



NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Capertee National Park

Plan of management



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Published by:

Environment and Heritage Group
Department of Planning and Environment
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124
Phone: +61 2 9995 5000 (switchboard)
Phone: 1300 361 967 (Environment and heritage enquiries)
TTY users: phone 133 677, then ask for 1300 361 967
Speak and listen users: phone 1300 555 727, then ask for 1300 361 967
Email: info@environment.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Report pollution and environmental incidents
Environment Line: 131 555 (NSW only) or info@environment.nsw.gov.au
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Summary

Capertee National Park is reserved to achieve the objects of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act). These objects are centred on conserving nature, conserving cultural heritage values and fostering public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of these special values.

The NPW Act sets principles for the management of national parks. The NPW Act requires that all operations undertaken in this park are in accordance with this plan of management.

This plan of management has been prepared after consideration of the:

- objects of the NPW Act
- management principles for national parks under section 30E of the NPW Act
- matters listed under section 72AA of the NPW Act
- submissions received during public exhibition of the Capertee National Park draft plan of management
- advice received from the Blue Mountains Regional Advisory Committee on the Capertee National Park draft plan of management, after their consideration of submissions received during the public exhibition.

Sections 1 to 5 of the plan summarise the park's key values, management principles and management considerations. These matters are outlined thoroughly in the Capertee National Park planning considerations report.

It is recommended that readers of the plan refer to the planning considerations report for detailed explanations of the park's values and management considerations.

The scheme of operations (Section 6) is the core part of this plan. It describes the desired outcomes for the park's values and actions that NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) proposes to undertake to achieve these outcomes.

The park use regulations tables (Section 7) set out the recreational and commercial activities that are permitted in the park and any requirements to undertake these activities, including whether consent must be obtained from NPWS to undertake them.

Acknowledgements

Capertee National Park is in the traditional Country of the Wiradjuri People.

This plan of management was prepared by staff of NPWS.

Contact us

For more information about this plan of management or Capertee National Park, contact the NPWS Mudgee Area Office at npws.mudgee@environment.nsw.gov.au, Inglis Street, Mudgee NSW 2850 or by telephone on 02 6370 9000.

Acknowledgement of Country

The park covered in this plan is part of an ancient landscape that includes the Aboriginal people. The area now known as Capertee National Park has traditionally been under the care of the Wiradjuri People, and other families, groups and people. Aboriginal people have a deep spiritual and cultural connection to this Country. Their ancestors have lived here for thousands of years and, in doing so, form part of this living landscape.

Connections to Country and the significance of these parks to Aboriginal peoples — past, present and future — are respected by NPWS and acknowledged. NPWS supports and acknowledges the role of Aboriginal people in identifying traditional connections and custodians for this place.



