Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Lands & Waters

Fire Management Plan

Prepared by: Pormpuraaw Land & Sea Management, on behalf of Thaayorre and Mungkan Traditional Owners and the Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council, in conjunction with Dr Leasie Felderhof of Firescape Science & Cape York Sustainable Futures

Date: September 2010

Country Description

Country: Pormpuraaw

Location: Situated on the west coast of Cape York Peninsula, approximately 700 km north-west of Cairns.

Lot on Plan Number(s): n/a

Area of Country: 466 198 ha approx.

General climate, landscape and vegetation types present

Pormpuraaw has a tropical savanna climate, with a distinct wet season followed by a dry winter. The nearest weather station is Kowanyama Airport. Historical records indicate an average annual maximum temperature of 33.2°C and an average annual minimum of 20.8°C. Rainfall records show an average annual rainfall of 1256 mm. The region experiences 40-50 thunder days per year, and over 85 days a year where the daytime maximum temperature exceeds 35°C (Figures 1 & 2, Bureau of Meteorology, 2009).

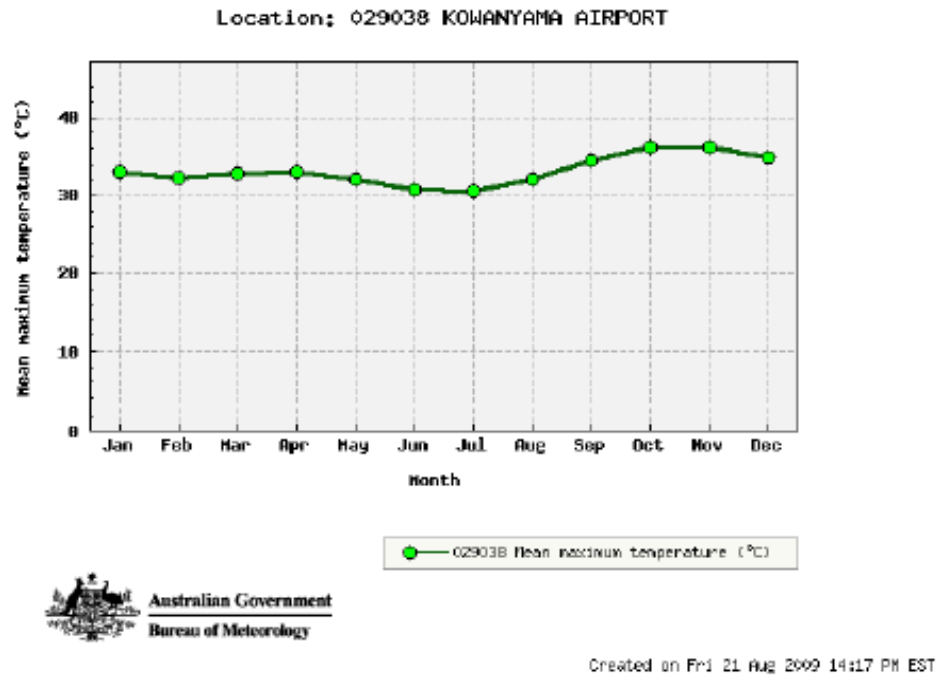

Fig. 1 Average maximum monthly temperature

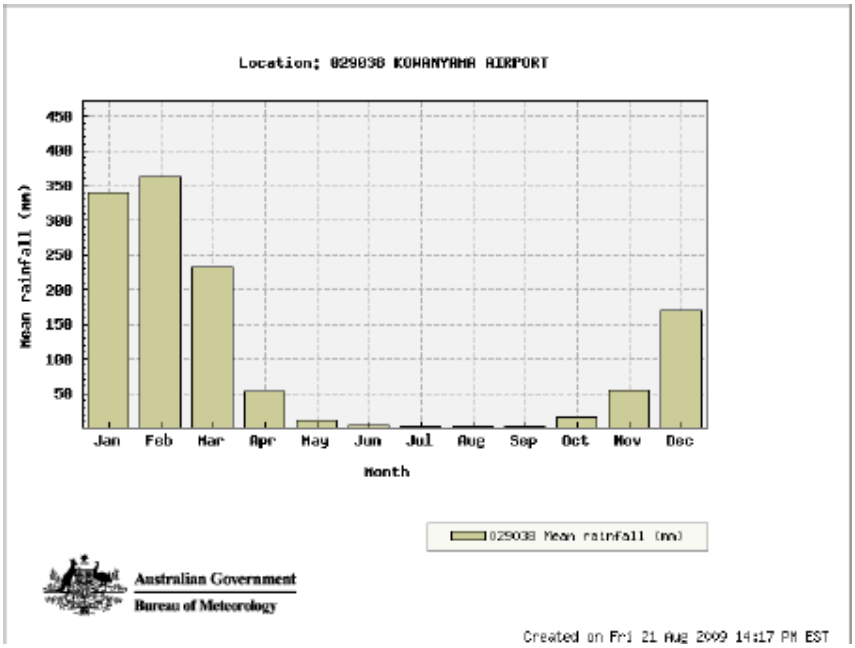

Fig. 2 Average monthly rainfall

Rain falls mostly in the wet season, which commences in November/December and continues until March/April. It rains reliably at this time of year but the amount of rain varies from year to year. There can be long and extended dry seasons or flooding rains. This seasonal variation influences the pattern of fire each year.

The landscape descriptions below draw upon the *Pormpuraaw Landscape Mapping Project* undertaken by Jim Monaghan. The intent of that work was to compile maps to assist with managing the environment. There was strong community consultation during this project so the maps would be meaningful to the people of Pormpuraaw and reflect their knowledge of the landscape and their family connections to country.

Six landscapes are recognized within the overall Pormpuraaw region, with the major river courses defining the boundaries. The landscapes are: COAST, COLEMAN, MELAMEN, EDWARD, HOLROYD and KENDALL landscapes (Figure 3). Each can be further divided into Grass Plain or Open Melaleuca woodland country (in the lower lying areas) and Ridge or Forest country towards the east. Within each landscape, the Ridge country is highly

significant because it provides refuge from wet season floodwaters. The ridge areas also have reliable dry season water supplies.

