarence South)	02 6641 1500
	Ranger Ramornie National Park	0429 695 552
	Fire Management Officer	0427 423 090
	Regional Operations Coordinator	02 6641 1500
	Clarence South Area Office	0427 250 122
Rural Fire Service	Duty Officer	02 6641 1500
	Clarence Valley Fire Control Centre	02 6643 5569 (fax)
	Coffs Harbour Fire Control Centre	02 6643 5569 (fax)
NSW Fire Brigade	Emergency	000
	South Grafton Station	02 6642 7655
SES	Emergency	000
	Grafton Unit	02 6643 3348
Police	Emergency	000
	Grafton Station	02 6642 0222
Ambulance	Emergency	000
	All other bookings	131233
Hospital	Grafton Base Hospital	02 6640 2232
	DIPNR	02 6640 2000
Dept. of Agriculture	Grafton	02 6640 1600
Board of Tick Control		02 6626 1268
RLPB	Grafton	02 6642 3699
State Forests	24 hour fire calls	02 6655 6950
	NE Region - Coffs Hbr	02 6652 0111
	Grafton SF	02 6643 0400
Council	Clarence Valley	02 6643 3886
Aboriginal Land Council	Coffs Harbour Local Aboriginal Land Council	02 6652 8740

Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	10, 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some dead spots; can delink Ch.23 if required Reverse channels 58, 57
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	15 (Green)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stored at Grafton / transportable. Contact Regional Office, Grafton to deploy. Reverse channel 63.
RFS - PMR - UHF	55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cangai East
CB - UHF	1 - 99	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available in most RFS vehicles. Choose channel on fire-ground with RFS.
Aircraft - VHF		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose channel on fire-ground with RFS.
Mobile Phone - CDMA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patchy coverage, determine number on fire-ground.
Satellite Phone	0416155917	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stored at Coffs Coast Area Office.

