

GEORGES RIVER NATIONAL PARK
PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
February 1994

Acknowledgement: This plan of management has been prepared by staff of the Service's South Metropolitan District in association with the former Georges River State Recreation Area Trust.

Crown Copyright 1993. Use permitted with appropriate acknowledgement.

ISBN 0 7305 7346 X

FOREWORD

Georges River National Park is located on the lower reaches of the Georges River 25 km south-west of Sydney. It includes several large and small discrete riverfront areas with a total of 320 hectares. Most of the park consists of steep forested hillsides and plateau areas which are found on either side of the river and its tributary creeks.

The Georges River National Park is one focal point for recreational activity in southern Sydney. Other important recreational areas include Mirambeena Regional Park which is managed by Bankstown Council, H.V. Evatt Park at Lugarno which is under the control of Hurstville Council and the Chipping Norton Lakes Scheme under the control of the Department of Public Works. Botany Bay National Park, Royal National Park, Heathcote National Park and Garawarra State Recreation Area are other National Parks and Wildlife Service areas that provide significant recreational opportunities in southern Sydney.

The river flats at Burrawang Reach, Morgans Creek, Cattle Duffers Flat and Fitzpatrick Park will continue to provide highly developed facilities for picnicking and water-based activities to complement other important recreational areas nearby.

The walking track system will be redeveloped throughout the national park to provide opportunities for enjoying and understanding the natural and scenic features of the area. Sutherland Shire Council and Bankstown Council are developing walking tracks on lands adjoining the park, and it is proposed to liaise with these councils to develop a co-ordinated approach to walking tracks throughout the area.

The high conservation values of the mangroves and other wetlands will be protected and the environmental education values of the national park promoted.

This plan of management establishes the scheme of operations for Georges River National Park. In accordance with the provisions of Section 75 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974 this plan of management is hereby adopted.

PAM ALLAN

**Minister for
the Environment**

CONTENTS

	Page
FOREWORD	
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. MANAGEMENT CONTEXT	2
2.1 NATIONAL PARKS IN NSW	2
2.2 GEORGES RIVER NATIONAL PARK	2
2.2.1 Location, History and Regional Context	2
2.2.2 Importance of Georges River National Park	3
3. OBJECTIVES OF MANAGEMENT	5
4. POLICIES AND FRAMEWORK FOR MANAGEMENT	6
4.1 Natural Heritage	6
4.2 Cultural Heritage	10
4.3 Use of the Park	11
4.3.1 Recreation Opportunities	11
4.3.2 Management Operations	15
5. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION	17

1. INTRODUCTION

The National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974 requires that a plan of management be prepared for each national park. A plan of management is a legal document that outlines how the area will be managed in the years ahead.

Georges River National Park was formerly the Georges River State Recreation Area and a plan of management for the state recreation area was prepared in accordance with the National Parks and Wildlife Act by the National Parks and Wildlife Service in consultation with the former Georges River State Recreation Area Trust.

On the 24th of April 1992, the majority of the land reserved as Georges River State Recreation Area was revoked and re-reserved as Georges River National Park.

Although not a requirement of the Act, the plan of management for the then state recreation area was placed on public exhibition from June until September 1990. The procedure for preparing the plan of management for the Georges River State Recreation Area was therefore consistent with the requirements for preparing a plan of management for a national park. During the period of public exhibition the plan attracted 18 representations covering 19 issues.

All comments received during the period of public exhibition were referred to the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council, along with the plan, for its consideration and advice. The comments and suggestions of the Advisory Council were, in turn, considered by the Minister in adopting this plan.

Once a plan of management has been adopted by the Minister, no operations may be undertaken within the national park except in accordance with the plan.

For additional information or enquiries on any aspect of the management of Georges River National Park, please contact the:

Senior Ranger,
Georges River National Park,
National Park Office (near the carpark at Morgans
Creek)
(PO Box 55),
Revesby 2212 phone (02) 772 2159.

or

District Manager,
South Metropolitan District,
National Parks and Wildlife Service,
Audley (in Royal National Park),
(PO Box 44)
Sutherland 2232 phone (02) 542 0666.

2. MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

2.1 NATIONAL PARKS IN NSW

The national park concept was introduced into Australia through the establishment of Royal National Park in 1879, only seven years after the world's first national park was created at Yellowstone in the United States of America.

For the purpose of preparing plans of management, the 1978 International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) definition of a national park has been adopted in New South Wales:

"A national park is a relatively large area;
(1) where one or several ecosystems are not materially altered by human exploitation and occupation, where plant and animal species, geomorphological sites and habitats are of special scientific, educative and recreative interest or which contain a natural landscape of great beauty; and (2) where the highest competent authority of the country has taken steps to prevent or to eliminate as soon as possible exploitation or occupation in the whole area and to enforce effectively the respect of ecological, geomorphological or aesthetic features which have lead to its establishment; and (3) where visitors are allowed to enter, under special conditions, for inspirational, educative, cultural or recreative purposes."

National parks are part of the regional pattern of land use. The management of a national park aims at minimising disturbance to natural and cultural resources; other land uses such as, agriculture, forestry and mining, are distinguished by an acceptance or encouragement of environmental modification. National parks, therefore, provide for only a limited part of the range of land uses in a region.

2.2 GEORGES RIVER NATIONAL PARK

2.2.1 Location, history and regional context

Georges River National Park is located on the lower reaches of the Georges River, 25 km south-west of Sydney. It comprises several large and small discrete riverfront areas with a total of 320 hectares (see Map).

Most of the park consists of steep forested hillsides and plateau areas which are found on either side of the river and its tributary creeks. Some natural river flats exist but they are quite small.

The national park evolved from reclaimed foreshore lands developed and used by the Picnic Point Regatta and

Recreational Areas Development Association in the 1950's. In 1961, the area became the Georges River National Park and further areas of foreshore were added and developed for recreation. Following a name change in 1967 to the Georges River Parklands, the area was managed by a local trust under the Department of Lands until 1980. In 1975, the area was renamed the Georges River State Recreation Area and, in 1980 with the Trust retaining management responsibility, placed under the administration of the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

On the 24th of April 1992, the majority of Georges River State Recreation Area was revoked and re-reserved as Georges River National Park. The land remaining as state recreation area comprises 1.43 hectares occupied by a river sands dredging company pending cessation of dredging operations in 1994. The land is occupied under lease from the former Trustees of the state recreation area.

Most of the resource management problems of Georges River National Park arise from its long common boundaries with urban development. Problems include rubbish dumping, the illegal use of trail bikes, encroachments, arson, illegal clearing, siltation and the spread of weeds. Urban development along the boundaries also intrudes visually on the national park.

The Georges River National Park is one focal point for outdoor recreational activity in southern Sydney. Other important recreational areas include Mirambeena Regional Park which is managed by Bankstown Council, H.V. Evatt Park at Lugarno which is under the control of Hurstville Council and the Chipping Norton Lakes Scheme under the control of the Department of Public Works. Botany Bay National Park, Royal National Park, Heathcote National Park and Garawarra State Recreation Area are other National Parks and Wildlife Service managed areas that provide significant recreational opportunities in southern Sydney.

2.2.2 Importance of Georges River National Park

Important values of Georges River National Park include:

Landscape

The vegetated plateaux and valley slopes along the Georges River at Lugarno, Padstow Heights, Illawong, Alford's Point, Revesby and Picnic Point have high scenic value when viewed from the river, foreshores and nearby vantage points.

Recreation

The park offers southern and south-western Sydney a wide variety of recreational opportunities. These include

picnicking, boating, fishing, water-skiing and bushwalking.

Natural features

Vegetation communities within the park provide native animals with refuge from adjacent urban development. These communities include wet and dry sclerophyll forests along the valley slopes, heathlands and modified grasslands on the plateau tops and extensive wetlands and mangrove stands along the foreshores.

Cultural resources

The park contains a number of Aboriginal and historic sites that are of local significance. These include rock shelters, hand stencils, stone walls and foundations.

Environmental education

The national park's varied landforms, remnant vegetation and proximity to urban areas makes it valuable for environmental education.

