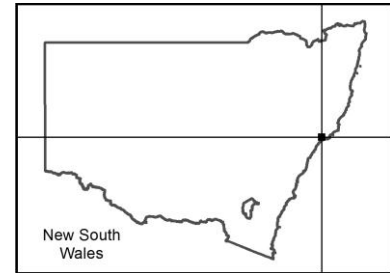


Statement of Management Intent



Tilligerry State Conservation Area

1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Tilligerry State Conservation Area (SCA). This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the SCA 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

State conservation areas are reserved 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 NPW Act ([section 30G](#)), state 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 in such areas (including uses permitted under section 47J) having regard to the conservation of the natural and cultural values of the state conservation area
- provide for the carrying out of development in any part of a special area (within the meaning of the [Hunter Water Act 1991](#)) in the state conservation area that is permitted under section 185A 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

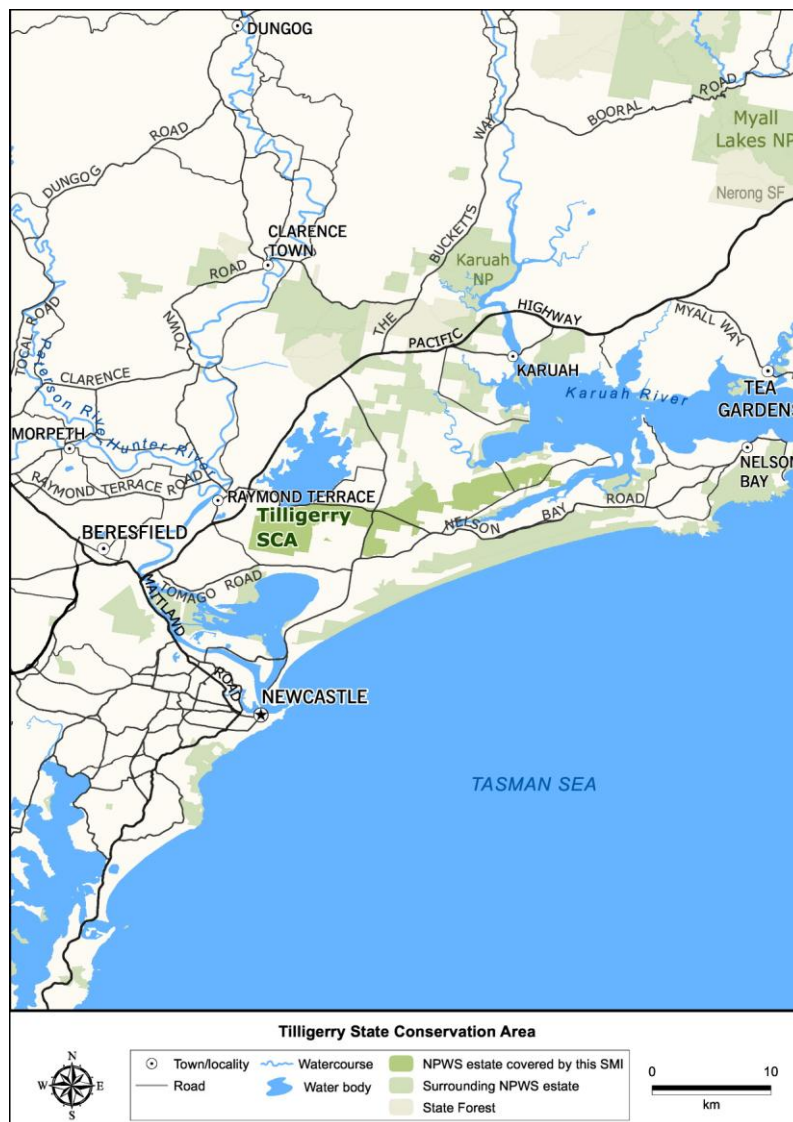
- provide for sustainable use (including adaptive reuse) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas having regard to conservation of the area's natural and cultural values and with other uses permitted in the area
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

Land is reserved as a state conservation area primarily 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: Tilligerry SCA was reserved on 1 July 2007.

