



NSW NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area

Draft Plan of Management



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This document is a draft for public comment. The provisions in the final plan may differ from the provisions of this draft document.

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Have your say

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



the [online submission form](#)



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

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

Written submissions must be received by 5 July 2022.

Our response to your submission will be based on the merits 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.

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 the relevant statutory advisory committees with the draft plan, all submissions and the submissions report. They may then provide advice to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage.

Step 3: The Minister considers the plan, submissions and advice, and may then adopt the plan under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act).

Your privacy

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

Acknowledgements

Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area is in the traditional Country of the Wiradjuri People. This draft plan of management was prepared by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service with assistance from relevant stakeholders.

Contact us

For more information about this plan of management or Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area, contact NPWS at npws.kanangra@environment.nsw.gov.au, 38 Ross St, Oberon NSW 2787 or by telephone on 02 6336 6200.

Summary

Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area is an area of outstanding natural and cultural value, protecting ancient sandstone pagodas, rich eucalypt forests, an array of threatened species and important cultural heritage. It is also an outstanding destination for visitors that will attract visitors and support the economy of the Lithgow region.

Its establishment as a park will complement the adjacent Blue Mountains, Wollemi and Gardens of Stone national parks and ensure that the park's special values are protected in perpetuity. Its classification as a state conservation area will enable the continuation of economically important coal mining operations beneath the park.

Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area is reserved to achieve the objects of the NPW Act. These objects are listed in Appendix A and are centred on conserving the natural and cultural values of the park, as well as fostering public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of these values.

The NPW Act requires a plan of management to be developed for each state conservation area as soon as practicable after its reservation. As part of this development, a draft plan must be placed on public exhibition.

This draft plan of management describes how Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area is proposed to be managed, consistent with the objectives of the Act. As required under the Act, it has been prepared following consideration of the management principles for state conservation areas listed in Appendix B and the matters listed under section 72AA of the NPW Act.

After the public exhibition period, this draft plan, together with all submissions received will be considered by relevant statutory advisory bodies who may provide advice to the Minister for Environment and Heritage. Once adopted by the Minister, all operations in the park must be undertaken in accordance with the plan of management.

Once adopted, the plan of management will provide strategic direction for management of the major issues confronting the park.

Acknowledgement of Country

Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area is Wiradjuri Country. It is an integral part of this rich and complex cultural landscape which is of profound significance. The rights of the Wiradjuri People and their aspirations for their Country are acknowledged and respected.

1. Introduction

Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area (the park) was reserved on 29 April 2022 after the NSW Government made a landmark commitment to strengthen protection of this iconic landscape within the Western Blue Mountains.

The park is located approximately five kilometres north of Lithgow and 140 kilometres west of Sydney at the junction of the Great Dividing Range and the Blue Mountains Range in the NSW Central Tablelands region (Figure 2). It adjoins Blue Mountains National Park to the east and Wollemi National Park and Gardens of Stone National Park to the north. These parks, along with five other parks, form the World Heritage listed Greater Blue Mountains Area.

The park is a part of a significant Wiradjuri cultural landscape. It contains many Aboriginal heritage sites and adjoins the Maiyngu Marragu Aboriginal Place – a significant rock art site and cultural educational precinct with strong connections to Mingaan Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation.

Access tracks, lookouts and camping areas within the park have been visited for many years, although visitor facilities are currently limited. Community representatives and conservation groups have advocated for the protection of this area during this time and members of the community have also contributed to programs for the conservation of the area's flora and fauna.

The Springvale coal mine is located underneath the park and remains in operation. This mine has supplied coal to the Mount Piper and Wallerawang power stations since 1992.

The park is comprised of the former Newnes, Ben Bullen and Wolgan state forests which include pine plantations and areas formerly used for native forest harvesting. It also contains the headwaters of the Wolgan, Coxs and Wollangambe rivers.

The plan provides a summary of the park's most significant values and provides an overview of the primary factors that are expected to influence management. The plan also proposes high-level objectives and strategies for management.

2. Significance of Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area

A highly significant Wiradjuri cultural landscape. The park contains numerous Aboriginal heritage sites of profound cultural significance including rock art, grinding grooves, wells, occupation deposits in rock shelters and artefact scatters. The swamps on the Newnes Plateau provided continuous food resources for Aboriginal people. Some of the shelters bordering the swamps have a very high concentration of artefact material. The park adjoins the Maiyngu Marragu Aboriginal Place – a well-known rock art site and cultural education precinct. The park provides the Wiradjuri community with opportunities to further their aspirations for community, culture and Country.

