



# Independent Bushfire Inquiry

## Submission Application

If you are making this submission anonymously you do not need to fill in any personal details.

### Applicant Information

Full Name: ANDREW GARDYNE

Address: [REDACTED] Apartment/Unit # \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
City State Postcode

Phone: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]

I give consent to make this submission?  Public  Anonymous  Confidential

### Signature

Please note the Inquiry will retain discretion to withhold publishing any information that may be considered personal or defamatory in nature.

Signature: Andrew Gardyne Date: 28/03/2020

To: Andrew Gardyne,  
Caparra.

The next visit to the north coast area will be at:

**Wauchope**

- **Date:** Tuesday 24 March 2020
- **Time:** 5:30pm
- **Location:** Wauchope Showground, Beechwood Road, Wauchope

Further visits will occur in the future on the South Coast of NSW.

Submissions can be sent and delivered in person to the following:-

- **Email:** [inquiries@bushfireinquiry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:inquiries@bushfireinquiry.nsw.gov.au)
- **Post:** NSW Independent Bushfire Inquiry, GPO Box 5341, Sydney NSW 2001
- **Phone:** If you have limited computer or internet access you can make a submission over the phone by calling the Bushfire Customer Care program on 13 77 88
- **In-person:** at any Service NSW service centre(external link) or at a Mobile Service Centre

**Submission to bushfire Inquiry:-**

1. My name is Andrew Gardyne. I live at [REDACTED]
2. I am employed in the Transport industry.
3. I am currently on leave under Workers Compensation after succumbing to smoke related asthma.
4. From my home, I saw the Parks and Wildlife helicopter taking water from my neighbour's dam to the north of me, from the 18 October onwards, to fight the fire in the Rumba Dump fire trail (National Park and up to Dingo Tops Rd). Early in November the Parks and Wildlife Service were also pumping water from the Caparra Creek closer to Rowley's Rd into a dam, and then the helicopter/monsoon bucket could extract water to fight the fire in the Dingo tops. (I have many photos and videos of these events).
5. I was still working when the bush fire impacted our property on the 8th of November 2019. I worked a 23 hour day to get home from Sydney in time to protect our property from fire, after being advised by a neighbour that my property was under threat
6. On the morning of the 8th November, I attempted to make a call to 000 around 11 am, but I was unable to get through to the emergency service. It rang, but dropped out. The fire was racing across my neighbour's property to the northwest of our home. The triple 000 call registered for a short time on my mobile phone but then disappeared.
7. Some of my neighbours are in the RFS. One was staying at home to defend his property. Another was out fighting to protect other people's properties, but without access to a fire truck. Later in the afternoon I went up to this neighbour's place to protect his property from encroaching fire till he returned. Another RFS neighbour used his own vehicle, a Ute, with an IBC tank and fire- fighting pump to put out our power pole fire on our property. Other than this, no services came to my aid at any time.
8. As mentioned above, I was in communication with members of the RFS, (mainly because I sought them out on the day) and it was determined that my property was defendable and that I was prepared. Most people in Caparra had decided to stay and defend. I used a walkie-talkie to keep in touch with my neighbours as the fire storm unfolded.

9. No Police/Emergency services were involved in my area that I saw or heard, and no one told me to leave (except concerned friends and family far away). I was given no advice regarding evacuation. I had no communication other than with neighbours.
10. After the fire had impacted on the Caparra area and made its way to Bobin and burnt further areas around me, I spoke with a neighbour, Robert Nicholas (see Robeert's statement Attachment "A"). He told me that he had witnessed a team of Forestry men conduct a drip torch burn in an area east of Dingo Tops Road, on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November. ( Marked in orange highlighter; Attachment "B" Map Mid North Coast Rumba Dump Fire, Alpha Sector).
- 11.
12. On 28<sup>th</sup> December 2019, I took my family for a drive along Dingo Tops Road. We stopped at the Boot Hill helipad and evacuation centre. This is a public area. Whilst walking around I found Forestry papers blowing around between the buildings. My partner, Else Seligmann, was with me at the time, as was her son Ian and his girlfriend Jess. I collected all the papers and found them to be official Incident Action Plan papers for the Rumba Dump area around the time our property was impacted by fire. (5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> November 2019)
- 13.
14. Looking at these documents caused me to be concerned for a number of reasons, and I informed Robert Nicholas that I intended to write a submission to the Fire Inquiry. I asked him to write what he had witnessed. His document is attached ("A").
15. Attached also is a copy of the document I found at the Boot Hill scene. (Attachment "C" & "G").
16. I ask that this inquiry considers whether actions of Forestry staff on the lighting of the area along Dingo Tops Road was authorised by Official Operations in accordance with their own Action Plan regarding back burning after 0900 November 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> (see bottom of page Attachment "C")
17. What advice was provided regarding prevailing wind conditions on that day? (In my position I am only able to obtain wind readings from the Taree area for the day in question. I attach a copy of that record for your information.) also see attachment "D" outlook for Friday.
18. What resources or firefighting units were arranged to cover this back burn due to its proximity to the Caparra area, where multiple homes/people could be impacted?
19. Can the Inquiry determine if the action of back burning on this day and in this location potentially endangered communities of Caparra and Bobin? Caparra lost 11 out of 36 homes, and Bobin lost 18 homes.
20. My family and I acknowledge the complexity of this Inquiry. I further recognise the difficulties faced by RFS, Emergency Services, Forestry and National Parks workers. In my view however, if best practice is to be ensured in future incidents (which we

are advised will occur in future climate conditions), there must be some clear delineation of roles and actions by the services that are trusted to protect us, not to mention the need for enhanced resources to rural areas. It is only then that vulnerable members of rural communities such as ours will feel confident that we will be protected in future events of this nature. I would like to see more resources made available to Rural Fire Brigades.

