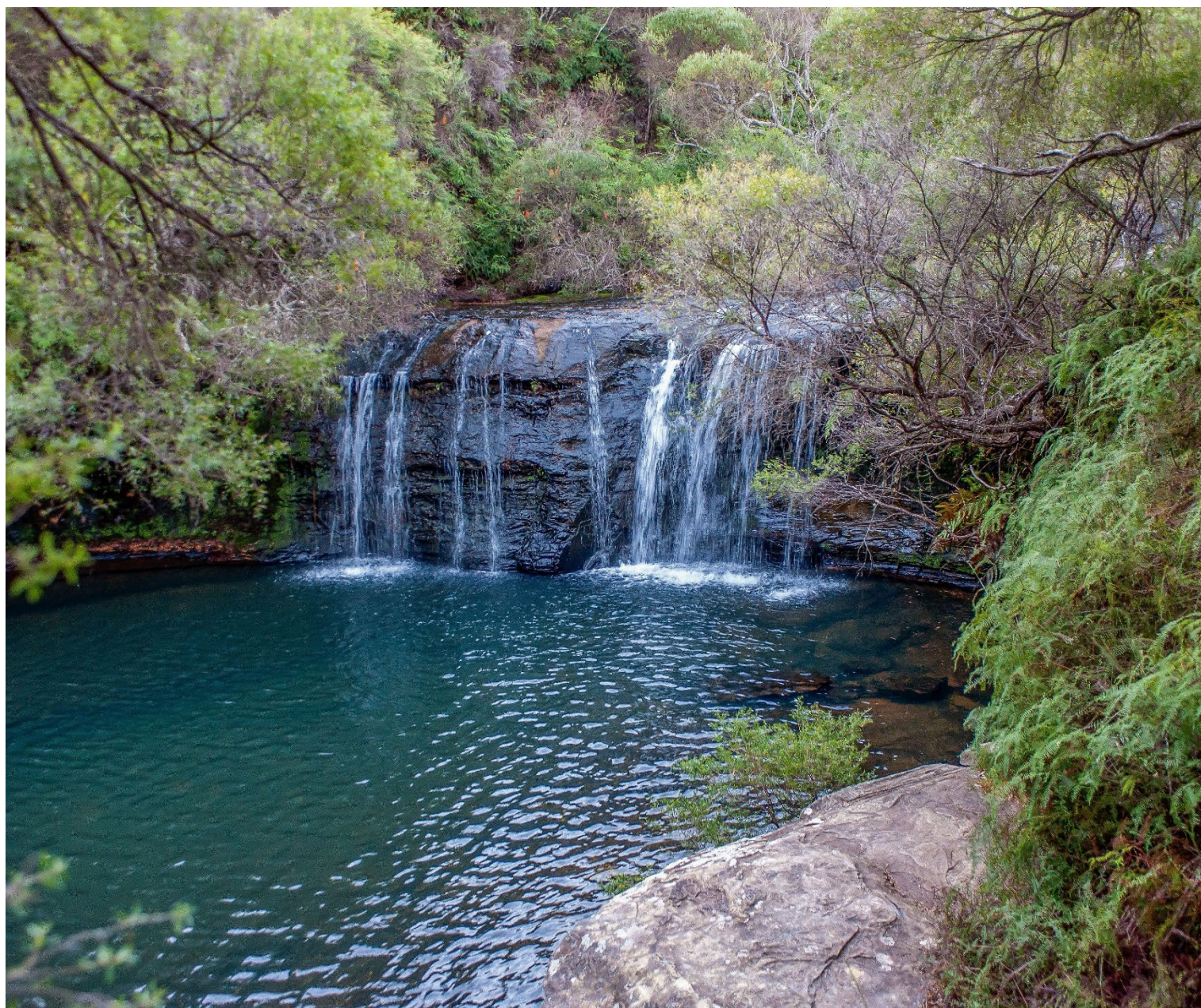




NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Carrington Falls, Minnamurra Rainforest and Macquarie Pass

Draft precinct plans



Acknowledgement of Country

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

This resource may contain images or names of deceased persons in photographs or historical content.

