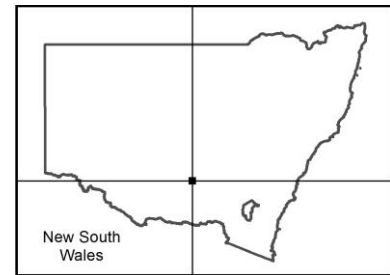


# Statement of Management Intent



## South West Woodland Nature Reserve

### 1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing South West Woodland Nature Reserve. This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the reserve 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

Nature reserves are reserved under the NPW Act to protect and conserve areas containing outstanding, unique or representative ecosystems, species, communities or natural phenomena. Under the NPW Act ([section 30J](#)), nature reserves are managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, and protect geological and geomorphological features and natural phenomena
- conserve places, objects, features and landscapes of cultural value
- promote public appreciation, enjoyment and understanding of the reserve's natural and cultural values
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

The primary purpose of nature reserves is to conserve nature. Nature reserves differ from national parks in that they do not have the provision of visitor use as a management purpose or principle.

### 3. Context

**Reservation details:** South West Woodland Nature Reserve was reserved on 1 January 2011.

**Size:** 13,840 hectares.

South West Woodland Nature Reserve is located within the NSW South Western Slopes, Riverina and Murray–Darling Depression bioregions. The southernmost sections of the reserve are located near the town of Berrigan and the northernmost sections near Peak Hill.

The reserve falls within the administrative areas of the Central Tablelands, Central West, Riverina and Murray Local Land Services, and the Berrigan, Conargo, Jerilderie, Urana, Bland, Carrathool, Cootamundra, Murrumbidgee, Narrandera, Temora, Cabonne, Forbes, Lachlan and Parkes shire councils. The reserve also falls under the administrative areas of the following local Aboriginal land

councils: Condobolin, Cowra, Orange, Peak Hill, Wellington, Griffith, Leeton & District, Narrandera, West Wyalong, Young, Cummeragunja, Wagga Wagga and Deniliquin.





The reserve is spread approximately 400 kilometres from north to south and crosses four NPWS administrative areas: South West, Mid West, Central West and Murrumbidgee. For management purposes the reserve is divided into precincts as follows.

Precinct	NPWS administrative area	Reserved area (hectares)
Banandra	Mid West	194
Berrigan	South West	307
Blow Clear	Mid West	127
Blow Clear West	Central West	1442
Blue Mallee	Mid West	283
Boooroban	South West	1402
Buddigower	Mid West	423
Buggajool	Mid West	381
Cadow	Central West	53
Cookamidgera	Central West	547
Coradgery	Central West	765
Edgar	South West	593
Goolgowi	Mid West	101
Hiawatha	Mid West	778

Killonbutta	Central West	1515
Kulki	South West	172
Lake Urana	South West	219
Little Blow Clear	Mid West	57
Mairjimmy	South West	483
Mandagery	South West	1514
Meriwagga	Mid West	156
Narraburra	Mid West	63
Puckawidgee	South West	412
Stackpoole	Mid West	751
Steam Plains	South West	308
West Cookeys Plains	Mid West	625
Yeo Yeo	Murrumbidgee	179

South West Woodland Nature Reserve was reserved as part of the *National Park Estate (South-Western Cypress Reservations) Act 2010*. Prior to reservation the majority of precincts were state forests and precinct names have been allocated on the basis of these previous state forest names.

