

# Welcome to BEECROFT WEAPONS RANGE from the DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

The Department of Defence's Beecroft Weapons Range (BWR) includes approximately 4,200 hectares of Beecroft Peninsula, the northern headland of Jervis Bay.

BWR is owned and occupied by the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and has been regularly used for Defence weapons and other training activities since the 1800s.

BWR is a gazetted Public Area under the *Defence Act* 1903, open to the public when not in use for Defence purposes, offering a wide range of recreational opportunities and other experiences for visitors.

BWR is regularly used for Defence exercises and is closed to the public at these times for safety reasons. For information about opening and closing times, contact the Defence Environmental Rangers or Navy Range Control on the numbers below.



## DON'T RISK YOUR LIFE! BEWARE OF UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE! (UXO)

Unexploded ordnance (UXO) has been found throughout BWR. UXO is live ammunition that hasn't detonated after being fired.

**UXO is extremely dangerous, regardless of its age!**

UXO can include small calibre rifle-type ammunition, large shells of various sizes fired by warships and large bombs dropped by aircraft, as well as military flares.

If you come across anything that you think might be a UXO:

- Don't touch it, move it or tamper with it in any way.
- Make a note of its location - keep other people away from the area.
- Immediately notify Defence staff by telephoning one of the following numbers or reporting to the Visits Centre/Ranger Station or the Guardhouse at the BWR entrance:

**Defence Environmental Rangers**  
4448 3411  
**BWR Security Guards**  
4448 3248  
**Navy Range Control**  
4448 3839



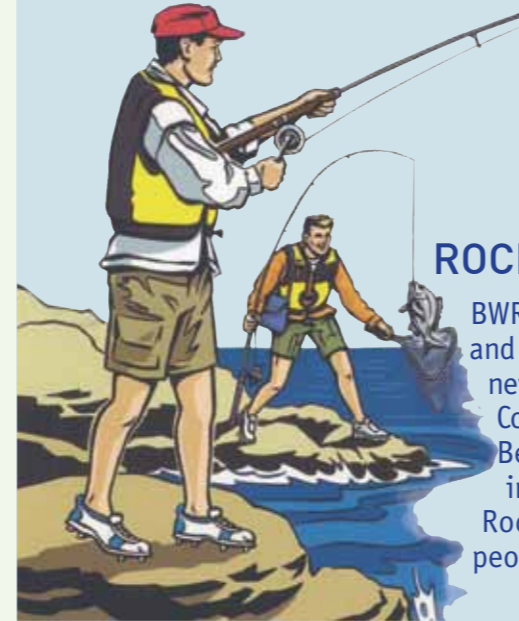
## ENJOY BEECROFT WEAPONS RANGE SAFELY!

**BWR is a relatively remote and natural environment where natural risks and hazards exist. For your own safety, always wear adequate footwear, sunscreen and a hat; carry plenty of water and comply with all signs displayed on the Range.**

### CLIFFS

Around Point Perpendicular Lighthouse and on the eastern coastline of BWR cliffs more than 75 metres high are found, attracting visitors and rock climbers. It is critical for your safety that you remain on walking tracks and stay a safe distance from cliff edges and behind fences. Exercise extreme caution, especially when windy. Ensure that a responsible adult supervises young children at all times!

Only experienced rock climbers should climb at BWR using appropriate safety equipment.



### ROCK PLATFORMS

BWR is very exposed to the natural elements, particularly high seas and coastal winds. When accessing rock platforms watch the waves - never turn your back on the ocean!

Conditions can change dramatically in short periods and as the tide changes. Be aware of tides and weather - listen to forecasts or call the weather info-line on 1900 937 107.

Rock fishing is probably the most dangerous sport in Australia with people killed every year rock fishing in NSW.

**Don't put your life on the line!**

### OCEAN BEACHES

All of the walking tracks on BWR lead to the coast or unpatrolled beaches where visitors may encounter dangerous conditions, including rips, undertows, and large waves. Check local conditions and never swim alone or following consumption of alcohol or other drugs. If you are caught in a rip or current, float on your back and travel downstream - don't try to swim against it. Many drownings happen in a few seconds - adult supervision of children should be constant, not an occasional glance whilst relaxing on the beach.



## BUSHFIRE AWARENESS



Bushfires occur naturally in the Australian landscape with some native species reliant on fire for survival. BWR has a Bushfire Management Plan that balances ecological requirements for fire with protection of life and property. An active bushfire hazard reduction program is undertaken during the cooler months in accordance with this Plan.

**To prevent unplanned bushfires, the use of open fires on BWR is prohibited. A penalty of up to \$500 applies to lighting an illegal fire on BWR.** During a Total Fire Ban it is an offence under NSW legislation to maintain or light any fire (including gas cookers, unless inside a caravan).

