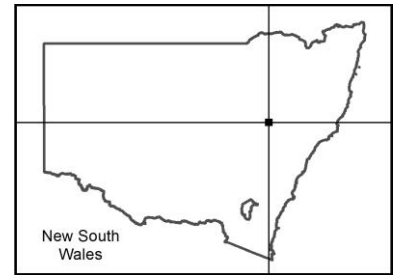


# Statement of Management Intent



## Durrigere 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 Durrigere State Conservation Area (SCA) Community Conservation Area Zone 3. 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
- 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:

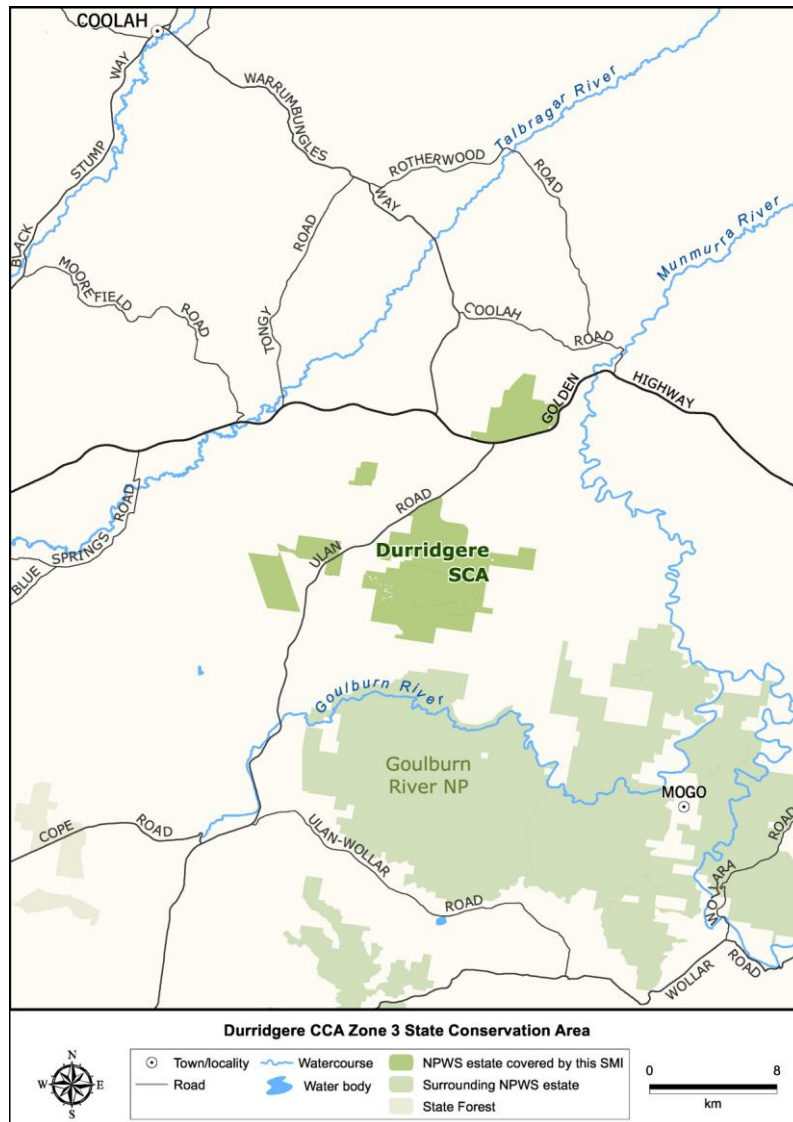
- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, protect natural phenomena and maintain natural landscapes
- conserve places, objects and features of cultural value
- provide for the undertaking of uses permitted under other provisions of the NPW Act (including uses permitted under section 47J 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 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:** Durridgere SCA was reserved on 1 December 2005.

**Size:** 6172 hectares.



Durridgere SCA is situated approximately 54 kilometres north-east of Mudgee. It comprises six disconnected portions of land. It falls within the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Mudgee Local Aboriginal Land Council, Central Tablelands Local Land Services, Hunter Local Land Services, Upper Hunter Shire Council and Mid-Western Regional Council.

The greater part of Durridgere SCA was reserved under the *Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Area Act 2005*. This land was formerly Curryall, Turill and Durridgere state forests. Further additions of private land were made to Durridgere SCA under the same Act in 2009 and 2010, and also under the *National Park Estate (South-Western Cypress Reservations) Act 2010* in 2011.

