FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY





Marramarra National Park

Muogamarra Nature Reserve

> Maroota Historic Site

Wisemans Ferry Historic Site

Department of Environment and Conservation NSW

MARRAMARRA NATIONAL PARK, MUOGAMARRA NATURE RESERVE, MAROOTA HISTORIC SITE AND WISEMAN'S FERRY HISTORIC SITE

FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Department of Environment and Conservation National Parks and Wildlife Service Sydney North Region

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope, Terms and Purpose

This document describes the strategies that the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) plans to implement in Marramarra National Park (NP), Muogamarra Nature Reserve (NR), Maroota Historic Site (HS) and Wiseman's Ferry HS. This strategy has an operational life of 5 years between 2006 and 2010. If required, the operational life of the strategy may be shortened or extended if circumstances dictate.

The relationship between this document and other elements of the NPWS and Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) framework is summarised in Figure 1. The document has been prepared to ensure consistency with the policies and procedures detailed in the NPWS Fire Management Manual (NPWS 2006), the NPWS Strategy for Fire Management (NPWS 2003a), the Marramarra National Park, Muogamarra Nature Reserve, and Maroota Historic Site Plan of Management (POM) NPWS (1998), the Sydney Basin Fire Management Strategy (NPWS 2003b), and Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) Risk Management and Operations Coordination Plans.

This strategy is a relevant plan in accordance with section 38 (4) and section 44 (3) of the *Rural Fires Act* 1997. The NPWS is seeking the cooperation of all fire authorities in adopting the strategies outlined within this document when responding to bushfires within these reserves.

In addition to this document, detailed map-based strategies will be prepared and reviewed annually. The map based strategies will be complemented by regional incident procedures (RIPs) that detail preparedness and response procedures for managing incidents such as bushfires, both as wildfires and as prescribed burns.

Fire Management Objectives

The primary objectives of fire management by the NPWS are to:

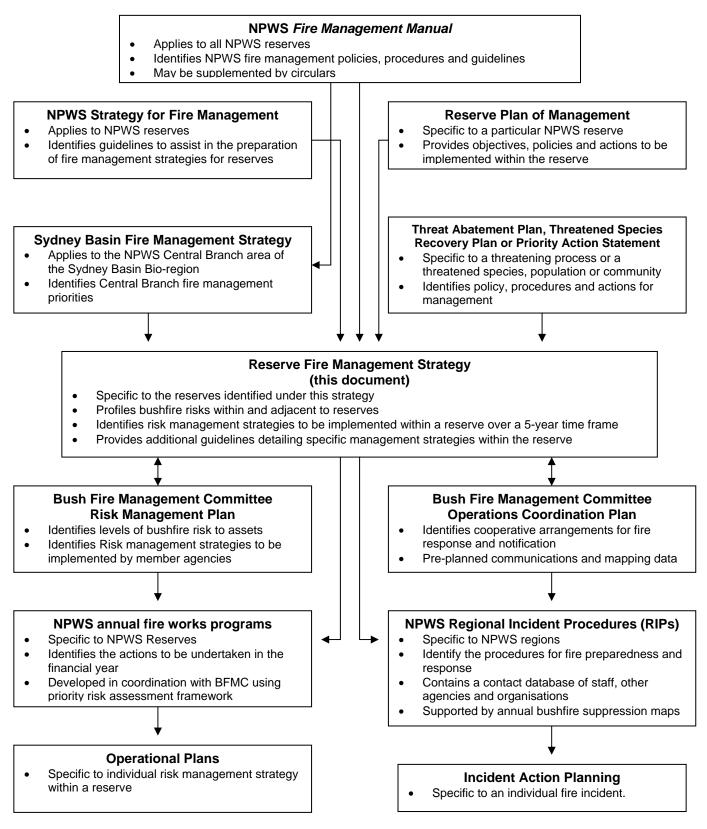
- protect life, property and community assets from the adverse impacts of fire
- develop and implement cooperative and coordinated fire management arrangements with other fire authorities, reserve neighbours and the community
- manage fire regimes within reserves to conserve and enhance natural and cultural heritage values
- protect Aboriginal sites known to exist within NSW and historic places and culturally significant features known to exist within reserves from damage by fire
- assist other fire agencies, land management authorities and landholders in developing fire management practices to conserve natural and cultural heritage across the landscape.

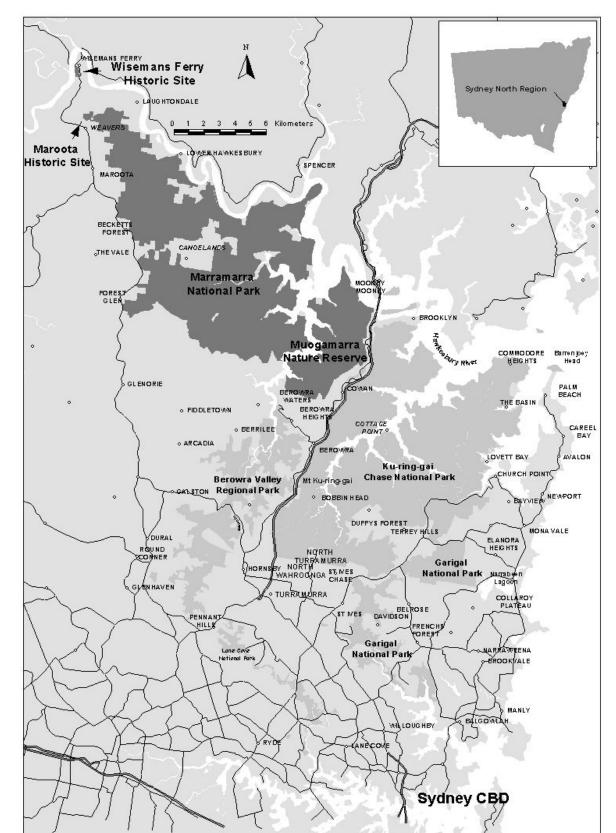
1.2 Strategy Implementation and Administration

This strategy will be implemented through the development of annual works programs that identify specific strategies to be implemented. The annual work programs are funded each financial year by recurrent or capital budget allocations. Additional funding may also be sought through various grant schemes to implement specific strategies.

The implementation of the Strategies will be reviewed annually in accordance with NPWS performance indicators specified in the NPWS *Fire Management Manual* (2006).

Figure 1: Fire Management Framework





Map 1: Location of the reserves

1.3 Description of the Reserves

1.3.1 Location and Terrain

This fire management strategy applies to Marramarra NP (11 759 ha), Muogamarra NR (2274 ha), Maroota HS (32.62 ha) and Wiseman's Ferry HS (21 ha). The reserves are located approximately 40 km to the north-west of the Sydney CBD in an area generally bounded to the east by the Pacific Highway, to the south-west by the Old Northern Road and to the north by the Hawkesbury River (Map 1).

In addition to NPWS reserves, this strategy also considers fuel, assets and fire control advantages that are outside but contiguous with or adjacent to those in the reserves. These areas include lands managed by Hornsby Council, the Department of Lands, the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council and various private landholders.

The reserves are located within the Hornsby–Ku-ring-gai BFMC area, with the exception of Wiseman's Ferry HS, which is located in the Baulkham Hills BFMC.

The terrain of the reserves is typical of Hawkesbury Sandstone geology, with plateau and ridgeline areas steeply sloping into drainage lines. Elevation varies between sea level and the highest point of 270 m at Blakes Trig. The terrain of Maroota HS is characterised by small area of ridgetop with a steeply sloping easterly aspect into Laughtondale Gully. Wiseman's Ferry HS has a generally northerly aspect that slopes down to private properties. Major geographical features include the Hawkesbury River, Berowra Creek and Marramarra Creek. Within Muogamarra NR, most creeks drain to the north-west. In Marramarra NP, creeks drain to the north, east and south.

1.3.2 Fire Weather and History

Owing to the combination of climate, topography and vegetation, the Sydney Region is one of the most bushfire-prone areas in the world. Periodically, every 5 to 12 years, drought conditions combine with hot, dry, north-westerly to south-westerly air streams to produce the potential for high-intensity, uncontrollable bushfires. Although bushfires may occur at any time of the year, the highest probability of bushfires occurs in December and January.

NPWS fire history records for the reserves date back to approximately 1975, although only the last 20 years' records are considered reliable. Different areas have been burnt at varying frequencies: some areas haven been burnt by bushfire 6 times since 1975, while others have not had a recorded fire. The area with the greatest fire frequency is adjacent to Marramarra NP in the lower reaches of the Cooper–Ashdale Creek system, mainly on private land. Bushfires within and adjacent to the National Park have caused considerable property damage, particularly to rural areas and urban interface areas of Berowra and Cowan.

Within Marramarra NP, significant fires occurred in January 1994 (7619 ha, 60%), 1997 (1866 ha, 16%) and 2002 (10 774 ha, 92%). Most wildfires in the park have originated in the north and from rural areas adjacent to the Hawkesbury River. Within Muogamarra NP, significant fires occurred in 1981 (Kimmerikong Ridge), 1989 (southern end of the park), January 1994 (174 ha, 67%) and 2002 (1953 ha, 75%). Numerous small fires have also occurred over the years. Within Maroota HS, major fires occurred in 1979 (approximately half the reserve), 1994 (100%) and 2002 (100%). Most bushfires have been started by human activities, in particular arson. Lightning is not a significant cause of fire ignitions.

1.3.3 Reserve Interface and Development Patterns

Settlement in the past has occurred along ridgetops and then gradually spread downslope, often with very little regard to the bushfire hazards intrinsic to these areas. Marramarra NP borders rural areas, and there are also a number of small in-holdings within the park. The remainder of the park

is contiguous with Crown Lands. Muogamarra NR borders with the urban areas of Berowra Heights and Cowan. Maroota HS is bounded by Laughtondale Gully Road to the east, and adjoins Crown Land and private property. Private property and the Old Northern Road bound Wiseman's Ferry HS.

1.3.4 Natural and Cultural Heritage

A vegetation survey of the reserves (Lembit, 2002) identified 13 vegetation communities, ranging from mangroves and saltmarsh on alluvial flats to tall open forests in the moist gullies, to open forest and heath on the dry ridgelines. The most common vegetation communities are highly flammable dry sclerophyll forests, woodlands and heath- and shrublands, which occupy over 80% of the reserves. A list of vegetation communities found within the reserves along with their fire regime guidelines is persented in Appendix 1.

Although a comprehensive fauna survey has not been undertaken, the reserves are known to provide habitat for over 85 bird species, 18 reptile species, 8 frog species and 31 mammal species. In particular, they provide habitat for 27 species of threatened flora (Appendix 2), 20 species of threatened fauna (Appendix 3), and 1 endangered ecological community (EEC) (Appendix 1).

The reserves have a long history of Aboriginal use and lie within the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council administrative area, with the exception of Wiseman's Ferry HS, which lies within the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council administrative area. NPWS records show that the reserves and surrounding areas contain over 50 recorded Aboriginal heritage sites. Sites within the reserves include cave art, engravings, grinding grooves, middens, other occupational deposits and stone arrangements. Guidelines for the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage values from damage by fire management activities are detailed in Appendix 4.

The reserves have a history of non-Aboriginal occupation dating back to 1789. Features of significance within Marramarra NP include foundations of a road and wharf at Gentlemans Halt, the remains of a stone cottage on Sentry Box Reach, remains of orchards along Marramarra Creek, and the foundations of a hut, stone walls and a well at Big Bay. Features of significance within Maroota HS include two chimneys, a shed and the remains of a farm. Features of significance within Muogamarra NR include building foundations at Peats Bight; dry stone walls, earthenware pipes and rock drains along the Peats Bight and Peats Ferry Trail; osage orange (*Maclura pomifera*) hedges at Peats Crater; fencing, a tent school, and early colonial graffiti. A number of places or features associated with the first management of the area for nature conservation also remain in the nature reserve, including John Duncan Tipper's office, a monument, a lookout and gardens. Features of significance within Wisemans Ferry HS include remains of convict stockades. Guidelines for the management of historic heritage features are detailed in Appendix 5.

1.3.5 Recreational Use and Facilities

Owing to the rugged terrain of Marramarra NP and its relative inaccessibility to vehicles, most recreation is walking-based, and bush camping is becoming increasingly popular. Significant facilities within Marramarra NP include camping areas at Marramarra Creek and Gentlemans Halt. The Muogamarra NR field studies centre is used for research, education activities, open days and guided tours. Recreation in Maroota HS and Wiseman's Ferry HS is currently restricted to guided activities organised through the NPWS Discovery program.

1.3.6 Summary of Key Fire Issues

- Bushfires do and will continue to occur in the reserves owing to the combination of vegetation, climate, unplanned human-caused ignitions and occasional lightning strikes.
- Suspected arson is a major cause of bushfires within the reserves.
- There are a large number of community assets within and adjacent to the reserves that have been threatened or damaged in the past as a result of bushfires.

- A large proportion of existing assets and property do not conform to Australian Standards for both building construction and the establishment and maintenance of Asset Protection Zones on private property.
- The ability of residents to prepare for and take appropriate action during a bushfire is highly variable.
- During the bushfire danger period, many visitors to the reserves may be located in areas surrounded by highly flammable vegetation and where escape from a bushfire would be slow or difficult.
- The reserves conserve natural and cultural heritage values that are vulnerable to inappropriate fire regimes and fire management activities.

2 BUSHFIRE RISKS

2.1 Introduction

This section identifies the assets and values within and adjacent to the reserves that are at risk from bushfire and summarises the factors contributing to risk. Where practicable, those features considered at risk of damage have been plotted on Map 2 (attached to the end of the document).

The risk assessment process used to develop this strategy is based on the Australian Standard for Risk Management AS/NZS 4360 (2004) and the NPWS *Strategy for Fire Management* (NPWS 2003). Those documents define risk as the chance of a bushfire happening that will affect the objectives of this strategy.

Determining risk as defined above requires a yearly bushfire risk analysis to be undertaken. The risk analysis process requires the systematic use of the best available information to determine how often specified bushfires may occur and the magnitude of their consequences. The process is undertaken in conjunction with the relevant BFMCs and requires expert advice, computer modelling and statistical analysis.

The results of the risk analysis enable the risk management strategies and controls described in section 3 to be appropriately applied.

