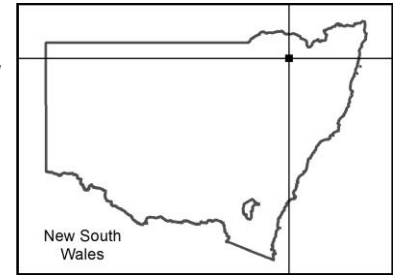




Statement of Management Intent



Warialda National Park and Warialda State Conservation Area Community Conservation Areas Zone 1 and Zone 3

1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Warialda National Park (Community Conservation Area Zone 1) and Warialda State Conservation Area (SCA) (Community Conservation Area Zone 3). This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of these parks 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

Zone 1 community conservation areas are reserved as national parks under the NPW Act to protect and conserve areas containing outstanding or representative ecosystems, natural or cultural features or landscapes or phenomena that provide opportunities for public appreciation, inspiration and sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment. Under the Act ([section 30E](#)), Zone 1 community conservation areas are managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, protect geological and geomorphological features and natural phenomena and maintain natural landscapes
- conserve places, objects, features and landscapes of cultural value
- protect the ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for present and future generations
- promote public appreciation and understanding of the park's natural and cultural values
- 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
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

The primary purpose of Zone 1 community conservation areas is to conserve nature and cultural heritage. In doing so, opportunities are provided for appropriate and sustainable recreation.

Zone 3 community conservation areas are reserved as state conservation areas 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 Act.

Under the Act ([section 30G](#)), Zone 3 community 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 where mineral values preclude reservation under as 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

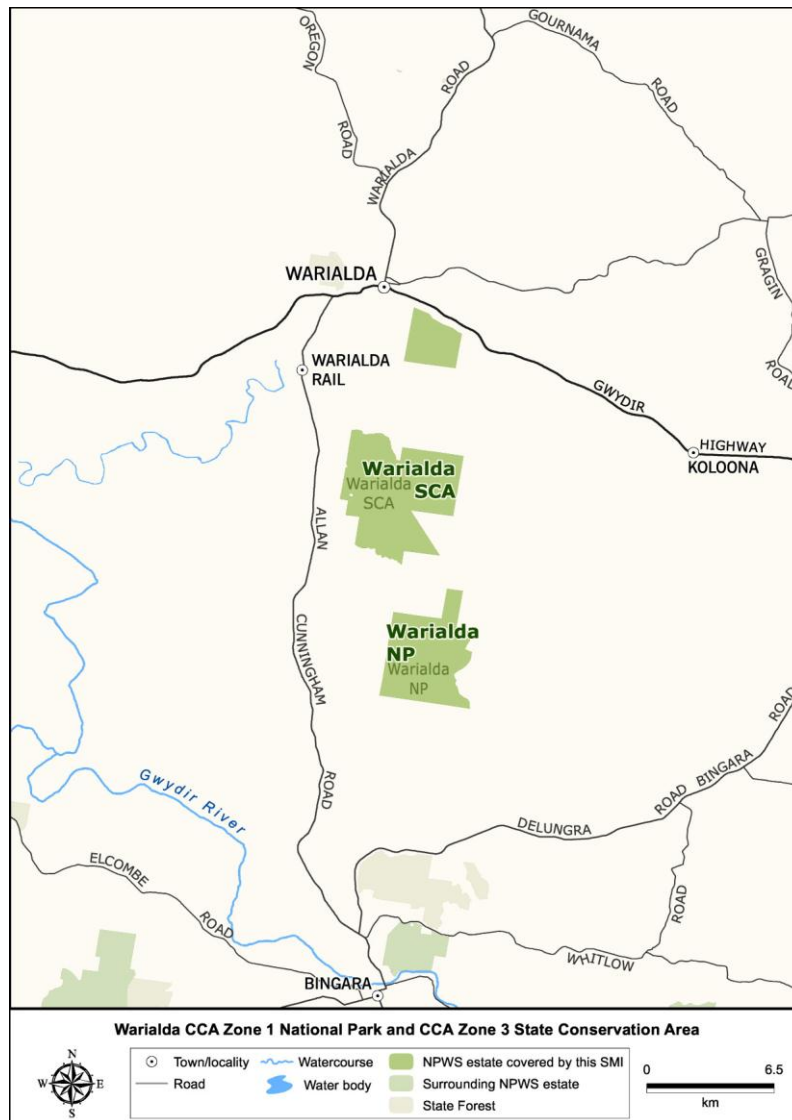
Reservation details: Warialda National Park and SCA were reserved on 1 December 2005.

