

# Northern Rivers Region Richmond Range NP Fire Management Strategy (Type 2) 2006

Sheet 1 of 2

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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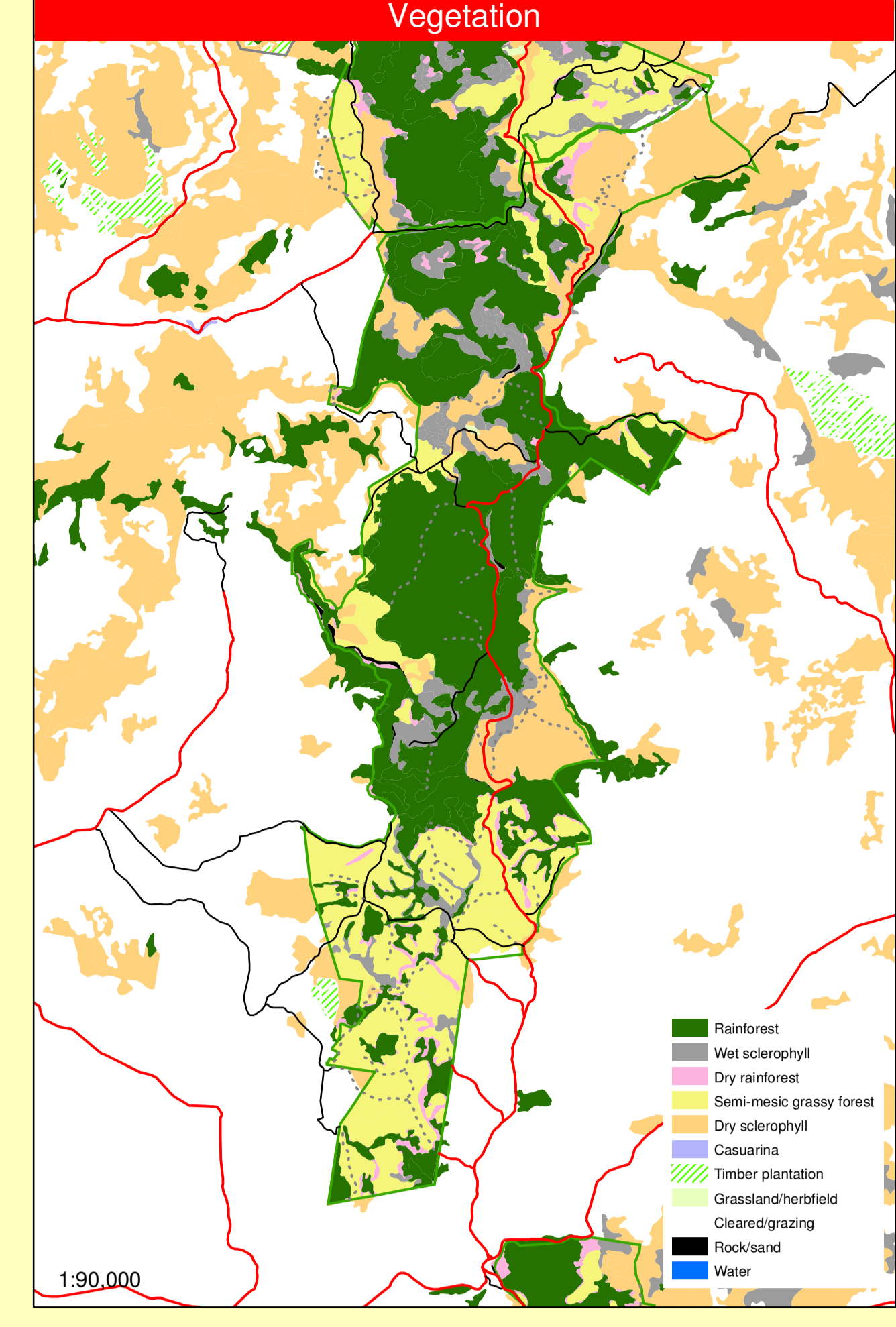
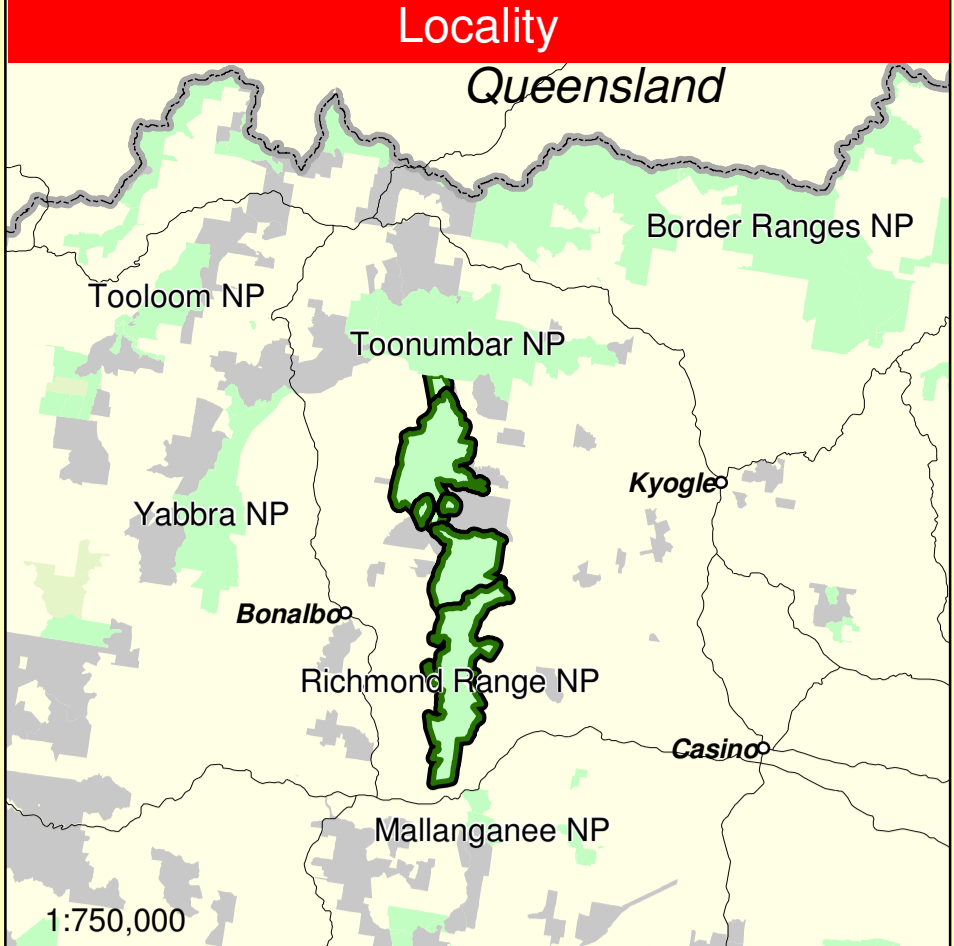
The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is part of the Department of Environment and Conservation.  
Published by the Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW), June 2006  
Contact: NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Northern Rivers Region, PO Box 885, Alstonville 2477  
ISBN 1 74137 846 X DEC Number: 2006/104 Last Updated: 19 June 2006

This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 33 (3) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997.

Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW)

Endorsed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: / /

Director Northern Parks & Wildlife Division



### Fire Management Zones

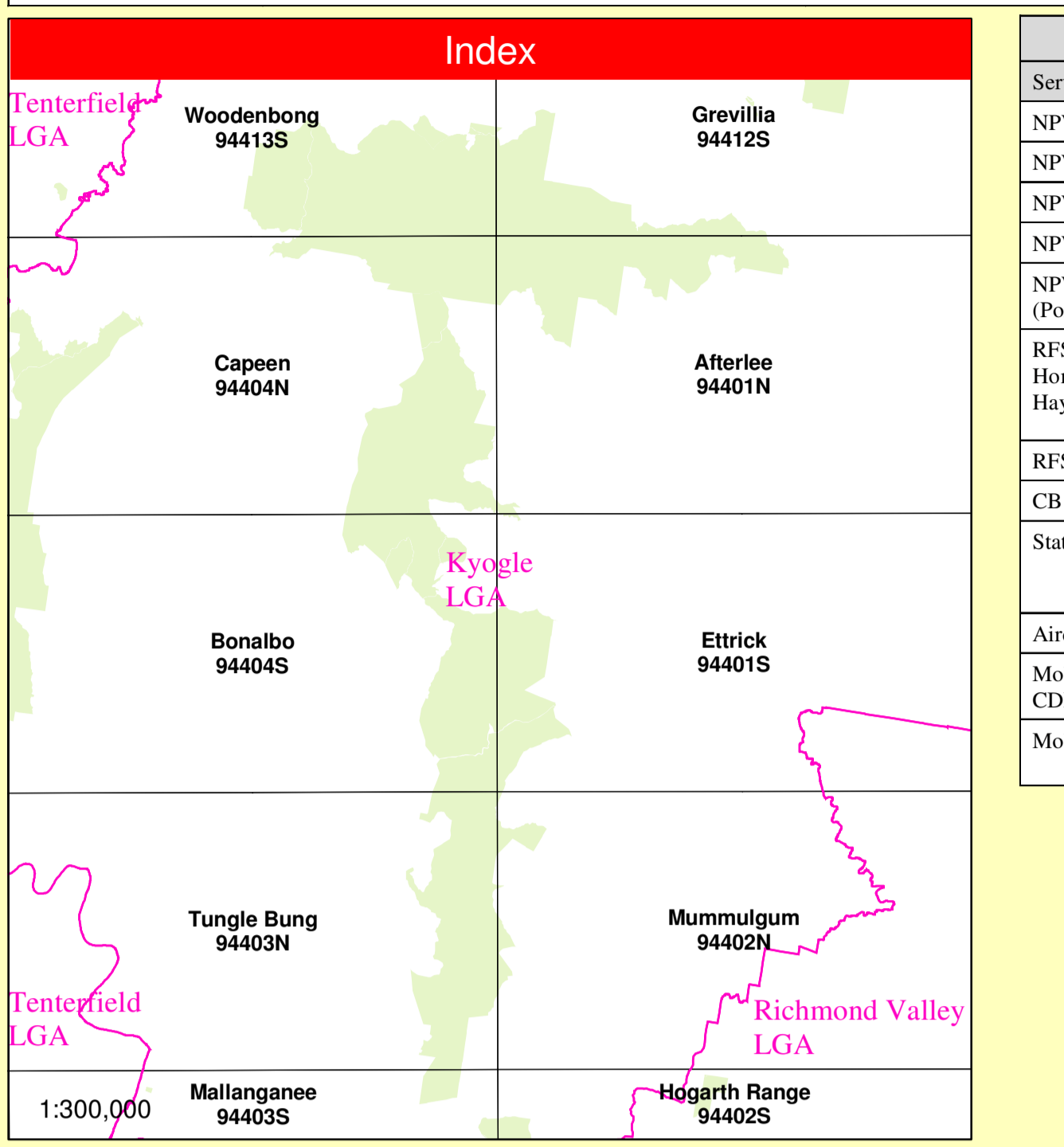
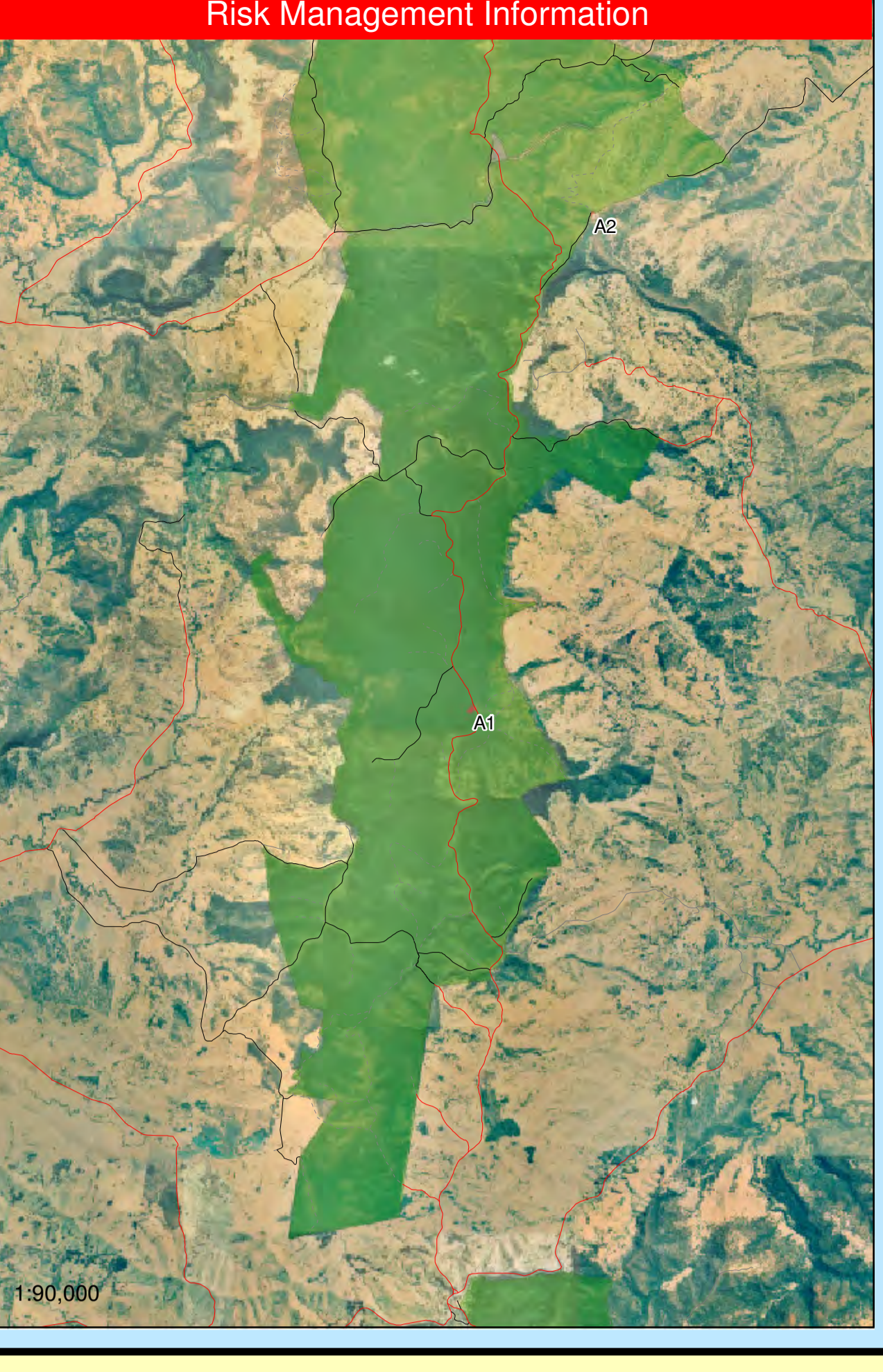
The objective of APZ is the protection of human life and property. This will have precedence over guidelines for the management of biodiversity. Maintain overall fuel hazard at moderate or below.

