

KINGS PLAINS NATIONAL PARK
PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Part of the Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW)

July 2004

This plan of management was adopted by the Minister for the Environment on 7 July 2004.

Acknowledgments

This plan of management is based on a draft plan prepared by Warren Herbert, with assistance from National Parks and Wildlife Service Glen Innes West Area staff and the Northern Directorate Planning Group.

Cover photograph by Warren Herbert, NPWS.

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FOREWORD

Kings Plains National Park is located on the Northern Tablelands, approximately 50 kilometres north-west of Glen Innes. It covers an area of approximately 6,918 hectares.

The majority of Kings Plains National Park consists of undulating hills with numerous steep ridges and gorges that fall away to the west. Kings Plains Creek is a visually spectacular feature of the park with its associated deep rocky gorge, waterfalls and rapids.

Eight native vegetation communities occur in Kings Plains National Park, including McKie's stringybark-blackbutt open forest which is listed as endangered ecological community under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. The park also contains a large proportion of old growth forest with numerous tree-hollows providing important habitat for native animals.

A small picnic and camping area are located around Kings Plains Creek in the south-eastern section of the park. There is also an unmarked walking route along the banks of the creek, which allows visitors to access the falls and appreciate the park environment.

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* requires that a plan of management be prepared for each national park. A plan of management is a legal document that outlines how the area will be managed in the years ahead.

A draft plan of management for Kings Plains National Park was placed on public exhibition from 13 September 2002 until 2 December 2002. The exhibition of the plan of management attracted 5 submissions that raised 10 issues. All submissions received were carefully considered before adopting this plan of management.

The primary emphasis of this plan is to manage Kings Plains National Park as an ecologically viable remnant of the North West Slopes. The degraded mining areas in the park will be rehabilitated and the historic significance of mining relics assessed. Low key visitor facilities for nature based recreation activities will continue to be provided.

This plan of management establishes the scheme of operations for Kings Plains National Park. In accordance with section 75 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, this plan of management is hereby adopted.

BOB DEBUS

Minister for the Environment

1. NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

1.1 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

The management of national parks and nature reserves in New South Wales (NSW) is in the context of a legislative and policy framework, primarily the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act), the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act) and the policies of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). Section 72AA of the NPW Act lists the matters to be considered in preparation of a plan of management. The policies are compiled from the legislative background, the NPW Regulations and internationally accepted principles of park and reserve management. They relate to nature conservation, Aboriginal and historic heritage conservation, recreation, commercial use, research and communication.

Other legislation, international agreements and charters may also apply to management of the area. In particular, the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EPA Act) requires the assessment and mitigation of environmental impacts of any works proposed in this plan.

A plan of management is a statutory document under the NPW Act. Once the Minister has adopted a plan, no operations may be undertaken within the planning area except in accordance with the plan. The plan will also apply to any future additions to the planning area. Where management strategies or works are proposed for the planning area or any additions that are not consistent with the plan, an amendment to the plan will be required.

1.2 MANAGEMENT PURPOSES AND 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 and inspiration and sustainable visitor use.

Under the Act, national parks 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 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, and
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

1.3 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR KINGS PLAINS NATIONAL PARK

In addition to the above, the specific management objectives for Kings Plains National Park are:

- To manage the park as an ecologically viable remnant of the North West Slopes.
- To develop a cooperative working relationship with park neighbours to:
 - encourage conservation of adjoining natural areas, thus enhancing the ecological viability of the park,
 - encourage a coordinated fire management strategy for the park and adjoining properties, and
 - control the feral animal population in the area by establishing cooperative trapping, fencing and poisoning programs.
- To provide low key visitor facilities for nature based recreation activities.
- To rehabilitate degraded mining areas in the park and encourage the rehabilitation of similar areas in the former mining lease areas adjoining the park.
- To eliminate weed species where possible and prevent the spread of weeds elsewhere in the park.
- To develop a cooperative working relationship with the Aboriginal community to protect and preserve Aboriginal sites and significant areas.
- To assess historic significance of mining relics and develop an appropriate cultural site management strategy.

