

Mooney Mooney Creek Trackhead to Somersby



This enjoyable walk starts from where the old Pacific Hwy where you walk along dirt roads and trails for while alongside the wide Mooney Mooney Creek, and under the huge F3 Mooney Mooney bridge. The wide track continues upstream, passing a few campsites before crossing the wide creek at a pleasant large rock platform. Not too long after crossing the creek you will pass the lower Mooney Mooney Dam where the old trail leads you uphill past another campsite, a quarry to the Somersby Reservoir. The track then leads past some rural properties and across the delightful Robinson Creek among the Gynea Lilies before finishing with a section of road walking to the Somersby Store.

Length: 16.1 km
Time: 6 hrs
Climb: 680 m
Style: One way
Rating: Track: Hard
Where: 9.1 km W of Gosford
Transport: car bus



Visit www.wildwalks.com for more info



Brisbane Water National Park

Side trips and Alternate routes mentioned in these notes are not included in the tracks overall rating, distance or time estimate. The notes only describe the side trips and Alternate routes in one direction. Allow extra time for resting and exploring areas of interest. Please ensure you and your group are well prepared and equipped for all possible hazards and delays. The authors, staff and owners of wildwalks take care in preparing these notes but will not accept responsibility for any inconvenience, loss or injury sustained by using these notes or maps. Please take care and share your experience through the website. Please check park closures, weather information and Fire Danger Rating just before leaving for your walk. Walk maybe closed during Total Fire Ban. GPS for start the start of this walk:-33.438,151.2519 & for the end:-33.3581,151.2903

Wildwalks

April & May 2014 bushwalking Magazine.

Download the full magazine for free [Bushwalk Australia eMag](http://bushwalk.com)

The eMagazine is produces by the community at bushwalk.com and the Wildwalks team
[Bushwalk.com](http://bushwalk.com) Australia's most active bushwalking forum - Check it out.

Happy Reading. Matt :)

Mooney Mooney Creek Trackhead to Int of Karool Rd and Old Pacific Highway 0.3km 5 mins

(From S) From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Newcastle' sign along the narrowing gravel verge, keeping the Old Pacific Hwy just to your right. After about 200m, this walk comes to then crosses the concrete road bridge over Mooney Mooney Creek, enjoying the view of the wide creek below. Once on the other side, this walk heads past a detailed 'Risk Warning' sign suggesting you be sensible as you cross the bridge (hope it is not too late) to then come to an intersection with Karool Rd, just on the other side of the highway (on your right).

Old Pacific Highway Mooney Mooney Creek Bridge

The Sydney-Hawkesbury stretch of the Pacific Highway was built in the 1920s, replacing a route that had existed since the 1830s. The original Peats Ferry Road was cut by a settler named George Peat, making a track to his property on the banks of the Hawkesbury River.

This road became the 'Old Pacific Highway' upon the opening of the F3, or Sydney-Newcastle Freeway, in the 1980s. This bridge is the smaller of two crossing Mooney Mooney Creek - the other, Mooney Mooney Bridge, is part of the F3 freeway and is the highest road bridge in Australia.

Int of Karool Rd and Old Pacific Highway to National Park Gate 1.2km 15 mins

(From 0.32 km) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the gravel 'Karool Road' gently downhill, keeping Mooney Mooney Creek to your right. This road leads past a few homes for about 600m to then pass a notable houseboat house. About 250m past this house, this walk come to a Y-intersection, marked with a 'The Great North Walk' sign, just before the tall concrete Mooney Mooney Bridge.

Veer left: From the 'Y' intersection, this walk follows the 'The Great North Walk' sign along the upper dirt road to pass under the Mooney Mooney (F3 freeway) Bridge. Just over 250m after passing under the tall bridge, this walk leads up to a large turning area just before the locked gate, marked with a 'Brisbane Water National Park' sign.

National Park Gate to Mooney Mooney Creek Campsite (south) 0.6km 10 mins

(From 1.5 km) Continue straight: From the end of the dirt road (that branches of Karool Rd, just north of the Mooney Mooney Bridge), this walk heads uphill along the trail and around the locked gate next to the timber 'Brisbane Water National Park' sign. The trail leads uphill for about 200m to where the trail bends left to pass over the crest of the hill (passing a faint track on your left). Here the trail leads down the other side, still keeping Mooney Mooney Creek to your right for another 400m to come to an intersection marked with a GNW arrow post, beside a large grassy clearing and campsite (on your right).



Mooney Mooney Creek Campsite (south)

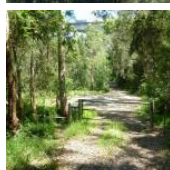
This clearing is beside the wide Mooney Mooney Creek and provides a large flat area to pitch a few tents. There are some high tension power lines nearby and you can hear the hum of the F3 from here, so it is not the most remote campsite. There are no facilities or water (the creek is salty). All that said it is still a pleasant spot beside the wide creek to rest for a while or for the night.



