

**Northern Tablelands Region
Severn River NR
Fire Management Strategy
(Type 2)
2005**

Sheet 1 of 1

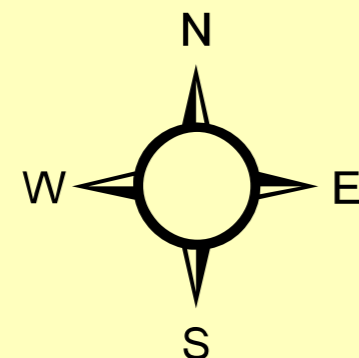
This strategy should be used in conjunction with aerial photography and field reconnaissance during incidents and the development of incident action plans.

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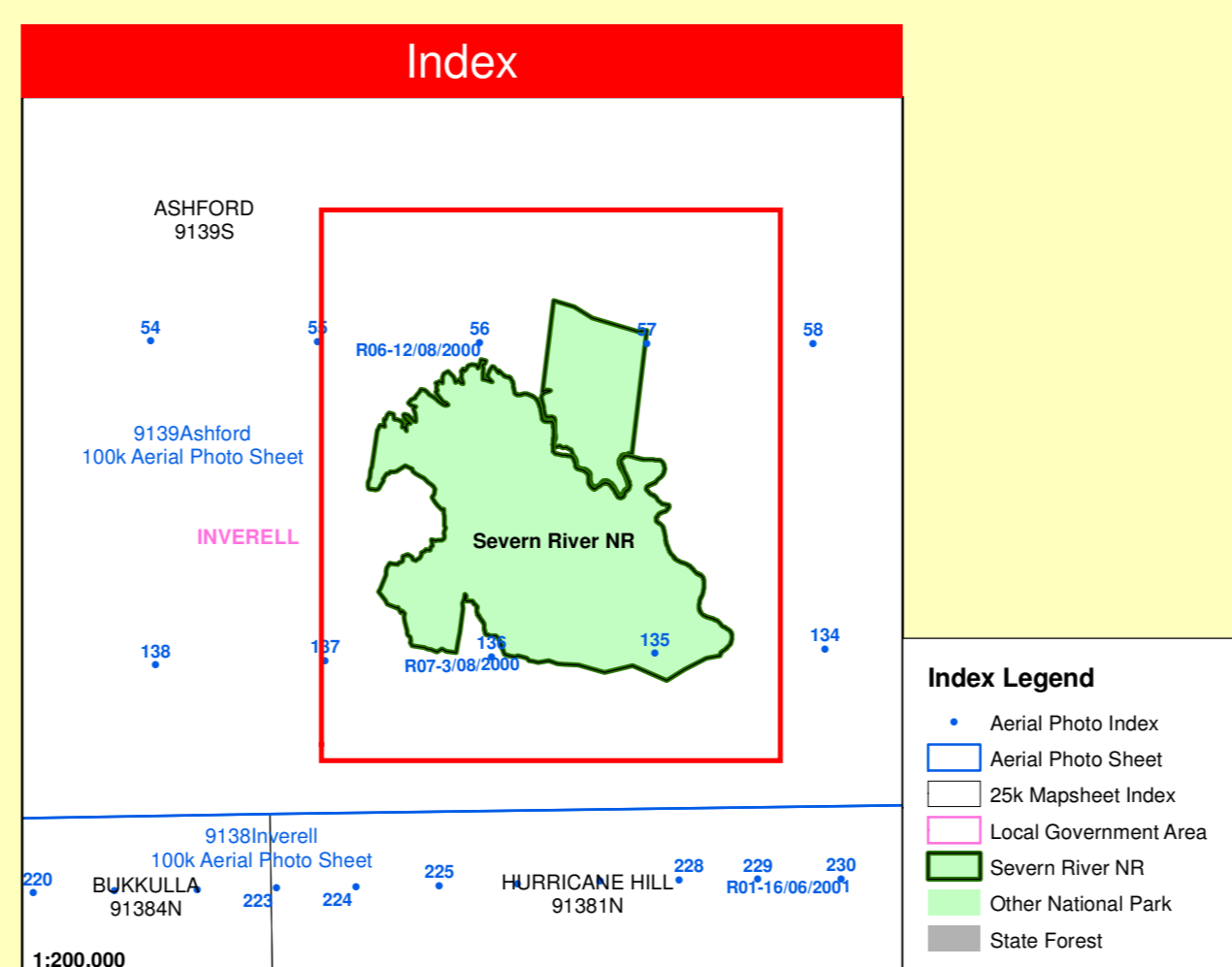
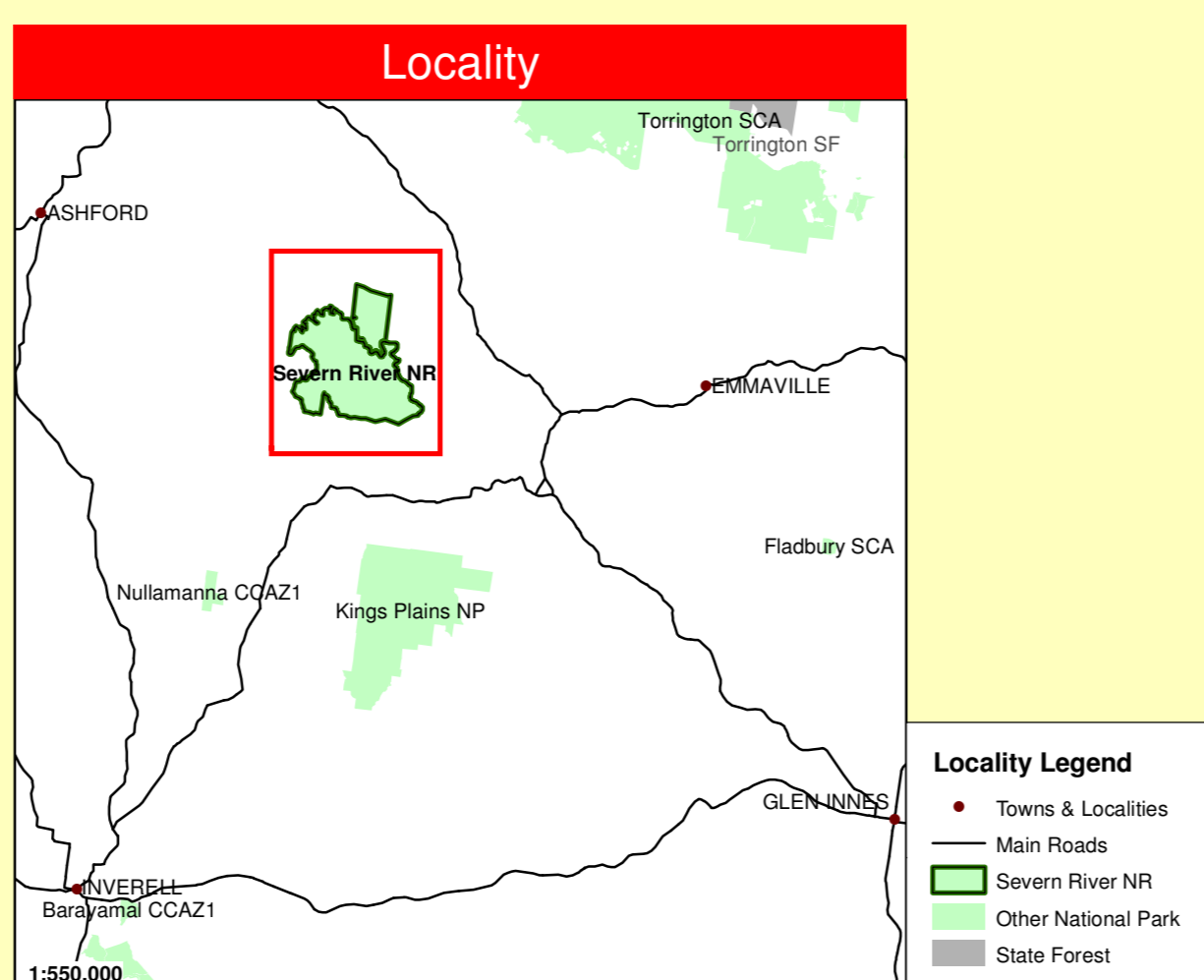
Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW) This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997.

