

# Statement of Management Intent

## Appletree Aboriginal Area

### 1. Introduction

NPWS acknowledges that this Aboriginal area is in the traditional Country of the Wonnarua Aboriginal people.

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Appletree Aboriginal Area. This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the area until a plan of management has been prepared in accordance with the [National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974](#). 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 National Parks and Wildlife Act and the ['precautionary principle'](#) (see [Principle 15](#)).

### 2. Management principles

Aboriginal areas are reserved under the National Parks and Wildlife Act to protect and conserve areas associated with a person, event or historical theme, or containing a building, place, object, feature or landscape that is of natural or cultural significance to Aboriginal people, or important in improving the understanding of Aboriginal culture and its development and transitions. Under the National Parks and Wildlife Act ([section 30 K](#)), Aboriginal areas are managed to:

- conserve natural and cultural values
- allow the use of the Aboriginal area by Aboriginal people for cultural purposes
- promote public appreciation and understanding of the park's natural and cultural values and significance where appropriate
- 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 of the Aboriginal people
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring, in accordance with the cultural values of the Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal areas are places that have been identified as having special significance to Aboriginal people. They are established for the purpose of conserving Aboriginal heritage.

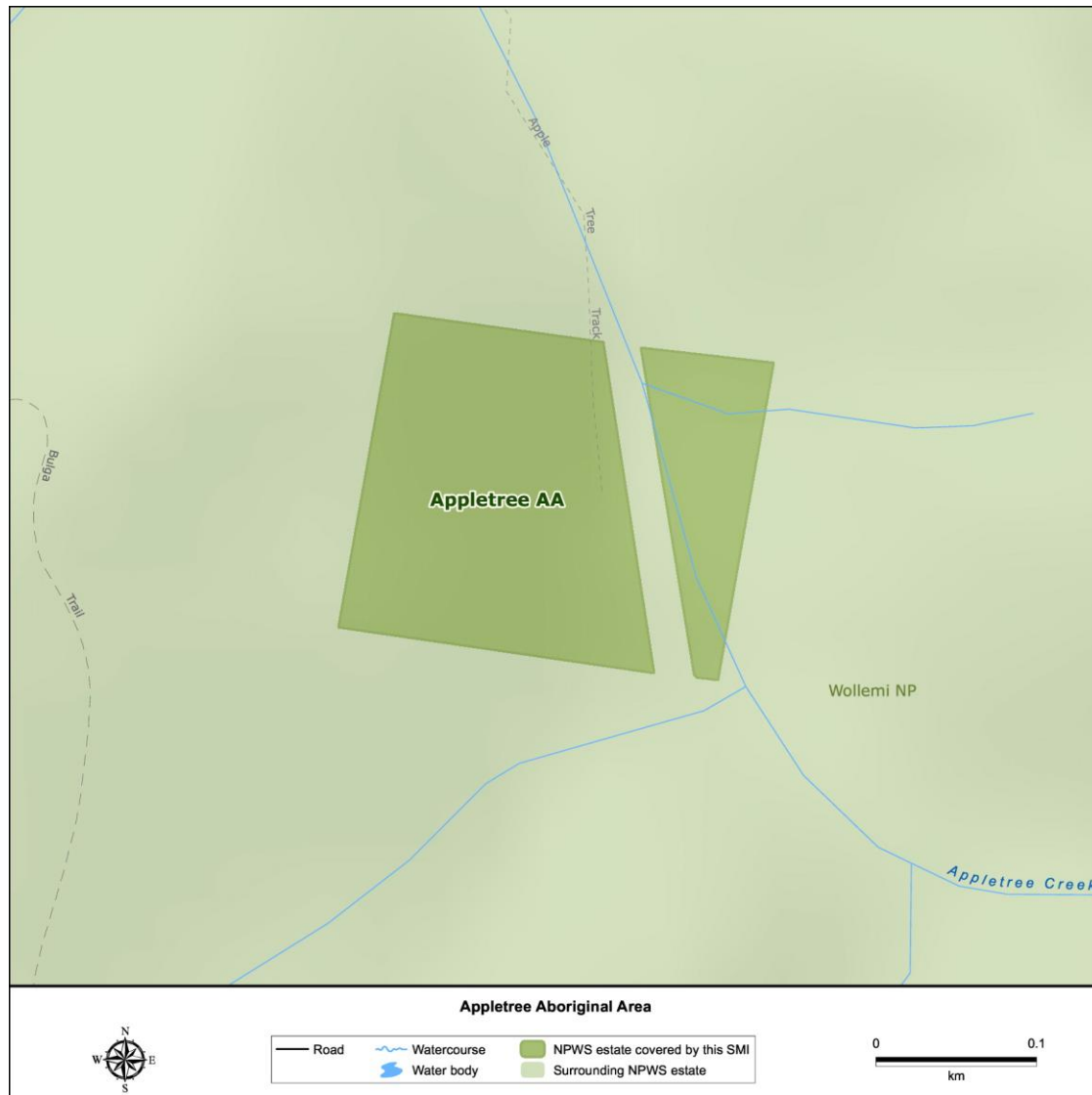
### 3. Context

**Reservation details:** Appletree Aboriginal Area was reserved on 8 September 1972.

**Size:** 4 hectares.

**Background:** Appletree Aboriginal Area is located within north-eastern Wollemi National Park on Appletree Creek, 15 kilometres north-west of Bulga in the Hunter district of NSW.

The park is located within the administrative areas of the Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council, Hunter Region Local Land Service and Singleton Shire Council.



## 4. Values

- Appletree Aboriginal Area forms an important part of the cultural landscape for the Wonnarua Aboriginal people including connections between people, land and spirit (Country).
- The focal point of the park is a rock shelter featuring rock art in the form of hand stencils and paintings of human figures. Rock art is the oldest surviving human art form.
- The park is accessed through Wollemi National Park via Bulga Trail, and the Apple Tree Walking Track leads 1.4 kilometres to the park. The entrance to one of three shelters with art is currently protected by steel cage mesh.