Mooney Mooney Creek Campsite (south) to Mooney Mooney Creek Campsite (north) 1.3km 20 mins

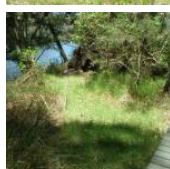
(From 2.1 km) Veer right: From the intersection just above the campsite, this walk follows the GNW arrow post down along the track, keeping the clearing and campsite to the right. The track soon leads over a small flat timber bridge then over the next 60m, the track heads under the high tension power lines (past the caution sign) and then along a short section of timber boardwalk. About 20m later, this walk veers right at a Y-intersection, then continues along the mostly flat track beside Mooney Mooney Creek for about 300m, to cross a small rocky tidal creek. The track then continues through the tall forest beside Mooney Mooney Creek for about 600m, passing a couple of she-oak stands before the track then bends left and comes to an indistinct intersection beside a timber and metal footbridge.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk crosses the timber and metal footbridge over a tidal, unnamed creek to then turn right and follow the track which soon bends left. Keeping Mooney Mooney Creek to the right, this track passes a small cliff then follows the mostly flat track through the tall forest for about 170m to come to a large clearing with tall blue gums and a metal fireplace (on your left), signposted as a 'Camping area'.



Mooney Mooney Creek Campsite (north)

This signposted campsite sits among the tall eucalypt and bracken fern forest beside the Mooney Mooney Creek. This is a very pleasant flat clearing to spend a night, there is a small metal fireplace hotplate and room for a small number of tents. There is no drinking water or other facilities at this campsite (Mooney Mooney Creek is salty at this point, treatable water may be found about 2km north).



Mooney Mooney Creek Campsite (north) to Mooney Mooney Creek crossing 2.1km 40 mins

(From 3.42 km) Continue straight: From the campsite, this walk follows the clear track north, keeping the wide Mooney Mooney Creek to your right. The clear, wide and mostly flat track leads alongside the creek for about 1.2km to come to the southern bank of Ausburn Creek (about 130m past a rock wall, on your left), a few metres above its confluence with Mooney Mooney Creek.

Continue straight: From the south bank of Ausburn Creek, this walk crosses the narrow rock platform and creek, then follows the track fairly steeply uphill for about 200m. At the top of this climb, the track gently undulates alongside Mooney Mooney Creek for about 700m before heading down to find a large rock platform on the western bank of Mooney Mooney Creek. This large rock platform is a natural ford of the perennial Mooney Mooney Creek and is home to a scattering of small and large waterholes.



Mooney Mooney Creek crossing to Lower Mooney Mooney Dam 1.2km 25 mins

(From 5.49 km) Continue straight: From the bank of Mooney Mooney Creek, this walk crosses the wide rock platform and creek to find the track again on the other side. This creek may become impassable after heavy or prolonged rain. Here the walk turns left and follows the rocky track that leads gently up alongside the creek through the pleasant forest. After a little over 1km, the walk comes into view of the tailwater of the dam and then past a fenced cutting (on your right), the site of an old pump house. About 60m past this fenced area, the walk leads up along the now widening track to find the edge of the fenced lower Mooney Mooney Dam wall.



Lower Mooney Dam

Lower Mooney Dam is located on the Mooney Mooney Creek, about 21 km upstream from the Hawkesbury River. In March 1938 the Gosford Mayor turned the tap to add the water from this dam into the small town water supply of the time. It is a concrete arch dam, with a capacity of 1,000 megalitres, and was superseded by the more than 4 times larger 'Upper Mooney Dam' in 1982. There is a set of timber steps and a faint track that leads down to the water's edge on the uphill side of the dam wall, the dam wall is fenced and is clearly out of bounds. A sign reminds visitors that swimming is not allowed.

Lower Mooney Mooney Dam to Int of the dam trail and the old Somersby Falls track 1.7km 40 mins

(From 6.71 km) Continue straight: From the lower Mooney Mooney Dam, this walk heads uphill along the old trail, initially keeping the water on your left. The trail leads up, enjoying the occasional glimpse of water (on your left) for about 400m to pass a washed-out section of the old trail. From here, the walk continues up along the trail for about 1.3km, getting steeper as it climbs, and comes to a three-way intersection marked with a 'Mooney Creek' sign pointing back downhill.



Int of the dam trail and the old Somersby Falls track to Int GNW and Somersby Gardens private track

0.2km 4 mins

(From 8.37 km) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Reserve Road' sign uphill along the old trail, initially keeping the valley to your left. After about 180m, this walk comes to a faint intersection marked with a 'The Great North Walk' sign.