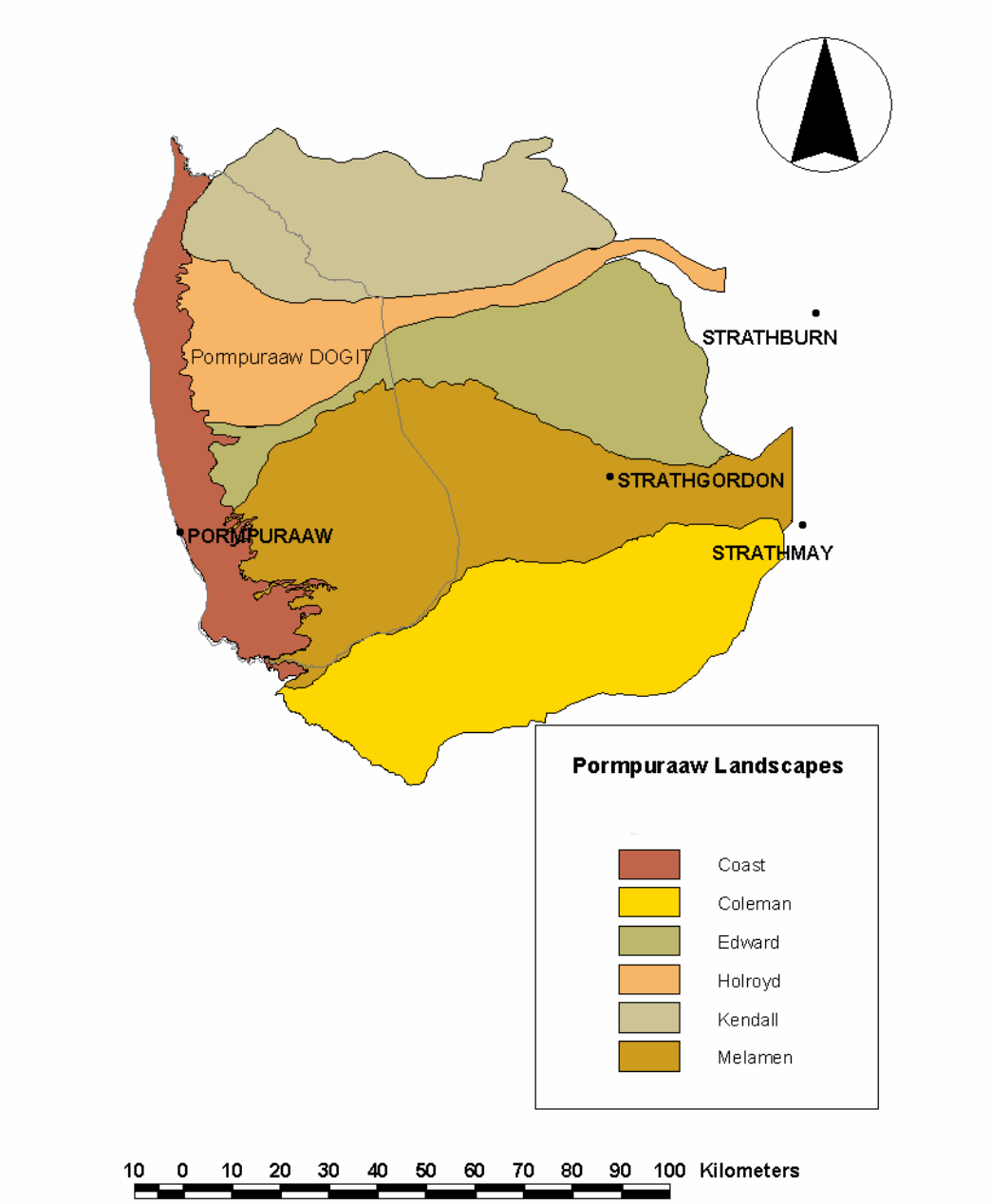

Figure 3: Landscapes in the Pormpuraaw region (from Monaghan, 2002). The grey line shows the area covered by this plan.

This fire plan does not cover the Coleman landscape, as it lies within the Kowanyama DOGIT area.

The ***coastal landscape*** is made up of a series of raised beach ridges of quartz sand and shell material. The beach fronts have *Casuarina* species, ridge tops have Open Eucalypt Woodland, and the swales have sedges swamps or areas of Vine Thicket where soils are well drained. Fresh water is permanently available because the ridges have a clay base that retains water from wet season rainfall. There are Open Grass Plains between the beach ridges and the more easterly sand ridges.

Seven of the 13 outstations in Pormpuraaw (and the township itself) are located on the Coast landscape, which also has many 'sacred' places.

Most of the DOGIT to the south and east of Pormpuraaw township is '***Melamen landscape***'. The boundaries of this landscape are the Edward River in the north and the Coleman River in the south. Melamen, Lightning and Station Creeks lie within the area. Darwin stringy-barks (Tetradonta Woodland) dominate the ridge country with Eucalypt Woodland along major river courses. The lowland area is almost entirely Low Open Melaleuca Woodland ('ti tree'), which is seasonally inundated.

There are four outstations in DOGIT area of this landscape. Bull Lake is culturally significant and is a major habitat for migratory birds.

The ***Edward landscape*** is bounded by the Edward River (south) and Holroyd River (north). This landscape has Low Open Melaleuca Woodland, Tussock Grassland and some pockets of Eucalypt Woodland. It is almost totally inundated by floodwater in the wet season. Tetradonta Woodland grows on the higher ridge country and Melaleuca Woodland occurs along the drainage lines

Immediately north is the ***Holroyd landscape*** which has the Kendall River on its northern boundary and includes Christmas Creek. This landscape has been recognised for its high conservation value. Vegetation changes from Low Open Melaleuca Woodland in the west to Tetradonta Woodland in the

east. In the wet season, the overflow area of the Holroyd is scattered with swamps and lagoons. This area is part of a special lease; the owner lives at the Christmas Creek outstation and operates a cattle grazing enterprise.

The ***Kendall landscape*** is furthest north; the main vegetation is Tetradonta and Low Open Melaleuca Woodland.

Different Traditional Owner groups speak for the different landscape areas and must be consulted about fire management in their areas.

Within Cape York Peninsula, the Pormpuraaw region has been identified as an area with high fauna richness (CYPLUS, 1995).

Current management practices

The township of Pormpuraaw has a population of approximately 600 (as of August 2006). About 90% of the population is of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. Two groups of Aboriginal people live in Pormpuraaw: the Thaayorre people who are traditionally from Pormpuraaw, and the Mungkan people who are traditionally from the North.

Pormpuraaw operates a number of primary industry enterprises, the main ones being cattle production, crocodile farming and fish breeding. These enterprises are operated by different people, not a single business unit. Each should be consulted about their fire management concerns and requirements; these discussions have not taken place to date.

The Land and Sea Rangers undertake a significant amount of work relating to natural resource management, such as feral animal control, weed control, visitor management and fire management. Fire management practices have focussed on fuel reduction burns around the Pormpuraaw community, rather than ecological management of the entire DOGIT area. Wildfires are an annual occurrence across the landscape.

Long term aim

The long term management aim for Pormpuraaw is to ensure the landscape is in good health, with full ecosystem processes operating, in order to conserve Australian wildlife, and preserve cultural lands and practices for the Traditional Owners of this Country.

It is also intended that the right environment be created and maintained for species to flourish - reducing the impact of large fires and controlling weeds, feral animals and detrimental human interaction with the environment. The Land and Sea Rangers are aware that greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced by changing fire management practices to minimise the occurrence of large late season wildfires. They are also aware of the potential to enter into carbon trading arrangements, which could provide the necessary income for implementing fire management practices at the landscape scale. This option is under consideration.

In general, there are too many late season wildfires on Pormpuraaw; most fires come from outside of Pormpuraaw's boundaries.

Map details

The key features of Pormpuraaw are shown on Map 1 (attached). There are yards, bores and dams near the outstations.

