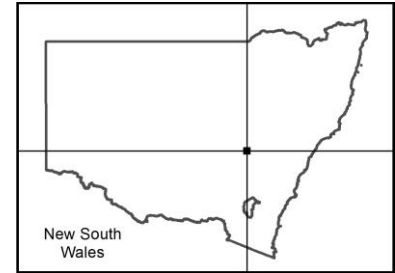


# Statement of Management Intent



## Barton 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 Barton 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:** Barton Nature Reserve was reserved 21 April 1972.

**Size:** 546 hectares.

Barton Nature Reserve is located approximately 20 kilometres west of Orange. It falls within the South Eastern Highlands Bioregion. It also lies within the administrative boundaries of Cabonne Council, Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council and Central Tablelands Local Land Services.

This land, formerly a timber reserve gazetted in 1958, was dedicated as a nature reserve in April 1972 under the *Fauna Protection Act 1948*. Additions were subsequently made, under the

NPW Act, of 72 hectares in 1988 and a further 17 hectares in 2011. The reserve is surrounded by cleared private land; there is no public access and no internal management trails.



Barton Nature Reserve protects a visually and ecologically interesting sedimentary escarpment on the lower western slopes of Mount Canobolas. The geology of the reserve is unusual compared to the surrounding area and consists of red sandstone cliffs and outcrops. Native vegetation in Central West region of New South Wales is highly fragmented, with 25 per cent of the original native vegetation cover remaining, much of which is in poor or declining condition. Barton Nature Reserve provides an important refuge for wildlife in an area intensively developed for agriculture, protecting threatened species and one endangered ecological community.

#### 4. Values

- Barton Nature Reserve provides habitat for a diverse range of birds including the scarlet robin (*Petroica boodang*), speckled warbler (*Chthonicola sagittata*) and varied sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*) which are listed as threatened under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act). A further 52 protected bird species have been recorded within the reserve.

- Barton Nature Reserve provides critical habitat for the protection of White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland endangered ecological community (listed under the TSC Act). This community is also likely to conform to the definition of the critically endangered ecological community White Box–Yellow Box–Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland listed under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Populations of this endangered ecological community have been significantly reduced and remnants are often degraded and highly fragmented. This woodland community provides habitat for a diverse range of threatened species, particularly in relation to breeding opportunities in tree hollows.
- Barton Nature Reserve supports dry sclerophyll forest typified by tumbledown red gum (*Eucalyptus dealbata*) and red stringybark (*E. macrorhyncha*). There are 124 plant species recorded in the reserve, including white box (*E. albens*), apple box (*E. bridgesiana*) and white and black cypress pine (*Callitris glaucophylla* and *C. endlicheri*).
- Barton Nature Reserve lies within Wiradjuri Country. An Aboriginal campsite along a small rocky cliff was identified in 2007. Objects found at the site included a grinding stone and small stone flakes. The campsite provides evidence of Aboriginal occupation of the area and is part of the culture of local Aboriginal people.
- There is no public access to this reserve. However, nearby Mount Canobolas State Conservation Area provides a range of nature-based recreational opportunities including camping, barbecuing, picnicking facilities and bushwalking.

## 5. Issues

- Feral goats (*Capra hircus*), rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) and feral cats (*Felis catus*) occur within Barton Nature Reserve and in the surrounding landscape.
- Weed species known to occur in the reserve include blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*), Noogoora burr (*Xanthium occidentale*), prickly pear (*Opuntia stricta*), St John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) and thistle (*Onopordum* spp.).
- Lack of fire and long fire intervals present the biggest threat to the ecological integrity of the reserve and may be leading to the loss of fire-dependant vegetation, such as White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland.
- Long-term isolation of the reserve by cleared agricultural land contributes to the threat of localised species extinction, and lack of connectivity with other areas of native vegetation may present barriers to fauna movements across the landscape.

## 6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Mount Canobolas State Conservation Area and Barton Nature Reserve [Fire Management Strategy](#). A long-term hazard reduction program is being implemented as part of maintaining ecological integrity and promoting biodiversity.
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Western Rivers Region. Current priorities for the reserve include controlling feral goats and foxes with the main priority being to protect neighbouring assets.
- Ongoing liaison with Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council and other relevant Aboriginal community organisations will occur in relation to management of Aboriginal sites within the reserve as required.

- 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 control programs, weed and feral animal control programs 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 and to ensure the safety of visitors and wildlife.
- 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 Bathurst Office 02 6332 7640 or Level 2, 203–209 Russell Street, Bathurst NSW 2795.

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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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