Durridgere SCA is mostly dry sclerophyll forest dominated by mixed stands of narrow-leaved ironbark (*Eucalyptus crebra*), red stringybark (*E. macrorhyncha*), spotted gum (*Corymbia maculata*), yellow box (*E. melliodora*), Blakely's red gum (*E. blakelyi*), rough-barked apple (*Angophora floribunda*) and white cypress pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*) in good condition with mature trees and recruitment. Rocky rises are dominated by blue-leaved ironbark (*Eucalyptus nubila*) and are generally undisturbed. Sandy rises have dirty gum (*E. chloroclada*) in a mallee growth form. Gullies and gully flats are dominated by smooth-barked apple (*A. leiocarpa*), inland scribbly gum (*E. rossii*), and rough-barked apple in association with Blakely's red gum and white box (*E. albens*).

From the early 1900s up until reservation, the land that comprises Durridgere SCA was used for hardwood timber harvesting, while the surrounding land has been significantly cleared for grazing. The woodland habitat now protected by Durridgere SCA has become an important refuge for threatened animals and provides important linkages to wilderness areas in the Sydney Basin and NSW South Western Slopes bioregions.

#### 4. Values

- Part of the area that was formerly Turill State Forest protects a patch of rainforest vine thicket and gully complex (*Acacia* spp., *Brachychiton* spp., *Allocasuarina/Casuarina* spp.) of special significance.
- The woodlands of Durridgere SCA are important habitat for many threatened bird species, with records of little eagle (*Hieraaetus morphnoides*), glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathamii*), little lorikeet (*Glossopsitta pusilla*), turquoise parrot (*Neophema pulchella*), barking owl (*Ninox connivens*), powerful owl (*Ninox strenua*), brown tree creeper (eastern subspecies) (*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*), speckled warbler (*Chthonicola sagittata*), painted honeyeater (*Grantiella picta*), grey-crowned babbler (eastern subspecies) (*Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis*), varied sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*), and diamond firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*) in the area.
- Gullies and rocky outcrops provide refuge for threatened mammals including squirrel gliders (*Petaurus norfolcensis*), yellow-bellied sheath-tail bat (*Saccolaimus flaviventris*), large-eared pied bat (*Chalinolobus dwyeri*), eastern bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis*), Corben's long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus corbeni*) and eastern cave bat (*Vespadelus troughtoni*).
- Durridgere SCA has a number of European cultural heritage sites, mostly associated with logging and timber-getting. These include ironbark sleeper dumps and sleeper cutting and logging sites circa 1910.
- Durridgere SCA is part of Wiradjuri Country. While there are few recorded Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in the SCA, it is highly likely that they exist across the SCA, particularly in the former Turill State Forest.

#### 5. Issues

- Wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.), foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral cats (*Felis catus*), feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*), feral deer (various species), feral goats (*Capra hircus*) and feral rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) are all present within the SCA.
- Durridgere SCA has infestations of common prickly pear (*Opuntia stricta*), tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), St John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), thistles (various species) and Paterson's curse (*Echium plantagineum*).
- The park is highly fragmented with convoluted boundaries making management of interfaces extensive and difficult.

- Historical hardwood harvesting and grazing leases have created localised, highly disturbed areas.
- Continued illegal firewood collection is contributing to the key threatening process 'removal of dead wood and dead trees'. This has environmental consequences such as loss of habitat, disruption of ecosystem processes and soil erosion.
- The proposed transmission line corridor (overhead powerline) for the Liverpool Range wind farm traverses Durrigere SCA. There is an alternative corridor which bypasses the SCA.
- Future mineral exploration in Durrigere SCA is likely and would potentially have significant impacts on natural heritage values.

## 6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Durrigere State Conservation Area [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Blue Mountains Region. Current priorities include wild dog management (part of the broader Goulburn River Wild Dog Management Plan), and to a lesser extent management of pigs, goats, deer and rabbits. A low priority weed management program that focuses on reducing the impacts of tree of heaven and prickly pear is also ongoing in the park.
- Actions, including law enforcement, will continue to be undertaken against inappropriate and illegal activities that occur within Durrigere SCA.
- Proponents of the Liverpool Range wind farm will need to comply with legislative requirements including the NPW Act, *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* for any proposed works on the 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 park. 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 park by promoting and raising public awareness of its special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this park or this statement, contact the NPWS Mudgee Office on (02) 6370 9000 or 27 Inglis Street, Mudgee NSW 2850.

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**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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