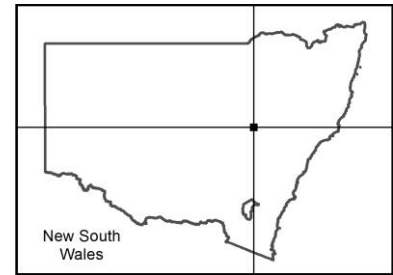


# Statement of Management Intent



## Dapper Nature Reserve

### 1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Dapper Nature Reserve. This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the reserve until a plan of management has been prepared in accordance with the [National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 \(NPW Act\)](#). The NPWS [Managing Parks Prior to Plan of Management Policy](#) states that parks and reserves without a plan of management are to be managed in a manner consistent with the intent of the NPW Act and the ['precautionary principle'](#) (see Principle 15).

### 2. Management principles

Nature reserves are reserved under the NPW Act to protect and conserve areas containing outstanding, unique or representative ecosystems, species, communities or natural phenomena. Under the NPW Act ([section 30J](#)), nature reserves are managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, and protect geological and geomorphological features and natural phenomena
- conserve places, objects, features and landscapes of cultural value
- promote public appreciation, enjoyment and understanding of the reserve's natural and cultural values
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

The primary purpose of nature reserves is to conserve nature. Nature reserves differ from national parks in that they do not have the provision of visitor use as a management purpose or principle.

### 3. Context

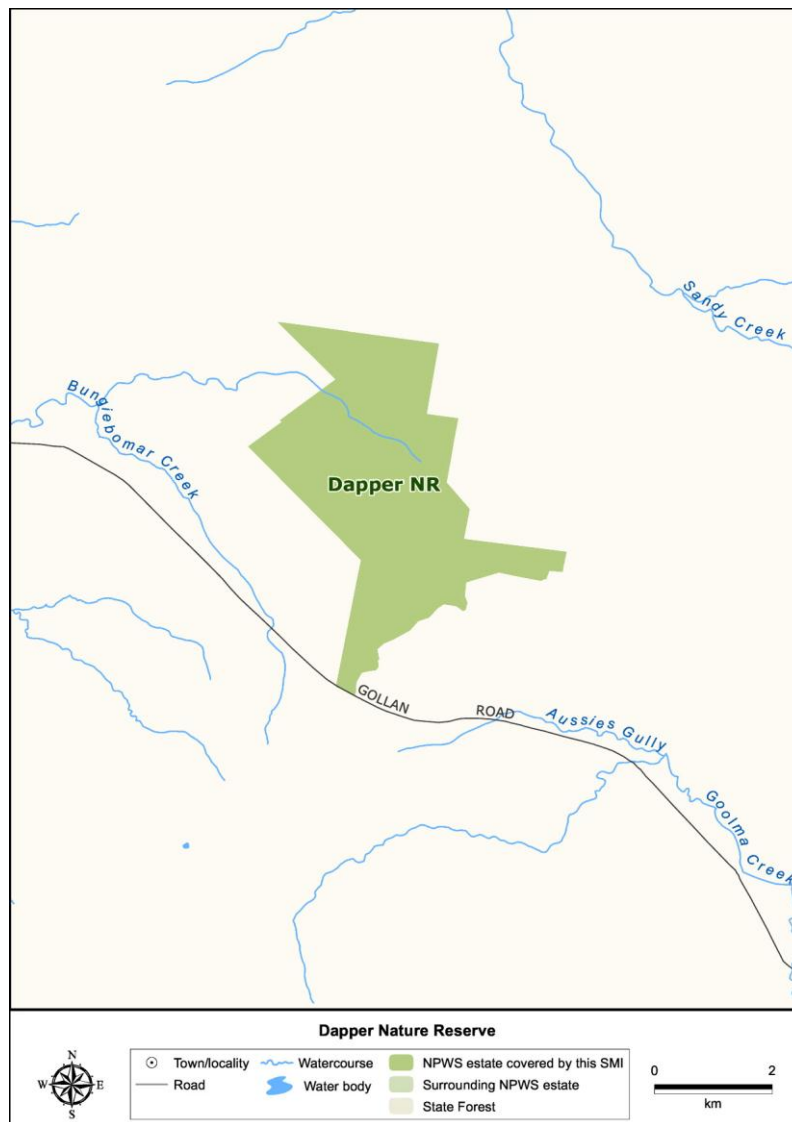
**Reservation details:** Dapper Nature Reserve was reserved on 18 September 1981.