Approved Date: 28 Feb 2006



Datum: AD63
Projection: UTM
Grid: AMG Zone 56

Noted scales are true when this map is printed on A0 size paper.



Strategy Information

Fire Season Information

Wildfires

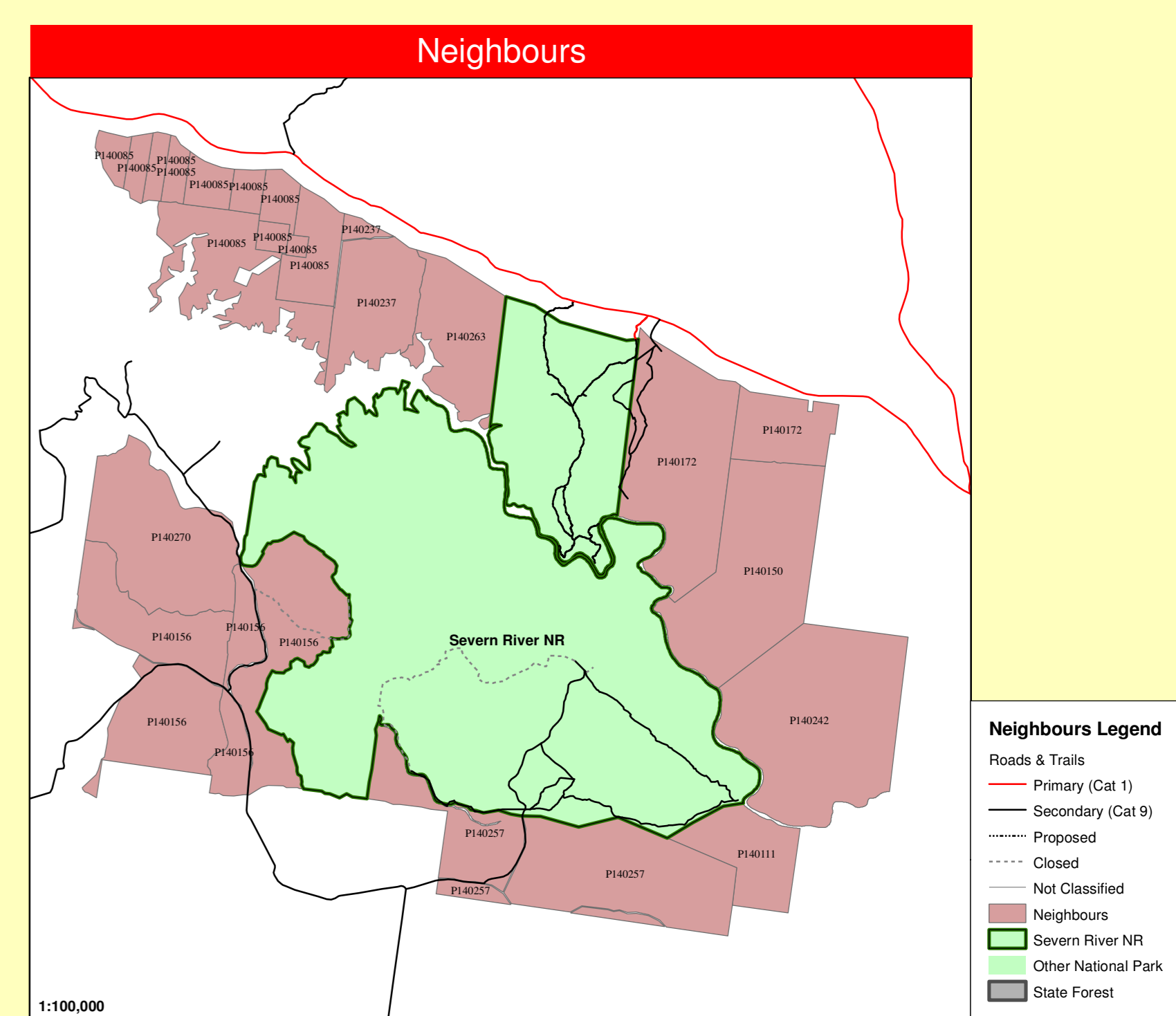
- Have been known to start as early as late August, but usually the potential for a large fire event is greatest between October and December. This period may extend into January in more severe years.
- During this period in dry seasons fires may exhibit high intensity behaviour under windy conditions.

