


**Hunter Region
Tilligerry SCA
Fire Management Strategy 2009
Sheet 1 of 2**



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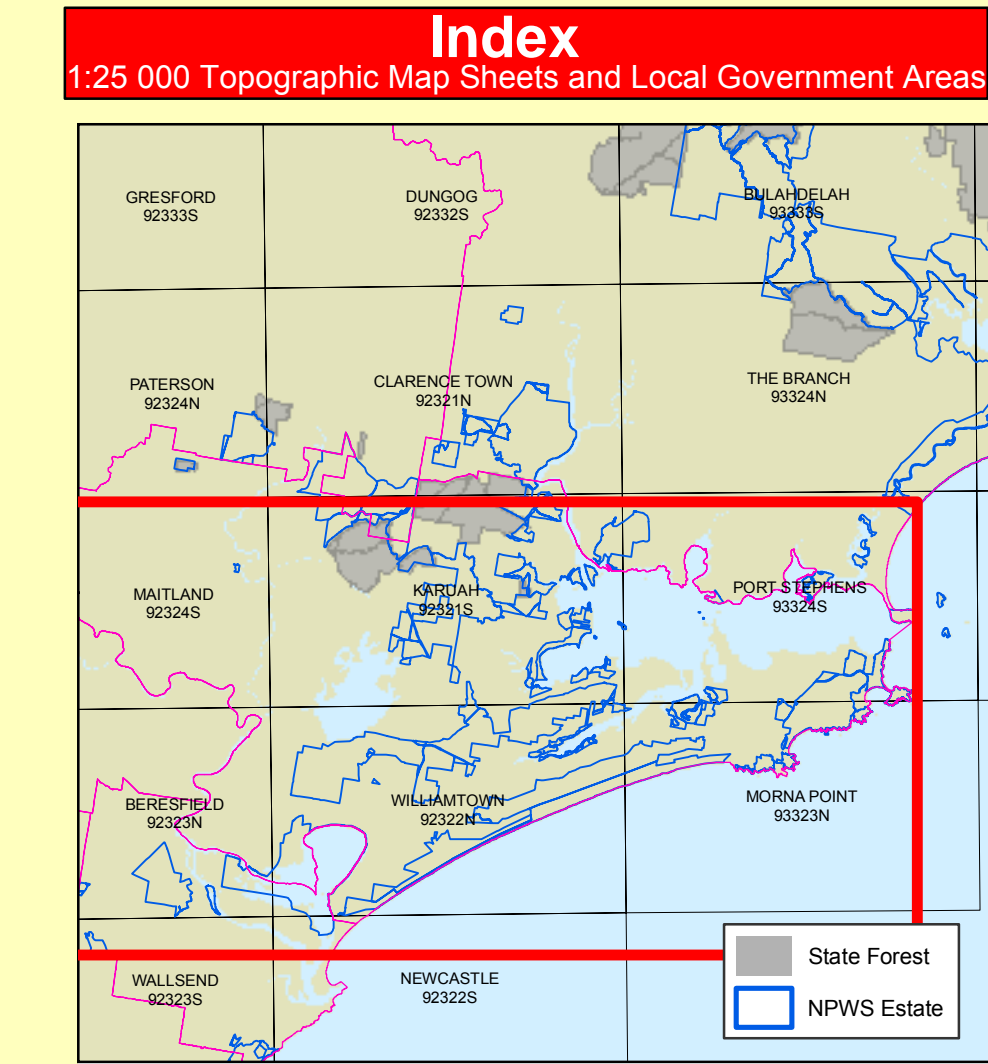
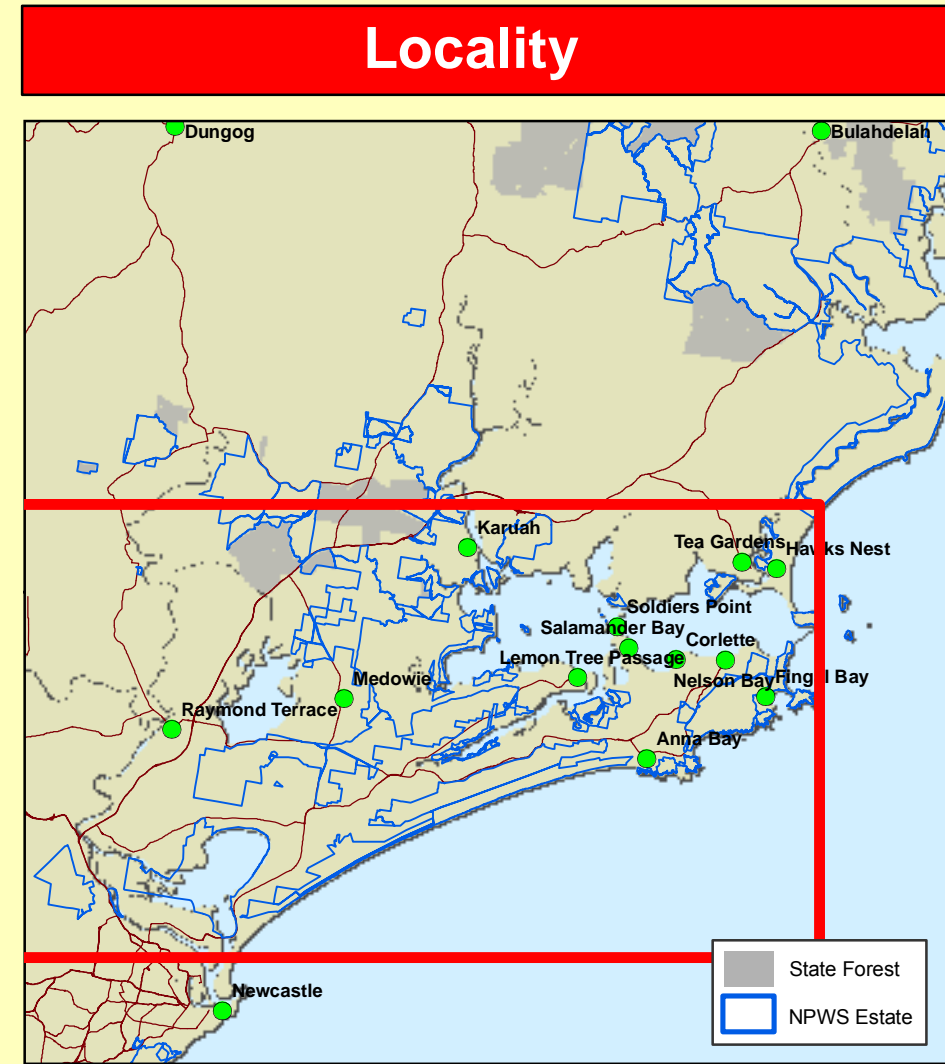
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Department of Environment and Climate Change (NSW) This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997.

