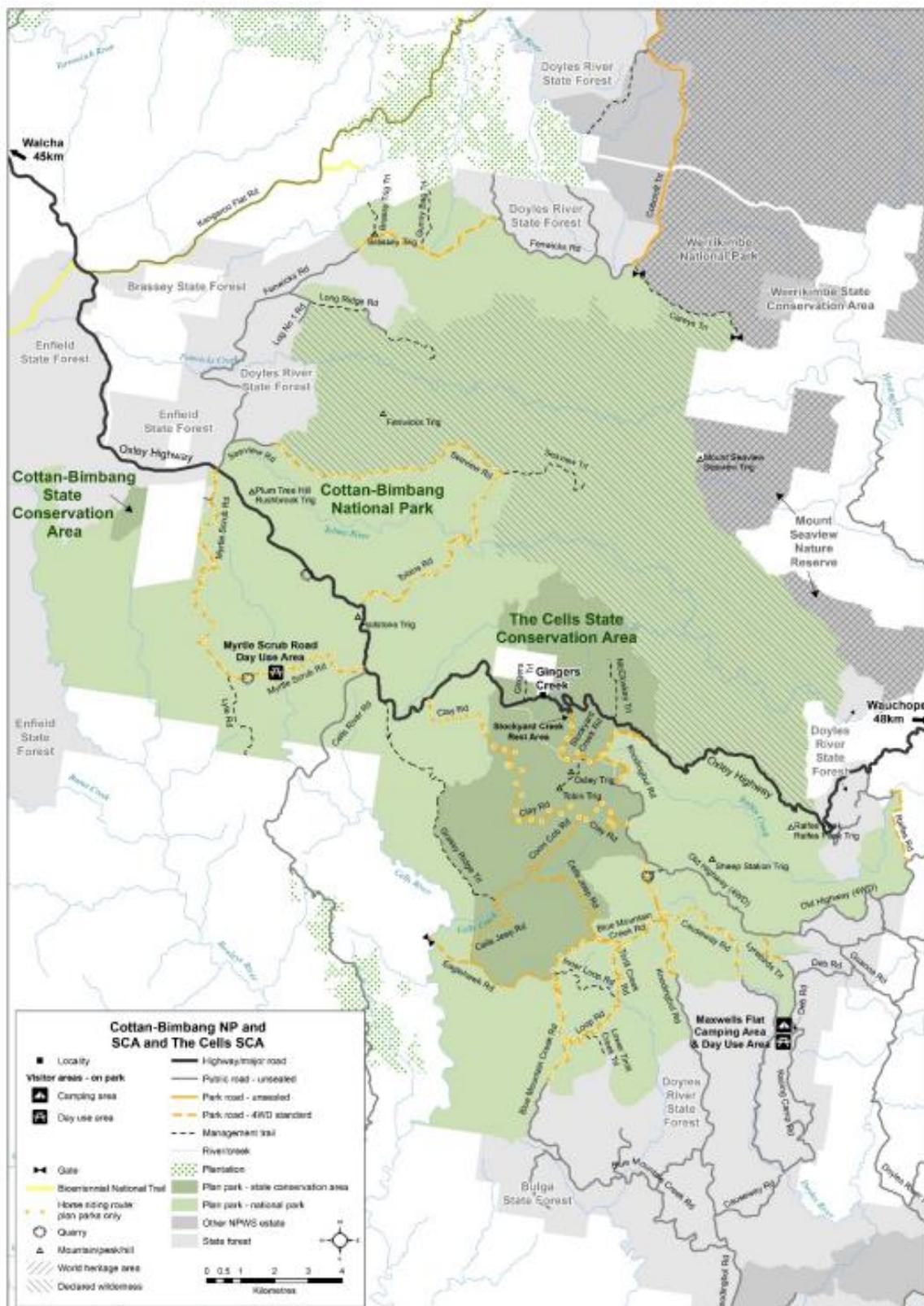


Fossicking now allowed in the Cells State Conservation Area!

I am pleased to advise that a plan of management for Cottan-Bimbang National Park, Cottan-Bimbang State Conservation Area and The Cells State Conservation Area has been adopted under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

The parks are located between Wauchope and Walcha in the hinterland of the NSW North Coast. The parks cover 35,492 hectares and are in the administrative areas of the Birpai and Purfleet-Taree local Aboriginal land councils.



The parks contain a wilderness landscape with high conservation values, protect Aboriginal cultural heritage and are home to a section of the original convict-built road linking Port Macquarie and Walcha. Other important natural values include Mount Seaview Wilderness Area, 33 threatened animal species and six threatened plant species. The new plan will protect these significant values, including extensive areas of old-growth forest and rainforests. The plan also provides for continued and enhanced visitor opportunities in remote areas while improving existing recreational opportunities, including four-wheel driving, cycling and bushwalking.

The draft plan of management for these parks attracted a small number of submissions mainly relating to fossicking and vehicle access. Minor changes were made to the plan to:

- permit fossicking in The Cells SCA using handheld metal detectors and pans
- enable a new telecommunications facility to be built as part of the NSW Government Radio Network, subject to environmental impact assessment.

The adopted plan is available at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/park-management/parks-plans-of-management>.

Yours sincerely



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