

Amendments to Montague Island Nature Reserve Plan of Management

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Part of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water

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These amendments to the Montague Island Nature Reserve Plan of Management (1996, amended 2003) were adopted on 17 December 2009.

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AMENDMENTS TO MONTAGUE ISLAND NATURE RESERVE PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

BACKGROUND TO THE AMENDMENTS

In July 2003 the Minister for the Environment adopted a number of amendments to the Montague Island Nature Reserve Plan of Management (1996). Several of these changes related to public visitation on the island, including the potential for overnight visitor accommodation in the existing lightkeepers' residences. At the time, it was envisaged that such accommodation be used for visitors assisting researchers working on the island.

Recently, opportunities have arisen for visitors to directly participate in a range of environmental management and education initiatives that benefit the long-term conservation of the island's natural and cultural values. These include elements of the long-term seabird habitat restoration program which commenced in 2003, such as weeding, plant propagation, revegetation, nest locating, and the construction of temporary penguin nest boxes. Visitors are also able to assist with penguin and shearwater census programs and building maintenance work at the lightstation. Educational activities include guided and self-guided tours that explore aspects of the natural history and Aboriginal and European heritage of the island.

As a result, the plan of management, as amended in 2003, required further revision so that visitors participating in environmental management and educational activities, not just those assisting researchers, could be accommodated on the island.

ADOPTED AMENDMENTS

- 1 Page 17, Section 4.2.2, fifth policy of the plan of management (as amended in 2003) reads:

The buildings may be adapted for management purposes and the residences may be used for management and research-based tourism accommodation.

Amend this policy as follows:

*The buildings may be adapted for management purposes and the residences may be used for management and **accommodation of visitors participating in approved research, conservation management and environmental education programs. Priority will be given to accommodation for management and research purposes over other accommodation purposes.***

- 2 Page 20, first paragraph of the plan of management (as amended in 2003) reads:

Limited overnight accommodation for tourists may be provided. This tourism opportunity will be linked with assisting research programs and is linked to the policies and actions regarding limits on numbers of visitors to the Island.

Amend this paragraph as follows:

*Limited overnight accommodation for tourists may be provided. This tourism opportunity will be linked with **approved research, conservation management and environmental education** programs and is linked to the policies and actions regarding limits on numbers of visitors to the Island.*