



NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Jindalee National Park

Draft plan of management



Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the department) acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Jindalee National Park is part of an ancient landscape which includes the Aboriginal people. The park and surrounding lands and watercourses have traditionally been under the care of the Wiradjuri People, known as the people of the 3 bila (rivers) which border their lands: the Wambool (Macquarie River), Kalari (Lachlan River) and Murrumbidjeri (Murrumbidgee River) (AM 2023). Aboriginal people have a deep spiritual and cultural connection to this Country. Their ancestors have lived here for thousands of years, and in doing so, form part of this living landscape.

Connections to Country and the significance of the park to Aboriginal peoples – past, present and future – are respected by NPWS and acknowledged. NPWS supports and acknowledges the role of Aboriginal people in identifying traditional connections and custodians for this place.

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Have your say

Submissions must be lodged before 5pm on Tuesday 21 January 2025.

Your submission will assist in the preparation of a new plan of management for Jindalee National Park. Submissions must be in written form and lodged via:



the online submission form at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/get-involved/have-your-say



email to npws.parkplanning@environment.nsw.gov.au

post to Manager, Planning and Assessment, NPWS, Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124.

Your submission may be provided to the statutory bodies that have an advisory role under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* in the preparation of each plan of management. These bodies include the Karst Management Advisory Committee, regional advisory committees and the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water complies with the NSW *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*, which regulates the collection, storage, quality, use and disclosure of personal information.

Summary

Jindalee National Park is protected in perpetuity through its reservation under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. The park is managed to achieve the objects of this Act which are centred on conserving the natural and cultural values of the park, as well as fostering public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of these values (see Appendix A).

This draft plan of management has been prepared to provide members of the public with an opportunity to contribute to the preparation of a plan of management for the park.

As required under the Act, this draft plan of management was prepared following consideration of the matters listed under section 72AA of the National Parks and Wildlife Act including the management principles for national parks (see Appendix B).

Section 72(AB)(1) of the National Parks and Wildlife Act requires that each plan of management include the objectives of the plan of management and the operations that are proposed to be carried out on the land. These objectives and operations are detailed throughout the plan and are summarised in Section 5.

This draft plan of management focuses on the operations that will be necessary to achieve the plan's objectives. In a dynamic environment that contains uncertainties, natural variability, new technologies and information, a flexible management approach is required. Operations will be adjusted as necessary. Subsidiary plans such as feral animal and weeds strategies, and fire management strategies may be developed to guide operations.

At the completion of the public exhibition period, this draft plan, together with all submissions received will be considered by relevant statutory advisory bodies which may provide advice to the Minister for Environment. Once adopted by the minister, the plan of management will provide strategic direction for management of the park. All operations undertaken in the park must be consistent with the adopted plan of management.

1. Jindalee National Park

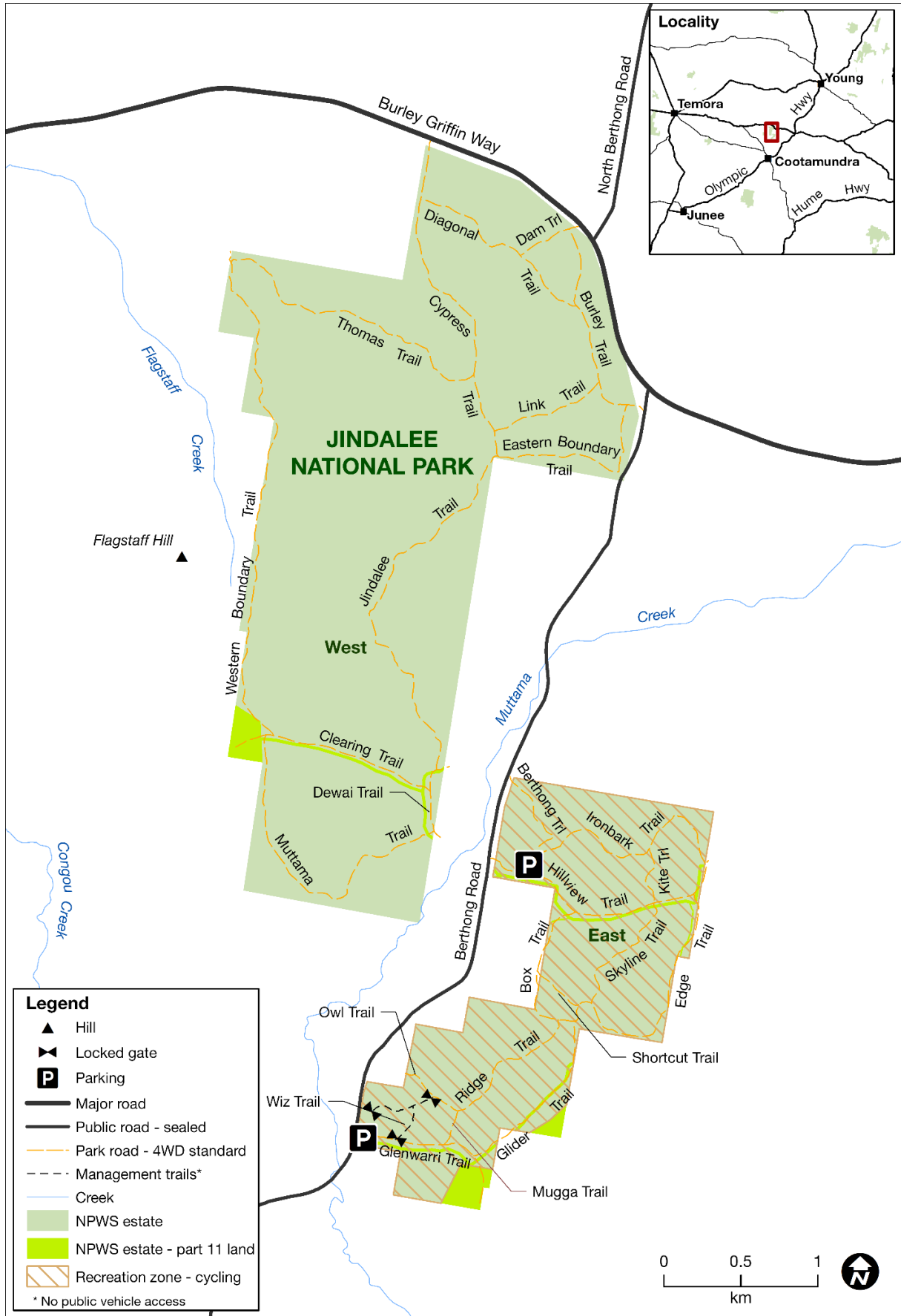
Jindalee National Park is located approximately 10 km north of the township of Cootamundra. The park is situated in the South Western Slopes bioregion and lies in the heart of the agriculturally productive NSW sheep-wheat belt.

