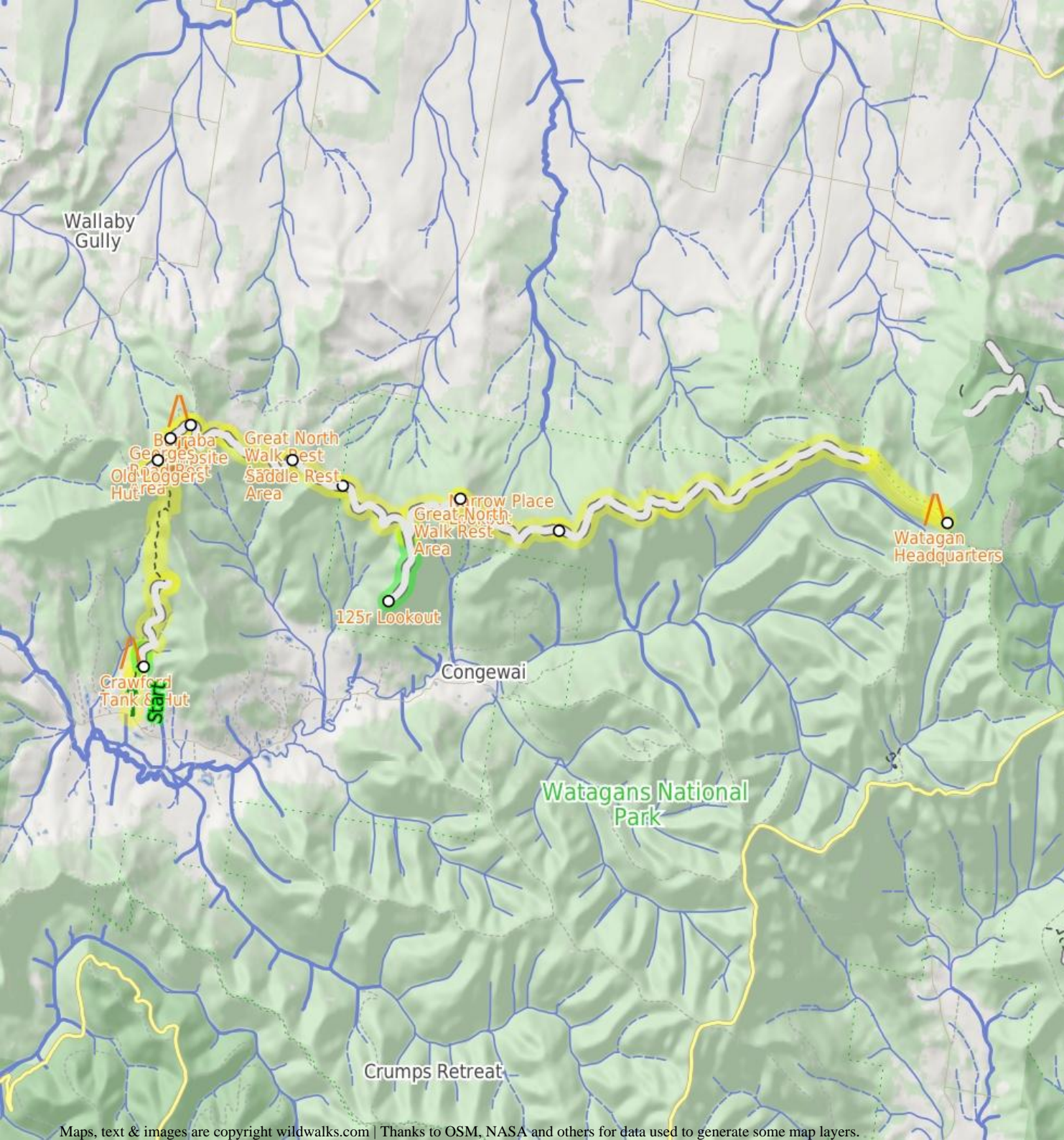


Congewai Track Head (East) to Watagan Headquarters



7 hrs

Hard track

17.2 km One way

▲ 973m



This full day walk starts from the Congewai valley trackhead (east) and follows the Great North Walk up into the Watagan National Park. Winding east along Georges road for the most part, this walk also passes many great lookouts and gives the option of a side trip down to the 125r lookout, which provides a great view to the south and nice spot for lunch. The walk finishes at the Watagan Headquarters campsite, which has a fire place and a picnic table.

