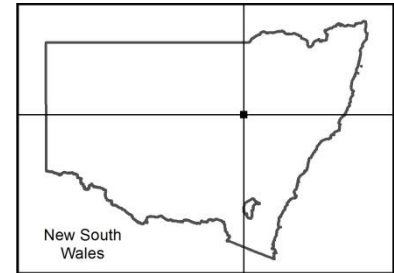


# Statement of Management Intent



## Breelong National Park Community Conservation Area Zone 1

### 1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Breelong Community Conservation Area Zone 1 National Park (Breelong 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

Zone 1 community conservation areas are reserved as national parks 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](#)), Zone 1 community conservation areas are managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, 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 Zone 1 community conservation areas is to conserve nature and cultural heritage. In doing so, opportunities are provided for appropriate and sustainable recreation.

### 3. Context

**Reservation details:** Breelong National Park was reserved on 1 December 2005.

**Size:** 6969 hectares.



Breelong National Park is situated approximately 42 kilometres north-north-east of Dubbo, 13 kilometres south-west of Gilgandra and just south of the Castlereagh Highway. It falls within the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Central West Local Land Services, Gilgandra Local Aboriginal Land Council and Gilgandra Shire Council.

Prior to reservation, the land that makes up Breelong National Park was Breelong State Forest, Eura State Forest and Lincoln State Forest. This land was reserved under the *Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Area Act 2005*. An additional 118 hectares of land was added to Breelong National Park under the *National Park Estate (South-Western Cypress Reservations) Act 2010*.

Breelong National Park protects several significant vegetation communities that are highly modified and support native animals and plants, including several threatened species.

## 4. Values

- The park protects important habitat for a number of threatened birds including the glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathamii*), masked owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae*), brown treecreeper (eastern subspecies) (*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*), speckled warbler (*Chthonicola sagittata*), grey-crowned babbler (eastern subspecies) (*Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis*) and varied sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*) all of which are listed as vulnerable under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act).
- Corben's long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus corbeni*) has also been recorded in Breelong National Park. It is listed as vulnerable under both the TSC Act and the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).
- The park protects the endangered aromatic peppergrass (*Lepidium hyssopifolium*) and a vulnerable twining vine called *Tylophora linearis*.
- Breelong National Park protects Aboriginal cultural heritage values.
- The park has over 2 kilometres of frontage to the Castlereagh River and is the only NPWS park on the Castlereagh River.
- Breelong National Park has several regionally and locally significant European cultural heritage sites including a charcoal burning site from the 1940s, forestry headquarters infrastructure, a fire tower, and a dam. There is an historic experimental forestry plot that is also of local cultural significance.
- The reserve supports low levels of visitation, including camping near the Castlereagh River.

## 5. Issues

- Pest fauna species recorded within Breelong National Park include European foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral cats (*Felis catus*), feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) and rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*).
- Weed species occurring within the park include African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*), common prickly pear (*Opuntia stricta*), tiger pear (*Opuntia aurantiaca*) and tree pear (*Opuntia tomentosa*). Isolated infestations of burr (*Xanthium* spp.) occur along the Castlereagh River banks.
- There are ongoing issues with illegal firewood collection, illegal hunting and inappropriate use of management trails and bush tracks in Breelong National Park.
- Current vegetation data is inadequate and further research is required to better inform management of the park.
- Sites of historic interest, such as the fire tower and forestry headquarters, are susceptible to damage from fire.

## 6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Breelong National Park [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Northern Plains Region. Current priorities for the park include feral pigs, African boxthorn and prickly pear.
- A feral pig trapping program is ongoing over several parks in the Dubbo area.
- Camping near the Castlereagh River and passive nature-based recreational activities such as birdwatching and nature appreciation are supported in Breelong National Park.
- Trails within the park where horse riding is permitted will be identified in accordance with the NPWS Horse Riding Policy.

- 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 Coonabarabran Office on (02) 6842 1311 or 30 Timor Street, Coonabarabran NSW 2357.

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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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