



NSW NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ben Boyd National Park and Bell Bird Creek Nature Reserve Plan of Management Amendment

Light to Light Walk Improvements



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Contents

Why amend the plan?	iv
How to read the amendment	iv
Amendment	1
Amendment 1. Light to Light Walk improvements	1
Amendment 2. Cultural camp	15
Amendment 3. Other management and visitor facility improvements	17
Amendment 4. Updates to park values	19
Amendment 5. New map	21
References	22

List of figures

Figure 1 Revised plan of management map	v
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Why amend the plan?

In 2018 the NSW Government announced funding to significantly enhance visitor facilities and create iconic experiences, including new walking tracks, accommodation and tourism partnerships, in a number of national parks across the State. These projects are part of the National Parks Visitor Infrastructure Program and aim to increase nature-based tourism in New South Wales, boost regional economies and improve community wellbeing. Funded projects include iconic walks in Murramarang, Kosciuszko and Ben Boyd national parks.

The *Ben Boyd National Park and Bell Bird Creek Nature Reserve Plan of Management* (NPWS 2010) does not currently provide for all the enhancements. It requires an amendment to enable improvements to the Light to Light Walk and the visitor facilities provided along the Walk.

The improvements along the Light to Light Walk are outlined in this amendment. They are more fully described in the Light to Light Walk Strategy (NPWS 2021), a draft of which was on public exhibition concurrently with the draft amendment from 12 July 2019 until 26 August 2019. Final designs for construction will be consistent with the plan of management amendment and strategy but may be updated to account for community feedback, the outcomes of environmental and cultural heritage assessments and any other final design adjustments.

In addition to the changes with respect to the Light to Light Walk, the amendment includes:

- several minor changes related to the Light to Light Walk, including improvement of visitor facilities at Disaster Bay lookout and construction of a new car park and walking track to Pulpit Rock
- investigation and development of a new cultural camp in the southern part of the park
- updates regarding the park's Aboriginal cultural heritage and natural heritage values
- a new plan of management map to reflect the proposals from the draft amendment.

How to read the amendment

The amendment has changed the *Ben Boyd National Park and Bell Bird Creek Nature Reserve Plan of Management*. The changes resulting from the adopted amendment have been incorporated into the *Ben Boyd National Park and Bell Bird Creek Nature Reserve Plan of Management*, adopted in 2010 and amended in 2021. Section numbers referred to in the amendment refer to the adopted plan of management.

Plans of management are available [on the Department's website](#). This page provides links to the [Ben Boyd National Park and Bell Bird Creek Nature Reserve Plan of Management](#).

This amendment refers to the Light to Light Walk Strategy which is available on the [Light to Light Walk page](#).

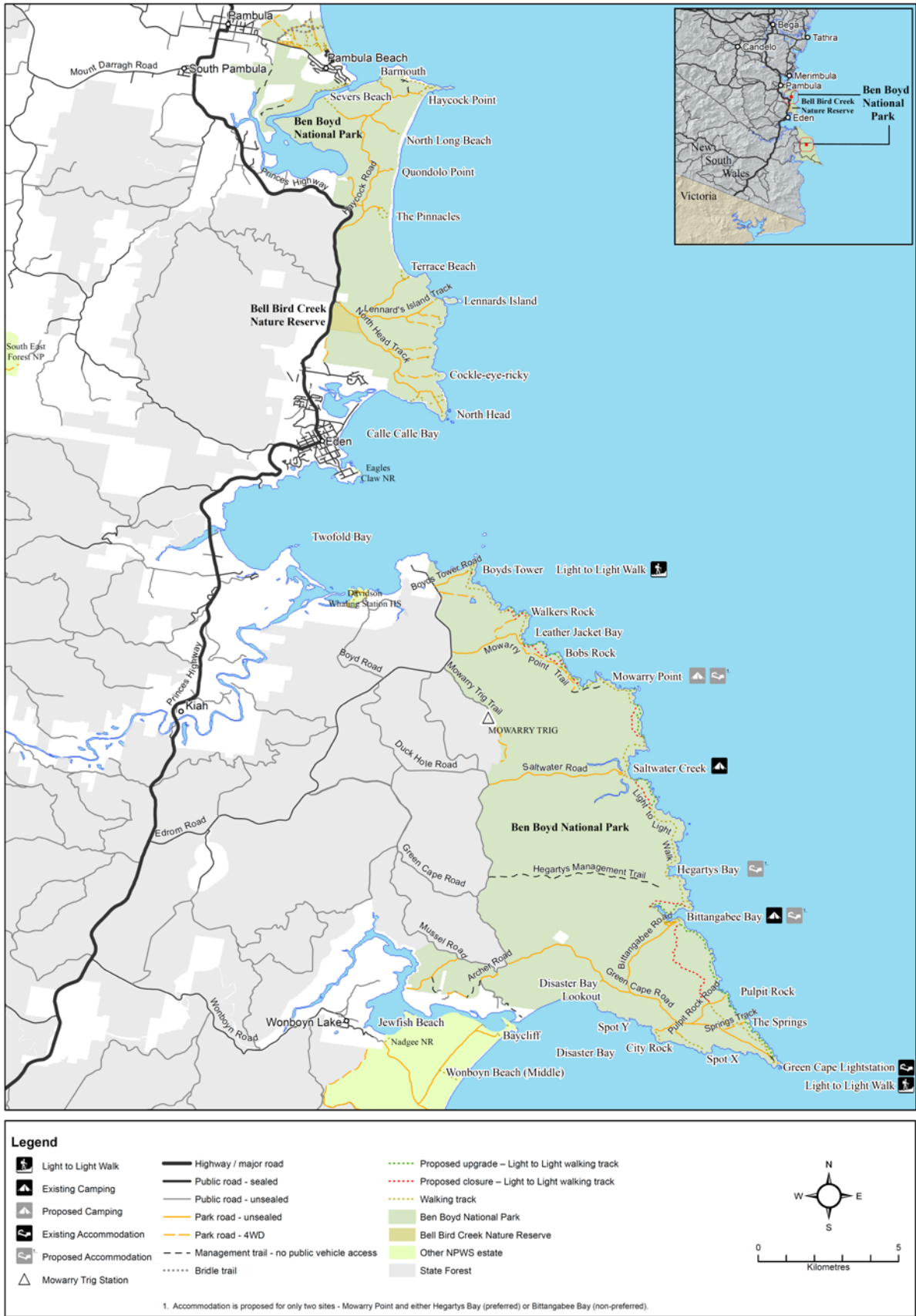


Figure 1 Revised plan of management map

Amendment

The amendment to the Ben Boyd National Park and Bell Bird Creek Nature Reserve Plan of Management (NPWS 2010) enables the Light to Light Walk project in the southern section of Ben Boyd National Park. Information received from the public consultation has informed the amendment and the Light to Light Walk Strategy. The strategy will continue to be updated using information from the detailed planning assessments required to develop and implement the on-ground works. This information will also be used when a wider review of the plan of management is undertaken in the future.

