



NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Decision statement

Dorrigo Escarpment Great Walk

REF CM file no.	DOC25/422282-3
Title of proposal:	Dorrigo Escarpment Great Walk
Park name:	Dorrigo and Bindarri National Parks
Area/ NPWS Branch:	Coffs Coast/North Coast
Proponent:	NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Determination

Based on the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for the Dorrig Escarpment Great Walk and all 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 per section 5.5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*), **I hereby determine that:**

1. Further 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 obtained approvals.
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**.
 - **will not*** require certification to the Building Code of Australia or Australian Standards under the NPWS *Construction Assessment Procedures*.

NPWS Area Manager recommendation:

Name: Craig Evans

Signature:



Date: 13 June 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, as it accords 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: 20 June 2025

Schedule 1: Conditions of determination

REF DOC No.	DOC25/422282-3
Title of proposal:	Dorrigo Escarpment Great Walk
Proponent:	NPWS
Park name:	Dorrigo and Bindarri National Parks
Area/ NPWS Branch:	Coffs Coast Area / North Coast Branch

Part A – General terms of this determination

References to the REF

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

Dorrigo Escarpment Great Walk review of environmental factors (ELA 2025) as DOC25/422282-3

Supporting documents:

- A. DEGW REF Ecological assessment (ELA 2024a) as DOC25/422282-4
- B. DEGW REF Matters of national environmental significance assessment (ELA 2024b) as DOC25/422282-5
- C. DEGW REF Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report (ELA 2024c) as DOC25/422282-6
- D. DEGW REF Statement of heritage impact (2024d) as DOC25/422282-7
- E. DEGW REF Project mapping (ELA 2024e) as DOC25/422282-8
- F. DEGW REF Addendum report 1 as DOC25/422282-10

Responsibilities of the proponent

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, as the proponent, is responsible for the manner in which this approved activity, as detailed in the REF and as modified by this determination, is performed.

Transfer of REF determination

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

Inspection of work covered by this Decision Statement

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

Entry to land

The proponent is responsible for securing permission or consent from the registered owner or occupier to enter, use and occupy land outside of the land reserved or acquired under the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service identified as part of the REF (and subject to this determination).

Reference to NPWS officers in this determination

The NPWS Branch Director may delegate any functions ascribed to that position in the Decision Statement to 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 of the date of this determination¹.
2. The Proponent must ensure all construction works are completed in accordance with the Dorrigo Escarpment Great Walk review of environmental factors as amended by the Addendum report 1 (collectively referred to as the DEGW REF) as DOC25/422282-3 and DOC25/422282-10 and the listed supporting and post-determination documents within 5 years from the date of commencement.
3. The Proponent can apply to the NPWS Director, North Coast Branch, for an extension to the Division 5.1 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* determination for another 3 years in writing following a project delay review, or as part of the operational management plan.
4. This statement applies only to the Activity as specified in the DEGW REF on Dorrigo and Bindarri national parks, adjoining public and private lands as shown in Figures 1 to 6 of Schedule 2.

Reasons²: To ensure that the activity is commenced and is completed within an appropriate timeframe. To ensure that the activity is consistent with the consideration of potential environmental impacts in the REF and in accordance with relevant statutory approvals issued for the activity as described in the REF.

Emergency works

5. The Proponent, notwithstanding any other conditions of this determination, if emergency works are required, the Proponent must take all reasonable steps to ensure that these 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. If emergency works are undertaken, the Proponent must report the incident through Environment Line on 131555 as soon as possible.
6. The Proponent, as soon as practicable, must notify the North Coast Branch Director or their assigned delegate to seek direction on any further procedures or actions to be implemented within 24 hours of the emergency, and the emergency works being undertaken.
7. Emergency reporting procedure (personal mobile numbers redacted):

¹ If the activity is not substantially commenced within this time, the proponent must seek direction from the NPWS Coffs Coast Area Manager as to whether a new REF must be submitted for determination before the activity may proceed.

² 'Reasons' are included as a mechanism to explain the rationale of a condition to a proponent. The reason does not form a part of the condition but is included for clarity.

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.coffscoast@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 arrest an imminent threat to life, safety, public liability, and/or a threat to the environment or property.

Undertaking the Activity

8. The 'Activity' as specified in the DEGW REF must be undertaken:

- at the locations and within the alignment as shown in Figures 1 to 6, of Schedule 2 and Section 6.1 of the DEGW REF
- following the description of the Activity set out in section 6.2 of the REF and as modified by the Addendum report with adequate application of the environmental safeguards or mitigation measures as specified in section 9 of the REF and as modified in the Addendum Report. All pre-, during and post-construction works are to accord with the approved Construction Environmental Management Plan for the DEGW.
- as required or amended by the conditions of this statement.

9. In the event of any inconsistency between the DEGW REF and the conditions of this statement, the conditions of the statement shall prevail.

10. This determination, and the conditions set out in this statement, do not relieve the Proponent of any obligation to obtain other 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*.

11. The proponent must undertake the activity in accordance with the requirements of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*, including codes of practice adopted under the Act, and the *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017*. Any contractors on the site are to have appropriate insurance, including public liability.

Reason: To ensure that the activity is undertaken per the REF as amended by the conditions of this decision statement and that the activity is conducted by appropriately qualified individuals.

