



TIWI ISLANDS
FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

2017

Since 2006 discussions have been held in the Tiwi Land Council, and subsequently in the Tiwi Islands Fire Management Committee, about fire management for greenhouse gas abatement. There has been unwavering and unanimous resolve for the development and implementation of a fire management plan that reduces greenhouse gas emissions. These reduced emissions can subsequently be sold in carbon markets, potentially generating income that can be used for the continuing employment of Tiwi Rangers.

Greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced by burning earlier in the year, and by burning less area overall. Early season burning (before the end of July) results in cooler fires, and these fires give off less greenhouse gas. Late season fires (fires after the beginning of August) are hotter and create more greenhouse gas. In addition, cool fires burn more patchily, and are less destructive to Tiwi plants and animals.

The Tiwi Islands Fire Management Committee meets regularly to develop strategies to inform Tiwi people, and to reduce the area of the Tiwi Islands that is burnt in the late dry season. On the 15th June 2017, the Committee signed off on the Tiwi Islands Fire Management Plan for 2017. Learning from the 2015 and 2016 fire seasons, the management strategies being used to reduce late season fires in 2017 are:

- Helicopter burning early in the dry season to reduce fuel loads and provide patches of burnt country that stop late fires from running (creating a helicopter break);
- Ground based burning along roadsides in the early dry season to reduce fuel loads and provide patches of burnt country that stop late fires from running (creating a road break);
- Grading firebreaks around assets such as plantations (plantation break) and outstations and burning off them early in the dry season (protection burning);
- Coastal burning along the banks of small creeks and rivers, accessed by boat, to reduce fuel loads and provide patches of burnt country that stop late fires from running (coastal burning).

The Tiwi Islands have been split into 8 areas for the purpose of fire management; shown on the the following maps. Areas are not based on Landowning boundaries - they are split up according to the landscape and natural features. This way each area can be treated as a separate unit, thereby reducing the likelihood of fires from one management area running into another management area.

Each map shows the 2016 fire scars laid over broad vegetation types. The overall aim for the 2017 program is to provide patches of burnt country in order to a) shift the majority of fires to the early dry season, and b) result in less area burnt overall throughout the year. This will be achieved by helicopter burning areas unbunt in 2016 to reduce and break up fuel loads; early roadside and coastal burning to provide additional firebreaks; and burning off firebreaks around assets such as plantations, outstations and sacred sites.

The timing of operations and resources required are listed in a table following the maps. This is an adaptive fire management plan, so timings may change with changing circumstances.

The northwest area of Melville Island is not included in this fire management plan. This is the area where most of the plantation forestry is located, and forestry managers implement a separate fire protection plan for the plantations. The Tiwi fire crew will be working closely with forestry fire crews in this area, and may undertake additional burning once the plantations are adequately protected.