Nationally significant pagoda landscapes. The weathering of Triassic-era sandstones on the western margin of the Sydney Basin has resulted in a striking landscape of rocky landforms, including massive beehives, domes and plates known as pagodas. The Newnes Plateau area of the park contains some of the most spectacular sections of this nationally significant landscape, as well as 'platy' pagodas (which have ridged profiles formed by more resistant bands of ironstone interspersed by sandstone) which are considered rare on a global scale. The landscape also contains spectacular sandstone pinnacles, rugged cliff lines, slot canyons, gorges and overhangs set among dense bushland. This dramatic and complex terrain is of considerable scenic, geological and aesthetic value.

Rich biodiversity. The complex rocky landforms of the upland plateau provide a diversity of habitats for plants and animals resulting in rich biodiversity. The park protects:

- over 1,000 plant species and 33 vegetation communities, 3 of which are threatened –
 - White Box - Yellow Box - Blakelys Red Gum Woodland Endangered Ecological Community (EEC)
 - Newnes Plateau Shrub Swamps EEC
 - Montane Peatlands and Swamps of the New England Tableland, Sydney Basin, South East Corner, South Eastern Highlands and Australian Alps bioregions EEC
- additional vegetation communities that are of limited distribution or were previously unrepresented in the reserve system
- 42 threatened plant species
- over 300 vertebrate animal species, including 42 threatened animal species, including the koala, spotted-tailed quoll, Blue Mountains water skink, broad-headed snake, southern brown bandicoot, regent honeyeater, scarlet robin, and several species of microbats.

Opportunities for recreation and tourism. The Gardens of Stone landscape is an awe-inspiring natural setting. Once access has been upgraded and visitor sites have been developed, the park will provide opportunities for people to learn about Wiradjuri culture, connect with nature and enjoy outdoor recreation activities. The area has historically been used for a variety of recreation including 4-wheel driving, trail bike riding, horse riding, mountain biking, birdwatching, bushwalking and rock climbing. The park will continue to provide for a range of sustainable recreation while also supporting new tourism and recreational experiences. Its establishment as a major new visitor destination will drive the growth and diversification of the local and regional economy.

3. Planning context

3.1 Factors that have shaped this plan

The park contains Wiradjuri sites and is part of a highly significant cultural landscape. Maiyingu Marragu Aboriginal Place adjoins the park.

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) provides for the proper care preservation and protection of Aboriginal objects and places in the park. Native title claim (NC2018/002) has been lodged over part of the park. The park will be managed in accordance with the NPW Act and the *Native Title Act 1993*. This includes adherence to procedures in relation to future acts. This legislation will enable the National Parks and Wildlife Service to give effect to Wiradjuri knowledge, aspirations and approaches to land management and for the long-term care of Country.

Wiradjuri People, neighbours, nearby residents, recreational user groups and conservation advocates have a strong interest in the park's future and seek opportunities to provide input into plans relevant to their area of interest. Facilitating the ongoing involvement of the community will be a priority.

The park's classification as a state conservation area enables the continued operation of the underground Springvale mine under relevant consents which currently extend to 2028. Mining operations will continue alongside conservation activities. Surface infrastructure has been established in the park including dewatering bores, vents, powerlines and tracks.

The establishment of the park as a major sustainable visitor destination is a key driver for this plan. The park has not previously been developed or promoted as a destination; however, its dramatic landscape is ideal for a range of activities. In addition, its close proximity to the large population of Sydney and easy access to the public transport, accommodation, services and other attractions located at Lithgow provide a unique opportunity to establish a major new nature-based destination for people of the greater Sydney region.

The park was heavily impacted by the 2019–20 fires. As a result, some vegetation communities are particularly vulnerable to the impact of further fires, weed spread, off-road vehicle use and erosion. A changing climate could exacerbate these impacts by causing an increase in the intensity and frequency of fires in this landscape.

The park contains a significant number of threatened vegetation communities, plants and animals. However, a detailed understanding of ecosystem function, biodiversity values and threats to these values is not yet in place. The development of a strong foundation of science to support the conservation of biodiversity and to complement Wiradjuri knowledge will be a priority.

Most of the park was previously within state forest and managed for native hardwood or plantation softwood production. Forestry and recreational vehicle activities have resulted in a very high density of trails, many of which are not necessary for public access and are eroding or fragmenting habitat. Most of the softwood plantations were harvested in the late 2010s. While some plantations remain unharvested, many former plantations are now largely comprised of highly degraded areas. Sandstone extraction has also occurred previously in Newnes State Forest near Clarence and continues in adjacent quarries on freehold land.

