



NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

# **Dorrigo National Park, Bindarri National Park and Bindarri State Conservation Area**

**Plan of management**



# Acknowledgement of Gumbaynggirr Country

The parks are within the lands of the Gumbaynggirr Aboriginal people. The following statement is provided by the Gumbaynggirr people as an acknowledgement of Country.

Ngiyalagay junga-ngarraynggi yaam: Dandarra yuwaraygam, Bindarra yuwaraygam, Bindarra yuwaraygam-wunba, yaanga-ndi jalaarla mangga-bayilaygamba baguurli, Gumbaynggirr-Girwaa-gundiya jagunda jalumgala, ngayinggi.

Gumbaynggirr-Girwaadu, manggarla daalbirrurr-ambang, yidaa gungangulam juluum-, guunyu-, ganganan-, bindarraygundi marlanyay. Yaam wajaarr malaaw yidaa, yilaana yidaa Girwaanbigundi marlanyay.

Gumbaynggirr-girwaa yaam wajaada ngindaygunay gani-yay, muyalu jagiiyu, guunu-warluuny-ju, Yuludarlanyarr. Julu wumaaga yaanga jaagi; jaany jibaanga, baarlu, buyuum jaagi-wunba.

Yaam mangga-bayilaygambu junga-ngarraynggi yaam: Girwaanbi yaam wajaada ganiyay, yilaana yaambiin yuwaraygam yidaa yirraaygam-wunba-garri Girwaanbigu.

NPWS-u junga-ngarraynggi yaam: Gumbaynggirr girwaa yaam jagunda gungangulam-ay, yilaana ngiyalagay yanggidam juungawaygam, bayaygam garla-ngarraynggi.

## Translation

We acknowledge that Dorrigo National Park, Bindarra National Park and Bindarra State Conservation Area are within the ancient homeland of the Gumbaynggirr people.

Gumbaynggirr people are the first protectors and continual custodians of these mountains, valleys, plains and rivers, and this land always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

Gumbaynggirr people have a deep spiritual and cultural connection to this Country since the Dreaming. Many features, including waterholes, caves and mountain tops are places of special significance.

Connections to Country and the significance of these parks to Aboriginal peoples — past, present and future — are acknowledged in this plan.

National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) acknowledges and respects the rights and aspirations of Gumbaynggirr people as custodians of their Country.

Gumbaynggirr translation by Muurrbay Aboriginal Language and Culture Co-operative

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# Dorrigo National Park, Bindarri National Park and Bindarri State Conservation Area Plan of Management

## Summary

This plan of management was adopted by the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, on 16 June 2024.

This plan of management applies to Dorrigo National Park, Bindarri National Park, Bindarri State Conservation Area as well as any future additions and Part 11 lands which are pending incorporation into these parks (see Figure 1).

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* requires the preparation of plans of management for parks in accordance with the processes set out in the National Parks and Wildlife Act. This plan of management outlines objectives and actions to achieve the objects of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, consistent with the management principles under the Act for national parks and state conservation areas.

In preparing this plan, the following were considered:

- the National Parks and Wildlife Act, in particular:
  - the objects of the Act (see Appendix A)
  - the management principles for national parks and state conservation areas in the Act (see Appendix B)
  - all matters under section 72AA(1) of the Act, which lists the matters that are to be considered during the preparation of each plan of management
- submissions received on the draft Dorrigo National Park, Bindarri National Park and Bindarri State Conservation Area management plan, which was placed on public exhibition from 13 October 2023 to 15 January 2024
- advice received from the North Coast Regional Advisory Committee and the National Parks and Wildlife Council
- the Australian World Heritage management principles as listed in Schedules 5 of the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000 (see Appendix C)
- the National Heritage management principles as listed in Schedule 5B of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations (see Appendix D).

Section 72AA(4) of the National Parks and Wildlife Act requires each plan of management to include a scheme of operations. These operations, detailed in Section 6, and the authorised activities listed in Section 5 (Table 2) are the means by which the plan's objectives will be achieved. All operations undertaken in these parks must be in accordance with this plan of management.

This plan of management provides a strategic focus for management and identifies high-priority actions that will be necessary to achieve the plan's objectives. In a dynamic environment that contains uncertainties, natural variability, new technologies and information, a strategic and flexible management approach is required. Subsidiary plans may be developed, consistent with this plan, to guide actions at an operational level.

# Dorrigo National Park, Bindarri National Park and Bindarri State Conservation Area Plan of Management

## 1. Introduction

Dorrigo National Park, Bindarri National Park and Bindarri State Conservation Area are in the traditional Country of the Gumbaynggirr people. Located in the Mid North Coast region of New South Wales (NSW), the parks have a combined area of over 17,500 ha (see Figure 1). The name Dorrigo is believed to have derived from Dun Durriga, the Gumbaynggirr word for the tallowwood trees (*Eucalyptus microcorys*) that grow in the area. The naming of the Bindarri parks is derived from the Gumbaynggirr word Bindarray, meaning river.

These parks protect values that are of World Heritage and National Heritage significance. Parts of Dorrigo National Park (see Figure 1) are included in the series of reserves that comprise the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage property (Gondwana Rainforests). First inscribed in 1986 and extended in 1994, the Gondwana Rainforests were added to Australia's National Heritage List in 2007. The remaining parts of Dorrigo National Park together with Bindarri National Park and Bindarri State Conservation Area are part of proposed extensions to the existing World Heritage property and are on Australia's World Heritage Tentative List.

These parks are valued for their rich biodiversity, cultural significance, diversity of landscapes, protected water catchments, scenic values and nature-based recreation and tourism opportunities. The diversity of landscapes ranges from high, cool, windswept and often mist-shrouded plateaus, to warm, sheltered, low-altitude river valleys with highly significant gorge systems and spectacular waterfalls.

There has been a long history of interest that culminated in the protection of Dorrigo Mountain and continues to support the protection of these parks. The first written account followed an inspection of the area by the NSW Government botanist Mr JH Maiden in 1893, who reported on the variety, size and quality of plant species.

Part of Dorrigo Mountain was first protected in 1901, becoming known as Dorrigo Mountain Reserve. The reserve was managed by passionate community leaders and neighbours as part of a trust. In 1976, after 6 decades of dedicated volunteer services by the trust, management was transferred to NPWS. In response to rising community concern for rainforest protection in the 1970s, the park doubled in size with the protection of parts of Killungoondie, Brooklana and Never Never state forests. Further additions to the park were made in 1999, including part of Never Never State Forest and the remaining sections of Brooklana and Killungoondie state forests (including Mount Moombil).

Bindarri National Park was reserved in 1999 and was previously part of the Orara West, Never Never and Tuckers Nob state forests. The park adjoins Dorrigo National Park on its south-western boundary.

Bindarri State Conservation Area comprises 2 separate areas that adjoin Bindarri National Park to the north and south-west (see Figure 1). It was reserved in 2003 and was formerly part of Orara West State Forest. It has been subject to several mining exploration licences.

The surrounding areas of the Dorrigo Plateau, East Dorrigo Plateau, Bellinger Valley and Upper Orara Valley have been developed for cattle grazing, light agricultural activities, forestry, banana and blueberry farming and rural settlement. The main coastal population centres of Coffs Harbour and Nambucca Heads are within one hour's drive from these parks (see Figure 1). NPWS estimates annual visitation to these parks is currently over 150,000 people per year, with the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre and adjacent Skywalk lookout being the most popular attractions in these parks.

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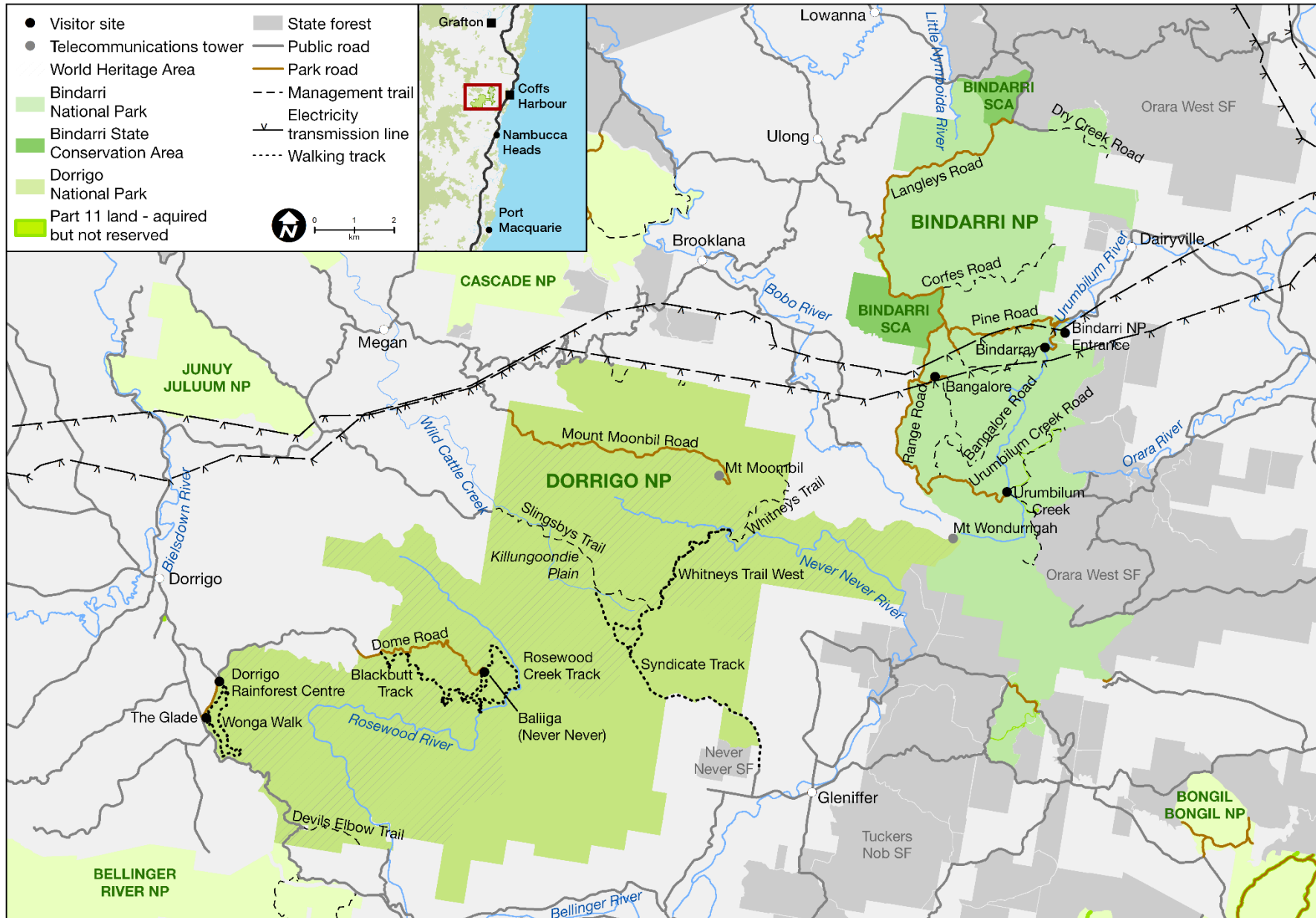