Photo 1 Capertee River, Capertee National Park. Michelle Barton/DPE

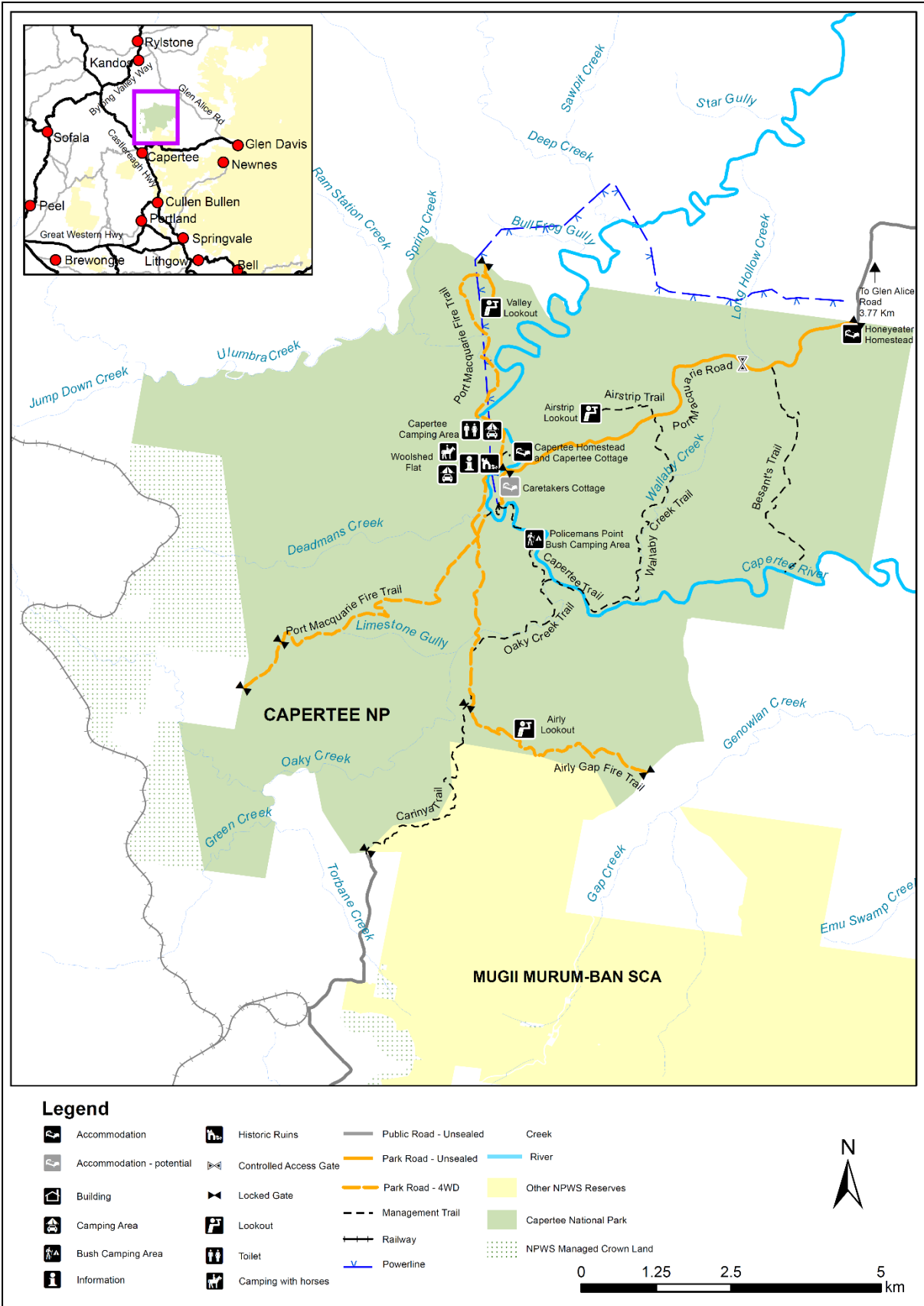


Figure 1 Capertee National Park

1. Capertee National Park

Capertee National Park (Wiradjuri Country) is located approximately 115 km north of Lithgow on the western side of the Blue Mountains (Figure 1).

1.1 Why this park is important

The park is valued by the community for its plants and animals, and the opportunities that it provides to enjoy remote and natural scenery in a setting that is largely free from crowds, infrastructure and development. The park has the following values:

- The park is part of a bushland corridor and a large network of protected areas that includes Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area, Wollemi National Park, Gardens of Stone National Park and Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area. Large and interconnected areas such as this are particularly important for the effective conservation of biodiversity.
- The Capertee River valley is geologically diverse, contributing to a diversity of vegetation communities, including 11 which are protected in the park. This includes the critically endangered White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely’s Red Gum Woodland.
- The park protects the habitats of 26 threatened animal species. Woodland communities are particularly important because they provide habitat for threatened woodland bird species, including the critically endangered regent honeyeater, and vulnerable gang-gang cockatoo, diamond firetail and hooded robin. These species are in severe decline due to clearing, habitat fragmentation, reduced food sources and loss of hollow-bearing trees.
- The park is situated within the traditional Country of the Wiradjuri People. The park helps to protect Country and numerous significant cultural sites, including a repatriation site, rock art, artefact scatters and modified trees.
- Several sites within the park are associated with the area’s agricultural history. These sites help visitors understand the area’s recent land management history. Capertee Homestead, Honeyeater Cottage and Capertee Cottage are also key visitor destinations and provide accommodation.
- Roads within the park provide opportunities for 4-wheel drive (4WD) touring and access to historic sites and lookouts. An extensive network of management trails also provides opportunities for cycling and bushwalking. See Figure 1.