Prescribed Burning (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.7)

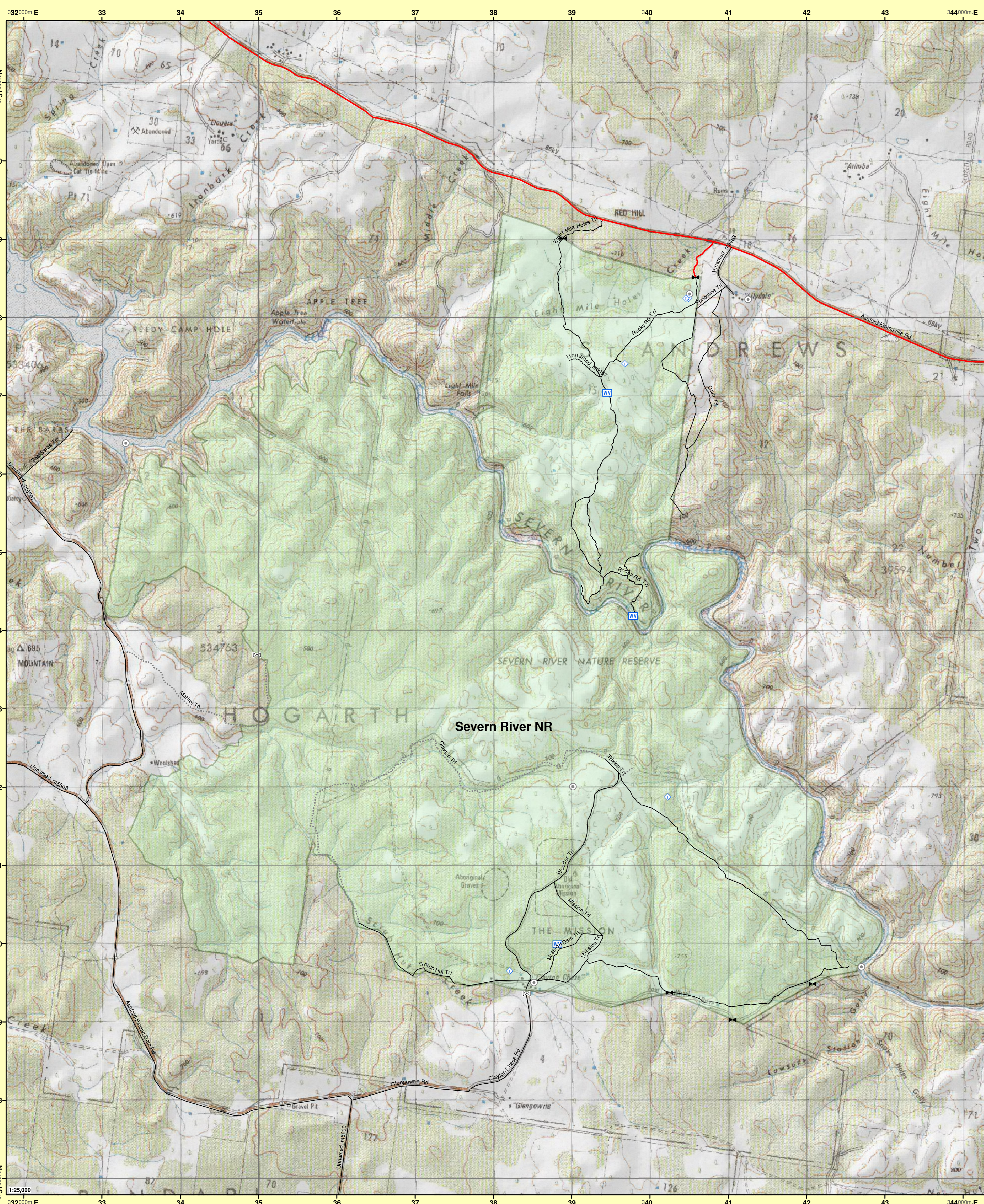
- General season is Autumn to late Winter. Burning is possible in early Spring but not desirable on a regular basis from an ecological or tourism point of view.

