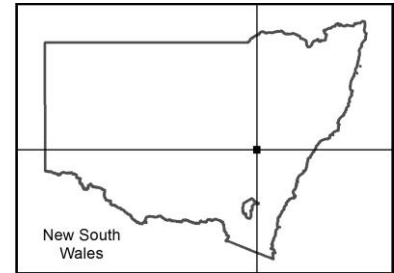


Statement of Management Intent



Freemantle 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 Freemantle 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: Freemantle Nature Reserve was reserved on 14 December 1973.

Size: 361 hectares.

Freemantle Nature Reserve is situated approximately 38 kilometres north-east of Orange. It falls within the South Eastern Highlands Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Cabonne Council, Central Tablelands Local Land Services and Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Freemantle Nature Reserve was formerly a state forest but due to its low timber value was not significantly logged. The lands surrounding this nature reserve have been extensively cleared for agriculture, making the remnant woodland vegetation in the reserve an important refuge for native animals. Freemantle Nature Reserve is surrounded by private land with no public access to the reserve. The nature reserve has no visitor facilities and visitation is not encouraged.



4. Values

- The threatened koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) and scarlet robin (*Petroica boodang*) have been recorded in Freemantle Nature Reserve.
- Freemantle Nature Reserve protects Scribbly Gum – Red Gum Woodland, characterised by inland scribbly gum (*Eucalyptus rossii*), red stringybark (*E. macrorhyncha*) and tumbledown red gum (*E. dealbata*), and dry sclerophyll Yellow Box – Apple Box Forest characterised by yellow box (*E. melliodora*) and apple box (*E. bridgesiana*). These communities provide secondary and supplementary food tree species for koalas, as do the occasional stands of ribbon gum (*E. viminalis*) found in gullies within the reserve.

5. Issues

- Pest fauna species recorded within Freemantle Nature Reserve include foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), feral deer (various species) and occasional sightings of pigs (*Sus scrofa*).
- Weed species of most concern in the reserve are serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*) and St John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*). There are also isolated infestations of blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.).

- The reserve is surrounded by private land, and access to the reserve for management purposes is undertaken through agreement with landholders.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Freemantle Nature Reserve [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Western Rivers Region.
- Management access arrangements to the reserve will be formalised where possible through the establishment of legal agreements with relevant landholders.
- 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 and 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 Bathurst Office on (02) 6332 7640 or Level 2, 203–209 Russell Street, Bathurst NSW 2795.

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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