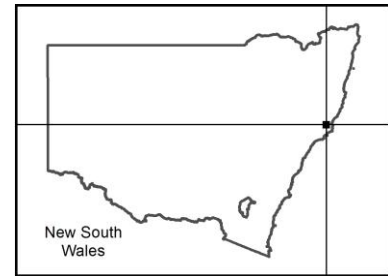


Statement of Management Intent



Wallamba Nature Reserve

1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Wallamba Nature Reserve. This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the reserve 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.

3. Context

Reservation details: Wallamba Nature Reserve was reserved on 1 January 1999.

Size: 1160 hectares.

Wallamba Nature Reserve is located west of the Pacific Highway approximately 5 kilometres south-west of Nahiab. It falls within the NSW North Coast Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Greater Taree City Council, Hunter Local Land Services and Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council.

The reserve is an isolated remnant of regenerating forest in a highly modified landscape, extensively cleared for agricultural purposes. It was formerly part of Wallamba and Coolongolook state forests and subject to forestry activities and grazing under lease holdings. The reserve lies

between the Wallamba River to the north and Wang Wauk River to the south. It provides important forested habitat and protective gullies for threatened mammals and birds.



4. Values

- Five threatened fauna species have been recorded in the reserve, including grey-crowned babbler (eastern subspecies) (*Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis*), glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*), wompoo fruit-dove (*Ptilinopus magnificus*), koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) and spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*).
- The reserve provides habitat for a range of forest communities ranging from dry sclerophyll forest types to rainforest. Nine forest ecosystems have been identified in the reserve. Ecosystems that dominate elevated, drier areas are dry sclerophyll forests and include grey gum (*Eucalyptus propinqua*) – grey ironbark (*E. siderophloia*) – white mahogany (*E. acmenoides*) and spotted gum (*E. maculata*) – grey ironbark – grey gum associations. The wet sclerophyll forest community of tallowwood (*E. microcorys*) – Sydney blue gum (*E. saligna*) is found on lower mid slopes of gullies. Within a number of gullies rainforest associations occur. These include those dominated by black booyong (*Heritiera acinophylla*), giant stinging tree (*Dendrocnide excelsa*), rose myrtle (*Archirhodomyrtus beckleri*), grey myrtle (*Backhousia myrtifolia*), weeping myrtle (*Syzygium floribundum*) and strangler fig (*Ficus watkinsiana*). Some areas of rainforest within the reserve are consistent

with Lowland Rainforest in the NSW North Coast and Sydney Basin Bioregions, an endangered ecological community listed under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

5. Issues

- Pest animals which may occur in the reserve include wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.).
- Weed species occurring in the reserve include lantana (*Lantana camara*).
- There are reports of inappropriate visitor use, including trail-bike riding and horse riding off designated roads, causing vegetation damage and erosion.
- There are occurrences of neighbours' livestock entering the reserve.
- Unplanned fire from neighbouring properties is a particular threat for this heavily wooded reserve.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Wallamba Nature Reserve [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Lower North Coast Region.
- In accordance with the [Horse Riding Work Plan Lower North Coast Region 2013](#), approved horse riding opportunities will be implemented and promoted following adoption of the Plan of Management for Wallamba Nature Reserve. In the interim, horse riding is allowed on public access roads, consistent with the NPWS Recreational Horse Riding Policy.
- Liaison will continue with the Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council and Elders on a broad range of issues that may influence the reserve.
- 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 reserve. 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 reserve by promoting and raising public awareness of its special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this reserve or this statement, contact the NPWS Manning Hastings Area Taree Office on (02) 6552 4097 or at 78 Hargreaves Street, Taree NSW 2430.

Disclaimer: This is a statement of intent to guide the management of the reserve 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 reserve's location and basic features only, and are not suitable for use when navigating to or exploring within parks.

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