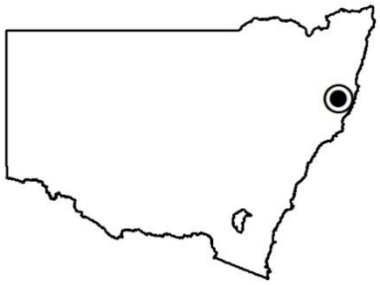
Kindee Creek State Conservation Area



Statement of management intent

Acknowledgement of Country

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) acknowledges that Kindee Creek State Conservation Area (the 'park') lies within the lands of the Birpai Aboriginal people with historical and ongoing cultural significance for Aboriginal people.

Introduction

Kindee Creek State Conservation Area was established in 2018, following a transfer of lands from the Mount Boss State Forest.

This statement of management intent outlines the main values, issues and key management directions for the park. This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the park until a plan of management has been prepared.

The NPWS *Managing parks prior to a plan of management policy* states that parks without an adopted plan of management will be managed consistent with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) and other relevant legislation, existing park management policies, and other relevant manuals, procedures and guidelines.

Management principles

Under section 30G of the NPW Act, state conservation areas are reserved to identify, protect and conserve areas containing significant or representative ecosystems, natural or cultural features, or landscapes or phenomena that provide opportunities for public appreciation and inspiration and sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment.

Management of the state conservation area will be consistent with the following principles:

- 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 the conservation of the area's natural and cultural values and with uses permitted in the area
- provide for the sustainable use (including adaptive reuse) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas, having regard to the conservation of the area's natural and cultural values and with uses permitted in the area
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

Land is primarily reserved as a state conservation area where mineral values preclude reservation as another category. The NPW Act requires a review of the classification of state conservation areas every 5 years in consultation with the minister administering the *Mining Act 1992*.

Context

Kindee Creek State Conservation Area (1,382 hectares) (see Figure 1) was reserved on 21 September 2018. Formerly part of Mount Boss State Forest, it was one of the land transfers announced in 2018 as part of the launch of the NSW Koala Strategy.

The park is located on the mid-north coast of New South Wales, approximately 56 kilometres west of Port Macquarie, and about 32 kilometres west-north-west of Wauchope, in County Macquarie, Parish Kindee. The park is in the administrative areas of the Port Macquarie Hastings Council, North Coast Local Land Services, and the Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council. The park also sits within the NSW North Coast Botanical Region and NSW North Coast Bioregion.

The park consists of an irregular-shaped portion of land. It is bounded by Mount Boss State Forest in the north and by a small separate section of Mount Boss State Forest to the south-west. It is also bordered by a mix of vegetated and cleared private freehold land (Figure 1). The park excludes the private property trails Rollans Road and Plummers Trail.

The majority of the park is composed of metamorphosed siltstone and sandstone and is characterised by steep gullies. Altitude ranges from a low point of 170 metres above sea level along Kindee Creek in the south of the park to a little over 700 metres in the north.

Numerous watercourses dissect the park with tributaries of the south-flowing Kindee Creek catchment in the west of the park, tributaries of the Pine Scrub catchment in the east and Murrays Creek to the north.

Europeans arrived in this region after the establishment of the Port Macquarie penal settlement in 1821. The area was initially used for red cedar timber harvesting, followed by hardwoods. Historically, a number of mining prospects have occurred in the area, targeting copper and gold.

