



NULLO MOUNTAIN FLORA RESERVE NO. 105

SITE SPECIFIC WORKING PLAN



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Cover photo – Nullo Mountain Flora Reserve C Slade2024

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		Review date: June 2035

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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

Nullo Mountain Flora Reserve is located within the northern, plateau section of Nullo Mountain State Forest No. 460. The reserve is situated about 25 kilometres east-northeast of the town of Rylestone and about 27 kilometres northeast of the town of Kandos in the mid-western region of NSW. It is about 36 kilometres in distance by road from both towns. 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:

- » Distinctive vegetation of the Nullo Mountain area, including stands of Eurabbie (*Eucalyptus globulus ssp bicostata*) and Silvertop Stringybark (*Eucalyptus larvopinea*).
- » Cultural significance of the mountain
- » Flora and fauna that may act as a reference point for assessing the effects of land utilisation of other similar forest stands in the area
- » Flora and fauna that may be used be used for limited scientific studies with the fundamental aim of preservation
- » Scenic values associated with the reserve

1.3 GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Area

The reserve is a total of 52 hectares in size.

Topography

The reserve is situated on part of the undulating Nullo Mountain Plateau, at an elevation ranging from about 1050 metres to 1130 metres. It has a southerly aspect, with a steep, rocky slope running through the reserve from east to west. The reserve is close to the crest of the Great Dividing Range. Refer to Appendix 2 for topographic map.

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Geology and soils

The plateau surface on which the reserve is situated is formed by a tertiary basal flow, capping the underlying Triassic sandstone. Soils derived from basalt are generally deep red earths.

Climate

The climate is cool temperate with mild summers and cool winters. The average maximum temperature in January is 24.3°C and the average minimum temperature in July is 2.5°C. It generally snows several times each winter. The average annual rainfall is 950mm with most rain falling during the summer months.

Vegetation/flora and fauna

The vegetation is dominated by tall, moist eucalypt forest, with an understorey of Snow Grass (*Poa sp.*) and Bracken (*Pteridium esculentum*), with some wattles and blackberry. Tree species within the reserve include Eurabbie (*Eucalyptus globulus subsp. Bicostata*), Silvertop Stringybark (*Eucalyptus laevopinea*), Snow Gum (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*). It is not certain whether Manna Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*), Mountain Gum (*Eucalyptus dalrympleana*) or both are present in the reserve.

There are also some small grassland areas, probably of natural occurrence.

The eucalypts present are typical of tableland forest areas in NSW, however two are of particular interest. Eurabbie (*Eucalyptus globulus ssp. Bicostata*) is part of the Southern Blue Gum group, with a scattered distribution in Victoria and NSW. It has several relatively small and local occurrences in the Central and Northern Tablelands, one of these being in the Nullo Mountain Region. Silvertop Stringybark (*Eucalyptus laevopinea*) is a widespread and important timber tree on the Northern Tablelands and is near its southern most limits on Nullo Mountain. Specimens of Silvertop Stringybark from Nullo Mountain generally have larger fruit than trees of the same species occurring further north. Appendix 2 Map 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

Nullo Mountain Flora Reserve is located within the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri people. Much of the history of the Darkinjung people has sadly been lost in this region, although the mountains are known to be culturally significant, with stories often expressed through 'Dreaming Tracks'.

There are a number of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites located within the surrounding area, including hand stencils and paintings in caves and overhangs.

Post European Settlement

Harvesting

Harvesting has occurred in the area that is now the reserve, the most recent being in 1977. This has been of a selective nature with many large trees remaining. The vegetation has returned to a condition similar to that preceding any timber harvesting.

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. Since the area was designated a reserve, efforts have been made to keep the area free from bushfires. For the purpose of fire protection, the Reserve is regarded as part of the Nullo Mountain State forest, and is included in fire plans and hazard reduction burns.

1.5 CURRENT USAGE

The reserve lies within an area with a Forest Permit for grazing held by the owner of an adjacent property.

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It is not feasible to fence the reserve out of the permit area but there are no plans to graze cattle in the area. Grazing has been practiced within this area for many years.

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

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 Nullo Mountain Flora Reserve is to enhance and maintain the ecological quality of the existing forest stands, preserve the native fauna in the area, and the cultural heritage of the area.

The objectives of management will be to:

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

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 boundary fences, gates and signs
 - removal of unnecessary fencing
 - maintenance of tracks.
- » 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
 - 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.

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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. Poorly maintained roads can also transport significant levels of sediment, increasing the turbidity of water within creeks. This consequently reduces habitat quality and aquatic biodiversity and can take significant periods of time to recover.

Permitted activities

Under the Forest Management Zoning (FMZ) system, Nullo Mountain Flora Reserve No. 25 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 (Bee hives shall not be physically located in the reserve, but the reserve may be included within the area covered by a permit for bee-farming)
- » 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
- » A grazing permit exists over Nullo Mountain, primarily to provide access to neighboring private property, but there are no plans to graze the flora reserve.

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.

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Mining

The reserve is exempted from the provisions of the *Mining Act 1992*.

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.

