This plan of management was adopted on 12 January 2006 and was prepared in pursuance of section 38 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972.
FOREWORD

Mount George Conservation Park conserves 85 hectares of important native vegetation situated within an otherwise urbanised and cultivated area. It is one of the many small parks scattered throughout the Mount Lofty Ranges. The park was originally 67 hectares before the boundaries were extended in 2003 to incorporate adjacent land of high conservation value. This is the second plan of management written for this park and was prepared to review the last plan and address any management strategies required for the new land additions.

Mount George Conservation Park is characterised by steep slopes adorned with Stringybark Open Forest, that provide magnificent views for any keen bushwalker. The creeks, wetlands and freshwater bogs and soaks in the park provide regionally important habitat for numerous native fauna species. State endangered Mountain Gum Open Forest is generally found within the vicinity of these damper areas, particularly near the base of the gully that runs through the centre of the park. The park protects a diverse assemblage of flora, with several species considered to be threatened at a national, state or regional level, such as the nationally vulnerable Clover Glycine and the state vulnerable Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo.

Aside from its rich natural heritage, the park also holds cultural significance for Kaurna and Peramangk people. The park is highly valued by the local community who frequent the park to take advantage of the various walking trails and the scenic grounds near the wetland habitat, for low impact recreational activities. The Heysen Trail, one of the state’s premier long distance trails, winds through the park providing bushwalking and hiking enthusiasts with the opportunity to appreciate the inspiring surroundings and scenery provided by Mount George Conservation Park. The commitment of the local community to the conservation of this park is evident through the dedicated efforts displayed by volunteer groups, which have resulted in rehabilitation of creek lines and have contributed to the expansion of the park.

Many people have contributed to the development of this plan of management. Their interest and helpful suggestions are gratefully acknowledged.

I now formally adopt the plan of management for Mount George Conservation Park under the provisions of section 38 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972. I encourage you to read the plan and visit and enjoy this exceptional park.

JOHN HILL
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Valuable assistance was received from various agencies, groups and individuals that all had a special interest in Mount George Conservation Park. In particular the members of the Friends of Mount George Conservation Park must be acknowledged for the wealth of information that they have provided.
1 PARK LOCATION AND FEATURES

Mount George Conservation Park was proclaimed on 7 November 1996 under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972. The park was proclaimed to protect a stand of natural vegetation with inspiring landscape qualities and a diversity of habitat types, that provide stimulating surroundings for passive recreation in an otherwise developed landscape. At the time of proclamation the park had an area of 67 hectares. Since then an additional 18 hectares of land was added to the park on 16 October 2003. The park currently has an area of 85 hectares, comprising the allotments indicated in Appendix B, all of which are free of access under State mining legislation.

Mount George Conservation Park is located approximately 25 kilometres south-east of Adelaide near the township of Bridgewater. The park is one of the many small reserves scattered throughout the Mount Lofty Ranges, which experiences cool to cold, wet winters and warm dry summers (Figure 1). The park is traditionally associated with the Kaurna and Peramangk people (Tindale, 1974). It is highly valued by the local community who use it for recreational purposes such as bushwalking and sightseeing, through the many different walking trails, including a section of the 1 200 kilometre long Heysen Trail (Market Equity Research and Strategy, 2004).

The eastern portion of the park encompasses the western slopes and summit of Mount George (520 metres), which is the park’s most dominant topographical feature. The western slopes of Mount George are undulating to very steep (ie 15 to 25 degrees) and terminate in a gully that runs through the centre of the park. The northern extent of the park also features steep slopes, but with a predominant south-facing aspect. The western portion of the park also exhibits steep terrain, but with an easterly aspect. A number of creeks and minor tributaries flow through the park, with some areas of the park experiencing localised freshwater bogs and soaks.

The park protects a diverse assemblage of flora and fauna, including the nationally vulnerable Clover Glycine (Glycine latrobeana). The dominant vegetation associations within the park include Messmate Stringybark (Eucalyptus obliqua) Open Forest over a sclerophyll mid-storey of Bush-pea (Pultenaea spp.), Bitter-pea (Daviesa spp.) and Wattles (Acacia spp.) over Bracken Fern (Pteridium esculentum), Hairy Pink-bells (Tetradelca pilosa spp. pilosa) and Sedges (Carex spp.). Brown Stringybark (Eucalyptus baxteri) Open Forest occurs along the ridges and higher grounds of the park and typically has an understorey of Sedges (Carex spp.), regionally rare Mount Lofty Irongrass (Lomandra fibrata), other grasses and sprawling groundcover such as Matted Bush-pea (Pultenaea pedunculata).

The state endangered Mountain Gum (Eucalyptus dalrympleana ssp. dalrympleana) Open Forest ecosystem is found in the damper areas of the park. Mount George Conservation Park is one of the few reserves that protect this ecosystem in the Mount Lofty region, where the species is usually identified with the common name of Candlebark Gum. These forests feature tall majestic white barked gum trees, over a mid-storey of Blackwoods (Acacia melanoxylon) and Native Cherry (Exocarpus cupressiformis). The grassy understorey generally consists of Meadow Rice-grass (Microlaena stipoides var. stipoides) and Tussock Grasses (Poa spp.). There is a transition from these Open Forests to Manna Gum (Eucalyptus viminalis ssp. viminalis) Woodlands, which occur along the gully bottoms and creek lines. The embankments of the creeks support Blackwoods (Acacia melanoxylon), Swamp Wattles (Acacia retinodes spp. retinodes), Silky Tea-tree (Leptospermum lanigerum) and in certain sections the regionally vulnerable Red-fruit Cutting-grass (Gahnia sieberiana) can be found. The creek lines provide riparian habitat, which is considered to be significant in a regional context. The condition of these environments has been largely improved due to rehabilitation.

There is little intact native vegetation remaining in the Mount Lofty Region. Nearly 90% of the native vegetation in the region has been cleared, and that which remains is highly fragmented, isolated and under increasing stress from a diverse range of threatening processes. The population of the region continues to grow and is causing the expansion of urban to semi-urban areas, especially in the vicinity of the South Eastern Freeway. Aside from urban development, other major land uses in the region include viticulture, cereal cropping, keeping livestock and recreational horse keeping. Other National Park and Wildlife Act reserves in the vicinity of Mount George Conservation Park include Kenneth Stirling, Cleland, Euilla, The Knoll, Mylor and Mark Oliphant Conservation Parks. In addition to these parks other remnant patches of natural vegetation in the region are protected by Heritage Agreements (established under the Native Vegetation Act 1991), with one of these areas occurring between the eastern and western sections of the park.
Figure 1
Mount George Conservation Park

Location
Map Produced from PAMS
Projection: MGA Zone 54 (GDA 94)
Date: 17 March, 2005
1.1 History of Management

In 1989 the then National Parks and Wildlife Service assumed control of what would become Mount George Conservation Park. Formal proclamation of the park occurred on 7 November 1996. The first management plan for the park was adopted by the then Minister for Environment and Planning in 1992 and came into effect upon proclamation of the park in 1996. In addition to this management plan the Mount George Conservation Park Weed Control and Revegetation Program was formulated in 1992. The rehabilitation, in terms of weed control and revegetation, of the sections of Cox Creek that flow through Mount George Conservation Park was outlined in the Cox Creek Rehabilitation Project (Steed, 1997). Other biodiversity, rehabilitation and revegetation programs have been carried out within the park by the Friends of Mount George Conservation Park, following the formation of the group in 1992.

Six hectares of land owned by the Mount Lofty Golf Club was purchased with the assistance of the National Reserve System Program of the Australian Government’s Natural Heritage Trust, and a generous contribution from the Friends of Mount George Conservation Park. Another 12 hectares owned by the Scouts Association of Australia (SA Branch) was purchased using funding provided by the Natural Heritage Trust, along with a generous donation from the Nature Foundation South Australia Inc. Additional land was purchased from adjacent landowners to support the future viability, ecological sustainability and to improve the comprehensiveness of the ecosystems conserved within Mount George Conservation Park. The additions to Mount George Conservation Park were proclaimed on 16 October 2003.
2 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

2.1 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972

Reserves are managed by the Director of National Parks and Wildlife subject to any direction by the Minister for Environment and Conservation or the Chief Executive of the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH). When managing reserves, the Director is required under section 37 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 to have regard to, and provide actions that are consistent with the following objectives of management stated in the Act:

- preservation and management of wildlife;
- preservation of historic sites, objects and structures of historic or scientific interest within reserves;
- preservation of features of geographical, natural or scenic interest;
- destruction of dangerous weeds and the eradication or control of noxious weeds and exotic plants;
- control of vermin and exotic animals;
- control and eradication of disease of animals and vegetation;
- prevention and suppression of bush fires and other hazards;
- encouragement of public use and enjoyment of reserves and education in, and a proper understanding and recognition of, their purpose and significance;
- generally, the promotion of the public interest; and
- preservation and protection of Aboriginal sites, features, objects and structures of spiritual or cultural significance within reserves.

Section 38 of the Act states that a management plan is required for each reserve. A management plan should set forth proposals in relation to the management and improvement of the reserve and the methods by which it is intended to accomplish the objectives of the Act in relation to that reserve.

DEH is responsible for preparing management plans and undertaking the prescribed community consultation process for the park. A standard management planning process is mandated, to ensure that all statutory obligations are met. Help and guidance with plan preparation is sought and obtained from individuals, community groups or relevant advisory committees, although ultimately the decision on whether or not to adopt a management plan remains a ministerial prerogative.

In accordance with the Act, the provisions of this management plan must be carried out and no actions undertaken unless they are in accordance with this plan. In order to achieve this, each year park managers, taking regional and district priorities into account, draw up work programs to implement the strategies proposed in management plans. Implementation of these projects is determined by, and subject to, the availability of resources (eg staffing and funding).