Asset Protection Zones	Zone	Action	Responsibility
Asset Protection Zones	Cambridge Plateau (A1)	Mechanical treatment when overall fuel hazard reaches moderate.	NPWS
	Mt Baby (A2)	Mechanical treatment when overall fuel hazard reaches moderate.	NPWS

**Strategic Fire Advantage Zones**  
The objective of SFAZ 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.

**Land Management Zones**  
The objective of LMZ is to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural heritage. Manage fire consistent with fire thresholds.

Land Management Zones	Zone	Action	Responsibility
Land Management Zones	Land Management Zone 15412 ha	Refer to fire thresholds map and table as part of decision making process regarding suppressing or applying fire.	NPWS / Incident Controllers



### Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	2	Toonumbar
NPWS - VHF	4	Haystack Mountain
NPWS - VHF	34	Fireground chat channel monitors channel 2
NPWS - VHF	36	Fireground chat channel monitors channel 4
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	13	Blue Code. Northern Rivers Region. Stored at Regional workshops
RFS - PMR - UHF	81 / 75	81 for 100 Channel UHF or 5 for 24 Channel UHF
Homeleigh Haystack	83 / 6	83 for 100 Channel UHF or 6 for 24 Channel UHF
RFS - GRN	-	No service available.
CB - UHF	-	To be confirmed with RFS captain on the day.
State Forests NSW	78	State Forests 2 Haystack Mountain
	81	State Forests 5 Giberbrage (Casino)
	84	State Forests 5 Mt Nardi
Aircraft - VHF	125.45 MHz	Or as directed by Incident Controller
Mobile Phone CDMA	Poor	Coverage varies. Best reception at elevated points.
Mobile Phone GSM	Poor	Coverage varies. Best reception at elevated points.

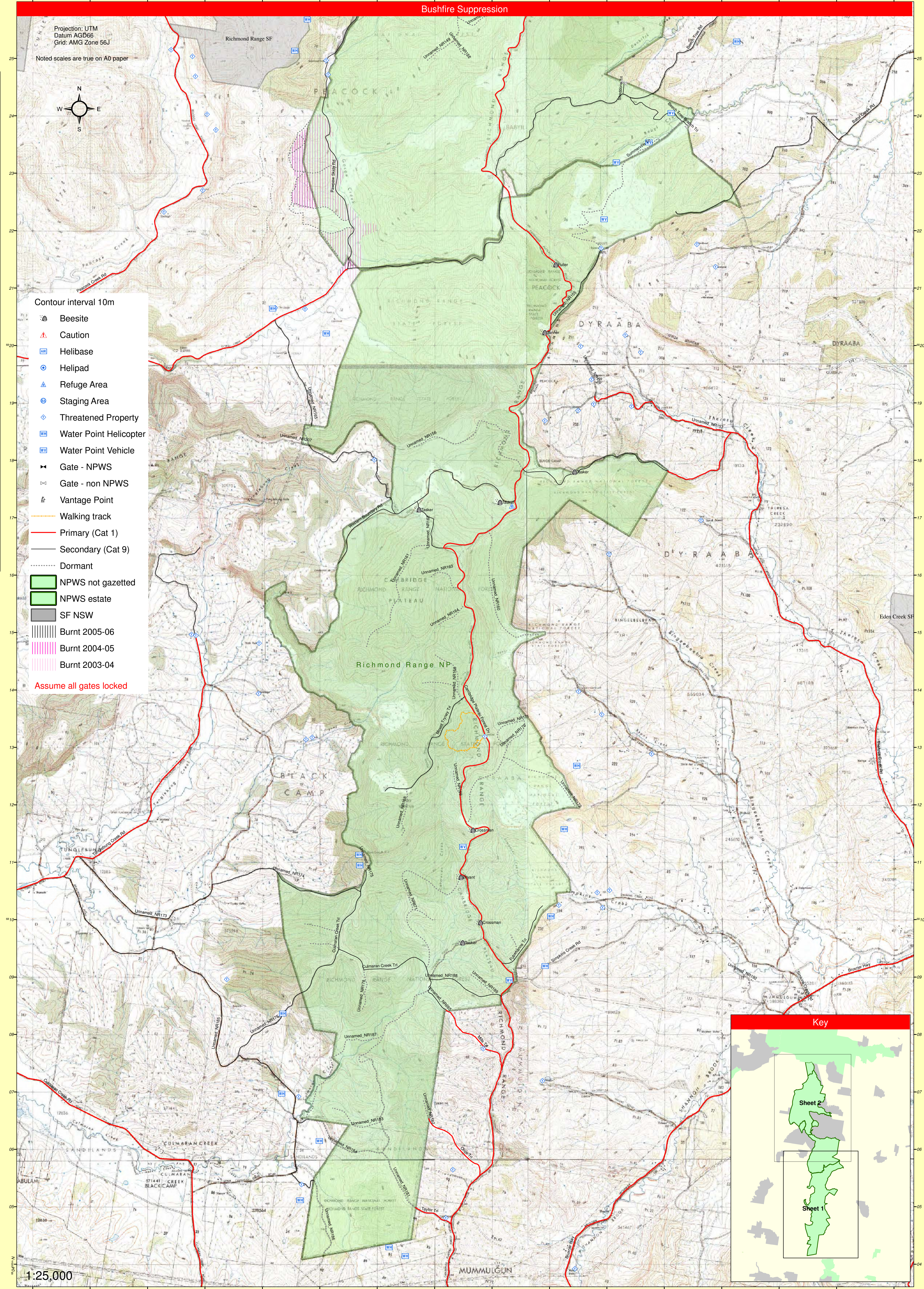
### Contact Numbers

NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service	Contact Number
NRR Regional Office Alstonville	6627 0200
Kyogle Area Office	6632 0000
Kyogle Area Works Depot	6632 1133
Urbenville Works Depot	6634 4455
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Officer	6627 0205
RFS Kyogle	6632 2558
Duty Officer - Northern Rivers	6632 3044
State Forests of NSW - Casino	6662 0900
Fire & Protection Manager - Bob Williams	6662 0906
Kyogle Council - Enquires	6632 1611
After hours emergencies	0429 152 112
Police - Kyogle (phone diverted if unmanned)	6632 1444
Urbenville	6634 1244
Woodnabong	6635 1244
Ambulance	080 131 233
Radio tech (David Priest - Northern Rivers Communications)	0429 665 938