139m

513m

Watagans National Park

Crawford Tank & Hut

This clearing is home to a water tank and hut on the 'Brown Muir' farm. The water tank was installed by LPMA in 2011 for walkers undertaking the Great North Walk. This farm and property have been in the owner's family since original land grants. You are welcome to camp here and use the hut as shelter. The hut is a simple structure with an earth floor, some tables, seating and some beds, although best to sleep in your tent. There is an old pit toilet on the side of the clearing. A sign reminds visitors not to light fires, this is a fuel stove only area. Wave and say hello to the owners Jill and Martin if you see them.

Old Loggers Hut

This Old Hut found beside Georges Rd, is in a state of disrepair. The corrugated iron and wooden hut has a dirt floor and a simple fire place. The hut's condition is poor and would not provide suitable shelter. Just south of the hut is a small dam. The hut was once used by loggers harvesting timber from these hills

Georges Road Rest Area

This campsite is located above Wallaby Gully, off Georges Road. The clearing has a scattering of trees, and has awesome views of Wallaby Gully. There is room for a few tents and small campfire.

Barraba Campsite

Barraba campsite, near Georges Road on the Great North Walk, is quiet rest area where campers can stay the night and set up a campfire. The small, semi-secluded campsite is surrounded by lovely large grass trees. The campsite has a 'Walker register' book so you can note your intentions. The campsite has no facilities or water.

Saddle Rest Area

This rest area consists of a clearing on a saddle, with a small dam nearby. There is space for a number of tents and access to water after rain (treat before use).

Great North Walk Rest Area

Located on George Road, this rest area is situated by a steep, unfenced drop with spectacular views. There is space for a few tents and a small campfire, there are no facilities or water here.

Before You walk

Bushwalking is fun and a wonderful way to enjoy our natural places. Sometimes things go bad, with a bit of planning you can increase your chance of having an enjoyable and safer walk. Before setting off on your walk check

- 1) Weather Forecast ([BOM Hunter District](#))
- 2) Fire Dangers ([Greater Hunter](#))
- 3) Park Alerts ([Watagans National Park](#))
- 4) Research the walk to check your party has the skills, fitness and equipment required
- 5) Agree to stay as a group and not leave anyone to walk solo

Think before you TREK

The 'Think before you TREK' program developed by NSW Police & NPWS promotes the benefits of planning ahead for your bushwalking trip by using an easy to remember acronym:

- T** Take adequate supplies of food, water, navigation and first aid equipment.
- R** Register your planned route and tell friends and family when you expect to return.
- E** Emergency beacon (PLB's) should be carried on walks with significant gaps in mobile coverage (check terrain profile).
- K** Keep to your planned route and follow the map and walking trails.

Topo Maps

The maps provided on wildwalks are helpful, but there are times where you may need maps covering a broader area. Maps that cover this walk include;

