

1. World Heritage Property Data

1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Greater Blue Mountains Area

1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

State(s) Party(ies)

- Australia

Type of Property

natural

Identification Number

917

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2000



1.3 - Geographic Information Table

Name	Coordinates	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
Greater Blue Mountains Area	-33.7 / 150	1032649	86200	1118849	2000
Total (ha)		1032649	86200	1118849	

Comment

The property does not have a formal World Heritage buffer zone (although 86,200 of protected areas surround the property). Total area is 1,032,649 ha.

1.4 - Map(s)

Title	Date	Link to source
Protected areas comprising Greater Blue Mountains Nominated Area, scale 1:750000	01/07/1998	
Greater Blue Mountains Nominated Area	01/01/1998	

1.5 - Governmental Institution Responsible for the Property

- Environment Australia

Comment

Mr Peter Burnett First Assistant Secretary Heritage and Wildlife Division Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities GPO Box 787 ACT 2601
Ph: +61 2 6274 1111 Fax: +61 2 6274 2095 Email: Peter.Burnett@environment.gov.au

1.6 - Property Manager / Coordinator, Local Institution / Agency

- Jacqueline Reid
NSW Department of Environment and Conservation
Ms
World Heritage Unit
- R. Conroy
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
- S Smith-White
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
- T Reedy
Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust
- Bob Conroy
Department of Environment and Climate Change
Mr Bob Conroy
Parks and Wildlife

Comment

1 REPLACE NSW Department of Environment and Conservation WITH NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water. 2 REPLACE R. Conroy WITH A. Henchman REPLACE 81422 WITH +44 0299955000 3 REPLACE S Smith-White WITH Michael Wright REPLACE 81422 WITH +44 0299955000 4 REPLACE T Reedy WITH Peter Austen REPLACE PO Box 1495 2795 Bathurst Australia WITH PO Box C283 CSU LPO Bathurst NSW 2795 WITH REPLACE 81422 WITH +44 0263325888

1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

1. [View photos from OUR PLACE the World Heritage collection](#)
2. [The Official Site for Australian Travel and Tourism Australia](#)
3. [Blue Mountains National Park \(NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service\)](#)
4. [Blue Mountains Web](#)
5. [Natural site datasheet from WCMC](#)
6. [Greater Blue Mountains \(Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts\)](#)
7. [Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute](#)

Comment

REPLACE WITH
http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/protectedareas/GreaterBlueMountainsWorldHeritageArea.htm
http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/world/blue-mountains/index.html http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/917
http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/parkWorldHeritage.aspx?id=N0351

1.8 - Other designations / Conventions under which the property is protected (if applicable)

2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Statement of Significance

The World Heritage Committee inscribed the **Greater Blue Mountains Area** under natural criteria (ii) and (iv). Criteria (ii) and (iv): Australia's eucalypt vegetation is worthy of recognition as of outstanding universal value, because of its adaptability and evolution in post-Gondwana isolation. The site contains a wide and balanced representation of eucalypt habitats from wet and dry sclerophyll, mallee heathlands, as well as localised swamps, wetlands, and grassland. 90 eucalypt taxa (13% of the global total) and representation of all four groups of eucalypts occur. There is also a high level of endemism with 114 endemic taxa found in the area as well as 120 nationally rare and threatened plant taxa. The site hosts several evolutionary relic species (Wollemia, Microstrobos, Acrophyllum) which have persisted in highly restricted microsites.

Comment

A Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 1 February 2011, awaiting World Heritage Committee approval in June 2012.

2.2 - The criteria (2005 revised version) under which the property was inscribed

(ix)(x)

2.3 - Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value per criterion

<http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/world/blue-mountains/values.html>

2.4 - If needed, please provide details of why the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value should be revised

2.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

The 7 adjacent national parks & single karst conservation reserve that comprise the GBMWhA have continued to reflect a high degree of integrity, both at the time of inscription & now. At the time of listing in 2000, the GBMWhA covered 1,032,649 hectares. Up to September 2010, a further 49,211 hectares have been added to constituent reserves from acquired in-holdings and neighbouring properties. Although not part of the WHA, these protected areas contribute to its "wholeness and intactness".

