



South West Woodland Nature Reserve
Hiawatha and Wyalong Precincts
Fire Management Strategy 2012
Mapsheet 1 of 1



Office of Environment & Heritage
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service



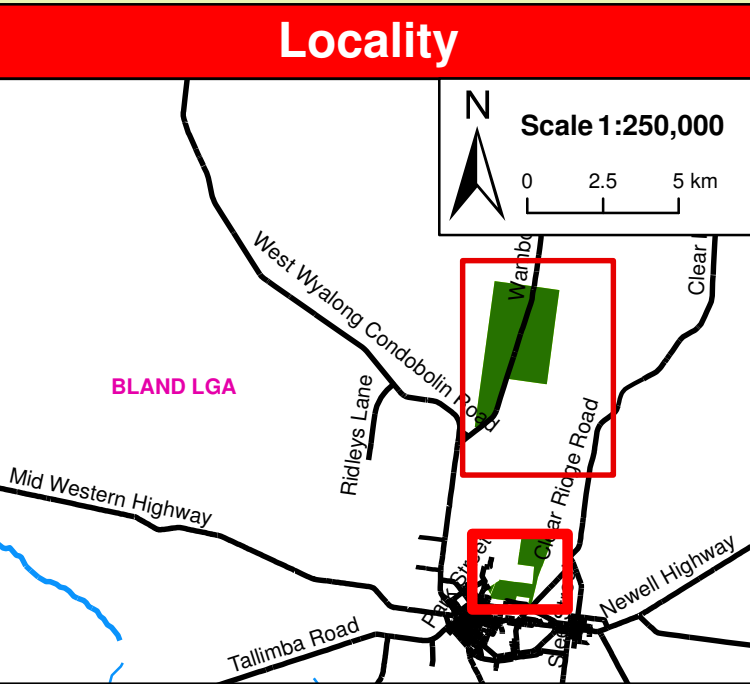
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Contact: OEH PWG Regional Office: 200 Yambill St, Griffith NSW 2680 P.O. Box 1049 Griffith NSW 2680 ph. 02 6966 8100

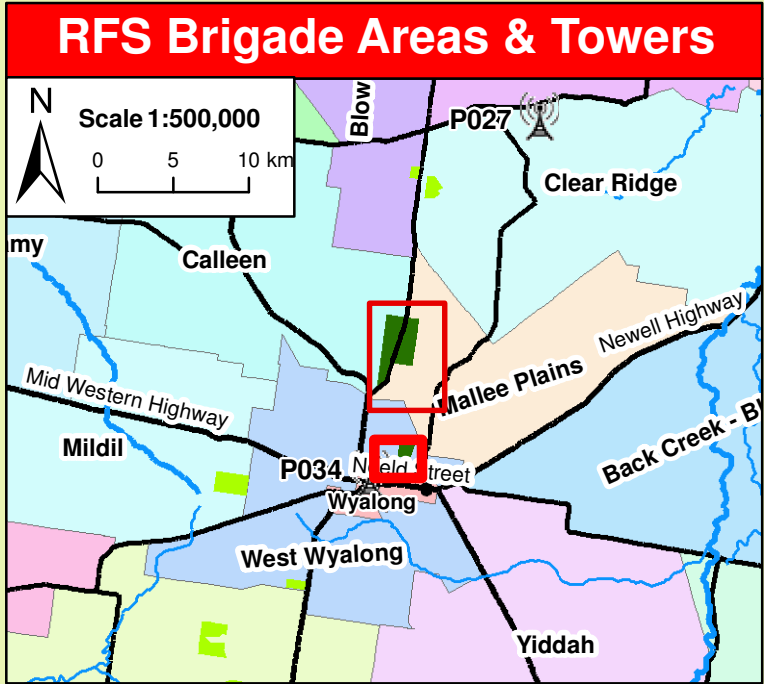
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Map Details	Related Documents
Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA) 1994 Projection: Map Grid of Australia (MGA) Zone 55 Data: Spot Satellite Imagery: 2005. Scale: Noted scales are true when printed on A1 size paper.	Topographic Maps 1:50K – WYALONG 8330S (AGD 1966) OEH Fire Management Manual 2011 - 2012.

