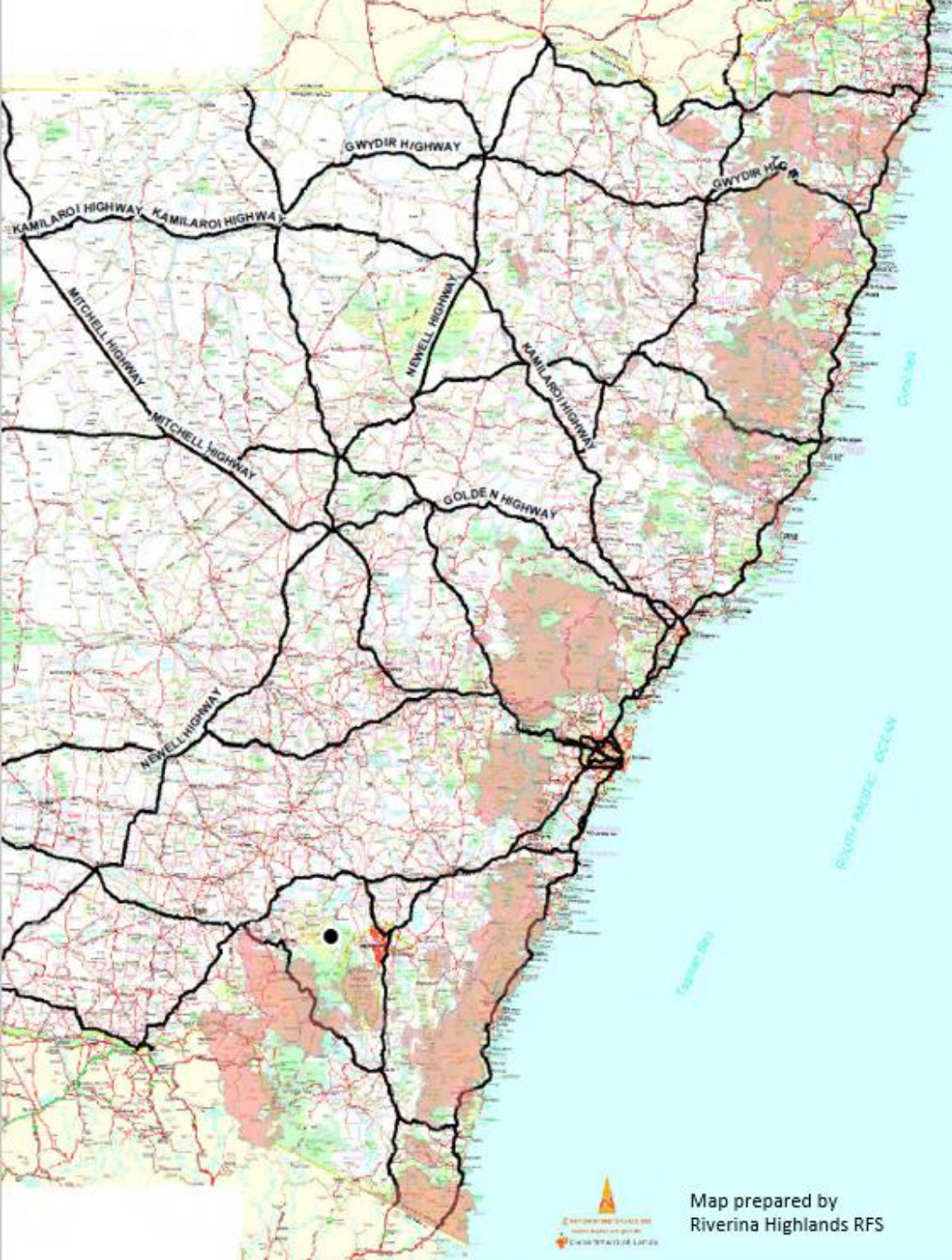




Dean Anderson before the fires

The Interaction of Agencies in the Prevention and Protection of Fire

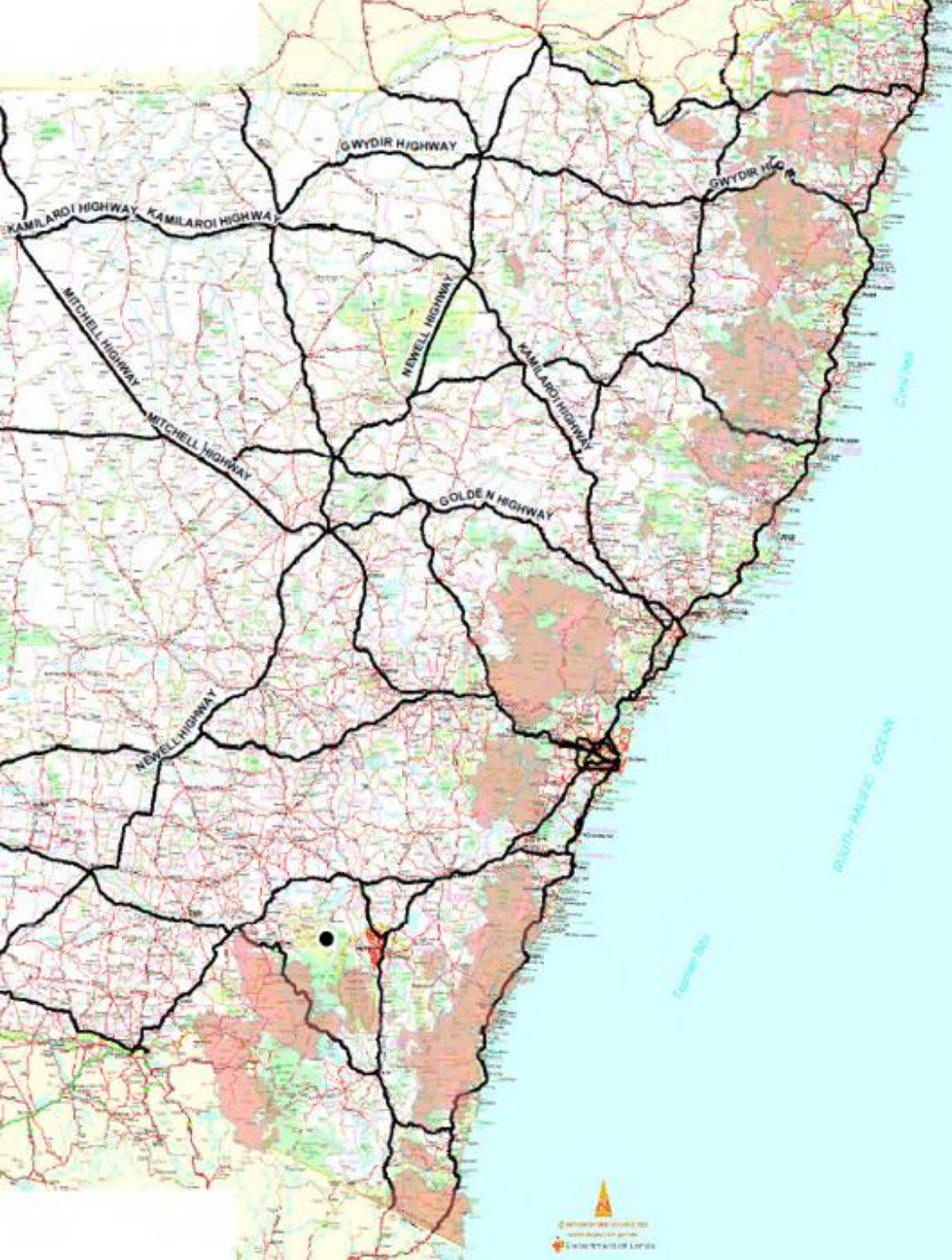
*Reflecting upon my experience of the
Black Summer fires (2019-2020) in
New South Wales*



Map prepared by
Riverina Highlands RFS



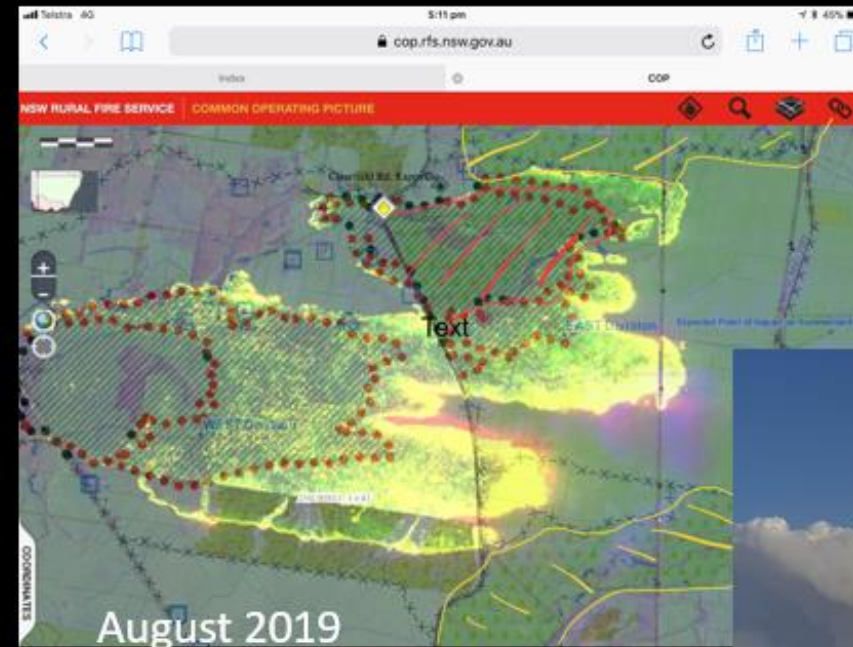
SOUTH PACIFIC
Map of Indigenous Australia | AIATSIS
OCEAN



