



DRAFT
Red Hill Reserve
Plan of Management 2015

Version 0.8



Department of
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Lands



Local Land
Services
South East

Document Control

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Contents

1. Introduction.....	3	9. Action Implementation Plan	8
MANAGEMENT BASIS	3	10. Finance	8
2. Background and purpose of the Plan of Management.....	3	11. Reporting.....	8
3. Planning and context relating legislative requirements of Plan	3	Appendix A	9
3.1 Crown Land Act.....	3	Statement of conservation significance of the Woodland at Red Hill, Boorowa	9
3.2 Local Government Act.....	4	Appendix B	11
3.3 Town Planning	4	Action Implementation Plan 2015/16.....	11
4. Description of Reserve including history and existing situation.....	5		
MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES.....	6		
5. Reserve value to the community and the vision for the future	6		
5.1 Conservation of an endangered ecological community (EEC):.....	6		
5.2 Enhancement of Local Flora and Fauna.....	6		
5.3 Conservation education:.....	6		
5.4 Social Use	6		
6. Discussion of current issues, options to address issues, and consistency with values..	7		
6.1 Weed and Pest Control	7		
6.2 Fire	7		
6.3 Public Access& Safety	7		
6.4 Connectivity	7		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS.....	8		
7. Strategy and sustainability statements	8		
8. Priority management strategies	8		

1. Introduction

This Plan of Management is prepared specifically for Red Hill Reserve (Reserve 1037628). The Plan of Management has been prepared to guide the Boorowa Council, as Trust Manager of Crown Land in the future management of Red Hill Reserve.

This Plan of Management satisfies the requirements for content and process in preparing a Plan of Management under the Crown Lands Act 1989 and Local Government Act 1993.

Red Hill Reserve was named and established for the purpose of Environmental Protection in the Gazette of 26th July 2013. In the same Gazette Boorowa Council was appointed Trust Manager of the Reserve and have daily care and management of the land.

Preparation of this Plan of Management has and will continue to involve consultation with various stakeholders (government, user groups, and residents). Through this process the Reserve Manager and Trust will recognise the significant concerns of local residents regarding the future management of Red Hill Reserve. Measures to address these concerns will be reflected in an action plan.

MANAGEMENT BASIS

2. Background and purpose of the Plan of Management

A group of citizens within Boorowa has shown interest over a long period of time in management of the Red Hill reserve. This group is particularly interested in preserving Red Hill for its conservation and biodiversity values and enhancing it as habitat for endemic flora and fauna species.

There is also an opportunity in the medium term to develop this site into a Biodiversity Conservation Learning Centre that would allow for nature walks and seminars to be held on the site, for the local community and visitors to the Boorowa District.

3. Planning and context relating legislative requirements of Plan

3.1 Crown Land Act

The objects of the Crown Land Act outlined in Section 10 of the Act are to ensure that Crown land is managed for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. To safeguard Crown land public benefits, Section 11 of the Crown Land Act enumerates six principles of land management that serve to act as a filter through which all management decisions pass. In doing so, the land and its resources are sustained in perpetuity.

The Principles of Crown land management are:

- (a) that environmental protection principles be observed in relation to the management and administration of Crown land,*
- (b) that the natural resources of Crown land (including water, soil, flora, fauna and scenic quality) be conserved wherever possible,*
- (c) that public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown land be encouraged,*
- (d) that, where appropriate, multiple use of Crown land be encouraged,*
- (e) that, where appropriate, Crown land should be used and managed in such a way that both the land and its resources are sustained in perpetuity, and*
- (f) that Crown land be occupied, used, sold, leased, licensed or otherwise dealt with in the best interests of the State consistent with the above principles.*

The Plan of Management has regard for the declared Reserve purpose of Environmental Protection. The Plan deals with matters related to the condition of the Reserve, existing uses of the Reserve, and the compatibility of management actions with the declared purpose.

3.2 Local Government Act

While Red Hill Reserve is owned by the State of New South Wales and Council is appointed Trust Manager, Boorowa Council treat the land as “community” land under this Act.

Section 35 of the Local Government Act specifies that a Plan of Management is required to be prepared and used to regulate the use and management of community land. The contents and information necessary to fulfil the requirements for a Plan according to this are listed below.