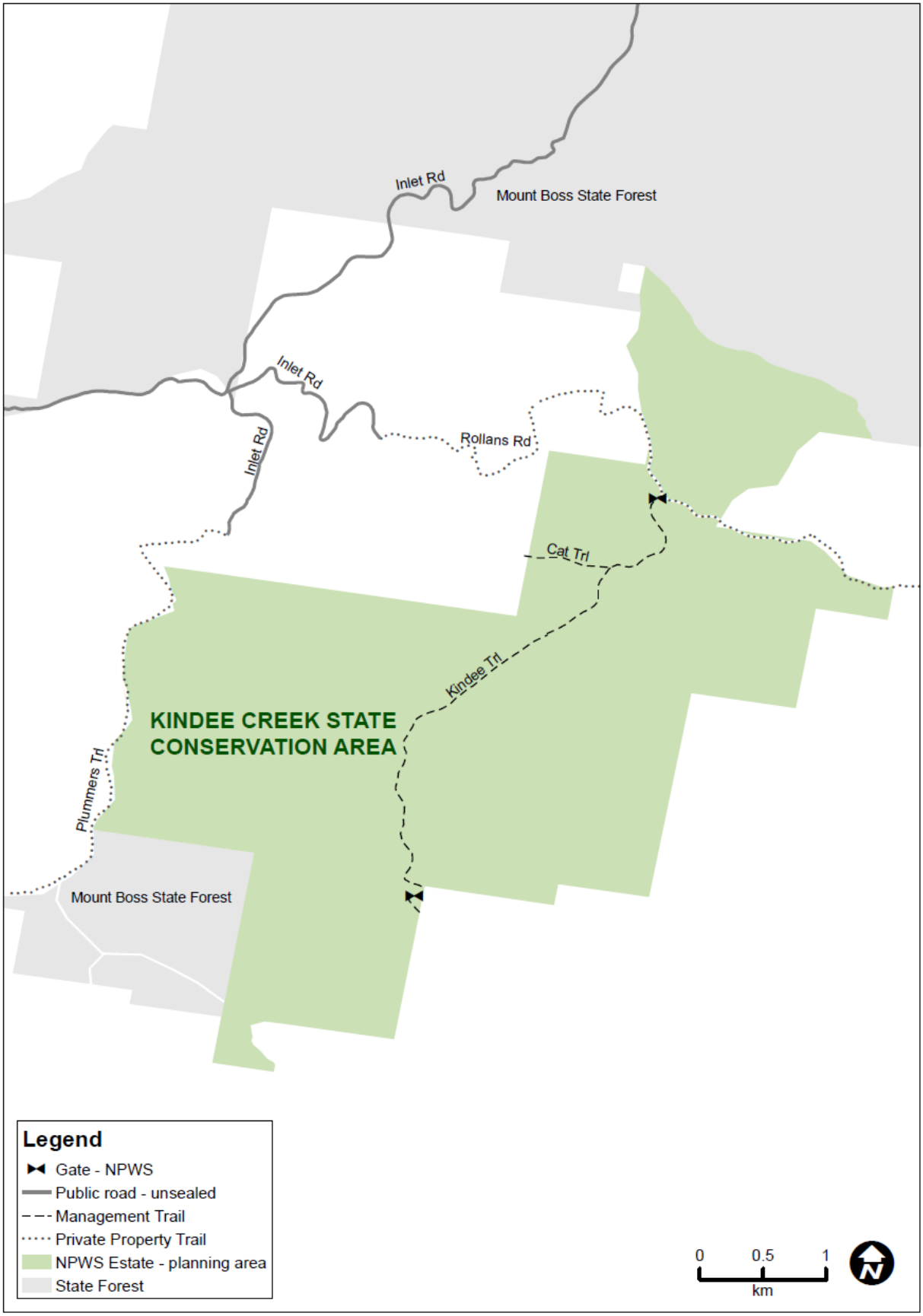


Figure 1 Kindee Creek State Conservation Area

Values

- The park lies within the traditional homelands of the Birpai Aboriginal people.
- At the time of publication, no cultural survey work has been conducted in the park, and no sites are recorded within the park in the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS).
- The park contains important habitat features such as hollow-bearing trees and woody debris on the ground that would support a variety of animal species, including threatened species.
- The park lies between the Comboyne and South Kempsey Areas of Regional Koala Significance (ARKS). It contributes to a fauna corridor linking the 2 ARKS and acting as a protected 'stepping stone' for animal movements across the landscape. It also contributes to important habitat corridors between the coast and the escarpment.
- The park is considered to be a moderate koala habitat. It is known to contain tallowwood, a favoured koala food tree, and Sydney blue gum, which is significant for koalas in the Port Macquarie Hastings local government area. The park provides an overall increase in available habitat for this iconic species, with koalas considered likely to occur at moderate to low densities.
- Close to half of the park has been mapped as old-growth vegetation, which provides essential habitat for hollow-dependent animals, including the threatened sooty owl and glossy black-cockatoo.
- Several other threatened animal species recorded locally in the surrounding area may also occur in the park.
- The park is comprised of the following vegetation communities:
    - subtropical and dry rainforests
    - north coast and northern hinterland wet sclerophyll forests
    - northern warm temperate rainforest.
- Rainforest is confined to protected gullies and south-facing slopes, and it provides additional habitat niches for species restricted to this vegetation type. The moist gullies and the gorge in the western section of the park create good fire breaks and a mosaic of vegetation. As a result, most of the park was minimally impacted by the Black Summer bushfires of 2019–20.
- Scrub turpentine (*Rhodamnia rubescens*) is present and listed as critically endangered under both the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth). A number of other significant endangered species may occur in the park.

Issues

- Management access to the park remains problematic and requires the establishment of an ongoing, long-term access route to ensure management activities can be undertaken effectively.
- Due to its isolated location, there is a risk that the park could be targeted for the cultivation of prohibited plants.
- Livestock incursions from neighbouring properties have occurred at the western and southern boundaries. This has the potential to spread weeds and alter the composition of vegetation communities.

