

Dear the owners of Lot 105.

We'd like to send a heartfelt thank-you for contacting this group. It is of great relief that we have been able to make contact, as we have been reaching out for two years to hear your views. I hope we are able to keep the lines of communication open.

We respect your right to have remained silent until this point in time, however, it has prevented us from being able to hear your perspective, clarify rumors and end speculation, and has resulted in many questions.

Your love of this wilderness is shared. Your delight in the night stars, the cool swimming holes and the peaceful bush is understood and loved by both yourselves, and us. After all, we are one and the same, individuals who find great peace, respite and serenity in nature's arms. Your commitment not to subdivide and to cause no harm to this area is reassuring, and we truly appreciate that. However, until now, none of us knew this.

It is pleasing for example to hear that you will be working with NPWS on conservation issues including the 1886 heritage water race and the endangered Nerriga Grevillea. We laud you for these wonderful steps in appreciating what we're blessed with in our backyards, and for embracing such conservation initiatives.

The track through Corang is steeped in history, with regular use documented for over six decades. Over these decades, the tracks have become more than simply paths to walk on – they hold priceless memories of areas visited as a child, invaluable experiences only encountered in such a precious patch of bushland.

The right of a property owner to close access to their private property is respected, as certainly being in Australia, it is the law. That being said, we believe unintentional consequences have arisen from closing this historic track. We have tried to contact you in the past regarding such, however these were to no avail.

Due to the now-closed areas, in order to access much beloved areas along the river, as well as areas further along the track, walkers have been forced to circumvent your property line and create new routes. These new routes are much closer to your cabin and swimming holes, and arguably have a much greater impact on your privacy and sense of isolation, presumably the opposite of what you are trying to achieve.

There has been disappointment in the wide community as people mourn the loss of an area that is close to their hearts, and has been since they were a child. An estimated 30,000 people have used this officially classified Class 5 track in the last 63 years. It has been and still is published on many official maps. Despite still being published, we strongly do not advocate for any walkers to trespass on this now-closed historic track.

The lovely Corang River, Twin Falls and Corang lagoon are all on public land and are available for anyone to swim there. Investigations into alternative legal access routes to these popular destinations continue, and we have scouted many potential routes through exploratory expeditions in the recent past. We invite you to collaborate as to which route will suit all parties the best.

For some additional context, Lot 105 is no ordinary piece of bush. Lot 105 has been singled out in official documents as a special place requiring special care many times including in 1918, 1923, 1941, 1995, 2007 and 2011.

Research into Government documents has also uncovered many interesting questions. Some puzzling, some disturbing. They include stringent environmental conditions, reservations of certain land from sale, forfeiting of a lease, erection of illegal structures, loss of a certificate title, restrictions on tree removal, oversight by agencies and failure to follow protocol.

There is no suggestion that your purchase of this land was questionable. You bought the property in good faith. In fact we are very happy to hear that you are cooperating with the NPWS to conserve and enjoy this wilderness.

However, we are asking questions of the NSW Government who approved the sale of this publicly owned land to previous owners. The proper process and rules at the time were not followed.

Looking forward, one has to ask: "Where does that leave us now?"

In many ways we are all in the positive situation where this piece of wilderness is owned by a small private company of nature loving families. Your plan to continue to be careful stewards of this wilderness is applauded.

In the meantime the public can be reassured that the Corang River, Corang Lagoon, and Twin Falls are all still publicly owned and that their wilderness character will remain. Anyone is allowed to walk to and swim in these pools. We just need to walk the longer and harder way in.

Let's all endeavour to continue healthy cooperation and collaboration between yourselves (being the owners of Lot 105), the NPWS and concerned bushwalkers. Let's continue to work towards reaching a common goal, together, as fellow lovers of the bush, as we hope to come to a reasonable solution.

After all we are all just passing through.

Thank-you for your consideration and your time.