Black Summer Fires 2019-20

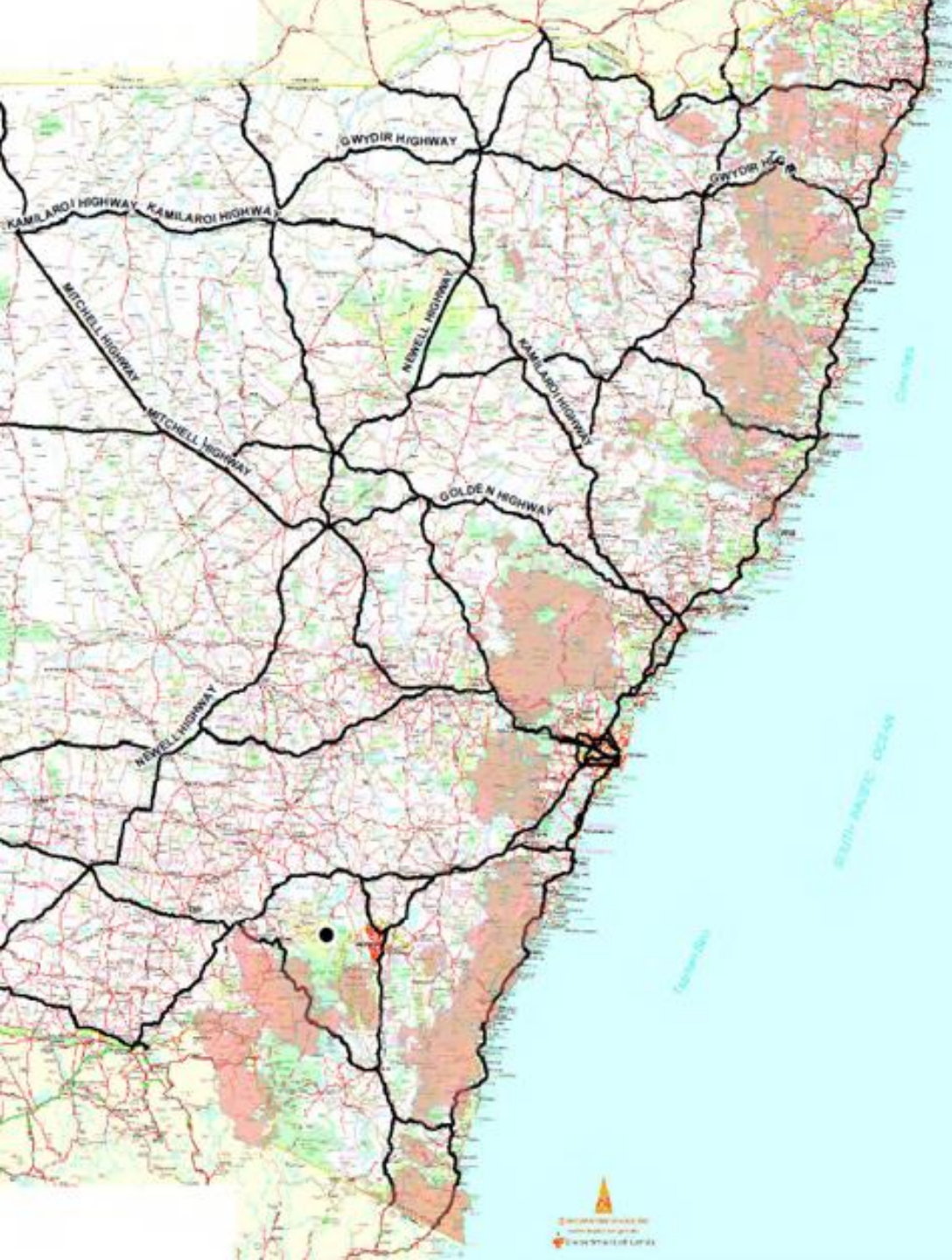
GM Hardwood Forests

- last fire from 2018/19 was in June
- our next set of fires was six weeks later
- trouble deploying Bathurst crews as snow bound





