



BOTANIC GARDENS OF ADELAIDE



MASTER PLAN REPORT

ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDENS AND BOTANIC PARK

MOUNT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDEN

JULY 2006

Botanic Gardens
of ADELAIDE



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Taylor Cullity Lethlean

Landscape Architecture

Urban Design

Community Consultation

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Executive Overview

The Botanic Gardens of Adelaide manages botanic gardens at Adelaide, Mount Lofty and Blackwood. The Adelaide Botanic Gardens dates from 1855 and their development has been guided by two previous plans; those of Francis (1864) and Schomburgk (1874 and 1886). Subsequent additions, deletions and modifications have resulted in a garden of exceptional overall cultural significance, and variable quality from precinct to precinct.

Significant opportunities have arisen in recent times which have both highlighted the need for a site master plan and laid the foundation for its preparation. Principal among these have been the availability of additional land adjacent Hackney Road, the opening up of an opportunity for a new western entrance, redevelopment to the rear of the Museum of Economic Botany, the proposed redevelopment of the Schomburgk Range, and the preparation of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2004-2007.

The Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens were opened to the public in 1977 on land acquired from 1952. The garden displays high rainfall temperate zone flora set within a framework of indigenous forest.

The original master plan for the garden was prepared in 1965 by landscape architect Allan Correy. While this has guided the gardens development for the last twenty-seven years, there have been significant diversions due to financial and other constraints. It is timely, therefore, to revisit the master plan in order to reflect the existing garden layout and collections, and to review its direction in relation to the BGA Strategic Plan.

In May 2003 a consortium lead by Taylor Cullity Lethlean were commissioned to prepare a Master Plan for Adelaide and Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens. This document is supported by a series of complimentary studies prepared prior and concurrently with the Master Plan. These covered

areas such as heritage conservation analysis and planning, waterway management, vehicle and pedestrian movement, disability access and tree health.

The Master Plan provides clear direction for future enhancement of the Gardens, both in the form of defined strategic directions and actions, and through the preparation of a site master plan for each Garden. Those factors which influence the Gardens have been analysed and key issues identified. These have been grouped into four categories: Gardens, Living Collection and Interpretation, Visitor Facilities and Services, and Linkages and Partnerships.

These categories and their associated sub-categories form the framework for the preparation of Objectives, Strategic Responses and Actions that provide a basis for future development of the Gardens.

The Site Master Plan for each Garden includes a series of site planning principles, precinct descriptions and an overall site plan. These plans illustrate the physical outcome of the implementation of the Actions.

The Master Plan for Adelaide Botanic Garden and Mount Lofty Botanic Garden provides direction for the long-term planning of the Garden's future and a framework for day-to-day operational decision-making. The plan consolidates the many significant assets held on behalf of the community within the Gardens, and demonstrates how the Gardens can be enhanced to meet the challenges of contemporary environmental conditions and community needs and expectations.

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