

Conservation Report – May 2011
by Michael Maack

- On Saturday, May 14, 2011 approximately 200 demonstrators converged on the Gardiner's Gap region in the Ben Bullen State Forest near Lithgow to protest Coalpac Pty Ltd's intention to open-cut and highwall mine into a large area of the State Forest which the NPWS has recognised as having qualities suitable for inclusion in the Gardens of Stone National Park. This type of mining will destroy the scenic value and habitat qualities of a truly remarkable area and it is for this reason that all the peak Environment groups within NSW have combined to oppose the proposed development.
- In another coal related mega-development, it has been proposed that in the Maules Creek region near Narrabri (northern Liverpool Plains) almost half of the Leard State Forest which is the largest stand of native forest within this heavily cleared area will be destroyed for commercial coal purposes. If approved approximately 5067 hectares of native forest and farmland will be lost. See the NPA website for further information.
http://www.npansw.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=703&Itemid=561
- The NCC has called on the NSW Government, particularly addressed to the Primary Industries Minister, Katrina Hodgkinson, not to align itself with the shooting lobby that wants to open up more than 3,900 square kilometres of State Forests to hunting under the false premise that it could be called (a non-evidence based) feral animal control. The NCC particularly stresses that community safety will be compromised.
- Vandalism has forced the closure of the Horse Swamp camping area in the Barrington Tops State Conservation Area. Irresponsible 4WD use has rutted the area with tyre tracks causing the area to be unusable. The area is expected to be closed for several months. Anyone with information regarding vandalism is asked to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000; NPWS in Scone on 6540 2300; or NPWS Gloucester office on (02) 6538 5300.
- A feral pig control program is being conducted in the Goobang National Park (Lachlan Area National Parks) until June 30, 2011. 1080 baits are to be laid using the replacement baiting technique.
- A Wagga Wagga plywood factory (Big River Group Pty Ltd - Ausply) has been fined \$67,000 with another \$60,000 in costs for polluting a wetlands area with toxic resin waste.

Plans of management - in preparation

Development of a plan of management for Royal National Park, Heathcote National Park and Garrawarra State Conservation Area

An opportunity exists for stakeholders to register their interest in being part of the process of revising the plan of management for Royal National Park, Heathcote National Park and Garrawarra State Conservation Area.

Development of a plan of management for Georges River National Park

An opportunity exists for stakeholders to register their interest in being part of the process of revising the plan of management for Georges River National Park.

Plans of management - public exhibition

Biddon State Conservation Area Draft Plan of Management

On public exhibition until 29th August 2011

Tinkrameannah National Park Draft Plan of Management

Available for comment until 29th August 2011

Wyrrabalong National Park Draft Plan of Management

On public exhibition until 6th June 2011

Yarrahapinni Wetlands National Park Draft Plan of Management

The closing date for comments on the plan is Monday 29th August 2011