



STRAHORN FLORA RESERVE NO. 117

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 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

Strahorn Flora Reserve is situated roughly 30 kilometres west-north-west of the town of Peak Hill in the Parkes Shire of Central Western NSW. The reserve is located within Strahorn State Forest No. 238. The reserve comprises the northeastern corner of compartment 62. 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 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. In this reserve, preservation of stands of White Cypress Pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*) of varying sizes and possibly age classes, together with their associated species and communities is of particular interest.
- » Cultural significance associated with the reserve

1.3 GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Area

The reserve is roughly rectangular in shape with an overall area of about 70 hectares.

Topography

The reserve is on a flat area approximately one kilometre east of Genaren Creek with an altitude of approximately 230 metres above sea level.

Geology and soils

Soil is a deep reddish sandy loam derived from Quaternary sand, clay and silt deposits.

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Climate

The area has a warm to hot climate, with unreliable rainfall, more or less evenly distributed throughout the year. Summer falls are largely ineffective due to hot, low humidity weather unless falls are well above average. The area is subject to long drought periods. Although rainfall at the reserve would be slightly lower, records for Peak Hill can be regarded as typical of the reserve area. Average annual rainfall of Peak Hill is 570 millimetres.

Vegetation/flora and fauna

The major features of interest in this reserve are the stands of White Cypress Pine of varying size classes and density, varying from dense stands carrying no pine regeneration and little understorey, through areas of less dense or scattered pine with dense patches of regeneration, to areas containing little or no pine with scattered or no regeneration.

Associated with the Cypress Pine are several species of eucalypts. These range from complete absence in the densest Cypress Pine stands and in some open areas, to a scattered overstorey of mature eucalypts and reasonably dense patches of eucalypt regeneration. Species recorded are Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*), Grey Box (*Eucalyptus woollsiana*) and Bimble Box (*Eucalyptus populnea*). Also included within the reserve are the remnants of a 'green break', a strip of vegetation left relatively undisturbed to maintain areas of low fuel for fire protection purposes, a practice common in the past. 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

Strahorn Flora Reserve is located within the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri people. The area within the reserve would have consisted of an open woodland of eucalypts, with scattered trees or small clumps of Cypress Pine below the tall Box trees. The stands were maintained in this open condition by frequent burning. A known cultural heritage site is located within Strahorn State Forest.

Post European Settlement

Harvesting

At the turn of the 20th century Chinese labourers were employed to thin out the Cypress Pine stands and to ringbark the larger pines and eucalypts to improve the land for grazing. In 1945 the green breaks were thinned out in a mostly non-commercial operation, although some railway timber was obtained.

Harvesting occurred in the area that is now the reserve in the 1950s. This was carried out by a horizontally mounted swing saw, resulting in very low stumps that can still be seen in the reserve. Further harvesting in the vicinity occurred in the 1970s, though little if any of this seems to have affected the reserve.

During the 1960s Strahorn and other local State Forests were given an extensive poisoning treatment to cull out the remaining larger, commercially low value eucalypts. This treatment covered what is now the reserve and resulted in the death of most of the larger eucalypts.

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. The reserve area, along with most of Strahorn State Forest was burnt in 1926-27 by an extensive fire. Since the area was designated a reserve in 1978, efforts have been made to keep the area free from uncontrolled wildfires.

1.5 CURRENT USAGE

The reserve is fenced to exclude grazing. A ground tank located near the northeastern corner is excluded from the fencing and the reserve. The reserve receives very limited recreational usage. There are no established recreation sites in the reserve.

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 Strahorn 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 objects 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

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

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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.

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 and firefighting. 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, Strahorn Flora Reserve No. 117 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

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practices/operational circulars, protocols, licenses and management/recovery plans:

- » scientific studies (e.g., fauna surveys including trapping)
- » limited collections of seed are permitted from the reserve at the discretion of the Regional Manager
- » maintenance of existing roads and fire trails
- » limited tree and or limb removal for safety, viewing or construction of facilities in areas used for recreation
- » pest animal and weed control
- » 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 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 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

