

Bushwalking NSW

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KU-RING-GAI CHASE NATIONAL PARK AND LION ISLAND, LONG ISLAND AND SPECTACLE ISLAND NATURE RESERVES

DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Introduction

Bushwalking NSW Incorporated is the peak body for bushwalkers in NSW and the ACT. It represents the interests of over 11,000 bushwalkers from 70 bushwalking clubs throughout NSW and the ACT, and provides a united voice to local, state and federal government agencies and other bodies on issues affecting bushwalkers.

Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park is frequently visited by many of our affiliated clubs, particularly those based in Sydney. It is a popular park for bushwalkers.

Providing for visitor use and enjoyment

Apple Tree Bay Precinct

Bushwalking NSW considers that the draft Plan's failure to consider a walk-in campsite at Apple Tree Bay is a missed opportunity to enhance walking in the park. Apple Tree Bay has water and toilet facilities and the establishment of camping sites on the grassed area behind the car park could be achieved at minimal cost. Such a campsite would enable people using the local track network to include an overnight stay. It would also enable people doing the multi-day Harbour to Hawkesbury Track to include an overnight stop in a national park. This is currently not possible. A campground at Apple Tree Bay would also be an option for those doing the Great North Walk as it only require a short side trip from the official route.

Bushwalking NSW recommends that precinct planning for Apple Tree Bay addresses the option of a walk-in campsite (see pp 9 and 22).

Park and Ride

Bushwalking NSW supports the introduction of 'park and ride' facilities in Ku-ring-gai Chase NP as this would be a transport option for day walkers (see p 9).

Tracks and Trails Network

It is also noted that NPWS will be considering changes to the track network including closure of tracks and management trails and expanding existing tracks and trails to multiuse such as mountain bikes and horse-riding. Bushwalking NSW wishes to be consulted about such proposals before they are finalised (see pp 10 and 23).

Scheme of Operations

- Bushwalking NSW supports track maintenance and upgrades being listed as a high priority (see p 18).

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- The intention to seek an MOU with relevant agencies for track and facility maintenance on the Great North Walk (GNW) is welcome. Parts of the GNW in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park such as the southern and northern approaches to Jerusalem Bay are in poor condition. The repair of these sections should be a high priority.
- Bushwalking NSW considers that allowing up to 39 people in a walking (or other recreation) party without NPWS consent is too high. It should be reduced to 29 with 30 or more being the requirement for a consent (including non-commercial groups).

Harbour to Hawkesbury Track

The omission of any mention of this walking track is disappointing as a large section of it occurs in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. The track has been neglected over the years and it is obvious that promotion of the track has failed to keep up to date with technology. Track signage has also not been maintained and in some places is non-existent. As with the GNW, Bushwalking NSW considers that an MOU between NPWS and other relevant agencies concerning the promotion and maintenance of the track is long overdue. It should have a high priority. It is also important that a lead agency be appointed to coordinate management of the Harbour to Hawkesbury Track.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Plan of Management. Bushwalking NSW Inc looks forward to being kept informed on the final adoption of the Plan.

Yours sincerely,



David Bell
President
Bushwalking NSW Inc.
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