#### 4. Values

- South West Woodland Nature Reserve provides habitat for the endangered swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) and vulnerable little eagle (*Hieraaetus morphnoides*), brown tree creeper (eastern subspecies) (*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*), pink cockatoo (*Lophochroa leadbeateri*), speckled warbler (*Chthonicola sagittata*), grey-crowned babbler (eastern subspecies) (*Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis*), varied sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*), yellow-bellied sheath-tail bat (*Saccolaimus flaviventris*) and little pied bat (*Chalinolobus picatus*), listed under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act).
- The reserve protects a number of endangered ecological communities listed under the TSC Act including Inland Grey Box Woodland in the Riverina, NSW South Western Slopes, Cobar Peneplain, Nandewar and Brigalow Belt South Bioregions; and Myall Woodland in the Darling Riverine Plains, Brigalow Belt South, Cobar Peneplain, Murray–Darling Depression, Riverina and NSW South Western Slopes Bioregions. These communities are also likely to conform to the definitions of endangered ecological communities listed under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act): Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia; and Weeping Myall Woodlands, respectively.
- The reserve also supports the endangered ecological community Sandhill Pine Woodland in the Riverina, Murray–Darling Depression and NSW South Western Slopes Bioregions; and the critically endangered ecological community Mallee and Mallee-Broombush Dominated Woodland and Shrubland, lacking *Triodia*, in the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion, which are listed under the TSC Act.
- The reserve protects the pine donkey orchid (*Diuris tricolor*) which is listed as vulnerable under the TSC Act and the spear-grass (*Austrostipa wakoolica*) listed as endangered under the TSC Act and the EPBC Act.
- A range of plant communities exist within the reserve, including woodlands and forests dominated by mugga ironbark (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*), white cypress pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*), bimble box (*E. populnea* ssp. *bimbil*) and red mallee (*E. socialis*).
- Precincts of the South West Woodland Nature Reserve form an important part of Country for the Wiradjuri and Ngiyampaa Aboriginal people. While some of the precincts have been surveyed and have registered Aboriginal sites, further surveys and ongoing relationships

with Aboriginal communities are required to better understand the significance and appropriate management of precincts in relation to Aboriginal values.

- The reserve is a known field trip destination for conservation groups, providing areas for bushwalking, birdwatching and research.

## 5. Issues

- Pest and weed infestation varies across South West Woodland Nature Reserve. Pest animals recorded within the precincts include foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*), rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), feral goats (*Capra hircus*), cats (*Felis catus*) and introduced rodents (*Rattus* spp.).
- Invasive weed species recorded within the reserve's precincts include African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*), white horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), prickly pear (*Opuntia* spp.) Noogoora and Bathurst burrs (*Xanthium* spp.), Paterson's curse (*Echium plantagineum*) and scotch, stemless, illyrian and taurian thistle (*Onopordum* spp.).
- The reserve comprises small isolated pockets of vegetation, surrounded by cleared agricultural lands, resulting in little scope for species movement or adaptation. The vegetation communities of some precincts are in better condition than others, depending on past forestry operations.
- Significant sections of the reserve's boundary fencing is either in a state of disrepair or non-existent.
- There are occurrences of illegal motorbike use, off-trail vehicle use, illegal firewood collection and rubbish dumping within precincts of the reserve.
- Mining activities have previously occurred in some reserve precincts resulting in ground disturbance and some remaining infrastructure.
- The nature and extent of both European and Aboriginal heritage values in the reserve and surrounding landscape is currently poorly understood.
- Existing grazing licences within areas reserved under the *National Park Estate (Riverina Red Gum Reservations) Act 2010* and the *National Park Estate (South-Western Cypress Reservations) Act 2010* have been offered an extension to the end of 2016 to enable licence holders to adapt to the change to national parks management and, in some areas, to facilitate further research into the impact of grazing on conservation values. Grazing is currently permitted under licence within some precincts of the reserve, subject to licence conditions. Under the NPW Act this licence is recognised as an existing interest.

## 6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the South West Woodland Nature Reserve [Fire Management Strategies](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Western Rivers Region and Southern Ranges Region.
- European heritage and Aboriginal heritage surveys will be undertaken within the reserve precincts. Advice will be sought from the relevant local Aboriginal land council in relation to site-specific management of Aboriginal heritage, ensuring the protection of known and potential sites if uncovered.
- The need for boundary fencing works will be monitored. Subject to available resourcing, assistance may be provided to neighbours to install boundary fencing in accordance with the NPWS Boundary Fencing Policy.

- Actions will be undertaken to reduce inappropriate and illegal activities that occur within South West Woodland Nature Reserve.
- Stock grazing under licence will be monitored and managed in accordance with licence conditions.
- 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 reserve. 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 reserve by promoting and raising public awareness of its special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this reserve or this statement, contact the NPWS Tumut Office on (02) 6947 7000 or 7a Adelong Road, Tumut NSW 2720 (Murrumbidgee Area); Forbes Office on (02) 6851 4429 or Camp Street, Forbes NSW 2871 (Central West Area); Hay Office on (02) 6990 8200 or 339A Murray Street, Hay NSW 2711 (South West Area); Griffith Office on (02) 6966 8100 or 200 Yambil Street, Griffith NSW 2680 (Mid West Area).

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

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