Great North walk sign to Somersby Gardens 0.7km 15 mins Optional Side Trip:

(From 8.55 km) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the faint track that leads behind the 'The Great North Walk' sign. This walk follows the narrow, slightly eroded track, gently uphill for about 50m to pass a 'Private Property - Do not Trespass' sign.

This walk is now going onto private land, the owner has kindly given permission for walkers to go this way - please stay to the track, stay quiet and respect the owners privacy.

The walk continues along the eroded track for 200m to come to a clearing and corner of a fence. Here the walk continues straight following the farm trail for 120m as the farm views begin to open up and you pass a few tires and timber wall marking an old challenge course. Soon after these tires this walk comes to a larger clearing on the right. Here, this walk veers right to soon come to a clearly defined trail where you continue straight following the farm trail through the rock cutting. About 150m later this walk comes to a small parking area beside 'Somersby Garden'. Please respects the owners and guests privacy.

(Retrace your steps back to the main track, then turn right to continue along this walk.)



Somersby Gardens

'Somersby Gardens' is set on a 50 acre property and is home to a luxurious fully self contained 3 bedroom apartment. The gardens are very well maintained and often used for wedding and other special events. As the accommodation has its own private access to the main spine of the Great North Walk it makes an idea place for bushwalkers to stay the night. The accommodation has all you need plus more, full kitchen, Air conditioning, TV, bathrooms, swimming pool and lovely sitting area. Mid weeks prices are from \$215 per bedroom per night. Ask about meal packs and lighten your load even further. Booking must be made in advance, please respect the privacy of guests. [More info](#)



Int GNW and Somersby Gardens private track to Quarry Camping Area 0.3km 5 mins

(From 8.55 km) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'The Great North Walk' sign downhill along the track for about 50m, to crosses a small pleasant gully with an ephemeral creek. After this, the track starts to wind moderately steeply uphill then, soon after flattening out, it comes to a signposted 'Camping Area' with a metal fireplace.

Quarry Camping Area

This is a small signposted campsite set among heath, grass tress, scribbly gums and aother eucalpyts. The clearing is flat and sandy and provides room to set up a few tents with and a small metal fireplace with hotplate. There is no water or other facilities here.



Quarry Camping Area to Somersby Reservoir 1.1km 15 mins

(From 8.9 km) Continue straight: From in front of the 'camping area', this walk heads gently uphill along the sandy track, initially keeping the camping area to your right. After about 220m of walking through this scribbly gum forest and passing a small informal campsite on the way, this walk comes to the quarry boundary fence and turns left. Following the fence for about 70m, the track leads to a section of timber boardwalk with a view (right) over parts of the quarry. The walk continues along the fence for just over 250m, crossing a small flat timber bridge to come an intersection with a dirt road (just past the locked gate).

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows GNW arrow marker gently downhill along the dirt road. This walk follows the road for about 400m to come to a large clearing with two large water reservoirs tanks. This walk continues past the two reservoirs (and past the treatment plant building, on your left) to come to a 'The Great North Walk' sign just in front of a small brick building.





Somersby Reservoir to South end of Robinson Crk Track 1.2km 20 mins

(From 10.01 km) Continue straight: From the brick building, this walk follows the 'The Great North Walk' sign gently downhill along the gravel trail (away from the water tanks) for a few metres before turning right onto a track, following a GNW arrow post. This track leads through the banksia and she-oak forest for just over 100m to pass a 'The Great North Walk' sign and then cross Reservoir Rd. On the other side of the road, this track continues gently down through the she-oak (*Casuarina glauca*) forest for about 150m before crossing a metal footbridge. On the other side of the bridge, this walk turns left and follows the track as it winds down through the heathy bushland, alive with wildflowers in spring, for about 400m and crosses a small ephemeral creek. The track then leads under a set of high tension power lines and then bends right and leads gently up for another 20m, coming to an intersection with a power line management trail.

Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the management trail uphill, keeping the power lines just to your right. After about 40m, this walk follows the GNW arrow post left (ignoring the 'Private Property' trail ahead) as the track winds gently uphill for about 250m before veering left, ignoring another 'Private Property' track (on your right). The mostly flat track now leads along the side of the hill for about 100m before passing under another set of power lines and leading right, steeply up the short rocky hill. At the top of this hill, the track leads to the end of a trail, but immediately veers right to follow a track along a fence for about 60m before rejoining the same power line management trail.

South end of Robinson Crk Track to End of Robinson Road 2.2km 40 mins

(From 11.21 km) Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post uphill along the wide management trail, following the power lines for about 100m before veering left to follow another GNW arrow post along a narrow track.

