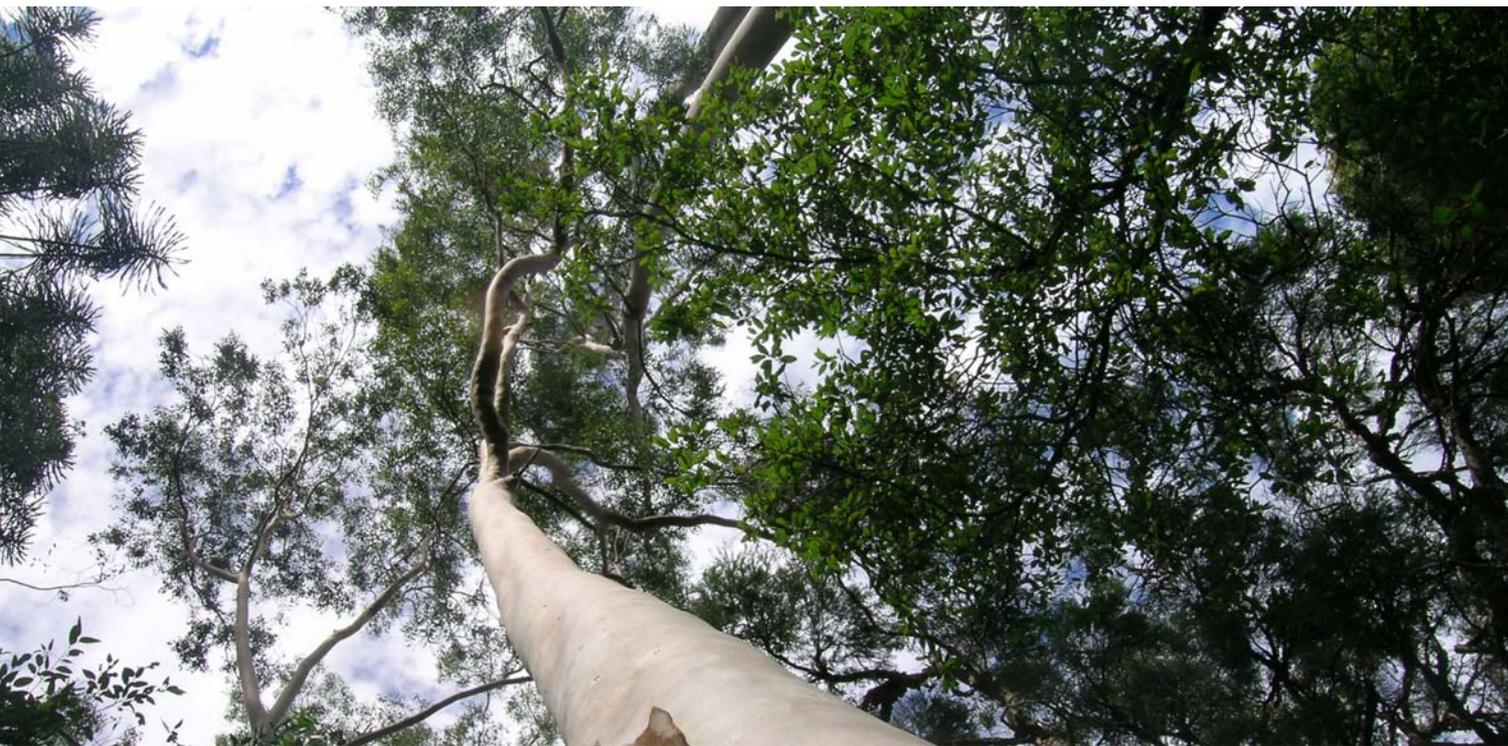


KEY ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES 6.0



KEY ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES

**STRATEGIC RESPONSES
AND ACTIONS**

**MASTER PLANS
AND
PRECINCT DESCRIPTIONS
AND PROJECTS**

Key Issues and Objectives

Analysis of the Adelaide Botanic Garden, Botanic Park and Mount Lofty Botanic Garden, along with consideration of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide Strategic Plan and associated policies, has identified four Issues categories considered to have a major impact on the formulation of the Master Plans. Where appropriate, subcategories have been established to address specific elements and aspects of the Gardens.

The following chapter discusses the master planning issues generated by each of the categories and sub-categories. Each sub-category then generates an objective that is stated at the conclusion of the discussion on the relevant issues.

6.1 GARDENS	6.2 COLLECTIONS AND INTERPRETATION	6.3 VISITOR FACILITIES AND SERVICES	6.4 LINKAGES AND PARTNERSHIPS
6.1.1 BUILT HERITAGE	6.2.1 LIVING COLLECTIONS	6.3.1 VISITOR FACILITIES	
6.1.2 GARDEN HERITAGE	6.2.2 FOCUS COLLECTIONS	6.3.2 PHYSICAL ACCESS	
6.1.3 SPATIAL EXPERIENCE	6.2.3 FLORA CONSERVATION	6.3.3 WAY FINDING	
6.1.4 KEY VIEWS	6.2.4 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY	6.3.4 DISABILITY ACCESS	
6.1.5 WATERWAYS	6.2.5 EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION	6.3.5 PUBLIC SAFETY	
6.1.6 STAFF FACILITIES	6.2.6 ARTS	6.3.6 RECREATION	
6.1.7 INFRASTRUCTURE		6.3.7 PRIVATE FUNCTIONS	
		6.3.8 MAJOR EVENTS	

6.1 Gardens

6.1.1 BUILT HERITAGE

The ABG, as one of the oldest botanic gardens in Australia, has a rich and highly valuable building stock within its grounds. In contrast, the MLBG has no valuable, publicly accessible buildings.

All BGA built assets are audited through the whole-of-government Strategic Asset Management process. Conservation studies for all the Garden's most significant heritage buildings have been undertaken in the last twenty years.

ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDEN AND BOTANIC PARK

- Icon buildings within the ABG are of high architectural merit, most notable being two highly acclaimed glasshouses. Both the 128 year old Palm House and the more recent Bicentennial Conservatory are outstanding examples of glasshouse architecture, recognised on a national level, and are ranked as having exceptional cultural significance in the Adelaide Botanic Garden Conservation Study. Both are highly popular attractions within the Garden, function well, and contribute greatly to the Garden's physical form and visitor experience. The Victoria House and the Schomburgk Range together form a third glasshouse experience, but in this case offer little to the Garden in architectural or experiential terms.

A current 'Gardens 150'-funded proposal to redevelop the site would see the Schomburgk Range removed and a new glasshouse pavilion dedicated to the Amazon Waterlily replacing the existing Victoria House structure. The Adelaide Botanic Garden Conservation Study recognises

remnant built fabric, particularly the pond structure, from the original Victoria House building (demolished in the 1950's) as being of exceptional cultural significance. The proposed new Amazon Waterlily Pavilion will retain the original pond structure in the new design.

- The Museum of Economic Botany is a 125 year old purpose-built exhibition building of high architectural integrity, but is perhaps under-utilised. The building is ranked as having exceptional cultural significance in the Adelaide Botanic Garden Conservation Study. Another concurrent 'Gardens 150'-funded project involves revitalising the building with the addition of the multi-use Schomburgk Pavilion connected to the existing building through new openings to the rear.
- The North Lodge and East Lodge are gateway buildings constructed in the 1860's. The North Lodge was utilised as a shop and workroom by the Friends until the Schomburgk Pavilion was completed. The East Lodge has no public function, though its yard now houses a research glasshouse. Both buildings, but particularly East Lodge, are aging structures and require renovation to more fully contribute to the Garden. Both building are ranked as having high cultural significance.
- An Options Feasibility Report for North Lodge and Environs was prepared in April 2006 which explored the development of a new resource facility at the new North Lodge for use by staff, Friends and volunteers.
- The former Lunatic Asylum Morgue has both high heritage, interpretative and landscape value within the Garden, and is currently utilised as a mini works facility for horticultural staff.
- The redevelopment of two former Municipal Tramways Trust buildings on Hackney Road, into the Garden administration centre in the Goodman Building and the Plant Biodiversity Centre in the 'Trambarn A' building, has created an administrative precinct on the Garden's eastern boundary.

Both buildings are approaching one hundred years of age and are ranked as having high cultural significance in the Adelaide Botanic Garden Conservation Study.

The sympathetic refurbishment of the buildings six years ago has provided the Garden with alternative long term modern administration and research facilities.

A small previously underutilised area at the rear of the Trambarn building has undergone further refurbishment as a meeting room and education facility for use by the Gardens and associated special interest groups and is known as the Noel Lothian Hall.

- The Simpson Kiosk was built in 1906 as a “superior refreshment room in the middle of the Garden”, and continues to function as a high quality restaurant, with an annexed kiosk facility on its western side. Modern architectural alterations to increase the available floor area have diminished the aesthetic appeal of the original building. Despite this, the original built fabric and design are ranked as having high cultural significance.

- The original buildings constructed on the site of the Francis Pavilion were ornate pavilions designed to house the Garden’s museum of botanical specimens. With the construction of the Museum of Economic Botany and the Simpson Kiosk, its functions were greatly diminished, and subsequent renovations and alterations have resulted in very little of the original built fabric surviving today. The Conservation Study describes this dilution of the original design of the only surviving building of the Francis directorship as a loss which has jeopardised the Garden’s cultural significance.

- The A.M. Simpson Shadehouse was erected in 1918-19 and is ranked as having contributory cultural significance in the Adelaide Botanic Garden Conservation Study, as a representative example of an interwar bush-house structure. By its design it requires continuous replacement of much of its fabric, while retaining its overall built form.

- Conservation Management Plans exist for the Goodman Building and Trambarn Building (formerly ‘Hackney Bus Depot’) undertaken in 1991 prior to their redevelopment, the Museum of Economic Botany (2003), the Palm House (2003), the Simpson Kiosk (2003), East Lodge (2003), North Lodge (2003) and the Morgue (2003).

MOUNT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDEN

The MLBG has no substantial public buildings within its grounds. Feasibility studies are currently underway to investigate the development of a visitor facility located near the Main Lake and lower car park to assist visitor orientation, amenity and interpretation of the Garden.

BUILT HERITAGE OBJECTIVE

Maximise the use of key built elements, and where appropriate, encourage multi-use.