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Carrington Falls, Minnamurra Rainforest and Macquarie Pass draft precinct plans

The precincts

The Minnamurra Rainforest and the escarpments of Budderoo and Macquarie Pass national parks provide spectacular scenery including sheer cliffs, lookouts and waterfalls and have been popular destinations for many years.

However, visitation has increased dramatically in recent years. The parks have become increasingly popular for visitors from nearby major populations centres, including Greater Sydney and Wollongong and local visitation has been driven by rapid urban expansion.

There has been a change in the demographics and behaviours of park users, driven in part by social media promotion, which has influenced the types of activities being undertaken. Visitors are seeking longer and more difficult day walks to more remote, picturesque sites, sometimes beyond existing NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) infrastructure.

This increasing visitation and its changing nature place increasing pressure on park infrastructure, such as parking areas, day use areas, walking tracks, and the park's natural and cultural values.

Planning for visitor use is needed to better manage visitor risk, environmental impacts, social benefit, equity and public demand.

In conjunction with the new draft Plan of Management, which outlines broad concepts for the future management of these parks, NPWS has also prepared draft precinct plans for Carrington Falls, Minnamurra Rainforest and Macquarie Pass. These provide an overview of the opportunities and facilities proposed within these 3 park precincts.

Carrington Falls

With its cascades, waterholes and rockpools, some regard Carrington Falls in Budderoo National Park, where the Kangaroo River plunges 90 metres to the valley below, as the most beautiful in the NSW Southern Highlands. The area protects threatened native plants known only in that location, such as the Carrington Falls Grevillea.

Carrington Falls is one of the most visited waterfall locations in the Southern Highlands. Visitors come to take short walks, enjoy the scenic vistas, picnic, camp or to swim in the pools and streams.

The Carrington Falls precinct currently includes 7 lookouts with great views, several picnic areas and short walking tracks. Carrington Falls also has a small campground area with 4 basic camp sites.

Macquarie Pass

The steep ridges and gullies of Macquarie Pass National Park provide a complex range of vegetation types and habitat for native wildlife. Amid the rainforest and eucalypt forests, lyrebirds, satin bowerbirds, koalas, wombats, swamp wallabies, and important habitat supporting the threatened tiger quoll and long-nosed potoroos can be found.

Macquarie Pass attracts large numbers of visitors who seek to bush walk, view waterfalls, swim in pools and streams and picnic.

The Macquarie Pass precinct currently includes an open grassy picnic area with tables for day use, and walks enabling visitors to enjoy rainforest, tall eucalypt forests and waterfalls. The precinct also includes the historic Nurrewin homestead. Built in 1903, largely from locally sourced sandstone and hardwood, Nurrewin homestead is a locally rare example of a

Carrington Falls, Minnamurra Rainforest and Macquarie Pass draft precinct plans

substantial, well designed and largely intact sandstone residence in an unusual location high on the escarpment. The homestead is currently used for staff accommodation on a commercial basis.

Minnamurra Rainforest

Minnamurra Rainforest in Budderoo National Park is the major destination in the region for the understanding and appreciation of rainforest and one of only 3 key rainforest education centres across New South Wales. As well as being a key visitor destination, Minnamurra Rainforest is of very high conservation significance, protecting a complex of temperate and subtropical rainforest and a range of threatened plants.

The Minnamurra Rainforest precinct area currently includes a vibrant visitor centre, which was completely redesigned and rebuilt in 2020. Interpreted elevated walking tracks meander through the rainforest and lead to lookouts that provide spectacular views of Minnamurra Falls. Other facilities include car and bus parking and a picnic area. The precinct also includes Kelly's Cottage, a timber slab building built from local materials in 1854. Kelly's Cottage is not currently used for any purpose, other than its historic value.

Why precinct plans?

These draft precinct plans aim to:

Plan for the future

- Provide a cohesive and strategic vision for the precincts.
- Conserve natural and cultural heritage for future generations.
- Redevelop and increase the capacity of visitor facilities, ensuring there is sufficient space and a range of facilities to accommodate future growth in visitation.
- Create inclusive facilities that accommodate the needs of people of different backgrounds and physical abilities.

