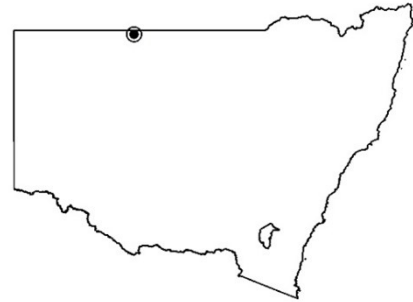




# Brindingabba National Park

## Statement of management intent



## Introduction

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) acknowledges that Brindingabba National Park ('the park') is thought to be part of the traditional Country of the Budjiti and Kurnu Baakandji Aboriginal people. The park was established following the acquisition of Brindingabba and Bindra stations, former western lands leases, described as Lot 3914 in Deposited Plan 766387 and Lot 3842 in Deposited Plan 766285 and former Travelling Stock Route R85294 described as Lot 1 in Deposited Plan 914599 and Lot 1 in Deposited Plan 914600. The NSW Environmental Trust partly funded the purchase.

This statement of management intent outlines the main values, issues and key management directions for managing Brindingabba National Park. This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the park until a plan of management has been prepared. 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 other relevant legislation, existing park management policies, and other relevant manuals, procedures and guidelines.

## Management principles

National parks are reserved under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* to identify, protect and conserve areas containing outstanding or representative ecosystems, natural or cultural features, or landscapes or phenomena that provide opportunities for public appreciation and inspiration and sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment. Under the Act (section 30 E), national parks are 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

- provide for the sustainable use (including adaptive re-use) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas having regard to the conservation of the national park's natural and cultural values
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

## Context

Brindingabba National Park (33,903 hectares) was reserved on 9 December 2022 and is located in the far northwest of New South Wales within the Cuttaburra Basin. The park is located off the Dowling Track (Hungerford-Bourke Road), approximately 175 kilometres northwest of Bourke and 75 kilometres southeast of Hungerford.

Brindingabba National Park is adjacent to other conservation lands, securing connectivity for conservation across more than 100,000 hectares when combined with nearby Comeroo Station, purchased by NPWS but yet to be gazetted, and Yantabulla and Naree properties, which have in perpetuity private lands conservation agreements with the Biodiversity Conservation Trust. South Endeavour Trust and Bush Heritage own the properties respectively and are managed by Bush Heritage. Currawinya National Park is 65 kilometres northwest in Queensland.

The park is located within the administrative areas of the Unincorporated Local Aboriginal Land Council, Western Local Land Services and Bourke Shire local government area.