The amendment to the *Ben Boyd National Park and Bell Bird Creek Nature Reserve Plan of Management* is presented in five separate parts.

Amendment 1. Light to Light Walk improvements

The purpose of this part of the amendment is to enable upgrading of the Light to Light Walk and construction of new facilities to provide an improved experience and better support for walkers on the Light to Light Walk.

The Light to Light Walk is currently a 30-kilometre walking track providing independent walkers an opportunity to experience, over two or three days, a spectacular range of coastal landscapes and natural and cultural icons as they make their way between Boyd Tower in the north and Green Cape Lightstation in the south.

Improvements to the walking track and associated facilities described in this amendment are expected to attract more visitors to the Light to Light Walk, providing an opportunity for more people to experience the relatively unspoilt and natural coastline of the southern section of Ben Boyd National Park. Developments along the Light to Light Walk are outlined in the Light to Light Walk Strategy (NPWS 2021) a draft of which was on public exhibition concurrently with the draft plan of management amendment.

The current plan of management for the park (NPWS 2010) enables construction of tented or hard-roofed accommodation at Mowarry Point, Bittangabee Bay and at Green Cape outside the lightstation complex.

To date, none of this hard-roofed or tented accommodation has been constructed. NPWS intends to construct hard-roofed and/or tented accommodation at Mowarry Point and Hegartys Bay, with detailed planning yet to occur. Bittangabee Bay and its surrounds will be retained as a site option should Hegartys Bay be unviable. Hard-roofed and/or tented accommodation will not be built at both sites. In the future and subject to further investigation, similar accommodation could also be built at Green Cape.

Other improvements for the Light to Light Walk include:

- constructing additional infrastructure such as toilets, kitchen facilities and on-site managers' huts in association with accommodation for overnight walkers
- rerouting sections of the Light to Light walking track to more closely follow the coast, improve views and the visitor experience
- constructing several short sections of walking track to better connect the Light to Light Walk with beaches, lookouts and other nearby points of interest.

This part of the amendment will enable NPWS to construct new accommodation at Green Cape within the lightstation complex, new accommodation and supporting facilities at Hegartys Bay (or Bittangabee Bay and surrounds) and supporting facilities at Mowarry Point and Green Cape outside the lightstation complex, where the plan of management already

enables construction of accommodation. The amendment also enables NPWS to reroute major sections of the Walk, construct new tracks to connect to nearby points of interest and provide certainty to the project so that a hut to hut style walk model can be developed and operated by NPWS.

The final strategy and designs for construction must be consistent with the amended plan of management but may be refined to account for community feedback and the outcomes of the final environmental, cultural heritage and detailed site assessments.

Amendment 1.1 General description

The 2010 plan of management (NPWS 2010) makes several general statements about the Light to Light Walk. Some require revision to ensure the description of the Walk and the management objectives provided in the plan accurately reflect the standard and experience of the improved Light to Light Walk and outline the works.

Changes to Chapter 3 Key Values and Management Directions

Plan reference: page 7, Section 3.3 Overall Strategy

Replace the eleventh dot point in the list of major management strategies and programs for the plan:

management of the Light to Light Walk and environs as a sustainable, high quality walking experience by maintaining the natural, undeveloped feel of the track

With:

management of the Light to Light Walk and environs as a sustainable, high quality walking experience in keeping with the natural and generally undeveloped feel of the southern coast of the park

And move to above the current dot point 10.

Changes to Chapter 6 Recreation, Education and Research

Plan reference: pages 34-35, Section 6.2 Recreation and Tourism Opportunities, Light to Light Walk

Replace the existing third paragraph:

The Walk will be managed as a high quality, sustainable walking experience that provides for a range of visitors and includes facilities and services compatible with the park's natural and cultural values and the area's relatively remote natural settings.

With:

Improvements to the Walk are required to cater for increasing visitation and to provide for a broader range of visitors to engage in the nature-based experience it offers. The Walk will continue to be managed as a high quality, sustainable walking experience that provides for a range of visitors and includes facilities and services compatible with the park's natural and cultural values and the area's relatively remote natural settings.

Insert a new fourth paragraph

The Light to Light Walk Strategy and designs for construction must be consistent with the plan of management but may be refined to account for the outcomes of the final environmental, cultural heritage and detailed site assessments. In broad terms, the improvement works on the Walk include:

- constructing walkers' huts, other hard-roofed and/or tented accommodation and associated facilities (see Accommodation below)
- rerouting sections of the Light to Light walking track to more closely follow the coast, improve views and the visitor experience
- constructing several short spur tracks to better connect the Light to Light Walk with beaches, lookouts and other nearby points of interest

Replace the current fourth paragraph:

Given that the walk has potential to attract more visitors, there will be a need to monitor and manage (if necessary) overnight walker numbers to ensure that environmental impacts are minimised and to protect the quality of the experiences of walkers and other park visitors. Consistent with other multi day walks, implementation of fees for walkers will be investigated as a contribution to management of the track facilities.

With:

Given increasing visitation, overnight walker numbers will be monitored and if necessary managed to ensure that environmental impacts are minimised and to protect the quality of the experiences of walkers and other park visitors. Consistent with other multi day walks, fees may be introduced as a contribution to management of the track and associated facilities and to ongoing conservation works.

Plan reference: page 42, Management Response

Replace the management response:

A system for managing overnight walker numbers on the Light to Light Walk will be introduced over time if required (e.g. bookings or permits).

With:

A system for managing overnight walker numbers on the Light to Light Walk will be introduced (e.g. via bookings, permits, or local policies).

Plan reference: page 53, References

Add a new reference:

NPWS 2021 *Light to Light Walk Strategy*, Ben Boyd National Park, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, www.environment.nsw.gov.au/light-to-light-walk.

Amendment 1.2 Accommodation and associated facilities

Specific meaning of terms used in this amendment

Light to Light Walkers – all walkers undertaking the Light to Light Walk in any direction, using any form of accommodation.

