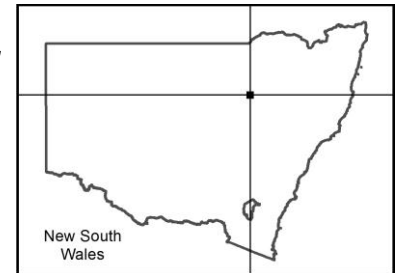


Statement of Management Intent



Yarragin National Park Community Conservation Area Zone 1

1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Yarragin National Park Community Conservation Area Zone 1 (Yarragin National Park). This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the park 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

Zone 1 community conservation areas are reserved as national parks 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](#)), Zone 1 community conservation areas are managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, 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 Zone 1 community conservation areas is to conserve nature and cultural heritage. In doing so, opportunities are provided for appropriate and sustainable recreation.

3. Context

Reservation details: Yarragin National Park was reserved on 1 December 2005.

Size: 3201 hectares.



Yarragin National Park is located approximately 6 kilometres south-west of Baradine and approximately 30 kilometres north-west of Coonabarabran. It falls within the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Warrumbungle Shire Council, Central West Local Land Services and Coonabarabran and Baradine local Aboriginal land councils. The park forms part of an extensive Native Title Claim by the Gomeroi People (NC11/6-1).

The park is located between Urawalkie Creek and Coonabarabran Road and is surrounded by farming properties to the north and west, and forested area to the east. The park was previously state forest tenure and was reserved under the *Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Area Act 2005*. The area has been logged since 1880.

Yarragin National Park forms part of a network of reserves known as the Pilliga Forest, which includes the nearby parks Timallallie National Park and Pilliga Nature Reserve. The Pilliga Forest is the largest native forest west of the Great Dividing Range and is an important refuge for wildlife.

4. Values

- Yarragin National Park is dominated by Cypress-Box Woodlands and Cypress-Ironbark Woodlands that support species of white cypress pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*), white box (*Eucalyptus albens*), narrow-leaved ironbark (*Eucalyptus crebra*) and narrow-leaved grey box (*Eucalyptus pilligaensis*).
- Yarragin National Park protects habitat for a number of threatened species including the koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), spotted harrier (*Circus assimilis*), little eagle (*Hieraaetus morphnoides*), glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathamii*), little lorikeet (*Glossopsitta pusilla*), barking owl (*Ninox connivens*), brown treecreeper (eastern subspecies) (*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*), speckled warbler (*Chthonicola sagittata*), grey-crowned babbler (eastern subspecies) (*Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis*), varied sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*), hooded robin (south-eastern form) (*Melanodryas cucullata cucullata*) and diamond firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*).
- Blakely's red gum (*Eucalyptus blakelyi*) and white box communities within the park may form the endangered ecological community White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland in some places. Fuzzy box (*Eucalyptus conica*) has been recorded in the park and is possibly part of the endangered ecological community Fuzzy Box on alluvial soils of South West Slopes, Darling Riverine Plains and the Brigalow Belt South Bioregions.
- Yarragin fire tower hill is the only known habitat of the native land snail *Charopidae* PS1. Yarragin fire tower hill is an important hill-topping site for butterflies.
- The parks of the Pilliga Forest are of spiritual significance and contemporary importance to the Aboriginal community. Sites of significance recorded in the area include scarred trees, artefact scatters and shelters.
- Historic sites within the park are associated with the forestry and agricultural industry and include Yarragin bore, the remains of McGlashan house and outbuildings, sleeper dumps, survey marker trees, Yarragin fire tower infrastructure and roads and trails.
- Yarragin National Park provides opportunities for nature based recreational pursuits including a basic day use area. The area is used by bird enthusiasts and a number of local bird routes transect the park.

5. Issues

- Pest animals recorded within the park include foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*), goats (*Capra hircus*) and feral cats (*Felis catus*). The invasive freshwater snail *Physella acuta* that competes with native snail species is also known to occur within the park.
- Weed species recorded within Yarragin National Park include common prickly pear (*Opuntia stricta*), blue heliotrope (*Heliotropium amplexicaule*), Paterson's curse (*Echium plantagineum*) and exotic burrs (*Xanthium* spp.).
- Yarragin fire tower will be maintained as a key observation point.
- There are instances of illegal fire wood collection and illegal hunting in Yarragin National Park.
- Licensed beekeeping activities continue in the park.
- The park was reserved as Yarragin National Park under the *Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Area Act 2005* which does not reflect the historically correct spelling which is 'Yarrigan'.
- Fire intensity and frequency of un-prescribed burns is a threat to the park's ecology.

- Previous management of the park as productive native forest under state forest tenure has resulted in disturbed areas and a reduction in the number of large trees and hollows thus impacting on habitat values.
- Boundary fencing with adjacent freehold farm land includes some sections in poor condition.
- Boundary irregularities and uncertainties exist between the park and adjacent freehold farm land and a feasible boundary needs to be identified on a 'give and take' basis with the landowner.
- Sections of road and two small areas are vested in the Minister administering the NPW Act and have not been reserved as part of the park, even though the areas are surrounded by NPWS estate.
- No conservation strategies have been prepared for areas of heritage significance within the park.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is being managed in accordance with the [Reserve Fire Management Strategy](#) for Yarragin National Park.
- Yarragin fire tower and the surrounding asset protection zone will be maintained.
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Northern Plains Region. Current priorities for the park include St John's wort, blackberry, common prickly pear and exotic burrs.
- The Gomeri People will be consulted and involved with the planning, management and decision making for Yarragin National Park.
- Further research into the natural and cultural values of the park will be supported and encouraged, in consultation with the Aboriginal community and the wider local community, to promote use of the park for cultural activities in accordance with NPWS policy and guidelines.
- Where resources permit, known sites will be assessed to determine their historic significance and to develop conservation strategies where required.
- Law enforcement programs will be implemented to discourage illegal activities within the park.
- Where resources permit, endangered ecological community distribution maps will be prepared to target pest control programs and for fire management.
- The need for boundary fence works will be monitored and boundary fence agreements with adjoining landowners will be pursued where needed, subject to available funding and in accordance with the boundary fencing policy.
- The adjoining landowner will be engaged to resolve encroachments, and to identify and negotiate a mutually acceptable and feasible boundary.
- Reservation of Part 11 lands as part of the park will be investigated.
- Erosion of roads and trails within the park will be monitored and appropriate measures undertaken to stabilise affected areas when required.
- Bush camping is permitted within the park.
- Trails within the park where horse riding is permitted will be identified in accordance with the NPWS Horse Riding Policy.
- Amending the name of the park to comply with the historical spelling which is 'Yarrigan' will be investigated.

- Apiary sites will be managed in accordance with the NPWS [Bee Keeping Policy](#) and licence conditions.
- 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 on-going management objectives for the park. 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 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 Baradine Office on (02) 6843 4000 or 50-58 Wellington Street, Baradine NSW 2396.

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

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