November 2019



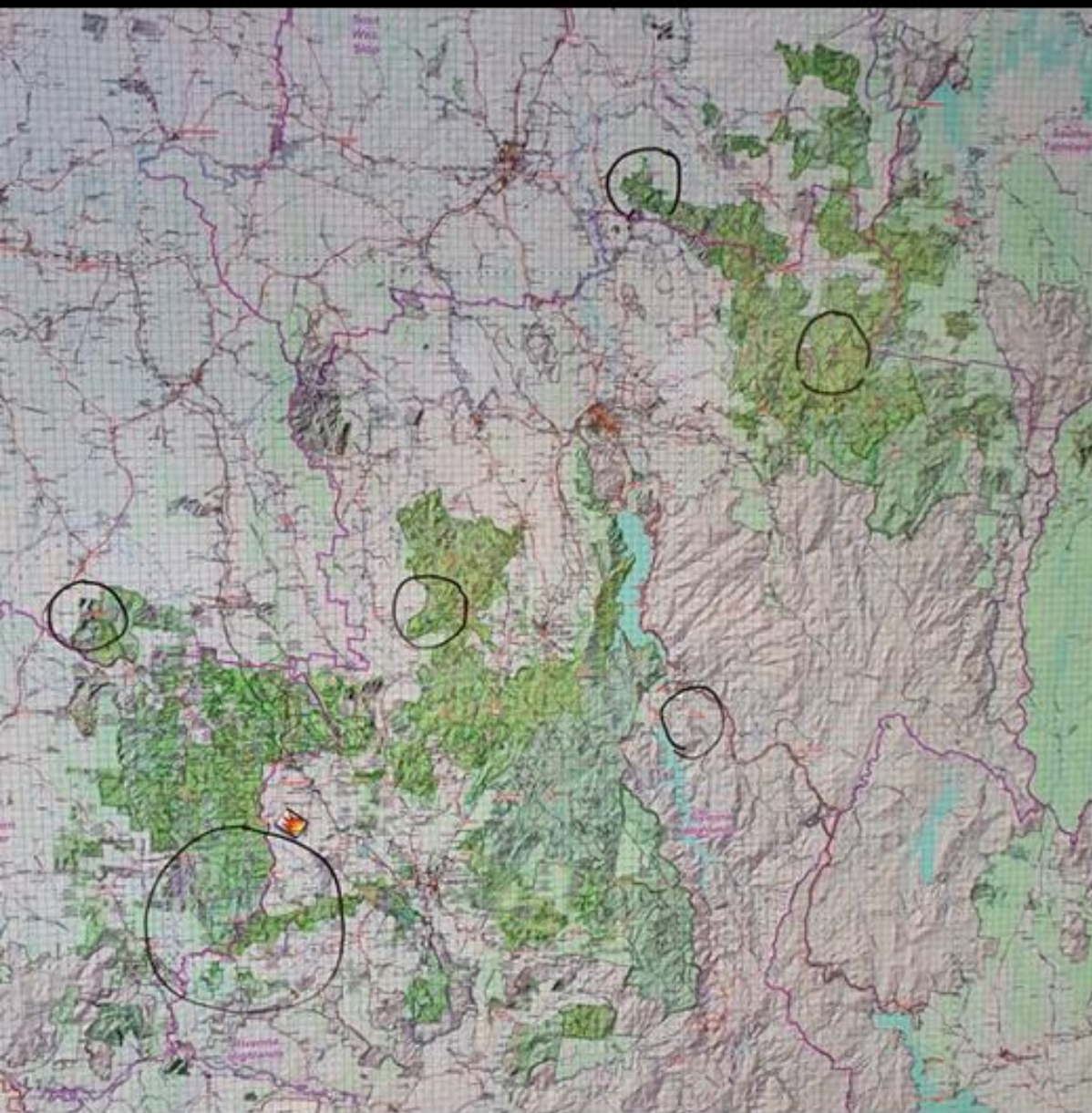
Black Summer Fires 2019-20

- GM Hardwood Forests
- FCNSW Liaison RFS State Operations
- A/GM Softwood Plantations

(Blue Mountain fires threatening Bathurst Plantations, Northern fires threatening Walcha Plantations, Victorian fires increasing in size and threatening Bombala Plantations, South Coast fires have potential to threaten Moss Vale and Talaganda Plantations (again) and Tumut a tinder box)



History Saved! Jenolan Caves Defended as Australian Fires Rage On | Ancient Origins (ancient-origins.net)

