



NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

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This resource may contain images or names of deceased persons in photographs or historical content.

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Summary

Wollemi 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 *Wollemi National Park plan of management* (NPWS 2001) 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 *Wollemi National Park plan of management* facilitates:

- establishment of a Wollemi great walk
- establishment of short walks and lookouts in the former Newnes State Forest, which was added to Wollemi National Park in May 2022
- upgrade of the walking track along the section of the former railway line between Newnes Campground and the Old Coach Road/Wolgan Valley end of the Glow Worm Tunnel to a shared walking/cycling track
- prohibition of cycling in the Glow Worm Tunnel trail to minimise the potential for conflict with walkers
- inclusion of Coorongooba campground in the plan.

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 received from the Blue Mountains Regional Advisory Committee
- submissions received in 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 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 5 'Plan Implementation' as necessary.

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Background

Establishing a Wollemi great walk and additional short walks and lookouts

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.

The 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 (see Figure 1).

The upgrade of existing tracks is permissible under the current plan of management. This amendment facilitates establishment of a new section of track. The proposed new walking track would be constructed from Gardens of Stone SCA through Gardens of Stone National Park to connect with the Glow Worm Tunnel track in Wollemi National Park.

As part of a Wollemi great walk proposal, a remote bushwalker camping area may also be developed adjacent to the new walking track within Wollemi National Park. Details and siting of the new track and remote camping area would be subject to rigorous cultural, heritage, environmental and sustainability assessments.

No new facilities or walking tracks are proposed to be developed in the Wollemi Wilderness Area.

This amendment also enables the upgrade of the walking track along the section of the former railway line between Newnes Campground and the Old Coach Road to a shared walking and cycling track. This section of track will also be included in the route of the Wollemi great walk.

Cycling will no longer be allowed in the Glow Worm Tunnel trail. The narrow width and constrained nature of the Glow Worm Tunnel trail combined with significantly increasing visitation by walkers makes the trail unsuitable as a shared-use pathway. Cyclists can continue to use the Old Coach Road to access the Wolgan Valley from Newnes Plateau.

As part of the transfer of the former Newnes State Forest to Wollemi National Park, some short new walking tracks and lookouts are proposed in this new addition to the park.

This amendment also ensures that references to Coorongooaba campground, also referred to as Glen Davis campground, are incorporated into the plan.

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Figure 1 Map of indicative route of proposed new walking track

Amendments

Amendment: Establishing a Wollemi great walk and additional walks and lookouts in the former Newnes State Forest

Section 4.3.3 Walking tracks and bushwalking

Plan reference: page 43

Remove: the fourth paragraph

It is not proposed to construct walking tracks in any areas other than from established picnicking and camping areas within the park. This policy is consistent with the objective of minimising intrusions on the natural values of the park (see also Section 4.1.6 – Wilderness).

Plan reference: page 44

Add: under ‘actions’, under the second dot point add the following dot points:

- A link from Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area and Gardens of Stone National Park with the Glow Worm Tunnel precinct in Wollemi National Park
- in the former Newnes State Forest, which was added to Wollemi National Park in May 2022.

Section 4.3.4 Picnicking, camping and boating

Plan reference: page 45

Replace: The first dot point under ‘Policy’

Picnicking and camping facilities will continue to be provided in the Colo Meroo, Wheeney Creek, Newnes and Dunns Swamp areas.

With:

Picnicking and camping facilities will continue to be provided in the Colo Meroo, Wheeney Creek, Newnes, Coorongooba and Dunns Swamp areas.

Plan reference: page 46

Add: a new dot point under ‘Actions’

- As part of a Wollemi great walk proposal, a remote bushwalker camping area may also be developed adjacent to the track in Wollemi National Park.

Plan reference: page 46

Add: a new dot point under ‘Actions’

- **Coorongooba;** facilities will be provided for car-based camping, picnicking and short walks. Facilities such as toilets, fireplaces and tables may be provided.

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Section 4.3.7 Cycling

Plan reference: page 51

Replace The first dot point under 'Policy'

Cycling will only be permitted on designated vehicle access roads, those management trails not within the Wollemi Wilderness Area, and The Old Coach Road and the Glow Worm Tunnel walking tracks. Bicycles must be walked on the Glow Worm Tunnel trail between the carpark and a point 100 metres north of the tunnel.

With:

Cycling will only be permitted on public access roads, those management trails not within the Wollemi Wilderness Area, The Old Coach Road, and a shared walking/cycling track along the section of former railway line between Newnes Campground and the Old Coach Road.

Plan reference: page 51

Add: an additional dot point under 'Actions'

- The Service may upgrade the current walking track along the section of former railway line between Newnes Campground and the Old Coach Road to a shared walking/cycling track. All works would be subject to environmental impact assessment.

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

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