2.2 Native Title Act 1993

Native Title describes the rights and interests Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People have in land and waters according to their traditional laws and customs. Commonwealth legislation, in the form of the Native Title Act 1993 was enacted to:

- provide for the recognition and protection of native title;
- establish ways in which future dealings affecting native title may proceed and to set standards for those dealings;
- establish a mechanism for determining claims to native title; and
- provide for, or permit, the validation of past acts, and intermediate period acts, invalidated because of the existence of native title.

This management plan is released and will be adopted subject to any native title rights and interests that may continue to exist in relation to the land and/or waters. Before undertaking any acts that might affect native title, DEH will follow the relevant provisions of the Native Title Act 1993.
3 VISION
The vision for Mount George Conservation Park is a reserve that protects ecological communities and species of conservation significance in the Mount Lofty Ranges, and contributes to the provision of remnant native woodland, creek and wetland habitat within an otherwise urbanised and cultivated area.

4 ZONING
Section 39 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 provides for the designation of zones in a reserve. Zoning aims to ensure that public use and management actions remain compatible with the protection of park values and constrains the use of land in zones to the conditions specified in an adopted management plan.

The management zones described below and shown in Figure 2, establish a framework for the sustainable use of the reserve during the life of this plan.

Conservation Zone
The Conservation Zone encompasses the remainder of the park and preserves significant natural environments and ecosystems containing threatened species that are of high conservation and biodiversity value. This zone will be managed primarily for the purpose of nature conservation. Public recreation will be restricted to passive activities that are compatible with the protection of conservation values, such as bushwalking on approved tracks and trails and nature appreciation. Visible evidence of management and public use will be minimal.

Recreation Zone
The Recreation Zone is situated in the south-central part of the park, with the boundaries delineated by Mount George Road to the east and Cox Creek to the west (Figure 2). It is an important local area for passive recreation with some natural values. This zone comprises a highly modified area complete with various visitor facilities (refer to section 8.3 Visitor Facilities). There is a constructed wetland in the centre of the zone that has been revegetated with native plants around the perimeter. It is a popular area with local residents and the wider public for informal social activities, walking, nature appreciation, picnicking and exercising dogs (refer to section 8.1 Visitor Use).

Future management of the zone will continue to accommodate the above-mentioned recreational activities while aiming to minimise visitor impacts and protect natural values. Visitor facilities and infrastructure will be maintained to provide for existing passive recreational uses.

Objective
Protect significant natural assets and manage visitor use by means of zoning.

Strategies
- Designate and adopt the zoning scheme displayed in Figure 2.
- Manage the park in accordance with the zoning scheme.
- Indicate the zoning boundaries of the park by installing and maintaining appropriate signage and supplying public information that outlines the appropriate activities for each zone (refer to section 8.4 Information and Interpretation).
Figure 2
Mount George Conservation Park

Features and Zoning

Map Produced from PAMS
Projection: MGA Zone 54 (GDA 94)
Date: 17 March, 2005

LEGEND

Mt. George Summit
Gate
Underpass
Bridge
Car Park
Shed
Toilet Block (closed at time of print)
Fire Access Track & Walking Trail
Heysen Trail
Walking Trail
Eastern Section Fenceline
Creek
ETSA Easement
Recreation Zone
Conservation Zone
Heritage Agreement
Dam/Artificial Wetland

Mount George Conservation Park Management Plan 2006
5 MANAGING NATURAL HERITAGE

5.1 Geology, Soils and Landform

The Mount Lofty Ranges together with the Flinders Ranges constitute the main outcrop of rocks associated with the Adelaide Geosyncline (Preiss, 1987). Between 800 and 500 million years ago the Adelaide Geosyncline consisted of a large basin engulfed by a shallow sea that extended from Kangaroo Island to the northern Flinders Ranges. Sandstone, siltstone, limestone and dolomite were deposited in the shallow sea over a basement of older metamorphic rocks (eg gneiss and schist) and igneous rocks (eg granite). These sediments and the underlying basement were subsequently folded and metamorphosed to varying degrees during a mountain building event known as the Delamerian Orogeny. This phase of tectonic activity reached its culmination about 500 million years ago when the folded and metamorphosed rocks were thrust upwards along steeply dipping fault planes to form the Mount Lofty Ranges. Weathering and erosion subsequently reduced the Ranges to their current state.

The geological structure of Mount George Conservation Park is described as a south-dipping limb of a regional anticline with basement in the core. There is an erosional contact between basement rocks and the Adelaide Geosyncline sequence, which is in turn repeated by major faulting (Kwitko, 1973).

Prominent outcrops of basement rock occur on the slopes of Mount George, comprising of gneiss with strongly aligned platy minerals (predominantly quartz, feldspar and mica) forming a foliation. Some isolated outcrops of feldspar-rich quartzite that represent an originally continuous band within the gneiss occur in the eastern portion of the park. There are also isolated outcrops of weakly foliated gneiss, comprised of biotite, quartz and feldspar, in the western portion of the park.

Sandstone of the Adelaide Geosyncline sequence (Aldgate Sandstone) is exposed in a small area near the southern boundary of the park. All younger rocks that once covered the region have been removed by erosion.

The impacts of visitation on geological features, particularly prominent rocky outcrops need to be assessed and monitored. Although the actual rock is quite resilient to erosion, the flora and fauna that inhabit these unique features are likely to be vulnerable to the impacts of visitation. The effects of pedestrian traffic on the rock outcrop environments are largely unknown.

Soils within the park strongly reflect the underlying geology and erosion processes. The steep sloping nature of most of the park, coupled with the high rainfall and resistant bedrock, have resulted in the widespread preservation of only thin residual soils, mostly yellow and grey-brown podzolics. The soils generally have a duplex profile with an “A” horizon consisting of sandy clay loam, sandy loam or loam with a moderate to low organic content and range from greyish brown to dark brown in colour. Its structure is apedal and hardsetting when dry. The “B” horizon generally consists of medium clay to heavy clay and is brown to yellowish brown in colour.

Soil erosion is a significant management issue that requires ongoing attention given the shallow nature of the soils, the high rainfall and steep terrain. Some of the existing walking trails and management vehicle tracks have steep sections that are highly susceptible to erosion. Management activities should seek to minimise soil disturbance where possible and where disturbance is unavoidable measures should be put in place to minimise erosion.

Objectives

Protect and conserve geological features and associated habitats.

Prevent soil degradation and erosion.

Strategies

- Assess the impact of visitor use on geological features and associated flora and fauna.
- Ensure management vehicle tracks, walking trails and other infrastructure are sited and constructed to prevent damage to geological features and associated habitats.
- Compile an inventory of soil degradation and erosion sites within the park.
- Undertake appropriate works to mitigate soil degradation and erosion in susceptible sites, according to best practice in soil conservation.
• Design and maintain walking trails and management tracks to minimise soil erosion.
• Apply appropriate soil conservation measures when undertaking any management works that involve soil disturbance.

5.2 Hydrology
Mount George Conservation Park occurs within a high-rainfall area and conserves a range of freshwater wetland environments including creeks and minor tributaries, swamps, springs and soaks. The park lies within the upper reaches of the Onkaparinga River Catchment and directly contributes to the environmental flows of the Onkaparinga River, one of the main drinking water sources of Adelaide. Cox Creek, the most prominent natural hydrological feature of the park, is ephemeral with seasonal flows going into the Onkaparinga River near Mylor. There are also a number of minor tributaries and drainage lines within the park that flow into Cox Creek, including Cascade Creek (Figure 2). In addition to the natural wetland environments an artificial wetland fed by a concrete pipe running from the deeper section of Cox Creek, was created prior to proclamation of the park in the 1990's, by the then District Council of Stirling to provide more wetland habitat (Figure 2). There are also two constructed dams previously used for watering stock that still hold water and now support native wetland species. The dams have been deemed useful fire suppression resources and will be retained by DEH for such purposes.

The section of Cox Creek within the park and extending downstream through an area known as “The Deanery” has been the focus of a number of highly successful community-based rehabilitation projects, collaboratively known as the Cox Creek Rehabilitation Project. The project has involved the removal and / or control of highly invasive weeds from Cox Creek and Cascade Creek, and the large-scale revegetation of native plants. The key objectives of the project are to restore the riparian environment, improve water quality, and provide an educational model for community involvement in the management of small streams in the Mount Lofty Ranges (Steed, 1997).

Despite the success of the rehabilitation project weed infestations remain in riparian zones throughout the park. While introduced trees have largely been removed there is a proliferation of understorey weeds that continue to infest the creek lines. The section of creek line that runs through the 2003 land addition (Piece 152 of DP 61230, see Appendix B) is heavily infested with weeds and requires rehabilitation. Follow-up weed control and revegetation within riparian zones will be an ongoing, high priority activity.

Stormwater from roads within the catchment area is diverted directly into Cox Creek, Cascade Creek and other tributaries. The stormwater outlet from the South Eastern Freeway that flows into Cascade Creek is of concern, in terms of introducing pollutants into Cox Creek, altering environmental flows, and causing accelerated levels of soil erosion.

Instances of poor water quality in Cox Creek are caused by a number of factors including pesticides, fertiliser and animal waste in run-off from agricultural areas and stormwater pollution resulting from run-off within the catchment. The discharge of water from household septic systems also contributes to poor quality in the creek. Pollution from these sources is known to contain Cryptosporidium and Giardia, both of which cause disease and are of concern in the Adelaide Hills in regard to untreated water. Salinity levels in the creek are highly variable with the lowest levels recorded in winter when most flow comes from surface run-off, to high levels in summer when the main component of flow comes from groundwater, which naturally contains more minerals than most surface run-off.

