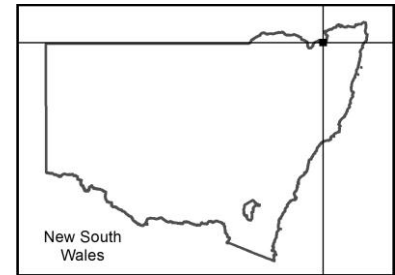


Statement of Management Intent



Donnybrook 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 Donnybrook 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

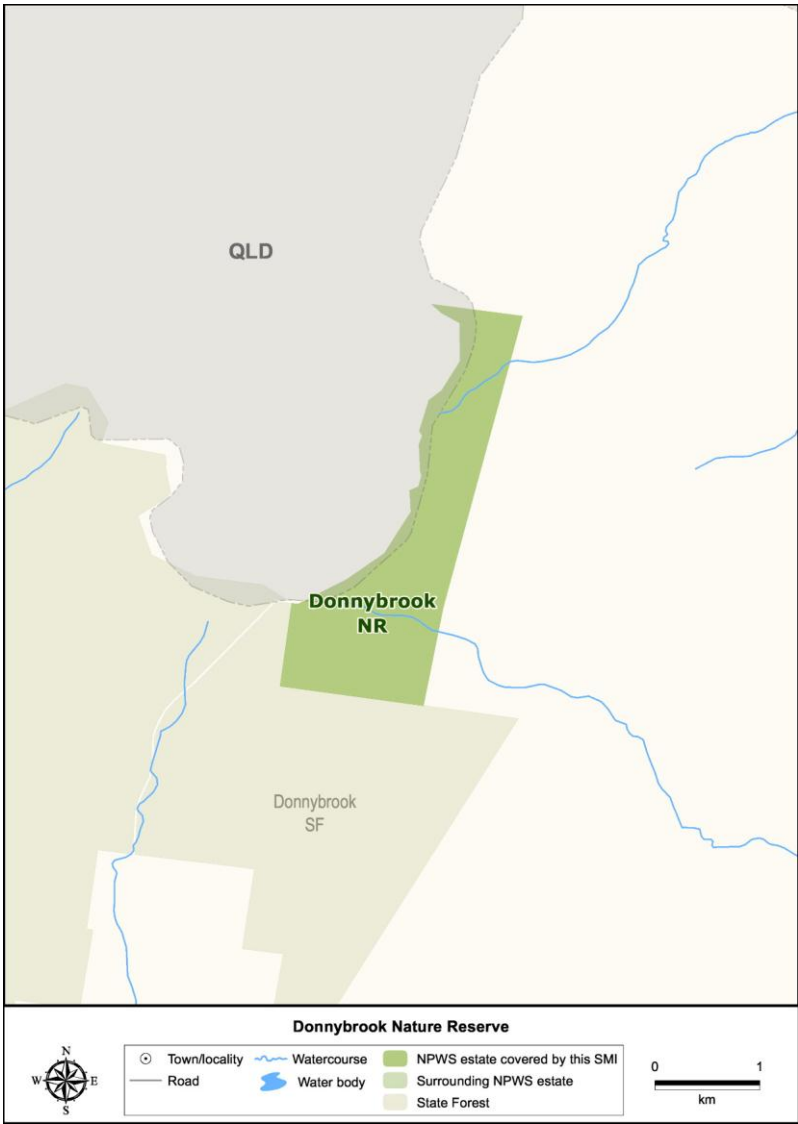
Reservation details: Donnybrook Nature Reserve was reserved on 1 January 2003.

Size: 276 hectares.

Donnybrook Nature Reserve is located approximately 20 kilometres north-west of Tenterfield in the Northern Tablelands region of New South Wales. It falls within the New England Tablelands Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Tenterfield Shire Council, Northern Tablelands Local Land Services and Moombahlene Local Aboriginal Land Council.

The reserve was formerly part of Donnybrook State Forest. The Queensland–NSW border forms most of the western boundary of the reserve and the remaining area of Donnybrook State Forest adjoins the south-western boundary. A 'border track' has been cleared in the past, enabling

construction of a 'border fence'. The track and fence are in a state of disrepair and are inaccessible. The remainder of the reserve is surrounded by private property, generally used for small-scale cattle and sheep grazing. There is no public access to the reserve and no internal management trails.



The reserve takes its name from Mount Donnybrook, located in the southern part of the reserve. Mount Donnybrook is one of the highest mountains in the area at 1328 metres above sea level. The location of Donnybrook Nature Reserve in the New England Tablelands Bioregion, only nine kilometres east of the Nandewar Bioregion, makes it an important reserve for Nandewar species that overlap and coexist with tablelands species. The reserve provides habitat for several threatened species and extends potential habitat for species in the region or migrating across habitat corridors.

Recent vegetation surveys identified four vegetation communities within the reserve; Narrow-leaved Peppermint–New England Blackbutt, New England Blackbutt–Broad-leaved Stringybark, Small-fruited Grey Gum–Broad-leaved Stringybark and New England Blackbutt–Round-leaved Gum Forests.

4. Values

- Donnybrook Nature Reserve contains relatively undisturbed high-elevation old growth open forest which is unusual, particularly for its occurrence on the western margin of the New England Tablelands.
- Donnybrook Nature Reserve provides important habitat for the endangered brush-tailed rock-wallaby (*Petrogale penicillata*). The brush-tailed rock-wallaby has experienced significant population declines and is now only distributed across small scattered populations within its former range.
- Other threatened fauna species recorded in close proximity to the reserve include the eastern bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis*), eastern false pipistrelle (*Falsistrellus tasmaniensis*), scarlet robin (*Petroica boodang*) and powerful owl (*Ninox strenua*).
- A detailed flora study did not identify any threatened or significant flora species within the reserve. However, the study suggests that further investigations, in seasons other than autumn, for specific taxa (such as orchids) should be carried out. Nationally and regionally significant flora species recorded in proximity to the reserve include the endangered Wallangarra white gum (*Eucalyptus scoparia*) and threatened narrow-leaved black peppermint (*E. nicholii*).

5. Issues

- Feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*), feral goats (*Capra hircus*), deer (various species), feral cats (*Felis catus*), wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.) and foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) occur within Donnybrook Nature Reserve.
- Coolatai grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*) and giant Parramatta grass (*Sporobolus fertilis*) are established weeds within the reserve.
- Comprehensive cultural heritage (Aboriginal or historic) research in the area has not been conducted. Information about the fauna of the reserve is limited.
- Access to the reserve for management purposes is through private property. There is no public access to the reserve.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed and implemented in accordance with the Donnybrook Nature Reserve [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Implement pest control in accordance with the priorities of [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Northern Tablelands Region.
- Continue to liaise with neighbouring landholders to review and formalise access arrangements to the reserve for management purposes.
- Encourage and support further research into the natural and cultural values of 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 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 Tenterfield Office on 02 6736 4298 or 10 Miles Street, Tenterfield NSW 2372.

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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