

## **Summary draft Macrofauna Management Plan (MFMP)**

29 August 2003

The draft Macrofauna Management Plan for the St Marys project has been placed on public exhibition until 1 October 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 and wildlife experts.

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

The draft Macrofauna Management Plan is being exhibited 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

Submissions must be received by 1 October 2003 and addressed to:

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

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

Download the Draft Macrofauna Management Plan - See latest news page

## **Draft Macrofauna Management Plan**

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### **Background and Summary**

#### **Who prepared the draft Plan?**

- The draft Fauna Management Plan has been prepared by ecologists Environmental Resources Management (ERM), in consultation with a panel of experts. Animal welfare groups, National Parks and Wildlife Service and community groups have also been consulted and have provided recommendations and comments about the management of macrofauna on the St Marys site.

#### **How many kangaroos are on the site?**

- The site is currently overpopulated by kangaroos. The existing population is approximately 2,500 to 3,000 and was introduced to the site. About a quarter of the population are Red kangaroos and are not native to the area.

#### **What does the Plan say?**

- The draft Plan outlines short-term, medium-term and long-term objectives for managing sustainable kangaroo and emu populations on the St Marys site. It has been submitted to the National Parks and Wildlife Service for consideration.
- Part of the long-term objective recommended in the plan is for the project to retain a sustainable population of kangaroos on the site within the 900ha Regional Park. However the kangaroos are overgrazing and already putting pressure on the native flora and therefore the biodiversity of the site. If left unmanaged, the current population will damage the rare and significant flora located on the site including the heritage-listed Cumberland Plain Woodland.
- The draft Plan recognises the fact that regardless of any development at the St Marys site, a management plan is required for the existing kangaroo population. Experts advise it is not responsible to have a large population of kangaroos surrounded by existing urban development without a plan to facilitate the management of kangaroos within the carrying capacity of the land.

#### **Why does the population require management now?**

- Wildlife experts have advised that kangaroos aren't able to self-regulate their population. If the population is not properly managed over time it is likely to cause severe food shortages, particularly in times of drought, which could result in inhumane conditions and lead to starvation.
- Wildlife experts have advised that there is a need for short-term kangaroo population reduction to protect the biodiversity values of the site. The kangaroos are exerting grazing pressure on the site.
- As population pressure increases, escaped animals from the site also present a danger to surrounding residents and motorists.

### **What other options are there?**

- All possible alternatives for managing the kangaroo population have been examined in consultation with experts and the macrofauna working group. Relocation is not considered to be a viable option for a number of reasons including the extreme levels of stress it causes the kangaroos. Sterilisation is a time consuming, stressful process that is yet to be proven successful and does not address immediate over-population concerns.
- Following extensive consultation and after examining all possible alternatives, kangaroo experts have advised that a controlled cull program is the most responsible method of managing the kangaroo population down to a sustainable level.

### **The process from here**

1. Draft Plan submitted for consideration (August 6<sup>th</sup> 2003)
2. Draft Plan placed on exhibition (commenced August 20<sup>th</sup> , ending October 1<sup>st</sup>)
3. Public submissions to be assessed by National Parks and Wildlife Service
4. Draft Plan to be reviewed and amended as necessary prior to approval by National Parks and Wildlife Service
5. Licences must then be obtained from National Parks and Wildlife Service for any required actions