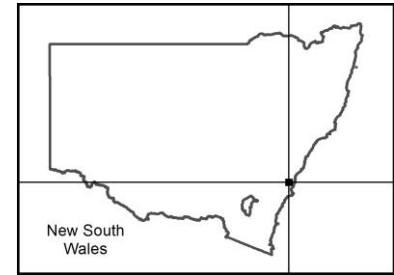


Statement of Management Intent



Macquarie Pass State Conservation Area

1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Macquarie Pass State Conservation Area (SCA). This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the SCA 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

State conservation areas are reserved under the NPW Act to protect and conserve areas that:

- contain significant or representative ecosystems, landforms or natural phenomena or places of cultural significance
- are capable of providing opportunities for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment, the sustainable use of buildings and structures, or research
- are capable of providing opportunities for uses permitted under other provisions of the NPW Act.

Under the NPW Act ([section 30G](#)), state conservation areas are managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, protect natural phenomena and maintain natural landscapes
- conserve places, objects and features of cultural value
- provide for the undertaking of uses permitted under other provisions of the NPW Act (including uses permitted under section 47J such as mineral exploration and mining), having regard to the conservation of the natural and cultural values of the state conservation area
- provide for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment that is compatible with conservation of the area's natural and cultural values and with uses permitted in the area
- provide for sustainable use (including adaptive reuse) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas having regard to conservation of the area's natural and cultural values and with other uses permitted in the area

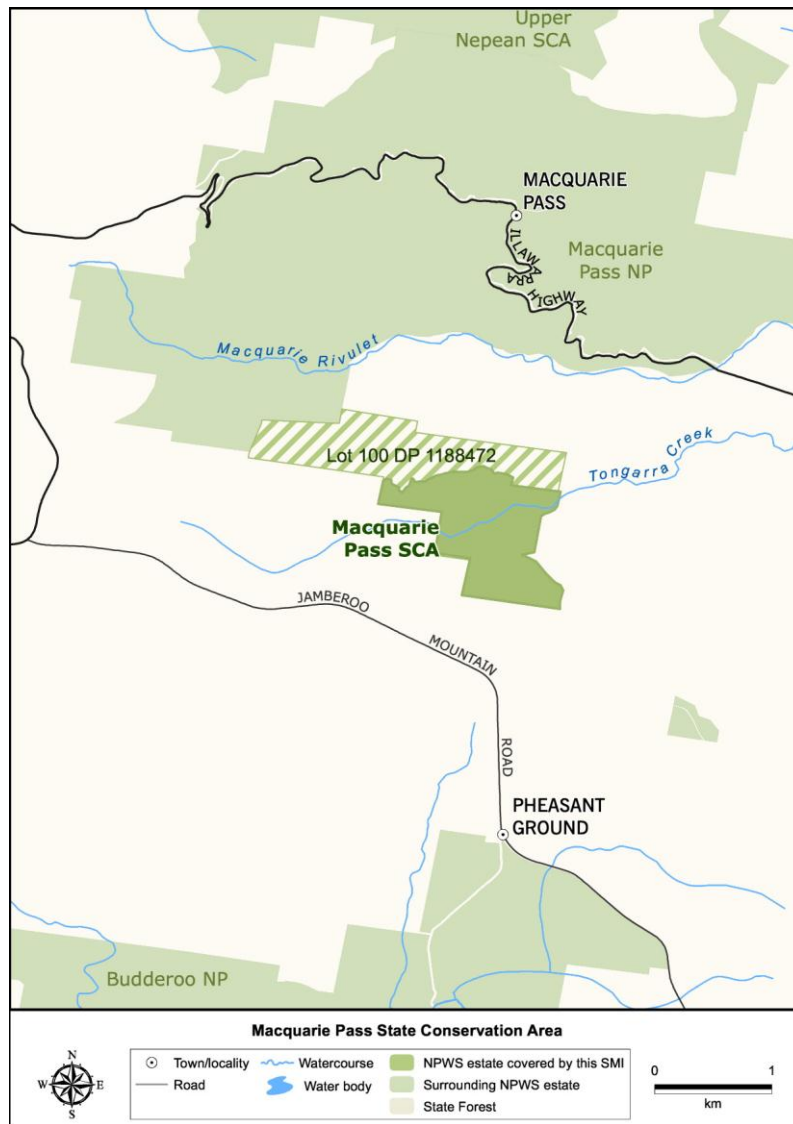
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

Land is reserved as a state conservation area primarily where mineral values preclude reservation as another category. The NPW Act requires a review of the classification of state conservation areas every five years in consultation with the Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992*.

3. Context

Reservation details: Macquarie Pass SCA was reserved on 14 May 2006.

Size: 80 hectares.



Macquarie Pass SCA is located approximately 10 kilometres west of Albion Park and 25 kilometres south-west of Wollongong. It falls within the Sydney Basin Bioregion. It also lies within the administrative areas of Shellharbour City and Wingecarribee Shire councils, South East Local Land Services and Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council.