### 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
<b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.1.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal sites are not shown on this version. Vulnerable sites will be shown on the operational version of this strategy following consultation with the Aboriginal Community.</li> <li>The "Sensitive Area Management System" identifies locations of sites on park roads. Green guide posts indicate areas of sensitivity where no disturbance by earthworks is to occur.</li> </ul>
<b>Historic Heritage Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.1.0)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No known sites in park. If new sites located consult with a senior NPWS officer.</li> </ul>
<b>Threatened Fauna Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.1.2 & 5.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid impact on rainforest.</li> <li>Avoid impact on streams.</li> <li>Protect large and hollow-bearing trees.</li> </ul>
<b>Threatened Flora Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.1.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid impact on rainforest.</li> <li>The "Sensitive Area Management System" identifies locations of sites on park roads. Green guide posts indicate areas of sensitivity where no disturbance by earthworks is to occur. Operators to be briefed on this.</li> </ul>
<b>Threatened Property</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<b>General</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foam should be used to increase the effectiveness of water bombing.</li> </ul>
<b>Aerial Water Bombing</b> (NPWS FMM 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	
<b>Aerial Ignition</b> (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aerial ignition may be used during back-burns or fuel reduction operations.</li> <li>Utilise incendiaries to rapidly progress back-burns down slope where required.</li> </ul>
<b>Backburning</b> (NPWS FMM 4.8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Avoid ignition of backburns at the bottom of slopes where a long and intense up slope burn is likely.</li> </ul>