2.2 Life and Property

Within and adjacent to the reserves there are many assets that may be damaged during a bushfire. Bushfire risk is a complex interaction between a number of variables, including:

- ignition sources and patterns in the landscape
- the ability of property owners, residents and visitors to take appropriate action in the event of a fire
- the adherence of properties to the building design and construction standards detailed in AS 3959
- the establishment and maintenance of adequate asset protection zones as described by *Planning for Bushfire Protection* (RFS 2001) within private lands
- the degree of isolation of communities and properties, potentially making them dangerous to reach by fire fighters and making effective protection is difficult owing to a lack of services, particularly under severe conditions
- access for fire fighters to protect property during bushfires along perimeter roads, fire trails or walking tracks at the rear of private properties that may be used to form an interface control line (ICL)
- the adequate deployment and response times of fire fighting resources, both ground and air, to suppress fire and protect property
- the fire behaviour potential of the landscape based on the interaction of topography, vegetation type, fire history and fuel accumulation rates.

2.2.1 Property

Damage to property may result from direct flame contact, radiant heat or ember attack. It is an established fact that most destruction or damage to buildings in a bushfire is a direct result of poor preparedness and of the property being left unattended during a fire. Locations within and immediately adjacent to the reserves considered at risk from bushfires are listed in Table 1 and are marked on Map 2.

Map ID		
(See Map 2)	Location	Tenure
T1	Cowan community	private
T2	Wiseman's Ferry community to the north-west of Wisemans Ferry HS	private
T3	Ashdale Creek	private
T4	Canoelands community	private
T5	Dalgetys Creek	private
T6	Forest Glen community	private
T7	Laughtondale community	private
Т8	Lower Hawkesbury community	private
Т9	Maroota community to the west of Marramarra NP	private
T10	Paddys Bight community	private
T11	Singletons Mill	private
T12	Weavers community	private
T13	Becketts Forest community	private
T14	Berowra Creek community	private
T15	Coba Point community	private
T16	Marramarra Creek community	private
T17	Fishermans Point	private
T18	Pumpkin Point	private
T19	Pumpkin Point Creek	private
T20	Gentlemans Halt private property	private
T21	Marramarra Ridge private property	private
T22	Bloodwood Rd private property	private
T23	Yoothamurra private property	private
T24	Milsons Passage	private
T25	Sunny Corner	private
T26	Glendale Road farm	private
T27	Courangra Point	private
T28	private property, Pacific Highway northern Cowan	private
T29	Pie In The Sky	private
T30	UNSW field study centre	private
T31	Muogamarra field study centre	private
T32	Marramarra Creek	NPWS
T33	The Orchard, Marramarra Creek	NPWS NPWS
	T34 Gentleman's Halt picnic area	
T35	2 NPWS houses, Glendale Rd	NPWS
T36	Layburys Creek	private
T37	Sydney Water reservoir at Cowan	Sydney Water

Table 1: Locations of property within and immediately adjacent to the reserves considered at risk

2.2.2 Utilities and Infrastructure

Within and adjacent to the reserves there are a variety of public and private utilities that are considered at risk from bushfires, including:

- Energy Australia powerlines and substations
- TransGrid powerlines and substations
- Sydney Water infrastructure
- AGL gas and oil pipeline
- public transport infrastructure
- telecommunications infrastructure.
- DEC managed transmission lines, and water pipelines.

These assets in some circumstances are located in areas remote from access and where effective protection would be difficult and dangerous for crews under severe conditions.

2.2.3 Visitor and Public Safety

During the bushfire danger period, many visitors to the reserves may be located in areas surrounded by highly flammable vegetation and where escape from a bushfire would be slow or difficult. The risk to visitors is greatest during total fire bans, park fire bans or periods of extended fire danger. High visitation areas and situations where visitors are considered at risk from bushfires include:

- Muogamarra field study centre
- Cowan Research Station, Glendale Road
- Wisemans Ferry HS
- Marramarra Creek camping areas
- especially popular access trails and tracks to remote areas of the reserves.

2.3 Natural Heritage Risks

Natural heritage features at risk are detailed in Table 2 and are marked on Map 2.

Table 2: Natural heritage features at risk

Natural heritage feature	Description of risk
Threatened flora (Appendix 2)	 The 27 species of threatened flora recorded in the reserves may be subject to adverse fire regimes or inappropriate fire management activities
Threatened fauna (Appendix 3)	 The 20 species of threatened fauna recorded in the reserves may be subject to adverse fire regimes or inappropriate fire management activities
Endangered ecological communities (Appendix 1)	 Swamp oak forest on deep alluvial flats is a representation of Sydney coastal river flat forest. Located on Berowra Creek and Marramarra Creek. May be subject to adverse fire regimes or inappropriate fire management activities
Significant vegetation communities (Appendix 1)	 Diatreme vegetation at Peats Crater and Peats Bight Woodlands on Narrabeen Shales on sheltered south-facing aspects along the Hawkesbury River and Berowra Creek Hanging swamp communities on rock benches with impeded drainage distributed throughout the reserves Estuarine community on alluvial deposits along Marramarra Creek (Big Bay), Coba Creek, Pumpkin Point and Peats Bight. Sea grass communities at Joe Crafts Bay, which may be affected by post-fire soil erosion
Bush regeneration sites	 Bush regeneration sites at Peats Bight, Peats Crater and Gentlemans Halt may be damage by fires and fire management activities
Soil landscapes	Areas vulnerable to rock fall where slopes exceed 18°
Water catchments	Berowra Creek catchment Ashdale Creek system Marramarra Creek system

Natural heritage features may be placed at risk as a result of adverse fire regimes, inappropriate fire management activities and pest species invasion. The potential impact of these factors on natural heritage features within the reserves is outlined below.

2.3.1 Adverse fire regimes

Fire regimes are defined by the combination of several parameters including fire frequency, fire intensity, season, the size of fire (or the proportion of the landscape they burn) and patchiness. Certain combinations of these parameters can produce adverse fire regimes and pose a high risk to natural heritage features.

Fire frequency has been identified as a key threatening process, as it disrupts key life cycle processes in plants and animals. The primary risk from high fire frequency is a reduction in the abundance of a species to the point where it may become locally extinct. Alternatively, the

exclusion of fire for an extended period of time may lead to the senescence of plants and their seed banks and the succession of other communities.

Evaluating the fire interval status for vegetation communities (Appendix 1), flora (Appendix 2) and fauna (Appendix 3) assists with the identification of adverse fire regimes. Table 3 outlines the fire interval status within a vegetation community on the basis of the fire interval history of an area. Of particular significance are areas where greater than 50% of a vegetation community or species habitat experiences adverse regimes that are either too frequent (over-burnt) or too infrequent (long-unburnt). In these areas, if the trend in fire regimes continues, there will be a serious decline in the abundance of sensitive species. Areas that are identified as over-burnt, vulnerable and long-unburnt have been marked on Map 2 as having adverse fire regimes.

Fire interval status	Explanation of fire interval status
50% of a community over- burntIf more than 50% of a vegetation community becomes over-burnt, there is an extreme ris sensitive species may be pushed to local extinction. These areas are a high priority for fi exclusion until species populations can recover.	
Over-burnt	If a community is burnt at intervals less than the appropriate minimum threshold two or more times in succession, the vegetation is considered over-burnt. In these areas, species populations sensitive to short fire intervals may experience a decline in abundance to a point where they risk local extinction.
Vulnerable	If a community has experienced at least one interval less than the appropriate minimum fire interval and is currently at an age less that the minimum interval, the community is considered vulnerable to a fire. If a fire occurs, the vegetation community will become over-burnt.
Recently burnt	Vegetation that has an age class less than the appropriate minimum fire interval is considered recently burnt. Once an area is burnt, it takes several years for the plant species there to develop the regenerative mechanisms that will enable their populations to persist through the next fire. If a second fire occurs before the appropriate minimum interval, the community will become vulnerable.
Within thresholds (OK)	Vegetation communities with an age greater than the minimum interval and less than the maximum interval are considered to be 'OK' or within interval thresholds. If a fire occurs, the vegetation will become recently burnt.
Long-unburnt (under-burnt)	Where the age of a vegetation community is greater that the maximum fire interval for the community, the community is considered long unburnt or under-burnt. If fires continue to be excluded, a decline in biodiversity may result through the senescence of plants and their seed banks. Long-unburnt areas are, however, ecologically significant, as there are relatively few areas represented.

Table 3: Fire interval status of vegetation communities

Other elements of fire regimes, including the season of fire occurrence, fire intensity, fire patchiness and the scale of individual fires, may also affect natural heritage features. When viewed in isolation, each element of the fire regime has a distinct effect. The greatest risk to conservation results from adverse combinations of fire regime elements that can combine to produce a synergistic or cumulative effect. For example, areas treated by regular prescribed burns are potentially exposed to a regime of repeated low intensity fires that occur outside the typical bushfire season and are usually small and patchy in nature. These areas are also predisposed to a higher fire frequency because they are often re-burnt by summer wildfires.

2.3.2 Inappropriate fire management activities

Inappropriate fire management activities associated with fire suppression operations, hazard reduction programs or fire trail maintenance may have an adverse impact on natural heritage features. The magnitude of an impact is dependent on the type of activity, the extent of the impact, the nature and sensitivity of the environment, and the rehabilitation costs.

2.3.3 Pest species invasion

The establishment of pest and weed species as a result of fire regimes and fire management activities presents a significant risk to natural heritage values. The following factors are considered to influence the risk of pest species invasion:

- nutrients and seed sources entering reserves along fire trails, drainage lines and the urban interface
- dumping of rubbish by neighbours into a reserve, resulting in the establishment of many exotic species and contributing to fuel loads
- the presence of feral animals such as foxes and rabbits within or adjacent to areas of disturbance.

Pest species within the reserves are managed in accordance with the Sydney North Region Pest Management Strategy 2002.

2.4 Cultural Heritage Risks

Culturally important places, sites and objects of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal origin occur throughout the reserves and face a significant risk of damage from adverse fire regimes and inappropriate fire management activities.

2.4.1 Aboriginal cultural heritage values

According to the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database, over 50 Aboriginal sites have been recorded in the reserves. Owing to the sensitivity of the sites, they have not been identified in this strategy or marked on Map 2. The location of sites is available through AHIMS at all NPWS offices.

Various factors influence the risk of damage to Aboriginal cultural heritage values:

- High-intensity wildfires may cause the death of scar trees, reduce tree stability or damage the scar. Fire may also lead to a decline in tree health and promote rot or destroy dead trees.
- Wildfire may permit soil erosion, resulting in artefact movement and damage to archaeological deposits or a build-up of soil that can lead to chemical weathering.
- Art sites may be damaged from smoke staining, which may lead to chemical weathering, particularly if protective vegetation is removed. Intense heat may also cause exfoliation of the rock surface.
- Vehicle traffic including fire appliances, bulldozers, slashers or tritters may damage sites.

Guidelines for the management of Aboriginal heritage features are detailed in Appendix 4.

2.4.2 Historic heritage values

According to the Historic Heritage Information Management System (HHIMS) database, 57 sites have been recorded within the reserves. Major sites at risk from bushfires are listed in Table 4 and marked on Map 2: Bushfire Risks. The location of sites is available through HHIMS at all NPWS offices.

Map ID Description HS1 Wiseman's Ferry Historic Site HS2 Maroota Historic Site HS3 Singletons Mill HS4 Gentlemans Halt HS5 **Big Bay** HS6 Milsons Passage Peats Bight HS7 HS8 Peats Crater Budjawa Point HS9 HS10 Halstroms Reserve Tippers complex HS11 Marramarra Creek orchards HS12 HS12 Singleton Road ruin

Table 4: Historic heritage features at risk

The following factors contribute to the risk of damage to historic heritage features:

- Bushfires may directly remove or destroy combustible material such as timber structures.
- High-intensity fires may permit soil erosion, which may lead to displacement of foundations, artefact movement and damage to archaeological deposits.
- Vehicles or bulldozers may physically damage features.
- Fire may damage or destroy vegetation with historical significance.
- High-intensity fire may also cause the spalling of rock artefacts.

Guidelines for the management of historic heritage features are detailed in Appendix 5.

3 BUSHFIRE RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

3.1 Introduction

This section presents the strategies and controls that can be used to protect the assets and values at risk that were identified in section 2. The development of these strategies is premised on the understanding and acceptance that unplanned bushfires do and will continue to occur. Significantly, research and experience have shown that no one management option is effective in isolation, and optimal outcomes are achieved only through a multifaceted approach involving the community and all relevant stakeholders.

Given the large number of assets within and around the reserves it is not possible to implement strategies and controls for all assets and values every year in all locations. The results of the annual bushfire risk analysis will be used to identify and prioritise those assets most at risk and therefore in greatest need of active fire management strategies. It is important to acknowledge that after risk management strategies and controls have been implemented in preparation for the fire season, a residual level of risk to many assets and features will still remain.

The strategies are implemented in consultation with local BFMCs, land management agencies, Rural Fire Service (RFS) brigades, park neighbours and other stakeholders. The cooperation of the community is critical to the success of many strategies. In particular, the NPWS must work with BFMCs to encourage neighbours to accept responsibility for the management of fuels on their properties, to prepare and maintain their properties in accordance with AS 3959, and to develop personal action plans that can be activated in the event of a bushfire.

Where possible, the fire management strategies to be implemented within the reserves are illustrated in Maps 3A–3D. In many instances, features on the maps extend beyond the boundaries of the reserves onto other land tenures. In these circumstances, the strategies identified apply only to NPWS-managed lands. The implementation of any strategies that involve multiple land tenures will require endorsement by relevant agencies or landholders and the relevant BFMCs.

3.2 Bushfire Prevention

Bushfires do and will continue to occur, primarily because of unplanned human-caused ignitions. The major cause of unplanned ignitions is arson. Fires also start accidentally, from abandoned campfires, the arcing of powerlines, plant and machinery, motor vehicle accidents and escaped prescribed burns. Arson and other human-caused ignitions generally occur close to developed areas and along access tracks and trails. Lightning strikes are the only natural cause of ignitions and contribute to fewer than 1% of recorded ignitions. The pattern of lightning strikes is highly variable and depends on the path taken by storms and the amount of associated precipitation.

The following strategies for bushfire prevention may be implemented by the NPWS within the reserves:

- Fire investigators will cooperate with police, RFS and NSW FB to investigate all suspicious ignitions within the reserves and to thoroughly investigate unknown causes.
- Close all or part of the reserves during total fire bans, park fire bans, periods of extended fire danger or if bushfires occur adjacent to the reserves in order to control the risk of arson or accidental fires and to ensure public safety.
- Install and maintain locked fire trail gates where necessary and maintain key registers with other agencies and organisations in order to control access.
- Undertake patrols and promote cooperative surveillance programs on days of very high and extreme fire danger to manage the risk of arson and other accidental ignitions.

