

# MACQUARIE RIVER

## *Canoe & Kayak Trail*

Wellington to Narromine



Department of Lands

[www.lands.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lands.nsw.gov.au)





# WELCOME

Welcome to the Macquarie River Canoe & Kayak Trail.

A canoe/kayak trip down one of NSW's inland rivers enables you to enjoy the true beauty of our vast river systems.

There are many Crown land reserves along the trail where you can camp overnight or stop for a well-earned lunch break.

## The Macquarie River

The Macquarie River is a major tributary of the Barwon-Darling River, which together with the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers forms the Murray-Darling basin.

The Macquarie River is formed by the convergence of the Fish and Campbells Rivers which rise near Oberon. The river flows through steep, rugged country north of Bathurst before being captured by the Burrendong Dam. After flowing through Dubbo and the Macquarie Marshes, the river joins the Barwon and Darling Rivers near Bourke, northern NSW.

The canoe & kayak trail joins the Macquarie River at Wellington, below the Burrendong Dam as it emerges from the steeper slopes of the Great Dividing Range. The river is lined with huge old river red

gums which provide habitat for a vast range of birds and animals with some being quite rare or unique to the area.

## Canoe & kayak trail maps

These canoe & kayak trail maps have been prepared by the NSW Department of Lands to help you plan your trip down the Macquarie River. It covers 150 km of river between Wellington and Narromine.

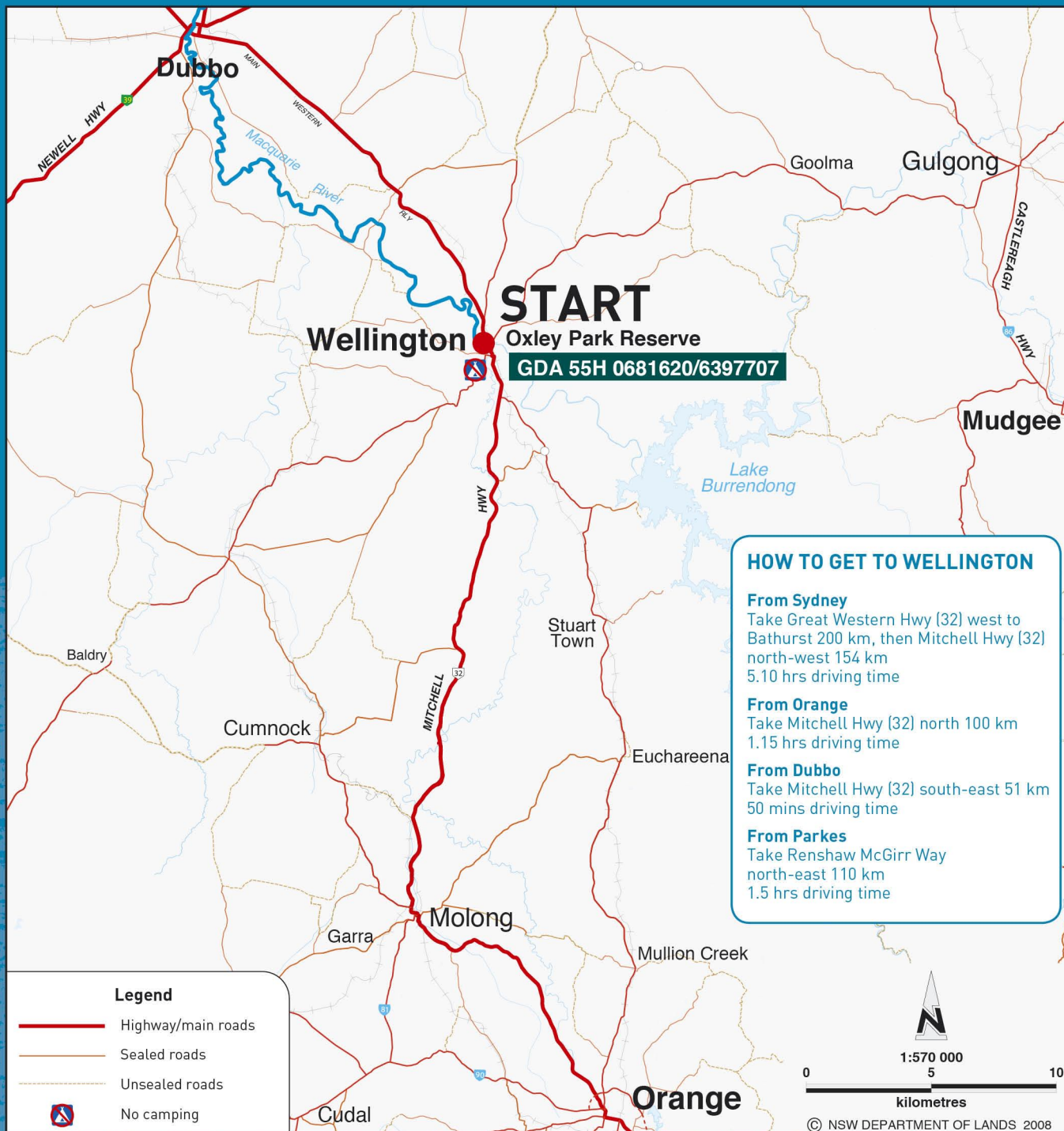
The trail requires basic canoeing/kayaking skills and an average fitness level with some sections up to five hours paddling time. Paddling times will vary with river flow and paddling effort. Times are calculated on a progress of 5.5 kms per hour with no allowances for rest breaks.