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

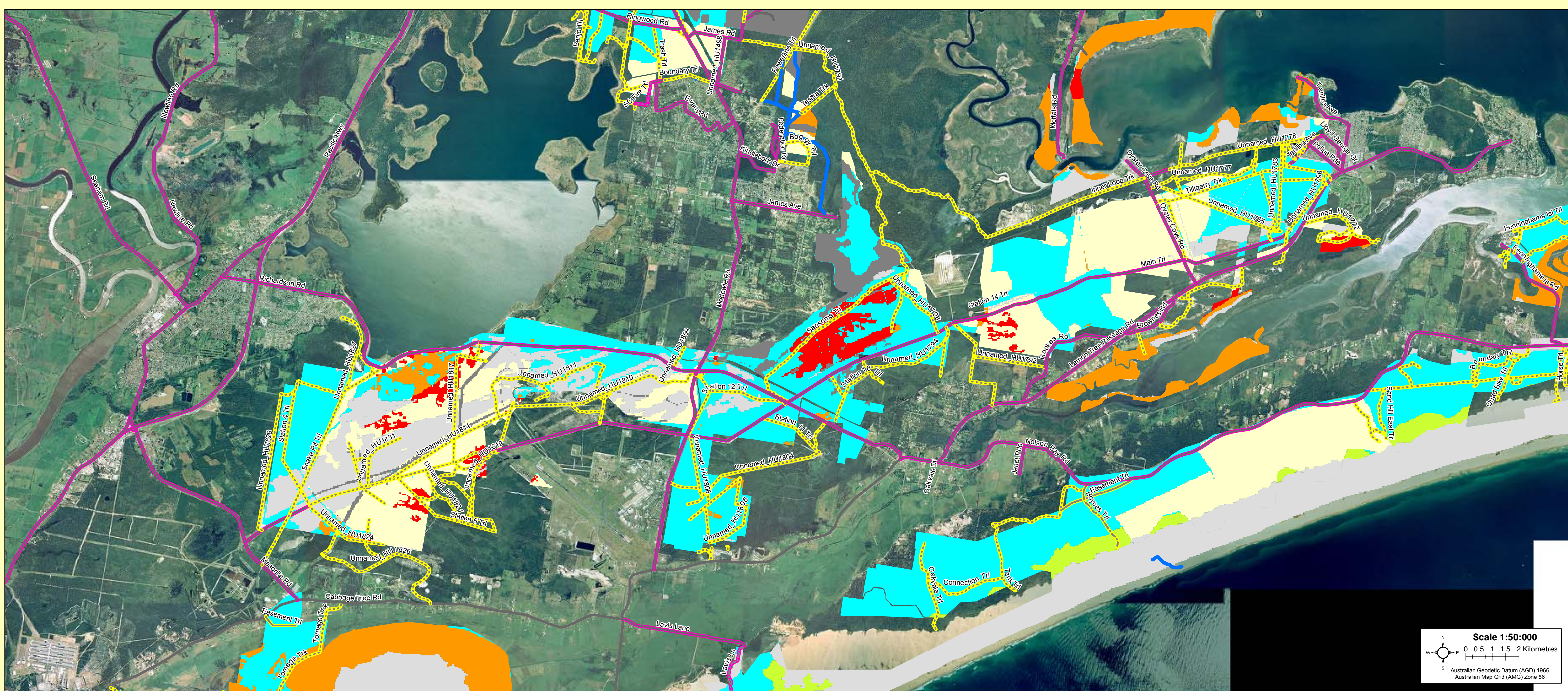


Contact Information		
Agency	Position / Location	Phone
NPWS	Regional Duty Officer / 24 Hr	0429 144 880 / 016 301 161
	Hunter Coast Area Manager	4984 8256 / 0429 144 875
	Fire Management Officer	4984 8206 / 0429 144 870
	Regional Operations Coordinator	4984 8212 / 0429 144 872
RFS	Hunter Coast Area Office	4984 8200 / (fax) 4981 5913
	Hunter Regional Office	4984 8200 / (fax) 4981 5913
	Lower Hunter Zone Commander	4980 7300 / (fax) 4981 5913
NSW Fire Brigade	Emergency	000
	Newcastle Communications 24 Hr	4929 7177 / (fax) 4927 2580
SES	Emergency	000
	Post Stephens Unit	4987 2255
Police	Emergency	000
	Raymond Terrace Station	4987 2222 / (fax) 4983 0511
Ambulance	Karrah Station	4997 5544 / (fax) 4997 5444
	Emergency	000
Hospital	Bookings	131 233
	John Hunter Newcastle	4921 3000
DOP	Newcastle	4929 4346 / (fax) 4929 6364
	Newcastle	0412 258 320
DPI - Forests	Hunter Region Office Maitland	4931 6519 / (fax) 4933 0772
	Newcastle	49622218 (Duty Officer)
Council	Post Stephens	4980 0255 / (fax) 4987 3422
	Great Lakes	6591 7222 / (fax) 6591 6200
Local Aboriginal Land Council / Sites Officer	Karrah	4997 5733 / (fax) 4997 5750
	Worimi	4965 1500 / (fax) 4965 1799

Operational Guidelines	
Refer to the Fire Management Manual.	
Brief all personnel involved in suppression operations on the following issues:	
Resource	Guidelines
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management	AH1 - As far as possible protect site from fire. Do not cut down trees. AH2 - 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 cause ground disturbance. AH3 - Avoid all ground disturbance. Avoid water bombing. Site may be burnt by handline, back burn or prescribed burn without damage. OR No known sites in Reserve. If new sites are located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
Historic Heritage Management	HIS1 - 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. HIS2 - As far as possible protect site from fire. Avoid all ground disturbance including the use of earthmoving machinery, handline construction and driving over sites. OR No known sites in Reserve. If new sites are located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
Threatened Fauna Management	FA1 - As far as possible, protect large and hollow-bearing trees in locations where these species are known to occur. Avoid inter-fire intervals of <10 years in locations where these species are known to occur. Avoid high intensity fires that consume canopies and fallen logs in locations where these species are known to occur. OR No known sites in Reserve. If new sites are located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
Threatened Flora Management	FL1 - Avoid inter-fire intervals of <10 years in locations where these species are known to occur. 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. FL2 - As far as possible, exclude all fire from locations where these species are known to occur. Avoid the use of retardant in locations where these species are known to occur. Avoid the use of earth moving machinery in locations where these species are known to occur. OR No known sites in Reserve. If new sites are located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
Threatened Property	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. OR No property in close proximity to Reserve.
General	Guidelines
Aerial Water Bombing (NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	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 (NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2.4 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	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	Temperature and humidity trends must be monitored carefully to determine the safest time to implement backburn. 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 flammable trees adjacent to containment lines prior to backburning, or wet down these trees as part of the backburning operation. Avoid ignition of backburns at the bottom of slopes where a long and intense up slope burn is likely to occur.
Command & Control	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	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.
Earthmoving Equipment	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 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	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	Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation. 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	The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations.

