



Wingecarribee  
SHIRE COUNCIL

*We're with you*


# Plan of Management for Community Land and Crown Reserves

## Natural Areas

Bushland and Watercourse

August 2024





*We acknowledge the Gundungurra and Dharawal people as the traditional custodians of this place we now call the Wingecarribee Shire. We recognise the continuous and deep connection for Gundungurra and Dharawal people to their Ngurra (Country) and its great cultural significance to First Nations people, both locally and in the region.*

*We pay respect to Elders past and present and future, and extend that respect to all First Nations people.*

PHOTO CREDIT: FORD KRISTO PHOTOGRAPHY

## **Plan of Management for Community Land and Crown Reserves**

### **Natural Areas Bushland and Watercourse**

#### **REVISIONS**

VERSION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY
1	23 November 2021	Preliminary Draft for Council review	CGM Planning
2	4 April 2022	Draft for Council to refer to the Minister for consent to exhibit. Referred to DPPI 5 May 2022.	WSC
3	2 May 2023	Initial comments received following DPPI review	WSC
4	12 April 2024	Final Draft for exhibition following DPPI support	WSC
5	7 August 2024	Final Adopted	WSC

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## Key information

This plan of management (POM) has been prepared by Wingecarribee Shire Council (WSC) and provides direction as to the use and management of council-owned community land and council-managed Crown reserves classified as community land in Wingecarribee Shire.

The POM is required in accordance with Section 36 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act) and Section 3.23 of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (CLM Act).

This POM is a specific document covering the community land within the Wingecarribee Shire categorised as Natural Area – Bushland and Natural Area – Watercourse.

The POM outlines the way the land will be used and provides the framework for Council to follow in relation to the express authorisation of leases and licences on the land.

This PoM is a generic document covering most of the community land and open space within the Wingecarribee local government area (LGA) categorised as natural area which is further categorised into bushland and watercourse. Although the primary purpose of the land is natural area, small sections of some of the reserves are also categorised as Park, Sportsground or General Community Use.

This plan was adopted by Wingecarribee Shire Council at the meeting of 7 August 2024.



PHOTOGRAPH: KOALA (*PHASCOLARCTOS CINEREUS*) IN MANSFIELD RESERVE

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Wingecarribee Shire

Wingecarribee Shire is located 75 kilometres from the south-western fringe of Sydney and 110 kilometres from Sydney central business district, within the Sydney – Canberra – Melbourne transport corridor.

Wingecarribee is also known as the Southern Highlands due to its position on a spur of the Great Dividing Range, 640 to 850 metres above sea level. (WSC 2017)

The Shire is bounded to the east by the Illawarra escarpment and Morton National Park. The north abuts Nepean and Avon dam catchments. In the west, the Wollondilly and Wingecarribee rivers flow through deep sandstone valleys which form part of the Warragamba dam catchment. Southern reaches of the Shire are bounded by Uringalla Creek and comprise sandstone plateau dissected by deep gorges. (WSC 2017)

Traditional Custodians of the Southern Highlands are the Dharawal and Gundungurra people who value their connection to their land. First contact between Aboriginal people and Europeans occurred in 1798 and the first European settlement occurred in Bong Bong Common in 1821. (WSC 2017)

The Shire has a land area of 2700 km<sup>2</sup> and is predominantly rural with agricultural land surrounding the three main towns – Mittagong, Bowral and Moss Vale – and the many villages, including Berrima, Bundanoon and Robertson. The 2021 population was 52,456 and this is expected to increase over the next 20 years, largely driven by people moving from the greater Sydney area.

The Southern Highlands is a well-known tourist destination. Its position atop the Great Dividing Range provides a cool climate with four distinct seasons. This geography provides a natural landscape of gorges, waterfalls and rolling hills.

Traditional Custodians of the Southern Highlands are the Dharawal and Gundungurra people who value their connection to their land. First contact between Aboriginal people and Europeans occurred in 1798 and the first European settlement occurred in Bong Bong Common in 1821. (WSC 2017)

Wingecarribee Shire has a high provision of Bushland Reserves, which significantly adds to the character of the area. Council's bushland reserves comprise a total area of 2,982 hectares (ha) of which 2,056ha is Crown land whereby Council is the Crown land Manager and 307 ha is Devolved to Council. The area of bushland reserves owned by the Crown where Council is appointed Crown land manager will continue to grow over time, expanding Council's land management responsibilities.

*The South - East and Tablelands Regional Plan 2036* is a 20-year blueprint for the future. One of the four goals for the region is "A diverse environment interconnected by biodiversity corridors". The Bushland reserves of Wingecarribee Shire form a key part of these corridors, along with other areas rich in biodiversity with high conservation value including a portion of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, two declared wilderness areas, state forest, national park and other protected lands that form part of the Sydney water catchment area. (WSC 2017)

The Community Vision outlined in the Community Strategic Plan 2017 is:

*"A healthy and productive community, learning and living in harmony, proud of our heritage and nurturing our environment."*

"Our wildlife corridors are actively managed, and the Shire's natural assets are protected through programs which engage and encourage community partnerships and participation in initiatives which preserve our native flora and fauna."

This vision provides direction for the use and management of council-owned community land and council-managed Crown reserves classified as 'community land' in the Wingecarribee Shire area.

See Figure 1 for the location of Wingecarribee Shire.

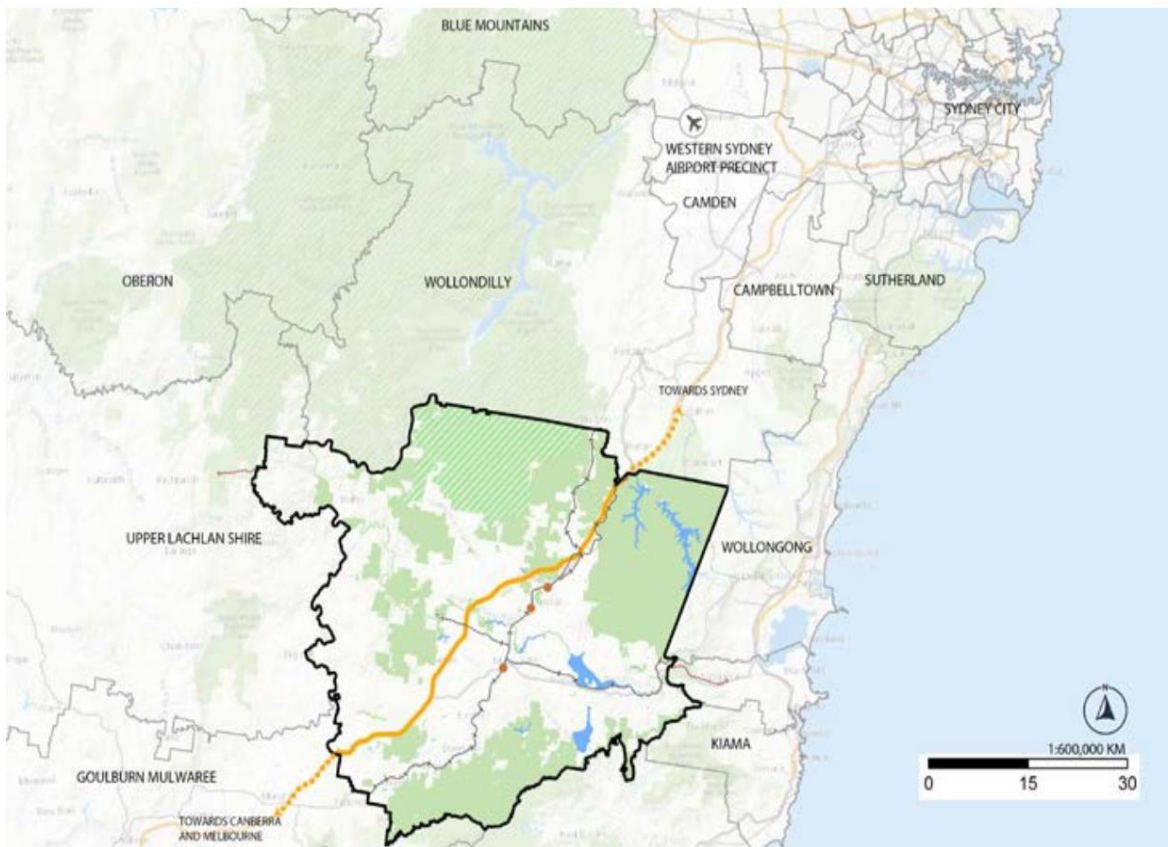


FIGURE 1. WINGECARRIBEE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

## 1.2 Purpose of the plan of management

The *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act) requires a plan of management (POM) to be prepared for all public land that is classified as community land under that Act.

The *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (CLM Act) authorises local councils (council crown land managers) appointed to manage dedicated or reserved Crown land to manage that land as if it were public land under the LG Act. Therefore, all Crown land reserves managed by council are also required to have a POM under the LG Act.

The purpose of this specific POM is to:

- contribute to the council's broader strategic goals and vision as set out in Wingecarribee Shire Community Strategic Plan 2017 – Wingecarribee 2031 Our Future Our Choice
- ensure compliance with the LG Act and the CLM Act
- provide clarity in the future development, use and management of the community land
- ensure consistent management that supports a unified approach to meeting the varied needs of the community.

Further information about the legislative context of LG Act community land plans of management can be found in **Appendix 1** of this document.

### 1.3 Process of preparing this plan of management

Figure 2 sets out the process steps in preparing this plan of management.

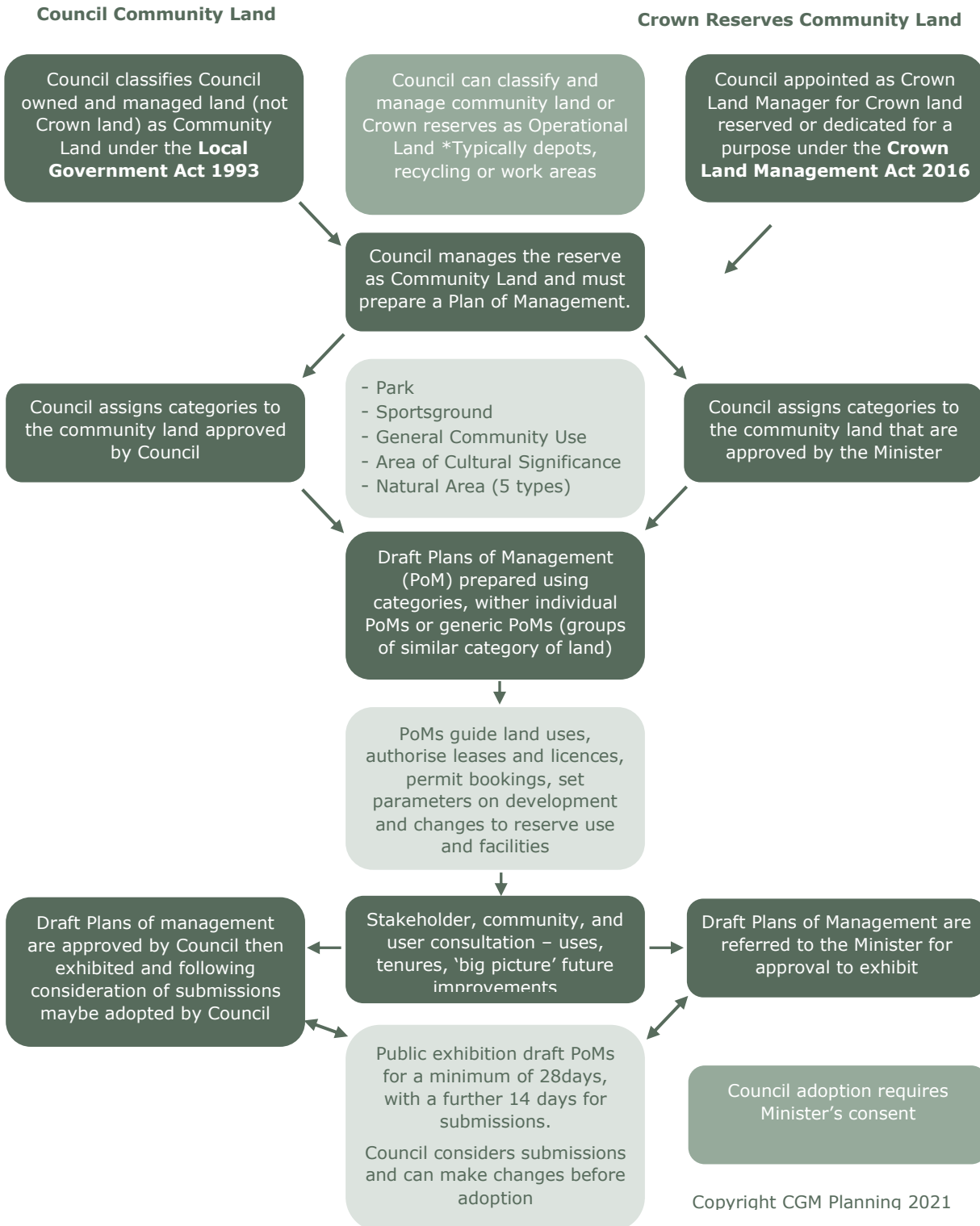


FIGURE 2 - PLAN OF MANAGEMENT PROCESS STEPS FOR COUNCIL MANAGED CROWN RESERVES AND COUNCIL-OWNED COMMUNITY LAND



## 1.4 Change and review of this Plan of Management

This POM will require regular review to align with community values and changing community needs, and to reflect changes in council priorities. Council has determined that it will review the POM within five years of its adoption. However, the performance of this POM will be reviewed internally on a yearly basis to ensure that the reserves are being managed in accordance with the POM.

Council may continue to acquire or divest land for the benefit of the community or be appointed Crown land manager for Crown land reserves. Land may also come into council's ownership by dedication of land for open space.

The community will have an opportunity to participate in reviews of this POM.

## 1.5 Community Consultation

In accordance with section 39 of the LG Act, prior to being placed on public exhibition, the draft PoM was referred to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI), as representative of the State of NSW, which is the owner of the Crown reserves. Council has included in the plan any provisions that have been required by DPHI.

The LG Act requires a public hearing for community land, or parts of community land where categories are assigned for the first time or amended. No public hearing is required for the categorisation of the Crown reserves.

Prior to referral to DPHI Council completed an audit of all community and Crown Land managed as bushland reserves and assigned initial categories based on the biophysical values and historic management of each reserve. Natural Area – Bushland and Natural Area - Watercourse were the categories assigned for most bushland reserves.

Community engagement for input into the review of the draft POM took place via:

- Public exhibition of the draft POM from 21 May 2024 to 18 June 2024 in accordance with the requirements of S38 of the LG Act
- Public hearing on the proposed categorisation of the reserve held on 6 June 2024 at 5pm and the report was made available on Council's website on 23 July 2024.

In accordance with the requirements of Sections 40(A) and 47(G) of the LG Act, a public hearing is required for community land, or parts of community land where categories are assigned for the first time or amended. The CLM Act and Regulation does not require a public hearing if the community land categories assigned to Crown reserves are amended after Council's Notice of Initial Assignment.

A total of four submissions on the draft POM were received by 18 June 2024, the key issues raised being:

- Natural Areas classification of Balmoral Village Park does not allow the community a decent open space.
- Greater Mount Alexandra Reserve should be declared a National Park.
- Southern Welby Weir should be classified parkland with public road access.
- Greater Mount Alexandra Reserve could be used to establish a recreation facility with eco-tourism.

Council considered the submissions received and resolved to adopt the POM on 7 August 2024 with only minor changes.



PHOTOGRAPH: GANG GANG COCKATOO INSPECTING A HOLLOW BY L. DOCKER

## 2.0 Land description

### 2.1 Land covered by this plan of management

This PoM applies to the community land shown in Figure 3 and includes:

- Council-owned community land listed in Appendix A1, and
- Crown reserves with Council as Crown Land Manager (CLM), that is, land owned by the State of NSW (the Crown) and managed by Council as Crown land manager under the CLM Act, listed in Appendix A2.

The community land and Crown reserves are defined by real property identifiers (lots and deposited plans). Crown Reserve numbers are given for Crown land.

The environmental values and significant features of the reserves are contained in Section 5 of this Plan.

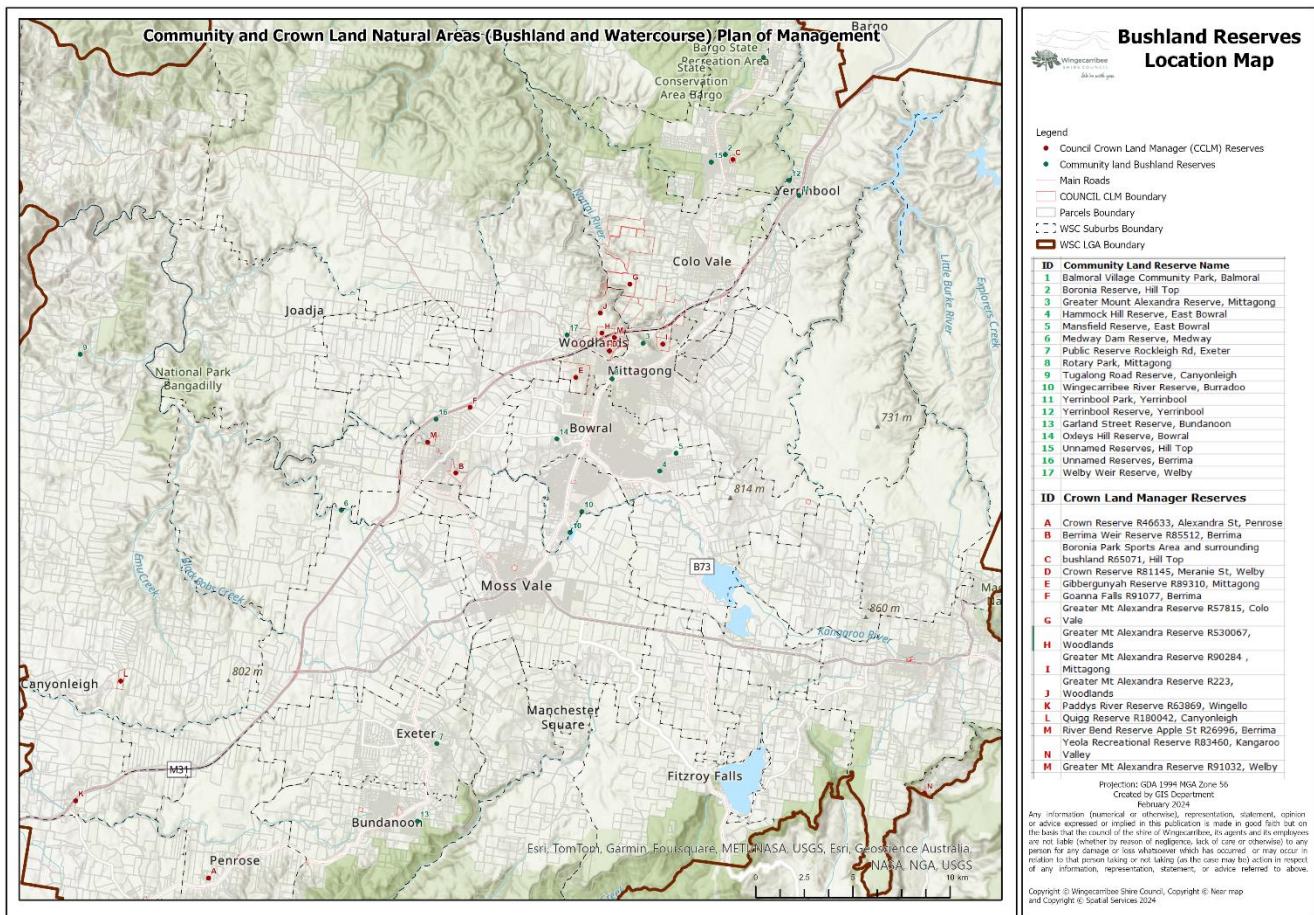


FIGURE 3 – COMMUNITY LAND AND CROWN RESERVES COVERED BY THE PLAN OF MANAGEMENT FOR NATURAL AREAS (BUSHLAND AND WATERCOURSE)

Both community land and Crown Reserves managed by Council are identified in Figure 3.

Council owned reserves and those under Council CLM that are not covered by this PoM generally require site-specific plans of management to be prepared in accordance with clauses 36A-D of the LG Act. Contact the council or refer to the council's website for information about other public land not listed in the Appendices.

### 2.1.1 Council owned community land

This draft PoM includes public land that Council owns and has classified, and dealt with, as community land under the LG Act.

There are 19 Council owned community land reserves covered by this PoM.

- Balmoral Village Community Park, Balmoral
- Boronia Reserve, Hill Top
- Garland Street Reserve (Glow Worm Glen), Bundanoon
- Greater Mount Alexandra Reserve
- Hammock Hill Reserve, East Bowral
- Mansfield Reserve, East Bowral
- Medway Dam Reserve, Medway
- Oxley Hill Reserve, Bowral
- Public Reserve Rockleigh Rd, Exeter
- Rotary Park, Mittagong
- Tugalong Road Reserve, Canyonleigh
- Unnamed Reserve, Berrima
- Unnamed Reserve 1, Hill Top
- Unnamed Reserve 2, Hill Top
- Unnamed Reserve 3, Hill Top
- Welby Weir Reserve, Woodlands
- Wingecarribee River Reserve, Burradoo
- Yerrinbool Park, Yerrinbool
- Yerrinbool Reserve, Yerrinbool

See **Appendix A1: Council owned community land covered by this PoM** for specific details of these reserves.

Natural Areas also occur in parts of various parks and sportsgrounds across the shire. The management of these parks and sportsgrounds is addressed in the draft Plan of Management for Community Land and Crown Reserves (Sportsground, Parks and General Community Use).

### 2.1.2 Crown reserves under Council Crown land management (CCLM)

This draft PoM includes those Crown reserves where Council has been appointed as Council Crown Land Manager (Council CLM).

There are 15 Crown reserves with Council CLM covered by this PoM.

- Berrima Weir Reserve R85512, Berrima
- Boronia Park Sports Area and surrounding bushland R65071, Hill Top
- Crown Reserve R46633, Alexandra St, Penrose
- Crown Reserve R81145, Meranie St, Welby
- Gibbergunyah Reserve R89310, Mittagong
- Goanna Falls R91077, Berrima
- Greater Mt Alexandra Reserve R57815, R530067, R90284, Part of R91032 & R223, Colo Vale, Mittagong, Welby and Woodlands
- Paddys River Reserve R63869, Wingello
- Quigg Reserve R180042, Canyonleigh
- River Bend Reserve Apple St R26996, Berrima
- Yeola Recreational Reserve R83460, Kangaroo Valley

**See Appendix A2: Crown reserves with Council Crown Land Manager covered by this PoM** for specific details of these reserves.

Crown reserves with Council CLM have been either reserved or dedicated for purposes, which define the extent and nature of activity and development on the reserve.

The Crown reserves under Wingecarribee Shire Council CLM have a range of gazetted purposes:

- Public Recreation
- Resting Place
- Promotion of the Study and the Preservation of Native Flora and Fauna
- Preservation of Fauna
- Preservation of Native Flora
- Preservation of Native Birds
- Preservation of Trees
- Community Purposes.

