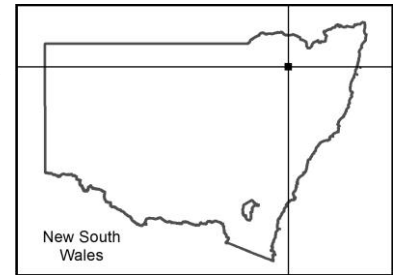


# Statement of Management Intent



## Bingara 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 Bingara State Conservation Area Community Conservation Area Zone 3 (Bingara 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
- are capable of providing opportunities for uses permitted under other provisions of the NPW Act.

Under the 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

- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

Land is reserved as a state conservation area 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:** Bingara SCA was reserved on 1 December 2005.

**Size:** 1994 hectares. This includes areas of land vested in the Minister ('Part 11' lands), including an old quarry and access roads.



Bingara SCA is located near Bingara and comprises two portions of land, approximately 11 kilometres apart. Derra Derra Section is the larger western portion, and Molroy Section is the smaller, eastern portion north of Bingara. Both sections fall within the Nandewar Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Anaiwan Aboriginal Land Council, North West Local Land Services and the Gwydir Local Government Area.

The two sections were previously Derra Derra Crown Reserve and part of Bingara State Forest. The SCA was reserved under the *Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Area Act 2005*. The SCA represents small, hilly woodland islands in an extensively cleared, undulating agricultural

landscape. A major geomorphological feature of the Nandewar Bioregion is the Peel Fault, which extends from Warialda to Nundle. Several areas of serpentinite geology are associated with this fault line, including areas in the Molroy Section of the SCA.

Previous forestry activity and grazing leases, as well as continuing impacts from pests and weeds, mean that parts of Bingara SCA are quite degraded. Despite this, the park protects very important remnants of three endangered ecological communities, and is habitat for many threatened fauna species.

#### 4. Values

- Approximately 900 hectares of the Derra Derra Section is Semi-evergreen Vine Thicket in the Brigalow Belt South and Nandewar bioregions. Derra Derra Ridge supports the largest remaining remnant of this poorly conserved community in New South Wales.
- The Derra Derra Section also conserves a small, dense patch of Brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla*) Endangered Ecological Community.
- Both sections of Bingara SCA protect areas of White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland Endangered Ecological Community.
- The serpentinite areas in the Molroy Section of the SCA support a distinctive and regionally uncommon spinifex woodland dominated by tussock grass spinifex, or porcupine grass (*Triodia scariosa* ssp. *scariosa*).
- The SCA conserves important habitat for many threatened woodland birds, including the little lorikeet (*Glossopsitta pusilla*), turquoise parrot (*Neophema pulchella*), eastern subspecies of the brown treecreeper (*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*), speckled warbler (*Chthonicola sagittata*), eastern subspecies of the black-chinned honeyeater (*Meliphreptus gularis gularis*), eastern subspecies of the grey-crowned babbler (*Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis*), varied sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*) and diamond firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*).
- Bingara SCA also protects the endangered population of Australian brush-turkey (*Alectura lathamii*) in the Nandewar and Brigalow Belt South bioregions. The woodland habitat of Bingara SCA also protects the vulnerable border thick-tailed gecko (*Underwoodisaurus sphyrurus*) and squirrel glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*).
- The Molroy Section of Bingara SCA provides a range of recreational opportunities, including remote walk-in camping, horse riding, cycling and fishing (access to Gwydir River is provided via River Trail).

#### 5. Issues

- There are feral cats (*Felis catus*), feral goats (*Capra hircus*), feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*), European red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) and rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) in Bingara SCA.
- Major infestations of mother-of-millions (*Bryophyllum* spp.) occur. Other weeds include: blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*), Coolatai grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*), prickly pears (*Opuntia* spp.) blue heliotrope (*Heliotropium amplexicaule*) and St John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*).
- Previous forestry activities and grazing leases, as well as continued illegal activities including unauthorised grazing, rubbish dumping and firewood collection, mean that Bingara SCA is quite degraded.
- Cattle incursions from neighbouring agricultural properties are an occasional problem in Bingara SCA.
- Access to the Derra Derra Section for management purposes is through private property.

## 6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance the Bingara State Conservation Area [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Northern Tablelands Region. Control priorities are Coolatai grass, African boxthorn, mother-of-millions, prickly pear, feral goat, feral pig and foxes. Control of foxes is important to help protect the endangered population of brush turkeys. Control efforts focus on protection of endangered ecological communities and threatened species habitats, in particular border thick-tailed gecko habitat.
- Trails and park roads and other park assets will be maintained, with some trails closed for rehabilitation.
- Subject to available resourcing, neighbours may be assisted to install stock-proof park boundary fencing in accordance with the NPWS Boundary Fencing Policy.
- Remote walk-in camping and horse riding and cycling along management trails and park roads is allowed in the Molroy Section.
- 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 on-going 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 on-going conservation of the SCA 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 Glen Innes Office on (02) 6739 0700 or 68 Church Street, Glen Innes NSW 2370.

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**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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