



NSW NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE

# Glenrock State Conservation Area

Draft Plan of Management



© 2022 State of NSW and Department of Planning and Environment

With the exception of photographs, the State of NSW and Department of Planning and Environment are pleased to allow this material to be reproduced in whole or in part for educational and non-commercial use, provided the meaning is unchanged and its source, publisher and authorship are acknowledged. Specific permission is required for the reproduction of photographs.

The Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) has compiled this report in good faith, exercising all due care and attention. No representation is made about the accuracy, completeness or suitability of the information in this publication for any particular purpose. DPE shall not be liable for any damage which may occur to any person or organisation taking action or not on the basis of this publication. Readers should seek appropriate advice when applying the information to their specific needs.

All content in this publication is owned by DPE and is protected by Crown Copyright, unless credited otherwise. It is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International \(CC BY 4.0\)](#), subject to the exemptions contained in the licence. The legal code for the licence is available at [Creative Commons](#).

DPE asserts the right to be attributed as author of the original material in the following manner: © State of New South Wales and Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2022.

Cover photo: [Burwood Beach](#). Adam Hollingworth/DPE

This plan of management is a draft for public comment. The provisions in the final plan may differ from the provisions of this draft document.

This is the second plan of management for Glenrock State Conservation Area. Once adopted, this plan of management will replace the plan of management for Glenrock State Conservation Area (NPWS 2010) adopted in 2010.

Published by:

Environment and Heritage Group  
Department of Planning and Environment  
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124  
Phone: +61 2 9995 5000 (switchboard)  
Phone: 1300 361 967 (Environment and Heritage enquiries)  
TTY users: phone 133 677, then ask for 1300 361 967  
Speak and listen users: phone 1300 555 727, then ask for 1300 361 967  
Email: [info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au)  
Website: [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)

Report pollution and environmental incidents  
Environment Line: 131 555 (NSW only) or [info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au)  
See also [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)

ISBN 978-1-922900-09-8  
EHG 2022/0536  
November 2022

Find out more about your environment at:

**[www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)**

# Contents

Have your say	v
What happens to your feedback?	v
Your privacy	v
How to use this plan	vi
Acknowledgements	vi
Contact us	vi
Connection to Country	vii
Glenrock State Conservation Area	1
Why this park is important	1
Management principles	2
1. Protecting the natural environment	4
2. Looking after our culture and heritage	6
3. Providing for visitor use and enjoyment	7
3.1 Visitor management zones	7
3.2 Visitor opportunities	13
4. Park infrastructure and services	16
5. Non-park infrastructure and services	18
6. Scheme of operations	19
7. Park use regulations	26
7.1 Recreational activities	26
7.2 Events, functions and commercial activities	28
8. More information	30

## List of tables

Table 1	The park and its regional setting	2
Table 2	Visitor management zones*	10
Table 3	Scheme of operations	20
Table 4	Park use regulations – recreational activities	26
Table 5	Park use regulations – activities requiring prior approval	29

## List of figures

Figure 1	Location of Glenrock State Conservation Area	1
Figure 2	Visitor management zones	9

# Have your say

We want to know what you think about this draft plan. To give us feedback, please send a written submission via:



the [online survey](#)



email to [npws.parkplanning@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:npws.parkplanning@environment.nsw.gov.au)

post to Manager, Planning and Assessment, NPWS, Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124.

Written submissions must be received by **6 February 2023**.

Our response to your submission will be based on the merits of the ideas and issues you raise, rather than the quantity of submissions making similar points. For this reason, a submission that clearly explains the matters it raises will be the most effective way to influence the finalisation of the plan.

Submissions are most effective when we understand your ideas and the outcomes you want for park management. Some suggestions to help you write your submissions are:

- write clearly and be specific about the issues that are of concern to you
- note which part or section of the document your comments relate to
- give reasoning in support of your points – this makes it easier for us to consider your ideas and will help avoid misinterpretation
- tell us specifically what you agree or disagree with and why you agree or disagree
- suggest solutions or alternatives to managing the issue if you can.

## What happens to your feedback?

- Step 1: At the close of the public exhibition period, we consider all submissions and prepare a submissions report.
- Step 2: We provide the relevant National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) advisory committees with the draft plan, all of the submissions and the submissions report. They consider the documents, make comments on the plan or suggest changes, and provide advice to the Minister for Environment and Heritage.
- Step 3: The Minister considers the plan, submissions and advice, makes any necessary changes and decides whether to adopt the plan under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

## Your privacy

Your submission will be provided to NPWS advisory bodies. Your comments on the draft plan may include personal information. The Department of Planning and Environment complies with the NSW *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*, which regulates the collection, storage, quality, use and disclosure of personal information. For details see our privacy statement (see link in the 'More information' section).

Information that identifies you may be gathered when you use our website or send us an email. If you indicate in your written submission that you object to your submission being made public, we will ask you before releasing your submission in response to any access applications under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.



# How to use this plan

This plan of management directs the management of Glenrock State Conservation Area (referred to as 'the park' or 'Glenrock SCA'). This plan includes a scheme of operations consistent with section 72AA of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Once the plan is adopted, no management operations can be undertaken that are not consistent with the plan and its scheme of operations. This plan will also apply to any future additions to Glenrock State Conservation Area.

Sections 1 to 5 of the plan summarise the park's key values, management principles and management considerations. These matters are outlined thoroughly in the *Glenrock State Conservation Area planning considerations* report. **It is recommended that readers of the plan refer to the planning considerations report for detailed explanations of the park's values and management considerations.**

The scheme of operations (Section 6) is the core part of this plan. It describes the desired outcomes for the park's values and actions that National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) proposes to undertake to achieve these outcomes.

The park use regulations tables (Section 7) set out the recreational and commercial activities that are permitted in the park and any requirements to undertake these activities, including whether consent must be sought from the NPWS to undertake them.

The 'More information' section provides links to key webpages and documents referred to in this plan. Full reference details are provided in the planning considerations report.

## Acknowledgements

Glenrock State Conservation Area is in the traditional Country of the Awabakal People.

This plan of management was prepared by staff of NPWS.

## Contact us

For more information about this plan or Glenrock State Conservation Area, contact the NPWS Lower Hunter Area Office, Nardoo Building at 1 Wetlands Place, Shortland, NSW 2307 or by email at [npws.lowerhunter@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:npws.lowerhunter@environment.nsw.gov.au).

# Connection to Country

Glenrock State Conservation Area is part of an ancient landscape. The park's land and watercourses have traditionally been under the care of the Awabakal People. They called the Newcastle area 'Mullobinbah' and referred to themselves as the 'Biraban' or Eaglehawk Tribe. Aboriginal people have a deep spiritual and cultural connection to Country. Their ancestors have lived here for tens of thousands of years, and form part of this living landscape. The existence and protection of cultural sites so close to the centre of the city of Newcastle makes the park highly significant to Aboriginal people.

Connections to Country and the significance of the park to Aboriginal peoples – past, present and future – are acknowledged and respected in this plan. The role of Aboriginal people in identifying traditional connections and custodians for this place is acknowledged and supported.

## What is 'Country'?

To Aboriginal people, the landscape is made up of many features that are interrelated. These include land, water, plants and animals, places and stories, historical and current uses, and people and their interactions with each other and place. These features are central to Aboriginal spirituality and contribute to Aboriginal identity. They are inseparable and make up what is known as 'Country'.

**Aboriginal sites** are places with evidence of Aboriginal occupation or places that are related to other aspects of Aboriginal culture. They are important as evidence of Aboriginal history and as part of the culture of local Aboriginal people.

# Glenrock State Conservation Area

Glenrock State Conservation Area ('the park' or 'Glenrock SCA') is located approximately 8 kilometres from the central business district of Newcastle (see Figure 1). The park stretches along the coastline between the residential suburbs of Dudley and Merewether, and provides an area for local residents and visitors to connect with nature and enjoy the outdoors. See Table 1.