## Values

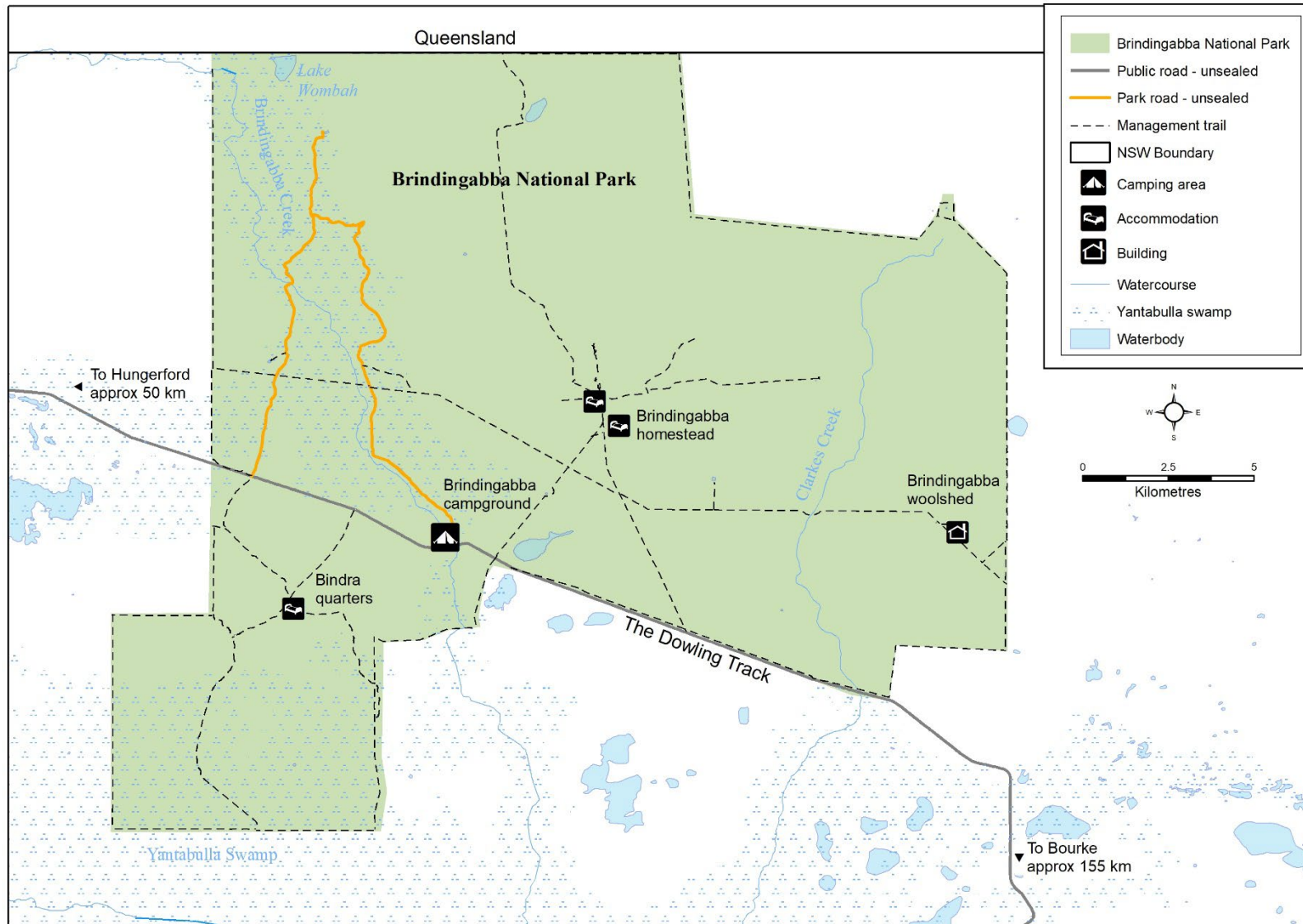
- The park protects more than 7,000 hectares of Yantabulla Swamp in the southwest and a small portion of Lake Wombah in the northwest, which are nationally important wetlands. After inundation, these wetlands support thousands of waterbirds, including internationally protected migratory shorebirds and threatened species, such as freckled ducks, pink-eared ducks, grey teals and night herons.
- The park is part of the Birds Australia Yantabulla Important Bird Area.
- The Cuttaburra Basin, including Yantabulla Swamp, forms part of the Paroo and Warrego floodplains in the Murray-Darling's northern basin. The Cuttaburra Basin provides important connectivity between the Warrego and Paroo River systems during large floods. Ephemeral creeks, such as Brindingabba and Clarkes Creek may change direction of flow, depending on the size of the floods within the Paroo and Warrego systems.
- Brindingabba National Park is part of a rich Aboriginal cultural landscape. The park and surrounding lands are likely to have extremely high Aboriginal heritage conservation values. Aboriginal occupation and use of what is now the park is likely to have been widespread and a range of items of potential Aboriginal heritage value have been observed. Further archaeological and cultural heritage surveys are likely to identify more Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, places and artefacts across the park.
- The park is within the Cuttaburra-Paroo and West Warrego subregions of the Mulga Lands Bioregion.
- The park is classified within 3 Mitchell Landscapes. Most of the park contains Paroo-Warrego tablelands and downs landscapes with Paroo-Warrego channels and floodplains in the west and a small portion of Paroo-Warrego sandplains on the southern boundary.
- Brindingabba features a diversity of ecosystems, from gidgee country and stony mulga shrublands to Mitchell grass grasslands, blackbox and coolibah lined creek systems, clay pans and lignum swamps. Twenty plant communities have been identified within the park.

