



NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Ben Boyd National Park and Bell Bird Creek Nature Reserve

**Draft amendment to the plan of
management**



Acknowledgement of Country

Aboriginal people have a long connection with the area now known as Beowa National Park, and Bell Bird Creek Nature Reserve. The parks play a fundamental role in the lives of local Dyrirringan, Bidawal, Dthawa (or Thawa, Daura or Thau-aira), Maneroo, Kudingal (or Kunnerkwell) Aboriginal people, helping to maintain a link to the past, enabling continued connections to Country and contributing to the cultural identity of local Aboriginal people. The reserves are important to the Aboriginal peoples. Despite the impacts of colonisation and dispossession, this connection has endured. Aboriginal people maintain a vibrant and active association with the parks.

Cultural knowledge about this place is held and safeguarded by Aboriginal people. Aboriginal communities continue to have an association with and connection to the land. Aboriginal communities associate the land and its natural resources with the use and enjoyment of foods and medicines, caring for Country, passing on cultural knowledge, kinship systems and strengthening social bonds.

Aboriginal heritage and connection to the natural environment are inseparable from each other and need to be managed in a holistic manner across the landscape. Connections to Country and the significance of these parks to Aboriginal peoples — past, present and future — are respected by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and acknowledged in this plan. NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service supports and acknowledges the role of Aboriginal people in identifying traditional connections and custodians for this place.

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Summary

Ben Boyd National Park and Bell Bird Creek Nature Reserve are reserved to achieve the objectives of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. These objectives are centred on conserving nature and cultural heritage values, and fostering public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of these special values.

The Ben Boyd National Park and Bell Bird Creek Nature Reserve Plan of Management (NPWS 2010) describes how the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) intends to achieve the Act's objectives. All operations undertaken in the park need to be in accordance with this plan of management.

An amendment to a plan of management is required if there is a proposed change to the park's management that is not consistent with the current plan. Section 73B of the National Parks and Wildlife Act enables the Minister to amend a plan of management following public consultation.

This draft amendment to the Ben Boyd National Park and Bell Bird Creek Nature Reserve Plan of Management is proposed to facilitate:

- a refinement to the Light to Light Walk and associated facilities
- an update of the name 'Ben Boyd National Park' to 'Beowa National Park'

The following points were considered in preparing this draft amendment:

- the 8 management principles for national parks listed under section 30E of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, and
- the matters listed under section 72AA of the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

The draft amendment proposes to replace some of the existing plan of management's text and adds some new text. These changes should be read in conjunction with the adopted plan of management, specifically the section and page numbers referred to in the amendment.

Where a change is proposed to an action in the body of the plan of management, corresponding changes will also be made to Section 8 'Plan Implementation' as required.

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Have your say

We want to know what you think about this proposed amendment. To give us feedback, please send a written submission via:



the online submission form at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/get-involved/have-your-say



email to npws.parkplanning@environment.nsw.gov.au



post to: NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Manager Planning and Assessment, Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124.

Written submissions must be received by **5 July 2024**.

Our response to your submission will be based on the merit of the ideas and issues you raise, rather than the quantity of submissions making similar points. For this reason, a submission that clearly explains the matters it raises will be the most effective way to influence the finalisation of the plan amendment.

What happens to your feedback?

- Step 1: At the close of the public exhibition period, we consider all submissions and prepare a submissions report.
- Step 2: We provide relevant statutory advisory bodies with the draft amendment and the submissions. They may then provide advice to the Minister for the Environment.
- Step 3: The Minister considers the amendment, submissions and advice, makes any necessary changes and decides whether to adopt the amendment under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

Your privacy

Your submission will be provided to relevant advisory bodies. Your comments on the draft amendment may include personal information. The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water complies with the NSW *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*, which regulates the collection, storage, quality, use and disclosure of personal information. For details see our privacy statement.

