Kanangra Boyd National Park
Fire Management Strategy
2006

Sheet 1 of 2

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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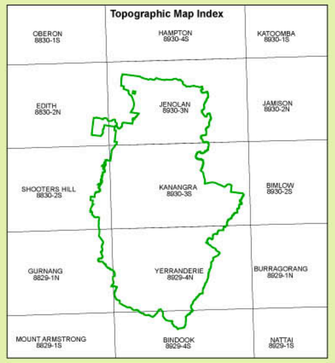
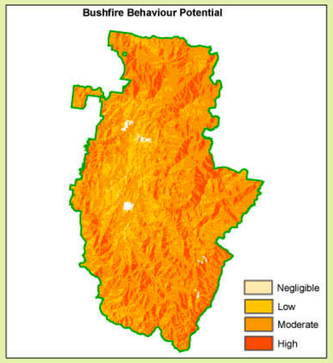
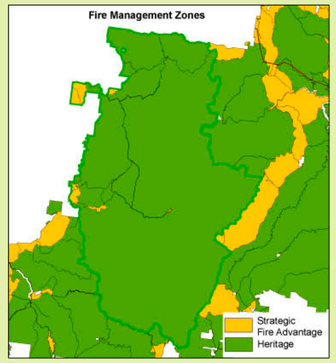
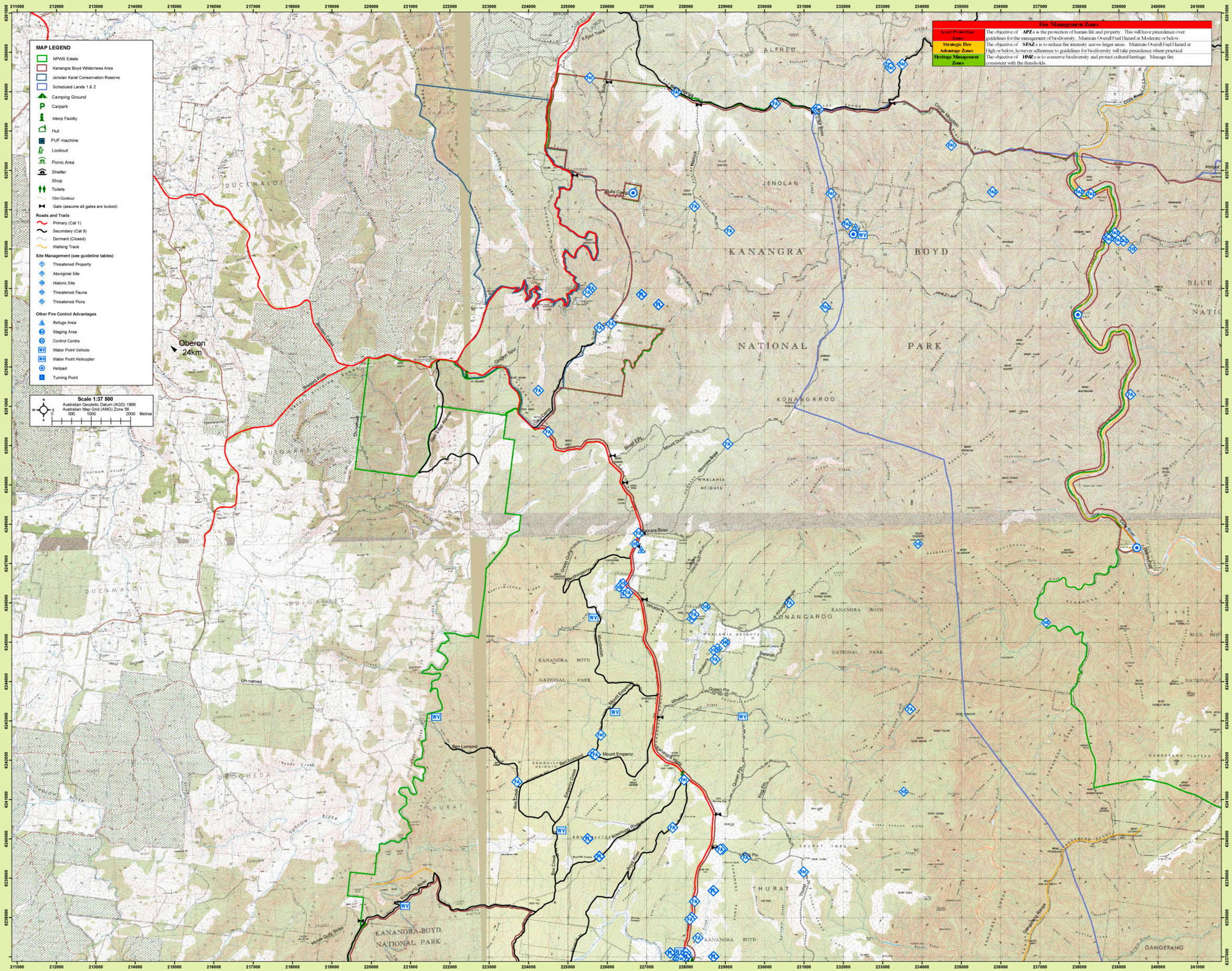
Endorsed by: _____ **Date:** / /

