

BURNT SCHOOL AND STRIKE-A-LIGHT NATURE RESERVES

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Part of the Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW

October 2007

This plan of management was adopted by the Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water on 12th October 2007.

Acknowledgments

The NPWS acknowledges that these nature reserves are located near the border of Walgalu and Walbanga Country and the area of the Mogo Local Aboriginal Land Council.

This plan of management is based on a draft plan prepared by staff of South West Slopes Region of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), now the Parks and Wildlife Division of the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change.

Valuable information and comments were provided by NPWS specialists, other government agencies and members of the public. The NPWS would like to thank all those who submitted information and comments regarding the reserve.

Inquiries about this draft plan of management should be directed to the Ranger at the NPWS Queanbeyan Area Office, 6 Rutledge Street (PO Box 1189), Queanbeyan or by telephone on 6299 2929.

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ISBN 1 74122 246 X

FOREWORD

Burnt School Nature Reserve and Strike-a-Light Nature Reserve are located about 45 kilometres and 55 kilometres respectively south of Queanbeyan, north of the village of Jerangle. Burnt School Nature Reserve is 285 hectares in size and was reserved over the 'Burnt School Lease', which was so named after a schoolhouse on a neighbouring property burnt down in the early 1900s. Strike-a-Light Nature Reserve is 407 hectares in size and borders the Strike-a-Light River.

Burnt School Nature Reserve is situated in a timbered area of the eastern footslopes of the Tinderry Mountains. It is undulating to mountainous, with naturally fragmented timber coverage. Strike-a-Light Nature Reserve is part of a heavily timbered and steep mountainous area.

Burnt School and Strike-a-Light Nature Reserves are important remnants of forest communities once occurring in the Anembo and Jerangle areas, where considerable areas of land have now been cleared for agricultural development. A variety of native animals occur in the reserves, including bats, macropods, possums, gliders, reptiles and amphibians.

The New South Wales *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* requires that a plan of management be prepared for each nature reserve. A plan of management is a legal document that outlines how an area will be managed in the years ahead.

A draft plan of management for Burnt School and Strike-a-Light Nature Reserves was placed on public exhibition for three months from 10th June until 16th September 2005. The submissions received were carefully considered before adopting this plan of management.

This plan of management establishes the scheme of operations for Burnt School Nature Reserve and Strike-a-Light Nature Reserve. In accordance with section 73B of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, this plan of management is hereby adopted.

Phil Koperberg
Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water

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1. MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

1.1 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

The management of nature reserves in NSW is in the context of a legislative and policy framework, primarily the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act), the NPW Regulation, the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act) and the policies of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). Section 72AA of the NPW Act lists the matters to be considered in the preparation of a plan of management. The policies arise from the legislative background and internationally accepted principles of park management. They relate to nature conservation, Aboriginal and historic heritage conservation, recreation, commercial use, research and communication.

Other legislation, international agreements and charters may also apply to management of the area. In particular, the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EPA Act) requires the assessment and mitigation of the environmental impacts of any works proposed in this plan.

A plan of management is a statutory document under the NPW Act. Once the Minister has adopted a plan, no operations may be undertaken within Burnt School or Strike-a-Light Nature Reserves except in accordance with the plan. The plan will also apply to any future additions to Burnt School and Strike-a-Light Nature Reserves. Where management strategies or works are proposed for the nature reserve or any additions that are not consistent with the plan, an amendment to the plan will be required.

