

Weddin Mountains National Park

Fire Management Strategy 2014

Mapsheet 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. These data are not guaranteed to be free from error or omission. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife and its employees disclaim liability for any act done on the information in the data and any consequences of such acts or omissions. This document is copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of study, research criticism or review, as permitted under the copyright Act, no part may be reproduced by any process without written permission. This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is part of the Office of Environment and Heritage. Published by the Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW). Contact: OEH PWG Regional Office: 200 Yambill St, Griffith NSW 2680. P.O. Box 1049 Griffith NSW 2680. Ph. 02 6966 1100

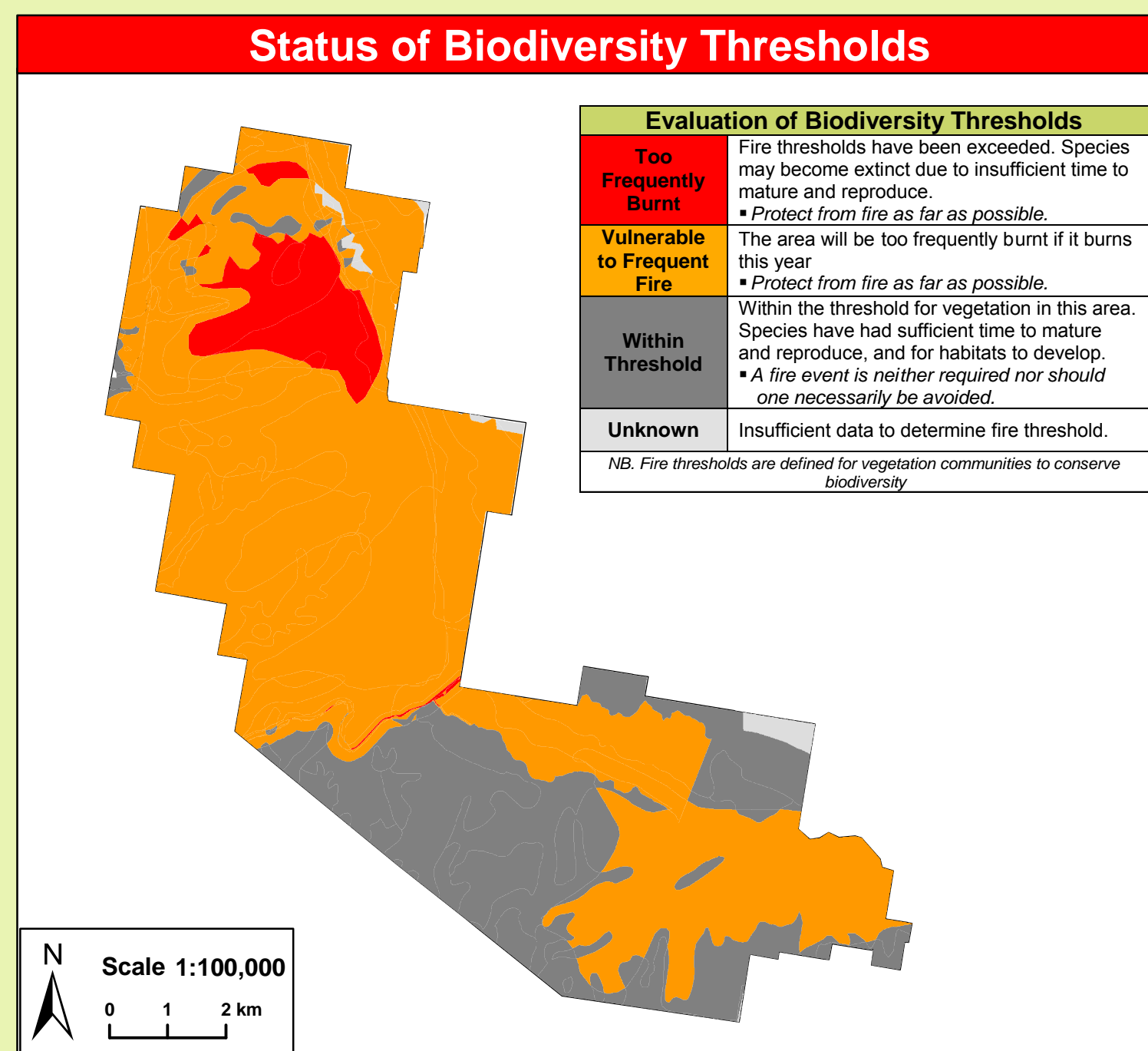
ISBN 978 1 74293 985 8 OEH 2013/0031 Date: June 2014 Version: 2

