

Tarriwa Kurrukun

New England, New South Wales

Declared an Indigenous Protected Area in June 2009



“My grandchildren have not known now what it’s like to grow up without land – I didn’t grow up owning land, nor my Mum. It changes how we think, how we do things. We’ve got land. Now we have to reacquaint ourselves with our custodial role of land management.”

Lee Patterson, traditional owner

The Tarriwa Kurrukun Indigenous Protected Area covers 930 hectares of wetlands and stringy bark forest, home to an amazing diversity of plants and animals.

More than 500 different plant species are found on the property, about 40 kilometres from the New England town of Guyra.

The diversity of plants is matched by a diversity of animals.

Birds making a home at Tarriwa Kurrukun include glossy black and red-tailed black cockatoos, swift and regent parrots.

The endangered spotted-tailed quoll and vulnerable brush-tailed phascogale and eastern pygmy possum are found here as are reptiles including the vulnerable pale-headed snake and stephen’s banded snake.

Tarriwa Kurrukun means ‘strong one’ in the Banbai Nation language, the traditional owners of this country.

The property lies on the western boundary of the Banbai Nation where it borders the neighbouring Kamilaroi Nation.

The Banbai’s ongoing connection to Tarriwa Kurrukun dates back thousands of years. The central ridgelines of the property contain a number of scarred trees and isolated artefacts.

Occupation sites have been found along Limestone and Moredun creeks on the property. Material recorded in this area shows evidence of stone tool manufacture from a range of raw materials. There is also evidence of heat treatment of stones to create tools.

After European occupation the site was used for a variety of purposes including some mining activity and wood cutting.

Today Guyra Local Aboriginal Land Council holds the title to Tarriva Kurrukun, part of the handback of the Banbai Nation's traditional country under the NSW *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*.

Banbai Business Enterprises, which also manages Wattlebridge IPA, entered into an agreement with the council to declare the property as an IPA.

The declaration is a formal commitment to manage their land according to international standards.

Today there are male and female rangers working on country, supported by the Australian Government as part of Closing the Gap under the Working on Country program. The rangers take part in different management activities including weed and feral animal control, fencing, cultural heritage conservation and surveying plants and animals.

Like all Australia's Indigenous Protected Areas, Tarriva Kurrukun is part of the National Reserve System – our nation's most secure way of protecting native habitat for future generations.

Declared in June 2009, Tarriva Kurrukun is managed under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Category VI, as a protected area with sustainable use of natural resources.



For more information about Indigenous Protected Areas, visit www.environment.gov.au/indigenous/ipa

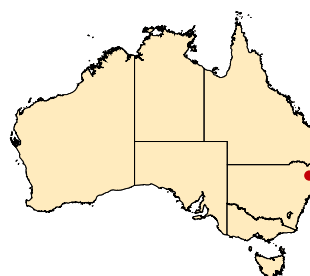


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