3. Factors Affecting the Property

3.14. Other factor(s)

3.14.1 - Other factor(s)

3.15. Factors Summary Table

3.15.1 - Factors summary table

	Name	Impact				Origin
3.1	Buildings and Development					
3.1.1 Housing						
3.1.4 Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure						
3.1.5 Interpretative and visitation facilities						
3.2	Transportation Infrastructure					
3.2.1 Ground transport infrastructure						
3.2.4 Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure						
3.3	Services Infrastructures					
3.3.1 Water infrastructure						
3.3.4 Localised utilities						
3.4	Pollution					
3.4.2 Ground water pollution						
3.4.3 Surface water pollution						
3.4.6 Input of excess energy						
3.6	Physical resource extraction					
3.6.1 Mining						
3.6.2 Quarrying						
3.6.3 Oil and gas						
3.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric					
3.7.3 Temperature						
3.7.7 Pests						
3.7.8 Micro-organisms						
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage					
3.8.1 Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses						
3.8.2 Society's valuing of heritage						
3.8.3 Indigenous hunting, gathering and collecting						
3.8.5 Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community						
3.8.6 Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation						
3.9	Other human activities					
3.9.1 Illegal activities						
3.9.2 Deliberate destruction of heritage						
3.10	Climate change and severe weather events					
3.10.1 Storms						
3.10.3 Drought						
3.10.6 Temperature change						
3.10.7 Other climate change impacts						
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events					
3.11.5 Erosion and siltation/ deposition						
3.11.6 Fire (wildfires)						
3.12	Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species					
3.12.1 Translocated species						
3.12.2 Invasive/alien terrestrial species						
3.12.3 Invasive / alien freshwater species						
3.12.5 Hyper-abundant species						
3.13	Management and institutional factors					

	Name	Impact	Origin
3.13.1 Low impact research / monitoring activities			
3.13.3 Management activities			
Legend	Current	Potential	Negative
	Positive	Inside	Outside

3.16. Assessment of current negative factors

3.16.1 - Assessment of current negative factors

	Spatial scale	Temporal scale	Impact	Management response	Trend
3.1 Buildings and Development					
3.1.1 Housing	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	static
3.2 Transportation Infrastructure					
3.2.4 Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure	localised	on-going	minor	medium capacity	static
3.3 Services Infrastructures					
3.3.4 Localised utilities	restricted	frequent	minor	medium capacity	static
3.4 Pollution					
3.4.2 Ground water pollution	localised	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	static
3.6 Physical resource extraction					
3.6.1 Mining	restricted	one off or rare	minor	low capacity	static
3.6.2 Quarrying	restricted	one off or rare	minor	low capacity	static
3.7 Local conditions affecting physical fabric					
3.7.7 Pests	extensive	intermittent or sporadic	significant	low capacity	increasing
3.7.8 Micro-organisms	localised	intermittent or sporadic	significant	medium capacity	increasing
3.8 Social/cultural uses of heritage					
3.8.6 Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation	localised	on-going	significant	medium capacity	increasing
3.9 Other human activities					
3.9.1 Illegal activities	localised	intermittent or sporadic	minor	low capacity	static
3.9.2 Deliberate destruction of heritage	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	low capacity	static
3.10 Climate change and severe weather events					
3.10.1 Storms	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	significant	high capacity	static
3.10.3 Drought	localised	intermittent or sporadic	minor	low capacity	decreasing
3.11 Sudden ecological or geological events					
3.11.5 Erosion and siltation/ deposition	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	low capacity	static
3.11.6 Fire (wildfires)	extensive	frequent	significant	medium capacity	static
3.12 Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species					
3.12.1 Translocated species	localised	on-going	minor	medium capacity	increasing
3.12.2 Invasive/alien terrestrial species	localised	on-going	significant	low capacity	static
3.12.3 Invasive / alien freshwater species	restricted	one off or rare	insignificant	low capacity	static
3.12.5 Hyper-abundant species	localised	on-going	minor	medium capacity	increasing

3.17. Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to factors affecting the property

3.17.1 - Comments

4. Protection, Management and Monitoring of the Property

4.1. Boundaries and Buffer Zones

4.1.1 - Buffer zone status

There is no buffer zone, and it is not needed

4.1.2 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property **do not limit** the ability to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value but they could be improved

4.1.3 - Are the buffer zone(s) of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The property had **no buffer zone** at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List

4.1.4 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property known?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are known by both the management authority and local residents / communities / landowners.

4.1.5 - Are the buffer zones of the World Heritage property known?

The property had **no buffer zone** at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List

4.1.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to boundaries and buffer zones of the World Heritage property

Extensions to some of the reserves that comprise the GBMWHA improve connectivity and the integrity of the Property.

