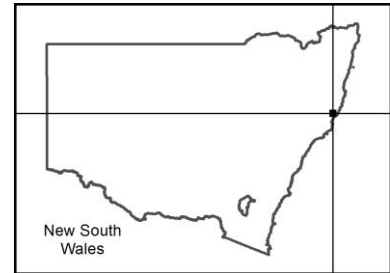


Statement of Management Intent



Lansdowne 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 Lansdowne 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: Lansdowne Nature Reserve was reserved on 7 March 2008.

Size: 14 hectares.

Lansdowne Nature Reserve (the reserve) is located approximately 20 kilometres north of Taree. The reserve lies within the NSW North Coast Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Greater Taree City Council, Hunter Local Land Services and Purfleet/Taree Local Aboriginal Land Council.

The reserve covers almost 14 hectares of land on the banks of the Lansdowne River, which is a major tributary of the Manning River and its catchment. The reserve features riparian vegetation and is prone to natural flooding events from the currently tidal Lansdowne River. The reserve is a small isolated pocket of bushland surrounded by rural properties.



4. Values

- The reserve protects approximately four hectares of the endangered ecological community Lowland Rainforest on Floodplain in the NSW North Coast Bioregion, and supports the only known example of floristic co-dominance by the otherwise uncommon yellow pear-fruit (*Mischocarpus pyriformis*). An additional unique feature of the site is the association with, and intrusion by, tidal mangrove communities.
- The reserve also protects dry and wet sclerophyll forest, and mangrove communities. Grey gum (*Eucalyptus propinqua*), cabbage gum (*E. amplifolia*) and forest red gum (*E. tereticornis*) dominate the dry sclerophyll forest. Regenerating wet sclerophyll forest also occurs within the reserve and contains a population of maidenhair fern (*Adiantum* spp.).
- The diversity of vegetation supports a range of threatened native animals including the eastern osprey (*Pandion cristatus*) and koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*). The koala is listed as vulnerable under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. The combined population of koalas in Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory is listed as vulnerable under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. In addition, several unique insects, not previously recorded within the region nor within Australia, have been recorded in the reserve.

- The reserve contains one of only four remaining examples of an historic wharf from the steamship period in the region, which dates back to the 1880s. The wharf is significant because of its relationship to the once important coastal and river shipping, with transport in the region almost entirely reliant on water before the arrival of the railway in 1913. Lansdowne is at the former head of navigation of the Lansdowne River and the wharf was important in the early development of Lansdowne village and the region's timber and dairying industries.
- The reserve is popular for picnicking, fishing and swimming particularly at Sandy Point and Greenbank. A boat ramp situated at Greenbank provides access to the Lansdowne River via canoe or small watercraft.
- The reserve is an important scientific reference point and regularly used by research institutions. A particular research emphasis is on the regeneration and conservation of lowland rainforest; this has produced several published scientific papers.

5. Issues

- Pest animals which may occur in the reserve include feral cats (*Felis catus*) and European foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*).
- Weed species occurring in the reserve include lantana (*Lantana camara*), crofton weed (*Ageratina adenophora*), mistflower (*A. riparia*), Madeira vine (*Anredera cordifolia*), wandering creeper (*Tradescantia fluminensis*), various coastal weeds and exotic grasses, ground asparagus (*Asparagus aethiopicus*), morning glory (*Ipomoea* spp.) and prickly pear (*Opuntia* spp.).
- There have been occurrences of vandalism within the reserve affecting day-use area facilities such as picnic tables, boat ramps and toilets, as well as incidents of arson activity.
- Ongoing lateral erosion and undercutting of the riverbank is causing riverbank erosion that is likely to continue. This is causing damage to native vegetation on the floodplain in the reserve, and in the future the narrow neck of land may eventually cut through, cutting off the meander and forming an oxbow lake.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Lansdowne Nature Reserve [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Lower North Coast Region.
- Volunteer conservation work will continue to be supported, and partnerships fostered, with groups such as the Manning Lowland Rainforest Group which carries out weed control and rainforest regeneration within the reserve.
- Options to help stabilise the eroding riverbanks in the reserve will be investigated.
- 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 Manning Hastings Area Taree Office on 02 6552 4097 or 78 Hargreaves Street, Taree NSW 2430.

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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