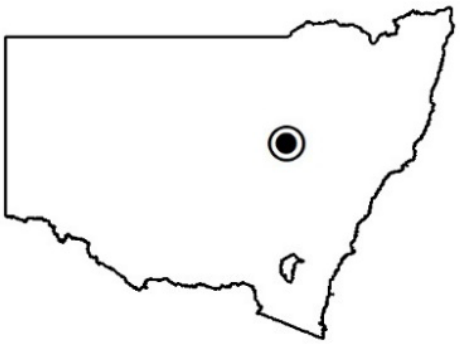
Goonoo National Park (CCA Zone 1) and Goonoo State Conservation Area (CCA Zone 3)



Statement of management intent

Acknowledgement of Country

The area known as Goonoo National Park and Goonoo State Conservation Area, and the surrounding lands and connecting waterways, has traditionally been under the care of the Tubba-Gah (Maing) Wiradjuri people (Tubba-Gah meaning the Red Ochre people). Aboriginal people have a deep spiritual and cultural connection to this Country. Their ancestors have lived here for thousands of years and, in doing so, form part of this living landscape.

Connections to Country and the significance of these parks to Aboriginal peoples – past, present and future – are acknowledged and respected. NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) seeks to ensure that the management of these parks reflects, embraces and celebrates the culture and heritage of Aboriginal people and their connection to this Country.

NPWS acknowledges Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of Country and supports the role of Aboriginal people in identifying traditional connections and custodians for this place.

Contents

Acknowledgement of Country	i
Introduction	1
Significance of the Goonoo parks	4
Our vision for Goonoo parks	6
Supporting connection to Country	7
Protecting and restoring natural values and healing Country	10
Looking after historic heritage	16
Providing opportunities for visitors	17
Sustainable management operations	20
Park operations and activities	24
Appendices	27
References	30

Introduction

Goonoo National Park and Goonoo State Conservation Area were established in 2005 when 350,000 ha of forested land in the Brigalow Belt South and Nandewar bioregions was transferred to National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) estate as community conservation areas under the NSW *Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Area Act 2005.* The purpose of community conservation areas is to reserve land for permanent conservation under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act), to protect areas of natural and cultural heritage and support sustainable forestry and mining.

Approximately 9,090 ha was transferred as Goonoo National Park Community Conservation Area Zone 1 and 53,752 ha was transferred as Goonoo State Conservation Area Community Conservation Area Zone 3. In 2011, 770 ha was added to Goonoo State Conservation Area under the *National Park Estate (South-Western Cypress Reservations) Act 2010* to protect remaining areas of cypress pine woodlands in the heavily cleared wheat-sheep belt region of New South Wales.

The national park and state conservation area are protected in perpetuity through reservation under the NPW Act.

NPWS and the Tubba-Gah (Maing) Wiradjuri Advisory Committee manage the parks together, consistent with the co-management agreement established under the Tubba-Gah Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) signed in 2015 (NNTT 2015). The ILUA is a 'non-native title' agreement, with the claimants agreeing to withdraw their native title claim on registration of the agreement. The ILUA has established the Tubba-Gah (Maing) Wiradjuri Advisory Committee to make recommendations to NPWS on the care, control and management of the parks.

NPWS and the Tubba-Gah (Maing) Wiradjuri Advisory Committee have prepared this statement of management intent which outlines the main values, management considerations and the objectives and key management directions for managing Goonoo National Park and Goonoo State Conservation Area. This statement of management intent also addresses the rights and interests of Tubba-Gah people, consistent with the ILUA, and acknowledges the important role the Tubba-Gah people have in supporting the management of these parks.

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

This statement replaces the statement of management intent prepared in 2014. This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the park until a plan of management has been adopted.

Management principles

The parks are managed to achieve the objects of the NPW Act which centre on conserving the natural and cultural values of the park, as well as fostering public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of these values (Appendix A).

The purpose and management principles for community conservation areas align with the management principles and purposes for national parks and state conservation areas in the NPW Act.

Zone 1 community conservation areas are reserved as **national parks** 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 section 30E of the NPW Act, national parks 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.

Zone 3 community conservation areas are reserved as **state conservation areas** under the NPW Act to protect and conserve areas containing significant or representative ecosystems, landforms or natural phenomena or places of cultural significance that provide opportunities for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment, and the sustainable use of buildings and structures, or research. Zone 3 community conservation areas are also reserved under the NPW Act as areas capable of providing opportunities for uses related to mining.

Under section 30G of the NPW Act, 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.

Management of Goonoo National Park and Goonoo State Conservation Area is also subject to the Tubba-Gah ILUA. NPWS operations must comply with both the ILUA and the NPW Act.

Context

Goonoo National Park (9,090 ha) and Goonoo State Conservation Area (54,522 ha) are located on the undulating hills and slopes between the Castlereagh and Talbragar rivers approximately 25 km north-east of Dubbo (Figure 1). Other towns close to the parks include Mendooran and Dunedoo in the east, and Gilgandra to the north-west.

Goonoo National Park and Goonoo State Conservation Area statement of management intent

Tubba-Gah (Maing) Wiradjuri people (Tubba-Gah people) have a long and enduring connection to this Country and many places of significance to Aboriginal people are found in the parks.

The parks fall within the Pilliga subregion of the Brigalow Belt South bioregion and, along with other nearby parks, make a significant contribution to the protection of biodiversity in the bioregion (9.3% of the bioregion is reserved) and subregion (17% of the Pilliga subregion is reserved). Pressures from land clearing, habitat fragmentation and increasing adverse impacts of climate change are the main challenges for the protection of biodiversity in the bioregion and subregion.

The parks have been subject to logging since the 1850s. Ironbark and cypress pine were the main species targeted. Before being reserved under the NPW Act on 1 December 2005 the lands in the parks were part of a timber reserve (from 1902), and then part of a state forest proclaimed in 1917.

The parks represent one of the largest remnant blocks of woody vegetation in the Brigalow Belt South bioregion. Significantly, the parks make the single largest contribution to the protection of the Goonoo Slopes (Mitchell) landscape (68% of the reserved area) and some of the largest reserved areas of 2 vegetation classes in New South Wales (Western Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Forests and Pilliga Outwash Dry Sclerophyll Forests). The parks comprise the bulk of the area within the internationally significant Goonoo Key Biodiversity Area. They are recognised for supporting significant natural heritage and providing important habitat for the conservation of woodland birds and species typical of the New South Wales central-west region.

The surrounding land is used for agricultural activities such as grazing, cropping and horticulture. While the parks are connected to surrounding protected areas and rivers via corridors of native vegetation, these corridors are fragmented and of variable condition and are not reserved and protected for conservation purposes. However, it is important for conservation that existing habitat connectivity is maintained and, where practicable, improved. This could be achieved through working with surrounding landholders to maintain connections between reserved lands and other naturally vegetated lands nearby.

The parks lie within the administrative areas of the Warrumbungle and Dubbo shire councils, Dubbo and Gilgandra local Aboriginal land councils, and Central West Local Land Services. The parks are within the bush fire management committee areas of Orana and Castlereagh. These organisations and government agencies are important partners that support NPWS in managing the parks.