3. OBJECTIVES OF MANAGEMENT

The following general objectives relate to the management of national parks in New South Wales:

- * the protection and preservation of scenic and natural features;
- * the conservation of wildlife;
- * the maintenance of natural processes as far as is possible;
- * the preservation of Aboriginal sites and historic features;
- * the provision of appropriate recreation opportunities; and
- * the encouragement of scientific and educational enquiry into environmental features and processes, prehistoric and historic features and park use patterns.

In addition to these general objectives, the management of the Georges River National Park will be subject to the following specific objectives:

- * the recreational opportunities provided will complement those provided in nearby national parks and urban parks;
- * the river flats will continue to be managed for intensive recreation;
- * the remainder of the park will be managed to provide a natural backdrop to the river;
- * additional opportunities will be provided for visitors to experience and understand the natural and cultural features of the area;
- * mangroves and other wetlands will be protected;
- * areas that have been degraded will be rehabilitated;
- * the environmental education value of the park will be promoted; and
- * the detrimental impacts of urban development will be minimised as much as possible.

4. POLICIES AND FRAMEWORK FOR MANAGEMENT

This section contains the policies and framework for the management of Georges River National Park together with relevant background information. Policies are summarised under the following headings:

- * natural heritage;
- * cultural heritage; and
- * use of the park.

The policies established in this plan of management provide the framework for management consistent with anticipated resources available to the Service and anticipated community trends over the next five to ten years.

The actions identified are those to which priority will be given in the foreseeable future. Other management actions may be developed over the life span of this plan of management consistent with the policies set out in the plan.

4.1 NATURAL HERITAGE

The area in which the Georges River National Park is situated forms part of the coastal plateau/valley system typical of the Sydney Region. It consists mainly of Hawkesbury sandstone over which a thin capping of Wianamatta shale occurs on isolated ridges at Alfords Point and Revesby. Laterite residuals are frequently found on ridges above the shale and sandstone, although much of the original laterite profile has been removed by erosion and mineral extraction. The plateau is dissected giving rise to a landform with deep, narrow valleys, steep hillslopes and small river flats.

Soils occurring on the plateau tops are shallow sands. They are uniformly coarse, sandy textured and rarely deeper than 60mm. Rocky outcrops are common and topsoil development minimal. Soils on the hillslopes are thin and sandy but increase in depth and fertility on more level terrain. Swamp soils on the tidal flats support mangroves and other wetland communities.

The plateau and hillslope areas are highly erodible if disturbed. Residential development at Alfords Point has released increased volumes of sediment into local watercourses. Developers have installed silt traps in this area which are maintained by Sutherland Shire Council and protect the park south of the river. The destruction of protective ground cover by bushfires can also lead to major erosion problems. Minor sources of sedimentation include erosion of management tracks along easements and fire trails.

The park protects the largest area of native bushland along the middle and lower stretches of the Georges

River. Few detailed surveys of native plants have been undertaken; however a number of distinct vegetation communities have been recognised. These include estuarine wetlands, freshwater wetlands, moist woodlands and forests, dry woodlands and dry heathlands.

The former State Pollution Control Commission in a report dated 1979 and titled '**Wetlands of Botany Bay and its Tidal Waters**' identified seven distinct wetland habitats which occur in the national park. They are mangroves, salt marshes, salt pans, salt meadows, brackish reed swamps, freshwater swamps and casuarina swamps. The majority of these areas are in good condition. The salt marshes contain *Gahnia filum* at the limit of its range and are a possible location for the occurrence of the rare plant *Wilsonia backhousia* and a restricted and endangered grass *Deyeuxia appressa*. Estuarine wetlands are physically important to river systems as they act as drainage buffers during floods, operate as sediment and pollution traps, and reduce currents and wave energies reaching the shore. Their biological importance is due to their contribution to estuarine productivity and recycling and transfer of nutrients to the soil and adjacent waters.

Yeramba Lagoon, an important freshwater wetland, has a walking track system and bird watching area. The lagoon has great potential as an area focusing on nature studies. Surveys of water birds on the lagoon have indicated that up to 200 individuals from 15 species may use the lagoon at the one time.

Faunal records show that the common brushtail possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), common ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus peregrinus*), swamp wallaby (*Wallabia bicolor*), echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*), bush rat (*Rattus fuscipes*), brown antechinus (*Antechinus stuartii*), red-bellied black snake (*Pseudechis porphyriacus*), brown snake (*Pseudonaja textilis*), bearded dragon (*Pogona barbata*), lace monitor (*Varanus varius*) and various frogs have been found in the park.

