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The Secretary
National Parks and Wildlife Services
Email: npws.parksplanning@environment.nsw.gov.au

22 June 2021.

Dear Secretary,

RE: Plan of Management, proposed, Royal National Park, adjacent Aquatic Reserves and Marine Parks, NSW

The 1000 plus members and friends of Birding NSW are pleased to have this opportunity to comment on the well-defined plans of management for the Royal National Park and environs. This letter will advise of our **objections to, support for and suggestions** for Park Management that can protect and enhance these unique places.

First, we have always, as stated in our constitution, committed to save and protect birds and their habitats. We do not think that introducing new infrastructure to suit human phases, is safe in a unique endangered bushland such as the Royal National Park. Mountain bike tracks, boating, camping and night celebrations should never be allowed. Once destroyed, our bushland can never be recovered. It has taken *millions* of years to become the bush we love!

National Parks and Wildlife are only too aware of the dangers to our ecosystems of the proliferation of feral animals, weeds and fungi. Every effort should be made to remove the plants and animals known to harm our bushland. Birding NSW supports the increase of funding to do whatever is necessary to achieve those aims. \$millions spent now will reap \$millions in return in continued holidaying in our parks by tourists and visitors. Who would come to Australia if we did not have the Koala, Kangaroo, Kookaburra and Platypus?

Thirdly, a deeply concerning question hangs over the fate of migratory shorebirds, roosting and breeding habitats for beach dwelling birds. Looking at a map of the Royal National Park and where it lies in Sydney, one wonders why the Port Hacking foreshores were not included in the Park at first. Birding NSW approves the idea that all shorelines and all intertidal mudflats, sandbars and beaches to the centre of the Port Hacking River estuary at least, be taken into the National Park. This would protect ecologically threatened zones as Aquatic Reserves and Marine Parks and be made to exclude people and their pet animals up to National Parks standards. The area from South West Arm east to Jibbon Beach and including Bundeena should be included in the Royal National Park. Migratory shorebirds, native mammals and fish would be better protected and given the chance of survival into the future.

This would be a great initiative to enlarge our Marine Parks in NSW and still provide for recreation of residents and visitors. Birding NSW respectfully calls for the NPWS to revisit and restructure a longer-term Plan of Management.

Sincerely
Ian Bailey
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