Prior to commencing the activity

Approvals are in place

12. The Proponent must, before commencing the Activity, ensure the:

- a. Heritage approval under s.60 of the *Heritage Act 1977* is in place for the works affecting state heritage item listed on the State Heritage Register within the New England Group of the 'Gondwana Rainforests of Australia' (SHR #1002)
- b. Crown lands approval including any conditions for works on sections of Whitney's Road
- c. Forestry Corporation approvals and conditions for maintenance and use of Tuckers Knob Fire Trail

- d. Bellingen and City of Coffs Harbour Councils approvals and conditions for works on sections of Whitneys Road and Dome Road and Jersey Bull Road
 - e. Private property owners authorisation arrangements are in place before associated works and use are undertaken
 - f. Authorisation approvals from Fisheries NSW (DPIERD) including conditions referenced in s199 Consultation #C25/26.
13. The Proponent must, before the Dorrigo Escarpment Great Walk is operational, have in place:
- a. Crown lands approval for the ongoing use and maintenance of relevant sections of Whitneys Road
 - b. Forestry Corporation approvals for ongoing use and maintenance arrangements for Tuckers Knob Fire Trail
 - c. Bellingen and City of Coffs Harbour Councils approvals for ongoing use and maintenance of relevant section of Whitneys Road
 - d. Authorisation arrangements with relevant private property owners for temporary and ongoing operational access.

Site and project induction occurs

14. The proponent is to ensure, before accessing or commencing works associated with the Activity, that all employees, contractors, subcontractors and agents involved in undertaking the Activity attend an on-site meeting and project induction with the NPWS Manager, Coffs Coast Area and/or their assigned delegate.

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

Aboriginal participation

15. The Proponent must, at least fourteen (14) days before the Activity commences, invite representatives of Registered Aboriginal Parties to monitor works associated with the undertaking of the Activity, as specified in the supporting document C, section 1.2 Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report, and the approved Construction Environmental Management Plan. Expressions of interest will be sought and a schedule of site inspections developed to ensure appropriate involvement from relevant organisations.

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

Certification of building and infrastructure works

16. For those proposed works that do not require certification under the OEH Construction Assessment Procedure, the proponent must still ensure that the activity is undertaken in accordance with any relevant requirements of the BCA, Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards or Australian Standards, and is safe and fit for the intended purpose. The design and construction of infrastructure must adhere to the following standards and guidelines:
- a. Walking tracks including crossings and viewpoints - *Australian Standard 2156: Walking tracks classification and signage*, Class 4 walking track where possible with variation based on justified environmental constraints as outlined in job plan.
 - b. Access roads and fire trails – *NPWS Roads Manual*, *NSW Rural Fire Service Fire Trail Standards 2016 (Version 1.1)* and *NSW Rural Fire Service Fire Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance Manual 2017* as outlined in job plan.
 - c. Toilets and other infrastructure – *NPWS Park Facilities Manual* where appropriate.
 - d. Signage and interpretation – *NPWS Park Signage Manual* and *NPWS Interpretation Guideline*.

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

NPWS notification

17. The Proponent must notify the NPWS Manager, Coffs Coast Area, by email at least seven (7) days before commencing the Activity. The notification is to provide:
- contact details of a person/s who will be present on site as the onsite supervisor for the Activity
 - list of tradespersons, contractors or subcontractors who will be involved in undertaking the Activity. The list must include the trade licence number and information on the expertise and experience of the tradesperson or contractor.

Reason: To ensure appropriate liaison with NPWS/DCCEEW staff.

Construction environmental management plan and job plans

18. Prior to commencing the Activity, the Proponent must ensure all construction and environmental management documentation is prepared and approved as required before accessing the Activity Area and undertaking works. The documents are to be adequately applied and remain operational during construction to ensure protection of the environmental values of the Activity Area. This includes the submission and approval of:
- construction environmental management plan as per Condition 19
 - Specific job plans for each activity type as per Condition 20 including but not limited to:
 - incident and emergency management procedures
 - erosion and sediment control procedures
 - biodiversity management procedures
19. Prior to commencing the Activity, the Proponent must prepare and submit a **Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)** and supplementary job plans for each activity type to the NPWS Director, North Coast Branch, for approval. The Proponent must ensure the DEGW REF safeguards and measures, and any conditional environmental management requirements of this statement are included in the CEMP. The CEMP must detail the environmental management procedures, including, but not limited to:

Administrative

- contact information and protocols outlining procedures and any notifications, regular meetings, reporting and incident communication pathways between onsite supervisor/s, project manager and the NPWS Manager, Coffs Coast Area (and relevant park NPWS Ranger).
- public safety, including actions to
 - highlight and manage public safety, including trail closure, security or safety fencing and notification signage
 - provide signage at park entrances and key visitor precincts in the immediate vicinity of the activity site, that is visible and clearly marked and lists:
 - a simple description of the activity
 - the hours of operation
 - a contact telephone number for public inquiries.
- induction and training arrangements, including cultural induction.

Activity and activity area management

- d. location of all Activity Areas, as active work and storage areas. This includes areas for the storage of any machinery, equipment or materials required for the activity in existing cleared areas or areas determined to be cleared per the DEGW REF. Specify the secure locations with authorised access only, where machinery, vehicles, and equipment must be stored
- e. vehicle and pedestrian access arrangements, including parking
- f. measures to protect environmentally sensitive areas

Public safety

- g. take reasonable steps to limit restrictions on public access during the activity. Where access restrictions are required, such as in areas where works are underway, temporary barriers (e.g. brightly coloured tape and/or movable barriers) and appropriate signage must be erected

Environmental management

- h. measures to identify, protect and manage biodiversity values, including unexpected find protocols, weed and pathogen management procedures, including reporting and incident communication pathways
- i. application of hygiene protocol per the *SOS Hygiene guidelines for wildlife Protocols to protect priority biodiversity areas in NSW from Phytophthora cinnamomi, myrtle rust, amphibian chytrid fungus and invasive plants* (DPIE, 2020) as <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/publications/hygiene-guidelines-wildlife>
- j. measures to ensure that impacts to key fish habitats are avoided or minimised as described in conditions in s199 Consultation #C25/26, 4 June 2025
- k. requirements for machinery, vehicles and other construction equipment to arrive clean (e.g. washed down) before entry into Dorrig and Bindarri national parks, and private land subject to access consents, to remove any soil or plant matter
- l. measures to identify, protect and manage Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, including unexpected find protocols (from Appendix 5 of NPWS guide to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessments and Approvals), Aboriginal community engagement and involvement, reporting and incident communication pathways
- m. water pollution controls, waste management, and management of hazardous substances, contaminated materials and soils
- n. remediation and rehabilitation requirements during and post-construction
- o. performance measures, monitoring and reporting.

