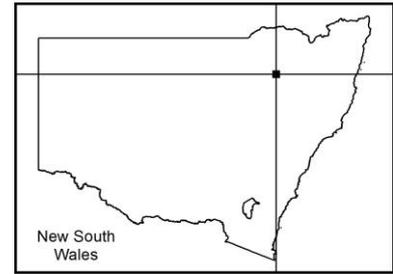


# Statement of Management Intent



## Deriah Aboriginal Area Community Conservation Area Zone

### 1. Introduction

NPWS acknowledges that this Aboriginal area is in the traditional Country of the Gamilaraay<sup>1</sup> Aboriginal People.

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Deriah Community Conservation Area Zone 2 Aboriginal Area (Deriah Aboriginal Area). This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the area until a plan of management has been prepared in accordance with the [National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974](#). 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 National Parks and Wildlife Act and the ['precautionary principle'](#) (see [Principle 15](#)).

### 2. Management principles

Zone 2 community conservation areas are reserved as Aboriginal areas under the National Parks and Wildlife Act to protect and conserve areas associated with a person, event or historical theme, or containing a building, place, object, feature or landscape that is of natural or cultural significance to Aboriginal people, or important in improving the understanding of Aboriginal culture and its development and transitions. Under the Act ([section 30 K](#)), Aboriginal areas are managed to:

- conserve natural and cultural values
- allow the use of the Aboriginal area by Aboriginal people for cultural purposes
- promote public appreciation and understanding of the park's natural and cultural values and significance where appropriate
- 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 of the Aboriginal people
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring, in accordance with the cultural values of the Aboriginal people.

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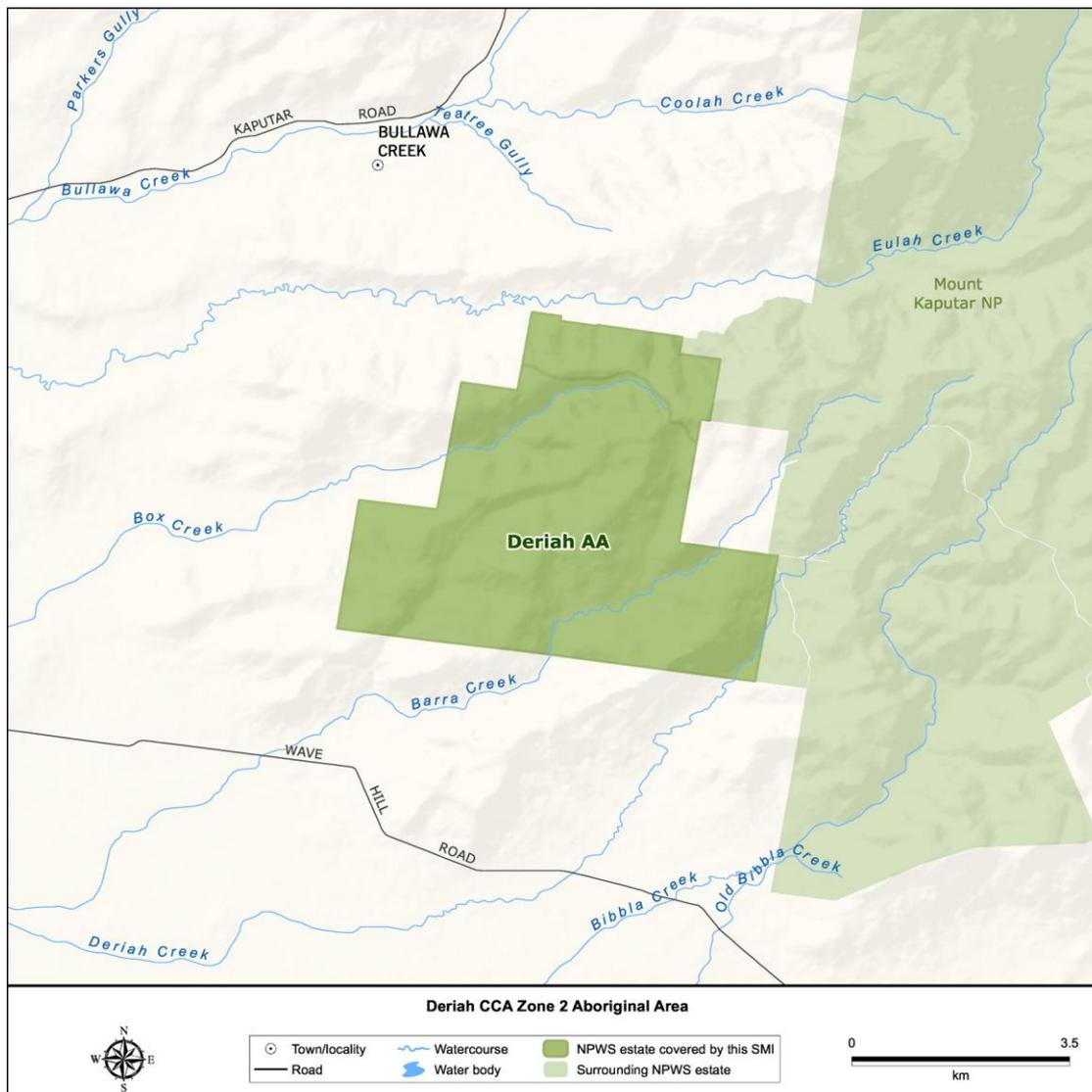
<sup>1</sup> Preferred spelling. Alternative spellings include Gomeroi, Kamilaroi and Gamilaroi

Aboriginal areas are places that have been identified as having special significance to Aboriginal people. They are established for the purpose of conserving Aboriginal heritage.

