



NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Decision statement

Dorrigo Arc Rainforest Centre

REF CM file no.	DOC25/670667-2
Title of proposal:	Dorrigo Arc Rainforest Centre
Park name:	Dorrigo National Park
Area/ NPWS Branch:	Coffs Coast/North Coast
Proponent:	NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Activity to proceed

Based on the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) and any additional information obtained, and after having taken into account to the fullest extent possible all matters likely to affect the environment as a result of the proposed activity (in accordance with section 5.5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*), **I hereby determine that:**

1. Further information or assessment is **not required**:
 - an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required as the activity is not likely to significantly affect the environment
 - a Species Impact Statement (SIS) is not required as the activity is not proposed to occur on land that is part of an area of outstanding biodiversity value or critical habitat, and is not likely to significantly affect threatened species or ecological communities, or their habitats
2. **The activity may proceed, subject to the conditions** specified in the attached Schedule 1 and subject to any necessary approvals (if approval is required under other legislation) being obtained first.
3. Further, it is considered that the proposed activity:
 - **is unlikely to*** impact significantly on matters of **National Environmental Significance** under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)
 - **is unlikely to*** impact significantly on **local council infrastructure**, including roads, water, sewer and stormwater, **local heritage items** listed by the council, and **flood patterns on flood liable land**. *A record of any required consultation with the appropriate council has been provided in Attachment 1*
 - **will** require certification to the Building Code of Australia or Australian Standards in accordance with the *NPWS Construction Assessment Procedures*.

Determination

NPWS Area Manager recommendation:

Name: Glenn Storrie

Signature:



Date: 1/09/2025

Determination by Director Park Operations, North Coast Branch*

I certify that I have reviewed and endorsed the contents of this REF document, and, to the best of my knowledge, it is in accordance with the EP&A Act, the EP&A Regulation and the Guidelines approved under section 170 of the EP&A Regulation, and the information it contains is neither false nor misleading.

Name: Russell Madeley

Signature:



Date: 10/09/2025

NPWS Executive Director, Park Operations Coastal

Name: Naomi Stephens

Signature:



Date: 25/09/2025

Schedule 1: Conditions of determination

REF DOC No.	DOC25/670667-2
Title of proposal:	Dorrigo Arc Rainforest Centre
Park name:	Dorrigo National Park
Area/ NPWS Branch:	Coffs Coast Area/North Coast Branch
Proponent:	NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Part A – General terms of this determination

References to the REF

All references to the DARC REF are references to the following documents:

Dorrigo Arc Rainforest Centre Review of Environmental Factors prepared by *EcoLogical Australia Pty Ltd*, dated August 2025 (ELA 2025) as DOC25/670667-3.

Supporting documents:

- A. DARC REF Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report (ELA 2024a) as DOC25/670667-4
- B. DARC REF Statement of heritage impact (2024b) as DOC25/670667-5
- C. DARC REF Ecological assessment (ELA 2024c) as DOC25/670667-6
- D. DARC REF Matters of national environmental significance assessment (ELA 2024d) as DOC25/670667-7
- E. DARC REF Project mapping (ELA 2024e) as DOC25/670667-8
- F. DARC REF Preliminary tree impact assessment (Civica 2023) as DOC25/670667-9
- G. DARC REF Traffic impact assessment (Stantec 2025) as DOC25/670667-10

Responsibilities of the proponent

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Coffs Coast Area, is the proponent, responsible for the manner in which this activity, specified in the REF and as modified by this decision statement, is performed.

Transfer of REF determination

REF determinations are not transferable, except with the written approval of the NPWS Executive Director, Coastal Operations.

Inspection of work covered by this Decision Statement

NPWS staff not involved in the DARC REF's implementation may be tasked by the NPWS Director, North Coast, or other NPWS senior executive to examine work undertaken as part of the activity at any reasonable time without notice.

Entry to land

The proponent is responsible for securing authorisation or consent from the registered landowner or occupier to enter, use and occupy land outside land reserved or acquired under the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 as identified as part of the DARC REF (and specified by this Decision Statement).

Reference to NPWS officers in this determination

The NPWS Executive Director, Coastal Operations, NPWS Director, North Coast Branch, or NPWS Manager, Coffs Coast Area may delegate any functions ascribed to that position in this Decision Statement to either an Officer of the Service or an Authorised Officer.

Explanatory notes on the conditions in this determination

Explanatory notes included with this determination do not form part of the conditions.

Part B: Conditions of determination

Administrative conditions

Duration and scope of determination

1. The proponent must have commenced the activity within 12 months from the date specified on this determination.
2. The proponent must ensure all construction works are completed within 5 years from the date of commencement of the activity, inclusive of activity area remediation and rehabilitation.
3. The proponent may apply to the NPWS Executive Director, Coastal Operations, for an extension to this determination under Division 5.1 of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 for another 5 years in writing, based on any reasonable justification of project delay.

Note: If the activity has not commenced within a 12-month timeframe, this REF Decision Statement will be deemed lapsed. If this occurs, the proponent must seek direction from the NPWS Director, North Coast Branch.