Surface water within the catchment is a prescribed resource and therefore a licence is required to extract water or measure water usage. The Onkaparinga Catchment Water Management Board, which is now incorporated within the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board, is undertaking a study to determine how much flow the Onkaparinga should have to meet the needs of the environment.

The health of waterways is a whole of catchment issue that requires an integrated, cooperative approach to management. DEH strongly supports collaborative management initiatives aimed at improving water quality, and endeavours to work in partnership with other Government agencies and community groups to achieve shared conservation objectives.
Objectives
Achieve improved water quality standards for all wetland and creek environments within the park.
Protect and improve the natural integrity of all wetland and creek ecosystems within the park.

Strategies
• Continue to rehabilitate wetland environments through strategic weed control, planting indigenous species and any other measures applicable.
• Develop and maintain cooperative management arrangements with the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board and the local community to maximise capabilities for effective water catchment management.
• Ensure that park facilities and management practices do not contribute to poor water quality.

5.3 Native Vegetation
Mount George Conservation Park conserves a rich assemblage of native flora, representative of the remnant vegetation communities of the wetter parts of the central Mount Lofty Ranges. Clover Glycine (Glycine latrobeana) is one of the many species of indigenous vascular plants found in the park and is listed as nationally vulnerable under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. There are at least 20 species, which are listed as threatened in South Australia and approximately 50 species of regional conservation significance. A diverse assemblage of Fungi also occurs, including Cup Fungi, Jelly Fungi, Coral Fungi, Fleshy Pore Fungi and Puffballs, as well as Slime Mould, which is classified as a Protista.

The predominant native vegetation association is Messmate Stringybark (Eucalyptus obliqua) Open Forest, which occurs on mid to upper slopes throughout the park. Messmate Stringybark and Brown Stringybark (Eucalyptus baxteri) Open Forest occurs on upper slopes and ridges. Mountain Gum (Eucalyptus dalrympleana ssp. dalrympleana) Open Forest and Rough Barked Manna Gum / Manna Gum (Eucalyptus viminalis ssp. cygnetensis / E. viminalis ssp. viminalis) Open Woodlands are found in the wetter gullies and lower slopes of the park. Mountain Gum (Eucalyptus dalrympleana ssp. dalrympleana) Open Forest is endangered at a state level, with the species considered as rare within the Southern Mount Lofty Region and under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 (DEH, 2005). Rough Barked Manna Gum / Manna Gum (Eucalyptus viminalis ssp. cygnetensis / E. viminalis ssp. viminalis) Open Woodlands are vulnerable at a state level (DEH, 2005).

The understorey vegetation within the eucalypt forest communities varies in response to topography, aspect, geology, hydrology and previous land-use, but generally consists of a sparse to mildly-dense shrub layer over a dense groundcover of sedges, grasses, herbs and fens. There is a predominance of understorey plant species endemic to the Mount Lofty Ranges, many of which are of conservation significance (eg Mount Lofty Mat-rush (Lomandra fibrata), Mount Lofty Bush-pea (Pultenaea graveolens) and Mount Lofty Ground-berry (Acrotriche fasciculiflora)). A large proportion of the Messmate Stringybark Open Forest is in good condition and contains some of the few remaining old-growth trees in the Mount Lofty Ranges. Much of the Mountain Gum / Manna Gum Open Woodland community is regenerating from past clearance and is in relatively poor condition. Targeted weed control and revegetation has been used to assist natural regeneration.

The riparian zones support Blackwood (Acacia melanoxylon) / Swamp Wattle (A. retinodes var. retinodes) Open Shrubland with an understorey dominated by herbaceous weeds interspersed with native sedges, fens and other wetland species, many of which are of conservation significance. Freshwater wetlands are listed as an endangered ecosystem in South Australia (DEH, 2005). The riparian vegetation within the park has been largely restored as a result of the Cox Creek Rehabilitation Project and ongoing restoration work by the Friends of Mount George Conservation Park. Prior to rehabilitation the vegetation along Cox and Cascade Creeks consisted predominantly of weeds (eg Willow, Ash, Poplar, Blackberry and Broom). Natural regeneration of native species following weed removal has been assisted by revegetation to re-establish the indigenous vegetation community.

* Mountain Gums (Eucalyptus dalrympleana ssp. dalrympleana) are often known locally as Candlebark Gums, the common name of Mountain Gum has recently been standardised in South Australia to match the name given to the large distribution of this species in the Great Dividing Range of eastern Australia.
A vegetation management plan is required for the park to guide and prioritise biodiversity and vegetation conservation works that are based on the significance of vegetation communities within the park. In the interim consideration will be given to preparing a vegetation management statement that ensures shared understanding of vegetation management objectives between DEH and the Friends of Mount George Conservation Park.

The greatest threat to native vegetation within Mount George Conservation Park is the invasion of introduced plants. The Friends of Mount George Conservation Park have been strategically eradicating weeds and planting appropriate native species throughout the park since 1992, which has significantly improved the integrity of the vegetation. However weeds continue to colonise the park, directly displacing native species. The removal of weeds from the park is a high priority, ongoing process (refer to section 5.5 Introduced Plants).

**Witches Broom**

Witches Broom has been found on Mountain Gums (Eucalyptus dalrympleana ssp. dalrympleana) and Stringybark Gums (Eucalyptus baxteri) in the vicinity of Mount George Conservation Park. It is usually found on woody plants and is indicated by the growth of many twigs densely clustered, resulting in a mass of small yellow deformed shoots that resemble a broom (DEH, 2004). The cause of Witches Broom can be phytoplasma (virus-like microorganisms), insects, genetic abnormalities and by deficiencies in certain nutrients, such as copper and can have different causative effects for different plant species (DEH, 2004). Although Witches Broom has been found to be benign and not normally responsible for plant death, it can be an indicator that a tree is unhealthy and therefore needs to be considered. Therefore monitoring and investigation of Witches Broom in the park should be encouraged.

**Phytophthora**

The introduced pathogen Cinnamon Fungus (Phytophthora cinnamomi) is also a significant threat to susceptible native flora within the park. Phytophthora species, including Cinnamon Fungus (Phytophthora cinnamomi) are introduced soil-borne pathogens that kill a wide range of native Australian plant species by attacking their root system and reducing or stopping the movement of water and nutrients within the plant. The Australian Government Department of Environment and Heritage has identified this root-rot fungus as a key threatening process and a National Threat Abatement Plan has been developed (Environment Australia, 2001).

Phytophthora is a major threat to natural ecosystems in areas of South Australia where the annual rainfall is above 500 mm and soils are acidic to neutral. The Mount Lofty Ranges represent such an area, placing Mount George Conservation Park in a “High Risk Area”. The pathogen spreads quickly downhill with the movement of water through soil, or slowly through root to root contact. The spread of Phytophthora has been dramatically increased by human activities that involve the movement of infested soil, water and plant material. There is no known method for eradicating Phytophthora once it has become established.

DEH has developed Standard Operating Procedures for Phytophthora Threat Management (DEH, 2002) which provide hygiene principles and procedural guidelines to prevent the introduction and spread of Phytophthora in reserves administered by DEH. The Friends of Mount George Conservation Park have also developed Phytophthora Hygiene Procedures for Mount George Conservation Park (Reynolds, 2001).

A number of suspected Phytophthora infection sites have been identified within Mount George Conservation Park. Soil and root samples were collected from these sites and tested but to date no positive confirmations of the fungus within the park have been recorded. Despite the negative result the park should be treated as an infested area since it is difficult to confirm the presence of Phytophthora, since the fungus might be missed at the time or place of sampling, especially when the inoculum of the fungus is dormant (DEH, 2002). In accordance with the Standard Operating Procedures for Phytophthora Threat Management, DEH will implement “High Risk Zone” and “Medium Risk Zone” management procedures for the park, which includes the development of a Local Action Plan. Reynolds (2001) will be adopted along with this plan when managing Phytophthora in the park.
Prior to the completion of a Local Action Plan, Reynolds (2001) will be implemented and the following general principles will apply:

- avoid conducting maintenance work when soils are moist;
- minimise soil disturbance at all times;
- restrict vehicles and people to designated tracks and trails (including seasonal track and trail closures);
- restrict access to sites prone to water inundation;
- ensure vehicles, equipment and footwear are clean and disinfected before entering and leaving the park;
- ensure all materials brought into the park are free of Phytophthora (including plants, soil and water);
- undertake only essential vegetation management; and
- provide information to general public regarding Phytophthora via signs and by any other means deemed appropriate.

**Objectives**

*Restore and protect the native vegetation of the park.*
*Conserve and protect rare, threatened and poorly conserved communities.*
*Maintain populations of significant flora species, or enhance such populations where they are below the habitat-carrying capacity.*
*Prevent the introduction and spread of pathogens in and outside the reserve.*

**Strategies**

- Prepare a vegetation management plan for the park to guide conservation activities and while this is developed the need to prepare a vegetation management statement will be considered.
- Maintain the structure and diversity of intact vegetation communities throughout the park through targeted weed control (these areas will be identified in the vegetation management plan or possibly in a vegetation management statement).
- Restore understorey floristic diversity and structure in degraded Mountain Gum Forest and Blackwood / Swamp Wattle / River Bottlebrush Open Shrubland.
- Undertake active management, where necessary, for rare and threatened species including monitoring of known populations.
- Monitor trees within the park for Witches Broom and encourage research into the cause of the symptoms and treat appropriately upon consultation.
- Develop and implement a Local Action Plan for Phytophthora management in Mount George Conservation Park in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedures and in consultation with park neighbours, the Friends of the Heysen Trail and DEH staff responsible for the Heysen Trail.
- Confirm the presence or absence of Phytophthora in Mount George Conservation Park, through continued sampling and analysis at the same suspected sites each year.
- Investigate and monitor the plants within the park for pathogens and treat plants when possible.
5.4 Native Fauna

Mount George Conservation Park is a refuge for native fauna, providing important habitat for a diversity of species including 15 species of mammals, about 66 species of birds, at least 14 species of reptiles and seven species of amphibians recorded in the park.