Director Central, Parks & Wildlife Division









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) A1 A2	• Both the NPWS Kanangra Area office at Oberon and the Blue Mountains Regional Office at Katoomba hold a map overlay identifying Aboriginal cultural sites within the reserve. • Sites are classified for fire management purposes as follows: - AH1 - As far as possible protect site from fire. Do not cut down trees. Such sites may include scarred trees and art sites, which are very susceptible to damage by fire and mop-up operations. - AH2 - As far as possible protect site from fire. Avoid all ground disturbance including the use of earthmoving machinery, handline construction and driving over sites. Avoid water bombing which may cause ground disturbance. Such sites may include open campsites, stone formations and grinding grooves. • All known Aboriginal sites located in the vicinity of any proposed fire suppression or mitigation works will be flagged and protected from fire as far as possible, as will previously unrecorded sites located during fire related operations. The locations of these sites will be recorded and reported to an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Officer. • All plant will be excluded from working within 100 metres of identified cultural sites. • Where known sites are impacted on by fire or fire mitigation works, post-fire condition assessments will be carried out in consultation with the Cultural Heritage Division.
Historic Heritage Management (NPWS FMM 4.11) H1	• Historic sites such as cattle yards and mains occur within the reserve and have local significance. The sites are classified for fire management purposes as follows: - HH1- As far as possible protect site from fire. Avoid all ground disturbance including the use of earthmoving machinery, handline construction and driving over sites. • All known historic sites located in the vicinity of any proposed fire suppression or mitigation works will be flagged and protected from fire as far as possible, as will previously unrecorded sites located during fire related operations. The locations of these sites will be formally recorded. • All plant will be excluded from working within 100 metres of identified cultural sites. • Where known sites are impacted on by fire or fire mitigation works, post-fire condition assessments will be carried out in consultation with the Cultural Heritage Division.
Threatened Fauna Management (NPWS FMM 4.12 & 5.2) F3 F4 F2	• F3 - Avoid fire intervals of <10 years. • FA1 - Yellow-bellied glider, squirrel glider, powerful owl. As far as possible, protect large and hollow-bearing trees and avoid fire intervals of <30 years in locations where these species are known to occur. • FA2 - Koala, glossy black cockatoo. Avoid high intensity fires that consume canopies in locations where these species are known to occur. Exclude high intensity fire from *Allocasuarina* and *Casuarina* dominated communities in order to maintain glossy black cockatoo habitat. Exclude all fire from these communities if they have been burnt within the last 15 years. Avoid construction of containment lines through these communities. Require that any control lines constructed in the vicinity of these communities ensure that they are excluded from fire.
Threatened Flora Management (NPWS FMM 4.12) F1 F2	• F1 - Avoid inter-fire intervals of <30 years for all threatened flora species unless fire regime research on particular species suggests otherwise. Avoid the use of earth moving machinery in locations where threatened flora records occur. Avoid the use of wetting and foaming agents in locations where these species are known to occur. • FL1 - *Tetratheca nemoralis*. As far as possible, exclude all fire from locations where this species is known to occur. Exclude fire and heavy machinery from within at least 100 metres of Morong Creek / Boyd River between Ham spritsam of the Boyd River camping area and 1km downstream of the Morong Creek camping area. Avoid the use of wetting and foaming agents in the Morong Creek / Boyd River catchment.
Threatened Property T	• 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.
Water Quality (NPWS FMM 4.12)	• All streams in the reserve drain to Lake Burragorang, Sydney's main water supply. • Containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated, preferably as part of the wildfire suppression operation. • See 'Fire Suppression Chemicals' for restrictions applying to the use of fire retardants and wetting agents. • Fire fighting personnel will be briefed on the protection of water quality prior to carrying out any fire suppression or mitigation activity on Schedule 1 or Schedule 2 lands.

