

Pilliga National Park
Etoo Section
Community Conservation Area Zone 1
Fire Management Strategy
2009

This strategy should be used in conjunction with aerial photography and field reconnaissance during incidents and the development of incident action plans.

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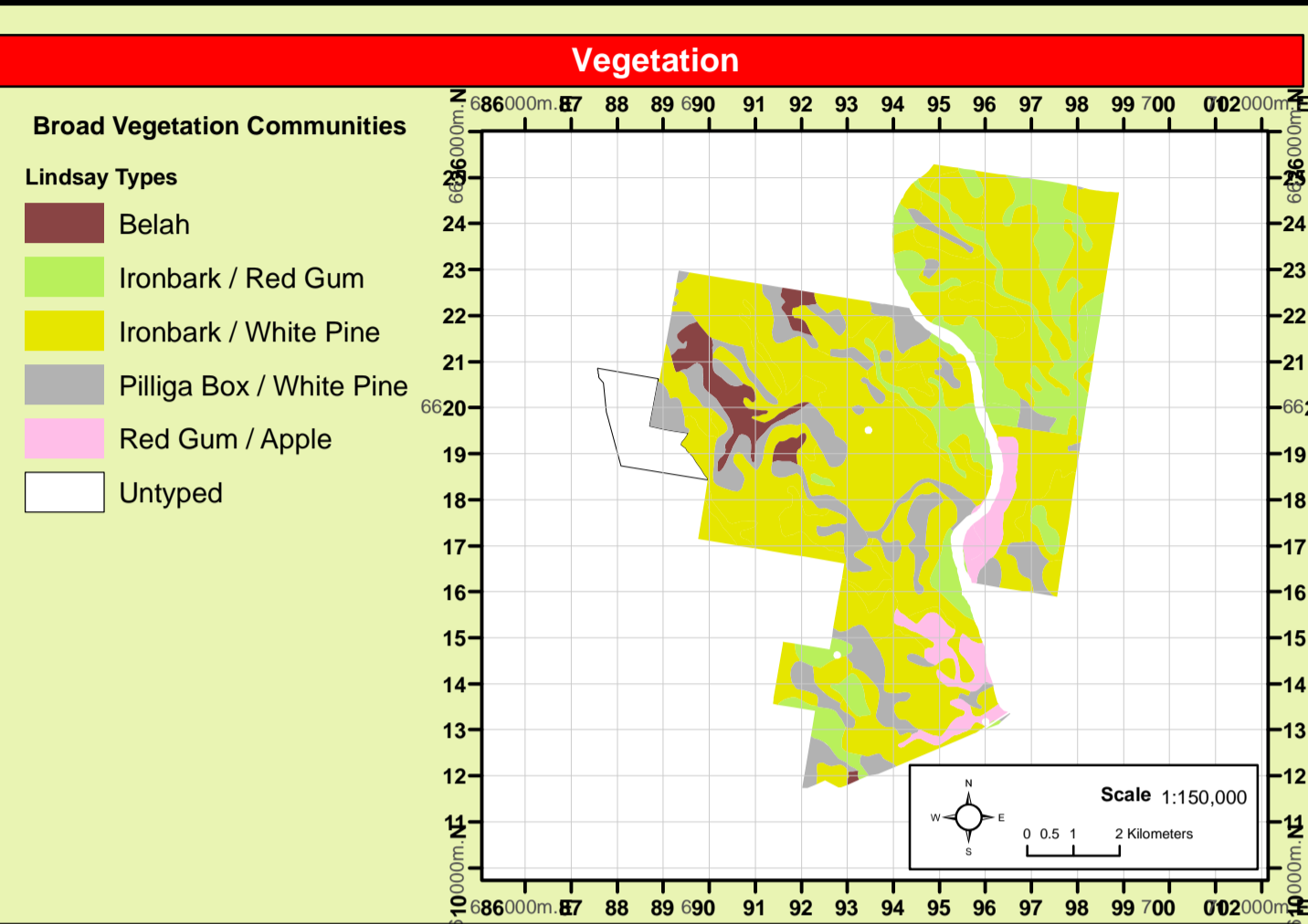
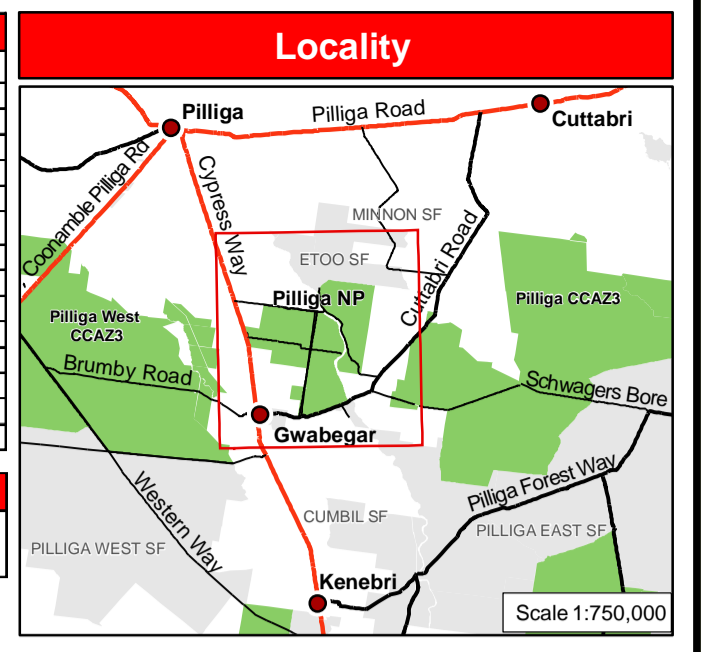
This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997.