Table 1 The park and its regional setting

Features	Description
Area	The park covers 6,796 ha.
Reservation date	2010: Capertee National Park was reserved. 2015, 2016 and 2020: various additions were made to the park.
Previous tenure	The park was previously a mix of freehold and leasehold land associated with the property known as Port Macquarie. The additions made in 2015 and 2016 were Crown land. The addition made in 2020 was a freehold property known as Glenolan.
Biogeographic region	The park is within the Capertee subregion of the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion.

1.2 Management principles

Development of the objectives, actions and regulations in this plan has been directed by the management principles outlined in the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

The National Parks and Wildlife Act requires that a national park be managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem function, 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 national park's natural and cultural values
- provide for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment that is compatible with the conservation of the national park's natural and cultural values
- having regard to the conservation of the national park's natural and cultural values:
 - provide for the sustainable use (including adaptive reuse) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.



Photo 2 Regent honeyeater. Bruce Thompson/DPE

2. Protecting the natural environment

Capertee National Park protects a range of vegetation communities. It also provides habitat for a number of threatened woodland birds and is one of the last known breeding areas for the critically endangered regent honeyeater.

The park is bisected by the Capertee River which is flanked by wide alluvial flats that rise to cliffs and steep, rugged gorges. While some of the alluvial river flats were cleared for farming, most of the hills and slopes support eucalypt forests that are in relatively good condition.

The area's complex geology has resulted in a variety of significant ecosystems and habitats, and 11 vegetation communities, including White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Woodland critically endangered ecological community. There are records of 3 threatened plant species in the park, including the first formal records of *Phebalium bifidum* within a protected area. The park has records of 204 different native animal species, including 26 that are threatened. Additional threatened plant and animal species have been recorded within 5 km of the park and could potentially exist in the park.

The park provides a continuation of the natural corridor of reserved land linking to the Greater Blue Mountains Area World Heritage property and other nearby natural areas. The presence of Devonian limestone has led to the formation of an extensive area of karst landforms such as sinkholes, springs and crevices; along with tufa deposits where springs high in carbonate minerals percolate to the surface.

Feral animals (such as goats, pigs and rabbits) and weed species (including tree of heaven, blackberry and prickly pear) are negatively affecting the condition of the park's habitats as well as the Capertee River catchment. Cleared areas are susceptible to further nutrient accumulation, erosion and weed invasion. Changes to fire regimes and rainfall patterns predicted as a result of climate change are likely to exacerbate the impact of threatening processes on the park's plants and animals.

Degradation and fragmentation of habitat and nesting sites are potential threats to the regent honeyeater. There is also a risk that the recovery of regent honeyeaters could be compromised by disturbance arising from birdwatchers unaware of birdwatching protocols. Addressing the broad range of threatening processes to the regent honeyeater is a major focus for the park. This includes implementing priorities consistent with the *National recovery plan for the regent honeyeater*, the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Program for threatened species, and the conservation action plan for the declared asset of intergenerational significance for the conservation of regent honeyeater habitat, which covers 718 ha of the park.

There are opportunities to conduct targeted feral animal and weed management programs in the highest value areas of the park, conduct restoration projects to restore the previously cleared alluvial flats, and rehabilitate and revegetate disturbed areas. These actions will, in turn, improve the resilience of the park to the effects of threatening processes, including climate change. Awareness-raising and enforcement activities are undertaken to mitigate against the impacts of illegal and inappropriate activities by park visitors.

