

# Narrien Range National Park

Management Plan

2011

Brigalow Belt North Bioregion

**Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service (QPWS), Department of Environment, Science and Innovation**

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The Narrien Range National Park Management Plan 2011 has been extended in 2024 in line with the Queensland *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (s120G). Minor amendments have been made. There has been no change to the plan's original management intent and direction.

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Front cover photograph: Open woodlands, Narrien Range National Park. Photo: Department of Environment, Science and Innovation.

## Vision statement

Narrien Range National Park will be managed to conserve an ecologically significant section of Queensland's Brigalow Belt North Bioregion. Significant plant communities and fauna species occur in the area and special emphasis will be given to the conservation management of these species. Narrien Range National Park will operate as a remote, low-density recreation area catering to self-reliant visitors.



View of Narrien Range, Narrien Range National Park. Photo: Department of Environment, Science and Innovation.

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# 1. Management intent

The purposes of management for Narrien Range National Park will be to:

- conserve the natural ecosystems of the park, including regional ecosystems and plant and animal species of conservation significance
- reduce and eradicate pest plants (especially parthenium *Parthenium hysterophorus*) and animals, where possible, and ensure control methods have no or minimal adverse impacts
- identify, protect and present Indigenous and shared-history cultural heritage places
- encourage visitors to be aware and observe the appropriate safety and emergency precautions
- undertake an adaptive, co-operative and collaborative approach between stakeholders for park management purposes
- consult and co-operate with neighbours to implement a fire regime to enhance the natural and cultural values of the park and surrounding area.

# 2. Basis for management

This plan covers Narrien Range National Park and provides an opportunity to develop and implement recreation and nature conservation activities across the park to protect its natural and cultural values.

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) is responsible for the day-to-day management of Narrien Range National Park in accordance with the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and regulations. Section 17 of the Nature Conservation Act specifies the management principles for national parks.

Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems are described under the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation biodiversity status and endangered, vulnerable and near threatened species are listed under the *Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006*. The Department of Environment, Science and Innovation is responsible under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* for controlling declared pest plants and animals on protected areas.

The national park's natural landscapes have broad cultural significance for Traditional Owners who have lived in this area for many thousands of years. Narrien Range National Park is included in an area subject to a native title claim (Wangan and Jagalingou people QC04/6, QC05/4). This plan does not affect this claim. Management intent for these cultural values will involve the identification and establishment of ties with the Traditional Owners, the recording and conservation of Indigenous cultural values and artefacts, and appropriate presentation to the public.

# 3. Location and regional context

Narrien Range National Park covers 7460 ha and is located 70 km west of Clermont in central Queensland (Map 1). The park was gazetted in 1991 to conserve a section of the Brigalow Belt North biogeographical region. The park covers a section of the Narrien Range and a part of the adjacent lowland. While the range is generally not subject to any active land use, the surrounding plains have been extensively cleared for cattle grazing.

There are three other national parks in close proximity: Epping Forest National Park (Scientific), Cudmore National Park and Mazeppa National Park. Blair Athol State Forest is situated close to Clermont and is a popular area for gold fossickers. Theresa Creek Dam, which is 22 km west of Clermont on Peakvale Road, is a popular picnic and recreational spot and provides water for Clermont and the Blair Athol Coal Mine.

# 4. Protecting and presenting the park's values

## 4.1 Landscape

The national park is centered on Narrien Range which extends 13 km in a north–south direction. The range is an imposing feature in a landscape of low relief. It has a maximum elevation of 759 m at the summit of Mount Camp Oven and an average lowland elevation of 350 m. The range consists of an anticline formed as a product of unwarping within the Drummond Basin. This unwarping occurred in an area that had been a major axis of sedimentation. The physical character of the range is largely quartz pebble conglomerate, mudstone and quartz sandstone. Narrien Range forms part of the catchment area of Mistake Creek.

The Narrien Range National Park has small (<500 ha) to medium (500–5000 ha) representation of six land systems in the Brigalow Belt North biogeographical region.