1.2 MANAGEMENT PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES

1.2.1 Nature Reserves

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 Act, 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; and
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

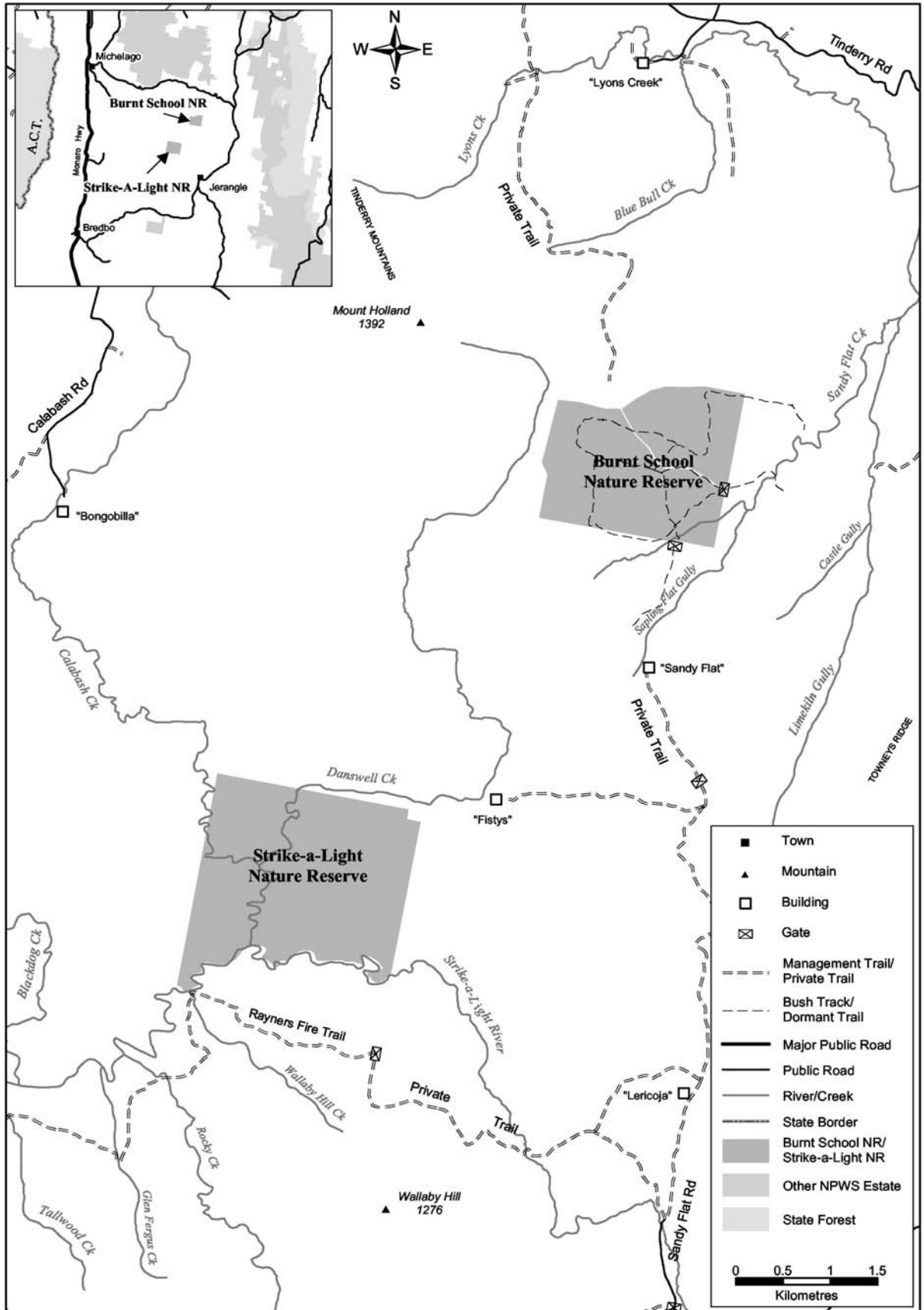
Nature reserves differ from national parks in that they do not have, as a management principle, to provide for visitor use.

1.2.2 Regional Forest Agreements

Regional Forest Agreements (RFA) are one of the principal means of implementing the National Forest Policy Statement of 1992. Under this Statement, Commonwealth, State and Territory governments agree to work towards a shared vision for Australia's forests. This aims to maintain native forest estate, manage it in an ecologically sustainable manner and develop sustainable forest-based industries. The Statement provided for joint comprehensive assessments of the natural, cultural, economic and social values of forests. These assessments formed the basis for negotiation of Regional Forest Agreements that provide, amongst other things, for Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management.