Status of Fire Thresholds



RISK MANAGEMENT LEGEND

ROADS AND TRAILS

- Cat 1, Essential
- Cat 2, Important
- Cat 3, Essential
- Cat 4, Important
- Cat 5, Essential
- Cat 6, Important
- Cat 7, Important
- Cat 8, Essential
- Cat 9, Important
- Dormant, Dormant
- Unknown, Unknown

Fire Thresholds

Overburn	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	The area has been burnt recently. Fire history is within the threshold for vegetation in this area.
Within Threshold	A burn is neither required nor should one necessarily be avoided. The area is close to the threshold and may become underburnt with the absence of fire. A prescribed burn may be advantageous. Consider allowing unplanned fires to burn.
Almost Underburnt	Fire frequency is below the thresholds in the area. A prescribed burn may be advantageous. Consider allowing unplanned fires to burn.
Underburnt	Insufficient data to determine fire threshold.
Unknown	Insufficient data to determine fire threshold.

NR: Fire thresholds are defined for vegetation communities to conserve biodiversity.

Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	23 (preferred)	Mc Sugarbark
NPWS - VHF	26	Mc Cabbage Tree
NPWS - VHF	30	Mc Gun Gun
RFS - PMR	15	Can be located anywhere. Kept at Regional Office
CB - UHF	74	Post Stephens (Raymond Terrace)
RFS - GRN	196	Available in most RFS vehicles. Choose channel on fire ground with RFS
Mobile Phone	-	Generally good coverage.

Strategy Information

Fire Season Information	
Wildfires	Reserves of the Hunter Region are located in a zone between subtropical, summer maximum rainfall patterns to the north and temperate, winter maximum rainfall patterns to the south. Most extreme fire weather conditions occur during spring and early summer resulting from moderate temperatures, low relative humidity and strong winds. Subtropical summer rainfall in January usually ends the fire season in most years, however, if rain events do not occur the fire season may last from August to March. The coastal reserves mostly occur on sandy soils which facilitate the rapid drainage of water resulting in dry fuel beds throughout the year. Very strong sea breezes from the north east and east in late spring and summer often exceed 50km/h which can result in very high to extreme fire weather.
Prescribed Burning	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
Low - Mod	Low - Mod
Low - Mod	=> High
High	All
All	All

Vegetation

VEGETATION MAP LEGEND

Hardwood Plantation	Endangered Box Open Forest	Sedgeland/Rushland	Roads and Trails
Pine Plantation	Sub-Alpine Woodland	Riparian Forest	Cat 1, Essential
Heathland/Scrubland	Endangered Box Snow Grass	Swamp Sclerophyll Forest	Cat 2, Important
Healthy Woodland	Mangrove/Saltmarsh	Wet Sclerophyll Forest	Cat 3, Essential
Dry Sclerophyll Forest	Severely Disturbed Vegetation	Rainforest	Cat 4, Important
Native Grassland	Palm Forest		Cat 5, Essential
			Cat 6, Important
			Dormant, Dormant
			Unknown, Unknown