Significance of the Goonoo parks

Goonoo National Park and Goonoo State Conservation Area are significant as places:

- that are part of the Country of the Tubba-Gah (Maing) Wiradjuri people, who retain strong cultural connections through caring for Country
- that are part of a cultural landscape of significance to Aboriginal people which retains evidence of thousands of years of occupation and use
- that make a significant contribution to the protection of biodiversity as the largest reserved area of Goonoo Slopes landscape in New South Wales, one of the largest reserved areas of 2 vegetation classes (Western Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Forests and Pilliga Outwash Dry Sclerophyll Forests), and comprising the majority of the Goonoo Key Biodiversity Area
- that support protection and recovery of 2 threatened ecological communities, and populations of 29 threatened animal and 7 threatened plants listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (including one threatened ecological community, 9 threatened animals and 5 threatened plants listed at a national level under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*)
- that are recognised as significant for the protection of woodland birds and their habitat
- where locally significant historic heritage is preserved and stories about our past can be shared
- where the local community and others can experience and enjoy nature-based recreation and learn about the natural and cultural values of the area.

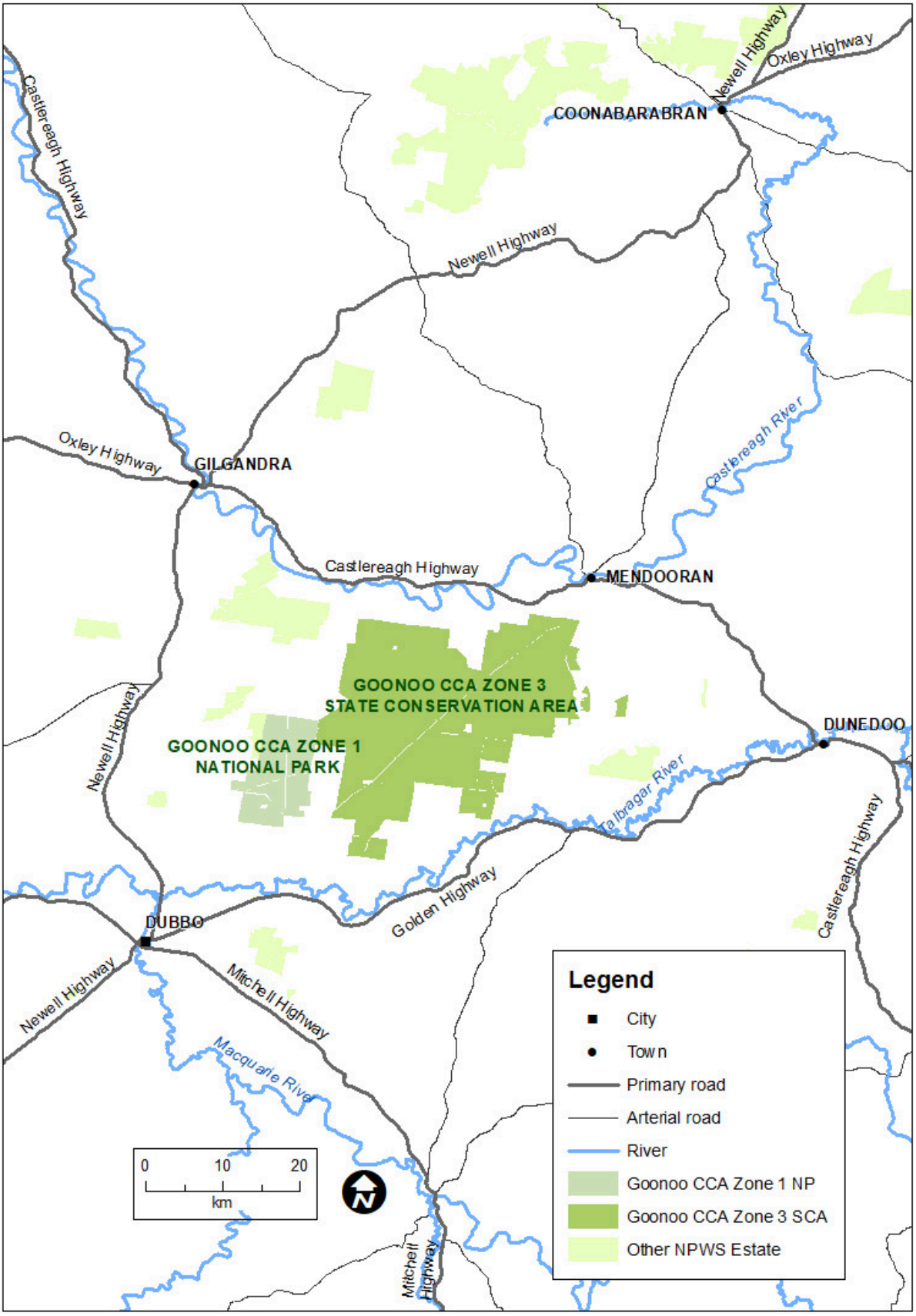


Figure 1 **Goonoo parks regional setting**

Our vision for Goonoo parks

Our vision is to have healthy Country and culture through a strong and respectful partnership.

Our vision for our partnership

- We have a strong and respectful partnership where we listen and learn from each other through open and transparent negotiation.

Our vision for healthy culture

- Management of Aboriginal cultural heritage is led by the Tubba-Gah (Maing) Wiradjuri Advisory Committee who are supported to connect to Country for teaching, learning and healing.
- The Tubba-Gah (Maing) Wiradjuri Advisory Committee are involved in park management.
- The Tubba-Gah (Maing) Wiradjuri Advisory Committee are supported to connect to Country through exercising cultural practices on Country, for example, hunting, camping, resource use, ceremony and access to Country to manage cultural heritage items and features, consistent with the ILUA.

Our vision for healthy Country

- Habitat and landscapes are healthy and support a wide variety and abundance of native plants and animals, including plants and animals used for traditional medicine, food and cultural practices.
- Populations of threatened species and culturally important species and their habitat are healthy.
- Country is managed by sharing relevant traditional and scientific knowledge to inform sustainable contemporary land management practices.
- Historic heritage places and items are appropriately preserved, and their values are communicated.

Supporting connection to Country

Land, water, plants and animals form the cultural landscape that is central to Aboriginal people's spirituality and identity. Aboriginal people are connected to the landscape, their ancestors and each other through kinship relationships, language, learning and sharing of cultural knowledge, as well as interacting with Country through active land management, ceremony and resource use.

The Tubba-Gah (Maing) Wiradjuri Advisory Committee and NPWS manage the parks together, consistent with the co-management agreement established under the Tubba-Gah ILUA. The committee provides advice to NPWS about management of the parks, including management and protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage and implementation of the ILUA.

Aboriginal people affirm their identity and connect to each other, the land and ancestors by interacting with Country. The ILUA provides for Tubba-Gah people to access Country for a range of cultural purposes. These purposes include caring for Country through cultural practices such as ceremony, learning and teaching, camping, and collection and use of plants and hunting of animals for non-commercial purposes. The ILUA also makes provisions for Tubba-Gah people to manage and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, features and objects in the parks.

So far, 170 Aboriginal sites and/or features have been recorded in the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System for the parks. These sites and features include stone artefacts, grinding grooves, scar trees and an ochre quarry. They are a physical reminder of the long and continuing use of Country over thousands of years.

The sites within the parks and broader cultural landscape are connected through songlines and creation stories. These songlines and creation stories may extend for long distances, sometimes into the lands of other Aboriginal groups. In this way, and through kinship, Tubba-Gah people have and maintain cultural ties with other Aboriginal groups. Looking after these sites, maintaining relationships and sharing knowledge in culturally appropriate ways is important for Tubba-Gah people to meet their obligations for caring for Country.

