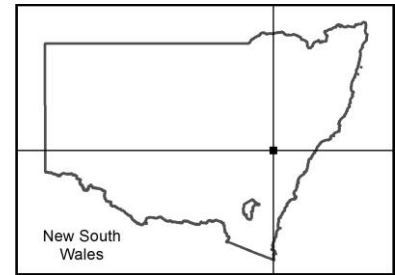


Statement of Management Intent



Turon National Park

1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Turon 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

National parks are reserved 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](#)), national parks are managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, and 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 national parks is to conserve nature and cultural heritage. Opportunities are provided for appropriate visitor use in a manner that does not damage conservation values.

3. Context

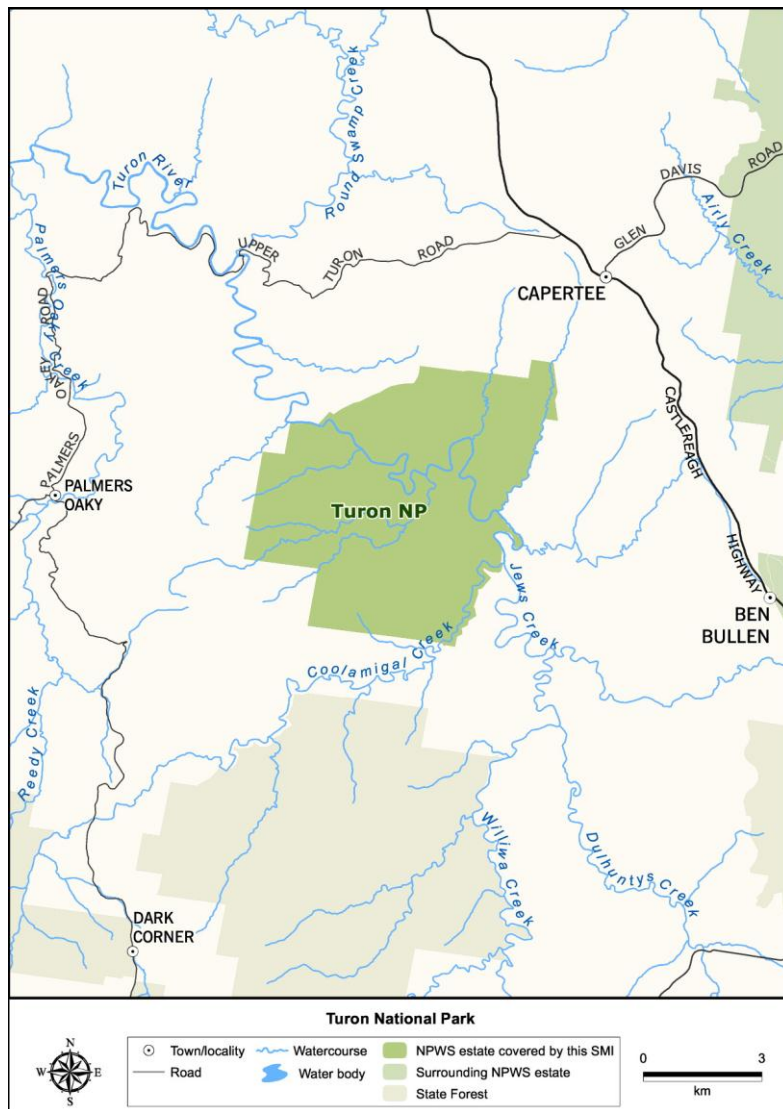
Reservation details: Turon National Park was reserved on 16 August 2002.

Size: 3104 hectares.

Turon National Park is located approximately 35 kilometres north-west of Lithgow. The majority of the park falls within the South Eastern Highlands Bioregion; a small section at the north-east is within the Sydney Basin Bioregion. The park also falls within the administrative areas of Lithgow City Council, Bathurst Local Aboriginal Land Council and Central Tablelands Local Land Services.

Turon National Park shares its boundaries with freehold land and a small section of Crown waterway on the eastern boundary (parts of Jews and Crown Ridge creeks). Turon Creek and Coolamigal Creek form the eastern boundary of the park.

