

Media Release

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Planning for Public Access to St Marys Regional Park Begins

A plan of management is to be developed to determine how the public will be able to access and enjoy a new 900-hectare recreational park being established on the former ADI site at St Marys.

The plan, which is to be developed by National Parks and Wildlife Service – who will own and manage the park – will also outline how best to use the \$6.9 million being invested by project partners Delfin Lend Lease and ComLand to establish the park.

Project Director Joe Gorman said the new park, with an area almost two thirds of the total St Marys site area, and about four times the size of Centennial Park, would form the centrepiece of the proposed residential community, and be open to both locals and the broader public for eco-sensitive uses.

“The Park will be accessible to the public, and will provide a great community asset for the residents of Western Sydney. The site has been largely inaccessible to the public since European settlement,” said Mr Gorman.

“The Plan of Management, to be developed by National Parks and Wildlife Service in consultation with the developers and the community, will determine how and what will be included in the park.

“Ideas which will be considered include creating a network of bicycle trails, a heritage walk that recognises the Aboriginal and European histories of the site, and walking tracks.

“National Parks and Wildlife Service will be working closely with us and the community to make sure the management plan provides the best possible balance between the conservation, biodiversity and recreational priorities of the region.

“Importantly all of the heritage-listed Cumberland Plain Woodland on the site will be preserved. Regenerating degraded areas of Cumberland Plain Woodland will also be a priority.

“We have sought the community’s comments for the Eastern Village during a Community Information and Feedback Session held in June. There was widespread support for the Regional Park to be used as a place for community interaction and recreation. This information will be considered, independently collated and submitted to National Parks and Wildlife Service and to Council with the Precinct Plan,” he said.

Mr Gorman said a macro-fauna working group, involving wildlife experts, animal welfare groups and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service would also develop, in consultation with the community, a management plan for all animals on the site. This would incorporate a management strategy for the kangaroos on site.

The community can still submit their comments via the website at www.talkStMarys.com.au or by contacting talkStMarys on 02 9673 8877.

The eastern precinct will consist of up to 1,900 homes of the estimated 5,000 homes proposed for the total site.

A draft Precinct Plan is currently being prepared by the project partners outlining a framework for the Eastern Village, including housing form, parks and recreation, transport and traffic measures, land uses, open space, street types, access points and sustainability measures to create a balanced new community.

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