Local Government Act Requirements
Category of community land (natural area - bushland/wetland/escarpment/watercourse/prescribed, or sportsground, or park, or area of cultural significance, or general community use). (Does land comprise habitat of endangered or threatened species or does it contain significant natural features? If yes, further requirements are necessary to satisfy plan content obligations.)
State core objectives for management following community land categorisation and identify performance targets for the management of the community land including actions to achieve stated core objectives and targets as well as methods to assess performance.
A description of the condition of the land and of any buildings or other improvements on the land at the date of adoption of the plan of management.
A description of the use of the land and any buildings or other improvements at the date of adoption of the plan of management.
Specify the purposes for which the land, and any buildings or improvements will be permitted to be used.
Specify the purposes for which any further development of the land will be permitted, whether lease, licence or otherwise, including a description of the scale and intensity of any permitted use or development.
Identify the owner of the land; state if the community land is subject to an trust, estate, interest, dedication, condition, restrict or covenant; and state if the management of the community land is subject to any imposed condition or restriction by the owner; and ensure plan provisions are consistent with owner requirements.

Under Section 355 of the Act, the Red Hill Reserve Committee was formed. The committee is an advisory body in the future management of Red Hill Reserve to guide Boorowa Council as the formal Trust Manager. The committee has a constitution to formalise the function, operation and delegations (Council file 11.2.4).

As the Trust Manager, Boorowa Council must formally endorse by a resolution of Council any recommendation of the committee prior to action and/or expenditure relating to the Red Hill Reserve. This would ordinarily be achieved by reporting meeting minutes through the next Ordinary Meeting of Council.

3.3 Town Planning

Red Hill Reserve is zoned Public Recreation (RE1) under the Boorowa Local Environmental Plan (2012). This Environmental Planning Instrument provides guidance regarding the permissible uses of land zoned RE1 and is listed below.

1 Objectives of zone

- To enable land to be used for public open space or recreational purposes.
- To provide a range of recreational settings and activities and compatible land uses.
- To protect and enhance the natural environment for recreational purposes.

2 Permitted without consent

- Environmental facilities; Environmental protection works; Roads

3 Permitted with consent

- Boat launching ramps; Boat sheds; Camping grounds; Car parks; Caravan parks; Cemeteries; Charter and tourism boating facilities; Community facilities; Crematoria; Emergency services facilities; Entertainment facilities; Function centres; Information and education facilities; Jetties; Kiosks; Markets; Public administration buildings; Recreation areas; Recreation facilities (indoor); Recreation facilities (major); Recreation facilities (outdoor); Signage; Water supply systems

4 Prohibited

- Any development not specified in item 2 or 3. All future development.

4. Description of Reserve including history and existing situation

The legal description of the land encompassing the Red Hill Reserve is Lot 7010 DP1051064, a Crown road described as north of Lot 7010 DP 1051064, and Lot 1 Section 40 DP 983739 and Lot 2 Section 40 DP 983739.

Total land area of the Reserve is considered to be 4.05 hectares.

The centre of the Reserve has map coordinates of 618778N and 658943E.

There are no structures anywhere on the Reserve is fenced on all four sides and has an entry/exit gate located in the northwest of the Reserve facing Pudman Street.

The history of Red Hill Reserve can be traced back to 1882 when Parish maps of the time indicate that the land was released from being held for a future hospital site. Maps from 1903 through 1921 show the northern section of the Reserve were used for quarrying purposes with the southern section showings no activity. By 1928, the northern section was still considered quarry with the southern section earmarked for the Boy Scouts Association.

By 1954, the southern section had changed to a leasehold held by Edmund & Harold Boulding which was then transferred to F.R. Grocott. The land was granted as a grazing lease and remained so until Boorowa Shire Council was appointed to manage the land in 2013.

Presently, past quarrying activity is evident in the central and northeast section of the Reserve by sheer rock faces and changed topography. A small depression that holds water is also present in the north central section of the Reserve.



MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

5. Reserve value to the community and the vision for the future

The Red Hill Reserve is of interest for its propensity for conservation and biodiversity in the local government area. Upon its formation, the Red Hill Reserve Committee workshopped key ideas and aims to achieve the best management practices and outcomes for the Reserve.

5.1 Conservation of an endangered ecological community (EEC):

The vegetation at Red Hill Reserve is considered to be a degraded Box Gum Woodland remnant. This is an endangered ecological community (EEC) listed under the *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995*. The site contains tree cover that includes White Box, Yellow Box and Blakely's Red Gum, with scattered understorey occurrences of tussock grasses such as Kangaroo Grass. The Box-Gum Woodland at Red Hill is considered to be a valuable remnant, based on the size of the site, floristic diversity and habitat values. A statement of the conservation significance of the vegetation at Red Hill is provided in Appendix A.