Access to the river is via Crown land reserves as indicated on the maps. Note: some access roads are dirt tracks so an appropriate support vehicle is recommended. During summer months, the annual release of irrigation water from the Burrendong Dam ensures deep, moving water ideal for canoeing or kayaking.





# HOW TO GET THERE



## HOW TO GET THERE

The canoe & kayak trail starts at Oxley Park Reserve, Wellington, 50 km south of Dubbo. Wellington is 370 km north-west of Sydney on the Mitchell Highway. See the *How to get there* map for directions from nearby NSW centres.

Take the turn-off on the south side of the bridge at the Bridge Motel, Wellington. Travel one kilometre to a low-level crossing over the Macquarie River. The north side of the river reserve has good car access and bank for launching.

### Starting GPS location

GDA 55H 0681620/6397707

### Camping

Camping is NOT permitted on the reserve.

### Facilities

None available

### Accommodation

There are two options available that are closest to the starting point.

- Bridge Motel toll free: **1800 199 418** or **(02) 6845 2555**
- Wellington Riverside Caravan Park: **(02) 6845 1370**

### Meals

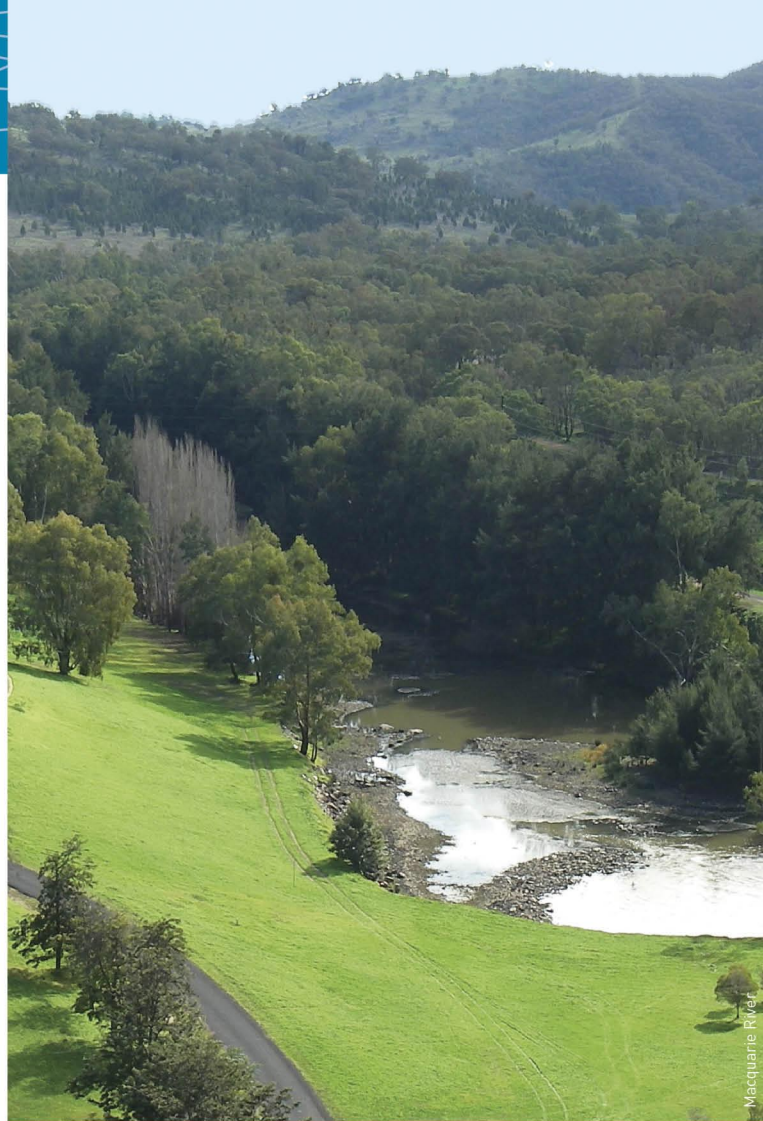
In Wellington there are various options for meals that include cafes, bakeries, restaurants and pubs.

### Visitor information

Wellington Visitor Information Centre

Toll free: **1800 621 614** or **(02) 6845 1733**

or email [tourism@wellington.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tourism@wellington.nsw.gov.au)



Macquarie River

## ABOUT GPS (Global Positioning System)

- To locate critical points along the river the maps use GPS coordinates. The coordinates are based on the GDA datum. Your GPS should be set up to Datum mode: GDA (or WGS), Position: UTM/UPS, Units: Metric and North Reference: True
- The coordinates will only refer to the zone you are in. You must state the zone if contacting emergency services. The Macquarie Canoe Trail zone is 55H



# OXLEY PARK RESERVE TO PONTO FALLS RESERVE

# 1

## Destination

Ponto Falls Reserve, on the right-hand side of river.

## GPS location

GDA 55H 0671004/6406471

## River distance

20.4 km

## Paddling time

3.7 hrs

## Camping

Tent based camping is permitted on the reserve.

## Facilities

None available

## Vehicle access

On the Mitchell Highway, 8 km north-west of Wellington take the left turnoff to Ponto Falls Reserve.

## Accommodation

Wellington (22 km) south on the Mitchell Highway.