2. KINGS PLAINS NATIONAL PARK

2.1 LOCATION, GAZETTAL AND REGIONAL SETTING

Kings Plains National Park (referred to as “the park” in this plan) is located on the Northern Tablelands, approximately 50 kilometres north-west of Glen Innes. An area of 3,143 hectares was formally reserved as the park in January 1988 with subsequent additions to the park bringing the total area to approximately 6,918 hectares. The latest (2002) addition to the park was a 67 hectare strip of former Crown land along the Kings Plains Creek, between the southern boundary and the visitor facility area, where sapphire mining previously occurred. This land is substantially disturbed and will require considerable rehabilitation and revegetation, however, its acquisition provides the opportunity to protect the creek from sediment contamination.

Part of the north-western boundary of the park follows Kings Plains Creek for approximately 1.5 kilometres and some of the southern boundary follows Weean Creek. Adjacent lands along the northern and western boundaries contain relatively intact remnants of native vegetation. Extensive agricultural development and land clearing in the region has resulted in adjoining land having little riparian vegetation, or such vegetation being in a highly modified state.

The park is part of a system of reserves in the Northern Tablelands Region, including Severn River Nature Reserve, Torrington State Recreation Area, Kwiambal National Park and Arakoola Nature Reserve.

Kings Plains National Park is entirely located within the Inverell Shire local government area. The park is within traditional Ngarrabul Aboriginal country and the Anaiwan Local Aboriginal Land Council area.

This plan applies both to the land currently reserved and to any future additions. Where management strategies or works are proposed for additions that are not consistent with the plan, an amendment to the plan will be required.

2.2 LANDSCAPE CONTEXT

Natural and cultural heritage and on-going use are strongly inter-related and together form the landscape of an area. Much of the Australian environment has been influenced by past Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal land use practices, and the activities of modern day Australians continue to influence bushland through recreational use, cultural practices, the presence of introduced plants and animals and in some cases air and water pollution.

Both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people place cultural values on natural areas, including aesthetic, social, spiritual, recreational and other values. Cultural values may be attached to the landscape as a whole or to individual components, for example to plant and animal species used by Aboriginal people. This plan of management aims to conserve both natural and cultural values. For reasons of clarity and document usefulness natural and cultural heritage, non-human threats and on-going use are dealt with individually, but their inter-relationships are recognised.

2.3 NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Geology, topography and soils

Kings Plains National Park is located on the New England Fold Belt in an area that experienced substantial volcanic activity during the Permian (270 million years ago) and later during the Tertiary (<70 million years ago) periods. Underlying the Permian volcanics are Permian conglomerates and much earlier Palaeozoic sediments of an estimated age of 500 million years. Outcrops of volcanic rocks, alluvial deposits and exposures of laterite are visible in the park.

The majority of the park consists of undulating hills with numerous steep ridges and gorges that fall away to the west. Elevation within the park ranges from 690 metres above sea level along the western margin at Weean and Kings Plains Creeks, to 1009 metres in the north east of the park. The majority of the park varies between 700 and 900 metres above sea level.

Kings Plains Creek is a visually spectacular feature of the park with its associated deep rocky gorge, waterfalls and rapids. As the largest stream in the park, most of its headwaters occur outside the park. Most of the other streams, including Weean, Five Mile, Three Waterholes, Branch and Pig Creeks, have all or most of their headwaters within the park (refer to reserve map).

Catchment protection provided by the park assists in maintaining water quality to streams beyond the park. Old sapphire mine sites, such as the ones adjoining Kings Plains Creek, have the potential to add significantly to the silt loads in streams, especially during high rainfall events.

Native plants and animals

The eight native vegetation communities occurring in Kings Plains National Park are:

- Ironbark–cypress woodlands;
- Red Gum–yellow box grassy woodlands;
- McKie’s stringybark–blackbutt open forest;
- Red stringybark–ironbark woodlands;
- Orange gum–ironbark shrubby woodlands;
- Apple–river oak riparian open woodlands;
- Grassy white box woodlands; and
- Severn shrublands.

Some communities in the park are highly significant with the McKie’s stringybark–blackbutt open forest community listed as endangered ecological communities under the TSC Act. The park also contains a large proportion of old growth forest with numerous tree-hollows providing important habitat for native animals.

A total of 441 species of vascular plants have been recorded in the park. Seventeen Rare or Threatened Australian Plant (ROTAP) species have been identified, including six listed under the TSC Act (Table 1). In addition, one newly discovered species, *Allocasuarina*

gracilis, is currently being considered for listing under the TSC Act. Many plant species recorded in the park are significant at a regional level.

