

Dowe National Park Fire Management Strategy 2016 - 2021

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.
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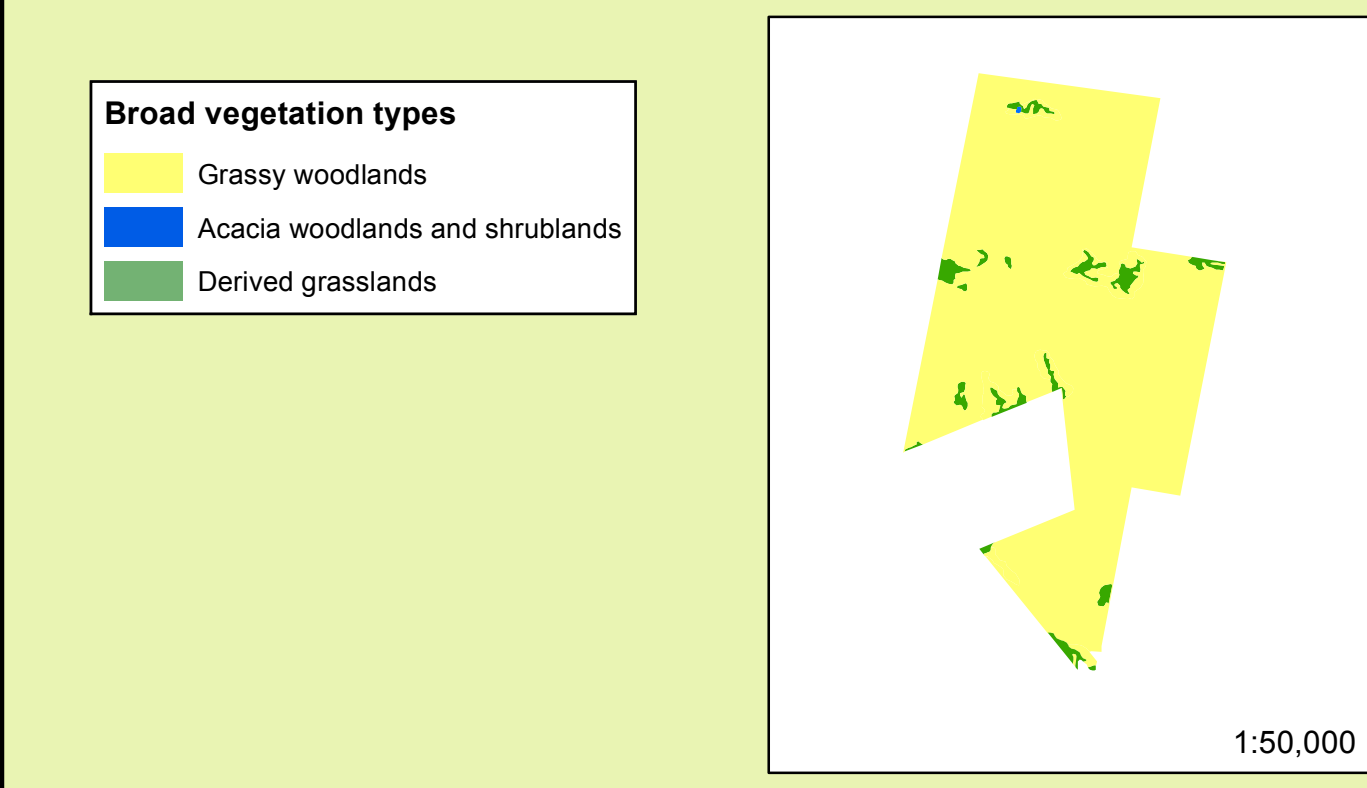
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Contact Information		Locality
Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Duty Officer (24 hour)	6842 3041
NSW RFS Liverpool Range Zone (Primary RFS contact)	Coonabarabran Area Office (bus. hours)	6842 1311
NSW RFS Tamworth	Andrew Luke (Zone Manager)	0499 247 756
RFS Rural Fire Brigades	Duty Officer	0747 1493
Emergency Services	Alynn Parkes (Tamworth Zone Manager)	0427 622 166
SES	Duty Officer	6762 7641
Police	Kelvin - Steven Carter (Liverpool range)	6743 3531
Council	Borah - Stuart Lockrey (Tamworth)	0428 857 321
Lake Keepit Dam Manager	Police, Fire, Ambulance	132 500
Lake Keepit Sport and Rec	Gunnedah	6742 9099
	Gunnedah	6740 2100
	Tamworth	0427 622 825
		6769 7406
		6769 7603

