



GREATER
BLUE
mountains

 WORLD HERITAGE AREA

draft strategic plan

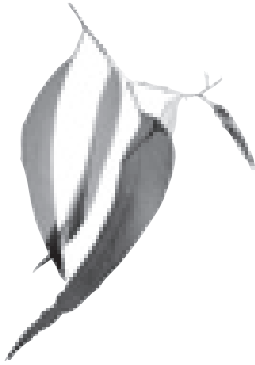
August 2005



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Heritage





This Draft Plan will be on public exhibition from:

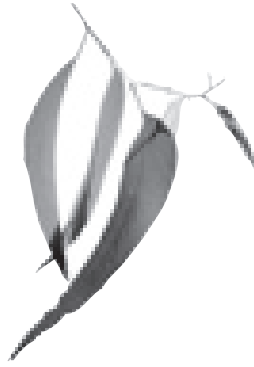
1 September to 14 October 2005.

Comments should be in writing, detailing the number of the section and page number to which your comments relate.

You can do this in one of the following ways:

1. Fill in an online submission form at www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au, under “Conservation Plans for Public Comment”, or
2. Post or fax a submission to:
World Heritage Officer
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
PO Box 552, Katoomba. 2780
fax: (02) 4782 6199

All submissions must be received by 14 October 2005



- » That the outstanding universal values and integrity of The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area are protected and conserved for present and future generations through coordinated and cooperative management and community participation.

- » That the outstanding universal values and integrity of The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area are presented in an ecologically sustainable and culturally appropriate manner.

- » That local communities and visitors are aware of and appreciate the significance of The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area which will continue to provide for a range of ecologically sustainable tourism, recreational activities and scientific research.

the management vision

THE MANAGEMENT VISION	1		
INTRODUCTION			
Purpose of the Strategic Plan	3	Key Issue - Water catchment protection	24
Preparation and planning process	4	Key issue - Cultural heritage	25
		Key issue - Landscape, natural beauty and aesthetic values	26
		Key issue - Recreation and visitor use	27
		Key issue - Economic issues	29
		Key issue - Education, community participation and consultation	30
WORLD HERITAGE BACKGROUND AND VALUES			
WORLD HERITAGE BACKGROUND			
The World Heritage Convention	6		
Ownership and control	6		
World Heritage management obligations	6		
WORLD HERITAGE VALUES	7		
OTHER VALUES			
Geodiversity & Biodiversity	9		
Water catchment	9		
Indigenous values	10		
Historic values	10		
Recreation & Tourism	11		
Wilderness	11		
Economic	12		
Research and education	12		
Scenic and aesthetic	12		
Bequest, inspiration, spirituality and existence	13		
MANAGEMENT BACKGROUND AND REGIONAL SETTING			
Regional context	13		
Land tenure	13		
Native Title	14		
Adjacent land uses	14		
Administration	14		
Legislation	15		
THREATS	16		
MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES			
STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	18		
KEY ISSUES	18		
Key Issue - Integrity	19	Appendix 1 Land Tenure of the Reserves of the GBMWHA	35
Key issue - Major impacts	21	Appendix 2 Key examples of the GBMWHA's World Heritage values	36
Key Issue - Biodiversity	22	Appendix 3 Terms of Reference: GBMWHA Management Committee Advisory Committee	40 41
Key Issue - Geodiversity	23	Appendix 4 New South Wales Statutory Protective Arrangements	42
		Appendix 5 Status of Plans of Management for Reserves in the GBMWHA (as at July 2005)	43
		Appendix 6 Local Government Areas, State & Federal Electorates & Indigenous Language Groups	43
		Map 1: The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area	45



Introduction

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (referred to as the GBMWHWA throughout this document) is comprised of eight protected areas: Blue Mountains, Kanangra-Boyd, Gardens of Stone, Wollemi, Nattai, Yengo and Thirlmere Lakes National Parks and the Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve (refer to Map 1 for their location and Appendix 1 for details).

The area of the GBMWHWA is approximately 1,026,044 hectares. There are 12 areas managed under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act* which adjoin GBMWHWA totalling approximately 165,100 hectares including two national parks, 2 nature reserves, five state conservation areas, one regional park, one karst conservation reserve and one Aboriginal Area.

World Heritage listing is the highest level of international recognition that may be afforded to an area, acknowledging its outstanding universal values and global significance. The GBMWHWA was inscribed in the World Heritage List on the basis of its outstanding natural values. It represents outstanding examples of major stages of the Earth's ongoing biological processes and of biological diversity. A wide range of plant and animal lineages and communities with ancient origins in Gondwana survive in the reserves, many of which are restricted largely or entirely to the GBMWHWA. The GBMWHWA also provides the principal habitat for many threatened species of plants and animals.

In nominating the Greater Blue Mountains for World Heritage listing, the Australian Government, on behalf of the people of Australia, accepted an obligation to ensure the identification, protection, conservation, rehabilitation and presentation of the GBMWHWA and its transmission to future generations. Day-to-day management of the sites within the GBMWHWA, however, remains primarily the responsibility of the NSW National Parks and

Wildlife Service (NPWS) and the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust. World Heritage listing has not affected ownership or control of the reserves included in the GBMWHWA. The GBMWHWA is an important recreational resource, providing the settings for a range of nature-based recreational activities. It attracts a large and growing number of local and overseas visitors, contributing significantly to the economies of local communities.

At the same time, this level of visitation places extra responsibility on managers to provide appropriate recreational opportunities without compromising ecological sustainability or the values that lie behind the GBMWHWA's World Heritage listing. Thus, the high levels of visitation, along with fire management and invasion by pest species, are the issues that currently create the greatest challenges for the State agencies charged with the responsibility for protecting and conserving the GBMWHWA's World Heritage values.

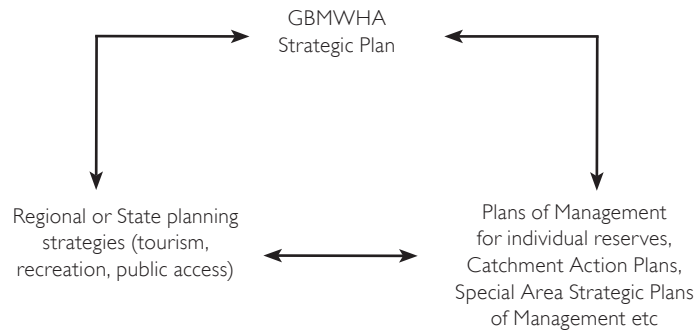
The appropriate presentation and interpretation of those values is also a priority for managers. In early 2001 a committee of senior agency officials (the GBMWHWA Establishment Project Steering Committee) was established to develop strategic policy directions for the GBMWHWA. One of the Steering Committee's primary roles was to oversee the development of this Strategic Plan.

Purpose of the Strategic Plan

This Strategic Plan has been prepared to assist in meeting Australia's international responsibilities under the World Heritage Convention. It will ensure that appropriate consideration is given to the GBMWHWA's World Heritage values by managers when developing management prescriptions for the GBMWHWA reserves, and that they are developed and implemented in a consistent and coordinated way.

The document also serves as a public statement of the commitment of the management agencies to the long-term survival of the GBMWHWA. The Strategic Plan is part of the overall planning framework for the GBMWHWA and does not attempt to provide detailed management prescriptions for the individual reserves in the GBMWHWA, which are provided for in reserve plans of management. The hierarchy of relevant planning documents is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. The interaction between the Strategic Plan and other planning documents.



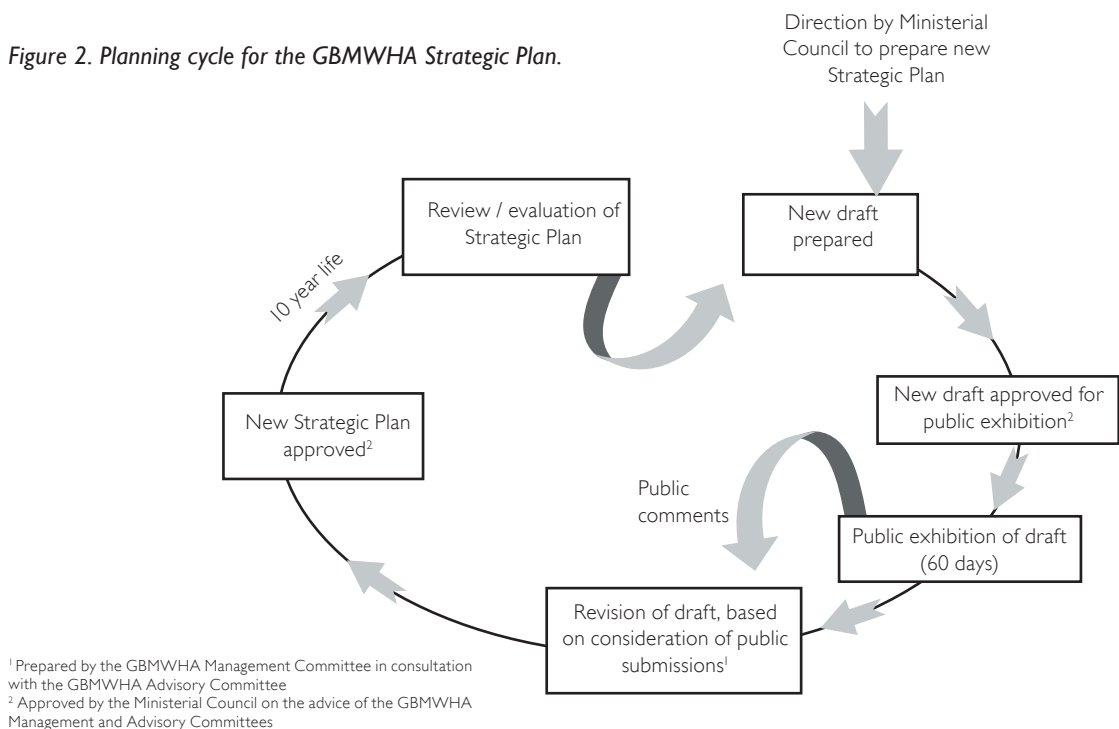
The Strategic Plan outlines strategies proposed for the management of the GBMWhA over the next 10 years. Under its framework, the respective State agencies will continue to undertake day-to-day management, but with a greater level of coordination and consistency. The Strategic Plan is not intended to be a statutory document in its own right. However by agreeing to the content of this document, Governments will make a commitment to abide by its principles and to implement the strategies outlined. These will be put into effect by the relevant Governments through decisions made by the Ministerial Council (which includes the NSW and Commonwealth Ministers for the Environment), government policies, statutory plans of management and other planning instruments.

Preparation and planning process

The planning cycle for the Strategic Plan is shown in Figure 2. The Strategic Plan seeks to ensure that management of all the reserves within the GBMWhA is consistent, coordinated and complementary. It has been prepared by the GBMWhA Establishment Project Steering Committee, for the Australian and NSW Governments to provide direction and guidance to the managing agencies in the formulation of their policies and in the development of other planning instruments.

Preparation of the Draft Strategic Plan has been guided by information in the documents published for the nomination of the GBMWhA for World

Figure 2. Planning cycle for the GBMWhA Strategic Plan.



¹ Prepared by the GBMWhA Management Committee in consultation with the GBMWhA Advisory Committee
² Approved by the Ministerial Council on the advice of the GBMWhA Management and Advisory Committees

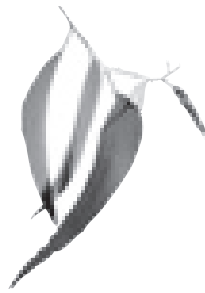
Heritage listing, existing management arrangements and government policies, and consultation between all of the management agencies involved and with the community.

A series of community consultation workshops in the region surrounding the GBMWHA was held during August and September 2002. A separate report is available which lists the issues raised at these community workshops. Each of the existing (and draft) plans of management for the individual reserves in the GBMWHA (see Appendix 5) will be subject to a review process within five years of approval of this plan.

One aim of the reviews will be to ensure that the plans of management reflect the duties and obligations of signatories to the World Heritage Convention and to facilitate the cooperative management of the GBMWHA at strategic policy and operational levels.

The Strategic Plan will be current for ten years from the date of its approval by the Ministerial Council and will be reviewed after five years. A ten-year timeframe has been selected as a medium-term planning horizon that provides a realistic period within which the identified management responses can be implemented and their effectiveness in achieving desired outcomes evaluated. The review and evaluation process is outlined on p.32.





World Heritage Background

The World Heritage Convention

The World Heritage Convention was established under the auspices of the United Nations in 1972. It aims to promote cooperation among nations to protect the world's natural and cultural heritage. By ratifying the Convention in 1974, Australia became one of the first of 176 countries to commit to the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of World Heritage sites.

The Convention is administered by the World Heritage Committee, which comprises 21 nations elected from the signatories to the Convention. Under the Convention a list of properties having outstanding universal value has been established. Only the national government of a country that is a party to the Convention may nominate an area or site within its area of jurisdiction for World Heritage listing. There are sixteen World Heritage areas in Australia and 788 throughout the world at the time of publication of this draft plan. Included on this list of globally important sites are the Great Barrier Reef of Australia, the Pyramids of Egypt, the Grand Canyon of the United States of America, Mount Everest and the Great Wall of China.