The park occupies an area of 1,076 ha, which is divided into 2 portions by Berthong Road (see Figure 1). The larger western portion is located south of Burley Griffin Way and west of Berthong Road, while the smaller eastern portion is located east of Berthong Road.

Some features of the park include:

- The park is a part of the traditional Country of the Wiradjuri People and contains obvious evidence of Aboriginal occupation and use of the area.
- The park was declared a forest reserve in 1877 and was reclassified as a state forest in August 1918. It was then reserved as a national park under the *National Park Estate (South-Western Cypress Reservations) Act 2010* which commenced on 1 January 2011 to protect remnants of native woodland vegetation across the highly modified South Western Slopes bioregion.
- Land surrounding the park has been extensively cleared for agriculture.
- The park has a high diversity of plants and contains box – gum woodland, a critically endangered ecological community listed under the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
- The park provides habitat for native woodland bird species, including the critically endangered regent honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*). Threatened squirrel gliders (*Petaurus norfolcensis*) and eastern pygmy-possums (*Cercartetus nanus*) are also found in the park, along with the pine donkey orchid (*Diuris tricolor*) which is listed as vulnerable under the Biodiversity Conservation Act.
- The park has previously been used for mining, forestry and grazing, and has a long history of recreational use by local communities.
- The park continues to provide a range of opportunities for people to connect with nature while participating in passive or active recreation. A network of mountain bike tracks has been formalised in the eastern portion of the park and other activities such as bushwalking and birdwatching are available across all areas of the park.
- The park lies within the administrative areas of the Cootamundra Shire Council, the Riverina Local Land Service, the Young Local Aboriginal Land Council and the South West Slopes Bush Fire Zone.

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2. Challenges for conservation in the South Western Slopes bioregion

Jindalee National Park is in the South Western Slopes bioregion. Information provided on the South Western Slopes bioregion has been taken from *The bioregions of New South Wales* (NPWS 2003).

The extensive South Western Slopes bioregion has an area of 8,103,373 ha across New South Wales and Victoria, with the NSW portion of the bioregion occupying about 10% of the state. The bioregion is a large area of foothills and ranges comprising the western fall of the Great Dividing Range to the edge of the Riverina bioregion. The South Western Slopes bioregion is dominated by a sub-humid climate characterised by hot summers and no dry season. Mean annual rainfall varies from up to 1,200 mm in the east, to 400 mm in the west. Geology, soils and vegetation are complex and diverse across the bioregion.

The South Western Slopes bioregion has some of the most highly cleared and altered lands in New South Wales. As a result, native vegetation remains generally in small, isolated patches and ecosystem function and genetic health can be lost due to small patch size. Weeds, feral animals, changed fire regimes and clearing of vegetation are some of the many challenges for conservation in the bioregion.

The bioregion is home to several threatened species of native animals and plants. A low level of conservation tenures together occupy only 2.4% of the bioregion. National parks and nature reserves account for over half of this area, with the remainder predominantly managed through private landholder conservation agreements.