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is part of the Department of Environment and Climate Change. Published by the Department of Environment and Climate Change (NSW), June 2009.

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ISBN 978 1 74232 343 5 DECC 2009/449 Date Approved:

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	Zone Officer	(02) 6799 6707
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SES		13 2500
	Gwabegar	(02) 6843 6208
Police	Pilliga	(02) 6796 4444
	Baradine	(02) 6843 1808
Council	Narrabri	(02) 6799 6866

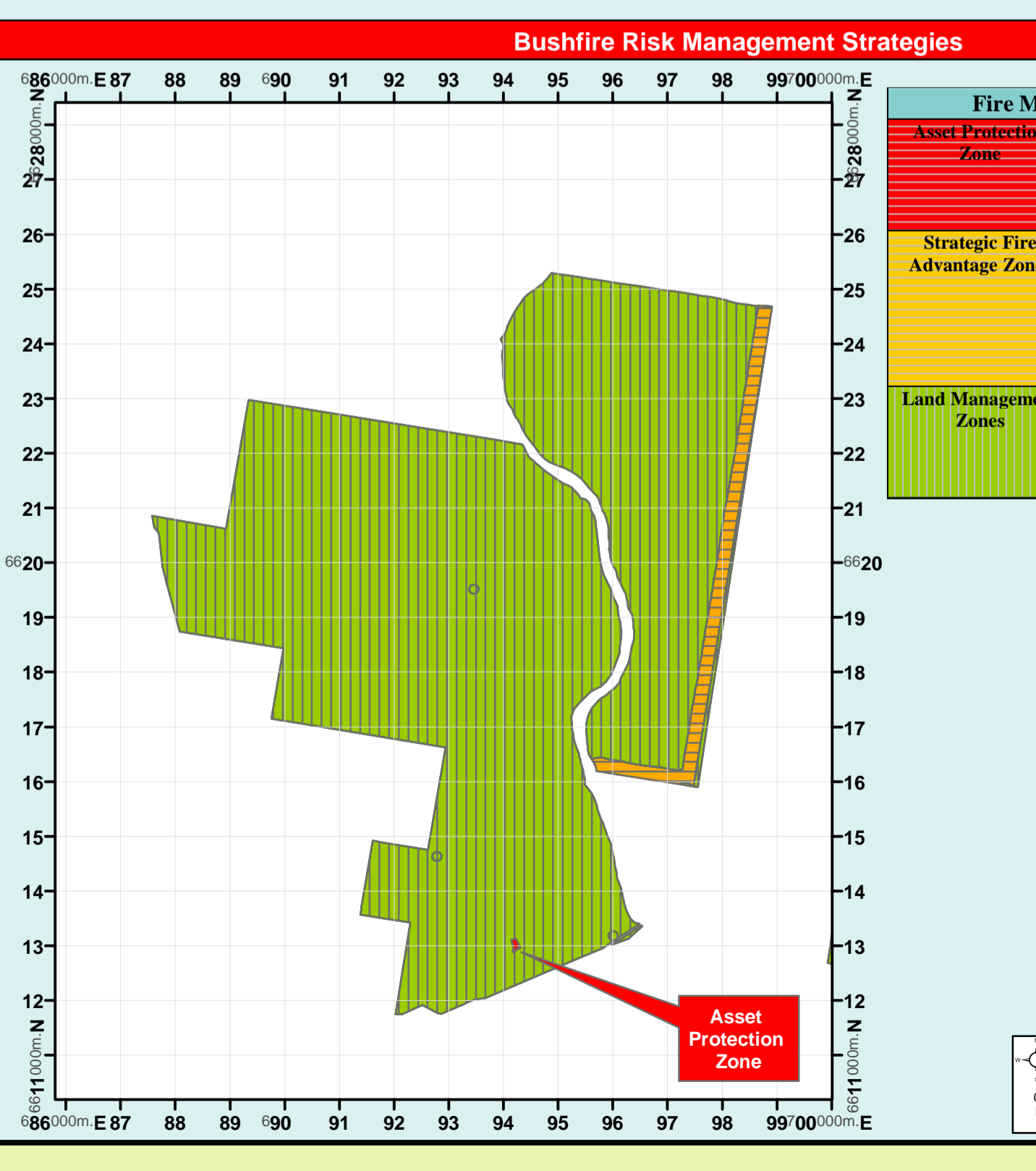
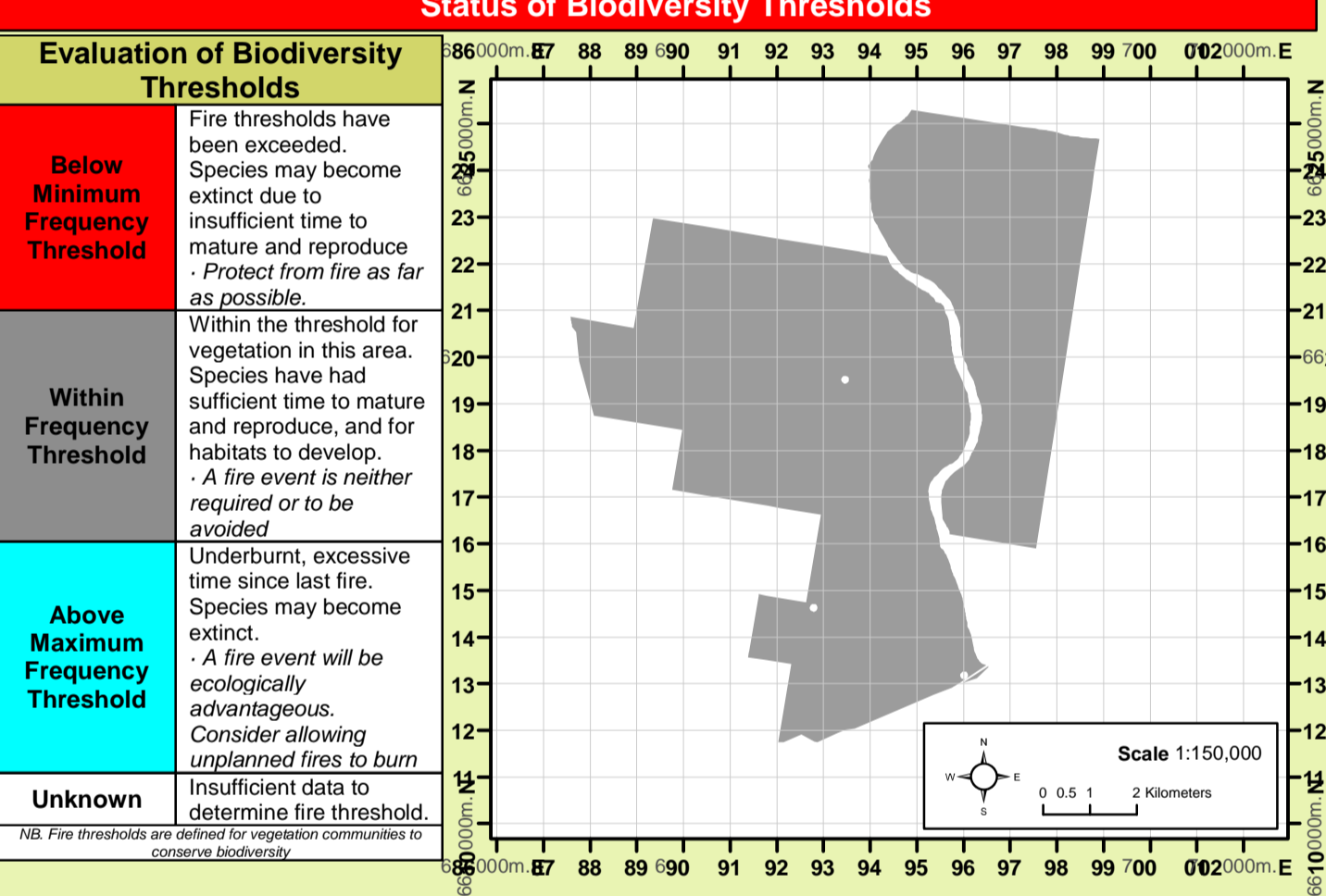


