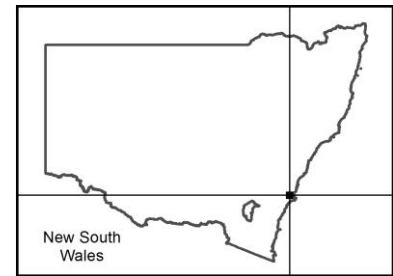


# Statement of Management Intent



## Worrigeer 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 Worrigeer Nature Reserve and adjoining lands vested in the Minister. 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:** Worrigeer Nature Reserve was reserved on 1 January 2001.

**Size:** 232 hectares.

As well as Worrigeer Nature Reserve, the area guided by this statement of management intent includes 384 hectares of land located south of the reserve that is vested in the Minister under Part 11 of the NPW Act. This land, which provides a link between the reserve and the remaining part of Currumbene State Forest, has been acquired by NPWS but is not yet reserved as part of Worrigeer Nature Reserve. Other Part 11 lands within the reserve coincide with the corridor of Worrigeer East Trail. Reference to ‘the reserve’ in this statement also includes reference to these Part 11 lands.

The reserve is located adjacent to rapidly developing urban areas to the south-east of Nowra on the NSW South Coast. The reserve adjoins Currambene State Forest and the Nowra Rifle Club range. It falls within the Sydney Basin Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Shoalhaven City Council, South East Local Land Services and Nowra Local Aboriginal Land Council.



The reserve adjoins areas of residential, rural and industrial development and lies adjacent to the Shoalhaven floodplain. Worrigeer Nature Reserve was reserved under the *National Park Estate (Southern Region Reservations) Act 2000* to protect a population of the endangered Illawarra greenhood orchid (*Pterostylis gibbosa*). The reserve was formerly part of Currambene State Forest (dedicated in 1914).

The reserve forms part of a system of conservation reserves in the area south of the lower Shoalhaven River. It contributes to a discontinuous corridor between Jervis Bay National Park and Morton National Park.

#### 4. Values

- The reserve protects important areas of two endangered ecological communities: Illawarra Lowlands Grassy Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion and River-flat Eucalypt Forest on Coastal Floodplains of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions.

- Worrigeer Nature Reserve protects habitat for the endangered green and golden bell frog (*Litoria aurea*). Several threatened species have been recorded within the adjacent Part 11 lands, including glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*), grey-headed flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) and yellow-bellied glider (*Petaurus australis*).
- The population of endangered Illawarra greenhood orchid (*Pterostylis gibbosa*) within Worrigeer Nature Reserve is the only recorded population growing within a conservation reserve.
- The reserve has relatively high levels of use by local residents for a range of activities including walking and cycling. Horse riding is also allowed along Worrigeer East Trail (retained as Part 11 land) to provide riders with access through the reserve to Currumbene State Forest.

## 5. Issues

- Wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.), European red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) and feral cats (*Felis catus*) occur in the reserve.
- A range of weeds including asparagus weeds (*Asparagus* sp.), crofton weed (*Ageratina adenophora*), camphor laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*), various garden escapees, bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*), blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), exotic vines (various species) and lantana (*Lantana camara*) occur in the reserve.
- The reserve is used for a range of inappropriate activities including rubbish dumping, unauthorised vehicle activity, illegal firewood collection and dog walking.
- Fire management, including the maintenance of strategic fire advantage zones, is important for the protection of life and private property adjacent to the reserve.
- Prior to reservation, parts of the Worrigeer Nature Reserve were used by recreational horse riders. Horse riding is not generally allowed in nature reserves apart from on park roads and other public roads. However, with the agreement of Forestry Corporation of NSW and Shoalhaven City Council, Worrigeer East Trail (a management trail) was designated as Part 11 lands to provide horse riders with access through the reserve to Currumbene State Forest.
- There are several apiary sites within the reserve. These sites are recognised as an existing interest under the NPW Act. The NPWS Beekeeping Policy allows existing sites to continue but does not allow any new or additional sites to be established.
- The southern block of Part 11 land surrounds the Nowra Rifle Club range. Several existing trails that connect parts of this land traverse the range's statutory safety zone. These trails are generally closed or gated but illegal or unauthorised access remains an issue.
- Stormwater runoff from adjacent urban development may adversely impact the reserve.

## 6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Worrigeer Nature Reserve [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Management trails and other park operational assets (e.g. gates) will be maintained in accordance with the standards required by the fire management strategy.
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): South Coast Region. Current control priorities include crofton weed, camphor laurel and blackberry. Weeds are currently controlled with the focus on protecting threatened species.

- Works to limit unauthorised vehicle or other access in the reserve (e.g. signage, gating and barrier fencing) will continue to be progressively implemented, including in the Part 11 lands taking into account the safety considerations associated with the adjoining rifle range.
- Work will continue with Shoalhaven City Council to manage the impacts of stormwater runoff on the reserve.
- Beekeeping sites will be managed in accordance with the NPWS Beekeeping 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 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 Nowra Area Office on (02) 4428 6300 or 55 Graham Street, Nowra or PO Box 707, Nowra NSW 2541.

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**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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