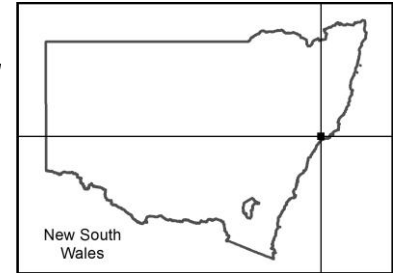


Statement of Management Intent



Moffats Swamp 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 Moffats Swamp 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

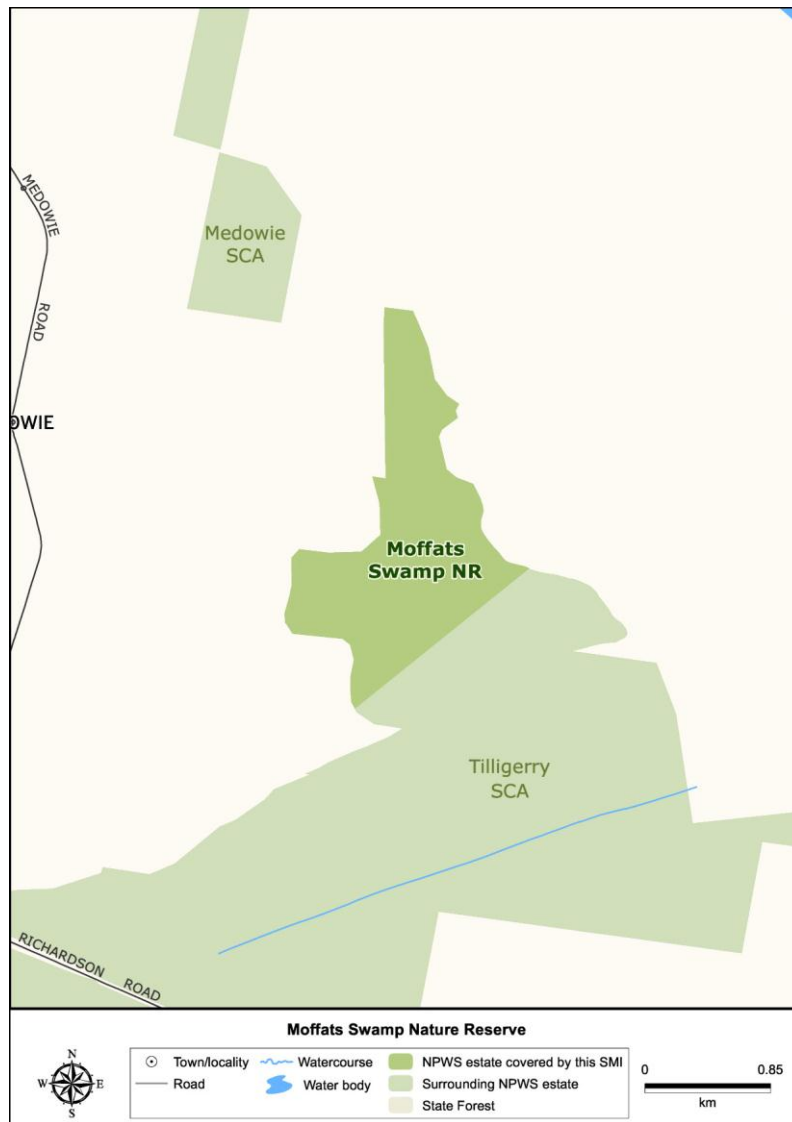
Reservation details: Moffats Swamp Nature Reserve was reserved on 24 June 1977.

Size: 151 hectares.

Moffats Swamp Nature Reserve is located approximately 20 kilometres north-east of Newcastle. It falls within the NSW North Coast Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Port Stephens Council, Hunter Local Land Services and Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council.

The land west of the reserve has been extensively cleared and redeveloped for residential use as part of the township of Medowie. A Royal Australian Air Force bombing target range (Commonwealth land) is located on the eastern side of the reserve and Tilligerry State Conservation Area (SCA) adjoins the south-east border. Moffats Swamp Nature Reserve is comprised of wetland and drier open forest communities and serves as a wildlife corridor that

connects Tilligerry SCA to Medowie State Forest. There are no internal management trails within the reserve.



Moffats Swamp Nature Reserve is a wetland that formed thousands of years ago following the entrapment of a small bay, which was created by the development of an offshore beach barrier. It is a remnant of when the coastline was located six kilometres inland of the present day coastline and a unique feature of the landscape. The swamp consists of coastal bogs, overlying clay and seasonal fresh swamps, which previously were not represented in the reserve system.

4. Values

- The beach barrier sand ridge along the eastern side of Moffats Swamp is the oldest Pleistocene beach barrier sand ridge in the region. The swamp bed consists of very fine, silty, clay soils and organic material.
- Moffats Swamp Nature Reserve protects habitat for the threatened koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) and powerful owl (*Ninox strenua*). The adjoining Tilligerry SCA has been identified as significant koala breeding habitat in New South Wales in the *National Koala Conservation and Management Strategy 2009–2014*. Moffats Swamp Nature Reserve further extends koala habitat, providing a wildlife corridor linking Tilligerry SCA to Medowie SCA.

- The Moffats Swamp Nature Reserve is bordered by broad-leaved paperbarks (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*), which when in flower provide a nectar source for migratory honeyeaters.

5. Issues

- Pest animal species occurring in the reserve include wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.), European foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and feral cats (*Felis catus*).
- Weed species occurring in the reserve include lantana (*Lantana camara*) and garden escapees from neighbouring residential properties.
- Moffats Swamp Nature Reserve adjoins high-density residential areas. There have been occurrences of illegal rubbish dumping within the reserve and there is a high risk of arson occurring in close proximity to the reserve.

6. Key management directions

- Manage fire in accordance with the Medowie SCA, Gir-um-bit SCA and Moffats Swamp Nature Reserve [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the priorities of the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Lower North Coast Region.
- Manage the reserve consistently with the adjoining Tilligerry SCA, with which it forms a contiguous ecological unit.
- 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 Nelson Bay Office on 02 4984 8200 or Level 1, 12B Teramby Road, Nelson Bay NSW.

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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