The Southern Region RFA covers the planning area. The process leading up to the RFA provided for major additions to the reserve system, including the establishment of Burnt School and Strike-a-Light Nature Reserves.

BURNT SCHOOL AND STRIKE-A-LIGHT NATURE RESERVES MAP



2. BURNT SCHOOL AND STRIKE-A-LIGHT NATURE RESERVES

2.1 LOCATION, GAZETTAL AND REGIONAL SETTING

Burnt School Nature Reserve is located about 45 kilometres south of Queanbeyan and 10 kilometres north of the village of Jerangle. The reserve is 285 hectares in size. The name 'Burnt School' is derived from a local incident. In the early 1900s a half-time schoolhouse on the neighbouring property "Sandy Flat" was burnt down (under suspicious circumstances). Since that event the neighbouring Crown land, which has now become the reserve, was known as the 'Burnt School Lease'.

Strike-a-Light Nature Reserve is located about 55 kilometres south of Queanbeyan and 5 kilometres north-west of the village of Jerangle. The reserve is 407 hectares in size and borders the Strike-a-Light River from which it gets its name.

The reserves were transferred to the NPWS on 1 January 2001 as a result of the Southern Regional Forest Agreement (2000). Prior to gazettal, the reserves were Crown land administered by the then Department of Land and Water Conservation.

The reserves are located on the footslopes of the Tinderry Mountains and are surrounded by predominantly freehold land and utilised for cattle and sheep grazing. Land to the west of Strike-a-Light Nature Reserve is largely undeveloped. Other reserves within the vicinity of Burnt School and Strike-a-Light Nature Reserves include Tinderry Nature Reserve, Mount Dowling Nature Reserve and Tallaganda National Park.

The reserves are situated within the administrative areas of the Cooma-Monaro Shire Council, the Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority, Cooma Rural Lands Protection Board and the Mogo Local Aboriginal Land Council.

2.2 LANDSCAPE

Natural and cultural heritage and on-going use are strongly inter-related and together form the landscape of an area. Much of the Australian environment has been influenced by past Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal land use practices, and the activities of modern day Australians continue to influence bushland through recreational use, cultural practices, the presence of introduced plants and animals and in some cases air and water pollution.

Burnt School Nature Reserve is small, situated in a timbered area of the eastern footslopes of the Tinderry Mountains. The landscape in the region is undulating to mountainous, with naturally fragmented timber coverage giving way to more extensively cleared grazing lands. Open forests border frost hollows in the reserve. The Queanbeyan River corridor is located two to three kilometres east of the reserve. The river in this area is meandering, forming deep holes in places.

Strike-a-Light Nature Reserve is part of a heavily timbered and steep mountainous area. The Strike-a-Light River is a prominent feature in this landscape, as are the Calabash and Danswell Creeks. Hills and ridges rise sharply from these waterways.

The geology, landforms, climate and plant and animal communities of the area, plus its location, have determined how humans have used it. The reserves represent only a small part of what was a much larger landscape utilised by traditional Aboriginal society for uses such as hunting and gathering. Historically they constituted part of a timbered 'back paddock' to pastoral and farming enterprises. Their environmental attributes resulted in limited use for activities such as grazing.

Both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people place cultural values on natural areas, including aesthetic, social, spiritual, recreational values. Cultural values may be attached to the landscape as a whole or to individual components, for example to plant and animal species used by Aboriginal people. This plan of management aims to conserve both natural and cultural values. For reasons of clarity and document usefulness natural and cultural heritage, non-human threats and on-going use are dealt with individually, but their inter-relationships are recognised.

2.3 NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

2.3.1 Landform, Geology and Soils

Burnt School Nature Reserve is comprised of moderately steep slopes and ridges. Mount Holland rises to 1392 metres, two kilometres west of the reserve. A number of non-perennial creeks, including part of Sandy Flat Creek, flow eastward through the reserve forming deep gullies in places.

