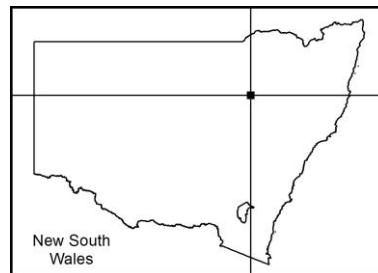


Statement of Management Intent



Dandry Gorge Aboriginal Area Community Conservation Area Zone 2

1. Introduction

NPWS acknowledges that this Aboriginal area is in the traditional Country of the Gamilaraay¹ Aboriginal People.

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Dandry Gorge Community Conservation Area Zone 2 Aboriginal Area (Dandry Gorge Aboriginal Area). This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the area until a plan of management has been prepared in accordance with the [National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974](#). The NPWS [Managing Parks Prior to Plan of Management Policy](#) states that parks and reserves without a plan of management are to be managed in a manner consistent with the intent of the National Parks and Wildlife Act and the ['precautionary principle'](#) (see [Principle 15](#)).

2. Management principles

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

- conserve natural and cultural values
- allow the use of the Aboriginal area by Aboriginal people for cultural purposes
- promote public appreciation and understanding of the park's natural and cultural values and significance where appropriate
- provide for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment that is compatible with conservation of natural and cultural values
- provide for sustainable use (including adaptive reuse) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas having regard to conservation of natural and cultural values of the Aboriginal people.

¹ Preferred spelling. Alternative spellings include Gomeroi, Kamilaroi and Gamilaroi

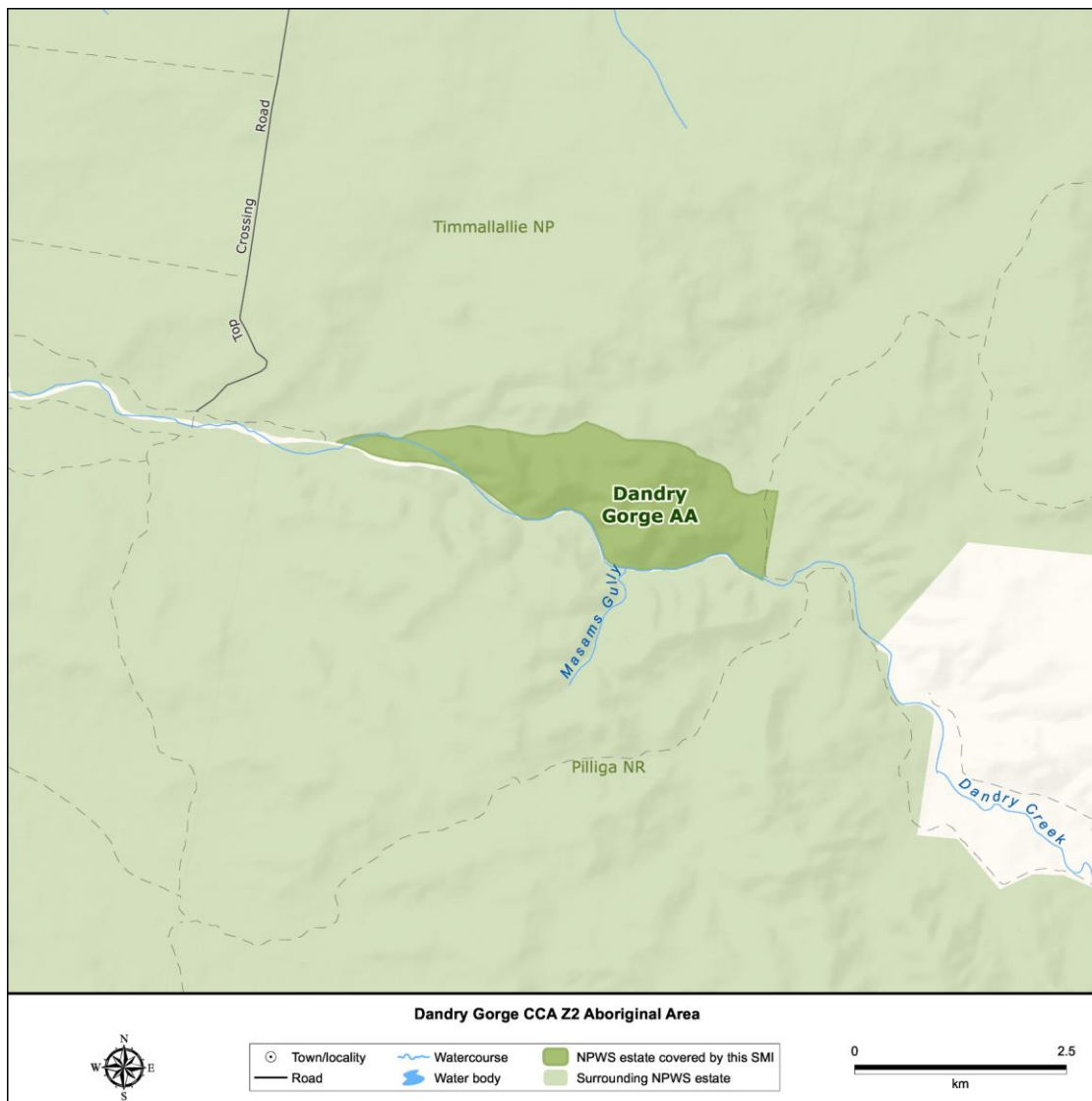
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring, in accordance with the cultural values of the Aboriginal people.

