



## POSITION PAPER

### FORMER GOVERNOR'S DOMAIN/PARRAMATTA PARK

#### BACKGROUND

In April 1978, 'Parramatta Park, Former Governor's Domain Historic Conservation Area' was listed on the Register of the National Trust.

One of the most historic urban parks in Australia, it was here that the first successful crops were grown in the colony of New South Wales which firmly established the settlement. The Crescent by the Parramatta River became the genesis for the early township and government farm of Parramatta.

From 1790 till 1857 it was the inland residence of all Colonial Governors and in Macquarie's time Government House and its domain of approximately 800 hectares (1,975 acres) was considered the showplace of the colony. Imported plants and trees were nurtured there and native species sent to Kew Gardens.

In 1858 99.5 hectares (246 acres) were surveyed for the establishment of Parramatta Park. Much of the Park has been alienated and eroded by a large number of unsympathetic uses and its area is now reduced to 85 hectares (210 acres). However, the park, its landforms, landscape and remaining historic buildings and monuments retain the potential for this remarkable domain to regain its once fine visual status.

The majority of The Government Domain and Old Government House were listed on the World Heritage List in August 2007 as part of the Australian Convict Sites, and were listed on the National Heritage List and listed on the New South Wales State Heritage Register.

#### NATIONAL TRUST POSITION

- The Trust will urge that there should be a skillful reinstatement of the park's very fine urban landscape with a status and management comparable to that of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Centennial Park including the land south of the western railway line.
- The Trust will urge that further alienation be prevented and that every effort should be made to progressively phase out alien uses as leases expire anywhere in the Park.
- The Trust will oppose any major new development in the park, e.g. swimming pools, museums, schools etc.

#### ACTION TO PROMOTE THE TRUST'S POSITION

The Trust will promote its views on this issue in the media, with the City of Parramatta and the NSW government.