If a bushfire occurs, immediately telephone the 000 emergency line and contact the Defence Environmental Rangers. Provide as much information as possible on the location of the fire, then move to one of the designated **Emergency Assembly Areas** located at Honeymoon Bay, Bindijine Beach, Long Beach South and Point Perpendicular Lighthouse and await further instructions from emergency services or Defence.

## DRIVING & CYCLING

NSW Road Rules apply to drivers and cyclists at BWR. Public roads are mostly gravel, often corrugated & with soft sections and potholes. After rain the road surface may be slippery. Roads may be busy, and dust may obscure your vision. Don't exceed posted speed limits - drive to suit weather and road conditions. If cycling, wear a helmet at all times & don't ride after dark or at twilight without lights and reflective clothing.

**Be especially careful of young children near Honeymoon Bay Campground.** The speed limit in the campground is 8km/hr - be careful when reversing, particularly if towing caravans or trailers.

## WILDLIFE

A variety of wildlife exists on BWR, including some potentially dangerous species. If you encounter any of these species, do not disturb them.

Venomous snakes include the red-bellied black snake, eastern brown snake and eastern death adder.

The funnel web spider, red-back spider and white-tailed spider are also found at BWR. Paralysis ticks, wasps and European honeybees can be potentially dangerous to people who suffer allergic reactions to stings and bites.

Dangerous marine species include the blue-ringed octopus, bluebottles and stingrays.

If you think an animal presents a danger because it is too close to your campsite, contact the Defence Environmental Rangers who will, where possible, relocate it to an area away from the campground.

**If you or someone else is bitten or stung or appears to be suffering from allergy symptoms, immediately telephone 000 or contact the Defence Environmental Rangers.**



## HERITAGE VALUES

Beecroft Peninsula is a sandstone plateau created some 280 million years ago. BWR contains several rare and endangered plants and animal species as well as unique natural, cultural and heritage sites including historic Point Perpendicular Lighthouse and many sites of strong traditional cultural and spiritual significance to the local Jerrinja Aboriginal people. Natural attractions include spectacular views from rugged cliffs, wide expanses of flowering heath, patches of remnant rainforest, secluded beaches and beautiful bays.

In recognition of its outstanding natural, cultural and historic values, Beecroft Peninsula is listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List and is protected by legislation under the *Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999. The Department of Defence's Shoalhaven Environment Team actively manages the environmental and heritage values of BWR to achieve environmental sustainability in support of Defence capability.

**Help us to conserve and protect the unique values of BWR by doing a few simple things:**

- **Don't disturb or remove plants or animals - don't pick flowers or feed native wildlife - native flora & fauna are protected by law.**
- **Don't light fires - use only gas cooking equipment or liquid fuel stoves.**
- **Stay on the road and walking tracks at all times - off-road driving is prohibited.**
- **Camp only at Honeymoon Bay campground - camping elsewhere on BWR is by prior arrangement only.**
- **Use the rubbish bins and toilets provided at various locations or take your waste home.**
- **Don't bring animals to BWR - entry of domestic animals is not allowed.**
- **Don't fish, collect bait or take other resources from Jervis Bay Marine Park 'Sanctuary Zones'.**
- **Don't bring firearms onto BWR - all firearms are prohibited.**
- **Spear-fishing and motorised vessels are prohibited in Honeymoon Bay.**
- **Spearguns & hand-spears must not be carried on Honeymoon Bay Beach.**



## EXPLORING BEECROFT PENINSULA

### THE LIGHTHOUSE

Point Perpendicular and its Lighthouse is one of Jervis Bay's most distinctive and powerful landmarks. The Lighthouse, built in 1899, is constructed of pre-cast concrete blocks and stands 93 metres above sea level. The Lighthouse was staffed until decommissioned in 1993, following construction of the solar-powered light tower.

The Lighthouse is located approximately 10 km from the BWR entrance gate. Access to the lighthouse grounds is permitted when BWR is open to public access, during working hours and on weekends. Public access inside the Lighthouse and associated buildings is not currently available. A separate brochure on the Point Perpendicular Lighthouse is available, on request.

### CAMPING

Basic bush camping at Honeymoon Bay is only available to the public on most Friday and Saturday nights and during NSW School Holidays and Public Holidays, when BWR is open.

If you are NOT camping DO NOT PARK IN THE CAMPGROUND - Day Visitor Parking is only available before entry to the campground.

Campsites for the NSW summer school holiday period are allocated by a ballot system. At all other times campsites are allocated on a first-come, first served basis - Bookings are not available. Portable toilets, garbage and recycling bins are provided. Wood and solid fuel fires are prohibited. You must bring all your own water and gas-operated cooking equipment. Water containers may be refilled at the entrance to BWR. Camping fees are \$15.00 (inc. GST) per site per night for up to 2 people (16 years of age and above) plus \$5.00 (inc. GST) per night for each extra person. Children under 16 are free. Camping fees are payable at the Visits Centre during weekday office hours or are collected by Defence Environmental Rangers. For further information contact the Defence Environmental Rangers.