Size: Warialda National Park is 1603 hectares. Warialda SCA is 2913 hectares. The SCA includes a small area of land vested in the Minister ('Part 11' lands) that encompasses an old quarry.

Warialda National Park and SCA are located south of Warialda. They fall within the Brigalow Belt South and Nandewar bioregions and within the administrative areas of Gwydir Shire Council, North West Local Land Services and Moree and Anaiwan local Aboriginal land councils.

The parks are comprised of three disjunct areas (from north to south). Stonehenge Section and Adams Scrub Section comprise the SCA, and the Scrub Creek Section is the national park. There are no public access roads leading to the Adams Scrub Section or Scrub Creek Section.

The Warialda parks were formerly Stonehenge and Warialda state forests and were gazetted under the *Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Area Act 2005*. The parks protect a range of vegetation communities that are generally poorly reserved within the Nandewar and Brigalow Belt South bioregions, including a threatened ecological community. The parks also protect an endangered population and a variety of threatened fauna species.



4. Values

- The parks protect critical habitat for the endangered population of Australian brush-turkey (*Alectura lathami*) in the Nandewar and Brigalow Belt South bioregions and the endangered black striped wallaby (*Macropus dorsalis*). Other threatened species recorded within the parks include the little eagle (*Glossopsitta pusilla*), little lorikeet (*Glossopsitta pusilla*), turquoise parrot (*Neophema pulchella*), brown tree creeper (eastern subspecies) (*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*), speckled warbler (*Chthonicola sagittata*), black-chinned honeyeater (eastern subspecies) (*Melithreptus gularis gularis*) and squirrel glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*).
- The parks protect areas of White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland Endangered Ecological Community. This community has been significantly reduced with less than 7 per cent of original habitat remaining in areas of New South Wales, which are often degraded and highly fragmented. This woodland community is known to provide important habitat for a diverse range of threatened species, particularly hollow-dependent species.
- Semi-evergreen Vine Thicket Endangered Ecological Community also occurs in the parks as well as areas of relatively undisturbed vegetation, including a large remnant of woodland

dominated by smooth-barked apple (*Angophora leiocarpa*) and dirty gum (*Eucalyptus chloroclada*).

- Public roads provide access to the boundary of the Stonehenge Section of the SCA. Management trails within this section provide opportunities for bushwalking and nature appreciation.

5. Issues

- There are feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*), feral goats (*Capra hircus*), European red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) and feral cats (*Felis catus*) in these parks.
- There are various weeds in the parks, including prickly pear (*Opuntia* sp.), blue heliotrope (*Heliotropium amplexicaule*), African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*) and Coolatai grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*).
- The Adams Scrub and Scrub Creek sections are both surrounded by private property. Discussions with neighbours regarding access are ongoing.

6. Key management directions

- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the priorities of the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Northern Tablelands Region. Current control priorities are pigs, foxes and cats, Coolatai grass, African boxthorn and prickly pear. Control efforts focus on protection of threatened species and communities, in particular border thick-tailed gecko habitat and turquoise parrot.
- Fire is managed in accordance the Warialda Community Conservation Area Zone 1 National Park & Warialda Community Conservation Area Zone 3 State Conservation Area [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Existing management trails and roads will be maintained while trails not required for park management or public access will be closed.
- 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 parks. 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 on-going conservation of the parks by promoting and raising public awareness of their special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of these parks or this statement, contact the NPWS Glen Innes Office on 02 6739 0700 or 68 Church Street, Glen Innes NSW 2370.

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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