

# PART 4

## STATE OF CONSERVATION AND FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY



## STATE OF CONSERVATION AND FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY

All elements of the sites are currently in a good to excellent physical condition and none of the sites are under threat from major environmental, developmental or tourism pressures or natural disasters.<sup>379</sup> Comprehensive statutory and associated frameworks are in place across several levels of government to ensure the present condition of the sites is maintained to a high standard. These frameworks ensure that the identified heritage values will be retained. The sites are maintained and preserved/conserved through regular and rigorous repair programs and are scrutinised at high levels including the Australian and state and territory governments. All sites are listed as heritage places on national and state heritage registers which ensure their protection under the various laws and policies detailed in Part 5.B. A comprehensive management system which includes management plans for each of the sites is in place. The full suite of conservation and monitoring measures is detailed in Part 5 and Part 6.

### 4.A PRESENT STATE OF CONSERVATION

All of the fabric and landscape settings of the sites are in good to excellent physical condition and are not subject to any major threats.

#### Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (KAVHA)

The structures and ruins are in excellent physical condition. The fabric is well maintained and several buildings have undergone various degrees of sympathetic restoration (see Part 3.D). The landscape and physical layout has been maintained to represent the convict period. An ongoing program to conserve the significant fabric of the buildings and structures, archaeological resources and landscapes is in place. The principal buildings were re-roofed in timber shingles as used in the convict era in 2007. Minor developmental pressures are governed by management frameworks and national and territory laws.

#### Old Government House and Domain

The landscape and fabric of the structures and the landscape are in excellent condition. Conservation management plans for the site guide specific works, changing functions and ongoing conservation to preserve the heritage values of the site. The plans include *Old Government House and Domain, Parramatta Park management plan* (2007), *Parramatta Park landscape master plan* (2002), *Old Government House supplementary volume to the conservation management plan* (2001) and *Old Government House conservation management plan* (1997) as well as plans for individual structures.

#### Hyde Park Barracks

The structures are in excellent condition. The stonework of the perimeter buildings is conserved in its original form and is managed under the *Hyde Park Barracks management plan* (2007).<sup>380</sup> Some of the brickwork of the main barracks building has been reversed using traditional techniques and workmanship and unobtrusive modern stabilisation techniques have been used where necessary. The remaining perimeter wall stonework is in good condition.



Hyde Park Barracks has been conserved to a high level since its construction in 1819.

