



LANES MILL FLORA RESERVE NO. 40

SITE SPECIFIC WORKING PLAN



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Cover photo – Lanes Mill Flora Reserve C Slade 2024

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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 Forestry Corporation'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

Lanes Mill Flora Reserve is located in the Pilliga East State Forest No. 266, 45 kilometres southwest of the town of Narrabri. It is accessed by the Pilliga Forest Way. The reserve is located in the northwest slopes and plains region and between the towns of Narrabri and Baradine. See Locality Map in Appendix 1.

1.2 Key attributes of the reserve

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

The reserve possesses the following identified attributes that are to be protected:

- » Flora and fauna in a natural and undisturbed condition
- » Vegetation unique to the local soils, known as 'broom plains', and Cyprus Pine-eucalypt forest
- » An area for scientific study of flora and fauna, consistent with the fundamental aim of preservation
- » Scenic values associated with the reserve

1.3 General description

Area

The reserve is a total of 690 hectares in size.

Topography

The reserve forms part of a large flat plain, which is 260-280m above sea level. The range in elevation over the reserve is roughly 20m. Refer to Appendix 1 for topographic map.

Geology and soils

The soil type is predominantly sandy to sandy loam, with sections of residual laterite. The soil is of low fertility.

Climate

The climate is characterised by hot summers and cold winters with occasional light frosts. The average annual mean rainfall is 660mm, with summer being the wettest season. Hot drought conditions occur every few years.

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Vegetation/flora and fauna

The main feature of this reserve is a treeless scrub, of the type known locally as 'broom plain'. The dominant species, *Melaleuca uncinata*, *Calytrix tetragona*, *Acacia triptera*, *Acacia tindaleae*, *Persoonia sp.*, and *Allocasuarina sp.* form a dense scrub, generally less than 2.5 metres tall.

Occurring within the reserve and around the edge of the broom plain is a sample of Cypress Pine-eucalypt forest. Dominant species are Narrowleaved Ironbark (*Eucalyptus crebra*), Red or Mugga Ironbark (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*), Brown Bloodwood (*Corymbia trachyphloia*), Baradine Gum (*Eucalyptus chloroclada*), Black Cypress Pine (*Callitris endlicheri*), White Cypress Pine (*Callitris columellaris*), and Bull Oak (*Allocasuarina luehmannii*). The map at Appendix 2 shows the various forest types and their locations within the reserve. Appendix 3 and 4 outline a list of flora and fauna species known to occur within the reserve.

1.4 History

Aboriginal History and Cultural Values

Lane Mill flora reserve is situated within the traditional lands of the Gamilaraay (also known as Gamilaroi or Gomeroi) people. There are no recorded Aboriginal sites within the Flora Reserve however there are number of sites in the surrounding State forest. The area is part of a cultural landscape in the Pilliga providing an abundance of foods, medicines and a great variety of useful resources in the rocks, plants and water. The Pilliga forest is a place of powerful cultural significance. The forest provides a pivotal link to spiritual beliefs and connection to Country, strengthened by songlines and stories.

Post European Settlement

Harvesting

The majority of the reserve has been untouched, however, minor harvesting of Ironbark for sleepers occurred in the early 1970's.

Fire

Fire has been part of the Australian landscape for at least the last 60,000 years and most forests have experienced fire multiple times over many centuries. Fires are infrequent but when they do occur (mostly lightning strikes), they are severe. The broom plains regenerate well post fire.

Extensions

A smaller area of the broom plain enclosed by a fire trail and natural surface roads along the northern, western, and southern boundaries has been preserved since 1966 by the Forestry Commission. The current reserve was notified as Flora Reserve No. 79994 in the Government Gazette of 22/12/78, with this number being altered to 40 in the Gazette of 24/7/87.

1.5 Current usage

The reserve receives very limited recreational usage. There are no established recreation sites in the forest.

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2. SYSTEM OF MANAGEMENT

2.1 Objectives of management

Under the *Forestry Act 2012*, flora reserves are set apart for the preservation of native flora. The main objective of Lanes Mill Flora Reserve is to maintain the ecological quality of the existing broom plain and forest stands, as well as preserving the native fauna in the area.

The objects of management will be to:

- » Preserve the ecological quality of the existing broom plain and forest stands
- » Preserve the habitat of native fauna species
- » Protect Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and cultural values in the reserve that are identified in the future.

