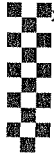
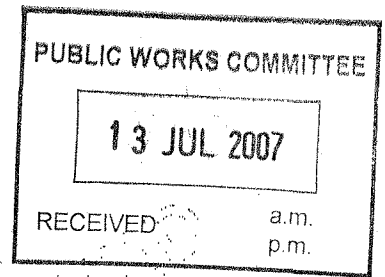


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Australian Government
Director of National Parks



13/7/07

RECEIVED a.m.
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SUBMISSION 4

Mr John Fuhrman
Inquiry Secretary
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Fuhrman

**RE: HMAS CRESWELL REDEVELOPMENT, JERVIS BAY TERRITORY-
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works**

Thank you for this opportunity to make a submission. As advised, your original letter dated the 14th June 2007 was not received at this office and therefore I am hoping this late submission can be considered by the Committee.

The Director of National Parks notes that the Committee calls for submissions from state and territory government bodies, local authorities, private organisations and individuals who may be materially affected or have an interest in the proposed work. As adjoining land manager / neighbour, the Director (Booderee National Park) would like to provide the following comment.

Background

The Park is a Commonwealth reserve under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act 1999) managed by the Director in conjunction with the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community under joint management arrangements established by the EPBC Act and *Aboriginal Land Grant (Jervis Bay Territory) Act 1986*. The arrangements are implemented by a 99 year lease from the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council to the Director of National Parks under the Land Grant Act, and a joint Board of Management for the Park established under the EPBC Act. Some of HMAS Creswell waterfront facilities are situated within Booderee National Park waters.

The Park is managed by the Director and the Board in accordance with a management plan under the EPBC Act. The current management plan commenced in 2002 and continues to have effect until 2009.

Further information about the Park may be accessed at-
<http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/booderee/index.html>

Issues

Lake Windermere in the park is the water supply source for the Jervis Bay Territory (JBT) and is part of the natural system of the park. Any increased demand on this supply could potentially increase the impact

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on the lake and therefore the impact on the natural values of the park, especially during periods of drought. The Director seeks clarification of any increased water demand as a result of the development and what water saving measures have been factored into this proposal.

A copy of Section 5.2 of the Booderee National Park Management Plan, dealing with Marine and Freshwater Management, is enclosed for your information. The full plan may be accessed at-
<http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/booderee-pom.html>

Part 3 of the EPBC Act regulates actions that would be likely to have a significant impact on certain matters of "national environmental significance", such as species listed as threatened under the Act (which includes the Eastern Bristlebird that occurs in the Territory). Other matters regulated by Part 3 include actions taken by the Commonwealth and Commonwealth agencies, and actions taken on Commonwealth land, that would be likely to have a significant impact on the environment.

I have attached a map of the Jervis Bay Territory land tenure for your information.

Your sincerely



Scott Suridge
Park Manager
Booderee National Park
for
The Director of National Parks

12 July 2007

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5.2 Marine and Freshwater Management

Aim: to protect the clarity and quality of the Park marine waters and freshwater ecosystems.

Background

Jervis Bay is known for its high water clarity. This is due to the following factors:

- no major rivers flow into the Bay so very little sediment or other river-borne material is deposited;
- the entrance is flanked by rocky coast with no beaches of significant size and the cliffs plunge straight into deep water;
- no heavy industry is present in the surrounding region; and
- a moderate degree of urban development means there is limited sewerage discharge.

Increasing urbanisation in the catchment area and discharge of effluent and stormwater runoff into the Bay could significantly diminish water clarity. Water from Bherwerre Peninsula flows in varying directions – into Jervis Bay, St Georges Basin, Sussex Inlet, Wreck Bay and the Tasman Sea. Park records indicate that Booderee has an average annual rainfall of approximately 1200 mm which is evenly distributed throughout the year. The annual rainfall varies considerably over a long period. Consequently the ground water levels and depth of permanent waterbodies range from very low, after a series of dry years, to very high, after successive wet seasons. In some years, the water table extends to the surface in much of the low-lying western parts of the Park.

Maintaining the high water quality and clarity of Jervis Bay is dependent on land managers around the Bay ensuring that freshwater runoff does not contain pollutants, excessive nutrients or suspended matter. The clear waters of the Bay enable the growth of extensive seagrass beds and support a rich diversity of marine life.

The waters of Jervis Bay are declared naval waters under the *Control of Naval Waters Act 1918* (Cth) and subject to regulations under that Act. The majority of the Bay is also part of New South Wales and is incorporated in the Jervis Bay Marine Park. The Bay is surrounded by the Park, land owned or managed by the Commonwealth for defence purposes and NSW lands. Close cooperation with the NSW Marine Park Authority and NSW land management agencies, Shoalhaven City Council and the Department of Defence is essential for effective, long-term conservation of the marine waters of the Park. In 1999, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Director and the NSW Marine Parks Authority promoting collaborative management of marine protected areas, including Jervis Bay, which come under both NSW and Commonwealth jurisdiction.

