Northern Tablelands Region
Cataract NP & SCA
Fire Management Strategy
(Type 2)
2006
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.

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.

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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.

Approved Date: 23 Aug 2006

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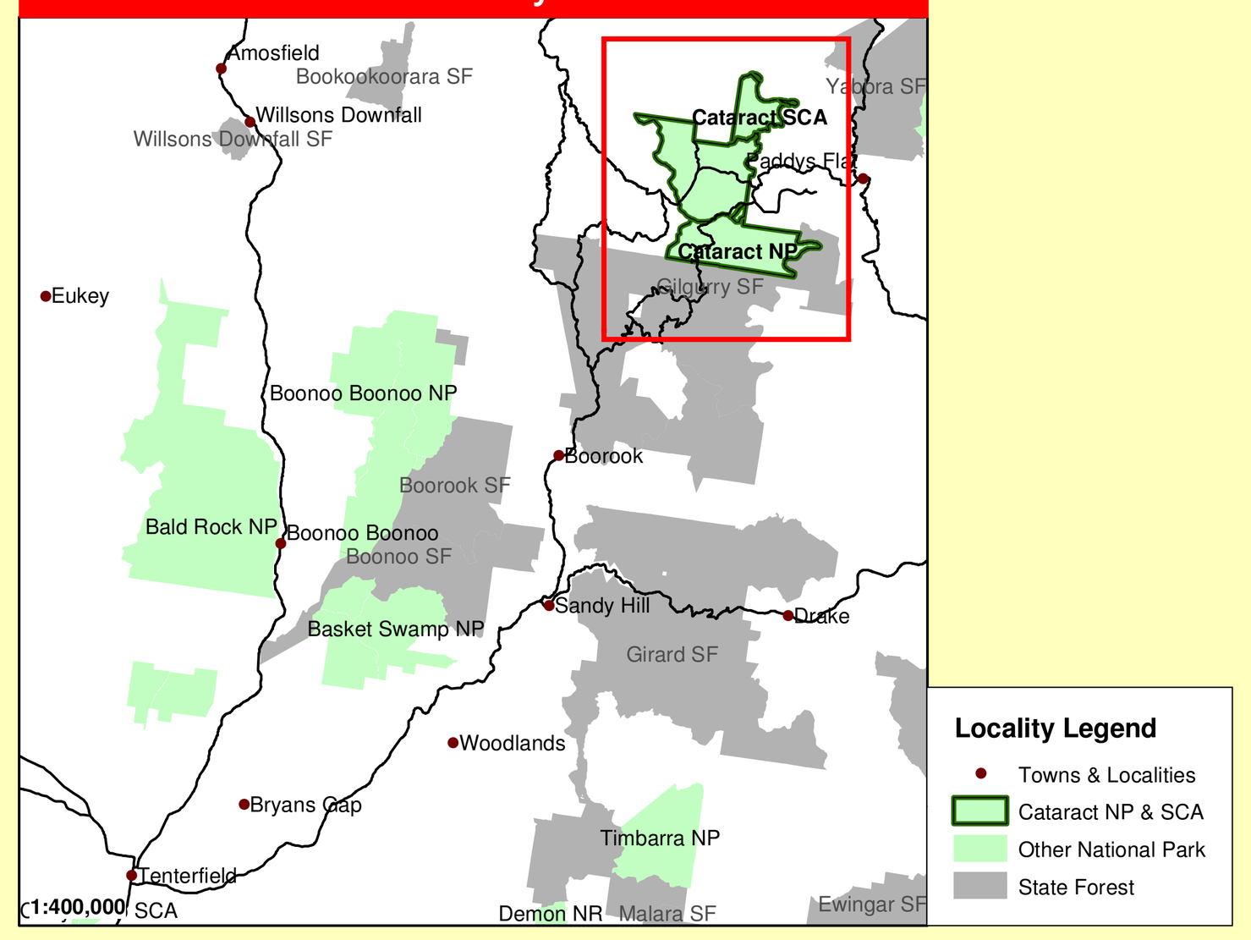
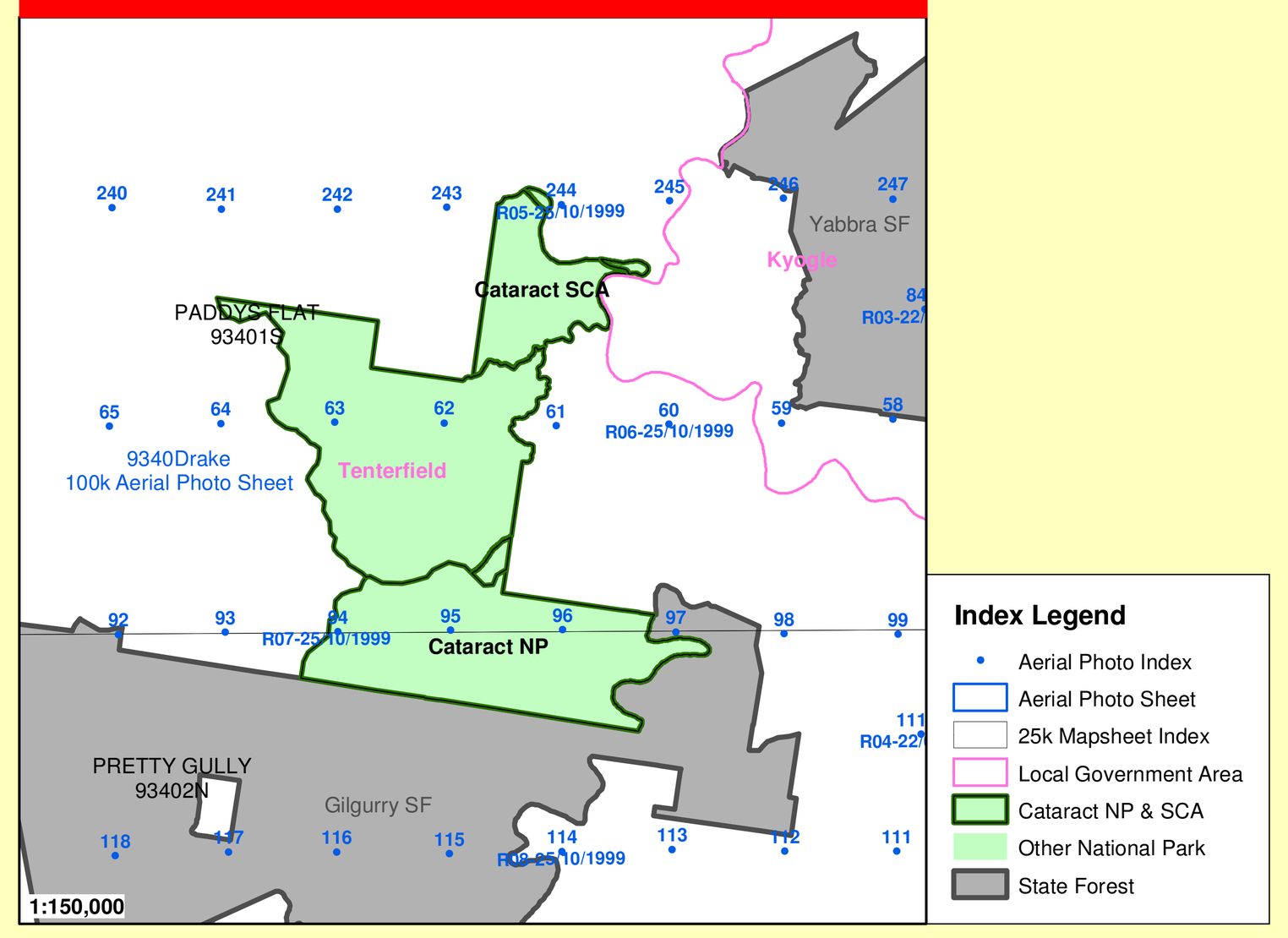
Datum: AGD66
Projection: UTM
Grid: AMG Zone 56