The CLM Act requires Council CLMs to lodge a Notice of Initial Assignment of community land categories, in accordance with the LG Act and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (the LG Reg). Council's notice of initial assignment was approved by the Crown Lands agency on behalf of the Minister on 14 November 2019.

Council is entitled to amend the initially assigned categories through category assignment in a draft and adopted PoM. The initial assignment is a 'gateway step' in preparation of draft PoMs and the final categorisation in a PoM is required to be the most suited to the reserve purpose while effecting the LG Reg provisions guiding the assignment of categories.

Council's current PoM amendment to categories initially assigned for Council CLM reserves is in two instances to remove the category: 'Area of cultural significance', applied for European heritage, as Council has determined the heritage values or fabric of the site(s) can be recognised and suitable management actions implemented that accommodate the protection of the site(s).

The draft PoM categories are suitably assigned and closely related to the reserve purposes without potentially causing material harm to the reserve and purposes.

## 2.2 Recommended Property Actions for other Crown reserves and Council owned lands

Council identified a range of property actions for other Crown reserves and Council owned lands to assist Council, as part of the project and preparation of the draft PoM.

The other Crown reserves and Council owned lands are:

- Crown reserves where Council manages the land as a public reserve in accordance with Section 48 of the LG Act (devolved management)
- Crown land that is reserved and managed by the Minister administering the CLM Act (Minister-managed reserves)
- Council public land classified as operational land, in accordance with the LG Act
- Crown roads (CLM Act), Council roads and State roads under the *Roads Act 1993*.

The inclusion of land under devolved management, the Crown land Minister-managed reserves, Council's operational land and the types of roads is not required under the CLM Act and LG Act PoM provisions. This PoM does not legally authorise the use and occupation on such land.

Council will continue with the existing management and land status arrangements and will use the adopted plan to provide for future management direction.

The management of these areas will be made more feasible and effective if the sections can be consolidated over time under Council's care, control and management as community land. If this occurs after the adoption of this PoM, the PoM will need to be amended or a new PoM made.

### 2.2.1 Crown reserves under devolved management

Crown reserves under devolved management are Crown land that has been either reserved or dedicated by Gazette notice for purposes, which define the extent and nature of activity and development on the reserve.

The Crown reserves under Wingecarribee Shire Council devolved management have a range of gazetted purposes:

- Public Recreation
- Resting Place
- Preservation of Native Fauna
- Preservation of Native Flora.

There are eight Crown reserves under devolved management. These are:

- Apple Street Reserve 19861, Berrima
- Crown Reserve 190, opposite Stone Quarry Walk Berrima
- Crown Reserve 191, Argyle Street, Berrima
- Crown Reserve 253, Bowral Street, Welby
- Crown Reserve 530062, Odessa Street, Berrima
- Medway Dam Reserve 88144
- Paddys River Reserve 86099, Wingello
- Wingello Recreation Reserve 55750

**See Appendix A3: Reserves under devolved management** for specific details of these reserves.

When Councils manage Crown reserves as devolved managers under Section 48 of the LG Act, Council is not a Council CLM but manages these reserves (in essence) as a local government authority in the absence of an appointed CLM or a holder of a Crown lease.

Council is responsible for the day-to-day management of the land using all the same powers and functions available under the LG Act. Council may manage the land within the scope of the reserve purpose, maintain the land and add minor infrastructure or landscaping. Council is unable to grant leases, licences or other estates on devolved reserves and requires land owner's consent (the Minister) for development.

Crown reserves managed as devolved reserves do not require an adopted PoM. As there is no legal framework for a PoM for these reserves under the LG Act, Council will continue to manage them on a day to day basis consistent with this PoM.

When Council lodged its Notice of Initial Assignment of community land categories, Council also resolved to categorise these devolved reserves. These reserves were included in the Notice as Council may in the future wish to consider appointment as a Council CLM over the devolved reserves and subsequent legal application of the land by this PoM.

Crown reserves under the devolved management of Council listed in Appendix A3 may over time be included in this PoM. Council will consider seeking to be appointed as a Council CLM in circumstances where this will result in a clear and demonstrable benefit to Council, for example, where devolved land adjoins community land or Crown reserves with CLM there are benefits to the land to be managed as a single reserve. If Council is appointed CLM after adoption of this Plan, the PoM will need amending and the process repeated.

### 2.2.2 Council operational land

There are nine locations where Council has identified existing and/or future operational land and recommended action to reclassify as community land. The locations are:

- Part of Boronia Reserve, Hill Top
- Part of Gibbergunyah Reserve, Mittagong
- Leaver Park, Bundanoon
- Medway Dam Reserve, Medway
- Oxley Hill Reserve, Bowral
- Part of Unnamed Reserve 1 Hill Top
- Part of Unnamed Reserve 2 Hill Top
- Part of Unnamed Reserve 3 Hill Top
- Wingecarribee River Reserve, Burradoo

See **Appendix A4: Council operational land** for details of each sites and recommended actions.

Council has included the operational land parcels in the draft PoM as it intends to re-classify these operational parcels to community land as addition to existing reserves. The reclassification from operational land to community land is done by Council resolution.

The land at Oxley Hill has issues that require Council decisions prior to action to reclassify any public land.

### 2.2.3 Roads and access actions

Council has identified Council, Crown and other roads and access ways that will be addressed in future versions of this PoM, either through integration of the land into reserves and parks for improved management, or modifications to existing access arrangements to reduce unauthorised land access ways and/or impacts from use.

The recommended property actions are:

- closure of Council roads and addition of the land to existing parks and reserves, and
- minor readjustment and realignment actions such as making of new roads to access infrastructure, reinforcement of approved roads and access and closure of unauthorised access ways, and small parcels of infrastructure land being classified as operational land.

Council can request to have any Crown roads it needs transferred to its management. Once the roads have been transferred, Council can undertake the necessary actions to close them and declare the land community land.

Council is required to close the Council roads and subsequently resolve that the land is community land associated or added to existing parks and reserves.

**Appendix A5: Roads and access actions** sets out the Council, Crown and State roads action as well as a set of modifications to existing access ways and routes including removing or closing unauthorised private roads as well as creating new roads for infrastructure or access.



PHOTOGRAPH: BERRIMA WEIR RESERVE IN SPRING



## 3 Basis of Management

### 3.1 Management of community land

Community land is valued for its important role in the social, intellectual, spiritual and physical enrichment of residents, workers, and visitors to the Wingecarribee Shire. The intrinsic value of community land is also recognised, as is the important role this land plays in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem function.

The management of community land is governed by the categorisation of the land and the core objectives of the relevant categories of community land that are assigned to the land. All community land must be assigned to one or more LG Act community land categories which define how Council will manage each parcel of land. Each category has set guidelines for assigning categories and core objectives providing guidance to the management of community land.

The core objectives for each category give a broad strategic direction for management of this land, which is the same for all community land of the same category across NSW. The core objectives for each category are set out in the LG Act.

The guidelines for categorisation of community land are set out in the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (LG Regulation) 2021 Part 4 Community Land Division 1 Guidelines for the categorisation of community land.

WSC intends to manage its community land to meet:

- Assigned categorisation of community land
- LGA guidelines and core objectives of community land
- Council's strategic objectives and priorities
- Restrictions on management of Crown Land and community land
- Development and use of the land outlined in Section 6 of the LGA – generally, zoning, current use of the land, condition of the land, buildings and infrastructure, permissible uses / future uses, express authorisation of leases, licences and other estates.

### 3.2 Categorisation of community land

All community land is required to be categorised as one or more of the following categories. The LG Act defines five categories of community land:

- **Park** – for areas primarily used for passive recreation.
- **Sportsground** – for areas where the primary use is for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.
- **General community use** – for all areas where the primary purpose relates to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social, and intellectual welfare or development of members of the public. This includes venues such as community halls, scout and guide halls, and libraries.
- **Cultural significance** – for areas with Aboriginal, aesthetic, archaeological, historical, technical, research or social significance.
- **Natural area** – for all areas that play an important role in the area's ecology. This category is further subdivided into bushland, escarpment, foreshore, watercourse and wetland sub-categories.

The categorisation of the land subject to this PoM is predominantly Natural Area which is further categorised into bushland and watercourse. This land is indicated on maps in **Appendix A6**. Although the primary purpose of the land is 'Natural area', small sections of some of the reserves are also categorised as Park, Sportsground or General Community Use. See Section 6.0.

Council is preparing a separate draft Plan of Management for Community Land and Crown Reserves (Sportsground, Park and General Community Use) for those sites categorised predominantly as Sportsground, Park or General Community Use.

### 3.3 Guidelines and core objectives for management of community land

The management of community land is governed by the categorisation of the land, its purpose, and the core objectives of the relevant category of community land. Council may then apply more specific management objectives to community land, though these must be compatible with the core objectives for the land.

The guidelines for categorisation of community land are set out in the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*. The core objectives for each category are set out in the LG Act. The guidelines and core objectives for the Natural Area, General Community Use and Park category are set out in Sections 5.0 and 6.0 of this PoM.

### 3.4 Management of Crown land

The use of the Crown land described in this POM must:

- be consistent with the purpose for which the land was dedicated or reserved
- consider native title rights and interests and be consistent with the provisions of the Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993*
- consider the inchoate interests of Aboriginal people where an undetermined Aboriginal Land Claim exists
- consider and not be in conflict with any interests and rights granted under the CLM Act
- consider any interests held on title.

Management of Crown reserves shall be in alignment with the reserve purposes, and generally there are additional elements that may influence how Council shall manage Crown reserve. Examples of this include conditional attachments to appointment instruments, or compliance requirements with specific or general rules published in NSW Government Gazette. Councils must also comply with any Crown land regulations that are made in future.

There are no conditions attached to any Crown land manager appointment notice for Council. A Crown land management rule has been made under s.3.15 of the CLM Act for the granting of leases and licences for communication infrastructure related purposes on Crown land. Under this rule, Crown land managers cannot, under any act (including the LG Act), grant any lease or licence authorising:

- the installation or construction of communication infrastructure on Crown land
- the placement of communication infrastructure on Crown land
- the use of communication infrastructure that is located on Crown land
- access to communication infrastructure that is located on Crown land.

However, the rule does not prevent the holder of a holding granted by the Minister administering the CLM Act subletting of communication infrastructure located on Crown land in accordance with the conditions of a holding granted by the Minister.

### 3.5 Regional and local strategic objectives and priorities

#### 3.5.1 South-East and Tablelands Regional Plan 2036

The NSW Government's South-East and Tablelands Regional Plan 2036 gives clear direction to WSC when preparing the plans above. One of the 4 goals for the region is "A diverse

environment interconnected by biodiversity corridors" which demonstrates the importance of the Great Western Wildlife Corridor and Illawarra Escarpment Corridor within the Great Eastern Ranges. One of the five themes is "Enhancing sustainable and resilient environments", with a potential indicator of reduced number of critically endangered, endangered, and threatened animal species, plant species and ecological communities and objectives including: *Protect important environmental assets; Enhance biodiversity, habitats and the connections between them.*

Council's commitments in the Community Strategic Plan, LSPS and Wingecarribee LEP 2010 align with this goal.

Council in consultation with the community has developed the following key strategies and plans to identify the priorities and aspirations of the community and the delivery of a vision for the future. They have a direct influence on the objectives, uses and management approach covered by this POM.

### 3.5.2 Community Strategic Plan - Wingecarribee 2042

The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) reflects the community's aspirations and needs for the future. The Community Vision outlined in the CSP is:

*A healthy and productive community, learning and living in harmony, proud of our heritage and nurturing our environment.*

This vision provides direction for the use and management of all bushland reserves and natural areas.

Elements of the CSP that influence the actions in this POM are:

*Community desires:*

- Our unique natural environment is valued, protected and enriched
- Our wildlife corridors are actively managed and the Shire's natural assets are protected through programs which engage and encourage community partnerships and participation in initiatives which preserve our native flora and fauna.

*Strategy:*

- Protect and improve biodiversity
- Sustainably manage natural resources for broader community benefit
- Plan for predicted impacts of climate change

*Measuring Progress:*

- Regenerated bushland/restoration of natural bushland
- Number of threatened species both endangered and vulnerable (is reduced)
- Water quality is improved
- Litter and rubbish dumping is minimised.

The Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework (Figure 4) provides the reporting mechanism to the community regarding outcomes achieved in this plan.

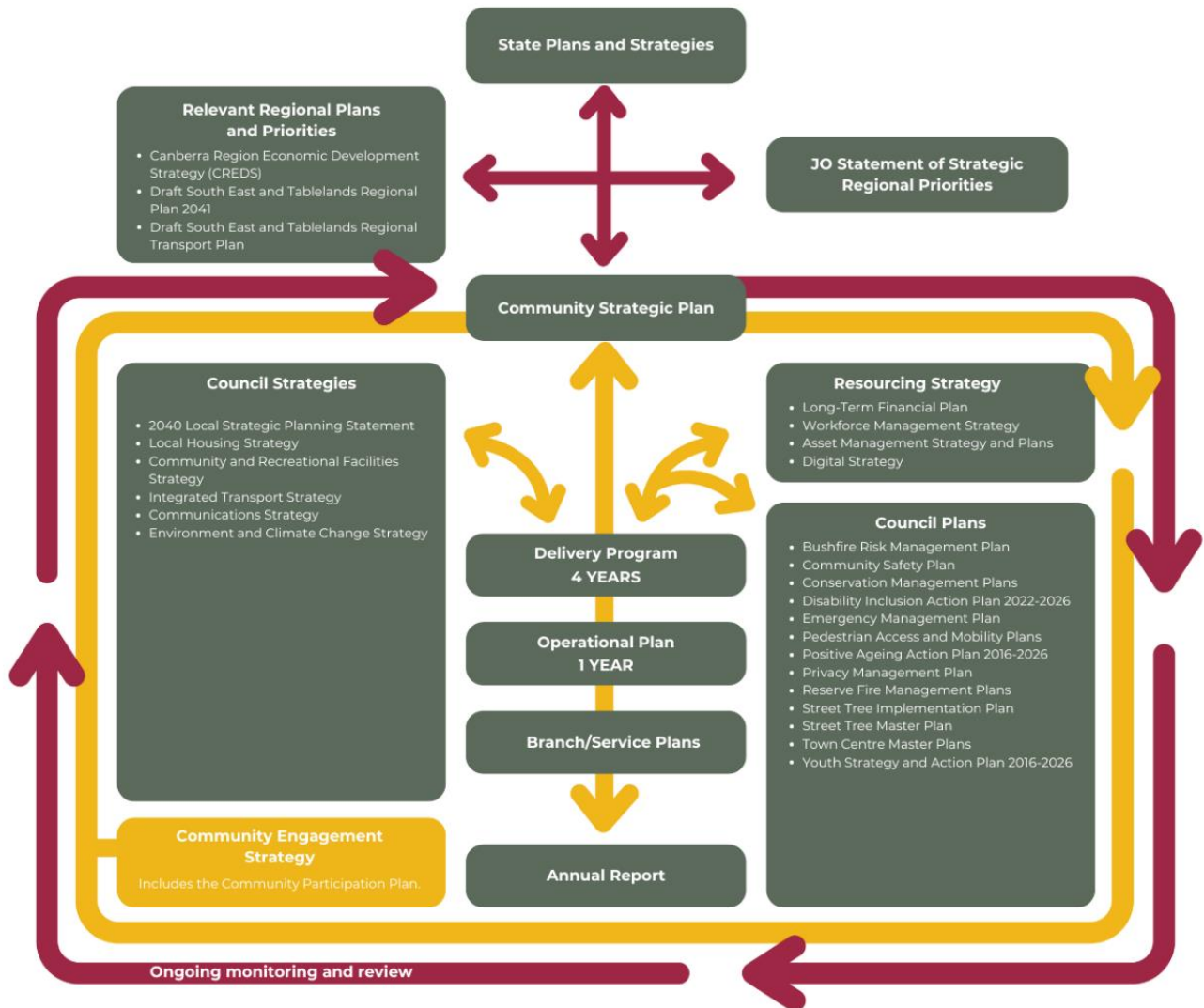


FIGURE 4 - INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK

### 3.5.3 Wingecarribee 2040 Local Strategic Planning Statement

The Wingecarribee Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) operates alongside the Community Strategic Plan and outlines a 20-year vision for land use in the LGA. It sets the framework for how the Regional Plan's directions are to be implemented locally and is a requirement under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act)

The four relevant aims and actions for this POM are listed below. The actions within the LSPS are identified as being either 'High', 'Medium' or 'Low' priority actions. High priority actions are intended to be commenced within 2 years. Medium priority actions will be commenced within 2-4 years, and low priority actions will be commenced after 4 years. Actions marked NL are not directly related to land use and will not be reported on through the LSPS process.

*Aim: Mitigate, adapt and build resilience to climate change over the next 20 years.*

- Continue to manage the impacts of climate change (such as heat, floods, storms and drought) on Council's assets and services (NL)

- Work in partnership with local, State and Federal agencies to provide the community with the best climate change resilience support available to ensure the highest level of resilience (NL)
- Undertake Flood and Bushfire studies as the climate shifts to directly inform local planning controls to minimise the impact on the community from natural disasters (M)
- Prepare and implement Bushfire Management Plans for Council bushland reserves to optimise biodiversity while still protecting life and property (L)
- Explore the potential of Aboriginal Cultural burning methods as another bushfire risk and ecological management tool in priority land management zones, strategic fire advantage zones and on existing private/Council land partnerships (L)
- Plan for protection of critical infrastructure by using engineered solutions in addition to more traditional hazard reduction techniques to reduce the ecological footprint of asset protection (M)
- Factor ecosystem adaptation into strategic planning and land protection (L)

*Aim: Improve Biodiversity Corridor Connectivity*

- Finalise, refine and improve bushland and biodiversity plans (for example a Koala Plan of Management) and mapping products to form part of the planning framework against which decisions must be made. (H)

*Aim: Protect threatened species and ecosystems*

- Maintain and improve native vegetation and threatened species and ecological community datasets to facilitate evidence-based decision making (M)
- Ensure Councils planning framework minimises the impact of land use and development on threatened species and avoid key threatening processes such as habitat loss and fragmentation (M)
- Refer concerns about new or emerging threatened species to the NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee (H)
- Develop and implement a Biodiversity Monitoring Strategy (M)

*Aim: Conserve and protect the waterways, wetlands and groundwater*

- Continue to protect sensitive water catchments to maintain / improve water quality (H)
- Waterways continue to be protected and managed in accordance with the stream categorisation in the Wingecarribee LEP 2010 (H)
- Work collaboratively with other agencies, partners and the community to monitor and manage waterways and wetlands (H)
- Review environmental assessment processes to minimise impact of Council projects (M)
- Groundwater and groundwater dependent ecosystems will be monitored and assessed in collaboration with WaterNSW, and land use planning will need to consider impacts on groundwater quality and quantity (L)
- Policies and procedures developed to protect waterways and wetlands, including mandatory set-backs and riparian land restoration (L)

### 3.5.4 Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan 2010

*Objectives include:*

- a) to conserve and enhance, for current and future generations, the ecological integrity, environmental heritage and environmental significance of Wingecarribee
- b) to conserve the Aboriginal and European cultural and environmental heritage of Wingecarribee
- c) to protect areas of high scenic landscape value
- d) to develop an ecologically sustainable future for Wingecarribee through the conservation, rehabilitation and regeneration of native vegetation (particularly threatened species populations and ecological communities), soil, waterways, riparian land and water quality (surface and groundwater)

- e) to prevent loss of life and property by bush fires, by discouraging the establishment of incompatible uses in bush fire prone areas and incorporating as part of compatible developments protective measures that minimise bush fire risk without unacceptable environmental degradation
- f) to provide for a range of sustainable development opportunities in harmony with recreation and lifestyle choices, emerging markets and changes in technology, and capitalise on Wingecarribee's regional distinctiveness and existing tourism asset base
- g) to protect and enhance waterways, riparian land and water quality in the drinking water catchments of Wingecarribee.

### 3.5.5 Environment and Climate Change Strategy

#### **Priority area – Landscapes, Catchments and Nature**

##### **Focus Area 1– Landscape and Cultural values**

Commitments: We will....

- 1.1 Support, encourage and provide programs that embed indigenous cultural knowledge and practices in natural resource management and environmental research.
- 1.2 Conserve and enhance priority wildlife corridors and connectivity across the shire and protect High Environmental Value Land.

##### **Focus Area 3 – Bushland and Biodiversity**

Commitment: We will....

#### 3.1 Protect and conserve our bushland reserves in alignment with our Plans of Management



PHOTOGRAPH: TALL EVERLASTING DAISY (*CORONIDIUM ELATUM* SUBSP. *ELATUM*) IN GIBBERGUNYAH RESERVE

## 4.0 Development and use

### 4.1 Current use of the land

Each relevant category section of this plan of management contains information about the existing use of the land, including:

- condition of the land and structures,
- use of the land and structures, and
- current leases, licences and estates on the land.

### 4.2 Permissible uses / future uses

Community land is valued for its important role in the social, intellectual, cultural, spiritual and physical enrichment of residents, workers, and visitors to the Wingecarribee Shire area.

The intrinsic value of community land is also recognised, as is the important role this land plays in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem function.

The general types of uses which may occur on community land categorised as Natural Area, General Community Use or Park, and the forms of land use/ activity generally associated with those uses, are set out in Sections 5.0-6.0 in this plan of management for the land categories listed below.

- Natural Area (Section 5.0)
- Natural Area – Bushland (Section 5.2)
- Natural Area – Watercourse (Section 5.3)
- Park (Section 6.0)
- General Community Use (Section 6.0)
- Sportsground (To be addressed in draft Plan of Management for Community Land and Crown Reserves (Sportsground, Park and General Community Use))

### 4.3 Land use zoning

The Wingecarribee LEP 2010 (WLEP) is an environmental planning instrument providing the legal framework for the use and development of the land under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The WLEP and PoM operate in tandem and must align to give effect to the use and development of community land.

Where an LEP zone may permit certain development and use on community land, it cannot proceed unless authorised in an adopted PoM. In a similar manner, where an adopted PoM permits or authorises uses and development, these may not progress unless permitted (with or without consent) in the LEP zone.

The reserves within this PoM are zoned under the WLEP under a range of zones but predominantly C2 Environment Conservation, C3 Environmental Management or RE1 Public Recreation as indicated in Appendix A1 and A2.

The objectives of these zones are as follows:

#### **C2 Environmental Conservation Zone Objectives**

- To protect, manage and restore areas of high ecological, scientific, cultural or aesthetic values.

- To prevent development that could destroy, damage or otherwise have an adverse effect on those values.

### **C3 Environmental Management Zone Objectives**

- To protect, manage and restore areas with special ecological, scientific, cultural or aesthetic values.
- To provide for a limited range of development that does not have an adverse effect on those values.
- To encourage the retention of the remaining evidence of significant historic and social values expressed in existing landscape and land use patterns
- To minimise the proliferation of buildings and other structures in these sensitive landscape areas.
- To provide for a restricted range of development and land use activities that provide for rural settlement, sustainable agriculture, other types of economic and employment development, recreation and community amenity in identified drinking water catchment areas.
- To protect significant agricultural resources (soil, water and vegetation) in recognition of their value to Wingecarribee's longer term economic sustainability.

