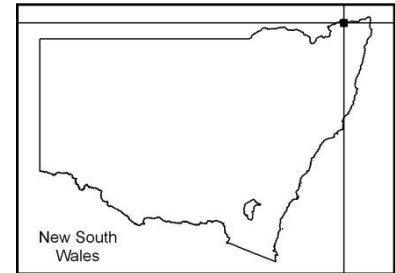


Statement of Management Intent



Koreelah, Mount Clunie and Mount Nothofagus national parks

1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Koreelah, Mount Clunie and Mount Nothofagus national parks. This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of these parks until a plan of management has been prepared in accordance with the [National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 \(NPW Act\)](#). 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 NPW Act and the [‘precautionary principle’](#) (see Principle 15).

2. Management principles

National parks are reserved under the NPW Act to protect and conserve areas containing outstanding or representative ecosystems, natural or cultural features or landscapes or phenomena that provide opportunities for public appreciation, inspiration and sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment. Under the NPW Act ([section 30E](#)), national parks are managed to:

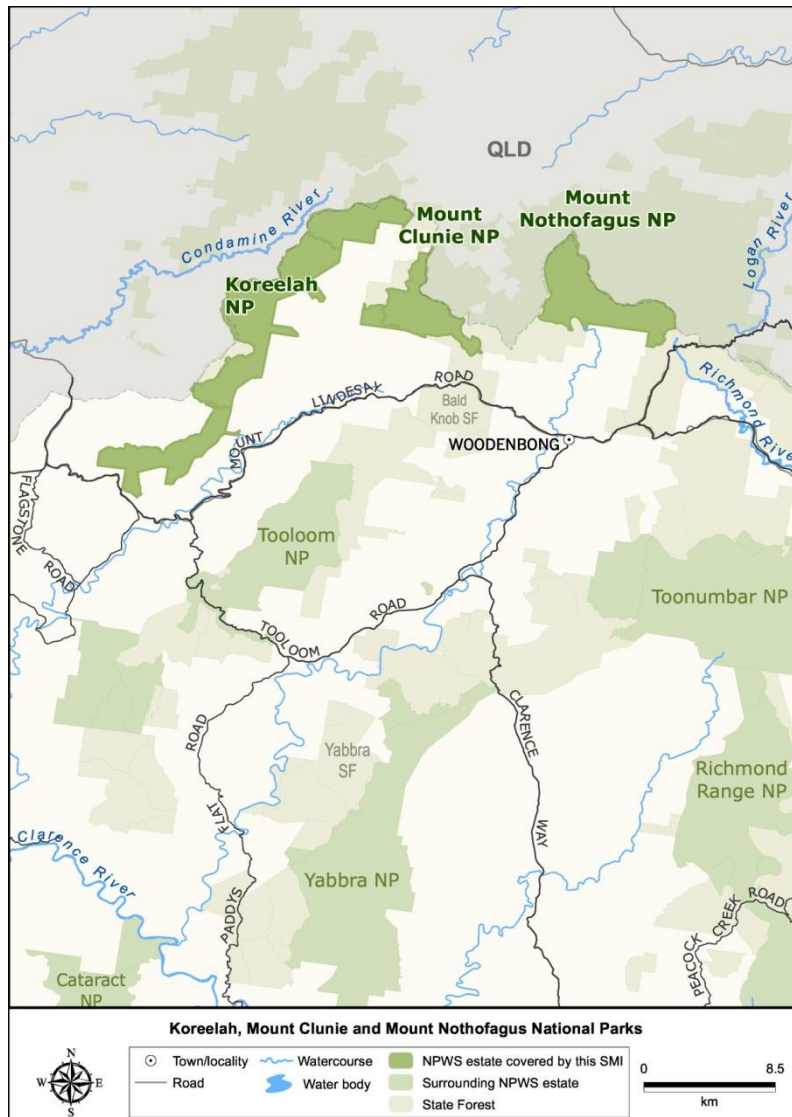
- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, and protect geological and geomorphological features and natural phenomena and maintain natural landscapes
- conserve places, objects, features and landscapes of cultural value
- protect the ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for present and future generations
- promote public appreciation and understanding of the park’s natural and cultural values
- 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
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

The primary purpose of national parks is to conserve nature and cultural heritage. Opportunities are provided for appropriate visitor use in a manner that does not damage conservation values.

