

Snake Rock Aboriginal Area Fire Management Strategy 2014
Mapsheet 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. These data are not guaranteed to be free from error or omission. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and its employees disclaim liability for any act done on the information in the data and any consequences of such acts or omissions. This document is copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the Copyright Act, no part may be reproduced by any process without written permission. This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is part of the Office of Environment and Heritage. Published by the Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW).

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Map Details
 Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA) 1994
 Projection: Map Grid of Australia (MGA) Zone 55
 Data: Spot Satellite Imagery: 2005.

Related Documents
 1:50K Topographic Map: Tullamore 8432-N
 Scale: Noted scales are true when printed on A1 size paper
 OEH Fire Management Manual 2013 - 2014.

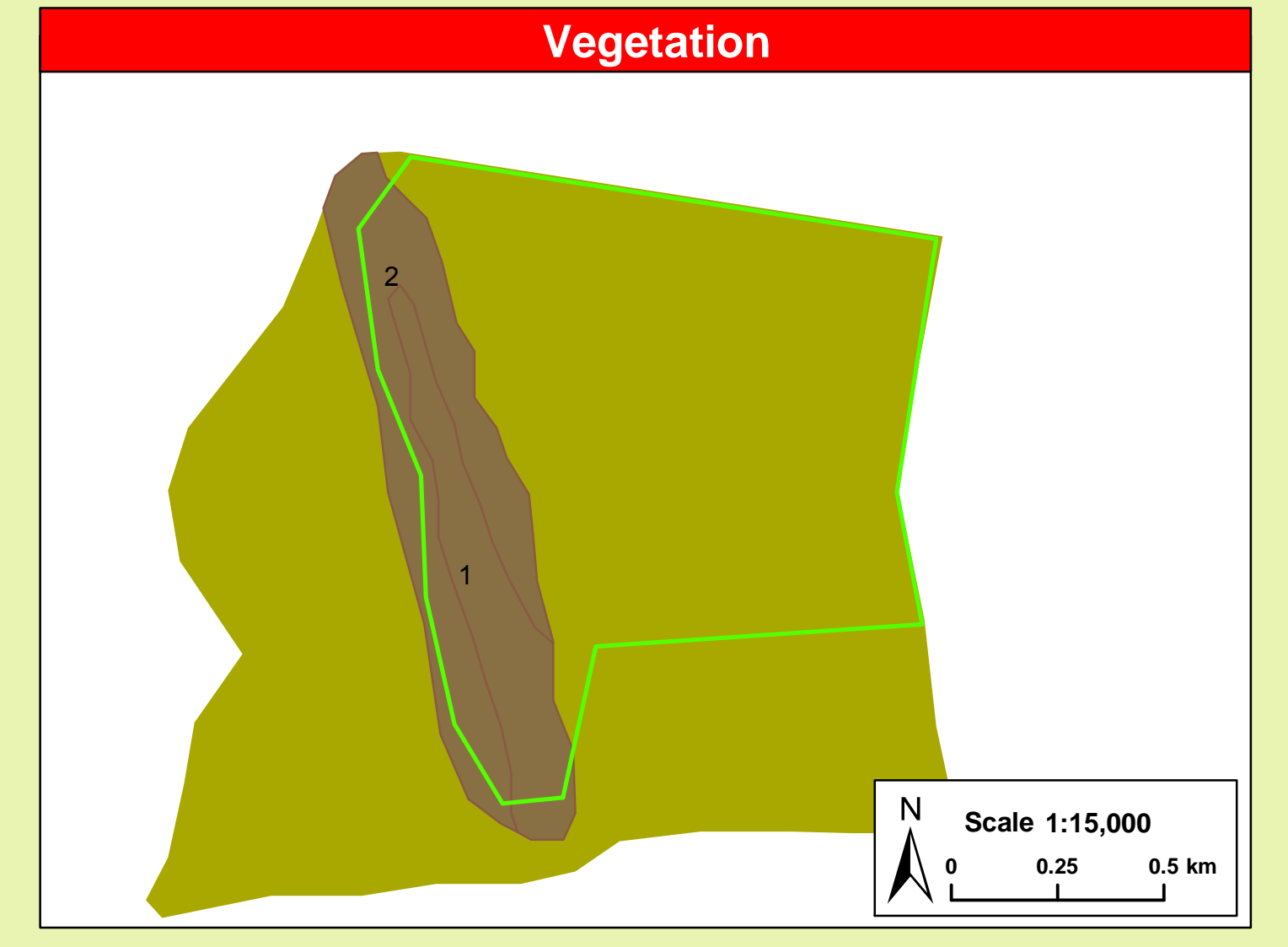
Operational Guidelines

Brief all personnel involved in suppression operations on the following issues using the SMEACS format:

General	Guidelines
Aerial Water Bombing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid water bombing in the Exclusion Zone marked on the Incident map. 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. Avoid the use of fire fighting chemicals (e.g. retardants, wetting agents & foams) within 20 m of any Aboriginal Rock Art Site. In windy conditions this should be extended to 50 m.
Aerial Ignition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aerial ignition may not be feasible given the small size of the reserve. Aerial ignition may be used during back-burning or fuel reduction operations where practicable, but only with the prior consent of NPWS Senior Officer, Section 44 delegate or as prescribed in an operational burn plan. The use of aerial ignition as a fire suppression tool should be specified in the IAP or within the prescribed burn plan. Aerial ignition will only be undertaken by qualified and competent navigators and bombardiers. Utilise aerial ignition to rapidly burn out large areas and/or reduce spotting potential by preventing longer uphill fire runs.
Back-burning	<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, back-burning should commence when the humidity begins to rise in the late afternoon or early evening, with a lower FDI back-burning may be safely undertaken during the day. Where practicable, clear a 1m radius around dead and hollow bearing trees adjacent to containment lines prior to back-burning, or wet down these trees as part of the back-burn ignition. Use parallel containment lines when applicable. All personnel must be fully briefed before back-burning operations begin.
Command & Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard Incident Management Systems are to be applied. 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 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	<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. For new containment lines IMT to liaise with and receive consent from a Senior NPWS officer prior to construction. Use parallel containment lines when applicable. 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. Containment line construction using earthmoving equipment must be in accordance with the earthmoving guidelines contained within the RFMS.
Earthmoving Equipment	<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 always be guided and supervised by an appropriately experienced person, and accompanied by a support vehicle. When engaged in direct or parallel attack this vehicle must be a fire fighting 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 must be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS estate and again on exiting NPWS estate. Where multiple items of earthmoving equipment are being used, the IMT should consider the establishment of a Plant Operations Manager.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of wetting and foaming agents (surfactants) is permitted on the reserve. The use of fire retardants are 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 watercourses, dams and swamps. Areas where fire suppression chemicals are used must be mapped and the used product's name recorded. The Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed.
Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
Smoke Management	<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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during prescribed burning or wildfire suppression operations.
WARNINGS	Ensure that Threatened Site Guidelines are adhered to.

Status of Biodiversity Thresholds

Evaluation of Biodiversity Thresholds
 Within the threshold for vegetation in this area. Species have had sufficient time to mature and reproduce, and for habitats to develop.
 A fire event is neither required nor should one necessarily be avoided.
 NB. Fire thresholds are defined for vegetation communities to conserve biodiversity.



Vegetation Map Legend

Broad Vegetation Class	Vegetation Types	Biodiversity Thresholds	Fire Behaviour
Semi-arid Woodlands (Shrubby sub-formation)	1. Dwyers Red Gum <i>Eucalyptus dwyeri</i> - White Cypress Pine <i>Callitris glaucophylla</i> - Currawang <i>Acacia doratocylon</i> Shrubby Woodland 2. Gum Coolabah <i>Eucalyptus intertexta</i> - Mugga Ironbark <i>Eucalyptus sideroxylon</i> - White Cypress Pine <i>Callitris glaucophylla</i> Woodland	An interval between fire events less than 15 years should be avoided. There is no maximum interval between fire events specified for this vegetation type as there was insufficient data to give definite intervals.	These vegetation communities generally have a moderate fire potential. Fire intensities range from moderate to high and is largely influenced by ephemeral growth. Low ground fuels in normal years will only allow for patchy fires unless weather conditions are extreme. Back-burning may be difficult in years with low ephemeral fuels. Crown fires are likely in high and above fire danger periods in the Mallee areas.
Grassland (Previously cleared area)	Derived grassland with scattered trees and shrubs. The area is characterised by small groves of regenerating mugga ironbark, western red box, bumble box (<i>E. populnea</i> subsp. <i>bimbili</i>), kurrajong, wilga, northern sandalwood (<i>Santalum lanceolatum</i>) and bullock.	This area should be managed for the likely previous formation - Semi-arid Woodland (Shrubby sub-formation)	High intensity fast moving fire once grasses have cured. Fire behaviour is dominated by winds, both speed and direction. Even in very low fuel, grass fires can be erratic and fast moving. In ephemeral years fire intensity will be higher and in drought years minimal growth will result in moderate fire behaviour but potentially still fast moving depending on weather conditions at the time.

