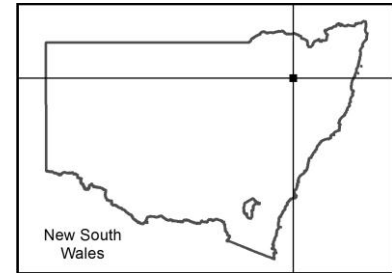


Statement of Management Intent



Woodsreef State Conservation Area Community Conservation Area 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 Woodsreef Community Conservation Area Zone 3 State Conservation Area (Woodsreef 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

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, and
- are capable of providing opportunities for uses permitted under other provisions of the NPW Act.

Under the NPW 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, and

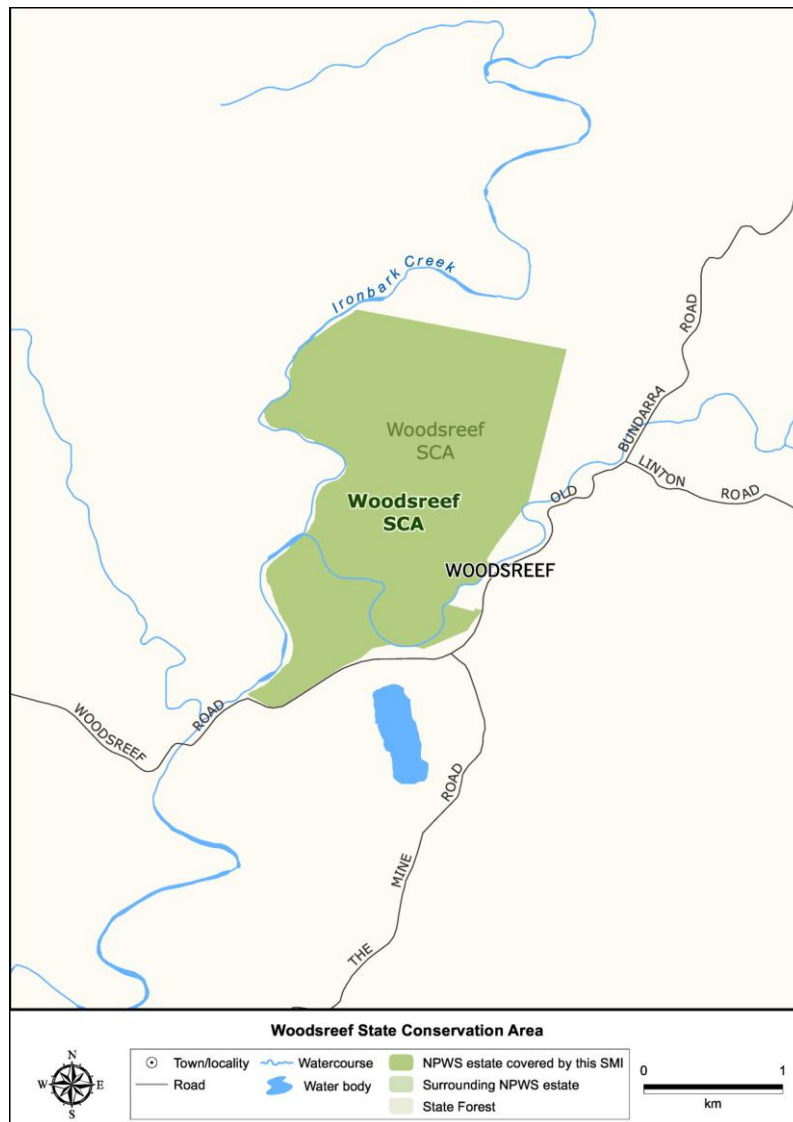
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

Land is reserved as a state conservation area where mineral values do not allow for reservation under 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: Woodsreef SCA was reserved on 1 January 2011.

Size: 330 hectares.



Woodsreef SCA is located approximately 15 kilometres west of Barraba and 100 kilometres west of Armidale. It lies within the Nandewar Bioregion. It also falls within the administrative areas of Tamworth Regional Council, Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council and North West Local Land Services.

Woodsreef SCA was established under the *National Parks Estate (South-Western Cypress Reservations) Act 2010* to protect remaining areas of cypress pine woodlands in the heavily cleared wheat–sheep belt region of New South Wales. The former Woodsreef asbestos open-cut mine, in operation from 1906 until 2003, is immediately south of the park boundary. The SCA is situated on

Cambrian serpentine and Siluro-Devonian Woolomin Group rocks and includes significant mineral, gold, and chromite deposits. The majority of land surrounding the reserve is comprised of Crown tenure and has been extensively cleared for grazing and other agricultural purposes.

4. Values

- Woodsreef SCA protects important habitat for the endangered and highly endemic Rupp's boronia (*Boronia ruppii*) shrub species.
- Threatened species recorded in the vicinity of the reserve include the hooded robin – south-eastern form (*Melanodryas cucullata cucullata*), turquoise parrot (*Neophema pulchella*), large-eared pied bat (*Chalinolobus dwyeri*) and little bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus australis*). Woodsreef SCA extends habitat opportunities for these species.

5. Issues

- The only weed species recorded within Woodsreef SCA is blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). However, further survey is required to ascertain the presence and distribution of weeds in the SCA.
- Feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*), feral goats (*Capra hircus*), foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral cats (*Felis catus*) and rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) occur on all tenures across the landscape surrounding Woodsreef SCA. It is expected these pest species will, from time to time, be present within the SCA.
- Risks associated with the proximity of the SCA to the tailings from the former Woodsreef asbestos open-cut mine have not yet been fully assessed.
- Recreational use of the reserve will depend on the outcomes of the risk assessment.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Woodsreef State Conservation Area [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Northern Tablelands Region.
- A coordinated landscape approach, in close cooperation with other government agencies and neighbouring landholders, will be the basis for all pest animal control programs undertaken in Woodsreef SCA.
- Liaison with relevant government bodies regarding the long-term rehabilitation of the mine site and assessment of asbestos risk will be ongoing. Until the risks have been fully assessed, a precautionary approach will be applied to the management of the reserve, including installation of signage warning of risks and prohibiting visitation.
- 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 Glen Innes Office on 02 6739 0700, 68 Church Street or PO Box 281, Glen Innes 2370.

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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