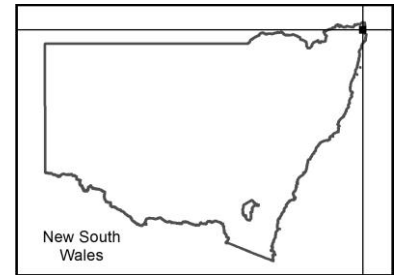


Statement of Management Intent



Cudgera Creek 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 Cudgera Creek 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

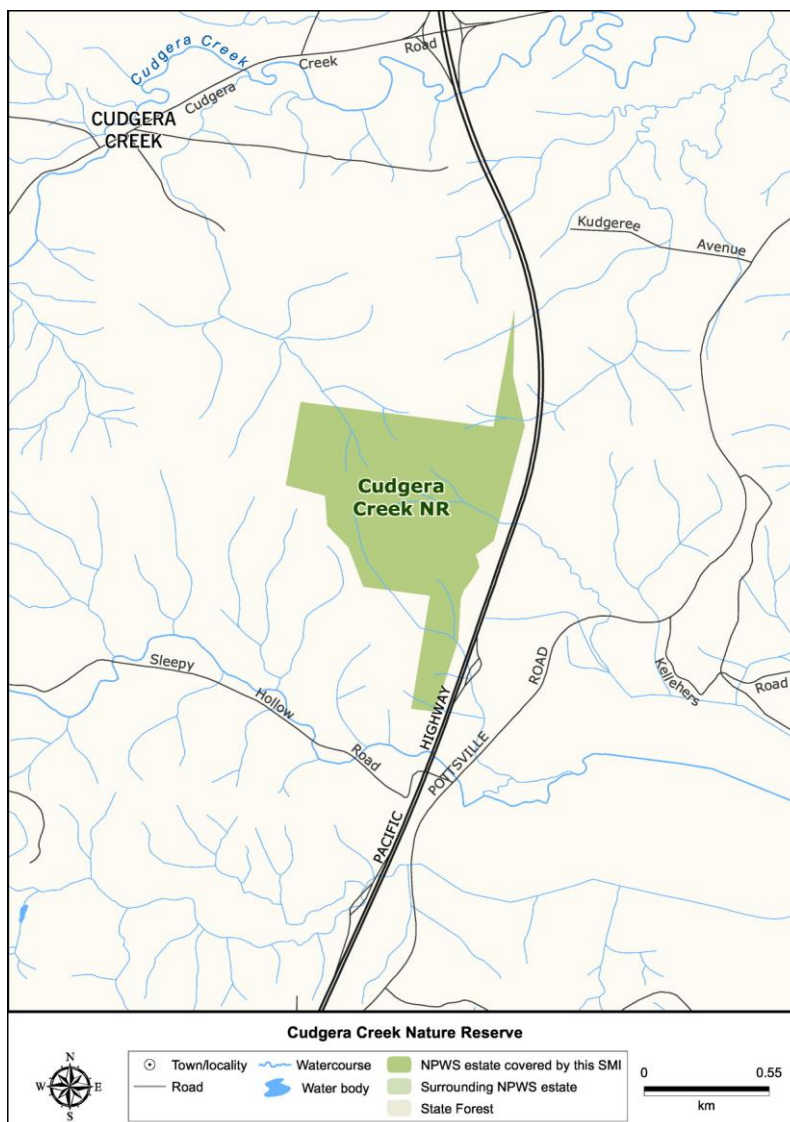
Reservation details: Cudgera Creek Nature Reserve was reserved on 17 November 2006.

Size: 60 hectares.

Cudgera Creek Nature Reserve is located approximately 25 kilometres south of Tweed Heads. It falls within the South Eastern Queensland Bioregion. It also lies within the administrative areas of the Tweed Shire Council, North Coast Local Land Services and Tweed/Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Cudgera Creek Nature Reserve is located on the western side of the Pacific Motorway, approximately four kilometres inland from the coast and two kilometres south of Cudgera Creek.

The reserve was former freehold land, acquired by the Roads and Traffic Authority (now Roads and Maritime Services) in 2003 and transferred to NPWS estate as compensatory habitat for the upgrade of the Pacific Highway (now the Pacific Motorway). The reserve protects a diverse range of vegetation communities and forms part of a habitat corridor with larger remnant areas to the north and south including Mooball National Park. Surrounding land has predominantly been cleared for agricultural development such as sugarcane farming.



4. Values

- Cudgera Creek protects a broad range of vegetation communities including warm subtropical rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest.
- Cudgera Creek Nature Reserve protects habitat for a variety of threatened fauna species, including the koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), little bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus australis*), rose-crowned fruit-dove (*Ptilinopus regina*) and eastern long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus bifax*).
- The reserve provides important habitat for the southern populations of the critically endangered red goshawk (*Erythrotriorchis radiatus*). This non-migratory hawk species has declined across its former range, which once spanned as far south as Port Stephens. Current populations of this species occur predominantly only in national park and state forest reserves.

- The reserve is recognised as a key site for the long-term management and survival of the endangered hairy quandong (*Elaeocarpus williamsianus*). Other endangered flora species known to occur in the reserve include spiny gardenia (*Randia moorei*), Davidson's plum (*Davidsonia jerseyana*), Crystal Creek walnut (*Endiandra floydii*) and slender marsdenia (*Marsdenia longiloba*). There are also records for the vulnerable stinking cryptocarya (*Cryptocarya foetida*) and durobby (*Syzygium moorei*).

5. Issues

- Pest animals known to occur in the reserve include the European fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), cane toads (*Bufo marinus*) and wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.). Feral cats (*Felis catus*) occur in the local landscape and are suspected of being present or predate within Cudgera Creek Nature Reserve.
- Weed species known to occur within the reserve include lantana (*Lantana camara*), camphor laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*), crofton weed (*Ageratina adenophora*), wild tobacco (*Solanum mauritianum*), molasses grass (*Melinis minutiflora*) and groundsel bush (*Baccharis halimifolia*).
- Part of the reserve was formerly managed as a banana plantation. Revegetation of this area via natural processes is limited and the site will require active intervention to re-establish forest cover.
- There is no safe point of entry to the reserve from the Pacific Motorway and access to the reserve is through adjacent private lands.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Cudgera Creek Nature Reserve [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Vehicle access within the reserve is for management purposes only, with trails maintained to the standard set by the fire management strategy.
- The fire management strategy identifies the need to construct a new internal trail along the eastern boundary of the reserve. This will be constructed when resources become available because it is considered vital for the reserve's management.
- It is essential to maintain working relationships with neighbours regarding fire management and access. As a consequence, the reserve is not promoted for public visitation.
- Pest management programs are implemented in accordance with the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Northern Rivers Region. The current priority is weed management to protect rainforest habitat and threatened species within the reserve.
- If resources become available, the current sparse natural revegetation of the former banana plantation will be supplemented by active reforestation using locally sourced seed stock, focusing on enhancing koala habitat and improving the connectivity of koala feed trees.
- Wild dogs are managed in accordance with the local area Wild Dog Management Plan.
- 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 special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this reserve or this statement, contact the NPWS Tweed Office on 02 6670 8600 or 1/135 Main St, Murwillumbah NSW 2484.

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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