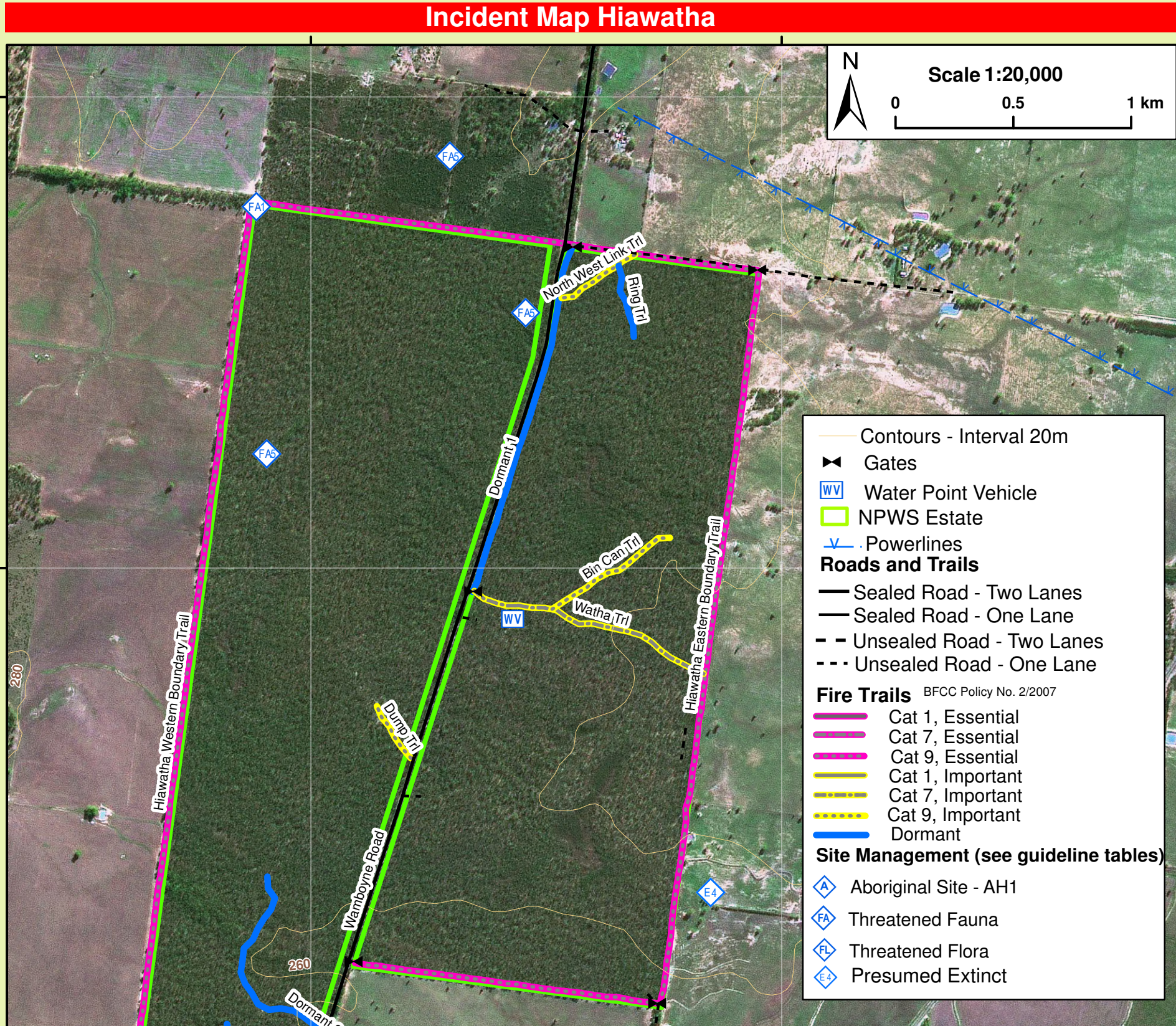
Locality



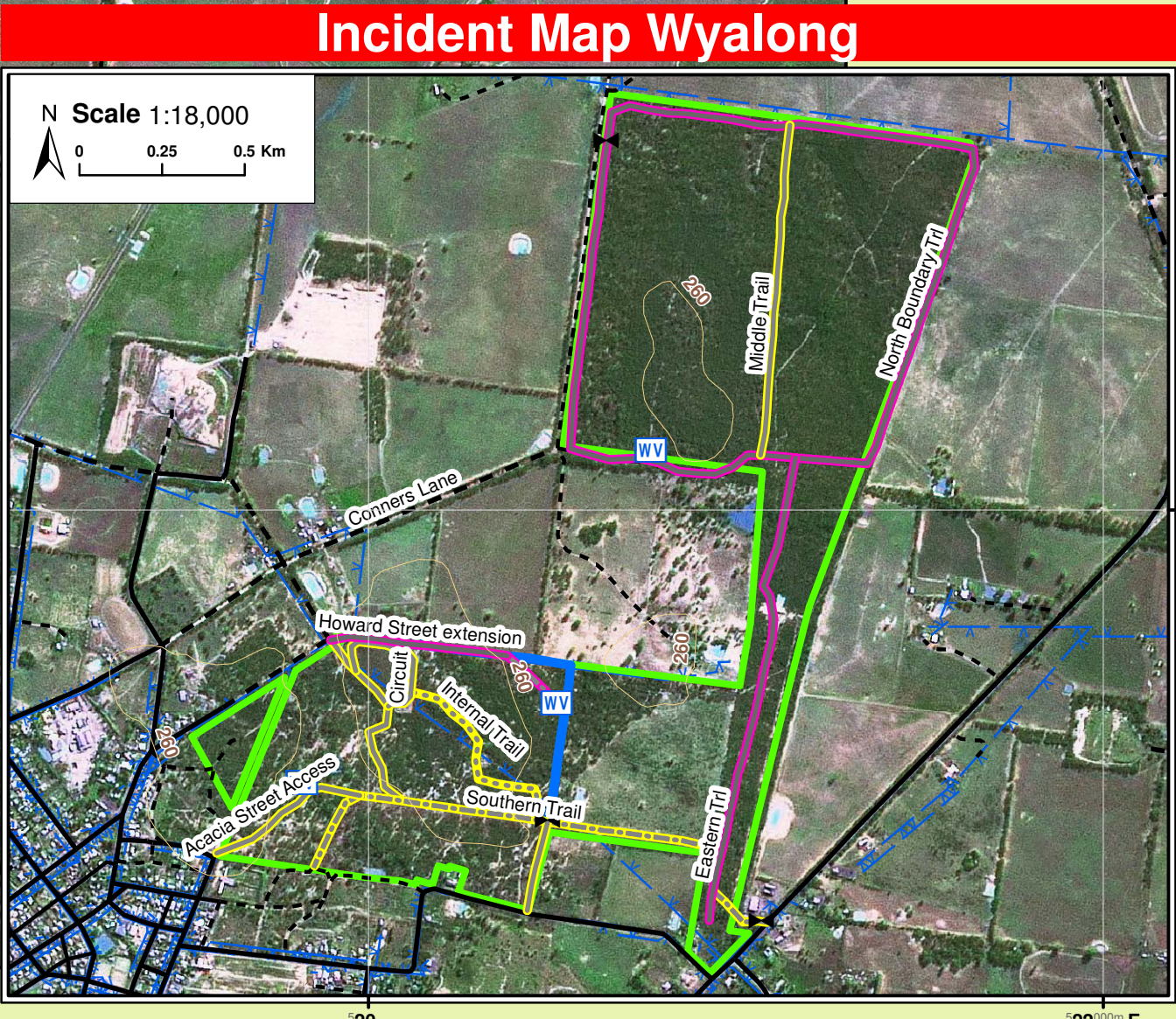
RFS Brigade Areas & Towers



Incident Map Hiawatha



Incident Map Wyalong



Communications Information		
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
RFS Forbes	P027	• PMR BILLYS LOOKOUT
RFS Forbes	P034	• PMR Railway Rd WEST WYALONG
Calleen Brigade	5	• UHF Simplex
Mallee Plains Brigade	5	• UHF Simplex
West Wyalong	3	• UHF Simplex
Forests NSW	26	• VHF Mana Mountain
NPWS VHF coverage patchy, use mobile repeater for fire-ground, VHF 13 (blue), 14 (orange) or 15 (green)		
Mobile phone coverage should be reliable.		

