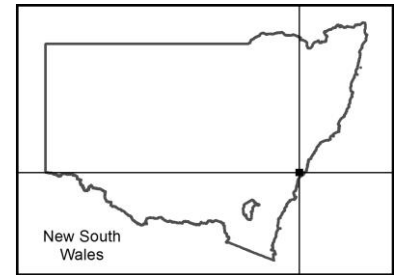


Statement of Management Intent



Gandangara 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 Gandangara State Conservation Area (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:

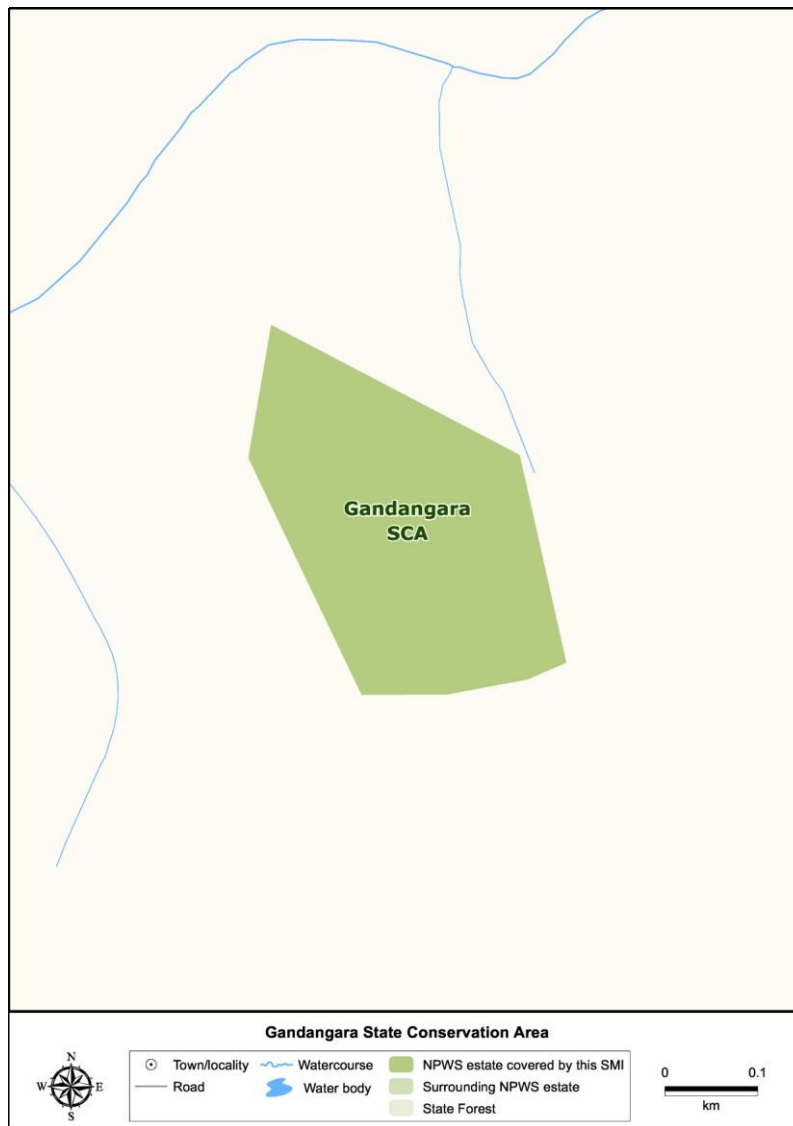
- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, protect natural phenomena and maintain natural landscapes
- conserve places, objects and features of cultural value
- provide for the undertaking of uses permitted under other provisions of the NPW Act (including uses permitted under section 47J 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: Gandangara State Conservation Area was reserved on 4 March 2011.

Size: 7 hectares.



Gandangara SCA is located at the headwaters of Mill Creek at Menai, half a kilometre east of Heathcote Road, in an area that is locally known as Little Forest. The park falls within the Sydney Basin Bioregion. It also lies within the administrative areas of Sutherland Shire Council, Greater Sydney Local Land Services and Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council.

The Little Forest area has long been recognised as an important shale forest remnant providing an excellent example of the natural transition between forests growing on shale merging to those on sandstone geologies.

4. Values

- Gandangara SCA contains the endangered ecological community Shale/Sandstone Transition Forest which is listed under both the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act) and the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). A large proportion of the area where Shale/Sandstone Transition Forest occurred in the past has been cleared for agriculture and urban development. Remnants are small and scattered. Identified threats include clearing, physical damage from recreational activities, rubbish dumping, grazing, mowing and weed invasion.
- Nearby is a remnant of Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest endangered ecological community, at the southern end of its range.
- Five threatened animals have been recorded in the vicinity of the SCA and may occur there: red-crowned toadlet (*Pseudophryne australis*), Rosenberg's goanna (*Varanus rosenbergi*), powerful owl (*Ninox strenua*), koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) and grey-headed flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*).
- At least 14 species of honeyeater have been recorded within the SCA, including the regionally significant tawny-crowned honeyeater (*Gliciphila melanops*). Other significant woodland bird species occurring within the SCA include the dusky woodswallow (*Artamus cyanopterus*), weebill (*Smicronis brevirostris*) and double-barred finch (*Taeniopygia bichenovii*).
- There are no Aboriginal sites recorded within Gandangara SCA but a large number of Aboriginal sites occur nearby including grinding grooves, artefacts, stone arrangements, art and shelters.

5. Issues

- Foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) and feral cats (*Felis catus*) occur within Gandangara SCA and feral deer (various species) have been recorded in the vicinity of the SCA.
- Weed species known to occur within the SCA include crofton weed (*Ageratina adenophora*) and various exotic grasses.
- The SCA is surrounded by a larger wooded area that is commonly used for illegal off-road driving (using four-wheel drive vehicles and trail bikes). There is increasing off-road vehicle activity within the SCA, evidenced by increasing damage to tracks and trails.
- The SCA is not accessible by public road.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Gandangara SCA [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Metro South West Region.
- Boundary fencing will assist in managing the SCA, including reducing the incidence of off-road driving. Neighbouring landowners will be consulted regarding issues of boundary fencing. Subject to available resourcing, assistance may be provided to neighbours to install park boundary fencing in accordance with the NPWS Boundary Fencing Policy.
- The agreement with neighbouring landholders for management access to the park will be formalised.
- 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 Royal National Park Area Office on (02) 9542 0632 or Royal National Park, PO Box 144, Sutherland NSW 1499.

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.

Published by:

Office of Environment and Heritage
59 Goulburn Street, Sydney NSW 2000
PO Box A290, Sydney South NSW 1232
Phone: (02) 9995 5000

ISBN 978 1 74359 470 4
OEH 2014/0158
May 2014