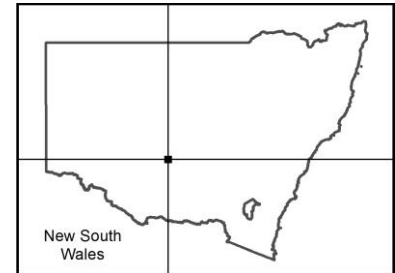




Statement of Management Intent



Loughnan 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 Loughnan 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.

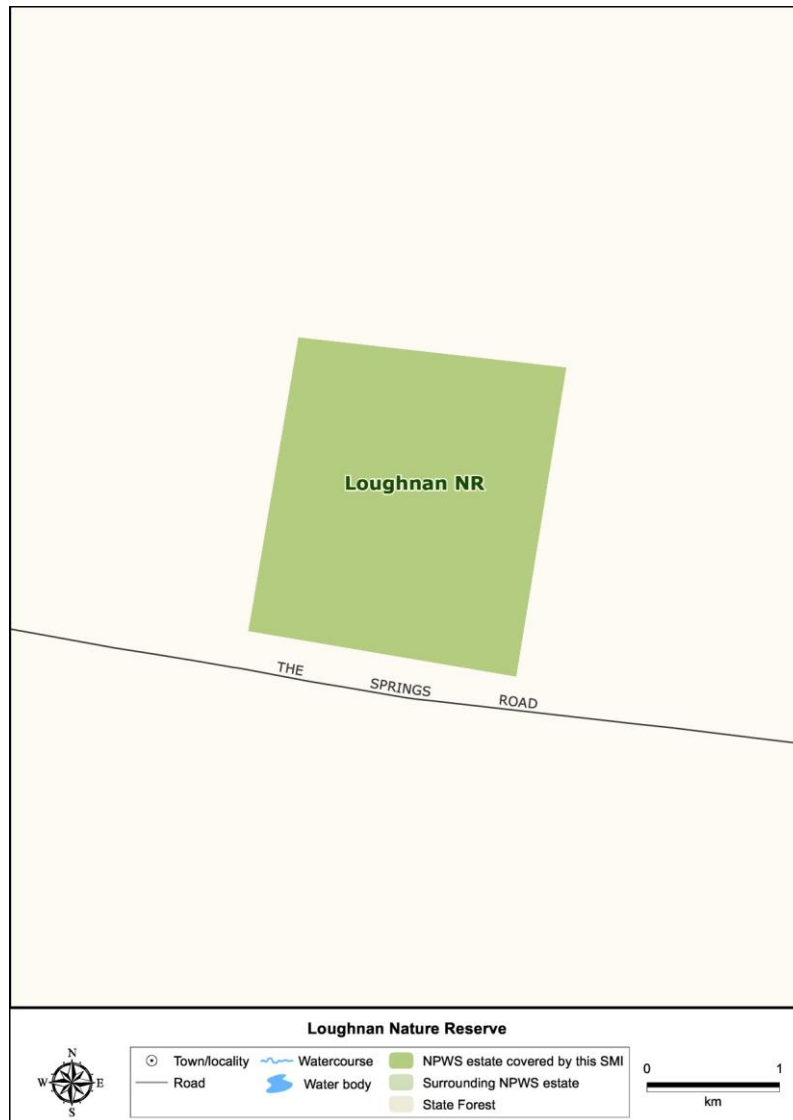
3. Context

Reservation details: Loughnan Nature Reserve was reserved on 29 May 1981.

Size: 385 hectares.

Loughnan Nature Reserve is located approximately 27 kilometres south-east of Hillston and approximately 85 kilometres north of Griffith. It falls within the Murray Darling Depression Bioregion. It also lies within the administrative areas of Carrathool Shire Council, Riverina Local Land Services and Griffith Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Prior to its reservation in 1981, Loughnan Nature Reserve was vacant Crown land. It was established as a nature reserve to preserve one of the largest remnants of mallee habitats south of the Lachlan River, an area which has almost completely been cleared of its natural vegetation. It is comprised of woodland and mallee shrubland vegetation, representing a sample of mallee habitats that once existed south of the Lachlan River. Loughnan Nature Reserve is surrounded by land managed for dryland cropping and grazing, so little remnant habitat exists except along roadsides.



4. Values

- Loughnan Nature Reserve was established as a scientific reference area, a sample of remnant mallee vegetation, and refuge site for wildlife found in mallee habitat in the Southern Riverina region.
- Loughnan Nature Reserve contains remnant mallee vegetation communities of red mallee (*Eucalyptus socialis*), white mallee (*E. dumosa*), yorrell (*E. gracilis*) and a range of associated shrub species including hooked needlewood (*Hakea tephrosperma*), hakea wattle (*Acacia hakeoides*) and broombush (*Melaleuca uncinata*). Minor areas of woodland in swales contain red box (*E. intertexta*) and white cypress pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*).
- Loughnan Nature Reserve provides mallee habitat for the malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) which has declined significantly from its former range, becoming locally extinct in many reserves in

central western New South Wales. The malleefowl is listed as endangered under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act) and vulnerable under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Other threatened species recorded within the reserve include the shy heathwren (*Hylacola cautus*), chestnut quail-thrush (*Cinclosoma castanotum*), southern scrub-robin (*Drymodes brunneopygia*) and varied sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*). These species are listed as vulnerable under the TSC Act.

- The reserve is occasionally visited by birdwatching groups.
- While the precise history of Aboriginal use of the area is not known, the area in which the reserve is located may have been used for food gathering and hunting. No Aboriginal sites are recorded in the reserve.

5. Issues

- Foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) and rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) are known to occur throughout Loughnan Nature Reserve. Feral goats (*Capra hircus*) occur occasionally and fallow deer (*Dama dama*) have established in the reserve in recent years. Due to a lack of permanent water the reserve does not currently sustain feral pest populations that warrant control.
- Malleefowl population numbers have gradually declined over the years and no nesting activity has been recently recorded. This is attributed to the small size and isolated nature of the reserve making it difficult for malleefowl to maintain a viable population. The reserve also suffers from a potentially elevated exposure to other threats such as fox predation. Other threatened species susceptible to extinction in the reserve due to small population sizes include the shy heathwren, chestnut quail-thrush and southern scrub-robin.
- Boundary fence condition is in decline; this leads to occasional incursions of domestic stock, primarily sheep entering the reserve and grazing.
- There is occasional unauthorised access via the 'cocky's' gate on the south-west corner of the reserve, where evidence of camping has been found just inside the reserve boundary. There is also evidence of mallee eucalypts being cut.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with Loughnan Nature Reserve [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Western Rivers Region.
- Illegal activities will continue to be monitored and law enforcement action implemented within the reserve.
- Neighbouring landowners will be consulted regarding issues of straying stock and boundary fencing. Subject to available resourcing, assistance may be provided to neighbours to install stock-proof park boundary fencing in accordance with the NPWS Boundary Fencing Policy.
- The Griffith Local Aboriginal Land Council and Aboriginal community will be consulted to better inform the appropriate management of Country.
- 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 control programs, weed and feral animal control programs 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 Griffith Office on 02 6966 8100 or 200 Yambil Street, Griffith NSW 2680.

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.

Published by:

Office of Environment and Heritage
59 Goulburn Street, Sydney NSW 2000
PO Box A290, Sydney South NSW 1232
Phone: (02) 9995 5000

ISBN 978 1 74359 499 5
OEH 2014/0187
May 2014