### WALKING (see map)

UXO may be present anywhere on BWR - for your own safety, remain on formed walking tracks at all times.

Walking tracks provided at BWR for visitors are signposted and graded according to difficulty:

- **EASY** - For inexperienced walkers, including children.
- **MEDIUM DIFFICULTY** - For walkers with some experience. Not recommended for small children.
- **DIFFICULT** - For experienced walkers. Not recommended for children.

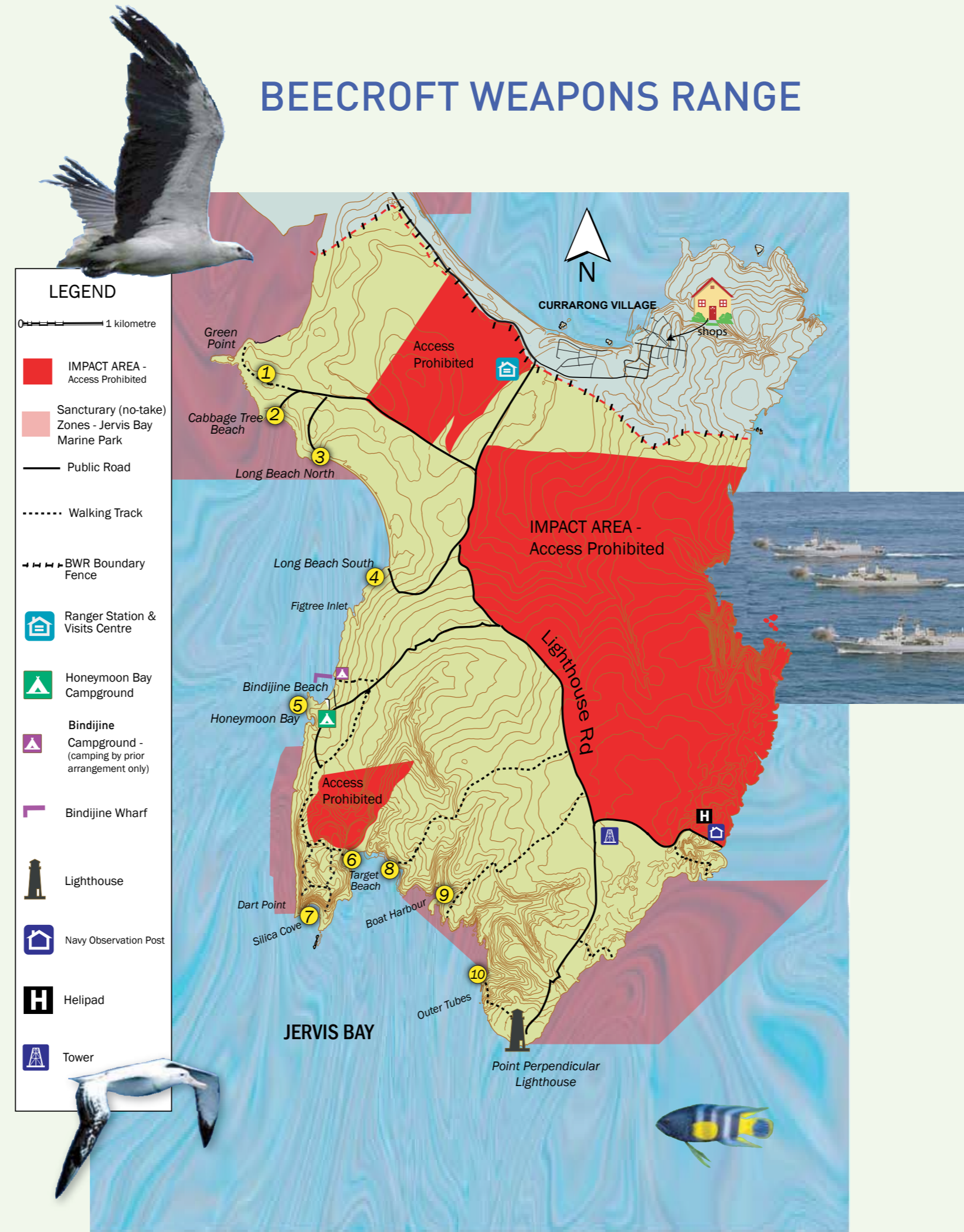


### FISHING

All BWR coastal areas below Mean High Water Mark are within the NSW Jervis Bay Marine Park. Several Marine Park Sanctuary Zones adjoin BWR and are coloured red on Marine Park maps and signs. No fishing, collecting of bait or other marine resources is allowed in Sanctuary Zones.

