

Eugowra Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy 2014

Mapsheet 1 of 1

**Office of Environment & Heritage
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service**

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 Service 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 fair 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. This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is part of the Office of Environment and Heritage.

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Map Details	Related Documents
Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA) 1994 Projection: Map Grid of Australia (MGA) Zone 55 Data: ADS40: 2007-2008 satellite imagery.	1:50k Topographic Map: Forbes 8531-S 1:100 Topographic Map: Parkes 8531 Scale: Noted scales are true when printed on A1 size paper

Operational Guidelines

Brief all personnel involved in suppression operations on the following issues using the SMEACS format:

General	Guidelines
Aerial Water Bombing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aerial ignition may be used during back-burning or fuel reduction operations where practicable, but only with the prior consent of NPWS Senior Officer, Section 44 delegate or as prescribed in an operational burn plan. The use of aerial ignition as a fire suppression tool should be specified in the IAP or within the prescribed burn plan. Aerial ignition will only be undertaken by qualified and competent navigators and bombardiers. Utilise aerial ignition to rapidly burn out large areas and/or reduce spotting potential by preventing longer uphill fire runs. Aerial ignition can be utilised to rapidly progress back-burns down-slope where required.
Back-burning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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, back-burning should commence when the humidity begins to rise in the late afternoon or early evening, with a lower FDI back-burning may be safely undertaken during the day. Where practicable, clear a 1m radius around dead and hollow bearing trees adjacent to containment lines prior to back-burning, or wet down these trees as part of the back-burn ignition. Use parallel containment lines when applicable. All personnel must be fully briefed before back-burning operations begin.
Command & Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard Incident Management Systems are to be applied. 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 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, where practicable, except when they can be constructed with minimal environmental impact. New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer. When constructing containment lines, steep and rocky areas and locations adjacent to riparian (creeks or streams) or significant drainage lines should be avoided. All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on the protection of the reserve's natural and cultural assets. Containment line construction using earthmoving equipment must be conducted in accordance with this RFMS, the OEH FMM and sedimentation and erosion control measures must be implemented in accordance with both OEH and DLWC fire trail constructions guidelines and standards and the PWG Roads Policy (Manual). Containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed immediately at the cessation of the incident.
Earthmoving Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 always be guided and supervised by an appropriately experienced person, who can assist with survey (route selection) and the identification and protection of threatened species and/or historic and Aboriginal sites (known nor unknown) along the proposed containment line. To assist with the protection of natural and cultural assets and drainage features earth moving operators need to be briefed and observe the Threatened Sites Guidelines contained in this RFMS. Earthmoving equipment must always be accompanied by a support vehicle and when engaged in direct or parallel attack this vehicle must be a fire fighting vehicle. Earthmoving equipment must be washed down (where practicable) prior to entering NPWS estate and again on exiting NPWS estate. Where multiple items of earthmoving equipment are being used, the IMT should consider the appointment of a Plant Operations Manager.
Fire Advantage Recording	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All fire advantages used during wildfire suppression operations must be mapped and where relevant added to the database.
Fire Suppression Chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of foams and gels (surfactants) is permitted on the reserve. The use of fire retardants are 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 watercourses, dams and swamps. The aerial application use foam, gels and retardants requires the approval of a NPWS Senior Officer. Areas where fire suppression chemicals are used must be mapped and the used product's name recorded. The Threatened Sites Guidelines contained within this RFMS are to be observed.
Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
Smoke Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Structural Fire Fighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OEH personnel are not trained in structural fire fighting and must not enter a structure in order to undertake structural fire fighting. Fire suppression activities may be undertaken from outside a structure in accordance with the policies in the NPWS FMM, in order to protect a built asset.
Visitor Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations. Areas of the reserve may be closed for prescribed burning operations.
WARNINGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beware of overhead powerlines. Access to the reserve is via private property.
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No water points in reserve. Bring water cart from Eugowra village if one is available.