## Meals

Mitchell Inn at Geurie (15 km) north from Ponto Falls Reserve.

# PONTO FALLS RESERVE TO BRIL BRAL RESERVE

# 2

## Destination

Bril Bral Reserve, on the right-hand side of the river.

## GPS location

GDA 55H 0662176/6411577

## River distance

17.3 km

## Paddling time

3.1 hrs

## Camping

Tent based camping is permitted on the reserve.

## Facilities & accommodation

None available

## Vehicle access

Just north of Geurie exit left from the Mitchell Highway via Old Dubbo Road, follow the lane over the grid then through the gate to the river.

## Meals

Mitchell Inn at Geurie (15 km) north-east from Bril Bral Reserve.



## BRIL BRAL RESERVE TO BUTLERS FALLS RESERVE

# 3A

## BUTLERS FALLS RESERVE TO DUBBO LIONS PARK

# 3B



### Destination

Butlers Falls Reserve, sandy banks for easy landing but it is a fast-flowing section of the river.

### GPS location

GDA 55H 0652657/6423433

### River distance

25.7 km

### Paddling time

4.6 hrs

### Camping

Canoeists/kayakers with tents may camp overnight.

### Facilities

Toilets, fireplaces, BBQs

### Vehicle access

North from Bril Bral Reserve on Old Dubbo Road (15 km) then turn left onto Angle Road. Butlers Falls Reserve is signposted.

### Accommodation

Nearst accommodation available in Dubbo (10km)

### Meals

Closest meals available in Dubbo (10 km)

### Destination

Dubbo Lions Park on the left-hand side, after high level road bridge over the Macquarie River.

### GPS location

GDA 55H 0650335/6430734

### River distance

13.6 km

### Paddling time

2.5 hrs

### Permanent hazards

The Dubbo Council water supply weir crosses the river at GDA 55H 0650300/6428516. Canoeists/kayakers should stay well clear of the wall. A gravel path for portage has been constructed around the weir on the western bank.

### Camping

Camping is NOT permitted on the riverside

### Facilities

Toilets, BBQs, picnic tables, playground, boat ramp

### Vehicle access

Turn right off Mitchell Highway after crossing the Macquarie River. Vehicle access to boat ramp is available.

### Accommodation

There is a caravan park near the landing point plus two motels adjacent to the reserve. A selection of other motels and hotels are within walking distance.

### Meals

Various dining options are available in Dubbo

### Visitor information

Dubbo Visitor Information Centre

Toll free: **1800 674 433**



## DUBBO LIONS PARK TO TERRAMUNGAMINE RESERVE

# 4A

## TERRAMUNGAMINE RESERVE TO DICKYGUNDI RESERVE

# 4B

### Destination

Terramungamine Reserve, on the right-hand side of the river. Landing bank is steep or there is a small landing point at GDA 55H 0649492/6439689.

### GPS location

GDA 55H 0649487/6439694

### River distance

12.9 km

### Paddling time

2.3 hrs

### Permanent hazards

Downstream of the low-level crossing and the railway bridge is an old railway weir (GDA 55H 651069/6432568). When river levels are above 2.3 m (at Wellington) the weir is covered with water and should not be too hazardous for canoeists/kayakers. At river levels below 1.99 m (at Wellington) manoeuvre between the gap in the wall (1.2 m wide) or portage over the wall.

### Camping

Tent based camping is permitted on the reserve.

### Facilities

Toilets, picnic tables, fireplaces

### Vehicle access

Via Burraway Road, follow signs from Brocklehurst on the Newell Highway.

### Accommodation

Closest available accommodation is in Dubbo (12 km)

### Meals

Closest available meals are in Dubbo (12 km)



Lake Jindabyne

### Destination

Dickygundi Reserve, on the left-hand side of river

### GPS location

GDA 55H 0637229/6437640

### River distance

22.8 km

### Paddling time

4.1 hrs

### Camping

Tent based camping is permitted on the reserve.

### Facilities

None available

### Vehicle access

Take the Mitchell Highway from Dubbo (15 km) towards Narromine. Just before the Rawsonville/North Minore crossroad take the dirt road entrance to the reserve.

### Accommodation & meals

None available

## DICKYGUNDI RESERVE TO CAMPING RESERVE

# 5

### Destination

Camping reserve, on the left-hand side of river.

### GPS location

GDA 55H 0627537/6433670

### River distance

21.4 km

### Paddling time

3.9 hrs

### Camping

Tent based camping is permitted on the reserve.

### Facilities

None available

### Vehicle access

Turn north off Mitchell Highway 900 metres west of Brumagen Road. Drive through a small roadside reserve then along Crown road reserve to the river.

### Accommodation

None available

### Meals

None available

## CAMPING RESERVE TO NARROMINE ROTARY PARK

# 6

### Destination

Narromine Rotary Park

### GPS location

GDA 55H 0617475/6433783

### River distance

13.9 km

### Paddling time

2.5 hrs

### Camping

Camping is NOT permitted in the park.

### Facilities

Toilets and picnic tables

### Vehicle access

Follow signs to Rotary Park along Macquarie River in Narromine.

### Accommodation

There is a range of options available in Narromine including hotels, motels and caravan parks.