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

Job plans for each activity type

20. Prior to commencing the Activity, the Proponent must prepare and submit a job plan for each activity type detailing specific procedures as set out below for the approval of the NPWS Manager, Coffs Coast Area. The proponent must comply with the appropriate approved job plans for:
- a. Track construction
 - b. Bridges and water crossing construction
 - c. Camp construction

- d. Trail upgrades and maintenance
- e. Signage and interpretation

Incident and emergency management in job plan

- a) Prior to commencing the Activity, the Proponent must prepare and submit a job plan detailing Incident and Emergency Management procedures for each activity type to the NPWS Director, North Coast Branch. The Proponent must implement the approved job plan. The content of the job plan must be developed in consultation with the NPWS Manager, Coffs Coast Area and must detail procedures and contingency planning to be followed in the event of an emergency or incident. These procedures must include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - i. provide 24-hour contact details
 - ii. induction and training on the subplan and use of emergency equipment and procedures for evacuation and seeking refuge
 - iii. management and use of equipment, ensuring it is tested, operational and maintained under the manufacturer's specifications at all times
 - iv. provides for a review and update the timeframe every twelve (12) months.

Reason: To ensure appropriate management of emergencies, including fire incidents.

Erosion and sediment control in job plan

- b) Prior to commencing the Activity, the Proponent must prepare and submit a job plan for each activity type detailing Erosion and Sediment Control procedures as set out below for the approval of the NPWS Manager, Coffs Coast Area. The job plans must be prepared using the guidelines *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction* (Landcom 2004) and other relevant guidelines³. The proponent must comply with the appropriate approved job plans.

Reason: To ensure appropriate management of stormwater and to minimise the risk of environmental harm associated with erosion and sedimentation.

Biodiversity management in job plan

- c) Prior to commencing the Activity, the Proponent must prepare and submit a job plan for each activity type that details Biodiversity Management procedures for approval by the NPWS Director, North Coast Branch. The job plan must identify the precise extent, location, and type of vegetation to be cleared, with safeguards to ensure clear marking of areas to be cleared, with demarcation of environmentally sensitive areas to be protected. The Proponent may only clear the areas specified in the approved job plan. The job plan is also to include:
 - i. Known and likely threatened species locations including mapping and on ground marking and identification resources
 - ii. Hygiene protocols to prevent the spread of weeds and pathogens
 - iii. Procedures for use of site won natural materials for track construction and imported materials
 - iv. areas to be revegetated or regenerated/rehabilitated after the Activity.

Reason: To provide detailed site-specific guidance to minimise impacts on biodiversity during the construction phase.

³ for example, the Field Guide for erosion and sediment control on unsealed roads, www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/erosion-and-sediment-control-on-unsealed-roads

During construction

Availability of REF determination and conditions

21. A copy of the DEGW REF and this statement must be kept on site at all times, and must be produced to any Authorised Officer of NPWS who asks to see it.
22. A copy of the DEGW REF and this statement must be available for inspection by any employee or agent of the Proponent working on the DEGW construction.

Reason: To ensure that the activity is undertaken in accordance with the REF and in accordance with relevant statutory approvals.

Operational hours

23. The Activity must only be conducted between the following hours: 7 am to 6 pm, Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays), and 8 am to 1 pm Saturdays. Work may only occur on public holidays or weekends with prior written approval of the NPWS Manager, Coffs Coast Area
24. The proponent is to encourage staff and contractors involved in the activity to carpool to the site during the proposed activity.

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

Discovery of unknown Aboriginal and historic heritage values

25. If, during the activity any Aboriginal object/s, as defined under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, and/or any relics, as defined under the *Heritage Act 1977*, are uncovered or discovered, the Proponent must cease work immediately and notify the Environment Line on 131555 and Heritage NSW. Work must not recommence until written advice has been provided by Heritage NSW.
26. The Proponent must follow the Unexpected finds protocols for Aboriginal cultural heritage from Appendix 5 of the NPWS guide to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessments and Approvals, as detailed in the CEMP.
27. This determination does not authorise the harm or desecration of any human skeletal remains. If, during the activity, any human skeletal remains are located, the Proponent must follow the Unexpected finds protocols in the CEMP and:
 - a. immediately cease all Activity, and secure the area so that further harm or desecration occurs
 - b. notify the local police and Environment Line on 131555 as soon as possible, providing details about the nature and location of the remains
 - c. notify the NPWS Director, North Coast Branch, and Heritage NSW
 - d. recommence the activity only after receiving confirmation in writing from the local police and Heritage NSW that it is appropriate to do so.

Reason: To protect cultural heritage values

Discovery of unknown biodiversity values

28. 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 DEGW 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

- 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 NPWS and/or DPIE Fisheries to do so.

Reason: To minimise biodiversity impacts.

Notification of environmental harm

- 29. 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 131555 and following the Emergency reporting procedure in Condition 7 above.
- 30. 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

- 31. 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 operated during a Park Fire Ban or a declared Total Fire Ban or when fire danger ratings meet pre-determined triggers in emergency management planning guidelines.
- 32. 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 subject to 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.

