

# North Coast Region Valla and Jagun Nature Reserves 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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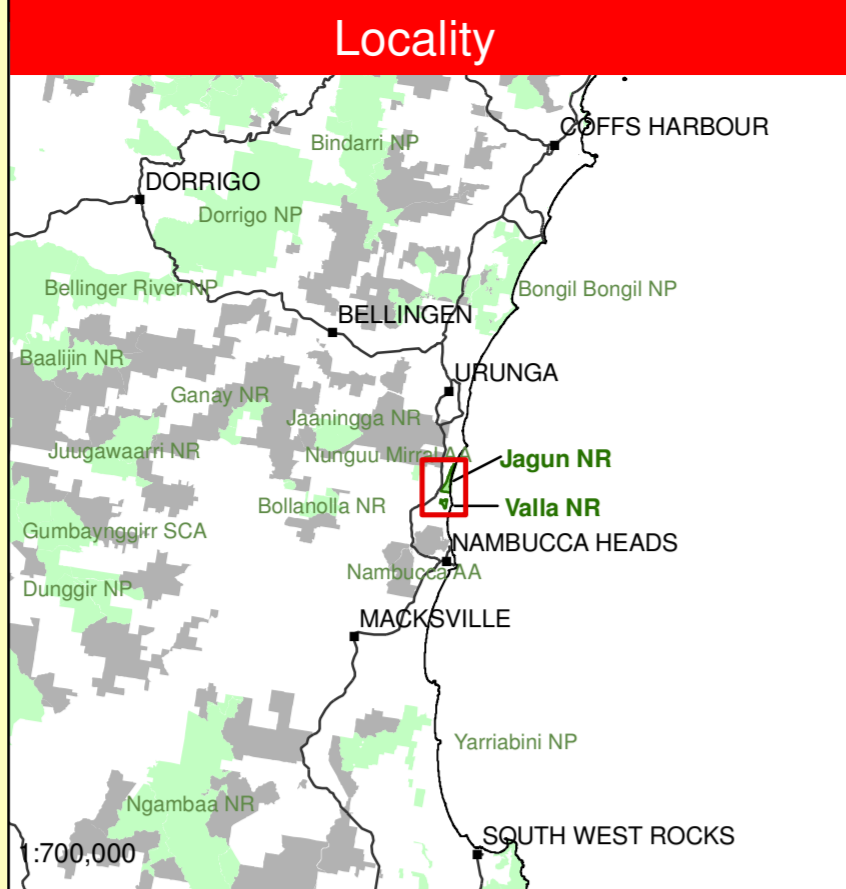
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Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW)    This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997.

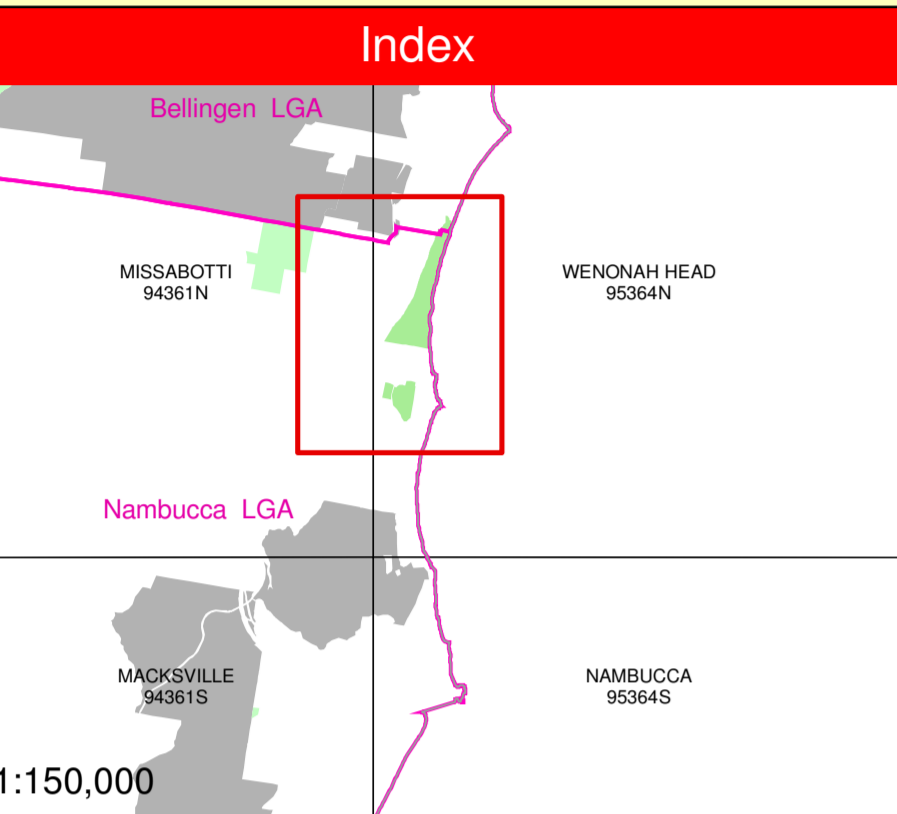
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Director Northern, Parks & Wildlife Division



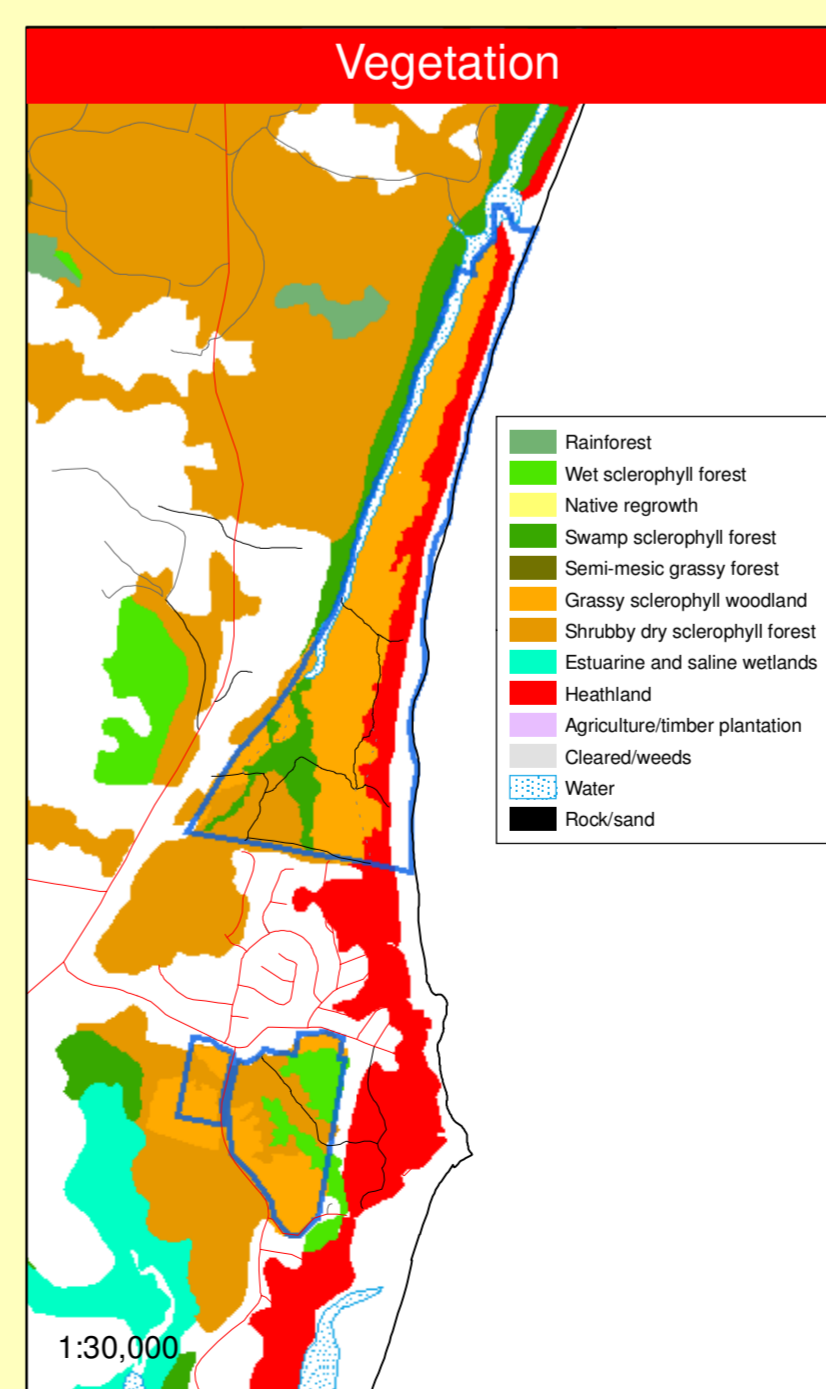
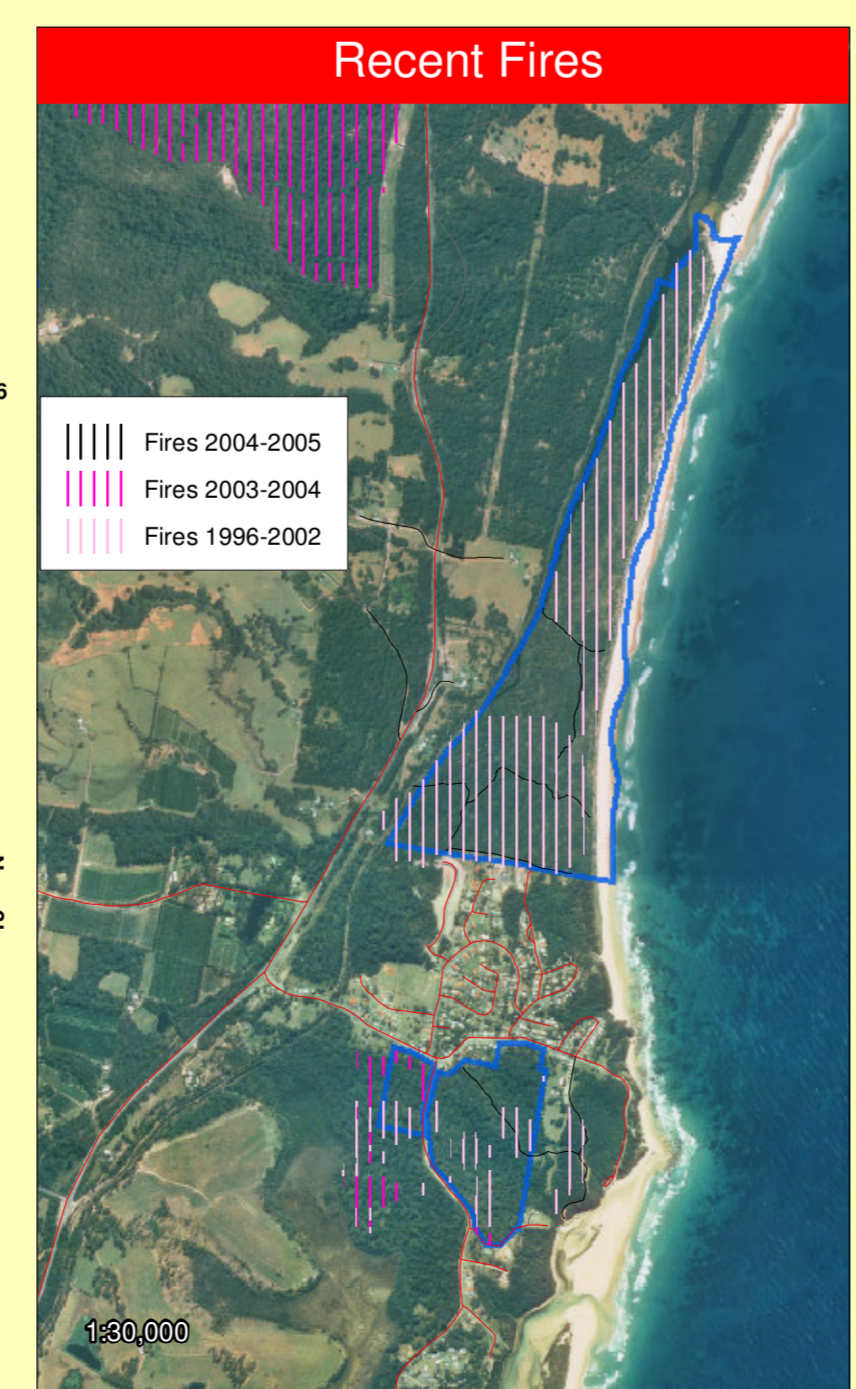
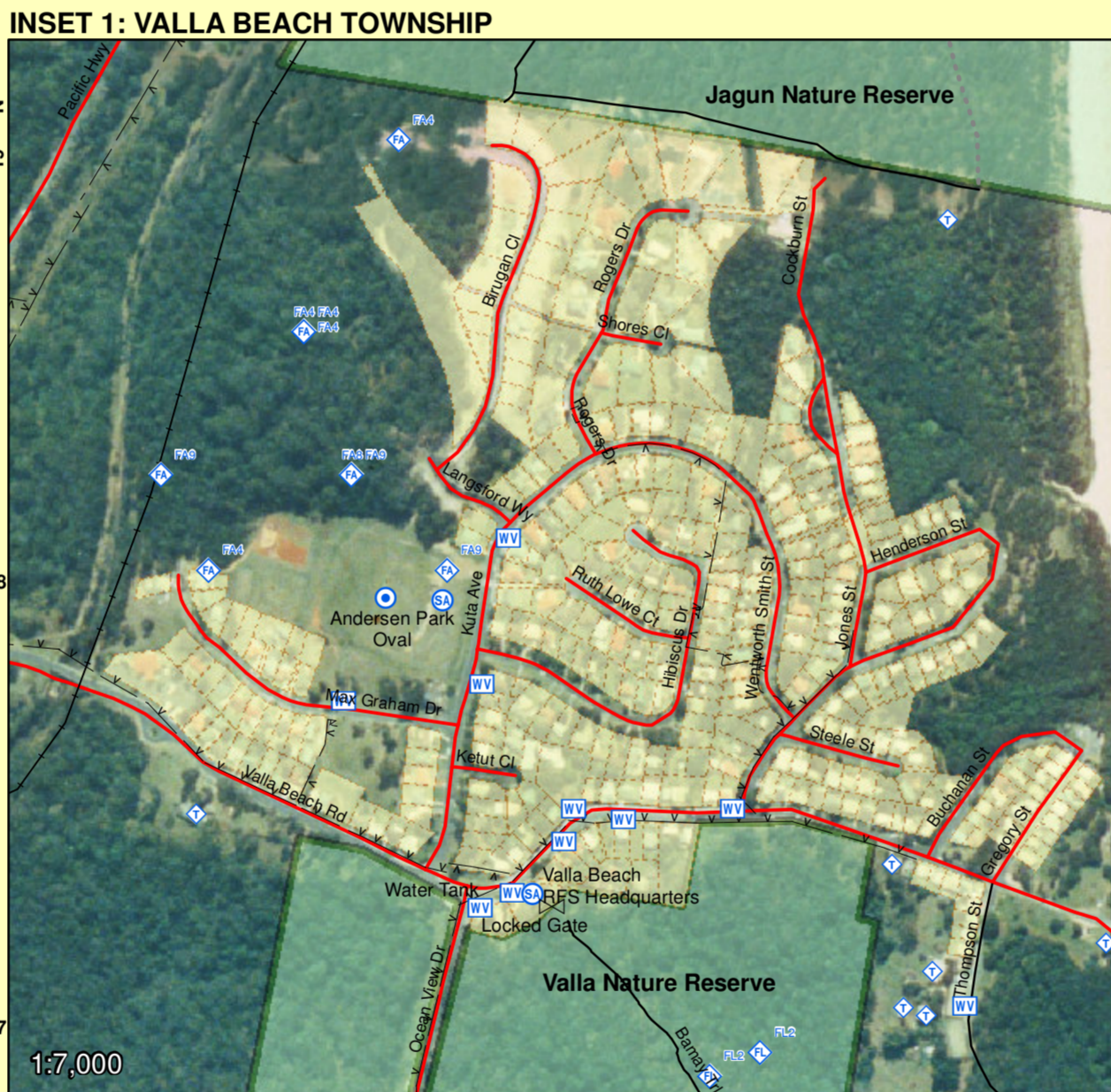
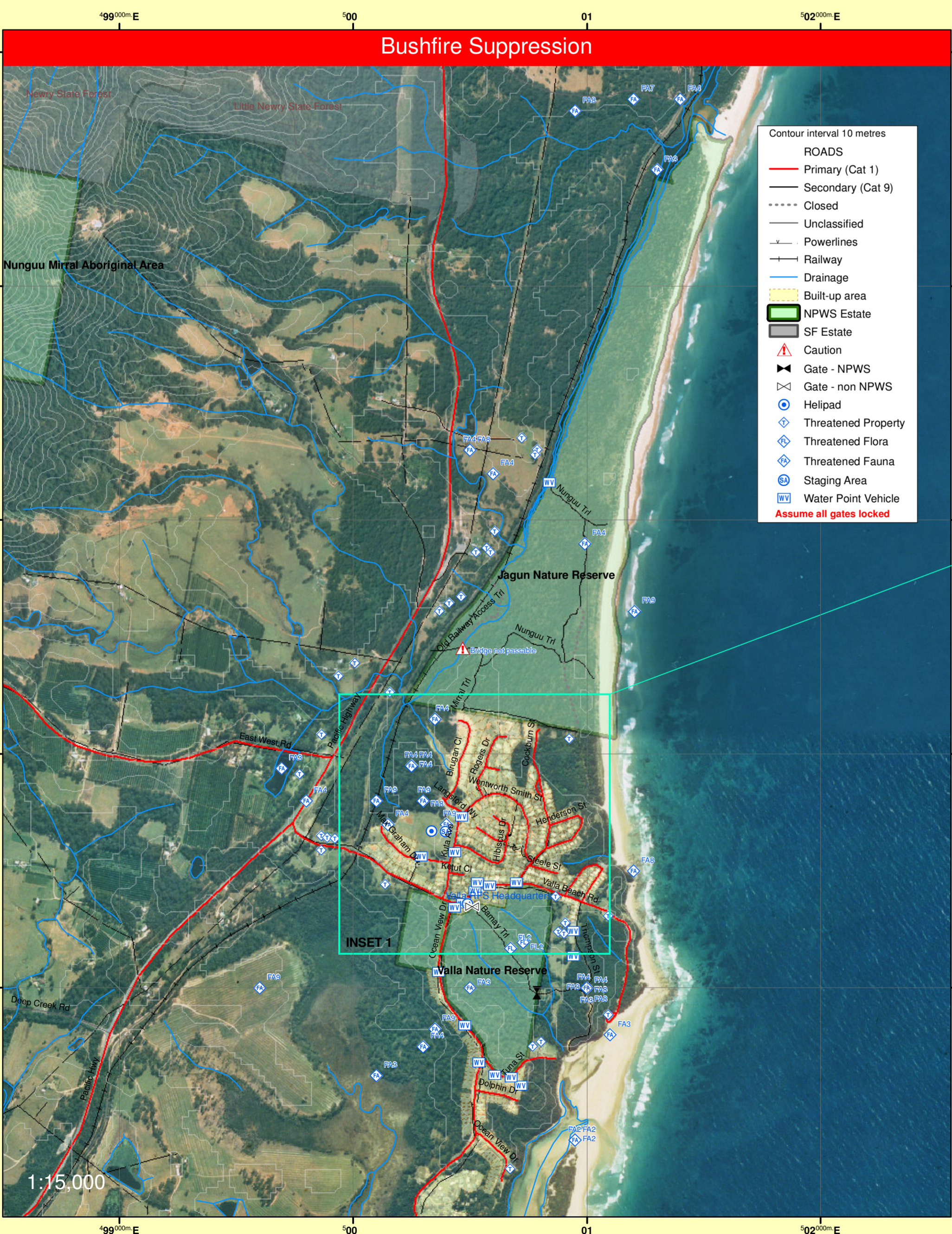
