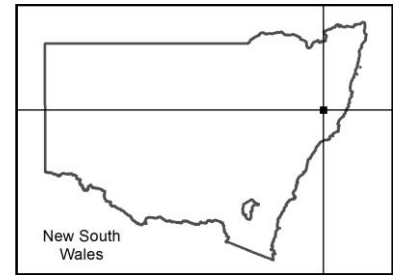




Statement of Management Intent



Barakee National Park and Barakee State Conservation Area

1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Barakee National Park and Barakee State Conservation Area (SCA). This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of these parks 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

National parks are reserved 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](#)), national parks are managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, and 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 national parks is to conserve nature and cultural heritage. Opportunities are provided for appropriate visitor use in a manner that does not damage conservation values.

State conservation areas are reserved under the NPW Act to protect and conserve areas that:

- contain significant or representative ecosystems, landforms or natural phenomena or places of cultural significance
- are capable of providing opportunities for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment, the sustainable use of buildings and structures, or research
- are capable of providing opportunities for uses permitted under other provisions of the NPW Act.

Under the NPW Act ([section 30G](#)), 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.

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

3. Context

Reservation details: Barakee National Park was reserved on 1 January 1999 and Barakee SCA was reserved on 23 December 2005.

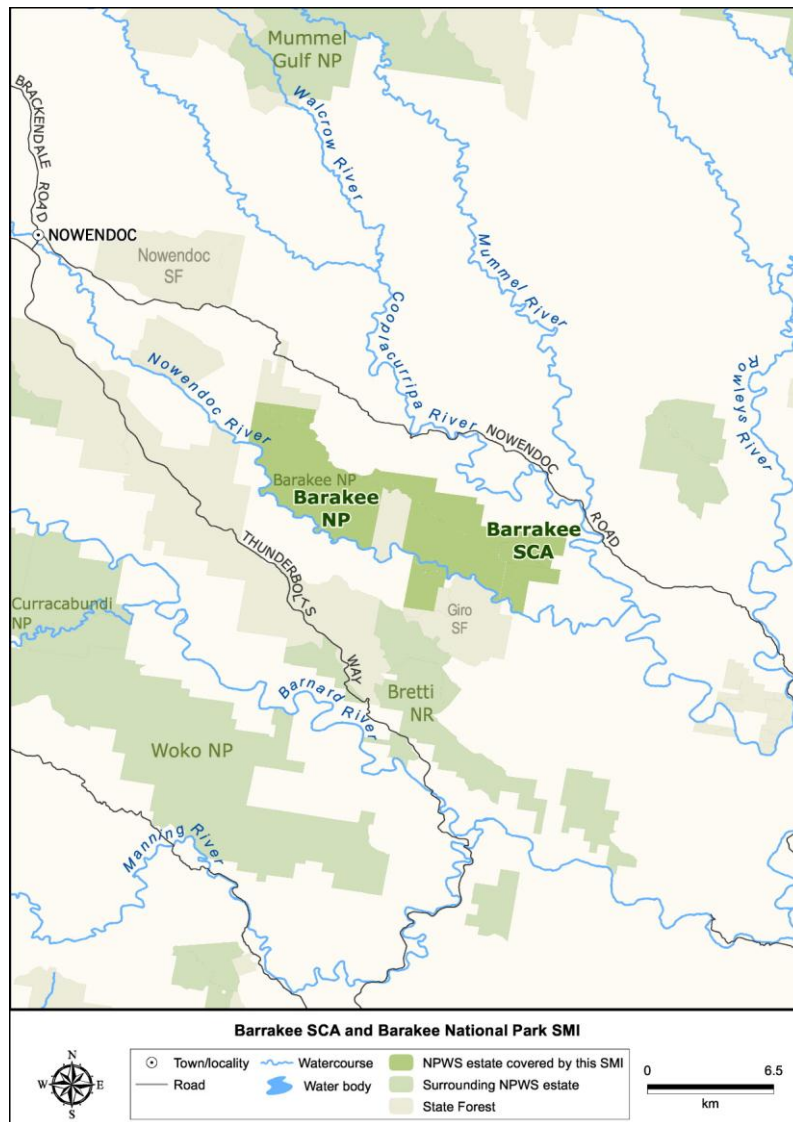
Size: Barakee National Park is 5010 hectares and Barakee SCA is 174 hectares.

Barakee National Park and Barakee SCA are located approximately 37 kilometres north of Gloucester. They fall within the NSW North Coast Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Greater Taree City Council, Hunter Local Land Services and Purfleet/Taree Local Aboriginal Land Council. Part of Barakee National Park also extends into the administrative area of Gloucester Shire Council.