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

Locality



Index

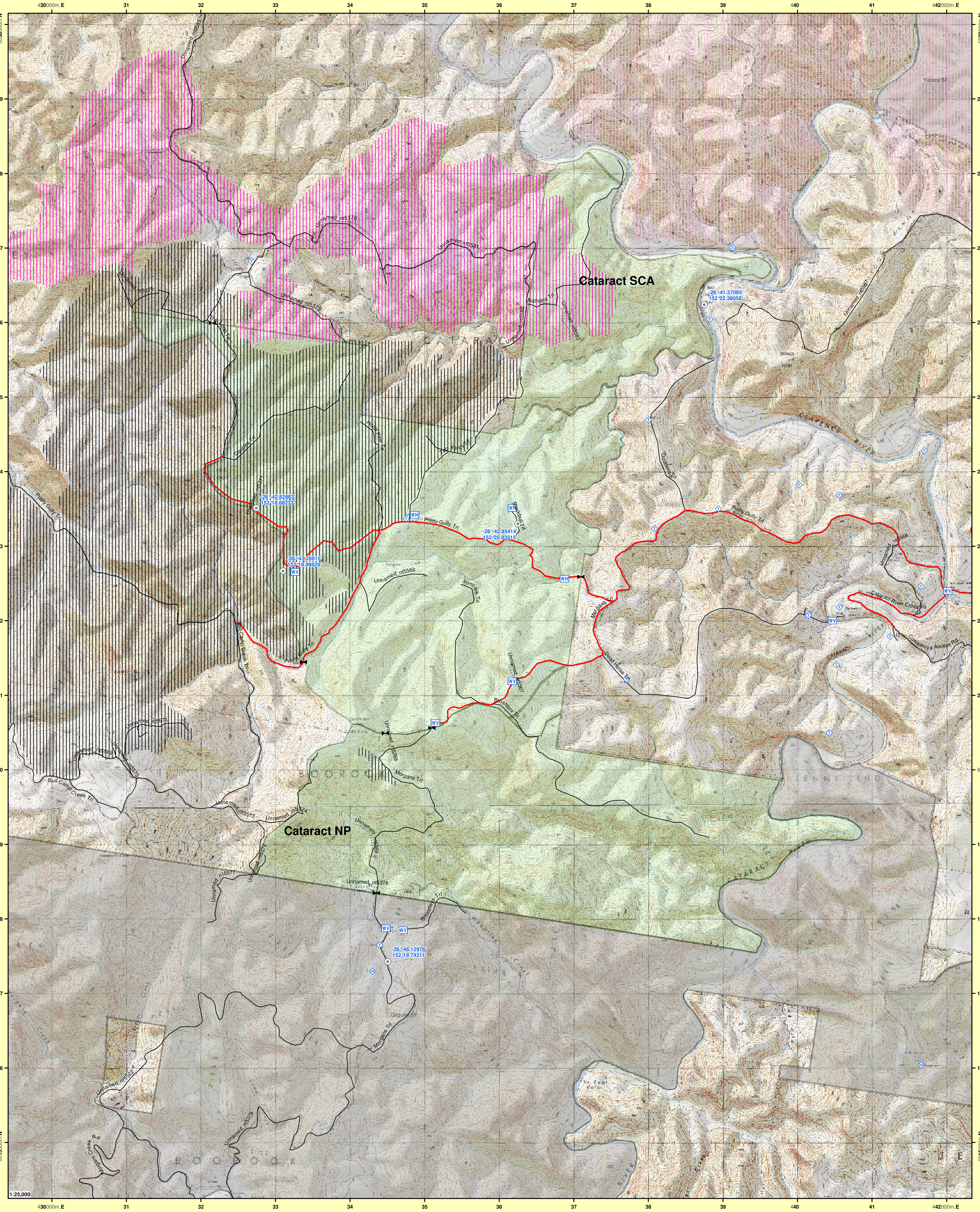


Communications Information		
Service	**Channel**	**Location and Comments**
NPWS - VHF	30	Mt Prentice Boonoo Boonoo NP. Reception limited to ridgelines.
	4	Haystack, Northern Rivers Region. Radio to telephone relay is available through the Kyogle NPWS office on this channel.
NPWS - VHF (Fireground Comms)	42	Chat Channel
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	15	Stored @ Armidale / transportable
RFS - PMR - UHF	37	Acacia Plateau
	74	Haystack
RFS - GRN		No service in NTR.
FNSW - VHF	NPWS 21	SF 421
CB - UHF		As appropriate on the day
Aircraft - VHF	119.10	
Mobile Phone - CDMA	No coverage in reserve	
Mobile Phone - GSM	No coverage in reserve	
Satellite Phone	0147 166331 Stored @ Tenterfield	

