

FACT SHEET

Echo Point upgrades



Background

The place we now call Echo Point has been of great significance to Gundungurra and Darug people for time immemorial, and is linked to creation stories which connect it to other sacred stories across the continent. It is also one of the most visited sites of Aboriginal cultural significance in Australia.

We want the special value of this place to the Gundungurra and Darug Traditional Owners to be appreciated by everyone, so that they take away a deeper appreciation of the complexity and beauty of Aboriginal culture. We also want it to be easily accessible, and safe for everyone who comes to visit and so work planned for the site in 2019-2020 will enhance the experience at this special place.

What we are doing

The upgrades include:

- a new gathering place (amphitheatre)
- a new Prince of Wales Lookout
- an accessible boardwalk connecting the lookouts, amphitheatre and Council's accredited Visitor Information Centre, and
- security bollards and CCTV.

We have planned these works to minimise the impact on local residents and businesses, as well as visitors coming to enjoy Echo Point. Upgrades will provide an impressive and immersive experience for all those who visit the site. See below for more details.

Council received matched funding from the Federal Government's *National Stronger Regions* grant program, for this project.

Starting mid-October 2019

Work on the boardwalk and amphitheatre will start in mid-October 2019 and take about nine months to complete. No work will be done on Sundays or over the Christmas / New Year period.

The installation of security bollards and CCTV will take place at the same time. Evacuation signage has already been installed.

Is Echo Point still open?

Yes – the main lookout and the Queen Elizabeth Lookout will remain open. However, part of the viewing platform on the eastern side will be cordoned off during this period.

Seven parking spaces on Cliff Drive and parking spaces in the turning circle will also be temporarily unavailable. Accessible parking is available on Cliff Drive.

Visitor Information Centre

Council's accredited Visitor Information Centre at Echo Point will remain open seven days a week, 9am to 5pm, except for Christmas Day. Our friendly staff can help you plan your visit in the Blue Mountains.

The gathering place

Did you know that Echo Point is one of the most visited Aboriginal sites in Australia? The concept for the gathering place (amphitheatre) arose from consultation with Traditional Owners, the Darug and Gundungurra people.

It will be a space on the eastern side of the Echo Point platform, for up to 70 people to sit and experience Echo Point and the Jamison Valley.

The amphitheatre will have an etched map of Country in the stage area, as well as other interpretive elements.

Prince of Wales Lookout

We are excited that new funding will allow us to upgrade the historic Prince of Wales Lookout that has been closed for 10 years.

Accessible walkway

The project also includes a 140-metre raised, accessible, night-lit walkway that will connect the existing Queen Elizabeth Lookout (below the main Echo Point Lookout) to the new Prince of Wales Lookout, the new amphitheatre, the main Echo Point platform and the Visitor Information Centre.

Bollards and CCTV

Council continues to improve visitor facilities and safety at Echo Point and in August 2018, secured a Federal Government *Safer Communities* grant to introduce security measures at this high profile and unique location.

Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras will be installed at the entry to the Echo Point precinct and under the Queen Elizabeth Lookout. These will be directed at the public areas, not at private property.

Find out more

For more information about these projects and their progress, visit bmcc.nsw.gov.au/echo-point.

If you would like to sign up for updates, or have any questions or comments, please email echopointupgrade@bmcc.nsw.gov.au.

Works planned for Echo Point 2019-2020



An aerial view of Echo Point platform. The upgrades include a new gathering place / amphitheatre (1), a new Prince of Wales Lookout (2) and an accessible, night-lit walkway (3 & 6) connecting lookouts, amphitheatre and Council's accredited Visitor Information Centre (7).