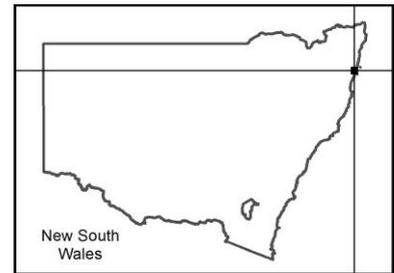




Statement of Management Intent



Garby 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 Garby 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: Garby Nature Reserve was reserved on 1 April 2005.

Size: 117 hectares.

Garby Nature Reserve is located on the NSW Mid North Coast between the villages of Arrawarra and Mullaway, approximately three kilometres north of Woolgoolga and 30 kilometres north of Coffs Harbour. The reserve is located within the administrative areas of Coffs Harbour City Council, North Coast Local Land Services and Coffs Harbour and District Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Located less than one kilometre inland from the Coffs Harbour coastline, the reserve is bounded by Mullaway Drive in the south and Arrawarra Road along its eastern boundary. Adjacent to the reserve along its northern and part of its eastern boundary are residential areas. Arrawarra Creek

(including the intertidal zone) is part of the Solitary Islands Marine Park. It forms the north-west boundary of the reserve and is managed by the Marine Parks Authority.



The Mullaway–Arrawarra region features coastal complex habitats including wetlands, swamp forests, open forests, coastal heaths and shrubland. Surrounding land use includes urban and rural residential development, Crown land (including Mullaway Primary School and Coffs Coast Regional Park) and some areas of agricultural land. The reserve provides an important vegetated link between Coffs Coast Regional Park in the east and Wedding Bells State Forest in the west.

Garby Nature Reserve is located within the area of the Yarrawarra Aboriginal Corporation and the Garby Elders. It was named in consultation with the Garby Elders. ‘Gaabi’ is the Gumbaynggirr name for the black swamp wallaby.

4. Values

- Garby Nature Reserve protects habitat for the threatened wallum froglet (*Crinia tinnula*), glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*), spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*) and squirrel glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*). The reserve is identified as important squirrel glider habitat in the [Coffs Harbour Biodiversity Action Strategy](#).

- Migratory bird species recorded nearby protected under international agreements include white-throated needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*), white-bellied sea-eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) and rainbow bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*). Garby Nature Reserve extends habitat opportunities for these species migrating in the region.
- Garby Nature Reserve supports vegetation similar to the endangered ecological community Byron Bay Dwarf Graminoid Clay Heath Community but is well outside the range of its formally documented distribution. The threatened coast headland pea (*Pultenaea maritima*) has also been recorded in the reserve.
- Arrawarra is an area with a well-recorded Aboriginal history and the area along Arrawarra Creek is of high spiritual significance. A number of artefacts and scar trees have been recorded within the reserve and there are many recorded sites within close proximity. Some Gumbaynggirr people still seek to use bush foods and medicines. The cultural use of wild resources is subject to NPWS policies and licensing.
- Garby Nature Reserve generally experiences low levels of visitation. There are no visitor facilities provided in the reserve. However, there are a number of management trails which allow access for bushwalkers and birdwatchers.

5. Issues

- European foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.) and feral cats (*Felis catus*) have been recorded within Garby Nature Reserve.
- Weed species recorded in the reserve include groundsel bush (*Baccharis halimifolia*), giant Parramatta grass (*Sporobolus fertilis*), whisky grass (*Andropogon virginicus*), giant paspalum (*Paspalum urvillei*) and crofton weed (*Ageratina adenophora*).
- The reserve lies in close proximity to residential urban areas; weed encroachment, nutrient enrichment and altered drainage patterns are impacting on the reserve particularly in these areas. Use of the reserve for storage of caravans, boats and other equipment and structures has been an ongoing issue in the reserve.
- Asset protection zones have been established to protect residential areas from the threat of wildfires and are regularly maintained. The management trail network provides access for fire and other management operations. Repair and stabilisation works have been undertaken within the trail network to support prescribed burning operations. Essential Energy has several powerlines traversing the reserve.
- There have been occurrences of illegal use of the reserve's management trails by motorbikes and four-wheel drive vehicles.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Coffs Coast Regional Park (northern section) and Garby Nature Reserve [Fire Management Strategy](#). Additional operational guidance is provided by the Arrawarra Headland and Mullaway Fire Management Program.
- Pest programs are managed in accordance with the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): North Coast Region. Current priorities for the reserve are the control of weeds, particularly exotic grasses, with the primary focus on protecting graminoid heath community, coastal woodland and moist eucalypt forest.
- Continue to liaise with the Garby Elders regarding management of the reserve and the potential for access to the reserve for cultural purposes and traditional use of some of the reserve's resources.
- Continue to provide ongoing support for the Repair to Country Team and Yarrawarra Aboriginal Corporation which undertakes weed control (pre- and post-fire) and bush

regeneration works within Garby Nature Reserve. This program aims to create partnerships and opportunities, particularly with Aboriginal people, to gain skills and training in natural heritage protection.

- Continue to undertake proactive management, liaise with adjoining neighbours and conduct site visits to deter illegal motorcycle and four-wheel drive activities and other unauthorised uses of Garby Nature Reserve. Install gates, bollards and fencing where needed to prevent unauthorised vehicle access.
- Continue to maintain and upgrade park signage as an important strategy to identify reserve boundaries, values and regulations.
- 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 Coffs Harbour Office on 02 6652 0900 or 32 Marina Drive, Coffs Harbour NSW.

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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