Strategy Information

Fire Season Information

Wildfires

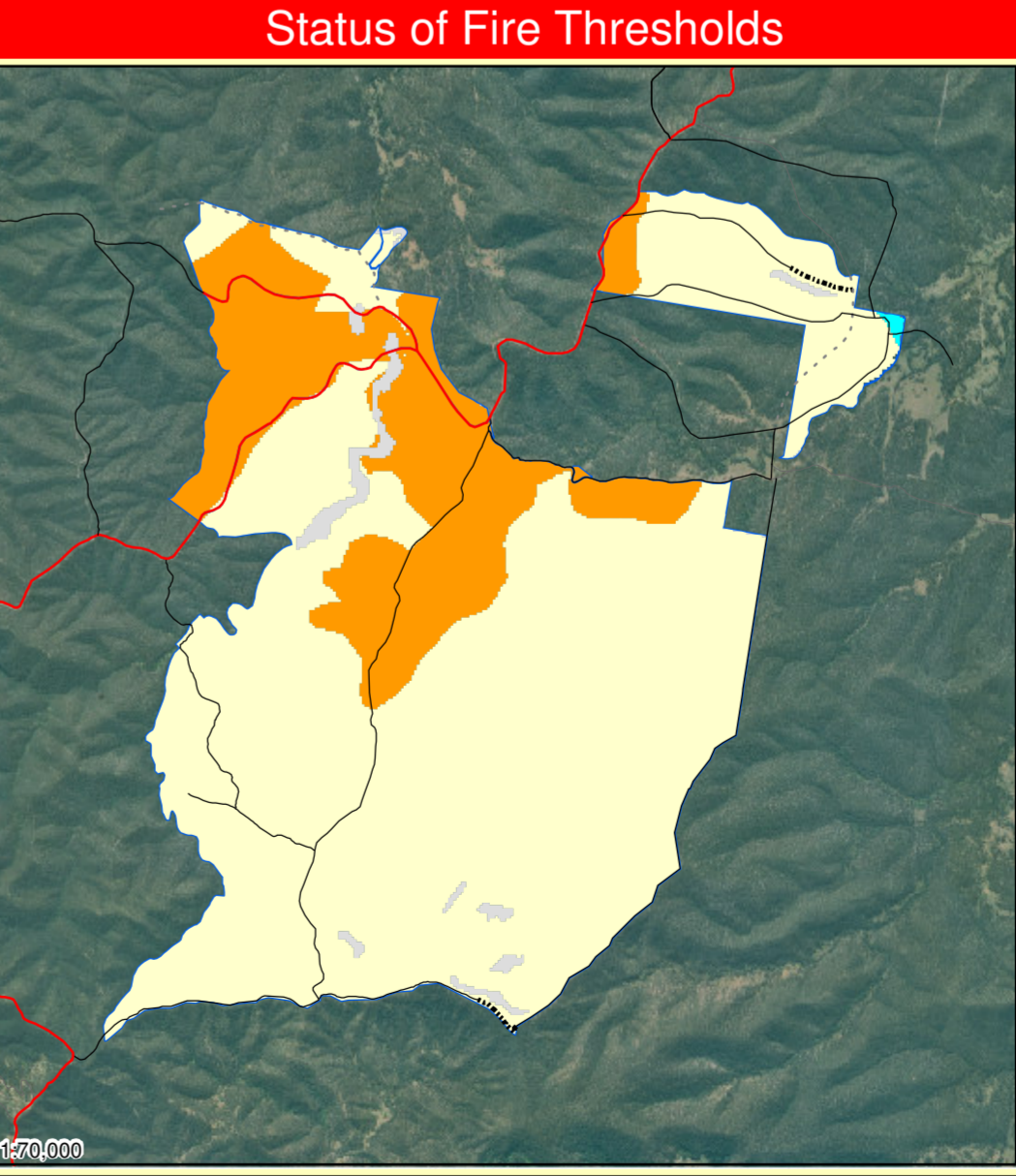
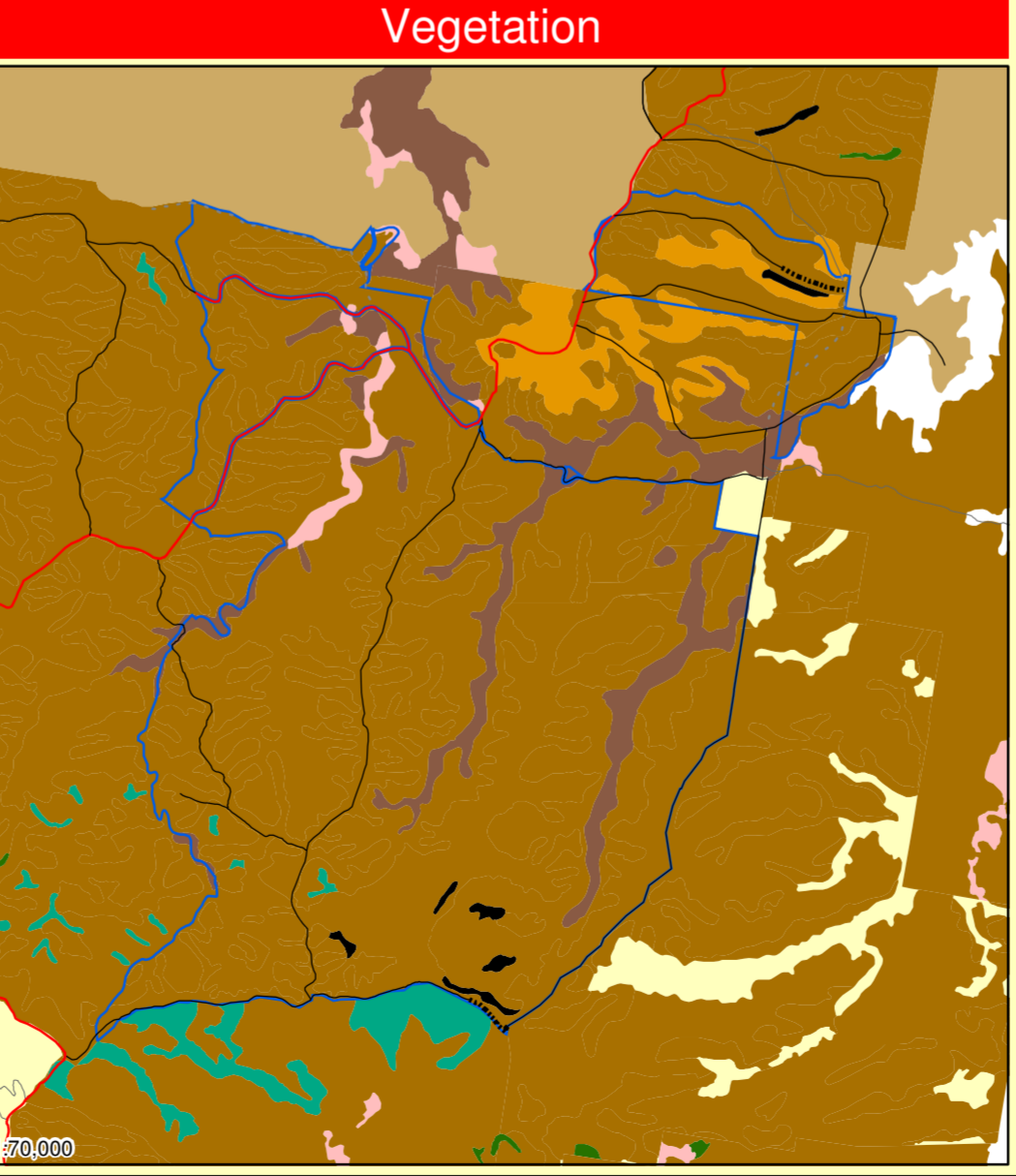
