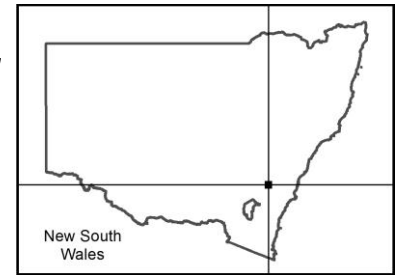


# Statement of Management Intent



## Back Arm Nature Reserve

### 1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Back Arm Nature Reserve. This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the reserve 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

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 NPW Act ([section 30J](#)), 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
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

The primary purpose of nature reserves is to conserve nature. Nature reserves differ from national parks in that they do not have the provision of visitor use as a management purpose or principle.

### 3. Context

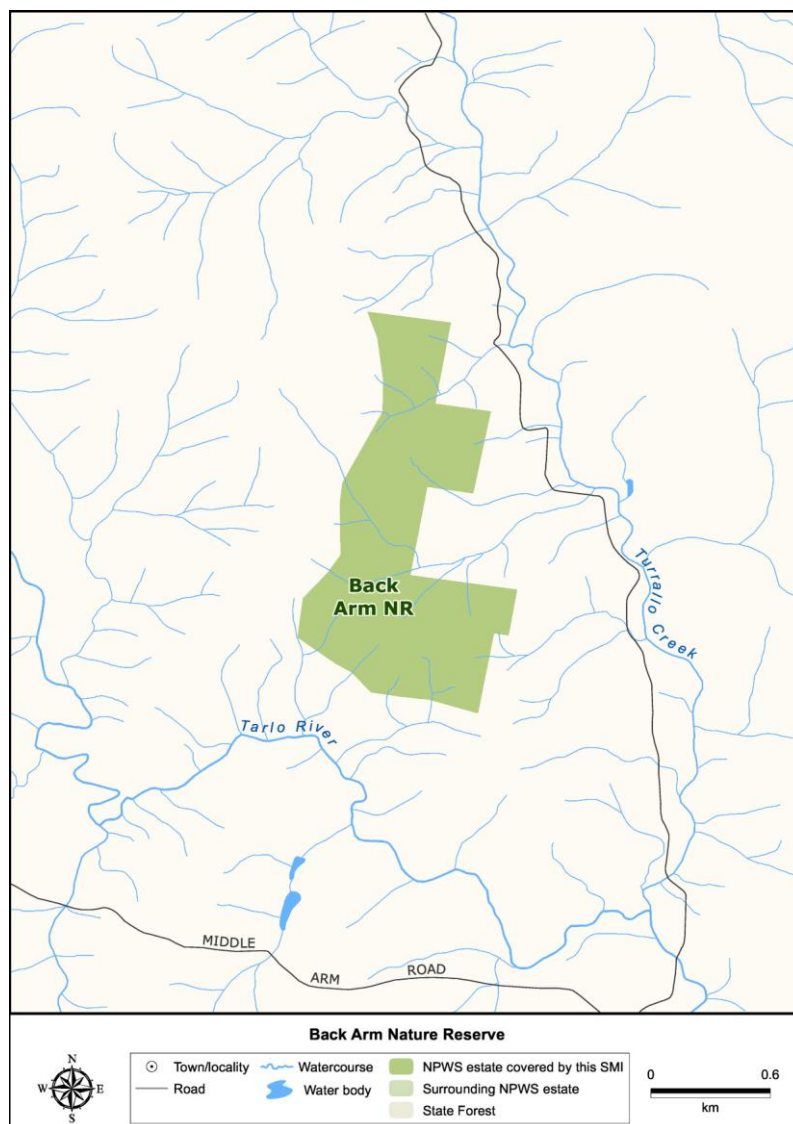
**Reservation details:** Back Arm Nature Reserve was reserved on 13 August 2010.

**Size:** 91 hectares.

Back Arm Nature Reserve is located approximately 21 kilometres north of Goulburn. The reserve is situated on the southern end of a forested ridge, 857 metres above sea level. It falls within the South Eastern Highlands Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Upper Lachlan Shire Council, South East Local Land Services and Pejar Local Aboriginal Land Council. The reserve also falls within the area of the Gundungurra Indigenous Land Use Agreement.