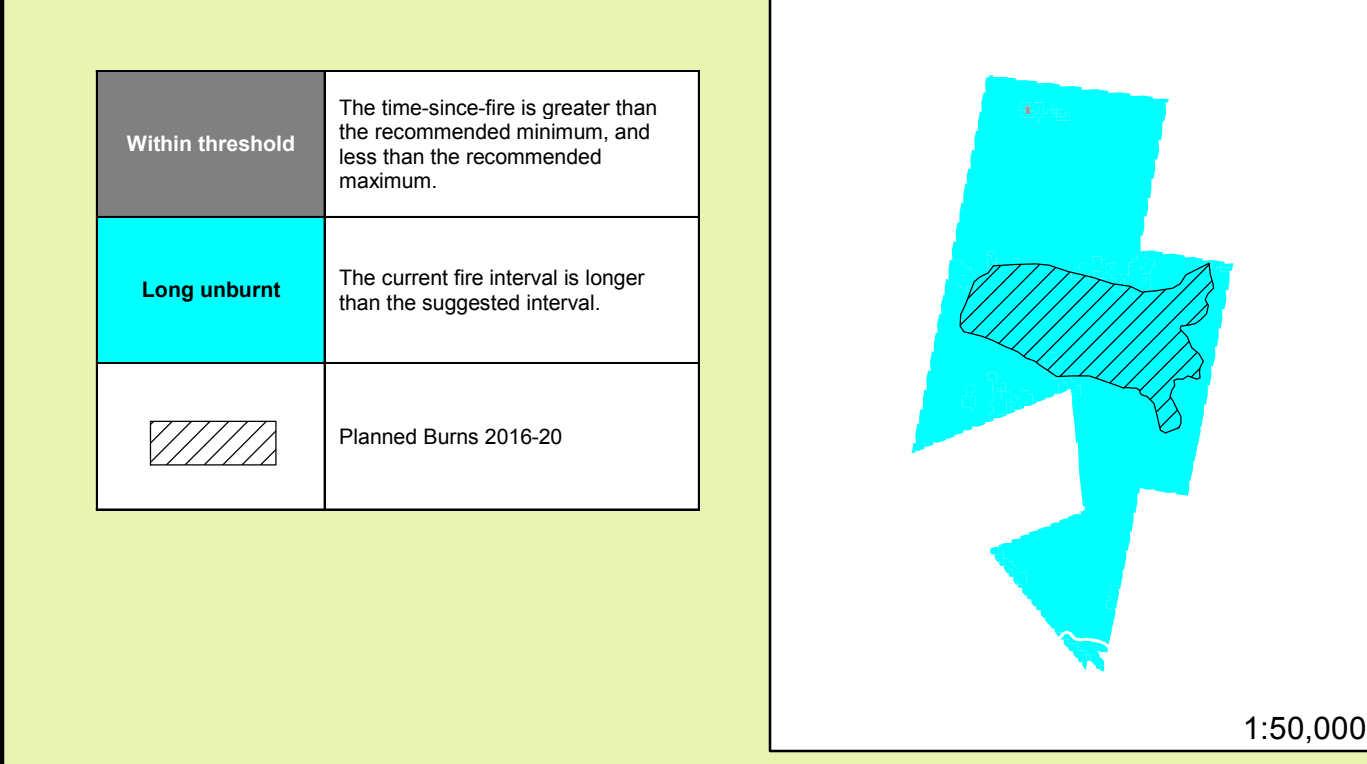
Communications Information		
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS VHF	302 324	• The Governor (high points only) • Blackjack
Parks radio		• NPWS fireground channels 1 - 7
RFS	N058 P006	• Black Jack Mountain (Liverpool Ranges) • Mount Baldwin (Tamworth)
UHF - CB		• Small fires - Channel 10 • Large fires - determined by IMT
Aviation	127.4 119.4	• CTAF - Gunnedah • CTAF-ARU - Tamworth
Mobile phone		• Telstra 3G coverage, lower at Mount Baldwin