The track leads into the bush among gynea lilies (*Doryanthes excelsa*) and eucalypts for almost 300m, crossing a couple of short flat timber bridges to then head along a few sections of timber board walk through a weedy section of bush. The track then continues gently downhill for another 150m to cross over a trail. Following the GNW arrow post, this track now begins to lead more steeply down for about 250m, passing through another large grove of gynea lilies, a small cave (on your left). The walk continues down the timber then stone steps to head into the dense moist forest and across a flat timber bridge, coming into view of the creek. Here the walk bends right and leads beside the creek for a short time before bending left, following the GNW arrow post across the creek flowing over the mossy rock bed. Just downstream is a small pool and cascade.

Here the walk starts to climb up the other side of the valley, soon crossing a small flat timber bridge. The track then winds steeply out of the ferny and densely forested valley, up a series of timber and stone steps for about 130m where another GNW arrow post marks the end of this section of steep climbing. This track now leads gently up among some tall eucalypts and past a large grove of gynea lily for about 230m to come to a T-intersection with a wide management trail.

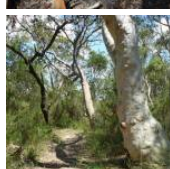
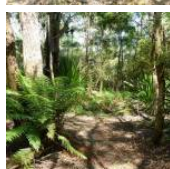
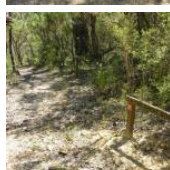
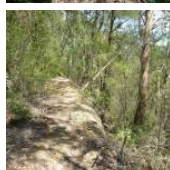
Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post uphill along the wide sandy trail for about 40m to pass a faint trail (on your right). Then about 120m further up the main trail, this walk comes a T-intersection marked with a couple more GNW arrow posts.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post gently uphill along the sandy trail. The trail soon leaves the wooded forest and after about 120m, this walk veers left at an intersection in a clearing. After another 120m, the walk heads past a large grassy clearing (on your right) with some tall pine trees. The sandy trail continues for another 150m, past a few scribbly gums, and comes to a Y-intersection marked with a 'The Great North Walk' sign (pointing left).

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'The Great North Walk' sign along the track, initially keeping the sandy trail to the right for a short distance. The track soon bends left, then winds over a small rise through the scribbly gum forest for about 400m before heading over a short section of green boardwalk. A short distance later, this walk crosses a green timber footbridge and comes to an intersection at the end of the dirt Robinson Road.

End of Robinson Road to Somersby Store 2.7km 50 mins

(From 13.4 km) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post uphill along the gravel Robinson Rd for about 300m to then continue straight ahead along the sealed Silvester Rd. This walk heads along the sealed road for another 500m to pass an intersection with 'Anembo Rd', then continues along Silvester Rd. Over the next 1km or so, the walk travels among the rural properties, passing some distant views of the peaks in Brisbane Water NP (to your right), before turning left onto Wisemans Ferry Road at the T-intersection. From this intersection, this walk leads up along the narrow grassy verge beside the road for about 500m to pass the large communications tower (on your right), heads over the crest of the hill then down for about 250m to come to Somersby Store (on your left).



Somersby Store

Somersby Store offers a good place to have lunch or pick up the basic food supplies. The store serves hot food including burgers, chips, pies etc and cold drinks. Opening hours are 6am - 6pm Monday to Friday and 6.30am to 4pm on Saturdays (closed Sundays). There is a pay phone and a bus stop however services are limited to two buses a day. Contact details are (02)4372 1269, at 841 Wisemans Ferry Road Somersby, NSW 2250. The store owners are happy for you to phone ahead. If you are a large group you can order ahead to save the stress. I always encourage people to use local stores like this on track, but since it is a small store it is worth phoning ahead to see what they have what you want in stock.

A list of paper topographical maps that cover this walk

[Gunderman](#) 1:25 000 Map Series

[Gosford](#) 1:25 000 Map Series

[Wyong](#) 1:25 000 Map Series

Gosford 1:100 000 Map Series

Nearby outdoor and camping stores

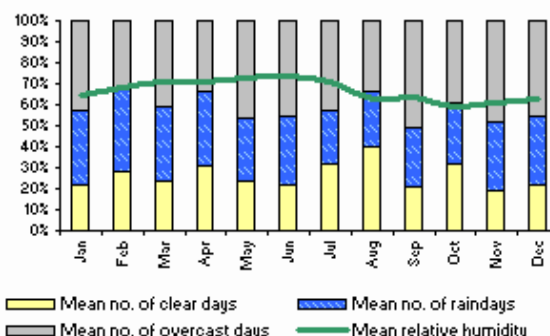
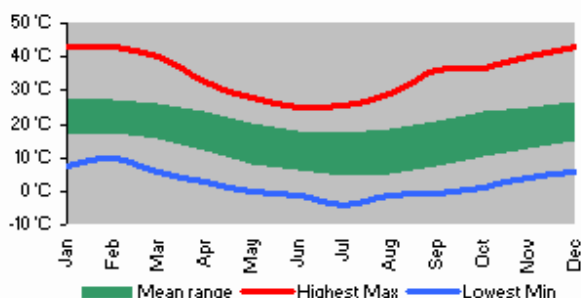
Mannings Sports 172 Mann St Gosford (02) 4325 1617

