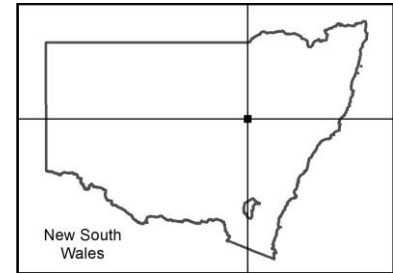


Statement of Management Intent



Goonoo National Park and Goonoo State Conservation Area Community Conservation Areas Zone 1 and 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 Goonoo Community Conservation Area Zone 1 National Park (Goonoo National Park) and Goonoo Community Conservation Area Zone 3 State Conservation Area (Goonoo SCA). This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the 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.

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](#)), Zone 3 community 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

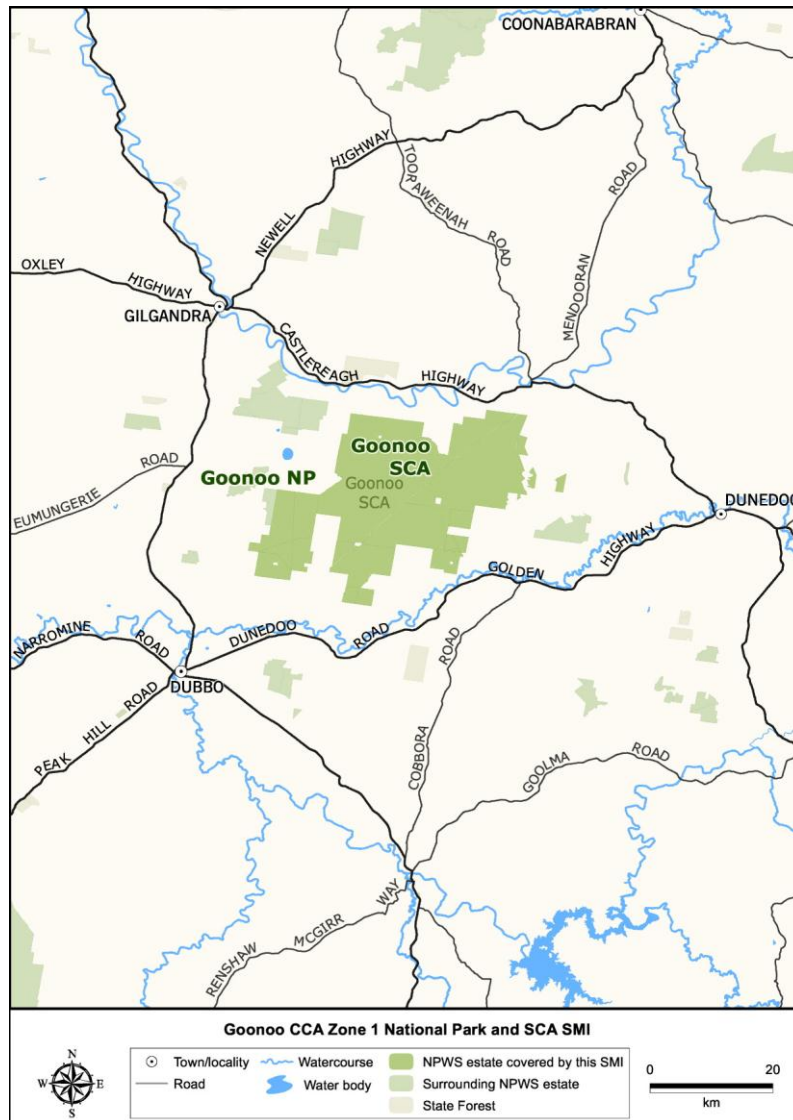
Reservation details: Goonoo National Park and Goonoo SCA were reserved on 1 December 2005.

Size: Goonoo National Park is 9066 hectares and Goonoo SCA is 54,522 hectares.

The parks are located approximately 25 kilometres north-east of Dubbo. They fall within the Pilliga subregion of the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion and are part of the Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Area. The parks also lie within the administrative areas of Warrumbungle Shire and Dubbo City councils, Dubbo and Gilgandra local Aboriginal land councils and Central Tablelands Local Land Services.

