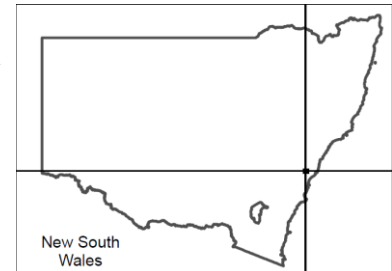


Statement of Management Intent



Edmondson Regional Park

1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Edmondson Regional Park. This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the park 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

Regional parks are reserved under the NPW Act to protect and conserve areas in a natural or modified landscape that are suitable for public recreation and enjoyment. Under the NPW Act ([section 30H](#)), regional parks are managed to:

- provide opportunities for recreation and enjoyment in natural or modified landscapes
- identify, interpret, manage and conserve the park so as to maintain and enhance significant landscape values
- conserve natural and cultural values
- promote public appreciation and understanding of the park's natural and cultural values
- provide for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment that is compatible with conservation of natural and cultural values
- provide for sustainable use (including adaptive re-use) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas having regard to conservation or natural and cultural values.

Regional parks are established for the purpose of providing recreational opportunities while protecting natural, cultural and landscape values.

3. Context

Reservation details: Edmondson Regional Park was reserved in March 2015

Size: 48 hectares

Edmondson Regional Park is located 40 kilometres south-west of the Sydney CBD, in the suburbs of Edmondson Park and Denham Court. It is located on the Cumberland Plain within the NSW Sydney Basin Bioregion, and within the administrative areas of Liverpool City Council, Greater Sydney Local Land Services and Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council.

The park is bounded by the suburb of Denham Court to the west and north, Zouch Road to the east and private land to the south. Cabramatta Creek flows south to north through the park.



The park is located within the 800-hectare Edmondson Park Precinct of Sydney's South West Growth Centre which will continue to be established over the next 10–15 years and will include approximately 7500 dwellings, a new town centre with associated services including transport corridors and community facilities, a heritage precinct, parks and sporting facilities and schools. A new Edmondson Park railway station was opened in early 2015.

Future additions of just over 100 hectares to the regional park are planned. The majority of this land is currently owned by UrbanGrowth NSW, with a small portion owned by NSW Roads and Maritime Services. The regional park and proposed additions are divided into four precincts: Cabramatta Creek precinct (the current reserved area), Ingleburn precinct (about 60 hectares), Maxwells Creek North precinct (about 40 hectares) and Maxwells Creek South precinct (about 6 hectares). Maxwells Creek South precinct is located within the administrative area of Campbelltown City Council. Unless

otherwise stated, reference to the 'park' will be a reference to Edmondson Regional Park and the proposed additions.

Edmondson Regional Park and sections of the Ingleburn development precinct were part of the former Ingleburn Army Camp. In 2009 the Australian Government and the NSW Government entered into a conservation agreement, under section 305 of the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The agreement details the future management of the land including the transfer of Commonwealth lands (Department of Defence) to the NSW Government and the creation of open space and regional park areas. The full agreement can be viewed on the [Department of Environment website](#).

The park protects an important remnant of Cumberland Plain Woodland and will provide a visual backdrop to the Edmondson Park urban area, while also providing a range of recreational opportunities for park visitors. The park will also provide opportunities for urban respite in a natural forested setting.

4. Values

- The key feature of the park is its remnant stands of Cumberland Plain Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion, a critically endangered ecological community listed under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act). The woodland is also listed under the EPBC Act as critically endangered Cumberland Plain Shale Woodlands and Shale-Gravel Transition Forest. The [Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan](#) has been prepared to provide for the long-term survival and protection of the threatened biodiversity of the Cumberland Plain.
- The park also contains the TSC Act-listed endangered ecological community River-flat Eucalypt Forest on Coastal Floodplains of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions, associated with Cabramatta and Maxwells creeks.
- There are currently no records of threatened plant species within the park, however 10 threatened plants have been recorded within 5 kilometres. Of these species downy wattle (*Acacia pubescens*), native pear (*Marsdenia viridiflora* subsp. *viridiflora*) and spiked rice-flower (*Pimelea spicata*) are considered likely to occur.
- Nine threatened animal species have been recorded in the park including the endangered Cumberland Plain land snail (*Meridolum corneovirens*). A further 17 species, recorded within 5 kilometres, may also occur, particularly those species that use woodland areas for foraging such as bird and bat species.
- The park is also considered to provide suitable habitat for nine native animal species listed under the EPBC Act including the grey-headed flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) and the swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*).
- A number of Aboriginal archaeological sites have been recorded in the park, providing evidence of past land-use by Aboriginal people. There is also a registered Native Title claim over the park which is yet to be determined.
- The non-Aboriginal heritage of the park is predominantly related to its former use as a military training facility.
- Recreational activities in the Cabramatta Creek precinct will be low key and focus primarily on walking and nature appreciation. Opportunities for more active recreational pursuits, such as cycling and picnicking, will be provided in some of the proposed future additions to the park.