4.2. Protective Measures

4.2.1 - Protective designation (legal, regulatory, contractual, planning, institutional and / or traditional)

NEW SOUTH WALES

The seven national parks comprising the nominated area are reserved under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, a statute made by the Parliament of the State of New South Wales. In addition, the Jenolan Caves are dedicated as a karst conservation reserve under the same Act. The Act states that, in considering and investigating proposals for national parks and karst protected areas:

The Director-General shall have regard to the principle [that] the areas to be reserved as national parks are spacious areas containing unique or outstanding scenery or natural phenomena; and the areas to be dedicated as karst protected areas are areas of scientific, recreational, aesthetic or historical value within karst regions.

Under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, national parks and karst protected areas cannot be revoked or lands within them cannot be appropriated or resumed except by an Act of the Parliament of the

State of New South Wales. These statutory protected areas are established primarily to conserve natural and cultural features. Mining and timber extraction are prohibited in the nominated

area. Under the Act, the Director-General of National Parks and Wildlife Service is responsible for the management of parks and reserves, consistent with the purposes of their reservation and dedication, including:

- promoting educational activities
- carrying out works necessary for the management and maintenance of national parks and karst protected areas and
- undertaking scientific research necessary for the preservation, protection, management and use of national parks and karst protected areas.

In managing national parks and implementing the National Parks and Wildlife Act, the National Parks and Wildlife Service adopts the following World Conservation Union (IUCN) (1994) definition of a national park:

A natural area of land and/or sea, designated to

- (a) protect the ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for present and future generations,
- (h) exclude exploitation or occupation inimical to the purposes of designation of the area, and
- (C) provide a foundation for spiritual, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities, all of which must be environmentally and culturally compatible.

Other measures under New South Wales legislation, relevant to protection of the nominated area, include:

1. Plans of Management for individual reserves
2. National Parks and Wildlife (Land Management) Regulation 1995 and Water Board (Corporatisation) Act 1994 and Regulation
3. Wilderness Act 1987
4. Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995
5. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Plans of management

The Director-General is required to prepare a plan of management for each national park and karst conservation reserve, which addresses, amongst other matters:

- the conservation of wildlife (plants and animals) and the preservation of historic and Aboriginal relics
- the appropriate use of a park or reserve protection of a park or reserve against fire or erosion
- prohibition of the carrying out of any works adversely affecting the natural condition or special features of a park or reserve.

Once a plan of management for a park or reserve has been adopted by the Minister responsible for administering the National Parks and Wildlife, Act, operations within that park or reserve may only be undertaken in accordance with that plan.

The status of plans of management for the nominated area's parks and reserves and the provisions of those plans is discussed in 4.3

Management documents.

Land and water catchment management regulations

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The National Parks and Wildlife (Land Management) Regulation 1995 enables employees of the National Parks and Wildlife Service to enforce provisions of the Act and the Regulation so that the natural and cultural features within parks and reserves are adequately protected from overuse and damage. Similar powers in the Sydney Water Corporation Limited (Catchment Management) Regulation enable employees of the Sydney Water Corporation to control pest species and regulate visitor use near stored waters.

Worldwide, Sydney is exceptional as a large city, as it is surrounded by a belt of wilderness-quality national parks and reserves. Part of this outstanding heritage contains the water catchments, which supply the city's drinking water. The Blue Mountains, Kanangra-Boyd, Nattai and Thirlmere National Parks lie largely within the Warragamba Special Area catchment, covering 2,511 sq.km. Warragamba Dam provides 70 per cent of Sydney's water supply. The Water Board (Corporatisation) Act 1994 requires that a plan of management be prepared to protect the quality of stored waters and maintain the ecological integrity and other values of the area. The National Parks and Wildlife Service retains its responsibilities for native flora and fauna, threatened species and Aboriginal and historic sites and relics.

Reservation of the catchment enabled the then Water Board to acquire property in the 1950s, preventing land clearing and controlling bushwalking activities. The completion of the Warragamba Dam in 1960 led to the closure of the catchment to private vehicles. Wilderness management techniques of the inner catchment limit the use of the areas close to the stored waters, to minimise the risk of pollution from human waste and fire. Effective catchment management is achieved through both park and water catchment plans of management. The zoning regime within the Warragamba Special Area parallels that of the zoning of the parks found within it. Joint management within the catchment provides additional funding for the environmental management of issues such as pest control and fire.

The protection of drinking water supplies was also critical in the development of the Blue Mountains waste transfer scheme.

Wilderness Act

The Wilderness Act 1987 enables the Director-General to identify wilderness areas and recommend that they be declared by the New

South Wales Minister for the Environment. Under the Wilderness Act, wilderness areas are defined as:

- being in a substantially unmodified state
- being of sufficient size
- capable of offering opportunities for solitude and self-reliant recreation.