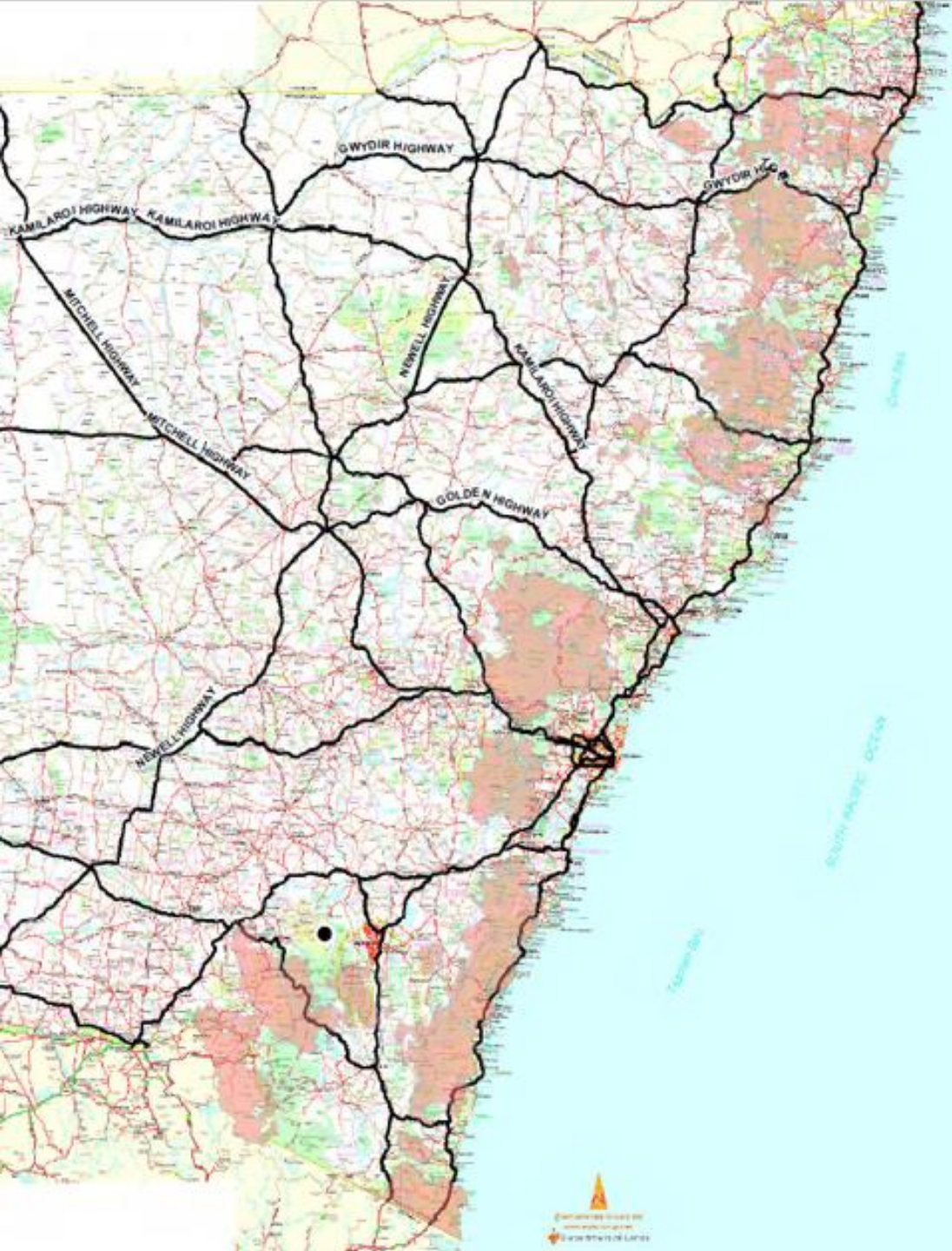


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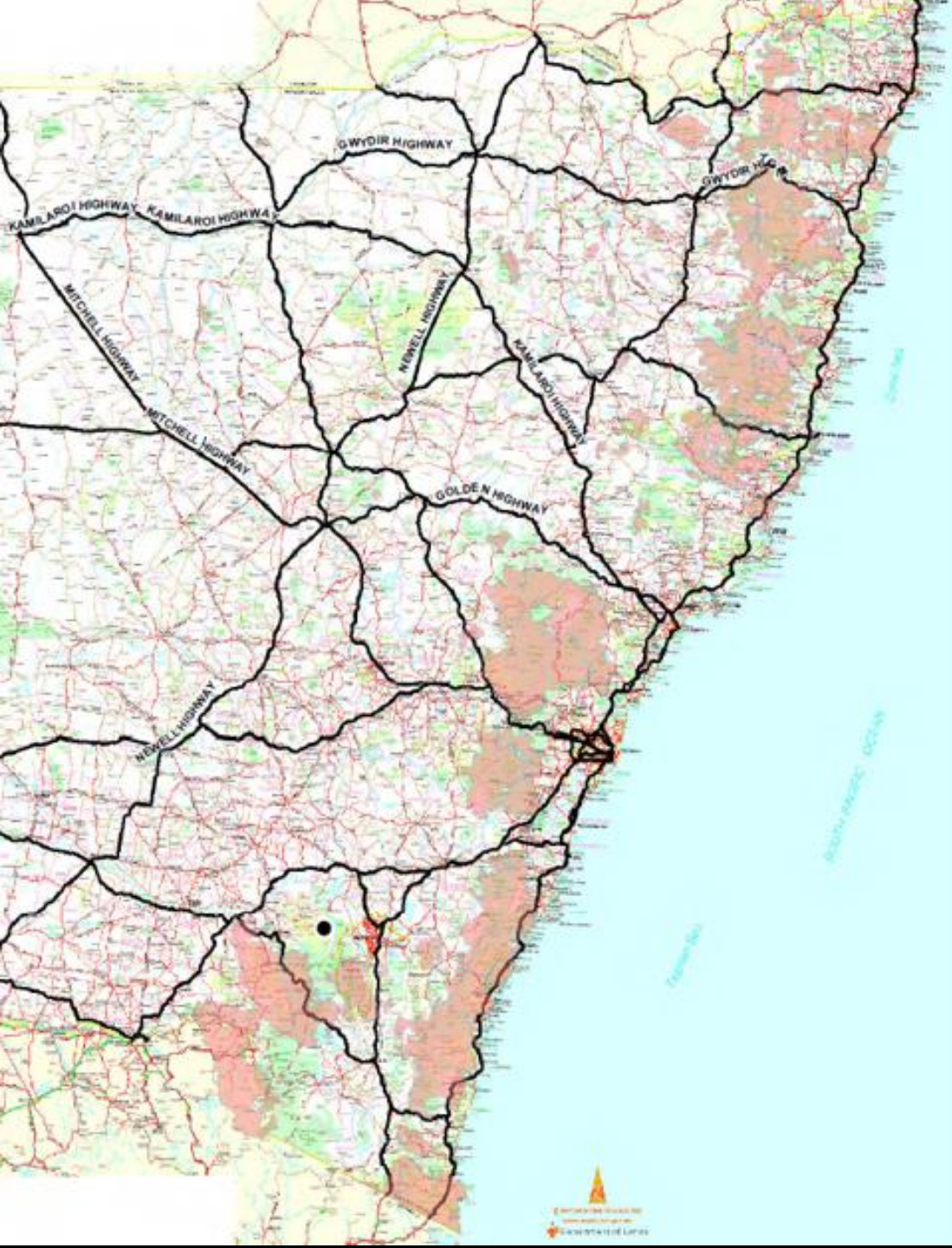
Circles indicate how far each tower around Tumut could see on 27 December 19