Ensure sustainable visitor use

- Provide for sustainable levels of growth in nature-based tourism.
- Create sustainable infrastructure, including, walking tracks, viewing platforms and other visitor facilities with minimal environmental impact, maintenance and operational requirements.
- Place infrastructure and facilities sensitively within the environment and respectfully to Aboriginal and environmental values.
- Disperse high visitor loads within key visitor sites to improve the visitor experience and minimise impacts.
- Encourage visitors to enjoy, respect and protect the environment, special places and be mindful of safety and other visitors.

Tell the story

- Create meaningful Aboriginal connections across the landscape and welcome to Country experiences.
- Provide a visitor experience and facilities that foster education, awareness and respect for cultural, environmental and historic values.
- Highlight the park's significance and tell stories about travel, exploration and settlement, rainforest, waterfalls, landscapes and geology.

Provide memorable experiences

- Create a sense of arrival to our reserves.
- Provide improved opportunities for visitors to engage with the environment and heritage to develop a sense of adventure and personal connection.
- Provide well-placed facilities, easy to follow tracks/trails, places to stop, rest and enjoy.
- Provide educational and engaging interpretation to compliment and celebrate our extraordinary destinations.
- Utilise designs that are sympathetic to the environment and Aboriginal cultural ties to Country.

The precinct plans

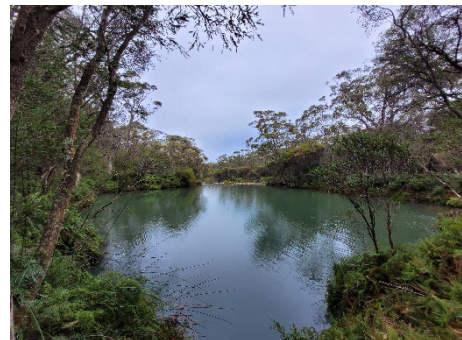
How to read the precinct plans

- The numbers listed under each of the precincts, correspond to the numbers on the accompanying map.
- The location of proposed infrastructure, including new walking tracks, is indicative and approximate only. Final designs and siting will be subject to environmental, cultural and geotechnical assessment.
- Proposed works are subject to future funding and resources.
- Any works at historic sites will be consistent with the sites conservation management plan.

Carrington Falls, Minnamurra Rainforest and Macquarie Pass draft precinct plans

Carrington Falls precinct

1. Improve the arrival experience by establishing a new information bay on both sides of the road, including Welcome to Country signage, safety information, maps and short stay car spaces.
2. Reduce conflicts between campers and day users at Blue Pool by establishing a new day carpark to meet visitor needs, with room for future expansion. The new car park will service day users for Blue Pool and Nellies Glen. Current entry road to Blue Pool will be publicly accessible only to walkers and pre-booked campers.
3. Maintain campsite and upgrade for self-contained campers, vans and overnight stays. Expand current toilet facilities to better meet the needs of visitors, including providing inclusive toilet facilities and improved hand washing facilities. Close and lock the park management gate – provide public vehicle access only for pre-booked campers.
4. Improve public safety at Blue Pool. Utilise the already disturbed areas to provide for photographic opportunities, safe pool access and sunbathing. Install a new platform overlooking Blue Pool with stairs into the water. Close and rehabilitate the walking track on the northern side of Blue Pool.
5. Improve connectivity within the site for walkers. Formalise the existing track between Blue Pool and Nellies Glen, rerouting and constructing a small bridge over Missingham Creek into Nellies Glen picnic area. Rehabilitate disturbed areas.
6. Reduce congestion by closing current day use parking and public vehicle access to Nellies Glen. Use the existing vehicle access road to provide for a management trail and public walkers-in access. Establish a walking track for access back to the new Blue Pool car park.
7. Investigate options to provide a new lookout/viewing point on the northern side of Kangaroo River. Provide additional park furniture, for example, seating in the already disturbed area on the northern side of Carrington Falls.
8. Improve walking access between Nellies Glen and Thomas Place. Current options include walking parallel to Carrington Falls Road, utilising the one-way vehicle bridge or via stepping stones across Kangaroo River near the old causeway.
9. Provide a new overflow car park at the junction of Carrington Falls Road and Thomas Place, to meet visitor needs, with room for future expansion.
10. Endeavor to protect visitor safety by a range of means, including defining exclusion zones, improving fencing and safety signage. Prohibit unauthorised access to the top of the falls and below the escarpment east of Warris Chair Lookout and Izzards Lookout, including to the base of the falls.



