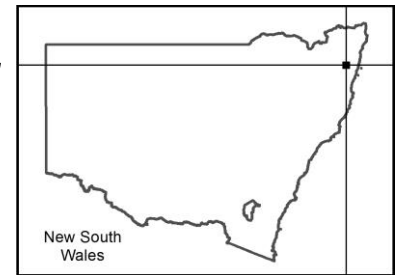


Statement of Management Intent



Chambigne 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 Chambigne State Conservation Area (SCA). This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the SCA 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:

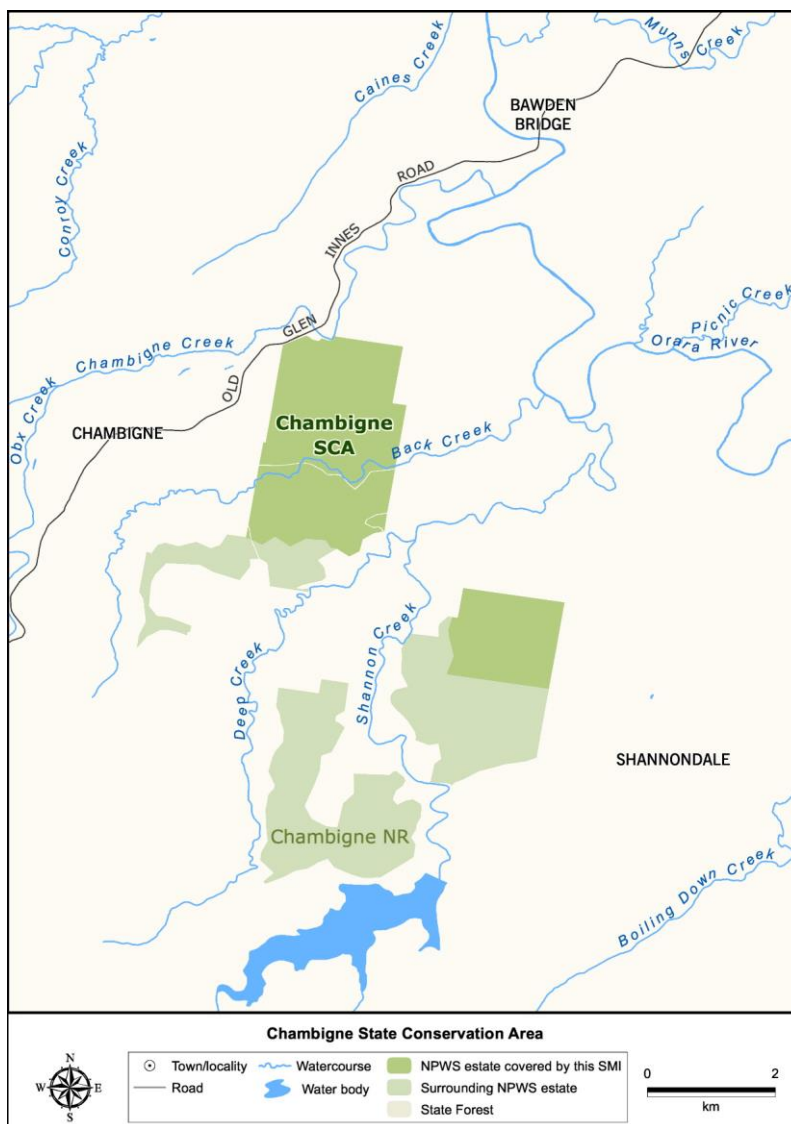
- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, protect natural phenomena and maintain natural landscapes
- conserve places, objects and features of cultural value
- provide for the undertaking of uses permitted under other provisions of the NPW Act (including uses permitted under section 47J 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: Chambigne SCA was reserved on 18 February 2011.

Size: 760 hectares.



Chambigne SCA is located approximately 16 kilometres south-west of Grafton. It lies within the South Eastern Queensland Bioregion. It also falls within the administrative areas of Clarence Valley Council, North Coast Local Land Services and the Grafton-Ngerrie Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Chambigne SCA was reserved over land that was formerly leasehold. The SCA includes the corridor of Back Creek, which was formerly a Crown waterway reserve. Chambigne SCA consists of two sections that adjoin the northern boundary of two disjunct sections of Chambigne Nature Reserve. The SCA has high conservation and Aboriginal cultural heritage values; it greatly improves the core habitat area and long-term viability of Chambigne Nature Reserve. The parks contribute to the regional fauna corridor that links coastal habitat of Yuraygir National Park to Eastern Tablelands habitat of Nymboida National Park. Chambigne SCA lies within the Kangaroo Creek Sandstone belt and is comprised of rocky ridges, sandy flats and riparian corridors. It protects a diverse habitat assemblage that consists of threatened flora and fauna species representative of wildlife in the region.