Strike-a-Light Nature Reserve is part of an area featuring steep mountainous terrain with hills and ridges rising sharply from incised creek lines. The altitudinal range of the reserve is 950 metres to about 1127 metres above sea level.

The reserves' geology is dominated by Ordovician metasediments of the Foxlow Beds, including greywacke, shale, slates and minor chert.

Dominant topsoil materials are made up of brown gravelly loams, with over 50 per cent rock fragments of various sizes, and dark brown massive loams and silty loams. Soil characteristics in the reserves can be described as stony, shallow, highly erodible, strongly acidic and with a low fertility. Waterlogging occurs in some areas of the reserves (Jenkins, 1993).

2.3.2 Native Plants

Burnt School and Strike-a-Light Nature Reserves are important remnants of forest communities occurring in the Anembo and Jerangle areas where considerable areas of land have been cleared for agricultural development.

Three main vegetation communities are found in Burnt School Nature Reserve. These are:

- A dry shrub and tussock grass forest community typically comprising Candlebark *Eucalyptus rubida*, Broad-leaved Peppermint *E. dives* and Mountain Gum *E. dalrympleana*. The tussock grass Red-anther Wallaby Grass *Joycea pallida*, interspersed with forbs and small shrubs, dominates the ground layer. Silver Banksia *Banksia marginata* is found in the forests and in adjacent clearings.
- Snow Gum *E. pauciflora* woodlands bordering frost hollows with Black Sallee *E. stellulata* along the fringes. Silver Wattle *Acacia dealbata* is widespread in these woodlands. The ground cover is relatively uniform with snowgrass *Poa* spp. and some wallaby grass *Danthonia* spp. and the exotic Sweet Vernal Grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* also occurring.
- Sheltered aspects, mainly along the creeklines, contain Ribbon Gum *E. viminalis*, as well as other species such as Blackwood *Acacia melanoxylon* and Tea Tree *Leptospermum* spp.

In Strike-a-Light Nature Reserve the dominant vegetation communities are dry shrub and tussock grass forests. They typically comprise varying alliances of Red Stringybark *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*, Brittle Gum *E. mannifera*, Scribbly Gum *E. rossii*, Candlebark *E. rubida* and Broad-leaved Peppermint *E. dives*. Higher altitudes contain Snow Gum *E. pauciflora*. The forest floor comprises a variety of forbs, shrubs and small trees. Floristic diversity is high. The tussock grass Red-anther Wallaby Grass *Joycea pallida* or *Poa* grasses dominate the ground layer.

A variant to the dry shrub and tussock grass forest communities occurs in areas bordering valley floors and on sheltered slopes and along waterways. The Strike-a-Light River and Calabash Creek feature large stands of Ribbon Gum *E. viminalis* with River Tussock *Poa labillardieri*. Tea Tree *Leptospermum* spp. grows in dense thickets in these waterways.

Past land uses have affected vegetation in the reserves in a relatively insignificant way. The main uses were limited sheep and cattle grazing, with little timber clearing evident.

2.3.3 Native Animals

A variety of native animals occur in the reserves, including bats, macropods, possums, gliders, reptiles and amphibians. A fauna survey was carried out in the reserves in 2002 (Mills & Reside, 2003). Common species recorded included the Eastern Grey Kangaroo *Macropus giganteus*, Red-necked Wallaby *M. rufogriseus*, Sugar Glider *Petaurus breviceps*, Brushtail Possum *Trichosurus vulpecula*, Short-beaked Echidna *Tachyglossus aculeatus*, Common Wombat *Vombatus ursinus*, Gould's Wattle Bat *Chalinolobus gouldii* and the Large Forest Bat *Vespadelus darlingtoni*.