Learning and teaching are important ways for Aboriginal people to pass on cultural knowledge and skills, particularly to younger generations, and to fulfil cultural obligations. Sharing cultural knowledge as part of 2-way learning can also help to build the relationship between Tubba-Gah people and NPWS and inform park management operations. This includes sharing knowledge and applying cultural land management practices such as cultural burning. Learning and sharing happen best when people are on Country.

The use of Aboriginal language helps to promote the cultural significance of places and landscapes. The use of Aboriginal language when communicating with the wider community can also encourage a greater understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal cultural heritage values. Wiradjuri (noting there are other spellings), is the Aboriginal language used by Tubba-Gah people. The language is being revitalised through learning and teaching and through use.

Management considerations

- Management operations must be carefully planned to ensure that appropriate measures are in place to avoid damage to Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- Wildfire, weeds and the actions of pest animals can lead to damage to cultural heritage values.
- Lack of knowledge of sites may also lead to unintended damage and loss of cultural heritage.

- Further systematic surveys are likely to uncover unrecorded sites and items that require protection and management.
- Inappropriate use, including off-road driving, cycling and motorbike riding and removal of cultural heritage, may lead to damage to sites and features and loss of cultural heritage.
- It is important to manage hunting and resource use in a culturally appropriate and sustainable way, consistent with the ILUA and NPW Act.
- When Tubba-Gah people choose to share knowledge and cultural heritage, their Indigenous cultural and intellectual property should be protected and protocols should be in place for recording, storing, using and sharing knowledge, information and any images.
- Returning items and ancestral remains that have been taken from Country is important for healing Country.
- Applying traditional land management practices such as cultural burning is an important part of caring for Country.

Outcomes

- Aboriginal cultural rights are recognised and promoted.
- Tubba-Gah people are supported to carry out their cultural obligations to care for Country, consistent with the ILUA, including sustainable hunting and resource use.
- Aboriginal cultural heritage values and Indigenous cultural and intellectual property rights are acknowledged, respected and protected.
- Tubba-Gah people are actively involved in park management.
- Visitors experience Aboriginal names, voices and languages, and have an opportunity to develop an understanding of, and respect for, Aboriginal culture and heritage.

Strategies

- Integrate protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage values in fire, weed and pest animal management programs and strategies.
- Work with the Tubba-Gah (Maing) Wiradjuri Advisory Committee to determine the priorities for Aboriginal cultural heritage management, connecting to Country, practising culture on park and involvement in the management and protection of culture and Country. This may include developing a cultural heritage management plan for the parks.
- Establish protocols for the management of hunting and resource use consistent with the ILUA, NPW Act and *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019*.
- Support opportunities for on-Country cultural activities, including ceremony, camping, and teaching and learning. This may include identifying areas for on-Country camping.
- Work with the Tubba-Gah (Maing) Wiradjuri Advisory Committee to integrate Aboriginal knowledge about caring for Country into the management of the park, including opportunities to apply cultural burning practices.
- Work with the Tubba-Gah (Maing) Wiradjuri Advisory Committee to ensure that Aboriginal sites, objects and cultural values are appropriately identified, recorded, managed and protected. This may include returning cultural heritage items and

ancestral remains to Country; and developing protocols for recording, storing, using and sharing knowledge, information and any images.

- Work with the Tubba-Gah (Maing) Wiradjuri Advisory Committee to identify and implement appropriate opportunities to share Aboriginal culture, history and understandings of Country with park visitors, including development of cultural tourism and other business opportunities.
- Promote education alongside implementing enforcement and compliance activities to minimise adverse impacts of inappropriate visitor use on Aboriginal cultural heritage values.
- Facilitate greater recognition of Country and culture in the community and enhance the identity of the park as part of an Aboriginal cultural landscape. This may include incorporating artwork and using Aboriginal language in the naming of places and features, and in signage, interpretation and in web-based material.

Protecting and restoring natural values and healing Country

Protecting natural values means maintaining vegetation communities and populations of native plants and animals and their habitat, including soils, geology, landforms and waterways, in as natural a condition as possible. This is achieved through managing and mitigating the risks associated with threatening processes and restoring landscapes and habitat where there are adverse impacts. This is also achieved through encouraging community support for conservation by promoting the benefits of natural areas to health and wellbeing, and by educating the community about the importance of our natural heritage from a scientific and cultural heritage perspective.

Native plants, animals and vegetation communities

To date, 624 species of native plants have been recorded in the parks. A comprehensive survey of the vegetation in the parks recorded 16 vegetation communities (plant community types) across 6 vegetation classes (Eco Logical 2018). These communities are exceptionally diverse with up to 50 individual species being recorded in some communities. Significantly, the parks represent some of the largest reserved areas of 2 New South Wales vegetation classes (Western Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Forests and Pilliga Outwash Dry Sclerophyll Forests); and the largest reserved area of Goonoo Slopes (Mitchell) landscape (68%).

The parks are dominated by dry sclerophyll forests that comprise ironbark and cypress pine woodland vegetation communities with patches of mallee. Dominant tree species include the narrow-leaved ironbark (*Eucalyptus crebra*), blue-leaved ironbark (*E. nubila*), broad-leaved ironbark (*E. fibrosa*) and black cypress pine (*Callitris endlicheri*). *Allocasuarina* species occur throughout the parks and support a significant population of the threatened south-eastern glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami*) that feed exclusively on *Allocasuarina* species.

The parks also protect habitat for a diverse range of fauna species. To date, 240 native animal species have been recorded in the park, including 160 birds, 31 mammals, 25 reptiles, 10 amphibia, 13 insects and one freshwater crustacean. The parks are particularly important habitat for woodland birds, including the endangered malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) and the vulnerable south-eastern glossy black-cockatoo, Gilbert's whistler (*Pachycephala inornata*) and barking owl (*Ninox connivens*). The parks have also been recognised as a Key Biodiversity Area due to the presence of these threatened species and other significant woodland birds, including diamond firetails (*Stagonopleura guttata*), painted honeyeaters (*Grantiella picta*), and yellow-plumed honeyeaters (*Ptilotula ornata*) (KBA Partnership 2025).

Threatened species and communities

The parks protect 30 threatened animal species (21 birds, 8 mammals and one reptile) and 7 threatened plants (5 shrubs, one orchid and one epiphyte) listed under the Biodiversity Conservation Act. Five of these threatened plants and 9 of the threatened animal species are also listed at a national level under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. A list of threatened species, their scientific names and conservation status is provided in Appendix B.

Significantly, the parks support the most eastern population of the malleefowl and are a major stronghold for south-eastern glossy black-cockatoos and a small population of barking

owls. The parks are also important in protecting the largest remaining population of the endangered shrub Keith's zieria (*Zieria ingramii*).

Two birds recorded in the park are listed on international treaties for the protection of migratory birds and their habitat between Australia and China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. This includes the threatened white-throated needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*).

The critically endangered regent honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*) has undergone a severe decline and retraction in its range in recent years and while the regent honeyeater has been recorded in the parks it is no longer likely to be present. The parks do not provide core habitat for this species, however, they may provide supplementary habitat to support future recovery efforts.

