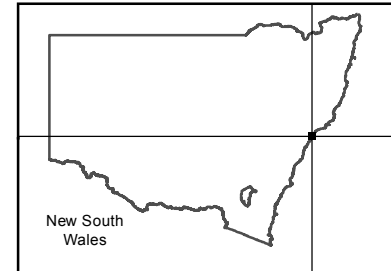


Statement of Management Intent



Walarah 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 Wallarah 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.

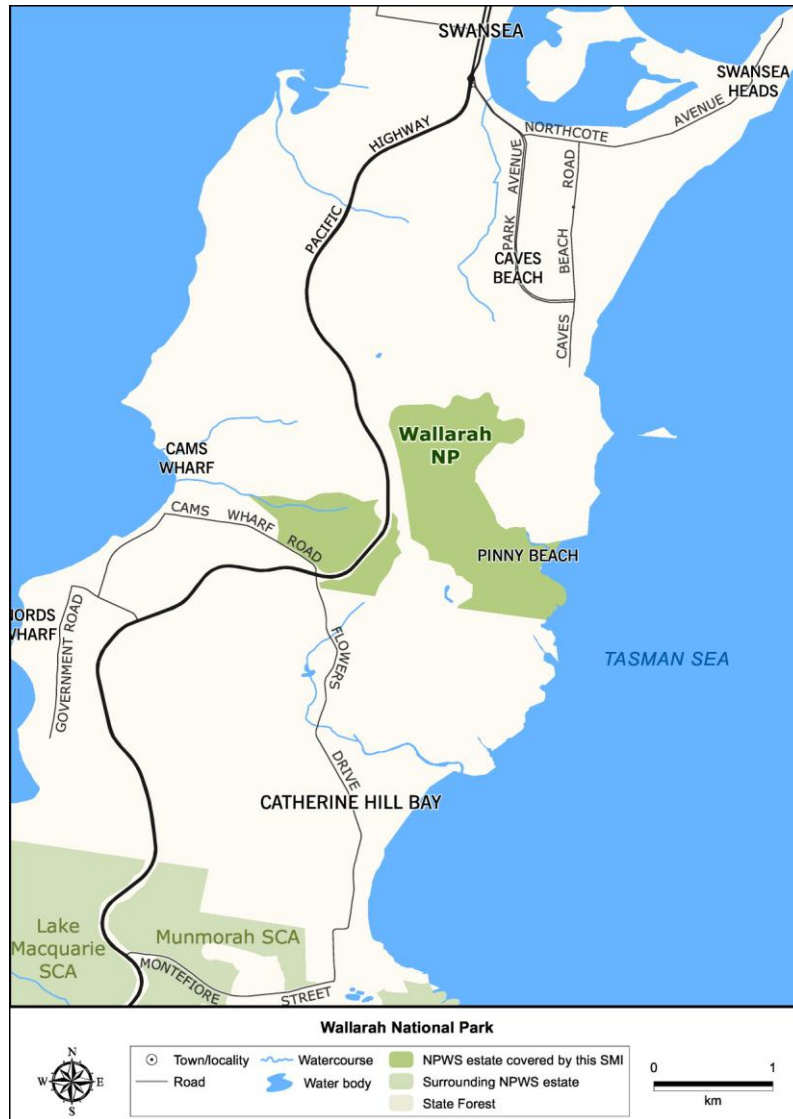
The primary purpose of national parks is to conserve nature and cultural heritage. Opportunities are provided for appropriate visitor use in a manner that does not damage conservation values.

3. Context

Reservation details: Wallarah National Park was reserved on 2 May 2003.

Size: 178 hectares.

Wollarah National Park is located approximately 25 kilometres south of Newcastle. It falls within the Sydney Basin Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Lake Macquarie City Council, Hunter Local Land Services and Bahtabah Local Aboriginal Land Council.



Wollarah National Park comprises three sections bisected by the Pacific Highway. The park is located east of Lake Macquarie and approximately 2 kilometres south of Swansea. The park and surrounding area is typified by elevated coastal heathlands and sandstone cliffs comprised of high conservation value which include Dry Open Forest, Moist Gully Forest and Closed Heathland vegetation communities. Wallarah National Park provides scenic values to recreational users, with ocean and lake views, popular coastal walking tracks and Pinny Beach.

4. Values

- Wallarah National Park protects habitat for the threatened powerful owl (*Ninox strenua*), squirrel glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*) and little bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus australis*). In addition a variety of threatened fauna species have been recorded on the Wallarah Peninsula, including the sooty oystercatcher (*Haematopus fuliginosus*), greater sand-plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*) and little tern (*Sternula albifrons*). Wallarah National Park extends habitat for these species migrating through the region.

- The Pinny Beach Aboriginal midden and burial site is located within Wallarah National Park. This site is evidence of occupation and use of the region by traditional landholders. The site is significant to the local Aboriginal community and contains stone artefacts and extensive midden deposits dating to around 800 AD.
- Wallarah National Park protects important habitat for two endangered ecological communities: Lowland Rainforest in the NSW North Coast and Sydney Basin Bioregions and Themeda grassland on Seacliffs and Coastal Headlands in the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions. Both communities have experienced extensive clearing and impact due to pastoral grazing activities and coastal development since European settlement.
- Threatened flora species recorded in the park include black-eyed Susan (*Tetratheca juncea*) and coastal headland pea (*Pultenaea maritima*).
- Wallarah National Park provides passive recreational opportunities for visitors, including bushwalking, swimming and fishing at Pinny Beach, and cycling along management trails. There is a range of scenic walking tracks and trails in the park that run along Wallarah Peninsula linking Caves Beach to the north with Pinny Beach.

5. Issues

- Wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.), foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) and feral cats (*Felis catus*) are found in the park. Rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) are also known to occur.
- Bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* ssp. *rotundata*) and lantana (*Lantana camara*) occur within Wallarah National Park.
- There are occurrences of inappropriate visitor use within the park including unauthorised vehicle access, illegal trail-bike riding off management trails and dog walking. These activities are damaging threatened species and communities within the park and the Pinny Beach midden burial site.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Wallarah National Park [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Central Coast Hunter Region. Control of lantana with the primary focus on protecting the Lowland Rainforest endangered ecological community is a current priority. Bitou bush control is also a priority within the park. It involves work with volunteers, the local Aboriginal land council, contractors and NPWS staff who have been undertaking bush regeneration works for the past four years and have been successful in reducing the extent of weeds within the park.
- Engagement with Bahtabah Local Aboriginal Land Council on co-management projects will continue, including completion of the Pinny Beach restoration project, which involves training and certification of community members in bush regeneration.
- Strategies to minimise inappropriate activities within the park will continue to be implemented, including camera surveillance, ranger patrols and restricting access on management trails where required.
- The extension of the coastal walk south of the park to Catherine Hill Bay and Munmorah State Recreation Area will be promoted, as further transfers of private land to NPWS estate proceed and opportunities for planning and funding can be pursued and secured.
- 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 Lake Munmorah Office on 02 4972 9000 or Blue Wren Drive, Munmorah State Conservation Area or PO Box 8068, Summerland Point NSW 2259.

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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