

Jellore FLORA RESERVE N^o. 196

SITE SPECIFIC WORKING PLAN



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This site-specific working describes the important values of an individual flora reserve and identifies site-specific priorities for management. The plan is to be read in conjunction with the Flora Reserve Plan: Background and General Management document, which identifies NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service's broad objectives and strategies for managing flora reserves. These two documents together form the flora reserve working plan in line with the requirements of section 25 of the *Forestry Act 2012*.

1. DETAILS OF THE RESERVE

1.1 LOCATION

Jellore Flora Reserve (FR) is in the Southern Highlands region of New South Wales, approximately 8 kilometres northwest of Mittagong, and occurs as two parcels of land separated by private land.

The reserve is situated in the upper reaches of the Nattai River catchment, which feeds into Lake Burragorang, also known as Warragamba Dam, which is part of the drinking water supply for Sydney. The reserve is accessed via a series of formed roads north of Wombeyan Caves Road. These include Soapy Flat Road and Black Spring Road to the western parcel, and Kells Creek Road, Spring Hill Road and Clemens Road to the eastern parcel. Soapy Flat Road continues through the western parcel. Spring Hill Road and Clemens Road traverse the eastern parcel.

1.2 KEY ATTRIBUTES OF THE RESERVE

Under the *Forestry Act 2012*, flora reserves are set apart for the preservation of native flora.

Along with adjoining Nattai National Park (NP) to the north, the Jellore FR forms part of an extensive protected sandstone landscape, forming the greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. The intact vegetation and remoteness of these lands contribute to high biodiversity and wilderness values and protect the catchment of Warragamba Dam, which forms the greater portion of Sydney's drinking water catchment.

Specific values that are to be protected in the reserve include:

- » Regionally significant vegetation
- » Part of Country for the Gundungurra People.
- » Confirmed koala habitat of medium resilience
- » Regional water quality
- » Threatened fauna and flora species
- » Southern Highlands Shale Woodland endangered ecological community (EEC)

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1.3 GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Area

Jellore FR occupies the entire area of former Jellore State Forest (SF) and is split between two parcels. The eastern parcel is 984 hectares, and the western parcel is 416 hectares. The two parcels are separated by a strip of land in private tenure, about 1 kilometre wide. Nattai NP adjoins both parcels to the north but on all other boundaries, the reserve is adjoined by private land (see Figure 1).

Topography

Jellore FR borders the southern edge of Nattai NP. The Bargo and Bargo River State Conservation Areas are 2.5 kilometres to the north-east.

The areas of Nattai NP adjoining the reserve are part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and the Nattai declared wilderness area.

The reserve is within the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment in the upper reaches of the Nattai River, which flows into Lake Burragorang, the waters stored by Warragamba Dam. However, the reserve is not within the Warragamba Special Area managed by WaterNSW, the border of which lies about 10 kilometres further west.

The protected catchment lands and NPWS reserves together form an uninterrupted expanse of remnant vegetation that extends from the coastal escarpment in the Illawarra to beyond the Blue Mountains.

The reserve lies within the NSW Sydney Basin Bioregion (IBRA 2012). Jellore FR is on the northernmost tip of the area covered by the Southern NSW Regional Forest Agreement (1999) and within the Forestry Corporation of NSW South Coast Region. The reserve is also within the administrative areas of NPWS Blue Mountains Branch, South East Local Land Services, Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC), and Wingecarribee Shire Council.

Geology and soils

Jellore FR inhabits an upland, dissected sandstone plateau typical of the Sydney Basin. The terrain is mostly undulating rises and rolling hills. The western parcel is the steeper of the two, falling some 200 metres to the bed of Jellore Creek in the northeast corner from its highest point of 740 metres above sea level (ASL).

In the eastern parcel, a central ridgeline runs on a southwest/northeast alignment, reaching a maximum elevation of 770 metres ASL roughly in the middle of the reserve. The parcel is drained by two unnamed ephemeral waterways, and the elevation falls to 380 metres ASL at the junction of one of these unnamed creeks with the Nattai River in the northeast corner of the parcel. There is also an unvegetated area about 1 hectare in size in the southwest corner of the western parcel, formerly a natural wetland.

Between the two parcels of Jellore FR and just within the boundary of Nattai NP is Mount Jellore, rising to a height of 834 metres ASL. Mount Jellore occupies a basalt cap formed by a volcanic intrusion during the late Triassic to Jurassic period.

Jellore FR exhibits an older geology of Mesozoic era Hawkesbury Sandstone and Narrabeen Group sedimentary rocks. Hawkesbury Sandstone dominates the higher ground of the reserve, with the Narrabeen Group revealed on the lower slopes of the Nattai River and Jellore Creek. The Mittagong Formation also occurs in the eastern parcel, signifying a sandstone-shale transition.

The eastern parcel comprises mostly Hilltop Soil Landscape. In this landscape, soils are derived through erosional processes from sandstone-quartz of the Mittagong Formation and comprise brown and yellow kandosols (yellow earths) and some orthic tenosols (earthy sands, yellow earths). The Hawkesbury Soil Landscape also occurs on steeper areas and has a greater incidence of rock outcropping. The colluvial soils vary with the landform, typically including lithosols, siliceous sands and earthy sands in exposed areas.

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The soil landscapes in the western parcel are more varied, mainly Hawkesbury, Hilltop, Soapy Flat, and Nattai Tablelands. The Soapy Flat Soil Landscape is formed by residual processes and typically has brown podzolic, yellow podzolic and earthy sands. Small swamps typically occur at the heads of drainage lines. The Nattai Tablelands Soil Landscape is formed chiefly through erosional processes and can include significant outcrops in the form of wide rock pavements. Derived soils are similar to those in the Hawkesbury Soil landscape but can also include yellow podzolic on shale.

Climate

Jellore FR sits within the northeastern corner of the South East and Tablelands climatic region (OEH 2014). The nearest rainfall station records are available from Mittagong (Alfred Street), located approximately 7 kilometres south-east of the reserve, where the average annual rainfall is 911 millimetres and Greenstead (Wingecarribee River), some 12 kilometres south-west of the reserve, where the average annual rainfall is 539 millimetres.

Annual rainfall distribution is somewhat seasonal. Whilst rainfall at Mittagong is more evenly spread throughout the year, there is a maximum summer rainfall at Greenstead, west of the reserve.

Annual rainfall distribution is also influenced by topography. Annual rainfall is approximately 928 millimetres at the highest points in the south-west of the eastern parcel (770 metres ASL), declining to 760 millimetres on the lower parts of the reserve on its eastern and northern boundaries (BioClim 2009).

