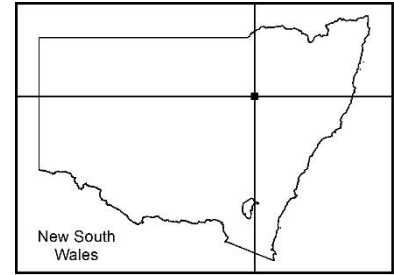


# Statement of Management Intent



## Ukerbarley Aboriginal Area Community Conservation Area Zone 2

### 1. Introduction

NPWS acknowledges that this Aboriginal area is in the traditional Country of the Gamilaraay<sup>1</sup> Aboriginal People.

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Ukerbarley Community Conservation Area Zone 2 Aboriginal Area (Ukerbarley Aboriginal Area). This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the area until a plan of management has been prepared in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. 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 National Parks and Wildlife Act and the 'precautionary principle' (see Principle 15).

### 2. Management principles

Zone 2 community conservation areas are reserved as Aboriginal areas under the National Parks and Wildlife Act to protect and conserve areas associated with a person, event or historical theme, or containing a building, place, object, feature or landscape that is of natural or cultural significance to Aboriginal people, or important in improving the understanding of Aboriginal culture and its development and transitions. Under the Act (section 30 K), Aboriginal areas are managed to:

- conserve natural and cultural values
- allow the use of the Aboriginal area by Aboriginal people for cultural purposes
- promote public appreciation and understanding of the park's natural and cultural values and significance where appropriate
- 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 of the Aboriginal people

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<sup>1</sup> Preferred spelling. Alternative spellings include Gomerroi, Kamilaroi and Gamilaroi

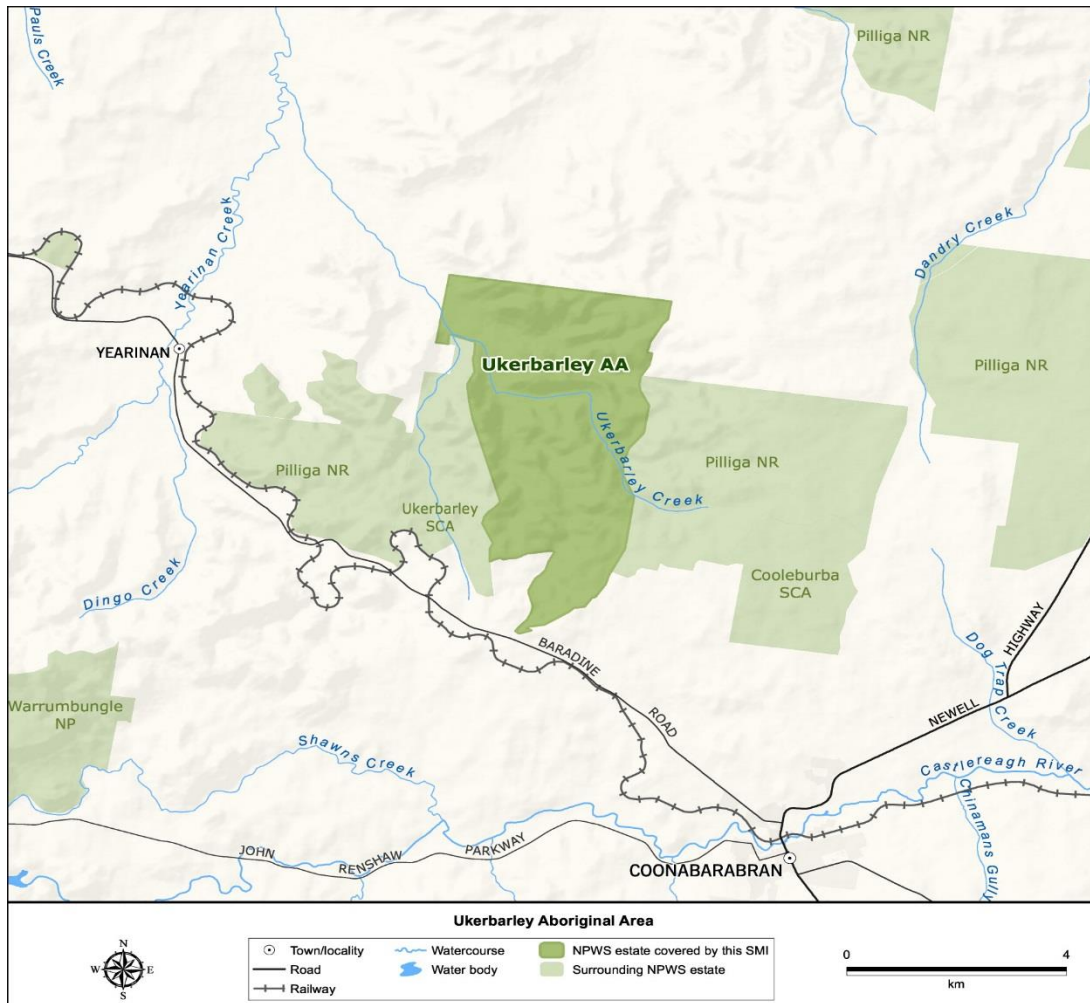
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring, in accordance with the cultural values of the Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal areas are places that have been identified as having special significance to Aboriginal people. They are established for the purpose of conserving Aboriginal heritage.

