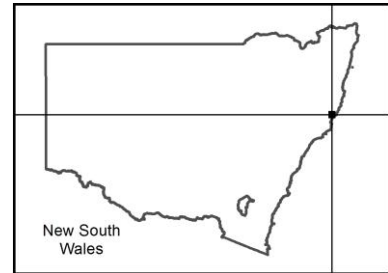


Statement of Management Intent



Towibakh 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 Towibakh 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: Towibakh Nature Reserve was reserved on 1 January 1999.

Size: 62 hectares.

Towibakh Nature Reserve is located approximately 15 kilometres east of Taree. It falls within the NSW North Coast Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Greater Taree City Council, Hunter Local Land Services and the Purfleet/Taree Local Aboriginal Land Council.

The reserve is situated 1 kilometre south of the Manning River and comprises two separate portions surrounded by private property on a large island known as Mitchells Island in the Manning River Estuary. The reserve was formerly Mitchells Island State Forest, initially dedicated in 1914, and vacant Crown land. Most of the lands adjoining the reserve have been cleared for grazing.



4. Values

- The reserve protects suitable habitat for a range of threatened fauna species including the threatened glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*), koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) and brush-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*).
- The reserve protects swamp sclerophyll and swamp oak forests.

5. Issues

- Pest animals which may occur in the reserve include wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.), European foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) and feral cats (*Felis catus*).
- Weed species occurring in the reserve include camphor laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*), various coastal weeds, giant Parramatta grass (*Sporobolus fertilis*), lantana (*Lantana camara*), bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* ssp. *rotundata*), morning glory (*Ipomoea* sp.) and privet (*Ligustrum* sp.).
- There have been occurrences of rubbish dumping, illegal collection of firewood, vandalism and minor soil erosion caused by the creation of new unauthorised bike tracks within the reserve.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Towibakh Nature Reserve [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Lower North Coast Region.
- Liaison will continue with the Purfleet/Taree Local Aboriginal Land Council and Elders on a broad range of issues that may influence the reserve.
- Gates and cable fencing has been installed to control access into parts of the reserve to reduce the negative impacts of unauthorised use, and law enforcement will continue to be undertaken.
- 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 Manning Hastings Area Taree Office on 02 6552 4097 or 78 Hargreaves Street, Taree NSW 2430.

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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