

# *50 Park Proposals*



A Compilation of National Park, Nature Reserve and  
Regional Parks Proposals for New South Wales in 2017.

# Overview

This document provides an identifiable listing of 50 new (including additions to) protected areas to be reserved under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974* (NP&W Act) within NSW. These proposals represent areas which are considered to be catch-up areas, areas that should already be protected. As at 2017, there is approximately 9% of the State within protected areas under the NP&W Act.

The proposals found within this report, have been largely tested against the principles and approaches of the Draft NSW National Parks System Directions Statement (dated November 2017) and as such has been used as an attachment to the NPA's submission to that Draft Directions Statement. The major exception relates to the proposed Sydney Marine Park within the Hawkesbury Shelf Bioregion which not being terrestrial in nature, may fall outside of the Draft Directions Statement.

This document has been developed around some key themes in an attempt to resolve outstanding reservations and 'to clear the decks' of community expectations and concerns prior to tackling some longer term policy issues. A long term strategic view of protected areas will identify additional areas.

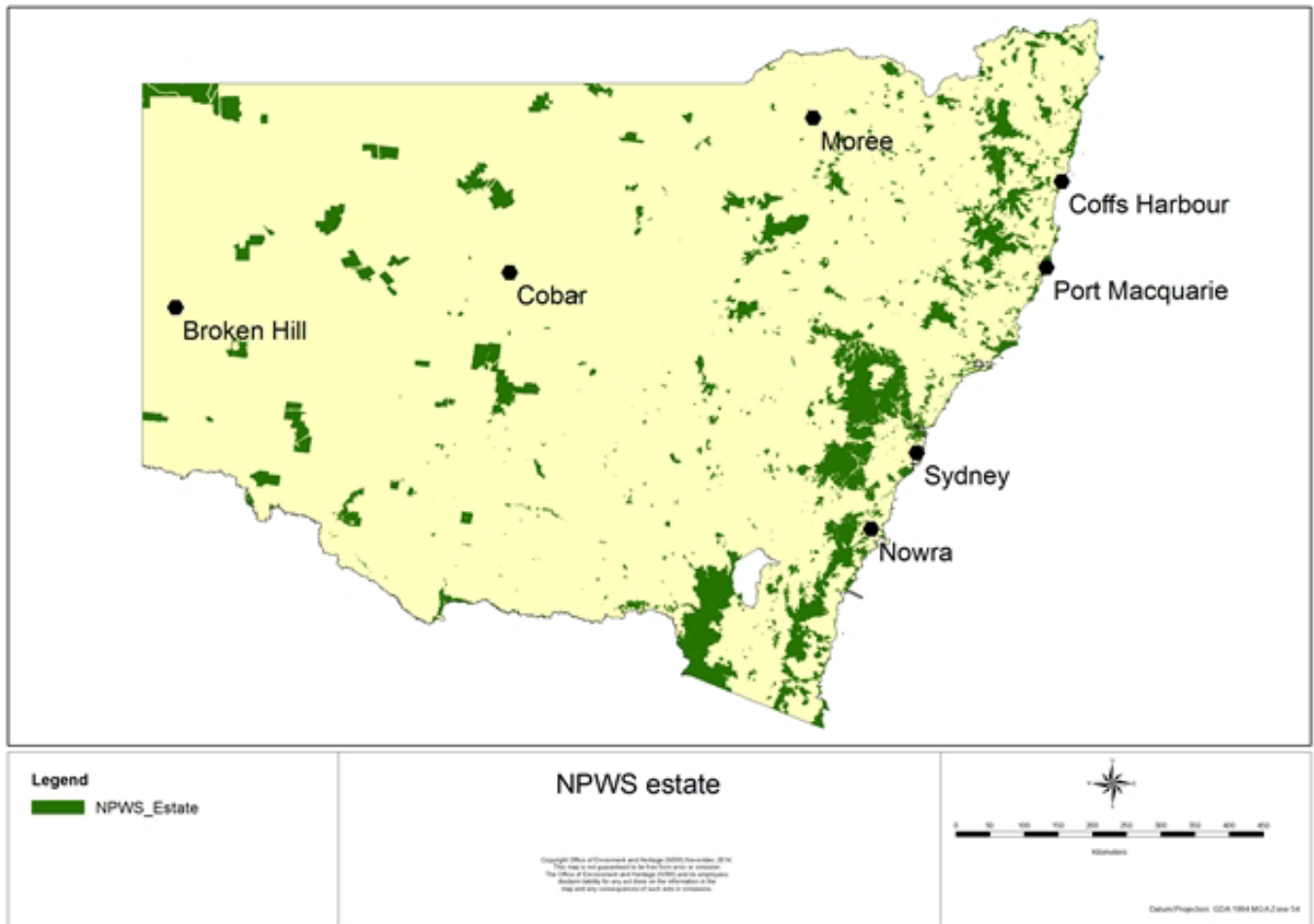
The key themes identified in this document, and which complement those of the Draft Directions Statement are:

- Protection of Sydney's water catchments not already reserved as national parks;
- Protection of key new areas which provide recreational and conservation opportunities for the residents of south-western Sydney;
- Protection of high conservation and iconic additions within the Greater Sydney area;
- Reservation of important north coast parks for the protection of koalas, coastal wetlands and river catchments;
- Reservation of key south coast reserves including those formerly set aside as flora reserves under the regional forest agreements as part of the comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system, that protect key koala habitat, and resolve conflicting land use with coastal reserves;
- Reservation of previously identified flora reserves within the South-west slopes (near Tumut) which have been identified as potentially part of the CAR reserve system;
- Resolution of long standing community concerns in relation to conflicts between mining interest, logging and conservation for Gardens of Stone and Pilliga as well as a simple addition to Sturt National Park;
- Transfer of Crown Reserves (State Parks) which currently do not have protected area status but should form the basis of a State-wide system of regional parks;
- Protection of a marine protected area for the Sydney (Hawkesbury Shelf) Marine Bioregion, the inter-tidal zone adjoining existing coastal parks as well as wild and scenic river status for the Clyde River on the south coast; and
- Identification of coastal areas where the resolution of protected areas warrants further investigation, recognising there is a review of the Southern regional forest agreement.

The areas identified in this document are not ambit claims. They represent long standing and well researched areas for which there has been ongoing community support, sometimes for many decades. Some areas have been identified where additional work needs to be done but should nevertheless also be considered for protection. They also do not seek to impose costs to future Governments for the acquisition of private land, although in the future this will be critical in establishing other protected areas (notably in the west) or finalising park boundaries associated with the areas identified in this report. These proposals are, by their nature, public lands which could be readily transferred to the NPWS.

We note that there are Aboriginal land claims outstanding on many areas of Crown Land in NSW. NPA supports the rights of Aboriginal people to claim land, and therefore any changes to the status of Crown Land (e.g. the conversion of State Parks to Regional Parks) should be subject to consultation with the relevant Aboriginal owners.

There are 50 major park proposals plus other areas which warrant further consideration within this document. In the year of the 50th Anniversary of the NPWS, this document serves as a 'call to arms' in protecting areas of natural and cultural significance and demonstrates that there are important areas of public land which warrant such protection.



National Parks Estate in NSW as at June 2014 (Source, NPWS website, 25 November 2017)

A small number of proposals have also been identified for future investigation and/or costing but in NPA's view warrant protection. This includes lands of far western NSW, private lands associated with the catchment of Lake Wollumboola (plus the Heritage Estates) as additions to Jervis Bay National Park, and other South Coast parks which should also be assessed under the review of the Southern Regional Forest Agreement. In the north of the State, NPA is seeking the acquisition and reservation of land for the Great Koala National Park proposal as well as other areas of conservation significance. NPA is strongly committed to the protection of the Gardens of Stone Stage 2 proposal, developed by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness.

This compilation of proposals document should stand on its own, but it is also important during the finalisation of the Draft NSW National Parks System Directions Statement. NPA sees the Directions Statement as an important document and supports the overall approach. The proposals contained within this Proposals document however, illustrate how there is a significant way to go in achieving the NSW conservation estate.

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 Convenor, Landscape Conservation Forum  
 National Parks Association of NSW.  
 10 January 2018



The NPA wishes to acknowledge the considerable effort of Branches, members and staff of the Association who have assisted in the development of this document.

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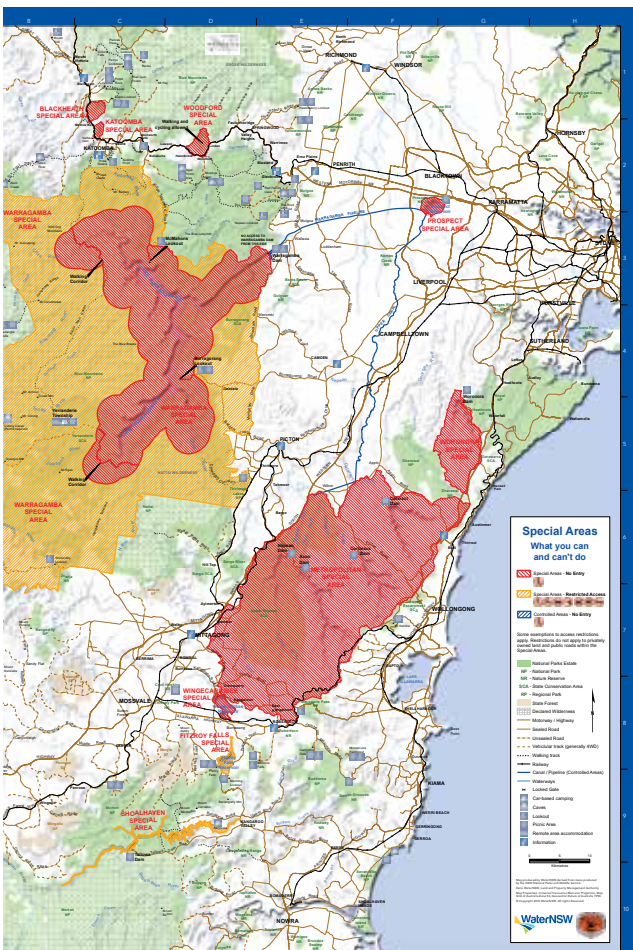
**NOTE:** All information contained within this document has been derived from public sources. These largely include NSW Government websites documents and reports. In addition, some major proposals were sourced from published documents from leading NSW conservation organisations. In the case of Commonwealth lands, the information was derived from relevant reports and management plans (Sydney Harbour Federation Trust). Location map data ©2018 Google unless otherwise specified. Maps have been cited as acknowledgement of the source where included but otherwise source documents have not been cited due to time constraints.



# Sydney Drinking Catchment Areas

The SCA was merged with State Water Corporation on 1 January 2015 to form WaterNSW. Special Area declarations are applied over both government and private tenure lands within the special area catchments (see map below). At present approximately 67 percent of the Special Areas comprise reserves under the NP&W Act, 19 percent is WaterNSW freehold land (which includes the water storages), and 14 percent is privately owned land and other tenure, including Crown land. The NPWS is the dominant land manager with some 243,634 Ha being vested in NPWS, while 69,026 Ha is vested in WaterNSW (under the SCA banner).

