Many popular visitation areas are situated on the escarpments overlooking the Grose Valley, Blackheath, and the Jamison Valley, from Wentworth Falls to Katoomba and these attract both local and international visitors.

Govetts Leap is located at Blackheath and is within the Blue Mountains National Park (BMNP) which is part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWHA). The lookout is on the escarpment edge overlooking the Grose Valley wilderness area, with the site being accessed by both car-based visitors, escarpment walkers and local pedestrians.

Although the site has striking views, many of the amenities are in need of repair or replacement to better suit the needs of visitors and reflect the unique nature of the site.

The Govetts Leap Draft Visitor Precinct Plan aims to redevelop Govetts Leap to become a world class visitor precinct, whilst protecting world heritage values, creating a lookout that is cherished by local residents and leaves a lasting impression on both domestic and international visitors.

The Govetts Leap Draft Visitor Precinct Plan has been prepared to be submitted with (and in accordance with) the Plan of Management (hereafter referred to as PoM) Amendment (prepared by National Parks & Wildlife Service).

DISCLAIMER This report was prepared by CLOUSTON Associates in good faith exercising all due care and attention, but no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made as to the relevance, accuracy, completeness or fitness for purpose of this document in respect of any particular user's circumstances. Users of this document should satisfy themselves concerning its application to, and where necessary seek expert advice in respect of, their situation.

The views expressed within are not necessarily the views of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) and may not represent DPIE policy.

© Copyright State of NSW and the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

CLOUSTON associates

INTRODUCTION

JUNE 2020

2
THE SITE AND CONTEXT
CONFUSING SENSE OF ARRIVAL
ENTRANCE TO HERITAGE CENTRE UNCLEAR
NO PEDESTRIAN CONNECTION
CONFUSING SENSE OF ARRIVAL
PICNIC AREA OPEN AND UNINVITING. FURNITURE IN POOR CONDITION
HAPHAZARD ARRANGEMENT OF BUILDINGS & NON-FUNCTIONAL SHELTERS
UNSTRUCTURED SPACE
UNDER UTILISED AREA
POOR PEDESTRIAN ACCESS FROM EXISTING HERITAGE CENTRE
STRONG EXISTING VISTAS
RAISED PICNIC AREA
LARGE ASPHALT AREA WITH RANDOM PARKING (80 VEHICLE CAPACITY)
ESCARPMENT EDGE AND FENCING IN POOR CONDITION
BOLLARDS CREATE POOR ARRIVAL
POOR CONNECTION BETWEEN UPPER AND LOWER LOOKOUTS
UNDER UTILISED AREA
TOILETS NOT UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE
POSSIBLE VISUAL AND ACOUSTIC IMPACTS OF DEPOT
FAIRFAX HERITAGE TRACK
POOR PEDESTRIAN ACCESS FROM EXISTING HERITAGE CENTRE
PoM Amendment – Visitor Precinct Boundary
PoM Amendment – Visitor Precinct Boundary
PoM Amendment – Visitor Precinct Boundary
JUNE 2020

CLOUSTON associates
SITE STRATEGIES

5

PROTECT VIEWS TOWARDS THE SITE

INCREASE TRACKHEAD VISIBILITY

UPGRADE INTERSECTION

ENSURE ENTRY ZONE ENGAGES VISITORS ON ARRIVAL

CREATE BETTER SENSE OF ARRIVAL

INCREASE VISIBILITY OF HERITAGE CENTRE

USE VEGETATION TO SCREEN DEPOT

ENSURE LOOKOUT IS A SAFE AND ENGAGING MOVEMENT AND ACTIVITY SPACE

CREATE SENSE OF ANTICIPATION

RETAIN AND ENHANCE BUS DROP-OFF

RETAIN AND ENHANCE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

ENSURE LOOKOUT IS A SAFE AND ENGAGING MOVEMENT AND ACTIVITY SPACE

MAXIMISE VIEWS

NEW PARKING AREA

BETTER UTILISE PICNIC SPACE AND FACILITIES

CONNECT LOOKOUT TO AMENITIES

RELOCATE PARKING FROM CURRENT LOCATION TO MAXIMISE PEDESTRIAN SPACE AND VIEWS AND IMPROVE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO LOOKOUT AND FACILITIES

JUNE 2020
RELOCATE THE EXISTING PARKING AWAY FROM THE ESCARPMENT EDGE TO IMPROVE THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND INTERACTION WITH THE SPECTACULAR VIEWS AND SETTING

EXPAND THE OPEN SPACE OPPORTUNITIES ON THE EDGE OF THE ESCARPMENT TO IMMERSE VISITORS IN THE NATURAL EXPERIENCE

UTILISE EXISTING ONE WAY LOOP ROAD
CONCEPT PLAN - HERITAGE CENTRE

GOVETTS LEAP ROAD
FROM BLACKHEATH & EXISTING ENTRY SIGN

HERITAGE CENTRE ENTRY MARKERS

UPGRADE HERITAGE CENTRE FORECOURT

NEW PARKING REVISED TO 90 DEGREES (21 PARKING SPACES - 2 NEW)

