

# **Planchonella Nature Reserve** Fire Management Strategy

2013 - 18

NSW Environment & Heritage This strategy should be used with aerial photography and field reconnaissance.

This is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997. These data are not guaranteed to be free from error or omission. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife and its employees disdaim liability for any act done on the information in the data and any consequences of such acts or omissions. This document is copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of study, research criticism or review, as permitted under the copyright Act, no part may be reproduced by any process without written permission. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is part of the Office of Environment and Heritage. Published by: Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW). Contact: NPWS Northern Plains Region,

PO Box 72 Narrabri NSW 2390. Ph 6792 7350

ISBN: 978 1 74359 209 0 OEH: 2013 / 0508 Date Approved: 3 April 2013

#### Related and reference documents

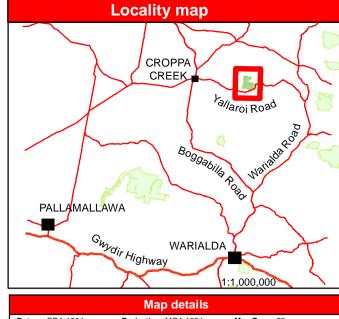
National Parks and Wildlife Service (2012) Fire Management Manual National Parks and Wildlife Service (2004) Planchonella Nature Reserve Plan of Management Hunter, JT (2006) Vegetation and floristics of Planchonella Nature Reserve. Report to NSW NPWS

**Communications Information** Service NPWS VHF Channel Location and Comments 17 • Fireground simplex only P068 • Warialda Small fires - Channel 21Large fires - determined by IMT UHF - CB CTAF – Warialda (45 km), Moree (80 km)
 Telstra 3G coverage unavailable Cellphone Consider Satphone use

Contact Information			
Agency	Position / Location	Phone	
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Duty Officer (24 hour) Narrabri Office (bus. hours)	6792 4680 6792 7300	
NSW RFS Namoi-Gwydir Zone	Zone Manager Duty Officer	0427 101 124 6792 3667	
RFS Rural Fire Brigades	North Star South - John Mills	07 4676 3231	
NSW Fire Brigade	Newcastle	4929 7177	
Emergency Services	Police, Fire, Ambulance	000	
SES		13 2500	
Police	Warialda	6729 1144	
Council	Gywdir Shire	6729 3000	
Airstrip	Warialda (S 29 32.0 E 150 32.0)	Gywdir Shire	

General

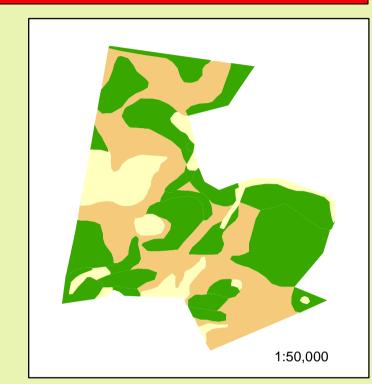
Backburning



Datum: GDA 1994 Map Base: Spot 5 2005. Topographic Map: 1:50,000 Rocky Dam 9039 - N Noted scales: True when printed on A1 size paper

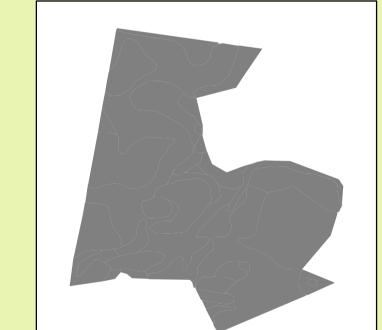
#### Vegetation





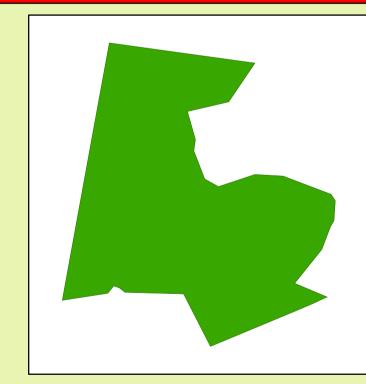
### **Status of Biodiversity Thresholds**

Too frequently burnt	Consecutive fire intervals are shorter than the recommended minimum interval.
Vulnerable to frequent fire	The current fire interval is shorter than the recommended minimum interval.
Within threshold	The time-since-fire is greater than the recommended minimum, and less than the recommended maximum.
Long unburnt	The current fire interval is longer than the suggested interval.
No fire regime	Areas of regenerating vegetation, with fire intervals to be defined by revegetation plans.



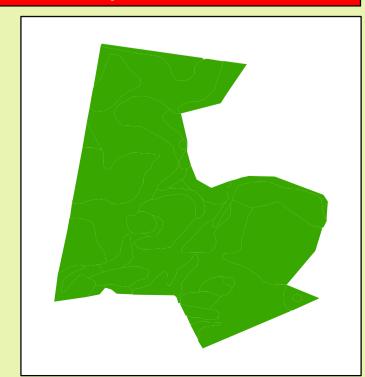
# **Bushfire Risk Management Strategies**

to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural heritage by applying biodiversity



## Prescribed burn availability

This area is unavailable for prescribed burning, due to Unavailable for NIL or LOW OFH, or ecological and regeneration requirements. Availability for burning must be referenced with the Status of Biodiversity Thresholds.



