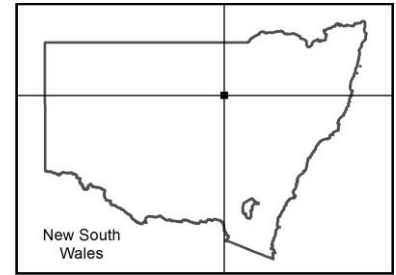




Statement of Management Intent



Carrabear 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 Carrabear 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

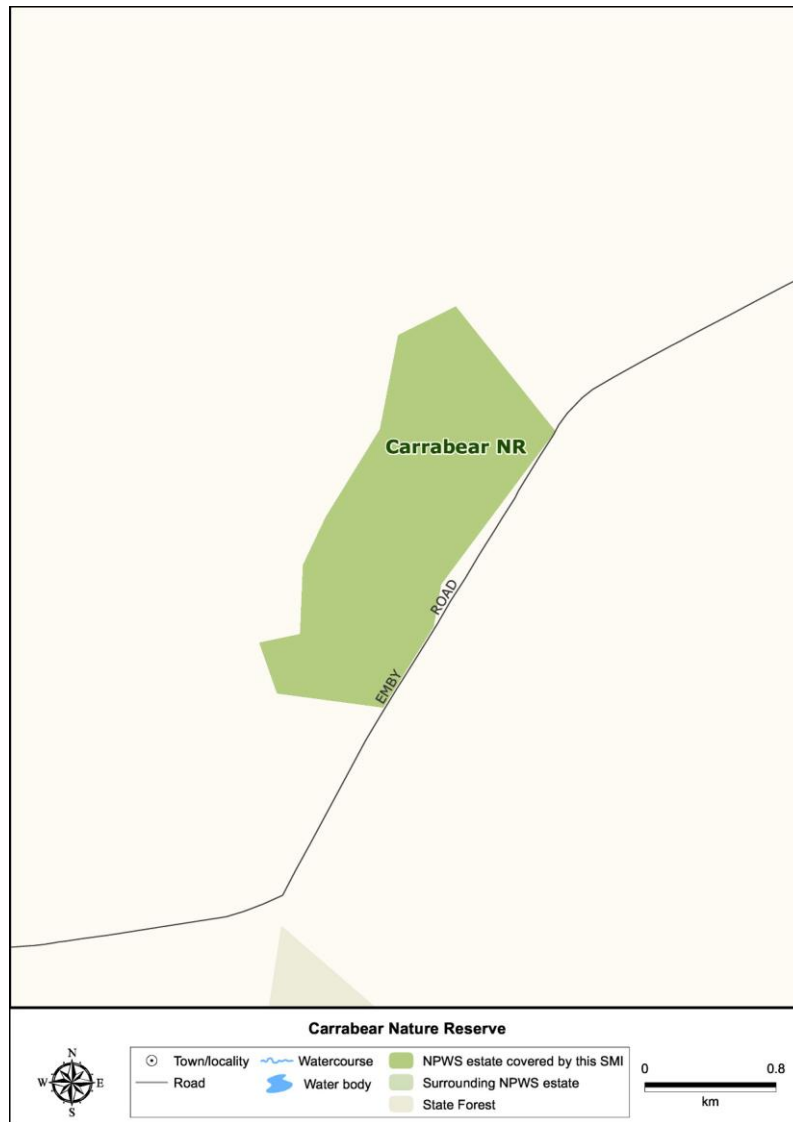
Reservation details: Carrabear Nature Reserve was reserved on 1 January 2012.

Size: 181 hectares.

Carrabear Nature Reserve is located approximately 25 kilometres south-east of Quambone. It falls within the Darling Riverine Plains Bioregion. It also falls within the administrative areas of Coonamble Shire Council, Western Local Land Services and Coonamble Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Carrabear Nature Reserve was originally proclaimed as state forest in October 1949. During this time it was logged and leased to adjoining landowners for grazing stock. It was acquired into the NPWS reserve system under the *National Park Estate (South-Western Cypress Reservations) Act*

2010 to protect remaining areas of cypress pine woodlands in the heavily cleared wheat–sheep belt region of New South Wales. The land surrounding the reserve comprises Crown land with a travelling stock route to the south and east, and freehold land used for cropping and stock-grazing to the north and west. Numerous state forests are located in the region but do not adjoin the reserve. Native woodland exists across these various land tenures to provide a vegetation and habitat corridor, albeit tenuous in parts given past forestry and land-clearing practices.



4. Values

- Carrabear Nature Reserve provides important habitat for populations of the vulnerable grey-crowned babbler – eastern subspecies (*Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis*), glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*), barking owl (*Ninox connivens*), brown tree creeper – eastern subspecies (*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*), varied sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*) and diamond firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*).
- Although none of the vegetation communities identified in the reserve are currently listed as threatened under state or commonwealth legislation, they are considered of conservation significance. They include: Poplar Box–Belah Woodland, Poplar Box–White Cypress Pine Woodland, Dirty Gum–White Cypress Pine Alluvial Woodland and Hop Bush–Speargrass Shrub/Grassland.

- A total of 131 vascular plant taxa were found from 43 families and 103 genera.
- 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. The reserve has the potential to contain historic relics relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage as well as previous forestry and pastoral activity.

5. Issues

- Feral goats (*Capra hircus*), rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral cats (*Felis catus*) and feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) are likely to occur in Carrabear Nature Reserve.
- Weed species that occur within the reserve include buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) and African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*).
- Stock within the travelling stock route can enter the reserve along the eastern boundary at the entrance to the two management trails. Existing boundary fencing is poor which can exacerbate this issue.
- Reserve neighbours occasionally use the reserve during wet periods to access their property.
- The reserve was logged for white cypress pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*) just before it was reserved as a nature reserve, and therefore the vegetation composition has changed and the density of white cypress pine significantly decreased.
- Occasional illegal cutting of firewood occurs within the reserve. Other illegal uses may include occasional hunting and use of trail bikes.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Carrabear Nature Reserve [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Northern Plains Region.
- Illegal activities will continue to be monitored and law enforcement action implemented when required.
- The installation of gates or stock grids will be investigated, to deter stock from entering the reserve on the eastern boundary at the junction between the two management trails and the travelling stock route.
- 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.
- Signage will be installed to identify the reserve and provide information about reserve values or regulatory controls when required.
- Reserve neighbours will be approached regarding use of trails within the reserve.
- A fauna survey of the reserve will be undertaken, targeting threatened species previously identified to determine whether the reserve is still providing habitat for those species. The findings will be used to inform management activities such as hazard reduction burns.
- The Coonamble Local Aboriginal Land Council and the Forestry Corporation of NSW will be contacted regarding records of Aboriginal cultural heritage within the reserve. Further surveys will be undertaken regarding Aboriginal connections to Country.

- 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 Baradine Office on 02 6843 4000 or Pilliga Forest Discovery Centre on 02 6843 4011, 50–58 Wellington Street, Baradine NSW 2396.

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,

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and are not suitable for use when navigating
to or exploring within parks.