The park is also important for providing habitat for threatened animals. Species recorded in the park that are listed as vulnerable under the TSC Act include the koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), squirrel glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*), glossy-black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*) and turquoise parrot (*Neophema pulchella*). Regent honeyeaters (*Xanthomyza phrygia*) may also occur in the park.

NPWS is required by the TSC Act to prepare and implement recovery plans for all listed threatened species. These are progressively being prepared and will be used to guide management of threatened species in the area.

Table 1 Threatened species known to occur in the park

Scientific name	Common name	Status
<i>Acacia williamsiana</i>	—	2RCa
<i>Allocasuarina brachystachya</i>	—	2RCa
<i>Allocasuarina gracilis</i> *	—	2ECt
<i>Astrotricha roddii</i>	—	3Vca / TSC 1
<i>Boronia granitica</i> #	granite boronia	3VC / TSC 1
<i>Bothriochloa biloba</i>	—	3V / TSC 2
<i>Callistemon pungens</i>	—	3RCa
<i>Derwentia arenaria</i>	—	3RCa
<i>Dodonaea hirsuta</i>	—	3RC
<i>Eucalyptus mckieana</i> +	McKie's stringybark	2V / TSC 2
<i>Hibbertia</i> sp.B	—	2KC
<i>Homoranthus biflorus</i>	—	2VC / TSC 2
<i>Leionema rotundifolium</i>	—	3RCa
<i>Olearia gravis</i>	—	3KC
<i>Persoonia terminalis</i> subsp. <i>recurva</i>	—	3R
<i>Thesium australe</i> +	—	3Vci / TSC 2
<i>Zieria odorifera</i>	—	3RCi

* new species

also listed as endangered under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

+ also listed as vulnerable under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

ROTAP codes (Briggs & Leigh 1995)

2 Geographic range in Australia less than 100 km

3 Geographic range in Australia greater than 100 km

E Endangered, at risk of disappearing in wild within 10-20 years

V Vulnerable, not presently endangered but at risk over longer period (20-50 years)

R Rare, species considered rare in Australia but does not currently have any identifiable threat

K Poorly known, species suspected but not definitely known to belong to one of the above categories

C Reserved, at least one population known to occur within a conservation reserve

K Species considered poorly known in Australia, but suspected of being rare, vulnerable or endangered

a 1000 plants or more are known to occur within a conservation reserve

i less than 1000 plants are known to occur within a conservation reserve

TSC 1 TSC Act Schedule 1—Endangered

TSC 2 TSC Act Schedule 2—Vulnerable

Cultural heritage

The Park falls within the area of the Ngarrbul people and the Anaiwan Local Aboriginal Land Council.

No formal cultural heritage study has been undertaken in the park, however, there is a report of an Aboriginal bora ring in the north-western section of the park. The authenticity of the site needs to be confirmed and would be significant to the local Aboriginal people.

Following European settlement of the Northern Tablelands in the 1830s, sheep and cattle grazing occurred in the area. Former Crown lease in-holdings along Kings Plains Creek and adjoining sections of the park have been intensively mined for sapphires (see map). Sapphire mining continued up until the park was reserved, and a range of mining relics remains.

Recreation

Existing recreational facilities are located around Kings Plains Creek in the south-eastern section of the park. Kings Plains Creek picnic and camping area contains a small car park, tables, barbecues and a toilet. The camping area has a capacity of approximately six walk-in campsites while the picnic area has a capacity of two sites. There is also an unmarked walking route along the banks of the creek, which allows visitors to access the falls and appreciate the park environment.

Further south along the creek is an area that could provide sites suitable for campervans and caravans. The existing Kings Plains Creek camping area does not provide for this use.

It is envisaged that visitor numbers will remain relatively low throughout the planning period. It is considered important to retain the low key setting that the park currently provides, as it is an alternative to the busier visitor facilities in the region.

There are currently no commercial operators using the park.

2.4 THREATS TO PARK VALUES

Fire

NPWS recognises that fire is a natural phenomenon, however, the frequency of fire, its intensity, and the season in which it occurs are some of the major factors influencing the distribution of vegetation communities and animal species. Inappropriate fire management practices have the potential to cause localised extinction of some plants and animals. Management of fire is an important and complex issue. It must aim to achieve both long-term conservation of natural communities and ongoing protection of life and property within and adjacent to the park.

