



**Office of  
Environment & Heritage**  
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service



# **Proposed Horse Riding in Wilderness Amendments to Plans of Management for:**

**Far South Coast Escarpment Parks, Kosciuszko National Park and  
Mummel Gulf National Park and State Conservation Area**

**NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service**

**September 2016**

© 2016 State of NSW and the Office of Environment and Heritage

With the exception of photographs, the State of NSW and Office of Environment and Heritage are pleased to allow this material to be reproduced in whole or in part for educational and non-commercial use, provided the meaning is unchanged and its source, publisher and authorship are acknowledged. Specific permission is required for the reproduction of photographs.

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) has compiled this document in good faith, exercising all due care and attention. No representation is made about the accuracy, completeness or suitability of the information in this publication for any particular purpose. OEH shall not be liable for any damage which may occur to any person or organisation taking action or not on the basis of this publication. Readers should seek appropriate advice when applying the information to their specific needs.

All content in this publication is owned by OEH and is protected by Crown Copyright, unless credited otherwise. It is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International \(CC BY 4.0\)](#), subject to the exemptions contained in the licence. The legal code for the licence is available at [Creative Commons](#).

OEH asserts the right to be attributed as author of the original material in the following manner:

### **Acknowledgments**

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) acknowledges that:

- Far South Coast Escarpment Parks are in the traditional Country of the Yuin and Walbanga peoples
- Kosciuszko National Park is in the traditional Country of the Monaro, Ngarigo, Wiradjuri, Wolgalu and Ngunnawal peoples
- Mummel Gulf National Park and State Conservation Area are in the traditional Country of the Biripai, Anaiwan and Thungutti/Dunghutti peoples.

These plan of management amendments were prepared by the NPWS, part of the Office of Environment and Heritage.

For additional information about the plans of management, these amendments or the parks, contact: NPWS Narooma Area Office (Far South Coast Escarpment Parks) on the corner of Graham and Burrawang Streets Narooma or by telephone on 02 4476 2888; NPWS Jindabyne Office (Kosciuszko National Park) at Kosciuszko Road Jindabyne or by telephone on 02 6450 5555; NPWS Tumut Office (Kosciuszko National Park) at The Old Butter Factory 7a Adelong Rd Tumut or telephone 02 6947 7000; or NPWS Walcha Area Office (Mummel Gulf National Park) at 188W North Street Walcha or by telephone on 02 6777 4700.

Published by:

Office of Environment and Heritage

59 Goulburn Street, Sydney NSW 2000

PO Box A290, Sydney South NSW 1232

Phone: +61 2 9995 5000 (switchboard)

Phone: 131 555 (environment information and publications requests)

Phone: 1300 361 967 (national parks, general environmental enquiries, and publications requests)

Fax: +61 2 9995 5999

TTY users: phone 133 677, then ask for 131 555

Speak and listen users: phone 1300 555 727, then ask for 131 555

Email: [info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au)

Website: [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)

Report pollution and environmental incidents

Environment Line: 131 555 (NSW only) or [info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au)

See also [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/pollution](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/pollution)

ISBN 978-1-76039-452-3

OEH 2016/0488

September 2016

# Introduction

## Background

Far South Coast Escarpment Parks Plan of Management was adopted in 2011. The plan of management covers Monga National Park, Deua National Park, Gourock National Park, Wadbilliga National Park and Badja Swamps Nature Reserve.

Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management was adopted in 2006.