*Thankyou for your favourable consideration*  
*A.H. GARDYNE 17/03/2020.*  
**ANDREW GARDYNE.**

## Taree, New South Wales November 2019 Daily Weather Observations

Observations from Taree Airport, about 6 km from the centre of Taree.

Date	Day	Temp s		Rain	Eva p	Sun	Max wind gust			9 am					3 pm						
		Min	Max				Dir	Spd	Time	Temp	RH	Cl d	Dir	Spd	M SL P	Temp	RH	Cl d	Dir	Spd	M SL P
		°C	°C				mm	mm	hours	km/h	local	°C	%	8 <sup>t</sup> <sub>h</sub>	km/h	hPa	°C	%	8 <sup>t</sup> <sub>h</sub>	km/h	hPa
1	Fr	14.4	28.6	0			E N E	5 7	14:09	22.8	45		N E	20	1018.9	25.9	49		E N E	41	1015.0
2	Sa	17.3	29.5	0			E N E	54	12:42	23.3	51		N N E	24	1019.1	28.2	42		NE	31	1015.0
3	Su	16.6	31.8	0			E N E	50	15:13	23.7	55		N N E	13	1015.6	29.0	44		E N E	35	1009.8
4	Mo	17.1	26.2	3.6			S S E	52	12:49	21.8	72	8	S W	9	1013.7	21.9	57		SS E	33	1012.3

Date	Day	Temp s		Rain	E vap	Sun	Max wind gust			9 am					3 pm						
		Min	Max				Dir	Spd	Time	Temp	RH	Cl d	Dir	Spd	M SL P	Temp	RH	Cl d	Dir	Spd	M SL P
		°C	°C				mm	mm	hours	km/h	local	°C	%	8 <sup>th</sup>	km/h	hPa	°C	%	8 <sup>th</sup>	km/h	hPa
5	Tu	13.4	20.8	0.2					18.1	52		SSW	28	1012.1	18.9	49	8	SW	28	1012.4	
6	We	10.3	25.5	11.6			E	37	13:38	17.6	54		WSW	9	1015.7	22.9	43		E	26	1009.4
7	Th	9.9	35.7	0			NW	57	10:58	25.5	31		N	7	1007.5	34.9	8		WNW	28	1002.1
8	Fr	11.2	34.3	0			SSE	63	21:45	27.1	5		NW	17	1004.3	33.0	10		WSW	30	998.0
9	Sa	14.9	23.9	0.6			S	56	23:38	17.6	33	2	SW	26	1010.9	22.9	15	1	SSW	24	1008.4
10	Su	5.6	26.0	0			SSE	50	13:06	19.8	27		SW	20	1011.9	21.1	38	8	SE	30	1010.3
11	Mo	9.5	23.4	0			ENE	39	15:40	16.4	67	7	NW	9	1017.6	22.5	54	8	E	28	1014.0
12	Tu	11.0	34.0	0			NW	48	11:37	20.7	62	8	W	4	1010.8	30.8	28	8	E	20	1003.2
13	We	16.4	25.2	0			SSW	50	00:36	20.1	40	8	SW	22	1012.8	20.5	34		SE	31	1011.2
14	Th	7.9	24.2	0			SE	33	12:19	19.0	38	8	WSW	11	1016.1	22.0	34		ESE	20	1013.0

Date	Day	Temp s		Rain	E vap	Sun	Max wind gust			9 am					3 pm						
		Min	Max				Dir	Spd	Time	Temp	RH	Cl d	Di r	Spd	M SL P	Temp	RH	Cl d	Di r	Spd	M SL P
		°C	°C																		
15	Fr	9.1	29.3	0			ENE	35	13:12	20.9	41	8	W	6	1012.2	28.2	22	8	NE	28	1006.7
16	Sa	12.9	24.8	0			SE	48	12:38	21.9	57	8	SSW	19	1015.2	22.3	52		SE	30	1013.6
17	Su	14.4	27.1	0			SSE	57	12:11	22.1	63	8	N	11	1013.2	20.9	63	2	SE	28	1013.2
18	Mo	12.6	26.6	0.6			ENE	46	13:54	21.3	58		E	7	1019.5	24.4	46		ENE	33	1014.1
19	Tu	10.3	32.7	0			ESE	35	13:58	22.7	45	8	NW	6	1013.2	30.7	16		ESE	26	1009.6
20	We	16.3	27.0	0			S	43	10:01	22.9	60		SW	4	1015.0	24.5	55		SS E	24	1014.3
21	Th	14.0	30.4	0			ENE	48	14:04	22.6	73	8	NE	11	1016.8	28.8	52	2	ENE	33	1011.3
22	Fr	17.3	35.6	0			S	41	19:48	27.5	49	8	NE	11	1012.3	34.0	31	8	ENE	30	1008.7
23	Sa	17.3	26.1	0			SSW	35	20:47	22.6	75	8	SE	6	1014.7	24.1	65	8	SS E	19	1012.9
24	Su	20.4	24.4	0.8			SSE	30	00:50	22.3	74	8	SSW	15	1017.5	22.0	74	6	SE	17	1015.6