Under the WaterNSW legislation, lands owned by WaterNSW in a special area may only be disposed of to the NPWS (at no cost). While the Minister for the Environment was managing these lands, the management of special areas was less of a concern, however, while there may be mutual issues for protection, the land management functions must now rest with NPWS. The SCA currently spends approximately \$10 million annually on land management, which should be transferred to the NPWS. The role of the WaterNSW should be as a regulator of water supply and quality, independent of tenure, and not as a land manager. In addition Local Planning Direction 5.2 requires land in the Special Areas that is owned or under the control of WaterNSW to be zoned 'E2' Environmental Conservation if it is located above the full water supply level, and 'SP2' Infrastructure for all land below the full water supply level and for all operational land, including land at dams and weirs. The direction requires all land within the Special Areas which is reserved under the NPW Act to be zoned 'E1' National Parks and Nature Reserves. It is proposed to only transfer and reserve lands identified as E2 and not SP2 to the NPWS and have these rezoned to E1. The two remaining catchments are the Woronora and Metropolitan Catchment Areas.



Metropolitan & Woronora Special Areas (WaterNSW, 2016)

**Woronora Catchment Area:** addition to Heathcote NP. The area owned by WaterNSW (as freehold) is 7,241 Ha with some 6 Ha lying within Heathcote National Park. Some 502 Ha is still in other tenures and would need to be part of a longer term strategy of acquisition by WaterNSW.

**Metropolitan Catchment Area:** Some 48,449 Ha of land owned by WaterNSW lies within the current Metropolitan Catchment area, with a further 30,111 currently managed by the NPWS. There is 11,679 Ha in other tenures which includes some Crown reserves. The Scouting Association has a Crown site which it uses for Scouting Jubilees. These lands should also be added to improve the health and safety of users and the catchment of the Cataract section of the Metropolitan Catchment Area. The area between Picton Road and Appin Road not within the NP&WS estate would form one national park, whereas the areas south of Picton Road could be added to the existing Nepean SCA as a new nature reserve.

# South-West Sydney Region New Areas



## **Upper Georges River (Upper Georges River ROS and Crown reserves).**

Comprising the lands acquired under the Sydney Region Development Fund and some small Crown Reserves stretching from Appin to Glenfield along the Upper Georges River. The area (approx. 4,000 Ha) contains a significant population of koalas, and endangered ecological communities of Cumberland vegetation.

The Campbelltown Koala population is now considered to be the last large, healthy and expanding population left in New South Wales, and as such should be protected and allowed to expand into the Nepean system. The population is listed as Vulnerable in New South Wales, as the Koala population is considered to be “a key source population either for breeding or dispersal, and a population necessary for maintaining genetic diversity”. Three types of endangered communities occur on the site being Cumberland Plain Woodland, Shale Sandstone Transition Forest, and River-flat Eucalypt Forest all of which are fast disappearing within the Sydney Basin, despite their endangered listings. The area provides opportunities for both active and passive recreation for the growing South-west Growth Areas.



## **Bargo-Nepean Gorge (Bargo Gorge and Nepean River).**

comprises all of the Bargo River catchment Crown Land plus the Crown Land around 8 kilometres of the Nepean. It links the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area to the Metropolitan Catchment Areas (between the Illawarra Region and the F5 Freeway). The altitude range is 643m between a point near Hilltop and the confluence of the 2 rivers, at Tahmoor, providing connectivity and improved resilience for the existing conservation reserves. The remarkably precipitous Tahmoor Gorge, with many cascades, contains the now famous Mermaids Pool which can be managed to become safer for users in an area of rapid population growth.

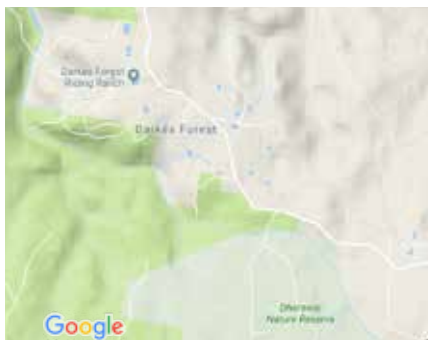
# Sydney Region additions of high conservation value and cultural importance.



## **Browns Forest and adjoining lands addition.**

The St Ives Blue Gum High Forest includes Dalrymple Hay Nature Reserve, Browns Forest, Rosedale Road, and Vista Street Reserve.

This is the largest remaining remnant of Blue Gum High Forest which is a tall open forest on deep shale-derived soils with high rainfall. Its dominant trees are Sydney blue gum (*Eucalyptus saligna*) and Blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*). Other trees include forest oak (*Allocasuarina torulosa*) and Sydney red gum (*Angophora costata*). It comprises a tall canopy of dominant trees, that reach a height of over 30m, above a mid-storey of shrubs and small trees and a diverse ground layer. In April 2007, the NSW Scientific Committee, established by the *Threatened Species Conservation Act*, made a Final Determination to list the Blue Gum High Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion, as a critically endangered ecological community. The forest is already listed as critically endangered under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*. Only 4.5% of the original Blue Gum High Forest remains. The importance of this remaining forest cannot be underestimated in its unique grouping of interdependent plants, from dominant canopy trees to tiny ground orchids providing a range of habitats for a variety of native animals. Several tall trees may be approximately 200 years old providing much needed nesting hollows for birds and mammals.



## **O'Hares Creek Crown Reserve addition to Dharawal SCA.**

The O'Hares Creek Shale Forest Community (OHCSFC) is the plant community that occurs on deep, well drained red loam on small outcrops of Hawkesbury shale in the Darkes Forest area on the Woronora Plateau within Campbelltown, Wollondilly and Wollongong Council areas.

The proposal occurs on flat ridgetops and the Crown Reserve contains significant stands of this community (OHCSFC). Approximately half of the original extent of OHCSFC has been cleared for agriculture or mining and only small remnant patches remain, totalling less than 200 ha. Only a small area occurs within conservation reserves (some 20-30 ha in Dharawal Nature Reserve and National Park) and this reserved proportion does not cover the range of floristic variation in the community.

The addition would add to the integrity and management of the Dharawal National Park (and Nature Reserve) as well as provide additional areas with OHCSFC. OHCSFC is threatened by degradation of remaining stands, including weed invasion, high fire frequency, disturbance associated with illegal wood cutting and off-road vehicle use, and the possibility of further clearing associated with extractive industries. The Crown Reserve is subject to an Aboriginal Land claim so as to prevent the development of a rifle range, however, it is proposed to consult with the Tharawal Land Council and enter into an ILUA with transfer to the NPWS.





### **Sydney Harbour NP (Federation Trust lands):**

Comprises a series of former Commonwealth areas (including former defence lands) vested in the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.

The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust is an agency created by the Australian Government responsible for vision planning and management of Sydney Harbour sites including Cockatoo Island and Snapper Island in Sydney Harbour, North Head Sanctuary in Manly, Woolwich Dock and Parklands in Woolwich, Georges Heights, Middle Head and Chowder Bay in Headland Park Mosman, Marine Biological Station in Watsons Bay, Macquarie Light Station in Vaucluse and the Platypus site in Neutral Bay. This proposal requires negotiation with the Commonwealth for the transfer, with current budgeted funding from the Commonwealth to flow to the State.



**Kelly's Bush (addition to Parramatta River Regional Park):** This has both significant historical and nature conservation values, being the first site subject to the 'Green Bans' implemented in the 1970s to protect natural areas and historically significant buildings.

Kelly's Bush covers 4.8 hectares of bushland on the lower reaches of the Parramatta River in the Sydney Metropolitan Area. It is part of a network of near natural open spaces on the Sydney Harbour waterway system and is the only substantial area of natural bush on the lower Parramatta River. Kelly's Bush is the largest area of near natural bush on the Hunter's Hill peninsula. It is linked directly to Weil Park to the north, Nelson Parade and residential areas to the west, the Parramatta River to the south and residential areas and Woolwich Marina to the east. Kelly's Bush lies on the southerly aspect of the major ridge line of the Hunter's Hill Peninsula, which runs in an east-west direction. There are five major vegetation communities found in Kelly's Bush: eucalyptus (dominant), heath/closed shrub, closed rainforest, banksia/low closed forest and closed scrub/weed areas.



**Currawong Beach Resort  
(addition to Ku-ring-gai  
National Park):**

Currawong Beach Resort is located approximately 42 km north of the Sydney CBD on the western shores of Pittwater.

It sits within Ku-ring-gai National Park between 'West Head' and 'The Basin' and adjacent to Mackerel Beach (private) on the north. The site is approximately 20 hectares in size, with approximately 4 hectares of cleared land and buildings associated with the NSW Trades and Labor Council beach resort (purchased in 1949 following the introduction of the 40 hour week), including accommodation, small golf course, tennis court and ferry wharf. Following the 2007 NSW State election newly elected MP Rob Stokes sought assurances from Federal Environment Minister Malcolm Turnbull and NSW State Environmental Minister (Phil Koperberg) that they would use their statutory powers to protect Currawong. These assurances were given in particular that a road would not be built through the National Park to link the site with West Head Road, however final say lay with Planning Minister Frank Sartor. The NSW Heritage Council recommended to include Currawong on the NSW Heritage Register and was listed on 12 May 2009. The area was farmland from the 1830s-1942, and in 1949 the area became a worker's holiday resort until 2010 when it was sold to private developers. The site is listed on the NSW Heritage list for its historical, industrial, social and cultural importance as well as its aesthetic and scientific values. The area contains dry eucalypt forests, forested wetlands, heath and rainforest remnants. The site is understood to contain important indigenous archaeological sites but a comprehensive survey has not been undertaken. The site is currently managed by Northern Beaches Council as a Crown reserve (State Park).

# South Coast/Southern Region



**Jervis Bay NP additions (State Forest and State Park areas):** Tomerong, Currambene, Nowra and the northern section of Yerrilyong State Forests, and Jervis Bay State Park.



Jervis Bay NP (dark green) with proposed SF additions (light green). (Jervis Bay Regional Alliance 2016)

Tomerong State Forest drains to Currambene Creek which enters the Jervis Bay Marine Park; Yerrilyong State Forest drains to St Georges Basin, a recreational fishing haven, while Currambene State Forest contains part of the Lake Wollumboola catchment, a coastal lake of huge conservation value, the bed of which is already incorporated into JBNP.

The total area of State Forest proposed for reservation is approximately 3,500ha, approximately half of which is already in exclusion zones. In the longer term some important private lands around Lake Wollumboola should be acquired to ensure the integrity of the catchment and protect the public asset (the lake bed) (see last section), and the Heritage Estates acquisitions also need to be progressed to ensure connectivity with the Commonwealth's Booderee National Park. East-west connectivity is likely to become more and more important as climate change impacts increase, because of the inclusion of an environmental gradient that will help species move in response to changes in rainfall, temperature and extreme weather events. Currambene State Forest contains a significant area of the threatened ecological community River Flat Eucalypt Forest and small areas of Swamp Sclerophyll Forest. Approximately 10% of Nowra State forest is comprised of Swamp Sclerophyll Forest. These areas were identified via the EPA's Threatened Ecological Community mapping report (2017). The Currambene-Batemans Lowlands Forest is a poorly reserved community in the south coast region. In regards to wildlife habitat, the state forests in question are known to contain a wide range of threatened species—including logging-sensitive species like yellow-bellied glider, greater glider, powerful owl, masked owl and sooty owl. The reservation of these areas would therefore make a significant contribution to nature conservation, including the conservation of matters of national significance. Building Jervis Bay National Park (JBNP) is a priority in the Parks Establishment Plan and is urgent in the face of ongoing development.

