

MURRUMBIDGEE RIVER

Canoe & Kayak Trail

Burrinjuck to Wagga Wagga



Snowy Mountains



Department of Lands

www.lands.nsw.gov.au



WELCOME

Welcome to the Murrumbidgee 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 Murrumbidgee River

The Murrumbidgee River rises from the Great Dividing Range near Kiandra, then flows through the Australian Capital Territory where it turns inland as part of the Murray-Darling basin. From the Burrinjuck Dam, the river emerges into the rolling hills of the Gundagai area, where it is then joined by the Tumut River. The river continues through Wagga Wagga and beyond to eventually join the Murray River near Boundary Bend.

The Murrumbidgee River is significant because it carries water from the Snowy Mountains Scheme to vast irrigation areas for the production of citrus, stone fruit, grapes and other food crops. It also supports many species of flora and fauna as it winds through some of Australia's hottest and driest country.

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 Murrumbidgee River. It covers 230 km of river between the Burrinjuck Dam and Wagga Wagga.

The trail requires basic canoeing/kayaking skills and an average fitness level with some sections up to seven 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.

Annual releases of irrigation water from Burrinjuck Dam provide deep moving water that is ideal for canoeing from September to March.

Canoe/kayak hire

- Wagga Wagga Outdoors and Beyond (02) 6922 8282



HOW TO GET THERE



HOW TO GET THERE

The canoe & kayak trail starts at Nanangroe Reserve, just south of Bookham on the Murrumbidgee River 34 km west of Yass.

See the *How to get there* map for directions from nearby NSW centres.

Take the left turn for Childowla Road when exiting the Hume Highway at Bookham. After 17 km turn right onto Nanangroe Road (it's signposted). Nanangroe Reserve is on the riverside after approximately 2.1 km.

Starting GPS location

GDA 55H 639344/6136748

Camping

Tent based camping is permitted on the reserve.

Facilities

None available

Accommodation

The closest accommodation to the starting point is in Yass which has a choice of hotels, motels and caravan parks.

Meals

In Yass, there is a range of options such as general stores, cafes, restaurants or pubs for meals or supplies.

NANANGROE RESERVE TO JUGIONG RECREATION RESERVE

Destination

Jugiong Recreation Reserve, after the road bridge which crosses the river. Note: there is no dedicated landing spot available and the bank is steep in parts.

GPS location

GDA 55H 621459/6145467

River distance

32 km

Paddling time

6.0 hrs

Permanent hazards

Check the clearance level of the bridge at Jugiong when the river level is above 4 m at Gundagai.

Camping

Tent based camping is permitted on the reserve.

Facilities

Toilets, BBQ, a playground and swimming pool

Vehicle access

Turn off the Hume Highway into the town of Jugiong. The reserve fronts the river behind the rest area and swimming pool.

Accommodation

Jugiong Motor Inn, Riverside Drive **(02) 6945 4269**

Meals

Long Track Café – Riverside Drive **(02) 6945 4144** or
Jugiong Motor Inn **(02) 6945 4269** which offers a licensed bar

Alternate landing

If staying at the motel it is easier to land canoes/kayaks at the end of Dixon Lane approximately 1 km before the bridge at Jugiong, opposite the motel.

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 Murrumbidgee Canoe Trail zone is 55H

JUGIONG RECREATION RESERVE TO SANDY FALLS RESERVE

2

Destination

Sandy Falls Reserve, has good bank access on the right hand side of the river.

GPS location

GDA 55H 609168/6128410

River distance

41 km

Paddling time

8.0 hrs

Permanent hazards

Check the clearance level of the bridge at Adjungbilly Road (GDA 55H 612766/6127058) when the river level is above 4.8 m at Gundagai.

Camping

Tent based camping is permitted on the reserve.

Facilities

None available

Vehicle access

Turn east off the Hume Highway 2.9 km south of Coolac, after another 2 km turn right at the signpost to Sandy Falls.

Accommodation

The nearest accommodation is in Gundagai (25 km) where there is a range of motels and two caravan parks available.

Meals

Available at the Coolac Hotel and shop (9 km), The Dog on the Tuckerbox highway stop (17 km) or Gundagai (25 km).

SANDY FALLS RESERVE TO GUNDAGAI COMMON

3

Destination

Gundagai Common, on the right hand bank 50 m before the old road bridge at Gundagai. The landing is next to a caravan park.

GPS location

GDA 55H 0601055/6118088

River distance

28 km

Paddling time

5.5 hrs

Permanent hazards

Tumut River enters the Murrumbidgee River at (GDA 55H 607691/6123977) which can cause a significant increase in water flow and turbulence.