The creeklines in the reserves, such as Sandy Flat, Calabash and Danswell Creeks and the Strike-a-Light River, provide habitat for amphibians including the Common Froglet *Crinia signifera*, Pobblebonk *Limnodynastes dumerilii*, Spotted Grass Frog *Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*, Verreaux's Tree Frog *Litoria verreauxii* and Bibron's Toadlet *Pseudophryne bibronii*

Rocks and fallen timber of the forest floor and creeklines provide habitat for reptiles including Cunningham's Skink *Egernia cunninghami*, Blotched Blue-tongued Lizard *Tiliqua nigrolutea* and the skinks *Eulampris heatwolei* and *Hemiergis decresiensis*.

Limited bird species have been recorded due to limited surveys. However, a diversity of species is expected to occur. Recorded species include the Rose Robin *Petroica rosea*, Gang Gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum*, Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus funereus*, Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*, Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus*, White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis* and Australian Owlet-Nightjar *Aegotheles cristatus*.

The Gang Gang Cockatoo has been recorded in the reserves and is listed as vulnerable under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act). Other threatened animals with potential to occur in the reserves include the Koala *Phascolarctos cinereus*, Yellow-bellied Glider *Petaurus australis*, Spotted-tailed Quoll *Dasyurus maculatus*, Eastern Pygmy-possum *Cercartetus nanus*, Large-footed Myotis *Myotis adversus*, Rosenberg's Monitor *Varanus rosenbergi* Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*, Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua* and Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus*. There are recent records of Koalas in the region, including in Mount Dowling Nature Reserve to the south. Koalas in this region may be found in a variety of trees, including Brittle Gum *E. mannifera*, Scribbly Gum *E. rossii*, Red Stringybark *E. macrorhyncha* and Ribbon Gum *E. viminalis*.

The threats to native animals in the reserves include predation by introduced animals, gross changes in forest structure from impacts such as high intensity or too frequent fire, and fragmentation of habitat outside of the reserves.

Due to the small size of the reserves, the protection of native animals in the area is reliant on the adequate protection of habitat over a much larger scale. The reserves' habitat value is best appreciated when viewed as a component of a greater range of habitats surrounding the reserves, including forest, woodland, grassland and riparian environments.

2.4 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

Burnt School and Strike-a-Light Nature Reserves are located in an area that was occupied by the Ngarigo people. Neighbouring people included the Walgalu, Ngunawal and Walbanga (Tindale, 1974).

Traditional use, such as hunting, gathering and ceremony would have taken place over the entire landscape, of which the reserves are only a small part. Aboriginal communities have an association and connection to the land. The land and water values within the reserves' landscape are a part of Aboriginal spirituality and contribute to Aboriginal identity.

There are no recorded Aboriginal sites in the reserves although no formal surveys have been undertaken.

While the NPWS presently has legal responsibility for the protection of Aboriginal sites and places, it acknowledges the right of Aboriginal people to make decisions about their own heritage. It is therefore policy that Aboriginal communities be consulted and involved in the management of Aboriginal sites, places and related issues and the promotion and presentation of Aboriginal culture and history. The reserves are within the area of the Mogo Local Aboriginal Land Council. The Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation is a recognised elders' group that also has an interest in the area.

2.5 NON-ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

The first known Europeans to visit the northern Monaro were members of an exploration party led by Captain Currie in 1823. Settlement of explored areas was quick to follow, with squatters entrenched in most areas by 1830. Large pastoral runs were set up in the region such as the Tinderrys, Micalago and Narongo Runs.

Prior to 1885 the area of Burnt School Nature Reserve was within the Little Tinderry Holding under Thomas Dwyer. Following the breakup of large pastoral holdings the area of the reserve was resumed by the Crown and became a Permissive Occupancy (PO) under an annual grazing licence in 1909. Conditions of a PO did not allow clearing or timber getting. The exact area of the reserve was referred to as Portion 60, Parish of Holland, County of Beresford in 1933. In 1962 the reserve area was set aside for "Future Public Requirements" and continued as a PO until 2001 (Dearling, 2003).

