



Explore it all

googong foreshores

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Information Sheet

Googong Foreshores Draft Plan of Management

Issued September 2007

About Googong Foreshores

Googong Foreshores is located in New South Wales, 13 km south of Queanbeyan. Here, the waters of the Queanbeyan River and its tributaries are impounded by the Googong Dam. The area referred to as Googong Foreshores is the land defined in the *Canberra Water Supply (Googong Dam) Act 1974* as the Googong Dam Area. The Commonwealth Government acquired this area (5089 hectares) from New South Wales in 1973 for the purpose of constructing the dam. Most of the catchment (94%) remains under the control of New South Wales. Construction of the dam was completed in 1977 and the reservoir filled in 1978. The primary purpose of the reservoir is the supply of potable water to the Australian Capital Territory and Queanbeyan. Secondary, but important values of the area are recreation, biodiversity and cultural heritage. Recreation, in particular, must be managed to ensure compatibility with the main water supply purpose.

Management of Googong Foreshores

Prior to ACT self government, Googong Foreshores was managed by the Commonwealth Government. In 1988, control over water supply and management of the Googong Dam Area was vested in the Territory Executive, acting on behalf of the Commonwealth.

The ACT government manages the Foreshores and ACTEW Corporation manages the water supply infrastructure and use of water stored in the reservoir, both on behalf of the Territory Executive.

The Draft Plan

The *Googong Foreshores Draft Plan of Management* is the first comprehensive management plan prepared for the Googong Foreshores area.

The plan does not cover:

- The Queanbeyan River catchment (including Burra and Tinderry creeks) upstream of the Googong Dam area. This is NSW land managed by NSW state and local governments.

- Water supply from the reservoir (as noted above).

Purpose of the Draft Plan

The purpose of the Draft Plan is to:

- provide guidance for the responsible management agencies in the ACT Government;
- set out arrangements for management responsibilities (e.g. fire management);
- clearly define management policy to the community and NSW state and local government.

The central focus of the Draft Plan is the management of activities in the Googong Foreshores to ensure that they do not impact adversely on the area's primary purpose of providing a potable water supply.

Sections of the Draft Plan

The Draft Plan is structured around identification of the **primary purpose** and **values** of the Googong Foreshores. From these, **Management Objectives, Policies** and **Actions/Strategies** have been determined. However, many aspects of management require more detailed prescriptions and operational procedures than can be included in a management plan. Examples of this are pest plant and animal control, fire management, and maintenance of cultural heritage.

The Draft Plan contains:

- an outline of the legislation and policy that applies to the Googong Dam Area (which is complex due to the unusual circumstances of the area being Commonwealth land in NSW, managed by the ACT Executive);
- an outline of the values of the Foreshores. These are: water supply; natural heritage (biodiversity and landscape); cultural heritage (Indigenous and European); and Recreation; chapters dealing with each of the values;
- management zones;
- a consolidated list of management actions and priorities; and a risk management framework in relation to water quality.



Key Issues

Protection of Potable Water Supply

The Draft Plan outlines the factors potentially affecting the quality of *raw water* in the Reservoir (micro-organisms, turbidity, excess nutrients, chemicals) and management of these threats. The Plan notes the limited ability to influence the quality of water flowing into the Googong Dam Area from the upstream catchment. However, under the *Seat of Government Acceptance Act 1909* (Cwlth), NSW is obliged to not pollute and to protect from pollution the waters of the Queanbeyan River for its whole course above the Territory.

Recreational Use

Recreational use of water supply catchments is generally prohibited or restricted in Australia. The Plan contains policies aimed at ensuring that recreation does not adversely impact on Reservoir water quality. The Plan largely continues successful policies pursued to date (e.g. not allowing petroleum-fuelled powerboats).

Kangaroo Management

Grazing by Kangaroos (and rabbits) is an important management consideration in relation to protection of catchment conditions and Reservoir water quality. It is a policy in the Plan that culling may be undertaken 'for the purposes of maintaining or improving catchment condition'. This would have to comply with NSW legislation.

Fire Management

Fire planning and response for the Googong Foreshores is carried out in association with the NSW Rural Fire Service. A Strategic Bushfire Management Plan for the Googong Foreshores has recently been developed which has the primary objective of protecting water quality. While the Draft Plan outlines fire management arrangements, the details are to be found in more detailed documents such as the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan.

Statutory Requirements

Three levels of government are involved with the Googong Foreshores: Commonwealth, Territory and State/Local Government. The early part of the Plan clarifies powers and their limits. The Plan notes that enforcement of NSW legislation may be difficult unless there are authorised officers present in the Googong Dam Area. This will need attention if significant offences regularly occur that are contrary to NSW legislation.

Main Directions of the Plan

To a large degree, the Draft Plan consolidates the management experience gained in management of the Foreshores over more than two decades. The main directions are:

- Increased importance to the protection of water quality in Googong Reservoir, given the enhanced role of the Reservoir following the 2003 bushfires in the ACT.
- Continuation of long-standing recreational uses highly valued by residents of Canberra, Queanbeyan and adjacent areas: particularly fishing (reservoir waters are stocked with fish), picnicking, and swimming (below the dam wall). London Bridge Arch is a popular attraction.
- Protection of natural and cultural heritage. Googong Foreshores (especially the eastern area) is significant as part of a corridor of relatively intact native vegetation stretching from the Tinderry Range to the north-east of the ACT.

How Can You Contribute to Planning for the Future of Googong Foreshores?

The Googong Foreshores Draft Plan of Management (2007) is a community consultation document and comment is invited from interested persons or organisations. The Draft Plan comment period provides you with an opportunity to:

- express your views on management proposals;
- provide further information;
- suggest alternative management strategies;
- generally have a say on how Googong Foreshores should be managed over the next ten years.

If you prefer not to write your own submission you could make a joint submission with others. To ensure your submission is as effective as possible please:

- make it clear and concise;
- list your points according to the subject sections (and page numbers) in the Draft Plan;
- describe briefly each subject or issue you wish to discuss;
- state whether you agree or disagree with any or all of the objectives, policies or actions/strategies within each subject or just those of specific interest to you—clearly state your reasons (particularly if you disagree) and give sources of information where possible;
- suggest alternatives to deal with any issue with which you have a particular concern.

Each submission is important, but those that give reasons for concerns, provide supporting evidence where appropriate, and offer information and constructive suggestions are most useful. Please make your submission in writing.

All submissions will be evaluated and the Draft Plan will be reviewed in the light of comments received. A report on the consultation process, issues raised and consequent responses will be prepared. The revised Draft Plan will then be submitted to the Minister for approval.

Comments should be forwarded to:

**Senior Planning Officer,
Conservation and Reserves,
Parks, Conservation and Lands
Environment and Recreation
PO Box 158
CANBERRA ACT 2601**

Macarthur House

**12 Wattle Street
LYNEHAM ACT 2602**

or

email your submission to: environmentACT@act.gov.au

Please ensure that your email submission is identified as **Googong Foreshores** in the Subject field.

**The closing date for submissions is COB
Tuesday 13 November 2007**

Further information

To obtain a copy of the Googong Foreshores Draft Plan of Management:

- visit < www.tams.act.gov.au >; or
- Call Canberra Connect: 13 22 81