Figure 1 Park location

## 2. Significance of Dorrigo National Park, Bindarri National Park and Bindarri State Conservation Area

Gumbaynggirr cultural landscape. Gumbaynggirr Country has special significance to Aboriginal people, who have an ongoing connection to Country. The Aboriginal cultural and heritage values of these parks are significant. Despite only limited archaeological surveys having been completed, there is evidence of people from the Gumbaynggirr Nation living in the area for thousands of years, using the subtropical rainforest as a valuable resource supplement to the rich plateau and coastal ecosystems.

It is likely that groups camped on the grassland plains on the fringe of the rainforest at certain times of year to access abundant foods, medicines and resources. Land management practices such as burning the rainforest margins to maintain the grasslands and stimulate new growth, attracting increased numbers of grazing pademelons and wallabies, were likely implemented by Gumbaynggirr people.

There are many sites of spiritual significance in the broader landscape, including in these parks. For example, McGraths Hump in Dorrigo National Park, known as Old Man Dreaming, features in the Dreamtime story of a young boy who was left sleeping and is now an old man. His tears of sadness being the waterfalls in the area.

**A major part of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage property.** A large portion of Dorrigo National Park is part of the serial listing that comprises the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage property, inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in recognition of the park's outstanding universal value (Appendix E). This area is also on Australia's National Heritage List and the NSW State Heritage Register.

**A large part of an asset of intergenerational significance (AIS) declared for koala conservation.** Bindarri National Park and Bindarri State Conservation Area contain some of the most important areas in the state for conservation of the endangered koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*).

**Diverse vegetation, habitats and species.** Located in the subtropical region described as the Macleay–McPherson Overlap (where both temperate and tropical influences are present), the parks' vegetation, habitats and species are particularly diverse and include:

- 14 vegetation communities, including 5 threatened ecological communities (TECs) listed under the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* some of which are also listed as TECs under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- the Killungoondie Plain, an important example of the Dorrigo Plateau's grassy plains, which provides evidence of land management practices conducted over thousands of years and provides regionally significant habitat for ground orchids
- refugia for dry, cool temperate, warm temperate and subtropical rainforest communities including highly significant gorge systems
- over 275 vertebrate animal species and an unknown number of invertebrate species, of which 50 are listed as threatened, including the southern greater glider (*Petauroides volans*), spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*), threatened frogs such as the stuttering frog (*Mixophyes balbus*), giant barred frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*) and Booroolong frog (*Litoria booroolongensis*), and the southern pink underwing moth



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(*Phyllodes imperialis* southern subspecies) — see Appendix F for a full list of threatened animals and migratory birds recorded in the parks

- over 585 plant species, 15 of which are listed as threatened, including the scrub turpentine (*Rhodamnia rubescens*), woodland babingtonia (*Kardomia silvestris*), Dorrigo daisy bush (*Olearia flocktoniae*), slender marsdenia (*Marsdenia longiloba*) and milky silkpod (*Parsonsia dorrigoensis*) — see Appendix G for a full list of threatened plants recorded in the parks.

**Geological significance.** The geological structures and rock types of these parks demonstrate the tectonic evolution of the Australian continent with the uplift of the Great Dividing Range and the development of the Great Escarpment, interacting with the ongoing erosion of the remnants of the Ebor Volcano.

**An integral component of a larger protected area landscape.** The parks are part of a broader conservation corridor protecting sections of the New England Tableland and the Great Escarpment (which traverses much of eastern Australia). These parks link vegetation corridors from the plateau to the coast, extending from Dorrigo National Park through the mountain ranges to Bindarri National Park, to the coastal habitats of nearby Bongil Bongil National Park. Future additions to the protected area network through establishment of the Great Koala National Park could also support landscape connectivity.

**Protected waters.** The headwaters of the Orara River, Rosewood River, Never Never River, Urumbilum River and parts of the catchment of the Nymboida River are protected in these parks. These waters provide relatively undisturbed habitat for a range of animals including several threatened frog species and platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*). The parks are within the Bellinger and Clarence River catchments, parts of the Bellinger Shire Council water supply and Coffs-Clarence Regional Water Scheme. These waters have cultural, environmental, economic and social significance.

**Historic heritage.** These parks contain evidence of past forestry use, including snig tracks, old machinery, bridges, and the remains of a tramway used to extract logs on Syndicate Ridge.

**A visitor destination focused on the Gondwana Rainforests.** The Dorrigo Rainforest Centre attracts over 150,000 visits each year and is one of the main places for people to experience the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage property. The Dorrigo Rainforest Centre, Skywalk lookout and walking tracks play a key role in the protection of the Gondwana Rainforests by promoting their World Heritage significance and providing opportunities for learning. These attractions also support tourism, which is a critical component of the region's economy.

**Recreation.** Spectacular scenery, waterfalls and rainforest communities within the parks provide opportunities for nature-based recreation, including sightseeing, guided tours, educational activities and walking. The parks also enable visitors to enjoy the physical and mental health benefits obtained through emersion in nature.

**Outstanding scenic qualities.** The parks protect a largely unmodified landscape, including the scenic backdrop for the headwaters of the Bellinger Valley, striking vertical cliffs, lush vegetation and precipitous waterfalls.

### **3. Planning context**

Dorrigo National Park, Bindarri National Park and Bindarri State Conservation Area are reserved under the National Parks and Wildlife Act and are managed in accordance with the objects of the Act and management principles for these reservation types (see Appendix B). The objects of the Act include conserving the natural and cultural values of the park, while also fostering public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of these values (see Appendix A).

The custodial role of Aboriginal people and the importance of incorporating local Aboriginal knowledge into the parks' ongoing management is recognised and respected. Aboriginal communities will continue to play a lead role in the management of Country and in the promotion and presentation of Aboriginal culture and history.

World Heritage properties and National Heritage places in Australia are 'matters of national environmental significance' protected under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. These parks will be managed to identify, protect, conserve, present and transmit World Heritage values to future generations, consistent with World Heritage and National Heritage principles (see Appendices C and D). World Heritage values and attributes are managed whether they are located inside or outside the boundary of the World Heritage property within these parks.

A conservation action plan for the koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), made under the National Parks and Wildlife Regulations, applies to the area listed as an asset of intergenerational significance (AIS) in Bindarri National Park and Bindarri State Conservation Area. The conservation action plan outlines the conservation activities required to control, abate or mitigate the key risks to koalas in the AIS. Conservation action plans are required by law to be implemented. The conservation action plan for koalas contains, for example, specific requirements in relation to fire management and feral animal control to promote koala conservation and requirements for monitoring of koala populations.

At the time of this plan's preparation, assessments were underway to identify land for inclusion in a proposed Great Koala National Park. It is proposed that a Great Koala National Park include areas of state forest (currently being assessed) and existing areas declared under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, including the parks covered by this management plan.

As an important visitor destination for experiencing the Gondwana Rainforests, Dorrig National Park is the centrepiece for these 3 parks. The current visitor facilities are unlikely to meet future demand or provide a visitor experience commensurate with the park's national and international profile. This plan outlines proposals to maintain and improve opportunities for visitors.

The development of a new rainforest centre, elevated walkway and multi-day walking opportunities have been proposed as a way to enhance visitor experiences in this unique landscape. These concepts are outlined in this plan. This plan also proposes other suitable recreational activities in these parks, including canyoning opportunities in some gorges with appropriate group sizing.

Bindarri State Conservation Area is reserved to protect natural and cultural heritage, while also providing scope for the authorisation of mining and exploration activities. The state conservation area does not contain visitor facilities, and the development of facilities in this park is not proposed. Facilities are available in the adjacent Bindarri National Park.

This plan includes objectives and actions to protect this outstanding landscape, including the continuation of the existing prohibition on any new broadcasting or telecommunication facilities within these national parks.

## 4. Management themes

### 4.1 Supporting healthy Country

Dorrigo National Park, Bindarri National Park and Bindarri State Conservation Area and the surrounding lands are within the traditional Country of the Gumbaynggirr Aboriginal peoples. The parks' lands, waters, animals, plants and landscapes have traditional and contemporary significance for local Aboriginal communities. NPWS acknowledges these parks as a cultural landscape and works to protect natural and cultural values, strengthen Gumbaynggirr partnerships, recognise and support connection to Country, and support a cultural visitor experience.

Cultural heritage values are managed consistent with the National Parks and Wildlife Act, other heritage legislation and in partnership with Gumbaynggirr people to ensure that these values are managed in a culturally appropriate way.

Maintaining a strong connection to Country also includes opportunities to care for Country. NPWS recognises incorporating Gumbaynggirr perspectives into the management of Country is essential, including through greater participation of Gumbaynggirr people in planning and management operations for these parks.

Gumbaynggirr-led cultural tourism will help enhance visitors' perspective of these parks as a cultural landscape. NPWS will continue to work with Gumbaynggirr people to support sharing of culture, where appropriate. This includes incorporating Aboriginal language, art and perspectives in the interpretation, signage and naming of places. For example, Never Never picnic area in Dorrigo National Park is proposed to be renamed Baliiga, the Gumbaynggirr word for the rosewood tree. The remote camping area at Wild Cattle Creek is proposed to be named Waygarrgala, the Gumbaynggirr word for 'at the Antarctic beech'.