Black Summer Fires 2019-20

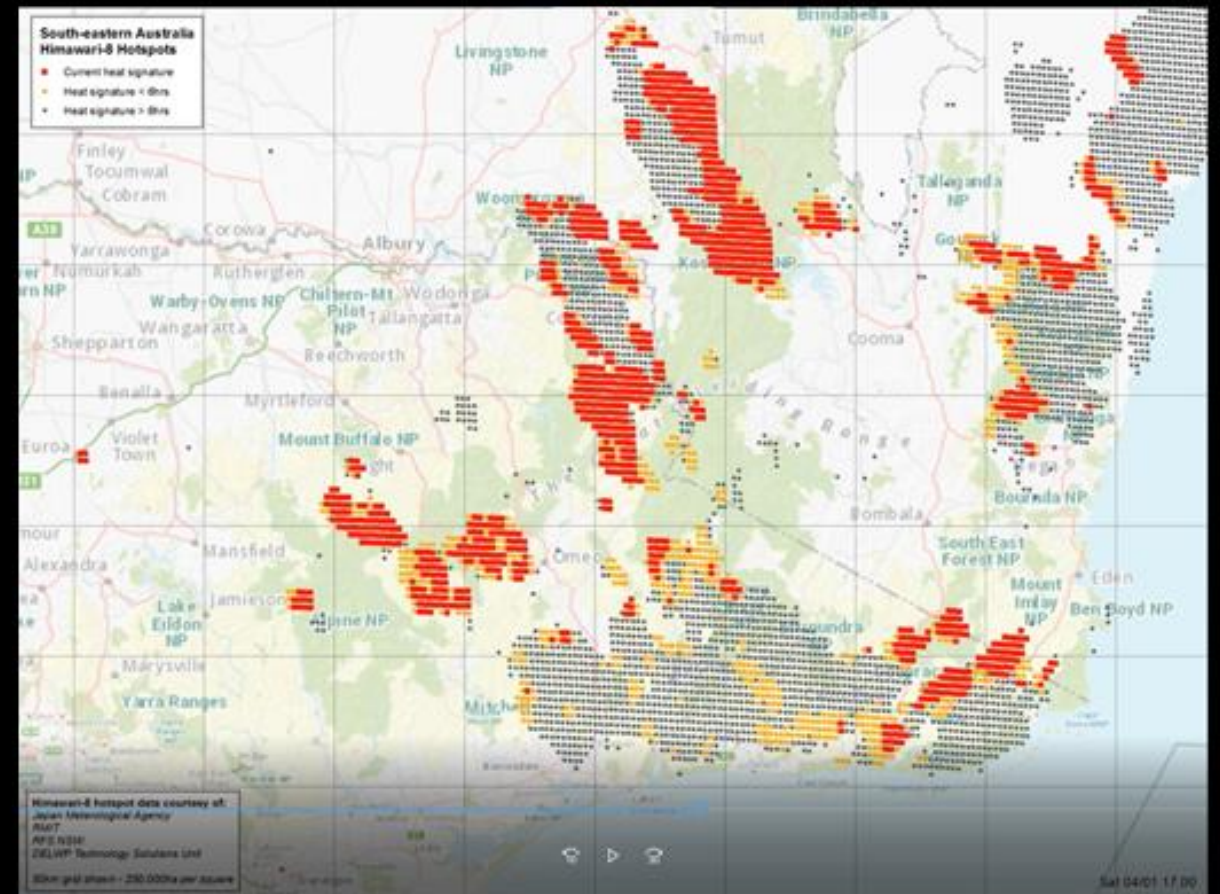
- GM Hardwood Forests
- FCNSW Liaison RFS State Operations
- A/GM Softwood Plantations
- Dunn's Road and Green Valley Fires