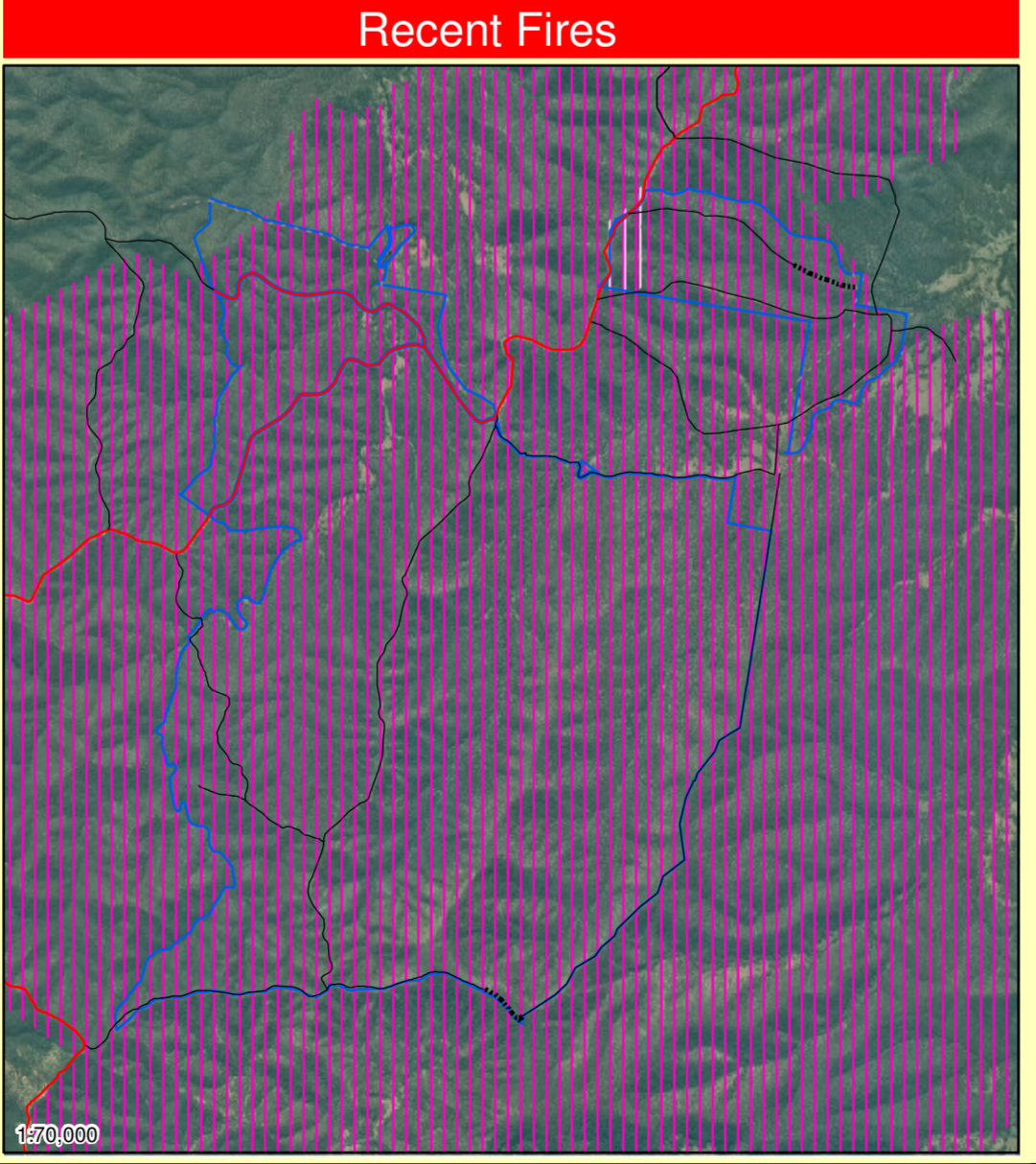
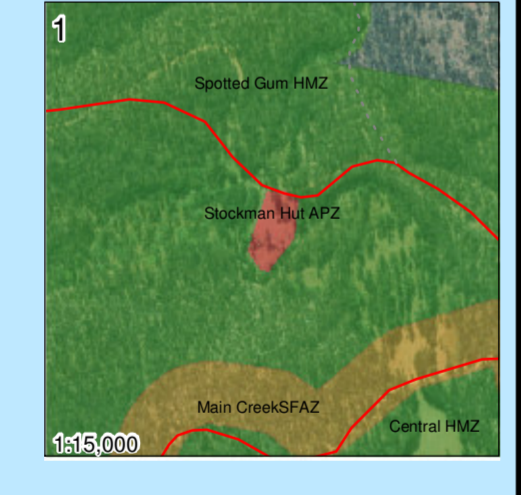
- Have been known to start as early as late August, but usually the potential for a large fire event is greatest between October and December. This period may extend into January in more severe years.