The intact eucalypt forest and woodland areas contain a variety of habitats that are becoming increasingly rare in the Mount Lofty Ranges, including highly-intact sedge and grass-dominated understorey. The occurrences of freshwater wetland ecosystems (eg creeks, springs, soaks and bogs) further contribute to the range of habitats available. The transition between the wetland ecosystems and the dry sclerophyll woodland ecosystems provides unique habitat for specialist species that occupy such transition zones. The overall quality of habitat is high, with relatively intact vegetation structure including old-growth trees, dense shrub and ground-cover layers.

Future management will be directed towards preserving and restoring indigenous flora communities, which will in turn improve habitat for native fauna. Priority will be given to protecting key habitats for threatened fauna. Integrated pest animal control will also contribute to the recovery and conservation of native fauna.

Mammals

The eucalypt woodland and forest represents the habitat required by the Southern Brown Bandicoot (Isodon obesulus obesulus), which is considered vulnerable in South Australia under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 and endangered at a national level under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. The 2003 land additions also represent the type of habitat required by the Southern Brown Bandicoot, but further research is required to determine the existence of this species within the current borders of the park.

Other mammals that commonly reside in Mount George Conservation Park include the Common Ring-tail Possum (Pseudocheirus peregrinus), the Yellow-footed Antechinus (Antechinus flavipes), Western Grey Kangaroo (Macropus fuliginosus), the Lesser Long-eared Bat (Nycotophilus geoffroyi), the Bush Rat (Rattus fuscipes), the Echidna (Tachyglossus aculeatus) and the Common Brushtail Possum (Trichosurus vulpecula). Koalas (Phascolarctos cinereus) can also be found in Mount George Conservation Park, and while they are a native fauna species their original distribution was in the Lower South East of the State, and have been introduced to the Mount Lofty Ranges (Armstrong et al., 2003).

Birds

The original lands of Mount George Conservation Park and the 2003 land additions provide a range of high quality habitats for bird species that inhabit wet and dry eucalypt woodland and forest, and riparian areas. Many of these species are threatened. Within the current park boundary the diversity of plant species present offer a range of nesting, foraging and sheltering resources that are critical to the existence of high rainfall woodland inhabiting birds. The preservation of intact woodland habitat is vital for the conservation of declining populations of small woodland birds, such as the Bassian Thrush (Zoothera lunulata) and Crested Shriketit (Falcunculus frontatus frontatus), both of which inhabit the park.

Mount George Conservation Park, including the 2003 land additions, preserves old-growth Messmate Stringybark and Brown Stringybark trees that have suitable hollows for nesting birds such as the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (Calyptorhynchus funereus xanthanotus), which is listed as vulnerable in South Australia and in the Mount Lofty Ranges. The park, including the Seenee Hills addition, preserves stands of Beaked Hakea (Hakea rostrata) and Silver Banksia (Banksia marginata), both of which are important food plants for the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (Calyptorhynchus funereus xanthanotus).

While there have been no bird surveys undertaken within the 2003 additions it is expected that the following threatened species are likely to occur (Table 1).
Table 1: Birds of Conservation Significance likely to occur in the Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Conservation Status Codes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calyptorhynchus funereus xanthanotus</td>
<td>Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo</td>
<td>EPBC Act: V, NPGW Act: V, Mount Lofty region: U</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NB: Refer to Appendix A for the definition of the Conservation Status Codes.

Reptiles and Amphibians

The floristic and structural diversity of the understorey vegetation combined with the occurrence of specialised microhabitats (eg rocky outcrops and wetlands) provide a range of habitats for reptiles and amphibians. There are a variety of habitats associated with the quartzite ridge rocky outcrops, wetland ecosystems and woodlands that are likely to support a diversity of lizards, frogs and snakes. The wetland areas are likely to support a large diversity of water dependent species including Bougainville’s Skink (Lerista bougainvillii), Eastern Water Skink (Eulamprus guoyii), Red-Bellied Black Snake (Pseudechis porphyriacus), Eastern Banjo Frog (Limnodynastes dumerii), Brown Toadlet (Pseudophryne bibronii) and Common Froglet (Crinea signifera). The woodland areas are likely to support a range of species including Three-toed Skink (Hemiergis decresiensis), Bearded Dragon (Pogona barbata) and Marbled Gecko (Phylodactylus marmoratus). The Pygmy Copperhead (Austrelaps labialis) is also found within the park.

Invertebrates

A number of plant species found within Mount George Conservation Park behave as hostplants for many different butterfly species that are found in South Australia. All grass and chenopod species are act as hostplants, as do all Wattles (Acacia spp.). Some plant species in the park can act as hostplants to butterflies that are either rare or threatened in South Australia. The Flame Sedge-skipper (Hesperilla idothea clara) which is vulnerable at a state level, uses Red-fruit Cutting-grass (Gahnia sieberiana), provided the density of this species is adequate (Grund, 2004). Grasses such as Mount Lofty Irongrass (Lomandra fibrata), Hard Mat-rush (Lomandra multiflora ssp. dura), Pointed Mat-rush (Lomandra densiflora) and Small Mat-rush (Lomandra sororia) are required by the state vulnerable Phigalia Rush-skipper (Trapezites phigalia), which only occurs in the region near Mount Lofty (Grund, 2004). The very colourful and rare Ringed Xenica (Geitoneura acantha ocrea) which occurs in the Southern Mount Lofty Ranges Region uses, Matted Tussock-grass (Poa clelandii), Thick-stem Tussock-grass (Poa crassicaudex) and Tussock-grass (Poa labillardiera) as hostplants (Grund, 2004). Although the presence of these hostplants imply that it is likely for these species of butterfly to occur in the park a survey would be required for confirmation.

Objectives

Protect native fauna and habitat, particularly significant species and habitats.

Conserve populations of threatened fauna species within the park.
Strategies

• Encourage surveys of fauna in the park to collect data as a baseline and for subsequent monitoring of population trends in key fauna species.

• Develop and maintain links and partnerships with professional ecological scientists through universities and other institutions to facilitate the monitoring of population processes in key fauna species within the park, to assist in the assessment of appropriate fauna management strategies.

• Maintain the structure and diversity of habitat for fauna species, particularly rare or threatened species.

• Manage identified threats to native fauna (e.g., introduced predators) where practicable.

5.5 Introduced Plants

Seventy-six species of introduced plants are known to occur within Mount George Conservation Park, accounting for 24% of the total known plant diversity. Over the past ten years, the Friends of Mount George Conservation Park and DEH have made significant progress towards controlling weeds within the park. Whilst a number of “core areas” of the park have relatively low incidence of weeds, there are still serious infestations near the park boundary, along drainage lines, in wetter areas, inaccessible areas, and in disturbed or modified areas.

It is not possible, given the extent of introduced plant occurrence and limited resources, to eradicate all weeds from the park; therefore, it is necessary to allocate resources towards ensuring the best outcomes for biodiversity conservation. A ten year weed control and revegetation program (NPWS Lofty Region, 1992) was developed to provide strategic directions, timeframes and cost estimates for weed control and revegetation for the park. Highest priority for the weed control program was allocated to species identified as a particular threat to natural assets and/or fire hazard, in areas with the least weed infestation and highest biodiversity value. The program is out-dated and thus will be reviewed and incorporated into a vegetation management plan for the park, which will set the priorities for weed control and prescribe detailed actions to achieve conservation objectives.

A pine plantation on the northern boundary of the western section of the park is situated on very steep land, making it difficult to log the area and eradicate this introduced species. Removal of the plantation within the life of this management plan would reduce the threat from further pine infestation within the reserve. Any removal will be undertaken in safety and in such a way that erosion and disturbance of sensitive areas is avoided.

There is an ongoing concern that garden plant escapees will threaten reserve values. Often these plants occur as a direct result of dumping of material in the park. A community education campaign should be undertaken to reduce this practice.

The weed species listed in Table 2 are considered to pose a significant threat to the biodiversity or conservation values of the park and will therefore be targeted for control. Areas containing threatened species or highly intact vegetation communities will be allocated the highest priority for weed control programs. An ongoing commitment to weed control will be required to conserve and improve the condition of native vegetation within the park. To address this commitment, DEH will contribute to a regional weed control program involving adjoining landowners, various community groups, local government and the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board.
Table 2: List of priority weeds for control

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acacia longifolia</td>
<td>Sydney Wattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</td>
<td>Boneseed *#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crataegus monogyna</td>
<td>Hawthorn Shrub *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cytisus scoparius</td>
<td>English Broom *#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erica arborea</td>
<td>Tree Heath *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erica lusitanica</td>
<td>Portuguese Heath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraxinus sp.</td>
<td>Ash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genista monspessulana</td>
<td>Cape Broom *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monodenia bracteata</td>
<td>Monodenia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phalaris aquatica</td>
<td>Phalaris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittosporum undulatum</td>
<td>Sweet Pittosporum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosa canina</td>
<td>Dog Rose *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubus sp.</td>
<td>Blackberry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salix sp.</td>
<td>Willow *N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulex europaeus</td>
<td>Gorse *#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watsonia bulbilifera</td>
<td>Watsonia *</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* = Proclaimed Pest Plants at state Level
N = Control not required at a state Level
# = Proclaimed Pest Plants for the Adelaide Hills Council

Objective
Control and where possible eradicate weeds using methods that minimise disturbance and maximise benefits to natural systems and park values.

