Mid North Coast Region
Maria 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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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.

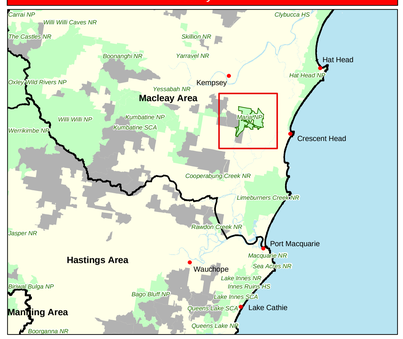
Endorsed by: _____ **Date:** / /
Director Northern, Parks & Wildlife Division

Produced by MNC GIS

Datum: AGD66
Projection: UTM
Grid: AMG Zone 56

Noted scales are true when this map is printed on A0 paper

Locality



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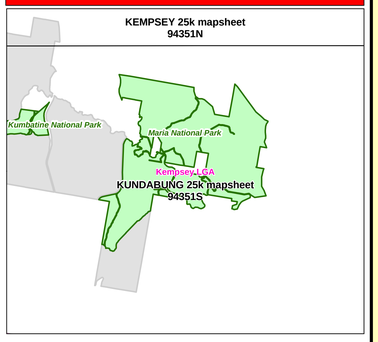


Contact Information Maria NP

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
NPWS	Regional Duty Officer	016 301 161
	Area Manager Macleay	02 6566 7251
		0417 261 064
	Fire Management Officer	02 6586 8329
		0417497 031
		02 6584 5894 (fax)
	Regional Operations Coordinator	02 6586 8317
	Macleay Area Office	02 6566 6621
	Regional Office	02 6586 8300
		02 6584 9402 (fax)
Rural Fire Service	Operations Officer	02 6562 1964
	Kempsey Fire Control Centre **24 hr Number**	02 6651 9490
NSW Fire Brigade	Emergency	000
	All requests through Zone Commander	02 6583 9878
SES	Emergency	000
	Kempsey Unit	02 6562 2228
Police	Emergency	000
	Kempsey Station	02 6562 6444
Ambulance	Emergency	000
	Kempsey Base Hospital	02 6562 6155
Hospital	Kempsey Base Hospital	02 6562 6155
Dept. of Lands	Taree	02 6552 2788
State Forests	Wauchope	02 6585 3744
Council	Kempsey	02 6566 3200
	Emeergency After Hours Number	1300 663 211
Aboriginal Land Council	Regional Aboriginal Land Council	02 6563 1862
	Kempsey Aboriginal Land Council	02 6562 8688

Strategy Information

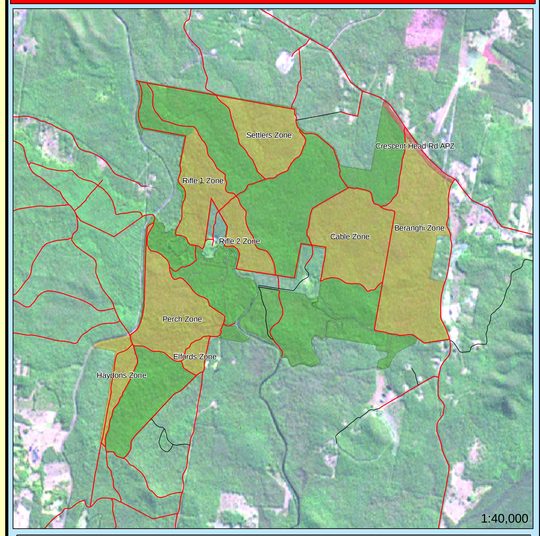
Fire Season Information

Wildfires SAFETY NOTE: An arsonist is active in and around this reserve. The arsonist has been known to light up adjacent too crews undertaking suppression activities, potentially trapping crews. Include this warning in all Operations briefings during suppression activities.	• Arsonist regularly waits until a suppression operation is complete and then lights up another area in or adjacent to the reserve 24 hours to a week later. Recommend that post fire patrols be regularly undertaken. • This reserve is notorious for dropping trees across control lines. Consider use of a small dozer to clear fire trails • 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 February in more severe drought years.
Prescribed Burning (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.7)	• General season is 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.