Deliver on the activity

4. The proponent must deliver on the activity as specified in Section 6 of the DARC REF as the *Dorrigo Arc Rainforest Centre Review of Environmental Factors prepared by EcoLogical Australia Pty Ltd, dated August 2025 (ELA 2025)* as DOC25/670667-3. The activity must be undertaken:
 - a. as described in the 100% final design drawings as approved by the Director, North Coast Branch, and
 - b. at the location as specified in the DARC REF as the activity area on Dorrigo National Park, (now) acquired lands under Part 11 of the NPW Act and adjoining public roads as shown in Figures 1-4 of Schedule 2 of this Decision Statement, and
 - c. in accordance with the 100% final construction design plans as approved by the Director, North Coast, as per Condition 11 of this REF.
 - d. as required or amended by any conditions outlined in this Decision Statement.

5. In the event of any inconsistency between the DARC REF and the conditions of this Decision Statement, the Statement shall prevail.

Note: To ensure that the activity is consistent with the consideration of potential environmental impacts in the REF and following relevant statutory approvals issued for the activity as described in the REF.

Safety and emergency procedures

6. The proponent is to ensure:
 - a. all staff, employees, contractors, sub-contractors, agents and invitees involved in the activity have been included in an onsite induction process with the NPWS Manager, Coffs Coast Area.
 - a. all staff, employees, contractors, sub-contractors, agents and invitees on site must be aware of the visitor safety, emergency and environmental safeguards associated with the activity.
 - b. all appropriate incident and emergency communication equipment is onsite and operational at all times during the activity.
7. The proponent must undertake all aspects of the activity in accordance with the relevant *NSW Work Health and Safety Act 2011*, including codes of practice adopted under the Act, and the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017. Any contractors, sub-contractors and agents associated with the DARC REF delivery are to have appropriate insurance, including public liability.
8. The proponent, notwithstanding any other conditions of this determination, if emergency works are required, these shall occur as expeditiously as possible. Emergency works are works of a temporary and reversible nature that are urgently required to arrest an imminent threat to life, safety, public liability, and/or a threat to the environment or property.
9. In the event of an emergency, the proponent must apply the relevant procedures as specified in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), and
 - a. follow directions given by an emergency services authority or officer (including but not limited to police, ambulance, etc.).
 - b. report the incident via either 000, and/or Environment Line on 131555, and require or seek direction on any further procedures or actions to be implemented from the relevant NSW emergency response agency.
 - c. seek formal direction from the NPWS Manager, Coffs Coast Area, regarding any follow-up procedures, actions or works required to protect or arrest damage to the environment or the park.
 - d. formally report in writing the details of the incident and all actions taken within eight (8) hours to the NPWS Director, North Coast Branch.
10. Emergency reporting procedures are to include (personal mobile numbers redacted):

Priority	Reporting line	Contact details
1	Environment line (for all pollution and environmental incidents)	13 15 55
2	NPWS North Coast Branch Director	npws.northcoastbranch@environment.nsw.gov.au
3	NPWS Coffs Coast Area Manager	npws.coffscost@environment.nsw.gov.au
4	NPWS North Coast Branch Duty Officer	npwsNCB.BDO@environment.nsw.gov.au
5	NPWS Principal Project Officer	chris.petrov@environment.nsw.gov.au

Reason: To ensure confirmation of any site-specific arrangements for the undertaking of the activity. To arrest an imminent threat to life, safety, public liability, and/or a threat to the environment or property.

Prior to commencing the activity

Final construction plans are approved

11. Plans for the Dorrigo Arc Rainforest Centre, including the building, elevated walkway, car park and surrounding landscaping, must be complete to a 100% final construction design and approved by the Director, North Coast Branch before proceeding to construction. Once approved, the final construction design drawings form part of the DARC REF activity description. Director, North Coast Branch approval is required at:
 - a. submission of the 100% Final design drawings for construction purposes, and
 - b. submission of the Construction Environmental Management Plan with the full construction set included.

Approvals are in place

12. This Statement does not relieve the proponent of any obligation to obtain statutory approvals necessary to undertake the activity, including but not limited to any approvals required under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
13. The proponent must ensure the Heritage approval under s.60 of the *Heritage Act 1977* is in place before works commence within the curtilage of the State Heritage Register listed item as the New England Group of the 'Gondwana Rainforests of Australia' (SHR #1002).
14. The proponent must ensure the following approvals are in place before works commence:
 - a. Bellingen Shire Council approval for works on Dome Road under Section 138 of the *Roads Act 1993*
 - b. Bellingen Shire Council approvals under Section 68 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Note: Ensure that the activity is consistent with the consideration of potential environmental impacts in the REF and following relevant statutory approvals issued for the activity as described in the REF.

Site induction occurs

15. The proponent is to ensure, before accessing or commencing works associated with the activity, that all employees, contractors, subcontractors and agents involved in delivering the DARC REF attend an on-site meeting and induction with the NPWS Manager, Coffs Coast Area.

Reason: To ensure confirmation of any site-specific arrangements for the undertaking of the activity.

Notification of Registered Aboriginal Parties

16. At least fourteen (14) days prior to the activity commencing, the proponent must notify in writing the representatives from the Gumbaynggirr Aboriginal community to ensure that they are available to monitor works as prescribed in the approved CEMP, consistent with DARC REF.

Reason: To provide the Aboriginal community with an opportunity to monitor works in areas of cultural heritage significance.

Certification of demolition, building and infrastructure works

17. Before the commencement of any infrastructure demolition works, the proponent must ensure the works are certified and comply with the National Construction Code, and relevant Australian Standards following the NPWS Construction Assessment Procedures (OEH 2011a). Evidence of compliance must be submitted to the NPWS Director, North Coast Branch.

Reason: To ensure that the proposed building and infrastructure works comply with all necessary DCCEEW policy and statutory requirements.