### **RE1 Public Recreation Zone Objectives**

- To enable land to be used for public open space or recreational purposes.
- To provide a range of recreational settings and activities and compatible land uses.
- To protect and enhance the natural environment for recreational purposes.
- To enable ancillary development that will encourage the enjoyment of land zoned for open space.

Some reserves covered by this PoM have other land use zone over all or part of the land where the objectives of the zone are inconsistent with the purpose of Natural Area – Bushland or Natural Area – Watercourse. These include:

- C4 Environmental Living at Berrima Weir Reserve, Berrima
- R2 Low Density Residential and R5 Large Lot Residential at Boronia Park, Hill Top
- RU2 Rural Landscape at Yerrinbool Reserve and Leaver Park, Bundanoon
- RU4 Primary Production Small Lots at Goanna Falls, Berrima

The objectives of these zones and the permissible uses can be found within the Wingecarribee LEP 2010 (WLEP).

Where the land use zone is inconsistent with the purpose of the land under this PoM, the zone will be investigated and amended in future iterations of the LEP to C2 Environment Conservation, C3 Environmental Management or RE1 Public Recreation depending on the conservation values and recreation opportunities and the level of service assigned to the reserve.

These amendments to the WLEP are important to align the land use zones with the adopted plan of management and the assigned community land categories. This will ensure that inappropriate development is not permissible and cannot occur within the reserves under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

These amendments will also apply consistency to how vegetation is managed within the reserve. Clearing of vegetation on land zoned for urban purposes, for environmental conservation, environmental management or environmental living is regulated through the *SEPP (Biodiversity*



and Conservation) 2021 Chapter 2 Vegetation in Non-rural Areas and administered by Council through a permit system. Clearing vegetation on land zoned RU2 and RU4 is determined under the *Local Land Services Act 2013* and regulated by Local Land Services. Amending the zoning of those reserves to C2, C3 or RE1 will result in Council being the regulatory authority for issuing any permit for the clearing of vegetation on all reserves covered by this PoM.

There are several reserves covered by this plan zoned RE1 Public Recreation and this PoM recommends that the zoning be amended to C2 Environmental Conservation or C3 Environmental Management. The values and management issues of these reserves are more closely aligned with the objectives of C2 or C3 land use zonings as the reserves are managed primarily for environmental conservation, and the recreational uses are limited to those compatible with habitat protection.

These reserves include:

- Glow Worm Glen, Bundanoon – adjoins Morton National Park
- Hammock Hill Reserve, East Bowral – contains threatened ecological community Southern Highlands Shale Woodland
- Mansfield Reserve, East Bowral – contains threatened ecological community Southern Highlands Shale Woodland and koalas have been recorded in reserve.

#### 4.4 Express authorisation of leases and licences and other estates

Under section 46(1)(b) of the LG Act, leases, licences and other estates formalise the use of community land. A lease, licence or other estate may be granted to organisations and persons, community groups, sports clubs and associations, non-government organisations, charities, community welfare services, non-profit organisations and government authorities.

The lease or licence must be for uses consistent with the reserve purpose(s), the assigned categorisation and zoning of the land, be in the best interests of the community as a whole, and enable, wherever possible, shared use of community land.

Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this PoM and the capacity of the community land itself and the local area to support the activity.

A lease is normally issued where exclusive control of all or part of an area by a user is proposed. In all other instances a licence or short-term licence or hire agreement will be issued.

##### 4.4.1 Leases and licences authorised by the plan of management

This plan of management expressly authorises the issue of leases, licences and other estates over the land covered by the plan of management, in accordance with section 46(1)(b) and section 36(3A) of the LG Act, provided that:

- the purpose is consistent with the purpose for which it was dedicated or reserved
- the purpose is consistent with the core objectives for the category of the land
- the lease, licence or other estate is for a permitted purpose listed in the LG Act or the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*
- the issue of the lease, licence or other estate and the provisions of the lease, licence or other estate can be validated by the provisions of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwth)
- where the land is subject to a claim under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* the issue of any lease, licence or other estate will not prevent the land from being transferred in the event the claim is granted

- the lease, licence or other estate is granted and notified in accordance with the provisions of the LG Act or the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*
- the issue of the lease, licence or other estate will not materially harm the use of the land for any of the purposes for which it was dedicated or reserved.

Short-term licences and bookings may be used to allow the council to program different uses of community land at different times, allowing the best overall use, as long as the use is aligned with the category purpose. Fees for short-term casual bookings will be charged in accordance with the council's adopted fees and charges at the time.

Tables in the relevant category sections of this plan of management further identify the purposes for which leases and licences may be issued over the reserves identified in this plan of management, and the maximum duration of leases, licences and other estates.

#### 4.4.2 Native Title & Aboriginal land rights considerations in relation to leases, licences & other estates

When planning to grant a lease or licence on Crown reserves, the council must comply with the requirements of the Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993* (NT Act) and have regard for any existing claims made on the land under the NSW *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*.

It is the role of the council's engaged or employed native title manager to provide written advice in certain circumstances to advise if the proposed activities and dealings are valid under the *NT Act* (see Appendix A9 for more information).



PHOTOGRAPH: FLANNEL FLOWER BY L. DOCKER

## 5.0 Management of land - Natural Area category

### 5.1 Natural area

Wingecarribee Shire Council's natural areas require a strategic approach to account, budget, prioritise and manage for the large area of land categorised as natural areas.

Strategic management is required to enhance biodiversity and open space linkages across the landscape and integrate the reserves with other local and regional land management initiatives including fire management, landscape restoration and water quality to benefit the community and the environment.

WSC is preparing a Bushcare and Rivercare Strategy that will provide a framework to prioritise all natural areas within the reserves and assign a level of service to each. Larger, well-connected reserves with significant biophysical values such as presence of threatened species or threatened ecological communities (TECs) will have a higher priority for management compared with small, disconnected reserves. This framework will guide future investment into these natural assets.

#### 5.1.1 Guidelines and core objectives

Natural areas are defined in clause 102 of the *LG Regulation 2021* as land possessing a significant feature that would be sufficient to further categorise the land as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore under Section 36(5) of the LG Act.

The core objectives for natural areas, as outlined in Section 36E of the LG Act, are to:

- conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised as a natural area
- maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting
- provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land
- provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion
- assist in and facilitate the implementation of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* or the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.

Based on the reserve natural features, values and land use subject to this PoM, reserves are either categorised for bushland and / or watercourse as indicated in Appendix A1 and A2.

Further detail about the management of any of the natural area sub-categories contained in the PoM is outlined in sections 5.2 to 5.3 below.

#### 5.1.2 Natural area values and physical environment

Wingecarribee Shire Council's natural areas are embraced and valued by the community and visitors to the region due to their numerous values relating to:

- Ecological and environmental values
- Recreation and engagement with nature for physical and mental health
- Pre and post 1788 history and cultural landscapes
- A place for Aboriginal story-telling, custodianship and engagement with traditional lands
- Community stewardship, educational and scientific values
- Eco-tourism and associated industries such as bee keeping

### Ecological and Environmental Values

Wingecarribee is based in the southern end of the Sydney Basin Bioregion and climatically, is transitional between the coastal climates of Sydney / Illawarra and the inland areas of the Southern Tablelands. It forms a plateau shaped like an upturned soup bowl and the landform is generally of a subdued relief due to its significant geological age. The Shire also contains gorges, incised meanders, volcanic landforms such as Mt Alexandra and cliffs which add character to the landscape. The area contains a high diversity of soils including residual, erosional and transferral soils which contribute to the high biological diversity of the area (Bowie 2006).

Approximately 374 native mammal, reptile and bird species and 1558 native plant species have been recorded in Wingecarribee Shire, making it one of the most diverse regions in Australia and a biodiversity hotspot. Forty plant species and 42 fauna species have been classified as threatened and over 15 Threatened ecological communities have been listed under the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* or the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999* (WSC 2020) (refer Appendix A5). Furthermore, the Southern Highlands is home to approximately 3,000 koalas, one of the largest and most understood colonies in NSW. *“The Shire contains large areas of intact koala habitat, and Council is working with Government agencies and landowners to provide greater protection to important habitat areas”* (WSC 2020) also known as Koala Links.

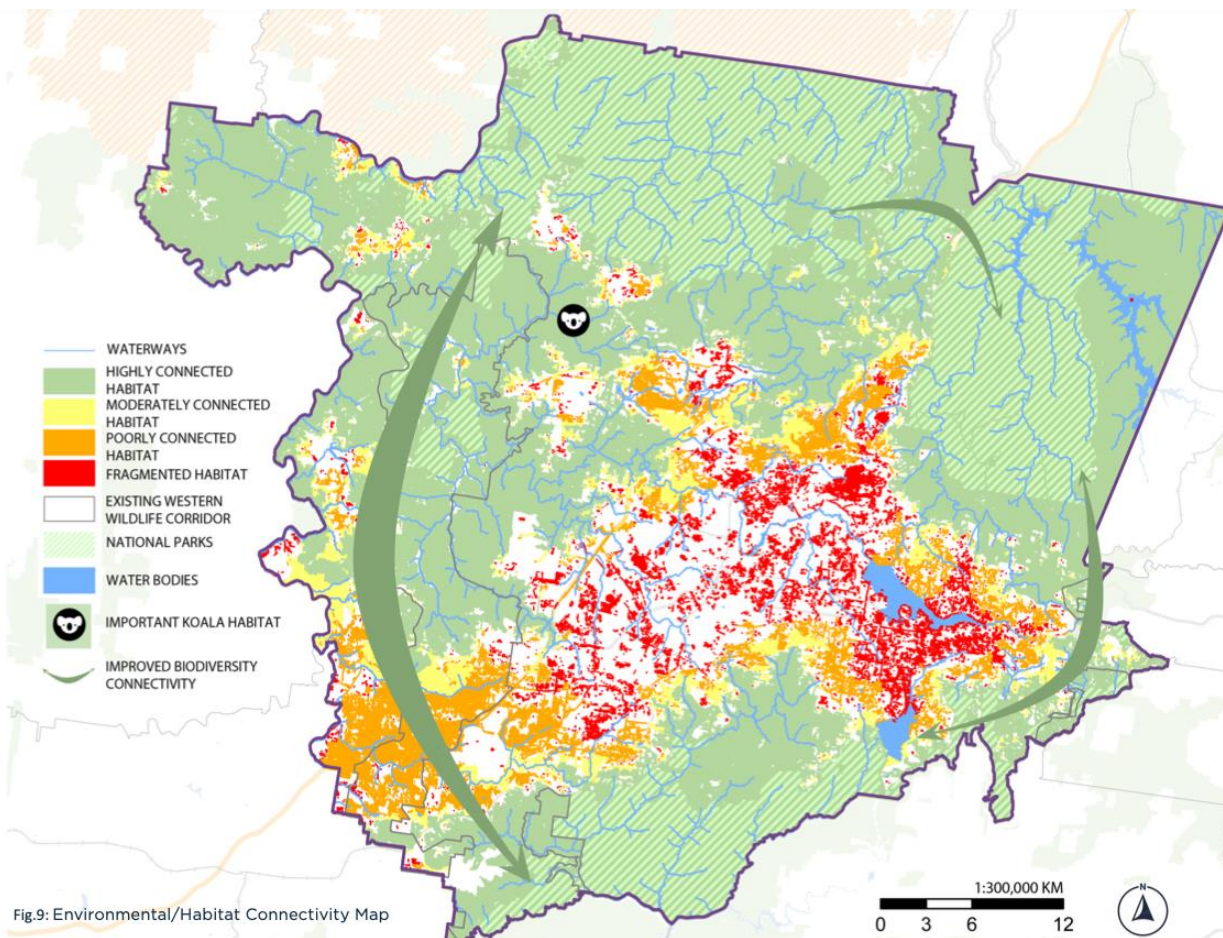


FIGURE 5 ENVIRONMENTAL AND HABITAT CONNECTIVITY MAP. SOURCE: WSC LOCAL STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT 2020

Wingecarrabee Shire provides a vital link in the Great Eastern Ranges Biodiversity Corridor network spanning from far north QLD to south-east Victoria (WSC 2020). The section of the corridor located within the Shire has been called the Great Western Wildlife Corridor (GWWC) and is mapped as a core, regional corridor within the [Wingecarrabee Local Environmental Plan](#). It is critical for connectivity conservation as many threatened species and other important ecological species utilise this corridor. Some of the reserves subject to this Plan of Management are located within the biodiversity corridor and are essential for the ongoing maintenance and improvements to biodiversity within the Region.

The *Wingecarrabee Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020* states “Species and genetic movement (particularly in response to climate change) is dependent on these corridors (both terrestrial and aquatic) and fragmentation through land use practices and/or land use planning threatens the functional capacity of these corridors”. (WSC 2020).

Figure 6 indicates the Great Western Wildlife Corridor mapped under the LEP. Although the GWWC is undeniably important, the rest of the native vegetation in the shire indicated in Figure 5 also contributes to biodiversity connectivity. Furthermore, Figure 4 above indicates areas of highly connected habitat that the reserves contribute to. Reserves in fragmented habitat are important refuges and stepping stones for wildlife movement and genetic flows.

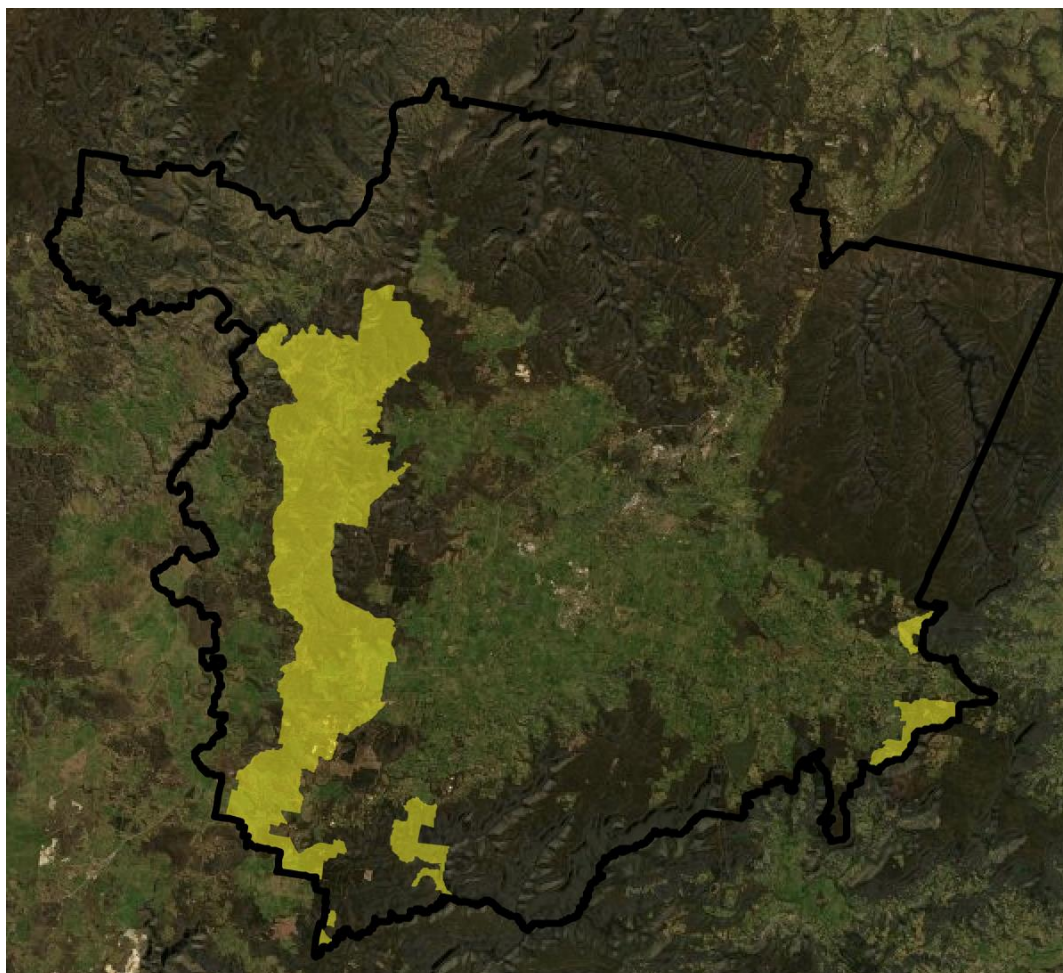


FIGURE 6: REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY CORRIDORS MAPPED IN WINGECARRIBEE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN (WLEP2010). THE GREAT WESTERN WILDLIFE CORRIDOR IS IN THE WEST AND THE EASTERN ESCARPMENT CORRIDOR IN THE EAST. SOURCE: WINGECARRIBEE SHIRE COUNCIL 2021 GEOCORTEX.

Numerous waterways flow through or adjoin the Shire and are a defining characteristic of some natural areas. They include the Upper Nepean River (a Special Area for drinking water catchment), Nattai River, Gibbergunyah Creek, Whites Creek, Shoalhaven River, Wollondilly River, Wingecarribee River, Mittagong Creek, Medway Rivulet and Paddy's River.

Other environmental values include enhanced ground water and surface water quality for the important drinking water catchment role of the region, reduced urban storm water runoff for waterway health and flood mitigation, soil protection, carbon storage and sequestration, improved air quality and canopy for a cooler environment.

### **Recreation and engagement with nature for physical and mental health**

The natural areas of Wingecarribee offer many passive and eco-tourism recreation opportunities. Locals and tourists to the region can enjoy activities including bush walking on tracks and fire trails, fishing, mountain bike riding as well as the aesthetic and scenic qualities that these tranquil places provide to relax, restore and escape the pressures of life. Other passive activities such as photography, painting, bird watching, wildlife viewing and BBQ/picnicking are also popular. Natural areas that link to other areas of open space greatly increase their recreational value to the community.

### **Pre and post 1788 history and cultural landscapes**

Wingecarribee Shire Council acknowledges the Gundungurra and Dharawal people as the traditional custodians of Wingecarribee Shire who have a strong association to the Wingecarribee, Wollondilly and Nattai rivers for over 40,000 years. These rivers are connected to culture, dreaming and songlines.

Aboriginal people moved around the land in small groups, according to the season, following food gathering opportunities and coming together with other groups according to their social and customary arrangements. Some of the reserves such as Greater Mount Alexandra Reserve and Gibbergunyah Reserve have high cultural significance and some reserves are known to contain camp sites, cultural sites, Aboriginal objects and artefact scatters.

Following arrival of the first fleet in 1788, the first British explorers came to the area twice in 1798. This visit was followed by Hamilton Hume in 1814 in search of land to relieve the colony of food shortages due to drought.

As white settlers occupied the area for farming, logging, mining and quarries, many Aboriginal people were displaced and forced to leave. They also suffered from massacres, disease and change of diet, catastrophically impacting their social and family groups, their culture and way of life.

Some of the reserves such as Mt Alexandra Reserve have an interesting history, that contain relics from past land use such as old roads, coal mining, fencing and relics of other structures. Mt Alexandra Reserve is listed in the LEP, Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage as an archaeological site. Reserves in Berrima are located within Heritage Conservation Areas listed in Schedule 5 of the LEP and also mapped on the heritage map within the LEP.

### **A place for Aboriginal story-telling, custodianship and engagement with traditional lands**

WSC encourages Aboriginal people to re-engage with their traditional lands and to practice culture. The natural areas subject to this PoM can be a valuable resource to learn and practice culture and care for Country, including cultural burns. The reserves contain many of the plants

that were used for food, bedding, medicine, implement-making and ceremonial purposes that are valuable to Aboriginal people today in their practice and teaching of culture. Furthermore, there is an opportunity to name or rename some reserves or places within reserves in Gundungurra and Dharawal language and to interpret suitable sites for visitors.

### **Community stewardship, educational and scientific values**

The reserves all provide a valuable community resource for education, research and to develop awareness and interest in the environment. Nature enthusiasts, plant societies, fauna interest groups such as bird watchers, universities, schools and the State Government through the Saving Our Species Program all have the opportunity to increase scientific knowledge through visiting these reserves and parks and undertaking stewardship activities such as Bushcare, Rivercare, citizen science and formal scientific research.

Bushland areas such as Hammock Hill Reserve are frequently used as a local teaching resource by local schools, with additional opportunities to develop skills in bush crafts, water quality monitoring, and outdoor recreational activities. Tertiary institutions utilise these areas for research and teaching, as they provide opportunities to develop and understand processes and conditions that affect the functioning of an extensive variety of flora and fauna communities.

Community stewardship, educational and scientific research opportunities provided by Council and other stakeholders in these reserves also facilitates community bonding with each other and with nature.

### **Eco-tourism and associated industries such as bee keeping**

The Natural areas subject to this PoM contribute numerous economic benefits to the local economy including pollen for the local bee keeping industry and opportunities for eco-tourism such as bush-walking, nature education, Aboriginal culture, bird watching, plant groups, nature photography and kayaking tours.

The local community also benefit from volunteering and employment opportunities in bushland restoration, weed and pest management.



PHOTOGRAPH: GREATER MOUNT ALEXANDRA RESERVE

## 5.2 Natural Area – Bushland

### 5.2.1 Guidelines and core objectives

Bushland is defined in clause 107 of the *LG (General) Regulation (2021)* as land containing primarily native vegetation that is the natural vegetation or a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land. If not the natural vegetation or the indigenous reference ecosystem, it is representative of the structure or floristics of the natural vegetation in the locality.

The core objectives for bushland, as outlined in Section 36J of the LG Act, are to:

- ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna of the land and other ecological values
- protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land
- manage the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures to minimise or mitigate disturbance caused by human use
- restore degraded bushland
- protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores
- retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term
- protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.

### 5.2.2 Key issues

The following pressures and opportunities influence management of the areas categorised as Natural Area - Bushland and must be addressed in ongoing management and assessment.

#### **Climate Change**

- The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report, *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science* addresses the most up-to-date physical understanding of the climate system and climate change. It reports that Global warming will likely increase to 1.5C by about 2030, based on the current trajectory. Reduction in rainfall is very likely to continue under all scenarios, leading to more agricultural and ecological droughts in southern Australia, along with intensification, duration and frequency of fire weather events.
- In Wingecarribee climate change is exacerbating many existing risks to Council operations, the community and the natural environment including heatwaves, bushfire, floods, drought and changes in rainfall patterns. Action from WSC, governments, businesses, communities and individuals is needed to help adapt and build resilience to climate change (WSC 2020).
- Anthropogenic Climate Change is a key threatening process listed under the BC Act 2016. Changes to rainfall or temperature can threaten the survival of native species or ecological communities. Climate change also interacts with other threatening processes fire and weeds by amplifying the impacts of these threats. In combination, these processes can significantly increase the risk of extinction of a threatened species and degrade the integrity of ecological communities.



- The State Government Saving Our Species Strategy for Climate Change aims to integrate climate change adaptation into biodiversity conservation to minimise the loss of biodiversity and biodiversity values and maximise adaptive capacity across the landscape.
- WSC will need to stay informed about these strategies to ensure contemporary approaches are implemented and resourced.
- Natural areas are potentially affected by natural disasters exacerbated by climate change and scarce Council resources are often required to restore and rehabilitate areas after impacts.
- Council needs to leverage the best available modelling, science and adaptation programs to mitigate climate change impacts on threatened species and Threatened Ecological Communities, and to make evidence-based decisions in relation to habitat loss and fragmentation in all strategic planning processes (WSC 2020).