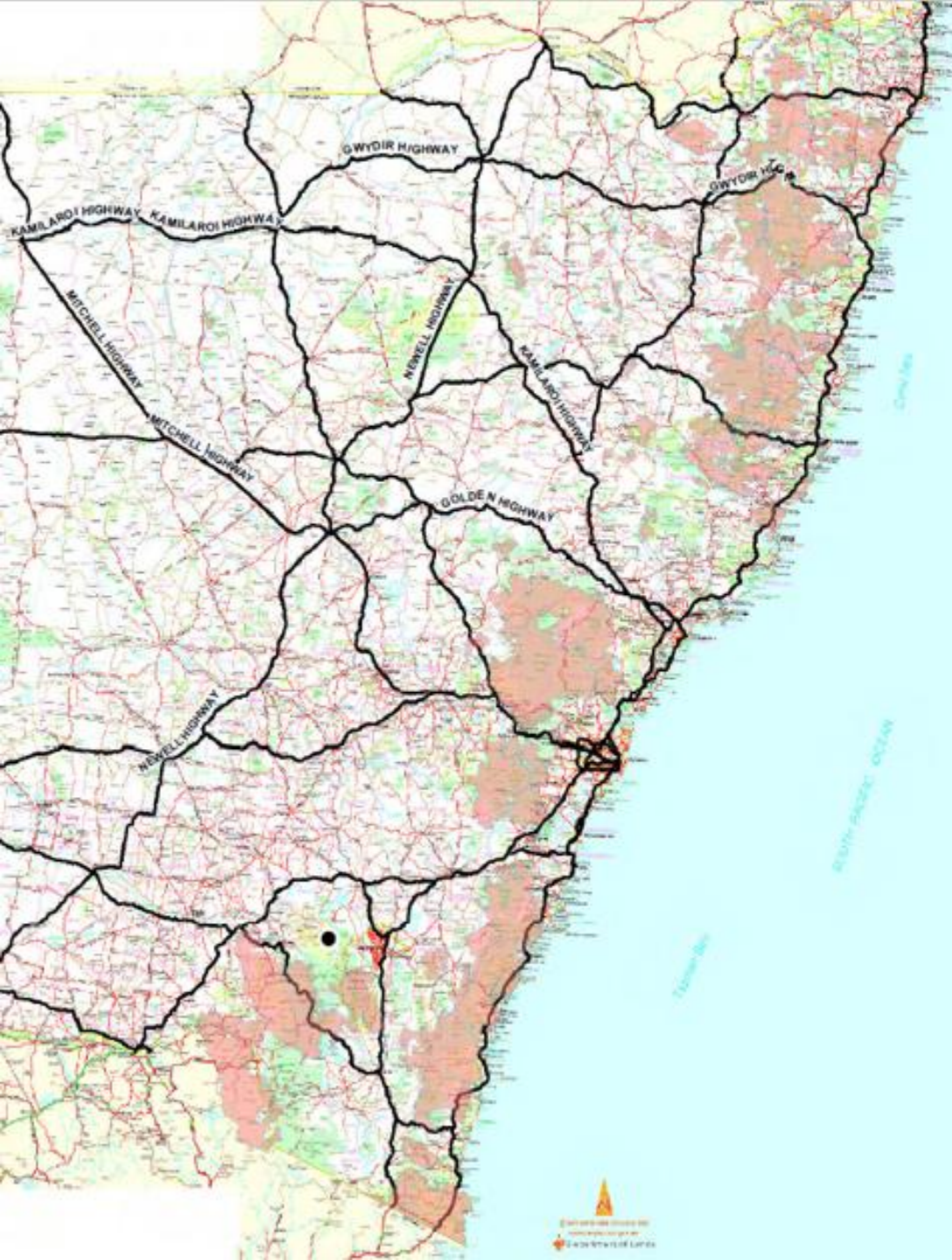




Black Summer Fires 2019-20

- GM Hardwood Forests
- FCNSW Liaison RFS State Operations
- A/GM Softwood Plantations
- Dunn's Road and Green Valley Fires
- Bombala/Cooma Complex





Black Summer Fires 2019-20

- GM Hardwood Forests
- FCNSW Liaison RFS State Operations
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- Dunn's Road and Green Valley Fires
- Bombala/Cooma Complex



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



REVOCATION OF SECTION 44 DECLARATION INSTRUMENT

Reference: S44-19/20041-18

Pursuant to section 44(2) of the *Rural Fires Act 1997* (the Act) I, Shane Alan Fitzsimmons AFSM, Commissioner of the NSW Rural Fire Service, revoke the Section 44 Declaration Instrument made by me on 28 February 2020 with Reference S44-19-20041-17, effective from 1800 hours on 4 March 2020.