<b>Command &amp; Control</b> (NPWS FMM 4.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first combatant agency on site may assume control of the fire, but then must ensure the NPWS is notified promptly.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<b>Containment Lines</b> (NPWS FMM 2.2 & 3.9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No new containment lines in rainforest.</li> <li>New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer.</li> <li>Containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.</li> </ul>
<b>Earthmoving Equipment</b> (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earthmoving equipment may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Earthmoving equipment should be washed down prior to entering NPWS estate.</li> </ul>
<b>Fire Advantage Recording</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All fire advantages used during wildfire suppression operations must be mapped and where relevant added to the database.</li> </ul>
<b>Fire Suppression Chemicals</b> (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Exclude the use of surfactants and retardants within 50m of rainforest.</li> </ul>
<b>Rehabilitation</b> (NPWS FMM 5.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.</li> <li>All re-opened and new containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed at the cessation of the incident.</li> </ul>
<b>Smoke Management</b> (NPWS FMM 3.4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If smoke becomes a hazard on local roads or highways, the police and relevant media must be notified.</li> <li>Smoke management must be in accordance with relevant RTA traffic management guidelines.</li> </ul>
<b>Visitor Management</b> (NPWS FMM 3.6 & 4.13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations.</li> </ul>



### Strategy Information

**Fire Season Information**

Wildfires: 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 January in more severe years.

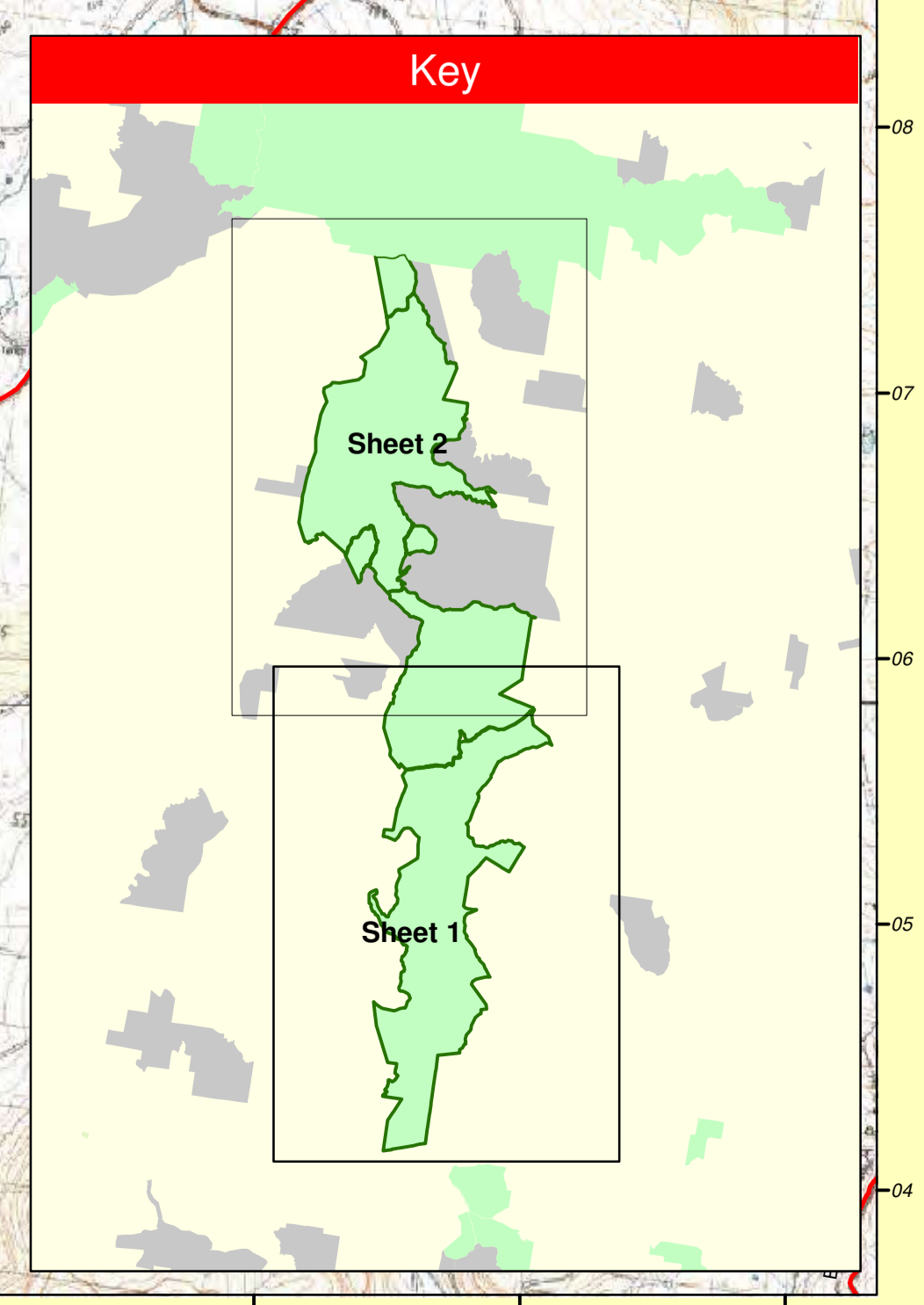
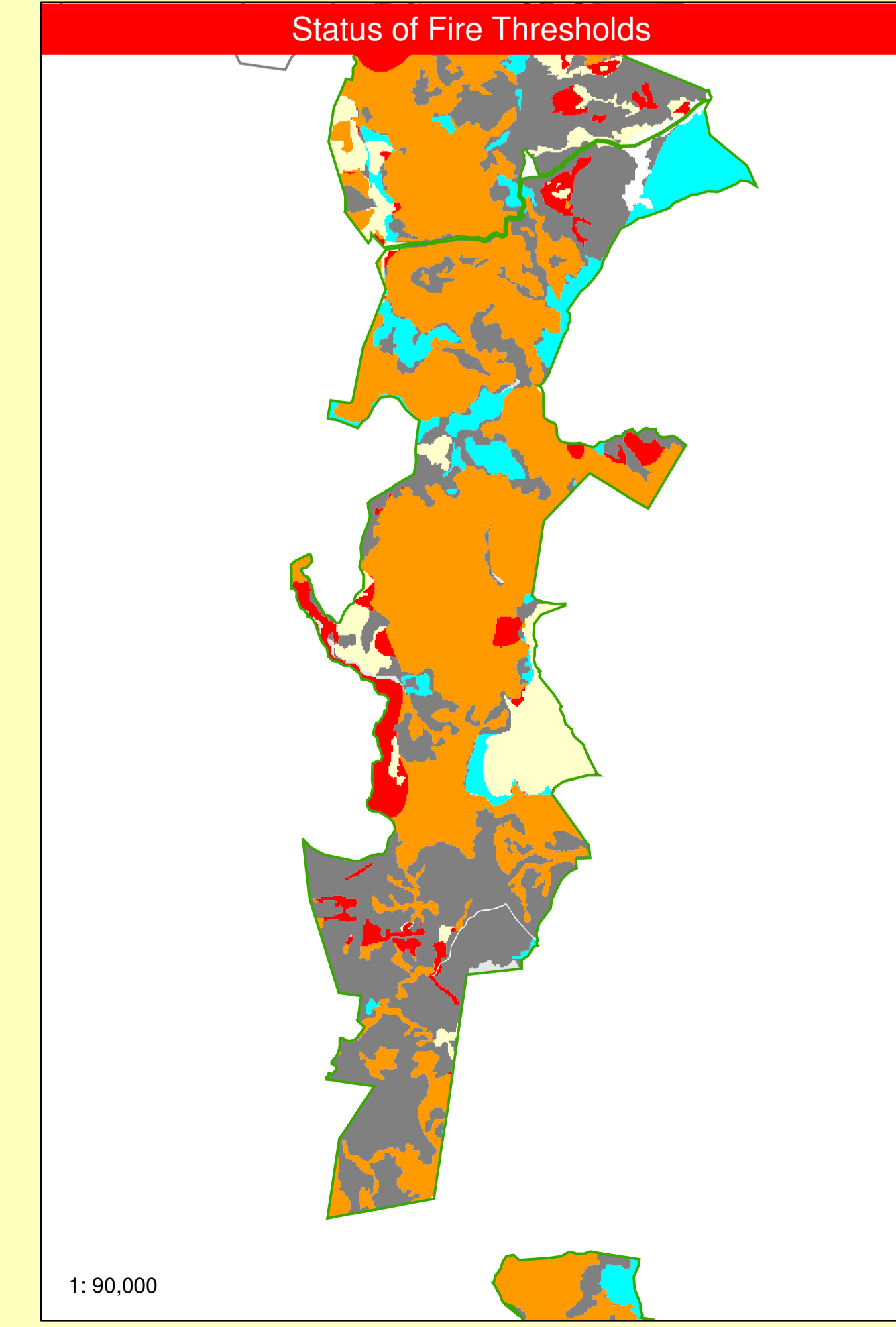
Coastal wind changes, especially westerlies, require close attention.

