

Changes to McBrides Beach access

A beautiful and remote beach at Cape Hawke in Booti Booti National Park



Where is McBrides Beach?

McBrides Beach is a small, remote beach on the northern coastline of Cape Hawke, within Booti Booti National Park, adjoining the Port Stephens Great Lakes Marine Park, near Forster. This section of coastline is known for its outstanding beauty, rugged cliffs and offshore reefs.

What are the changes?

- NPWS is constructing a new walking track to provide safe pedestrian access to McBrides Beach from the Council carpark on Cape Hawke Drive. The track is designed to maximise accessibility for people with a range of fitness levels.
NSW Government funding through the Improving Access to National Parks Program has made it possible to improve walking access for the local community and visitors at Cape Hawke.
- NPWS is temporarily closing the severely eroded McBrides vehicle trail from Cape Hawke Drive to address immediate safety issues.

Why are the changes necessary?

The new walking track and temporary closure of the vehicle trail will:

- address the immediate safety risk to drivers, passengers and pedestrians from this severely eroded and dangerous access to the beach
- protect areas of Littoral Rainforest on Cape Hawke, nationally listed as a Critically Endangered Ecological Community
- protect Aboriginal cultural sites occurring in the area around McBrides Beach
- protect beach foreshore areas from damage by vehicles, dumped waste and bushfire risk from illegal campfires.



What is the future of the trail?

The future of the McBrides vehicle trail from Cape Hawke Drive is being reviewed. NPWS is working with stakeholders to consider viable options, given the significant management concerns.

The lower sections of trail where vehicles have damaged Aboriginal cultural sites and protected native vegetation will be permanently closed and rehabilitated in coming months.

The plan of management for Booti Booti clearly identifies that access by vehicles to the beach is prohibited.

Camping on McBrides Beach is also not permitted.

When will it happen?

November:

- Construction of the walking track to McBrides Beach commences first week in November.
- Temporary closure of McBrides vehicle trail from Cape Hawke Drive commences from early November and will be notified on the NPWS website.
- NPWS will work with stakeholders to consider viable options for the future of McBrides vehicle trail.

December:

- The walking track will be complete. Waste will be removed from the beach and visitor directional signage installed.

Future experiences at Cape Hawke

NPWS is investigating options for additional walking experiences to link Cape Hawke with nearby locations. Extending the walking track network on Cape Hawke is subject to available funding.

For enquiries please contact the NPWS Manning Great Lakes Area office on 02 65910300