- Support the implementation of fire prevention education.
- Maintain up-to-date Forest Fire Danger signage at all major public entrances to the reserves in order to promote public awareness, particularly on days of very high and extreme fire danger.
- Utilise lightning detection systems, rainfall radar, ground detection networks and fixed-wing aircraft or helicopters for aerial surveillance after the passage of storms to identify the location of fires started by lightning strikes.
- Replace wood or fuel barbecues with gas barbecues in accordance with plans of management in order to minimise the risk of fires starting from abandoned cooking fires.
- Liaise with permit issuing authorities (e.g. RFS and councils) to ensure neighbours obtain appropriate hazard reduction certificates and fire permits in order to minimise the potential for fires escaping private property.
- Liaise with infrastructure authorities to determine appropriate prevention strategies for potential ignition sources associated with their operations and assets in or adjacent to the reserves.
- Ensure that prescribed burns are planned to appropriate agency standards, are directed by appropriately trained and experienced staff, and are undertaken within defined weather prescriptions in order to prevent fire escapes.
- Ensure thorough mop-up and patrol of perimeter of wildfires and prescribed burns during or before the onset of extreme weather conditions with the assistance of heat sensing technology to identify hot spots in order to minimise the potential for reignition of fires.

3.3 Bushfire Suppression

Fire suppression relates to all actions or operations undertaken to contain and control a bushfire, from the time it is detected until it is extinguished. The control and suppression of bushfires is given the highest priority over all other activities. During fire suppression, the protection of life and property has the highest priority, followed by the protection of natural and cultural heritage features.

The following strategies for bushfire suppression may be implemented within the reserves:

3.3.1 Incident preparedness

- Prepare annual RIPs in order to maintain a contact database of NPWS staff, other fire agencies and support agencies or organisations, and detailed procedures relating to preparedness and management of bushfires.
- Participate with the relevant BFMC in the development and annual review of Section 52 operations coordination plans in order to document cooperative agreements for the coordination of the first response to a fire, notification of a fire, agency resources and fire suppression guidelines.
- Prepare emergency management plans for major visitor precincts within the reserves to ensure clear directions for the evacuation of visitors to safe refuges and to locate visitors in remote areas of the reserves.
- Maintain appropriate levels of protective equipment, vehicles, equipment and other materials to ensure the safety of fire fighters and the ability to respond to bushfire ignitions.
- Develop resource dispatch strategies for different bushfire scenarios in order to increase the probability of first attack success and the protection of assets and features at risk.
- Undertake multi-agency incident-management team exercises in order to review response strategies, to identify high risk fire scenarios, and to develop close working relationships and understanding between agencies and other organisations.

3.3.2 Response

- Maintain cooperation and communication with the RFS, NSW FB and other support agencies to ensure adequate and effective resource dispatch for the suppression of bushfires on or adjacent to the reserves in order to minimise the spread of fire.
- Ensure that fire suppression activities within the reserves take into consideration the standard operational guidelines detailed in Appendix 6 in order to minimise environmental impacts on the reserves.
- Remain prepared and modify work programs according to the level of fire danger in order to maintain appropriate response time to ignitions.
- Develop media and public relations strategies to engender community confidence in and support for bushfire management.
- Manage bushfires in accordance with the incident control system to ensure coherent command and control and the safety of fire fighters and the community.
- Use sufficient aircraft to attack inaccessible fires in order to minimise the spread of fires and to protect assets and features at risk.
- Deploy remote-area fire-fighting teams to suppress lightning-induced fires identified by aerial reconnaissance in order to minimise the size of fires before the passage of severe fire weather.
- Report fire suppression activities through the Bushfire Risk Information Management System and in NPWS geographic information systems so as to maintain a record of all fires.

3.3.3 Recovery

- Rehabilitate damage resulting from fire suppression operations as the operation winds down.
- Where necessary, prepare rehabilitation plans to facilitate recovery from operations with significant impacts.
- Where necessary, implement pest control programs to prevent the invasion and spread of pest species.

3.4 Prescribed Burning

Prescribed burning is the controlled use of fire under specified environmental and weather conditions to a predetermined area with the aim of reducing fire risk under adverse conditions.

3.4.1 Fire management zones and units

The prescribed burning program for the Reserves is based on a mapping process that divides the bushland landscape into distinct operational units bounded by fire containment lines such as fire trails, walking tracks, hand tool lines, watercourses and the bushland–property boundary. The mapping process has been undertaken in consultation with land management and fire management agencies in order to incorporate relevant local knowledge and ground-truthed information. In many instances, individual units may extend beyond the boundaries of the reserves onto other land tenures. In these circumstances, NPWS will facilitate, through the relevant BFMC, cooperative agreements for the management of the unit.

The location of Fire Management Zones and units within the reserves are illustrated in Maps 3A– 3D. Each fire management unit is identified on the maps by a unique map code that can be used to obtain details of the feature in the Fire Management Zones and units register in Appendix 7.

Once the operational units have been identified, the zoning system in Table 5 has been used to specify the broad land management objectives for each unit within the reserves.

Zone type	Management objective	General location of zone
Asset Protection Zones (APZ)	 To protect all human lives from bushfires To protect residential areas, utilities, camping areas, day use areas, cultural heritage sites and other built assets 	Adjacent to assets, in accordance with Planning for Bush Fire Protection
Strategic Fire Advantage Zones (SFAZ)	 To reduce fire intensity and spotting distance so as to assist in the control and containment of bushfires To reduce the probability of bushfires being ignited adjacent to assets To complement APZs and to strengthen existing fire control lines. To restrict the movement of bushfires between fire management zones. To restrict the movement of bushfires from other land onto NPWS lands and from NPWS lands onto neighbouring land To break up large continuous areas of high potential for bushfire and to reduce the probability of large landscape-scale bushfires 	 Adjacent to economic assets In areas with a proven history of bushfire ignitions Adjacent to existing fire control advantages or in linked fire control advantages Adjacent to APZs Other strategic areas for controlling the spread of bushfires
Heritage Management Zones (HMZ) (or Land Management Zones in s.52 risk plans)	 To maintain and enhance biodiversity by preventing the extinction of species which occur naturally within the reserves To protect Aboriginal sites, historic heritage sites and other culturally significant features from fire To promote awareness of the values that may be threatened by bushfires or inappropriate fire regimes within the HMZ 	Core areas of reserve not satisfying the criteria for inclusion in APZs or SFAZs and being managed consistent with the principles outlined in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act</i> 1979

Table 5: Fire Management Zones

3.4.2 Assessment intervals

Each fire management unit has been assigned an interval (as per Table 6) at which the need for prescribed burning will be subject to a risk assessment to determine the priority for inclusion in the annual Prescribed burning program.

The determination of an appropriate interval for a unit is based on a consideration of a number of variables:

- **Zone type**—generally units that are zoned as SFAZs or APZs will be considered for treatment more frequently than HMZs (or land management zones in BFMC s.52 risk management plans).
- **Fire history**—the known history and frequency of bushfires within the unit indicate the likelihood of future events and can be used to determine the prescribed burning intervals.
- **Proximity to assets at risk**—influences the frequency of prescribed burning to maintain reduced fuel loads and to modify vegetation structure adjacent to assets.
- The strategic value of the zone or unit—influences the priorities for strategically locating prescribed burns in the landscape to provide an advantage during a fire suppression operation.
- **Fuel accumulation rates**—known rates of fuel accumulation are used to identify fire interval thresholds to manage fuels within certain levels.
- Known and modelled fire behaviour—the characteristics of fuel, aspect and terrain are assessed to determine the required fire intervals to manage likely fire behaviour.
- **Ecological requirements**—are considered to ensure that appropriate fire regime requirements are maintained for vegetation communities (Appendix 1), threatened flora (Appendix 2), threatened fauna (Appendix 3), Aboriginal heritage (Appendix 4), historic heritage (Appendix 5) and pest species management.

Assessment interval (yrs)	General location	Strategy
1–2	Typically adjacent to existing high risk properties and assets.	 Assess requirement to undertake prescribed burn or manual or mechanical treatment between 1 and 2 years since last treatment
5–10	Typically adjacent to existing high risk properties and assets in areas with twin trail systems.	 Assess requirement to undertake prescribed burn between 5 and 10 years after fire to reduce the quantity and alter the structure of fire fuel in bushland adjacent to assets
7–12	Typically adjacent to existing high risk properties and assets in areas with high strategic value in the containment of fires.	 Assess requirement to undertake prescribed burn between 7 and 12 years after fire in order to break up large continuous areas with high potential for bushfire and to reduce the probability of large landscape-scale bushfires
8–14	Typically located in areas with high strategic value in the containment of fires.	 Assess requirement to undertake prescribed burn between 8 and 14 years after the last fire.
10–15	Typically located on easterly and southerly aspects in strategic locations adjacent to assets	 Assess requirement to undertake prescribed burn within 10–15 years of last fire. Opportunistically burn during unplanned bushfires
12–20	Typically located in areas where there is a low risk to life and property and the area is of little strategic value	 Assess requirement to undertake prescribed burn between 12 and 20 years after fire Opportunistically burn during unplanned bushfires
15–30	Typically located in core areas of the reserve where there is a low risk to life and property and the area is of little strategic value	 Assess requirement to undertake prescribed burn between 15 and 30 years after fire or opportunistically burn during unplanned bushfires
20–60	Specifically for vegetation types that require very long fire intervals and where there are no assets directly at risk. Generally expected to be burnt only by Unplanned bushfire events	 Assess requirement to undertake prescribed burn between 20 and 60 years after fire Opportunistically burn during unplanned bushfires Assess opportunity for research into long-unburnt vegetation
> 60	Typically located in areas with fire-sensitive vegetation. Generally expected to be burnt only by major bushfires	 Assess requirement to undertake prescribed burn more than 60 years after fire Exclude fire where possible Assess opportunity for research into long-unburnt vegetation

Table 6: Intervals for assessing fire management units

The database maintained by the NPWS contains detailed information about the history of works and fires within each unit. By analysing the time since the last fire in relation to the interval assessment guidelines, staff can identify a range of possible treatment years. The range provides the basis for triggering the consideration of specific units in the annual burn program. Each year, units that are under assessment will be subject to a risk analysis undertaken in consultation with the relevant BFMC. Based on the priorities established by the analysis, units to be included in the annual hazard reduction program are then identified.

The assessment of fire regimes through mapping of the locality and characteristics of all fires will be continuous so that strategies for prescribed burning can be annually reviewed, refined and adjusted. Depending on the circumstances, there may be a role for both prescribed fire and fire-exclusion in parts of the reserves at different times in the future.

3.4.3 Strategic fire management

The strategic arrangement of prescribed burns is an important consideration in the development of annual hazard reduction programs. Major considerations in the strategic arrangement of prescribed burns include the following;

• Prioritising burns adjacent to assets in known high-risk locations, particularly on exposed ridgetops on dry aspects, in order to reduce fuel loads and likely fire intensity.

- Identifying terrain elements that may be considered for a prescribed burn in order to break up large continuous areas of fuels that may facilitate the spread of a fire under adverse conditions.
- Locating prescribed burns at strategic points within valley systems to create an area of reduced fuel (a 'valley plug'), which may assist in reducing the potential for bushfires to spread.
- Where possible, planning prescribed burns to ensure that an interval of 1 to 3 years is maintained between adjacent burns to provide suitable habitat for flora and fauna to recolonise recently burnt areas. Some flexibility with this requirement may be considered in the development of prescribed burning patterns in asset interface areas.
- Arranging burns in a mosaic pattern across the landscape to ensure that an appropriate age class distribution is maintained among vegetation communities within the reserves. This is particularly significant when considering the island-like nature of isolated sections of the reserves that are surrounded by developed lands.
- Evaluating annual prescribed burning programs to ensure that no more than 50% of vegetation communities or significant flora or fauna habitat has an age class younger than the minimum fire interval threshold. This evaluation also considers the interrelated effects of other components of fire regimes such as intensity, season of burning and the potential effects of unplanned bushfires.
- Determining the appropriate scale or size of prescribed burns to ensure adequate protection for assets and to reduce the intensity of bushfires; for example, several units may be combined and burnt at the same time.

3.4.4 Season

The preferred season for prescribed burns is late summer early autumn (i.e. February–April) or spring (i.e. August to October), before the onset of the fire danger period. During these periods, specific synoptic and weather conditions enable burns to be conducted safely within identified containment lines.

A major factor in the determining the preferred season of burn is the known fuel moisture dynamics of the burn area. Aspect and topographic position dominate fuel moisture retention within a burn area. Areas with moist aspects facing the east or south are generally scheduled during late summer and autumn to enable appropriate fuel moisture levels to be achieved. The relatively dry northerly and westerly aspects may be opportunistically burnt at any time of the year. However, burns on these aspects are generally planned for early spring, before the onset of the fire season, given the tendency of these aspects to dry rapidly in the approach to summer. Winter burns are generally not successful because of high fuel moisture levels, which result in a poor burn with high levels of scorch in aerial fuels and patchy consumption of ground fuels. If there are extended dry periods during winter, then winter burning may be considered.

The optimal season of burn for the conservation of most species is late summer to early autumn. However, it is generally not safe for fire fighters to conduct prescribed burning operations during this time owing to the occurrence of high to Extreme Forest Fire danger levels. It is recognised that some spring burns may interfere with the breeding season of some plants and animals within the burn area.

3.4.5 Environmental assessment

All prescribed burns are subject to site-specific environmental assessment by the NPWS, either by a review of environmental factors or in accordance with the *Bushfire Environmental Assessment Code*. In addition, an assessment is undertaken by the NPWS to assess the cumulative impacts of hazard reduction regimes on populations and communities within the landscape. The management requirements for vegetation communities (Appendix 1), threatened flora (Appendix 2), threatened fauna (Appendix 3), Aboriginal heritage (Appendix 4), and historic heritage (Appendix 5) within each fire management zone are considered during assessments.

3.4.6 Cooperative management

Annual programs for reserves are developed in conjunction with the relevant BFMCs. Priorities for annual programs are based on a risk assessment undertaken in accordance with the Australian Standard for Risk Management, AS/NZS 4360 (2004). An adaptive management approach is used to re-prioritise proposals annually in order to ensure that the program treats areas with the greatest risk.