## **Fire Management**

- Climate change is aggravating fire conditions leading to more catastrophic fire events such as the 2019-2020 summer fires which impacted four reserves subject to this PoM. The fires were a result of drought, very dry fuels and soils, and record-breaking heat.
- Bushfire conditions are now more dangerous than in the past. The risks to people and property have increased and fire seasons have lengthened, reducing opportunities for fuel reduction burning. It is now harder to prepare for worsening conditions and it is becoming more dangerous to fight fires in bushland reserves.
- Council plays a crucial role along-side the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Forests NSW, the Rural Fire Service (RFS), Fire and Rescue NSW and the community in Bushfire risk management including the creation and management of Asset Protection Zones, fire trails, hazard reduction burns and reserve access during high-risk periods. Resources are required to regularly review and implement risk management in cooperation with stakeholders and the community.
- Bushfire management zones have been applied across Wingecarribee local government area under the Wollondilly / Wingecarribee Bush Fire Risk Management Plan that apply to all reserves subject to this PoM. The Bush Fire Risk Management Plan is a strategic document that identifies community assets at risk and sets out a five-year program of co-ordinated multi-agency treatments to reduce the risk of bush fire to the identified assets. Treatments that Council may implement in bushland reserves include asset protection zones, fuel management, community education, fire trail maintenance and vegetation management. Bushfire protection strategies should be undertaken in a manner that recognises the site's ecological and environmental values and places this in the context of the need to protect life and property from wildfire.
- Council land managers need to keep council's bushfire management committee informed of site changes to reserves subject to this PoM that may require amendments to the Wollondilly / Wingecarribee Bush Fire Risk Management Plan (BFRMP). Council's Fire Management Plans for large and small reserves will be updated following the cultural burning project and review of the BFRMP.
- Specific fire regimes are important tools to maintain natural ecological functioning and biodiversity of fire adapted vegetation. Bushfire at the inappropriate frequency and

temperature can result in the disruption of the life cycle processes in native plants and animals and loss of vegetation structure and therefore must be managed accordingly.

- In relation to threatened ecological communities and species, the NSW government Saving our Species Program includes guidelines on suitable fire management regimes to be followed.
- Bushfire can cause significant damage to bushland, tracks and infrastructure that requires funding. Bushfire relief funds were allocated to Council for the Black Summer Bushfires of 2019-2020 however, funding is not always available, putting pressure on Council resources.

### Pests and Disease

- Many of the known and potential weeds, pest animals and pathogens to the reserves are key threatening processes under the BC Act 2016 and EPBC Act 1999 as they adversely affect threatened species or ecological communities or could cause species or ecological communities to become threatened.
- Weeds can compete with native plants for resources such as light, nutrients and space and can aggressively invade areas and push out native plants and animals.
- Introduced invasive animals like the European rabbit, European Honeybee, feral goats, pigs, deer, feral cat and red fox can compete with native animals for habitat and/or prey on them. Pest animals can also damage native plants and degrade natural habitats, increasing pressure on the survival of native animals and plants. At times, off-leash dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*) are observed in the reserves and can predate, scare and disturb wildlife, pollute with their faeces and spread weed seed. The smell of domestic dogs can stress native animals.
- Pathogens and disease including *Phytophthora cinnamomi* and exotic rust fungi of the order *pucciniales* can significantly impact vegetation health and distribution.
- Infection of frogs by amphibian chytrid causing the disease *chytridiomycosis* can threaten populations of frogs known to the reserves.
- Key threatening processes are managed through strategies developed under the NSW Government Saving our Species Program (refer Appendix A10). Council needs to stay informed about these strategies to ensure contemporary approaches are implemented to manage weeds, pests, and diseases.
- Weeds and pests listed as state, regional or local priorities require targeted and ongoing management under the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015*, and a regional coordinated approach amongst stakeholders require adequate resourcing.

### Threatened ecological communities and species

- The diversity of flora and fauna has declined over the last 200 years due to land clearing and progressive degradation and fragmentation of bushland remnants, loss of hollow bearing trees, climate change, changes to fire regimes, changes to hydrological flows, urbanisation, stormwater, the introduction of pests, disease and weeds, and changes to vegetation structure and function.
- Forty plant species and 42 fauna species have been classified as threatened and over 15 threatened ecological communities have been listed under the NSW *Biodiversity*

Conservation Act 2016 or the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 (WSC LSPS 2020) (refer Appendix A8).

- Locally the main threats impacting threatened species include predation and competition from pest species, land clearing, water pollution and habitat removal (e.g. hollow bearing trees) (refer Appendix A10 for key threatening processes).
- Key threatening processes are managed through strategies developed under the NSW Government Saving our Species Program.
- Relevant NSW Saving our Species program sites administered by the Department of Environment and Climate Change are listed in Appendix A10 including Mt Alexandra and Welby (Box Vale Walking Track) for the Mittagong Geebung (*Persoonia glaucescens*). DECC has identified 11 conservation management actions for this site that need to be undertaken to ensure the population of threatened species is sustained.
- A significant population of *Pomaderris cotoneaster*, listed as endangered under the Commonwealth EPBC Act and the NSW BC Act has been identified in Tugalong Road Reserve. This species has been assigned to the Site-managed species management stream under the Saving our Species (SoS) program. The SoS strategy aims to stabilise or increase in size the species in the wild for 100 years and maintain its conservation status by reducing or managing threats, increasing knowledge of the genetic diversity and response to disturbance of this species, supplementary planting and promoting recruitment wherever possible. Council operations use the area as a road reserve for road works and stockpiling road material which is negatively impacting the *Pomaderris cotoneaster*. DPHI is aware and is pressuring Council to avoid the impacts.
- As land managers, Council must ensure that proper environmental management systems are in place to promote the recovery of such species and ensure their existence in association with the *NSW Saving our Species Program* and in accordance with relevant State and Federal legislation.
- Detailed mapping of threatened ecological communities and threatened species is yet to be undertaken for each reserve and will help inform priorities and strategies for the recovery of threatened species, populations and ecological communities under the NSW Saving our Species Program. Council's Biodiversity Monitoring Strategy informs the process of data collection for biodiversity monitoring.
- Reserves subject to this PoM can be used as seed collection sites for the community seedbank or for specific restoration projects such as the Koala feed tree planting project. A scientific licence is required under Part 2 of the NSW BC Act 2016 for seed collection if there are potential impacts to threatened ecological communities or threatened species.

### Regional Wildlife Corridor

- Fragmentation through land clearing is an ongoing risk to biodiversity corridors. The Great Western Wildlife Corridor (GWWC) in the Sutton Forest, Paddys River, Wingello and High Range localities are where the GWWC is narrowest and highly fragmented and where conservation efforts need to be focused.
- Council is working with the community, the NSW Government, and members of the Great Eastern Ranges Southern Highlands Working Group to support the protection of important habitat and corridors, such as the Great Western Wildlife Corridor.

- Council's Green Web Project which is aiming to protect and conserve 'High Environmental Value Land' will ultimately provide a true representation of corridor connectivity and relationships with the bushland reserves.

### **Watercourses, Foreshore and Stormwater**

- Water quality in rivers and creeks can be compromised by contaminated stormwater and therefore unsuitable for recreational swimming or fishing e.g. Berrima Weir. Increased nutrification of the waterways from polluted stormwater including sewage and sediment, negatively impacts waterway health and biodiversity and promotes weeds along the foreshore.
- Some riparian areas subject to this PoM are key fish habitat under the *Fisheries Management Act* such as Berrima Weir or have been identified for platypus conservation, e.g. Riverbend Reserve has regular platypus sightings.
- Erosion, soil compaction and bank slump can occur along foreshores and be exacerbated by increased access and use.
- Rapid Appraisal of Riparian Condition is used by Council staff to measure and monitor waterway health to guide ongoing management decisions.
- Council is working with stakeholders including Government, local community, and not-for-profit organisations, to improve river health by monitoring waterway health, restoring foreshore habitat, controlling pests and weeds including willows and improving water quality and opportunities for recreational activities such as kayaking. Knowledge is also transferred to citizen scientists interested in Rivercare and iconic species conservation such as the Platypus.
- Grazing animals adjacent to watercourses can have a detrimental effect on channel stability, riparian vegetation, soil erosion or reduced water quality from increased sedimentation and nutrification.
- Inundation from flooding can cause damage to vegetation, temporary loss of habitat and species, soil erosion, impact bank stability, cause soil contamination, weed spread and pathogen spread. It can also result in the deposit of rubbish and debris that requires resources to clean up.
- Vehicle access can damage or destroy vegetation, cause soil erosion and compaction, impact water quality and encourage weeds.
- European Carp is an invasive species and negatively impacts aquatic biodiversity. Collaboration with community, not-for-profit organisations and State Government is required to manage this issue.
- Foreshore reserves such as Berrima Weir are used for recreational pursuits such as fishing. Areas such as these require investigation as to the need for fishing platforms. Similarly, investigation is required to determine the need for specific access facilities for kayaking and canoeing to protect foreshore areas.

### **Aboriginal Heritage**

- Whilst there are recorded sites in the reserves, there is a limited understanding of reserve values and significant potential for more sites to occur as most of the reserves have not been surveyed.

- More detailed investigation is required to better understand the heritage values and mitigate potential impacts in line with the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1973* and due diligence processes, at places like Riverbend Reserve. Gibbergunyah Reserve was an important Aboriginal gathering place and requires an assessment on its significance.
- Some Aboriginal heritage sites are subject to trampling by visitors due to the creation of unauthorised trails and general informal public access that can disturb, erode and compact sites. Heritage sites can be subject to graffiti and vandalism from time to time.
- Catastrophic impacts on Aboriginal heritage have occurred from unauthorised and unmanaged rock-climbing activities at numerous sites within Mt Alexandra reserve. Council needs to fulfil its statutory duty to protect these sites in liaison with the Aboriginal community and NSW Heritage.
- Weed removal, inappropriate planting and standard operations can damage Aboriginal sites due to soil disturbance.
- Currently Aboriginal heritage is not well interpreted in the Reserves. Some sites may have the opportunity to reflect and celebrate Aboriginal heritage in consultation with key stakeholders.
- Council has recently secured funding to appoint an Indigenous cultural burning practitioner to develop a strategy to incorporate cultural burning within Land Management Zones in bushland reserves. Gibbergunyah and Mount Alexandra Reserve will be the location for the case studies and implementation of cultural burns. Currently the Aboriginal community is not involved in cultural burning practices in the reserves. Cultural burns are not only beneficial to natural values but also are an activity with a deep cultural meaning that enhances connection to Country and promotes environmental health.

### **Post 1788 Heritage**

- More detailed investigation is required to better understand heritage values, interpret those values, and protect them from potential impacts including by listing them on Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage of the LEP.

### **Community Use, Recreation and Level of Service**

- Population growth and COVID 19 have increased demand on reserves as a place for respite and recreation which can put pressure on bushland, causing vegetation damage and erosion, particularly along the track network as well as disturbance to habitat. Due to the cultural and ecological sensitivity of Bushland reserves, the primary focus is conservation. The need to provide for public access and a variety of recreation usages must be planned and managed so as not to negatively impact natural and cultural values.
- Increased use of bushland reserves increases demands for more amenities in higher visitation reserves to meet the needs of the community. This could trigger the need to re-categorise some bushland areas to other categories of community use such as 'park' or 'general community use'.
- The *Wingecarribee Parks Strategy 2016* covers all land that is owned or administered by Wingecarribee Shire Council as a part of the parks network. All parks in the Shire have been placed into one of six park categories, one of which includes 'Bushland Reserve'. In

In addition to the parks categories, three development levels of service are also identified based on asset provision. The *Parks Strategy* does not include a level of service for all reserves subject to this PoM and some reserves may require reclassification to acknowledge the presence of or requirement for facilities.

- The *Wingecarribee Walking Tracks Strategy 2020* notes the need to review the *WSC Parks Strategy* and reclassify Gibbergunyah Reserve to acknowledge the presence of and requirement for seating, carparking and picnic facilities as trail support infrastructure.
- The *Wingecarribee Bicycle Plan 2016* requires review in relation to the need for bicycle routes to or within reserves e.g. Hammock Hill Reserve lookout.
- Council's only formal mountain bike facility exists at Welby in Greater Mount Alexandra Reserve for public use. Mountain bikers can access and ride trails in Wingello and Penrose State Forest, and some fire trails within Council owned and managed bushland reserves in addition to National Parks. Council will explore additional opportunities for mountain biking through a recreation activities in natural areas strategy. Council has adopted a pragmatic approach to balance the public enjoyment of our community land and nature conservation and nature positive policies (16 June 2023). WSC will continue to work with Highlands Trails or other entity to ensure that only authorised trail construction and works are undertaken and that use of unauthorised areas is reduced and both education and compliance is undertaken. Council needs to minimise the impact of track maintenance, decommissioning and track creation on biodiversity and particularly the threatened *Personia glaucescens* as well as habitat for this and other threatened species. There is considerable tension in the community about individuals creating facilities in Council managed natural areas for private benefit.
- Sections of existing tracks and trails can be precarious, erode and require ongoing maintenance.
- Many reserves do not currently provide adequate disabled access due to challenging environmental features to navigate. Some limited access could be provided at the main entrance of some reserves and picnic facility areas. The *Walking Tracks Strategy* has identified some actions to improve disability access.

## Access

- The *Walking Tracks Strategy 2020* has identified concept plans, strategy, rationale and actions with timeframe for reserves subject to this PoM including Greater Mt Alexandra Reserve, Gibbergunyah Reserve, River Bend Reserve, Berrima Weir Reserve, Glow Worm Glen (Bundanoon Access), Hammock Hill Reserve, Mansfield Reserve. No additional access improvements will be made in this PoM if they have not been identified in the *Walking Tracks Strategy*.
- For some reserves, existing access arrangements can be untenable and new access locations are required.
- Some reserves contain unauthorised access roads to private properties. Unauthorised tracks and trails fragment the bushland causing erosion, trampling of vegetation and disturbance of native fauna.
- Some reserves contain Crown and/or Council roads that are i) identified on maps but do not physically exist on land and need to be deleted or ii) that require closure as they are redundant or iii) require transfer from Crown to Council management.

- Some reserves are difficult to access due to lack of roads or being landlocked and require the consent of adjoining landowners to permit access via their properties.
- Council will need to undertake its own closure of any Council roads it seeks to have closed and added to either Crown reserves or community land.
- Limited designated parking can result in degradation of areas as cars compact soil, cause soil erosion and crush plants.

### **Fencing, boundary management and Unauthorised and Illegal activities**

- The reserves can be subject to vandalism by the way of flora destruction, bush rock or wood removal, arson, graffiti, illegal campfires, and the dumping of rubbish from litter to building waste.
- Removal of dead wood, dead trees and bush rock are key threatening processes under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
- Unauthorised activities such as camping, mountain biking, trail bikes, rock climbing and four-wheel driving occurs in the bushland from time to time and can damage reserve values, fire trails and the walking trail network, vegetation damage, disturb to wildlife, damage Aboriginal sites and cause soil compaction and erosion.
- Horses can trample native plants, compact soil, cause soil erosion, increase soil nutrients through faeces and spread weed seed.
- Some reserves have no boundary fencing, allowing feral or grazing animals to enter, facilitating unauthorised activities and encroachment. Land boundaries need to be secured and bollards/barriers placed at Council's identified entrances to limit unauthorised or undesirable access.
- Fencing can be damaged or degrade over time and resources are needed to undertake monitoring and repairs.
- Fencing, barriers and gates need to be designed in some locations to only enable access for legal uses.
- Some boundary fences do not accurately follow cadastral boundaries and require survey and realignment.

### **Community and Stakeholder Collaboration**

- Council's budget for bushland restoration is limited so projects must be targeted and collaboration with the community and stakeholders encouraged.
- Bushland and watercourse restoration projects often rely on collaboration with community-sourced Bushcare and Rivercare volunteers. Council's *Bushcare and Rivercare Strategy 2021-2031* guides this process. Organisations such as Greening Australia, Landcare, local plant societies as well as Council officers and contractors also assist in restoration projects. For example, the Wall to Wollondilly Project coordinated by Greening Australia aims to protect, maintain and restore the natural environment along sections of the Wingecarribee River. WSC can benefit from Government grants and stakeholder participation through these types of projects.

- WSC is constantly working to expand its community participation conservation projects through its Bushcare, Rivercare, Citizen Science and environmental education programs with available funds. Active volunteer involvement and stewardship examples include bushcare groups in Mansfield Reserve, Rockleigh Rd Reserve and Yerrinbool Park.
- Council intends to build capacity and encourage volunteers to contribute to vegetation management along trails.

### Relationship to adjoining uses

- Unauthorised neighbour encroachment occurs along some property boundaries where fences are absent, including grazing and Southern Highlands Golf Course.
- Land clearing (legal or illegal) can occur along reserve boundaries or on adjoining land that can impact on reserve values and vegetation connectivity, furthering bushland fragmentation.
- 'Garden escapes' or weeds from adjoining properties can spread into bushland and threaten biodiversity values.
- Where stormwater flows into reserves from adjoining urban development and major roads, it can cause erosion, water and soil nutrification and exacerbate weed invasion.
- Some reserves adjoin National Park and Wildlife Service (NPWS) estate whereby cooperation is required between Council and the NPWS for the management and maintenance of shared tracks and trails, weed and pest management, fire management, boundaries and access and bushland rehabilitation projects.

### Reserve Naming

- Some reserves are unnamed or require renaming that reflect community desires and values.

### Signage and Interpretation

- Often natural areas are not sign posted and entrances are not obvious.
- Visitors would benefit from more wayfinding signage, interpretation of values and information on permitted activities in reserves.
- The *Walking Tracks Strategy 2020* includes comprehensive actions regarding signage which this PoM defers to.
- More consistent signage is required in relation to signage design, especially track head signs and waypoints, however flexibility is also needed for interpretative and cultural signage.

### Contamination

- There is potential for areas within some reserves to be contaminated from past activities or incidences. No assessments have been undertaken to date to identify where contaminated sites may exist apart from boreholes for monitoring leachate from an adjoining tip occur within Mt Alexandra Reserve.



- Council, as a public land manager has legal obligations to ensure any human health and environmental risks associated with land contamination are appropriately managed. Legal instruments that must be complied with include the LG Act and the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997*.

### Utilities

- Existing utilities such as sewerage pumping stations can be located within the same lot boundaries as bushland reserves. Sites with utilities require subdivision and recategorization as Operational land.

### Land Use Zones

- The reserves within this PoM are zoned under the Wingecarribee LEP under a range of land use zones but predominantly C2 Environment Conservation, C3 Environmental Management or RE1 Public Recreation. Where the land use zone is incompatible with the purpose of the land under this PoM as indicated in Table 2 below, the zone will be investigated and amended in future iterations of the LEP.

**Table 2: Reserves that require investigation for rezoning under Wingecarribee LEP**

Subject land	Existing Zone under LEP	Potential Zone for consideration under LEP following site analysis
Berrima Weir Reserve	C2: Environmental Conservation C4: Environmental Living	C2: Environmental Conservation C3: Environmental Management
Boronia Park, Hill Top	RE1: Public Recreation R2: Low Density Residential R5: Large Lot Residential (accessway to Harold Street)	C2: Environmental Conservation C3: Environmental Management RE1: Public Recreation
Crown Reserve 81145, Welby (Meranie St)	RE1: Public Recreation	C3: Environmental Management RE1: Public Recreation
Garland Street Reserve (Glow Worm Glen), Bundanoon	RE1: Public Recreation	C2: Environmental Conservation C3: Environmental Management
Goanna Falls, Berrima	RU4: Primary Production Small Lots	C2: Environmental Conservation C3: Environmental Management
Hammock Hill Reserve, East Bowral	RE1: Public Recreation	C2: Environmental Conservation C3 Environmental Management RE1: Public Recreation
Leaver Park, Leaver Park Rd Bundanoon	RU2: Rural Landscape	C2: Environmental Conservation C3: Environmental Management

Mansfield Reserve, East Bowral	RE1 Public Recreation	C2: Environmental Conservation C3: Environmental Management
Rotary Park, Mittagong	RE1: Public Recreation (Lot 1 DP 525101)	C2: Environmental Conservation C3: Environmental Management RE1: Public Recreation
Yerrinbool Reserve	C2: Environmental Conservation RU2: Rural Landscape	C2: Environmental Conservation C3: Environmental Management

## Maintenance

- Council's budget for bushland reserve maintenance is limited so maintenance works programs must be targeted
- Falling limbs from dead, unstable or dying trees can pose a risk to visitors and reserve values.
- Key infrastructure providers for electricity, telecommunications, water and gas require access to maintain their infrastructure within reserves from time to time that can cause environmental damage e.g. the need to clear vegetation and soil erosion
- Park furniture, fencing and signage require regular monitoring to determine the need for replacement due to vandalism or wear and tear and to ensure visitor safety.

### 5.2.3 Management framework for reserves categorised as Natural Area – Bushland

Council strategic objectives and priorities outlined in Section 3.4 above create the management framework for the reserves categorised as Natural Area – Bushland. The documents include the Community Strategic Plan, the Local Strategic Planning Statement and the Wingecarribee LEP.

Other Wingecarribee Shire Council strategies and plans that provide detailed policy responses and direction for the management framework and operations, in addition to this Plan include:

- Environment and Climate Change Strategy
- Biodiversity Strategy 2003
- Recreational Walking Tracks Strategy 2020
- Bushland and Biodiversity Action Plan (in development)
- Camping Management Strategy
- Open Space Review and Long-term Strategy 2007
- Parks Strategy 2016
- Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan
- Southern Highlands Destination Strategy 2020-2030
- Pesticides Notification Plan
- Playspace Strategy
- PoMs - Hammock Hill Reserve, Mansfield Reserve, Oxley Hill Reserve (superseded by this PoM)
- Wollondilly Wingecarribee Bushfire Risk Management Plan
- Reserve Fire Management Plans

The *Parks Strategy 2016* covers all land that is owned or administered by Wingecarribee Shire Council as a part of the parks network. All parks in the Shire have been placed into one of six park categories, one of which includes 'Bushland Reserve'. In addition to the parks categories, three development levels of service are also identified as follows:

- Level of Service 1: This category of park has the highest level of asset provision, using quality materials and designs.
- Level of Service 2: This category of park has a moderate level of asset provision, using robust materials and quality designs.
- Level of Service 3: This category of park has the lowest level of asset provision, using robust materials and simple designs. (Xyst 2016).

Most of the reserves in this PoM have a service level of three and those with higher visitation have a service level of two. The level of service of each reserve is indicated in Appendix A1 and A2.

The *Walking Tracks Strategy 2020* includes integrated planning and management of the trail network and associated facilities in bushland reserves subject to this Plan of Management including:

- Provision of car parking, picnic facilities, seats, signage, foot bridges, lookouts, safety fencing, handrails, stairs, bollards, registered fire trails and decommissioning of compromised / unsustainable tracks and creation of new tracks or track extensions
- Clearly defined, safe, sustainable and accessible walking tracks and fire trails, including permissibility of use e.g. for off road cycling, 4WD access, horse-riding and on-leash dog walking as well as mechanisms to prevent unauthorised access such as fencing, gates, rocks and bollards
- Consistent and reliable signage that comply with Australian Standard 2156.1, maps and supporting information for walking tracks following templates and QR codes that relate to way finding, site interpretation and permissible uses
- Clearly defined management structures and maintenance schedules for walking tracks
- Trail development and provision as a tool for economic and community development including trail naming
- Encouragement of community volunteer involvement and stewardship of trails and bushland.

