

Terrie Hie Hie Group
Community Conservation Area Zone 2
Berrygill Section
Fire Management Strategy
2015-2020

This strategy should be used with aerial photography and field reconnaissance. This is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997.

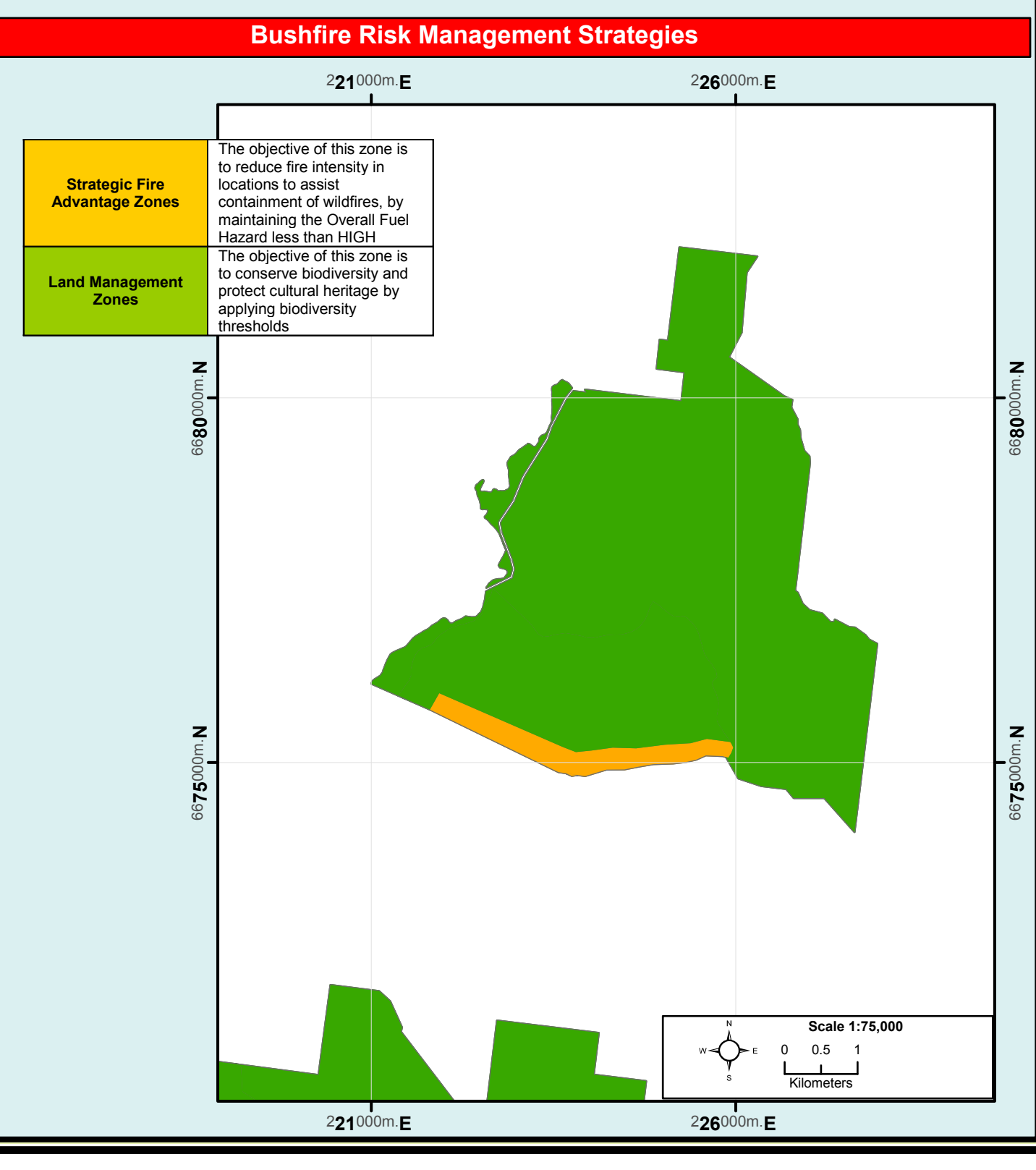
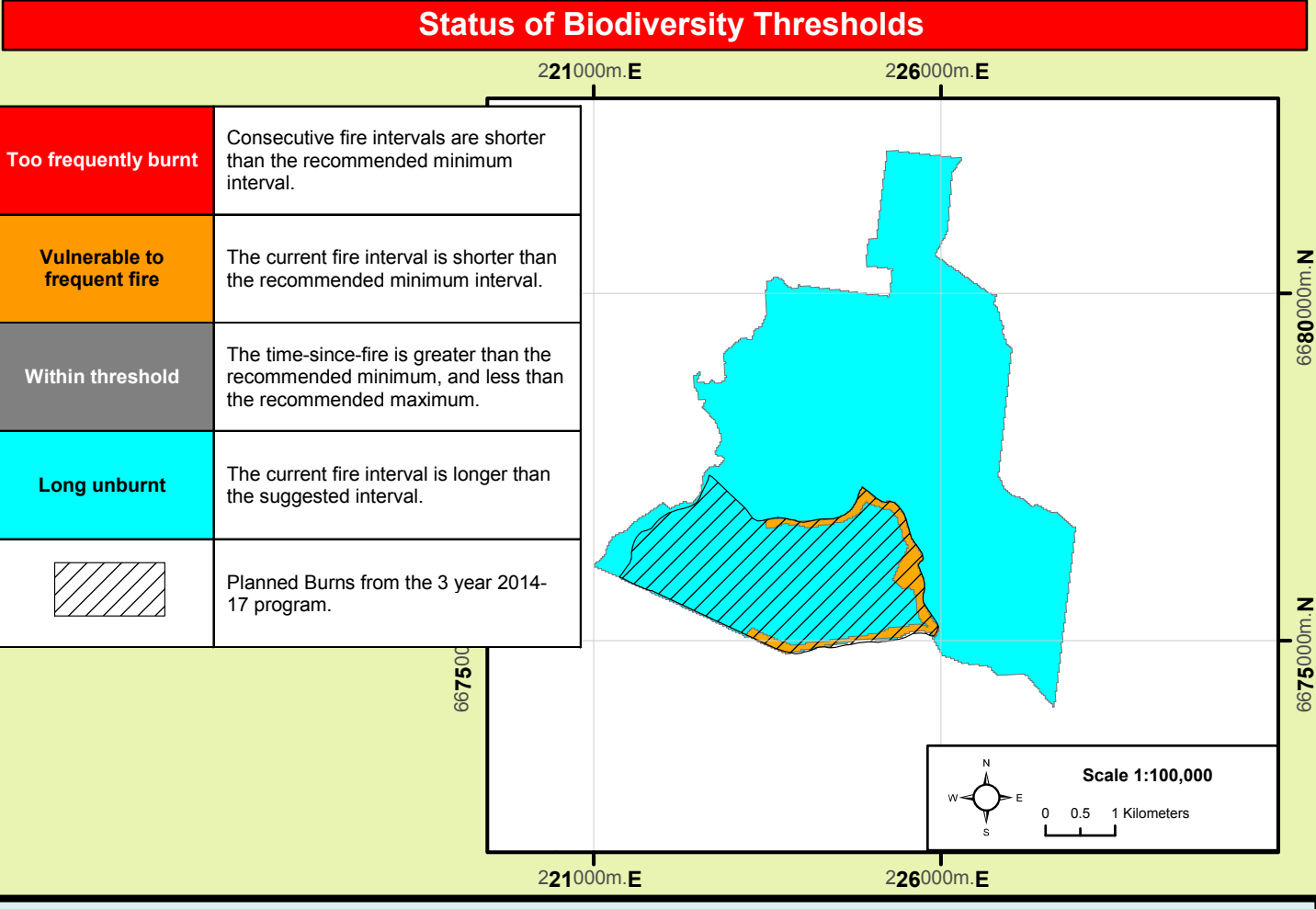
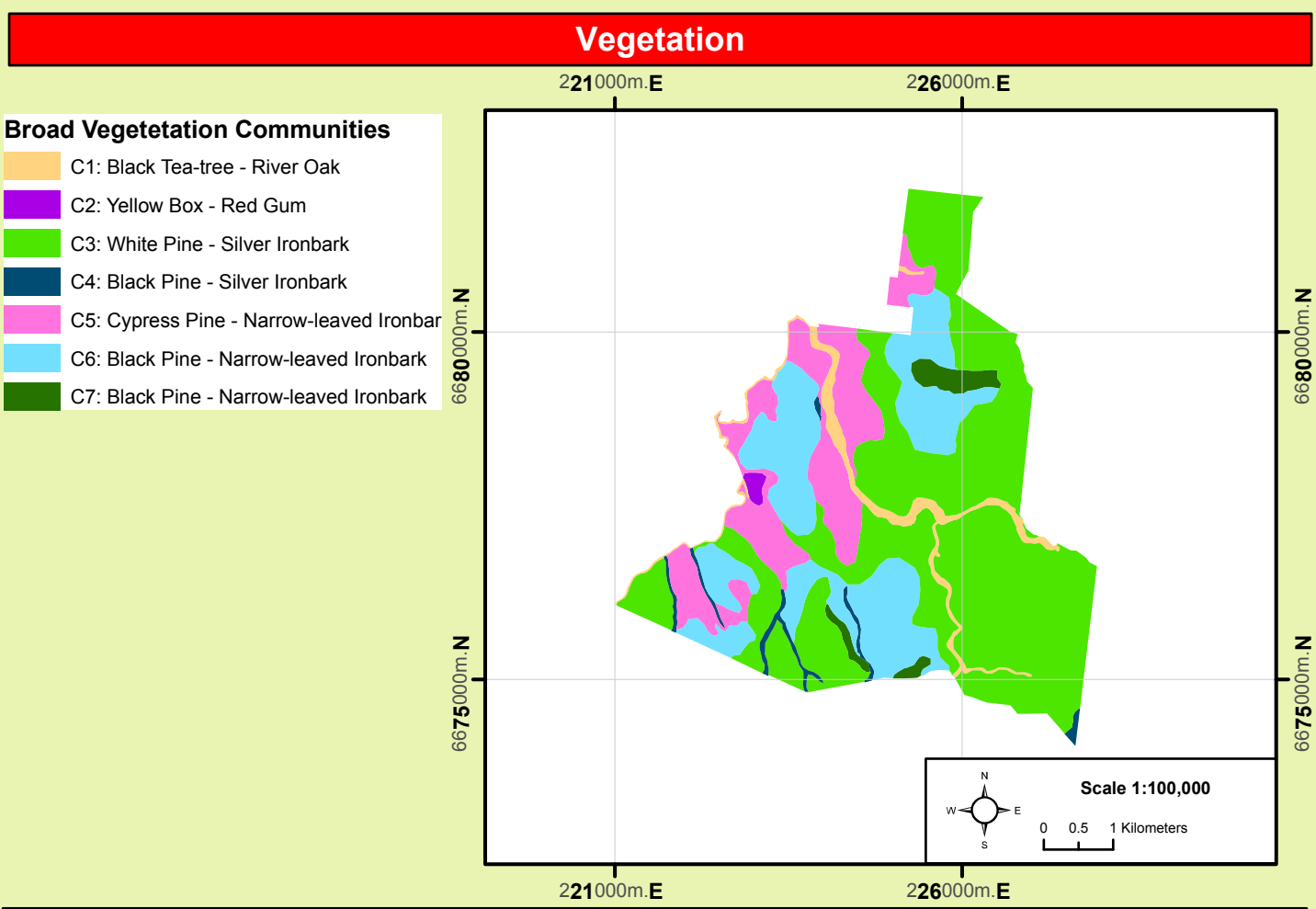
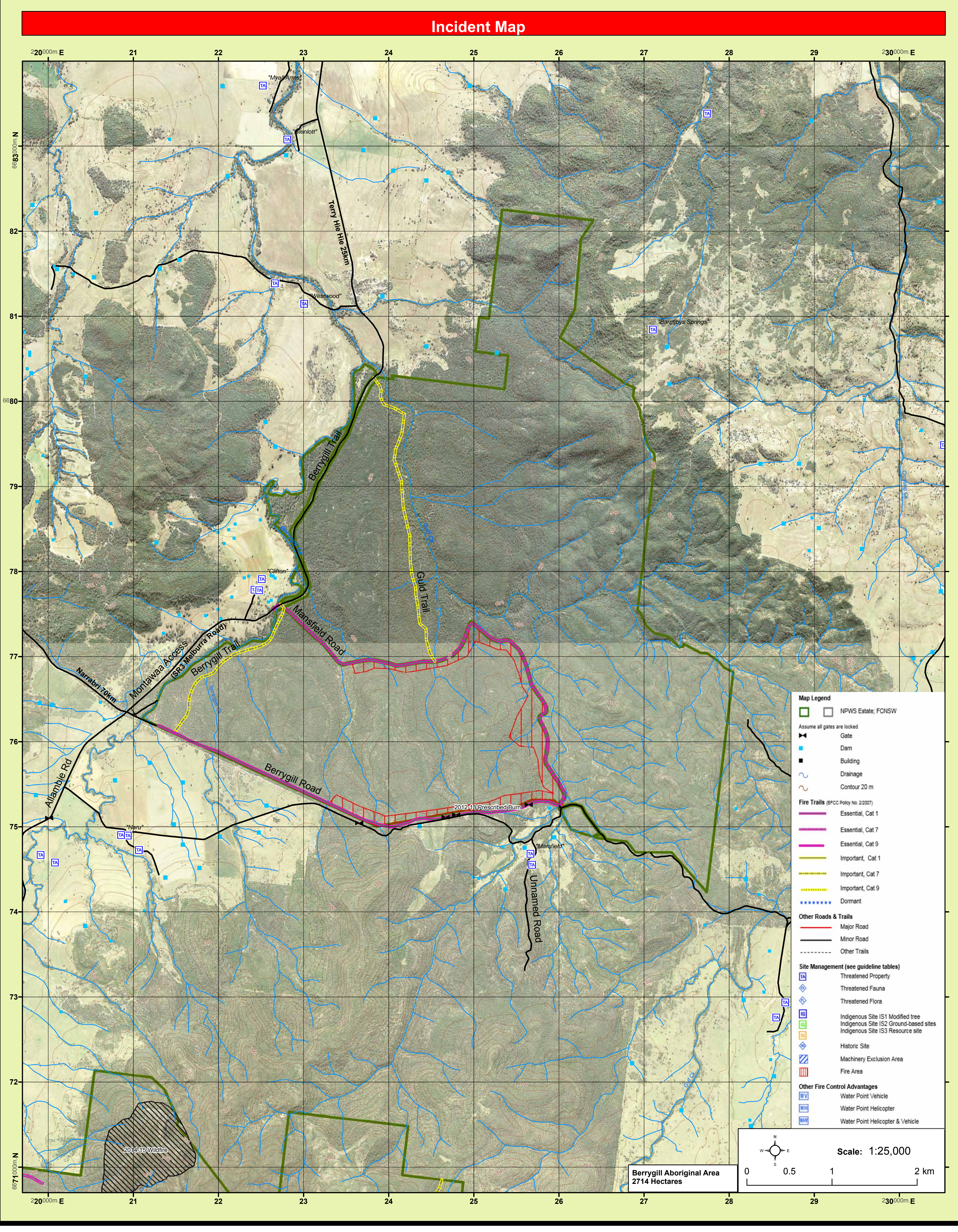
