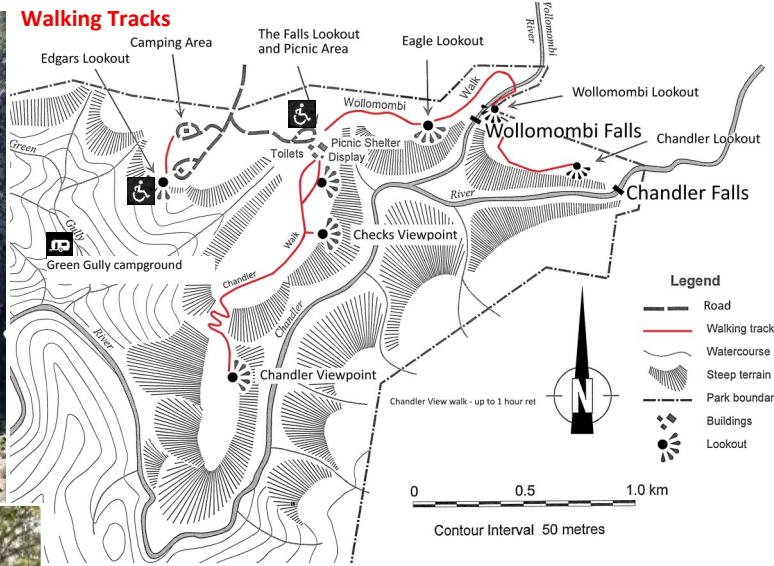




Inaccessible Gulf.



Wollomombi Gorge

OXLEY WILD RIVERS NATIONAL PARK
WORLD HERITAGE AREA

The **Chandler Walk** (3 km return) passes the Wollomombi Falls Lookout and Checks Viewpoint, continuing along the gorge rim to the south.



Picnic area.

Note that people should be fit and prepared for a short, but hard, walk beyond Checks Viewpoint to Chandler Viewpoint. This is a grade 5 section of track with slippery gravel surfaces, trip points and narrow section of track above steep gorge/rock walls.

The River Walk section of the track is no longer maintained and, as a track, is closed.

Dingo Fence

About 8 km east of the Falls turnoff, the road traverses a dingo-exclusion fence built in the early 1880s. This privately-financed fence runs north-south and stretches, somewhat intermittently, from Nowendoc (south) to Deepwater (north), for nearly 650 km. The famous Queensland-South Australia fence is east-west and, of course, much longer. All exclusion fences are 180 cm (5'9") high, all steel, close mesh with an extra skirt of rabbit netting, and a stand-off electrical wire just where a



Echidna.



Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby.



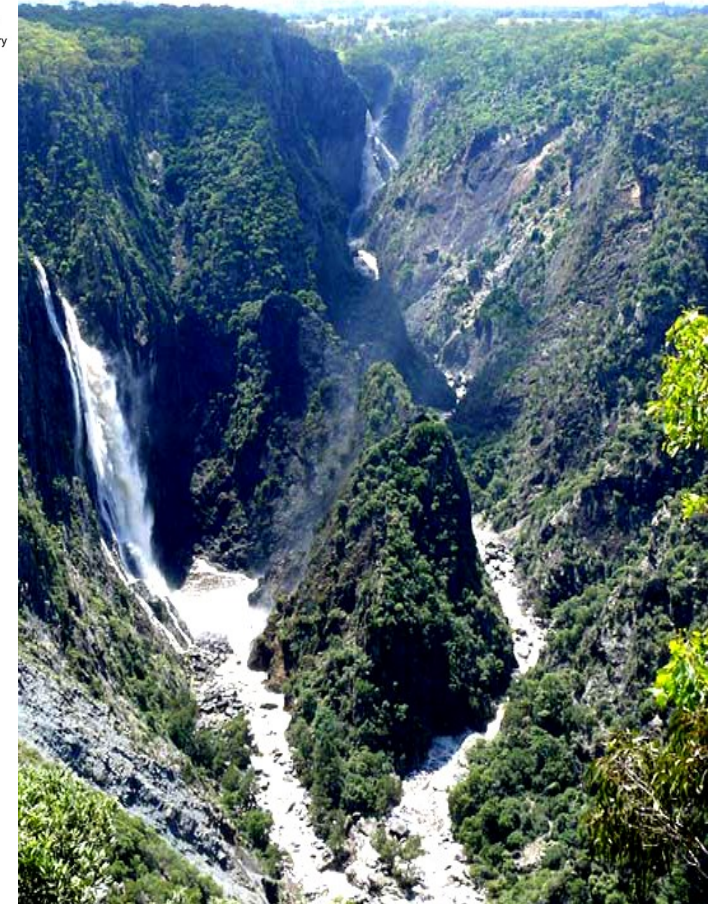
Picnic area.



