



HORNSBY RIFLE RANGE & BEROWRA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

North Shore Regional Target Shooting Complex Management Association – Hornsby Rifle Range, is located on Crown land held under licence from the Department of Primary Industries – Lands. This area was established as a reserve in 1898. The range is of regional heritage significance as it constituted part of Australia’s defensive training program at Federation. It is now used for recreational shooting and training purposes.

The Hornsby Rifle Range extends north-west through bushland. Part of the range includes the range danger area, which bisects Berowra Valley National Park. At its widest point, it measures 800m.

During the 1990s, some changes were made to tracks and trails that previously traversed the range danger area. These changes were vital for improved public safety.

Commonly asked questions and answers regarding the changes are listed below.

What are the changes?

Please see map attached for reference.

- A - Permanent closure of the former section of the Great North Walk between Fishponds and Steele Bridge. This section of walking track traversed the land of the range danger area that is managed by the Hornsby Rifle Range.
- B – ‘No through’ access along sections of the Quarry Fire Trail in the vicinity of the Pogsons Trig and Tunks Ridge and north-west of the Stewart Ave park entrance.
- C - Pogsons Link Track. A new connection between Pogsons Trig and Fishponds will be completed by June 2016. The current trail from Pogsons Trig east stops at the ridge. National Parks is formalising a track from the ridge to connect with the Great North Walk at Fishponds.
- D - Stewart Ave – Simon Trail connection. National Parks is formalising the unofficial alternate route from Stewart Ave to Clarinda Street providing access to both the Simon and Quarry Trails.

What are the changes to the Great North Walk?

The NSW Department of Primary Industries – Lands has recently completed track upgrades to allow walkers to detour more easily around the Hornsby Rifle Range. The original detour was known as the Great North Walk *alternate route*. This section of track is now the permanent route for the Great North Walk and has been remodified with the installation of new infrastructure, including a staircase and signage.

If heading north, walkers are now directed – via signage - along the Great North Walk from the Benowie Track near Fishponds, up to Manor Road in Hornsby. Following Rosamond Road, walkers continue along the Great North Walk to Clarinda Street. Walkers then continue along the Simon Trail in a northerly direction. Following this route ensures users of the Great North Walk safely avoid the Hornsby Rifle Range. Signage is also in place for walkers heading south.

Why the changes? Public safety - Zero risk

- The range danger area is licensed by the Department of Primary Industries – Lands, to the North Shore Regional Target Shooting Complex Management Association. The range danger area is approximately 170 ha, none of which is located on Berowra Valley National Park.
- Range danger areas are low elevation ricochet templates. The area is calculated based on weapon types, categories of ammunition and other factors. It is an offence under Clause 132 of the *NSW Firearms Regulation 2006* to enter a range danger area whilst shooting is being undertaken.
- All range danger areas are zones where no-one is permitted when shooting is occurring – and a zero risk policy is applied. NSW Police enforce the regulation which relates to the prohibitive and dangerous entry to such areas.

Is it possible to traverse the range danger area via pre arrangement with Hornsby Rifle Range?

Under the *Firearms Act 1996* it is prohibited for the public to walk through this area unless authorised to do so. Walk leaders can prearrange access arrangements along Quarry Fire Trail by calling the Rifle Range on 0417 201 606. There may be a window of opportunity when the range is not booked.

What are we doing to facilitate access?

- NPWS is currently working on establishing a new formal track between Pogsons Trig Trail and Fishponds to allow people to walk from Dural to the Great North Walk.
- A rifle range alternate route for the Great North Walk was established by Crown Lands during the 1990s to allow the public to detour around the range danger area while shooting was being undertaken.
- The Department of Primary Industries - Lands has completed upgrades to the rifle range alternate route. This section of track has been remodified and signage upgraded so that the previous alternate route now forms part of the Great North Walk.

Can modifications be made to the rifle range to decrease the width of the range danger area?

The Firearms Registry and rifle range have worked together and modified two ranges within the complex ensuring that all ranges are now contained completely within their land parcel. There will be no further modifications.

People have been crossing the range danger area for many years, why the sudden restrictions?

The Audit for public safety conducted by Insearch in 1995, assessed the level of risk and the likelihood of death or injury from being hit by a bullet fired from the rifle range. The audit found that there was a risk of such an occurrence. The Range Inspector from the NSW Police Firearms Registry has reviewed the Safety Audit and determined that there is still a risk of death or injury for people traversing the range while shooting is occurring. That risk is not acceptable.

Why not close the range down?

The range was established in 1898 and has been in continual use since that time. It is one of the few shooting facilities in the Metropolitan area available for thousands of sports shooters to compete and practice. It is also heavily utilised by various critical government and civilian bodies to train and re-accredit staff required to use firearms as part of their duties. These government bodies include the Department of Primary Industries, NPWS, Corrective Services, NSW Police, RSPCA and other registered training organisations.

The Hornsby Rifle Range is unique in that it is one of the only ranges in the Sydney Area where firearms can be used to 8000 metres distance. The nearest facility is in Lithgow.