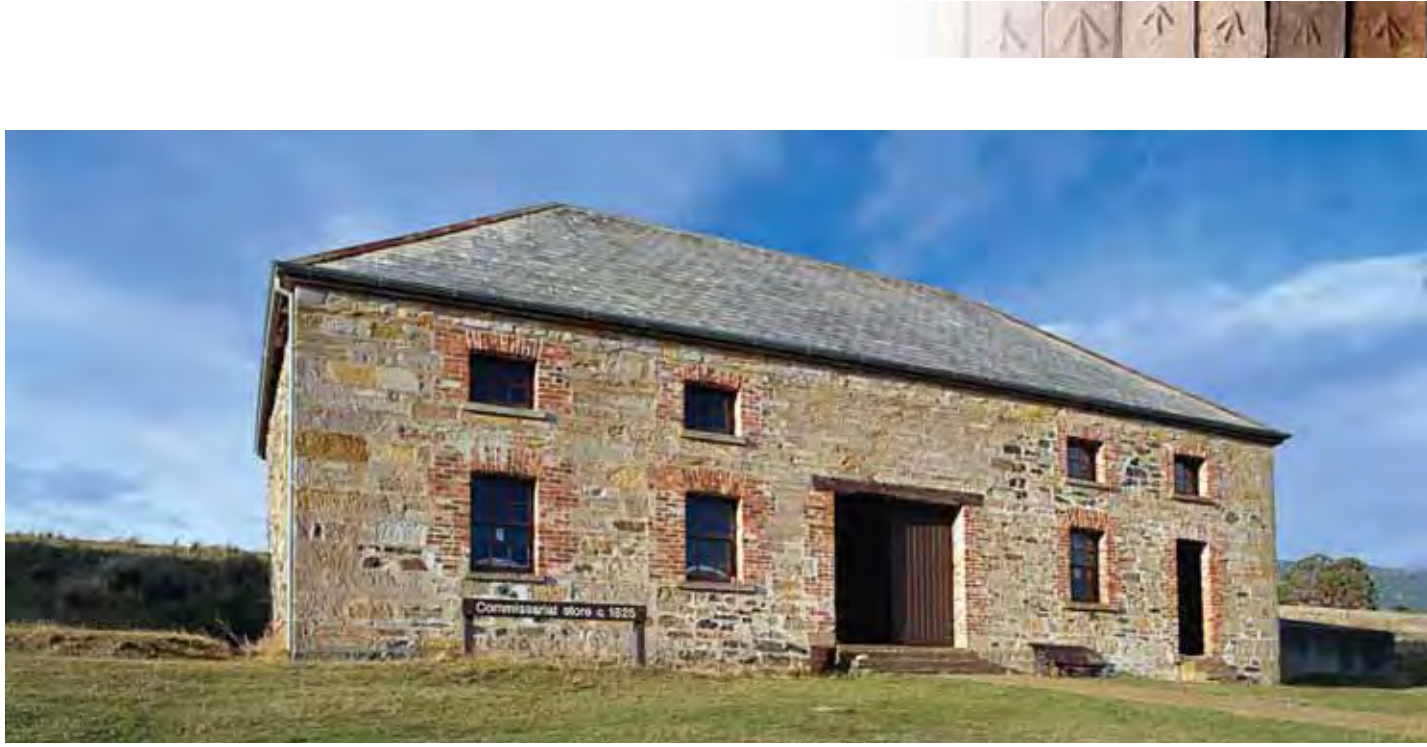
#### Brickendon–Woolmers Estates

The convict era fabric is generally in excellent structural and physical condition. The landscapes and buildings are largely unchanged from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and have been maintained to preserve their original condition.

Brickendon receives regular and ongoing maintenance as required. Some of the timber buildings require additional maintenance work. Woolmers is closed annually for a short time for maintenance and repairs. External floors, walls and doors are sympathetically conserved using methods such as white washing and natural oils or other protective methods which conform to expert conservation recommendations. The management plans outline maintenance regimes for the estates.

#### Darlington Probation Station

All convict structures and landscapes are in good physical condition. Some convict elements survive as archaeological sites and there is scope for investigating and recovering additional archaeological remains. A number of the buildings are re-pointed and lime washed to maintain integrity and protect the fabric approximately every five to 10 years. Standard maintenance on brickwork, drainage and stonework is addressed in the *Maria Island–Darlington Settlement & Point Lesuer conservation management plan* (2007). A few buildings, in particular the Superintendent's Quarters, Visiting Magistrate's Quarters, Officer's Quarters and Chapel, require minor stabilisation which is also addressed in the Conservation management plan.



c.1825 Commissariat Store at Darlington Probation Station.

### Old Great North Road

Old Great North Road structures and landscapes survive in good structural and physical condition and receive regular maintenance and ongoing repairs as necessary. Some retaining walls show some evidence of stress and distortion of shape.<sup>381</sup> Monitoring and stabilisation processes are in place to address these issues. The current state of conservation is detailed in the *Old Great North Road Dharug National Park management plan* (2008). Conservation and maintenance works are detailed in the *Old Great North Road conservation management plan* (2005), the *Maintenance plan* (2007) and *Old Great North Road Dharug National Park management plan* (2008). Recent conservation works include resurfacing, clearing and restoring culverts using traditional materials, removing vegetation from walls, features and surfaces and repositioning stones.<sup>382</sup> Further repairs on sections of some walls are proposed for the 2008–09 financial year.<sup>383</sup>



Rangers remove vegetation at Old Great North Road

Reproduced courtesy of: DECC, David Young.

### Cascades Female Factory

The original fabric survives as ruins and archaeological remains except for the Matron's Cottage. The Matron's Cottage is in good physical condition and the stonework of the remaining perimeter and internal walls are in reasonable condition. Stabilisation works were undertaken on the perimeter wall in Yard 1 in 1992–93 and 2007–08. In 2000, conservation works were undertaken on the western wall of Yard 3 and the eastern wall of Yard 1. Substantial works have been undertaken to ensure the ongoing stability of the site walls and Matron's Cottage, as well as to repair capping on top of the walls in accordance with the *Cascades Female Factory conservation management plan* (2007). Archaeological remains are conserved according to best practice. Routine maintenance is undertaken to remove weed growth and debris from the perimeter walls. The condition of the exposed remains was reviewed in the *Site conditions assessment report* (2007). Potential minor threats to the site include water seepage into archaeological remains, vegetation growth and theft of stones. The management plan outlines the substantial potential for the presence of archaeological remains at the site.