### 4.2 Protecting the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage property

World heritage areas represent the very best examples of the World's cultural and natural heritage. The Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage property was first inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1986 and is one of 20 World Heritage areas in Australia. The Gondwana Rainforests of Australia encompasses approximately 40 separate reserves between Newcastle and Brisbane and includes most of Dorrigo National Park (see Figure 1).

The Gondwana Rainforests of Australia protect and represent outstanding examples of major stages of earth's evolutionary history, ongoing geological and biological processes, and exceptional biological diversity. It includes extensive areas of critical habitat and provides a refuge for a wide range of plant and animal lineages and communities, including many threatened species. Many of these communities and species have ancient origins in Gondwana, and many are restricted to the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia.

Dorrigo National Park contributes to 3 criteria that led to the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia receiving World Heritage status and being placed on the Australian National Heritage list in recognition of its outstanding universal value (see Appendix E):

- Criterion (viii) to be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant ongoing geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features.

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- Criterion (ix) to be outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals.
- Criterion (x) to contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

Dorrigo National Park is located on the eastern edge of the Dorrigo Plateau, formed through successive lava flows from the Ebor Volcano. The park preserves evidence of these lava flows and the erosion process, which resulted in the westerly retreat of the plateau and the formation of the dramatic escarpment.

Bindarri National Park, Bindarri State Conservation Area and the remaining area of Dorrigo National Park are part of proposed extensions to the Gondwana Rainforests property and are on Australia's World Heritage Tentative List. These listings recognise the global, national and state significance of these parks.

A significant portion of the Dorrigo Plateau was cleared for dairy farms in the late 19th century. Consequently, the uncleared areas protected within Dorrigo National Park are thought to have provided a refuge for many species, including rich populations of regional birds and a diverse range of habitats and ecological communities that were once widespread across the plateau. Some areas of past logging have been included within the parks and continue to recover from these activities.

Dorrigo National Park protects excellent examples of cool temperate rainforest that support stands of Antarctic beech (*Nothofagus moorei*), warm temperate rainforest, subtropical rainforest and dry rainforest communities, as well as a diverse range of wet and dry eucalypt communities. The rainforest communities in the park are relatively widespread and in good condition, making them particularly effective areas for biodiversity conservation.

The long-term protection of these World Heritage values requires visitors and the broader community to understand their fragility and significance, and to support their ongoing management.

Facilities are provided so that visitors to Dorrigo National Park can enjoy the park and gain an appreciation and an understanding of the park's World Heritage values. A network of walking tracks and lookouts in the park lets visitors be immersed within beautiful rainforest communities and enjoy spectacular views of waterfalls, the escarpment and the surrounding volcanic landscape. Through these experiences, visitors can learn about the formation of the Australian landscape, the ongoing ecological processes that support life and the significant biodiversity that remains intact within the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia.

The proposed redevelopment of the existing Dorrigo Rainforest Centre and Skywalk lookout, and the establishment of the multi-day Great Escarpment Walk have been proposed to further enhance the role that Dorrigo National Park will play in the promotion and protection of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia.

Conserving the World Heritage values of Dorrigo National Park is a primary objective for management. The World Heritage values within the park receive the very highest levels of protection by virtue of the park's reservation as a national park under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. The World Heritage values are conserved through fire, weed and feral animal management programs conducted within the park, in adjacent parks and across the broader landscape.

Any activities that could disturb or impact World Heritage values, including the construction of visitor facilities, walking tracks and huts, will be carefully planned in consultation with local First Nations and community organisations. Risks will be assessed to ensure that any potential impacts are understood and either mitigated or avoided.



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Detailed information about the park's biodiversity, including the location of rainforest communities, threatened species and threatened ecological communities, is maintained by the NSW Government and continues to be refined in response to new information and knowledge about the park and the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia.

The Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations identify the management principles for Australian World Heritage and National Heritage properties (see Appendices C and D, respectively).

The primary purpose of management of natural heritage and cultural heritage of a declared World Heritage property must be, in accordance with Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention, to identify, protect, conserve, present, transmit to future generations and, if appropriate, rehabilitate the World Heritage values of the property.

The objective in managing National Heritage places is to identify, protect, conserve, present and transmit, to all generations, their National Heritage values.

A strategic plan for the NSW section of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia is currently under development. This plan will outline how the Australian and NSW governments will continue to protect the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia consistent with Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention and in accordance with the provisions of the Australian Government's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

This plan of management will complement the strategic plan once prepared, by describing management objectives and actions for the protection of World Heritage and National Heritage values in the parks.

### **4.3 Conserving a unique and biodiverse landscape in a changing climate**

The significant ecological values of these parks include a rich biodiversity, among other World Heritage and National Heritage values, and protected water catchments. These ancient Gondwanan Rainforests have been refuges that have persisted during past climate fluctuations. Managing key threats is important in conserving the unique and biodiverse landscapes in the parks.

Climate change is emerging as one of the greatest challenges for the protection of the Gondwana Rainforests. Climate change will likely result in:

- increased average temperatures in all seasons
- more hot days and warm spells, with a substantial increase in the temperature reached on hot days
- more frequent and intense storms
- changes to the cloud base, mist availability, humidity or rainfall
- changes to fire regimes
- more invasive species and pathogens.

Even small climatic changes are predicted to change the distribution patterns of many endemic species and vegetation communities. High-altitude species and vegetation communities with limited thermal and moisture tolerances will be particularly susceptible.

Reducing the impacts of climate change is a key focus for park management at a state and national level. This includes adaptation planning, research and building resilience of the Gondwana Rainforests by addressing other threats (such as inappropriate fire regimes and invasion by feral animals and weeds) and trying to increase habitat connectivity across the landscape.

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Connectivity can be enhanced by extending conservation programs beyond park boundaries and through additions to the protected area estate, such as the proposed Great Koala National Park.

Climate change is also predicted to exacerbate other threatening processes, such as invasive species and pathogens, and the encroachment of fire into fire-sensitive communities. Important actions that improve the parks' resilience to climate change include managing fire, feral animals, weeds and pathogens, supporting the health of catchments and waterways and, where necessary, landscape rehabilitation.

Fire is a natural phenomenon in the Australian environment, and many native plant and animal communities have evolved in the presence of fire. Rainforest communities in the parks, unlike the eucalypt communities, are particularly sensitive to fire. Because of the distribution of rainforest communities within the high rainfall belt of the east coast of Australia, rainforest is normally not susceptible to wildfire.

Rainforest microclimates add further protection because a high level of humidity is maintained within the forest itself and fire will only occasionally burn through rainforest during exceptional periods of low rainfall. While the 2019–20 fires did not impact these parks, the fires did impact other areas of the Gondwana Rainforests. This highlighted the vulnerability of Gondwana Rainforests to the increasing and prolonged dry conditions that are likely to be experienced under a changing climate.

In close association with the rainforest, and occupying a considerable area of the parks, are the eucalypt communities. The most significant impacts of fire on rainforest occurs when fire burns through the adjacent fire-tolerant eucalypt forests and encroaches on the rainforest margins. Over time this may change the distribution of both rainforest and the adjacent plant communities. More frequent and intense wildfires and prolonged dry conditions driven by climate change is likely to increase this risk.

Interactions between climate change and fire regimes are complex. Work to identify and implement appropriate fire regimes for biodiversity management is ongoing. Challenges include developing and implementing site-specific fire regimes, given the rugged terrain, and managing fuel levels while also providing optimal fire regimes to maintain key values.

NPWS adopts a strategic and adaptive management approach to managing fires in parks, including research and monitoring, fire risk management planning, hazard reduction, rapid response and community alerts. This adaptive management approach is detailed in NPWS fire management strategies for the parks.

Feral animals, weeds and pathogens are a threat to the biodiversity in the parks. They can also cause financial losses to agriculture and other industries and damage areas of cultural significance.

Feral animals currently found within the park include the red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), feral cat (*Felis catus*), black rat (*Rattus rattus*), common house mouse (*Mus musculus*), wild dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*) and goat (*Capra hircus*). All these animals have an impact on the parks either by displacement or competition with native animals, by predation and the grazing of plants or directly through soil disturbance.

A variety of weeds have been recorded in the parks, including lantana (*Lantana camara*), mist flower (*Ageratina riparia*), large-leafed privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*), small-leafed privet (*Ligustrum sinensis*), madeira vine (*Anredera cordifolia*), groundsel bush (*Baccharis halimifolia*), camphor laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*), crofton weed (*Ageratina adenophora*) and montbretia (*Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora*).

Bell minor associated dieback and the spread of lantana is impacting on vegetation in the region and especially in these parks. Pest plants can change ecological communities' structure and floristic composition, and alter soil chemistry, mycorrhizae and fire regimes.

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Pathogens are affecting susceptible plants and animals and altering habitat. *Phytophthora cinnamomi* is a soil pathogen that infects a range of plant species and can threaten floristic diversity.

The amphibian disease chytridiomycosis is likely to threaten populations of significant frog species found in these parks, however, further research and monitoring are required to determine the prevalence of this disease.

NPWS manages feral animals and weeds within the state's park system to protect native animals and plants, maintain natural ecosystems and cultural heritage, and minimise the spread of feral animals and weeds to and from neighbouring land.

Conservation action plans, which apply to declared Assets of Intergenerational Significance, are required by law to be implemented. The Conservation Action Plan – Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), which applies to the Bindarri National Park and Bindarri State Conservation Area AIS contains requirements relating to fire management, feral animal control and koala population monitoring.

Management responses to feral animals, weeds, and pathogens, including key threatening processes, are also guided by state, regional and local management plans established under biosecurity legislation, Australian Government threat abatement plans, NPWS pest management strategies and the NSW Government's Saving our Species program.

NPWS collaborates with park neighbours, local councils, Rural Fire Service, Forestry Corporation of NSW and other government agencies such as DPI Forestry (NSW Department of Industry) and Local Land Services in managing the impacts of threatening processes, including fire, feral animals, weeds, pathogens and diseases.

