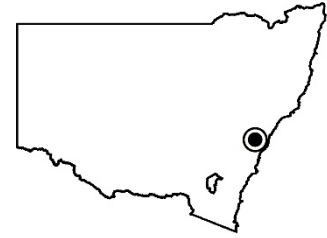


Statement of Management Intent



Shanes Park Part 11 Lands

1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing the Shanes Park Part 11 Lands. This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the lands vested to the Minister until the lands have been gazetted and 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

The planning area ('the park') is comprised of lands vested to the Minister under Part 11 of the NPW Act. These lands are identified for gazettal as a national park and will be managed as per the principles of a national park in the interim.

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: Shanes Park Part 11 Lands (Lot 1/DP447543) was transferred to NPWS in December 2020

Size: 559 hectares

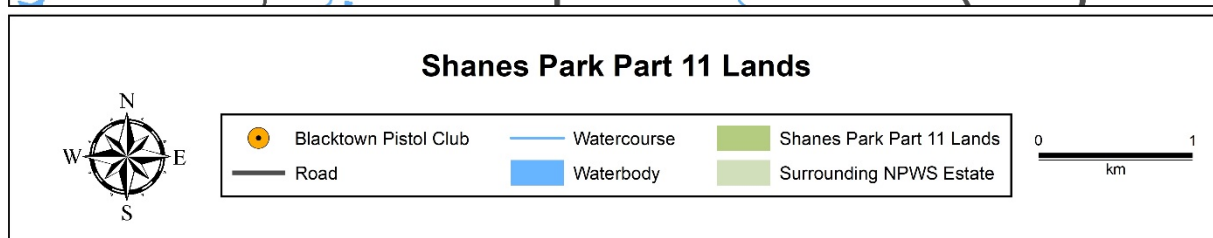
The park is situated on the Cumberland Plain in the locality of Shanes Park, approximately 40 kilometres north-west of Sydney CBD and 10 kilometres north-east of Penrith CBD. It falls within the Sydney Basin Bioregion and within the administrative areas of Blacktown City Council, Greater Sydney Local Land Services and Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council.

The reserve is bordered to the west by Stony Creek Road and semi-rural private lands to the west and the suburbs of Wilmot and Shalvey to the south. Lands on the northern and eastern boundaries encompass urban areas, industrial estate and land proposed for urban development. Wianamatta Regional Park is adjacent to the south-western corner of the park, separated by Palmyra Road.

The reserve contains remnant swampy woodlands, open grassy woodlands and open forest vegetation communities once found across the Cumberland Plain. These communities are now only found in small and often isolated parcels due to widespread agricultural and, more recently, urban development.

The reserve is relatively flat, consistent with much of the Cumberland Plain and contains two first and second order streams which flow northwards into South Creek and the Hawkesbury River. The reserve overlays Triassic Bringelly shale and Tertiary Londonderry Clay. Soils are shale based and shale-gravel transitional.

Shanes Park Part 11 Lands was managed by Airservices Australia (and the former Department of Civil Aviation) for use as a transmitter station, performing air traffic control functions for international flights until 2005. It was transferred to NPWS in 2020 in recognition of its biodiversity values as a key commitment under the Sydney Growth Centres Program.



4. Values

- The park protects six endangered ecological communities: Cumberland Plain Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion, Shale Gravel Transition Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion, Castlereagh Scribbly Gum Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion, Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion, River-flat Eucalypt Forest on the Coastal Floodplains of the Sydney Basin Bioregion and Castlereagh Swamp Woodland Community.
- The park contains a variety of threatened flora such as the juniper-leaved grevillea (*Grevillea juniperina* subsp. *juniperina*), Sydney Bush-Pea (*Pultenaea parviflora*) and *Dillwynia tenuifolia*.
- A range of herpetofauna have been recorded in the park, including the jacky lizard (*Amphibolurus muricatus*), lace monitor (*Varanus varius*) wood gecko (*Diplodactylus vittatus*), eastern banjo frog (*Limnodynastes dumerilii*) and eastern long-necked turtle (*Chelodina longicollis*).
- A number of threatened microbats have been recorded in the park, including the common bent-wing bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii*), greater broad-nosed bat (*Scoteanax rueppellii*) and the southern myotis (*Myotis macropus*).
- The reserve provides habitat for a number of threatened bird species, such as the speckled warbler (*Chthonicola sagittata*), little lorikeet (*Glossopsitta pusilla*) and varied sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*).
- The park contains evidence of past use of the area by the Darug people, with multiple Aboriginal heritage sites recorded in AHIMS.

