

## Special Areas

# What you can and can't do

in Sydney's water supply catchments

with map inside

The Special Areas cover approximately 364,000 hectares of mostly unspoilt native bushland around the water storages and water supply infrastructure that supply Sydney, the Illawarra, Blue Mountains, Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven regions.

Public access and activities are restricted to protect water quality in these areas.

The majority of the Special Areas are off-limits or restricted to the general public. But across the catchment there are many spectacular natural places open to the public for a range of recreational activities. This brochure provides details of these places in the 'Visiting dams and reservoirs' section.

This brochure outlines what you can and can't do in the Special Areas. The Special Areas are divided into three protection zones and what you can and can't do depends on the type of protection zone:



Restrictions do not apply to privately owned land and public roads within the Special Areas.

### The penalties you could face

Penalties of up to \$44,000 apply for people who are caught ignoring the restrictions in Special Areas.

WaterNSW, NSW Police, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and DPI Fisheries conduct regular surveillance and patrols of the Special and Controlled Areas, including the access corridors and waterways.



## Special Areas – No entry

**ENTRY IS NOT ALLOWED**

These areas include the water storages and surrounding land with the exception of Fitzroy Falls Reservoir and part of Lake Yarrunga, which are classed as restricted access.

## Controlled Areas – No entry

**ENTRY IS NOT ALLOWED**

These areas include the land at Warragamba protecting the water supply infrastructure, and the land along the Warragamba Pipelines and Upper Canal.

**Special Area**  
to protect our drinking water

**No entry**  
Maximum penalty \$44,000

## Special Areas – Restricted access

Vehicles (including motorcycles and bicycles), horses, pets, powered watercraft and firearms are not allowed.



These areas include the water storages and surrounding land of Fitzroy Falls Reservoir and part of Lake Yarrunga, and the second protection zone around Lake Burragorang.

**Special Area**  
to protect our drinking water

**Restricted Access**  
Walkers only  
Maximum penalty \$44,000

**Phone:** 1300 662 077  
**Website:** [www.watnsw.com.au](http://www.watnsw.com.au)  
**Email:** [customer.helpdesk@watnsw.com.au](mailto:customer.helpdesk@watnsw.com.au)  
**24 hour Incident Line:** 1800 061 069

If you see any illegal activities, spills, or other incidents in the Special Areas you can help WaterNSW protect your water by reporting the incident on our 24 hour Incident Line – 1800 061 069. Please provide information including the type of activity, the time, date and location and details of any vehicles involved. Your report will be confidential.

## NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NSW Office of Environment & Heritage)

**Phone:** 1300 PARKS (1300 072 757)  
**Website:** [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)  
**Email:** [info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au)



## Visiting dams and reservoirs

WaterNSW manages and protects a network of dams and reservoirs set in natural bushland where visitors are welcome. These dams and reservoirs are an easy drive from Sydney and offer ideal locations for picnics and sightseeing.

For more information about facilities, opening times and permitted activities at each area visit [www.watnsw.com.au](http://www.watnsw.com.au). Access to these areas may be restricted from time to time due to operational activities.

See map on the reverse side of this brochure for locations.

**Warragamba Dam and Visitor Centre**

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Warragamba Dam (E3) is an easy drive from Sydney. Viewing platforms give visitors views of the dam wall and Lake Burragorang. The Warragamba Dam Visitor Centre includes an exhibition centre offering interactive displays on dams and Sydney's water supply. Electric barbecues and a children's playground are available in the nearby Warragamba Recreation Reserve.

**Woronora Dam Picnic Area**

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Woronora Dam (map reference G5) is located south of Sydney, near Waterfall.

**Upper Nepean Dams – Cataract, Cordeaux, Avon, and Nepean Dams Picnic Areas**

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Cataract (F6), Cordeaux (F6), Avon (E6) and Nepean (E6) dams are located south of Sydney. Children's playgrounds are at all dams except Avon.