In many instances the proposed containment boundaries of prescribed burns extend beyond the boundaries of the reserves onto other land tenures. In the development of this Strategy, all attempts have been made to ensure the accuracy of tenures identified in the Fire Management Zone register in Appendix 7. Where discrepancies are identified, NPWS will negotiate the appropriate management responsibilities on a case by case basis with the relevant parties. In circumstances where joint responsibilities are identified, NPWS will facilitate cooperative agreements for the management of the burn. Generally, prescribed burns are undertaken with the assistance of the RFS, NSW FB and other land management agencies and, in some instances, private landholders.

All prescribed burns require a plan of operations to be prepared in accordance with the NPWS *Fire Management Manual* (2005) and the *Prescribed Burning Joint Guiding Principles* (2001) to ensure best practice in operations.

3.4.7 Integrated pest species management

Prescribed burning activities may lead to pest species invasions. Where necessary, control programs may be integrated with prescribed burning programs. This may include pre- and post-burn treatment techniques.

3.5 Fire Breaks

Fire breaks are manually or mechanically reduced areas of bush fire fuels, typically along the boundary between a reserve and neighbours which aim to enable safe fire fighter access under moderate conditions and compliment preparedness works undertaken by neighbours.

3.5.1 Fire management zoning

For the purposes of this *Fire Management Strategy*, fire breaks are considered a Strategic Fire Advantage Zone (see Table 5). It is important to note that fire breaks should not considered an Asset Protection Zone, as the management standards do not meet the required standards for an Asset Protection Zone as defined by *Planning for Bushfire Protection* (2001).

The locations of fire breaks within the reserves are illustrated in Maps 3A–3D. Each fire break is identified on the maps by a unique map code that can be used to obtain details of the feature in the Fire Break register in Appendix 8.

3.5.2 Fire break establishment

Fire breaks may be established in areas where an Asset Protection Zone cannot be practically established or where the requirements of *Planning for Bushfire Protection* (2001) have not been implemented on neighbouring properties. Table 7 outlines the strategies for the establishment of fire breaks that may be implemented within the reserves.

Strategy	Description	Application
Under- scrubbing	 Scrub mulchers, slashers or brush cutters are used to remove or thin understorey vegetation The debris is either mulched, burnt on site or removed While some smaller trees may be removed, larger canopy trees are generally not disturbed 	 Generally applied in SFAZs May be used to strengthen other fire control advantages such as access trails and roads
Trittering, slashing/ mowing	 All shrub and ground fuels are removed with mechanical mowers, slashers or tritters Generally used in the maintenance of existing fire breaks 	 Generally applied in SFAZs May be used to strengthen other fire control advantages such as access trails and roads
Selective tree removal	• Selected trees are removed to reduce the continuity of tree canopies so as to reduce the chance of crown fire development	 In locations where there exists a high risk of crown fire development adjacent to access In locations where trees impede access for fire fighters
Pest control	 Programs to reduce the abundance and distribution of target species 	 In locations where priority pest species are present
Pile burns/ strip burns/ vegetation raft burns	 Vegetation debris is piled and burnt in specific locations Strip burns may be undertaken along the length of a fire break In raft burns, under-scrubbed vegetation is formed into a raft elevated off the ground which is then burnt 	 In locations where fuel cannot be removed from the site

Table 7: Fire break management strategies

In many areas, the presence of cliffs, escarpments and slopes over 18° create a situation where there may be no physical or practical means or establishing a fire break. In these circumstances, NPWS with work with BFMCs to encourage neighbours to undertake other appropriate measures to prepare their properties.

The establishment of new fire breaks will be subject to an environmental assessment either by a review of environmental factors or in accordance with the *Bushfire Environmental Assessment Code*. In addition, the cumulative impacts of fire breaks on the reserves will be assessed.

3.5.3 Fire break maintenance

Fire breaks managed by NPWS may be maintained at intervals of between 6 and 18 months, depending on the priority established by the risk assessment process. Where practical, the maintenance of fire breaks will be incorporated into prescribed burning or access maintenance programs.

3.5.4 Cooperative management

In many instances, fire breaks extend beyond the boundaries of the reserves onto other land tenures. Where joint responsibilities are identified, NPWS will encourage landowners and land management agencies to develop cooperative agreements for the management of the fire break through the relevant BFMC.

3.5.5 Integrated pest species management

Fire break management activities may lead to pest species invasions. Pest control requirements will be taken into consideration with scheduled works and may incorporate a combination of preand post-treatment control programs.

3.6 Fire Management Access

Access trails, roads and other routes enable access to different parts of the reserve. Access infrastructure is essential for undertaking fire management operations and activities, including direct attack of low-intensity fires, back-burning to contain high-intensity fires, and conducting hazard reduction burning.

3.6.1 Vehicular access trails

The location of Trails within the reserves are illustrated in Maps 3A–3F. Each trail is identified on the maps by a unique map code that can be used to obtain details of the feature in the trail register in Appendix 9.

3.6.2 Current operational accessibility

A database of the current accessibility of trails by different categories of fire appliances is detailed in the fire trail register in Appendix 9, as described in Table 8. Information on the accessibility of access infrastructure is essential during fire management operations in order to ensure the safety of fire fighters. When access trails are maintained or access impediments are identified, the access classification in the database is updated.

Access classification	Description
Public road	 Any major or minor public road accessible by two-wheel-drive vehicles
Cat 1 heavy tanker	 4WD trail capable of being used by heavy Cat 1 tanker
Cat 7–9 light tanker	 4WD trail capable of being used by Cat 7–9-type tanker (no heavy tanker access)
Closed trail	 Any trail that is closed but still has strategic value for use as a control line or strategic advantage and may be reopened for hazard reduction burns or the containment of wildfires
Walking track	Walking track with no vehicle access
Hand tool line	 Hand tool line created by foot crews; generally 1–2 m wide. Generally rehabilitated after use.
Unclassified	Trail or track of unknown accessibility. Survey required to determine classification

Table 8: Operational accessibility classifications for vehicular access trails

3.6.3 Access management standards

The proposed management standard for access trails within the reserves is based on the Bush Fire Coordinating Committee (BFCC) Policy 2001/03 standards for fire trails, summarised in Table 9. This classification system provides the basis for the development of maintenance regimes for existing trails and the standards for proposed upgrades to trails. The classification of trails has been undertaken in consultation with the relevant BFMCs and is consistent across member agencies. Any proposed upgrades to trails will be subject to a review of environmental factors.

Table 9: Bush Fire Coordinating Committee (BFCC) classification for vehicular access trails

Classification	Summary of BFCC standard		
Primary	• Fire trail of strategic importance or a feeder route to a network of secondary trails. Generally includes sealed roads or management trails that are suitable for access by Cat 1 tankers.		
Secondary	• Fire trail that can be used for fire control, suppression and mitigation purposes. Generally includes management trails that are suitable for access by Cat 7 or 9 tankers, but may be suitable in some sections for Cat 1 tankers.		
Dormant	 Fire trail that has been closed but has been identified as suitable for reopening with minimal works. Generally includes former management trails, fire control lines or utility access trails that are commonly used for prescribed burns. 		

It is important to note that these standards provide a target for management and do not reflect the current standard of trails within the reserves. The terrain in many areas of the reserves creates a situation where there may be no physical or practical means of attaining the proposed BFCC

standards. In these instances the classification may be changed to reflect the specific circumstances.

3.6.4 Access trail maintenance

Trails in the reserves are maintained in accordance with NPWS policy in the *Fire Management Manual* (2005), the relevant reserve plan of management and the Soil Conservation Service standards (DLWC, 1994). Table 10 summarises the indicative maintenance regimes applied to trails in order to avoid environmental damage and ensure cost-effective management. The trail maintenance program for the reserves is managed using the NPWS Asset Maintenance System, which establishes a cyclic maintenance program for trails within the reserves.

Problem	Cause	Strategy
Erosion of track surface	 Crossbanks too far apart Earth or vegetation windrow on the side of the trail prevents outfall drainage Track being overused during wet periods Culvert blocked, or rills on the surface 	 Check crossbank spacings Remove windrows Restrict vehicle usage during wet weather Unblock culverts Install and compact suitable surface capping material
Sediment in outlets of crossbanks and mitre drains	Vegetation in outletsExcess soil erosion on trail surface	 Remove sediment Check condition and spacing of erosion control structures
Tree and shrub trim- ming on edge of trail	Overgrown vegetation encroaching over the trail surface, reducing the width of the trail	 Remove encroaching vegetation by mechanical or other means
Scouring of crossbank channel	Excessive crossbank channel grade	Regrade channel
Overtopping of crossbank	Insufficient height of crossbankChannel silted due to ponding	 Raise height of crossbank Remove sediment and check cause of ponding
Erosion of outlets, crossbanks and mitre drain	 Excessive outlet grades 	 Regrade outlet to a reduced grade Stabilise outlet with vegetation Relocate crossbank or mitre drain
Ponding in crossbank	 Insufficient crossfall grade Blocked outlet Track being overused during wet periods 	Regrade channelRemove obstructionRestrict vehicle usage
Blocked culvert	Sediment build-up in culvert Blockage in culvert	 Remove sediment from culvert Remove debris from culvert
Culvert eroding	 Culvert blocked Undersized culvert Inlet and outlet eroding 	 Seek engineering advice and redesign culvert to accommodate expected catchment flow Reconstruct inlet and outlet protection or headwall
Trees across trail	 Tree fall due to bushfire or storm Tree fall due to natural circumstances, e.g. age, termites, disease 	Undertake a risk assessment of trees located on the edge of the trail

Table 10: Maintenance regimes for existing vehicular access trails by problems caused

3.6.5 Walking tracks

Within the reserves, the network of formal and informal walking tracks contributes significantly to the fire control advantage system. Walking tracks within the reserves are managed in accordance with policies and procedures detailed in the relevant plans of management for the reserves.

3.6.6 Hand tool lines

A hand tool line is a temporary fire control line generally less than 2 me wide constructed with hand tools though terrain that is too rugged or environmentally sensitive for use of machines. The following strategies can be used for the management of hand tool lines within reserves:

- Hand tool lines are constructed in accordance with best practice guidelines to minimise the potential for environmental degradation.
- The location and route of hand tool lines used during fire suppression operations or prescribed burns are mapped and recorded for future reference and re-use.
- Where necessary, hand tool lines are rehabilitated to prevent erosion and the establishment of informal access routes.
- In some instances, routine maintenance of vegetation regrowth along a hand tool line may be considered where the hand tool line is considered to be of strategic value.

3.6.7 Interface control line (ICL)

The ICL comprises a variety of features, including perimeter fire trails, fire breaks, sports ovals, public roads, walking tracks, partly cleared lands, or natural features such as rock outcrops or cliffs, which may be linked to form an access route along the property–bushland interface. In many interface areas, however, the presence of cliffs, escarpments and steep slopes creates a situation where there may be no physical or practical means of identifying an ICL.

The ICL assists in the implementation of prescribed burning and other mitigation programs and enables fire fighters to conduct back-burning or a direct attack on wildfires.

Interface survey and assessment

The intent of this strategy is to survey the interface adjacent to reserves and map sections where a suitable ICL exists, for use during fire operations. Mapping of the ICL will be undertaken in consultation with land management agencies, private land holders and fire management agencies in order to incorporate relevant local knowledge and ground-truthed information.

The location of Survey areas within the reserves are illustrated in Maps 3A–3F. Each survey area is identified on the maps by a unique map code that can be used to obtain details of the feature in the Interface survey register in Appendix 10.

ICL improvement

Where no ICL exists, an assessment will be undertaken to determine the feasibility of works to create one. Where possible improvements are identified, works may be incorporated into programs for fire breaks or prescribed burns.

3.6.8 Cooperative management

In many instances, access trails serve a variety of functions in addition to fire management:

- Other agencies such as TransGrid, Energy Australia, AGL, and Sydney Water may use trails to reach infrastructure for maintenance and inspections.
- Private landholders may use trails to reach their properties where formal access agreements have been put in place.
- RFS volunteer brigades may use trails for training exercises and orientation with permission of the relevant NPWS manager.

Where joint responsibilities are identified, NPWS will encourage landowners and land management agencies to develop cooperative agreements for the management of the access trail.

3.7 Other Fire Management Advantages

Other fire control advantages include water points for vehicles and helicopters, or helipads, to assist in the control and management of bushfires. The locations of advantage points in the reserves are marked on Maps 3A–3F.

Strategies for the management of other fire control advantages include the following:

- Advantage points are mapped where possible using GPS (Geographic Positioning System), or from air photos or local knowledge.
- Advantage points are inspected as part of a cyclic program in order to determine works requirements.
- Advantages are incorporated into the BFMC Section 52 operations coordination plans.
- The fire advantage network within and adjacent to the reserves is evaluated to determine additional advantage requirements in conjunction with the relevant BFMCs. If required, other fire control advantages may be strategically located in the reserves to support fire management operations.

3.8 Community Education, Cooperation and Enforcement

Community education, cooperation and enforcement programs are directed to particular communities with a recognised need because of the risk levels they face. NPWS will assist BFMCs to determine the location and priorities for programs each year. In conjunction with other member agencies of the BFMC, NPWS may implement the following strategies during the life of this strategy:

- Support the RFS in FireWise activities in vulnerable communities to increase the number of community members who prepare for fire on their properties.
- Support the NSW FB in Community Fire Unit program training days and involvement in other hazard reduction and fire preparedness activities.
- Support the NPWS Discovery program to incorporate fire management issues in displays, shows, guided walks and field study trips.
- Support the consideration of bushfire risk management in the development of bush regeneration programs.
- Use the media to promote and engender support for NPWS fire management activities.
- Review reserve signage and interpretation to include current fire management information and procedures relating to total fire bans, reserve closures and other fire management operations.
- As required, develop memorandums of understanding for all jointly managed fire management zones, ICLs, and fire trails identified in the strategy.
- Develop access agreements for strategic trails that traverse private or non-reserve lands.
- Investigate requests for hazard reduction or hazard complaints, where necessary jointly with the RFS or NSW FB. In all instances, NPWS will promote a holistic approach to the management of hazard complaints and promote the principle of shared responsibility for risk management with neighbours.

3.9 Research, Monitoring and Database Management

Ongoing research and monitoring is required to improve the understanding of the consequences of fire management regimes and operations. NPWS will encourage staff and research institutes such as universities and the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre to study aspects of fire management and fire ecology. NPWS will undertake the following programs.