Once an area of land has been identified and recommended for declaration as wilderness, the land is acquired and reserved as national park or added to an existing national park. Hence all declared wilderness areas lie within national parks.

Under the NPWS Wilderness Conservation Policy, 1989, vehicle access and horse riding in declared wilderness areas are prohibited and personal transport must be manually powered, such as with

bicycles, canoes or skis. The objectives for protecting and managing wilderness under that Policy include:

- conservation of the natural features and processes of wilderness areas as a primary consideration, with a minimum of human Interference;

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- conservation of significant cultural resources in wilderness areas in accordance with the Burra Charter (Australia ICOMOS, 1988);

- maintenance of opportunities for solitude and self-reliant recreation and exclusion of activities which conflict with or diminish those opportunities.

The nominated area already includes two declared wilderness areas:

- Nattai Wilderness, an area of 29,822 hectares within Nattai National Park, declared in 1991, and

- Kanangra-Boyd Wilderness, an area of 125,000 hectares within Kanangra-Boyd and Blue Mountains National Parks, declared in 1997.

It also includes some 290,000 hectares within Wollemi and Blue Mountains National Parks, identified as wilderness under the Wilderness Act, and proposed to be declared as the Wollemi

Wilderness in 1998. A further area of about 50,000 hectares within Blue Mountains National Park has been proposed as the Grose Wilderness in 1998. An area of over 60,000 hectares in Yengo National Park has been recognised for its wilderness qualities. A detailed investigation of the area under the Wilderness Act is being undertaken in 1998.

Once the Wollemi Wilderness, the Grose Wilderness and the wilderness area in Yengo National Park are declared, over 500,000 of the nominated one million hectares will be subject to the most secure form of protection possible under State law.

Threatened Species Conservation Act

Under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995, the National Parks and Wildlife Service is required to prepare recovery plans for species listed as threatened in the Schedules to the Act. A recovery plan has been prepared for the Wollemi Pine, an extraordinary tree species of the Araucaria family occurring in just two small populations in a single gorge in Wollenli National Park, only discovered in 1994. The Wollemi Pine Recovery Plan is discussed

in detail in 5.3 Monitoring processes.

Other threatened species in the nomination area for which recovery plans will be prepared include the dwarf mountain pine, restricted to a few locations around Katoomba, and the Blue Mountains water skink, found only in high altitude swamps in the central Blue Mountains.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 is a comprehensive statute enabling the orderly planning of land use and the assessment of the environmental impacts of developments. Under that Act, national parks are zoned 'National Parks, Nature Reserves, etc.' by local government authorities. All development within them is prohibited except where approved by the Director-General of National Parks and Wildlife Service or permitted under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.

The Act controls development on private and public lands adjoining the Greater Blue Mountains area to minimise the impact of adjoining uses on its identified outstanding values. Extensive areas of adjoining bushland, in the Blue Mountains City area, are zoned. Environmental Protection by the City Council, to prohibit subdivision of land, clearing of vegetation, construction of houses and industrial development.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975

The Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975 established a Commission, which has responsibility for the Register of the National Estate - a national inventory of significant natural and cultural places within the Australian environment. Listing on the

Register acknowledges the significance of a place and requires Commonwealth Ministers and agencies not to take any action that would adversely affect it, unless there is no prudent and feasible alternative. Its statutory effect extends only to Commonwealth actions and property.

Within the Greater Blue Mountains nominated area, the Jenolan Caves, Blue Mountains and Kanangra-Boyd National Parks, Newnes historic oil shale mine (in Wollemi National Park), the 'pagoda country' in Gardens of Stone National Park, and Thirlmere Lakes National Park are all listed on the Register of the National Estate.

World Heritage Properties Conservation Act 1983

The World Heritage Properties Conservation Act currently authorises the Commonwealth to take action to prevent damage to, or destruction of, a World Heritage property by prohibiting any action considered to threaten its World Heritage values.

Review of environmental roles and responsibilities 1997

A review of Commonwealth/State Roles and Responsibilities for the Environment was conducted for the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in 1997. It recognised significant recent advances in knowledge of the environment and impacts upon it and the need for Commonwealth legislation to keep pace with these changes.

The COAG agreed that the Commonwealth government should focus on matters of national environmental significance, rather than State or local significance and defined matters of national environmental significance, including World Heritage properties.

Under the legislative reform new Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental Protection Acts are to be drafted, with heritage legislation to be reformed at a later date. The Biodiversity Conservation Act will replace some existing legislation and will provide for implementation of the World Heritage Convention through cooperative arrangements between the Commonwealth and the States and Territories. It will place greater focus on early strategic planning efforts with the States in key areas such as World Heritage. While the Commonwealth will optimise its reliance on accredited State processes, any actions adversely affecting a World Heritage property and not in accord with a bilateral agreement, will be regulated under the new Biodiversity Act and will trigger the Environment Protection Act.

