

Hunter Region Wallingat National Park 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.

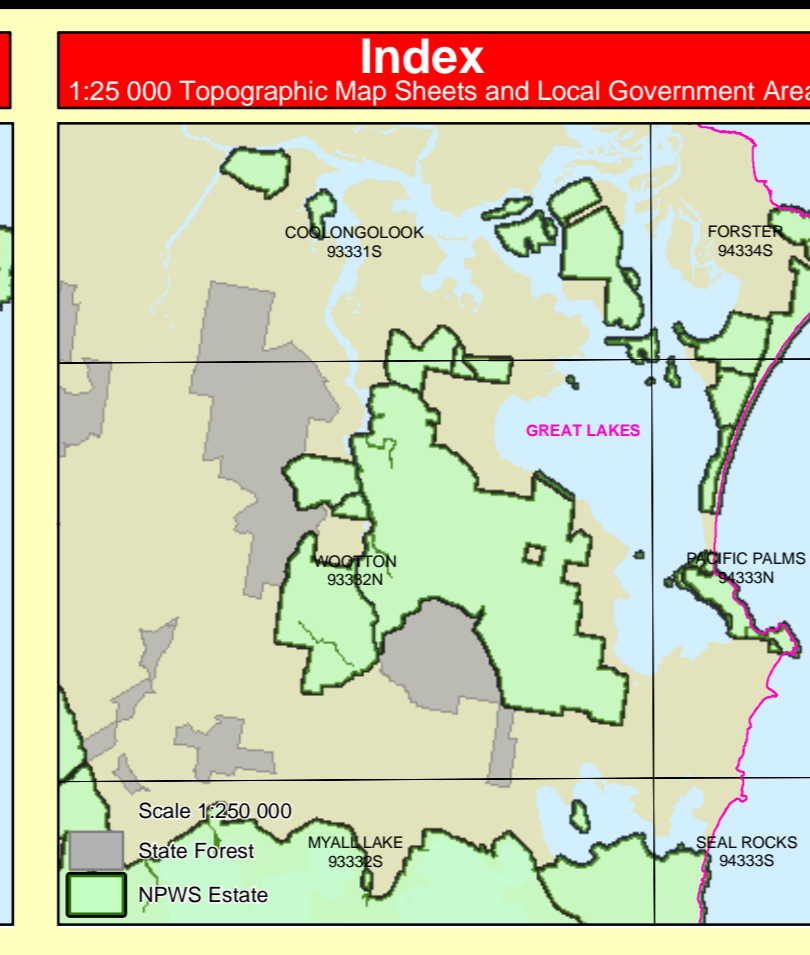
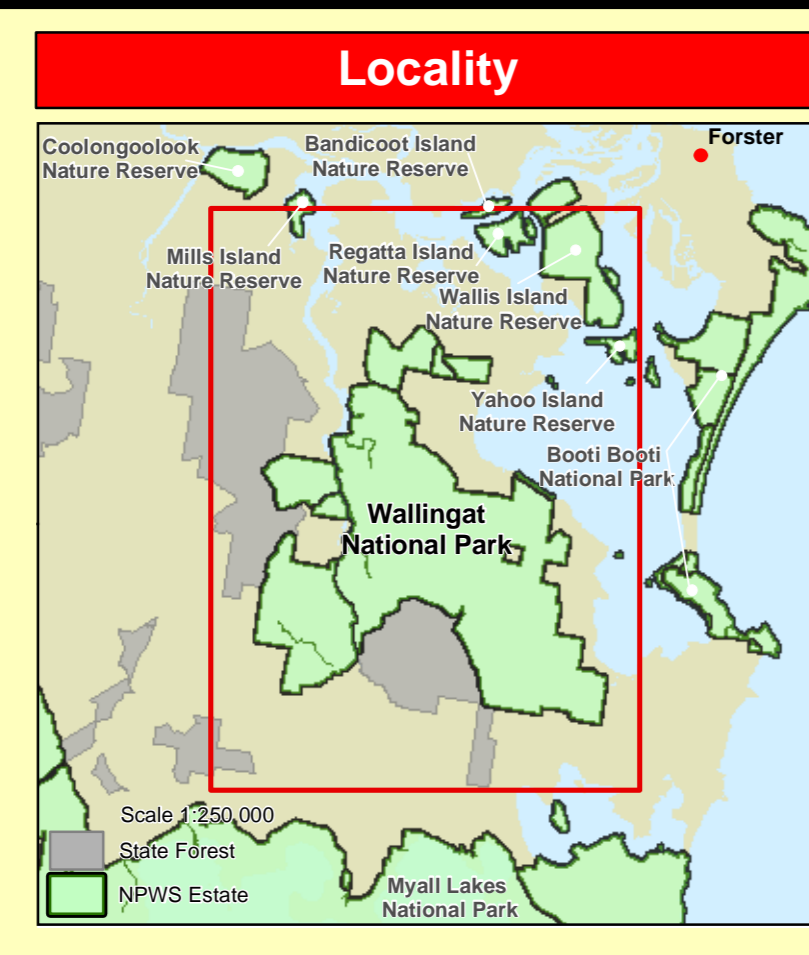
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ISBN: 1 74137 820 6 DEC Number: 2006/56 Last Updated: 12/05/06

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



Operational Guidelines (continued)

Refer to Strategy for Fire Management 2003 and Fire Management Manual 2005. Brief all personnel involved in suppression operations on the following issues:

Earthmoving Equipment

- Earthmoving equipment may only be used with the 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.

