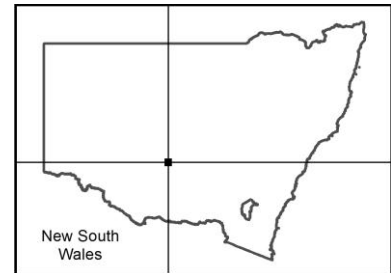


Statement of Management Intent



Lachlan Valley Kalyarr Group Part of Lachlan Valley National Park and Lachlan Valley State Conservation Area

1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing the Lachlan Valley Kalyarr Group (comprising part of Lachlan Valley National Park and Lachlan Valley State Conservation Area). This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the parks 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.

State conservation areas are reserved under the NPW Act to protect and conserve areas that:

- contain significant or representative ecosystems, landforms or natural phenomena or places of cultural significance
- are capable of providing opportunities for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment, the sustainable use of buildings and structures, or research
- are capable of providing opportunities for uses permitted under other provisions of the NPW Act.

Under the NPW Act ([section 30G](#)), state conservation areas are managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, protect natural phenomena and maintain natural landscapes
- conserve places, objects and features of cultural value
- provide for the undertaking of uses permitted under other provisions of the NPW Act (including uses permitted under section 47J such as mineral exploration and mining), having regard to the conservation of the natural and cultural values of the state conservation area
- provide for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment that is compatible with conservation of the area's natural and cultural values and with uses permitted in the area
- provide for sustainable use (including adaptive reuse) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas having regard to conservation of the area's natural and cultural values and with other uses permitted in the area
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

Land is reserved as a state conservation area primarily where mineral values preclude reservation as another category. The NPW Act requires a review of the classification of state conservation areas every five years in consultation with the Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992*.

3. Context

Reservation details: Lachlan Valley National Park and State Conservation Area were reserved on 1 July 2010.

Size: Those parts of Lachlan Valley National Park and Lachlan Valley SCA that are part of the Kalyarr Group are 8942 hectares and 11,716 hectares, respectively. The remaining parts of Lachlan Valley National Park and Lachlan Valley State Conservation Area are subject to the Statement of Management Intent for Lachlan Valley Parks.

The largest part of Lachlan Valley SCA (Norwood and Mullawa precincts) was formerly reserved by notice in the NSW Government Gazette on 10 November 2006 and 15 August 2008 as Kalyarr SCA, while 8173 hectares, part of Lachlan Valley National Park (Darcoola precinct) was formerly reserved by notice in the NSW Government Gazette on 24 June 2005 as Kalyarr National Park. These parks were renamed under Schedule 8 of the *National Park Estate (Riverina Red Gum Reservations) Act 2010*.

The parks (and vested land) are managed as six precincts. Lachlan Valley SCA precincts include Norwood (6768 hectares), Mullawa (4078 hectares) and Geramy (870 hectares). Lachlan Valley National Park precincts include Darcoola (8173 hectares) and McFarlands (769 hectares). An additional area of 20,129 hectares, known by its former property name of 'Thelangerin' is vested with the Minister administering the NPW Act and is also included in the Kalyarr Group.

These precincts lie within the Lachlan Valley between the Lachlan River and the Murrumbidgee River. The two main precincts of the Lachlan Valley Kalyarr Group, Norwood and Darcoola, are located approximately 30 kilometres and 70 kilometres north-west of Hay respectively. The Lachlan Valley Kalyarr Group falls within the Riverina Bioregion and lies within the administrative areas of the Hay and Balranald shire councils, Hay and Balranald local Aboriginal land councils and Riverina Local Land Services.



McFarlands, Geramy and part of Norwood precincts front the Lachlan River. The newly acquired 'Thelangerin' connects the SCA and national park and establishes almost 50 kilometres of Lachlan River frontage. The parks are in good ecological condition and contain a sample of environments typical of the western part of the poorly-reserved Riverina Bioregion. These include riverine plain with open forest; ephemeral creek with woodland; a lake system with associated lunette and dunes; and isolated clumps of trees associated with sandy rises. The state conservation area is part of the Lachlan Swamp (part of the mid Lachlan Wetlands) which is recognised as a nationally important wetland.

The Lachlan River has undergone a long history of regulation and water extraction. The major water storages on the river are Wyangala Dam and Carcoar Dam.