3.9.1 Database management

- Record all hazard reduction activities in the Bushfire Risk Information Management System and NPWS Geographic Information System.
- Review fire history archives to evaluate the attribution and accuracy of mapped data and incorporate other agencies' data where available.

- Acquire high-resolution digital air photographs of the reserves.
- Improve measurement and mapping of fire intensity and patchiness of fire regimes.
- Map or model the distribution of threatened species habitat to provide data for use in strategic environmental assessment and fire regime evaluations.

3.9.2 Monitoring

- Develop a visual fuel assessment guide to assist with rapid fuel load assessments.
- Determine the fire responses and critical life history phases of threatened species for which little information is available, and evaluate the effects of fire exclusion on seed-bank dynamics to more accurately define maximum inter-fire intervals.
- Develop biological indicator systems for rapid fire regime assessment.
- Establish long-term monitoring sites to monitor changes in biodiversity.

3.9.3 Research

- Assess the effects of fire on different cultural site types to determine appropriate management regimes.
- Assess the cultural sensitivity of landscapes through predictive modelling to manage the risk to cultural heritage values.
- Evaluate the prescribed burning strategies and patterns to determine the most effective strategies for asset protection and bushfire control.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of hazard reduction burning and its effect on the behaviour of wildfires.
- Assess the impact of post-fire erosion of sediments and ash on water quality in catchments, including assessment of the effects of fire intensity on soil erosion.
- Determine the most effective programs for community education and awareness.

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APPENDIX 1: FIRE REGIME GUIDELINES FOR VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

Table 1A outlines the fire interval guidelines for vegetation communities in the reserves. The guidelines have been compiled from best available information and research on the fire ecology of the communities (Bradstock et al 1995; Keith, 2002). The fire interval thresholds are based on a consideration of the broad vegetation type and the species composition of communities. The minimum interval is based on the primary juvenile periods of species sensitive to extinction under frequent fire regimes and does not include the time to replenish seed bank reserves. The maximum interval indicates the time since a fire at which species may be lost from the community due to senescence. The figures for maximum intervals are largely based on assumptions and generalisations rather than on quantitative life history studies.

It is important to note that the fire intervals identified in Table 1A provide a guide to identifying inappropriate fire regimes within the reserves. They do not specify the preferred or desired fire intervals for vegetation communities on a long-term basis. Desired fire regimes are those that provide a diversity of fire intervals (within the intervals range identified) along with patterns of fire intensity, season of occurrence and spatial extent. Extinctions are most likely to occur when fire regimes of relatively fixed intensity, frequency and extent prevail without variation.

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Re	egime Vegetation Communities	Minimum interval	Maximum interval	На	-% of Reserve	Notes
	A Rainforest Communities	n/a	n/a			
•	No communities represented in the reserves	No Fire	No Fire	-	-	Fire should be avoided
	B Saline wetlands (Mangroves)					
٠	19 Tall open-scrub-watercourses	No Fire	No Fire	4.9	0.1	Fire should be avoided
٠	Mangrove Closed Scrub	No Fire	No Fire	94.2	0.7	Fire should be avoided
	C Wet sclerophyll forests					
•	Diatreme vegetation at Peat's Crater and Peat's Bight	25	60	TBA	ТВА	Regionally significant community. Crown fires should be avoided at lower end of the interval range
	D Semi-mesic grassy forests					
•	10ar Sydney Sandstone Ridgetop Woodland (WF HS only)	10	50	25.0	0.2	Crown fires should be avoided in the lower end of the interval range
•	Sheltered Gully Forest	10	50	1477.4	10.4	
•	Sheltered Narrabeen Slopes Forest (representation of Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest)	10	50	250.2	1.8	Regionally Significant Vegetation represented along the Hawkesbury river and Berowra Creek are considered to be regionally significant
٠	Sydney Sandstone Gully Forest	10	50	2565.8	18.1	
	E Swamp sclerophyll forests					
•	Swamp Oak Forest on Deep Alluvial Flat	s 7	35	204.9	1.4	Endangered Ecological Community. Vegetation represented along Marramarra Creek (Big bay), Coba Creek, Pumpkin Point and Peat's Bight is considered regionally significant.
٠	Swamp Oak Forest on Marine Sediments	s 7	35	2.7	0.1	
	F Sclerophyll grassy woodlands					
•	No communities represented in the reserves	5–10	40			
	G Grassy dry sclerophyll forests					
•	No communities represented in the	5	50	-	-	

Table 1A: Fire interval guidelines for vegetation communities

Fire	Management	Strategy	2006	-2010
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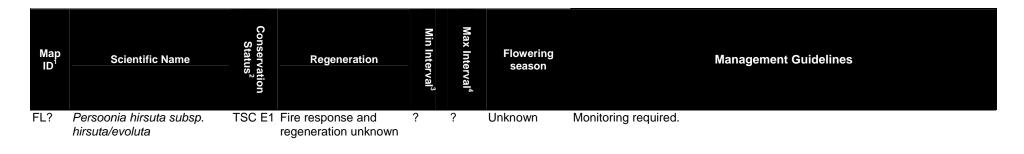
Re	egime	Vegetation Communities	Minimum interval	Maximum interval	На	-% of Reserve	Notes
	reserve	S					
	H S	hrubby dry sclerophyll forests					
•	7 Rougł	n-barked Apple OF-footslop	12	30	0.0	0.1	
٠	9 Shelte	ered Hawkesbury Forest	7	30	0.8	0.1	
•	Dry Sar Woodla	ndstone Ridgetop Woodland/ Low nd	7	30	2414.9	17.1	
•	Narrabe	een Slopes Forest	7	30	301.3	2.1	Regionally significant community. Located along Berowra Creek and the Hawkesbury River
•	Red Blo	odwood - Scribbly Gum Woodland	7	30	3075.7	21.7	
•	Sydney	Sandstone Ridgetop Woodland	7	30	2065.3	14.6	
•	Yellow I	Bloodwood Forest	7	30	1096.6	7.7	
	I H	eathlands					
•	Sydney	Sandstone Heath	7	30	578.2	4.1	
	J G	rasslands					
•	No com reserve	munities represented in the s	2	10*	-	-	Some intervals greater than 7 years should be included in coastal areas. Evidence indicates maximum intervals should be approximately 10 years.
	K F	reshwater wetlands					
•	Hanging	g swamp Communities	6	30	ТВА	TBA	Regionally significant vegetation. distributed in isolated areas throughout the reserves.
	Z 0	ther Communities					
•	Sea Gra	ass Communities	NA	NA	ТВА	ТВА	Regionally significant vegetation located in Joe Crafts Bay may be disturbed by post fire soil erosion.

Map ID ¹	Scientific Name	Conservation Status ²	Regeneration	Min Interval ³	Max Interval⁴	Flowering season	Management Guidelines
FL?	Acacia bynoeana	TSC E3	Likely to resprout from woody rootstock and/or seed stored in the soil.	8*	30*	Unknown	Fire tolerant due to community and topographic preference. Three successive fires, each less than 8 years apart or more than 30 years without fire.
FL?	Amperea xiphoclada var. papillata	U	Fire response and regeneration unknown	?	?	Unknown	Monitoring required.
FL?	Ancistrachne maidenii	V	Fire response and regeneration unknown	?	?	Unknown	Monitoring required.
FL6	Asterolasia elegans		Killed by 100% scorch; seed storage in soil	8–11	?	Spring	Only limited recruitment occurs without fire. Minimum threshold of 8–10 years should apply with prescribed burns being of low intensity and consume high levels of fine fuels.
FL?	Boronia fraseri	P15	Fire response and regeneration unknown	?	?	Unknown	Monitoring required.
FL7	Boronia serrulata	Rotap 2RC-	Killed by 100% scorch; seed storage in soil	>7	?	Spring	Plants killed by fire. Regenerates from soil stored seed.
FL?	Callistemon linearifolius	V	Fire response and regeneration unknown	?	?	Unknown	Monitoring required.
FL9	Darwinia biflora		Killed by 100% scorch; short lived seed storage in soil		33	Autumn	Fire tolerant due to community and topographic preference.
FL5	Darwinia fascicularis subsp. oligantha	ered	Species likely to be killed by 100% scorch; however can resprout from location unknown;	>3	35	Spring- Summer	Monitoring required.

APPENDIX 2: FIRE REGIME GUIDELINES FOR FLORA SPECIES

Map ID ¹	Scientific Name	Conservation Status ²	Regeneration	Min Interval ³	Max Interval⁴	Flowering season	Management Guidelines
		ion (Baulkh am Hills & Hornsb y LGA)	persistent soil seedbank				
FL?	Darwinia peduncularis	TSC V	Fire response and regeneration unknown	8*	30*	Unknown	Likely to be fire tolerant due to community and topographic preference. Three successive fires, each less than 8 years apart or more than 30 years without fire.
FL8	Darwinia procera	Rotap 2RCa	Killed by 100% scorch; seed storage in soil	5–13	>43	Winter-Spring	Monitoring required.
FL10	Eucalyptus luehmanniana	Rotap 2RCa	Survives 100% scorch; resprouts from epicormic shoots	>7	103		Monitoring required.
FL5	Grevillea parviflora subsp. supplicans	TSC E, ESP E	Killed by 100% scorch; seed storage in soil	8*	30*	Spring	Likely to be fire tolerant due to community and topographic preference. Three successive fires, each less than 8 years apart or more than 30 years without fire.
FL?	Haloragis exalata subsp. exalata	TSC V	Fire response and regeneration unknown	?	?	Unknown	Monitoring required.
FL2	Kunzea rupestris	TSC V, ESP V, Rotap 2VCa	Plants resprout after fire	8*	30*	Spring	Discontinuous fuels on rock platforms likely to protect whole stands from being destroyed at once. Three successive fires, each less than 8 years apart or more than 30 years without fire, is likely to cause decline.
FL?	Lasiopetalum joyceae	TSC V	Fire response and regeneration unknown	?	?	Unknown	Monitoring required.
FL?	Leptospermum deanei	TSC V	Fire response and regeneration unknown	?	?	Unknown	Likely to be fire intolerant or adapted to long fire intervals due to topographic preference. Exclude fire from known locations.

Map ID ¹	Scientific Name	Conservation Status ²	Regeneration	Min Interval ³	Max Interval ⁴	Flowering season	Management Guidelines
FL10a	Lomandra brevis	Rotap 2RC-	Survives 100% scorch; resprout location unknown	3–9	28	Spring-Autumn	Monitoring required.
FL18	Melaleuca deanei		Resprouts. Canopy stored seed bank	12	>104	Spring- Summer	Likely to be adapted to heathland community threshold. Precautionary minimum interval of 10 years should be applied.
FL6	Micromyrtus blakelyi	ESP V, Rotap 2VCi	Killed by 100% scorch; seed storage in soil	>3	?	Spring	Likely to be fire tolerant to some extent given species location and vegetation community preference. Minimum threshold of 8 years should apply in known locations.
FL1	Olearia cordata		Survives 100% scorch; resprout location unknown possibly woody rootstock	6–8 (15*)	20	Spring-Autumn	Fire intervals less than $12 - 15$ years will kill plants, rootstock will not yet be fire resistant. A minimum fire interval of $8 - 12$ years may be acceptable if had good flowering years. Fires in February to May must be avoided in order to ensure successful seasonal seed production.
FL?	Pimelea curviflora var. curviflora	TSC V	Fire response and regeneration unknown	?	?	Unknown	Monitoring required.
FL6	Platysace clelandii	Rotap 2RCa	Killed by 100% scorch; seed storage in soil	8–11	21	Spring- Summer	Plants killed by fire. Regenerates from soil stored seed.
FL5	Tetratheca glandulosa		Resprouts from a woody rootstock	6–12	24	Winter-Spring	Fire tolerant due to community and topographic preference.
FL5	Zieria involucrata	ESP V, Rotap 2VCa	Killed by 100% scorch; seed storage in soil	10–15	26	Spring	Sensitive to frequent fire or medium -high intensity fire. Fire should be excluded from known locations and communities. (Maryott-Brown, 1994)
FL?	Persoonia hirsuta subsp. hirsuta	TSC E1	Fire response and regeneration unknown	?	?	Unknown	Monitoring required.



Map ID¹ Code to be used to identify features on NPWS operational maps. Based on functional fire response and life history species groups of Noble & Slatyer (1980). See Also the NSW Flora Fire Response Database (NPWS 2006). FL? = Unknown functional group.

Conservation Status² NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act (TSC) & Commonwealth Endangered Species Protection Act (ESP) listings; Source: NSW Scientific Committee; E = endangered, V = vulnerable, U = Unprotected; ROTAP codes follow Briggs & Leigh; Source: Briggs, J.D. & Leigh, J.H. (1996) Rare or Threatened Australian Plants. 1995 Revised Edition. CSIRO, Canberra.; codes not prefixed by 'Rotap' are suggestions from other sources and not listed in Briggs & Leigh 1996.

Min Interval³ – Minimum intervals based on NSW flora fire response database. Intervals marked with an * indicate a local variation of interval requirement.

Max Interval⁴ – Maximum Intervals based on NSW flora fire response database. Intervals marked with an * indicate a local variation of interval requirement.

APPENDIX 3: FIRE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR FAUNA SPECIES

Map ID ¹	Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation Status ²	Management Guidelines
FA1	Heleioporus australiacus	Giant Burrowing Frog	V	 Avoid high frequency fires – may lead to a build up of sediments in small ponds used for breeding and simplify the structure and species composition of habitat; Maintain appropriate fire regimes to preserve sheltering sites such as vegetation and / or rocks in Wet sclerophyll forests, riparian margins, marshes, dams, stream sides particularly those containing bullrushes (<i>Typha spp</i>) or spike rushes (<i>Eleocharis spp</i>). Requires nearby
FA1	Pseudophryne australis	Red-crowned Toadlet	V	 Avoid frequent burning that may reduce leaf litter in known habitat Habitat preference indicates that the populations will survive less frequent fires. Maintain appropriate fire regimes of 8–10 years in preferred Habitats including coastal heath, low open woodland, open forest particularly damp leaf litter in ephemeral drainage lines and soaks.
FA2	Climacteris picumnus	Brown Treecreeper	V	 Frequently burnt areas often lead to a reduction in prey availability. High intensity fires can reduce availability of nesting hollows. Avoid frequent fire in vegetation communities containing foraging habitats for this species.
FA2	Xanthomyza phrygia	Regent Honeyeater	E1	 Itinerant species generally not affected by fire. Keep fire out of canopy; Avoid Burning during July to November breeding season Maintain appropriate fire regimes within known habitat including Red Ironbark, Red River Gum, also other eucalypts and mistletoe clumps and casuarinas in Dry eucalypt woodland and dry sclerophyll forest with mature flowering trees, and riparian vegetation for breeding;
FA3	Callocephalon fimbriatum	Gang-gang Cockatoo	E2	 Nest in tree hollows, high up and usually near water. Avoid burning of riparian corridors in known locations. Avoid felling of potential roost trees (those with hollows) during mop-up operations; Avoid burning during September to December breeding season. Nests in platform of trampled waterplants over water in reeds; Maintain appropriate fire regimes within known habitat including mountain forests, especially densely wooded gullies and adjacent lowland woodlands.
FA3	Calyptorhynchus lathami	Glossy Black- Cockatoo	V	 Avoid high intensity fires in Allocasuarina dominated vegetation communities with a recurrent frequency of < 15 years. Maintain diversity in of age structures in community's particularly open forests (with tree hollows for roosting). dominated by <i>Allocasuarina spp</i>. Protect known nest sites by a 50–200 metre buffer strip. Avoid burning during March to August breeding season.