Under climate change, minimum and maximum temperatures in the South East and Tablelands climatic region are expected to increase by 0.5 – 1.0°C and increase the number of hot days (over 35°C). Average annual rainfall is projected to decrease in spring and winter, and average fire weather is expected to increase in summer and spring (OEH 2014).

Vegetation

Vegetation in Jellore FR has been mapped as part of the NSW-wide State Vegetation Type Mapping program (SVTM). The SVTM project that contains Jellore FR is the Wingecarribee Fine-scale Native Vegetation (PCT) Map Version v2.1 (SVTM). VIS_ID 4670 (OEH 2017). Plant Community Types (PCTs) are the master community-level typology used in NSW planning, assessment tools, and vegetation mapping and management programs. The PCT classification is maintained in the BioNet Vegetation Classification application. This includes PCT descriptions, relationships to higher levels in the NSW vegetation classification hierarchy, associations with threatened biodiversity, vegetation condition benchmarks and estimates of PCT clearing loss.

Native vegetation within Jellore FR includes 29 separate PCTs (Table 1), with two forms of Red Bloodwood - Sydney Peppermint - Blue-leaved Stringybark heathy forest of the southern Blue Mountains, Sydney Basin Bioregion (PCT 1086) covering 769 hectares. Fourteen PCTs cover an area of less than 5 hectares each, in small discrete patches. Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) Listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) occur or have the potential to occur within Jellore FR and encompass 208.9 hectares of the flora reserve.

Table 1 PCTs of Jellore Flora Reserve

PCTID	PCT COMMON NAME	AREA (HA)	TEC
1086a	Red Bloodwood - Sydney Peppermint - Blue-leaved Stringybark heathy forest of the southern Blue Mountains, Sydney Basin Bioregion	556.62	No
1086b	Red Bloodwood - Sydney Peppermint - Blue-leaved Stringybark heathy forest of the southern Blue Mountains, Sydney Basin Bioregion	212.64	No
1107	River Peppermint - Narrow-leaved Peppermint open forest on sheltered escarpment slopes, Sydney Basin Bioregion and South	137.29	Potential

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PCTID	PCT COMMON NAME	AREA (HA)	TEC
	East Corner Bioregion		
1083c	Red Bloodwood - scribbly gum heathy woodland on sandstone plateaux of the Sydney Basin Bioregion	125.82	No
858	Grey Gum - Blue-leaved Stringybark open forest on gorge slopes, southern Sydney Basin Bioregion and north east South Eastern Highlands Bioregion	123.45	No
1150	Silvertop Ash - Blue-leaved Stringybark shrubby open forest on ridges, north east South Eastern Highlands Bioregion	73.31	No
1284	Turpentine - Smooth-barked Apple moist shrubby forest of the lower Blue Mountains, Sydney Basin Bioregion	40.28	Yes
N/A	Non native	26.15	No
1246	Sydney Peppermint - Grey Gum shrubby open forest of the western Blue Mountains, Sydney Basin Bioregion	18.10	No
860	Grey Gum - Broad-leaved Ironbark dry open forest on gorge slopes of the Blue Mountains, Sydney Basin Bioregion	15.27	No
871	Grey Gum shrubby open forest on gorge slopes of the Blue Mountains, Sydney Basin Bioregion	13.72	No
944	Mountain Grey Gum - Narrow-leaved Peppermint grassy woodland on shales of the Southern Highlands, southern Sydney Basin Bioregion	13.54	Yes
1152	Silvertop Ash - Hard-leaved Scribbly Gum - Blue-leaved Stringybark heathy woodland on sandstone plateaux, southern Sydney Basin Bioregion	11.51	No
832	Forest Red Gum - Narrow-leaved Ironbark open forest of the southern Blue Mountains gorges, Sydney Basin Bioregion	5.78	No
1292	Water Gum - Coachwood riparian scrub along sandstone streams, Sydney Basin Bioregion	5.78	No
1229	Swamp Gum - Ribbon Gum woodland on poorly-drained flats, South Eastern Highlands Bioregion	5.61	Potential
941	Mountain Blue Gum - Thin-leaved Stringybark open forest on river flat alluvium in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	4.44	Yes
877	Grey Myrtle dry rainforest of the Sydney Basin Bioregion and South East Corner Bioregion	3.73	Yes
870	Grey Gum - Thin-leaved Stringybark grassy woodland of the southern Blue Mountains gorges, Sydney Basin Bioregion	2.39	No
862	Grey Gum - Hard-leaved Scribbly Gum woodland of the Cocks River Valley, Sydney Basin Bioregion	2.23	No
1256	Tableland swamp meadow on impeded drainage sites of the western Sydney Basin Bioregion and South Eastern Highlands Bioregion	2.11	Yes
N/A	Miscellaneous regrowth	2.11	No

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PCTID	PCT COMMON NAME	AREA (HA)	TEC
882	Hairpin Banksia - Slender Tea-tree heath on coastal sandstone plateaux, Sydney Basin Bioregion	2.07	No
N/A	Melaleuca Thickets	1.32	No
788	Coral Heath - tea-tree wet heath of escarpment ranges and eastern tablelands, Sydney Basin Bioregion and South East Corner Bioregion	1.16	Yes
1105	River Oak open forest of major streams, Sydney Basin Bioregion and South East Corner Bioregion	1.16	No
907	Lilly Pilly - Sassafras warm temperate rainforest in moist sheltered gullies, Sydney Basin Bioregion and South East Corner Bioregion	0.88	No
769	Coachwood - Lilly Pilly warm temperate rainforest in moist sandstone gullies, Sydney Basin Bioregion	0.46	No
1401	Narrow-leaved Ironbark - Forest Red Gum woodland on rocky slopes of the lower Burragorang Gorge, Sydney Basin Bioregion	0.40	Yes
1254	Sydney Peppermint - White Stringybark moist shrubby forest on elevated ridges, Sydney Basin Bioregion	0.34	Yes
1100	Ribbon Gum - Snow Gum grassy forest on damp flats, eastern South Eastern Highlands Bioregion	0.23	No
N/A	Mixed native exotic	0.13	No
Total		1410.04	

The NPWS Nattai and Bargo reserves immediately to the north and northeast of Jellore FR support a high floristic diversity with over 800 native flora species recorded (DEC 2004).

Three threatened flora species have been identified to date in or adjoining Jellore FR, Mittagong Geebung (*Persoonia glaucescens*) Dwarf Phyllota (*Phyllota humifusa*) and *Persoonia mollis* subsp. *revoluta*. These species are being managed under the OEH Saving Our Species program as a site-managed species.