### Port Arthur Historic Site

All buildings and ruins are in sound structural condition and the stonework, fabric and landscape setting are in good condition. The *Port Arthur conservation and development project* (1980–90) and *Conservation Capital Investment Program* (2000–10) have ensured a high level of maintenance and conservation. Monitoring, conservation planning and works deal with weathering and structural issues. Conservation planning and works ensure the implementation of a sustainable cyclical maintenance program. Some buildings and ruins require minor conservation and stabilisation works and these have been identified for future attention.<sup>384</sup> The first stage of a

conservation project for the Separate Prison commenced in 2007. Stabilisation works have been undertaken for several buildings including the ruins of the Penitentiary and Hospital. Features such as masonry walls, culverts, drains and foundations are being assessed and recorded on the *Asset Management System* to assist in managing and programming prioritised works.

### Coal Mines Historic Site

All features of the site are in sound structural and physical condition. The landscape, stone structures and coal mining sites are in good condition. A maintenance program has been in place for 20 years. Substantial conservation of standing structures was undertaken between 1999 and 2002 including stabilisation works and conservation of stonework. A review and assessment program will monitor and maintain the structural integrity of the site. Research and stabilisation works are planned for ruins including the Catechist's Quarters, Assistant Superintendents Quarters, Hospital and clay pits. A master plan is being developed that will set future review and assessment guidelines for the site.

### Cockatoo Island Convict Site

All convict era buildings on Cockatoo Island are in good structural condition and there are no major conservation threats. The stonework on all convict buildings is generally in good condition. Some individual stone blocks and mortar joints require conservation work and this is being addressed by a proposed stonework restoration program. The *Cockatoo Island conservation management plan* (2008) recommends minor conservation works for convict era buildings including removal of unsympathetic post convict-era additions (see Part 3.D). Minor conservation issues such as rising damp, stone and joinery wear and roof leaks are being addressed in the Engineers' and Blacksmiths' Shop and other convict buildings.

### Fremantle Prison

Fremantle Prison is an exceptionally intact complex and is in an excellent state of conservation. All buildings are structurally sound and there are no major or minor threats to the site. A series of conservation projects has been undertaken since 1991 to improve the overall state of conservation of the site including work on the Gatehouse complex, Main Cell Block western façade stonework and the Anglican Chapel façade.<sup>385</sup> Regular maintenance programs are in place to promote long-term and sustainable conservation and protection of the site. Adherence to management plans (1998, 2006 and 2007) along with regular maintenance programs ensure the site remains in excellent condition.<sup>386</sup>

## FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY

### 4.B (I) DEVELOPMENTAL PRESSURES

None of the sites are subject to major developmental pressures such as encroachment, adaptation, agriculture or mining. All of the sites are protected from major development pressures by comprehensive planning regimes and provisions in their respective management plans. All of the sites, except Brickendon–Woolmers, are in public ownership and managed to ensure the protection of their heritage values. In addition, all sites with the exception of KAVHA are protected by buffer zones. Minor developmental pressures and measures to address these are outlined below.

#### Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (KAVHA)

Developmental pressures within KAVHA are managed under Norfolk Island planning and heritage legislation. Any application for development within the site is processed by the Planning Officer under the Norfolk Island Plan 2002 and referred to the Norfolk Island Planning and Environment Board for advice, which is collectively considered by the responsible Norfolk Island Government Minister. A separate statutory requirement for proposed development must be referred to the Australian Government for assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Bilateral management arrangements between the Australian and Norfolk Island governments for the heritage and conservation management of the site are provided for in the KAVHA *management plan* (2008). The plan is the guiding management tool for the site and has precedent over the *Norfolk Island plan* (2002) where there is a disparity.

The current framework provides a high level of protection for the heritage and conservation of the values within the site and ensures any development is widely considered by the appropriate bodies and in consultation with the Norfolk Island community.

#### Old Government House and Domain & Hyde Park Barracks

Minor pressures such as encroachment or inappropriate development in the vicinity of the sites are addressed by planning controls under existing local and state legislation and liaison with property owners.

#### Port Arthur Historic Site

The land holdings of the site have been consolidated under state government ownership to reduce the threat of encroachment by development. The main road has been rerouted around the site and beyond its viewshed.

The Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority engages with the community to resolve potential sight line issues that may arise in a predominantly rural and forested area. A motel overlooking the historic site is proposed for demolition and will be replaced by a more sympathetically designed development. The development proposal is being scrutinised by the management authority and will be reviewed by the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Board and Australian Government.

