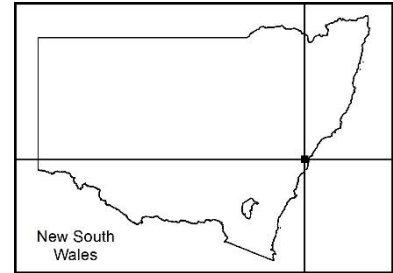




Statement of Management Intent



Mount Kuring-gai Aboriginal Area

1. Introduction

NPWS acknowledges that this Aboriginal area is in the traditional Country of the Guringai Aboriginal people.

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Mount Kuring-gai Aboriginal Area. This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the area until a plan of management has been prepared in accordance with the [National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974](#). 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 National Parks and Wildlife Act and the ['precautionary principle' \(see Principle 15\)](#).

2. Management principles

Aboriginal areas are reserved under the National Parks and Wildlife Act to protect and conserve areas associated with a person, event or historical theme, or containing a building, place, object, feature or landscape that is of natural or cultural significance to Aboriginal people, or important in improving the understanding of Aboriginal culture and its development and transitions. Under the Act ([section 30 K](#)), Aboriginal areas are managed to:

- conserve natural and cultural values
- allow the use of the Aboriginal area by Aboriginal people for cultural purposes
- promote public appreciation and understanding of the park's natural and cultural values and significance where appropriate
- 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 of the Aboriginal people
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring, in accordance with the cultural values of the Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal areas are places that have been identified as having special significance to Aboriginal people. They are established for the purpose of conserving Aboriginal heritage.

3. Context

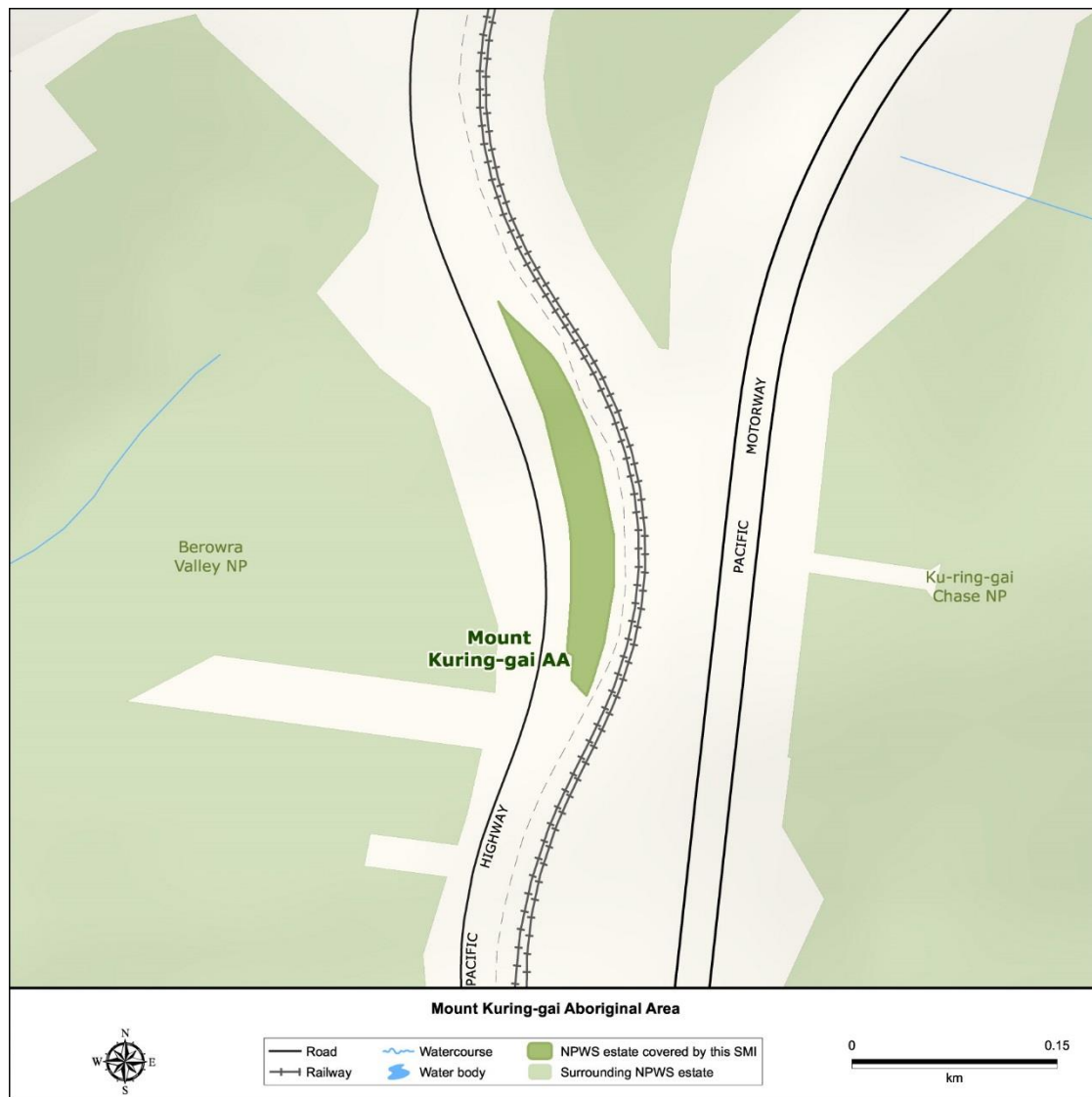
Reservation details: Mount Kuring-gai Aboriginal Area was reserved on 5 December 1997.