**Joint Management:** Ukerbarley Aboriginal Area is jointly managed by NPWS and the Gawambaraay Pilliga Co-management Committee.

As traditional custodians of the land, Aboriginal people have a unique role to care for and manage Country. This role overlaps with NPWS's legislative responsibilities to manage land for conservation. Partnerships recognise and capitalise on these mutual interests and responsibilities, including recognising that:

- All parks are part of Aboriginal people's Country and are places where Aboriginal people can care for their Country and access their Country and its resources. They play an important role in the maintenance of Aboriginal culture and connection to Country.
- Aboriginal communities obtain cultural, social and economic benefits through being involved in park management.
- Working in partnership, NPWS and the Aboriginal community are better able to protect and interpret cultural heritage and to apply Aboriginal knowledge to land management and the conservation of cultural and natural values.
- Visitors to parks have an enriched experience through interaction with Aboriginal people and an understanding of Aboriginal cultural values.



### 3. Context

**Reservation details:** Ukerbarley Aboriginal Area was reserved in June 2009.

**Size:** 1,483 hectares.

**Background:** Ukerbarley Aboriginal Area is located 5 kilometres northwest of Coonabarabran on the north-western plains of NSW.

The park was formerly part of a private property called ‘Ukerbarley’. The park is bordered by Ukerbarley State Conservation Area and Cooleburba State Conservation Area.

A central feature of the park is Ukerbarley Creek and its valley flats, springs and wetlands.

The park is located within the administrative areas of the Coonabarabran Local Aboriginal Land Council, Central West Region Local Land Service and Warrumbungle Shire Council.

### 4. Values

- Ukerbarley Aboriginal Area forms an important part of the cultural landscape for the Gamilaraay Aboriginal People including connections between people, land and spirit (Country). The Ukerbarley Creek corridor is known by Aboriginal people as a path that facilitated movement of people for ceremonial purposes between the Pilliga and Warrumbungle Range.

- Ukerbarley Aboriginal Area is jointly managed by NPWS in cooperation with the Gawambaraay Pilliga Co-management Committee.
- Aboriginal sites in the park include rock art and engravings, scarred trees, axe grinding grooves, shelters with occupational deposits, open artefact scatters and well preserved burials. Most of these occur within the valley formed by the Ukerbarley Creek where springs and permanent waterholes provided a stable source of water.
- A small area of the park features the endangered ecological community (EEC) White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland (commonly referred to as Box-Gum Woodland), with the key species in the park being white box (*Eucalyptus albens*). This community is listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. This community is also consistent with the critically endangered White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland listed under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
- The drainage depressions of the park associated with Ukerbarley Creek feature the EEC Carex Sedgeland listed under the Biodiversity Conservation Act.
- The park protects habitat for threatened species, including the koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), squirrel glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*), large-eared pied bat (*Chalinolobus dwyeri*) and turquoise parrot (*Neophema pulchella*).

## 5. Issues

- There is a significant blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*) infestation on Ukerbarley Creek with potential impacts on the EEC Carex Sedgeland. Tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is an emerging threat.
- There is an expectation in the local community that public visitation should be facilitated. The Gawambaraay Pilliga Co-management Committee supports this idea in principle.
- Unauthorised activities are known to occur including pig hunting and trail bike riding by unlicensed riders and/or off designated park roads.
- The soil-borne water mould *Phytophthora* species has been recorded in the park around the main trail, and in the adjacent Ukerbarley State Conservation Area. The pathogen has the potential to harm native vegetation.

## 6. Key management directions

- Manage Ukerbarley Aboriginal Area in cooperation with the Gawambaraay Pilliga Co-management Committee.
- Provide opportunities for Aboriginal people to access Country, to maintain, renew or develop cultural practices and associations.
- Provide opportunities for Aboriginal people to be involved in park management including the collection and management of information about cultural sites and values and the protection and interpretation of cultural sites.
- NPWS supports non-commercial cultural use of wild resources by the Aboriginal community, such as gathering of medicinal plants and bush tucker, subject to NPWS policies and licensing.

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Pilliga South Fire Management Strategy.
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy. Current critical control priorities are for blackberry and tree of heaven. Pest control focuses on protecting EECs and threatened species.
- Unauthorised activities will be addressed by enforcement and regulatory signage where appropriate.
- The former farm house has deteriorated to the point where demolition is an option for public safety reasons. The house should be assessed for historical significance, and protection of the entire house, or elements of it, preserved if deemed necessary. Any reuse of the area should include recognition of the previous owners' contribution to promoting Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- Prevent the spread of *Phytophthora* by implementing hygiene protocols when accessing the park, including investigating options for visitor access and use that limits the potential for spread.
- Investigate public use and visitor facilities opportunities for 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 and wildlife or to prevent damage to park assets.
- A plan of management will be prepared to set out the on-going management objectives for the area. The plan of management is a statutory document under the National Parks and Wildlife Act which will be available for public comment. NPWS will also encourage the community to contribute to the on-going conservation of the area by promoting and raising public awareness of the special values of the area.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this park or this statement, contact the NPWS Coonabarabran Office on (02) 6842 1311.

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

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