## Why this park is important

The park is valued for its coastal vistas, ecological richness and the diverse range of accessible recreational opportunities that it provides for the people of Newcastle and surrounding communities. The park has significant Aboriginal cultural values and historic heritage values. The park also provides opportunities for research, education and experiential learning. Key values of the park include:

- a diverse natural landscape that protects habitat for a wide range of plants and animals
- a wide range of recreational opportunities ranging from solitude to active pursuits
- spiritual significance to people of the Awabakal language group and other Aboriginal families
- substantial historic heritage values including remnants from early coalmining activities in New South Wales and settlement in the Newcastle region. Almost all of Glenrock SCA is listed under the State Heritage Register, recognising the importance of the land surrounding individual sites in managing their heritage significance.

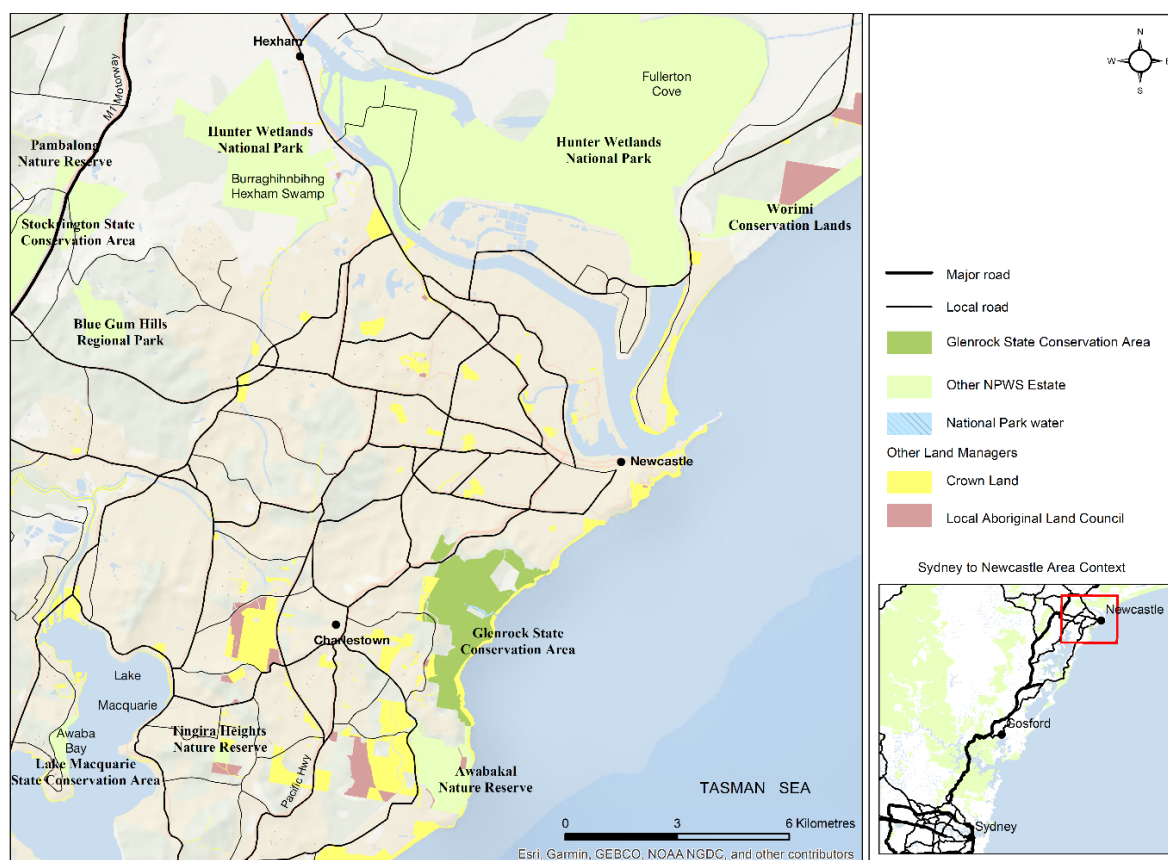


Figure 1 Location of Glenrock State Conservation Area



**Table 1 The park and its regional setting**

Features	Description
Area	The park covers 554 ha of land that extends along the coast from Merewether in the north to Dudley in the south.
Reservation date	The majority of the park was gazetted in 1986. Various small additions were made after 2010.
Previous tenure	Historically, significant portions of the park were privately owned. The Mitchell family owned all the land that now forms Glenrock SCA from 1835 until 1910 (known then as Burwood Estate, then Merewether Estate). Private holdings were sold off which was the beginning of the suburb now known as Merewether. NPWS acquired private land from the Bailey family in 1986 which was gazetted as park. Over the last 30 years a mixture of land tenures have been added to the park, including BHP land, Crown land and Hunter District Water Board lands. Glenrock Scout Camp land is owned by Scouts NSW, and the Burwood Beach Wastewater Treatment Works is owned by Hunter Water Corporation (see Figure 2).
Biogeographic region	The park falls within the Sydney Basin Bioregion.

## Management principles

Development of the objectives, actions and regulations in this plan has been directed by the management principles outlined in the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

The National Parks and Wildlife Act requires a **state conservation area** be managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem function, protect natural phenomena and maintain natural landscapes
- conserve places, objects and features of cultural value
- having regard to the conservation of the state conservation area's natural and cultural values:
  - provide for the undertaking of uses permitted under other provisions of the Act in such areas (including uses permitted under section 47J)
  - provide for the carrying out of development in any part of a special area (within the meaning of the *Hunter Water Act 1991*) in the state conservation area that is permitted under section 185A
  - provide for the sustainable use (including adaptive re-use) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas
- provide for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment that is compatible with the conservation of the state conservation area's natural and cultural values and with uses permitted under other provisions of this Act in such areas
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

Land is reserved as a state conservation area primarily where mineral values preclude reservation as another category. In future, and subject to the agreement of the Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992*, Glenrock SCA may be categorised as a national park. The provisions of this plan of management will still apply even if the state conservation area is reclassified. The management of the state conservation area will be guided by the management principles for national parks as far as possible. These requirements have been considered in this plan of management and are set out below.

The National Parks and Wildlife Act requires that a **national park** be managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem function, 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 national park's natural and cultural values
- provide for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment that is compatible with the conservation of the national park's natural and cultural values
- having regard to the conservation of the national park's natural and cultural values, provide for the sustainable use (including adaptive re-use) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.



Photo 1 NPWS-run school excursion – Yuelarbah Track. Adam Hollingworth/DPE



# 1. Protecting the natural environment

Glenrock SCA protects a diverse landscape, including deep gullies, coastal rainforest, beaches and rocky cliffs. It forms part of the only significant bushland corridor remaining in Newcastle, connecting with the Awabakal Nature Reserve and the Belmont Wetlands State Park to the south of the park (Figure 1).

The 550 hectares of native vegetation protected within the park is significant because much of the native vegetation in the Lower Hunter has cleared or severely modified. The park contains 5 threatened ecological communities, 7 threatened plants and 10 threatened animals. The park also protects many common native plants and animals, some of which are important to Aboriginal people as totemic species and bush tucker.

The geology of the area has shaped the way Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people have interacted with the landscape. Most significant are the coal measures, which are exposed in ocean cliff faces and are considered to be among the finest examples of this type of cliff coal measure in the world. The park also includes fossil deposits embedded in conglomerate sediments, including fossilised tree trunks on Dudley Headland. There are numerous natural creek lines forming part of the Flaggy Creek and Little Flaggy Creek catchments, which flow into Glenrock Lagoon.

The combination of conglomerates that weather to highly dispersible clay soils and the undulating terrain of the park make the soils particularly prone to erosion. Stormwater from adjoining urban areas carries sediment, weeds and pollutants into the park, impacting the park's waterways and beaches.