Hut to hut walkers – those walkers undertaking the Light to Light Walk, north to south and overnighting along the way in accommodation provided by NPWS at Mowarry Point, Hegartys Bay (or Bittangabee Bay and surrounds) and Green Cape.

Pack campers – independent and self-sufficient multi day walkers carrying their own tents and camping equipment. Pack campers on the Light to Light Walk must only camp at the designated sites at Mowarry Point and Bittangabee Bay. Dispersed pack camping can occur in the southern part of the park but must be further than 500 metres from the Light to Light Walk and its facilities.

Car-based campers – visitors staying overnight in the park next to or near their vehicle. includes campers who carry in equipment from their nearby vehicle.

Day visitors – park visitors not staying overnight but using the park's facilities, including the Light to Light Walk or locations along it.

New accommodation

The current plan of management (NPWS 2010) enables construction of tented or hard-roofed accommodation at Mowarry Point, Bittangabee Bay and Green Cape outside the lightstation complex. No new accommodation has yet been built in the park. The amendment proposes new accommodation at Mowarry Point and Hegartys Bay (but retains Bittangabee Bay and surrounds as a fall back option if Hegartys Bay is unviable) and allows new accommodation within the lightstation complex at Green Cape should that be required in the future.

NPWS expects that new accommodation facilities at Mowarry Point and Hegartys Bay could be built after adoption of the plan amendment and planning assessments. New accommodation facilities at Green Cape would only be built subject to further detailed investigation. Any developments at Green Cape must be consistent with heritage requirements and the plan of management.

Provision of accommodation and associated facilities along the Light to Light Walk is expected to broaden the range of visitors able to experience the Walk, beyond those willing and able to carry camping equipment such as tents and cooking gear.

The details of the accommodation and associated facilities at Mowarry Point and Hegartys Bay are available in the Light to Light Walk Strategy (NPWS 2021). In summary, hard-roofed accommodation, such as bunkhouse style walkers' huts and other hard-roofed and/or tented accommodation will be provided. Associated facilities could include a communal kitchen, toilets, an on-site manager's hut and facilities for renewable power generation and rainwater capture and storage.

The final designs for construction of all accommodation and facilities will be based on the Light to Light Walk Strategy (updated from community feedback), the outcomes of environmental and cultural heritage assessments and other final design adjustments.

Existing accommodation at Green Cape Lightstation

The current plan of management (NPWS 2010) identifies that the assistant lightkeeper's residence has already been made available for visitor accommodation and allows for adaptive re-use of other buildings within the Green Cape Lightstation complex to provide visitor accommodation and tourism related services.

Today, overnight accommodation for park visitors is provided in the three keepers' cottages at Green Cape Lightstation and in the telegraph station. This amendment updates the plan to reflect that overnight accommodation is already available in the keepers cottages and the telegraph station, and for the plan to continue to allow adaptive re-use of other buildings at the Green Cape Lightstation to provide additional accommodation. The internal configuration of the accommodation arrangements at the lightstation will be guided by the Light to Light Walk Strategy.

Pack campers on the Light to Light Walk

Pack camping will continue to be allowed on the Light to Light Walk but will be limited to Mowarry Point and Bittangabee Bay as identified in Amendment 1.3. Away from the Light to Light Walk, dispersed pack camping will still be allowed in the southern section of Ben Boyd National Park. Saltwater Creek and Bittangabee Bay campgrounds will continue to operate as public campgrounds.

Changes to Chapter 3 Key Values and Management Directions

Plan reference: page 7, Section 3.3 Overall Strategy

Replace the tenth dot point in the list of major management strategies and programs for the plan

assess the suitability of provision of camping and/or accommodation at Mowarry Point, Bittangabee Bay and Green Cape outside the lightstation complex on the Light to Light Walk, and provide facilities that meet the requirements for site suitability and compatibility with conservation.

With:

provide conditions on the Light to Light Walk conducive to optimising a wide range of walking experiences, including commercially operated tours

provide camping and permanent hard-roofed accommodation and associated facilities such as kitchens and toilets, on the Light to Light Walk

improve accommodation in the keepers' cottages and telegraph station at Green Cape Lightstation, adaptively re-use other buildings and construct new buildings to provide additional accommodation

Changes to Chapter 6 Recreation Education and Research

Plan reference: page 34, Section 6.2 Recreation and Tourism Opportunities, Light to Light Walk

Replace the last sentence of the first paragraph:

Accommodation is also available in the assistant lightkeeper's residence at Green Cape Lightstation.

With:

Accommodation is also available in the lightkeepers' cottages and the telegraph station at Green Cape Lightstation.

Plan reference: page 36, Section 6.2 Recreation and Tourism Opportunities, Accommodation

Replace the first and second paragraphs of text under the sub-heading Accommodation:

In order to diversify the range of visitor opportunities and assist on-going conservation, the assistant lightkeeper's residence at Green Cape Lightstation has been made available for visitor accommodation. The residence is divided into two dwellings and can cater for both tourists and educational groups.

Subject to heritage conservation requirements determined through the Conservation Management Plan, there is potential for the adaptive re-use of other buildings within the Green Cape Lightstation complex (see Figure 1) to provide for additional visitor accommodation and tourism related services, including in partnership with a commercial operator. This would require investigation and would be subject to feasibility assessments.

With:

In order to diversify the range of visitor opportunities and assist ongoing conservation, the head lightkeeper's residence, the assistant lightkeeper's residence and the telegraph station at Green Cape Lightstation have been made available for visitor and staff accommodation.

Subject to heritage conservation requirements, this plan allows for the adaptive re-use of other buildings (see Figure 2) and construction of new buildings, either within or outside the lightstation complex, to provide for additional visitor and staff accommodation and for tourism related services.

(Note: Commercial opportunities, including partnerships with commercial operators, are discussed in Amendment 1.5 below.)

Replace the last paragraph of text under the sub-heading Accommodation:

The provision of commercially-operated sustainable accommodation at Mowarry Point, Bittangabee Bay and Green Cape outside the lightstation complex on the Light to Light Walk will also be investigated. This accommodation will not be approved if it is not compatible with the natural and cultural values of the land to be leased or licensed and reserved land in the vicinity of that land, or where developments will significantly impact on the natural or cultural values of the park and the amenity of non-commercial walkers.