Under the legislative reform new Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental Protection Acts are to be drafted, with heritage legislation to be reformed at a later date. The Biodiversity Conservation Act will replace some existing legislation and will provide for implementation of the World Heritage Convention through cooperative arrangements between the Commonwealth and the States and Territories. It will place greater focus on early strategic planning efforts with the States in key areas such as World Heritage. While the Commonwealth will optimise its reliance on accredited State processes, any actions adversely affecting a World Heritage property and not in accord with a bilateral agreement, will be regulated under the new Biodiversity Act and will trigger the Environment Protection Act.

Comment

All World Heritage properties in Australia are 'matters of national environmental significance' protected and managed under national legislation, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. By law, any action that has, will have or is likely to have a significant impact on the World Heritage values of a World Heritage property must be referred to the responsible Minister for consideration. This includes impacts originating from outside the property boundary.

4.2.2 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides **an adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection

4.2.3 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value

including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The property had **no buffer zone at the time of inscription** on the World Heritage List

4.2.4 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

An **adequate** legal framework exists for the area surrounding the World Heritage property and the buffer zone, but **there are some deficiencies in its implementation** which undermine the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the property

4.2.5 - Can the legislative framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) be enforced?

There is **acceptable** capacity / resources to enforce legislation and / or regulation in the World Heritage property but some deficiencies remain

4.2.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to protective measures

Although there is legislation to protect the GBMWA, the property experiences impacts in some areas from adjacent landuse including weeds.

4.3. Management System / Management Plan

4.3.1 - Management System

Management Plans are in place for each of the 7 National Parks composing the World Heritage property

Comment

As the State Party to the World Heritage Convention, the Australian Government works in cooperation with the NSW Government in accordance with the Australian World Heritage Intergovernmental Agreement via a Management Committee comprised of representatives from the agencies of the Australian and NSW Government. A community/scientific/technical Advisory Committee provides advice to the Management Committee and Ministers on the management of the GBMWA.

4.3.2 - Management Documents

Comment

The GBMWA Strategic Plan has been prepared jointly by the NSW and Australian Governments to guide management of the GBMWA. The objectives of the Strategic Plan are progressed through implementation of plans of managements for the 7 national parks and the karst conservation reserve. Other management documents include reserve specific fire management strategies; pest and weed management plans and annual operational plans.

4.3.3 - How well do the various levels of administration (i.e. national / federal; regional /

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provincial / state; local / municipal etc.) coordinate in the management of the World Heritage Property ?

There is **excellent coordination** between all bodies / levels involved in the management of the property

4.3.4 - Is the management system / plan adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value ?

The management system / plan is **fully adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.3.5 - Is the management system being implemented?

The management system is being **fully** implemented and monitored

4.3.6 - Is there an annual work / action plan and is it being implemented?

An annual work / action plan exists and **many activities** are being implemented

4.3.7 - Please rate the cooperation / relationship with World Heritage property managers / coordinators / staff of the following

Local communities / residents	Good
Local / Municipal authorities	Good
Indigenous peoples	Good
Landowners	Good
Visitors	Good
Researchers	Good
Tourism industry	Good
Industry	Good

4.3.8 - If present, do local communities resident in or near the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

Local communities have **some input** into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management

4.3.9 - If present, do indigenous peoples resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

Indigenous peoples directly contribute to **some decisions** relating to management but their involvement could be improved

4.3.10 - Is there cooperation with industry (i.e. forestry, mining, agriculture, etc.) regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone?

There is contact but only **some cooperation** with industry regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone

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4.3.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

4.3.12 - Please report any significant changes in the legal status and / or contractual / traditional protective measures and management arrangements for the World Heritage property since inscription or the last Periodic report

4.4. Financial and Human Resources

4.4.1 - Costs related to conservation, based on the average of last five years (relative percentage of the funding sources)

Multilateral funding (GEF, World Bank, etc)	0%
International donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	0%
Governmental (National / Federal)	2%
Governmental (Regional / Provincial / State)	97%
Governmental (Local / Municipal)	0.2%
In country donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	0.1%
Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, parking, camping fees, etc.)	0.5%
Commercial operator payments (e.g. filming permit, concessions, etc.)	0.2%
Other grants	0%

4.4.2 - International Assistance received from the World Heritage Fund (USD)

Comment

Nil

4.4.3 - Is the current budget sufficient to manage the World Heritage property effectively?

