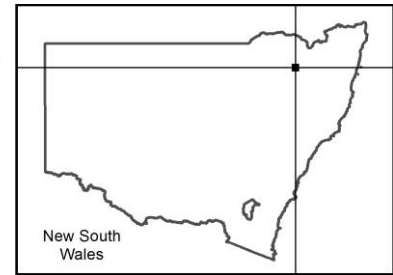


Statement of Management Intent



Gwydir River National Park and Gwydir River State Conservation Area Community Conservation Areas Zone 1 and Zone 3

1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Gwydir River National Park Community Conservation Area Zone 1 (Gwydir River National Park) and Gwydir River State Conservation Area Community Conservation Area Zone 3 (Gwydir River 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

Zone 1 community conservation areas are reserved as national parks 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 [\(section 30E\)](#), Zone 1 community conservation areas are managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, 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 Zone 1 community conservation areas is to conserve nature and cultural heritage. In doing so, opportunities are provided for appropriate and sustainable recreation.

Zone 3 community conservation areas are reserved as state conservation areas 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 Act ([section 30G](#)), Zone 3 community 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 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: Gwydir River National Park and Gwydir River SCA were reserved on 1 December 2005.

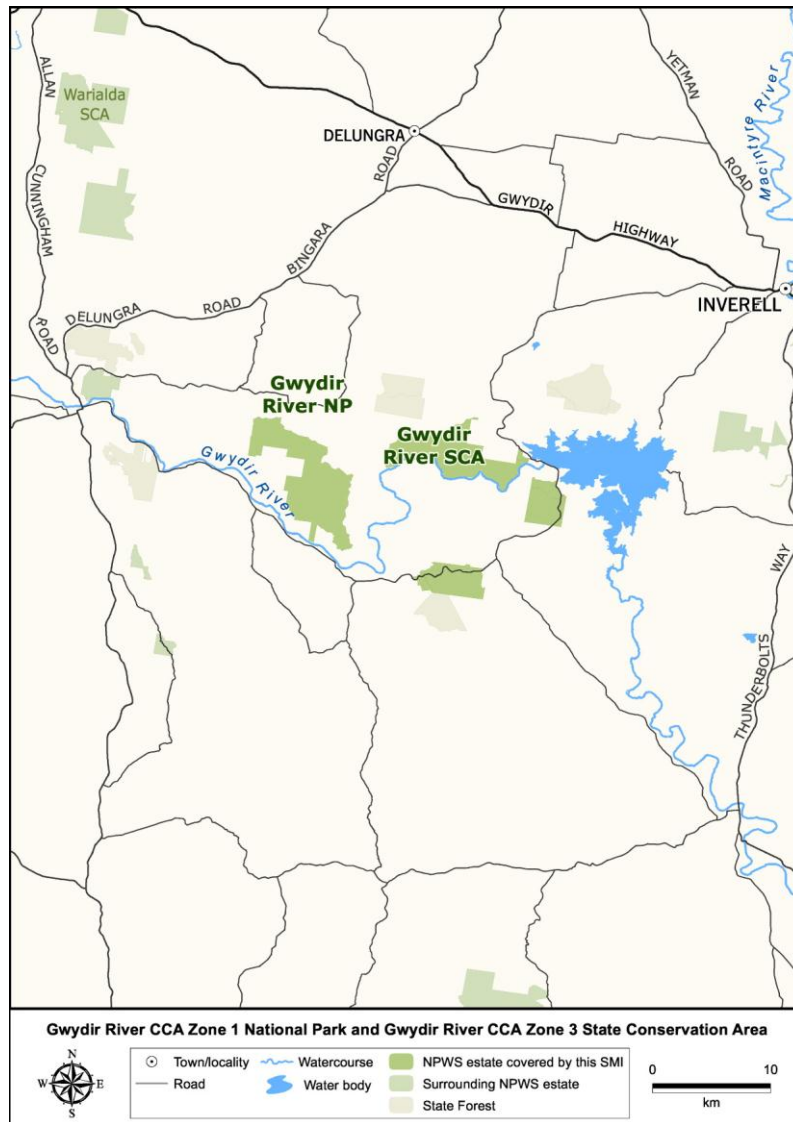
Size: Gwydir River National Park is 4665 hectares and Gwydir River SCA is 3520 hectares.

