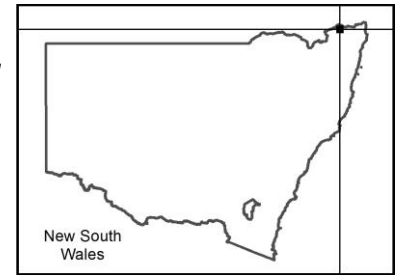


Statement of Management Intent



North Obelisk Nature Reserve

1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing North Obelisk Nature Reserve. This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the reserve 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

Nature reserves are reserved under the NPW Act to protect and conserve areas containing outstanding, unique or representative ecosystems, species, communities or natural phenomena. Under the NPW Act [\(Section 30J\)](#), nature reserves are managed to:

- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, and protect geological and geomorphological features and natural phenomena
- conserve places, objects, features and landscapes of cultural value
- promote public appreciation, enjoyment and understanding of the reserve's natural and cultural values
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

The primary purpose of nature reserves is to conserve nature. Nature reserves differ from national parks in that they do not have the provision of visitor use as a management purpose or principle.

3. Context

Reservation details: North Obelisk Nature Reserve was reserved on 5 March 1999.

Size: 36 hectares.

North Obelisk Nature Reserve is located approximately 12 kilometres south-west of Woodenbong, close to the town of Urbenville. It falls within the South Eastern Queensland Bioregion. It also lies within the administrative areas of the Tenterfield Shire Council, Northern Tablelands Local Land Services and Muli Muli Local Aboriginal Land Council.

North Obelisk Nature Reserve is located above a cliff line that forms part of Coutts Crown Mountain (previously known as North Obelisk Mountain, Mearimb and Crown Mountain). This mountain, which rises 370 metres above the town of Urbenville, is recognised as a place of significance to the local

Aboriginal community. The surrounding region is dominated by dairy and beef farming and logging country. There are no visitor facilities, roads or trails within the reserve and access is via private property.



4. Values

- North Obelisk Nature Reserve features unique geological aesthetics; the entire reserve is a volcanic plug formation.
- Forests in the reserve are dominated by white mahogany (*Eucalyptus acmenoides*), tallowwood (*E. microcorys*), New England blackbutt (*E. campanulata* and *E. andrewsii*) and small-fruited grey gum (*E. propinqua*) forest, much of which retains structural elements consistent with old growth forest.
- North Obelisk Nature Reserve is a site of Aboriginal heritage significance and represents a spiritual place for the Aboriginal community. The reserve is covered by the Githabul Indigenous Land Use Agreement and Determination of Native Title.
- Flora surveys in the reserve have identified two threatened plant species, namely Border Ranges nightshade (*Solanum limitare*) and oval-leaved pseudanthus (*Pseudanthus ovalifolius*), the latter being part of a northern disjunct population.

- The nature reserve protects habitat for the endangered brush-tailed rock-wallaby (*Petrogale penicillata*). Other threatened fauna species predicted to occur include spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*), koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), brush-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*), common planigale (*Planigale maculata*), squirrel glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*), little bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus australis*), large-eared pied bat (*Chalinolobus dwyeri*), masked owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae*), varied sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*), little lorikeet (*Glossopsitta pusilla*), spotted harrier (*Circus assimilis*) and pale-headed snake (*Hoplocephalus bitorquatus*).

5. Issues

- Wild dogs (*Canis lupus* spp.), European foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral cats (*Felis catus*) and feral cattle occur in adjoining areas. Although these species have not been formally recorded within the nature reserve, they are likely to occur and pose a threat to native fauna.
- Lantana (*Lantana camara*) and crofton weed (*Ageratina adenophora*) have been recorded within North Obelisk Nature Reserve.

6. Key management directions

- North Obelisk Nature Reserve forms part of the reserves covered by the Githabul Indigenous Land Use Agreement and Determination of Native Title. The consent determination recognises the rights of the Githabul people to practise their traditional laws and customs on the land, and the Indigenous Land Use Agreement provides opportunities for employment and partnerships. The cultural heritage management of all lands within the Indigenous Land Use Agreement area acknowledges the Githabul people as the primary people to be consulted on cultural heritage matters and, in particular, the protection of places of spiritual importance.
- Manage fire in accordance with the North Obelisk Nature Reserve [Fire Management Strategy](#). The reserve is zoned as a Heritage Management Zone, consistent with the Bush Fire Risk Management Plan for the Northern Tablelands. Unplanned fire is to be excluded to protect potential endangered brush-tailed rock-wallaby habitat and to meet the biodiversity threshold for the shrubby dry sclerophyll vegetation within the reserve.
- Implement pest management programs in accordance with the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Northern Rivers Region.
- As the reserve is surrounded by private property and only accessible through neighbouring private lands, it is essential to maintain working relationships with neighbours regarding fire management and access to the reserve. As a consequence, the reserve shall not be promoted for public visitation.
- No fauna surveys have been conducted in the reserve. Surveys, particularly targeted surveys for the brush-tailed rock-wallaby or other threatened species predicted to occur, need to be undertaken to confirm their presence in the reserve.
- 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 the reserve. 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 reserve by promoting and raising public awareness of its special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this reserve or this statement, contact the NPWS Kyogle Office on 02 6632 0000 or 136 Summerland Way, Kyogle NSW.

Disclaimer: This is a statement of intent to guide the management of the reserve 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 reserve's location and basic features only, and are not suitable for use when navigating to or exploring within parks.

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