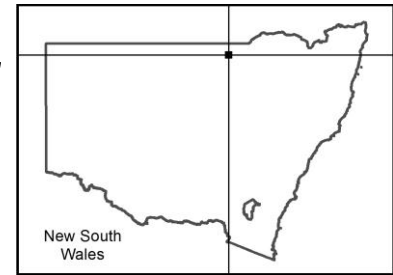


Statement of Management Intent



Warrambool 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 Warrambool 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:

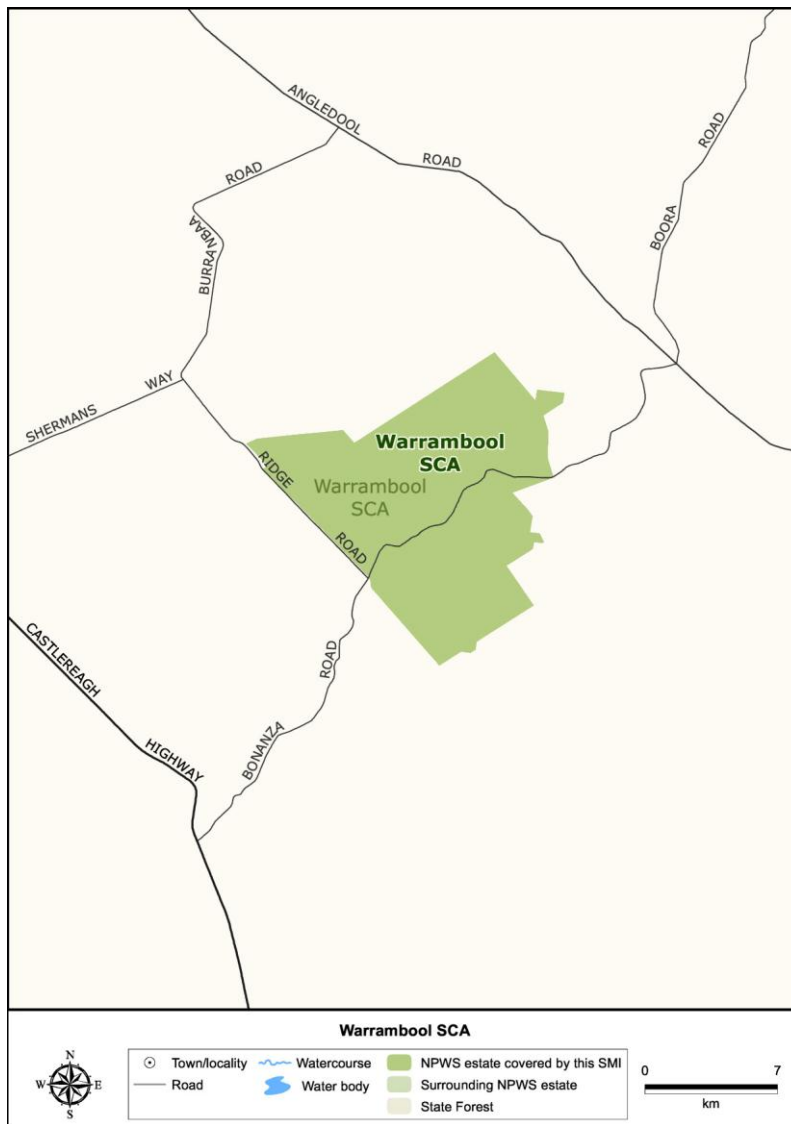
- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, protect natural phenomena and maintain natural landscapes
- conserve places, objects and features of cultural value
- provide for the undertaking of uses permitted under other provisions of the NPW Act (including uses permitted under section 47J 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: Warrambool SCA was reserved on 16 August 2013.

Size: 12,298 hectares.



Warrambool SCA is located approximately 15 kilometres east of Lightning Ridge. It falls within the Darling Riverine Plains Bioregion. It also falls within the administrative areas of Walgett Shire Council, Lightning Ridge Local Aboriginal Land Council and North West Local Land Services.

