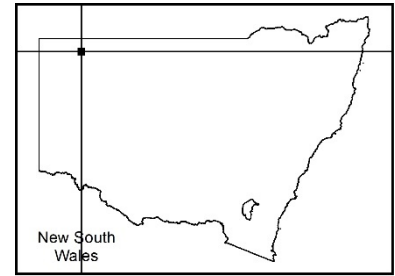




Statement of Management Intent



Pindera Downs Aboriginal Area

1. Introduction

National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) acknowledges that this Aboriginal Area is in the traditional Country of the Wongkumara Aboriginal people.

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service for managing Pindera Downs 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: Pindera Downs Aboriginal Area was reserved on 18 April 1986.

Size: 11,433 hectares.

Background: Pindera Downs Aboriginal Area is located in a remote location 60 kilometres east of Tibooburra and 30 kilometres east of Sturt National Park in arid far north-west NSW.

Pindera Downs Aboriginal Area is surrounded by land used for broad-acre sheep and cattle grazing.

The park is located within the administrative areas of the Tibooburra Local Aboriginal Land Council, Western Region Local Land Service, and lies within the 'NSW Unincorporated Area'.



4. Values

- Pindera Downs Aboriginal Area forms an important part of the cultural landscape for the Wongkumara Aboriginal people including connections between people, land and spirit (Country).
- Aboriginal sites have been recorded within the park, including stone arrangements and artefact scatters.
- The park contains the Howitt's Tree. This is a tree marked by Alfred Howitt in 1861 as leader of a relief party, set with the task of establishing the fate of the Burke and Wills expedition.
- The park protects habitat for a diversity of arid zone native plants and animals. This includes ephemeral floodplains of the Bulloo River Overflow, gibber and riverine chenopod shrublands and sandplain mulga shrublands.
- The Bulloo River Overflow is an important ephemeral wetland. When inundated it supports a diversity of waterbirds. The park lies within a much larger area defined as the Bulloo Floodplain Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) by Birdlife Australia. The KBA is important for the conservation of various bird species, including the grey grasswren (*Amytornis barbatus barbatus*), listed as endangered under both the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act and Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

5. Issues

- The heritage values associated with Pindera Downs Aboriginal Area are susceptible to damage by public use.
- Stock incursion from neighbouring properties can cause considerable damage to the heritage values on Pindera Downs.

6. Key management directions

- Manage Pindera Downs Aboriginal Area in cooperation with the Wongkumara Aboriginal community and Tibooburra Local Aboriginal Land Council.
- 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 cultural sites and values and the protection and interpretation of cultural sites.
- NPWS supports non-commercial cultural use of wild resources by the Aboriginal community, such as gathering of medicinal plants and bush tucker, subject to NPWS policies and licensing.
- Public access is not permitted to the park in order to protect heritage values. NPWS, in consultation with the Wongkumara Aboriginal community and Tibooburra Local Aboriginal Land Council, may grant access for purposes such as research.
- Boundary Access Trail will be maintained as the primary park trail. All existing tracks and trails will be maintained to ensure access is possible.

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Pindera Downs Aboriginal Area Fire Management Strategy.
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy.
- 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 and wildlife or to prevent damage to park assets.
- 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 Tibooburra Office on (08) 8091 3308.

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.

Published by:

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

ISBN 978-1-925755-15-2
OEH 2018/0624
December 2018