Floodplain woodlands and shrublands are dominated by:

- river cooba (*Acacia stenophylla*)
- canegrass (*Eragrostis australasica*)
- lignum (*Duma florulenta*)
- black box (*Eucalyptus largiflorens*)
- coolibah (*Eucalyptus coolabah* subsp. *Coolabah*)
- bimble box (*Eucalyptus populnea*)
- yapunyah (*Eucalyptus ochrophloia*)

Semi-arid areas shrublands and grasslands are dominated by:

- mulga (*Acacia aneura*)
- *Eremophila* spp.
- *Senna* spp.
- supplejack (*Ventilago viminalis*)
- leopardwood (*Flindersia maculosa*)
- desert bloodwood (*Corymbia tumsescens*)
- colane (*Owenia acidula*)
- beefwood (*Grevillea striata*)
- white cypress pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*)
- belah (*Casuarina pauper*)
- western rosewood (*Alectryon oleifolius*)
- The park protects stands of lancewood (*Acacia petraea*). The species is found across western Queensland, but only 2 populations with limited range have been recorded in New South Wales, and the species is listed as endangered in New South Wales.
- Extensive fauna surveys are yet to be conducted in the park; however, 11 threatened animals have been recorded in the Cuttaburra Basin, including stripe-faced dunnart, kultarr, inland mouse, little pied bat and the ringed brown snake.
- The park includes a range of infrastructure associated with the former pastoral station, including the 1890s pise (mud) Brindingabba homestead, which is in good condition and contains a myriad of reference materials. The homestead is likely to be of heritage value. Other infrastructure associated with the former pastoral use includes shearing sheds, shearing quarters, machinery sheds, yards, fences, water points such as bores and dams, roads and tracks, and an airstrip.
- The park provides opportunities for well-prepared and self-reliant visitors. Brindingabba campground is being developed on the banks of Brindingabba Creek. Initial visitor experiences will include the campground with toilets and interpretation, a natural surface walking track along the creek, and a tourist drive northwest of the park. The homestead will only be open to the public on special open days when staff can be present. A range of other visitor facilities may be provided as resources allow, such as an expansion of the campground if required, additional walking tracks, tourist drives and bird-watching facilities.



**Figure 1 Map of Brindigabba National Park**

## Issues

- Brindigabba National Park was named for the creek that runs through the park and Brindigabba homestead, a local landmark since the 1890s.
- The relationship with Aboriginal custodians will take time to develop. An interim name was put forward until such time as meaningful consultation with members from relevant communities could be undertaken. In 2022, consultation was yet to commence, including discussions of a suitable name. The name 'Brindigabba' has been assigned to the park as an interim measure following initial discussion with some local elders. Once a consensus is reached on a recommended name, NPWS may seek endorsement for the new name from the Geographical Names Board and, pursuant to section 30A (2) of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, publish a notice in the NSW Government Gazette to formally change the name of the park.
- No easement is required to access the property and no easement has been granted for a third party across the national park.
- The property is considered to be in good condition. Incursions by neighbouring stock persist, and NPWS has entered into several boundary fencing agreements. Replacement boundary fence applications should be supported as resources allow to help prevent stock incursions and the movement of goats onto the park.
- Ongoing feral animal control, including for goats, pigs, and wild dogs, will be required to maintain low levels of pest animals and limit their impact on park values.
- Regeneration of degraded native vegetation provides an opportunity to store carbon and improve biodiversity. The *Brindigabba Human-Induced Regeneration Project*, which has been registered with the Clean Energy Regulator, aims to encourage natural regeneration of native vegetation and sequestration of atmospheric carbon by reducing the impacts of feral animals. This project is expected to boost investment in carbon and conservation works on the park.
- Weeds are thought to be largely localised within the park. However, ongoing effort will be required to ensure the impact of weeds on park values remains low.
- There is limited information about the natural and cultural values of the park given the relatively recent acquisition of the property. Additional investigations and surveys would add to the knowledge base for the park and better assist park managers to protect values and address threats to those values.
- Some of the infrastructure associated with the park's former pastoral use, including Brindigabba homestead, may be of historical significance.
- An operations base will be maintained at Brindigabba, including staff housing, a workshop, depot, carport, fuel shed, storage yard, waste disposal site and airstrip. Other outbuildings may be used to store materials, vehicles and equipment for park management. Bindra quarters and outbuildings will be maintained as quarters for visiting staff, contractors and researchers. The use of existing buildings and infrastructure will only be permitted if they are consistent with any heritage assessment.
- Some of the pastoral infrastructure may be retained to provide park visitors with a visible, tangible link to the former use of the property.
- Asbestos may be present at some of the existing buildings or ruins sites and may require ongoing monitoring or removal to manage any health and safety risks.