Helicopter operations

- 33. Helicopter operations as set out in the DEGW REF will be planned and undertaken according to NPWS aviation safety policy and standard operating procedures.
- 34. Approved helipad pick-up locations from figure 52 of the DEGW REF, flight restrictions and other procedures will be detailed in the relevant approved job plan for the activity.

Use of rainforest timbers

- 35. 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 DCCEEW policies.

Waste management

- 36. Waste generated during the Activity must be managed under the *Protection of the Environment (Waste) Regulation 2014* as set out by the CEMP (under Waste Management)

Reason: To ensure the appropriate management of waste material.

Waterway protection

37. During bridge and crossing construction, the Proponent must follow the requirements set out in the relevant approved job plan from Section 9.1 of the DEGW REF and accord to:
- a. Erosion, and sediment control on unsealed roads (OEH 2010 internal)
 - b. *Managing urban stormwater: soils and construction - volume 1*, 4th edition (the 'Blue book'; Landcom (2004))
 - c. *Managing urban stormwater, soils and construction, volume 2A Installation of services* (DECC 2008).
38. The approved job plan will include, but not limited to, the following requirements:
- a. Weather forecasts will be checked daily to ensure that work is not carried out immediately before or during high rainfall. Where possible works that require soil disturbance on steep slopes or near waterways are to be scheduled during the drier seasons and periods.
 - b. Temporary in-water measures such as rock and silt curtains will be used where required to minimise impacts on water quality, ensuring measures are in place to limit the risk of turbid water escaping into the aquatic environment and will be closely monitored during works.
 - c. 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.
 - d. Waterway crossings must be constructed in accordance with the national guidelines *Why do fish need to cross the road? Fish passage requirements for waterway crossings* (Fairfull and Witheridge 2003).
39. The proponent must comply with s 120 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*.

Reason: Section 120 states that a person who pollutes any water is guilty of an offence. Sections 121 and 122 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

40. 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 to comply with the Building Code of Australia (BCA), Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards, or relevant Australian Standards as required by the OEH *Construction Assessment Procedure*. Evidence of compliance with the BCA, Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards, or Australian Standards must be submitted to the satisfaction of 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

41. The Proponent must, within seven (7) days of the Activity, or part of the Activity ceasing must ensure any damage by vehicular or other access to the Activity Area is repaired or rehabilitated to the satisfaction of the NPWS Director, North Coast Branch or their assigned delegate.
42. The Proponent must ensure all Activity Area remediation, rehabilitation or restoration is completed following the approved CEMP. All revegetation works are to only use locally sourced indigenous plant species. All remediation, rehabilitation or restoration works must be agreed to, and signed off in writing by the NPWS Manager, Coffs Coast Area.

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

Impact offset

43. The Proponent must monitor and ensure the impacts of construction mitigation works and techniques through construction are effective. Ongoing monitoring of revegetation of impacted areas and walker impacts will be managed according to the operational environmental management plan.

Operation

Operational environmental management plan

44. Prior to the Dorrigo Escarpment Great Walk opening to the public, the Proponent must prepare and submit an **Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP)** to the NPWS Director, North Coast Branch for approval. The OEMP must address the potential operational risks of the walk, and describe how these will be identified, monitored and managed. NPWS Coffs Coast Area must comply with all measures identified in the approved OEMP. The OEMP must detail the environmental management procedures to be applied for the ongoing operation of the walk, including, but not limited to, the following components:

Management objectives

- a) Environmental protection
- b) Visitor safety and experience
- c) Maintenance and infrastructure integrity
- d) Cultural and heritage
- e) Roles and responsibilities

Environmental management

- f) Vegetation and habitat protection – weed and pathogen management
- g) Cultural heritage – cultural site protection, cultural burning, resting Country
- h) Water quality – runoff control, creek health monitoring
- i) Waste management – on-site waste facilities, pack-in-pack-out policy
- j) Bush regeneration and rehabilitation – requirements and procedures

Safety and risk management

- k) Risk assessment – natural (e.g. tree risk) and user hazards (e.g. falls)
- l) Emergency response plan – evacuation procedures and track closure triggers
- m) Bridge and creek crossing safety – load limits, inspection schedules
- n) Signage and wayfinding – hazard warnings, trail markers, emergency information

Operations and asset maintenance

- o) Track maintenance – erosion control, clearing, schedules,
- p) Bridge maintenance – inspection cycles, structure checks
- q) Camp management – waste management, fire safety, hygiene stations
- r) Access roads and tracks – consent arrangements and maintenance

Visitor management

- s) Track capacity and bookings – group size limits, registration and booking systems
- t) Pre-walk information & briefing – minimal impact protocols, caring for Country, safety
- u) Interpretation and education – visitor and student experience
- v) Cultural access – back to Country camps, site management
- w) Feedback and reporting – user feedback channels and issue reporting

Monitoring and evaluation

- x) Performance indicators – environmental impact, visitor satisfaction, incident rates
- y) Review schedule – annual or seasonal OMP reviews
- z) Data collection methods – patrol logs, trail counters, camera traps