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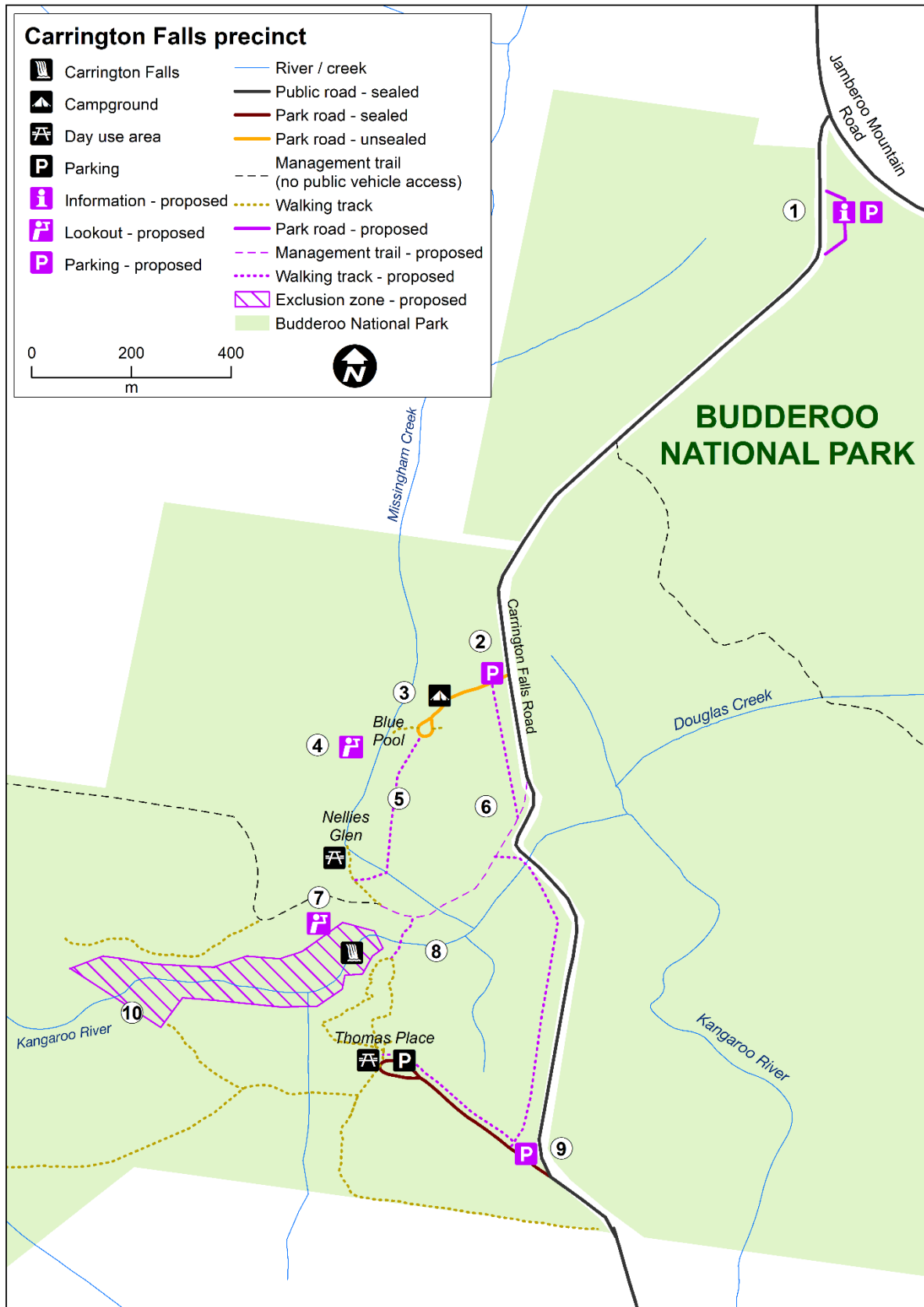
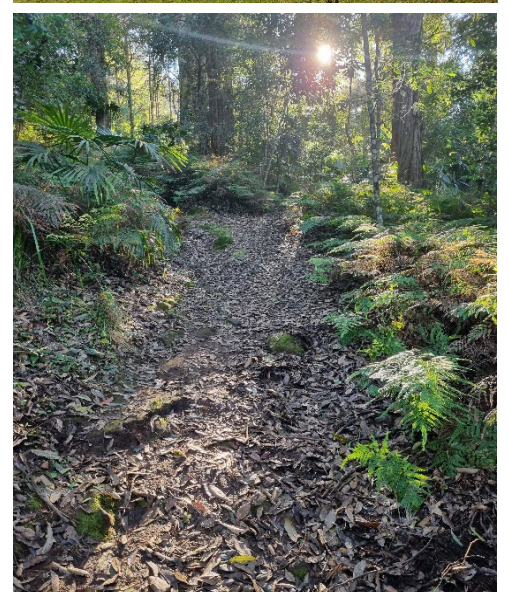
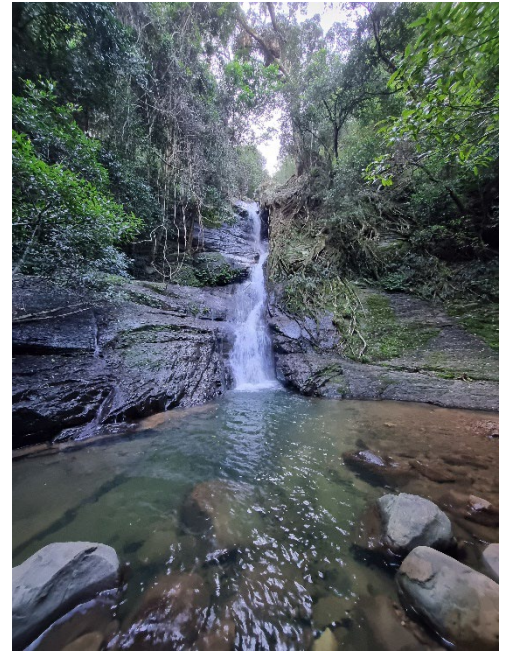