Healthy river ecosystems are vital for aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity. The parks protect river ecosystems comprising rivers, their riparian zones, floodplains and wetlands, which are vital habitat for plants and animals, including threatened species and communities.

Healthy rivers also provide the ecosystem services needed for good water quality and supply. They maintain cultural values, underpin economic growth and enable human activities, including agriculture, aquaculture, fishing, recreation and tourism.

Pressures, from catchment disturbance, drought, fire and climate change through to feral animals and weeds, can impact the health of the rivers within the parks' catchments. A strategic landscape-wide approach to planning and coordination, through to minimising impacts of activities locally within the parks will assist to promote water quality, the protection of public health and public safety, and the protection of the environment.

### 4.4 Providing a world-class Gondwana Rainforests visitor experience

Since its construction in the 1980s, the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre (see Figure 1) has been the primary destination in New South Wales for the presentation and interpretation of the World Heritage Gondwana Rainforests of Australia. However, this facility is now aging and in need of refurbishment or replacement. This provides an opportunity to further enhance the presentation and interpretation of the Gondwana Rainforests through the establishment of new facilities and experiences for visitors within Dorrigo National Park.

The nearby Glade picnic area complements the rainforest centre by providing opportunities for people to enjoy the park in a less developed setting. Facilities at this site are also in need of refurbishment or replacement.

In 2023, NPWS began engaging with the Gumbaynggirr custodians, stakeholders and interested members of the community, culminating in the public exhibition of the Dorrigo Arc Rainforest Centre draft master plan.

## **Dorrigo National Park, Bindarri National Park and Bindarri State Conservation Area Plan of Management**

The draft master plan encompasses the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre and The Glade picnic area, and outlines a vision and the following objectives for these visitor facilities zones:

- create an inspiring nature-based experience hub highlighting the Great Eastern Escarpment and the biological significance of World Heritage-listed rainforests and old-growth hardwood forests of Dorrigo National Park
- protect, respect and promote the park's environmental and cultural heritage
- create high-quality nature-based experiences and educational opportunities that grow awareness of Australia's ancient Gondwana Rainforests and foster future conservation advocacy and stewardship
- generate economic benefit for the local community and sustainable growth of the regional economy
- offer opportunities to connect to nature which provide ongoing health and wellbeing benefits for participants
- provide opportunities for Aboriginal communities to rightfully share their culture, participate in and benefit from the regional visitor economy
- create experiences for the growing nature-based tourism market, with well-designed, efficient facilities and infrastructure to manage increasing visitation
- support visitation by a diverse cross-section of the community and offer a range of experiences to enhance accessibility
- build strong partnerships with business, government and local communities.

The new rainforest centre will incorporate accessible, net zero emissions, carbon positive and environmental sustainability design principles. It will also recognise Gumbaynggirr language, art and graphic elements.

Works to be undertaken at the new rainforest centre are likely to include expansion and reconstruction of car parking, demolition of the existing rainforest centre and construction of a new rainforest centre, demolition of the existing Skywalk lookout and construction of a new elevated walkway and upgrades to existing walking tracks.

Appropriate commercial food, beverage, and retail services may be conducted under a lease or licence in the rainforest centre, consistent with the provisions of the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

The Glade will continue to be managed as a relatively undeveloped, smaller-scale day use area. Works to be undertaken at this site include improvements to car parking, the upgrade of toilets and the construction of a new open-plan building.

This new building will operate as a temporary visitor centre during the redevelopment of the rainforest centre. It will be modified to operate as a group educational facility once the new rainforest centre is open. While some disturbance to surrounding areas may be necessary, it is anticipated that works can be largely confined to areas that have previously been disturbed and the footprint of the existing infrastructure.

This plan of management designates the immediate vicinity around the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre and The Glade picnic area as visitor facility zones (see Section 5, Figure 2). Redevelopment of these sites will be confined to these zones.

Facilities will be designed to be unobtrusive and sympathetic to their surrounds. Construction activities will be carefully planned and managed to avoid and minimise impacts on vegetation, wildlife and catchments. Disturbed areas will be rehabilitated once construction is complete.

A summary of future management directions for each visitor facility zone is in Table 1.



## **4.5 Enhancing the range and quality of nature-based opportunities for visitors**

Dorrigo National Park and Bindarri National Park provide opportunities for sightseeing, picnicking and learning about the parks and the Gondwana Rainforests. Providing for these opportunities helps to foster public connection and support for the long-term conservation of park values.

While the rainforest centre will continue to cater for the vast majority of visitors as well as increases in visitation, visitor numbers at other sites within the parks are also expected to increase. This will generate extra traffic on park roads and put pressure on visitor amenities such as existing toilets and car parks, which have been designed to cater for lower number of visitors. A considered response is necessary to ensure that increasing visitation does not begin to have a degrading effect on the other visitor sites in these parks.

Many visitors are now looking for ways to make a deeper connection to nature through a broader range of immersive, educational, adventurous or challenging recreational activities. Visitors also expect facilities to be of a high standard, consistent with the area's World Heritage and national park status.

Providing opportunities for more visitors is consistent with the objectives for these parks, provided they have a minimal and sustainable level of impact. This can be achieved by promoting the rainforest centre as the primary focus for day visitors and larger groups, addressing any degradation of vegetation associated with visitor activities, and confining the establishment of visitor facilities to visitor facility zones.

Upgrades to several visitor sites in the parks are required to replace aging facilities and to ensure that increasing visitor numbers can be accommodated in the park without having a detrimental impact on the condition of adjacent areas. Figure 2 shows the location of the visitor facility zones and the proposed multi-day walk route. The proposed facility improvements within visitor facility zones are provided in Table 1.

**Table 1 Management of visitor facility zones**

<b>Visitor facility zone (park)</b>	<b>Purpose and objective</b>	<b>Actions</b>
Dorrigo Rainforest Centre (Dorrigo National Park)	Day use area and visitor centre catering for large numbers including large groups.	Demolish Dorrigo Rainforest Centre and Skywalk lookout structure. Construct new rainforest centre (including provision of food, beverage and retail services). Construct new trails and an elevated walkway. Expand and reconstruct parking areas.
The Glade (Dorrigo National Park)	Day use area. Site will also operate as a visitor centre during reconstruction of the new rainforest centre.	Upgrade car parking and day use amenities including toilets. Construct a new open-plan building to be used as an interim visitor centre that will revert to a group educational facility (may include provision of food/beverage/retail services).

## Dorrigo National Park, Bindarra National Park and Bindarra State Conservation Area Plan of Management

Visitor facility zone (park)	Purpose and objective	Actions
Baliiga (formerly Never Never Picnic area) (Dorrigo National Park)	Day use area and camping area. Ensure site can accommodate increasing visitor use by improving facilities and providing for camping.	Restore the heritage picnic shelter. Improve site entry, car parking, amenities, landscaping and signage. Establish a basic camping area with camping platforms with separation from the day visitor area.
Waygarrgala (Dorrigo National Park)	Basic camping area. Maintain as a natural setting for remote camping in a natural setting.	Establish a basic camping area near Slingsbys Trail and Wild Cattle Creek. Facilities may include camping platforms and toilets.
Hiker camps 1 and 2, multi-day walk (Dorrigo National Park)	Hiker camp. Maintain as low-impact and unobtrusive camps for hikers.	Establish hiker camps. Wherever possible establish and construct hiker camps in previously disturbed areas. Facilities may include camping platforms, toilets and communal huts for hiker accommodation and cooking. Minor extensions to existing management trails may be required to service hiker camps.
Slingsbys Trailhead (Dorrigo National Park)	Track trailhead. Provide basic trailhead facilities within the park.	Establish basic parking facilities. Toilets may be developed.
Urumbilum Creek (Bindarra National Park)	Day use area. Continue to manage as a relatively undeveloped day use area in a natural setting.	Improvements to facilities may be made where necessary (consistent with site purpose/objective).
Bangalore (Bindarra National Park)	Day use area. Continue to manage as a relatively undeveloped day use area in a natural setting.	Improvements to facilities may be made where necessary (consistent with site purpose/objective).
Bindarray (Bindarra National Park)	Day use area. Continue to manage as a relatively undeveloped day use area in a natural setting.	Improvements to facilities may be made where necessary (consistent with site purpose/objectives).
Bindarra National Park entrance (Bindarra National Park)	Park entrance. Continue to manage as park entrance and day use area.	Improvements may include amenities for hikers finishing the proposed multi-day walk.
Hiker camp 3, multi-day walk (Bindarra National Park)	Hiker camp. Manage as a low-impact and unobtrusive camp for hikers.	Establish hiker camp. Wherever possible establish and construct hiker camps in previously disturbed area. Facilities may include camping platforms, toilets and communal huts for hiker accommodation and cooking. Minor extensions to existing management trails may be required to service hiker camp.

## **Dorrigo National Park, Bindarra National Park and Bindarra State Conservation Area Plan of Management**

The development of a 4- to 5-day hike, from the rainforest centre to Bindarra day use area in Bindarra National Park is proposed (see Figure 2). Once established, this walk is expected to become a high-profile attraction for these parks; as one of the great walks of New South Wales. This plan identifies the indicative location of the walking track and several visitor facility zones along the walk (see Figure 2).

Hiker camps will be constructed within these visitor facility zones to cater for hikers using the multi-day walk. These camps will be unobtrusive and small-scale and may contain facilities such as toilets, camping platforms and communal huts for overnight hiker accommodation.

Several minor extensions to existing management trails may be required to enable servicing of hiker camps. Hiker camps may be established in alternate locations, should this be deemed necessary after fine-scale assessment of the preferred sites identified in this plan has been undertaken.

The location and design of proposed new visitor facilities will be subject to detailed environmental and cultural assessments and will be designed and constructed in accordance with best practice principles for visitor facility development in sensitive landscapes.

Draft master plans (including precinct plans) have been developed and published for the new rainforest centre, elevated walkway, The Glade picnic area upgrades and the multi-day walk. Plans may also be developed for additional facility improvements within the parks in consultation with the community.

If necessary, limits on number of hikers using the multi-day walk may be set to ensure that carrying capacities are not exceeded and an appropriate ratio of independent hikers and guided hikers is maintained. Limits may also be set for adventure recreational activities, including canyoning.