A series of priority management sites for Dwarf Phyllota have been identified immediately to the south of the western parcel of Jellore FR, together with sites in three other locations. The Mittagong Geebung has been recorded in two areas within the western portion of the flora reserve. *Persoonia mollis* subsp. *revoluta* has also been recorded only in the western portion of the FR. Management actions include monitoring key threatening processes (KTP), ecological monitoring, and minimising accidental damage on road/track edges.

Vertebrate Fauna

Over 280 terrestrial vertebrate fauna species have been recorded in the Nattai and Bargo reserves (DEC 2004) north of Jellore FR. This includes 22 threatened species listed under the BC Act. Analysis of fauna surveys undertaken by NPWS in 2004 established that Nattai NP has the third highest number of vertebrate fauna species of all NPWS reserves in the greater Sydney region.

Targeted fauna surveys of Jellore FR were undertaken in April 2021, over a six-day period. These surveys recorded 72 species of vertebrate fauna, including two amphibians, 40 bird species, 32 mammals and one reptile. It is important to note that the timing of the survey (mid-late Autumn) was a limiting factor and was not considered optimal for detecting some or all threatened flora species, reptiles, amphibians, and bird species (JWA 2021).

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Species recorded during targeted surveys included confirmation of the occurrence of eight threatened fauna species (Appendix 5). Four of these species had not been recorded previously within the flora reserve. Threatened species recorded within the flora reserve are:

- » Powerful owl– Vulnerable (BC Act).
- » Scarlet robin – Vulnerable (BC Act).
- » Large-eared pied bat – Vulnerable (EPBC Act and BC Act).
- » Eastern false pipistrelle – Vulnerable (BC Act).
- » Large bent-wing bat – Vulnerable (BC Act).
- » Yellow-bellied glider – Vulnerable (BC Act).
- » Greater glider – Endangered (EPBC Act).
- » Koala – Vulnerable (EPBC Act and BC Act).
- » Glossy black-cockatoo - Vulnerable (BC Act).
- » Gang-gang Cockatoo - Vulnerable (BC Act).

Based on available habitat types and features, Jellore FR can be expected to contain similar species typical of the sandstone plateau of the region. There are six records of koalas in Jellore FR for the period 1995- 2016 (OEH 2018c). Jellore FR is within the Central Coast Koala Management Area (KMA) which extends as far south as Albion Park and takes in the top portion of Morton NP (OEH 2018c).

Jellore FR falls within an area of regional koala significance (ARKS) (OEH 2018b) of moderate resilience. The resilience of koala areas is defined as a function of the values (habitat and occupancy) and the level of risk they are exposed to by threatening processes. ARKS mapping provides a focus for koala strategy, providing profiling and analysis of the landscape values and threats acting on koala populations in New South Wales (OEH 2018b).

The NSW Koala Strategy (OEH 2018d) outlined a series of initiatives aimed at stabilising and increasing koala populations across New South Wales. To underpin this work, extensive koala surveys were undertaken to provide a more accurate picture of koalas' status and increase the knowledge available for managing koalas into the future. These and future data will be used to improve knowledge, update koala likelihood mapping and refine the koala strategy's priorities and programs. Thus, over time reserve managers may be required to adjust management in accordance with emerging information and policy.

1.4 HISTORY

Aboriginal history and heritage

Jellore FR is in the traditional Country of the Gundungurra Aboriginal people and the administrative area of Illawarra LALC. Gundungurra Country extended from the Wingecarribee/Wollondilly rivers to Camden in the north, Goulburn in the south and west to the Blue Mountains. Many place names in the Southern Highlands derive from Aboriginal words, including Mittagong, Nattai, Bong Bong, Bowral, Wingecarribee and Bundanoon.

The Flora Reserve is also within the area covered by the Gundungurra Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA), which was signed by the Gundungurra Tribal Council Aboriginal Corporation and the Gundungurra Aboriginal Heritage Association on behalf of the Gundungurra Aboriginal People on 20 June 2014. The ILUA extends over about 6,942 square kilometres southwest of Sydney, from about 8 kilometres south of Lithgow to about 18 kilometres north of Goulburn.

An ILUA is a voluntary agreement established by the Native Title Act 1993, between a native title group and other parties on the use and management of land and waters. NPWS and FCNSW are among the signatories to the Gundungurra ILUA.

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The recent archaeological investigation was initiated by the Gundungurra Aboriginal Heritage Association Incorporated (GAHA), and the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service (NSW NPWS), to explore the cultural heritage associated with the Mt Jellore area, address potential management constraints/opportunities, and enhance the understanding of the areas cultural and archaeological significance (Jackson 2021).

Archaeological survey for the current project was conducted over 14 days, during March and May 2021. Surveys targeted several landforms within the reserve, including deeply incised gullies/ canyons, ridges, spurs, lower valley slopes and creek corridors, as well as the Jellore mountain itself. In total, 29 additional Aboriginal archaeological sites were recorded, adding to eight shelters previously identified on the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS). Archaeological sites recorded within the FR consisted of the following:

- » 9 open sites
- » 16 shelters with art
- » 9 occupation shelters
- » 3 grinding groove sites

All shelter art sites consisted of pigment drawings in sandstone rock shelters. Art sites included images in red, white, black pigment, and scratched or abraded images. Up to 51 motifs were recorded, although some consisted of multiple parallel lines in various shapes. Additionally, one site appears to have up to 65 white pigment 'dots' or 'blobs' in 4-5 rows across the rock art panel. Few 'iconic' images were observed apart from red hand stencils, a possible 'bat' image and at least one large red pigment 'eel'.

Open sites were found on ridgelines, valley floors and high peaks (such as Mt Jellore) in the study area. The sites exhibiting the most abundant stone tool material were on broad valley floors adjacent to perennial watercourses. Three grinding groove platforms were recorded in the area, two of which were found in proximity in the far southwest of the reserve near High Range. Up to 88 of the 93 grinding grooves recorded in the project were found in this area. Apart from two surveyors' stone arrangements, one on Mt Jellore, and one on the ridge immediately east of Mt Jellore, no stone arrangements were identified. No carved trees have yet been identified in Jellore FR.

A total of 79 stone tools were recorded in the area, including tools made from chert, silcrete, quartz, volcanic materials, quartzite, possibly mudstone, jasper, and chalcedony. Most of these materials can be sourced in the varied geology of the area, including the Illawarra Coal Measures (cherts, mudstone, quartz), Hawkesbury Sandstone (quartz and possibly quartzite), Shoalhaven Group Sandstones (quartz and possibly black cherts), and volcanic deposits.

