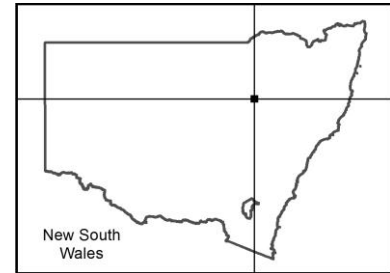


Statement of Management Intent



Ukerbarley 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 Ukerbarley 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 (including uses permitted under section 47J such as mineral exploration and mining), 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: Ukerbarley SCA was reserved on 16 August 2013.

Size: 465 hectares.



Ukerbarley SCA is located approximately 8 kilometres north-west of Coonabarabran. It falls within the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion and within the administrative area of Warrumbungle Shire Council, North West Local Land Services and Coonabarabran Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Ukerbarley SCA is located between Ukerbarley Aboriginal Area and the south-west section of Pilliga Nature Reserve. Ukerbarley Swamp Creek runs through the SCA. This area contains some of the most significant, varied and concentrated Aboriginal heritage in the Coonabarabran area. The SCA also contributes to the connectivity of the region contributing to the biodiversity between the Pilliga state forests and parks to Warrumbungle National Park in the south.

4. Values

- Ukerbarley SCA protects habitat for the endangered ecological community Carex Sedgeland of the New England Tableland, Nandewar, Brigalow Belt South and NSW North Coast Bioregions listed under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act). This community has declined significantly since European settlement and less than 100 hectares is currently represented in the NSW park system.
- The adjoining Ukerbarley Aboriginal Area and Pilliga Nature Reserve protect habitat for a variety of threatened species including the koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), squirrel glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*), little lorikeet (*Glossopsitta pusilla*), glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathamii*), turquoise parrot (*Neophema pulchella*), brown treecreeper (eastern subspecies) (*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*) and large-eared pied bat (*Chalinolobus dwyeri*). Ukerbarley SCA extends potential habitat for these species.
- Ukerbarley SCA is located in an area of significance to the Aboriginal community near Ukerbarley Creek. Ukerbarley Creek is an important Dreaming path between the Pilliga and Warrumbungle ranges used for ceremonial purposes where a number of cultural sites have been recorded. Ukerbarley SCA contains some recorded Aboriginal sites and it is highly likely that more sites occur within the SCA.
- There are buildings within Ukerbarley SCA associated with previous use including a woolshed and hayshed. Their historic significance is unknown.

5. Issues

- Pest animals known to occur in the SCA include foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*), feral cats (*Felis catus*), feral goats (*Capra hircus*) and wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.).
- The soil-borne pathogen *Phytophthora cinnamomi* occurs within Ukerbarley SCA.
- Weed species recorded within Ukerbarley SCA include prickly pear (*Opuntia* sp.), blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), St John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) and tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*).

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Pilliga South region [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Northern Plains Region.
- Control of feral goats will be undertaken within Ukerbarley SCA with the primary focus on the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.
- Ongoing monitoring of the impacts of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* will be undertaken and impacts minimised through restriction of vehicular access to the area. Vehicle access to the SCA is currently permitted only through Ukerbarley Aboriginal Area at the northern end of the SCA.
- Further research will be undertaken and applied where appropriate to minimise impacts of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* upon native species.
- Management of blackberry and other weeds will be undertaken to ensure protection of the Carex Sedgeland endangered ecological community. Adaptive control methods including mechanical methods, chemical methods and fire will be used.
- Feral pigs within Ukerbarley SCA are controlled using trapping and baiting techniques and foxes are controlled using baiting techniques.

- Assessment of the SCA's historic values will be undertaken including consideration of the potential for the adaptive reuse of buildings.
- 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 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 Coonabarabran Office on (02) 6825 4364 or 30 Timor Street Coonabarabran, NSW, 2357.

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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