Date	Day	Temp s		Rain	E vap	Sun	Max wind gust			9 am					3 pm						
		Min	Max				Dir	Spd	Time	Temp	RH	Cld	Dir	Spd	MSLP	Temp	RH	Cld	Dir	Spd	MSLP
		°C	°C				mm	mm	hours	km/h	local	°C	%	8 <sup>h</sup>	km/h	hPa	°C	%	8 <sup>h</sup>	km/h	hPa
25	Mo	18.2	31.9	0			ENE	39	13:37	22.7	64	66	NNW	9	1013.3	27.3	48		ENE	28	1008.7
26	Tu	13.6	38.0	3.0						24.1	67		ENE	7	1006.9	37.5	17	6	NW	28	1000.3
27	We	15.4	23.4	0.8			S	35	23:36	20.7	27		SSW	7	1015.8	21.5	43		ESE	24	1014.9
28	Th	11.3	28.5	0			E	48	13:23	21.5	58	8	N	13	1016.8	25.2	53	1	E	33	1013.9
29	Fr	18.7	30.3	0						24.5	72		NE	4	1014.9	29.3	58		E	22	1010.6
30	Sa	16.7	32.7	0			SSE	52	15:35	27.6	55	7	W	4	1008.0	29.7	39	8	SE	7	1005.2
<b>Statistics for November 2019</b>																					
<b>Mean</b>		13.8	28.6							22.0	52	7		13	1013.7	26.2	41	5		27	1010.3
<b>Lowest</b>		5.6	20.8	0						16.4	15	2	W	4	1004.3	18.9	8	1	SE	7	998.0
<b>Highest</b>		20.0	38.0	11.6			SSE	63		27.6	75	8	SSW	8	1019.5	37.5	74	8	ENE	41	1015.6





Attachment "A"  
af.

**My Observations of Activities of NSW Forestry Officers  
Dingo Tops Road Dingo Tops - 7 November 2019**

On November 4, 6 and 7 2019 I was working with my excavator on a property on Hardway Creek Road. It was at the home of David Rabbidge, and my job was to clear an area on a track off the road for a proposed dwelling.

On the morning of 7 November 2019 I left my property at [REDACTED] at about 6.45am to drive up Tallowood Forest Road and onto Dingo Tops Road, and travel south to Hardway Creek Road. I passed no-one on any road. There were no signs to say that any road was closed. There was smoke rising from the valley east of Tallowood Forest Road near "Landsend" turnoff. I finished my work about 12.00 noon, parked my excavator in the middle of the cleared area that I had created, and proceeded home.

There was no wind, only a small breeze from the north west. I turned north onto Dingo Tops Road and proceeded about one kilometre. I stopped to ask three NSW Forestry officers what they were doing. They appeared to have cleared a fire break about one metre wide and about 100 metres long, at a right angle to Dingo Tops Road, on the eastern side of the road. One NSW Forestry man confirmed that they were making a fire break. I asked how far they intended to go with this break. The man replied that the break was only going "to that green gully." They had actually completed clearing of the fire break.

I have been an active member of Rural Fire Service for about 8-9 years. I was stunned to think that any experienced fire fighter believed that a fire would not burn around that fire break. My concern was also that Caparra is at the bottom of the hill, below where this short fire break had been constructed.

I proceeded along Dingo Tops Road a further 500 metres or so to find three NSW Forestry fire trucks of Rural Fire Service CAT9 size, with a group of NSW Forestry officers using drip torches to light up the eastern side of the road.

Further along Dingo Tops Road I came upon a group of five NSW Forestry officers, and was directed to stop by one of the officers. While waiting for someone to approach my car, I observed four younger men who appeared, in my opinion, to have little knowledge or experience of their duties. They appeared to be walking in circles, perhaps waiting for directions from the fifth member of the group. One appeared to be naively holding a wind gauge monitor above his head as he walked in circles. This seemed an irony to me in that he was in a forest with 30 metre trees around him, so any reading may not be accurate to conditions beyond.

Eventually one young officer walked to the front of my vehicle and with no verbal communication but a very stern expression, pointed his two index fingers at me, then turned 90° and pointed the same two fingers at the fifth officer in the group, a man of approximately 60 years, indicating that I was to get out of my vehicle and approach this man. It seemed very intimidating.

I approached this older man, introduced myself and we exchanged handshakes. He immediately asked what I was doing in the State Forest as the forest was closed to unauthorised people. I explained that I was working at the property on Hardway Creek Road. He then asked how I had entered the forest, to which I replied that I had used Tallowood Forest Road, entering onto that road about 7.00am that morning. He then continued that he too had used that road at about 7.30am that morning. I was then asked where I lived.

This officer then told me that I had provided a legitimate reason to be in the forest, and that I was free to go.