Photo 2 Water flowing over a fossilised rock platform, Flaggy Creek. John Spencer/DPE



The major threats to biodiversity include ongoing habitat isolation, pest animals, weeds and the increasing number of visitors to the park. Human disturbances include the construction and proliferation of unplanned and unauthorised tracks, which have potential to cause significant impacts to the natural values in the park, such as vegetation loss and fragmentation, soil erosion and further spread of weeds. Climate change also poses a major threat to the park's flora and fauna due to the potential for increased fire severity and frequency, and increased coastal erosion and flooding events.

Management actions to mitigate priority threats to park values include implementation of the Biodiversity Conservation Program, which is delivered through the Saving our Species program (or similar programs), relevant Australian Government recovery plans, and regional pest and weed strategies. Strategic park planning and ongoing maintenance activities for sustainable visitor use, in particular recreational activities, is crucial to the conservation of Glenrock's natural environment. Ecological health monitoring has the potential to inform the effectiveness of management actions in the park and help to guide future conservation investment. Continuing partnerships with volunteer and community groups and other land and waterway management agencies are vital to the ongoing success of management programs in the parks.



**Photo 3** Squirrel glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*). Pavel German/DPE

## 2. Looking after our culture and heritage

There is a long and continuing connection between Aboriginal people and the park. People of the Awabakal language group and other Aboriginal families, groups and people have cared for the landscape for tens of thousands of years. The Awabakal People continue to care for Country today and practice cultural traditions in the park.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) recognises the deep spiritual significance of this area to Aboriginal people. Continuation of access for Aboriginal people to care for Country and to maintain, renew or develop cultural connections and practices is extremely important. Aboriginal people are and will continue to be part of park planning and decision-making. There are opportunities to share and celebrate the Aboriginal connections to this important cultural landscape and to build community understanding and awareness.

The park has significant cultural value and preserves a considerable proportion of what remains of Newcastle's physical Aboriginal heritage. Evidence suggests that the area has been cared for by the Aboriginal community for thousands of years. Shell middens, stone artefact scatters, axe grinding grooves, ochre quarry sites and a traditional Aboriginal pathway are known to exist in the park. Rock shelters with shallow earth floors may have been used by Aboriginal people in the past for camping and are likely to contain artefacts.

The cliffs and coastline of the park with their exposed layers of tuff, coal and ochre have been a manufacturing and export centre for thousands of years. The Awabakal particularly prized the many layers of rhyolitic tuff, a stone rich in silica, hard, smooth and fine grained. It is the hardest form of this rock that was used in tool manufacture. Raw rock and stone tools from the Burwood Beach Aboriginal quarry were traded throughout the Hunter Valley. The local axe heads were highly prized and have been found as far inland as Quirindi in north-west NSW, demonstrating the Awabakal People's extensive trade and communication routes into the Country of other Aboriginal peoples.

A cultural landscape assessment was undertaken in 2021 and 2022 and identified numerous additional cultural sites throughout the park. All newly identified sites have been recorded and added to the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database.

Ongoing threats to Aboriginal sites and places include fire, vandalism, natural physical weathering as well as erosion processes accelerated by historical land uses such as mining, farming and infrastructure. More recently, unplanned and unauthorised walking and mountain bike track construction have impacted sites. Given the highly erodible soils within the park, it is likely that more sites could be exposed.

The park also contains state heritage listed historic heritage values. The management of these values is currently guided by the *Glenrock Lagoon cultural landscape conservation management and cultural tourism plan*. The remains of 'old' Burwood Colliery, one of the oldest and best-preserved remains of a 19th century coalmine in the Hunter, contributed to the listing of the park on the State Heritage Register. Other recorded historic sites include Mitchells tunnel, Australia's first commissioned copper smelter, a unique coastal railway on Burwood Beach and the buildings within Baileys visitor precinct.

Unauthorised track construction, vandalism and unauthorised off-track recreational activity have potential to impact on heritage sites. Large storm events are causing substantial erosion leading to infrastructure damage and visitor safety issues.

Appropriate conservation management plans or heritage impact statements will be prepared as required covering historic archaeological sites and cultural landscapes in Glenrock SCA. The plans will provide a framework to guide decision-making about the conservation and interpretation of Glenrock SCA's significant historic archaeological heritage.



### 3. Providing for visitor use and enjoyment

Glenrock SCA is one of the last remaining significant bushland areas in Newcastle. The park supports a range of nature-based recreational opportunities, including bushwalking, trail running, orienteering, bike riding, gliding (hang-gliding and paragliding), rock climbing, horse riding and water-based activities such as surfing and beach fishing.

The NSW Government's *NSW Visitor economy strategy 2030* includes a commitment to develop and promote accessible tourism products, experiences and visitor precincts. NPWS focus will be on improving access within Glenrock SCA where possible. Information will be communicated and promoted through our website and park signage.

Strategies are needed to balance the protection of Glenrock's natural and cultural values with the increasing demand for a range of recreational activities. A visitor management zoning scheme has been developed to guide management of the park.



Photo 4 Hickson Street Track – raised walkway to Burwood Beach. John Spence/DPE

#### 3.1 Visitor management zones

The park receives around one million visits per year. This number is projected to increase given the park's proximity to a growing population in Newcastle and the surrounding Hunter region. This plan establishes a strategic framework and outlines actions to achieve a balance between the conservation of the park's natural and cultural values and the provision of a range of visitor experiences.

Visitor management zones have been defined for the park to guide the provision of visitor facilities, experiences and help inform visitor expectations. Three zones have been identified based on physical features, environmental and cultural conservation priorities, and desired levels of visitor use (see Figure 2).

The zones identify appropriate locations for passive and active recreational activities and the level of visitor facilities that are compatible with the management principles for each zone (see Table 2). The zones will inform strategic prioritisation of resources and management effort, and provide a clear picture of how the park will be managed to balance visitor use and conservation. New visitor facilities and improvements or upgrades to visitor facilities in any zone will be guided by this plan and either a master plan or precinct plan and are subject to the outcomes of environmental and cultural impact assessments.

Visitors need to exercise a level of etiquette and self-regulation to ensure everyone enjoys their experience and stays safe. NPWS will continue to improve signage and visitor infrastructure in the park to facilitate user experiences, as resourcing allows, and engage with user groups to develop a code of conduct for enjoying and protecting Glenrock SCA.