In accordance with the ILUA, the Gundungurra People will have the opportunity to provide input into the management of Jellore FR. Activities could include aboriginal sites, aboriginal site protection, track and trail construction & rehabilitation, fire and pest management planning, the management and interpretation of Aboriginal heritage, and research. The Gundungurra ILUA does not recognise native title over these lands as the Gundungurra People agreed to withdraw their native title claim on registration of the agreement.

Shared Heritage

European explorers probed into the surrounding areas as the Sydney colony became more established to establish more grazing lands and access other resources. The Southern Highlands and the lands now in Sydney's drinking water catchment were part of the challenge of finding a route over the Blue Mountains. Local Aboriginal people accompanied many of the early explorers.

The first Europeans to pass through Mittagong and the Jellore area were Wilson, Price, Hacking and Collins in 1798. Wilson was an ex-convict recorded as spending time with Aboriginal people and exploring the country up to 160 kilometres from Sydney in every direction.

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Some thirty years later (in 1827 or 1828), Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell ascended Mount Jellore as the highest mountain in the Southern Highlands and could view Mount Warrawalong 170 kilometres to the north, and Mount Banks, Mount Hay and Mount Tomah in the Blue Mountains.

The Great Southern Road was built through the Southern Highlands in the 1830s and opened the area up for European settlement. This road was the forerunner of the Hume Highway connecting Sydney to Albury, officially opened in 1858. Mittagong was settled in 1821, when the first land grant was made to William Chalker. Dairies in the area supplied fresh milk and butter to Sydney, and since then, the cool temperate climate and fertile soils have supported many agricultural industries. The Picton-Mittagong railway line was opened in February 1867 as part of the Main South Line.

The first coal mine began at Medway in 1867, and since then, more than 20 coal mines have operated in the Southern Highlands. The Mittagong Colliery operated between 1883 and 1955. Kerosene shale deposits at Joadja were mined from the late 1870s until 1911. Mittagong was also the site of the first iron ore smelting venture in Australia during the 19th century following the accidental discovery of a large deposit of pure ore in 1833 during excavations for the Great Southern Road. The ironworks operated for about 50 years.

The first protected area was Wombeyan Caves (now known as Wombeyan Karst Conservation Reserve) which was reserved in 1865. In 1937, the former Sydney Water Board reserved the first section of the Warragamba catchment over 38,870 hectares. Warragamba Dam was constructed between 1948 and 1960 with a capacity of 2,031 gegalitres. In 1942 the Warragamba Special Area was established over 260,880 hectares and is the largest of the WaterNSW Special Areas, which protect Sydney's drinking water supply.

Due largely to the efforts of one of the earliest Australian conservationists, Miles Dunphy, recognition of the Nattai area as an area of outstanding natural and cultural importance finally resulted in the gazettal of the Nattai reserves in 1991. The Nattai Wilderness, which adjoins Jellore FR, was one of the first areas nominated as wilderness under the Wilderness Act 1987.

Forest Management History

Logging

Jellore SF was dedicated on 6 December 1985. There are no records of logging in the forest.

Fire history

Fire history indicates that a portion of the eastern parcel of Jellore FR was burnt by wildfire in 1984-85. In 2001-02 almost the entire area of both parcels was burnt by wildfire. In 2017-18, about one-quarter of the eastern parcel was burnt as part of a prescribed burn. The 2019/20 Greenwattle Fire burnt to the north of Jellore FR in Nattai National Park and adjacent private lands but did not impact the reserve.

The section of Nattai NP to the north of Jellore FR is designated as the Jellore Strategic Fire Advantage Zone (SFAZ) except for a small area immediately to the north of the western parcel, which is a Land Management Zone (LMZ).

The *Thirlmere Lakes and Nattai Reserves Fire Management Strategy* identifies a minimum threshold of 7 years and a maximum threshold of 35 years for shrubby dry sclerophyll forest.

1.5 CURRENT USAGE

Little is known of the land management activities undertaken prior to gazettal of the Flora Reserve. A former quarry exists in the western parcel, close to the intersection of Soapy Flat Road and an unnamed trail. This quarry is likely to have provided material for the maintenance of trails within the state forest.

Public vehicle access is available to both reserve parcels and a limited number of trails traverse the parcels.

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A right of carriageway exists over parts of Soapy Flat Road and an unnamed track within the western parcel of the reserve, providing access to private property to the north of the reserve.

An easement is in place over the Transgrid 330 kV transmission line section traverses the southeastern corner of the eastern parcel of the reserve. An Endeavour Energy powerline runs north-south through the western parcel but without an easement.

The eastern parcel of Jellore FR forms part of public land that has been declared for the purposes of hunting under the Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002. Bow hunting is the only form of hunting allowed (Category 4) and will continue under a Memorandum of Understanding between the DPI and the NPWS. The western parcel of the Flora Reserve is closed to hunting.

There are no built facilities for visitors in Jellore FR. The reserve has been used for recreational four-wheel driving.

Unauthorised uses which may threaten the reserve values are illegal access by four-wheel drivers and unregistered trail bikes, firewood collection, removal of bush rock, rubbish dumping, sand 'borrowing' and illegal hunting.

2. SYSTEM OF MANAGEMENT

2.1 OBJECTIVES OF MANAGEMENT

NPWS will manage Jellore FR for conservation purposes as guided by the principles and objectives of the Forestry Act 2012 and the General Working Plan for Flora Reserves Managed by NPWS.

General objectives for managing all Flora Reserves managed by NPWS are set out in Section 1.1 of the General Working Plan for Flora Reserves Managed by NPWS (Appendix 2). This includes objectives from local NPWS operational plans and strategies for fire, pests, and weeds.

In addition to that general guidance, the objectives for Jellore FR will be to:

- » conserve native plants, forest ecosystems and threatened species and habitats.
- » protect Aboriginal cultural and archaeological values.
- » integrate the management of the Flora Reserve with the management of Nattai NP in accordance with the Nattai Reserves Plan of Management.
- » ensure that management of the reserve is complementary to the management of adjacent wilderness values.
- » Improve knowledge of the use of the reserve by koalas and other threatened species and develop and implement appropriate management strategies.
- » Work with neighbours, landowners of inholdings, and permit holders to enhance conservation outcomes for the reserve.
- » Develop a visitor strategy appropriate to the conservation values of the reserve.
- » Promote local communities' engagement in managing and protecting the flora reserve.