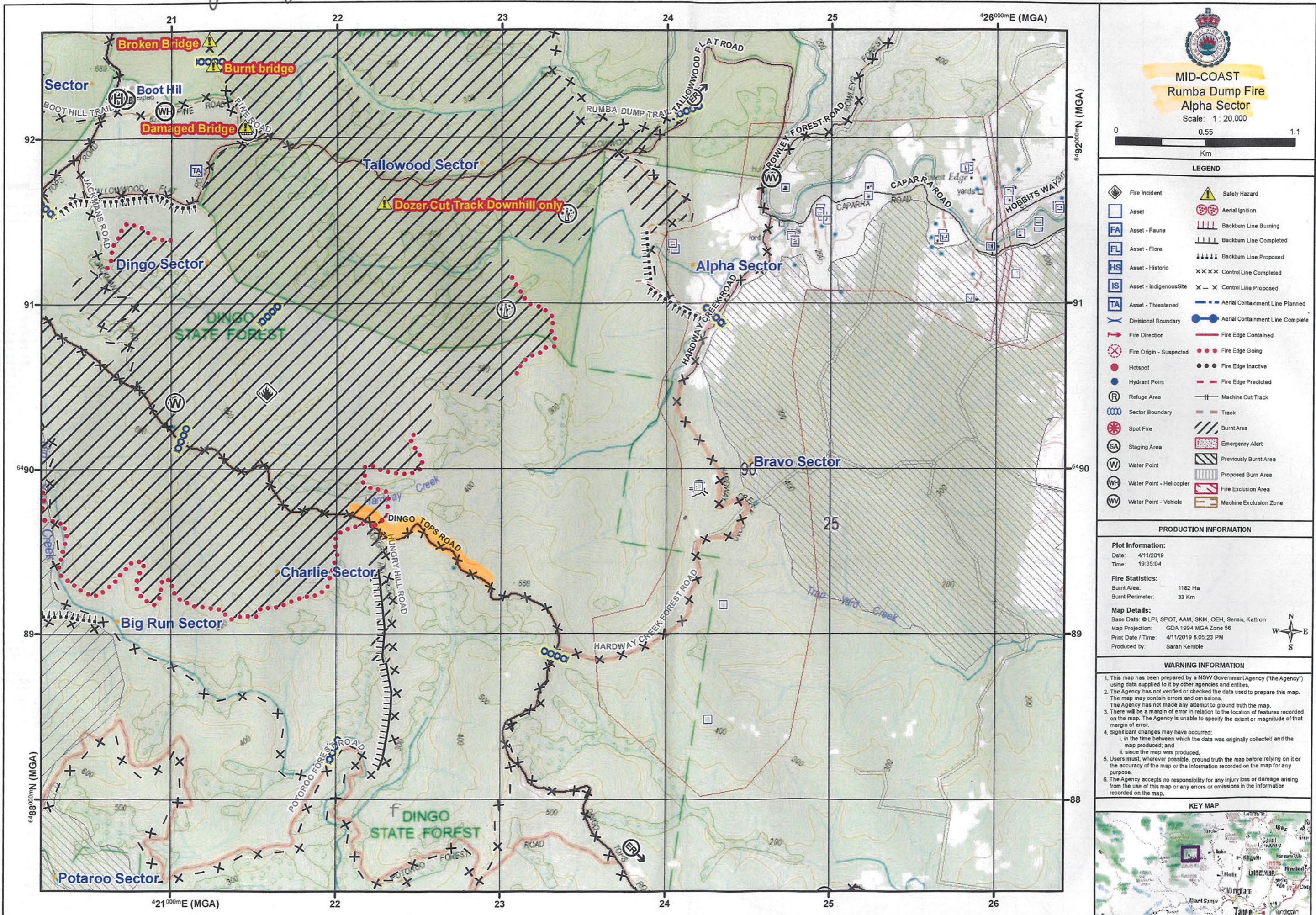
At 6.00am the next morning, 8 November 2019 I was assisting my neighbour to fight a fire on private property at the bottom of the hill near where the officers had been seen backburning. That property is at [REDACTED] near the intersection of Caparra Road and Tallowood Forest Road. By 7.00am other properties in that area and in Rowley Forest Road were threatened, and lost.

By 12.00 noon on 8 November 2019 I was defending my home and property on the eastern side of Caparra Road.

Robert Nicholas

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Nicholas', written over a large black rectangular redaction box.

Attachment "B" a G. orange text mark shows drip torch backburn.



**MID-COAST**  
**Rumba Dump Fire**  
**Alpha Sector**  
 Scale: 1 : 20,000

0 0.55 1.1  
 Km

**LEGEND**

Fire Incident	Safety Hazard
Asset	Aerial Ignition
Asset - Fauna	Backburn Line Burning
Asset - Flora	Backburn Line Completed
Asset - Historic	Backburn Line Proposed
Asset - Indigenous Site	Control Line Completed
Asset - Threatened	Control Line Proposed
Divisional Boundary	Aerial Containment Line Planned
Fire Direction	Aerial Containment Line Complete
Fire Origin - Suspected	Fire Edge Contained
Hotspot	Fire Edge Going
Hydrant Point	Fire Edge Inactive
Refuge Area	Fire Edge Predicted
Sector Boundary	Machine Cut Track
Spot Fire	Track
Staging Area	Burnt Area
Water Point	Emergency Alert
Water Point - Helicopter	Previously Burnt Area
Water Point - Vehicle	Proposed Burn Area
	Fire Exclusion Area
	Machine Exclusion Zone

**PRODUCTION INFORMATION**

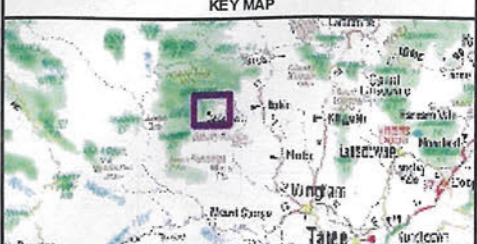
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 Time: 19:35:04