1:25 000 Map Series:91322S QUORROBOLONG

1:50 000 Map Series:91322 CESSNOCK

1:100 000 Map Series:9132 CESSNOCK

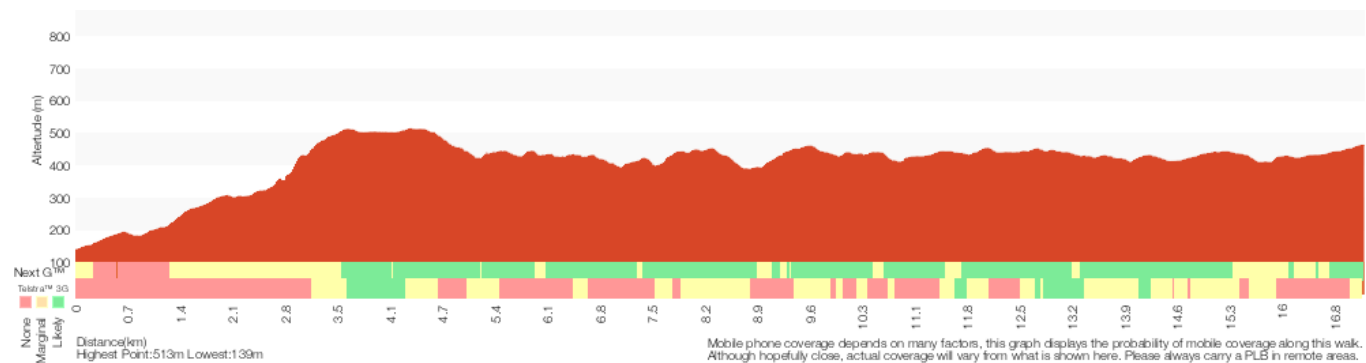
Grade

This walk has been graded using the AS 2156.1-2001. The overall grade of the walk is determined by the highest classification along the whole track.



**Grade 4/6
Hard track**

Length	17.2 km One way
Time	7 hrs
Quality of track	Rough track, where fallen trees and other obstacles are likely (4/6)
Signs	Directional signs along the way (3/6)
Experience Required	Some bushwalking experience recommended (3/6)
Weather	Weather generally has little impact on safety (1/6)
Infrastructure	Limited facilities, not all cliffs are fenced (3/6)



Are you ready to have fun?

Please ensure you and your group are well prepared and equipped for all possible hazards and delays. Check park closures, weather information and Fire Danger Rating before setting out. Optional side trips and alternate routes noted are not included in this walk's overall grade, length or time estimate. Please allow extra time for resting and exploring areas of interest. The authors, staff and owners of wildwalks take care in preparing this information but will not accept responsibility for any inconvenience, loss or injury you may experience. Please take care, have fun - Happy Walking.

Getting there Traveling by car is the only practical way to get to Congewai Valley east trackhead (gps: -32.9952, 151.3004). Car: There is free parking available.

Traveling by car is the only practical way to get back from Forestry H.Q campsite (gps: -32.9756, 151.4117). Car: There is free parking available.

Find up to date and more information including; travel directions, weather, park closures and walker feedback at <http://wild.tl/cufbc>

0 | Congewai Valley east trackhead

(760 m 17 mins) From the Congewai Valley east trackhead, this walk follows the 'Newcastle' sign over the stile. Here the walk follows the track gently uphill through the open forest, leaving the Congewai Valley Road behind. After about 500m, this walk comes to a stile (with farmland and a fence on the left).

Continue straight: From here, this walk climbs over the fence using the stile and follows the track gently uphill, keeping the more open farmland on your left. The walk continues for about 300m to an intersection with a wide dirt trail, just before a vehicular gate, marked with a GNW arrow post.

0.76 | Optional sidetrip to Crawford Tank AND Hut

(180 m 5 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Drinking Water' sign up along the wide trail, away from the gate. The trail leads gently uphill for about 150m before coming to a large clearing with a hut and water tank. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Veer right.

0.76 | Crawford Tank & Hut

This clearing is home to a water tank and hut on the 'Brown Muir' farm. The water tank was installed by LPMA in 2011 for walkers undertaking the Great North Walk. This farm and property have been in the owner's family since original land grants. You are welcome to camp here and use the hut as shelter. The hut is a simple structure with an earth floor, some tables, seating and some beds, although best to sleep in your tent. There is an old pit toilet on the side of the clearing. A sign reminds visitors not to light fires, this is a fuel stove only area. Wave and say hello to the owners Jill and Martin if you see them.