Prior to 1885 the area of the Strike-a-Light Nature Reserve was in the Micalago Run, which included a large area encompassing the Tinderry Mountains. The reserve has been held under various Crown leases since 1885. Portion 26, Parish of Onslow, County of Beresford, the area now reserve, was in existence by 1912. (Dearling, 2003).

The landscape of the reserves remains largely unmodified. Past European land use of the area was largely for grazing purposes, however, the sparse vegetative cover in the reserves allowed only marginal use by graziers.

There are no items of European heritage significance recorded in the reserves. However, it should be noted that old survey markers (on trees, or as metal posts or rockspits) might still be in place on the reserve boundaries.

2.6 PUBLIC USE

The primary purposes of nature reserves are to conserve wildlife and natural environments and provide of opportunities for education and scientific research into these resources.

There is no legal public access to Burnt School or Strike-a-Light Nature Reserves and there are no formed vehicle trails within the reserves. Any public access is via private freehold land with permission required from the landholder (which can be refused). Rayners Fire Trail reaches the southwest corner of Strike-a-Light Nature Reserve, but does not enter it. This trail is not a legal right of way for the public.

For the above reasons recreational facilities will not be provided in the reserves and the reserves will not be promoted for recreational use. Notwithstanding, it is recognised that the reserves can provide a resource for people to enjoy, appreciate and understand the natural environment. Appropriate recreation activities, consistent with the purposes of gazettal and management objectives, include day-use bushwalking, nature study and educational and research activity.

Illegal activities taking place in the reserves include pig hunting. Hunters trespass on private property to gain access to the reserves.

2.7 THREATS TO RESERVE VALUES

2.7.1 Soil Erosion

Soils in the reserves are highly erodible. Much of the reserves' terrain is steep and likely to erode if disturbed. Care must be taken to avoid activities likely to lead to erosion.

2.7.2 Introduced Plants and Pest Animals

An introduced species is defined in this plan as any plant or animal species not native to Australia. Introduced species within Burnt School and Strike-a-Light Nature Reserves and on adjoining land are of concern because they have the potential to have detrimental effects on ecological values and can spread to and from neighbouring land. In addition, the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* places an obligation upon public authorities to control noxious weeds on land that they occupy to the extent necessary to prevent such weeds spreading to adjoining lands.

The NPWS aims to manage populations of introduced plants and animals to minimise adverse impacts by employing best practice methods. There is a clear recognition that the eradication of introduced species is generally not feasible. Pest management will be undertaken in accordance with strategies and recommendations outlined in the NPWS South West Slopes Region Pest Management Strategy (2003) and relevant Threat Abatement Plans.

The most serious weed in the reserves is Serrated Tussock *Nassella trichotoma*, which occurs in areas throughout the reserves, mainly along rivers, creeks, tracks and on bordering private land. Other weeds in the reserves include Sweet Briar *Rosa rubiginosa* and the perennial Sweet Vernal Grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*.

There is the possibility of the spread of other serious weeds (which have not yet been identified in the reserves) from surrounding lands into the reserves, including St John's Wort *Hypericum perforatum*, Viper's Bugloss *Echium vulgare* and African Lovegrass *Eragrostis curvula*.

The fox *Vulpes vulpes*, pig *Sus scrofa* and feral goat *Capra hirtus* are pest animals of a serious nature identified in the reserves. The rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*, wild dog *Canis sp*, feral cat *Felis cattus* and feral deer *Dama dama/cervus* are other pest animals of a less serious nature possibly occurring in the reserves. Straying sheep and cattle may also occur where boundary fences are inadequate.

2.7.3 Fire Management

The management of fire in Burnt School and Strike-a-Light Nature Reserves is an important and complex issue. Management must aim to achieve both long-term conservation of natural communities and ongoing protection of life and property within and adjacent to the reserves.

Fire is a natural feature of many environments and is essential to the survival of some plant communities. Inappropriate fire regimes, however, can lead to loss of particular plant and animal species and communities. Fire can also damage cultural heritage and can threaten visitors and neighbouring land. High frequency fire is listed as a key threatening process under the TSC Act.