3. Management themes

3.1 Protecting the natural environment

Landscape and soils

Jindalee National Park is located within the highly modified South Western Slopes bioregion, a landscape that has been extensively cleared of native vegetation for agriculture. The park sits generally between 400 m and 510 m above sea level and has no permanent running water. Numerous minor drainage lines dissect the park, feeding into Flagstaff and Muttama creeks (see Figure 1).

The park experiences some soil erosion, trail damage and impacts to surface drainage during heavy storms and from inappropriate vehicle use by some visitors. Lower impact activities such as bushwalking occur with minimal detrimental impact to soils. In the eastern portion of the park cycling tracks have been formalised to minimise impacts to soil stability. The potential impact of horse riding on park soils and drainage is of concern. As such, horse riding is limited to park roads and management trails.

Climate change poses a threat to the park as it intensifies the effects of threats such as drought, fire and weeds on the remnant landscape. The management of these threats is discussed further in this plan.



Photo 1 A section of cycling track in Jindalee National Park. Boen Ferguson/DCCEEW

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Objectives

- Soil structure and sensitive landscapes are conserved.

Operations

- Monitor impacts to soils from park use and recreation. Manage as needed, including road and track maintenance, signage and temporary closures.
- Manage and minimise illegal activities, such as unregistered vehicle/motorbike use in the park, using community engagement, signage, barriers and law enforcement.

Native plants

The park forms part of a fragmented network of conservation reserves in the region, which protect significant remnants of native vegetation. Land surrounding the park has been extensively cleared for farming, and the eastern and western portions of the park are separated by cleared agricultural land.

The NSW State Vegetation Type Map represents the distribution of each plant community type across all tenures in New South Wales (see link in 'More information' section). The 2 dominant plant community types identified within the park are described in Table 1.

Table 1 Dominant plant community types identified in Jindalee National Park

PCT ID	Description	Vegetation classes
342	Mugga ironbark – mixed box woodland on hills in the Cowra – Boorowa – Young region of the NSW South Western Slopes bioregion	Upper Riverina dry sclerophyll forests
217	Mugga ironbark – western grey box – cypress pine tall woodland on footslopes of low hills in the NSW South Western Slopes bioregion	Western slopes dry sclerophyll forests

PCT ID = plant community type identification number.

Small areas of PCTs 322, 266 and 277 are found in the park's western portion.

The park contains the critically endangered ecological community white box – yellow box – Blakely's red gum grassy woodland and derived native grassland in the NSW North Coast, New England Tableland, Nandewar, Brigalow Belt South, Sydney Basin, South Eastern Highlands, NSW South Western Slopes, South East Corner and Riverina bioregions listed under the Biodiversity Conservation Act.

This vegetation community is also likely to conform to the definition of the white box – yellow box – Blakely's red gum grassy woodland and derived native grassland community listed as critically endangered under the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Populations of this community have been significantly reduced and remnants are often degraded and highly fragmented. This box – gum woodland community within the park provides important habitat for a diverse range of threatened species, particularly in relation to breeding opportunities in tree hollows.

The pine donkey orchid has been found in the western portion of the park and is listed as vulnerable under the Biodiversity Conservation Act. The orchid is a terrestrial species,

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growing from the ground rather than from rocks or vegetation (see Photo 2). It grows in sclerophyll forest among grass, often in association with native cypress pine. It requires a grassy component in the ground layer to provide it with physical protection and moisture-retaining litter. Further surveys for pine donkey orchids, should funding allow, are expected to reveal more information on the species' presence and distribution within the park. Park management activities will be undertaken to avoid and minimise potential threats to the species.



Photo 2 Pine donkey orchid (*Diuris tricolor*). Jackie Miles/DCCEEW

Prior to reservation of Jindalee National Park, threats to native plants and ecological communities in the park included mining, grazing and forestry. The native vegetation is expected to benefit from the cessation of these activities, which will allow the existing trees to mature and the emerging trees and understorey to regenerate. Other threats such as feral animals and weeds, harvesting of firewood and inappropriate recreational activities are ongoing and will be managed in accordance with park management policies and priorities. Some active planting has been carried out in the park and further restoration activities will be undertaken as funding and resources allow.

For more information on threatened plants and ecological communities, visit the department's *Threatened species* webpage (see link in 'More information' section).

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Objectives

- Native vegetation communities and populations of threatened flora are maintained or improved.

Operations

- Conduct surveys of the pine donkey orchid as funding allows, to confirm presence and distribution of the species.
- Manage activities to avoid and minimise potential threats to the pine donkey orchid.
- Manage recreation in the park in accordance with this plan to minimise impacts from visitor use.
- Promote visitor awareness of threatened flora and ecological communities by installing interpretive materials in key locations within the park.
- Consider funding opportunities for appropriate planting and restoration projects.
- Manage and minimise illegal activities, such as tree felling and firewood collection, using community engagement, signage and law enforcement.
- Undertake fire management activities, including having regard to the *Jindalee National Park fire management strategy*.

Native animals

The park is an important refuge for native animals in a region extensively modified for agriculture. Intensive clearing and fragmentation of the region's landscape has resulted in the decline of many species, including many woodland bird populations. Remaining woodland fragments, such as Jindalee National Park, are important for critically endangered species listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act such as the regent honeyeater and swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*).

