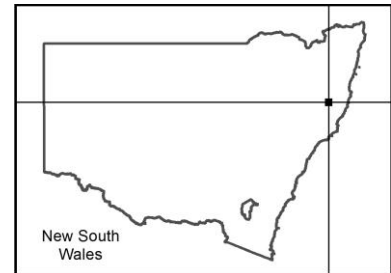


Statement of Management Intent



Werrikimbe 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 Werrikimbe 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: Werrikimbe State Conservation Area was reserved on 23 December 2005.

Size: 204 hectares.



Werrikimbe SCA is located approximately 54 kilometres north-west of Wauchope. It falls within the NSW North Coast Bioregion. It also falls within the administrative areas of Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council, North Coast Local Land Services and Port Macquarie-Hastings Council.

Werrikimbe SCA lies adjacent to Werrikimbe National Park and the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area and contains sections of identified wilderness. The Gondwana Rainforests are comprised of the most extensive area of subtropical rainforest in the world.

Werrikimbe SCA forms part of an almost continuous belt of reserves along the Great Eastern Escarpment, contributing to the ecological diversity of north-east New South Wales that includes Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, New England National Park, Werrikimbe National Park and Willi Willi National Park. Werrikimbe SCA assists in protecting the upper catchment of the Hastings River, which forms the eastern boundary of the SCA and is a gazetted wild and scenic river within Werrikimbe National Park.

4. Values

- Although no formal records exist of threatened animal species within the SCA, the adjoining Werrikimbe National Park protects habitat for a variety of threatened species including the endangered stuttering frog (*Mixophyes balbus*) and Hastings River mouse (*Pseudomys oralis*). Threatened species recorded in the adjoining national park also include the sphagnum frog (*Philoria sphagnicolus*), glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*), powerful owl (*Ninox strenua*), rufous scrub-bird (*Atrichornis rufescens*) and spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*). The SCA extends habitat opportunities for these species in the region.

5. Issues

- Feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*), foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.), feral cats (*Felis catus*), rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and deer (various species) occur in the surrounding landscape, and could be expected to occur within the SCA, although they have not been recorded.
- Weed species occurring within the Werrikimbe SCA include blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and lantana (*Lantana camara*).
- Previously cleared areas exist within the SCA from past land uses.
- Bell Minor Associated Dieback is likely impacting on the SCA's values. However, it has not been formally assessed within Werrikimbe SCA.
- The soil-borne pathogen phytophthora (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) occurs in Werrikimbe National Park; although it has not been recorded in the SCA it poses a risk of invasion.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Werrikimbe National Park [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Northern Tablelands Region.
- 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 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 Walcha Office on (02) 6777 4700, or 188W North Street, Walcha NSW 2354.

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 561 9
OEH 2014/0249
May 2014