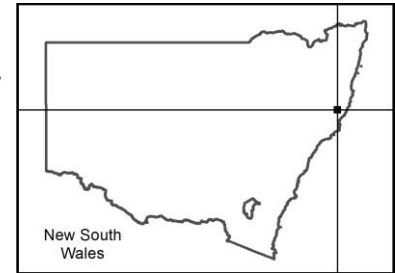


# Statement of Management Intent



## Comboyne 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 Comboyne 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:** Comboyne Nature Reserve was reserved on 23 December 2005.

**Size:** 23 hectares.

Comboyne Nature Reserve is located approximately 46 kilometres south-west of Port Macquarie. It falls within the NSW North Coast Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, North Coast Local Land Services and the Bunyah and Purfleet/Taree local Aboriginal land councils.

The reserve incorporates Mount Bulli (770 metres above sea level) which is a large rocky hill comprised of deep well-drained basalt soils, characteristic of the Comboyne Plateau area. Mount Bulli is one of a number of trachyte plugs on the Comboyne Plateau associated with the Comboyne

Shield Volcano. Diverse geology and soil types have contributed to a diversity of broad vegetation types including heath, tea-tree shrubland, wet sclerophyll forest, rainforest and box woodland dominated by white-topped box (*Eucalyptus quadrangulata*).



The region has a history of logging and agricultural development, in which the Comboyne Plateau was cleared between 1900 and 1925 for crop and pastoral farming and logging of red cedar (*Toona ciliata*). Prior to 1900 the Comboyne Plateau was covered with dense subtropical rainforest, with only a few remnants present today.

The reserve is located adjacent to the village of Comboyne and is buffered by some remnant vegetation on private land. It is surrounded by intensively farmed agricultural land of rolling green hills. The reserve protects rare examples of remnant vegetation and provides habitat connectivity to areas of more continuous vegetation at the plateau edges, such as Boorganna and Killabakh nature reserves to the west and Bridal Veil Falls Nature Reserve to the north.

#### 4. Values

- The reserve protects diverse habitats derived from variations of aspect, surface, geology, soil, drainage and vegetation type. The Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority Comboyne Wildlife Recovery Project (2012) recorded four threatened microbat species within the reserve: eastern bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis*), little

bentwing-bat (*M. australis*), eastern false pipistrelle (*Falsistrellus tasmaniensis*) and greater broad-nosed bat (*Scoteanax rueppellii*). Other threatened species recorded include the grey-headed flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*), squirrel glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*), powerful owl (*Ninox strenua*) and rose-crowned fruit-dove (*Ptilinopus regina*).

- The reserve also provides habitat for other threatened fauna species recorded nearby including the spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*), glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*), yellow-bellied glider (*Petaurus australis*), sooty owl (*Tyto tenebricosa*), wompoo fruit-dove (*Ptilinopus magnificus*) and Stephens' banded snake (*Hoplocephalus stephensii*).
- There are no visitor facilities available at Comboyne Nature Reserve, however Boorganna Nature Reserve is located five kilometres west and provides facilities for picnicking, plus walking tracks and lookouts.

## 5. Issues

- Pest animal species which may occur in the reserve include European foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral cats (*Felis catus*) and wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.). The black rat (*Rattus rattus*) has also been recorded.
- Weed species occurring in the reserve include lantana (*Lantana camara*), privet (*Ligustrum* sp.), camphor laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*), ginger lily (*Hedychium gardnerianum*), crofton weed (*Ageratina adenophora*), blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), moth vine (*Araujia sericifera*), senna (*Senna* spp.) and exotic grasses.
- There have been incidences of neighbours' livestock entering the reserve from surrounding private agricultural land.

## 6. Key management directions

- Manage fire in accordance with the Comboyne Nature Reserve [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the priorities of the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Lower North Coast Region.
- Continue to work cooperatively with the not-for-profit organisation Conservation Initiatives Comboyne to implement weed control as part of the wider Comboyne Plateau weed control program.
- Continue to improve knowledge of the reserve's native plants and animals and other values.
- Encourage construction and maintenance of boundary fences to exclude stock from the reserve, and consider the provision of assistance in accordance with NPWS policy if necessary to achieve effective stock-proof fencing.
- Maintain or replace stock-proof park boundary fencing in cooperation with neighbours and in accordance with the NPWS Boundary Fencing Policy.
- 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 reserve or this statement, contact the NPWS Manning Hastings Area, Port Macquarie Office on 02 6588 5555 or 22 Blackbutt Road, Port Macquarie 2444.

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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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