Records of known native animals in the park include 9 amphibian species, 6 reptile species, 112 bird species and 20 mammals. The threatened animals recorded in the park and their status under state and federal conservation legislation at the time of writing are provided in Appendix C. For a detailed, up-to-date species list, refer to the *NSW BioNet* website (see link in 'More information' section).

Hollow-bearing trees are particularly important for the conservation of many woodland-dependent threatened species. The end of forestry activities and the regulation of illegal firewood collection is allowing the park's trees to mature, senesce and develop hollows over the long term.

Too-frequent or too-intense fires may result in disruption to animal life cycles and cause further loss of habitat. Fire and other ongoing threats such as feral animals, weeds and inappropriate recreational activities will continue to be managed in accordance with park management policies and strategies.

For more information on threatened fauna species, visit the department's *Threatened species* webpage (see link in 'More information' section).

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Objectives

- Native animal habitat and populations of threatened fauna are maintained or improved.

Operations

- Promote visitor awareness of threatened fauna by installing interpretive materials in key locations within the park.
- Consider funding opportunities for appropriate fauna protection and habitat restoration projects.
- Manage and minimise illegal activities, such as tree felling and firewood collection, using community engagement, signage and law enforcement.

Feral animals and weeds

Feral animals and weeds can have impacts across the range of park values, including soils, biodiversity, heritage and scenic values.

Priorities for weed control in the park are informed by regional strategies and local considerations such as the presence of threatened species. Weeds in the park include Paterson's curse (*Echium plantagineum*), apple of Sodom (*Solanum linnaeanum*), capeweed (*Arctotheca calendula*), St John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), thistle (*Onopordum* spp.), viper's bugloss (*Echium vulgare*) and blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.).

Priorities for the control of feral animals in the park are also informed by regional strategies. Target species include red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral cats (*Felis catus*), rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), hares (*Lepus europaeus*) and feral deer species. Boundary fencing is in place to stop grazing livestock entering the park from surrounding agricultural land.

Objectives

- The health of ecosystems is maintained or improved.

Operations

- Work with adjoining landowners to manage common boundaries and exclude livestock from the park.
- Control priority feral animals and weeds.

3.2 Looking after our culture and heritage

Aboriginal heritage values

Jindalee National Park lies within the traditional Country of the Wiradjuri People, the largest Aboriginal group in New South Wales by area and population. The Wiradjuri People have lived in Australia for more than 40,000 years (AM 2023). The name of the nearby town Cootamundra is derived from the Wiradjuri word gudhamangdhuray, which means ‘many long-necked turtles’ (RMRA 2023).

Historical use by Aboriginal people of the area now gazetted as Jindalee National Park is not well understood, however, there is evidence of Aboriginal occupation and use of the park and its resources. This evidence includes 18 culturally modified trees in the western portion of the park that were mapped following a survey in 2014. Culturally modified trees are trees that have been scarred, carved or manipulated by humans. There are numerous reasons why Aboriginal people took bark from trees, it being a versatile and plentiful material that could be used for a wide variety of commonplace tasks, including the construction of shelters, watercraft and containers (Long 2005).

Illegal tree felling, timber harvesting and vandalism are an ongoing threat to culturally modified trees in the park. The exact location of the trees will remain undisclosed for their protection. However, generating a greater understanding of the value of these trees will be an aim of any programs that promote the park and its values. Additional law enforcement measures to reduce timber harvesting in the park will be undertaken as resources allow.

Further oral history collection and surveys could reveal more information about the significance of the park and its values. NPWS will encourage and participate in programs that build a better picture of the cultural landscape and its features in the park.

Objectives

- The understanding and protection of Aboriginal cultural values and sites within the park is improved.

Operations

- Work with the local Aboriginal community to increase the understanding and protection of cultural values and sites within the park with further surveys or studies, as funding and resources allow.
- Increase visitor awareness of local Aboriginal cultural heritage, including by installing appropriate interpretive signage in key locations within the park.
- Manage and minimise illegal activities, such as tree felling and firewood collection, using community engagement, signage and law enforcement.

Historic values

The park has a varied history of use since European settlement, including grazing, gold mining, timber collection and use as a forestry reserve (Spooner 2014). Parts of the park were historically known to the local community as ‘The Ironbarks’ and ‘Wattle Valley’, known

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for attractive displays of the Cootamundra wattle (*Acacia baileyana*), and various recreational opportunities for visitors.

While there is evidence of past mining, forestry and livestock grazing within the park, no built items of potential historic heritage value have been identified. NPWS will manage any historic heritage features located in the park in accordance with their assessed level of significance and importance.

Objectives

- The understanding of historic heritage values in the park is improved.

Operations

- Increase understanding of heritage values in the park with further surveys or studies, as funding and resources allow.