Map Details	Related Documents
<p>Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA) 1994 Projection: Map Grid of Australia (MGA) Zone 55 Data: ADS40: 2007-2008 satellite imagery.</p>	<p>1:50k Topographic Map: Bendrick Murrell 8529-N, Grenfell 8530-S, Marsden 8430-S, Morangarell 8429-N 1:100 Topographic Map: Young 8529, Grenfell 8530, Marsden 8430, Temora 8429 Scale: Noted scales are true when printed on A1 size paper</p>

Operational Guidelines

Brief all personnel involved in suppression operations on the following issues using the SMEACS format:

General	Guidelines
Aerial Water Bombing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aerial ignition may be used during back-burning or fuel reduction operations where practicable, but only with the prior consent of NPWS Senior Officer, Section 44 delegate or as prescribed in an operational burn plan. The use of aerial ignition as a fire suppression tool should be specified in the IAP or within the prescribed burn plan. Aerial ignition will only be undertaken by qualified and competent navigators and bombardiers. Utilise aerial ignition to rapidly burn out large areas and/or reduce spotting potential by preventing longer uphill fire runs. Aerial ignition can be utilised to rapidly progress back-burns down-slope where required.
Back-burning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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, back-burning should commence when the humidity begins to rise in the late afternoon or early evening, with a lower FDI back-burning may be safely undertaken during the day. Where practicable, clear a 1m radius around dead and hollow bearing trees adjacent to containment lines prior to back-burning, or wet these trees as part of the back-burn ignition. Use parallel containment lines when applicable. All personnel must be fully briefed before back-burning operations begin.
Command & Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard Incident Management Systems are to be applied. 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 Incident Controller will consult with regard to the ongoing command, control and incident management team requirements as per the relevant BFMIC Plan of Operations.
Containment Lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, where practicable, except where they can be constructed with minimal environmental impact. For new containment lines IMT to liaise with and receive consent from a Senior NPWS officer prior to construction. Use parallel containment lines when applicable. 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. Containment line construction using earthmoving equipment must be in accordance with the earthmoving guidelines contained within the RFMS.
Earthmoving Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 always be guided and supervised by an appropriately experienced person, and accompanied by a support vehicle. When engaged in direct or parallel attack this vehicle must be a fire fighting 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 must be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS estate and again on exiting NPWS estate. Where multiple items of earthmoving equipment are being used, the IMT should consider the establishment of a Plant Operations Manager.
Fire Advantage Recording	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All fire advantages used during wildfire suppression operations must be mapped and where relevant added to the database.
Fire Suppression Chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of wetting and foaming agents (surfactants) is permitted on the reserve. The use of fire retardants are 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 watercourses, dams and swamps. Areas where fire suppression chemicals are used must be mapped and the used product's name recorded. The Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed.
Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
Smoke Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Structural Fire Fighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OEH personnel are not trained in structural fire fighting and must not enter a structure in order to undertake structural fire fighting. Fire suppression activities may be undertaken from outside a structure in accordance with the policies in the NPWS FMM, in order to protect a built asset.
Visitor Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations. Areas of the reserve may be closed for prescribed burning operations.
WARNINGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beware of overhead powerlines. Built structures present at Seatons Farm, Ben Halls Camping Area and Holy Camp.
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a water tank located near Ben Halls Camp Ground. All creeks are ephemeral and are not reliable water sources.