Fire History The fire history data for this area is incomplete. No recorded fires since reservation in 2006.

Ephemeral Conditions Ephemeral fuel conditions occur after consecutive years of effective rainfall. This in turn leads to the growth and build up of fine surface fuels such as grasses and herbs, which can create a continuous fuel load across the above vegetation community. As a result expect higher fire intensity.

Drought Conditions During drought conditions it will be very difficult to undertake prescribed burning across many communities as the surface fuels are low. Wildfire areas will be minimised.

Prescribed Burning This reserve may not have experienced fire over an extended period of time, therefore a mosaic approach to fire management with post fire recovery and response assessments should be undertaken. Apply fire in a pattern across the reserve that allows gaps in both time and space, small versus large areas, scattered and variable times between fires in any location. If possible leave some areas of each vegetation community unburnt, as an end stage and reference site. Prescribed burning will generally be limited in this reserve, due to its small size and the extensive area and potential numbers of Aboriginal Sites that may be present.

Bushfire Risk Management Strategies

Fire Management Zones

Asset Protection 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.
Strategic Fire Advantage Zones	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.
Land Management Zones	The objective of LMZs is to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural and historic heritage. Manage fire consistent with fire thresholds.

Suppression Strategies

Typical Conditions	Indicative Suppression Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current Fire Danger Rating (FDR) of Very High or Greater Short and medium range forecasts suggest conditions typical to a FDR of Very High or Greater A risk to life and/or property exists in the short - medium term A broad area risk to biodiversity exists. 	<p>Direct Initial attacks should be to try to extinguish or to contain to the smallest possible area.</p> <p>Indirect Develop a suppression plan using existing and/or potential containment lines. If possible take into account biodiversity requirements but never to the detriment of life and property.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FDR of High or below Short - medium term forecast indicate a continuing FDR of High or below No risk to life or property exists in the short-medium term Only small area risk to biodiversity exists. 	<p>Direct Evaluate the biodiversity thresholds and use direct attack methods to extinguish if required.</p> <p>Indirect Develop a fire suppression plan to the maximum allowable perimeter based on Biodiversity thresholds.</p>

