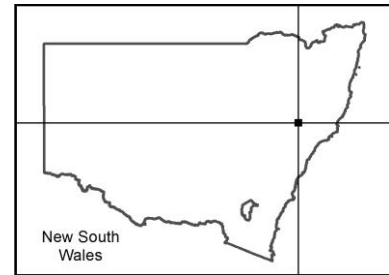


# Statement of Management Intent



## Brushy Hill 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 Brushy Hill 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

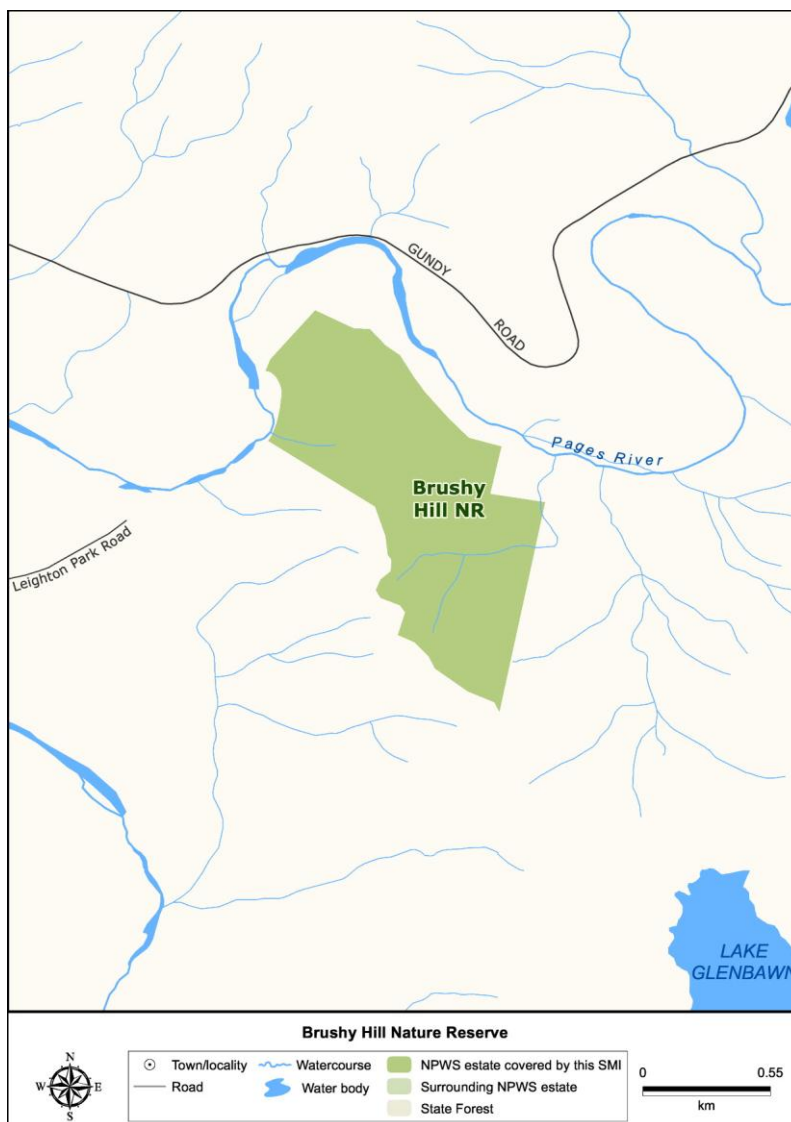
**Reservation details:** Brushy Hill Nature Reserve was reserved on 23 December 2005.

**Size:** 80 hectares.

Brushy Hill Nature Reserve is located approximately 20 kilometres north-west of Scone in the Upper Hunter Valley of New South Wales. It falls within the NSW North Coast Bioregion and within the administrative areas of the Upper Hunter Shire Council, Hunter Local Land Services and the Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Brushy Hill Nature Reserve was established in 2005 as a component of the Crown land review under the North East Regional Forest Agreement process. The reserve is located on the northern end of the Brushy Hill Range, north of Glenbawn Dam. It is surrounded by private land used for

grazing and some cropping. The Pages River is close to its northern boundary. The reserve forms part of the Hunter Valley regional corridor that links the Brushy Hill Range to the valley floor and the Barrington Tops in the east.



#### 4. Values

- A variety of threatened flora species and vegetation communities occur within Brushy Hill Nature Reserve. The tiger orchid (*Cymbidium canaliculatum*) and river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) have been recorded in the reserve and both are endangered populations in the Hunter catchment. The reserve protects two endangered ecological communities: Hunter Valley Vine Thicket in the NSW North Coast and Sydney Basin Bioregions and White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland.
- Although no comprehensive fauna surveys have been undertaken within Brushy Hill Nature Reserve, regional assessments indicate potential habitat for a variety of threatened species including yellow-bellied glider (*Petaurus australis*), spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*), painted honeyeater (*Grantiella picta*), hooded robin – south eastern form (*Melanodryas cucullata cucullata*), turquoise parrot (*Neophema pulchella*) and regent honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*). Recent bird surveys identified 44 species including two that are vulnerable: the glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*) and speckled warbler (*Chthonicola sagittata*). The area also provides important habitat for woodland birds.

- There is a historic limestone quarry and associated relics in Brushy Hill Nature Reserve. Known as the Segenhoe Lime Quarry and Works site, it includes a lime-burning site with an attached quarry and a substantial amount of machinery, including a kiln. The quarry and works site has potential State Heritage significance.

## 5. Issues

- A number of weed species are known to occur including prickly pear (*Opuntia* spp.), African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*), castor oil plant (*Ricinus communis*), Paterson's curse (*Echium* spp.), sweet briar (*Rosa rubiginosa*), thorn apple (*Datura stramonium*), Bathurst burr (*Xanthium spinosum*), hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) and broad-leaf pepper tree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) as well as a number of pasture grasses and thistles.
- Pest animal species known to occur include the European fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral deer (various species), feral cats (*Felis catus*), wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.), rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and goats (*Capra hircus*).
- In the past, cattle entering the reserve from neighbouring properties have created grazing pressures in low lying areas of the reserve.

## 6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Brushy Hill Nature Reserve [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the priorities of the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Central Coast Hunter Region. The priority focus will be the control of weeds in the lower lying areas to protect cultural heritage sites and woodlands.
- Feral deer numbers and impacts will be opportunistically monitored, and control measures implemented where needed.
- Temporary fencing may be erected to prevent the movement of domestic grazing stock onto the reserve.
- Aerial baiting and trapping occurs in surrounding areas to control foxes, rabbits and goats. Ground baiting for wild dogs and foxes will be undertaken within Brushy Hill Nature Reserve as required.
- The limestone quarry and works site will be managed as a historic ruin.
- 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 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 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.

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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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