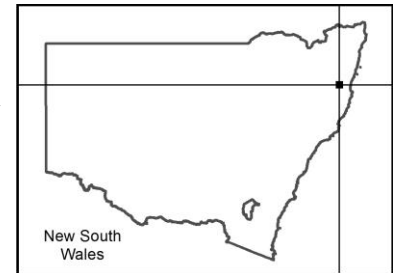


Statement of Management Intent



Gumbaynggirr National Park and Gumbaynggirr State Conservation Area

1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Gumbaynggirr National Park and Gumbaynggirr State Conservation Area (SCA). This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the parks 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

National parks are reserved under the NPW Act to protect and conserve areas containing outstanding or representative ecosystems, natural or cultural features or landscapes or phenomena that provide opportunities for public appreciation, inspiration and sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment. Under the NPW Act ([section 30E](#)), national parks are managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, and protect geological and geomorphological features and natural phenomena and maintain natural landscapes
- conserve places, objects, features and landscapes of cultural value
- protect the ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for present and future generations
- 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 reuse) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas having regard to conservation of natural and cultural values
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

The primary purpose of national parks is to conserve nature and cultural heritage. Opportunities are provided for appropriate visitor use in a manner that does not damage conservation values.

State conservation areas are reserved under the NPW Act to protect and conserve areas that:

- contain significant or representative ecosystems, landforms or natural phenomena or places of cultural significance
- are capable of providing opportunities for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment, the sustainable use of buildings and structures, or research
- are capable of providing opportunities for uses permitted under other provisions of the NPW Act.

Under the NPW Act ([section 30G](#)), state conservation areas are managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, protect natural phenomena and maintain natural landscapes
- conserve places, objects and features of cultural value
- provide for the undertaking of uses permitted under other provisions of the NPW Act (including uses permitted under section 47J such as mineral exploration and mining), having regard to the conservation of the natural and cultural values of the state conservation area
- provide for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment that is compatible with conservation of the area's natural and cultural values and with uses permitted in the area
- provide for sustainable use (including adaptive reuse) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas having regard to conservation of the area's natural and cultural values and with other uses permitted in the area
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

Land is reserved as a state conservation area primarily where mineral values preclude reservation as another category. The NPW Act requires a review of the classification of state conservation areas every five years in consultation with the Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992*.

3. Context

Reservation details: Gumbaynggirr SCA was reserved on 1 July 2003 and Gumbaynggirr National Park was reserved on 10 December 2007.

Size: Gumbaynggirr SCA is 2561 hectares and Gumbaynggirr National Park is 4938 hectares.

Gumbaynggirr SCA and Gumbaynggirr National Park are located approximately 35 kilometres west of Nambucca Heads. They fall within the NSW North Coast Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Nambucca Shire Council, North Coast Local Land Services and Bowraville Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Gumbaynggirr SCA was formerly part of Buckra Bendinni, Mistake and Oakes state forests. Gumbaynggirr National Park was formerly part of the 1999 additions to New England National Park, reserved over lands that had formerly been part of Buckra Bendinni, Mistake, Nulla-Five Day and Oakes state forests.

These parks form a link between the declared New England wilderness and World Heritage Area to the west, and Dungirri National Park to the east. They contain large areas of high-conservation value rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest and protect a variety of threatened species.



4. Values

- Gumbaynggirr National Park and Gumbaynggirr SCA protect habitat for the following threatened species: stuttering frog (*Mixophyes balbus*), sphagnum frog (*Phyllorhina sphagnicolus*), wompoo fruit-dove (*Ptilinopus magnificus*), koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) and yellow-bellied glider (*Petaurus australis*).
- A very important population of the southern subspecies of the rufous scrub-bird (*Atrichornis rufescens ferrieri*) occurs in Gumbaynggirr National Park, close to its northern limit. Small numbers of birds in the Horseshoe Road area were monitored in 1997–2004 and 2010–2013 and numbers appear to be stable.
- These parks protect important habitat for the endangered ecological community Lowland Rainforest in the NSW North Coast and Sydney Basin Bioregions, of which less than 1000 hectares remains in NSW. Threatened plant species recorded within the parks include rusty plum (*Niemeyera whitei*) and milky silkpod (*Parsonsia dorrigoensis*).
- These parks provide a number of recreational opportunities for visitors including popular recreational four-wheel driving and motorbike riding routes (including commercially operated tours), and off-track walking.

- The historic Buckrabendinni antimony mines are located within Gumbaynggirr SCA and feature old mine shafts and railway cut out lines. These mines are considered locally significant, representing past mining in the region.
- These parks lie within an area of high cultural significance to the Gumbaynggirr Bowraville Aboriginal community. The name of the parks was determined in response to the community's request to recognise the traditional owners.

5. Issues

- Pest animals recorded in the parks include European foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.) and feral cats (*Felis catus*).
- Lantana (*Lantana camara*), mistflower (*Ageratina riparia*), mixed herbaceous weeds and exotic grasses, including broadleaf paspalum (*Paspalum mandiocanum*) have been recorded in both parks and exotic vines also occur within Gumbaynggirr SCA.
- There are two known dams within Gumbaynggirr National Park which provide important (higher elevation) water points during firefighting activities and will need to be maintained.
- Inappropriate visitor use occurs occasionally in these parks, including unregistered trail bike riding, growing of marijuana and unauthorised camping.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Dungirr National Park, Gumbaynggirr State Conservation Area and New England National Park (part) [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Maintain dams as firefighting water points (e.g. remove silt and manage vegetation growth on dam walls).
- Weeds and pest animals are managed in accordance with the priorities of the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): North Coast Region.
- Control broadleaf paspalum with the priority being to protect the lowland rainforest endangered ecological community, moist eucalypt forest and threatened flora species within Gumbaynggirr SCA.
- Continue to periodically survey and monitor the threatened rufous scrub-bird population within Gumbaynggirr National Park as resources permit.
- Monitor invasive predators such as feral cats as resources permit.
- A cooperative wild dog control program is implemented across the Coffs Coast region. The primary focus of the program is to protect neighbours' livestock. Works that complement these activities will be undertaken within the parks as required.
- Continue to liaise with the local Aboriginal land council and meet with Elders to discuss management options for these parks.
- Conduct a risk assessment of the antimony mines and undertake any necessary works to ensure public safety.
- 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 parks. 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 parks by promoting and raising public awareness of their special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of these parks or this statement, contact the NPWS Coffs Harbour Office on 02 6652 0900 or 32 Marina Drive, Coffs Harbour NSW.

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

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