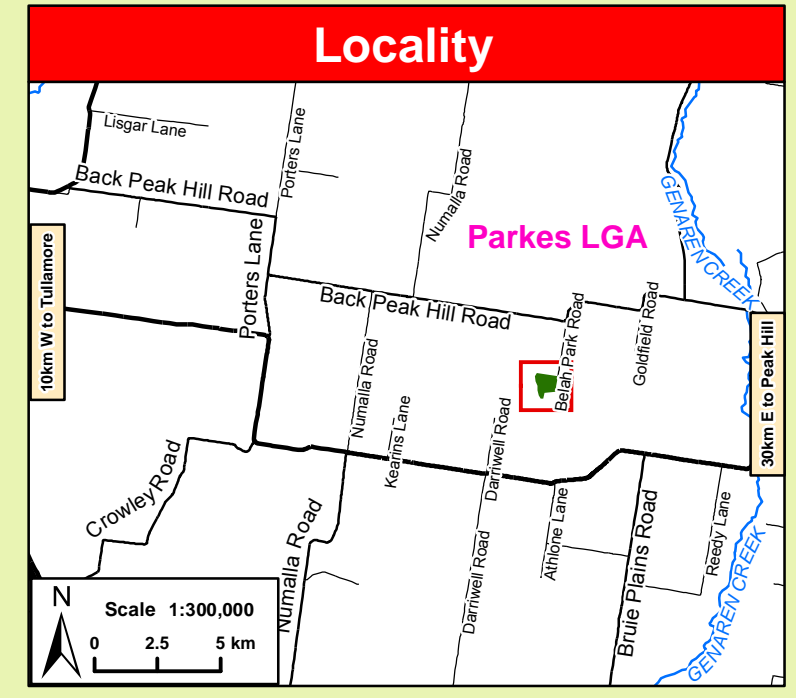
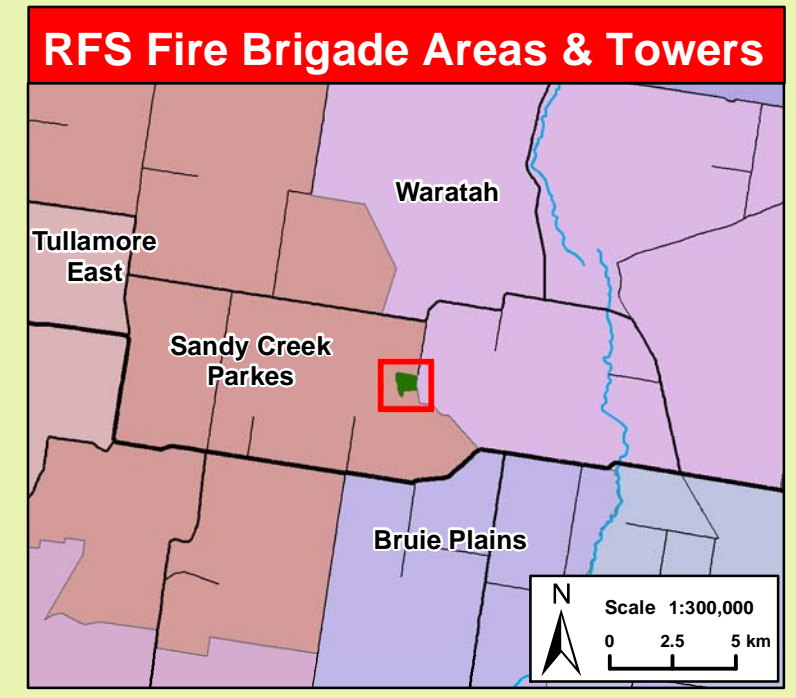
Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Duty Officer Regional Office - 200 Yambill St Griffith	02 6332 6350 02 6966 8100
NSW Rural Fire Service Bland Temora Zone	West Wyalong Fire Control Centre	02 6970 1100
Fire and Rescue NSW Emergency Services	West Wyalong Fire Station	02 6972 3120 000 13 2500
Police Station (not open 24 hrs)	West Wyalong	02 6972 2444
Police - Local Area Command	Griffith	02 6969 4310
Hospital	West Wyalong	02 6979 0000
Council	Bland Shire Council	02 6972 2266
Local Aboriginal Land Council	West Wyalong	02 6972 3493

Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS	11	VHF Fire Ground 1
RFS PMR	P052 P001 P012	Narriah Mountain Manna Mountain Booberoi Hills
RFS UHF	20	All Brigades

Mobile phone coverage likely to be unreliable.



Threatened Sites Guidelines

Site	Guidelines
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management	
SNAKE ROCK AA EXCLUSION ZONES There is to be no use of chemicals or retardants within 20 metres of art sites and if windy this distance is to be extended to 50 metres. A heavy machinery and moderate-high fire intensity exclusion zone has been identified in the reserve fire management strategy, this covers the rocky outcrop area where the Aboriginal Rock Art exists.	
IS1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not cut down trees. As far as possible protect the site from fire.
IS2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid all ground disturbance including the use of earthmoving machinery, handline construction and driving over sites. Sites may be burnt by bushfire, backburn or prescribed burn without damage.
IS3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid all ground disturbance including the use of earthmoving machinery, handline construction and driving over sites. Avoid water bombing which may cause ground disturbance. Permission required from Aboriginal Heritage Environment Officer and Aboriginal community.
Threatened Fauna Management	
FA1	Utilise mosaic burning and avoid disturbance at known sightings, roosting or refuges & avoid frequent fire (<6 years).
FA4	Utilise mosaic burning, protect hollow bearing trees and avoid frequent fire (<6-10 years).