Camping

Camping is not permitted on the common
Camp at the Riverside Caravan Park **(02) 6944 1702**

Facilities

At the caravan park or in Gundagai (2 km)

Vehicle access

In dry weather, access is available by driving across the flood plain to the landing. There is all weather access to the Riverside Caravan Park or to the south side landing.

Accommodation

Gundagai has a good range of cabins, hotel and motel accommodation.

Meals

In Gundagai there is a range of options such as general stores, cafes, restaurants or pubs for meals or supplies.

Visitor information

Gundagai Visitor Information Centre **(02) 6944 1341**

Alternate landing

The left hand bank after the second (railway) bridge (200 m), offers a better beach landing.

GUNDAGAI COMMON TO LIMEKILNS RESERVE

4

Destination

Limekilns Reserve, land on the left hand bank after the high voltage powerlines that cross the river.

GPS location

GDA 55H 0582390/6117011

River distance

26 km

Paddling time

5.0 hrs

Camping

Tent based camping is permitted on the reserve.

Facilities

None available

Vehicle access

Via a 1.2 km rough track through a travelling stock route (TSR). Enter the gateway (opposite vineyards) signposted TSR on the northern side of the Old Hume Highway, which is 10 km north of the current Hume Highway.

Accommodation

Nearest accommodation is in Gundagai (27 km)

Meals

Tumblong Tavern (02) 6944 9202 on the Hume Highway (10.5km) or various options in Gundagai or South Gundagai (24 km)

LIMEKILNS RESERVE TO WANTABDGERY RECREATION RESERVE

5

Destination

Wantabadgery Recreation Reserve, the right hand bank has a good landing beach.

GPS location

GDA 55H 0567565/6119009

River distance

30 km

Paddling time

6.0 hrs

Permanent hazards

Old Hume Highway bridge across the river (GDA 55H 574903/6117964)

Camping

Tent based camping is permitted on the reserve.

Facilities

Toilets, tables, shelters and water

Vehicle access

2.7 km south of Wantabadgery on the Old Hume Highway, use the laneway to access the river (400 m)

Accommodation

None available

Meals

None available



WANTABADGERY RECREATION RESERVE TO GREEN FLAT RESERVE

6A

Destination

Green Flat Reserve, lefthand bank landing

GPS location

GDA 55H 0561581/6111740

River distance

14.8 km

Paddling time

3.0 hrs

Camping

Tent based camping is permitted on the reserve

Facilities, accommodation & meals

None available

Vehicle access

Take Windarmarra Road north from the Sturt Highway and cross Tarcutta Creek (1.9 km). Turn left at intersection to Massadon Farm. Turn left through double white gates 100 m after the stone entrance gates. Follow the track to the river reserve.

GREEN FLAT RESERVE TO OURA BEACH RESERVE

6B

Destination

Oura Beach Reserve, right-hand bank landing

GPS location

GDA 55H 0549564/6113019

River distance

28 km

Paddling time

5.5 hrs

Camping

Tent based camping is permitted on the reserve

Facilities

Toilets, fire places and drinking water

Vehicle access

Vehicle access is signposted from the village of Oura, turn off from Wantabadgery Road.

Accommodation & meals

Nearest accommodation and meals are in Wagga Wagga (16 km).

OURA BEACH RESERVE TO WAGGA BEACH RESERVE

7

Destination

Wagga Beach Reserve, on the left hand bank, good landing spots

GPS location

GDA 55H 534253/6115255

River distance

26 km

Paddling time

5.0 hrs

Camping

Camping is not permitted on the riverside

Camp at Wagga Beach Caravan Park **(02) 6931 0603**

Facilities

All facilities are available in the township of Wagga Wagga.

Vehicle access

Wagga Beach and the caravan park can be accessed by vehicle via Johnston St.

Accommodation

Wagga Wagga is a major regional centre with a wide range of motel, hotel and cabin accommodation options.

Meals

Various dining options are available within walking distance of the caravan park.