**Prescribed Burning** (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.7)

Control reserves to 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	Suppression Strategies
Low - Mod	Low - Mod	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake direct, parallel or indirect attack along existing containment lines.</li> <li>Where practicable consider maximising the fire area in accordance with the requirements of any approved prescribed burn.</li> </ul>
Low - Mod	=> High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Pay particular attention to the flank on the rear predicted down wind side.</li> </ul>
High	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake indirect attack along existing or newly constructed containment lines.</li> <li>Secure and deepen containment lines along the rear predicted downwind side of the fire.</li> <li>If applicable consider re-attack from normal containment strategies to avoid wasted effort and high risk of failure.</li> </ul>
All	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure there is sufficient time to secure containment lines prior to the fire impacting upon them, otherwise fall back to the rear potential line.</li> <li>Use existing containment lines. Do not construct new lines unless of vital importance for life and property protection.</li> <li>Retain trees with hollows. Take steps to clear around base and or wet down trees with hollows that occur on the edge of containment lines.</li> </ul>



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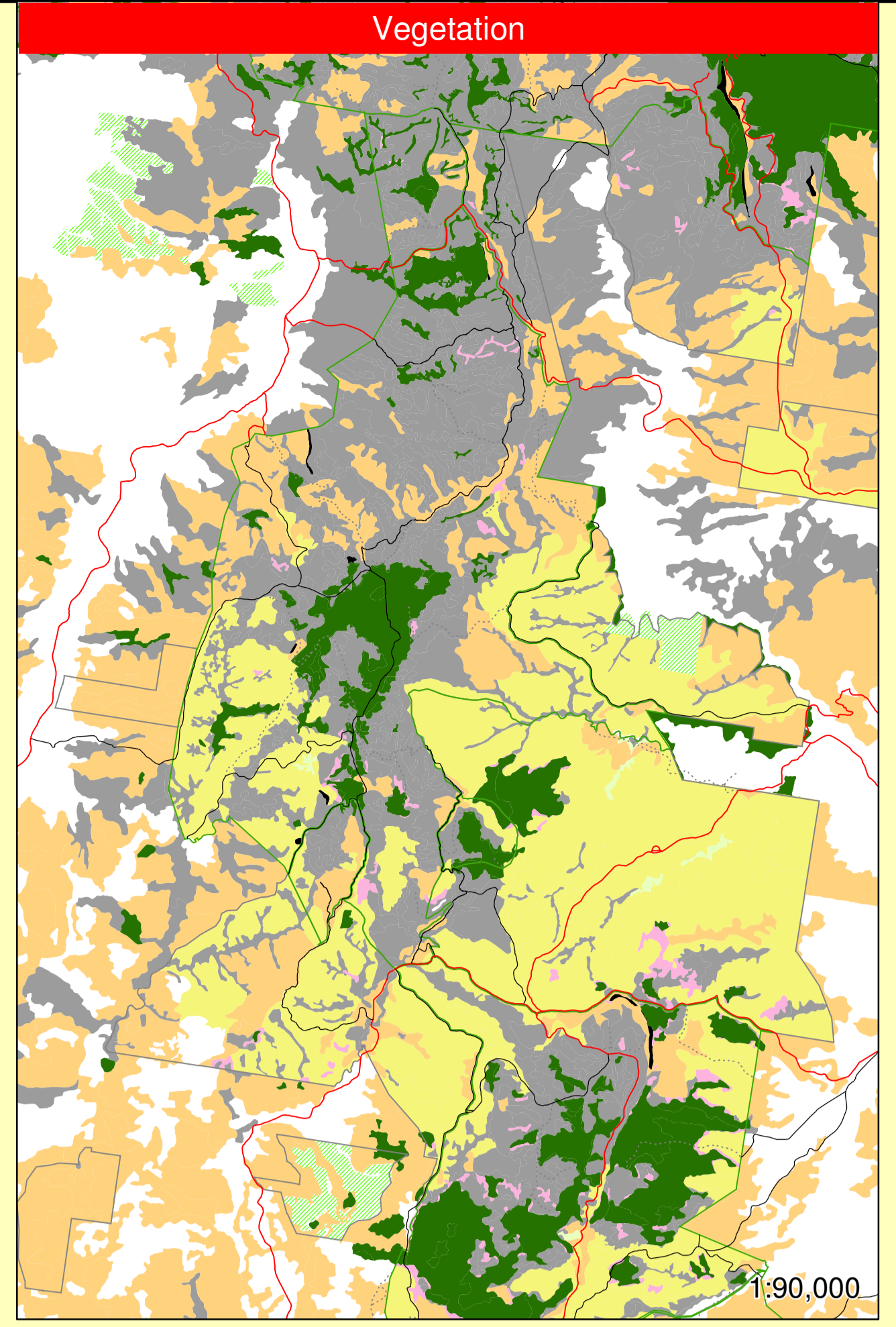
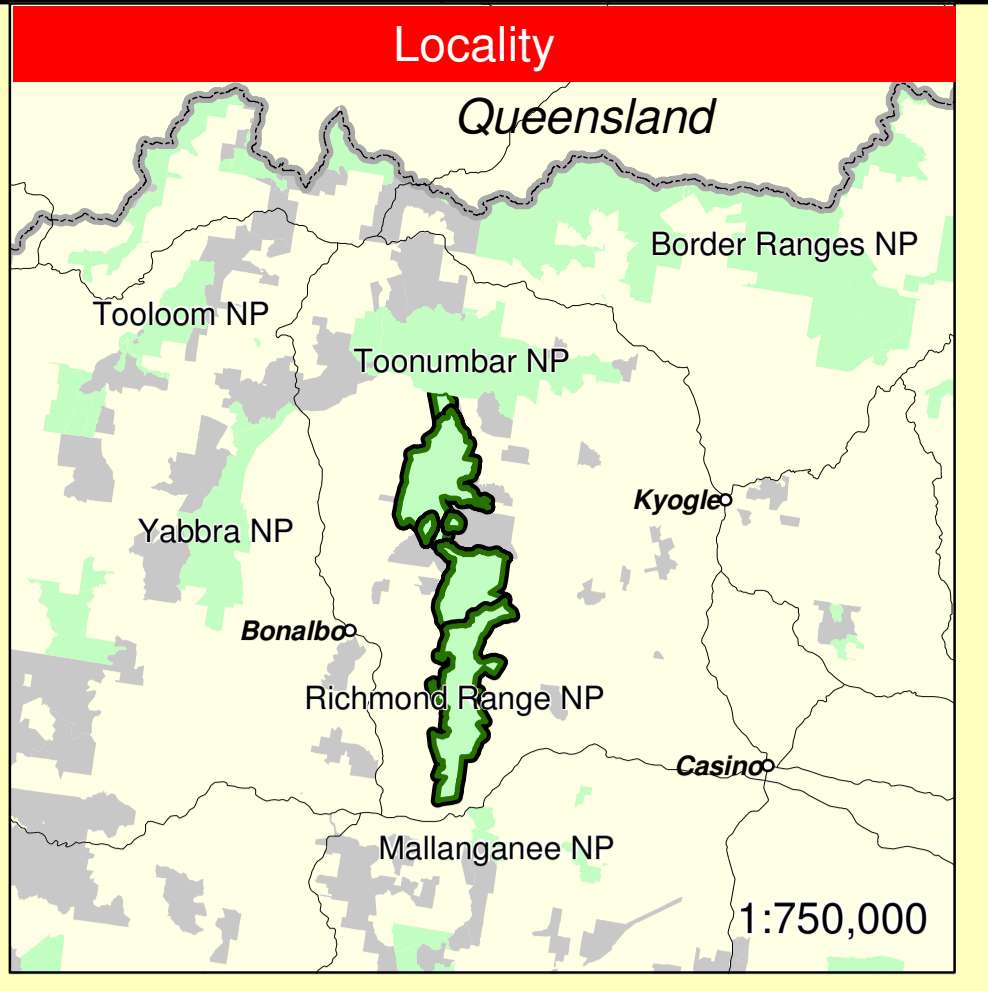
Sheet 2 of 2

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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