Figure 1 Carrington Falls precinct plan

Carrington Falls, Minnamurra Rainforest and Macquarie Pass draft precinct plans

Macquarie Pass precinct

1. Upgrade Cascades car park to improve visitor safety, cater for increasing demand and optimise vehicle movement.
2. Improve the Cascades day use area facilities to encourage people to gather and begin their experience. Works may include installation of seating, tables, directional/interpretive signage and other facilities.
3. Improve access to Cascades Falls and create viewing opportunities. Upgrade the existing walking track and install boardwalk where necessary. Install viewing platforms along the track for seasonal firefly viewing and at Cascades Falls to create a sense of arrival.
4. Investigate options for a walking track from Cascades Falls to Calderwood Trail to provide waterfall viewing opportunities. This track would replace the existing unauthorised trail, providing safer access and minimising environmental impacts.
5. Create a walking track to join the Cascades picnic area with the Calderwood Trail, partly following a historic logging trail. Together with the new track at 4, this creates a longer loop walk option. Walkers will be able to continue eastward along Calderwood Trail and return to the day use area via Cascades Falls.
6. Redesign and upgrade Clover Hill carpark to improve visitor safety, cater for increasing demand and optimise vehicle movement.
7. Establish a new walking track from Clover Hill carpark to Macquarie Rivulet. The new track would replace the informal route beside Macquarie Rivulet, which has visitor safety issues and is causing environmental impacts. Establish a destination point at the rivulet.
8. Establish a new day use area at the old Clover Hill homestead site to create a restful place to stop, enjoy the view and learn about the history of the site.
9. Provide a safe walk to Rainbow Falls and install a viewing platform to create a sense of arrival.
10. Investigate adaptive reuse options for Nurrewin Homestead to open the site and provide experiences for park visitors. Suitable adaptive reuse options could include: an education facility, accommodation, or other visitor services such as a café/kiosk or restaurant.
11. Establish an accessible walking track and associated parking to a new scenic lookout near Mount Murray Road.