Note that there are active land claims by the Jerrinja on Crown Land in the Jervis Bay area. Local conservation groups support the right of Aboriginal people to claim land, and the addition of Jervis Bay State Park to JBNP is therefore subject to agreement by the Jerrinja

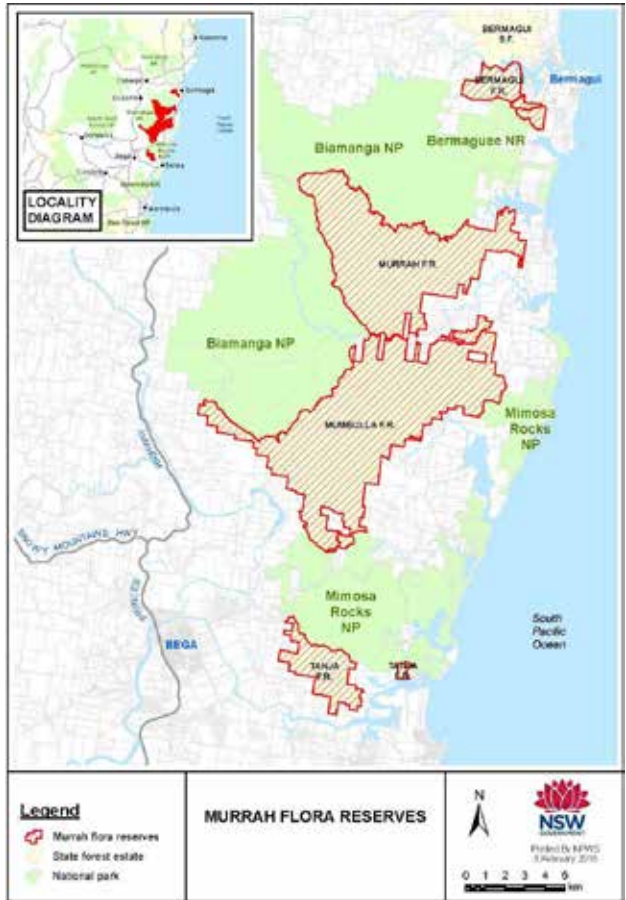




photo: David Gallan

# The Murrah Flora Reserves of the South Coast.

The gazettal of the 12,000ha of State Forests as flora reserves to protect the remaining koalas was widely perceived as being necessary as a result of local political opposition to national parks during the RFAs in the Eden and Southern Regions. The proposals include Bermagui FR, Muyrarah and Mumbullah FRs, and Tanja FR. Figure 8 below shows the extent of the Murrah Flora Reserves. The following descriptions are extracted from the NPWS Management Plan.



Murrah Flora Reserves proposed as additions to existing national parks. Map Murrah Flora Reserves Draft Final Working Plan 2017 (Forestry Corporation of NSW and Office of Environment and Heritage).





### **Bermagui Nature Reserve**

**addition.** This proposal provides for the addition of Bermagui FR to the existing Bermagui Nature Reserve to the south.

The Bermagui Flora Reserve No. 190 is 574 hectares in size and lies 3 kilometres west of Bermagui. To the north, across the Bermagui River, lies Bermagui State Forest. Private property neighbours the western, eastern and parts of the southern boundary. To facilitate management, the Chief Executive, Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) has been appointed as land manager of the Bermagui flora reserve by the Minister for Primary Industries under section 57(3) of the *Forestry Act 2012*. This will enable NPWS (under the direction of the Chief Executive, OEH) to manage the land in accordance with a working plan and in particular to protect local Koala. The area shares many threatened species with the surrounding national parks and flora reserves including the flying fox, yellow bellied glider (vulnerable) and short-beaked echidna, extending there protection. Current vegetation mapping for Bermagui flora reserve broadly shows gully types and forest types within the scribbly gum - stringybark - silvertop ash league as the dominant vegetation.

An area of mangrove and a small area of spotted gum are located near the Bermagui River.

The area contains Koala habitat and with national parks estate and other Flora Reserves and State Forests contains important refuge areas for the Koala. Spotted gum generally occurs in predominantly single species stands in the eastern fringe of Bermagui flora reserve.

Utility occupation permits for three powerlines (Essential Energy) traversing the northern part of Bermagui Flora Reserve and the southern and easternmost sections of Mumbulla Flora Reserve and for a water main in Bermagui Flora Reserve. There are no significant weed threats in the reserves though there are some areas of minor weed infestation. Blackberry occurs in areas along the Bermagui River. An NBN tower is located in the eastern section of Bermagui Flora Reserve.



### **Mimosa Rocks National**

**Park additions.** Comprising some 868 hectares of the Tanja Flora reserve located east of Bega and adjoining immediately south of Mimosa Rocks NP.

It comprises two disjunct portions, the smaller portion located just west of the Tathra-Bermagui Road. The larger portion lies about 2 kilometres further west. Tanja flora reserve broadly shows gully types and forest types within the scribbly gum - stringybark - silvertop ash league as the dominant vegetation with yellow stringybark, woollybutt and black she-oak occurring throughout the reserve. White stringybark is also widespread. Coastal grey box reaches a high proportion (9.8%) in Tanja Flora Reserve. Communities comprising woollybutt and white stringybark are considered important for koalas as these tree species have been shown to have the highest use. Monkey gum was also present and shown to have relatively high use by Koala. To facilitate management, the Chief Executive, Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) has been appointed as land manager of the Tanja Flora Reserve by the Minister for Primary Industries under section 57(3) of the *Forestry Act 2012*. This will enable NPWS (under the direction of the Chief Executive, OEH) to manage the land in accordance with a working plan and in particular to protect local Koala.



## Biamanga National Park

**Additions.** There are two major Flora Reserves being Murrah FR No. 189 and Mumbulla FR No. 187 which form an easterly extension to and connect the northern and southern parts of Biamanga National Park. Mumbulla Flora Reserve lies 15 kilometres north of Tathra and is 6, 145 Ha in size.

It is bounded in part by Murrah Flora Reserve (north), Biamanga National Park (west) and Mimosa Rocks National Park (south). Murrah Flora Reserve lies 10 kilometres south-west of Bermagui and 4 kilometres east of Quaama and is 4,223 Ha in size. It is bounded to the west, north and south by Biamanga National Park and Mumbulla Flora Reserve.

The flora reserves are part of the Gulaga—Biamanga landscape and are a natural fit for addition to the Gulaga—Biamanga cultural area, subject to consultation with the Gulaga—Biamanga board.

The Murrah River forms the boundary between Murrah and Mumbulla flora reserves. The lands that are the Murrah flora reserves lie within the traditional Country of the Yuin (Djuwin) people. These lands and the surrounding landscape contain many important and sacred sites to the Yuin people. To facilitate management of the conservatiuon values of the reserve, the Chief Executive, Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) has been appointed as land manager of the Murrah and Mumbulla flora reserves by the Minister for Primary Industries under section 57(3) of the *Forestry Act 2012*. This will enable NPWS (under the direction of the Chief Executive, OEH) to manage the land in accordance with a working plan.

The Murrah flora reserves are located in the South East Corner bioregion within a landscape of coastal foothills and ridges. In the east there are some areas of coastal lowland and floodplain associated with the major river systems and estuaries. Elevations range from over 350 metres above sea level in areas along the western edge of Murrah and Mumbulla flora reserves to around 50 metres in the eastern sections closest to the coastline.

There are 174 animal species recorded in the Murrah flora reserves. Of these 25 are listed as threatened including 2 amphibians, 13 birds and 10 mammals. Three of the recorded species are listed endangered under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* — green and golden bell frog (*Litoria aurea*); stuttering frog (*Mixophyes balbus*) and regent honeyeater (*Anthochaera Phrygia*). Four birds recorded in the Murrah flora reserves are listed under the Commonwealth's bilateral migratory bird agreements. The koala, listed as vulnerable in NSW and nationally under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, is known to occur in the area. There have been a number of extensive koala surveys in the flora reserves and adjacent areas. The most recent survey conducted in 2012-2014 confirmed many of the outcomes of the 2007-2009 surveys.

Most significantly the surveys have confirmed the flora reserves and adjoining national park estate contain the last significant koala population on the South Coast. The predominant forest types (see Baur 1965) include yellow stringybark, yellow stringybark-gum, coastal stringybark, silvertop ash and silvertop ash-stringybark. Rainforest types and bangalay communities occur in some areas, mostly as fringes along creek lines. Coastal stringybark occurs along the north eastern boundary of Murrah Flora Reserve and there are small areas of spotted gum types in the easternmost areas. Coastal grey gum-woollybutt types also occur over parts of Mumbulla Flora Reserve. There are a reasonably large number of records of the threatened species chef's cap correa (*Correa baeuerlenii*) in both Murrah and Mumbulla flora reserves.

# Tumut State Flora Reserves

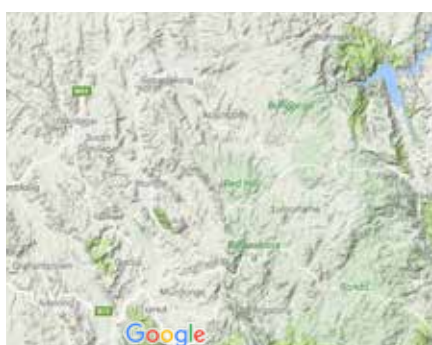


**Micalong Swamp Nature Reserve.** The proposed nature reserve comprises an area of 980 hectares, including 526 ha of the Micalong Flora Reserve plus an additional 454 hectares of adjoining native forest (as gazetted on the National Estate in 1986).