### Cockatoo Island Convict Site

Land and buildings on the island are owned by the Australian Government and cannot be bought or sold. The majority of the convict-era buildings cannot be leased and are reserved for use during special events. The leasing of up to three convict era residential buildings (potentially the Superintendent's House, Military Officer's Quarters and Clerk of Petty Sessions' Cottage) is to be considered in the future. The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust acts as the planning authority and leaseholder for the island and will ensure that use of any leased buildings are appropriate to their heritage values.

## 4.B (II) ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURES

None of the nominated sites are currently subject to the major pressures of pollution or desertification. Port Arthur, Coal Mines, Darlington, Cockatoo Island and KAVHA are located in marine environments subject to varying degrees of salt damage. These sites are subject to the possible risk of climate change due to rising sea levels and water tables and extreme storms. Industrial contamination was a significant pressure at Cockatoo Island but this has been addressed. The impact on the structures is monitored and managed at each site and protection measures are in place. Other minor environmental pressures are outlined below. All of the sites are comprehensively managed and conserved to assist with future planning for major environmental threats, such as climate change, in accordance with the world's best practice.<sup>387</sup>

### Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (KAVHA)

Topsoil instability is a minor environmental pressure, especially at Flagstaff Hill, Watermill Dam and the low land in Kingston. This has been greatly reduced by implementing recommendations of the KAVHA *Landscape management plan* (1994). The presence of animal activity and vegetation growth is being addressed by various measures provided for in the conservation management plan (2008) and *Landscape management plan*.

### Brickendon–Woolmers Estates

A regular maintenance schedule is undertaken to manage vegetation growth at the estates. There are no other environmental pressures.

### Darlington Probation Station

The impact of vegetation and wildlife are minor environmental pressures that are addressed by a cyclical maintenance program. This includes regular maintenance of the convict structures and remains, as well as vegetation control around the ruins by staff and volunteers.

### Old Great North Road

Extreme rainfall and vegetation growth on the road surface and structures are minor risks to the site. Excess rainwater can cause sedimentation of downstream drainage lines. The road is being stabilised to address the effects of uncontrolled or misdirected run-off water. Stabilisation will also safeguard important weathered surface features on rock faces along the road such as the liesegang.<sup>388</sup> A vegetation management procedure is being developed to protect the heritage values. The *Maintenance schedule* (2007) provides for cyclical maintenance works to ensure that drains and culverts remain clear of debris.

### Cascades Female Factory

Minor environmental pressures to the site include drainage, traffic vibration and invasive plants. The potential for water seepage to damage the archaeological remains at the site is subject to regular monitoring. Measures are being implemented to address other pressures in accordance with the conservation management plan (2007) including monitoring the effect of ground water and traffic vibration.



Ongoing maintenance works to remove vegetation growth at Old Great North Road.

Reproduced courtesy of: DECC, David Young.

### Port Arthur Historic Site

Port Arthur is located in a high rainfall area and this has the potential to affect the site's maintenance and conservation. The clay present in historic fabric such as convict-made bricks can decay. Another pressure includes salty groundwater which can affect the fabric through rising damp and salt attack. Salt-laden wind can erode wall tops and surfaces and affect metals. These pressures have been addressed through maintenance programs and an annual assessment of the site's condition. Conservation priorities are continually reassessed from updated data. Damage by vegetation is not a threat as works programs are in place.<sup>389</sup> Appropriate protective vegetation around buildings and features is planned and monitored within the annual works program and detailed in the *Landscape plan* (2002).

### Coal Mines Historic Site

Wildlife presence is a minor environmental pressure at the site and is being addressed by appropriate measures.<sup>390</sup> The impact of vegetation on the historic features is a potential threat. Vegetation is managed by a cyclical maintenance program. This involves regular maintenance of tracks and structures within the site and vegetation control around the ruins by staff and volunteers.



Conservation work at Port Arthur.

Reproduced courtesy of: Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority.

### Cockatoo Island Convict Site

Decontamination has been a significant environmental pressure due to the island's long history as a shipyard. To date, decontamination measures and the removal of waste have been undertaken in accordance with the strict requirements of the NSW *Contaminated Land Act 1997* and *National environment protection assessment of site contamination measure* (1999). The impact of seagulls and pigeons is a potential minor pressure on larger convict buildings. This has been addressed by restricting nesting

areas on the island and measures to curb feeding of the birds. The root growth of a small number of trees near convict structures is a minor environmental issue and several trees are scheduled for removal.

