



## ISSUE ALERT

**Wednesday, 27 July 2022 | Criticality - Medium | National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)**

**Issue** – NPWS will close an area of Royal National Park on which eight of the Bulgo Cabins are located due to land instability/landslip risk. A geotechnical assessment will be completed to inform management actions.

### Background

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The cabins community of Bulgo is one of several located in Royal National Park and the cabins are occupied by private individuals under licences granted in the 1970s. There are over 50 cabins in the Bulgo community.

The recent record-breaking rainfall impacting the east coast impacted many areas of the park and supporting infrastructure including Garie Road, Mckell Avenue and many fire trails and walking tracks.

Assessments of NPWS assets and infrastructure are ongoing during these events and expert input is sought as required.

In 2005, the then Minister for the Environment sought to transition all cabins in Royal National Park onto new licences. The Burning Palms, Little Garie and South Era cabin communities challenged this action in court and eventually agreed to new licences after mediation while the Bulgo community refused to change. In 2015, annual licence fees at Bulgo were increased to match the other cabin communities. However, most licensees have refused to pay the higher fees or engage with NPWS.

There are longstanding issues that limit engagement with this community that is hostile to any attempt at regulation and there is little contact with NPWS operational staff.

### Key facts

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While undertaking a review of a location in the southern end of Royal National Park using aerial photography imagery (NearMap), cracks and 'slumps' were noted around several cabins, as shown in the image below. The image predate recent heavy rains in June and July 2022.

Around eight cabins appear to be affected. Geotechnical advice is required to determine the full extent. These issues have not been raised with NPWS by residents. The damage is consistent with other areas in the park on similar geology that have been impacted in these events, such as Garie Road.

The Minister has the power to terminate the Bulgo cabin licences at any time for any reason by notice published in the Gazette.

The licence conditions indemnifies the Minister and the Park Authority in relation to all actions, suits, claims and demands in respect of any accident or injury. The Minister and the Park Authority are not liable for any act, default or neglect.

### Next steps

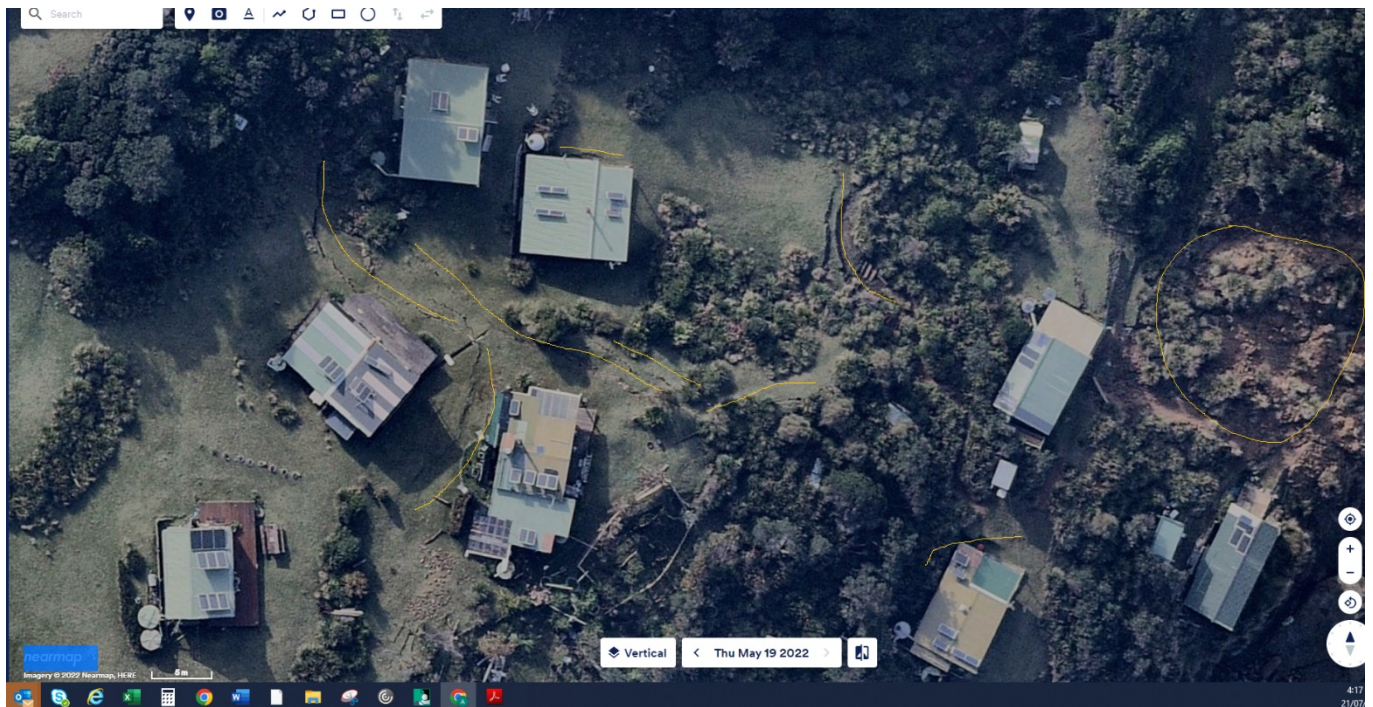
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- NPWS has engaged a geotechnical engineer to survey the site on 27 July 2022 to determine the hazard potential. Initial verbal advice is likely to be provided during the site survey with a formal report expected two weeks after the inspection.
- A LiDAR equipped drone survey will also be undertaken as soon as practical.
- NPWS will close the area of the park impacted by the instability and notify residents that they should not enter the closed area until advice has been received from a geotechnical engineer.
- NPWS will seek to establish a liaison person within the Bulgo Community to assist with notifications.
- NPWS will produce letters and signage as soon as possible to alert residents to the potential hazard and advise of closures to impacted areas.

