8. ACTIONS FOR MANAGEMENT OF CATCHMENT OUTSIDE PUBLIC LAND

8.01 Specific objectives

The objectives of the environmental management plan for the total catchment are essentially the same as for the public land, as listed in 7.01. However, except for Katoomba Golf Course, most of the catchment outside the public land is privately owned by a large number of people (see 4.01) and the practical options for management and restoration are consequently more restricted. The emphasis in this part of the management plan is therefore on controls over new development through the planning processes, with the following specific objectives:

- to maintain dry weather flows over Katoomba Falls
- to minimise water pollution in Katoomba Falls Creek
- to minimise future soil erosion
- to protect native fauna and flora
- to protect Aboriginal and European cultural heritage

In their management plan for Katoomba Park, Manidis Roberts (1990) recognised the necessity to control erosion and runoff, and to protect swamps in the catchment of Katoomba Falls Creek. Several of their recommendations, in effect, urged the pursuit of the objectives listed above. The present management plan may therefore be regarded as consistent with, and complementary to the earlier Manidis Roberts' plan.

8.02 Recommended actions to improve planning controls

5 3 Amend existing L.E.Ps as follows:

a) Rezone the swamps and adjoining areas outside the public land, as identified in Figure 11, to Recreation-Environmental Protection (REC-EP) as defined in L.E.P. 1991.

b) Note the catchment boundary of Katoomba Falls Creek on the map.

c) Insert an L.E.P. clause identifying an increased need for Council works to control polluted runoff and higher rates of flood runoff from roads, carparks and other impervious surfaces likely to result from new development within the catchment area. Such works should be paid for by Section 94 contributions from developers. The relevant requirements for contributions should be included in the Council's Section 94 Plan and should depend on the proposed increase in impervious surface area.

d) Insert an L.E.P. clause prohibiting drainage, filling or other works likely to damage the biological and/or hydrological characteristics of wetlands in areas zoned REC-EP.

e) Insert an L.E.P. clause prohibiting all development and vegetation disturbance on slopes exceeding 20% unless a geotechnical report shows that satisfactory provision has been made to prevent erosion and land destabilisation (see 2.03).

f) Mark areas with slopes exceeding 33% on L.E.P. map as Environmental Constraint Areas, as identified in Figure 11 (2A).

54 Prepare new Development Control Plans to:

a) encourage in gardens and landscaping the use of native plant species requiring little fertilization and which should preferably be fire retardant,

b) control noxious and invasive weeds,

c) specify requirements for detention ponds, pollutant traps, straw bale filters, silt fences and other runoff and erosion management measures for new developments (as detailed in manuals such as Quilty *et al*, 1978, and Department of Main Roads, 1984)(2A).

8.03 Other actions to meet the objectives

55 BMCC staff responsible for development approval should be aware of this large area of erosion (Location 55 in Figure 11) apparently due to past clearing and grazing of steep land. If applications are made for subdivision or development on or upslope of the area, BMCC should require a geotechnical report to ensure that the proposal will not destabilise adjoining areas (1B).

56 Acquire this property and add to the public land, notwithstanding the existing development of the property. Do not permit any land uses on the property that may reduce the tree canopy, as the retention of this canopy is important for maintaining the continuity of the green corridor and its habitat value for birds. (After acquisition, the house could be retained and let as part of the cost recovery measures) (2C).

57 BMCC staff responsible for development approval should be aware of this dam on private property which probably serves as a significant sediment trap and macrophyte pond, assisting the maintenance of dry weather flows and water quality at Katoomba Falls. Its value for these purposes will increase if further development of its catchment proceeds, in which case the spillway may need to be enlarged to cope with higher discharges. The desirability of the dam being retained as a safe and effective water storage should be noted. (1B)

58 Make further invesigations to assess the heritage significance of the following items:
old dairy buildings in a property off Wellington Road,
site of the West Katoomba Mission Church mentioned in 3.01,
site of J.B. North's home "Essendene" near the water reservoir.(3C)

59 Investigate the feasibility of linking the walking tracks in Frank Walford Park (from Actions 12 and 35) to other walking tracks or potential walking tracks to Nellies Glen, Bonnie Doon Falls and other scenic attractions in the adjoining headwaters of Megalong Creek. Local bushwalkers have suggested that such linkages could possibly be made through the S.E.S. site (Shell Corner) and through several undeveloped areas along Narrow Neck Road. (3B)

60 Extend a walking track in Frank Walford Park to Nellies Glen etc if Action 59 finds that this is feasible. (3C)