Off-road 4-wheel driving and trail bike riding, and the use of poorly constructed tracks has resulted in erosion and the loss of vegetation. There are an estimated 700 kilometres of tracks and trails in the park. Many of these are not properly constructed, are not required for park management purposes and are unlikely to add value to the visitor experience.

3.2 The park planning framework

Section 72AA(4) of the NPW Act requires each plan of management to include a scheme of operations. In response to the complexity and dynamic nature of park management, NPWS now implements plans of management through a framework-based approach to park operations. This approach gives effect to the requirement for a scheme of operations consistent with the requirements of section 72AA(4).

Plans of management provide long-term direction for park management by setting broad objectives and high-level strategies to guide park operations. Short-term service delivery plans may also be prepared to complement plans of management by providing further analysis of the issues and extra detail.

Figure 1 illustrates how plans of management work in tandem with a range of service delivery plans to help NPWS set priorities and allocate resources for the implementation of programs and projects. NPWS continuously reviews the performance of plans applicable to each park through an annual cycle of planning, delivery, review and refinement of programs.

The Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area Draft Plan of Management focuses on the strategies needed to establish the park and commence its protection. As a result, all the strategies in this plan are a high priority and will be implemented in the short to medium term. Additional strategies and actions will be implemented as necessary, consistent with the objectives of the NPW Act, the objectives of this plan, Table 1 (Authorised activities), relevant NPWS policies and the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019

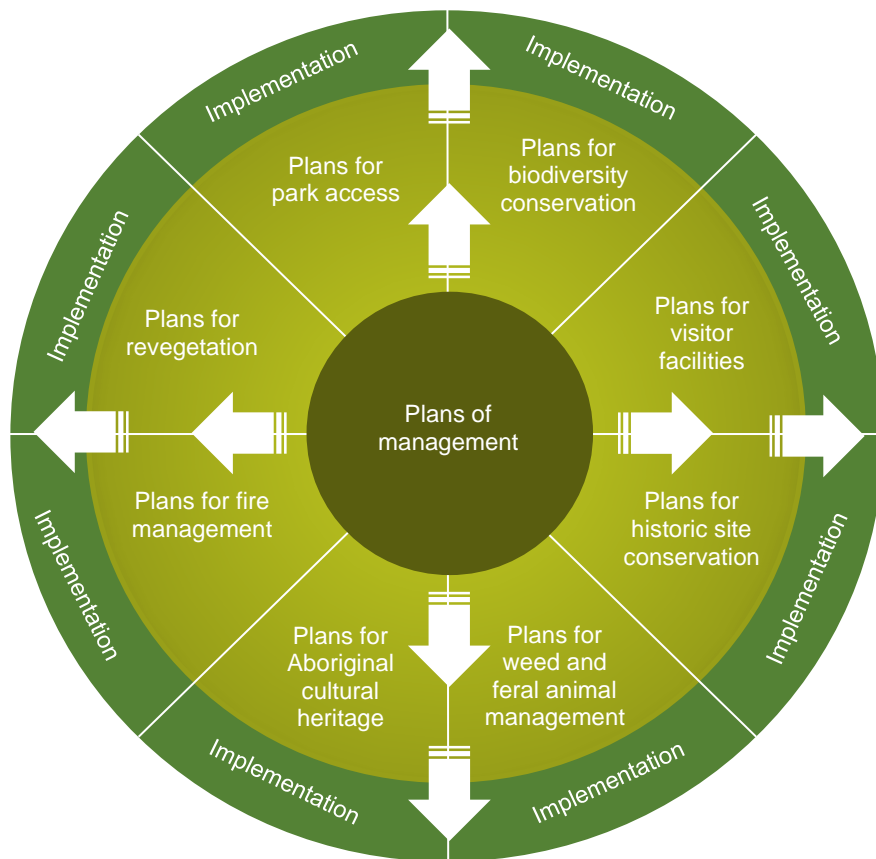


Figure 1 Park planning framework

4. Management objectives and strategies

4.1 Establishing a major new visitor destination in the Blue Mountains

Establishing the park as a major new visitor destination will require high-quality access roads, signs and carefully designed facilities that meet the needs of future visitors, including camping areas, toilets, information shelters, lookouts, fireplaces, walking trails and cycling tracks. Once constructed, this infrastructure will provide opportunities for a broad range of safe, attractive and environmentally sustainable experiences to help drive the growth of tourism in the region.

