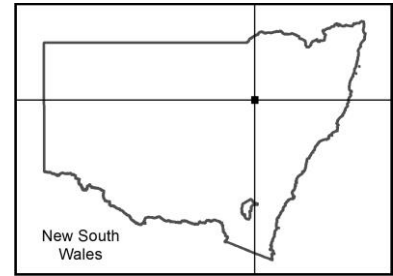


# Statement of Management Intent



## Cooleburba 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 Cooleburba State Conservation Area (Cooleburba 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:** Cooleburba SCA was reserved on 17 December 2010.

**Size:** 434 hectares.



Cooleburba SCA is located approximately five kilometres north of Coonabarabran. It falls within the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Warrumbungle Shire Council, Central West Local Land Services and Coonabarabran Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Cooleburba SCA was established under the *Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Area Act 2005*. The SCA is bordered on the north-north-west by Pilliga Nature Reserve and on the east and south-east by Crown tenure. The surrounding reserves, including Warrumbungle National Park, Pilliga Nature Reserve, various state forests, Crown land and private bushland, together form over 500,000 hectares of almost continuous habitat. Cooleburba SCA is part of a chain of reserves that protect the largest tract of inland plains forest remaining in New South Wales. The connectivity of

these areas increases the conservation value of each reserve and assists in the maintenance of the habitat and biodiversity of the Pilliga region.

#### 4. Values

- Cooleburba SCA is comprised predominantly of sandstone shrubby woodlands. The SCA protects a variety of woodland vegetation communities, including those dominated by Blakely's red gum (*Eucalyptus blakelyi*), black cypress pine (*Callitris endlicheri*), rough-barked apple (*Angophora floribunda*), red stringybark (*E. macrorhyncha*), inland scribbly gum (*E. rossii*) and narrow-leaved ironbark (*E. crebra*).
- Although no threatened species have been recorded within Cooleburba SCA, the adjoining Pilliga Nature Reserve and surrounding area supports threatened populations of glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*), little lorikeet (*Glossopsitta pusilla*) turquoise parrot (*Neophema pulchella*), grey-crowned babbler – eastern subspecies (*Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis*), koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), eastern pygmy-possum (*Cercartetus nanus*) and eastern cave bat (*Vespadelus troughtoni*). All of these species are listed as vulnerable under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act) and the koala is also listed as vulnerable under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Cooleburba SCA extends habitat opportunities for these species migrating through the region.
- The Gomeroi People previously occupied the lands of the Pilliga region. Grinding grooves, rock engravings, artefacts and sandstone paintings have been discovered in nearby reserves, which provide evidence of the Aboriginal community's long and continuing connection with the area.

#### 5. Issues

- Foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) and feral cats (*Felis catus*) occur within Cooleburba SCA. Prioritised regional pest programs exist for pest species in the adjoining Pilliga Nature Reserve including for feral goats (*Capra hircus*), feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*), foxes and rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*).
- Weed species known to occur in the reserve include prickly pear (*Opuntia* spp.).
- 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 Pilliga South Region [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 Pilliga region include controlling prickly pear and foxes. Works that complement these activities will be undertaken within Cooleburba SCA as required.
- Illegal activities will continue to be monitored and law enforcement action implemented when required.
- 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.
- Appropriate boundary signage will be installed at Cooleburba SCA.
- 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 Coonabarabran Office on 02 6825 4364 or at 30 Timor Street, Coonabarabran.

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**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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