Northern Rivers Region
Ukerebagh Nature Reserve & Tweed Heads Historic Site
Fire Management Strategy (Type 2) 2006
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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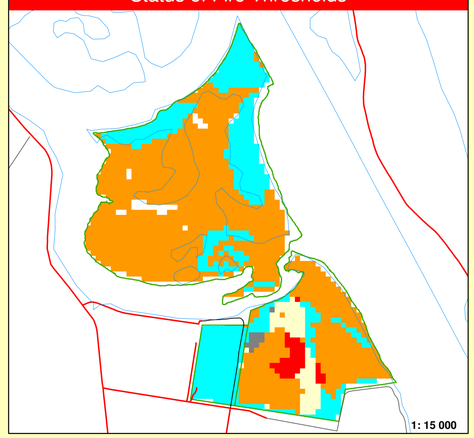
This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997.

Locality

Contact Information		
Agency	**Position / Location**	**Phone**
NPWS	Regional Duty Officer / After Hours	6627 0200
	Regional Office - Alstonville	6627 0200
	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Officer	6627 0200
	Tweed Area Office	6670 8600
	Tweed Area Workshop	6672 8153
Emergency		
RFS	Duty Officer	0500 500 521
	Tweed Fire Control Centre	6672 7888
NSW Fire Brigade	Tweed Heads Station	(07) 5536 2222
Ambulance		Emergency - 000
		Bookings - 131 233
Police	Tweed Heads Station	(07) 5536 0999
SES	Tweed Heads Base	(07) 5524 1349
	Murwillumbah Base	6670 2460
Tweed Shire Council		6670 2400
Minjungbal Museum		(07) 5524 2109
Tweed/Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council		(02) 6674 3600

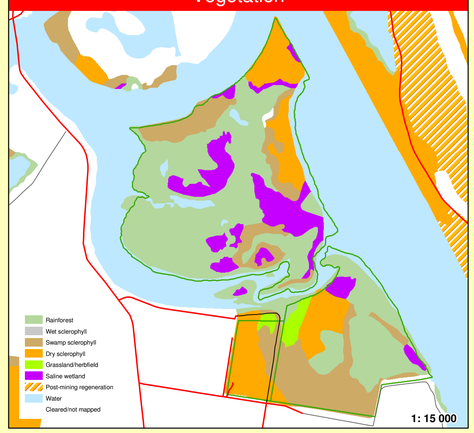
Fire Thresholds	
Overburnt	Fire thresholds have been exceeded. · *Protect from fire as far as possible.*
Vulnerable	The area will be Overburnt if it burns this year. · *Protect from fire as far as possible.*
Recently Burnt	Time since fire is less than the optimum interval, but before that it was within 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	

Status of Fire Thresholds



Communications Information		
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS-VHF	8	Mt Nardi
NPWS-VHF (Fireground Comms)	40	Fireground chat channel (single frequency) monitors channel 8
NPWS-VHF (Portable Repeater)	13	Blue Code. Stored at Kyogle Depot / transportable.
RFS-PMR – UHF	87	Springbrook
RFS-GRN	-	No service available.
CB-UHF	-	To be confirmed with RFS brigade captain on the day.
Aircraft-VHF	125.45	Or as directed by Incident Controller or Air Operations
Mobile Phone-CDMA	Partial	Coverage varies but generally fair to good.

Vegetation



Contour interval 10m
Wildfire 2002-03
Wildfire 2003-04
Wildfire 2004-05
NPWS estate
Asset Protection Zone
Threatened Property
Water Point Helicopter
Water Point Vehicle
Gate - NPWS
Gate - non NPWS
Threatened flora
Primary (Cat 1)
Secondary (Cat 9)
Closed
Not Classified
Walking track
Assume all gates locked

N
W E
S

Projection: UTM
Datum: AGD 1966
Grid: AMG66 Zone 56J

Noted scale values are true on A1 paper

Bushfire Supression

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 shown on this version. Vulnerable sites will be shown on the operational version of this strategy following consultation with the Aboriginal Community.
Historic Heritage Management (NPWS FMM 4.10)	• No known sites in Reserve. If new sites located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
Threatened Fauna Management (NPWS FMM 4.12 & 5.2)	• Avoid impact on wetlands, rainforest and streams • Protect large and hollow-bearing trees and logs. • Aim to minimise crown scorch to protect koalas • Engage Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers to assist with post wildfire search for injured koalas.
Threatened Flora Management (NPWS FMM 4.12)	• Avoid impact on wetlands, rainforest and streams. • FL1 – No use of earthmoving machinery in locations where these species are known to occur. No helipad construction. Avoid use of retardant in locations where these species are known to occur.
Threatened Property	• 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)	• Foam should be used to increase the effectiveness of water bombing.
Aerial Ignition (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.4 / 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. • Utilise incendiaries to rapidly progress back-burns down slope where required.
Backburning (NPWS FMM 4.8)	• 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	• The first combatant agency on site may assume control of the fire, but then must ensure the NPWS 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	• This reserve overlays acid sulphate soils which can be exposed by soil disturbance and this should be avoided. • No new containment lines in wetlands. • New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer. • Containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
Earthmoving Equipment (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.3)	• Earthmoving equipment may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer. • 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. • Earthmoving equipment should be washed down 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 & 4.9)	• 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.
Rehabilitation (NPWS FMM 5.1)	• Containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation. • All re opened and new containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed at the cessation of the incident.
Smoke Management (NPWS FMM 3.4)	• 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.

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**	
Low - Mod / Low - Mod	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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			
Asset Protection Zones	The objective of **APZ**s 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.		
	Zone	**Action**	**Responsibility**
	Museum APZ (A1) 80m x 25m	Mechanical treatment when overall fuel hazard reaches moderate.	NPWS
Strategic Fire Advantage Zones	The objective of **SFAZ**s is to reduce fire intensity across larger areas. Maintainoverall fuel hazardat high or below, however adherence to guidelines for biodiversity will take precedence where practical.		
Heritage Management Zones	The objective of **HMZ**s is to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural heritage. Manage fire consistent with fire thresholds.		
	Zone	**Action**	**Responsibility**
	Ukerebagh HMZ (H1) 81 ha	Conserve biodiversity and protect cultural heritage and manage fire consistent with fire thresholds.	NPWS / Incident Controllers
	Mainland HMZ (H2) 46 ha	Conserve biodiversity and protect cultural heritage and manage fire consistent with fire thresholds.	NPWS / Incident Controllers

Risk Management Information