In order to qualify for the World Heritage List, a nominated area or site must meet specific natural and/or cultural criteria and associated integrity conditions. At least one criterion and relevant standards of integrity must be met before a property can be inscribed on the List (see <http://whc.unesco.org/opgulist.htm#para43>).

The GBMWA was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2000 because it satisfies two of the criteria for natural values of outstanding universal significance, that sites should:

Natural criterion (ii): be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological

and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh-water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals; and

Natural criterion (iv): contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

Ownership and control

World Heritage listing does not affect ownership rights or control of the GBMWA. In the case of the GBMWA, the individual reserves remain under the jurisdiction of the New South Wales Government and are managed by the relevant State agencies in accordance with relevant legislation (see Management Background and Regional Setting – Legislation section p.15 and Appendix 4).

The seven national parks are managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), which is now part of the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation. The Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve is managed by a Trust under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. The Director General of the NPWS and the JCRT Trust Board/Administrator are responsible to the Minister for the Environment. As a State Party to the World Heritage Convention, the Australian Government has an international obligation to protect, conserve and present all of Australia's World Heritage properties (see below). The responsible Australian government agency is the Department of the Environment and Heritage.

World Heritage management obligations

Under Article 5 of the World Heritage Convention, States parties are required:

To ensure that effective and active measures are taken for the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage situated on its territory, each State Party to this Convention should endeavour insofar as possible and as appropriate for each country:

- to adopt a general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the

protection of the heritage into comprehensive planning programs;

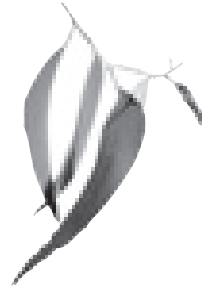
- to set up within its territories, where such services do not exist, one or more services for the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage with an appropriate staff and possessing the means to discharge their functions;
- to develop scientific and technical studies and research and to work out such operating methods as will make the State capable of counteracting the dangers that threaten its cultural or natural heritage;
- to take appropriate legal, scientific, technical, administrative and financial measures to ensure the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of this heritage; and
- to foster the establishment or development of national and regional centres for training in the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage and to encourage scientific research in this field.

Australia has enacted legislation to implement its obligations under the World Heritage Convention. The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) came into effect on 16 July 2000. The EPBC Act ensures the protection of World Heritage by providing a direct link to Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention.

Under the EPBC Act, an action that will have or is likely to have a significant impact on World Heritage values may be taken only if the action is approved by the Australian Government Environment Minister or is taken in accordance with a management plan accredited by the Australian Government Environment Minister. In order to be considered for approval, a proposal must be referred to the Australian Government for environmental impact assessment through either an Australian Government impact assessment process or an accredited State impact assessment process.

Under the EPBC Act, the onus is on the person who takes or is considering taking an action to ensure that it will not have a significant impact on World Heritage values. Substantial civil and

criminal penalties apply for breaches of the Act. The regulations to the EPBC Act prescribe Australian World Heritage management principles. The Australian Government and its agencies must take all reasonable steps to comply with these management principles. Further information about the EPBC Act and its operation is available at: <http://www.deh.gov.au/epbc/index.html> (see also Legislation section, p.15 for information on recent amendments to the EPBC Act).



World Heritage Values

World Heritage values are those values directly related to the criteria for which an area is included on the World Heritage List (see p.6 for those criteria). The GBM WHA was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2000 because it satisfies two of the criteria for natural values of outstanding universal significance. It contains:

- outstanding examples of ongoing ecological and biological processes significant in the evolution of Australia's highly diverse ecosystems and communities of plants and animals, particularly eucalypt dominated ecosystems (criterion ii); and
- significant natural habitats for the in situ conservation of biological diversity, including the eucalypts and eucalypt dominated communities, taxa with Gondwanan affinities, and taxa of conservation significance (criterion iv).

The following key examples of values under each of these criteria are taken from the Indicative World Heritage Values Table prepared by the Department of the Environment and Heritage (see Appendix 2). They are not intended to be comprehensive and further information should be sought from the selected references listed in this plan (p.33) and via the Department of the Environment and Heritage web site: www.deh.gov.au.

Ongoing evolutionary processes (criterion ii)

The eucalypt-dominated ecosystems found in present day Australia have evolved over millions of years under the influence of climatic, geological, biological and ecological processes. The complex of plant communities now found in the GBMWHA represents an outstanding example of the ongoing evolutionary processes which resulted in a shift in dominance from primitive Gondwanan flora to the diverse scleromorphic (i.e. small leaved with hardened cuticles) plant communities which are now so characteristic of Australian vegetation.

Of the three regions in the world which exhibit particular scleromorphic diversity (the other two being parts of southern Africa and the south-west of Western Australia), the GBMWHA represents the best example of the juxtaposition of scleromorph diversity with species of the original Gondwanan vegetation from which the explosion of scleromorphs emerged. It is the only one of the three regions largely dominated by trees and without a Mediterranean climate.

Although the number and extent of primitive species with Gondwanan affinities in the GBMWHA does not rival the Wet Tropics or western Tasmania, some of the best single examples of such species are present. The best known of these are the Wollemi Pine *Wollemia nobilis* and the Dwarf Mountain Pine *Microstrobos fitzgeraldii*, which survived millions of years of climatic change by retreating to a handful of moist cliff or canyon refuges.

The GBMWHA is a centre of diversification of the eucalypts, providing an outstanding record of the products of evolutionary processes associated with the global climatic changes of the late Tertiary and the Quaternary. It includes the major part of the area of highest eucalypt diversity in Australia, with an exceptional representation of species from all major groups and sub-groups and outstanding examples of the ecological processes which drive the evolution of new species.

Biological diversity (criterion iv)

The GBMWHA includes significant habitats for in situ conservation of biological diversity, including the eucalypts and eucalypt-dominated communities, taxa with Gondwanan affinities and taxa of conservation significance.

As well as the Wollemi Pine and Dwarf Mountain Pine, several other lesser known but significant primitive taxa are represented in a variety of habitats within the GBMWHA (e.g. *Acrophyllum australe*, a monotypic genus in the small Gondwanan rainforest family Cunoniaceae, and *Atkinsonia ligustrina*, the most primitive extant root parasitic genus).

The area's 102 eucalypt species (increased from the 91 species that had been identified at the date of listing) represent more than 14% of the global total of approximately 700 species. They display extraordinary taxonomic, structural and ecological diversity, ranging from tall open forest to mallee shrubland and occurring in a range of environments from wet to dry environments, from low-nutrient to fertile environments as well as fire-prone environments. More than 70 plant communities, including 56 open forest and woodland communities, contribute to the exceptional diversity of eucalypt-dominated ecosystems within the GBMWHA.

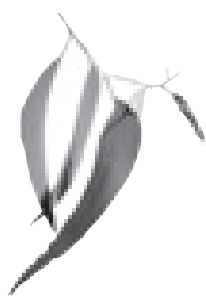
The exceptional diversity of eucalypts is matched by the outstanding diversity of plants at different taxonomic levels (152 families, 484 genera and about 1500 species) and for all three scientific measures of species diversity (i.e. local and regional species richness and species turnover across environmental gradients).

The exceptional diversity of habitats within the GBMWHA has contributed to high levels of species diversity within many plant families (see Appendix 2 for examples). A very high diversity of scleromorphic taxa is represented within 20 plant families, including families such as the Myrtaceae, Proteaceae, Fabaceae and Epacridaceae which contain so many of Australia's well known and distinctive trees and wildflowers. Many plants are of conservation significance including relict species, species endemic to the Greater Blue Mountains, rare or threatened plants (approximately 127 in total, of which almost half are confined to the Greater Blue Mountains) and species with a restricted range.

Habitat diversity has also resulted in an outstanding representation of Australian fauna with more than 400 vertebrate taxa recorded including 52 native mammals, 265 birds (one third of the Australian total), 63 reptiles and more than 30

frogs. Notable amongst the invertebrate taxa are the Lepidoptera, with at least 120 butterfly species and an estimated 4,000 moth species, and the 67 cave invertebrate taxa found at Jenolan Caves (one of the richest recorded in temperate Australia). There are species of global significance (such as the platypus *Ornithorhynchus anatinus* and the echidna *Tachyglossus aculeatus*) and numerous species which are endemic, rare or threatened (including 40 vertebrate and 12 invertebrate taxa) or which have a restricted range.

These World Heritage values are protected and enhanced by the largely undisturbed landscape within which they occur. The high wilderness quality and high environmental integrity of most of the GBMWHA and some of the adjoining lands greatly enhance the protection of those values and significantly assist their proper management.



Other values

Apart from those particular features which have been recognised as having World Heritage value, the GBMWHA has numerous other important values which complement and interact with its World Heritage values. Some of these may have the potential to be nominated for World Heritage listing following further research and documentation. Protection of these values is an integral component of managing individual reserves as well as the GBMWHA as a whole.

Geodiversity & Biodiversity

A number of important natural values were documented during the process of preparing plans of management for individual reserves and during the preparation of background reports for the World Heritage nomination. In particular, the GBMWHA incorporates the largest integrated system of protected areas in NSW, representing outstanding opportunities for the conservation of

natural communities and processes.

In addition to its outstanding diversity of plant and animal species and communities, the area also has a diversity of landscapes and geological features including:

- extensive dissected sandstone plateaux representing ongoing geological processes;
- the most extensive sandstone canyon system in eastern Australia;
- a significant geological boundary between the Lachlan Fold Belt and the Sydney Basin as evidenced by the diversity of geology and topography in Kanangra-Boyd National Park and the adjacent Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve;
- extensive karst landscapes with several cave systems of importance for their scientific, conservation and recreational values;
- a number of palaeontological (ie fossil) sites including evidence of the once widespread Gondwanan flora;
- prominent basalt-capped peaks and other significant features associated with periods of volcanic activity;
- Quaternary alluvial deposits which support significant heath and woodland vegetation with an unusual mix of species and plant communities; and
- a series of "perched" perennial freshwater lakes (in Thirlmere Lakes National Park) of considerable geomorphological and biological significance because of their great age and geomorphic stability.

Water catchment

As most of the GBMWHA lies in the steep and rugged landscape behind the coastal plains, it experiences relatively high rainfall and is the source of several major river systems.

The area includes a number of wild rivers which have been identified within plans of management for further investigation and declaration under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. While the Kowmung River within Kanangra-Boyd National Park was declared a wild river in July 2005, parts of the Colo River in Wollemi National Park, the

Grose River in Blue Mountains National Park, the Upper Macdonald River in Yengo National Park are also likely to be declared as wild rivers during the term of this Plan..

The GBMWHa protects a large number of pristine and relatively undisturbed catchment areas, some of which make a substantial contribution to maintaining high water quality in a series of water storage reservoirs supplying Sydney and adjacent rural areas. They also make an important contribution to the maintenance of water quality and natural flow regimes in the Hawkesbury-Nepean and Goulburn-Hunter river systems. The GBMWHa also forms part of the upper catchment of the Lachlan and Macquarie Rivers.

Indigenous values

The GBMWHa encompasses the traditional Country of at least six different Indigenous language groups (see Appendix 6) including several associated with the earliest contact with European settlers in Australia. Although no comprehensive surveys have been undertaken, a widespread and diverse sample of Aboriginal sites has been recorded, preserving a vital record of the social interactions and artistic activities within as well as between these different language groups.

Known sites provide evidence of at least 14,000 (and possibly 22,000) years of Aboriginal occupation of the area, but traditional beliefs connect Aboriginal people with the landscape back as far as the creation stories. Several prominent landscape features with spiritual significance are linked with creation stories, for example Mt Yengo in Yengo National Park and the Coxs and Wollondilly River valleys (Blue Mountains National Park).

Recorded sites of archaeological significance include a widespread sample of the Sydney Region's distinctive Aboriginal rock art, which incorporates two synchronous forms (i.e. pigment and engraved forms) on a scale unique in Australia. A number of scientifically important rock art sites with an unusually large number of individual motifs have been recorded within the GBMWHa.

Given the wilderness nature of the area and the limited archaeological surveys to date, there is enormous potential for uncovering further

significant sites which will contribute to a better understanding of Aboriginal use of the area over many millennia. The area is important to contemporary Aboriginal groups and a formal co-management arrangement with those groups is proposed in this plan (see sections Native Title, p.14 and Key Issue – Cultural heritage values, p.25).