Suppression Strategies

Current FDR	Forecast FDR	
Low - Mod	Low - Mod	• Undertake direct, parallel or indirect attack along existing containment lines. • Where practicable consider maximising the fire area in accordance with the requirements of any proposed prescribed burns.
Low - Mod	= > High	• 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. • Pay particular attention to the flank on the next predicted down wind side.
High	All	• 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 broader than normal containment strategies to avoid wasted effort and high risk of failure.
All	All	• Ensure there is sufficient time to secure containment lines prior to the fire impacting upon them; otherwise fall back to the next potential line.

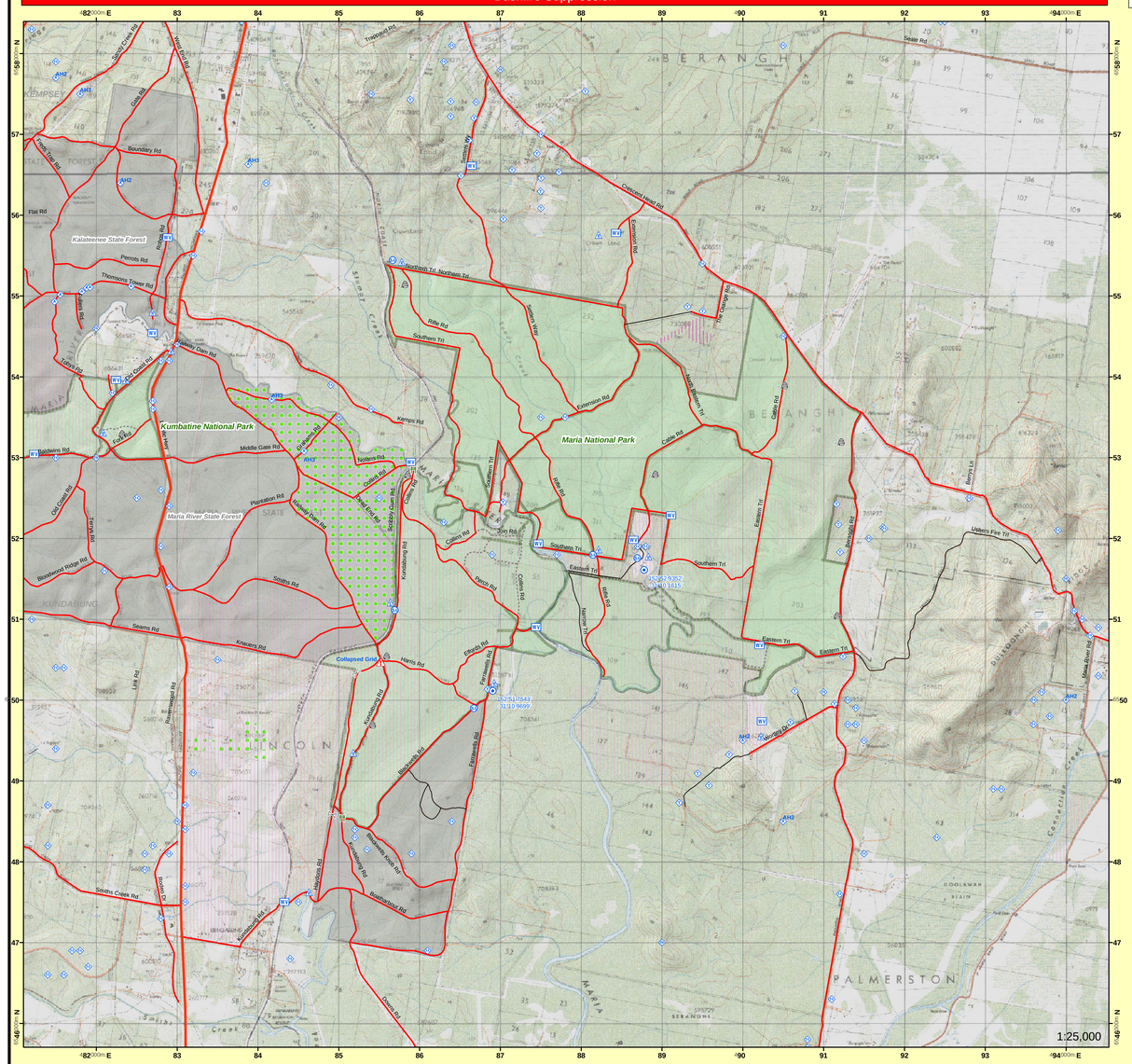
Risk Management Information



Fire Management Zones