With:

New accommodation facilities will be constructed at Mowarry Point and Hegartys Bay and may be constructed at Green Cape to support Light to Light walkers. Accommodation facilities at Mowarry Point may include walkers' huts and other hard-roofed and/or tented accommodation and a low-key, walk-in public camping area with basic facilities. Accommodation facilities at Hegartys Bay may include walkers' huts and other hard-roofed and/or tented accommodation. If Hegartys Bay proves unviable, walkers' huts and other hard-roofed and/or tented accommodation may be built at Bittangabee Bay, or its surrounds, instead.

Associated facilities such as a communal kitchen, toilets and on-site manager/ host accommodation and sustainably oriented power and water systems may also be

provided. All facilities constructed will be consistent with the Light to Light Walk Strategy. Construction of all facilities will be subject to development planning and environmental and heritage impact assessment and approval processes.

Commercial partnerships may be sought to provide visitor services on the Light to Light Walk. NPWS will develop and manage all the provided accommodation.

Plan reference: pages 38-40, Section 6.2 Recreation and Tourism Opportunities, Desired Outcome

Add a new desired outcome:

Hard-roofed and/or tented accommodation options are provided for Light to Light walkers in a way that is appealing to a wide range of visitors and minimises impacts on the natural and cultural values of the sites and on the amenity of the area for other walkers and park users.

Plan reference: pages 41-43 and page 50, Section 6.2 Recreation and Tourism Opportunities, Management Response and Section 8 Plan Implementation

Add a new high priority management response:

Design and develop hard-roofed and/or tented accommodation and associated facilities, consistent with the Light to Light Walk Strategy at Mowarry Point, Hegartys Bay (or Bittangabee Bay and surrounds) and, if required, at Green Cape.

Amendment 1.3 Camping

Pack camping on the Light to Light Walk

The Light to Light Walk will continue to provide opportunities for people who wish to pack camp along the walk.

At present pack camping generally occurs at Mowarry Point and Hegartys Bay. Pack camping also occurs at the car-based camping areas at Saltwater Creek and Bittangabee Bay. Dispersed pack camping will continue to be permitted in the southern section of the park, except on the Light to Light Walk where pack camping will be restricted to low-key walk-in public camping facilities at Mowarry Point and to purpose-built walk-in only camping sites at Bittangabee Bay.

Car-based camping

Car-based camping, including walk-in camping where equipment is carried in from a nearby vehicle, currently occurs at several informal sites in the park.

To limit environmental impacts and protect the experience for day visitors and Light to Light walkers these informal car-based camping sites will be closed to this activity. All car-based and near-car camping will be restricted to the camping sites provided at Saltwater Creek and Bittangabee Bay.

Changes to Chapter 6 Recreation Education and Research

Plan reference: page 34, Section 6.2 Recreation and Tourism Opportunities, Walking and pack camping

Replace the following sentence in the last paragraph under Walking and pack camping:

Dispersed pack camping will continue to be permitted in the southern section of the park, except on the Light to Light Walk where camping will be restricted to designated pack camping areas if these areas are established (see next section).

With:

Pack camping on the Light to Light Walk is restricted to purpose-built walk-in only camping sites at Mowarry Point and Bittangabee Bay. Dispersed pack camping is also permitted in other locations in the southern section of the park but must not occur within 500 metres of any roads, tracks and trails or other visitor facilities including the Light to Light Walk and its facilities.

Plan reference: page 35, Section 6.2 Recreation and Tourism Opportunities, Light to Light Walk

Replace:

Camping facilities on the Walk are available at Bittangabee Bay and Saltwater Creek (which are both accessible by vehicles) and pack camping without facilities currently occurs at Hegartys Bay and Mowarry Point and other locations accessed by both walkers and boat users. Accommodation is also available in the lightkeepers' cottages and the telegraph station at Green Cape Lightstation.

With:

Camping facilities on the Walk are available at Bittangabee Bay and Saltwater Creek (which are both accessible by vehicles) and at Mowarry Point. Pack camping without facilities, either on foot or by boat can only occur away from the Light to Light Walk and its facilities. Accommodation is also available at Green Cape Lightstation.

Replace:

In order to improve the walker experience and address environmental impacts associated with pack camping, there is a need to investigate the provision of sustainable, minimal impact walkers' camping areas at locations along the walk.

With:

In order to improve the walker experience and address environmental impacts associated with unregulated pack camping, purpose-built walk-in only camping sites will be developed at Mowarry Point and Bittangabee Bay. Pack campers on the Light to Light Walk will be required to use these facilities.

Plan reference: pages 35–36, Section 6.2 Recreation and Tourism Opportunities, Car-based camping

Add a new paragraph to follow on from the discussion about car-based camping at Saltwater Creek and Bittangabee Bay:

Car-based camping, including camping where equipment is carried in from a nearby vehicle, also occurs in the park at several other sites. To limit environmental impacts, and to protect the experience for day visitors and Light to Light walkers, these sites

will be closed to this activity. All car-based camping and near-car camping in the park will be restricted to the camping sites provided at Saltwater Creek and Bittangabee Bay. Low-key walk-in public camping facilities will be provided at Mowarry Point.

Plan reference: page 40, Section 6.2 Recreation and Tourism Opportunities, Desired Outcomes

Replace, the second, third and fourth points of the pack camping desired outcome:

in the southern section of the park, pack camping is permitted by walkers and boat users

on the Light to Light Walk, when designated camping areas are completed, camping will be restricted to these areas

pack camping may be prohibited or regulated if unacceptable impacts occur

With:

in the southern section of the park, dispersed pack camping by walkers and those arriving by watercraft is permitted, but must be more than 500 metres from any roads, tracks and trails or other visitor facilities including the Light to Light Walk and its facilities

on the Light to Light Walk, pack camping will be restricted to purpose-built walk-in only camping sites at Mowarry Point and Bittangabee Bay

pack camping elsewhere in the park may be prohibited or regulated if unacceptable impacts occur

Plan reference: page 42 and page 49, Section 6.2 Recreation and Tourism Opportunities, Management Response and Section 8 Plan Implementation

Replace the management response:

Investigate the provision of sustainable low impact walker camping areas along the Light to Light Walk. These facilities will be constructed subject to demand, environmental impact, cost and contribution to the overall walking experience.

With:

Design and develop purpose-built walk-in only camping sites at Mowarry Point and Bittangabee Bay subject to environmental impact assessment.

Amendment 1.4 Walking track

A range of improvements to the Light to Light walking track are outlined in the Light to Light Walk Strategy. The works include rerouting or upgrading sections of the existing track to protect the environment, improve views or visitor amenity, and construction of new tracks to better connect the Light to Light track with nearby points of interest.

