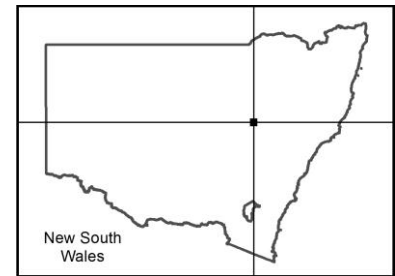


Statement of Management Intent



Cobborra State Conservation Area Community Conservation Area Zone 3

1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Cobborra Community Conservation Area Zone 3 State Conservation Area (Cobborra 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

Zone 3 community conservation areas are reserved as state conservation areas 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, and
- are capable of providing opportunities for uses permitted under other provisions of the NPW Act.

Under the NPW Act ([section 30G](#)), Zone 3 community 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, and
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

Land is reserved as a state conservation area where mineral values do not allow for reservation under 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: Cobbora SCA was reserved on 24 December 2010.

Size: 2261 hectares.



Cobbora SCA is located approximately 55 kilometres north-east of Dubbo and 25 kilometres west of Dunedoo. It falls within the Pilliga Subregion of the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion. It also falls within the administrative areas of Warrumbungle Shire Council, Central West Local Land Services and Dubbo Local Aboriginal Land Council.

The land that is now known as Cobbora SCA was first dedicated as a timber reserve in 1955 before being incorporated into Cobbora State Forest in 1985. NPWS-owned land (under Crown lease) adjoins the southern boundary of the SCA, while private land surrounds the remainder of the SCA. The majority of surrounding land in the region is used for agricultural activities. Significant coal deposits lie in close proximity to the SCA. The Cobbora Coal Mine project boundaries are located approximately five kilometres to the south-east of the SCA boundary.

Cobbora SCA provides habitat for a variety of native flora and fauna species, including threatened species. The reserve forms part of the fragmented southern corridor of the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion, linking south-eastern Goonoo State Conservation Area to Tuckland State Forest, Goodiman State Conservation Area, Dapper Nature Reserve and Yarrobil National Park.

4. Values

- The dominant vegetation community in the reserve is Ironbark–Black Cypress Pine Woodland with either a shrubby or grassy understorey. Also present are areas of Box Gum Woodland which are potentially recognisable as an endangered ecological community.
- Cobbora SCA provides significant habitat for the endangered shrub species Keith's zieria (*Zieria ingramii*) with a population of approximately 70 individuals known to occur. Keith's zieria has a very restricted distribution; the SCA provides one of only two known reserve habitats of this regionally endemic species.
- Threatened fauna species recorded within Cobbora SCA include the malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathamii*), barking owl (*Ninox connivens*), speckled warbler (*Chthonicola sagittata*) and varied sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*).
- The SCA contains *Allocasuarina* species which provide an important food source for the threatened glossy black-cockatoo.
- Cobbora SCA includes sandstone caves.
- The former Bengadee Sawmill is located within the SCA in the valley of Boomley Creek. The steam-powered sawmill was established in 1923 and represents the history of sawmilling in the Cobbora district and Australian sawmills of the 19th and 20th centuries. It is the only intact mill of its age in the area and holds educational and interpretational value because all other similar mills in the Goonoo and Pilliga region have either been removed or destroyed by fire.

5. Issues

- European red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) are recorded within Cobbora SCA and surrounding parks including the Goonoo National Park and SCA and Coolbaggie Nature Reserve.
- Invasive weed species recorded within Cobbora SCA include African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*), spiny burr grass (*Cenchrus incertus*) and prickly pear (*Opuntia* spp.) which are encroaching upon native vegetation.
- There is a proposal for an open-cut coal mine within the vicinity of the reserve.

6. Key management directions

- Fire will be managed in accordance with the Cobbora SCA [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Northern Plains Region. Current priorities for the SCA include controlling African boxthorn, spiny burr grass and prickly pear.

- Fox control and monitoring will be implemented within Cobbora SCA in accordance with the Fox Threat Abatement Plan 2 site plan for the Goonoo reserves, aiming to protect the endangered malleefowl in the region.
- Targeted vegetation surveys will be undertaken to identify locations and distribution for Keith's zieria within the Cobbora SCA.
- Liaison with the proponent of the Cobbora Mine proposal will continue, to ensure that NPWS management requirements for Cobbora SCA are considered.
- Ongoing legal access to Cobbora SCA will be maintained.
- Actions identified in the conservation management strategy for the Bengadee Sawmill historic heritage site will be implemented.
- 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 special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this SCA or this statement, contact the NPWS Dubbo Operations Centre on 02 6841 7100 or write to PO Box 580, Dubbo NSW 2830.

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

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