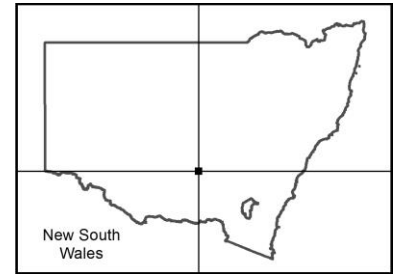




Statement of Management Intent



Buddigower 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 Buddigower 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: Buddigower Nature Reserve was reserved on 8 November 1963.

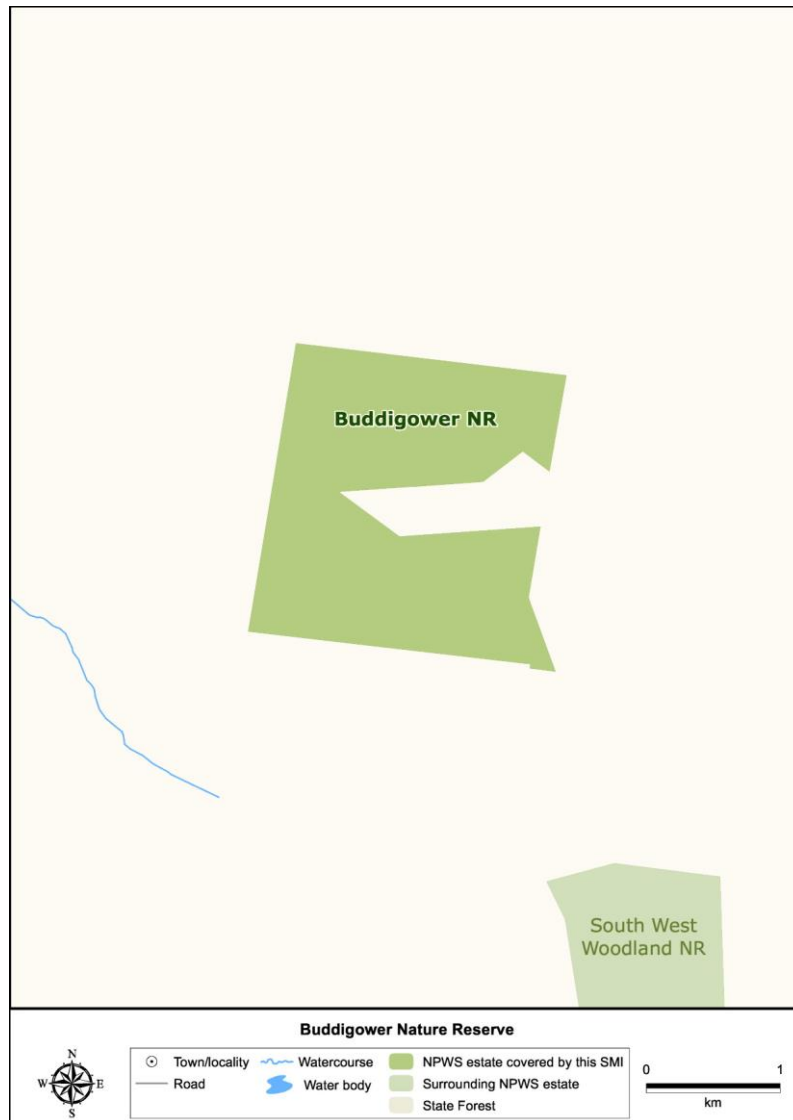
Size: 326 hectares.

Buddigower Nature Reserve is located approximately 15 kilometres south-west of Wyalong and approximately 125 kilometres north-west of Wagga Wagga. Buddigower Nature Reserve falls within the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion. It also lies within the administrative areas of Bland Shire Council, Riverina Local Land Services and West Wyalong Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Buddigower Nature Reserve was originally established under the *Fauna Protection Act 1948*. It was reserved with the intention to protect, preserve and study the endangered malleefowl (*Leipoa*

ocellata) and conserve remaining stands of blue mallee (*Eucalyptus polybractea*). Prior to reservation, the blue mallee stands in the area were selectively lopped for eucalyptus oil harvesting and the land used for other activities including grazing, wheat farming and mining.