Additional information

A list of threatened species potentially occurring on Pormpuraaw is provided in Appendix 1. This list was generated from 'Cape York Infonet'[1] and refers to the species recorded within the 1 degree grid square surrounding Pormpuraaw. That is, not all species have been recorded on Pormpuraaw, but they occur in the general locality and are indicative of species that may be present on the DOGIT. Likewise, the list of pest species provided in Appendix 2 has been generated from Cape York Infonet and are from records within a 1 degree grid square.

[1] http://138.80.128.152/cypinfonet/website.htm

The over-arching requirement for implementing this plan is to talk to people from the different clan groups and seek their permission before going to an area.

Ensure all cultural protocols are followed.

Notes on some significant native species

Animal	Response to fire
Common brushtail possum	The common brushtail possum's (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) preferred habitat is in riparian/floodplain eucalypt open forests and can tolerate low intensity patchy fires. Its immediate response to fire is to shelter in trees. Partial protection of their habitat is required to ensure survival of the species on Pormpuraaw, as well as long unburnt areas. Fire is also likely to affect food and nesting.
Sugar glider	The sugar glider (*Petaurus breviceps*) occupies multiple habitats and is generally fire tolerant. Its immediate response to fire is to shelter in trees, and afterwards to move between burnt and unburnt areas. Its habitat will undergo some structural and vegetative modification following fire, so some patchiness is required to ensure continuity of habitat and food availability. The sugar glider has adapted to a moderate fire cycle.
Brown quail	The brown quail (*Coturnix ypsilophora*)'s preferred habitat is open eucalypt woodlands and is generally fire tolerant. Its immediate response to fire is to disperse, although afterwards will only persist in unburnt areas. There is some decline in numbers due to loss of groundcover and shelter, and they are particularly vulnerable during their nesting season. The species has adapted to a long fire cycle, and requires a burnt/unburnt combination.
Red-backed fairy wren	The red-backed fairy wren (*Malurus melanocephalus*) lives in grasslands and is a fire dependent species. It has a limited ability to disperse before/during fire, but afterwards will move between burnt and unburnt areas. It is particularly vulnerable at nesting time, but will tolerate a range of fire frequency and intensity.
Carlia munda	The *Carlia munda* (a skink species) occupies multiple habitats and is generally fire tolerant. It's immediate response to fire is to shelter in logs, rocks and cracks, but following a fire it will only persist in unburnt areas. There has been a decline in numbers due to the loss of groundcover and shelter, but it will actually tolerate a wide range of fire frequency and intensity.
Ctenotus spaldingi	The *Ctenotus spaldingi* (a skink species) occupies multiple habitats and is generally fire tolerant. Its immediate response to fire is to shelter in logs, rocks and cracks but following a fire it will only persist in unburnt areas. There has been a decline in numbers due to the loss of groundcover and shelter, but it will actually tolerate a wide range of fire frequency and intensity.

Regional fire management

Fire season

Like other areas on Cape York Peninsula, the main fire season commences straight after the wet season, as soon as the country is burnable. Fuel reduction burns occur during May/June, but this depends on the strength (and length) of the wet season. The ridges on the inland side of the Coastal landscape can be accessed while other areas are still wet, so fires start in this area first. Early season fires are also regularly lit along the main east-west road leading into Pormpuraaw, as well as on the ridges near river courses as different waterholes are accessed for fishing. Wetland areas of the DOGIT take longer to dry out and get burnt later in the year. Areas in the north and east have the highest frequency of late season fires (see maps 2-4). On average, around 67% of the DOGIT burns every year, with 20% of the country burnt in the early dry season, and 47% burnt later in the late dry season (August onwards).

Early season ground-based burning is limited by access. Aerial incendiaries are not used for conducting fuel reduction burns; however they would assist with burning along the eastern and north-eastern boundary, to give protection against wildfires that occur later in the season. Such burns would need to be timed to ensure that they are extinguished by overnight dew.

A common practice on Cape York Peninsula is to light fires during the storm season. Storm burns are lit on a hot day when there is sufficient soil moisture from earlier storm rain. Without adequate moisture in the soil, fires at this time can spread further than intended and it can take longer for the native grasses to re-establish.

Fire use on Pormpuraaw

Fire is used on Pormpuraaw for the following reasons:

☑ Maintain Cultural Heritage Sites and/or Cultural resources

☑ Maintain "production"* areas (green pick)

☐ Control Weeds

☐ Maintain/restore open grassy vegetation

☐ Protect plant (forestry) production

☑ Reduce fuel to protect from wildfire

☐ Improve pasture quality for grazing

☑ Hunting, & clearing the landscape

Fire use by neighbours

Most of the neighbours use fire as a tool for managing their property.

Comment: Wildfires come mostly from the east and occasionally the north-east.

Fire patterns in the landscape

The main issue on Pormpuraaw is not fire frequency, but the big wildfires that occur late in the dry season. That is, grass grows every year due to the reliable wet season rainfall and low stock numbers. Therefore, fires will carry every year. A larger number of early season burns are desirable to reduce the fuel load and thus late season fire intensity and extent. Figure 4 shows the area of the country burnt early and burnt late, over an 8 year period.

* **Main cattle production area is Christmas Creek**

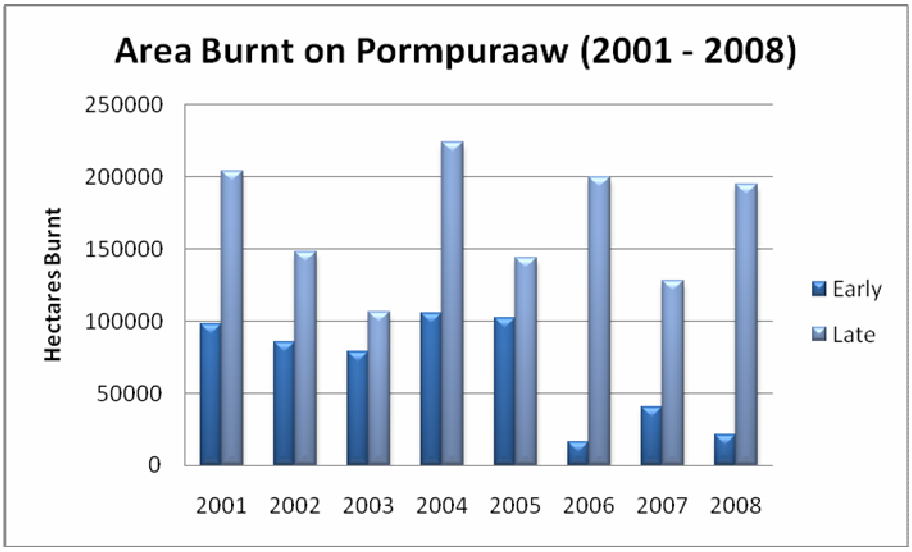

Figure 4: The area of the country (ha) burnt early and burnt late over an 8 year period.