- The park features dry sclerophyll forests and woodlands consistent with the surrounding north-eastern Wollemi National Park. This includes communities described in Bell (1998) of Narrabeen East Wollemi Sheltered Dry Forest, featuring Sydney peppermint (*Eucalyptus piperita*) and rough-barked apple (*Angophora floribunda*), and Narrabeen Goulburn Valley Exposed Woodland featuring grey gum (*Eucalyptus punctata*) and currawang (*Acacia doratoxylon*).

## 5. Issues

- Rock art in the park is currently affected by lichen and salt erosion.
- Knowledge of the site and its cultural context is limited.
- Unauthorised activities have been known to occur, including vandalism.

## 6. Key management directions

- Manage Appletree Aboriginal Area in partnership with the local Aboriginal community.
- Prepare a conservation management plan for the site.
- Provide opportunities for Aboriginal people to access Country, to maintain, renew or develop cultural practices and associations.
- Provide opportunities for Aboriginal people to be involved in park management including the collection and management of information about cultural sites and values and the protection and interpretation of cultural sites.
- NPWS supports non-commercial cultural use of wild resources by the Aboriginal community, such as gathering of medicinal plants and bush tucker, subject to NPWS policies and licensing.
- Maintain on-park facilities in consultation with the Aboriginal community. Some facilities may be decommissioned, others upgraded or replaced. New facilities will be considered in partnership with the Aboriginal community.
- No public camping or wood fires are permitted. Camping and/or fires will be permitted if endorsed by the Aboriginal community.
- Maintain access through Wollemi National Park, including Bulga Trail, and Apple Tree Walking Track. Access may be reviewed at any time as directed by the Aboriginal community and as knowledge about the site increases.

- Unauthorised activities will be addressed by enforcement and regulatory signage where appropriate.
- Fire is managed in accordance with the Wollemi National Park [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#).
- 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 and wildlife or to prevent damage to park assets.
- A plan of management will be prepared to set out the on-going management objectives for the park. The plan of management is a statutory document under the National Parks and Wildlife Act which will be available for public comment. NPWS will also encourage the community to contribute to the on-going 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 Bulga Office on (02) 6574 5555.

## 7. References

Bell, Stephen AJ (1998). Wollemi National Park Vegetation Survey – A Fire Management Document, unpublished report to NPWS Upper Hunter District.

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**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 parks' location and basic features only, and are not suitable for use when navigating to or exploring within parks.

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