A supplementary plan may be developed to enable an adaptive management approach to detail further specific actions and activities for outcomes that match the objectives, actions and activities for this flora reserve. Any supplementary plan must be consistent with the identified objectives of this working plan, Forest Management Zoning applicable to the flora reserve and have a review date not exceeding that of the working plan. Supplementary plans must be approved by the General Manager responsible for the flora reserve.

2.2 Management strategies

The broad management strategies and related actions to preserve native flora and improve the value and extent of habitat in State forest flora reserves are detailed in the Flora Reserve Management Plan: Background and General Management document, which is to be read in conjunction with this plan. Specific additional management strategies applied in this flora reserve may include:

- » Property maintenance, through:
 - establishment and maintenance of appropriate fences, gates and signs
 - removal of unnecessary fencing
 - maintenance of tracks
 - maintenance of Pilliga Forest Way, Lanes Mill Road and Ruttley's Road
- » Conservation and improvement of habitat, through:
 - maintenance of native vegetation
 - regeneration of cleared or degraded land, through plantings and natural recruitment
 - weed control
 - removal of rubbish
 - exclusion of domestic grazing and management of human disturbance
 - retention of dead timber and other habitat resources
 - fire management
- » Pest control.

The full suite of management measures outlined are expected to provide benefits for all species of flora and fauna in this reserve.

Weeds

As far as practicable, noxious weeds and other exotic species will be eliminated from the reserve.

Trail maintenance

Maintenance of roads and trails is important to enable access to the forest for forest management, firefighting, tourism and recreation.

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Permitted activities

Under the Forest Management Zoning (FMZ) system, Lanes Mill Flora Reserve No. 40 is zoned FMZ 1 and therefore contributes to the dedicated reserve system in the Western Region. Management will be consistent with the requirements of JANIS dedicated reserves.

The latest operational guide detailing activities not permitted in FMZ1 is published on the Forestry Corporation website.

The following activities may be permitted subject to standard conditions approved by the Regional Manager and consistent with the management objectives for the reserve, codes of practice, forest practices/operational circulars, protocols, licenses and management/recovery plans:

- » scientific studies (e.g., fauna surveys including trapping)
- » maintenance of existing roads and fire trails
- » maintenance of existing recreation facilities and upgrading where necessary to keep pace with demand while protecting the attributes of the reserve
- » limited tree and or limb removal for safety, viewing or construction of facilities in areas used for recreation
- » pest animal and weed control
- » general access for activities such as bush walking, photography and nature study
- » beekeeping (existing set-down sites may be used)
- » Aboriginal use of forest products 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

The following activities may only be permitted with special conditions:

- » Construction of new roads. Construction will only be permitted in exceptional instances and consistent with the following principles:
 - No practical alternative is available
 - The attributes of the reserve will not be significantly affected by the road or fire trail
 - Opportunity is provided for public comment on the proposal, obtained through advertising in the local newspaper, either print or online, or by publication on a website considered reasonably likely to come to the attention of members of the local community
 - Ministerial approval is given for the proposal.

Mining

The reserve was exempted from the provisions of the *Mining Act 1973*, the *Coal Mining Act 1973* on 30 November 1979.

2.3 Management responsibility

The reserve will be administered by Forestry Corporation of NSW's Hardwood Forest Division, Western Region with the authority for decision making delegated to the Regional Manager.

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- » The reserve boundaries will be mapped in GIS. The state of the boundary marking will be checked, and if necessary clarified, before any operations are carried out in the vicinity of the reserve
- » Operations in adjacent areas are performed in a manner so as not to cause damage or disturbance to the reserve
- » Forest Permits are issued only for activities consistent with the management objectives for the reserve

2.4 Monitoring, reporting and review

The region 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.

The results of this monitoring, review and management response will be included in annual reporting processes.

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*.

