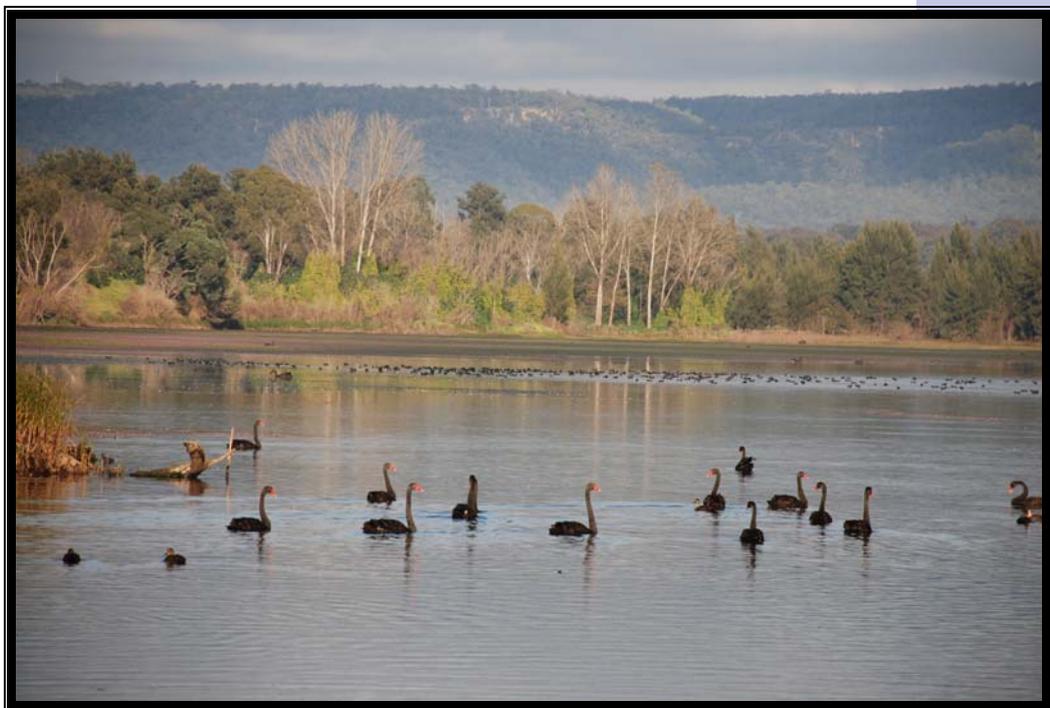




# Generic Plans of Management

## Natural Areas



**Adopted by Council 10 May 2011**

## Foreword

The natural areas of the Hawkesbury are valuable assets. Not only do these areas provide for a range of active and passive recreation opportunities they are also important for conserving our natural heritage.

The value of these areas is reflected in the community support shown through the Bushcare program and community tree planting days.

Natural areas are challenging assets to manage. Often there is a conflict between managing the natural values of natural areas yet providing for community use of these areas. The sheer quantity of natural areas and their remoteness adds to the difficulties for management.

This Plan of Management aims to accommodate the needs of the community, whilst retaining the values of each natural area. It looks at the management issues of these areas with an attempt to identify solutions that are sensible and equitable, within set budgets.

I am confident that, with the actions outlined in this Plan, the Natural areas of the Hawkesbury will benefit.