Activity	Guidelines
Aerial Water Bombing (NPWS FMM 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs 04 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	• Reserve neighbours will be contacted regarding water use / extraction. • 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. • Ground crews must be alerted to water bombing operations.
Aerial Ignition (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs 04 / 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. Patterns of aerial ignition will be specified in the IAP or Plan of Operations. • Incendiaries may be utilised to rapidly progress back-burns down slope where required. • Aerial ignition will only proceed when designated control lines have been assessed as secure.
Aircraft Operations (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs 04 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	• During a class 1 or class 2 fire, when the incident controller is not an NPWS officer and the fire is on the reserve, permission to hire aircraft for fire suppression must be obtained from a senior NPWS officer. Where this approval has not been obtained, the responsibility for the costs associated with using the hired aircraft will rest with the requesting agency. • Outside the fire danger period aircraft may be sourced directly by Blue Mountains Region. During the fire danger period the region may source aircraft directly for initial attack only. The RFS state 'airdesk' will be informed verbally of deployments within 30 minutes and in writing within 2 hours. All other aircraft deployment during the fire danger period will be coordinated by the state airdesk. • Aircraft operators will be briefed on hazards, local conditions and restricted areas. • Aerial mapping of all fires should occur as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
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. • Ignite backburns well ahead of the fire front where practicable so that a deep edge is created, canopy scorch is minimized and the risk of wildlife being trapped between the backburn and the fire front is reduced. • 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)	• Priority will be given to the use of existing constructed containment lines or natural fire control advantages. • 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. This includes all operations carried out during initial attack. Where prior approval has not been obtained responsibility for costs associated with these items will rest with the agency that requested them. • During initial attack (up to 8 hours after detection) heavy machinery and earthmoving equipment can be used for: 1. Clearing a pre-existing vehicular trail of debris and regrowth for access and egress of 4WD fire fighting vehicles. The machine should be driven with the blade raised above the ground. 2. Preparation of a backburn line. The machine should be driven with the blade just touching the earth and should be manoeuvred so as to disturb as little topsoil as possible. All refuse must be left on the opposite side to which the backburn is to be carried out or to which the running fire exists. Width must not exceed 5 metres. • All works following initial attack must be carried out in accordance with SOP's and an approved IAP. IAP's will restrict heavy machinery and earthmoving equipment to existing trails wherever possible. • A D3 or smaller bulldozer should be used. Larger machines may be used with the prior approval from a senior NPWS officer. Machines with rubber tyres / tracked plant are preferred. • Earthmoving equipment must be always guided and supervised by an experienced NPWS officer, and accompanied by a support vehicle and operator with appropriate communications equipment. When engaged in direct or parallel attack this vehicle must be a firefighting vehicle. • All machine operators will be briefed on safety considerations and actions to prevent damage to sensitive natural and cultural heritage. Heavy machinery and earthmoving equipment will be excluded from slopes greater than 18°. • Containment lines constructed by earthmoving equipment should consider the protection of drainage features and karst areas, observe Threatened Species, Cultural Heritage Operational and Rehabilitation Guidelines, and be surveyed to identify unknown cultural heritage sites. • Earthmoving equipment will not be permitted in any of the Boyd Plateau bog or swamp areas. • Earthmoving equipment should be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering the reserve.
Fire Advantage Recording	• All fire advantages used during wildfire suppression operations must be mapped and where relevant added to the database.