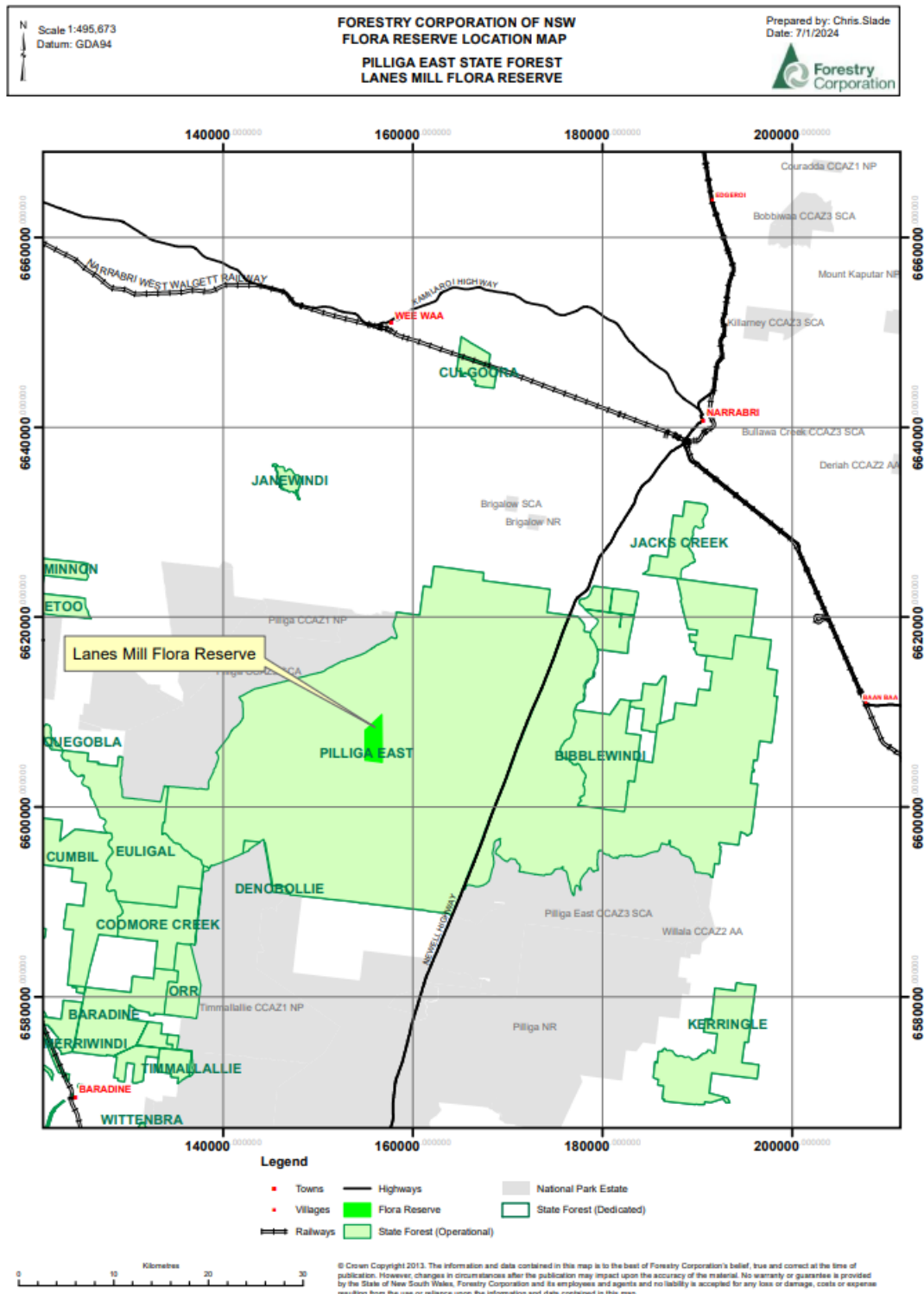
3. LIST OF APPENDICES

- » Appendix 1 – Locality Map
- » Appendix 2 – Topographic and Forest Type Map
- » Appendix 3 – Flora Species List
- » Appendix 4 – Fauna Species List
- » Appendix 5 – Images
- » Appendix 6 – Approval and amendments from previous version