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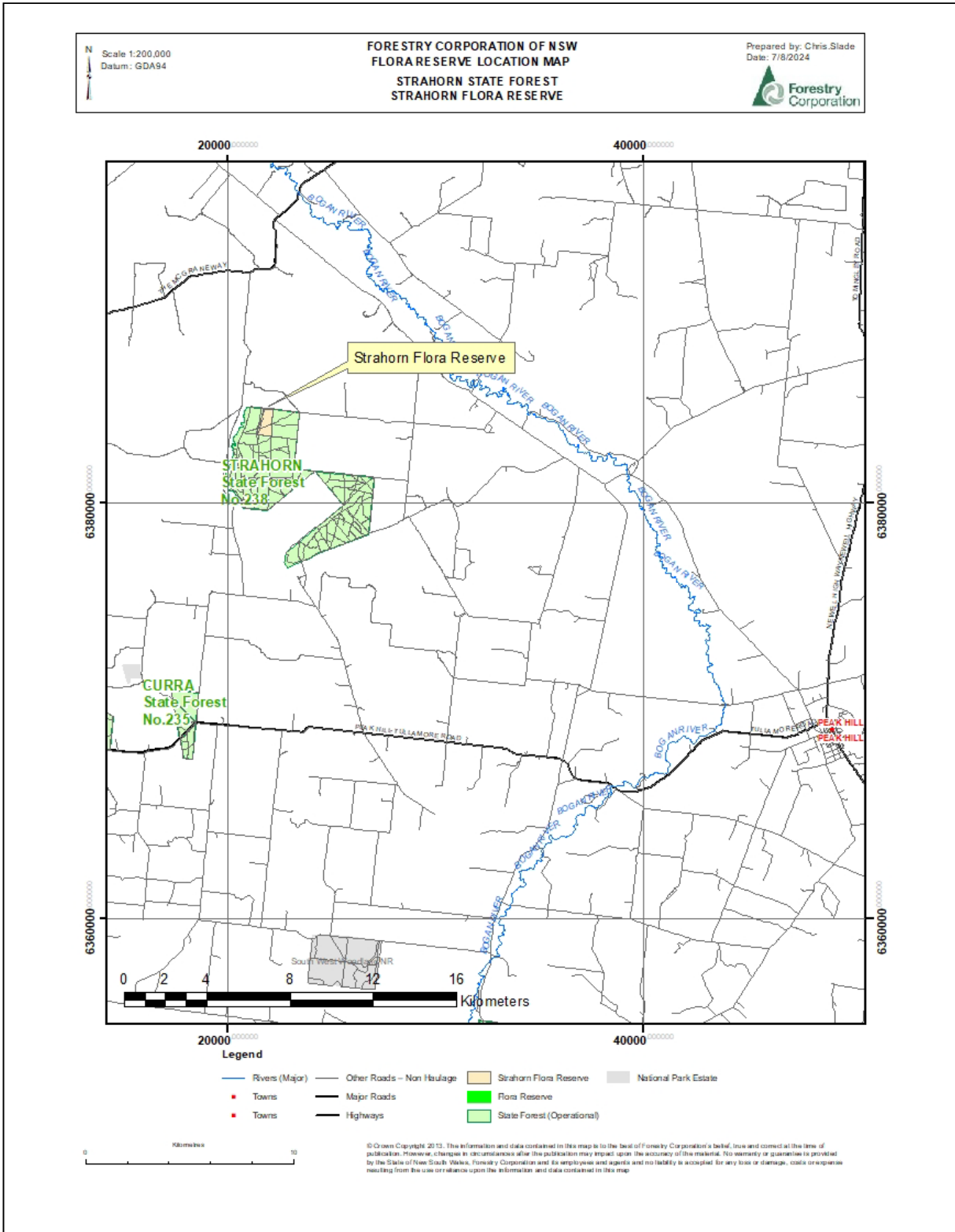
2.4 MONITORING, REPORTING AND REVIEW

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*.