Carrington Falls, Minnamurra Rainforest and Macquarie Pass draft precinct plans

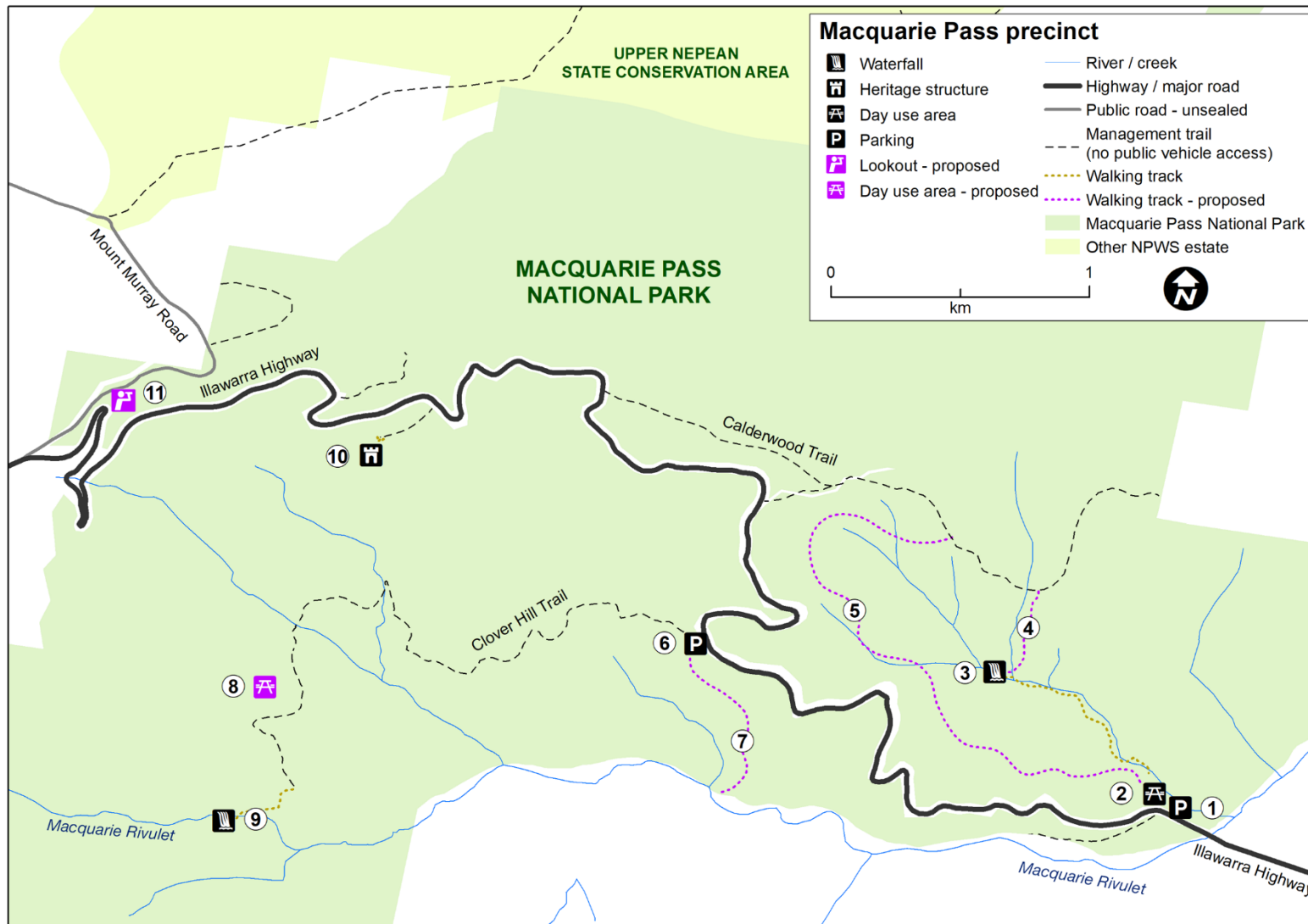
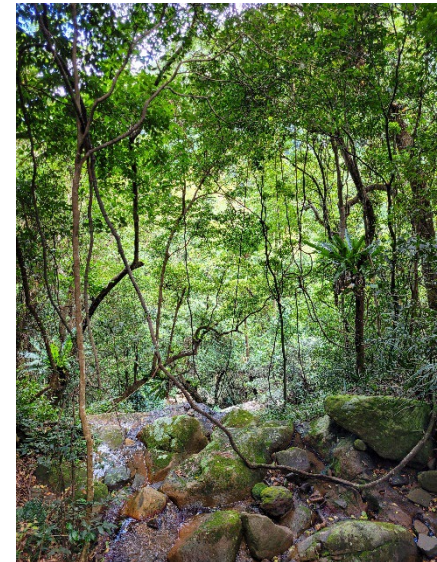
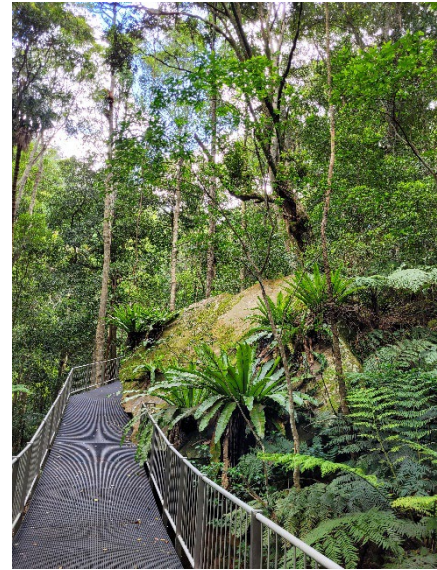