Vegetation Map Legend

Broad Vegetation Class	Vegetation Type	Biodiversity Thresholds	Fire Behaviour
Semi-arid Woodlands (Shrubby sub-formation)	Dwyers Red Gum – Currawang Woodland & Shrubland	An interval between fire events less than 15 years should be avoided. There is no maximum interval between fire events specified for this vegetation type as there was insufficient data to give definite intervals.	In long unburnt areas, very high to extreme potential for spotting due to bark fuels. In open areas fire behaviour likely to be wind driven.
Dry Sclerophyll Forest (Shrub/Grass Subformation)	Mugga Ironbark Woodland Red Stringybark Woodland	An interval between fire events less than 10 years and above 30 years should be avoided. These communities typically consist of obligate seeders.	In long unburnt areas, very high to extreme potential for spotting due to bark fuels. Isolated areas with heavy ground fuel may have the potential for very high fire behaviour.
Grassy Woodlands	Fuzzy Box Woodland White Box Woodland Blakely's Red Gum Woodland	An interval between fire events less than 8 years and greater than 40 years should be avoided.	High intensity fast moving fire once grasses have cured. Fire behaviour is dominated by winds, both speed and direction. Even in very low fuel, grass fires can be erratic and fast moving. In ephemeral years fire intensity will be higher and in drought years minimal growth will result in moderate fire behaviour but potentially still fast moving depending on weather conditions at the time. Potential spotting from trees.
Grassland	Cleared Land with Grass (various communities)	An interval between fire events less than 3 years and greater than 10 years should be avoided.	

Ephemeral Conditions
Ephemeral fuel conditions occur after consecutive years of effective rainfall and significant flooding events. This in turn leads to the growth and build up of fine surface fuels such as grasses and herbs, which can create a continuous fuel load across all of the above vegetation communities. As a result expect higher fire intensity.

Drought Conditions
During drought conditions and when vegetation communities are visibly stressed it will be very difficult to undertake prescribed burning across many communities as the surface fuels will be very low. Wildfires are likely to be difficult to control due to extreme conditions during the day and areas of low fuel that are difficult to back-burn in under night-conditions.

Fire History
Since 2002 approx. 55% of the reserve has experienced prescribed burn activity with a number of hazard reduction burns having been undertaken between 2002 and 2013, comprising a total area of 4800 Ha. Wildfires have also been through the park quite extensively; in 1974/1975 the whole park burnt and in 2005/2006 the whole northern portion above Weddin Gap Track burnt. The region surrounding this reserve is prone to summer lightning events and a large proportion of fires are historically related to dry lightning events with no associated rainfall.

Threatened Sites Guidelines

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management

Note	Aboriginal sites may be present other than those shown on the Incident Map of this document, therefore consideration in engaging a Senior NPWS Officer or Aboriginal Sites Officer prior to hazard reduction and wildfire suppression activities is required.
IS1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not cut down trees As far as possible protect the site from fire Use of foams, wetting agents & retardant is acceptable.
IS3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid all ground disturbance including the use of earthmoving machinery, handline construction and driving over sites. Avoid water bombing which may cause ground disturbance. Permission required from Aboriginal Heritage Environment Officer and Aboriginal community.

