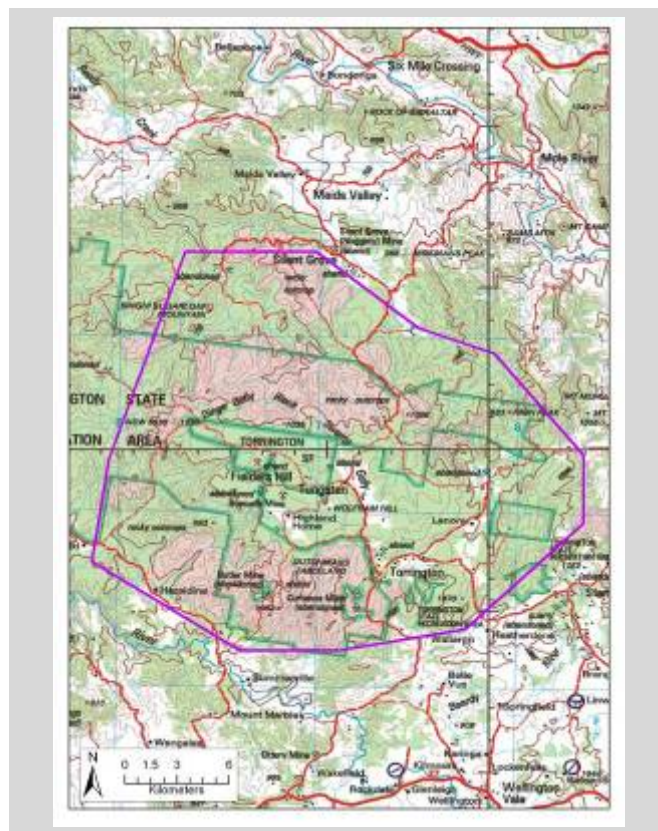


Binghi Plateau

MAINLAND ISLAND CHARACTERISTICS

Jurisdiction	New South Wales
NRM Region	Border Rivers/Gwydir
LGAs	Glen Innes Severn Shire Tenterfield
Size	40, 000 hectares
Dominant Type	Eucalypt open forests
Land Tenure	Agriculture State Conservation Area
Surrounding Issues	Land use Pest density



Overall Priority	Conservation Value	Threat Status
Very High	Very High	Very High

Key Biodiversity Values

Key biodiversity and conservation values of BINGHI PLATEAU

- 28 threatened species
- 3 threatened communities
- 6 migratory species
- Very high species richness
- Very high endemism
- Native vegetation present
- Vertebrate pest species present

CONSERVATION VALUE

Categories	Ranks/Scores
1 Biodiversity values	High (12)
2 Uniqueness	High (3)
3 Representativeness	High (3)
4 Adjacency	Very High (4)
5 Area to perimeter ratio	High (3)

THREAT STATUS

Categories	Ranks/Scores
1 Density of pest species	Very High (8)
2 Pest impact level	Very High (8)
3 Invasion fronts/range boundaries	Low(1)
4 Land use risk	Very High (5)
5 Weed density	Medium (2)
6 Area without statutory protection	Very High (4)



Key Threats and Impacts

Pest Species Present or Potentially Present

<input type="checkbox"/>	Cane toad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral cat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral pig	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rodents
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carp, European carp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Feral water buffalo	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tilapia, Mozambique Tilapia
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	European red fox	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral donkey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Indian Myna, Common Myna	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weather loach; Oriental weather loach
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	European wild rabbit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral goat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mosquito fish, Plague Minnow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wild dog
<input type="checkbox"/>	Feral camel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral horse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Red-eared slider turtle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

Potential impacts of pest species on matters of National Environmental Significance

Feral cat		Feral pig	
<i>Apus pacificus</i>	<i>Potorous tridactylus tridactylus</i>	<i>Almaleea cambagei</i>	<i>Diuris pedunculata</i>
<i>Petrogale penicillata</i>	<i>Underwoodisaurus sphyrurus</i>	<i>Astrotricha roddii</i>	<i>Diuris sheaffiana</i>
Wild dog		<i>Cadellia pentastylis</i>	<i>Leucopogon confertus</i>
<i>Merops ornatus</i>	<i>Potorous tridactylus tridactylus</i>	White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland	
<i>Petrogale penicillata</i>			
European red fox		Feral goat	
<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	<i>Potorous tridactylus tridactylus</i>	<i>Acacia macnuttiana</i>	<i>Grevillea beadleana</i>
<i>Merops ornatus</i>	<i>Rostratula australis</i>	<i>Acacia pubifolia</i>	<i>Leucopogon confertus</i>
<i>Petrogale penicillata</i>	<i>Underwoodisaurus sphyrurus</i>	<i>Almaleea cambagei</i>	<i>Petrogale penicillata</i>
European wild rabbit		<i>Astrotricha roddii</i>	<i>Prostanthera staurophylla</i>
<i>Diuris sheaffiana</i>	<i>Poephila cincta cincta</i>	<i>Boronia granitica</i>	<i>Underwoodisaurus sphyrurus</i>
<i>Eucalyptus mckieana</i>	<i>Rutidosis heterogama</i>	<i>Cadellia pentastylis</i>	
<i>Petrogale penicillata</i>	<i>Thesium australe</i>	<i>Phebalium glandulosum subsp. eglandulosum</i>	