The park will offer opportunities for a range of guided and independent activities, including learning about Wiradjuri culture, camping, sightseeing, rock climbing, canyoning, sustainable 4-wheel driving, cycling and bushwalking. The park will also provide opportunities for cultural and nature-based tourism businesses.

The concept of an adventure activity precinct at the Lost City (see Figure 3) that could be operated under lease by a private sector partner is proposed. A lease within this precinct may enable the development of visitor infrastructure to support a range of adventure activities such as rock climbing, abseiling, canyoning, zip-lining, elevated walkways and via ferrata (a system of permanently fixed infrastructure to support rock-climbing by people with a range of skill levels).

It is also proposed that a multi-day walk be developed, supported by serviced, low-impact accommodation which could be operated by and leased to a private sector partner. The indicative location of potential visitor accommodation nodes is shown in Figure 3.

The specific type and location of new infrastructure and the location of areas to be designated for vehicle access, cycling and horse riding will be determined during the development of a detailed master plan and in consultation with Wiradjuri representatives and relevant recreational user groups. Works will be subject to cultural and environmental assessments as appropriate.

The National Parks and Wildlife Regulation became applicable to the park upon reservation. As a result, the regulations applicable to some activities such as off-road vehicle use and visiting with pets have changed. It will be necessary to provide information for visitors, raise awareness about the range of activities that are allowed in the park, and undertake compliance activities.

Strategies

- **Visitor sites** – Identify, design and construct a network of visitor sites for day use.
- **Camping sites** – Designate, design and construct a series of sites for camping.
- **Access roads** – Upgrade roads and associated signs, including State Mine Gully Road, Glow Worm Tunnel Road and Old Bells Line of Road to provide 2-wheel drive access to key visitor sites and camping areas.
- **4-wheel drive touring routes** – Designate appropriate 4-wheel drive touring routes and make any improvements necessary for safety and environmental sustainability. Levels of use and trail wear will be monitored and strategies to manage safety and environmental sustainability on touring routes, such as controlled access and wet weather closures, will be implemented as required. (Further detail about the authorisation of vehicle access is provided in Table 1).

- **Recreational tracks and trails** – Identify and designate track/trail networks for recreation including walking, cycling and horse riding. Consider construction of linkages to facilitate walking and cycling including connections to Lithgow. (Further detail about the authorisation of cycling and horse riding is provided in Table 1).
- **Multi-day walk** – Design and develop a multi-day walk that provides camping for independent walkers and scope for leased, low-impact, serviced accommodation.
- **Adventure activity precinct** – Within the Lost City adventure precinct (Figure 2), seek to establish an adventure activity precinct that provides scope for operation under a lease with a suitable private sector partner.
- **Surplus assets** – Identify, decommission and/or remove building and other assets that are unsafe, not of an appropriate standard or surplus to requirements.
- **Safety** – Following risk assessments of known visitor destinations, promote upgraded visitor sites, restrict public access to dangerous sites if necessary, remove any substandard infrastructure, provide safety advice to visitors and install any necessary safety infrastructure.

4.2 Setting a sound foundation for the conservation of biodiversity

While a considerable body of Wiradjuri and scientific knowledge exists about the park's natural and cultural values and threats to these values, further work is required to identify gaps, share knowledge and establish a solid foundation for future conservation work. NPWS welcomes partnerships with universities, researchers and scientific specialists to progress projects that will inform conservation work.

Some flora and fauna surveys have been undertaken in the area; however, this is not comprehensive. A thorough understanding of the impacts arising from threatening processes – including erosion of tracks, subsidence of upland swamps, pest animals, weeds and habitat fragmentation arising from past activities – is required to inform management of natural values.

Additional knowledge is also needed to fully understand the conservation needs of ecological communities, including those communities that are under the most stress. This includes communities that are recovering from fire, subject to mining, subject to past native forest harvesting, were cleared for softwood production, or have been impacted by off-road vehicle activity. A park fire management strategy will be prepared to protect life, assets and property. It will also seek to maximise ecological outcomes for the park by establishing a mosaic of recently burnt and unburnt areas.

