



Northern Rivers Regional Biodiversity Management Plan

*A landscape approach to
recovery of threatened species and
endangered ecological communities*

Indigenous Community Engagement: focus on practical engagement and outcomes

Engagement Objectives

- integrate scientific and Indigenous knowledge to develop a best practice model for Indigenous interests into biodiversity management
- Provide tools for practical engagement of communities in biodiversity management
- The lead for engagement needs to come from Indigenous communities
- Need to support and build capacity with Indigenous communities so they can take on this challenge

What is the Cultural Significance of rainforest plants to the Aboriginal Communities of northern NSW?



The Ah Ha factor: practical engagement

- **Property Management Plans and NCC Hotspots Biodiversity Fire Management Plans**
 - Lead to NRM \$\$ for implementation
 - Employment opportunities in longer term.
- **Ethno-surveys**
 - inform plans
 - Educate and engage youth and elders
- **Mapping of biodiversity and cultural values & historical knowledge**
- Connecting with **language and oral history** programs
- Proposed Connect Kids **school kit** tied to properties
- Offer opportunities for **two-way** transfer of knowledge with communities about biodiversity



Property Management Plans (nuts and bolts)

- Engage a local biodiversity contractor
 - Preferably with some previous community connection
 - Contractor works with community members on the preparation of the plan
- Document biodiversity and cultural assets, threats and identify management zones
- Prioritise and cost management recommendations
- Potentially assist Community to place funding bids for implementation \$\$\$.
 - Have completed 7 PMPs and ever increasing interest from communities



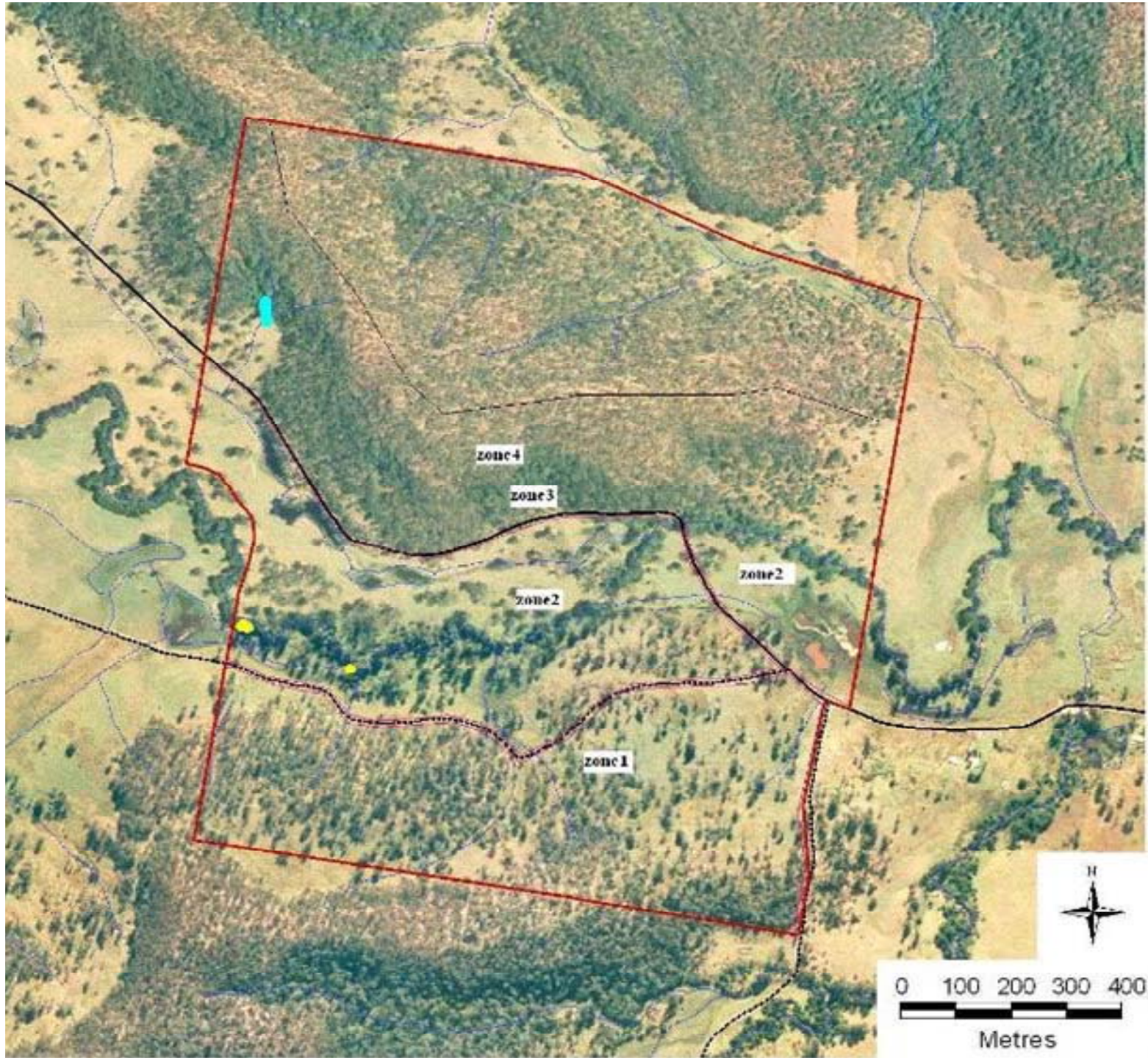
Property Management Plan examples:

Busbys Flat, Casino: 112 ha

Casino Boolangle LALC


- 4 EECs in the NSW North Coast Bio Region
- One listed Threatened Plant Species *Hibbertia marginata*
- Indigenous Scar Trees
- Listed and Rare Fauna
 - Yellow Bellied Gliders (2 populations)
 - Squirrel Gliders (2 Populations)
 - Planigale
 - Giant Barred Frog
 - Glossy Black Cockatoo
 - Masked Owl
 - Barking Owl
 - Grey Crowned Babbler
 - Comb crested Jacana
 - Black necked stork

Busby's I Aerial Ph



Legend

-  Busby's Fl
-  Rivers & C
- Roads**
-  Main Road
-  Local Road
-  minor track
-  proposed fence
-  data point point
-  these cars clear

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Planning at Busby's Flat



Casino Boolangle Aboriginal Land Council,
CDEP Team supervisor and other team
members

Aboriginal Scarred trees



Erosion control on
Busbys Creek



Jubullum Flat Camp Aboriginal Area



Flat Camp (7 ha) on the Tabulam Rivulet at Tabulam

- highly significant to the local indigenous community.
 - includes an Aboriginal burial site and was a traditional hunting and camp site.
- riparian area with minor weed problems and excellent potential for restoration.
 - number of large red gum occur across the site
 - a pair of platypus have a den under the bank close to the cemetery
- The site is registered as an Aboriginal Place and has a NPWS management plan which is mostly focussed on the protection of Cultural Heritage (burial sites).
 - the management plan identifies the need for a Biodiversity restoration plan (now complete).

Uncle Harry Walker's vision and primary objectives of the plan
'Bring back the bush to Flat Camp and use the site as a cultural teaching and learning area'

Connecting language programs and oral histories with planning



Survey and Fire planning

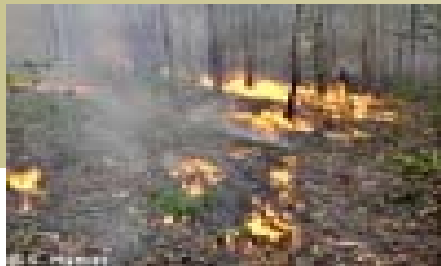


Survey

- Community training in Koala survey and fire plan for Willows and Boorabee properties Inverell
- Ethno-ecological fauna survey at Minjelha Dhagun property Mt Barney; PMP

Fire – NCC Hotspots Fire Project with landholders

- Improve the management of fire as a tool for conserving biodiversity in New South Wales
- Improve landholders' understanding and knowledge of the role of fire and ability to manage fire for healthy landscapes
- Improve the capacity of communities to work together to manage fire
- **Indigenous fire planning projects in Casino/Tabulam/Jubal area and Inverell in 2008.**
- **Enhances and Delivers on management recommendations from PMP'.**



Conclusion

Northern Rivers Regional BMP provides

- Innovative & holistic approach
- Threatened species recovery within biodiversity framework
- Threat-based approach at range of scales
- High level of collaboration with stakeholders
- Broad-based communication strategy
- Indigenous community involvement
- Range of prioritised implementation actions
- Cost-effective & efficient use of resources

For more information

- **Lynn Baker (project management)**
lynn.baker@environment.nsw.gov.au
- **John Turbill (report management)**
john.turbill@environment.nsw.gov.au
- **Andrew Steed (GIS/data management)**
andrew.steed@environment.nsw.gov.au
- **Claude McDermott (Indigenous program coordinator)**
claudio.mcdermott@environment.nsw.gov.au
- **Visit the Website**
 - <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biodiversity/nrrbiomanagementplan.htm>