

## Congo Road north workshop – 17 November 2022

### Information supplied by NSW National Park and Wildlife Service

- Construction of a new public road through an existing national park is not able to be authorised under the National Parks and Wildlife Act (174 (NPW Act)).
- To enable a new road to be constructed, the reservation of the land as a national park would have to be revoked.
- This requires an Act of Parliament.
- As set out in the NPWS Revocations Policy, revocations are a last resort and are considered where no other practical options are available.
- There are many examples of revocations to enable priority road infrastructure projects to proceed. Schedule 2 of the NPW Act sets out past revocations.
- Compensation is usually required for the loss of land from the national parks system – typically in the form of other land that is added to the system, together with land management funding for that land.
- The Revocations Policy requires the proponent to provide information to demonstrate that the proposed revocation is essential and that the combined effect of the revocation and compensation will result in an overall public good outcome.
- In the current case, it is understood that Congo is already serviced and fully accessible by an existing sealed, 2 lane, and 2WD suitable road, which provides safe access from Congo to Moruya (the nearest large town).
- On available information, it is also understood that the alternative, secondary road now being considered would be in addition to this existing road, and would provide marginal travel time reduction to Moruya (between 5-10 minutes). Aside from the travel time reduction, there appear to be no other valid reasons presented for the proposed secondary road.
- On that basis, and noting the impacts that a proposed secondary road would likely have on the environmental and cultural values of the land that are currently reserved as national park, there is virtually no prospect that the proposal could satisfy the requirement to be “essential”.
- It should also be noted that revocations occur infrequently – typically on a 2-4 year cycle – and that ultimately it is Parliament that decides whether to support the legislative amendment needed to revoke the reservation of land under the NPW Act.

*Supplied for the workshop by email on 11 November from Manager, Eurobodalla Area, South Coast Branch, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.*