In all other zones where fishing is allowed, NSW Fisheries Regulations apply, and gear, size and bag limits apply. If you're over 18 and are not a pensioner you also need a licence to fish recreationally in NSW (including rock fishing and bait collection). You can buy a licence from local agents (bait & tackle shops, caravan parks, general stores, service stations), online at [www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au) or by telephone on 1300 369 365.

## BEECROFT WEAPONS RANGE



## WALKING TRACKS

**WARNING! Some tracks end at unfenced cliffs!**

- 1 GREEN POINT - 2.5 km return, Easy.** The track begins at the Green Point car park and follows a wide shaded path to Green Point. The Northern side of the track borders a remnant littoral rainforest area. Please stay on the track to avoid disturbing this protected ecosystem. Green Point and the surrounding shallows of Hare Bay are a great place to see migratory waterbirds that gather here during Summer. No fishing or collecting of bait or other marine resources is permitted within the adjacent Marine Park Sanctuary Zone in and around Green Point.
- 2 CABBAGE TREE BEACH - 0.2 km return, Easy.** A short walk from the Cabbage Tree Beach car park will take you to a small sheltered beach offering an ideal location for swimming and snorkelling. No fishing or collecting of bait or other marine resources is permitted within the adjacent Marine Park Sanctuary Zone.
- 3 LONG BEACH NORTH - 50m return, Easy.** Suitable for walking, swimming and snorkelling, this beach is protected from the NE winds. Shell layers located along the beach are middens, the remains of shell fish consumed by the Jerrinja people over many years. These sites are protected by law. No fishing or collecting of bait or other marine resources is permitted within the adjacent Marine Park Sanctuary Zone.
- 4 LONG BEACH SOUTH to FIGTREE INLET - 1.5 km return, over rocks, Medium difficulty.** From the carpark walk south along the rock platform to a small secluded beach flanked by littoral rainforest.
- 5 HONEYMOON BAY & BINDIJINE BEACH -** Unless you are camping please park in the Day Visitor Carpark. Basic picnic and camping facilities are provided for the public at Honeymoon Bay and Bindijine Beach. Camping at Bindijine is allowed only by prior arrangement.
- 6 TARGET BEACH - 4 km return, Medium difficulty.** This picturesque, shady walk winds through Eucalypt forest and littoral rainforest to Target Beach where there is magnificent views towards Point Perpendicular and excellent fishing. Target Beach offers a great escape from the summer north-easterly winds. CAUTION: This beach can be dangerous for swimming with rips and strong currents.
- 7 SILICA COVE - 6 km return, Medium difficulty.** From the Target Beach track take the turn off to Silica Cove to a sheltered and secluded beach rich in Aboriginal cultural heritage. Look for white bellied sea eagles roosting in trees on the steep ancient dune system or soaring high above on the sea breeze.
- 8 LITTLE TARGET BEACH - 6km return, Medium Difficulty, Difficult rock scramble to beach.** The track leads to Fishermans Beach, a scenic fishing spot. There is a quite difficult rock scramble down to Fishermans Beach. Access to Little Target Beach is along the rock platform to the right from Fishermans Beach. Beware of high tides and large waves when walking on the rock platform. These beaches can be dangerous for swimming.
- 9 BOAT HARBOUR - 6km return, Medium Difficulty.** The track winds through heath and scrublands to Boat Harbour, a secluded and sheltered embayment with a sandy beach. Enjoy fantastic views towards Bowen Island and Murrays Beach across the entrance to Jervis Bay. No fishing or collecting of bait or other marine resources is permitted within the adjacent Marine Park Sanctuary Zone.
- 10 OUTER TUBES - 2 km return, first section Medium difficulty, remainder Difficult.** The track descends through heath to a pleasant viewing area with a seat, then on to this popular fishing spot. The track beyond the seat is very steep with loose surfaces and stairs. A composting toilet and rubbish bin are located at the end of the track above the stairs to the rock platform. Visitors are encouraged to utilise these facilities. Torpedo tubes were installed on the rock platform during World War II to protect Jervis Bay from enemy attack. Their rusted remains must not be interfered with due to their heritage value. This walk is not suitable for small children.

For further information contact:

DEFENCE ENVIRONMENTAL RANGERS, BWR  
PO BOX 103, CURRARONG, NSW, 2540.

PH: (02) 4448 3411 FAX: (02) 4448 3377

FOR EMERGENCIES ONLY CONTACT:

SECURITY: (02) 4448 3248

RAN: (02) 4448 3839

REPORT ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS:

(02) 4448 3411 or

EMAIL: [enviroincidents.jb@defence.gov.au](mailto:enviroincidents.jb@defence.gov.au)