4. Values

- Chambigne SCA protects habitat for a variety of threatened fauna species including the powerful owl (*Ninox strenua*), rufous bettong (*Aepyprymnus rufescens*) and several species of bat, namely: yellow-bellied sheath-tail-bat (*Saccolaimus flaviventris*), large-eared pied bat (*Chalinolobus dwyeri*), hoary wattled bat (*Chalinolobus nigrogriseus*), little bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus australis*) and the eastern cave bat (*Vespadelus troughtoni*).
- The SCA has also been identified as providing potential habitat for the brush-tailed rock-wallaby (*Petrogale penicillata*), koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*) and brush-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*).
- The vegetation in Chambigne SCA is heathy dry sclerophyll forest, the majority of which is dominated by coastal blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*) with some smaller sections dominated by large-leaved spotted gum (*Corymbia henryi*), white bloodwood (*C. trachyphloia*) and small areas of forest red gum (*E. tereticornis*).
- Chambigne SCA protects important habitat for a population of endangered pink nodding orchid (*Geodorum densiflorum*) of which fewer than 20 populations remain in NSW. Other threatened flora species recorded within the SCA include sandstone rough-barked apple (*Angophora robur*), square-fruited ironbark (*E. tetrapleura*), swamp foxglove (*Centranthera cochinchinensis*), the perennial grass *Ancistrachne maidenii* and the subshrub *Tephrosia filipes*.
- The SCA protects a 2.6-kilometre section of Back Creek and 700 metres of another ephemeral creek with permanent waterholes, sedgelands and paperbark swamps that provides key habitat for a variety of flora and fauna species.
- The Gumbaynggirr People are the traditional custodians of the land in which Chambigne SCA is located. The earliest evidence of Aboriginal occupation in the region dates back 6400 years. The land, water, animal and plant communities are of great significance to the local Aboriginal community. Cultural heritage items that have been recorded within the SCA include rock art and tool scatters. It is anticipated that additional sites are present in the SCA given the known rich and diverse Aboriginal cultural heritage of the Chambigne area.
- Cultural heritage associated with previous land use in the SCA includes a set of yards, survey blazes and pegs, some of which date from the early 1900s.

5. Issues

- Lantana (*Lantana camara*) and mixed exotic grasses are established in the SCA, with lantana concentrated along Back Creek.
- An area of approximately 23 hectares in the south-east section of the SCA was cleared by the former lessee to improve the value of the land for grazing stock. Regeneration through natural processes is occurring but is slow.
- Access to the south-east section of the SCA is principally across neighbouring private or council lands, and is subject to ongoing agreement from these landholders.
- Stock straying from neighbouring properties is a continuing problem because overall condition of perimeter fencing is poor.
- Wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.) occur in small numbers throughout the SCA and also in the adjoining Chambigne Nature Reserve.
- The plant pathogen *Phytophthora cinnamomi* has been detected within the adjoining Chambigne Nature Reserve and council lands, so poses a significant threat for invading the SCA.

- There are known populations of the highly invasive plant tropical soda apple (*Solanum viarum*) in neighbouring catchments.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Chambigne Nature Reserve and SCA [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest programs are managed in accordance with the priorities of the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): North Coast Region.
- It is essential to maintain working relationships with neighbours regarding fire management and access. As a consequence, the SCA is not promoted for public visitation.
- Consult neighbouring landowners regarding issues of straying stock and boundary fencing. Subject to available resourcing, provide assistance to neighbours to install stock-proof park boundary fencing in accordance with the NPWS Boundary Fencing Policy, if required.
- Wild dogs are managed in accordance with the local area Wild Dog Management Plan. The primary focus of the program is to protect neighbours' livestock. Broadscale monitoring and reactive control programs occur.
- 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.
- An amendment to the plan of management for Koukandowie and Chambigne nature reserves will be prepared, to incorporate Chambigne SCA and 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 special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this SCA or this statement, contact the NPWS Grafton Office on 02 6641 1500 or Level 4, 49 Victoria Street, Grafton NSW.

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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