## Contact and approval

Contact	Position	Phone
Brendon Neilly	Area Manager, Royal Area NPWS	0428 507 920
Approved by	Position	Date
Deon van Rensburg	A/Executive Director Park Operations Coastal NPWS	26/07/2022
Naomi Stephens	A/Deputy Secretary NPWS	26/07/2022

## Image showing cracks and slumping



**From:** [Shannon McIvor](#)  
**To:** [EES MSS Team 4 Registration Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Max Humphries Royal National Parks Huts  
**Date:** Friday, 16 September 2022 3:41:52 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

Hi Team 4,  
Please see the below.

## Allocation Sheet - Correspondence and Briefings

### Environment and Heritage Portfolio

Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	MO contacts
<input type="checkbox"/> OECC	<input type="checkbox"/> BCD MD	<input type="checkbox"/> People, Performance & Culture	DLO: Shannon McIvor
<input type="checkbox"/> EPA	<input type="checkbox"/> BCD SM	<input type="checkbox"/> Events and Visits - Correspondence	
	<input type="checkbox"/> NPWS	<input type="checkbox"/> Governance, Strategy and Coordination	
	<input type="checkbox"/> BCT		Adviser:
	<input type="checkbox"/> LHI		
	<input type="checkbox"/> SEI		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Zoo		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Heritage		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Grants		
<b>Response type</b>	<b>Signatory</b>		<b>Due</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> letter	<input type="checkbox"/> Minister		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> immediate – 1 week
<input type="checkbox"/> email	<input type="checkbox"/> Chief of Staff		<input type="checkbox"/> urgent – 2 weeks
<input type="checkbox"/> briefing note	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agency		<input type="checkbox"/> early – 3 weeks
<input type="checkbox"/> dot points			<input type="checkbox"/> routine – 4 weeks
<input type="checkbox"/> agency to meet			<input type="checkbox"/> date –
<input type="checkbox"/> referral to –			
<input type="checkbox"/> for info only			
<input type="checkbox"/> no response necessary			
<b>Instructions/notes</b>			

**From:** Kim Preston-Hiney <Kim.Preston-Hiney@minister.nsw.gov.au>

**Sent:** Friday, 16 September 2022 1:33 PM

**To:** Shannon McIvor <Shannon.McIvor@minister.nsw.gov.au>

**Subject:** Max Humphries Royal National Parks Huts

Dear Shannon

Please can you provide the Manly EO with some feedback for their constituent relating to Royal Cabins?

Thank you in advance.

Kind regards

**Kim Preston-Hiney**

Parliamentary and Policy Adviser - Heritage

**Office of the Hon James Griffin MP**

**Minister for Environment and Heritage**

T 8574 6838 M 0438 599 182

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[nsw.gov.au/ministergriffin](http://nsw.gov.au/ministergriffin)

52 Martin Place

Sydney NSW 2000





I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and pay respects to Elders past and present. I also acknowledge all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff working with NSW Government at this time.  
Please consider the environment before printing this email.

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**From:** Flinders Brogden <[Flinders.Brogden@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Flinders.Brogden@parliament.nsw.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Friday, 16 September 2022 9:26 AM

**To:** Kim Preston-Hiney <[Kim.Preston-Hiney@minister.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Kim.Preston-Hiney@minister.nsw.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Max Humphries Royal National Parks Huts

Hi Kim,

We have received a couple calls from Max Humphries who is both a constituent and owner of a hut/cabin in the Royal National park.

Max was hoping for a summary and timeline regarding the recently completed report about the huts.

Just wondering if you have any information or resources, I can pass onto him.

Thanks for your help.

Kind regards,

**Flinders Brogden**

Electorate Officer, Office of James Griffin MP

**Member for Manly, Minister for Environment and Heritage**

Manly Electorate Office, Shop 2, 2 Wentworth Street, MANLY, 2095, Phone: (02) 9976 2773

Website: [www.jamesgriffinmp.com/sign\\_up](http://www.jamesgriffinmp.com/sign_up)

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