Historic values

The GBMWHa includes numerous places of historic significance, some dating back to the earliest years of European settlement and exploration in Australia. Many locations within the GBMWHa are recorded in the journals of the earliest explorers and surveyors. Recorded sites demonstrating post-1788 human use are associated with:

- rural settlement, pastoral use and timber-getting, for example Euroka clearing and Buralow Creek (Blue Mountains NP), a number of small graziers' huts in Wollemi National Park and cedar logging roads and stock routes in Kanangra-Boyd National Park;
- mining, for example the ruins of oil shale mines at Newnes and Baerami (Wollemi NP), lead/silver/gold mines at Yerranderie (Blue Mountains NP) and coal/shale mines in the Jamison and Grose Valleys (Blue Mountains NP);
- road and rail transport routes, for example parts of the Old Great North Road and the Putty Road/Old Bulga Road (Yengo NP) which linked Sydney with the earliest settlements in the Hunter Valley and remnants of a mid 19th century pumping station (Thirlmere Lakes NP) which supplied water for steam engines on the main southern railway line; and
- tourism and recreation; for example Jenolan Caves was one of the first tourist attractions in Australia, with visitation dating back to the early 1800s, and the Reserve contains numerous historic relics related to tourism and the village's infrastructure; many lookouts and walking tracks on the central Blue Mountains ridgeline (including Blue Mountains NP) have been in continuous use since the late 19th century.

As well as recorded historic sites, the GBMWH has a long history of human attachment and care for the landscape, evidenced by the early reservation of Crown lands for purposes such as public recreation and catchment protection, early conservation campaigns associated largely with the bushwalking movement and modern community action for protection and World Heritage listing.

Recreation & Tourism

Most of the reserves in the GBMWH are located along the Great Escarpment behind the coastal plains. Because of their intrinsic beauty, natural features and accessibility from the major population centres, the GBMWH has high recreational values. The GBMWH provides settings for recreation and tourism that are outstanding and increasingly rare by world standards, on the doorstep of Australia's major city.

A wide range of recreational opportunities exists in the reserves, including some of state or national significance because of the relative scarcity of suitable landscapes elsewhere, for example canyoning. Bushwalking, rock climbing, nature observation, scenic driving and photography are popular activities, with picnic sites and basic camping facilities available in many of the reserves. An extensive system of historic lookouts and walking tracks along the central Blue Mountains ridgeline have provided an important focus for visitor activity over a period of at least a century. Jenolan Caves is another major focus for visitors, with the reserve and adjacent areas catering for cave tours, adventure caving, picnicking, walking and camping. A major visitors' centre is located at Govetts Leap in Blue Mountains National Park and all of the NPWS offices near the GBMWH, as well as the Jenolan Caves visitor centre, provide a range of visitor information and services.

A range of formal accommodation and camping facilities is available on the reserves, from luxury resort accommodation at Jenolan Caves Resort and self-contained cottages within the Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve to formal camping areas at various locations within Yengo, Wollemi, Blue Mountains and Kanangra-Boyd National Parks and the Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve.

Investigations are underway for the possible construction of a number of major tourism related

projects in the Blue Mountains including: a Cultural Centre in the township of Katoomba, which will include World Heritage interpretive facilities, improved tourism and visitor facilities along Bells Line of Road and a new resort in the Wolgan Valley adjacent to Gardens of Stone NP.

More than three million visitors come annually to the GBMWH. Visitors who come to the GBMWH specifically for nature-based tourism number more than 600,000 per annum. The Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve attracts approximately 250,000 visitors per annum.

Wilderness

The GBMWH contains some of the largest forested wilderness areas in eastern mainland Australia, including the largest declared wilderness (Wollemi Wilderness at 361,000 ha). Extensive natural areas have the capacity to protect and conserve a greater diversity of habitats in better health than smaller or more modified areas. Wilderness often represents the only opportunity to maintain the integrity, gradients and mosaics of ecological processes that constitute native biodiversity at the genetic, species, community and landscape levels. Wilderness also has many cultural values, providing not only opportunities for solitude and self-reliant recreation, but also aesthetic, spiritual and intrinsic value. Unroaded except for management trails and largely free of exotic species, they are rare examples of the indigenous Australian landscape. Protection of wilderness was one of the main reasons for the establishment of many of the national parks within the GBMWH.

Formal recognition of wilderness through the provisions of the NSW Wilderness Act has been given to over 542,000 hectares of wilderness areas in the GBMWH, in the Blue Mountains, Kanangra-Boyd, Nattai and Wollemi National Parks (see Appendix 1). Another area of 139,900 hectares in the Yengo National Park has been identified as wilderness and a wilderness proposal of 105,400 hectares has been exhibited for community input.

Management of these areas aims to preserve their capacity to evolve in the absence of significant human interference (see Appendix 4). It is therefore linked closely to the World Heritage natural criterion (ii). The wilderness condition and integrity of many of the key areas in the GBMWH

were greatly influential in the success of its nomination for World Heritage listing.

Economic

The regional economy surrounding the GBMWHA is increasingly supported by specialist tourism. The reserves within the GBMWHA have considerable economic value and contribute directly and indirectly to the employment, income and output of the regional economy. Although visitation to specific locations may be static or declining, overall visitation to the GBMWHA is increasing, reflecting the region's increasing importance as a tourist destination for day trips and longer stays.

Because most of the reserves only offer basic camping facilities, many visitors stay at nearby towns or guesthouses. It has been estimated that, for every 10,000 visitors to regional national parks, between four and six jobs are created in the local area. The Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve generated \$3 million in tourism revenue in 2002 and the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust and Jenolan Caves Resort provide an important source of additional employment in the otherwise rural local area. The profit generated within Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve contributes towards the management costs of other Karst Conservation Reserves in the region outside the GBMWHA.

Research and education

The variety of ecological communities and landscapes and associated cultural sites makes the GBMWHA ideal for research and educational visits.

Information arising from the scientific research conducted to date in the GBMWHA supported the World Heritage nomination. In fact, the current state of knowledge about the GBMWHA's World Heritage values is directly related to the levels of research undertaken. This information however is far from comprehensive, highlighting the need for further research in the GBMWHA. The high scientific value of the GBMWHA therefore reflects not only what has been discovered, but also what remains to be discovered. Large gaps in knowledge remain, especially regarding Aboriginal use and occupation of the area and the ecological needs of threatened species and communities.

As some communities and species are found only in the GBMWHA, it is inevitable that there will

be ongoing scientific interest in the GBMWHA. As effective management will rely increasingly on future research work to understand the GBMWHA's complex natural systems and their significance, this interest should be fostered. Facilitating increased levels of scientific research is directly related to the obligations under the World Heritage Convention to encourage scientific research into the identification, conservation and rehabilitation of the GBMWHA's World Heritage values, as well as fostering best management practice and abatement of threatening processes.

The educational values of the GBMWHA are heightened by the accessibility of many of its reserves and their proximity to several universities, namely, the Universities of Western Sydney, Charles Sturt and Newcastle. These institutions all offer biological science and/or resource management courses. Several of the reserves in the GBMWHA have an established history of providing field sites for students from tertiary, secondary and primary education institutions. Changes to the school curricula, with their greater emphasis on environmental and cultural education, are resulting in increased use of the reserves.

In addition, the recent formation of the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute, a non-profit research organisation, provides a wonderful opportunity to develop and implement a collaborative, inter-disciplinary and strategic approach to research, training and education in the area.

Scenic and aesthetic

The GBMWHA includes some of the most dramatic scenery in Australia, with its best known landscapes dominated by striking vertical cliffs and waterfalls. With many vantage points on ridges and escarpments, the GBMWHA offers outstanding vistas, from uninterrupted views of forested wilderness covered by natural vegetation to the contrasts of steep forested slopes surrounding cleared valleys.

The Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve provides a different but still dramatic scenic landscape, and the outstanding aesthetic values associated with its extensive underground caves have attracted a large number of visitors since the early days of tourist activity. In more recent times, the spectacular

complex of narrow sandstone canyons and pagoda rock formations found largely in Wollemi and Gardens of Stone National Parks have become more widely known and appreciated.

The area's scenic and aesthetic values are demonstrated in a variety of ways, for example:

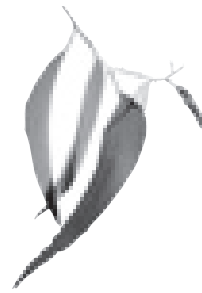
- by the large body of contemporary art (visual, performance and written) and photography inspired by the landscape;
- the significant levels of visitation to scenic vantage points within the GBMWhA and its increasing popularity as a scenic backdrop for weddings (including those of international tourists);
- the diverse scenic landscapes and natural features of the GBMWhA have been the subject of photographers for a period of more than a century and they feature prominently in Australian wilderness, wildlife and natural history books; and
- the increasing visitation to a number of well known and publicly accessible indigenous rock art sites.

Bequest, inspiration, spirituality and existence

One of the goals of World Heritage management is to transmit areas so that future generations can experience and appreciate their uniqueness. This goal explicitly recognises an area's bequest values.

The wild and rugged landscapes, diverse flora and fauna, and opportunities for solitude and quiet reflection are attributes that promote inspiration, serenity and rejuvenation of the human mind and spirit. Such feelings are valued by individuals and society, and lead to contributions in the fields of philosophy, painting, literature, music and photography. The GBMWhA has inspired such contributions and these have promoted a sense of place for all Australians who then want such places protected.

Existence values derive from the community's pleasure from simply knowing that places such as the GBMWhA exist and are protected, even though they may never visit them.



Management background and regional setting

Regional context

The GBMWhA consists of approximately 1.03 million hectares of mostly forested landscape on a sandstone plateau extending from 60 to 180 kilometres inland from central Sydney, NSW. It includes eight protected areas separated by the Great Western Highway a major transportation and urban development corridor, stretching from Penrith in the east through Springwood and Katoomba to Hampton in the west, and two other main transport routes, Bells Line of Road from Richmond to Lithgow, and Putty Road from Windsor to Singleton. Major population centres within 100 km of the GBMWhA boundaries include the whole of the Sydney Basin, the Central Coast, Newcastle, Wollongong, Lithgow, Oberon, Bathurst, Mudgee, Singleton and Goulburn - a population in excess of six million people.

The region is one of the most popular tourist destination centres in Australia for domestic and international tourists. Most of the reserves in the GBMWhA are accessible from major population centres via sealed or gravel roads and the most heavily visited areas are also accessible by public transport. There are more than three million visits to the GBMWhA each year.

Land tenure

The GBMWhA comprises eight reserves ranging in size from approximately 630 hectares (Thirlmere Lakes National Park) to 492,976 hectares (Wollemi National Park). Tenure includes seven national parks and one karst conservation reserve. Boundaries of the GBMWhA are illustrated on Map 1 and the individual reserves and their tenure are listed in Appendix 1.

Native Title

Several of the reserves are currently subject to claims under the Australian Government's *Native Title Act 1993*. This plan does not affect any extinguishment of native title rights and interests by the operation of the *Native Title Act 1993* or the *Native Title (New South Wales) Act 1994*. Nothing in this document is intended to diminish native title in any way.

The New South Wales and Australian Governments are committed to co-management of the GBMWhA with local Aboriginal communities (see Key Issue – Cultural heritage, p.25). To this end the NPWS has established the *Living Country* and *Mapping Country* projects. The aims of the project are:

- To recognise and respect traditional connection with Country;
- To establish dialogue that ensures that the needs and views of traditional indigenous people are heard and respected and that affords to the indigenous communities ownership of the process; and
- To achieve co-management of the GBMWhA.

A series of regular forum workshops are being held at various venues around the GBMWhA. All Aboriginal people with traditional connection to the Countries that comprise the GBMWhA and local Aboriginal organisations are invited to attend the workshops.

Although development of formal co-management arrangements are the aim of the project, an aim that has been welcomed by all participants, the project is also focussing on capacity building, identifying training and employment opportunities on Park, developing consultation protocols, healing rifts between the Aboriginal organisations involved and improving the relationships between the Aboriginal communities and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Adjacent land uses

The GBMWhA has a low boundary to area ratio due to its expansive area. However, the total perimeter of the GBMWhA is estimated to be approximately 5,000km, which means that adjacent land uses have the potential to significantly impact on the values of the GBMWhA.

In addition to adjacent protected areas, the GBMWhA adjoins a very large number of freehold properties, including areas of significant urban development regulated by 12 different local government areas (see Appendix 6). Other land uses adjacent to or near the reserves include tourism facilities, grazing, forestry, agriculture, manufacturing and mining. Siltation of streams, pesticide drift from aerial spraying, fire, straying cattle and companion animals and the spread of exotic plants and animals are potential threats posed by these land uses.

The reserves in the GBMWhA are in places contiguous with other protected areas and Crown reserves. In these cases, the management of the adjacent areas needs to be consistent with the protection of the World Heritage values in the listed areas.

Administration

The GBMWhA is administered by two NSW Government agencies: the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust, a body corporate established under the NPW Act. The Director-General and the Trust report directly to the NSW Minister for the Environment.

The seven National Parks are administered from three NPWS administrative regions: the Central Coast-Hunter Range Region (based at Gosford), the Blue Mountains Region (based at Katoomba) and the Sydney South Region (based at Audley). Each region is further subdivided into areas with management responsibility for a given geographical area, with administrative centres located at Gosford, Bulga, Mudgee, Richmond, Blackheath, Oberon and Picton. Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve is administered from the Bathurst and Jenolan offices of the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust.