## 4.B (III) NATURAL DISASTERS

Australia is located in a very stable geological area where the risks of natural disasters such as earthquakes are low. The sites are located in low risk cyclone or tsunami areas. Floods and fire present a minimal risk to all of the sites and are comprehensively addressed by a number of management measures.

### Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area

Fire risk on Norfolk Island is minor due to the mild maritime climate. The risk of uncontrolled fire has been minimised by maintaining short grass in public picnic and barbecue areas, car parks and walking tracks. The site is provided with high-pressure ground level water hydrants and all of the structures are protected by fire detection systems maintained by the Norfolk Island Fire Service. Excess water on the low land in Kingston can be a factor in the deterioration of some bridges, and drainage channels can become blocked. A management plan for the Kingston Swamp and Drainage Channels is currently being prepared. To date, flooding has not affected the site and the situation is being monitored carefully.

The Norfolk Island *Disaster and Emergency Management Act 2001* establishes requirements for dealing with natural disasters. Under the Act, responses to cyclones and other natural disasters are co-ordinated by the Norfolk Island Emergency Management Committee. While high winds associated with cyclones sometimes bring down trees on the island, the risk to the site is low. A Norfolk Island tsunami warning system is co-ordinated by the Norfolk Island government in conjunction with Emergency Management Australia, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology and Norfolk Island Police.

### Old Government House and Domain

The site is situated within a riverine environment traversed by the Parramatta River. The riverbanks are subject to a 1-in-100 years flood zone but this does not affect the buildings or archaeological sites. The risk of bushfires is minimal and confined to specific natural areas along the creek lines and river. The *Parramatta Park Trust disaster plan for the historic buildings and monuments in Parramatta Park* (2004) provides strategies to identify and minimise threats from natural disasters, as well as measures to minimise the impact on heritage values in the event of a natural disaster. Buildings and structures are monitored remotely by smoke and temperature detectors and security systems plus regular night and day security patrols. The site is covered by an *Emergency evacuation plan* (2007) and the *Parramatta Park emergency incident management plan* (2007) to protect cultural resources in the event of a natural disaster.

### Hyde Park Barracks

Although flood or fire is highly unlikely at Hyde Park Barracks a *Disaster management plan* (2007) is in place. It includes an action plan for the evacuation and removal of collections. It also addresses procedures for dealing with disaster and post-disaster situations including flooding, fire, earthquakes and other natural disasters.

### Brickendon–Woolmers Estates

Flooding can present a minor seasonal pressure to the low lying areas of the site but does not rise high enough to affect any structures. Damming of the river upstream has further reduced this risk. A fire monitoring system is in place via smoke detectors and sprinklers in fire risk areas, both internally and externally within the homesteads and some buildings. An alarm system is in direct contact with local fire fighting services. Fire breaks are maintained to assist in minimising the threat of summer fires. Regular mowing, garden maintenance and grass slashing takes place to prevent the spread of fire.

### Darlington Probation Station

The site is a low fire risk area due to native fauna grazing. Smoke detectors have been installed in buildings and a reticulated water supply is available. Comprehensive fire management policies are in place to minimise likelihood of fires. Fire management policies also form part of management plans for reserves that are close to the site. Plans include the *Fire management policy* (2006) and the *Maria Island National Park and Ile Des Phoques Nature Reserve management plan* (1998). Flooding is not a risk as the site is situated several hundred metres from the high tide mark and has substantial drainage systems in place. Guttering is cleared during cyclical maintenance and can withstand substantial rainfall.

### Old Great North Road

Bushfires are a minor threat to the site and measures are in place to address this. Fires can directly affect the conservation of convict material and increase erosion and runoff. Fire regimes to conserve habitats and protect historic features from potential damage are addressed in the *Yengo National Park, Parr State Recreational Area and Dharug National Park fire management plan* (2003). Periods of very high intensity rainfall present a minor risk to the fabric of the road. Extreme rainfall conditions may lead to erosion of the road pavement, overload drains, culverts and damage the backfill and retaining walls. Structural stabilising works have been undertaken to combat these risks following recommendations in the management plan. Floods are unlikely to be a threat to Old Great North Road.

### Cascades Female Factory

The site has a *Fire management plan* (2000) in place. However the urban area makes the threat of fire low. Historically, the site has been prone to flooding in the past but this has not occurred for many years since the Hobart City Council undertook control measures of the nearby waterway in 1966.

