



Opening February 2019

# Ganyamalbaa

## Camping Trial

Worimi  
Conservation Lands



The Worimi Conservation Lands Board of Management is pleased to announce that the 'Ganyamalbaa Camping Trial' will open on 1 February 2019.

Ganyamalbaa (gunya-mul-ba), meaning a 'place to camp' in Worimi Gathang language, is a new beach camping area located at the southern end of the Aboriginal-owned Worimi Conservation Lands, north of Newcastle.

The opening of the Ganyamalbaa Camping Trial will replace the previous unrestricted camping at Stockton Beach. Camping was closed in 2012 following a series of major storms that caused severe flooding of camping areas, damage to cultural sites and a safety risk for campers.

The previous camping had a devastating impact on cultural sites, natural values and visitor safety, and it was clear that future camping needed to be sustainable.

Initially fifteen spacious campsites accommodating up to 8 campers per site, will be opened as part of the Ganyamalbaa Camping Trial. A total of twenty-six campsites have been developed and the additional camping sites will enable the Board the flexibility to adapt the camping approach as required.

By day, campers can enjoy sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean, dunes and the spectacular Worimi cultural landscape and by night, the brilliant stars of the Milky Way galaxy turn on a mesmerizing show, framed by the sleepy lights of Newcastle city in the distance.

A key feature of the camping trial is the ongoing monitoring program. It will enable the Board to closely observe, review and respond to the potential impacts of camping, and adapt its approach to ensure park values, such as Worimi cultural sites and the frontal dune are protected.

**To view our camping video visit [worimiconservationlands.com/camping](http://worimiconservationlands.com/camping)**

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What are the Worimi Conservation Lands?

The Worimi Conservation Lands (WCL) is a 4200-hectare Aboriginal-owned park, north of Newcastle.

The park was established in 2007 after crown land at Stockton Bight was handed back to the local Worimi Aboriginal Owners, in a landmark comanagement agreement.

The park protects an extraordinary number and diversity of cultural sites that provide Worimi owners with important information about their relationship and special connection with their land.

It also provides access to Stockton Beach and dunes, one of the largest coastal dune driving areas in NSW.

The WCL Board of Management (the Board) are responsible for the care, control and management of the park on behalf of the Aboriginal Owners, in partnership with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

### Can people currently camp at the WCL?

No. Camping is currently not permitted in the Worimi Conservation Lands, including staying overnight in vehicles on the beach.

### When will camping be available?

Online bookings for the camping trial will open on the 1 February 2019, with camping to commence from the 15 February 2019.

### How can people book a campsite?

Campers will need to book and pay for a campsite online at [worimiconservationlands.com/camping](http://worimiconservationlands.com/camping), prior to arriving. Bookings will be able to be made six months in advance, for a maximum stay of seven nights per booking.

## How was the camping developed?

In 2016, the Board formed a stakeholder consultative group who met regularly to investigate and consider a range of possibilities for introducing sustainable camping to the park. The group included Aboriginal Owners, recreational fishing, four-wheel drive and conservation representatives, who co-designed a strategy for safe and sustainable camping that protects Aboriginal sites and the frontal dune, and respects and celebrates the park's deep cultural significance to the Worimi people.



Photo: The camping consultative group met regularly to investigate options for the camping and codesign the plan (Brent Mail/OEH)

## Why can't camping be the same as before?

Camping will be very different to the previously unrestricted camping, which had a devastating impact on Worimi cultural sites, the frontal dune and visitor safety.

## Why will the camping be a 'trial' when it opens?

Camping will be introduced in stages as a 'trial' to allow the Board to monitor impacts & adapt their camping plan as needed. Monitoring and adapting the approach to camping will give it the best chance of becoming a sustainable long-term visitor experience.

## What will the monitoring look at?

The condition of cultural sites, the frontal dune and vegetation will be monitored for impacts. Visitor behaviour including increases in illegal camping will be carefully monitored, as will the financial sustainability of the camping.

## What happens if monitoring finds that camping is unsustainable?

The WCL Board camping is planning for a successful camping trial, however if there are unacceptable impacts on cultural sites, the frontal dune or visitor safety, the camping opportunity will be reviewed. The ongoing monitoring program will track these impacts and enables the best chance of camping becoming a long-term visitor experience.

## How much will it cost to camp at Ganyamalbaa?

Camping fees will help recoup some of the costs of providing this unique visitor experience. The fees have been priced according to National Parks and Wildlife Service camping fee guidelines.

## Fees to camp at Ganyamalbaa will be:

- Base site fee (2 adults) \$33.00
- Extra adult \$16.50
- Child (5-12yrs) \$8.00
- Infants (0-4) free

Beach vehicle permits are required for vehicle entry to the WCL and are not included in the camping fee. Campers will need to buy one from a local outlet before they arrive.

## How many people will be allowed per campsite?

The campsites are a spacious 20m x 20m size, catering for a maximum of 8 people per site. People will be able to book a maximum of two campsites at a time.

Campsites are not suitable for caravans, mobile homes or double axle vehicles.

Two campsites have been allocated specifically for people camping with quads or motorbikes.

## What facilities will be provided at the campsite?

Ganyamalbaa is a remote beach camping area with no facilities. Campers will need to be fully self-sufficient and bring their own water, firewood and a portable camp toilet. For convenience, a waste dump point has been installed at the northern end of the Lavis Lane carpark.



Photo: A fire pit is provided at each campsite. Campers will need to bring their own firewood, and marshmallows! (Brent Mail/OEH)

## Why is the camping area located at the southern end of the park?

The location of the camping area was chosen due to the minimal number of cultural sites in the area, the close proximity of the recreational vehicle area, and the easy access from the Lavis Lane and Fern Bay four-wheel drive entrances.

## Will dogs be permitted in the camping area?

No. Dogs are only permitted in the designated dog walking area located at the northern end of the park.

## Will camping be allowed elsewhere in the WCL?

No. Camping will be only permitted in the Ganyamalbaa Camping Area.

## For more information visit [worimiconservationlands.com/camping](http://worimiconservationlands.com/camping)

A partnership between the Worimi Conservation Lands and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.