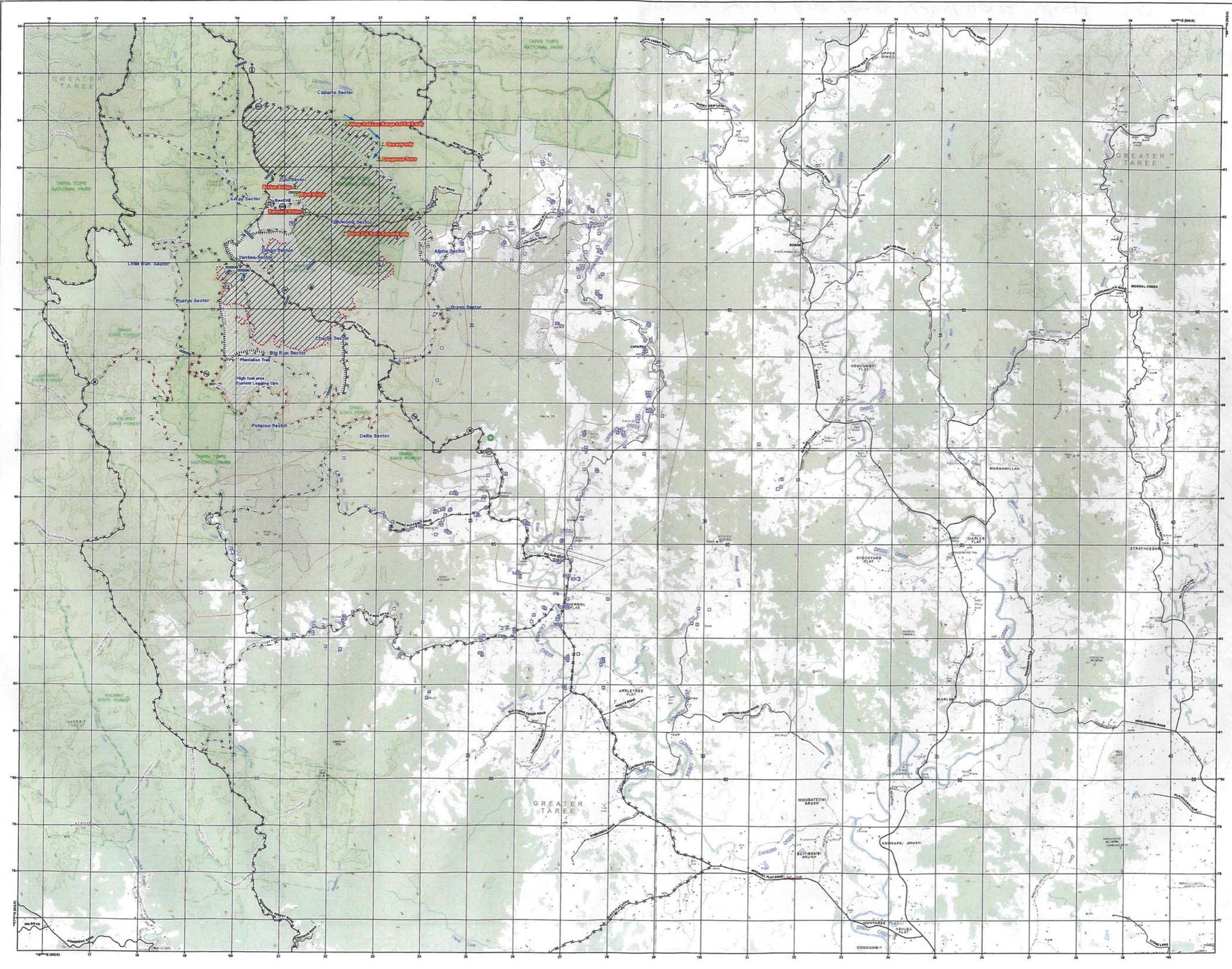
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 Burnt Area: 1182 Ha  
 Burnt Perimeter: 33 Km

**Map Details:**  
 Base Data: LPI, SPOT, AAM, SKM, OEH, Sensis, Kattron  
 Map Projection: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56  
 Print Date / Time: 4/11/2019 8:05:23 PM  
 Produced by: Sarah Kemble

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- Significant changes may have occurred:
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**MID-COAST**

**Rumba dump**

Scale: 1 : 25,000



**LEGEND**

Fire Incident	Property Damage
Access Point	RAFT Crew
Air Base	Refuge Area
Ambulance	Road Closure
Assembly Area	SES Motor Vehicle
Asset	Sector Boundary
Asset - Defensible	Sector Command
Asset - Not Defensible	Smoke Hazard Sign
Asset - Potentially Defensible	Smoke on Ground
Asset - Fauna	Smoke on Standing
Asset - Flora	Spot Fire
Asset - Historic	Staging Area
Asset - Indigenous Site	Tree Down
Asset - Threatened	Water Point
Base Camp	Water Point - Helicopter
Control Centre	Water Point - Vehicle
Control Point	Wind Direction
Custom Point	Safety Hazard
Divisional Boundary	Aerial Ignition
Escape Route	Backburn Line Completed
Evacuation Area	Backburn Line Burning
Evacuation Centre	Control Line Proposed
Fire Appliance	Control Line Completed
Fire Direction	Control Line Proposed
Fire Origin - Suspected	Evacuation Line Planned
Hotspot	Aerial Containment
Hydrant Point	Line Complete
Livestock	Fire Edge Contained
Medical	Fire Edge Going
Mobile Weather Station	Fire Edge Inactive
Plant	Fire Edge Predicted
Police Motor Vehicle	Machine Cut Track
Portable Communications	Track
	Burnt Area
	Emergency Alert
	Previously Burnt Area
	Proposed Burnt Area
	Fire Exclusion Area
	Machine Exclusion Zone

