



Office of
Environment & Heritage
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service



**PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS TO
FAR SOUTH COAST ESCARPMENT PARKS
PLAN OF MANAGEMENT**

MAY 2013

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INVITATION TO COMMENT

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

Section 73B of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) provides that the Minister may amend a plan of management. The procedure for the exhibition and adoption of an amendment is specified in the Act and involves:

- The proposed amendment is placed on public exhibition for at least 45 days and any person may comment on it;
- The amendment and submissions received on the amendment are referred to the Regional Advisory Committee for consideration;
- The amendment, submissions and any advice from the Regional Advisory Committee are referred to the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council for consideration;
- The amendment, submissions and the recommendations of the Advisory Council are referred to the Minister, and a copy referred to the Regional Advisory Committee;
- After considering the submissions, the recommendations of the Advisory Council and any advice from the Regional Advisory Committee, the Minister may adopt the amendment to the plan or may refer the amendment back to the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Council for further consideration.

Members of the public are invited to comment on proposed amendments to the Far South Coast Escarpment Parks Plan of Management. Submissions should be in writing and be as detailed and specific as possible, however any comments, no matter how brief, are welcome.

Submissions should be forwarded to:

- i) **THE REGIONAL PLANNER
NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
PO BOX 656
MERIMBULA NSW 2548**
- (ii) **E-mailing your submission to: FSCR@environment.nsw.gov.au**
- (iii) **Submitting your comments on-line at www.environment.nsw.gov.au**

THE CLOSING DATE FOR COMMENTS ON THESE AMENDMENTS IS

MONDAY 29TH JULY 2013

All submissions received by the National Parks and Wildlife Service are a matter of public record and are available for public inspection upon request. Your comments on these amendments may contain information that is defined as “personal information” under the *NSW Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*. The submission of personal information with your comments is voluntary.

BACKGROUND

The *Strategic Directions for Horse Riding in NSW National Parks and Reserves* (2012) commits to establishing five wilderness pilots across NSW, to trial horse riding in wilderness locations.

It is proposed to amend the Far South Coast Escarpment Parks Plan of Management to establish two wilderness pilots. The wilderness pilots will trial horse riding on two identified routes through wilderness for a period of up to two years.

The first pilot will trial horse riding on the Shoebridge Track in northern Deua National Park. The second pilot will trial horse riding on the WD Tarlington and the Georges Pack Track in the southern and eastern parts of Deua National Park. These trails are of strong cultural heritage significance to local horse riders.

A monitoring framework has been developed to apply to the wilderness pilots to ensure there are no unacceptable impacts on park values.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

The following amendments are proposed to the Far South Coast Escarpment Parks Plan of Management.

Section 5.6 – Horse Riding – Issues/Opportunities

1. Amend this section to read:

- 'There is a need to assess the cultural heritage of the Escarpment Parks in a regional context, including that of the old bridle tracks.
- Two wilderness pilots will be undertaken to trial horse riding access in wilderness. The first pilot will comprise the Shoebridge Track in northern Deua National Park (as identified in figure 1) and the second pilot will comprise the WD Tarlington and Georges Pack Tracks in southern and eastern Deua National Park (as identified in figure 1). The pilots will be undertaken for a period of up to two years in accordance with a monitoring framework applied to the pilots.
- Horse riding is and will continue to be prohibited on all other bridle tracks, management trails and other areas in wilderness. The only exception to this is where access to bridle tracks is required to undertake approved management works.'

Section 5.6 – Horse Riding – Desired Outcome

2. Amend the first paragraph to state:

‘Opportunities for visitors to travel through the Parks on horseback on the recreational road network and on management trails and bridle tracks outside wilderness areas. Trial horse riding access to the identified bridle tracks in wilderness through the wilderness pilots.’

Section 5.6 – Horse Riding – Guidelines and Actions

3. Insert the following as an additional paragraph numbered 5.6.6:

‘Two wilderness pilots will be undertaken to trial horse riding access in wilderness. The first pilot will comprise the Shoebridge Track in northern Deua National Park (as identified in figure 1) and the second pilot will comprise the WD Tarlington and Georges Pack Tracks in southern and eastern Deua National Park (as identified in figure 1). The pilots will be undertaken for a period of up to two years in accordance with a monitoring framework applied to the pilots.’

Re-number remaining paragraphs accordingly.

Table 5 – Actions Identified in this Plan – 5.6 Horse Riding

4. Insert the following as a new row in the table, numbered 5.6.6:

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY
5.6.6	Two wilderness pilots will be undertaken to trial horse riding access in wilderness. The first pilot will comprise the Shoebridge Track in northern Deua National Park (as identified in figure X) and the second pilot will comprise the WD Tarlington and Georges Pack Tracks in southern and eastern Deua National Park (as identified in figure X). The pilots will be undertaken for a period of up to two years in accordance with a monitoring framework applied to the pilots.’	High

Figure 1: Wilderness Pilot Routes

