



NSW **National Parks
and Wildlife Service**

Our reference: DOC10/56045
Contact: Diane Garrood, 4423 2170

Mr Dodie Green
President
Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs
PO Box 119
NEWTOWN NSW 2042

Dear Mr Green

I am writing in relation to the former Tianjara Military Training Area in Morton National Park and hope that you can be of assistance in reminding and reinforcing with affiliated clubs the safety restrictions in place in this area.

The former training area is located partly within the Budawang Wilderness and recreational use is subject to the Budawangs Walking and Camping Strategy, which was adopted in 2007. Bushwalking clubs participated in development of the Strategy and a copy of the final was sent to the Confederation following adoption, with a request that member clubs be made aware of its provisions. The strategy can be viewed on the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water website at www.environment.nsw.gov.au.

The Strategy includes information about the potential risks to visitors from unexploded military ordnance in the artillery impact area (the northern part of the former training area) and places restrictions on public use consistent with advice provided by a Department of Defence ordnance expert. Under the provisions of the Strategy, walkers in the artillery impact area must keep to designated vehicle trails (Endrick River Trail, Tianjara Trail, Tianjara Link Road and Twelve Mile Road) and to the Folly Point Walking Track. No access is permitted off these designated trails and tracks, and digging and campfires are not permitted along them.

Large signs at the entrances to the former impact area identify the restrictions and the latest 1:25,000 topographic maps show the area to which the restrictions apply. The restrictions apply to all walkers; there are no exceptions.

I have been advised that some people may be ignoring the restrictions and I am concerned that walkers and walk leaders may be placing themselves and others at risk if they walk off the above trails. Unexploded ordnance have been observed widely spread across the impact area and can be buried or hidden by vegetation, leaf litter and fallen timber.

NPWS can not ignore its safety obligations and walkers can potentially be prosecuted for walking in contravention to the above restrictions. You should also be aware that it is likely that walking club public risk insurance would be invalid, should an injury result from walking in an unauthorised area.

The Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW is now known as the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water

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Recently, information has been provided to the National Parks and Wildlife Service indicating that long range guns may occasionally have been fired in a southerly direction during military training and that unexploded ordnance could be present in the southern part of the training area, south from Mount Bushwalker. While no ordnance has been found in this area other than blank rifle shells, it cannot be categorically ruled out. Bushwalkers are therefore advised not to touch any ammunition found and to report it to NSW Police. It would also be advisable not to light campfires in this area as even blank shells can be dangerous if burnt.

The Budawangs Walking and Camping Strategy is currently being reviewed in the light of this new information and I will let the Confederation know if there are any changes to the walking requirements or guidelines.

I would appreciate your bringing this letter to the attention of all Confederation member clubs as I am concerned that individuals do not place themselves or others at potential risk. Should you need more information about these matters, please contact the NPWS Ulladulla Office on 4454 9500.

Yours sincerely



DIANE GARROOD
Regional Manager, South Coast
Parks and Wildlife

8.3.11