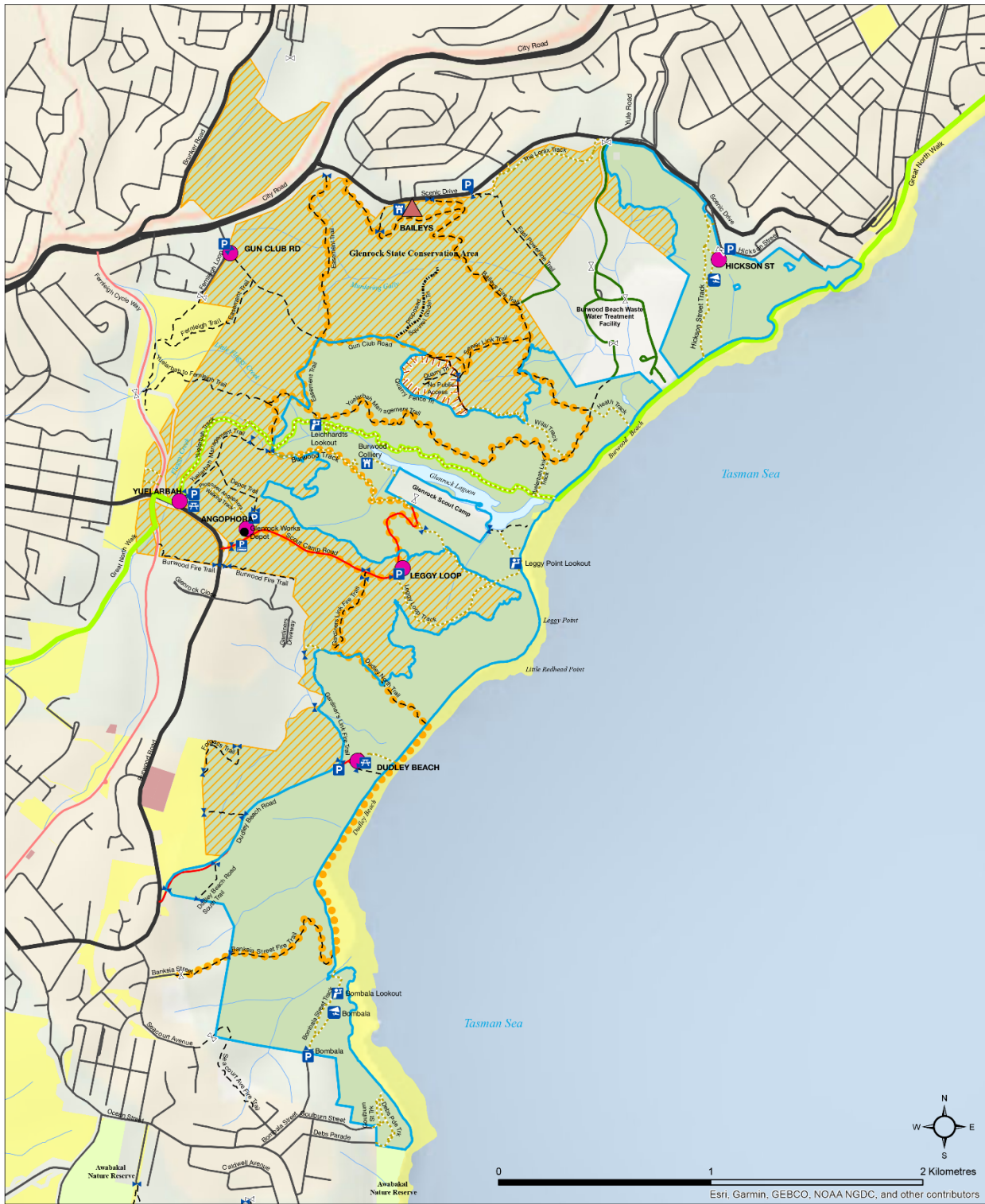
NPWS will seek to better understand the types and numbers of visitors to Glenrock SCA through visitor surveys and data collection.



**Photo 5** Baileys Cottage. John Spencer/DPE



Glenrock State Conservation Area draft plan of management



<b>Visitor Management Zones</b>		Day Use Area	Major road	Fernleigh cycleway
Zone 1	Lookout	Public road sealed	Horse Riding Route	Quarry (no public access)
Zone 2	Carpark	Park road sealed	Management Trail	NPWS Estate
Zone 3a: Visitor precinct	Carpark - Bus/large vehicles	Management Trail	Proposed Trail	NPWS Estate Other
Zone 3b: Visitor node	Glider Pad	Proposed Trail	Easement benefiting NPWS	<b>Other Land Managers</b>
	Historic Site	Walking Track	Walking Track	Local Aboriginal Land Council
	Gate - existing	Proposed Walking Track	Great North Walk	Crown Land
	Gate - non NPWS			

Figure 2 Visitor management zones

**Table 2 Visitor management zones\***

Feature	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3 Visitor precincts and nodes
<b>Guiding management principles</b>	Conservation of cultural and natural values is the primary priority. Suitable for low impact recreational activities undertaken by relatively low numbers of people. The development of new infrastructure will be avoided and minimised.	Conservation of cultural and natural values is the primary priority. Suitable for low impact activities undertaken by relatively moderate numbers of people. Tracks, trails and basic infrastructure to support recreation may be considered.	Conservation of cultural and natural values and provision of visitor experiences are complementary priorities. Suitable for low impact activities undertaken by relatively large numbers of people. Infrastructure to support large numbers of people may be considered.
<b>General location</b> (see Figure 2)	The eastern area of the park, including areas around Glenrock Lagoon, Burwood Beach and Dudley Beach (down to mean high water mark).	Predominately the western area of the park.	<b>3a Baileys precinct</b> located on the north-western fringe of the park off Scenic Drive. <b>3b Visitor nodes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hickson Street</b></li> <li>• <b>Gun Club Road</b></li> <li>• <b>Yuelarbah</b> (off northern end of Burwood Rd)</li> <li>• <b>Angophora</b> (western end of Scout Camp Rd)</li> <li>• <b>Leggy Loop</b> (eastern end of Scout Camp Rd)</li> <li>• <b>Dudley Beach</b> (eastern end of Dudley Beach Rd).</li> </ul>
<b>Visitor opportunities</b>			
Walking and trail running	Network of existing walking tracks, management trails and roads.	Network of walking tracks, management trails and roads. A trail running network will be identified within the park's track network through signage.	Network of tracks including paved surfaces.
Cycling	Existing management trails and sealed roads.	Allowed on designated and/or signposted tracks, proposed skills areas, management trails and roads (refer to <i>Glenrock SCA draft mountain biking plan</i> ).	Permitted within Baileys precinct and all nodes, except Hickson Street.
Horse riding	Allowed on designated (Figure 2) and/or signposted tracks ('no	Allowed on designated (Figure 2) and/or signposted	Allowed on designated (Figure 2) and/or signposted tracks ('no sign

Feature	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3 Visitor precincts and nodes
	sign – no ride'), on management trails and roads, and designated times on Dudley Beach.	tracks ('no sign – no ride'), on management trails and roads.	– no ride'), on management trails and roads.
Gliding	Gliding pads at Hickson St and Bombala St. Site management plans will be developed for the pads.	Not permitted.	Hickson Street gliding pad (also used for wedding ceremonies and as a scenic lookout).
Surfing and swimming	Burwood Beach and Dudley Beach. All beaches are unpatrolled. Patrolled swimming beaches are located at Redhead Beach (south) and Merewether Beach (north).	Not relevant.	Dudley Beach node: Unpatrolled. Dudley Beach is popular for surfing. Patrolled swimming beaches are located outside Glenrock at Redhead Beach (south) or at Merewether Beach (north).
Abseiling and rock climbing	South of Flaggy Creek off Burwood Track. A site management plan is to be developed.	Not permitted.	Not permitted.
<b>Visitor facilities</b>	No formalised parking provided on park. Basic visitor facilities only. Additional basic facilities may be provided where they are compatible with the cultural and natural values of the zone. Limited potential for intensification of visitor use.	Potential for additional visitor facilities to support sustainable recreational opportunities identified for these areas.	<b>3a</b> Baileys visitor precinct – includes accommodation at Baileys Cottage. Potential for intensification of use and additional visitor facilities in line with zoning, heritage action statement and guided by precinct or master plans. <b>3b</b> Visitor nodes – may contain facilities, including toilets, parking and picnic areas.
<b>Visitor experience</b>	Opportunities for passive recreation in a natural setting, with limited visitor facilities. Visitors can expect moderate levels of social interaction. Access to water-based recreation activities.	Opportunities for active recreation in a natural setting, with visitor facilities to support recreational activities. Visitors can expect moderate to high levels of social interaction. Includes mountain bike single-track network.	Modified natural environment with areas of intensive recreational use and a broader range of visitor facilities. Visitors can expect high levels of social interaction. Access to water-based recreation activities.

\* Naming of individual tracks, management trails and facilities within the park will be developed and may change through consultation with the Aboriginal community and user groups. In some instances a co-naming system may be suitable.