Information that identifies you may be gathered when you use our website or send us an email. If you indicate in your written submission that you object to your submission being made public, we will ask you before releasing your submission in response to any access applications under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

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Background

Amendments to the Light to Light Walk

In 2018, the NSW Government announced funding to significantly enhance visitor facilities and create iconic experiences, including new walking tracks, accommodation and tourism partnerships, in a number of national parks across the State. These projects are part of the National Parks Visitor Infrastructure Program and aim to increase nature-based tourism in New South Wales, boost regional economies and improve community wellbeing. Funded projects include iconic walks in Murrumbidgee and Kosciuszko national parks and the Light to Light Walk in Ben Boyd National Park.

The *Ben Boyd National Park and Bell Bird Creek Nature Reserve Plan of Management* (NPWS 2010) was amended in January 2021 to enable the development of the Light to Light Walk.

The previous amendment to the plan of management proposed the establishment of huts at Hegartys Bay. Investigations and further stakeholder consultation on the Hegartys Bay site concluded that the establishment of a camping area at this site, rather than huts would be more appropriate. The establishment of camping area at this site is now proposed.

The Light to Light Walk Strategy includes more details on the walk concept, operations and the business model. The strategy is updated from time to time to reflect changes in such matters.

The name 'Ben Boyd National Park' was officially changed to 'Beowa National Park' in September 2022. The draft amendment to the plan of management proposes that the new name is adopted throughout the plan. The draft amendment also proposes the name 'North Head' be changed to 'Worange Point' in alignment with the wishes of the traditional owners. This feature is also known as 'Worang Point' in the NSW Geographical Names register.

Proposed amendments

Amendment: Light to Light Walk

Change the name 'Ben Boyd National Park' to 'Beowa National Park' throughout the plan of management and similarly update any shorthand references to the park in this way.

Change the name 'North Head' to 'Worange Point' throughout the plan of management

Section 1.0 Location, Gazettal and Regional Setting

Plan reference: Page 1

Replace Figure 1 with a new map showing updated facilities and park names.

Insert new Figure 1 below.

Plan reference: page 2

Insert after the first paragraph

Beowa National Park was formerly known as Ben Boyd National Park. The park name was changed in 2022. Beowa means 'orca' or 'killer whale' in Thaua language. The name 'Beowa' celebrates the important connection between the park's coastline and the spiritual lives of its first inhabitants, as well as their beliefs and cultural practices associated with the ocean, in particular, orcas. The Thaua people's remarkable affinity with these animals is well recorded in the book 'Killers In Eden' (Clode, 2011).

The decision to rename the park followed requests from Aboriginal communities due to Benjamin Boyd's dubious practice of acquiring native labourers. In the early 19th century Boyd enticed and even took people from the islands of Vanuatu and New Caledonia to work on his pastoral stations in New South Wales and Victoria. This immoral practice was known as 'blackbirding', whereby people were taken from their traditional lands, treated poorly and never offered assistance to return home (Donaldson and Williams 2022).

Section 3.3 Overall strategy

Plan reference: page 6

Replace the 9th point

maintenance of existing recreation facilities, including camping at Saltwater Creek and Bittangabee Bay

With:

maintenance of existing recreation facilities, including campgrounds

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Section 4.4 Aboriginal Heritage

Plan reference: page 15

Remove the last paragraph

The park is named after Benjamin Boyd, who played an important role in the early development of the local area. The northern section surrounding Pambula Beach and the Pambula Lake river mouth had little association with Benjamin Boyd and will be assessed for a possible renaming or dual naming to reflect its past and present association with Aboriginal people.

Plan reference: page 16

Remove the last dot point under Management response

Options for renaming part of Ben Boyd National Park in the Pambula Beach area, to reflect its past and present importance to Aboriginal people, will be investigated.

Section 6.2 Recreation and Tourism Opportunities

Plan reference: page 29

Replace the second sentence in the third paragraph

Pack camping on the Light to Light Walk is restricted to purpose-built walk-in only camping sites at Mowarry Point and Bittangabee Bay

With:

Pack camping when undertaking the Light to Light Walk includes purpose-built walk-in only camping sites at Mowarry Point and Hegartys Bay

Plan reference: page 29

Replace the third sentence in the fourth paragraph

Camping facilities on the walk are available at Bittangabee Bay and Saltwater Creek (which are both accessible by vehicles) and at Mowarry Point.