BCF Australia Pty Ltd 354 Manns Rd Gosford West (02) 4322 5833

Camping World Shop 18, 482 Pacific Hwy Wyoming (02) 4324 6515

Boots Great Outdoors 201 The Entrance Rd Erina (02) 4367 0396

Paddlecraft 3B / 1714 Pittwater Road Bayview 02 9997 8015





Mooney Mooney Creek Trackhead to Somersby

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Great photos



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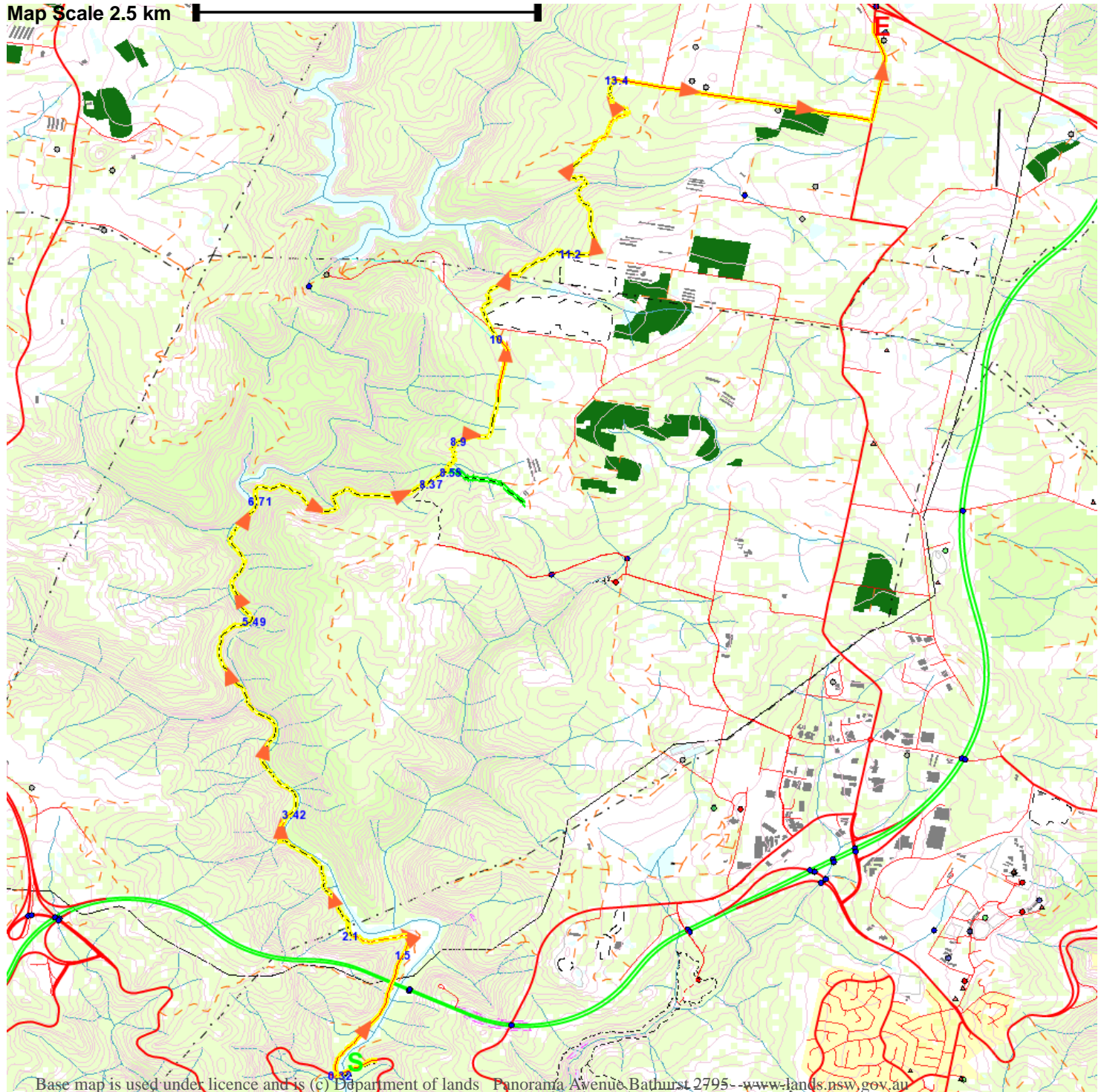
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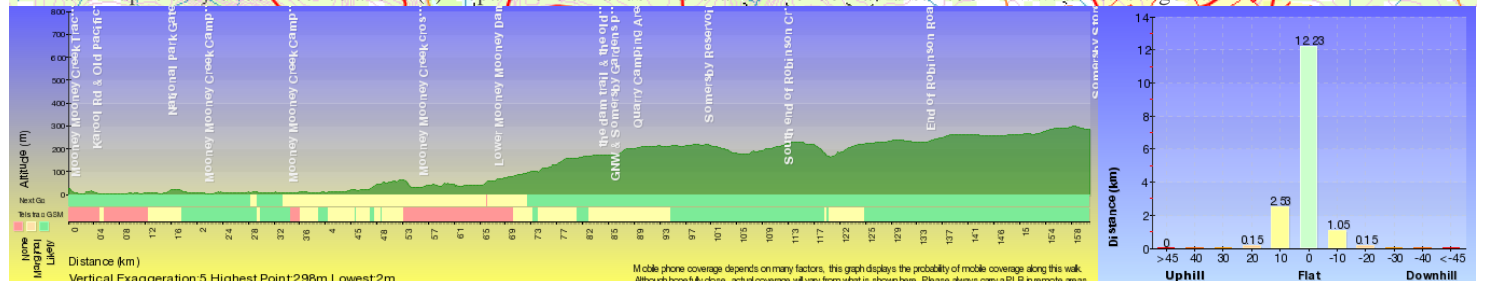
A walk for every body



