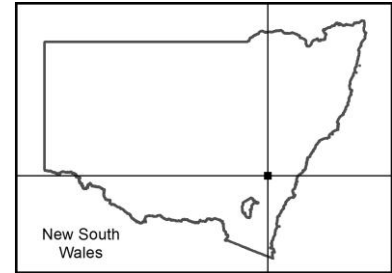


Statement of Management Intent



Bubalahla 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 Bubalahla 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: Bubalahla Nature Reserve was reserved on 13 December 2010.

Size: 417 hectares.

Bubalahla Nature Reserve is located at the base of the Great Dividing Range approximately 25 kilometres north of Taralga and 60 kilometres south of Oberon. It falls within the South Eastern Highlands Bioregion. It also lies within the administrative areas of Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Pejar Local Aboriginal Land Council and South East Local Land Services.

Bubalahla Nature Reserve contributes to the chain of parks and reserves linking Abercrombie River National Park with Blue Mountains National Park, assisting wildlife migration across the region.

However, the land immediately surrounding Bubalahla Nature Reserve has been cleared for grazing and the small size of the reserve influences the type and extent of populations of native plants and animals.

Access to the reserve for management purposes occurs through agreement with nearby landholders. There is no public vehicle access to Bubalahla Nature Reserve and no visitor facilities are provided. Opportunities for nature-based recreational pursuits exist within Abercrombie River National Park, including bushwalking, swimming, canoeing and camping at Bummaroo Ford Camping Area.



4. Values

- Although there are no records of threatened species occurring within Bubalahla Nature Reserve, it extends potential habitat for a range of threatened species recorded in nearby parks such as the eastern section of Abercrombie River National Park and the western section of Warborough Nature Reserve. Threatened species recorded in these

parks include the powerful owl (*Ninox strenua*), gang-gang cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*), scarlet robin (*Petroica boodang*) and flame robin (*Petroica phoenicea*).

- Bubalahla Nature Reserve is part of a chain of reserves which provides habitat opportunities at the landscape scale.

5. Issues

- Fauna pest species recorded within Bubalahla Nature Reserve include European foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.), rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and feral cats (*Felis catus*).
- Access to the reserve for management purposes is through private property.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with Bubalahla Nature Reserve [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Blue Mountains Region.
- Oberon Wild Dog Management Plan is a cooperative program for the region that uses ground baiting and trapping as the primary control methods for wild dogs. The management of Bubalahla Nature Reserve will be consistent with this plan.
- Other feral animal control programs will concentrate on establishing cooperative control programs with neighbouring properties.
- Secure legal access to the reserve for management purposes will be sought.
- 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 Oberon Office on (02) 6336 1972 or 38 Ross Street, Oberon NSW.

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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