3. Context

Reservation details: Koreelah, Mount Clunie and Mount Nothofagus national parks were reserved on 1 January 1999.

Size: Koreelah National Park is 5270 hectares, Mount Clunie National Park is 1426 hectares and Mount Nothofagus National Park is 2180 hectares.



Koreelah, Mount Clunie and Mount Nothofagus national parks are located in north-east New South Wales along the New South Wales – Queensland border. Mount Nothofagus National Park is located approximately 10 kilometres north of Woodenbong. Mount Clunie and Koreelah national parks extend further westwards along the McPherson Range and onto the Great Dividing Range. The parks fall within the South Eastern Queensland Bioregion, and within the administrative areas of Githabul Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Muli Muli Local Aboriginal Land Council, North Coast Local Land Services, and Tenterfield Shire and Kyogle councils.

NPWS acknowledges the parks are part of the traditional tribal area of the Githabul Aboriginal People. In 2007 the Federal Court of Australia made a consent determination recognising the Githabul People’s native title rights and interests over 1120 square kilometres of land, including the parks. The parks are jointly managed by NPWS and the Githabul People through an Indigenous Land Use Agreement.

The Regional Forest Agreement for North East New South Wales covers the parks and has provided for major additions to the park system, including the establishment of Koreelah, Mount Clunie and Mount Nothofagus national parks. All three parks were formerly state forest, and each included areas protected as native plant reserves. The parks contain several roads that are not part of the reserved area. Management of these roads is vested in the Minister administering the NPW Act.

State and private forestry operations comprise the majority of the surrounding land use along with private land tenure used for grazing and cropping operations. Queensland's Main Range and Mount Barney national parks share part of the northern boundary of the parks. Two travelling stock reserves border Koreelah National Park to the south.

Along with significant areas of subtropical, warm temperate, dry and cool temperate rainforest, vegetation within the parks includes wet and dry sclerophyll forests. Wet sclerophyll forests include tallwood (*Eucalyptus microcorys*), Sydney blue gum (*E. saligna*), brush box (*Lophostemon confertus*), flooded gum (*E. grandis*), grey gum (*E. biturbinata*), white mahogany (*E. acmenoides*), red mahogany (*E. resinifera*) and Dunn's white gum (*E. dunnii*) associations. Dry sclerophyll forests include those dominated by forest red gum (*E. tereticornis*), grey gum, white mahogany, red mahogany and New England blackbutt (*E. campanulata*).

4. Values

- Country and landforms in and around the park, including Mount Nothofagus, Mount Ballow, Mount Clunie and Jirramun (Wilson's Peak), are recorded by the Githabul People as holding deep, ongoing cultural associations. There are three recorded Aboriginal sites within the parks.
- The parks support significant areas of rainforest, some of which is included in the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area.
- The majority of Mount Nothofagus National Park is identified wilderness under the *Wilderness Act 1987*.
- Mount Nothofagus, Mount Ballow, Mount Clunie, Jirramun (Wilson's Peak) and Acacia Plateau are significant features within the planning area. They dominate the New South Wales – Queensland border in the region and provide outstanding scenic values.
- The parks contain five plants listed as threatened under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act): Bailey's cypress pine (*Callitris baileyi*), narrow-leaved plectranthus (*Plectranthus alloplectus*), Wollumbin dogwood (*Ozothamnus vagans*), slender marsdenia (*Marsdenia longiloba*) and northern clematis (*Clematis fawcettii*). Wollumbin dogwood, slender marsdenia and northern clematis are also listed as threatened under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).
- The parks contain 28 animals listed as threatened under the TSC Act and one species, the rainbow bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*), recognised under the Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement. Threatened species include mountain frog (*Philoria kundagungan*), Loveridge's frog (*P. loveridgei*), giant barred frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*), Fleay's barred frog (*M. fleayi*), pouched frog (*Assa darlingtoni*), three-toed snake-tooth skink (*Coeranoscincus reticulatus*), wompoo fruit-dove (*Ptilinopus magnificus*), rose-crowned fruit-dove (*P. regina*), marbled frogmouth (*Podargus ocellatus*), glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*), little lorikeet (*Glossopsitta pusilla*), little eagle (*Hieraaetus morphnoides*), sooty owl (*Tyto tenebricosa*), masked owl (*T. novaehollandiae*), powerful owl (*Ninox strenua*), Albert's lyrebird (*Menura alberti*), brown treecreeper (eastern subspecies) (*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*), regent honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*), varied sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*), eastern chestnut mouse (*Pseudomys gracilicaudatus*), Hastings river mouse (*Pseudomys oralis*), spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*), brush-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*), koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), grey-headed flying-fox (*Pteropus*