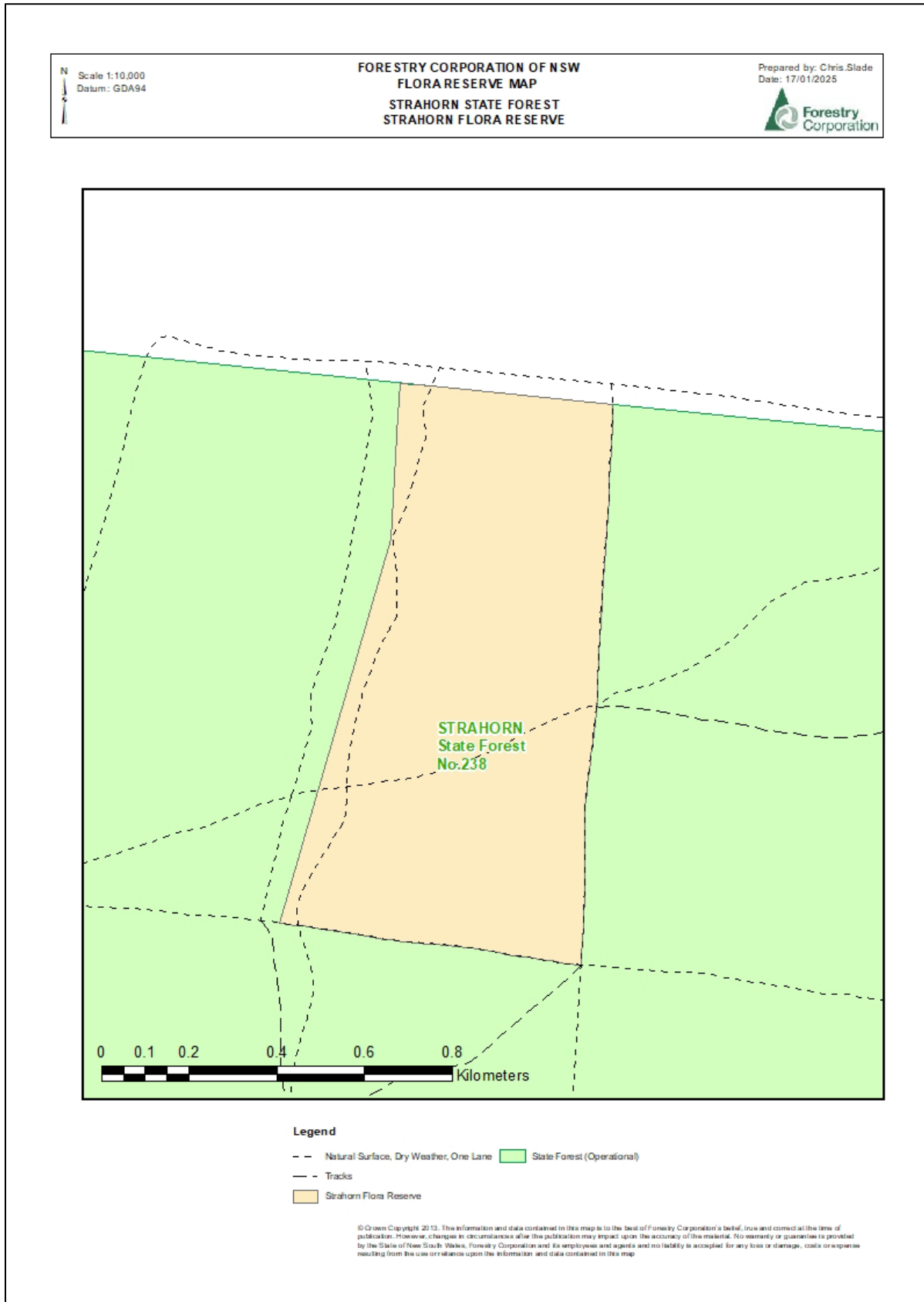
3. LIST OF APPENDICES

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

APPENDIX 1 – LOCALITY MAP



APPENDIX 2 – TOPOGRAPHIC MAP



APPENDIX 3 – FLORA SPECIES LIST

Flora found within 2000m of flora reserve, desktop search undertaken July 2024

Scientific name
<i>Acacia decora</i>
<i>Acacia hakeoides</i>
<i>Acacia oswaldii</i>
<i>Acacia pendula</i>
<i>Allocasuarina luehmannii</i>
<i>Anthropodium minus</i>
<i>Apophyllum anomalum</i>
<i>Atriplex spinibractea</i>
<i>Brachycome heterodonta</i>
<i>Callitris columellaris</i>
<i>Callitris endlicheri</i>
<i>Calotis cuneifolia</i>
<i>Calotis lappulacea</i>
<i>Cassia eremophila</i> var. <i>eremophila</i>
<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>
<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>
<i>Cheilanthes lasiophylla</i>
<i>Cheilanthes tenuifolia</i>
<i>Convolvulus erubescens</i>
<i>Danthonia setacea</i>
<i>Diuris tricolor</i>
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> var. <i>arborescens</i>
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>
<i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i>
<i>Ermophila mitchellii</i>
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>
<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>
<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>
<i>Eucalyptus populnea</i>
<i>Euphorbia drummondii</i>
<i>Geijera parviflora</i>
<i>Goodenia glabra</i>
<i>Goodenia pinnatifida</i>
<i>Hakea tephrosperma</i>