Strategies:

- **Natural values** – Identify priorities for protection and further research through a review of information about the area's flora, fauna, historic, geological and other values.
- **Conservation programs** – Identify priorities and implement programs to conserve and increase the resilience of vegetation communities, key habitats and threatened species.
- **Feral animal and weed control** – deliver feral animal control, including through aerial and ground shooting, aerial and ground baiting and trapping, and weed control.
- **Fire management** – Develop and implement fire management plans and strategies.
- **Fire access** – Identify tracks and trails to be retained and managed for fire management through development of a fire access and fire trail plan for the park.
- **Research and monitoring** – Encourage research that addresses knowledge gaps and assists in setting priorities and designing future conservation programs.

4.3 Supporting Wiradjuri aspirations for Country

NPWS is committed to developing appropriate partnerships with Wiradjuri People, incorporating Wiradjuri perspectives into management of the park, and supporting their aspirations for their Country.

The park's establishment provides opportunities for Wiradjuri People to progress their aspirations for Country. This could include participation in cultural activities in the park, involvement in park management activities such as cultural burning, employment, establishment of park-based businesses or educating visitors about Wiradjuri culture.

Creation of the park also provides opportunities for visitors to gain a greater appreciation of Wiradjuri culture and the cultural landscape through interpretive information, guided activities and the use of Wiradjuri language.

There are many known Aboriginal sites within the park, and it is likely that there are many others that have not yet been recorded and which remain vulnerable to disturbance. Wiradjuri representatives will continue to manage sites that are in the park and on their Country with support from NPWS and others as appropriate.

Strategies:

- **Site protection** – Cooperate with appropriate Wiradjuri organisations to protect known sites and to develop strategies for further research, documentation and promotion of cultural heritage values.
- **Working together** – Develop protocols or a memorandum of understanding to guide respectful and culturally appropriate collaboration between Wiradjuri People and NPWS representatives.
- **Caring for Country** – Work with Wiradjuri to identify aspirations for Country, implement park establishment works and commence delivery of agreed joint priorities.
- **Sharing Wiradjuri culture** – Work with Wiradjuri people to support the sharing of culture with visitors and to investigate options for co-naming of the park.

4.4 Assisting the recovery of a landscape under stress

The park is recovering from the broadscale impacts of fires during 2019–20 and softwood plantation establishment and harvesting. In addition, off-road vehicle activity over many years and the establishment of tracks to support mining and past forestry activities has resulted in widespread erosion and the extensive fragmentation of habitats.

There are also impacts arising from coal mining operations under areas of Newnes Plateau Shrub Swamp EEC and Newnes Plateau Hanging Swamp. These vegetation communities are collectively commensurate with Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone – an endangered ecological community listed under the Australian Government's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Mining activities will continue to be managed in accordance with consents and associated performance measures that have been granted under the *Mining Act 1992*, *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, NPW Act and EPBC Act.

Accurate information about the impacts of weeds and feral animals, including feral predators, has not yet been collated. However, these factors are certain to be placing additional stress on recovering vegetation communities and native fauna populations. The effective control of feral predators, particularly cats and foxes, is essential for the recovery of many threatened animal species, especially mammals and ground-dwelling birds.

Tracks and trails that are not suitable or not required for park access, recreation or fire management will be progressively closed and rehabilitated. Similarly, areas degraded through prolonged off-road vehicle activity will be assessed and stabilised over time.

NPWS has committed to being carbon-positive by 2028. This new Gardens of Stone SCA may have significant potential to contribute to NSW's Net Zero Plan and NPWS Carbon Positive goals by regenerating degraded parts of the park and storing carbon in the growing native vegetation. A carbon project to assist regeneration of native vegetation will be investigated. If approved, the proposed project will boost investment and enable carbon and conservation works in the park, which are above and beyond the legal requirements and standard land management activities conducted by NPWS on the national park estate.

Strategies:

- **Surplus tracks and trails** – Identify, close and rehabilitate tracks and trails that are not suitable or not required for park access, recreation or park management purposes.
- **Softwood plantations** – Facilitate the return of endemic vegetation communities in extant standing softwood plantations.
- **Mining** – Develop and implement environmental management plans to minimise impacts on park values arising from mining activities, monitoring, mining infrastructure and mining decommissioning/rehabilitation works. Work with mine operators to develop decommissioning schedules for mine and supporting infrastructure.
- **Cleared areas** – Identify potential investment sources (such as carbon projects) to enable rehabilitation and restoration of priority revegetation projects.
- **Weeds, feral predators and other feral animals** – Conduct initial assessments of weeds, feral predators and other feral animals. Develop and implement strategies for the management of priority weeds, feral predators and other feral animals.