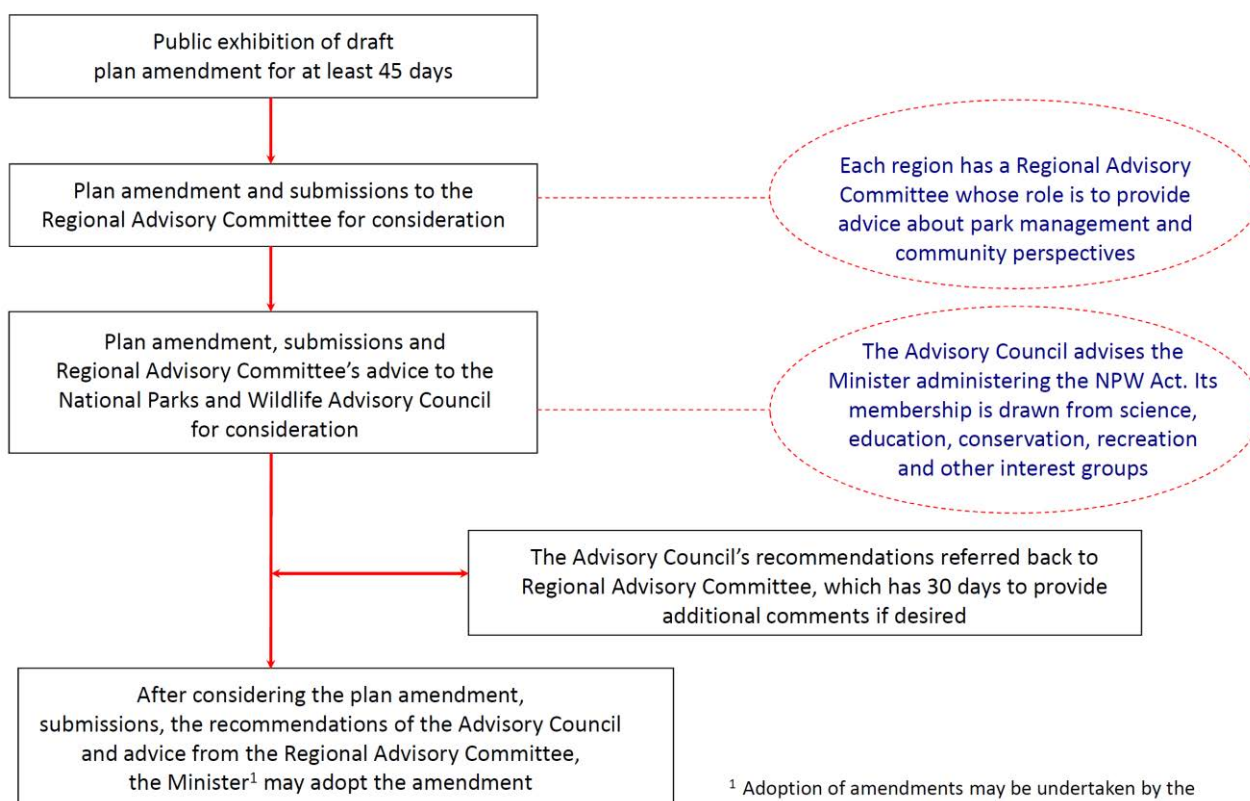
Mummel Gulf National Park and State Conservation Area Plan of Management was adopted in 2012.

Each of these plans was amended in February 2014 to enable trials of horse riding to occur in certain locations in wilderness, for a period of up to 2 years.

A plan of management outlines how the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) manages a park or reserve and is a formal document under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

Under section 73B(3) of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, the Minister may amend or alter a plan of management from time to time on the recommendation of NPWS. It is proposed to amend the three plans of management to enable horse riding to continue in certain locations within wilderness while the detailed evaluation of the wilderness horse riding pilot is finalised.

The procedures for the amendment of plans of management are specified under Part 5 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act and involve the following stages:



<sup>1</sup> Adoption of amendments may be undertaken by the Head of NPWS under delegation from the Minister

## How to read the amendments

These amendments propose changing sections of text in the three plans of management. The proposed amendments should be read in conjunction with the adopted plans, as well as the February 2014 amendments to the three plans that relate to the wilderness horse riding pilot.

Plans of management are available on the Office of Environment and Heritage website at: [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parkmanagement/ParkManagementPlans.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parkmanagement/ParkManagementPlans.htm). This page provides links to plans of management for [Mummel Gulf National Park and State Conservation Area](#) and for the [Far South Coast Escarpment Parks](#) as amended in February 2014.

There are also links to the [Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management](#) as adopted in 2006, and to each of the amendments to this plan, including the [2014 amendment to allow a pilot of horse riding in wilderness](#).




References in this document to numbering relate to the numbering used in the online versions of the adopted plans and/or the amendments of February 2014.

## Invitation to comment

These plan amendments are now being placed on public exhibition for comment. Members of the public, whether as individuals or as members of community interest groups, are invited to comment in writing on these amendments to the plans of management.

Your written submissions must be received by **31 October 2016**.