Threatened Flora and Fauna Management

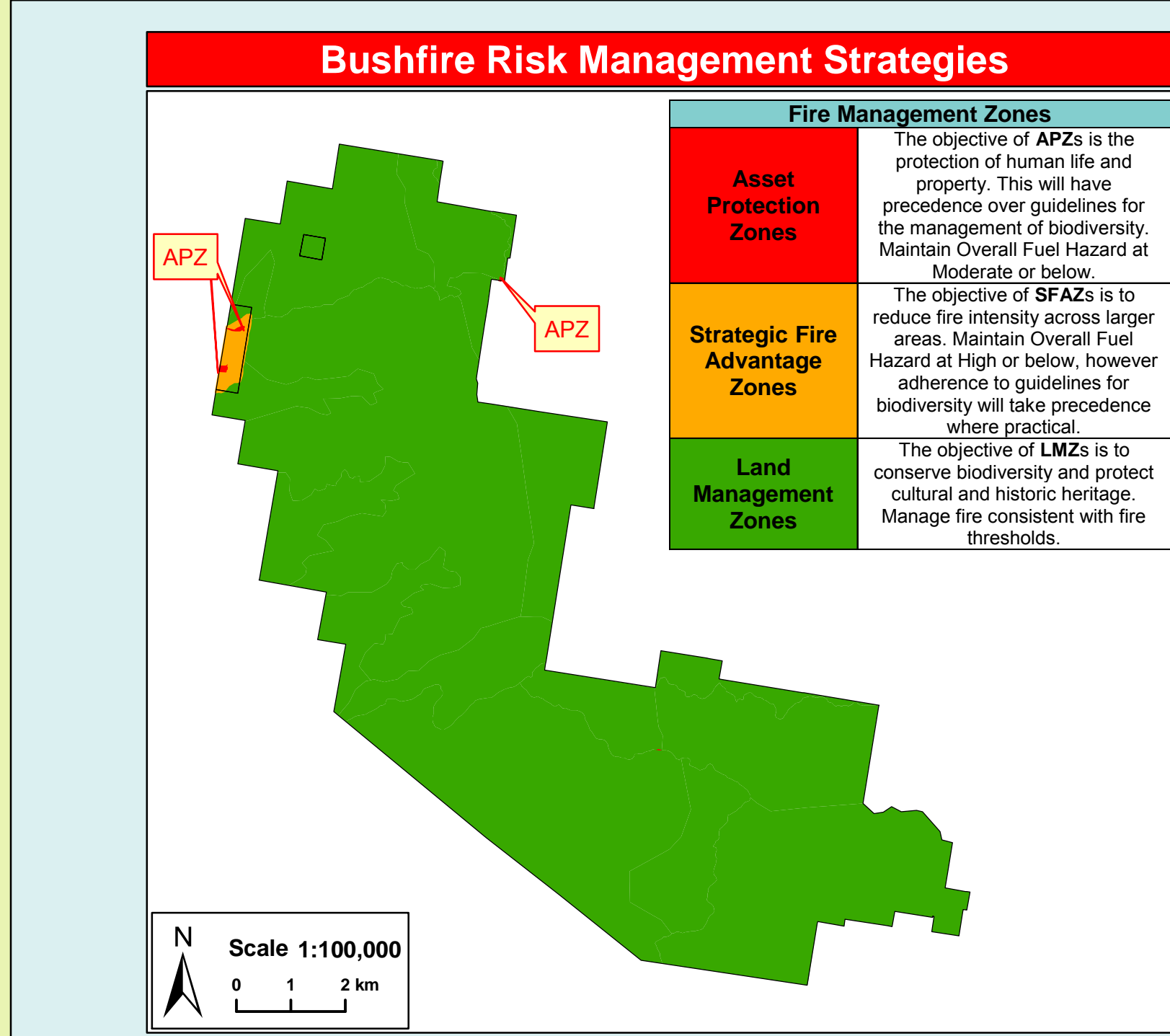
FA1	Utilise mosaic burning and avoid disturbance at known sightings, roostings or refuges and avoid frequent fire (<6 years).	FA3	Utilise mosaic burning and protect hollow bearing trees.
FA4	Utilise mosaic burning, protect hollow bearing trees and avoid frequent fire (<6-10 years).	FA5	Utilise mosaic burning.

Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Duty Officer Forbes Office – 1 Camp St	02 6332 6350
	Regional Office – 200 Yambill St Griffith	02 6851 4429
	Fire Control Centre Zone Manager	02 6851 1541 0427 253 983
NSW Rural Fire Mid Lachlan Valley Zone	Fire Control Centre	02 6343 1054
Fire and Rescue NSW	Steve Campbell - District Mgr	0428 696 678
Forestry Corporation	Steve Grallelis - Asst Dist Mgr	0427 765 523
Emergency Services	SES	13 2500
Police Station (not open 24 hrs)	Grenfell	02 6343 1222
Police - Local Area Command	Cootamundra	02 6942 0030
Hospital	Grenfell	02 6349 1700
Council	Weddin Shire Council	02 6343 1212
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Cowra Young	02 6342 3259 02 6382 5669

