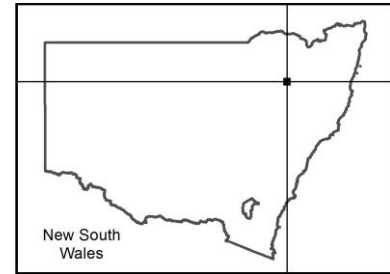


Statement of Management Intent



Hobden Hill National Park Community Conservation Area Zone 1

1. Introduction

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

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.

3. Context

Reservation details: Hobden Hill National Park was reserved on 1 January 2011.

Size: 830 hectares.

Hobden Hill National Park is located approximately 18 kilometres south-west of Barraba. It falls within the Nandewar Bioregion. It also lies within the administrative areas of Tamworth Regional Council, North West Local Land Services and Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council.



Hobden Hill National Park was established under the *National Park Estate (South-Western Cypress Reservations) Act 2010* to protect remaining areas of cypress pine woodlands in the heavily cleared wheat–sheep belt region of New South Wales. Crown land adjoins the southern boundary and the remainder of the park is surrounded by private property. The park provides habitat for an endangered ecological community and several threatened species. It also extends potential habitat for other species migrating across habitat corridors within the Nandewar region.

4. Values

- Hobden Hill National Park protects an area of White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland endangered ecological community listed under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. This community is likely to conform to the definition of the critically endangered ecological community White Box–Yellow Box–Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland listed under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Populations of this endangered ecological community have been significantly reduced and remnants are often degraded and highly fragmented. This woodland community provides important habitat for a diverse range of threatened species, particularly in relation to breeding opportunities in tree hollows.
- The park lies within the Bingara–Manilla climate change wildlife corridor and Nandewar regional corridor. Threatened species that have been recorded within the park include the squirrel glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*), little lorikeet (*Glossopsitta pusilla*) and speckled warbler (*Chthonicola sagittata*).

5. Issues

- Feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*), feral goats (*Capra hircus*), foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral cats (*Felis catus*) and rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) occur within the park.
- Hobden Hill National Park has documented occurrences of invasive weeds including prickly pear (*Opuntia* spp.), Coolatai grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*), box thorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*), St John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) and *Xanthium* species.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Hobden Hill National Park [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Northern Tablelands Region. Current priorities for the park include controlling the weed species box thorn, Coolatai grass, prickly pear and St John's wort; feral pigs and feral goats; with the main priority being to protect the White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland endangered ecological community.
- 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 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 NPWS Armidale Office on 02 6738 9100 or 145 Miller Street, Armidale.

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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