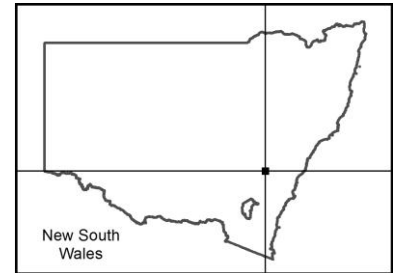


Statement of Management Intent



Abercrombie River 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 Abercrombie River 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:

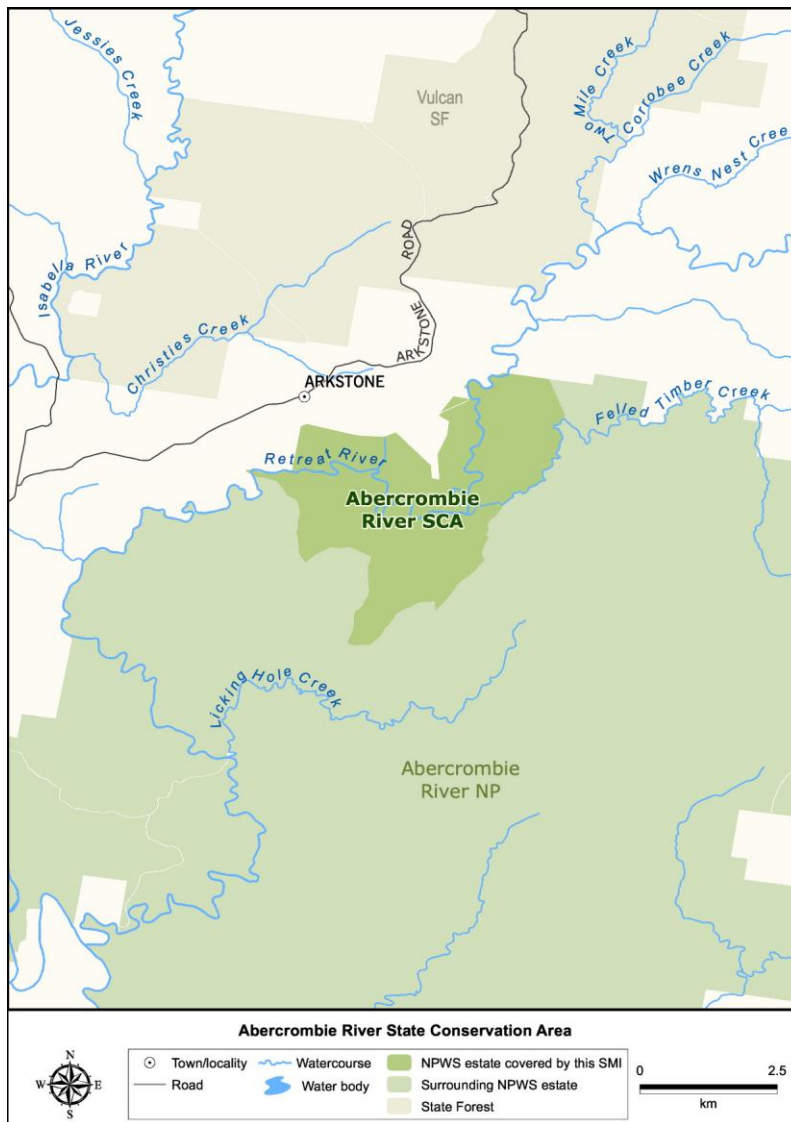
- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, protect natural phenomena and maintain natural landscapes
- conserve places, objects and features of cultural value
- provide for the undertaking of uses permitted under other provisions of the NPW Act (including uses permitted under section 47J 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: Abercrombie River SCA was reserved on 21 May 2010.

Size: 965 hectares.



Abercrombie River SCA is located approximately 35 kilometres south-west of Edith. It lies within the Blue Mountains region of the South Eastern Highlands Bioregion. It also falls within the administrative areas of Oberon Council, Pejar Local Aboriginal Land Council and Central Tablelands Local Land Services.