Submissions can be made in either of the following ways:

-  use the online submission form at <https://engage.environment.nsw.gov.au/consult>
-  email your submission to [npws.parkplanning@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:npws.parkplanning@environment.nsw.gov.au)
-  post your submission to NPWS Planner, Horse Riding in Wilderness at PO Box 733 Queanbeyan NSW 2620.

To make consideration of your submission as effective as possible, please:

- identify the plan, section heading and amendment number to which your comment relates
- briefly explain the reason for your comment and, if appropriate, suggest other ways to address the issue.

Your comments on the draft plan may include 'personal information'. OEH must comply with the NSW [Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998](#) which regulates the collection, storage, quality, use and disclosure of [personal information](#). For details see [OEH and your privacy](#). Information that in some way identifies you may be gathered when you use our website or send us an email.

## Justification for the amendments

In 2012 the NSW Government committed to establishing five pilots across New South Wales to trial horse riding in wilderness locations, as provided for in the NPWS [Strategic Directions for Horse Riding in NSW National Parks and Reserves](#). Further information on the pilots can be found on the OEH [Wilderness horse riding trial](#) webpage.

The horse riding in wilderness trials commenced in April 2014 in wilderness areas within Kosciuszko National Park, Mummel Gulf National Park, Deua National Park and Monga National Park. The plans of management relevant to each of these parks were amended in February 2014 to enable the trials to proceed on identified pilot routes for a period of up to 2 years.

Monitoring was undertaken during the 2-year pilot on a seasonal basis and the data reports are available on the OEH [Wilderness horse riding trail](#) webpage. The pilot finished in April 2016 and final monitoring and evaluation tasks are underway. An initial assessment of data from the monitoring program indicates relatively low usage by horse riders and consequently low risks of impacts to park values. These initial assessments are presented in 'monitoring summaries' for the three areas which are available on the OEH webpage.

Based on this initial assessment it is considered there would be minimal environmental risk if horse riding on the identified pilot routes was to continue while the overall evaluation is undertaken.

It is therefore proposed to amend each of the relevant plans of management to enable horse riding on the identified wilderness pilot routes to continue until 31 December 2017. This is not an extension of the pilot program but a mechanism to allow local horse riders to access the same routes while the evaluation occurs.

# **Proposed amendment to Far South Coast Escarpment Parks National Park Plan of Management**

The amendment of February 2014 is incorporated into a revised version of the plan of management.

## **1. 5.6 – Horse Riding – Issues/Opportunities**

The amendment of February 2014 amended this section, replacing the dot points with four new points.

This amendment proposes deleting the second dot point and replacing it with:

‘Recreational horse riding was trialled in two wilderness locations between April 2014 and April 2016 (as identified in Figure 2): the Shoebridge Bridle Trail in northern Deua National Park and Monga National Park; and the WD Tarlinton Bridle Trail and Georges Pack Bridle Trail in southern and eastern Deua National Park. Horse riding may continue in these locations until 31 December 2017.’

## **2. 5.6 – Horse Riding – Guidelines and Actions**

The amendment of February 2014 inserted an additional paragraph numbered 5.6.6.

This amendment proposes deleting the paragraph numbered 5.6.6 and replacing it with:

‘Horse riding may continue to be undertaken in the locations that were part of the horse riding in wilderness pilot, being the Shoebridge Bridle Trail in northern Deua National Park and Monga National Park (as identified in Figure 2) and the WD Tarlinton Bridle Trail and Georges Pack Bridle Trail in southern and eastern Deua National Park (as identified in Figure 2) until 31 December 2017. Groups of more than 20 horses (including pack horses) will not be permitted.’

## **3. Table 5 – Actions Identified in this Plan – 5.6 Horse Riding**

The amendment of February 2014 inserted a new row in the table, numbered 5.6.6.

This amendment proposes deleting the text in the second column (‘DESCRIPTION’) of the row numbered 5.6.6 and replacing it with:

‘Horse riding may continue to be undertaken in the locations that were part of the horse riding in wilderness pilot, being the Shoebridge Bridle Trail in northern Deua National Park and Monga National Park (as identified in Figure 2) and the WD Tarlinton Bridle Trail and Georges Pack Bridle Trail in southern and eastern Deua National Park (as identified in Figure 2) until 31 December 2017. Groups of more than 20 horses (including pack horses) will not be permitted.’

# Proposed amendment to Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management

The amendment of February 2014 is not incorporated into the version of the plan of management on the OEH website.

