

Bushwalking NSW

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Bushwalking NSW policy on development in National Parks

Definitions:

Natural area is defined in the Natural Areas Policy of Bushwalking NSW and is “*any area with predominantly intact native indigenous vegetation cover and containing suitable habitat for its dependent fauna*”

Modified natural area is defined in the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and means “*an area of land where the native vegetation cover has been substantially modified or removed by human activity (other than activity relating to bush fire management or wild fire) and that is identified in a plan of management as not being appropriate for or capable of restoration.*”

A *modified natural area* does not generally fall within Bushwalking NSW’s definition of *natural area*.

Development includes all works, building and modifications including walking tracks, buildings, roads, and any proposal that will require a lease under Part 12 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

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- Supports the existing objects of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*ⁱ and principles for management of National Parks within that Actⁱⁱ
- Urges caution when considering any commercial development in National Park
- Opposes development in National Parks that is inconsistent with, or risks jeopardising the objects of the Act
- Considers that all alternatives for locating a development outside a National Park must be considered before considering a development within a National Park
- Considers that any development in National Parks must:
 - Seek to improve the environment and ecological values of the National Park where possible, or reduce the impact of existing human activities
 - Be low key
 - Be sensitive to surroundings
 - Promote sustainable visitation and awareness of the natural surrounds
 - Be located within modified natural areas
 - Promote sustainable and low-impact activities such as bushwalking
 - Be consistent with BNSW Natural Areas Policy
 - Consider the broader community perspective towards the proposed development
 - Not restrict access to bushwalkers or other low impact users of the National Park

When considering consistency with the objectives of the Act, specific consideration for any development in a National Park should be given to:

- Runoff, erosion and pollution (sediment / chemical use)
- Control of weeds, invasive species and diseases (including dieback)

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- Restriction of lighting (Artificial lighting is not appropriate outside of key visitor nodes in National Parks)
- Adaptive re-use of pre-existing structures and developments
- Ensuring non-native animals and domestic pets are not brought into the park
- Reducing sound pollution
- Impacts to bushwalking and other low-impact activities
- Encouraging all visitors to appreciate their location in a national park and promote low-impact recreation
- Impact of roads, access, parking, and any other ancillary development

ⁱ (1) The objects of this Act are as follows:

- (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,
- (c) fostering public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of nature and cultural heritage and their conservation,
- (d) providing for the management of land reserved under this Act in accordance with the management principles applicable for each type of reservation.

ⁱⁱ A national park is to be managed in accordance with the following principles:

- (a) the conservation of biodiversity, the maintenance of ecosystem function, the protection of geological and geomorphological features and natural phenomena and the maintenance of natural landscapes,
- (b) the conservation of places, objects, features and landscapes of cultural value,
- (c) the protection of the ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for present and future generations,
- (d) the promotion of public appreciation and understanding of the national park's natural and cultural values,
- (e) provision for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment that is compatible with the conservation of the national park's natural and cultural values,
- (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 national park's natural and cultural values,
- (fa) 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 national park that is permitted under section 185A having regard to the conservation of the national park's natural and cultural values,
- (g) provision for appropriate research and monitoring.