**Zone 1** (to mean high water mark) includes areas where conservation is prioritised and lower intensity recreational activities, such as walking and trail running, are permitted. This zone covers the eastern area of the park encompassing swimming beaches and walking tracks. Cycling is permitted on roads and management trails.

**Zone 2** is predominately in the western areas of the park where moderate to higher intensity recreational activities are provided for, with walking tracks and designated mountain bike tracks (see the *Glenrock State Conservation Area draft mountain biking plan* for details).

**Zone 3a: Baileys visitor precinct.** This area provides existing short-term accommodation in Baileys Cottage. Adaptive re-use or short-term licensing of the Baileys precinct (see Figure 2) may be permitted, provided any proposed modification and use is carried out in a sustainable manner consistent with the conservation of the natural and cultural values of the land.

**Zone 3b Visitor nodes** cater for moderate to high intensity recreation and provide visitor facilities (such as viewing platforms, walkways and tables), and provide beach access. These areas include:

- **Hickson Street**, located at the northern end of Burwood Beach, includes a multipurpose gliding pad, landing site and viewing area.
- **Gun Club Road** provides informal parking on council-managed land; primary access to Gun Club Road track head, which links to the proposed upgraded stacked loop mountain bike network and proposed mountain bike skills/jump areas (refer to the draft mountain biking plan). Improvements are proposed for carparking and event space at this node.
- **Yuelarbah**, located off Burwood Road at Yuelarbah Track head, provides carparking, access to the popular Yuelarbah Track, proposed upgraded stacked loop mountain bike network (refer to the draft mountain biking plan) as well as links to Fernleigh Track (off-park).
- **Angophora**, located at the western end of Scout Camp Road, horse riding is permitted on this road. Proposed carpark on northern side of Scout Camp Road providing access to Depot Trail, mountain bike network and Yuelarbah Track. Proposed horse float parking and bus drop-off area on southern side of Scout Camp Road, opposite NPWS depot.
- **Leggy Loop**, located at the eastern end of Scout Camp Road, provides access to Leggy Loop Track, Glenrock Lagoon and Burwood Beach. Improvements are proposed for carparking at this node.
- **Dudley Beach**, is a high-use visitor precinct allowing public access to Dudley Beach. Includes sealed road, formal carparking area, shelters, beach access tracks and viewing platform. Dudley Beach is one of the Newcastle region's most popular beaches.

## 3.2 Visitor opportunities

The park provides a range of **walking** opportunities with varying degrees of social interaction, physical challenge and self-reliance. Many visitors to the park are attracted by the proximity to Newcastle, diversity of landscapes and extensive network of walking tracks (see Figure 2). One of the most significant and popular tracks in the park is the Yuelarbah Track, which is believed to be part of a traditional Aboriginal pathway. 'Yuelarbah' means 'place of the footstep/track' in Awabakal language and forms a section of the Great North Walk stretching from Newcastle to Sydney.

A few new connections may be constructed to provide alternative walking experiences and manage conflicting use with mountain bike users or trail runners (see proposed walking tracks on Figure 2). Some existing tracks and trails may be realigned to protect park values or improve visitor safety, including sections of the Yuelarbah Track and associated tracks and trails, which may be realigned to manage impacts from coastal erosion.

Picnic tables and lookouts are provided at a number of designated sites in the park.

**Horse riding** routes are located on management trails in the northern part of the park. There are several tracks important for local and regional visitors, including several multi-use tracks that are shared between walkers and horse riders. NPWS will continue to implement the 'no sign – no ride' principle in the park.

**Trail running** has grown in popularity and occurs on existing management trails, walking tracks and mountain bike tracks, resulting in user conflict with cyclists, walkers and runners. A trail running strategy will be developed to identify preferred running loops (common beginning and end point). A track signage principle will be adopted ('no sign – no walk/run/ride') to identify trails suitable for the activity to reduce user conflict and improve visitor safety.



Photo 6 Bombala Street walking track. John Spencer/DPE



**Geocaching, rogaining and orienteering** are popular activities in the Hunter region and will continue to be permitted in the park. Geocaching requires NPWS consent for the placement of a geocache. Rogaining and orienteering activities require NPWS consent.

**Abseiling and rock climbing** may be undertaken in accordance with the provisions of this plan, any code of conduct (or similar guideline) promoted by NPWS, and any other restrictions, exclusions or closures which may be introduced by NPWS as a result of environmental, visitor experience and safety issues arising.

**Cycling and mountain biking** are growing in popularity in the park. Cycling is permitted on public roads and management trails throughout the park, and on designated and signposted tracks. To support sustainable mountain biking opportunities in the park, a *Glenrock State Conservation Area draft mountain biking plan* has been developed. The draft plan proposes a network of tracks in Zone 2 (see Figure 2) and provides strategies for managing this activity consistent with the NPWS Cycling strategy and policy.

After finalisation of the mountain biking plan, the network of tracks identified in the plan will be implemented subject to environmental impact assessments and available resources. Unauthorised tracks that are not part of the designated network will be closed and rehabilitated. The NPWS *Cycling strategy: guidelines for implementation* and *cycling policy* allow for minor re-alignment of tracks in the network in response to local design issues and environmental assessment outcomes. Any future additions to the network will be limited to Zone 2 and subject to environmental and cultural heritage impact assessments and other design and assessment criteria.

A small number of existing walking tracks may be designated for multi-use to provide cycling connections, consistent with the mountain biking plan and subject to environmental and suitability assessments.



Photo 7 Hickson Street hang-gliding launch pad. John Spencer/DPE

**Gliding** may be undertaken in accordance with the NPWS *Hang-gliding and paragliding in parks policy*. Two gliding pads are located in the park, one midway along the Hickson Street Track and one on a sidetrack off Bombala Track. Access to gliding pads is restricted to gliders when pads are in use. Gliders may only launch from designated pads but are permitted to land safely in the park as required. Site management plans will be developed for the pads, and individual user or club consent is required from NPWS.

A range of **commercial tourism operators** are licensed to operate in the park, providing tours, recreational and educational activities. To assist in maintaining sustainable park visitor numbers into the future, the number of commercial licences for an activity or location may be limited to ensure visitor safety, protect the park's cultural and natural values, and enhance visitor experiences.

There are opportunities to improve the **interpretation** of the park's natural and cultural values and make this information more accessible to park visitors.

The park use regulations tables in Section 7 set out the recreational and commercial activities that are permitted in the park and indicate when an activity may require consent from NPWS.

There are planned upgrades to the park's visitor infrastructure and facilities, including car parking, walking tracks, digital tools for interpretation and expansion of safety programs. Future improvements will be guided by this plan of management, which is based on visitor use data. Prioritisation of works will depend on resource availability. Master plans or precinct plans consistent with this plan of management may be developed and provide more detailed visitor site planning where required.

## 4. Park infrastructure and services

Management of the park and the provision of visitor facilities require a range of park infrastructure, including sealed roads, management trails, gates, car parks, walking and cycling tracks, works depot, quarry and storage facilities. There are also several buildings in the park that serve different purposes.

A reserve access strategy will be finalised for the park. The access strategy establishes the status of all existing accesses (for example, roads and trails) and identifies options for securing access for public and park management purposes where necessary. The park is readily accessible from sealed public roads maintained by the City of Newcastle council in the north and Lake Macquarie City Council in the south. Sealed roads managed by NPWS include Scout Camp Road and Dudley Beach Road. NPWS sealed roads are open to public vehicle use during the day and are closed at night. Park management trails are subject to restricted vehicle access but can be used by visitors for walking and cycling, and some are designated for horse riding (see Figure 2).

