



Bargo River Subcatchment

The Bargo River subcatchment is the smallest subcatchment (130.70km²) of the Hawkesbury Nepean catchment. It contains 2 reaches separated by the Bargo reservoir. Reach 1, Bargo R1, is considered to be in near intact condition, while Bargo R2 is experiencing some degradation from mining activity impacts and damaging access to the riparian zone. Picton Weir upstream is also having a negative effect on this reach. There are no reserved lands in the subcatchment.

Off-stream land use pressures such as effluent ponds, intensive farming, service stations and mining activities pose possible threats to the health of the reaches in this subcatchment. Much of the subcatchment is bushland, with some rural and peri-urban developments near the Bargo township. Increased frequency of bushfire and impacts of residential development impact on river health as well.

The Bargo subcatchment is largely undisturbed and its gullies and gorges are among the steepest in NSW. A significant plant species (*Persoonia bargoensis*) has been identified in the Bargo subcatchment and is restricted to this area. The Bargo River also supports an Endangered Ecological Community (Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest).

Some of the community based environmental activities include a Privet Removal Project on Myrtle Creek and the activities of the Tahmoor Park Landcare Group.

Reach Management Recommendations – Bargo River Subcatchment

| Reach Name | Reach Description | Riparian Land Management Category | Reach Values | Reach Threats | Reach management recommendations (Planning, Education, Works, Monitoring, Institutional) |
|------------|----------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Bargo R1 | | Conservation (Near Intact outside reserve) | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop conservation management agreements to protect remnant riparian vegetation (P) |
| Bargo R2 | From below Bargo Reservoir | Conservation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good riparian vegetation Good river condition High geomorphic recovery potential Significant vegetation community (Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest) Popular recreational fishing Popular swimming (Mermaids Pool) Identified flagship species - <i>Persoonia bargoensis</i> – a threatened species. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damaging access (human access at Council Reserve on Bargo River Road) Barriers to ecosystem functioning (Picton Weir) River bed cracking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage human impacts at public recreation river access points and along foreshores (P,W) Maintenance of recreational values - recreational water quality (M) Increase community capacity for environmental restoration (E) Aquatic habitat condition and connectivity improvement - barriers to fish passage (W) Develop conservation management agreements to protect remnant riparian vegetation (P) |