



Robyn Parker MP

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW EXPERIENCES IN GARIGAL NATIONAL PARK A STEP CLOSER

Environment Minister Robyn Parker and Manly MP Mike Baird today announced amendments to the Garigal National Park management plan, paving the way for a new purpose built mountain bike track and suitable trails to be opened to horse riding.

“It’s part of the NSW Government’s commitment to rethink the way we care for our environment by finding new ways for people to enjoy our parks,” Ms Parker said.

“The National Parks and Wildlife Service has received strong support from mountain bike riders across Sydney for a new purpose built mountain bike trail in Garigal National Park.

“An examination of environmental factors will see a new route that is carefully designed to fit with the environment and allow for safe and enjoyable use by outdoor enthusiasts across the city.

“The new track will help prevent unchecked access through sensitive areas on tracks that damage the bush.

“Garigal National Park is one of the most urban national parks in NSW, with thousands of neighbours as well as visitors wanting to walk, cycle and ride horses.”

Mr Baird said the announcement was a long time coming but a fantastic result.

“I strongly believe that allowing mountain bike access to our fantastic National Park will encourage more people to participate and experience the wonder they provide,” Mr Baird said.

As part of the track design, existing unauthorised trails in the area, including one accessed from the Wakehurst Parkway will be closed and rehabilitated, some key sections of walking tracks will also be restored. New sections of purpose built ‘one way’ sections will also separate bikers and bushwalkers.

Now the Plan of Management has been amended the next step is to work with neighbouring land managers to assess access to three other trails for horse-riders.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parkmanagement/GarigalNationalParkPlanOfManagementPDF101KB.htm>