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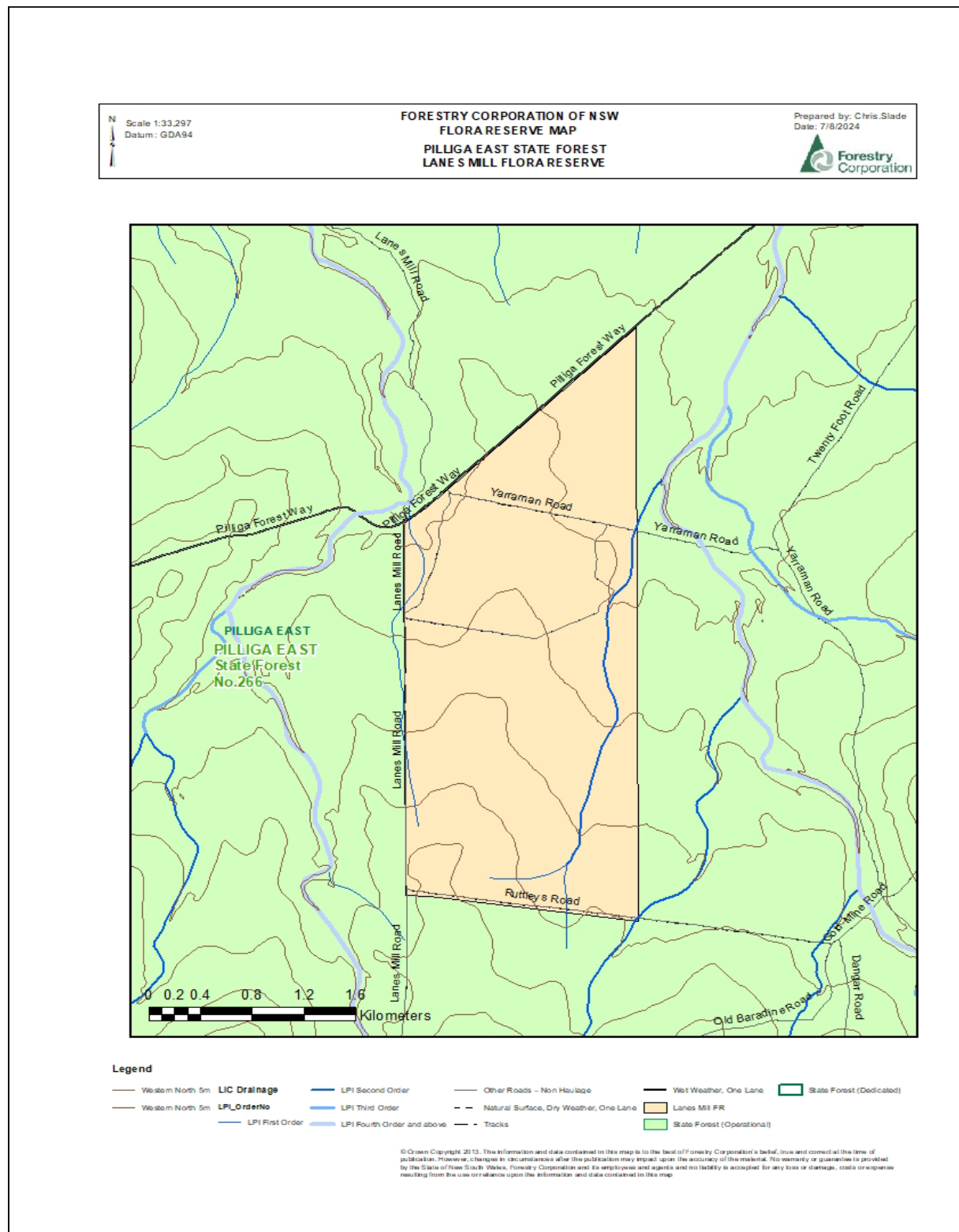
APPENDIX 1 – LOCALITY MAP



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APPENDIX 2 – TOPOGRAPHIC & FOREST TYPE MAP



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APPENDIX 3 – FLORA SPECIES LIST

