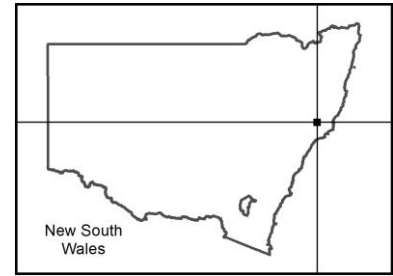




Statement of Management Intent



Berrico 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 Berrico 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: Berrico Nature Reserve was reserved on 1 January 1999.

Size: 910 hectares.

Berrico Nature Reserve is located approximately 19 kilometres south-west of Gloucester. It falls within the NSW North Coast Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Gloucester Shire Council, Hunter Local Land Services and Forster and Karuah local Aboriginal land councils. The reserve is located within the traditional country of the Worimi People.

The Avon River forms the eastern boundary of Berrico Nature Reserve, and Avon River State Forest also borders the eastern, southern and western boundaries of the reserve. Berrico Nature Reserve comprises former sections of Avon River State Forest and was initially named Running

Creek Nature Reserve until its name was changed on 10 August 2007. Berrico Nature Reserve contributes to the overall biodiversity of the region, providing habitat for threatened species and extending the vegetation corridor between Barrington Tops National Park and Chichester and Avon River state forests further to the north-east.



4. Values

- Berrico Nature Reserve is part of the Avon River – The Glen regional corridor, which forms a key vegetation and wildlife link from Barrington Tops National Park and surrounding parks to the parks on the coast. The reserve protects important habitat for a range of threatened fauna species.
- The endangered Craven grey box (*Eucalyptus largeana*) occurs in the reserve; this species has declined significantly over its former range and is now generally restricted to small isolated populations.

5. Issues

- Pest animals which may occur in the reserve include European foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.), feral cats (*Felis catus*) and feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*).

- Weed species occurring in the reserve include pasture grasses and isolated populations of blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), crofton weed (*Ageratina adenophora*), giant Parramatta grass (*Sporobolus fertilis*), lantana (*Lantana camara*) and mistflower (*Ageratina riparia*).
- Illegal trail-bike riding is causing erosion in the reserve, and in the past the reserve has experienced issues with illegal removal of timber.
- There are a number of tenure and cadastral issues associated with formalising existing roads and management trails required to access the reserve and neighbouring properties.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Barrington Tops National Park [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Lower North Coast Region.
- Existing tenure and cadastral issues will be addressed in consultation with relevant authorities as necessary to formalise existing roads and management trails required to access the reserve and affected neighbouring properties.
- The Worimi People and other relevant Aboriginal community organisations, such as the Forster and Karuah local Aboriginal land councils, will be consulted and involved in the management of the reserve, including the management of Aboriginal sites, places and cultural and natural values.
- 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 Gloucester Office on 02 6538 5300 or 59 Church Street, or PO Box 236, Gloucester NSW 2422.

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.

Published by:

Office of Environment and Heritage
59 Goulburn Street, Sydney NSW 2000
PO Box A290, Sydney South NSW 1232
Phone: (02) 9995 5000

ISBN 978 1 74359 431 5
OEH 2014/0119
May 2014