0.76 | Property Gate

(1.2 km 31 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the wide trail gently downhill and through the gate, and into the signposted 'Edwin Crawford Conservation Area'. The trail bends right, then starts to lead gently uphill for about 1.2km, until coming to a faint three-way intersection with a track (on the right), marked with a couple of GNW arrow posts.

1.96 | Int on GNW bushtrack

(1.9 km 54 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post uphill. After about 700m, the track becomes narrower and much steeper as it climbs up to, then follows, the main ridge line. After about 600m of mostly steep climbing, the track then leads more gently uphill, enjoying the views through trees (on the right). The walk continues gently up this section for another 400m, then heads over a small rise and comes down to a T-

intersection with the dirt Georges Road marked with a 'Great North Walk' sign. Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow marker gently downhill along the dirt road. After 80m, this walk passes a small dam and comes to an old tin hut (on the left).

3.82 | Old Loggers Hut

This Old Hut found beside Georges Rd, is in a state of disrepair. The corrugated iron and wooden hut has a dirt floor and a simple fire place. The hut's condition is poor and would not provide suitable shelter. Just south of the hut is a small dam. The hut was once used by loggers harvesting timber from these hills

3.82 | Old Loggers Hut

(300 m 5 mins) Continue straight: From the old loggers hut, this walk follows the dirt road north-east along the top of the ridge, initially keeping the hut to your left. After about 300m, the trail leads to a large clearing with great views on the left, Georges Road rest area.

4.12 | Georges Road Rest Area

This campsite is located above Wallaby Gully, off Georges Road. The clearing has a scattering of trees, and has awesome views of Wallaby Gully. There is room for a few tents and small campfire.

4.12 | Georges Rd rest area

(320 m 6 mins) Continue straight: From Georges Road rest area, this walk follows the dirt road gently uphill, initially keeping the rest area on your left. The walk continues for about 200m until coming to a three-way intersection, marked with a GNW arrow marker.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Barraba Trig Rest Area' sign north-east, gently uphill along the trail. Following a few GNW arrow markers over about 90m, this trail then comes to a large flat clearing signposted as 'Barraba campsite', with some lovely large grass trees.

4.43 | Barraba Campsite

Barraba campsite, near Georges Road on the Great North Walk, is quiet rest area where campers can stay the night and set up a campfire. The small, semi-secluded campsite is surrounded by lovely large grass trees. The campsite has a 'Walker register' book so you can note your intentions. The campsite has no facilities or water.

4.43 | Barraba Campsite

(1.8 km 43 mins) Continue straight: From the Barraba campsite, this walk follows the 'Newcastle' sign east, downhill along the grassy trail. After about 220m, the walk heads past the 'Barraba Trig Rest Area' sign (pointing back uphill) to then climb the fence using the stile (beside the gate).

Continue straight: From the locked gate, this walk heads downhill along the wide dirt trail, directly away from the 'Barraba Trig' sign. The trail leads down for about 400m, moderately steeply for a while. As the trail mostly flattens out, the walk climbs over another fence beside a locked gate using the stile. The walk continues down along this trail for almost 200m to pass 'The Barbara Lowes Conservation area' sign. Here, the walk climbs over the fence using the stile beside the vehicular gate. There are filtered valley views to your left.

Continue straight: From the locked gate, this walk follows the trail gently downhill, while keeping the views on your left (and ignoring the trail on your left). This walk undulates gently up and down the side of the hill for about 1 km, until coming to a saddle, with views on the left and dam on the right.

6.25 | Saddle Rest Area

This rest area consists of a clearing on a saddle, with a small dam nearby. There is space for a number of tents and access to water after rain (treat

before use).

6.25 | Saddle Rest Area

(730 m 17 mins) Continue straight: From the saddle, this walk follows the trail gently uphill, initially keeping the views on your left and fire dam on your right. The walk continues with the cliffs on your right for just shy of 300m then after another 400m, just past the 'Private Property/Walkers Only' sign, this walk heads over the fence using a stile beside the gate. There are wide valley views from here, and a clearing on the left.