6.1.2 GARDEN HERITAGE

The heritage of the ABG and MLBG has been the subject of comprehensive conservation studies of both Gardens, undertaken as complementary studies to this Master Plan. The Adelaide Botanic Garden Conservation Study and the Mount Lofty Botanic Garden Conservation Study have been prepared by Dr David Jones, Richard Aitken and Colleen Morris as consultants in association. Both studies make a significant contribution to the framing of the Gardens Master Plans through the Statements of Cultural Significance attributed to the various components and collections within the Gardens, and the recommendations regarding constraints and

opportunities inherent in the statements. Individual heritage buildings at ABG have been subject to various conservation plans in recent years, conducted generally through the heritage branch of the Department of Administrative and Information Services, and are referenced in the Key Built Elements section of this Master Plan. The cultural significance of the major living collections of both Gardens, and the important formal garden spaces at ABG, are discussed in the Collections section and Spatial Experience section respectively.

ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDEN AND BOTANIC PARK

- The findings of the Conservation Study for the ABG are a major determinant for future change to many areas of the Garden, most notably the heritage rich sites first established as botanic gardens under the Francis and Schomburgk plans. Those areas more recently acquired by the Garden such as the former Lunatic Asylum site and the former Hackney Bus Depot, could be considered as being more flexible to opportunities for Garden renewal, while respecting the heritage features of these sites.
- The Adelaide Botanic Garden Conservation Study ranks the Garden as having exceptional cultural significance. By definition then, the Garden contributes in a fundamental way to the overall understanding of Australian botanic gardens and therefore is a significant cultural place on a national level. The main determinants for this ranking are the Garden's significant commitment to the planting of Australian flora, the Francis plan and its mid-nineteenth century European influences, the Schomburgk master plan for the layout of Botanic Park and the creation of discrete compartments and formal key buildings within the Garden, the retention of the Gardenesque qualities originating from these earlier eras, the tradition of gardening under glass, and the tradition of ornamentation and a decorous style.
- The ABG contains a number of important items of statuary and fountains. The Conservation Study finds the following items as having exceptional cultural significance: the Boy and Serpent Fountain (1908) at the centre of the Economic Garden, the Molossian Hounds (1862) and the Hebe statue (1867) on Main Walk, the Palm House Grotto, built as part of the original Palm House in 1877, and the Sphinx statues, currently in storage.
- The original layouts of the Francis and Schomburgk plans, significant in themselves, have been the creative forces of many of the important heritage components in the Garden today. The main axial walkways, Main Walk from the south and Fig Tree Avenue from the north, date from this era and are both ranked as exceptionally significant elements in the landscape. The Arucaria Avenue on the main ridge line between First Creek and Botanic Creek is also ranked at exceptional level.
- The artificial lakes and ponds (Main Lake, Top Lake and the Nelumbo Pond) have existed since the original layout of the Garden, and are therefore ranked as having high cultural significance along with the traditional locations of pedestrian bridges over the Garden's creeks.
- The remnant components of the Garden surviving from Francis' original layout around Main Walk, such as the lawns, the North Terrace Gates and Wall and the former Trellis Walk, are considered highly significant elements of the current Garden landscape.
- The Adelaide Botanic Garden Conservation Study ranks Botanic Park as having high cultural significance. By definition then, the Park is a significant cultural place on a state-wide level. The 'high' ranking responds to the Park being an important example of a nineteenth century public domain, however it is noted that very little of the built fabric from Schomburgk's original park layout survives

today, the main exception being the original carriageways, now forming the alignments of Plane Tree Drive and Botanic Drive.

MOUNT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDEN

- The statement of cultural significance in the MLBG Conservation Study seeks to broaden the degree of significance attributed to the MLBG in its citation on the Register of the National Estate. It suggests that its “great aesthetic and scientific importance” comes from more than the permanent preservation of natural stands of forest and the unique collections of exotic and ornamental trees, but also its importance comes from its landscape setting envisaged by director Noel Lothian and conceptualised in a landscape design plan prepared by Allan Correy.
- The Mount Lofty Botanic Garden Conservation Study ranks the Garden as having high cultural significance. By definition then, the Garden is a significant cultural place on a state-wide level.
- The Conservation Study’s ranking of high cultural significance relates, on the whole, to the Garden’s purposes and overall form. It finds little of the Garden’s fabric as having significant heritage value, the fabric having evolved in a pragmatic manner, loosely following the intent of the original Correy Master Plan.

GARDEN HERITAGE OBJECTIVE

Effectively manage and maintain heritage elements, spaces and collections to enhance their scientific and cultural value, and their contribution to the aesthetic experience of the Garden.

6.1.3 SPATIAL EXPERIENCE

Each of the two Gardens are distinctly characterised by their existing landforms, with consequent effects upon how the Gardens are perceived, used and understood spatially.

ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDEN AND BOTANIC PARK

- The structure of the ABG is a synthesis of natural topographic landform and the influences of 150 years of garden design, resulting in a variety of spatial experiences.
- The northern and southern sections of the Garden exhibit different spatial characteristics primarily due to the presence of formal ‘garden rooms’ to the north.
- The main ridge between the two creek valleys divides the southern half of the Garden. The areas south -west of the divide are characterised by the well established lawns and garden beds around Botanic Creek. On the north-east, the Garden consists of relatively undeveloped and open areas adjacent First Creek.
- The northern half of the Garden is characterised by a series of distinct ‘garden rooms’ with clearly defined spatial form and edges. These vary between the highly formalised former Italianate Garden (now Mediterranean Garden) and Economic Garden, to the open lawn immediately east and west of the Fig Tree Walk. Interstitial spaces between the ‘rooms’ are predominantly filled by the tall canopy of the Australian Forest following the line of First Creek. The tall tree canopy of the Australian Forest provides a distinct naturalistic quality with its own enclosed and tranquil spatial experience.

- Of the formal 'garden room' spaces, the Adelaide Botanic Garden Conservation Study ranks the 'spatial form' of many as contributing high cultural significance to the Garden, namely the former Italianate Garden, the Classground, Economic Garden, the Plane Tree Lawns, the Western Wild Garden and the Dahlia Garden. Two other formal spaces within the Garden, the Herb Garden along the western boundary and the Sunken Garden in the east have a set garden form, but are ranked as having only contributory cultural significance. The Wisteria arbours are critical elements in the definition of the Mediterranean Garden form, but also in themselves create important and popular spaces within the Garden. The older western arbour is over ninety years old and is ranked as having high cultural significance, while the eastern arbour is a more recent planting and has a 'contributory' ranking.
- The boundary of the entire Garden is well defined by walls and fences. The main entry to the Garden off North Terrace conveys strong messages to visitors about the formal character and unique environment of the Garden. The Friends Gate off Plane Tree Drive, conveys similar messages but to a lesser degree. The Hackney Road Gate and the Conservatory Gate have a weaker spatial character again, being dominated by hard edged architectural forms and pavements, and ill-defined boundaries.
- Botanic Park reads in spatial terms relatively simply as an open park of trees and lawns. Only an assortment of trees and the perimeter roadways, albeit slightly altered, survive from the detailed Schomburgk plan for the Park, and even then, the trees fail to clearly define the original geometric layout.

- The character of the Park does vary, typically around its edges. The Dell space west of First Creek is more heavily treed in places creating deeply shaded areas with the potential to more clearly address the natural creek form.

- The eastern boundary of the Park is characterised by its slightly elevated topography grading westward toward the Park's central lawns. Mature plantings of *Pinus* species along Hackney Road and the predominantly *Araucaria* species through the rest of the precinct create a quality of evergreen conifer 'woodland'.

- The far north-eastern corner of Botanic Park, north of Botanic Drive, consists of open lawns with relatively immature trees, before grading quickly into the southern bank of the Torrens River. The river bank is steep and reflects a limited commitment to maintenance.

MOUNT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDEN

- The structure of the MLBG is almost entirely determined by the site's natural topographic landform: a sequence of alternating ridges and gullies, radiating in a semi-circular pattern.

- The ridges are vegetated with naturally occurring stringybark forest enclosing and forming a backdrop to the gullies below

- The gullies are cool, damp, exotically planted informal gardens, sheltered and shaded by the forest around them.

- The main lake is a large artificial water body, nestled into the hills on its southern side, but sitting high above the lower reaches of the Garden to the north.

- The lower gardens are relatively flatter and spatially more open. The area contains the Gardens arboretum, planted with lawns and widely spaced trees. The high dam wall of the lake screens the upper areas of the Garden, giving the lower arboretum a separated and secluded spatial quality.

SPATIAL EXPERIENCE OBJECTIVE

Reinforce and enhance the distinctive spatial experiences afforded by the natural topography and historical garden design within the Garden.

6.1.4 KEY VIEWS

The differing terrain of the two Gardens sites creates distinct experiences in terms of views or vistas, and the sense of enclosure for visitors to the Garden. The geometric formal vistas resulting from the ABG's layout also contrasts significantly with the informal views afforded by the more naturalistic style of the MLBG.

ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDEN AND BOTANIC PARK

- The original Garden plan by the Gardens' first director, George Francis, was the source of the central north-south axis through the Garden. This axis created a dominant vista from the Garden's main entry off North Terrace to the lake and beyond. A second axial view was created on an east-west alignment close to the entry gate centred on the Director's Residence to the west and toward a smaller lake to the east. A pattern of circular garden beds began at the intersection of the two pathways.
- Further planning by Schomburgk emphasised the formal north-south axial geometry in the creation of an entry to the Garden on the same axis at the Garden's northern boundary. The axis was reinforced by an avenue planting of fig trees between the new gate and the lake. The geometry also continued further northward across the newly proposed Botanic Park lawns and arboretum. Schomburgk's plan was also responsible for formalising the vista along the naturally occurring ridge line between the Garden creeks.

Planted with an avenue of *Araucaria* species, the view from the high point of the ridge, then referred to as 'Niobe Hill' after the statue placed at the top, looked northwest

down the avenue across the lake to the Palm House.

The northern gable end of the Lunatic Asylum building could be viewed looking back from the lake.

- The subsequent addition of formal 'Gardens within a Garden' developed from the Schomburgk plan which created a secondary level of formal axial views across 'garden rooms', such as the Rosary (later to become the Italianate Garden and now Mediterranean Garden), the former Class Ground (now the Economic Garden) and the current Classground garden, originally laid out as a trial garden off a central axis.
- Today, the loss of the Residence and the circular form of pathways and beds has removed all trace of the main east-west axis of Francis' plan. The trellis adjacent to the Summerhouse rotunda forms the remnants of a secondary axial path to the Top Lake, evident in the original Francis plan.
- The presence of the main north-south axis as a significant component of the Garden design has been lessened by relatively recent plantings obscuring views to the Main Lake both from the southern approach up Main Walk and the northern approach along Fig Tree Avenue. The removal of the bridge across Main Lake in the 1960's joining the two ends of the North-South axis significantly reduced the impact of this axial view.
- Hilltop views from the former Niobe statue site are limited to the 'avenue' of *Aracarias* which has become less distinct over time. The potential for creating vistas in other directions, including the axial view toward the

formal symmetry of the Bicentennial Conservatory, has not been developed.