These land systems are:

- Cardborough land system: mountains and hills with narrow-leaved red ironbark *Eucalyptus crebra* and lancewood *Acacia shirleyi* and shallow rocky soils formed on quartz sandstone mainly below the Tertiary weathered zone.
- Hope land system: low stony hills and lowlands with narrow-leaved ironbark and texture-contrast soils on Drummond Basin sediments below the Tertiary weathered zone.
- Durrandella land system: stony hills with lancewood or bendee *Acacia catenulata* and shallow rocky soils or shallow red earths on pre-Tertiary rocks within the Tertiary weathered zone.
- Lennox land system: plains and lowlands with silver-leaved ironbark *Eucalyptus melanophloia* and yellow and red earths on intact Tertiary land surface.
- Monteagle land system: lowlands with poplar box *Eucalyptus populnea* and texture-contrast soils on slightly stripped Tertiary land surface.
- Pinehill land system: lowlands with poplar box and shrubs and texture-contrast soils on slightly stripped gravelly Tertiary land surface (CSIRO 1967).

Desired outcomes 2021	Actions and guidelines
Landscapes with high erosion potential are managed to minimise erosion.	A1. Ensure park management actions do not accelerate or impact upon the natural processes of erosion associated with the landscape.

## 4.2 Native plants and animals

A number of the plant communities represented in Narrien Range National Park previously had a much wider distribution across Queensland, including:

- lancewood and bendee scrubs that have limited representation on protected areas
- blackbutt *Eucalyptus cambageana* and mountain yapunyah *Eucalyptus thozetiana* woodland with brigalow *Acacia harpophylla* understorey, two ecosystem types cleared extensively for grazing
- brigalow and gidgee *Acacia cambagei* scrub remnants that have been extensively cleared for grazing.

The park represents a cross-section of the western parts of the Brigalow Belt North biogeographic region. Eighteen regional ecosystems are represented, four of which are endangered (Appendix C) under the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation biodiversity status.

The park is a refuge and corridor for native animals. At present, 4 frog, 31 reptile, 17 mammal and 101 bird species have been recorded in the park. The red kangaroo *Macropus rufus* reaches the eastern limit of its distribution in this area. The squatter pigeon (southern subspecies) *Geophaps scripta scripta* and the yakka skink *Egernia rugosa* are classed as vulnerable under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, and the northern quoll *Dasyurus hallucatus* is classed as endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Desired outcomes 2021	Actions and guidelines
Plant species and communities and animal species of significance are protected.	A2. Incorporate new information about threatened plants and animals into park action plans or strategies.
The composition and extent of vegetation is maintained or increased.	A3. Continue to record sightings of native plants and animals into WildNet and other departmental databases.

## 4.3 Indigenous culture

To date, no Indigenous cultural heritage places have been identified on the park. At the time of writing, Narrien Range National Park is subject to a native title claim (Wangan and Jagalingou people QC04/6, QC05/4). This plan does not affect this claim.

Desired outcomes 2021	Actions and guidelines
<p>Cultural values are managed in cooperation with Traditional Owners.</p> <p>Aboriginal people with traditional links to the area are involved in park management.</p>	<p>A4. Liaise with Traditional Owners about managing cultural sites.</p> <p>A5. Protocols and procedures will be developed, in collaboration with Traditional Owners, to maintain confidentiality and integrity of cultural places, material and information.</p> <p>A6. Encourage Traditional Owner involvement in planning and management activities.</p> <p>A7. Undertake a cultural heritage impact assessment before new infrastructure is developed and/or any major redevelopments are undertaken.</p>

#### 4.4 Shared-history culture

No shared-history cultural places have been identified on the park. The park and surrounding region has a history of grazing, with sheep first introduced to the area on a large scale from around the 1860s. By the 1940s, sheep rearing had been phased out in favour of cattle beef production. Timber harvesting also occurred across the region from the late 19th century onwards (O'Sullivan 1975 and Environmental Protection Agency 2001).

#### 4.5 Tourism and visitor opportunities

Narrien Range National Park has low levels of recreation and tourism due to its isolation, poor public access and lack of accessible water. The park has a remote natural setting with no formal access. This situation is likely to remain in the near future. Visitors wishing to access the park and partake in low-key nature-based recreation activities, such as bush walking and camping, must be totally self-reliant.

Desired outcomes 2021	Actions and guidelines
<p>Visitor information regarding recreation opportunities, facilities, safety issues and park values is available.</p> <p>Visitor use of the park does not impact on the natural and aesthetic values of the park.</p>	<p>A8. Provide basic information on the park values and safety issues associated with accessing remote parks on the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation website.</p>

#### 4.6 Education and science

The diverse plant and animal communities of the park present potential education and research opportunities.