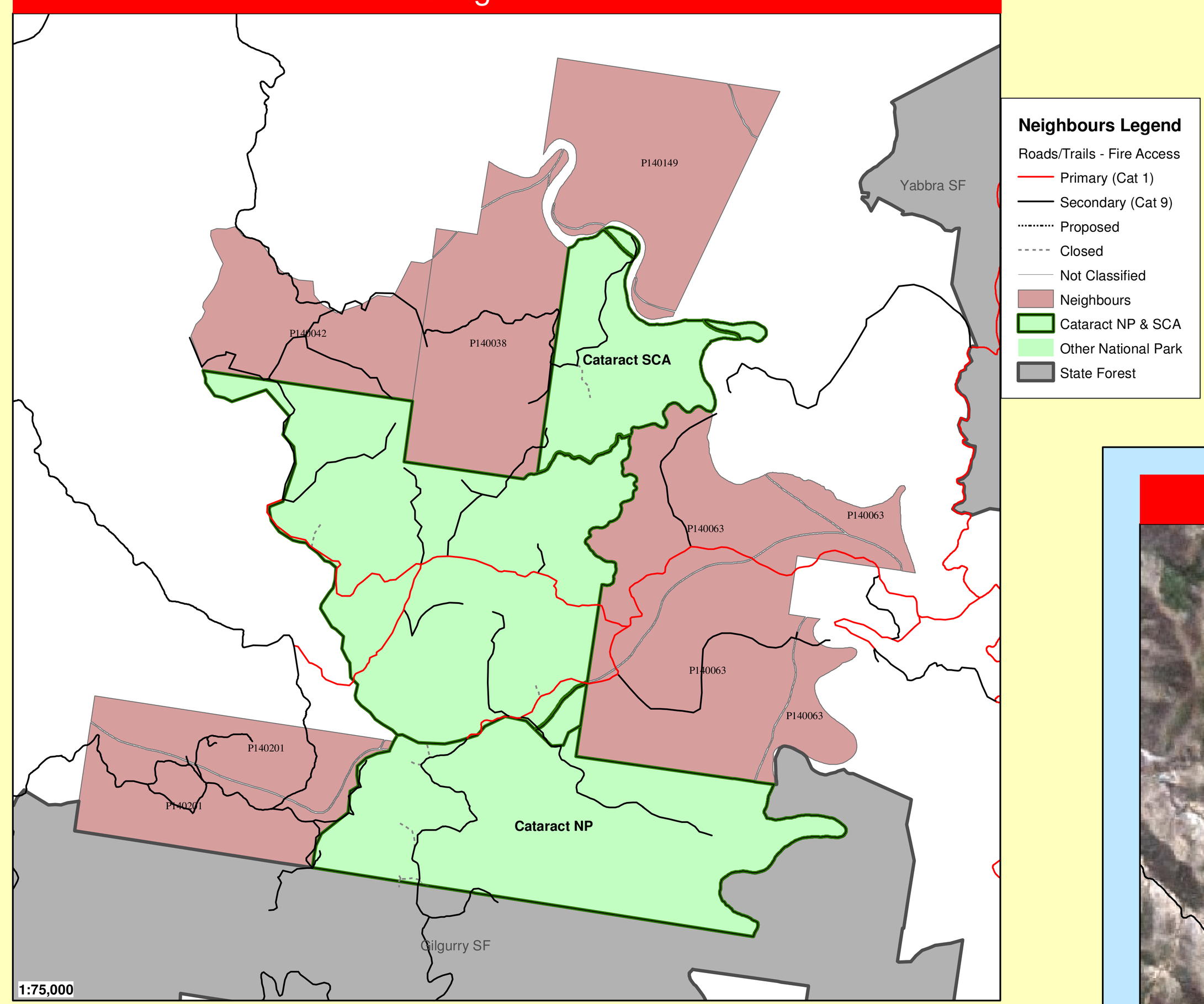
Strategy Information		
Fire Season Information		
Wildfires		• Have been known to start as early as late August, but usually the potential for a large fire event is greatest between October and December. This period may extend into January in more severe years.
Prescribed Burning (NPWS Fire Management 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.