Fire frequency maps for Pormpuraaw are given in Appendix 3. In terms of the major vegetation types:

Beach Scrub - is fire sensitive, but not often affected by fire and can act as a natural fire break. In the northern section of Pormpuraaw there are some inland pockets of scrub which appear to burn more frequently than other scrub pockets along the beach ridges. This may be from burning the grasslands around the scrubs. Care needs to be taken to protect the scrub edges from fire.

Ti-Tree Woodlands – Apart from the Ti-Tree Woodlands closest to Pormpuraaw Township, this broad vegetation group burns often, with over 50% burning each year, especially in the south east of the DOGIT.

Grasslands - At the southern end of the Pormpuraaw DOGIT, near the Coleman River, the grasslands have a low fire frequency. Other grasslands in the region are frequently burnt.

Eucalypt Woodlands - Lightly Grassed Plains - Much of this vegetation burns with a high frequency (over 50% per year).

Smoke management - In this area people accept smoke as part of rural / remote living.

Fire management objectives

Fire zone map:

Map 2 (attached) shows the general fire management intentions for the Pormpuraaw DOGIT. It includes:

Protection Zone	- managed to maintain low fuel loads
Wildfire Mitigation Zone	- aiming for low/moderate fuel loads
Cultural & Environmental Zone	- fire regime depends on vegetation (plants) and cultural protocols
Land Use Zone	- fire regime depends on land use

Protection zone

Aim: To prevent fire damage to all outstations and towns in the Pormpuraaw DOGIT.

Fire protection is critical in these areas. The objective is to maintain low fuel loads to provide a high level of protection to life, property and infrastructure.

There are cultural areas near that coast that need protection from wildfire but they are naturally protected by vine scrubs. Grave sites and the “Up-side down tree’ are included in protection zone.

Wildfire mitigation zone

Aim: To maintain low to moderate fuel loads to reduce the risk of wildfire damaging the country.

Two areas are included in the Wildfire Mitigation zone:

1) ***The Eastern Boundary***: The objective is to reduce the risk of wildfire entering Pormpuraaw land from outside the community boundaries. In effect, the wildfire mitigation zone in this area aims to provide a buffer between the DOGIT and areas of known wildfire hazard.

Management in this area is directed towards preventing wildfires from spreading onto Pormpuraaw, or increasing the likelihood of controlling a wildfire (either approaching from afar, or if a fire escapes unintentionally within the DOGIT). Many of the big wildfires enter Pormpuraaw land along the eastern boundary.

2) ***The Coastal Area***: The objective is to reduce the risk of wildfire damaging cultural heritage sites

The coastal area has very high cultural heritage values and needs to be protected from wildfire. Many of the sites are naturally protected by the landscape they are in. Complete fire exclusion along the entire coastal area is not realistic, so this area is included in the wildfire mitigation zone to ensure fuel is kept low to limit the spread of wildfire.

Cultural and environmental zone (special species or areas)

Aim: to manage fire in different areas depending on cultural protocols and the characteristics of the plant species that are present

Three areas are included in the Cultural zone:

1) ***Near the coast:*** the objective is to protect cultural areas near the coast from fire

(They are naturally protected by the Vine scrubs and other landscape characteristics).

2) ***Grave sites and "upside down tree"***: Fire must be excluded from this area (see Protection zone).

3) ***The remainder of the DOGIT***: that is, the areas not included in other zones

The intention is to light patchy fires across the landscape as the country dries out after the wet season to prevent damage by wildfire.

The majority of Pormpuraaw will be managed for cultural and natural assets.

Land Use zones (Bush foods, medicine, tourism, grazing)

Land use **area 1**: Cattle grazing (**north of Balurga River to Holroyd**)

Aim: To use fire to maintain pasture for cattle production, including green pick. Fire is also used on Pormpuraaw to provide ease of access for mustering.

Land use **area 2**: Cattle grazing (**Barrs yard**)

Aim: To use fire to maintain pasture for cattle production, including green pick. Fire is also used on Pormpuraaw to provide ease of access for mustering.

Strategies

Protection zone

What we want to achieve (our objective)	*Where on Country (area)*	*How can we achieve our objective (strategy)*
To prevent fire damage to important places	Outstations	Soon after the wet season, visit early in morning, before the wind comes up. Whipper snip to knock down grass and give chance to dry off so there is something to burn Burn around them each year
	Key cultural sites - (Upside down tree and grave sites)	Check only to make sure grass is cleared around them – they are on a sand ridge so some self protection
	Pormpuraaw township	Maintain fire break around the town Once fire break is in, fuel reduction burn between buildings and the fire break to increase protection

HINT **Objectives** are what you want to achieve; **strategies** are how you will do it.

Wildfire mitigation zone

What we want to achieve (our objective)	*Where on Country (area)*	*How can we achieve our objective (strategy)*
Minimise (reduce) wildfire risk	Along the Eastern boundary	Aerial incendiary program is a priority. There is poor access – so no other practical means of wildfire mitigation is available Burn inside the boundary (not relying on Southwell Station – work there will complement it) Road in Southwell is an effective break; Southwell burns off the road.
	Inland side of coastal zone	Undertake small patchy fuel reduction burns as access and grass conditions allow

Cultural and environmental zone

Fire regime depends on vegetation (plants)

What we want to achieve (our objective)	*Where on Country (area)*	*How can we achieve our objective (strategy)*
Patchy burns over the Pormpuraaw landscape	Remainder of DOGIT	Quad bike or easy access tracks (Blazeaway) Helicopter (as the country dries out)

Land Use Zone (bush foods, medicine, tourism, grazing etc)

Fire regime depends on land use/s

What we want to achieve (our objective)	***Where on Country (area)***	***How can we achieve our objective (strategy)***
Grazing	North-west section (production zone)	- As per current practices of the leasholder - Burn for green pick and access - Burns conducted by Eddie Holroyd (Christmas Creek)
	Barrs Yard?	As per current practices – need to describe these

Fire History and Risk Assessment

Fire History Map

The Fire History Map (Map 3) shows the recent fire history on Pormpuraaw. The approximate areas burnt in the last 3 years are marked on these maps. (The maps in Appendix 3 show how often different areas are burnt by early season fires, late season fires, and overall).