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 downwind side of the fire.
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.



Bushfire Suppression



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 indicated on this strategy. For information on Aboriginal sites contact the Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Officer or Local Aboriginal Land Council.
Historic Heritage Management (NPWS FMM 4.10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know sites in reserve. If new sites are located consult with a senior NPWS officer. H11 - as far as possible protect site from fire, avoid all ground disturbance including the use of earthmoving machinery, handline construction and driving over sites, avoid water bombing which may damage site. H12 - as far as possible protect site from fire, avoid all ground disturbance including the use of earthmoving machinery, handline construction and driving over sites.
Threatened Fauna Management (NPWS FMM 4.12 & 5.2)	No known sites in reserve. If new sites are located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
Threatened Flora Management (NPWS FMM 4.12)	No known sites in reserve. If new sites are located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
Threatened Property	No property in close proximity to reserve.
General	
Aerial Water Bombing (NPWS FMM 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs 02 / 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 02 / 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 those 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 BPMC 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 a senior NPWS officer, and then only if the probability of its success is high. 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. Containment lines constructed by earthmoving equipment should consider the protection of drainage features, observe the Threatened Species and Cultural Heritage Operational Guidelines, and be surveyed, where possible, to identify unknown cultural heritage sites. Earthmoving equipment should be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS estate.
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 & 4.39)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing 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 rainforests, 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)	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)	The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations.