Adjacent land includes sections of relatively intact remnants of native vegetation amongst cleared, agricultural areas. In particular, the land to the east of Turon National Park has been extensively cleared, which has resulted in a loss of biodiversity and fragmentation of habitat in the region. The park was, until recently, home to 'River' Ron Thew, a third generation squatter who had lived in the park area since 1966, living a lifestyle similar to the original gold miners. Public access is from Lochaber Road at the northern end of the park, and from the Pinnacle Fire Trail in the east.



4. Values

- Turon National Park protects habitat for a variety of native animal species listed under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act) including the endangered booroolong frog (*Litoria booroolongensis*) and vulnerable gang-gang cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*), little lorikeet (*Glossopsitta pusilla*), powerful owl (*Ninox strenua*), varied sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*) and eastern bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis*).
- Several plant species of conservation significance are found in the park including claudulla geebung (*Persoonia marginata*) which is listed as vulnerable under the TSC Act. Other

unusual, uncommon and regionally significant species include matrush species *Lomandra fluviatilis* and *L. multiflora* (terete form), *Pellaea falcata* var. *nana*, *Vittadinia muelleri*, and erect hedgehog grass (*Echinopogon intermedius*).

- The park protects regionally important stands of Tall River Oak Forest found along the Turon River, and Snow Gum – Ribbon Gum Woodland found on the lower slopes adjacent to the Turon River.
- Turon National Park is located within the traditional lands of the Capertee clan in Wiradjuri Country. The park contains many open camp sites and extensive deposits of cultural material. Local Aboriginal people and communities continue to connect to this landscape today.
- Turon National Park area contains a diverse range of intact evidence from the region's goldmining era of the 1850s, and includes diggings, mine shafts and some building foundations located along the banks of the Turon River.
- Current visitation predominantly consists of day-use four-wheel driving on weekends and family group camping on long weekends. Picnic tables and barbecue facilities are provided along the Turon River and Lochaber Creek. Water-based activities in the park include fishing, swimming and canoeing. Horse riding also occurs in the park.

5. Issues

- Foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral goats (*Capra hircus*), feral cats (*Felis catus*), rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.) and feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) occur within Turon National Park.
- Invasive weeds recorded within the park include blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*), scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), St John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), bushland weeds and willow species.
- There are occurrences of illegal activities within Turon National Park including firewood collection, off-road vehicle use, shooting of wildlife and fossicking. These have major impacts on both natural and cultural values within the park.
- Aboriginal cultural heritage sites are potentially threatened by inappropriate recreational use occurring in the park, especially off-road vehicular use and camping in unauthorised areas.
- The impact from toilet waste at camping areas is causing a health risk and potential pollution of watercourses.
- Boundary fencing of some sections of the park is missing or inadequate leading to stock entering the park from adjacent properties.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Turon National Park [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Blue Mountains Region. Current priorities for the park include wild dogs, willows, blackberry, serrated tussock, pigs, goats and rabbits.
- Control activities consistent with the Oberon Wild Dog Management Plan will be implemented for the region within Turon National Park.
- Key Aboriginal groups and organisations will be consulted and involved in all aspects of the management and interpretation of Aboriginal sites and places within the park.

- A Conservation Management Plan will be prepared and implemented for historic gold diggings and associated infrastructure in the park.
- Regulatory enforcement and patrols of Turon National Park will be undertaken to reduce the occurrence of illegal activities, such as off-road or unregistered vehicle use and firewood collection. The prohibition of fossicking within the park will be enforced.
- Toilets will be installed at camping areas when funding permits.
- Partnership arrangements with relevant four-wheel drive clubs and associations will be strengthened. Opportunities where members can assist in park management activities will be explored.
- Subject to available resourcing, assistance may be provided to neighbours to install stock-proof park boundary fencing in accordance with the NPWS Boundary Fencing Policy.
- 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 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 ongoing 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 Blackheath Office on (02) 4787 8877 or end Govetts Leap Road, Blackheath NSW 2785.

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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