Rerouting will take place at multiple sites including the section along the vehicle track between Leather Jacket Bay and Mowarry Point car park, the section south of Woodburn Creek, and an extensive section south of Bittangabee Bay. New connecting tracks include tracks to Boyds Tower and the Blowhole near Green Cape Lightstation.

All walking track alignments and standards will be consistent with the plan of management map and the Light to Light Walk Strategy updated for community feedback, the outcomes of environmental and cultural heritage assessments and other final design adjustments.

The current plan of management (NPWS 2010) proposed investigating an extension of the Light to Light Walk from Green Cape to Wonboyn. This investigation is now complete. The high cultural sensitivity of this area is now better understood, particularly regarding its large number of archaeological sites and its historic, spiritual and contemporary values to local Aboriginal people. Consequently, NPWS no longer proposes to construct a walking track along the coast between Green Cape and Wonboyn or Disaster Bay.

Changes to Chapter 6 Recreation, Education and Research

Plan reference: page 35, Section 6.2 Recreation and Tourism Opportunities, Light to Light Walk

Replace the second last paragraph:

The Light to Light Walk needs to be diverted away from its current route along the 4WD track between Leatherjacket Bay and Mowarry car park in order to improve visitor amenity.

With:

The Light to Light Walk will be rerouted in places to improve views and visitor amenity, and to protect environmental and cultural values. Rerouting of the track will be consistent with the Light to Light Walk Strategy.

Add a new paragraph:

Several short walking tracks will be constructed to provide new linkages, or in some cases to formalise existing linkages, between the Light to Light Walk and nearby points of interest. Impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage, threatened species and the parks other natural heritage values will be minimised. Construction of these walking tracks will be consistent with the Light to Light Walk Strategy.

Delete the final paragraph:

There is an opportunity to investigate and possibly extend the Light to Light Walk from Green Cape to Wonboyn. This would provide an additional seven kilometres of walking track and opportunities for walkers to complete their walk at the Wonboyn River estuary.

Plan reference: page 43 and pages 49–50, Section 6.2 Recreation and Tourism Opportunities, Management Response and Section 8 Plan Implementation

Replace the management response:

The Light to Light Walk will be diverted from its current route along the 4WD track between Leatherjacket Bay and Mowarry car park. The vehicle track between Leather Jacket Bay and Mowarry Point will be maintained as a 4WD road for public use.

With:

Realign the Light to Light Walk at several locations, consistent with the Light to Light Walk Strategy.

Add a new high priority management response:

Consistent with the Light to Light Walk Strategy, construct new short walking track spurs from the Light to Light Walk to nearby points of interest.

Add a new medium priority management response:

Monitor Aboriginal sites along the Light to Light Walk to ensure impacts are not increasing as a result of implementing the Light to Light Walk Strategy.

Delete the management response:

Extension of the Light to Light track from Green Cape to Wonboyn will be investigated and, subject to demand, environmental impact, cost and contribution to the overall walking experience, may be constructed.

Amendment 1.5 Commercial opportunities

The current plan of management (NPWS 2010) provides for commercial use of the Light to Light Walk and accommodation at Green Cape Lightstation, including leasing of buildings at the lightstation complex for visitor accommodation and facilities.

While NPWS will operate the hut to hut walk and its accommodation, the amendments continue to allow NPWS to enter into commercial partnerships that would support the operation of the Light to Light Walk. Any such partnerships may include providing visitor and management services such as cleaning, maintenance, tours, transfers, food supplies, cultural and environmental interpretation and education.

Changes to Chapter 6 Recreation, Education and Research

Plan reference: page 30, Section 6.1 Promotion and Interpretation, Desired Outcomes

Replace the last point in Desired Outcomes:

Proposals for the commercial use of the Light to Light Walk and associated accommodation at Green Cape are encouraged subject to the above and the provisions of section 6.2.

With:

Opportunities for partnerships in the delivery of the Light to Light Walk are encouraged.

Plan reference: page 35, Section 6.2 Recreation and Tourism Opportunities, Light to Light Walk

Delete the first dot point from the list of commercially operated opportunities that may be investigated:

visitor accommodation (refer to 'Accommodation' below)

Plan reference: pages 42-43 and pages 48-52, Section 6.2 Recreation and Tourism Opportunities, Management Response and Section 8 Plan Implementation

Replace the management response:

The feasibility of commercially operated visitor opportunities associated with the Light to Light Walk will be investigated and implemented if appropriate, including guided day and overnight walks, accommodation at Green Cape Lightstation buildings, roofed or tented accommodation at Mowarry Point, Bittangabee Bay and Green Cape, walker transport and links to other park activities and experiences.

With:

The feasibility of commercial partnerships in support of the Light to Light Walk will be investigated and engaged, if appropriate. These may include guided day and overnight walks and tours, servicing, maintenance, provision of supplies, transfers and links to other park activities and experiences.

Delete the management response:

The following buildings within the Green Cape Lightstation complex may be considered for leasing under the National Parks and Wildlife Act:

- Head lighthouse keepers quarters
- Assistant Lighthouse keepers quarters
- The stables
- The telegraph station.

The purposes for which buildings may be leased are:

- Visitor and tourist accommodation
- Facilities and amenities for tourists and visitors, including information centres and booking outlets.

Plan reference: Section 7 Management Operations, page 46, introduction

Delete:

A NPWS caretaker is currently accommodated at one of buildings in the Green Cape Lightstation complex to provide for security and maintenance of historic buildings and management of visitor use. Arrangements for management the Green Cape Lightstation and/or a caretaker will need to be considered should more buildings be converted for visitor accommodation or because of the need to implement new commercial arrangements for the Light to Light Walk. This might require a leasing or licensing arrangement with the private sector and/or the construction of new caretaker accommodation in the southern part of the park. A NPWS radio tower is also located at the lightstation.

Replace with:

A NPWS caretaker is currently accommodated at one of the buildings in the Green Cape Lightstation complex to provide for security and maintenance of historic buildings and management of visitor use. Arrangements for management of the Green Cape Lightstation will need to be considered when more buildings are converted for visitor accommodation or when there is a need to engage commercial support for operations of the lightstation and the Light to Light Walk. This might require licensing arrangements with the private sector and/or the construction of new caretaker accommodation in the southern part of the park. A NPWS radio tower is also located at the lightstation which requires maintenance and upgrades from time to time.

Replace the management response:

Management arrangements for the Green Cape lightstation will be reviewed and new arrangements implemented which may include leasing or licencing of all or part of the lightstation or continued NPWS caretaker management, either based on-site or from a new facility constructed in the southern part of the park.

