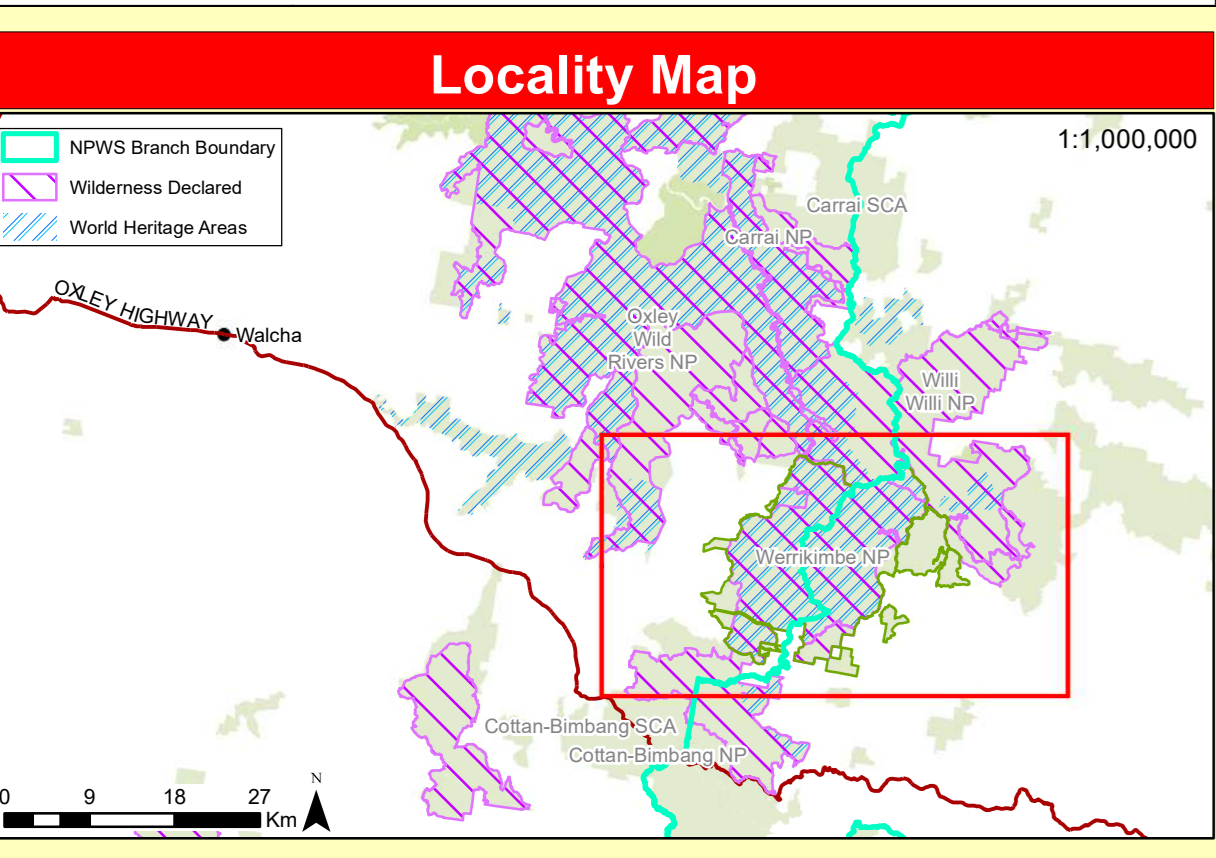


**Werrikimbe NP & SCA**  
**Northern Inland Branch**  
**Fire Management Strategy (Type 2)**  
**2021 - 2026**

This strategy should be used in conjunction with aerial photography and field reconnaissance.

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This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of the Rural Fires Act 1997.