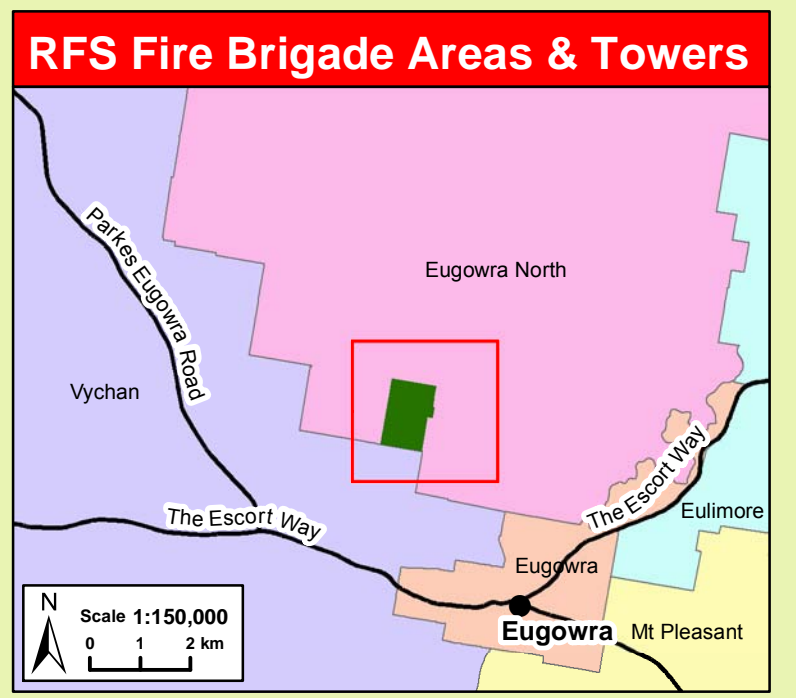
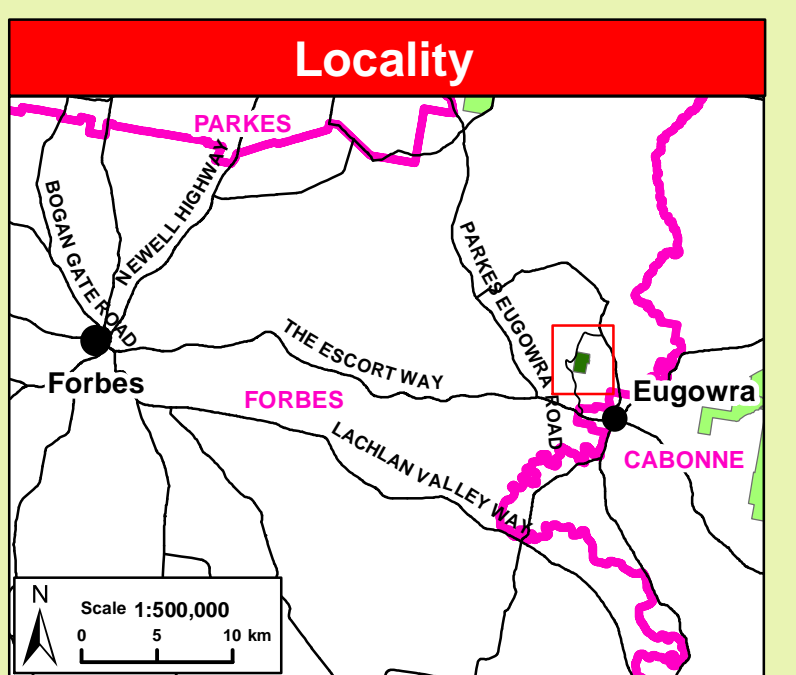
Status of Biodiversity Thresholds

Scale 1:15,000

Within Threshold	Evaluation of Biodiversity Thresholds
Within Threshold	Within the threshold for vegetation in this area. Species have had sufficient time to mature and reproduce, and for habitats to develop. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A fire event is neither required nor should one necessarily be avoided. NB. Fire thresholds are defined for vegetation communities to conserve biodiversity.

Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Duty Officer	02 6332 6350
	Forbes Office – 1 Camp St Forbes	02 6851 4429
	Regional Office – 200 Yambil St Forbes	02 6966 8100
NSW RFS Mid Lachlan Valley Team	Fire Control Centre - Forbes Team Manager	02 6851 1541 0427 253 983
Fire and Rescue NSW	Forbes Fire Station	02 6851 1843
	Parkes Fire Station Canowindra Fire Station	02 6863 5951 02 6344 1607
Forestry Corporation Emergency Services	Steve Campbell - District Manager	0428 696 678 000
SES		13 2500
Police - Local Area Command	Lachlan LAC - Parkes	02 6862 9905
Hospital	Forbes	02 6850 2000
Council	Forbes Shire Council	02 6850 2300 1300 978 633 (ah)
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Cowra	02 6342 4808



Bushfire Risk Management Strategies

Scale 1:15,000

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

Suppression Strategies

Typical Conditions	Indicative Suppression Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current Fire Danger Rating (FDR) of Very High or Greater. Short and medium range forecasts suggest conditions typical to a FDR of Very High or Greater. A risk to life and/or property exists in the short – medium term. A broad area risk to biodiversity exists. 	Direct Initial attacks should be to try to extinguish or to contain to the smallest possible area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FDR of High or below. Short – medium term forecast indicate a continuing FDR of High or below. No risk to life or property exists in the short-medium term. Only small area risk to biodiversity exists. 	Indirect Develop a suppression plan using existing and/or potential containment lines. If possible take into account biodiversity requirements but never to the detriment of life and property.
	Direct Evaluate the biodiversity thresholds and use direct attack methods to extinguish if required.
	Indirect Develop a fire suppression plan to the maximum allowable perimeter based on Biodiversity thresholds.

Vegetation Map Legend

Broad Vegetation Class	Vegetation Type	Biodiversity Thresholds	Fire Behaviour
Dry Sclerophyll Forest (Shrub/grass formation)	Cypress Pine & Currawang with Red Stringybark & White Box	An interval between fire events less than 10 years and above 30 years should be avoided.	Generally low-intensity fires, intensity increasing with amount of ephemeral fuels.
Dry Sclerophyll Forest (Shrub formation)	Tumbledown Red Gum & Cypress Pine & Currawang	An interval between fire events less than 10 years and above 30 years should be avoided.	Generally low-intensity fires, intensity increasing with amount of ephemeral fuels. In long unburnt areas, very high to extreme potential for spotting due to bark fuels. Isolated areas with heavy ground fuel may have the potential for very high fire behaviour.
Fire History	The region is prone to summer lightning events and a large proportion of fires are historically related to dry lightning events with no associated rainfall. A wildfire burnt through the entire reserve in 2001/02 season.		
Ephemeral Conditions	Ephemeral fuel conditions occur after consecutive years of effective rainfall and significant flooding events. This in turn leads to the growth and build up of fine surface fuels such as grasses and herbs, which can create a continuous fuel load across all of the above vegetation communities. As a result expect higher fire intensity.		
Drought Conditions	During drought conditions and when vegetation communities are visibly stressed it will be very difficult to undertake prescribed burning across many communities as the surface fuels will be very low. Wildfires are likely to be difficult to control due to extreme conditions during the day and areas of low fuel that are difficult to back-burn in under night-conditions.		

Threatened Sites Guidelines

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management	
Note	An aboriginal sites survey is yet to be conducted for this reserve (as of June 2014). Therefore aboriginal sites may be present and consideration in engaging a Senior NPWS Officer or Aboriginal Sites Officer prior to hazard reduction and wildfire suppression activities is required.
Threatened Flora and Fauna Management	
Note	There have been no recorded sightings of threatened flora or fauna within Eugowra Nature Reserve.

Fire Season Information

Wildfires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The critical wildfire season generally occurs from October/November to March/April. Dry lightning storms frequently occur and typical fire weather conditions are winds from the west to the north, high day time temperatures and low humidity. Particular care is required following periods of Winter rain and after periods of negative Southern Oscillation Indices.
Prescribed Burning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prescribed burning should generally be undertaken during Autumn, Winter or early Spring. Care should be taken to ensure a low intensity burn over most of the area treated.

Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS VHF	292	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mt Canobolas WRRR Vote Group
	290	
RFS Brigades UHF	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All brigades on fireground
RFS PMR	P046	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forbes (Tallabung Mtn) Mount Coonambro
	P010	
Forestry Corporation VHF Repeater	3 or 144	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mt Canobolas