Visitor impacts at Rosewood River, lower Never Never River and other areas throughout the parks will be monitored and action taken as necessary to prevent impacts on the parks. A camping area may be developed at the existing Baliiga day use area.

The use of camp sites by individuals and groups will be managed via a booking system to ensure that levels of use are environmentally sustainable.

Table 2 summarises the nature-based recreational activities that are allowed within the parks and any restrictions that may apply. Activities that are allowed include camping, bushwalking, cycling and canyoning.

Canyoning combines bushwalking, wading, swimming, jumping, boulder hopping, scrambling, rock climbing or abseiling in canyons or gorges. This currently occurs in a number of gorges within Dorrig National Park and Bindarra National Park, with a focus on Upper Rosewood River Gorge in Dorrig National Park and Bangalore and Urumbilum gorges in Bindarra National Park.

Canyoning (and rock climbing and abseiling in association with canyoning) is allowed at canyons within Dorrig National Park and Bindarra National Park in accordance with Table 2. Areas may be closed to recreational activities on a temporary or on an ongoing basis where necessary to protect the parks' natural and cultural values and ensure that these activities are environmentally sustainable and suitable for the site.

Managing any negative impacts associated with recreation will continue to be a high priority. Impacts will be managed by promoting responsible behaviours (such as staying on marked tracks), applying pathogen hygiene controls, encouraging adherence to relevant activity codes of conduct, closing and rehabilitating damaged areas, and developing activity or site-specific management policies in consultation with park users.

## 5. Permissible activities

The 2 management zones shown in Figure 2 define where various activities are prohibited, allowed or able to be authorised.

1. **General park management zone (GPMZ):** The purpose of this zone is to designate areas that will be managed to achieve conservation of natural and cultural values while also fostering an appreciation of these values. This zone also provides for visitor access along walking tracks and management trails.
2. **Visitor facility zone (VFZ):** The purpose of this zone is to designate areas for the maintenance and/or development of visitor facilities that are compatible with the conservation of the parks' natural and cultural values.

Typical land management activities in these zones include feral animal and weed control, fire management and threatened species programs. All activities are required to be consistent with any relevant conservation action plan established for an asset of intergenerational significance.

Table 2 describes permissible activities in each management zone and the restrictions, exceptions and conditions that apply.

**Table 2 Permissible activities**

Activity	GPMZ	VFZ	Restrictions and conditions
<b>Visitor facility development</b>			
Development of new visitor facilities	No	Yes	Consistent with Table 1.
Maintenance and/or replacement of existing visitor facilities and access	Yes	Yes	Consistent with Table 1.
Multi-day walk and associated camps	Yes	Yes	The indicative route of the proposed multi-day walk is provided in Figure 2 and the facilities that may be established at hiker camps are outlined in Table 1.
<b>Extractive industries and site rehabilitation</b>			
Mining and exploration activities	Yes	–	Bindarri State Conservation Area only: Exploration, mining and petroleum/gas production may be authorised under NPWS consent, considering any necessary environmental and cultural heritage impact assessments, and subject to approvals and authorisations under other relevant legislation.
Rehabilitation of disturbed sites	Yes	Yes	Rehabilitation of sites may be undertaken by NPWS or authorised via a consent, subject to environmental and cultural assessments, as required.
Quarrying	No	No	Extraction and removal of bushrock, clay, rock, river gravel or any like substance is prohibited, except where necessary for park management works carried out by (or on behalf of) NPWS.



## Dorrigo National Park, Bindarri National Park and Bindarri State Conservation Area Plan of Management

Activity	GPMZ	VFZ	Restrictions and conditions
<b>Utilities, telecommunication facilities and other non-park infrastructure</b>			
Upgrades and access to existing non-park infrastructure	Yes	Yes	Existing facilities will be managed to minimise impacts to natural and cultural values, scenic values and park infrastructure and be subject to formal agreements, leases or easements. Upgrades would be subject to the terms of the existing authorisation and subject to environmental and cultural assessments.
Installation of new non-park infrastructure	No	No	With the exception of infrastructure essential for the stabilisation of Dorrigo Mountain Road, the installation of new non-park infrastructure in Bindarri National Park Bindarri State Conservation Area and Dorrigo National Park (including transmission lines and additional telecommunication towers) will not be authorised.
<b>Research</b>			
Research	Yes	Yes	Any research is subject to NPWS consent under the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation (in addition to any licence required under the Biodiversity Conservation Act and ethics approvals).
<b>Commercial activities, events and functions</b>			
Commercial filming and photography	Yes	Yes	May be authorised under consent.
Commercial recreational or educational activities and tours	Yes	Yes	May be allowed under a licence, subject to NPWS consent. Group size limits apply to adventure recreational activities (see below).
Kiosk, cafe and/or restaurant	No	Yes	The operation of a kiosk, cafe and/or restaurant at the rainforest centre may continue under a lease or licence. An additional food outlet may be considered at The Glade.
Commercial events, functions and other services	Yes	Yes	Commercial events, functions and other services provided for a fee (including mobile food vendors, transport services, party entertainers and celebrants) may be allowed under a consent or licence.
Beekeeping	No	No	Not permitted.
Visitor centre retail	No	Yes	A retail facility may be allowed at the rainforest centre under a lease or licence.
<b>Visitor activities</b>			
Use of barbecues, portable stoves, solid fuel fires	Yes	Yes	The use of fixed barbecues is allowed at sites where these are provided. The use of portable gas stoves and liquid stoves is allowed. Solid fuel fires (e.g. woodfires) are not permitted except in designated, constructed fireplaces (where provided) or by consent. Fires are prohibited during total fire bans and park fire bans.

## Dorrigo National Park, Bindarri National Park and Bindarri State Conservation Area Plan of Management

Activity	GPMZ	VFZ	Restrictions and conditions
Bushwalking and trail running	Yes	Yes	Allowed, unless an area has been identified as closed for this activity by park signage and/or routine park visitor notification channels.
Camping in camping areas	NA	Yes	Camping is allowed at specified sites at the proposed Baliiga Camping Area and at Waygarrgala Camping Area.  Only people doing the multi-day walk will be allowed to camp at hiker camps (see Figure 2).  Commercial and group consent requirements apply.
Dispersed camping	Yes	No	Dispersed camping outside of designated camping areas is allowed without consent, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• within 200 m of the park boundary or from park infrastructure such as roads, trails, walking tracks, camping areas, hiker camps, formalised lookouts or other visitor facilities</li> <li>• within 30 m of watercourses</li> <li>• anywhere it is signposted as not permitted.</li> </ul>
Cycling	Yes	Yes	Cycling is allowed on park roads and management trails, unless an area has been identified as closed for this activity by park signage and/or routine park visitor notification channels. Cycling is not allowed on walking tracks or off-trail.
Non-commercial events, functions and group gatherings	Yes	Yes	Private functions and group gatherings involving more than 40 people may be allowed under a consent.  Public events such as public ceremonies, club and sporting events may be authorised via a consent.
Dog walking	No	No	Dogs and other pets are not permitted in the parks. This prohibition does not apply to a person being accompanied by their trained and registered assistance animal.
Drones and model aeroplanes	No	No	Drones may be used for park management and emergency or law enforcement purposes. The use of drones for activities that support park management objectives (e.g. tourism promotion) may be authorised via a consent (conditions, exclusion areas and civil aviation regulations apply). Recreational use of drones will not be authorised.
Fishing	Yes	Yes	Subject to the provisions of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>
Fossicking	No	No	Not permitted.
Horse riding	No	No	Not permitted.
Swimming and other aquatic activities	Yes	Yes	Swimming and aquatic activities are allowed.

## Dorrigo National Park, Bindarri National Park and Bindarri State Conservation Area Plan of Management

Activity	GPMZ	VFZ	Restrictions and conditions
Vehicle access (including motorbikes)	Yes	Yes	Registered vehicles are allowed on public and park roads (see Figure 2). Roads may be temporarily closed to prevent damage, such as in wet weather, or to support management activities. Vehicles (including motorbikes, quad bikes and all-terrain vehicles) are not permitted on management trails, off-road or on walking tracks, unless for management purposes.
<b>Adventure recreational activities</b>			
Canyoning, rock climbing and abseiling	Yes	No	<p>Canyoning (and associated rock climbing and abseiling) is allowed in Bangalore Creek and Urumbilum River gorges (Bindarri National Park) and Upper Rosewood River Gorge (Dorrigo National Park). These activities may be authorised at additional sites where compatible with the protection of natural and cultural values and following an assessment of site suitability. Sites may also be closed to these activities. Sites where these activities are allowed will be communicated via the conditions of a consent, onsite signage, or a notification on the department's website or social media channels.</p> <p>Participants are responsible for their own safety. The group size limit for canyoning is 12.</p>
Rock climbing and abseiling	Yes	No	<p>Rock climbing and abseiling is allowed in Dorrigo National Park and Bindarri National Park unless sites have been closed for this activity via the conditions of a consent, onsite signage, or a notification on the department's website or social media channels.</p> <p>Participants are responsible for their own safety. NPWS will not install or assess bolts or other fixed protection points. The group size limit for rock climbing and abseiling is 12.</p>
Other adventure activities	No	No	Other adventure activities are not permitted. Other adventure activities include (but are not limited to) the following: base jumping, bungee jumping, hang-gliding, parachuting, paragliding, parasailing, via ferrata and zip lining.

**Notes:**

GPMZ = General park management zone.

VFZ = Visitor facility zone.

Yes = Permissible (may be subject to authorisation, restrictions or conditions).

No = Not permissible.

NA = Not applicable.

