

Maiyingu Marragu

(‘conventional vehicles - twenty two minutes from town’)

Maiyingu Marragu is a special Aboriginal place long known by Europeans for the hand stencils that abound in the area. It lies in a piece of country that inspires respect. One can immediately understand it’s importance to the Wiradjuri people who created and are still custodians of this site. There are apparently several sacred sites in the immediate area which is not surprising given the extraordinary, strikingly dramatic landscape. Whilst the bush in the immediate area has been devastated by the 2019 Gospers Mountain Fire, the marks of our First Nation People in the area remain as a constant reminder of our only recent arrival.



How to get there. Take the Highway from Lithgow towards Bathurst. Five kilometres out, take the Castlereagh Highway to Mudgee and proceed five kilometres to Lidsdale where you will take a right turn into Wolgan Valley Road towards Newnes. Proceed ten kilometres, turning right at the sign to Maiyingu Marragu. Proceed one kilometre on a good unsealed road to the site parking area.

History. The site includes significant rock shelters and stencil-art dating back thirty or more generations which provide a physical and spiritual link to ancestors and a place where traditional culture can be sustained. For a long time referred to as ‘Blackfellows Hands’ the site has been the subject of much work by the local Mingaan Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation that represents local Aboriginal interests. In 2013, a process was commenced to rename the site Maiyingu Marragu a Wiradjuri name meaning 'hands'.

Destination Pagodas is a proposal to dedicate 39,000 hectares of Pagoda Country as a State Conservation area. This area includes the Maiyingu Marragu Aboriginal site which might more appropriately be dedicated as specific Aboriginal land. 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”