Fire Season Information	• The reserve's wildfire season is relatively short, occurring between late November and early February. Nearly all wildfires are caused by lightning strike, with most occurring in mid-January. • All but one of the wildfires ignited by lightning strike since 1990 have been contained to an area of less than 60 hectares. Naturally these fires would have burnt much larger areas. • Consideration will be given to allowing fires ignited by lightning strike within the reserve to burn without human interference in areas where there has been no fire for a period of 10 years or more, providing that they are not likely to pose a threat to life or property. • The Boyd Plateau has low wildfire frequency due to its high altitude and moist conditions. The majority of the remainder of the reserve has large areas of fire prone vegetation and steep slopes.
Fire Suppression Chemicals (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.9)	• Fire retardants will not be used within the reserve. • When the incident controller is not an NPWS staff member, permission to use wetting and foaming agents must be obtained from a senior NPWS officer. • The use of wetting and foaming agents may be approved except: - within 50 metres of any watercourse, waterbody, wetland, swamp or dam - in the Morong Creek / Boyd River catchment - in the Kowmung River catchment downstream of Denis's Ridge - in the Cox River catchment downstream of the junction of the Kowmung and Cox's Rivers - within 500m of the Tuglow, Coloing, Church Creek and Billys Creek cave systems - in rainforest areas and other areas which have dense canopy cover - in areas which have thick shrub or sub-canopy layers - in *Casuarina* or *Allocasuarina* (she-oak) dominated vegetation communities - when there is high intensity fire - when there is high probability of spot fires, eg. during windy conditions - All sites where wetting and foaming agents are used are to be mapped so that impacts may be assessed.
Helipad construction	• Remote helipads should have a diameter that is no more than twice the length of the helicopter when the rotors are turning, eg a Squirrel is 13 metres long, therefore the helipad diameter should not exceed 26 metres. • Larger helipads may be constructed, with the prior approval of a senior NPWS officer, where the helipad is likely to be required to accommodate more than one machine or to be subject to prolonged use.
Prescribed burning	• The Kanangra Area will develop an annual program for prescribed burning. Priority areas for burning will be determined according to burn prescriptions for different bushfire management zones and regimes suitable for biodiversity conservation. Ridgeline, edge and block burns will be carried out to create fire advantage zones in strategic locations throughout the reserve. • Opportunities for prescribed burning in the reserve are limited by surface fuel moisture and unfavourable weather conditions. As far as possible, prescribed burns will be carried out between late February and late April. Spring burns will not be undertaken in the reserve due to their adverse impacts on fauna, particularly nesting birds.
Rehabilitation (NPWS FMM 5.1)	• All new helipads and containment lines constructed during an incident will be closed and rehabilitated, to the satisfaction of a senior NPWS officer, as part of the wildfire suppression operation, or within 12 months of fire ignition. Their locations will be plotted for possible future use.
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. • Smoke management must be in accordance with relevant RTA traffic management guidelines. • Media notification should occur prior to any prescribed burn and during wildfire events.
Visitor Management (NPWS FMM 3.6 & 4.13)	• Standard Operating Procedures will be followed in relation to reserve fire bans and closures. In addition to these, all or part of the reserve may be closed to all visitors if a Section 44 is declared in the Kanangra Area. • Reserve closures: **Level 1** Reserve open FDI <25 for entire forecast period **Level 2** Remote areas closed FDI 25-50 over 20% of Blue Mountains Region or a Section 44 is declared within the Oberon LGA. Entire reserve closed except for areas within 250m of Kanangra Walls Road. **Level 3** Safe areas only open FDI >50 over 20% of Blue Mountains Region Entire reserve closed except for area between Jenolan Caves Road and the Boyd River camping area and within 100 metres of Kanangra Walls Road. Kanangra Walls closed. **Level 4** Full closure. Immediate threat from existing fire or forecast weather is extreme over 20% of Blue Mountains Region or a Section 44 is declared within the Oberon LGA. • Popular areas of the park include the Boyd River Camping Area, Kanangra Walls, lower Kowmung River, Kanangra Tops, Morong Creek Camping Area, Kalang Falls, Tuglow Caves, Dingo Dell Camping Area, Christies Creek and areas surrounding Yerranderie Historic Village.