## Key management directions

- Manage fire in accordance with the statement of fire management intent. Fire management activities will focus on boundary breaks and reducing threats to



Brindingabba homestead, Brindingabba woolshed, Brindingabba campground and Bindra quarters precincts.

- Facilitate surveys, monitoring and assessment of natural and cultural values to improve knowledge and understanding of the park and better inform park management. This may include undertaking targeted activities for protecting and monitoring threatened species and communities and threatening processes such as high-frequency fire, competition, and habitat degradation by feral goats.
- Undertake pest management activities to support vegetation rehabilitation as required by the Clean Energy Regulator and as part of the *Brindingabba Human-Induced Regeneration Project*.
- Replace boundary fencing as necessary to form an effective barrier to incursion by goats and pigs and undertake feral animal control within the park to reduce grazing pressure and allow for regeneration of native vegetation.
- Conduct feral animal control and weed control in accordance with NPWS policies and procedures with a view to reducing and maintaining feral animal and weed densities at a level that ensures, to the greatest extent practicable, no significant ecological impact. Work will be undertaken in cooperation with park neighbours where practicable and will complement the Western Local Land Services Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan and Western Local Land Services Strategic Weed Management Plan.
- Provide opportunities for Aboriginal people to access Country, and 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, the protection and interpretation of cultural sites, and the non-commercial cultural use of wild resources, such as the collection of medicinal plants and bush tucker, subject to NPWS policies and licences as appropriate.
- Provide visitor facilities to ensure safe access and opportunities for sustainable visitor use and enjoyment. Visitor facilities currently planned include a campground at Brindingabba Creek with a short walking track along the creek and a tourist loop drive along Parragundy Trail and McGaws Tank Trail. Other facilities that may be provided for visitors, if required, include an expansion of the campground, additional walking tracks, tourist drives and bird-watching facilities.
- Campground access trails, Parragundy Trail, and McGaws Tank Trail will be maintained as public access trails. Public access to selected management trails may be allowed during open days and NPWS guided tours.
- All other trails on the park will be maintained as unsealed management trails or designated as dormant trails. Initial discussions with the Barwon-Darling Bush Fire Management Committee has indicated that no new strategic trails will be included in the fire access and fire trail plan.
- Temporarily close park roads and management trails during and after wet conditions where necessary.
- Additional park roads or management trails may only be constructed in emergencies or with the approval of the branch director.
- Adaptively re-use existing infrastructure for park management purposes such as staff accommodation, office space or for storage of vehicles, equipment and re-use materials from ruins, where this is consistent with any heritage assessments.
- Undertake stabilisation works and routine maintenance of Brindingabba homestead and outbuildings, as advised by the NPWS Historic Heritage Team.
- Additional structures may only be established if they are essential for public or staff health and safety, for controlling pollution or otherwise with the approval of the branch director.

- Decommission water infrastructure such as bores and dams that are not required for park management or public visitation.
- Decommission the former pastoral infrastructure that is not required for park management or public visitation, provided this is consistent with the conservation of its heritage value and any heritage conservation assessment. An approved conservation assessment or plan is required to disturb, remove, destroy or otherwise interfere with heritage items. An environmental impact assessment may also be required.
- Stabilise or remove derelict structures, infrastructure and facilities (e.g., tip site) as appropriate, and in accordance with any heritage value and, where relevant, an approved heritage conservation assessment or plan.
- Non-intrusive works may be undertaken where necessary to protect cultural heritage items from further deterioration, to ensure the safety of visitors or wildlife.
- Prepare a plan of management to set out the ongoing 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 ongoing 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 Bourke Office on 02 6841 7100 or at [npws.bourke@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:npws.bourke@environment.nsw.gov.au)

## More information

DPE (Department of Planning and Environment) (2021) [Managing parks prior to plan of management policy](#), DPE.

DPE (Department of Planning and Environment) (2022) [Fire management strategies](#), DPE.

[National Parks and Wildlife Act \(No 80\) 1974 \(NSW\)](#)

[National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 \(section 30 E\)](#)

[National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 \(section 30A \[2\]\)](#)

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 Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water 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 map in this statement is intended to show the park's location and basic features only and is not suitable for use when navigating to or exploring within the park.

Environment and Heritage  
 Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water  
 Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124; Phone: 1300 361 967  
 Email: [info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au); [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)  
 ISBN 978-1-923132-87-0; EH 2024/0071; March 2024