Desired outcomes 2021	Actions and guidelines
<p>Park visitors are provided with appropriate information to allow them to understand their obligations and enjoy their visit.</p> <p>QPWS and tourist publications, displays and signs encourage appropriate use of the park.</p> <p>The park is used as an education and scientific research area by relevant industries and organisations.</p>	<p>A9. Encourage all commercial tourism operators to be aware of, and inform clients about, the natural and cultural values of the park and importance of protecting those values.</p> <p>A10. Liaise with tourist organisations to encourage promotional messages that are sympathetic to national park values.</p> <p>A11. Ensure flora and fauna surveys and/or scientific activities have limited impacts on the natural and cultural values.</p> <p>A12. Encourage park visitors to report observations of flora and fauna to appropriate Department of Environment, Science and Innovation staff.</p>

#### 4.7 Partnerships

National park management is subject to policies, including Indigenous partnership arrangements, regional protocols and good neighbour policies. Traditional Owners also have a responsibility under traditional lore for the park's management. A strong working relationship with Traditional Owners is essential to ensure the views and aspirations of the Traditional Owners of the land can be encompassed in planning and management.

Desired outcomes 2021	Actions and guidelines
Government agencies and the community work collaboratively to resolve common issues.	<p>A13. Continue to build and strengthen the relationship with the Traditional Owners in planning and managing the park.</p> <p>A14. QPWS will liaise with neighbours to develop and implement co-operative stock, pest plants and animal and fire programs.</p> <p>A15. Work with neighbours to ensure that boundary fencing is maintained in good condition.</p>

## 5. Other key issues and responses

### 5.1 Pest management

QPWS has the primary responsibility to control declared and non-declared pests in the park. Pest management is undertaken in accordance with the QPWS Pest Management System.

The priority for managing pests in the park is based on:

- local knowledge and understanding of pest dispersal and control effectiveness
- sensitivity to the park's natural and cultural values
- the feasibility of treatment and available resources.

Incidental monitoring and preventative management are integral components of pest management.

Parthenium is declared as a class two pest plant. This pest plant has not been found on the park, but it is present in the surrounding area. Buffel grass *Pennisetum ciliare* is not a declared pest plant. However, buffel grass is considered to be a serious concern to the park due to competition with native grasses and susceptibility to fire.

Pest animals found in the park include class two declared pests (rabbits, feral cats and pigs) and non-declared pests (house mouse and cane toads). Pest animals have not been identified as a problem but cattle from neighbouring properties access the park through unfenced sections.

Desired outcomes 2021	Actions and guidelines
<p>The park has minimal presence of pest plant and animal species.</p> <p>Land management in the Narrien Range area is approached co-operatively.</p>	<p>A16. Ensure a Level Two Pest Management Strategy that applies to the park is developed under the QPWS Pest Management System.</p> <p>A17. Manage pest plants and animals in accordance with the operational policy Management of Pests on QPWS-managed Areas, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• using the QPWS Pest Management System and ParkInfo to plan, manage, record and monitor all pests and pest management</li> <li>• where practical and appropriate, participating co-operatively in pest management planning and implementation across the landscape with surrounding land managers, other government departments, local governments and utility providers to ensure landscape-level pest management is successful</li> <li>• following all pest management principles outlined in the QPWS Good Neighbour Policy</li> <li>• ensuring any pest management does not adversely affect the natural integrity of the park and using the best available scientific and technical knowledge.</li> </ul> <p>A18. Complete park fencing, where practical, to ensure cattle are excluded.</p> <p>A19. Manage any new infestations of pests as soon as practicable.</p> <p>A20. Have a range of management options available to manage and reduce introduced pasture grasses, particularly buffel grass, as required.</p>

## 5.2 Fire management

Fire is one of the major management tools used throughout Australia for the protection of life and property, to fulfil the ecological requirements of plants, animals and other natural assets, and to maintain cultural resources and practices. Fire management in the park is subject to a number of legal and ethical responsibilities relating to the control of fire on and near QPWS-managed estates.

The park's fire history has not been well mapped. Suppression of wildfires is necessary to protect life and assets and reduce negative ecological impacts on the park. Planned burns help to contain wildfires through reduced fuel loads, thereby reducing their impacts.

A fire management system has been adopted statewide by QPWS, which is the primary agency for fire management on protected areas and parks. Fire strategies provide the overall framework and direction for fire management and are the foundation from which planned burn programs are developed. The park has a Level Two Fire Strategy.