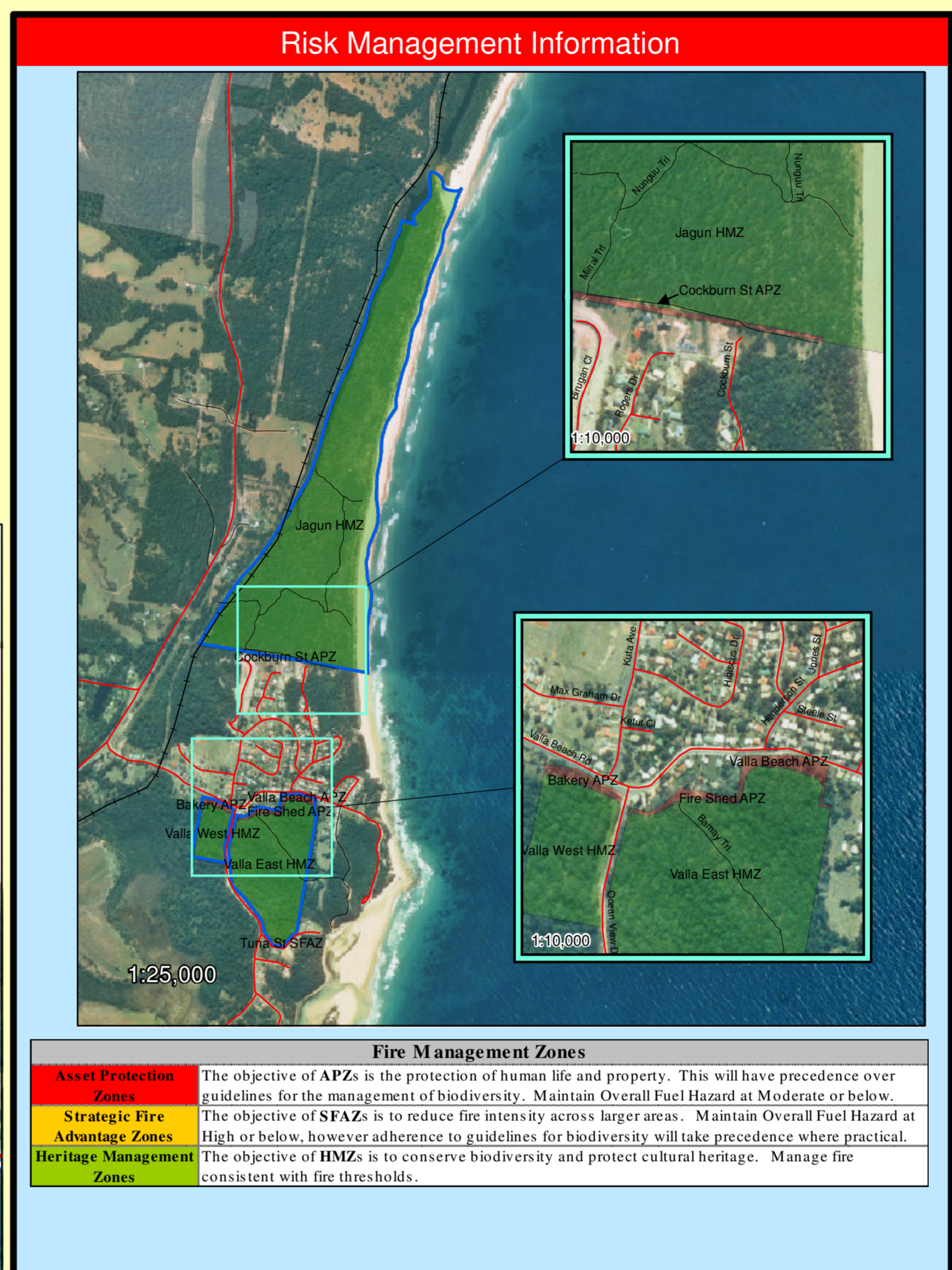
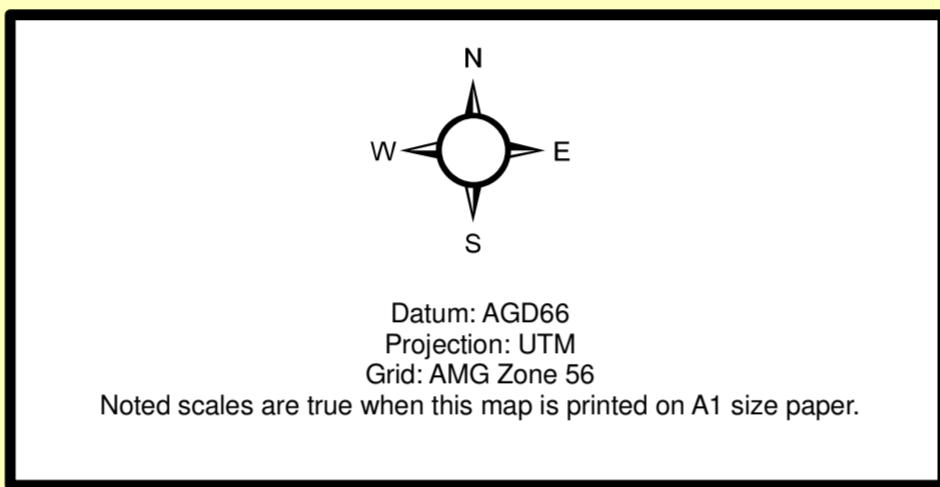
Contact Information		
Agency	Position / Location	Phone
NPWS	Regional Duty Officer / After Hours Area Manager	02 6641 1500
	Regional Operations Coordinator	02 6652 0900
	Coffs Coast Area Office	02 6652 0900
	Regional Office	02 6641 1500
	Nambucca Fire Control Centre	02 6658 2536
RFS	Fire Control Officer	02 6658 2536
	Nambucca Fire Control Centre	02 6658 2536
NSW Fire Brigade	Emergency	000
SES	Nambucca Heads Station	02 6568 1136
	Nambucca Heads Unit	02 6568 1136
Police	Emergency	000
	Nambucca Heads Station	02 6568 6044
Ambulance	Emergency	000
	All other bookings	131233
Hospital	Macksville & District	02 6568 1366