6.98 | GNW Rest Area

Located on George Road, this rest area is situated by a steep, unfenced drop with spectacular views. There is space for a few tents and a small campfire, there are no facilities or water here.

6.98 | Int of Georges Rd AND Watagans National Park bound

(1.3 km 33 mins) Continue straight: From the locked gate, this walk follows the dirt Georges Road moderately steeply downhill at first, keeping the views on your left. The walk undulates, moderately steeply in a couple of places, winding around the side of a few hills for about 1km, and then heads around a sharp left-hand bend (passing a faint roadside clearing, on the right). The walk continues for another 500m along the dirt road to come to a three-way intersection, with 125r trail and '125r Lookout' sign (on the right).

8.31 | Optional sidetrip to 125r Lookout Rest Area

(860 m 17 mins) Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the '125r Lookout' sign south gently downhill along the grassy trail. The walk continues through forest for about 900m, until coming to the end of the road and an unfenced lookout with wide valley views. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn right.

8.31 | 125r Lookout

The 125r Lookout, in the Watagan National Park, is located on a track off Georges Road. This unfenced clearing is on a cliff edge and has broad views over the surrounding valleys. This small clearing has been used as a campsite.

8.31 | Top of the 125r Lookout trail

(1.3 km 31 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow marker east along Georges Road as it first bends left, initially keeping the 125r Lookout track on your right. After about 400m, the road leads down and across a flat saddle, then leads moderately steeply up for about 400m, where the trail mostly flattens out then comes to the top of the hill. There are views from the unfenced cliff here, on the left.

9.63 | GNW Rest Area

This is a small rest area on the side of Georges Road, providing room to rest up and for a small campfire. There are also some nice views through the trees but be careful as this rest area is near a steep drop.

9.63 | Northern rest area

(1.5 km 33 mins) Continue straight: From the rest area, this walk follows the dirt George Road east, initially keeping the views on your left. The road gently undulates along the ridge for about 1.5km, coming to the unignposted Narrow Place Lookout, where there is a short metal post fence and wide valley (on the left).

11.15 | Narrow Place Lookout

Narrow Place Lookout is perched high on a partially-fenced cliff and provides great views north over the farmland and bush towards Cessnock. The lookout is beside a dirt road and a fairly large clearing.

11.15 | Narrow Place Lookout

(4.8 km 1 hr 32 mins) Continue straight: From the Narrow Place lookout, this walk follows Georges Road east gently downhill, initially keeping the views to your left. The road leads through forest for about 1.8km, ignoring a few smaller side trails until coming to a three-way intersection (with the Congewai Creek track, on the right), marked with a GNW arrow post.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post east along the dirt Georges Road as it leads gently downhill, initially keeping the main valley to your left. The road leads along the ridge among the tall trees, past a few small clearings and side tracks for about 2.2km to pass a gate and timber fence (on your left). The walk continues along this main road for another 600m, coming to a T-intersection with the dirt Heaton Road, marked with a 'Watagans National Park' sign.

15.92 | Int of Georges & Heaton Rds

(1.2 km 25 mins) Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'The Great North Walk' sign gently uphill along the dirt Heaton Rd. The road leads up along the ridge through the tall forest for about 1.1km, until coming to a Y-intersection with Bakers Rd and a large sign with many names.

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Hunters Lookout' sign gently uphill along Bakers Road. The walk continues along this road for a bit over 150m, coming to a three-way intersection, just in front of the signposted 'Watagan Headquarters' campsite.

17.15 | Watagan Headquarters

Watagan Headquarters campsite (aka Forestry HQ) is located in the Heaton State Forest, beside Bakers Rd, near Heaton Rd. This campsite has wood fired barbecues, picnic tables and a garbage bin. The large, flat, cleared area allows plenty of room to pitch a tent. In 2010, a series of vandalism attacks occurred on the water tank, so there is no longer water available.