### Fire Management Zones

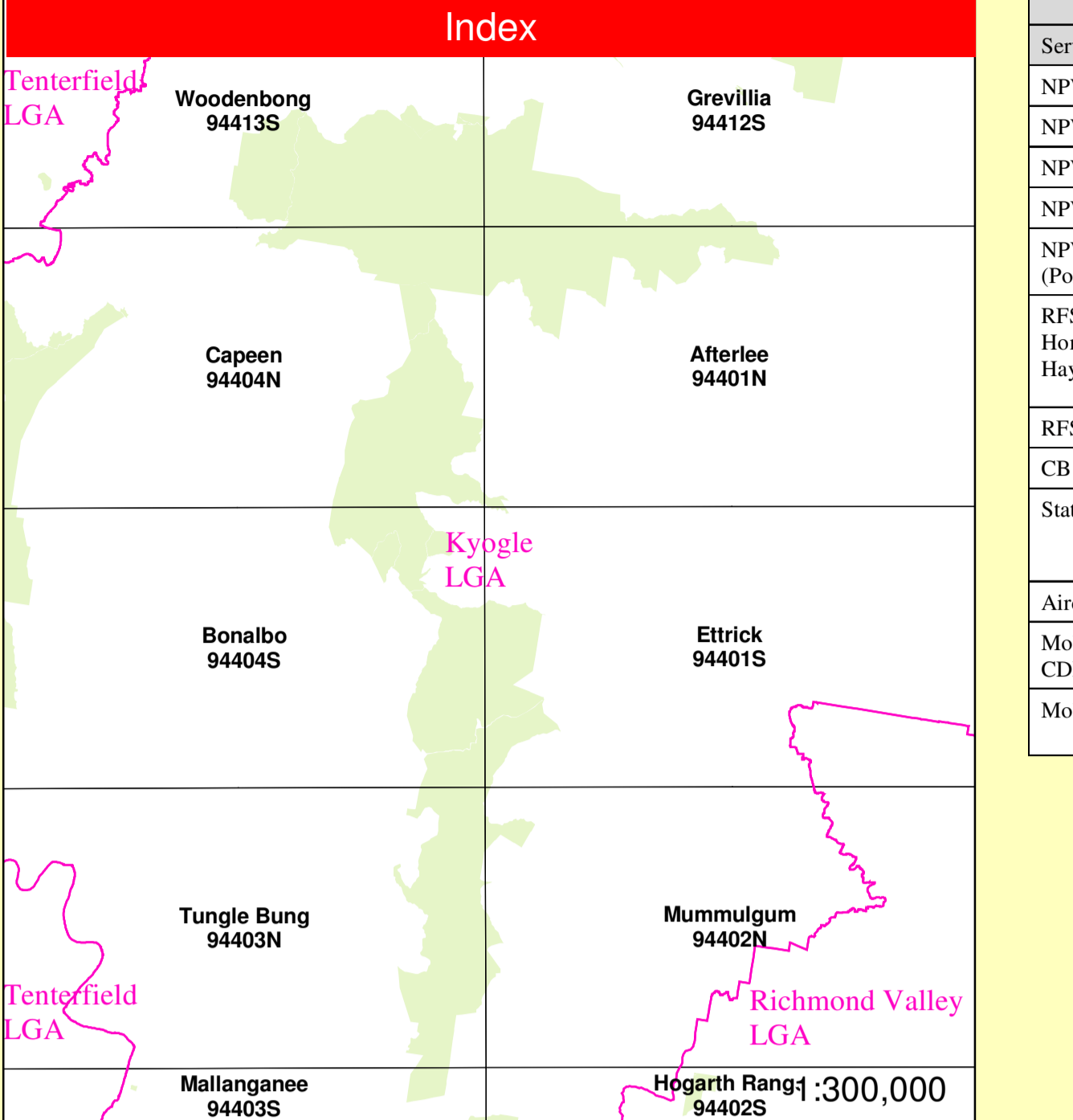
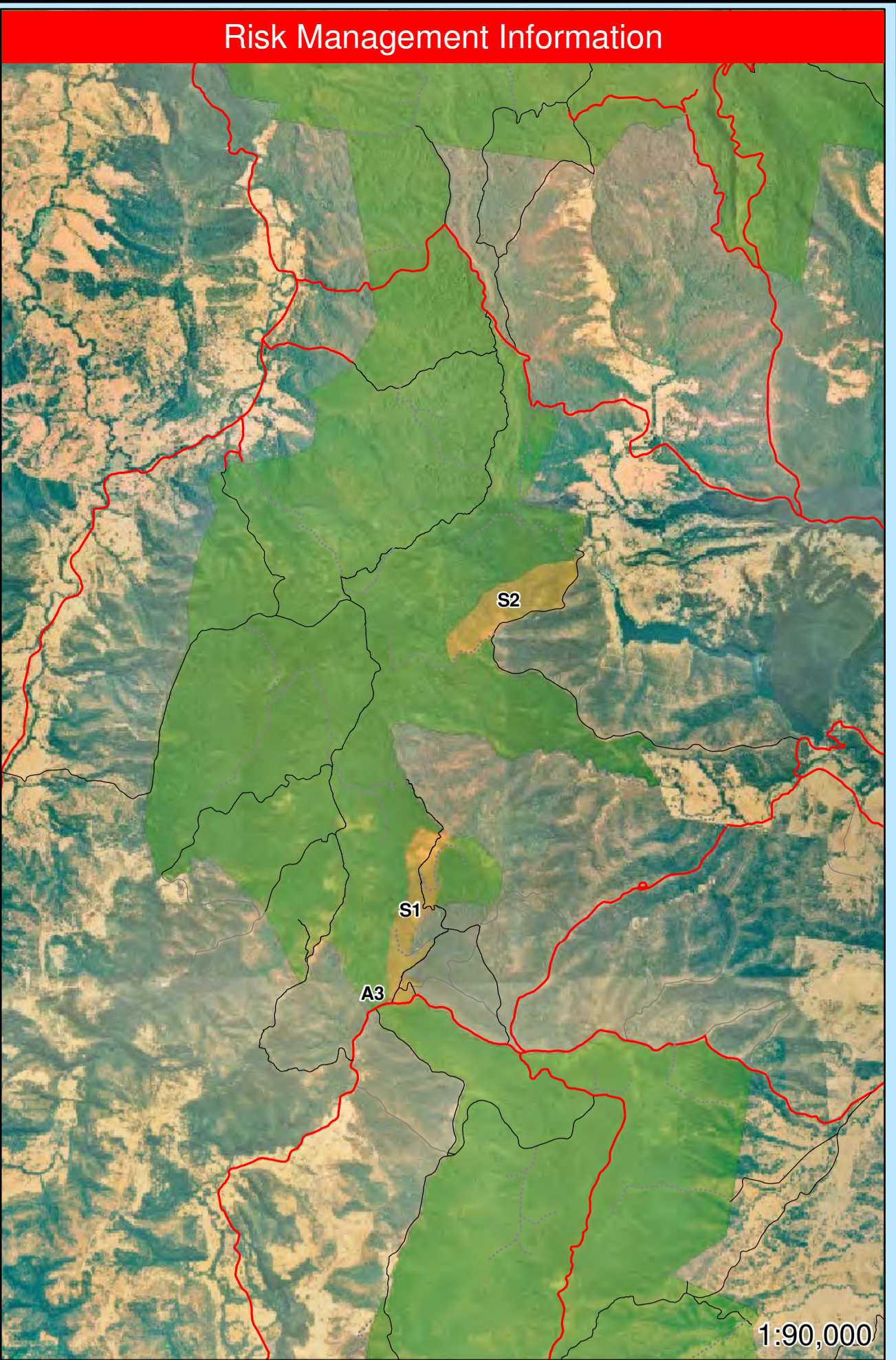
Asset Protection Zones	Zone	Action	Responsibility
	Peacock Creek (A3)	Mechanical treatment when overall fuel hazard reaches moderate.	NPWS

Strategic Fire Advantage Zones	Zone	Action	Responsibility
	Mt Brown (S1) 142 ha	Prescribed burn when overall fuel hazard reaches high.	NPWS
	O'Reillys (S2) 162 ha	Prescribed burn when overall fuel hazard reaches high.	NPWS

Land Management Zones	Zone	Action	Responsibility
	Land Management Zone 15412 ha	Refer to fire thresholds map and table as part of decision making process regarding suppressing or applying fire.	NPWS / Incident Controllers



### Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	2	Toowoomba
NPWS - VHF	4	Haystack Mountain
NPWS - VHF	34	Fireground chat channel monitors channel 2
NPWS - VHF	36	Fireground chat channel monitors channel 4
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	13	Blue Code. Northern Rivers Region. Stored at Regional workshops.
RFS - PMR - UHF Homeleigh Haystack	81 / 75 83 / 6	81 for 100 Channel UHF or 5 for 24 Channel UHF 83 for 100 Channel UHF or 6 for 24 Channel UHF
RFS - GRN	-	No service available.
CB - UHF	-	To be confirmed with RFS captain on the day.
State Forests NSW	78 81 84	State Forests 2 Haystack Mountain State Forests 5 Gibberage (Casino) State Forests 5 Mt Nardi
Aircraft - VHF	125.45 MHz	Or as directed by Incident Controller
Mobile Phone CDMA	Poor	Coverage varies. Best reception at elevated points.
Mobile Phone GSM	Poor	Coverage varies. Best reception at elevated points.