The park has not been subject to frequent wildfires. The last fire, which burnt throughout most of the park, occurred in December 1980. Vegetation assessments suggest that an

infrequent fire regime may be necessary to maintain the current floristic diversity. Prescribed fire may be used to achieve a variety of fire regimes in appropriate vegetation types, maintain habitat suitable for species with specific requirements and protect significant natural and cultural features.

Boundary fire trails exist along most of the eastern boundary and in the south-western corner of the park. In other areas, cleared grazing land adjacent to the park provides access to the park boundaries for fire protection purposes.

Wildfires are suppressed as quickly as possible except where the fire is in accordance with the ecological fire needs of an area and does not threaten life and property.

NPWS is committed to preparing fire management strategies for the park. Fire management planning and operations will include the protection of the park's threatened species. The NPWS actively participates in district Bush Fire Management Committees. Close contact, coordination and co-operation is maintained with Rural Fire Service brigades, Council fire control officers and neighbours with regard to fuel management and fire suppression.

Introduced plants and animals

Introduced plants are generally the result of disturbance to natural ecosystems from past land uses and have the potential to adversely affect the viability and diversity of native vegetation communities.

The park is generally free of significant weed infestations. Initial assessment shows the presence of isolated occurrences of blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*) and privet (*Ligustrum spp.*). There is also a small pine (*Pinus spp.*) plantation of approximately 50 trees close to the eastern boundary of the park.

Feral pigs are the most prevalent of the vertebrate pests recorded in the area. Pigs cause extensive damage to the native vegetation by rooting up the soil, destroying habitat and competing with native wildlife. The NPWS, neighbours and the Northern Tablelands Rural Lands Protection Board are cooperatively undertaking a pig eradication program.

Feral goats and wild dogs are also present in small numbers, while the European red fox and rabbit have been recorded around the park perimeter. Predation by the red fox is listed as a key threatening process under the TSC Act.

Further research into the population and distribution of vertebrate pest species is required.

The park has a history of sheep grazing, and to a lesser extent, cattle grazing under Crown Land Permissive Occupancy Permits. Some boundary fences require maintenance to prevent stock straying into the park from adjoining properties. NPWS policy on boundary fencing covers fencing adjacent to private property, leasehold and Crown lands.

Former mine sites

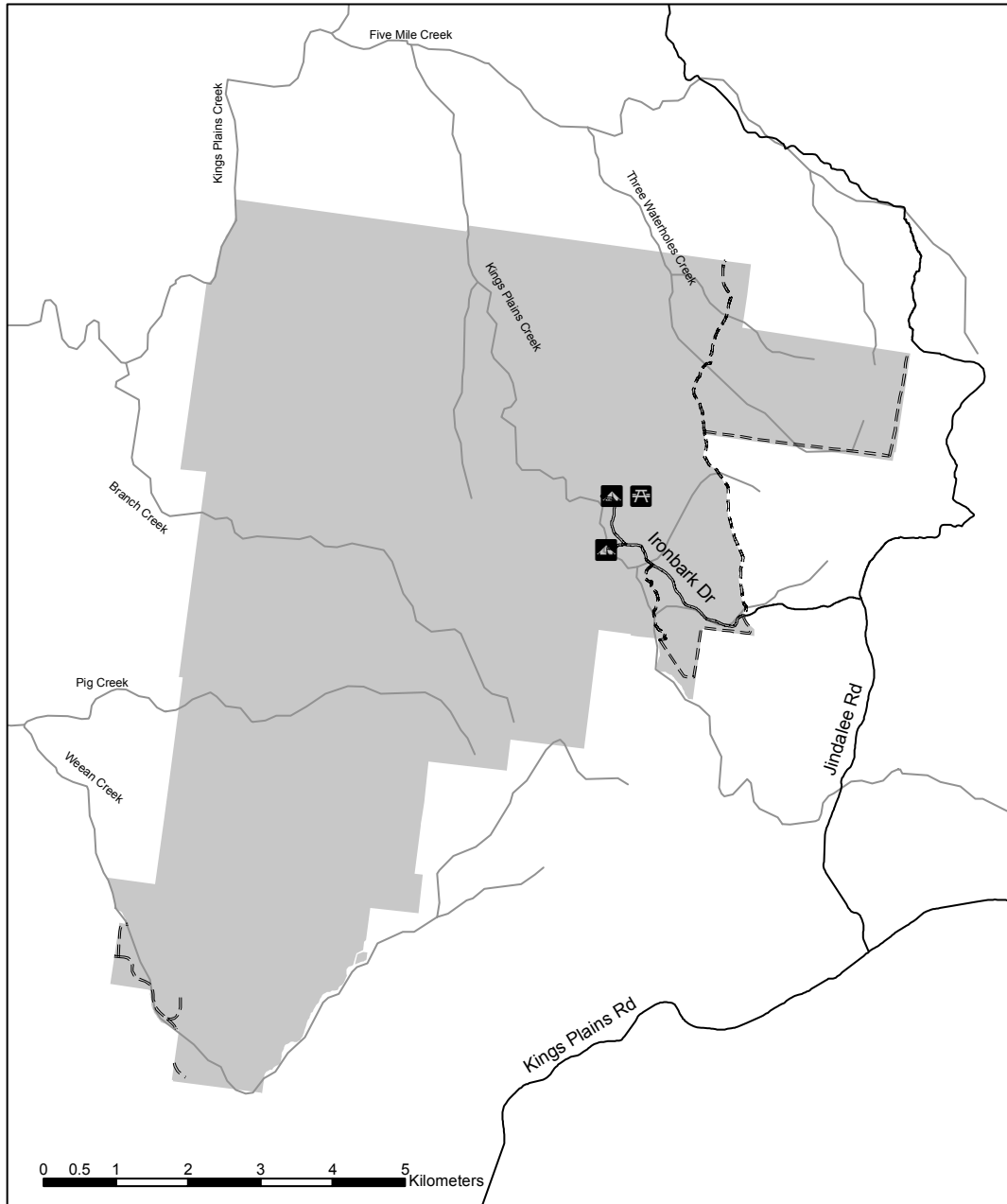
Sapphire mining of Kings Plains Creek has disturbed some areas along the bed and banks of the creek. Several dams, mullock heaps and clearings remain within the park. The former mining areas have received little or no rehabilitation and are a source of erosion and sediment into Kings Plains Creek, presenting significant water quality issues for the park.