3. Looking after our culture and heritage

The park is a part of the Country of the Wiradjuri language group who maintain a spiritual and cultural connection to the park and the surrounding area. The land, water, plants and animals within a landscape are central to Aboriginal spirituality and contribute to Aboriginal identity. Aboriginal heritage and connection to nature are inseparable and need to be managed in an integrated manner across the landscape. Aboriginal groups were negatively affected and displaced after European occupation, with at least one recorded massacre by early settlers in the Capertee area.

Aboriginal occupation of the Capertee Valley is evident through a vast number of sites, including artefact scatters, rock shelters containing art and grinding grooves and historical records.

In 2011, Wiradjuri knowledge-holders held a ceremony for the repatriation of their ancestral remains back to Country on Capertee National Park. This location is highly significant to the Wiradjuri People and any visitation to the site requires the consent of a Wiradjuri knowledge-holder. The site will not be signposted or shown on maps or interpretive material.

As the full extent of Aboriginal sites in the park is not known, there is risk of damage and degradation to unknown sites from park management, visitation and natural deterioration. All sites are threatened by erosion, fire and impacts by park visitors. Known sites will be monitored and protected, and the locations of significant sites will be suppressed to ensure their protection and endurance. Where possible, further investigations will be undertaken to identify and assess unknown sites.

There are opportunities for the Aboriginal community to connect to their Country and to increase their involvement in park management. There is also potential to enhance the identity of the park as an Aboriginal cultural landscape by activating cultural tourism enterprises and incorporating Aboriginal language into the naming of places and signage within the park.

The park includes places and items that may have historic, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic significance. The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) conserves the significant heritage features of the parks that it manages.

Pastoral activity in the Capertee area started as early as the 1840s, with Irish and Scottish settlers being some of the earliest landholders in the area. The land that forms part of Capertee National Park, previously a property named Port Macquarie, was cleared to provide grazing lands for sheep and cattle. In later years, lucerne was grown extensively on the river flats. Remnants of this pastoral history are evidenced by the homestead, woolshed, yards and an orchard; as well as other structures and machinery formerly used on the working farm.

Mining for alluvial gold and other minerals occurred on the property, particularly during the gold rush of the 1850s and 1860s. Signs of this past mining activity can be found along the river in the form of stone water races and stone shelters built by prospectors. During the First World War, plans were made to establish an oil shale works on the land, however, these plans were abandoned.

The historic heritage of the former pastoral property is at risk of dilapidation and damage from bushfires. The significance of these historic heritage items needs to be assessed further to be able to prioritise management. A preliminary heritage assessment of the woolshed identified the structure to be of local historic significance.

4. Providing for visitor use and enjoyment

The park offers a range of visitor experiences and helps to support tourism by attracting visitors to the region. However, levels of visitation to Capertee National Park are relatively low compared to other parks in the region.

NPWS aims to ensure that visitors enjoy, experience and appreciate parks at the same time as conserving and protecting park values. In order to maintain public access while also maximising the security of park assets in this relatively remote location, public access to the park is managed by NPWS through the provision of a code for the locked gate.

The majority of visitation is centred around low-impact, self-reliant, nature-based recreation such as bushwalking and birdwatching. The threatened woodland birds that are known to inhabit the park (such as the regent honeyeater) attract seasonal visitors for day use and overnight visits during peak periods of bird activity. Picnic facilities and sites with interpretation and education information are available for park users.

There are opportunities for walking, horse riding, cycling, 4WD touring and camping in the park. The scenic landscape enhances the enjoyment of such activities. The park has a mix of park roads suitable for use by 2-wheel drive (2WD) and 4WD vehicles. Horse riding is allowed on the park roads in Capertee National Park shown in Figure 1. Cycling is currently confined to park roads and management trails. Subject to the outcomes of environmental assessments, additional opportunities for horse riding and cycling using former farm tracks may be authorised in the future.

