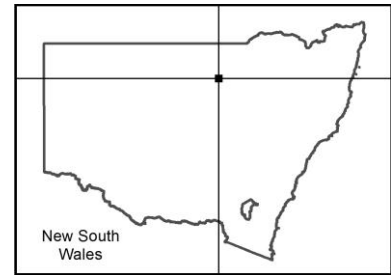


# Statement of Management Intent



## Gilwarry 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 Gilwarry 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

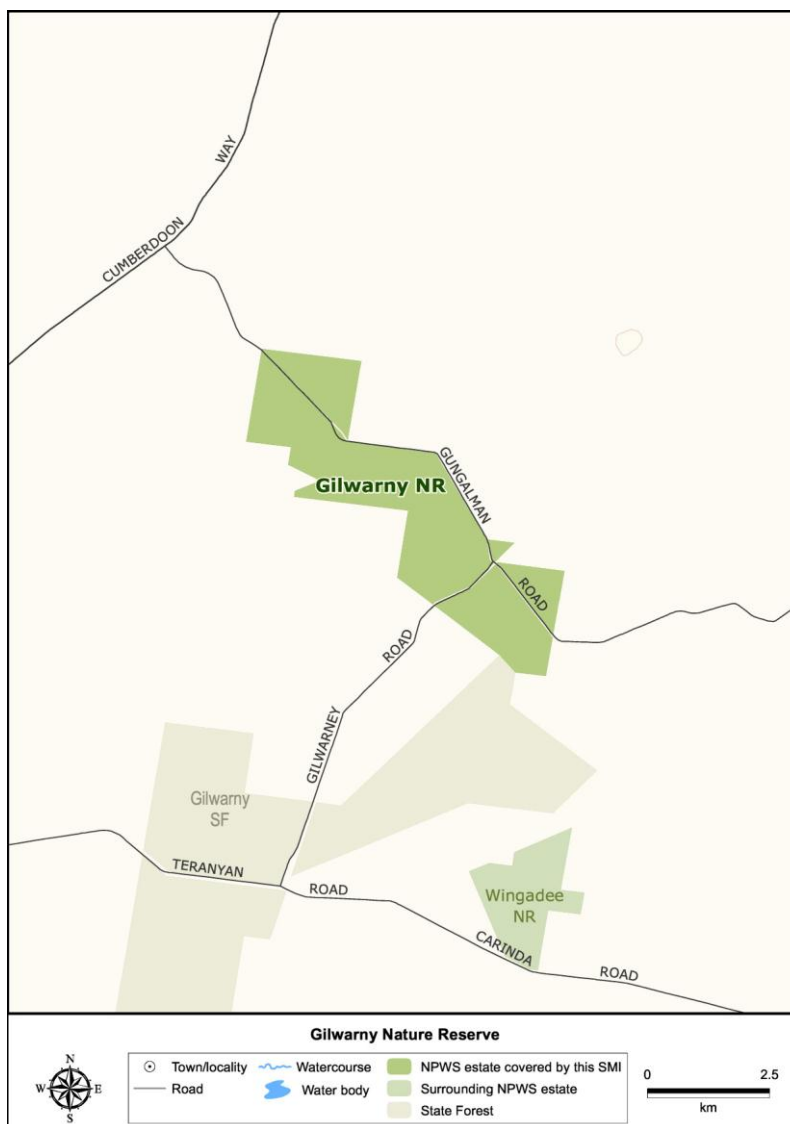
**Reservation details:** Gilwarry Nature Reserve was reserved on 1 January 2011.

**Size:** 1200 hectares.

Gilwarry Nature Reserve is located approximately 18 kilometres north-east of Carinda. It falls within the Darling Riverine Plains Bioregion. It also lies within the administrative areas of Walgett Shire Council, North West Local Land Services and Walgett Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Gilwarry Nature Reserve was former state forest proclaimed in September 1917. It was acquired into the NPWS reserve system under the *National Park Estate (South-Western Cypress Reservations) Act 2010* (NP Estate Act 2010) to protect remaining areas of cypress pine woodlands

in the heavily cleared wheat–sheep belt region of New South Wales. Gilwarry State Forest adjoins a section of the south-west boundary while the remainder of the reserve is surrounded by Crown and private lands used for agricultural activities.



#### 4. Values

- Gilwarry Nature Reserve protects seven distinct vegetation communities including patches of Myall Woodland recognised as the endangered ecological community Myall Woodland in the Darling Riverine Plains, Brigalow Belt South, Cobar Peneplain, Murray-Darling Depression, Riverina and NSW South Western Slopes bioregions.
- The reserve also protects Bimble Box and White Cypress Pine woodland species of which the inland NSW populations have been greatly reduced due to large-scale clearing, grazing and habitat degradation.
- Threatened fauna species recorded in the reserve include grey-crowned babbler – eastern subspecies (*Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis*), varied sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*), brown tree creeper – eastern subspecies (*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*) and scarlet robin (*Petroica boodang*).
- There is a potential Aboriginal scar tree and a high likelihood of camp sites and burials in the sand ridge areas and areas adjacent to Black Box Woodlands.

- Ephemeral wetlands associated with gilgais provide potential habitat for migratory birds.
- Gilwarny Nature Reserve is part of a larger corridor incorporating Gilwarny State Forest and Wingadee Nature Reserve to the south. This corridor encompasses continuous woodland cover and is important for a number of threatened woodland birds.

## 5. Issues

- Prickly pear (*Opuntia* spp.) and African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*) have been recorded within the reserve.
- Feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*), feral goats (*Capra hircus*), and foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) have been recorded in the reserve. Feral pigs in particular have negative impacts on the important gilgai wetland communities.
- An energy provider manages a number of powerlines traversing the reserve.
- There are two access roads leading to neighbouring properties adjoining the reserve (one through the north of the reserve, and one on the eastern boundary). These roads are currently Part 11 lands.
- A water pipeline has been laid through the reserve. Its status needs to be clarified.
- An open bore drain in the south-east section of the reserve has been capped and piped and further work is now required to confirm its status and use.
- There are a number of old rubbish tip sites in the reserve (including a large site in the southern section) where both domestic and farm waste has been left, including approximately 30 vehicles. These tips may pose public health risks.
- A grazing occupation permit exists over the north-west section of the reserve.
- Unauthorised activities occasionally occur in the reserve, for example illegal hunting of feral pigs.

## 6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Gilwarny and Wingadee Nature Reserves [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Northern Plains Region.
- An agreement is proposed to be formalised with the energy provider for the maintenance of existing powerlines that traverse the reserve. In the meantime, permits for the maintenance of the powerlines will continue to be issued, including vegetation management under the powerlines, subject to appropriate conditions.
- Access tracks that will remain Part 11 (as described in Schedule 8 of the NP Estate Act 2010) will be determined.
- The condition, impacts and future management of the water pipeline through the reserve will be determined.
- Once its status is known, closure of the now disused open bore drain in the south-east of the reserve will be investigated, and, if required, appropriate environmental impact assessment will be undertaken (including assessment of potential habitat values or impacts upon habitat values) and any necessary works undertaken (e.g. filling in the drain with on-site spoil).
- Public health and safety risks at old rubbish tip sites will be investigated, relevant environmental and heritage assessments undertaken and rubbish removed as resources permit.

- Grazing under licence will be monitored and managed in accordance with licence conditions.
- 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 Baradine Area Office on 02 6843 4000 or 50–58 Wellington Street, Baradine 2396.

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**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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