Two endangered ecological communities occur in the parks:

- Fuzzy Box Woodland on alluvial soils of the South Western Slopes, in the Darling Riverine Plains and Brigalow Belt South bioregions
- Inland Grey Box Woodland in the Riverina, New South Wales South Western Slopes, Cobar Peneplain, Nandewar and Brigalow Belt South bioregions.

These vegetation communities have experienced significant fragmentation and degradation across their former ranges. The Inland Grey Box Woodlands are also listed as endangered at a federal level as Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*), Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-Eastern Australia.

All threatened species and communities listed under the Biodiversity Conservation Act are subject to conservation strategies. These conservation strategies identify the parks as priority management sites for the recovery of malleefowl, south-eastern glossy black-cockatoo and populations of 4 threatened plants: pine donkey orchid (*Diuris tricolor*), *Androclava procumbens*, fairy bells (*Homoranthus darwinioides*) and Kieth's zieria. The koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*), malleefowl and Keith's zieria are also subject to national recovery plans.

Research and monitoring

Research and monitoring activities in the parks focus on impacts of threatening processes and threatened species recovery.

Monitoring activities for recovery of malleefowl and south-eastern glossy black-cockatoo populations include an annual count of glossy black-cockatoos and a survey, and monitoring of known malleefowl mounds in the parks every 2 years to record behaviour and breeding activity and to identify new mounds. The results of the malleefowl survey are included in the National Malleefowl Monitoring Database. Information in this database informs recovery efforts aimed at improving the conservation outcomes for this species at a national level.

The Dubbo Field Naturalist and Conservation Society, Tubba-Gah and volunteers are involved in the annual count of the glossy black-cockatoo. Recovery efforts for the south-eastern glossy black-cockatoo also include monitoring of 100 nest boxes installed in the parks to replace natural nesting hollows lost in the 2007 bushfire.

Regional-level research into climate change adaptation and effective pest animal control methods also contributes to the effective management of these threats to park values.

Managing threats

A range of threatening processes operate in the parks and present a risk to the natural values, including culturally significant natural values. Inappropriate fire regimes, activities of

pest animals, weed invasion and climate change present the most risk to natural values in the parks.

Managing fire

The dry sclerophyll forest communities that dominate the parks' landscape are adapted to the presence of fire. Many plant species in these forests reproduce or regenerate after fire disturbance. The plant species in vegetation communities along creeks and waterways in the parks are less likely to need fire to reproduce and regenerate and are more vulnerable to the impacts of fire. Too frequent, infrequent or intense fire can change the structure and composition of these vegetation communities leading to degradation or loss of habitat for native species, including threatened and culturally important species.

As an example, the large, intense wildfire that burnt over 60% of the state conservation area in 2007 destroyed a significant area of foraging and nesting habitat of threatened species, including the malleefowl, south-eastern glossy black-cockatoo and barking owl. The fire also led to a decrease in the availability of suitable habitat for other woodland birds and native animals. The dense stands of the native spurwing wattle (*Acacia triptera*) and broombush (*Melaleuca uncinata*) that established after the fire increased the fire risk in the parks and supressed natural regeneration of other native species. NPWS continues to apply strategic fire management to restore the habitat condition and structure and composition of the vegetation communities affected by this wildfire.

Controlling pest animals

Red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), goats (*Capra hircus*), feral cats (*Felis catus*), pigs (*Sus scrofa*) and feral deer (various species) occur within the parks. While foxes present the most risk to native animals in the parks, the impact of feral cats is also significant. Foxes and cats predate on native species and are a particular threat to malleefowl. Fox control activities in the parks include trapping and baiting. Fox baiting activities occur as part of a regionally coordinated program carried out in conjunction with park neighbours and Local Land Services.

Cats are more difficult to control because traditional trapping and shooting methods have been less effective. NPWS is supporting research and monitoring to identify more effective methods for feral cat control across the landscape.

Pigs are widespread across the parks and surrounding landscape. They pose a risk to native species and their habitat through grazing, trampling, wallowing and spreading disease. Pigs are controlled through trapping, shooting and aerial baiting.

Goats and deer occur in small but growing numbers in the parks. They pose a risk to native species and their habitat through grazing and trampling. They may also be a safety hazard where they venture onto roads. It is important for NPWS to continue to monitor the impacts of these species and take action to control their numbers where there is a risk of adverse impacts.

Controlling weeds

While 46 weed species have been recorded in the parks, the abundance of weeds is exceptionally low. Their impacts are confined to small areas along watercourses and access tracks, and this allows for effective targeted control. Priority weeds requiring control include African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*), blue heliotrope (*Heliotropium amplexicaule*), burrs (*Xanthium* sp.), Paterson's curse (*Echium* spp.) and prickly pear (*Opuntia* spp.). African boxthorn and prickly pear are weeds of national significance which attract additional

obligations for landholders to control and prevent their spread under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

Managing impacts of climate change and other threats

Predicted climate change impacts in the region include higher temperatures, lower rainfall, and a potential increase in frequency of drought conditions. These impacts are likely to increase the risk associated with threatening processes such as fire, weeds and pest animals. Minimising the impacts of these threatening processes, maintaining wildlife corridors and restoring degraded habitat will help to build resilience against the adverse impacts of climate change. Research aimed towards adapting to changing climate will also help to inform management of the natural values in the parks.

Aside from climate change, there are a range of other threatening processes that require management, including:

- damage to vegetation and creek banks from inappropriate visitor use such as off-road driving, cycling and motorbike riding. This damage may result in degradation of foraging, roosting and nesting habitat for native species through increased erosion in creeks and loss of creekside vegetation
- unauthorised firewood collection leading to the loss of breeding and foraging habitat through the removal of hollow-bearing trees, fallen timber, hollow logs and alive and dead standing trees
- increased risk of death or injury to wildlife from vehicle strikes and damage to roadside populations of threatened plants (for example Keith's zieria) from road and trail maintenance activities along major public roads and management trails in the parks.

Management considerations

- Nationally threatened species and communities, and migratory birds listed under international agreements, are matters of national environmental significance under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. NPWS must consider these matters as part of environmental assessment of proposed works and operations.
- Actions and priorities for threatened species listed under the Biodiversity Conservation Act are detailed in threatened species conservation strategies.
- The National Parks and Wildlife Act enables the declaration of land in the national parks estate as an environmental asset of intergenerational significance. These assets of intergenerational significance must be managed in accordance with a conservation action plan. While no environmental assets of intergenerational significance have been declared in the parks, this does not preclude declarations being made in future.
- The primary objectives of NPWS fire management are to protect life, property, community assets and cultural heritage from the adverse impacts of fire, while also managing fire regimes to maintain and enhance biodiversity. The objectives and strategies for fire management in the Goonoo parks are provided in a statement of fire management intent or reserve fire management strategy.
- Applying cultural burning practices where appropriate will support fire management objectives.
- Emergency fire response is jointly coordinated between Orana and Castlereagh bushfire management committees. NPWS representatives sit on these committees.

