

## The Lost City

(‘four wheel drive- thirty minutes from town’)

‘The Lost City’ provides a vista that lifts the spirit and challenges photographers with its sheer immensity. Located approximately 13 kilometres drive from the centre of Lithgow one needs a four wheel drive vehicle to access it as the last 2.5 kms is rough. To the Southwest one can see the communication towers on Mt Lambie some 20 kilometres away.



**How to get there.** Drive east along Main Street Lithgow, at the end of the street, turn left at Bridge Street, cross the railway bridge and immediately turn right into Inch St, proceed 1.5 kms and turn left into Atkinson Street (on the corner there is a direction indicator to the Glow Worm Tunnels) that becomes State Mine Gully Road. Follow State Mine Gully Road past the State Mine museum, passing the foundations of the old Lithgow Power Station on your right. Proceed up the road which becomes steep and unsealed and you will soon be on the plateau. Proceeding about seven kilometres, after passing a major road entry from the right, you will come to the Bungleboori Camp site surrounded by a few pines. Turn left onto the well signposted Maiyingu Marragu track and some 200 metres from the corner take a left onto the unmarked track that leads to the lost city. As I write, (April 2021) the track is well marked, with pink marking tape tied on trees, as it pushes southwest through the bush. In about 2.5 kilometres you will come to the Lost City.

**History.** The area around the Lost City was gazetted as a Flora Reserve (Snow Gum Flora Reserve) in 1985, and is managed separately from other areas of Newnes State Forest. Its many secrets include ancient Aboriginal Rock Art, two old dams built circa 1910 as part of Lithgow’s Water Supply, and remnants of the old State Mine Colliery Air Shaft No. 3 completed in 1931.

**Destination Pagodas** is a proposal to dedicate 39,000 hectares of pagoda country, including the Lost City, as a State Conservation area. The ‘Destination Pagodas’ proposal represents a fine balance between legacy coal mining interests and the need to protect this country with its diverse and unique scenery and rare flora and fauna. A recent independent assessment of the economic potential of the Destination Pagodas proposal suggests that it would benefit the Lithgow economy by some \$40m per annum and provide some 250 additional jobs in the region.

*“A world-class tourism and conservation reserve on Lithgow’s doorstep, a win for workers, community, and environment”*