A handwritten signature of Shane Alan Fitzsimmons AFSM.

Shane Alan Fitzsimmons AFSM
Commissioner

3/3/20
Date

1712
Time

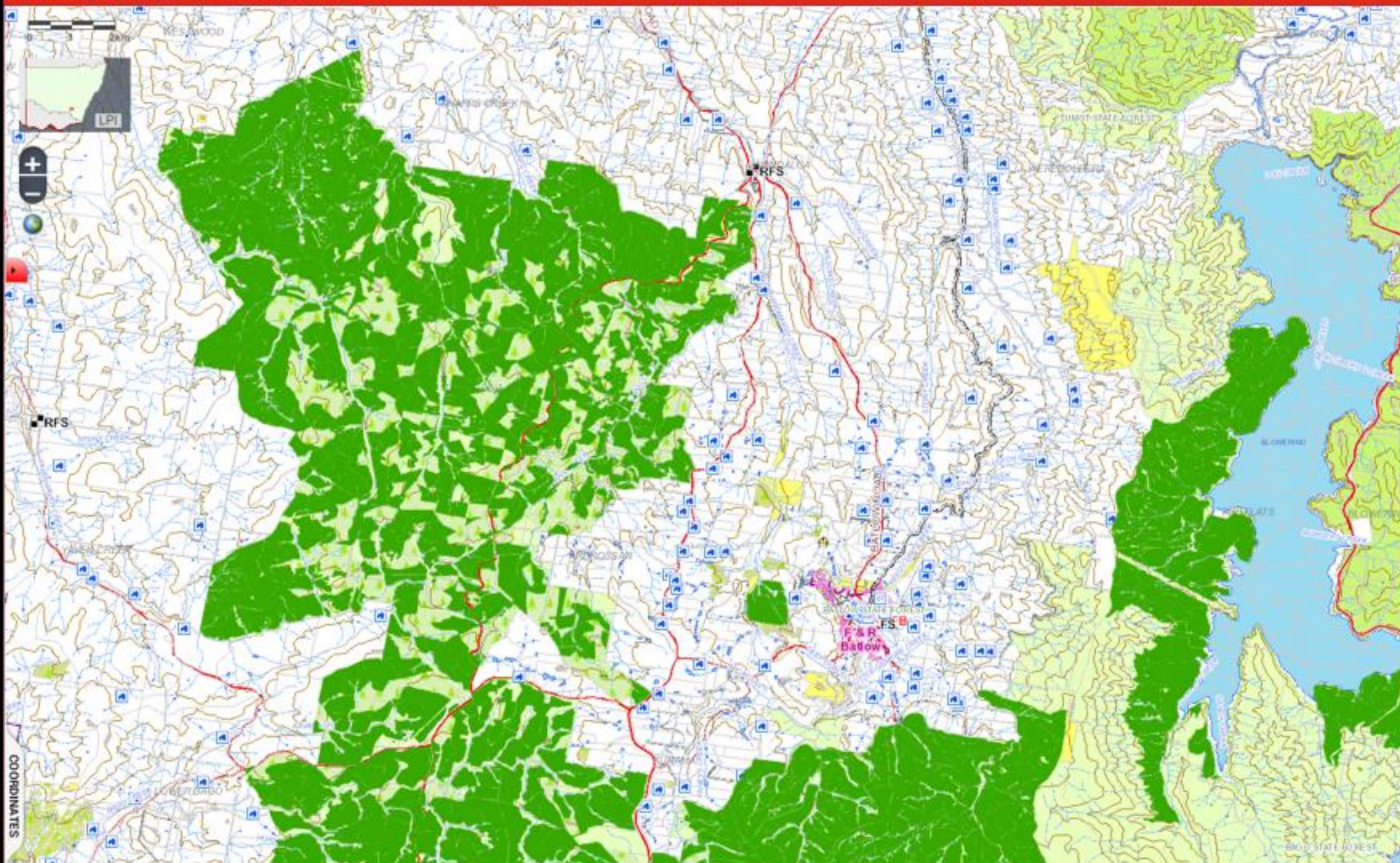
New South Wales (NSW) Rural Fires Act 1997

The objects of this Act are to provide —

- (a) for the **prevention, mitigation and suppression of bush and other fires** in local government areas (or parts of areas) and other parts of the State constituted as rural fire districts, and
- (b) for the **co-ordination of bush fire fighting and bush fire prevention** throughout the State, and
- (c) for the **protection of persons from injury or death, and property** from damage, arising from fires, and
- (c1) for the protection of infrastructure and environmental, economic, cultural, agricultural and community assets from damage arising from fires, and
- (d) for the protection of the environment by requiring certain activities referred to in paragraphs (a)–(c1) to be carried out having regard to the principles of ecologically sustainable development described in section 6 (2) of the [*Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991*](#).



fire fighting authority means the following: (a) the Rural Fire Service, (b) Fire and Rescue NSW, (c) the Office of Environment and Heritage (NPWS), (d) the Forestry Corporation, (e) any other body prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this definition.