Map ID ¹	Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation Status ²	Management Guidelines
FA3	Ixobrychus flavicollis	Black Bittern	V	 Fire unlikely to impact on individuals; Avoid burning during September to April breeding season Maintain appropriate fire regimes within community thresholds for Leafy riverside, creekside or swampside trees, mangroves, occasionally in willows on margins of rivers, swamps, tidal creeds and mudflats habitat.
FA3	Neophema pulchella	Turquoise Parrot	-	 Protect roosting/ nesting sites in tree hollows/logs > 2 m from ground. Avoid felling possible habitat trees/stumps during mop up operations. Avoid medium-high intensity burns in known locations during August to January breeding season Maintain appropriate fire regimes within known habitat including Eucalypt woodlands and open forests with a ground cover of grasses and low understorey of shrubs
FA3	Ninox connivens	Barking Owl	V	 Protect nesting sites in Tree hollows and sometimes in rabbit burrows in dry forests during winter/spring breeding season. Should not be affected by low/medium intensity fires. Avoid high intensity large area burns that reduce forage habitat. Maintain appropriate fire regimes within known habitat including Forest and woodland, eucalypt savanna woodland, well-forested hills and flats, trees along watercourses and in gorges.
FA3	Ninox strenua	Powerful Owl		 Protect known nesting sites required during winter spring breeding season. Avoid medium-high intensity fire in known locations during nesting season. Avoid high intensity prescribed burns or wildfires over large areas that reduce forage habitat Maintain appropriate fire regimes within known habitat including Forests and woodlands (requires tree hollows for roosting)
FA3	Pandion haliaetus	Osprey	V	 Unlikely to be effected by fire management activities. This species nests in trees on rocky outcrops, nest sites need to be identified and protected; Avoid burning during April to July breeding season Maintain appropriate fire regimes within known habitat including Coastal waters, inlets, estuaries, offshore islands, occasionally far up rivers.
FA3	Ptilinopus superbus	Superb Fruit-Dove	V	 Unlikely to be effected by fire management activities as it is a locally vagrant species which follows local food sources Avoid burning during September to January breeding season. Maintain appropriate fire regimes within known habitat including rainforests, adjacent woodlands, mangroves, & shrubland with native fruits.
FA3	Tyto novaehollandiae	Masked Owl	V	 Protect nesting sites required in winter/spring breeding season. Avoid medium-high intensity fire in known locations. Avoid high intensity burns over large areas. Maintain appropriate fire regimes within known habitat including Open woodland/forest with tree hollows for roosting.

Map ID ¹	Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation Status ²	Management Guidelines
FA3	Tyto tenebricosa	Sooty Owl	-	 Protection of nesting sites in drier forest required in winter/spring breeding season. Should not be affected by low/medium intensity fires. Avoid high intensity burns over large areas that reduce forage habitat. Maintain appropriate fire regimes within known habitat including Tall, wet forests in sheltered east and south-east facing gullies.
FA4	Dasyurus maculatus	Spotted-tailed Quoll		 Avoid high intensity fires over large areas. Avoid burning immediately prior and during the April to August breeding period. Protect potential den site in hollow logs during mop up operations; Avoid fires greater than the home range of the species which is approximately 800ha;
FA5	Cercartetus nanus	Eastern Pygmy- possum		 Avoid high intensity fires over large areas. Avoid frequent fires that may reduce cover and feed availability. Maintain a variety of age classes in understorey vegetation by implementing a mosaic of fire intensities and frequencies. Avoid burning during the breeding season.
FA5	Phascolarctos cinereus	Koala	V	 Avoid medium to high intensity fires in areas of known colonies or in low open forest with known forage tree species. Avoid burning Breeds in Summer, Avoid Frequent fires in preferred habitat of Wet or dry Eucalypt forest on high nutrient soils containing preferred feeding trees
FA5	Pteropus poliocephalus	Grey-headed Flying- fox	V	 Maintain appropriate fire regimes within community thresholds for forests and woodlands with well developed understorey.
FA7	Varanus rosenbergi	Rosenberg's Goanna	V	 Little known species. Likely to be sensitive to large area burns due to habitat loss and also to high intensity fires due to use of hollow logs as refuge. Protect known nests burrows in soil, hollow logs and rock crevices. Maintain appropriate fire regimes within known habitat including Open woodland with generally rocky terrain.
FA9	Saccolaimus flaviventris	Yellow-bellied Sheathtail-bat		 Potential for a long absence of fire to cause a decline in roosting hollow regeneration Avoid burning habitat during early December to mid March breed season. Avoid disturbance to nests in tree hollows and abandoned dens of sugar gliders Maintain appropriate fire regimes within known habitat including rainforest gullies, sclerophyll forest and woodlands

Map ID¹ Code to be used to identify features on NPWS operational maps. Based on functional fire response and life history species group FA1 = Amphibians, FA2 = Passerine Birds, FA3 = Non Passerine Birds, FA4 = Ground Mammals, FA5 = Arboreal Mammals, FA6 = Macropods, FA7 = Reptiles, FA8 = Invertebrates, FA9 = Bats

Conservation Status²NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act (TSC) & Commonwealth Endangered Species Protection Act (ESP) listings; Source: NSW Scientific Committee; E = endangered, V = vulnerable, U = Unprotected;

APPENDIX 4: GUIDELINES FOR ABORIGINAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

The Department of Environment and Conservation's (DEC) Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) details the location and types of Aboriginal sites within the landscape and the risk of damage that may be caused by fire management activities. The database lists twenty different types of site features currently recognised. The Aboriginal site features in AHIMS have been grouped in Table 4A into five groups on the basis that certain features will respond similarly to fire management activities. For each site group, management strategies have been identified to prevent possible damage to features.

In addition to the strategies in Table 4A, consultation should be undertaken with local Aboriginal representatives, DEC site officers or the DEC Cultural Heritage Unit to determine appropriate management strategies.

Map ID ¹	Site group ²	Management strategies
AH1	Artefact (AFT) Earth mound (ETM) Hearth (HTH) Non-human bone (BOM) Ochre quarry (OCQ) Potential archaeological deposit (PAD) Shell (SHL)	 Do not break earth around known sites, especially where there is surface evidence of artefacts, shell, charcoal or ochre. Any surface alteration adjacent to site must be immediately reversed to previous state. A note must be made of site location, and details of site disturbance must be provided to DEC Cultural Heritage Unit. Vehicles or heavy equipment must not be used on or within these sites unless a path exists that will not damage the site. Vegetation which is screening the site must not be damaged. There must be no slashing/trittering of vegetation, no tree removal, and no use of earthmoving equipment such as bulldozers. If using fire, place the control lines well away from the site.
AH2	Art (ART) Grinding groove (GRG)	 If burning, loose leaf litter must be carefully removed from rock platforms and from under overhangs. Leaf litter is to be returned to the site after the fire, as site may be covered for protection from vandalism. If using fire, place control lines well away from the site. Heavy equipment (including vehicles) must not be used on rock platforms or within 10 m of sites unless an existing road is available for use. If burning, rake loose leaf litter away from vegetation near the site if smoke is likely to mark rock paintings. Do not use chemicals or other retardants within 20 m of art sites. If windy, the distance is to be extended to 50 m. Vegetation which is screening the site must not be damaged. There must be no slashing/trittering of vegetation, no tree removal, and no use of earthmoving equipment such as bulldozers.
АНЗ	Aboriginal resource & gathering (ARG) Habitation structure (HAB) Modified tree (TRE) Water hole (WTR)	 Loose leaf litter and low ground cover are to be manually cleared by raking for 10 m around carved or scarred trees and wooden structures. Wooden structures and trees of concern are to be protected at the time of burn. For example, dampen earth around structures and trees to be protected, and minimise risk of ember attack. If using fire, place control lines well away from the site. Trees of concern must be examined as soon as possible after the passage of the fire, and embers that might cause the tree to burn must be extinguished. Chemicals or other retardants that can harm plants and animals used by Aboriginal people or cause damage to water holes must not be used. There must be no slashing/trittering of vegetation, no tree removal, and no use of earthmoving equipment such as bulldozers. If site is used by Aboriginal people, then liaise with the Aboriginal community to ensure that hazard reduction is timed to cause minimal damage to the resource and is not disruptive to gathering practices. Do not proceed if damage cannot be avoided.

Table 4A: Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage management

Map ID ¹	Site group ²	Management strategies
AH4	Fish trap (FSH) Stone arrangement (STA) Stone quarry (STQ) Note: there is a high likelihood that other sites from Grouping 1 will be in the general vicinity.	 Do not move loose stones (i.e. to create a 'natural fire break'), especially where they have been already grouped or arranged. Heavy machinery is not to be used in or adjacent to these sites. Do not drive vehicles or use heavy equipment within these sites unless a path exists that will not damage the site. Vegetation which is screening the site must not be damaged. There must be no slashing/trittering of vegetation, Do not remove trees or use earthmoving equipment such as bulldozers. If using fire, place control lines well away from the site.
AH5	Aboriginal ceremony & dreaming (ACD) Burial (BUR) Ceremonial ring (CMR) Conflict (CFT) Note: there is a high likelihood that sites from the other groupings will be in the general vicinity	 There must be no slashing/trittering of vegetation, no tree removal, and no use of earthmoving equipment such as bulldozers. There must be no breaking of earth near known sites of this group, especially near burials and ceremonial rings. If human skeletal remains are located (and it cannot be confirmed that they are a known Aboriginal burial), then the police must be called, and the immediate location must be treated as a 'crime scene'. Vehicles or heavy equipment must not be used on or within these sites unless on established vehicular access. Vegetation which is screening the site must not be damaged. If using fire, place control lines well away from the site. These types of sites are highly sensitive. Discussions must be held between DEC Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Officer and the local Aboriginal people before any hazard reduction works are undertaken. Do not proceed if a resolution cannot be reached.

1. Map ID: Code used to identify features on NPWS operational maps.

2. Site group: Used to group sites recorded in AHIMS by like environmental variables, i.e. relative to likely fire and hazard reduction impacts. Does not indicate any grouping of sites features on the ground.

APPENDIX 5: GUIDELINES FOR HISTORIC HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

The DEC's Historic Heritage Information Management System (HHIMS) details the location and types of historic sites within the landscape. Site features in HHIMS have been grouped in Table 5A into five groups on the basis that certain features will respond similarly to fire management activities. For each site group, management strategies have been identified to prevent possible damage to features.

In addition to the strategies in Table 5A, consultation will be undertaken by NPWS with archaeologists, DEC Historic Sites officers or the DEC Cultural Heritage Unit to determine appropriate management strategies.

Map ID ¹	Site group ²	Management strategies
HH1	Flammable, structurally unsound sites, including buildings with low structural integrity	 As far as possible, protect site from fire. Avoid all ground disturbances, including the use of earthmoving machinery, handline construction and driving over sites. Avoid water bombing. Use of foams, wetting agents and retardant is acceptable.
HH2	Flammable but structurally sound sites, including buildings, wooden fences, signs, stock rails	 As far as possible, protect site from fire. Avoid all ground disturbances, including the use of earthmoving machinery, handline construction and driving over sites. Waterbombing and use of foams, wetting agents and retardant is acceptable.
HH3	Low flammability but structurally unsound sound sites, including dry stone walls	 Avoid all ground disturbances, including the use of earthmoving machinery, handline construction and driving over sites. Avoid water bombing. Use of foams, wetting agents and retardant is acceptable. Site may be burnt by bushfire, back-burn or prescribed burn without damage.
HH4	Low flammability and structurally sound sites and earthworks, including stone foundations, aqueducts	 Avoid all ground disturbances, including the use of earthmoving machinery, handline construction and driving over sites. Waterbombing and use of foams, wetting agents and retardant are acceptable. Site may be burnt by bushfire, back burn or prescribed burn without damage.
HH5	Quarries	Site unlikely to be affected by fire or any fire management activities.

Table 5A: Fire management guidelines to protect historic heritage

1. Map ID: Code used to identify features on NPWS operational maps.

2. Site group: Used to group sites identified in HHIMS by like environmental variables, i.e. relative to likely fire and hazard reduction impacts. Does not indicate any grouping of sites features on ground.

APPENDIX 6: STANDARD OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

Issue	Guidelines
Aerial water	• The use of bombing aircraft should support containment operations by aggressively attacking
bombing	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. Where practicable, fresh water should be used for water bombing in preference to salt water.
Aerial ignition	 Aerial ignition may be used during backburning or fuel reduction operations where practicable,
J J J	 but only with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer. Use incendiaries to rapidly progress backburns downslope where required.
Backburning	 Temperature and humidity trends must be monitored carefully to determine the safest times to implement backburns. Generally, when the Fire Danger Index (FDI) is very high or greater, backburning should begin 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 1 m radius around dead and fibrous-barked trees adjacent to containment lines before 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 upslope burn is
	 Avoid ignition of backburns at the bottom of slopes where a long and intense upslope burn is likely.
Command & contro	
	 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	 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	• Earthmoving equipment may be used only 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 fire fighting vehicle.
	Containment lines constructed by earthmoving equipment should consider the protection of drainage features, observe the <i>Threatened Species and Cultural Heritage Operational</i>
	 <i>Guidelines</i>, and be surveyed, where possible, to identify unknown cultural heritage sites. Earthmoving equipment should be washed down, where practicable, before entering NPWS estate.
Fire advantage recording	 All fire advantages used during wildfire suppression operations must be mapped and, where relevant, added to the database.
Fire suppression	 Wetting and foaming agents (surfactants) are permitted for use in wildfire suppression.
chemicals	 The use of fire retardant is permitted only 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 50 m of rainforest, watercourses, dams and
	 swamps. Areas where fire suppression chemicals are used must be mapped, and the names of the
	products must be recorded.
	The Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed.
Rehabilitation	 Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
	 Where necessary, undertake pest control programs to prevent the invasion and spread of pest species.
Smoke managemen	nt • The potential impacts of smoke and possible mitigation tactics must be considered when
	planning for wildfire suppression and prescribed burning operations.