#### 5.2.3.1 Development and use

The values and attributes of Bushland Reserves include:

- Cultural heritage
- Low impact recreation activity
- Intact or relatively intact natural ecosystems
- Unique, significant or threatened indigenous flora and fauna
- Outstanding natural features and landscapes including geological features (Xyst 2016)

The primary purpose of Bushland Reserves is to provide opportunities for people to experience, or protect, the natural environment, provide habitat for flora and fauna and protect and conserve cultural heritage. A low level of development is envisaged for Bushland Reserves with the objective being to provide a "natural" outdoor experience.

Development will generally be limited to low impact activities such as walking on well-formed tracks to rough tracks.

Higher use sites may require ancillary visitor facilities such as car parking, signage, picnic areas and toilets.

The authorisation of mountain bike riding within Greater Mount Alexandra Reserve, at Crown Reserve 530067 with the Crown reserve purpose of Public Recreation and zoned C2 (Environmental Conservation), is to specifically limit the damage and impacts of unauthorised use at this and at other bushland reserves, manage safety and risks to persons and or property, and facilitate management and development control by Council of the existing extensive use at the reserve where this is suitable for the environment. The Council and Club user agreement will need to be preceded by or include an audit of all existing trails and tracks, and exclusion of use and development of sensitive areas such as the old tip site (unless this site is appropriately remediated), riparian land and areas where threatened species or habitat is present.

Any works done by the club mountain biking club (Highlands Trails)\_or others must be approved by Council as consistent with this PoM through Council's ATCOW process (approval to carry out works on Council property).

There are no existing leases or licences over the Crown reserves categorised as natural area bushland and included in this PoM.

#### 5.2.3.2 Permissible uses / future uses

The general types of uses which may occur on community land categorised as Natural Area – Bushland, and the forms of development generally associated with those uses, are set out in Table 3 below. The facilities on community land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community.

The anticipated uses and associated development identified in the table are intended to provide a general guide.

All works and purposes in the table are subject to approval processes under the EP&A Act.

**Table 3: Permissible use and development of community land categorised as Natural Area – Bushland, subject to Council authorisation and approval**

Purpose/Use	Development to facilitate uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preservation of the council's natural and cultural heritage</li> <li>• Preservation of biological diversity and habitat</li> <li>• Providing a location for relaxation, passive informal recreation and low key eco-tourism</li> <li>• Walking/hiking</li> <li>• Guided bushwalks</li> <li>• Environmental and scientific study and observation</li> <li>• Bush regeneration works</li> <li>• Carbon sequestration</li> <li>• Bush care projects requiring ecological restoration activities associated with protection of flora and fauna.</li> <li>• Fire hazard reduction and cultural burns</li> <li>• Facilitating connection to Country</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor facilities: toilets, picnic tables, sheltered seating areas, low impact lighting, low impact unsealed carparks, refreshment kiosks (but not restaurants)</li> <li>• Low-impact walking trails (unsealed)</li> <li>• Standard quality sign on main entrance, Interpretive and wayfinding signage, information kiosks</li> <li>• Water-saving initiatives such as rain gardens, swales and sediment traps</li> <li>• Energy-saving initiatives such as solar lights and solar panels</li> <li>• Foot bridges, observation platforms</li> <li>• Work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land</li> <li>• Temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council authorised mountain bike trail use at Crown Reserve 530067, Welby</li> <li>• Recreational facilities like mountain bike riding, rock climbing, horse riding or similar*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locational, directional and regulatory signage</li> <li>• Rural style fencing, security gates and bollards</li> <li>• Agreed works at Crown Reserve 530067, Welby</li> </ul>
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\*These types of activities would be subject to assessment and an approval process under EP&A Act.

### 5.2.3.3 Express authorisation of leases, licences and other estates - Natural Area – Bushland

This plan of management **expressly authorises** the issue of leases, licences and other estates over the land categorised as Natural Area – Bushland , provided that:

- the purpose is consistent with the purpose for which it was dedicated or reserved
- the purpose is consistent with the core objectives for the category of the land
- the lease, licence or other estate is for a permitted purpose listed in the LG Act or the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*
- the issue of the lease, licence or other estate and the provisions of the lease, licence or other estate can be validated or allowed by the provisions of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwth)
- where the land is subject to a claim under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* the issue of any lease, licence or other estate will not prevent the land from being transferred in the event the claim is granted
- the lease, licence or other estate is granted and notified in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993* or the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*
- the issue of the lease, licence or other estate will not materially harm the use of the land for any of the purposes for which it was dedicated or reserved.

Leases, licences and other estates over land categorised as Natural Area must also be consistent with s47b of the LG Act.

Table 4 further identifies the purposes for which leases and licences may be issued over the reserves identified in this plan of management as Natural Area – Bushland.

Section 46 LG Act permits Councils to grant a lease, licence or other estate in respect of community land for:

- the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities; or
- the purpose of providing pipes, conduits or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the council or other public utility provider.

**Table 4: Leases, licences and other estates and purposes for which they may be granted for community land categorised as Natural Area – Bushland.**

Type of tenure arrangement	Purpose for which tenure may be granted
Lease  Long term up to 21 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• walkways, pathways, footbridges, causeways</li> <li>• observation platforms, signs</li> <li>• information kiosk</li> <li>• kiosk/trailer selling light refreshments (but not restaurants)</li> <li>• bicycle/boat hire or similar for eco-tourism</li> </ul>

<p>Short term up to 5 years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land</li> <li>• toilets</li> <li>• temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out</li> <li>• Connection to Country activities and cultural heritage interpretation</li> </ul>
<p>Licence  Long term up to 21 years  Short term up to 5 years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• walkways, pathways, footbridges, causeways</li> <li>• observation platforms, signs</li> <li>• Information kiosk</li> <li>• Kiosk/trailer selling light refreshments (but not restaurants)</li> <li>• Bicycle/boat hire or similar for eco-tourism</li> <li>• work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land</li> <li>• toilets</li> <li>• temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out</li> <li>• Connection to Country activities and cultural heritage interpretation</li> </ul>
<p>Short-term licence  Less than 12 months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• scientific studies and surveys or similar</li> <li>• bicycle/boat/ kayak hire or similar</li> <li>• temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out</li> <li>• Connection to Country activities and cultural heritage interpretation</li> </ul>
<p>Other estates</p>	<p>This PoM allows the council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities in accordance with the LG Act.</p> <p>Estates may also be granted across community land for the provision of pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land.</p>

#### 5.2.4 Action plan for Natural Area - Bushland

Section 36 of the LG Act requires that a PoM for community land details:

- objectives and performance targets for the land
- the means by which the council proposes to achieve these objectives and performance targets
- the manner in which the council proposes to assess its performance in achieving the objectives and performance targets.

Table 5 sets out these requirements for community land categorised as Natural Area – Bushland.

**Table 5: Objectives and performance targets, means of achieving them and assessing achievement for community land categorised as Natural Area – Bushland**

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets (s.36(3)(b))	Means of achievement of objectives (s.36(3)(c))	Manner of assessment of performance (s.36(3)(d))
1. Maintain biodiversity within a changing climate	Identify, protect and manage threatened environmental communities and threatened species	<p>Validate vegetation mapping and the presence of threatened, endangered or rare plants and animals and endangered ecological communities in accordance with Council’s <i>Biodiversity Monitoring Strategy</i>.</p> <p>Leverage the best available modelling, science and adaptation programs to mitigate climate change and make evidence-based decisions</p> <p>Work with the Saving our Species officers and other stakeholders</p> <p>Seek and allocate funding to undertake more flora and fauna analysis across all bushland reserves.</p> <p><u>Greater Mount Alexandra Reserve, Medway Dam Reserve and Wingello Recreational</u></p>	<p>Validation mapping occurs under the <i>Biodiversity Monitoring Strategy</i> to inform management responses and legal obligations.</p> <p>Biodiversity and bushland resilience is maintained following best practice and contemporary approaches.</p> <p>Adequate resources and funding allocated</p> <p>A flora and fauna assessment is undertaken for Wingello Recreational Reserve, Greater Mount Alexandra Reserve and Medway Dam Reserve as a priority.</p>

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets (s.36(3)(b))	Means of achievement of objectives (s.36(3)(c))	Manner of assessment of performance (s.36(3)(d))
		<p><u>Reserve</u>: Undertake a comprehensive flora and fauna assessment as a high priority.</p>	
	<p>Implement suitable fire regimes to manage biodiversity, threatened ecological communities and threatened species</p>	<p>Implement preferred fire regimes for the recovery of threatened ecological communities and species as identified in the Saving our Species priority actions</p> <p>Apply necessary mosaic fire regimes to maintain the appropriate floristic and structural diversity for each vegetation community (where feasible) and ensure the ongoing persistence of sensitive species</p> <p>Land managers keep Council’s bushfire management committee informed of site changes that may require amendments to the <i>Wollondilly / Wingecarribee Bushfire Risk Management Plan</i></p>	<p>Suitable fire regimes implemented for the recovery of threatened ecological communities and species.</p> <p>Biodiversity resilience is maintained.</p> <p>Mosaic and best practice fire regimes implemented.</p> <p><i>Bushfire Risk Management Plan</i> updates based on contemporary information on biodiversity</p>
	<p>Manage and suppress weeds, pests, diseases and pathogens</p>	<p>Identify and record weed, pest, disease and pathogen incursions through monitoring to inform site management and budgeting requirements</p> <p>Implement strategies under the Saving our Species Program to manage Key Threatening Processes (refer Appendix A5) following contemporary approaches</p> <p>Target weeds, pests, disease and pathogens according to state, regional and local priorities</p>	<p>Regular site monitoring undertaken and recorded to determine bushland resilience and effectiveness of strategies</p> <p>Compliance with state, regional and local priorities under the <i>NSW Biosecurity Act 2015</i> and <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i></p> <p>Adequate resources and funding allocated</p>



Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets (s.36(3)(b))	Means of achievement of objectives (s.36(3)(c))	Manner of assessment of performance (s.36(3)(d))
		<p>under the <i>NSW Biosecurity Act 2015</i> and <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i></p> <p>Collaborate with stakeholders to implement management measures in a coordinated approach</p> <p>Allocate adequate resources and funding</p>	
	Restore vegetation connectivity	Work with adjoining landowners and stakeholders to restore vegetation connectivity and wildlife corridors	Areas of vegetation restored
	Expand knowledge of site managers and community stewards	Seek grant funding and allocate appropriate resources to ensure site managers and community volunteers have best practice and up to date knowledge to manage the reserves	<p>Resources and funding allocated for management.</p> <p>Education programs implemented</p> <p>Number of successful grants</p>
	Resources are available to manage biodiversity after natural disasters	Undertake resource planning as part of risk assessments for bushland reserves following flood, fire, storm and drought events	Natural Disaster Resource Plan prepared and integrated into Council's financial planning and grant fund planning
	Ensure the health and safety of the Koala Population in Mansfield Reserve	<u>Mansfield Reserve</u> : Monitor and manage the Koala Population to ensure their health and safety in cooperation with the local community, specialist organisations and interest groups	Koala population is stable or increases in size and health
	Protect <i>Pomaderris cotoneaster</i> in Tugalong Road Reserve so the population is stable or	Protect <i>Pomaderris cotoneaster</i> according to the Saving our Species site specific conservation management actions so the	<i>Pomaderris cotoneaster</i> population is stable or increases in size

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets (s.36(3)(b))	Means of achievement of objectives (s.36(3)(c))	Manner of assessment of performance (s.36(3)(d))
	increases in size from managed threats	<p>population is stable or increases in size from managed threats</p> <p>Comply with the Roadside Management Plan and eliminate the impacts of Council operations team roadworks and stockpiles by installing bollards, fencing or other suitable barriers to protect the population and undertaking staff training</p>	
	Protect <i>Persoonia glaucescens</i> and <i>Persoonia hirsuta</i> in the Greater Mt Alexandra Reserve / Welby (Box Vale Walking Track) so the population is stable or increases in size from managed threats	Protect <i>Persoonia glaucescens</i> and <i>Persoonia hirsuta</i> according to the Saving our Species conservation management actions so the population is stable or increases in size from managed threats	Population is stable or increases in size
2. Maintain watercourse and foreshore	Protect and manage watercourses and foreshore areas for habitat and recreation	<p>Monitor the foreshore, particularly after flood and storm events for erosion, bank slump, soil compaction and weed infestation</p> <p>Monitor popular foreshore areas for trampling and other impacts to inform management actions</p> <p>Implement the Rapid Appraisal of Riparian Condition method to measure and monitor waterway health and to guide ongoing management decisions</p> <p>Work with stakeholders to improve river health by monitoring waterway health, restoring</p>	Foreshore and watercourse condition is improved

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets (s.36(3)(b))	Means of achievement of objectives (s.36(3)(c))	Manner of assessment of performance (s.36(3)(d))
		<p>foreshore and waterway habitat, controlling pests and weeds and improving water quality</p> <p>Investigate the need for fishing platforms and kayaking and canoeing access to foreshore areas to reduce impacts to natural areas and promote recreation</p>	
<p>3. Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>Identify, protect and interpret Aboriginal heritage</p>	<p>Devise a process and procedure to consider due diligence / risk assessment for Council management and maintenance operations that include statutory requirements and best practice due diligence processes. This includes bushland management and bushcare activities such as weeding and planting</p> <p>Undertake archaeological surveys and research as required to improve baseline data</p> <p>Monitor known sites for disturbance and restrict access where disturbance is occurring</p> <p>In consultation with Aboriginal Stakeholders, identify sites suitable for interpretation.</p> <p>Allocate resources and funding through council's budgeting process</p> <p>Seek advice and guidance on Aboriginal cultural heritage, particularly for those reserves that fall within the Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) geographic area.</p>	<p>Compliance with the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> and Regulations</p> <p>Implementation of best practice, stakeholder consultation and due diligence protocols</p> <p>Reduced incidence of impacts</p> <p>Numbers of staff, contractors and volunteers trained</p> <p>Improved baseline data</p> <p>Aboriginal heritage sites found within reserves are investigated and recorded on the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database</p> <p>Aboriginal Stakeholders are satisfied with management approach, site interpretation and outcomes.</p>

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets (s.36(3)(b))	Means of achievement of objectives (s.36(3)(c))	Manner of assessment of performance (s.36(3)(d))
		<p><u>Gibbergunyah Reserve</u>: Undertake an Aboriginal cultural heritage significance assessment for Gibbergunyah Reserve which was an important Aboriginal Gathering Place</p>	<p>ACH significance assessment undertaken</p>
		<p><u>Greater Mount Alexandra Reserve</u>: Develop a management strategy to manage impacts from rock climbing in consultation with the Aboriginal Community and stakeholders. This would include signage, site monitoring, a communications strategy and clear articulation of penalties for site disturbance</p>	<p>Impacts cease</p>
		<p><u>Riverbend Reserve Berrima</u>- Undertake studies to better understand the Aboriginal cultural heritage values</p>	<p>Studies undertaken</p>
	<p>Facilitate Connection to Country, Cultural Burns and site interpretation</p>	<p>Engage and involve Aboriginal people in park management planning, operations, interpretation, cultural activities and education programs to improve connection to Country</p> <p>Engage with the Aboriginal community to determine suitable sites for Cultural Burns in consultation with relevant stakeholders</p>	<p>Number of interpretation sites, programs and activities and participation numbers</p> <p>Number of sites where cultural burns are suitable and have occurred</p> <p>Success of the cultural burn in Connection to Country, fire hazard reduction and biodiversity improvements</p> <p>Aboriginal Stakeholders are satisfied with management approach, site interpretation and outcomes</p>

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets (s.36(3)(b))	Means of achievement of objectives (s.36(3)(c))	Manner of assessment of performance (s.36(3)(d))
	Identify, protect and interpret post 1788 heritage	<p>Undertake a heritage assessment of the reserves to identify heritage values and sites to be included in LEP Heritage Schedule</p> <p>Monitor heritage sites for graffiti, vandalism, weathering and wear and tear</p> <p>Interpret heritage where appropriate to enrich visitor experience</p> <p>Ensure heritage sites are identified in Council's <i>Bushfire Management Plan</i></p>	<p>Heritage assessment undertaken and LEP Heritage Schedule amended to include suitable sites</p> <p>Annual audit undertaken of sites and conservation management undertaken</p> <p>Number of sites interpreted</p> <p>Heritage sites identified on BMP maps</p>
4. Access and Accessibility	Improve access for passive recreation and visitor experience including disability access	<p>Implement <i>Wingecarribee Walking Tracks Strategy 2020</i></p> <p>Reflect opportunities to improve access and visitor experience in amendments to the <i>Walking Tracks Strategy</i> and <i>Bicycle Plan</i>, including access to river foreshore areas</p> <p><u>Hammock Hill Reserve</u>: Review the <i>WSC Bicycle Plan (2016)</i> regarding the proposed extension to the existing bicycle route connecting Kiameron Place and Harley St south to the lookout</p> <p>Regularly monitor access trails for need of maintenance</p>	<p>Relevant actions in <i>Walking Tracks Strategy 2020</i> are implemented</p> <p><i>Walking Tracks Strategy</i> and <i>Bicycle Plan</i> updated periodically</p> <p>Improved access and visitor experience</p>
	Manage tracks and trails that traverse multiple land	Manage tracks and trails that traverse multiple land management jurisdictions in a collaborative and cooperative way e.g. NPWS for the Glow Worm Glen walking trail within	Well maintained tracks and trails

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets (s.36(3)(b))	Means of achievement of objectives (s.36(3)(c))	Manner of assessment of performance (s.36(3)(d))
	management jurisdictions collaboratively	Morton NP that traverses Garland St Reserve (Glow Worm Glen)	
	Facilitate access for operations and emergency service vehicles	In consultation with infrastructure maintenance, management vehicles, fire-fighting and emergency vehicles, determine access requirements  Where required for operational or public safety reasons, limit access to authorised persons or emergency services.	Access requirements met
	Close unauthorised tracks and trails	Close unauthorised tracks and trails to reduce environmental impacts	Number of unauthorised tracks and trails closed
	Prevent unauthorised vehicle access	Regularly check reserve boundaries where access is restricted to ensure they are secured  Identify areas where unauthorised access is occurring and investigate alternatives through authorised road reserves and closure of unauthorised access routes to consolidate and protect natural areas	Reduced cases of unauthorised access  Number of unauthorised access points.  Number of access points with gates.
	Close non-essential vehicle access  Create legally compliant access	Identify Council roads to be closed to assist in managing the reserves by consolidation and restriction of access  Request transfer of certain Crown road reserves to Council management and then undertake action to close them and declare	Non-essential vehicle access and 'paper' roads closed  Relocated roads  Emergency and service vehicle access maintained where required

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets (s.36(3)(b))	Means of achievement of objectives (s.36(3)(c))	Manner of assessment of performance (s.36(3)(d))
		<p>the land community land as a 'Natural Area' category.</p> <p>Where reserves have multiple lots, consolidate Lots and DPs to reduce the number or to a single lot, as other property actions are done.</p> <p><u>Garland Street Reserve</u> - (Glow Worm Glen): Close the Council road reserve that forms part of the Glow Worm Track and only allow access to facilitate use of the walking trail</p> <p><u>Leaver Park</u>: Reclassify Council owned land as Community land following creation of a right of way or easement linking the existing road reserve with the quarry to establish legally compliant access.</p> <p><u>Yerrinbool Park and Yerrinbool Reserve</u>: Close existing road reserves and incorporate the land into the reserves to provide additional recreational (non-vehicular) access.</p> <p><u>Yeola Recreational Reserve</u>: Close existing road reserve and integrate it into the reserve as community land, Natural Area – Bushland. Provide for a new road reserve in accordance with Council resolution and to provide access to private properties.</p> <p><u>Crown Reserve 46633, Penrose (Alexandra Street)</u>: Section 2 and 3 2 request transfer of Crown road to Council management, integration of the land into the reserve and categorise.</p>	<p>Compliance with s.47(f) of the LG Act</p>

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets (s.36(3)(b))	Means of achievement of objectives (s.36(3)(c))	Manner of assessment of performance (s.36(3)(d))
		<p><u>Gibbergunyah Reserve</u>: Section 3 2 request transfer of Crown road to Council management, integration of the land into the reserve and categorise to legally enforce restriction to 4WD access.</p> <p><u>Greater Mt Alexandra Reserve Leopold St Mittagong</u>: Investigate closing the private unsealed road to a private property from Katoomba Lookout Carpark access off (off Alice Street) and relocating into adjoining public road reserves to ensure compliance with s.47(f) of the LG Act. Close other unnecessary Council roads in Section 4 and integrate into the reserve. Section 1 request transfer <del>propose closure</del> of Crown road, integration of the land into the reserve and categorise.</p> <p><u>River Bend Reserve</u>: Request transfer of Crown road to Council management, integration of the land into the reserve and categorise to assist in providing additional community pedestrian access off Fountain Street</p> <p><u>Rockleigh Road Reserve</u>: Council road reserve proposed to be closed at School Lane</p> <p><u>Berrima Weir</u>: Investigate feasibility of relocating the private unsealed access road to private properties and relocate access onto the adjoining public road reserve to comply with s. 47(f) LG Act. If unfeasible and environmental</p>	



Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets (s.36(3)(b))	Means of achievement of objectives (s.36(3)(c))	Manner of assessment of performance (s.36(3)(d))
		outcomes are unreasonable, investigate issuing a licence to regulate the illegal road	
5. Fencing and Boundary Management	Install fencing where required to reduce impacts on natural values, manage access, prevent unauthorised access and limit unauthorised activities	<p>Monitor reserve boundaries and prepare a boundary management plan to identify land boundaries to be surveyed and secured and where bollards/barriers, gates and fences should be placed to limit un-authorised or undesirable access</p> <p>Allocate resources and funding through council's budgeting process</p> <p>Install koala friendly fencing in known koala habitat</p> <p>Remove barbed wire fencing were appropriate and replace with wildlife friendly fencing</p>	<p>Implementation of boundary management plan</p> <p>Reduced incidence of unauthorised access and activities</p>
6. Parking	Provide and maintain adequate parking facilities where appropriate	<p>Identify areas disturbed/damaged by unauthorised parking and devise appropriate plans to clearly designate parking areas and manage impacts such as erosion and soil compaction</p> <p><u>Greater Mt Alexandra Reserve</u>: Acquire the privately owned (in-holding) car park off Leopold Street</p> <p>Parking options considered for Welby Weir Reserve and Gibbergunyah Reserve.</p>	<p>Parking areas clearly identified</p> <p>Level of success of site management methods to manage impacts.</p>
7. Community Use, Recreation and Level of Service	Allocate appropriate levels of service for each reserve	Regularly review levels of service based on community use, site constraints and values	Levels of service allocated or appropriately classified for all reserves in <i>WSC Parks Strategy (2016)</i>

