

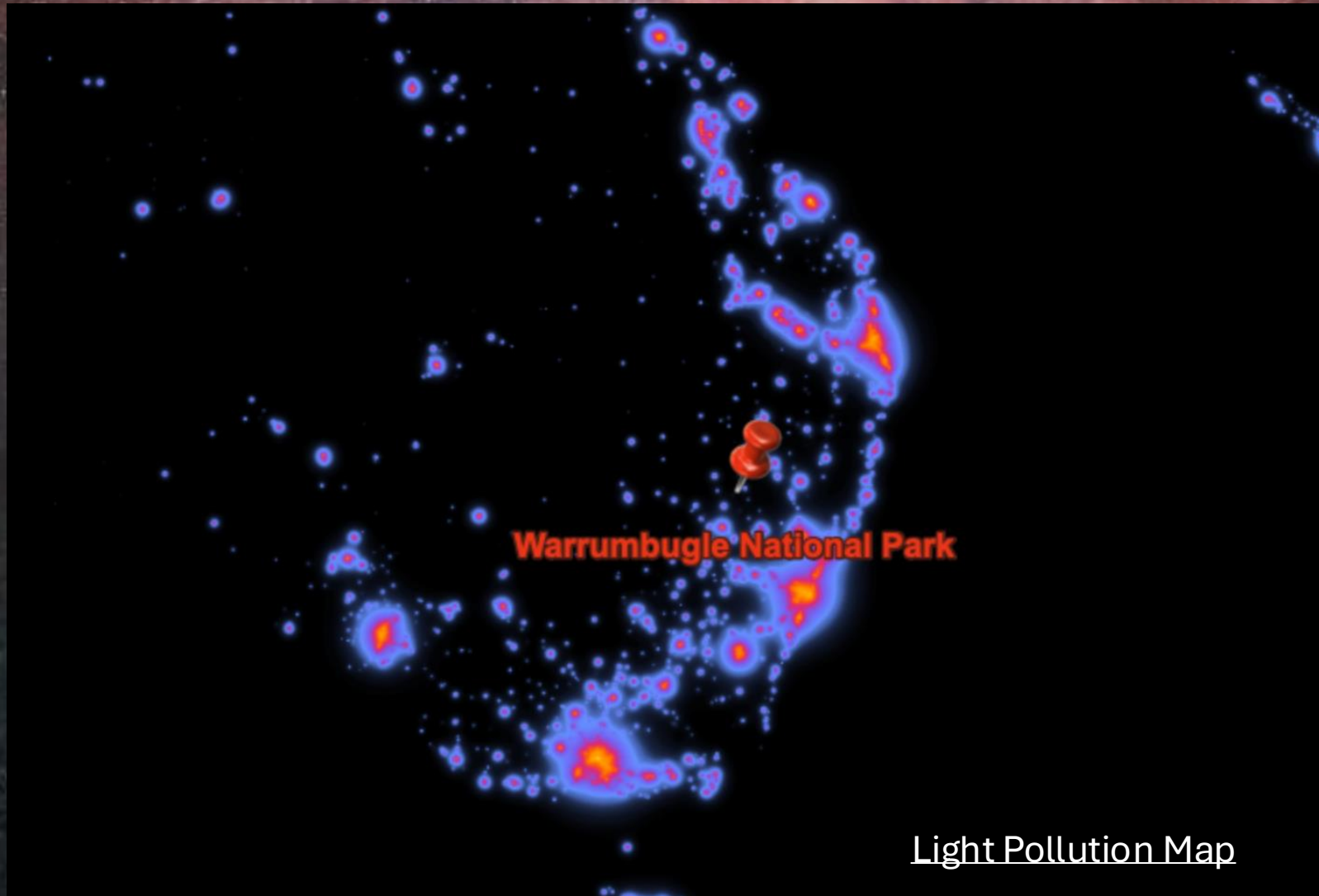
A night sky with the Milky Way galaxy visible over a dark forest with rocky peaks.

Dark Skies and the Warrumbungle National Park

Chris Lidman

(Director, Siding Spring Observatory)