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2.2 MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Stewardship activities within the reserve are enabled by this working plan and informed by the Nattai Reserves Plan of Management and the general requirements of the NPWS Parks Management Framework.

General management strategies (policies) for managing all Flora Reserves managed by NPWS are set out in Section 1.2 of the General Working Plan for Flora Reserves Managed by NPWS.

In addition to that general guidance, the management objectives in Section 4.1 will be met through the management strategies (policies) identified below and the adaptable works program (Appendix 2).

Biodiversity management and ecological knowledge

- » The relevant actions in the Koala Strategy and the Saving Our Species Iconic Koala Project will be implemented.
- » Install or implement protective measures to protect high value ecological assets.
- » Identify areas for revegetation to support the Iconic Koala Project, focusing on disturbed and cleared land within Jellore Flora Reserve.
- » Further floristic surveys to improve understanding of threatened flora and ecological communities within the reserve.

Cultural Heritage

- » The Gundungurra People will be consulted about the management of Jellore FR in accordance with the Gundungurra ILUA. This would include discussing actions such as the construction or closure of tracks and visitor facilities, the management and interpretation of Aboriginal cultural heritage and environmental research.
- » Investigate the extent of rock-climbing activities north of Soapy Flat Firetrail and assess associated impacts from bolts, climbing, chalking and ropes. Consider working with climbing groups/ organisations to establish the parameters for rock climbing in the Jellore FR area, to avoid impacting cultural heritage sites.
- » Heritage items identified as of local or State significance, so appearing in Forestry Corporation's Heritage and Conservation Register (S.170 register) or State Heritage Register, will be maintained with due diligence in accordance with State Owned Heritage Management Principles (S.170A of the Heritage Act 1977).
- » Ensure protection of grinding groove site 'Jellore Flora Reserve 29', adjacent to Soapy Flat Firetrail, by preventing vehicle or bike access to the platform.
- » No fire containment lines or fire trails to be constructed near all shelter and platform sites during fire operations.
- » Install or implement protective measures to protect high-value cultural heritage assets.

Pest and Weed Management

- » As per the General Working Plan and any actions in the adaptable works program.
- » Pest animal and weed control (as far as practicable priority weeds and other exotic species will be eliminated from the reserve).

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Fire management

- » Fire planning and operations will be managed and conducted in collaboration with the Southern Highlands Bushfire Management Committee and other adjoining landowners.
- » This working plan and the reserve's values and boundaries will be considered in any review of the applying NPWS Fire Management Strategies and in NPWS burn plans.

Water quality protection

- » In accordance with State Environmental Planning Policy (Sydney Drinking Water Catchment) 2011, before carrying out any action, NPWS will consider whether it will have a neutral or beneficial effect on water quality.

Trail maintenance

- » NPWS will maintain the main publicly accessible roads within Jellore FR, for visitor purposes, and following a review, establish management trails and close and rehabilitate unrequired trails.
- » The Springhill Firetrail and a section of Soapy Flat Firetrail (see Appendix 1), will be gated, and access controlled for management purposes and access to private properties. Sensitive heritage and ecological values have been identified within proximity to both these trails. Under section 61(1) of the Forestry Act, a permit system will be introduced to provide for limited vehicular access to minimise impacts on these values.
- » Where roads and trails that pass through the reserve provide vehicular access for neighbouring properties, access agreements will be developed and updated as relevant between NPWS and adjoining landowners.
- » Powerlines that traverse the reserve will be maintained as per the agreement between FCNSW and the provider. Where no agreement exists, NPWS will liaise with the provider as required.

Visitor opportunities and management

- » Three improved visitor access nodes will be maintained at Springhill, Soapy Flat and Clemens Roads. These facilities include interpretive information on the reserve's values and opportunities for recreational use.
- » In consultation with stakeholders, NPWS will undertake a review of the existing walking trail network, with a view to addressing both the environmental effects of unauthorised use and creating opportunities for improving visitor experiences.
- » A public walking trail to Mount Jellore will be reviewed.

2.3 ACTIVITY PERMISSIBILITY

Permitted activities

Under the Forest Management Zoning (FMZ) system, Jellore Flora Reserve No. 196 is a dedicated reserve zoned FMZ 1 and therefore contributes to the dedicated reserve system in the Southern Highlands Region. Management will be consistent with the requirements of JANIS dedicated reserves, and the area cannot be revoked except by an act of Parliament. Activities that can be undertaken that do not require consent include:

- » All actions consistent with the management strategies identified in the General Working Plan for Flora Reserves Managed by NPWS (including weeds, pest, fire, infrastructure and visitation management).
- » Nature-based activities such as bushwalking, bird watching and photography.

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- » Use of registered motor vehicles operated by licensed drivers on publicly accessible roads (see Appendix 1).
- » Horse riding on publicly accessible roads and fire trails.
- » Recreational cycling.
- » Aboriginal cultural activities not requiring a permit.
- » On-lead dog walking on public roads.
- » Walk-in bush camping.

Permitted with conditions

The following activities may be permitted subject to standard conditions approved by the delegated Manager and consistent with the Integrated Forestry Operations Approval (IFOA), relevant codes of practice, forest practices / operational circulars, protocols, licenses and management/recovery plans:

- » Scientific studies (eg, fauna surveys including trapping).
- » Maintenance of existing roads and fire trails.
- » Installation and maintenance of boundary fencing including vegetation management.
- » Maintenance of existing recreation facilities and upgrading where necessary to keep pace with demand while protecting the attributes of the reserve.
- » Aboriginal use of forest products (the delegated manager may authorise an Aboriginal person to carry out forest product operations within the reserve. This authorisation should only occur where no other land is reasonably accessible to the Aboriginal person and the scale and intensity of the activity is consistent with the maintenance of the conservation attributes to be protected in the reserve.).
- » Fire management will be undertaken in a manner consistent with maintaining the health of forest ecosystems.
- » Recreational bow hunting in the eastern parcel of the reserve (see Appendix 1) in accordance with provisions under the Forestry Act, DPI requirements and NPWS risk management guidelines.
- » Activities requiring permission will generally be subject to assessment. If permitted, they will have conditions applied by the land manager (NPWS) consistent with the Forestry Act and applying policies and guidelines. Permits can only be issued for activities within Flora Reserves following approval by the Secretary of DPE under section 60 of the Forestry Act. The following activities specific to Jellore FR are listed as requiring permission:
 - Small scale events (less than 150 people) in accordance with NPWS Small Scale Event Guidelines.
 - Commercial tour operations.
 - Vehicular access to managed trails (Springhill, Bosch's and Soapy Flat Firetrail).
 - Horse riding access to managed trails (Springhill, Bosch's and Soapy Flat Firetrail).

