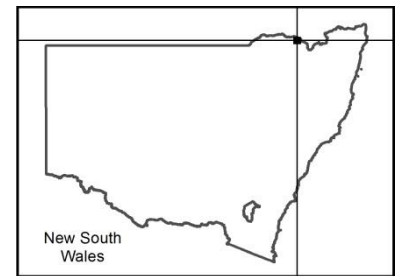




Statement of Management Intent



Dhinna Dhinawan Nature Reserve and Dhinna Dhinawan National Park Community Conservation Area Zone 1

1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Dhinna Dhinawan Community Conservation Area Zone 1 National Park and Dhinna Dhinawan Nature Reserve. This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of these parks 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 1 community conservation areas are reserved as national parks under the NPW Act to protect and conserve areas containing outstanding or representative ecosystems, natural or cultural features or landscapes or phenomena that provide opportunities for public appreciation, inspiration and sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment. Under the NPW Act ([section 30E](#)), Zone 1 community conservation areas are managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, protect geological and geomorphological features and natural phenomena and maintain natural landscapes
- conserve places, objects, features and landscapes of cultural value
- protect the ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for present and future generations
- promote public appreciation and understanding of the park's natural and cultural values
- provide for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment that is compatible with conservation of natural and cultural values
- provide for sustainable use (including adaptive reuse) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas having regard to conservation of natural and cultural values
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

The primary purpose of Zone 1 community conservation areas is to conserve nature and cultural heritage. In doing so, opportunities are provided for appropriate and sustainable recreation.

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: Dhinna Dthinnawan National Park (CCA Zone 1) and Nature Reserve were reserved on 1 December 2005.

Size: Dhinna Dthinnawan National Park is 27,803 hectares and Dhinna Dthinnawan Nature Reserve is 1870 hectares.



The Aboriginal words *dhinna dthinnawan* (pronounced dinna dinna-wah) mean 'place for emu footprint'. Dhinna Dthinnawan National Park and Nature Reserve are adjoining parks located near the Queensland border just north of the Bruxner Highway, approximately 100 kilometres west of

Tenterfield. The parks fall predominantly within the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion, with the south-east portions of the park occurring in the Nandewar Bioregion. The parks are within the administrative areas of Inverell Shire Council, Northern Tablelands Local Land Services and Toomelah Local Aboriginal Land Council.

At almost 30,000 hectares, the parks encompass the largest block of remnant vegetation in the Northern Basalts subregion in an area that has been largely cleared for agricultural purposes. The woodlands in the parks are of high conservation significance because elsewhere in the region they have been heavily cleared.

Dthinna Dthinnawan National Park was previously Bebo State Forest, and Dthinna Dthinnawan Nature Reserve was private agricultural land. Both parks were reserved under the *Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Area Act 2005*.

The parks are characterised by Quaternary sand, Jurassic sandstone and intrusive granite geological types. The topography is relatively flat to undulating, with scattered hills and rocky outcrops associated with sandstone and granite parent material. The parks support a diverse range of vegetation types with significant ironbark and bloodwood assemblages supporting a large number of threatened birds, bats and other small mammals. Angophora forests along river and creek corridors in these parks are essentially intact and represent good examples of old growth forest.

4. Values

- Dthinna Dthinnawan National Park protects two endangered ecological communities: Carbeen Open Forest community in the Darling Riverine Plains and Brigalow Belt South bioregions, and White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland. The parks also protect a diverse range of threatened flora, notably the endangered Yetman wattle (*Acacia jucunda*) and braid fern (*Platyzoma microphyllum*). Dthinna Dthinnawan Nature Reserve protects the endangered sedge, *Cyperus conicus* and the only known population of the myrtaceous shrub, *Homoranthus bebo*.
- The parks protect more than 20 species of threatened animal species, including five endangered species: zigzag velvet gecko (*Oedura rhombifer*), squatter pigeon (*Geophaps scripta*), delicate mouse (*Pseudomys delicatulus*), black-striped wallaby (*Macropus dorsalis*) and hairy-nosed freetail-bat (*Mormopterus eleryi*).
- The large expanse of woodlands in these parks supports a suite of vulnerable woodland birds, for example, turquoise parrot (*Neophema pulchella*), eastern subspecies of the brown treecreeper (*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*) and painted honeyeater (*Grantiella picta*). The parks also support about 10 species of threatened microchiropteran bats.
- The parks are an important part of Country for the Gamilaroi People and a number of sites have been identified, including open camp sites, scarred trees and stone axes.
- The Inverary Homestead and precinct are of local heritage significance. The homestead has been adapted for use as holiday accommodation within the park and provides a base for a number of recreational activities including four-wheel driving, bushwalking, cycling and horse riding. Apart from the Homestead precinct there are no other visitor facilities within the parks.
- Apart from Inverary Homestead, other historic heritage features in the parks include the remains of a steam-driven sawmill, two cypress huts and a homestead in Dthinna Dthinnawan Nature Reserve.

5. Issues

- Feral goats (*Capra hircus*), feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*), foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral cats (*Felis catus*), rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.) have been recorded in the parks.

- There are a number of weeds in the parks, including Coolatai grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*), mother-of-millions (*Bryophyllum delagoense*), cat's claw creeper (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*), various prickly pear species (*Opuntia* spp.) and whisky grass (*Andropogon virginicus*).
- Damage and grazing by livestock entering from neighbouring agricultural properties is an issue in these parks. Previous land-use patterns have caused areas of extensive soil disturbance and erosion.
- Historic heritage assets may be threatened by vandalism, fire, storms and weathering, and pest animals.
- These parks include several roads that are vested in the Minister under Part 11 of the NPW Act to ensure continued access to neighbouring lands. A number of these roads in the eastern part of the parks may be transferred to Inverell Shire Council.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Dhinna Dhinawan National Park [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Northern Tablelands Region. Current control priorities are: wild dogs, goats, rabbits and mother-of-millions. Control efforts focus on protection of endangered ecological communities and threatened species habitats, in particular the endangered delicate mouse and vulnerable crowned gecko (*Lucasium stenodactylum*).
- 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.
- Accommodation facilities at Inverary Homestead and recreational opportunities available for guests will continue to be promoted.
- Existing horse riding opportunities in Dhinna Dhinawan National Park will be promoted and signposted, as will the holiday house accommodation and facilities, including yards, at Inverary Homestead.
- 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 parks. 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 parks by promoting and raising public awareness of their special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of these parks or this statement, contact the NPWS Tenterfield Office on (02) 6736 4298 or 10 Miles Street, Tenterfield NSW 2372.

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

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