Abercrombie River SCA adjoins the main section of Abercrombie River National Park. The national park is 19,000 hectares and forms the south, east and western boundary of the SCA. Abercrombie River National Park and SCA are comprised of former Crown and state forest tenure. The land surrounding both parks is primarily cleared grazing land and areas of pine plantations. Abercrombie River National Park and SCA, combined with Razorback Nature Reserve and Copperhanna Nature Reserve, assist in conserving the natural features of the region. The parks protect important areas

of remnant bushland in the southern tablelands of New South Wales and protect the water quality of the Abercrombie River and other permanent watercourses such as Retreat River.

4. Values

- Abercrombie River SCA protects habitat for the endangered Booroolong frog (*Litoria booroolongensis*) where it has been recorded along the Retreat River. Other threatened species recorded in the adjoining Abercrombie River National Park include the gang-gang cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*), powerful owl (*Ninox strenua*), eastern bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis*), eastern false pipistrelle (*Falsistrellus tasmaniensis*), spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*) and koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*). Abercrombie River SCA extends potential habitat opportunities for these species.
- Abercrombie River SCA protects waterways for the endangered fish Macquarie perch (*Macquaria australasica*). A release program for this species was carried out in Retreat River in 2011.
- Abercrombie River SCA is dominated by tablelands dry shrub and forest vegetation communities; it also protects sections of riparian vegetation such as river oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*) along Retreat River.
- Although there have been no formal recordings of threatened plant species in Abercrombie River SCA, the adjoining national park provides habitat for a number of Rare or Threatened Australian Plants (sensu ROTAP species after Briggs and Leigh 1996). ROTAP species include the plum-leaf pomaderris (*Pomaderris prunifolia*) and the myrtaceous shrub *Leptospermum blakelyi*. Abercrombie River SCA extends potential habitat opportunities for these species.
- There are two previously existing recreational-use huts on the south side of the Retreat River within Abercrombie River SCA. There is potential for a camping area to be established on the river flats across from the huts. The adjoining Abercrombie River National Park provides opportunities for nature-based recreation such as bushwalking, swimming, fishing, camping, four-wheel drive vehicle touring on roads and picnicking.
- Abercrombie River SCA contains infrastructure associated with past alluvial goldmining activities such as water races, diggings, a hut, boilers and shafts. One site is recorded as 'Golden Gully' mine.

5. Issues

- Weed species identified within Abercrombie River SCA include serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*), blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), St John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), Patterson's curse (*Echium plantagineum*), willow (*Salix* spp.), thistle (*Onopordum* spp.) and poplar (*Populus* spp.).
- Pest animals recorded within Abercrombie River SCA include European foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral goats (*Capra hircus*), feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) and feral deer (various species).
- Built infrastructure pre-dating management of Abercrombie SCA for conservation purposes includes a shearing shed, huts, yards and a footbridge. An orchard also survives.
- There are safety risks associated with mine workings and unfenced and unmarked vertical shafts.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Abercrombie River SCA [Fire Management Strategy](#).

- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Blue Mountains Region. Current priorities include weed and pest animal control programs concentrated along riparian corridors of Retreat and Abercrombie rivers, with the primary aim to protect the habitat of the endangered Booroolong frog and Macquarie perch.
- Historic heritage and safety assessments of structures such as huts and sheds will be undertaken. These will determine future use of the buildings and may include removal.
- Infrastructure and impacts associated with past mining activities will be mapped and visitor safety assessment conducted. Appropriate signage and fencing requirements will be installed where required.
- Fossicking will be allowed to continue within Abercrombie River SCA. However, this issue will be reviewed when the SCA's plan of management is drafted. Fossicking is permitted in accordance with the NSW Department of Trade and Investment's *Fossicking: A Guide to Fossicking in New South Wales*.
- 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 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 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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