Risk Management Information



Bushfire Suppression

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Sheet 2 of 2**

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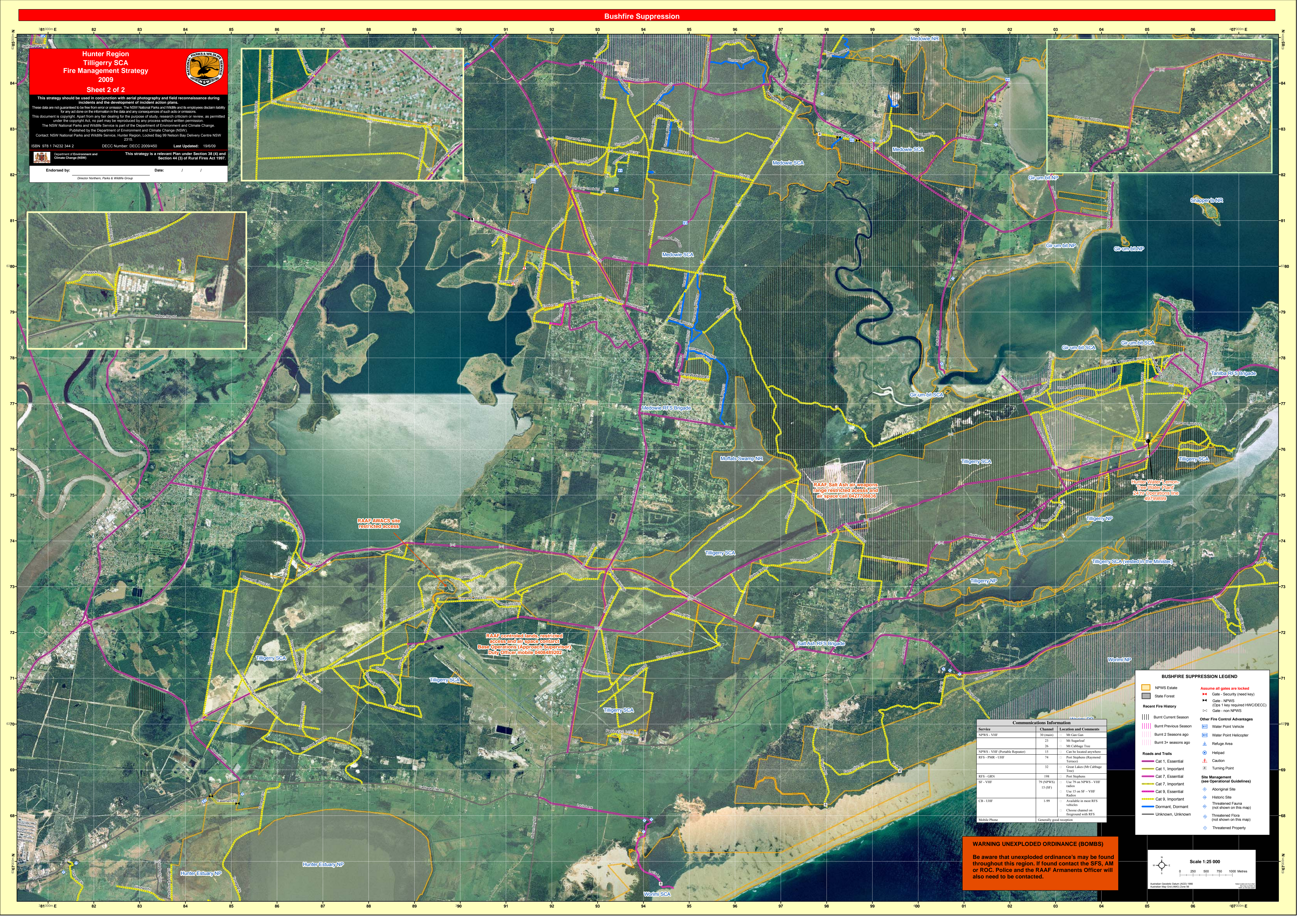
