

Media Release

2 April 2004

Macrofauna Management Plan for St Marys Project Finalised

The Macrofauna Management Plan for the St Marys project has been finalised following months of consultation with wildlife experts, animal welfare groups and the community.

The Plan, which has been developed to manage the kangaroo and emu populations on the site, was finalised by the New South Wales Department of Environment and Conservation – Parks Services Division (formerly National Parks and Wildlife Service).

St Marys Project Director Arthur Ilias said the plan was the result of a lengthy consultation program, which had included a period of public exhibition during which the community was encouraged to submit their comments.

“One of the long term priorities for the St Marys project is to maintain a population of kangaroos and emus on the site, but to do this we need a management plan to ensure their population levels are sustainable,” Mr Ilias said.

“We are confident that the plan is the best way to ensure the animals on site will be managed humanely and that they will not negatively impact on the rare and significant flora on the site, in particular the 850-hectare Regional Park which is being established,” he said.

Some of the key recommendations in the Macrofauna Management Plan include:

- The implementation of protocol to manage sick or injured animals;
- Implementation of a research program to determine the ecologically sustainable levels of grazing in the sensitive habitats in the proposed regional park;
- The initial exclusion of all kangaroos and emus from the eastern area;
- The reduction of eastern grey kangaroo population density to a sustainable level by implementing a fertility control and translocation program;
- The phasing out of red kangaroos from the site by implementing a fertility control and translocation program; and
- Ongoing monitoring of the animals health and grazing habits and adapting the management program based on this information.

In order for the plan to be implemented, annual licensing requirements will need to be applied for and approved by the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Mr Ilias said the implementation of the management plan would begin in the coming weeks.

“As the management plan is implemented, the kangaroo and emu populations will be closely monitored to ensure their population levels are sustainable for the site and humane for the animals,” he said.

“However, the management of the animals on the site will be ongoing. We will be regularly collecting and monitoring data about the health of the animals, the condition of the vegetation on the site and adapting the management plan as required,” he said.

The 1,545-hectare St Marys development will eventually include up to 5,000 homes contained within three distinct villages surrounded by the Regional Park. It will feature a new 850-hectare Regional Park and generate approximately 5,000 ongoing jobs for local residents.

The St Marys site is being developed by project partners Delfin Lend Lease and ComLand.

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If you require a copy of the St Marys Macrofauna Management Plan, please contact talkStMarys on 02 9673 8877