MORE VISIBLE ENTRY TO FAIRFAX TRACK

UPGRADE COURTYARD

IMPROVED LOCAL BUS STOP

UPGRADE HERITAGE CENTRE ENTRY

NEW UPGRADED CONCRETE PATH TO LOOKOUT

LOOP ROAD CONNECTION TO LOOKOUT

GATE CONTROLS IN & OUT

UPGRADED JUNCTION MIXED VEHICLE / SAFE ZONE WITH PEDESTRIAN PRIORITY

NEW PATH CONNECTIONS TO HERITAGE CENTRE

DISABILITY PARKING SPACE

ENTRY FEATURE PIERS IN IRONSTONE

GOVETTS LEAP ROAD FROM BLACKHEATH & EXISTING ENTRY SIGN

KEY

PEDESTRIAN PATHS
ROADS
UPGRADED HERITAGE CENTRE AND FAIRFAX TRACK POINTS

CLOUSTON associates

CONCEPT PLAN - HERITAGE CENTRE

JUNE 2020
CONCEPT PLAN - LOOKOUT PRECINCT

- UNIVERSAL ACCESS PATH TO GEORGE PHILLIPS LOOKOUT
- PICNIC LAWN
- EXISTING TOILETS RETAINED
- UNIVERSAL ACCESS RAMP TO TOILETS
- UPGRADE / ADAPT ALL EXISTING SHELTERS
- NEW AMPHITHEATRE / EDUCATIONAL SPACE
- NEW EDUCATIONAL SHELTER
- SHRUB / TREE PLANTING
- UNIVERSAL ACCESS RAMP TO LOOKOUT
- PAVED LOOKOUT
- OBELISK LOCATION RETAINED
- EDGE OF EXISTING RAISED PICNIC AREA
- POTENTIAL COFFEE CART SPACE
- 4 DISABLED PARKING SPACES
- LEVEL LAWN GATHERING AREA
- PAVED SHARED ZONE
- BUS DROP OFF
- PICNIC SPACE
- +970.5 ELEVATION LEVELS
- +971.5 ELEVATION LEVELS
- +972 ELEVATION LEVELS
- +972.5 ELEVATION LEVELS
- +978 ELEVATION LEVELS
- PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT KEY
- PEDESTRIAN PATHS
- PEDESTRIAN PATHS
- PATH TO ADDITIONAL PARKING

CLOUSTON associates

GOVETTS LEAP DRAFT VISITOR PRECINCT PLAN

JUNE 2020
KEY THEMES
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
- Historic Heritage
- Cradle of Conservation
- World Heritage Values “flora, fauna, geology.”

ELEMENTS
- Wayfinding signs with strong emphasis on graphics and minimal text
- Interpretation information will encourage visitors to return to the Heritage Centre for further information
- Digital interaction option
NEW PARKING PRINCIPLES

EXISTING PARKING REMOVED

4X DISABLED CAR SPACES

EXISTING HEADLAND OUTLINE

EXISTING GOVETTS LEAP ROAD LOOP

PARKING: 100 SPACES

VEHICLES IN / OUT

EXISTING GOVETTS LEAP ROAD LOOP

VEHICLES IN / OUT

11

3

3

2

2

8

4

4

13

4

4

16

4

4

11

3

3

8

4

4

11

3

3

VEHICLES IN / OUT

EXISTING GOVETTS LEAP ROAD LOOP

BUS LAYOVER

GOVETTS LEAP DRAFT VISITOR PRECINCT PLAN

NEW PARKING PRINCIPLES

CLOUSTON associates

JUNE 2020  11
GOVETTS LEAP DRAFT VISITOR PRECINCT PLAN

Materials

Structures

Walls & Seating

Signage & Interpretation

Planting

CLOUSTON associates

MATERIALS & FINISHES - HARDWORKS

JUNE 2020
GOVETTS LEAP DRAFT VISITOR PRECINCT PLAN

VISITATION

ENCOURAGE VISITORS TO LINGER & EXPLORE
- Ensure that increased parking is provided in a safe way to accommodate an increase in visitors to the site
- Provide a range of spaces for people to engage with apart from the main lookout
- Interpretation that engages with visitors as well as encourages further exploration at the Heritage Centre
- Wayfinding that gives visitors a better sense of the surrounding trails for those who may be uncertain or have limited experience with the bush

EXPERIENCE

CREATE A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE
- Ensure space for visitors to move safely around the site, with parking set back from the main lookout
- Maintain an unobstructed lookout so that the view is celebrated
- Provide for a range of experiences such as community events and educational opportunities, as well as tourists

ACCESSIBILITY

PROVIDE ACCESS AND ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL
- Provide opportunities for people of all abilities to experience the outstanding example of indigenous Australian flora through their experience at the lookout
- Provide universal access to the lookout through ramping, as well as drop off points and disabled parking for ease of access for all visitors

HERITAGE

TELL THE STORY THROUGH HERITAGE
- Cover a diverse range of topics from Aboriginal and European heritage, ecology and geology
- Give an understanding of how Govetts Leap relates to the wider Blue Mountains and World Heritage Significance
- Adapt and reuse elements on site in current locations where possible, such as existing stonework (shelters, the lookout obelisk etc) and where elements may cause access issues (such as the archway) consider relocation to more suitable location