

# The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW

“Promoting Sustainable Fishing”

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### Proposed road closures to Meroo Recreational Fishing Haven

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) are proposing to close vehicle access to the Meroo Lake Recreational Fishing Haven and Termeil Lake, which have been poorly maintained by NPWS and provide access for recreational fishers, bush walkers, beach users and other enthusiasts.

This is totally unacceptable, the President of the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW, Malcolm Poole said, their proposal indicates that ‘limited’ vehicular access will remain, however access for all users to the lakes shores will prevent many activities like, bush walking, bird watching and easy launching of boats, canoes and other forms of small water craft used on the lakes.

Mr Poole went on to say that, ‘The Alliance’s Vice President, Max Castle has spent an enormous amount of time considering the recommendations in the Park Draft Plan of Management (DPoM) for the area, had discussions with local fishers and other park users, and meet with NPWS and NSW DPI. From Max’s local investigations, he has attempted to address and provide alternate solutions to National Parks on the plans many inadequacies, particularly easy vehicular access and facilities to accommodate park users of all ages and ability

Through the lack of access track maintenance by the Service, vehicular access to the Lakes is questionable, with many park users taking a big chance in normal 2WD vehicles when it is dry, with 4WD vehicles offering the safe alternative when it is wet.

Mr Poole noted that the solution is simple to provide ongoing protection for the environment. The Service needs to identify through constructive consultation with park user groups which access tracks should remain open and be repaired, providing good safe access and parking to the main areas visited, which includes the beaches, headlands and lakes edge, then close down all other side tracks and regenerate them with natural bushland.

It is very obvious from photos and reports that the extra tracks and environmental damage, has come about from the Services own negligence and poor park management, in not providing safe, well constructed all weather vehicular access for all park users.

It is impractical to expect the community to carry in small craft such canoes, kayaks and the like to gain water access. NPWS proposal for such closures can not be justified and discriminates against the elderly the handicapped and those with poor health.

The NSW Government and the estimated 1 million Recreational Fishers of NSW fully supported and paid for the creation of 30 Recreational Fishing Havens along the NSW coast some 6 years ago, which created the Meroo Lake fishing haven.

For NPWS to now suggest and instigate locking fishers out, as well as other park users is totally uncalled for.

The Recreational Fishing Alliance calls on the Premier and the respective Ministers to have the NPWS further consult the public and agree to retain, fund and repair these access roads in and around Meroo and Termeil Lakes.

***The RFA of NSW- “PROMOTING SAFE AND ENJOYABLE FISHING”***

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