Budget and resources

Schedule 2: Activity location and extent

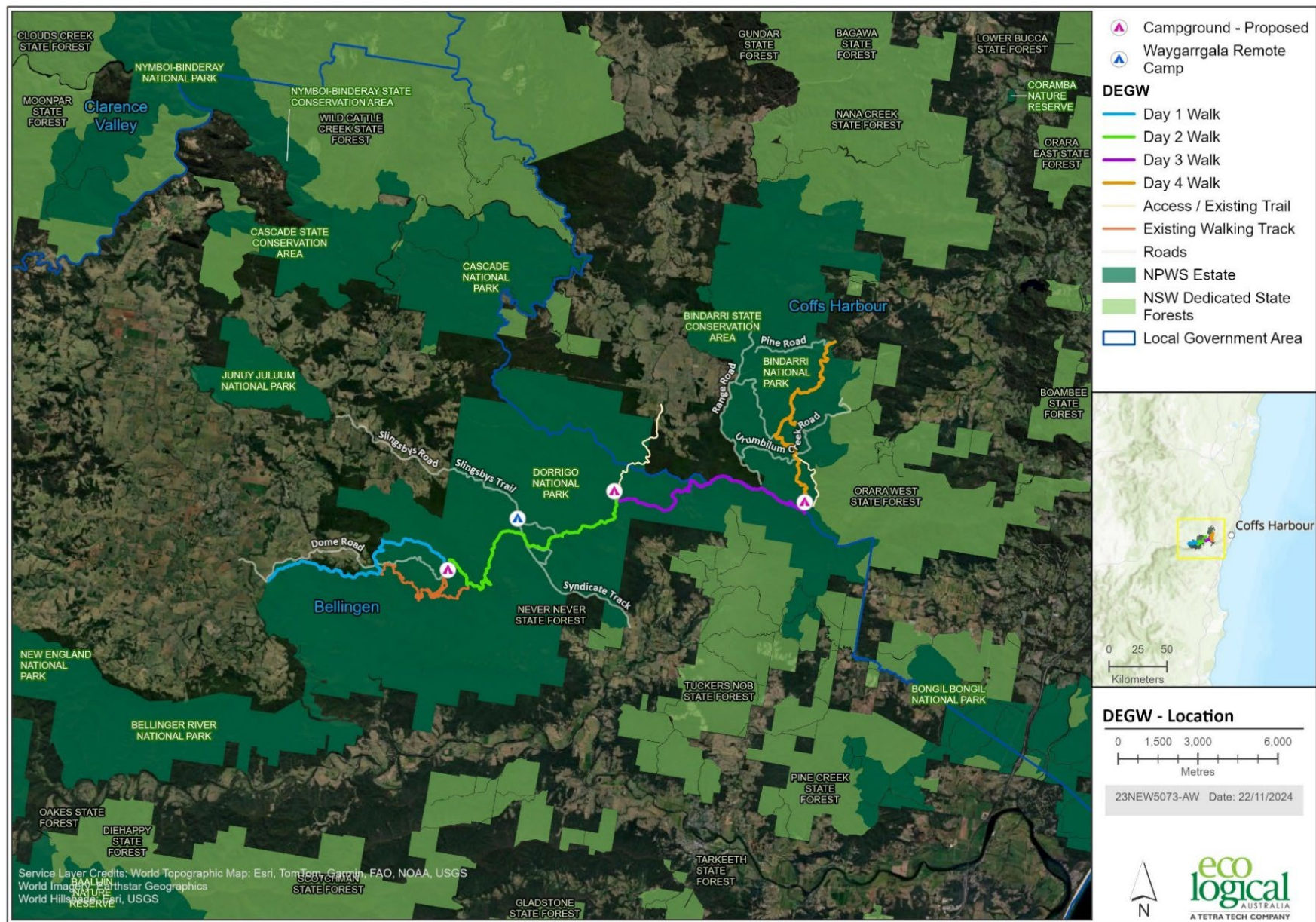


Figure 1 Location of the activity

