

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

**Northern Tablelands Region**  
**Horton Falls NP (CCAZ1)**  
**Fire Management Strategy 2008**  
<mapsheet 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.

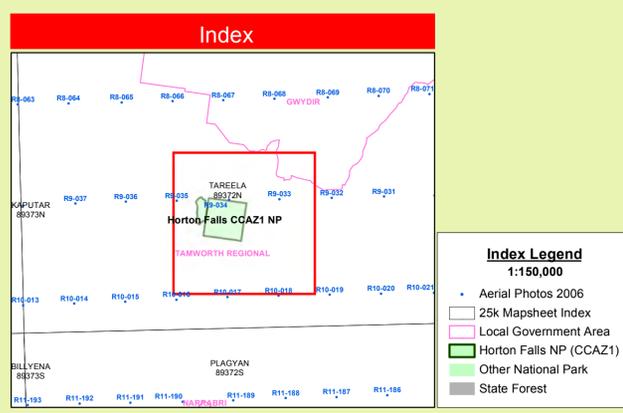
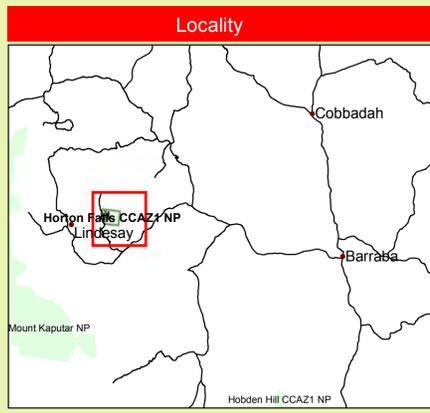
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This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997.  
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ISBN: 9781741227079 OEH No. 2008/24  
Datum: GDA 94 Projection: UTM Grid: MGA Zone 56  
Date Approved: 26-6-2008  
Noted scales are true when this map is reproduced on A1 size paper  
Contour Interval 10 metres

Assume all gates locked

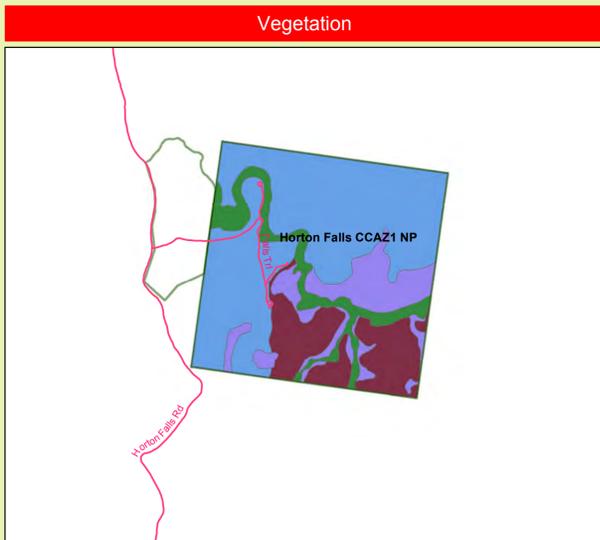


### First Response Communications Plan – Horton Falls NP

Service	Channel	Incident	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	336	IMT to Div Com	Bingara Bora
NPWS - VHF	636	Fireground	Car to Car channel (all classes)
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	24 or 25	Fireground	Stored at (Transportable). Source and deploy as required.
RFS - PMR - UHF		IMT to Div Com	
Forests NSW - VHF		Fireground	
CB - UHF	15	Fireground	Channel as appropriate. (Div Com, CL to Contractors)
Aircraft - VHF			