Notification

18. The proponent must notify the Manager, NPWS Coffs Coast Area, in writing (by email) at least five (5) working days before commencing the activity. The notification must include the following information:
- a. the direct contact details of the proponent's onsite supervisor responsible for overseeing the activity delivery, and a secondary proponent contact in case of an emergency or incident, and
 - b. a list of tradespersons and/or contractors that will be involved in undertaking the activity, providing the trade licence number, contact information and direct business information for NPWS records, and
 - c. a list of staff and any community members that will or may be present during the activity.

Reason: To ensure appropriate communication with NPWS regarding the activity on park and to ensure the activity is carried out in a safe manner as specified in the DARC REF.

Contractor safety management plan/s

19. The proponent is to ensure the contractor's site-specific safety management plan/s are prepared and approved. The Plan/s are to include:
- a. scope of work
 - b. hazards and risks associated with the work
 - c. risk assessment and control measures that will be used to execute the plan.

Construction environmental management plan

20. The proponent must prepare and seek approval from the Director, North Coast Branch, on the final DARC Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) before works commence.
21. The CEMP must detail the environmental safeguards, mitigation measures, and management procedures applied to the activity in the pre-construction, during and post-construction phases. The CEMP is to contain chapters/sections on the following key components:

General construction protocols

- a. General construction and contractor management protocols, to:
 - i. clearly delineate the approved activity area. Ensuring the activity area is marked onsite to prevent unauthorised access or damage to areas of the park not subject to the DARC REF. The marking of the construction footprint during works must remain visible at all times.
 - ii. identify and mark areas allocated for the temporary and short-term storage of materials, machinery and construction-related staff and contractor parking.
 - iii. identify set aside areas for soil, salvaged leaf litter and other habitat elements that are to be used in remediation and rehabilitation works.
 - iv. set out safety management that meets or exceeds the requirements for certification under Australian Standard AS 4801 Occupational health and safety management systems – Specification with guidance for use, and accreditation under the Australian Government Work Health and Safety Accreditation Scheme.
 - v. Sets out the reporting protocols associated with the works, incidents and emergencies, with key contacts listed and reporting methods.
 - vi. ensure adequate site induction and training requirements are set out to the satisfaction of the NPWS Manager, Coffs Coast Area.

Public safety

- b. Deliver on public safety. Managing public safety, highlighting access closures, security or safety features, inclusive of fencing and signage in the immediate vicinity of the activity area. Signage is to be visible and marked with:
 - i. a simple description of the activity.
 - ii. hours of operation.
 - iii. contact telephone number for DARC public inquiries.

Traffic management

- c. Manage traffic, providing a traffic management subplan for construction traffic, park visitors and local access to Dorrigo National Park, during all phases of construction. The plan is to address:
 - i. access and parking.
 - ii. speed limits for construction and public traffic within the activity area.
 - iii. traffic controls along Dome Road to support the delivery of large materials and equipment.
 - iv. traffic controls during peak construction and delivery periods.

- v. deliver on the operational requirements of the DARC REF Document G – Traffic impact assessment.

Incident and emergency management

- d. Cover incident and emergency management, to:
 - i. ensure adequate procedures, contingency plans and training are in place in the event of an emergency or incident (including fire, flood, storm events, or pollution and unauthorised clearing of vegetation).
 - ii. ensure appropriate equipment is on site to mitigate or manage identified risks, ensuring they remain in place and operational during all phases of construction.

Aboriginal cultural heritage

- e. Aboriginal cultural heritage, to:
 - i. ensure all contractors and their employees complete the site-specific cultural induction, are aware of NPWS unexpected finds protocols and the role of Dorrigo Plateau Aboriginal Land Council or Gumbaynggirr representatives assigned to the DARC REF delivery.
 - ii. set out the unexpected finds protocols consistent with *Appendix 5 of the NPWS guide to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessments and Approvals* (internal document).
 - iii. employ the safeguards and mitigation measures as per sections 6.3.4 and 8.4.6 of the DARC REF.
 - iv. include onsite procedures to avoid harm to all recorded and identified Aboriginal objects as outlined in section 8.4 of the DARC REF.
 - v. minimise risk of harm to Aboriginal cultural values of the Dorrigo National Park by applying procedures as specified in DARC REF Document A - Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report.
 - vi. ensure key elements of the construction work are monitored by the Dorrigo Plateau Aboriginal Land Council or Gumbaynggirr representatives.
 - vii. ensure any material uncovered is respectfully managed as part of the approved unexpected finds protocols with Heritage NSW and the Director, North Coast, notified.

Biodiversity

- f. Biodiversity, to:
 - i. employ the safeguards and mitigation measures per sections 6.3 and 9.2 of the DARC REF.
 - ii. minimise risk to biodiversity by applying procedures as specified in DARC REF Document C - Ecological assessment.
 - iii. identify the precise extent, location and type of vegetation to be cleared, and specify the areas to be revegetated or regenerated at the conclusion of the activity. Include:
 - prescribed vegetation clearing process as described in section 6.3.4 of the DARC REF
 - rainforest regeneration plan, to restore cleared areas and support optimal natural regeneration.