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets (s.36(3)(b))	Means of achievement of objectives (s.36(3)(c))	Manner of assessment of performance (s.36(3)(d))
	<p>Facilitate community use and enjoyment of the reserves</p>	<p>Amend <i>WSC Parks Strategy (2016)</i> levels of service to reflect recommendations from the review including reserves where a Level of Service is yet to be allocated</p> <p>Install and maintain facilities and amenities based on assigned level of service</p> <p><u>Hammock Hill Reserve</u>: Reclassify to acknowledge the presence of and requirement for seating, picnic shelter and public art as trail support infrastructure</p> <p><u>Gibbergunyah Reserve</u>: Reclassify to acknowledge the presence of and requirement for seating and picnic facilities as trail support infrastructure. Ensure that the Aboriginal community are consulted on the appropriateness of all aspects of community use and facility provision. Investigate feasibility of eliminating controlling on-leash dog walking within this reserve via a declared Wildlife Protection Area under the Companion Animals Act.</p> <p><u>River Bend Reserve, Berrima</u>: Review the <i>WSC Parks Strategy (2016)</i> to acknowledge presence of picnic facilities. Proceed with application to be appointed as CLM for the land that contains the Council managed walking trail between Berrima Campground and Riverbend Reserve to ensure continued use. This was a recommendation of the <i>Recreational Walking Tracks Strategy</i></p>	<p>Facilities and amenities installed and maintained based on assigned level of service</p> <p>Community satisfaction surveys</p> <p>Aboriginal stakeholders are satisfied with community use and level of service</p> <p>Stakeholder and user consultations held, audits undertaken and agreement reached for Crown reserve 530067 and mountain bike use</p>

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets (s.36(3)(b))	Means of achievement of objectives (s.36(3)(c))	Manner of assessment of performance (s.36(3)(d))
		<p>Greater Mt Alexandra Reserve, Welby: Provide Council's mountain bike facility (Crown reserve 530067) - Welby for public use. Engage with users and stakeholders to inform a management strategy and user agreement to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conduct an audit of all existing tracks and trails that identifies retention or removal, and future areas for development;</li> <li>• provide for safe use and risk minimisation;</li> <li>• manage development and use on the environment including on threatened species or habitat;</li> <li>• exclude use on potential contaminated land such as the old tip site, until that site is remediated;</li> <li>• reduce impacts of activity on other reserves and limit impacts of this bike track on Reserve 530067 environmental values; and</li> <li>• provide a track that meets Australian guidelines</li> </ul> <p>Investigate the demand for horse-riding in reserves in consultation with stakeholders e.g. Greater Mt Alexandra Reserve</p>	
8. Community and stakeholder collaboration	Undertake community education campaigns, events, workshops and volunteer programs to improve community understanding of reserve values, issues and improve stewardship.	<p>Ensure projects are targeted</p> <p>Collaborate with the community and stakeholders, when possible, to scale up resources</p> <p>Expand and support volunteer programs such as Bushcare, Rivercare and Citizen Science</p>	Number of volunteering and education projects and number of participants

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets (s.36(3)(b))	Means of achievement of objectives (s.36(3)(c))	Manner of assessment of performance (s.36(3)(d))
		<p>Undertake education programs that target community groups, business and corporate groups, schools and university students.</p> <p>Facilitate major community engagement environment events such as targeted strategic planting days or Bushcare’s Big Day Out</p> <p>Collaborate with NGOs, the Local Native Plant Society, Landcare, Residents Associations and Government on community engagement, education programs, natural area restoration projects and seeking grants for such activities</p> <p><u>Rockleigh Road Reserve</u>: Engage with Exeter Public School and the local Indigo Creek Bushcare group to collaborate on revegetation/reconstruction of the former road reserve</p>	
9. Reserve and Trail / Place Naming	<p>Name all unnamed reserves</p> <p>Name well utilised trails and places</p>	<p>In consultation with the local community, stakeholders and the Geographic Names Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>allocate a name to all unnamed reserves</li> <li>as part of reconciliation, investigate using Aboriginal language for place names, tracks and trails</li> </ul>	<p>All reserves named</p> <p>Well used trails and places named</p> <p>More places and trails named with Aboriginal language</p>
10. Signage and Interpretation	<p>Install signage to inform visitors of permissible uses, dangers and site values to enrich visitor experience and safety.</p>	<p>Implement the <i>Walking Tracks Strategy 2020</i> that includes track head and directional signage actions</p> <p>Implement the Signs as Remote Supervision program for compliance signage</p>	<p>Signage plan</p> <p>Implementation of signage</p> <p>Visitor feedback</p> <p>Destination Southern Highlands feedback</p>

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets (s.36(3)(b))	Means of achievement of objectives (s.36(3)(c))	Manner of assessment of performance (s.36(3)(d))
		<p>Develop consistent signage for track heads and wayfinding but allow flexibility for interpretative and cultural signage</p> <p>Monitor existing signage for relevance and need of replacement due to damage or need for interpretation of reserve values, wayfinding or permissible activities</p> <p>Allocate resources and funding through council's budgeting process in consultation with the Assets Branch</p> <p>Where land management responsibilities overlap, seek funding assistance from other government authorities to install required signage relating to e.g: waterways or roads</p> <p><u>Mansfield Reserve</u>: Install Koala signs to encourage responsible dog walking, interpretive signage and walking trail signage</p>	
<p>11. Crown reserve or Council owned land change of use</p>	<p>Land is appropriately assigned operational or for community land</p> <p>Integrate appropriate land into the reserves for consolidation and management</p>	<p>Identify operational land that contains no infrastructure and no plans are in place to use them. Categorise these areas for Community use for integration into the reserves</p> <p>Identify sites where existing utilities such as sewerage pumping stations are located within the same lot as bushland reserves. Subdivide off utility areas and categorise as Operational</p> <p>Maintain category maps on Council's 'Outward facing GIS' map of reserves</p>	<p>All land is appropriately assigned operational or community use</p> <p>Appropriate land is integrated into the reserves</p> <p>Reserve category maps are available for public viewing on Council's Outward facing GIS</p>

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets (s.36(3)(b))	Means of achievement of objectives (s.36(3)(c))	Manner of assessment of performance (s.36(3)(d))
		<p>Where reserves have multiple lots, consolidate Lots and DPs to reduce the number or to a single lot, as other property actions are done</p> <p><u>Boronia Reserve</u>: Survey, subdivide, make the lot operational and recategorize the area not subject to the sewerage pumping station as Community Land</p> <p><u>Gibbergunyah Reserve</u>: Section 2 Council owned land is operational. Propose reclassification to community land. Also categorise section 3</p> <p><u>Goanna Falls: Crown reserve</u> (part R751252, Lot 7300 DP 1137200) under Minister's management – seek transfer of management to Council as Crown land manager and integration into reserve. Council will request transfer of management to become Crown land manager. If this takes place after adoption of the Plan, the PoM will need amending and the process repeated. Alternatively another PoM can be made.</p> <p><u>Hammock Hill Reserve</u>: Add Section 2 to the Public Lands Register and incorporate into the reserve</p> <p><u>Mansfield Reserve</u>: Reclassify Section 2 as Community Land and integrate into the reserve</p> <p><u>Greater Mount Alexandra Reserve</u>: Council to explore potential future management of . Investigate acquiring Katoomba Lookout</p>	

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets (s.36(3)(b))	Means of achievement of objectives (s.36(3)(c))	Manner of assessment of performance (s.36(3)(d))
		<p>carpark from private land owner for integration into the reserve and categorise as Park</p> <p><u>Oxley Hill Reserve</u>: Part of the reserve requires reclassification to Community land. Include the other section in Council's Public Land Register. Assign the area of the reserve with the Communications tower as operational</p> <p><u>River Bend Reserve</u>: Section 1 reclassify from operational to Community Land in Council's Public Land Register. request transfer of Crown road to Council management and integration into reserve with categorisation to assist in providing additional community (pedestrian access route to the reserve off Fountain Street. Crown reserve (part R751252, Lots 7026, 7027 DP 1026280 under Minister's management) propose to be transferred to Council Crown land management (appointment) to consolidate access. If this takes place after adoption of the Plan, the PoM will need amending and the process repeated. Alternatively another PoM can be made.</p> <p><u>Crown Reserve 46633, Penrose (Alexandra Street)</u>: Crown reserve (part R91334, Lot 166 DP 751259 under Minister's management) propose to be transferred to Council Crown land management (appointment) to integrate into the reserve</p>	

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets (s.36(3)(b))	Means of achievement of objectives (s.36(3)(c))	Manner of assessment of performance (s.36(3)(d))
12. Unauthorised and Illegal Activities	Reduce illegal activity in reserves	<p>Monitor reserves for unauthorised uses. Restrict access where possible and where appropriate liaise with the local area command (police), engage with those undertaking the activity, issue infringement notices, install signage relating to illegal activity and penalties and restore damaged areas</p> <p>Regularly check reserve boundaries where access is restricted to ensure they are secured</p> <p><u>Hammock Hill Reserve</u>: Evidence of unauthorised mountain bike usage at multiple sites with greatest activity at Hammock Hill and Greater Mount Alexandra Reserves with construction of unauthorised new tracks, berms and jumps in eastern section of the reserve. Engage with users and stakeholders to inform a management strategy to reduce impacts and develop a Recreation in Natural Areas Strategy to identify existing and potentially suitable sites across all tenures. Close unauthorised tracks using an approach that involves education and community engagement, signage, regular monitoring and the issuing of infringement notices compliance.</p> <p>Concentrate mountain bike activity infrastructure in one site at existing parks (rather than bushland reserves), and at suitable (preferably lower environmental value) bushland sites. Complete an audit and environmental assessment at Crown Reserve 530067 (Welby) to assist Council management</p>	<p>Reduced number of unauthorised or illegal activities</p> <p>Mountain bike activity concentrated at Crown Reserve 530067 (Welby)</p>



Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets (s.36(3)(b))	Means of achievement of objectives (s.36(3)(c))	Manner of assessment of performance (s.36(3)(d))
		and development of this site, provide for safe use and risk minimisation, and reduce impacts on other bushland reserves. All modifications would be managed through Council's Approval (ATCOW) process	
	Reduce impacts from adjoining landowners	Monitor boundaries for unauthorized neighbour encroachment, access, illegal land clearing, weed encroachment, stormwater or sewerage  Engage with relevant landowners to rectify the encroachment	Reduced incidences of impacts from adjoining landowners on reserve values
13. Contamination	Manage contaminated land and impacts	Map all known and potential contaminated land and undertake initial screening, site assessment and develop options to manage impacts  Ensure staff, contractors, bush care and other volunteers are aware of the potential for asbestos and other common contaminants, the safety precautions and required reporting process  Allocate and seek resources and funding for appropriate management  <u>Wingello Recreational Reserve:</u> Investigate the potential contamination and impact- from the adjoining former tip site on the reserve	Compliance with legal requirements
14. Maintenance	Reserves are maintained according to legal requirements and Level of Service	Allocate sufficient resources and funding through Council's budgeting process to meet legal requirements and Level of Service for targeted maintenance program  Regularly monitor reserves for maintenance requirements	Compliance with legal requirements and Level of Service  Visitor satisfaction  Number of recorded injuries or incidences

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets (s.36(3)(b))	Means of achievement of objectives (s.36(3)(c))	Manner of assessment of performance (s.36(3)(d))
15. Disaster management	Ensure safety of the community, emergency workers and Council employees and contractors	<p>Close reserves or damaged sections of reserves during a natural disaster until assessed as safe</p> <p>Ensure the Operations Plan includes consideration of resources to fund site rehabilitation works following natural disasters</p> <p>Maintain fire trails and asset protection zones</p>	All reserves or affected sections closed until assessed as safe.
16. Land use zone	Ensure the land use zone under LEP is consistent with the category of the reserve under the LG Act and Regulations	Rezone any land subject to this PoM under LEP to be consistent with the Category in this plan (refer Table 2)	All reserves subject to this PoM have land use zones under the EPA Act consistent with categories under the LG Act and Regulations.
17. Masterplanning	Prepare masterplans for relevant reserves	<p>Draft masterplan be prepared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in consultation with community representatives</li> <li>• with consideration of environmental factors relevant to the site including asset protection zones</li> </ul>	Masterplan prepared, publicly exhibited and adopted.
18. Decision making not addressed in this PoM	To facilitate decision making not addressed in this PoM	Any management decisions or issues outside of the scope of this PoM should be assessed and resolved in the context of the Core Objectives for the Natural Area - Bushland category as per the LGA 1993, the Crown Reserve Purpose, Land Zoning, and Council Policy	Compliance with core objectives for the Natural Area - Bushland.

### 5.3 Natural Area – Watercourse

The following reserves subject to this PoM are partly or fully categorised as Natural Area – Watercourse:

**Medway Dam Reserve**, located in Medway between Belanglo State Forest to the West and the Hume Highway and Berrima to the East

- Medway Dam portion of the reserve is to be categorised as Natural Area – Watercourse
- Includes Council owned community land (Lot 1 DP 214236), and Council owned Operational Land (only Lot 2 DP 217937), which is to be reclassified as Community Land and integrated into the Reserve
- To maintain water quality in Lots 1 and 2, access to the water and onto land will be permitted only with Council authorisation
- Lot 4 DP 214236 will remain classified as Operational Land and due to infrastructure management and public safety requirements, Lot 4 and part of Lot 1 DP 214236 around the Medway Dam will be restricted to general public and accessed only by authorised persons
- Land Use Zone under LEP: SP2 Infrastructure for a water supply system

#### Physical environment

- Medway Rivulet and Wells Creek flow into Medway Dam from a catchment of largely agricultural land. The creek then flows to Wingecarribee River.
- The Dam is surrounded by thick bushland.
- The Reserve forms part of a significant biodiversity corridor west of the Hume Highway.
- The adjoining land to the east, south and north is used for agriculture, primarily grazing and forms part of the water catchment for the Dam.
- There is a long history of coal seam mining in the area.
- The dam is only accessible via a track at the western end.

#### **Welby Weir** (Cnr Wombeyan Caves & Old Hume Hwy)

- Whole reserve to be categorised as Natural Area – Watercourse
- Comprises Council owned land (Lot 1 DP 705824)
- The Weir infrastructure requires engineering maintenance and management of public safety and access
- Land Use Zone under LEP: C2- Environmental Conservation

#### Physical Environment

- Adjoins Mt Alexandra Reserve to the east.
- Historic use as a Weir.
- Active Bushcare Group works within the reserve which is cleared with sporadic trees in the north-western portion and thick bushland to the east, adjoining Mt Alexandra Reserve.
- The weir is located along Nattai Creek and was built around 1931 to form part of Mittagong's water supply.
- Fishing is allowed at Welby Weir which is stocked with Bass and Trout. The watercourse also contains Carp, an invasive species.

- Pedestrian access is possible to the Weir from the parking area off the Old Hume Highway between Box Vale Rd and Wombeyan Caves Rd. Limited access is also provided via the fire trail gate at Morris Road.

### Wingecarribee River Reserve

- Whole reserve to be categorised as Natural Area – Watercourse
- Comprises Council owned land to be reclassified from Operational to Community land (Lot 8 DP 258453) as no water or sewer assets exist
- Also comprises Council owned Community land (Lot 3 DP 258454, Lot 4 DP 258454, Lot 5 DP 258454)
- Land Use Zone under LEP: C2- Environmental Conservation

#### Physical Environment

- The Reserve comprises two separate parcels of land along the Wingecarribee River.
- The parcels are largely cleared with some riparian vegetation.
- Both parcels are surrounded by semi-rural land uses.
- Cecil Hoskins Nature Reserve, known for bird watching, forms part of the NPWS estate and is located to the south of Lot 3 DP 258454. It also provides for walking, picnicking and enjoyment of the wetland.
- The watercourse becomes Bong Bong Reservoir adjoining Lot 3 DP 258454.

#### 5.3.1 Guidelines and core objectives

Watercourses are defined in clause 110 of the *LG (General) Regulation 2021* as any stream of water, perennial or intermittent, in a natural or artificial channel, and associated riparian land or vegetation.

The core objectives for watercourses, as outlined in Section 36M of the *LG Act*, are to:

- manage watercourses so as to protect the biodiversity and ecological values of the instream environment, particularly in relation to water quality and water flows
- manage watercourses so as to protect the riparian environment, particularly in relation to riparian vegetation and habitats and bank stability
- restore degraded watercourses
- promote community education, and community access to and use of the watercourse, without compromising the other core objectives of the category.

#### 5.3.2 Key issues

##### Water quality and health

- Water quality in rivers and creeks can be compromised by contaminated stormwater and therefore unsuitable for recreational swimming or fishing. Increased nutrification of the waterways from polluted stormwater including sewage and sediment, negatively impacts waterway health and biodiversity and promotes weeds along the foreshore. Council currently has a 'Waterwatch' program to monitor the health of key urban waterways in Bowral, Mittagong, Robertson and Moss Vale, which monitors trends over time, and will provide important information to inform future land use decisions. Some water quality monitoring is also undertaken by NSW Water.
- Rapid Appraisal of Riparian Condition is also used by Council staff to measure and monitor waterway health to guide ongoing management decisions.

- Future growth within the Shire will continue to put pressure on the waterways if not managed appropriately, and development needs to be managed to maintain and improve the environmental function of catchments and waterways.

### **Fish habitat**

- Some waterways are key fish habitat under the *Fisheries Management Act* or have been identified for platypus conservation.

### **Erosion and bank stability**

- Erosion, soil compaction and bank slump can occur along foreshores and be exacerbated by increased access and use e.g. Welby Weir Reserve.
- Grazing animals adjacent to watercourses can have a detrimental effect on channel stability, riparian vegetation, soil erosion or reduced water quality from increased sedimentation and nutrification.

### **Conservation activities**

- Council is working with stakeholders including Government, local community, and not-for-profit organisations, to improve river health by monitoring waterway health, restoring foreshore habitat, controlling pests and weeds including willows and improving water quality and opportunities for recreational activities such as kayaking. Knowledge is also transferred to citizen scientists interested in Rivercare and iconic species conservation such as the Platypus.

### **Flooding impacts**

- Inundation from flooding can cause damage to vegetation, temporary loss of habitat and species, soil erosion, impact bank stability, cause soil contamination, weed spread and pathogen spread. It can also result in the deposit of rubbish and debris that requires resources to clean up.

### **Vehicle access**

- Vehicle access can damage or destroy riparian vegetation, cause soil erosion and compaction, impact water quality and encourage weeds.

### **European Carp**

- European Carp is an invasive species and negatively impacts aquatic biodiversity. Collaboration with community, not-for-profit organisations and State Government is required to manage this issue.

### **Recreation**

- Welby Weir is used for recreational pursuits such as fishing. Areas such as these require investigation as to the need for fishing platforms. Similarly, investigation is required to determine the need for specific access facilities for kayaking and canoeing to protect foreshore areas.
- Public access trails along the watercourses are limited. Potential exists in suitable areas to enhance accessibility and connectivity to adjoining reserves e.g. Wingecarribee River Reserve connectivity to Cecil Hoskins Nature Reserve.

## Land use zone

- The dam within Medway Reserve is currently zoned under the LEP as SP2 Infrastructure for a water supply system. As this area will become community land and is no longer required for operational purposes, it would be appropriate to rezone the area C2 Environmental Conservation or C3 Environmental Management. The Land within Lots 1 and 4 DP 214236 will remain as SP2 Infrastructure – Water Supply System.

### 5.3.3 Management framework for reserves categorised as Natural Area – Watercourse

Council strategic objectives and priorities outlined in Section 3.4 above create the management framework for the reserves categorised as Natural Area – Watercourse. The documents include the Community Strategic Plan, the Local Strategic Planning Statement and the LEP.

#### 5.3.3.1 Development and use

In accordance with the core objectives for watercourses, as outlined in Section 36M of the LG Act, Council aims to:

1. protect and restore the biodiversity and ecological values of the instream and riparian environments and
2. promote community education, and community access to and use of the watercourse, without compromising the biodiversity and ecological values.

A low level of development is envisaged for areas categorised as watercourse with the objective being to provide a “natural” outdoor experience. Development will be limited to low impact activities such as walking on well-formed tracks to rough tracks and water-based sports including swimming, fishing, and kayaking where appropriate. Higher use sites may require ancillary visitor facilities such as car parking, signage, picnic areas, fishing platforms, kayak storage and designated water access points.

There are no existing leases or licences over the Crown reserves categorised as natural area watercourse and included in this PoM.

#### 5.3.3.2 Permissible uses / future uses

The general types of uses which may occur on community land categorised as Natural Area – Watercourse, and the forms of development generally associated with those uses, are set out in Table 6 below. The facilities on community land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community.

The anticipated uses and associated development identified in the table are intended to provide a general guide. The terminology used is not intended to impose an exact meaning.

Medway Dam is Council-owned land and infrastructure and remains a future/potential water supply that requires on-going maintenance with restricted access to retain supply options, and limited uses of the land surrounding the waterbody to ensure water quality.

The dam infrastructure is a significant Council asset and includes an operational land curtilage for maintenance and management, continued access for authorised persons via on-title easements, pipeline easement, boat ramp and below dam safety perimeter.

The reclassification of Lot 2, DP 217937 from operational land to community land (Natural Area - Watercourse) category to complement the community land and category of Lot 1 DP 214236

will enable integrated natural area management, e.g: weed control, conservation of watercourse and bushland values.

Lot 1 DP 214236 and Lot 4 DP 214236 contain the dam infrastructure. Lot 4 will remain classified as operational land until any future reclassification by Council. In addition to Lot 4, there are asset, curtilage and safety issues in Lot 1, DP 214236 that will also require restricted access, in part of Lot 1 at the western end, to authorised persons only.

Medway Dam's community land uses and purposes will be limited to environmental management and any activities will be authorised by Council. Medway Dam infrastructure will be protected by an operational management and public safety curtilage that includes the required land in both Lot 1 DP 214236 and Lot 4 DP 214236.

Depending on Council's water supply needs, Council may seek future consolidation of Lots 1 and 4 into two lots – one smaller western lot to contain infrastructure and curtilage land to be classified as operational land and a larger eastern lot that could be classified as community land with integrated management with Lot 2 DP 217937.

**Table 6: Permissible use and development of community land categorised as Natural Area – Watercourse, subject to Council authorisation and approval**

Purpose/Use	Development to facilitate uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preservation of the council's natural heritage including the identified endangered ecological communities</li> <li>• Preservation of biological diversity and habitat</li> <li>• Providing a location for relaxation and passive, informal, water-based recreation, unless prohibited.</li> <li>• Approved bush care and river care projects requiring ecological restoration activities associated with the protection and conservation of flora and fauna</li> <li>• Restoration works associated with the protection of the biodiversity and ecological values of the in-stream and riparian environment including water quality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor facilities: toilets, picnic tables, sheltered seating areas, lighting, low-impact carparks, refreshment kiosks (but not restaurants), water safety storage devices</li> <li>• Low-impact walking trails</li> <li>• Interpretive signage, information kiosks</li> <li>• Water-saving initiatives such as rain gardens, swales and sediment traps</li> <li>• Bridges, observation / fishing platforms</li> <li>• Work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land</li> <li>• Bicycle/row boat/ kayak hire or similar</li> <li>• Temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out</li> <li>• Locational, directional and regulatory signage</li> <li>• Flood mitigation works and water quality improvement devices</li> <li>• Kayak storage and access ramps</li> <li>• Rural style fencing, security gates and bollards</li> </ul>

5.3.3.3 Express authorisation of leases, licences and other estates - Natural Area – Watercourse

This plan of management **expressly authorises** the issue of leases, licences and other estates over the land categorised as Natural Area – Watercourse, provided that:

- the purpose is consistent with the purpose for which it was dedicated or reserved
- the purpose is consistent with the core objectives for the category of the land

- the lease, licence or other estate is for a permitted purpose listed in the *Local Government Act 1993* or the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
- the issue of the lease, licence or other estate and the provisions of the lease, licence or other estate can be validated or allowed by the provisions of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwth)
- where the land is subject to a claim under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* the issue of any lease, licence or other estate will not prevent the land from being transferred in the event the claim is granted
- the lease, licence or other estate is granted and notified in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993* or the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
- the issue of the lease, licence or other estate will not materially harm the use of the land for any of the purposes for which it was dedicated or reserved.

