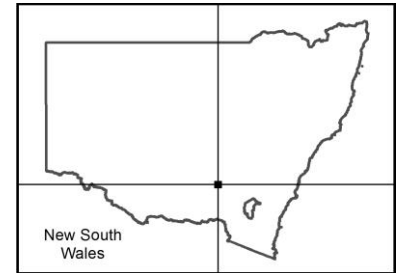


Statement of Management Intent



Combaning 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 Combaning 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:

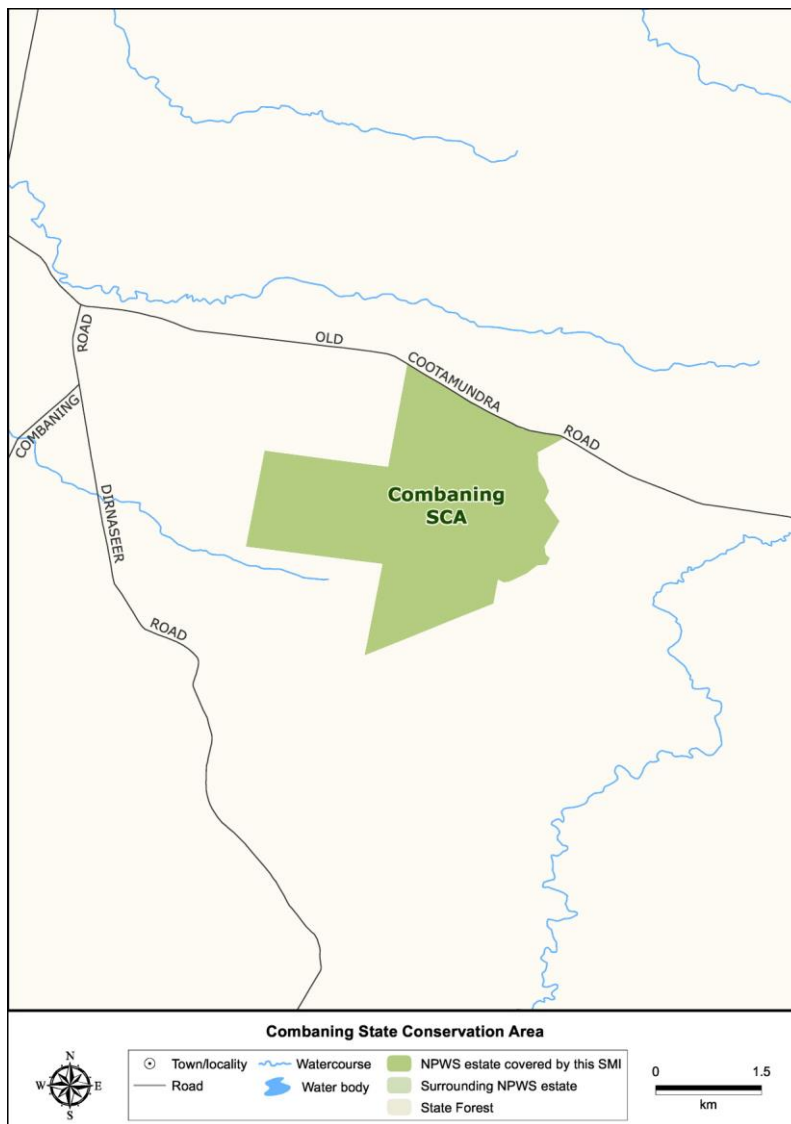
- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, protect natural phenomena and maintain natural landscapes
- conserve places, objects and features of cultural value
- provide for the undertaking of uses permitted under other provisions of the NPW Act (including uses permitted under section 47J 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: Combaning State Conservation Area was reserved on 1 January 2011.

Size: 741 hectares.



Combaning SCA is located 20 kilometres south-east of Temora. It lies within the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion. It also falls within the administrative areas of the Temora and Junee shire councils, Riverina Local Land Services and Young Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Combaning SCA is former state forest, originally dedicated in June 1925. It was established as a state conservation area under the *National Park Estate (South-Western Cypress Reservations) Act 2010* to protect remaining areas of cypress pine woodlands in the heavily cleared agricultural region of New South Wales. Private lands surrounding the SCA are used predominantly for cropping. Colebrook Wildlife Refuge is located in close proximity adjacent to the north-east boundary. The SCA contains a number of mineral deposits including Stows, Ironclad and Pirate King gold mines. The SCA is used for small-scale apiary operations under licence.

4. Values

- Combaning SCA provides habitat for a diverse range of birds including the swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) which is listed as endangered under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act) and the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Vulnerable species listed under the TSC Act include the brown treecreeper – eastern subspecies (*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*), grey-crowned babbler – eastern subspecies (*Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis*), scarlet robin (*Petroica boodang*), flame robin (*Petroica phoenicea*) and superb parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*). The latter is also listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act.
- The SCA supports dry sclerophyll forests characterised by mugga ironbark (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*), western (or inland) grey box (*E. microcarpa*) and cypress pine (*Callitris* spp.) vegetation communities.
- Combaning SCA provides a sample of vegetation and fauna habitat in a region that has been largely cleared for agriculture. It is one of a few reserved sites in New South Wales where Cootamundra wattle (*Acacia baileyana*) occurs naturally.
- The SCA has the potential to contain archaeological resources from previous mining operations in the area.
- While the precise history of Aboriginal use of the area is not known, the area in which the SCA is located may have been used for food gathering and hunting. No Aboriginal sites are currently recorded in the SCA.
- Various recreation activities are undertaken by visitors to the SCA including bushwalking, horse riding and four-wheel driving. No picnic or camping areas are provided.

5. Issues

- Horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*) occurs within Combaning SCA. Further surveys are required to determine the presence and extent of other weed species in the SCA.
- European red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) and rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) occur in low densities within Combaning SCA.
- Disturbance and erosion of trails by trail bike riding (which is not permitted in the SCA) and inappropriate four-wheel drive activity occurs in the SCA.
- Occasional illegal cutting of firewood for domestic use occurs.
- The SCA contains a number of excess vehicle trails which are not required for management purposes.
- A full assessment is required of existing boundary fencing that is generally in poor condition.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with Combaning SCA [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Neighbouring landowners will be consulted regarding issues of straying stock and boundary fencing. Subject to available resourcing, assistance may be provided to neighbours to install stock-proof park boundary fencing in accordance with the NPWS Boundary Fencing Policy.
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Western Rivers Region.
- Trails in the SCA will be assessed and prioritised for management purposes.
- Apiary sites within the SCA will be managed in accordance with the NPWS [Beekeeping Policy](#).

- Illegal activities will continue to be monitored and law enforcement action implemented.
- Engagement with the Young Local Aboriginal Land Council and Aboriginal community will be ongoing, providing management direction for the SCA.
- Erosion from trail bikes and four-wheel drive vehicles within the SCA will be monitored and appropriate measures undertaken to stabilise affected areas when required.
- 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 Griffith Office on 02 6966 8100 or 200 Yambil Street, Griffith NSW 2680.

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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