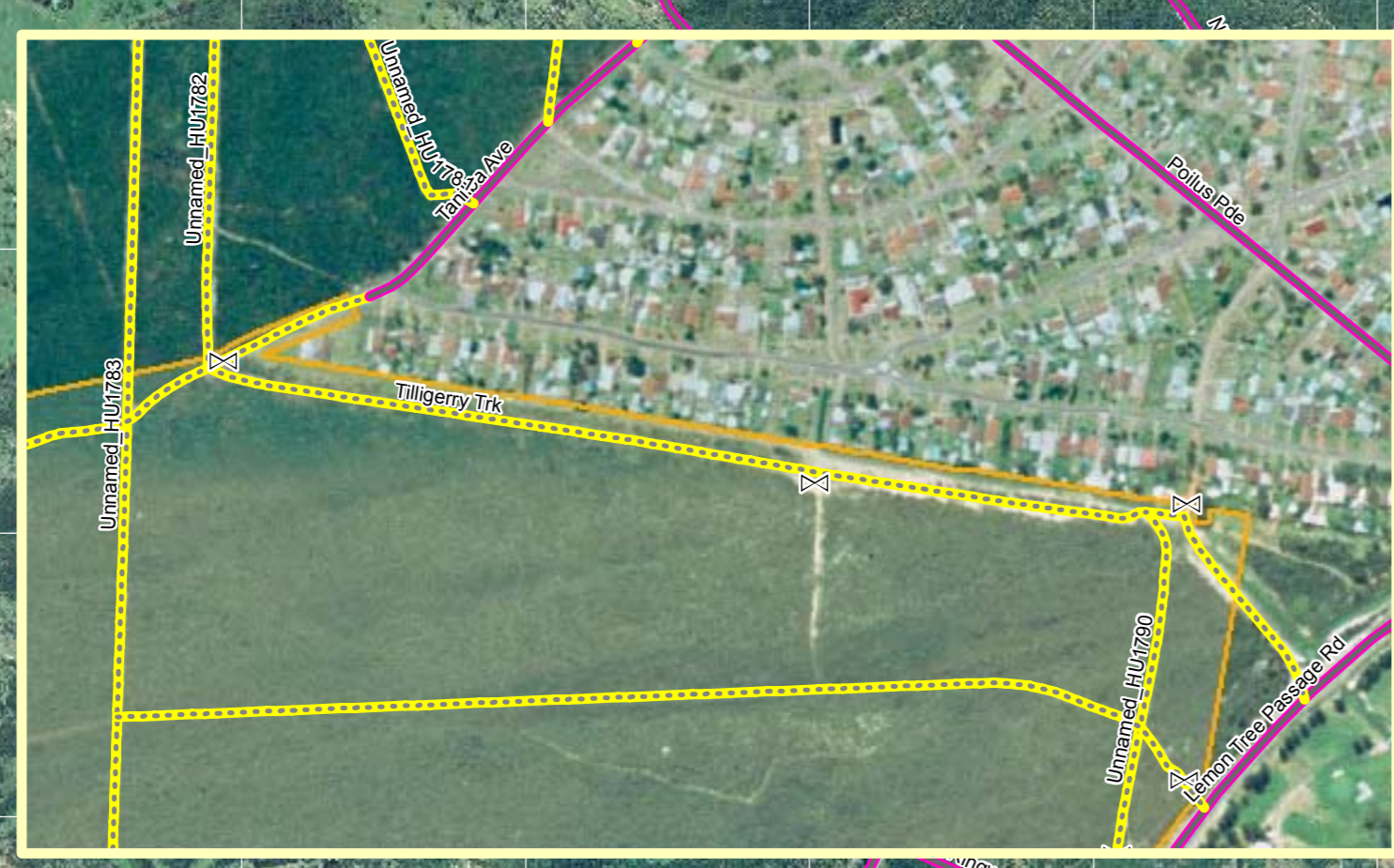
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Endorsed by: _____ Date: / /
Director Northern, Parks & Wildlife Group