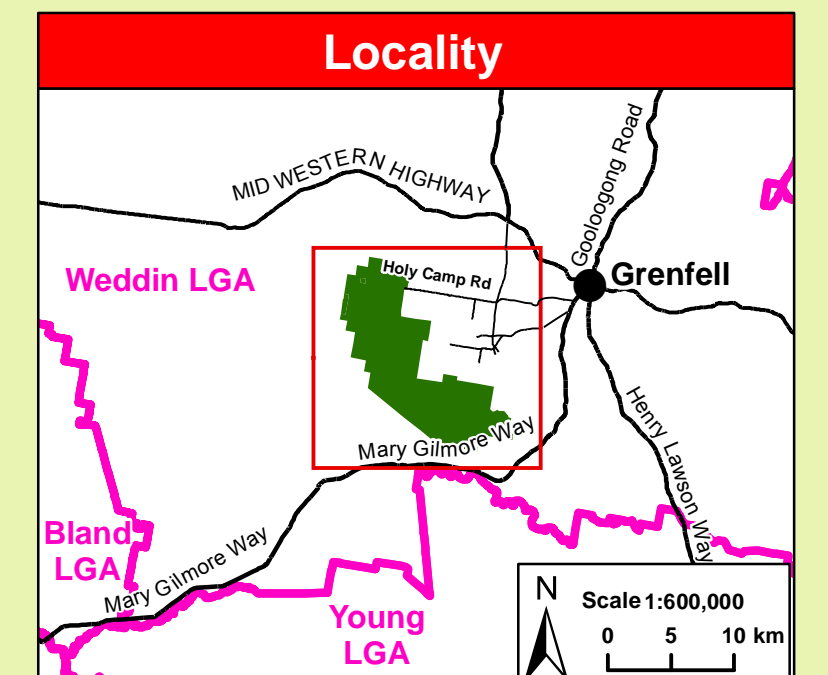
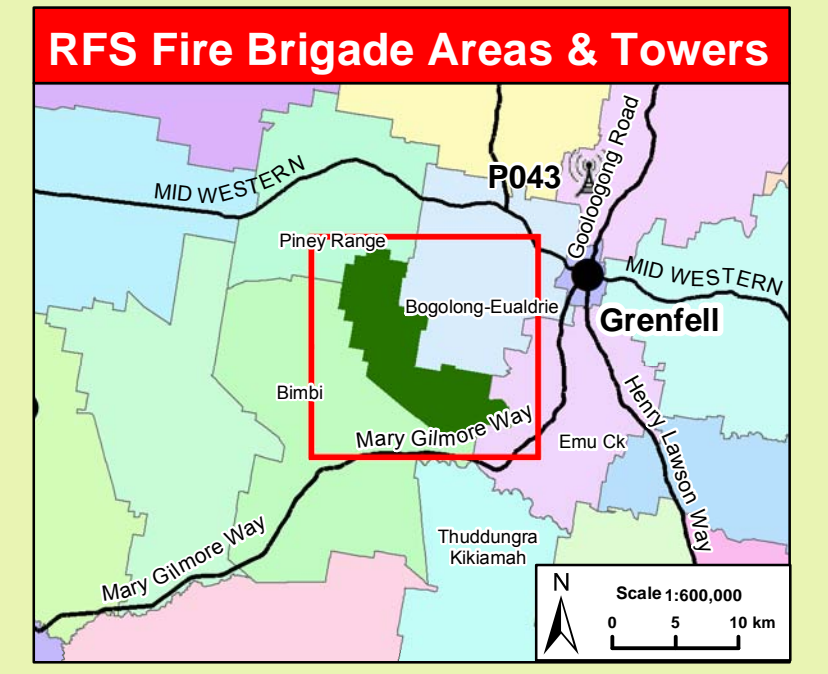
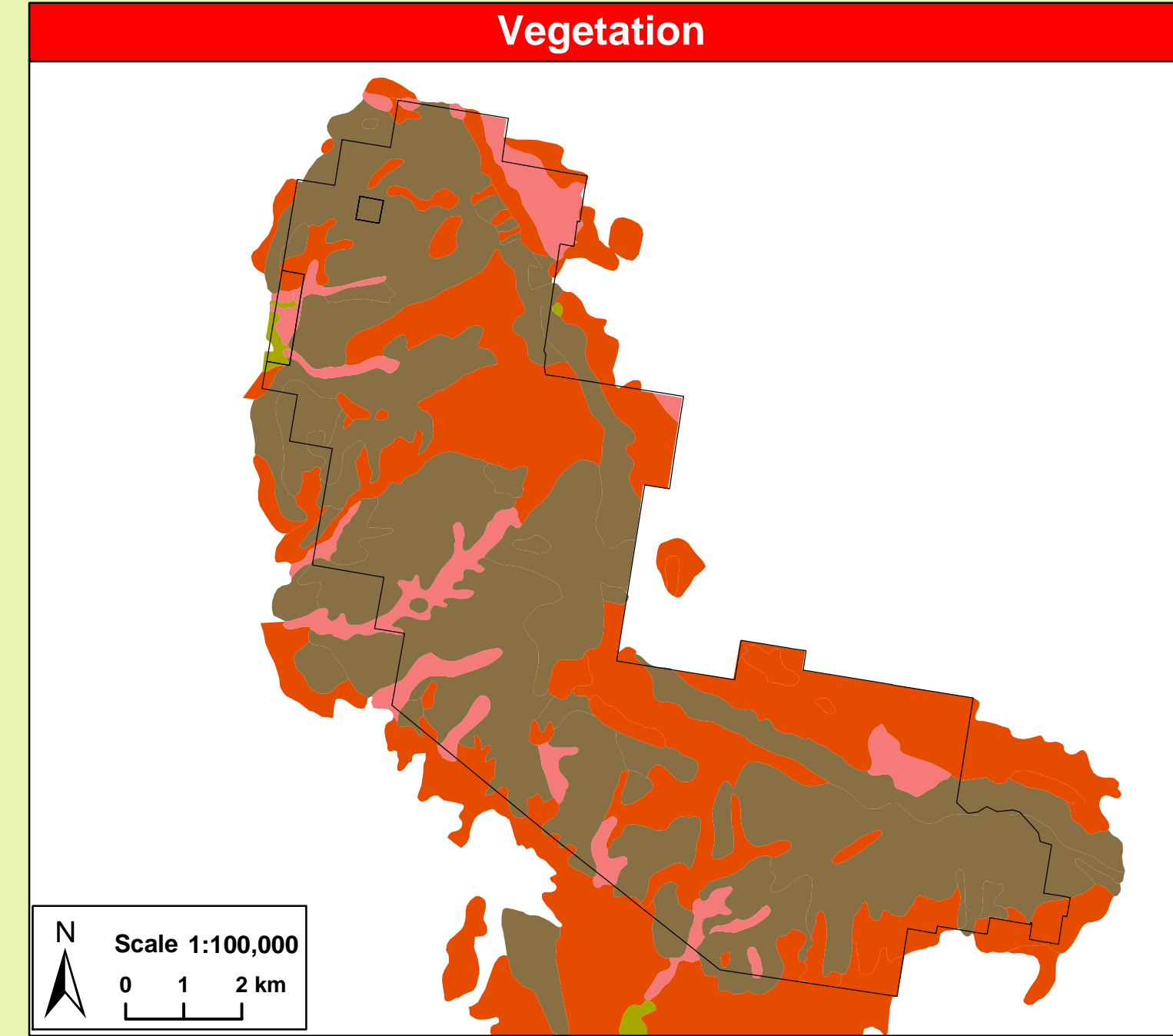
Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS VHF	292	•Canobolas
	293	•Warradery
	290	•WRR Vote Group
RFS Brigades UHF	08	•Bogolong-Eualdrie
	26	•Emu Ck
	08	•Thuddungra-Kikiana
	11	•Bimbi
RFS Weddin PMR	14	•Piney Range
RFS Weddin VHF Repeater	P043	•Warradery Range S2
State Forests VHF Repeater	3 or 144	•Mt Canobolas



