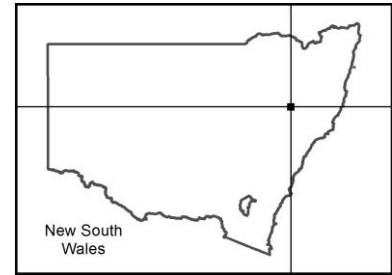


Statement of Management Intent



Wallabadah National Park Community Conservation Area Zone 1

1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Wallabadah Community Conservation Area (CCA) Zone 1 National Park. This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the park until a plan of management has been prepared in accordance with the [National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 \(NPW Act\)](#). The NPWS [Managing Parks Prior to Plan of Management Policy](#) states that parks and reserves without a plan of management are to be managed in a manner consistent with the intent of the NPW Act and the 'precautionary principle' ([see Principle 15](#)).

2. Management principles

Zone 1 community conservation areas are reserved as national parks under the NPW Act to protect and conserve areas containing outstanding or representative ecosystems, natural or cultural features or landscapes or phenomena that provide opportunities for public appreciation, inspiration and sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment. Under the NPW Act ([section 30E](#)), Zone 1 community conservation areas are managed to:

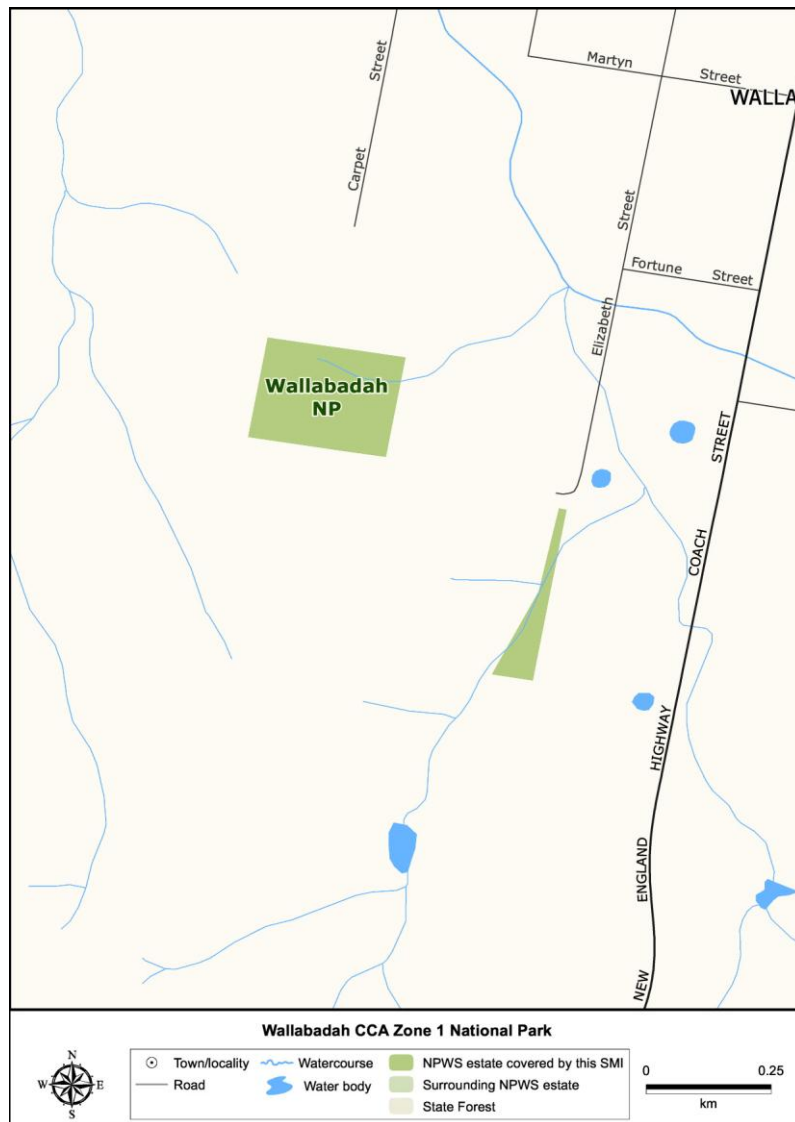
- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, protect geological and geomorphological features and natural phenomena and maintain natural landscapes
- conserve places, objects, features and landscapes of cultural value
- protect the ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for present and future generations
- promote public appreciation and understanding of the park's natural and cultural values
- provide for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment that is compatible with conservation of natural and cultural values
- provide for sustainable use (including adaptive reuse) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas having regard to conservation of natural and cultural values
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

The primary purpose of Zone 1 community conservation areas is to conserve nature and cultural heritage. In doing so, opportunities are provided for appropriate and sustainable recreation.