Proximity to urban development and developed catchments have resulted in the invasion of a large variety of weeds. These include blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*), lantana (*Lantana camara*), privet (*Ligustrum* spp.), crofton weed (*Ageratina adenophora*) and pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*). Yeramba Lagoon is frequently subjected to population explosions of water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) and water lilies. In the past, spraying has been the major control method used. The cost of spraying and the ecological sensitivity of the lagoon requires a co-ordinated weed control programme that treats both causes and symptoms.

The plateau above Yeramba Lagoon, adjacent to the Elcom sub-station, is also recognised as a source of major

problems. Topsoil has been removed from much of the plateau and a number of rehabilitation treatments have been tried on the area but none have been successful. Revegetation of the plateau is proposed to protect the lagoon.

Some feral animals such as cats, dogs, rabbits, rats and foxes are found in the park. Further information about their impact needs to be obtained.

While it is the aim of management to eliminate all introduced plants and animals, complete eradication would be impracticable and beyond management resources. The emphasis is on control and prevention of their spread, except where local eradication is warranted to protect a significant natural area or species, or where weed infestation is in a very early stage.

The vulnerability of the park to fire was demonstrated in 1985 when 80% of the park was burnt. Control of fires is therefore critical to the management of the park. Responsibility for fire suppression lies with the NSW Fire Brigade. The Service is required by the Bush Fires Act to take all practicable steps to prevent the occurrence of fire on and minimise the danger of the spread of fire on or from the park. The Service and the NSW Fire Brigade are integral parts of the Sutherland District Fire Committee and all aspects of fire management are effected through this committee.

The variety of natural features within the small area of the park, and its proximity to other large natural areas in southern and south-western Sydney makes Georges River National Park an important and valuable area for environmental education. Brochures on the natural resources of the park will be prepared for visitors and for use by school groups.

Policies

- * The natural vegetation cover, especially on the plateau and hillslopes, will be maintained. Disturbed sites in these areas will be restored. Areas where trees have been illegally removed will be revegetated.
- * The soils of the park will be protected against erosion by:
 - retaining the remaining natural vegetation cover;
 - undertaking all works in a manner which minimises erosion; and
 - rehabilitating disturbed areas.
- * The wetlands of the national park will be protected.

- * Research into alternative means of controlling weeds in Yeramba Lagoon will be encouraged.
- * All native animals within the park be protected.
- * Introduced plants and animals will be controlled and, where practical, eradicated.
- * Domestic pets will be prohibited from entering the national park.
- * The management of fire in the park will seek to ensure:
 - the protection of human life and property;
 - the maintenance of species and habitat diversity;
 - the protection of rare species and communities of special significance;
 - the protection of cultural resources; and
 - the protection of capital assets and recreation facilities.
- * The environmental education value of the national park will be promoted.

Actions

- * Erosion and weed control will be undertaken in the area bounded by Henry Lawson Drive and the urban developments of Revesby, Panania and Picnic Point.
- * The disturbed areas near Yeramba Lagoon and the Elcom sub-station will be rehabilitated.
- * In conjunction with local councils, guidelines and/or requirements for developers relating to erosion control and the need for silt traps associated with new developments adjacent to the park will be developed.
- * A vegetation survey will be undertaken, with special emphasis placed on rare and endangered species, and used as a basis for fire management policies.
- * Native animal populations will be surveyed.
- * The park will be surveyed for introduced plants and animals and their status monitored.
- * A weed control programme will be prepared by December 1994. Priority will be given to the

removal of salvinia and hyacinth from Yeramba Lagoon.

- * A plan for the control of introduced animals will be prepared.
- * Priority will be given to the control and if possible eradication of feral cats.
- * A fire management plan will be prepared.
- * A community information/education programme involving the distribution of leaflets to park neighbours on the spread of weeds and other illegal and environmentally degrading activities will be undertaken.
- * An interpretation programme for visitors will be prepared and implemented in conjunction with the community information programme.
- * The bird hide on Yeramba Lagoon will be upgraded and interpretive information provided within the hide.