Compare what we want (our objectives) with current landscape health

Where on Country?	Fire type needed	Current situation	Does it match up?
Protection zone- Around Pormpuraaw township	Fire break maintained if necessary, burn between houses and fire break to widen the fuel reduced zone	Firebreak has been cleared. All work has been done in the township area.	Yes
Protection zone- Outstations	Clearing/mowing grass, low intensity burns to reduce fuel	One of the northern outstations has burnt twice in last few years	Need to protect all of the outstations each year
Protection zone- Key cultural sites along coast	Fire exclusion	Fire naturally excluded due to position in the landscape	Yes
Wildfire mitigation – Eastern boundary	Fuel reduction burns along eastern boundary using aerial incendiaries	Areas that were previously burnt have grown back. Uncertain whether current fire patterns would pull up a wildfire	No. Too late for this year
	Small patchy fires	Many small fires have	Yes

Wildfire mitigation – Inland side of coastal belt	along inland margin to protect important cultural areas from wildfire – as access and grass conditions allow	been implemented along the coastal strip	
Cultural & environmental – majority of Pormpuraaw DOGIT	Patchy burns over the majority of the Pormpuraaw landscape	Wildfire in 2009 made a very large area with the same 'fire age', instead of many small patchy areas to give some areas recently burnt and others unburnt. Fires have been lit in these areas in July and August.	Some July and August fires still larger than desirable; aiming for a greater number of smaller fires rather than a few larger fires. Mostly too late for this year, although some areas still may have sufficient soil moisture
Land use Zone - Grazing	As desired by leaseholder	As desired by leaseholder?	Yes

Risk Assessment

Where on Country?	Wildfire risk: what happens if we take no action	Priority
Protection zone	Damage to property. If no action, wildfire is likely to damage infrastructure: grass grows every year, since the rainfall is reliable and fire is an annual occurrence.	1
Wildfire mitigation zone	Wildfires later in the year damage cultural areas and the environment. There is a high risk of wildfire if no action is undertaken. As above, grass grows every year, given the	2

	reliable rainfall, and fire is an annual occurrence. Without wildfire mitigation around the boundary of the DOGIT, management cannot be effectively planned for within the boundary.	
Cultural and environmental zone	Wildfires later in the year damage cultural areas and the environment. Without proactive fire management, the area is likely to be burnt by someone else, with higher risk of damage.	3
Land use zone	Land degradation, change in pasture composition, weed invasion, difficulty with mustering	3

Fire management priorities

Our fire management priorities over the next 3 years are:

1. Discuss fire plan with family groups to commence fire management over the whole DOGIT area
2. Ensure the Pormpuraaw township and outstations are protected each year
3. Commence participating in the CYP aerial incendiary program to get access to areas for early burning immediately after the wet season
4. Obtain appropriate Fire Training for the Ranger group
5. Commence implementing the planning process, including fire reports and annual review based on the previous year's fire scars

Action Plan

2010

Priority	Zone/area	Tasks required	Complete by (month / year)
1	(a) Pormpuraaw	Fire breaks and early burns	July ✓
	(b) Outstations	Fuel reduction burns	August
2	Wildfire mitigation	Nil for this year. Contact Bryan Cifuentes at QFRS, and QPWS staff, regarding access to aerial incendiary program next year	n/a
3	Production areas	Nil for this year. Will be undertaken by leaseholder	n/a
4	Cultural and natural areas	Burn areas that didn't burn last year (see map of recent fire history). That is, small areas will be burnt; but the rest will subject to wildfire; need to get on top of for next year. (Target SE Corner (Blazeaway))	As possible depending on conditions

NEXT YEAR

Priority	Zone/area	Tasks required	Complete by (month / year)
1	(a) Pormpuraaw	Fire breaks around township and early burns	July
	(b) Outstations	Fuel reduction burns	July/August
2	Wildfire mitigation	Contact Bryan Cifuentes at QFRS, CYSF and QPWS staff, regarding access to aerial incendiary program. Discuss with relevant family groups. Carry out aerial incendiary program on eastern boundary	April/May June/July
3	Production areas	Will be undertaken by leaseholder	n/a
4	Cultural and natural areas	Burn areas that didn't burn last year (see map of recent fire history); and implement patchy burns as conditions allow.	June/July/August (Storm burns?)

Consider:

- Firebreak construction or maintenance
- Discussion with family groups
- Discussion with neighbours
- People fishing or camping
- Stock movement
- Permit to Light
- Equipment check
- Before/after photograph at monitoring site
- Plan review (do this over the wet season; consider the fires in the previous year, the results of monitoring; management objectives)

Monitoring the Results

Across the DOGIT, 30 x 1 ha plots have been established across a range of country types to record animal species and their response to fire. The location of these points will be reviewed to determine which ones to also use for recording the response of plants and county types to fire over time.

Where on Country (area / zone)	**What we want to achieve** (Objective)	**What works** (Indicators of success)	**Photo point ID** (GPS points)	**Date and direction**◆ (of 1st photo at each point)

Point .....
Name .....
Location .....
Date of most recent photo .....
State of indicator species .....
Photo storage location .....
Comment on trend .....
.....
.....

Point .....
Name .....
Location .....
Date of most recent photo .....
State of indicator species .....
Photo storage location .....
Comment on trend .....

Add extra sheets as required

◆ Direction refers to compass points eg: north, south, east, west, north-east etc.

Wildfire response

Fire Season safety check (to be done before start of fire season)

Buildings are separated from the surrounding bush by cleared ground, slashed or mown breaks, grazing, or low intensity burns. ☐

The following items are in working order and easy to access:

☐ Heavy machinery (e.g. tractors, dozer, grader)

☐ Protective clothing (e.g. wool/cotton material; cloth for face protection; gloves)

☐ Hessian bags or old woollen blankets for wetting

☐ Water containers (metal buckets, drums etc)

☐ Shovel ☐ Axe

☐ Water pumps ☐ Torch

☐ Water tank for vehicle (slip-on unit) ☐ Container for drinking water

☐ Knap sack spray ☐ Fire extinguisher

☐ Fire action map ☐ Radios & batteries **UHF Channel ____**

☐ First aid kit ☐ Fire action map (see below)

☐ Hoses ☐ Tool box

☐ Rakes or rake-hoes ☐ Matches

☐ Chainsaw ☐ Drip torch

Check that the details on the fire action map are correct

During the Fire Season the plan is to:

- ✓ Maintain low fuel loads (grass, sticks and leaves) in areas around buildings, sheds and outstations
- ✓ Ensure good water supply in built areas
- ✓ Note condition of water supplies on Country
- ✓ Monitor fires in the region using the internet (www.firenorth.org.au), or by talking to neighbours or QFRS staff.
- ✓ Review QFRS guidelines on personal safety and house protection in the event of a bushfire
- ✓ Only fight fires if they are threatening the town or outstations.

A copy of this wildfire response information (and map) is lodged with:

☐ QFRS ☐ The Pormpuraaw Council ☐ Local Fire Warden

Note: QFRS is the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service

If there is a Wildfire

The steps to take are:

- Ensure personal safety and the safety of others near the fire
- Ensure the safety of the vehicle and equipment, and if possible infrastructure
- Contact your base station and advise them of the wildfire
- Give your location and full fire details (location, size, direction of fire movement, flame height, vegetation/fuel, terrain, immediate threats)
- Tell the office who is at the fire and what you are going to do
- Advise what help is required
- Assess the situation. If it is safe, and you are likely to succeed, take reasonable actions to put out or control the wildfire.

Important phone numbers for Wildfire Response

Name	Their role & location	Phone number

At all times the order of priority for wildfire response is:

- **Protection of human life**
- **Protection of substantial property or infrastructure on Country or on neighbouring landholdings**
- **Protection of productive resource areas, and natural and cultural resources**

Information for Fire Fighters

The following information is on the 'Fire Action Map for Pormpuraaw' (attached). (Put this map up on a wall so that it is easy to find and be looked at by a larger group of people when needed). Mark additional features on this map if necessary.