The freshwater systems of the Park range from ephemeral sheet and stream surface flows to permanent and semi-permanent streams, swamps and waterholes. There are several perched lakes. Lake Windermere and Lake McKenzie are closed freshwater dune lakes and the largest permanent waterbodies in Booderee. Both are characterised by considerable cyclical water level fluctuations in response to climatic variations over a period of several years. Alteration to catchment drainage patterns in swamp and wet heath areas can change the structure and composition of the vegetation.

Lake Windermere is the water supply for the Jervis Bay Territory. The lake catchment is located almost entirely within the Park. The implications of water extraction from Lake Windermere as part of the National Park are unclear. As the water supply for the Territory, Lake Windermere is well protected from disturbance, but the impact of water removal on the lake ecosystem is unknown. Water is pumped from Lake McKenzie for watering the Booderee Botanic Gardens and excess water returns by surface and ground water flow.

Regulation 12.14 of the EPBC Regulations prohibits discharging or leaving minerals, mineral waste and any other solid waste, or any noxious, offensive or polluting substance in a Commonwealth reserve other than in an area approved or provided for the purpose by the Director. The regulation also prohibits the release of any liquid or gaseous material in a Commonwealth reserve if the release is likely to: pollute the air, soil, water or a watercourse; or be harmful to native species; or be harmful or offensive to another person.

Regulation 12.15 prohibits using or introducing a pesticide, herbicide or other poisonous substance in a Commonwealth reserve.

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Prescriptions

5.2.1 The Director will maintain liaison with relevant public health, pollution control and water supply authorities, such as the NSW Environment Protection Authority and will cooperate with the Department of Transport and Regional Services, the Department of Defence, the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council and other Territory land holders to minimise pollution of water bodies through seepage from sewerage systems or runoff from developed areas.

5.2.2 As part of this regional cooperation, the Director will participate, where appropriate, in the Shoalhaven catchment management monitoring project and monitor nominated sites within the Park.

5.2.3 Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding on the management of marine parks to which both Commonwealth and NSW legislation applies, the Director will negotiate with the NSW Marine Park Authority a schedule setting out specific collaborative arrangements covering management of Jervis Bay.

5.2.4 No residual chemicals will be used without the Park Board's approval. Chemical use in the Park will conform with relevant Australian standards.

5.2.5 Construction of facilities and park management activities will be planned to minimise, and where possible avoid, impact, upon water courses and water quality. This includes maintenance of roads and tracks and grassed areas

5.2.6 The Director will review the rates of application and types of fertilisers and grasses that are used in day use and camping areas – particularly those near creeks and water bodies such as Ryans Swamp, Telegraph Creek and Green Patch lagoon with the aim of minimising impacts on water quality and the health of native species of vegetation..

5.2.7 Works that have the potential for accelerating sediment flow into Lake Windermere will have mitigation measures incorporated. Burning prescriptions will also be modified where necessary.

5.2.8 Park management activities that potentially disturb catchment drainage systems will be subject to assessment as outlined in section 2.3.

5.2.9 No artificial surface water interception structures such as dams or weirs will be constructed in the Park except for park management purposes.

5.2.10 Appropriate research and monitoring of freshwater quality and ecosystems will continue to be undertaken or permitted in order to develop a more comprehensive body of information on the freshwater resources of the Park and their particular management requirements (and see Chapter 10).

5.2.11 The Director will give a high priority to the cooperative development, with other regional management agencies, of a marine monitoring program and a GIS to assist in conservation management of Jervis Bay waters.

5.2.12 Lake Windermere will be closed to public access in order to safeguard the potable water supply.

5.2.13 The implications of water supply on Lake Windermere as an important part of the Park will be investigated.

5.2.14 Alternative sources of water supply, within and outside the Jervis Bay Territory, will be investigated.

5.2.15 Swimming will be discouraged within perched swamps, freshwater creeks and waterholes in the Park, and fishing or harvesting of organisms in freshwater bodies is prohibited unless it is part of an approved/permitted research program (see Chapter 10).

5.2.16 Water conservation principles will be applied to all water use in the Park (see section 9.2).

5.2.17 Water supply upgrades will generally be restricted to existing alignments. However, where it is considered appropriate, for example in order to improve the provision of an adequate water supply to the Territory, deviation from existing alignments may be allowed

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following assessment under the processes outlined in section 2.3 of this Plan and the approval of the Park Board