5. Authorised activities

Table 1 Authorised activities in Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area

Activity	Description
Extractive industries	
Mining	Activities associated with operation of the Springvale mine are authorised under the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> , <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> , the NPW Act and the EPBC Act.
Utilities and access	
Granting of easements, rights of way, leases and licences	The grant of relevant authorisations for utility infrastructure (including but not limited to pipelines), telecommunications infrastructure and access purposes may be considered on a case by case basis in accordance with the NPW Act
Research	
Research	Research may be allowed under a consent.
Commercial activities	
Accommodation development and operation	The development and operation of visitor accommodation may be authorised in up to four of the identified the multi-day walk visitor accommodation nodes. Development and operation under a lease with conditions may be considered (Figure 3).
Filming and photography	Commercial filming and photography may be allowed under consent.
Commercial tours, events and functions	Commercial tours, events and functions may be allowed under a consent.
Adventure recreation infrastructure development and operation	The development and operation of elevated walkways, zip-lines, rope swing, high ropes, via ferrata and flying fox infrastructure may be authorised in the Lost City adventure precinct. Development and operation under a lease or other consent with conditions may be considered (Figure 3).
Visitor activities	
Abseiling, rock climbing and canyoning	These activities are allowed across the park. However, they may be restricted by prohibition notice. New bolts or anchors may not be installed and park infrastructure such as safety railing may not be used as anchor points.
Barbecues	The use of permanent barbecues is allowed at sites where these are provided. The use of portable gas stoves and liquid stoves is allowed throughout the park.
Camping	Vehicle-based camping and walker-only camping may be allowed at specific sites upon their designation for camping. Bush camping is allowed at sites further than 200 metres from park infrastructure such as roads, walking tracks and lookouts.
Cycling	Cycling is allowed on park roads and management trails. It may also be authorised on additional tracks and trails upon their designation for cycling. Cycling is not allowed on designated mine access trails, walking tracks or off-trail.
Non-commercial events, functions and group gatherings	Private functions and group gatherings involving more than 40 people may be allowed under a consent.

Activity	Description
	Public events such as public ceremonies, club and sporting events may be allowed under a consent.
Dog walking	Dogs that are not assistance animals are not allowed in state conservation areas. Assistance animals are allowed throughout the park; however, they must be kept under effective control at all times with a leash or harness.
Vehicle access (including motorbikes)	Registered vehicles (including 4-wheel drives and motorbikes) are allowed on public roads (Figure 1). Vehicle access may also be authorised on additional roads and trails upon their designation for vehicle access. Vehicle access may be regulated through mechanisms such as by club permit or a booking system. Roads and trails may be temporarily closed to prevent damage, such as in wet weather, or to support management activities. Off-road access is not permitted. Motorcycle use of walking tracks, single-tracks and cycle tracks is not permitted.
Fossicking	Not permitted.
Hang-gliding, paragliding, parasailing and base jumping	Not permitted.
Horse riding	Horse riding is allowed on park roads and management trails. It may also be authorised on additional tracks and trails upon their designation for horse riding. Horse riding is not allowed on designated mine access trails, walking and cycling tracks or off-trail. Horse riding events require consent.
Model aeroplanes and drones	The use of model aeroplanes or drones may be allowed under a consent. The operation of drones under a consent will also be subject to conditions and relevant civil aviation regulations.
Public access	Public access will be managed in accordance with the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation. Additional restrictions may also apply. Restrictions on public access to lease areas and areas associated with mining operations may also apply.
Slack-lining and high-lining	Slack-lining, high-lining and similar activities may be allowed under a consent.
Wood fires	Wood fires will be allowed in constructed fireplaces. Wood fires are prohibited elsewhere and during total and park fire bans.