Issue	Guidelines
•	notified. Smoke must be managed in accordance with RTA traffic management guidelines.
Visitor management •	The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations.

APPENDIX 7: FIRE MANAGEMENT ZONES

Strategic Fire Advantage Zones (SFAZ)

Map ID	Map No.	Name	Objective	Strategy	Tenure ¹	Ha. on Park	Ha. Off park
SZ 1			• To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Laughtondale	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 8–14 years post fire. 	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	377.2	32.6
SZ 2	3B & 3C	Ashdale Creek West	• To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Maroota	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 8–14 years post fire. 	NPWS,	263.1	8.3
SZ 3	3B & 3C	Canoelands BB	 To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Canoelands 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 8–14 years post fire. 	NPWS,	0.1	3.0
SZ 4	3B & 3C	Canoelands CC	 To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Canoelands 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 8–14 years post fire. 	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	4.0	18.8
SZ 5	3B & 3C	Canoelands DD	• To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Canoelands	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 8–14 years post fire. 	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	2.2	41.7
SZ 6	3B & 3C	Canoelands F	• To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Canoelands	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 5–10 years post fire. 	NPWS,	2.7	0.4
SZ 7	3B & 3C	Canoelands G	• To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Canoelands	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 5–10 years post fire. 	NPWS,	0.0	2.0
SZ 8	3B & 3C	Canoelands GG	• To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Canoelands	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 8–14 years post fire. 	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	4.3	6.1
SZ 9	3B & 3C	Canoelands HH	• To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Canoelands	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn at 7– 12 year intervals. 	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	4.3	1.5
SZ 10	3B & 3C	Layburys Cr West	• To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Canoelands	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 8–14 years post fire. 	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	227.8	19.5
SZ 11	3B & 3C	Layburys Creek East	 To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Canoelands 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 8–14 years post fire. 	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	133.1	20.2
SZ 12	3B & 3C	Canoelands O	• To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 8–14 years post fire. 	NPWS, Private,	0.1	1.1

Map ID	Map No.	Name	Objective	Strategy	Tenure ¹	Ha. on Park	Ha. Off park
			Canoelands				
_	3B & 3C	Canoelands V	 To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Canoelands 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 10–18 years post fire (consider alternating broad area and edge burns). 	NPWS,	1.0	1.1
SZ 14	3B	Coba Creek	 To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Fiddletown 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 10–18 years post fire (consider alternating broad area and edge burns). 	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	386.1	2.1
SZ 15	3A & 3B	Djarra Ridge	 To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Cowan 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 8–14 years post fire. 	NPWS,	108.3	0.0
SZ 16	3B & 3C	Duckponds	 To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Canoelands 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 8–14 years post fire. 	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	513.2	75.6
SZ 17	3A	Glendale Rd University Field Centre	 To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Glendale Rd University Field Centre and DEC property. 	Assess requirement for prescribed burn at 7– 12 year intervals.	NPWS,	3.6	0.0
SZ 18	3A	Glendale Rd University Field Centre	 To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Glendale Rd University Field Centre and DEC property. 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn at 7– 12 year intervals, or Assess requirement for slashing, trittering or under-scrubbing at 1- 2-year intervals. 	NPWS,	2.4	0.0
SZ 19	3C	Harts Road	 To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Maroota 	Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 8–14 years post fire.	NPWS,	2.7	20.6
SZ 20	3A & 3B & 3C	Marramara Creek Community	 To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Marramarra Creek 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 8–14 years post fire. 	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	22.3	0.9
SZ 21	3C	Norgham Hill	 To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Laughtondale 	• Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 10–18 years post fire (consider alternating broad area and edge burns).	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	28.1	45.3
SZ 22	3A	Nth Berowra	 To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Berowra 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 8–14 years post fire. 	NPWS, Hornsby SC., Dept. Lands,	0.1	148.1
SZ 23	3D	Scotts	 To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Wiseman's Ferry 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 8–14 years post fire. 	Hornsby SC.,	0.0	35.5
SZ 24	3B & 3C	Smugglers Ridge	 To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Arcadia 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 10–18 years post fire (consider alternating broad area and edge burns). 	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	861.4	172.8

Map ID	Map No.	Name	Objective	Strategy	Tenure ¹	Ha. on Park	Ha. Off park
SZ 25	3B & 3C	Telegraph	 To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Maroota 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 8–14 years post fire. 	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	0.7	63.3
SZ 26	3A	Turner Road Berowra Heights	 To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Berowra 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 8–14 years post fire. 	NPWS, Hornsby SC., Dept. Lands,	0.6	34.1
SZ 27	3C & 3D	Weavers	 To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Wiseman's Ferry 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 10–18 years post fire (consider alternating broad area and edge burns). 	NPWS, Hornsby SC., Dept. Lands,	18.8	397.9
SZ 28	3C	Weavers B	 To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Laughtondale 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 8–14 years post fire. 	NPWS,	1.3	6.2
SZ 29	3D	Wiesmans Ferry Police Station	 To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Wiseman's Ferry 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 5–10 years post fire. 	NPWS,	0.6	0.5
SZ 30	3A	Cowan Trail B	• To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Cowan	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 8–14 years post fire. 	NPWS, Hornsby SC., Dept. Lands,	0.0	0.7
SZ 31	3A	View St	 To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Cowan 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 8–14 years post fire. 	NPWS, Hornsby SC., Dept. Lands,	0.0	1.7
SZ 32	3A & 3B	Neerim)	 To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Cowan 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 8–14 years post fire. 	NPWS, Hornsby SC., Dept. Lands,	246.9	20.7
SZ 33	3A	Cowan Trail C	 To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Cowan 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 8–14 years post fire. 	NPWS, Hornsby SC., Dept. Lands,	0.0	5.6
SZ 34	3A	Cowan South	 To assist with the strategic control of bushfires and the protection of assets in Cowan 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 8–14 years post fire. 	NPWS, Hornsby SC., Dept. Lands,	2.6	52.7
SZ 35	3B	Gentlemans Halt	• To provide a safe area for the public and firefighters in the event of a bushfire.	 Assess requirement for slashing, trittering or under-scrubbing at 1- 2-year intervals. 	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	2.9	0.0
SZ 36	3A	Glendale Rd University Field Centre	• To assist with the protection of assets from bushfire damage in Glendale Rd University Field Centre and DEC property.	Assess requirement for slashing, trittering or under-scrubbing at 1- 2-year intervals.	NPWS, Hornsby SC.,	4.3	0.2
SZ 37		Marramarra Creek Campground	• To provide a safe area for the public and firefighters in the event of a bushfire.	 Assess requirement for slashing, trittering or under-scrubbing at 1- 2-year intervals. 	NPWS,	1.3	0.0
SZ 38	3B & 3C	Marramarra Creek - Orchard Camp	 To provide a safe area for the public and firefighters in the event of a bushfire. 	 Assess requirement for slashing, trittering or under-scrubbing at 1- 2 year intervals. 	NPWS,	1.3	0.5

Map ID	Map No. Name Objective		Objective	Strategy	Tenure ¹	Ha. on Park	Ha. Off park	
		Ground						
SZ 39	3B	Marramarra Ridge Private Property Burgess	 To assist with the protection of assets from bushfire damage. 	 Assess requirement for slashing, trittering or under-scrubbing at 1- 2 year intervals. 	NPWS, Dept. Lands, Private,	0.1	6.7	
SZ 40	ЗA	Muogamarra Field Studies Centre	 To assist with the protection of assets from bushfire damage. 	 Assess requirement for slashing, trittering or under-scrubbing at 1- 2 year intervals. 	NPWS,	1.0	0.0	
SZ 41a	3C & 3D	Maroota Historic Site A	 To assist with the protection of historic heritage assets from bushfire damage. 	 Assess requirement for slashing, trittering or under-scrubbing at 1- 2 year intervals. 	NPWS,	3.6	0.0	
SZ 41b	3C & 3D	Maroota Historic Site B	 To assist with the protection of historic heritage assets from bushfire damage. 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 8–14 years post fire. 	NPWS,	3.6	0.0	
SZ 42	3D	Wiseman's Ferry Historic Site	 To assist with the protection of Wisemans ferry Historic Site assets from bushfire damage. 	 Assess requirement for slashing, trittering or under-scrubbing at 1- 2 year intervals. 	NPWS,	0.7	0.0	
SZ 43	ЗA	Sunny Corner	 To assist with the protection of assets from bushfire damage. 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 5–10 years post fire. 	Private, NPWS	0.08	1.9	

Heritage Area Management Zones (HAMZ)

Map ID	Map No.	Name	Objective	Strategy	Tenure	Ha. on Park	Ha. Off park
HZ 1	3B & 3C	Becketts Forest	 To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features 	• Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 15–30 years post fire or opportunistic burn by unplanned bushfire event.	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	308.9	41.4
HZ 2	3B & 3C	Big Bay	 To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features 	Where practicable, minimise burn area within zone	NPWS,	2.3	70.3
HZ 3	3A	Bywater Trig	 To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 10–18 years post fire (consider alternating broad area and edge burns). 	NPWS,	1.4	0.0
HZ 4	3A & 3B	Coba Ridge	 To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features 	• Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 15–30 years post fire or opportunistic burn by unplanned bushfire event.	NPWS, Hornsby SC., Dept. Lands,	1264.9	28.3
HZ 5	3A & 3B	Coba Point	 To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features 	• Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 15–30 years post fire or opportunistic burn by unplanned bushfire event.	NPWS, Hornsby SC., Dept. Lands,	231.5	73.0

Map ID	Map No.	Name	Objective	Strategy	Tenure	Ha. on Park	Ha. Off park
HZ 6	3A	Deep Bay	 To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features 	• Assess requirement for prescribed burn between at 12–20 years post fire (consider alternating broad area and edge burns)	NPWS, Hornsby SC.,	4.5	47.8
HZ 7	3A	Deerubbin Trail/ F3/ Pacific Highway	 To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features 	• Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 15–30 years post fire or opportunistic burn by unplanned bushfire event.	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	66.7	21.3
HZ 8	3B	East Street (Forest Glen)	 To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between at 12–20 years post fire (consider alternating broad area and edge burns) 	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	10.8	414.6
HZ 9	3B	Fagan Ridge C	• To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features	• Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 15–30 years post fire or opportunistic burn by unplanned bushfire event.	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	153.4	35.4
HZ 10	3A & 3B & 3C	Fishermans Ridge	 To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features 	• Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 15–30 years post fire or opportunistic burn by unplanned bushfire event.	NPWS, Hornsby SC., Dept. Lands,	1705.3	106.1
HZ 11	3B & 3C	Gunderman Trig	To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 15–30 years post fire or opportunistic burn by unplanned bushfire event. 	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	767.1	58.0
HZ 12	ЗА	Joe Crafts Bay South	• To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between at 12–20 years post fire (consider alternating broad area and edge burns) Ensure consideration of the impact of post fire erosion is given to protect sea grass community in Joe Crafts Bay. 	NPWS, Hornsby SC., Dept. Lands,	145.7	14.9
HZ 13	3A & 3B & 3C	Kalkah Bay	 To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features 	Where practicable, minimise burn area within zone	NPWS,	0.3	17.2
HZ 14	3C & 3D	Laughtondale West	• To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features		NPWS, Dept. Lands,	7.8	66.0
□ 7 15	3B & 3C	Marra Avenue	To maintain appropriate land	Assess requirement for prescribed burn	NPWS, Dept.	557.8	205.1

Map ID	Map No.	Name	Objective	Strategy	Tenure	Ha. on Park	Ha. Off park
			management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features	between 10–18 years post fire (consider alternating broad area and edge burns).	Lands,		
	& 3C	Marramarra Ridge	 To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features 	• Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 15–30 years post fire or opportunistic burn by unplanned bushfire event.	NPWS,	932.6	26.9
HZ 17	3A & 3B	Muogamarra Ridge	 To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features 	• Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 15–30 years post fire or opportunistic burn by unplanned bushfire event.	NPWS, Hornsby SC.,	464.1	11.1
HZ 18	3C	One Tree Hill	 To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 10–18 years post fire (consider alternating broad area and edge burns). 	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	100.5	72.0
HZ 19	3B & 3C	Osbourn Trail	• To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features	• Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 15–30 years post fire or opportunistic burn by unplanned bushfire event.	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	465.6	94.6
HZ 20	3A	Peats Crater	 To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features 	• Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 15–30 years post fire or opportunistic burn by unplanned bushfire event.	NPWS,	13.3	0.0
HZ 21	3B & 3C	Pipeline (Canoeland Ridge)	 To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features 	• Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 15–30 years post fire or opportunistic burn by unplanned bushfire event.	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	668.4	58.2
HZ 22	3A	Tippers (Point Loop) Muogamarra	 To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 8–14 years post fire. 	NPWS,	6.5	0.0
HZ 23	3B & 3C	Pumpkin Point Creek Swamp	To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features	Where practicable, minimise burn area within zone	NPWS, Hornsby SC., Dept. Lands,	1.0	41.4
HZ 24	3C	Roberts Ridge	To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features	• Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 15–30 years post fire or opportunistic burn by unplanned bushfire event.	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	408.1	61.1
HZ 25	3C	Dalgety's Creek	 To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features 	• Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 15–30 years post fire or opportunistic burn by unplanned bushfire event.	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	362.7	63.1

Map ID	Map No.	Name	Objective	Strategy	Tenure	Ha. on Park	Ha. Off park
HZ 26	3C	Roberts Ridge West	 To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features 	• Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 15–30 years post fire or opportunistic burn by unplanned bushfire event.	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	69.5	94.9
HZ 27	3B & 3C	Short Street (Forest Glen)	 To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features 	• Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 15–30 years post fire or opportunistic burn by unplanned bushfire event.	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	512.8	135.9
HZ 28	3B & 3C	Singletons Mill Community C	To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 15–30 years post fire or opportunistic burn by unplanned bushfire event. 	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	1.5	6.2
HZ 29	3A	Tippers Lookout	 To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features 	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 10–18 years post fire (consider alternating broad area and edge burns). 	NPWS,	36.1	0.0
HZ 30	3C	Weavers Ridge	To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features	• Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 15–30 years post fire or opportunistic burn by unplanned bushfire event.	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	162.6	17.5
HZ 31	3A & 3B	Kimmerikong Ridge	 To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features 	• Assess requirement for prescribed burn between at 12–20 years post fire (consider alternating broad area and edge burns)	NPWS, Dept. Lands, Private	1181.9	65.2
HZ 32	3A & 3B	Joe Crafts Bay	To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features	 Assess requirement for prescribed burn between at 12–20 years post fire (consider alternating broad area and edge burns) Ensure consideration of the impact of post fire erosion is given to protect sea grass community in Joe Crafts Bay. 	NPWS, Hornsby SC., Dept. Lands,	245.7	85.9
HZ 33	3D	Wiesmans Ferry Historic Site East	 To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features 	• Assess requirement for prescribed burn between at 12–20 years post fire (consider alternating broad area and edge burns)	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	1.5	0.6
HZ34	3D	Koveda	 To maintain appropriate land management regimes to conserve natural and cultural heritage features 	• Assess requirement for prescribed burn between 15–30 years post fire or opportunistic burn by unplanned bushfire event.	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	18.8	238.8

Tenure¹ - All attempts have been made to ensure the accuracy of tenures identified. The tenures identified in the Table are not guaranteed to be free from error or omission. Where discrepancies are identified the Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW) will negotiate on a case by case basis the appropriate management responsibilities for the management zone with the relevant parties. Changes to the details may be incorporated during subsequent revisions of the strategy.