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Activities not permitted

The following activities will not be permitted in Jellore FR:

- » Timber harvesting.
- » Removal of forest products and materials.
- » Gravel or hard rock quarrying.
- » Use of unregistered vehicles.
- » Vehicle use of walking tracks, single tracks or cycle tracks.
- » Creation of single tracks through bushland areas for vehicle use.
- » Off-road 4WD or motorcycle use (bush bashing).
- » Vehicle access, without a permit, on trails identified as “requiring consent”.
- » Lighting of campfires or any other unauthorised fires.
- » Non-permitted camping.
- » Unrestrained dogs.
- » Grazing by domestic stock.
- » Mineral fossicking.
- » Horse riding off trail.

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2.4 MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY

The Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) has been appointed as land manager of Jellore FR by the Minister for Regional NSW under section 57(3) of the Forestry Act. This will enable NPWS to manage the land in accordance with this working plan. Under section 146(3) of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* nearby or adjoining land to existing reserves can be managed by NPWS.

Jellore FR will be managed by NPWS in accordance with the principles, objectives and legislative framework of the Forestry Act and the Agreement for the Management of Flora Reserves between the Minister for Lands and Forestry and the Minister for the Environment (OEH 2018). NPWS will draw on its own management frameworks to achieve this.

The Jellore Flora Reserve adjoins Nattai National Park which forms part of a group of NPWS parks known as the Nattai reserves. These reserves were gazetted in 1991 and are managed by NPWS under the Nattai Reserves Plan of Management (NPWS 2001). The management of Jellore FR will be integrated into the management of Nattai NP. However, this working plan will stand alone in terms of its role in ensuring the original purpose of the Flora Reserve dedication is upheld.

The plan seeks to apply an adaptive management approach, to ensure that the application of flexible and sound land management practices can be applied to protect the specific values of Jellore Flora Reserve. This adaptive management approach ensures the integration of natural variability and environmental changes across the broader landscape into decisions and actions delivered.

2.5 MONITORING, REPORTING AND REVIEW

NPWS will monitor changes to the key attributes of the reserve and will review the effectiveness of the management strategies designed to protect those attributes and to achieve the management objectives.

Annual reporting processes will include the results of this monitoring, review and management response.

The provisions of this working plan will be amended, if necessary, in light of the results of the monitoring program and / or legislative change and with the approval of the Minister administering the *Forestry Act 2012*.

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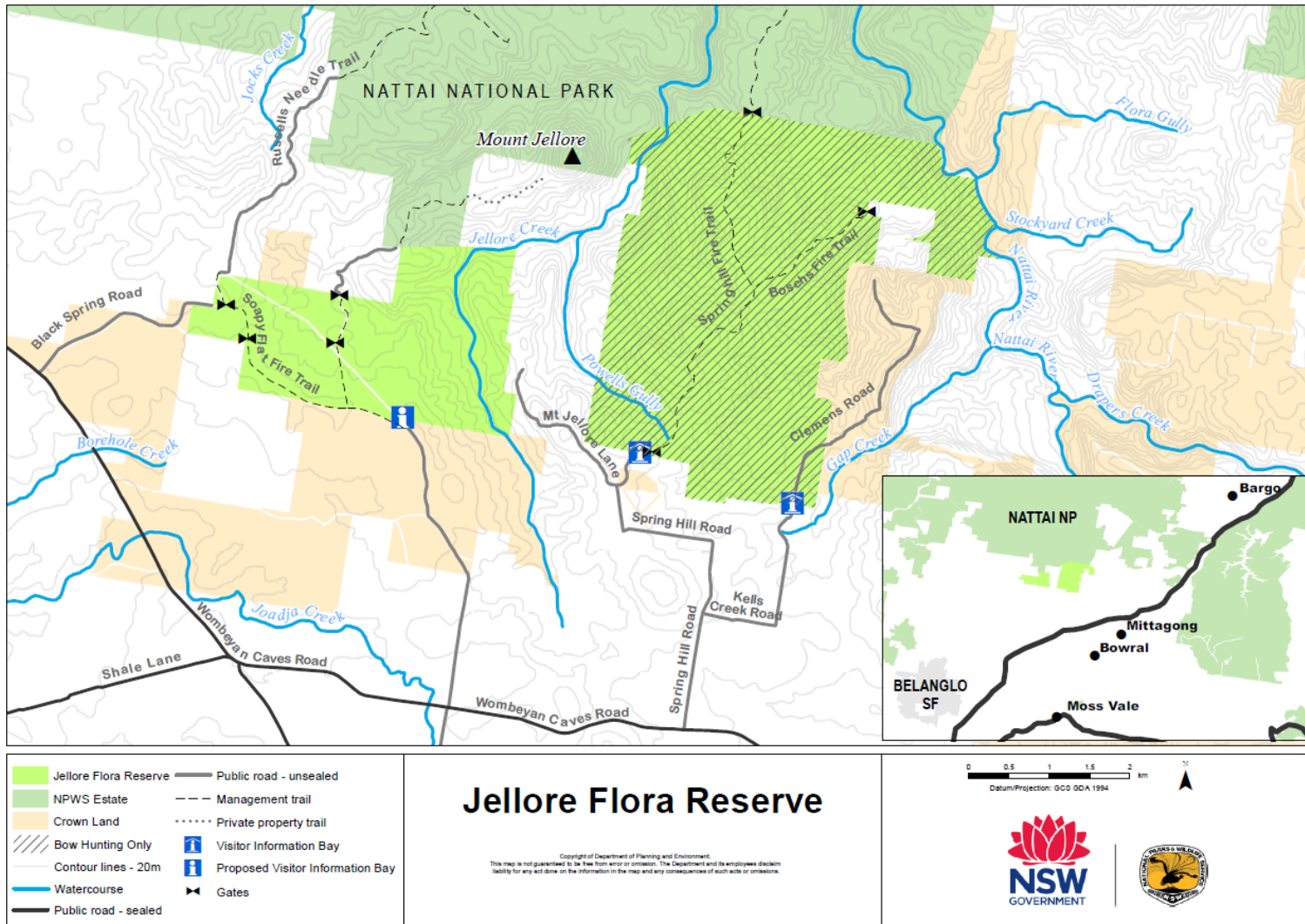
3. LIST OF APPENDICES

- » Appendix 1 – Locality Map
- » Appendix 2 – Adaptable works program
- » Appendix 3 – Topographic and Forest Type Map
- » Appendix 4 – Flora Species List
- » Appendix 5 – Fauna Species List
- » Appendix 6 – Images

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APPENDIX 1 – LOCALITY MAP



APPENDIX 2 –GENERAL WORKING PLAN FOR FLORA RESERVES MANAGED BY NPWS

[Forestry Corporation NSW link to general working plan.](#)

APPENDIX 3 - ADAPTABLE WORKS PROGRAM

This list of actions has been developed from discussions with local staff referencing the objectives in Section 4.1 and the strategies/policies in Section 4.2.