Flooding and access








Flooding of Kings Plains Creek causes inundation of the existing picnic and camping area on Kings Plains Creek (see map), which may cause problems for campers.

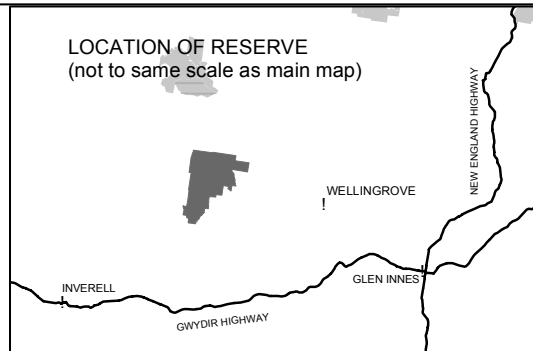
Floods can also bring debris down the creek, which may be a hazard to swimmers. The turbidity of the water, especially after periods of high rainfall, makes it difficult for swimmers to see the hazards under the water.

Kings Plains National Park and locality map



Legend

-  Camping Area
-  Day Use Area
-  Public Road
-  Park Road
-  Management Trail
-  Creeks
-  NPWS Estate



3. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Management Considerations	Desired Outcomes	Management Strategies	Priority
<p>Native plants and animals</p> <p>Little research has been undertaken into the plants and animals of the park.</p> <p>Wildfire and inappropriate fire frequencies may have had an adverse effect on some plant communities in the park.</p> <p>The ecological viability of the park can be enhanced if the native vegetation remaining on adjoining properties is managed to provide corridors for the retention of native plants and movement of animals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no loss of, or reduction in, native plant and animal species or populations found in the park. • Threatened species are protected. • Improved knowledge of the park's native plants and animals and their ecological requirements. • Ecological viability of the park is enhanced through cooperation with adjoining landholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage research into the ecological requirements of the park's native plants and animals, in particular survey work to ascertain the presence and abundance of threatened species such as the glossy-black cockatoo, regent honeyeater and koala. • Monitor regrowth of vegetation following fires and hazard reduction burns to determine appropriate burning regimes. • Liaise with neighbours, Landcare, vegetation management committees and other land use authorities to encourage neighbours to protect native vegetation on their land where properties have high natural values or add to the ecological integrity to the park. • Provide information on the importance of remnant vegetation on neighbouring properties to enhance community understanding, awareness and appreciation of park values and management programs. 	<p>High</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Medium</p>
<p>Cultural heritage</p> <p>No formal cultural heritage studies of the park have been undertaken. The cultural significance of a reported Aboriginal site in the park needs to be determined.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural heritage places in the park are documented and managed in accordance with their heritage value. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake or encourage research into the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the park, including assessment of the reported Aboriginal site, in cooperation with the Ngarrbul people and the Anaiwan Local Aboriginal Land Council. Provide copies of any research findings on Aboriginal cultural heritage to the Land Council. 	<p>Medium</p>