Yours sincerely

Bart Bassett  
Mayor

Prepared by: The Parks & Recreation Branch, May 2011



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## Definition of Terms

<p>Bushland</p>	<p>The category bushland is assigned to land that contains primarily native vegetation and that vegetation is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The natural vegetation or a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land, or</li> <li>• Although not the natural vegetation of the land, is still representative of the structure or floristics, or structure and floristics, of the natural vegetation in the locality.</li> </ul> <p>Such land includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bushland that is mostly undisturbed with a good mix of tree ages, and natural regeneration, where the understorey is comprised of native grasses and herbs or native shrubs, and which contains a range of habitats for native fauna (such as logs, shrubs, tree hollows and leaf litter), or</li> <li>• Moderately disturbed bushland with some regeneration of trees and shrubs, where there may be a regrowth area with trees of even age, where native shrubs and grasses are present in the understorey even though there may be some weed invitations, or</li> <li>• Highly disturbed bushland where the native understorey has been removed, where there may be significant weed invasion and where dead and dying trees are present, where there is no natural regeneration of trees or shrubs, but where the land is still capable of being rehabilitated.</li> </ul>
<p>Community land</p>	<p>Is land intended for public access and use. To prevent alienation of this land, it cannot be sold, leased, licensed or any other estate granted over the land for more than 21 years.</p>
<p>Cultural Significance</p>	<p>Is a category of land that requires resolution by Council. Such land may be declared as an area of cultural significance because it is an area of Aboriginal, aesthetic, archaeological, historical, technical, research, or social significance.</p> <p>As defined by the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005:</p> <p>An area is of Aboriginal Significance because the land:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has been declared an Aboriginal place under section 84 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act</li> <li>• whether or not in an undisturbed state, is significant to Aboriginal people in terms of their traditional or contemporary cultures, or</li> <li>• is of significance or interest because of Aboriginal associations, or</li> <li>• displays physical evidence of Aboriginal occupation (for example, items or artefacts such as stone tools, weapons, engraving sites, sacred trees, sharpening grooves or other deposits, and objects or materials that relate to the settlement of the land or place), or</li> <li>• is associated with Aboriginal stories, or</li> <li>• contains heritage items dating after European settlement that help to explain the relationship between Aboriginal people and later settlers, or</li> </ul> <p>An area is of aesthetic significance, by virtue of:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• having strong visual or sensory appeal or cohesion, or</li> <li>• including a significant landmark, or</li> <li>• having creative or technical qualities, such as architectural excellence, or</li> </ul> <p>An area is of archaeological significance, because the area contains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• evidence of past human activity (for example, below-ground features such as building foundations, occupation deposits, features or artefacts or above-ground features such as buildings, works, industrial structures, and relics, whether intact or ruined), or</li> <li>• any other deposit, object or material that relates to the settlement of the land, or</li> </ul> <p>An area is of historical significance, because of the importance of an association or position of the land in the evolving pattern of Australian cultural history, or</p> <p>An area is of technical or research significance, because of the area's contribution to an understanding of Australia's cultural history or environment, or</p> <p>An area is of social significance, because of the area's association with Aboriginal life after 1788 or the area's association with a contemporary community for social, spiritual or other reasons.</p>
Escarpment	The category escarpment is assigned to land that includes such features as a long cliff-like ridge or rock, and the land includes significant or unusual geological, geomorphological or scenic qualities.
Foreshore	The category of foreshore is assigned to land that is situated on the water's edge and forms a transition zone between the aquatic and terrestrial environment.
General Community Use	Is a category of land that should be applied where the land may be available for use for any purpose for which community land may be used, whether by the public at large or by specific sections of the public. It includes land that does not fall into the categories of natural area, sportsground, park or area of cultural significance.
Lease	Confers an exclusive right to possession on the tenant/lessee. It is usually a written document and often registered on the title.
Licence	Does not confer an exclusive right to possession and confers on the licensee the right to use the land, or part of it, for a limited purpose, often for a limited time.
Natural Area	As defined by the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 is land that, whether or not in an undisturbed state, possesses a significant geological feature, geomorphological feature, landform, representative system or other natural feature or attribute that would be sufficient to further categorise the land as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore.
Objectives	Are broad statements that identify the end result or a desired outcome.
Operational Land	Is land owned by Council that is not intended for public access and use. Operational land would ordinarily comprise land held as a temporary asset or as an investment, land which facilitates the carrying out by a council of its functions or land which may not be open to the general public, such as a works depot or a council garage.

