

Abercrombie Karst Conservation Reserve Fire Management Strategy 2009

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.

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is part of the Department of Environment and Climate Change.

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Contact: NPWS Kanangra Area Office - 38 Ross St., Oberon NSW 2797.
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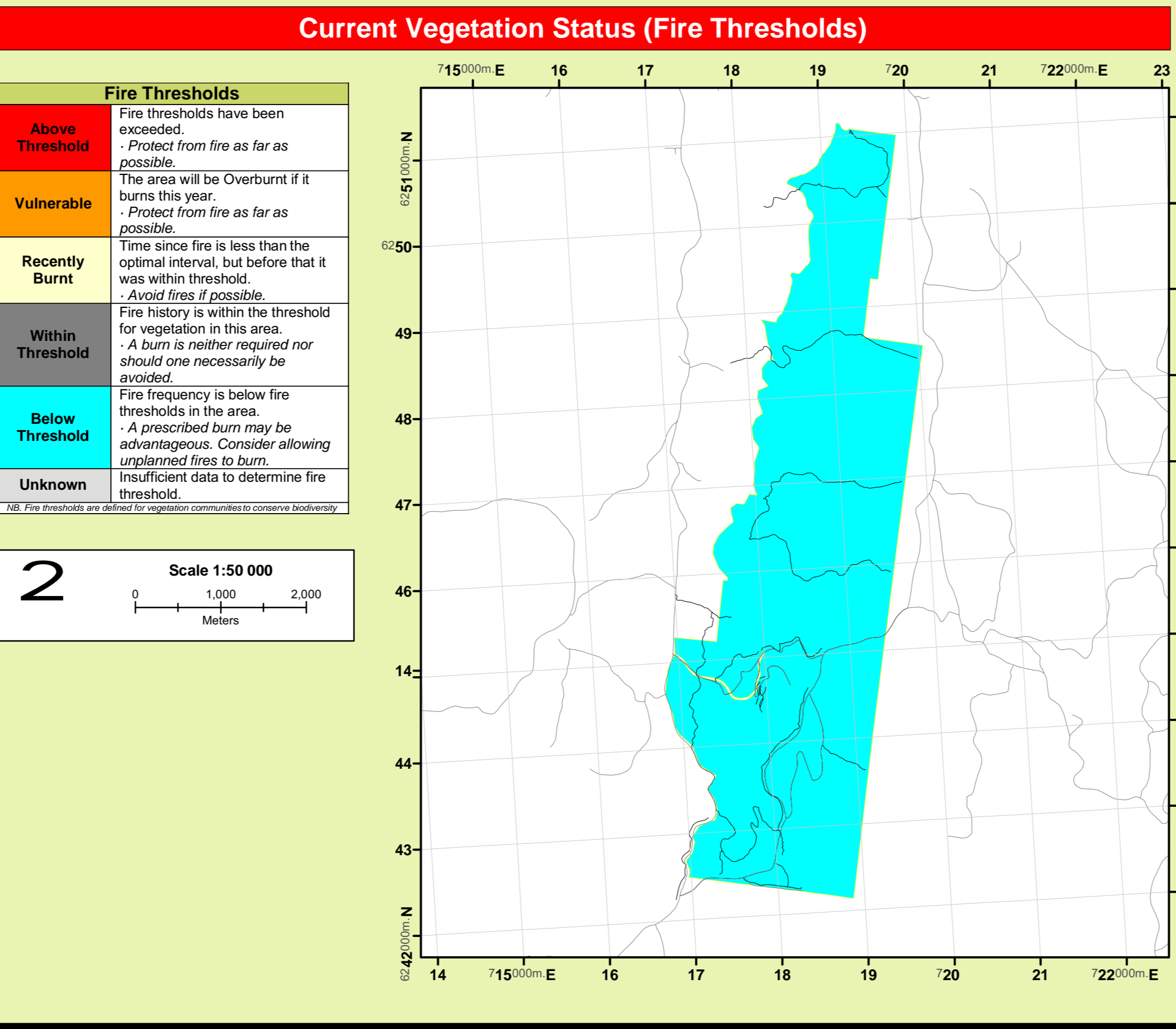