With:

Pack camping facilities for the Light to Light Walk are located at Mowarry Point and Hegartys Bay. Vehicle accessible camping is available at Saltwater Creek and Bittangabee Bay.

Plan reference: page 30

Replace the second paragraph

In order to improve the walker experience and address environmental impacts associated with unregulated pack camping, purpose-built walk-in only camping sites will be developed at Mowarry Point and Bittangabee Bay. Pack campers on the Light to Light Walk will be required to use these facilities.

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With:

In order to improve the walker experience and address environmental impacts associated with unregulated pack camping, purpose-built walk-in only camping sites may be developed at Mowarry Point and Hegartys Bay. Pack campers booked on the Light to Light Walk will use these facilities.

Plan reference: page 31

Replace the third paragraph under the heading 'Accommodation'

New accommodation facilities will be constructed at Mowarry Point and Hegartys Bay and may be constructed at Green Cape to support Light to Light walkers. Accommodation facilities at Mowarry Point may include walkers' huts and other hard-roofed and/or tented accommodation and a low-key, walk-in public camping area with basic facilities. Accommodation facilities at Hegartys Bay may include walkers' huts and other hard-roofed and/or tented accommodation. If Hegartys Bay proves unviable, walkers' huts and other hard-roofed and/or tented accommodation may be built at Bittangabee Bay, or its surrounds, instead.

With:

New accommodation facilities may be constructed at Mowarry Point and Bittangabee Bay, and there is a future option to remodel the Green Cape Lighthouse complex to improve visitor facilities.

Accommodation facilities at Mowarry Point and Bittangabee Bay may include tent platforms in the first instance and then potentially walkers' huts and other hard-roofed accommodation in the future. These options all include low-key walk-in camping areas with basic facilities.

Plan reference: page 34

Replace the 9th dot point under 'Desired outcomes'

Low key camping facilities will be maintained at Saltwater Creek and Bittangabee Bay. There may be small changes in campground layout and site numbers to assist the management of these areas. Sites will be subject to booking during periods of heavy use. All campers, whether arriving by boat, foot or vehicle, will be subject to the same booking and other requirements.

With:

Camping facilities will be maintained at Saltwater Creek, Hegartys Bay, Mowarry Point and Bittangabee Bay.

Plan reference: page 34

Replace the 16th dot point under 'Desired outcomes'

on the Light to Light Walk, pack camping will be restricted to purpose-built walk-in only camping sites at Mowarry Point and Bittangabee Bay

With:

Pack campers participating in the Light to Light Walk will use purpose-built walk-in only camping sites at Mowarry Point and Hegartys Bay

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Plan reference: page 36

Replace the 14th dot point under 'Management response'

Design and develop purpose-built walk-in only camping sites at Mowarry Point and Bittangabee Bay subject to environmental impact assessment.

With:

Design and develop purpose-built walk-in only camping sites at Mowarry Point and Hegartys Bay subject to environmental impact assessment. A management walking track from the end of the Hegartys management trail to Hegartys Bay will be maintained to allow management and maintenance.

Plan reference: page 36

Replace the 16th dot point under 'Management response'

Design and develop hard-roofed and/or tented accommodation and associated facilities, consistent with the Light to Light Walk Strategy, at Mowarry Point, Hegartys Bay (or Bittangabee Bay and surrounds) and, if required, at Green Cape.

With:

Hard-roofed accommodation and associated facilities, may be developed at Mowarry Point and Bittangabee Bay and, if required, at Green Cape.