**Map Details**

Datum: GDA 1994\_MGA\_Zone\_58 | Geographic Coordinate System: GCS\_GDA\_1994 | Noded scales: True when printed on A0 size paper

Local Government Area: Walcha | Port Macquarie Hastings | Topographic Map: 1:25,000 | Crown Duty: 633606 | Kangaroo Flat: 633645 | Source: NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Northern Inland Branch | Browsers: 030316 | Source: 030316

**Contact Information**

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Area Manager - Aerial Operations	0438 362 502
	Duty Officer Northern Inland Branch	0275 1742
	New England Area Office (9am - 5pm)	0738 9100 Armidale
	New England Area Office (9am - 5pm)	0777 4700 Walcha
	Duty Officer North Coast Branch (24 Hour)	0415 554 591
NSW Rural Fire Service	Duty Officer North Coast Branch	0275 1744
	Hastings Macleay Area Office (Port Macquarie)	0688 5555
NSW Rural Fire Service Mid Coast Team	New England Duty Officer	0739 6911
	New England Zone Office	0771 2400
Forest Corporation of NSW	Mit Coast Duty Officer	1600 733 877
	Mit Coast Office	0688 9000
Fire & Rescue NSW	Walcha	0777 4100
	Coffs Harbour	0662 2111
Emergency Services	Police, Fire, Ambulance	000
	SES	0777 2285 or 132 800
Council	Walcha (800 Appleby St)	0777 2244
	Walcha Shire Council	0688 1404
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Port Macquarie Hastings Council	0688 8111
	Birnie	0684 9068

**Communications**

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS	342	• Pottery Camp
Repeater	340	• Spokes
Forest Corporation of NSW	155 (NP 86) (80MHz)	• Voke Camp South
RFES	N009	• Handheld 80MHz radios stored at New England Area
UHF - CB		• Digital Voicing
Aviation - CTAF	134.70	• Small fires channel 10, large fires determined by IAT
Cellphone		• NIS frequency unless another frequency is allocated on an incident
Satellite Phone	0147 142 605 / 0147 166887	• Telstra Next G / SG coverage limited service to some high points

**Fire Season Information**

**Wildfires**  
The critical wildfire season occurs during October and December. This period may extend into the first half of January. Fires have been noted in the area as late as August. Particular care is required during periods of negative Southern Oscillation indices. The end of the critical fire season is often marked by wet storm activity.

**Prescribed Burning**  
Effective prescribed burning may need to be conducted once the 'critical fire season' and thunderstorm season is over. Prescribed burning attempted after autumn rain is unlikely to be effective as the landscape is dominated by wet sclerophyll forests.

**Operational Guidelines**

**Hazard Reduction Burning**  
Landscape scale wildfires have occurred across this reserve. Hazard Reduction activities in Land Management Zones should be limited to hazard reduction burning which aims to normalise extensive areas of single fire age classes since the last extensive wildfire event. Fire thresholds will be exceeded and considered too frequently burnt if another landscape scale wildfire event occurs within the next 25 years.

**Aerial Operations**  
• Aerial operations will be managed by trained and competent personnel. This includes directing aerial bombing and aerial ignition operations.  
• The use of spotting aircraft without the support of ground based suppression crews should be limited to very specific circumstances.  
• All aerial ignition operations require the consent of a senior NPWS officer or the Section 44 Appointee.  
• Threatened species are associated with rocky outcrops. Aerial ignition should be avoided within 50 metres of rocky outcrops and lighting patterns should be used to minimise the impacts of fire and radiant heat on these outcrops. i.e. ignition on the uphill side of rocky outcrops to create a low intensity backing fire wherever possible.

**Backburning**  
• All personnel must be fully briefed before back burning operations begin.

**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.  
• The initial Incident Controller will liaise with the RFS to ensure that the agency in command is determined and an Incident Controller is appointed.

**Containment Lines**  
• New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer.  
• Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, where practicable, except where they can be considered a low impact.  
• All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on and must consider both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location.  
• All containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed immediately after the cessation of the incident.

