



Horse riding trials in wilderness – Deua and Monga National Parks

Introduction

The NSW Government is committed to providing opportunities for horse riding in NSW national parks. This includes a trial of horse riding in five wilderness locations through a two-year wilderness pilot. The pilot will assist in determining whether horse riding in wilderness can occur without causing irreversible damage to park values. The pilot proposals are outlined in [Strategic Directions for Horse Riding in NSW National Parks](#).

Information on the pilot, including the matters discussed below, is available on the [wilderness horse riding trial](#) webpage.

What tracks are involved in Deua and Monga National Parks?

The tracks for the wilderness pilots (see map) are the:

- WD Tarlinton and Georges Pack bridle tracks in Deua National Park
- Shoebridge Bridle Track which runs through both Deua and Monga National Parks.

These traverse the Buckenbowra, Burra–Oulla and Woila–Deua wilderness areas.

Access to the Shoebridge Bridle Track is from Araluen Road and to the Georges Pack Track either from Little Sugarloaf Road or the Coondella Fire Trail. Access to the Tarlinton Track is from Belowra Road at the southern end and Middle Mountain Road in the north.

Important safety and access advice for park visitors

Parts of the tracks in Deua and Monga National Parks are remote, rugged and challenging (around 39 kilometres long). Riders should ensure they have sufficient experience and that horses are of appropriate fitness.

When does the pilot start and finish?

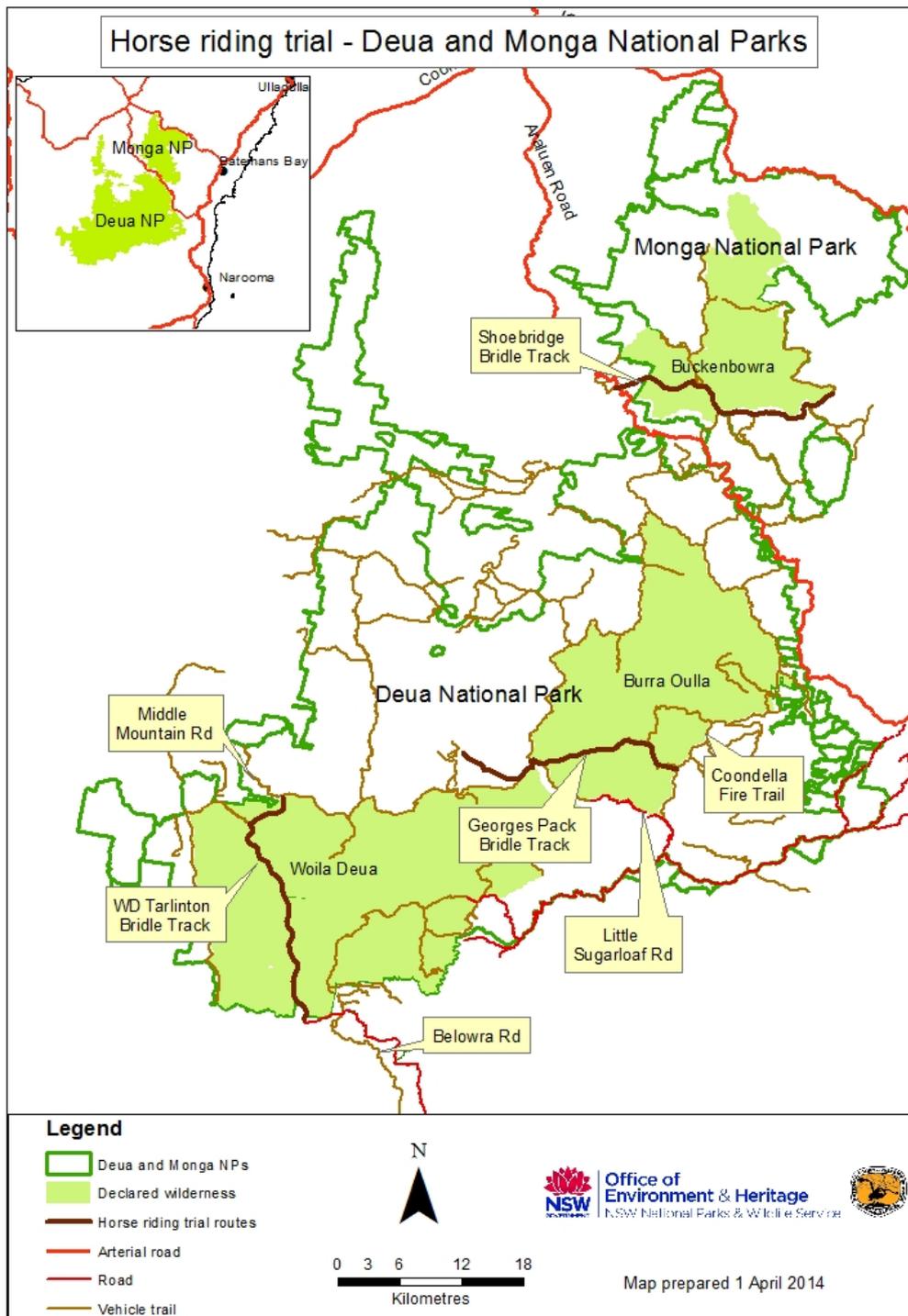
The pilot starts in Deua and Monga National Parks on 12 April 2014 and concludes in April 2016. Each pilot will then be evaluated, including assessment of monitoring data.