**PRODUCTION INFORMATION**

**Plot Information:**  
 Date: 4/11/2019  
 Time: 19:35:04

**Fire Statistics:**  
 Burnt Area: 1182 Ha  
 Burnt Perimeter: 33 Km

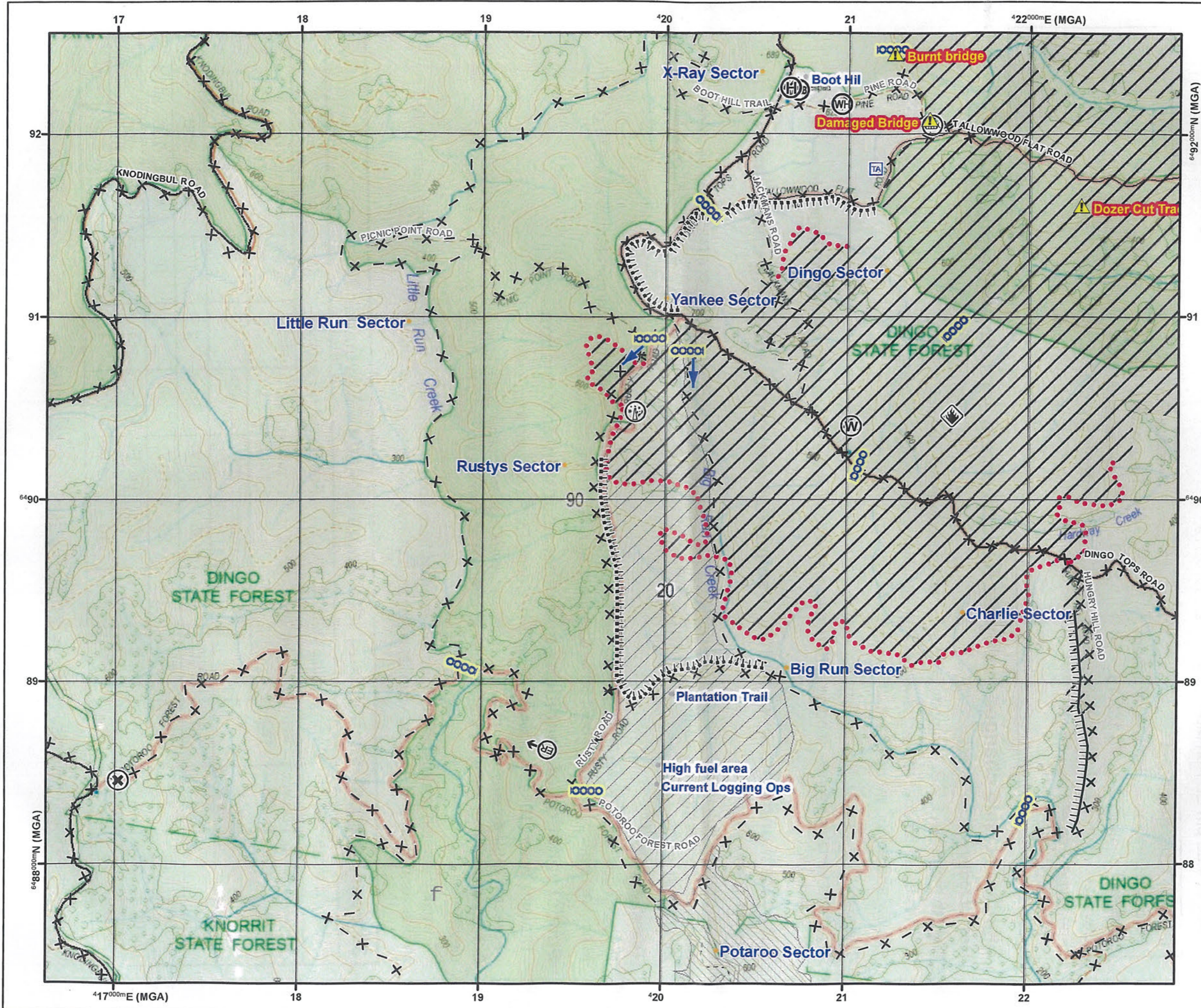
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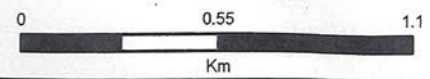
**KEY MAP**







**MID-COAST**  
Rumba Dump Fire  
Alpha Sector  
Scale: 1 : 20,000



0 0.55 1.1  
Km

**LEGEND**


**PRODUCTION INFORMATION**

**Plot Information:**  
Date: 4/11/2019  
Time: 19:35:04

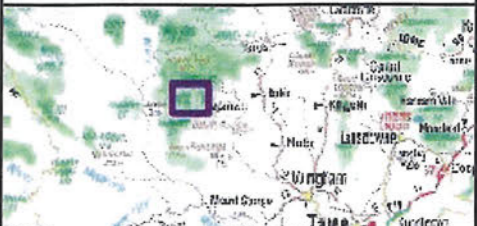
**Fire Statistics:**  
Burnt Area: 1182 Ha  
Burnt Perimeter: 33 Km

**Map Details:**  
Base Data: © LPI, SPOT, AAM, SKM, OEH, Sensis, Kaltron  
Map Projection: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56  
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Produced by: Sarah Kemble

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**KEY MAP**





IDN32100  
Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology  
New South Wales

### Incident Weather Forecast for Rumba Dump (7PM 4/11)

Issued at 4:22 pm EDT on Monday 4 November 2019.

Incident Type: Section 44	Website Form No: 021
Forecast Location: 26km NW Wingham	Request No: 2
Latitude/Longitude: -31.73 152.18	Fax Number:
Elevation (metres ASL): 200-600	Contact Ph: [REDACTED]
Fuel Type: Forest	Contact Name: [REDACTED]
	Email: [REDACTED]

#### Significant wind changes during the forecast period, including uncertainties

Rest of today:

Light to moderate E/SE, easing to light and variable later in the evening.