The GBMWhA Management Committee, comprising senior officials and on-ground managers from the management agencies (NPWS, Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust) and the Department of the Environment and Heritage, has been established to facilitate the cooperative management of the GBMWhA at strategic policy and operational levels. One of the Management Committee's primary roles is to oversee the implementation of the Strategic Plan (See Terms of Reference for the Management Committee – Appendix 3).

The New South Wales World Heritage Properties Ministerial Council, comprising two Ministers with relevant responsibilities from each of the Australian and New South Wales Governments, makes policy decisions in relation to all World Heritage Properties in New South Wales, including the GBMWhA. The Management Committee will report to the Ministerial Council.

Community consultation is currently focussed through the existing NPWS Regional Advisory Committees and the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council. Scientific and technical advice is provided by officers employed by the management agencies and by formal committees established by NPWS and the Trust.

A GBMWhA Advisory Committee will be established to provide advice on the planning and management of the GBMWhA. The committee will include both community consultation and technical and scientific advice functions. The terms of reference of the new GBMWhA Advisory Committee is attached in Appendix 3 and it is anticipated that the committee will be operational by mid 2005. The committee will not replace existing NPWS advisory bodies or processes but rather, will provide advice on matters relating directly to the obligations of the Australian and New South Wales governments that arise from World Heritage listing.

In April 2004, the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute was founded. The Institute's founding members included the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Royal Botanic Gardens Trust, the Australian Museum, Blue Mountains City Council, the Sydney Catchment Authority, Sydney University, University of Western Sydney and the University of New South Wales. The Institute is a collaborative research and education organisation specifically focussed on addressing policy issues within the World Heritage Area. The Institute has developed a strategic research plan which identifies priority research areas for GBMWhA.

Legislation

The GBMWhA reserves are subject to the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and the *Wilderness Act 1987*. These Acts cover the protection and management of areas such as national parks, nature reserves and wilderness.

Relevant key management principles from these Acts are summarised in Appendix 4. Other relevant legislation includes the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*, the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and the *Sydney Water Catchment Management Act 1998*. State statutory regulations require the preparation of plans of management for the individual reserves in the GBMWhA. The status of plans of management for these reserves is given in Appendix 5.

World Heritage is a matter of national environmental significance for the purposes of the Australian Government's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. This legislation (summarised in the World Heritage section, p.6) therefore applies throughout the GBMWhA to ensure the protection of World Heritage values.

The Australian Government has introduced a new heritage system that operates through:

- a list of places of national heritage significance - the National Heritage List;
- a new Commonwealth Heritage List; and
- an independent expert body to advise the Minister on the listing and protection of heritage places - the Australian Heritage Council.

The new National Heritage List will comprise places or groups of places that are of outstanding significance to the nation. As well as places in Australia, important places overseas could be included in the List.

The list of places of national heritage significance is an additional matter of national environmental significance under the EPBC Act. This means that, in general, the Minister must give approval before anyone can undertake activities that have, will have or are likely to have a significant impact on the heritage values of a place on the National Heritage List.

It is envisaged that Australia's listed World Heritage properties will be placed on the National Heritage List for the outstanding universal values for which the places were inscribed on the World Heritage List. Any additional values of national significance within an existing World Heritage area could be included through the assessment and listing process included in the new legislation.

Provision for management plans and conservation agreements for the National Heritage List places are similar to those already in the EPBC Act for World Heritage properties, allowing the Australian Government to make agreements with owners, including private landowners, to help conserve heritage places. A management plan for a National Heritage place will be based on the application of National Heritage Management Principles and set out how to protect the heritage values of the place. If there is an existing management plan for a place, the plan may be amended to allow for the management of any additional heritage values.

As well as legislation and statutory regulations, management of the GBMWHa is influenced by policies set by a number of national, State and regional agreements and planning documents, for example the NPWS Corporate Plan and the Special Areas Strategic Plan of Management prepared jointly by the Sydney Catchment Authority and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (see Selected References for other relevant documents).



Threats

Like many protected areas, the GBMWHa faces a range of threats to its immediate and long-term integrity. These threats vary greatly in scale from incompatible land use on an adjoining property through to global climate change. The management strategies outlined below address primarily those threats that are of strategic importance to the overall integrity of the GBMWHa's World Heritage values, and therefore require a strategic, coordinated and, where possible, consistent approach by the management agencies. Threatening processes that are specific to particular locations will, more appropriately, be dealt with in the context of management planning for each reserve. Threats such as the impacts of human enhanced climate change, which are beyond the influence of

the management agencies, are considered to be also beyond the scope of this document.

The strategic threats fall into four categories:

- uncontrolled or inappropriate use of fire;
- inappropriate recreation and tourism activities, including the development of tourism infrastructure, under the increasing visitor pressure from Australian, overseas and commercial ventures;
- invasion by pest species including weeds and feral animals; and
- loss of biodiversity at all levels.

Each of these factors is considered a substantial threat to the ongoing viability of the GBMWHa's World Heritage values. Wilderness areas provide protection against the scale of impacts from each of these threats. Any significant diminution of wilderness condition therefore could threaten the ecological integrity of the GBMWHa's World Heritage values.

The potential for these threats to degrade the World Heritage values of the GBMWHa is exacerbated by the property's mostly rugged terrain and close proximity to urban development. These make on-ground management measures, such as fire management, pest animal and weed control, storm water control and the regulation of access extremely difficult.

The nature of the Property also means it has many neighbours. In addition to adjacent protected areas, the GBMWHa's neighbours include numerous private holdings regulated by 12 different local government areas (see Appendix 6). Properties adjoining the GBMWHa with prominent vantage points are highly valued and under pressure for residential and tourist development. Such development has the potential to diminish the scenic values for others. The diversity of local government zonings and policies creates the potential for inconsistency in planning processes that in turn could lead to incompatible development or land use at the Property's boundary.

The management strategies provide strategic directions for both proactive management and rehabilitation of threatening processes, as well as seeking to ensure the support and cooperation of neighbours and the broader community for the World Heritage objectives.



Strategic Management Objectives

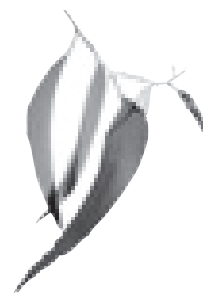
World Heritage status is the highest level of recognition that may be afforded to an area. It places an important responsibility on Australia to apply the highest possible standards of management practice.

A set of key management objectives for the GBMWH, which provides a philosophical basis for the management of the GBMWH and guidance in the formulation of operational management strategies, has been derived from the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines. These objectives are consistent with the Australian World Heritage management principles, which are contained in regulations to the Australian Government's EPBC Act (see World Heritage management obligations, p.6).

Strategic objectives for management of the GBMWH are:

- To identify, protect, conserve, present, transmit to future generations and, where necessary, rehabilitate the World Heritage values of the GBMWH;
- To integrate the protection of the GBMWH into a comprehensive planning program;
- To give the GBMWH a function in the life of the Australian community;
- To strengthen appreciation and respect for the GBMWH's World Heritage values, particularly through educational and information programs, and keeping the community broadly informed about the condition of the World Heritage values of the GBMWH;
- To take the appropriate scientific, technical, legal, administrative and financial measures necessary for implementing these principles;
- To provide for continuing community and technical input in managing the GBMWH; and
- To manage the broad range of values, both World Heritage and non-World Heritage, ensuring that achieving the long-term conservation of the reserves' World Heritage values is the over-riding principle.

In order to achieve these objectives a number of key management issues need to be addressed. The remainder of this document outlines the proposed objectives and management responses to achieve identified desired outcomes over the next ten years.



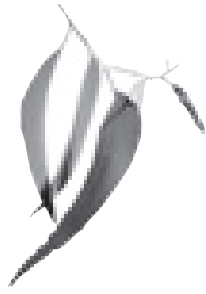
Key Issues

In common with many protected areas, the GBMWH faces a range of management issues which may impact on its immediate and long-term integrity. These issues vary greatly in scale from an instance of incompatible land use on an adjoining property through to global climate change. This document addresses primarily those issues that are of strategic importance to the overall integrity of the GBMWH's World Heritage values, and therefore require a strategic, coordinated and, where possible, consistent approach by the management agencies. Threatening processes that are specific to particular locations will, more appropriately, be dealt with in the context of management planning for each reserve. Issues such as the impacts of human enhanced climate change, which are beyond the control of the individual management agencies, are also considered to be largely outside the scope of this document.

The key management issues have been grouped into the following categories:

- integrity
- major impacts related to urban and industrial development
- biodiversity
- geodiversity
- water catchment protection
- cultural heritage (ie historic and indigenous)
- landscape, natural beauty and aesthetic values
- recreation and visitor use
- economic issues related to commercial tourism
- education, community participation and consultation.

The strategies outlined in the following sections provide strategic directions for both proactive management and rehabilitation of threatening processes, as well as seeking to ensure the support and cooperation of neighbours and the broader community for the World Heritage objectives.



Key Issue - Integrity

Objective:

To maintain and wherever possible improve the current and future integrity of the GBMWHA.

Background:

The wilderness quality of the GBMWHA makes a significant contribution to its World Heritage value and has historically ensured the integrity of its component land systems. The formal declaration of a number of wilderness areas ensures that management is directed towards maintenance and restoration of the area's unmodified state (see Appendix 4). Therefore the potential for impacts on the integrity of the GBMWHA arise largely from its long and complex boundary (including some private inholdings) and large number of adjoining landholders and land uses.

Complementary management of adjoining land by both private landholders and government agencies is critical to maintenance of the area's integrity. Current Local Government Area (LGA) planning instruments for areas adjacent to the GBMWHA may not necessarily provide adequate measures for minimising impacts on the GBMWHA's World Heritage values. Some potential major impacts have been identified which are more specifically addressed under the following Key Issue - Major Impacts.

The plans of management for individual reserves identified the need for the addition of some private or Crown land to existing reserves in order to reduce fragmentation and potential impacts. Some areas have already been added to these reserves since the GBMWHA was established (for example, lands within the Warragamba Special Area). A process for investigating the addition of local government and Crown reserves within the City of Blue Mountains to the Blue Mountains National Park is already well advanced.

In the medium to longer term, environmental changes resulting from global climate change have the potential for significant impacts on the integrity of the GBMWHA.

The integrity of the GBMWHA also depends on ensuring that appropriate long term legislative, regulatory and institutional arrangements are in place. Administrative arrangements that encourage co-ordinated, consistent and co-operative management between agencies have been established or are in the process of being established. Plans of management have been adopted for six of the eight reserves and the remaining two plans are in preparation (see Appendix 5). However not all of these plans adequately address World Heritage values and management obligations or the maintenance of the GBMWHA's integrity.

There is an opportunity in the Greater Blue Mountains to capitalise on the public and organisational support for the World Heritage Area, by establishing a mechanism to encourage appropriate management of the Area's adjoining lands. These lands could be managed not only to contribute to the protection and conservation of heritage values within a 'core' area, but importantly, could provide 'buffer' and 'transition' zones to actively manage incursive threatening processes to the core area.

This might best be achieved by adopting the 'biosphere reserve' concept to which adjoining landholders could subscribe. In fact a number of World Heritage Area sites are also part of biosphere reserves (eg Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park, Tasmanian Wilderness and Macquarie Island WHA's). The biosphere reserves within New South Wales are Kosciuszko National Park and Yathong Nature Reserve.

A biosphere reserve is a unique concept which includes one or more protected areas and surrounding lands that are managed as core, buffer and transition zones to combine both conservation and sustainable use of natural resources (Department of the Environment and Heritage, 2004). The basic elements of a biosphere reserve system are:

- Each biosphere reserve conserves examples of characteristic ecosystems of one of the world's natural regions, managed for their protection and study;

- It is a land and/or coastal/marine area in which people are an integral component, and which is managed for objectives ranging from complete protection to intensive yet sustainable production;
- It is a regional centre for monitoring, research, education and training on natural and managed ecosystems;
- It is a place where government decision makers, scientists, managers and local people cooperate in developing a model programme for managing land and water to meet human needs while conserving natural processes and biological resources;
- Finally, each biosphere reserve is a symbol of voluntary cooperation to conserve and use resources for the well being of people everywhere.

The adoption of a biosphere model for the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area would allow the voluntary signing up of adjoining landholders to a set of management principles which are aimed at both conservation and sustainable use of those adjoining lands.

Desired outcomes

- **Areas of potential outstanding universal value or that improve the integrity of the GBMWH A are evaluated as additions to the GBMWH A.**
- **The location and extent of World Heritage values within the GBMWH A is comprehensively documented.**
- **Knowledge of World Heritage values is improved through research.**
- **Local communities support any proposed additions to the GBMWH A.**
- **As far as possible, policy formulation and planning for the GBMWH A is undertaken strategically, considering the implications for the entire GBMWH A.**
- **All the GBMWH A reserves are covered by World Heritage-relevant statutory plans of management and, where necessary, operational plans such as fire, introduced species, catchment action and visitation management plans.**
- **Effective inter-governmental and inter-**

agency administrative arrangements are in place to ensure the cooperative, coordinated and consistent management of the GBMWH A.