MAP LAYERS

RFS Vector
 RFS Topo
 RFS Imagery

- Wildfire History 1-3 Years
- Burnt Area - Current Fireseason
- Burnt Area - Hazard Reduction
- Firetrails
- TOBAN
- ABC Local Radio
- RFS Paging Sites
- RFS PMR
- Government Radio Network
- NSW RFS Incidents
- NSW RFS Incidents Uncontained
- Other States
- Trac Plus Appliances
- State Forest Plantations
- ESAACT Incidents
- RTA Incidents
- Weather Wind (Observation)
- Weather Rain (Radar)
- DEA Hotspots

NSW State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989

emergency means an emergency due to an actual or imminent occurrence (such as fire, flood, storm, earthquake, explosion, terrorist act, accident, epidemic or warlike action) which—

- (a) endangers, or threatens to endanger, the safety or health of persons or animals in the State, or
- (b) destroys or damages, or threatens to destroy or damage, property in the State, or
- (c) causes a failure of, or a significant disruption to, an essential service or infrastructure, being an emergency which requires a significant and co-ordinated response.



Local Emergency Management Committees

Each such Committee is to consist of —

- (a) the General Manager of the council of the relevant local government area, who is to be the Chairperson of the Committee, and
- (b) a senior representative of each emergency services organisation operating in the relevant local government area, and
- (c) a representative of each organisation that—
 - (i) provides services in a functional area or areas in the relevant local government area, and
 - (ii) the council of that area determines from time to time is to be represented on the Committee, and
- (d) the Local Emergency Operations Controller (**must be a police officer stationed within the region**) for the relevant local government area.

Local NSW Police agreed to:



- Provide local Police with a list of key offenders and - high risk areas (for arson)
- Provide LEOCON
- Open EOC early - if fire not under control within an hour (as if it's not it usually gets away)
- Risk assess abandoned vehicles and strongly consider removal in State Forests / Nat Parks / Tumut Common to reduce fire risk - assist other agencies re the same.
- Clearly mark abandoned / accident damaged vehicles with police tape and put accurate locations in COPS to prevent RFS being called out to these jobs for no reason
- Provide Media Message Locally re fire prevention
- Record all taskings pertaining to this plan on COPS
- Please note that on Extreme Severe and Catastrophic fire danger days mandate taskings re these patrols (eg do their MRBT up at Talbingo)
- Patrols in and around Blowering Dam (People are our risk here - get out and talk to them about fires and fire works)
- GD's and THPC (ANPR) Patrols along the Snowy Mountains Highway (Blowering Dam), Broad leaf Park Road, Green Hills Access Road
- Daily Patrols of the Blowering Dam between Christmas Day and New Years Eve (Push bike, GD's, Trail bikes if available, the Tumba Quad Bike)
- 'Optimal Pathing' - If get a job in Tumba drive through the forests on your way there and back and record it (two birds - one stone)
- Increased visibility / patrols of Tumut Common Park Land - Daily AM and PM
- Increased patrols from sector police in State forests and around the Blowering Dam (Tumba / Talbingo / Batlow / Adelong)
- Police Boat Patrols to be conducted - Boxing Day to NYE in the Blowering Dam etc Other agencies to be involved (Nat Parks, Fisheries, Marine Area Command, RFS)
- Provide prompt support to other agencies - that require assistance re difficult people, suspicious behaviours etc
- Provide Suspicious behaviours check list and reporting form to RFS to distribute to other agencies





RURAL FIRES ACT 1997 - SECT 128

Protection from liability

(1) A matter or thing done or omitted to be done by a protected person or body does not, if the matter or thing was done in good faith for the purpose of executing any provision (other than section 33) of this or any other Act, subject such person personally, or the Crown, to any action, liability, claim or demand.

(1A) A matter or thing done or omitted to be done by the Forestry Corporation or a person **acting under the authority of the Forestry Corporation** does not, if the matter or thing was done in good faith for the purpose of executing any provision (other than section 33) of this Act, subject the Forestry Corporation, or such person personally, to any action, liability, claim or demand.







protection of persons from injury or death, and property



Incident Details	Plan No:	35	Date:	08/02/2020	Shift:	Day	Approved by:	Collins, Neville
Incident No(s):	16	Incident Name:	SNOWY 16 - SNOWY COMPLEX - - undefined					



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning

MISSION

(OBJECTIVE for Incident/Section/Division/Sector Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant to policy, Time framed)

INCIDENT OBJECTIVE(S):

- * Protect communities by monitoring and suppressing active fire that may impact private and community assets and public infrastructure.
- * Support the restoration of services to communities within the fireground including Mallacoota, Genoa and Cann River.
- * Protect critical environmental and cultural values.
- * Provide accurate and timely information to communities.

STATEWIDE INCIDENT CONTROL PRIORITIES:

- Safety of personnel tasked to the incident
- Protection of members of the community
- Protection of critical infrastructure and community assets
- Aggressive first attack of new outbreaks
- Protection of conservation and environmental values

STATE CONTROLLER's INTENT:

1. PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF LIFE IS PARAMOUNT. This includes:
 - a. Safety of emergency services personnel, and
 - b. Safety of community members including vulnerable community members and visitors/tourists located within incident area.
2. ISSUING OF COMMUNITY INFORMATION AND COMMUNITY WARNINGS detailing incident information that is timely, relevant and tailored to assist community members to make informed decisions about their safety.
3. PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY ASSETS that supports community resilience.
4. PROTECTION OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY as a place of primary residence.
5. PROTECTION OF ASSETS SUPPORTING INDIVIDUAL LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIC PRODUCTION that supports individual and community financial sustainability.
6. PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSERVATION ASSETS that considers the biodiversity and environmental, social and cultural values.



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