



NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Wollemi National Park

**Draft amendment to the plan of management
Establishing a Wollemi great walk**



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Summary

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

The *Wollemi National Park plan of management* (NPWS 2001) describes how the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) intends to achieve the Act's objectives. All operations undertaken in the park need to be in accordance with this plan of management.

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

This draft amendment to the *Wollemi National Park plan of management* is proposed to facilitate:

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

The following points were considered in preparing this draft amendment:

- the 8 management principles for national parks listed under section 30E of the NPW Act
- the matters listed under section 72AA of the NPW Act.

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

Where a change is proposed to an action in the body of the plan of management, corresponding changes will also be made to Section 5 'Plan Implementation' as required.

Have your say

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



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



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



post to: Manager Planning and Assessment, Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124.

Written submissions must be received by **11 December 2023**.

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

Submissions are most effective when we understand your ideas and the outcomes you want for park management. Some suggestions to help you write your submissions are:

- write clearly and be specific about the issues that are of concern to you
- note which part or section of the document your comments relate to
- give reasoning in support of your points – this makes it easier for us to consider your ideas and will help avoid misinterpretation
- tell us specifically what you agree or disagree with and why you agree or disagree
- suggest solutions or alternatives to managing the issue if you can.

What happens to your feedback?

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

Your privacy

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

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

Background

Establishing a Wollemi great walk and addition short walks and lookouts

National Parks and Wildlife Service has proposed the development of a Wollemi great walk. This multi-day walk starts in Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area (SCA), extends north through Gardens of Stone National Park, and finishes in Wollemi National Park (see Figure 1).

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

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

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

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

It is proposed to remove cycling from the Glow Worm Tunnel trail. The narrow width and constrained nature of the Glow Worm Tunnel trail combined with significantly increasing visitation by walkers makes the trail unsuitable as a shared-use pathway. Cyclists can continue to use the Old Coach Road to access the Wolgan Valley from Newnes Plateau.

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

The *Wollemi National Park plan of management* will also be amended to include references to Coorongooba campground, also referred to as Glen Davis campground.

Proposed amendments

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

Section 4.3.3 Walking tracks and bushwalking

Plan reference: page 43

Remove: the fourth paragraph

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

Plan reference: page 44

Add: under the second dot point under 'actions'

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

Section 4.3.4 Picnicking, camping and boating

Plan reference: page 45

Replace: The first dot point under 'Policy'

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

With:

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

Plan reference: page 46

Add: a new dot point under 'Actions'

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

Plan reference: page 46

Add: a new dot point under 'Actions'

- **Coorongooba;** facilities will be provided for car-based camping, picnicking and short walks. Toilets, fireplaces and tables will be provided.

Section 4.3.7 Cycling

Plan reference: page 51

Replace The first dot point under ‘Policy’

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

With:

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

Plan reference: page 51

Add: an additional dot point under ‘Actions’

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



Figure 1 Map of indicative route of proposed new walking track