- Views across the Main Lake and central Garden lawns toward important iconic architectural monuments, such as the Museum of Economic Botany and the Palm House, are now considered the optimum 'postcard' views for visitors to the Garden.
- The recently created view from Hackney Road between the Plant Biodiversity Centre and the Goodman Building has potential to be better developed and enhanced.

MOUNT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDEN

- As a part of the Mount Lofty Ranges, the MLBG is a hilly site offering opportunities for panoramic views from its upper reaches down into the Piccadilly Valley beyond. A number of long distance viewpoints exist along the Garden's Upper Road, most notable being the Lothian Viewing Platform. The Platform is inaccessible for those with disabilities and requires renovation to fulfil its potential. Another notable long view is found at the higher levels of the Arthur Hardy Reserve looking south across the quarry site. This view is experienced by very few visitors due to the inaccessibility of the Hardy Reserve.
- A lookout point in the lower garden takes advantage of the perched topography near the lower car park, and features views both across the main lake and down over the grassed arboretum.
- Various vantage points exist around the central gullies and ridges that look both onto the lake below, as well as more intimate views up the gullies to a continuous tree canopy beyond; these views are particularly prevalent in the Rhododendron Gully and the South American Gully.

KEY VIEWS OBJECTIVES

Maximise and enhance the key views within the Garden to assist orientation, appreciation of regional context, and the spatial qualities of the Gardens.

6.1.5 WATERWAYS

Both Gardens contain natural watercourses. The ABG, located in the Adelaide Plains, is at the lower end of the catchment of two creeks, First Creek and Botanic Creek, near their confluence with the nearby River Torrens.

Conversely, the MLBG is located on an elevated site in the Adelaide Hills and has a number of gully streams that flow into the upper catchment of Cox Creek.

ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDEN AND BOTANIC PARK

- The ABG Waterways Study (July 2003), initiated by the Garden to assess alternative water sources and methods of use, identified a number of issues relating to flooding, stormwater, water use and waterway biodiversity.
- Flooding issues remain a primary concern of waterway management in the Garden and flooding impacts include:
 - Excess flows in Botanic Creek reaching Main Lake and not being adequately discharged to First Creek resulting in overtopping the lake wall and overflows reaching neighbouring properties (University of Adelaide Medical School) causing flooding damage;
 - Deposition of litter and debris after high water levels (both creeks);
 - Scouring of banks and deposition of sediment, mainly along First Creek.
 - Safety concerns with high velocities and steep banks in well used areas of the Garden.

- Stormwater flowing through the Botanic Garden is expected to carry large quantities of pollutants derived from the urban catchment upstream. Of particular concern to downstream waterways (Torrens Lake) are large amounts of litter, organic material as well as heavy metals and nutrients.
- Mains (potable) water is currently used to irrigate the Garden. There are three main sources for water used in the Garden: potable water use (for irrigation of the Garden and building use), river water from the Torrens (for Botanic Park irrigation) and groundwater (for lake replenishment). Up to 120ML of potable mainswater is used for irrigation annually. This figure has the potential to be reduced by a variety of water conservation and water harvesting techniques.
- The existing creeks through the Garden have been modified to allow an efficient pathway for flows, resulting in high velocities that carry pollutants downstream and prevent any material from settling onto the bed of the stream. However, these high velocities exacerbate erosion in Botanic Park. The current riparian environment of the creeks adds little to the biodiversity of the Garden.

MOUNT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDEN

- The waterways at MLBG are in good health and exhibit no serious water quality issues. However, the opportunity exists to preserve and enhance the values of the existing waterways.

Areas of potential enhancement include:

- stream bed and bank erosion control: only minor erosion has been identified in the Garden but is likely to expand if not addressed.
- protecting the water quality of the main lake from the risk of high levels of nutrients entering the system.

- rehabilitation of existing streams to enhance botanical and ecological values, and treatment of run-off from car parking and nursery areas to reduce pollutant export.

WATERWAYS OBJECTIVE

Enhance the qualitative values of the Gardens' waterways and investigate opportunities for water conservation.

6.1.6 STAFF FACILITIES

Depot facilities for Gardens staff differ at each Garden: ABG has a centralised facility and a number of mini depots that struggle to satisfy the requirements placed on them, while the MLBG has a number of decentralised facilities dotted through the Garden. Each Garden has a centralised administration complex, with overall BGA administration residing at the ABG.

ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDEN AND BOTANIC PARK

- The Goodman Building provides office space for management and administrative staff, as well as research facilities. The adjacent Trambarn Building houses the State Herbarium and all its research and records facilities. The Garden's library is also located in this building.
- The Depot in the northwest corner of the Garden provides the principal facilities for other Garden Staff. Relocated after the redevelopment of the National Wine Centre site, these facilities have to function in a concentrated and greatly reduced area within the Garden regarded by most staff as inadequate for the level of service required. Currently, the Depot houses bulk storage, works yard spaces and vehicle parking.

ABG has no nursery facility of its own. All nursery operations for all three Garden sites (Adelaide, Mount Lofty, Wittunga) are co-ordinated at MLBG. A research nursery has recently been built at East Lodge. In addition, a plant holding area exists at North Lodge.

- A series of mini depots or works facilities are scattered throughout the ABG at the Victoria House, Francis Pavilion, Tram Barn, Morgue, North Lodge and East Lodge.
- The path system within the Garden provides adequate access for staff vehicles
- Botanic Park has no formal staff facilities, relying instead on the Garden depot for storage and staff accommodation.

MOUNT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDEN

- Offices, meeting rooms and staff lunch rooms are located at the Administration Building with parking nearby. Additional facilities are also located at the 'Regional Headquarters' building on the south side of the Garden.
- The dedicated nursery facility with associated offices and parking, located within the Arboretum, services all three Garden sites.
- Mini depots are dotted throughout the Garden.
- Storage yards are located near the Garden boundaries to the north and south.
- Some undeveloped areas within the Garden are also used as de facto storage areas.
- Most facilities are open to public view, some being in prime view-sheds.

- The path system provides a high level of vehicle access given the steep terrain.

STAFF FACILITIES OBJECTIVE

Provide facilities that support the effective and efficient execution of staff duties and the management of the Gardens.

6.1.7 INFRASTRUCTURE

The basic assets of both Gardens, such as pathways, garden furniture, fences and lighting, have a subtle yet important influence on the quality of the overall visitor experience.

Generally, such infrastructure in both Gardens is of an adequate standard to meet the immediate requirements of visitors. It is desirable to ensure that future upgrading of the quality of pathways and furniture is undertaken in the context of a consistent design format. Memorials within the Gardens are subject to an adopted policy that seeks to protect the integrity of the Gardens, while allowing appropriate dedications to be made. The policy provides for the use of 'memorial seats' as the only endorsed form of memorial dedication allowed within the Gardens.

ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDEN AND BOTANIC PARK

- The major pathways within the Garden typically have a bituminised surface and serve both pedestrians and the Garden service vehicles. More recently, constructed paths associated with the Bicentennial Conservatory, the Rose Garden and development of the Goodman Building and Plant Biodiversity Centre are paved with red brick or exposed aggregate concrete, contrasting markedly with the Garden's overall pathway character.

Minor garden pathways vary in width and material, from large scale concrete slab pavements within the Rose Garden to aging concrete pavers in the Classroom.

A network of sawdust-lined narrow tracks exist in many areas of the Garden, most notably in the Australian Forest and Mallee Sections.

This variance in path typology reflects an ad hoc succession of development of individual areas within the Garden, without the benefit of an overall recognisable and hierarchical pathway system.

- Furniture in the Garden, such as seats, bins, and drinking fountains, also lacks a recognisable Garden-wide style. A variety of furniture styles has been installed as sites within the Garden have been developed, most notably and recently in the Rose Garden, or as replacement stock across the Garden as required. Consequently visitors are presented with an array of garden furniture, varying greatly in style, comfort and general condition.
- A small number of garden structures with associated seating provide an intimate setting and shelter to visitors. The rotunda north of the Mediterranean Garden and the Summer House survive from the 1890's and 1910's respectively, and remain popular garden locations despite minor upgrading works that may be stylistically at odds with their original designs.
- Minimal public lighting has been provided within the Garden, due mainly to the limited public use of the Garden outside daylight hours. Both the Main Walk off North Terrace and Fig Tree Avenue are minimally lit at night in order to serve after hours access to the Simpson Kiosk restaurant. Special one-off events held at night require the provision of temporary lighting infrastructure to assist wayfinding to and from the event, usually via the Friend's Gate near North Lodge.
- The Garden is enclosed by a stone wall along the southern boundary with Botanic Road, the fabric of which dates back to the 1870's. The fence on the northern boundary is an open painted steel railing fence in front of dense screen planting. A new steel fence has been

constructed along Hackney Road to enclose the newly acquired areas of the Garden to the east, while a combination of wire mesh, concrete blocks, corrugated iron and timber pailing fences enclose the western boundary, usually hidden by screen planting.

- The Garden and Botanic Park are irrigated. Various systems are employed across the Garden and some areas of the Park are unirrigated. The recently commissioned Adelaide Botanic Garden and Botanic Park Irrigation Master Plan (July 2004) assesses all existing irrigation infrastructure and recommends a capital works program of upgrades.
- There are few Garden assets such as paths or furniture located within Botanic Park. The adequacy of services infrastructure, particularly for major events held in the Park, was assessed in the Botanic Park Power and Lighting Study (August 2003).

The Study found that existing electricity transformers have ample capacity for use during major events and considered the use of mobile lighting towers and power switchboards adequately met the requirements of events. The study also found that public lighting of Plane Tree Drive and Botanic Drive for vehicle and pedestrian use does not comply with relevant standards.

However, the standards are recommendations only and are not mandatory, relying instead on individual case-by-case assessment of public risk. On this basis, the Study recommends lighting of pedestrian pathways between Plane Tree Drive and Frome Road, and any new pathways in Botanic Park to Australian Standards.