### Meals

Various dining options are available in Narromine

### Visitor information

Narromine Visitor Information Centre

37 Burroway Street

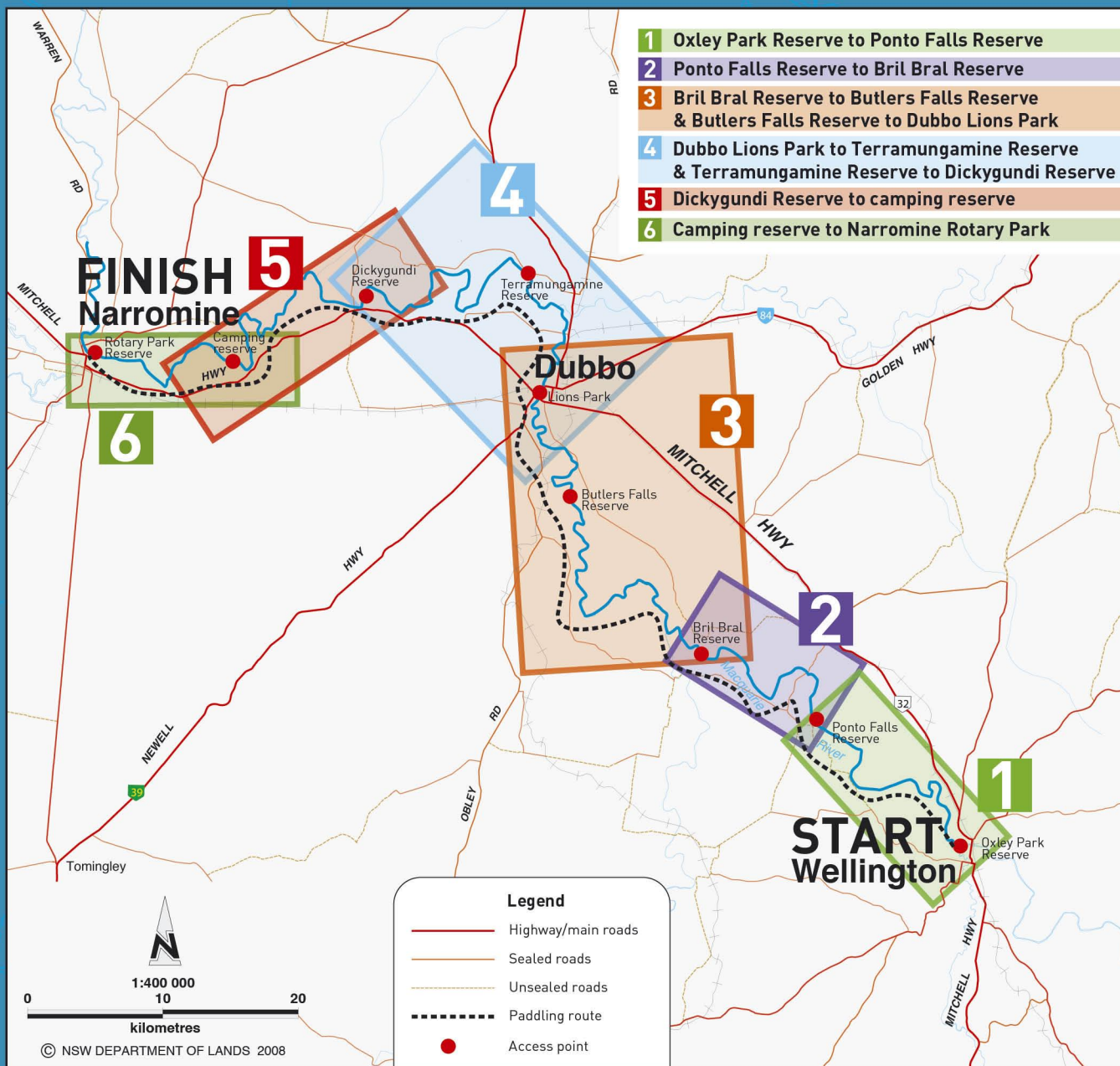
Narromine NSW 2821

(02) 6889 2601 or email [mail@narromine.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mail@narromine.nsw.gov.au)