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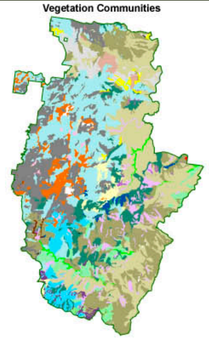
Vegetation Communities



Legend

- Central Coastal Hinterland and Lowland Warm Temperate Rainforest
- E. viminalis Shrub/Fern Herb/Grass Forest
- Eastern Tableland and Escarpment Shrub/Fern Dry Forest - E. radiata / E. sieberi / Leucopogon lanceolatus
- Eastern Tablelands Acacia/Herb/Grass Forest - E. dalrympleana / E. viminalis / Acacia melanoxylon / Stellaria pungens
- Eastern Tablelands Shrub/Grass Moist Forest - E. radiata / E.dalrympleana / Poa sieberiana / Daviesia ulicifolia
- Jenolan River Heath Forest on Granite - E. punctata
- Kowmung / Cox Blue Mountains Shrub / Moist Herb Forest - E.blaxlandii-II E.punctata / Clematis aristata
- Kowmung Dry Shrub / Herb Forest - E. punctata
- Kowmung Dry Shrub Forest - E. punctata / Bryopandra glauca
- Kowmung Moist Shrub / Herb Forest - various eucalypts
- Montane Wet Heath/Bog - Hakea microrrhina / Baeckea utilis
- Morton Sheltered Dry Shrub Forest - Syncarpia glomulifera / Corymbia maculata
- Northern Gorge Dry Shrub Forest - E. moluccana / E. boseriana / Olearia viscosa
- Northern Plateau Mallee Heath
- Northern Plateau Moist Fern/Herb/Grass Forest - E. fastigata / E. dalrympleana / Acacia melanoxylon / Pteridium esculentum
- Riparian Acacia Shrub/Grass/Herb Forest - Casuarina cunninghamiana
- Rock
- Shoalhaven Gorge Dry Shrub Forest - E. agglomerata / E. punctata / Dianella revoluta
- Shoalhaven Gorge Forest - E. teretricornis / E. melliodora
- Southern Blue Mountains Dry Shrub Forest - E. sieberi
- Southern Blue Mountains Mallee Heath
- Southern Blue Mountains Plateau Acacia/Fern/Herb Moist Forest - E. fastigata / E. dalrympleana / Acacia faciformis
- Southern Coastal Hinterland Dry Gully Rainforest - Backhousia myrtifolia
- Southern Escarpment Edge Moist Heath Forest - Oxylobium ellipticum
- Tableland Tussock Grass/Herb Forest - E. pauciflora / E. dalrympleana / Poa sieberiana
- Tableland and Escarpment Moist Herb/Fern Grass Forest - E. radiata / E. viminalis / Viola spp

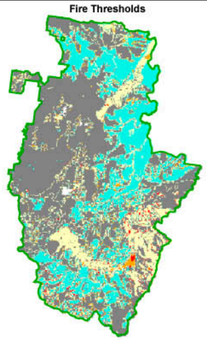
Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	6 7	Narrow Neck Shooters Hill
NPWS - VHF (Fireground Comms)	38 39	Narrow Neck Shooters Hill
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	13 (blue)	Normally located at Blackheath
RFS – PMR - UHF	106 26(92NPWS) 33(92NPWS) 31(92NPWS)	Blue Mountains Oberon Shooters Hill Mt Defiance
RFS - GRN	-	Not used
SCA	1 (95NPWS) (96NPWS	Burragorang SCA Fireground Comms
Forests NSW - VHF	8 (82NPWS) 2 (78NPWS) (20NPWS)	Shooters Hill Bindo Forests NSW Fireground Comms
CB - UHF	12 (RFS) 1-40 (NPWS)	Not to be used for strategic communications. Chose channel on fireground.
Aircraft - VHF	TBA	Airband freq. allocated by pilot
Mobile Phone - CDMA	Kanangra Walls carpark in parking bay 20 metres north of shelter shed. Junction Kanangra Walls Road and Jenolan Caves Road. Many ridgetops, otherwise patchy.	
Mobile Phone - GSM	NA	
Satellite Phone	Kanangra Area: 0410 645 946 Special Areas: 0424 210 980	

