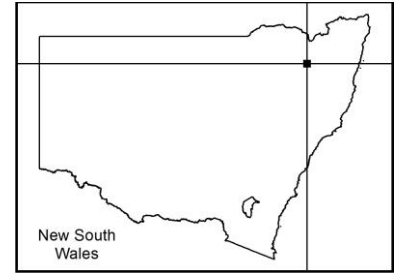


# Statement of Management Intent



## Stonewoman Aboriginal Area

### 1. Introduction

NPWS acknowledges that this Aboriginal area is in the traditional Country of the Anaiwan Aboriginal people.

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Stonewoman 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

Aboriginal areas are reserved 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.

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.

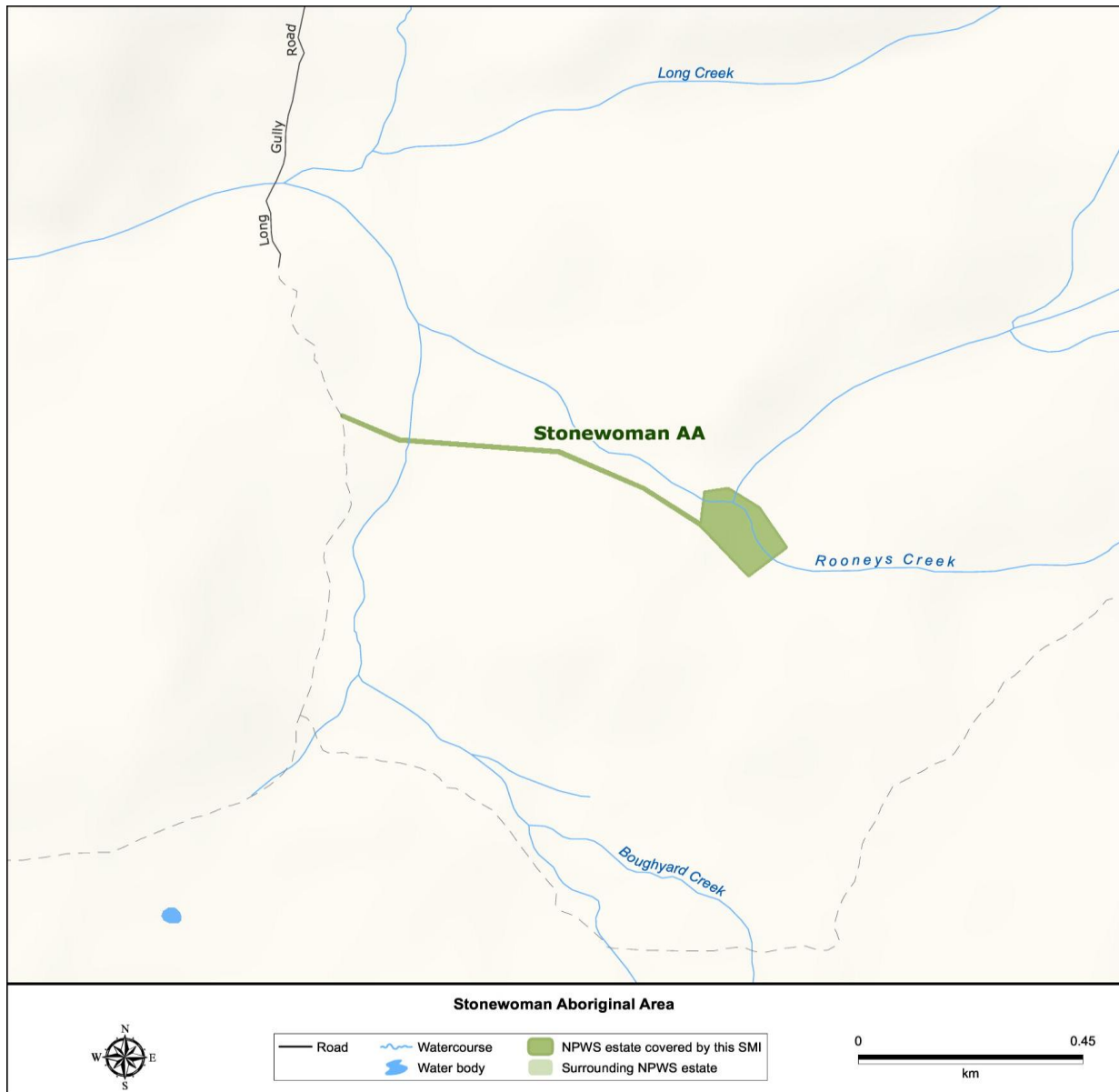
### 3. Context

**Reservation details:** Stonewoman Aboriginal Area was reserved on 6 June 1980.

**Size:** 2 hectares.

**Background:** Stonewoman Aboriginal Area is located 6 kilometres south of Tingha on the northern tablelands of NSW.

The park is located within the administrative areas of the Anaiwan Local Aboriginal Land Council, Northern Tablelands Region Local Land Service and Armidale Regional Council.



## 4. Values

- Stonewoman Aboriginal Area forms an important part of the cultural landscape for the Anaiwan & Kamilaroi Aboriginal people including connections between people, land and spirit (Country).
- The Tingha Stonewoman site is the focal point of the park. It is an unusual rock formation on Rooney's Creek that has spiritual and cultural significance for the local Aboriginal people. It is a sacred place used as a women's teaching and ceremonial site.
- The park provides a 750-metre walking track leading to the Tingha Stonewoman site. The site is fenced with a pedestrian gate and interpretive signs. The visitor areas provide opportunities to share local Aboriginal culture with visitors.

## 5. Issues

- A carpark, basic day use area, 300 metre section of walking track and stile are located at the end of Long Gully Road on a Crown road reserve outside of the park. These facilities were constructed by NPWS in 1999 as an entrance point to the park.
- Unauthorised activities have been known to occur, including vandalism.
- Some members of the community have suggested that the park would be better known as "Tingha Stonewoman Aboriginal Area".

## 6. Key management directions

- Manage Stonewoman Aboriginal Area in cooperation with the local Aboriginal community.
- 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.
- Consult with Aboriginal Communities regarding the most appropriate name for the park and enact a change if agreement is reached.
- 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.
- Maintain on-park facilities. No camping or wood fires are permitted. No additional facilities will be constructed.
- Maintain the entrance point facilities located on Crown land in consultation with the Crown land authority. Investigate transfer of Crown land at the entrance point to NPWS.
- Unauthorised activities will be addressed by enforcement and regulatory signage where appropriate.
- Fire is managed in accordance with the Stonewoman Aboriginal Area [Fire Management Strategy](#).

- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#).
- 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 park. 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 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 Glen Innes Office on (02) 6739 0700.

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**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 parks' location and basic features only, and are not suitable for use when navigating to or exploring within parks.

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