



Newsletter

Edition 3 - August 2004



Green Tree Frog
(*Litoria careulea*)

NT Parks & Conservation Masterplan Consultation Progress

Public consultation and involvement in the Masterplanning process is vital. It is the collective responsibility of us all to ensure that biodiversity and the products and services that biodiversity provides, is maintained for all Territorians and future generations to enjoy.

In an effort to engage and consult with as many stakeholders as possible, Parks and Wildlife planners are continuing to meet with various stakeholder groups and organisations to present the masterplan and discuss any issues.

More recently, a number of issue papers have been developed through consultation with industry, government and non-government representatives. These papers have been released to the public through the NT Parks & Conservation Masterplan web site or by calling 1800 813 337.

Additionally, a new electronic web forum has been created on the NT Parks & Conservation Masterplan web site. This forum has been specifically designed for

those interested in sharing ideas and information to shape a vision for the Northern Territory's biodiversity.

The most recent display at the Royal Darwin Show received positive feedback. Visitors were given clear messages outlining the objectives of the Masterplan, the planning process, joint management of NT Parks and Reserves, where to find more information and how to contribute to the Masterplanning process.

In regards to the timeframe for the Masterplan, it is anticipated that the draft Masterplan will be released by the end of September. Public consultation will follow, including a number of regional public meetings.

You will be kept informed of the Masterplanning progress and upcoming public meetings via the NT Parks & Conservation Masterplan web site, newsletters and advertising.

Planning Progress

Bioregional assessment workshops were held in each region and attended by Parks and Wildlife planners, Chief District Rangers and Aboriginal land council representatives.

The purpose of the workshops was to:

- identify biodiversity 'hotspots';
- assess conservation effort already being applied;
- discuss possible biodiversity conservation initiatives; and
- discuss ideas and issues raised during initial consultations.

Follow-up workshops to develop 'action plans' for each bioregion are also in progress.

The purpose of the action planning workshops is to:

- develop conservation initiatives for each bioregion; and
- determine a process for how these initiatives may be progressed.

Plans of Management will be developed when the Masterplan is completed and will resolve any biodiversity and joint management issues on an individual Park basis.



Bilby
(*Macrotis lagotis*)



Northern
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Government

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Joint Management of NT Parks

On 30 June 2004 a notice appeared in the Gazette extending the *Parks and Reserves (Framework for the Future) Act* sunset date to 31 December 2004.

The *Parks and Reserves (Framework for the Future) Act* provides a framework for the resolution of Aboriginal Land and Native Title Claims over Territory parks and reserves through negotiation rather than litigation.

The Territory's parks and reserves will be substantially enriched by recognising, valuing and incorporating Aboriginal culture, knowledge of country and traditional land management practices in the management of biodiversity conservation.

In respect to joint management of NT Parks and Reserves, the NT Parks & Conservation Masterplan aims to ensure:

- that the future of existing parks and reserves is secured;
- an enhanced parks system through recognition of Aboriginal cultural values;
- greater access to a significantly larger and more diverse park system;
- enhanced tourism and recreational opportunities; and
- Territory parks will remain accessible to all Territorians and visitors on a no entry fee, no permit basis.

Under Section 13 of the *Parks and Reserves (Framework for the Future) Act*, the Land Councils have now advised the Chief Minister that the traditional owners of 28 of

the 31 parks involved had indicated acceptance of the Government's offer and Litchfield National Park, Eley National park and Daly River (Mt. Nancar) Conservation Reserve had rejected it.

In accordance with the Act, the Chief Minister judged that there had been substantial acceptance of the offer and moved to remove the three parks for which the offer had been rejected by notice in the Government Gazette. Also by Notice in the Gazette, on request from the Land Councils, she extended the sunset date under the Act to 31 December 2004, to allow time for finalisation of the documentation.

The importance of the above is that the Parks and Wildlife Service and the Land Councils will need to work closely together to ensure the smooth implementation of joint management across much of the park system.

For further information on the *Parks and Reserves (Framework for the Future) Act*, visit the Department of the Chief Minister web site at www.dcm.nt.gov.au



Gum Nuts



Agile Wallaby
(*Macropus agilis*)



Frillneck Lizard
(*Chlamydosaurus kingii*)

Joint Management is about working together in partnership with Traditional Aboriginal custodians in managing Territory Parks and Reserves.

Issue Papers

Website Updates

To subscribe to the Web Forum or view the latest updates, please visit our website at www.parksmasterplan.nt.gov.au

Various Issue Papers have been developed, by the **Masterplanning team, in conjunction with relevant industry representatives and the Aboriginal Land Councils.**

These papers have been developed to assist and encourage public input into the Masterplanning process.

Your comments and views will be carefully considered in the development of the Masterplan.

Issue Papers that have been released for public comment on the NT Parks & Conservation Masterplan web site include:

- Biodiversity Conservation in the Northern Territory
- Biodiversity Conservation and the Pastoral Industry
- Conservation in the Marine Environment
- Exploration and Mining in NT Parks
- Off Reserve Conservation and Sustainable Use
- Options and Opportunities
- Place Names and Classification System
- The Territory Parks System
- Threats and Threatening Processes

Contact Us

Individuals or groups wishing to meet to discuss relevant issues can contact our regional planners or contact Ms Shirley Carne on 1800 813 337 or email ParksMasterPlan@nt.gov.au.



Green Sea Turtle
(*Chelodina mydas*)



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