Management Considerations	Desired Outcomes	Management Strategies	Priority
Former mining sites and relics need to be assessed for their historic significance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal cultural heritage is adequately protected with involvement from the local indigenous community. • Consultation occurs with relevant Aboriginal people over the management of any Aboriginal artefacts and places. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage relevant Aboriginal people to be involved in matters relating to the identification and management of Aboriginal sites, places and values. • Undertake an archaeological survey prior to any new works with the potential to impact on Aboriginal sites and values. • Assess the conservation significance of mining relics and other historic sites to determine management requirements. • Erect signs to interpret the mining history at the main mine processing site. 	<p>High</p> <p>High</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Low</p>

Management Considerations	Desired Outcomes	Management Strategies	Priority
<p>Introduced plants and animals</p> <p>Feral pig programs are carried out annually in cooperation with neighbours and have resulted in few recent sightings.</p> <p>Feral goat and wild dog numbers have been kept low through on-going control programs.</p> <p>Blackberry and privet are the most prevalent weed species. The pine plantation is also a problem and results in wildings.</p> <p>Some of the boundary fencing is old and in need of replacement in order to prevent stock entering the park.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feral pig population is removed from the park. Other pest species are controlled and where possible eradicated. • Blackberry and privet are controlled and where possible eradicated from the park. • Pines are removed from the park. • Stock are excluded from the park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and implement a pest species strategy that includes identification, control and monitoring. • Undertake an eradication program for pines, blackberry and privet in the park. • Seek the cooperation of neighbours in implementing weed and pest animal control programs. Undertake control in cooperation with neighbours, the Rural Lands Protection Board, Inverell Shire Council, and other stakeholders. Feral pig control will continue as required. • Ensure that pest control programs have minimal impact on the native vegetation and fauna. • Negotiate fencing agreements with neighbour's to ensure boundary fencing excludes stock from the park. Any such agreement will be in accordance with the NPWS fencing policy. 	<p>High</p> <p>High</p> <p>High</p> <p>High</p> <p>Medium</p>
<p>Fire Management</p> <p>Fire is a natural feature of the environment of the park and is essential to the survival of some plant communities. Frequent or regular fire, however, can cause loss of particular plant and animal species and communities. Fire could also damage fences or cultural features, as well as threaten neighbouring land.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons and property are protected from fire. • Information regarding appropriate fire regimes and vegetation response to fire is obtained. • Fire regimes are appropriate for conservation of native plant and animal species and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and implement fire management strategies for the park, which identifies appropriate fire regimes and infrastructure. Exclude fire from the park pending the outcome of the proposed fire management strategies and exclude fire from any fire sensitive communities identified in the strategies. Particular attention will be paid to excluding fire from the regenerating communities on the former grazed area. • Continue to actively participate in the Inverell Bush 	<p>High</p> <p>High</p>