- iv. ensure clear demarcation of sensitive environmental areas and threatened flora habitats to be avoided or retained during construction works, including signposting and flagging protocols before works commence.
- v. mitigate risks around threatened flora and protection of hollow-bearing trees during construction, including flagging identified occurrences. If additional threatened species are detected, the CEMP must make provisions to avoid and minimise impacts.
- vi. implement hygiene protocols for all people, materials and machinery entering the activity area as described in sections 6.3.1 and 9.2, with a focus on those required for critically endangered species. Protocols are to include:
 - hygiene facilities established at activity area entry points to ensure wash down occurs before entry, following the Saving our Species *Hygiene Guidelines* (DPIE 2020) and *Arrive Clean, Leave Clean* guidelines (DCCEEW 2021)
 - strategy for minimising transmission of cinnamomi fungus and myrtle rust, which is to include sourcing materials from clean sites where these pathogens are absent
 - certifying that all construction materials and plant or equipment are from areas free of any known pests, for example, yellow crazy ants.

Historic heritage

- g. Historic heritage, to:
 - i. employ the safeguards and mitigation measures per section 9.6 of the DARC REF
 - ii. minimise risk to heritage values by applying procedures as specified in DARC REF Document B - Statement of heritage impact.
 - iii. apply any construction-related conditions attached to the s.60 *Heritage Act 1977* approval once issued by Heritage NSW.
 - iv. avoid any additional impacts to listed heritage items, outside the designated activity area of the DARC.
 - v. include an unexpected finds of relics protocols, and apply if detected during the construction phase of the DARC.

World heritage

- h. World and National heritage values, to:
 - i. employ the safeguards and mitigation measures per section 5.2 of the DARC REF Document B - Statement of heritage impact.
 - ii. minimise risk to heritage values by applying procedures as specified in DARC REF Document D - Matters of national environmental significance assessment.
 - iii. avoid any additional impacts to the listed world and national heritage values, outside the activity area of the DARC.

Environmental quality

- i. Environmental quality, to:
 - i. implement sediment and erosion control plans. The plans must be prepared using the guidelines *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction*

(Landcom 2004), *Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control*, vol 1–3 (IECAA 2008) and relevant NPWS and EPA guidelines.

- ii. employ the safeguards and mitigation measures for staging and construction works per section 6.3.4 of the DARC REF, including procedures for:
 - construction of the access track to the foundations of the elevated walkway
 - demolition of the existing Skywalk
 - constructing piles, footings, pile caps and abutments
 - erecting the frame of the elevated walkway
 - demolition of the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre
 - construction of the Dorrigo Arc Rainforest Centre
 - pavement construction of the new car park and diversion road
 - landscaping and finishing work.
- iii. All project machinery to be inspected for cleanliness before leaving the depot and again before entering the site.
- iv. store all project machinery, equipment, and construction materials only in established site storage and temporary stockpile areas, including amenities and contractor vehicle parking.
- v. store equipment to manage all potential pollutants so they will not enter waterways or highly sensitive areas, with control measures including bunding around any machinery and fuel on site.
- vi. limit the risks of pollution via procedures around waste and hazardous substance management and manage waste generation during the construction.
- vii. employ safeguards to reduce the risk of water pollution .

Site remediation

- j. Site remediation is delivered as part of the remediation, rehabilitation or restoration plan, which specifies the actions to stabilise sensitive or steep areas post construction and rehabilitate or restore biodiversity values.

Reuse of materials

- k. Reuse of materials from the demolished Rainforest Centre and skywalk, by:
 - i. identifying waste streams and products with opportunities for reuse
 - ii. implement systems for segregation and storage of reusable items or materials
 - iii. identify set-aside areas, or transport to off-site storage locations
 - iv. identify potential use of reusable items through effective communication.

Waste reduction and management

- l. Waste reduction and management, including actions to avoid, reduce and recycle waste where possible, and
 - i. optimise the reuse of material onsite to minimise landfill disposal
 - ii. effectively monitor the generation of waste, ensuring compliance with relevant legislation, conditions and guidelines

- iii. optimise the utility of recyclable waste streams by minimising contamination, where possible.

Communication and reporting

- m. Community and stakeholder communication actions to include all relevant local, State and Commonwealth government authorities, service providers, community groups and affected landowners.
 - n. Performance indicators, monitoring framework and reporting protocols associated with the implementation of the CEMP.
22. The proponent must comply with the approved CEMP. Any amendment or modification of the CEMP must be approved by the Director, North Coast Branch.

Reason: To provide detailed site-specific guidance to minimise environmental risk from the activity.

During construction

Availability of REF determination and conditions

23. A copy of the DARC REF, this Decision Statement and the approved CEMP must be kept on site and available for inspection by all staff, employees, contractors, sub-contractors, agents and invitees.

Reason: To ensure that the activity is undertaken in accordance with the REF and any terms expressed in this Statement.

Operational hours and access

24. The construction works must only be conducted between the hours:
- a. 7 am to 6 pm Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays) and 8 am to 1 pm Saturdays, and
 - b. occur on public holidays or weekends only with prior written authorisation from the Manager, Coffs Coast Area.
25. No public access is permitted during the delivery of the activity. The proponent must take reasonable steps to limit, secure and restrict public access to the construction area, as per the CEMP.

Reason: To minimise impacts on visitors to the park, and to support the safe and secure undertaking of the activity.

Restricted activity

26. The activity is only permitted within the activity area, and the identified construction footprint, as shown in Schedule 2 and as described in section 6 of the DARC REF, with refinements identified in the final construction design drawings, and any:
- a. clearing, picking or modification of native vegetation outside the activity area is prohibited.
 - b. excavation, contouring or soil disturbance outside the activity area is prohibited.
 - c. stockpiling or storage of materials outside of the activity area is prohibited without authorisation issued by the Director, North Coast Branch.
 - d. access to identified environmentally sensitive areas as described in section 8 and as shown in Figures 21-23 of the DARC REF is restricted, and shall be managed as per the CEMP protocols.

