



NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Gardens of Stone National Park

Amendment to the plan of management: Establishing a Wollemi great walk



Acknowledgement of Country

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

This resource may contain images or names of deceased persons in photographs or historical content.

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Acknowledgement of Country | ii |
| Summary | 1 |
| Background | 2 |
| Establishing a Wollemi great walk | 2 |
| Amendments | 4 |
| Amendment: Establishing a Wollemi great walk | 4 |

List of figures

Figure 1 Map of indicative route of proposed new walking track

3

Gardens of Stone National Park: Amendment to the plan of management: Establishing a Wollemi great walk

Summary

Gardens of Stone National Park is reserved to achieve the objectives of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act). These objectives are centred on conserving nature and cultural heritage values, and fostering public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of these special values.

The *Gardens of Stone National Park plan of management* (NPWS 2009) 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 NPW Act enables the Minister to amend a plan of management following public consultation.

This amendment to the *Gardens of Stone National Park plan of management* facilitates establishment of a Wollemi great walk and a change to the maximum size of groups allowed on the walk. An increase in group size limits from 12 to 20 is necessary to achieve consistency with the limits that already apply within Wollemi National Park.

The following were considered in preparing this amendment:

- the management principles for national parks listed under section 30E of the NPW Act
- the matters listed under section 72AA of the NPW Act
- advice of the Blue Mountains Regional Advisory Committee
- submissions received on the draft amendment to the plan of management.

The amendment replaces 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 in the amendment.

Where a change is made to an action in the body of the plan of management, corresponding changes will also be made to Section 5.1 'Priorities for implementation of actions specified in the plan' as necessary.

Gardens of Stone National Park: Amendment to the plan of management: Establishing a Wollemi great walk

Background

Establishing a Wollemi great walk

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service defines its Great Walks as multi-day walking experiences of 2 or more days, predominantly located within national parks and featuring on- or off-park overnight accommodation options en route.

National Parks and Wildlife Service has proposed the development of a Wollemi great walk. This multi-day walk starts in Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area (SCA), extends north through Gardens of Stone National Park, and finishes in Wollemi National Park. While the upgrade of existing tracks is permissible under the current plan of management, a new section of walking track is proposed to be constructed through Gardens of Stone National Park, which will link Gardens of Stone SCA with the Glow Worm Tunnel precinct in Wollemi National Park (see Figure 1).

Details and siting of the new trail would be subject to heritage, environmental and sustainability assessments, and detailed route planning.

The amendment also changes group size limits to align with those currently applied in the adjacent Wollemi National Park.

**Gardens of Stone National Park: Amendment to the plan of management:
Establishing a Wollemi great walk**



Figure 1 Map of indicative route of proposed new walking track

Amendments

Amendment: Establishing a Wollemi great walk

Section 4.3.1 Park promotion and recreation management

Plan reference: page 19

Remove the final sentence in the second paragraph

However, no substantial increase is expected in the near future.

Plan reference: page 20

Replace the eighth point under the heading 'Policies'

Approval of the Regional Manager will be required for the following activities:

- competitive activities; and
- activities involving groups of twelve (12) or more people.

With:

Consent will be required for competitive activities and activities involving groups of 20 or more people. Off-trail bushwalking involving groups of 12 or more people will also require consent.

Section 4.3.3 Walking tracks and Bushwalking

Plan reference: page 22

Replace the first paragraph

Bushwalking in the park is undertaken along roads, management trails, closed roads and cross-country. No formal constructed walking tracks currently exist or are considered necessary or appropriate in the park.

With:

Bushwalking in the park is undertaken along roads, management trails, closed roads, and cross-country. A new walking track may be constructed in the Carne Creek catchment of Gardens of Stone National Park to link Lost City in Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area with the Glow Worm Tunnel precinct in Wollemi National Park.

Plan reference: page 22

Replace the third point under the heading 'Policies'

Maximum group size for bushwalking will be twelve (12) persons.

With:

Maximum group size for bushwalking will be twelve (12) persons, except on roads, management trails and constructed tracks, where a maximum of twenty (20) persons will be permitted.

Gardens of Stone National Park: Amendment to the plan of management: Establishing a Wollemi great walk

© 2024 State of NSW and Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

With the exception of photographs, the State of NSW and Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the department) are pleased to allow this material to be reproduced in whole or in part for educational and non-commercial use, provided the meaning is unchanged and its source, publisher and authorship are acknowledged. Specific permission is required to reproduce photographs.

Learn more about our copyright and disclaimer at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/copyright

Artist and designer Nikita Ridgeway from Aboriginal design agency – Boss Lady Creative Designs, created the People and Community symbol.

Cover photo: Gardens of Stone National Park. Rosie Nicolai/DCCEEW

Published by:

Environment and Heritage
Department of Climate Change,
Energy, the Environment and Water
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124
Phone: +61 2 9995 5000 (switchboard)
Phone: 1300 361 967 (Environment and Heritage enquiries)
TTY users: phone 133 677, then ask for 1300 361 967
Speak and listen users: phone 1300 555 727, then ask for 1300 361 967
Email: info@environment.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au

ISBN 978-1-923200-20-3

EH 2024/0119

April 2024



Find out more about your environment at:

environment.nsw.gov.au