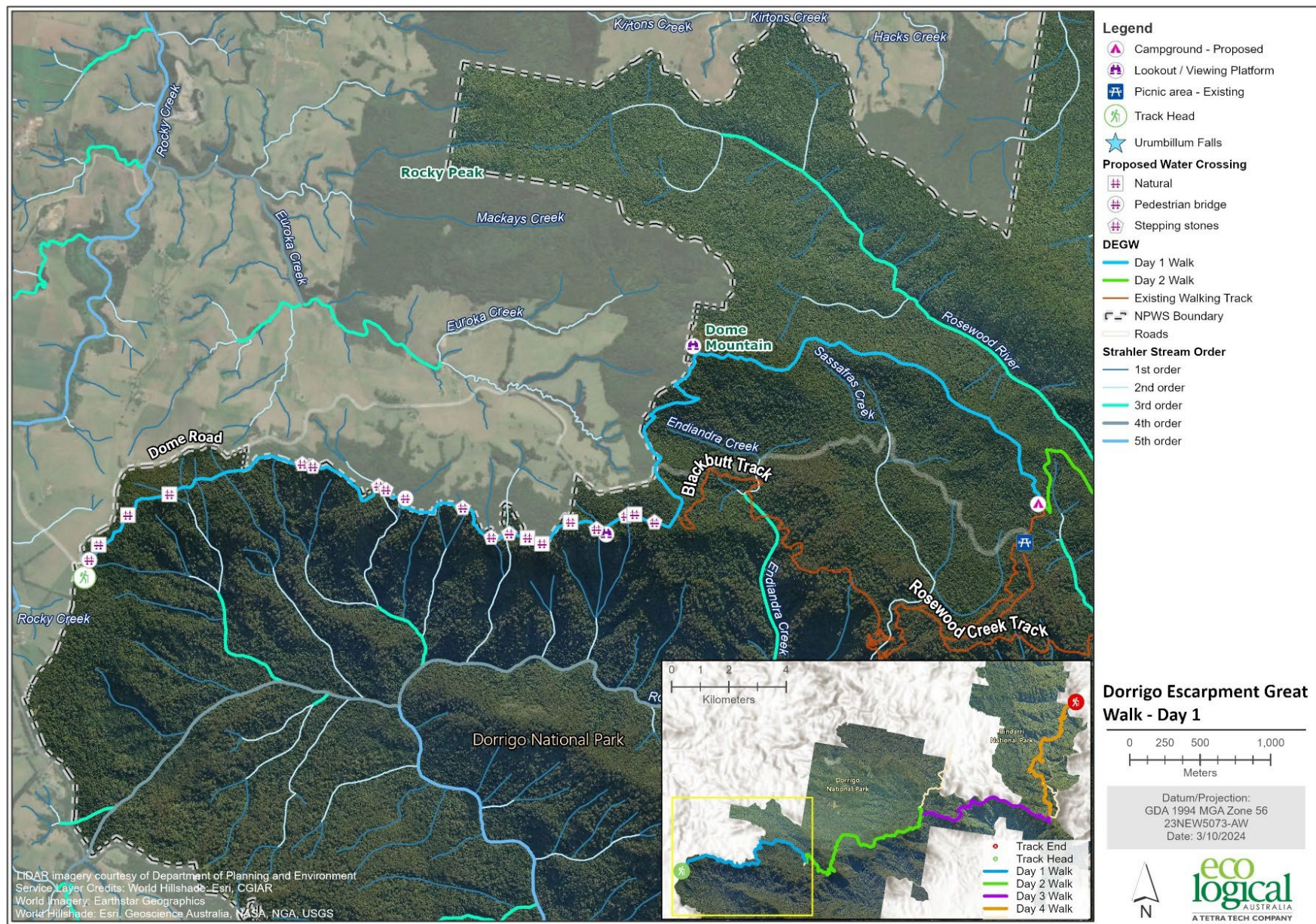


Figure 2 Location of the activity (Day 1 walk)

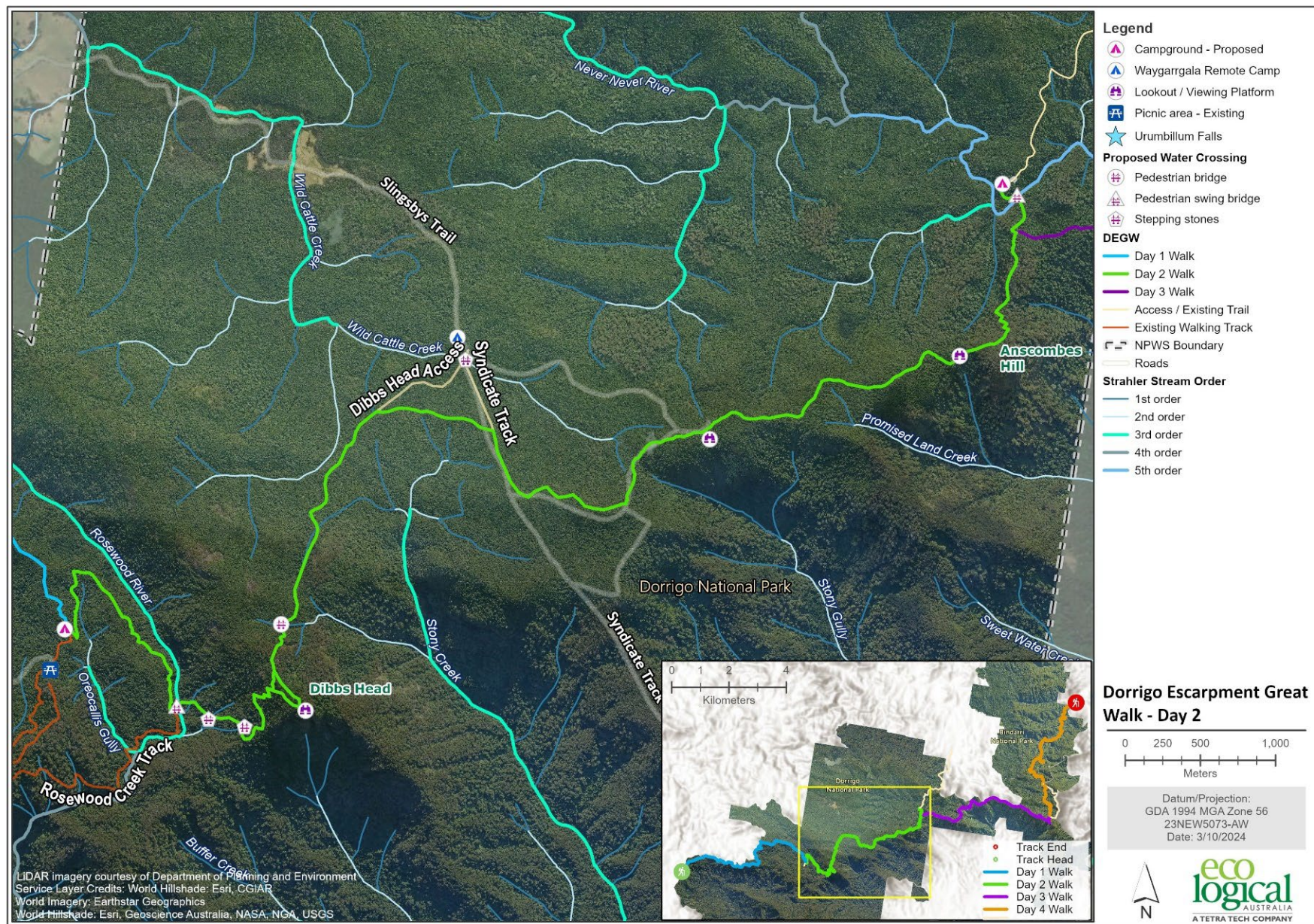


Figure 3 Location of the activity (Day 2 walk)

