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Great North Walk Upgrades – Berowra to Cowan - Outcome

In July 2022, Council publicly exhibited the proposal to upgrade sections of the Great North Walk (GNW) between Berowra and Cowan including formalising the Alston Drive to GNW 'feeder track' (Section 6). Council widely sought feedback from residents and community groups and received six (6) formal submissions. Consultation with the community has provided positive feedback for all proposed upgrades with one (1) submission opposed to upgrading Section 6.

Currently, Section 6 is exclusively used by local and/or experienced bushwalkers. As per Council's Walking and Cycling Strategy, the aim of this upgrade is to improve inclusiveness, encourage seniors, families, new users and social interaction. Also, to improve connectivity to the Great North Walk (GNW) by improving leader tracks and links from the urban area to the natural area by providing clearly defined track heads and wayfinding signage.

Council's position is that formalising this trail (Section 6) addresses current and future management issues such as:

- Ever increasing erosion and erodibility of the trail surface
- Lack of wayfinding signs/directional markers leading to walking off track, using less safe terrain for access or creating new trails
- Impacts on vegetation from trampling due to multiple trail alignments being created
- Rubbish generated from hang out areas
- Mountain bike use on walking tracks

An independent ecologist has undertaken the appropriate environmental assessment for proposed upgrades. Some sections are on Muogamarra Nature Reserve and Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC) land which requires further conditions and approval to be resolved.

The primary approved scope of work for upgrades is focused on Section 5 & Section 6 including:

- Sandstone steps constructed to suit the existing trail conditions
- Directional markers and track head signage
- Track alignment adjustments (Section 6)
- Vegetation and drainage management

Upgrades to remaining sections (starting with Section 4) will be undertaken pending future funding and approvals.

- **Works on Section 6 are scheduled to start on 24th October 2022, finishing in January 2023, weather pending.**
- **Works on Section 5 are scheduled to start in February 2023, finishing in March 2023, weather pending.**
- **During works and/or during helicopter operations the relevant track section will be closed.**
- **Track users will be advised of closures and detours with signs installed throughout the area.**

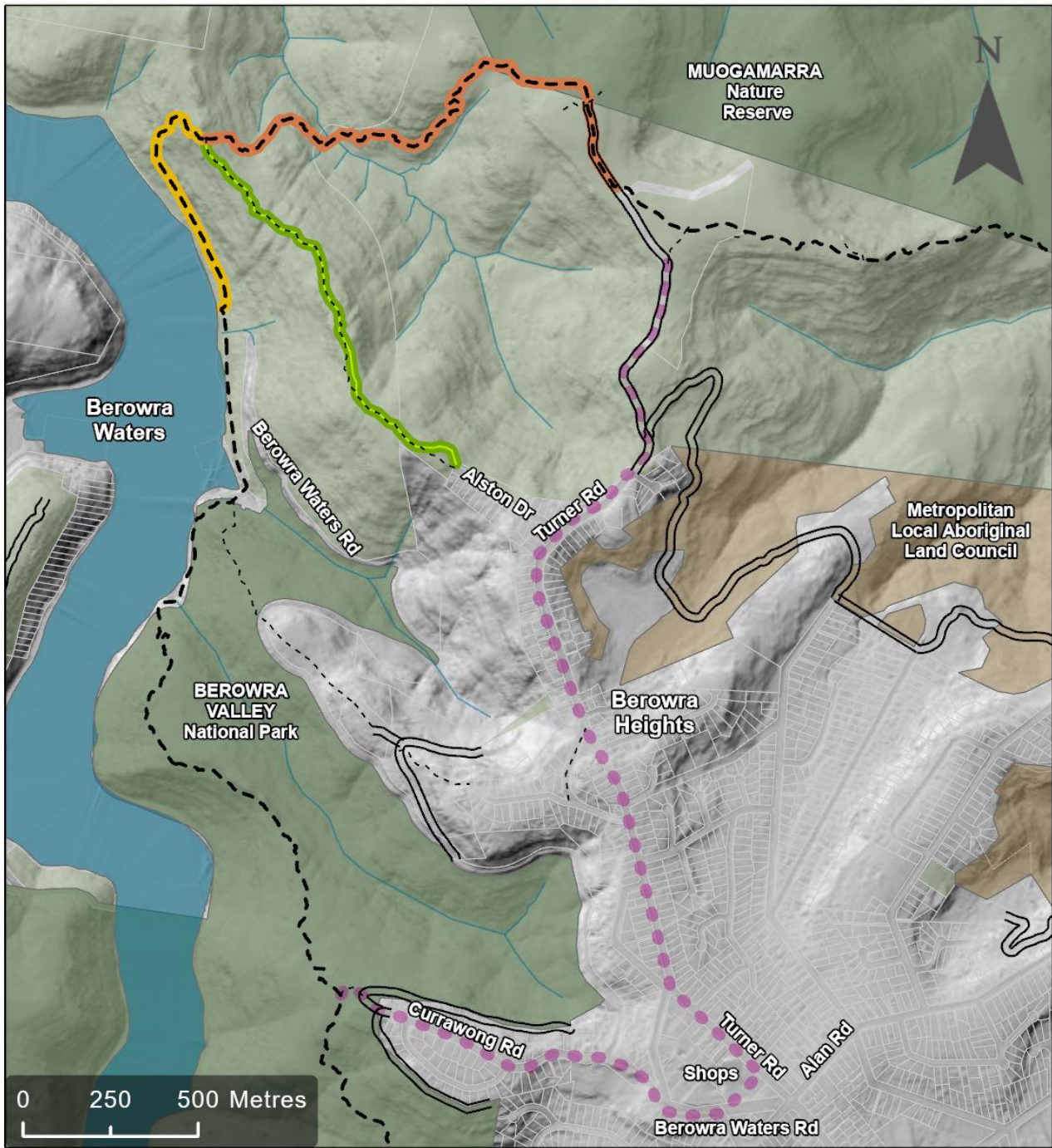
To view plans and for more details visit: www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/council/noticeboard/works/infrastructure-works

For enquiries, please contact David Green on 9847 6851 or email: dgreen@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Yours faithfully,



David Green
Project Officer – Bushland Trail Infrastructure
Natural Resources Branch



Legend

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|---|--|---|
|  Section 6 |  Great North Walk |  Detour |
|  Section 5 |  Unmanaged Trail |  Watercourse |
|  Section 4 |  Management Trail |  National Park |

