



**Australian Government**

**Department of Finance and Deregulation**

Reference: 07/00393  
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Mr Peter Ryan  
Chairperson  
Friends of Malabar Headland  
PO Box 6023  
MALABAR NSW 2036

Dear Mr Ryan

Thank you for your letter to the Malabar Headland Intergovernmental Committee dated 23 September 2008 concerning the protection of bushland located on Malabar Headland. Your letter was discussed at the Intergovernmental Committee meeting on 23 October 2008. The Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance) was asked to respond to your letter because it has ongoing property management responsibility for the Headland.

Finance is developing a series of management plans, including a vegetation and weed plan, to improve the approach to the management of biodiversity on the Anzac Rifle Range and Malabar Headland. We are currently reviewing draft plans.

The involvement of community groups is an important resource for the management of natural areas for conservation purposes. The Friends of Malabar Headland (FoMH) and local community groups are to be commended for their efforts and their success in controlling weeds in particular areas on the site. Due to the considerable size and varied nature of the weed infestations at the study site volunteer work alone will not be sufficient to achieve a positive outcome for weed control. The studies completed so far have identified the size and magnitude of the on-site work that is required, and due to the size of the project a dedicated contractor will be required. Finance will liaise with FoMH and interested volunteer groups before commencement of on-site weed control as there is a role for continued community work.

Due to the considerable size of the site, the level of weed infestation, and techniques required to be used for restoration on site, it is envisaged that at least a four year program of weed control works should be implemented. All weed control works conducted at the study area will be undertaken with regard to the seasonal climatic and ecological variation of each species or group of species. This will allow for the appropriate treatment methods to be employed at the correct growth stage of the target species for optimal control.

All environmental activities on the site will be conducted in coordination with and in close consultation with Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and the NSW Department of Climate Change. This includes any work undertaken in the stands of Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS) which are considered to be a high priority for active management under the approved ESBS recovery plan. Finance will continue to consult with surrounding land owners including Randwick City Council and Sydney Water Corporation on weed control issues. In the short-term Finance will be reviewing the weed management plans. Once these plans have been assessed we would be pleased to meet with the FoMH and other stakeholders to seek their views on the actions proposed.

I understand your concerns on controlling the invasive bitou bush on Malabar Headland and thank you for your suggestions and offer of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Smith', is written over the typed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Andrew Smith  
Assistant Secretary  
Property Branch Manager

15 January 2009