- It is important to apply optimal fire regimes to maintain the health of vegetation communities and habitat for native species in the parks. These fire regimes are considered and incorporated into regional fire risk management plans (prepared by bushfire management committees under the *Rural Fires Act 1997*) and other NPWS strategic fire management planning processes and procedures.
- Regional priorities for the control of weeds and pest animals are set out in the Local Land Services' regional strategic weed and pest animal management plans (currently LLS 2022 and 2024, respectively, but subject to updates). These plans also outline how NPWS must meet its obligations under the Biosecurity Act.
- Park-specific pest animal and weed management activities are detailed in control plans developed in accordance with NPWS feral animal and weed management strategies.
- The coordinated control of foxes, rabbits and cats across all land tenures helps to promote landscape-scale control, consistent with the priorities set out in the *Central West regional strategic pest animal management plan* (LLS 2024).
- It is important to monitor and manage risks associated with weeds, particularly new incursions and priority weeds, consistent with the *Central West regional strategic weed management plan* (LLS 2022).
- Education and compliance actions are required to manage impacts of inappropriate visitor use, unauthorised firewood collection and risks to wildlife along roads, tracks and trails.

Outcomes

- The condition of the parks' natural values and their resilience against the impacts of threatening processes, including climate change, is improved.
- Knowledge of the parks' natural values and the effectiveness of management actions aimed at improving conservation outcomes for these values is increased.
- Contemporary, sustainable and culturally appropriate management approaches are applied and allow for adaptive management of natural values.

Strategies

- Implement fire management strategies and bushfire risk management priorities consistent with strategic fire management plans and relevant legislation.
- Implement park-specific pest animal and weed management programs in accordance with obligations under the Biosecurity Act and applicable pest animal and weed management strategies and control plans.
- Undertake or support actions to promote the conservation and recovery of threatened species, populations and ecological communities consistent with applicable state and national strategies and any conservation action plans developed for assets of intergenerational significance.
- Restore habitats where necessary and feasible by assisting natural regeneration, ensuring suitable levels of coarse woody debris, undertaking revegetation and implementing fire management regimes which enhance biodiversity.
- Encourage and participate in research and monitoring of the parks' natural values, including research and monitoring of their condition and responses to habitat restoration programs and changing climate.
- Integrate Aboriginal knowledge about caring for Country into the management of natural values, including opportunities to apply cultural burning practices.

- Review and alter management programs and policies as necessary to respond to new information and changing circumstances.
- Promote and encourage volunteer programs, aligning activities to the restoration of priority habitats, monitoring of threatened species and communities, and other park management priorities.
- Promote education alongside implementing compliance and enforcement actions to minimise adverse impacts of inappropriate visitor use on natural values.

Looking after historic heritage

To date, 43 sites and items of locally significant historic heritage found within the parks have been recorded in the Historic Heritage Information Management System. These sites and items are associated with past forestry activities and use of the area during World War II. Features include a fire tower, and the remains of forestry camps, a forest headquarters precinct and sleeper cutters' camps. Evidence of World War II activities include 2 charcoal burning sites and remains of an internee camp site. Other historic heritage items include survey markings on trees, fences and a section of an historic telegraph line.

Management considerations

- The management of historic heritage must comply with the provisions of the *Heritage Act 1977* and activities that may adversely impact historic heritage must be appropriately assessed.
- Wildfire, weeds and the actions of pest animals can lead to damage to historic heritage values.
- Management operations must be carefully planned to ensure that appropriate measures are in place to avoid damaging historic heritage.
- Lack of knowledge of sites and their significance may also lead to unintended damage or inappropriate management and loss of historic heritage values.
- Unauthorised activities and use, including off-road driving, cycling and motorbike riding, vandalism and removal of historic heritage may lead to loss of historic heritage values.

Outcomes

- Sites and items are appropriately protected and managed in accordance with the Heritage Act, any relevant statement of significance or other heritage plans or strategies.
- Protection of heritage values is integrated into fire, weed and pest animal management programs and strategies.

Strategies

- Identify, record and assess the historic heritage values of the park and manage them in accordance with their significance and relevant legislation.
- Undertake works where necessary and appropriate to protect cultural heritage items from further deterioration, subject to the outcomes of required assessments.
- Identify appropriate management actions to preserve and communicate historic heritage values. This may include collecting and recording historic information, active site preservation or passive management to allow natural deterioration after necessary archival recording.
- Incorporate historic heritage values in interpretation and education programs, including signage and web-based material.

Providing opportunities for visitors

Visitation to the parks is low, with an estimate of 2,000 visits annually, however, visitation may increase as the local population grows and when new visitor experiences are provided. The parks are particularly popular among birdwatchers, naturalist groups and locals looking for a nature-based experience close to major towns.

Public vehicle access to the park is along public roads and at Rileys Dam. Vehicle use of management trails is currently only available for park management purposes.

The most popular recreation activities include bushwalking, bush camping, fishing (yabbying), birdwatching and cycling and horse riding along management trails. Management trails in the eastern section of the park form part of the 500 km Central West Cycle Trail linking Mendooran and Ballimore. Currently there are no single-use walking tracks in the parks.

Day use facilities are provided at Rileys Dam (Figure 2) in Goonoo National Park and include picnic tables, a yarning circle and a fire pit. These facilities are also used for on-Country cultural activities. Informal bush camping is also allowed at Rileys Dam.

The Mendooran Road, running through the state conservation area, is a popular route for caravan and campervan touring around Dubbo. There are few opportunities between Dubbo and the town of Mendooran for vehicle-based camping in natural areas. Providing overnight pull-in bays for campervans and caravans would increase camping opportunities in the region and provide opportunities to promote the natural and cultural values of the parks.

There is also potential for commercial tour operators to operate in the parks. Commercial tour operators must have a licence to access the parks for commercial purposes. NPWS may apply conditions to these licences, including conditions related to protection and presentation of Aboriginal cultural heritage information.

Management considerations

- The visitor experience could be improved by providing marked walking tracks that take in natural and cultural heritage features in the parks. This would increase the opportunities for interpretation of park values as well as supporting delivery of education programs.
- Opportunities for safe and sustainable camping could be expanded to include overnight pull-in bays with basic camping facilities for vehicle-based camping along Mendooran Road, formalised camping at Rileys Dam and additional basic camping sites in the parks to support new walking experiences and existing visitor activities.
- Public vehicle access along management trails may be required to provide access to new walking tracks and visitor facilities.
- Development of new visitor experiences and facilities requires careful planning to ensure they are sustainable and align with any regional tourism initiatives.
- Horse riding is permitted on signposted management trails in the state conservation area.

Outcomes

- Recreation opportunities for visitors are compatible with the protection and restoration of the parks' values.

- Opportunities for visitors to learn about and experience the parks' values are improved.