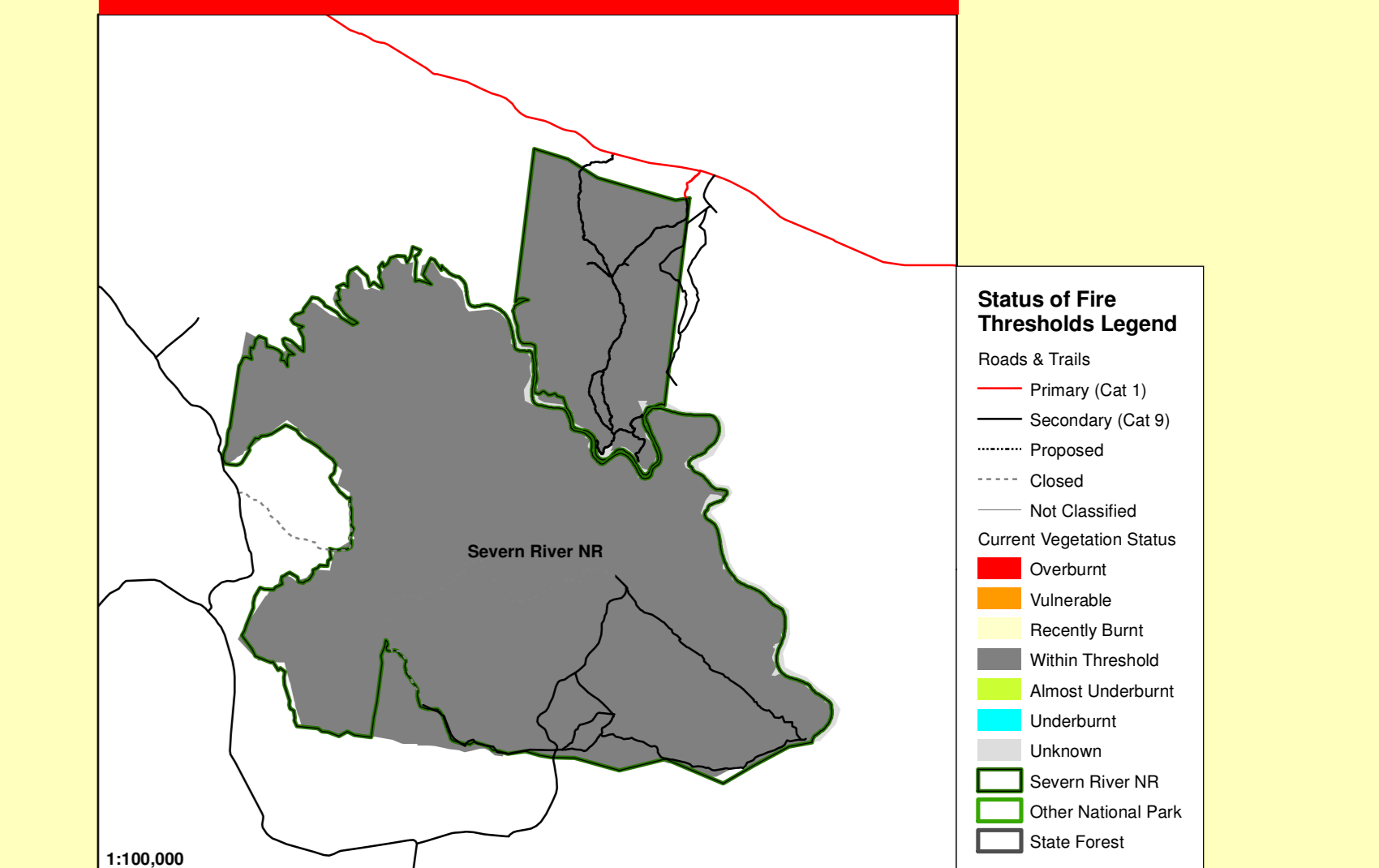
Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone	
NPWS	Regional Duty Officer	0428 345 789	
	Area Manager	02 6736 4850	
	Fire Management Officer		0409 224 605
			02 6776 0014
	Regional Operations Coordinator	0429 220 613	
	Tenterfield Area Office	02 6736 4298	
Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Officer		02 6739 4301 (fax)	
		02 6736 0721	
	Regional Office	02 6776 0000	
RFS	Emergency	000	
	Fire Control Officer - Tenterfield (Ron Bridge)	0427 555 155	
	Tenterfield Fire Control Centre	02 6736 4150 02 6736 3756 (fax)	
NSW Fire Brigade	Emergency	000	
	Glen Innes Station	02 6732 5379	
SES	Emergency	000	
	Inverell Unit	02 6721 0833	
Police	Emergency	000	
	Ashford Station	02 6725 4004	
Ambulance	Emergency	000	
	Ashford Station	02 6728 8288	
Hospital	Vegetable Creek Hospital - Emmaville	02 6734 7900	
	DNK - New England / North West	02 6764 6831 02 6764 5982 (fax)	
Forests NSW	24hrs - fire calls	02 6655 6950	
	Inverell - fire calls	02 6722 4200 02 6722 5428 (fax)	
Council	Inverell	02 6728 8288 0419 901 288	
	Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC)	Ashford	02 6725 4419

Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	21	
NPWS - VHF (Fireground Comms)	33	
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	15	Stored at Glen Innes (transportable)
RFS - PAR - UHF	-	No service available in NTR
RFS - GRN	-	Not applicable
FNSW - VHF	-	Not applicable
CB - UHF	16	Channel as repeater
Aircraft - VHF	119.10	Pindari Dan (Approach 6)
Mobile Phone - CDMA	No	Pindari Campus (Rogers property)
Mobile Phone - GSM	No	
Satellite Phone	0147 166 331	Stored at Tenterfield NPWS