5. Issues

- Pest animal species recorded in the reserve include foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral cats (*Felis catus*), pigs (*Sus scrofa*), fallow deer (*Dama dama*), rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and hares (*Lepus europaeus*).
- Feral predators have had a significant impact on Australian native animals. Australia has the worst mammal extinction rate in the world. Over 30 Australian mammal species have been driven to extinction in the past 250 years, with cats and foxes the main drivers for at least two-thirds of these losses. Feral cats are found throughout mainland Australia and kill 1.7 billion native animals every year. They have contributed to most of the small mammal extinctions in Australia over the last 250 years and continue to have a significant impact on native mammals, reptiles and birds.
- Invasive weed species recorded within Shanes Park include *Ludwigia peruviana*, narrow-leaf privet (*Ligustrum sinense*), cockspur coral tree (*Erythrina crista-galli*), African olive (*Olea europaea*) and African love grass (*Eragrostis curvula*).
- Infrastructure remains in the park from its use by Airservices Australia. This includes numerous buildings, electrical equipment such as transformers and extensive areas of concrete hardstand. This infrastructure will be assessed for cultural heritage value and contamination and structural integrity risk.
- The park was closed during occupation by Airservices Australia and remains closed to visitors. Site safety and reserve establishment works are required before it can be opened for visitor use.
- Illegal activities such as trail bike riding, 4-wheel driving, rubbish dumping and firewood collection present threats to park values.

- The park contains an extensive network of informal trails, many formed by illegal 4- wheel drive and trail bike use. Many of these trails present a risk to park values, are surplus to management needs and are of an inadequate standard for public use.
- Trails in the reserve do not meet fire management standards and a boundary trail is required to assist in fire management operations.
- Leases currently exist for a telecommunications tower, powerline easement and the Blacktown Pistol Club.

6. Key management directions

- Seek to reserve as a national park. The land within the Outer Sydney Orbital and Bells Line of Road-Castlereagh Connection corridors, and land leased by the Blacktown Pistol Club will be excluded from this gazettal and remain as Part 11 lands.
- Manage risks to life and property by managing fire within the reserve.
- Develop and implement a reserve fire management strategy.
- Assess the trail network against fire management and operational needs. Close trails deemed excess to requirement, develop a boundary trail and upgrade remaining trails to the standards outlined in the Cumberland Bush Fire Management Committee Fire Access and Fire Trail Plan.
- The reserve is identified for the establishment of a feral predator-free area and reintroduction of locally extinct species previously found on the Cumberland Plain. It will become part of a network of feral predator-free areas within the NSW national parks network complementing those established on private land. This significant and long-term commitment of the NSW Government will be implemented in parallel with the suite of existing threatened species conservation strategies across the State.
- Undertake site establishment works including installation of a feral predator proof fence along the boundary trail with a supporting internal trail to support maintenance, a security fence and security systems to monitor the fence and discourage vandalism. An external security fence may be required.
- Undertake ecological health monitoring to establish baseline biodiversity status, determine ecological conditions prior to installation of the feral predator-free area, assess the impact of the feral predator-free area and inform ongoing management.
- Eradicate feral predators following completion of the feral predator proof fence. Manage other feral animal and plant species in the reserve in accordance with the priorities of the NPWS Greater Sydney Branch Pest Management Strategy and any pest animal and weed strategy developed for the park.
- Species reintroduction will be guided by documents such translocation plans and a future plan of management for the reserve.
- Remove infrastructure in the park that is surplus to operation needs subject to the outcomes of heritage assessments.
- Undertake works necessary for the safety of park visitors and staff, including the removal and remediation or isolation of hazardous electrical and asbestos infrastructure.
- Plan and construct built infrastructure as required to support park operations. Any such infrastructure will be located in the disturbed area in the central west of the park containing remanent Aircservices Australia infrastructure and hardstand.
- Provide for visitor use once park establishment, safety and feral predator-free area works allow. Appropriate visitation will be guided by the operational needs of the feral predator-free

enclosure. Basic visitor infrastructure, such as walking trails, interpretive signage and a carpark and toilet block, may be developed.

- Other environmental repair and threat management programs may be implemented in accordance with NPWS policies and procedures.

7. Park establishment works

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities for managing the Shanes Park Part 11 Lands. The undertaking of activities identified in this statement will be guided by NPWS park management policies and procedures, planning and impact assessment as required by legislation such as the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and *Heritage Act 1977*.

Further planning and assessment will be undertaken to facilitate key stages in the establishment of the feral predator-free area. These stages include construction of the fence, eradication of feral predators and reintroduction of locally extinct fauna. Examples of planning and assessment to be undertaken include:

- Environmental impact assessment. Environmental impact assessment will be conducted prior to undertaking any development works. A Review of Environmental Factors will be completed prior to any fence construction works and will be made available for public comment.
- Ecological health monitoring. The biodiversity and ecological health of the reserve will be monitored throughout each stage of the project to assess the outcomes and guide management actions, including the reintroduction of locally extinct fauna.
- Translocation plans will be undertaken prior to any species reintroductions. These will consider species selection and the potential impacts of reintroductions on the existing biodiversity and ecosystems.

Following reservation under the NPW Act a plan of management will be prepared to set out the ongoing management objectives for the park. The plan will provide guidance on managing visitation following completion of site establishment works. 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 values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this park or this statement, contact the NPWS Scheyville office on 02 4580 2750, npws.cumberland@environment.nsw.gov.au or 71 Memorial Drive, Scheyville 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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