The available budget is **acceptable** but could be further improved to fully meet the management needs

4.4.4 - Are the existing sources of funding secure and likely to remain so?

The existing sources of funding **are secure** in the medium-term and planning is underway to secure funding in the long-term

4.4.5 - Does the World Heritage property provide economic benefits to local communities (e.g. income, employment)?

There is **some flow** of economic benefits to local communities

4.4.6 - Are available resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure sufficient to meet management needs?

There are **adequate** equipment and facilities

4.4.7 - Are resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure adequately maintained?

There is **basic** maintenance of equipment and facilities

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4.4.8 - Comments, conclusion, and / or recommendations related to finance and infrastructure

Most infrastructure is maintained in accordance with an Asset Management System and the majority of assets are in good condition with little sign of deterioration and requiring only minor maintenance or repair. Some moderate to major repairs required are required in some of the parks. The 2010 State of the Parks program was used to answer some of these questions. This is a three yearly assessment that examines management effectiveness for individual parks.

4.4.9 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Full-time	80%
Part-time	20%

4.4.10 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Permanent	90%
Seasonal	10%

4.4.11 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Paid	95%
Volunteer	5%

4.4.12 - Are available human resources adequate to manage the World Heritage property?

A range of human resources exist, but these are **below optimum** to manage the World Heritage Property.

4.4.13 - Considering the management needs of the World Heritage property, please rate the availability of professionals in the following disciplines

Research and monitoring	Good
Promotion	Good
Community outreach	Good
Interpretation	Good
Education	Good
Visitor management	Good
Conservation	Good
Administration	Good
Risk preparedness	Good
Tourism	Good
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Fair

4.4.14 - Please rate the availability of training opportunities for the management of the World Heritage property in the following disciplines

Research and monitoring	High
Promotion	High
Community outreach	High
Interpretation	High
Education	High
Visitor management	High
Conservation	High
Administration	High
Risk preparedness	High
Tourism	High

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Enforcement (custodians, police)	High
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4.4.15 - Do the management and conservation programmes at the World Heritage property help develop local expertise?

A capacity development plan or programme is **in place and fully implemented**; all technical skills are being transferred to those managing the property locally, who are assuming leadership in management

4.4.16 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

4.5. Scientific Studies and Research Projects

4.5.1 - Is there adequate knowledge (scientific or traditional) about the values of the World Heritage property to support planning, management and decision-making to ensure that Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Knowledge about the values of the World Heritage property is **sufficient** for most key areas **but there are gaps**

4.5.2 - Is there a planned programme of research at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is a **comprehensive, integrated programme of research**, which is relevant to management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

4.5.3 - Are results from research programmes disseminated?

Research results are **shared with local participants and some national agencies**

4.5.4 - Please provide details (i.e. authors, title, and web link) of papers published about the World Heritage property since the last Periodic Report

The Impacts of Climate Change on Australian Tourism Destinations <http://www.bmwhi.org.au/docs/The%20Impacts%20Implications%20of%20Climate%20Change%20for%20Aust's%20WH%20properties>
 Implications of Climate Change for Aust's WH properties <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/publications/climatechange/pubs/worldheritage-climatechange.pdf>
 Economic Activity of Aust's WH Areas <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/publications/report/pubs/economic-activity-summary.pdf>

4.5.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to scientific studies and research projects

The Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute (BMWHI) was formed in 2004 primarily to: identify, initiate and coordinate cross-disciplinary research to inform policy and management; and to build collaboration between the range of stakeholders concerned with the GBMWA. Three universities and five government agencies became founding partners and research, arts and education programs commenced.

4.6. Education, Information and Awareness Building

4.6.1 - At how many locations is the World Heritage emblem displayed at the property?

In many locations, but not easily visible to visitors

4.6.2 - Please rate the awareness and understanding of the existence and justification for inscription of the World Heritage property amongst the following groups

Local communities / residents	Average
Local / Municipal authorities within or adjacent to the property	Average
Local Indigenous peoples	Average
Local landowners	Average
Visitors	Average
Tourism industry	Average
Local businesses and industries	Average

4.6.3 - Is there a planned education and awareness programme linked to the values and management of the World Heritage property?

There is a planned education and awareness programme but it only partly meets the needs and could be improved

4.6.4 - What role, if any, has designation as a World Heritage property played with respect to education, information and awareness building activities?

World Heritage status has influenced education, information and awareness building activities, but it could be improved

4.6.5 - How well is the information on Outstanding Universal Value of the property presented and interpreted?

