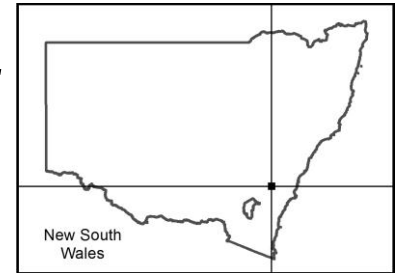


# Statement of Management Intent



## Cookbundoon 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 Cookbundoon 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

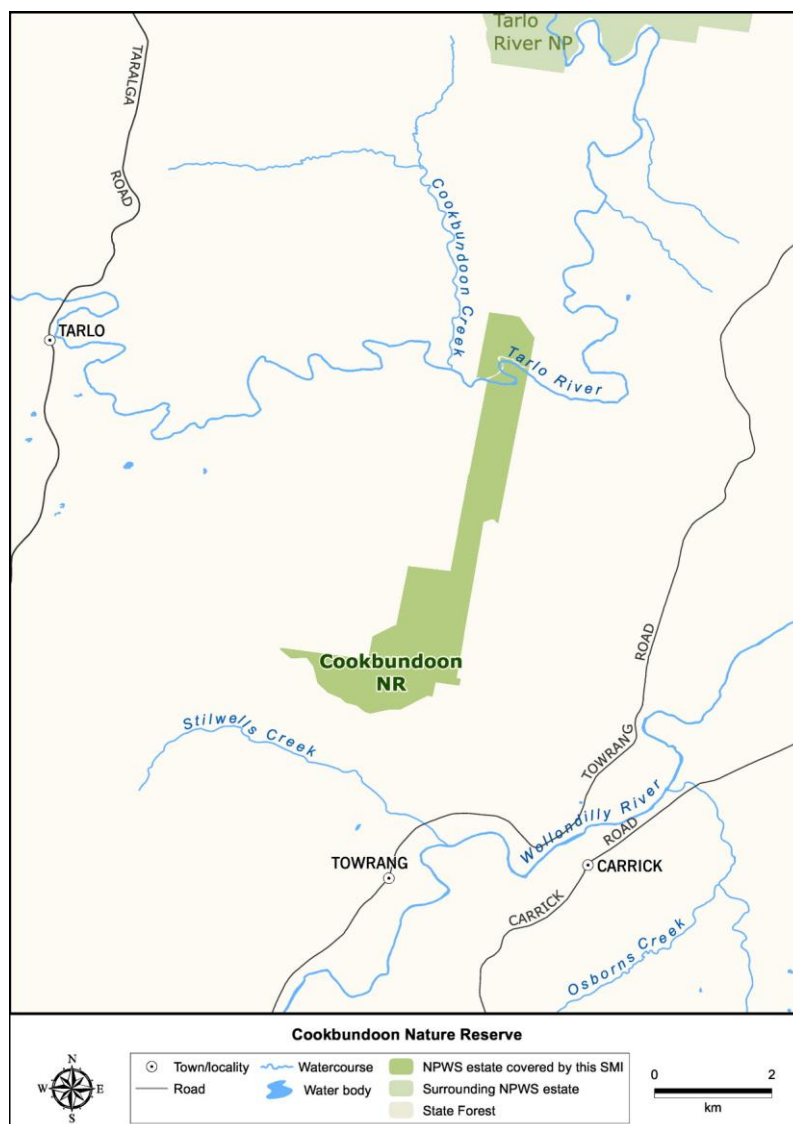
**Reservation details:** Cookbundoon Nature Reserve was reserved on 13 August 2010.

**Size:** 527 hectares.

Cookbundoon Nature Reserve is located approximately 15 kilometres north-east of Goulburn, and 3 kilometres north of Towrang. The reserve forms part of the Cookbundoon Range, 900 metres above sea level. It falls within the South Eastern Highlands Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Goulburn Mulwaree and Upper Lachlan Shire councils, South East Local Land Services and Pejar Local Aboriginal Land Council. The reserve also falls within the area of the Gundungurra Indigenous Land Use Agreement.

The reserve is surrounded by a mosaic of cleared, semi-cleared and some forested rural lands. The northern part of the reserve is bisected by the Tarlo River. The reserve was previously Crown land managed by NSW Trade and Investment (Crown Lands Division).

The vegetation of the reserve is typically dry tableland communities, with a eucalypt-dominant canopy layer and sparse grassy or shrubby understoreys. The majority of the reserve is dominated by silvertop ash (*Eucalyptus sieberi*) and broad-leaved peppermint (*E. dives*). Part of the eastern escarpment is characterised by silvertop ash, blue-leaved stringybark (*E. agglomerata*), black she-oak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*) and narrow-leaved geebung (*Persoonia linearis*). The western lower slopes have areas with brittle gum (*E. mannifera*) and broad-leaved peppermint. Grey gum (*E. punctata*) occurs along the western boundary in association with blue-leaved stringybark. A small area in the south-west is characterised by red stringybark (*E. macrorhyncha*), inland scribbly gum (*E. rossii*) and bundy (*E. goniocalyx*). Some areas associated with drainage lines have snow gum (*E. pauciflora*) and candlebark (*E. rubida*) grassy woodlands. The reserve also has areas dominated by thick allocasuarina regrowth.



