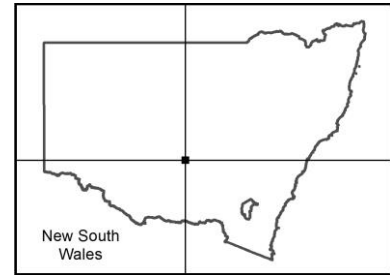


Statement of Management Intent



Gubbata 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 Gubbata 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

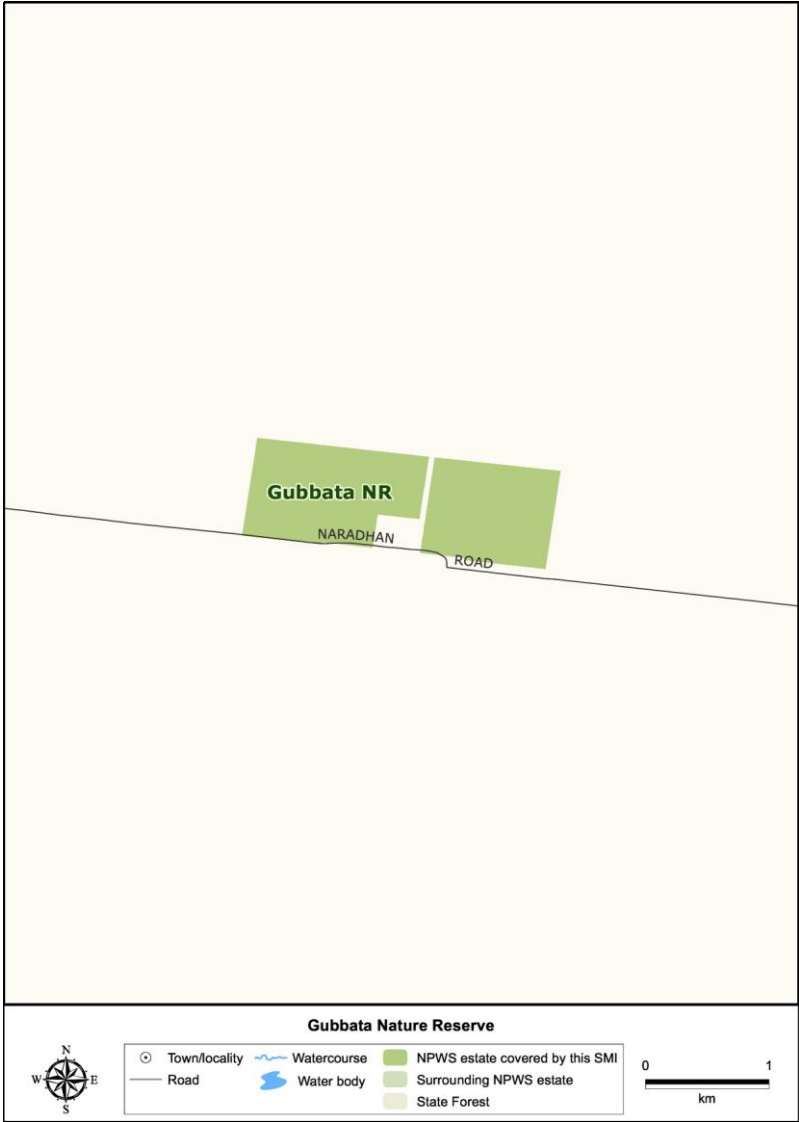
Reservation details: Gubbata Nature Reserve was reserved on 28 May 1971.

Size: 161 hectares.

Gubbata Nature Reserve is located 40 kilometres south of Lake Cargelligo. It lies within the Cobar Penepine Bioregion. It also falls within the administrative areas of Bland Shire Council, Riverina Local Land Services and Murrin Bridge Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Gubbata Nature Reserve was former vacant Crown land subsequently established as a reserve under the *Fauna Protection Act 1948*. The reserve is one of a few small remnants of mallee shrubland in a region of NSW where mallee vegetation has been extensively cleared. The land

surrounding the reserve has been cleared predominately for wheat farming and other agricultural activities. A railway siding is located just outside the southern boundary of the reserve where an old school was once situated.



4. Values

- Gubbata Nature Reserve provides habitat for remnant mallee vegetation within an agricultural landscape. Mallee species include narrow-leaved mallee (*Eucalyptus leptophylla*), red mallee (*E. socialis*) and white mallee (*E. dumosa*). The reserve also contains small patches of woodland dominated by mugga ironbark (*E. sideroxylon*) and western grey box (*E. microcarpa*).
- The reserve provides habitat for declining woodland birds and the mallee worm-lizard (*Aprasia inaurita*) listed as endangered under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act). Vulnerable bird species listed under the TSC Act and recorded within the reserve include the varied sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*), hooded robin – south eastern form (*Melanodryas cucullata cucullata*) and diamond firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*).
- Research groups visit Gubbata Nature Reserve for the purpose of studying its flora and fauna.

- While the precise history of Aboriginal use of the area is not known, the area in which the reserve is located may have been used for food gathering and hunting. No Aboriginal sites are recorded in the reserve.

5. Issues

- Consistent with the surrounding landscape, pest species including foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and feral cats (*Felis catus*) are known to occur in Gubbata Nature Reserve.
- An infestation of a prickly pear species (*Opuntia* spp.) occurs on the road reserve near the south-east boundary. Ongoing assessment is required to determine the potential threat of this species invading the reserve.
- Gubbata Nature Reserve is bordered by public roads on two sides and is dissected by public roads and a powerline easement. This makes it vulnerable to the introduction of weeds, damage from road maintenance practices and inappropriate visitor impacts. There have been incidences of illegal mallee cutting, illegal vehicle access and illegal hunting within Gubbata Nature Reserve.
- Several species listed as vulnerable under the TSC Act are likely to have become extinct in the reserve because it is too small to sustain a viable population. These include the shy heathwren (*Hylacola cautus*), chestnut quail-thrush (*Cinclosoma castanotum*) and southern scrub-robin (*Drymodes brunneopygia*). The reserve would have also provided habitat for malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), listed as endangered under the TSC Act and vulnerable under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Further species may also be vulnerable to extinction due to low resident population sizes and limited opportunities for dispersal and immigration.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Gubbata Nature Reserve [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Western Rivers Region.
- Illegal activities within the reserve will continue to be monitored and, if required, law enforcement action will be implemented.
- Appropriate research and environmental education activities will continue to be permitted within the reserve.
- Neighbouring landowners will be consulted regarding issues of straying stock and boundary fencing. Subject to available resourcing, assistance may be provided to neighbours to install stock-proof park boundary fencing in accordance with the NPWS Boundary Fencing Policy.
- Spread of the prickly pear species on the road reserve near the south-east boundary will be monitored to determine the potential threat of invasion.
- The Murrin Bridge Local Aboriginal Land Council and Aboriginal community will be consulted to inform the appropriate management of Country.
- 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 Griffith Office 02 6966 8100 or 200 Yambil Street, Griffith NSW 2680.

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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