Strategies

- Prepare a visitor management plan to explore options to improve visitor experiences in the parks, including development of new visitor sites for day use and camping, and themed walking routes with interpretation of park values.
- Monitor impacts of visitor use on park values and management operations and use the results to adaptively manage visitor use.
- Where necessary, implement temporary or seasonal closures during essential management operations where conditions present a risk to safety or to protect natural and cultural values.
- Discourage inappropriate use such as unauthorised firewood collection, vandalism and off-road driving, cycling and motorbike riding by educating visitors and implementing compliance and enforcement actions.
- Encourage the community to contribute to the ongoing conservation of the parks by promoting and raising public awareness of the parks' special values.
- Implement an interpretation and education program for the parks to promote safe, sustainable and enjoyable visitor experiences including signage and web-based material.
- Ensure that commercial tour operators are appropriately licensed and licences include conditions relevant to protection and presentation of Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

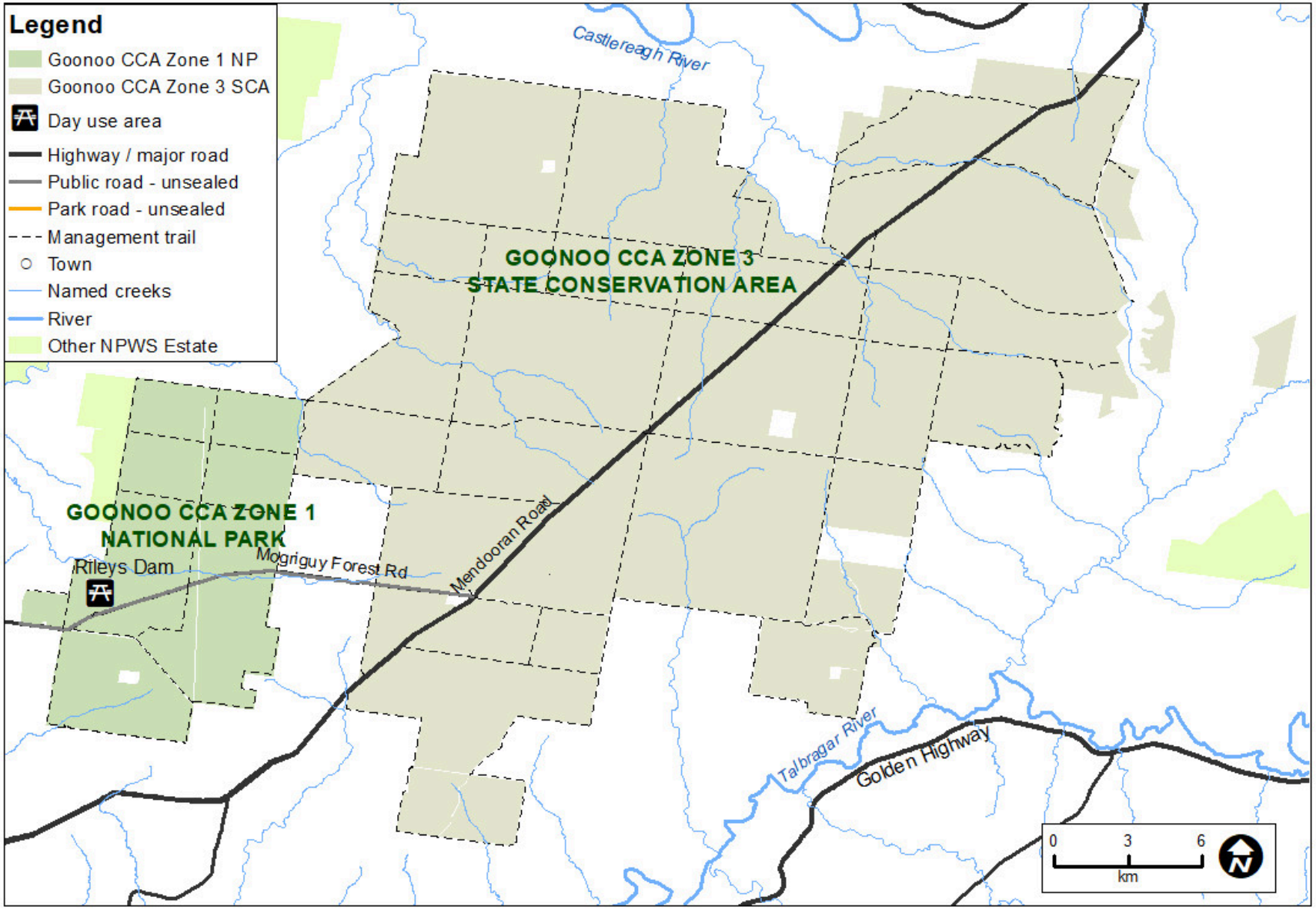


Figure 2 **Goonoo National Park and Goonoo State Conservation Area**

Sustainable management operations

Infrastructure and services

NPWS-managed infrastructure is required in the parks to protect park values, provide opportunities for visitors and to facilitate management operations and emergency response. Park infrastructure includes park roads and management trails, gates, dams, directional and regulatory signs, and visitor facilities such as walking tracks, shelters, picnic tables and toilets.

NPWS assets and infrastructure are managed and maintained through the NPWS Asset Management System. This system provides for delivering, maintaining and replacing the NPWS assets necessary to support safe and sustainable visitor experiences and park management operations, and to minimise impacts on park values.

The development of infrastructure by third parties such as transmission lines, water and sewerage infrastructure and telecommunications facilities will be undertaken outside the parks wherever possible. However, proposals from third parties may be considered after an assessment of environmental and cultural impacts if there are no practical off-park alternatives.

Commercial beekeeping (apiary) and commercial tours are also third-party uses.

All non-NPWS infrastructure and services provided by third parties requires authorisation to legally occupy and use the land. This authorisation is managed by leases, licences, easements and other access agreements under Part 12 of the NPW Act. These instruments define the minimum requirements for ensuring the protection of the natural and cultural values of the parks.

NPWS is required to comply with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and any relevant state environmental planning policies for works and park operations in the park. This includes undertaking an appropriate level of environmental impact assessment before any works are approved. The Tubba-Gah ILUA also sets out a procedure for ensuring that works and park operations that might impact on native title rights are appropriately validated, consistent with the *Native Title Act 1993*.

Reserve access and other NPWS-managed lands

Access to some parts of the parks extends across adjacent lands owned and managed by other authorities or private individuals. Reserve access strategies have been prepared for the parks and are being implemented as opportunity allows. The strategies establish the status of all existing accesses and identify options for securing access for public and management purposes where necessary.

Some sections of public roads deviate from the official road reserve and encroach into the parks. Where this occurs the boundaries of the park may need to be adjusted, consistent with section 188C of the NPW Act and NPWS policy and procedures.

NPWS may facilitate access across NPWS land to properties where there is no other practical means of access, consistent with the NPW Act and NPWS property access policy and procedures.

NPWS manages other lands within and adjacent to the national park and state conservation area. These lands include lands vested with the Minister and Crown lands managed by NPWS under licence. Lands vested with the Minister are known as Part 11 lands and are managed consistent with the NPW Act. Crown lands managed by NPWS are managed

consistent with the relevant Crown land licence conditions. Some of these lands may be added to the parks in future and managed in accordance with this statement.

Essential communications facilities

A repeater station, radio communications tower and associated equipment shed, and access road have been built near the junction of Mendooran Road and Mogriguy Forest Road within Goonoo State Conservation Area. The radio tower and repeater station, maintained by NPWS, provide operational and emergency response capabilities for a large area of the Goonoo parks and are part of the overall integrated radio network for the wider central-west area.

Managing the network of roads, trails and tracks

Public roads, including the unsealed Mogriguy Forest Road and sealed Mendooran Road, run through the parks (Figure 2). These public roads are maintained by local councils or by NSW Government authorities.

Management trails in the parks provide access for management operations such as fire management, weed control, pest animal control, maintenance of park facilities and services, and emergency response activities. Visitors also use management trails for walking, cycling and horse riding.

Vehicle use of management trails is only available for purposes authorised by NPWS. They may be gated to prevent vehicle use other than for park management and other authorised purposes. Park roads and management trails may be subject to temporary or partial closures during essential management operations and in emergencies. Closures may also be required where conditions present a risk to safety or there is a risk of damage to natural and cultural values (such as during and/or after rain). Tracks, trails and roads may also be realigned for safety reasons, to facilitate sustainable visitor use and to protect park values.