	Coffs Harbour Base	02 6656 7000
DIPNR	Bellingen	02 6655 1266
	Coffs Harbour	02 6653 0100
Forests NSW	24 hour fire calls	02 6655 6950
	NE Region - Coffs Hbr	02 6652 0111
Council	Nambucca	02 6568 2555
	Bellingen	02 6655 7300
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Nambucca Heads LALC	02 6568 9281
	Coffs Harbour LALC	02 6652 7080

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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During this period in dry seasons fires may exhibit high intensity behaviour under windy conditions.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
	Prescribed Burning (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.7)	
Suppression Strategies		
Current FDR	Forecast FDR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake direct, parallel or indirect attack along existing containment lines.</li> <li>Where practicable consider maximising the fire area in accordance with the requirements of any proposed prescribed burns.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Pay particular attention to the flank on the next predicted down wind side.</li> <li>Undertake indirect attack along existing or newly constructed containment lines.</li> <li>Secure and deepen containment lines along the next predicted downwind side of the fire.</li> <li>If applicable consider broader than normal containment strategies to avoid wasted effort and high risk of failure.</li> <li>Ensure there is sufficient time to secure containment lines prior to the fire impacting upon them; otherwise fall back to the next potential line.</li> </ul>
Low - Mod	Low - Mod	
Low - Mod	=> High	
High	All	
All	All	

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
<b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.11)	No known sites in Reserve. If new sites are located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
<b>Historic Heritage Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.10)	No known sites in Reserve. If new sites are located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
<b>Threatened Fauna Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.12 & 5.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FA2- Largely unaffected by fire. Avoid use of earth moving machinery in vicinity.</li> <li>FA3- As far as possible, exclude fire from habitat (wetland, rainforest or moist forest). Avoid use of earth moving machinery and fire fighting chemicals.</li> <li>FA4- Mosaic burn to diversify understorey. Protect casuarina stands.</li> <li>FA7- Protect hollow-bearing trees.</li> <li>FA8- Avoid frequent fire (&lt;10yrs). Use mosaic burn pattern.</li> <li>FA9- Protect known habitat from disturbance. Avoid use of earthmoving machinery, chemicals.</li> <li>Where practicable, protect habitat areas and trees from fire if the effects of the resulting fire frequency, season &amp;/or intensity will have a significant or unknown impact. Hollow bearing trees along Bamay Trail (Valla NR) support a high density of arboreal mammals.</li> </ul>
<b>Threatened Flora Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FL2 - As far as possible, avoid frequent fire (inter-fire intervals of &lt;10 years) in locations where these species are known to occur. Avoid 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.</li> <li>Where possible, protect old growth habitat trees - eg. old growth blackbutt forest on Bamay Trail (Valla NR).</li> </ul>
<b>Threatened Property</b>	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.