Prescribed Burning (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.7)

- General season is Autumn to late Winter. Burning is possible in early Spring but not desirable on a regular basis from an ecological or tourism point of view.

Suppression Strategies

Current FDR	Forecast FDR	Suppression Strategies
Low - Mod	Low - Mod	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake direct, parallel or indirect attack along existing containment lines. Where practicable consider maximising the fire area in accordance with the requirements of any proposed prescribed burns.
Low - Mod	= > High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to minimise the fire area and secure the flanks as soon as possible, undertake direct, parallel or indirect attack along the closest containment lines. Pay particular attention to the flank on the next predicted down wind side.
High	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake indirect attack along existing or newly constructed containment lines. Secure and deepen containment lines along the next predicted downwind side of the fire. If applicable consider broader than normal containment strategies to avoid wasted effort and high risk of failure.
All	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure there is sufficient time to secure containment lines prior to the fire impacting upon them; otherwise fall back to the next potential line.



Fire Management Zones

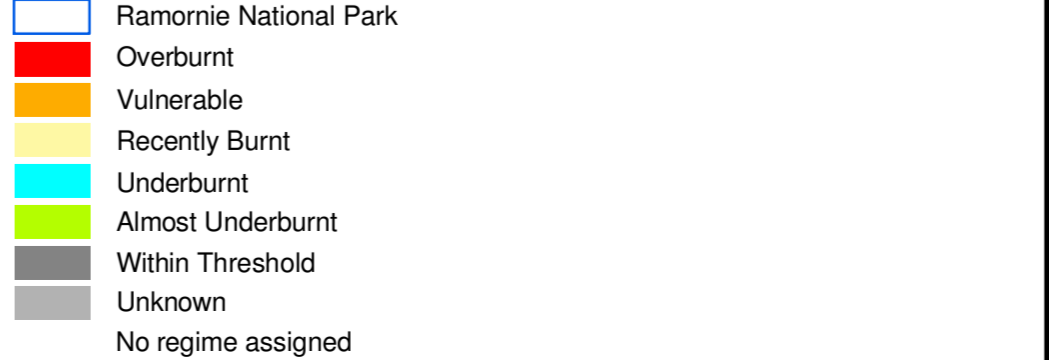
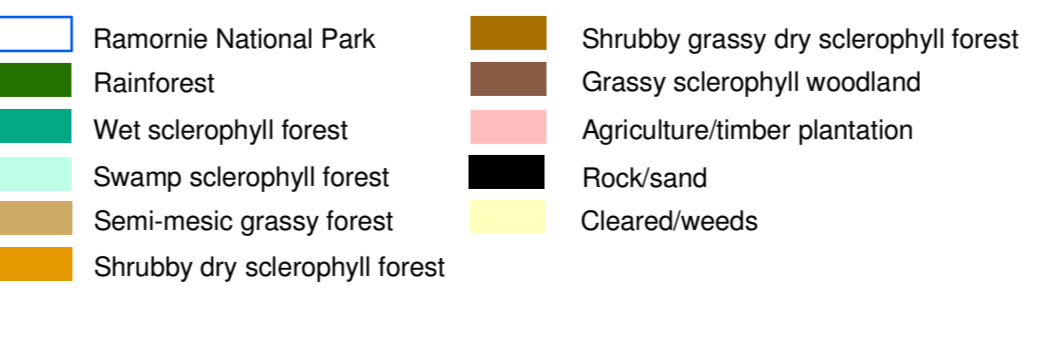
The objective of APZs is the protection of human life and property. This will have precedence over guidelines for the management of biodiversity. Maintain Overall Fuel Hazard at Moderate or below.

Asset Protection Zones	Zone	Action	Responsibility
Stockmans Hut APZ		A 5 meter slashed perimeter around the asset will be maintained through raking, mowing, pruning & leaf blowing.	NPWS

The objective of SFAZs 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.

Strategic Fire Advantage Zones	Zone	Action	Responsibility
	Talgai SFAZ, Purgatory SFAZ, Ramornie Road SFAZ, Main Creek SFAZ, Link Trail SFAZ, Southern SFAZ, Eastern SFAZ	Prescribed burn when overall fuel hazard exceeds High to the eight identified zones in conjunction with RFS and neighbours.	NPWS

The objective of HMZs is to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural heritage. Manage fire consistent with fire thresholds.



Fire Thresholds

Overburnt	Fire thresholds have been exceeded. Protect from fire as far as possible.
Vulnerable	The area will be Overburnt if it burns this year. Protect from fire as far as possible.
Recently Burnt	Time since fire is less than the optimum interval, but before that it was within threshold. Avoid fires if possible.
Within Threshold	Fire history is within the threshold for vegetation in this area. A burn is neither required nor should one necessarily be avoided.
Almost Underburnt	The area is close to its threshold and may become underburnt with the absence of fire. A prescribed burn may be advantageous. Consider allowing unplanned fires to burn.
Underburnt	Fire frequency is below fire thresholds in the area. A prescribed burn may be advantageous. Consider allowing unplanned fires to burn.
Unknown	Insufficient data to determine fire threshold.

NB. Fire thresholds are defined for vegetation communities to conserve biodiversity