Chandler viewing platform.

dingo would try to jump or tunnel under, and are very expensive to maintain. Other control measures such as trapping and poisoning (1080) are now used in conjunction.

Effective dingo and wild/hybrid dog control allows sheep to be safely grazed west of the fence; cattle only to the east.



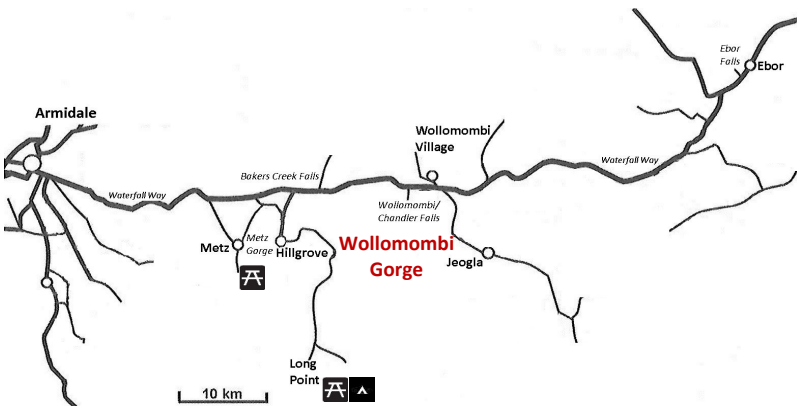
Introduction

The magnificent Wollomombi Gorge (a World Heritage Area), the deepest in NSW, contains two waterfalls - the Wollomombi Falls of 220 m (100 m single drop) and the nearby Chandler Falls. The name Wollomombi, and its various spellings, is derived from the Aboriginal words for *meeting of the waters*.

Note: The highest falls in Australia are the Wallaman Falls in Queensland (305 m, 268 m single drop).

How to Get There

From the Armidale Visitor Information Centre, travel south along Marsh Street. Turn left at the traffic lights and follow the Waterfall Way east for approximately 38 km towards the coast. **Wollomombi Gorge** turnoff is to the right. Once in the National Park, the day visitation area is to the left, the camping ground and Edgars Lookout (wheelchair accessible) to the right. All roads are sealed. The camping area accepts caravans and motorhomes.



Facilities

Bookings are required for all camping and accommodation in NSW National Parks - phone 1300 072 757 or visit nswparks.info.

Visitors to Wollomombi can enjoy the Interpretative Display and the extensive picnic facilities with gas-fired BBQs. Also available are tap-water (**not for drinking**), pit toilets and a shelter shed. Similar conveniences, plus fireplaces, are provided at the camping sites.



Icons of a bygone era, just outside park entrance.

Activities

Popular activities are photography and bird-watching, while taking in the spectacular views. Several enjoyable bushwalks emanate from the picnic area to the north and south.

The **Wollomombi Falls Lookout** is only 50+ m south of the main carpark. The viewing platform provides dramatic views of both the **Wollomombi and Chandler Gorges** and their two waterfalls; **Wollomombi Falls** to the left and **Chandler Falls** to the right. Even better views are from Checks Viewpoint, a few hundred metres further along the gorge rim. Joseph Check was a Bohemian/Australian photographer (1856-1936).

Biodiversity

Flora

Several species of tall Eucalypt trees, coupled with a range of wattles, both shrubs and trees, form the basis of the very attractive woodlands surrounding the falls and gorge.

Fauna

Eastern Grey Kangaroos and a range of wallabies (including Australia's largest population of the Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby) are very common, as are Echidnas, at all times of the year. Birdlife abounds from tiny Silvereyes to the shy Superb Lyrebird. The extraordinary mimicry of

*Wollomombi Wattle
(Acacia blakei).*



Hyacinth Orchid (Dipodium sp.).

the latter often echoes throughout the gorges. Wedge-tailed Eagles, Peregrine Falcons and other birds of prey can often be seen riding the thermals. Peregrines, the world's fastest flyer, nest on the cliffs.

Walking Tracks

The **Wollomombi Walk** (4 km return) commences at the picnic area and heads north towards the waterfalls. A long steel bridge fords the Wollomombi River and continues to the Chandler River and Falls, passing several lookout platforms on the way. The final lookout rewards with splendid views into Chandler Gorge.

Be aware that, at times of heavy rainfall, rock-hopping and other river-bed activities can be hazardous.



Pied Butcher Bird.



Wedge-tailed Eagle.



Superb Lyrebird.