The Illawarra Escarpment extends from Royal National Park south for approximately 50 kilometres to Budderoo National Park and Barren Grounds Nature Reserve. Macquarie Pass SCA forms part of the interrelated group of parks at the eastern end of the NSW southern highlands and the southern end of the Illawarra Escarpment. Macquarie Pass SCA was former Crown land, reserved

as a result of the Comprehensive Regional Assessment process undertaken for the Southern New South Wales Regional Forest Agreement.

The land surrounding Macquarie Pass SCA is a mixture of private property and Crown land and is used for recreation, private rural residential development and agriculture. Parts of the upper reaches of Tongarra Creek and Tongarra Falls are within Macquarie Pass SCA.

4. Values

- The reserve is part of the Illawarra Escarpment, which is listed as a 'Scenic Landscape of Statewide Significance' on the Register of the National Trust of Australia (NSW). Macquarie Pass SCA forms the southern boundary of this listing. The SCA protects a narrow area of the Illawarra Escarpment edge and forms part of an amphitheatre that includes Macquarie Pass National Park and the Minnamurra Falls area.
- Macquarie Pass SCA supports wet sclerophyll forests (grassy subformation), dry sclerophyll forest (shrubby) and rainforest vegetation communities and is part of an extensive system of parks on the Illawarra Escarpment that protects rainforest and moist forest.
- Macquarie Pass SCA protects the endangered ecological community Illawarra Subtropical Rainforest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion.
- Adjoining lands have recorded sooty owl (*Tyto tenebricosa*), spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*), stuttering frog (*Mixophyes balbus*) and gang-gang cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*) occurrences.
- Illawarra irene (*Irenepharsus trypherus*) is a locally endemic endangered plant species that has been recorded nearby in Budderoo and Macquarie Pass national parks. Macquarie Pass SCA provides potential habitat for this species.
- The Illawarra Escarpment is a place of significance to the local Aboriginal community. Although no sites have been recorded within Macquarie Pass SCA, as part of the Illawarra Escarpment the park holds important cultural significance. Land beneath the escarpment immediately adjacent to the north of the SCA has been successfully claimed by the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council.
- Components of the historic Tongarra Colliery, including moveable heritage associated with the top level of the mine (winches, pumps, skips) and the top shaft, lie within Macquarie Pass SCA.
- There is little or no public access to Macquarie Pass SCA, being bound by private property. Management access to the SCA is via Lees Road and old logging trails on private property on the escarpment. The boundaries are generally fenced. This means there are negligible impacts related to grazing or illegal use, with little public visitation.

5. Issues

- Lot 100 DP 1188472 (as shown on the park map) is now held as freehold land and is not under the care control and management of the Office of Environment and Heritage. The reservation has been identified for revocation.
- European foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral deer (*Cervidae* family) and feral cats (*Felis catus*) occur within Macquarie Pass SCA. The priority for control is feral deer because they have been identified as a key threatening process to Illawarra Subtropical Rainforest and to Illawarra irene.
- On the plateau (Illawarra Range) the weeds are primarily introduced grasses, occurring on low nutrient level soils. A number of weeds also occur where the soil is disturbed or where there is incomplete canopy in moist areas of the escarpment including Lantana (*Lantana*

camara), crofton weed (*Ageratina adenophora*), mistflower (*Ageratina riparia*), bridal creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*) and exotic vines (various species).

- Information about the native plants and animals is mostly drawn from adjoining parks; more localised plant and animal information and surveys are required for Macquarie Pass SCA.
- Key threatening processes to the Illawarra Subtropical Rainforest and to Illawarra irene include lantana, vines and grazing by deer.
- The Tongarra Colliery site lies across property boundaries. Management of the heritage values of the site will require a cooperative management approach between landholders and other stakeholders.
- NPWS access to Macquarie Pass SCA via private property is currently based on good will and informal local arrangements.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Macquarie Pass National Park and State Conservation Area, part Budderoo National Park [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest and weed management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): South Coast Region.
- Surveys for rare plants will be conducted with particular reference to Illawarra irene.
- NPWS will continue to liaise with Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council and the local Aboriginal community to assist decision-making, park management and planning.
- The heritage value and management requirements for those components of the Tongarra Colliery site that lie within the SCA will be assessed. NPWS will liaise with other stakeholders regarding heritage management of the Tongarra Colliery site.
- NPWS will continue to liaise with park neighbours to manage access and impacts on the SCA.
- 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 SCA. 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 SCA by promoting and raising public awareness of its special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this SCA or this statement, contact the NPWS Wollongong office on (02) 4223 3000 or Government Office Building, Ground Floor, 84 Crown Street, Wollongong NSW 2520.

Disclaimer: This is a statement of intent to guide the management of the SCA 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 SCA's location and basic features only, and are not suitable for use when navigating to or exploring within parks.

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