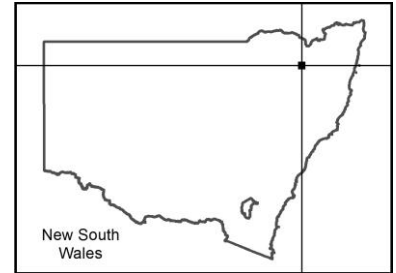


Statement of Management Intent



Tingha Plateau State Conservation Area Community Conservation Area Zone 3

1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Tingha Plateau Community Conservation Area Zone 3 State Conservation Area (Tingha Plateau SCA). This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the SCA 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 3 community conservation areas are reserved as state conservation areas 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, and
- are capable of providing opportunities for uses permitted under other provisions of the NPW Act.

Under the NPW Act ([section 30G](#)), Zone 3 community 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

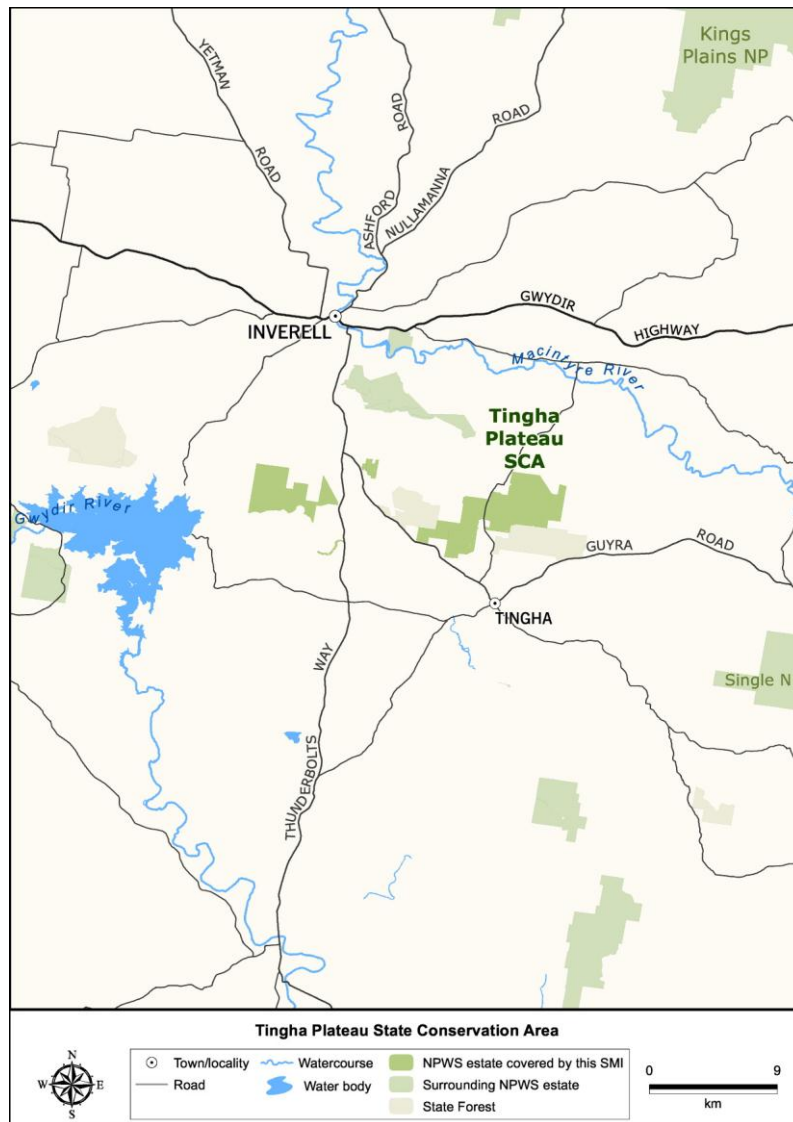
- provide for sustainable use (including adaptive reuse) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas having regard to conservation of the area's natural and cultural values and with other uses permitted in the area, and
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

Land is reserved as a state conservation area where mineral values do not allow for reservation under 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: Tingha Plateau SCA was reserved on 1 December 2011.