Barakee SCA is a small reserve that extends part of the eastern section of Barakee National Park. Barakee National Park and Barakee SCA together form a long, narrow reserve that straddles a ridge line of steep mountainous terrain. Giro State Forest forms part of the south-east and northern boundary and Crown tenure, private agricultural land and Brett Nature Reserve surround the remainder of the parks.

Barakee National Park and Barakee SCA form part of a vegetated corridor extending from the Manning River floodplain to the Great Dividing Range, linking a diverse habitat assemblage and supporting a number of threatened fauna species. Vegetation communities are dominated by Sydney blue gum (*Eucalyptus saligna*), forest red gum (*E. tereticornis*), river oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*), thin-leaved stringybark (*E. eugenioides*), tallowwood (*E. microcorys*), grey gums

(*E. punctata*, *E. canaliculata* and *E. biturbinata*), white mahogany (*E. acmenoides*), pink bloodwood (*Corymbia intermedia*), broad-leaved apple (*Angophora subvelutina*) and apple box (*E. bridgesiana*).



4. Values

- Barakee National Park and Barakee SCA protect habitat for the threatened glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*), scarlet robin (*Petroica boodang*), flame robin (*Petroica phoenicea*), eastern false pipistrelle (*Falsistrellus tasmaniensis*), koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) and eastern bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis*).
- Other threatened species likely to occur include yellow-bellied glider (*Petaurus australis*), spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*), stuttering frog (*Mixophyes balbus*), parma wallaby (*Macropus parma*), glandular frog (*Litoria subglandulosa*), golden-tipped bat (*Kerivoula papuensis*), eastern pygmy-possum (*Cercartetus nanus*), sphagnum frog (*Philoria sphagnicolus*), sooty owl (*Tyto tenebricosa*) and powerful owl (*Ninox strenua*).
- The parks protect a high diversity of forest ecosystems and vegetation communities, including significant stands of old-growth forest and rainforest habitat.
- Although the parks are remote and difficult to access, resulting in low visitor numbers, Barakee National Park offers visitors a natural bushland experience. Nature-based recreational

opportunities available at Ernies Flat include camping, fishing, four-wheel driving, swimming and walking.

5. Issues

- Pest animals which may occur in the parks include wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.), feral horses (*Equus caballus*), feral cats (*Felis catus*), European red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) and rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*).
- Weed species occurring in the parks include giant Parramatta grass (*Sporobolus fertilis*), blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), crofton weed (*Ageratina adenophora*), exotic grasses, and lantana (*Lantana camara*). Noogoora burr (*Xanthium occidentale*) has recently been identified within the parks.
- Parts of the parks have been impacted by grazing, including cattle mustering and firestick farming, and this has altered the vegetation complex in parts of the parks.
- There have been incidences of agricultural burns entering the parks from neighbouring properties and from escaped campfires, compromising optimal fire regimes and thresholds appropriate for the vegetation of the parks.
- There have been incidences of visitors to Ernies Flat engaging in unlawful behaviour such as unauthorised horse mustering, rubbish dumping and inappropriate vehicle use.
- There is a hut on the southern side of the Nowendoc River in Barakee National Park which is periodically used by visitors.

6. Key management directions

- Manage fire in accordance with the Barakee National Park [Fire Management Strategy](#). This strategy has been reviewed and updated to incorporate Barakee SCA and a recent addition to Barakee National Park.
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the priorities of the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Lower North Coast Region. Current priorities include the control of wild dogs to protect neighbouring assets (stock).
- Continue to liaise with the Purfleet/Taree Local Aboriginal Land Council and Elders regarding the management of Barakee National Park and Barakee SCA.
- Investigate options for future management of camping adjacent to the Nowendoc River.
- Determine the history and use of the hut on the southern side of the Nowendoc River in Barakee National Park, and resolve future management arrangements for the structure.
- 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 parks. 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 parks by promoting and raising public awareness of their values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of these parks or this statement, contact the NPWS Manning Hastings Area, Taree Office on 02 6552 4097 or 78 Hargreaves Drive, Taree NSW.

Disclaimer: This is a statement of 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 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 parks' location and basic features only, and are not suitable for use when navigating to or exploring within parks.

Published by:

Office of Environment and Heritage
59 Goulburn Street, Sydney NSW 2000
PO Box A290, Sydney South NSW 1232
Phone: (02) 9995 5000

ISBN 978 1 74359 424 7
OEH 2013/0112
May 2014