



Montague Island Nature Reserve

Amendments to Plan of Management

**NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
July 2003**

These amendments to the Montague Island Nature Reserve Plan of Management (1996) were adopted by the Minister for the Environment on 30th July 2003.

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

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INTRODUCTION

Montague Island Nature Reserve is subject to a plan of management adopted in 1996. Amendments to this plan of management were placed on public exhibition from 25th October 2002 until 4th January 2003. The exhibition of the amendments attracted 5 submissions which raised 3 issues. All submissions received were considered before adopting these amendments.

The Minister for the Environment adopted the following amendments to the 1996 plan of management for Montague Island Nature Reserve on 30th July 2003.

There are two key areas of amendments. The first relates to the number of visitors to the island. The second are various amendments to incorporate minor proposals not covered by the adopted plan.

ADOPTED AMENDMENTS

1. Page 20 of the 1996 plan, section 4.3.1 Public Use and Interpretation, 6th policy, 1st sentence states:

“ * The number of visitors on the island will not exceed 90 visitors in any given 24 hour period (midnight to midnight) unless altered in accordance with the consideration below in Action 2.”

This sentence has been replaced with the following:

“ * *The number of visitors on the island will not exceed 200 visitors in any given 24 hour period (midnight to midnight) unless altered in accordance with the considerations below in Action 2.*”

2. A new 7th policy has been added to page 20 of the plan, section 4.3.1 Public Use and Interpretation:

“* *To reinforce a remote recreation experience and to ensure that visitors do not feel crowded, the maximum number of visitors to the island at any one time will be 80 with a maximum persons/guide ratio of 40:1 specified within licence conditions.*”

3. Page 20 of the 1996 plan, section 4.3.1 Public Use and Interpretation, 8th policy, states:

“* The number of visitors will be reduced during certain breeding or moulting seasons at the discretion of the District Manager and this will be accommodated within the licence agreement/s as specified in the business plan.”

This policy has been replaced with the following:

“* *The number of visitors will be reduced restricted at the discretion of the Regional Manager during certain breeding or moulting season, when water supply is restricted or if there is evidence of deleterious impacts to the island or wildlife, and this will be specified within the relevant licence agreement/s.*”

4. A new action has been added to page 20 of the plan, section 4.3.1 Public Use and Interpretation:

“* *Visitor numbers and impacts will be monitored, and numbers will be reviewed in 5 years or when the plan of management is reviewed, whichever comes first.*”

5. Page 13 of the 1996 plan, section 4.1.2 Plants and Animals, 1st policy reads:

“* *Only tracks considered essential for penguin walkways or for management purposes will be retained. Tracks proposed to be retained are shown on the map, centre pages.*”

This policy has been replaced with the following:

“* *The tracks shown on the map in the plan will be retained. New tracks will only be permitted for fire management or for conservation management purposes.*”

6. Page 17 of the 1996 plan, section 4.2.2 Historic Places, 5th policy, 1st sentence reads:

“* *The buildings may be adapted for management purposes.*”

This sentence has been replaced with the following:

“* *The buildings may be adapted for management purposes and the residences may be used for management and research based tourism accommodation.*”

7. Page 20 of the 1996 plan, 1st paragraph reads:

“Overnight accommodation is not provided for tourists because of the lack of basic services such as medical facilities, the increased impact that would occur on the conservation values of the island and the risk of tourist being stranded by bad weather.”

This paragraph has been replaced with the following:

“*Limited overnight accommodation for tourists may be provided. This tourism opportunity will be linked with assisting existing research programs*”

and is limited to the policies and actions regarding limits on numbers of visitors to the Island.”

8. Page 21 of the 1996 plan, section 4.3.1 Public Use and Interpretation, 1st policy, 1st sentence reads:

“* Visitation (except for approved research) will be restricted to the south island; to the new jetty, lightstation, poultry shed complex and, following clearing and track stabilisation, the old garden area. Access will be by foot only.”

This policy has been replaced with the following:

“* *Visitation (except for approved research) will be restricted to the south island: to the new jetty, lightstation, gravesite and the old jetty. Access will be by foot only. Tour visitors will not be permitted south of an east west line through the gravesite.*”

9. Page 21 of the 1996 plan, section 4.3.1 Public Use and Interpretation, 2nd policy:

After “staff” insert; “*and research personnel.*”

10. Page 21 of the 1996 plan, section 4.3.1 Public Use and Interpretation, 4th policy reads:

“* The relief lightkeepers quarters will be open for public inspection and will be managed as a house museum with a shop and display area.”

This policy has been replaced with the following:

“* *The relief lightkeepers quarters will be open for public inspection and will be managed as a house museum with a display area and possibly a shop.*”

11. Page 23 of the 1996 plan, section 4.3.3 Management Operations, 3rd policy reads:

“* The tracks to the old jetty and graves will be low grade management tracks suitable for occasional foot access. Other tracks will be maintained to a minimal standard suitable for public walking use. No new tracks will be constructed.”

This policy has been replaced with the following:

“* *Apart from the hardened track from the jetty to the lighthouse and the boardwalk, all other tracks will be maintained as slashed grass tracks.*”

12. Page 23 of the 1996 plan, 4.3.3 Management Operations, 2nd action reads:

“* The helipad will be relocated to a site adjacent to the poultry shed complex and the existing helipad site will be revegetated.”

This action has been deleted, as has the 2nd sentence of the 2nd paragraph on page 23 which also states that the helipad will be relocated.

13. Page 22 of the 1996 plan, 4.3.3 Management Operations, 3rd paragraph, 1st sentence reads:

“Water is obtained from roof catchment and effluent is disposed of via a septic tank.”

This sentence has been replaced with the following:

“Water is obtained from roof catchment, effluent is disposed of in a biofiltration sewage system, and power is provided by solar panels with a back-up diesel generator.”

14. Page 22 of the 1996 plan, 4.3.3 Management Operations, 4th paragraph and on to the top of page 23 has also been deleted.

15. A new paragraph has been added to page 4 of the plan, section 2.2.2 Importance of Montague Island Nature Reserve, end of section on Cultural values which reads:

“The Montague Island lightstation and its setting are listed on the State Heritage Register. The NPWS manages its responsibilities under the Heritage Act 1977 under delegation from the Heritage Council NSW.”

16. A new action has been added to page 13 of the 1996 plan, section 4.1.2 Plants and Animals, which reads:

“* *A quarantine protocol will be prepared as a high priority to prevent the introduction of inappropriate organisms to the island.*”

17. The above action (point 16), and the action relating to visitor numbers and impacts being monitored (point 4), have been added to the list of high priority activities in section 5 of the plan.

18. The map in the plan has been updated to show all public walking tracks and management tracks that currently exist, the east-west line south of which visitor access will not be permitted, and other changes since the plan was adopted.
