



**Office of
Environment & Heritage**
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service



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

**NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
Part of the Office of Environment and Heritage**

**February 2014
ISBN 978 1 74359 601 2
OEH 2014/0314**

INTRODUCTION

A plan of management for the Far South Coast Escarpment Parks was adopted in 2011. Section 73B of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) provides that the Minister may amend a plan of management, consistent with the procedures specified under the NPW Act. These procedures include the public exhibition of draft amendments for at least 45 days, and referral of the plan amendment and submissions to the relevant Regional Advisory Committee and the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council for consideration and advice.

The amendments enable the trial of horse riding on two identified routes through wilderness for a period of up to two years.

Proposed amendments to the Plan of Management were placed on public exhibition from 14 June and 29 July 2013, attracting 94 submissions. The submissions received were carefully considered before adopting these amendments.

These amendments were adopted on **10 February 2014** in accordance with the NPW Act.

WORDING OF AMENDMENTS

Section 5.6 – Horse Riding – Issues/Opportunities

1. Amend this section to read:

- There is a need to assess the cultural heritage of the Escarpment Parks in a regional context, including that of the old bridle tracks.
- Two wilderness pilots will be undertaken to trial horse riding access in wilderness. The first pilot will comprise the Shoebridge Track in northern Deua National Park (as identified in Figure 2) and the second pilot will comprise the WD Tarlinton and Georges Pack Tracks in southern and eastern Deua National Park (as identified in Figure 2). The pilots will be undertaken for a period of up to two years in accordance with a monitoring framework applied to the pilots, commencing on a date to be publicly notified.
- Horse riding is and will continue to be prohibited on all other bridle tracks, management trails and other areas in wilderness. The only exception to this is where access to bridle tracks is required to undertake approved management works.
- It is recognised that large groups of horses may increase risks of environmental damage or impact on other wilderness users' feelings of solitude.

Section 5.6 – Horse Riding – Desired Outcome

2. Amend the first paragraph to state:

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

Section 5.6 – Horse Riding – Guidelines and Actions

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

Two wilderness pilots will be undertaken to trial horse riding access in wilderness. The first pilot will comprise the Shoebridge Track in northern Deua National Park (as identified in Figure 2) and the second pilot will comprise the WD Tarlinton and Georges Pack Tracks in southern and eastern Deua National Park (as identified in Figure 2). The pilots will be undertaken for a period of up to two years in accordance with a monitoring framework applied to the pilots, commencing on a date to be publicly notified. Groups of more than 20 horses (including pack horses) will not be permitted.

Renumber remaining paragraphs accordingly.

4. Insert additional text to paragraph numbered 5.6.7 so that it reads:

Allow camping with horses at Supers Memorial Camp (Wadbilliga National Park) and Bendethera (Deua National Park). Implement a permit system for these horse camps if considered necessary due to either volume of use or environmental impact. Otherwise, camping with horses is not permitted within wilderness areas as part of the wilderness trial.

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

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

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY
5.6.6	Two wilderness pilots will be undertaken to trial horse riding access in wilderness. The first pilot will comprise the Shoebridge Track in northern Deua National Park (as identified in Figure 2) and the second pilot will comprise the WD Tarlinton and Georges Pack Tracks in southern and eastern Deua National Park (as identified in Figure 2). The pilots will be undertaken for a period of up to two years in accordance with a monitoring framework applied to the pilots, commencing on a date to be publicly notified. Groups of more than 20 horses (including pack horses) will not be permitted.	High