Contact Information		
Agency	**Position / Location**	**Phone**
NPWS	Regional Duty Officer / After Hours	0428 345 789
	Area Manager	02 6736 4850
		0409 224 605
	Fire Management Officer	02 6776 0014
		0409 220 613
		02 6771 1894 (fax)
	Regional Operations Coordinator	02 6776 0007
		0428 977 519
	Tenterfield Area Office	02 6736 4298
		02 6736 4301 (fax)
	Regional Office - Armidale	02 6776 0000
		02 6771 1894 (fax)
RFS	Fire Control Officer	02 6736 4150
		0427 555 155
	Tenterfield Fire Control Centre	02 6736 4150
		02 6736 3756 (fax)
NSW Fire Brigade	Emergency	000
	No locally based units	
SES	Emergency	000
	Tabulam Unit	02 6666 1319
Police	Emergency	000
	Tabulam Station	02 6666 1244
Ambulance	Emergency	000
	Tenterfield Station	13 1233
	Bonalbo Station	13 1233
Hospital	Tenterfield	02 6739 5200
	Bonalbo	02 6665 1203
DNR	Grafton Regional Office	02 6640 2000
		02 6640 2185 (fax)
Forests NSW	Casino Office	02 6662 0900
		02 6662 5826 (fax)
Council	Tenterfield Shire Council	02 6736 1744
		02 6736 2669 (fax)
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Muli Muli LALC Muli Muli Crs, Woodenbong	02 6635 1487 02 6635 1498 (fax)
Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Officer	Glen Innes	02 6739 0721