With:

Management arrangements for the Green Cape Lightstation will be reviewed and new arrangements implemented to suit the accommodation provided on the Light to Light Walk and at the lightstation to best deliver the Light to Light Walk Strategy. NPWS will manage the accommodation but may engage commercial support for servicing the operation.

Amendment 1.6 Management access

Amendments to the plan will also enable management access to the accommodation and associated facilities.

See Amendment 3.1 below for amendments regarding public access.

Changes to Chapter 6 Recreation, Education and Research

Plan reference: page 32, Section 6.2 Recreation and Tourism Opportunities, Access

Replace the fourth paragraph:

A four-wheel-drive track between Leather Jacket Bay and Mowarry Point currently forms part of the Light to Light Walk. Closure of this track to vehicle use was identified in the current plan of management for the park but has not yet been carried out. Given the traditional access to Mowarry, the substantial nature of the existing track, the current track will be maintained to a 4WD standard and this section of the Light to Light Walk relocated. The vehicle track will terminate at its current location at the car park at the end of the trail. Public vehicle access beyond this point will be prohibited to protect ground parrot populations resident in the area.

With:

The track between Leather Jacket Bay and the Mowarry Point car park, which currently forms part of the Light to Light Walk, will be maintained to a 4WD standard for public vehicle access and this section of the Light to Light Walk will be relocated to avoid the vehicle track (see Section 6.2 Recreation and Tourism Opportunities – Light to Light Walk). Detailed track design should avoid the known Aboriginal sites in this area. A management trail provides access from the car park to Mowarry Point for park operations. Public vehicle access is prohibited beyond the Mowarry Point car park to protect ground parrot populations resident in the area.

Add the following new text after the fourth paragraph:

Park roads and management trails may be improved, within the limit of their classification, to service the planned Light to Light Walk (see Figure 1 for park roads and management trails). Commercial partners may be permitted to use park roads and management trails.

Changes to Chapter 7 Management Operations

Plan reference: page 46

Replace the first paragraph:

Several management tracks are located in the park, as shown on the Maps (centre pages). These provide access for maintenance of the Mowarry Trig station and for management, weed control and revegetation work.

With:

Several management trails are located in the park. These provide access for park management including fire management, weed control and revegetation works. They also provide access to Mowarry Trig station and to walker accommodation and associated facilities at Mowarry Point and Hegartys Bay. Helipads may be constructed to facilitate NPWS management access and emergency access to Hegartys Bay and Mowarry Point.

Plan reference: page 47, pages 48–52, Management Response and Section 8 Plan Implementation

Add a new high priority management response:

Maintain park roads and management trails as shown in Figure 1.

Amendment 1.7 Heathlands

The coastal heathlands of the park are significant because of their restricted occurrence and their importance for many native plants and animals, including threatened species.

Protecting vegetation communities, including heathland, and protecting habitat for heath dwelling threatened plants and animals are two of the specific objectives identified in the current plan of management (NPWS 2010). The plan aims to protect the highly significant coastal heathlands from the impacts of recreation use by preventing construction of new facilities in heathland and by closing and rehabilitating unnecessary tracks within heathland.

This amendment proposes that sections of the Light to Light walking track be rerouted. Key sections for rerouting include longer sections south of Woodburn Creek and north of Green Cape Lightstation which currently traverse areas of heathland. These tracks will be rerouted into what is predominantly closed scrub/woodland vegetation dominated by giant honey-myrtle. While the new alignments are mostly outside of heath, short sections of heath would be impacted necessitating a slight adjustment of policy in the plan of management.

Much of the old alignments will be closed and rehabilitated, substantially reducing the overall impact of the walking track on heath.

Changes to Chapter 4 Natural and Cultural Values

Plan reference: page 11, Section 4.2 Native Vegetation

Replace the following text in the paragraph beginning 'The heathlands of the park':

Special attention will be given to protection of the heathlands through closure of unauthorised vehicle tracks, no provision of new facilities in heathland and promotion of visitor appreciation of the values of heathland (see sections 6.1 and 6.2).

With:

Special attention will be given to protection of the heathlands through closure of unauthorised vehicle tracks, rehabilitation of redundant walking routes and the exclusion of new facilities from intact heathland unless no practical alternatives are available.

In circumstances where no practical alternatives are available to impacting on heath, mitigation and offset measures will be implemented. These will include providing low impact ground treatments where possible (such as raised boardwalks) and/or rehabilitation of an equivalent amount of disturbed heath nearby. Additional conditions from environmental impact assessment and approval outcomes may

apply. Where practicable, tracks and trails no longer required for public recreation or park management and not on the plan of management map will be closed. The natural habitat values of heathland will also be promoted to the visiting public (see sections 6.1 and 6.2).

Changes to Chapter 6 Recreation, Education and Research

Plan reference: page 39, Section 6.2 Recreation and Tourism Opportunities, Desired Outcomes

Replace, the Desired Outcome:

No new facilities are constructed within heathland and as far as possible existing tracks in heathland are closed.

With:

No new facilities are constructed within intact heathland unless no practical alternatives are available and mitigation and offset measures are implemented. Where practicable, tracks and trails no longer required for public recreation or park management are closed. The natural habitat values of heathland are promoted to the visiting public.

Plan reference: page 41 and pages 48–52, Section 6.2 Recreation and Tourism Opportunities, Management Response and Section 8 Plan Implementation

Add a new high priority management response:

Close and rehabilitate those sections of the Light to Light Walk that are rerouted in accordance with the Light to Light Walk Strategy and which are no longer required for public recreation or park management.

Amendment 2. Cultural camp

A cultural camp has been established at Haycock Point, in the northern section of the park, consistent with the current plan of management (NPWS 2010). The plan enables the cultural camp to be used as a site for Aboriginal people to provide ecotourism activities and presentation of Aboriginal culture to visitors.

This part of the amendment will allow investigation and development of a cultural camp in the southern section of the park and enable cultural tourism activities from that camp.

Amendments

Changes to Chapter 3 Key Values and Management Directions

Plan reference: page 6, Section 3.2 Specific Objectives

Replace the sixth dot point:

facilitation of Aboriginal cultural activities through the Aboriginal Culture Camp at Haycock Point

With:

facilitation of Aboriginal cultural activities through the park's Aboriginal culture camps

Changes to Chapter 4 Natural and Cultural Values

Plan reference: page 16, Section 4.4 Aboriginal Heritage

Add two new paragraphs after the sixth paragraph:

While the entire landscape of the parks is culturally significant, the Disaster Bay to Green Cape area is particularly significant for its large number of Aboriginal sites, and its historic, spiritual and contemporary values to local Aboriginal people (Donaldson 2019).