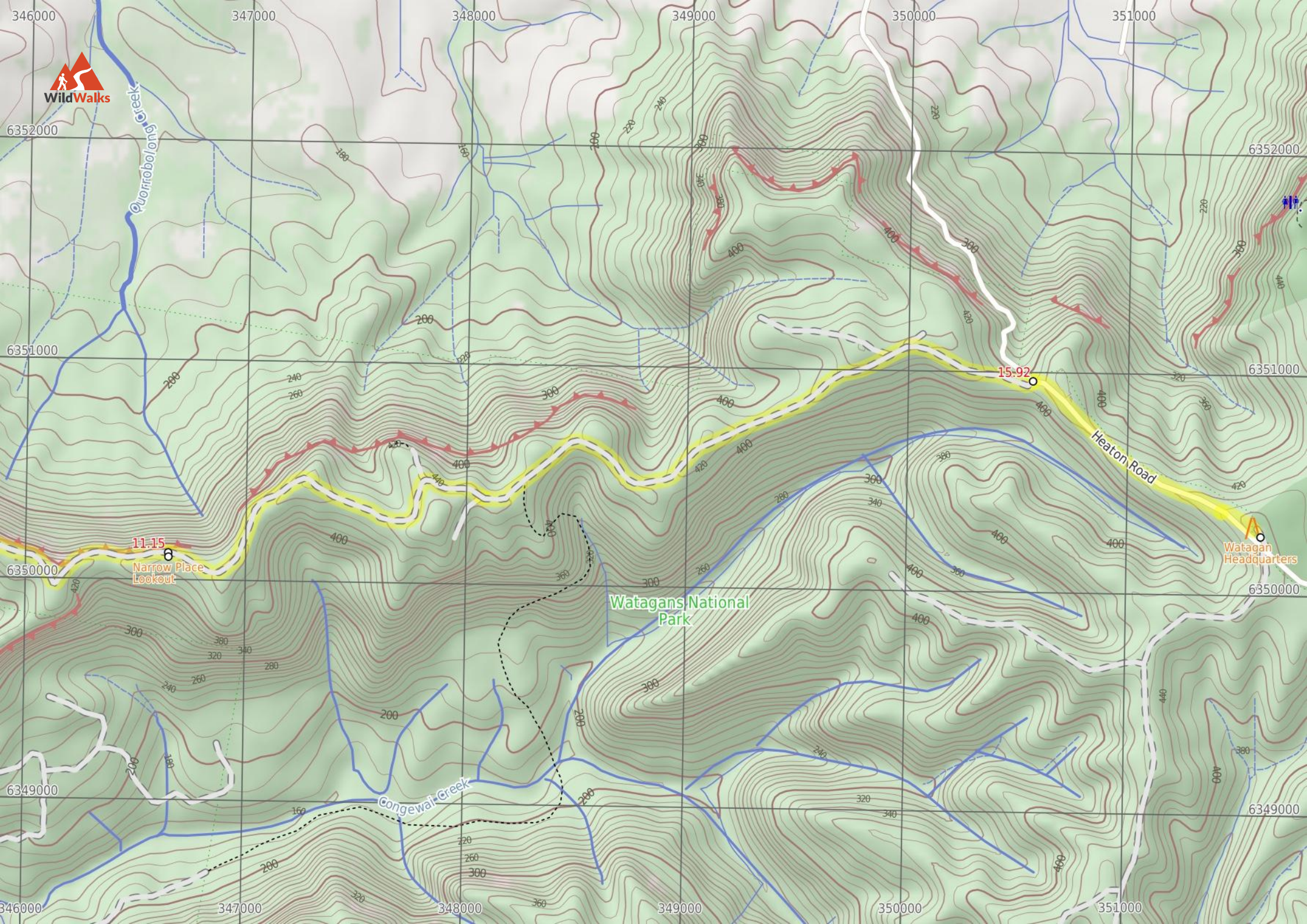
15.92

Watagan Headquarters

Watagans National Park

Heaton State Forest





WildWalks

Congewai Creek

Heaton Road

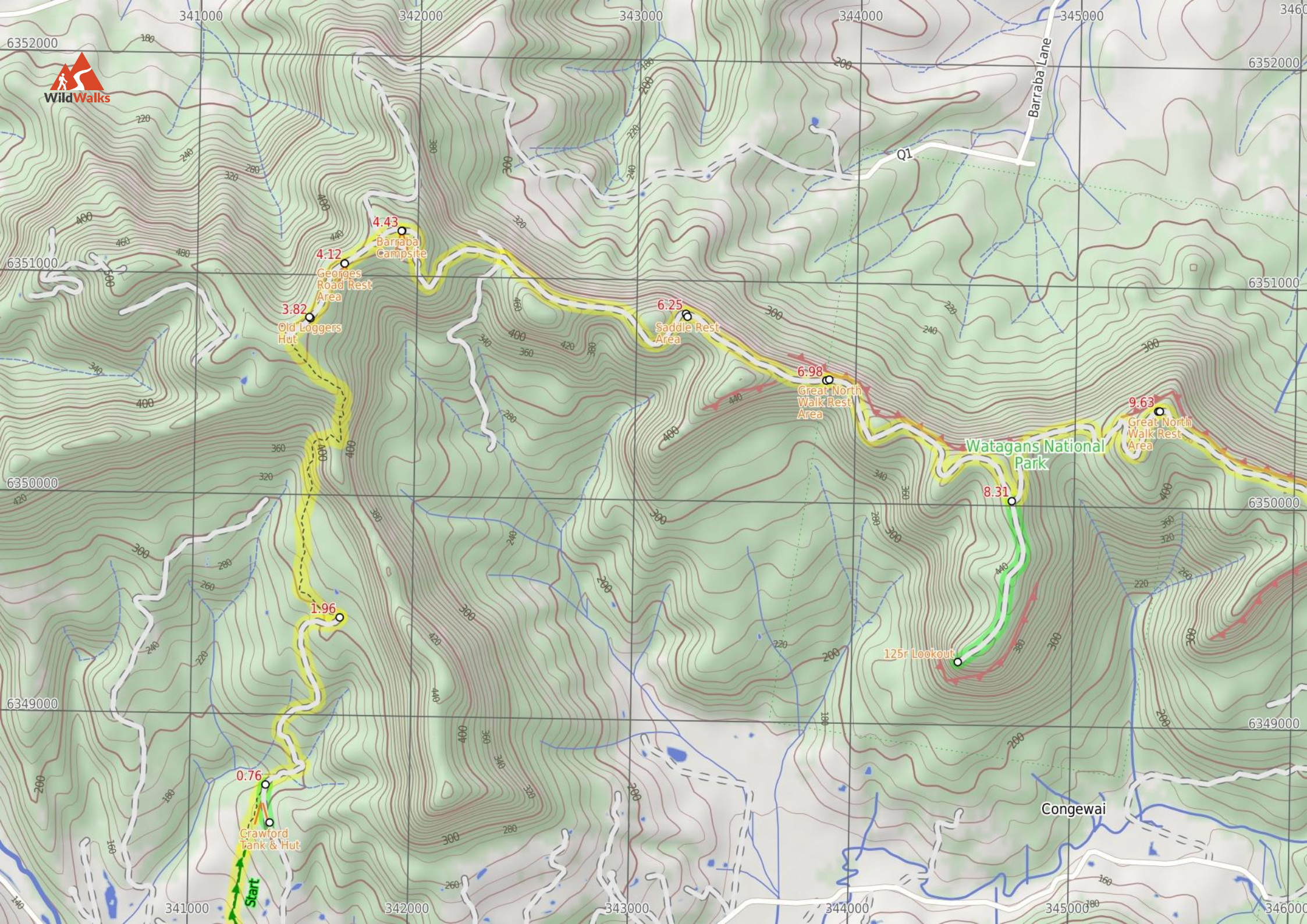
Watagans National Park

Congewai Creek

11.15
Narrow Place
Lookout

15.92

Watagan
Headquarters



Summary navigation sheet for the Congewai Track Head (East) to Watagan Headquarters