Most of the management trails in the parks are identified as strategic or tactical fire trails under the Rural Fires Act. These trails are included in bushfire management committee fire access and fire trail plans (also known as ‘FAFT plans’). These plans identify access requirements for fire suppression and management purposes consistent with the Rural Fires Act. The fire access and fire trail program includes maintaining and upgrading fire trails and the associated fire trail infrastructure to ensure they meet the statewide fire trail standards under the Rural Fires Act

Non-park infrastructure and services

Current third-party uses in the park include use of, and access to, commercial beekeeping (apiary) sites. Licences for commercial beekeeping are issued consistent with the NPW Act and NPWS policy and procedures.

New non-NPWS infrastructure such as transmission lines and telecommunication facilities may only be constructed on park consistent with an authorisation under Part 12 of the NPW Act. Proposals for new infrastructure are required to demonstrate that there is no feasible alternative off-park site, consistent with NPWS policy and procedures.

NPWS also requires removal of redundant infrastructure and revegetation of disturbed sites and any access roads that are no longer required for third-party use unless an environmental impact assessment or other consideration justifies leaving them in place.

Two exploration leases granted under the *Mining Act 1992* are current and active in Goonoo State Conservation Area (EL8469, expiry 2026; and EL9679, expiry 2030). The lease holders may apply to conduct exploration and mining activities in the state conservation area and authorisation may be given subject to conditions and in accordance with any land access agreement.

Management considerations

- The carrying out of works and park operations and the provision of infrastructure and services in the parks may require validation, consistent with the provisions of the ILUA.
- When implementing works to maintain trails at the prescribed fire trail standards, impacts on the parks' natural and cultural heritage values must be minimised. Fire access and fire trail plans may also identify the need for new fire trails in the park. Any new fire trails will be consistent with the approved fire access and fire trail plans and be subject to appropriate heritage and environmental impact assessment. As far as practicable, fire trails will be aligned to minimise impacts to park values.
- Access for the use, operation and maintenance of any authorised third-party infrastructure, including utilities and telecommunications infrastructure, may be provided subject to conditions and guided by protocols where provided.
- Licensed beekeeping activities occur within the parks. These licences are managed consistent with the NPWS beekeeping policy and procedures.
- Exploration, mining and petroleum/gas production activities may be authorised by consent in state conservation areas after considering any necessary environmental and cultural heritage impact assessments, and subject to approvals and authorisations under other applying legislation.

Management objectives

- Provide and maintain NPWS infrastructure to adequately service park management needs, facilitate quality visitor experiences and minimise impact on park values.
- Minimise impacts on park values from non-park or third-party infrastructure and use.

Strategies

- Implement the reserve access strategies to secure park access for public and management purposes.
- Maintain, repair and replace NPWS infrastructure and assets in accordance with asset management policy and procedures.
- Manage the walking track and management trail network to minimise its negative impact on park values. This may include closing tracks/trails not required for management or visitor use and/or upgrading or realigning tracks/trails to ensure safe and sustainable visitor use and park operations after appropriate heritage and environmental assessments.
- Remove infrastructure in the park that is surplus to operational needs, subject to the outcomes of heritage and environmental assessments.
- Identify and rectify park boundary errors, boundary encroachments and proposed boundary adjustments in accordance with the NPW Act as opportunity allows.
- Establish and maintain the fire trail network consistent with approved fire access and fire trail (FAFT) plans and prescribed standards.

- Ensure all approved non-NPWS uses and occupancies of NPWS land are authorised in accordance with Part 12 of the NPW Act.
- Ensure all works and operations are consistent with the provisions of the ILUA.
- Seek removal and site rehabilitation by the relevant owner and operator of obsolete or disused third-party managed infrastructure or sites.

Park operations and activities

The NPW Act and *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019* (NPW Regulation) specify operations and activities allowed in Goonoo National Park and Goonoo State Conservation Area.

Table 1 outlines the key operations and activities and the conditions that apply to these operations and activities, consistent with the NPW Act and NPW Regulation. NPWS may set additional conditions where necessary to facilitate the effective management of the parks or to help achieve the objects of the NPW Act.

Operations that meet the definition of development under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* are also subject to the planning and approval requirements of that Act. This may include the preparation of a review of environmental factors or other forms of environmental assessment.

In addition to the operations and activities outlined in Table 1, NPWS may undertake a broad range of park management operations necessary to manage the park. These may include operations associated with the strategies in this statement of management intent as well as operations such as visitor safety works, education, pest animal control, weed control, asset maintenance and refurbishment, fence construction, fire management and suppression, revegetation and asset removal. The preparation of a review of environmental factors or other forms of environmental assessment may be required for these park operations.

Table 1 Summary of operations and activities

Operations and activities	Conditions
Cultural activities	
Camping	Consistent with ILUA.
Cultural resource use (hunting and gathering)	Consistent with ILUA and any agreed protocols.
Visitor facility development	
Day use facilities	Development of new facilities such as parking areas, barbecues or fireplaces, picnic shelters and tables, toilets and walking tracks may be approved after appropriate assessments.
Camping areas	Camping areas or overnight camping sites may be developed to support visitor activities, including at Rileys Dam and along the Mendooran Road, after appropriate assessments and approvals. Camping areas may include facilities such as car parking, tables, barbecues, shelters, fire pits, toilets and walking tracks. Camping sites may also be established after appropriate assessments to support on-Country cultural activities.
Walking tracks	Walking tracks may be developed after appropriate assessments and approval. Walking tracks may include signage and other small-scale facilities such as seating and bird hides.
Barbecues	The use of portable barbecues is allowed in day use areas and designated camping areas only. All fires may be restricted by a parkwide or total fire ban.
Visitor activities	
Camping	Camping is allowed in designated camping areas.

Goonoo National Park and Goonoo State Conservation Area
Statement of management intent

Operations and activities	Conditions
Cycling	Cycling is allowed on park roads and management trails, consistent with the NPWS cycling policy. Access may be closed on a temporary or seasonal basis during essential management operations where conditions present a risk to safety or to protect natural and cultural values. Cycling is not allowed on walking tracks, off-trail or off-road.
Dog walking and visiting with pets	Visitors cannot be accompanied by pets in the national park or state conservation area, consistent with the NPWS *Pets in park policy*. A person may be accompanied by their trained assistance animal provided they meet the requirements of proof and other conditions set out in the NPWS *Pets in parks policy*.
Drones and model aeroplanes	Recreational use of drones and model aeroplanes is not permitted. Drones may be used for park management and emergency or law enforcement purposes. The use of drones for activities that support park management objectives (e.g. education, research and monitoring or essential park operations) may be authorised through a consent (conditions, exclusion areas and civil aviation regulations apply).
Fishing	Fishing is allowed in the parks subject to the provisions of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.
Horse riding	Horse riding is allowed on signposted management trails.
Vehicle access (including motorbikes)	Registered vehicles are allowed on park roads and along designated management trails only. Access may be closed on a temporary or seasonal basis during essential management operations where conditions present a risk to safety or to protect natural and cultural values.
Wood fires	Wood fires are only allowed where fireplaces are provided. All fires may be restricted by a parkwide or total fire ban. Firewood collection is not permitted.
Research and monitoring	NPWS may undertake research and monitoring. Research by qualified individuals and organisations may be approved through a consent. Additional permissions by also be required under other legislation.
Non-commercial activities	
Non-commercial events, functions and group gatherings	Consent is required for non-commercial group events, functions and gatherings of greater than 40 people, consistent with NPW Regulation and NPWS policy and procedures. Access for group activities may be closed on a temporary or seasonal basis during essential management operations where conditions present a risk to safety or to protect natural and cultural values.
Commercial activities	
Commercial tours, events and functions	Commercial tours, events and functions may be approved through a consent. Conditions may be applied to the consent, including conditions related to presentation of Aboriginal cultural heritage material.
Filming and photography	Filming and photography may be approved through a consent.

