

MEDIA RELEASE

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A new plan, a new look for the Australian National Botanic Gardens

Boosting its scientific research and conservation focus are among the proposals included in the Australian National Botanic Gardens Draft Management Plan which was released today.

Director of National Parks, Peter Cochrane said the new Management Plan would steer the direction of the Gardens until 2021.

"We're inviting everyone to have their say on this draft — we want to get as many written submissions as possible to help us shape the future of this great national institution," Mr Cochrane said.

"We want wide public input — not only from Canberrans but from interstate visitors, researchers and other botanic gardens into how best we can look after the natural and cultural heritage of this national icon and provide the most engaging experiences for our many visitors.

"From today people will have 70 days to go through the plan and email or send in their written comments.

"We will carefully consider all comments before producing a final Management Plan."

Executive Director of the Australian National Botanic Gardens, Dr Judy West launched the plan today and outlined key initiatives such as increasing horticultural and conservation research through new partnerships, further developing the seed banking program on rare and threatened species and expanding education and visitor programs.

A range of new developments have also been identified over the next 10 years linked to a fundraising strategy.

Coinciding with the release of the 2011-2021 Draft Management Plan, the Gardens' new brand was also unveiled at the launch.

"The new brand reflects the Gardens' status as a national institution, while still keeping the visual connection to Australian flora", Dr West said.

Comments on the Draft Management Plan can be emailed to anbgplan@anbg.gov.au or posted to the Executive Director, ANBG Management Plan, GPO Box 1777, Canberra, ACT 2601.

Copies of the Draft Management Plan can be obtained by calling (02) 6250 9540 or via the Gardens' website www.anbg.gov.au/gardens

The period for public comment closes on 31 January 2012.

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