Discovery of unknown Aboriginal and historic heritage values

27. Before starting work in the activity area, all contractors associated with the project will receive cultural heritage induction.
28. Where Aboriginal objects, as defined under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, or any relics, as defined under the *Heritage Act 1977*, are uncovered, the proponent must:
 - a. cease the activity immediately, securing the area to ensure no further harm occurs
 - b. if human skeletal remains are identified, notify the local police immediately
 - c. report the find to the Environment Line on 131 555 immediately, providing all available details
 - d. follow the 'unexpected finds' protocol as set out in the CEMP
 - e. adhere to instructions issued by Heritage NSW, or DCCEEW Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Division.
 - f. notify the Manager, Coffs Coast Area, in writing (via email) of the discovery within eight (8) hours.
 - g. The proponent will only be permitted to recommence the activity on receipt of authorisation from the Manager, Coffs Coast Area and Heritage NSW in writing, also with approval from the local police in the case of human or ancestral remains.
29. The proponent will only be permitted to recommence the activity on receipt of authorisation from the Manager, Coffs Coast Area and Heritage NSW in writing, also with approval from the local police in the case of human or ancestral remains.

Note: The activity must avoid impacts to Aboriginal cultural and historic heritage values.

Discovery of unknown biodiversity values

30. If, during the activity, the proponent becomes aware of the presence of any fauna, threatened species or endangered ecological communities that were not identified and assessed as part of the DARC REF, which are likely to be affected by the activity, the proponent must:
 - a. immediately cease all activities likely to affect the threatened species or endangered ecological community, and
 - b. notify the NPWS Director, North Coast Branch or their assigned delegate and/or NSW DPIE Fisheries (for threatened fish or aquatic ecological communities) as relevant. Notification must be made as soon as possible by phone, electronically or in writing, and
 - c. not recommence the activity until receiving written advice from the Director, North Coast Branch and/or DPIE Fisheries to do so.

Reason: To minimise biodiversity impacts.

Notification of environmental harm

31. The proponent (employees or contractors) must notify the NPWS Director, North Coast Branch, of incidents causing or threatening material harm to the environment as soon as possible after the person becomes aware of the incident. Initial notification must be made via Environment Line on 131 555 and following the emergency reporting procedure set out in the CEMP.
32. The proponent is to notify the NPWS Director, North Coast Branch or their assigned delegate and request direction on any further procedures to be implemented. The notification is to be provided in writing within seven (7) days from the date on which the incident occurred or was detected.

Fire prevention and control

33. The proponent must ensure:

- a. firefighting equipment is available on site during high fire danger periods.
- b. firefighting foams or gels are not to be used
- c. activities and machinery which may result in sparking or ignition must not be undertaken or operated during a Park Fire Ban or a declared Total Fire Ban or when fire danger ratings meet pre-determined triggers in the CEMP.

34. The proponent must store fuel and other similar flammable materials, such as gas cylinders and paint, in appropriate fire-resistant storage containers in approved locations set out in the CEMP.

Reasons: To establish adequate controls to manage the risk of the activity accidentally starting a fire. To ensure that fire response is undertaken quickly and in such a way as to minimise environmental and cultural heritage impacts.

Environmental management

35. The proponent must comply with this Decision Statement and the environmental safeguards and mitigation measures as specified in the approved CEMP, at all times.

36. Environmental performance will be evaluated against the CEMP every 3 months during construction, and any non-conformance will be escalated to the Director, North Coast Branch.

37. Incidents involving hydrocarbon spills (oil and fuel) are to be treated as an emergency incident and reported via the Environment Line on 131555 immediately, with the Manager, Coffs Coast Area, notified within eight (8) hours.

Note: To minimise the potential for environmental degradation and pollution events.

Helicopter operations

38. Helicopter operations may be required as described in the DARC REF. Any such operations will be planned and undertaken according to NPWS aviation safety policy and standard operating procedures and in accordance with CASA and local planning controls.

Use of rainforest timbers

39. The proponent must not use rainforest timbers in undertaking the activity unless written approval is obtained from the NPWS Director, North Coast Branch.

Reason: To promote the use of sustainable construction materials per DCCEE policies.

Waste management

40. Waste generated during the activity must be managed under the *Protection of the Environment (Waste) Regulation 2014* as set out by the CEMP as per *Construction and demolition waste – a management toolkit* at [NSW EPA website](#).

Reason: To ensure the appropriate management of waste material.

Waterway protection

41. The proponent must comply with s.120 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*, and ensure no pollution of waterways occurs.
42. The proponent is to ensure:
 - a. checking weather forecasts daily to ensure that works that require soil disturbance on steep slopes or near waterways are not carried out immediately before, or during high rainfall.
 - b. where stockpiling is required, stockpiling will only take place in approved locations outside of flood-prone lands. No laydown or stockpiling in previously undisturbed areas or within 40 m of a waterway.

Note: Section 120 POEO Act states that a person who pollutes any water is guilty of an offence. Sections 121 and 122 of the POEO Act provide that a person is not guilty of an offence if they are acting under a regulation or licence applicable to the activity.