#### 4. Values

- Macquarie’s Government Road built in the 1820s passes through the reserve. The original route, including Wilds Pass, has over time been incorporated into the current trail network.

- A partial native plant species list was prepared by Goulburn Field Naturalists Society in 2013 though no threatened species are known to occur. Based on existing vegetation mapping, the endangered ecological community commonly known as Tablelands Snow Gum Grassy Woodland (Tablelands Snow Gum, Black Sallee, Candlebark and Ribbon Gum Grassy Woodland in the South Eastern Highlands, Sydney Basin, South East Corner and NSW South Western Slopes Bioregions) is predicted to occur.
- Limited native animal surveys have been conducted to date, however the vulnerable glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathamii*) is known to occur. Threatened animal species recorded within five kilometres of the reserve and considered likely to occur in or use the reserve include flame robin (*Petroica phoenicea*), scarlet robin (*Petroica boodang*) varied sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*) and gang-gang cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*).
- The reserve lies within the traditional country of the Gundungurra Aboriginal people. There have been no comprehensive archaeological surveys and no cultural sites are recorded in the reserve. However, considering the landscape and known records in the surrounding area it is likely that sites exist.
- The reserve has escarpment views looking east over Towrang and the nearby tablelands. Visitor numbers are relatively low, the majority of which are local residents or conservation groups such as botanist groups and naturalist societies. Use of the reserve for low-key, nature-based and self-reliant recreation such as bushwalking and birdwatching is considered appropriate. The reserve offers these opportunities in a peaceful bushland setting. The Tarlo River runs through the north of the reserve, creating Tarlo Gap, a scenic gorge area.

## 5. Issues

- Weeds are not considered a significant issue for the reserve. Patterson's curse (*Echium plantagineum*), willows (*Salix* spp.) and a number of other weeds associated with the Tarlo River riparian zone are known to occur.
- European red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral deer (*Cervidae* family), feral goats (*Capra hircus*), wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.) feral cats (*Felis catus*) and feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) are known to occur, though in low numbers, and it is likely that European rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) also occur.
- Further survey and vegetation sampling within the reserve are required to more accurately map the reserve's vegetation and determine the presence of any threatened ecological communities.
- There is incomplete knowledge of the native animal species using the reserve and their ecological requirements.
- The reserve is relatively small and isolated with the surrounding areas cleared or semi-cleared, making it more vulnerable to disturbances and to pressures from adjacent land uses.
- The reserve has been subject to illegal firewood collection and rubbish dumping in the past. Unauthorised vehicle access is also an issue, particularly since many of the trails are very steep and prone to erosion. Trail erosion is evident in the reserve and is likely the result of the steep slopes, conglomerate soils and vehicle use in wet weather.
- Stock-proof boundary fencing is absent, or in poor condition, in some sections along the reserve boundary. Livestock straying onto the reserve has been identified as a potential issue, however at this stage it is not a significant problem.
- A small amount of horse riding is occurring on trails within the reserve. This is contrary to NPWS policy which only permits horse riding on public access roads where there are no likely impacts on reserve values.

- Inappropriate vehicle use in wet weather is degrading Wilds Pass.

## 6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Cookbundoon Nature Reserve [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): South Coast Region.
- Comprehensive animal and plant surveys will be undertaken and encouraged.
- In consultation with the Aboriginal community, opportunities to survey and record Aboriginal sites within the reserve will be investigated.
- Relevant parties will be consulted and involved as required under the Gundungurra Indigenous Land Use Agreement.
- An archaeological survey and historic assessment will be undertaken prior to any road works with the potential to impact the old Macquarie's Government Road or Wilds Pass.
- Trails which have no public access or management benefit will be closed and allowed to revegetate.
- Subject to available resourcing, assistance may be provided to neighbours to install stock-proof reserve boundary fencing in accordance with the NPWS Boundary Fencing Policy.
- Park identification, safety and regulatory signage will be installed at likely access points to the reserve.
- Horse riding is prohibited within the reserve.
- 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 reserve assets. In particular, it is proposed to gate the Norrong North Trail and Macquarie Escape Trail at the top of the pass either side of the Cookbundoon Fire Trail to reduce use and damage to the original Wilds Pass route.
- 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 Highlands Area Office on (02) 4887 8244 or Nowra Road, Fitzroy Falls or PO Box 707, Nowra NSW 2541.

---

**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.

Published by:

Office of Environment and Heritage  
59 Goulburn Street, Sydney NSW 2000  
PO Box A290, Sydney South NSW 1232  
Phone: (02) 9995 5000

ISBN 978 1 74359 455 1  
OEH 2014/0143  
June 2014