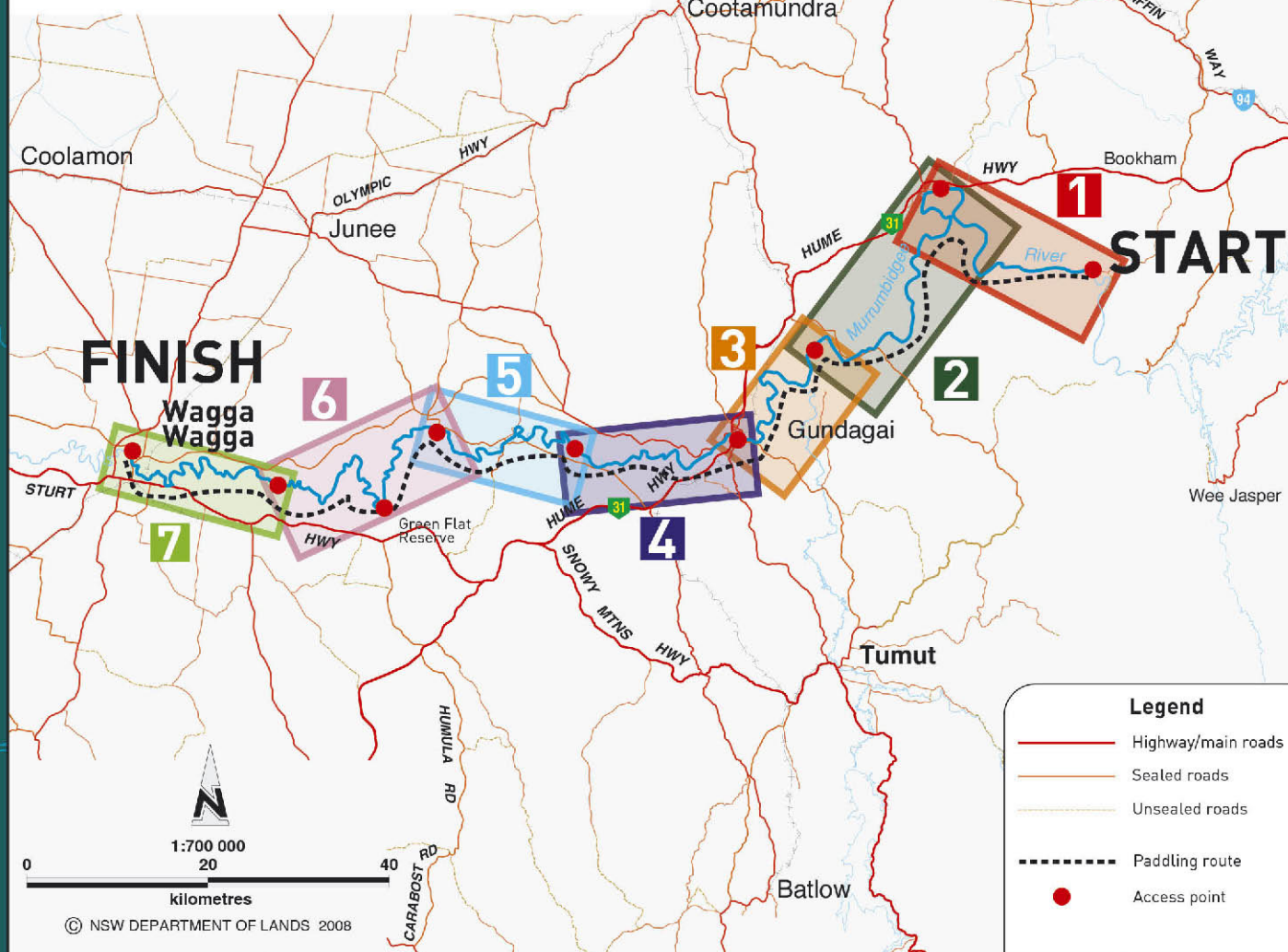
Visitor information

Wagga Visitor Information Centre **(02) 6926 9100** or **1300 100 122**



OVERVIEW MAP

- 1 Nanangroe Reserve to Jugiong Recreation Reserve
- 2 Jugiong Recreation Reserve to Sandy Falls Reserve
- 3 Sandy Falls Reserve to Gundagai Common
- 4 Gundagai Common to Limekilns Reserve
- 5 Limekilns Reserve to Wantabadgery Reserve
- 6 Wantabadgery to Green Flat Reserve & Green Flat Reserve to Oura Beach Reserve
- 7 Oura Beach Reserve to Wagga Beach Reserve