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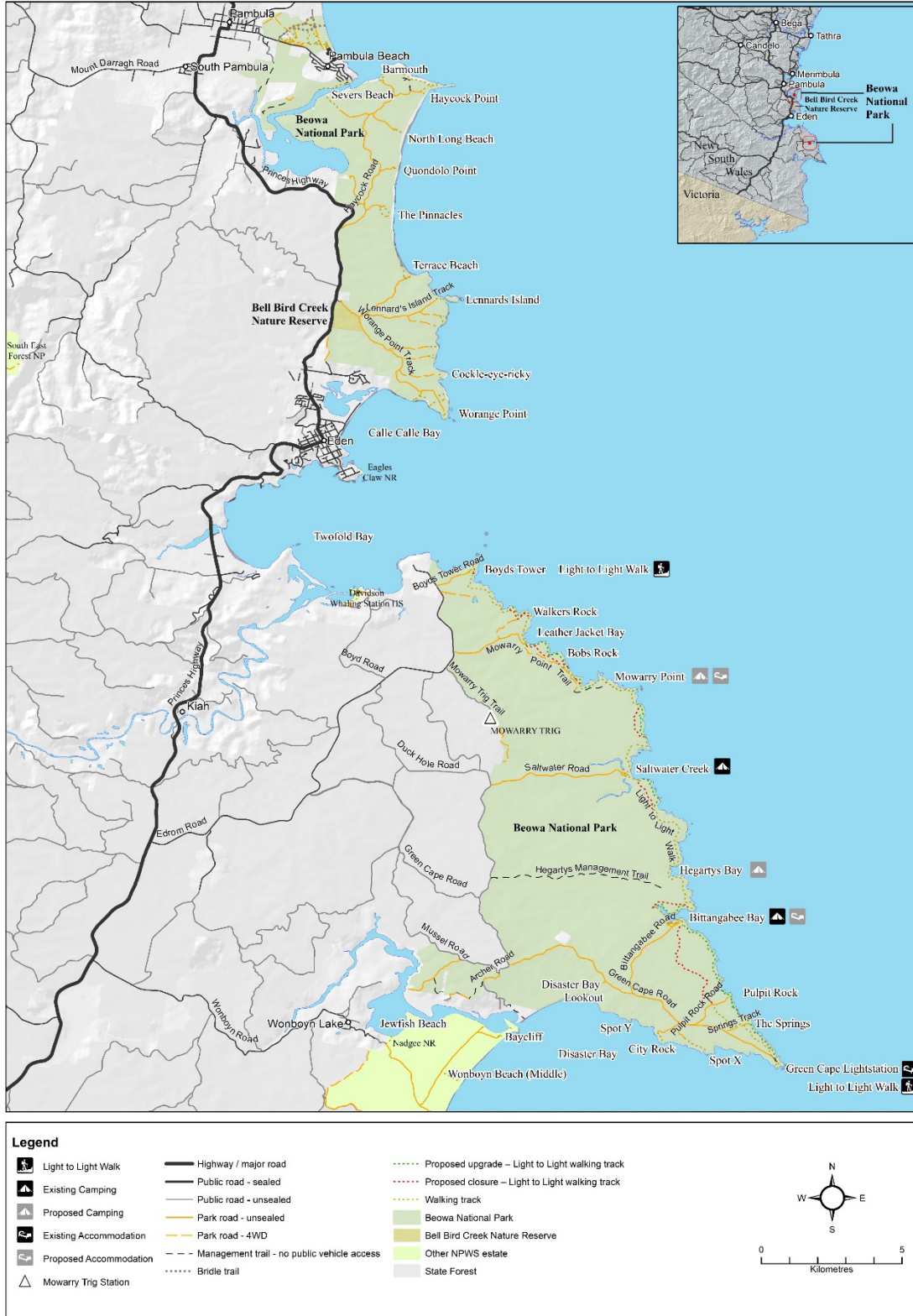


Figure 1 Map of Ben Boyd National Park and Bell Bird Creek Nature Reserve
(note – a larger resolution map is available on the website)

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More information

- [Ben Boyd National Park and Bell Bird Creek Nature Reserve draft amendment to the plan of management](#)
- [Privacy and security](#)

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