3. Context

Reservation details: Wallabadah National Park (CCA Zone 1) was reserved on 1 January 2011.

Size: 5.8 hectares.



Wallabadah National Park is located approximately 4 kilometres south of the small township of Wallabadah and approximately 55 kilometres south of Tamworth. It falls within the Nandewar Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Liverpool Plains Shire Council, North West Local Land Services and Nungaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Wallabadah National Park was established under the *National Park Estate (South-Western Cypress Reservations) Act 2010*. The reserve comprises two small sections to the west of the New England Highway and is surrounded by Crown tenure. The land was previously managed as two separate sections, one section was Crown land and the other was public land managed by a reserve trust (under Liverpool Plains Shire Council).

In 2006 Aboriginal ancestral (human) remains were discovered at Willow Tree, approximately 15 kilometres south-west of Wallabadah National Park. In partnership with, and at the request of the Nungaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council and Quirindi Aboriginal Community, the remains were

repatriated and laid to rest within Wallabadah National Park in July 2011 to preserve and protect them in a secure place.

4. Values

- Wallabadah National Park is the place of a culturally significant Aboriginal burial site. Ancestral human remains were repatriated and laid to rest in the park at the request of the local Aboriginal community. The site represents the spiritual significance of the Wallabadah region to Aboriginal people and is an important part of Aboriginal culture and tradition.
- The vulnerable eastern cave bat (*Vespadelus troughtoni*) has been recorded in the park. The park may also support habitat for other threatened species including the endangered bush stone-curlew (*Burhinus grallarius*), the vulnerable brown treecreeper (eastern subspecies) (*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*) and the vulnerable little eagle (*Hieraaetus morphnoides*) which have all been recorded in close proximity and are likely to occur in the park.
- The park contains White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland which is listed as an endangered ecological community under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act). This community is listed as critically endangered under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), listed as White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland.
- The park also borders one of the largest stands in New South Wales of White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland; this is managed as a Common under Liverpool Plains Shire Council.

5. Issues

- Pest animals known to occur in the park include red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral cats (*Felis catus*) and rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*).
- Weed species currently recorded within Wallabadah National Park include pasture grasses, St John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), sweet briar (*Rosa rubiginosa*), various thistle species, prickly pear (*Opuntia* sp.), boxthorn (*Lycium* sp.) and blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.).
- The park historically contained a rubbish tip that is now revegetating.
- Fire has not been recorded in the park for a long period and there is a need to investigate whether hazard reduction burning is required to reduce fuel loads.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Wallabadah National Park [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Fire regimes will be identified, to protect biodiversity in the park and undertake fuel reduction burning where required.
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Central Coast Hunter Region. Priority species for control include St John's wort, prickly pear, blackberry and red fox.
- Control of fire and pest species will be undertaken in cooperation with Liverpool Plains Shire Council and neighbours.
- NPWS will continue to consult in an appropriate manner with the Nungaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council and Quirindi Aboriginal Community in order to determine the community's

wishes for the future management of the burial site in accordance with the NPWS Repatriation of Aboriginal Cultural Material Policy and Guidelines.

- Interpretive material will be developed in conjunction with the local Quirindi Aboriginal Community to help improve community understanding of the Aboriginal burial site in Wallabadah National Park.
- The old tip site will be monitored for weeds and options investigated for rehabilitating this site.
- All management activities will be preceded by the preparation of an environmental assessment or heritage assessment where this is a requirement of NPWS policy or legislation.
- Environmental repair and threat management programs, such as erosion mitigation measures, pest management, and activities arising from threatened species requirements may be implemented in accordance with NPWS policies and procedures.
- Non-intrusive works may be undertaken where necessary to protect cultural heritage items from further deterioration, to ensure the safety of visitors, to protect wildlife or to prevent damage to park assets.
- A plan of management will be prepared to set out the ongoing management objectives for the park. The plan of management is a statutory document under the NPW Act which will be available for public comment. NPWS will also encourage the community to contribute to the ongoing conservation of the park by promoting and raising public awareness of its special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this park or this statement, contact the NPWS Scone Office on (02) 6540 2300 or 137 Kelly Street, Scone NSW 2337.

Disclaimer: This is a statement of intent to guide the management of the park prior to the development of a plan of management. Any statements made in this publication are made in good faith and do not render the Office of Environment and Heritage liable for any loss or damage. Provisions in the final plan of management may vary from those identified in this document as a result of new information and community consultation. The maps in this statement are intended to show the park's location and basic features only, and are not suitable for use when navigating to or exploring within parks.

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