Another cultural camp may be established in the southern section of the park following environmental impact assessment and development approval. The location will be determined in consultation with relevant community groups and Traditional Owners. Like the cultural camp at Haycock Point, the site would be available for use by all Aboriginal people of the far south coast.

Plan reference: page 18, Section 4.4 Aboriginal Heritage, Desired Outcomes

Replace the desired outcome:

Aboriginal people of the far south coast are permitted to camp for short periods for cultural purposes in the cultural camping area at Haycock Point. Use of the area will continue to be by agreement between NPWS and the Aboriginal people. Facilities will comprise a shelter shed, BBQs, water tanks, toilets, fire places and delineated camp sites.

With:

Aboriginal people of the far south coast are permitted to camp for short periods for cultural purposes in the park's cultural camping areas. Use of the areas will continue to be by agreement between NPWS and the Aboriginal people. Facilities at each site may include a shelter shed, BBQs, water tanks, toilets, fireplaces and delineated campsites.

Changes to Chapter 6 Recreation, Education and Research

Plan reference: page 36, Section 6.2 Recreation and Tourism Opportunities, Aboriginal ecotourism facilities

Add a new third paragraph:

The cultural camp in the southern section of the park may also be used as a site for Aboriginal people to provide ecotourism activities and presentation of Aboriginal culture to visitors.

Plan reference: page 40, Section 6.2 Recreation and Tourism Opportunities, Desired Outcomes

Replace the desired outcome:

The concept of provision of ecotourism activities in the park by Monaroo Bobberrer Gudu Aboriginal Cultural Centre is supported. Managers of the centre may be permitted to utilise the Aboriginal cultural camp at Haycock Point for ecotourism operations, under a commercial licence. A walking trail for Aboriginal

ecotourism may be constructed subject to investigation of feasibility and environmental impact assessment.

With:

Provision of ecotourism activities in the park by Traditional Owners is supported. Registered groups may utilise the park's Aboriginal cultural camps for ecotourism operations, under a commercial licence. A walking track at Haycock Point for Aboriginal ecotourism may be constructed subject to investigation of feasibility and environmental impact assessment.

Amendment 3. Other management and visitor facility improvements

A small number of additional amendments to the current plan, indirectly related to the Light to Light Walk, have been added.

Amendment 3.1 Public vehicle access

One of the major management strategies and programs of the current plan (NPWS 2010) is the closure of inappropriate vehicle tracks formed by unauthorised use on the coastline, particularly those which impact on heathland. The plan makes provisions for car parks to be delineated and walking access only provided to the coast to limit further environmental and or cultural heritage impacts at several sites, including Walkers Rock, Bobs Rock, Spot X and Spot Y.

This part of the amendment protects the environment at Pulpit Rock from vehicle damage by delineating a car park, rehabilitating damage and formalising a walking track from the car park to the coast.

Changes to Chapter 6 Recreation, Education and Research

Plan reference: page 32, Section 6.2 Recreation and Tourism Opportunities, Access

Replace the third sentence of the last paragraph:

Car parking areas will be delineated and walking access provided to the coast near Walkers Rock, Bobs Rock, Spot X and City Rock and between Lennards Island and North Head.

With:

Car parking areas will be delineated, damaged areas rehabilitated and walking only access will be provided to the coast near Walkers Rock, Bobs Rock, Pulpit Rock, Spot X and City Rock and between Lennards Island and North Head while minimising impacts to known Aboriginal sites and environmental values.

Plan reference: page 39, Section 6.2 Recreation and Tourism Opportunities, Desired Outcomes

Replace the last desired outcome on page 39:

Public vehicle use will be permitted only on the public access roads shown on the Maps and as described in the Access section of this plan. Roads will be maintained to 2WD standard except to Terrace Beach, Lennards Island and Leather Jacket

Bay which will be dry weather 2WD access only and Mowarry Point which will be 4WD standard.

With:

Public vehicle use in the park will be permitted only on the park roads shown on Figure 1 and as described in the Access section of this plan. Park roads will be maintained to the standard shown on Figure 1.

Plan reference: page 41 and pages 48–52, Section 6.2 Recreation and Tourism Opportunities, Management Response and Section 8 Plan Implementation

Add a new dot point in the sixth management response identifying works on access tracks to protect the park:

Design and, following environmental impact assessment and approval, build a new car park on the road to Pulpit Rock and a walking track from the car park to the shoreline.

Amendment 3.2 Disaster Bay lookout

The current plan (NPWS 2010) noted that the Disaster Bay lookout was expected to receive more visitors as visitation increased at the lightstation. It proposed formalising the car park and upgrading the lookout platform to better manage this increasing visitation. It also includes walking tracks in the list of day use facilities to be provided at the site.

Visitation has increased at Disaster Bay lookout and is expected to continue to increase into the future. While some works to formalise the car park and upgrade the lookout have been undertaken, further works may be necessary as visitation increases. Installation of a toilet is also necessary to limit environmental impacts. There are no longer proposals to construct walking tracks from the lookout to the coast.

This part of the amendment will enable installation of a toilet at Disaster Bay lookout, similar to other high visitation sites in the park and remove walking tracks from the list of day use facilities to be provided at the site.

Changes to Chapter 6 Recreation, Education and Research

Plan reference: pages 33– 34, Section 6.2 Recreation and Tourism Opportunities, Day use facilities

Replace the sixth and seventh paragraphs in the section on Day use facilities

Disaster Bay lookout is also expected to receive more visitors associated with visits to the lightstation and it will be necessary to formalise the car park and upgrade the Disaster Bay lookout platform.

The higher usage day recreation sites have toilets, apart from Severs and Terrace beaches. Provision of toilets may be warranted at these locations in the future to limit environmental damage.

With:

The facilities at Disaster Bay lookout are inadequate for current visitation levels and more visitors are expected as a result of increasing visitation to the lightstation. Further works to extend the lookout's car park, upgrade the lookout platform and provide a toilet are required to address this situation.

Other higher usage day recreation sites generally have toilets, apart from Severs and Terrace beaches. Provision of toilets may also be warranted at these locations in the future to limit environmental damage.

