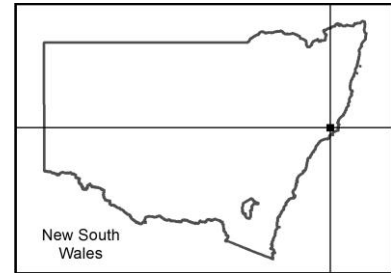


Statement of Management Intent



Bulahdelah State Conservation Area

1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Bulahdelah State Conservation Area (SCA). 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

State conservation areas are reserved 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 NPW Act ([section 30G](#)), state 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 primarily 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: Bulahdelah SCA was reserved on 23 December 2005.

Size: 138 hectares.



Bulahdelah SCA is located just to the north of Bulahdelah which is approximately 70 kilometres north-east of Newcastle. It falls within the NSW North Coast Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Great Lakes Council, Hunter Local Land Services and Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council. The Myall River lies 500 metres to the west of the SCA. The Pacific Highway forms the eastern boundary with Frys Creek to the north and Bulahdelah township to the south.

Bulahdelah SCA was formerly Crown land, part reserved for mining purposes (R.38976 notified 1905) and part reserved for preservation of trees (R.85509 notified 1965), before its reservation into the NPWS reserve system. The surrounding cleared land is associated with residential and industrial land uses and farming.

4. Values

- The geology of Bulahdelah SCA is of significant mineral value and is comprised of Alum Mountain Volcanics with evidence of alunite, gold and silver mineralisation.
- The vegetation in Bulahdelah SCA is comprised mainly of dry sclerophyll forests with wet sclerophyll forests occurring along Frys Creek. The SCA contains at least three significant vegetation communities: Smooth-barked Apple–Stringybark–Sydney Peppermint Dry Sclerophyll Forest, Swamp Mahogany–Stringybark–Red Mahogany Forest and Swamp Mahogany Swamp Forest.
- The SCA protects habitat for the cycad species, *Macrozamia flexuosa*. The threatened leafless tongue-orchid (*Cryptostylis hunteriana*) is also considered likely to occur.
- Bulahdelah SCA provides a link between Myall Lakes National Park and Bulahdelah State Forest, and is an important part of a regional wildlife corridor across the wider Bulahdelah Plain.
- Threatened fauna species that have been recorded in the SCA include the koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), squirrel glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*), wallum froglet (*Crinia tinnula*) and the little bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus australis*). The vulnerable glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptrorhynchus lathamii*) has also been recorded on the south-eastern edge and there is potential habitat for other threatened species including the masked owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae*), common bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii*), greater broad-nosed bat (*Scoteanax rueppellii*), eastern freetail-bat (*Mormopterus norfolkensis*), golden-tipped bat (*Kerivoula papuensis*), yellow-bellied sheath-tail-bat (*Saccolaimus flaviventris*), black-chinned honeyeater (*Melithreptus gularis*) and grey-headed flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*).

5. Issues

- MidCoast Water infrastructure associated with the Bulahdelah Sewage Treatment Plant is bounded on three sides by the reserve. Underground pipes and the sewage discharge point into Frys Creek are located within the reserve. There is no formal agreement between the NPWS and MidCoast Water regarding access and maintenance of infrastructure within the SCA.
- Pest animals occurring within the SCA include feral cats (*Felis catus*) and European foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*).
- Weed species recorded in Bulahdelah SCA include lantana (*Lantana camara*), exotic pines (*Pinus* spp.), privet (*Ligustrum* spp.) and exotic grasses. Rubbish and weeds enter Bulahdelah SCA from the waste transfer station and former tip site located adjacent to the SCA.
- The SCA is impacted by inappropriate recreation activities, such as motorbike riding, and is regularly burnt through arson and escaped private property hazard reduction burns.

6. Key management directions

- Continue to liaise with MidCoast Water regarding infrastructure within the SCA and seek to formalise access and maintenance arrangements in accordance with NPWS policy and legislation.
- Manage fire in accordance with the Bulahdelah SCA [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Management trails within the reserve are for management purposes only and will be managed and maintained to a standard in accordance with the fire management strategy.
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the priorities of the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Lower North Coast Region. Lantana control is

undertaken within reserves surrounding Bulahdelah SCA, and works that complement these activities will be carried out within the SCA as required. A cooperative wild dog control program is implemented across the Great Lakes Local Government Area, and works that complement these activities will be undertaken within the SCA as required.

- 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 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 ongoing conservation of the SCA by promoting and raising public awareness of its values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of the SCA or this statement, contact the NPWS Great Lakes Office on 02 6591 0300 or Booti Booti National Park, The Lakes Way, Pacific Palms NSW 2428.

Disclaimer: This is a statement of intent to guide the management of the SCA 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 SCA's location and basic features only, and are not suitable for use when navigating to or exploring within parks.

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