

## The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC

Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy,  
Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage,  
Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council



Your ref: D24/022001  
Our ref: MD24/3608

Mr David Blunt  
Clerk of the Parliaments  
Clerk of the Legislative Council

By email: [lc.procedure@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lc.procedure@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Blunt

I write in response to the ePetition with more than 10,000 signatures from the Hon John Ruddick MLC, to reopen the Wollumbin (Mount Warning) summit track in Wollumbin National Park.

Access to the Wollumbin summit track has been a complex issue for more than a decade. Moving forward, the NSW Government has a strong focus on how consultation can be improved, and how the summit track will be managed into the future.

Wollumbin summit track was first closed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in March 2020 due to COVID-19, and then it remained closed due to safety concerns regarding infrastructure that assisted walkers to the peak, which was subsequently removed. The entire park was closed in 2022 due to significant flooding. The park, excluding the summit track and Aboriginal Place, reopened on 1 July 2023.

The Wollumbin summit track remains closed to the public and no person, regardless of race or gender, is permitted to access the summit track without written consent of NPWS. NPWS has received several requests to access the Wollumbin summit track from members of the public. As of 23 May 2024, no requests for consent to access the closed part of the park have been approved by NPWS.

Given the deep significance the site holds for Aboriginal people, NPWS has been working closely with the Wollumbin Consultative Group (WCG), which represents a range of Aboriginal groups and families, including men and women with a connection to the site.

NPWS has also established the Wollumbin Stakeholder Advisory Committee to provide a forum for other key stakeholders, including local government and the tourism industry, to provide their views to the WCG about future management of Wollumbin and other recreational opportunities in national parks in the Tweed Byron area.

While there has been much community uncertainty about the time taken to resolve this issue, it is important that we ensure all stakeholders, including the Aboriginal custodians, are appropriately consulted about future management of Wollumbin National Park.

These discussions will further develop the Government's understanding of the issue and, along with legal and other considerations, help us to make an informed decision about future management of the park.

Sincerely



**Penny Sharpe MLC**

Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy,  
Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage

7/6/24