3.3 Providing for visitor use and enjoyment

Recreation values

The park has a long history of providing recreational opportunities such as cycling, bushwalking, camping, birdwatching, 4-wheel driving, horse riding and orienteering. A network of cycling tracks was constructed in the eastern portion of the park prior to its reservation as a national park.

After the establishment of Jindalee National Park, NPWS conducted an environmental impact assessment on the existing cycling track network in the park. This assessment determined that most of the tracks were well situated and suitable to be retained. Following upgrades to address environmental and safety risks, a network comprising approximately 25 km of cycling tracks was formalised for use within the smaller eastern portion of the park. This area is designated as a cycling zone (see Figure 1). The cycling track network in this zone is limited to no more than 30 km of track. This allows for reasonable realignments or adjustments of the network if needed in the future. Cycling is allowed on signposted cycling tracks within this zone and on all management trails and park roads.

Sustainable mountain biking opportunities in NPWS parks are guided by the NPWS *Cycling policy*, *Cycling strategy*, and *Guidelines for implementation*. Any significant changes to the network are limited to what can be achieved under the NPWS *Cycling policy*, subject to environmental and cultural heritage impact assessments and other design and assessment criteria. Such changes also require consultation with key stakeholders, including the regional advisory committee. Unauthorised tracks will be closed and rehabilitated as necessary.

Consistent with the priorities laid out in the NPWS *Cycling strategy*, NPWS staff will engage with local mountain biking groups to strengthen cyclist stewardship of the park. Programs may be established to engage volunteers in the maintenance of cycling experiences and to aid in the remediation of closed tracks. For more information on the NPWS *Cycling policy*, refer to the NPWS park management policies link in the 'More information' section.

Cycling tracks in the park will be designated as 'preferred-use' tracks. This means that while walking will not be prohibited on the tracks, for safety reasons walking will not be promoted.

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Also, unlike shared-use trails, it means wide widths and easy walking grades need not be maintained. Some tracks may be designated one-way where appropriate.

Horse riding is undertaken to a limited extent in the park. Horse riding is permitted on park roads and management trails (as shown on Figure 1), with no horse riding permitted on cycling or other tracks. Public vehicle use is restricted to registered vehicles on park roads and is not permitted on management trails.

Camping facilities have not been provided in the park; however, a small amount of informal camping does occur in previously disturbed areas. Camping is not permitted in carparks or day use areas. Camping must not interfere with park operations, visitor safety, or the conservation of park values and will be regulated with local signage and compliance activity as required. Overnight camping with horses is not permitted in the park.

NPWS may design and build up to 2 campgrounds in the future, with the location(s) to be determined following a review of candidate sites. Environmental impact assessment will accompany any proposal for campground development. Final locations will be prioritised to previously disturbed areas, with consideration given to environmental, cultural, visitor use, operational and safety factors. If established, camping will be restricted to the campgrounds to minimise impacts from visitation across the remainder of the park.

Car parks and track heads are in place or are proposed at the main cycling access points off Berthong Road (see Figure 1). Additional track heads, formalised parking and day use areas may be established across the park as required. The need and location for these will be determined by NPWS assessments in response to demand and the need to better manage any growing use by day visitors.

NPWS will monitor visitor behaviour, pressure on facilities, and environmental and cultural responses to visitation. Recreational activities in the park will continue to be monitored and managed to minimise environmental impacts, conflict between user groups, and illegal or unauthorised use of the park. The summary of permissible activities in Section 4 sets out the recreational and commercial activities permitted in the park and any requirements to undertake the activities.

Objectives

- Visitor use of the park is ecologically sustainable and provides enjoyable opportunities for public appreciation of park values.

Operations

- Permit cycling on cycling tracks by track head and individual track signage across the network.
- Designate cycling tracks as preferred-use, with tracks designated one-way as appropriate.
- Monitor visitor use and manage access and visitor use to ensure that park values are maintained.
- Engage with local mountain biking stakeholder groups to assist in the planning and management of cycling tracks in the park.
- Maintain the track network within the limits outlined in this plan of management.

3.4 Park access and infrastructure

There are 2 signposted entry points off Berthong Road to access the eastern portion of the park. The western portion of the park has 2 signposted entries via Burley Griffin Way and one entry via Berthong Road. For authorised park entry points, see Figure 1.

NPWS has mapped the internal park road and management trail network that will be maintained for public vehicle access and management purposes, as shown on Figure 1. Trail use will be authorised locally with the use of signs and gates.

At the time of writing there are several land parcels and management trails vested in the Minister administering the National Parks and Wildlife Act for the purposes of Part 11 of that Act. These lands are not part of the gazetted park, but their management is subject to this plan of management and the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019. Figure 1 shows the status of the lands at the time of writing, with some being the subject of land swap negotiations. If or when agreement on those swaps is reached, the tenure of those lands would be updated in the relevant NSW land title and NPWS systems.

The park boundary is fenced to stop livestock from entering the park. NPWS staff will liaise with neighbours and ensure fences are maintained consistent with the NPWS *Boundary fencing policy*. For more information on NPWS park management policies, refer to the 'More information' section.

