

Royal Area Manager

NPWS Regional Office

by mail: PO Box 144 Sutherland 1499 by hand: Audley Visitor's Centre, Royal National Park

by email: royal.ref@environment.nsw.gov.au

Proposed Road Access in Royal National Park for Bundeena Coast Eco Lodge Development

I object to the proposal for a road through the Royal National Park to allow the clearing of native forest for the construction and operation of a proposed eco-tourism facility.

Ecological Impacts

I object to the proposed removal of 450 native trees, as well as the removal of 70% of the canopy from approximately three dozen of the largest and oldest trees and the wide-scale removal of shrubs, understory and smaller trees from over two hectares of native forest including along the proposed access road. I also object to the proposed removal of a large area of Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub, a critically endangered ecological community, which provides habitat for threatened species including Eastern pygmy possum, Red-crowned toadlet, Giant-burrowing frog and Powerful owl, amongst others.

Bushfire Safety

The proposal poses unacceptable bushfire risk to facility guests and occupants, Rural Fire Service (RFS) volunteer fire fighters, other emergency service personnel and the public. The exhibited documents state that the proposed road through the Park cannot provide emergency services with safe access to the proposed facility during a bushfire. It is well known in the community that the RFS Bundeena Brigade and the RFS Sutherland Shire District oppose development because the site and access route are unsafe. Why risk lives for six safari tents?

The proposal increases potential traffic conflicts at this already congested location in the event of a bush fire or other emergency when bushwalkers, facility users and local residents may all need to evacuate the area and emergency services require access.

Bushwalker and Traffic Safety

The proposal to upgrade the Bundeena entrance to the Coast Track (the busiest track head in the RNP) to public road standard to allow vehicle access to the facility, without providing safe separate pedestrian access will endanger users of the Coast Track and access to the new visitor amenities under construction; as will the proposal to use the track entrance for delivery loading and unloading and waste collection.

Not consistent with the purpose of National Parks.

The proposal poses impacts that offend the purpose of National Parks to conserve biodiversity, protect and maintain ecological function and integrity for present and future generations and maintain natural landscapes. Australia's oldest National Park should not be used to facilitate a development that poses such unacceptable environmental and ecological impacts that are not in the public interest.

Signed: _____
Name: _____
Date: _____
Address: _____

Tick this box if you **do not** wish your submission to be publicly displayed on the Office of Environment and Heritage website.