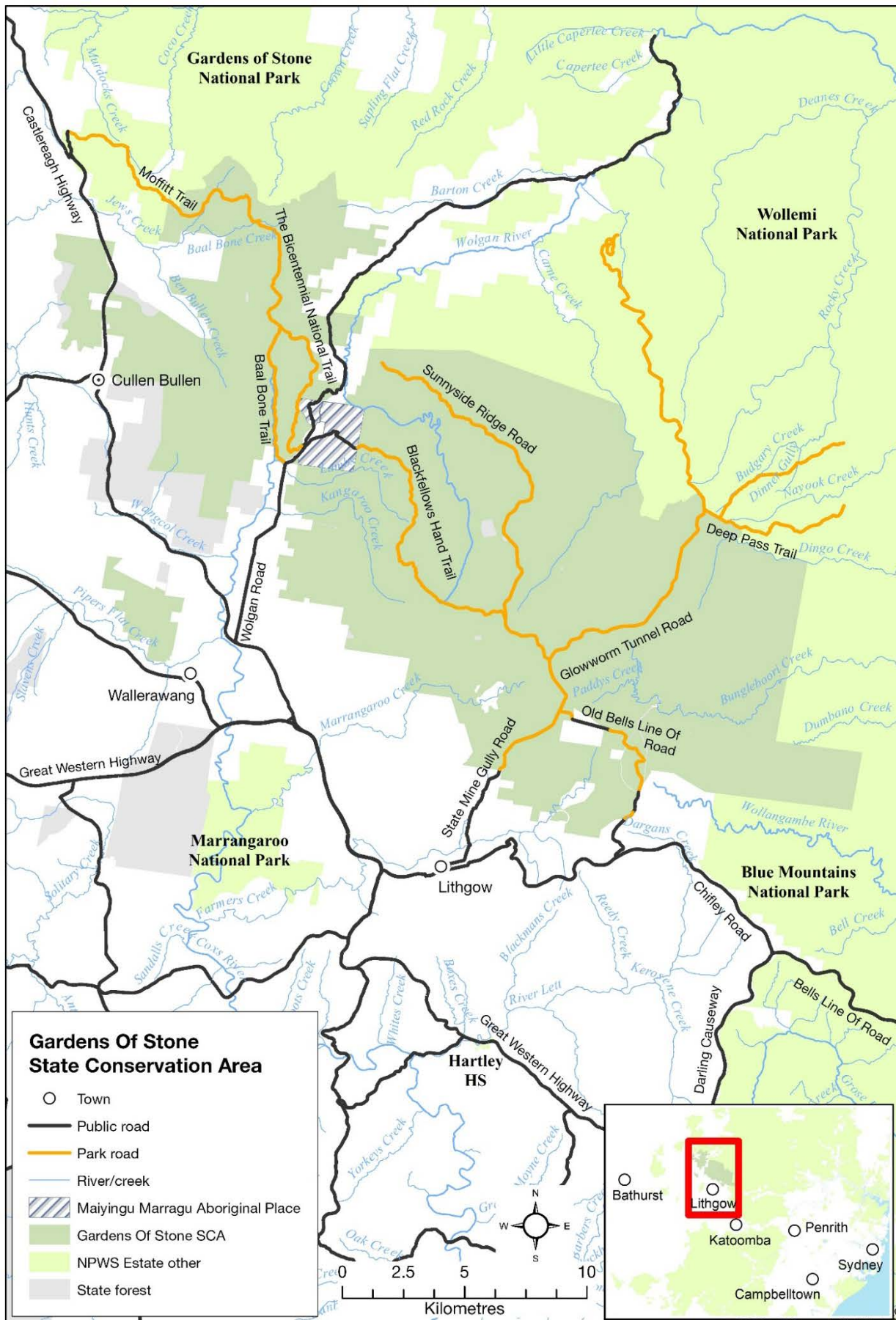


Figure 2 Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area

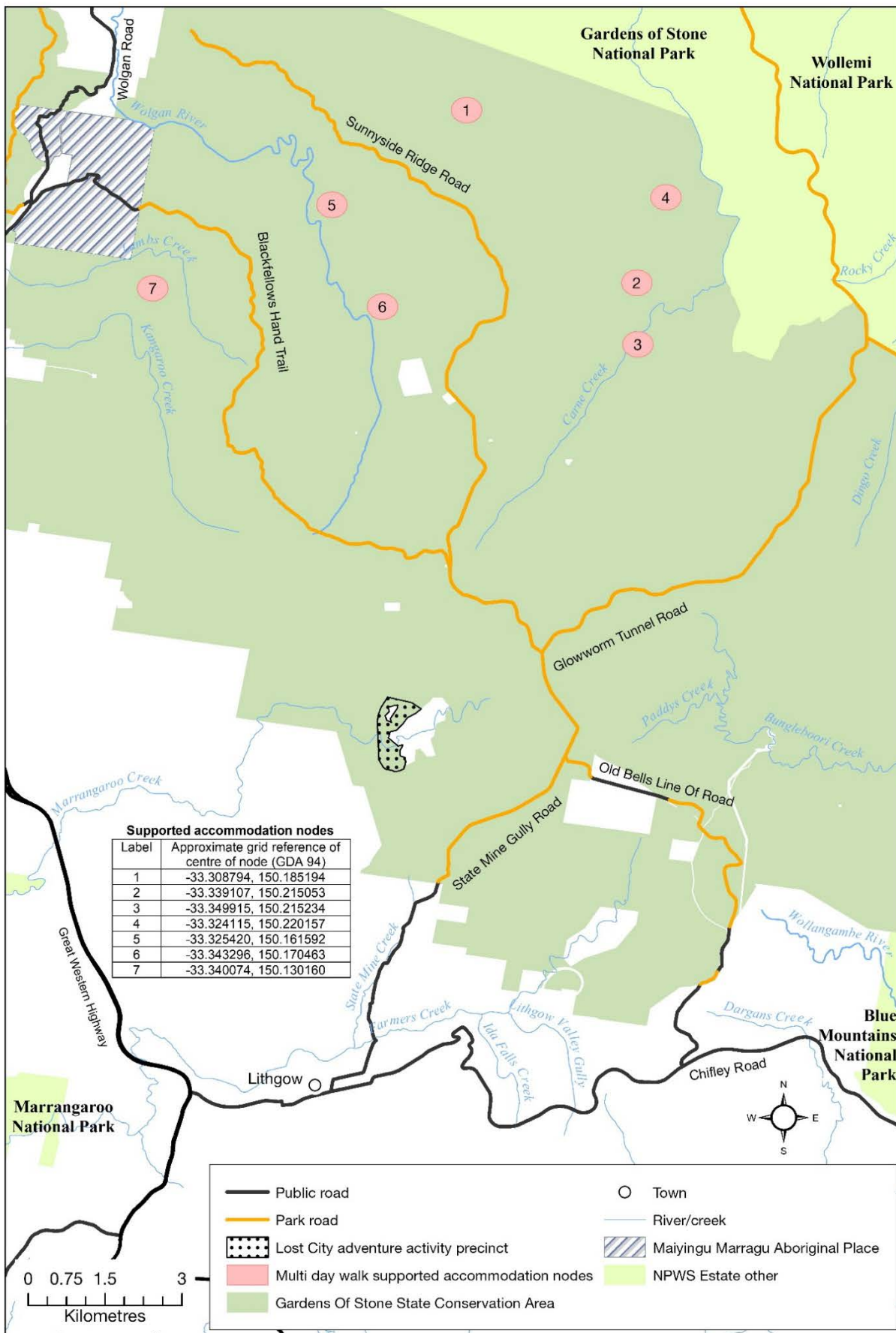


Figure 3 Lost City adventure activity precinct and multi day walk visitor accommodation nodes

Appendix A: Objects of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*

The objects of the NPW Act, set out in section 2A of the Act are:

- (a) The conservation of nature, including, but not limited to, the conservation of—
 - (i) habitat, ecosystems and ecosystem processes, and
 - (ii) biological diversity at the community, species and genetic levels, and
 - (iii) landforms of significance, including geological features and processes, and
 - (iv) landscapes and natural features of significance including wilderness and wild rivers,
- (b) the conservation of objects, places or features (including biological diversity) of cultural value within the landscape, including, but not limited to—
 - (i) places, objects and features of significance to Aboriginal people, and
 - (ii) places of social value to the people of New South Wales, and
 - (iii) places of historic, architectural or scientific significance,
- (a) fostering public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of nature and cultural heritage and their conservation,
- (b) providing for the management of land reserved under this Act in accordance with the management principles applicable for each type of reservation.

Appendix B: State conservation area management principles

The management principles for state conservation areas, as set out in section 30G of the NPW Act are:

- (a) the conservation of biodiversity, the maintenance of ecosystem function, the protection of natural phenomena and the maintenance of natural landscapes,
- (b) the conservation of places, objects and features of cultural value,
- (c) provision for the undertaking of uses permitted under other provisions of this Act in such areas (including uses permitted under section 47J) having regard to the conservation of the natural and cultural values of the state conservation area,
- (d) (ca) provision for the carrying out of development in any part of a special area (within the meaning of the *Hunter Water Act 1991*) in the state conservation area that is permitted under section 185A having regard to the conservation of the natural and cultural values of the state conservation area,
- (e) provision for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment that is compatible with the conservation of the state conservation area's natural and cultural values and with uses permitted under other provisions of this Act in such areas,
- (f) provision for the sustainable use (including adaptive reuse) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas having regard to the conservation of the state conservation area's natural and cultural values and with uses permitted under other provisions of this Act in such areas,
- (g) provision for appropriate research and monitoring.

More information

DPE (Department of Planning and Environment) (2022) [Privacy and security](#), DPE, accessed 3 May 2022.