Scientific name
<i>Hedypnois rhagadioloides</i> ssp. <i>cretica</i>
<i>Helichrysum bracteatum</i>
<i>Helipterum jessenii</i>
<i>Helipterum corymbiflorum</i>
<i>Helipterum stuartianum</i>
<i>Heterodendrum oleifolium</i>
<i>Hordeum leporinum</i>
<i>Leptorhynchos panaetioides</i>
<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>
<i>Marrubrium vulgare</i>
<i>Marsdenia viridiflora</i> subsp. <i>viridiflora</i>
<i>Myoporum montanum</i>
<i>Parsonia eucalyptophylla</i>
<i>Pittosporum phillyreoides</i>
<i>Ptilotus exaltatus</i> var. <i>semilanatus</i>
<i>Rumex brownii</i>
<i>Rhagodia nutans</i>
<i>Rostellularia pogonanthra</i>
<i>Sida carrugata</i>
<i>Dolanum esuriale</i>
<i>Spergularia</i> sp.
<i>Stackhousia monogyna</i>
<i>Stipa scabra</i>
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>
<i>Vittadinia triloba/cuneata</i> complex
<i>Vulparia myuros</i>
<i>Wahlenbergia communis</i>
<i>Wahlenbergia gracilis</i>
<i>Wahlenbergia</i> Sp.

APPENDIX 4 – FAUNA SPECIES LIST

Fauna found within 20000m of flora reserve, desktop search undertaken July 2024

Amphibians	
Scientific name	Common name
<i>Crinia sloanei</i>	Sloane's Froglet

Mammals	
Scientific name	Common name
<i>Chalinolobus gouldii</i>	Gould's Wattled Bat
<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Grey-headed Flying-fox
<i>Vespadelus darlingtoni</i>	Large Forest Bat
<i>Nyctophilus geoffroyi</i>	Lesser Long-eared Bat
<i>Vespadelus vulturnus</i>	Little Forest Bat
<i>Chalinolobus picatus</i>	Little Pied Bat
<i>Ozimops planiceps</i>	South-eastern Free-tailed Bat
<i>Austronomus australis</i>	White-striped Freetail-bat
<i>Saccolaimus flaviventris</i>	Yellow-bellied Sheath-tail-bat

Birds	
Scientific name	Common name
<i>Ninox connivens</i>	Barking Owl
<i>Falco subniger</i>	Black Falcon
<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Black Kite
<i>Grus rubicunda</i>	Brolga
<i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i>	Brown Treecreeper (eastern subspecies)
<i>Chalinolobus morio</i>	Chocolate Wattled Bat
<i>Artamus cyanopterus cyanopterus</i>	Dusky Woodswallow
<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Diamond Firetail
<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>	Emu
<i>Petroica phoenicea</i>	Flame Robin
<i>Stictonetta naevosa</i>	Freckled Duck
<i>Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis</i>	Grey-crowned Babbler (eastern subspecies)
<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>	Little Eagle

Birds	
Scientific name	Common name
<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	Malleefowl
<i>Grantiella picta</i>	Painted Honeyeater
<i>Lophochroa leadbeateri</i>	Pink Cockatoo
<i>Melanodryas cucullata cucullata</i>	South-eastern Hooded Robin
<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	Southern Whiteface
<i>Chthonicola sagittata</i>	Speckled Warbler
<i>Circus assimilis</i>	Spotted Harrier
<i>Polytelis swainsonii</i>	Superb Parrot
<i>Neophema pulchella</i>	Turquoise Parrot
<i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i>	Varied Sittella
<i>Aquila audax</i>	Wedge-tailed Eagle
<i>Haliastur sphenurus</i>	Whistling Kite

APPENDIX 5 – 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