Helipads/Landing Sites

Location	Map sheet	AMG	Decimal lat / long	Notes
Oberon Oval – adj. to Emergency Operations Centre	Oberon 1:25000 Second edition	764700 6267300	149° 51.250 33° 42.130	Notify Oberon Council on 63361100 prior to use. 2WD access.
Duggan's – Jenolan River	Jenolan 1:25000 Second edition	232400 6225500	150° 06.600 33° 48.350	Medium clearing. 4WD access only.
Konangaroo – Cox's River / Kanangra Creek junction	Kanangra 1:25000 Second edition	239400 6247500	150° 11.000 33° 52.800	Private property; notify Warrick Armstrong prior to use. Medium clearing. Remote pad. No vehicle access.
Kanangra Walls – rain gauge	Kanangra 1:25000 Second edition	232800 6235100	150° 06.50 33° 59.350	Tight pad. Suitable for 1 machine only. 2WD access 100m.
Jensen's – adj. to Boyd River camping area	Kanangra 1:25000 Second Edition	227500 6236300	150° 03.000 33° 58.700	Large clearing. Suitable for multiple machines. Fuel. 2WD access.
Yerranderie airstrip – adj. to Yerranderie township	Yerranderie 1:25000 Second Edition	243400 6221200	150° 13.070 34° 07.070	Unsealed airstrip. Suitable for multiple machines. Fuel. 2WD access.
Pluviometer – Scotts Main Range	Bimlow 1:25000 Second Edition	242200 6230060	150° 12.500 34° 02.010	Medium clearing. 2WD access.
Church Creek	Yerranderie 1:25000 Second Edition	236050 6225200	150° 08.400 34° 04.850	Medium clearing. Remote pad. No vehicle access.