APPENDIX 8: FIRE BREAK REGISTER

Note: for the purpose of this Fire Management Strategy fire breaks are considered Strategic Fire Advantage Zones (SFAZ)

Map ID	Map No.	Name	Objective	Strategy	Tenure ¹	Length (m)
FB 1	3A	Milsons Passage	 To provide safe access for fire agency crews and to assist in the protection of assets in Milsons Passage 	 Maintain existing fire break by slashing , tritter or underscrubing as required 	Hornsby SC., NPWS, Private Lands	834.4

Tenure¹ - All attempts have been made to ensure the accuracy of tenures identified. The tenures identified in the Table are not guaranteed to be free from error or omission. Where discrepancies are identified the Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW) will negotiate on a case by case basis the appropriate management responsibilities for the fire break with the relevant parties. Changes to the details may be incorporated during subsequent revisions of the strategy.

APPENDIX 9: ACCESS TRAIL REGISTER

Note: the Fire Management Strategy Maps 3A – 3D illustrate the proposed BFCC Class for access trails within the reserves. These maps do not reflect the current accessibility of access trails and should not be used as operational maps. During operations local knowledge representatives should be contacted in order to determine the current accessibility of access trails.

Map ID	Map No	Name	Current accessibility	Proposed BFCC Class	Strategy	Tenure ¹	Length (m)
T 1	3B & 3C	Ashdale Creek Trail	Cat 7	Dormant	• Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS,	798.7
T 2	3B & 3C	Blake Ridge Powerline Branch 1Trail	Cat 1	Dormant	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard 	NPWS,	238.6
Т 3	3B & 3C	Blake Ridge Powerline Branch 2 Trail	Cat 1	Dormant	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard 	NPWS,	309.3
Т4	3B & 3C	Blake Ridge Powerline Branch 3 Trail	Cat 1	Dormant	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard 	NPWS,	258.1
T 5	3B & 3C	Blake Ridge Trail	Cat 1	Secondary	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard 	NPWS,	2890.2
Т 6	3A & 3B	Bujwa Point Trail	Cat 1	Secondary	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard 	NPWS,	3262.5
Τ7	ЗA	Bujwa Ridge Trail	Cat 7	Secondary	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard 	NPWS,	1560.1
Т 8	3A	Bujwa Trail	Cat 1	Primary	Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Primary standard	NPWS, Dept. Lands, Hornsby SC.,	3154.5
Т9	3B & 3C	Canoelands Ridge Powerline Branch 1 Trail	Cat 7	Dormant	Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS,	766.7
T 10	3B & 3C	Canoelands Ridge Powerline Branch 2 Trail	Cat 7	Dormant	Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS,	252.4
T 11	3B & 3C	Canoelands Ridge Powerline Branch 3 Trail	Cat 7	Dormant	Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS,	517.5
T 12	3B & 3C	Canoelands Ridge Powerline Branch 4 Trail	Cat 7	Dormant	Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS,	626.2
T 13	3B & 3C	Canoelands Ridge Powerline Branch 5	Cat 7	Dormant	Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS,	258.3

Map ID	Map No	Name	Current accessibility	Proposed BFCC Class	Strategy	Tenure ¹	Length (m)
		Trail					
T 14	3B & 3C	Canoelands Ridge Powerline Branch 6 Trail	Cat 1	Dormant	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard 	NPWS,	142.2
T 15	3B & 3C	Canoelands Ridge Trail	Cat 1	Secondary	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard 	NPWS,	8776.6
T 16	3B	Coba Ridge North Trail	Cat 7	Dormant	Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS,	1657.6
T 17	3A & 3B	Coba Ridge Trail (Neverfail Trail)	Cat 1	Secondary	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard 	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	3859.7
T 18	3B & 3C	Colo Spur Trail	Cat 7	Secondary	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard 	NPWS,	1078.8
T 19	3C	Dalgetys Creek Trail	Cat 7	Secondary	• Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	3166.0
T 19a	3C	Dalgetys Creek Branch Trail	Cat 7	Dormant	Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	934.9
T 20	3A	Deerubbin Trail	Cat 7	Secondary	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard 	NPWS, Energy Australia,	1362.8
T 21	3B & 3C	Duckponds Ridge South Trail	Cat 7	Dormant	Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	1368.6
T 22	3B & 3C	Duckponds Ridge Trail	Cat 7	Secondary	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard 	NPWS,	4130.0
T 23	ЗA	Eastern Trail	Cat 7	Secondary	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard 	NPWS,	2901.2
T 24	ЗA	Field Studies Perimeter Trail	Cat 1	Primary	Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Primary standard	NPWS,	883.8
T 25	ЗA	Field Studies Primeter 2 Trail	Cat 7	Secondary	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard 	NPWS,	647.9
T 26	3B	Forest Glen Trail	Cat 7	Secondary	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard 	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	2942.8
T 27	3A	Kimmerikong Trail	Closed	Dormant	• Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS,	2502.3
T 28	3B	Kulpers Trail	Cat 1 end section Cat 7/9	Secondary	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard 	NPWS, Private,	2971.4
T 29	3B & 3C	Marramarra Creek Trail	Cat 1	Secondary	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard 	NPWS,	1907.9
T 30	3B	Marramarra Ridge Powerline Branch 1 Trail	Cat 7	Dormant	Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS,	286.5
T 31	3B	Marramarra Ridge Powerline Branch 2	Cat 7	Dormant	Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS,	176.2

Map ID	Map No	Name	Current accessibility	Proposed BFCC Class	Strategy	Tenure ¹	Length (m)
		Trail		01000			
T 32	3B	Marramarra Ridge Powerline Branch 3 Trail	Cat 7	Dormant	Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS,	186.9
Т 33	3B	Marramarra Ridge Powerline Branch 4 Trail	Cat 7	Dormant	Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS,	206.4
T 34	3B & 3C	Marramarra Ridge Powerline Branch 5 Trail	Cat 7	Dormant	Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS,	227.9
T 35	3B	Marramarra Ridge Powerline Branch 6 Trail	Cat 7	Dormant	Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS,	151.5
T 36	3B	Marramarra Ridge Powerline Branch 7 Trail	Cat 7	Dormant	Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard		412.3
T 37	3B	Marramarra Ridge Powerline Branch 8 Trail	Cat 7	Dormant	Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard		659.3
T 38	3B & 3C	Marramarra Ridge Trail	Cat 1	Secondary	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard 	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	6862.6
T 39	3A	Milsons Loop Trail	Closed	Dormant	• Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS,	905.5
T 40	ЗA	Muogamarra Reservoir Trail	Cat 1	Secondary	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard 	NPWS, Energy Australia,	199.2
T 41	ЗA	Muogamarra Field Studies Trail	Cat 1	Secondary	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard 	NPWS, Dept. Lands, Energy Australia,	360
T 42	3A	North Muogamarra Powerline Branch 1 Trail	Cat 7	Secondary	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard 	NPWS, Energy Australia,	177.3
T 43	3A	North Muogamarra Powerline Branch 2 Trail	Cat 7	Secondary	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard 	NPWS, Energy Australia,	498.4
T 44	3C	One Tree Hill Trail	Cat 7	Secondary	• Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS,	2559.7
T 45	3B & 3C	Osborn Trail	Cat 7	Secondary	Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard	NPWS,	2770.9
T 46	ЗA	Peats Bight Trail	Cat 7	Secondary	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard 	NPWS,	2535.9
T 47	ЗA	Peats Ferry Powerline Trail	Cat 7	Secondary	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard 	NPWS, Energy Australia,	275.1

Map ID	Map No	Name	Current accessibility	Proposed BFCC Class	Strategy	Tenure ¹	Length (m)
T 48	ЗA	Peats Ferry Trail	Cat 7	Secondary	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard 	NPWS, Energy Australia,	3600
T 49	3A	Point Loop Trail	Cat 7	Secondary	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard 	NPWS,	1770.3
T 50	3B & 3C	Roberts Branch Trail	Cat 1	Dormant	Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS,	1808.3
T 51	3B & 3C	Roberts Ridge Trail	Cat 7	Secondary	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard 	NPWS,	4080.2
T 52	3C & 3D	Simpsons Hill Trail	Cat 7	Secondary	• Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS,	1512.1
T 53	3B & 3C	Singleton Road	Public Road	Public Road	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard 	RTA	866.6
T 54	3B	Smugglers Ridge North Branch Trail	Cat 7	Dormant	Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS,	646.4
T 55	3B	Smugglers Ridge Trail	Cat 7	Dormant	Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS, Dept. Lands,	2579.7
T 56	ЗA	Toms Loop Trail	Cat 7	Dormant	• Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS,	2664.3
T 57	3A	Turner East Branch Trail	Cat 7	Dormant	Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS, Hornsby SC.,	752.0
T 58	ЗA	Turner Trail	Cat 1	Secondary	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard 	Dept. Lands, Hornsby SC.,	1129.6
T 59	3B & 3C	Unnamed Trail	Cat 7	Dormant	• Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS,	656.3
T 60	3B	Waddy Trail	Cat 9	Dormant	• Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS,	3634.3
T 61	3C	Weavers Ridge North Branch 1 Trail	Cat 7	Dormant	Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS,	1356.4
T 62	3C	Weavers Ridge North Branch 2 Trail	Cat 7	Dormant	Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS,	1805.6
T 63	3C	Weavers Ridge South Branch 1 Trail	Cat 7	Dormant	Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard	NPWS,	818.5
T 64	3C	Weavers Ridge Trail	Cat 7	Secondary	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard 	NPWS,	2224.5
T 65	ЗA	Wedgewood Trail	Cat 1	Secondary	Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Secondary standard	NPWS, Dept. Lands, Energy Australia,	1794.1
T 66	ЗA	Western Trail	Cat 1	Dormant	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard 	NPWS,	1633.7
T 67	3A & 3B	Western Trail Crafts Point Branch Trail	Cat 1	Dormant	 Assess requirements to upgrade or maintain to Dormant standard 	NPWS,	354.2

Tenure¹ - All attempts have been made to ensure the accuracy of tenures identified. The tenures identified in the Table are not guaranteed to be free from error or omission. Where discrepancies are identified the Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW) will negotiate on a case by case basis the appropriate management responsibilities for vehicular access trails with the relevant parties. Changes to the details may be incorporated during subsequent revisions of the strategy.

APPENDIX 10: INTERFACE SURVEY AND ASSESSMENT

Map ID	Map No.	Name	Objective	Strategy	Tenure ¹	Length (m)
IS 1	3A & 3B	Coba Point	 To provide safe access for fire agency crews and to assist in the protection of assets in Berowra Creek 	 Consult with land managers/ Survey to determine current accessibility/ Assess feasibility of works 	Hornsby SC., Private Lands	937.1
IS 2	3A & 3B	Marramarra Creek Community A	 To provide safe access for fire agency crews and to assist in the protection of assets in Marramarra Creek 	 Consult with land managers/ Survey to determine current accessibility/ Assess feasibility of works 	NPWS, Private Lands,	172.4
IS 3	3A & 3B	Marramarra Creek Community B	 To provide safe access for fire agency crews and to assist in the protection of assets in Marramarra Creek 	 Consult with land managers/ Survey to determine current accessibility/ Assess feasibility of works 	NPWS, Private Lands,	391.8
IS 4	3B	Private property Bloodwood Rd	 To provide safe access for fire agency crews and to assist in the protection of assets in Fiddletown 	 Consult with land managers/ Survey to determine current accessibility/ Assess feasibility of works 	NPWS, Private Lands,	1201.8
IS 5	3B	Private property Bloodwood Rd	 To provide safe access for fire agency crews and to assist in the protection of assets in Fiddletown 	 Consult with land managers/ Survey to determine current accessibility/ Assess feasibility of works 	NPWS, Private Lands	637.2
IS 6	3B	Private property Marramarra Ridge Trail	 To provide safe access for fire agency crews and to assist in the protection of assets in Arcadia 	 Consult with land managers/ Survey to determine current accessibility/ Assess feasibility of works 	NPWS, Private Lands,	719.9
IS 7	3A & 3B	Sunny Corner	 To provide safe access for fire agency crews and to assist in the protection of assets in Berowra Creek 	Consult with land managers/ Survey to determine current accessibility/ Assess feasibility of works	Private Lands	474.0
IS 8	3A	Cowan Reservoir	 To provide safe access for fire agency crews and to assist in the protection of assets in Cowan 	 Consult with land managers/ Survey to determine current accessibility/ Assess feasibility of works 	NPWS, Private Lands	113.1

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Marramarra NP, Muogamarra NR, Maroota HS and Wiseman's Ferry HS Fire Management Strategy 2006 -2010



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