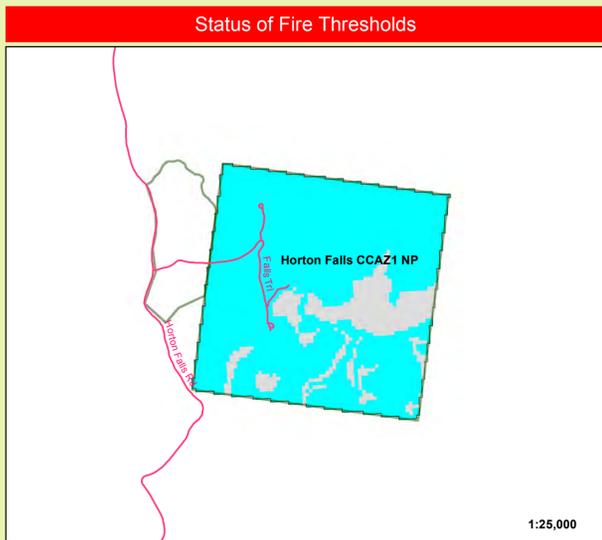
### Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone	
DEC - NPWS	Regional Duty Officer	0428 345 789	
	Area Manager	0428 613 073 02 6738 9117 02 6738 9140 (fax)	
	Fire Management Officer	0429 220 613 02 6776 0014 02 6771 1894 (fax)	
	Regional Operations Coordinator	0428 977 519 02 6776 0007 02 6771 1894 (fax)	
	Armidale Area Office	02 6738 9100 02 6738 9140 (fax)	
	Regional Office	02 6776 0000 02 6771 1894 (fax)	
	Aboriginal Heritage Cultural Officer - Armidale	02 6776 0038	
	Rural Fire Service	Namoi / Gwydir Emergency	02 6757 3300 000
	NSW Fire Brigade	Emergency Barraba Station	000 02 6782 1179
	SES	Emergency Barraba Unit	000 02 6782 1691
Police	Emergency Barraba Station	000 02 6782 1003	
	Ambulance	Emergency Barraba Station	000 131 233
Hospital	Barraba	02 6782 2500	
DNR	Tamworth	02 6764 5900 02 6764 5982 (fax)	
DPI - Forests NSW	Inverell	02 6722 4200 02 6723 1143 (ah) 02 6722 4200 (fax)	
Council	Gwydir Shire Council	02 6724 2000 02 6724 1771 (fax)	
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Anaiwan (Tingha) Northern Zone	02 6723 3022 02 6659 1200	
Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Officer	Armidale	02 6776 0038	



**Vegetation Legend**  
1:25,000

- Roads: Unclassified
- Fire Class: Important - Cat 9
- Vegetation: <Null>, Dry sclerophyll forests (shrub/grass subformation), Dry sclerophyll forests (shrubby subformation), Forested wetlands, Freshwater wetlands, Grasslands