This information has been provided by members of the multiagency working group – a group working collaboratively to ensure public safety and zero risk. The group consists of:

- North Shore Regional Target Shooting Complex Management Association
- NSW Police
- NSW Department of Primary Industries - Lands
- NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Further information and updates:

National Parks and Wildlife Service

<http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/berowra-valley-national-park>

North Shore Regional Target Shooting Complex Management Association

www.hornsbyrange.com.au

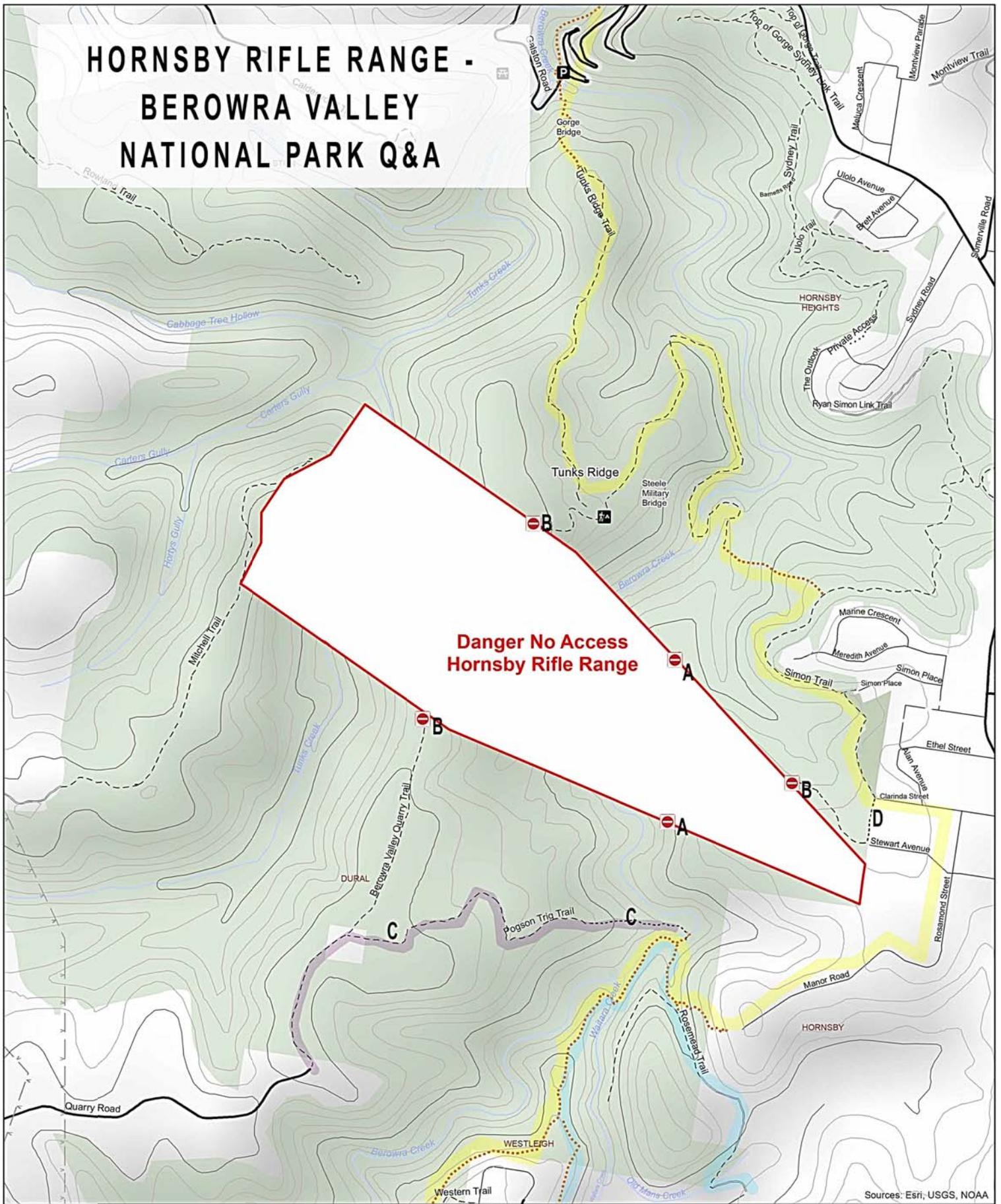
Great North Walk

http://www.lpma.nsw.gov.au/about_recreation/walking_tracks/great_north_walk



nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

HORNSBY RIFLE RANGE - BEROWRA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK Q&A



Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Legend

- Picnic Area - On Park
- Bush Camping - On Park
- Sealed Road - Off Park
- Sealed Road - On Park
- Management Trail
- Transmission lines

- Watercourse
- Berowra Valley National Park
- No through access
- Rifle Range Danger Area
- Blue Gum Walking Trail
- Dural Rifle Range By Pass - Pegsons Link Track
- Great North Walk