Size: 3414 hectares.



Tingha Plateau SCA is located approximately 16 kilometres south and south-east of Inverell. It lies within the New England Tablelands Bioregion. It also falls within the administrative areas of Inverell Shire Council, Northern Tablelands Local Land Services and Anaiwan Local Aboriginal Land Council.

The total area of the Tingha Plateau covers 76,000 hectares and it is recognised for its very high conservation value. Tingha Plateau SCA consists of four separated areas within the Tingha

Plateau, spanning over 3000 hectares. Mount Topper State Forest and Clive State Forest adjoin the eastern section of the SCA, while Crown tenure and private property surround the remainder of the SCA. Tingha Plateau SCA was established under the *National Parks Estate (South-Western Cypress Reservations) Act 2010*.

Tingha Plateau SCA is a key biodiversity asset providing a regional habitat corridor for fauna. The reserve links the New England Tableland Bioregion to the Nandewar Bioregion, which has a boundary five kilometres to the west of the SCA. Recent habitat surveys of Tingha Plateau SCA recorded a high number of native and threatened species.

4. Values

- Tingha Plateau SCA contains 17 animal and seven plant species listed as either vulnerable or endangered under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act), or recognised as being regionally significant. A fauna survey of the SCA in 2012 found 127 native species; this included the rediscovery of the yellow-bellied glider (*Petaurus australis*) (a species thought extinct from the Inverell area), koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) and breeding pairs of square-tailed kites (*Lophoictinia isura*).
- Tingha Plateau SCA also provides habitat for the little lorikeet (*Glossopsitta pusilla*), brown tree creeper – eastern subspecies (*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*), squirrel glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*) and Corben's long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus corbeni*); species that are classified as threatened under the TSC Act.
- Tingha Plateau SCA contains stands of four endangered ecological communities (listed under the TSC Act): McKies Stringybark/Blackbutt Open Forest in the Nandewar and New England Tableland Bioregions; Howell Shrublands in the New England Tableland and Nandewar Bioregions; Carex Sedgeland of the New England Tableland, Nandewar, Brigalow Belt South and NSW North Coast Bioregions; and White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland. The latter is also likely to conform to the definition of the critically endangered ecological community White Box–Yellow Box–Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland listed under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
- Tingha Plateau SCA has some of the last remaining natural woodland landscapes in the New England Tablelands and nearby Nandewar bioregions.
- Tingha Plateau SCA has evidence of the early European settlement and development, including relics from tin mining activities, and the remains of the Top Stannifer Mannix Hotel, cattle yards and gravesite.

5. Issues

- Foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral cats (*Felis catus*), feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*), feral goats (*Capra hircus*) and rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) occur on all tenures across the landscape surrounding the reserve. It is expected that these pest species will, from time to time, be present within the park.
- Tingha Plateau SCA has documented occurrences of invasive weeds predominantly found along main access trails; they include Coolatai grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*), whisky grass (*Andropogon virginicus*), African lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*), blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*).

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Tingha Plateau State Conservation Area [Fire Management Strategy](#).

- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Northern Tablelands Region.
- A coordinated landscape approach in close cooperation with other government agencies and neighbouring landholders will be the basis for all pest animal control programs undertaken in the SCA; current priorities include fox, feral cat, feral pig and wild dog control.
- A safety fence adjacent to the old mine site has been installed to prevent rubbish dumping and to ensure visitor safety. Many of the disused deep mine shafts have been filled to ensure visitor and fire fighter safety. Further risk assessment of the reserve will be undertaken.
- 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 SCA. 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 SCA by promoting and raising public awareness of its special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this SCA or this statement, contact the NPWS Glen Innes Office on 02 6739 0700 or 68 Church Street, Glen Innes NSW.

Disclaimer: This is a statement of intent to guide the management of the SCA 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 SCA's 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 74359 544 2
OEH 2014/0232
May 2014