km	From	Up/Dwn	Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)
0.00	Congewai Valley east trackhead -32.9952,151.3004 (GR Quorrobolong, 412480)	54 -12	760 m 17 mins	From the Congewai Valley east trackhead, this walk follows the 'Newcastle' sign over the stile.
0.76	Property Gate -32.9888,151.302 (GR Quorrobolong, 413487)	21 0	180 m 5 mins	Optional sidetrip to Crawford Tank AND Hut. Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Drinking Water' sign up along the wide trail, away from the gate.
0.76	Property Gate -32.9888,151.302 (GR Quorrobolong, 413487)	125 -1	1.2 km 31 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the wide trail gently downhill and through the gate, and into the signposted 'Edwin Crawford Conservation Area'.
1.96	Int on GNW bushtrack -32.9819,151.3056 (GR Quorrobolong, 417494)	239 -44	1.9 km 54 mins	Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post uphill.
3.82	Old Loggers Hut -32.9696,151.3042 (GR Quorrobolong, 415508)	2 -2	300 m 5 mins	Continue straight: From the old loggers hut, this walk follows the dirt road north-east along the top of the ridge, initially keeping the hut to your left.
4.12	Georges Rd rest area -32.9674,151.3058 (GR Quorrobolong, 417511)	13 -3	320 m 6 mins	Continue straight: From Georges Road rest area, this walk follows the dirt road gently uphill, initially keeping the rest area on your left.
4.43	Barraba Campsite -32.9661,151.3086 (GR Quorrobolong, 419512)	78 -164	1.8 km 43 mins	Continue straight: From the Barraba campsite, this walk follows the 'Newcastle' sign east, downhill along the grassy trail.
6.25	Saddle Rest Area -32.9695,151.3224 (GR Quorrobolong, 432508)	36 -57	730 m 17 mins	Continue straight: From the saddle, this walk follows the trail gently uphill, initially keeping the views on your left and fire dam on your right.
6.98	Int of Georges Rd AND Watagans National Park boundary gate -32.9722,151.3292 (GR Quorrobolong, 439506)	99 -53	1.3 km 33 mins	Continue straight: From the locked gate, this walk follows the dirt Georges Road moderately steeply downhill at first, keeping the views on your left.
8.31	Top of the 125r Lookout trail -32.9771,151.3382 (GR Quorrobolong, 447500)	15 -50	860 m 17 mins	Optional sidetrip to 125r Lookout Rest Area. Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the '125r Lookout' sign south gently downhill along the grassy trail.
8.31	Top of the 125r Lookout trail -32.9771,151.3382 (GR Quorrobolong, 447500)	76 -68	1.3 km 31 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow marker east along Georges Road as it first bends left, initially keeping the 125r Lookout track on your right.
9.63	Northern rest area -32.9735,151.3454 (GR Quorrobolong, 454504)	57 -90	1.5 km 33 mins	Continue straight: From the rest area, this walk follows the dirt George Road east, initially keeping the views on your left.
11.15	Narrow Place Lookout -32.9765,151.3589 (GR Quorrobolong, 466501)	134 -153	4.8 km 1 hr 32 mins	Continue straight: From the Narrow Place lookout, this walk follows Georges Road east gently downhill, initially keeping the views to your left.
15.92	Int of Georges & Heaton Rds -32.9695,151.401 (GR Quorrobolong, 506510)	60 -7	1.2 km 25 mins	Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'The Great North Walk' sign gently uphill along the dirt Heaton Rd.