- A vegetation survey conducted in 2023 identified 10 weed species in the park, including a Weed of National Significance, *Senecio madagascariensis* (fireweed). The most common weeds are *Cirsium vulgare* (spear thistle), *Conyza* sp. (fleabane) and *Solanum mauritianum* (wild tobacco bush). Other weeds occur at low abundance.

Key management directions

- Any activities proposed by this statement of management intent are subject to an appropriate level of environmental and cultural assessment – for example, a conservation risk assessment, review of environmental factors or environmental impact statement.
- An assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage, environmental and heritage values will be undertaken before any management activities, operations and intrusive works that present a risk to park values are carried out. Risks to these values will be avoided and managed accordingly.
- NPWS will consult with Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council and custodial families to identify, protect, and manage Aboriginal sites, places, and cultural and natural values.
- A fauna assessment will be undertaken to fill in knowledge gaps in the park and inform future management.
- NPWS will engage with neighbours to ensure appropriate fencing is in place and grazing impacts are avoided.
- Law enforcement will be undertaken in response to any illegal activities.
- Park management trails will be maintained within the park.
- Feral animal and weed management programs will be conducted consistent with NPWS strategies, policies and procedures. Work will complement Local Land Services' regional strategic weed and pest animal management plans, which focus on priority pest species.
- Fire management will be guided by strategies and bushfire risk management plan treatments consistent with strategic fire management planning and relevant legislation.

More information

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this park or this statement, contact the NPWS Port Macquarie office on 02 6588 5555 or at npws.hastingsmacleay@environment.nsw.gov.au

The following links also provide more information:

- NPWS Managing parks prior to plan of management policy
- NPWS Fire management strategies
- NPWS Feral animal management strategy
- NPWS Weed management strategy
- National Parks and Wildlife Act (No 80) 1974 (NSW)
- NSW Koala Strategy
- Local Land Services regional pest animal plans
- Local Land Services regional weed plans

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 Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water 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 map in this statement is intended to show the park's location and basic features only and is not suitable for use when navigating to or exploring within the park.

Environment and Heritage
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124; Phone: 1300 361 967
Email: info@environment.nsw.gov.au; www.environment.nsw.gov.au
ISBN 978-1-76186-173-4; EH 2026/0084; April 2026