



I would like to thank you all for your constructive feedback since the announcement of the cancellation of the 2025 Six Foot Track Marathon. We understand the amount of frustration and anger that this has caused to so many runners, volunteers, spectators, suppliers and the organising committee, especially given the amount of time, effort and cost invested in engaging with our event.

To give you some perspective, the organising committee was working until the last minute on the basis that the race was going ahead. The Race Director was at RFS in Katoomba during the distribution of all the aid stations supplies to each brigade on Wed 5 March 2025 and that night there was a briefing to all aid stations brigade leaders with information from the Race Director and Medical Services.

We were advised by Crown Land of the closure of the Six Foot Track on Thu 6 March 2025 at 4:30 pm. The committee had no choice but to cancel the race.

At that time our immediate priority was to advise everyone involved as quickly as possible.

To summarise the reasons for cancellation, below is an email received from the Senior Project Officer – Assets in Crown Lands:

“As you are aware, at 4:30pm on Thursday afternoon (6 March 2025), Crown Lands, Rural Fire Service and Six Foot Track Marathon organisers (including yourself) met to discuss the expected conditions of the Six Foot Track and supporting trail network ahead of the Marathon scheduled for Saturday 8 March 2025.

Unfortunately, Crown Lands with the support of the Rural Fire Service, is closing the Six Foot Track this weekend due to the weather and understand that this will cause the Six Foot Track marathon to be cancelled. As you are aware we are a big supporter of the marathon and we attempt to get the track into the best condition we can leading up to each year’s race.

The decision was not taken lightly and came after many hours of deliberation with regard to forecast rainfall, potential mitigation measures, the current condition of the event route and fire trail networks, impacts to the networks during the marathon, and the exacerbation of these impacts due to the predicted rainfall this weekend and into next week.

Key aspects which led to this decision include:

- The key roads for RFS support vehicles are unsealed fire trails which are subject to a maintenance program with limited budget, to provide a critical line of defence for protection of the Katoomba township. The fire trails traverse river and creek crossings and are built in an environment of reactive soils and tracks/roads on steep grades that are very susceptible to erosion. The volume of RFS support vehicles required for the event will almost certainly cause damage to this essential track network which needs to be maintained at a standard that provides year-round emergency vehicle access. In good weather, these visitor and vehicle movements may be minor, but the expected rainfall this weekend and into the next week will see all impacts exacerbated and will result in substantial repair effort and cost to local and state departments responsible for track maintenance.**
- The route requires crossing of the Cox's River which at the time of the meeting was at levels consistent with the previous marathon conditions. However, the continued rainfall expected within the catchment will see the river height increase and has potential to exceed safe crossing levels.**
- The wet conditions will also see an increase in potential for slip, trip and falls, as well as unpredictable tree fall which is common in the Blue Mountains in extended periods of rainfall. The slippery track conditions for support vehicles also creates unnecessary risk for these crews supporting the event.**
- Medivac may also become problematic if cloud level is low and not possible for helicopter extraction, in addition to the slippery unsealed road conditions.**
- Given the anticipated strain on the state's SES and other agency (including Crown Lands and RFS) emergency response staff and volunteers due to impacts of Tropical Cyclone Alfred in northern NSW and SE QLD, we do not want to take potential resources from this current and evolving emergency.**

With great consideration to the above, the risks to human safety and the environment are determined to exceed an acceptable limit, and therefore the decision was made to close the Six Foot Track this weekend. A closure notice has been placed on the Six Foot Track website <https://www.sixfoottrack.com/>

We hope that the weather next year is better and you will continue to have our support for this extremely well organised event that has been so well supported for over 40 years."

We ask you to respect the fact that the Six Foot Track is closed as per above notice and refrain from running on the track during the closure.

We also ask that any comments/responses to this communication are respectful to our volunteers and stakeholders.

The race committee is continually meeting to discuss the situation and will give you a further detailed update next week.

Mohammed Alkhub

Race Director

Key Race Partners

Race Custodian



**Race Day
Logistics**

