

Mid North Coast Region

Birriwal Bulga National Park & Weelah Nature Reserve

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.

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.

This document is copyright. Apart from any use for dealing for the purpose of study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the copyright Act, no part may be reproduced by any process without written permission.

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is a part of the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Published by the Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW), August 2005.

Contact: NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Mid North Coast Region, PO Box 61 Port Macquarie 2444

ISBN: 1 74137 443 X

DEC Number: 2005/294

Last Updated: 05/08/2005

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 30 September 2002

Director Northern Parks & Wildlife Division

Locality

Datum: AGD66  
Projection: UTM  
Grid: AMG Zone 56

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

Produced by MNC GIS

Bushfire Suppression

Risk Management Information

Asset Protection Zones

The objective of APZs 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 SFAZs 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 HNZs is to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural heritage. Manage fire consistent with fire thresholds.

Vegetation

Status of Fire Thresholds

Overburnt

Fire thresholds have been exceeded.

Protect from fire as far as possible.

The area will be Overburnt if it burns this year.

Protect from fire as far as possible.

Vulnerable

Fire history is within the threshold for vegetation in this area.

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.

Fire frequency is below fire thresholds in the area.

A prescribed burn may be advantageous. Consider allowing unplanned fires to burn.

Insufficient data to determine fire threshold.

Recently Burnt

Fire history is within the threshold for vegetation in this area.

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.

Fire frequency is below fire thresholds in the area.

A prescribed burn may be advantageous. Consider allowing unplanned fires to burn.

Insufficient data to determine fire threshold.

Within Threshold

Fire history is within the threshold for vegetation in this area.

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.

Fire frequency is below fire thresholds in the area.

A prescribed burn may be advantageous. Consider allowing unplanned fires to burn.

Insufficient data to determine fire threshold.

Almost Underburnt

Fire history is within the threshold for vegetation in this area.

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.

Fire frequency is below fire thresholds in the area.

A prescribed burn may be advantageous. Consider allowing unplanned fires to burn.

Insufficient data to determine fire threshold.

Underburnt

Fire history is within the threshold for vegetation in this area.

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.

Fire frequency is below fire thresholds in the area.

A prescribed burn may be advantageous. Consider allowing unplanned fires to burn.

Insufficient data to determine fire threshold.

Unknown

Fire history is within the threshold for vegetation in this area.

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.

Fire frequency is below fire thresholds in the area.

A prescribed burn may be advantageous. Consider allowing unplanned fires to burn.

Insufficient data to determine fire threshold.

Fire thresholds are defined for vegetation communities to conserve biodiversity.

Index

Contact Information		
Agency	Position / Location	Phone
NPWS	MNC Regional Office	6586 8300
	MNC Regional Duty Officer	Fax 6584 9402 016 301 161
Northern Section of Reserve		
Hastings Area Office		
Ranger - Andrew Marshall		
Senior Field Supervisor - Earl Winter		
Southern Section of Reserve		
Manning Area Office		
Ranger - Kathryn Brown		
Senior Field Supervisor - Dean Wood		
Rural Fire Service		
Greater Taree Fire Control Centre (24 hours)		
NSW Fire Brigade		
Emergency		
Taree Station		
SES		
Emergency		
Taree Unit		
Wingham Unit		
Police		
Emergency		
Taree Station		
Ambulance		
Emergency		
Bookings		
Forests NSW		
Wingham		
Wauchope		
Council		
Greater Taree City Council		

Strategy Information	
Fire Season Information	
Wildfires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Wildfires are usually associated with El Niño drought events.</li><li>Fires 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 and February in the more severe drought years.</li><li>During this period in dry seasons fires may exhibit high intensity behaviour under windy conditions.</li><li>Most fires have been associated with escaped burns from adjoining landholders.</li><li>Suppression operations should be undertaken in accordance with the NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.6, Natural Area Fire Management, in particular, the use of strategies and tactics that will minimise the impact of fire management activities.</li></ul>
Prescribed Burning (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hazard Reduction burns can best be carried out during autumn and winter</li><li>Areas in the Park that have been frequently burnt have understoreys dominated by Blady Grass.</li></ul>
Suppression Strategies	
Current FDR	Forecast FDR
Low - Mod	Low - Mod
Low - Mod	= > High
High	All
All	All

Communications Information		
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	7	Mount Marie
NPWS - VHF (Fireground Comms)	39	
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	13	Stored at Hastings Depot.
Forests NSW	18	NPWS Channel 96 Taree
RFS - PMR - UHF	19	Middle Brother
CB - UHF	See Note	Incident Controller to advise channel
Mobile Phone - CDMA	Yes	Ridgtops Only
Mobile Phone - GSM	No	

Area / Resource	
Aboriginal and historic sites	
Aboriginal sites are not indicated on this strategy. For information on Aboriginal sites contact the Aboriginal Conservation Heritage Officer or Local Aboriginal Land Council	
Threatened flora	
Threatened fauna	

Fire fighting Activity	
Aerial bombing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The use of bombing aircraft should support containment operations by aggressively attacking hotspots and spotfires.</li><li>Fired wing bombing aircraft must operate out of the closest airfield practicable.</li></ul>
Aerial ignition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All is practicable and may be used in these two reserves.</li></ul>
Backburning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Temperature and humidity trends must be monitored carefully to determine the safest times to implement backburns. Generally, when FDI is Very High or greater, target backburning operations to begin when humidity rises in the late afternoon and early evening. With a lower FDI backburning may be safely undertaken during the day.</li><li>Where possible clear 1m radius around dead and thorny backed trees adjacent to control line before backburning.</li><li>Brief all personnel involved on the location of Aboriginal or historic sites and threatened species and protect from burning.</li></ul>
Containment lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No new control lines will be constructed, except where they can be constructed by hand with minimal erosion potential.</li><li>Only existing or previous trail or control line routes will be used.</li><li>In consultation with Planning Officers, Divisional Commanders, Section Commanders and Crew Leaders, prioritise the roads and trails needed for control lines requiring works.</li><li>When clearing trails by machine or hand, push all rubbish to the offside. NOT the side to be burnt.</li><li>Close all tracks not required for other purposes immediately after the incident.</li><li>Incorporate remedial works for erosion control during control line where possible.</li><li>Use of rainforest communities as part of a fire control line is only to be used under exceptional circumstances associated with wildfire. Once KIDD exceeds 125 rainfall can be expected to burn and ground fires may become an issue.</li><li>Brief all personnel involved in control line construction / maintenance on the location of Aboriginal or historic sites and threatened species.</li><li>All heavy equipment used to clear or establish control lines will be accompanied a GPH crew for erosion and safety.</li></ul>
Crew shifts and changeovers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Crew shift should be no longer than 12 hrs within a 24-hr period with a min 8-hr break.</li><li>Max of 3 days on fire ground and/or IMT.</li></ul>
Fire fighting chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Wetting and foaming agents are permitted for use in bushfire control.</li><li>Exclude the use of wetting and foaming agents within 50 metres of a rainforest, watercourse, dam or swamp.</li><li>The use of retardant will be avoided where reasonable alternatives are available.</li><li>Aerially applied retardant will not be used in this Park.</li></ul>
Smoke management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Backburning operations will have regard to the best practice guidelines in the NPWS Fire Management Manual.</li><li>If smoke becomes a traffic hazard on local roads or highways adjacent to the fire the police and media will be notified.</li></ul>
Visitor control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The park may be closed to the public when it is considered necessary due to conditions, which create an extreme fire danger, or during fire fighting operations.</li></ul>