Plan reference: page 38-39, Section 6.2 Recreation and Tourism Opportunities, Desired Outcomes

Replace the desired outcome that lists day use facilities provided at Disaster Bay lookout
Disaster Bay lookout – car park, walking tracks to beach and popular surfing spot;

With:

Disaster Bay lookout – lookout, car park, accessible toilet;

Plan reference: page 43 and page 55, Section 6.2 Recreation and Tourism Opportunities, Management Response and Section 8 Plan Implementation

Replace the management response:

The Disaster Bay lookout and car park will be re-designed. Disabled access will be provided to the lookout.

With

The Disaster Bay lookout will be upgraded, and the car park extended to cope with increasing visitation. Access will be provided to the lookout for people with disabilities. An accessible toilet will be installed to provide visitor amenity and limit environmental impacts.

Amendment 4. Updates to park values

Additional information about the park's natural and cultural values has become known since the 2010 plan was adopted. This part of the amendment will include a range of this new information in the park's plan of management.

Amendment 4.1 Cultural heritage values

The current plan (NPWS 2010) needs to be updated to reflect the 2013 listing of the Green Cape Maritime Precinct on the State Heritage Register and knowledge gained during recent work assessing the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the park. The current plan notes that more than 50 Aboriginal sites have been recorded in the park where recent work has recorded around 70 new sites in the southern section of Ben Boyd National Park.

Furthermore, this work has identified the Disaster Bay area as highly culturally significant.

Changes to Chapter 3 Key Values and Management Directions

Plan reference: page 5, Section 3.1 Statement of significance, Cultural values

Add a new third paragraph:

The Disaster Bay to Green Cape area is particularly significant for its large number of Aboriginal sites, and its historic, spiritual and contemporary values to local Aboriginal people.

Changes to Chapter 4 Natural and Cultural Values

Plan reference: page 17, Section 4.4 Aboriginal heritage

Replace the background text:

More than 50 Aboriginal sites have been recorded in the park and reserve and there are likely to be many more. Most known sites are middens but some surface campsites/artefact scatters, rock shelters, scarred trees and a stone arrangement occur. A site in the nature reserve has been tentatively identified as axe grinding grooves. A number of the sites have research potential (Purcell, 1997).

With:

Some 120 Aboriginal sites have been recorded in the park and reserve and further survey is likely to reveal more. Focussed work in the southern section of Ben Boyd National Park has recorded around 70 new sites (Feary & Niemoeller 2019). Most known sites are middens but some surface campsites/artefact scatters, rock shelters, scarred trees and a stone arrangement have also been found. A site in the nature reserve has been tentatively identified as axe grinding grooves. A number of sites have research potential (Purcell 1997, Feary and Niemoeller 2019).

Plan reference: page 20, Section 4.5 Historic heritage

Add a new sixth paragraph:

In 2013 the Green Cape Maritime Precinct was listed on the State Heritage Register. At the centre of the tightly-knit complex of buildings is the Green Cape Lighthouse, described as a notable lightstation in the 'highway of lights' that were erected along the NSW coastline during the late nineteenth century. The curtilage of the listing encompasses not only the Green Cape Lightstation complex, but also the Ly-ee-Moon shipwreck (described below), the shipwreck cemetery and the southern shoreline of Bittangabee Bay, and extends 0.5 nautical miles out to sea. The statement of significance supporting the listing states that although the 1880s were the most productive period for the construction of lighthouses in New South Wales, Green Cape was one of the earliest and most extensive concrete constructions ever attempted in Australia.

Construction of the lighthouse was possible because of the development of Bittangabee Bay as a trans-shipment point to receive materials, equipment and labour for the construction.

Changes to References

Plan reference: page 53

Add new references:

Donaldson SD 2019 *Ben Boyd National Park Light to Light Walk upgrade, realignment and extensions. Preliminary intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report, Merimbula: Report to NPWS.*

Feary S and Niemoeller G 2019 *Proposed upgrading of Light to Light walking track, Ben Boyd National Park, southern NSW. Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment, draft report to NPWS*

Amendment 4.2 Natural heritage values – Southern brown bandicoot

The current plan (NPWS 2010) identified that the nationally endangered southern brown bandicoot had been recorded in the southern section of the park as part of a research program looking to find and protect this species.

There are now many more records of this species known from the park, particularly in the southern section of the park, which is increasingly recognised as an important stronghold for this species in the region and nationally.

Changes to Chapter 4 Natural and Cultural Values

Plan reference: page 15, Section 4.3 Native Animals, Threatened species

Replace the background text:

The endangered southern brown bandicoot *Isoodon obesulus* has recently been recorded within the southern section of Ben Boyd as part of a research program targeted at finding this species.

With:

Since 2010, the nationally endangered southern brown bandicoot *Isoodon obesulus obesulus* has been widely recorded throughout the southern section of Ben Boyd National Park. The southern section of Ben Boyd is now not only considered to be the stronghold for the species in the region but also in the State.

Changes to Chapter 5 Threats

Plan reference: page 24, Section 5.1 Introduced Species, Management Responses

Add the following text to the second last management response which identifies that rabbit and fox control will continue:

Especially important is the continuation of landscape scale fox control which has enabled the survival and growth of key populations of southern brown bandicoot and long-nosed potoroo within the park. Targeted predator control programs should also be implemented along the Light to Light Walk and around the facilities located along it.

Amendment 5. New map

The current plan (NPWS 2010) includes two A4 black and white maps at the centre pages. One map shows the northern section of Ben Boyd National Park and Bell Bird Creek Nature Reserve. The other map shows the southern section of Ben Boyd National Park.

A new colour A3 map will include icons to illustrate the accommodation facilities at Mowarry Point and Hegartys Bay (or Bittangabee Bay) and the camping site at Mowarry Point. The Light to Light Walk Strategy outlines realignments of the Light to Light walking track and the revised plan of management map illustrates the more significant reroutes for the Light to Light walking track.

The revised plan of management map includes the management trail that extends from the car park at the end of Mowarry Point Trail to Mowarry Point.

Amendment 5.1 Map

Changes to map

Plan reference: centre pages

Replace the current two A4 maps **with** a single map (see Figure 1).

References

NPWS 2010, *Ben Boyd National Park and Bell Bird Creek Nature Reserve Plan of Management*, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Environment Climate Change and Water, <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/ben-boyd-national-park-bell-bird-creek-nature-reserve-plan-of-management>

NPWS 2021, *Light to Light Walk Strategy, Ben Boyd National Park*, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/park-management/community-engagement/walking-tracks-and-trails-in-national-parks/light-to-light-walk>

Riddel Architecture 2010, *Green Cape Light Station Conservation Management Plan*, a report for NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.