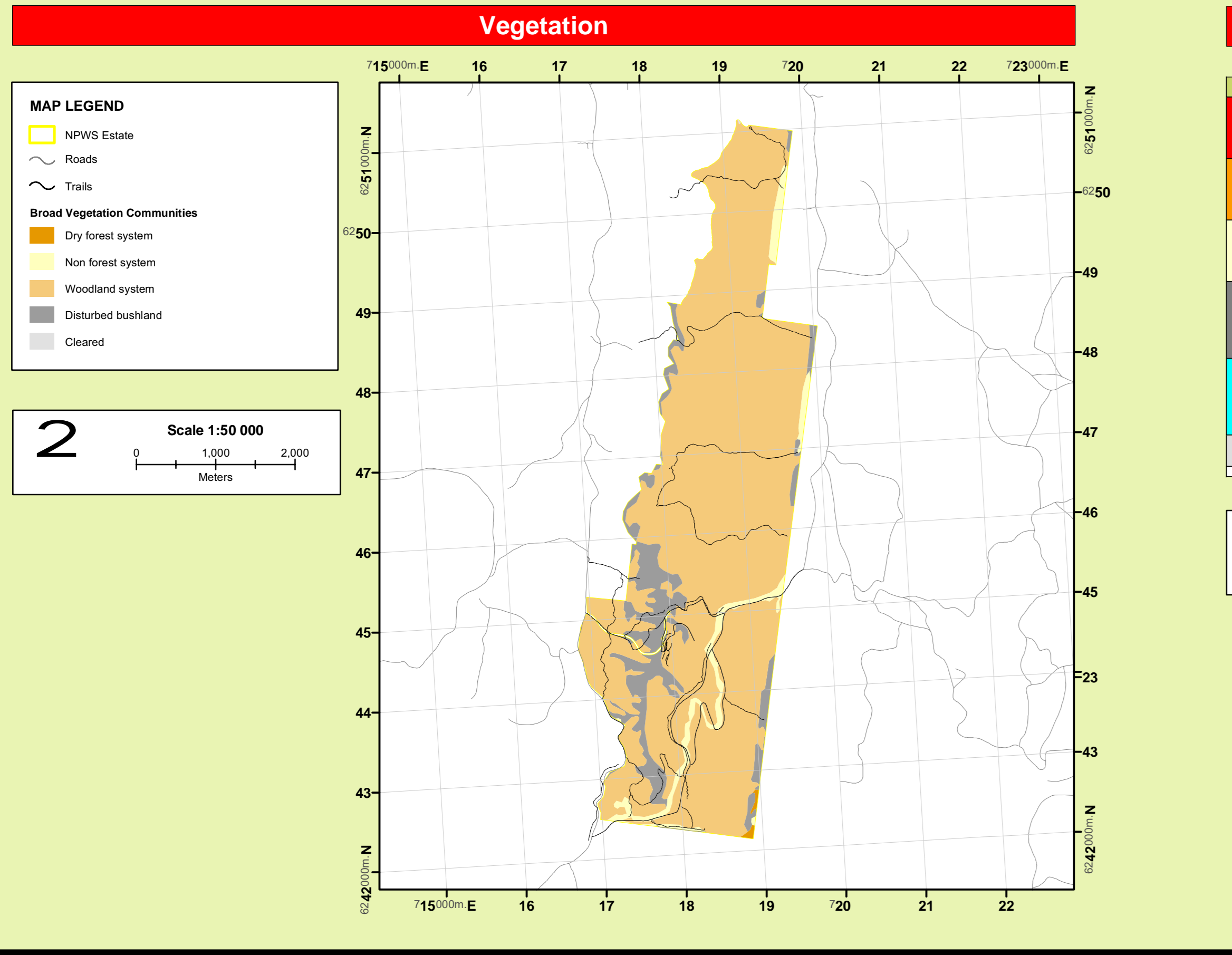
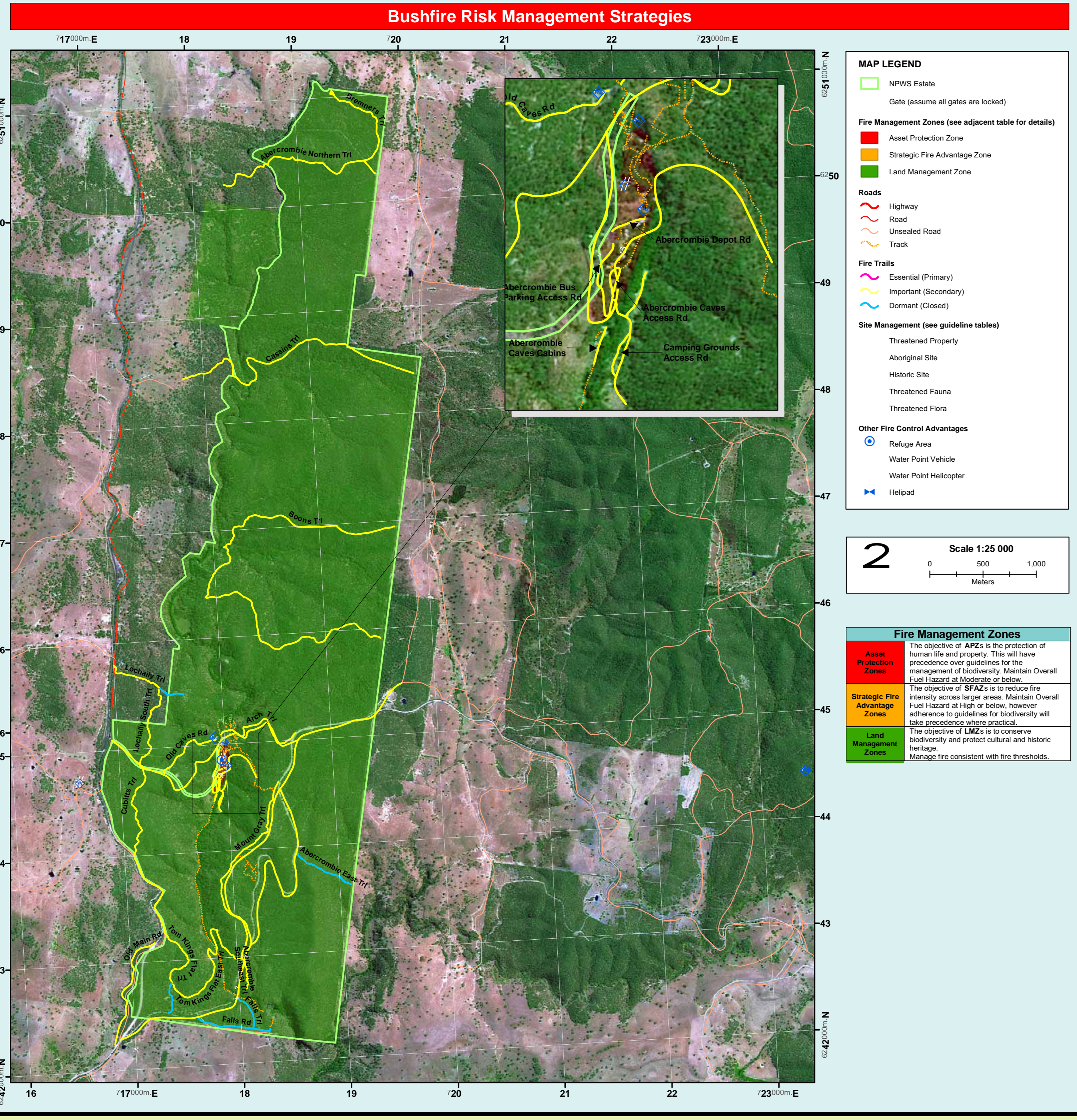
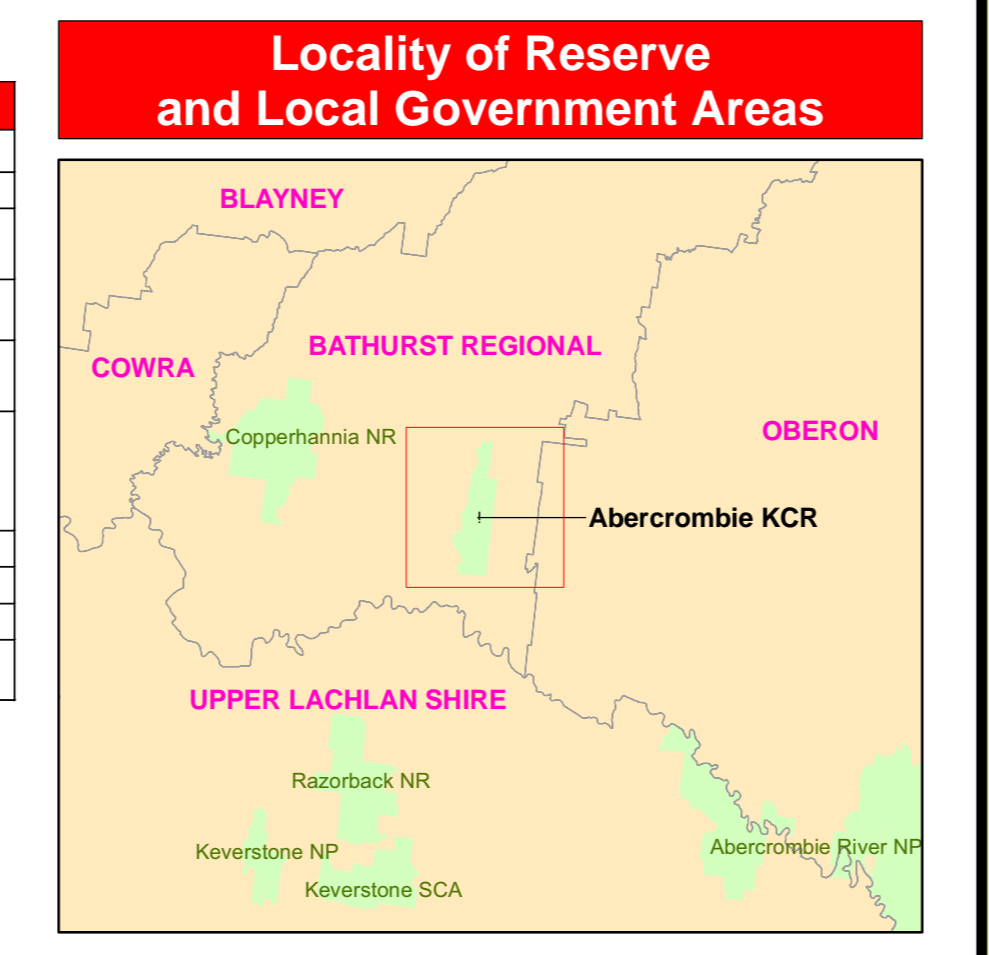
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Date: 30/06/2009
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Map Details
Scale: 1:250,000
Projection: Australian Map Grid (MGA Zone 56 S)
Datum: Geoid 1996
Units: Metres

Contact Information		
Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Blue Mountains Regional Duty Officer (24 hours)	010 501 181
	Kanangra Area Manager	0336 1972
	Kanangra Area Office	0336 1972 (Ext)
Chilley Zone NSW Rural Fire Service (Bathurst LGA)	Regional Office - Katumba	4754 7200
	Business Hours	0421 026 143
Police	Business Hours	067 007
	Emergency	0368 8608
Ambulance	Emergency	000
	Business Hours	131 233
Hospital	Bathurst	0368 8000
	Bathurst	0333 9311
Council	Bathurst	0333 6111
	Bathurst	0333 6111

Communications Information		
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	Ch 7	Unreliable coverage from high points only.
NPWS - VHF (Fireground Comms)	Various	Good car to car coverage.
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeaters)	Various	Coverage will depend on repeater location.
RFS - PAR	Various	Bathurst Zone RFS - coverage fair.
