

Siding Spring Observatory Lodge,
Coonabarabran, NSW
Australian National University



The Australian National University engaged lahznimmo to design the new Siding Spring Observatory lodge to replace the old lodge following its destruction as a result of the 2013 Warrumbungle NP bushfire. The building contains 18 lodge rooms, communal lounge, dining hall and library, with a seminar room to cater for visitors to the facility.

The design of the lodge building presents as a low lying building in the landscape, allowing the observatories within the landscape to remain as the primary built forms.

Being located in a remote and exposed ridgetop location required a balance between the selection of robust materials and placement of openings- providing a high level of protection against the threat of bushfire, while offering expansive views of the Warrumbungle National Park.

The expression of the building materials is a response to the immediate landscape, and the ancient volcanic trachyte domes, plugs and dykes- all features within the Warrumbungle National Park.

Client: Australian National University
Country: Wailwan Nation
Location: Coonabarabran, NSW
Budget: \$5 Mil
Completed: 2016