poliocephalus), rufous bettong (*Aepyprymnus rufescens*), long-nosed potoroo (*Potorous tridactylus*), brush-tailed rock-wallaby (*Petrogale penicillata*), red-legged pademelon (*Thylogale stigmatica*) and little bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus australis*). Nine of these species are also listed under the EPBC Act.

- Koreelah National Park supports the western extent of White Gum Moist Forest in the NSW North Coast Bioregion, an endangered ecological community listed under the TSC Act.
- Mount Nothofagus National Park is listed on the State Heritage Register due to its high conservation value old growth forest.
- The planning area contains several items of potential historic significance relating to the area's previous use for timber production, tick management, rabbit control and community use. The rabbit fence, established in the late 1800s to prevent rabbits from entering Queensland from the southern states, borders the parks. The fence is still operational and is managed by the Darling Downs – Moreton Rabbit Board.
- The parks contain wilderness and remote areas that provide opportunities for solitude and self-reliant recreation. They also provide opportunities for camping, picnicking, bushwalking and birdwatching. Within Koreelah National Park, cycling and horse riding are permitted on park roads and certain management trails, as indicated by signage.

5. Issues

- The Mount Ballow Identified Wilderness area (Mount Nothofagus National Park) was recognised in 2001, but has not progressed to declaration under the *Wilderness Act 1987*. The park is considered too small to meet the minimum size criterion for declaration. However, it forms part of a much larger area of 'wilderness' when considered in the broader landscape context that includes the adjacent Mount Barney National Park in Queensland, and NPWS continues to manage Mount Nothofagus National Park accordingly.
- An area on Acacia Plateau within Koreelah National Park was cleared and planted with Bunya pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*) and radiata pine (*Pinus radiata*) while state forest. A commercially valuable pine plantation of approximately 38 hectares now exists. While the land is part of the reserved area of the park, Forestry Corporation of NSW retains ownership of the trees and may harvest them. However, any logging operation would be subject to agreement between Forestry Corporation of NSW and NPWS, including requirements for rehabilitation.
- The Tick Board house contains asbestos and has been subject to minor vandalism and illegal squatting.
- Weed species known to occur in the parks include blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), groundsel bush (*Baccharis halimifolia*), giant Parramatta grass (*Sporobolus fertilis*), crofton weed (*Ageratina adenophora*), mistflower (*A. riparia*), lantana (*Lantana camara*), Chinese celtis (*Celtis sinensis*), Madeira vine (*Anredera cordifolia*), moth vine (*Araujia sericifera*), broad-leaved privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*) and wild tobacco bush (*Solanum mauritianum*).
- Pest animals known to occur in the parks include wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.), European red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), cats (*Felis catus*) and rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*). Cane toads (*Rhinella marina*) are not known from the parks. However, they have been recorded in adjacent areas and are likely to occur in Mount Nothofagus National Park.
- Livestock including cattle and horses are intermittently recorded in Mount Clunie and Koreelah national parks.
- Bell Miner Associated Dieback is widespread throughout the parks particularly in the smooth-barked wet sclerophyll forests such as flooded gum, blue gum, Dunn's white gum and grey gum.