The construction of any new tracks or trails identified in these plans will require an appropriate level of heritage and environmental assessment and will be subject to the requirements of the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

The Glenrock Scout Camp land (also known as the Glenrock War Memorial Scout Training Camp) is a private property inholding within the park. Informal community access through the scout camp may conflict with Scouts NSW's management objectives, including not complying with their terms of entry which include a working with children check. The creation of unauthorised tracks leading through the camp also creates environmental issues. The limited capacity of Scout Camp Road due to its width and sharp bends result in traffic congestion, informal parking and encroachment into the road verge. These constraints cause safety risks for park visitors and scout camp users.

Traffic management strategies will need to be adopted to address vehicle movements on Scout Camp Road from the Leggy Loop car park to the scout camp, including improvements to the road, traffic management infrastructure and upgrading the existing Leggy Loop car park. NPWS will continue to work with Scouts NSW to manage safe public access on Scout Camp Road and provide formal pedestrian access from Scout Camp Road to Burwood Beach.

NPWS provides formal car parking at the following visitor nodes: Angophora, Dudley Beach, Yuelarbah Track head and Leggy Loop Track head. Changes proposed at Angophora node includes providing additional parking off Scout Camp Road, to the north of the road and adjacent to the NPWS depot, and on the southern side of Scout Camp Road opposite the NPWS depot.

Informal parking along council-managed roads provides access to Bombala Street Track as well as Hickson Street and Gun Club Road visitor nodes and Baileys visitor precinct. NPWS will formalise a horse float unloading and parking bay as well as a bus drop-off area. In addition, NPWS aims to improve parking at Leggy Loop and Gun Club Road visitor nodes.

Recreational visitor infrastructure such as walking tracks, gliding pads and mountain bike tracks provide an important connection to the park for members of the local community and visitors from further afield. These assets, in addition to management trails, require ongoing resourcing for maintenance and upgrades where necessary. The existing and proposed upgrades to the mountain bike track network (refer to the draft mountain biking plan) requires ongoing resources and forms an important component of the park's visitor infrastructure.



A gravel quarry is located at the end of Gun Club Road and is owned and managed by NPWS. The quarry provides a local source of gravel for walking and cycling tracks and for the maintenance of management trails in the park.

The historic Bailey's visitor precinct (see Zone 3a in Figure 2) is comprised of weatherboard cottages, sheds, terraced areas and grassed clearings. Bailey's Cottage currently provides short-term visitor accommodation. The adaptive re-use of historic buildings and grounds in this precinct needs to be consistent with the *Baileys Farm precinct heritage action statement*. NPWS will consider improved visitor facilities and experiences at this site through leasing or licences issued under the NPW Act. Potential future uses could include education facilities, event hire, café or kiosk, equipment hire, additional short-term accommodation, community use or other uses considered appropriate. The modified grounds could provide for additional car parking and visitor facilities. Adaptive re-use proposals within Bailey's precinct would require significant capital investment due to the condition of remaining historic structures onsite.

Assets are registered in the NPWS Asset Management System, which allows for cyclic programming for maintenance where resources allow. Assets no longer necessary for park management or visitor use may be decommissioned or removed after relevant environmental assessments and approvals.



Photo 8 Yuelarbah Track – bridge over Flaggy Creek. Simon Rosenthal/DPE

## 5. Non-park infrastructure and services

The park contains infrastructure and assets owned and operated by other organisations or individuals that are not related to the use or management of the park. This includes public utility infrastructure, including water and sewer pipelines and electricity transmission lines. Access is required for the use, operation, maintenance, repair and upgrade of this infrastructure. NPWS will continue to work with relevant authorities to assist in providing access for routine maintenance activities, and planned upgrade works where required.

Some mountain bike tracks, management trails and park access roads extend across adjacent lands owned and managed by other authorities or private landholders. A reserve access strategy will be finalised to confirm the status of park access for management purposes and recreational use and prioritise actions to secure access agreements or negotiate other legal instruments where appropriate and required.

A number of properties are surrounded by the park, including the Hunter Water Corporation's Burwood Beach Wastewater Treatment Works, and Scouts NSW's Glenrock Scout Camp (also known as the Glenrock War Memorial Scout Training Camp). NPWS will facilitate access across NPWS lands in accordance with Part 12 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, the *Access to inholdings policy*, and the reserve access strategy.

Easements, leases and licences ensure that the operation and maintenance of non-NPWS infrastructure and use of the park by third parties minimises impacts on the environment and on NPWS's operations. NPWS will continue to work with third parties to renew and formalise agreements for non-NPWS infrastructure and uses in the park and, where appropriate, collaborate with other land managers to mitigate and minimise environmental, cultural and state heritage impacts associated with infrastructure works. A public register of leases, easements and rights of way is available on the Environment and Heritage website.

Public (non-NPWS) roads traversing the park require regular maintenance. NPWS will enable temporary storage of necessary road maintenance materials and equipment in suitable areas in the park to support maintenance activities.

The park's status as a state conservation area enables the consideration of consents for the exploration and mining of minerals and petroleum (including gas). All mineral leases for the Glenrock SCA are now expired, and the state conservation area may be considered for national park status in the future, which would not allow for any further exploration.

NPWS will seek removal of all redundant infrastructure and rehabilitation of disturbed sites and access roads, except where other relevant considerations, such as environmental impact, justify leaving it in situ.

## 6. Scheme of operations

Section 72AA of the National Parks and Wildlife Act has been taken into consideration when developing this scheme of operations, which details the desired outcomes for the park's values and actions that NPWS proposes to undertake to achieve these outcomes.

A management **priority** has been assigned to each action to guide the allocation of resources.

- Very high – Loss or significant decline in the condition of the park value is likely if action is not taken, or significant improvement in the condition of the value is likely if action is taken.
- High – Decline in the condition of the park value is likely if action is not taken, or improvement in the condition of the value is likely if action is taken.
- Medium – Some decline in the condition of the park value is possible if action is not taken, or some improvement in the condition of the value is possible if action is taken.
- Low – While decline in the condition of the park value is not likely in the short term, the action would help build the long-term resilience of the park value.

The delivery of actions is subject to the availability of resources and competing priorities.

The scheme of operations sets strategic goals and priorities. Subsidiary plans consistent with this plan of management may also be developed to guide actions at an operational level, such as the draft mountain biking plan. Subsidiary plans enable adaptive responses to new information or changed circumstances, such as for pests, weeds, fire and recreational activities, or as required by NPWS policy.

Conservation action plans will be prepared and implemented to manage and monitor any assets of intergenerational significance declared under the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

The implementation of actions set out below may be subject to statutory responsibilities under the National Parks and Wildlife Act and other relevant state and federal legislation, including environmental impact assessments and approvals. Further community consultation on the proposed actions may be undertaken as part of these processes.

Information on popular recreational or commercial activities that are permitted in the park is provided in the park use regulations tables in Section 7. More detailed information on other activities is available on the NPWS website.