A separate map-based Fire Management Strategy will be developed for the reserves in accordance with the NPWS Fire Management Strategy (NPWS, 2003).

2.8 REFERENCES

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3. MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND STRATEGIES

Current Situation	Desired Outcomes	Strategies	Priority
<p>Soil and water conservation</p> <p>Soils in the reserves are highly erodible when disturbed.</p>	<p>Soil erosion is minimised.</p> <p>Water quality and health of reserve streams are maintained.</p>	<p>The construction of new trails or tracks is not permitted.</p> <p>Any development of new boundary fire breaks will leave ground layer grasses and shrubs in situ.</p> <p>Any earthworks carried out during a bushfire will be rehabilitated as soon as possible after the event.</p>	<p>High</p> <p>High</p> <p>High</p>
<p>Native plant and animal conservation</p> <p>Limited formal fauna surveys have been undertaken in the reserves.</p> <p>The reserves provide habitat for a number of threatened species. Threats to these species include the fragmentation of habitat, gross changes in forest structure as a result of frequent and high intensity fire, and predation by introduced animals.</p> <p>The protection of native animals in the area is reliant on the adequate protection of habitat over a much larger scale.</p>	<p>All native plant and animal species and communities are conserved.</p> <p>Structural diversity and habitat values are maintained and restored.</p>	<p>A survey targeting threatened species will be undertaken.</p> <p>Any applicable measures included in recovery plans for threatened species will be implemented.</p> <p>Detail fire management guidelines for the conservation of the reserves' vegetation communities as part of the Fire Management Strategy (see Fire Management).</p> <p>Work with neighbours and vegetation management committees to encourage conservation of remnant native vegetation in the vicinity of the reserve.</p>	<p>Low</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>High</p> <p>Low</p>

Current Situation	Desired Outcomes	Strategies	Priority
<p>Introduced species</p> <p>The most serious weed in the reserves is Serrated Tussock.</p> <p>There is the possibility of the spread of other serious weeds from surrounding lands into the reserves.</p> <p>Foxes, pigs and goats are pest animals of a serious nature identified in the reserves. Rabbits, wild dogs, cats, and deer are other pest animals of a less serious nature possibly occurring in the reserves. Straying sheep and cattle may also occur where boundary fences are inadequate.</p> <p>Pest animals have a negative impact on habitat and native animals. Due to the small size of the reserves, any control programs would be futile unless carried out over a larger area with the co-operation of all neighbouring landholders.</p>	<p>The impact of introduced species on native species and neighbouring lands is minimised.</p>	<p>Develop and implement control programs for weed infestations. Priority will be given to Serrated Tussock.</p> <p>Monitor the reserves for significant noxious and environmental weeds. Treat any new infestations.</p> <p>Implement pest animal control programs for priority species, but only in co-operation with, or when coordinated by all adjacent landholders and/or the Cooma Rural Lands Protection Board. Programs must meet the objectives of the reserves and broader community and be demonstrated to have low impacts on native wildlife.</p> <p>Ensure that all boundary fences are stock-proof where required. Manage boundary fencing in accordance with the NPWS Boundary Fence policy and in co-operation with adjacent landholders.</p>	<p>High</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Low</p>