**Joint Management:** Deriah Aboriginal Area is jointly managed by NPWS and the Deriah Aboriginal Area Co-management Committee through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in January 2012.

As traditional custodians of the land, Aboriginal people have a unique role to care for and manage Country. This role overlaps with NPWS's legislative responsibilities to manage land for conservation. Partnerships recognise and capitalise on these mutual interests and responsibilities, including recognising that:

- all parks are part of Aboriginal people's Country and are places where Aboriginal people can care for their Country and access their Country and its resources. They play an important role in the maintenance of Aboriginal culture and connection to Country
- Aboriginal communities obtain cultural, social and economic benefits through being involved in park management
- working in partnership, NPWS and the Aboriginal community are better able to protect and interpret cultural heritage and to apply Aboriginal knowledge to land management and the conservation of cultural and natural values
- visitors to parks have an enriched experience through interaction with Aboriginal people and an understanding of Aboriginal cultural values.



### 3. Context

**Reservation details:** Deriah Aboriginal Area was reserved on 1 December 2005.

**Size:** 2,240 hectares.

**Background:** Deriah Aboriginal Area is located 25 kilometres east of Narrabri on the north-western slopes of NSW.

The park is located on the western slopes of the Nandewar Range, adjacent to Mount Kaputar National Park.

Prior to reservation the park was within Deriah State Forest and used for selective logging. Surrounding land uses to the north, west and south are mostly agricultural, including cropping and grazing.

The exact origin of the name *deriah* is unknown although it may be a derivation of the Gamilaraay word *dhiriya*, meaning 'old'.

The park is located within the areas of the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council, North West Region Local Land Service and Narrabri Shire Council. Deriah Aboriginal Area is jointly managed by NPWS and the Deriah Aboriginal Area Co-management Committee

#### 4. Values

- Deriah Aboriginal Area forms an important part of the cultural landscape for the Gamilaraay Aboriginal People including connections between people, land and spirit (Country).
- Deriah Aboriginal Area is jointly managed by NPWS in cooperation with Deriah Aboriginal Area Co-management Committee, and in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding.
- Aboriginal sites in the park include scarred trees, modified trees, open artefact scatters, grinding grooves and sandstone shelters.
- The park provides an important habitat link between the Brigalow Belt South and the Nandewar bioregions for native plants and animals. A colony of the endangered brush-tailed rock-wallaby (*Petrogale penicillata*) is located on the adjacent Mount Kaputar National Park.
- The park features two endangered ecological communities listed as Ooline Community in the Nandewar and Brigalow Belt South and Semi-evergreen Vine Thicket in the Brigalow Belt South and Nandewar Bioregions. These communities are listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. The Semi-evergreen Vine Thicket in the Brigalow Belt South and Nandewar Bioregions is also listed under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
- The park protects habitat for threatened species, including the endangered Australian brush-turkey (*Alectura lathamii*) population in the Nandewar and Brigalow Belt South Regions, mature stands of ooline (*Cadellia pentastylis*), and the scant pomaderris (*Pomaderris queenslandica*).
- The park provides day use visitor facilities off Carinya Road. They include an information bay, the Wagun Picnic Area, and the Ooline, Biruu Gaba and Hawkes Nest Cliffs walking tracks.

#### 5. Issues

- The park lies within the area subject to a registered native title claim by the Gomeroi People (NC11/006). This claim is active but is yet to be determined. If upheld it is likely an Indigenous Land use Agreement will be negotiated which will replace the Memorandum of Understanding that currently provides guidance on Aboriginal joint management of the Aboriginal area.
- Pest animals likely to have an impact on threatened species include the European fox, feral pig and feral goat. A continuous fox baiting program has occurred in the park since 2003 to protect the brush-tailed rock-wallaby colony located in adjacent Mount Kaputar National Park. The park is part of a priority site under the NSW Fox Threat Abatement Plan (2010).

## 6. Key management directions

- Manage Deriah Aboriginal Area in cooperation with the Deriah Aboriginal Area Co-management Committee, and in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding.
- Provide opportunities for Aboriginal people to access Country, to maintain, renew or develop cultural practices and associations.
- Provide opportunities for Aboriginal people to be involved in park management including the collection and management of information about cultural sites and values and the protection and interpretation of cultural sites.
- NPWS supports non-commercial cultural use of wild resources by the Aboriginal community, such as gathering of medicinal plants and bush tucker, subject to NPWS policies and licensing.
- Fire is managed in accordance with the Kaputar Range [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#), and the NSW Fox Threat Abatement Plan. Current critical control priorities are for fox control.
- Trails that are excess to management requirements will be mapped and closed. Maintain all management trails and roads to minimise soil erosion. Construct a new fire trail to protect private property between Deriah AA and Mt Kaputar NP.
- Maintain the information bay, the picnic area, and walking tracks to appropriate standards. No camping or wood fires are permitted, except for cultural purposes or with consent from the Deriah Aboriginal Area Co-management Committee.
- An extension of the Biruu Gaba Walking Track to the south is proposed.
- A designated site for low key cultural camping is proposed off Barra Road at a site to be determined. This site will not be available to the general public.
- Upgrade the Hawkes Nest Cliffs Walking Track.
- Encourage use of the park for low impact nature-based recreational and educational purposes.
- 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 and wildlife or to prevent damage to park assets.
- A plan of management will be prepared to set out the on-going management objectives for the area. The plan of management is a statutory document under the National Parks and Wildlife Act which will be available for public comment. NPWS will also encourage

the community to contribute to the on-going conservation of the area by promoting and raising public awareness of the special values of the area.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this park or this statement, contact the NPWS Narrabri Area Office on (02) 6792 7300.

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**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.

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