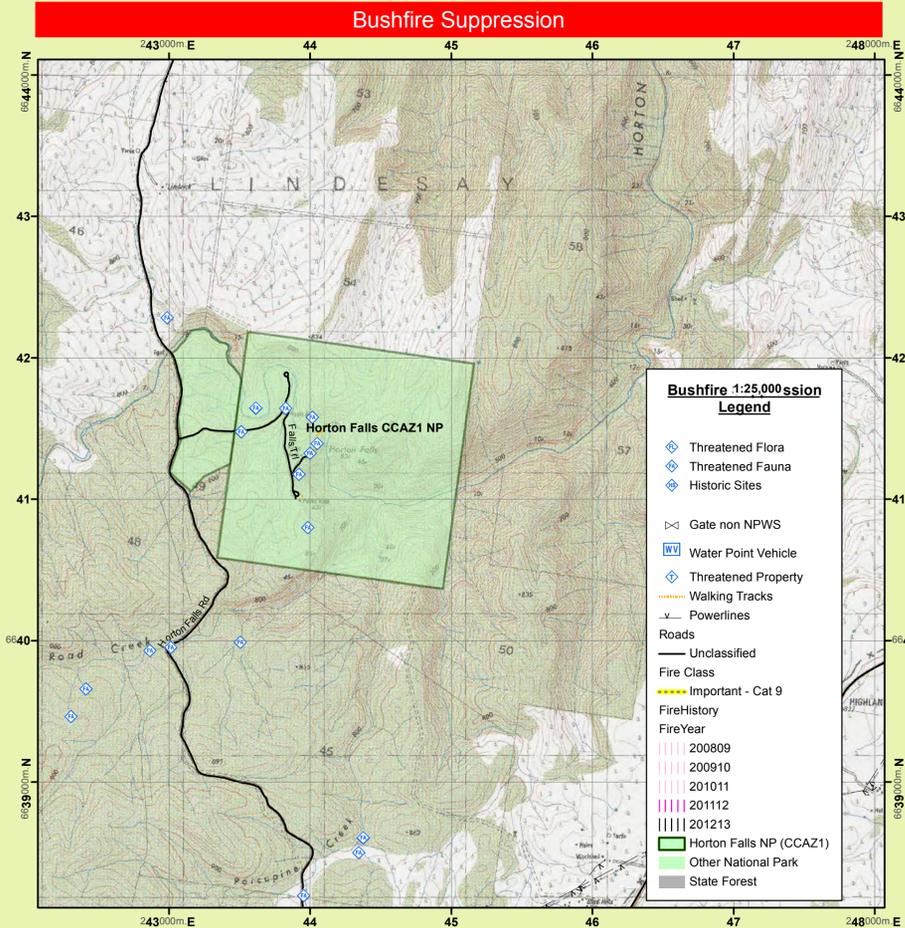
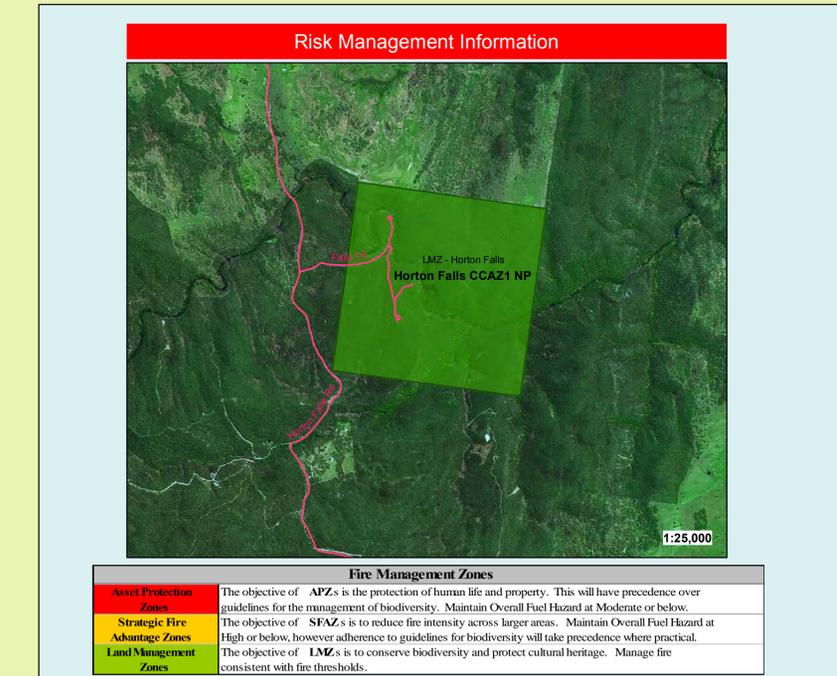


Category Name	Guidelines for interpreting fire regime threshold status
<b>Too Frequently Burnt</b> Consecutive fire intervals shorter than recommended minimum interval	These areas have experienced sustained (two or more) consecutive intervals between fires shorter than the recommended minimum interval for this vegetation type. Any Rainforest / Mangrove / fire exclusion vegetation that has been burnt will be in this category. <i>Areas of vegetation that are repeatedly burnt at intervals shorter than recommended for the vegetation type may experience a decline in the abundance of plant species sensitive to frequent fire. If inter-fire intervals shorter than the recommended minimum continue, these sensitive species are at risk of local extinction. Attempts should be made to minimise fire occurrence in these areas.</i>
<b>Vulnerable to Frequent Fire</b> Most recent fire interval shorter than recommended minimum interval	These areas have already experienced one inter-fire interval less than the minimum interval recommended for this vegetation type and/or the current time-since-fire is less than the minimum recommended interval. All unburnt Rainforest / Mangrove / fire exclusion vegetation is in this category.
<b>Within Threshold</b>	The time-since-fire age of the vegetation is greater than the minimum recommended inter-fire interval and less than the maximum recommended inter-fire interval. If a fire occurs before the number of years specified as the minimum interval has been reached it will move into the 'Vulnerable to Frequent Fire' category. If three or more fires occur in close succession the area will move into the 'Too Frequently Burnt' category.
<b>Long Unburnt</b> One or more fire intervals longer than longest suggested interval	The post-fire age of the vegetation is greater than the recommended maximum inter-fire interval for this vegetation type. <i>If fire continues to be absent from the vegetation for a prolonged time, it is anticipated that plant species that require fire to stimulate flowering or seed production (and their seed banks) may begin to senesce. Long unburnt areas in some vegetation types are very rare and therefore significant. Long unburnt vegetation may also have other ecological values that make it important habitat for certain species in a given area. Careful consideration should be given before burning these areas, and wherever possible the decision should be based on a scientific assessment and/or recommendation prior to burning.</i>
<b>Unknown</b>	There has been no fire mapped for this area and the maximum recommended fire interval for the vegetation type is longer than the length of time for which fire records are available in the study area. It is not possible to determine if the vegetation is in the 'Within Threshold' or 'Long Unburnt' category.
<b>No Fire Regime</b>	Areas which do not have recommended fire intervals assigned to them, e.g. cleared land, rock etc.