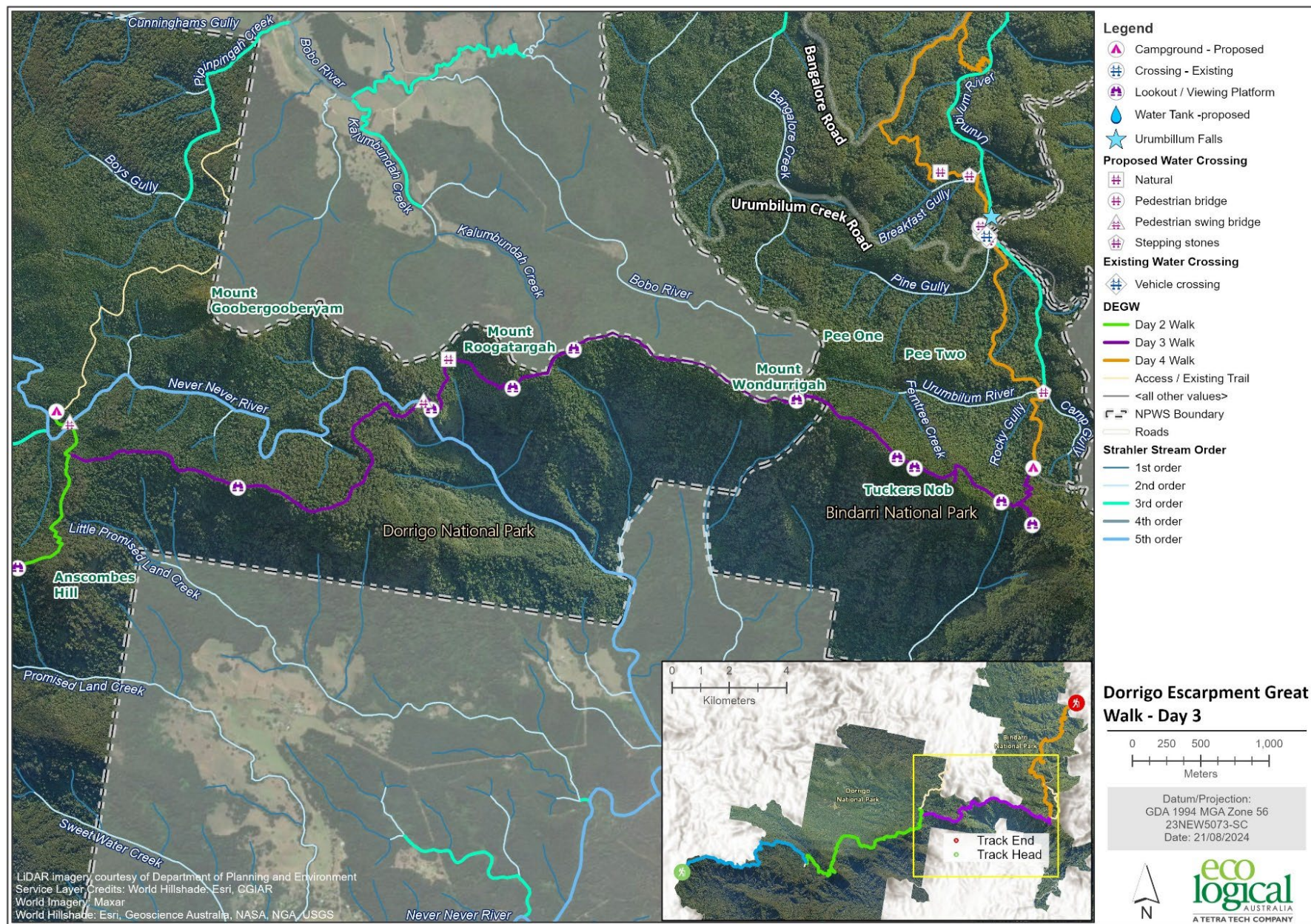


Figure 4 Location of the activity (Day 3 walk)