- **Adjoining land uses are sympathetic to the conservation and presentation of World Heritage values.**
- **Wilderness and wild rivers are formally identified and protected.**

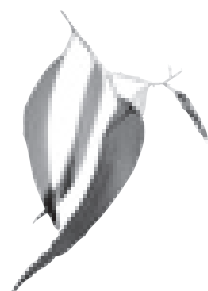
Management Response

- Ensure that statutory plans of management of all GBMWH A reserves are reviewed and amended to specifically address World Heritage objectives and meet the requirements of the Australian World Heritage management principles and that they contain provisions for evaluating and monitoring their effectiveness.
- Assess existing reserved areas not within the GBMWH A for potential addition to the GBMWH A and seek the addition of suitable qualifying areas to the GBMWH A.
- Acquire high conservation value and/or strategically located freehold land within or adjacent to the GBMWH A, on a voluntary acquisition basis.
- Support and encourage appropriate "off-park" conservation programs and, where appropriate, negotiate Voluntary Conservation Agreements with adjacent landholders.
- Investigate and pursue the establishment of a Greater Blue Mountains Biosphere Reserve which encourages the compatible management of lands adjoining the World Heritage Area.
- Provide ongoing input to the establishment and implementation of effective local government planning and land management controls for land adjacent to the GBMWH A.
- Establish a system for formal auditing and reporting on the state of the GBMWH A's World Heritage values based on systematic monitoring of the impact of threatening processes (including environmental changes partly or largely attributable to global climate change).
- Maintain and enhance the wilderness and wild

river quality and values of the GBMWhA through formal declaration and appropriate management programs (see also Key Issues - Biodiversity).

- Collaborate with the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute and the GBMWhA Advisory Committee to identify gaps in existing databases and scientific knowledge and develop and implement appropriate research programs which will assist in management of the GBMWhA, maintenance of its integrity and in identifying National and additional World Heritage values (see also Key Issues - Major Impacts, Biodiversity, Geodiversity, Water catchment protection and Cultural heritage).

Many of the management responses which address key issues in the following sections are also aimed at maintaining the GBMWhA's integrity.



Key issue - Major impacts

Objective

To reduce the potential for major impacts to adversely affect the integrity of the GBMWhA.

Background

The potential for particular types of development to adversely impact on the GBMWhA's World Heritage and other values has been highlighted during planning and community consultation processes over many years.

Developments or activities with potential major impacts include increasing urbanisation of adjacent land, adjacent or underlying mining operations, the proposal for a "superhighway" along the existing Bells Line of Road which traverses east-west through the centre of the GBMWhA and upgrading of telecommunications, electricity and water supply and other infrastructure.

These developments or activities are generally beyond the direct control of the GBMWhA's State management agencies. However, under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* any action that will or is likely to have a significant impact on World Heritage values may be taken only if it is approved by the Australian Government Environment Minister, either directly or via an approved plan of management (see p.7).

Desired outcomes

- **Local, regional and statewide planning instruments and catchment blueprints for areas adjacent to the GBMWhA adequately address the need for protection of the GBMWhA's World Heritage values.**
- **Effective inter-governmental and inter-agency administrative arrangements are in place to ensure the cooperative, coordinated and consistent processing of development proposals which may adversely impact the GBMWhA.**
- **Developments and activities with an unknown but potentially significant impact on the World Heritage and other values of the GBMWhA are either modified to minimise the risk of impact on those values or do not proceed.**
- **The impacts of surrounding land use on World Heritage values are better understood and monitored.**

Management Response

- Ensure that environmental impact assessments for proposals that may affect the GBMWhA (whether or not on the reserves themselves) adequately address potential impacts on World Heritage values and are carried out in accordance with the principles of the EPBC Act and, where required, referred to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment.
- Provide information to local and state government authorities and other relevant organisations (for example, those responsible for infrastructure) about the GBMWhA's World Heritage values and ensure they are aware of legal provisions to protect these values.

- Where there is doubt about the potential impacts of an action on World Heritage values the precautionary principle shall be applied; every effort will be made in consultation with the relevant parties to minimise any risk of adverse impacts.
- Continue to work with the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute to better understand and monitor the impacts of surrounding land uses on World Heritage values.

Key Issue - Biodiversity

Objective

To conserve the GBMWHA's biodiversity and ensure the ecological viability and capacity for ongoing evolution of its World Heritage and other natural values is maintained.

Background

To conserve the GBMWHA's World Heritage values, management aims to maintain species richness and genetic diversity, to ensure populations of threatened species remain viable, to control threatening processes and to maintain opportunities for continued natural evolution.

Management responses need to be based on an adequate knowledge and understanding of species, communities and ecosystems as well as the impact of threats such as weeds, feral animals, fire and increasing visitor use. Specialists within the management agencies currently provide scientific and technical advice on the management of the GBMWHA. However, effective management is currently constrained by limited knowledge of species and communities' ecological requirements and best practice management, an incomplete database on natural resources and visitor use and inadequate systems for the storage and distribution of resource data and research results.

Each of the agencies managing the GBMWHA has its own priorities and policies in relation to nature conservation. These require coordination at the operational level, particularly in relation to fire, introduced plants and animals, visitor management and threatened species. The GBMWHA Management Committee has been established to coordinate operational matters within the

GBMWHA (see section Administration, p.14).

Invasion by pest species (both plants and animals) is a potential major threat to the area's World Heritage value. More than 60 declared noxious weeds are known to occur in the GBMWHA and many hundreds of environmental weeds of concern have the potential to invade disturbed areas. While their present extent is limited largely to catchments adjacent to or immediately downstream of urban and rural areas, their potential for spread may be a serious threat to biodiversity conservation in the future, particularly in the face of global climate change. Areas subject to disturbance by bushfire, past activities such as mining, timber harvesting and road/ track construction and present activities such as construction of visitor facilities or increasing visitor use, are particularly vulnerable to invasion by pest species. The spread of pest species from the GBMWHA into adjoining private lands is also an issue of concern to both managers and nearby private landholders.

Policies and priorities for control of introduced plants and animals have been identified in reserve plans of management and area pest management plans. Some adjoining LGAs have comprehensive bush regeneration and volunteer bushcare programs which play an important role in reducing impacts on the GBMWHA. Effective implementation of these plans and programs depends on adequate funding and continued cooperative action between all relevant management agencies, private landholders and neighbouring communities. A need has been identified for more formal mechanisms to reduce the potential for spread of pest species into the GBMWHA from catchments upstream of the GBMWHA, for example the City of Blue Mountains has prepared a Bushland Protection Order which will assist in reducing the potential impacts of weed invasion on World Heritage values.

Fire management is another significant factor affecting biodiversity conservation. NPWS is a fire authority and a public authority under the *Rural Fires Act 1997*. The Trust is also a public authority. As public authorities, both the NPWS and the Trust have an obligation to minimise the occurrence and to prevent the spread and escape of fires from the lands they manage. This

extends to responsibility for the protection of life and property and other values, including World Heritage values, from damage by inappropriate fire regimes. The NPWS fire management objectives, policies and procedures are outlined in the NPWS Fire Management Manual and the NPWS Strategy for Fire Management. Priorities and programs for individual reserves that balance the protection of life and property with the protection and management of conservation values, are outlined in reserve plans of management and fire management plans. Fire management plans for reserves within the GBMWHa have been completed or are nearing completion. The Trust has proposed that a new Fire Management Plan be prepared for Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve.

Desired outcomes

- **Terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and their associated ecological processes, species, populations and genetic diversity are all protected and conserved in-situ.**
- **Conservation of the reserves' World Heritage values is the primary consideration in their management.**
- **Management objectives, policies and activities are coordinated between agencies, consistent with World Heritage objectives and improved in line with best practice.**
- **Research results are widely promulgated and a comprehensive biological and visitor use data set is available to managers in all agencies.**
- **An appropriate regime of monitoring is in place to enable assessment of the state of the World Heritage values of the GBMWHa.**
- **Management decisions are guided by independent scientific and technical advice.**

Management Response

- Support and undertake relevant co-ordinated research programs, in conjunction with the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute and other organisations, which will assist managers, particularly in relation to threatened species, fire management, pest species control and impacts of visitor use

- Develop an integrated data storage and retrieval system accessible to managers in all relevant agencies to provide information relevant to improved management of World Heritage and other values.
- Review current pest species management and fire management priorities and programs to ensure they are adequate for conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of World Heritage values.
- Strengthen and expand existing cooperative pest species management programs, with particular emphasis on programs which encourage ongoing community and neighbour involvement.
- Encourage and assist local councils to develop suitable statutory controls (e.g. vegetation management orders or animal management orders) in areas which may impact on the GBMWHa to prevent the spread of weeds and introduced animals into the GBMWHa.
- Give priority to the implementation of threat abatement plans and the preparation and implementation of recovery plans for all endangered ecological communities, endangered populations and threatened species within the GBMWHa.



Key Issue - Geodiversity

Objective

To protect the GBMWHa's geodiversity.

Background

The GBMWHa represents a major geological feature of eastern Australia. It is a dissected upland plateau extending from the Southern Tablelands in the south to the Hunter Valley in the north, and from the Central Tablelands in the west to

the Cumberland Plain in the east. The altitude of the plateau surface ranges between about 1000 metres and 200 metres, falling from the uplifted Great Divide and Central Tablelands in the west towards the coastal lowlands around Sydney in the east and the Hunter Valley in the north. In places where this fall is sudden, the plateau is edged by steep escarpments (eg. southern rim of the Hunter Valley).

Numerous narrow gorges and steep ridges have been eroded into the plateau surface during the westward incision of eastward-flowing streams, creating a deeply dissected and topographically complex landscape.

The GBMWHa falls entirely within the larger sedimentary structure of the Sydney Basin with its kilometre-thick Permian-Triassic sequence (290-230 million years old) of sandstones, shales and other sediments. Most of the GBMWHa is made up of sub-horizontal layers of quartz sandstone, with associated sandy infertile soils which are often skeletal. The broadly level surface of the sandstone tablelands is punctuated by higher peaks of remnant basalt throughout the GBMWHa but particularly in the north-west.

Narrow belts of Silurian limestone (formed as carbonate reefs in tropical seas) are a particularly significant component of the folded metasediments, producing the karst landscapes of Jenolan Caves, Colong, Tuglow, Little Wombeyan, Billys Creek, Church Creek and Blue Rocks in the Capertee Valley. Jenolan is one of the most extensive cave systems on the Australian mainland, and is regarded as one of the most densely cavernous sites in the world.

Pagoda formations are another special feature, occurring on the western part of the Narrabeen Sandstone, notable in the Newnes Plateau, Gardens of Stone NP, Wolgan-Capertee valleys and Dunns Swamp areas.

The geology and geomorphology of the GBMWHa underpin the World Heritage natural values, because of their crucial role in the evolution of the Area's ecosystems and plant and animal communities.

Desired outcomes

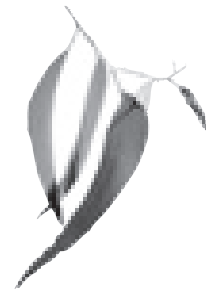
- **Healthy karst environment.**
- **Sound understanding of geodiversity and**

informed decision-making, particularly of karst environments and processes, through targeted research and capacity building in staff.

- **Infrastructure and maintenance regimes developed at Jenolan Caves to protect the karst environment while still meeting visitor needs, as appropriate.**
- **Geodiversity conserved, restored and managed, presented and interpreted.**

Management Response

- Finalise and implement the Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve Plan of Management.
- Support and undertake geodiversity research and education programs, in conjunction with the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute, the Australian Speleologist Federation and other relevant research organisations to better understand the relationship with World Heritage values.
- Mitigate against unnatural chemical and mechanical weathering and other damage to geological features/diversity through intervention, monitoring and stabilisation.



Key Issue - Water catchment protection

Objective

To maintain and improve the water quality and water catchment values of the GBMWHa.

Background

As previously mentioned under Other Values (p.9), a number of largely undisturbed catchments within the GBMWHa make a significant contribution to water quality in the Hawkesbury-Nepean river system and the water storage reservoirs which supply Sydney and adjacent urban areas. Because of the geography of the GBMWHa, the potential for adverse impacts on water quality from urban and industrial land uses, particularly stormwater runoff

and sewage pollution, arise largely within the City of Blue Mountains, upstream from Blue Mountains National Park, and to a lesser extent from the local government areas upstream of the south-eastern section of Wollemi National Park and Nattai National Park. The combination of nutrient enrichment and water extraction from these sources reduces water quality and poses a potential threat to the maintenance of World Heritage values, including some threatened species.

While statutory catchment protection controls are largely the responsibility of other agencies, the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service has been working with relevant state and local agencies over recent years to reduce the impacts of sewage pollution and stormwater runoff on the parks' waterways, for example via involvement in the interagency Blue Mountains Urban Runoff Control Program which aims to reduce impacts of stormwater runoff in the City of Blue Mountains. NPWS also has a joint management arrangement with the Sydney Catchment Authority to protect the Warragamba, Metropolitan and Blue Mountains Special Areas which are declared over parts of the GBMWHA. Joint management of these Special Areas is undertaken in accordance with a jointly sponsored Special Areas Strategic Plan of Management prepared under the *Sydney Water Catchment Management Act 1998*.