Operations and activities	Conditions
Apiary (beekeeping)	Beekeeping activities, including access to sites, is allowed consistent with a licence issued under the NPW Act and consistent with NPWS policy and procedures.
Infrastructure	
Park roads and management trails	Management trails may be realigned and infrastructure associated with park operations upgraded after appropriate assessments and approvals.
Development of utility infrastructure (e.g. telecommunication facilities, transmission lines)	The development of utility infrastructure that is in the public interest and consistent with the provisions of the NPW Act may be considered and authorised in accordance with the NPW Act. Approval will be subject to necessary assessments and confirmation that alternative locations outside the park are not feasible. The access to and maintenance of utility infrastructure may be authorised in accordance with the NPW Act and any other necessary approvals, and subject to NPWS policy and procedures or protocols.
Mining and exploration	Exploration, mining and petroleum/gas production activities may be authorised by consent in the state conservation area after considering any necessary environmental and cultural heritage impact assessments, and subject to approvals and authorisations under other applying legislation.

Appendices

Appendix A: Objects of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*

The objects of the NPW Act, set out in section 2A of the Act are:

a. The conservation of nature, including, but not limited to, the conservation of —

   i. habitat, ecosystems and ecosystem processes, and

   ii. biological diversity at the community, species and genetic levels, and

   iii. landforms of significance, including geological features and processes, and

   iv. landscapes and natural features of significance including wilderness and wild rivers,

b. the conservation of objects, places or features (including biological diversity) of cultural value within the landscape, including, but not limited to —

   i. places, objects and features of significance to Aboriginal people, and

   ii. places of social value to the people of New South Wales, and

   iii. places of historic, architectural or scientific significance,

c. fostering public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of nature and cultural heritage and their conservation,

d. providing for the management of land reserved under this Act in accordance with the management principles applicable for each type of reservation.

Appendix B: Threatened species recorded in the parks

Table 2 Threatened plants

Common name	Scientific name	Park	BC Act status	EPBC Act status
Androcalva procumbens	*Androcalva procumbens*	NP and SCA	V	V
Fairy bells	*Homoranthus* darwinioides	NP and SCA	V	V
Keith's zieria	*Zieria ingramii*	NP and SCA	E	E
Leafless indigo	*Indigofera efoliata*	SCA	E	E
Pine donkey orchid	*Diuris tricolor*	SCA	V	Not listed
Scant pomaderris	*Pomaderris queenslandica*	SCA	E	Not listed
Tylophora linearis	*Tylophora linearis*	NP and SCA	V	E

Table 3 Threatened animals

Common name	Scientific name	Park	BC Act status	EPBC Act status
Birds				
Black-chinned honeyeater (eastern subspecies)	*Melithreptus gularis gularis*	SCA	V	Not listed
Barking owl	*Ninox connivens*	SCA	V	Not listed
Brown treecreeper (eastern subspecies)	*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*	NP and SCA	V	V
Diamond firetail	*Stagonopleura guttata*	SCA	V	V
Dusky woodswallow	*Artamus cyanopterus cyanopterus*	NP and SCA	V	Not listed
Fork-tailed swift	*Hirundapus caudacutus*	SCA	Not listed	C, J, K
Gilbert's whistler	*Pachycephala inornata*	SCA	V	Not listed
Grey-crowned babbler (eastern subspecies)	*Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis*	NP and SCA	V	Not listed
Little eagle	*Hieraaetus morphnoides*	SCA	V	Not listed
Little lorikeet	*Glossopsitta pusilla*	NP and SCA	V	Not listed
Malleefowl	*Leipoa ocellata*	NP and SCA	E	V
Masked owl	*Tyto novaehollandiae*	SCA	V	Not listed
Painted honeyeater	*Grantiella picta*	SCA	V	V
Regent honeyeater*	*Anthochaera phrygia*	NP and SCA	CE	CE

Common name	Scientific name	Park	BC Act status	EPBC Act status
Southern whiteface	*Aphelocephala leucopsis*	SCA	V	V
South-eastern glossy black-cockatoo	*Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami*	NP and SCA	V	V
South-eastern hooded robin	*Melanodryas cucullata cucullata*	SCA	E	E
Speckled warbler	*Chthonicola sagittata*	NP and SCA	V	Not listed
Square-tailed kite	*Lophoictinia isura*	SCA	V	Not listed
Turquoise parrot	*Neophema pulchella*	SCA	V	Not listed
Varied sittella	*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*	NP and SCA	V	Not listed
White-throated needletail	*Hirundapus caudacutus*	NP and SCA	V	V, C, J, K
Mammals				
Black-striped wallaby	*Macropus dorsalis*	SCA	E	Not listed
Corben's long-eared bat	*Nyctophilus corbeni*	SCA	V	V
Eastern pygmy-possum	*Cercartetus nanus*	SCA	V	Not listed
Koala	*Phascolarctos cinereus*	SCA	E	E
Little pied bat	*Chalinolobus picatus*	SCA	V	Not listed
Southern hairy-nosed wombat	*Lasiorhinus latifrons*	SCA	E	Not listed
Spotted-tailed Quoll	*Dasyurus maculatus*	SCA	V	E
Yellow-bellied sheathtail-bat	*Saccolaimus flaviventris*	SCA	V	Not listed
Reptiles				
Western blue-tongued lizard	*Tiliqua occipitalis*	SCA	V	Not listed

Source: BioNet Atlas, accessed 16/04/2025.

*Regent honeyeater is no longer likely to be present in the parks.

BC Act = NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act; EPBC Act = Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act; V= vulnerable; E = endangered; CE = critically endangered; C = China and Australia international treaty for protection of migratory birds and their habitat; J = Japan and Australia international treaty for protection of migratory birds and their habitat;

K= Republic of Korea and Australia international treaty for protection of migratory birds and their habitat.

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LLS (2024) *Central West regional strategic pest animal management plan 2024–2028*, Central West LLS.

NNTT (National Native Title Tribunal) (2015) Tubba-Gah Indigenous Land Use Agreement (NI2015/001), NNTT Register of ILUAs.

More information

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this park or this statement, contact the NPWS Central West Area Office, located at 74 River Street Dubbo NSW 2830, on (02) 6841 7100 or at npws.centralwest@environment.nsw.gov.au.

The following links also provide more information:

- Managing parks prior to plan of management policy
- Fire management planning
- National Parks and Wildlife Act (No 80) 1974
- Biodiversity Conservation Act (No 63) 2016
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- Local Land Services regional strategic pest animal management plans
- Local Land Services regional strategic weed management plans

Disclaimer: This is a statement of management 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 Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water liable for any loss or damage. 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 the park.

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