Buffel grass can cause significant impacts on brigalow and gidgee communities by increasing the frequency and severity of fires. Buffel grass can markedly increase fuel loads and enable fires to penetrate the brigalow and gidgee communities and kill canopy trees. This is a particular concern for the park in the endangered acacia-dominated regional ecosystems.

Desired outcomes 2021	Actions and guidelines
<p>Fire is managed to protect life and property, conserve natural and cultural values and minimise associated impacts.</p> <p>The risk of wildfires that enter or exit the park is minimised.</p> <p>A co-operative approach to fire management is in place with Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (rural), neighbours and Traditional Owners.</p>	<p>A21. Help park neighbours maintain boundary fire lines and participate in co-operative protection burns.</p> <p>A22. Review and implement the Level Two Fire Strategy.</p> <p>A23. Continue to build and maintain partnerships with Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (rural), neighbours and Traditional Owners about Department of Environment, Science and Innovation fire management practices.</p> <p>A24. Ensure fire management does not promote the dominance of introduced pasture grasses, particularly buffel grass, which will impact adversely on the significant fire sensitive ecosystems for which the park was gazetted to conserve.</p>

## 5.3 Infrastructure management

At present there is no formal agreement in place for the ongoing maintenance of the fence on park. Extensive funds have been spent erecting boundary fences on Narrien Range National Park and QPWS will maintain the fences once erected where funding and resources are available.

Desired outcomes 2021	Actions and guidelines
<p>The park is fully fenced, preventing cattle or other stock entering the park.</p>	<p>A25. Liaise with neighbours to ensure a co-operative approach to park boundary fencing, which is outlined in the QPWS Good Neighbour Policy. The location of the fence line will be properly delineated, to indicate the boundary between the park and adjoining properties.</p>

## 6. References

CSIRO. (1967) Lands of the Nogoa-Belyando Area, Queensland – Land Research Series No.18. CSIRO, Melbourne.

Environmental Protection Agency, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, 2001, *Montreal non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Inventory Project Report: Clermont State Forests*, Central Queensland, Queensland Government, Brisbane.

Queensland Department of Primary Industries, 1975, *Belyando Shire handbook* compiled by T.E. O'Sullivan, Queensland Government, Brisbane.

Sattler, P. and Williams, R. (eds) 1999, *The Conservation Status of Queensland's Bioregional Ecosystems*. Environmental Protection Agency, Queensland Government, Brisbane.

## 7. Hyperlinks

Department of Environment, Science and Innovation website <[www.des.qld.gov.au](http://www.des.qld.gov.au)>

*Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* <[www.legislation.qld.gov.au](http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au)>

*Nature Conservation Act 1992* <[www.legislation.qld.gov.au](http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au)>

*Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006* <[www.legislation.qld.gov.au](http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au)>