In keeping with an adaptive management approach, the actions below may be revised or deleted, and new actions may be added by the local NPWS Branch to better meet the objectives of the working plan. This may occur after they have been undertaken or attempted, when new information arises or to suit changing circumstances. The priorities applied to these actions may also be revised.

The priority rating in the table below have been agreed with local operational staff and reflect the importance of the list of actions relative to the situation in the reserve.

No.	Adaptable management actions	Priority
1	Biodiversity management and ecological knowledge Support koala survey, habitat assessments and other activities aimed at determining the extent of koala populations and use of the reserve by koalas as required. Investigate and implement appropriate rehabilitation measures for the former wetland in the southwest portion of the western parcel of the reserve. Undertake further floristic surveys to identify and map threatened ecological communities within the reserve.	1
2	Aboriginal heritage Consult with the Gundungurra Aboriginal community about proposed management activities in accordance with the Gundungurra ILUA. Work with the Gundungurra Aboriginal community to manage (and interpret if relevant) Aboriginal heritage in the reserve.	1
3	Pest and weed management Until the Flora Reserve is included in the NPWS Blue Mountains Branch Pest and Weed Strategy, pest and weed control works will be focused on the protection of ecological and cultural assets.	3
4	Fire management Undertake fire management actions consistent with <i>Wollondilly and Wingecarribee Bushfire Risk Management Plan</i> and include Jellore FR in NPWS landscape fire management strategies.	1

5	Bow hunting (see Appendix 1) Develop and maintain rigorous safety procedures for all management operations in the reserve. Maintain up-to-date information about bow hunting activities in the reserve from DPI Game Licensing Unit to inform the preparation of all JSAs. Install regulatory signage at relevant entries to the reserve to advise the public about bow hunting activities. Support surveillance activities in the reserve as required in consultation with DPI Game Licensing Unit.	2
6	Roads and infrastructure Review any existing access agreements with FCNSW and other adjoining landowners over roads/ trails which pass through the reserve and develop new access agreements as required. Investigate the historical maintenance arrangements of Soapy Flat Road with Wingecarribee Shire Council. Investigate options, in consultation with stakeholders, to plan and implement a permit system for registered vehicle users on Spring Hill Fire Trail.	1
7	Walking Trails In consultation with stakeholders, NPWS will undertake a review of the existing walking trail network to improve visitor experiences and consider cultural and environmental values.	3
8	Neighbour relations Engage with neighbours on the review of trails, any possible closures or upgrades and public access. Develop a database of neighbouring landowners for use in pest management, wildfire response and other management activities. Develop a neighbour communication strategy to provide information about the reserve under NPWS management. Engage with neighbouring landowners on relevant issues as required.	3
8	Visitor use Maintain and enhance visitor access nodes Springhill, Soapy Flat and Clemens Roads. These facilities will include interpretive information on the reserve's values and opportunities for recreational use. Investigate further interpretive opportunities to educate users on reserve values. Install regulatory and interpretive signage at appropriate entrances to the reserve. Monitor impacts of visitor use and bow hunting on reserve values including koalas, other native animal species and Aboriginal cultural heritage.	3

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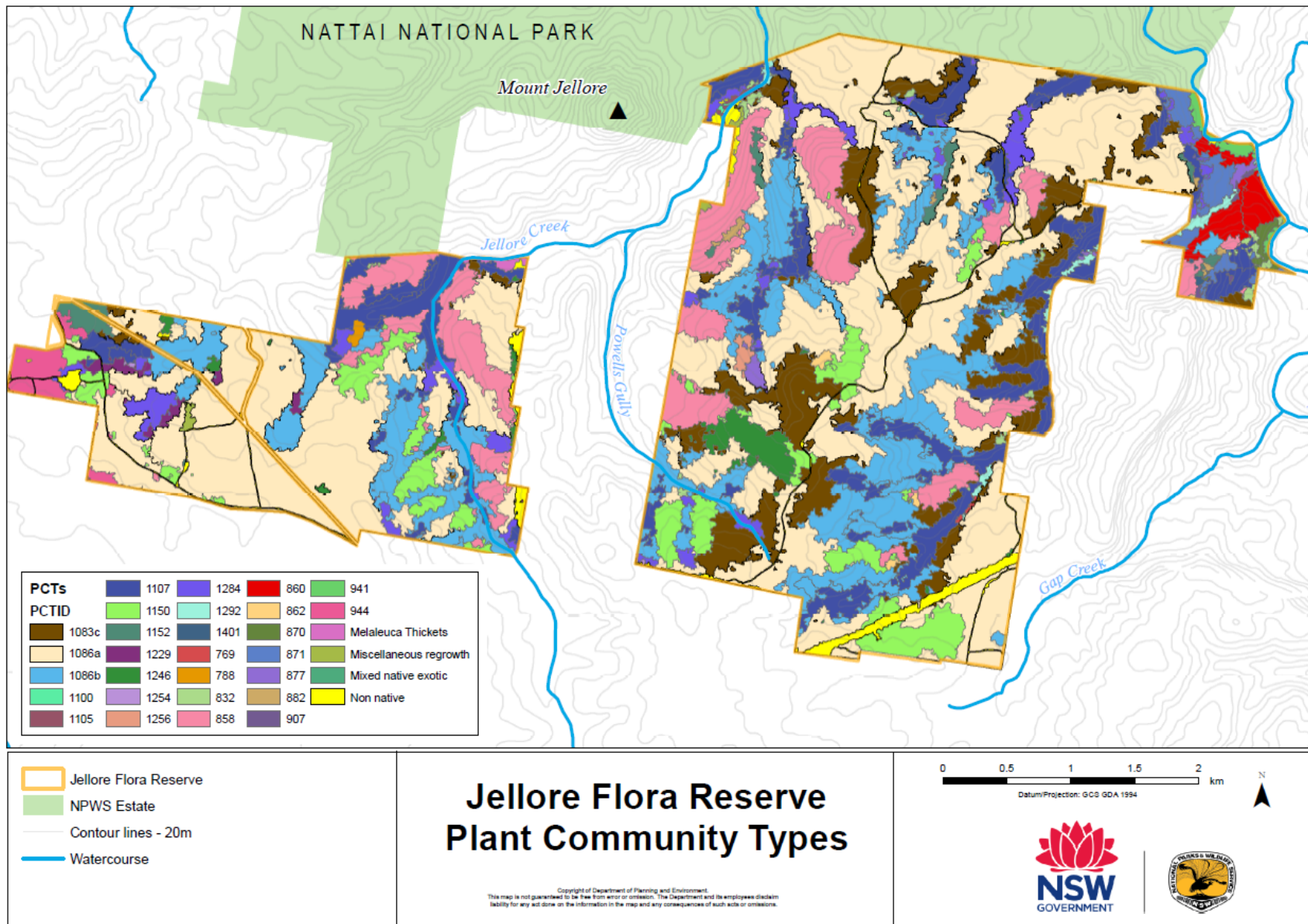
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9	Unauthorised uses Monitor for unauthorised uses and if necessary, develop and implement a response action plan. Work with other agencies to develop and implement a strategic response to law enforcement.	2
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APPENDIX 3 – TOPOGRAPHIC & FOREST TYPE MAP