The site has been/is home to many fauna species: reptiles, birds, mammals and invertebrates. Of note is the Superb Parrot, a vulnerable species listed under the *Threatened Species Act 1995*. By enhancing the site and enhancing the habitat through selective revegetation, including the use of fire, greater populations of fauna will come back to this site.

5.2 Enhancement of Local Flora and Fauna

The Red Hill Reserve provides an opportunity to home species that are not necessarily included in the description of Box Gum Woodland that are locally endangered and/or reintroduce species that are now extinct locally.

This would enhance the biodiversity of the reserve and increase the social and environmental value of the Reserve.

5.3 Conservation education:

The Red Hill Reserve through this project will become an area of educational significance. Groups who would visit the site for its conservation significance include:

- Australian National University
- Local primary and high schools
- Schools/ tertiary institutions from others regions and states
- General community / families
- Bird watchers
- Visitors to the Boorowa district

5.4 Social Use

The Red Hill Reserve will provide a common area for Boorowa community, to go on nature walks and meet with friends. A pathway around the site will create a walking/jogging track as well as space for family picnics. The Red Hill Reserve will allow for the community and visitors to have greater access to an example of a Box-Gum Woodland, and to observe native wildlife, like the Suburb Parrot.

5.5 Native/Natural Medicinal Research and Use

The re-introduction of plant species used in Indigenous medicinal applications for future research and use is considered a relevant addition to the Reserve space.

Local fauna have the ability to self-medicate using specific plant species, and this style of planting not only serves a research purpose, but a conservation purpose as well.

6. Discussion of current issues, options to address issues, and consistency with values

6.1 Weed and Pest Control

Boorowa Council as the Trust Manager is responsible for the eradication and/or control of noxious plants, animals and insects. Exotic plant biomass will also be controlled by slashing, grazing, hand removal and spraying as appropriate.

6.2 Fire

Fire treatments will serve a dual purpose on the Reserve and act on community assets by reducing bush fire risk to human settlement and improving the health of environmental assets to achieve favourable ecological consequences.

Any fire treatments implemented on the Reserve will be consistent with the Bush Fire Risk Management Plan for the South West Slopes Zone and undertaken in consultation with relevant Fire Fighting Authorities, such as the NSW Rural Fire Service. Expertise in Box-Gum Woodland habitat management and restoration will also be sought.

Some combination of the following options will be implemented at Red Hill Reserve to manage the bush fire hazard on-site

- Cool season burn in June/July
- On-going burning cycle
- Timed grazing sheep
- Slashing
- Weed control
- 'No Smoking' signs to be put around the site.
- A gravel pathway will also assist to reduce the fire risk.
- Motorbikes will not be allowed on the site.
- The site is lockable in the event of high fire risk.

6.3 Public Access & Safety

Vehicular access to the Reserve will be via the existing service entrance/exit gateway on the Pudman Street frontage. The main public access point to the Reserve will be established on the Queen Street frontage. Parking opportunities and low street traffic volumes along Queen Street shall provide the safest public access point to the Red Hill Reserve.

Public visitation around the Reserve will be restricted to pedestrian traffic only. The use of motorcycles and bicycles will not be permitted.

Nature walks and enjoyment of trails will be encouraged; however, deviation from the trails will be discouraged to avoid trampling and damage to the regenerating Box-Gum Woodland vegetation. Education and stewardship opportunities will be supported so where people can participate in environmental protection activities.

A Crown road currently bisects the Reserve. To effectively administer the Reserve and pursue no public vehicular traffic intent on the Reserve policy, a road closure and addition to Reserve bid will be pursued over this Crown road as a priority. Until such an application is approved, usage of the Crown road by the public remains possible.

