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

Visiting dams and reservoirs

Warragamba Dam and Visitor Centre 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 catchments and can’t do

Special Areas

No entry

ENTRY IS NOT ALLOWED

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

Controlled Areas – No entry

ENTRY IS NOT ALLOWED

These areas include the land around Warragamba protecting the water supply infrastructure, and the land along the Warragamba Reservoir and upper Canal.

Specail Area to protect our drinking water

Woronora Dam Picnic Area

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

Key

Parking
Toilets
Accessible toilets
Picnic area
Information
Fishing
Walking
Electric BBQs
Camping
Hot water
Swimming
Not powered watercraft
Not accessible

National Parks in Special Areas

Worangara Catchment

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 bushwalking.

For more information about facilities, opening times and permitted activities at each area visit www.waternsw.com.au. Access to these areas may be restricted from time to time due to operational activities. See map on the reverse side of the brochure for locations.

Warragamba Dam Picnic Area

Woronora Dam Picnic Area (map reference E6) is located south of Sydney, near Waterfall. 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.

Wingecarribee Reserves Picnic Area

Wingecarribee Reserves Picnic Area (map reference C9) is located on the banks of Lake Yerramong, near Kangaroo Valley, about 30 kilometres south-west of Sydney. The designated boat-based fishing area located separately to the picnic area.

Prospect Reservoir

Prospect Reservoir (map reference E6) is located south of Sydney near Most Vale. 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.

Upper Nepean Dam – Cataract, Cordeaux, Reservoir, and Nepean Dam Points Area

Cataract (W3), Cordeaux Reservoir (W3), and Nepean Dam Points Area (W3) are referred to as the Warragamba Dam complex. The total area of the dam and reservoir system is 200,000 hectares.

Penrith Valley Reservoir Picnic Area

Penrith Valley Reservoir Picnic Area (map reference D6) is located south of Sydney near Most Vale, about 50 kilometres south-west of Sydney. This area is classed as restricted access.

Burrangorang Lookout

Burrangorang Lookout is on the edge of a cliff at Narrow Neck (D2), approximately 45 minutes by car from Warragamba Dam. You can drive to the lookout south from Katoomba, located at Clear Hill. You can drive to McMahons Lookout (E6) via the unsealed Kings Tableland Road south of Warrambool Falls for a different view of Lake Burragorang.

The Lookout by Narrow Neck walking track

You can walk from Narrow Neck lookout south of Katoomba, located at Cleare Hill, approximately 15 kilometres from the lookout via the scenic lookout. Some areas of the Woodford Special Area (D2) are open for recreational use. You can walk and ride between the Blue Mountains National Park within the Special Areas which can be accessed from Wollondilly Road or Orange Vale. Sign clearly marks entry areas including Woodford Dam and Lake Woodford.

WaterNSW

Visiting dams and reservoirs

Fishing, swimming and boating is not allowed in the safety exclusion zone around the dam wall.

Fishing, swimming and boating is not allowed in the safety exclusion zone around the dam wall.

You can walk and ride between the Blue Mountains National Park within the Special Areas which can be accessed from Wollondilly Road or Orange Vale. Sign clearly marks entry areas including Woodford Dam and Lake Woodford.

The Lookout by Narrow Neck walking track

You can walk from Narrow Neck lookout south of Katoomba, located at Cleare Hill, approximately 15 kilometres from the lookout via the scenic lookout. Some areas of the Woodford Special Area (D2) are open for recreational use. You can walk and ride between the Blue Mountains National Park within the Special Areas which can be accessed from Wollondilly Road or Orange Vale. Sign clearly marks entry areas including Woodford Dam and Lake Woodford.

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

You can walk and ride between the Blue Mountains National Park within the Special Areas which can be accessed from Wollondilly Road or Orange Vale. Sign clearly marks entry areas including Woodford Dam and Lake Woodford. These areas include the water storages and surrounding land of Fitzroy Falls Reservoir and part of Lake Yerramong, which are classed as restricted access.

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

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 areas are accessible to the public. Activities at these areas 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 or contact National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) on 1300 PARKS (1300 727 577).