## 1. 5.3 Back Country Zone

The amendment of February 2014 revised the third paragraph.

This amendment proposes replacing the last two sentences of the third paragraph:

'Horse riding is permitted in parts of the Back Country Zone, as well as some Wilderness areas as part of the horse riding in wilderness pilot described in 8.7.1(2). Commercial activities as part of the horse riding in wilderness pilot described in 8.7.1(2) are also permitted.'

with

'Horse riding is permitted in parts of the Back Country Zone, as well as some Wilderness areas that were part of the horse riding in wilderness pilot described in 8.7.1(2). Commercial activities related to horse riding in the wilderness locations described in 8.7.1(2) are also permitted.'

## 2. Section 8.7 Horse Riding – Background

Section 8.7 describes where horse riding is permitted in the park. The amendment of February 2014 revised the third paragraph.

This amendment proposes deleting the third paragraph and replacing it with:

'Recreational horse riding is prohibited in the Main Range and certain other alpine and subalpine areas within the park. Recreational horse riding was trialled in wilderness locations between April 2014 and April 2016. Except in those locations that were part of the horse riding in wilderness pilot, described in 8.7.1(2), recreational horse riding is prohibited in declared wilderness areas (the Wilderness Zone). With the exception of the Thredbo alpine resort area where horse riding is currently permitted under lease conditions, most of the horse riding areas in the park are located within the Back Country Zone.'

## 3. Section 8.7.1 Horse Riding – Management Objective

The amendment of February 2014 inserted a new paragraph, numbered 2.

This amendment proposes deleting paragraph 2 and replacing it with:

'Allow recreational horse riding within the wilderness zone until 31 December 2017 in the locations that were part of the horse riding in wilderness pilot, as follows:

- Only on the trails identified in Map 8, being Nine Mile Trail from the Pinch River to the Ingeegoodbee Trail heading south to the Victorian border and north to the Tin Mine Huts near the start of the Cascades/Cowombat Flat Trail.
- Each horse riding group, either commercial or non-commercial, will have a maximum of eight horses only.
- Camping with horses is not allowed within 500 metres of the huts or further than 100 metres from the existing management track.'

# Proposed amendment to Mummel Gulf National Park and State Conservation Area Plan of Management

The amendment of February 2014 is incorporated into a revised version of the plan of management.

## 1. 3.6 Recreation, Education and Research

The amendment of February 2014 revised the fifth paragraph.

This amendment proposes deleting the fifth paragraph and replacing it with:

'Between April 2014 and April 2016 horse riding was trialled on a route through wilderness within the planning area. The wilderness pilot was undertaken on Dicks Hut Fire Trail and River Road (as shown on Map 1). Horse riding may continue in the wilderness pilot locations until 31 December 2017.'

## 2. Table 4: Permissible recreation activities, their location and conditions of use.

In the row beginning 'Horse riding', replace the second paragraph in the second column:

'On the Dicks Hut Fire Trail and River Road route as part of the wilderness pilot, described in 3.6.'

with

'On the Dicks Hut Fire Trail and River Road wilderness pilot routes described in 3.6 until 31 December 2017.'

## 3. Table 5: Vehicle Access within the Planning Area

In the row beginning 'Dicks Hut Fire Trail', replace the last sentence in the last column ('COMMENTS'):

'Horse riding will be permitted on this trail as part of the wilderness pilot, described in 3.6.'

with

'Horse riding will be permitted on this trail until 31 December 2017 as described in 3.6.'

In the row beginning 'River Rd', replace the last sentence in the last column ('COMMENTS'):

'Horse riding will be permitted on this trail as part of the wilderness pilot, described in 3.6.'

with

'Horse riding will be permitted on this trail until 31 December 2017 as described in 3.6.'

## 4. Implementation Table 9.3 Visitor Use and Services

Under Management Response 9.3.6, replace the last three sentences:

'Horse riding will also be trialled on a route through wilderness within the planning area, for the purposes of a wilderness pilot. The wilderness pilot will be undertaken on Dicks Hut Fire



Trail and River Road. The pilot will be undertaken for a period of up to two years in accordance with a monitoring framework applied to the pilot, commencing on a date to be publicly notified.'

with:

'Horse riding may continue until 31 December 2017 on routes that were part of the wilderness pilot, being Dicks Hut Fire Trail and River Road, as described in 3.6.'