4.2 CULTURAL HERITAGE

A small number of Aboriginal sites have been recorded in Georges River National Park. These include rock shelters, hand stencils, rock engravings and axe grinding grooves.

Other areas of the Georges River National Park exhibit some evidence of past activity and thus are of local interest. The picnic areas developed along the river are the legacy of sand dredging operations during the 1950's and 1960's. A wharf at Fitzpatrick Park was extensively rebuilt in 1978; little if any of the original wharf exists. On the southern river bank, the foundations of shacks of former permissive occupancies can be found. West of Yeramba Lagoon are a number of low stone walls which are thought to represent fence lines on earlier farms.

Policies

- * All Aboriginal sites in the national park will be protected.
- * Aboriginal sites and historic places will be identified, recorded and assessed as to their significance.
- * All new works will be preceded by a survey for Aboriginal sites and historic places.
- * Appropriate Aboriginal sites and historic places will be included on the walking track system and interpreted.

Action

- * A record of sites of previous European occupation and modification will be prepared.

4.3 USE OF THE PARK

Georges River National Park will be managed to ensure that its use, whether by the general public, special interest groups, Service managers or other authorities, is appropriate and conforms with the National Parks and Wildlife Act and the management objectives of this plan.

The major categories of use that may be appropriate within Service areas are:

- * recreation in a natural setting;
- * environmental education;
- * promotion of natural and cultural heritage conservation;
- * scientific research; and
- * management operations by the Service and other authorities.

The extent to which these categories of use are appropriate to Georges River National Park are indicated below.

4.3.1 Recreation Opportunities

The recreational needs of southern and south-western Sydney are serviced by the Georges River National Park and parks provided by Bankstown Council, Hurstville Council and Sutherland Shire Council, the Chipping Norton Lakes Scheme and other Service managed lands such as Royal National Park, Heathcote National Park, Botany Bay National Park and Garawarra State Recreation Area.

There are two main areas within Georges River National Park where facilities for intensive recreation are provided. They are Fitzpatrick Park at Picnic Point and the Burrawang section which contains Burrawang Reach, Cattle Duffers Flat and Morgans Creek picnic areas. Picnic shelters, barbecues and toilets are provided in these open grassed areas. The facilities are of a high standard and require a large management input.

Georges River National Park has a high visitation rate, with some 370 000 visitors per year. Visitor pressure is high during weekends and summer months and poses the problem of overcrowding. Use peaks during the pre-Christmas period when large group picnics are common. At these times the picnic and parking areas become very crowded and severe congestion can occur on the roads.

A survey of visitors using the picnic areas was carried out by Garrard in 1981. The major conclusions drawn were:

- organised groups make up the bulk of visitors;
- most visitors that come individually or with family are locals;
- people enjoy the open spaces and were impressed by the clean amenities; and
- there was significant support for a kiosk or similar facility.

An opportunity exists for the introduction of a retail food outlet, either mobile or stationary, to enhance the recreational experience and service to visitors.

That part of the national park south of the Georges River is mainly narrow and steeply sloping. There are presently no recreation facilities on this side of the river.

The number of visitors undertaking bushwalking, bird watching and sightseeing activities in the bushland areas north and south of the river is unknown although casual observations suggest this use is increasing. Fishing from the river foreshores in the park is also popular although actual numbers of users are unknown.

There are a number of formal walking tracks on the ridge above Burrawang Reach and Cattle Duffers Flat and around Yeramba Lagoon. Informal tracks exist behind Elcom's Sydney South sub-station on Henry Lawson Drive and on the plateau above Mickeys Point. The proliferation of informal tracks throughout the park has led to access and erosion problems. It is proposed to rationalise the walking track system and to upgrade and maintain it to Service standards. Additional walking tracks will also improve opportunities for visitors to experience the natural values of the park and widen the range of recreation activities available.

Sutherland Shire Council and Bankstown Council are developing walking track systems in lands adjoining the park. It is proposed to liaise with these councils to develop a co-ordinated approach to walking tracks in the area.

The boat launching ramps in the park are the focal point for recreational boating on this section of the Georges River. Many people launch motor boats for fishing, water-skiing and cruising the Georges River and Botany Bay. The noise and wash of speed boats conflicts with more passive uses of the park and damages the river banks. The pontoon at Morgans Creek and the wharf at Fitzpatrick Park are subject to Maritime Services Board

regulations and are used by both private and commercial vessels.