- ☐ Map title "Wildfire Response Map for Pormpuraaw"
- ☐ Infrastructure (buildings, yards, outstations, power lines)
- ☐ Water supply infrastructure (bores, pumps, pipes)
- ☐ Roads and Access tracks
- ☐ Fire control lines (include natural 'breaks' such as creeks and rivers)
- ☐ Fences and fencelines
- ☐ Gates
- ☐ Locked gates
- ☐ Water points accessible by vehicle
- ☐ DOGIT boundary
- ☐ Name and contact details for neighbours
- ☐ Fire protection sites
- ☐ Air strip or helipad

Remember:

- Label key areas or points using their language name or local names.
- Discuss this Wildfire Response procedure with local people.
- Ensure visitors to Country are informed about this Wildfire Response protocol.

Record-keeping and review

Name of Country: Pormpuraaw DOGIT

Date of report: .....

Date of fire event: .....

Duration of fire event

When did the fire start? (Time and date): .....

When did the fire stop? (Time and date): .....

Fire details

The fire was a ……. Planned burn ☐

…….. Wildfire ☐

The cause was:

	Known	Possibly
Lightning	☐	☐
Machinery	☐	☐
Arson	☐	☐
Escaped burn	☐	☐
Unknown	☐	

Weather before the fire was

.....

.....

.....

Weather during the fire was .....

.....

.....

.....

Weather in the few months **after** the fire was

.....

.....

Fire History Map

☐ The area burnt is shown on the Fire History Map (attached). It shows where the fire started and the direction the fire travelled.

The following monitoring points burnt: _____

The following monitoring points did not burn: _____

Map reliability is:

- ☐ Hand drawn onto map from memory
- ☐ Hand drawn onto map after flying over
- ☐ Mapped using a GPS on the ground
- ☐ Mapped from aerial photograph
- ☐ Map obtained from the NAFI site (www.firenorth.org.au)

Outcomes of the Fire

Where on Country (area / zone)	**What we wanted to achieve** (Objective)	**Estimate of fire intensity** (strength of fire)	**Result/comment**

Fire summary

Overall, the fire management operation went .....

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The general approach taken was .....

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The on-ground result (or impact) was .....

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The main improvement for next time is .....

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.....

.....

Implications for next season?

☐ Review the whole Fire Plan, with special attention to the Action Plan

Appendix 1

Threatened species in the vicinity of Pormpuraaw

Threatened species recorded in the Pormpuraaw area (1 degree grid square)

Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Qld Status	National Status
Flowering Plants	Cooktown Orchid	*Dendrobium bigibbum*	V	V
Flowering Plants	Brown Antelope Orchid	*Dendrobium johannis*	V	V
Flowering Plants	Cow Itch	*Mucuna pruriens var. utilis*	-	ALERT
Reptiles	Estuarine Crocodile	*Crocodylus porosus*	V	-
Reptiles	Olive Ridley Turtle	*Lepidochelys olivacea*	E	E
Reptiles	Robust Burrowing Snake	*Simoselaps warro*	R	-
Birds	Grey Goshawk	*Accipiter novaehollandiae*	R	-
Birds	Red Goshawk	*Erythrotriorchis radiatus*	E	V
Birds	Beach Stone-Curlew	*Esacus magnirostris*	V	-
Birds	Eastern Curlew	*Numenius madagascariensis*	R	-
Birds	Little Tern	*Sternula albifrons*	E	-
Birds	Golden-Shouldered Parrot	*Psephotus chrysopterygius*	E	E
Birds	Gouldian Finch	*Erythrura gouldiae*	E	E
Birds	Crimson Finch	*Neochmia phaeton*	V	-
Birds	Crimson Finch (White-Bellied Subspecies)	*Neochmia phaeton evangelinae*	V	V
Birds	Cotton Pygmy-Goose	*Nettapus coromandelianus*	R	-

Birds	Radjah Shelduck	*Tadorna radjah*	R	-
Birds	Black-Necked Stork	*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*	R	-
Birds	Square-Tailed Kite	*Lophoictinia isura*	R	-
Birds	Palm Cockatoo	*Probosciger aterrimus*	R	-
Birds	Black-Chinned Honeyeater	*Melithreptus gularis*	R	-
Birds	Golden-Backed Honeyeater	*Melithreptus gularis laetior*	R	-
Birds	Zitting Cisticola (Normanton Subspecies)	*Cisticola juncidis normani*	R	-
Birds	Pictorella Mannikin	*Heteromunia pectoralis*	R	-

National Status Codes:

(Threatened species) CE, Critically Endangered: E, Endangered: V, Vulnerable: CD, Conservation Dependent:

(Weeds) WONS, Weeds of National Significance: ALERT, Alert List for Environmental Weeds(Please call Exotic Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881 if you think you have seen this weed):

KTP, Recognised as a Key Threatening Process to biodiversity.

QLD Status Codes:

(Threatened species) E, Endangered: NT, Near Threatened: R, Rare: V, Vulnerable.

Class 2, Established in Queensland. Not to be introduced, kept, supplied or released without permit. Must take reasonable efforts to eradicate:

Appendix 2

Pests and potential pests on Pormpuraaw

Introduced plants and animals recorded in the Pormpuraaw area and that have been identified as problem species in one or more locations in northern Australia.

Plants

Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Qld Status	National Status
Flowering Plants	Awnless Barnyard Grass	*Echinochloa colona*	-	-
Flowering Plants	Carpetweed	*Phyla nodiflora*	-	-
Flowering Plants	Castor Oil Bush	*Ricinus communis*	-	-
Flowering Plants	Cow Itch	*Mucuna pruriens var. utilis*	-	ALERT
Flowering Plants	Giant Reed	*Arundo donax*	-	-
Flowering Plants	Hatpins	*Eriocaulon truncatum*	-	-
Flowering Plants	Hyptis	*Hyptis suaveolens*	-	-
Flowering Plants	Noogoora Burr	*Xanthium occidentale*	-	-
Flowering Plants	Parkinsonia	*Parkinsonia aculeata*	Class 2	WONS
Flowering Plants	Purpletop Chloris	*Chloris inflata*	-	-
Flowering Plants	Stinking Passion Flower	*Passiflora foetida*	-	-

Status Codes:

National Status Codes:

WONS, Weeds of National Significance:

ALERT, Alert List for Environmental Weeds

(Please call Exotic Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881 if you think you have seen this weed):

Sleeper, National Sleeper Weed: Target, Targeted for eradication.

