

Will the proposed wilderness area affect horseriding and 4WDs?

- ❖ The proposed wilderness area does not include significant 4WD and horseriding routes. Road closures in the recommended wilderness will be limited to 'dead end' trails that receive low levels of recreation use. The proposed area does not include any non NPWS roads.
- ❖ Old Settlers, Yango/Howes Valley, Boree, Finchley, Prestons and the trail network used by horseriders in Parr SRA are not proposed for closure.

Does the recommended wilderness area include Old Settlers Road or Howe's / Yango Track?

- ❖ No. The recommended declared wilderness is divided into three significant areas. One area is to the north of the Old Settlers Road, another between the Old Settlers Road and the Howes Valley Trail/ Yango Track and the third is to the south of Howes Valley Trail/ Yango Track (north of the Womerah Range Trail). The wilderness area borders both roads but does not include them.

Why is the Simpson Valley section of the identified wilderness not recommended for declaration as wilderness?

- ❖ This section is separated from the main wilderness and does not meet the size criteria set down in the Wilderness Act 1987.

Is Big Yango included in the identified or proposed wilderness area?

- ❖ No. Areas which were substantially modified and not capable of being restored were generally excluded from the identified wilderness. This included most of Parr State Recreation Area (generally south/south east of Webbs Creek), the Big Yango Station within Yengo National Park (lands NE of Mt Yengo, bounded to the north by

Yango Track) and the valley areas around Wallabadah and Boree Valley.

How can I comment on the future management of Yengo National Park?

- ❖ The public exhibition period for draft Plan of Management for Yengo National Park and Parr State Recreation Area was extended until February 28, 2002 so people could comment on both documents at once.

How do I make a submission?

- ❖ People can make submissions on the Yengo Wilderness Assessment Report, and the draft Plan of Management for Yengo National Park and Parr State Recreation area by making written notes on the information sheet provided at all display points, or compiling a longer written submission.
- ❖ Comments should be sent no later than close of business on 28th February 2002 to:

Director-General
Yengo Wilderness Submission
C/- NPWS Central Coast Hunter Range Region
PO Box 1447
GOSFORD NSW 2250

Who can I ask if I have more questions?

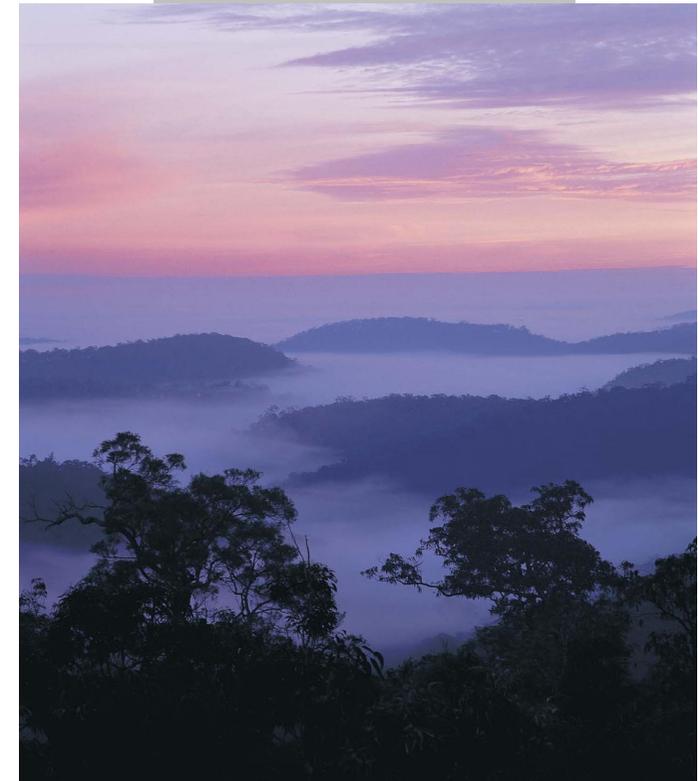
For further information contact the Yengo Wilderness Information Line on 4320 4219

FACT SHEET



Yengo

Proposed Wilderness Area



What is Wilderness?

Wilderness areas represent the most intact and undisturbed expanses of our remaining natural landscape

- ❖ The NSW Wilderness Act criteria for wilderness identification are:
 - i. Areas in a relatively natural state
 - ii. Areas capable of being restored in a reasonable time
 - iii. Areas large enough to maintain their natural state
 - iv. Areas that provide recreation opportunities for solitude and appropriate self-reliant recreation

Why was the Yengo Wilderness Assessment carried out?

- ❖ Since 1998 the NPWS has been conducting a wilderness assessment of a the Yengo area as one small part of the Comprehensive Regional Assessment (CRA) process agreed to by the State and Federal Governments. The CRA has been coordinated by the NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning. Under the Wilderness Act 1987, the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is responsible for the assessments.

How much area was assessed?

- ❖ The assessment area of potential wilderness consists of about **193,000 hectares**, mainly encompassing Yengo National Park, Parr State Recreation Area and small areas of vacant Crown land, leasehold land and freehold land.

What did the assessment find?

- ❖ As a result of the Yengo assessment, an area of approximately 134,900ha was identified as wilderness area and a total of 105,400ha has been recommended for formal declaration as

wilderness. The area recommended for declaration consists entirely of Yengo National Park. No private land has been included in the recommended wilderness area.

Assessment stage	NPWS Reserve (ha)	Other (ha)		TOTAL AREA (ha)
		Crown land	Private land	
Assessed area	-	-	-	193 000
Identified wilderness	127 940	1 260	5 700	134 900
Recommended for declaration as wilderness	105 400	0	0	105 400

What is the difference between identified wilderness and declared wilderness and how is wilderness declared?

- ❖ Identified wilderness areas are those lands with qualities consistent with all the wilderness criteria under the Wilderness Act and are formally recognised for these qualities by the Director General, without any further action being taken.
- ❖ Areas that have been identified as wilderness will not necessarily be declared wilderness. No private land can be declared wilderness without the consent of the landholder.
- ❖ Only the Minister for the Environment can declare a wilderness area. In making his decision he will consider the assessment report prepared by the NPWS, public submissions and the relevant environmental, social and economic issues. It is then considered by Cabinet before being formally declared by the Minister.
- ❖ The Yengo Wilderness Assessment report recommends only NPWS reserves be declared wilderness.

Does it in any way affect the way I manage my property if it is assessed as identified wilderness?

- ❖ No. Land can never be formally declared wilderness by the State Government without the specific written consent of the owners. The identification of your private or perpetual leasehold property as wilderness in no way interferes with your rights or ability to manage your property as you see fit.

Does it in any way affect the way I manage my property if the land next door is declared or identified as wilderness?

- ❖ No. The identification of land next door to your property as wilderness does not in anyway stop you managing your property as you choose. Access to your property and other existing legal interests will be maintained even if you live next to areas of Yengo National Park that are declared wilderness.

Will the recommended wilderness stop access to inholdings and private land neighbouring the area?

- ❖ No. Most access roads are excluded from the national park and hence fall outside the recommended wilderness. Existing access will be retained for other relevant roads.

Are pest control and fire management still carried out in the declared wilderness areas?

- ❖ Yes. The top priority for fire management in wilderness areas is the protection of life and property, especially that of neighbours. The control of weeds and feral animals is also a priority in wilderness areas because pests can cause problems for neighbours and impact on native plants and animals. The NPWS tries to work with neighbours and other interested groups on pest control and fire management in wilderness areas.