Current Situation	Desired Outcomes	Strategies	Priority
<p>Fire management</p> <p>Fire is a natural feature of many environments and is essential to the survival of some plant communities. Inappropriate fire regimes, however, can lead to loss of particular plant and animal species and communities. Fire can also damage places of cultural heritage value and can threaten visitors and neighbouring land.</p> <p>The reserves are only a small part of a much larger timbered area.</p> <p>There are no formed trails in the reserves. A network of bush tracks, suitable for management access needs, has been mapped in Burnt School Nature Reserve.</p>	<p>Life, property and natural and cultural values are protected from bushfire.</p> <p>Fire regimes are appropriate for conservation of plant and animal communities.</p>	<p>Participate in the Snowy River and Cooma-Monaro District Bush Fire Management Committee. Maintain coordination and cooperation with the Rural Fire Service (including the Bredbo, Jerangle and Anembo Rural Fire Brigades), and adjacent landholders with regard to fire management strategies.</p> <p>Suppress all unplanned fires in the reserves during periods of high fire danger to minimise damage to surrounding lands.</p> <p>Develop a combined map-based Fire Management Strategy and Fire Operations Map for the reserves by 2006.</p> <p>Management trails in Burnt School Nature Reserve may be enhanced, through earthworks, if deemed strategically necessary during a bushfire. Otherwise trails will be maintained to permit continuing management access.</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>High</p> <p>High</p> <p>Medium</p>

Current Situation	Desired Outcomes	Strategies	Priority
<p>Cultural heritage</p> <p>No Aboriginal sites have been identified, however, no formal surveys have been carried out in the reserves.</p> <p>There are no items of European heritage significance identified in the reserves. Old survey markers may still be in place on the reserve boundaries.</p> <p>Threats to Aboriginal sites include activities such as earthworks. Threats to survey markers include clearing of boundary breaks and fire.</p> <p>The reserves are within the area of the Mogo Local Aboriginal Land Council. The Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation is a recognised elders' group that also has an interest in the area.</p>	<p>Aboriginal features and values are identified and protected.</p> <p>Aboriginal people are involved in management of the Aboriginal cultural values in the reserve.</p> <p>Cultural features are conserved and managed in accordance with their significance.</p>	<p>Precede all new works/activities likely to lead to ground disturbance by an assessment for cultural features.</p> <p>Undertake a survey to identify and map any old survey markers and ensure any found are protected.</p> <p>Consult and involve the Mogo Local Aboriginal Land Council, the Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation and other relevant Aboriginal community organisations in the management of any Aboriginal sites, places and values identified for the reserve, including interpretation of places or values.</p> <p>Encourage further research into the Aboriginal heritage values of the reserves in close consultation with relevant stakeholders and community groups.</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Low</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Medium</p>

Current Situation	Desired Outcomes	Strategies	Priority
<p>Visitor use</p> <p>There is no legal public vehicular or pedestrian access to the reserves.</p> <p>There are no visitor facilities in the reserves.</p> <p>Illegal activities currently occurring in the reserves include pig hunting.</p>	<p>The local community is aware of the significance of the area and of management programs.</p> <p>Visitor use is ecologically sustainable.</p>	<p>Recreational facilities will not be provided and the reserves will not be promoted for recreational use.</p> <p>In accordance with the objectives of nature reserves, allow day-use bushwalking, nature study, educational and research activity, but not commercial activities, community events, orienteering, horse riding, recreational four-wheel driving, trailbike riding, cycling or overnight camping.</p> <p>Inform any people wishing to use the reserves of the need to seek permission from neighbours to cross their land and permitted activities.</p> <p>Undertake law enforcement patrols as required, in conjunction with NSW Police. This action requires assistance and information from adjacent landholders.</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>High</p> <p>Medium</p>

Current Situation	Desired Outcomes	Strategies	Priority
<p>Research</p> <p>Further research will improve understanding of the reserves' natural and cultural heritage, the processes that affect them and the requirements for management of particular species.</p> <p>Priority fields for research in the reserves are threatened plants and animals.</p>	<p>Research enhances the management information base and has minimal environmental impact.</p>	<p>Undertake and encourage research to improve knowledge and management of natural and cultural heritage.</p>	<p>Medium</p>

High priority activities are those imperative to achievement of the objectives and desired outcomes. They must be undertaken in the near future to avoid significant deterioration in natural, cultural or management resources.

Medium priority activities are those that are necessary to achieve the objectives and desired outcomes but are not urgent.

Low priority activities are desirable to achieve management objectives and desired outcomes but can wait until resources become available.