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.

Joint Management: Dandry Gorge Aboriginal Area is jointly managed by NPWS and the Gawambaraay Pilliga Co-management Committee through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in July 2008.

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

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



3. Context

Reservation details: Dandry Gorge Aboriginal Area was reserved on 1 December 2005.

Size: 382 hectares.

Background: Dandry Gorge Aboriginal Area is located 30 kilometres north of Coonabarabran and 20 kilometres southeast of Baradine on the north-western slopes and plains of NSW.

The park is surrounded by Timmallallie National Park and Pilliga Nature Reserve. It features rugged hills and valleys with Dandry Creek defining the southern boundary.

Prior to reservation the park was within the Timmallallie State Forest and managed for forestry purposes.

Post reservation of the park in 2005, the area was declared in September 2009 as Dandry Gorge Aboriginal Place under section 84 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act. The Aboriginal place declaration extends across the entire Dandry Gorge Aboriginal Area and a further 973 hectares of Pilliga Nature Reserve to the south. The park is reserved over the Aboriginal place and its management is consistent with the purpose and legislative protection of an Aboriginal place.

The park is located within the administrative areas of the Baradine Local Aboriginal Land Council, Central West Region Local Land Service and Warrumbungle Shire Council.

4. Values

- Dandry Gorge Aboriginal Area forms an important part of the cultural landscape for the Gamilaraay Aboriginal People including connections between people, land and spirit (Country).
- Dandry Gorge Aboriginal Area is jointly managed by NPWS in cooperation with the Gawambaraay Pilliga Co-management Committee, and in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding.
- Aboriginal sites in the park include grinding grooves, camp sites, art sites and shelters. Dandry Gorge was an important meeting place located on a traditional east-west pathway used by the local Aboriginal people.
- The park incorporates part of the Dandry Gorge Aboriginal Place, which is listed on the State Heritage Register for its Aboriginal values.
- Dandry Gorge Aboriginal Area is a small park within a large expanse of parks and state forest areas that form the 'Pilliga Forest', which is the largest contiguous expanse of native forest in NSW west of the Great Dividing Range.
- Adjacent to the north-western tip of the park, in Timmallallie National Park, is the visitor destination known as 'Sculptures in the Scrub'. The day use visitor area provides a series of Aboriginal themed sculptures situated along a walking trail with the Dandry Gorge Aboriginal Area providing a scenic backdrop.

5. Issues

- The park is small with limited visitation. Park management activities, such as law enforcement, pest control and fire management are incorporated into broader scale management across the Timmallallie National Park and Pilliga Nature Reserve.

6. Key management directions

- Manage Dandry Gorge Aboriginal Area in cooperation with the Gawambaraay Pilliga Co-management Committee, and in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding.
- Provide opportunities for Aboriginal people to access Country, to maintain, renew or develop cultural practices and associations.
- Provide opportunities for Aboriginal people to be involved in park management including the collection and management of information about cultural sites and values and the protection and interpretation of cultural sites.
- NPWS supports non-commercial cultural use of wild resources by the Aboriginal community, such as gathering of medicinal plants and bush tucker, subject to NPWS policies and licensing.
- Low key passive activities only are permitted, such as bushwalking and birdwatching.
- Fire is managed in accordance with the Pilliga East [Fire Management Strategy](#).

- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the [NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy](#).
- Unauthorised activities will be addressed by enforcement and regulatory signage where appropriate.
- All management activities will be preceded by the preparation of an environmental assessment or heritage assessment where this is a requirement of NPWS policy or legislation.
- Environmental repair and threat management programs, such as erosion mitigation measures, pest management, and activities arising from threatened species requirements may be implemented in accordance with NPWS policies and procedures.
- Non-intrusive works may be undertaken where necessary to protect cultural heritage items from further deterioration, to ensure the safety of visitors and wildlife or to prevent damage to park assets.
- A plan of management will be prepared to set out the on-going management objectives for the area. The plan of management is a statutory document under the National Parks and Wildlife Act which will be available for public comment. NPWS will also encourage the community to contribute to the on-going conservation of the area by promoting and raising public awareness of the special values of the area.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this park or this statement, contact the NPWS Baradine Area Office on (02) 6843 4000.

Disclaimer: This is a statement of intent to guide the management of the parks prior to the development of a plan of management. Any statements made in this publication are made in good faith and do not render the Office of Environment and Heritage liable for any loss or damage. Provisions in the final plan of management may vary from those identified in this document as a result of new information and community consultation. The maps in this statement are intended to show the parks' location and basic features only, and are not suitable for use when navigating to or exploring within parks.

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