Regional ecosystems <[www.des.qld.gov.au](http://www.des.qld.gov.au)>

## **8. Appendixes**

**Appendix A – Map**

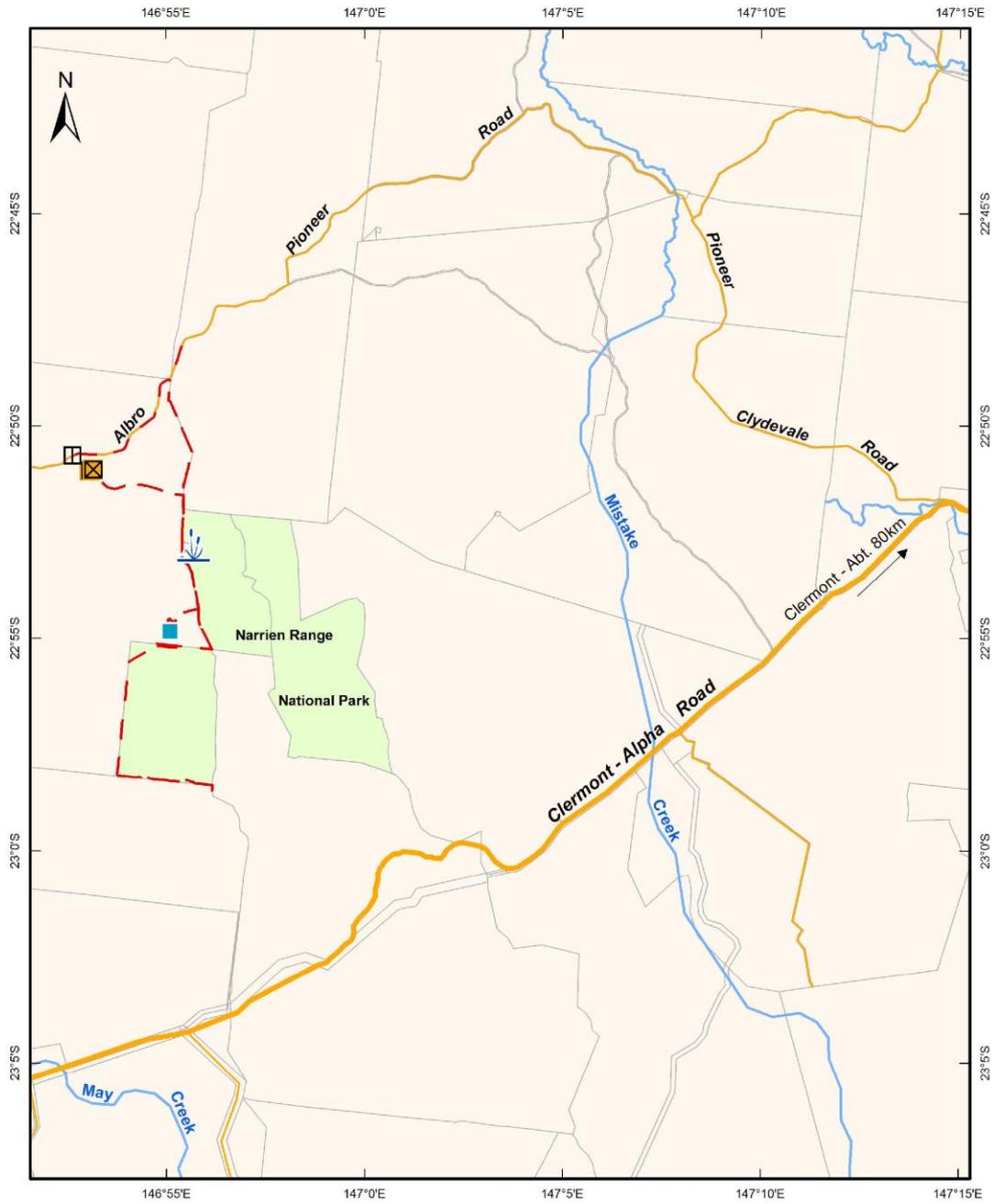
**Appendix B – Definitions**

**Appendix C – Regional ecosystems**

**Appendix D – Species of conservation significance**

# Appendix A – Map

## Map 1 Location



**Map Projection:**  
 Universal Transverse Mercator (MGA) zone 55  
**Horizontal Datum:**  
 Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994 (GDA94)

**Map Production:**  
 Spatial Services Group, Rockhampton,  
 Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service,  
 Department of Environment and Resource Management,  
 08 February 2011

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**Accuracy statement:**  
 Due to varying source, accuracy or currency of data layers used in this map, the spatial locations of features may not coincide when overlaid.

- Legend**
- Dam
  - Gate
  - Grid
  - Spring
  - National Park
  - DCDB Isaac
  - Tracks
  - Secondary Road
  - Street / Local Road
  - Drainage network - rivers (QLD)

**Source Material:**  
 DERM - Digital protected estates; September 2010  
 DERM - Digital cadastral database (DCDB); October 2010  
 Geoscience Australia (GA) - Drainage QLD 100,000 series; current to date



Department of Environment and Resource Management  
 Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service  
 2011

## Appendix B – Definitions

### Endangered (species)

At the state level, endangered species are those species listed as endangered under schedule 2 of Queensland's *Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006*. At the national level, endangered species are those species listed as endangered under the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

### Management principles for national parks

These are specified in Section 17 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*:

- (1) A national park is to be managed to—
  - (a) provide, to the greatest possible extent, for the permanent preservation of the area's natural condition and the protection of the area's cultural resources and values
  - (b) present the area's cultural and natural resources and their values
  - (c) ensure that the only use of the area is nature-based and ecologically sustainable.
- (2) The management principle mentioned in subsection (1)(a) is the cardinal principle for the management of national parks.

### Regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystems were defined by Sattler and Williams (1999) as vegetation communities in a bioregion that are consistently associated with a particular combination of geology, landform and soil. Readers should refer to this publication for background information about regional ecosystems and the bioregional planning framework used in Queensland.