Short-term visitor accommodation is available in the Capertee Homestead, Capertee Cottage and Honeyeater Homestead (Figure 1), with the homesteads also being suitable for small conferences and meetings. The provision of these facilities makes the park desirable for interest groups, clubs and families. There may be opportunities to upgrade the Caretakers Cottage in the future for visitor accommodation.

Opportunities exist to improve the way that visitors use, enjoy and learn about the park. These opportunities include upgrading the visitor facilities and recreation opportunities to better meet the needs of visitors, and developing programs to promote and interpret park values.

The availability of camping and accommodation, along with the presence of a number of threatened species and ecological communities, highlights the potential for the park to be used for future research and educational opportunities.

The park use regulations tables in Section 7 set out the recreational and commercial activities that are permitted in the park and any requirements to undertake these activities.

5. Infrastructure and services

NPWS manages the following infrastructure within the park:

- day use areas (picnic areas, lookouts and car parks) and camping facilities
- park roads (unsealed, 2WD and 4WD) and management trails
- boundary fencing
- visitor and staff accommodation
- woolsheds and other sheds.

The network of park roads and management trails in the park (Figure 1) provide access for management activities, including fire suppression, fuel reduction burning and feral animal and weed management.

The management trails in the parks are an important fire management asset. Under the *Rural Fires Act 1997* the relevant bush fire management committee prepares a fire access and fire trail plan that identifies access for fire suppression and management purposes, including fire trail standards. NPWS will minimise impacts on the park's environmental and cultural heritage values by implementing trail construction and maintenance works to meet these standards.

Some sections of management trails that are critical in managing fire are accessed through private property, and NPWS will seek to secure access with relevant landowners. Proposals for new management trails will be subject to environmental and cultural heritage assessment consistent with the National Parks and Wildlife Act and other relevant legislation.

Vehicle access to the park is provided through a locked gate at the main entrance, which helps to maintain the security of park infrastructure. Fencing and gates elsewhere within the park also help to maintain the security of park infrastructure, minimise illegal firewood collection and prevent unauthorised access into areas that are not suitable for vehicles. Management trails are not available for public vehicle access but are suitable for bushwalkers and cyclists.

Several of the buildings within the park are connected to the state electricity supply network. Access protocols have been established to facilitate the maintenance of power supply infrastructure within the park. A stand-alone power supply system may be installed in the park to service park assets. There may then be potential to remove the infrastructure associated with the current power supply network.

All park assets are regularly reviewed to determine whether they are still required for future use. Assets that are no longer necessary for park management or visitor use may be decommissioned or removed after environmental assessments.

6. Scheme of operations

The scheme of operations in Table 2 is consistent with section 72AA of the National Parks and Wildlife Act. It details the desired outcomes for the park's values, and the actions that NPWS proposes to undertake to achieve these outcomes. Actions in the scheme of operations may contribute to more than one desired outcome (such as threat mitigation), but to avoid repetition actions are only listed once against the most significant outcome.

A management priority has been assigned to each action to guide the allocation of resources.

- **High** – Loss or significant decline in the condition of the park value is likely if action is not taken, or significant improvement in the condition of the value is likely if action is taken.
- **Medium** – Decline in the condition of the park value is likely if action is not taken, or improvement in the condition of the value is likely if action is taken.
- **Low** – Some decline in the condition of the park value is possible if action is not taken, or some improvement in the condition of the value is possible if action is taken.

NPWS's performance in meeting the **outcomes** in the scheme of operations will be measured through periodic assessments and audit of the plan of management.

The scheme of operations sets strategic goals that may involve the development and delivery of subsidiary plans. Subsidiary plans enable adaptive responses to new information or changed circumstances, such as for feral animals, weeds, fire and recreational activities, as required by NPWS policy. Assessments of performance and reviews will be used to inform adaptive management in these subsidiary plans as well as any required adjustments and improvements to future plans of management for the park.

Capertee National Park contains areas vital for the conservation of the critically endangered regent honeyeater. These areas (718 ha in total) have been declared an asset of intergenerational significance under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. Conservation action plans will be prepared and implemented to manage and monitor land declared to be assets of intergenerational significance under the Act.

