

The highest conservation value areas of the site are all to be conserved within the Regional Park.

Almost two thirds of the St Marys development (approximately 900ha) will be devoted to creating a Regional Park, providing a natural habitat for wildlife and native plants, and ensuring the biodiversity values of the site are preserved for future generations.



Walking trails are proposed to be included in the Regional Park

Flora

The highest conservation value areas of the site are all to be conserved within the Regional Park.

The zoning of the site and creation of the Regional Park ensures that a representative and significant proportion of the native flora will be conserved within the Regional Park. This will protect the variety of Western Sydney vegetation communities, native flora and fauna habitat.

Large areas of the site have been extensively disturbed by previous uses.

However, the biodiversity values of the site will be enhanced by planting appropriate native plant species, most of which will be collected from existing regional seed stock. This will ensure that the creek and environmental corridors are enhanced with genetically appropriate plant species to enhance regional biodiversity.

Fauna

There is a need to actively manage the introduced fauna on the site in order to protect the vegetation and to maintain sustainable population levels of kangaroos, emus and other animals that are compatible with the native populations existing elsewhere along the Ropes and South Creek corridors.

A Macro-fauna Management Working Group has been established to evaluate the variety of issues facing macro-fauna on site. This group will formulate a draft Macro-fauna Management Plan for exhibition to the general public during the formal Precinct Plan exhibition phase.

The Macro-fauna Management Working Group consists of representatives from key stakeholders, animal welfare groups, state and local government, and local community groups.

The fauna currently on the site includes:

- introduced colonies of western red kangaroos (which are normally found west of the Great Dividing Range), and eastern grey kangaroos;
- a small introduced population of emus;
- three species of bats, one bird and one snail which are listed as threatened; and
- feral animals, such as rabbits and foxes, which destroy native wildlife and plant species.

The large numbers of introduced kangaroos currently on site are:

- exerting high grazing pressure;
- overgrazing on significant flora; and
- consequently reducing the habitat values for a range of other fauna that do or could occur on site.