Compiled information about regional ecosystems presented in Sattler and Williams (1999) was derived from existing information sources including land system, vegetation and geology mapping and reports. However, the framework is dynamic and is regularly reviewed as new information becomes available. During the past few years, the Queensland Herbarium has developed a program for explicitly mapping regional ecosystems across Queensland. This has resulted, and will continue to result, in updates to the descriptions and status of regional ecosystems. Therefore, updated regional ecosystem descriptions in the format of Sattler and Williams (1999) are maintained in the Regional Ecosystem Description Database.

### Species of conservation significance

Species of conservation significance refers to those species that are threatened (that is, endangered, vulnerable or near threatened species), and may also refer to other species that are subject to threats at a regional or local level.

### Vulnerable (species)

At the state level, vulnerable species are those species listed as vulnerable under schedule 3 of Queensland's *Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006*. At the national level, vulnerable species are those species listed as vulnerable under the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

## Appendix C – Regional ecosystems

Table 1: Of concern and endangered regional ecosystems for Narrien Range National Park.

Regional ecosystem number	Regional ecosystem name	Department of Environment, Science and Innovation biodiversity status	Reason for status and the threats to ongoing sustainability
11.3.1	<i>Acacia harpophylla</i> and/or <i>Casuarina cristata</i> open forest on alluvial plains	Endangered	Extensively cleared for cropping and pasture. <10 % of pre-clearing area remains and has low representation in reserves.
11.3.2	<i>Eucalyptus populnea</i> woodland on alluvial plains	Of concern	Extensively cleared or modified by grazing. 10–30 % of pre-clearing area remains and has low representation in reserves.
11.3.5	<i>Acacia cambagei</i> woodland on alluvial plains	Of concern	Extensively cleared for pasture and has low representation in reserves.
11.3.25	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> or <i>E. camaldulensis</i> woodland fringing drainage lines	Of concern	Impact by total grazing pressure. Weeds, particularly rubber vine and buffel grass, have invaded many areas. Some areas have been modified by weir construction. Has low representation in reserves.
11.4.6	<i>Acacia cambagei</i> woodland on Cainozoic clay plains	Endangered	Extensively cleared for pasture. 10–30 % of pre-clearing area remains and has low representation in reserves.
11.4.8	<i>Eucalyptus cambageana</i> woodland to open forest with <i>Acacia harpophylla</i> or <i>A. argyrodendron</i> on Cainozoic clay plains	Endangered	Extensively cleared for pasture. <10 % pre-clearing area remains and has low representation in reserves.
11.4.9	<i>Acacia harpophylla</i> shrubby open forest to woodland with <i>Terminalia oblongata</i> on Cainozoic clay plains	Endangered	Extensively cleared for cropping and pasture. <10 % pre-clearing area remains and has low representation in reserves.
11.7.1	<i>Acacia harpophylla</i> and/or <i>Casuarina cristata</i> and <i>Eucalyptus thozetiana</i> or <i>E. microcarpa</i> woodland on lower scarp slopes on Cainozoic lateritic duricrust	Of concern	Threatening processes other than clearing and has low representation in reserves.
11.11.10	<i>Eucalyptus melanophloia</i> woodland on deformed and metamorphosed sediments and interbedded volcanics	Of concern	Subject to periodic canopy dieback due to drought in parts of central Queensland. 10–30 % of pre-clearing area remains and has low representation in reserves.
11.11.13	<i>Acacia harpophylla</i> or <i>A. argyrodendron</i> , <i>Terminalia oblongata</i> low open forest on deformed and metamorphosed sediments and interbedded volcanics	Of concern	Extensively cleared for pasture. 10–30 % of pre-clearing area remains and has low representation in reserves.
11.11.16	<i>Eucalyptus cambageana</i> , <i>Acacia harpophylla</i> woodland on old sedimentary rocks with varying degrees of metamorphism and folding	Of concern	Extensively cleared for pasture. 10–30 % of pre-clearing area remains and has low representation in reserves.
11.11.19	<i>Eucalyptus thozetiana</i> , <i>Acacia harpophylla</i> woodland on old sedimentary rocks with varying degrees of metamorphism and folding	Of concern	Extensively cleared for pasture. Has low representation in reserves.

## Appendix D – Species of conservation significance

**Table 1: Vulnerable and endangered species for Narrien Range National Park.**

Family	Scientific name	Common name	Status under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>	Status under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
Columbidae	<i>Geophaps scripta scripta</i>	squatter pigeon (southern subspecies)	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Dasyuridae	<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>	northern quoll	Common	Endangered
Scincidae	<i>Egernia rugosa</i>	yakka skink	Vulnerable	Vulnerable

