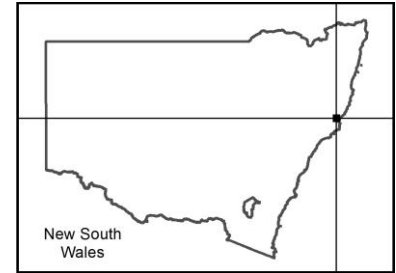


Statement of Management Intent



Talawahl Nature Reserve and Talawahl 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 Talawahl Nature Reserve and Talawahl State Conservation Area (SCA). This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of these parks 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

Nature reserves are reserved under the NPW Act to protect and conserve areas containing outstanding, unique or representative ecosystems, species, communities or natural phenomena. Under the NPW Act ([Section 30J](#)), nature reserves are managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, and protect geological and geomorphological features and natural phenomena
- conserve places, objects, features and landscapes of cultural value
- promote public appreciation, enjoyment and understanding of the reserve’s natural and cultural values
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

The primary purpose of nature reserves is to conserve nature. Nature reserves differ from national parks in that they do not have the provision of visitor use as a management purpose or principle.

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 state conservation areas every five years in consultation with the Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992*.

3. Context

Reservation details: Talawahl Nature Reserve was reserved on 1 January 1999 and Talawahl SCA was reserved on 1 January 2003.

Size: Talawahl Nature Reserve is 3150 hectares and Talawahl SCA is 136 hectares.

Talawahl Nature Reserve and Talawahl SCA are located approximately eight kilometres south of Taree. They fall within the North Coast Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Greater Taree City Council, Hunter Local Land Services and Purfleet/Taree (northern section) and Forster (southern section) local Aboriginal land councils.

Talawahl SCA is connected to the larger Talawahl Nature Reserve in two small sections; both reserves are managed essentially as a single reserve in accordance with the natural resource information available for Talawahl Nature Reserve.

Kiwarrak State Forest and private property surround the parks, which are located south of the Manning River and west of the Pacific Highway. Khappinghat Nature Reserve is located adjacent to the parks on the eastern side of the Pacific Highway.

The parks were formerly part of Kiwarrak State Forest and were managed as part of the larger region as a timber resource subject to selective harvesting.

Talawahl Nature Reserve and Talawahl SCA, together with Kiwarrak State Forest and Khappinghat Nature Reserve, form part of a wildlife corridor connecting the coast and the Great Dividing Range to the south-west of Taree, supporting a range of threatened species.



4. Values

- Talawahl Nature Reserve and Talawahl SCA protect habitat for threatened species and communities, Aboriginal heritage, European heritage and provide recreational opportunities.
- The parks protect habitat for the threatened glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathamii*), barking owl (*Ninox connivens*), spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*), wompoo fruit-dove (*Ptilinopus magnificus*), eastern bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis*), little bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus australis*), large-footed myotis (*Myotis adversus*), powerful owl (*Ninox strenua*), sooty owl (*Tyto tenebricosa*), brush-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*), yellow-bellied glider (*Petaurus australis*) and the koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*).
- The parks were surveyed for forest types prior to their reservation. The parks support a range of forest types with the most predominate being Grey Gum–Grey Ironbark–White Mahogany–Broad-leaved White Mahogany and White Mahogany–Red Mahogany–Grey Ironbark–Grey Gum types.
- Rudder’s box (*Eucalyptus rudderii*), considered Rare or Threatened Australian Plant according to the criteria of Briggs and Leigh (1996), has been recorded in Talawahl Nature Reserve near the intersection of Southern Boundary Trail and Bull Hill Trail. The trailing

woodruff (*Asperula asthenes*) which is listed as a threatened species has recently been recorded within the reserve.

- There are significant Aboriginal sites within Talawahl SCA. While no systematic surveys have been conducted for other sites, local knowledge suggests the possibility of a disturbed site.
- Talawahl Nature Reserve provides recreational activities such as four-wheel drive and trail-bike touring, walking, cycling and horse riding.

5. Issues

- Pest animal species occurring in the parks include wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.), feral cats (*Felis catus*) and European foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*).
- Weed species occurring in the parks include lantana (*Lantana camara*), giant Parramatta grass (*Sporobolus fertilis*), crofton weed (*Ageratina adenophora*), exotic grasses, exotic pines (*Pinus* spp.) and a range of coastal weed species such as senna (*Senna pendula*), formosan lily (*Lilium formosanum*) and umbrella tree (*Schefflera actinophylla*).
- A eucalypt plantation covering approximately four hectares is located in the north of the reserve off Plummers Trail.
- Clearings associated with powerlines dissect the reserve. TransGrid has a formal easement through the southern section of the reserve near Possum Brush Road and Essential Energy has spur lines providing power to inholdings near Coates Road.
- The parks include roads that are vested in the Minister under Part 11 of the NPW Act to ensure continued access to neighbouring lands and state forest.
- There have been occurrences of cattle entering Talawahl Nature Reserve from neighbouring properties, which impact the natural values of the reserve.
- There is evidence of illegal motorbike riding and inappropriate four-wheel driving within the reserve.
- Horse riding and mountain bike riding occur within the parks.
- Evidence suggests timber extraction, firewood collection, vegetation clearing and rubbish dumping has occurred; these activities impact the natural values of the parks.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Khappinghat and Talawahl nature reserves [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the priorities of the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy: Lower North Coast Region](#).
- There will be regular liaison with the Forster and Purfleet/Taree local Aboriginal land councils and Elders on a broad range of issues that may influence the parks.
- Regulatory enforcement will be undertaken as required to reduce the occurrence of illegal activities within the parks.
- 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 these parks. The plan of management is a statutory document under the NPW Act which will be available for public comment. The plan will be prepared in liaison with horse riders and mountain-bike riders to identify appropriate routes for these activities.
- NPWS will also encourage the community to contribute to the ongoing conservation of these parks by promoting and raising public awareness of their special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of these parks or this statement, contact the NPWS Manning Hastings Area, Taree Office on 6552 4097 or at 78 Hargreaves Drive, Taree NSW 2430.

Disclaimer: This is a statement of intent to guide the management of the parks 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 the parks.

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