

**Richmond River Area NPWS report
for 22nd of May 2025 Northern Rivers BFMC Meeting**



Hazard reduction burning completed in current period February 2025 to May 2025

- Little O'Donnell's LMZ Border Ranges NP **917 Ha**
- Simpkins LMZ Richmond Range NP **688 Ha**

Hazard reduction burn completed 24/25

- Stace West HR Border Ranges **2 Ha**
- Stace HR Border ranges **6ha**
- McMahon HR (remainder) Border Ranges **2 Ha**
- Richmond Gap HR Border Ranges NP **8 Ha**
- McMahon LMZ Border Ranges **22 Ha**
- Border Loop Lower Border Ranges **62 Ha NP**
- Tucki Tucki North LMZ **4 Ha** (with Widjabul Wia-bal)
- Tucker Box SFAZ Tooloom NP **150 Ha** (with Githabul)
- Haystack SFAZ Yabbra NP **736 Ha**
- Dandy's Grass LMZ Border Ranges NP **232 Ha**
- Terrace Creek LMZ Border Ranges NP **427 Ha**
- North LMZ Bundjalung NP **1510 Ha**

Total completed so far 24/25 FY: 4765 Ha

Completed 23/24 financial year

- Hurleys West SFAZ Captains Creek NR **269 Ha**
- Hurleys South SFAZ Captains Creek NR **1366 Ha**
- Border Ranges Cougal Park LMZ **23 Ha**
- Border Ranges Long Creek LMZ **867 Ha**
- Richmond Range Finneys LMZ **1264 Ha**
- Mallanganee Bulmers LMZ **233 Ha**

- Broadwater Highway SFAZ **83 Ha**

Total completed 23/24 FY: 4105 Ha

Hazard reduction burns being prepared

- Murray Scrub LMZ **1992 Ha** Toonumbar NP
- Western Boundary LMZ **549 Ha** Richmond NP
- Morris West LMZ **446 Ha** Captains Creek NR
- Native Jute SFAZ **102 Ha** Toonumbar NP
- Haystack SFAZ **736 Ha** Yabbra NP
- Doonbah SFAZ **187 Ha** Broadwater NP (significant event for Evans Head)
- Mcdonalds SFAZ **147 Ha** Broadwater NP (significant event for Evans Head)
- Crash SFAZ SFAZ **605 Ha** Broadwater NP (significant event for Evans Head)
- Riley's and Bessie's LMZ **300 Ha** Broadwater NP (significant event for Rileys Hill)
- Pinnacle LMZ **13Ha** Border Ranges NP
- Sphinx Rock LMZ **104ha** Nightcap NP
- Eastern Boundary Cultural Burn Nightcap NP **144 Ha**
- Quandong and Quirks LMZ Nightcap **501 Ha**
- Carpet Snake SFAZ Captains Creek NR **447 Ha**
- Wire Gate SFAZ Tooloom NP **100 Ha**
- Goodwins SFAZ Tooloom NP **55 Ha**

Burn planning completed 2024 to 2027

Richmond River Area 2024-27 Burn planning has been completed containing 87 planned burns covering 28,000 ha over the next three years.

Wildfires

No wildfire response required.

APZ maintenance

NPWS APZ's have been inspected and maintained.

NPWS tractors- fire trail slashing program

- Urbenville tractor is operating in Tooloom and Captains Creek NP preparing trails.
- Alstonville is working in Bungawalbin preparing trails.
- Kyogle tractor and Positrack is slashing Mallanganee and Richmond Range NP.

Flood 22 Recovery works to fire trails post 2022 Floods \$16 million

- Works commenced in Bundjalung SCA- slashing/ make safe
- Works on Nightcap Range Road slip to commence shortly (road will be closed) -cavity under road awaiting design approx. 2.7 million (on hold due to transfer natural disaster funding to insurance)
- Works on Olive Gap trail Bundjalung NP to be completed once dry enough.

Cyclone Alfred recovery works

- Nightcap and Border Ranges nearly complete
- Yabbra NP commenced
- Toonumbar public access to be complete by 7 June
- Richmond Range public access by 7th of June
- Bundjalung and Broadwater under way.

