

## Mudgee DISCOVERY TRAIL

An enjoyable western diversion off the main drive between Ilford and Bylong. Highlights include Lake Windamere, Mudgee wineries, cafes and galleries, Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve and the Bylong Valley.

### Route Description

From the small village of Ilford, continue north on the Castlereagh Highway. After 2km, instead of turning right towards Rylstone on the main drive, continue straight ahead. About 15km on, the highway runs along the western shore of Lake Windamere and then follows the Cudgegong River through several small towns to the large centre of Mudgee, 52km from Ilford. This is a great base from which to explore the productive local countryside, with its excellent wineries, as well as the cafes and galleries of the town.

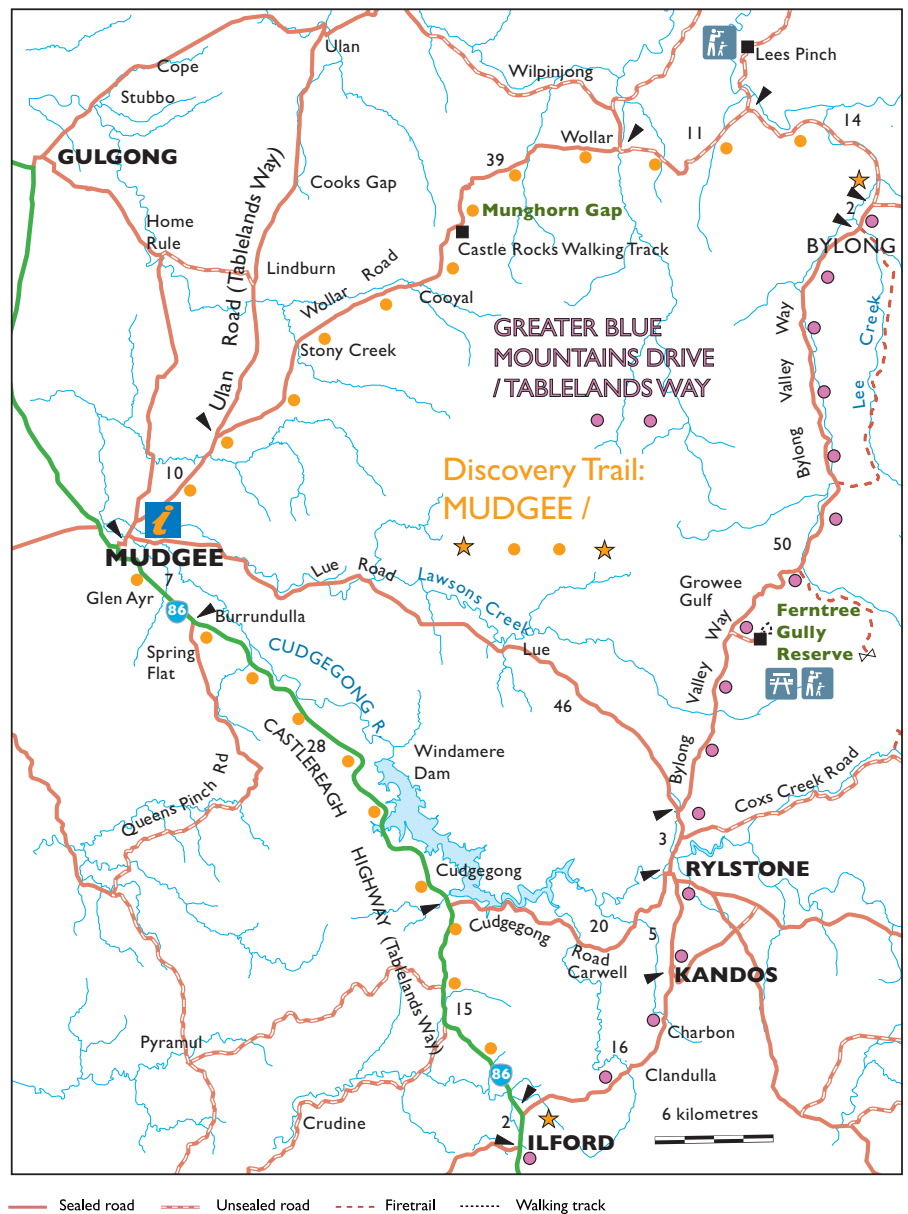
Leaving Mudgee, drive north on the Ulan Road, for 10km. The Wollar Road (part of the Tablelands Way) then leads 39km through Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve astride the Great Divide to Wollar. The reserve is like a small outlier of western Wollemi National Park, with a grassy picnic area beside the road, dry woodlands, sandstone outcrops and a half-day walking track to Castle Rocks. The area is renowned for its birdwatching, with a mix of eastern and western species.

From Wollar you can also explore Goulburn River National Park to the north, but the trail continues eastward on the unsealed road through the expansive Bylong Valley which follows the Goulburn River – a tributary of the Hunter River. After 11km the turnoff to Lees Pinch Lookout (a good diversion) and Cassilis is passed on the left. It is another 14km to the junction with the Bylong Valley Way. Continue past this junction and on for 2km into the tiny village of Bylong for refreshment.

From Bylong, you can follow the Bylong Valley Way east into the Hunter Valley, or you can continue south through Rylstone and back to Ilford.

### Drive summary

- 127km one way
- 3hr drive (one way)
- Highway, narrow sealed roads, gravel roads (dry weather only)
- Start: Ilford
- Finish: Bylong (or Ilford)
- Alerts!: Narrow roads, coal trucks.



The Greater Blue Mountains Drive has been developed by the region's own backyard working together to develop the drive in collaboration with the NSW Dept of Environment and Climate Change, Tourism NSW and Tourism Australia. Further development of the drive product has been enhanced by the ongoing involvement of Transurban. The establishment of the drive was proudly supported by the Australian Government and its business program delivery division, AusIndustry in a program proposed and developed by Blue Mountains Tourism Limited. © 2007

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