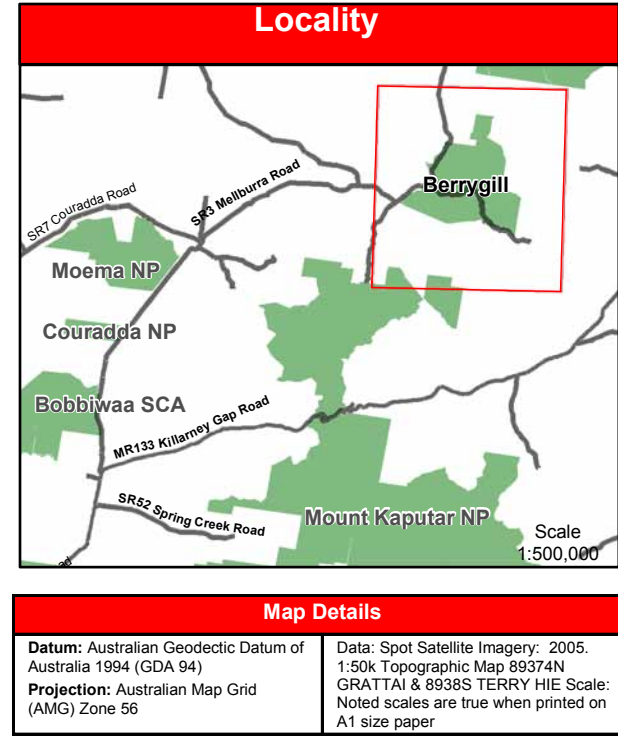
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The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is part of the Office of Environment and Heritage.
Published by: Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW).
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ISBN: 978-1-76039-198-0 OEH2015 / 0833 Date Approved: 18 December 2015