Communications Information		
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS Repeaters	26	Gwabegar
NSW Forests	266 (NP82)	Mount Dowse
RFS	49 / PO32	Gwabegar
UHF - CB		Small fires channel 10, large fires determined by IMT
Aviation - CTAF	126.7	
Cellphone		Telstra 3G coverage is generally unavailable for most of the reserve

- Related documents**
- DECC Fire Management Manual, September 2008
 - Pilliga Operations Sub-plan, 2001. (Annexe to Plans of Operations prepared by the following Bush Fire Management Committees: Castlereagh, Nambour, Liverpool Ranges & North-west.

Fire Season Information	
Wildfires	The critical wildfire season occurs during November and December. This period may extend into the first half of January. Particular care is required during periods of negative Southern Oscillation Indices. The end of the critical fire season is often marked by wet storm activity.
Prescribed Burning	Effective prescribed burning may need to be conducted once the "critical fire season" and thunderstorm season is over. This is due to the LOW - MODERATE Overall Fuel Hazard for most vegetation types. Prescribed burning attempted after autumn rain is unlikely to be effective.

Operational Guidelines	
General	Aerial operations will be managed by trained and competent personnel. This includes directing aerial bombing and aerial ignition operations.
Aerial operations	The use of bombing aircraft without the support of ground based suppression crews should be limited to very specific circumstances.
Backburning	All personnel must be fully briefed before back burning operations begin.
Command & Control	The first combatant agency on site may assume control of the fire, but then must ensure the relevant land management agency is notified promptly.
Containment Lines	New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer.
Earthmoving Equipment	Earthmoving equipment may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS Officer.
Fire Suppression Chemicals	Fire suppression chemicals are not to be applied within 50m of water courses and dams.
Rehabilitation	Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
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.
Visitor Management	The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger, and will be closed during fire operations.