Map Details	
Date:	Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA) 1994
Projection:	Map Grid of Australia (MGA) Zone 55
Map base:	ADS-42 Manilla and Bogbar
Scale:	1:25,000 Topographic Maps (Kabin 8836-2-N & Baldwin 8036-3-N)
Scale:	Noted scales are true when printed on A1 paper

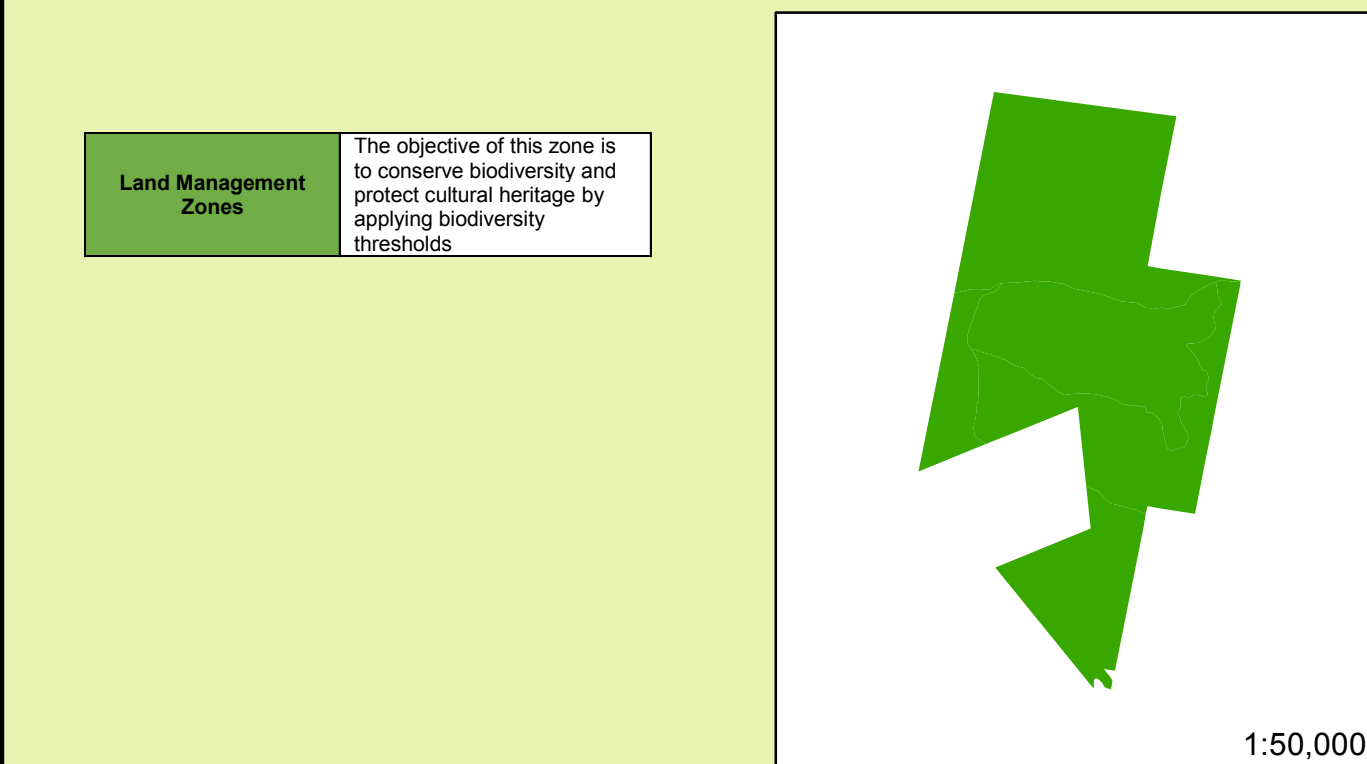
Vegetation



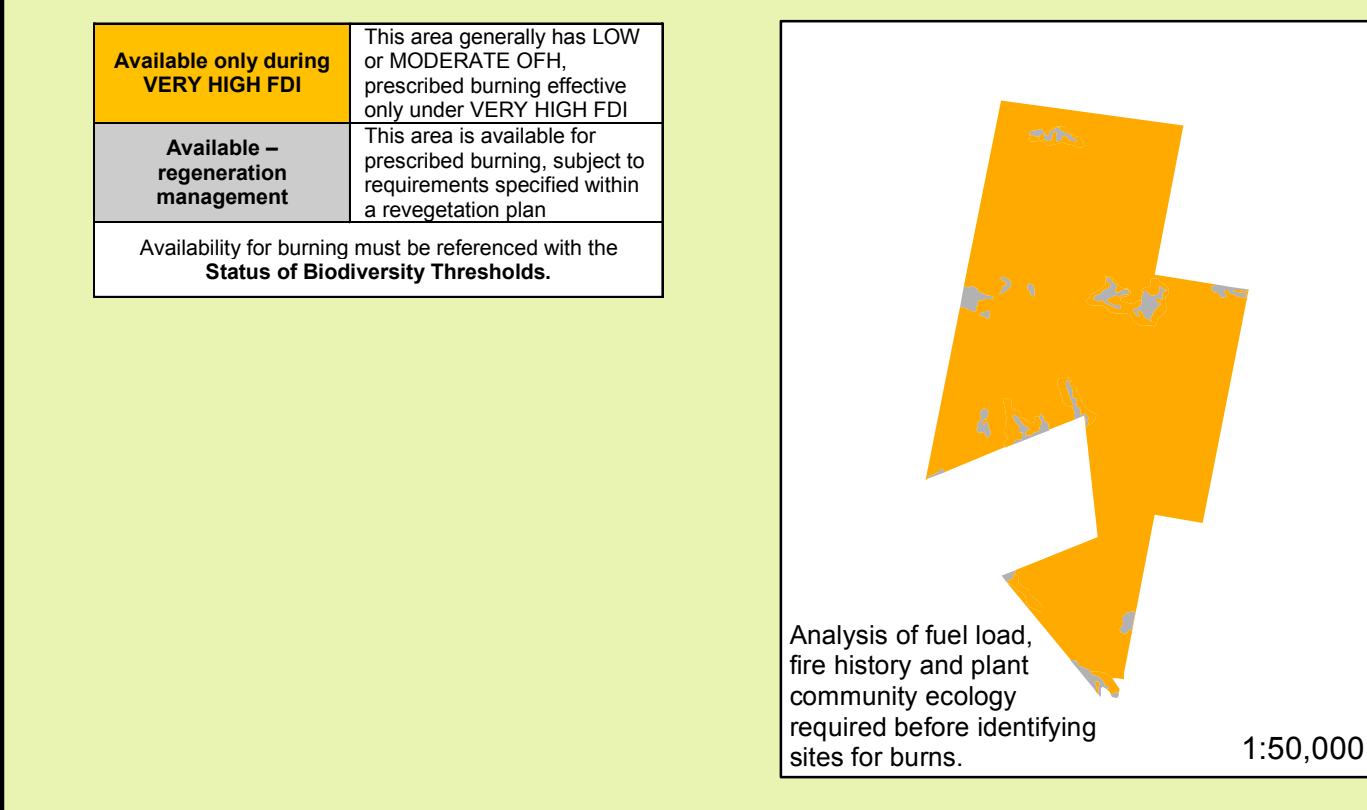
Status of Biodiversity Thresholds



Bushfire Risk Management Strategies



Vegetation Suitability for Prescribed Burning



Fire Season Information

Wildfires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The critical wildfire season generally occurs during November and December. During periods of strong negative Southern Oscillation Indices (El Niño events), this period may commence late September and extend into the first half of January. The end of the critical fire season is often marked by wet storm activity.
Prescribed Burning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective prescribed burning may need to be conducted once the "critical fire season" and thunderstorm season is over. This is due to the LOW - MODERATE Overall Fuel Hazard for most vegetation types. Prescribed burning attempted after autumn rain is unlikely to be effective.
Operational Guidelines	
Aerial operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aerial operations will be managed by trained and competent personnel. This includes directing aerial bombing and aerial ignition operations. The use of bombing aircraft without the support of ground-based suppression crews should be limited to very specific circumstances. All aerial ignition operations require the consent of the Incident Controller.
Backburning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All personnel must be fully briefed before back burning operations begin. Backburning in areas of Low - Moderate OFH will require the use of wind, or low humidity to maximise effectiveness. Backburning should be timed for late afternoon and early evening. Where practicable to assist mop-up efforts, clear a 1m radius around dead and fibrous barked trees adjacent to containment lines prior to backburning, or wet down these trees during the ignition.
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. A senior NPWS officer is to liaise with the RFS to ensure that the agency in command and control is determined and an Incident Controller is appointed.
Containment Lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing or previous roads, tracks and control lines should be used wherever possible. 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 constructed with minimal environmental 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. Plant work in White Box communities and around the Yarran shrubland is limited to fire trails and dormant trails.