Elevations of about 950 - 980m ASL in the swamp rise to around 1,050m ASL in the native forest on the southern side of the Flora Reserve. The Reserve was included as part of the dedicated Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative reserve system for the Southern Region Forest Agreement in 2002. The proposed Micalong Swamp Nature Reserve encompasses an area that was traditionally used and occupied by Aboriginal people / groups of the Wiradjuri and Wolgalu. These groups had cultural, spiritual and clan obligations with the high country which they maintained, respected and cared for over thousands of years. The Indigenous values of Micalong Swamp are recognised by the Australian Heritage Commission with its inclusion on the National Estate Register. Micalong Swamp is 25 kms east of Tumut and 57 kms west of Canberra. Road access is via Brindabella Road (Canberra – Tumut) or Lacmalac and Argalong Roads (Tumut). The area contains the Micalong wetland on Micalong Creek, and a section of Chinamans Creek. Micalong Creek is a major tributary to the Goodradigbee River, which flows into Burrinjuck Dam. The southern end of the Reserve is approximately oval in shape, with the adjoining upper catchment being the native forest sections of Buccleuch S.F. This area is adjacent to the northern end of Kosciuszko National Park, including the Goobarragandra Wilderness. The Reserve is approximately 1,500m wide and includes forested areas adjacent to the swamp and several internal roads. The northern end of the Reserve is very narrow and elongated in shape, surrounded by road and then extensive areas of pine plantation. In most of this end the Reserve is only wide enough to contain the swamp area itself and a narrow adjoining margin. There are three vegetation zones within the Flora Reserve – the swamp, the dryland/swamp fringe, and the surrounding woodland/open forest. Between each zone is an ecotone as a “tension zone” between the two communities, creating increased diversity and population size of some species. There are also some areas of planted and wildling pine (*Pinus radiata*) in the lower reaches of the swamp within the Reserve which will need to be removed. The swamp itself is dominated by sedges (*Carex* spp.) where very wet, and a tussock grassland of *Poa* spp in drier areas. The edges and inlets of the swamp harbour a diverse flora, including Sphagnum bog, reeds (*Phragmites* spp.) and scrub and heath with tea tree (*Leptospermum* spp.) and native heaths (*Epacris* spp.) The occurrence of both *Carex* fen and Sphagnum bog in a montane swampland is an unusual and notable feature of the swamp. The Northern Corroboree Frog (*Pseudophryne pengilleyi*) which is listed as Vulnerable (Schedule 2, *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*) has been recorded in Micalong Swamp Flora Reserve. This species utilises two distinct habitat types: a breeding season (summer) habitat associated with pools and seepages in Sphagnum bogs, wet heath, wet tussock grasslands and herbfield in low-lying depressions; and a terrestrial non-breeding (late summer – winter) habitat in adjacent forest, sub-alpine woodland and heath (NSW NPWS 2001). Other locations of the Northern Corroboree Frog

in the Australian Alps National Parks (for example Ginini Flats Wetlands in the ACT) were severely impacted by the expansive and severe bushfires in January 2003. Another Vulnerable species recorded in the southern end of the Flora Reserve is the Yellow-bellied Glider (*Petaurus australis*). This arboreal mammal is found in tall moist eucalypt forest where sufficient tree hollows for nesting occur, foraging primarily on eucalypt nectar and sap (NPWS 2003). Scats of the Broad-toothed Rat (*Mastacomys fuscus*) were identified within the Micalong Swamp Flora Reserve. The Broad-toothed Rat is listed as Vulnerable (Schedule 2, *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*). Preferred habitat of the Broad-toothed Rat is characterised by a moderate to dense cover of grasses, sedges or shrubs.

The Hume and Hovell walking track runs partly through the proposed nature reserve and was established by the Department of Lands in 1988. There is potential for increased Aboriginal cultural and educational activities within and adjacent to the proposed Nature Reserve. This includes future employment opportunities to control weed invasive species such as blackberry and pine wildings, as well as livestock incursion management and feral animal control.



### Old Jeremiah Nature Reserve proposal.

This proposal comprises the whole of the Old Jeremiah Flora Reserve (in Bungongo SF near Tumut) which covers an area of approximately 1630 ha, with elevation ranging from 550 – 830 m ASL.

The Reserve was included as part of the dedicated Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative reserve system for the Southern Region Forest Agreement in 2002. The remnant vegetation within the Reserve has significant natural values in a landscape that has been greatly altered by clearing for agricultural production and pine plantation establishment. Few other areas of native forest in the vicinity cover an area the size of the Reserve. The White Box - Yellow Box - Blakely's Red Gum Woodland is an endangered ecological community listed on Part 3 of Schedule 1 of the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* and is likely in the reserve. This vegetation community is endangered due to a drastic reduction in its area and a high level of fragmentation through clearing for cropping and pasture improvement. A number of fauna and flora species of conservation significance are also likely to occur in this ecological community. *Petaurus australis* (Yellow-bellied Glider) is listed as Vulnerable (Schedule 2, *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*) and has been recorded in the southern section of the proposal. The Greater Glider (*Petaurus volans*) was the most common glider surveyed within the Old Jeremiah Flora Reserve boundaries. *Petaurus norfolcensis* (Squirrel Glider) is listed as Vulnerable under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* and has been recorded nearby, and is most probably within the Reserve boundary. *Falsistrellus tasmaniensis* (Eastern False Pipistrelle) was recorded within the Reserve. This species is listed as Vulnerable on the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* schedule 2 due to a suspected decline in population and distribution. The species is facing severe threatening processes and it is an ecological specialist (that is, it depends on particular types of diet and habitat). *Miniopterus schreibersii* (Large Bent-wing Bat), another Vulnerable species is also present within the Reserve that hunts in forested areas, swooping on moths and other insects above the treetops. Processes threatening this species include disturbance to colony roosting sites (mainly caves), loss of foraging habitat and increased predation from the introduced fox and feral cat.





### **Murraguldrie Nature Reserve proposal.**

The proposed nature reserve comprises the whole of the Murraguldrie Flora Reserve including an area of approximately 1,524 ha, with elevation ranging from 400 - 550m ASL.

Murraguldrie is located 6 kilometres south east of the town of Kyeamba within Murraguldrie State Forest (largely a pine plantation forest). The Wagga-Tumbarumba Road runs along the length of the southern and western sides of the Reserve and is within 5 km of the Hume Highway. The Reserve was included as part of the dedicated Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative reserve system for the Southern Region Forest Agreement in 2002. Murraguldrie Flora Reserve encompasses an area traditionally used and occupied by the Wiradjuri clans of the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers. The remnant vegetation within the Reserve has significant natural values in a landscape that has been greatly altered by clearing for agricultural production and pine plantation establishment.

Murraguldrie Reserve contains White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Woodland – an endangered ecological community listed on Part 3 of Schedule 1 of the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. This vegetation community is endangered due to a drastic reduction in its area and a high level of fragmentation through clearing for cropping and pasture improvement. *Pultenaea humilis* is an erect to prostrate rhizomatous shrub occurring in NSW, Victoria and Tasmania. It is listed as Vulnerable under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. The population within the area is restricted to a few hundred mature individuals. A variety of bird species are present in the Reserve, including *Pyrrolaemus sagittatus* (Speckled Warbler), *Climacteris picumnus* (Brown Treecreeper) and *Neophema pulchella* (Turquoise Parrot). These three species are listed in Schedule 2 of the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* as Vulnerable. *Petaurus norfolcensis* (Squirrel Glider) are found within Murraguldrie Reserve. This 'vulnerable species' occurs in a wide variety of forest and woodland vegetation types, generally below 300m ASL. Their occurrence is dependent typically on the presence of large, hollow-bearing eucalypt trees, mixed-age stands and an understorey of flowering shrubs, particularly *Acacia*'s found within the reserve. Two Endangered Ecological Communities (*Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*) are found with the Flora Reserve being the Squirrel Glider population in the Wagga Wagga LGA; and the White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Woodland. The presence of an abandoned Pine arboretum within the current Flora Reserve was terminated as a Research Trial in 1986 and is inconsistent with the natural values of the Reserve. The area of the Arboretum could be rehabilitated or used for camping within the reserve.



## **Mundaroo Nature Reserve**

**Proposal.** The proposal comprises the whole of the Mundaroo Flora Reserve which includes an area of approximately 1,945 ha, with elevation ranging from 500 - 888m ASL and lies within Mundaroo State Forest No. 646.

It is located 16 km directly west of the township of Tumbarumba. Primary access is via the Wagga-Tumbarumba Road and Maginnitys Road, Cararoo Road and Munderoo Trig Road. The Reserve was included as part of the dedicated Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative reserve system for the Southern Region Forest Agreement in 2002. The surrounding area comprises both public and private pine plantations. Mundaroo Reserve is part of an area that was traditionally used and occupied by Aboriginal people and clan groups of the Wiradjuri and Wolgalu Nations. As much of the surrounding Region has been cleared for agricultural and pine plantation purposes this Reserve provides a regional benchmark for local flora and fauna. The dominant tree species within the Reserve are *Eucalyptus bridgesiana* (Apple Box), *E. macrorhyncha* (Red Stringybark), *E. polyanthemos* (Red Box), and *E. gonicalyx* (Long-leaved Box). Little detailed survey of plants and animals has occurred within the reserve. However indicative data from nearby and similar areas indicates that the proposed nature reserve is of a size adequate to sustain populations of many plant and animal species now restricted across the regional landscape.

## Other Southern Proposals



### **Mt Keira addition to Illawarra Escarpment SCA.**

The summit of Mount Keira has an elevation of 464 metres ASL and is located 4 km northwest of the City of Wollongong. Its distinctive shape and proximity to Wollongong make it a major local landmark.

Mt Keira is 9.4 hectares in size and totally surrounded by and is a logical addition to the Illawarra Escarpment SCA. The area is currently managed by Wollongong Council (as part of the Wollongong Botanic Gardens) as a scenic lookout. The area contains significant wet sclerophyll forests with rainforest remnants. The summit lookout and Queen Elizabeth Drive was officially opened in 1959, but attempts to secure land from the Australian Iron and Steel company began in 1954. In 1955 the Rotary Club of Wollongong, with the support of the Council and local businesses, constructed the current summit lookout which was refurbished in 2005 providing an opening up of magnificent vistas of the coastal plain from Kiama to Sydney. The summit area is now a Crown reserve managed by Wollongong City Council as an annexe of the Wollongong Botanic Gardens which is located to the east of the mountain. The slopes contain remnants of wet sclerophyll forests and rainforest, notably on the southern escarpment of the summit, although the general area had been logged in the 1930. The forest contains a large number of bird and mammal fauna with Echidna, Lyrebird, and wallaby commonly observed.



**Mogo Regional Park.** Recent logging in the Dunnes Creek area of Mogo State Forest caused huge community unrest.

The forest contains threatened species including greater and yellow-bellied gliders. It is a small forest, located between the towns of Mogo and Batehaven, has a high surrounding population density, and is well used by locals for a variety of recreation activities. This area would make an ideal regional park.



### **Addition of Crown Land to Seven Mile Beach National Park.**

The proposed addition to Seven Mile Beach National Park is an area of vegetated Crown land containing two Endangered Ecological Communities (EEC) – Bangalay Sand Forest EEC and Littoral Rainforest EEC – within Crown Reserve 1003018 at Shoalhaven Heads (near Nowra).

The Crown Reserve has been free of fire and logging for a very long time and as a consequence contains numerous unusually large banksia trees, many tree hollows and a developing littoral rainforest. The area is zoned for residential development and the area is threatened with fragmentation due to residential subdivision. The Bangalay Sand Forest and Littoral Rainforest EECs are two of the more rare forest communities on the coastal strip of NSW and are now so reduced by urban development that it is critical we protect and manage what is left. The Crown Reserve is also suitable habitat for a significant number of threatened species and five of those species have been recorded on-site. They are Grey-headed Flying-fox, Eastern Bent-wing Bat, Little Bent-wing Bat, Greater Broad-nosed Bat and Masked Owl. It is also possible that the Greater Glider is present as it inhabits the adjacent Seven Mile Beach National Park. All species are listed as Vulnerable and protected under the *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act* and the Grey-headed Flying-fox is also listed as Vulnerable at the national level. This latter species (the largest of Australia's bats) has been recorded as foraging in the Crown reserve's forest environment and it is considered likely that the bats originate from a breeding colony in and adjacent to the Bomaderry Creek Bushland. Threats to local populations of the Greater Glider have led to the NSW Scientific Committee recognizing the Seven Mile Beach population as an Endangered Population. In making this listing, the Scientific Committee stated that the Seven Mile Beach population "...has undergone loss and fragmentation of habitat over the last decade as a result of clearing associated with agriculture, golf course expansion, sand mining, sewage treatment plant construction and roadside clearing, resulting in loss of hollow-bearing trees."