Size: 4570 hectares.



Tilligerry SCA is located approximately 15 kilometres north-east of Newcastle. It falls within the NSW North Coast Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Port Stephens Council, Hunter Local Land Services and Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Tilligerry SCA was created from former Crown land as a result of the NSW Comprehensive Regional Assessment process, and reserved under the *National Park Estate (Lower Hunter Region Reservations) Act 2006*. An additional 119 hectares was added to the reserve in January 2013 as a

biodiversity offset to compensate for the loss of threatened species habitat that occurred as a result of the development of a substation at Tomago.

Tilligerry SCA is covered by the Tomago Sandbeds catchment, which is a special area under the Hunter Water Act. The reserve is jointly managed by NPWS and Hunter Water Corporation for conservation, water extraction purposes and to protect groundwater quality and water extraction infrastructure. It is closed to public access.

The reserve is comprised of predominantly dry sclerophyll forests with some freshwater wetlands that protect a variety of threatened species and endangered ecological communities.

4. Values

- Tilligerry SCA protects habitat for a variety of threatened species including the koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*), brush-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*) and little bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus australis*).
- Tilligerry SCA has been identified as significant koala breeding habitat in New South Wales in the *National Koala Conservation and Management Strategy 2009–2014*.
- Tilligerry SCA protects habitat for the endangered shrub species dwarf kerrawang (*Rulingia prostrata*). The population growing on the Tomago Sandbeds represents the largest remaining population in Australia.
- Tilligerry SCA protects large tracts of contiguous Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions endangered ecological community.
- The Tomago Sandbeds is a source of groundwater that is a critical component of the Hunter region's domestic water supply system, providing up to 30 per cent of the drinking water for the city of Newcastle.

5. Issues

- Pest animal species recorded in the SCA include wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.), European foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and feral cats (*Felis catus*).
- Bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* ssp. *rotundata*), lantana (*Lantana camara*), pine (*Pinus* spp.) and isolated populations of bamboo (*Phyllostachys aurea*), pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) and white passionflower (*Passiflora subpeltata*) have been recorded in the SCA.
- Hunter Water's assets, including groundwater bores, pumps, power supplies and roading occur throughout the reserve, fragmenting the landscape and posing considerable safety issues for the public. For this reason, Tilligerry SCA is managed as a closed park and visitor use is prohibited. However, there is a moderate level of unauthorised access and high levels of arson activity within the SCA.

6. Key management directions

- Manage fire in accordance with the Tilligerry SCA [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the priorities of the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Lower North Coast Region. Current priorities include wild dog control as part of a program to protect koala populations, removal of exotic pines to protect koala habitat and endangered ecological communities, and rabbit control.
- Reservation of Tilligerry SCA under the NPW Act does not affect Hunter Water Corporation's operations to manage the extraction of groundwater for domestic water

supplies. In particular, Hunter Water Corporation will continue to manage the groundwater resource and any associated infrastructure to extract, reticulate and treat that water.

- Any other developments within Tilligerry SCA, or the issuing of easements, licences or leases, will be subject to the concurrence of Hunter Water Corporation.
- A Memorandum of Understanding and operations plan with Hunter Water Corporation will be finalised and implemented for Tilligerry SCA. This plan will address access issues and other unauthorised activities within the reserve.
- Joint Hunter Water Corporation, NPWS and police law enforcement operations will continue to occur in the reserve to address unauthorised activities.
- 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 in close liaison with Hunter Water Corporation to set out the ongoing management objectives for the SCA. 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 SCA by promoting and raising public awareness of its special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this SCA or this statement, contact the NPWS Nelson Bay Office on 02 4984 8200 or Level 1, 12B Teramby Road, Nelson Bay NSW.

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

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