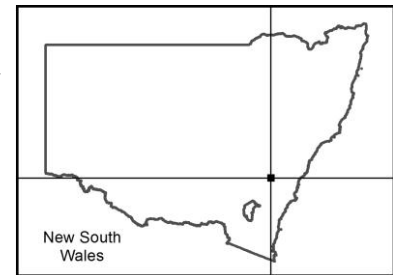


Statement of Management Intent



Wiarborough Nature Reserve

1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Wiarborough Nature Reserve. This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the reserve 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

Nature reserves are reserved under the NPW Act to protect and conserve areas containing outstanding, unique or representative ecosystems, species, communities or natural phenomena. Under the NPW Act ([section 30J](#)), nature reserves are managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, and protect geological and geomorphological features and natural phenomena
- conserve places, objects, features and landscapes of cultural value
- promote public appreciation, enjoyment and understanding of the reserve's natural and cultural values
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

The primary purpose of nature reserves is to conserve nature. Nature reserves differ from national parks in that they do not have the provision of visitor use as a management purpose or principle.

3. Context

Reservation details: Wiarborough Nature Reserve was reserved on 21 May 2010.

Size: 2228 hectares.

Wiarborough Nature Reserve is located 20 kilometres north of Taralga and 60 kilometres south of Oberon. It falls within the Blue Mountains region of the South Eastern Highlands Bioregion. It also lies within the administrative areas of Upper Lachlan Shire and Oberon councils, Pejar Local Aboriginal Land Council and Central Tablelands Local Land Services.

Wiarborough Nature Reserve is comprised of three sections; one located to the north of the Abercrombie River and the other two located directly south of the river. It extends to include the eastern reaches of the Abercrombie River, linking Abercrombie River National Park to Blue Mountains National Park and their associated watercourses and vegetation corridors. In December

2010, 200 hectares of high-quality conservation land straddling Mount Werong Creek that was formerly under a Voluntary Conservation Agreement was added to Wiaborough Nature Reserve by private donation. The reserve protects sections of river vegetation along the Abercrombie River and Mount Werong Creek, contributing to the environmental conservation of the Upper Lachlan catchment through protection of the water quality values of these waterways. Access to the southern components of the reserve for management purposes is by agreement through private property. Public access is available to the northern section of the reserve.



4. Values

- Wiaborough Nature Reserve protects habitat for a variety of threatened species, including the koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), powerful owl (*Ninox strenua*), flame robin (*Petroica phoenicea*), gang-gang cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*), scarlet robin (*Petroica boodang*), varied sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*) and eastern bent-wing bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis*).
- Abercrombie River provides habitat for the platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*) and threatened fish species including the endangered Macquarie perch (*Macquaria australasica*). The river has also been identified in supporting populations of the endangered Booroolong frog (*Litoria booroolongensis*), which has declined significantly over its former range and now only persists in western-flowing streams of the Great Dividing Range.

- The reserve protects open forests characterised by inland scribbly gum (*Eucalyptus rossii*), red stringybark (*E. macrorhyncha*) and tall river oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*). One plant community, Wiaborough Frost Hollow Grassy Woodland, corresponds to a listed endangered ecological community: Tablelands Snow Gum, Black Sallee, Candlebark and Ribbon Gum Grassy Woodland in the South Eastern Highlands, Sydney Basin, South East Corner and NSW South Western Slopes Bioregions. Abercrombie Riparian Scrub is of conservation significance due to its restricted distribution and the presence of plant species with a restricted distribution.
- Located between the northern and the two southern sections of Wiaborough Nature Reserve there is a private property managed under a conservation agreement.

5. Issues

- Animal pest species recorded within Wiaborough Nature Reserve include wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.), European foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*), rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), feral cats (*Felis catus*) and feral deer (*Cervidae* spp.).
- Weed species known to occur in the reserve include riparian weeds, blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*), pines (*Pinus* spp.) and willows (*Salix* spp.).
- A high-voltage powerline dissects Wiaborough Nature Reserve; the cleared corridor provides the environment for the main serrated tussock infestation within the reserve.
- Recreational motorcycle and trail bike riders are trespassing adjoining neighbours' private property to access trails in Wiaborough Nature Reserve.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Wiaborough Nature Reserve [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Blue Mountains Region. Current priorities for the reserve include serrated tussock, blackberry, willow, feral pigs, wild dogs and feral deer.
- The Oberon Wild Dog Management Plan is a cooperative program for the region that uses ground baiting and trapping as the primary control methods for pest wild dog species. The management of Wiaborough Nature Reserve will be consistent with this plan, which includes targeting the powerline trail within the reserve.
- To increase visitor engagement and recreational opportunities within Wiaborough Nature Reserve, visitor parking facilities and a walking trail to Mount Werong Creek with interpretive signage will be considered in the northern section of the reserve.
- Efforts to reduce or eliminate vehicles trespassing private property will be undertaken in cooperation with adjoining neighbours, using appropriate strategies such as signage.
- 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 reserve. 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 reserve by promoting and raising public awareness of its special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this reserve or this statement, contact the NPWS Oberon Office on (02) 6336 1972 or 38 Ross Street, Oberon NSW.

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

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