<p>Kings Plains National Park has not been subject to frequent wild fire. Burning prescriptions and other management strategies must take into account the effects of proposed actions on native plant and animal species.</p> <p>A recent review of fire management by NPWS has resulted in a modified approach to fire planning based on the level of complexity involved. In regard to Kings Plains National Park, the NPWS considers that the reserve requires that separate fire management strategies be prepared for the park covering the complex issues. The NPWS actively participates in district Bush Fire Management Committees and submits hazard reduction programs to the Committees annually. Close contact, coordination and cooperation is maintained with the Rural Fire Service brigades, fire control officers and neighbours with regard to fuel management and fire suppression.</p>	<p>communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural heritage features are protected from fire. 	<p>Fire Management Committee. Maintain close contact and cooperation with neighbours, Council fire officers and bush fire brigades concerning fire management on and adjacent to the reserve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suppress all wild fires on the park as quickly as possible. • Encourage research into appropriate burning regimes for the park. Use prescribed fire to achieve a variety of fire regimes in appropriate vegetation types and maintain habitat suitable for species with specific requirements. • Exclude fire from any fire sensitive communities identified in the fire management strategies. • Maintain a system of fire trails and firebreaks to adequately protect the park. These trails will not be available for public vehicular access but will be available for cyclists and walkers. • No additional fire management trails will be constructed within the park unless approved through the fire management strategies and complying with an appropriate environmental assessment. Wherever possible, perimeter fire management trails will be constructed on adjoining private lands. • Any trails constructed during emergencies will be rehabilitated following the emergency. 	<p>High</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>High</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>High</p> <p>High</p>
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Management Considerations	Desired Outcomes	Management Strategies	Priority
<p>Site rehabilitation</p> <p>Disturbed and eroded areas from former sapphire mining occur along Kings Plains Creek. Several dams and large, bare mullock heaps remain from past mining activities. Most site disturbance occurs on the Crown Land.</p> <p>Mine sites may be contaminating the water in the Kings Plains Creek.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former mine sites in the park are rehabilitated with locally indigenous species. • Soil erosion in the park is reduced so that Kings Plains Creek is not contaminated with sediment charged runoff. • Water quality in Kings Plains Creek is improved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a plan to minimise the impact of the former mining sites on the natural values of the park and seek external funding assistance, such as through the derelict mines program, for this work and for rehabilitation of the area. • Undertake a revegetation trial on parts of the former mining lease areas to determine the most effective rehabilitation techniques. • Minimise soil erosion by slashing management tracks in preference to grading. • Undertake all earth works in a manner that minimises soil erosion and water contamination. • Undertake a water quality monitoring program for Kings Plain Creek. • Pending the outcomes of the monitoring program, erect signs at the camping and day use area advising that the water in the creek is unfit for drinking. 	<p>Medium</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>High</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>High</p>

Management Considerations	Desired Outcomes	Management Strategies	Priority
<p>Recreation</p> <p>The park currently experiences a low level of recreational use. Kings Plains Creek and Falls are the park's main visitor attractions.</p> <p>Day use and walk-in camping are currently provided for in the park. A new vehicle based camping area is proposed for caravans and campervans.</p> <p>There is an unmarked walking route to the Kings Plains Falls. The route is identified in the interpretation material for the park but there is no marking on the ground.</p> <p>Former mine workings require assessment to determine whether there are any visitor safety issues.</p> <p>There is currently negligible horse riding in the park.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park preserves a low key recreational setting. • Current low key visitor facilities are maintained. • A low key vehicle-based camping area is provided for campervans and caravans. • Environmental impact from visitation is negligible. • Visitor facilities are safe, accessible and contribute to a positive visitor experience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the existing day use and camping area at Kings Plains Creek as a low key destination with no expansion of capacity. • Construct an additional vehicle-based camping area with up to 6 sites, for caravans and campervans about 0.5 km south of the existing Kings Plains Creek camping area. Facilities will be restricted to a toilet, fireplaces and tables. • Park information will caution walkers to the falls that they need to be self-reliant because they are using a marked route only. A walking track will not be constructed to the falls. • Erect signs advising visitors of the hazards associated with flooding of Kings Plains Creek. • Erect signs at the waterhole at Kings Plains Creek day use and camping area advising visitors not to dive in the creek due to shallow conditions and hidden obstacles. • Advise visitors that fires are only permitted in the fireplaces and that horse riding is not permitted in the park. • Prohibit public vehicular access on management trails but permit walking and cycling on these trails. • Undertake a risk assessment of former mining sites and if necessary undertake preventative action to ensure visitor safety. 	<p>High</p> <p>Low</p> <p>High</p> <p>High</p> <p>High</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Medium</p>

Legend for priorities:

High priority actions are those imperative to achievement of management objectives. These actions need to be implemented in the near future to prevent degradation of natural and cultural values, ensure public safety or protect the physical resources within the park.

Medium priority actions are those that are necessary to achieve management objectives but will be implemented as resources become available because the time frame for their implementation is not urgent.

Low priority actions are desirable to achieve management objectives but can wait until resources become available.

4. REFERENCES

- Briggs, J.D. & Leigh, J.H. (1995). *Rare or Threatened Australian Plants*, CSIRO, Collingwood.
- Hunter J. T. (2000), Vegetation of Kings Plains National Park. Unpublished report to NPWS, Northern Tablelands Region.