



NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Light to Light Walk

Stakeholder Reference Group



In 2018 the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) was awarded \$7.9 million to upgrade the existing Light to Light Walk.

The project will deliver a spectacular 30-kilometre coastal walk supported by hut and lighthouse accommodation, located in the Ben Boyd National Park on the Far South Coast of New South Wales. The upgraded Light to Light Walk will allow visitors to undertake an immersive nature-based multi-day walk experience that highlights the many special characteristics of this region.

The project will cater for a range of visitor experiences, provide opportunities for tourism and build a valued legacy for future generations.

In July and August 2019, a draft plan of management amendment and draft walking track strategy, called the Light to Light Walk Strategy, were publicly exhibited. The public exhibition report summarises the comments received and our response to the issues identified.

The strategy and the amended plan of management takes into account all submissions received and considers environmental and cultural heritage assessments and development approvals.

The Light to Light Walk project is currently in the planning stage with construction scheduled to begin in 2021.

Light to Light Walk Stakeholder Reference Group

The Ben Boyd National Park and associated amenities including the Light to Light Walk are integral to the local community for their social, cultural, economic and environmental significance.

To ensure we consider views and issues from a broad section of the community, we are establishing the Light to Light Walk Stakeholder Reference Group (LLWSRG).

Membership

The Stakeholder Reference Group will include representatives from a broad range of local and regional stakeholder groups and organisations. Participation in the group is voluntary.

Purpose of the group

- Assist to identify issues and opportunities.
- Enable consistent collaboration with key stakeholders and provide a channel for community input.
- Ensure project objectives are met.
- Ensure timely and effective information exchange between stakeholder organisations, the local community and NPWS.

Functions

- Provide input, advice and assistance at project meetings, field trips and events.
- Contribute advice on environmental and cultural assessments, stakeholder engagement and visitor experience through the planning and construction phases of the project.
- Report approved information to stakeholder organisations and the broader community.
- Inform NPWS of emerging issues relevant to their organisation.
- Assist with distributing public information materials.

Decision making

NPWS is the Project Manager and key decision maker for the project. The advisory group members provide advice and feedback to assist with decisions.

Meetings

The group will meet quarterly to provide input during the planning and construction phases of the project. Further meetings will be conducted as required for the duration of the project.

Dates and times for meetings will be scheduled in consultation with members.

We will hold all meetings at an appropriate local venue, with phone and online facilities where available.

NPWS will circulate a meeting agenda and relevant briefing information at least five days before a meeting.

Meeting minutes will be recorded by NPWS and circulated to members a week after a meeting.

NPWS representatives will present meeting summaries and agreed group outcomes to the Light to Light Project Delivery Group to ensure stakeholder views, interests, issues and innovations are considered.



Advice from other government agencies, experts or community advocates on specific issues will be sought as required.

Confidentiality and conflict of interest

The Stakeholder Reference Group will discuss a wide range of issues, some of which may be sensitive. Such information must be treated with the utmost confidentiality and kept within the confines of the Stakeholder Reference Group.

Members must sign a confidentiality and disclosure statement, and keep all information confidential until NPWS approves the release of material to the public.

Participation on the Stakeholder Reference Group may provide members with access to information that could provide a commercial or intellectual benefit. In these cases, the member must declare a conflict of interest.

Group facilitation and support

NPWS will be responsible for facilitating the Stakeholder Reference Group and will provide support, including administrative support, meeting facilities, catering, communications materials and other required resources.

For more information about the Stakeholder Reference Group, email Sapphirecoastarea@environment.nsw.gov.au.

For more information on the Light to Light Walk, visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/light-to-light-walk

Photos: front, Ben Boyd National Park, John Spencer/DPIE, above, Bittangabee Bay in Ben Boyd National Park, Amanda Cutlack/DPIE

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