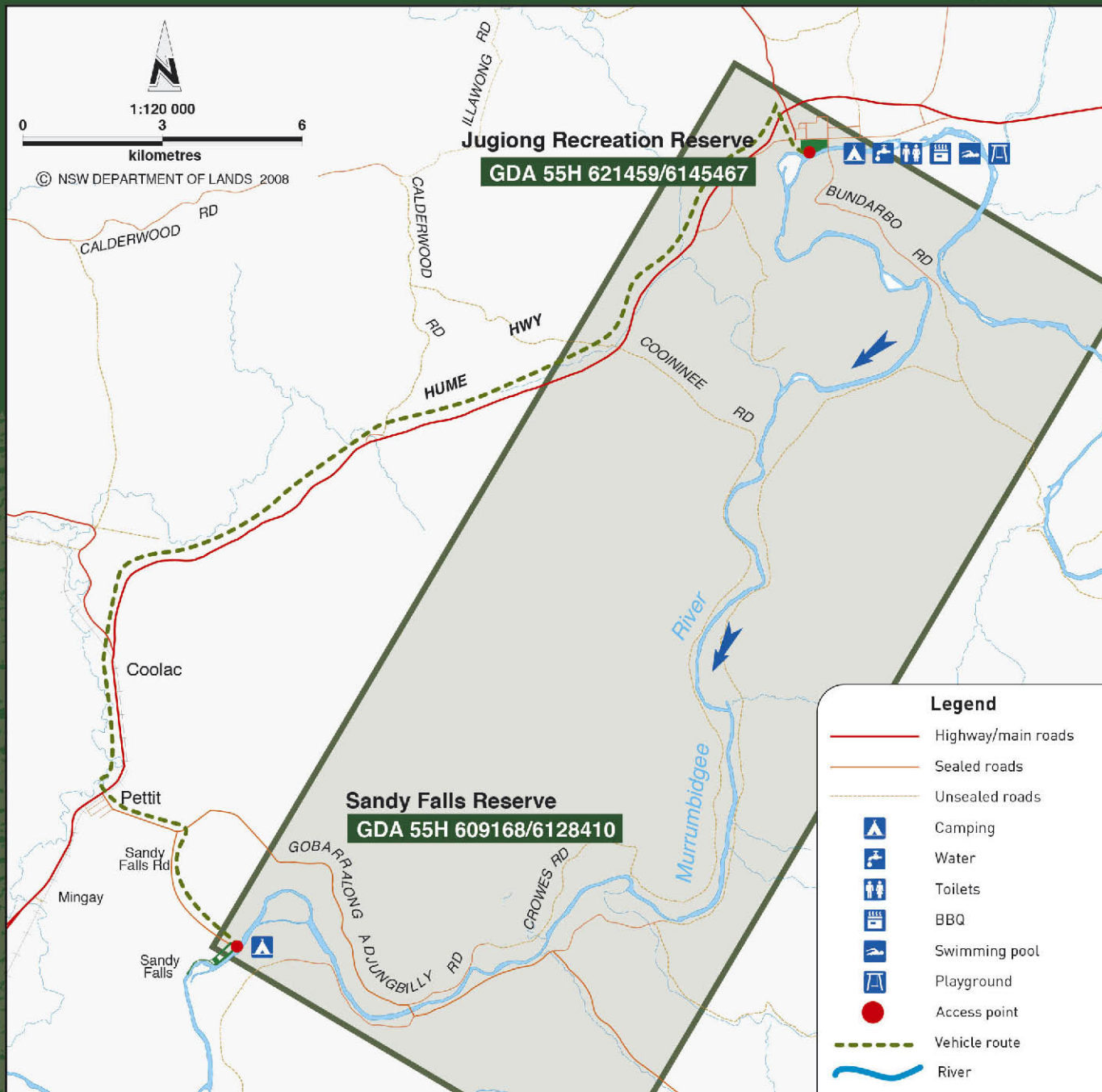
NANANGROE RESERVE TO JUGIONG RECREATION RESERVE

MAP



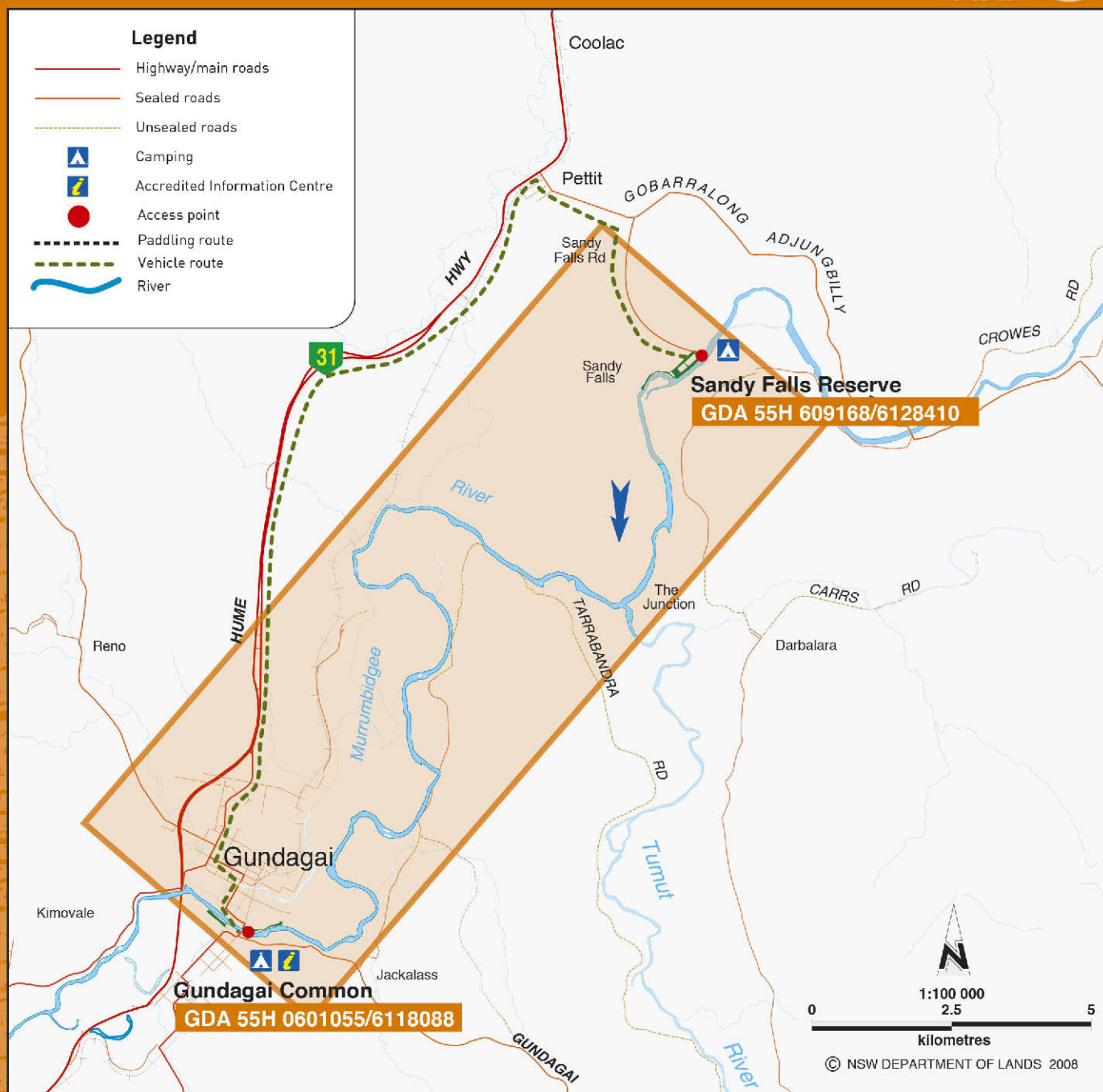
JUGIONG RECREATION RESERVE TO SANDY FALLS RESERVE