Tiwi Islands

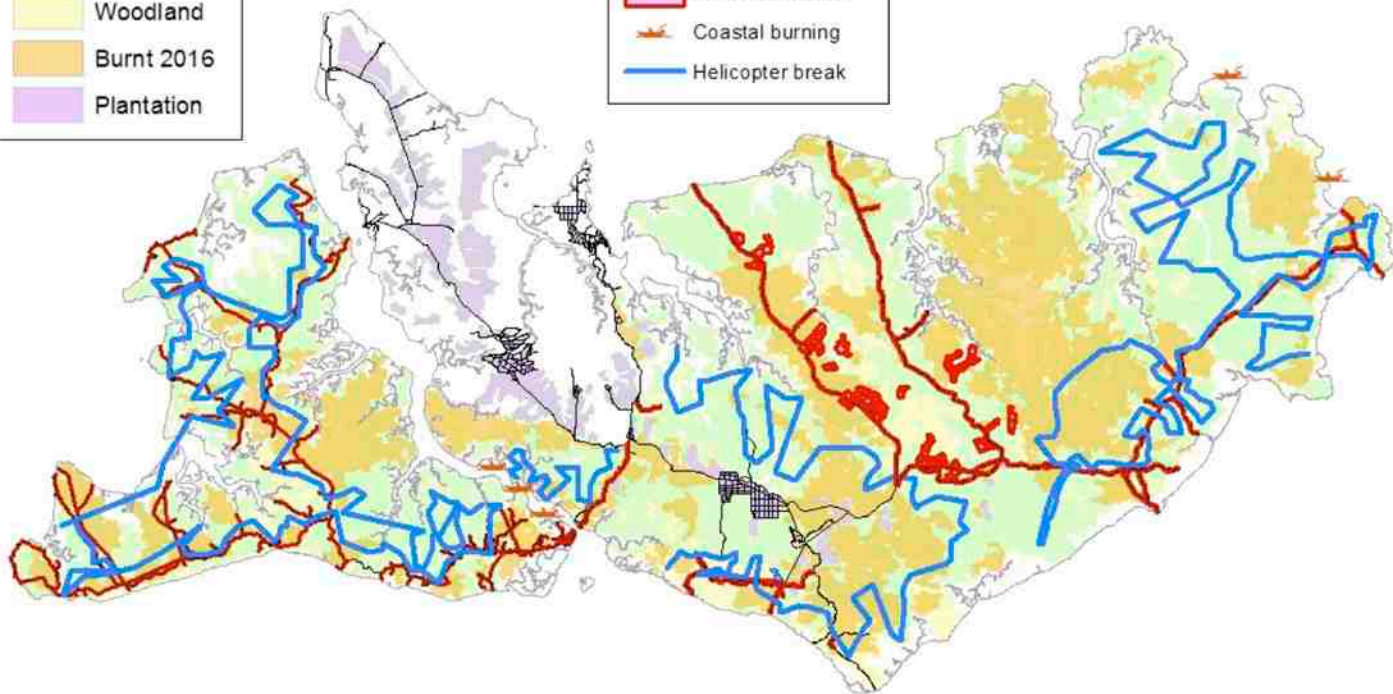
0 10 20 40 Kilometers



Vegetation

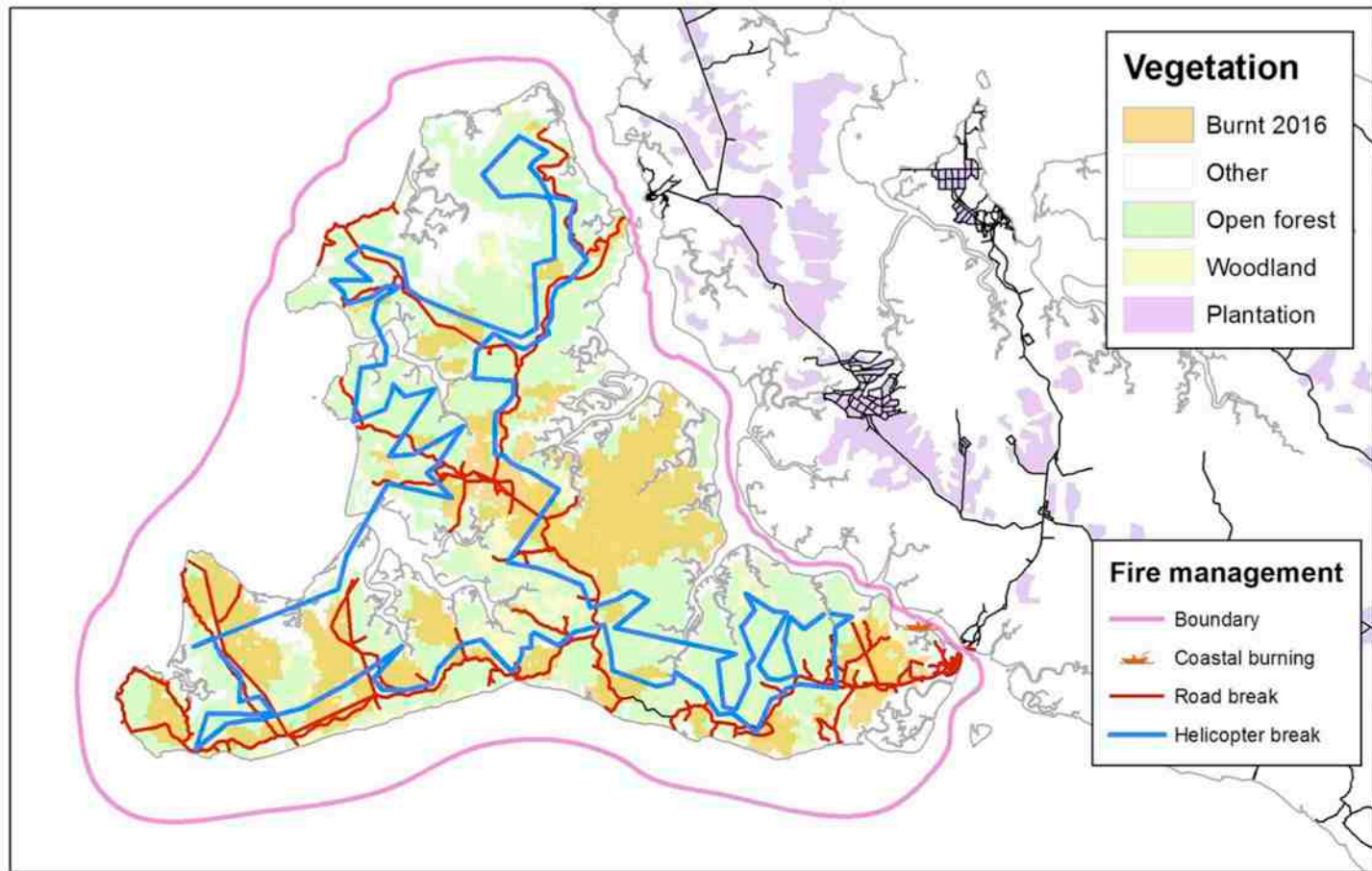


Fire management



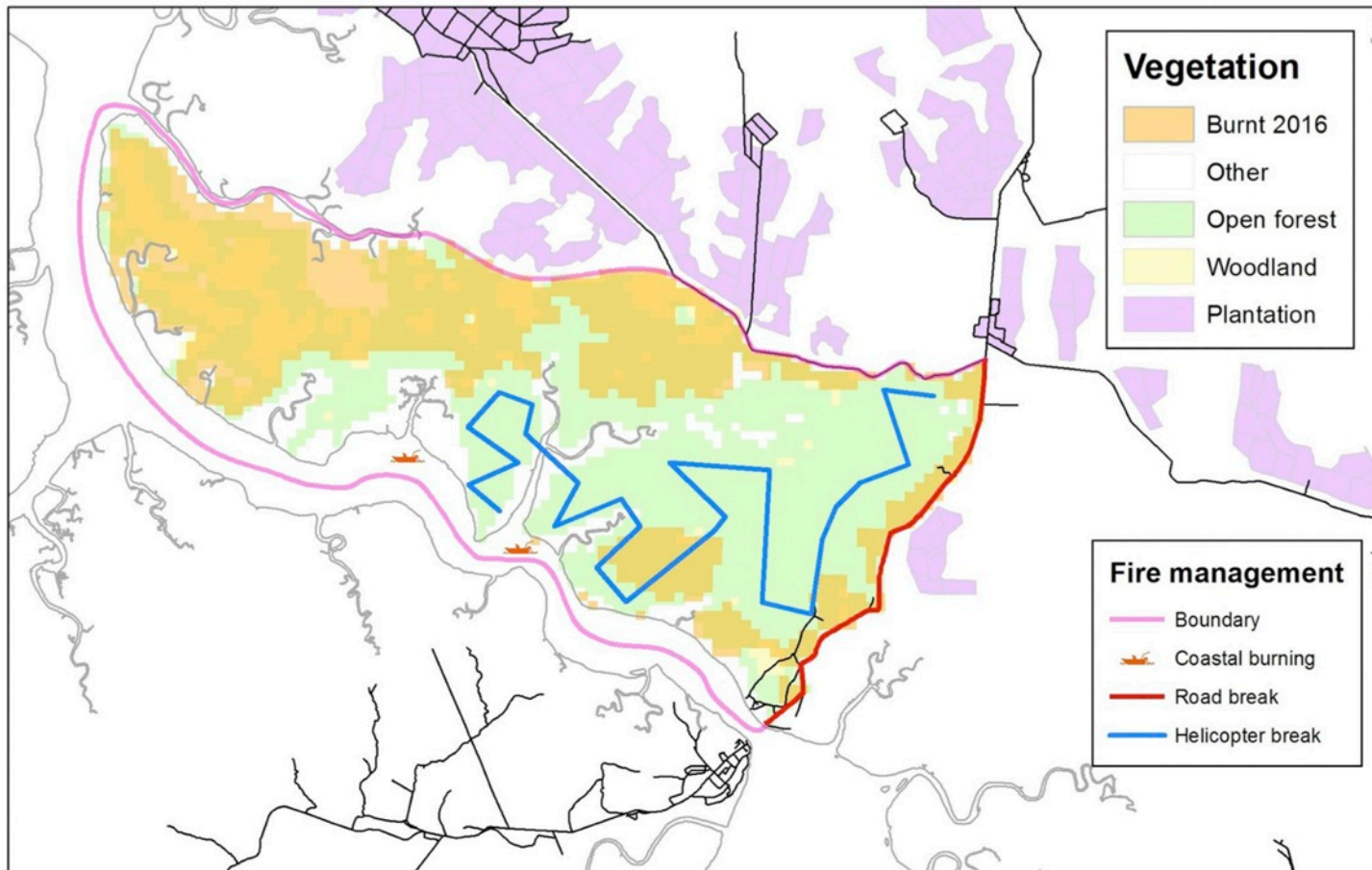
Bathurst Island

0 5 10 20 Kilometers



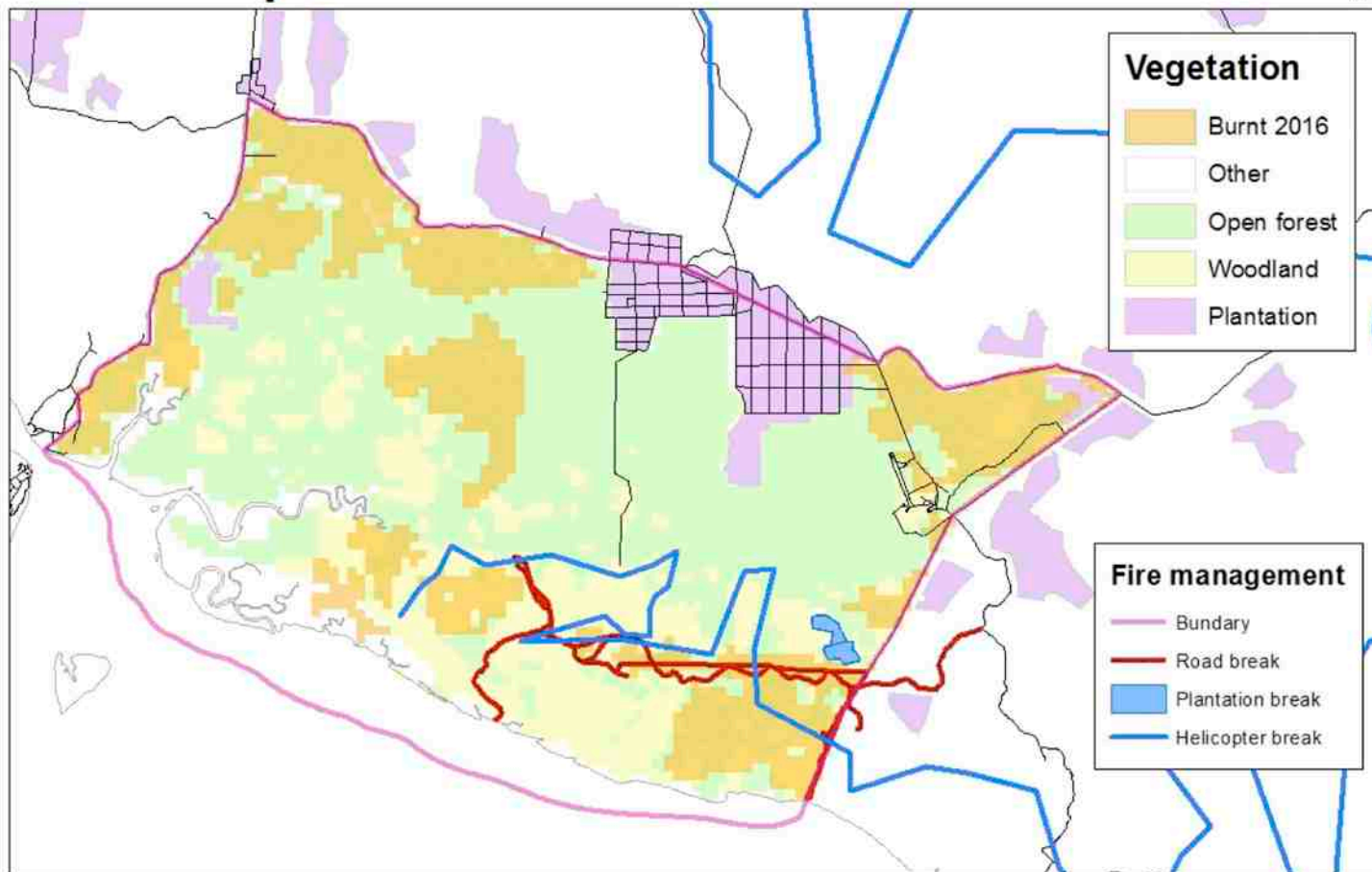
Paru

0 2.5 5 10 Kilometers



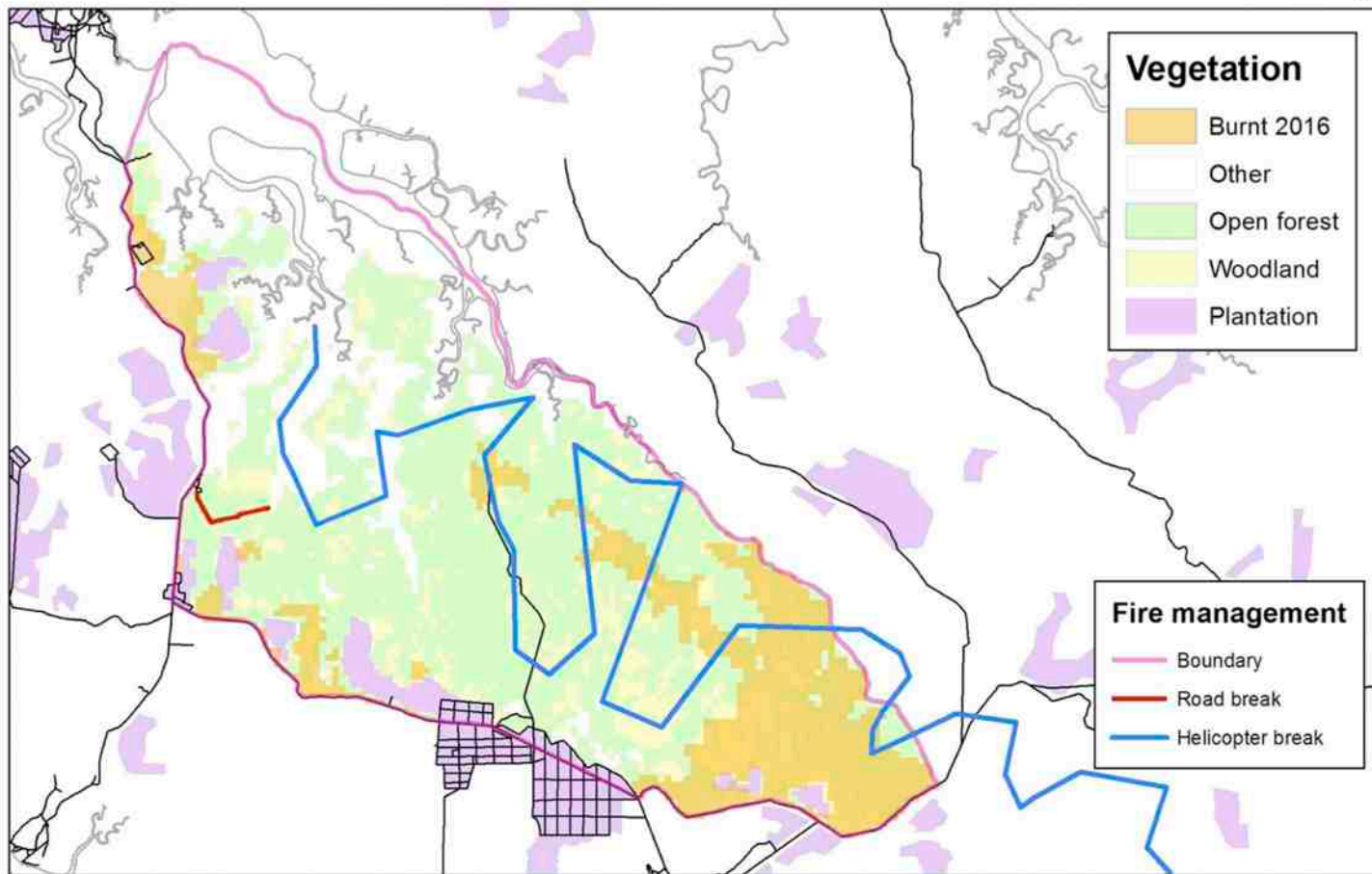
Takamprimili

0 2 4 8 Kilometers