# OVERVIEW MAP



# OXLEY PARK RESERVE TO PONTO FALLS RESERVE

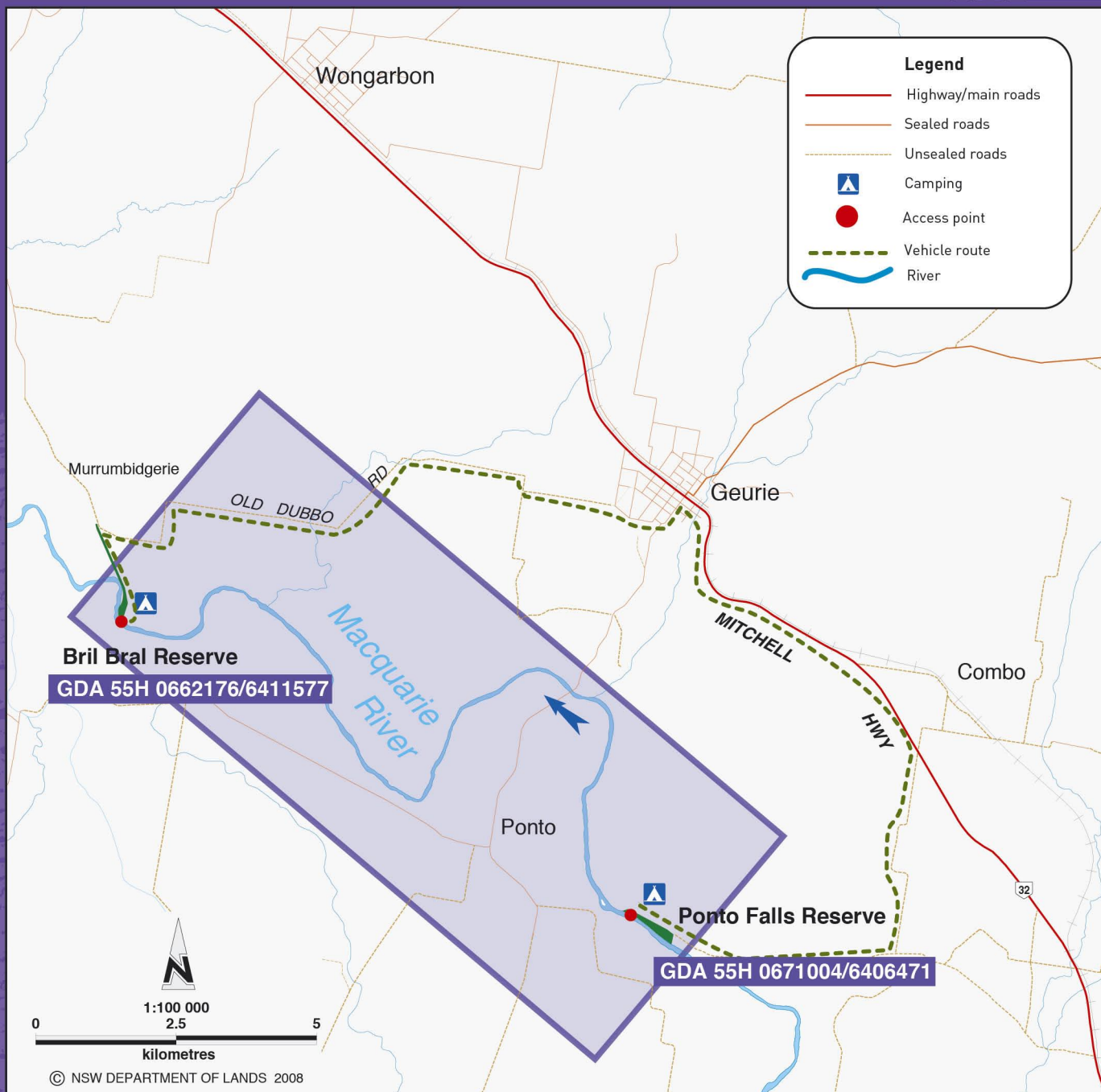
MAP



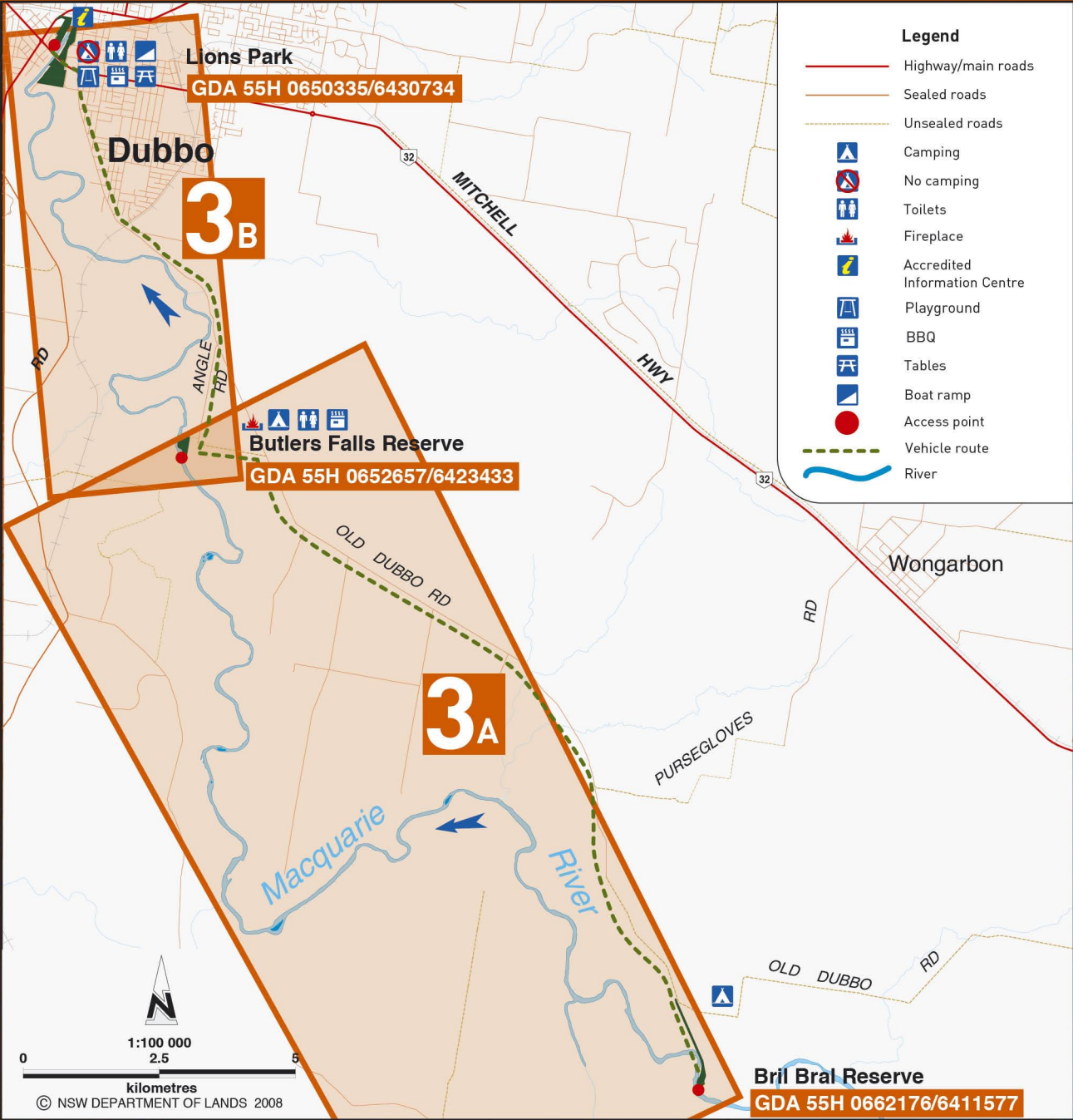