The southern portion of Buddigower Nature Reserve (137 hectares) was reserved on 8 November 1963 and the northern portion (189 hectares) was reserved on 23 March 1978. The reserve partially encloses a portion of Crown land and private land on which an old mining lease remains. Some adjoining land is used for plantations for the carbon sequestration market.



4. Values

- Buddigower Nature Reserve provides habitat for a variety of bird species including some that are listed as vulnerable under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act). These include the barking owl (*Ninox connivens*), southern scrub-robin (*Drymodes brunneopygia*), shy heathwren (*Hylacola cautus*), Gilbert’s whistler (*Pachycephala inornata*), brown treecreeper – eastern subspecies (*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*) and the diamond firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*). Corben’s long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus corbeni*) and the poorly known pink-tailed legless lizard (*Aprasia parapulchella*) have also been recorded in the reserve. Both of these species are listed as vulnerable under the TSC Act and the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

- Buddigower Nature Reserve is one of only three NSW reserves containing the critically endangered ecological community Mallee and Mallee-Broombush dominated woodland and shrubland, lacking *Triodia*, in the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion (listed under the TSC Act). The total remaining area of this critically endangered ecological community is estimated at around 2300 hectares within the Bland and Temora local government areas.
- The reserve also supports a variety of other native vegetation communities, including Inland Grey Box–Mugga Ironbark Tall Woodland, found growing on lower slopes within the reserve. Only 18 per cent of the original extent of this community remains. The highest part of the ridges contains Currawang–Dwyers Mallee Gum Low Woodland Community.
- Buddigower Nature Reserve also contains regionally significant occurrences of plant species that have restricted distributions elsewhere in New South Wales, such as the dagger-leaved wattle (*Acacia rhigiophylla*).
- Buddigower Nature Reserve lies partly within the Wyalong Gold Field which was proclaimed in 1894, and the Bourke Cooper Dowling and Gipps gold fields proclaimed in 1880. Historic heritage features located in the gold field areas outside the reserve include mine shafts and associated relics, huts and eucalyptus stills. There is also evidence of tin mining operations and eucalyptus oil production representative of 20th century forestry and mining activities. Although no visible structures exist within the reserve, it does contain areas of potential archaeological interest, particularly on the eastern side.
- The reserve is regularly used as a bird-banding site. Data from this ongoing study has provided valuable insights into local population dynamics and has informed publications such as the *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds*.
- The reserve is part of Country for the Wiradjuri Aboriginal people. While the precise history of Aboriginal use of the area is not known, the area in which the reserve is located may have been used for food gathering and hunting. No Aboriginal sites have been recorded in the reserve.

5. Issues

- Pest species known to occur within Buddigower Nature Reserve include foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), feral cats (*Felis catus*) and occasional occurrences of feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*).
- Malleefowl have become extinct from Buddigower Nature Reserve, likely as a result of the small size of the nature reserve, and habitat loss and fragmentation.
- The southern scrub-robin, Gilbert’s whistler and shy heathwren are under threat from the small size of the reserve, habitat loss and fragmentation.
- Buddigower Nature Reserve has experienced periodic illegal harvesting of timber, broombush (*Melaleuca uncinata*) and occasional illegal motorcycle riding.
- The condition of boundary fencing is variable and some sections may warrant a boundary fence agreement with adjoining landowners, particularly in relation to grazing.

6. Key management directions

- Fire will be managed in accordance with the Buddigower Nature Reserve and South West Woodland Nature Reserve (Buddigower Precinct) [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Western Rivers Region.
- Engagement with the West Wyalong Local Aboriginal Land Council and Aboriginal community will be ongoing, providing management direction for the reserve.

- Installation of locked gates and an increase in neighbourhood presence and vigilance has resulted in a decrease in illegal harvesting of native trees and motorcycle riding within the reserve. This will continue to be monitored and managed as required.
- Neighbouring landowners will be consulted regarding issues of straying stock and boundary fencing. Subject to available resourcing, assistance may be provided to neighbours to install stock-proof park boundary fencing in accordance with the NPWS Boundary Fencing Policy.
- Bird-banding activities and appropriate research and environmental education activities will continue to be permitted on the reserve.
- 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 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 Griffith Office on 02 6966 8100 or 200 Yambil Street, Griffith NSW 2680.

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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