Map Scale 2.5 km

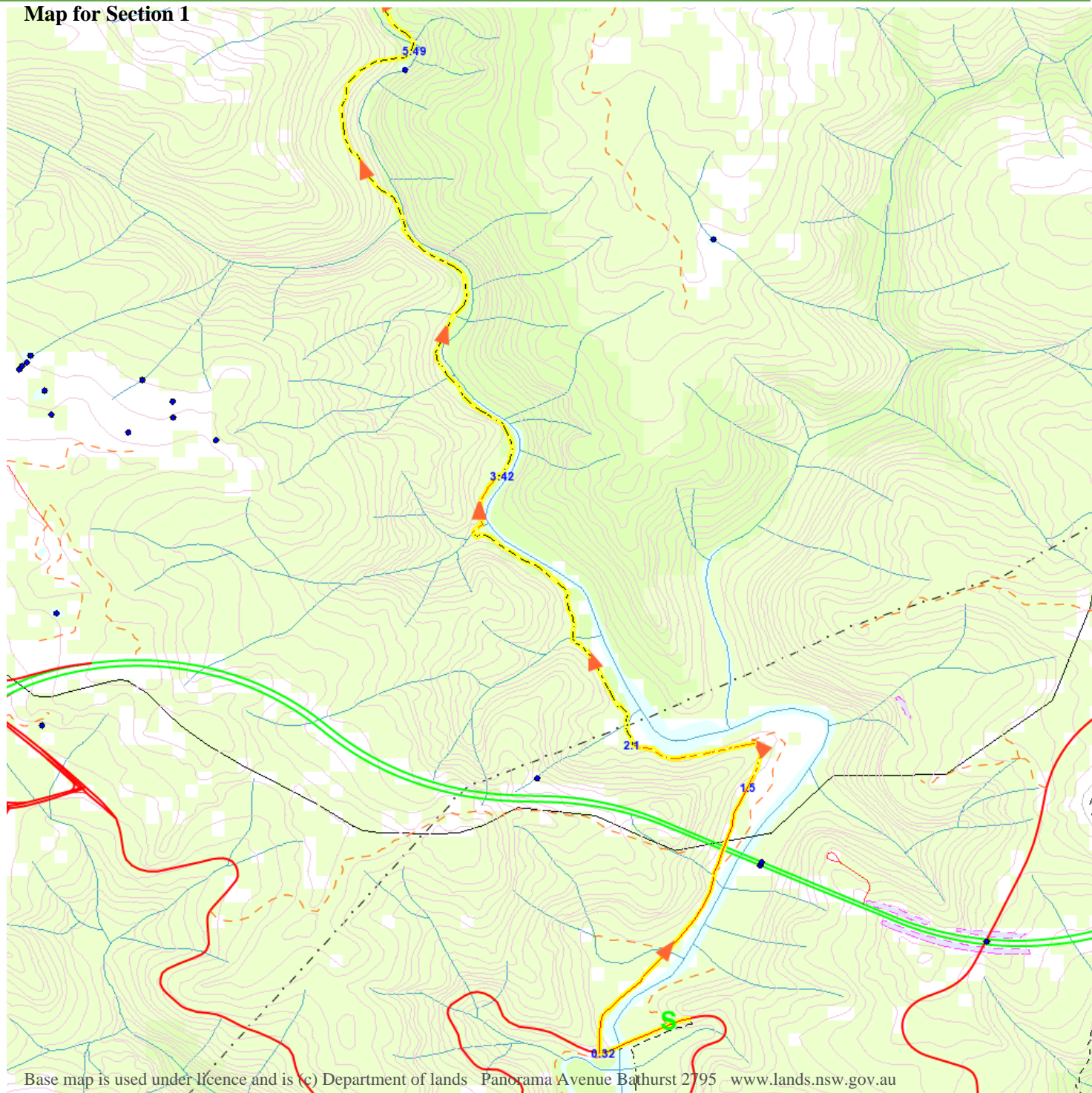


Base map is used under licence and is (c) Department of lands Panorama Avenue Bathurst 2795 - www.lands.nsw.gov.au



Mooney Mooney Creek Trackhead to Somersby

Map for Section 1



Map Scale 1 km

Free community announcement

Investa Treks