**Table 3 Scheme of operations**

Outcome	Actions	Priority
<b>Protecting the natural environment</b>		
1. Improve the park's natural integrity	a. Manage the park in line with visitor management zoning which identifies zones of high conservation significance (Zone 1) and aims to minimise visitor impacts to environmental values across all zones.	High
2. The geological values and landform features of the park are protected	a. Maintain and update trails and tracks, including realigning, hardening, and installing boardwalks where necessary to reduce erosion and minimise impacts on park values.	Very high
	b. Close and rehabilitate unauthorised tracks and trails that are no longer required and/or are negatively impacting conservation values.	High
3. The extent and condition of priority habitats, plant communities and species are maintained	a. Implement relevant threatened species actions in the Biodiversity Conservation Program (Saving our Species program or similar), including actions at key management sites, and recovery plans for nationally listed threatened species.	High
	b. Identify and implement priority actions for the protection of threatened communities and species.	Medium
	c. Develop an ecological health monitoring program to evaluate the effectiveness of management actions and adapt where required.	Medium
	d. Implement pest and weed programs as required and in accordance with pest and weed management strategies. Weed management in this park focuses on high priority weed species, where prevention, eradication and containment are realistic management objectives. Resources are directed at maintaining intact core areas of the park, and areas where threatened species and/or threatened ecological communities exist.	Medium
	e. Support volunteer bush regeneration programs in priority habitats and where aligned to other park management priorities.	Medium
	f. Monitor the impact of visitor access and use on natural values and implement strategies, including	High



Outcome	Actions	Priority
	closures or controls, to mitigate impacts to park values.	
	g. Continue compliance efforts and positive behaviour campaigns that focus on responsible pet ownership.	Medium
4. The health of aquatic ecosystems (Glenrock Lagoon and associated tributaries of Flaggy and Little Flaggy creeks) in the park are improved	a. Formalise access points to creeks and waterfalls and improve walking tracks to prevent erosion.	Medium
	b. Collaborate with Hunter Water Corporation and councils to improve the water quality of waterways within the park where possible.	Medium
	c. Seek to have Glenrock Lagoon listed under the <i>Resilience and Hazards State Environmental Planning Policy</i> (chapter 2: Coastal Management) to enhance its protection and attract funding.	Medium
5. Reduce the level of impacts on park values from unauthorised track building and use	a. Improve track networks for mountain biking (refer to the <i>Glenrock State Conservation Area draft mountain biking plan</i> ) and other recreational activities in the park, such as walking and trail running.	Very high
	b. Close and rehabilitate tracks that are not suitable for inclusion in a future cycling track network.	Very high
	c. Improve signage of authorised track networks to clearly identify designated tracks and, where applicable, user type and flow direction.	Very high
	d. Implement an education and compliance program targeting activities that are key threats to park values.	Very high
	e. Engage with user groups to encourage a code of conduct for recreational activities on park and user etiquette that creates an environment of self-regulation and assists NPWS's compliance efforts.	Very high
6. Improved understanding and data on native fauna in the park	a. Collaborate with research bodies and the community to help address knowledge gaps and develop ecological health monitoring programs.	Medium
7. Improved vegetation connectivity for the movement of arboreal species	a. Continue revegetation work to improve canopy cover and rehabilitation of disturbed sites for priority species (such as the squirrel glider).	Medium

Outcome	Actions	Priority
	b. Look for opportunities to work with adjoining private landowners to improve vegetation connectivity within the existing corridor between Glenrock SCA and Awabakal Nature Reserve.	Low
<b>Looking after culture and heritage</b>		
8. Increase opportunities for Awabakal and other Aboriginal people to continue their connections to Country and engage in caring for Country	a. Support the local Aboriginal community to access Country to maintain, renew or develop cultural connections and practices. This may include exploring opportunities for community cultural events, days on Country in the park.	High
9. There is increased awareness among park visitors and the community about the park's Aboriginal culture and heritage	a. Incorporate Awabakal Aboriginal language in naming of place, signage and interpretation where appropriate and agreed with the local Aboriginal community.	High
	b. Develop and communicate information about Aboriginal culture and heritage in the park in partnership with the Aboriginal community and where appropriate.	High
10. The condition of Aboriginal heritage sites, places and cultural values is maintained	a. Work with the Aboriginal community to ensure that Aboriginal sites are appropriately recorded, managed, conserved and maintained.	High
	b. Finalise the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment for the park and implement a park-wide Aboriginal heritage impact permit.	High
11. Historic and shared heritage sites, places and cultural values are understood and protected	a. Manage visitor impacts on historic heritage sites.	High
	b. Manage the historic Burwood Colliery heritage site in line with relevant conservation management plans and heritage impact statements, including to manage visitor access, safety and interpretation.	Medium
	c. Undertake targeted significance assessment and condition reporting for historic places and cultural landscapes to address knowledge gaps.	Medium
	d. Update, prepare and implement conservation management plans or heritage impact statements for significant historic places, precincts and landscapes, as required.	Low
	e. Develop and implement an archaeological landscape	High

Outcome	Actions	Priority
	management plan to sit alongside the updated conservation management plan.	
	f. Undertake ongoing maintenance works and public safety works as per conservation management plans and heritage impact statements as required.	Medium
	g. Investigate and implement adaptive re-use or consider other appropriate community or commercial use of the Baileys precinct to support ongoing conservation through sustainable visitor use. Subject to funding.	Low
<b>Providing for visitor use and enjoyment</b>		
12. The park provides a range of appropriate, ecologically sustainable visitor opportunities	a. Provide a range of visitor opportunities consistent with the park use regulations in Table 4 and the visitor management zones in Figure 2 and Table 2.	High
	b. Provide a network of tracks and trails, subject to environmental and cultural impact assessment, for walking, mountain biking, horse riding and trail running, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. mountain bike tracks</li> <li>ii new management trails to improve access and safety, including the proposed Squirrel Glider Trail (see Figure 2)</li> <li>iii. new walking track connections that improve visitor safety in locations where there is a conflict of use, including the proposed Lorax Track (see Figure 2)</li> <li>iv. improve the implementation of 'no sign – no ride/run' principle for trail running, mountain bike riding and horse riding.</li> </ul>	Very high
	c. Work with user groups to implement and maintain the authorised track network.	Medium
	d. Close and rehabilitate unauthorised tracks.	Very high
	e. Enable an appropriate range and sustainable number of events, functions and commercial activities (see Table 5) subject to NPWS licensing, capacity limits and NPWS policy requirements including bookings, approvals and conditions.	Medium



Outcome	Actions	Priority
13. Improved visitor facilities (on and off-park) are provided to support visitor enjoyment of the park	a. Implement visitor facility improvements at key visitor precincts and nodes as defined in the visitor management zones in Table 2 and Figure 2, consistent with this plan of management and guided by master/precinct plans and subject to environmental and cultural impact assessments and collaboration with other land managers.	Very high
	b. Provide (and upgrade as necessary) basic visitor facilities, such as toilets, parking and picnic tables, at visitor nodes (Figure 2) and at appropriate locations along existing tracks and trails to reduce environmental impacts.	Medium
	c. Improve park accessibility for visitors of all abilities in the planning and development of visitor facilities and experiences.	Medium
14. Increased awareness and understanding among visitors about the park's values	a. Interpret and promote the park's natural, cultural and heritage values through a range of measures, including the continuation of Glenrock's existing Discovery program and school group experiences as well as improved signage and use of innovative and emerging technology.	Medium
<b>Park infrastructure and services</b>		
15. Formalise park access to support management activities	a. Finalise and implement the reserve access strategy to secure park access for public use and management purposes.	High
16. The impact of fire on life, property and the environment and the potential for spread of bushfires on, from or into the park are minimised	a. Implement the park fire management program.	High
	b. Revise and adjust the fire management program as required to take account of new information and emerging threats over time.	High
	c. Participate in strategic fire planning and maintain cooperative arrangements with local Fire and Rescue NSW and Rural Fire Service brigades, other organisations and surrounding landowners.	High
	d. Establish and maintain the fire trail network consistent with approved fire access and fire trail plans and prescribed standards under the <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> . Where required, establish new trails after environmental and heritage impact	High

Outcome	Actions	Priority
	assessment and consistent with the approved fire plans.	
<b>Non-park infrastructure and services</b>		
17. Non-NPWS uses and activities have minimal impact on park values and are appropriately authorised where required	a. Ensure all non-NPWS uses and occupancies are authorised in accordance with Part 12 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act.	High
	b. Seek the removal of all redundant infrastructure and rehabilitation of disturbed sites and access roads as required.	Low
	c. Identify and seek to correct boundary errors, boundary encroachments and proposed section 188C National Parks and Wildlife Act boundary adjustments as identified in the reserve access strategy.	Low
18. Improved off-park infrastructure and facilities to support visitor enjoyment of the park	a. Advocate for improved off-park visitor facilities and infrastructure including accessible carparks and footpaths to support safe and sustainable access to the park.	Very high

## 7. Park use regulations

### 7.1 Recreational activities

Glenrock SCA is a relatively small park, directly adjoining Newcastle city's urban interface. The park provides opportunities for a variety of, and sometimes competing, recreational activities. NPWS recognises the positive benefits to visitors of recreation in our parks and aims to balance visitor opportunities with the conservation of the natural and cultural values of the park.