Potential impacts on water quality within the GBMWHA also arise from smaller urban settlements and rural land uses upstream from its major river systems and from existing or expanded visitor facilities and use. Past and present mining activity at the head of the Wollangambe River catchment and adjoining Gardens of Stone and Nattai National Parks poses a potential threat to downstream water quality and ecosystems. The potential impact of new developments, including mining, is addressed under Key Issue - Major Impacts (see p.21). Specific catchment protection policies and actions are outlined in relevant reserve plans of management and catchment blueprints, for example the Hawkesbury-Lower Nepean Catchment Management Blueprint.

Desired outcomes

- Any adverse impacts on water quality and quantity within the GBMWHA arising from park management activities, upstream land

uses or visitor use are minimised.

- Improved understanding of visitors, neighbours and nearby communities of their potential impact on the GBMWHA's World Heritage value and their role in minimising adverse impacts on water quality.

Management Response

- Review current catchment protection priorities/ programs and co-operative management arrangements to ensure they are adequate for the maintenance and improvement of World Heritage values.
- Support and encourage catchment education and research programs in conjunction with the Sydney Catchment Authority, catchment management authorities and the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute.

Key issue - Cultural heritage

Objectives

- To identify, formally recognise and protect the cultural heritage values of the GBMWHA.
- To manage the GBMWHA jointly with local Indigenous people.

Background

The long history of Indigenous occupation and connection to the Countries that comprise the GBMWHA, as well as its diversity of non-Indigenous cultural sites, were factors cited in support of its nomination under the World Heritage Convention's cultural criteria, a proposal which was subsequently not endorsed by the World Heritage Committee due to lack of adequate information available at the time.

The potential for listing of the GBMWHA under the criterion relating to outstanding universal cultural values needs to be further explored. The GBMWHA is rich in evidence of the cultural continuity of its Aboriginal occupants and their artistic and spiritual expression. Indigenous groups have an active interest in the protection and management of the area's cultural values.

Also significant, in terms of post-colonial cultural associations, is the large number of historic relics and places within the GBMWHA, particularly the network of historic walking tracks, staircases and

lookouts in Blue Mountains National Park and other historic values associated with a long period of visitation to the area. While some research and survey work has been undertaken to document the GBMWhA's cultural values, further work needs to be done.

Desired outcomes

- **The cultural heritage values of the GBMWhA are better understood and their significance is formally recognised at State, National and World Heritage level as appropriate.**
- **Management of the GBMWhA is undertaken co-operatively with the Aboriginal people who have traditional connections to the Countries that comprise the GBMWhA.**
- **The cultural and social significance of the landscapes within the GBMWhA to indigenous people is widely acknowledged and respected.**

Management Response

- Continue and further develop close consultation with local Aboriginal peoples through the *Living Country* Aboriginal Co-management Project and the Central Coast / Hunter Range Region Co-management Committee.
- Through the *Mapping Country* Project and in partnership with local Aboriginal communities, appropriately document the Indigenous cultural values of the GBMWhA.
- Ensure valid native title is recognised and Indigenous Land Use Agreements negotiated, consistent with Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention and the restrictions on land use imposed by law.
- Through the *Living Country* Co-management Project:
 - prepare and implement agreed GBMWhA Indigenous heritage strategies
 - investigate the feasibility of establishing an Aboriginal employment / capacity-building program and develop strategies for working towards Aboriginal co-management of the GBMWhA reserves.

- Research, record and assess the significance of the cultural heritage values of the GBMWhA against State, National and World Heritage listing criteria and seek formal recognition as appropriate.
- Encourage cultural heritage research projects which assist with the protection and management of the GBMWhA's cultural heritage values.
- Emphasise the importance of Indigenous culture and history, by identifying suitable Aboriginal words for naming / co-naming the GBMWhA and its reserves.
- Ensure recognition of non-Indigenous heritage values, including art inspired by the landscape, relationships between people and the environment, built heritage, and recreational activities and infrastructure.

Key issue - Landscape, natural beauty and aesthetic values

Objective

To protect the landscape, natural beauty and aesthetic values of the GBMWhA.

Background

While the aesthetic beauty of the landscape of the GBMWhA was not recognised by the World Heritage Committee as being of outstanding universal significance, it was acknowledged as being of national importance. The area's natural beauty and scenic landscapes unquestionably make a major contribution to the positive experiences of domestic and international visitors to the area and contribute to the significant levels of visitation.

They are also of special significance to neighbouring communities, as evidenced by the large body of contemporary literature and artwork inspired by the landscape which has been produced by these communities over a long period. While the central ridgeline of the Blue Mountains and the Jenolan Caves/Kanangra Walls area have traditionally been the focus for recognition of these values, there is increasing awareness of the extensive natural beauty and scenic landscapes which occur throughout the GBMWhA. The potential for economic benefits to local communities

surrounding the GBMWHa is enhanced by these values (see also Key Issue - Economic Issues p.29).

Scenic values can be compromised by inappropriate developments in prominent locations adjoining the area. Properties adjoining the GBMWHa with prominent vantage points are highly valued and under pressure for residential and tourist development. Such development has the potential to diminish the scenic values for others. The diversity of local government zonings and policies creates the potential for inconsistency in planning processes that in turn could lead to incompatible development or land use at the GBMWHa's boundary.

The GBMWHa's wilderness qualities have particular aesthetic value to local communities and park visitors alike. The undisturbed natural environment is one of the important qualities that attracts residents to live in areas adjoining the GBMWHa. Potential threats to the appreciation of the area's aesthetic values include inappropriate lighting and increasing light pollution as well as overflights by helicopters, low-flying jets and other aircraft. A "Fly Neighbourly" program has previously been established in the City of Blue Mountains to minimise impacts of aircraft but this needs to be reviewed and stronger and more extensive controls applied.

Desired outcomes

- **The significant scenic and aesthetic values of the GBMWHa are widely acknowledged and valued and any adverse impacts on them are minimised.**
- **Overflights do not interfere with quiet enjoyment of the GBMWHa's aesthetic values by residents and visitors.**

Management Response

- Ensure that the impact of new developments within and adjacent to the GBMWHa on the area's scenic and aesthetic values are considered, including any adverse impacts associated with lighting.
- Continue to work with the relevant agencies, aviation industry and military to implement and monitor the existing Fly Neighbourly agreement to ensure that any impact of aircraft on the GBMWHa (especially wilderness areas),

park visitors and neighbouring communities is minimised.

- Seek the establishment of a Restricted Area under the Air Services Regulations to provide statutory restrictions on tourist flights over the GBMWHa.



Key issue - Recreation and visitor use

Objective

To provide for an appropriate range of recreation and visitor use, consistent with the protection of World Heritage and related values.

Background

The GBMWHa caters for a wide range of nature-based recreation activities, largely in natural and wilderness settings, as well as a range of commercial tourism activities centred on formal visitor facilities (such as lookouts and walking tracks) and nature-based adventure activities. Apart from a number of low-key camping areas within the GBMWHa and accommodation facilities at Jenolan Caves, overnight accommodation is largely catered for in the towns and tourist resorts adjacent to the World Heritage area.

Its location near one of the international gateways into Australia and its close proximity to the large populations resident in the greater Sydney and adjoining Hunter and Wollongong regions, means that the GBMWHa is under increasing pressure from both domestic and international visitors. Uncontrolled visitor use can result in environmental degradation and conflicts between different user groups, as well as adverse impacts on local communities. With the greater Sydney region's expanding population, and the increasing popularity of potentially high impact recreation activities, there is greater pressure for use of the GBMWHa for activities that would more appropriately be catered for in other areas.

A number of specific recreation and access issues were identified during the community consultation for this plan. Many of these issues are covered in reserve plans of management, which identify appropriate recreation uses and outline specific management policies/actions aimed at enhancing visitor experiences and reducing visitor impacts. Ongoing liaison with relevant user groups is required to ensure that management policies are understood and supported. Education and interpretation programs are also essential to raise awareness of the area's important values and ensure that visitors and the broader community minimise their impact on those values (see Key Issue - Education, community participation and consultation p.30).

While regional off-reserve recreation opportunities are considered before defining the appropriate level of visitor use and facilities for individual reserves, there is no formal recreation and visitor management strategy which guides or controls visitor use across the broader region.

There is scope for more formal liaison between relevant management agencies on visitor management issues and strategies to ensure that inappropriate uses do not impact on the GBMWH. There is also a need for more systematic visitor use monitoring across the GBMWH, to provide a baseline against which future visitor increases and impacts can be measured.

The provision of adequate signposting, visitor orientation and interpretive material is essential to enhance visitor experiences and assist in visitor management. The Interpretation & Visitor Orientation Plan for the GBMWH was adopted in early 2003 following a public exhibition. The plan identifies key themes and messages to be communicated and outlines a range of strategies for conveying these messages in co-operation with other relevant agencies and tourism bodies. Some of these strategies are already being implemented, for example the production and sale of an orientation/touring map for the GBMWH and upgrading of signage.

Desired outcomes

- **Appropriate use of the GBMWH is catered for with minimal impact on its**

World Heritage and other values.

- **The role of the GBMWH in providing a particular type of nature-based visitor experience, compatible with protection of World Heritage values, is widely recognised, valued and supported.**

Management Response

- Ensure that the prime consideration in the face of increasing pressures for recreation and access is the conservation and protection of the values of the GBMWH.
- Facilitate and contribute to the development of regional cross-tenure recreation and visitor management strategies across the GBMWH.
- In consultation with other relevant agencies and tourism bodies, develop and implement a co-ordinated system for visitor use monitoring across the GBMWH to assist in the development of visitor management strategies.
- Continue to work co-operatively with user groups to develop and implement specific recreation management strategies aimed at protecting World Heritage and related values while providing for appropriate use conditional upon consistency with the Plans of Management of the individual reserves.
- Provide opportunities for ongoing community consultation regarding decisions on visitor use and management within the GBMWH through the existing NPWS Regional Advisory Committees, the Trust Board, the GBMWH Advisory Committee and additional consultation forums on specific issues as they arise.
- Progressively implement the Interpretation & Visitor Orientation Plan for the GBMWH, in co-operation with other relevant agencies and tourism bodies.



Key issue - Economic issues

Objective

To maximise the social and economic benefits derived from visitation to the GBMWH, consistent with protection of World Heritage and related values.

Background

Commercial tourism based on the area's natural and cultural values has long been a major source of economic benefits to the central Blue Mountains. World Heritage status has enhanced the potential for wider economic benefits, as evidenced by implementation of the federally-funded World Heritage Business Opportunity Project and the Blue Mountains Business Advantage project. This economic potential is increasingly being recognised in other local government areas adjacent to the GBMWH.

However there is some concern that benefits will not be evenly spread, that larger business interests may dominate at the expense of smaller, locally-based and more eco-oriented tourism enterprises and that a high turnover in tourism and hospitality operators (due to business failures) may be detrimental to the quality of visitor services. Also, increasing visitation potentially conflicts with the needs of local communities and as noted in the previous section, may adversely impact on World Heritage and related values.

While the primary consideration of World Heritage management agencies is to protect World Heritage values (see preceding Key Issues), they also have some obligation to consider the social and economic impacts of decisions related to visitor facilities and use within the GBMWH and to ensure equity and quality in relation to commercial opportunities within the area. World Heritage management agencies liaise closely with local councils, state and local tourism organisations and relevant industry bodies to ensure that the needs and concerns of interested parties are taken into consideration, without compromising World Heritage and related values. NPWS makes decisions in relation to commercial activities based on NPWS policy and statutory plans of management. Commercial activities within national parks are licensed on a user-pays system.

The Interpretation and Visitor Orientation Plan for the GBMWH acknowledges issues such as the need for broad distribution of economic benefits and includes some strategies which will assist in improving economic benefits while minimising adverse social and environmental impacts, for example the promotion of touring routes which encourage visitation to all local government areas adjoining the GBMWH.

The principle of "user pays" is increasingly being applied within the reserves in order to assist in maintenance of visitor facilities. However, there may be scope for greater return of economic benefits from tourism and visitor use to directly contribute towards management of the GBMWH.

Desired outcomes

- **The social and economic benefits of the GBMWH are widely recognised and broadly distributed without adverse impact on World Heritage and related values.**
- **A proportion of the economic benefits arising from the GBMWH are applied towards improved management of the GBMWH.**

Management Response

- Collaborate with local councils, tourism agencies, industry bodies and local operators and businesses to ensure that economic benefits are realised without compromising World Heritage and other values or adversely impacting on local communities.
- Implement the Interpretation and Visitor Orientation Plan for the GBMWH.
- Investigate the possibility of establishing gateway facilities near major entrance points to the GBMWH in conjunction with local government, tourism organisations, businesses and communities.
- In consultation with other relevant agencies and tourism bodies, investigate options for greater return of economic benefits to directly contribute to management of the GBMWH.
- Encourage community donations towards management of the GBMWH.