Status of Fire Thresholds

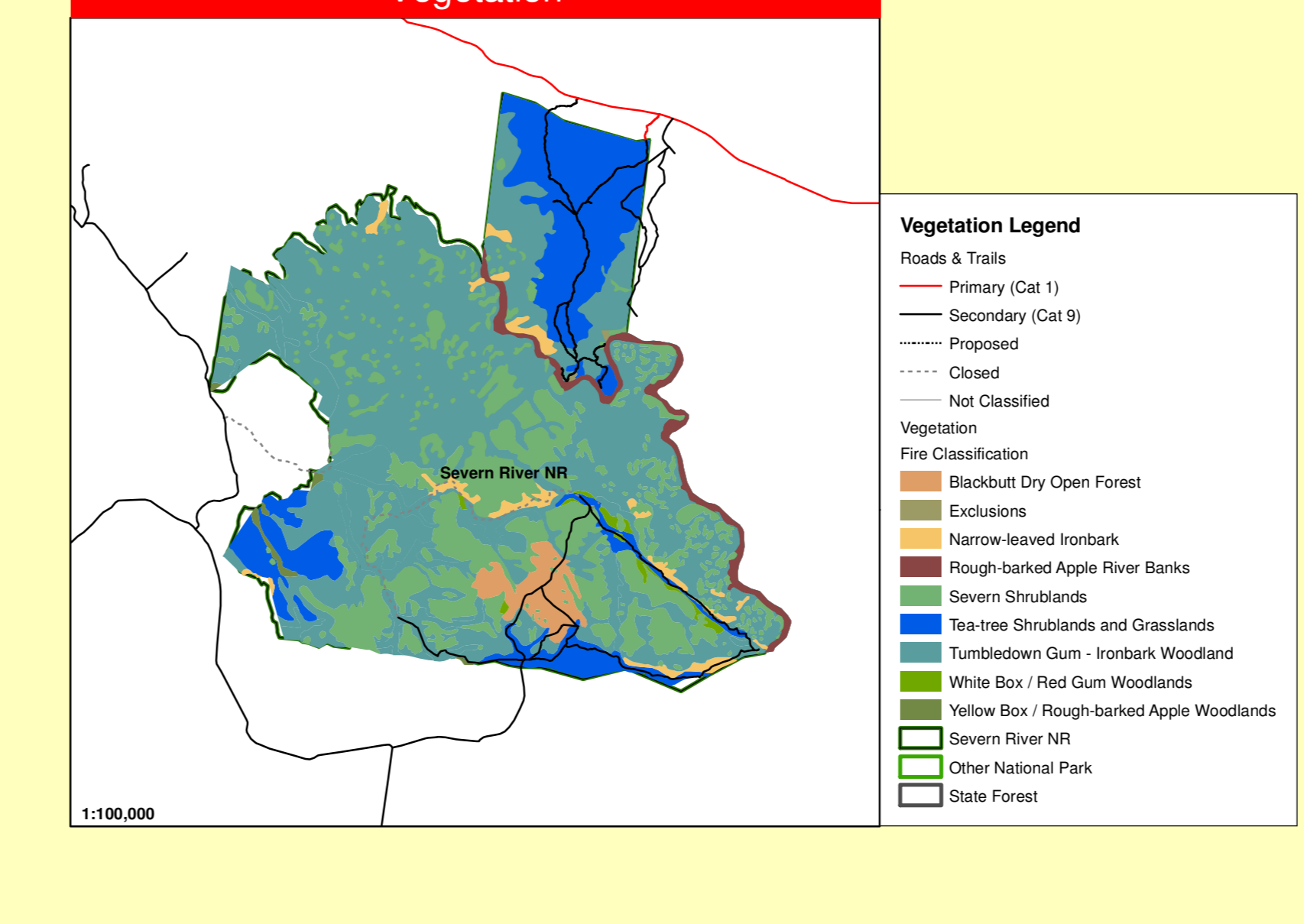


Fire Thresholds

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

NB: Fire thresholds are defined for vegetation committees to conserve biodiversity.

Vegetation



Risk Management Information