# PONTO FALLS RESERVE TO BRIL BRAL RESERVE

MAP 2



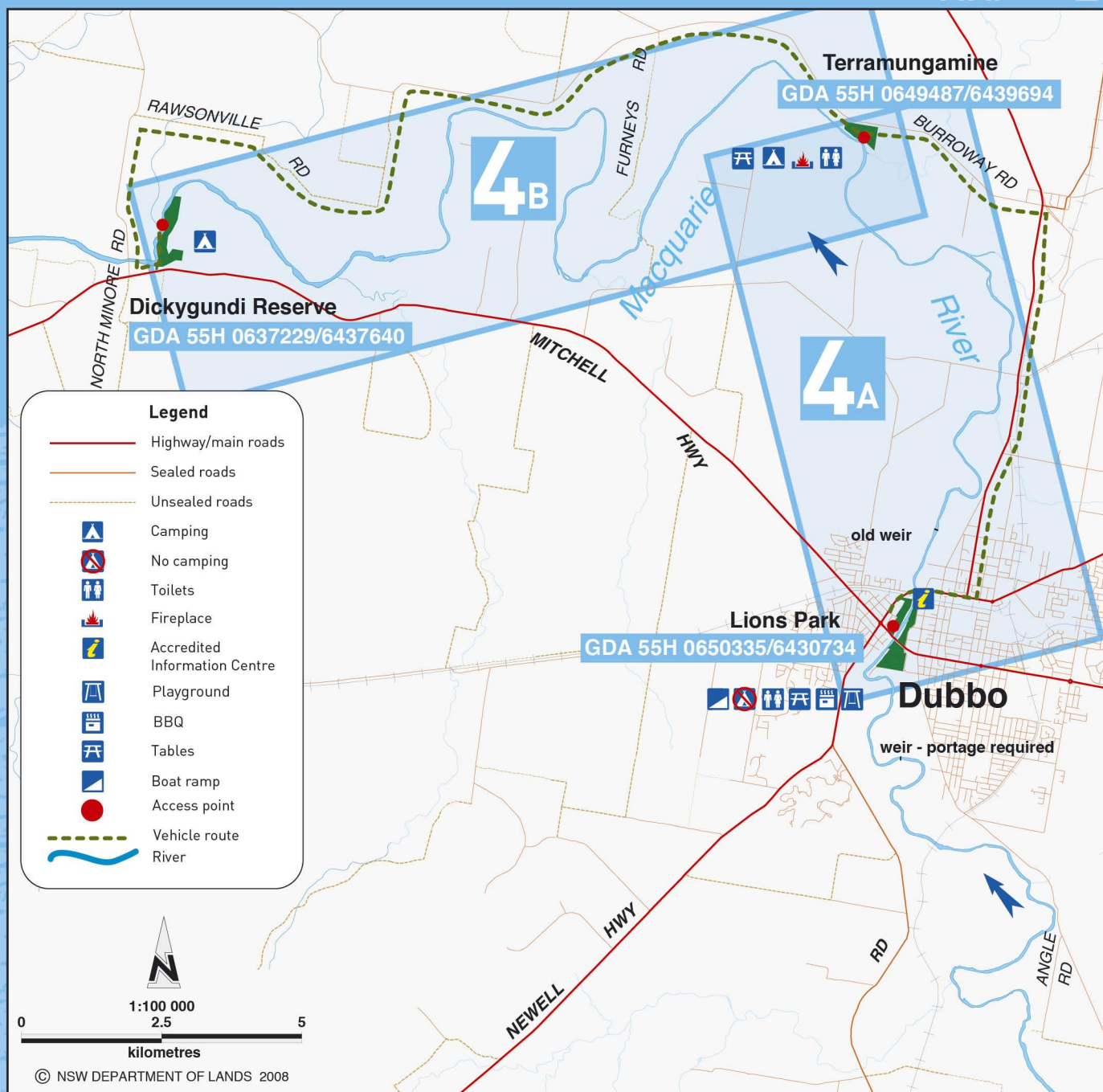
BRIL BRAL RESERVE TO BUTLERS FALLS RESERVE  
& BUTLERS FALLS RESERVE TO DUBBO LIONS PARK