**Prospect Reservoir**

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Prospect Reservoir (F2) is located on Prospect Creek, approximately 35 kilometres west of Sydney.

The picnic areas at Prospect Reservoir are managed by Sydney Water. For more information regarding the facilities at this site please visit [www.sydneywater.com.au](http://www.sydneywater.com.au).

**Wingecarribee Reservoir Picnic Area**

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Wingecarribee Reservoir (D8) is located south of Sydney near Moss Vale.

**Fitzroy Falls Reservoir Picnic Area**

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Fitzroy Falls Reservoir (D9) is located near Moss Vale, about 160 kilometres south-west of Sydney. The designated land based fishing area is located separately to the picnic area.

**Bendeela Recreation Area**

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You can drive to the Bendeela Recreation Area (D9) on the banks of Lake Yarrunga, near Kangaroo Valley. Only unpowered boating is permitted.

**Tallowa Dam Picnic Area**

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Tallowa Dam (C9) is situated on the Shoalhaven River near Kangaroo Valley, about 200 kilometres south of Sydney. Only unpowered boating is permitted. Fishing, swimming and boating is not allowed in the safety exclusion zone around the dam wall.

## National Parks in Special Areas

The Special Areas overlap with large areas of national parks. The Special Areas restrictions apply to national parks within the Special Areas however the following sites are accessible to the public. Activities at these sites are restricted unless specified and access beyond any locked gates is not permitted.

For more information about recreation, facilities and alerts in national parks please visit [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au) or contact National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) on **1300 PARKS (1300 072 757)**.

**Burragorang Lookout**

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Burragorang lookout is on the edge of a cliff at Nattai (D4), approximately 40 minutes by car from Warragamba Dam. You can drive to the lookout which has spectacular views of Lake Burragorang.

**The Katoomba to Mittagong walking track**

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The Katoomba to Mittagong walking track passes through two walking corridors in the Special Areas. You can walk across the Cocks River and over Mount Cookem (B3) and across the Wollondilly River over Beloon Pass to the Nattai River valley (C5). This walk should only be undertaken by experienced bushwalkers.

**McMahons Lookout**

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You can drive to McMahons Lookout (C3) via the unsealed Kings Tableland Road south of Wentworth Falls for a different view of Lake Burragorang.

**Yerranderie Township**

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You can drive to the historic Yerranderie silver mining town (B5) via the unsealed Oberon Colong Stock Route. This is the only public access road to Yerranderie.

**Walls Cave, Blackheath**

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You can walk to Walls Cave (C1), a significant Aboriginal heritage site, via the Walls Cave walking track beginning at Evans Lookout Road in Blackheath.

**Woodford Catchment**

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Some areas of the Woodford Special Area (D2) are open for recreational use. You can walk and ride bicycles in the Blue Mountains National Park within the Special Area which can be accessed from Winbourne Road or Clearview Parade. Signs clearly mark no entry areas including Woodford Dam and Lake Woodford. The Transit of Venus day walk is 3 kilometres in length and traverses a number of small waterfalls.

**Narrow Neck Lookout, Katoomba**

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You can walk and ride a bicycle to Narrow Neck lookout south from Katoomba, located at Clear Hill approximately 10 kilometres from the locked gate (C2). Bicycles are not permitted beyond the lookout via Tarros Ladder or west of the Narrow Neck fire tower via Carlson's Head.

**Jamison and Kedumba Valley**

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You can walk the Ruined Castle walking track which descends into Jamison Valley via the Golden Stairs to the Ruined Castle (C2) rock formation.

Experienced bush walkers can walk the challenging Mount Solitary (C2) walking track.

### Key

- Parking
- Toilets
- Accessible toilets
- Picnic shelter
- Viewing area/Lookout
- Electric BBQs
- Hot water
- Children's playground
- Picnic area
- Information
- Walking
- Camping
- Swimming
- Non powered watercraft
- Cycling
- Fishing