Contact Information		
Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Duty Officer (8am-10pm) Griffith Area Office 200 Yambill St	02 6332 6350 02 6966 8100
NSW Rural Fire Service Bland/Temora Zone	Bland Fire Control Centre 21 Neeld St West Wyalong	02 6972 0036
Forests NSW	West Wyalong	02 6970 1200
Emergency		000
Fire and Rescue NSW	West Wyalong Fire Station	02 6972 3120
Police - Local Area Command	West Wyalong	02 6972 2444
SES	State	13 2500
	West Wyalong	02 6972 2532
Hospital	West Wyalong	02 6979 0000
Council	Bland Shire Council	02 6972 2266 0418 402 350

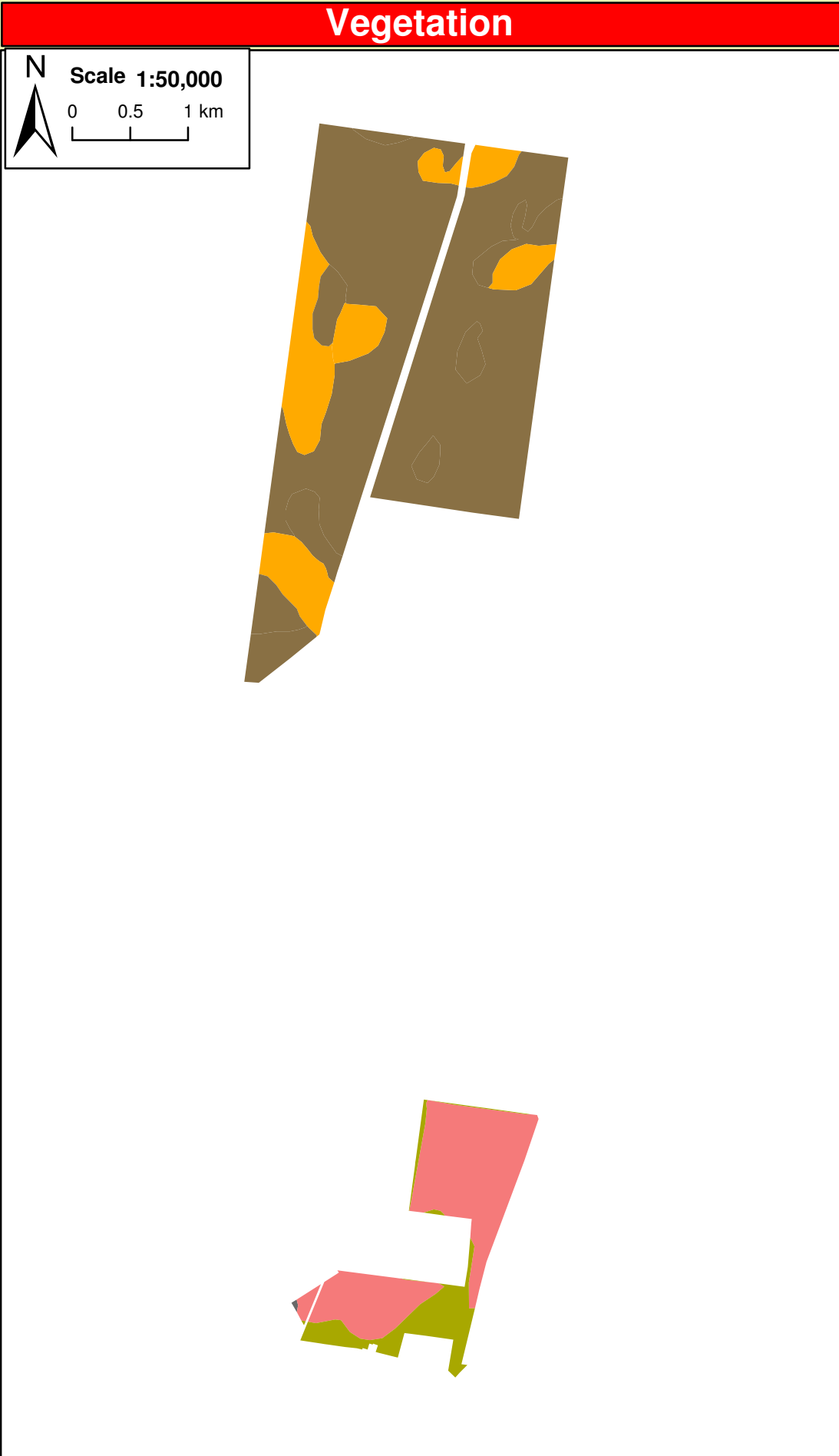
Fire Season Information	
Wildfires	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The critical wildfire season generally occurs from November through to February.Dry lightning storms frequently occur and typical fire weather conditions are winds from the west to the north, high day time temperatures and low humidity.Particular care is required following periods of winter rain and after periods of negative Southern Oscillation Indices.
Prescribed Burning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Prescribed burning should generally be undertaken during Autumn, Winter or early Spring.Care should be taken to ensure sufficient fuel is available to allow a low to moderate burn over most of the area identified.