Earthmoving Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer. Plant must always be supervised by an experienced officer, and accompanied by a fire-fighting vehicle when engaged in direct or parallel attack. Plant must be washed down, where practicable, prior to entering and exiting NPWS estate.
Fire Suppression Chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of foam, wetting agents and retardants will be permitted on the reserve. Fire suppression chemicals are not to be applied within 50m of water courses and dams. The use of retardants requires the approval of a Senior NPWS officer.
Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
Watering points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider deployment of bulk water carriers to support fire operations. Water for aerial use may be lifted from Lake Keepit - contact dam management - see contact details under Contact Information.
Smoke Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential smoke impacts and mitigation tactics will be assessed during the planning of fire operations.
Visitor Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger, and will be closed during fire operations.
WARNINGS	Black text - general guidelines Blue text - reserve specific guidelines Red text - Major warnings

Operational Guidelines - Heritage	
Resource	Guidelines
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modified trees (IS1), including scarred trees Protect site from fire, clear base of litter and shrubs, exclude site tree from fire where possible Foam may be used to protect the tree, or to extinguish fire Do not cut trees
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground based sites (IS2), including: camp sites, artefacts, grinding grooves, waterholes and quarries Protect site from any ground disturbance, including the use of earth-moving equipment and vehicles
Threatened Flora and Fauna Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource sites (IS3), including fig-tree groves Protect site from physical disturbance Avoid any burning into Dry Vine Rainforests AllIMS database must be checked as part of planning for fire operations Endangered ecological communities - Grassy Box Woodlands Significant vegetation - Yarran shrubland Mechanical construction of control lines not permitted Machinery use is limited to existing fire trails and dormant trails

Suppression Strategies	
Conditions & forecast	Guidelines
Fire danger rating LOW - HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a broad containment strategy using existing tracks, low fuel areas, open areas and recently burnt areas.