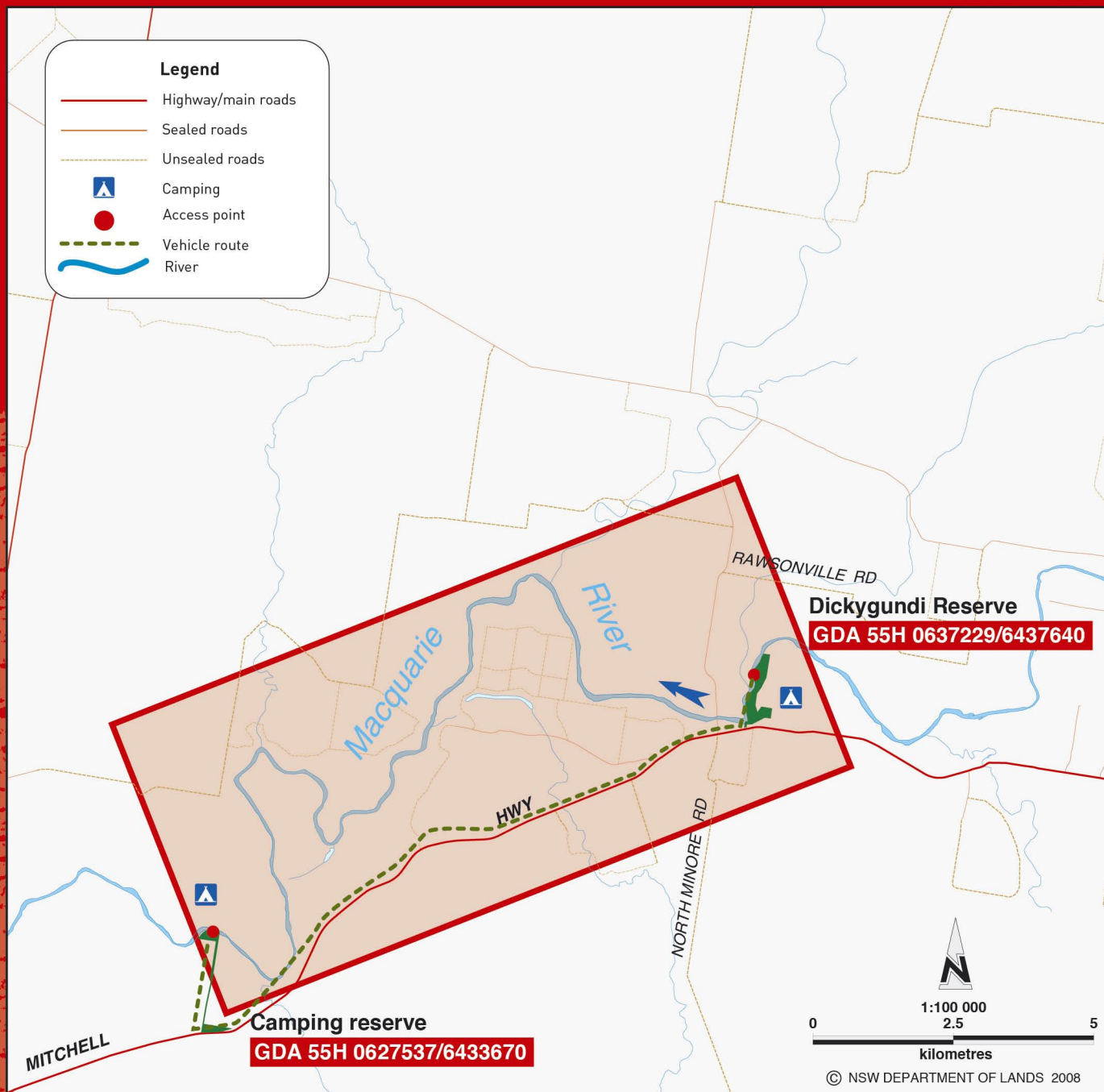
# DUBBO LIONS PARK TO TERRAMUNGAMINE RESERVE & TERRAMUNGAMINE RESERVE TO DICKYGUNDI RESERVE