Post activity

Certification on completion of works

43. Upon completion of building or infrastructure works, and before occupation of the building or infrastructure being made operational, the proponent must ensure that the completed works are certified in compliance with National Construction Code, Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards and relevant Australian Standards in accordance with the *NPWS Construction Assessment Procedures* (OEH 2011). Evidence of compliance must be submitted to the NPWS Director, North Coast Branch.

Reason: To ensure that completed building and infrastructure works are certified to follow all necessary DCCEEW policy and relevant statutory requirements.

Activity area remediation or rehabilitation

44. The proponent must ensure all activity area remediation, rehabilitation or restoration is completed as per the approved CEMP, and:
 - a. stabilise sensitive or steep areas
 - b. any planting attached to revegetation uses locally and responsibly sourced plants, or seeds consistent with plant community types identified in the activity area
 - c. bush regeneration and assisted natural regeneration techniques follow best practice industry standards, as outlined in the *National Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration in Australia* (Standards Reference Group SERA 2021).
45. Upon finalising the activity, the proponent is to confirm in writing that the site remediation is complete, and is effective at six (6) months from the date of completion. The remediation works need to be completed to the satisfaction of the Manager, Coffs Coast Area.

Reason: To ensure that worksites are suitably rehabilitated following the completion of the activity.

Environmental performance reporting

46. The proponent will report to the Executive Director, Park Operations Coastal, on the environmental performance of the construction phase within 3 months of completion, with specific reporting on the following environmental protection objectives:
 - a. water quality

- b. waste generation
- c. noise pollution
- d. scenic quality
- e. site remediation, restoration and revegetation

DARC operation

Operational environmental management plan

- 47. Before the Dorrigo Arc Rainforest Centre opening to the public, the Proponent must prepare and submit an Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) to the Director, North Coast Branch for approval.
- 48. The OEMP is to outline how to minimise negative environmental impacts during the daily operations of the DARC. The structure of the plan must identify and address:
 - a. operational hazards and risks (known or likely) associated with the DARC operation, how these will be measured, monitored, and mitigated, through the DARC environmental performance and compliance framework, and
 - b. triggers of intervention, escalation and reporting based on environmental hazard or risk type attached to the DARC operation.
- 49. The OEMP must detail the environmental management procedures to be applied for the ongoing operation of the DARC, including, but not limited to, the following components:
 - a. management objectives
 - i. protect, conserve and restore natural values
 - ii. work with Gumbaynggirr people to protect and promote cultural values
 - iii. promote, protect and build an understanding of the values of the Gondwana Rainforests
 - iv. visitor safety and experience
 - v. asset maintenance and infrastructure integrity
 - vi. statutory compliance
 - vii. roles and responsibilities.
 - b. environmental management subplans
 - i. biodiversity management: weed and pathogen management, bush regeneration and rehabilitation, and wildlife interactions (feeding, habitat, window strike, and bird bath viewing)
 - ii. cultural heritage management: Aboriginal, shared and historic heritage cultural protection
 - iii. environmental management: water quality protection (runoff control, creek health monitoring), and waste management (on-site waste facilities, take-away packaging guidelines)
 - iv. sustainability and resilience management: climate change adaptation, energy efficiency and water conservation.
 - c. safety, risk and emergency management
 - i. risk identification and assessment – natural (e.g. snakes, storms, tree risks) and users (e.g. falls, security)
 - ii. emergency and incident response plan – evacuation procedures and closure triggers.

- d. DARC asset operation and maintenance
 - i. building structure maintenance – inspections, schedules, and minimum standards
 - ii. building mechanical and electrical maintenance - inspections, schedules, and minimum standards
 - iii. elevated structures – load limits, safety protocols, maintenance – inspection cycles, structure checks
 - iv. operations management – fire safety, hygiene stations
 - v. furniture and fittings maintenance
 - vi. park roads and car parks maintenance – schedules.
- e. Visitor management
 - i. welcome and orientation - staffing and services, carrying capacity, dispersal
 - ii. interpretation and education – visitor and student experience, responsible behaviour signage and wayfinding – hazard warnings, orientation signage, emergency information
 - iii. Gumbaynggirr cultural experience – CTO approval protocols, use of cultural space
 - iv. events and venues – commercial partnerships, third-party events and venue hire
 - v. feedback and reporting – user feedback channels and issue reporting.
- f. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
 - i. performance indicators (environmental impact, visitor satisfaction, incident rates) – monitoring, triggers, actions and escalation procedures
 - ii. review schedule: annual or seasonal OEMP reviews
 - iii. baseline and annual data collection methods: visitor counters, camera points
 - iv. compliance: protocols for reporting, addressing environmental impacts and risks.
- g. Budget and resources

