

Media Release

21 August 2003

Macrofauna Management Plan Placed On Exhibition

The draft Macrofauna Management Plan for the St Marys project will be placed on public exhibition today for four weeks to allow public comment on the plan.

The draft Plan has been independently prepared by leading environmental consultants Environmental Resources Management (ERM) following extensive consultation with community, stakeholder and animal welfare groups including the RSPCA, wildlife experts and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

The draft plan addresses the short, medium and long-term objectives identified through consultation with community, environmental and animal welfare groups.

It provides guidelines for achieving a sustainable population of animals within the 900 ha Regional Park without impacting on the rare and significant flora, including the endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland.

Project Director, Joe Gorman said the extensive consultation process, which had included newsletters, site tours and an information day, would be extended through this period of public exhibition.

"Our consultation with community groups and animal welfare experts in recent months has recognised that a plan needs to be put in place to manage the population of kangaroos," Mr Gorman said.

"This is because the current population of approximately 3,000 kangaroos is more than the land can humanely sustain. The population is not able to self-regulate, is enclosed by fences and is surrounded by suburbs, which is why a plan is needed.

"Seeking comment from the wider public on the draft Plan is now the next step in ensuring a humane and sustainable future for the enclosed animal population.

"The community is being invited to submit their comments about the draft plan during the period of exhibition.

"This is an important time in the St Marys project and the public exhibition will allow people full access to the draft plan, so they can learn more about the project and really be a part of the process," he said.

NPWS will assess the Plan following the public exhibition period.

The draft Macrofauna Management Plan will be exhibited until Wednesday 17 September at the following locations:

- Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources – Level 8, 2 - 10 Wentworth Street, Parramatta
- Blacktown City Council – Civic Centre, Flushcombe Road, Blacktown
- Mount Druitt Library – Ayres Grove, Mount Druitt
- Penrith City Council – 601 High Street, Penrith
- Penrith City Library – 601 High Street, Penrith
- Penrith Council's St Marys Office – 207 - 209 Queen Street, St Marys
- St Marys Library – 207 - 209 Queen Street, St Marys

Copies of the plan can also be downloaded from the St Marys project website at www.talkStMarys.com.au.

For more information contact:

Michelle D'Heureux, Delfin Lend Lease, 02 9673 8819

Amanda Newbery or Renae McBride, BBS Public Relations, 07 3221 6711

Submissions must be received by 17 September 2003 and addressed to:

St Marys Macro-fauna Management Plan Submissions
PO Box 36
SUTHERLAND NSW 1499
Fax: (02) 9542 5622

People making submission who do not want to have their personal details disclosed to members of the public once the plan has been adopted must clearly indicate in their submission that they wish their personal details to remain confidential and not available for public access.

Phone enquiries concerning the draft Plan should be directed to Environmental Resource Management on (02) 8584 8872.

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

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