

APPENDIX 9 – AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE PLACES INVENTORY SEARCH

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Pilliga Nature Reserve (1980 boundary), Newell Hwy, Coonabarabran, NSW, Australia

Photographs	None
List	Register of the National Estate (Non-statutory archive)
Class	Natural
Legal Status	Registered (21/10/1980)
Place ID	400
Place File No	1/03/201/0008

Statement of Significance

The Pilliga Nature Reserve is a sufficiently large representative sample of the sandstone woodland ecosystem Pilliga Scrub over a viable area and acts as a significant natural faunal refuge in a region that has been highly modified. There is a significant species diversity in the area, with seventy three species of birds, sixteen species of mammals and twenty five reptile species being recorded. These include the nationally endangered MALLEE FOWL (*LEIPOA OCELLATA*) as well as other fauna species that are listed as vulnerable and rare in New South Wales under Schedule Twelve of the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Act, such as the koala (*PHASCOLARCTOS CINEREUS*), glossy black cockatoo (*CALYPTORHYNCHUS MAGNIFICUS*), turquoise parrot (*NEOPHEMA PULCHELLA*), and the pale headed snake (*HOPLECEPHALUS BITORQUATUS*). The area is an important research site as scientific studies and research is carried out by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and tertiary institutions from time to time.

Official Values Not Available

Description

The reserve is on a generally level to slightly undulating plain at approximately 210m above sea level (ASL). A range of hills rises 15m-30m above the surrounding country to the east and forms the divide between the eastern and western drainage. The reserve is dissected by two creeks which are the main drainage channels. Borah and Yaminba Creeks flow north to join the Namoi River. Jurassic sandstones outcrop frequently in the reserve where exposed by river action. Clarence sandstones and conglomerates outcrop in the eastern section of the area with a small percentage of the land surface consisting of exposed rock. Most of the area is covered by brown or grey solonetz and solodic soils. The Pilliga is a heterogenous scrub woodland community. Tree canopy is discontinuous with a clumped distribution. Ground flora of several grass species (*Poa* and *enagostis*) and ephemerals is sparse. Codominants in the area are black cypress pine (*CALLITRIS ENDLICHERI*) and narrow leaved ironbark (*EUCALYPTUS CREBA*). Also in the area are boxes (*EUCALYPTUS* sp.), gums, angophoras (*ANGOPHORA* sp.) and bloodwoods (*EUCALYPTUS* sp.). Shrubs are dominated by species of *ACACIA* and *LEPTOSPERMUM*. Ironbark, particularly broad leaved ironbark (*E. FIBROSA*) occurs along the stony ridgelines with hill red gum (*E. DEALBATA*) and cypress pine. Blakely's red gum (*E. BLAKELYI*) and apple (*ANGOPHORA FLORIBUNDA*) occurs along drainage lines and deep sandy areas while smooth barked apple (*A. COSTATA*) appears on deep flat sandy areas in the north. The dominant shrub layer consists of sifton bush (*CASSINIA ARCUATA*) throughout the reserve. *LEPTOSPERMUM* species occur in less extensive stands while *EPACRIDACEAE* in association with *FAGACEAE* occur on deep soil under a canopy of smooth barked apple and white gum (*E. ROSSII*). Birds recorded in the area include emus (*DROMAIUS NOVAEHOLLANDIAE*), white browed babbler (*POMATOSTOMUS SUPERCILIOSUS*), bronze wing pigeon (*PHAPS CHALCOPTERA*), crimson rosella (*PLATYCERCUS ELEGANS*), eastern rosella (*PLATYCERCUS EXIMIUS*), magpie (*GYMNORHINA TIBICEN*), currawong (*STREPERA GRACULINA*), chough (*CORCORAX MELANORHAMPHOS*), kookaburra (*DACELO GIGAS*) and forest kingfisher (*halcyon MACLEAVII*). A breeding pair of

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peregrine falcons (*FALCO PEREGRINUS*) has also been recorded in the area. Mammals recorded in the area include yellow footed antichinus (*ANTICHINUS FLAVIPES*) and the new holland mouse (*PSEUDOMYS NOVAEHOLLANDIAE*). Large but dispersed populations of grey kangaroo (*MACROPUS fuliginosis*) have been observed in the area, with the possibility of red kangaroos (*MACROPUS RUFUS*) in the western section of the reserve. Other species in the area include koala (*PHASCOLARCTUS CINEREUS*) and echidna (*TACHYGLOSSUS ACULEATUS*).

History Not Available

Condition and Integrity

Scientific studies and research is carried out by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and tertiary institutions from time to time. Approved bee keeping site; leases are used periodically by apiarists. (1990)

Location

About 69,595ha, Newell Highway and Kerringle Road, 20km north of Coonabarabran.

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