Operational Guidelines	
Brief all personnel involved in suppression operations on the following issues:	
General	Guidelines
Aerial Water Bombing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Very effective first attack where fire is still small and crews are some distance away.Should support containment operations by aggressively attacking hotspots and spot-overs.Without the support of ground based suppression crews should be limited to very specific circumstances.Where practicable foams or gels should be considered to increase the effectiveness of water.Ground crews must be alerted to water bombing operations.
Aerial Ignition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Aerial ignition may be used where practicable, with the prior consent of NPWS Regional Manager, OEH Section 44 delegate or as prescribed in an operational burn plan.Aerial ignition will only be undertaken by accredited bombardiers.The pattern for aerial ignition will be specified in the IAP during fire suppression.Utilise incendiaries to rapidly burn out large areas where required.
Back-burning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Temperature and humidity trends must be monitored carefully to determine the safest times to implement back-burns. Generally, when the FDI is Very High or greater, back-burning should commence when the humidity begins to rise in the late afternoon or early evening, with a lower FDI back-burning may be safely undertaken during the day.Where practicable, clear a 1m radius around dead and hollow bearing trees adjacent to containment lines prior to back-burning, or wet down these trees as part of the back-burn ignition.Use parallel containment lines when applicable.CAUTION: in areas dominated by Cypress back-burning may be very difficult or ineffective under normal back-burning conditions.
Command & Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Standard Incident Management Systems are to be applied.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.Where OEH is not the first responding fire authority to arrive at a fire on OEH-managed lands, a competent officer of the first arriving fire authority will direct fire management activities until a competent OEH officer assumes control (unless prior agreements have been made).
Containment Lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, where practicable, except where they can be constructed with minimal environmental impact.New containment lines require the prior consent of a OEH Section 44 delegate or NPWS Area Manager or Regional Manager.Use parallel containment lines when applicable.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 refer to incident map.Containment line construction using earthmoving equipment must be in accordance with the earthmoving guidelines contained within the RFMS.
Earthmoving Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Earthmoving equipment must always be guided and supervised by an appropriately experienced person, 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 Threatened Species and Cultural Heritage Operational Guidelines, and be surveyed, where possible, to identify unknown cultural heritage sites.Earthmoving equipment must not leave tracks or create new tracks in Machinery Exclusion areas as marked on the Incident Map of a RFMS.Earthmoving equipment must be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS estate and again on exiting NPWS estate.Where multiple items of earthmoving equipment are being used, the IMT should consider the establishment of a Plant Operations Manager.
Fire Advantage Recording	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All fire advantages used or created during wildfire suppression operations must be mapped and where relevant added to the database.
Fire Suppression Chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Use of gels and foaming agents (surfactants) is permitted on the reserve.The use of fire retardants are only permitted with the prior consent of the OEH Section 44 delegate or NPWS Area Manager or Regional Manager and should be avoided where reasonable alternatives are available.Exclude the use of surfactants and retardants within 50m of watercourses, dams and swamps.Areas where fire suppression chemicals are used must be mapped and the used product's name recorded.The Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed. Refer to incident map for locations.
Rehabilitation and Stabilisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
Smoke Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The potential impacts of smoke and possible mitigation tactics must be considered when planning for prescribed burning operations.If smoke becomes a hazard on local roads or highways, the police and relevant media must be notified.Smoke management must be in accordance with relevant RTA traffic management guidelines.
Structural Fire Fighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">OEH personnel are not trained in structural fire fighting and must not enter a structure in order to undertake structural fire fighting.Fire suppression activities may be undertaken from outside a structure in accordance with the policies in the NPWS FMM, in order to protect a built asset.
Visitor Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations.Areas of a reserve may be closed for prescribed burning operations.
WARNINGS <ul style="list-style-type: none">Beware of overhead powerlines, and fences crossed by powerlines.	