**Earthmoving Equipment**  
• Plant may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer.  
• Plant must always be guided and supervised by an experienced officer, and accompanied by a support vehicle (NPWS) when engaged in direct or parallel attack. This vehicle must be a fire fighting vehicle.  
• Plant must be washed down, where practicable, prior to entering NPWS estates and again on exiting NPWS estate.  
• The presence of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* infestations, which are marked on the Operations Map. Consider excluding earthmoving equipment and other vehicles during fire operations in the infested areas.

**Fire Suppression Chemicals**  
• The use of foam, wetting agents and retardants will NOT be permitted within 50 metres of dams and watercourses holding water.  
• The aerial application of retardants should be approved by a senior NPWS officer.  
• The use of retardants requires the approval of a senior NPWS officer.

**Rehabilitation**  
• Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.

**Water Points**  
• Consider deployment of a bulk water carrier to support fire operations.

**Smoke Management**  
• Potential smoke impacts and mitigation tactics will be assessed during the planning of fire operations.  
• In Extreme + Fire Danger at the Branch Directors discretion, reserves or sections of the reserve may be closed if evaluated.

**Visitor Management**  
• Ensure the closure is advertised on the NPWS visitor website.  
• Check for visitors on walking tracks before Brunby Mountain and Plateau Beech in the event of a closure.  
• Advise agencies of fire threats, and the restrictions in place for entry to the reserve.

**WARNINGS**  
• The 80MHz radios in Werrikimbe NP & SCA are suitable for emergency use during high intensity fires in rugged terrain with few access opportunities. There is a high risk of entrapment when travelling while using these radios. Consider the use of these radios in the event of a fire. In this circumstance the planning needs to carefully consider adverse terrain and fire advantages in these reserves.  
• Fire rams should be anticipated with winds from any direction.

**Heritage Guidelines**

**Aboriginal Cultural Heritage**  
IB 1 - As far as possible protect the site from fire. Do not cut down trees.  
IB 2 - As far as practicable protect the site from fire. Avoid all ground disturbance and driving over sites. Avoid water bombing which may cause ground disturbance.  
IB 3 - Avoid all ground disturbance. Avoid water bombing. Site may be burnt by fire without damage.  
Modified trees  
• As far as possible, protect the site from fire, and do not cut trees  
• Use of foams & retardant is acceptable.

**Historic Sites**  
• There are a large number of historic heritage sites occurring throughout the planning area, as indicated on the strategy. For information on these sites, consult the Historic Heritage Information Management System (HHIMS).  
• Brief all personnel involved in containment line construction &/or vehicle based fire suppression operations, on site locations and the required management strategies appropriate to the site type.  
• If new sites are located consult with a senior NPWS officer.

**Threatened Fauna & Flora**  
The protective actions for threatened flora and fauna have been incorporated into the Operational Guidelines.

**Soil Erosion Management**  
The soils within the reserve are generally stable. Slippage when wet. Fire trails used in fire operations should be disrupted where possible after use.

**Conditions / Guidelines**

**Suppression Strategies**

**All vegetation types**  
Fire danger rating LOW - HIGH  
• Direct and parallel attack may be applied using earthmoving machinery and fire units.  
• Consider a broad containment strategy using existing roads, allowing long term management requirements for biodiversity.

**Fire danger rating VERY HIGH**  
• Close parallel or direct attack may be an option at night depending on weather conditions.  
• Distance between the tank and machinery and fire units should be kept to a minimum.  
• Secure and deepen containment lines on the next predicted downwind side of the fire.  
• May require aerial support to manage spot covers and monitor fire spread.  
• Firefighter safety is the paramount consideration in deployment.

**Fire danger rating EXTREME +**  
• Undertake broad containment strategies using main fire trails and cleared country.  
• Tactics will include property protection where safe and necessary.  
• Close parallel or direct attack and/or mop up of fire-edge may be an option at night depending on weather conditions.  
• Warning: Fire rams should be anticipated with winds from any direction. Entrapment risk is very high.