Strategies
- Support the Friends of Mount George Conservation Park in controlling weeds, through the provision of herbicide, technical advice and other assistance as necessary.
- Contribute to a regional weed control program using an integrated approach by liaising with adjoining landowners, local government and the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board, to prevent the spread of weeds from and into adjacent properties and the park.
- Remove the pine plantation on the northern boundary in the western section of the park via a staged program, while considering the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos in regard to food resources.
- Undertake weed control consistent with the vegetation management plan for the park, which will include information regarding priority weed species and communities, the reason for priority status and the methods that can be used for their eradication.

5.6 Introduced Animals
A number of introduced animals have been recorded in the park. The impact of introduced fauna on the conservation values of the park is difficult to determine, however based on current understanding it is beneficial to control particular species for the conservation of native wildlife.

The priorities for pest animal control programs within Mount George Conservation Park are the European Rabbit (Oryctolagus cuniculus), the Red Fox (Vulpes vulpes) and the Feral Cat (Felis catus). An integrated, adaptive approach to management has been formulated to enhance the effectiveness of pest control. There is no one set method of control for any of the species, but rather a range of available methods. The effectiveness of a single method of control is often increased if it is combined with other methods of control. Furthermore, a coordinated multi-species approach is more effective due to the interrelatedness of fox, cat and rabbit populations.
There have been sightings of Red Deer (Cervus elaphus) within the western section of the park and this needs to be monitored, as does the potential infiltration by goats kept on a property adjacent to the park.

It is recognised that domestic cats and dogs stray into the park from surrounding suburban areas. The use of 1080 baits for fox control presents a great danger to domestic dogs, especially stray dogs. Integrated control programs may also affect domestic cats. DEH promotes education initiatives regarding responsible pet ownership as a way to reduce the number of stray animals within parks and reserves. Neighbouring landowners and park visitors will be adequately warned of any control programs as necessary.

The control of pest animals on adjoining lands is critical to the long-term management of vertebrate pests within the reserve. Therefore, partnership agreements will be established with adjoining landowners, various community groups and the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board to develop a coordinated pest animal control program.

**Objective**

Minimise the adverse impact of introduced animals on the park's biodiversity and natural assets, and contribute to the regional control of pest animals.

**Strategies**

- Continue to implement a regionally integrated, adaptive control program for introduced animals within the park.
- Liaise with regional landowners, community groups and the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board, with regard to regional pest animal control.
MANAGING FIRE

The last significant bushfire in Mount George Conservation Park was in 1957. The potential for a bushfire to occur in the park still exists, particularly on the drier slopes and weed-dominated areas. A fire management plan will be written that incorporates Mount George Conservation Park. This fire management plan will be prepared to further assess bushfire risk and the potential impacts to the built, cultural and environmental values within the park and will consider the safety and protection of the people and property that reside near the park. In particular there may be merit in using the vegetation management plan or statement to assist in the development of the fire management plan.

Fire management planning for the park will be undertaken in consultation with adjoining Country Fire Service (CFS) groups and the District Bushfire Prevention Committee, to integrate district fire management. Stakeholders and the wider community will also be consulted to ensure an understanding of the fire risks and mitigating actions being proposed or undertaken in the reserve. The fire management plan will address the following:

- identify natural and cultural heritage values and built assets;
- provide a framework for the management of bushfire suppression, including identification of strategic access and control lines;
- provide a framework for prescribed burning for ecological management and fuel reduction purposes; and
- identify performance indicators.

There are fire access tracks and gates in both sections of the park, which are indicated on Figure 2. The eastern section of the park has a fire track along the south eastern border, but the rest of the terrain in this section is too steep for easy access and it is not possible to construct further access tracks without causing erosion problems. The western section of the park has a more complex fire track system but is still on relatively rugged terrain. The fire tracks in this portion of the park are not interconnected with each other. It should be noted that the creeks, wetlands, Candlebark Dam and the Black Dam could be considered for fire suppression purposes (Figure 2).

Objective

Manage fire to ensure the protection of life and property, the maintenance of biodiversity and the protection of natural, cultural and built values.

Strategies

- Develop, implement and review a fire management plan in association with CFS groups and other stakeholders.
- Until a fire management plan is developed maintain existing fire access tracks and only create new tracks if there is no alternative means to prevent the loss of life, property or biodiversity assets.
- Continue to work with the relevant District Bushfire Prevention Committee and CFS groups to minimise risk to life and property within and surrounding the park.
7 MANAGING CULTURAL HERITAGE

7.1 Indigenous Heritage

The land comprising Mount George Conservation Park forms part of the “Country” of the Kaurna and Peramangk people (Tindale, 1974). For Kaurna and Peramangk people, land and waters have many interconnected complex meanings and values. The significance of land and waters is central to their lives: at birth, death, ceremonies and socially, whilst hunting, gathering, camping, and travelling.

Following colonial settlement, the Kaurna and Peramangk populations were substantially reduced as a result of introduced diseases, dispersal, dispossession of their land and water supplies, and sometimes through violent conflict.

Today, Kaurna and Peramangk people still practise their culture and language. Some of the language and traditional stories have been recorded. The full extent of Aboriginal heritage at Mount George Conservation Park has not been comprehensively researched.

However, due to historical or cultural reasons, any knowledge of the cultural heritage of the region may be privileged to selected Kaurna and Peramangk people and therefore unable to be recorded. Given the lack of existing information, it is considered important that further research be undertaken in order to gain a better understanding of the Aboriginal occupancy and use of the area to establish protected sites and objects.

It should be acknowledged that the signage currently displaying the cultural heritage background of the park inaccurately indicates that the lands of Mount George Conservation Park are only traditionally associated with the Kaurna people. There is evidence to suggest that the lands within the park are also traditionally associated with the Peramangk people.

Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988

The purpose of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988 is to protect and preserve Aboriginal sites, objects and remains. The Department for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation (DAARE) maintains a Central Archive, recording Aboriginal sites.

Although there are no sites listed on the Central Archive for Mount George Conservation Park, a comprehensive survey of the park is yet to be undertaken. To promote better cultural heritage management at Mount George Conservation Park further research needs to be undertaken to identify and record sites of significance on the park. To ensure the protection of cultural heritage sites, DEH staff will consult with DAARE and the Kaurna Yerta Inc and the Mannum Aboriginal Community Association Inc (both of these names may be subject to change), before commencement of any development works.

Objective

Ensure that Kaurna and Peramangk cultural heritage sites and objects are conserved and protected.

Strategies

- Consult with Kaurna and Peramangk traditional owners, Native Title claimants and relevant Aboriginal heritage authorities, in decisions regarding the management of Kaurna and Peramangk cultural heritage and before proceeding with any significant development works within the reserve.
- Identify and protect known or relocated sites and items of Aboriginal cultural significance in cooperation with the DAARE, relevant authorities and organisations. Kaurna and Peramangk cultural heritage sites require conservation plans to facilitate appropriate management.
- In consultation with the Kaurna and Peramangk Communities, submit cultural sites and stories that relate to the park for inclusion on the DAARE Central Archive.
- Update signage in the park to accurately indicate that both the Kaurna and Peramangk peoples were traditionally associated with the lands of the park.
7.2 Non-Indigenous Heritage

The land comprising Mount George Conservation Park, whilst having undergone significant changes since European settlement, contains no evidence of structures resulting from post-settlement activity. There is evidence of vegetation clearance and infrastructure development, for example two dams and fencing associated with historic sheep grazing which occurred over much of the park. There are no places within Mount George Conservation Park listed on the State Heritage Register.

Objective

Identify, conserve and protect non-indigenous heritage sites of archaeological, cultural and historical significance.

Strategy

- When a non-indigenous historical or culturally significant site is suspected within the park it will be identified, recorded, protected, restored and monitored, in cooperation with the Heritage Branch of DEH and other relevant authorities and organisations.
8 MANAGING TOURISM AND RECREATION

8.1 Visitor Use

Mount George Conservation Park currently experiences a moderate to low level of public use relative to other key parks in the Adelaide Hills (e.g., Belair National Park, Morialta Conservation Park and Cleland Conservation Park). Visitors are mainly from surrounding residential locations and from Adelaide. The park is used for informal social activities, walking, nature appreciation, picnicking, and exercising dogs. To ensure an appropriate level and standard of development, a recreational opportunities and facilities plan will be developed for the park, which will include a review of visitor use.

Visitors to the park are known to use the Heysen Trail, which is South Australia’s premier long-distance bushwalking trail which traverses the park, providing an important recreational link between Bridgewater and Crafers or Piccadilly (Figure 2). From a survey conducted just south of where the Heysen Trail begins in Mount George Conservation Park it was found that 75% of the users were headed north into the park (Market Equity Research and Strategy, 2004). It was also found that most of them were local residents, who used the trail for leisurely exercise and were more likely to use the trail as a means for exercising their dogs (Market Equity Research and Strategy, 2004).

Dogs

The picnic ground within the Recreation Zone is a popular location for exercising dogs. Considerable risk is involved with allowing dogs off-leash within the park and may result in user conflicts, public injury and disturbance to wildlife. Therefore dogs will only permitted within the Recreation Zone provided that they are on a leash and under the adequate control of their owner. Dog owners are required to remove their dog’s faeces. To ensure the enjoyment of other park users and the preservation of wildlife, dogs will only continue to be allowed in the Recreation Zone provided levels of use remain low. If monitoring indicates that levels have become too high or undesirable impacts are evident, allowing dogs in the park may no longer be considered appropriate. To ensure that dogs are suitably controlled, sign-posting and provision of information will be used.

Dogs are prohibited in the remainder of the park (Conservation Zone) for wildlife protection purposes. Signs indicate this to the public, however the position and condition of these signs needs to be reviewed.