Asset Protection Zones	The objective of **APZ**s is the protection of human life and property. This will have precedence over guidelines for the management of biodiversity. Maintain Overall Fuel Hazard at Moderate or below.
Strategic Fire Advantage Zones	The objective of **SFAZ**s is to reduce fire intensity across larger areas. Maintain Overall Fuel Hazard at High or below, however adherence to guidelines for biodiversity will take precedence where practical.
Heritage Management Zones	The objective of **HMZ**s is to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural heritage. Manage fire consistent with fire thresholds.

Bushfire Suppression

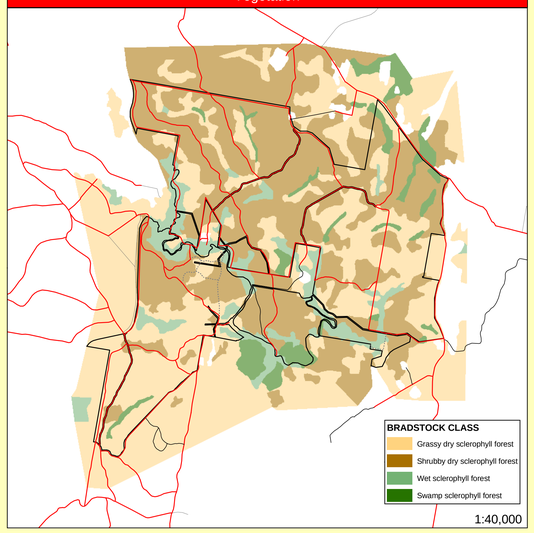


Operational Guidelines

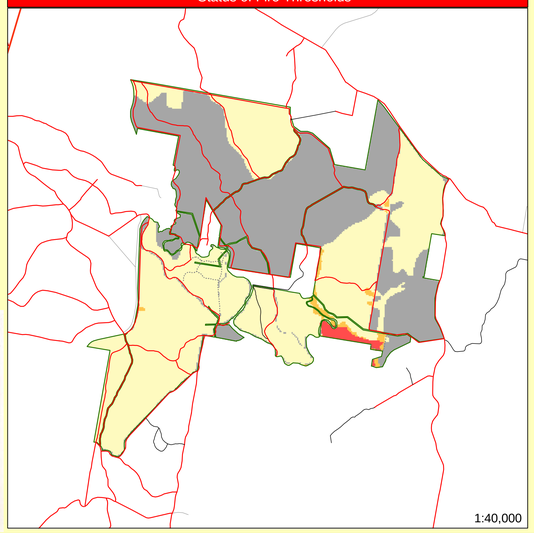
Refer to Strategy for Fire Management 2003 and Fire Management Manual 2004.
Brief all personnel involved in suppression operations on the following issues:

Resource	Guidelines
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management (NPWS FMM 4.11)	• AH2 - As far as possible protect site from fire, Avoid all ground disturbance including the use of earthmoving machinery, handline construction and driving over sites, Avoid water bombing which may cause ground disturbance. • AH3 - Avoid all ground disturbance, Avoid water bombing, Site may be burnt by bushfire, back-burn or prescribed burn without damage. • If new sites are located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
Historic Heritage Management (NPWS FMM 4.10)	No known sites in Reserve. If new sites located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
Threatened Fauna Management (NPWS FMM 4.12 & 5.2)	• FA - Wildlife rescue program to be implemented when IC declares it safe to undertake onground rescue operations • As far as possible, protect large and hollow-bearing trees in locations where these species are known to occur. • As far as possible avoid high intensity fires that consume canopies and fallen logs in locations where these species are known to occur.
Threatened Flora Management (NPWS FMM 4.12)	• No known specific sites in Reserve. If new sites are located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
Threatened Property	• Where possible property owners with assets at risk from a wildfire event should be kept informed regarding the progress of the fire; and assisted in determining their current level of asset protection preparedness. • **Beekeepers must be notified within the first four hours of a reported ignition**. For their safety bee keepers are to be accompanied by a Cat 9 and crew, if the bee sites are either in the predicted path of the fire, on, or adjacent to, the fireground. • Licensee No. 1 Bees Sites at: Kundabung Mapsheet 488900-6552800: Contact Mid North Coast Regional Office for Licensee s Telephone Numbers • Licensee No. 2 Bees Sites at: Kundabung Mapsheet 485500-6550500, 485900-6552800, 485800- 6555150, 490500-6553900, 491200-6553200, 491150-6551050: Contact Mid North Coast Regional Office for Licensee s Telephone Numbers
General	**Guidelines**
Aerial Water Bombing (NPWS FMM 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	• 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 (refer to section Fire Suppression Chemicals below for specific guidelines). • Ground crews must be alerted to water bombing operations.
Aerial Ignition (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2-4 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	• 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.
Backburning (NPWS FMM 4.8)	• 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 barked trees adjacent to containment lines prior to backburning, or wet down these trees as part of the backburn ignition.
Command & Control (NPWS FMM 4.2)	• The first combatant agency on site may assume control of the fire, but then must ensure the relevant land management agency is promptly notified. • 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 (NPWS FMM 2.2 & 3.9)	• **No new control lines will be constructed.** Potential for Acid Sulphate soils to be exposed. Construction of Hand tool control lines acceptable • Using existing fire trails or re-open closed, dormant or rehabilitated fire trails .
Earthmoving Equipment (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.3)	• 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 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 be washed down, where practicable, prior to it 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)	• Wetting 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 rainforest, watercourses, dams and swamps. • Areas where fire suppression chemicals are used must be mapped and the used product name recorded. • The Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed.
Rehabilitation (NPWS FMM 5.1)	• Reopened containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
Smoke Management (NPWS FMM 3.4)	• 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.
Visitor Management (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.

Vegetation



Status of Fire Thresholds



Contour Interval 10 metres
Pacific Highway
NPWS Roads
Primary (Cat 1)
Secondary (Cat 9)
Closed
Not classified
Walking Track
NPWS Estate
State Forest
State Forest Plantation
Fires 2004-2005
Fires 2003-2004
Fires 2001-2003
Aboriginal Sites
Control Centre
Endangered Fauna
Endangered Flora
Escape Route
Helipad
Potential Helipad
Historic Site
Refuge Area
Staging Area
Threatened Property
Water Point Helicopter
Water Point Vehicle
Water Point - H & V
Caution
Gate - NPWS
Gate - non NPWS
Loading Ramp - Old
Sign
Turning Point
Vantage Point
Bee Sites
Assume all gates locked

Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	2	Channel One (1) as alternate
NPWS - VHF (Fireground Comms)	34	Channel 33 as alternate
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	13	Held at Hastings Depot in Port Macquarie.
RFS - PMR - UHF	36	Channel 72 as alternate
RFS - GRN	N/A	
SF - VHF	6	
CB - UHF	12	
Aircraft - VHF	No	N/A
Mobile Phone - CDMA	Yes	
Mobile Phone - GSM	Yes	

Fire Thresholds

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

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