The reserve is surrounded by a mosaic of cleared, semi-cleared and some forested rural lands. The reserve was previously Crown land managed by NSW Trade and Investment (Crown Lands Division).

The vegetation of the reserve is typically dry tableland communities, with a eucalypt-dominant canopy layer and sparse grassy or shrubby understoreys. The central and south-west sections of the reserve are dominated by broad-leaved peppermint (*Eucalyptus dives*), brittle gum (*E. mannifera*) and red stringybark (*E. macrorhyncha*). There are large areas in the north and south-east of the reserve dominated by snow gum (*E. pauciflora*) and candlebark (*E. rubida*). Smaller areas in the north and south of the reserve are dominated by red stringybark, inland scribbly gum (*E. rossii*) and bundy (*E. goniocalyx*). Riparian areas associated with the unnamed creek lines are dominated by brittle gum and cabbage gum (*E. amplifolia*).



#### 4. Values

- There have been limited plant surveys of the reserve and no threatened species are known to occur. Based on existing vegetation mapping, the endangered ecological community commonly known as Tablelands Snow Gum Grassy Woodland (Tablelands Snow Gum, Black Sallee, Candlebark and Ribbon Gum Grassy Woodland in the South Eastern Highlands, Sydney Basin, South East Corner and NSW South Western Slopes Bioregions)

is predicted to occur. The endangered buttercup doubletail (*Diuris aequalis*) may also occur because it has been recorded nearby and the reserve is located within its predicted range.

- There have been no detailed native animal surveys of the reserve and no threatened animals recorded. However, threatened animal species recorded within five kilometres are considered likely to occur in or use the reserve. These include the gang-gang cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*), powerful owl (*Ninox strenua*) and varied sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*).
- The reserve lies within the traditional country of the Gundungurra Aboriginal people. There have been no comprehensive archaeological surveys and no cultural sites are recorded in the reserve. However, considering the landscape and known records in the surrounding area it is likely that sites exist.
- The reserve has aesthetic value providing a prominent forested backdrop within a rural landscape. Visitation is very low due to issues with access (see below) and the remote location. There are several interest groups (naturalist society and botanist groups) that visit the reserve periodically.

## 5. Issues

- Pest animals and weeds are not significant issues for the reserve. The European red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) is known to occur and it is likely that the European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) also occurs.
- Prior to its reservation as nature reserve, the area was grazed and logged under the previous Crown land tenure. While still evident, the impacts from this past use are expected to diminish over time.
- Further survey and vegetation sampling within the reserve is required to more accurately map the reserve's vegetation and determine the presence of any threatened species or threatened ecological communities.
- There is incomplete knowledge of the animal species using the reserve and their ecological requirements.
- The reserve is relatively small and isolated with the surrounding areas cleared or semi-cleared, making it more vulnerable to disturbances and to pressures from adjacent land uses. The reserve is subject to illegal firewood collection.
- Some sections of boundary fencing are in poor condition. Livestock straying onto the reserve has been identified as a potential issue, however at this stage it is not a significant problem.

## 6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Goulburn Group of Reserves Type 1 [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): South Coast Region.
- Plant and animals surveys in the reserve will be undertaken and encouraged.
- In consultation with the Aboriginal community, opportunities to survey and record Aboriginal sites within the reserve will be investigated.
- Relevant parties will be consulted and involved as required under the Gundungurra Indigenous Land Use Agreement.
- Park identification and regulatory signage will be installed where required.

- Access to the reserve for management purposes will be formalised.
- Subject to available resourcing, assistance may be provided to neighbours to install stock-proof boundary fencing for the reserve in accordance with the NPWS Boundary Fencing Policy.
- 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 reserve assets.
- A plan of management will be prepared to set out the ongoing management objectives for the reserve. 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 reserve by promoting and raising public awareness of its special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this reserve or this statement, contact the NPWS Highlands Area Office on (02) 4887 8244 or Nowra Road, Fitzroy Falls or PO Box 707, Nowra NSW 2541.

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**Disclaimer:** This is a statement of intent to guide the management of the reserve 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 reserve's location and basic features only, and are not suitable for use when navigating to or exploring within parks.

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