The parks were previously managed as state forests, originally proclaimed in 1917. The dominant canopy species, narrow-leaved ironbark (*Eucalyptus crebra*) and white cypress pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*), have a logging history in the area dating back to the 1850s, with some sections of the forest previously used as timber reserves dating back to 1902. In 2011, an additional 770 hectares was added to Goonoo SCA under the *National Park Estate (South-Western Cypress Reservations) Act 2010* to protect remaining areas of cypress pine woodlands in the heavily cleared wheat–sheep belt region of New South Wales.

Licensed beekeeping activities continue to occur within the parks. The parks have numerous vehicle access points and a major public road/truck route bisects Goonoo SCA. There are numerous interconnected vehicular trails as an artefact of past forestry use. The surrounding land is predominantly used for agricultural activities such as grazing. The parks represent one of the largest remnant blocks of woody vegetation in the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion. They are recognised for supporting significant natural heritage and providing important habitat for the conservation of bird populations.



4. Values

- The parks mainly comprise various ironbark woodland vegetation communities with patches of mallee. Dominant tree species include the narrow-leaved ironbark, blue-leaved ironbark (*Eucalyptus nubila*), red ironbark (*E. fibrosa*) and black cypress pine (*Callitris endlicheri*). Widespread *Allocasuarina* species occur in the parks and provide the sole food source for the threatened glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*).
- The reserves protect important habitat for a diverse range of native animal species, including the critically endangered regent honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*), the endangered malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) and the vulnerable glossy black-cockatoo as listed under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act). Some of the other 30 threatened species recorded within the parks include the koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*),

Corben's long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus corbeni*), barking owl (*Ninox connivens*), turquoise parrot (*Neophema pulchella*), little lorikeet (*Glossopsitta pusilla*), brown treecreeper (eastern subspecies) (*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*), speckled warbler (*Chthonicola sagittata*) and varied sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*) (TSC Act). The regent honeyeater, malleefowl, koala and Corben's long-eared bat are also threatened at the national level and listed under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

- The parks protect the endangered ecological communities Fuzzy Box Woodland on Alluvial Soils of the South Western Slopes, Darling Riverine Plains and Brigalow Belt South Bioregions; and Inland Grey Box Woodland in the Riverina, NSW South Western Slopes, Cobar Penepplain, Nandewar and Brigalow Belt South Bioregions (Inland Grey Box Woodlands). These vegetation communities have experienced significant fragmentation and degradation across their former ranges. The Inland Grey Box Woodlands are also listed under the EPBC Act as Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia.
- The Goonoo forests are identified as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife Australia.
- The parks provide important breeding and foraging habitat for the threatened glossy black-cockatoo and are recognised as a key site for the future long-term management of the species in New South Wales.
- The parks support the largest remaining population of the endangered shrub species Keith's zieria (*Zieria ingramii*) (TSC Act and EPBC Act). Other threatened native plant species recorded within the parks include the scant pomaderris (*Pomaderris queenslandica*), *Tylophora linearis*, *Homoranthus darwinioides*, pine donkey orchid (*Diuris tricolor*), leafless indigo (*Indigofera efoliata*) and *Rulingia procumbens* (TSC Act). *Tylophora linearis*, *Homoranthus darwinioides*, *Rulingia procumbens* and *Indigofera efoliata* are also listed as threatened under the EPBC Act.
- The Tubba-Gah Aboriginal People have lodged a native title claim over the Goonoo parks in recognition of their role as the traditional custodians of these lands. The parks are of significant value to the Aboriginal community, with over 135 Aboriginal sites and features recorded. These include artefacts, grinding grooves, scar trees and an ochre quarry. It is highly likely that additional sites will be found.
- Forty-three items of locally and regionally significant European historic heritage are found within the parks. They represent past forestry activities of the NSW timber industry. Features include a fire tower, forestry camps, forest headquarters precinct and sleeper cutters' camps. Evidence of World War II activities are found in the parks including two charcoal burning sites and an internee camp site.
- Visitation to the Goonoo parks is relatively low, with an estimate of 2000 visits annually. The parks are popular among birdwatchers, naturalist groups and local residents.
- Recreation activities available within the parks include bushwalking, cycling and horse riding along management trails.
- Bush camping is permitted within the parks.