Key issue - Education, community participation and consultation

Objective

To encourage community stewardship of the GBMWhA through education, consultation and provision of opportunities for community participation in its protection.

Background

As recognised in the World Heritage Convention, a sense of community "ownership" of the GBMWhA is essential to achieving the stated strategic objectives of conserving and transmitting its outstanding universal values to future generations. Community members who have a sense of connection to the area and understand their important stewardship role will be more likely to support the area's conservation into the future and less likely to oppose management proposals aimed at enhancing the area's integrity and conserving its significant values. Education and interpretation programs such as the NPWS Discovery program have a key role to play in engaging visitors and the broader community in this regard, as do visitor centre and management agency staff. The Interpretation and Visitor Orientation Plan for the GBMWhA outlines some strategies to ensure that agency staff and others involved in providing information about the GBMWhA have a good understanding of its World Heritage and related values.

Active community partnerships can assist in achieving a wide range of management objectives, particularly in relation to biodiversity conservation, fire management, pest species control, catchment protection and visitor use management. Special consultation and community involvement measures are required in relation to management of Indigenous heritage values (see Key Issue-Cultural Heritage, p.25).

Consultation regarding management decisions provides the opportunity to raise awareness of management issues and potential impacts on World Heritage and related values. While community consultation is part of statutory planning processes and has occurred in relation to this strategic plan, there is a need for more formal mechanisms for ongoing consultation with local and non-local stakeholders on strategic management issues.

Desired outcomes

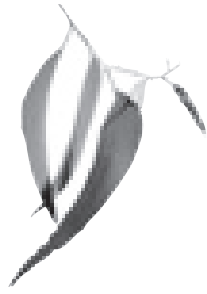
- Visitors to the GBMWhA and the broader community understand the area's World Heritage and related values and the potential impacts of their own actions on those values.
- Reserve neighbours, local communities and visitors to the GBMWhA are recognised as valuable conservation partners and are enthusiastically involved in community partnerships with management agencies to protect its World Heritage and other values.
- The World Heritage and other values of the GBMWhA are a focus for environmental education in the surrounding regions.

Management Response

- Work with reserve neighbours and local communities to develop and implement new partnership programs, for example World Heritage Neighbourhood Watch and GBMWhA "Ambassadors".
- Establish a forum for information exchange and neighbour input into the management of the GBMWhA .
- In partnership with local agencies, support and expand community-based volunteer rehabilitation programs to maximise the effectiveness of pest species control programs and rehabilitation of degraded areas.
- Support and expand education programs for tourism operators (as per the GBMWhA Interpretation and Visitor Orientation Plan).
- Support and expand education programs such as NPWS Discovery and seek interagency support and funding for improved education packages, particularly for use in schools.
- Establish and support the GBMWhA Advisory Committee and effectively engage the community and the NPWS Regional Advisory Committees in the implementation and review of this strategic plan.

(See also Key Issue - Cultural Heritage re partnerships with Indigenous groups)





Implementation and review of this plan

Implementation of this plan is the responsibility of the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service and Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust in conjunction with the Management Committee. Priorities will be determined within the context of each management agency's corporate policies and strategic planning and will be subject to the availability of necessary staff and funds and to any special requirements of the Director-General, the Trust Board and the New South Wales and Australian Government Environment Ministers.

Under current arrangements, allocation of funds for management of the seven national parks is largely the responsibility of the Service within its allocated State funding. Funding for management of the Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve comes primarily from tourism revenue. The Australian Government has provided funding for the GBMWHA through Natural Heritage Trust programs for projects directly related to its obligations under the World Heritage Convention. Future funding for the GBMWHA as a whole will continue to be sought through States Grants and other funding programs, subject to negotiation between the New South Wales and Australian Governments.

Any proposals for additions to the GBMWHA will include management cost analyses with specific consideration of the costs of adequately protecting and conserving the identified World Heritage values and the GBMWHA's integrity.

Review and evaluation

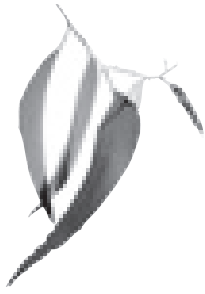
The planning cycle for this Strategic Plan provides for a review towards the end of its 10 year period (see Figure 2, p.4). The review of the plan should: assess the relevance of identified issues; assess the extent to which management responses

have been implemented and objectives achieved; identify the reasons for lack of achievement or implementation; assess new information that might affect management; and propose changes and new objectives and management actions where appropriate.

Specific measures of the effectiveness of the document should include: success in maintaining the integrity of the GBMWHA; improvement in the identification, protection, conservation, rehabilitation and presentation of the World Heritage values; leadership by agencies responsible for implementing management actions identified in the plan; ownership of the plan by the GBMWHA community; commitment to consultation and participation; adequate resourcing; and perceived usefulness of the Strategic Plan.

There may be a need to amend parts of this Strategic Plan before the end of the ten year period. A mid-term review at about five years after the adoption of this plan will make any readjustments that may be necessary and accommodate any relevant government policy or legislative changes.

Before assigning funding priorities each year, the Strategic Plan will be assessed by the GBMWHA Management Committee, in consultation with the Advisory Committee (for a description of these committees refer to section Administration, p.14). Such an annual assessment will allow the Committees to consider ongoing changes that have occurred and to re-evaluate management priorities. It is not envisaged, however, that the plan will be amended unless significant new issues and information obtained from research and monitoring activities have arisen and/or where aspects of the document are not achieving the desired outcomes. This document may only be amended by the Ministerial Council following full consultation with the Advisory Committee. At the discretion of the Management Committee, amendments may be placed on public exhibition to seek the views of the broader community prior to incorporation of the proposed amendments.



Selected References

Reserve plans of management:

NSW NPWS (1997) *Thirlmere Lakes National Park Plan of Management*. New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service. Hurstville, Sydney.

NSW NPWS (2001) *Blue Mountains National Park Plan of Management*. New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service. Hurstville, Sydney.

NSW NPWS (2001) *Kanangra-Boyd National Park Plan of Management*. New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service. Hurstville, Sydney.

NSW NPWS (2001) *Nattai Reserves Plan of Management*. New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service. Hurstville, Sydney.

NSW NPWS (2001) *Wollemi National Park Plan of Management*. New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service. Hurstville, Sydney.

NSW NPWS (2001) *Yengo National Park and Parr State Recreation Area Draft Plan of Management*. New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service. Hurstville, Sydney.

NSW NPWS (in preparation) *Gardens of Stone National Park Draft Plan of Management*. New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service. Hurstville, Sydney.

Cameron McNamara Consultants for Tourism Commission of NSW and NSW Department of Lands (1989) *Jenolan Caves Reserve Plan of Management*.

Mandis Roberts Consultants for Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust (in preparation). *Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve Draft Plan of Management*.

Other documents:

DUAP (1997) *Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No. 20: Hawkesbury-Nepean River (No.2-1997)*. New South Wales Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, Sydney.

NPWS and EA (1998) *The Greater Blue Mountains Area World Heritage Nomination*. New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service in association with Environment Australia.

NSW NPWS (1999) *New South Wales Biodiversity Strategy*. New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service. Hurstville, Sydney.

NPWS and SCA (2001) *Special Areas Strategic Plan of Management*. New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service and Sydney Catchment Authority.

Charles Walsh Nature Tourism Services with Elanus Word and Image for NSW NPWS (2002) *Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area Interpretation and Visitor Orientation Plan*. New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service. Hurstville, Sydney.

DLWC (2003) *Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Blueprint*. New South Wales Department of Land and Water Conservation.



Definitions and abbreviations

In this Plan:

- “the Service” and “NPWS” refer to the National Parks and Wildlife Service of New South Wales, part of the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation
- “the Trust” and “JCRT” refer to the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust
- “GBMWA” stands for the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area
- “the EPBC Act” means the *Australian Government Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* as amended from time to time and any Act replacing the same
- “the NPW Act” means the *New South Wales Government National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* as amended from time to time and any Act replacing the same
- “the Ministerial Council” means the New South Wales World Heritage Properties Ministerial Council comprising two Ministers with relevant responsibilities from each of the Australian and New South Wales Governments
- “the Management Committee” means a committee comprising senior officials from the management agencies (NPWS and JCRT) and the Department of the Environment and Heritage to facilitate the cooperative management of the GBMWA at strategic policy and operational levels
- “the Advisory Committee” means a committee established to provide advice on the planning and management of the GBMWA, having both community consultation and technical and scientific advice functions
- “Regional Advisory Committee” means the committee of community representatives approved by the New South Wales Minister for the Environment and appointed under the NPW Act to advise and assist with the management of the NPWS Region for which they are appointed
- “identified wilderness” means an area assessed by the Service as fulfilling the wilderness criteria specified in Section 6(1) of the *Wilderness Act 1987*
- “declared wilderness” means an area gazetted and managed by the New South Wales Government in accordance with the *Wilderness Act 1987*
- “voluntary conservation agreement” means a formal agreement in accordance with the NPW Act between the New South Wales Minister for the Environment and a property owner/lessee for the conservation of natural or cultural heritage
- “taxa” refers to any taxonomic class, for example genus, species, sub-species.



Appendix I

Land Tenure of the Reserves of the GBMWhA

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is comprised of the total area of the reserves listed below as they existed at the time of nomination. Since the nomination and subsequent listing of the GBMWhA, most of these reserves have increased in area as a result of the purchase of areas of adjoining freehold land and the addition of other areas of public land.

These additional areas are not part of the GBMWhA. The addition of these areas to the GBMWhA will require additional assessment and a decision by both NSW and Australian Governments.

Reserve name	Approximate areas (ha)	
	Total area Nov 2000	Declared wilderness June 2004
<i>National parks managed by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service</i>		
Blue Mountains	248,148	37,901 (Grose)
Kanangra-Boyd	68,661	122,522 (inc. pt Blue Mtns NP)
Nattai	47,628	29,948
Wollemi	492,976	361,000
Gardens of Stone	15,010	
Yengo	150,569	
Thirlmere Lakes	630	
<i>Conservation reserve managed by the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust</i>		
Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve	2422	
TOTALS:	1,026,044	551,371

Note: Some declared wilderness areas extend across more than one reserve.



Appendix 2

Key examples of the GBMWhA's World Heritage values

The World Heritage values of a property are the natural heritage and cultural heritage contained in the property, which have the same meaning given by the World Heritage Convention.

The following indicative World Heritage values table includes examples of the World Heritage values for which the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area was listed for each of the relevant World Heritage List criterion.

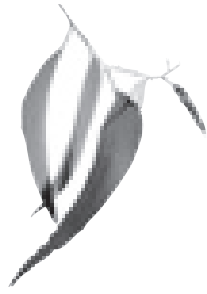
While these examples are illustrative of the World Heritage values of the GBMWhA, they do not necessarily constitute a comprehensive list. Other sources should be consulted for a more detailed understanding of the values of the GBMWhA, including the selected references listed in this plan (p.33). It should be noted that the criteria against which the GBMWhA was listed are periodically revised and the criteria against which the GBMWhA was listed in 2000 may not necessarily be identical with future criteria.

<p>NATURAL CRITERIA AGAINST WHICH THE GBMWhA WAS INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST IN 2000</p>	<p>EXAMPLES OF THE GBMWhA'S WORLD HERITAGE VALUES FOR WHICH THE PROPERTY WAS INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST.</p>
<p>Criterion (ii) outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals.</p>	<p>The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area provides outstanding examples representing ongoing ecological and biological processes significant in the evolution of Australia's highly diverse ecosystems and communities of plants and animals, particularly eucalypt-dominated ecosystems. The World Heritage values include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • primitive species with Gondwanan affinities that are of outstanding significance in terms of the evolution of plant life, including the Wollemi Pine <i>Wollemia nobilis</i> and the primitive gymnosperm <i>Microstrobus fitzgeraldii</i>; • a centre of diversification of the eucalypts which provides an outstanding record of the products of evolutionary processes, associated with the global climatic changes of the late Tertiary and the Quaternary; • the highly unusual juxtaposition of diverse scleromorphic species with Gondwanan taxa;