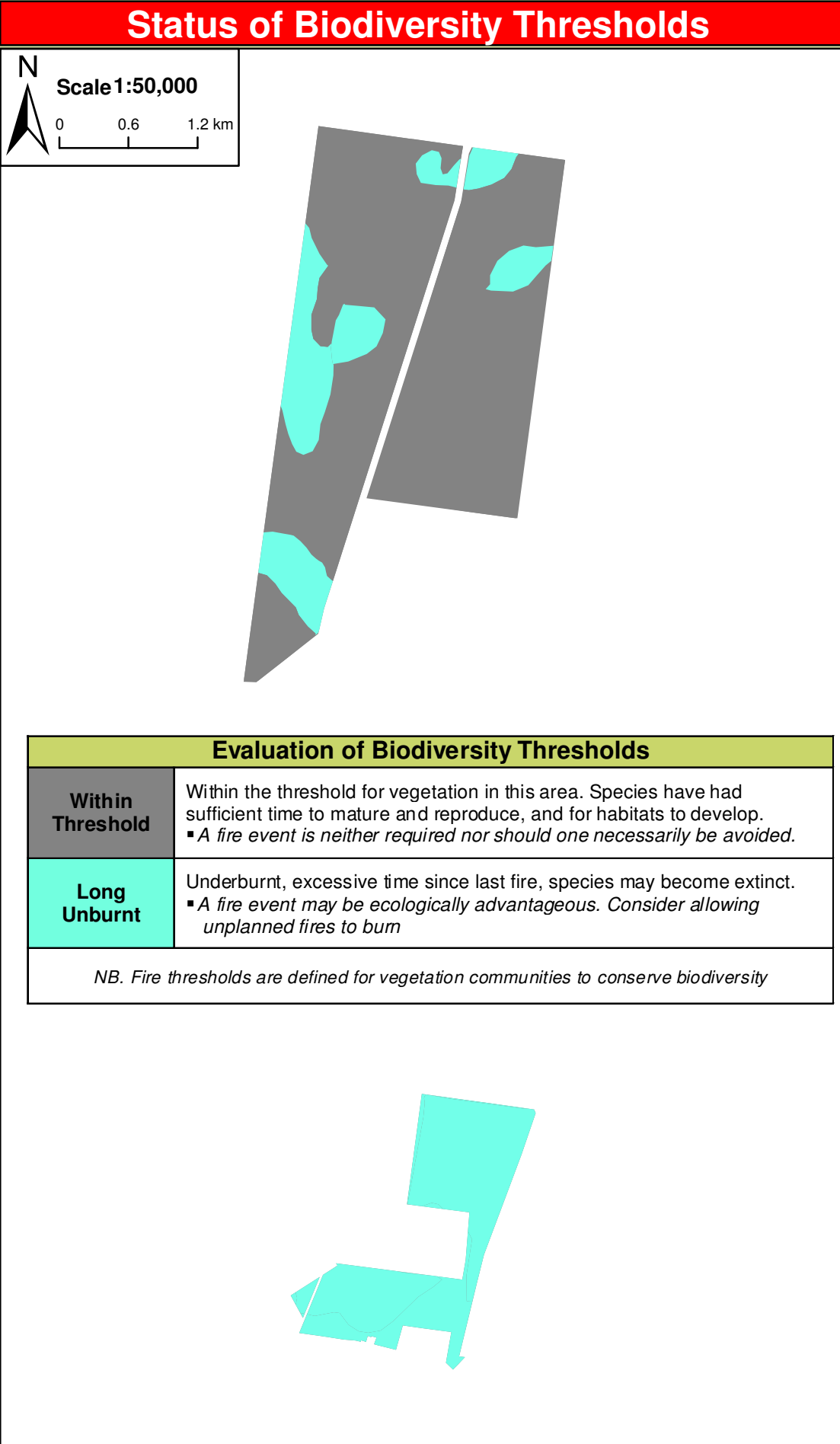
Threatened Sites Guidelines	
Site	Guidelines
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management	
AH1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Do not cut down treesAs far as possible protect the site from fireUse of foams, wetting agents & retardant is acceptable.
Threatened Fauna Management	
FA1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Utilise mosaic burning and avoid disturbance at known sites, roosts or refuges and avoid frequent fire (<6 years).
FA2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Utilise mosaic burning, avoid disturbance at known sightings, roostings or refuges, avoid frequent fire (<6 years) and exclude chemical use.
FA3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Utilise mosaic burning and protect hollow bearing trees.
FA4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Utilise mosaic burning, protect hollow bearing trees and avoid frequent fire (< 6–10 years).
FA5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Utilise mosaic burning.
FA6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Exclude fire from habitat.
FA7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Exclude fire from habitat and avoid the use of machinery and chemicals.
Threatened Flora Management	
FL2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Utilise mosaic burning.
E4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Philothea angustifolia subsp a. is presently considered extinct, consider survey after fire events.