Table 7 further identifies the purposes for which leases and licences may be issued over the reserves identified in this plan of management as Natural Area – Watercourse

Section 46 LG Act permits Councils to grant a lease, licence or other estate in respect of community land for:

- the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities; or
- the purpose of providing pipes, conduits or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the council or other public utility provider.

**Table 7: Leases, licences and other estates and purposes for which they may be granted for community land categorised as Natural Area – Watercourse.**

Type of tenure arrangement	Purpose for which tenure may be granted
Lease Long term up to 21 years Short term up to 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• walkways, pathways, bridges, causeways</li> <li>• observation/ fishing platforms, signs</li> <li>• information kiosk</li> <li>• kiosk selling light refreshments (but not restaurants)</li> <li>• bicycle/row boat / kayak hire or similar</li> <li>• work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land</li> <li>• toilets</li> <li>• temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out</li> </ul>
Licence Long term up to 21 years Short term up to 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• walkways, pathways, bridges, causeways</li> <li>• observation/ fishing platforms, signs</li> <li>• Information kiosk</li> <li>• Kiosk selling light refreshments (but not restaurants)</li> <li>• Bicycle/row boat / kayak hire or similar</li> <li>• work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land</li> <li>• toilets</li> <li>• temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out</li> </ul>
Short-term licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• scientific studies and surveys or similar</li> <li>• bicycle/row boat/ kayak hire or similar</li> </ul>



Up to 12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out</li> </ul>
Other estates	<p>This PoM allows the council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities in accordance with the LG Act.</p> <p>Estates may also be granted across community land for the provision of pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land.</p>



PHOTOGRAPH: WINGECARRIBEE RIVER BERRIMA BY DEE KRAMER

### 5.3.4 Action plan for Natural Area - Watercourse

Section 36 of the LG Act requires that a PoM for community land details:

- objectives and performance targets for the land
- the means by which the council proposes to achieve these objectives and performance targets
- the manner in which the council proposes to assess its performance in achieving the objectives and performance targets.

Table 8 sets out these requirements for community land categorised as Natural Area – Watercourse.

**Table 8: Objectives and performance targets, means of achieving them and assessing achievement for community land categorised as Natural Area – Watercourse**

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets s.36(3)(b)	Means of achievement of objectives s.36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of performance s.36(3)(d)
1. Maintain biodiversity during climate change	Identify, protect and manage threatened environmental communities and threatened species	<p>Validate vegetation mapping and the presence of threatened, endangered or rare aquatic or terrestrial plants and animals and endangered ecological communities in accordance with Council’s Biodiversity Monitoring Strategy</p> <p>Leverage the best available modelling, science and adaptation programs to mitigate climate change and make evidence-based decisions</p> <p>Work with the Saving our Species officers and other stakeholders</p> <p>Seek and allocate funding to undertake more flora and fauna analysis across watercourse reserves</p>	<p>Validation mapping occurs under the Biodiversity Monitoring Strategy to inform management responses and legal obligations</p> <p>Biodiversity, bushland and watercourse resilience is maintained following best practice and contemporary approaches</p> <p>Adequate resources and funding allocated</p>
	Implement suitable fire regimes to manage biodiversity, threatened	Implement preferred fire regimes for the recovery of threatened ecological communities	Suitable fire regimes implemented for the recovery of threatened

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets s.36(3)(b)	Means of achievement of objectives s.36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of performance s.36(3)(d)
	ecological communities and threatened species	<p>and species as identified in the Saving our Species priority actions</p> <p>Apply necessary mosaic fire regimes to maintain the appropriate floristic and structural diversity for each vegetation community (where feasible) and ensure the ongoing persistence of sensitive species</p> <p>Land managers keep Council’s bushfire management committee informed of site changes that may require amendments to the Wollondilly / Wingecarribee Bushfire Risk Management Plan</p>	<p>ecological communities and species</p> <p>Biodiversity resilience is maintained</p> <p>Mosaic and best practice fire regimes implemented</p> <p>Bushfire Risk Management Plan updates based on contemporary information on biodiversity</p>
	Manage and suppress weeds, pests, disease and pathogens	<p>Identify and record weed, pest, disease and pathogen incursions through monitoring to inform site management and budgeting requirements</p> <p>Implement strategies under the Saving our Species Program to manage Key Threatening Processes (refer Appendix A5) following contemporary approaches</p> <p>Target weeds, pests, disease and pathogens according to state, regional and local priorities under the <i>NSW Biodiversity Act 2015</i>.</p> <p>Collaborate with stakeholders to implement management measures in a coordinated approach</p>	<p>Regular site monitoring undertaken and recorded to determine ecosystem resilience and effectiveness of strategies</p> <p>Compliance with state, regional and local priorities under the <i>NSW Biodiversity Act 2015</i></p> <p>Adequate resources and funding allocated</p>

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets s.36(3)(b)	Means of achievement of objectives s.36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of performance s.36(3)(d)
		Allocate adequate resources and funding	
	Restore vegetation connectivity	Work with adjoining landowners and stakeholders to restore vegetation connectivity and wildlife corridors	Areas of vegetation restored
	Expand knowledge of site managers and community stewards	Seek grant funding and allocate appropriate resources to ensure site managers and community volunteers have best practice and up to date knowledge to manage the reserves	Resources and funding allocated for management Education programs implemented Number of successful grants
	Resources are available to manage biodiversity after natural disasters	Undertake resource planning as part of risk assessments for watercourse areas following flood, fire, storm and drought events	Natural Disaster Resource Plan prepared and integrated into Council's financial planning and grant fund planning
2. Maintain watercourse and foreshore	Protect and manage watercourses and foreshore areas for habitat	<p>Monitor the foreshore, particularly after flood and storm events for erosion, bank slump, soil compaction and weed infestation</p> <p>Monitor popular foreshore areas for trampling and other impacts to inform management actions</p> <p>Implement the 'Waterwatch' program and the Rapid Appraisal of Riparian Condition method to measure and monitor waterway health and to guide ongoing management and land use decisions</p>	Foreshore and watercourse condition is improved

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets s.36(3)(b)	Means of achievement of objectives s.36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of performance s.36(3)(d)
		<p>Work with stakeholders to improve river health by monitoring waterway health, restoring foreshore and waterway habitat, controlling pests and weeds and improving water quality</p> <p>Investigate the need for fishing platforms and kayaking and canoeing access to foreshore areas to reduce impacts to the foreshore.</p> <p><u>Welby Weir</u>: Investigate the need to slow bank slumping and mitigate soil compaction and erosion due to increased access and use with soft or hard landscaping solutions</p>	
3. Cultural Heritage	Identify, protect and interpret Aboriginal heritage	<p>Devise a process and procedure to consider due diligence / risk assessment for Council management and maintenance operations that include statutory requirements and best practice due diligence processes. This includes bushland management and bushcare activities such as weeding and planting</p> <p>Undertake archaeological surveys and research as required to improve baseline data</p> <p>Monitor known sites for disturbance and restrict access where disturbance is occurring</p> <p>In consultation with Aboriginal Stakeholders, identify sites suitable for interpretation</p>	<p>Compliance with the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and Regulations</p> <p>Implementation of best practice, stakeholder consultation and due diligence protocols</p> <p>Reduced incidence of impacts</p> <p>Numbers of staff, contractors and volunteers trained</p> <p>Improved baseline data</p> <p>Aboriginal heritage sites found within reserves are investigated and recorded on the Aboriginal</p>

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets s.36(3)(b)	Means of achievement of objectives s.36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of performance s.36(3)(d)
		Allocate resources and funding through council's budgeting process	Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database  Aboriginal Stakeholders are satisfied with management approach, site interpretation and outcomes
	Facilitate Connection to Country, Cultural Burns and site interpretation	Engage and involve Aboriginal people in park management planning, operations, interpretation, cultural activities and education programs to improve connection to Country  Engage with the Aboriginal community to determine suitable sites for Cultural Burns in consultation with relevant stakeholders	Number of interpretation sites, programs and activities and participation numbers  Number of sites where cultural burns are suitable and have occurred  Success of the cultural burn in Connection to Country, fire hazard reduction and biodiversity improvements  Aboriginal Stakeholders are satisfied with management approach, site interpretation and outcomes
	Identify, protect and interpret post 1788 heritage	Undertake a heritage assessment of the reserves to identify heritage values and sites to be included in LEP Heritage Schedule  Monitor heritage sites for graffiti, vandalism, weathering and wear and tear	Heritage assessment undertaken and LEP Heritage Schedule amended to include suitable sites

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets s.36(3)(b)	Means of achievement of objectives s.36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of performance s.36(3)(d)
		<p>Interpret heritage where appropriate to enrich visitor experience</p> <p>Ensure heritage sites are identified in Council's <i>Bushfire Management Plan</i></p>	<p>Annual audit undertaken of sites and conservation management undertaken</p> <p>Number of sites interpreted</p> <p>Heritage sites identified on BMP maps</p>
4. Access and Accessibility	Improve access for passive recreation and visitor experience including disability access	<p>Implement <i>Wingecarribee Walking Tracks Strategy 2020</i></p> <p>Reflect opportunities to improve access and visitor experience in amendments to the <i>Walking Tracks Strategy</i> and <i>Bicycle Plan</i>, including access to river foreshore areas</p> <p>Regularly monitor access trails for need of maintenance</p> <p>Investigate the need for fishing platforms and kayaking and canoeing access to foreshore areas</p> <p><u>Wingecarribee River Reserve</u> (2 parcels of land): identify access to north parcel, establish links with Cecil Hopkins Reserve (NPWS) and improve public access to Wingecarribee River</p>	<p>Relevant actions in <i>Wingecarribee Walking Tracks Strategy 2020</i> are implemented</p> <p>Walking Tracks Strategy and Bicycle Plan updated periodically</p> <p>Improved access and visitor experience</p>
	Facilitate access for operations and emergency service vehicles	In consultation with infrastructure maintenance, management vehicles, fire-fighting and	Access requirements met

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets s.36(3)(b)	Means of achievement of objectives s.36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of performance s.36(3)(d)
		<p>emergency vehicles, determine access requirements</p> <p>Where required for operational or public safety reasons, limit access to authorised persons or emergency services.</p>	
	Close unauthorised tracks and trails	Close unauthorised tracks and trails to reduce environmental impacts	Number of unauthorised tracks and trails closed
	Prevent unauthorised vehicle access	<p>Regularly check reserve boundaries where access is restricted to ensure they are secured</p> <p>Identify areas where unauthorised access is occurring and investigate alternatives through authorised road reserves and closure of unauthorised access routes to consolidate and protect natural areas</p>	<p>Reduced cases of unauthorised access</p> <p>Number of unauthorised access points.</p> <p>Number of access points with gates.</p>
5. Fencing and Boundary Management	Install fencing where required to reduce impacts on natural values, manage access, prevent unauthorised access and limit unauthorised activities	<p>Monitor reserve boundaries</p> <p>Prepare a boundary management plan to identify land boundaries to be surveyed (including Wingecarribee River Reserve) and secured and where bollards/barriers, gates and fences should be placed to limit un-authorised or undesirable access</p> <p>Allocate resources and funding through council's budgeting process</p>	<p>Implementation of boundary management plan</p> <p>Reduced incidence of unauthorised access and activities</p>



Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets s.36(3)(b)	Means of achievement of objectives s.36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of performance s.36(3)(d)
		<p>Install koala friendly fencing in known koala habitat</p> <p>Remove barbed wire fencing where appropriate and replace with wildlife friendly fencing</p>	
6. Parking	Provide and maintain adequate parking facilities where appropriate	Identify areas disturbed/damaged by unauthorised parking and devise appropriate plans to clearly designate parking areas and manage impacts such as erosion and soil compaction	<p>Parking areas clearly identified</p> <p>Level of success of site management methods to manage impacts</p>
7. Community Use, Recreation and Level of Service	<p>Allocate appropriate levels of service for each reserve</p> <p>Facilitate community use and enjoyment of the reserves</p>	<p>Regularly review levels of service based on community use, site constraints and values</p> <p>Amend <i>WSC Parks Strategy (2016)</i> levels of service to reflect recommendations from the review including reserves where a Level of Service is yet to be allocated</p> <p>Install and maintain facilities and amenities based on assigned level of service</p>	<p>Levels of service allocated or appropriately classified in <i>WSC Parks Strategy (2016)</i></p> <p>Facilities and amenities installed and maintained based on assigned level of service</p> <p>Community satisfaction surveys</p> <p>Aboriginal stakeholders are satisfied with community use and level of service</p>
8. Community and stakeholder collaboration	Undertake community education campaigns, events, workshops and volunteer programs to improve community understanding of	<p>Ensure projects are targeted</p> <p>Collaborate with the community and stakeholders, when possible, to scale up resources</p>	Number of volunteering and education projects and number of participants

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets s.36(3)(b)	Means of achievement of objectives s.36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of performance s.36(3)(d)
	reserve values, issues and improve stewardship.	<p>Expand and support volunteer programs such as Bushcare, Rivercare, Citizen Science and the Trail stewardship program</p> <p>Undertake education programs that target community groups, business and corporate groups, schools and university students</p> <p>Facilitate major community engagement environment events such as Plant a Tree Day or Bushcare’s Big Day Out</p> <p>Collaborate with NGOs, the Local Native Plant Society, Landcare, Residents Associations and Government on community engagement, education programs, natural area restoration projects and seeking grants for such activities</p>	
9. Place Naming	Name well utilised trails and places	In consultation with the local community, stakeholders and the Geographic Names Board (where required) prioritise Aboriginal language when place naming where appropriate	<p>Well used trails and places named</p> <p>More places and trails named with Aboriginal language</p>
10. Signage and Interpretation	Install signage to inform visitors of permissible uses, dangers and site values to enrich visitor experience and safety	<p>Implement the WSC Walking Tracks Strategy 2020 that includes track head and directional signage actions</p> <p>Implement the Signs as Remote Supervision program for compliance signage</p>	<p>Signage plan</p> <p>Implementation of signage</p> <p>Visitor feedback</p>

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets s.36(3)(b)	Means of achievement of objectives s.36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of performance s.36(3)(d)
		<p>Develop consistent signage for track heads and wayfinding but allow flexibility for interpretative and cultural signage</p> <p>Monitor existing signage for relevance and need of replacement due to damage or need for interpretation of reserve values, wayfinding or permissible activities</p> <p>Allocate resources and funding through Council's budgeting process in consultation with the Assets Branch</p> <p>Where land management responsibilities overlap, seek funding assistance from other government authorities to install required signage relating to e.g. waterways or roads</p>	
<p>11. Crown reserve or Council owned land change of use</p>	<p>Land is appropriately assigned operational or for community land</p> <p>Integrate appropriate Crown land and Council Community Land into the reserves for consolidation and management</p>	<p>Identify sites where existing utilities are located within the same lot as land categorised as watercourse. Subdivide off utility areas and categorise as Operational</p> <p>Ensure that a portion of Lot 1 DP 214236 at Medway Dam where dam and water supply infrastructure is located is restricted from general access and only accessible to authorised persons</p> <p>Identify operational land that contains no infrastructure and no plans are in place to use</p>	<p>All land is appropriately assigned operational or community use</p> <p>Appropriate land is integrated into the reserves</p> <p>Reserve category maps are available for public viewing on Council's Outward facing GIS</p> <p>Land is appropriately assigned operational or for community land</p>

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets s.36(3)(b)	Means of achievement of objectives s.36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of performance s.36(3)(d)
		<p>them. Categorise these areas for Community use for integration into the reserves</p> <p>Council should seek an open licence to undertake environmental management of those areas</p> <p>Maintain category maps on Council's 'Outward facing GIS' map of reserves</p> <p>Reclassify identified land from Operational to Community land at Medway Dam (Lot 2 DP 214236):</p> <p><u>Wingecarribee River Reserve 1</u>: Reclassify Council owned Lot 8 DP 258453 from Operational to Community land; Establish a lot around the sewer pumping station and retain as operational</p>	
12. Unauthorised and Illegal Activities	Reduce illegal activity in reserves	<p>Monitor reserves for unauthorised uses. Restrict access where possible and where appropriate, liaise with the local area command (police), engage with those undertaking the activity, issue infringement notices, install signage relating to illegal activity and penalties and restore damaged areas</p> <p>Restrict access to Medway Dam infrastructure land and water in an operational management and public safety curtilage, and limit access outside of the curtilage to Council-approved activities and uses</p>	<p>Reduced number of unauthorised or illegal activities</p> <p>Medway Dam infrastructure operational management and public safety curtilage established, maintained and regulated</p> <p>Public safety review conducted and public safety measures implemented</p>

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets s.36(3)(b)	Means of achievement of objectives s.36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of performance s.36(3)(d)
		<p>Review access and public safety at Welby Weir and manage access and activity through signage, access restrictions and Council authorisations as required</p> <p>Regularly check reserve boundaries where access is restricted to ensure they are secured</p>	
	Reduce impacts from adjoining landowners	<p>Monitor boundaries for unauthorized neighbour encroachment, access, illegal land clearing, weed encroachment, stormwater or sewerage</p> <p>Engage with relevant landowners to rectify the encroachment</p>	Reduced incidences of impacts from adjoining landowners on reserve values
13. Contamination	Manage contaminated land and impacts	<p>Map all known and potential contaminated land and undertake initial screening, site assessment and develop options to manage impacts</p> <p>Ensure staff, contractors, bush care and other volunteers are aware of the potential for asbestos and other common contaminants, the safety precautions and required reporting process</p> <p>Allocate and seek resources and funding for appropriate management</p>	Compliance with legal requirements
14. Maintenance	Reserves are maintained according to legal requirements and Level of Service	Allocate sufficient resources and funding through Council's budgeting process to meet legal requirements and Level of Service for targeted maintenance program	Compliance with legal requirements and Level of Service

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets s.36(3)(b)	Means of achievement of objectives s.36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of performance s.36(3)(d)
		<p>Regularly monitor reserves for maintenance requirements</p> <p>All weir and water-based infrastructure maintenance to be conducted by regular Council program to agreed engineering specifications with public access controlled for public safety</p>	<p>Visitor satisfaction</p> <p>Number of recorded injuries or incidences</p> <p>Maintenance program agreed and implemented</p>
15. Disaster management	Ensure safety of the community, emergency workers and Council employees and contractors	<p>Close reserves or damaged sections of reserves during a natural disaster until assessed as safe</p> <p>Ensure the Operations Plan includes consideration of resources to fund site rehabilitation works following natural disasters</p> <p>Maintain fire trails and asset protection zones</p>	All reserves or affected sections closed until assessed as safe
16. Land use zone	Ensure the land use zone under LEP is consistent with the category of the reserve under the LG Act and Regulations	Rezone the Medway Dam land and waterway in Lot 2 DP 214236 from SP2 Infrastructure under the LEP for a water supply system (if the dam was decommissioned)no longer required for operational purposes) to C2 Environmental Conservation or C3 Environmental Management	Where Medway Dam Reserve has no water supply infrastructure, a land use zone under the EPA Act consistent with the Natural Area – Watercourse category
17. Decision making not addressed in this PoM	To facilitate decision making not addressed in this PoM	Any management decisions or issues outside of the scope of this PoM should be assessed and resolved in the context of the Core Objectives for the Natural Area - Watercourse category as per the LGA 1993, the Crown Reserve Purpose, Land Zoning, and Council Policy	Compliance with core objectives for the Natural Area - Watercourse

## 6.0. Park and general community use categories

The focus of this natural area PoM is on Natural Area Bushland with some land categorised as Natural Area Watercourse (See Section 5.3: Natural Area - Watercourse).

There are smaller areas of land that are also categorised as either Park (four) and/or General Community Use (two). Two areas of land are also categorised as Sportsground.

This section addresses both Park and General Community Use categories together due to the relative similarity between planning for both areas as there are overlapping issues and management practices.

Within the natural area reserves there are:

Five reserves that are categorised as Natural Area – Bushland and Park:

- Crown Reserve R81145 for Public Recreation - approximately 550 m<sup>2</sup>, part of Lot 7305 DP 1132556, which is a walkway to the reserve accessed from Joadja St, Welby
- Goanna Falls R91077 for Public Recreation - approximately 0.36 hectares, part of Lot 7002 DP 1059825, which is a small, landscaped park area accessed from Greenhills Rd, Berrima
- Paddys River Reserve R63869 for Public Recreation and Resting Place - approximately 0.46 hectares, parts of Lots 1, 2, 3 in Section 4 DP 192048, which is a small, landscaped park and rest area accessed from the Hume Highway, Paddys River
- Hammock Hill Reserve - approximately 2.18 hectares between Kiameron Place and Lot 25 DP 837875, which is a former drainage reserve linked through to the main body of the reserve.
- Balmoral Village Community Park – has both Natural Area Bushland and Park

One reserve that is categorised as Natural Area – Bushland and General Community Use:

- Quigg Reserve R180042 for Community Purposes and Public Recreation - approximately 0.67 hectares in total, part of Lot 158 DP 728034, Canyonleigh Rd Canyonleigh. Two areas in the northern quarter of the reserve, accessed by Canyonleigh Rd - one area most northern and closest to Canyonleigh Rd is the Canyonleigh Rural Fire Service facility, and the other area further south is the Canyonleigh Community Hall. The land also provides functional curtilage around the buildings, car parking and access roads, and a small amount of site landscaping.

Three reserves that are categorised as Natural Area – Bushland and Sportsground:

- Part of Southern Highlands Golf Course - approximately 4.7 ha, part of Lot 3 DP 1158322 extends into the Greater Mt Alexandra Reserve R90284
- Welby Heights Hockey Fields – approximately 2 ha, part of Lot 7307 DP 1146411 extends into the Greater Mount Alexandra Reserve R530067
- Boronia Park, Hill Top R65071 for Public Recreation – approximately 3.4 ha, part of Lot 7006 DP 1051729, which is the playing field, play space and car park area.

Council will be preparing a Plan of Management for Sportsgrounds, Parks and General Community Use in 2024. .

These reserves and their categories are mapped in Appendix A3.

## 6.1 Guidelines and core objectives

### Park Category

Parks are defined in clause 104 of the *LG (General) Regulation 2021* as land which is improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, and for uses which are mainly passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that do not intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others.

The core objectives for parks, as outlined in Section 36G of the LG Act, are to:

- encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities
- provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games
- improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.

### General Community Use Category

General community use land is defined in clause 106 of the *LG (General) Regulation 2021* as land that may be made available for use for any purpose for which community land may be used, and does not satisfy the definition of natural area, sportsground, park or area of cultural significance.

