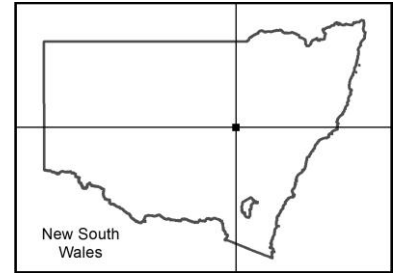




Statement of Management Intent



Sappa Bulga National Park

1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Sappa Bulga National Park. This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the park 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

National parks are reserved under the NPW Act to protect and conserve areas containing outstanding or representative ecosystems, natural or cultural features or landscapes or phenomena that provide opportunities for public appreciation, inspiration and sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment. Under the NPW Act ([section 30E](#)), national parks are managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, and protect geological and geomorphological features and natural phenomena and maintain natural landscapes
- conserve places, objects, features and landscapes of cultural value
- protect the ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for present and future generations
- promote public appreciation and understanding of the park's natural and cultural values
- 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
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

The primary purpose of national parks is to conserve nature and cultural heritage. Opportunities are provided for appropriate visitor use in a manner that does not damage conservation values.

3. Context

Reservation details: Sappa Bulga National Park was reserved on 1 January 2011.

Size: 120 hectares.

Sappa Bulga National Park is located 11 kilometres south-west of the city of Dubbo. The park falls within the Pilliga subregion of the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion. It is one of the Brigalow and Nandewar community conservation areas (CCA). Zone 1 parks in the Brigalow and Nandewar CCA are reserved as national parks under the NPW Act. The park also lies within the administrative areas of Dubbo City Council, Dubbo Local Aboriginal Land Council and Central West Local Land Services.



Sappa Bulga National Park is a small reserve located off Peak Hill Road. It is one of a number of reserves in the region including the council-managed Cumboogle Flora Reserve and other NPWS-managed reserves including Beni State Conservation Area, Wongarbon Nature Reserve, Goonoo National Park and Goonoo State Conservation Area. The land surrounding Sappa Bulga National Park is comprised of low-density residential land and rural land used for agricultural activities. Sappa Bulga National Park was established under the National Park Estate (South-Western Cypress Reservations) Act 2010 to protect remaining areas of cypress pine woodlands in the heavily cleared wheat–sheep belt region of New South Wales.

4. Values

- Sappa Bulga National Park protects Western Inland Grey Box and Black Cypress Pine woodland vegetation communities.

- Although there are no threatened species occurring within Sappa Bulga National Park, nearby in Beni State Conservation Area threatened fauna have been recorded. They include the barking owl (*Ninox connivens*), brown treecreeper – eastern subspecies (*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*), hooded robin (*Melanodryas cucullata cucullata*), square-tailed kite (*Lophoictinia isura*) and squirrel glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*). Sappa Bulga National Park extends potential habitat opportunities for these species.
- Sappa Bulga National Park is a small patch of important remnant native vegetation in a highly cleared agricultural landscape. It is a small component of the remnant vegetation corridor between Dubbo and Tomingley, and provides a link between vegetation remnants of the Sappa Bulga range and habitat for wildlife.

5. Issues

- Weed species known to occur in the park include infestations of bridal creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*), African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*), prickly pear (*Opuntia* spp.) and Paterson's curse (*Echium plantagineum*). These weed species have negative impacts on biodiversity by out-competing native plant species and in turn, native fauna resources such as food and habitat may be depleted.
- Foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) and feral cats (*Felis catus*) occur within Sappa Bulga National Park. These introduced fauna species predate on native fauna species.
- There is the potential for illegal firewood collection, reducing habitat for native fauna and invertebrates.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Sappa Bulga National Park [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Northern Plains Region. Current priorities for the park include controlling bridal creeper, African boxthorn and prickly pear.
- 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 park. 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 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 Dubbo Operations Centre on 02 6841 7100 or write to PO Box 580 Dubbo NSW 2830.

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

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