

Bushwalking NSW

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Proposed Amendment – Wollemi National Park

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.

Our submission follows the Section Headings in the Amendment document and, where required, the individual page numbers. At the end of our submission, we have added some general comment on the proposed Wollemi Great Walk.

Amendment: Establishing a Wollemi great walk

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We support the proposal to construct a link track as described.

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We support the proposal to add a remote bushwalker campsite, subject to environmental and cultural assessments.

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We have safety concerns about a proposed shared walking/cycling track along the section of former railway line between Newnes Campground and the Old Coach Road. Experience suggests that some shared pathways work well whereas others do not. We withhold support for this proposal pending further information from NPWS about measures to ensure that walkers will be able to use this route without the risk of clashes with mountain bikes being ridden at excessive speed. For this reason, we request that NPWS outlines steps it will take to ensure both walkers and cyclists can use a shared path safely.

Proposed Wollemi Great Walk

Bushwalking NSW Inc. supports, in principle, the proposed Walk as it is considered consistent with the vision and goals of our Strategic Plan to develop additional long-distance walking tracks in NSW. We also consider that the proposed Walk will provide additional opportunities for people to undertake multi-day walking and an alternative to the multi-day track walks elsewhere in the Blue Mountains region and which, on occasion, are closed due to adverse conditions and maintenance. However, we remain opposed to private accommodation being constructed along the Walk as is currently proposed in the Gardens of Stone SCA.

Bushwalking NSW Inc.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Bell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'D' and 'B'.

David Bell
President
Bushwalking NSW Inc.
10 December 2023