

THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (NEW SOUTH WALES) POLICY ON LIMESTONE CAVES (KARST) CONSERVATION

PREAMBLE

Jenolan Caves, one of the most important areas of natural and cultural history in Australia, was listed on the National Trust Register in September, 1985. The Jenolan “Caves Reserve” was created in 1866, six years before the declaration of the world’s first National Park. At the time of listing, the Trust was concerned at the management of the Reserve and the adverse impacts of tourism on the cave system and the Reserve. On 25 June, 2004 Jenolan Caves Reserve was listed on the State Heritage Register.

On 30 July, 2014 the National Trust listed the Cliefden Caves at Mandurama on the National Trust Register and is campaigning to prevent the destruction of the caves by a dam proposal on the Belubula River.

POLICY

1. The National Trust will list important limestone cave systems (Karst) on the National Trust Register in recognition of their heritage values, to encourage their statutory listing, reservation or private owner conservation covenant and appropriate management and to promote their values and protection to the community.
2. The National Trust will urge that expert scientific and technical advice must be used to achieve best-practice karst management at significant limestone cave systems.
3. The National Trust will oppose any development proposals that will lead to the destruction of, or damage to, significant limestone cave systems.
4. The National Trust will urge that facilities, infrastructure and the development of other future works adjoining a significant limestone caves system must not pollute, or cause adverse impact on the flow or quality of, surface and subterranean water and associated subterranean flora and fauna. All activities should be undertaken in a manner that minimises their impact on geology, geomorphology, soils and natural drainage systems.

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