6.4 Connectivity

Management of the Reserve to achieve the optimum fauna occupation and immigration must consider the development and conservation of corridors to and from the Reserve. Maximising connections to existing native vegetation across Boorowa Local Government Area is fundamental to the long-term environmental protection and ecological viability of the Reserve.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

7. Strategy and sustainability statements

7.1 Conservation of an endangered ecological community (EEC):

- a. Maintain nesting boxes for the Superb Parrot and possums
- b. Plant or seed understorey with endemic shrubs species as a feed source
- c. Seed endemic native grasses to increase ground cover
- d. Plant other appropriate endemic flora species

7.2 Conservation education:

- a. Plan, finance and construct a biodiversity education centre
- b. Install signage to inform community and visitors of the values present on the reserve

7.3 Social use:

- a. Develop a walking track
- b. Install seating (park benches, picnic tables) and garbage bins
- c. Install a bollard style access and access gates / entry statement for pedestrian only access
- d. Install signage informing public of appropriate and inappropriate uses of site
- e. Availability and ease of access to drinking water

7.4 Native/Natural medicinal research and use:

- a. Research suitable flora for their medicinal properties for both human and animal uses
- b. Plant suitable species that are known for their medicinal properties and are locally occurring in Box Gum Woodlands

7.5 Reserve Administration

- a. Investigate and seek Departmental consent to approve closure of the Crown road that run east west through Red Hill Reserve
- b. Apply to have the closed Crown Road added to the land area of Red Hill Reserve

8. Priority management strategies

- a. Resolve issues of access to Reserve to permit pedestrian traffic only
- b. Seek funding for Action Implementation Plan

9. Action Implementation Plan

The action implementation plan has been included as Appendix B. The document is a robust rolling 4 year plan that details the specific tasks that are envisaged to be undertaken to achieve the vision and values of the Reserve.

10. Finance

Individual contributions and grants will be sought to advance the Action Implementation Plan (Appendix B). As financial contributions are granted or allocated for the management of the Reserve, these funds will be recorded and tallied against actions outlined in the Implementation Plan.

11. Reporting

The Red Hill Reserve Committee will report to the Boorowa Council annually in the way of an annual activity report. Updates to the Action Implementation Plan will be submitted concurrently. Boorowa Council will submit these annual Reserve reports to the Department of Primary Industries – Lands as part of its Crown Reserves Reporting System (C.R.R.S).

Appendix A

Statement of conservation significance of the Woodland at Red Hill, Boorowa

This report briefly outlines the conservation significance of the woodland at Red Hill, Boorowa. Red Hill Woodland is situated in the eastern section of the town of Boorowa, NSW.

The site's values are as follows:

- Red Hill Woodland contains a sample of White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland (Box-Gum Woodland). This is an endangered ecological community (EEC) listed under the *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995* (TSC Act). It is also considered as a critically endangered ecological community under the Australian Government's EPBC Act, 1999 (see the web links in the References section).
- Red Hill Woodland is considered to be a very valuable remnant within the NSW South Western Slopes. The Biodiversity Conservation Section has conducted extensive surveys of grassy ecosystems throughout the region. Communities surveyed include Box-Gum Woodlands Snow Gum Woodlands and Natural Temperate Grasslands. These surveys have been on all tenures, including council reserves, crown reserves, travelling stock reserves, roadside reserves, crown leases and private freehold lands. Over 3000 sites have been surveyed within the region.
- The woodland at Red Hill is considered to be a valuable remnant, based on the following criteria:
 - *Size of site*: the site is relatively large, compared to other remnant samples of this community on public land sites (e.g. travelling stock reserves and road reserves).
 - *Floristic diversity*: the site contains a high species richness of flora species. Many of the flora species are those that are considered to be declining regionally (i.e. species that are intolerant of grazing and other disturbances);
 - *Habitat values*: the site has a range of attributes (old trees with hollows, an intact shrub layer, an intact grassy ground layer, fallen timber, rocky patches) that means that a range of habitats exist for many fauna species (e.g. reptiles, birds, mammals, invertebrates). A full fauna survey has not yet been undertaken at the site. Of particular note is that the site contains records of the Superb Parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*), a vulnerable species listed under the TSC Act (see the web link in the References section).
- The Box-Gum Woodland at the Red Hill site is a representative sample of the kind of woodland that once covered very large areas within the region. While stands of Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*) and Blakely's Red Gum (*E. blakelyi*) are still to be found in the Boorowa region, it is rare to find areas where a range of flora and fauna species remain, and the habitat elements that make up the Box-Gum Woodland Community occur together. The Red Hill Woodland is a site in which there is a degree of quality and integrity in many of these elements.