MAP 4



# DICKYGUNDI RESERVE TO CAMPING RESERVE

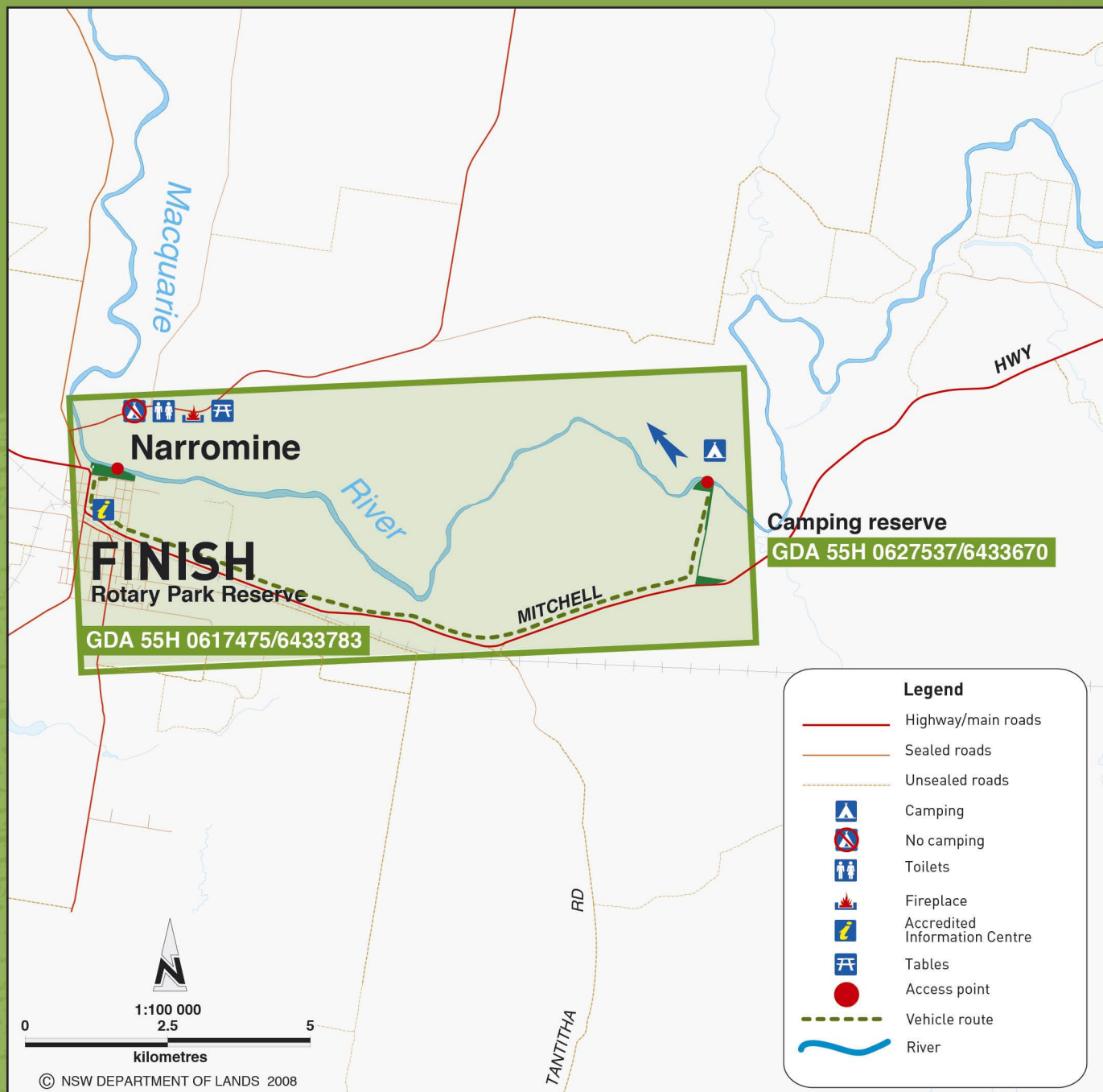
MAP 5





# CAMPING RESERVE TO NARROMINE ROTARY PARK RESERVE

MAP 6



# SAFE CANOEING CHECKLIST

## *Before you go*

- Always check the river levels BEFORE your trip. Daily river levels are available on [www.waterinfo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.waterinfo.nsw.gov.au)
- Always let someone know of your trip plans and ensure your support vehicle is aware of your intended rendezvous point and how to get there
- Canoeists/kayakers should be proficient in moving water. Beginners and children should become competent canoeists/kayakers on still water
- GPS coordinates have been supplied to help you locate the reserves. Set up your GPS for the GDA datum and enter the coordinates of the reserves in advance
- Ensure you have enough fuel, food and water for the trip

## *On the river*

- Make sure you have all your gear when you set off as the river's flow may be too strong to paddle back upstream
- Avoid travelling alone and stay in contact with other canoes/kayaks in your group
- Be alert for hazardous overhanging willows and snags
- If you capsize, hold on to your canoe or kayak until you can beach safely. If the water is freezing leave your craft and head for the bank immediately
- If in doubt about a rapid or obstacle ahead pull into the bank and check on foot
- Mobile phone reception is not always reliable along the canoe & kayak trails
- To avoid overheating, paddle early in the morning or late evening with a break in the hottest part of the day
- To fish in NSW waters, you must pay a fee and carry the receipt showing payment. For more information visit [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

## *Safety gear*

- A high visibility Personal Floatation Device - Type 2 with a whistle attached should be worn at all times on the water
- Hat and sunscreen
- Map, compass and GPS
- Spare paddle and repair kit
- Adequate drinking water and food for 5-8 hrs
- A first-aid kit and basic knowledge of CPR
- Waterproof containers for food and warm/dry clothing
- Appropriate footwear for water and rocks
- All canoes/kayaks should have fixed buoyancy with securing loops at each end
- A rope or throw line should be carried for rescue purposes

## *At the campsite*

- Practice low impact camping – take out what you take in
- Do not drink the river water without boiling or treating it. Carry adequate supplies of drinking water with you
- Light fires in fire places provided and extinguish completely before leaving. Observe any fire bans that are in place
- Bury your waste at least 50m from the river if there are no toilets
- Do not interfere with vegetation, gates, fences or stock
- Do not use soaps or detergents in the river
- Respect other canoeists/kayakers and campers

**Canoe & kayak trail is published by  
NSW Department of Lands**

**This booklet is designed as a reference guide only and is not to be used as a teaching aid. Canoeists/kayakers use the trail at their own risk.**



## Department of Lands

### Head office

1 Prince Albert Road

Queens Square

SYDNEY NSW 2000

T 13000 LANDS

61 2 9228 6666

F 61 2 9233 4357

[www.lands.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lands.nsw.gov.au)

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