Many recreational activities can be undertaken in the park without consent from NPWS. Other activities can occur if consent is provided by NPWS. All activities that occur in the park are subject to this plan of management, relevant policies and legislation.





Conditions may be applied to ensure an activity is undertaken safely and to minimise environmental risks and risks to other users. Consent may not be possible where a proposed activity is considered likely to have a negative environmental, visitor safety and/or park management impact.

Activities may be subject to operating conditions or limits from time-to-time. For example, access to parts of the park may be closed during periods of bushfire risk, bad weather or maintenance works.

Further activities, not shown in Table 4, may also be regulated by signage within the park or by consent.





Information regarding activities requiring consent and how to obtain consent are available on the NSW national parks visitor website or by contacting the relevant NPWS office (contact details at the front of this plan).

**Table 4 Park use regulations – recreational activities**

	Type of activity	Allowed	Note/Exceptions
	Abseiling and rock climbing	Yes	Abseiling and rock climbing is allowed in designated areas. Groups of more than 8 people require consent from NPWS with a maximum group size of 18. Site management plans may also be developed to guide the management of these activities at specific sites.
	Barbecues – portable	No	The use of portable barbecues is not allowed due to potential environmental impacts. However, they may be allowed under a consent for events.
	Camping/overnighting in vehicles	No	Not allowed.
	Cycling	Yes	Cycling is allowed on public roads, management trails across all zones and designated and signposted mountain biking tracks in Zone 2. This includes E-bikes as defined by the NPWS <i>Cycling policy</i> . No cycling on walking tracks (with some exceptions as detailed in the draft mountain biking plan). No cycling off tracks and trails.



Type of activity	Allowed	Note/Exceptions
		<p>Refer to the Glenrock SCA draft mountain biking strategy.</p> <p>Organised group (e.g. club) events require consent (see Table 5).</p>
	No	<p>Pets are not allowed in parks. Dog walking is not permitted. A person may be accompanied by their trained assistance animal provided they meet the requirements of proof and other conditions set out in the NPWS <i>Pets in parks policy</i>.</p>
	Yes	<p>Registered vehicles (including registered motorbikes) are allowed on public roads and parks roads (unless gated). Off-road driving or riding is not allowed in parks due to potential environmental impacts and risks to other park users.</p>
	No	<p>Not allowed due to potential environmental impacts.</p>
 	Yes	<p>Group gatherings – non-commercial (e.g. family or social gatherings, school groups, weddings)</p> <p>Consent is required for groups of more than 30 people.</p> <p>Consent is required for all weddings in the park, conditions apply.</p>
	Yes	<p>May be allowed under a consent, subject to the conditions of the site-specific management plan for designated gliding pads in the park.</p>
	Yes	<p>On park roads (Scout Camp, Dudley Beach) and management trails (Banksia, Dudley North, Gardiner's Link, Burwood (part of), Yuelarbah, Gun Club Road, Baileys and Easement).</p>
<p>Horse riding</p>	Yes	<p>Horse riding is permitted on Dudley Beach between the hours of 5 am and 9.30 am via a registration process.</p> <p>All organised group (e.g. club) events require consent, irrespective of group size (see Table 5).</p>
 	Yes	<p>Drones (includes model aeroplanes and other remotely piloted aircraft)</p> <p>The use of drones may be allowed under a consent. The <i>Drones in parks policy</i> applies. Drones may be authorised as part of a commercial filming consent.</p> <p>Not permitted to be launched where there are potential risks to telecommunications infrastructure and impacts to other park users.</p> <p>Drones may be used for park management, or emergency service purposes.</p> <p>Consent will not be provided to fly drones in the drone exclusion areas which apply</p>

Type of activity	Allowed	Note/Exceptions
		across the entire northern end of the park from Dudley Beach, which includes the Westpac Rescue Helicopter base and the John Hunter Hospital flight path.
	Walking and trail running Yes	<p>Walking and trail running is allowed. Trail running is guided by a 'no sign – no run' principle on mountain bike tracks and walking tracks.</p> <p>Organised group (e.g. club) events of 30 or more people require consent (see Table 5). Organised trail running groups need to break into smaller groups of 10 or fewer people.</p> <p>Park visitors may use signposted mountain bike single tracks for bushwalking and trail running. While these uses are permitted, mountain biking will be the preferred use for these tracks.</p>
 	Water-based recreation (e.g. fishing, swimming, surfing, diving and snorkelling) Yes	<p>Access through the park to beaches and waterbodies is allowed.</p> <p>This plan does not apply to activities below the mean high water mark.</p>
	Geocaching, orienteering and rogaining Yes	These activities may be authorised NPWS consent is required for these activities. Refer to the <i>Geocaching policy</i> and <i>Orienteering and rogaining policy</i> .
	Wood fires No	<p>Not allowed due to the risk of bushfires and potential unauthorised collection or removal of trees and timber from the parks.</p> <p>May be allowed under a consent for cultural purposes (except during total fire bans and park fire bans).</p>

## 7.2 Events, functions and commercial activities

Commercial and non-commercial activities in national parks requiring prior approval are varied. These range from guided tours and commercial events to filming and photography and mobile food vendors.

Table 5 lists some common events, functions and commercial activities that may be permitted in the park with approval from NPWS under a consent, licence or lease. It is not a definitive or exhaustive list of permitted commercial or other activities. Information on relevant policies, approvals required and fees is available on the department's website.

Commercial activities such as tours are licensed under the Parks Eco Pass program which is the NPWS program for licensing operators who conduct commercial tours, recreational and educational activities in national parks.

Commercial filming and photography in parks and reserves requires approval. The *Filming and photography policy* applies.

Approval to use supporting equipment, such as marquees, amplified sound or drones, will be determined on a case-by-case basis, subject to an assessment of potential impacts on park

values and other park users. Use of any supporting equipment will be subject to consent conditions.

NPWS is committed to ensuring that on-park Aboriginal experiences are developed and delivered in a culturally sensitive way. This includes experiences respecting the authenticity and integrity of local Aboriginal people and their culture, adhere to cultural protocols, and recognise that Aboriginal culture is the intellectual property of Aboriginal people. Licensing of commercial tour operators, and recreational and educational operators includes conditions relating to the delivery of Aboriginal cultural heritage interpretation and requirements for Aboriginal cultural awareness training. This may include requirements to consult with Aboriginal communities to develop appropriate material and information for participants.

**Table 5 Park use regulations – activities requiring prior approval**

Type of activity	Group size	Type of approval required
Commercial and charity events, including walking, running and cycling events open for public participation	All groups irrespective of size	Consent or licence
Sporting activity that is part of an organised competition or tournament	All groups irrespective of size	Consent
Commercial tours, recreational and educational activities, mobile food vendors, transport services and any other commercial services	All groups irrespective of size	Consent or licence
All other events and gatherings involving groups of more than 30 people	All groups of 30 or more	Consent
Filming and photography	All groups irrespective of size	Consent or licence
Research (scientific, educational, or related to conservation or park management)	All groups irrespective of size	Consent or licence



## **8. More information**

[Glenrock State Conservation Area draft planning considerations report](#)

[Glenrock State Conservation Area draft mountain biking plan](#)

[Biodiversity Conservation Program](#)

[Environment and Heritage website](#)

[NPWS visitor website](#)

[NPWS park policies](#)

[Environment and Heritage privacy and security](#)

[Register of leases, easements and rights of way – Environment and Heritage webpage](#)