The Outstanding Universal Value of the property is adequately presented and interpreted but improvements could be made

4.6.6 - Please rate the adequacy for education, information and awareness building of the following visitor facilities and services at the World Heritage property

Visitor centre	Adequate
Site museum	Not needed
Information booths	Adequate
Guided tours	Adequate
Trails / routes	Adequate
Information materials	Adequate
Transportation facilities	Poor
Other	Not needed

4.6.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to education, information and awareness building

The GBMWA Visitor Interpretation and Orientation Plan is not fully implemented due to lack of resources. Limited use of World Heritage emblem due to lack of understanding from NSW and Australian government agencies responsible for road and visitor signage.

4.7. Visitor Management

4.7.1 - Please provide the trend in annual visitation for the last five years

Last year	Minor Increase
Two years ago	Minor Increase
Three years ago	Minor Increase
Four years ago	Minor Increase
Five years ago	Minor Increase

4.7.2 - What information sources are used to collect trend data on visitor statistics?

Entry tickets and registries
Accommodation establishments
Transportation services
Tourism industry
Visitor surveys
Other

4.7.3 - Visitor management documents

Comment

The GBMWA Interpretation and Visitor Orientation Plan, parts of the GBMWA Strategic Plan and sections within individual park management plans for reserves

4.7.4 - Is there an appropriate visitor use management plan (e.g. specific plan) for the World Heritage property which ensures that its Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Visitor use of the World Heritage property is managed but improvements could be made

4.7.5 - Does the tourism industry contribute to improving visitor experiences and maintaining the values of the World Heritage property?

There is excellent co-operation between those responsible for the World Heritage property and the tourism industry to present the Outstanding Universal Value and increase appreciation

4.7.6 - If fees (i.e. entry charges, permits) are collected, do they contribute to the management of the World Heritage property?

The fee is collected, and makes some contribution to the management of the World Heritage property

4.7.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to visitor use of the World Heritage property

NSW is working to improve planning and management of visitation to the parks of the GBMWA. Aims of these plans include to enhance visitor experiences, improve collection of visitor data and improve the management of visitor impacts.

4.8. Monitoring

4.8.1 - Is there a monitoring programme at the property which is directed towards management

needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is considerable monitoring but it is **not directed towards management needs** and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

4.8.2 - Are key indicators for measuring the state of conservation used to monitor how the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is maintained?

Information on the values of the World Heritage property is sufficient and key indicators have been defined but **monitoring the status of indicators could be improved**

4.8.3 - Please rate the level of involvement in monitoring of the following groups

World Heritage managers / coordinators and staff	Average
Local / Municipal authorities	Average
Local communities	Average
Researchers	Average
NGOs	Average
Industry	Average
Local indigenous peoples	Average

4.8.4 - Has the State Party implemented relevant recommendations arising from the World Heritage Committee?

Implementation is **underway**

4.8.5 - Please provide comments relevant to the implementation of recommendations from the World Heritage Committee

The World Heritage Committee identified the need for coordinated monitoring and research across the property including the development of systems for storage and distribution of research data. This has been addressed and implemented in sections of the Property, coordination is improving and systems for improved storage and distribution of data are being investigated.

4.8.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to monitoring

New South Wales State of the Parks data indicates that, on average, less than 10% of parks report using monitoring as a source of information for the assessment of management effectiveness. Some NSW parks use monitoring data for pest animal assessments.

4.9. Identification of Priority Management Needs

4.9.1 - Please select the top 6 managements needs for the property (if more than 6 are listed below)