Bushfire Suppression



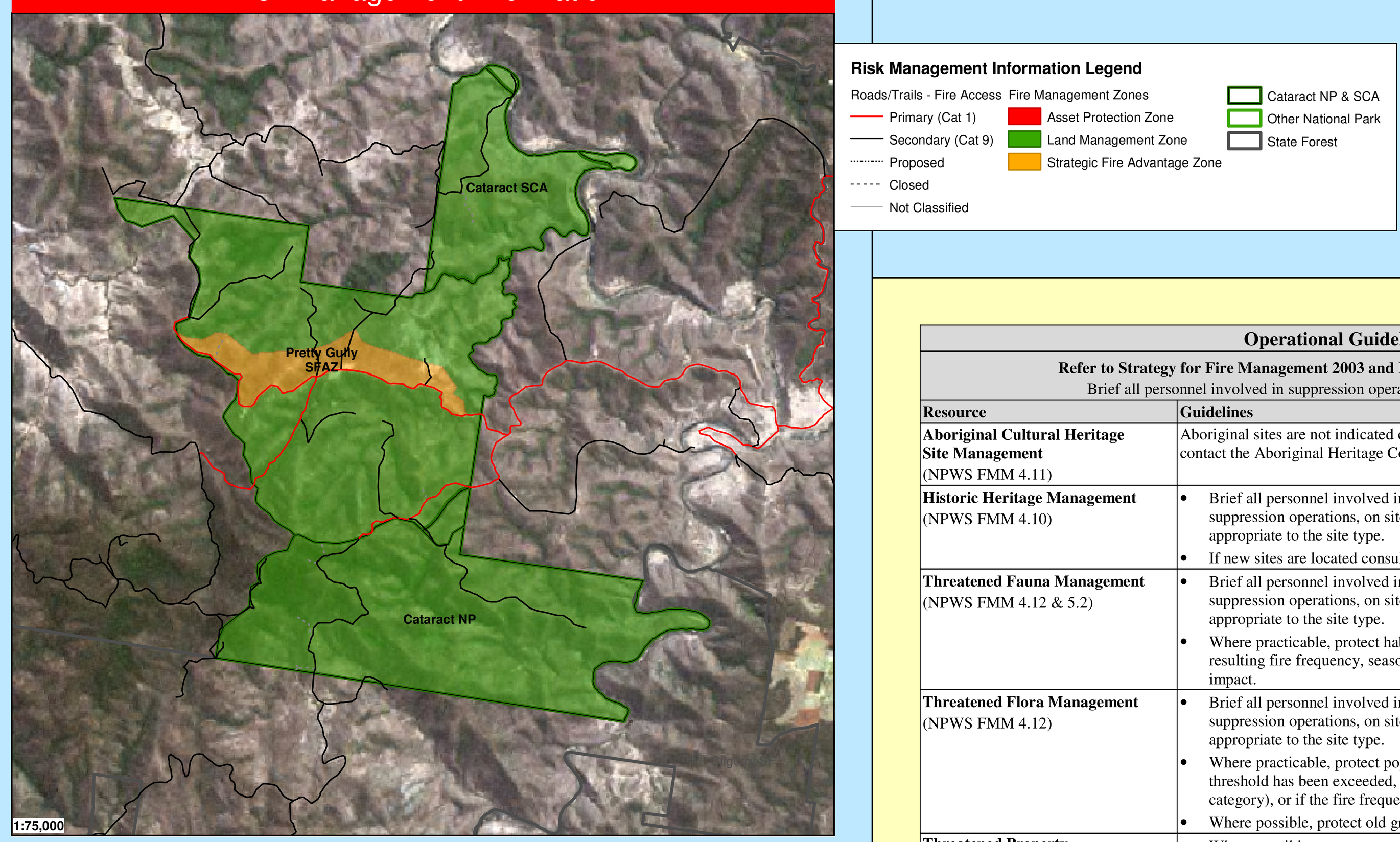
Neighbours



Neighbour Information
For further information, please refer to the Regional Contacts database.

