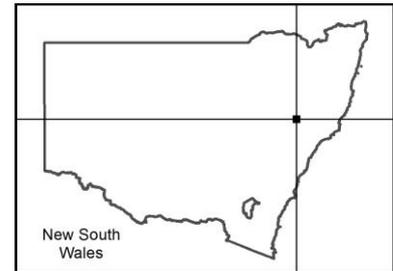


Statement of Management Intent



Scone Mountain National Park

1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Scone Mountain 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

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.

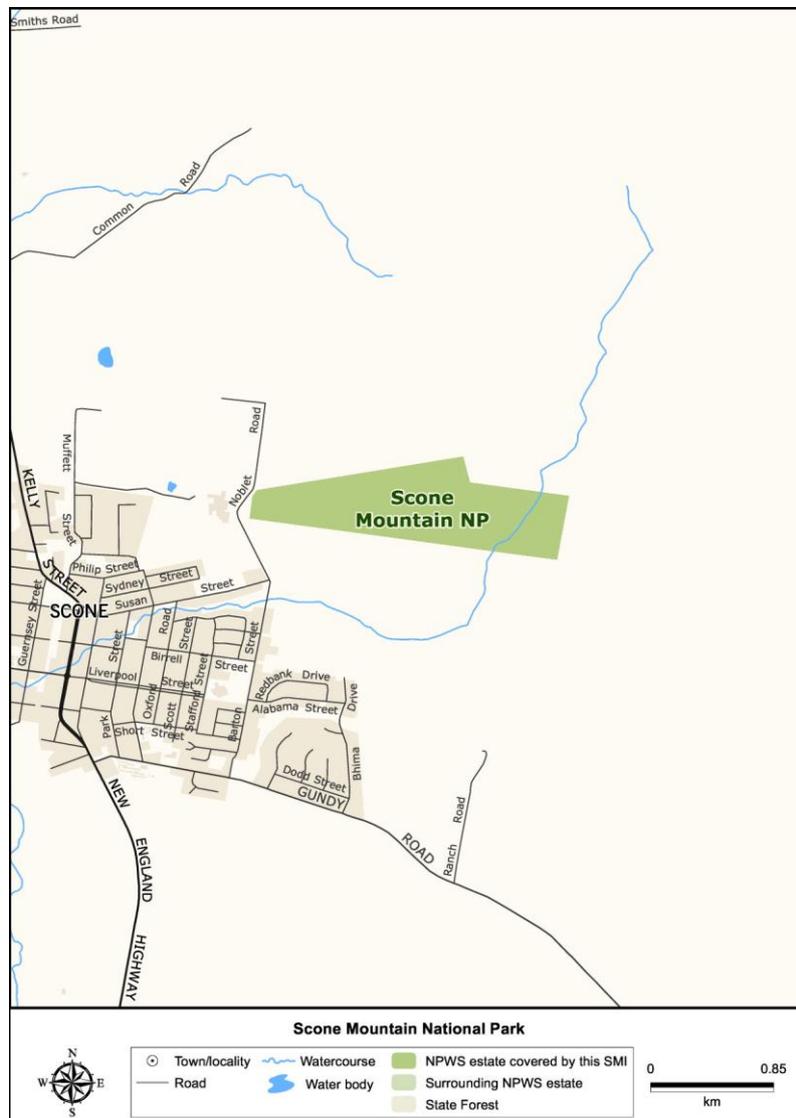
The primary purpose of national parks is to conserve nature and cultural heritage. Opportunities are provided for appropriate visitor use in a manner that does not damage conservation values.

3. Context

Reservation details: Scone Mountain National Park was reserved on 23 December 2005.

Size: 78 hectares.

Scone Mountain National Park is located on the north-east edge of the township of Scone in the Upper Hunter Valley of New South Wales. It falls within the NSW North Coast Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Upper Hunter Shire Council, Hunter Local Land Services and the Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council.



Scone Mountain National Park was established in 2005 as a component of the Crown land review under the North East Regional Forest Agreement process. Grazing land and residential areas surround the park, which forms part of the Hunter Valley regional corridor that links the valley floor to Barrington Tops National Park in the east.

4. Values

- The park is dominated by dry sclerophyll forest with rainforest communities occurring in sheltered gullies. One endangered ecological community has been recorded in the park: Hunter Valley Vine Thicket in the NSW North Coast and Sydney Basin Bioregions. All but one of the other vegetation communities identified for the park are considered to be near threatened.
- Although no comprehensive fauna survey has been conducted in the park, regional assessments indicate potential habitat for a variety of threatened species including the yellow-bellied glider (*Petaurus australis*), spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*), painted

honeyeater (*Grantiella picta*), hooded robin – south eastern form (*Melanodryas cucullata cucullata*), turquoise parrot (*Neophema pulchella*) and regent honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*). Recent bird surveys by NPWS identified 50 species including two that are listed as vulnerable: glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*) and speckled warbler (*Chthonicola sagittata*).

- Aboriginal people occupied the land that is now conserved as park. Evidence suggests a former trade route existed along one of the creek lines in the park. No Aboriginal sites have yet been recorded in the park.
- Scone Mountain National Park receives regular visitors due to its close proximity to Scone. Facilities include a small carpark and a two-kilometre bushwalk to Flat Rock on Fig Tree Gully, which follows Scone Mountain Trail from the carpark and Flat Rock Walking Track.

5. Issues

- Invasive weed species recorded in the park include galenia (*Galenia pubescens*), prickly pear (*Opuntia* spp.), blue heliotrope (*Heliotropium amplexicaule*), Paterson's curse (*Echium* spp.), African box thorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*), bridal creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*), St John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) and sweet briar (*Rosa rubiginosa*) as well as some pasture grasses and thistle and burr species (*Xanthium* spp.).
- The European fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), feral cat (*Felis catus*) and feral pig (*Sus scrofa*) have been recorded in the park.
- Cattle and horses enter the reserve from neighbouring properties, which can degrade habitat values.
- The park's proximity to a town increases the risk of arson and other illegal activities. There have been past occurrences of vandalism, littering, dog walking and trail bike riding in the park.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Scone Mountain National Park [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the priorities of the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy: Central Coast Hunter Region](#). Rabbit baiting and monitoring is a medium priority cooperative program to protect the natural environment. Bridal creeper and pear control is a medium priority, with control achieved by spraying isolated infestations.
- The park is managed for low-key visitor use such as bushwalking and birdwatching. Visitor use associated with nature-based activities and educational opportunities, such as with local schools, community groups and through the NPWS Discovery program, will be encouraged.
- Further research into the natural and cultural values of the park will be encouraged.
- Liaison with neighbours will occur regarding boundary fencing and preventing stock from straying into the park. Fencing assistance may be provided in accordance with NPWS policy and procedures.
- Park identification and regulatory signage will be installed where needed and patrols undertaken to deter illegal use of the park.
- 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 the special values of the park.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this park or this statement, contact the NPWS Scone office on 02 6540 2300 or 137 Kelly Street, Scone NSW 2337.

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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