Suppression Strategies

Typical Conditions	Indicative Suppression Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current Fire Danger Rating (FDR) of Very High or Greater. Short and medium range forecasts suggest conditions typical to a FDR of Very High or Greater. A risk to life and/or property exists in the short – medium term. A broad area risk to biodiversity exists. 	<p>Direct Initial attacks should be to try to extinguish or to contain to the smallest possible area.</p> <p>Indirect Develop a suppression plan using existing and/or potential containment lines. If possible take into account biodiversity requirements but never to the detriment of life and property.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FDR of High or below. Short – medium term forecast indicate a continuing FDR of High or below. No risk to life or property exists in the short – medium term. Only small area risk to biodiversity exists. 	<p>Direct Evaluate the biodiversity thresholds and use direct attack methods to extinguish if required.</p> <p>Indirect Develop a fire suppression plan to the maximum allowable perimeter based on Biodiversity thresholds.</p>



Fire Season Information

Wildfires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The critical wildfire season generally occurs from October/November to March/April. Dry lightning storms frequently occur and typical fire weather conditions are winds from the west to the north, high day time temperatures and low humidity. Particular care is required following periods of Winter rain and after periods of negative Southern Oscillation Indices.
Prescribed Burning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prescribed burning should generally be undertaken during Autumn, Winter or early Spring. Care should be taken to ensure a low intensity burn over most of the area treated.