RAAF AWACS site restricted access

RAAF controlled lands, restricted access and air space contact
Base Operations (Approach Supervisor)
Duty Officer mobile 0408489202

RAAF Salt Ash air weapons range restricted access and air space call 0427708636

Hunter Water Lemon-Trees Water Plant
24 hr Operations line 49790699

Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	30 (main)	Mt Sugarloaf
	25	Mt Sugarloaf
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	26	Mt Cabbage Tree
	15	Can be located anywhere
RFS - PMR - UHF	74	Port Stephens (Raymond Terrace)
	32	Great Lakes (Mt Cabbage Tree)
RFS - GIN	106	Port Stephens
SF - VHF	79 (NPWS)	Use 79 on NPWS - VHF radios
	15 (SF)	Use 15 on SF - VHF Radios
CB - UHF	1-99	Available in most RFS vehicles
		Choose channel on fireground with RFS

Mobile Phone: Generally good reception

BUSHFIRE SUPPRESSION LEGEND

- NPWS Estate
- State Forest
- Recent Fire History
 - Burnt Current Season
 - Burnt Previous Season
 - Burnt 2 Seasons ago
 - Burnt 3+ seasons ago
- Roads and Trails
 - Cat 1, Essential
 - Cat 7, Essential
 - Cat 9, Essential
 - Dormant, Important
 - Unknown, Unknown
- Other Fire Control Advantages
 - Assume all gates are locked
 - Gate - Security (need key)
 - Gate - NPWS (Ops 1 key required HWCDECC)
 - Gate - non NPWS
 - Water Point Vehicle
 - Water Point Helicopter
 - Refuge Area
 - Helipad
 - Caution
 - Turning Point
 - Site Management (See Operational Guidelines)
 - Aboriginal Site
 - Historic Site
 - Threatened Fauna (not shown on this map)
 - Threatened Flora (not shown on this map)
 - Threatened Property

WARNING UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE (BOMBS)

Be aware that unexploded ordnance may be found throughout this region. If found contact the SFS, AM or ROC. Police and the RAAF Armaments Officer will also need to be contacted.