Fire danger rating VERY HIGH - EXTREME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a strategy containing the fire to the smallest area practicable, using a combination of ground crews, fire units, machinery and aircraft. Secure flank as soon as possible on the next predicted downwind side of the fire. Any proposed back burning must be assessed on the required resources, their capacity and the time required to mop-up and secure proposed burn edges prior to the onset of Severe + conditions, and then hold.
Catastrophic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revert to property protection.

Vegetation Management		
Vegetation Community	Vegetation management guidelines	Fire Behaviour
Grassy woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An interval between fire events less than 15 years and greater than 50 years should be avoided Selected areas to be maintained with interval greater than 100 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread would be low to moderate due to Low - Moderate OFH Localised areas of HIGH OFH may occur
White Box / White Pine / Silver-leaved Ironbark woodlands Hunter communities C1 & C2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High intensity fires required for recruitment events Exclude low intensity prescribed burns and backburns Minimum interval for fire events about 50 years, no maximum period - dependant on observed serotency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread is usually low due to Low OFH
Motherbush, Black Pine, White Pine, Bloodwood woodlands and shrublands Hunter community C3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum interval between fire events should be greater than 2 years Prescribed burning in regeneration areas should be scheduled according to a revegetation / rehabilitation plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread dependant on seasonal conditions A Low OFH occurs during dry seasons A Moderate - High OFH may develop after successive wet seasons producing continuous cover
Derived grasslands Hunter community C4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum interval between fire events should be greater than 2 years Prescribed burning in regeneration areas should be scheduled according to a revegetation / rehabilitation plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread dependant on seasonal conditions A Low OFH occurs during dry seasons A Moderate - High OFH may develop after successive wet seasons producing continuous cover

OFH - Overall fuel hazard - A rating system that measures leaf litter, grasses, shrubs, bark type and bark condition. Consists of ratings for surface fuel, near-surface fuel, elevated fuel and bark.