5. Issues

- Weed species known to occur within the Goonoo parks include prickly pear (*Opuntia* spp.), African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*), blue heliotrope (*Heliotropium amplexicaule*), burrs (*Xanthium* sp.) and Paterson's curse (*Echium plantagineum*).
- Foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), goats (*Capra hircus*), feral cats (*Felis catus*) and feral deer (various species) occur within the parks.

- A large and intense wildfire in 2007 destroyed a significant area of foraging and nesting habitat for a number of threatened species, in particular malleefowl, glossy black-cockatoo and barking owl. This area is unlikely to provide optimal habitat for 10 to 20 years post-fire for these and other threatened species.
- Removal of existing hollow-bearing trees, fallen timber, hollow logs and live and dead standing trees for firewood collection reduces breeding and foraging habitat for many species and particularly impacts on glossy black-cockatoo populations within the Goonoo parks.
- A major public road and truck route bisects Goonoo SCA, resulting in habitat fragmentation along roadsides, vehicle strikes to wildlife and damage to roadside Keith's zieria populations.
- There is evidence of vandalism and degradation from trail bike riders damaging historic sites and vegetation within the Goonoo parks.
- Trail bike riding along creek lines is causing bank erosion and collapse and consequent loss of foraging, roosting and nesting habitats for numerous species within the Goonoo parks. This has resulted in the degradation and loss of riparian habitat, including trees falling over.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Goonoo National Park and State Conservation Area, Breelong National Park and Coolbaggie Nature Reserve [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Northern Plains Region. Current priorities for the Goonoo parks include controlling foxes, rabbits, blue heliotrope, prickly pear, Paterson's curse, Bathurst burr and Noogoora burr.
- There is an ongoing monitoring program of malleefowl and glossy black-cockatoo populations within the parks. Malleefowl populations are monitored as part of the regional fox threat abatement plan, which involves a systematic bi-annual survey of known malleefowl mounds using cameras to monitor behaviour and breeding activity, and ground searches for new mounds. Information gathered is entered into the National Malleefowl Monitoring Database.
- A fox control and monitoring program is implemented in accordance with the fox threat abatement plan for the Goonoo parks, with the primary aim of protecting malleefowl populations. This is part of a regionally coordinated fox baiting program carried out in conjunction with park neighbours and Local Land Services.
- An annual count of glossy black-cockatoos is carried out within the Goonoo parks in conjunction with the Dubbo Field Naturalists Group. Additionally, over 100 nest boxes have been installed, to supplement nesting hollows for the birds following the loss of nesting hollows in the 2007 bushfire. These nest boxes are monitored.
- The Goonoo parks are 2 of the 12 parks selected for a new three-year [Supplementary Pest Control](#) trial program in New South Wales (starting 2014).
- Partnerships will be fostered with the Dubbo and Gilgandra local Aboriginal land councils in order to conserve Aboriginal sites and values in the parks.
- A non-native title Indigenous Land Use Agreement is being negotiated with the Tubba-Gah Aboriginal People. This will include co-management arrangements for the Goonoo parks and consultation with traditional custodians on other specific issues in the parks.
- In partnership with the NSW Rural Fire Service, a radio communications tower and access road is proposed to be constructed in the vicinity of the Mendooran Road/Mogriguy Forest Road intersection within the Goonoo SCA. This radio tower will provide operational and

emergency response capabilities for a large area of the Goonoo parks and is part of the overall integrated radio network design for the Northern Plains Region.

- Currently there are no formalised visitor facilities available within the Goonoo parks. Trail-based nature study along management trails, and bush camping, principally at Rileys Dam, will continue to be provided in the parks.
- As part of the commitment to effective co-management of the parks, it is anticipated that day-use and basic camping facilities will be constructed at either the Goondi Creek or Rileys Dam precincts. These facilities will be used primarily for cultural management activities on the parks, but will be publicly accessible.
- Cycling and horse riding will be permitted along management trails.
- Bushwalking and bush camping will be permitted within the parks.
- Law enforcement patrols and surveillance activities will continue to be undertaken to prevent firewood collection, vandalism and trail bike riding off designated trails.
- 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 Coonabarabran Area Office on (02) 6842 1311, or 30 Timor Street or PO Box 39 Coonabarabran NSW 2357.

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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