Gwydir River National Park and SCA are located approximately 30 kilometres south-west of Inverell. The parks fall within the Nandewar and New England Tablelands bioregions and the administrative areas of Gwydir Shire Council, North West Local Land Services and Anaiwan Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Gwydir River SCA was formerly Murchison and Sepoy state forests and other Crown land. It comprises two disjunct areas just over one kilometre apart. For management purposes, the SCA is divided into three sections (from west to east), Salmon and Murchison sections (larger northern block) and Sepoy Section (south-east block).

Gwydir River National Park was formerly part of Mehi and Munro state forests. It comprises two disjunct areas just over five kilometres apart. For management purposes, the park is divided into two sections, Mehi Section (the largest, westernmost block) and Munro South Section (the southernmost block).

The parks were reserved as a result of the NSW Western Regional Assessment process under the *Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Area Act 2005*. The parks feature predominantly grassy woodlands and lower slope vegetation on deep loamy soils. They form a large network of forested habitat in the Copeton Dam area, which include surrounding Daffey's Creek, Munro and Copeton state forests. The SCA includes 14 kilometres of Gwydir River frontage.



4. Values

- The parks protect habitat for the threatened turquoise parrot (*Neophema pulchella*), little lorikeet (*Glossopsitta pusilla*), brown treecreeper (eastern subspecies) (*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*), speckled warbler (*Chthonicola sagittata*) and squirrel glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*).
- Howell Shrublands in the New England Tablelands and Nandewar bioregions occurs on granite outcrops in the Munro and Murchison sections. White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland Endangered Ecological Community occurs in riparian areas (Mehi, Sepoy and Munro sections). Semi-evergreen Vine Thicket in the Brigalow Belt South and Nandewar bioregions occurs on scree slopes in the Mehi Section of Gwydir River National Park.

- Threatened flora species recorded within the parks include the endangered native milkwort (*Polygala linariifolia*) and threatened Ooline (*Cadellia pentastylis*).
- There is no access to the Mehi Section of Gwydir National Park, however other sections in the parks provide a range of recreational opportunities such as bushwalking and nature appreciation.
- Both parks provide opportunities for remote walk-in camping. Opportunities for horse riding and cycling are provided on park roads and management trails in the Sepoy and Salmon sections of the SCA. The Salmon Section also allows access to the river and opportunities for fishing.

5. Issues

- There are deer (various species), feral goats (*Capra hircus*), feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*), feral cats (*Felis catus*), European red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) and rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) in the parks.
- There are various weeds in the parks, including prickly pear (*Opuntia* spp.), blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*), Coolatai grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*), tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), willows (*Salix* spp.), *Xanthium* spp. and blue heliotrope (*Heliotropium amplexicaule*).
- Cattle incursions from neighbouring agricultural properties are an occasional problem in these parks.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Gwydir River Community Conservation Area Zone 1 National Park and Community Conservation Area Zone 3 State Conservation Area [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Northern Tablelands Region. Current control priorities are goats, pigs, deer and Coolatai grass. Pest control focuses on protecting endangered ecological communities and threatened species, and preventing the spread of prickly pear to neighbouring properties.
- Trails and park roads and other park assets are maintained.
- 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 on-going 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 on-going 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 Glen Innes Office on (02) 6739 0700 or 68 Church Street, Glen Innes NSW 2370.

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.

Published by:

Office of Environment and Heritage
59 Goulburn Street, Sydney NSW 2000
PO Box A290, Sydney South NSW 1232
Phone: (02) 9995 5000
ISBN 978 1 74359 483 4
OEH 2014/0171
June 2014