MOUNT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDEN

- Pathways at Mount Lofty consist of wide, looped bitumen or concrete roadways, such as Allan Correy Drive, providing a major 'collector' path network for pedestrians and a service road for Garden vehicles. The condition of the roadways is generally good. A series of narrower pedestrian pathways meander throughout the Garden from the ring roads. They are most commonly dirt or consolidated gravel tracks, or occasionally paved in stone to reduce erosion damage. These lesser paths are in varying conditions, dependent on age and level of use.
- Garden furniture at MLBG varies in style, quality and condition, and services basic user needs. There is no recognisable garden-wide style. Given the size of the Garden and difficult terrain, additional locations for seating and resting are desirable.
- Despite the relatively high rainfall at Mount Lofty, only a small number of covered shelters exist within the Garden. The most significant visitor shelter is the gazebo near the dwarf conifer garden and upper car park, built twenty years ago from timber framing and a shingle roof. Two smaller shelters exist in the gully garden above the small lake, with hexagonal pitched roofs and open lattice walling.
- Lighting is restricted to the lower entrance with sensor security lighting in the administration and works areas. Hired temporary lighting towers are required for nighttime events within the Garden.
- The Garden is enclosed by chain wire fencing around the perimeter that is for the most part hidden from view by planting.
- The 'planted' areas of the Garden are irrigated, while the native forest areas are not. Various systems are employed across the Garden and the Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens Irrigation Infrastructure Report and Management Plan (June 2004) assesses all existing irrigation infrastructure and recommends system upgrades for improved efficiency.
- The Garden is able to respond to a bushfire emergency according to procedures set out in its Emergency Response Plan and the 'Independent Audit of Bushfire Preparedness and Response for the Mount Lofty and Wittunga Botanic Gardens April 2005'. Warning sirens and fire hydrants have been installed throughout the Garden. A small 'drop-on' fire fighting unit can be installed on Gardens vehicles to assist trained staff with fighting small fire outbreaks, and in aiding CFS units.

The recent Independent Audit of Bushfire Preparedness and Response importantly provides the Garden with a comprehensive Fire Action Plan stipulating recommended actions in case of a bushfire in the Garden.

INFRASTRUCTURE OBJECTIVE

Effectively manage and develop basic assets i.e. services, roads and paths, furniture and shelters, to maximise longevity and to improve quality.

6.2 Collections and Interpretation

6.2.1 LIVING COLLECTIONS

As the single, most vital asset of the Gardens, the plant material of the living collections and the way it is displayed to the public significantly determines the Gardens' success. Historically, the ABG has developed its collections with a nineteenth century 'stamp collection' approach to maximising numbers of species from a wide range of habitats. MLBG development has been based on a similar approach, though restricted to species suited to the cool climate setting.

Future planning of collections for both Gardens should consider the sets of collections currently held in terms of the cultural importance attached to certain collections, their physical setting within the Gardens, the aims and vision of the Gardens in the future and the principles nominated in the Strategic Plan 2004-2007 document. To this end the Gardens have developed a working Living Collections Policy. The Policy establishes the criteria for the evaluation and development of the Gardens' collections by nominating categories which set down the seven primary themes for the collections. The seven categories are:

- Geographical: a collection or display of plants based on a defined geographical area.
- Biological & Ecological: collections and displays of plants, which grow together in biological or ecological communities, defined by a particular range of environmental conditions and habitats.
- Taxonomic and Evolutionary: a collection of plants which demonstrate principles of plant classification and evolution.
- Ornamental and Landscape: a collection of plants grown for their ornamental and landscape qualities.

- Historical & Cultural: plants which display aesthetic, scientific, historical or social values for past and present generations.

- Conservation: plants which require protection due to their status in line with State, National or International conservation strategies, highlighting rare and threatened species and remnant vegetation.

- Research Collections: plant collections which demonstrate or are assembled for scientific research.

Many plants may fall into more than one category, thus allowing the opportunity for multi layered interpretation. The document further ranks collections as either Established Collections, Priority Collections, Collections for Review or Proposed New or Modified Collections.

ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDEN AND BOTANIC PARK

- The ABG currently holds collections from all seven categories, the majority being typical taxonomic collections such as roses, palms, cycads and cacti. The Garden also contains a large number of important historical and cultural collections many of which, through landscape design, create landmarks across the Garden, significantly shaping the overall Garden layout. Examples are the Classground, the Economic Garden, the Moreton Bay Fig Avenue and the Wisteria Arbours.

- The ABG has an established tradition of using glasshouses to vary the climatic conditions for growing plants and thereby extending its collections to include plants not adapted to the climate of the Adelaide region.

- The ABG Conservation Study ranks the ten major living collections held at ABG. The collections ranked as having exceptional cultural significance either in terms of the plant material itself, or in its historic context as a plant collection at the ABG, or both, are the Madagascan Collection (in the Palm House), the Cacti and Succulent Collection and the Cycad Collection. Ranked as having high cultural significance are the Australian Forest, Conifer Collection (particularly the southern hemisphere species), the Bromeliad Collection, the Mallee Section, and the Economic Plant Collection. The Conservation Study also ranks the Bamboo Collection along Botanic Creek as having contributory cultural significance.
- The tradition of growing roses in a dedicated rosary at the ABG is ranked as having high cultural significance by the ABG Conservation Study. The collection itself has not been ranked, but the Study rates the comparative size of the International Rose Garden as being disproportionate to the rest of the Garden for a single genus, and therefore ranks it as an intrusive component in the Garden. The other area of the Garden ranked as an intrusive component is the dwarf conifer collection at the rear of the Museum of Economic Botany for its stylistic incongruence (since removed as part of Mediterranean Garden development).
- In terms of on-going horticultural sustainability, clear distinctions can be drawn between the relatively sustainable living collections such as the Mallee Section, the Cycads and Bromeliads and the dry sclerophyll components of the Australian Forest, and the less sustainable collections, requiring more intense

maintenance regimes, such as the glasshouse collections from the tropics and particularly the orchids, ferns and carnivorous plants.

- The most popular collections, according to the Perceptions of Service Quality survey (August 2003), were the Rose Collection, the Economic and Herb Garden, the Madagascan Collection and the Dahlia Garden.
- Botanic Park is primarily an arboretum area of tall trees, with many important specimens of conifers, figs and European and North American species. It also has a small section of the Palm Collection near the trades entrance gate.

MOUNT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDEN

- The plant material at MLBG is an interweaving of native bushland and exotic collections contained in discrete Gardens or open arboretum.
- Collections held at MLBG are well considered, chosen for their suitability to the Mount Lofty Ranges climate, and thus extending the range of overall collections held by the BGA. Collections tend to be either taxonomic, such as the Magnolia and Rhododendron Gullies and the Camellia collection, or geographic as evidenced in the South American and New Zealand Gullies, and the plants of the Himalayan region.
- The MLBG Conservation Study ranks the six major living collections held at MLBG. Four of the six collections are ranked as having high cultural significance, namely the Fern Collection, the Magnolia Collection, the Rhododendron Collection and the Acer Collection. The Australian Forest Collection and National Rose Species Collection, displaying the parent material of the world's rose cultivars, are ranked as having only low cultural significance.

- In terms of sustainability, the collections have generally been gathered from cool climate regions and are well adapted to cold temperatures and the shade of a forest canopy. However the low summer rainfall experienced at Mount Lofty has resulted in the need to irrigate during summer, particularly the Fern and Woodland Garden, detrimentally affecting the health of overlapping areas of the native stringybark forest that has adapted to dry summers.

LIVING COLLECTIONS OBJECTIVE

Effectively manage and develop collections to maximise their scientific and cultural value.

6.2.2 FOCUS COLLECTIONS

Arising from the Living Collections Policy the BGA has developed a subordinate Focus Collections Policy that represents the primary future direction for the Gardens collection. The Gardens' Living Collections Policy is a working document that provides a format and procedures for on-going review and development of the existing and any new plant collections.

ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDEN AND BOTANIC PARK

Focus collections at the ABG are:

- **Rosa:** the Rose collection held in the International Rose Garden is a large nationally recognised collection of cultivar roses established on a new site in the Garden in 1999. Planted with over 5000 roses, the collection is grouped into thematic displays based on the introduction of rose cultivars to Adelaide, Australian bred roses and rose cultivar groupings including Perpetual, Noisette, Bourbon, Hybrid Tea, Rambler and Polyantha roses. The collection is well supported by the Rose Society and the wider rose growing industry.

The National Rose Trial Garden is an important adjunct to the Rose collection, established to trial the suitability of rose yet to be realised commercially in this country under set horticultural standards and Australian growing conditions.

- **Southern Hemisphere Conifers:** a collection of tree species dotted through both the Garden and the Botanic Park arboretum. Representing 26 genera such as *Araucaria*, *Agathis* and *Callitris*, the collection is significant in Australia and internationally. Cool climate specimens of this collection are held at MLBG.

- **South Australian Indigenous Flora:** both the Mallee Section and the newly planted garden at the Plant Biodiversity Centre contain representative flora of South Australia, while also including other natives from around Australia. The Australian Forest similarly is a native plant garden containing some SA flora, including remnant pre-settlement River Red Gums. While Wittunga Botanic Garden contains gardens of SA natives and Mount Lofty has native bushland, no dedicated garden of South Australian indigenous flora exists in the ABG.

- **Cycads:** an established collection under further development, located mainly south of the main lake. Species are mostly exotics, but current Garden planning is to shift the emphasis of this collection toward Australasian species. Cool climate specimens of this collection are also held at MLBG.

- **'Charismatic' Plants:** a loosely-defined collection of plant species exhibiting unusual or bizarre modifications with obvious public appeal as attractions. Members of this group would be drawn from collections such as: cacti and

succulents, bromeliads, insectivorous plants and orchids. The Amazon Waterlily is included as a key part of this collection. Some orchid specimens of this collection are also held at MLBG.

- **Dryland Palms:** the current palm collection, located in a dedicated garden west of the North Lodge as well as those dotted along the Main Walk, makes no distinction between wet climate and 'dryland' palm species. Current planning is to shift the emphasis of this collection toward the latter in an effort to educate visitors about sustainable, climatically appropriate plant material for Adelaide.
- **Madagascan Collection:** the plant material contained in the Palm House represents xerophytic taxa adapted to an extreme arid climate characteristic of the south-western region of the island.
- **Mediterranean Flora:** there is now a distinct collection of plants from the five Mediterranean climatic zones of the world through a recent 'Garden 150'-funded project to redevelop the Italianate Garden into a themed Mediterranean climate garden. The BGA has proposed that the Canary Island flora currently held by the Garden also be included in this collection.
- **'Plants That Changed The World':** this is a themed collection that is yet to be articulated as a distinct plant collection at the ABG, but will be developed from existing material.
- **Flowering Trees:** showy ornamental flowering trees is another themed collection yet to be fully developed, but which will be built up from existing material. The theme has links to promoting more sustainable urban environments and enhanced community benefits.

- **Dahlias and other Flowering Perennials:** the strength and popularity of the current Dahlia collection, located in a dedicated garden east of the Museum of Economic Botany, will be further developed by increasing the Gardens collections of showy ornamental flowering plants.