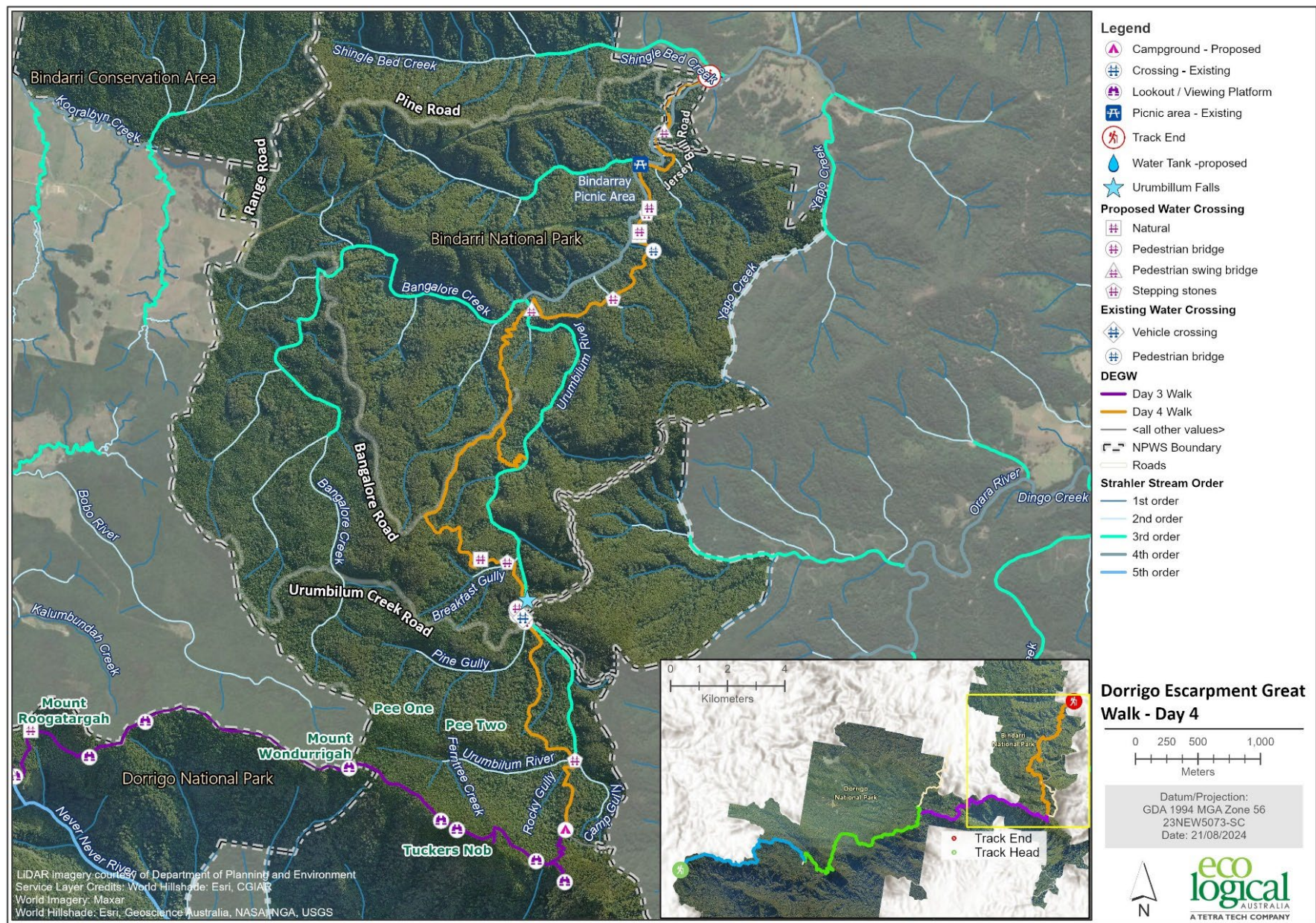
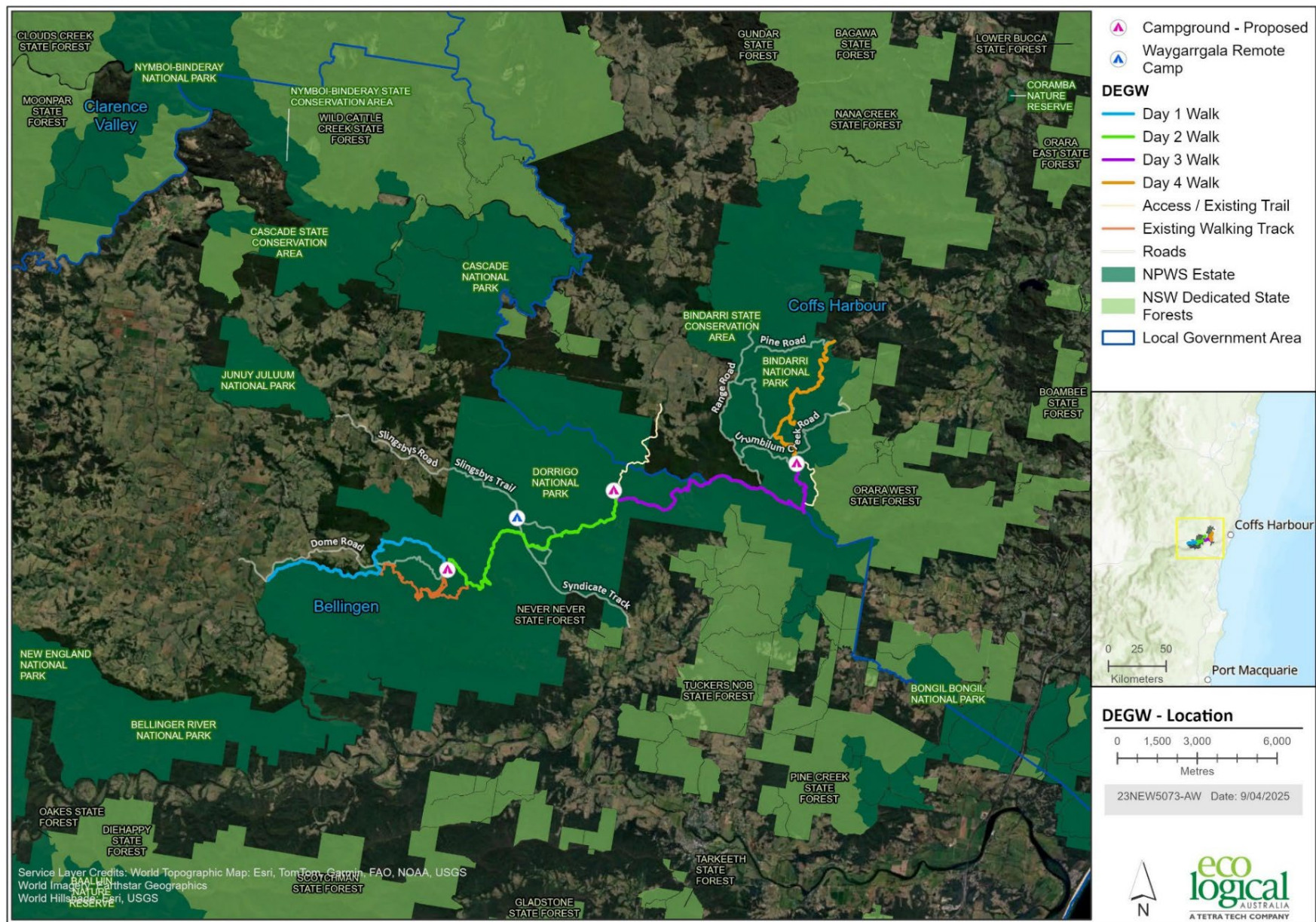


Figure 5 Location of the activity (Day 4 walk)





Environment and Heritage.

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124; Phone: 1300 361 967

Email: info@environment.nsw.gov.au; www.environment.nsw.gov.au

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