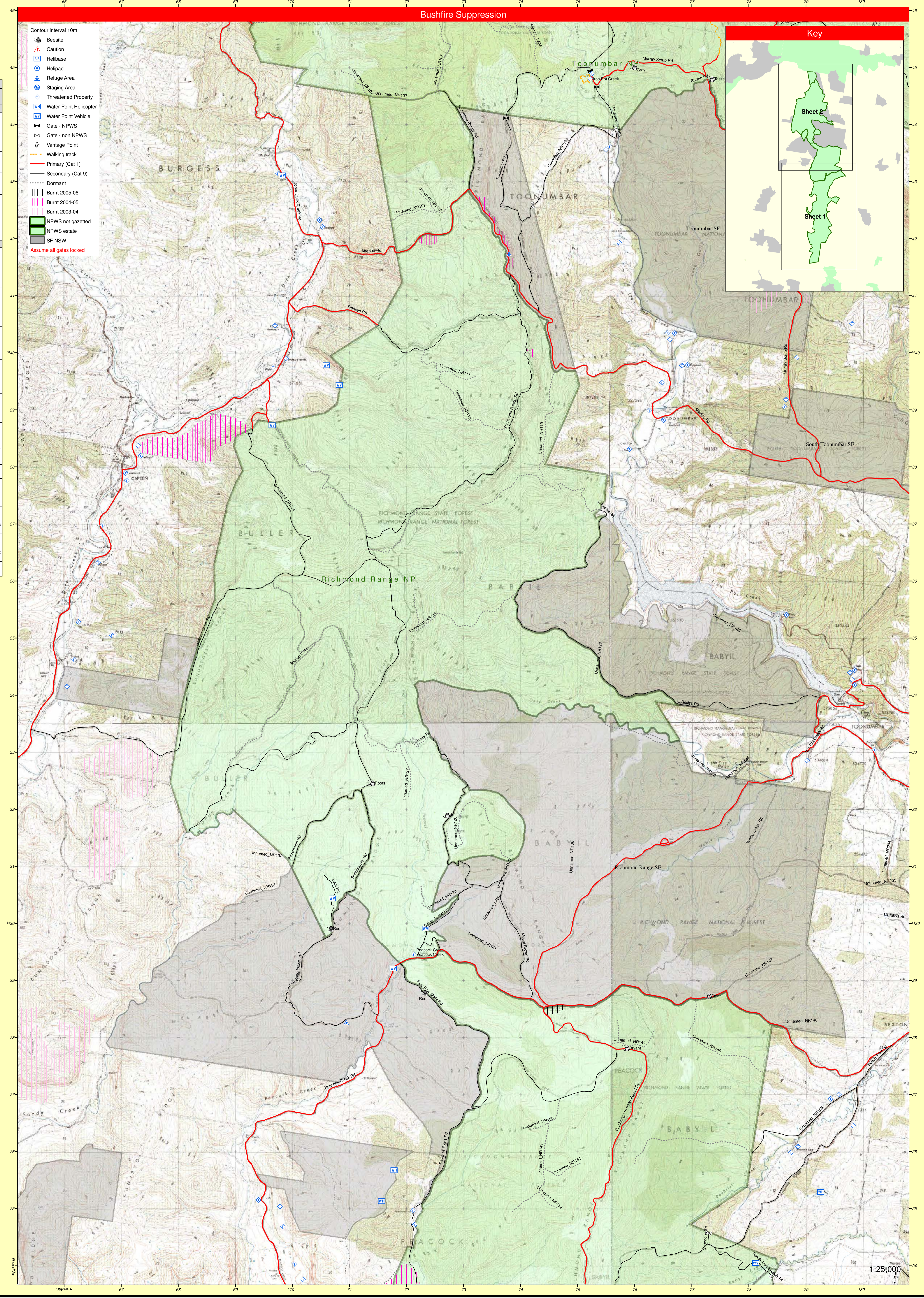
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Kyogle Area Works Depot	6632 1133
Urbenville Works Depot	6634 1455
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Officer	6627 0205
RFS Kyogle	6632 2558
City Office - Northern Rivers	6625 2644
State Forests of NSW - Casino	6665 0000
Fire & Protection Manager - Bob Williams	6665 0006
Kyogle Council - Enquiries	6632 1611
After hours emergencies	0429 152 112
Police Kyogle (phone diverted if unmanned)	6632 1444
Urbenville	6634 1244
Woodenbong	6635 1244
Ambulance	000/131 233
Radio tech (David Priest - Northern Rivers Communications)	0428 665 838

### 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
<b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal sites are not shown on this version. Vulnerable sites will be shown on the operational version of this strategy following consultation with the Aboriginal Community.</li> <li>The "Sensitive Area Management System" identifies locations of sites on park roads. Green guide posts indicate areas of sensitivity where no disturbance by earthworks is to occur.</li> </ul>
<b>Historic Heritage Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No known sites in park. If new sites located consult with a senior NPWS officer.</li> </ul>
<b>Threatened Fauna Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.12 & 5.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid impact on rainforest.</li> <li>Avoid impact on streams.</li> <li>Protect large and hollow-bearing trees.</li> </ul>
<b>Threatened Flora Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid impact on rainforest.</li> <li>The "Sensitive Area Management System" identifies locations of sites on park roads. Green guide posts indicate areas of sensitivity where no disturbance by earthworks is to occur. Operators to be briefed on this.</li> </ul>
<b>Threatened Property</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<b>General</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Aerial Water Bombing</b> (NPWS FMM 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foam should be used to increase the effectiveness of water bombing.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Aerial Ignition</b> (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 &amp; 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2-4 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aerial ignition may be used during back-burning or fuel reduction operations.</li> <li>Utilise incendiaries to rapidly progress back-burns down slope where required.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Backburning</b> (NPWS FMM 4.8) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear a 1m radius around dead and fibrous backed trees adjacent to containment lines prior to backburning, or wet down these trees as part of the backburn ignition.</li> <li>Avoid ignition of backburns at the bottom of slopes where a long and intense up slope burn is likely.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Command &amp; Control</b> (NPWS FMM 4.2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first combatant agency on site may assume control of the fire, but then must ensure the NPWS is notified promptly.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Containment Lines</b> (NPWS FMM 2.2 &amp; 3.9) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No new containment lines in rainforest.</li> <li>New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer.</li> <li>Containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Earthmoving Equipment</b> (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 &amp; 4.3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earthmoving equipment may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer.</li> <li>Earthmoving equipment must be always guided and supervised by an experienced operator, and accompanied by a support vehicle. When engaged in direct or parallel attack this vehicle must be a firefighting vehicle.</li> <li>Earthmoving equipment should be washed down prior to it entering NPWS estate.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Fire Advantage Recording</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All fire advantages used during wildfire suppression operations must be mapped and where relevant added to the database.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Exclude the use of surfactants and retardants within 50m of rainforest, watercourses, dams and swamps.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Rehabilitation</b> (NPWS FMM 5.1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.</li> <li>All re opened and new containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed at the cessation of the incident.</li> <li>If smoke becomes a hazard on local roads or highways, the police and relevant media must be notified.</li> <li>Smoke management must be in accordance with relevant RTA traffic management guidelines.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Smoke Management</b> (NPWS FMM 3.4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Visitor Management</b> (NPWS FMM 3.6 &amp; 4.13)</li> </ul>



### Strategy Information

Wildfires	Fire Season Information
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 January in more severe years.</li> <li>Seasonal wind changes, especially southerlies, require close attention.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
Prescribed Burning	Suppression Strategies
(NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.7)	
Current FIRB	Forecast FIRB
Low - Mod	Low - Mod
Low - Mod	=> High
High	All
All	All