- Winds could be down-slope/down-valley in direction (overnight/early tomorrow morning)
- Gusty and erratic winds near/with storms.

Tuesday:

Light and variables winds, tending light to moderate S/SW in the early afternoon and freshening from later in the afternoon.

#### Forecast thunderstorm potential, precipitation and cloud, including uncertainties

Rest of Today :

Partly cloudy. High (70%) chance of showers. The chance of a thunderstorm. Thunderstorms may become severe in the afternoon or early evening with large hailstones, damaging wind gusts. Chance of at least 5 mm rainfall is 20%.

Tuesday:

Partly cloudy. High (70%) chance of showers. The chance of a thunderstorm. Maximum temperature 18 C. Minimum relative humidity about 50%. Chance of at least 5 mm rainfall 30%.

#### Spatial variation of conditions and other important information

- Drought factor (10) as per forecast request. Curing (70%) derived from satellite data.
- Forecast is for an elevation of 470 metres. At lower/(higher) locations daytime temperatures could be 2-3degrees warmer /(cooler) than tabulated forecast and winds up to 10 km/h stronger at the higher elevations.
- A weak inversion is expected to form this evening from 9pm and breaking tomorrow morning 8-9am. Poor smoke ventilation and reduced visibility as a result of inversion conditions.

30 Hour Forecast commencing 1900 hours Monday 4 November 2019													
Drought factor: 9		Curing value (%): 70				Fuel Load (t/ha): 2.9							
Local Time	Temp (C)	Dewpt (C)	RH (%)	10m Wind (km/h)			1000m AGL Wind (km/h)		FFDI	GFDI	cHaines	Mix Height (m) MSL	TAL
				Dir	Speed	Gust	Dir	Speed					
1900	17	15	88	ESE	25	35	NW	10	2	1	5	900	1
2000	15	15	100	E	15	25	NW	15	1	0	4	700	1
2100	13	13	100	VRB	5	10	WNW	15	1	0	5	500	1
2200	13	13	100	VRB	5	10	WNW	15	1	0	5	500	1

### 30 Hour Forecast commencing 1900 hours Monday 4 November 2019

Drought factor: 9      Curing value (%): 70      Fuel Load (t/ha): 2.9

Local Time	Temp (C)	Dewpt (C)	RH (%)	10m Wind (km/h)			1000m AGL Wind (km/h)		FFDI	GFDI	cHaines	Mix Height (m) MSL	TAL
				Dir	Speed	Gust	Dir	Speed					
2300	13	13	100	VRB	5	10	W	30	1	0	6	500	1
0000	13	13	100	VRB	5	10	W	40	1	0	6	500	1
0100	13	13	100	VRB	5	10	W	40	1	0	6	500	1
0200	15	13	88	VRB	5	10	W	35	1	0	6	500	0
0300	14	12	88	VRB	5	10	W	30	1	0	6	500	0
0400	14	11	82	VRB	5	10	W	30	1	0	6	500	0
0500	13	9	77	VRB	5	10	WSW	20	1	0	6	500	0
0600	12	9	82	VRB	5	10	WSW	20	1	0	5	500	0
0700	11	9	87	VRB	5	10	SW	35	1	0	5	500	0
1000	17	7	52	SSW	15	25	SW	30	5	0	3	2500	1
1300	18	7	49	SW	25	35	SW	40	7	1	3	3000	1
1600	18	6	45	SSW	30	40	SSW	50	9	1	3	3100	1
1900	15	6	55	SSW	30	40	SSW	50	6	1	3	2500	1
2200	10	7	82	SSW	10	20	SSW	50	1	0	4	1600	0
0100	09	8	93	VRB	5	10	SSW	45	1	0	4	500	0

AGL - Above Ground Level, RH - Relative Humidity, Dir - Direction, Dewpt - Dew Point, cHaines - Continuous Haines (0-13), TAL - Thunderstorm Activity Level (0-3). Note: Mixing height is above Mean Sea Level (MSL), to get AGL height subtract incident elevation from value given.

#### Outlook for Wednesday

Mostly sunny. Maximum temperature 27 C. Minimum relative humidity about 20%. Chance of at least 5 mm rainfall 0%. 9 am conditions: Temperature: 13 C; Relative humidity: 65%; Wind: NW 5 km/h. 3 pm conditions: Temperature: 27 C; Relative humidity: 20%; Wind: SE 10 km/h.

#### Outlook for Thursday

Mostly sunny. Maximum temperature 31 C. Minimum relative humidity about 10%. Chance of at least 5 mm rainfall 0%. 9 am conditions: Temperature: 20 C; Relative humidity: 35%; Wind: NW 15 km/h. 3 pm conditions: Temperature: 31 C; Relative humidity: 10%; Wind: W 30 km/h.

#### Outlook for Friday

*Attachment "D"*

Partly cloudy. Maximum temperature 30 C. Minimum relative humidity about 15%. Chance of at least 5 mm rainfall 5%. 9 am conditions: Temperature: 20 C; Relative humidity: 40%; Wind: W 15 km/h. 3 pm conditions: Temperature: 30 C; Relative humidity: 15%; Wind: W 30 km/h.

- \* If forecast differs significantly from observed conditions, or for further information, contact the fire weather forecasters on (02) 9296 1508.
- \* For firefighter and public safety make regular on-site weather observations. Please fax this form to fire weather forecaster on (02) 9296 1611 to assist in forecast verification.





NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

# SAFETY ALERT

## MID COAST SECTION 44

Over the past months crews have been deployed at fires within the Mid Coast district and beyond. At times crews have worked numerous back to back shifts in conditions that at times have presented above average workloads.

Before you leave home please use [Illness/Injury, Medication, Stress, Alcohol/Drugs, Fatigue, Expertise and Review](#) to ensure that you are physically and mentally ready for the challenge that the day brings.

Once at the incident use the following [Lookout, Awareness, Communications, Escape Route and Safety Refuge](#) to remain aware of your surroundings and what to do and where to go if the situation changes.

Maintaining good situational awareness at all times of where you are, who you are working with and what you are doing will assist in keeping us all safe, take breaks when the situation allows.

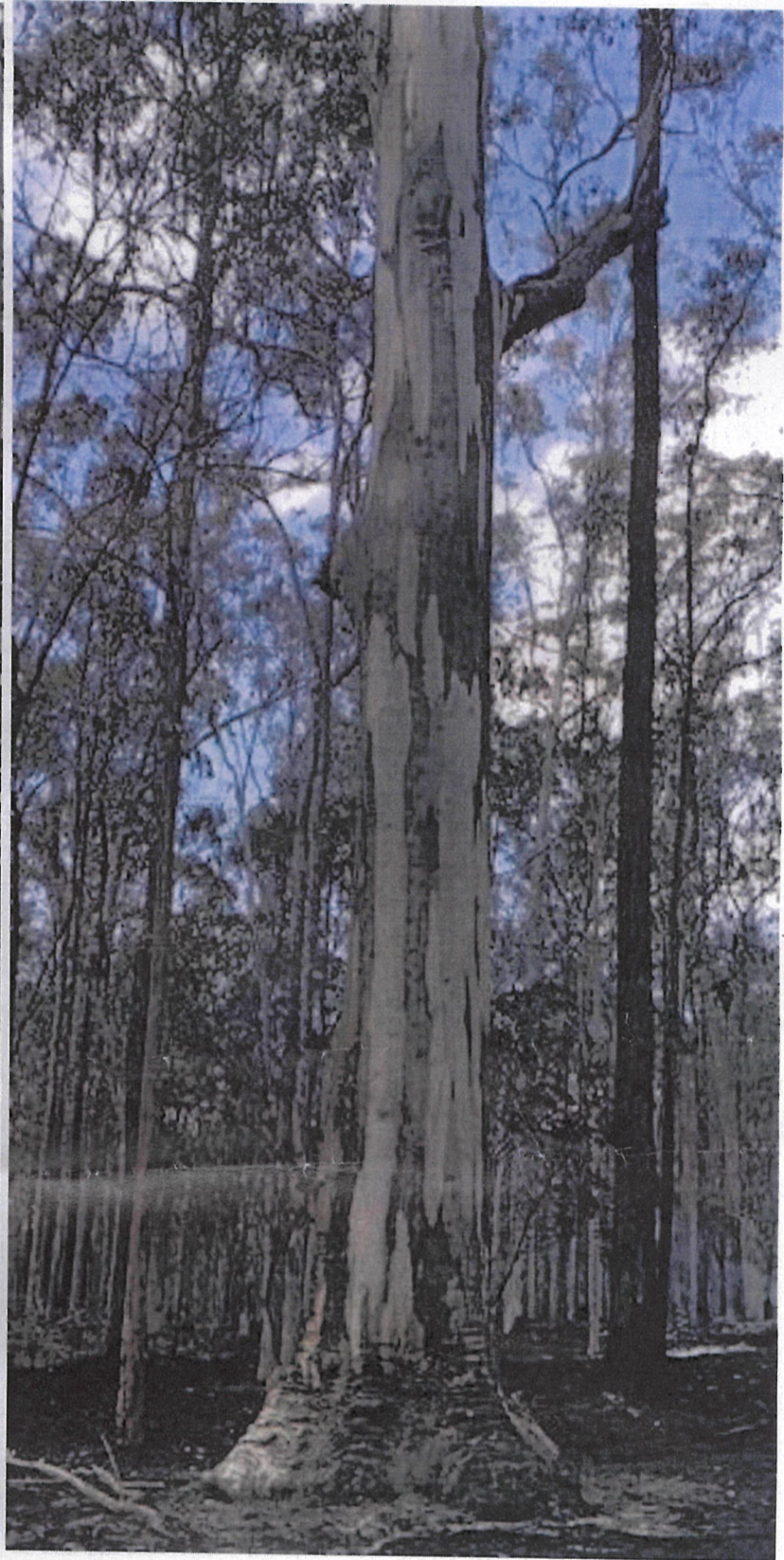
When working around or driving vehicles know your surroundings, use a spotter when reversing to ensure that nothing is in the vehicle path.

Keep hydrated, drink water at regular intervals, and keep in mind that on hot days when you are working hard you can lose up to a litre of water due to sweating.

## HAZARDOUS TREES



Side view



Back view

There are numerous fires under this Section 44 where after the fire front has passed have left hazardous trees that will either fall or drop large limbs. If you are to enter any area that may have hazardous trees be vigilant and assess your surroundings at all times. If a hazardous tree is identified safely tape off the danger zone and report the tree position to your DIVCOM for further management.

*Alert developed by Group Captain Will Lee, Illawarra District Health and Safety Representative (HSR).*



For further information regarding the **Safety Alert** please contact Mid Coast District Office on 1300 643 262