- Red Hill Woodland provides a significant scientific and educational resource. Its close proximity to the centre of Boorowa and its schools is an advantage, as students, Landcare and other interest groups have ready access to the site.
- Very few areas of Box-Gum Woodland are formally protected in the NSW reserve system. The largest formally reserved samples in the region are at the Dananbilla-Illunie Protected Area Network, a series of reserves near Young. No formal reserves containing Box-Gum Woodland occur in the Boorowa district.
- Apart from the above natural and educational values, the Red Hill Woodland site may also contain Aboriginal Cultural Heritage items. A full survey of the site's cultural heritage has not been undertaken.

Because of its range of values, it is considered that the Red Hill Woodland should be secured under some form of conservation management and that nature conservation should be the site's prime land-use. There is considerable scope for rehabilitation at the site, as well as erection of interpretive material and establishment of scientific studies and monitoring (part of the site's educational value).

The Box-Gum Grassy Woodland Conservation Management Network has been established to assist managers of such sites with information on management and other aspects of the conservation of this EEC (see the web link in the Reference section).

For more information on the conservation values of the Red Hill Woodland, please contact Rainer Rehwinkel, Senior Threatened Species Officer (Grassy Ecosystems) at the NSW DECCW Biodiversity Conservation Section, Queanbeyan, on 62297110 or email: rainer.rehwinkel@environment.nsw.gov.au.

References

Box-Gum Woodland links:

<http://www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au/tsprofile/profile.aspx?id=10837>

<http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicshowcommunity.pl?id=43>

Superb Parrot link:

<http://www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au/tsprofile/profile.aspx?id=10645>

Conservation Management Network link:

<http://gbwcmn.net.au/node/790>

Rainer Rehwinkel

Senior Threatened Species Officer (Grassy Ecosystems)

23 July 2010

Appendix B

Action Implementation Plan 2015/16

Action	Detail	Who	When	Priority
Winter Burn	Selective burn, not whole of reserve. Consider action in either combination or substitution with mowing program.	Volunteers RFS Council	Recurring	Medium
Seeding	Use of direct seeder to regenerate native grasses and ground cover	Landcare	Recurring	Low
Collection of seeds	Collection of seeds for use in native grass direct seeding and sapling propagation	Landcare LLS Boorowa Central School	Spring 2015	Medium
Propagation of Saplings	Propagation of saplings for use in the Reserve	Boorowa Central School	Spring and Autumn	Medium
Weed Management	Use of mowing and chemical application to control weed ingress.	Volunteers	Recurring	High
Slashing/Mowing	Selective mowing to promote native grass growth, control weed ingress and reduce bushfire fuel load	Volunteers	Recurring	High
Media Release	Announce the Reserve purpose and availability to the public	Council	Once POM is adopted by Minister of Lands & Water and Minister of Primary Industries	High
Baseline Data Collection	GPS enabled digital cameras and site surveys	Landcare Boorowa Central School LLS	Recurring during period of high visibility/detection	High
Levelling of dirt humps	To discourage bicycle use of the reserve	Volunteers	By December 2015	Medium
Develop design of walking paths	Consider materials, grades and layout.	RHRC	By June 2016	Low
Develop an Entry Statement	Design and construction, consider bollards to discourage undesirable user groups.	RHRC Volunteers	Design by December 2015, Construction by June 2016, subject to external funding	High
Placement of appropriate signage	Signage to outline encouraged and prohibited uses of reserve. Also, consider advertising social media handles/tags.	Council Landcare RHRC	By June 2016	High
Car parking	Form road shoulder to encourage parking adjacent Queen Street entry.	Council RHRC Landcare	Monitor usage/need and provide as needed	Low

Action	Detail	Who	When	Priority
Installation of seating and picnic areas	Seating to be provided in a horseshoe type arrangement to enhance group usage. Picnic areas for passive recreation	RHRC Volunteers	Monitor usage/need and provide as needed	Low
Installation of rubbish bins	Close to entry	Council Landcare RHRC	Monitor usage/need and provide as needed	Medium
Social Media	Facebook and Twitter. Promotes Reserve and may act as a tool to promote reserve usage and assist in capturing reserve species onsite.	RHRC	Consider in combination with signage installation	Medium
Nesting and possum boxes	Partner with third parties to produce boxes.	RHRC Volunteers	To follow Baseline Data Collection to understand species specific needs	Low
Contact native medicinal specialist	To advise on enhancing the aboriginal medicinal values within the reserve	RHRC	To follow Baseline Data Collection	Low

Abbreviations:

RHRC – Red Hill Reserve Committee

RFS – Rural Fire Service