Schedule 2: Activity location and extent

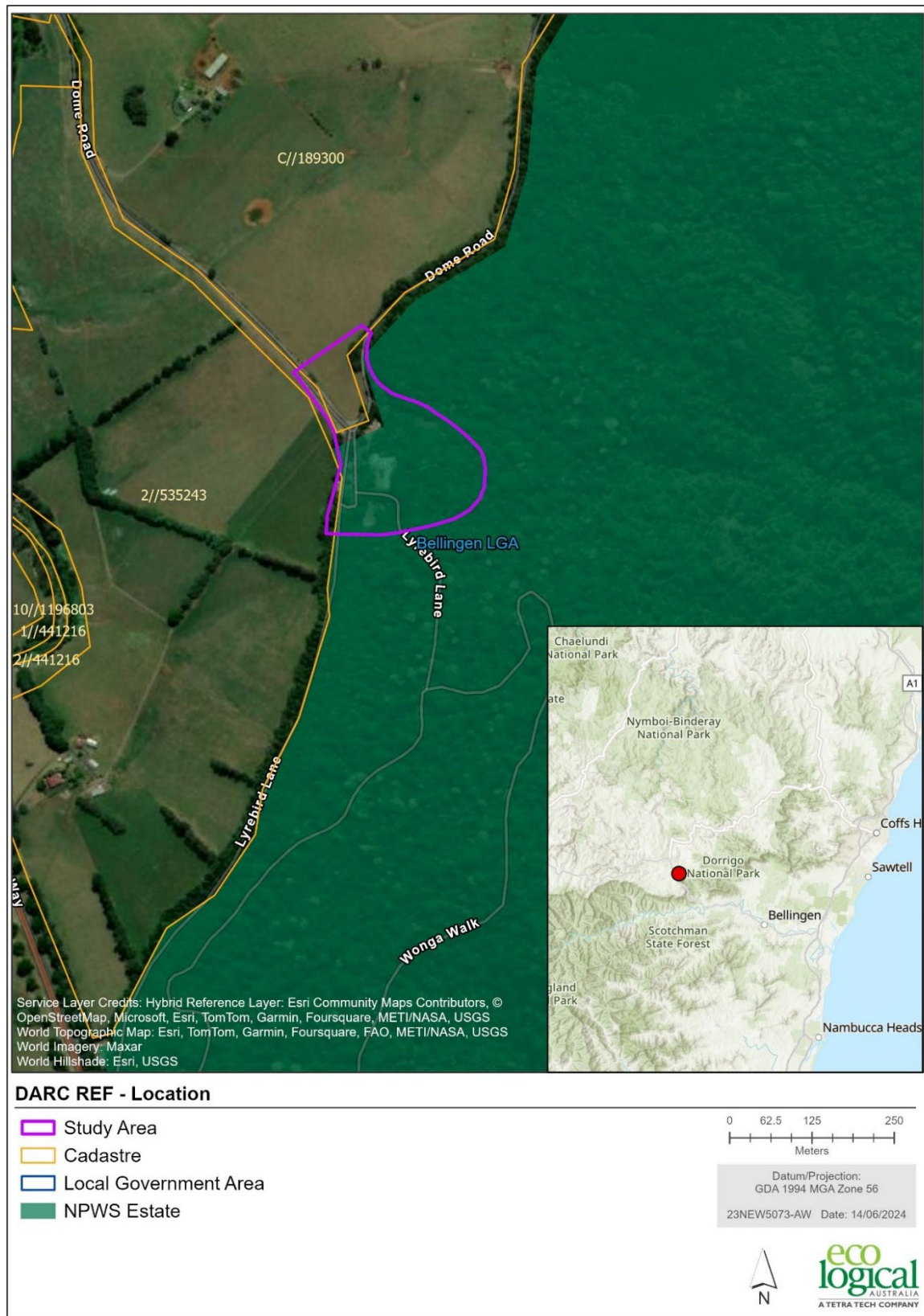


Figure 1 Location of the activity (activity area in purple)



