



Amendments to the Plan of Management covering Dharawal National Park, Dharawal Nature Reserve and Dharawal State Conservation Area

National Parks and Wildlife Service

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INTRODUCTION

In March 2012 the NSW Government created Dharawal National Park to provide enhanced protection for this naturally and culturally significant area. This was achieved through recategorising the majority of the former Dharawal State Conservation Area. The Government is committed to improving visitor facilities in the new park and enhancing its management, and has allocated \$1 million over four years for work to be implemented.

The former Dharawal State Conservation Area and Dharawal Nature Reserve are subject to a plan of management that was adopted in 2006. The existing plan of management continues to apply to the newly declared Dharawal National Park and will do so until it is replaced with a new plan of management.

Preparation of a new plan of management for the national park, nature reserve and state conservation area has commenced. However, this is a lengthy process and amendment of the existing plan has been undertaken in the meantime to enable some of the visitor facility works to proceed in keeping with the new national park status. Other aspects of recreational use and park management will be considered during preparation of the new plan of management. The new plan will be prepared in consultation with the community and placed on public exhibition for comment.

These amendments were adopted by the Minister for the Environment on the 20th December 2012.

WORDING OF AMENDMENTS

The following amendments have been adopted to the existing Dharawal Nature Reserve and Dharawal State Conservation Area Plan of Management:

- 1. The name of the plan is changed to *Dharawal National Park, Dharawal Nature Reserve and Dharawal State Conservation Area Plan of Management.*
- 2. Action 5 Section 4.3.2 currently states: "Investigate, and where appropriate plan appropriate visitor facilities on the periphery of the state conservation area with priority given to the Darkes Forest and Wedderburn areas. Any new facilities, other than the Seven Creek walking track and associated carparking, will require an amendment to this plan."

This action is replaced by the following high priority action:

Construct the following facilities in the Wedderburn area:

- a small car park and turnaround area on the Victoria Road Trail within, but close to, the park boundary to formalise parking at the end of Victoria Road;
- basic walk-in track head facilities, comprising two tables and a toilet to disabled standard, on the Victoria Road Trail west of the 10T trail intersection:
- a wheelchair accessible walking track and lookout overlooking O'Hares
 Creek gorge using the existing informal track from the Victoria Road Trail;
- seating and signage interpreting the area's natural and Aboriginal cultural heritage values along the route to the lookout from the parking area, in consultation with the Tharawal Aboriginal Land Council and other key stakeholders:
- a walking track linking the Victoria Road Trail track head and 10T Trail to a small viewing area or platform above Minerva Pool, utilising existing informal tracks where appropriate.

3. Insert the following new high priority action in section 4.3.2:

Improve visitor facilities at Maddens Falls by:

- upgrading the track from the car park to the lookout, including track and trail surface improvements and potential re-routing of a short section of track to improve amenity;
- upgrading the lookout to current standards if required, possibly including additional seating;
- relocating the picnic table from the weir to the car park.