

Introducing the Tomaree Coastal Walk Project

Delivering spectacular 20 kilometre walk from Tomaree Head to Birubi Point, Port Stephens



The experience

The Tomaree Coastal Walk aims to deliver an iconic nature-based tourism attraction for Port Stephens, promote the outstanding natural and cultural heritage of Tomaree National Park and build a valued legacy for future generations.

The project will create a spectacular 20 kilometre walking track from Tomaree Head to Birubi Point, including a significant upgrade to the Tomaree Summit and Gun Emplacement walks, new and upgraded walking tracks, lookouts, viewing platforms and other visitor facilities in Tomaree National Park.

The Tomaree Coastal Walk will cater for a range of visitor experiences from short walks to half or multi-day options, and provide opportunities for tourism partnerships.

Part of the Worimi cultural landscape, the area is steeped in history with ancient volcanic peaks delivering breathtaking views and the rich WWII heritage of Tomaree Head, secluded beaches and bays, whales, wildflowers and abundant wildlife - all waiting to be explored.

It is expected the project will promote strong partnerships with community, industry and government and provide economic benefits to the local community.

The project

The Tomaree Coastal Walk project will deliver a key piece of tourism infrastructure for Port Stephens.

The project is currently in the planning stage including geo-technical and engineering investigations, concept design, environmental and heritage assessments and initial stakeholder engagement.

A masterplan is being developed and will provide details about the 20 kilometre walking track and associated visitor facilities. The draft masterplan will be publicly displayed and once finalised will guide delivery.

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service will deliver the project in stages over four years, with construction expected to be completed in 2022.

The Tomaree Coastal Walk received \$6.74 million in funding, as one of nine visitor infrastructure projects funded by NSW Government to increase nature-based tourism in NSW, boost regional visitor economies and improve community wellbeing.

These projects will significantly enhance visitor facilities and create new iconic experiences in NSW National Parks.

Protecting park values

Our national parks are managed to protect their unique values and provide for sustainable visitor use and enjoyment. This includes providing visitor experiences and where appropriate, new visitor facilities including tracks and trails.

Independent environmental assessments will be conducted for the project to assess potential environmental impacts and determine measures to address these so the park's values are protected.

As part of the project, the Tomaree National Park Plan of Management will be reviewed to ensure the project meets environmental, cultural and economic aspirations. The plan of management amendments will be exhibited in 2019 for public comment.

Sharing stories

Offering a series of short, half or multi-day walk options, the Tomaree Coastal Walk will inspire visitors to explore the outstanding natural and cultural heritage of Tomaree National Park, and the idyllic coastal villages and bays of Port Stephens.

Interpretation through innovative storytelling is one of the most effective ways to enhance the visitor experience. Developing rich and engaging interpretation will be a key focus of the project, immersing walkers in the landscape to create a strong connection and sense of place.

Community consultation

We recognise that community input adds value to the work we do. Those interested in the project are invited to register their interest online to receive updates on the project's progress and notification of any consultation opportunity. **Visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/tomareecoastalwalk.**

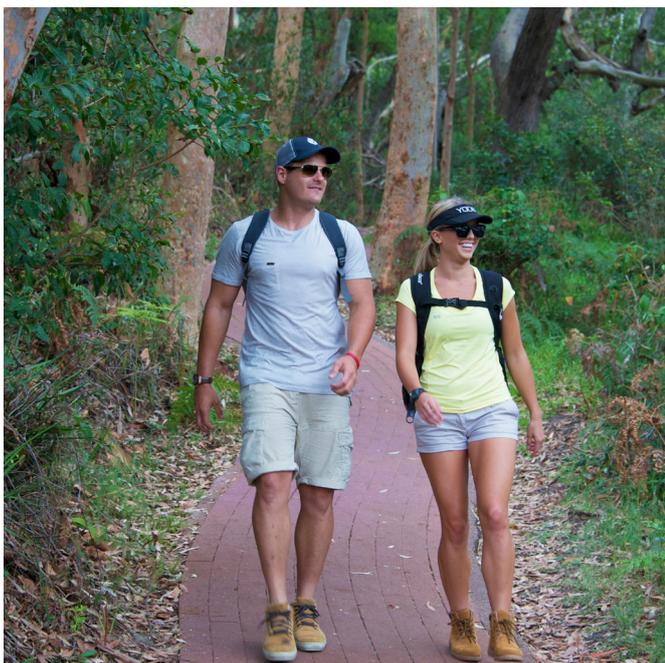


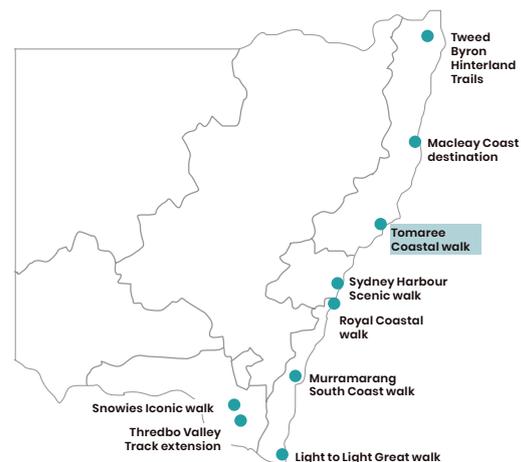
Photo: Tomaree Head walking track (Destination Port Stephens/OEH).



Photo: World-class views from Tomaree Summit (John Spencer/OEH).

Next steps in 2019/2020

- Finalise concept and technical investigations
- Environmental and heritage assessments
- Plan of Management amendment - public display
- Ongoing stakeholder engagement
- Draft masterplan - public display
- Construction to commence



Tomaree Coastal Walk is one of nine Visitor Infrastructure Projects funded by NSW Government to increase nature-based tourism in NSW, boost regional visitor economies and improve community wellbeing.

For more information visit environment.nsw.gov.au/tomareecoastalwalk

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