**Size:** 998 hectares.

Dapper Nature Reserve is located approximately 30 kilometres south-west of Dunedoo. It falls within the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion. It also lies within the administrative areas of Warrumbungle Shire Council, Central West Local Land Services and crosses the Dubbo and Mudgee local Aboriginal land councils.

Dapper Nature Reserve is surrounded by private land. Yarrobil National Park is located approximately nine kilometres to the east. Prior to its reservation in 1981, Dapper Nature Reserve

was state forest tenure. An additional 179 hectares of Crown land was added to the reserve in March 1990. The reserve forms part of the fragmented southern corridor of the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion, linking Tuckland State Forest, Goodman State Conservation Area and Yarrobil National Park. Dapper Nature Reserve is representative of the original woodland vegetation of the central western slopes, of which very little remains due to clearing for grazing and agricultural development.



#### 4. Values

- Dapper Nature Reserve protects excellent remnant stands of a wide variety of vegetation communities that once spanned the central western slopes of New South Wales including; mugga ironbark (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*), black cypress pine (*Callitris endlicheri*), red box (*E. polyanthemos*), white box (*E. albens*) and western grey box (*E. microcarpa*) woodlands.
- The reserve protects woodland that is potentially representative of two endangered ecological communities: White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland and Inland Grey Box Woodland in the Riverina, NSW South Western Slopes, Cobar Peneplain, Nandewar and Brigalow Belt South Bioregions.
- The reserve protects an area of important remnant vegetation in an otherwise highly cleared landscape.

- The reserve provides a significant nectar source for insects and nomadic honeyeaters, which migrate in winter following the flowering of eucalypts.
- The reserve provides important habitat for a diverse range of birds including the threatened glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathamii*), barking owl (*Ninox connivens*), brown treecreeper (eastern subspecies) (*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*), speckled warbler (*Chthonicola sagittata*) and varied sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*).
- Aboriginal artefacts have been discovered within Dapper Nature Reserve and they are evidence of occupation of the region by Aboriginal people.
- The reserve receives small numbers of visitors per year, primarily research groups and birdwatchers. Permission is required to enter the reserve and access is restricted by locked gates.
- The reserve contains large populations of ringtail (*Pseudocheirus peregrinus*) and brushtail (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) possums and a small population of wombats (*Vombatus ursinus*) which is uncommon for the area.

## 5. Issues

- Foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), hares (*Lepus europaeus*) and isolated populations of feral cats (*Felis catus*) occur within the reserve.
- Prickly pear (*Opuntia* spp.) weed species occurs in the reserve.
- There is a proposal for an open-cut coal mine within the vicinity of the reserve.

## 6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Dapper Nature Reserve [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Northern Plains Region.
- A fox baiting program was established on properties neighbouring Dapper Nature Reserve coordinated by the then Livestock Health and Pest Authority (now Local Land Services). Works that complement these activities will be undertaken within Dapper Nature Reserve as required.
- Baseline fauna surveys have been conducted in Dapper Nature Reserve in accordance with the Northern Plains Region Biodiversity Monitoring Strategy 2009–2014. Further fauna surveys and habitat assessment will be undertaken.
- Where necessary, agreements will be formalised for management access through Crown lands to Dapper Nature Reserve.
- Liaison with the proponent of the proposed Cobbora coal mine will continue, to ensure that NPWS management requirements for Dapper Nature Reserve are considered.
- All management activities will be preceded by the preparation of an environmental assessment or heritage assessment where this is a requirement of NPWS policy or legislation.
- Environmental repair and threat management programs, such as erosion mitigation measures, pest management, and activities arising from threatened species requirements may be implemented in accordance with NPWS policies and procedures.
- Non-intrusive works may be undertaken where necessary to protect cultural heritage items from further deterioration, to ensure the safety of visitors, to protect wildlife or to prevent damage to park assets.

- A plan of management will be prepared to set out the ongoing management objectives for the reserve. The plan of management is a statutory document under the NPW Act which will be available for public comment. NPWS will also encourage the community to contribute to the ongoing conservation of the reserve by promoting and raising public awareness of its special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this park or this statement, contact the NPWS Dubbo Operations Centre on 02 6841 7100 or write to PO Box 580, Dubbo NSW 2830.

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**Disclaimer:** This is a statement of intent to guide the management of the reserve prior to the development of a plan of management. Any statements made in this publication are made in good faith and do not render the Office of Environment and Heritage liable for any loss or damage. Provisions in the final plan of management may vary from those identified in this document as a result of new information and community consultation. The maps in this statement are intended to show the reserve's location and basic features only, and are not suitable for use when navigating to or exploring within parks.

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