### Port Arthur Historic Site

Fire or floods do not present a foreseeable threat to the site. However, security and fire systems have been established and the site has its own fire fighting crew with direct contact to local fire fighting services. The *Emergency management plan* (2006) establishes procedures for dealing with natural disaster emergencies. The *Collections protection plan* (2007) outlines strategies for managing threats to the site's collections.<sup>391</sup> A *Risk register* identifies risks to management objectives, and identifies controls and treatment plans. It is linked to the *Emergency management plan* and annual *Corporate plan*.<sup>392</sup> In addition, a detailed structural monitoring program is being developed which includes laser scanning of susceptible fabric.<sup>393</sup>

### Coal Mines Historic Site

The *Lime Bay State Reserve and Coal Mines Historic Site fire management strategy* (2002) is implemented through a partnership between the management authority and the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service; however the threat of bushfire is low. The elevated position of most of the structures at the site makes flooding unlikely.

### Cockatoo Island Convict Site

The rocky nature of the island and its well drained location make fire and flood unlikely. Appropriate sprinkler systems will be installed in the convict-era buildings in 2008 to combat any risk of fire and other protective measures such as evacuation procedures and specially trained staff are in place for other natural disasters such as earthquakes.

### Fremantle Prison

The site is elevated so not subject to flooding and the surrounding urban land use minimises the risk of bushfire. The prison has fire detection, management systems and safety evacuation plans in place. Smoking and the use of naked flames are not permitted on the site.

## 4.B (IV) VISITOR/TOURISM PRESSURES

There are no current major visitor pressures at any of the sites. All of the sites have the capacity and management frameworks in place to absorb current and future numbers of visitors without adverse effects. All of the sites have regular maintenance to preserve the structures and several have world class frameworks in place. Visitor management measures are outlined below. All sites have such measures in place or in preparation. For details on visitor numbers and facilities, see Part 5.H.

### Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (KAVHA)

The number of visitors present at any one time is limited by the number of flights to Norfolk Island. A number of companies operate vehicle tours to the site and give an historical commentary and many buildings are open for tourists.<sup>394</sup> Occasionally Government House is open for inspection by invitation of the Norfolk Island Administrator. Most visitors tour KAVHA at least once during their visit. Pedestrian and vehicular movements are monitored by regular inspection and conservation solutions are developed by the KAVHA Management Board. KAVHA is a large site and can comfortably accommodate potential increased visitation without adverse affects.

### Old Government House and Domain

Visitor entry to Old Government House is by fee and visitor numbers can be strictly managed. Access to the Domain is free of charge and visitor activities are closely monitored and managed by two public authorities.<sup>395</sup> The visitor centre and car park centralise visitor facilities and reduce the physical and visual impact on the site. All visitors take guided tours through the house in groups of 10 and there are supervised programs for school children.<sup>396</sup> Designated walking paths, boardwalks and stairs are in place to protect archaeological resource materials, landscape features and

ecological communities in the Domain.<sup>397</sup> There are also self-guided and sign-posted walking tours of the Domain landscape.<sup>398</sup> Many areas immediately surrounding Old Government House are designated 'non-pegging' areas to protect archaeological materials from repetitive impacts from visitor activities.<sup>399</sup>

### Hyde Park Barracks

The site operates as a museum with entry by fee and guided tours for visitors. It also provides a variety of children's education programs, interpretive displays, a bookshop and a café. A monitoring program includes inspection of visitor movements by staff guides. The configuration of the building and visitor management strategies enables relatively large numbers of visitors to access the site. For example, average weekend visitation is approximately 250–400 visitors, increasing to around 5,000–6,000 visitors over the Australia Day weekend.<sup>400</sup> An anticipated increase in overseas visitation of approximately 5 per cent would bring the annual visitation to approximately 210,000–220,000 which the site is well able to manage.

### Brickendon–Woolmers Estates

A visitor reception service is provided at Brickendon and Woolmers and entry fees are charged. At Brickendon, tours of the convict and farming village are self guided. Accommodation is also available in five self-contained cottages. At Woolmers, tours of the site run four times daily with more in peak season. Visitors can follow a self-guided tour through the outlying buildings and grounds. Visitors are catered for in the Servants' Kitchen Restaurant and can be accommodated in seven self-contained cottages on site. Tours will be implemented at Brickendon–Woolmers to offer additional interpretation of the outbuildings if visitor numbers increase. Guided tours would improve visitor management and help preserve the fabric.