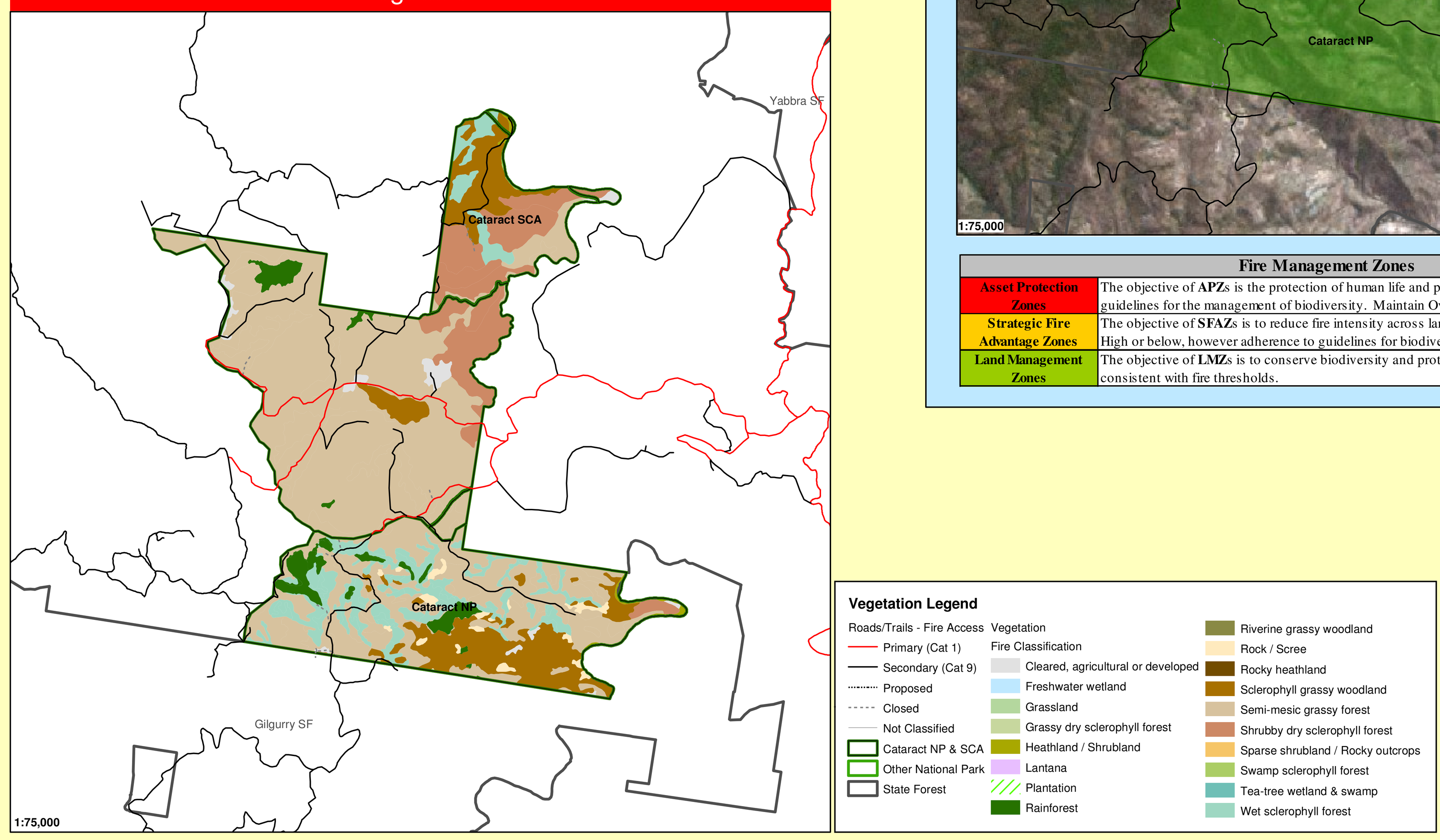
Map ID	Property Name	Surname	Firstname	Phone
P140038	Bennel Pty Ltd			
P140042	Clarke Property			
P140063	Currawinya			
P140149	Jeffery Property			
P140201	Morton Property			