<p><i>NATURAL CRITERIA AGAINST WHICH THE GBMWHA WAS INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST IN 2000</i></p>	<p><i>EXAMPLES OF THE GBMWHA'S WORLD HERITAGE VALUES FOR WHICH THE PROPERTY WAS INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST.</i></p>
<p>cont'd: Criterion (ii) outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an exceptional representation of the major eucalypt groups and aspects of their evolution and radiation, including species in the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - genera: eucalyptus (including Corymbia) and Angophora; - subgenera: Eucalyptus, Corymbia and Symphyomyrtus; • examples of species divergence occurring in a relatively small area, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - differentiation of eucalypt taxa in isolation in response to persistent habitat islands (eg those associated with sandstone plateaux isolated by deep valleys) - mutually exclusive distributions of taxa in the series <i>Strictae</i> (the mallee ashes) and <i>Haemostomae</i> (the scribbly ashes) resulting from long-term isolation of breeding populations (allopatric speciation); • eucalypt taxa demonstrating very high levels of hybridisation: • representative examples of dynamic processing in eucalypt-dominated ecosystems, including the full range of interactions between eucalypts, understorey, environment and fire, extending from forests with rainforest boundaries to mallee communities with heath boundaries, demonstrating the exceptional ecological amplitude of the eucalypts.
<p>Criterion (iv) contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.</p>	<p>The Greater Blue Mountains Area includes significant habitats for in situ conservation of biological diversity, including the eucalypts and eucalypt-dominated communities, taxa with Gondwanan affinities, and taxa of conservation significance. The World Heritage values include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outstanding levels of plant diversity expressed at different taxonomic levels (152 families, 484 genera, ca 1500 species) and for all three measures of species diversity (local species richness or "alpha" diversity, species turnover across environmental gradients or "beta" diversity, and regional species richness or "gamma" diversity); • plant taxa with very high levels of species diversity, including the families - Fabaceae (149 species), Myrtaceae (150 species), Orchidaceae (77 species), Poaceae (57 species), Cyperaceae (43 species), and the genera Eucalypts (91 species), Acacia (64 species);

<p>NATURAL CRITERIA AGAINST WHICH THE GBMWA WAS INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST IN 2000</p>	<p>EXAMPLES OF THE GBMWA'S WORLD HERITAGE VALUES FOR WHICH THE PROPERTY WAS INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST.</p>
<p>cont'd: Criterion (iv) contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exceptional diversity of habitats that contribute to the property being one of the three most diverse areas on earth for scleromorphic species and the only one of these areas that is dominated by trees and without a Mediterranean climate, including plateaux tops, ridges, exposed rocks, cliffs, rocky slopes and sheltered gorges and valleys; • exceptional diversity of habitats providing outstanding representation of the Australian fauna within a single place, including 400 vertebrate taxa - 52 native mammals, 265 birds or 33% of the Australian total, 63 reptiles, more than 30 frogs and examples of species of global significance such as the platypus (<i>Ornithorhynchus anatinus</i>) and the echidna (<i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>), and invertebrate taxa - butterflies (120 species) and moths (estimated 4000 species); • very high diversity of scleromorphic taxa represented within 20 plant families including Myrtaceae, Proteaceae, Epacridaceae, Fabaceae (Faboideae and Mimosoideae), Dilleniaceae, Rutaceae, and Euphoreiaceae (Tribe Stenolobeae); • ancient relict species with Gondwanan affinities that have survived past changes of climate within refugia, for example in recessed canyons and perpetually moist areas, including: the Wollemi Pine (<i>Wollemi nobilis</i>); and the primitive gymnosperm <i>Microstrobus fitzgeraldii</i>; • other primitive species with Gondwanan affinities, including: Lomatia, Dracophyllum, and Podocarpus; taxa in the family Lauraceae; Atkinsonia, the most primitive extant root parasitic genus; and taxa in the family Winteraceae, such as Tasmania; • taxa contributing to an exceptional diversity of eucalypts and eucalypt-dominated ecosystems, including: 2 eucalypt genera (<i>Eucalyptus</i> including <i>Corymbia</i>, <i>Angophora</i>); 3 eucalypt subgeneric groups (<i>Eucalyptus</i>, <i>Corymbia</i>, <i>Symphomyrtus</i>); 91 eucalypt species (13% of the global total); and highly diverse understoreys of flora and fauna species; • structural forms contributing to an exceptional diversity of eucalypts and eucalypt-dominated ecosystems, including: tall open forests (towering, single-stemmed trees); open forest; woodland; low open woodland; and mallee shrubland (small, multi-stemmed shrubs);

<p><i>NATURAL CRITERIA AGAINST WHICH THE GBM WHA WAS INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST IN 2000</i></p>	<p><i>EXAMPLES OF THE GBM WHA'S WORLD HERITAGE VALUES FOR WHICH THE PROPERTY WAS INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST.</i></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more than 70 plant communities, including 56 open forest and woodland communities contributing to an exceptional diversity of eucalypt-dominated ecosystems associated with: wet environments (including the margins of rainforests); dry environments (rapidly-draining, drought-prone sandstone plateaux); low-nutrient environments (including sandstone-derived substrates); fire-prone environments (including the sandstone plateaux); and fertile environments (remnants of formerly widespread Tertiary basalts); • high levels of diversity of invertebrate fauna, including Lepidoptera (4000 moth species, 125 butterfly species), and cave invertebrates (67 taxa recorded at Jenolan Caves); • plant taxa of conservation significance and their habitats, including: endemic species (114 plant species); relict species; species with a restricted range; and rare or threatened species (127 species); • animal taxa of conservation significance and their habitats, including: endemic species; relict species, species with a restricted range; and rare or threatened species (40 vertebrate taxa including 12 mammal species and 15 bird species and 12 invertebrate taxa).



Appendix 3

Terms of Reference – GBMWhA Management Committee and Advisory Committee

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE GBMWhA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Membership

There shall be a total of three members of the Management Committee, comprising:

- NPWS Director Central, who shall act on behalf of the Head of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, as the Chairman of the committee;
- Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust - General Manager or the Department of the Environment and Conservation holder of the commercial licence, or nominee;
- Department of the Environment and Heritage – Assistant Secretary of the Heritage Management Branch, or nominee.

Observers

The three NPWS Regional Managers of the NPWS regions within which the GBMWhA is located; and up to two observers from the Department of the Environment and Heritage.

Terms of Reference

The GBMWhA Management Committee will, under the direction of the Ministers, formulate and implement policies for the consistent, cooperative and coordinated management of the property, at strategic and operational levels and in accordance with the goal of 'best practice management' of Australia's World Heritage properties.

The major functions of the Management Committee shall be:

- To develop and coordinate strategic policy for the property in relation to Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention;
- To provide advice and recommendations to the Ministers on any matters relevant to the management of the property, in particular strategic management planning, funding arrangements and presentation;
- To set broad priorities for expenditure;
- To oversee the work program of the World Heritage Executive Officer;
- To co-ordinate the activities of, and seek and take advice from, the Advisory Committee, as appropriate; and
- To resolve differences in points of view which may arise from time to time.

Operation

The Management Committee shall operate according to the following procedures:

- The Committee shall meet on an agreed basis, at least twice in a calendar year (which may include meeting by teleconference) or as otherwise directed by Ministers;
- Secretariat support shall be provided by the NSW NPWS;
- Procedure for the conduct of business shall be by consensus and resolution rather than by voting; and
- Governments shall bear the costs of their own representatives and observers attending meetings of the Committee.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE GBMWHA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Membership

There shall be twelve members of the Advisory Committee, comprising:

- The Chairman, being an independent, non-government person with no current direct financial or political vested interest in the way in which the GBMWHA is managed;
- Two local Indigenous/traditional owners;
- Two local government (with terms rotating amongst jurisdictions);
- One tourism;
- One non-government conservation/heritage organization;
- One outdoor self-reliant nature-based recreation;
- One water quality/aquatic environment;
- One botanical/ecological;
- One zoological/ecological; and
- One archaeological/cultural heritage.

Observers

Up to two from each of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust and Department of Environment and Heritage;

One from each of the three Regional National Parks Advisory Committees relevant to the GBMWHA.

Appointment

Members of the Committee will be selected by mutual agreement between NPWS and DEH before seeking the approval of both Ministers. In the event of agreement not being reached between NPWS and DEH, a list of candidates and the reasons for supporting and not supporting their membership will be put to the Ministers for their decision.

Members will be appointed for a three-year term for each member but with half the members turning over each 18 months. The Ministers may reappoint any member if special circumstances apply.

Members of the Committee shall be appointed in their own right and not as representatives of any

particular organisations, institutions, disciplines or interest sectors.

The Committee may, from time to time, invite non-government observers to attend meetings when there is a special reason to do so.

Termination

Other than by resignation, a member's membership of the Committee will be terminated if the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Heritage approves a recommendation to so terminate a membership on the recommendation of the NSW Minister of Environment and Conservation.

Terms of Reference

The GBMWHA Advisory Committee will provide advice, either at the request of the relevant Ministers, at the request of the GBMWHA Management Committee, or of its own volition, on matters relating to the protection, conservation, presentation and management of the GBMWHA.

The Advisory Committee shall:

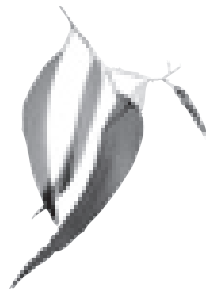
- Consider and advise on the views of community interests;
- Consider and advise on technical and scientific matters including scientific research priorities, relevant new information or developments in science, the scientific basis of management principles and practices, the appropriateness of current and proposed research, and the maintenance of the values and integrity of the GBMWHA; and
- Provide advice to the Management Committee or the relevant Ministers on issues referred to it for consideration.

Operation

The Advisory Committee shall operate according to the following procedures:

- A quorum shall be a simple majority of members;
- The Committee shall meet as necessary, or at the request of the Ministers or the Management Committee, or if the majority of members request a meeting, provided that at least two meetings are held each calendar year;
- The secretariat support for the Committee shall be provided by the NSW NPWS;

- If the Chairman is absent the Committee shall elect a temporary Chairman;
- Procedure for the conduct of business shall be by consensus and recommendation. In cases where consensus is not attainable the report of the Committee shall record the number of members supporting a particular view and note the differing views of members not supporting a recommendation;
- There is no provision for proxies;
- A report of each meeting shall be forwarded to each member of the Management Committee within one month of each meeting;
- Indigenous members will be paid sitting fees at the prevailing Commonwealth rate. State and Commonwealth Governments shall bear the costs of their agency members and observers attending meetings. Any remuneration of observers from Regional National Parks Advisory Committees will be left up to their respective committees. It is not proposed to pay allowances or sitting fees to non-Indigenous members or observers as NPWS and DEH will fund accommodation and other related expenses directly.



Appendix 4

New South Wales Statutory Protective Arrangements

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is responsible for administering the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and the *Wilderness Act 1987*. These Acts cover the protection and management of areas such as national parks, nature reserves and wilderness.

The following general purposes relate to the management of the national parks and the Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve in NSW:

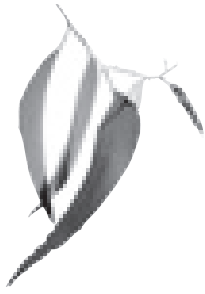
- the protection and preservation of the scenic, natural and cultural features;
- the conservation of wildlife;
- the maintenance of natural processes as far as possible;
- the provision of appropriate recreational opportunities; and
- the encouragement of scientific and educational inquiry into environmental features and processes, prehistoric and historic features, and park use patterns.

Parts of some reserves in the GBMWHA have been declared as wilderness under the Wilderness Act. Management principles of wilderness areas, as provided in this Act, are:

- to restore and protect the unmodified state of the areas
- to preserve its capacity to evolve in the absence of significant human interference, and
- to permit opportunities for solitude and appropriate self-reliant recreation.

A number of wild rivers within the GBMWHA have been identified for further investigation and declaration under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. Under that Act wild rivers are to be managed in accordance with the following principles:

- the restoration wherever possible and maintenance of the natural biological, hydrological and geomorphological processes associated with wild rivers and their catchments, including natural flow variability; and
- the identification, conservation and appropriate management of Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places.



Appendix 5

Status of Plans of Management for Parks and Reserves in the GBMWA (as at July, 2005)

Thirlmere Lakes: Plan of Management adopted.

Wollemi: Plan of Management adopted.

Nattai: Plan of Management adopted.

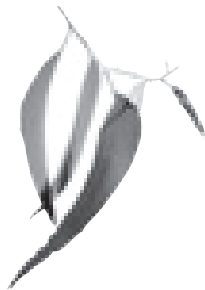
Blue Mountains: Plan of Management adopted.

Kanangra-Boyd: Plan of Management adopted.

Gardens of Stone: Final draft Plan of Management.

Yengo: Final draft Plan of Management.

Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve: Plan of Management adopted. New draft on exhibition.



Appendix 6

Local Government Areas, State & Federal Electorates & Indigenous Language Groups of the GBMWA

LGAs:

Wingecarribee Shire

Goulburn City

Wollondilly Shire

Oberon

Penrith City

Blue Mountains City

Appendix 6 (cont'd)

Greater Lithgow City

Hawkesbury City

Cessnock City

Singleton Shire

Mid-Western Regional Council

Muswellbrook Shire

Indigenous communities:

Wanaruah

Gundungurra

Dharawal

Darug

Wiradjuri

Darkinjung

State electorates:

Blue Mountains

Bathurst

Burrinjuck

Camden

Cessnock

Hawkesbury

Londonderry

Mulgoa

Peats

Penrith

Southern Highlands

Upper Hunter

Wyong

Federal Electorates:

Hunter

Calare

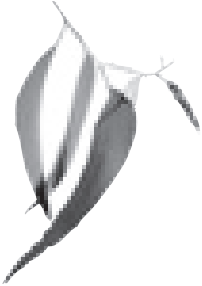
Macquarie

Lindsay

Hume

Macarthur

NOTES



Map 1: The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area



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