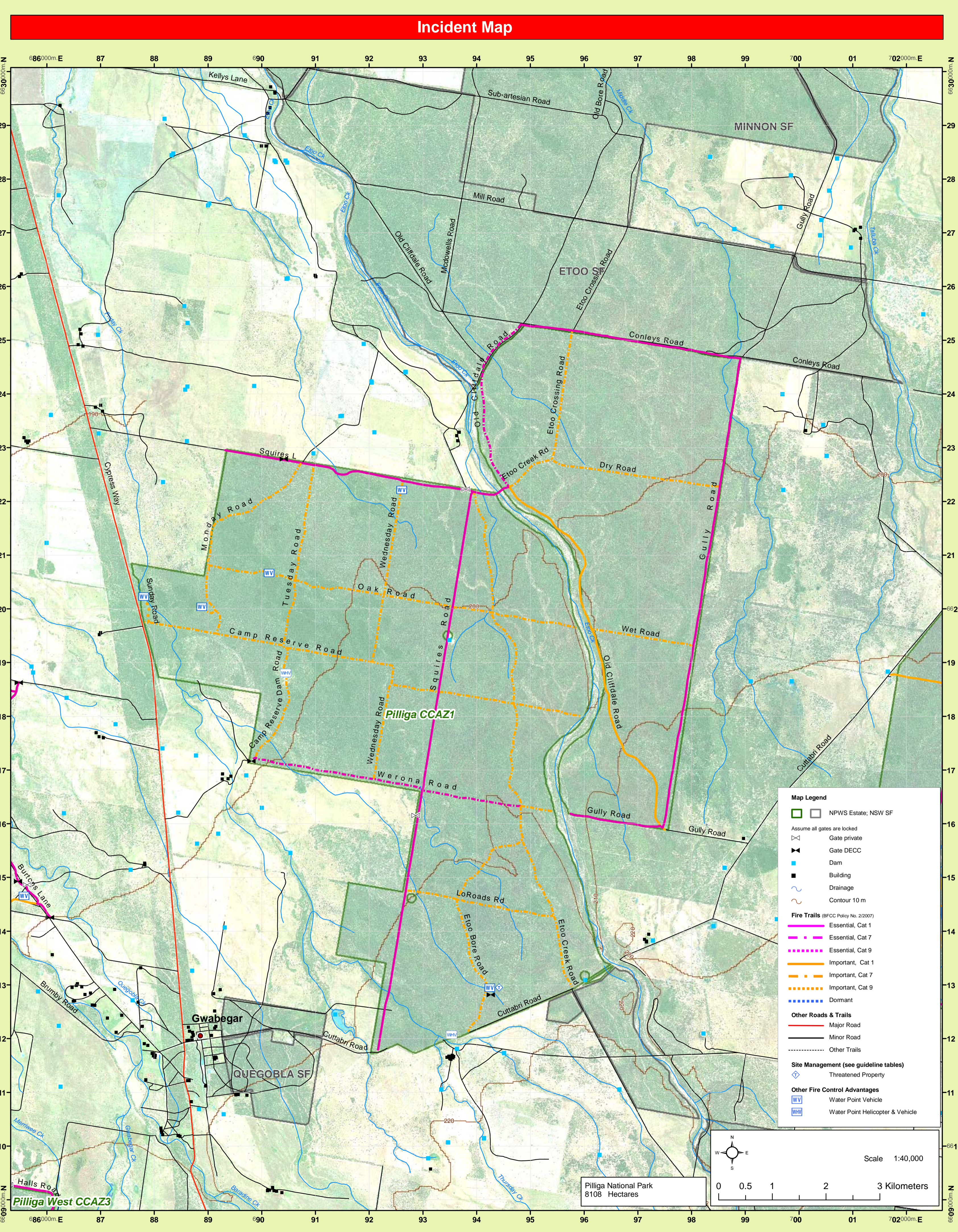


Operational Guidelines Continued	
Resource	Modified trees
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management	As far as possible, protect the site from fire
Historic Site Management	Do not cut trees
Threatened Fauna and Flora Management	Use of foams & retardant is acceptable.
	Old phone line - Squires Lane
	As far as possible, protect the area between the fire trail and boundary fence from fire
	Use of foams & retardant is acceptable.
	The protective actions for threatened fauna have been incorporated into the Operational Guidelines

Suppression Strategies	
Conditions	Guidelines
Fire danger rating LOW - HIGH	Consider a broad containment strategy using existing roads, allowing long-term management requirements for biodiversity
	Direct and parallel attack may be applied with earthmoving machinery and fire units.
Fire danger rating VERY HIGH - EXTREME	Close parallel attack, moving around the head only when the fire stops running
	Distance between the flank and machinery and fire units should be kept to a minimum
	If fire is running, it will slow considerably when it reaches Belah and Pilliga Box country
	Higher rates of spread may occur in the following areas: Ironbark/Red Gum vegetation due to a higher elevated (shrub) fuel; Red Gum/Apple vegetation due to a higher surface ground fuel

Vegetation Communities and Biodiversity Thresholds		
Vegetation Community	Vegetation management guidelines	Fire Behaviour
Pilliga Box / White Pine woodland	An interval between fire events less than 20 years should be avoided	Potential rates of spread is low due to Low OFH
Belah woodland	A high intensity fire may be permitted after a fire free period 30 - 50 years	Fire runs are likely to slow down when entering this vegetation
Ironbark / White Pine woodlands	An interval between fire events less than 20 years should be avoided	Potential rates of spread is low due to Low - Moderate OFH
Ironbark / Red Gum woodland	A high intensity fire may be permitted after a fire free period 30 - 50 years	Localised areas of High OFH may produce restricted areas of higher fire intensity
Red Gum / Apple woodland	An interval between fire events less than 15 years and greater 40 years should be avoided	Potential rate of spread is higher due to Moderate ground and near surface hazard
Strategic Zones	Prescribed burn should be considered where the OFH has been assessed at HIGH, after an interval of 7 years	

OFH - Overall fuel hazard - A rating system that includes leaf litter, grasses, shrubs, bark type and bark condition



Map Legend

- NPWS Estate; NSW SF
- Assume all gates are locked
- Gate private
- Gate DECC
- Dam
- Building
- Drainage
- Contour 10 m
- Fire Trails (BFC Policy No. 32207)
- Essential, Cat 1
- Essential, Cat 7
- Essential, Cat 9
- Important, Cat 1
- Important, Cat 7
- Important, Cat 9
- Dormant
- Other Roads & Trails
- Major Road
- Minor Road
- Other Trails
- Site Management (see guideline tables)
- Threatened Property
- Other Fire Control Advantages
- Water Point Vehicle
- Water Point Helicopter & Vehicle