



Worimi Conservation Lands Sustainable Camping Project *Stakeholder group meeting #1*

The first meeting of the Worimi Conservation Lands (WCL) Sustainable Camping Project group was held on Saturday 2 April.

Stakeholders, Aboriginal owners from the WCL Board of Management and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service staff got together at Murrook Cultural Centre for an introductory session about the project before heading out onto the beach for a site visit.

The group discussed what they valued most about the camping experience on WCL. Appreciation of the beauty of the natural environment, and the opportunity to share this unique beach camping experience with friends and family was quickly established as common ground amongst the group.



NPWS Worimi rangers presented information about the Worimi cultural values of the WCL, and discussed the occurrence, location and changing exposure of Worimi sites and artefacts. Aboriginal owner members of the WCL board discussed the unique challenges they face in ensuring protection of their cultural sites and values – their highest priority – while also providing ongoing access for visitors, which is another important priority. There was some discussion about the range of issues to be addressed or overcome if camping is to be sustainable, with the WCL board's vision for the park 'protect, respect, connect' to be used a cultural filter when making decisions to ensure protection of Worimi cultural values.

.../2



After lunch the group spent the afternoon in the park looking at the areas where the WCL board could introduce camping, in accordance with its plan of management. Favourable weather, tide and swell meant ideal beach driving conditions, and the group headed north from the Lavis Lane park entrance along the beachfront towards Tin City, before returning south and into the recreation vehicle area. Various stops were made to discuss key issues including Worimi cultural sites, the frontal dune and landscape features.



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.



Over the next four months this group will work together to come up with options for introducing sustainable camping to WCL. The group will meet again on May 7 when they will begin to consider all of the possibilities and constraints of camping on WCL.

.../3





Notes from WCL Camping Project Meeting: *Saturday 2 April, 2016*

- Camping and 4WD driving go together perfectly
- Continued involvement
- Fishing
- Locals
- Travel for RVA – camping
- Sustainable camping
- Protect, respect, connect
- Participation

What do you personally value about the camping experience on Worimi Conservation Lands?

- the natural beauty of the place
- beautiful camping spot
- great place to be
- the sense of open space
- getting away from it all
- the simple life
- de-stressing
- the chance to combine hobbies with camping i.e. fishing, 4-wheel driving, recreational vehicles, beachcombing, swimming and surfing
- exploring the beach environment
- safe camp fires
- getting out on country
- enjoy and appreciate beach experience with friends and family
- low cost family holiday
- chance for clubs/groups to camp together
- a safe place to camp

.../4



Broadly, these values fit into three common themes

- **The natural environment**
 - the natural beauty of the place
 - beautiful camping spot
 - the sense of open space
 - getting away from it all
 - the simple life
 - de-stressing

- **The beach camping experience**
 - the chance to combine hobbies with camping i.e. fishing, 4-wheel driving, recreational vehicles, beachcombing, swimming and surfing
 - exploring the beach environment
 - safe camp fires

- **A chance share a unique experience with family and friends**
 - getting out on country
 - enjoy and appreciate beach experience with friends and family
 - low cost family holiday
 - chance for clubs/groups to camp together
 - a safe place to camp