4. Values

- Threatened animal species recorded within the Kalyarr Group include the vulnerable spotted harrier (*Circus assimilis*), pied honeyeater (*Certhionyx variegatus*), black falcon (*Falco subniger*), white-fronted chat (*Epthianura albifrons*), grey-crowned babbler (eastern subspecies) (*Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis*), blue-billed duck (*Oxyura australis*), little eagle (*Hieraaetus morphnoides*) and pink cockatoo (*Lophochroa leadbeateri*). These species are listed under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act).
- The parks protect the endangered ecological community Sandhill Pine Woodland in the Riverina, Murray–Darling Depression and NSW South Western Slopes Bioregions (Sandhill Pine Woodland) listed under the TSC Act. The parks also protect the threatened Mossgiel daisy (*Brachyscome papillosa*) listed as vulnerable under both the TSC Act and the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).
- The Lachlan Valley Kalyarr Group supports forests dominated by river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) and woodlands of black box (*E. largiflorens*) that are associated with the Lachlan River and channels. Mixed chenopod communities including those characterised by saltbush (*Atriplex* spp.) occur on alluvial plains and depressions.
- The precincts of the Lachlan Valley Kalyarr Group form an important part of Country for Aboriginal people. Precincts of the reserves are known to be part of Country for the Wiradjuri, Nari Nari and Ngiyampaa Aboriginal people. While some of the precincts have been surveyed, and contain recorded Aboriginal sites, further surveys and ongoing relationships with Aboriginal communities are required to better understand the precincts' significance and appropriate management in relation to Aboriginal values. The SCA in particular is a culturally significant area, with a number of recorded Aboriginal sites. These sites include scarred trees, burials and open campsites around Pimpara Creek and Lake Ita.
- A Memorandum of Understanding exists for the Kalyarr Group, between the Nari Nari Tribal Council, the Hay Local Aboriginal Land Council and the Office of Environment and Heritage, to establish a co-management arrangement between the three parties. The Mawambul Co-Management Group has been operating since 2008.
- The parks have a long history of pastoral development. The Norwood precinct within the SCA was a former soldier settlement block established after World War I and Darcoola has been a working pastoral and irrigated cropping property for over 100 years. Darcoola Shearing Shed, Norwood Station Shearing Shed and Thelangerin Shearing Shed have local heritage significance. Infrastructure that may be of historic significance includes homesteads, shearers' cottages, cattle yards and gardens.
- The parks have significant tourism potential and opportunities, and can potentially support recreational activities including experiences for special interest groups, nature tourism, and eco-tourism. There is also potential for community groups, including Aboriginal, naturalist and school groups, to use the parks for educational and cultural activities.

5. Issues

- Pest fauna species recorded within the parks include foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*), feral cats (*Felis catus*), feral goats (*Capra hircus*) and house mice (*Mus musculus*).
- African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*) is one of the most significant weeds in the Lachlan Valley. Other weed species recorded within the parks include Noogoora and Bathurst burrs (*Xanthium* spp.), white horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*) and lippia (*Phyla nodiflora*).

- Irrigation in the surrounding area and regulation of the Lachlan River is a significant issue due to inappropriate water regimes impacting on the wetlands within the Lachlan Valley Kalyarr Group. River red gums, black box woodlands and other flood-dependent vegetation species show signs of water stress and dieback.
- Wind and water erosion and rabbits in the Darcoola precinct are causing damage to the Sandhill Pine Woodland endangered ecological community.
- Sections of the parks' boundary fencing are either in a state of disrepair or non-existent.
- There are occurrences of illegal motorbike use, off-trail vehicle use, illegal firewood collection, illegal pig hunting and rubbish dumping within precincts of the Lachlan Valley Kalyarr Group.
- Grazing by domestic stock is an ongoing issue due to the fluctuating height of the Lachlan River and poor condition of boundary fencing.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Lachlan Valley National Park and Lachlan Valley State Conservation Area [Fire Management Strategies](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Western Rivers Region. Current priorities for the parks include African boxthorn and horehound control programs.
- NPWS will seek the cooperation of neighbours, Local Land Services and other authorities in implementing coordinated landscape programs for weeds and pests.
- Regulatory enforcement and patrols will continue to be carried out to reduce the occurrence of illegal activities within the parks.
- The need for boundary fencing works will be monitored. Subject to available resourcing, assistance may be provided to neighbours to install stock-proof park boundary fencing in accordance with the NPWS Boundary Fencing Policy.
- The recommendations of any conservation management plan, heritage action statement or other heritage advice will be implemented to maintain historic heritage values.
- Water use plans for the Lachlan River and associated wetlands will be developed and implemented in consultation with relevant stakeholders, water trust organisations and NSW Office of Water.
- Further surveys of European and Aboriginal cultural heritage will be undertaken to determine cultural heritage significance across the parks.
- Further native plant and native animal surveys will be undertaken to determine the extent and distribution of threatened species and endangered ecological communities across the parks.
- NPWS will continue to consult and involve the Hay and Balranald local Aboriginal land councils, the Mawambul Co-Management Group, other relevant Aboriginal community organisations, and custodial families in the management of their Country.
- A tourism strategy for the parks will be developed and implemented in consultation with the local community and Hay Shire Council.
- 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 parks. 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 parks by promoting and raising public awareness of their special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of these parks or this statement, contact the NPWS Hay Office on (02) 6990 8200 or 339A Murray Street, Hay NSW 2711.

Disclaimer: This is a statement of intent to guide the management of the parks 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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