The implementation of objectives set out below may be subject to statutory responsibilities under the National Parks and Wildlife Act and other relevant state and Commonwealth legislation, including environmental and heritage impact assessments and approvals. Further community consultation on the proposed actions may be undertaken as part of these processes.

Information on popular recreational or commercial activities that are permitted in the park is provided in the park use regulations tables in Section 7. More detailed information on other activities is available on the NPWS website (see link in 'More information' section).

Table 2 Scheme of operations

Outcome	Action	Priority
Protecting the natural environment		
1. Significant animal populations (including regent honeyeater) are protected, and their habitats are maintained in good condition	a. Manage key threats including the spread of weeds and feral animals, straying stock, firewood collection and illegal off-road driving, and minimise adverse impacts from authorised road maintenance activities within areas of regent honeyeater habitat.	High
	b. Encourage visitors to adopt minimal impact birdwatching behaviours within areas of regent honeyeater habitat.	High
	c. Adapt actions for the conservation of significant animals and their habitat in response to climate change.	High
	d. Implement relevant actions in the Biodiversity Conservation Program and any conservation action plans for declared assets of intergenerational significance, including actions at key management sites for threatened species, populations and ecological communities in the parks.	High
2. The condition of significant vegetation and threatened ecological communities (e.g. White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely’s Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland) is maintained and improved	a. Prevent the spread of weeds, straying of stock, illegal off-road driving, firewood collection and soil erosion within areas of significant vegetation and threatened ecological communities.	High
	b. Adapt actions for the conservation of significant vegetation and threatened ecological communities in response to climate changes.	High
	c. Facilitate research that improves knowledge about the extent and condition of threatened ecological communities.	Medium
	d. Conduct vegetation restoration activities in degraded areas to improve vegetation structural diversity and habitat values following appropriate environmental assessment that considers species selection, planting densities, placement and methods.	Medium
3. The condition of threatened plant populations in the park is maintained	a. Minimise the impact of weeds, feral animals, stray stock, firewood collection, illegal off-road driving and management activities on threatened plant populations.	High
	b. Adapt actions for the conservation of threatened plant populations in response to changing local conditions and climate changes.	Medium

Outcome	Action	Priority
	c. Facilitate research that improves knowledge about threatened plant populations.	Medium
	d. Assess the impact of road management on threatened plant species and address impacts if necessary.	Medium
4. Catchment and geological values are maintained	a. Minimise the impact of feral animals, stray stock, nearby extractive activities, weeds, erosion and run-off from farmland on the Capertee Creek catchment and geological values in the park.	Medium
5. Connectivity with the region's protected areas is maintained	a. Minimise fragmentation and incremental declines in the condition of vegetation within, and adjacent to, the park through coordinated threat management programs with other land managers.	Medium
Looking after our culture and heritage: Aboriginal cultural heritage		
6. The condition of Aboriginal cultural values of the park is maintained	a. Prevent damage to cultural heritage sites in riparian areas by minimising erosion of riverbanks.	High
	b. Investigate, document and protect Aboriginal cultural values and sites, including the repatriation site, in consultation with appropriate Aboriginal community representatives.	High
	c. Increase awareness among park visitors and the community about the park's Aboriginal culture and heritage.	High
	d. Manage vehicle access to prevent impacts on known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.	Medium
7. Aboriginal connection to Country is improved	a. Facilitate the involvement of Aboriginal people in park management and the identification and protection of Aboriginal cultural values.	High
Looking after our culture and heritage: Historic heritage		
8. The condition of historic heritage of the park is maintained	a. Respond to age-related dilapidation of historic heritage sites based on heritage significance, safety and level of visitor use.	Medium
	b. Raise awareness among park visitors and the community about the park's historic heritage.	Low
9. Knowledge of the extent and condition of historic heritage in the park is improved	a. Identify and improve understanding of historic heritage sites.	Medium