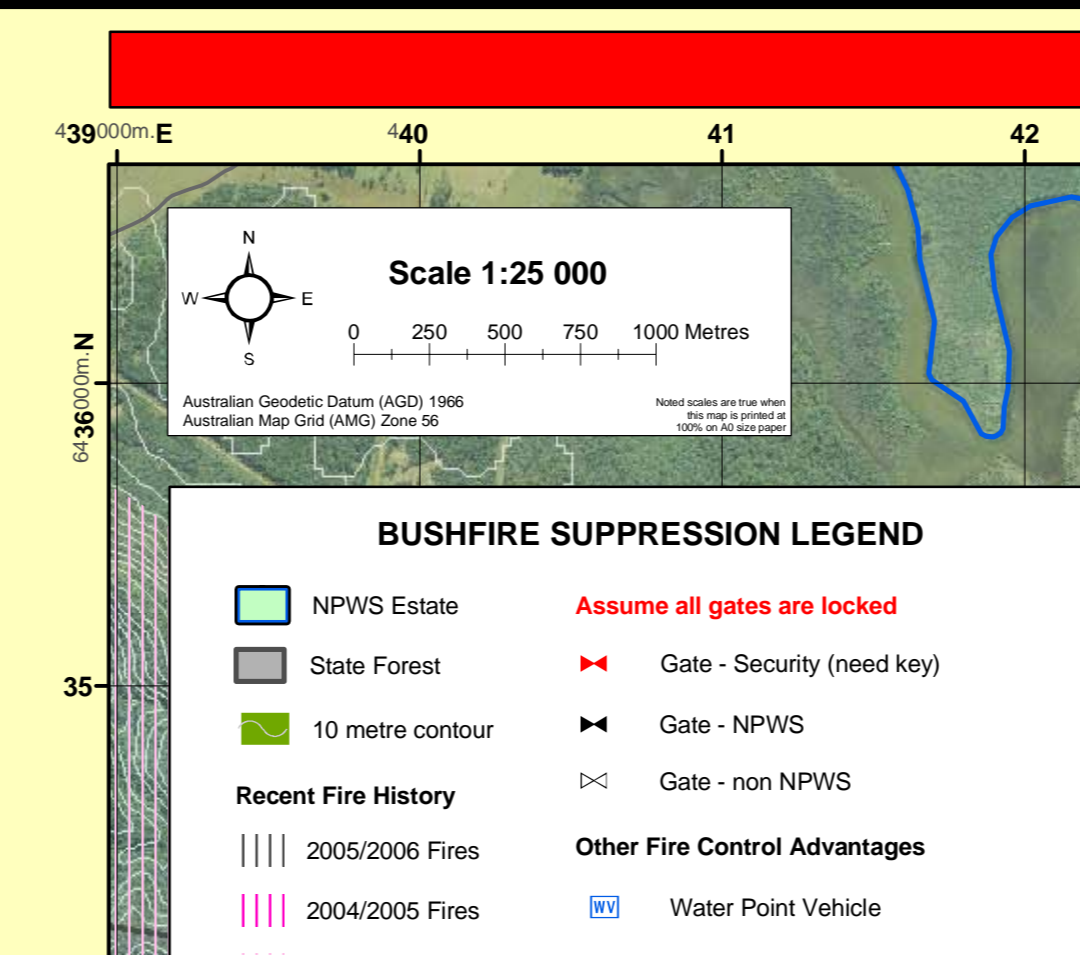
Fire Suppression Chemicals (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.9)

- Writing 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 sensitive watercourses, dams and tanks.
- 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.
- Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
- The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations.

Rehabilitation (NPWS FMM 5.1)

- Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operations.

Visitor Management (NPWS FMM 3.0 & 4.13)



Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	26	Cabbage Tree Mountain
NPWS - VHF (Fireground Comm)	17,18 & 19	
NPWS - VHF (Portable Receiver)	15	Can be located anywhere
RFS - PMR	21	Kept at Regional Office
	31	Norong Mountain
	31	Coolangook
	32	Cabbage Tree Mountain
RFS - GRN	171	Hunter Region RFS
SP - VHF	79	Use 79 on NPWS - VHF radios
CB - UHF	1-99	Available to most RFS vehicles
		Choose channel on fire-ground with RFS
Mobile Phone - CDMA		Only in a few specific locations (very patchy).
Mobile Phone - GSM		Only in a few specific locations (very patchy).

Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
NPWS	Hunter Region Duty Officer (24hr)	018 301161 / 0429 14880
	Great Lakes Area Manager	4981 9301 / 0429 14874
	Fire Management Officer	4984 8206 / 0429 14870
	Regional Operations Coordinator	4984 8212 / 0429 14872
RFS	Great Lakes Area Office	4981 9300 / (fax) 6554 0489
	Hunter Regional Office	4984 8200 / (fax) 4981 5913
NSW Fire Brigade	Fire Control Officer	6555 5782 / 0428 24248
	Emergency	4980 7322 (AM)
SES	Great Lakes Fire Control Centre	6555 8888 / (fax) 6555 8899
	Emergency	000
Police	Newcastle Communications (24hr)	4929 7177 / (fax) 4927 2580
	Emergency	000
Ambulance	Emergency	6554 0716
	Emergency	6555 1299 / (fax) 6555 1222
Hospital	Emergency	000
	Bookings	131 233
DOP - Forests	Recovery Protection Manager	4931 6519
	Fire Officer	4931 6538
Council	Fire Mobile	4929 491868
	Bulakoff Office	4997 4206 / (fax) 4997 4812
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Great Lakes	6591 7222 / (fax) 6591 7200
	Forster	6555 5411

Operational Guidelines (continued)

Refer to Strategy for Fire Management 2003 and Fire Management Manual 2005. Brief all personnel involved in suppression operations on the following issues:

Historic Heritage Management (NPWS FMM 4.10)

Guidelines

- RCHMS - Regional Cultural Heritage Management Strategy.
- In areas where the asset may be in or close to a water body, wetland or swamp, no foam or retardant is to be used.
- Earth moving machinery is to be used around, rather than over, the asset.
- High RCHMS priority.
- Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & HR.
- High or low RCHMS priority.
- Heritage site unlikely to be effected by fire.
- Danger to any fire crew activity. Avoid site at all costs.
- Low RCHMS priority.
- Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & HR.
- Avoid all water bombing activities.
- Avoid use of retardant and foam in wetland habitats.
- High or low RCHMS priority.
- Heritage site unlikely to be effected by fire.
- Avoid use of earth moving machinery.
- High or low RCHMS priority.
- Heritage site unlikely to be effected by fire.
- Avoid use of earth moving machinery.

Threatened Fauna Management (NPWS FMM 4.12 & 5.2)

Guidelines

- FA1 - Protect large and hollow bearing trees.
- FA2 - Protect large and hollow bearing trees.
- FA3 - Avoid interference intervals of < 10 yrs.
- FA4 - Avoid interference intervals of < 10 yrs.
- FA5 - Habitat unlikely to be effected by fire.
- FA6 - Avoid use of earth moving machinery in dune habitats.
- FA7 - Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & HR, as far as possible in wetland habitats.
- FA8 - Avoid use of earth moving machinery in wetland habitats.

Threatened Flora Management (NPWS FMM 4.12)

Guidelines

- FL1 - Avoid interference intervals of < 10 yrs.
- FL2 - Avoid the use of retardant.
- FL3 - Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & HR, as far as possible.
- FL4 - Avoid high intensity fire.
- FL5 - Avoid high intensity fire.

Operational Guidelines (continued)

Refer to Strategy for Fire Management 2003 and Fire Management Manual 2005. Brief all personnel involved in suppression operations on the following issues:

Threatened Property

Guidelines

- 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.

Aerial Water Bombing (NPWS FMM 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)

Guidelines

- The use of bombing aircraft should support containment operations by aggressively attacking hotspots and spot fires.
- 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 (NPWS FMM 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)

Guidelines

- Aerial ignition may be used during backburning 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.
- 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.
- Where practicable, clear a 1m radius around dead and fibrous barbed trees adjacent to containment lines prior to backburning or set 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.
- Brief all involved personnel on the location of cultural sites and threatened species prior to backburning and adhere to the above guidelines.

Command & Control (NPWS FMM 4.2)

Guidelines

- 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 from requirements as per the relevant BEMC Plan of Operations.

Containment Lines (NPWS FMM 2.2 & 3.9)

Guidelines

- 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.
- All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location.
- 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.

Smoke Management (NPWS FMM 3.4)

Strategy 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 patterns to the south.
- Most extreme fire weather conditions occur during spring and early summer resulting in moderate temperatures, low relative humidity and strong winds.
- Suboptimal 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.

Prescribed Burning (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.7)

Guidelines

- General season is Autumn to late Winter. Burning is possible in early Spring given desirable weather patterns.

Suppression Strategies

- Undertake direct, parallel or indirect attack along existing containment lines taking advantage of natural fire control advantages.
- Where practicable consider maximising the fire area in accordance with the requirements of any proposed prescribed burns.
- Identify and survey backup control lines.
- 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 line.
- Pay particular attention to the flank on the next predicted down wind side.
- Identify and survey backup control lines.
- Construct new control lines if necessary to minimise the time to contain the fire.
- 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 heavier than normal containment strategies to avoid wasted effort and high risk of failure.
- Ensure there is sufficient time to secure containment lines prior to the fire impinging upon them, otherwise fall back to the next potential line.

Current FDR **Forecast FDR**

Low - Mod	Low - Mod
Low - Mod	High
High	All
All	All