Location

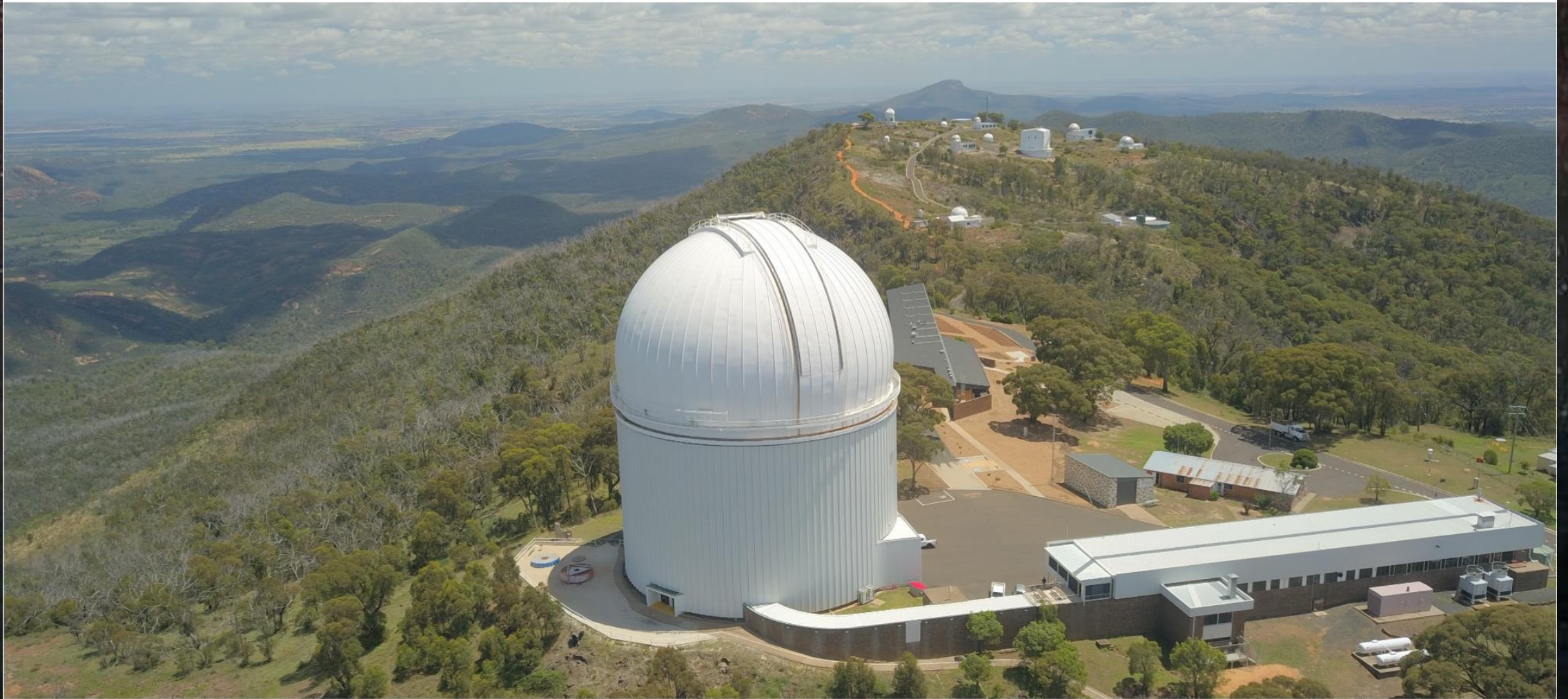


A closer view



Light Pollution Map

Siding Spring Observatory



Australia's largest optical astronomical observatory

Warrumbungle National Park

- Formed about 17 million years ago
- A transition zone between the arid western plains and the wetter coastal zone
- A place for teaching, meeting and ceremony
- Popular with day walkers, nature lovers and night sky enthusiasts



The Breadknife.

Photo credit: Angel Lopez Sanchez



The Brush Tailed Rock Wallaby

Photo Credit: Mark Hodgins



Yaraan (Southern Cross)

Photo Credit: European Southern Observatory

Warrumbungle Dark Sky Park

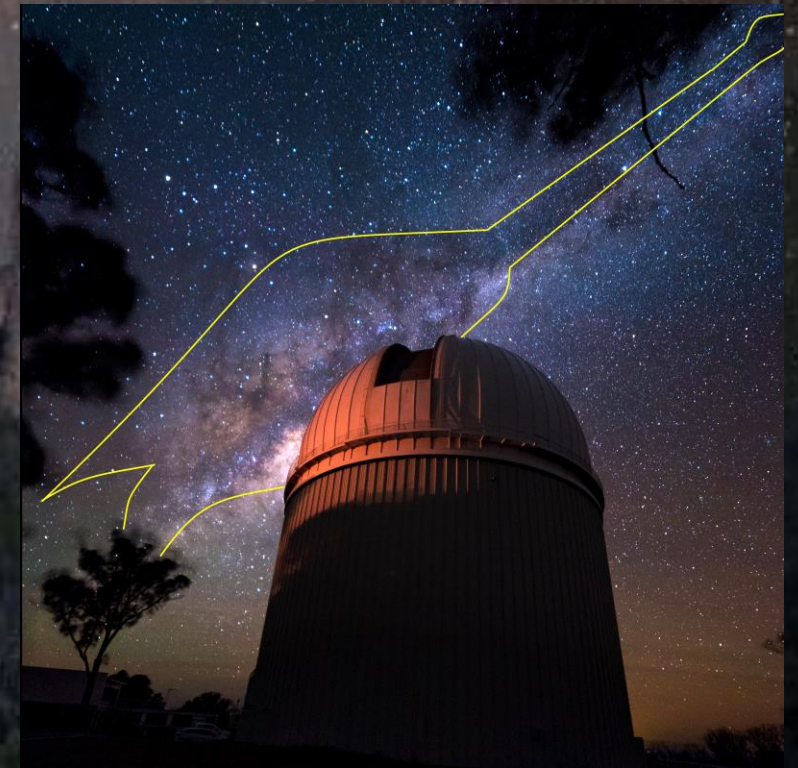
Formed after many years of advocacy involving NPWS, local government and several key individuals

Key dates:

- 2016 – Designated an International Dark Sky Park (Australia's first)
- 2019 – Siding Spring Observatory (SSO) added
- 2019 – The Warrumbungle Dark Sky Park Committee formed

Key stats:

- 23,000 hectares
- 60,000 visitors per year to the Dark Sky Park



The Emu soaring above the AAT

Credit: Robert Thomson

Dark Sky Advocacy and Publicity

- Local – Warrumbungle Dark Sky Park Committee
- State – Dark Sky Planning Guidelines
- National – Conferences like these
- International – Designation and collaboration



Resources

[NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service](#)

[Dark Sky Planning Guidelines](#)

[Siding Spring Observatory](#)

[Light Pollution Map](#)