# Dorrigo National Park, Bindarri National Park and Bindarri State Conservation Area Plan of Management

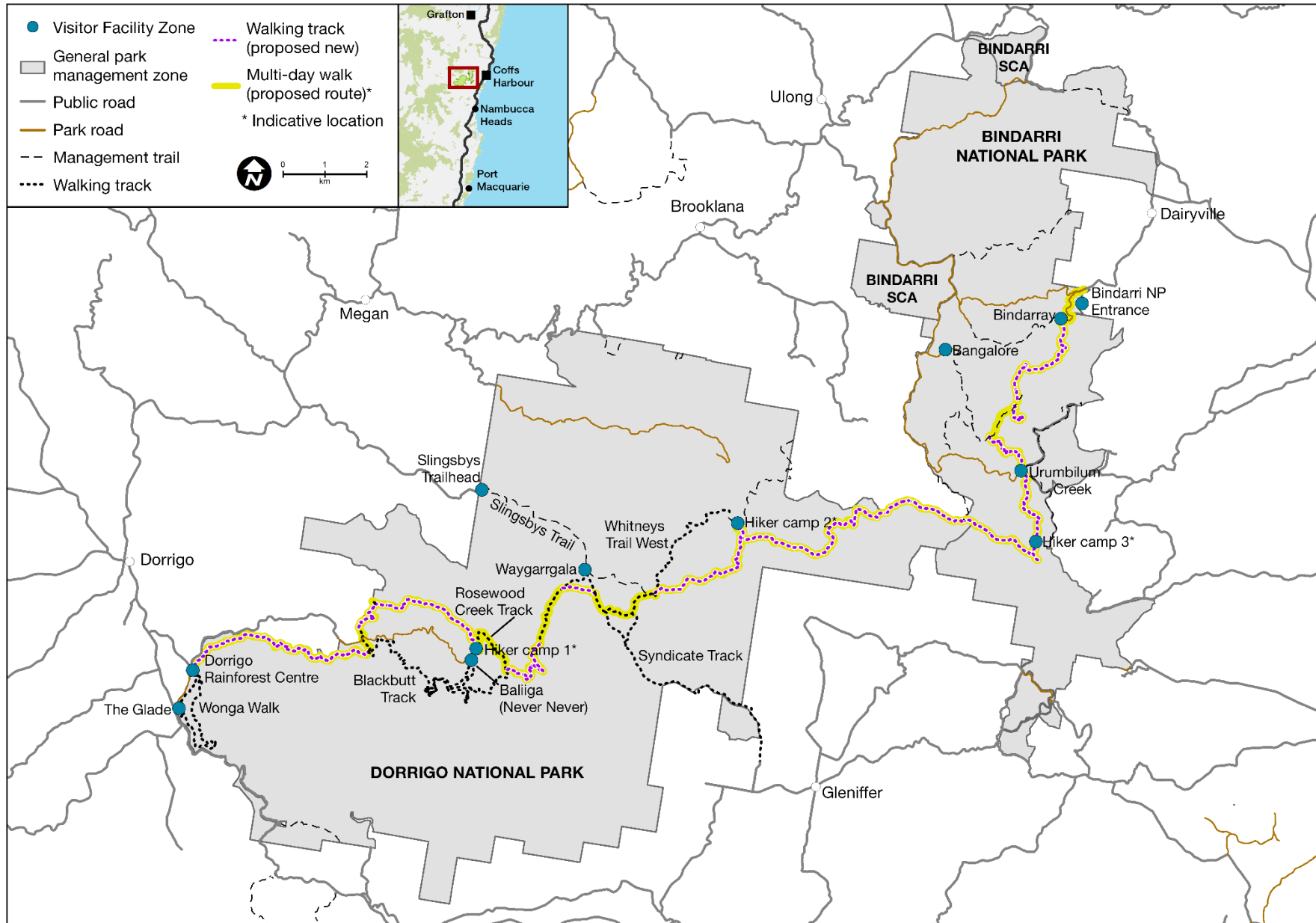


Figure 2 Management zones and proposed multi day walk



## 6. Scheme of operations

This scheme of operations describes actions that will be undertaken to achieve the objects of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, consistent with the management principles for national parks and state conservation areas.

The scheme of operations describes strategic actions relating to each management theme. Subsidiary plans consistent with this plan of management may also be developed to guide actions at an operational level. Subsidiary plans enable adaptive responses to new information or changed circumstances, such as for feral animals, weeds, fire and recreational activities.

All actions are required to be consistent with any relevant conservation action plan established for an asset of intergenerational significance. The implementation of actions set out below may be subject to other relevant state and Commonwealth legislation, including environmental and heritage impact assessments and approvals. Further community consultation on the proposed actions may be undertaken as part of these processes.

**Table 3 Scheme of operations**

Objective	Action	Priority
<b>Supporting healthy Country</b>		
1. Work with Gumbaynggirr people to support healthy Country	a) Support access to Country for the local Aboriginal community to maintain, renew or develop cultural connections and practices, including cultural fire management activities and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage values and sites.	High
	b) Improve understanding, protection, interpretation and promotion of the cultural values of the parks through strengthened partnerships between NPWS and Gumbaynggirr people.	High
	c) Support the development and operation of formal and/or informal agreements or partnerships with Aboriginal people and communities for the management of the parks.	High
2. Aboriginal cultural heritage values in the parks are respected and protected	a) Acknowledge and celebrate Aboriginal cultural values and language as part of a cultural visitor experience. This includes encouraging cultural tourism and opportunities for language in the naming of places.	High
	b) Support research and cultural heritage surveys that assist in the understanding, recording and protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage values.	High
	c) Monitor and assess visitor use for impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage values and prevent and/or mitigate impacts as necessary.	High

**Dorrigo National Park, Bindarri National Park and  
Bindarri State Conservation Area Plan of Management**

Objective	Action	Priority
	d) Prioritise protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage values and sites when implementing fire and feral animal and weed management strategies.	High
<b>Protecting the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area</b>		
3. World Heritage and National Heritage values are identified, protected, conserved, presented and transmitted to future generations and, if appropriate, rehabilitated	a) Manage the parks consistent with World Heritage and National Heritage management obligations, the Gondwana Rainforests strategic plan (once prepared), and any other subsequent planning documents relevant to the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage property.	High
	b) Undertake actions to provide the public with an understanding and appreciation of the parks' values, including their World Heritage and National Heritage values.	High
<b>Conserving a unique and biodiverse landscape in a changing climate</b>		
4. Protect and conserve the parks natural values through active management of threats and adaptive management	a) Ensure all conservation activities are consistent with, and complementary to, implementation of relevant Conservation Action Plans for Assets of Intergenerational Significance.	Very High
	b) Develop and implement feral animal, weed and pathogen management strategies to target priority threats and adapt to emerging threats and improved knowledge and practices. Strategies should prioritise protection of significant park values including World Heritage, National Heritage and state heritage values, including protection of refugia and conservation of significant species and ecosystems.	High
	c) Develop and implement reserve fire management strategies (including maintaining access for fire management and response). These strategies should prioritise protecting key park values including World Heritage, National Heritage and state heritage values, including protection of refugia and conservation of significant species and ecosystems.	High
	d) Encourage research and undertake monitoring to build knowledge about priority values, impacts of threats and trends in their condition to inform and adapt management responses.	High

## Dorrigo National Park, Bindarri National Park and Bindarri State Conservation Area Plan of Management

Objective	Action	Priority
	e) Protect waterway health, including water quality, through whole of government landscape-scale integrated planning and coordination and minimising impacts of activities locally within the parks.	High
	f) Support landscape-scale conservation outcomes by delivering complementary conservation actions on-park, including exploring strategic acquisitions and additions to the national park estate to improve connectivity.	Medium
	g) Support the implementation of relevant actions identified in conservation action plans and the Biodiversity Conservation Program to promote the conservation of assets of intergenerational significance, and the recovery of threatened species, populations and ecological communities.	High
<b>Providing a world-class Gondwana Rainforests visitor experience</b>		
5. Promote, protect and build an understanding of the values of the Gondwana Rainforests	a) Upgrade visitor facilities within the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre and The Glade visitor facility zones in accordance with Table 1. This will include replacement of the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre and Skywalk lookout.	High
6. Enhance the appeal of the NSW North Coast as a tourism destination		
<b>Enhancing the range and quality of nature-based opportunities for visitors</b>		
7. Provide opportunities for a range of appropriate and sustainable recreational activities	a) Develop an iconic multi-day walk that showcases the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia, with overnight hiker camps along the route (see Table 1 and Figure 2 for the indicative alignment and location of camps).	High
	b) Upgrade existing visitor facilities and provide new facilities in accordance with Table 1 and Figure 2.	High
	c) Provide a range of sustainable visitor opportunities in accordance with Table 2 and Figure 2.	High
	d) Monitor any impacts associated with recreational use and implement strategies as necessary to avoid impacts and risks to natural and cultural values.	High

## Appendices

### Appendix A: Objects of the National Parks and Wildlife Act

The objects of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, set out in section 2A(1) of the Act are:

- (a) The conservation of nature, including, but not limited to, the conservation of—
  - (i) habitat, ecosystems and ecosystem processes, and
  - (ii) biological diversity at the community, species and genetic levels, and
  - (iii) landforms of significance, including geological features and processes, and
  - (iv) landscapes and natural features of significance including wilderness and wild rivers,
- (b) the conservation of objects, places or features (including biological diversity) of cultural value within the landscape, including, but not limited to—
  - (i) places, objects and features of significance to Aboriginal people, and
  - (ii) places of social value to the people of New South Wales, and
  - (iii) places of historic, architectural or scientific significance,
- (c) fostering public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of nature and cultural heritage and their conservation,
- (d) providing for the management of land reserved under this Act in accordance with the management principles applicable for each type of reservation.

## **Appendix B: Management principles for national parks and state conservation areas**

### **National parks**

The management principles for national parks, as set out in section 30E of the National Parks and Wildlife Act are:

- (a) the conservation of biodiversity, the maintenance of ecosystem function, the protection of geological and geomorphological features and natural phenomena and the maintenance of natural landscapes,
- (b) the conservation of places, objects, features and landscapes of cultural value,
- (c) the protection of the ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for present and future generations
- (d) the promotion of public appreciation and understanding of the national park's natural and cultural values,
- (e) provision for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment that is compatible with the conservation of the national park's natural and cultural values,
- (f) provision for the sustainable use (including adaptive reuse) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas having regard to the conservation of the national park's natural and cultural values,
- (g) provision for the carrying out of development in any part of a special area (within the meaning of the *Hunter Water Act 1991*) in the national park that is permitted under section 185A having regard to the conservation of the national park's natural and cultural values,
- (h) provision for appropriate research and monitoring.