CB - UHF	Various channels in use	Not for strategic communication. Choose channel for fireground comms in consultation with RFS. Also available for air to ground comms.
Aircraft - VHF	None	Will be allocated by the State Air Desk.
Mobile Phone - Next G	None	Service is best available in areas that are not covered by heavy canopy or open areas such as grazing land, quarries or road intersections.
Mobile Phone - GSM	None	
Satellite Phone	None	



Operational Guidelines	
Brief all personnel involved in suppression operations on the following issues:	
Resource	Where possible, existing fire trails and control lines will be used during prescribed burning operations and wildfire suppression. Should construction works be required, the NPWS Aboriginal Sites Register will be used to identify site locations to avoid damage. Where sites could be impacted, consultation will be undertaken with the Wiradjuri Local Aboriginal Land Council prior to the activity.
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disused and overgrown logging tracks will be utilised where possible in preference to the construction of new control lines. Whilst no scarred or ceremonial trees have been identified within the Park, where possible, all standing trees will be inspected prior to being cut down or dozed. There are no recorded Historic Heritage items within the Reserve.
Historic Heritage Management	Where possible, existing fire trails and control lines will be used during prescribed burning operations and wildfire suppression. Should construction works be required, the NPWS Aboriginal Sites Register will be used to identify site locations to avoid damage. Where sites could be impacted, consultation will be undertaken with the Wiradjuri Local Aboriginal Land Council prior to the activity.
Threatened Property	Where possible, existing fire trails and control lines will be used during prescribed burning operations and wildfire suppression. Should construction works be required, the NPWS Aboriginal Sites Register will be used to identify site locations to avoid damage. Where sites could be impacted, consultation will be undertaken with the Wiradjuri Local Aboriginal Land Council prior to the activity.
Aerial Water Bombing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of water bombing aircraft should support containment operations by aggressively attacking hotspots and spot-overs. The use of water bombing aircraft without the support of ground based suppression crews should be limited to very specific circumstances. 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 a senior NPWS officer. Unsuitable areas must be alerted to water bombing operations.
Backburning	<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, 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 an area around dead, hollow-bearing or flammable 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. Consider completing backburn by using spot ignition instead of line ignition to reduce rate of spread and area of heat fire.
Command & Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 team requirements as per the relevant BFMC Plan of Operations.
Containment Lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of new containment lines will be avoided, where practicable, except where construction can occur 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 will be closed and rehabilitated at the cessation of the incident. All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on the natural and cultural heritage sites and karst areas.
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earthmoving Equipment: Earthmoving equipment on karst reserve 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 will be undertaken by soft wheel rubber track only. 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 not be operated on top of karst features due to unknown ground stability. Containment lines constructed by earthmoving equipment should consider the protection of karst features drainage features, observe the Threatened Species and Cultural Heritage Operational Guidelines, and be surveyed, where possible, to identify unknown cultural heritage sites. All earthmoving equipment engaged in fire management operations must wear appropriate safety equipment. Fire Advantage Recording: All fire advantages used during wildfire suppression operations should be mapped and where relevant added to the database. Fire Suppression Chemicals: Wetting and foaming agents (surfactants) are not permitted for use in wildfire suppression on karst features. The use of fire retardants 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 watercourses, dams and swamps and karst features. Areas where fire suppression chemicals are used should be mapped and the brand of chemical recorded. Rehabilitation: The Threatened Flora Management Guidelines are to be observed. Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation in consideration of karst features. All containment lines not required for other purposes will be closed and rehabilitated at the cessation of the incident. Smoke Management: The potential impacts of smoke and possible mitigation tactics must be considered when planning for wildfire suppression and prescribed burning operations. Close roads if smoke or fire fighting operations are likely to become a hazard. Display signs at entry to the Park. Visitor Management: Notify neighbours of potential smoke hazard. The Park may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger, during wildfire suppression operations or during fuel management burns. Notify media and all relevant authorities of any closures. Track and evacuate day use areas and walking tracks within and adjacent to the fire area. Close roads if smoke or fire fighting operations are likely to become a hazard. Display signs at entry to the Park.