Do I need to book or get permission to ride?

No. Access is available on the identified trails and tracks without needing to make a booking or get approval. Group size limits of 20 horses apply.

What should I do if planning to ride in these locations?

The trial is in remote locations where mobile phone reception is highly variable and often not available. They also include some rugged and challenging sections. When planning a ride, normal precautions should be taken:



- check the [national parks](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au) website for any warnings or localised closures that may be in place at that time
- check and plan for a range of weather conditions
- take appropriate quantities of food and water and first aid equipment
- do not ride alone and ensure you inform others about your departure and return times.

The [Code of practice for horse riding in parks](#), available on the OEH website, provides more information on safe riding techniques.

Plan of management

The plan of management for the Far South Coast Escarpment Parks has been [amended](#) to support the wilderness pilot.

Assessment and safeguards

A precautionary [review of environmental factors](#) (REF) to assess impacts of the trials has been prepared. A range of environmental safeguards have been applied to reduce the risk of adverse impact including:

- use of historic tracks previously used for horse access
- no new construction of trails or supporting infrastructure with maintenance limited to essential actions needed to ensure safe access
- group size limits of 20 horses
- camping located outside wilderness in existing facilities at Supers Memorial Camp (in Wadbilliga National Park) and Bendethera (in Deua National Park)
- application of a monitoring framework, including 15 monitoring sites.

Monitoring

Evaluation of the pilots will involve ongoing monitoring of both environmental issues, as well as feedback from park visitors. The monitoring framework will focus on track and soil condition, weeds, visitor experiences, and frequency and intensity of trail use (through remote-sensing cameras). Information from monitoring will be published regularly.

Responsible riding practice

The [Code of practice for horse riding in parks](#) was developed by NPWS in consultation with horse riders. It provides guidance on safe practices to avoid environmental damage, camping and driving with horses, group events and where to obtain more information.

More information

More information about the wilderness pilots is available on the [wilderness horse riding trial](#) webpage.

The National Parks and Wildlife Office at Narooma can also provide information about the particular tracks involved in the trial and visiting Deua and Monga National Parks generally:

Address: Corner Graham and Burrawang Streets, Narooma

Phone: (02) 4476 0800

Web:

Deua – www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/parkHome.aspx?id=N0047

Monga – www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/parkHome.aspx?id=N0169