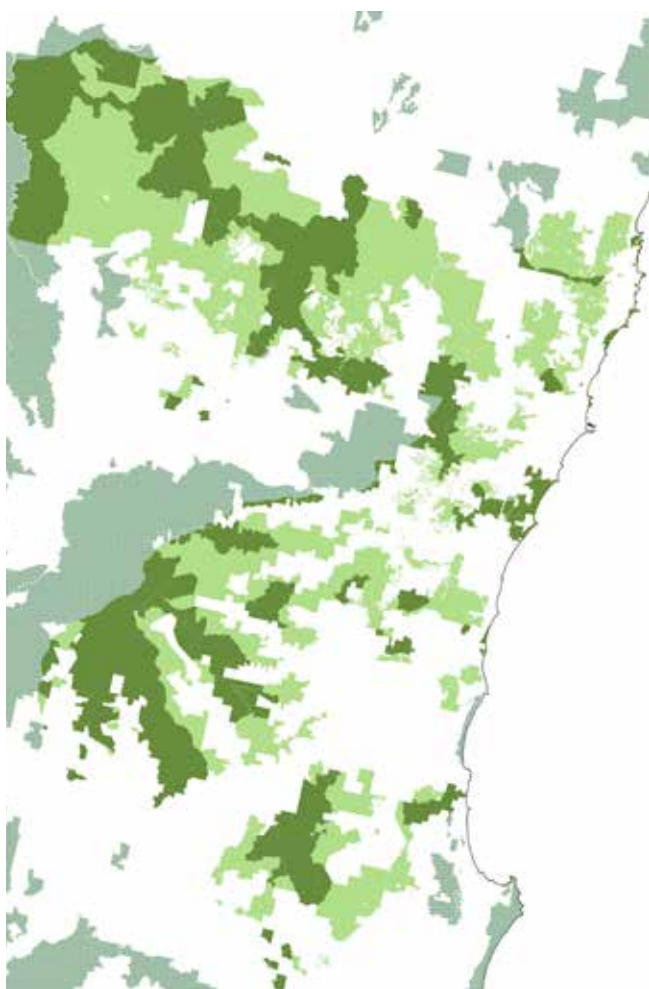
# North Coast Reserves

The NSW Koala Strategy should be able to create a serious of interconnected areas to enhance and protect habitat for koalas on the NSW North Coast principally from public land and some key private areas using funding from the NSW Government. There is strong public support for the Great Koala National Park centred on the Coffs harbour hinterland, however a larger network of parks will need to be resolved as part of the RFA review.



## GKNP Map Key

- Teal: existing national park (outside GKNP)
- Dark green: existing national park (within GKNP)
- Light green: proposed new national park



The Great Koala National Park would add 175,000ha of state forests to existing protected areas to form a 315,000ha reserve.

## Northern NSW Koala NP proposals.

### The proposed Great Koala National Park (GKNP)

in the Coffs Harbour hinterland would see 175,000ha of state forests added to existing conservation land. The area is estimated to contain up to 4,500 koalas, and has been repeatedly identified by the EPA, DPI and scientists as an important area for koalas. The map shows the extent of the proposed national park.

**A proposal in the western Border Ranges** subject to the agreement of the Native Title holders, covering 32,234 ha over 13 state forests including Beaury, Richmond Range, Mt Lindesay, Unumgar and Yabbra helps link seven existing World Heritage properties and a recognised biodiversity hotspot.

**Tweed Coastal Range National Park** to protect 2550ha of habitat for the endangered Tweed koala population of approximately 140 animals.

### Port Macquarie to Camden Haven additions:

this proposal would add 1,855ha of state forest and crown land to existing reserves to protect approximately 2000 koalas.

### Bulga—Comboyne—Landsdowne—Taree National Park:

this proposal would ensure connectivity between western koala populations in the Tapin Tops area and those at Mount Goonook and Landsdowne by adding 40,650 ha of state forests to existing reserves and would protect approximately 500-1000 koalas. A separate Lansdowne Escarpment NP proposal as a subset of the larger park is described below.

**Bowman National Park**, north west of Gloucester, would add 15,750 ha of Bowman and Barrington state forests to the protected area network to protect between 50-200 koalas.

**Wang Wauk National Park**, adjacent to Buladelah, would consist of 33,700 ha of Wang Wauk and Buladelah state forests and protect between 250-700 koalas. This proposal would link to Wallingat National Park.

## Other North Coast Proposals.

The following proposals for Sandy Creek, Barraganyatti, Lansdowne and Wallis Lakes park proposals considered below, are considered achievable ahead of the RFA, and known to be important for koalas.



### **Sandy Creek National Park Proposal.**

It is proposed to create the 2,100 ha Sandy Creek National Park in the headwaters of the Richmond River south-west of Casino.



Sandy Creek NP proposal.

The proposal is comprised of two parts, including part of Royal Camp State Forest (compartments 13-16, 1,500ha) and the whole of Carwong State Forest (600ha). These forests are primarily proposed for protection for their exceptional importance for Koala conservation in an area where populations are in decline and in danger of extinction. The proposal is comprised of inadequately reserved ecosystems, includes 2 Endangered Ecological Communities, and incorporates the known habitat for the Critically Endangered Regent Honeyeater, 3 Endangered plants, one Vulnerable plant, and 17 Vulnerable animals.

There is the potential to improve its long term integrity by voluntarily acquiring intervening freehold land which has also been assessed as being of high value for Koalas. The forests are dominated by Spotted Gum, Grey Gum, Grey Box, Grey Ironbark, and various red gums. Narrow Leafed White Mahogany, Red Mahogany, Flooded Gum and Brush Box occur along drainage lines (particularly Sandy Creek) which also include the endangered ecological communities of Swamp Sclerophyll Forest and Subtropical Coastal Floodplain Forest. Ten forest ecosystems have been mapped within the proposal. Eight of these are classed as inadequately reserved in that they have not achieved the national (JANIS 1996) forest reserve targets, with 96% of the extent of forest ecosystems within the proposal required to contribute towards satisfying national reserve targets.

The proposal makes a particularly significant contribution towards unmet targets for Richmond Range Spotted Gum-Box (17%) and Lowlands Spotted Gum-Box (46%). The critically endangered Regent Honeyeater has been recorded, and, along with the Vulnerable Black-chinned Honey-eater, is one of the many insectivorous species particularly threatened by the loss of mature eucalypts through logging. There are also numerous threatened species occurring that depend upon the large hollows provided by old eucalypts for nesting, with the Powerful, Masked and Barking Owls being recorded from both Royal Camp and Carwong State Forests. Other vulnerable tree hollow-dependant species recorded include the Squirrel Glider, Yellow-bellied Glider, Hoary Wattled Bat, Glossy-black Cockatoo, Brown Tree-creeper and Little Lorikeet. There can be no doubt that the proposed Sandy Creek National Park is of immense importance to the regional survival of Koalas and provides significant habitat for a variety of other threatened species. It is obvious that the habitat value of the forest for most species has been significantly diminished by past logging and grazing, and that exclusion of these activities will allow habitat values to improve over time, notably for Koalas.



### **Barraganyatti Regional**

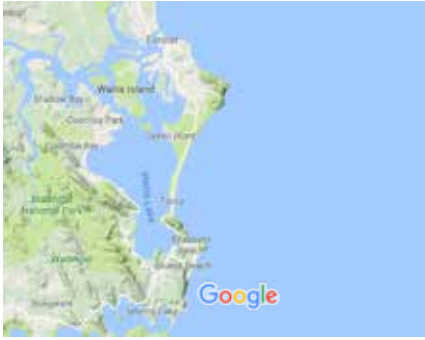
**Park Proposal:** The proposed park of approximately 2,000 hectares contains estuarine habitats of potential importance to fish, migratory waders and other waterbirds and a number of terrestrial ecosystems that are listed as endangered ecological communities.

This includes saltmarsh, littoral rainforest, swamp sclerophyll forest, swamp oak forest and freshwater wetlands. The proposed park contains part of the highly significant Clybucca/ Stuarts Point midden complex and some of the connecting traditional pathways used by the Aboriginal community to access this complex. The rehabilitation of the wetlands is a major experiment in restoration ecology and the proposed park will have increasing significance as a demonstration site for this work. There is currently an Aboriginal custodians group and a Yarrahapinni Wetlands working group contributing to management and rehabilitation of the existing areas and the participation of these local stakeholder groups should be recognised as trustees of the reserve.



**Proposed Cattai Wetland Regional Park** (possible future additions to Crowdy Bay National Park). The Proposed Cattai Wetlands Regional Park cover approximately 1,500 hectares of the floodplain and wetlands of the Cattai creek catchment currently owned and managed by Mid Coast Council.

The lands were acquired by the Council through a combination of RMS Pacific Highway upgrade compensatory habitat (approx. 200ha), Council purchase (approx. 300 ha) and purchase with funds from the Federal Government (approx. 100 ha). The land is currently classified as "Operational Land" which is not generally open to the public and can be more simply sold, leased or licenced or alienated by some other means than can Community Land. Cattai wetlands support two wetland types; perched freshwater wetlands and tidal brackish wetlands, as well as the endangered Swamp Sclerophyll Forest. The wetlands are an important roosting site for a number of endangered birds. Over 170 bird species have been recorded and there are early reports of flocks of birds from the Cattai wetlands "blackening the sky". Acid sulfate soils is a major environmental issue for the Cattai floodplain. Council has decommissioned drains and removed floodgates and this together with the natural infilling of drains have helped to restore the hydrology and reduce the volume of acid runoff discharging into Cattai Creek. In recognition of Council's ongoing commitment to the area, NPA proposes the area be reserved as a regional park with Council as trustees until a future date when it can be added to Crowdy Bay NP.



## Proposed Wallis Lakes

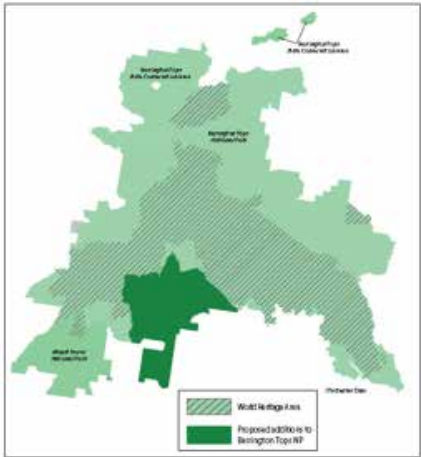
**National Park:** The Wallis Lake is a large, shallow subtropical coastal estuary on the Mid North Coast with a total waterway covering 9,125 hectares.