Bicycling

There has been a significant increase in bicycle use (particularly mountain bikes) within the park since the proclamation of the park, especially along the Heysen Trail. Whilst the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 allows for recreation in parks and reserves, bicycle riding is not considered an appropriate activity within Mount George Conservation Park. The walking trails are narrow and steep and the potential for user conflicts, accidents and environmental impacts are high. The presence of a significant number of steps and a narrow tunnel along the Heysen Trail also make bicycle use inappropriate. The high conservation values of the park are such that the development of wider trails to accommodate multiple use is inappropriate.

DEH recognises that mountain bike riding in the Adelaide Hills is a growing activity. Opportunities exist elsewhere in the Mount Lofty Ranges for providing a network of mountain bike trails as well as linking regional attractions (Bicycle SA, 2001). DEH will encourage the development of bike trails outside the park to assist in the management of this growing activity and to protect the park from illegal use.

Objective

Provide a range of opportunities for passive recreation to enhance visitor experience while remaining consistent with conservation objectives and public safety responsibilities.

Strategies

- Monitor visitor impacts, especially in sensitive areas, and mitigate as necessary.
- Develop a recreational opportunities and facilities plan that includes an examination of visitor use.
• Prevent illegal and inappropriate visitor use through education, including prominent signage, provision of clean-up materials (including “doggy clean-up or bags”) and regulatory information (refer to section 8.4 Information and Interpretation).

• Develop partnerships with Bicycle SA and other stakeholders to investigate opportunities for alternative bike trails outside the park to accommodate bicycle use in the region.

• Provide access for dogs on-leash in the Recreation Zone consistent with the National Parks and Wildlife (National Parks) Regulations 2001, and continue to monitor dogs and dog owners’ use of the park.

8.2 Visitor Access

Walking Trails
Mount George Conservation Park contains a number of walking trails, which provide visitors with a range of predominantly short bushwalking opportunities. Most visitors arrive by vehicle, parking at the end of Mount George Road and access the park via the car parks, or enter the park on foot via the Heysen Trail, particularly from the southern entrance into the Recreation Zone (Figure 2). Whereas only a limited number access the park from minor entry gates off Golflinks Road and Davenport Road.* (Figure 2). The Heysen Trail forms the core of the walking trail network within the park. There is the possibility of linking the Heysen Trail with other walking trails and management vehicle tracks in the western portion of the park, to create a range of walks (Figure 2). The Ridge Trail that traverses the eastern portion of the park provides pedestrian access to the summit of Mount George.

The existing network of walking trails is considered adequate to meet visitor demands and while the majority of the trails impose negligible impact on the natural values of the park in some areas this has to be monitored (eg areas where there is erosion and root exposure). The size and shape of the park limits the expansion of the walking trail network.

There is evidence of off-trail walking in certain areas, which requires attention to prevent further damage to sensitive vegetation and soils.

Within the life of the plan the walking trails will be reviewed and classified to the standards outlined in NPWSA (2002), such as “easy”, “moderate”, “hard” and “challenging”. It is also intended that via these classifications the amount of infrastructure required for the trail can be determined. Natural materials should be used for this infrastructure and the sustainability of the trails also needs to be assessed, which may recommend the realignment of trails. This review will be performed via the recommended recreational opportunities and facilities plan.

Vehicle Access
Public vehicles are prohibited from entering Mount George Conservation Park and from accessing internal tracks without appropriate authorisation from DEH. In this context and under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 the definition of vehicles includes cars, four-wheel drives, boats, horses and cycles (including bicycles and motorcycles). Wheelchairs are accepted, with disabled access being provided to the toilet block and the surfaced trail in the Recreation Zone (Figure 2).

Two public roads provide vehicle access to the park, namely Mount George Road and Golflinks Road (Figure 2). While Golflinks Road is sealed, Mount George Road is unsealed but is considered to be suitable for conventional vehicles. Neither road provides through vehicle access (both terminate at the park boundary) and consequently receive small volumes of traffic. Car parking is provided for park visitors at the end of Mount George Road and at a parking bay on Golflinks Road. The maintenance of these roads is the responsibility of Adelaide Hills Council. There is also a road reserve within the Mount Lofty Golf Course, namely Davenport Road that provides management vehicle access to the park boundary. Davenport Road is closed to public vehicles.

There is an established network of management vehicle tracks within the park, which is maintained to facilitate management and emergency access (Figure 2). The adequacy of the current network of tracks will be reviewed as part of the fire management planning process.

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* No surveys of visitor numbers or recreation preferences have been undertaken by DEH in relation to Mount George Conservation Park. Information used in this plan is largely based upon anecdotal observation from DEH staff and the Friends of Mount George Conservation Park.
Objectives
Provide walking trails that are integrated with regional trails and which provide opportunities for visitors to explore the natural and cultural assets of the park, without compromising the natural values of the park.

Provide and maintain management and emergency service access within the park consistent with Government standards and the requirements of emergency services.

Provide and maintain adequate parking areas for public vehicles.

Strategies
- Maintain, upgrade and classify the network of existing trails to DEH standards.
- Prevent off-trail recreation in the Conservation Zone through appropriate signage and education.
- Review the adequacy of internal management vehicle tracks as part of the fire management planning process.
- Maintain the internal network of management vehicle tracks consistent with Government standards in consultation with emergency services.
- Include an assessment of visitor access via the recreational opportunities and facilities plan.

8.3 Visitor Facilities
The facilities available for visitors to Mount George Conservation Park are suitable for day visit purposes. The Recreation Zone is the focal point for visitor activity within the park (Figure 2). It provides facilities for picnicking and walking which are the most popular visitor activities. Disabled access is also accommodated for by means of a wheelchair accessible toilet block and multi-access trail (Figure 2). Visitor impacts within the Recreation Zone are negligible.

The current provision of facilities within the picnic area needs to be reviewed in the form of a recreational opportunities and facilities plan in relation to risk management and DEH standards. For example, the toilet amenities are currently in need of either an upgrade or repair and maintenance. The usefulness of this facility needs to be assessed so that the future of this facility can be considered.

Separate from the recreational opportunities and facilities plan, it is recommended that barbecue facilities (fuelled by wood) are removed from the park. Besides being a fire hazard and provisions for maintaining these facilities not being currently available, their use would be in violation of seasonal fire restrictions. Removal of the barbecue facilities would also discourage the collection of timber from the park, which is prohibited, as this can have impacts on natural processes and the biodiversity of the park.

The remainder of the park (Conservation Zone) provides opportunities for bushwalking, bird watching and nature appreciation on designated walking trails and management vehicle tracks.

Objective
The provision of appropriate and well maintained visitor facilities to meet visitor needs.

Strategies
- Review the existing provision of visitor facilities by developing a recreational opportunities and facilities plan through consultation with the Adelaide Hills Council.
- Remove the wood barbecue facilities from the Recreation Zone.

8.4 Information and Interpretation
There is a need to convey information to visitors regarding the natural and cultural values of the park, the impacts of inappropriate behaviour and the need to minimise access to sensitive vegetation and wildlife habitats. It is believed that the interpretative signs within the park are relatively inadequate, especially in terms of their location. Therefore it is suggested that interpretive information be reviewed, upgraded and moved to a better location. The recreational opportunities and facilities plan will consider interpretative information within the park.
The Heysen Trail, the narrow tunnel that runs under the freeway, and Mount George Road are three main points of access into the park. It is suggested that the area within the Recreation Zone, next to the car park at the end of Mount George Road, become the focal point for providing information and interpretation, since this is where most visitors enter the park (Figure 2). The guidelines for allowable activities within the different zones of the park will be outlined through these signs which need to be in accordance with DEH standards (NPWSA 2002).

With regard to cultural and historic values, DEH will consult with the Kaurna and Peramangk community, the Heritage Branch of DEH and other relevant authorities for appropriate information and approvals.

The information and interpretive package of signs and interpretive panels used in the park will be reviewed and progressively upgraded.

Information and interpretive material will include elements that:
- convey orientation and basic facility information;
- highlight, where appropriate, special values of the park to visitors;
- indicate positive acceptable behaviour and inappropriate behaviour;
- include visitor safety information;
- indicate appropriate recreation opportunities; and
- provide interpretive themes.

Objective
Provide interpretive information, where appropriate, for visitors to enhance their experience and to ensure their behaviour does not compromise the values of the park.

Strategies
- Provide, regularly review and update information and interpretive material for visitors.
- Review and plan visitor interpretation and information facilities within the recreational opportunities and facilities plan.
9 MANAGING RESOURCE USE

9.1 Management Infrastructure

Most of the eastern section of Mount George Conservation Park is surrounded by a relatively high electric fence, which is not currently utilised (Figure 2). It is possible that while it is likely that the fence deters introduced animals from entering the park it may also interrupt the flow of native wildlife. The usefulness of the fence needs to be assessed and if it is found to have no purpose then its removal will be considered.

A maintenance implement shed is located near Candlebark Dam on the park boundary and it is yet to be determined how often the equipment that it stores is used (Figure 2). Therefore it is suggested that the usefulness of the shed also be assessed through the recreational opportunities and facilities plan to determine if it is worth keeping or if it would be best to remove it.

There are two bridges along the Heysen Trail within the western section of the park (Figure 2). Both of these bridges serve a good purpose and need to be periodically checked to ensure that they are safe and functioning correctly.

**Objective**

Maintain and install infrastructure necessary for effective park management.

**Strategies**

- Assess the usefulness of the eastern section fence and the maintenance implement shed via the recreational opportunities and facilities plan, so that a decision can be made in regard to either the repair or removal of this management infrastructure.

- Maintain the bridges within the park and ensure that any new bridge is constructed to the correct and most current Australian Standards for bridge design.