- » 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

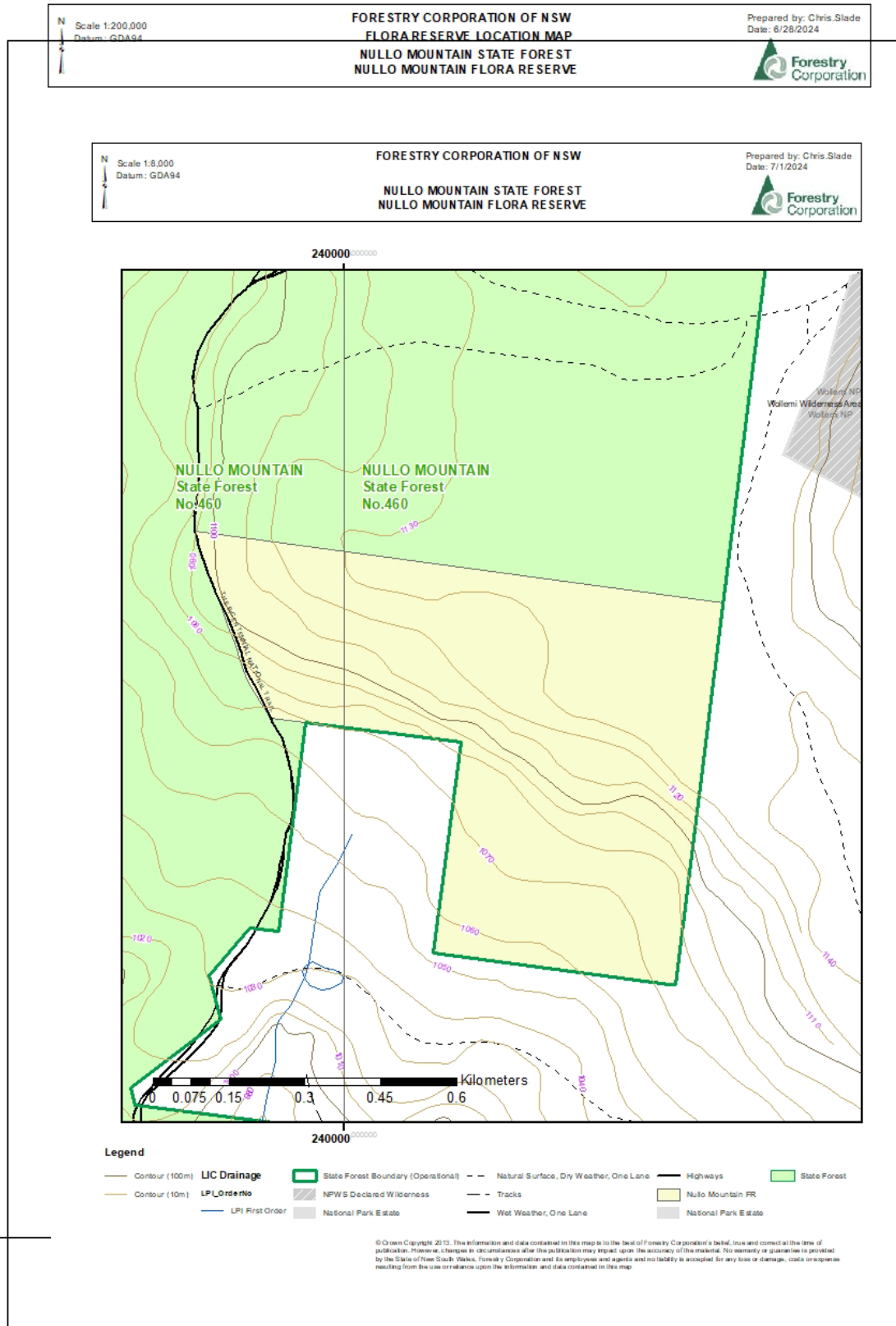
- » Appendix 1 – Locality Map
- » Appendix 2 – Topographic and Forest Type Map
- » Appendix 3 – Flora Species List
- » Appendix 4 – Fauna Species List
- » Appendix 5 – Images
- » Appendix 6 – Approval and Amendments from previous version

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APPENDIX 1 – LOCALITY MAP

APPENDIX 2 – TOPOGRAPHIC MAP



APPENDIX 3 – FLORA SPECIES LIST

Flora found within 5000m of flora reserve, desktop search undertaken July 2024
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Scientific name
<i>Acacia ausfeldii</i>
<i>Callitris endlicheri</i>
<i>Eucalyptus cannonii</i>
<i>Eucalyptus dalrympleana</i>
<i>Eucalyptus globulus ssp. bicostata</i>
<i>Eucalyptus laevopinea</i>
<i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i>
<i>Grevillea evansiana</i>
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>
<i>Pultenaea sp. Olinda</i>
<i>Veronica blakelyi</i>

APPENDIX 4 – FAUNA SPECIES LIST

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

Birds	
Scientific name	Common name
<i>Melithreptus gularis gularis</i>	Black-chinned Honeyeater (eastern subspecies)
<i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i>	Brown Treecreeper (eastern subspecies)
<i>Artamus cyanopterus cyanopterus</i>	Dusky Woodswallow
<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	Gang-gang Cockatoo
<i>Glossopsitta pusilla</i>	Little Lorikeet
<i>Ninox strenua</i>	Powerful Owl
<i>Petroica boodang</i>	Scarlet Robin
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami</i>	South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo
<i>Neophema pulchella</i>	Turquoise Parrot
<i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i>	Varied Sittella
<i>Aquila audax</i>	Wedge-tailed Eagle

Mammals	
Scientific name	Common name
<i>Vombatus ursinus</i>	Bare-nosed Wombat
<i>Chalinolobus morio</i>	Chocolate Wattled Bat
<i>Falsistrellus tasmaniensis</i>	Eastern False Pipistrelle
<i>Vespadelus darlingtoni</i>	Large Forest Bat
<i>Vespadelus vulturnus</i>	Little Forest Bat
<i>Petauroides volans</i>	Southern Greater Glider
<i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>	Spotted tail quoll
<i>Petaurus breviceps</i>	Sugar Glider
<i>Austronomus australis</i>	White-striped Freetail-bat

APPENDIX 5 - IMAGES



Nullo Mountain flora reserve



Eucalyptus globulus sub-spp bicostata, Eurabbie – note the square stem



Nearby Nullo Mountain

APPENDIX 6 – 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. 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