It is a large saline barrier lagoon system fed by fresh water predominantly from the Wallumbilla, Wallingat, Coolongolook and the Wang Wauk Rivers. The central and southern basins of Wallis lake include a healthy coastal wetland containing a variety of habitats including seagrass and macrophyte beds, intertidal sand and mud flats, rocky habitat, sponge gardens, islands and coffee rock. Mangroves and saltmarsh border a large part of the lake. Cabbage palms littoral rainforest and floodplain forest line parts of the shoreline. Wallis lake contains the largest area of estuarine seagrass in NSW (3,190 ha) comprising 35% of the total seagrass in NSW. The lake also possesses the second largest area of saltmarsh in the state. Saltmarsh is in rapid decline in NSW and recognised as an endangered ecological community. Wallis Lake is one of the most productive estuarine fisheries in NSW. Wallis Lake and its catchments are visited by 35 JAMBA, CAMBA and ROKAMBA listed international migratory species. Wallis Lake has over 100 species of fish, 55 species of invertebrates and three species of sea turtles. The Wallis lake catchment, critical to maintain the health of the estuary covers includes substantial areas of public land and are included in the Wallis Lake National Park proposal. The terrestrial components of the proposed Wallis Lake National Park includes Wallingat and Bachelor State forests. The southern area of the proposal is also put forward as a proposed reserve for Koalas as extensions to Wallingat National Park. The Wallis Lake catchment contains a diverse array of ecological communities, those listed as endangered include Freshwater wetlands on the coastal floodplains, Littoral rainforest, Lowland rainforest on floodplain, Lowland rainforest, Subtropical coastal floodplain forest, Swamp oak floodplain forest, Swamp sclerophyll forest on coastal floodplain and River-flat Eucalypt forest. The Wallis Lake proposal supports a wide range of terrestrial fauna including the Koala, Squirrel glider, Spotted-tailed quoll, Brush tailed phascogale, Golden broad-nosed bat, Grey headed flying fox, Wallum froglet, Stephens branded snake, Osprey, Pied oystercatcher, Black-necked stork, Glossy black cockatoo and the Masked owl.





**Barrington Tops National Park additions.** The proposal involves approximately 9,500 ha of existing State Forests in the Upper Allyn and Paterson River valleys.



Proposed additions to Barrington Tops NP

The proposal contains a variety of forested landscapes that act as a regionally important water catchment area, and contain exceptional biodiversity and scenic values. Accessible via Gresford or Dungog, the proposal is located about 2 hours north of Newcastle and 3 hours north of Sydney. The proposal comprises State Forest lands being the western sector of Chichester State Forest No. 292 (about 6,200 ha), and the entire area of Masseys Creek State Forest No. 886 (about 3,300 ha).

The proposal would provide protection for additional areas of rainforest and many threatened fauna species. The NSW Wildlife Atlas records at least 18 listed threatened fauna species and 3 threatened plant species as occurring within the area or nearby. In addition, protection would be given to unique vegetation communities near Mt Cabre Bald which are currently unprotected. The proposed national park additions will protect an additional 9 km of the Paterson River, and 7 km of the Allyn River.

The proposal contains extensive areas of subtropical and cool temperate rainforest and transitional zones that would be expected to meet UNESCO World Heritage criteria. These rainforests are rich in primitive and relict species, reflecting past eras of climatic conditions and evolutionary development. The rainforests and moist eucalypt forests are contiguous with the adjacent World Heritage listed Barrington Tops National Park. The proposal also immediately adjoins the declared Barrington Wilderness Area and would be expected to meet the criteria for wilderness declaration under section 6 of the *Wilderness Act 1987*.



## Lansdowne Escarpment

**National Park.** This proposal includes a substantial part of the visually significant Lansdowne Escarpment and is located on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales approximately 35 km North West of Taree.

The proposal incorporates that part of Lansdowne State Forest principally bounded by the Cooperbrook Forest Way in the north, Coorabakh National Park in the west and freehold land in the south. The proposal is dominated on its southern edge by the almost vertical cliff line which defines the boundary separating the Carboniferous sediments of the Lorne Basin from the Permian sediments which dominate the Manning Basin. The near continuous rocky cliffs merge into heavily forested colluvial slopes that in turn merge with the farming lands of the valley bottom. To the north of the cliff line there is a narrow ridgeline formed by a resistant conglomerate strata which declines further north to be overlain by less resistant claystone. As a result of the erosion of the less resistant claystones, several discreet basins have formed being drained by Rock Creek and Newbys Creek. The more gentle northern slopes support important areas of open forest while the creek lines support Tall Open Forest and well developed Riparian or Gallery Rainforest. The proposal samples at least eight vegetation communities, many of which are not adequately represented in the present reserve system either on a regional or state wide basis. The forest areas contained within the proposal is generally of immature to intermediate age, however old growth elements occur in areas where access for logging operations have in the past been difficult. The major old growth component consists principally of Blue-leaved Stringybark and escarpment Blackbutt communities. The proposal would significantly improve connectivity from the coast to the ranges and would provide a protected corridor. Preliminary surveys indicate that the area is biologically diverse with at least sixteen threatened fauna species either recorded from the site or recorded in similar habitats on adjacent sites. In particular this proposal provides vital habitat for the Stephen's Banded snake (*Hoplocephalus stephensi*).

Access for walking is provided by existing tracks and trails. Regionally significant lookout points occur at Vincents Lookout and perhaps Newbys Lookout. Both lookouts provide excellent views of the Lansdowne Valley and the residual volcanics of the Comboyne Plateau.

Other potential recreational pursuits include rock climbing and abseiling from the cliffs. Swimming is also possible in the large rock pools of Rocky Creek.

# Central and Western NSW

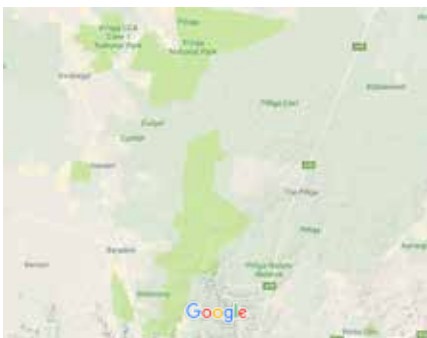


## Gardens of Stone NP

**additions:** encompassing 39,000 hectares is located on the western edge of the Blue Mountains and would due to mining interests mainly consist of state conservation areas if reserved.

The Gardens of Stone area totals 55,000 hectares and only 18,700 hectares is currently protected by Gardens of Stone National Park and Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area. Over 39,000 hectares remain unprotected and threatened by mining, quarrying and forestry. The proposal extends over the sandstone pagoda landscapes of the Newnes, Ben Bullen and Wolgan State Forests. It also includes Crown reserves over the Blue Mountains Western Escarpment from Medlow Bath to Lithgow. It is an absolutely spectacular place and the last unprotected part of Myles Dunphy's 1932 Greater Blue Mountains Park vision. The region contains a wealth of cultural heritage both Aboriginal and European. It is a unique landscape of fragile beauty from its imposing cliff lines and startlingly beautiful "pagoda" sandstone formations to gentle grassy woodlands with interspersed upland swamps or dells.

It is truly a wonderland. This landscape has eroded over millions of years, and centres on Newnes Plateau, the coldest and highest sandstone plateau of the Sydney Basin. Its ecosystems support threatened and endangered flora and fauna. Another priceless resource, the area's water, spring from its diverse upland swamps and in turn these contribute to a number of water supplies, including the headwaters of the Cocks River, a key catchment of Warragamba Dam.



## Pilliga NP/NR additions (SF).

The Pilliga Forests, sometimes known as the Pilliga Scrub, constitute some 3,000 km<sup>2</sup> of semi-arid woodland in temperate north-central New South Wales.

It is the largest such continuous remnant in the state. The forest is located near the towns of Baradine and Narrabri and the villages of Pilliga and Gwabegar. The public land area is currently managed by NPWS (as national park, nature reserve and state conservation area) and State Forests and should be consolidated as a single Pilliga National Park. In addition, the Australian Wildlife Conservancy have acquired a significant holding to the northern edge of the Pilliga. The forest contains at least 900 plant species, including some now widely grown in cultivation as well as many threatened species. Some areas of the forest, particularly in the western Pilliga, are dominated by cypress-pine (*Callitris* spp.). However, there are a variety of distinct plant communities in the forest, some of which do not include *Callitris*. Another prominent sub-canopy genus are the she-oaks, while eucalypts dominate the canopy throughout the forest. Fauna recorded from the Pilliga Nature Reserve include at least 40 native and nine introduced mammals, 50 reptiles and at least 15 frogs. Squirrel gliders, koalas, rufous bettongs and Pilliga mice are present. The area is subject to ongoing coal-seam gas exploration which threatens Koala and Pilliga mouse habitat in particular. The area has been identified to assist with climate change adaptation for native species.



### **Sturt National Park additions:**

Sturt National Park sits in the far north-western corner of the State and adjoins the Queensland and South Australian borders.

There are currently four major travelling stock routes (TSRs) which end at the state border and no longer provides opportunities for travelling stock (TSR1991, TSR1993, TSR500 and TSR11335). They were originally established in the late 1880s for moving mobs of sheep on hoof to northern markets in all seasons including drought. No stock have been moved along these routes for several decades. There are two public watering points within the park at Mount King Bore and Camp Oven Tank, which were used for watering stock along the routes in the past. Western Local Land Services is responsible for maintaining these. NPWS is licensed to occupy both the land and the assets contained in the Travelling Stock Routes within Sturt, which are managed as part of the park. The first TSR is found to the east and travels from Tibooburra township north towards the Queensland border, passing through leasehold lands in the east. The second and third TSRs include sections of the Jump Up Loop road and travel generally north towards the Queensland border. The western TSR starts in the west of the park and travels in a north-westerly direction to Fort Grey and then onto Camerons Corner, passing through mammal reintroduction areas. They pose problems for management of the park because they have been used as camping sites and bases for shooting of native animals and other illegal activities, which could be resolved with their addition to the national park.





## Crown Land State Parks (to be Regional Parks under NP&W Act)

State Parks are Crown Reserves under the *Crown Lands Management Act 2016* administered by the Department of Primary Industry. Many of these areas were formerly State Recreation Areas prior to the adoption of regional parks under the NP&W Act, although additional areas have subsequently been identified and gazetted. State parks are not protected areas within the meaning of the IUCN definitions (and categories) of protected areas but otherwise duplicate the role of regional parks. State Parks are therefore proposed to be regional parks under the NP&W Act, with the sole exception of Jervis Bay (see above) which is proposed as an addition to Jervis Bay NP (see 10). Other areas may more recently be referred to as State Parks and should also be reserved as regional parks. The status of regional parks can be reviewed in the light of further investigation of the natural and cultural values of the areas, however, the existing trusts or Councils should be allowed to continue existing management arrangements. The following descriptions are summaries of the ADPI website.



Spatial distribution of NSW State Parks (DPI website, 2017).