Please refer to question 5.2

5. Summary and Conclusions

5.1. Summary - Factors affecting the Property

5.1.1 - Summary - Factors affecting the Property

		World Heritage criteria and attributes affected	Actions	Monitoring	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment
3.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric						
3.7.7	Pests						
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage						
3.8.6	Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation	Criteria (ix) and (x) significant on-going ecological and biological processes of ecosystems and communities of plants & animals & the most important natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including threatened species	Popular tourist destination close to Australia's major population centre and is one of the major nature-based tourism destinations in the country. Site protection, site closure, community education	Site monitoring, visitor counts, surveys for visitor experience	Ongoing: 2010-2017	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water	none
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events						
3.11.6	Fire (wildfires)	Criteria (ix) and (x) significant on-going ecological and biological processes of ecosystems and communities of plants & animals & the most important natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including threatened species	Ensure biodiversity conservation objectives are prioritised adequately in Fire Management Strategies Implement improved and effective prescribed burning to institute appropriate fire for biodiversity conservation outcomes	Continue research on the impacts of fire on key indicators including vegetation communities and threatened species	Ongoing: 2010-2017	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water	none
3.12	Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species						
3.12.1	Translocated species	Criteria (ix) and (x) significant on-going ecological and biological processes of ecosystems and communities of plants & animals & the most important natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including threatened species	Undertake sampling and finalise management plan for Phytophthora cinnamomi across the GBMWHI Implement the plan including the installation of quarantine areas and hygiene measures as appropriate	Ongoing	Ongoing: 2010-2017	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water and Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities	none
3.12.2	Invasive/alien terrestrial species	Criteria (ix) and (x) significant on-going ecological and biological processes of ecosystems and communities of plants & animals & the most important natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including threatened species	Implement strategic priority weed and feral animal control management programmes	Undertake weed mapping, monitoring of weed control activities Monitor feral animal numbers and the effectiveness of control programmes	Ongoing 2010-2017	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water and Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities	none
3.12.5	Hyper-abundant species	Criteria (ix) and (x) significant on-going ecological and biological processes of ecosystems and communities of plants & animals & the most important natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including threatened species	Undertake mapping to define areas for the strategic control of Bell-Miner Associated Dieback (BMAD) Implement control measures including application of fire and undertaking weed control in key locations	Monitor the effects of BMAD control treatments on ecosystems including weeds, Bell miner abundance and vegetation communities	Ongoing 2010-2017	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water and Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities	

5.2. Summary - Management Needs

5.2.2 - Summary - Management Needs

4.1 Boundaries and Buffer Zones				
		Actions	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)
4.1.2	Boundaries could be improved	The property had no buffer zone at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List and one is not needed	n/a	n/a

5.3. Conclusions on the State of Conservation of the Property

5.3.1 - Current state of Authenticity

Not applicable (for sites inscribed exclusively under criteria vii to x)

5.3.2 - Current state of Integrity

The integrity of the World Heritage property is **intact**

5.3.3 - Current state of the World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value

The World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value has been **maintained**.

5.3.4 - Current state of the property's other values

Other important cultural and / or natural values and the state of conservation of the World Heritage property are **predominantly intact**

5.4. Additional comments on the State of Conservation of the Property

5.4.1 - Comments

The State of Conservation of the Property has been maintained through the provision of significant resources by both national and state governments to mitigate threats to the property including weeds, inappropriate fire regimes and inappropriate visitor use. Further work to address the threats posed by pathogens, overabundant species and climate change is in progress.

6. World Heritage Status and Conclusions on Periodic Reporting Exercise

6.1 - Please rate the impacts of World Heritage status of the property in relation to the following areas

Conservation	Positive
Research and monitoring	Positive
Management effectiveness	Positive
Quality of life for local communities and indigenous peoples	Positive
Recognition	Positive
Education	Positive
Infrastructure development	Positive
Funding for the property	Positive
International cooperation	Positive
Political support for conservation	Positive
Legal / Policy framework	Positive
Lobbying	Positive
Institutional coordination	Positive
Security	Positive
Other (please specify)	Positive

6.2 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to World Heritage status

6.3 - Entities involved in the preparation of this Section of the Periodic Report

Governmental institution responsible for the property
Site Manager/Coordinator/World Heritage property staff
Staff from other World Heritage properties
Advisory bodies

6.4 - Was the Periodic Reporting questionnaire easy to use and clearly understandable?

yes

6.5 - Please provide suggestions for improvement of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire

6.6 - Please rate the level of support for completing the Periodic Report questionnaire from the following entities

UNESCO	Good
State Party Representative	Good
Advisory Body	Good

6.7 - How accessible was the information required to complete the Periodic Report?

Most of the required information was accessible

6.8 - The Periodic Reporting process has improved the understanding of the following

The World Heritage Convention
The concept of Outstanding Universal Value
The property's Outstanding Universal Value
The concept of Integrity and / or Authenticity
The property's Integrity and / or Authenticity
Managing the property to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value
Monitoring and reporting
Management effectiveness

6.9 - Please rate the follow-up to conclusions and recommendations from previous Periodic Reporting exercise by the following entities

UNESCO	Not Applicable
State Party	Not Applicable
Site Managers	Not Applicable
Advisory Bodies	Not Applicable

6.10 - Summary of actions that will require formal consideration by the World Heritage Committee

• Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Reason for update: A Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 1 February 2011, awaiting World Heritage Committee approval in June 2012.

• Geographic Information Table

Reason for update: The property does not have a formal World Heritage buffer zone (although 86,200 of protected areas surround the property). Total area is 1,032,649 ha.

**6.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or
recommendations related to the Assessment of the
Periodic Reporting exercise**