CAPEX (Capital expenditure)- Upgrade**Broadwater National Park**

- Construction complete for Capital Works on McDonalds Trail (6.6km), Old Mining Trail (7.7km) and Perch Trail (0.8km). complete
- Works on Crash trail, Powerline trail, T Rex trail and Hind Dune trail to commence in June at a cost of \$600,000.

Bundjalung National Park

- Serendipity and section of Esk Trail to be upgraded to Cat 1 strategic- REF and ACH nearly complete- total cost approx. 2 million for trail construction works.
- Gap Road and Jerusalem trail to be re-sheeted with gravel commencing ASAP. Cost \$240,000
- It is hoped to start Gap Road FAFT Capital next FY. REF underway for Gap Road, Jerusalem trail and Hell Hole trail.

OPEX (Operating Expenditure)- Maintenance**Maintain key trails**

- **Mallanganee NP** - \$30,000. Trail Maintenance on Cherry Tree **complete**
- **Nightcap NP** – \$170,000. Trail maintenance. Veg clearing and drainage
 - Gibbergunyah Range Road
 - Quandong trail
 - Telephone Road
 - Quirks trail
- **Bungawalbin** - \$120,000 Trail maintenance
 - Neillys Lagoon Road – Tactical Cat 1 – 3.6km
 - Tuckerbox – Strategic Cat 1 – 2.7km
 - Red Gum (including Fenceline) – Strategic Cat 9 – 6.4km
 - Ironbark Trail – Tactical Cat 9 – 4km
 - Paperbark Trail – Tactical Cat 9 – 2.5km
 - Spotted Gum – Tactical Cat 9 – 2.4km
- **Bundjalung SCA** – \$152,000 OPEX funding. Trail Maintenance.
 - Dehoons Road
 - Range Road
 - Pine & Thompsons
- **Bundjalung NP** –\$110,000- maintenance grade to Gap Road commencing 26 February. **complete**
- **Bundjalung NP** – \$30,000. Gap Road and Jerusalem Trail REF planning to upgrade trails next financial year.
- **Yabbra NP** – \$248,495. Road maintenance and roadside vegetation management.
 - South Yabbra Road
 - Sheas Hut Road
 - The feeder



Fire trail access/ maintenance issues requires resolution.

Transport NSW- Bundjalung NP

Wayne s Lane Bundjalung SCA trail repair

[Action required]

(Meeting completed on site 13/11/23) Awaiting environmental assessment and works program.

XO written to Transport NSW to escalate matter.

Montis Trail Broadwater NP

[Action required]

Water pooling in National Park and into private property creating unpassable areas on fire trails. Requires drainage mitigation works.

Minor works complete which have improved the situation. Matter escalated for funding for longer term solution.

Fire trail maintenance and repair Wallace Road Cat 1 Strategic

[Action required]

NPWS cleared 40 + trees to access reserve with Dozer. Further work will be needed by Crown Lands to conduct vegetation management and repair drainage structures to allow safe use of trail.

Nightcap Range Road requires vegetation maintenance Cat 1 Tactical

[Action required]

Lismore City Council- Roadside vegetation management required on road edges to comply with RFS standards. Works commenced.

Gap Road Crown Land and Richmond Valley Council sections requires maintenance.

[Action required]

NPWS have previously maintained and spent considerable money graveling 40k in post 2022 floods. NPWS has had to maintain again 2024 20K as road was not safe for the public.

NPWS not in position financially to pickup this road maintenance it will need to be maintained to Cat 1 RFS standard- including roadside vegetation management.

NPWS has written to Crown Lands and Richmond Valley Council re levels of works required to bring Gap Road to standard Cat 1 standard and provide safe access to the public. NPWS requires safe access to re sheet NPWS sections of Gap Road and Jerusalem trails to bring up

to Cat 1 standard. NPWS can project manage Crown and Richmond Valley sections if they contribute financially. Crown Lands will provide 5K which is enough to grade the road but gravel is urgently required. RVC at this stage have not advised they will contribute to any road work.