**Burrinjuck Waters (1):** Burrinjuck Holiday and Recreation Park is situated in 75 hectares of bushland nestled on the Southern escarpment of Mt. Barren Jack. Located right on the shores of Burrinjuck Dam, with boat ramps and ample parking, the park is a great place to bring the family, relax and experience a unique holiday. The famous Hume and Hovell Walking track passes through the park, and there are a myriad of recreational activities available.

**Coffs Coast (2):** The Park is surrounded by beautiful beaches, foreshores, estuaries and wetlands which are perfect for surfing, swimming, diving, fishing and boating. Apart from Park Beach, there's long stretches of Boambee and Sawtell beaches and there are many bushwalks through the area. June to October is whale-watching season. Beach, estuary and rock fishing are popular with anglers and there's offshore fishing for the dedicated enthusiast.



**Copeton Waters (3):** Lake Copeton, an inland water catchment three times the capacity of Sydney Harbour! Set on 900ha of rural bushland on the western slopes of the New England Ranges this Park offers a unique day trip or holiday experience. Amid the Dam and open parkland to explore, Copeton is a haven for bushwalkers, nature lovers, fishing and water sport enthusiasts. Located around 40km from the regional town of Inverell.

**Grabine Lakeside (4):** Two and a half times the volume of Sydney Harbour, the Dam offers 42 km of waterways with boat ramps and access points, making the park the perfect place to enjoy boating, canoeing, swimming, water skiing, sailing and windsurfing. Grabine Lakeside is also an excellent inland fishing spot, with catches of silver and golden perch (yellow belly), catfish, trout, and Murray cod. There are many walking trails through some spectacular scenery across the lake and surrounding countryside to enjoy. Close by there are the Abercrombie Caves to explore and local bushranger history to discover.





**Killalea (5):** Killalea State Park is approximately 265 hectares of pristine coastal reserve with some of the best beaches on the NSW South Coast. With coastlines, rainforest areas, extensive wetlands and seabird breeding areas, Killalea is popular for day trips, educational groups, boating, surfing and fishing. For nature lovers, walking trails through littoral rainforest areas offer many delights, as do trails along extensive estuarine wetlands and seabird breeding areas. Swimming and surfing are on offer at The Farm and Mystics, two of the best surf beaches on the south coast. Beach, estuary and rock fishing attract many anglers to the park.

**Lake Burrendong (and Arboretum) (6):** Lake Burrendong offers year-round attractions for fishing enthusiasts, nature lovers, bushwalkers, campers and picnickers. Located only an hour between Dubbo and Orange, on the western shore of Burrendong Dam. There is an arboretum with native plants and animals, right next to the Park and a mass of subtropical vegetation, native animals and local bird life to spot within the Park. Lake Burrendong offers a range of accommodation options from cabins to powered and unpowered sites.



**Lake Glenbawn (7):** Lake Glenbawn Holiday and Recreation Park is located in the Upper Hunter Region, just 15 minutes past Scone. This large spacious park offers a family holiday or a day trip with a difference. Set on the banks of Glenbawn Dam in a rural backdrop, the Park offers a wonderful diversity of bushland, wildlife and adventure. Nature lovers and bushwalkers alike will enjoy the native bush setting, which provides a habitat for over 100 species of birds.

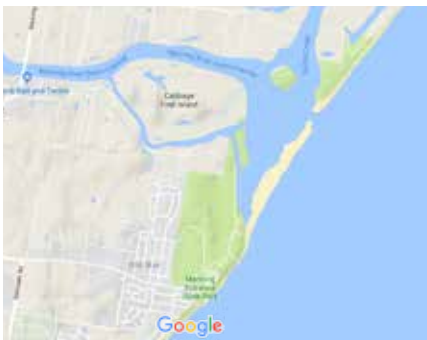
**Lake Keepit (8):** located about 40 minutes from Tamworth and around 25 minutes from Gunnedah. Situated on the banks of Keepit Dam. Surrounded by kilometres of pastoral and timber country that creates a picturesque setting for the Lake, the Park is also a great place for a day visit, being one of the only public spots to access Keepit Dam.





**Wyangla Waters (9):** located in Central Western NSW only 30 minutes from Cowra. Set on the banks of scenic Wyangala Dam, which has a catchment area of 8,300 square kilometres – around two and a half times the size of Sydney Harbour! The area provides a significant regional recreation resource and includes nature walks and helps protect bird life otherwise displaced within the region.

**Belmont Wetlands (10):** Belmont Wetlands State Park comprises seven coastal wetlands, some of which drain into Lake Macquarie. It features the largest single open water wetland in Lake Macquarie and is fed by an extensive wetland system from the north and north east. Bordering the South Pacific Ocean are extensive sand dunes fringed by forest. This 514 ha site is host to a diverse range of over 170 species of native wildlife. Belmont Wetlands also has sites of value to our cultural heritage, with evidence of Aboriginal occupation and early European settlement.



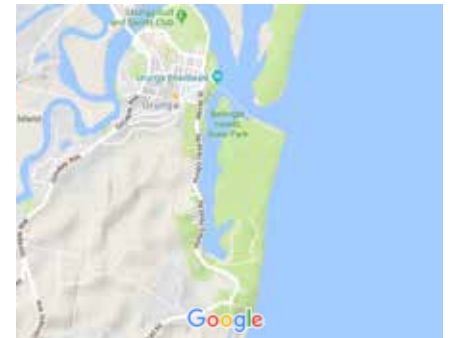
**Manning Entrance (11):** The Manning Entrance State Park is situated on the NSW Mid North Coast and comprises lands surrounding and including the Manning River's southern entrance at Old Bar. The 487 hectare site runs from Old Bar to the southern side of the Manning River's northern entrance at Manning Point. The foreshores of the coastal beaches and estuary provide an array of year round recreation and tourism opportunities while the protected tracts of littoral rainforests and other significant native vegetation provide habitat for many species of native fauna and flora. Over recent years the lands at Old Bar Spit, Farquhar Inlet, Farquhar Spit and Manning Point have been one of the most successful breeding and fledgling sites in the State for the Migratory and Endangered Shorebird - the Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*). Manning Entrance State Park encompasses a range of vegetation communities and habitats including forests, woodlands, shrub lands and heaths as well as special environments such as coastal wetlands and littoral rainforests. The vulnerable plant *Thesium australe* (Austral Toadflax) has been identified in the Old Bar area. In line with the varied vegetation types there is a diverse range of fauna found with the park including many threatened species. The endangered Little Tern has been using Crown land north of Old Bar in the Farquhar Inlet and Manning Point areas for breeding and fledgling sites. The estuary around the Old Bar entrance provides food and shelter for a variety of wetland birds and waders.





**Harrington Beach (12):** Harrington Beach State Park is located on the Mid North Coast of NSW, about 3.5 hours drive north of Sydney and about 2 hours drive north of Newcastle. The park comprises lands surrounding and including the Manning River's northern entrance at Harrington. The 431-hectare site stretches from Harrington to the picturesque fishing village of Crowdy Head and features a caravan park, lighthouse and boat harbour. The foreshores of the coastal beaches and estuary provide an array of year round recreation and tourism opportunities while the protected tracts of littoral rainforests and other significant native vegetation provide habitat for many species of native fauna and flora. The state park is dominated by a coastal heath complex and littoral rainforest, and includes some small pockets of coastal wetland. There are adjoining areas of mangrove swamp which should also be added. The vegetation types support a diverse range of fauna including a large number of bird species.

**Bellinger Heads (13):** Located 530 km north of Sydney at the mouth of the Bellinger and Kalang Rivers, Bellinger Heads State Park NSW stretches from the Tuckers Rocks in the north to Hungary Head in the south. Bellinger Heads State Park is home to the scenic estuarine area of Urunga lagoons. Dotted with endangered ecological vegetation communities, this area supports a wide range of bird species including a number of threatened shore birds. Walk through littoral rainforests, freshwater wetlands and mangroves surrounding the Urunga lagoon or head further north and walk from Mylestom along the beach or behind the coastal dunes to Bongil Bongil National Park. Bird species commonly seen in this area include Bower Birds, Rainbow Bee-eaters, Dollar Birds, Brahminy Kites and White-Bellied Sea-Eagles.

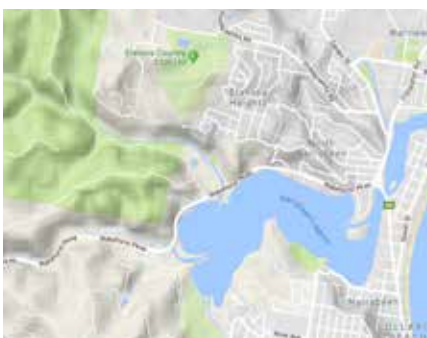


**Wallaga Lake (15):** Wallaga Lake, the largest lake in southern NSW, is located seven kilometres north of Bermagui along Wallaga Lake Road. The fishing is fabulous and the serenity of the natural surroundings offers a wonderful place for swimming, boating, sailing, water skiing, bushwalking and bird and wildlife watching. Picnic and toilet facilities are available. Wallaga Lake is the home of Umbarra, the black duck - totem of the Yuin-Monaro people. Merriman Island, within the lake, is gazetted as an Aboriginal Place in recognition of its significance to local Aboriginal people. This island is not accessible to the public and landings are not permitted. Aboriginal middens and artefacts such as cutting stones have been found in the lake area.



**Cronulla (16):** Located on Captain Cook Drive in Sutherland Shire on the Kurnell Peninsular. The area covering Wanda Beach and adjoining wetlands it is located within close proximity to the Southern section of Kamay-Botany Bay National Park. It is proposed to make this area a future addition to the national park after rehabilitation of the site has been completed.

**Living Desert (17):** Living Desert State Park is located 12km from Broken Hill, nestled amongst the Barrier Ranges. Situated on a majestic hilltop is the Sculpture Symposium while the tranquil Flora and Fauna Sanctuary contains numerous indigenous species. Living Desert State Parks flora and fauna sanctuary is set amongst the tranquillity of the gullies and rocky outcrops. With a large biodiversity of native plants and animals, the sanctuary contains an animal viewing area, where you're sure to see wallabies, red kangaroos and wedge tail eagles. The arboretum area contains endemic plants and numerous native species such as Sturt Pea, wattles and many more.



**Narrabeen Lagoon (18):** Narrabeen Lagoon State Park encompasses the largest of four coastal lagoons in the Warringah Local Government Area and the majority of Crown land within the catchment. Narrabeen Lagoon is a precious asset that affords a range of recreational, tourist and sporting activities all within a unique environment less than 30 kilometres from the Sydney CBD. Northern Beaches Council is the manager of the State Park and would maintain this role in conjunction with NPWS.

# Marine Parks, Inter-tidal areas of coastal parks, Wild and Scenic Rivers.



Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion, NSW Marine Estate Management Authority

**Sydney Marine Park.** Within the Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Bioregion which extends from Stockton Beach near Newcastle to Shellharbour.