9.2 Public Utilities

Above-ground power lines owned and managed by ETSA Utilities traverse the park on Allotment 54 of DP54212. Tall trees, principally eucalypts, have been removed from within the ETSA easement to ensure that there is no interference with power lines. Ongoing maintenance is required to ensure vegetation is kept at a suitable height to prevent future interference with power lines. ETSA liaises with DEH prior to undertaking any work in the park and has standard operating procedures to ensure minimal impact on native vegetation.

DEH would oppose the establishment of any new public utilities on the park, given its small size and significance for biodiversity conservation. DEH policy discourages the location of utilities on reserves, unless proponents can demonstrate that:

- alternative locations have received full consideration; and
- the utility will not compromise the conservation or recreation values of the reserve.

Protection of reserve values is a priority, and reserves should not be considered to be a convenient option for the location of public utilities due to their status as public land. Any future proposal for public utilities within the park will be subject to an environmental assessment, and must be consistent with DEH policy and the provisions of this management plan.

**Objective**

Minimise the impact of authorised users on park values.

**Strategy**

- Liaise with public utilities and impose appropriate conditions to ensure that maintenance of services and activities has minimal impact on park values.
9.3 **Leases and Licences**

As part of the addition of the former Seeonee Hills land, Scouts Australia has retained exclusive access and use of a water tank and pipe work located on Piece 152 of DP61230, while it remains the owner of Allotment 151 of DP61230, through a licence with the Minister for Environment and Conservation under section 35 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (Appendix B, Figure 3). As part of the licence conditions Scouts Australia is to maintain the water tank and pipe work at its own cost. The licence can be cancelled if detrimental impacts occur as a result of use.

**Objective**

Minimise the impact of authorised users on park values.

**Strategy**

- Liaise with licensees and impose appropriate conditions to ensure that maintenance of services and activities has minimal impact on park values.
Friends and Volunteers

Volunteer support and community-based involvement that conserves and improves biodiversity and cultural values, and establishes quality management of recreational use, has become an essential component of park management. DEH acknowledges and supports the active volunteer contribution of the Friends of Mount George Conservation Park. Since their establishment in 1992 the Friends of Mount George Conservation Park have been actively removing weeds from the park and revegetating with indigenous plants. Other regular activities include the maintenance of walking trails and management vehicle tracks, fundraising, and the promotion of community interest in the park. In the ten years to the end of 2002 the Friends of Mount George Conservation Park volunteers contributed over 7,100 hours of work in the park. The Friends of Mount George Conservation Park have also brought together the Deanery Landcare Group which has also been involved in important projects within the park, such as the rehabilitation of Cox Creek as outlined in Steed (1997).

DEH highly values the work of the Friends of Mount George Conservation Park and will continue to provide an appropriate level of supervision and support. This generally requires liaison and sometimes the provision of materials, equipment and supervision/assistance by DEH staff. It is important that volunteer input is integrated with park management objectives and work programs. It is important for DEH to continue communication with Friends members, provide support and assistance, including policy advice, technical, planning and management direction.

Regional Communities and Park Neighbours

DEH supports and promotes partnerships and cooperative management arrangements to establish integrated natural resource management. This requires the development of effective working relationships with government agencies, local authorities, non-government organisations and the local community. With regard to Mount George Conservation Park, this involves ongoing management links to the Adelaide Hills Council, the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board, Arbury Park Outdoor School, the Deanery Landcare Group and the Friends of the Heysen Trail. It should also be recognised that Transport SA was very cooperative in creating habitat within the buffer zone between the park and the South Eastern Freeway that corresponds to the natural environment of the park.

Since the proclamation of the park in 1996 the Adelaide Hills Council has contributed to the management and provision of facilities within the Recreation Zone of the park by assisting with the maintenance of the picnic ground and associated facilities. Regular activities undertaken by the Adelaide Hills Council include mowing, slashing, rubbish removal and cleaning public amenities. DEH strongly values this working relationship and recognises that it plays a key role in the delivery of quality visitor services. As the facilities and picnic grounds are within the boundaries of Mount George Conservation Park this arrangement needs to be reviewed and consultation with the Adelaide Hills Council needs to take place, to establish a cooperative relationship for the ongoing maintenance of the facilities within the Recreation Zone. Moreover, with changes in land use within the region, it is important for DEH to actively work with the Adelaide Hills Council and development bodies to ensure proposed developments do not adversely impact on biodiversity conservation and park values.

Prior to proclamation much of the park was owned and managed by the then Education Department. The Department of Education and Children’s Services is interested in having continued involvement in the management of the park, particularly as it relates to providing education opportunities for students from Arbury Park Outdoor School. DEH recognises the mutual benefits of such a partnership and seeks to work with the Department of Education and Children’s Services where the opportunity arises.

DEH acknowledges the contributions of the former OCWMB, which provided funding, technical advice and assistance to community groups such as the Friends of Mount George Conservation Park and the Deanery Landcare Group. The Onkaparinga Waterwatch Network (OWN), an initiative of the OCWMB, involves the community in water quality monitoring activities within the park. OWN regularly measures phosphate, nitrate, total dissolved solids (salinity), dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity, temperature and flow rate in Cox Creek.
DEH also developed working relationships with neighbouring landowners and the former Animal and Plant Control Board, regarding shared management issues such as pest plant and animal control and fire management across land tenures. A number of adjoining landowners manage their land, or portion of their land, for conservation purposes which greatly increases DEH capabilities in the management of Mount George Conservation Park. One of the significant adjoining land owners that has actively rehabilitated and taken an interest in the biodiversity issues within their own boundaries is the Mount Lofty Golf Course, which is currently in the process of developing its own management plan. Many adjoining and local landowners are also members of the Deanery Landcare Group and the Friends of Mount George Conservation Park and directly contribute to the management of the park. Continued cooperation and involvement of neighbouring landowners is critical to the ongoing management of the park.

Aboriginal Partnerships

DEH is committed to reconciliation and encourages the development of partnerships with the Kaurna and Peramangk communities, Kaurna Yerta Inc and the Mannum Aboriginal Community Association Inc (both of these names can be subject to change) in its management of Mount George Conservation Park in a way that respects both contemporary and traditional culture, knowledge and skills. Partnerships involve the delivery of programs that promote reconciliation, cultural awareness, Indigenous employment and training, cooperative management and Indigenous cultural heritage management in parks.

Objective

Develop and maintain partnerships and working relationships with organisations, statutory bodies and others to assist with the management of the park and help fulfil the park’s potential without compromising its natural values.

Strategies

- Continue to support the Friends of Mount George Conservation Park in its contribution towards the management of the park.
- Consult with local government, relevant management boards, the local community and other relevant bodies to explore the benefits of partnership arrangements that will support future management decisions on issues of common interest.
- Encourage and contribute to the development of partnership arrangements to integrate biodiversity and recreation management in the region, with organisations that have an interest in contributing to the sustainable management of the park.
- Consult with the Adelaide Hills Council to establish a cooperative relationship for the ongoing maintenance of the facilities within the Recreation Zone.
## SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
<th>PRIORITY</th>
<th>DURATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ZONING</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designate and adopt the zoning scheme as shown in Figure 2.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Immediate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manage the park in accordance with the zoning scheme</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicate the zoning boundaries of the park by installing and maintaining appropriate signage and supplying public information that outlines the appropriate activities for each zone (refer to section 8.4 Information and Interpretation).</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MANAGING NATURAL HERITAGE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Geology, Soils and Landform</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assess the impact of visitor use on geological features and associated flora and fauna.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure management vehicle tracks, walking trails and other infrastructure are sited and constructed to prevent damage to geological features and associated habitats.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compile an inventory of soil degradation and erosion sites within the park.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undertake appropriate works to mitigate soil degradation and erosion in susceptible sites, according to best practice in soil conservation.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design and maintain walking trails and management tracks to minimise soil erosion.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply appropriate soil conservation measures when undertaking any management works that involve soil disturbance.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hydrology</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue to rehabilitate wetland environments through strategic weed control, planting indigenous species and any other measures applicable.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop and maintain cooperative management arrangements with the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board and the local community to maximise capabilities for effective water catchment management.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure that park facilities and management practices do not contribute to poor water quality.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Native Vegetation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepare a vegetation management plan for the park to guide conservation activities and while this is developed the need to prepare a vegetation management statement will be considered.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategies</td>
<td>Priority</td>
<td>Duration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain the structure and diversity of intact vegetation communities throughout the park through targeted weed control (these areas will be identified in the vegetation management plan or possibly in a vegetation management statement).</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restore understorey floristic diversity and structure in degraded Mountain Gum Forest and Blackwood / Swamp Wattle / River Bottlebrush Open Shrubland.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undertake active management, where necessary, for rare and threatened species including monitoring of known populations.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitor trees within the park for Witches Broom and encourage research into the cause of the symptoms and treat appropriately upon consultation.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comply with the hygiene principles and procedural guidelines of the Standard Operating Procedures for Phytophthora Threat Management and Reynolds (2001).</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop and implement a Local Action Plan for Phytophthora management in Mount George Conservation Park in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedures and in consultation with park neighbours, the Friends of the Heysen Trail and DEH staff responsible for the Heysen Trail.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirm the presence or absence of Phytophthora in Mount George Conservation Park, through continued sampling and analysis at the same suspected sites each year.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate and monitor the plants within the park for pathogens and treat plants when possible.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Native Fauna**

- Encourage surveys of fauna in the park to collect data as a baseline and for subsequent monitoring of population trends in key fauna species. | High | Ongoing |
- Develop and maintain links and partnerships with professional Ecological Scientists through Universities and other institutions to facilitate the monitoring of population processes in key fauna species within the park, to assist in the assessment of appropriate fauna management strategies. | High | Ongoing |
- Maintain the structure and diversity of habitat for fauna species, particularly rare or threatened species. | High | Ongoing |
- Manage identified threats to native fauna (eg introduced predators) where practicable. | High | Ongoing |

