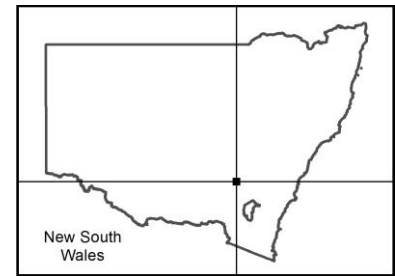




Statement of Management Intent



Young 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 Young 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: Young Nature Reserve was reserved on 1 January 2011.

Size: 453 hectares.

Young Nature Reserve is located approximately 15 kilometres south-west of Young. It falls within the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion, and within the administrative areas of Young Shire Council, Young Local Aboriginal Land Council and Riverina Local Land Services.

Young Nature Reserve was originally state forest. It was reserved under the *National Park Estate (South-Western Cypress Reservations) Act 2010* to protect remaining areas of white cypress woodland vegetation. The park is long and narrow and adjoins areas of cleared grazing land.

Young Nature Reserve protects remnant vegetation communities providing habitat for a range of native animal species. The park is land-locked and is not open for visitation.



4. Values

- Young Nature Reserve protects a remnant of the endangered ecological community White Box Yellow Box Blakely’s Red Gum Woodland (Box Gum Woodland) listed under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. This is also likely to conform to the definition of the critically endangered ecological community White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely’s Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland listed under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Populations of this community have been significantly reduced and remnants are often degraded and highly fragmented. This woodland community provides important habitat for a diverse range of threatened species, particularly in relation to breeding opportunities in tree hollows.
- The park protects important habitat and provides refuge for a range of native animals.

5. Issues

- Foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral cats (*Felis catus*) and rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) are present within Young Nature Reserve.

- Young Nature Reserve has infestations of thistles (*Cirsium* spp.), impacting the habitat value of the Box Gum Woodland endangered ecological community.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Young Nature Reserve [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Southern Ranges Region. Current priorities include a community program reducing the impact of foxes on neighbouring properties and a weed program protecting the Box Gum Woodland community in the park.
- 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 Queanbeyan Office on (02) 6229 7166 or 11 Farrer Place, Queanbeyan NSW 2620 or Tumut Office on (02) 6947 7000 or 7a Adelong Road, Tumut NSW 2720.

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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