



# **Iwata Gully Travelling Stock Reserve Management Plan**

2022 - 2027



# Local Land Services

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing June 2022.

However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of Local Land Services or the user's independent adviser.

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## Background

The NSW Koala Strategy identifies a set of actions to be implemented over the next three years with the aim of stabilising and increasing koala numbers across the state. One of the pillars under these actions is koala habitat conservation and protecting koala habitat on public land.

This Management Plan is one of the outcomes identified in the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services (LLS) Cool Country Koala Project 2021-22.

Northern Tablelands LLS is responsible for the management of Iwata Gully Travelling Stock Reserve (TSR). In the past the reserve has been available for lease under a grazing permit process. Permit conditions are reviewed and renewed with terms negotiated depending on vegetation condition, ground cover, water availability, stock type and numbers.

## Site Description

Iwata Gully TSR is located 13 Kilometres west of Armidale on the Bundarra Road. It is bordered on three sides by privately owned grazing properties, with an open TSR forming the boundary alongside Bundarra Road. The reserve is 21 hectares and contains vulnerable species and a Critically Endangered Ecological Community (see Table 1). It is located within an area of regional koala significance and has been identified as having key koala populations with potential for long-term viability.

**Figure 1: Map of Iwata Gully Travelling Stock Reserve**



## Site Overview

**Table1: Site Assessment** (27/10/2021)

<b>Iwata Gully Travelling Stock Reserve</b>	
<b>Lot/DP</b>	<b>7005/1125053, 7004/1117886, 7301/1149666</b>
<b>Local Government Area</b>	<b>Uralla Shire Council</b>
<b>Coordinates</b>	<b>-30.501,151.515</b>
<b>Elevation</b>	<b>980 m</b>
<b>Slope</b>	<b>Flat to gently sloping (northern section)</b>
<b>Size</b>	<b>21.4 ha</b>
<b>Soil</b>	<b>Soloth, acidic, Blackearth, Red Podzolic</b>
<b>Vegetation Class</b>	<b>Critically Endangered Ecological Community - White Box – Yellow Box – Blakelys Red Gum Grassy Woodland</b>
<b>Riparian area</b>	<b>2 named gullies - Vulnerable Regulated Land</b>
<b>Key Species</b>	<b>Yellow Box (<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>), Blakely's Red Gum (<i>Eucalyptus blakelyi</i>), Apple Box (<i>Eucalyptus bridesiana</i>) Kangaroo grass (<i>Themeda triandra</i>).</b>
<b>Site condition</b>	<b>Thick eucalyptus regeneration in patches, understory mostly absent in southern section. African lovegrass dominate on access track and in eroded areas. Kangaroo grass dominate</b>
<b>Ground Cover</b>	<b>90% in grassy areas, sparse on eroded areas</b>
<b>Pasture type</b>	<b>Native grasses</b>
<b>Weed species</b>	<b>African lovegrass, Coolatai grass, Blackberry, Briar isolated.</b>
<b>Vertebrate Pests</b>	<b>Wild rabbit population low, European Red Fox low/moderate.</b>
<b>Watering points</b>	<b>1 Dam</b>
<b>Landuse</b>	<b>Conservation</b>
<b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage</b>	<b>Artefact recorded</b>
<b>Threatened flora species</b>	<b><i>Thesium austral</i>, <i>Dichanthium setosum</i>, <i>Discaria pubescens</i></b>
<b>Threatened fauna species</b>	<b>Koala (<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>)</b>
<b>Other issues</b>	<b>Minor gully erosion, firewood removal, rubbish dumping</b>

## Aims and Outcomes

Cool Country Koala Project 2021-22 short term project outcomes:

- By June 2022, the condition of 35ha of known or potential koala habitat in Travelling Stock Reserves within or in close proximity to Areas of Regional Koala Significance will be improved through supported natural regeneration and grazing management regimes.

Primary Regional Land Partnerships outcome:

- Outcome 2: By 2023, the trajectory of species targeted under the Threatened Species Strategy, and other EPBC Act priority species, is stabilised or improved.

Secondary Regional Land Partnerships outcomes:

- Outcome 4: By 2023, the implementation of priority actions is leading to an improvement in the condition of EPBC Act listed Threatened Ecological Communities.
- Outcome 5: By 2023, there will be increased awareness and adoption of land management practices that improve and protect the condition of soil, biodiversity and vegetation.

## Reserve Use

Iwata Gully TSR will predominately be managed for the conservation of koalas, other threatened species and the critically endangered yellow box grassy woodland.

Grazing of cattle will generally be restricted but may be used to reduce fire hazard and manage biomass if necessary. Up to 20 head of cattle for up to 3 weeks (21 days) of grazing may be permitted per year except during germination (spring) and flowering (mid-summer to late-summer). Grazing of sheep will not be permitted.

## Management Actions

**Table 2: Assets, Threats and Management Actions**

Asset	Threat	Management Action
Koala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grazing</li> <li>• Habitat loss - excessive eucalypt regeneration prevents development of mature trees and seed production</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restricted</li> <li>• Selective thinning following TSR native regrowth procedure</li> </ul>
Critically Engangered Ecological Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weeds</li> <li>• Lack of understorey affecting biodiversity functioning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot spraying with herbicide</li> <li>• Monitor shrub regeneration</li> <li>• Patch planting of shrubs if required</li> <li>• Restrict grazing</li> </ul>
Riparian zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gully Erosion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain ground cover at 90-100%</li> <li>• Restrict grazing</li> <li>• Monitor vegetation regeneration</li> <li>• Monitor erosion movement</li> </ul>

## Review

This Management Plan will be considered a live document and will be subject to change according to new information or situations. A more formal review will be conducted annually.

## Grievance Management Procedure

Any issue, concern, problem, or claim (perceived or actual) relating to the management of Iwata Gully TSR will be referred to the TSR Team Leader. Day to day operations on the reserve will be managed by the TSR Ranger, Guy Walker. Written submissions should be used to ensure consistency and clarity.

## More information

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