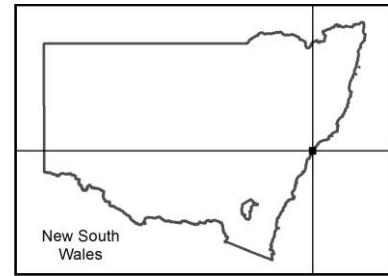


Statement of Management Intent



Colongra Swamp 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 Colongra Swamp 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: Colongra Swamp Nature Reserve was reserved on 28 February 2007.

Size: 112 hectares.

Colongra Swamp Nature Reserve is located approximately 35 kilometres north-east of Gosford. It falls within the Sydney Basin Bioregion and within the administrative areas of the Wyong Shire Council, Greater Sydney Local Land Services and Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Colongra Swamp Nature Reserve is located on the banks of Lake Munmorah, less than five kilometres inland from the coastline. It was formerly Crown land managed by Delta Electricity, which operated the Lake Munmorah Power Station located on adjoining land to the west of the nature

reserve. Munmorah State Conservation Area is located to the east of the nature reserve on the opposite side of Lake Munmorah.

Colongra Swamp Nature Reserve protects a range of vegetation communities and ecosystems, ranging from open eucalypt forest to a coastal wetland complex. The wetland habitat consists of freshwater swamp and acidic waterlogged soils that support closed sedgeland and melaleuca forest vegetation and provide habitat for a variety of threatened species, endangered ecological communities and international migratory bird species.



4. Values

- Colongra Swamp Nature Reserve protects habitat for the endangered swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) and a variety of other threatened species, including the varied sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*), wallum froglet (*Crinia tinnula*) and little lorikeet (*Glossopsitta pusilla*). The reserve has also been identified as providing potential habitat for the threatened squirrel glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*) and the endangered regent honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*).
- Colongra Swamp Nature Reserve protects habitat for a variety of migratory shorebird species protected under international conservation treaties such as the white-bellied sea-

eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*), common greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) and sharp-tailed sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*).

- The reserve protects important habitat for a variety of endangered ecological communities, including Swamp Sclerophyll Forest on Coastal Floodplains of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions; Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions; River-flat Eucalypt Forest on Coastal Floodplains of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions and Freshwater Wetlands on Coastal Floodplains of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions.
- The reserve protects important habitat suitable for the threatened and regionally endemic tree species, the Charmhaven apple (*Angophora inopina*).
- The reserve attracts visitors from school and tertiary groups for educational purposes and visitors from the local community; activities include bushwalking, fishing and birdwatching. The wide variety of bird species that inhabit the reserve attracts birdwatching groups associated with the Hunter Bird Observers Club and Birdlife Australia.
- The volunteer group Friends of Colongra has a long history of involvement in weed control and bush regeneration in the reserve.

5. Issues

- European foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) and feral cats (*Felis catus*) are known to occur within the reserve.
- Feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) were deliberately introduced into the reserve for the purpose of pig hunting. This practice of releasing pigs into the reserve continues to occur occasionally, and NPWS is implementing measures to manage this illegal activity.
- There are infestations of lantana (*Lantana camara*) in the north-east corner of the reserve, and isolated populations of watsonia (*Watsonia bulbifera*) and some aquatic weeds in sections of the reserve.
- There have been occurrences of illegal rubbish dumping and uncontrolled trail bike use within the reserve.
- An area in the swamp sclerophyll forest endangered ecological community was illegally cleared and levelled, which has caused degradation to the plant community in this area. NPWS pursued legal prosecution to facilitate rehabilitation of the site.
- The reserve is located close to residential areas. Asset protection zones have been established to protect residential areas from the threat of wildfires and are regularly maintained. The management trail network provides access for fire and other management operations.

6. Key management directions

- Manage fire and asset protection zones in accordance with the [Fire Management Strategy](#) for Colongra Swamp Nature Reserve.
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the priorities of the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Central Coast Hunter Region. Current priorities for the reserve are feral pigs, lantana, and aquatic and wetland weed species.
- Programs are regularly undertaken to control feral pigs within the reserve with the aim to eradicate the pest from the reserve.
- NPWS will continue to undertake law enforcement measures to manage any possible releasing of pigs illegally into the reserve.

- Continue to provide ongoing support and foster partnerships with the local community group Friends of Colongra which is involved in ecological management programs within Colongra Swamp Nature Reserve.
- Install or replace appropriate boundary and trail signs in the reserve.
- Continue to pursue requirements from legal proceedings to rehabilitate the illegally cleared area of swamp sclerophyll forest in the reserve.
- 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 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 values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this reserve or this statement, contact the NPWS Lakes Area office on 02 4972 9000 or Blue Wren Drive, Munmorah State Conservation Area.

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

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