Risk Management Information

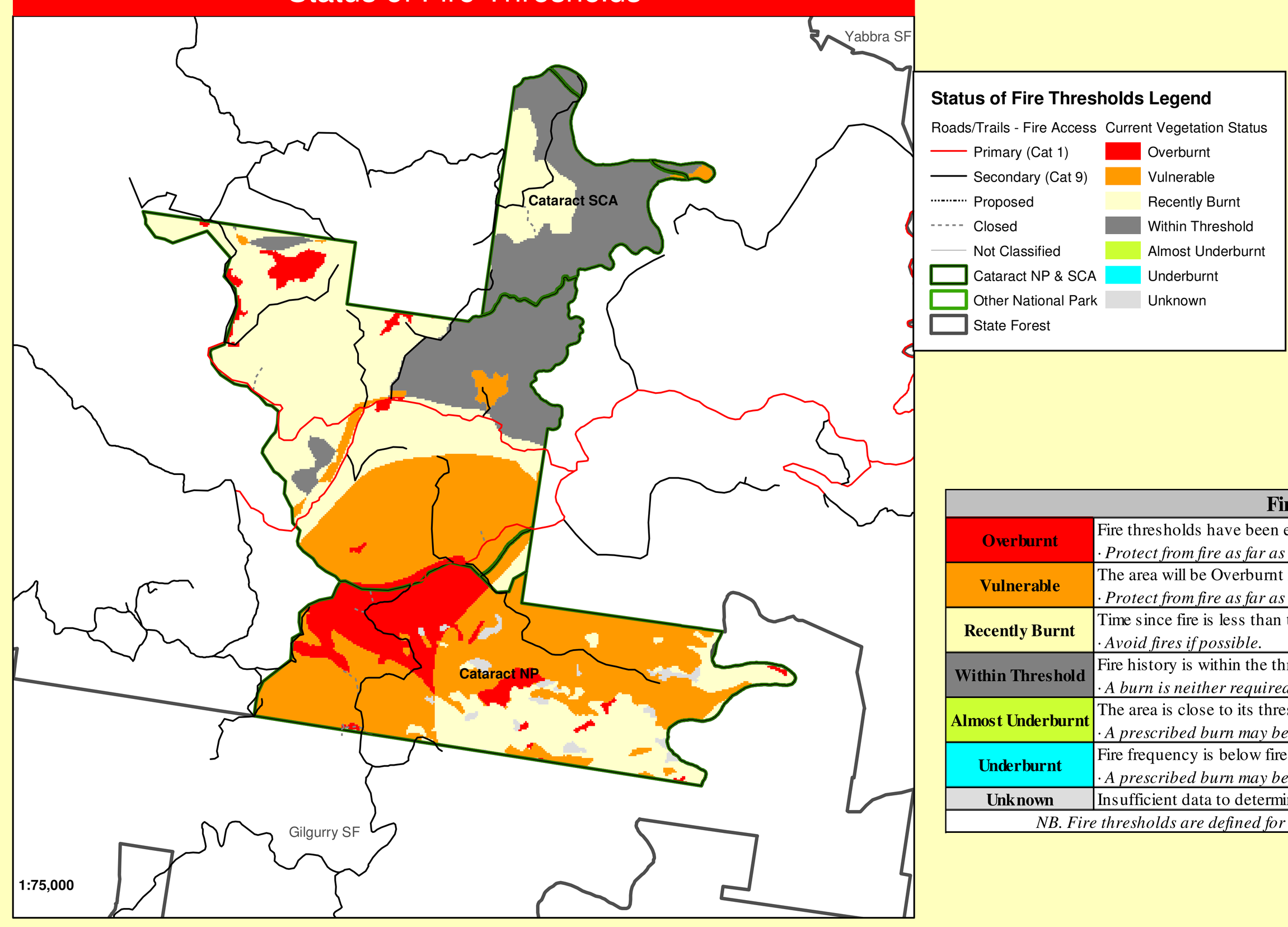


Fire Management Zones	
Asset Protection Zones	The objective of **APZ**s is the protection of human life and property. This will have precedence over guidelines for the management of biodiversity. Maintain Overall Fuel Hazard at Moderate or below.
Strategic Fire Advantage Zones	The objective of **SFAZ**s 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.
Land Management Zones	The objective of **LMZ**s is to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural heritage. Manage fire consistent with fire thresholds.

Vegetation



Status of Fire Thresholds



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	

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)	Aboriginal sites are not indicated on this strategy. For information on Aboriginal sites contact the Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Officer or Local Aboriginal Land Council.
Historic Heritage Management (NPWS FMM 4.10)	• 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 Management (NPWS FMM 4.12 & 5.2)	• 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. • Where practicable, protect habitat areas and trees from the fire if the effects of the resulting fire frequency, season &/or intensity will have a significant or unknown impact.
Threatened Flora Management (NPWS FMM 4.12)	• 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. • Where practicable, protect populations or individuals from fire if the fire frequency threshold has been exceeded, or the species is an obligate seeder (fire response category), or if the fire frequency threshold &/or fire response category is unknown. • Where possible, protect old growth habitat trees.
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 asked for an assessment of their current level of asset protection preparedness.
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. • 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. • Utilise incendiaries to rapidly progress back-burns down slope where required.
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. • Avoid ignition of backburns at the bottom of slopes where a long and intense up slope burn is likely.
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 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 (NPWS FMM 2.2 & 3.9)	• Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, where practicable, except where they can be constructed 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 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.
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. • 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 should be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS estate. • In areas of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* infestation, the use of earthmoving equipment is not permitted. After rain, the use of vehicles is to be restricted to times when soil will not be moved off site in the form of mud etc. In the event of vehicles moving during rain, they are to be effectively washed down prior to leaving known infected sites.
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 products name recorded. • The Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed.
Rehabilitation (NPWS FMM 5.1)	• Where practicable, 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.