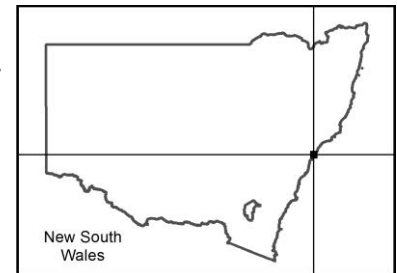


# Statement of Management Intent



## Tuggerah Nature Reserve and Tuggerah 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 Tuggerah Nature Reserve and Tuggerah State Conservation Area (SCA). This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the 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:** Tuggerah Nature Reserve and Tuggerah SCA were reserved on 28 February 2007.

**Size:** Tuggerah Nature Reserve is 132 hectares and Tuggerah SCA is 191 hectares.

Tuggerah Nature Reserve and Tuggerah SCA are located approximately 16 kilometres north of Gosford. They fall within the Sydney Basin Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council, Greater Sydney Local Land Services and Wyong Shire Council.

Tuggerah SCA is comprised of two sections and is divided by Tuggerah Nature Reserve that adjoins to the northern section of the SCA. The parks are located on the floodplain of the Wyong River and lie adjacent to Tuggerah Lake; they feature forested and saline wetlands. The Tuggerah Lakes area is locally significant and contains one of the largest patches of wetland vegetation remaining on the NSW Central Coast.

The parks provide a key regional habitat corridor that links Wyong River and Ourimbah Creek and protect a range of endangered ecological communities that provide habitat for threatened species and migratory bird species in the region. Sections of the parks have previously been used for pastoral purposes, grazing and dairy production.



#### 4. Values

- Tuggerah Nature Reserve and SCA protect the following endangered ecological communities: Coastal Saltmarsh in the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions; Freshwater Wetlands on Coastal Floodplains of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions; River-Flat Eucalypt Forest on Coastal Floodplains of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions; Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions; and Swamp Sclerophyll Forest on Coastal Floodplains of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions.
- Tuggerah Nature Reserve and SCA protect habitat for the critically endangered regent honeyeater (*Anthochaera Phrygia*), endangered green and golden bell frog (*Litoria aurea*) and endangered swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) listed under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. The regent honeyeater and swift parrot are also listed as endangered, and the green and golden bell frog as vulnerable, under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Other threatened species recorded within the parks include the little lorikeet (*Glossopsitta pusilla*), powerful owl (*Ninox strenua*), comb-crested jacana (*Irediparra gallinacea*), varied sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*), squirrel glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*), little bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus*

*australis*), eastern bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis*), grey-headed flying fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) and greater broad-nosed bat (*Scoteanax rueppellii*).

- The Tuggerah Lakes region is recognised as one of the most important habitats for migratory waders on the NSW Central Coast. A variety of migratory bird species protected under international agreements with China, Japan and the Republic of South Korea use the wetland and floodplain habitat of Tuggerah Nature Reserve and SCA. These species include the fork-tailed swift (*Apus pacificus*), white-throated needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*), cattle egret (*Ardea ibis*), white-bellied sea-eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*), sharp-tailed sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) and Latham's snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*).
- Evidence of Aboriginal occupation within Tuggerah Nature Reserve includes artefacts and grinding grooves. Tuggerah Nature Reserve is also recognised by the local Aboriginal community as an important ancestral place.
- The threatened shrub species biconvex paperbark (*Melaleuca biconvexa*) occurs in low-lying areas prone to waterlogging and on the floodplains within the parks.
- The volunteer group Tuggerah Lakes Reserve Trust occasionally assists with projects such as pest and weed control in the parks.

## 5. Issues

- Foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral cats (*Felis catus*), feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*), rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and feral goats (*Capra hircus*) occur in Tuggerah Nature Reserve and SCA.
- A number of weeds are known to occur in Tuggerah Nature Reserve and SCA including weeds of national significance such as water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), asparagus fern (*Asparagus aethiopicus*), lantana (*Lantana camara*), blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), bridal creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*) and bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* ssp. *rotundata*). Other priority weeds for control in the parks include ludwigia (*Ludwigia peruviana*), parrots feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*), crofton weed (*Ageratina adenophora*), pampas grass (*Cortaderia* spp.), winter senna (*Senna pendula* var. *glabrata*), camphor laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*), coral tree (*Erythrina crista-galli*), privet (*Ligustrum* spp.) and wild tobacco (*Solanum mauritianum*).
- The plant disease myrtle rust (*Uredo rangellii*) occurs within Tuggerah Nature Reserve and SCA. It is widespread in populations of the dominant tree species in the parks, broad-leaved paperbark (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*).
- A harvester and boat spraying are used to control water hyacinth on Tuggerah Lagoon to maintain an open water body. The launch site becomes inaccessible after wet weather which prevents this essential weed maintenance work. The launch site requires a wet-weather ramp to be constructed to ensure uninterrupted access.
- Tuggerah Nature Reserve and SCA are located next to a large residential area. Rubbish dumping, vegetation clearing, horse riding, straying domestic pets and cattle, and four-wheel drive and motorbike use all have adverse impacts.
- There are two easements in Tuggerah SCA. One contains a water pumping station and the other a liquid oxygen facility. Both are maintained by Wyong Shire Council. A Memorandum of Understanding has been approved for the maintenance of these easements by Wyong Shire Council as asset protection zones for fire protection purposes.
- A small section of management trail and an additional bund wall should be constructed to allow fire management operations in the southern section of the SCA. Presently the trail is regularly inundated with water. The extension of the bund wall and trail will enable machinery access to maintain an asset protection zone for nearby residential housing.

- A transmission easement over a small section of the nature reserve is managed by TransGrid. The easement is granted under section 153(1) of the NPW Act. Maintenance of the transmission lines and associated infrastructure can cause impacts to the parks from clearing or trimming of native vegetation, use of herbicides, vehicle and machinery use, as well as the visual intrusion of the lines and towers.

## 6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Tuggerah Nature Reserve and Tuggerah State Conservation Area [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Central Coast Hunter Region, and the Weed Action Plan for Tuggerah Nature Reserve and Tuggerah SCA, with priority species including water hyacinth, myrtle rust, foxes, bitou bush, lantana, asparagus species, blackberry, winter senna, camphor laurel and pampas grass.
- Liaison with Wyong Shire Council will take place to ensure the easements in the SCA will be maintained as asset protection zones for fire protection.
- Approximately 110 metres of management trail and a section of bund wall near the boundary of the southern section of Tuggerah SCA will be constructed to secure fire management access.
- A small boat ramp in Tuggerah Nature Reserve will be constructed for weed spraying and water hyacinth harvesting on Tuggerah Lagoon.
- The Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council and other relevant Aboriginal community organisations and custodial families will continue to be consulted and involved in the management of their Country, including the management of Aboriginal sites, places, cultural and natural values.
- Work will continue with Tuggerah Lakes Reserve Trust on cooperative pest and weed control and fire management within Tuggerah Nature Reserve.
- Liaison will continue with TransGrid to minimise impacts from its powerline and easement.
- 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 parks. 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 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 Lake Munmorah Office on (02) 4972 9000 or Blue Wren Drive, Munmorah State Conservation Area or PO Box 8068, Summerland Point NSW 2259.

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**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 parks.

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