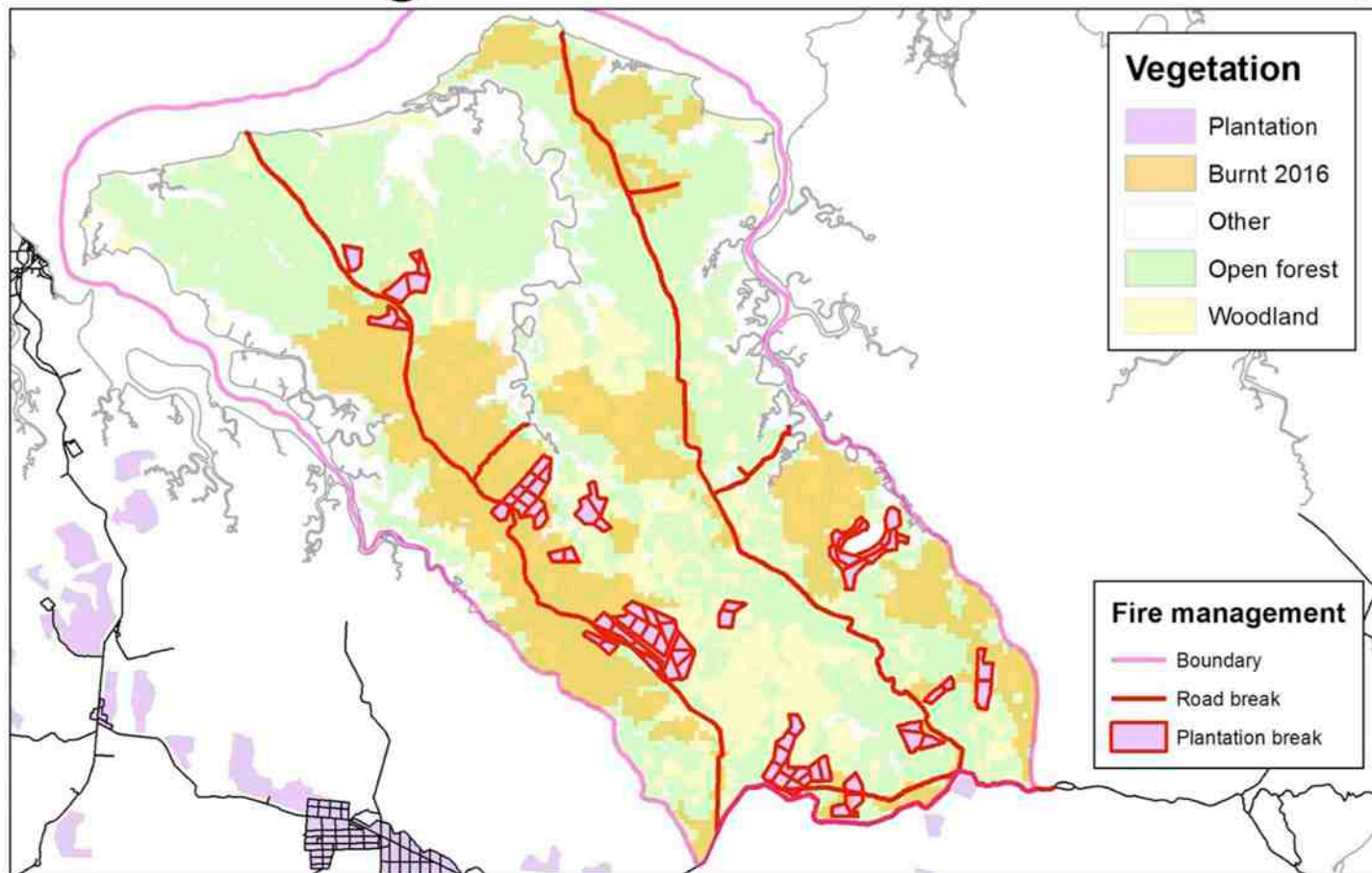
Wulirankuwu

0 3.75 7.5 15 Kilometers



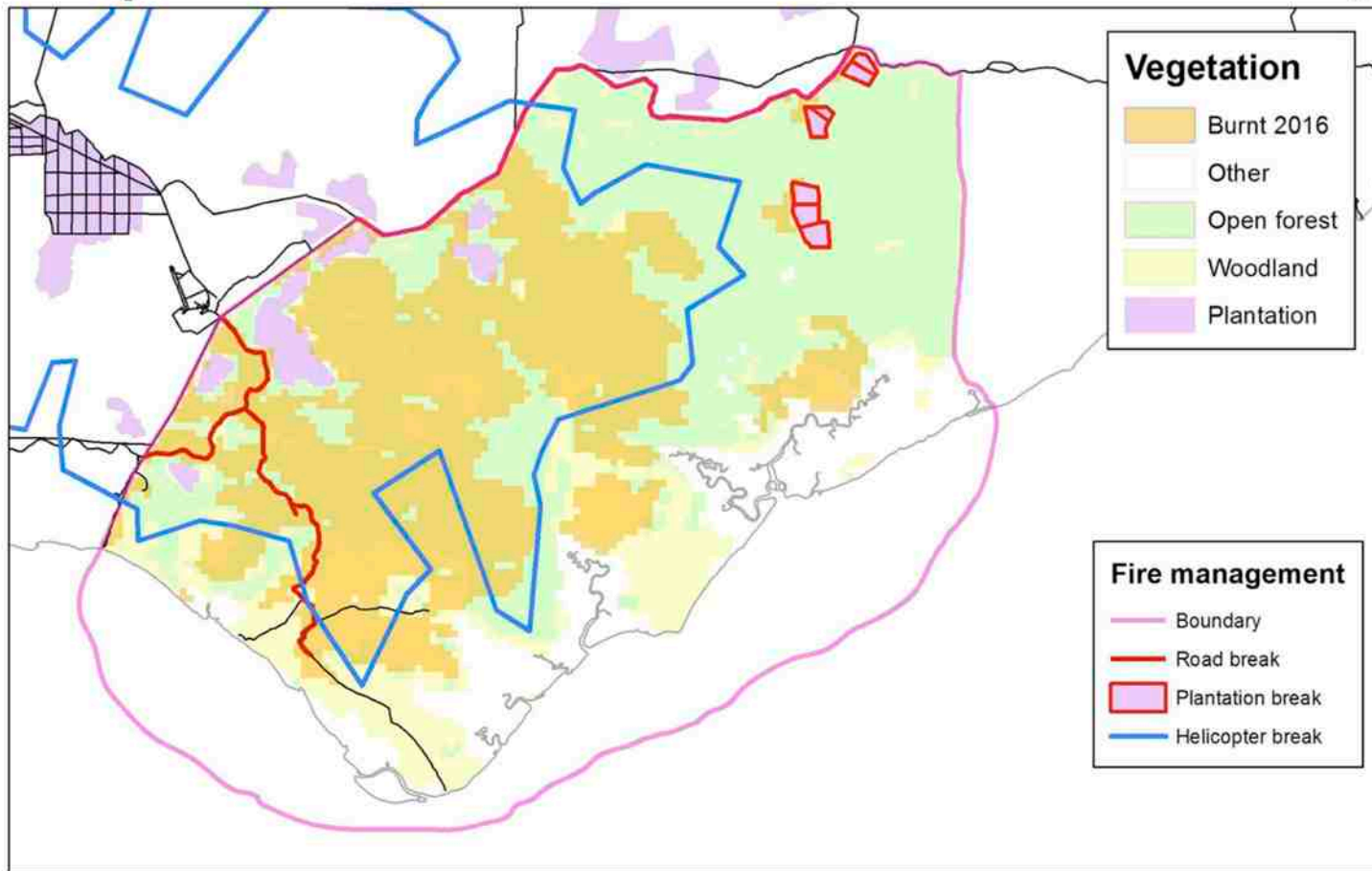
Andranangoo

0 4.75 9.5 19 Kilometers



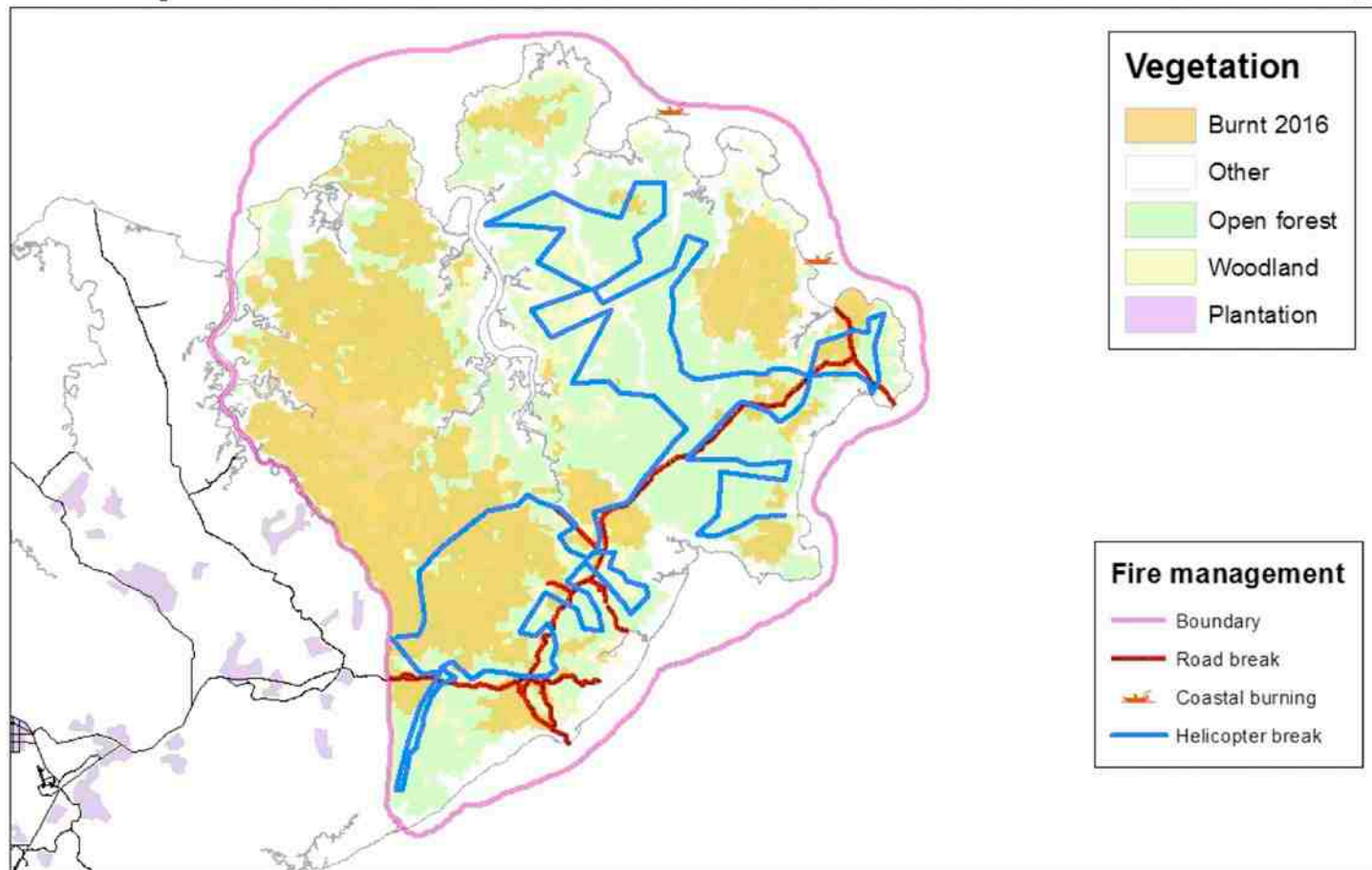
Cape Gambier

0 3.25 6.5 13 Kilometers



Yimpinari

0 5 10 20 Kilometers



TIMING

	Activity
1	Spray/grade plantation forestry firebreaks
2	Spray outstation firebreaks & Tuyu track