Park infrastructure as it relates to recreation is outlined further in Section 3.3.

Objectives

- Park infrastructure meets NPWS needs while supporting the protection of park values and providing for appropriate visitor access.

Operations

- Maintain the park road network and use signs and gates to manage the use of management trails.
- Work with adjoining landowners to manage common boundaries and exclude livestock from the park.
- Design and build up to 2 campgrounds where and when demand requires, with consideration for park environmental and cultural values.

4. Summary of permissible activities

4.1 Recreational activities

There are many recreational activities that can be undertaken in the park without consent from park managers. Other activities can occur if consent is provided by NPWS. All activities that occur in the park are subject to relevant policies and legislation.






Conditions may be applied to ensure an activity is undertaken safely and to minimise environmental risks and risks to others. Consent may be refused after consideration of the proposed activity and its likely environmental, visitor safety and park management impacts.

Activities may be subject to operating conditions or limits from time to time. Examples include closing access to parts of the park during periods of bushfire risk, bad weather or maintenance or improvement works.









Activities not shown in Table 2 may also be regulated by signage within the park or by consent.

Information regarding activities that require consent and obtaining consent is available on the NPWS website or by contacting the relevant NPWS office.

Table 2 Park use regulations – recreational activities

	Type of activity	Allowed	Note/exceptions
	Barbecues – portable	Yes	Gas, liquid fuel and electric BBQs are permitted in the park, unless a total fire ban or park fire ban is in place.
	Camping	Yes	Camping is not permitted in established carparks or day use areas. Camping will be limited to designated campgrounds if and when they are established in the park. Overnight camping with horses is not permitted.
	Cycling/mountain biking	Yes	Cycling is permitted on park roads, management trails and tracks designated for cycling. All organised group events, such as club rides, require consent irrespective of group size.
	Dog walking	No	Domestic animals are not allowed in NSW national parks. A person may be accompanied by their trained assistance animal provided they meet the requirements of proof and other conditions set out in the NPWS <i>Pets in parks policy</i> .
	Drones	With consent	Drones may be used for park management and emergency or law enforcement purposes. The use of drones for activities that support park management objectives may be authorised via a consent (conditions, exclusion areas and civil aviation regulations apply). Recreational use of drones will not be authorised.

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	Type of activity	Allowed	Note/exceptions
	Four-wheel driving	Yes	Four-wheel driving is limited to registered vehicles on park roads. Vehicle use off-road is not allowed.
	Fossicking	No	Not permitted.
	Group gatherings – non-commercial (e.g. family or social gatherings, school groups)	Yes	Consent is required for groups of more than 20 people.
	Horse riding	Yes	Horse riding is only permitted on park roads and management trails. Horse riding is not permitted on cycling tracks.
 	Vehicle access (including motorbikes)	Yes	Motorised vehicle access is limited to registered vehicles on park roads only. Vehicle use off-road is not allowed.
	Walking and nature appreciation	Yes	Walking and nature appreciation are permitted in the park, unless signposted otherwise. Cycling tracks are designated as preferred-use for cyclists, but walking is allowed with caution.
	Wood fires and solid fuel fires	Yes	Wood fires and solid fuel fires are permitted within the park, however not during solid fuel bans or total fire bans.

4.2 Commercial and non-commercial activities requiring approval

Commercial and non-commercial activities within NSW national parks that require prior approval include guided tours, commercial events, filming and photography, and group gatherings.

Commercial activities such as tours are licensed under the Parks Eco Pass program. This program licenses operators who conduct commercial tours, recreational and educational activities in NSW national parks and reserves (see NPWS visitor website link in 'More information' section).

Commercial filming and photography in parks and reserves requires approval consistent with the NPWS *Filming and photography policy* (see NPWS park management policies link in 'More information' section). Approval to use supporting equipment, such as marquees, amplified sound or drones, will be determined on a case-by-case basis, subject to an assessment of potential impacts on park values and other park users. Use of any supporting equipment will be subject to consent conditions.

NPWS is committed to ensuring that opportunities to experience Aboriginal culture in the park are developed and delivered in a culturally sensitive way. These experiences must respect the authenticity and integrity of local Aboriginal people and their culture, adhere to cultural protocols, and recognise that Aboriginal culture is the intellectual property of Aboriginal people. Licensing of commercial tour operators, and recreational and educational operators includes conditions on the delivery of Aboriginal cultural heritage interpretation and requirements for Aboriginal cultural awareness training.

Under NPWS policy, commercial operators may be required to support understanding of cultural heritage conservation and management, and promote respect for Aboriginal culture and sites. This may include requirements to consult with Aboriginal communities to develop appropriate material and information for participants.

Table 3 lists some common event, function and commercial activities that may be permitted in the park with consent from NPWS or under a licence or lease. It is not a definitive or exhaustive list of permitted commercial or other activities. Information on relevant policies, required approvals and fees is available on the NPWS website.