Fire Thresholds



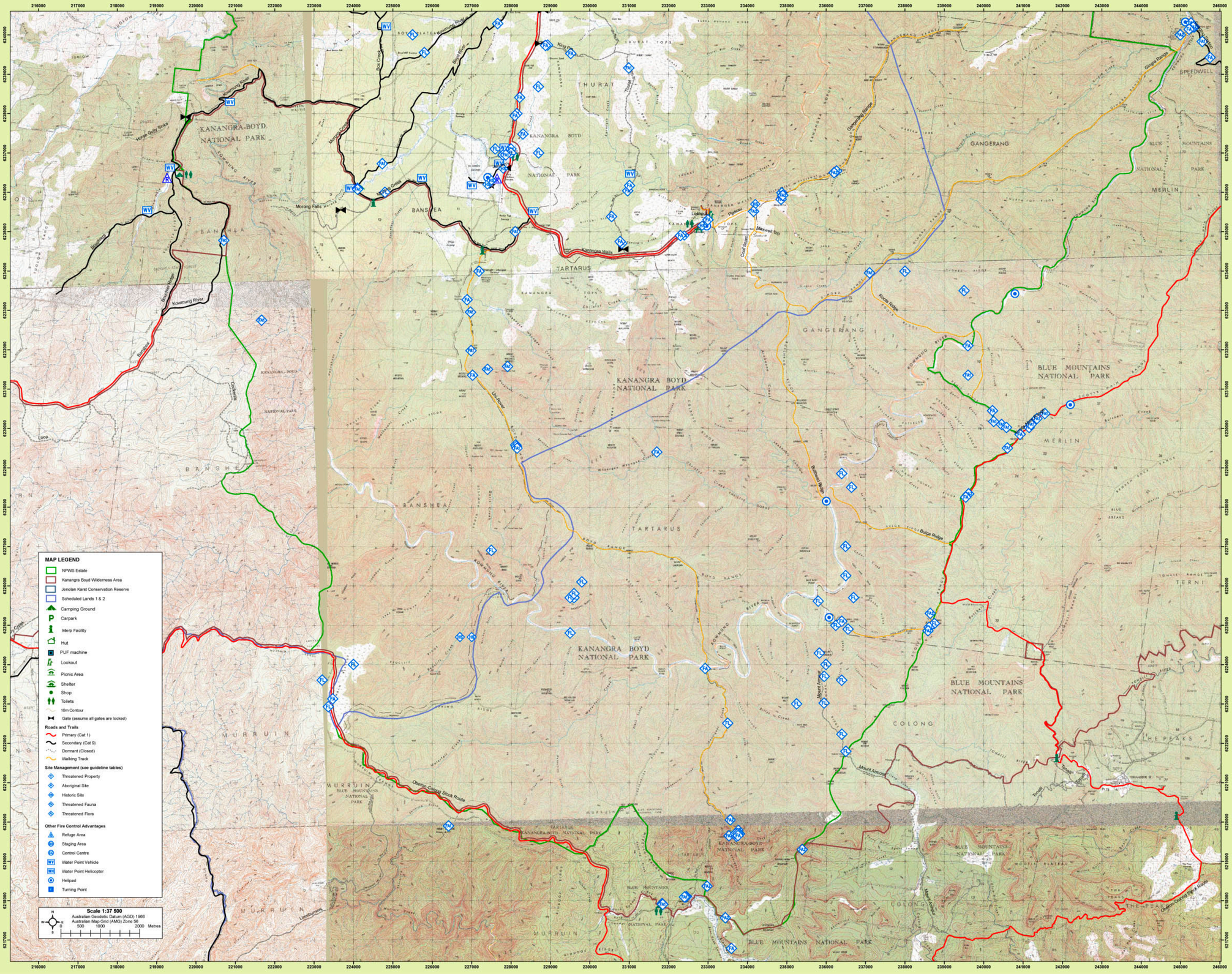
Fire Thresholds

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.

Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
NPWS	Regional Duty Officer / After Hours	Call pager 016 301161 and ask for Blue Mountains Regional Duty Officer.
	Area Manager	6336 1972 0427 288 099
	Fire Management Officer	4784 7306
	Regional Operations Coordinator	4784 7340
	Kanangra Area Office	6336 1972 Fax: 6336 2122
	Blue Mountains Regional Office	4784 7300 Fax: 4782 6100
	Flight Services (ParkAir)	9792 1788 Fax: 9792 1602
	Catchment Remote Area Fire Team (CRAFT)	Call pager 016 301 161 and ask for Sydney Catchment Seasonal Fire Team.
	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Officer	4784 7320
RFS	Oberon Fire Control Centre	6336 0493 Fax: 6336 0151
	Oberon Fire Control Officer	0428 650 470 (AH)
	Wollondilly Fire Control Centre	4677 1971 Fax: 4677 2999
	Wollondilly Fire Control Officer	0417 839 054 (AH)
	Lithgow Fire Control Centre	6353 1863 Fax: 6352 3077
	Lithgow Fire Control Officer	0429 839 054 (AH)
	Katoomba Fire Control Centre	4782 2159 Fax: 4782 4960
	Aviation	8741 5401 Fax: 8741 5301
SCA	SCA Incident Duty Officer	9751 1988 Call pager 1800 607 777 (AH)
	Warragamba office	4720 0301
NSW Fire Brigade	Emergency Katoomba Station	000 4782 6077
SES	Emergency Oberon Unit Lithgow Unit	000 6336 1759 6351 3220
Police	Emergency Oberon Station Bathurst Station Lithgow Station	000 6336 1000 6332 8699 6352 8399
Ambulance	Emergency Oberon and Lithgow Stations	000 6313 1233
Hospital	Oberon Bathurst Base	6336 1300 6339 5311
Department of Lands	Orange	6391 4300 6˙ Track
Forests NSW	Bathurst	6332 4812 (24 hours) 6331 2044 Fax: 6331 5528
Jenolan Caves	Guides office Caves House	6359 3911 Fax: 6359 3307 6359 3322
Council	Oberon	6336 1100
Oberon Correctional Centre	Shooters Hill	6335 5248
Advance Energy		132 830
WIRES	Central West Branch Blue Mountains Branch	6331 1066 4754 2946



Strategy Information

Fire Season Information

Wildfires	• Relatively short fire season, occurring between late November and early February. • Nearly all wildfires caused by lightning strike, with most occurring in mid-January.
Prescribed Burning (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.7)	• An annual program will be developed for prescribed burning. Priority areas will be determined according to burn prescriptions for different bushfire management zones and regimes suitable for biodiversity conservation. • Prescribed burns will be carried out as far as possible between late February and late April. Spring burns will not be undertaken in the reserve.

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.

FDI 2-5 = Low FDR FDI 5-12 = Medium FDR FDI 50-100 = Extreme FDR
FDI 12-24 = High FDR FDI 24-50 = Very High FDR