Onward & Upward Together
www.kokodatrack.org.au

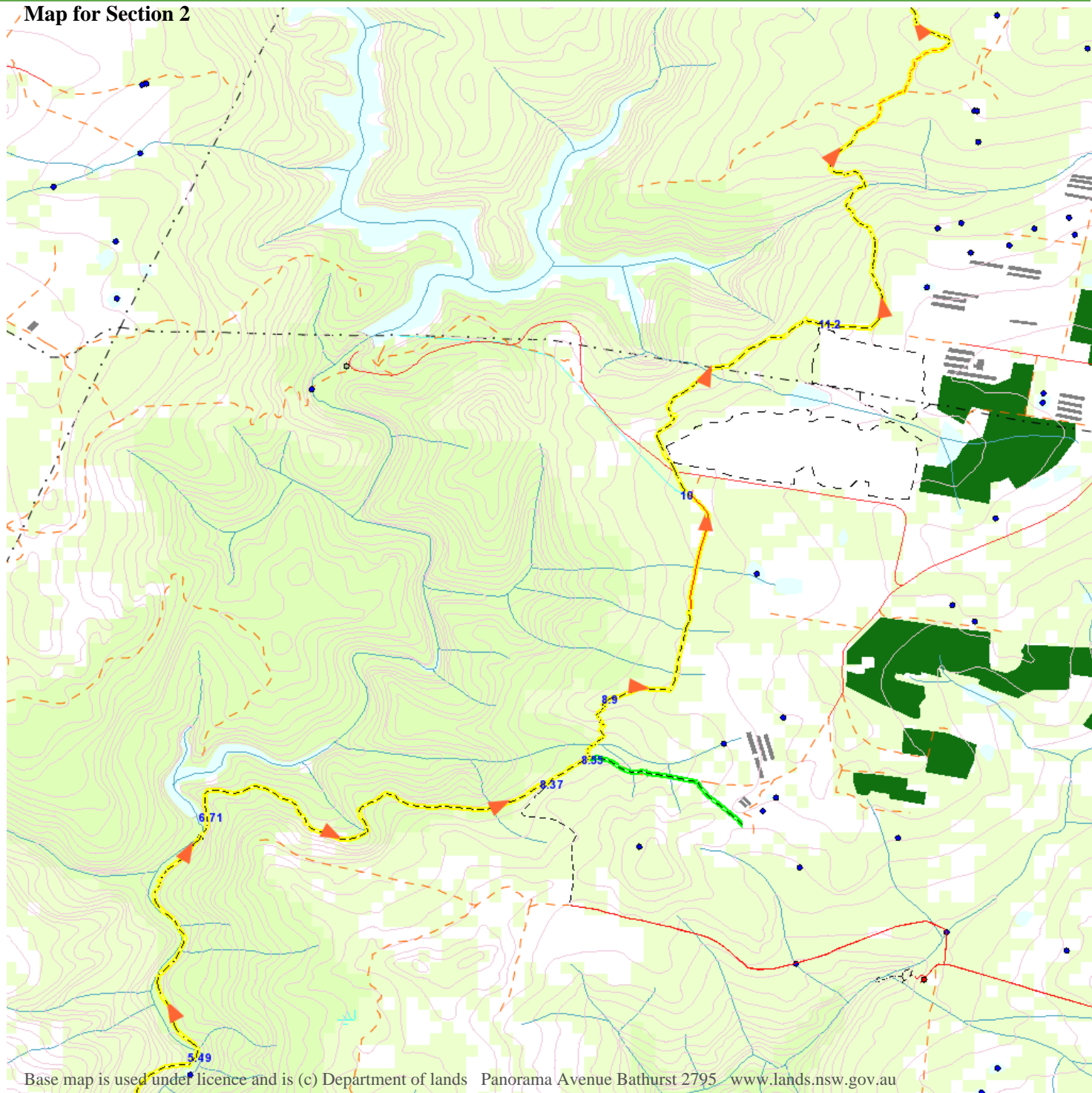
Trek Kokoda & Make a difference

Walk with the Salvation Army, and make a practical difference in the lives of people in the villages. Walk and work alongside locals, enjoying the track and help with community development projects.



