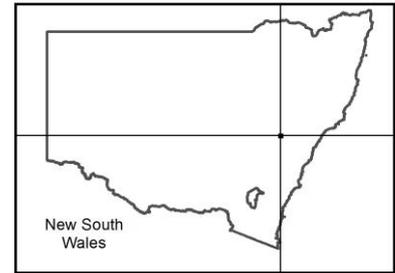


Statement of Management Intent



Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area

1. Introduction

This statement outlines the main values, issues, management directions and priorities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for managing Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area (SCA). This statement, together with relevant NPWS policies, will guide the management of the SCA 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

State conservation areas are reserved under the NPW Act to protect and conserve areas that:

- contain significant or representative ecosystems, landforms or natural phenomena or places of cultural significance
- are capable of providing opportunities for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment, the sustainable use of buildings and structures, or research
- are capable of providing opportunities for uses permitted under other provisions of the NPW Act.

Under the NPW Act ([section 30G](#)), state conservation areas are managed to:

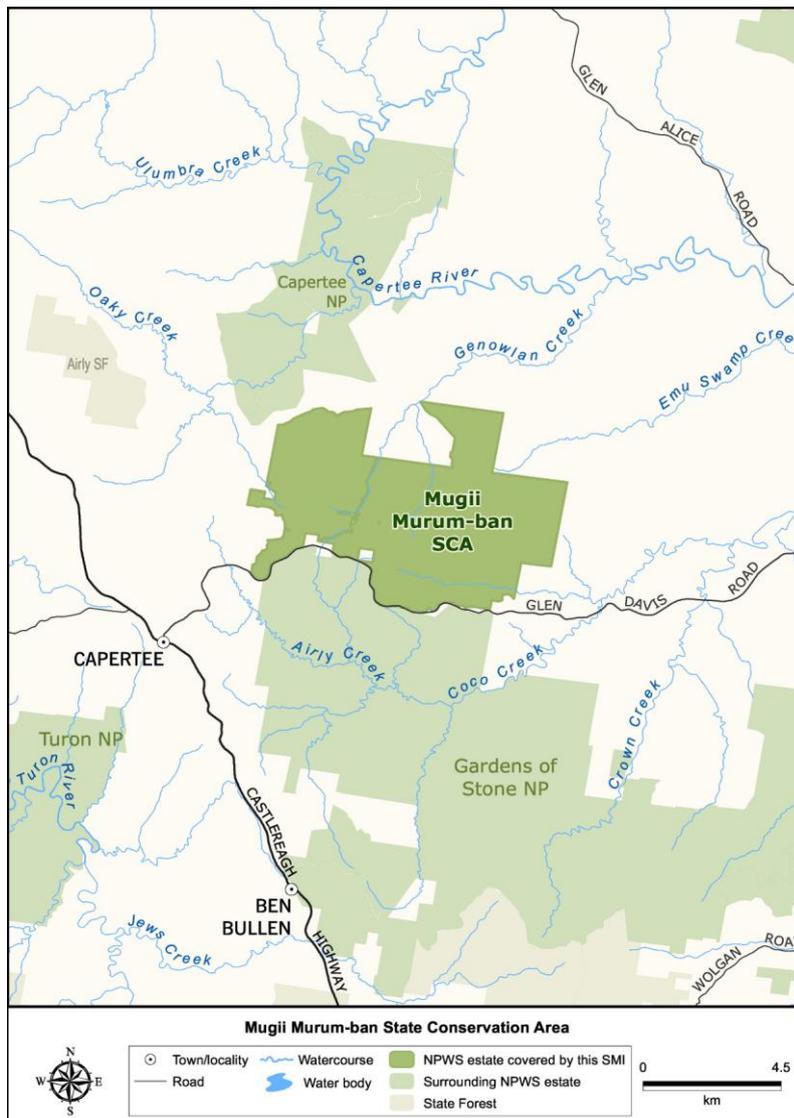
- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, protect natural phenomena and maintain natural landscapes
- conserve places, objects and features of cultural value
- provide for the undertaking of uses permitted under other provisions of the NPW Act (including uses permitted under section 47J such as mineral exploration and mining), having regard to the conservation of the natural and cultural values of the state conservation area
- provide for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment that is compatible with conservation of the area's natural and cultural values and with uses permitted in the area
- provide for sustainable use (including adaptive reuse) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas having regard to conservation of the area's natural and cultural values and with other uses permitted in the area
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

Land is reserved as a state conservation area primarily where mineral values preclude reservation as another category. The NPW Act requires a review of the classification of state conservation areas every five years in consultation with the Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992*.

