

CLOSE AND OPEN THE NARRANDERA FLORA AND FAUNA RESERVE

TS220



NARRANDERA SHIRE COUNCIL POLICY

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CLOSE AND OPEN NARRANDERA FLORA AND FOUNA RESERVE



Policy No:	TS220
Policy Title:	Close and Open Narrandera Flora and Fauna Reserve
Section Responsible:	Technical Services
Minute No:	10/313
MagiQ No:	8413
Next Review Date:	30 October 2011

Purpose

This policy is to assist decision making by Narrandera Shire Council (NSC) staff when determining when to close or reopen the Narrandera Flora and Fauna Reserve.

Scope

This policy applies to NSC Director of Technical Services (DTS), Open Space and Recreation coordinator and the NSC Ranger.

Responsibilities

General Manager

Responsible for the decision to close or open the NFFR.

Director Technical Services

Responsible for the decision to close or open the NFFR.

Parks, Reserves and Facilities Coordinator

Responsible to carry out or delegate the inspection of the NFFR to determine the status of the NFFR.

NSC Ranger

Responsible for the locking and unlocking of the NFFR, change the NFFR & VIC signs to reflect the status as open or closed and advise NSC Customer Service Officers.

General Information

The Narrandera Flora and Fauna Reserve (NFFR) is a 480ha crown land reserve under trust management of Narrandera Shire Council (NSC). The reserve is dedicated to the Preservation of Flora and Fauna and for public recreation. The reserve has a network of

roads, minor vehicle tracks and walking tracks providing access to the Murrumbidgee River, Narrandera Nature Reserve (Department Environment Climate Change Water - National Parks), the main irrigation canal (Murrumbidgee Irrigation) and places of interest within the reserve.

Justification

The NFFR will remain open to vehicle and pedestrian traffic all year round. Consideration to close the NFFR will occur for any one or more of the following reasons:

- Closed after rain events
- River flooding
- Imminent hazardous weather
- A bushfire event
- An event which may place the general public at risk
- Provide protection to the flora and fauna of the reserve and
- Reduce the chance of damage to roads and infrastructure within the reserve.

Guidelines

Considerations to close the NFFR include:

- Rain which affects the minor tracks, causing the tracks to hold water and become sites where vehicles can become bogged
- River flooding about six (6) metres which cause flooding on the entrance road 100m past entrance
- Hazardous weather which could cause tree and branch falls within the NFFR
- Days declared total fire ban
- Bushfires within the Narrandera Shire which could spread to the NFFR
- Events which could cause potential risk to the flora and fauna of the NFFR.

Considerations to enable the NFFR to open include

- On inspection of roads there is no debris on roads, roads and minor tracks are dry (vehicles will not be required to drive around wet area) or vehicles will not damage minor tracks eg; leave wheel impressions or cut up the tracks
- Inspect public use areas for tree falls or possible tree falls and debris from flooding or severe weather and hazards which place the public at risk
- Bushfire risks have abated
- Hazard to flora and fauna has been reduced.

Provisions

The NFFR has one (1) public access point adjacent to the Lake Talbot swimming pool and one private access point on the eastern boundary via the main canal wall. The private entry point is permanently locked with keys held by the property owner and Murrumbidgee Irrigation.

Notification

Change entrance signage to indicate status of reserve. Notify Visitors Information Centre (VIC) – Visitor Service Officer and NSC - Customers Service Officers when a change to open/closed status of reserve occurs. A smaller version of reserve information board is to be located at VIC.

Records Management

Record details of open and closing dates, and reason for closure to be recorded in TRIM. All works required within NFFA must be registered as a customer request through TRIM, and approved by the DTS.

Legislation

- 2000 Occupational Health and Safety Act
- 2000 Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.

Policy History

Adopted	14 December 2010
Reviewed	tba
Amended	tba



Signed: General Manager

Date: 17 December 2010