### Darlington Probation Station

Access to the station is controlled as visitors can only get to Maria Island by water. A ferry service runs regularly. Visitors can visit the island on private vessels though numbers are small. A Parks and Wildlife Service ranger is present on the island at all times to manage visitors. The visitor information and reception centre is located within the Commissariat Store. Entry to the island is by a park pass for which a fee is charged. Interpretive panels are located throughout the site. Visitor movement is controlled by walkways and cycle paths. Short stay accommodation and water/waste facilities are available in the penitentiary and campground sites for a small number of visitors who wish to remain overnight. It is estimated that the site could accommodate an increase in visitors and a management and infrastructure plan will be developed in response to any significant visitor increase.



Australia Day Concert in the Domain at Old Government House.

Reproduced courtesy of: Christopher Levins.

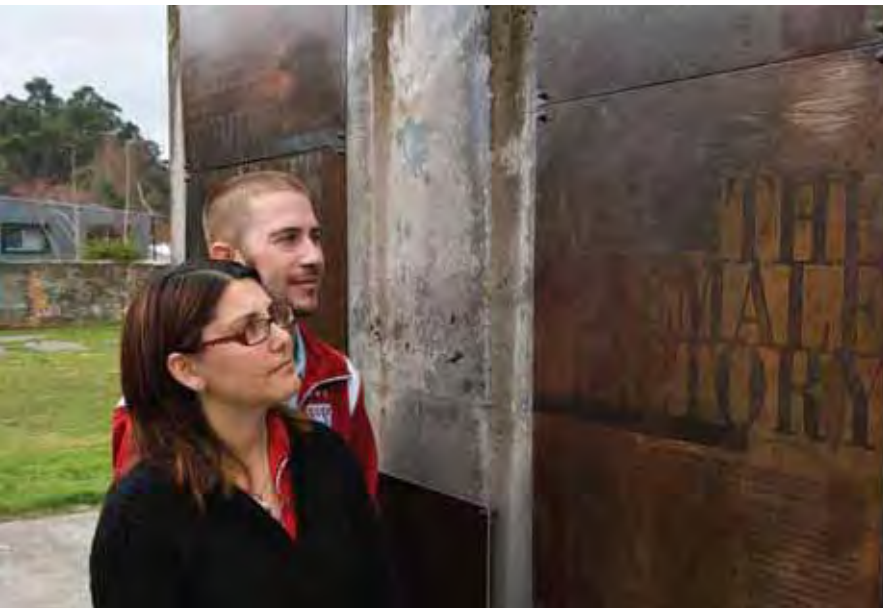


### Old Great North Road

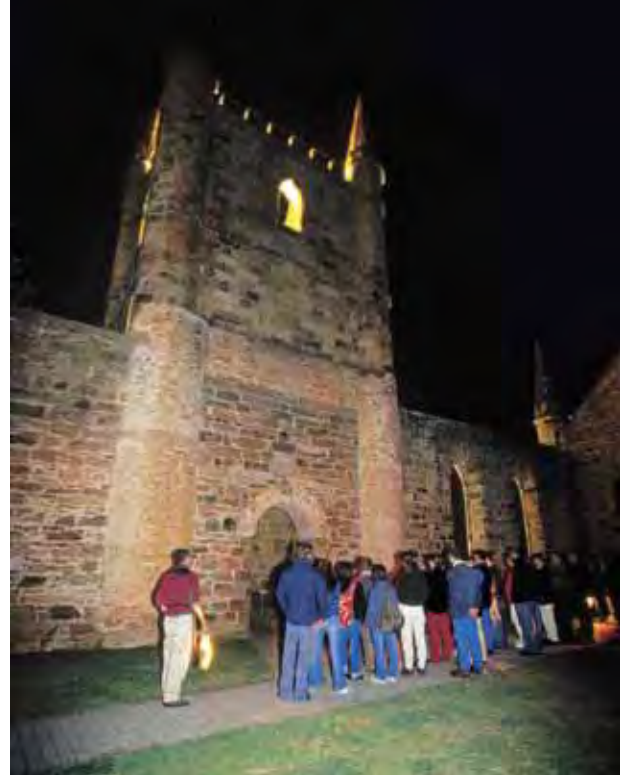
The site is used for many forms of recreation such as walking, mountain bike riding, historical and school trips and overnight trekking. Minor threats from potential increased visitation include vandalism, theft, illegal four wheel driving and horse riders. Steps taken to manage visitors include closure of the road to vehicles and the requirement that all bikes be walked. An exposed drainage channel has been fenced off to protect its sensitive values from visitor impact. Interpretive and directional signs are provided throughout the site to encourage visitors to remain in designated areas. The site is currently patrolled, managed and maintained by an area manager and a ranger. Current visitor numbers are well under the carrying capacity for the site. Formal camping areas and limits on numbers, times and locations may be instituted where necessary. Other long-term objectives for managing increasing levels of visitation include audio tours and a possible off-site visitor centre and provision of picnic facilities at the Stockade site.