3. Context

Reservation details: Mugii Murum-ban SCA was reserved on 4 March 2011.

Size: 3650 hectares.



Mugii Murum-ban SCA is located 40 kilometres north of Lithgow and 3 kilometres north-east of Capertee. It lies within the South Eastern Highlands Bioregion. It also falls within the administrative areas of Lithgow City Council, Bathurst Local Aboriginal Land Council and Central Tablelands Local Land Services.

The SCA is part of a large and relatively contiguous system of protected bushland, stretching from the Hunter Valley in the north to the Wollondilly River in the south, and including the nearby Capertee, Gardens of Stone and Wollemi national parks. Mugii Murum-ban SCA is dominated by two prominent mesas which are major visual features of the Capertee Valley.

The park contains a great diversity of ecosystems, supporting several threatened plants and animals and two threatened ecological communities. The area is of particular significance to the

Wiradjuri Aboriginal People and also contains numerous significant historic heritage sites. The park is recognised as having significant deposits of coal.

4. Values

- Mugii Murum-ban SCA contains a number of significant geological features including prominent mesas, extensive and intricate pagoda clusters, numerous deep gorges, canyons and unusual rock formations. These features combine to create a visual landscape of high scenic value.
- The SCA contains a number of threatened plants and vegetation communities that are currently under-represented within the NSW park system including *Pultenaea* sp. 'Genowlan Point', which is known only from a single small population on the tip of Genowlan Point, and the endangered ecological community Genowlan Point *Allocasuarina nana* Heathland. Other threatened plant species recorded in the SCA include *Grevillea obtusiflora*, Mount Vincent mint-bush (*Prostanthera stricta*) and Capertee stringybark (*Eucalyptus cannoni*). The SCA also contains areas of the endangered ecological community White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland.
- The SCA contains several threatened animal species, including the glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathamii*).
- The SCA lies within the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri Aboriginal People and has important cultural value.
- Ruins from past oil shale mining are located within the SCA, including evidence of roads, cableways, tunnels, railway lines, buildings, steam winches, ventilation chimneys and caves used as houses, as well as evidence of past diamond mining.
- The SCA provides opportunities for self-reliant recreation including four-wheel driving, nature study, camping, mountain biking, bushwalking and birdwatching.

5. Issues

- Significant geological features of the park (notably pagodas) are susceptible to physical damage from a range of human activities.
- Past and future mining activities in the park have the potential to affect park values.
- Soils in the park are mainly shallow sandy loams and are highly erodible. Management trails within the park are particularly susceptible to erosion following rain.
- Vehicle use of management trails (and maintenance of these trails) has the potential to impact threatened plant species and communities. Vehicle use of management trails is also a potential threat to Aboriginal heritage sites.

6. Key management directions

- Fire is managed in accordance with the Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area [Fire Management Strategy](#).
- Pest management programs will be implemented in accordance with the NPWS [Regional Pest Management Strategy](#): Blue Mountains. Current priorities for the SCA include the control of feral goats.
- Vehicle access arrangements will be reviewed during the development of the plan of management for Mugii Murum-ban SCA. Community consultation will be undertaken throughout this process.

- 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.
- Applications for mining or mineral exploration within the SCA will be subject to environmental impact assessment and approvals.
- A plan of management will be prepared to set out the ongoing management objectives for the SCA. 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 SCA by promoting and raising public awareness of its special values.

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this SCA or this statement, contact the NPWS Mudgee Area Office on (02) 6370 9000 or 27 Inglis St, Mudgee NSW 2850.

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

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