

Bushwalking NSW

Bushwalking NSW Inc. PO Box 3008, Uki NSW 2484 O: L1, 79 Myrtle Street, Chippendale P: (02)8003 5545
E: admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au W: bushwalkingnsw.org.au [f bushwalkingnsw](https://www.facebook.com/bushwalkingnsw) [t @BushwalkingNSW](https://twitter.com/BushwalkingNSW)

SUBMISSION – REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS, LIGHT TO LIGHT WALK UPGRADE

Line Of Sight Between the Walk Strategy and The Review of Environmental Factors

There are a number of inconsistencies in the proposals envisaged in the 2021 Walk Strategy and this Review of Environmental Strategy. In response to submissions made in 2019 expressing concern about the loss of remote walk-in camping opportunities, the 2021 Walk Strategy committed NPWS to developing a low-key, walk-in only public campground at Mowarry Point and developing a new purpose-built walk-in campground at Bittangabee Bay for use by pack-campers doing the walk.

However, the intended installation of bollards, tent platforms and formalised pathways represents a formalisation of remote camping that will change the notion of independent, back country pack walking for many people. They will be forced to find other remote places for this type of independent pack walking outside of Ben Boyd National Park. No doubt the redevelopment of the Light to Light Track will attract a 'new' group of walkers. However, this will be at the expense of walkers looking for a more remote experience.

No doubt NPWS will be comfortable with this but the REF could have at least acknowledged that there will be a social impact within the bushwalking community. Indeed, rather than enhancing nature-based experiences the proposed developments will result in a narrowing of these experiences.

The Walk Strategy also commits to making the Light to Light Walk accessible to all, irrespective of income. The Review of Environmental Factors makes no mention of the pricing structure of the new facilities and we can only request (again) that NPWS commits to an accessible pricing structure that is cognisant of all income levels.

Location of new pack walkers campsite at Bittangabee

The location of this needs to be clarified as two separate locations are given in the REF. It is therefore unclear if the new campsite will be at the existing camping area at Bittangabee or 1.5 kilometres further to the north.

Construction of New Hard Roofed Accommodation at Mowarry Point and Hegartys Bay

Both of these sites are in High to Extreme Fire Zones. However, the REF makes no mention of additional water tanks that would be required in those areas for fire fighting purposes. It is also unclear if the refuge hut is sufficiently large enough to accommodate walkers, other visitors, staff and others in the event of a fire emergency.

Realignment of the Track South of Woodburn Creek

The justification for the new track south of Pulpit Rock to the Lighthouse seems contradictory. The existing tracks through the heathland provide a very different bird, flora and open landscape experience for walkers. The REF claims that the closure of the first half of the existing track south from Bittangabee to Pulpit Rock is necessary to 'allow rehabilitation of the heath'.

However, the REF then contradicts that statement by noting that the existing track (a continuation of the same track) from Pulpit Rock to Green Cape Light House through the heath will be retained to allow for bird watching, nature tours education and conservation purposes.

Stakeholder Reference Group

NPWS has previously indicated the Group will be formed in the near future to advise on the implementation of the Walk Strategy. However, the REF states that the Group already exists. This needs to be clarified as we consider that representation from the local bushwalking community is highly desirable.