Table 3 Park use regulations – events, functions and commercial activities

Type of activity	Group size	Type of approval required
Commercial and charity events, including walking, running and cycling events open for public participation	All groups irrespective of size may apply for consent or licence. Limits on group size may be implemented by NPWS.	Consent or licence
Commercial activities including nature appreciation, cultural tours, filming and photography	All groups irrespective of size may apply for consent or licence. Limits on group size may be implemented by NPWS.	Consent or licence
Private, non-commercial organised events (e.g. club based and students)	All groups of 20 or more.	Consent
Research (scientific, educational, conservation or park management)	All groups irrespective of size may apply for consent or licence. Limits on group size may be implemented by NPWS.	Consent or licence

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Type of activity	Group size	Type of approval required
All other events and gatherings involving groups of more than 20 people	All groups of 20 or more.	Consent

5. Scheme of operations

The scheme of operations in Table 4 details the plans objectives and operations that are proposed to be carried out on the land.

A management priority has been assigned to each operation to guide the allocation of resources:

- very high – loss or significant decline in the condition of park values is likely if an operation is not undertaken OR significant improvement in the condition of park values is likely if an operation is undertaken
- high – decline in the condition of park values is likely if an operation is not undertaken OR improvement in the condition of park values is likely if an operation is undertaken
- medium – some decline in the condition of park values is possible if an operation is not undertaken OR some improvement in the condition of park values is possible if an operation is undertaken
- low – while decline in the condition of park values is not likely in the short term, an operation would help build the long-term resilience of park values.

The scheme of operations sets strategic goals that may include the development and delivery of subsidiary plans. Subsidiary plans enable adaptive responses to new information or changed circumstances, such as for feral animals, weeds, fire and recreational activities, as required by NPWS policy.

The implementation of operations set out below may be subject to statutory responsibilities under the National Parks and Wildlife Act and other relevant state and Commonwealth legislation, including environmental impact assessments and approvals. Further community consultation on the proposed operations may be undertaken as part of these processes.

Table 4 Scheme of operations

Objectives	Operations	Priority
Protecting the natural environment		
1. Soil structure and sensitive landscapes are conserved	a. Monitor impacts to soils from park use and recreation. Manage as needed, including road and track maintenance, signage and temporary closures.	High
	b. Manage and minimise illegal activities, such as unregistered vehicle/motorbike use in the park, using community engagement, signage, barriers and law enforcement.	High
2. Native vegetation communities and populations of threatened flora are maintained or improved	a. Conduct surveys of the pine donkey orchid as funding allows, to confirm presence and distribution of the species.	Medium
	b. Manage activities to avoid and minimise potential threats to the pine donkey orchid.	High
	c. Manage recreation in the park in accordance with this plan to minimise impacts from visitor use.	Very high
	d. Promote visitor awareness of threatened flora and ecological communities by installing interpretive materials in key locations within the park.	Medium

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Objectives	Operations	Priority
	e. Consider funding opportunities for appropriate planting and restoration projects.	Medium
	f. Manage and minimise illegal activities, such as tree felling and firewood collection, using community engagement, signage and law enforcement.	Very high
	g. Implement fire management strategies and bushfire risk treatments consistent with relevant legislation and having regard to the <i>Jindalee National Park fire management strategy</i> .	Very high
3. Native animal habitat and populations of threatened fauna are maintained or improved	a. Promote visitor awareness of threatened fauna by installing interpretive materials in key locations within the park.	Low
	b. Consider funding opportunities for appropriate fauna protection and habitat restoration projects.	Low
	c. Manage and minimise illegal activities, such as tree felling and firewood collection, using community engagement, signage and law enforcement.	High
4. The health of ecosystems is maintained or improved	a. Work with adjoining landowners to manage common boundaries and exclude livestock from the park.	High
	b. Control priority feral animals and weeds.	High
Looking after our culture and heritage		
5. The understanding and protection of Aboriginal cultural values and sites within the park is improved	a. Work with the local Aboriginal community to increase the understanding and protection of cultural values and sites within the park with further surveys or studies, as funding and resources allow.	High
	b. Increase visitor awareness of local Aboriginal cultural heritage, including by installing appropriate interpretive signage in key locations within the park.	Medium
	c. Manage and minimise illegal activities, such as tree felling and firewood collection, using community engagement, signage and law enforcement.	Very high
6. The understanding of historic heritage values in the park is improved	a. Increase understanding of heritage values in the park with further surveys or studies, as funding and resources allow.	Low
Providing for visitor use and enjoyment		
7. Visitor use of the park is ecologically sustainable and provides enjoyable opportunities for public appreciation of park values	a. Permit cycling on cycling tracks by track head and individual track signage across the network.	High
	b. Designate cycling tracks as preferred-use, with tracks designated one-way as appropriate.	High
	c. Monitor visitor use and manage access and visitor use to ensure that park values are maintained.	High
	d. Engage with local mountain biking stakeholder groups to assist in the planning and management of cycling tracks in the park.	High

