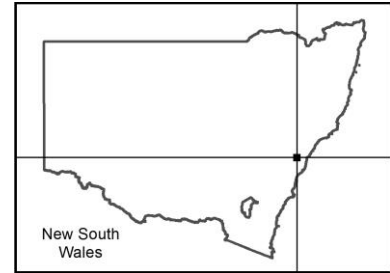


Statement of Management Intent



Maroota Ridge 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 Maroota Ridge 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 Act.

Under the NPW Act ([section 30G](#)), state conservation areas are managed to:

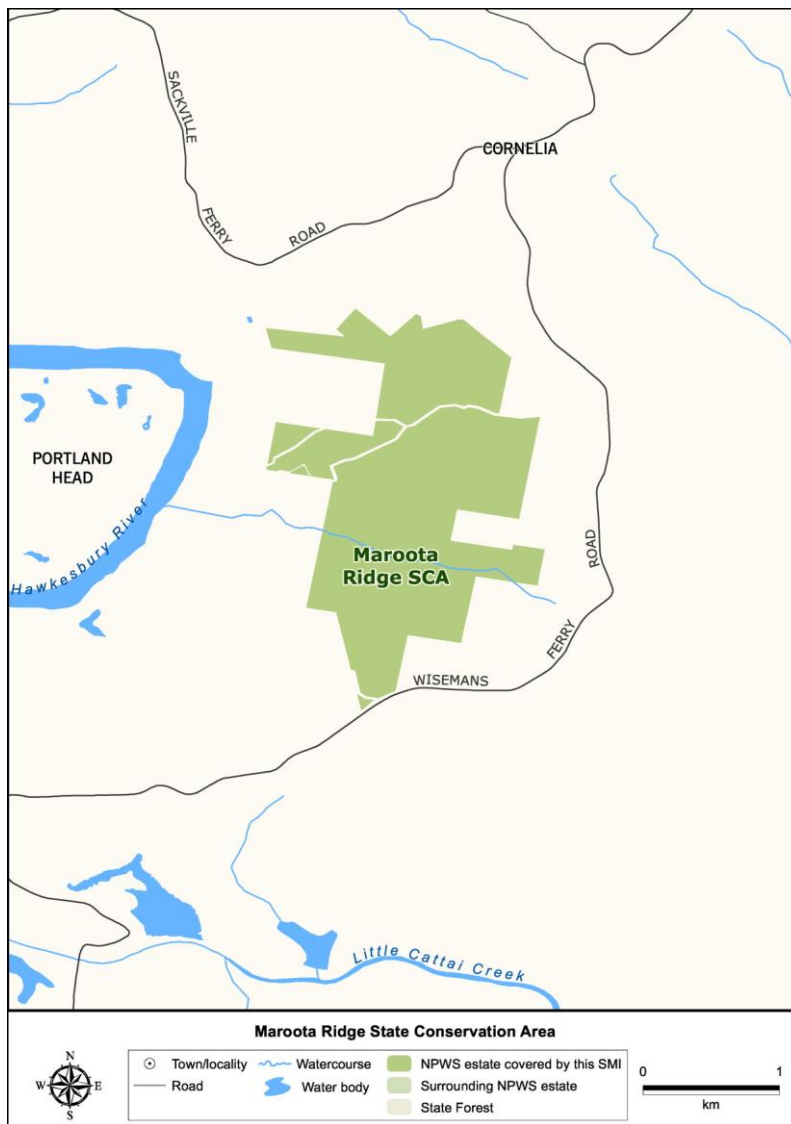
- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, protect natural phenomena and maintain natural landscapes
- conserve places, objects and features of cultural value
- provide for the undertaking of uses permitted under other provisions of the NPW Act (including uses permitted under section 47J 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: Maroota Ridge SCA was reserved on 27 January 2006.

Size: 260 hectares.



Maroota Ridge SCA is located above the floodplain of the Hawkesbury–Nepean River 20 kilometres north-west of Dural. It lies within the upper north-west area of the Sydney Basin Bioregion. It also falls within the administrative areas of The Hills Shire Council, Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council and Greater Sydney Local Land Services.

The SCA is not easily accessible to the public, being surrounded by private property, with only one public access point at Pacific Park Road. There are no visitor facilities or formed walking tracks in the reserve. Three ridge-top management trails traverse the reserve from east to west.

