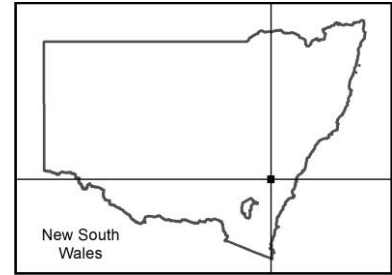


Statement of Management Intent



Mares Forest National Park

1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Mares Forest National Park. This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the park 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

National parks are reserved 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](#)), national parks are managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, and 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.

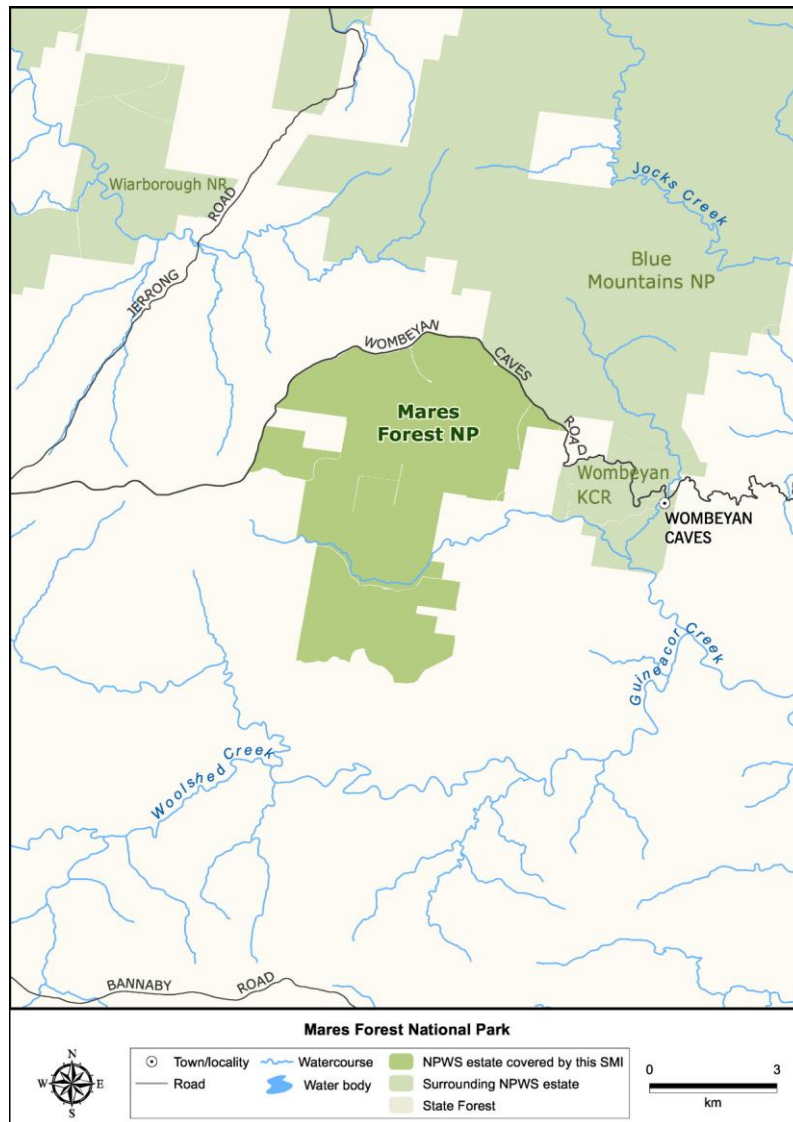
The primary purpose of national parks is to conserve nature and cultural heritage. Opportunities are provided for appropriate visitor use in a manner that does not damage conservation values.

3. Context

Reservation details: Mares Forest National Park was reserved on 13 August 2010.

Size: 2559 hectares.

Mares Forest National Park is situated 15 kilometres north-east of Taralga and approximately 50 kilometres west-north-west of Bowral. Wombeyan Caves Karst Conservation Reserve is located 1 kilometre to the east and to the north-east, separated by Wombeyan Caves Road, is the southern part of Blue Mountains National Park. The park falls within the South Eastern Highlands Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Pejar Local Aboriginal Land Council, South East Local Land Services and Upper Lachlan Shire Council.



Prior to reservation the land that is Mares Forest National Park was a mix of private land and vacant Crown land. Mares Forest National Park protects important habitat for threatened animals and plants as well as providing vital linkage of wilderness areas in the Burragorang Valley to the Tarlo River corridor. The park contributes to the protection of Wombeyan Caves and its associated cave fauna. Wombeyan Caves is widely promoted as a tourist destination. There is potential for developing the recreational values of Mares Forest National Park including bushwalking, mountain biking and camping.

4. Values

- Mares Forest National Park protects habitat of threatened species including the vulnerable powerful owl (*Ninox strenua*), varied sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*), scarlet robin (*Petroica boodang*), flame robin (*Petroica phoenicea*), eastern false pipistrelle (*Falsistrellus*)

tasmaniensis), eastern bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis*) and greater broad-nosed bat (*Scoteanax rueppellii*). Local landholders have also reported sightings of the vulnerable spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*) and koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*).

- The park protects a population of the endangered terrestrial buttercup doubletail orchid (*Diuris aequalis*).
- The park also protects significant Aboriginal cultural heritage with an art site, numerous open campsites and scar trees identified within the park.
- Mares Forest National Park has many European cultural heritage sites including a 1930s timber slab hut built by Simon Slater, Bevan's sawmill which operated in the 1920s, dwelling ruins and exotic plantings.
- There are a number of access tracks throughout the area that provide bushwalking and mountain biking opportunities within the park.

5. Issues

- Wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.), foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*), feral rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), and feral cats (*Felis catus*) are present within the park.
- Infestations of serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*), blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) and radiata pine (*Pinus radiata*) occur within Mares Forest National Park.
- Livestock entering the park from surrounding properties is an ongoing issue.
- Unlawful activities including pig hunting, firewood collecting and off-road driving occur in Mares Forest National Park causing habitat destruction and erosion.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Mares Forest National Park [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Blue Mountains Region. Current priorities include pig control for the protection of the endangered buttercup doubletail orchid and weed management targeting tree of heaven for the protection of the historical and recreational values of Slater's Hut.
- Actions, including law enforcement, will continue to be undertaken against inappropriate and illegal activities that occur within Mares Forest National Park.
- . 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.
- Access roads will be upgraded to an acceptable standard to minimise erosion and improve visitor safety. Directional and interpretive signage will be installed to identify roads and natural and cultural features within the park.
- Visitor use will be monitored and impacts on conservation values and conflicting uses will be managed.
- 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 park. 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 park by promoting and raising public awareness of its special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this park or this statement, contact the NPWS Oberon Office on (02) 6336 1972 or 38 Ross Street, Oberon NSW 2787.

Disclaimer: This is a statement of intent to guide the management of the park 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 park's location and basic features only, and are not suitable for use when navigating to or exploring within parks.

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