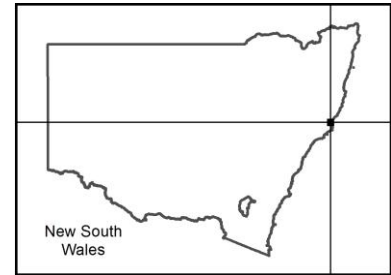




Statement of Management Intent



Minimbah 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 Minimbah 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: Minimbah Nature Reserve was reserved on 6 March 2009.

Size: 340 hectares.

Minimbah Nature Reserve is located approximately 7 kilometres north-west of Forster. It falls within the NSW North Coast Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Great Lakes Council, Hunter Local Land Services and Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council.

The reserve is located on the Minimbah Sand Plain and comprises four separate sections. Three sections lie adjacent to the western side of the Wallamba River and the remaining section is a small

island within the Wallamba River. The Wallamba River flows into Wallis Lake, located less than 3 kilometres south of the reserve.



4. Values

- The reserve protects important coastal wetlands and under-represented forest ecosystems that are crucial to maintaining and improving water quality and habitat in the nearby Wallis Lake wetlands area. The reserve also protects water quality for the nearby Minimbah aquifer.
- The reserve protects important estuarine vegetation communities which are poorly represented in the bioregion. The reserve is expected to protect a range of threatened plant and animals which are likely to occur in the area.
- The reserve contains a range of vegetation communities including: mangroves, swamp oak forests, wet heathland, sedgeland, rushland through to Banksia/paperbark swamp sclerophyll shrublands and dry sclerophyll forest, all in good condition.
- The reserve protects two endangered ecological communities listed under the NSW *Threatened Species Act 1995*: Coastal Saltmarsh in the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions and Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions.

- Although there are no documented records of threatened species within Minimbah Nature Reserve, the area supports outstanding high-conservation value wetlands and coastal habitat suitable for a variety of threatened species that have been recorded nearby. Threatened species likely to occur within the reserve include the endangered green and golden bell frog (*Litoria aurea*) and black-necked stork (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*) as well as wallum froglet (*Crinia tinnula*), black bittern (*Ixobrychus flavicollis*), eastern osprey (*Pandion cristatus*) and masked owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae*).
- There is evidence of shell middens throughout the Minimbah Sand Plain, representing the high level of resource use by early Aboriginal people in the region and subsequent values for cultural heritage.

5. Issues

- Pest animals which may occur in the reserve include wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.).
- Weed species occurring in the reserve include crofton weed (*Ageratina adenophora*), narrow-leaved cotton bush (*Gomphocarpus fruticosus*), winter senna (*Senna pendula*), coral tree (*Erythrina x sykesii*), lantana (*Lantana camara*), morning glory (*Ipomoea* sp.), pampas grass (*Cortaderia* sp.) and slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*).
- There have been occurrences of cattle entering the nature reserve from neighbouring properties, which could result in disturbance to acid sulfate soils.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Minimbah Nature Reserve [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Lower North Coast Region.
- Liaison with the Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council will continue on a broad range of issues that may influence the reserve.
- 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.
- 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 park or this statement, contact the NPWS Great Lakes (Pacific Palms) Office on 02 6591 0300 or 'The Ruins' Camping Ground, Booti Booti National Park, The Lakes Way, Pacific Palms NSW 2428.

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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