**Introduced Plants**

- Support the Friends of Mount George Conservation Park in controlling weeds, through the provision of herbicide, technical advice and other assistance as necessary. | High | Ongoing |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
<th>PRIORITY</th>
<th>DURATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contribute to a regional weed control program using an integrated approach</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by liaising with adjoining landowners, local government and the Adelaide</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board, to prevent</td>
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<tr>
<td>the spread of weeds from and into adjacent properties and the park.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Remove the pine plantation on the northern boundary in the western section</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of the park, while considering the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos in regard</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>to food resources.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undertake weed control consistent with the vegetation management plan for</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the park, which will include information regarding priority weed species</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and communities, the reason for priority status and the methods that can</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>be used for their eradication.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduced Animals</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue to implement a regionally integrated, adaptive control program</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for introduced animals within the park.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Liase with regional landowners, community groups and the Adelaide and</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board, with regard to</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>regional pest animal control.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MANAGING FIRE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop, implement and review a fire management plan in association with</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFS groups and other stakeholders.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Until a fire management plan is developed maintain existing fire access</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tracks and only create new tracks if there is no alternative means to</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>prevent the loss of life, property or biodiversity assets.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Continue to work with the relevant District Bushfire Prevention Committee</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and CFS groups to minimise risk to life and property within and</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>surrounding the park.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MANAGING CULTURAL HERITAGE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous Heritage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consult with Kaurna and Peramangk traditional owners, Native Title</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>claimants and relevant Aboriginal heritage authorities, in decisions</td>
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<tr>
<td>regarding the management of Kaurna and Peramangk cultural heritage and</td>
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<tr>
<td>before proceeding with any significant development works within the</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>reserve.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify and protect known or relocated sites and items of Aboriginal</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cultural significance in cooperation with DAARE, relevant authorities and</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>organisations. Kaurna and Peramangk cultural heritage sites require</td>
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<tr>
<td>conservation plans to facilitate appropriate management.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>In consultation with the Kaurna and Peramangk communities, submit cultural</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sites and stories that relate to the park for inclusion on the DAARE</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Archive.</td>
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<tr>
<td>STRATEGIES</td>
<td>PRIORITY</td>
<td>DURATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Update signage in the park to accurately indicate that both the Kaurna and</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peramangk peoples were traditionally associated with the lands of the park.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Indigenous Heritage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>When a non-indigenous historical or culturally significant site is suspected</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>within the park it will be identified, recorded, protected, restored and</td>
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<tr>
<td>monitored, in cooperation with the Heritage Branch of DEH and other</td>
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<tr>
<td>relevant authorities and organisations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MANAGING TOURISM AND RECREATION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor Use</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitor visitor impacts, especially in sensitive areas, and mitigate as</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>necessary.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a recreational opportunities and facilities plan that includes an</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>examination of visitor use.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prevent illegal and inappropriate visitor use through education, including</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prominent signage, provision of clean-up materials (including “doggy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clean-up or bags”) and regulatory information (refer to section 8.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Information and Interpretation).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop partnerships with Bicycle SA and other stakeholders to investigate</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>opportunities for alternative bike trails outside the park to accommodate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bicycle use in the region.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide access for dogs on-leash in the Recreation Zone consistent with the</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Parks and Wildlife (National Parks) Regulations 2001, and continue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to monitor dogs and dog owners’ use of the park.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor Access</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain, upgrade and classify the network of existing trails to DEH</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>standards.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevent off-trail recreation in the Conservation Zone through appropriate</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>signage and education.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review the adequacy of internal management vehicle tracks as part of the</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fire management planning process.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain the internal network of management vehicle tracks consistent with</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEH standards in consultation with emergency services.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Include an assessment of visitor access via the recreation opportunities</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and facilities plan.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor Facilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review the existing provision of visitor facilities by developing a</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recreational opportunities and facilities plan through consultation with the</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adelaide Hills Council.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remove the barbecue facilities from the Recreation Zone.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>12 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mount George Conservation Park Management Plan 2006 31
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
<th>PRIORITY</th>
<th>DURATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Information and Interpretation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide, regularly review and update information and interpretive material for visitors.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review and plan visitor interpretation and information facilities within the recreational opportunities and facilities plan.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MANAGING RESOURCE USE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Management Infrastructure</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assess the usefulness of the eastern section fence and the maintenance implement shed via the recreational opportunities and facilities plan, so that a decision can be made in regard to either the repair or removal of this management infrastructure.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain the bridges within the park and ensure that any new bridge is constructed to the correct and most current Australian Standards for bridge design.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public Utilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liaise with public utilities and impose appropriate conditions to ensure that maintenance of services and activities has minimal impact on park values.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Licences</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liaise with licensees and impose appropriate conditions to ensure that maintenance of services and activities has minimal impact on park values.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue to support the Friends of Mount George Conservation Park in its contribution towards the management of the park.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consult with local government, relevant management boards, the local community and other relevant bodies to explore the benefits of partnership arrangements that will support future management decisions on issues of common interest.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage and contribute to the development of partnership arrangements to integrate biodiversity and recreation management in the region, with organisations that have an interest in contributing to the sustainable management of the park.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consult with Adelaide Hills Council to establish a cooperative relationship for the ongoing maintenance of the facilities within the Recreation Zone.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
REFERENCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY


Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) (2005) Provisional List of Threatened Ecosystems of South Australia, Department for Environment and Heritage, South Australia, unpublished.


NPWS Lofty Region (1992) Mount George Conservation Park Weed Control and Revegetation Programme, South Australia, unpublished.


APPENDIX A: CONSERVATION STATUS CODES

**Australian Conservation Status Codes**
The following codes are based on the current listing of species under section 179 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

**EX**  **Extinct**: there is no reasonable doubt that the last member of the species has died.

**EW**  **Extinct in the Wild**: known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalised population well outside its past range; or it has not been recorded in its known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate seasons, anywhere in its past range, despite exhaustive surveys over a time frame appropriate to its life cycle and form.

**CE**  **Critically Endangered**: facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as determined in accordance with the prescribed criteria.

**E**  **Endangered**: facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future, as determined in accordance with the prescribed criteria.

**V**  **Vulnerable**: facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future, as determined in accordance with the prescribed criteria.

**CD**  **Conservation Dependent**: the species is the focus of a specific conservation program, the cessation of which would result in the species becoming vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered within a period of 5 years.

**Note**: Prescribed criteria as defined under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

**South Australian Conservation Status Codes**
The following codes are based on the current listing of species under Schedules of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972, as amended in 2000.

**E**  **Endangered**: (Schedule 7) in danger of becoming extinct in the wild.

**V**  **Vulnerable**: (Schedule 8) at risk from potential or long term threats which could cause the species to become endangered in the future.

**R**  **Rare**: (Schedule 9) low overall frequency of occurrence (may be locally common with a very restricted distribution or may be scattered sparsely over a wider area). Not currently exposed to significant threats, but warrants monitoring and protective measures to prevent reduction of population sizes.

**Regional Status Codes**
The categories below apply to the species distribution at a regional level.

**Mammals, Reptiles & Amphibians**
There are no regional conservation status categories developed for mammals, reptiles or amphibians to date (2004).

**Birds**
Regional conservation status for birds follow Carpenter and Reid (1998) The Status of Native Birds in the Agricultural Areas of South Australia.

The regions are defined as follows:

- **ML** Mount Lofty
- **MN** Mid-North
- **SE** South-Eastern
- **KI** Kangaroo Island
- **MM** Murray Mallee
- **EP** Eyre Peninsula
- **YP** Yorke Peninsula
Plants

Regional conservation ratings for plants follow:


The regions are as defined by the State Herbarium (Plant Biodiversity Centre), illustrated in the back cover of Census of South Australian Vascular Plants (Edition V) (Eds. Barker, B., Barker, R., Jessop, J. and Vonow, H., (2005)).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AC</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>North-Western</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FR</td>
<td>Flinders Ranges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NL</td>
<td>Northern Lofty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL</td>
<td>Southern Lofty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LE</td>
<td>Lake Eyre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EA</td>
<td>Eastern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MU</td>
<td>Murray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KI</td>
<td>Kangaroo Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NU</td>
<td>Nullarbor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EP</td>
<td>Eyre Peninsula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP</td>
<td>Yorke Peninsula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>South-Eastern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GT</td>
<td>Gairdner-Torrens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In order of decreasing conservation significance:

**X** Extinct/Presumed extinct: not located despite thorough searching of all known and likely habitats; known to have been eliminated by the loss of localised population(s); or not recorded for more than 50 years from an area where substantial habitat modification has occurred.

**E** Endangered: rare and in danger of becoming extinct in the wild.

**T** Threatened: (Plants only) likely to be either endangered or vulnerable but insufficient data available for more precise assessment.

**V** Vulnerable: rare and at risk from potential threats or long term threats that could cause the species to become endangered in the future.

**K** Uncertain: likely to be either threatened or rare but insufficient data available for a more precise assessment.

**R** Rare: has a low overall frequency of occurrence (may be locally common with a very restricted distribution or may be scattered sparsely over a wider area). Not currently exposed to significant or widespread threats, but warrants monitoring and protective measures to prevent reduction of population sizes.

**U** Uncommon: less common species of interest but not rare enough to warrant special protective measures.

**Q** Not yet assessed: but flagged as being of possible significance.

**N** Not of particular significance: (Plants only) Also indicated by a blank entry.

**C** Common: (Birds only) Also indicated by a blank entry.

**O** Occasional Visitor Only: (Birds only) Not considered of conservational status.
Figure 3
Mount George Conservation Park

Land Tenure
Map Produced from PAMS
Projection: MGA Zone 54 (GDA 94)
Date: 21 March, 2005