

THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (NEW SOUTH WALES) POLICY ON NEW SOUTH WALES PARKS SYSTEM

PREAMBLE

The National Trust was formed in 1945 on the model of the National Trust in England, Wales & Northern Ireland which owns and manages coastline, moorland, forests and nature reserves. After the establishment of the National Parks & Wildlife Service in 1974 the National Trust passed over to the Service coastal land, bushland reserves and Aboriginal Sites which it had been managing.

The National Trust has a long history and special interest in the establishment, management and public use of the NSW parks system and the protection of both its natural and the built heritage and is empowered by its legislation “to encourage and promote, by any means whatever, public appreciation, knowledge and enjoyment of, respect for, and interest in,” such lands.

POLICY

1. The National Trust re-asserts the definition of a National Park as set out in its 1974 Policy on National Parks – “A National Park is a relatively large area set aside for its features of predominantly unspoiled natural landscape, flora and fauna, permanently dedicated for public enjoyment, education and inspiration and protected from all interference other than essential management practices, so that its natural attributes are preserved.”ⁱ
2. The National Trust recognises the variety of existing reserve types within the NSW Parks System – National Parks, Nature Reserves, Historic Sites, Wilderness Areas, World Heritage Areas and State Conservation Areas and that they contain both natural and cultural heritage significance and places of significance to the Aboriginal people.
3. The National Trust recognises and accepts the internationally defined set of management categories for protected areas, known as IUCN ([World Conservation Union](#)) categories. There are seven IUCN protected area categories - Strict nature reserve, Wilderness area, National park, Natural monument or feature, Habitat/species management area, Protected landscape / seascape, Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources.ⁱⁱ
4. The National Trust will act in accordance with the Australian Natural Heritage Charter which is based on an ethos of respect for natural heritage and acknowledges four fundamental principles, defined in the Charter, - intergenerational equity, existence value, uncertainty and precaution. The principles recognise that living organisms, earth processes and ecosystems have value beyond the social, economic or cultural values held by humans. They also ensure that future generations inherit an environment which is at least as healthy as it is at present, acknowledging that we don't have full knowledge about significance or threats. The Precautionary Principle is now enshrined in the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999.ⁱⁱⁱ
5. The National Trust will aim to educate the wider community on the proper care and management of the NSW Parks System.
6. The National Trust will oppose activities and development proposals within or adjoining the NSW Parks System which are not in accordance with the IUCN management categories or contrary to the four fundamental principles of the Australian Natural Heritage Charter or which damage or destroy Aboriginal heritage and cultural heritage including relics, industrial history and archaeology.

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ⁱ 4th Australian Ministerial Conference on National Parks.

ⁱⁱ *World Conservation Union (IUCN) protected area categories 2008*, Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

ⁱⁱⁱ *Protecting Natural Heritage – Using the Australian Natural Heritage Charter*, Commonwealth of Australia, 2003