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|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
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| Narrabri Area Office | (bus hours) | 6792 7300 |
| NSW Rural Fire Service | Michael Brooks | 0427 101 124 |
| Narrabri Zone | Duty Officer | 6799 6707 |
| Zone Office | | 6799 6707 |
| Berrygill Creek Brigade | David Kirby | 6793 7859 |
| Terry Hie Hie Brigade | Ross Smith | 6754 6167 |
| Newcastle Comms Centre | | 4929 7177 |
| NSW Fire Brigade | | 000 |
| Emergency Services | | 13 2500 |
| SES | | 6757 3333 |
| Police | | 6757 3222 |
| Council | More Plains | 6757 3222 |

| Communications Information | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Service | Channel | Location and Comments |
| NPWS Repeaters | 29 | • The Tops |
| RFS | 86 / P069 87 / P070 | • Variable reception, check by location |
| RFS Stratnet | 128 / S12STN | • The Governor |
| UHF - GB | | • Small fires channel 10 large fires determined by IMT |
| Parks Radio | 11-17 | • NPWS Fire ground channels (fire ground 1-7) |
| Aviation - CTAf | 126.7 | |
| Mobile phone | | • Telstra - variable reception |



Related Documents

National Parks and Wildlife Service Fire Management Manual, 2015.
Hunter J. T. (2009), Vegetation and Floristic of Berrygill Aboriginal Area

Fire Season Information

Wildfires
The critical wildfire season occurs during November and December. This period may extend into the first half of January. Particular care is required during periods of negative Southern Oscillation Indices. The end of the critical fire season is often marked by wet storm activity.

Prescribed Burning
Prescribed burning should be undertaken before autumn rain occurs to maximise effectiveness. Burning may also be considered during late winter and early spring dependent on seasonal factors. Prescribed burning undertaken near the commencement of the statutory bushfire season should be fully contained.

| 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 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. Where practicable to mop-up efforts, clear a 1m radius around dead and fibrous barked trees adjacent to containment lines prior to backburning, or wet down these trees during the ignition. |
| 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. 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. In the eastern escarpment area, preference will be given to new containment lines constructed with ground crews or retardants due to terrain. Containment lines running along valley areas should be constructed at 20 - 50 metres from the gullyline to avoid severe erosion. All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on, and must consider both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location. |
| Containment Lines | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earthmoving equipment may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer. Earthmoving machinery will not be permitted on slopes greater than 20 degrees. Earthmoving equipment 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. Earthmoving equipment must be washed down, where practicable, prior to entering NPWS estate and again on exiting NPWS estate. |
| Earthmoving Equipment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of foam, wetting agents and retardants will be permitted on the reserve Fire suppression chemicals are not to be applied within 50m of water courses and dams. The use of retardants requires the approval of the Regional Manager or delegate. |
| Fire Suppression Chemicals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation. |
| Rehabilitation | <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"> The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during fire operations. |
| Visitor Management | |

| Operational Guidelines Continued | |
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| Resource | Guidelines |
| Modified Trees (IS1), including scarred trees | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As far as possible, protect site from fire. Do not cut trees. Use of foam, wetting agent & retardant is acceptable. |
| Ground based sites (IS2), including: camp sites, artefacts, grinding grooves, waterholes and quarries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect site from any ground disturbance, including the use of earth-moving equipment and vehicles |
| Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource sites (IS3), including fig-tree groves Protect site from physical disturbance |
| Threatened Fauna and Flora Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AIMS database must be checked as part of planning for fire operations. The protective actions for threatened fauna have been incorporated into the Operational Guidelines and vegetation management guidelines |

| Suppression Strategies | |
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| Conditions & forecast | Guidelines |
| Fire danger rating LOW - HIGH | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise fire area in accordance with requirements for biodiversity management and thresholds A broad containment strategy using existing roads, tracks, and recently burnt areas. |
| Fire danger rating VERY HIGH - EXTREME | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A broad containment strategy using existing roads, hand tool lines, rocky areas and recently burnt areas. Consider deployment of RAFT crews as first response to keep the fire to smallest area practical, prior to falling-back to the broad containment strategy Exclude machinery from slopes greater than 20 degrees. Revert to property protection. |
| Catastrophic | |

| Vegetation Communities and Biodiversity Thresholds | | |
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| Vegetation Community | Vegetation management guidelines | Fire Behaviour |
| Riparian gallery and floodplain woodland | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An interval between fire events less than 20 years should be avoided No prescribed burning to be conducted Exclude use of machinery from C2 Yellow Box - Red Gum woodland | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread is low due to Low - Moderate OFH |
| Communities C1 & C2 | | |
| Cypress / Ironbark woodland | <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, particularly when burning upslope |
| Communities C3, C4, C5, C6 & C7 | | |
| Strategic Zones | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prescribed burn should be considered where the OFH has been assessed at HIGH, after an interval of 7 years | |

OFH - Overall fuel hazard - A rating system that includes leaf litter, grasses, shrubs, bark type and bark condition