(www.landmanager.com.au/view/index.aspx?id=449837)

QLD Status Codes:

Class 2, Established in Queensland. Not to be introduced, kept, supplied or released without

permit. Must take reasonable efforts to eradicate:

(www.landmanager.com.au/view/index.aspx?id=190714)

Animals

Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Qld Status	National Status
Frogs	Cane Toad	*Rhinella marina*	-	KTP
Birds	Rock Dove	*Columba livia*	-	-
Birds	Sulphur-Crested Cockatoo	*Cacatua galerita*	-	-
Birds	Red-Tailed Black-Cockatoo	*Calyptorhynchus banksii*	-	-
Birds	Common Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*	-	-
Birds	House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	-	-

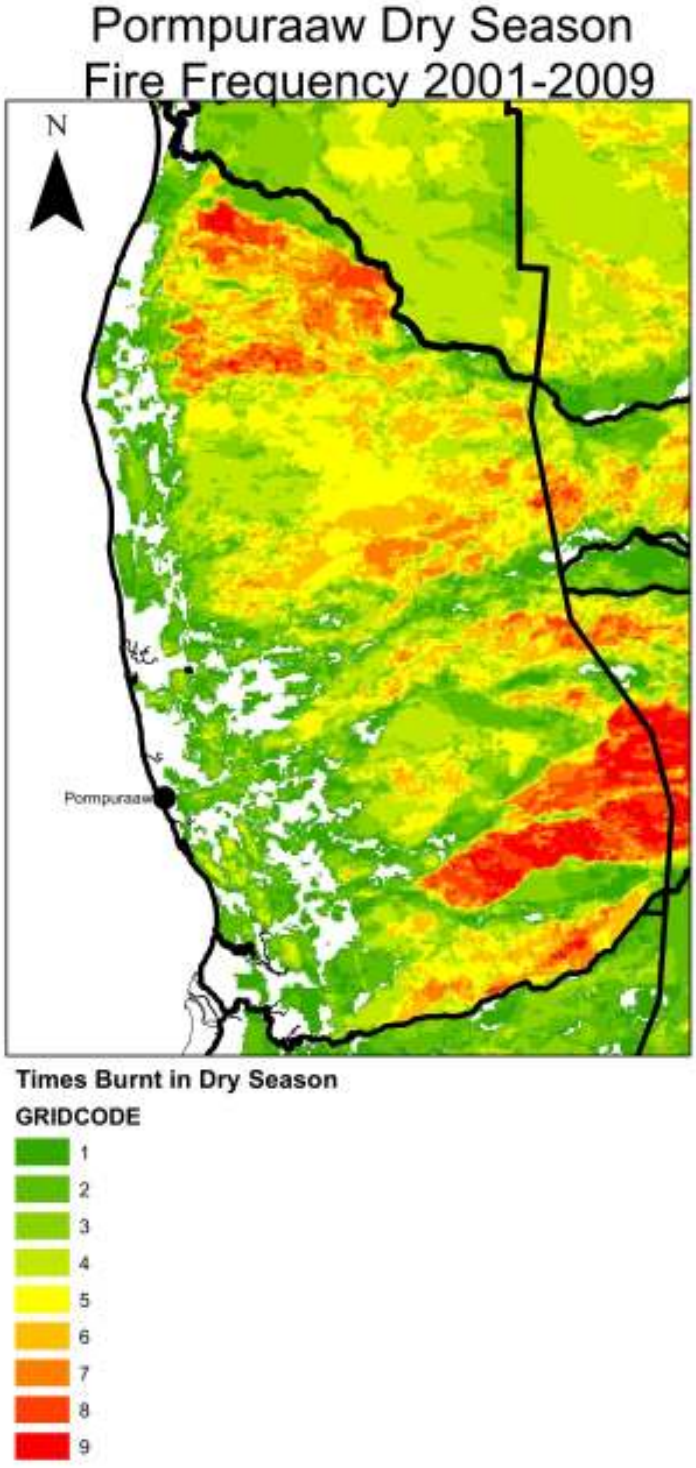
National Status Codes:

KTP, Recognised as a Key Threatening Process to biodiversity.

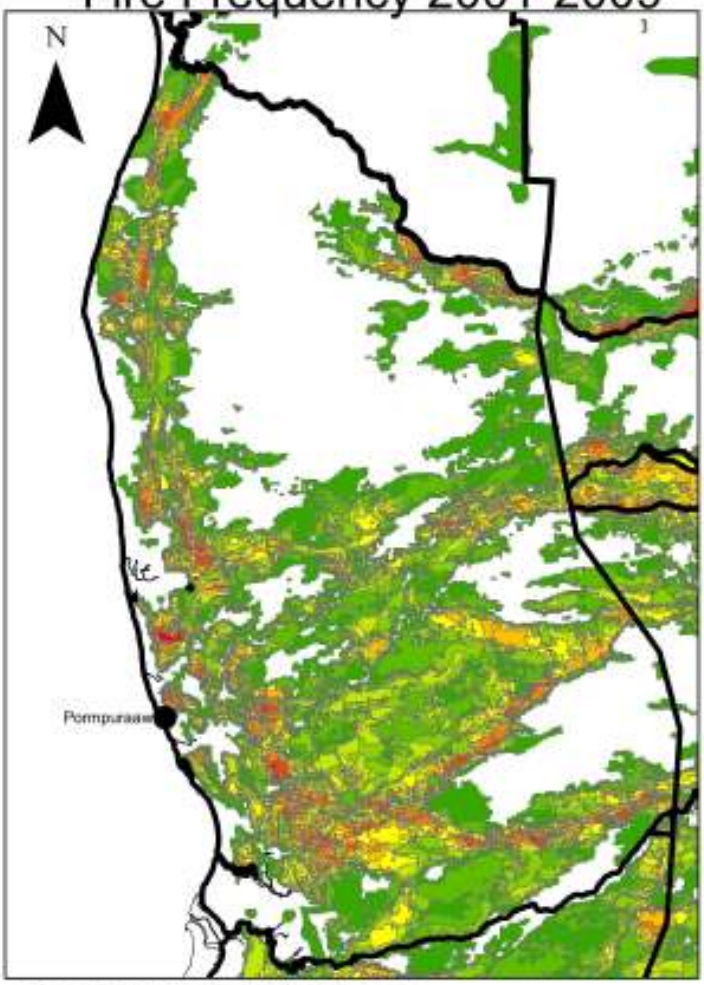
(www.landmanager.com.au/view/index.aspx?id=651771).

