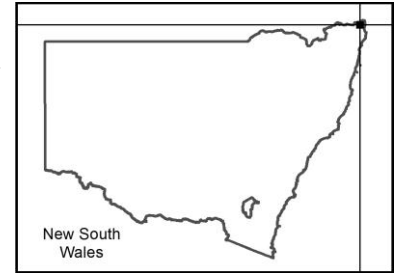


Statement of Management Intent



Toonumbar 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 Toonumbar State Conservation Area (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

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:

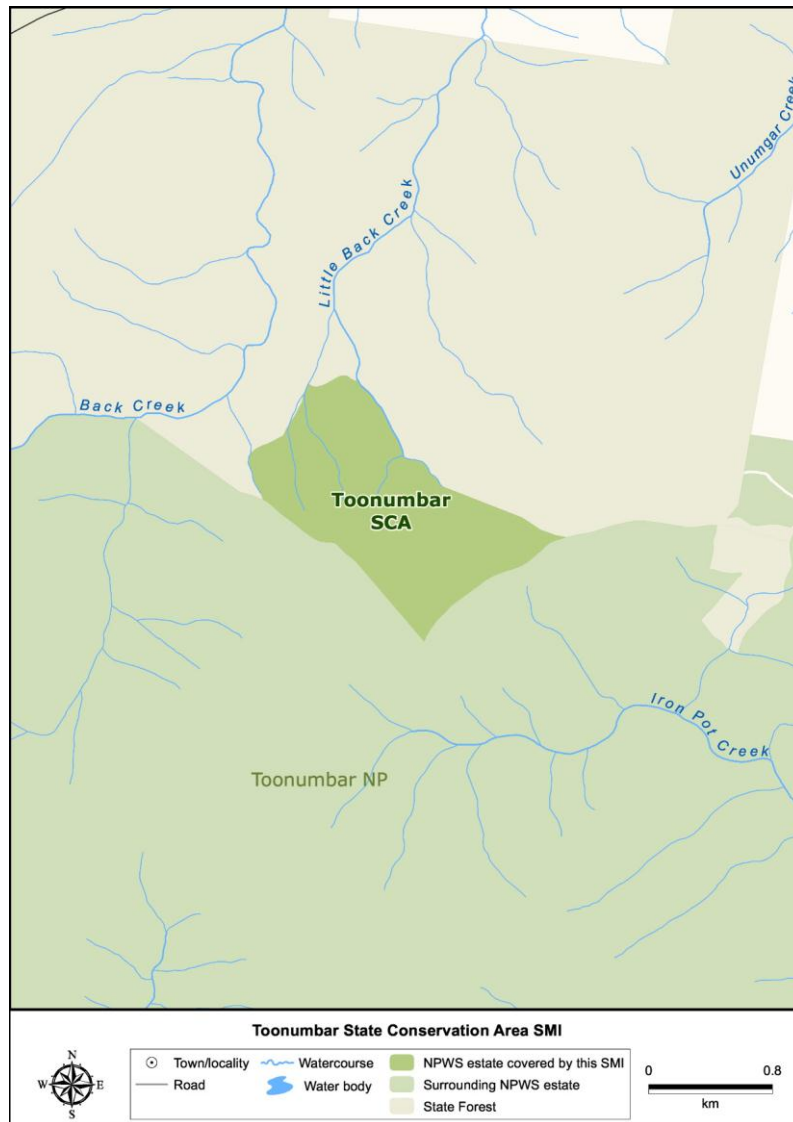
- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, protect natural phenomena and maintain natural landscapes
- conserve places, objects and features of cultural value
- provide for the undertaking of uses permitted under other provisions of the NPW Act (including uses permitted under section 47J 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: Toonumbar State Conservation Area was reserved on 1 January 2003.

Size: 128 hectares.



Toonumbar State Conservation Area is located approximately 12 kilometres south-east of Woodenbong. It falls within the South East Queensland Bioregion, and the administrative areas of Muli Muli Local Aboriginal Land Council, Kyogle Council and North Coast Local Land Services.

Prior to creation of the SCA the land was state forest. The SCA was created as a result of the Comprehensive Regional Assessment process undertaken for the North East New South Wales Regional Forest Agreement. It is surrounded by national park and state forest, with Toonumbar National Park to the south and west and Unungar State Forest to the north and east. Although relatively small, the SCA plays an important role in supporting protection of the World Heritage values of the adjacent Toonumbar National Park. The park is covered by the Githabul Indigenous Land Use Agreement and determination of Native Title.

4. Values

- The SCA is culturally significant to the Githabul People.
- The SCA lies in one of Australia's most biodiverse regions, characterised by subtropical, wet and dry rainforest vegetation and sclerophyll forests.
- Although there are no records of threatened species within the SCA, the adjoining Toonumbar National Park provides important habitat for a variety of threatened mammal, bird and frog species, including the koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), red-legged pademelon (*Thylogale stigmatica*), yellow-bellied glider (*Petaurus australis*), wompoo fruit-dove (*Ptilinopus magnificus*) and Albert's lyrebird (*Menura alberti*). Toonumbar State Conservation Area extends potential habitat for these species.
- The SCA is small, with limited access and no facilities or infrastructure for visitors. Visitor facilities and education programs are provided in the adjoining Toonumbar National Park, where walking tracks, picnic areas, camping areas, swimming spots, lookouts and opportunities for four-wheel drive touring, horse riding and birdwatching make it a popular tourist destination.

5. Issues

- Lantana (*Lantana camara*), crofton weed (*Ageratina adenophora*), mistflower (*Ageratina riparia*), camphor laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*) and wild tobacco bush (*Solanum mauritianum*) infestations occur within Toonumbar SCA.
- Bell Miner Associated Dieback is degrading habitat within the SCA. It is linked to previous forestry disturbance and logging which modified the forest understorey, making it more susceptible to invasion by bell miners (*Manorina melanophrys*) and lantana.
- Wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.) are present in the park. Foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) and feral cats (*Felis catus*) have not been recorded, but their presence is likely as they are known to occur in adjoining areas.
- Illegal trail bike activity occurs occasionally.

6. Key management directions

- Toonumbar SCA is a small park with limited access that is essentially managed as an addition to the adjoining Toonumbar National Park.
- Fire is managed in accordance with the Toonumbar National Park and State Conservation Area [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Northern Rivers Region.
- The SCA is one of several parks covered by the Githabul Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) and determination of Native Title. The consent determination recognises the rights of the Githabul People to practise their traditional laws and customs on the land, and the ILUA provides opportunities for employment and partnerships. The management of cultural heritage on all lands under the ILUA acknowledges the Githabul People as the primary source of advice on cultural heritage matters and, in particular, the protection of places of spiritual importance.
- The current Wild Dog Management Plan (Area 6 Northern Rivers 2012–2017) will be implemented.

- 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 Kyogle Office on (02) 6632 0000 or 136 Summerland Way or PO Box 174, Kyogle NSW 2474.

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.

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