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Objectives	Operations	Priority
	e. Maintain the track network within the limits outlined in this plan of management.	High
Park access and infrastructure		
8. Park infrastructure meets NPWS needs while supporting the protection of park values and providing for appropriate visitor access	a. Maintain the park road network and use signs and gates to manage the use of management trails.	High
	b. Work with adjoining landowners to manage common boundaries and exclude livestock from the park.	High
	c. Design and build up to 2 campgrounds where and when demand requires it, with consideration for park environmental and cultural values.	Medium

References

- AM (Australian Museum) (2023) *Wiradjuri cultural objects from Peak Hill, NSW*, AM website, accessed 1 December 2023.
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- RMRA (Riverina Murray Regional Alliance) (2023) *Cootamundra community information*, RMRA website, accessed 1 December 2023.
- Spooner P (2014) *Jindalee NP, Cootamundra* [unpublished report to Department of Planning and Environment], Charles Sturt University, Albury.

More information

- Environment and Heritage website
 - Threatened species
 - NSW BioNet
- National Parks and Wildlife Service visitor website
- NPWS park management policies
- NSW State Vegetation Type Map – SEED data portal, accessed December 2023
- Privacy and security – Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water webpage

Appendix A: Objects of the National Parks and Wildlife Act

The objects of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, set out in section 2A of the Act are:

- a. The conservation of nature, including, but not limited to, the conservation of—
 - i. habitat, ecosystems and ecosystem processes, and
 - ii. biological diversity at the community, species and genetic levels, and
 - iii. landforms of significance, including geological features and processes, and
 - iv. landscapes and natural features of significance including wilderness and wild rivers,
- b. the conservation of objects, places or features (including biological diversity) of cultural value within the landscape, including, but not limited to—
 - i. places, objects and features of significance to Aboriginal people, and
 - ii. places of social value to the people of New South Wales, and
 - iii. places of historic, architectural or scientific significance,
- c. fostering public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of nature and cultural heritage and their conservation,
- d. providing for the management of land reserved under this Act in accordance with the management principles applicable for each type of reservation.

Appendix B: Management principles for national parks

Section 30E of the National Parks and Wildlife Act states that a national park is to be managed in accordance with the following principles:

- (a) the conservation of biodiversity, the maintenance of ecosystem function, the protection of geological and geomorphological features and natural phenomena and the maintenance of natural landscapes,
- (b) the conservation of places, objects, features and landscapes of cultural value,
- (c) the protection of the ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for present and future generations,
- (d) the promotion of public appreciation and understanding of the national park's natural and cultural values,
- (e) provision for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment that is compatible with the conservation of the national park's natural and cultural values,
- (f) provision for the sustainable use (including adaptive reuse) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas having regard to the conservation of the national park's natural and cultural values,
- (fa) provision for the carrying out of development in any part of a special area (within the meaning of the *Hunter Water Act 1991*) in the national park that is permitted under section 185A having regard to the conservation of the national park's natural and cultural values,
- (g) provision for appropriate research and monitoring.

Appendix C: Threatened animal species recorded in Jindalee National Park

The threatened animals recorded in the park and their status under state and federal conservation legislation at the time of writing are provided in Table 5.

Table 5 Threatened animal species recorded in Jindalee National Park

Class	Common name	Scientific name	BC Act status	EPBC Act status
Aves	Black-chinned honeyeater (eastern subsp.)	<i>Melithreptus gularis gularis</i>	Vulnerable	Not listed
Aves	Brown treecreeper (eastern subsp.)	<i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i>	Vulnerable	Not listed
Aves	Diamond firetail	<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Vulnerable	Not listed
Aves	Dusky woodswallow	<i>Artamus cyanopterus cyanopterus</i>	Vulnerable	Not listed
Aves	Flame robin	<i>Petroica phoenoea</i>	Vulnerable	Not listed
Aves	Grey crown babbler (eastern subsp.)	<i>Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis</i>	Vulnerable	Not listed
Aves	Hooded robin	<i>Melanodryas cucullata</i>	Vulnerable	Not listed
Aves	Little eagle	<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>	Vulnerable	Not listed
Aves	Little lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta pusilla</i>	Vulnerable	Not listed
Aves	Painted honeyeater	<i>Grantiella picta</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Aves	Regent honeyeater	<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Critically endangered	Critically endangered
Aves	Speckled warbler	<i>Chthonicola sagittata</i>	Vulnerable	Not listed
Aves	Square-tailed kite	<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	Vulnerable	Not listed
Aves	Superb parrot	<i>Polytelis swainsonii</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Aves	Swift parrot	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Endangered	Critically endangered
Aves	Varied sittella	<i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i>	Vulnerable	Not listed
Aves	White-fronted chat	<i>Epthianura albifrons</i>	Vulnerable	Not listed
Mammalia	Eastern pygmy-possum	<i>Cercartetus nanus</i>	Vulnerable	Not listed
Mammalia	Squirrel glider	<i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i>	Vulnerable	Not listed

BC Act = *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (NSW).

EPBC Act = *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).

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Cover photo: Aerial view looking north-east over the eastern portion of Jindalee National Park. Boen Ferguson/DCCEEW

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