Vegetation Map Legend			
Broad Vegetation Class	Vegetation Type	Biodiversity Thresholds	Fire Behaviour
Semi-arid woodlands (Shrubby sub-formation)	White Cypress Pine – Box, Western Box.	An interval between fire events less than 15 years should be avoided. No maximum interval set at this time for this vegetation type, as there was insufficient data. Fire may be considered a useful tool to stimulate regeneration as much of this community consist of mature trees.	In long unburnt areas, very high potential for spotting due to bark fuels. In open areas fire behaviour likely to be wind driven.
Dry sclerophyll forests (Shrub sub-formation)	Ironbark – Western Box, Black Cypress Pine – Box.	An interval between fire events less than 10 years (7 years in SFAZ) and greater than 30 years should be avoided. These communities typically consist of many obligate seeders.	In long unburnt areas, very high to extreme potential for spotting due to bark fuels. Isolated areas with heavy ground fuel may have the potential for very high fire behaviour.
Grassy Woodlands	Floodplain Transition Woodlands.	An interval between fire events less than 8 years and greater than 40 years should be avoided.	High intensity fast moving fire once grasses have cured. In drought years minimal growth will result in moderate fire behaviour but potentially still fast moving depending on weather conditions at the time.
Grassland	Grasslands (various communities)	An interval between fire events less than 3 years and greater than 10 years should be avoided.	
Fire History	No recorded fire history exists for this location.		
Ephemeral Conditions	Occur after consecutive years of effective rainfall events. This in turn leads to the growth and build up of fine surface fuels such as grasses and herbs, which can create continuous fuel loads in communities that would not usually have much ground fuel. As a result expect higher fire intensity.		
Drought Conditions	During drought conditions and when vegetation communities are visibly stressed it will be very difficult to undertake prescribed burning across many communities as the surface fuels will be very low. Wildfires are likely to be difficult to control due to extreme conditions during the day and areas of low fuel that are difficult to back-burn in under night conditions.		
Mosaic Burning	As these reserves have not experienced fire over an extended timeframe, a mosaic approach with post fire recovery and response assessments should be taken. Mosaic burning has two parts, spatial and temporal. Apply fire in a pattern across the reserves that allow gaps in time and space, small areas vs. large areas, scattered, variable times between fires in any location. If possible leave some areas of each vegetation community unburnt, as an end stage and reference site.		