Figure 2 Macquarie Pass precinct plan

Carrington Falls, Minnamurra Rainforest and Macquarie Pass draft precinct plans

Minnamurra Rainforest precinct

1. Improve the arrival experience by providing an information bay in the vicinity of the visitor centre, orientating visitors to the picnic areas, café, education facilities and walks.
2. Adaptively reuse Kellys Cottage to better protect the historic heritage site. Suitable adaptive reuse options could include use as a visitor education facility or as an administration and meeting point for accommodation and/or walking tour groups. Investigate the option of establishing a small number of car parking spaces.
3. Provide short stay accommodation, such as cabins and/or tents and parking at the former Sport and Recreation site.
4. Establish a café/kiosk/restaurant within the visitor centre to cater for events, and to support visitors staying overnight and participating in night-time activities.
5. Improve inclusive opportunities by establishing an access-friendly destination point on the Lyrebird Loop Walk between the first swing bridge and the Survivor Bridge where people can rest and enjoy the Minnamurra River.
6. Connect overnight guests and visitors to Kellys Cottage with facilities in the rest of the park by establishing a walking track from Kellys Cottage to the visitor centre.
7. Provide guided walks on the historic track along Minnamurra River towards Slot Canyon and the base of the waterfall. Further investigation would be required to understand its feasibility.
8. Redesign the carpark to improve visitor safety and optimise vehicle movement, including improving coach drop offs, circulation and parking, motorhome parking and pedestrian links.
9. Offer additional guided activities, including night-time walks.