- Myrtle rust is a plant disease caused by the exotic fungus *Uredo rangelii*. The introduction and establishment of myrtle rust is a key threatening process under the TSC Act. It has not been observed in the parks but given their proximity to known infestations it is likely to occur and poses a significant threat. The *Management Plan for Myrtle Rust on the national parks estate* outlines how myrtle rust will be managed, and incorporates strategies to limit its spread and minimise impacts on threatened species and ecological communities.
- Unauthorised or illegal use of management trails by motorbikes and four-wheel drive vehicles has resulted in significant trail damage.
- A consent has been issued under the NPW Act allowing access to an inholding in Koreelah National Park. A development application for a 21-house development on the inholding has been submitted to Tenterfield Shire Council, and an agreement for formal access in the form of an easement or right of way sought from NPWS. The guidelines relating to the provision of access to land under Section 153C of the NPW Act require an adopted plan of management for the park before any access rights can be granted.
- An encroachment of approximately 1 hectare on the western extremity of the Acacia Plateau section of Koreelah National Park is used for agricultural purposes. Options for the future management of this land will be reviewed.
- Ergon Energy manages two powerlines traversing Koreelah National Park. Both are subject to a formal licence agreement with the Office of Environment and Heritage regarding their operation and maintenance.
- Telstra optic fibre cables along Head Gate Road within Koreelah National Park pre-date reservation of the park. While maintenance of these facilities can be undertaken without NPWS approval, any other works would require a licence under the NPW Act.
- A memorandum of understanding between NPWS and the Darling Downs – Moreton Rabbit Board allows Rabbit Board staff to maintain the rabbit fence and associated access roads.
- The tick fence is maintained by the Tick Program section of Biosecurity NSW. Access to the tick fence is gained via the access tracks used by the Rabbit Board. There is no formal agreement or access to and maintenance of the tick fence.
- Sensitive areas, including Aboriginal sites and threatened species habitat, which occur along roadsides or other areas may be at risk of damage during management operations. A Sensitive Area Management System also known as the 'Green Guidepost System' has been established to manage this risk and identify appropriate management activities in these areas.

6. Key management directions

- The parks will be managed jointly with the Githabul People, in accordance with the provisions of the Githabul Indigenous Land Use Agreement and through the Githabul National Parks Management Committee.
- Fire is managed in accordance with the Koreelah National Park, and the Mount Clunie and Mount Nothofagus national parks [fire management strategies](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Northern Rivers Region.
- The parks will be surveyed to determine the presence and extent of all pest species and identify biodiversity most at risk.
- Actions from local area Wild Dog Management Plan will be implemented in cooperation with Northern Tablelands Local Land Services.
- In order to preserve the capacity of the identified wilderness area to evolve in the absence of significant human interference, the creation of management or visitor facilities in the area will

be avoided, unless considered essential for public safety, management or environmental protection. The potential for declaration of the identified wilderness under the *Wilderness Act 1987* will be investigated.

- Historic sites will be recorded and their significance assessed. If found to be significant, a heritage action statement or conservation management plan will be prepared, as appropriate, to guide future management and works. The Tick Board house and associated structures will be removed if found to have no historic significance.
- Non-native grazing stock will be excluded from the parks by liaising with neighbouring landholders, undertaking fencing agreements, and removing stock where necessary.
- The Memorandum of Understanding with the Darling Downs – Moreton Rabbit Board will be reviewed and updated as required.
- A strategy for future management of the encroachment into Koreelah National Park will be developed.
- The existing Green Guide Post System, identifying sensitive zones and locations of threatened species in the parks, will be maintained and expanded, particularly along roads and management trails.
- 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, to protect wildlife or to prevent damage to park assets.
- A plan of management will be prepared to set out the ongoing management objectives for these parks. The plan of management is a statutory document under the NPW Act which will be available for public comment. NPWS will also encourage the community to contribute to the ongoing conservation of the parks by promoting and raising public awareness of their special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of these parks or this statement, contact the NPWS Kyogle Office on (02) 6632 0000, 136 Summerland Way or PO Box 174, Kyogle NSW 2474.

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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