### **State conservation areas**

The management principles for state conservation areas, as set out in section 30G of the National Parks and Wildlife Act are:

- (a) the conservation of biodiversity, the maintenance of ecosystem function, the protection of natural phenomena and the maintenance of natural landscapes,
- (b) the conservation of places, objects and features of cultural value,
- (c) provision for the undertaking of uses permitted under other provisions of this Act in such areas (including uses permitted under section 47J) having regard to the conservation of the natural and cultural values of the state conservation area,
- (ca) provision for the carrying out of development in any part of a special area (within the meaning of the *Hunter Water Act 1991*) in the state conservation area that is permitted under section 185A having regard to the conservation of the natural and cultural values of the state conservation area,
- (d) provision for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment that is compatible with the conservation of the state conservation area's natural and cultural values and with uses permitted under other provisions of this Act in such areas,
- (e) provision for the sustainable use (including adaptive reuse) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas having regard to the conservation of the state conservation area's natural and cultural values and with uses permitted under other provisions of this Act in such areas,
- (f) provision for appropriate research and monitoring.



## Appendix C: Australian World Heritage management principles

### 1 General principles

- 1.01 The primary purpose of management of natural heritage and cultural heritage of a declared World Heritage property must be, in accordance with Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention, to identify, protect, conserve, present, transmit to future generations and, if appropriate, rehabilitate the World Heritage values of the property.
- 1.02 The management should provide for public consultation on decisions and actions that may have a significant impact on the property.
- 1.03 The management should make special provision, if appropriate, for the involvement in managing the property of people who:
- (a) have a particular interest in the property; and
  - (b) may be affected by the management of the property.
- 1.04 The management should provide for continuing community and technical input in managing the property.

### 2 Management planning

- 2.01 At least 1 management plan should be prepared for each declared World Heritage property.
- 2.02 A management plan for a declared World Heritage property should:
- (a) state the World Heritage values of the property for which it is prepared; and
  - (b) include adequate processes for public consultation on proposed elements of the plan; and
  - (c) state what must be done to ensure that the World Heritage values of the property are identified, conserved, protected, presented, transmitted to future generations and, if appropriate, rehabilitated; and
  - (d) state mechanisms to deal with the impacts of actions that individually or cumulatively degrade, or threaten to degrade, the World Heritage values of the property; and
  - (e) provide that management actions for values, that are not World Heritage values, are consistent with the management of the World Heritage values of the property; and
  - (f) promote the integration of Commonwealth, state or territory and local government responsibilities for the property; and
  - (g) provide for continuing monitoring and reporting on the state of the World Heritage values of the property; and
  - (h) be reviewed at intervals of not more than 7 years.

### 3 Environmental impact assessment and approval

- 3.01 This principle applies to the assessment of an action that is likely to have a significant impact on the World Heritage values of a property (whether the action is to occur inside the property or not).

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- 3.02 Before the action is taken, the likely impact of the action on the World Heritage values of the property should be assessed under a statutory environmental impact assessment and approval process.
- 3.03 The assessment process should:
- (a) identify the World Heritage values of the property that are likely to be affected by the action; and
  - (b) examine how the World Heritage values of the property might be affected; and
  - (c) provide for adequate opportunity for public consultation.
- 3.04 An action should not be approved if it would be inconsistent with the protection, conservation, presentation or transmission to future generations of the World Heritage values of the property.
- 3.05 Approval of the action should be subject to conditions that are necessary to ensure protection, conservation, presentation or transmission to future generations of the World Heritage values of the property.
- 3.06 The action should be monitored by the authority responsible for giving the approval (or another appropriate authority) and, if necessary, enforcement action should be taken to ensure compliance with the conditions of the approval.

## **Appendix D: National Heritage management principles**

1. The objective in managing National Heritage places is to identify, protect, conserve, present and transmit, to all generations, their National Heritage values.
2. The management of National Heritage places should use the best available knowledge, skills and standards for those places, and include ongoing technical and community input to decisions and actions that may have a significant impact on their National Heritage values.
3. The management of National Heritage places should respect all heritage values of the place and seek to integrate, where appropriate, any Commonwealth, state, territory and local government responsibilities for those places.
4. The management of National Heritage places should ensure that their use and presentation is consistent with the conservation of their National Heritage values.
5. The management of National Heritage places should make timely and appropriate provision for community involvement, especially by people who:
  - a. have a particular interest in, or association with, the place
  - b. may be affected by the management of the place.
6. Indigenous people are the primary source of information on the value of their heritage and the active participation of indigenous people in identification, assessment and management is integral to the effective protection of indigenous heritage values.
7. The management of National Heritage places should provide for regular monitoring, review and reporting on the conservation of National Heritage values.

## Appendix E: Gondwana Rainforests of Australia – Statement of outstanding universal value

This is an extract from the [UNESCO Gondwana Rainforests of Australia](#) webpage.

### Outstanding Universal Value

#### Brief synthesis

The Gondwana Rainforests of Australia is a serial property comprising the major remaining areas of rainforest in southeast Queensland and northeast New South Wales. It represents outstanding examples of major stages of the earth's evolutionary history, ongoing geological and biological processes, and exceptional biological diversity. A wide range of plant and animal lineages and communities with ancient origins in Gondwana, many of which are restricted largely or entirely to the Gondwana Rainforests, survive in this collection of reserves. The Gondwana Rainforests also provides the principal habitat for many threatened species of plants and animals.

The Gondwana Rainforests of Australia was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List under 3 criteria:

#### **Criterion (viii) to be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant ongoing geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features:**

The Gondwana Rainforests provides outstanding examples of significant ongoing geological processes. When Australia separated from Antarctica following the break-up of Gondwana, new continental margins developed. The margin which formed along Australia's eastern edge is characterised by an asymmetrical marginal swell that runs parallel to the coastline, the erosion of which has resulted in the Great Divide and the Great Escarpment. This eastern continental margin experienced volcanicity during the Cenozoic Era as the Australian continental plate moved over one of the planet's hot spots. Volcanoes erupted in sequence along the east coast resulting in the Tweed, Focal Peak, Ebor and Barrington volcanic shields. This sequence of volcanoes is significant as it enables the dating of the geomorphic evolution of eastern Australia through the study of the interaction of these volcanic remnants with the eastern highlands.

The Tweed Shield erosion caldera is possibly the best-preserved erosion caldera in the world, notable for its size and age, for the presence of a prominent central mountain mass (Wollumbin/Mount Warning), and for the erosion of the caldera floor to basement rock. All 3 stages relating to the erosion of shield volcanoes (the planeze, residual and skeletal stages) are readily distinguishable. Further south, the remnants of the Ebor Volcano also provides an outstanding example of the ongoing erosion of a shield volcano.

#### **Criterion (ix) to be outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals:**

The Gondwana Rainforests contains outstanding examples of major stages in the earth's evolutionary history as well as ongoing evolutionary processes. Major stages represented include the 'Age of the Pteridophytes' from the Carboniferous Period with some of the oldest elements of the world's ferns represented, and the 'Age of Conifers' in the Jurassic Period with one of the most significant centres of survival for Araucarians (the most ancient and phylogenetically primitive of the world's conifers). Likewise, the property provides an outstanding record of the 'Age of the Angiosperms'. This includes a secondary centre of endemism for primitive flowering plants originating in the Early Cretaceous, the most diverse assemblage of relict angiosperm taxa representing the primary radiation of dicotyledons in the mid-Late Cretaceous, a unique record of the evolutionary history of Australian rainforests

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representing the 'golden age' of the Early Tertiary, and a unique record of Miocene vegetation that was the antecedent of modern temperate rainforests in Australia. The property also contains an outstanding number of songbird species, including lyrebirds (*Menuridae*), scrub-birds (*Atrichornithidae*), treecreepers (*Climacteridae*) and bowerbirds and catbirds (*Ptilonorhynchidae*), belonging to some of the oldest lineages of passerines that evolved in the Late Cretaceous. Outstanding examples of other relict vertebrate and invertebrate fauna from ancient lineages linked to the break-up of Gondwana also occur in the property.

The flora and fauna of the Gondwana Rainforests provides outstanding examples of ongoing evolution, including plant and animal taxa, which show evidence of relatively recent evolution. The rainforests have been described as 'an archipelago of refugia, a series of distinctive habitats that characterise a temporary endpoint in climatic and geomorphological evolution'. The distances between these 'islands' of rainforest represent barriers to the flow of genetic material for those taxa that have low dispersal ability, and this pressure has created the potential for continued speciation.

### **Criterion (x) to contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation:**

The ecosystems of the Gondwana Rainforests contain significant and important natural habitats for species of conservation significance, particularly those associated with the rainforests which once covered much of the continent of Australia and are now restricted to archipelagos of small areas of rainforest isolated by sclerophyll vegetation and cleared land. The Gondwana Rainforests provides the principal habitat for many species of plants and animals of outstanding universal value, including more than 270 threatened species as well as relict and primitive taxa.

Rainforests covered most of Australia for much of the 40 million years after its separation from Gondwana. However, these rainforests contracted as climatic conditions changed and the continent drifted northwards. By the time of European settlement rainforests covered only 1% of the landmass and were restricted to refugia with suitable climatic conditions and protection from fire. Following European settlement, clearing for agriculture saw further loss of rainforests and only a quarter of the rainforest present in Australia at the time of European settlement remains.

The Gondwana Rainforests protects the largest and best stands of rainforest habitat remaining in this region. Many of the rare and threatened flora and fauna species are rainforest specialists, and their vulnerability to extinction is due to a variety of factors including the rarity of their rainforest habitat. The Gondwana Rainforests also protects large areas of other vegetation including a diverse range of heaths, rocky outcrop communities, forests and woodlands. These communities have a high diversity of plants and animals that add greatly to the value of the Gondwana Rainforests as habitat for rare, threatened and endemic species. The complex dynamics between rainforests and tall open forest particularly demonstrates the close evolutionary and ecological links between these communities.

Species continue to be discovered in the property including the re-discovery of 2 mammal species previously thought to have been extinct: the Hastings River Mouse (*Pseudomys oralis*) and Parma Wallaby (*Macropus parma*).