Outcome	Action	Priority
Providing for visitor use and enjoyment: Recreation opportunities		
10. Visitor use of the park is appropriate, ecologically sustainable and raises awareness about park values	a. Provide visitors with information about the park's values and recreational opportunities.	High
	b. Ensure that visitor facilities are fit for purpose, maintained in a safe condition and do not negatively impact the park's values.	High
	c. Discourage and, where feasible, prevent visitor behaviours that negatively impact park values.	High
	d. Minimise the erosion of riverbanks in areas used by visitors.	Medium
Park infrastructure and services		
11. The impact of fire on life, property and the environment is minimised within the park and beyond park boundaries	a. Maintain and upgrade management trails identified in park fire management strategies consistent with Rural Fire Service fire trail standards and relevant legislation.	High
	b. Implement the reserve access strategy to secure park access for public use and management purposes.	High
	c. Develop, implement and maintain an emergency management plan for the park.	High
	d. Continue to work cooperatively on fire management issues with fire management agencies, neighbours and other stakeholders.	Medium
12. Park infrastructure fully meets the requirements of park management and visitors and enhances park values	a. Ensure that park infrastructure meets park management and visitor needs. This may include adaptive reuse.	High
	b. Ensure that any new park infrastructure meets visitor needs and contributes to the protection of park values.	High
	c. Maintain existing and new park infrastructure in a safe condition.	High
Non-park infrastructure and services		
13. Negative impacts from surrounding land uses are diminishing	a. Liaise with neighbours to minimise any encroachment over park boundaries.	Medium
14. Negative impact of easements on park values and visitor experiences are stable or diminishing	a. Liaise with utilities and service providers to minimise the impact of easements and infrastructure on park conservation values and visitor experiences.	Low

7. Park use regulations

7.1 Recreational activities

All recreational activities are subject to policies and legislation established for the safe and sustainable enjoyment of parks.





Some recreational activities in parks require consent. However, there are many recreational activities that can be undertaken in the park without the need for consent. Consent may be provided after consideration of conservation, safety and park management factors and may be subject to certain conditions.











Activities may be subject to operating conditions or limits from time to time. For example, access to parts of the park may be closed during periods of bushfire risk or during maintenance or improvement works.




For activities that require consent, information on how to make a booking or obtain approval is available on the NSW national parks visitor website or by contacting the relevant NPWS office.

Information about some of the key non-commercial activities that require consent within the park is summarised in Table 3. It should be noted that there are additional recreational activities that may also be regulated through consents or managed through signage within the park.

Table 3 Park use regulations – recreational activities

	Type of activity	Allowed	Note/Exceptions
	Abseiling, rock climbing and canyoning	No	Potential sites and access routes are unsuitable due to Aboriginal cultural, safety and environmental concerns.
	Barbecues – portable	Yes	Portable liquid fuel stoves and portable gas and solid fuel barbecues are allowed. Use of solid fuel barbecues are prohibited during total fire bans and park solid fuel fire bans. Residues from solid fuel fires must not be deposited in the park.
	Camping	Yes	Vehicle-based camping is permitted at Capertee Camping Area and Woolshed Flat. Walk-in or cycle-in camping is permitted at Policemans Point Bush Camping Area. Camping with horses is only permitted at Woolshed Flat. Bush camping is allowed in the park at locations that are more than 100 m from park roads, day use and camping areas; and that are more than 500 m from the park's boundaries.
	Cycling	Yes	Consent required for groups of 20 or more people. Cycling is permitted on public roads, park roads and management trails.