Figure 2 Location of the road diversion

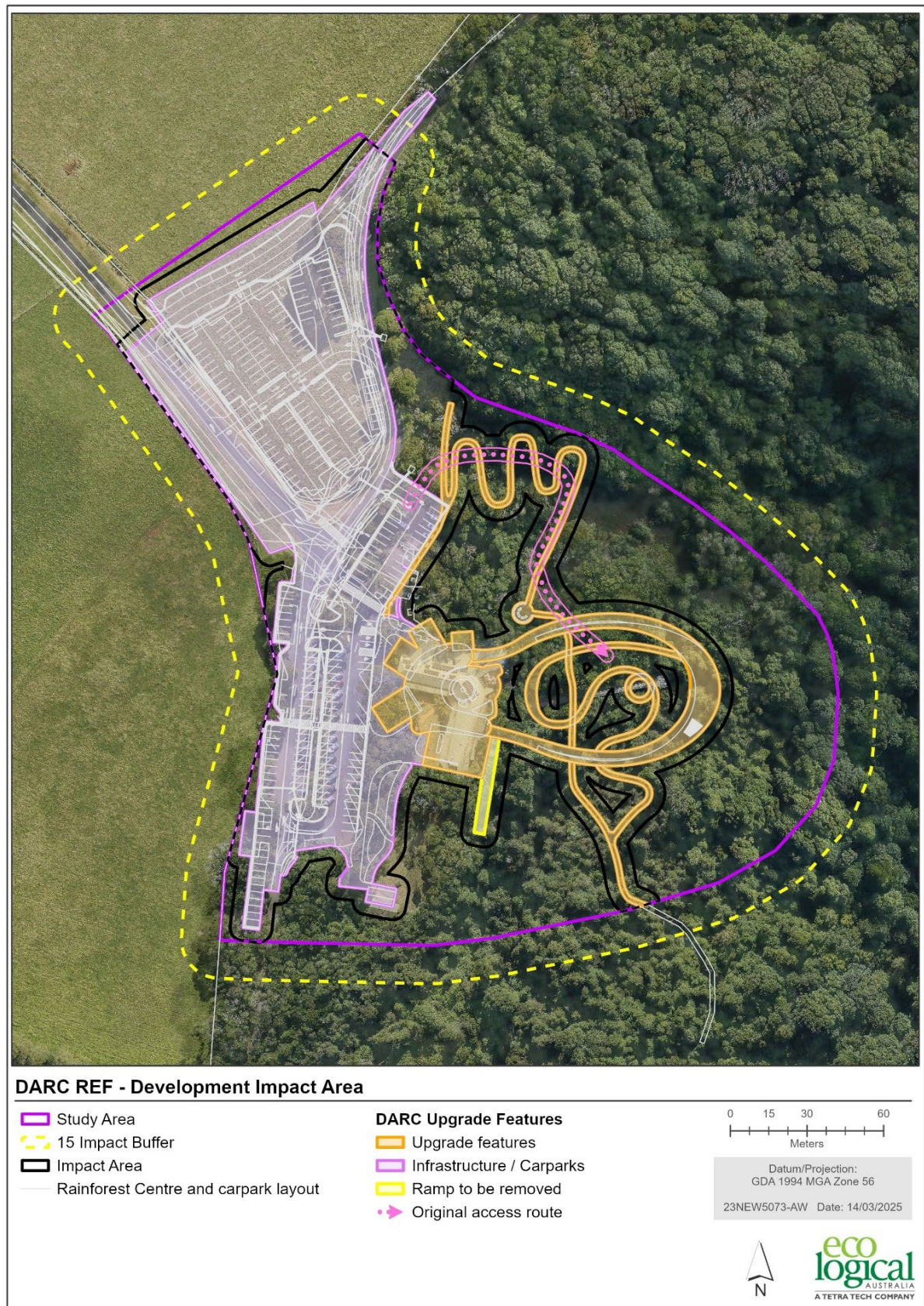


Figure 3 DARC development impact area (assessed)



Figure 4 Dorrigo NP heritage-listed sites in relation to the study area

Attachment 1 – consultation log

Bellingen Shire Council

Date	Attending	Consultation topics	Outcomes
20/01/2023 10 am At BSC chambers	- Glenn Storrie - Chris Petrov - Barbara Webster - All Councillors - Council planning and development staff	Initial briefing on project and NPWS planning process.	BSC expressed support for project.
29/05/2023 Dorrigo Rainforest Centre	- Glenn Storrie - Chris Petrov - Adam Webb - Tom Denman - Mark Griffioen (GM)	Project briefing and discussion of supported funding applications. Ways to address broader issues around roads and visitation	Commitment to partnership approach.
13/09/2023 At BSC chambers	- Glenn Storrie - Chris Petrov - Barbara Webster - All BS Councillors - Senior BSC staff	Discussion of project impacts on local communities eg housing, roads, services etc	Ongoing consultation
13/10/2023 1:30pm At BSC chambers	- Chris Petrov - Adam Webb (Chair) - Barbara Webster - Allan Peatman - Ambrose Hallman - Mal Donnelly - Konrad Grinlaubs - Rachel Pleasant - Anthony Brandie - Joel Smith - Jessica Veenhuyzen - Darryl Hancock - John Fyfe - Josh Corlis - Adam Webb	NPWS provided Bellingen Shire Council (BSC) Development Control Unit (DCU) an overview of the Dorrigo Arc Rainforest Centre and Dorrigo Escarpment Great Walk project for matters relating to Bellingen Shire Council including: Approval process. Proposed headworks upgrades. Proposed carparking proposal and access via existing road network. Potable water. Sewer upgrades.	BSC requested that a TIA be prepared for the project. BSC considered presentation and provided feedback on aspects relating to BSC.
11/07/2024	- BSC DCU - DEGW project team	Notification of REF process and request for input	Letter sent the following day to meet legislative requirements.
11/09/2024 3:30pm	- Allan Peatman - Chris Petrov	Glade Precinct Redevelopment	BSC DCU to review additional advice

Decision statement: Dorrigo Escarpment Great Walk

Format: Online	- Ashley Greenwood - Paula Telford - Rachel Pleasant - Konrad Grinlaubs - Adam Webb	Project: Draft Plan of acquisition for Waterfall Way. Additional Information supplied to BSC DCU regarding the proposed acquisition on Waterfall Way.	provided by NPWS and provide advice on how the proposed encroachment on Waterfall Way could be formalised so that a Section 138 application when NPWS lodged this.
14/10/2024 F-2-F in Dorrigo	- Mark Griffioen - Rachel Pleasant - Ashley Greenwood - Silas Sutherland - Chris Petrov	- General discussions around Dome Rd maintenance - Discussion in relation to proposed car park - Discussion in relation to proposed land swap	NPWS re iterated Dome Rd is a council responsibility & the project does not have funding for road upgrades, however NPWS are very willing to support council in any application for road upgrades and improvements. BSC to consider land swap arrangement.
11/01/2024 1pm Format: Online/ In person	- Chris Petrov - Ashley Greenwood - Paula Telford - Rachel Pleasant - Adam Webb - Clinton Schramm	- Discussed Bellingen Shire Council's Response to the Traffic Impact Assessment for the DARC project. - Discussed advice from BSC DCU regarding the proposed methodology to formalise the encroachment on to Waterfall Way.	NPWS to work through additional questions from BSC DCU on the TIA with the consultation traffic engineer and formalise a response. NPWS to submit a Section 138 Application for Glade development.
27/05/2025 At BSC chambers	- Chris Petrov - Maxine Crompton - All Councillors	Project update for new Councillors	

Environment and Heritage.

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