### Operational Guidelines

Refer to Strategy for Fire Management 2003 and Fire Management Manual 2007.  
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>Brief all personnel involved in containment line construction &amp;/or vehicle based fire suppression operations, on site locations and the required management strategies appropriate to the site type.</li> <li>Ensure close liaison with the relevant Sites Officer in order to check for &amp;/or identify new sites.</li> </ul>
<b>Historic Heritage Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.12)	No known sites in reserve. If new sites are located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
<b>Threatened Fauna Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.12 & 5.2)	No known sites in reserve. If new sites are located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
<b>Threatened Flora Management</b> (NPWS FMM 4.12 & 5.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brief all personnel involved in fire suppression operations, on site location and the required management strategies appropriate to the site</li> <li>Where practicable protect populations or individuals from fire if the fire threshold has been exceeded, or if the species is an obligate seeder, or if the fire threshold and/or the fire response category is unknown.</li> </ul>
<b>Threatened Property</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<b>General</b>	<b>Guidelines</b>
<b>Aerial Water Bombing</b> (NPWS FMM 4.5 & 5.1 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The use of bombing aircraft should support containment operations by aggressively attacking hotspots and spot-overs.</li> <li>The use of bombing aircraft without the support of ground based suppression crews should be limited to very specific circumstances.</li> <li>Where practicable foam should be used to increase the effectiveness of the water.</li> <li>Ground crews must be alerted to water bombing operations.</li> </ul>
<b>Aerial Ignition</b> (NPWS FMM 4.8 & 4.5 & 2.12 / 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 where practicable, but only with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer.</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>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.</li> <li>Where practicable, clear a 1m radius around dead and firebraked 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 4.3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first combatant agency on site may assume control of the fire, but then must ensure the relevant land management agency 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 BEMC Plan of Operations.</li> </ul>
<b>Containment Lines</b> (NPWS FMM 2.3 & 4.9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.</li> <li>All containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed at the cessation of the incident.</li> <li>All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location.</li> </ul>
<b>Earthmoving Equipment</b> (NPWS FMM 4.4 & 2.3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</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>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.</li> <li>Earthmoving equipment should be washed down, where practicable, prior to it 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 4.5 & 4.10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wetting and foaming agents (surfactants) are permitted for use in wildfire suppression.</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> <li>Areas where fire suppression chemicals are used must be mapped and the used products name recorded.</li> <li>The Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed.</li> </ul>
<b>Rehabilitation</b> (NPWS FMM 5.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.</li> </ul>
<b>Smoke Management</b> (NPWS FMM 2.10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The potential impacts of smoke and possible mitigation tactics must be considered when planning for wildfire suppression and prescribed burning operations.</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>
<b>Visitor Management</b> (NPWS FMM 2.13& 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>



### Strategy Information

**Fire Season Information**

Wildfires	Guidelines
Wildfires	<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> </ul>
<b>Prescribed Burning</b> (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
<b>Suppression Strategies</b>	
<b>Current FDR</b>	<b>Forecast FDR</b>
Low - Mod	Low - Mod
Low - Mod	=> High
High	All
All	All