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## Statement of integrity

The Gondwana Rainforests contains the largest and most significant remaining stands of subtropical rainforest and Antarctic beech (*Nothofagus moorei*) cool temperate rainforests in the world, the largest and most significant areas of warm temperate rainforest and one of only 2 remaining large areas of Araucarian rainforest in Australia.

Questions related to the small size of some of the component parts of the property, and the distance between the sites for the long-term conservation and continuation of natural biological processes of the values for which the property was inscribed have been raised. However, noting that the serial sites are in reasonable proximity and are joined by corridors of semi-natural habitats and buffers, compensation for small size and scattered fragments is being made through intensive management consistent with approved management plans and policy.

Since inscription, there have been significant additions to the protected area estate in both New South Wales and Queensland in the region encompassing the Gondwana Rainforests. These areas have undergone a rigorous assessment to determine their suitability for inclusion in the property and a significant extension of the property is planned as indicated by the addition of the property extension to Australia's Tentative List in May 2010. In relation to ongoing evolution, the level of legislative protection provided for World Heritage properties will minimise direct human influence and enable the continuation of natural biological processes.

## Requirements for protection and management

Institutional arrangements for the protection and management of Gondwana Rainforests are strong. The property is made up of 41 reserves, almost all of which are within the protected area estate, and primarily managed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. Both states have legislation relating to protected areas and native flora and fauna that provide protection for the values of the Gondwana Rainforests.

In 1993, governments agreed to establish a Coordinating Committee, comprised of on-ground managers from these agencies and the Australian Government, to facilitate the cooperative management of the property at an operational level. A Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee and a Community Advisory Committee provide management advice to the Coordinating Committee.

Management plans have been produced for the majority of individual reserves within the property, and are in draft form or planned for the remainder.

In 2000, a Strategic Overview for Management for the Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia (now Gondwana Rainforests) World Heritage Area was published. This overarching document is a major element in guiding cooperative management by the 3 Governments in relation to the identification, protection, conservation, rehabilitation and presentation of the Gondwana Rainforests. The NSW Government is currently preparing a strategic plan.

All World Heritage properties in Australia are 'matters of national environmental significance' protected and managed under national legislation, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. This Act is the statutory instrument for implementing Australia's obligations under a number of multilateral environmental agreements, including the World Heritage Convention.

By law, any action that has, will have or is likely to have a significant impact on the World Heritage values of a World Heritage property must be referred to the responsible Minister for consideration. Substantial penalties apply for taking such an action without approval.

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Once a heritage place is listed, the Act provides for the preparation of management plans that set out the significant heritage aspects of the place and how the values of the site will be managed.

Importantly, this Act also aims to protect matters of national environmental significance, such as World Heritage properties, from impacts even if they originate outside the property or if the values of the property are mobile (as in fauna). It thus forms an additional layer of protection designed to protect values of World Heritage properties from external impacts.

On 15 May 2007, the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia was added to the National Heritage List; National Heritage is also a matter of national environmental significance under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The impacts of climate change and high levels of visitation, undertaking effective fire management, and mitigating the effects of invasion by feral animals, weeds and pathogens present the greatest challenges for the protection and management of Gondwana Rainforests.

Climate change will impact particularly on those relict species in restricted habitats at higher altitudes, where particular microclimatic conditions have enabled these species to survive. Management responses include improving the resilience of the property by addressing other threats such as inappropriate fire regimes and invasion by pest species and trying to increase habitat connectivity across the landscape.

## Appendix F: Threatened animals and migratory birds recorded in the parks

Table 4 Threatened animals recorded in the park

Common name	Scientific name	EPBC Act status	BC Act status
Black bittern	<i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>	–	V
Black falcon	<i>Falco subniger</i>	–	V
Booroolong frog	<i>Litoria booroolongensis</i>	E	V
Brush-tailed phascogale	<i>Phascogale tapoatafa</i>	–	E
Brush-tailed rock-wallaby	<i>Petrogale penicillata</i>	V	V
Dusky woodswallow	<i>Artamus cyanopterus cyanopterus</i>	–	E
Eastern long-eared bat	<i>Nyctophilus bifax</i>	–	V
Eastern pygmy-possum	<i>Cercartetus nanus</i>	–	V
Flame robin	<i>Petroica phoenicea</i>	–	V
Giant barred frog	<i>Mixophyes iteratus</i>	E	V
Glandular frog	<i>Litoria subglandulosa</i>	V	E
Greater broad-nosed bat	<i>Scoteanax rueppellii</i>	–	V
Green-thighed frog	<i>Litoria brevipalmata</i>	–	V
Grey-headed flying-fox	<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	V	V
Koala	<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	E	V
Large bent-winged bat	<i>Miniopterus orianae oceanensis</i>	–	E
Little bent-winged bat	<i>Miniopterus australis</i>	–	V
Little eagle	<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>	–	V
Little lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta pusilla</i>	–	V
Long-nosed potoroo	<i>Potorous tridactylus</i>	V	V
Masked owl	<i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i>	–	V
Olive whistler	<i>Pachycephala olivacea</i>	–	V
Parma wallaby	<i>Notamacropus parma</i>	V	V
Pouched frog	<i>Assa darlingtoni</i>	–	V
Powerful owl	<i>Ninox strenua</i>	–	V
Red goshawk	<i>Erythrotriorchis radiatus</i>	E	E
Red-legged pademelon	<i>Thylogale stigmatica</i>	–	V
Red-tailed tropicbird	<i>Phaethon rubricauda</i>	–	V
Rose-crowned fruit-dove	<i>Ptilinopus regina</i>	–	V
Rufous scrub-bird	<i>Atrichornis rufescens</i>	E	V
Scarlet robin	<i>Petroica boodang</i>	–	V
Sooty owl	<i>Tyto tenebricosa</i>	–	V

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Common name	Scientific name	EPBC Act status	BC Act status
South-eastern glossy black-cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami</i>	V	V
Southern greater glider	<i>Petauroides volans</i>	E	V
Southern myotis	<i>Myotis macropus</i>	–	E
Southern pink underwing moth	<i>Phyllodes imperialis southern subspecies</i>	E	V
Sphagnum frog	<i>Phyloria sphagnicolus</i>	V	E
Spotted harrier	<i>Circus assimilis</i>	–	V
Spotted-tailed quoll	<i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>	E	V
Square-tailed kite	<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	–	V
Stephens' banded snake	<i>Hoplocephalus stephensii</i>	–	V
Stuttering frog	<i>Mixophyes balbus</i>	V	V
Superb fruit-dove	<i>Ptilinopus superbis</i>	–	E
Turquoise parrot	<i>Neophema pulchella</i>	–	V
Varied sittella	<i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i>	–	V
White-bellied sea-eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	–	V
White-throated needletail	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	V	V
Wompoo fruit-dove	<i>Ptilinopus magnificus</i>	–	V
Yellow-bellied glider	<i>Petaurus australis</i>	V	V
Golden-tipped bat	<i>Phoniscus papuensis</i>	–	V

EPBC Act = Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act; BC Act = *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*; FM Act = Fisheries Management Act; V = Vulnerable, E = Endangered  
Source: Bionet accessed 2024 at [www.bionet.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.bionet.nsw.gov.au/) and local records.

**Table 5 Migratory birds recorded in the parks**

Common name	Scientific name	IMBA
Fork-tailed swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	C,J,K
Latham's snipe	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	B, J, K
Red-tailed tropicbird	<i>Phaethon rubricauda</i>	C,J
White-throated needletail	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	C,J,K

IMBA = International migratory bird agreements: C = CAMBA/China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement; J = JAMBA/Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement ; B = BONN/Bonn Convention and K = ROKAMBA/Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

Source: Bionet, accessed 2024 at [www.bionet.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bionet.nsw.gov.au/) and local records.

## Appendix G: Threatened plants recorded in the parks

Table 6 Threatened plants recorded in the parks

Common name	Scientific name	EPBC Act status	BC Act status
Blotched sarcochilus	<i>Sarcochilus weinthalii</i>	V	V
Creek triplarina	<i>Triplarina imbricata</i>	E	E
Cryptic forest twiner	<i>Tylophora woollsii</i>	E	E
Dorrigo daisy bush	<i>Olearia flocktoniae</i>	E	E
Magenta lilly pilly	<i>Syzygium paniculatum</i>	V	E
Milky silkpod	<i>Parsonsia dorrigoensis</i>	E	V
Native guava	<i>Rhodomyrtus psidioides</i>	CE	CE
Ravine orchid	<i>Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii</i>	V	V
Red boppel nut	<i>Hicksbeachia pinnatifolia</i>	V	V
Red-flowered king of the fairies	<i>Oberonia titania</i>	–	V
Rusty plum, plum boxwood	<i>Niemeyera whitei</i>	–	V
Scrub turpentine	<i>Rhodamnia rubescens</i>	CE	CE
Slender marsdenia	<i>Marsdenia longiloba</i>	V	E
Woodland babingtonia	<i>Kardomia silvestris</i>	–	E
Stinky lily	<i>Typhonium sp. aff brownii</i>	–	E

EPBC Act = Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act; BC Act = *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*; V = Vulnerable; E = Endangered; CE = Critically Endangered

Source: Bionet, accessed 2024 at [www.bionet.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bionet.nsw.gov.au) and local records.



## More information

- [NSW Environment and Heritage website](#)
- [Climate change impacts on our rainforests | AdaptNSW](#)
- [National Parks and Wildlife Service \(NPWS\) website](#)
- [Fire management strategies](#)
- [Park management policies](#)
- [NPWS Regional pest management strategies](#)
- [Australia's National Heritage List](#)
- [World Heritage places - Gondwana Rainforests of Australia](#)
- [UNESCO Gondwana Rainforests of Australia](#)
- [UNESCO World Heritage Convention](#)

## Legislation

- [Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 \(NSW\)](#)
- [Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 \(Cth\)](#)
- [Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000 \(Cth\)](#)
- [National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 \(NSW\)](#)
- [National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019 \(NSW\)](#)

# Dorrigo National Park, Bindarri National Park and Bindarri State Conservation Area Plan of Management

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