Other threatening processes

- High risk land use
- Lack of statutory protection

Highest priority biodiversity issues

Pest impacts on *Petrogale penicillata*

Pest management activities listed in recovery plans for *Boronia granitica*, *Grevillea beadleana* and *Poephila cincta cincta*

Impacts from feral goats



CRITICAL SYNOPSIS OF VERTEBRATE PEST MANAGEMENT REGIME

Need for vertebrate pest management	Vertebrate pests pose a significant risk to the threatened and endemic plants and animals which occur within the Binghi Plateau mainland island. Overall, the NSW State Plan sets out natural resource management targets, one of which is that by 2015 there is a reduction in the impacts of invasive species. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service has a legal obligation to protect the Torrington State Conservation Area from such risks under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Service 1974</i> .
Planning instruments	The following management and recovery plans apply to areas within the Binghi Plateau mainland island : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pest Animal Management Plan : North East Region 2006 – 2011 (Forests NSW, 2007) ■ Torrington State Conservation Area Plan of Management (NSW NPWS, 2003) ■ National recovery plans for species listed above
Management actions	The Torrington State Conservation Area Plan of Management (NSW NPWS, 2003) details the management measures undertaken by the NPWS and other agencies to control vertebrate pest species within the Binghi Plateau mainland island and broadly includes; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ annual aerial baiting programs to control wild dogs in the SCA for over twenty years up until 1996; ■ biannual fox and wild dog programs using mound baiting techniques in conjunction with baiting programs conducted by the Rural Lands Protection Board on adjoining private property. ■ Strategic helicopter shooting programs ■ Radio tracking feral goats ■ Radio collared horses released to assist in the location of feral horse herds in the SCA Pig trapping also occurs twice yearly in Torrington State Conservation Area in order to protect the Torrington- heath (DECC, 2005a).
Monitoring regimes	The following monitoring measures were identified by DECC in the Priority Actions for threatened plant species in the area; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Establish monitoring sites to determine trends in populations of the Torrington pea (<i>Almaleea cambagei</i>), habitat condition, management response and threats (DECC, 2005b). ■ Implement an annual monitoring program at priority sites for the Torrington mint-bush (<i>Prostanthera staurophylla (sensu stricto)</i>) (DECC, 2005c). Monitoring of radio tracking of goats and horses in the area provides data which enables NPWS and other agencies to monitor population levels and locations of these pest species. Where population levels are identified as having measurable impacts on environmental values of the area, NPWS will implement targeted control programs in consultation with other agencies and the community (NSW NPWS, 2003).
Management responsibility	Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Private landholders
Cost-benefit analysis	Northern Tablelands Regional Pest Management Strategy states that pest control will be targeted to species/locations where benefits will be greatest and that pest management will strive to strike a balance between cost efficiency, target specificity and animal welfare. Also, the NSW Invasive Species Plan highlights that pest management will be prioritized in areas where it provides the best cost to benefit ration in protecting biodiversity, productivity and community most threatened by invasive species.
Special features	Torrington has heaths (communities of tough, low shrubs) around its swamps and rocky outcrops that are found nowhere else in the world. The woodlands along its creeklines are also special, with many rare and threatened plants (DECC, 2009). In accordance with the NPWS policy, aerial baiting ceased in 1996 because its impact on susceptible native species, such as the Spotted Tail Tiger Quoll, is uncertain. A cooperative approach with landholders is required in order to minimise impacts on the rural community, however, the role and function of wild dogs in the ecosystem should also be properly and fully considered (NSW NPWS, 2003).
Summary / comments	The NPWS has established cooperative pest management control programs around the SCA, and will continue to manage pest species in liaison with the Torrington Wild Dog Association, Rural Lands Pasture Protection Board and rural landholders (NSW NPWS, 2003).

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