General	Guidelines
<b>Aerial Water Bombing</b> (NPWS FMM 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The use of bombing aircraft should support containment operations by aggressively attacking hotspots and spot-overs.</li> <li>The use of bombing aircraft without the support of ground based suppression crews should be limited to very specific circumstances.</li> <li>Where practicable foam should be used to increase the effectiveness of the water.</li> <li>Ground crews must be alerted to water bombing operations.</li> </ul>
<b>Aerial Ignition</b> (NPWS FMM 4.2.20.4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2.4 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Utilise incendiaries to rapidly progress back-burns down slope where required.</li> </ul>
<b>Backburning</b> (NPWS FMM 4.8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Where practicable, 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.</li> <li>Avoid ignition of backburns at the bottom of slopes where a long and intense up slope burn is likely.</li> </ul>
<b>Command &amp; Control</b> (NPWS FMM 4.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first combatant agency on site may assume control of the fire, but then must ensure the relevant land management agency is notified promptly.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<b>Containment Lines</b> (NPWS FMM 2.2, 3.9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.</li> <li>All containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed at the cessation of the incident.</li> <li>All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location.</li> </ul>
<b>Earthmoving Equipment</b> (NPWS FMM 4.2.20, 4.3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Earthmoving equipment should be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS estate.</li> </ul>
<b>Fire Advantage Recording</b>	All fire advantages used during wildfire suppression operations must be mapped and where relevant added to the database.
<b>Fire Suppression Chemicals</b> (NPWS FMM 4.2.20, 4.9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wetting and foaming agents (surfactants) are permitted for use in wildfire suppression.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Exclude the use of surfactants and retardants within 50m of rainforest, watercourses, dams and swamps.</li> <li>Areas where fire suppression chemicals are used must be mapped and the used products name recorded.</li> <li>The Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed.</li> </ul>
<b>Rehabilitation</b> (NPWS FMM 5.1)	Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
<b>Smoke Management</b> (NPWS FMM 3.4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The potential impacts of smoke and possible mitigation tactics must be considered when planning for wildfire suppression and prescribed burning operations.</li> <li>If smoke becomes a hazard on local roads or highways, the police and relevant media must be notified.</li> <li>Smoke management must be in accordance with relevant RTA traffic management guidelines.</li> </ul>
<b>Visitor Management</b> (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.



Communications Information		
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	23, 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some dead spots; can delink Ch.23 if required</li> <li>Reverse channels 67, 72</li> </ul>
NPWS - VHF (Fireground Comms)	23, 28	
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	14 (orange) 16 (brown)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stored at Dorrigo / transportable.</li> <li>Can be located as required.</li> <li>Contact Regional Office, Grafton to deploy</li> </ul>
RFS - PMR - UHF	15	
SF - VHF	34	
CB - UHF	1 - 99	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available in most RFS vehicles.</li> <li>Choose channel on fire-ground with RFS.</li> </ul>
Aircraft - VHF		Choose channel on fire-ground with RFS.
Mobile Phone - CDMA		Patchy in gullies, determine number on fire-ground.
Satellite Phone 0416155917		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stored at Coffs Coast Area Office.</li> <li>Requires clear view of the sky.</li> </ul>



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

NB. Fire thresholds are defined for vegetation communities to conserve biodiversity