



Worimi Conservation Lands Sustainable Camping Project *Stakeholder group meeting #2*

The second meeting of the Worimi Conservation Lands (WCL) Sustainable Camping Project group was held on Saturday 7 May, 2016.

Stakeholders, Aboriginal owners from the WCL Board of Management and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service staff met at Murrook Cultural Centre to progress development of options for introducing sustainable camping to WCL.

The group started the day by sharing their knowledge about the history of the WCL, creating a timeline from the creation of the dunes around 6000 years ago, through thousands of years of Aboriginal occupation, to European settlement in the late 1800s and up to the present day. This session provided some fascinating insights into the history of the land, and highlighted the diverse experiences and connections people have to the country that is now the WCL.



Worimi rangers led a discussion on the framework that the WCL Board of Management would use to make a final decision on camping. This included the Board's vision and the camping-related actions laid out in the WCL Plan of Management. The group then worked together to identify the following set of desired outcomes for camping on WCL:



Camping on Worimi Conservation Lands is:

- *a unique experience in a natural environment*
- *a safe experience for everyone involved*
- *respectful to Aboriginal sites, the land and people*
- *here for the long term.*

With their broad outcomes identified, the group then began the process of identifying the factors that could influence whether these outcomes could be achieved (see list below) – things like the potential impacts of major storm events, the protection of the frontal dune, the presence of Worimi cultural sites, people’s behaviour, vehicles and access to campsites.

As the meeting started, stakeholders were asked to mark possible camping sites on a map based on their knowledge of the WCL and the issues affecting location of possible campsites. Several of these sites became the focus of the afternoon field trip where discussion focused on the outcomes and some of the factors identified in the morning sessions.



The group will meet again on June 4 when they will continue identifying the factors that influence achieving their outcomes, and discuss the sometimes complex relationships between these factors. They will also start to consider how the most influential factors could be mitigated by various management actions.

The stakeholder group includes representatives from the NSW & ACT 4WD Association, Unlock Australia, Tin City Heritage & Conservation Society, RVA Social Group, Newcastle District Anglers Association, National Parks Association, Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council, WCL Board of Management, and NPWS.



Notes from WCL Camping Project Meeting: *Saturday 7 May, 2016*

Desired outcomes

A unique camping experience in a natural environment.

- Sitting around with friends and family
- Sitting by the fire with a drink in hand
- Place to relax and enjoy quality time with family/friends
- Beach experience
- Fishing
- Freedom
- Not overcrowded or too close to others
- Isolation
- Out of the wind and private
- Leaves the frontal dune more intact than before
- Back to basics
- Nice to get away – much better than working
- Tranquil – no generators; limited noise
- Quiet natural experience with minimal infrastructure

A safe experience for everyone involved.

- Safe
- Feeling safe
- Family friendly/safe
- A good campsite with some protection from the weather

A camping experience that is respectful to Aboriginal sites, the land, and people.

- Fit into country – respect
- Respect
- Respecting the sites on WCL



- Organised, happy – people know where they are going
- Pristine – it doesn't look like a campsite; no rubbish; natural
- Clean and tidy – rubbish
- Free of rubbish

Camping is here for the long term.

- Sustainable practices
- Sustainable – minimal impact
- Financially sustainable
- Cost effective

Factors affecting the desired Outcomes

- Fighter jet noise
- Vehicle movement
- Access to campsites
- Cultural heritage sites
- Shorebird breeding & nesting sites
- Vegetation
- Frontal dune stability
- Frontal dune protection
- Dynamic landscape
- Impact of storms
- Pinch points on beachfront
- Risk from storm surge
- Campsite proximity to exits/entries
- Proximity to Sygna and other popular visitor attractions
- Need for accessible/comprehensive information
- Identification of campsites
- Proximity to day use activities eg. RVA
- People's behaviour
- Off-park alternatives
- Management actions (what we can do)