Fire Season Information		
Wildfires	The critical wildfire season in the broad locality of the reserves is likely to occur:  • after a prolonged period of above average rainfall, leading to prolific grass growth; and • during the period November to December.  The reserves are considered to pose a low risk of bushfire hazard.	
Prescribed Burning	Prescribed burning is not proposed for Planchonella Nature Reserve because of its <b>LOW</b> Overall Fuel Hazard, and the occurrence of Semi-evergreen Vine Thickets.	

**Operational Guidelines** 

The use of bombing aircraft should be with ground based suppression crews, in most situations. All aerial ignition operations require the consent of a NPWS Senior Officer or the Section 44 Appointee.

• Through access in the north-west corner of the reserve is limited due to rough basalt boulders and cobbles.

Aerial operations will be managed by trained and competent personnel.

All personnel must be fully briefed before back burning operations begin.

Dackbarring	All personner must be rully briefed before back burning operations begin.	
Command & Control	<ul> <li>The first combatant agency on site may assume control of the fire, but then must ensure the relevant land management agency is notified promptly.</li> <li>On the arrival of other combatant agencies, the initial Incident Controller will consult with regard to the ongoing command, control and incident management team requirements as per the relevant BFMC Plan of Operations.</li> </ul>	
Containment Lines	<ul> <li>New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer.</li> <li>Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, except with the use of handtools of light machinery.</li> </ul>	
Earthmoving Equipment	<ul> <li>Plant may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS Officer.</li> <li>Graders may be used to "sweep" existing fire trails.</li> <li>Heavy machinery is excluded from all areas, other than existing fire trails.</li> <li>Light plant, such as Bobcats and Positraks may be used to construct low impact control lines in areas outside Mesophyll low forests and woodlands.</li> <li>Plant must be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS estate and again on exiting NPWS estate.</li> </ul>	
Fire Suppression Chemicals	<ul> <li>The use of foam, gels and retardants will NOT be permitted within 50 metres of dams holding water.</li> <li>The aerial application use foam, gels and retardants requires the approval of a NPWS Senior Officer</li> </ul>	
Rehabilitation	<ul> <li>Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppressic operation.</li> </ul>	
Watering points	• Consider deployment of a bulk water carrier to support fire operations.	
Smoke Management	Potential smoke impacts and mitigation tactics will be assessed during the planning of fire operations.	

Operational Guidelines – Heritage	
Resource	Guidelines
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management	No Aboriginal sites have been recorded in these reserves
Threatened Flora and Fauna Management	Endangered ecological communities – Semi-evergreen Vine Thickets  Construction of control lines with machinery not permitted

This reserve is closed to visitors.

Vegetation management		
Community	Vegetation management guidelines	Fire Behaviour
Mesophyll low forests and woodlands  SEVT Belah, Rosewood and White Box woodlands with mesophyll species in understorey	<ul> <li>No prescribed burning to be applied.</li> <li>No maximum interval between fire events should be applied.</li> </ul>	Potential rates of spread would be low due to Low OFH
Box Woodlands  White Box, Silver-leaved Ironbark, White Cypress Pine	<ul> <li>Minimum interval between fire events should be greater than 15 years</li> <li>No maximum interval between fire events should be applied.</li> <li>No prescribed burning to be applied due to the proximity to Mesophyll low forests and woodlands</li> </ul>	Potential rates of spread in most seasons is low due to Low - Moderate OFH     Localised areas of High surface fuel hazard may cause limited areas of higher fire behaviour.
Derived grassland Weeping Myall Queenland Blue Grass	No prescribed burning to be applied due to the proximity to Mesophyll low forests and woodlands     Areas to be managed for regeneration of Mesophyll low forests and woodlands, and Box woodlands	<ul> <li>Potential rates of spread dependant on seasonal conditions</li> <li>A Low OFH occurs during dry seasons</li> <li>A Moderate OFH may develop after successive wet seasons producing continuous cover</li> </ul>
<b>OFH</b> – Overall fuel hazard - A fuel, near-surface fuel, elevate	rating system that measures leaf litter, grasses, shrubs, bad fuel and bark.	ark type and bark condition. Consists of ratings for surface

#### Suppression Strategies

chonella Nature Reserve is a small conservation reserve. Its conservation value would be seriously damaged with the nstruction of wide containment lines with earth-moving machinery.

Mesoph	yll low forests and woodlands have a low potential fire behavious
Conditions & forecast	Guidelines
1 0)A/ 05)/5D5 5D1	<ul> <li>Direct or parallel attack by ground crews supported by light machinery. Machine</li> </ul>

LOW – SEVERE FDI Torrests and woodlands EXTREME - CATASTOPHIC FDI • A broad containment strategy using existing tracks, low fuel areas and open areas.