Maroota Ridge SCA provides a habitat refuge for a range of species representative of Sydney sandstone environments including a number of threatened species. The location of the SCA, and

the surrounding remnant bushland, supports fauna movement to and from larger nearby reserves, such as Marramarra National Park.

4. Values

- Maroota Ridge SCA protects habitat for a variety of threatened species including the gang-gang cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*), glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathamii*), giant burrowing frog (*Heleioporus australiacus*), powerful owl (*Ninox strenua*), masked owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae*), yellow-bellied glider (*Petaurus australis*), greater broad-nosed bat (*Scoteanax rueppellii*), red-crowned toadlet (*Pseudophryne australis*) and sooty owl (*Tyto tenebricosa*).
- The SCA is comprised of moist sclerophyll forest habitat that supports a variety of flora species of high conservation significance. It is recognised as a key site for the future long-term management of a number of threatened species. Threatened species recorded in the SCA include *Zieria involucreta*, *Olearia cordata*, Bynoe's wattle (*Acacia bynoeana*), *Micromyrtus blakelyi*, *Tetratheca glandulosa*, *Hibbertia superans*, hairy geebung (*Persoonia hirsuta*) and *Kunzea rupestris*.
- Maroota Ridge SCA contains a significant population of the endangered species Bynoe's wattle. This species generally occurs in very small populations of less than five plants.
- Objects of Aboriginal significance recorded within the reserve include engraved artefacts and shelters with art and deposits. These sites and artefacts provide evidence of past land use and represent the strong connection between Aboriginal people and the region.

5. Issues

- Fauna pest species recorded within Maroota Ridge SCA include European foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), cats (*Felis catus*), feral rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and Indian mynas (*Acridotheres tristis*).
- There are infestations of the weed lantana (*Lantana camara*) which pose a significant threat to some threatened species, particularly *Olearia cordata*. These infestations are concentrated in parts of the SCA that were previously cleared for orchards and also in moist gullies in the central portion of the SCA accessed from Pacific Park Road.
- Giant Parramatta grass (*Sporobolus africanus*), pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*), whisky grass (*Andropogon virginicus*) and rhizomatous bamboo (*Phyllostachys* spp.) occur in isolated infestations within the SCA.
- High-voltage power lines traverse the SCA from north to south. Maintenance activities associated with this infrastructure have the potential to impact on the SCAs values including some threatened species.
- Use and maintenance of management trails, and illegal vehicle activity, may be impacting on threatened species such as Bynoe's wattle and *Olearia cordata* that occupy trail margins.
- Illegal motorbike activity is threatening the integrity of some sections of the SCA by creating an extensive unauthorised trail network along the valley floors. Illegal access points for this activity are predominantly from the river flats bordering the western boundary of the SCA.
- A water pipeline traverses the southern portion of the SCA and provides water for domestic and agricultural use on some adjoining properties. The pipeline is a combination of plastic and older cement-type pipe lying on the ground surface. This is a private pipeline previously held as a Permissive Occupancy, terminated in 2007 by the then NSW Department of Lands.

- A convoluted boundary in the northern section of the reserve exacerbates a number of management issues including encroachments, illegal access and pest and weed management.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Maroota Ridge SCA [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the priorities of the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Metropolitan South West. Current priorities for the SCA include the control of lantana.
- The Biodiversity Priorities for Widespread Weeds program, which prioritises the management of widespread weeds across NSW, identifies Maroota Ridge SCA as a priority site for the control of lantana for the protection of threatened species.
- Targeted strategies for a number of threatened plant species have been developed under the Saving our Species program for implementation in Maroota Ridge SCA and include actions related to fire management, weed control, use and maintenance of tracks and trails and control of illegal access and recreational activities.
- Activities, such as population counts and other scientific research, that improve data on the threatened species Bynoe's wattle, will be supported.
- Management of the water pipeline will be formalised through appropriate licensing arrangements.
- Appropriate boundary identification will be installed in the reserve. Neighbouring landowners will be consulted regarding issues of boundary fencing. Subject to available resourcing, assistance may be provided to neighbours to install park boundary fencing in accordance with the NPWS Boundary Fencing Policy where this will result in improved management outcomes.
- 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 the SCA's special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this SCA or this statement, contact the Cumberland Area Office on 02 4572 3100 or Scheyville National Park, Scheyville Road, Scheyville NSW.

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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