In the past, swimming was a popular activity in the Georges River but shark attacks forced swimmers into swimming enclosures. These areas were closed in the 1960's due to rising pollution levels. At the moment there are no plans to re-open them but, with the improvement of water quality, it is possible that the demand for such facilities may increase.

The Garrard report suggests that visitors to the park would patronise boat or canoe hire facilities if they were provided. At present, the nearest boat hire facilities available are at Picnic Point. The feasibility and viability of boat-hire facilities within the national park area needs to be further investigated.

Horseriding was undertaken as a commercial venture in 1984 but failed to become economically viable and is now undertaken by only a few individuals. The two major drawbacks of horseriding in the national park are the lack of space and the erosion potential of the activity.

The use of vehicles off designated roads is a significant problem because of noise, erosion and danger to others. The main areas of concern are around Yeramba Lagoon, the area adjoining the Elcom substation and the associated walking tracks which the riders of trail bikes frequent.

Policies

- * The park will cater for a variety of land based and aquatic recreational activities.
- * The river flats at Burrawang Reach, Morgans Creek, Cattle Duffers Flat and Fitzpatrick Park will continue to provide highly developed facilities for picnicking and water-based activities.
- * The standard of visitor facilities will be progressively improved as resources permit.
- * The walking track system throughout the park will be upgraded. This process will include:
 - designing and constructing new tracks,
 - upgrading existing formal tracks to Service standards;
 - liaising with local councils to develop a co-ordinated walking track system;
 - closing and rehabilitating unwanted tracks; and
 - producing interpretive information.

- * The value of the park for outdoor recreation during off-peak times will be promoted.
- * Roads may be temporarily closed for short periods when peak visitation causes unacceptable congestion.
- * Commercial operations may be permitted in the national park where:
 - they are in accordance with the objectives and policies of this plan;
 - they will enhance public use and enjoyment of the park;
 - they will not cause significant environmental impact; and
 - they can be shown to be economically viable.
- * Additional facilities for disabled and elderly people will be provided.
- * Horseriding will be prohibited in the national park.
- * The use of motor vehicles off roads and car parks will be prohibited.
- * Other activities may be prohibited where they:
 - cause or are likely to cause unacceptable impact;
 - endanger participants or other visitors; or
 - create an unacceptable nuisance.
- * Tracks not required for recreation or management purposes will be closed and rehabilitated.

Actions

- * Records will be kept of numbers of visitors and patterns of use of recreation facilities and the national park generally.
- * Investigations will continue into the suitability of a mobile food outlet or stationary kiosk.
- * The feasibility and viability of boat/canoe hire facilities will be investigated.
- * Options for controlling the speed of boats on the various sections of the river adjacent to the national park will be explored with the Maritime Services Board.

- * The area adjoining the Pacific Power sub-station will be fenced to prevent access by trail bikes; styles will be erected to allow access by walkers, and the area will be revegetated.

4.3.2. Management Operations

The National Parks and Wildlife Service has an office and information centre located at Morgans Creek near the main park entry. A workshop and maintenance area to service the national park is located on the other side of Morgans Creek.

With high visitation the spread of garbage and its collection has become a major management problem. Garbage collection is labour intensive and frequently involves handling bins that have been destroyed or burnt and picking up rubbish that has been spread by scavenging animals. To solve these problems it is proposed that, as a matter of priority, a system requiring visitors to remove their own garbage will be introduced and bins will then be removed. This system will initially operate on a trial basis for six months and if found effective will be continued. Signs in the park and in the media will inform the public of this approach and the public response will be monitored.

Dumping of garden and household rubbish in the park is also a problem. Building materials, car bodies and lawn clippings are the main materials dumped. It is proposed to commence a co-ordinated programme of public education, increased patrols and rubbish removal.

The bed of the Georges River adjacent to the national park has been dredged for over 30 years. The dredging operation was undertaken under the terms of a permissive occupancy on land held by the former Trust of the state recreation area.