While the bio-region extends a long way out from the coast, the Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Bioregion Assessment being conducted by the NSW Government related to NSW waters only. The Sydney Marine Park lies between the Entrance to the southern extent of Royal National Park and out to 3 nautical miles from the coast, and includes the Hawkesbury River (to its confluence with the Colo River), Sydney Harbour and the Parramatta River (to the Parramatta Weir), Botany Bay and the Georges River (to the Liverpool Weir) and the Hacking River and its tributaries (adjacent to and within Royal National Park). Currently just 0.4% of the coastline from Newcastle to Wollongong is protected in just 4 tiny aquatic reserve sanctuaries.

Recreational fishing, commercial fishing, diving, swimming and boating will all continue in this area but zonings should enable a better balance between pressures and the need for conservation. The zoning of the marine park will be subject to public consultation, however, a marine park in the Sydney region will help protect iconic marine species like the Blue Groper, Grey Nurse Shark and Weedy Sea Dragon and ensure we have fish for the future. The reason for the creation of a Sydney Marine Park is simple. Our oceans face growing risks from climate change, over-fishing, pollutions and severe storms. We need to protect marine life so we have fish for the future and can continue to enjoy the wonderful coastal lifestyle that makes Sydney a great place to live. A Sydney Marine Park could take many forms, but fundamentally it is about protecting marine life and doing it in a way that allows all activities to be managed in a sustainable way.



**Inter-tidal zone for coastal NPs and NRS.** When gazetted, many coastal reserves are gazetted to the property boundaries which in most cases only fall to the High Water mark. In contrast marine reserves are usually gazetted to the Low Water mark.

This leaves an area that lies between High and Low water within the inter-tidal zone that may not be protected. The gazettal of these areas is important for park management and to ensure that marine and estuarine habitat is not subject to over-use or damage. The gazettal of the inter-tidal zone does not affect recreational fishing, nor does it impede the operation of the Fisheries Act. In the past, NPWS officers have been appointed under the Fisheries Act to ensure compliance with the taking of marine resources as Fisheries inspectors cannot get to these areas. Although not implemented, the ALP has on previous occasions committed to the reservation and protection of the inter-tidal zone (see ALP National Parks Policy, 1995).



**The Clyde River Wild and Scenic River proposal.** Due to its geographical setting and the nature of most of its tenure, the Clyde River is in excellent condition with less than 5% of its catchment cleared.

These were formerly the traditional lands of the Wandrawandian and Walbanya Aboriginal communities and are today noted for their diverse and complex record of pre-European human occupation from as early as 20,000 years ago. The catchment is dominated by State Forests (43%) and National Park (48%) (much of which is Wilderness). Farming occurs on the floodplains, representing approximately 9%. The Clyde River rises in the Budawang Wilderness where it captures the drainage of the south eastern Sassafras Tableland and Tianjara and Little Forest Plateaux. Its source is the swampy heath and stunted eucalypt-covered sandstone, often characteristic of elevated sedimentary tablelands. The river is deeply entrenched into the Tableland to form the Clyde Gorge. At Yadboro the Clyde River forms a major confluence with the Yadboro River which also has its rise high in the Budawang National Park. As it flows south, the Clyde forms another confluence with the Bimberamala River giving connectivity with Bimberamala NP. In the lower reaches of the tidal zone south of Nelligen, the land is currently under consideration as an Aboriginal land claim. The Clyde River Catchment upstream of Shallow Crossing has an area of approximately 952 square km. The Clyde River flows around a landscape, geographically and culturally rich. It also is a landscape that is scenically unique and biologically diverse. There is currently, no major settlement until the Clyde River reaches Nelligen and Batemans Bay. The Clyde River is genuinely unimpeded, clean and of high ecological and aesthetic value. The only major water extraction is at Porters Ck on Little Forest Plateau built to support the coastal towns of Milton and Ulladulla. This overall setting identifies the Clyde river catchment as highly valued for sustainable management.





## Assessment of 50 Proposals for Reservation under the NP&W Act.

The 50 proposals considered within this document have been desktop assessed against the thematic approaches and regional priorities within the Draft NSW National Parks Systems Directions Statement. This assessment is based on the following attributes within the table below:

1. Poorly reserved ecosystems, threatened species and habitats. This category also includes iconic species considerations, ecosystem processes and climate changes resilience.
2. Connectivity conservation and the need to infill reserves for improved resilience.
3. Improving management, but also the appropriateness of management arrangements for conservation outcomes.
4. Culturally Important landscapes and places. This should include recreational opportunities as well as places of post-European occupation sites. These will often not directly relate to CAR criteria. Clearly, this is important for indigenous heritage.
5. Wetlands, floodplains, lakes and rivers.
6. Important water catchments including the intertidal zone.
7. Geodiversity
8. Wilderness and wild rivers as well a World Heritage values has been added as an extra category.
9. Regional priorities are recognised and are mentioned only if they fit into these priorities. For catchments, I have include E2 lands not just E1.

Table: Assessment of National Parks Association of NSW Compilation of 50 Proposed New Parks.

NPA Proposal(s)	Poorly Conserved ecosystems & iconic species	Connectivity and/or infill	Improving Management	Culturally Important Landscapes & Places	Wetlands, Floodplains, Lakes and Rivers	Important Water Catchments	Significant geodiversity	Wilderness or World Heritage	Priority Region
Woronora SCA	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	?	YES	Coast
Metropolitan SCA							?	YES	Coast
Upper Georges River	YES <sup>K</sup>	YES							Coast
O'Hares Creek	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES		Coast
Bargo-Nepean Gorge		YES	YES	YES	YES				Coast
Browns Forest	YES								Coast
Kellys Bush	YES			YES					Coast
Currawong Beach		YES	YES	YES	YES				Coast
Sydney Harbour Trust		YES	YES	YES					Coast
Jervis Bay NP		YES	YES	YES					Coast.
Murrah Flora Res (s)	YES <sup>K</sup>	YES	YES	YES					Coast
Mt Keira Reserve	YES	YES	YES	YES					Coast
Tumut Flora Res (s)	YES	YES	YES	YES					Coast
Mogo NR	YES			YES					Coast
Seven Mile Beach		YES							Coast
Great Koala Park (s)	YES <sup>K</sup>	YES	YES	YES					Coast
Sandy Creek NP	YES <sup>K</sup>	YES		YES					Coast
Barraganyatti RP	YES <sup>K</sup>	YES	YES	YES	YES				Coast
Cattai Wetland	YES			YES	YES				Coast
Wallis Lake	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES			Coast
Barrington Tops	YES	YES	YES	YES		YES		YES	Coast
Lansdowne NP	YES	YES	YES	YES					Coast
Gardens of Stone NP		YES	YES	YES		YES	YES	POSSIBLE	T'lands
Pilliga forests/scrub	YES <sup>K</sup>	YES	YES					LIKELY	C'I West
Sturt NP TSR		YES	YES	YES					Far West
State Parks	YES <sup>#</sup>	YES <sup>#</sup>	YES <sup>#</sup>	YES <sup>#</sup>	YES <sup>#</sup>	YES <sup>#</sup>			Slopes
Inter-tidal zone	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES			Coast
Clyde Wild River		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES		YES	Coast

K= koala reserve

# applies to most State Parks, but may not apply to all.



## Areas to be Developed Further as Proposals for Reservation under the NP&W Act.

### Far Western State Forests and TSRs.

The area of far western NSW comprises a large number of former Crown Reserves which were reserved by then Premier Neville Wran as State Forests as a temporary arrangement to ensure appropriate land management prior to their assessment and protection under the NP&W Act.

NPA proposes an assessment of these areas, largely found within the Western Lands Commission administration area, in conjunction with past studies of the west including potential for wilderness. The areas are not productive forests, however, some areas do allow limited fire wood gathering. In addition, there are a number of existing reserves where TSRs pass through national parks estate. These are no longer used and their addition would represent a low cost but significant addition to the adequacy of these parks.





## South Coast Reserves

The following proposals warrant investigation and funding proposals (in the case of Lake Wollumboola)

**Lake Wollumboola additions to Jervis Bay National Park.** The ideal outcome for Lake Wollumboola is for the entire catchment to be protected in JBNP. This would result in a world-class protected area with a very significant land and aquatic component. Although it would require purchase of private land from a single owner, this is achievable, would be broadly welcomed and delivers on several reserve priorities. There are currently development proposals active on the land that are held up by Council and NSW Planning due to infrastructure and biodiversity concerns. A reservation would add the remaining areas of the forested lake catchment to Jervis Bay NP, protecting ground and surface water sources and significant wetlands. The lake is a key migratory wader and resident waterbird site, contains underrepresented ecological communities and threatened species and is a wetland of national significance. The importance of the Lake is illustrated by suggestions that it be listed under the Ramsar convention. There are also significant areas of private land south of Tomerong State Forest that should be investigated for purchase to improve connectivity and boundary configuration.

**Improved connectivity of several national parks near Murramarang.** Adding Flat Rock, North Brooman and South Brooman State Forests to connect Morton NP to Murrumbidgee NP would create an east-west link. Adding Boyne and Benandara State Forest, slightly further south, would also connect Clyde River NP to Murramarang. The latter two state forests are being severely impacted by logging. Further additions of Bolaro and Buckenbowra would link Monga to Clyde River. The northern section of Buckenbowra State Forest contains areas of the Threatened Ecological Community Lowland Grassy Woodland identified by the EPA via their Threatened Ecological Community mapping of 2017.

**Improving boundary configuration of Bimberamala NP.** Bimberamala NP, north west of Durras, has very poor boundary configuration. This would be dramatically improved by adding the western parts of Yadboro, Shallow Crossing, Clyde and Currowan State Forests. In addition, the western parts of Yadboro and Currowan State Forests, adjacent to Budawang NP, contain extensive areas of lowland rainforest identified by the EPA via their Threatened Ecological Community mapping of 2017. The southern section of Currowan State Forest also contains areas of Lowland Grassy Woodland.





## Northern NSW Reserves (will be subject to RFA review)

**Cataract National Park.** Addition of Gilgurry SF to Cataract NP. Gilgurry is mapped by the EPA as 100% white gum moist forest, a threatened ecological community. Logging cannot therefore legally occur in any case, and the area is better included in a national park.

**Links between Bundjalung NP and Banyabba NR.** Five State Forests (Banyabba, Gibberagee, Tabbimoble, Doubleduke and Devils Pulpit) link Banyabba NR north of Grafton to Bundjalung NP on the coast. All of these forests contain extensive areas of the coastal floodplain forest threatened ecological community, mapped by the EPA in 2017. Devils Pulpit also contains areas of the threatened ecological community swamp sclerophyll forest. Gibberagee is the only known location on public land of the narrow leaved melychrus, endangered at State and Federal level.

**Ramornie National Park.** Nymbioda State Forest is mapped indicatively by the EPA as 100% Grey Box-Grey Gum Wet Sclerophyll Forest. The addition of Nymbioda and Ramornie State forests to Ramornie National Park would dramatically improve connectivity between Nymbioda National Park and Ramornie National Park.

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## ABOUT NPA

NPA has played a role in the establishment of many of NSW's national parks and nature reserves. Today there are 877 protected areas covering 7 million hectares on the land (9% of the State) and 66,000 ha of marine waters (6.5% of the coast), far exceeding the goals of our founders. NSW is one of the most environmentally diverse areas on earth and we work hard to ensure it remains this way