Mooney Mooney Creek Trackhead to Somersby

Map for Section 2



Map Scale 1 km

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find

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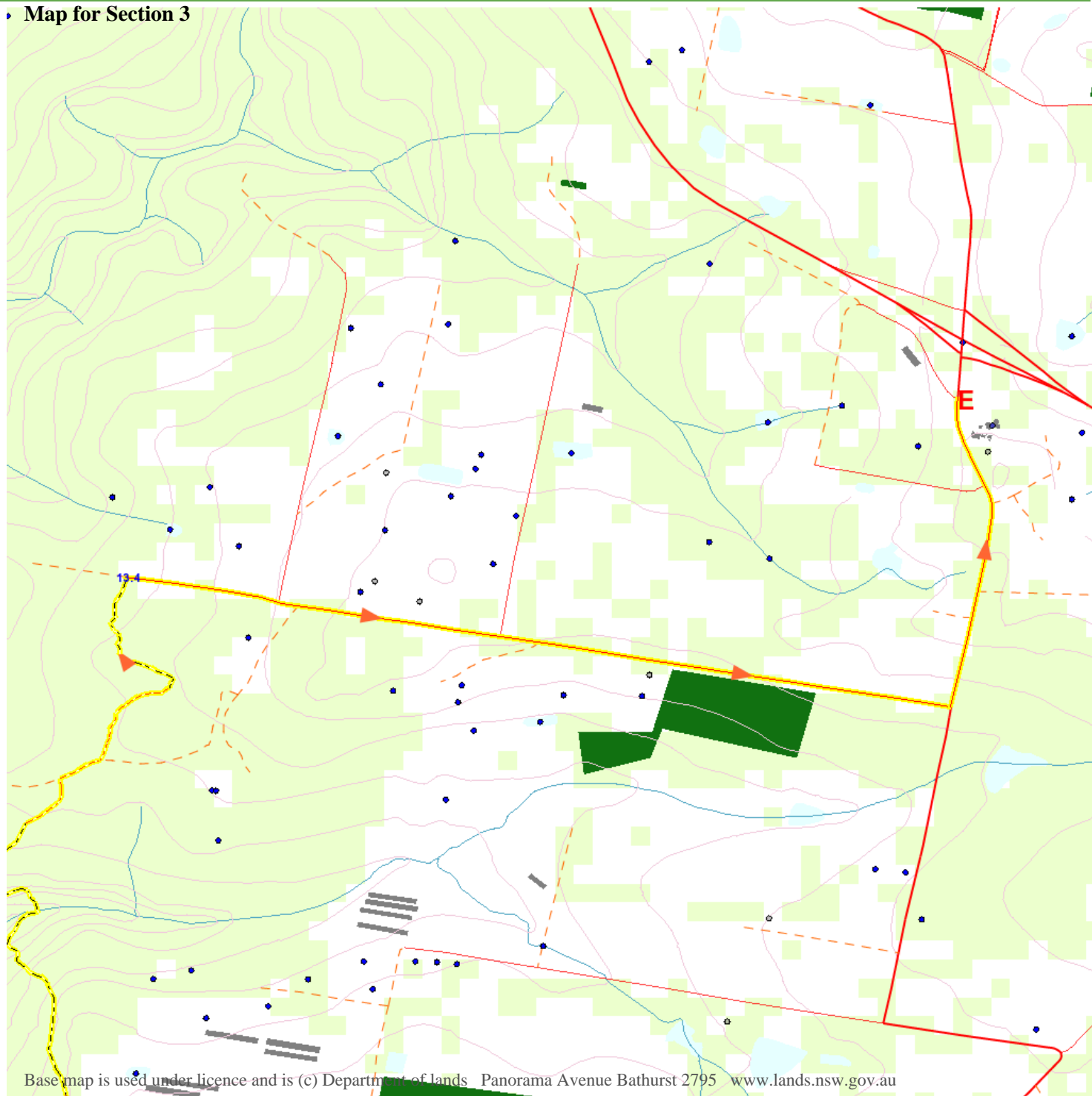
5. Minimise Campfire impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Your Hosts and Other Visitors

Protect these landscapes for our children's children
Learn more at www.lnt.org.au

 leave no trace

Mooney Mooney Creek Trackhead to Somersby

Map for Section 3



Map Scale 1 km

Free community announcement

Investa Treks
Onward & Upward Together
www.kokodatrack.org.au

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