Appendix 3

Fire Frequency Maps



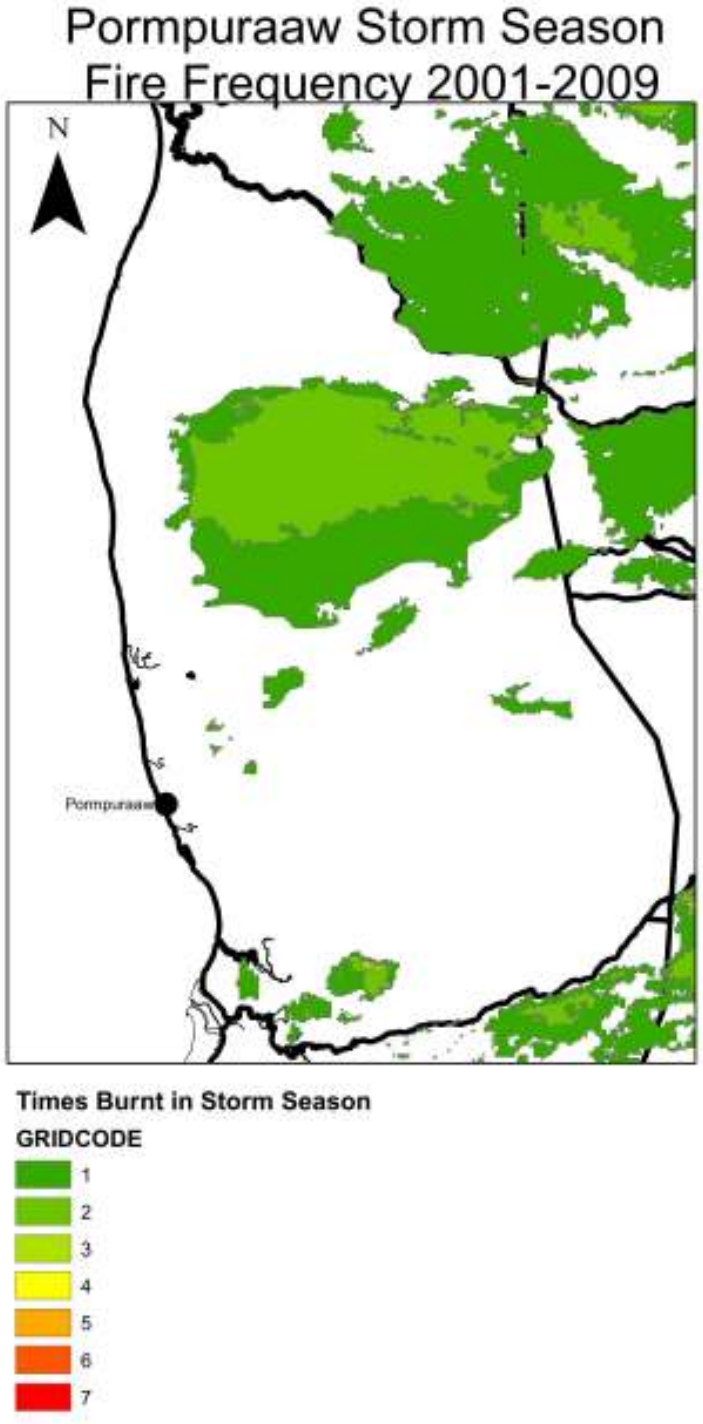
Pormpuraaw Early Season Fire Frequency 2001-2009



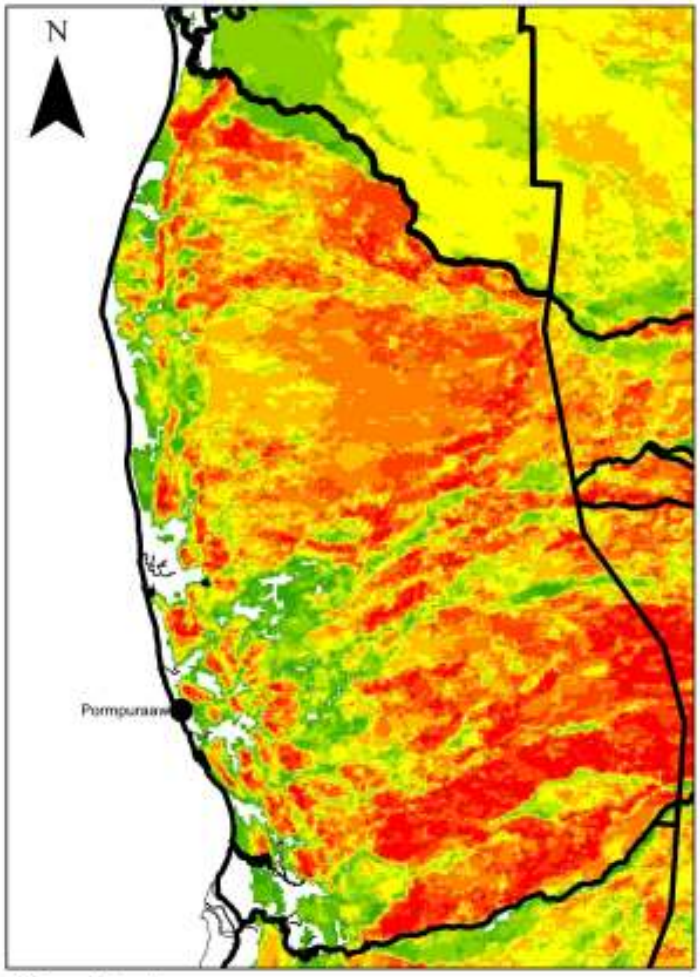
Times Burnt in Early Fire Season

GRIDCODE

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9


Pormpuraaw Storm Season
Fire Frequency 2001-2009
N
Pormpuraaw
Times Burnt in Storm Season
GRIDCODE
1
2
3
4
5
6
7

Pormpuraaw Fire Frequency 2001-2009

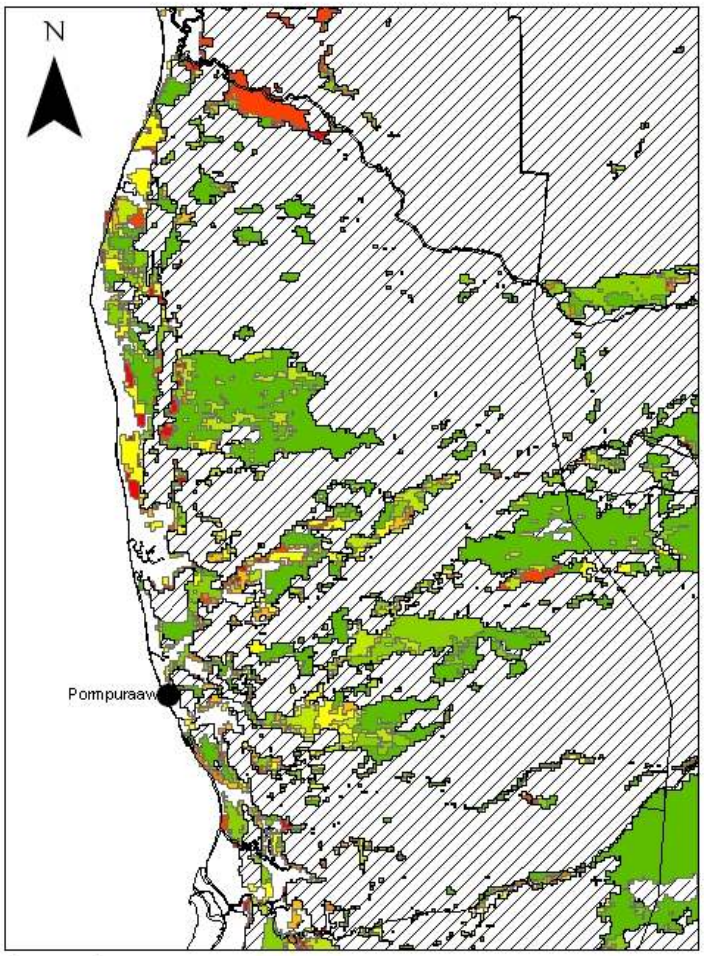


Times Burnt

GRIDCODE

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9

Pormpuraaw Time Since Last Burnt



Legend

Years Since Last Burnt

GRIDCODE

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8