MAP **2**



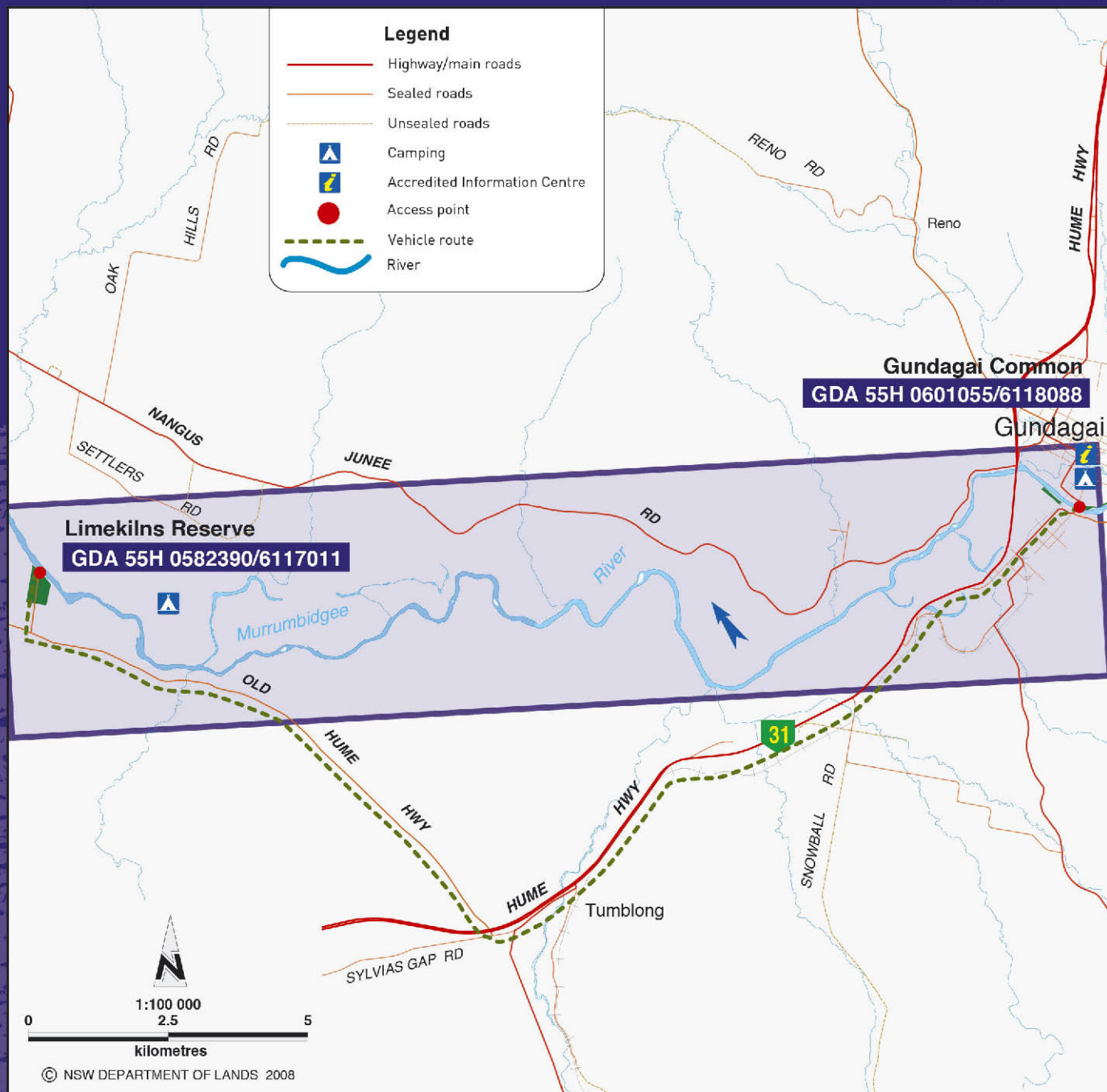
SANDY FALLS RESERVE TO GUNDAGAI COMMON

MAP 3



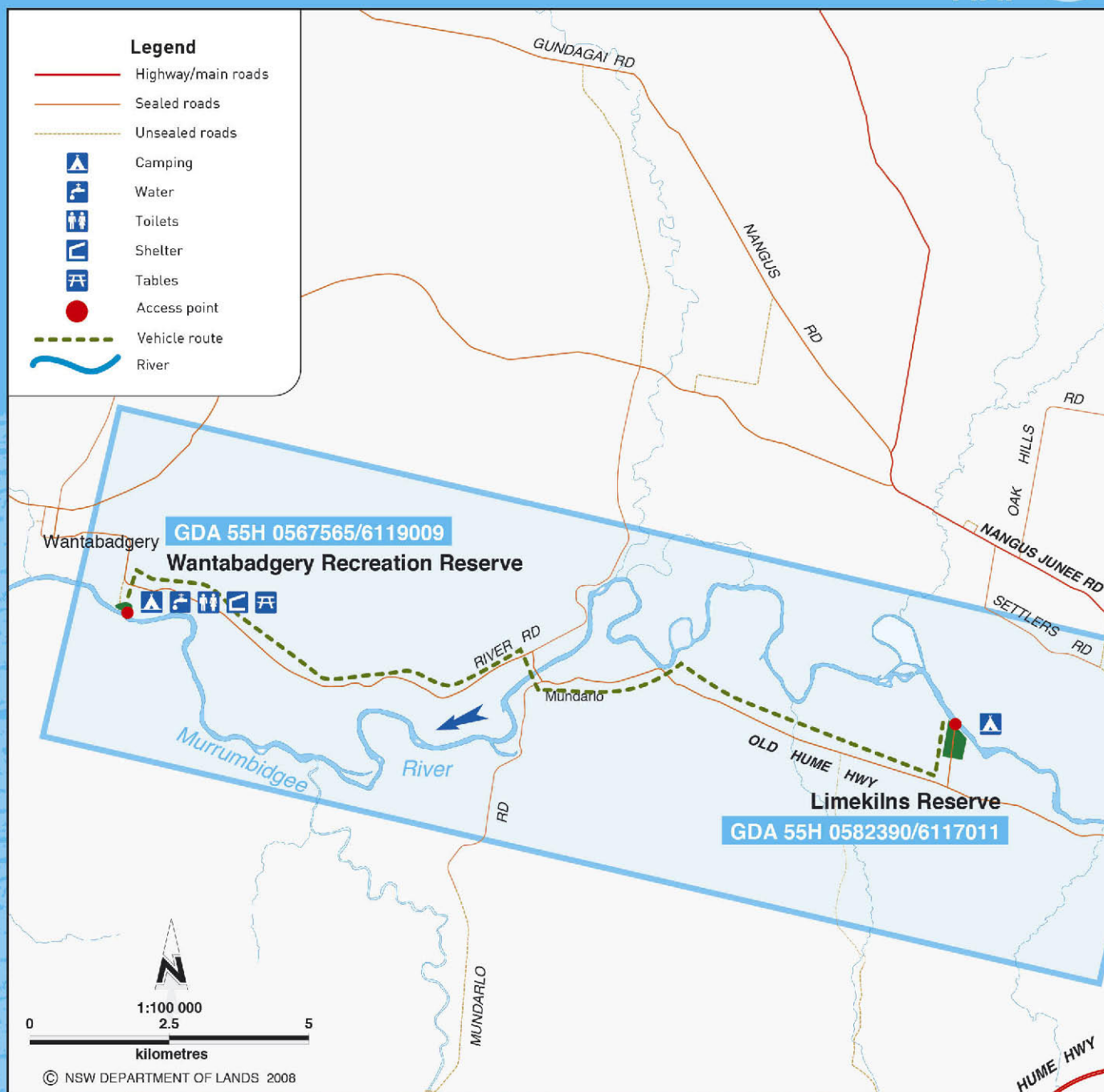
GUNDAGAI COMMON TO LIMEKILNS RESERVE