Type of activity	Allowed	Note/Exceptions
		Subject to the outcomes of environmental assessments, additional areas for cycling using former farm tracks may be designated in the future.
	No	<p>Dogs are not permitted within national parks in New South Wales.</p> <p>However, assistance animals are allowed in all sections of the park provided they are kept under effective control at all times with a leash or harness.</p>
	Yes	<p>Registered vehicles including motor bikes are permitted on all designated park roads.</p> <p>To avoid risks to park values and park visitors, public vehicles are not permitted off-road or on management trails.</p>
	No	Not permitted in order to prevent environmental impacts and consistent with NPWS policy for fossicking in national parks.
 	Yes	<p>Consent is required for groups of more than 40 people, as per the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation, unless otherwise specified.</p> <p>Groups of 20 or more people or 10 or more vehicles undertaking birdwatching, bushwalking, picnicking or 4WD touring need consent.</p> <p>Consent is required for larger groups to ensure limited available space can be managed.</p>
	No	There are no suitable and safe locations within the park.
	Yes	<p>Consent is required for groups of 10 or more horses (including pack horses).</p> <p>Horse riding is permitted on public roads and park roads.</p> <p>Horse riding is not currently permitted on walking tracks or management trails.</p> <p>Additional areas may be designated for horse riding in the future, subject to the outcome of environmental assessments.</p>
 	Yes	<p>Consent required.</p> <p>Drones may be used for park management purposes and may be authorised as part of a commercial filming consent, in accordance with the NPWS <i>Drones in parks policy</i>.</p> <p>The use of drones is subject to relevant civil aviation regulations.</p>
	Yes	Consent required.

	Type of activity	Allowed	Note/Exceptions
	Off-road motorcycling and trail bike riding	No	Off-road access is not permitted in order to protect conservation values and to prevent disturbance of other park users.
	Walking	Yes	Consent is required for groups of 20 or more people. Visitors are encouraged to stay on defined tracks and trails.
	Wood fires	Yes	Wood fires are allowed in designated fireplaces. Wood fires are prohibited elsewhere in the park. Wood fires are prohibited during total fire bans and park fire bans.

7.2 Events, functions and commercial activities

Commercial and non-commercial activities in national parks requiring prior approval vary, ranging from guided tours and commercial events to filming, photography, and mobile food vendors.

The following table lists some common events and commercial activities that may be permitted in the parks with approval from NPWS under a consent, licence or lease. It is not a definitive or exhaustive list of permitted commercial or other activities. Information on relevant policies, required approvals and fees is available on the department website.

Commercial activities such as tours are licensed under the Parks Eco Pass program, which is the NPWS program for licensing operators who conduct commercial tours, recreational and educational activities in national parks and reserves.

Commercial filming and photography in parks and reserves requires approval.

Approval to use supporting equipment, such as marquees, amplified sound or drones, will be determined on a case-by-case basis, subject to an assessment of potential impacts on park values and other park users. Use of any supporting equipment will be subject to consent conditions.

NPWS is committed to ensuring that opportunities to experience Aboriginal culture in the parks are developed and delivered in a culturally sensitive way. These experiences must respect the authenticity and integrity of local Aboriginal people and their culture, adhere to cultural protocols, and recognise that Aboriginal culture is the intellectual property of Aboriginal people. Licensing of commercial tour operators, and recreational and educational operators includes conditions on the delivery of Aboriginal cultural heritage interpretation and requirements for Aboriginal cultural awareness training.

Table 4 Park use regulations – events, functions and commercial activities

Type of activity	Group size	Type of approval required
Commercial and charity events	All groups irrespective of size	Consent or licence
Sporting activity that is part of an organised competition or tournament	All groups irrespective of size	Consent
Commercial tours, recreational and educational activities and any other commercial services	All groups irrespective of size	Consent or licence
Private, non-commercial organised (e.g. club-based) events	All groups irrespective of size	Consent
All other private functions involving groups of more than 40 people	All groups of 40 or more	Consent
Filming and photography	All groups irrespective of size	Consent or licence
Research (scientific, educational or related to conservation or park management)	All groups irrespective of size	Consent or licence

8. More information

- [Capertee National Park planning considerations report](#)
- [National Parks and Wildlife Service website](#)
- [Commercial activities in parks](#)
- [Events in NSW national parks](#)
- [Park policies](#)
- [Parks Eco Pass program for commercial tour operators](#)