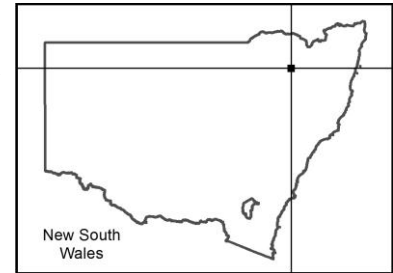


Statement of Management Intent



Serpentine Ridge National Park Community Conservation Area Zone 1

1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Serpentine Ridge National Park Community Conservation Area Zone 1 (Serpentine Ridge 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

Zone 1 community conservation areas are reserved as national parks 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](#)), Zone 1 community conservation areas are managed to:

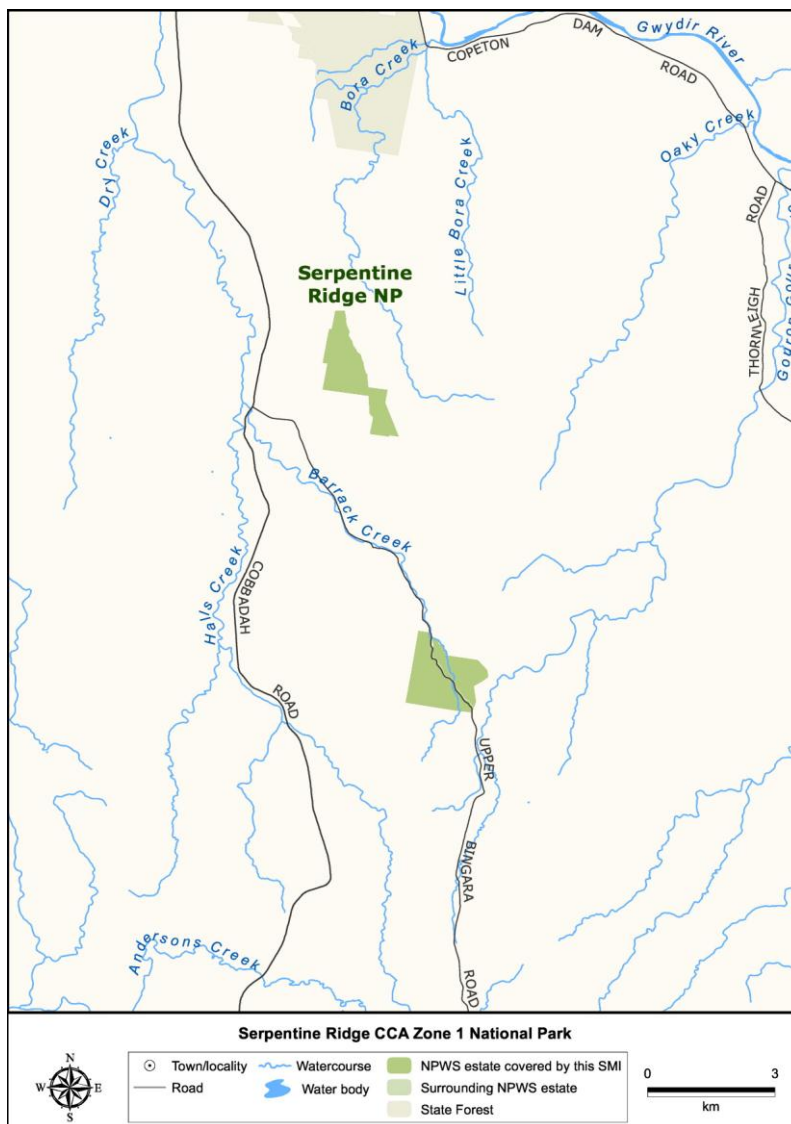
- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, protect geological and geomorphological features and natural phenomena and maintain natural landscapes
- conserve places, objects, features and landscapes of cultural value
- protect the ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for present 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 Zone 1 community conservation areas is to conserve nature and cultural heritage. In doing so, opportunities are provided for appropriate and sustainable recreation.

3. Context

Reservation details: Serpentine Ridge National Park was reserved on 1 January 2011.

Size: 354 hectares.



Serpentine Ridge National Park is located approximately 18 kilometres south of Bingara. It falls within Nandewar Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Gwydir Shire Council, North West Local Land Services and Anaiwan Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Serpentine Ridge National Park is comprised of two separate parcels of land approximately 5 kilometres apart. The northern, Bora Creek Section is located between Bora Creek and Halls Creek and is not accessible to the public. The southern Upper Bingara Section is located just to the north of Upper Bingara. Serpentine Ridge National Park was previously Crown land and was reserved under the *National Park Estate (South Western Cypress Reservations) Act 2010* to protect high priority areas of vegetation in the Nandewar Bioregion.

A major geomorphological feature of the Nandewar Bioregion is the Peel Fault, which extends from Warialda to Nundle. Several areas of serpentinite geology are associated with this fault line including Serpentine Ridge after which the park is named. Serpentinite bedrock is a rare geological

type in New South Wales, and supports a significant spinifex vegetation community that is generally poorly reserved.

4. Values

- Serpentine Ridge National Park protects habitat for a variety of bat species including the threatened eastern bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis*).
- Large areas of Serpentine Ridge National Park, particularly in the northern section, are serpentinite areas that support distinctive and regionally uncommon spinifex woodland dominated by tussock grass spinifex, or porcupine grass, (*Triodia scariosa* ssp. *scariosa*).
- Other vegetation types in the park include open woodland on serpentinite ridges and ironbark open forest vegetation dominated by white cypress pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*) and silver-leaved ironbark (*Eucalyptus melanophloia*).

5. Issues

- There are feral cats (*Felis catus*), feral goats (*Capra hircus*), feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*), European red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.) within the park.
- Weeds occurring in the park include African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*), Coolatai grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*), prickly pear (*Opuntia* sp.), St John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) and *Xanthium* spp.
- A grazing permissive occupancy exists over the Upper Bingara Section of the park which is guaranteed until 2016.
- The Upper Bingara Section has many old mine shafts which are a potential danger to visitors.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Serpentine Ridge Community Conservation Area Zone 1 National Park [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the priorities of the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Northern Tablelands Region. Control efforts focus on protection of threatened ecological communities and threatened species habitats.
- 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 on-going 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 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 Glen Innes Office on (02) 6739 0700 or 68 Church Street, Glen Innes NSW 2370.

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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