Size: 0.6 hectares.

Background: Mount Kuring-gai Aboriginal Area is located along the Pacific Highway and adjacent heavy rail line, between Berowra Valley National Park and Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, just north of Mount Kuring-Gai in the northern-eastern metropolitan area of greater Sydney.

The park is located within the administrative areas of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation, Greater Sydney Region Local Land Service and Hornsby Shire Council.

In 2013 a native title claim by the Awabakal and Guringai People over an area covering the central coast of NSW including the park was registered by the Native Title Tribunal (NC2013/002). This has not yet been determined in 2016.



4. Values

- Mount Kuring-gai Aboriginal Area forms an important part of the cultural landscape for the Guringai Aboriginal people including connections between people, land and spirit (Country).
- Mount Kuring-gai Aboriginal Area is an important ceremonial site. It protects a number of significant rock engravings depicting people, animals and footprints or 'mundoes'. It is of considerable interest because of the unusual size of the footprints. A series of these footprints lead to a large depiction of the mythical being Baiame and his wives. The footprints are thought to be those of Baiame, although there are several ways to interpret the engravings (Stanbury and Clegg 1990).

5. Issues

- Unauthorised activities have been known to occur, including use by tour groups without consent, and vandalism.
- Weeds are encroaching on the park from adjacent road and rail easements.
- The cultural site may be damaged by surrounding vegetation (debris falling on the site and encroaching vegetation), excessive lichen growth, water run-off bringing in sediments, and wildfire.

6. Key management directions

- Manage Mount Kuring-gai Aboriginal Area in cooperation with the local Aboriginal community, including the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council and Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation.
- Provide opportunities for Aboriginal people to access Country, to maintain, renew or develop cultural practices and associations.
- Provide opportunities for Aboriginal people to be involved in park management including the collection and management of information about the cultural site and values and the protection and interpretation of cultural sites.
- Non-intrusive works may be undertaken where necessary to protect the cultural site from further deterioration. This may include vegetation management, fuel reduction activities, and water run-off controls.
- Rock art conservation techniques must be endorsed by NPWS. The Office of Environment and Heritage has developed an introductory guide to the preservation of Aboriginal rock art (DECC 2007) to assist NPWS, consultants and Aboriginal communities gain an understanding of conservation techniques and protocols for rock art conservation in NSW. The NPWS video 'Managing Aboriginal Rock Art' provides further instruction (OEH webpage).
- No camping or wood fires permitted. No facilities or vehicle trails will be constructed.
- Unauthorised activities will be addressed by enforcement and regulatory signage where appropriate. New infrastructure may be required to assist in preventing illegal activities, such as gates and barrier fences or bollards.

- Fire is currently managed in accordance with the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park [Fire Management Strategy](#). The park may be managed in accordance with a fire management strategy for Berowra Valley National Park in the future. Fire may be used as a tool in site conservation.
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Metro North East Region.
- 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.
- A plan of management will be prepared to set out the on-going management objectives for the park. The plan of management is a statutory document under the National Parks and Wildlife Act which will be available for public comment. NPWS will also encourage the community to contribute to the on-going 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 Sydney North Office on (02) 9472 8949.

7. References

DECC 2007, *Introduction to Rock Art Conservation*, published by the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Sydney.

OEH webpage, *Managing Aboriginal Rock Art* video, Office of Environment and Heritage, Sydney, viewed on 02/12/16,
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nswcultureheritage/RockArt.htm>.

Stanbury and Clegg 1990, *A Field Guide to Aboriginal Rock Engravings with special reference to those around Sydney*, Sydney University Press.

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 parks' location and basic features only, and are not suitable for use when navigating to or exploring within parks.

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

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