MOUNT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDEN

Focus collections at the MLBG are:

- **South Australian Indigenous Flora:** the naturally occurring native bushland forms an important part of the MLBG. Managed rather than cultivated, the plants of the Mount Lofty Ranges stringybark forest are 'held' in the Garden both as an aesthetic backdrop to display non-indigenous plant displays, but also as a display in itself of the Garden's natural habitat prior to European settlement.
- **Rhododendron:** considered one of the best collections of Rhododendrons and Azaleas in Australia, cultivation of the species is ideally suited to the cool, wet climate and acidic soils of the Adelaide Hills.
- **Cyatheas:** the tree ferns form a dominant part of the MLBG's Fern Gully garden, and as a species suited to the microclimatic conditions in the Gully, the Garden's have proposed to narrow the wider Fern collection to this and allied species, in an effort to reduce the general maintenance requirements of the current Fern collection.
- **Flowering Trees:** showy ornamental flowering trees is a themed collection yet to be fully developed, but which will be built up from existing material.

FOCUS COLLECTIONS OBJECTIVE

Manage and enhance special collections within the Garden to support communication of the Gardens vision and key principles.

6.2.3 FLORA CONSERVATION

Botanic Gardens have a role in plant conservation from a local to international level. Only one percent of the native flora of the Adelaide Plains remain, while fifteen percent of the original bushland of the Hills exists today. The Gardens act to conserve threatened flora in South Australia through actions such as:

- The Botanic Gardens of Adelaide are signatories to, and were contributors in developing, the International Agenda for Botanic Gardens in Conservation (2000). The objectives of the International Agenda are to define and promote the role of botanic gardens around the world in the conservation of the world's biodiversity. It seeks to establish global partnerships and alliances between gardens and develop evaluation and monitoring procedures for global biodiversity conservation.
- The recent initiation of the Germplasm Research Program has resulted in the establishment of a Seed Conservation Centre within the Adelaide Botanic Garden, and the appointment of a Germplasm Research Coordinator. As a complement to in situ conservation programs, the Centre uses ex situ techniques, including seed banking and tissue culture, to increase understanding of germination and long-term storage of native seed.
- The Gardens have become a participant in the Millennium Seed Bank Project, an international conservation partnership based at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The Project aims to collect and conserve ten percent, over 24,000 species, of the world's seed-bearing flora, principally from the drylands, by 2010. Through the Seed Conservation Centre, the Gardens aim to contribute data and plant material of local threatened species to this Project.
- The Gardens led the formation of the State Government's 'whole-of-government' Planting Indigenous Species Policy (October 2003), with the aim of committing

the Government to the planting of indigenous native vegetation on Government managed land and developments.

- In partnership with the Adelaide Cemeteries Authority, the Gardens are monitoring a site within the West Terrace Cemetery, representing one of the few remaining areas of remnant Adelaide Plains flora still in existence. Other conservation programs include propagation trials of the critically endangered spiny everlasting daisy (*Acantho-cladium dockerii*), studies into the seedling regeneration of *Eucalyptus gillii*, and seed collection of rare and endangered species on Kangaroo Island and the Eyre Peninsula.

ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDEN AND BOTANIC PARK

- Almost no remnant indigenous flora remains within the highly urbanised city site of the ABG. Three specimens of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* have been identified as likely to have existed prior to the establishment of the Garden in 1855. One of these specimens has an opening at the base of the trunk and is likely to have been used by the Kaurna as a tree shelter or *wattowadli* prior to European settlement.
- The ABG Conservation Study records that the Garden's first director George Francis intentionally retained many of the largest existing eucalypts on the site and incorporated them into the original Garden layout.
- Long term development of a wetland and creek rehabilitation within the Garden and Botanic Park, and bank rehabilitation along the River Torrens in Botanic Park, have potential for the Gardens to introduce a greater representation of local provenance species.

MOUNT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDEN

- Indigenous stringybark forest of the Mount Lofty Ranges occupies a significant proportion of the MLBG site. Located in tracts in the upper reaches of the Garden, 'fingers' of the forest also penetrate into the central areas of the Garden along naturally occurring ridge lines generally in accordance with the original Correy Master Plan for the MLBG.
- The native forest areas do not strictly represent a complete ecosystem, as the gullies below the ridges are planted with exotic display gardens. The existence of complete natural understorey and resident fauna varies across the Garden. Infestations of weed species are largely managed by Garden staff.
- The majority of the forest is secondary regrowth that has recovered from human and natural intervention in the form of timber felling, mining and bushfire. Large areas of the forest were destroyed in the 1983 'Ash Wednesday' bushfires.
- There is no management plan which guides the day to day maintenance or the long term future of the Stringybark forest.
- The high irrigation needs of areas of exotic display garden plantings, under the Stringybark forest canopy in some areas, adversely affect the health and survival of this seasonally dry sclerophyll forest in such locations.
- The 'SA Nature Trail' through a section of forest along the Garden's northern boundary interprets the forest by means of a brochure and signposted stops along a 850 metre walking trail.

- The forest plays an important role in defining the context of the overall Garden design, as the tree canopy forms a visual backdrop for the individual themed plantings within each of the major gullies.

FLORA CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE

Continue to contribute to flora conservation, particularly the threatened flora of South Australia. Manage, maintain and enhance indigenous flora to support communication of the Gardens' vision and key principles.

6.2.4 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

In line with the vision and principles of the Gardens, stated in the Strategic Plan 2004-2007 document, the Gardens aim to realise its potential to be a leading contributor to progressing environmental reconciliation. In recent years, the Gardens have taken actions to meet this aim in the following ways:

- The effective, efficient and appropriate use of water is being pursued for both Gardens in partnership with SA Water.
- The Gardens are a participant in BioCity: Centre for Urban Habitats, a partnership between the leading ecological and environmental institutions in the State. The Centre aims to enhance Adelaide's urban environment through multidisciplinary research, design and development that promotes native flora and fauna in the context of urban living.
- A joint partnership with Delfin Lend Lease and the Northern Adelaide Barossa Catchment Water Management Board has been established to create the position of Sustainable Landscapes officer for a two year period to guide new housing developments and home gardeners generally on sustainable, water sensitive gardens in Adelaide.

- The Potential Weed Species policy (August 2002) sets out criteria for the assessment and management of environmental weed species in the Gardens, including the deaccessioning of plant material where a species is considered to present a threat to the biodiversity or economic resources of South Australia. An assessment and evaluation process for benchmarks in sustainable horticultural practice has been established in the Sustainable Horticultural Practice Policy.

ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDEN AND BOTANIC PARK

- The ABG Waterways Study (July 2003) was initiated with the aim of assessing alternative water sources and maximising sustainable methods of water use within the Garden. The findings of this Study are reported in the Waterways section of this document.
- The irrigation delivery system at ABG has been reviewed and assessed, with recommendations for improvements through application of new technology and changes to management operations.
- Waterless urinals are being trialled at toilets within the ABG.

MOUNT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDEN

- The opportunity exists to preserve and enhance the already high values of the existing waterways through measures to protect the water quality of the main lake from the risk of high levels of nutrients entering the system, and the treatment of run-off from car parking areas to reduce pollutant export.
- The irrigation delivery system at MLBG has been reviewed and assessed in the Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens Irrigation Infrastructure and Management Plan (June 2004), with recommendations for improvements through application of new technology and changes to management operations.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVE

Provide leadership to the broader community on sustainable environmental issues and initiatives, and practise sustainable horticulture appropriate to the regional context through on-going enhancement of service delivery.

6.2.5 EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

The Gardens have a dedicated Education Officer based at ABG to manage the Garden's educational programs. The comprehensive array of programs that have been developed caters, for the most part, to primary and secondary school children. Until recently the Gardens had lacked more general dedicated public education programs available to all visitors other than that provided through the Museum of Economic Botany and by Friends of the Botanic Gardens Guides. The BGA currently has no Education and Interpretations Policy document. The lack of an intensive interpretations program was constantly noted, both in staff workshops and visitor surveys, as an aspect of the Garden's operations that requires further development. Consequently, a Community Education and Publicity Programs Manager was appointed in 2005.

ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDEN AND BOTANIC PARK

- The Schools Education Program is a highly developed educational resource initiated by the Garden through the Department of Environment and Heritage in association with the Department of Education and Children's Services and its 'Outreach Education' program run through the Open Access College. The Program consists of over thirty Discovery Trail walks, a program of

events and performances such as ‘Dancing with Diprotodons’ and ‘Singing in the Rainforest’, and a series of ‘Branch Out’ arts based walks and activity workshops.

- The ‘Prior Knowledge’ walking trail is a guided walk conducted in conjunction with Tauondi College, as a visitor education service detailing traditional plant knowledge of the South Australian Aboriginal communities. A charge is applied to this service. Other special interest guided walks occur from time to time.
- Prior to the redevelopment at the rear of the Museum of Economic Botany it was open under restricted hours and provided basic interpretative messages in relation to this carpological collection and other changing displays. Post-development, it is to be open for longer hours and will be able to capitalise on the presence of the Schomburgk Pavilion and its facilities.
- Free guided walks of the ABG are conducted by the Friends four days a week. The walks are generally one and half hours in duration and provide basic educational services on the Garden’s history and collections.
- A Visitor Information Centre, operating out of the Schomburgk Pavilion, is staffed primarily by volunteers and provides basic orientation, facility and service information to visitors.
- Interpretive signage at the ABG is most well developed in areas of the Garden that have undergone more recent upgrades. These include the Bicentennial Conservatory, the International Rose Garden, the Palm House and the Wollemi Pine planting.

- Interpretation of the older areas of the Garden is generally limited to standard plant labelling, and in the case of the Garden’s discrete ‘garden rooms’, such as the Classground, a small sign often describes the form and/or function of the Garden.

- A small number of pamphlets are available to the public interpreting various collections within the Garden, such as the International Rose Garden and the Trial Rose Garden, the rainforest plants in the Bicentennial Conservatory and the Madagascan collection in the Palm House.

- There is no interpretation provided in Botanic Park regarding its the history or current plantings.

MOUNT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDEN

- The ‘BankSA Nature Trail’ is a self-guided walking trail through an area of the Garden’s remnant Stringybark forest, and forms a section of the Mount Lofty Ranges Heysen Trail. Interpretive leaflets, with marker signs, are available to the public at the starting points at each end of the trail.

- Free guided walks of the MLBG are conducted by the Friends once a week during spring and autumn. The walks are generally one and half hours in duration and provide a basic introduction to the Garden’s history and collections.

- Interpretation of the Garden is generally limited to standard plant labelling. Small signs at the Magnolia and Rhododendron ‘gully gardens’ describe the collections contained. A small number of pamphlets are available to the public interpreting various collections within the Garden, such as the Rhododendron Gully, the Magnolia Gully and the Nature Trail.

- The Species Rose collection is a well interpreted garden of naturally occurring *Rosa* species, the parent material of the multitude of Rose cultivars grown throughout the world.

EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION OBJECTIVE

Maximise education opportunities which foster learning about the plant world particularly in the Garden's key areas of research, collection development and horticultural management. Utilise communication media that maximises the interpretive value of collections.

6.2.6 ARTS

Both Gardens exhibit a small collection of public art works within their grounds. Commissions to date have been made on an ad-hoc basis, in lieu of any Garden Arts Program or Public Art Policy.

ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDEN AND BOTANIC PARK

- The Garden has hosted popular works from the performing arts, particularly music concerts and theatre performances, with increasing regularity over recent years, most notably during the biennial Adelaide Festival of Arts.
- The Garden has also been the site for temporary visual arts pieces, again often as part of a wider arts festival event. Only four permanent sculptural artworks have been acquired by the ABG in the last fifty years. The 'Cascade' glass sculpture was acquired in 1988 as part of the nation's Bicentenary celebrations. The Andy Goldsworthy 'Black Springs' environmental sculpture was installed during the 1992 Adelaide Festival of Arts. The Elvis Presley Memorial, is a wrought-iron cupola commissioned in 1981 following the death of Elvis Presley. The fourth piece is a nineteenth century cast iron reproduction of the statue 'Amalthea (Nymph and Goat)' by French sculptor Pierre Julian, which was purchased by the Friends in 1990.
- There are a number of other items of statuary and fountains that date from the nineteenth century, that provide significant heritage value to the Garden, and are discussed further under the Garden Heritage section of this document.

MOUNT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDEN

- Four contemporary artworks have been acquired by the MLBG since its inception, all being the work of local artist Greg Johns. The first, 'Between the Sky and Earth' dates from 1980, followed by 'Guardian Figure' (1987) and 'Balancing Peace Figure' (1994), and the most recent being the Collin Robjohn gates, erected on stone piers at the lower carpark entry in 1996.

ARTS OBJECTIVE

Develop an arts policy and program that maximises the interpretive value of the collections and enhances the recreational and aesthetic experience of the Gardens.

6.3 Visitor Facilities and Services

6.3.1 VISITORS FACILITIES

The visitor facilities of both Gardens play an important role in communicating the vision and key objectives of the BGA. These facilities include elements such as visitor information, food and other retail outlets, drinking fountains, seats, toilets and carparking. Current facilities in both Gardens are dispersed within the sites with no one focal point at which amenities can be centrally accessed and information gained. As neither Garden has a purpose-built visitor centre, communication of information to general visitors is limited. A co-ordinated series of leaflets are provided free of charge at major entries in both Gardens, providing both visitor maps and specific information on certain collections and activities in the Garden. Only ABG has retail outlets within its grounds. Public carparking is generally regarded as adequate at both Gardens and is free on Sundays and public holidays under the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium Act 1978. The BGA has an Asset Management register.

ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDEN AND BOTANIC PARK

- The ABG's existing visitor facilities consist of a group of facilities located at key locations within the Garden. These now have a new focus with the creation of a new central facility at the Schomburgk Pavilion.
- Food outlets are primarily located centrally at the Simpson Kiosk facility adjacent Main Lake. This building is sub-divided to perform dual functions of high quality restaurant and café/snack food outlet.

This arrangement currently operates adequately. Neither outlet takes full advantage of the lakeside setting, and architectural alterations to the building over time have diminished the aesthetic appeal of this facility as a visitor destination within the Garden. A new al fresco beverage facility has recently been developed as part of the Schomburgk Pavilion development.

- Visitor information is provided in the form of map-based signs at the major entries to the Garden, where free leaflets are also available. This has since been augmented by the creation of a Visitor Information Centre at the Schomburgk Pavilion staffed primarily by volunteers.
- Until recently the North Lodge, off Plane Tree Drive, housed the BGA Friends' bookshop. A new commercial retail facility will now operate out of the Schomburgk Pavilion.
- Toilets in the Garden are spread across five locations and, in the case of the blocks near the Classground and the Francis Arbour, perform a basic utilitarian function. Facilities at the rear of the Simpson Kiosk are of a higher standard, while the facilities at the rear of the Plant Biodiversity Centre and in the Schomburgk Pavilion are modern and of a much higher quality. The cleanliness and presentation of visitor amenities was the attribute recording the highest gap between visitor expectations and actual performance in the recent Perceptions of Service Quality survey (August 2003).
- No public car parking is provided within the grounds of the ABG. On-road car parking is provided along the Garden's northern and eastern boundaries on Plane Tree Drive and Hackney Road, the latter extending from the National Wine Centre to Botanic Drive in Botanic Park.
- A privately operated multistorey car park, located in the northern part of the RAH campus, is open to the public but is rarely used by Garden visitors due to a lack of easy access to Garden entry gates.

- Other than car parking, there are minimal visitor facilities provided in Botanic Park. Users of the Park tend not to expect visitor services, but make use of the Botanic Garden facilities if required. The Classground toilet can be accessed via the Garden or the Park, for example.

MOUNT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDEN

- The MLBG currently has no formal visitor facility. Basic visitor amenities are met by shelters, sign boards and toilets at each of the two carparks, and at key points throughout the site. However, the visitor experience is often compromised by inadequate information about both the Garden itself and its greater purposes and aims.
- No food or drink outlets, or other retail facilities, currently exist at MLBG.
- Using a similar system to the ABG, visitor information is provided in the form of map-based signs at the upper and lower carparks. Visitor guide leaflets available at these locations are more developed than those at ABG, with specific guides to a range of walks within the Garden.
- Five toilet blocks are located in convenient and widely spread locations across the Garden. Each provides a basic function, and is in a generally serviceable condition.
- Visitor carparking exists at both the upper and lower entries to the Garden. Each provides ample spaces for general use.

VISITOR FACILITIES OBJECTIVE

Manage and improve visitor facilities to support communication of the Gardens' vision and key principles and heighten the visitor experience.

6.3.2 PHYSICAL ACCESS

As significant public spaces in the Adelaide region, attracting a combined total of over 1.2 million visitors each year, both Gardens strive to meet the sometimes conflicting demands of being a pre-eminent public garden and a scientific institution; the latter sometimes becoming secondary to the former in order to provide maximum accessibility to visitors.

Further to this, all plant material is open to the public to see, touch, and smell, with obvious risk of vandalism or theft of sometimes rare and valuable plants. Issues relating to physical access for vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians are the subject of the recent Access Plan for Adelaide Botanic Garden and Botanic Park (May 2003). The BGA currently has no Access Plan document for the MLBG.

ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDEN AND BOTANIC PARK

- All living collections are accessible free of charge with the exception of the Bicentennial Conservatory, which incurs a small entry fee.
- The Garden is open seven days a week, including public holidays. Opening hours are maximised and the time of closing varies throughout the year to reflect the length of daylight hours.
- Scientific research facilities and the library and herbarium collections within the Tram Barn are generally closed to the public.
- The ABG has a long established path network spreading across the generally flat terrain, including small bridges across waterways, taking visitors to all areas of the Garden.

- City workers frequently traverse the Garden between car parking spaces on Hackney Road and the city, often taking shortcuts across the Garden's lawns.
- No footpaths exist along Plane Tree Drive abutting the Botanic Garden, forcing pedestrians to walk along the roadway unprotected from traffic.
- Adequate vehicle drop-off and direct pedestrian access for special users such as the disabled, school children and wedding parties, does not exist along Plane Tree Drive. Pedestrian and cycle paths along the Torrens River and across Botanic Park provide access to the Garden.
- The City of Adelaide's recreational trail initiatives have the potential to increase pedestrian and cyclist conflicts with vehicles at the intersections of Plane Tree Drive and Botanic Drive with Hackney Road.
- The one-way vehicle route along Plane Tree Drive and Botanic Drive is confusing to some motorists resulting in some visitors driving the wrong way.
- A small percentage of vehicles travel over the posted speed limit. No speed reduction devices are used on either Plane Tree Drive or Botanic Drive.
- The Garden's emergency response planning is under constant review and development so as to improve communication to emergency services agencies, particularly on occasions of major events.
- The North Terrace Gates provide limited access for only certain emergency response vehicles.

- Until recently, visitors to the National Wine Centre were able to access the Garden unchecked after Garden opening hours with the potential for security or liability risk. Improved fencing and management systems have now addressed this issue.
- The current restriction on vehicular deliveries between 10am-4pm is not adequately enforced.
- Bump in/bump out activities for major events cause considerable disruption to pedestrian routes.
- Wedding vehicles parked in Plane Tree Drive cause disruption to both pedestrians and vehicles.

MOUNT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDEN

- The Garden is open seven days a week, including public holidays, and is free of charge.
- Mount Lofty is a large and steeply undulating site. The path network, developed under the original Correy master plan, seeks to utilise contour paths to reduce the significant impact of the sloping terrain on pedestrian access around the Garden. Narrower and steep gully paths allow visitors to experience discrete plant collections.
- While the site may be freely traversed from end to end in any direction, the Garden's size tends to encourage most visitors to experience the Garden by looped walks beginning and ending at either of the Garden's two public carparks. The degree to which visitors access the Garden's collections is therefore dependent on the visitor's age, level of fitness and the carpark from which they set out.

- Due to the size of the MLBG and the unrestricted access currently available to visitors, staff can be often unaware of whether the Garden is fully vacated prior to the Garden being closed at the end of the day.
- Physical access to the remnant forest is not encouraged other than by designated pathways, in order to protect this important natural habitat.
- The Arthur Hardy Sanctuary is dedicated under the Crown Lands Act 1929 as a fauna and flora reserve which is not officially open to the public.
- The abandoned quarry site south of the Arthur Hardy Sanctuary is closed to the public due to its dangerous cliff faces. The site requires substantial development before being able to be accessed safely by the public.
- Somerset Rocks is physically separated from the Garden by a public road reserve and is not fenced, allowing uncontrolled public access.
- Public vehicles are not permitted to enter the Garden beyond the major upper and lower car parks. Staff vehicles use a road network of five roads across the site that also service emergency vehicles, particularly for fire fighting.
- In sections, the narrow roadways require pedestrians to leave the bitumen surface as vehicles pass. Sharp corners and vegetation also impede sight lines for vehicles in some locations.
- Public car parking during major events in the Garden is not adequately catered for by the current road network.
- The lower entrance is off a minor road and the Gardens profile could benefit from having a major road frontage.

PHYSICAL ACCESS OBJECTIVE

Progressively improve physical access to the living collections for visitors.

6.3.3 WAY FINDING

The terrain and historical development of the two Gardens significantly affects the way finding experience of visitors. Generally way finding is difficult in both Gardens for newcomers. It could be argued, however, that the circuitous path systems add to the sense of mystery and discovery which is a characteristic of both Gardens.

ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDEN AND BOTANIC PARK

- Two north-south orientated axial paths, off North Terrace from the Main Gate and off Plane Tree Drive from the Friends Gate, originate from the Francis and Schomburgk layouts of the Garden, and significantly enhance the way finding of visitors as they first enter the Garden. A lesser but similar effect is experienced by visitors entering the Garden from the Conservatory Gate, and on an east-west alignment from the Hackney Road entrance.
- Beyond the main axial entry paths, the Garden's layout becomes less obvious to visitors as pathways tend to become secondary linking elements between and around central Garden features such as the lake, the lawns and certain buildings and formal 'garden rooms'. The result being a criss-crossing network of pathways.
- Vistas within the Garden are few and often short, and no 'lookout' views exist at the higher points in the Garden.
- The dominance of tall multi-storey Hospital buildings along the Garden's south-western boundary orientates visitors toward the city and the CBD.

- The Garden's lakes and creeks fail to assist way finding as well as they might, mainly due to planting that conceals their edges.
- Map-based signage at the major entries assists way finding, however the low key nature of internal pathway signage, along with the lack of a coherent hierarchical path system, means first time visitors can become disoriented.
- As an open park, Botanic Park is generally easily negotiated. However adjacent attractions such as the Zoo and the Torrens River are poorly signposted.

MOUNT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDEN

- Due to the steep topography of the site, lookouts offer the best opportunity for easy way finding at the MLBG. The lookout adjacent the lower carpark provides good views across the lake and arboretum precincts. A number of lookout points near the upper carpark provide attractive vistas but are less successful as way finding tools.
- The 'amphitheatre-like' form of the central part of the site focuses many views from the upper Garden onto the main central lake, and as such the lake forms the Garden's most recognisable landmark.
- The layout of the Garden, as first planned by the Correy master plan, with a succession of forested ridges and exotically planted gullies, is in itself a potentially powerful way finding tool. This element of the design, however, is currently not immediately obvious to many visitors.
- Signage along the Garden's path network is basic and generally fails to substantially assist orientation around a site that is by its nature difficult to negotiate.

WAYFINDING OBJECTIVE

Improve way finding and access to attractions and visitor facilities.

6.3.4 DISABILITY ACCESS

The differing terrain of the two Garden sites significantly affects the opportunities for universal access to all parts of the Gardens.

The BGA has commissioned a full audit of both Gardens to assess equitable access to their attractions and facilities. The findings of these audits are contained in 'Disability Access Audit: Botanic Garden Adelaide Plains and Mount Lofty' (November 2002) by HC Harrison Consultants.

ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDEN AND BOTANIC PARK

- The Garden is generally universally accessible across the site with good access via pathways to most facilities and attractions. Difficulties are experienced however by visitors using mobility aids when traversing the Garden's lawns, gravel and sawdust paths, and at uneven transitions between differing ground surfaces.
- Internal pathways within the Simpson Shadehouse are too narrow to be accessible for people using mobility aids. The architecture of the heritage-listed Palm House and Museum of Economic Botany make both buildings inaccessible to prams and wheelchairs due to stairways at their entries. The redevelopment adjacent to the Museum, with the addition of the new Schomburgk Pavilion to the rear, has addressed equal access issues to this major heritage-listed Garden asset.
- Steps at entries to the North Lodge, the Summer House and the rotunda north of the Mediterranean Garden also create issues for equal access to these buildings for mobility aid users.

- The four toilet facilities within the Garden have signed, dedicated disabled toilets, and have each been upgraded to comply with current Disability Access codes, in accordance with the 'Disability Access Audit: Botanic Garden Adelaide Plains and Mount Lofty' (November 2002).
- Garden signs and maps are inaccessible to visitors with vision impairments.
- The location of many bins, drinking fountains and other garden furniture are inaccessible to some visitors, particularly those using mobility aids.
- Disabled car parking spaces on Plane Tree Drive lack access to a safe path of travel from car to entry gates.

MOUNT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDEN

- A significant percentage of the MLBG is inaccessible to visitors with mobility disabilities due to the steep terrain across the Garden site. Even at the more accessible sites within the Garden, difficulties are experienced by visitors using mobility aids when traversing lawns and gravel paths, and at uneven transitions between differing ground surfaces.
- Existing pathways from the lower car park to and around the main lake are at grades in part that do not meet current Disability Access codes. A current study instigated by the Garden proposes changes to this path system to provide a fully compliant accessible route.
- Access to, and facilities within some areas of the Garden's Administration Building do not comply with current standards and codes for equal access.
- The existing design, and current state of disrepair of the Lothian Viewing Platform, makes this Garden asset inaccessible to most disabled visitors, as well as visitors with children in prams.

- Steps at entries to the gazebos within Rhododendron and Viburnum Gullies prevent equal access to these buildings for people using mobility aids.

- The two toilet blocks at the north and south ends of Allan Correy Drive do not have dedicated disabled toilets. The other toilet facilities at the upper and lower car parks have signposted disabled toilets and have been upgraded to comply with the current Disability Access Code, according to the 'Disability Access Audit: Botanic Garden Adelaide Plains and Mount Lofty' (November 2002).

- Garden signs and maps are inaccessible to visitors with vision impairments.

- The locations of many bins, drinking fountains and other garden furniture are inaccessible to some visitors, particularly those using mobility aids.

DISABILITY ACCESS OBJECTIVE

Manage, maintain, and improve access to the Garden for all visitors.

6.3.5 PUBLIC SAFETY

Both Gardens are generally safe public spaces and incidents of risk to public health and safety are rare. The Gardens have developed Business Continuity and Emergency Response Plans for all three Garden sites. The Plans seek to provide strategies and action plans to cater for the loss of key operational facilities following a significant event that disrupts the provision of normal services by the Gardens.

The objectives of the Plans are to protect Gardens staff, volunteers and visitors; to protect the resources of the Department for Environment and Heritage and the Board of the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium; to develop procedures and practices to facilitate speedy resumption of normal services; to minimise financial loss; to protect the community and to protect the environment.

The Plans act as a guide to Gardens personnel who have key roles in incident management and emergency response processes, and outlines the specific roles and responsibilities of team members before, during and after an incident.

The Plans are based on Australian Standards and are consistent with DEH risk management requirements.

ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDEN AND BOTANIC PARK

- Botanic Park is open day and night and there is room for improvement in the lighting for reasons of public safety. The lighting of Botanic Park for both pedestrians and vehicles is reviewed in detail in the Access Plan for Adelaide Botanic Garden and Botanic Park (May 2003).

- The north-east corner of the Park near the Torrens River, and the south-west corner of the Park adjacent the Reid Building, are reportedly high risk areas for pedestrians.

- The Access Plan finds significant pedestrian safety issues relating to conflicts with vehicles along Plane Tree Drive, particularly adjacent the entry gates into the Garden, mainly due to the lack of speed calming and a dedicated pedestrian footpath on the south side of the road.

- High stormwater flows, particularly through First Creek, have the potential to cause a risk to public safety. Methods of reducing the impact of these flows through stormwater retention basins are proposed in the ABG Waterways Study (July 2003).

- Other safety concerns at the ABG are relatively low risk issues, such as safety around permanent water bodies and the risk of limb drop or tree failure, with relatively few incidents reported in the past.

MOUNT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDEN

- The degree of risk to pedestrian safety at the MLBG is determined in large part by the level of fitness of individual visitors to the Garden. Printed guides and signs in the Garden warn walkers of the steep gradients of many of the pathways, and designate a time period to allow to complete set walks to reduce the risk of fatigue or exhaustion. The designated time period also assists visitors to the Garden to complete their walk and vacate the Garden prior to the Garden closing. Garden staff have reported incidents of visitors, undetected by staff, remaining in the Garden after closing. In these instances, a mobile phone number is left with unattended cars to allow visitors to have the gates reopened.

- The abandoned quarry site is currently closed to the public due to the unsafe nature of the site's steep rock faces and scree slopes. If retained, future development of the site would be required to allow visitors to experience this area of the Garden safely.

- Some of the Garden's roadways are narrow with sharp corners and impeded sight lines. Although the roads are closed to public vehicles, there remains a risk to pedestrian safety as Garden's staff vehicles pass.
- The risk of bushfire at MLBG is an on-going managed risk well understood by the Garden staff. Two fires entered the Garden in the 1980's, causing extensive damage and public risk both immediately and over the following clean-up period. The site is under the jurisdiction of the Country Fire Service and management practices at the Garden aim to reduce future risk.
- Other safety concerns at the MLBG are relatively low risk issues, such as safety around permanent water bodies and the risk of limb drop or tree failure, with few incidents reported in the past.

PUBLIC SAFETY OBJECTIVE

Manage, maintain and improve public safety, health and environmental concerns across the Garden.

6.3.6 RECREATION

Maintaining the Garden for passive recreational activities, such as walking, relaxing, and learning about plants, offers the greatest opportunities for sustaining the Gardens heritage and value to the community. BGA's policy on recreation with the Gardens is reflected in the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium Regulations 1993.

ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDEN AND BOTANIC PARK

- The Garden itself is, and has always been, a place for passive recreation close to the Adelaide CBD. As a highly maintained garden, differing markedly to the adjacent city parklands, public recreation is focussed on the most sustainable and low impact activities, such as walking, relaxing, and learning about plants.

- Botanic Park operates under a different regulatory regime which allows more active recreational activities along similar lines to the adjacent parklands.
- Activities such as ball games, cycling, skating, and barbeques are not permitted within the Garden, but are allowed within Botanic Park. Similarly, pets, alcohol and sound equipment are only allowed within the Park and not the Garden.
- Recent visitor surveys suggest the distinction between the two spaces is well understood by visitors to the ABG and each space is generally used accordingly.
- Recent visitor surveys show visitors to the Garden are typically adults aged 26 to 45 years and are from metropolitan Adelaide, most commonly the eastern suburbs. Between fifteen and twenty-five percent of visitors are from overseas, while between ten and fifteen percent are interstate visitors. Almost sixty percent are female, and around half of all visitors arrive by car. The most common reason for visiting the Garden was found to be for relaxation. Other reasons cited included viewing plants and spending time with family or friends. The average length of stay in the Garden is between one and a half and two hours.

MOUNT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDEN

- The MLBG is a place for passive recreation, and like the ABG, limits recreation to low impact activities, such as walking, relaxing, and learning about plants.
- Activities such as ball games, cycling, skating, and barbeques are not permitted within the Garden, and pets, alcohol and sound equipment may not be brought in.

- Unlike the Botanic Park, the MLBG's arboretum, and other more open and lower maintenance areas, operate under the same conditions as the entire Garden, banning more active recreational activities. It is noted however that due to the size and difficult terrain of the MLBG, walking the trails within the Garden is considered a more active recreational activity than at ABG, with some walks over two hours in duration.