3	Check country for dryness: Yimpinari, Cape Gambier & Bathurst Island
4	Protection burns around Taracumbi outstation, Paru outstation & Mirapoka plantations
5	Burn roadsides in Yimpinari, Jessie River, Milikapiti & Paru roads
6	Burn around Takamprimili outstation
7	Aerial burning - Yimpinari, Andranangoo, Cape Gambier, Paru & Bathurst Island
8	Protection burns around Andranangoo 6, 7, 8, & 9 plantations
9	Roadside burning in Andranangoo, Goose Creek & Cape Gambier
10	Protection burns around Pickertaramoor plantations & Tiwi College
11	Roadside burning Bathurst Island
12	Protection burns around Jessie & Bonkalji plantations

Activity	Responsibilities/resources	Week starting									N O M O R E B U R N I N G
		29 th May	5 th June	12 th June	19 th June	26 th June	3 rd July	10 th July	17 th July	24 th July	
1	Tiwi Fire Crew & Forestry										
2	Tiwi Fire Crew & Forestry										
3	Tiwi Fire Crew & TOs										
4	Forestry										
5	Tiwi Fire Crew										
6 & 7	Tiwi Fire Crew										
8	Forestry										
9	Tiwi Fire Crew										
10	Tiwi Fire Crew & Forestry										
11	Tiwi Fire Crew										
12	Forestry										
KARLUWU YIKWANI											

TIWI ISLANDS FIRE COMMITTEE

Chair and Arnhem Regional Bushfires Committee member	Willie Rioli
TLC Chairman	Gibson F Illortaminni
Landowner delegate and Arnhem Regional Bushfires Committee member	Connell Tipiloura
Landowner delegates	James Desantis Dennis Dunn David Guy Colin Kerinauia Vivian Kerinauia Christopher Molaminni Vincent Mungatopi Danny Munkara Patrick Puruntatameri Richard Puruntatameri Willie Roberts Dennis Tipakalippa Brian Tipungwuti Adonis Wommatakimmi Kim Wommatakimmi Pedro Wonaeamirri
Tiwi Islands Fire Coordinator	Bruce Holland
TLC Manager for Land & Resources	Kate Hadden
Tiwi Plantations	Quinten Pope Alistair Emslie Sarah Ryan
Technical and operational support: Bushfires NT CSIRO	Mark Desailly Adam Liedloff Anna Richards



Kimirrakinari – ends in July

