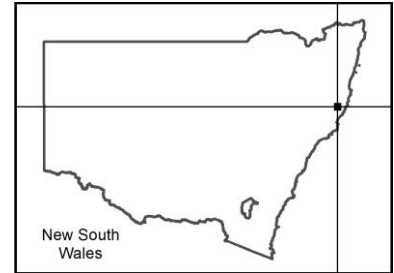




Statement of Management Intent



Bridal Veil Falls 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 Bridal Veil Falls 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 Policy [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: Bridal Veil Falls Nature Reserve was reserved on 23 December 2005.

Size: 216 hectares.

Bridal Veil Falls Nature Reserve is located approximately 40 kilometres south-west of Port Macquarie. It falls within the NSW North Coast Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, North Coast Local Land Services and Bunyah Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Bridal Veil Falls Nature Reserve is located on the western side of Comboyne Road and lies adjacent to Kerewong State Forest. In June 2010 the reserve was extended to the east to include 65 hectares of what was formerly Bridal Veil Falls State Conservation Area. Directly north-west of

the reserve is the Bilbe Voluntary Conservation Agreement land (approximately 58 hectares in size and gazetted in 2013) which extends protection for the habitats and landscapes within the reserve.



The reserve features a significant section of the Thone River and its tributaries. It features gully and subtropical rainforest along the gullies and sheltered high soil fertility sites, transitioning to wet sclerophyll forests along the steep slopes, and drier sclerophyll forests on some of the exposed ridge tops. The reserve also features basaltic tertiary volcanic rocks and their derived soils, which are characteristic of the Comboyne Plateau area.

The region has a history of logging and agricultural development, in which the Comboyne Plateau was cleared between 1900 and 1925 for crop and pastoral farming and logging of red cedar (*Toona ciliata*). There is relatively recent evidence of this history of logging within parts of the reserve. Prior to 1900 the Comboyne Plateau was covered with dense subtropical rainforest, with a few remnants present today.

The reserve forms part of a wildlife corridor that links the plateau to the escarpment and east to the coast providing suitable habitat for threatened fauna migrating across the region.

4. Values

- There are currently limited documented species records for the reserve due to limited survey or data collection. There have been confirmed sightings of the threatened spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*) and wompoo fruit-dove (*Ptilinopus magnificus*), and habitat-based modelling suggests a number of other threatened bird, mammal, reptile and amphibian species would also be expected to occur. Threatened fauna species records in close proximity to the reserve include the stuttering frog (*Mixophyes balbus*), glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*), koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), yellow-bellied glider (*Petaurus australis*) and southern myotis (*Myotis macropus*).
- The reserve is identified as part of a local and regional wildlife corridor network, with important links from the escarpment and the largely cleared Comboyne Plateau to the coast.
- There are no visitor facilities available at Bridal Veil Falls Nature Reserve. However, Boorgana Nature Reserve, the second oldest nature reserve in New South Wales, is located seven kilometres south-west of the reserve and provides recreational activities such as picnicking and barbecuing facilities, walking trails and lookouts.

5. Issues

- Pest animal species which may occur in the reserve include European foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) and wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.).
- Weed species which may occur in the reserve include exotic grasses, privet (*Ligustrum* spp.), lantana (*Lantana camara*), senna (*Senna pendula* var. *glabrata*) and exotic vines.
- Several neighbouring land uses have encroached into the reserve. There is a historical encroachment which predates the reservation of the reserve by a number of decades.

6. Key management directions

- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the priorities of the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Lower North Coast Region.
- Continue to work cooperatively with Hastings Landcare and the not-for-profit organisation Conservation Initiatives Comboyne to implement weed control as part of the wider Comboyne Plateau weed control program.
- Continue to improve knowledge of the reserve's native plants and animals and other values.
- Manage fire in accordance with the Bridal Veil Falls Nature Reserve [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Seek to resolve encroachment issues in accordance with NPWS policy and procedures.
- Work with neighbours and the local community to ensure the reserve, its values and its boundaries are well understood. Ensure adequate boundary signage and delineation.
- 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 Manning Hasting Area, Port Macquarie Office on 02 6588 5555 or 22 Blackbutt Road, Port Macquarie 2444.

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.

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