Flora found within 5000m of flora reserve, desktop search undertaken July 2024

Scientific name
<i>Acacia caroleae</i>
<i>Acacia deanei</i>
<i>Acacia pilligaensis</i>
<i>Acacia polybotrya</i>
<i>Acacia spectabilis</i>
<i>Acacia tindalaea</i>
<i>Acacia triptera</i>
<i>Actinotus helianthi</i>
<i>Allocasuarina distyla</i>
<i>Allocasuarina leuhmannii</i>
<i>Amyema miquelii</i>
<i>Aotus mollis</i>
<i>Aristida sp.</i>
<i>Boronia bipinnata</i>
<i>Boronia glabra</i>
<i>Brachyloma daphnoides</i>
<i>Callitris endlicheri</i>
<i>Callitris glaucophylla</i>
<i>Calytrix tetragona</i>
<i>Cassytha sp.</i>
<i>Cheilanthes sp.</i>
<i>Chorizema parviflorum</i>
<i>Commersonia procumbens</i>
<i>Cryptandra floriferous</i>
<i>Cymbidium canaliculatum</i>
<i>Dampiera adpressa</i>
<i>Daviesia acicularis</i>
<i>Daviesia genistifolia</i>
<i>Daviesia ulicifolia</i>
<i>Dianella sp.</i>
<i>Diuris tricolor</i>
<i>Dodonaea boroniifolia</i>
<i>Dodonaea peduncularis</i>

Scientific name
<i>Dodonaea viscosa ssp. spatulata</i>
<i>Drsera peltata</i>
<i>Eucalyptus chloroclada</i>
<i>Eucalyptus crebra</i>
<i>Eucalyptus sideroxylon</i>
<i>Eucalyptus trachyphloia</i>
<i>Gahnia sp.</i>
<i>Goodenia sp.</i>
<i>Grevillea floribunda</i>
<i>Hibbertia linearis</i>
<i>Hibbertia obtusifolia</i>
<i>Hibbertia riparia</i>
<i>Homoranthus flavescens</i>
<i>Lissanthe strigosa</i>
<i>Lomandra leucocephala</i>
<i>Macrozamia sp.</i>
<i>Melaleuca uncinata</i>
<i>Melichrus urceolatus</i>
<i>Micromyrtus ciliata</i>
<i>Mimosoideae</i>
<i>Persoonia sericea</i>
<i>Pimelia linifolia</i>
<i>Platysace sp.</i>
<i>Polygala linariifolia</i>
<i>Pomax umbellata</i>
<i>Pultenaea foliosa</i>
<i>Pterostylis cobarensis</i>
<i>Schoenus</i>
<i>Styphelia triflora</i>
<i>Tylophora linearis</i>
<i>Westringia cheelii</i>
<i>Xanthorrhoea australis acaulis</i>

APPENDIX 4 – FAUNA SPECIES LIST

Fauna found within 5000m of flora reserve, desktop search undertaken July 2021

Birds	
Scientific name	Common name
<i>Ninox connivens</i>	Barking Owl
<i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i>	Brown Treecreeper (eastern subspecies)
<i>Accipiter fasciatus</i>	Brown Goshawk
<i>Artamus cyanopterus cyanopterus</i>	Dusky Woodswallow
<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>	Emu
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i>	Glossy Black-Cockatoo
<i>Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis</i>	Grey-crowned Babbler (eastern subsp.)
<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>	Little Eagle
<i>Glossopsitta pusilla</i>	Little Lorikeet
<i>Grantiella picta</i>	Painted Honeyeater
<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Regent Honeyeater
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami</i>	South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo
<i>Melanodryas cucullata cucullata</i>	South-eastern Hooded Robin
<i>Chthonicola sagittata</i>	Speckled Warbler
<i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i>	Varied Sittella
<i>Aquila audax</i>	Wedge-tailed Eagle
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail

Mammals	
Scientific name	Common name
<i>Vespadelus troughtoni</i>	Eastern Cave Bat
<i>Chalinolobus gouldii</i>	Gould's Wattled Bat
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	Koala
<i>Vespadelus vulturnus</i>	Little Forest Bat
<i>Pseudomys pilligaensis</i>	Pilliga Mouse
<i>Petaurus breviceps</i>	Sugar Glider
<i>Austronomus australis</i>	White-striped Freetail-bat

Reptiles	
Scientific name	Common name
<i>Varanus gouldii</i>	Gould's Goanna

APPENDIX 5 - IMAGES





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In line with section 25 of the *Forestry Act 2012*, flora reserve working plans and any amendments must be approved by the Minister. This plan forms part of the working plans for each of the individual flora reserves listed in section 6.

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: 24/6/25

Version	Changes	Approval details
2.0	» Reference to the <i>Flora Reserve Plan: Background and General Management</i> » Formatting updated »	» Approved by The Hon. Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales and Minister for Western New South Wales 24/6/25