### Cascades Female Factory

Yard 1 is open continuously to the public and the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service field officers and volunteers monitor the yard during business hours. Twenty-four hour monitoring of this area or closure overnight is currently under investigation. Yards 3 and 4 have low visitor/tourism pressures. A reception service is provided at the site shop and an interpretive panel is located in Yard 1. Groups limited to a maximum of 30 are offered guided tours of the site including the Matron's Cottage for which they pay a fee. School groups also visit the site in groups of 20–60 students. Steps to manage current and increased visitor numbers are detailed in the conservation management plan (2007) and are part of a security review.



Interpretive panel in Yard 1, Cascades Female Factory.



Regular ghost tours are one of many organised activities at Port Arthur.

Reproduced courtesy of: Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority.

### Port Arthur Historic Site

The visitor centre and car park, organised tours and programs for visitor activities are important mechanisms for managing tourism pressures. Visitors pay an entry fee and engage in organised activities at the visitor centre. The programs and tours assist in controlling visitor access, movement and impact. Timber and low impact steel mesh walkways are provided for safe access and to reduce impact in high use areas. Areas of sensitive heritage fabric have restricted access. Site maps and audio tour guides direct visitors around the site. These programs enhance the visitor experience and provide an informed and respectful visit. The management authority is currently developing a monitoring program to address potential issues about the site's capacity in light of increased visitor numbers.

### Coal Mines Historic Site

There are extensive interpretation panels and devices to assist visitors at the site. Visitor numbers are periodically monitored through the use of traffic counters. The site is currently open to access at all times and entry is free. There is occasional vandalism such as minor damage to interpretive devices and minor disturbance to fabric. While there is no management presence except for maintenance activities the management authority is considering a more permanent presence and other visitor management measures. These include marketing and promotion of the site over the next few years and organised tours. It is estimated that the site is well below the potential threshold for significant visitor impact.

### Cockatoo Island Convict Site

Access to the site is controlled as visitors can only get to the island by water. Public ferries provide return trips up to seven times daily. The site was able to comfortably accommodate 18,000 visitors over a three-day festival held in 2005 without any adverse effects. Visitors can take a self-guided tour or a guided tour which runs three times a week. School groups are encouraged to visit the island as part of their curriculum and approximately 5,000 children visit each year. Interpretive signs are located throughout the site and information leaflets and maps are available in the visitors recreation centre. There is no threat from visitor numbers at present and the site can comfortably absorb a significant increase in visitor numbers without adverse affects. Visitation will continue to be monitored carefully and a control program will be established if necessary.

### Fremantle Prison

The site offers a variety of visitor experiences including thematic tours of the site, education and public programs and events. Visitors pay an entry fee. Access in and around the site is strictly regulated with all visitors taking part in fully escorted guided tours. Tour routes are restricted to mainly bitumen and concrete surfaces and the impact on the site is minimal. Careful attention to the condition of surfaces accessed by the public is maintained through

employee observation and regular building condition assessments (see Part 6.C). Alternative routes are also available during maintenance and to spread the load during peak periods. Tours are limited to a maximum of 30 people. It is estimated that Fremantle could accommodate up to 500,000 visitors annually and hence the forecasted visitor growth to 250,000 per annum is not expected to place unmanageable pressures on the site in the foreseeable future.<sup>401</sup>



Visitors at the gift shop at Fremantle Prison.

## 4.B (V) NUMBER OF INHABITANTS

Table 4.1: Number of inhabitants within the property and buffer zone in 2007.

ESTIMATED POPULATION	NOMINATED SITE		BUFFER ZONE		TOTAL
	PERMANENT	TEMPORARY	PERMANENT	TEMPORARY	
KAVHA	31	55	0	0	86
Old Government House	0	0	0	0	0
Hyde Park Barracks	0	0	0	0	0
Brickendon–Woolmers	8	20	0	0	55
Darlington	1	26	0	0	
Old Great North Road	0	198	2	56	256
Cascades	0	0	24 <sup>402</sup>	0	24
Port Arthur	0	0	200 <sup>403</sup>	0	200
Coal Mines	3	65	200–300		268–368
Cockatoo Island	0	0	0	0	0
Fremantle Prison	1	40	0	3 <sup>404</sup>	44
	0	6	700	0	706