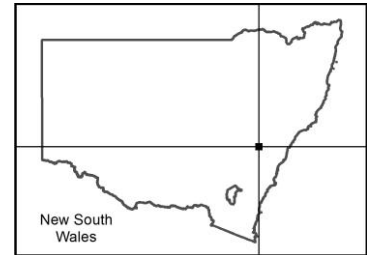


# Statement of Management Intent



## Marrangaroo 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 Marrangaroo 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:** Marrangaroo National Park was reserved on 28 February 2007.

**Size:** 1670 hectares.

Marrangaroo National Park is located approximately 6 kilometres west of Lithgow. It falls within the South Eastern Highlands Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Lithgow City Council, Bathurst Local Aboriginal Land Council and Central Tablelands Local Land Services.



Marrangaroo National Park is bounded by Lidsdale State Forest, Lake Lyell, Farmers Creek and cleared land. Marrangaroo Creek and Coxs River flow through the park and Mount Walker is the highest peak at 1187 metres above sea level.

There is a quartzite hard rock quarry located near the park boundary of Marrangaroo National Park and Lidsdale State Forest that has been in operation since 1912. Prior to reservation as national park the land tenure comprised Crown and private land. Parts of the park were previously used for farming and areas of cleared land still exist within the park.

Marrangaroo National Park is comprised of a diverse assemblage of vegetation communities that include broad-leaved peppermint (*Eucalyptus dives*), brittle gum (*Eucalyptus mannifera*) inland scribbly gum (*Eucalyptus rossii*) and apple box (*Eucalyptus bridgesiana*) woodlands. The Coxs River dissects approximately north to south through the park and is deeply entrenched for much of its length with steeply sided, scenic, forested slopes. The creation of the national park provides a potential conservation focus for the local ecotourism industry.

## 4. Values

- The park protects the catchments of Marrangaroo Creek, Farmers Creek and the Coxs River, a significant part of the Warragamba catchment area, the major water supply for Greater Metropolitan Sydney.
- No native plant or native animal surveys have been conducted in the area; however there is one known site of the endangered Bathurst copper butterfly (*Paralucia spinifera*) recorded in the park. Further research is required, including a comprehensive native animal survey identifying habitat for the Bathurst copper butterfly and monitoring of populations.
- Visitors to Marrangaroo National Park are attracted by the scenic quality of Mount Walker. The majority of visitation is for four-wheel driving, trail bike riding, camping and river-based recreation such as swimming and fishing. A number of access tracks throughout the area also provide bushwalking opportunities.
- No archaeological surveys have been undertaken in the area but several unrecorded Aboriginal sites exist along the Coxs River.

## 5. Issues

- Foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral goats (*Capra hircus*), feral rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.) feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) and feral cats (*Felis catus*) occur within Marrangaroo National Park.
- Marrangaroo National Park has a number of weed species, including blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), St John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*), willow species and exotic pines.
- There are occurrences of illegal bushrock removal and firewood collection along roadsides within Marrangaroo National Park. There are also unauthorised trails being created by trail bikes and four-wheel drives, leading to increased rates of soil erosion.
- There is a quarry located at the boundary of Marrangaroo National Park for the purpose of hard rock extraction and a second quarry is under construction. The quarry has caused pollution runoff and scree slope debris to enter into the park and affect watercourses that run through the park.
- The impact from toilet waste at camping areas is causing a health risk and potential pollution of watercourses.

## 6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Marrangaroo 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 for the park include blackberry, foxes, scotch broom, willows, pines and serrated tussock with the focus on protecting alluvial forest habitat.
- Actions to enforce regulations and surveillance of Marrangaroo National Park will continue, to reduce the occurrence of illegal activities, such as off-road and unregistered vehicle use and firewood collection.
- Partnership arrangements with relevant four-wheel driving clubs and associations will be strengthened, and opportunities explored where club members can assist with park management activities.
- Regulatory and interpretive signage will be installed to identify park boundary, 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.
- Toilets will be installed at camping areas when funding permits.
- Subject to available resourcing, assistance may be provided to neighbours to install park boundary fencing in accordance with the NPWS Boundary Fencing Policy.
- Access roads will be upgraded to minimise erosion and improve visitor safety.
- Liaison and negotiation with the proponent of the adjoining quarry will continue, to ensure that NPWS management needs for Marrangaroo National Park are considered.
- 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 Blackheath Office on (02) 4787 8877 or end Govetts Leap Road, Blackheath NSW 2785.

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**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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