



Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

INCLUSION OF A PLACE IN THE NATIONAL HERITAGE LIST

I, Ian Gordon Campbell, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, having considered, in relation to the place listed in the Schedule of this instrument -

- (a) the Australian Heritage Council's assessment whether the place meets any of the National Heritage criteria; and
- (b) the comments given to the Council under section 324G of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*; and

being satisfied that the place specified in the Schedule has the National Heritage value or values specified in the Schedule include, pursuant to section 324J of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the place listed in the Schedule in the National Heritage List.

Dated 14th day of December 2006

[signed]

Ian Gordon Campbell
Minister for the Environment
and Heritage

SCHEDULE

STATE

Local Government Area

Name:

Location / Boundary

Criteria / Values

NEW SOUTH WALES**Coonabarabran, Coonamble and Gilgandra Shires****Warrumbungle National Park:**

About 23500ha, John Renshaws Parkway, 11km west of Coonabarabran, comprising the whole of the National Park.

Criterion**Values**

- (a) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history.

The Warrumbungles form an extensive and spectacular geomorphological site (Cochrane and Joyce 1986), and the bold volcanic landforms are unrivalled anywhere else in Australia (Yeates 2001). The volcanic features and landforms illustrate each of the stages in the development of the Warrumbungle volcano, and include an unusual opportunity to examine the inside of a volcano, in addition to parts of the original shield, or external surface, of the volcano, as well as successive layers of lava (Duggan & Knutson 1993, Johnson 2004).

The Warrumbungle National Park displays a wide array of outstanding volcanic features, including plugs, domes, dykes, sills, lava-flows, tuff layers, and horizontal and vertical columns (Duggan & Knutson 1993, Ferrett 2005, Geoscience Australia website 2005, Johnson 2004, Percival 1979, Yeates 2001).

The Warrumbungle National Park is in a transition zone between the arid western and wetter coastal zones, and is of significance as an important refugium in inland south-east Australia. The Warrumbungles support exceptionally high numbers of species, and the place is one of a small number of places in inland southern Australia that are centres of richness for plant and animal taxa (NSW NPWS 1997, ANHAT 2005).

- (d) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of:

- (i) a class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or
- (ii) a class of Australia's natural or cultural environments.

The Warrumbungles are one of the best examples of a number of central shield volcanoes along the east coast of Australia (Yeates 2001, Sutherland 2003 & 2005), and constitute the best representation of exposed volcanic features within the main north-south volcanic line in eastern Australia (Sutherland 2005). The site illustrates an outstanding diversity of volcanic features within a relatively small area that have high integrity.

- (e) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.

The Warrumbungles form a distinctive and spectacular volcanic landscape of spires, domes, plugs and dykes that is uncommon in Australia (Context 2006, Crocker & Davies 2005b, Duggan & Knutson 1993), and the sharp rise of the landform from the surrounding plain to heights of more than 700m contributes to the aesthetic drama. The site beautifully exposes the inside of a shield volcano, and the bold volcanic landforms are unrivalled anywhere else in Australia (Yeates 2001). The integrity and scenic vistas of the features within the Warrumbungle National Park are of outstanding value to the community.

For a description of any references quoted above, and more information on each of the places please search the Australian Heritage Database at <http://www.deh.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl> using the name of the place.