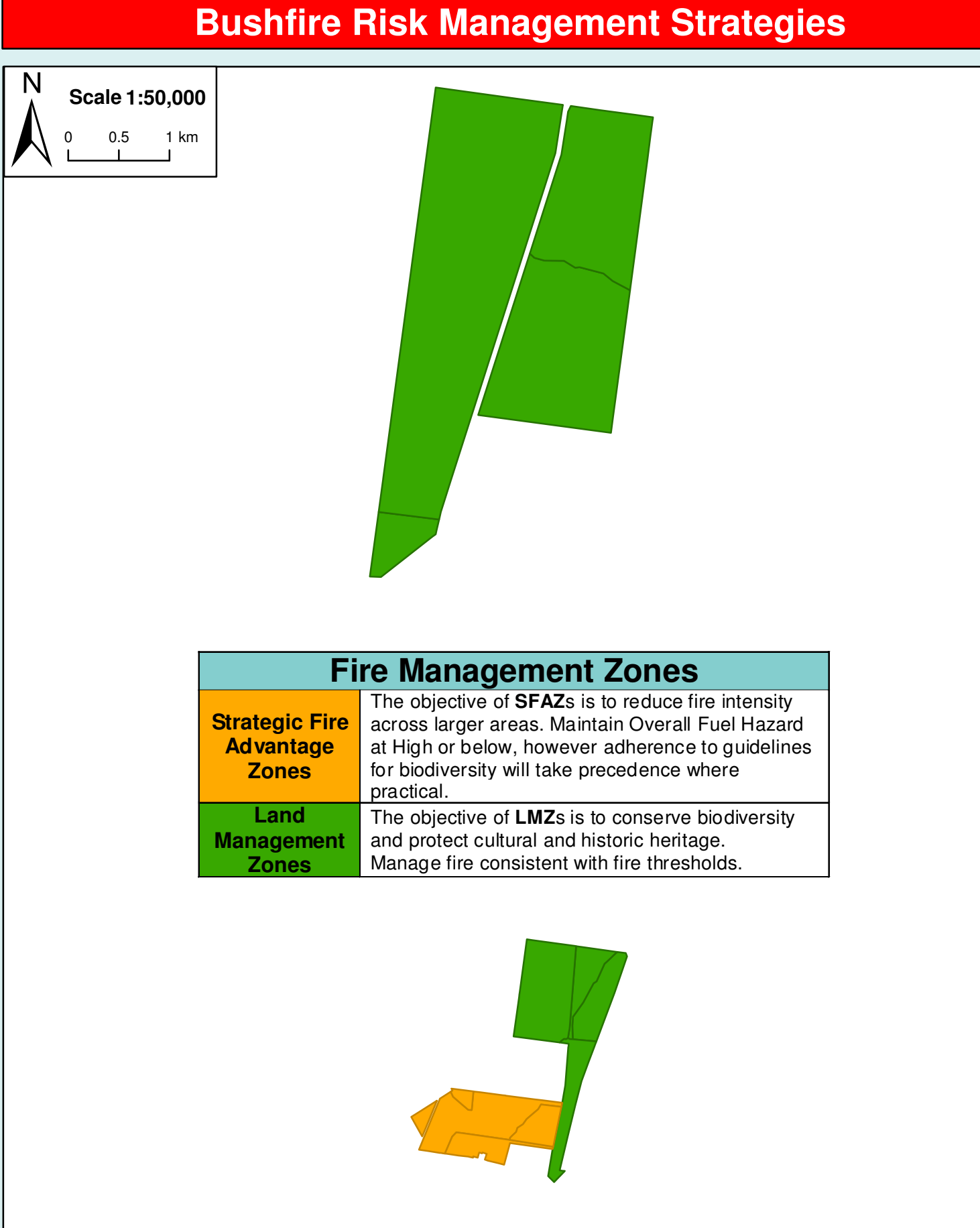
Vegetation



Status of Biodiversity Thresholds



Bushfire Risk Management Strategies



Suppression Strategies		
Season	Typical Conditions	Indicative Suppression Strategies
Just prior to or during the critical fire season	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Current Fire Danger Rating (FDR) of Very High or Greater,Short and medium range forecasts suggest conditions typical to a FDR of Very High or Greater.A risk to life and/or property exists in the short – medium termA broad area risk to biodiversity exists.	Direct Initial attacks should be to try to extinguish or to contain to the smallest possible area. Indirect Develop a suppression plan using existing and/or potential containment lines. If possible take into account biodiversity requirements but never to the detriment of life and property.
Outside of the critical fire season	<ul style="list-style-type: none">FDR of High or below,Short – medium term forecast indicate a continuing FDR of High or belowNo risk to life or property exists in the short-medium term,Only small area risk to biodiversity exists.	Direct Evaluate the biodiversity thresholds and use direct attack methods to extinguish if required. Indirect Develop a fire suppression plan to the maximum allowable perimeter based on Biodiversity thresholds.

Evaluation of Biodiversity Thresholds	
Within Threshold	Within the threshold for vegetation in this area. Species have had sufficient time to mature and reproduce, and for habitats to develop. • A fire event is neither required nor should one necessarily be avoided.
Long Unburnt	Underburnt, excessive time since last fire, species may become extinct. • A fire event may be ecologically advantageous. Consider allowing unplanned fires to burn
NB. Fire thresholds are defined for vegetation communities to conserve biodiversity	