In addition to the permissive occupancy used for dredging, part of the former state recreation area was also used, under lease from the former Trust, by the dredging company for its land based operations. These lands have not been included in the national park and remain as state recreation area pending finalisation of the dredging operation.

The company involved in the dredging is to cease operations in the area and restore the lands occupied by it that remain as state recreation area during 1994. At that stage the remnant area of state recreation area will be revoked and added to Georges River National Park.

Pacific Power and the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board have access and easements throughout the national park. Various transmission lines radiate from Pacific Power's Sydney South sub-station on Henry Lawson Drive, which is surrounded by the park, while the Water

Board has water and sewer pipes running through the national park. After consultation with Pacific Power and the Water Board it has been agreed that access to these easements will be upgraded to Service standards. The continued operation of these easements will be kept under review.

Policies

- * A system requiring visitors to remove their own rubbish will be introduced with appropriate publicity. This will initially be for a trial period of 6 months and, if effective, will be continued.
- * A co-ordinated programme will be developed which will inform the public of the problems of rubbish dumping in the park, increase patrols, and begin removal of large rubbish items such as car bodies.
- * The remnant area of state recreation area used as the land base for the dredging operations will be rehabilitated following completion of the mining operation and added to the national park.
- * Existing easements for Pacific Power and the Water Board will remain. Proposals for new easements will be investigated in accordance with established policy and environmental assessment procedures.

Actions

- * A public information programme encouraging visitors to remove their own rubbish will be initiated at the earliest opportunity, at which time bins will be removed.
- * Options for the revegetation or for low-key recreational development of the area formerly used for land based dredging operations will be investigated.
- * Access to easements will be upgraded to Service standards.
- * A programme monitoring the effects of the easements on the national park will be implemented.
- * Formal documentation of easements will be undertaken.

5. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

This plan of management is part of a system of management developed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The system includes the National Parks and Wildlife Act, management policies, established conservation and recreation philosophies and strategic planning at Corporate, Regional and District levels.

The orderly implementation of this plan of management will be undertaken within the annual programmes of the Service's South Metropolitan District. Priorities, determined in the context of district and regional strategic planning will be subject to the availability of necessary staff and funds and to any special requirements of the Director-General or the Minister.

District programmes are subject to ongoing review within which, works and other activities carried out at Georges River National Park will be evaluated in relation to objectives laid out in this plan.

The environmental impact of all development proposals will continue to be assessed at all stages of the development and any necessary investigations undertaken in accordance with established environmental assessment procedures.

Section 81 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act requires that this plan shall be carried out and given effect to and that no operations shall be undertaken in relation to the national park unless they are in accordance with the plan. However, if after adequate investigation, operations not included in this plan are found to be justified, the plan may be amended in accordance with Section 76(6) of the Act.

As a guide to the orderly implementation of this plan, relative priorities for identified works and other tasks are summarised below:

High Priority	Plan reference
Prepare fire management plan	4.1
Prepare and implement weed control plan	4.1
Rehabilitate disturbed areas near Yeramba Lagoon and Pacific Power sub-station	4.1
Undertake vegetation survey	4.1
Undertake programme of feral cat control	4.1
Develop a walking track system to link with Council walking tracks	4.3

Record visitor numbers and patterns	4.3
Initiate public information programme encouraging visitors to remove their own rubbish	4.4
Formally document easements	4.4
Investigate options for future use of area formerly used for land based dredging operations	4.4

Medium Priority

Undertake erosion and weed control along Henry Lawson Drive and adjacent to Revesby, Panania and Picnic Point.	4.1
Survey the national park for introduced animals and prepare a plan for their control	4.1
Prepare a community information programme for park neighbours	4.1
Upgrade bird hide at Yeramba Lagoon	4.1
Prepare an interpretation programme for visitors	4.1
Record past European occupation and modification	4.2
Investigate the food outlet proposal	4.3
Fence and rehabilitate the area next to the Pacific Power sub-station	4.3
Investigate the viability of boat/canoe hire	4.3
Upgrade walking tracks	4.3
Explore options for controlling boat speeds with the Waterways Authority	4.3
Prepare guidelines for new developments adjacent to the park	4.1

Low Priority

Survey native animal populations	4.1
Monitor the impacts of easements within the park	4.4
Upgrade access to easements	4.4