Carrington Falls, Minnamurra Rainforest and Macquarie Pass draft precinct plans

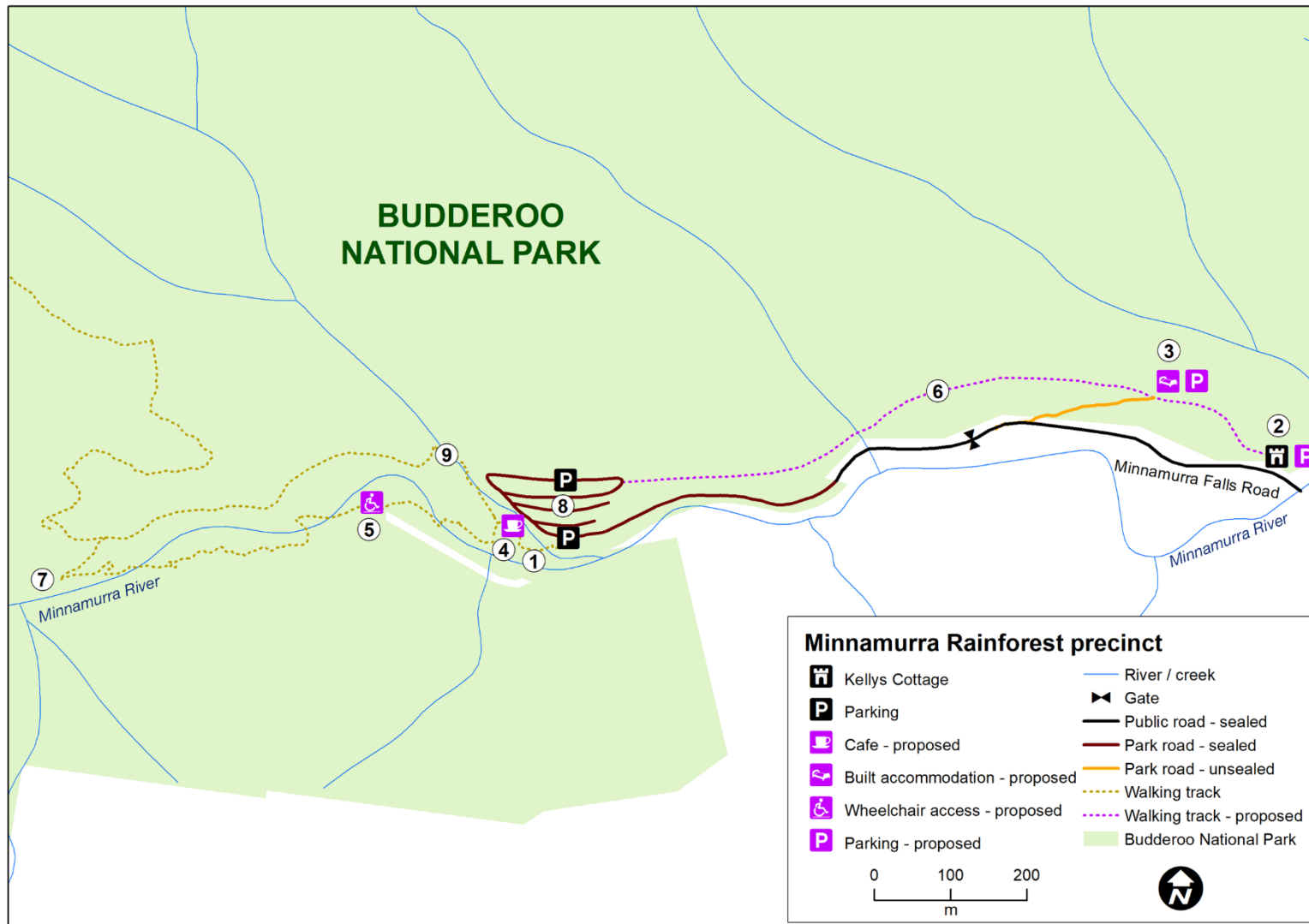


Figure 3 Minnamurra Rainforest precinct plan

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Front cover: Nellies Glen waterfall, Budderoo National Park. Michael Van Ewijk/DCCEEW

Page 5 Top: Carrington Falls. Jemillah Forbes/DCCEEW

Page 5 Middle: Blue Pool. Jemillah Forbes/DCCEEW

Page 5 Bottom: Carrington Falls Grevillea. Jemillah Forbes/DCCEEW

Page 7 Top: Cascade Falls. Darren Scheeringa/DCCEEW

Page 7 Middle: Clover Hill Day Use Area. Darren Scheeringa/DCCEEW

Page 7 Bottom: 5: Proposed Track. Darren Scheeringa/DCCEEW

Page 9 Top: Minnamurra walking track. Jemillah Forbes/DCCEEW

Page 9 Middle: Minnamurra Rainforest. Jennifer Bean/DCCEEW

Page 9 Bottom: Remnant Red Cedar Tree. Jennifer Bean/DCCEEW

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