

North Coast Region

Koukandowie 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.

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The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is 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, North Coast Region, PO Box 361 Grafton NSW 2460.

ISBN: 1 74137 499 5

DEC Number: 2005/375

Last Updated: 29 August 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.

Endorsed by:

Date: / /

Director Northern, Parks & Wildlife Division

Communications Information		
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	9, 10	Can delink Ch 9 if required Reverse channels 57 (Ch 9), 58 (ch 10)
NPWS - VHF (Fireground Comms)	41, 42	Chat channel 41 (Ch 9), 42 (Ch 10)
RFS - PMR - UHF	55	Coutts Crossing brigade closest
CB - UHF	1 - 99	Determine channel on fire ground with other agencies
Aircraft - VHF		Determine channel on fire ground
Mobile Phone - CDMA		Patchy coverage, determine channel on fire ground

Index

BUCCARUMBI
25k mapsheet
94383N

COUTTS CROSSING
25k mapsheet
94382N

Nymboida
25k mapsheet
94383S

BLAXLANDS FLAT
25k mapsheet
94385S

1:300,000

Clarence Valley LGA

Neighbours

1:150,000

Neighbours map to be used in conjunction with separate table of neighbours' contact details.
Location: g:\data\north56\region\work\fire\RFMS\Koukandowie\text\neighbours_contacts.xls

N

W

E

S

Datum: AGD66
Projection: UTM
Grid: AMG Zone 56
Noted scales are true when this map is reproduced on A1 size paper

Vegetation Legend

Rainforest

Swamp sclerophyll forest

Wet sclerophyll forest

Semi-mesic grassy forest

Shrubby dry sclerophyll forest

Shrubby grassy dry sclerophyll forest

Grassy sclerophyll woodland

Freshwater wetland

Agriculture/timber plantation

Cleared/woods

Refer to Bushfire Suppression legend for roads classification

Vegetation

1:85,000

Status of Fire Thresholds

1:85,000

Recent Fires

1:85,000

Bushfire Suppression

1:25,000

Risk Management Information

Fire Management Zones

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.

Zone	Action	Responsibility
Wallaby SFAZ	Prescribed burn when overall fuel hazard exceeds High to the two identified zones in conjunction with RFS and neighbours.	NPWS
Flat Top SFAZ		NPWS

Heritage Management Zones

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

1:85,000

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 Management (NPWS FMM 4.11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Information on sites of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance is stored separately for confidentiality. Refer to the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System database (AHIMS) and North Coast Region Cultural Heritage Conservation Officers.
Historic Heritage Management (NPWS FMM 4.10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">There are no recorded sites within the reserve, should new sites be located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
Threatened Fauna Management (NPWS FMM 4.12 & 5.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">FA1 - Avoid frequent fire (<10yrs); use mosaic burn pattern; protect ground habitat (logs etc).FA3 - As far as possible protect site from fire. Avoid the use of earth moving machinery in locations where these species are known to occur. Avoid the use of retardant in locations where these species are known to occur.FA4 - Mosaic burn to diversify understorey; protect casuarina standsFA6 - Protect hollow-bearing trees; reduce fire frequencyFA7 - Protect hollow-bearing treesFA8 - Avoid frequent fire (<10yrs); use mosaic burn patternFA9 - Protect known habitat from disturbance; avoid use of earthmoving machinery and fire fighting chemicals.
Threatened Flora Management (NPWS FMM 4.12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">There are no recorded threatened flora species within the reserve, should a threatened species be located consult with a senior NPWS officer.
Threatened Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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.
General	Guidelines
Aerial Water Bombing (NPWS FMM 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs 02 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	<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 (NPWS FMM 4.2.20, 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs 02-4 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	<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 a senior NPWS officer.Utilise incendiaries to rapidly progress back-burns down slope where required.
Backburning (NPWS FMM 4.8)	<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, 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.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)	<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.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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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)	<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 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.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.Earthmoving equipment should be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS estate.
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 (NPWS FMM 4.2.20, 4.9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wetting and foaming agents (surfactants) are permitted for use in wildfire suppression.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.Exclude the use of surfactants and retardants within 50m of rainforest, watercourses, dams and swamps.Areas where fire suppression chemicals are used must be mapped and the used products name recorded.The Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed.
Rehabilitation (NPWS FMM 5.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
Smoke Management (NPWS FMM 3.4)	<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.
Visitor Management (NPWS FMM 3.6, 4.13)	<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.