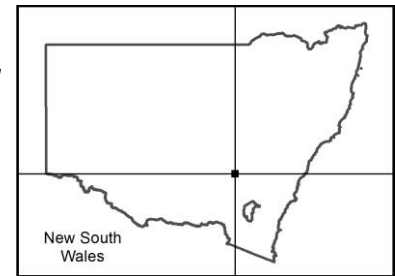




Statement of Management Intent



Bendick Murrell National Park

1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Bendick Murrell National Park. This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the park 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

National parks are reserved under the NPW Act to protect and conserve areas containing outstanding or representative ecosystems, natural or cultural features or landscapes or phenomena that provide opportunities for public appreciation, inspiration and sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment. Under the NPW Act ([section 30E](#)), national parks are managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, and protect geological and geomorphological features and natural phenomena and maintain natural landscapes
- conserve places, objects, features and landscapes of cultural value
- protect the ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for present and future generations
- promote public appreciation and understanding of the park’s natural and cultural values
- provide for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment that is compatible with conservation of natural and cultural values
- provide for sustainable use (including adaptive reuse) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas having regard to conservation of natural and cultural values
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

The primary purpose of national parks is to conserve nature and cultural heritage. Opportunities are provided for appropriate visitor use in a manner that does not damage conservation values.

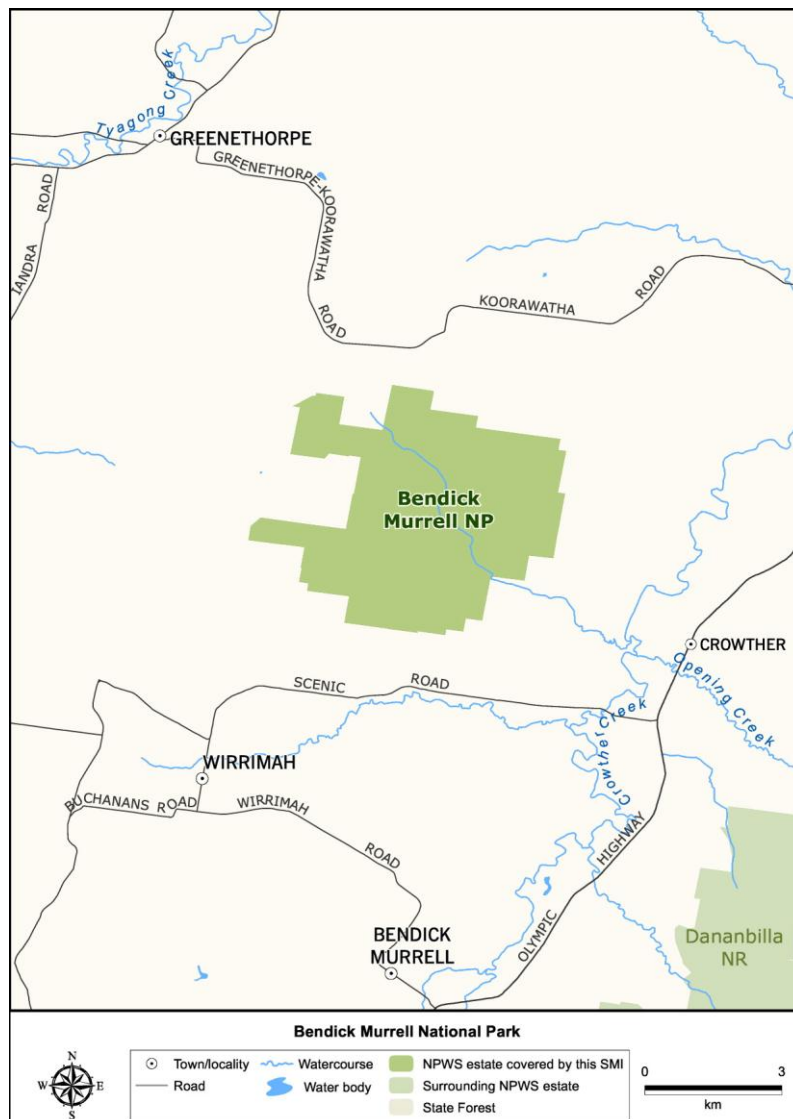
3. Context

Reservation details: Bendick Murrell National Park was reserved on 1 January 2011.

Size: 1784 hectares.

Bendick Murrell National Park is situated approximately 30 kilometres north-east of Young and west of the Olympic Highway halfway between Young and Cowra. It falls within the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Young Local Aboriginal Land Council, Young Shire Council and Central West and Riverina Local Land Services.

Bendick Murrell National Park was formerly Bendick Murrell State Forest reserved under the NSW *National Park Estate (South-Western Cypress Reservations) Act 2010*. It is part of the western woodland way corridor, linking important grassy woodland habitat in the north and south of New South Wales.



4. Values

- Over 80 species of birds have been recorded in the park to date, including the regent honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*) which is listed as critically endangered under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act) and as endangered under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). Other threatened birds recorded in the park include the glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*), painted honeyeater (*Grantiella picta*) and turquoise parrot (*Neophema pulchella*) as well as a number of threatened woodland birds including the brown treecreeper (eastern subspecies) (*Climacteris picumnus* ssp. *victoriae*), diamond firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*), scarlet robin (*Petroica boodang*), flame robin (*Petroica phoenicea*), and the speckled warbler (*Chthonicola sagittata*) all listed as vulnerable under the TSC Act.
- Bendick Murrell National Park protects poorly reserved vegetation communities and is part of an important woodland corridor linking to other areas of woodland and forest.

5. Issues

- Foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral cats (*Felis catus*) and rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) are present within the park.
- Illegal firewood collection is an ongoing issue in Bendick Murrell National Park, causing damage and loss of fallen trees and tree hollows that provide important habitat for threatened woodland birds.
- Trail bike riding and the development of illegal tracks, causing damage to important habitat and ecologically significant vegetation communities, is also of concern in this park.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Bendick Murrell National Park [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Southern Ranges Region. A current priority in Bendick Murrell National Park is a monitoring program targeting feral goats (*Capra hircus*) and deer (various species) with a focus on preventing establishment.
- 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 park. 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 park by promoting and raising public awareness of its special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this park 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 park 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 park's location and basic features only, and are not suitable for use when navigating to or exploring within parks.

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