APPENDIX 4 –THREATENED FLORA SPECIES LIST

Scientific Name	Common Name	NSW	Commonwealth
<i>Phyllota humifusa</i>	Dwarf Phyllota	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Persoonia glaucescens</i>	Mittagong Geebung	Endangered	Vulnerable
<i>Persoonia mollis</i> subsp. <i>revoluta</i>		Vulnerable	Not listed

APPENDIX 5 – FAUNA SPECIES LIST

Scientific Name	Common Name	NSW	Commonwealth
<i>Acanthiza lineata</i>	Striated thornbill		
<i>Acanthiza pusilla</i>	Brown thornbill		
<i>Alisterus scapularis</i>	Australian king parrot		
<i>Antechinus stuartii</i>	Brown antechinus		
<i>Anthochaera carunculata</i>	Red wattlebird		
<i>Auromomus australis</i>	White-striped free-tail bat		
<i>Cacatua galerita</i>	Sulphur-crested cockatoo		
<i>Cacatua sanguinea</i>	Little corella		
<i>Caligavis chrysops</i>	Yellow faced honeyeater		
<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	Gang-gang Cockatoo	Vulnerable	
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathamii</i>	Glossy Black-cockatoo	Vulnerable	
<i>Cervus timorensis</i> #	Rusa deer		
<i>Chalinolobus dwyeri</i>	Large-eared Pied Bat	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Chenonetta jubata</i>	Australian wood duck		
<i>Cinclosoma punctatum</i>	Spotted quail thrush		
<i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>	Grey shrike-thrush		
<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>	Black faced cuckoo shrike		
<i>Cormobates leucophaea</i>	White throated tree creeper		
<i>Corvus coronoides</i>	Australian raven		
<i>Coturnix ypsilophora</i>	Brown quail		
<i>Cracticus torquatus</i>	Grey butcherbird		
<i>Crinia signifera</i>	Common eastern froglet		
<i>Ctenotus taeniolatus</i>	Copper-tailed skink		
<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>	Laughing kookaburra		
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine falcon		
<i>Falsistrellus tasmaniensis</i>	Eastern False Pipistrelle	Vulnerable	
<i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>	Magpie lark		
<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>	Australian magpie		
<i>Hirundo neoxena</i>	Welcome swallow		
<i>Leucosarcia melanoleuca</i>	Wonga pigeon		
<i>Macropus giganteus</i>	Eastern grey kangaroo		

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Scientific Name	Common Name	NSW	Commonwealth
<i>Macropus rufogiseus</i>	Red-necked wallaby		
<i>Malurus cyaneus</i>	Superb fairy wren		
<i>Manorina melanocephala</i>	Noisy miner		
<i>Manorina melanophrys</i>	Bell miner		
<i>Melithreptus lunatus</i>	White-naped honeyeater		
<i>Menura novaehollandiae</i>	Superb lyrebird		
<i>Miniopterus orianae oceanensis</i>	Large Bent-wing Bat	Vulnerable	
<i>Nesoptilotis leucotis</i>	White-eared honeyeater		
<i>Ninox boobook</i>	Southern boobook		
<i>Ninox strenua</i>	Powerful Owl	Vulnerable	
<i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i>	Crested pigeon		
<i>Pachycephala pectoralis</i>	Golden whistler		
<i>Petauroides volans</i>	Greater Glider		Endangered
<i>Petaurus australis</i>	Yellow-bellied Glider	Vulnerable	
<i>Petroica boodang</i>	Scarlet Robin	Vulnerable	
<i>Petroica rosea</i>	Rose Robin		
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	Koala	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Platycercus elegans</i>	Crimson rosella		
<i>Platycercus eximius</i>	Eastern rosella		
<i>Podargus strigoides</i>	Tawny frogmouth		
<i>Pseudophryne bibronii</i>	Bibron's toadlet		
<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Grey-headed Flying-fox	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Rattus rattus</i> #	Black rat		
<i>Rhinolophus megaphyllus</i>	Eastern horseshoe bat		
<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	Rufous fantail		Migratory
<i>Sminthopsis murina</i>	Common Dunnart		
<i>Strepera graculina</i>	Pied currawong		
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> #	Common starling		
<i>Sus scrofa</i> #	Feral Pig		
<i>Vespadelus darlingtoni</i>	Large forest bat		
<i>Vombatus ursinus</i>	Common wombat		
<i>Vulpes vulpes</i> #	Fox		
<i>Wallabia bicolor</i>	Swamp wallaby		

- denotes exotic species

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APPENDIX 6 – IMAGES



Plate 1 PCT 858 – Elevated Gorge Forest



Plate 2 Ecotone of PCT 858 – Elevated Gorge Forest to PCT 788 – Tableland Bog

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APPENDIX 7 – REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 8 – APPROVAL AND AMENDMENTS FROM PREVIOUS VERSION

In line with section 25 of the *Forestry Act 2012*, flora reserve working plans and any amendments must be approved by the Minister responsible for the Forestry Act.

This plan was approved by The Hon. Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales.

Date of approval: 20/8/25.

Version	Changes	Approval details
2.0	» Reference to the Flora Reserve Plan: Background and General Management » Formatting updated » Change	» The Hon. Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales 20/8/25

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