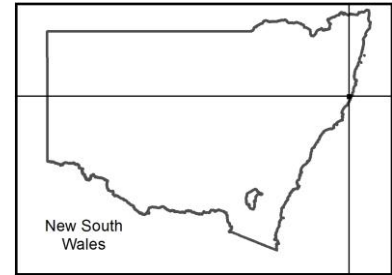


Statement of Management Intent



Lake Innes 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 Lake Innes 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: Lake Innes State Conservation Area was reserved on 1 July 2003.

Size: 321 hectares.



Lake Innes SCA is located approximately 12 kilometres south of Port Macquarie. It falls within the NSW North Coast Bioregion, and within the administrative areas of Port Macquarie–Hastings Council, North Coast Local Land Services and Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Lake Innes SCA was formerly part of Queens Lake State Forest; it was created in July 2003 as a result of the Comprehensive Regional Assessment process undertaken for the North East New South Wales Regional Forest Agreement and reserved under the *National Park Estate (Reservations) Act 2003*. The SCA is located at the southern end of Lake Innes and adjoins Queens Lake SCA in the south and Lake Innes Nature Reserve in the east. Private land with some urban residential dwellings surrounds the remainder of the SCA.

The Lake Innes region provides an important environmental refuge, particularly the saline wetland and swamp habitat that surrounds the lake, which protects a variety of threatened species and endangered ecological communities. The SCA forms an important corridor in the NSW north coast linking Lake Innes Nature Reserve and Queens Lake State Conservation Area for species movement along the coast; notably it supports part of the local population of koalas (*Phascolarctos cinereus*).

4. Values

- The SCA protects habitat for several threatened species: the endangered swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*), masked owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae*), yellow-bellied glider (*Petaurus australis*), little lorikeet (*Glossopsitta pusilla*) and vulnerable koala for which the Lake Innes area is recognised as core habitat.
- The Lake Innes region consists of rare saline wetland habitat and terrestrial wet and dry sclerophyll forest vegetation, comprising broad-leafed paperbark (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*), swamp oak (*Casuarina glauca*), communities of seagrass (*Posidonia australis*) and coastal saltmarsh. The saltmarsh community represents the third largest area of coastal saltmarsh in New South Wales.
- The rare saline wetland area within the Lake Innes region is significant as one of the few major coastal wetlands in New South Wales not affected by flood mitigation drainage schemes.
- The Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council has a strong interest in the management of the Lake Innes region.
- The SCA receives minimal visitation and there is no visitor infrastructure available. There is a small number of local visitors known to travel through the SCA to fish in Cowarra Creek. Nature-based recreational and educational opportunities exist in the adjoining Lake Innes Nature Reserve, including tours led by Discovery rangers, canoeing and bushwalking activities.

5. Issues

- Pest animals known to occur in the SCA include European foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.), feral deer (*Cervus* sp.) and feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*).
- Weed species known to occur in the SCA include bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* ssp. *rotundata*), exotic grasses, lantana (*Lantana camara*), senna (*Senna pendula* var. *glabrata*) and mixed herbaceous weeds.
- There have been occurrences of unauthorised activities occurring within the SCA, including, trail bike riding, vehicle use and dog walking.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Lake Innes Nature Reserve and State Conservation Area and Innes Ruins Historic Site [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Lower North Coast Region.
- NPWS will continue to liaise with the Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council and Elders to discuss management and planning of the SCA.
- Illegal and damaging recreational activities within the reserve will be managed through regular and targeted patrols.

- 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 Manning Hastings Area, Port Macquarie Office on (02) 6588 5555 or 22 Blackbutt Road, Port Macquarie, or PO Box 5657, Port Macquarie 2444.

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.

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