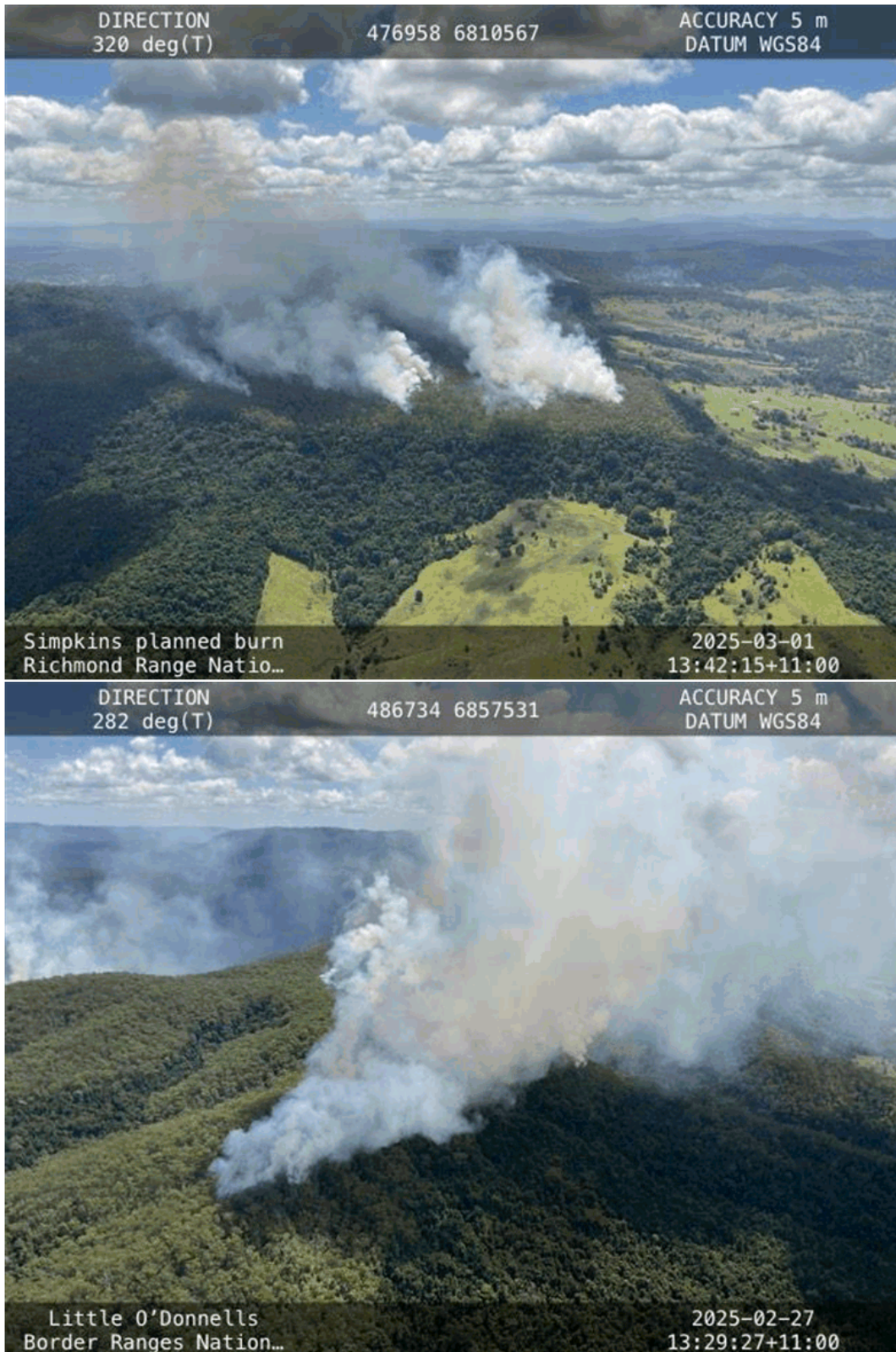
Gap Road Crown and Richmond Valley Council Sections 20/5/25

Forestry Corp Murray Scrub Road requires gravelling

(Working with Forestry)

NPWS is repairing Murray Scrub Road that is FAFT trail that provides access to Toonumbar NP, Iron Pot Creek campground and Murray Scrub walking track. Forest Corp section of road requires gravel to make access safe for public access. NPWS has contributed make safe works to Forestry Corporation section of Murray Scrub Road. NPWS has been in contact re Forest Corp gravelling sections of Murray Scrub Road to make access trafficable and safe to the public.

Planned burns complete Simpkins in Richmond Range and Little O’Donnell’s in the Border Ranges NP -photos over page





End of Report