MAP 4



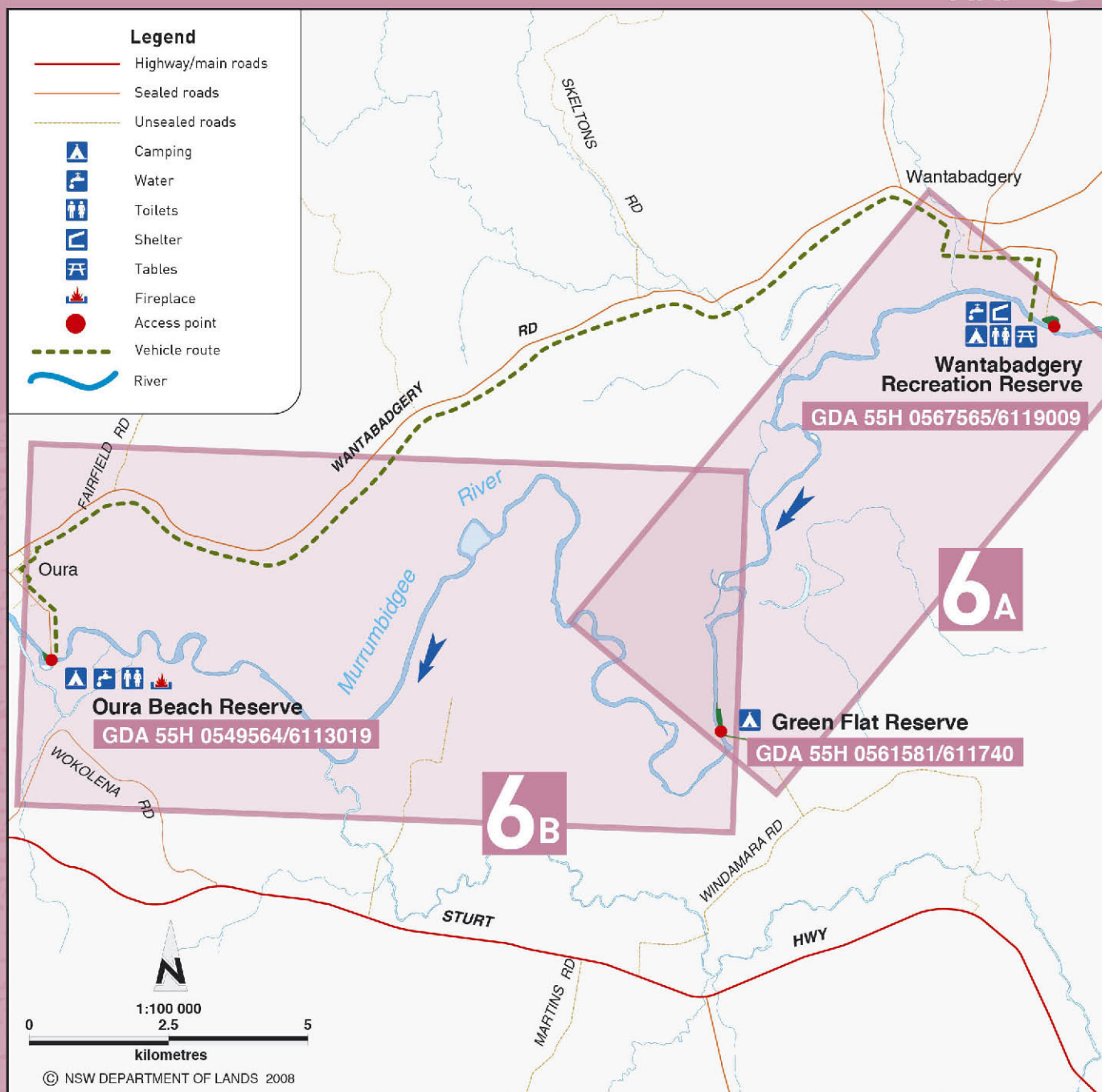
LIMEKILNS RESERVE TO WANTABADGERY RECREATION RESERVE

MAP 5



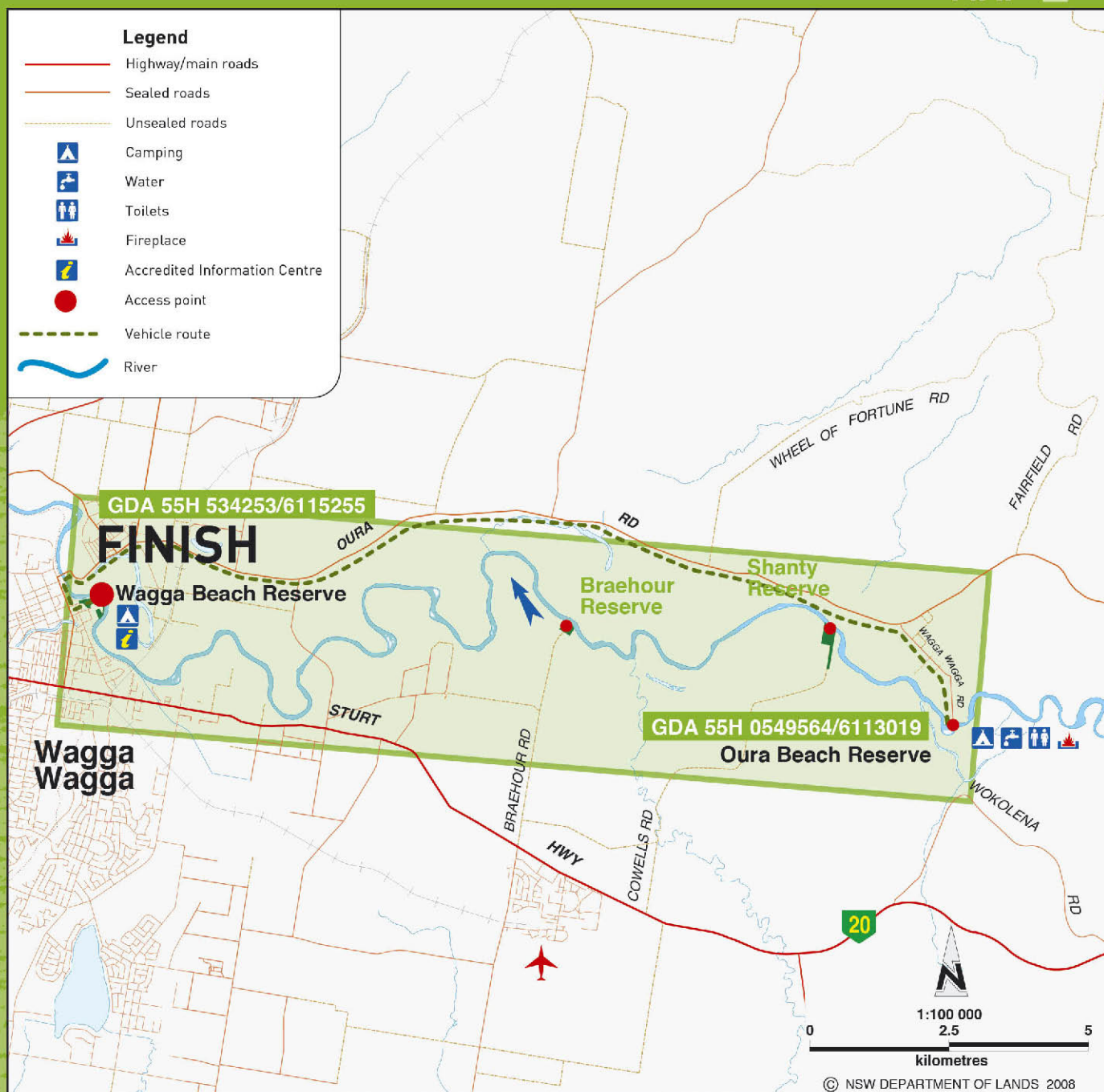
WANTABADGERY RECREATION RESERVE TO GREEN FLAT RESERVE RESERVE & GREEN FLAT RESERVE TO OURA BEACH RESERVE

MAP **6**



OURA BEACH RESERVE TO WAGGA BEACH RESERVE

7
MAP



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
- 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

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.

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