5. Issues

- Heavy infestations of African olive (*Olea europaea* subsp. *cuspidata*) occur in the Cabramatta Creek precinct and elsewhere in the park. Weeds pose a significant threat to the park's endangered vegetation communities and the habitats they provide for threatened and other native animals. The control of African olive is a specific requirement of the Australian Government conservation agreement.
- Other weeds that occur include lantana (*Lantana camara*), bridal creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*), mother of millions (*Bryophyllum delagoense*), boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*), privet species and blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.)
- Animal pests that have been recorded in the park include rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*).
- Areas within the park have been previously cleared of trees and shrubs and are now dominated by disturbed grasslands with scattered trees. With assisted regeneration many of these disturbed grasslands have the potential to recover to Cumberland Plain vegetation communities. Under the conservation agreement 9 hectares of Cumberland Plain Woodland must be rehabilitated and restored within these disturbed areas of the park.
- Remnant Aboriginal landscapes are a diminishing and threatened cultural resource across the Cumberland Plain in Western Sydney. Inclusive and effective consultation with local Aboriginal communities is necessary.
- Soils within the park are particularly prone to erosion. Exposed areas, such as management trails, gullies etc. can contribute to increased sediment runoff into watercourses and subsequent silting and water quality impacts. Increased urban runoff will also contribute to nutrient and sediment loads within the park and encourage the proliferation of weeds.
- The park's large urban interface provides extensive opportunities for inappropriate access and unauthorised activities such as trail bike riding, rubbish dumping, four-wheel driving and vandalism.
- As the surrounding population grows, demand for recreation and outdoor activities will increase.
- Consideration of the land-use history of the park, including as part of the Ingleburn Army Camp, will be required in its ongoing use and management.

6. Key management directions

- Manage fire in accordance with the Edmondson Regional Park [fire management strategy](#) (in preparation).
- Implement weed control and vegetation management programs in accordance with the conservation agreement and the *Edmondson Regional Park – Cumberland Plain Vegetation Rehabilitation & Native Landscape Management Plan*. Implement other pest management programs in accordance with the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy: Metropolitan South West Region](#).
- Ensure operations and intrusive works in identified zones are conducted in accordance with the *Site Environmental Management Plan*.
- Continue to work with consent and determining authorities and neighbouring land managers, including UrbanGrowth NSW, to mitigate any potential for development activities to affect park values.
- Continue to consult and involve the Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council and other relevant Aboriginal community organisations and custodial families in the management of

their Country, including the management of Aboriginal sites, places and cultural and natural values.

- Continue to work with key stakeholders, including UrbanGrowth NSW, in the planning and delivery of park infrastructure and facilities as proposed park additions are transferred to NPWS.
- Close and stabilise trails not designated for management or recreation purposes.
- Issue approvals for non-commercial group activities and commercial visitor use in accordance with relevant legislation and regulations.
- Continue to license and authorise non-park uses as appropriate.
- Undertake proactive management, liaise with adjoining neighbours and conduct site visits to deter unauthorised access and activities within the park. Install gates, bollards and fencing where needed to prevent unauthorised vehicle access.
- Before conducting management activities, prepare an environmental assessment or heritage assessment where this is a requirement of NPWS policy or legislation.
- Implement environmental repair and threat management programs, such as erosion mitigation measures, pest management and activities arising from threatened species requirements, in accordance with NPWS policies and procedures.
- Undertake non-intrusive works where this is 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 park. 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 park by promoting and raising public awareness of its special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this park or this statement, contact the Nattai Area Office on (02) 4632 4500 or at The Australian Botanic Garden, Narellan Road, Mount Annan. (Please note the Nattai Area Office is located at The Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan.)

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

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