The core objectives for community land categorised as general community use, as outlined in Section 36I of the LG Act, are to:

- promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land
- provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public:

(a) in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public, and

(b) in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).

## 6.2 Key issues

This section approaches management of land categorised as Park and General Community Use through three primary areas of focus: planning and design, management framework, and development and use.

### a. Planning and Design

- Landscape Character
- Public access and multiple use
- Relationship to surrounding land uses



b. Management Framework

- Environmental management and sustainability
- Safe maintenance and upgrade of land, structures and facilities
- Booking systems, fees and charges/conditions of hire
- Amenity Provision
- Fencing and lighting
- Safety and risk management

c. Development and Use

- Future development and use
- Buildings, facilities and infrastructure
- Dogs in public places
- Personal trainers, and small event bookings
- Event or casual bookings
- Signage and advertising
- Traffic, vehicular access and parking;
- Permitted and prohibited e.g: alcohol free areas

The general types of uses which may occur on community land categorised as Park and General Community Use and the forms of development generally associated with those uses, are set out in detail in Table 9 and 10 while Table 11 addresses the management, development and issues as an Action Plan for the Park and General Community Use category land.

### 6.3 Permissible uses / future uses

The general types of uses which may occur on community land categorised as Park or General Community Use, and the forms of development generally associated with those uses, are set out in Table 9 below. The facilities on community land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community.

The anticipated uses and associated development identified in the table are intended to provide a general guide. The terminology used is not intended to impose an exact meaning.

**Table 9: Permissible use and development of community land categorised as Park or General Community Use by council**

General – for category areas: Park and General Community Use	
Uses and Activities	Developments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organised and unstructured recreation activities</li> <li>• Community events and gatherings</li> <li>• Community services and emergency safety delivery</li> <li>• Group recreational use, such as picnics and private celebrations</li> <li>• Festivals, parades, markets, fairs, exhibitions and similar events and gatherings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of outdoor and indoor facilities to facilitate the permissible uses and activities.</li> <li>• Development for the purposes of improving access, amenity and the visual character of the land, for example paths, public art, pergolas</li> <li>• Provision of amenities to facilitate use and enjoyment of the community land including seating, change rooms, toilets, storage, first aid areas</li> <li>• Storage ancillary to sporting and recreational uses, community events or gatherings, and public meetings</li> <li>• Car parking and loading areas</li> <li>• Ancillary areas (staff rooms, meeting rooms, recording rooms, equipment storage areas)</li> <li>• Café or refreshment areas (but not restaurants) including external seating</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Filming and photographic projects</li> <li>• Providing a location for, and supporting, the gathering of groups for a range of social, cultural or recreational purposes.</li> <li>• Meetings (including for social, recreational, educational or cultural purposes)</li> <li>• Concerts, including all musical genres</li> <li>• Performances (including film and stage)</li> <li>• Leisure or training classes</li> <li>• Entertainment facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shade structures</li> <li>• Heritage and cultural interpretation, e.g. signs</li> <li>• Equipment hire areas</li> <li>• Amenities to facilitate the safe use and enjoyment of the park, for example picnic tables, sheltered seating areas</li> <li>• Low impact lighting, paved areas, hard and soft landscaped areas</li> <li>• Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ relate to approved uses/activities</li> <li>○ are discreet and temporary</li> <li>○ are approved by the council</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Water-saving initiatives such as stormwater harvesting, rain gardens and swales</li> <li>• Energy-saving initiatives such as solar lights and solar panels</li> <li>• Locational, directional and regulatory signage</li> </ul>
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#### 6.4 Express authorisation of leases, licences and other estates

This plan of management **expressly authorises** the issue of leases, licences and other estates over the land categorised as Park or General Community Use, listed in Table 10 provided that:

- the purpose is consistent with the purpose for which the land was dedicated or reserved
- the purpose is consistent with the core objectives for the category of the land
- the lease, licence or other estate is for a permitted purpose listed in *the LG Act* or the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*
- the issue of the lease, licence or other estate and the provisions of the lease, licence or other estate can be validated or allowed by the provisions of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwth)
- where the land is subject to a claim under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* the issue of any lease, licence or other estate will not prevent the land from being transferred in the event the claim is granted
- the lease, licence or other estate is granted and notified in accordance with the provisions of the *LG Act* or the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*
- the issue of the lease, licence or other estate will not materially harm the use of the land for any of the purposes for which it was dedicated or reserved.

**Table 10: Leases, licences and other estates and purposes for which they may be granted for community land categorised as Park or General Community Use.**

Park	
Type of tenure	Purpose for which tenure may be granted
Lease Long term up to 21 years Short term up to 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• café/kiosk areas, including seating and tables</li> <li>• hire or sale of recreational equipment</li> </ul>
Licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• outdoor café/kiosk seating and tables</li> </ul>

Long term up to 21 years Short term up to 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>hire or sale of recreational equipment</li> </ul>
Short-term licence Up to 12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>community events and festivals</li> <li>playing a musical instrument, or singing for fee or reward</li> <li>picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings</li> <li>filming, including for cinema/television</li> <li>conducting a commercial photography session</li> <li>public performances</li> <li>engaging in an appropriate trade or business</li> <li>delivering a public address</li> <li>community events</li> <li>fairs, markets, auctions and similar activities</li> </ul>
Other estates	<p>This PoM allows the council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities in accordance with the LG Act.</p> <p>Estates may also be granted across community land for the provision of pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land.</p>

General Community Use	
Type of tenure	Purpose for which tenure may be granted
Lease Long term up to 21 years Short term up to 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>community and emergency services delivery, e.g: Rural Fire Services at Quigg Reserve</li> <li>childcare or vacation care</li> <li>educational purposes, including education classes, workshops</li> <li>cultural purposes, including concerts, dramatic productions and galleries</li> <li>recreational purposes, including fitness classes, dance classes and games</li> </ul>
Licence Long term up to 21 years Short term up to 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>community and emergency services delivery, e.g: Rural Fire Services at Quigg Reserve</li> <li>social purposes (including childcare, vacation care)</li> <li>educational purposes, including education classes, workshops</li> <li>recreational purposes, including fitness classes, dance classes</li> </ul>
Short-term licence Up to 12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>public speeches, meetings, seminars and presentations, including educational programs</li> <li>functions (including commemorative functions, book launches, film releases, balls, and similar activities)</li> <li>displays, exhibitions, fairs, fashion parades and shows</li> <li>events (including weddings, corporate functions, and community gatherings)</li> <li>concerts and other performances, including both live performances and film (cinema and TV)</li> <li>broadcasts associated with any event, concert, or public speech</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>engaging in an appropriate trade or business delivering a public address, community events; auctions, markets and similar activities</li> </ul>
Other estates	<p>This PoM allows the council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities in accordance with the LG Act.</p> <p>Estates may also be granted across community land for the provision of pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land.</p>

## 6.5 Action plan for Park and General Community Use

Section 36 of the LG Act requires that a PoM for community land details:

- objectives and performance targets for the land
- the means by which the council proposes to achieve these objectives and performance targets
- the manner in which the council proposes to assess its performance in achieving the objectives and performance targets.

Table 11 sets out these requirements for community land categorised as Park and General Community Use.

**Table 11: Objectives and performance targets, means of achieving them and assessing achievement for community land categorised as Park or General Community Use**

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets s.36(3)(b)	Means of achievement of objectives s.36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of performance s.36(3)(d)
1. Landscape Character	Provide landscape amenity and environmental benefits at park areas and community facilities	Retain and maintain existing trees and vegetation in park areas and around community facilities where safe and consistent with bushfire prone land and asset protection requirements.	Retention and maintenance of vegetation  Compliance with bushfire prone land standards
	Support of the existing native trees and planting	Retain existing trees and companion under storey/planting where possible.  Plant or regenerate endemic plant species to complement and support existing vegetation.	Retention of existing native vegetation subject to approved development consents  Growth in extent and quality of native vegetation cover
	Trees and shrub health maintained, and public risk managed	Regular program of tree and shrub maintenance to ensure healthy and safe vegetation	Vegetation maintenance specification prepared and implemented with annual reporting to relevant Council officer

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets s.36(3)(b)	Means of achievement of objectives s.36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of performance s.36(3)(d)
	Shade provided at any facilities	Review of outdoor spaces associated with facilities and building to evaluate shade needs and provision	Installation of shade structures or increased use of shade trees to meet shade and sun protection needs
	Outdoor fixtures – seats, tables, bins, provided at all sites where outdoors space is associated with facilities	Review of outdoor spaces associated with facility buildings and structures to evaluate and implement outdoor fixture provision	Installation of park and outdoor fixtures, including play, leisure and health equipment is provided consistent with any specific Council policies
2. Public access and multiple use	Limit exclusive uses	Lease and licence provisions include terms that are consistent with the reserve purpose(s), and for continued public access and limits on exclusive uses are for management and maintenance	Inclusion of terms in tenure and use agreements
	Change rooms and amenities are suitable for female users and different age groups	Review all amenities facilities and change rooms to ensure equity in provision for female users and a range of age groups	Review conducted and amendments to provision implemented
	Compliance of access pathways and ingress/egress points, toilets, change rooms and associated amenities infrastructure for disabled and equitable access	Annual audit of all public use, visitor and sporting facilities to evaluate equitable access and maintenance or upgrade needs for compliance with State requirements	Annual amenities equitable access audit and report and response actions reported to relevant Council Director
	Ensure public accessibility and multiple uses of land in any user occupancy agreements	Include conditions in user agreements and licences that provide for multiple uses and public accessibility where safe to permit	Publication and use of licence agreements that meet objectives

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets s.36(3)(b)	Means of achievement of objectives s.36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of performance s.36(3)(d)
	Provide for disabled and equitable parking at all reserves	Identify disability parking spots at each park and facility	Installation of disability parking spots at reserves where most needed
	Ensure high quality facilities that service needs and satisfy community expectations	Undertake annual user satisfaction surveys	User satisfaction surveys conducted annually
3. Relationship to surrounding land uses	Establish key entry points and entry associated information and guidance	Identify key access points within Park and General Community Use facilities and provide Park or facility gateways, signage and user information as use levels require	Key access points identified and amendments made
	Potential for better connections to local walking and cycling links	Integration of cycle and walking routes with parks and facilities where suitable	Demonstrated integration of cycle paths and ways
	Manage event and activity noise, traffic, waste management and visitor number issues for local and nearby residents	Prepare and implement user agreements (licences or permit) system  User agreements include conditions to limit impacts from noise, rubbish, traffic	Licences published and used with conditions to limit or reduce impacts from noise, rubbish, traffic
4. Environmental management and sustainability	Council investigation of environmental sustainability options and infrastructure  Reduction in operational costs for energy and water use through a range of sustainable means to reduce costs and wastage  Surface water run-off loss reduction and collection practices to optimise	Investigate implementation of alternative energy sources such as solar electricity and heating systems at facilities  Energy and water use efficiency practices and systems, including timing systems or regulated watering practices:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council investigation of investment into water efficiency actions</li> <li>Safe re-use of effluent and grey waters</li> </ul>	Council investigation of environmental sustainability options and infrastructure undertaken  Reduction in operational costs for energy and water use through a range of environmental and sustainable means to reduce costs and wastage

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets s.36(3)(b)	Means of achievement of objectives s.36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of performance s.36(3)(d)
	<p>water use and reduce stormwater loss to minimise use of town or reticulated water supplies during periods of limited availability</p> <p>Limit dispersal of fertiliser and pesticide into less robust environmental systems via stormwater or ground run off, and limit human contact from aerial or surface exposure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water harvesting from storm and ground water through collection for use at parks or in other areas</li> </ul> <p>Council and user organisations with occupancy and use agreements for sustainable fertiliser and pesticide application and management plans and practices</p>	<p>Surface water run-off loss reduction and collection practices implemented where feasible</p> <p>Fertiliser and pesticide use monitored and reported as part of vegetation maintenance program reporting</p>
	<p>Reduce costs to Council, users and hirers/tenants at parks and community facilities</p>	<p>Review of water and energy use at existing facilities and document design improvements for buildings and facilities</p>	<p>Review and investigations conducted, and response actions reported with Council annual reporting system</p>
<p>5. Safe maintenance and upgrade of land, structures and facilities</p>	<p>Maintain buildings and grounds, park areas and community facilities to required standards for users and public safety</p> <p>Building and structures compliance with Australian Standards and NSW Building Codes</p> <p>Regular repairs, painting &amp; maintenance</p> <p>Safe electrical systems</p> <p>Safe gas supply</p>	<p>Implement asset maintenance plans for park area and community facilities buildings structures and landscape assets</p> <p>Annual audit and review of buildings and structures to comply with Australian and NSW Building Codes standards</p> <p>System to receive reports/requests for maintenance needs is clearly published and acted upon</p> <p>Annual program of (Test &amp; Tag) electrical equipment inspection and testing by a competent person to identify and repair/replace damaged, worn and faulty electrical equipment</p>	<p>Asset management plans in place and implemented with Council annual reporting system</p> <p>Relevant Council Director responsible for program to review/audit sports ground, park areas and community facilities compliance with codes and standards</p> <p>Audit and review conducted and Council reporting system implemented</p>



Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets s.36(3)(b)	Means of achievement of objectives s.36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of performance s.36(3)(d)
	<p>Sustainable water supply</p> <p>Fire systems compliance with NSW Standards</p> <p>Safe and operational kitchens</p> <p>Safe chemical storage and use</p>	<p>Annual electrical, gas and water supply systems check and review for maintenance and upgrade needs</p> <p>Bi-annual fire safety systems check for maintenance or upgrade to meet standards and codes by local Fire brigade or registered authority</p> <p>Biannual inspection of all kitchens by health and safety officers to ensure clean, healthy and safe kitchens for users and visitors</p> <p>All chemical storage, use and handling to be certified by current NSW authority, e.g: WorkSafe NSW</p>	<p>Relevant Council Director approves maintenance system and is accountable for reporting</p> <p>Programmed testing / maintenance reporting done and all reports collated and archived in site specific compliance file</p>
	<p>Provide for public safety and minimise user risk at night</p>	<p>Improved lighting for security around buildings and along main pedestrian walkway/lanes.</p>	<p>Installation of additional lighting, subject to resources and funding, to increase safety along main pedestrian pathways and thoroughfares</p> <p>Council maintenance team reporting system implemented</p>
<p>6. Booking systems, fees and charges, and conditions of hire</p>	<p>Council review and formalise integrated booking systems for casual and seasonal use agreements</p> <p>Public awareness notices or policies of booking and hiring systems are clearly available</p>	<p>Council development and implementation of policies on use and facility allocation, accompanied by formal advertising of expressions of interest and clear allocation guidelines and criteria</p> <p>Formal EOI and user agreement allocations to be annually conducted as well as event-based periods</p>	<p>Council adoption and publication of park and facility allocation policy and procedures</p> <p>Annual EOI processes conducted to inform allocation procedures and hire or use agreements</p> <p>Council website publication</p>

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets s.36(3)(b)	Means of achievement of objectives s.36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of performance s.36(3)(d)
	<p>Clear and accountable fees and charges for park and facility use and hire</p> <p>Conditions of use and hire are clearly published and supplied with booking and hire details</p> <p>Standard user agreement documents, e.g: leases, licences and short term use permits</p>	<p>All bookings or hiring receive e-copy or paper copy of confirmation including any conditions of use and hire with contact details to assist hirer or user</p> <p>Publication of booking and hiring notices and policies, fees and charges on Council website, local media as required and at sites where warranted</p> <p>Council develop lease, licence and casual hiring, short-term and temporary licence agreements</p> <p>Clear and published conditions of hire and use, including permissible uses, times and user or hirer responsibilities</p>	<p>Production and use of conditions of use and hire with contact details to assist hirer or user with all bookings or hiring Standardised user agreements in use</p> <p>Council publication of conditions of hire and use, including permissible uses, times and user or hirer responsibilities on use agreements, and casual hire permits</p>
7. Amenity Provision	<p>Amenity facilities are available at sites of high or frequent use or site where no other amenities are nearby</p> <p>Amenities provided are kept clean and accessible to users and visitors during daylight hours and at high or frequent visitation sites during facility or site opening hours</p>	<p>Identify high user and visitor facilities and sites to evaluate amenities provision and supply to meet needs of community and visitor experience</p> <p>Regular inspection and maintenance regime that is clearly published and provides contact details for community and visitor maintenance requests</p>	<p>Analysis of user and visitor satisfaction surveys</p> <p>Relevant Council Director approves maintenance program and is accountable for reporting on outcomes and monitoring of contact queries and complaints</p>
8. Fencing and lighting	Improved personal security in parks and community facilities at night	Identify key movement and access routes and times and review lighting provision for implementation	Review conducted with implementation
	Lighting is provided for visitor and user safety at all buildings and on structures where night/dark use is present	Review of facilities and structures to evaluate lighting needs and gaps for safety and to meet users and visitor needs	<p>Lighting needs review and implementation program prepared and adopted by Council</p> <p>Night/dark safe lighting needs review conducted, incorporating</p>

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets s.36(3)(b)	Means of achievement of objectives s.36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of performance s.36(3)(d)
	<p>Lighting is supplied at car park areas where night/dark use is present</p> <p>Reduce the impact of night lighting on any adjacent residential properties and fauna due to glare or light spill</p>	<p>Review provision of safe lighting at night/dark use carparks and user or visitor thoroughfares and install lighting to meet needs or gaps in provision</p> <p>Review park areas and community facility lighting to ensure light spill impacts are limited</p> <p>Include lighting in development approval conditions and event or user agreements</p>	<p>CEPTED principles and provision priorities</p> <p>Council Planning directorate to integrate public lighting into development application approval conditions</p>
9. Safety and risk management	Provide increased shade in summer for events	<p>Implement landscaping and tree planting to provide increased shade for events</p> <p>Use of temporary shade structures</p>	<p>Tree planting where appropriate</p> <p>Temporary structures used for shade at events</p>
	Upgrade pathway surfaces for equitable access and removal of potential trip and fall hazards	Audit of paths and access ways for trip hazards and to ensure equitable and stable uses	<p>Audit completed</p> <p>Paths and access ways upgraded</p> <p>Council maintenance team reporting system implemented.</p>
10. Future development and use	Future development and uses is consistent with adopted PoM	Review of all proposed future developments and uses for consistency with adopted PoM	Proposed future developments and uses are reviewed
11. Buildings, facilities and infrastructure	Buildings, facilities and infrastructure are fit for purpose	Review function and activity at community facilities and park areas to identify improvements or capital upgrades required	Review conducted and improvements implemented subject to resources
	Upgrade and/or install new toilet facilities	Audit existing facilities and upgrade to meet BCA standards	Upgrades and new facilities completed

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets s.36(3)(b)	Means of achievement of objectives s.36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of performance s.36(3)(d)
		Identify new locations for toilets and associated amenities buildings	
12. Dogs in public places	Manage dog walking and play on and around playgrounds, food preparation areas, footpaths, park areas and reserves	Install signage including restricted areas with an emphasis on no dogs within 10 metres of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a children's playground or</li> <li>• a food preparation area</li> </ul> Install dog faeces litter bins  Publish animal and dog handling guidelines on Council website	Signage installed  Dog faeces bins provided at high use park areas and any identified or promoted walking tracks and trails  Council website publication of companion animal and dog handling rules and regulations
13. Personal trainers, and small event bookings	Personal trainers, fitness groups and small event bookings are safely conducted with minimal impacts on other reserve users and adjacent residences	Personal trainers, fitness groups and small event bookings are accommodated in park areas under licence or hiring arrangements, subject to time and area limited with use conditions to enable use to limit conflicts of use with the general public	Licence system and documents prepared and used for personal trainers, fitness groups and small event bookings
14. Event or casual bookings	Ensure any events have event management licenses or permits through bookings or hiring  Include event management plans, traffic management plans, waste and public safety plans in licence conditions  Maintain clear and published booking and hire system for events	Prepare and use event licences or permits with inclusion of event management plans, traffic management plans, waste and public safety plans  Publish booking and hire system arrangements on Council website with clear dates, times and contact details for users and community groups	Event licences and permits to include conditions for event and traffic, user and organisation vehicle management plans prepared in liaison with Local Area police  Publication and use of licences with conditions that address objectives

<b>Management Issues</b>	<b>Objectives and Performance Targets s.36(3)(b)</b>	<b>Means of achievement of objectives s.36(3)(c)</b>	<b>Manner of assessment of performance s.36(3)(d)</b>
			All hire or booking agreements have Council officer contact details to facilitate user benefits
15. Signage and advertising	Advertising signage should be ancillary or supportive of the reserve purposes and activities and not for external advertising purposes	Evaluate any signage proposals to ensure advertising is ancillary to reserve use and management	Signage requirements incorporated into Park planning or relevant Council DCP(s) for signage
16. Traffic, vehicular access and parking	Reduce soil compaction and traffic parking impacts on park grasses and vegetation, and vehicle impacts during wet weather	<p>Review park and community facility surrounds and car parking with a focus on safe traffic movements, designated parking areas and times and removal of all non-designated car parking and vehicle traffic</p> <p>Dedicated parking and thoroughfares or internal access routes to minimise use conflict or site landscape or asset degradation</p> <p>Parking areas, speed and vehicle limits clearly signed and marked</p>	Review conducted and traffic and car parking management implemented
	Reduce illegal parking on land to access facilities and to picnic	Designated car parking sites identified and developed with traffic barriers to restrict unauthorised or illegal vehicle movements and parking	Construction and installation of designated vehicle roads, car parking and traffic barriers
	<p>Provide a safe, effective and efficient vehicle and pedestrian environment for park areas and community facility users and visitors</p> <p>Events using park areas and community facilities have safe traffic</p>	Review of vehicle and traffic infrastructure for entry, internal movement, car parking and vehicle-pedestrian conflict minimisation	<p>Vehicle and traffic infrastructure review conducted</p> <p>Designated traffic, parking and pedestrian lanes marked for areas where large events are held</p>

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets s.36(3)(b)	Means of achievement of objectives s.36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of performance s.36(3)(d)
	management and reduce the potential for user / vehicle conflict	<p>Clear marking of designated access routes and parking arrangements for user and organiser vehicles</p> <p>Lessees and licensees have event and traffic management plans incorporated into user agreement conditions as part of agreement</p> <p>Special events have traffic, user and organisation vehicle management plans prepared in liaison with Local Area police</p>	Large Event licences and permits to include conditions for event and traffic, user and organisation vehicle management plans prepared in liaison with Local Area police
17. Permitted and prohibited e.g: alcohol free areas	Provide clear guidance to park and community facility users on reserves conditions of use, including alcohol free zones, permissible and non-permissible activities, dog leash or leash-free zones, times of specific uses, and internal site directions	<p>Site-based facility, structure, field and open space regulatory signage to address activity, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• alcohol free zones</li> <li>• permissible and non-permissible activities</li> <li>• dog leash or leash-free zone,</li> <li>• times of specific uses</li> </ul>	Installation of regulatory signage at high use or visitation park areas and community facilities.
18. Decision making not addressed in this Pom	To facilitate decision making not addressed in this PoM	Any management decisions or issues outside of the scope of this PoM should be assessed and resolved in the context of the Core Objectives for the Park or General Community Use category as per the LGA 1993, the Crown Reserve purpose, Land Zoning and Council policy	Compliance with core objectives for the Park or General Community Use category

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