- Recent visitor surveys showed visitors to the Garden are typically adults aged 46 to 65 years. Ninety percent are from metropolitan Adelaide, most commonly the eastern suburbs and Adelaide Hills while only two percent of visitors are from overseas and eight percent from interstate. Around fifty-five percent are female. The vast majority of all visitors arrive by car and only two percent catch public transport. Relaxation (22%), active recreation (25%) and enjoying plants and bushland (24%) were the most common purposes for visiting the Garden. The average length of stay is two hours.

RECREATION OBJECTIVE

Facilitate and support sustainable recreational activities and opportunities for the community.

6.3.7 PRIVATE FUNCTIONS

Use of the Botanic Gardens for private functions is a relatively recent development in the Garden operations. Private functions are controlled to manage impact and fees are charged so as to be cost neutral. Private use of spaces within the Garden is most commonly for personal celebrations such as weddings, or corporate

functions such as product launches or Christmas parties. The Gardens have a dedicated Events Co-ordinator on staff to manage all private functions within the Gardens, and a set of Wedding Ceremony procedures to regulate these events.

ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDEN AND BOTANIC PARK

- Private functions are restricted to designated sites within the ABG. The sites are generally selected for their ease of access for catering, lighting and toilet facilities, aesthetics, wet weather contingencies and proximity to carparking.
 - Weddings are the most common private functions held at the ABG, and are restricted to four ceremonies per day, with a choice of five primary sites: the Economic Garden, The Summer House, The Bicentennial Conservatory, the Plane Tree Lawn and the Sunken Garden.
 - All catering for functions within the Garden is under contract with the operators of the Botanic Garden Restaurant and the Simpson Kiosk with the operators having first right of refusal.
 - The International Rose Garden is frequently used for corporate functions and has good access to services and toilets and makes use of both paved and lawn areas.
 - Functions held at the Bicentennial Conservatory are limited by the lack of a single large open space and are therefore often held in conjunction with the adjacent Rose Garden. The Conservatory is also used as a wedding venue in winter months.
 - Both the Plane Tree Lawn and the Palm House Lawn are used for open-air or marquee functions with the advantage of being located in close proximity to the Simpson Kiosk facilities.
 - The Sunken Garden is a wedding venue that allows vehicle drop-off at the ceremony location and makes use of the close proximity to the National Wine Centre for receptions, and the Morgue and Araucaria Avenue for photographs.

- The open lawns of Botanic Park are well used as venues for large picnics and celebrations for both organisations and family gatherings, with accessibility and good carparking the main attractions. The Park also has advantages in that alcohol restrictions do not apply and there are no limits on active recreational pursuits.

MOUNT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDEN

- Private functions are mainly held at the Garden's Lower Arboretum due to its open areas, ease of access, aesthetics, toilet facilities, and proximity to carparking. However, the site becomes unusable during winter months due to waterlogging from the adjacent gully creeks. No wet weather function venue exists in the lower areas of the Garden.
- The Dwarf Conifer display garden is used as a wedding venue in close proximity to the upper car park and toilets. The potential exists to use the nearby rotunda at the top of Rhododendron Gully for ceremonies in bad weather, but refurbishment of the building is required.

PRIVATE FUNCTIONS OBJECTIVE

Balance public and private use of the Gardens so as to protect the Garden's integrity and not impinge on the achievement of the organisation's vision and objectives.

6.3.8 MAJOR EVENTS

Historically, Botanic Park has been the major focus for large events. However, in recent years the Gardens have sought to use their grounds as major public event spaces, for example ASO concerts. The BGA has a Major Events Policy with the purpose of ensuring major events in the Garden are conducted safely and that setup and dismantling procedures minimise impact on Garden visitors, collections and infrastructure.

Guidelines are laid down specifying conditions of use of Garden sites and responsibilities of event organisers as well as vehicle movement controls and licensing arrangements.

ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDEN AND BOTANIC PARK

- Botanic Park currently hosts two regular major events on its central lawns: WOMADelaide and the Moonlight Cinema. WOMADelaide is a multicultural music and arts event which has been held annually since 2003. From 1993 to 2003 the event ran concurrently with the biennial Adelaide Festival of Arts.

The event is usually held in March over three consecutive days and nights, growing steadily to a total audience of around 70,000 people over the three days. Preparations for the event generally occurs over several weeks and involves the temporary construction of marquees, three main performance stages and several smaller stages, craft stalls, site fencing, box office and administration sheds.

Catering facilities are temporary and generally run off either overhead electricity or bottled gas. In the past, caterers have chosen not to utilise an existing underground gas service.

The Botanic Park Power and Lighting Study (August 2003) reported that power requirements for WOMADELAIDE are adequately met by two existing transformers in Botanic Park. Three main temporary switchboards are set up at each end of the three stages. It was recommended in the study that some undergrounding of heavy cabling, or at least conduiting, would alleviate the need for excessive runs of overhead cabling.

The study also found that general lighting mounted on temporary support structures adequately meets the requirements of security and amenity lighting during the day-night event. Temporary toilet cubicles are used to supplement the Garden facility off Plane Tree Drive.

That some undergrounding of heavy cabling, or at least conduiting, would alleviate the need for excessive runs of overhead cabling. The study also found that general lighting mounted on temporary support structures adequately meets the requirements of security and amenity lighting during the day-night event. Temporary toilet cubicles are used to supplement the Garden facility off Plane Tree Drive.

- The Moonlight Cinema is an open air film festival now staged in Botanic Park after relocating from previous sites within the Garden that became impractical due to after hours security issues in the Garden and its impact on the gardens and lawns. Audiences total around 20,000 over the twelve week season over summer. The Botanic Park Power and Lighting Study (August 2003) reported that power requirements for the Cinema are adequately met by one of the existing transformers in Botanic Park.

General lighting provided by the organisers of the event is minimal, consisting of perimeter lighting and three floodlights to assist patrons access and egress the event. The study found that even a twenty percent growth in audiences over the next ten years will still keep demand within the current power supply capacity in the Park. The Cinema also currently functions on the use of the Plane Tree toilets alone.

While both events impact heavily on the Park, on-going review of events management should ensure the continued viability of both events and the sustainability of the Park.

- Until recently, the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra conducted an annual concert on the lawns fronting the Museum of Economic Botany. Temporary lighting and toilet facilities were required each year for this night-time event.
- State Tree Climbing Championships are also held in Botanic Park on a regular basis.
- Generally facilities for major events are adequate without being obtrusive.

MOUNT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDEN

- The Adelaide Symphony Orchestra conducts an annual concert on the arboretum lawns in February. Temporary lighting and toilet facilities are required each year for this night-time event.
- On site facilities for events are adequate without being obtrusive. An audit of major event infrastructure and management is required to fully assess the ability of the site to host events sustainably in the future, and ascertain whether infrastructure upgrading is required.

MAJOR EVENTS OBJECTIVE

Maximise the potential for major events to occur within parameters which protect the Gardens' integrity and do not impinge on the achievement of the organisation's vision and objectives.

6.4 Linkages and Partnerships

A number of BGA-wide partnerships have been developed in recent years, for example:

- The Gardens have partnered with the University of Adelaide and other leading ecological and environmental institutions in BioCity: Centre for Urban Habitats, to promote research into native flora and fauna in the context of urban living.
- The Gardens advise and train medical staff at the Women's and Children's Hospital and Flinders Medical Centre on recognising poisonous plants and their effects.
- Engagement with the Aboriginal community to develop cultural understanding has been initiated through a partnership with Taoundi College, an Aboriginal owned and operated adult education centre. Initiatives through this association include the *Tappa Mai* (Bush Foods) trail and the Prior Knowledge interpretive trail (both at the ABG), and hosting NAI DOC week activities and ongoing indigenous plant workshops.
- Research partnerships with the Universities have resulted in the creation of two positions for students to conduct research at the Gardens' Seed Conservation Centre. An Honours research project is also on offer, funded by the Friends. An agreement with the University of Adelaide has been developed to create a joint appointment of a professorial level position, responsible for the management of the State Herbarium and the Plant Biodiversity Centre.
- A joint partnership with Delfin Lend Lease, the Northern Adelaide Barossa Catchment Water Management Board, SA Water and the Land Management Corporation has been established to create the position of Sustainable Landscapes officer for a two year period to provide guidance to new housing developments and home

gardeners generally on the design and management of sustainable, water sensitive garden in Adelaide.

- DECS provides a seconded Education Officer for the Gardens.

ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDEN AND BOTANIC PARK

- The ABG is located in close proximity to the State's peak civic and cultural institutions, including the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia, the Adelaide Zoo, the SA Museum, the State Library and the Art Gallery of South Australia. The ABG is part of the 'North Terrace Cultural Precinct'. The Garden's Strategic Plan 2004-2007 proposes the pursuit of joint programs between the BGA and other North Terrace institutions with regard to shared common objectives and the improvement of returns on investments for all partner organisations. The Plan specifically nominates joint programs with the Adelaide Zoo as a priority.
- A joint marketing collaboration between the Garden, the National Wine Centre (through the University of Adelaide) and the Adelaide Zoo known as 'The Living End... Nature's Trail', aims to increase public awareness of the three institutions at the eastern end of the 'cultural precinct'.
- The resident bird population in the Bicentennial Conservatory is a joint venture with the Adelaide Zoo, delivering both integrated pest management and conservation benefits. Joint educational displays with the Zoo to mark events such as World Environment Day have also been trialled.

- The Gardens have an informal arrangement with the SA Museum to cross promote each others educational programs, and to investigate opportunities to promote overall biodiversity management issues to the public.
- Collaboration with University of South Australia’s CERM occurs to assess community perception and customer satisfaction through a survey of ABG visitors.

MOUNT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDEN

- The MLBG is located within the Yurrebilla Greater Mount Lofty Parklands, without being a contributory area of this State government sponsored initiative made up primarily of reserves under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. The Cleland Conservation and Wildlife Park is located immediately north of the MLBG, linked by walking trails and a continuous native forest canopy.
- Together with the Cleland Wildlife Park, Mount Lofty Summit and Mount Lofty House, the MLBG is collaborating in a campaign to promote the ‘Mount Lofty Tourism Precinct’, under the brand ‘Heighten Your Senses’, to highlight the four attractions as a linked tourist destination.
- MLBG is part of the Adelaide Hills Tourism partnership, a body responsible for marketing the Adelaide Hills as a tourism region through strategic advertising, public relations activities and the promotion of festivals and events.

LINKAGES AND PARTNERSHIPS OBJECTIVE

Support links with adjacent institutions particularly those in the North Terrace Cultural Precinct and Adelaide Hills Tourist Region.

