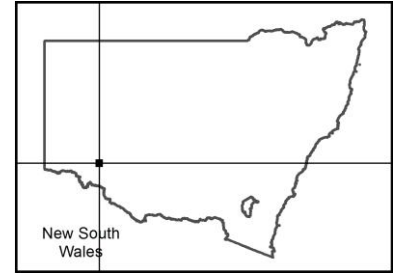


# Statement of Management Intent



## Mungo 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 Mungo 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 NPW 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 a state conservation area every five years in consultation with the Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992*.

### 3. Context

**Reservation details:** Mungo SCA was reserved on 1 January 2011.

**Size:** 5770 hectares.



Mungo SCA is located approximately 95 kilometres north-west of Balranald, at the south-east boundary of Mungo National Park, and approximately 3 kilometres south-east of Lake Mungo. The SCA is situated within the South Olary Plain subregion of the Murray Darling Depression Bioregion, and within the administrative areas of Balranald Shire Council, Balranald Local Aboriginal Land Council and Western Local Land Services.

Mungo National Park, which initially comprised 14,047 hectares of the former soldier settlement block known as 'Mungo', was reserved in 1979. Subsequent additions to the park have increased its size to 121,700 hectares. In 2011 the pastoral lease adjoining the national park to the south ('Joulni') was reserved, adding 10,040 hectares to Mungo National Park and creating the 5770-hectare Mungo SCA.

Mungo National Park currently constitutes approximately 35 per cent of the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Area. The Willandra Lakes region was added to the World Heritage List in 1981 based on its internationally significant archaeological, geomorphological and paleontological values including extensive evidence of Aboriginal occupation and human burials dating back over 40,000 years. Although contiguous with Mungo National Park, Mungo SCA is not included within the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Area and is not known to contain any of the internationally notable values found elsewhere within the Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area and Mungo National Park. Modelling suggests a low likelihood of containing sites of indigenous cultural heritage value, however this has not been tested.

#### 4. Values

- Mungo SCA protects areas of predominately Dune Mallee Woodland (*sensu* open mallee (*Eucalyptus* spp.) shrubland); Semi-arid Sand Plain Woodland (*sensu* *belah* (*Casuarina pauper*) woodland/open woodland); and Riverine Chenopod Shrubland (*sensu* bladder saltbush (*Atriplex vesicaria*) low open shrubland). Mungo SCA contains some of the highest quality mallee vegetation associated with Mungo National Park, and is contiguous with large unreserved areas of mallee vegetation to the east of the park.
- Pastoral activity in the region dates to the mid-19th century. Mungo SCA contains evidence of historic pastoral use, including fencing and tanks (dams) for water storage.
- Limited biological surveying within Mungo SCA has demonstrated it provides and protects habitat for listed threatened species including varied sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*), chestnut quail-thrush (*Cinlosoma castanotum*) and pink cockatoo (*Lophochroa leadbeateri*).

#### 5. Issues

- Foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), feral cats (*Felis catus*) and goats (*Capra hircus*) have been recorded within Mungo SCA. Foxes within Mungo National Park are currently managed in accordance with the Mungo Fox Threat Abatement Plan. Mungo SCA is not currently an identified high-priority area for these management actions, although this may change depending on biological resource assessment of the SCA and review of the fox control program.
- A variety of weed species are present within Mungo National Park, including widespread populations of Patterson's curse (*Echium plantagineum*.) and onion weed (*Asphodelus fistulosus*) and isolated populations of Bathurst burr (*Xanthium spinosum*), thornapple (*Datura ferox*), prickly pear (*Opuntia* spp.), horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*) and Mexican poppy (*Argemone ochroleuca*). Although these species have not been recorded in Mungo SCA they pose a potential threat for invasion. Mungo SCA is not currently an identified high-priority area for weed control actions.
- The biological values of Mungo National Park are well known, however only limited formal surveys have been undertaken in the SCA. Recent nearby biological surveying in similar and contiguous vegetation to the east and north-east of Mungo SCA has recorded an additional 22 species of threatened birds, mammals and reptiles.
- The historic cultural values of Mungo SCA are not well known. Additional surveying and research is required to clarify these values, especially as they relate to the pastoral history of the area.

## 6. Key management directions

- The values and management requirements for Mungo SCA will be managed as a component of, and in accordance with, the Mungo National Park – Mungo SCA Plan of Management currently in development.
- Fire is managed in accordance with the Mungo National Park [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Biological surveys, research and monitoring will be encouraged and supported, to better understand plant and animal occurrences in Mungo SCA.
- Historic features and values within Mungo SCA will be recorded, protected, managed and interpreted, according to their significance.
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Far West 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.
- 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 set out the ongoing management objectives for the SCA. Plans for Mungo SCA will be incorporated into the Mungo National Park – Mungo SCA Plan of Management, currently in development. 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 its special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this SCA or this statement, contact the NPWS Buronga Office on (03) 5021 8900 or Corner of Sturt Highway and Melaleuca Street, Buronga NSW.

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**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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