The word *warrambool* is of local Aboriginal origin, meaning both a water overflow channel and the Milky Way. Warrambool SCA is located in between The Big Warrambool and Mungaroo Warrambool watercourses. Warrambool SCA protects significant areas of remnant vegetation, including several endangered ecological communities, in a highly fragmented landscape. Prior to its reservation, Warrambool SCA was primarily managed for wool production and sheep grazing.

4. Values

- The SCA includes a portion of The Big Warrambool and the Twenty Nine Mile Warrambool and associated relict streambeds. The SCA provides a refuge for riparian and floodplain plants and animals and allows species to disperse into the surrounding landscape during favourable conditions.
- Sixty five per cent of Warrambool SCA is comprised of endangered ecological community habitat including Carbeen Open Forest Community in the Darling Riverine Plains and Brigalow Belt South Bioregions; Coolibah – Black Box Woodland in the Darling Riverine Plains, Brigalow Belt South, Cobar Peneplain and Mulga Lands Bioregions; and Myall Woodland in the Darling Riverine Plains, Brigalow Belt South, Cobar Peneplain, Murray–Darling Depression, Riverina and NSW South Western Slopes Bioregions. Large old growth carbeen (*Corymbia tessellaris*) communities are found scattered in the SCA, especially along the Twenty Nine Mile Warrambool.
- The threatened plant species silky swainson-pea (*Swainsona sericea*) has been recorded in the SCA.
- Warrambool SCA and surrounding area provides habitat for a range of native animal species, including the endangered bush stone-curlew (*Burhinus grallarius*) and vulnerable brown treecreeper (eastern subspecies) (*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*), hooded robin (south-eastern form) (*Melanodryas cucullata cucullata*) grey-crowned babbler (eastern subspecies) (*Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis*), barking owl (*Ninox connivens*), black-chinned honeyeater (eastern subspecies) (*Melithreptus gularis gularis*) and glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*). There are also anecdotal reports of koalas (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) in the SCA.
- The SCA is within Country of the Gamilaraay and the Yuwalaraay people. The Big Warrambool and its associated relict streams are part of the Biame (Great Spirit) dreaming and represent the Milky Way for the local Aboriginal community. A number of Aboriginal sites have been identified in the SCA, including scarred trees.
- Sites of local heritage value include the ‘Nissen hut’ shearing shed on ‘Warrinilla’.

5. Issues

- Pest animals recorded within Warrambool SCA include foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*), goats (*Capra hircus*) and cats (*Felis catus*).
- Weed species recorded within the SCA include common prickly pear (*Opuntia stricta*), tree pear (*Opuntia tomentosa*) and African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*).
- Hudson pear (*Cylindropuntia rosea*) occurs on properties close to Warrambool SCA and so poses a possible threat for invasion into the SCA.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Warrambool State Conservation Area [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Northern Plains Region. Priorities include feral pig and fox control with the focus on protecting neighbouring livestock and assets.
- A local community land management program will be implemented for Warrambool SCA. This involves a collaborative approach to park management in which neighbours, community members and local contractors participate in developing and undertaking management activities such as pest control operations and Aboriginal site surveys.

- Further surveys are required to confirm if Hudson pear is present on Warrambool SCA and to map and treat any infestation if this occurs.
- A water management plan will be prepared to identify actions for management of the artificial water supply (the capped and piped bore system).
- Methods for disposal of the house on 'Bikini' will be investigated and implemented.
- An Aboriginal site survey, or surveys, will be necessary as part of the identification of heritage values, but also as part of environmental assessments for activities such as trail construction.
- The local Aboriginal community will be provided with opportunities to contribute to management decisions, and to use the SCA for educational and cultural activities.
- NPWS will seek to reserve Crown road easements within the SCA boundary.
- 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 Narrabri Office on (02) 6792 7300 or 1/100 Maitland Street (PO Box 848), Narrabri NSW 2390.

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.

Published by:

Office of Environment and Heritage
 59 Goulburn Street, Sydney NSW 2000
 PO Box A290, Sydney South NSW 1232
 Phone: (02) 9995 5000

ISBN 978 1 74359 557 2
 OEH 2014/0245
 June 2014