Other Estate	Is defined as: interest, charge, right, title, claim, demand, lien and encumbrance whether at law or in equity. An example is the grant of easements.
Park	As defined by the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 is land that is or is proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, for use mainly for passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that do not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others.
Performance Target	Is an objective or goal to be performed.
Parks Capital Works Program	Is the capital works budget for the Parks and Recreation Branch.
Playground	An outdoor structure/area for children to play on.
Section 94 (s94)	This section of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act permits councils to collect monetary contributions from persons developing land to meet the increased demand for public services and amenities generated by their development.
Skate Park/Ramp	A constructed facility used for skating.
Sportsground	As defined by the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 is land used or proposed to be used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.
Watercourse	The category of Watercourse has been assigned to land that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any stream of water, whether perennial or intermittent, flowing in a natural channel, or in a natural channel that has been artificially improved, or in an artificial channel that has changed the course of the stream of water, and any other stream of water into or from which the stream of water flows, and</li> <li>Associated riparian land or vegetation, including land that is protected land for the purposes of the Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act 1949 or State protected land identified in an order under section 7 of the Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997.</li> </ul>
Wetland	The category of wetland has been assigned to land that includes marshes, mangroves, backwaters, billabongs, swamps, sedgeland, wet meadows or wet healthlands that form a waterbody that is inundated cyclically, intermittently or permanently with fresh, brackish or salt water, whether slow moving or stationary.

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

This generic Plan of Management is an important document designed to provide clear guidelines for the effective management of **Community Land -Natural Areas**, in the care and control of Council and its delegated authorities.

This generic plan of management will support any subsequent individual plan of management. Such plans will be developed where conflicting or complex management issues exist, suggesting a more specific management approach is necessary.

Benefits of this plan of management are:

- Identifying the key issues and values common to natural areas.
- Establishing directions for planning, resource management and maintenance of natural areas.

This plan of management will provide a basis for assigning priorities in the programming of works and budgeting for new or upgraded facilities. A review after five years will allow policy and planning issues to be updated.

This generic plan of management is consistent with Council's strategic direction and land management objectives. Its preparation is a comprehensive and holistic approach to the management of the Council owned public land and land under its Care and Control. The plan will be part of Council's overall open space planning activities reflecting Council's priorities and input from community consultation.

## 1.2 The Local Government Act

The Local Government Act, 1993 (the Act) provides Councils with a specific approach to the classification and management of community land. It states that there must be a plan of management prepared for all community land and there are restrictions on the use of such land. This plan of management has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993. Please note that this plan applies to community land (land available for public use) and not operational land.

The Local Government (General) Regulation 1999 provides guidelines for the categorisation of community land. The categories reflect land use and/or describe the physical characteristics of the land such as sportsgrounds, natural areas and general parkland.

In addressing the requirement for plans of management for all community land, Council has adopted a strategy whereby a number of generic plans, according to category, have been prepared.

Under the Act, specific plans of management are required for the following pieces of community land:

- Land declared to be "critical habitat" under the Threatened Species Conservation (TSC) Act 1995 or Fisheries Management Act 1994.
- Land directly affected by a recovery plan or threat abatement plan under the Threatened Species Conservation Act or the Fisheries Management Act 1994.
- Where Council resolves that the land contains significant natural features because it is a known natural geological, geomorphical, scenic or other feature that warrants protection or special management, or is part of a wildlife corridor
- Land declared by Council to contain an 'area of cultural significance'.

If the above circumstances occur after a generic plan of management has been adopted for an area of community land, the generic plan of management ceases to apply to that area from the date that the declaration took effect, and a specific plan of management must be prepared and adopted for that area in accordance with the Act.

On 13 July 2010, Council resolved that the proposed actions relating to Hawkesbury City Council within the Draft Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan be endorsed subject to funding and resource availability. Advice has been received from DECC that the Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan has been signed by the Minister, however has not yet been publicly released. Please refer to the Action Plan which includes those actions endorsed by Council in relation to the recovery plan.

Whilst the Local Government Act applies specifically to Council owned community land the principles developed in this generic plan of management will apply to Crown Land under Council's trusteeship where specific plans have not been developed for the land. Leases and licenses on Crown Land will be managed under the terms of the Crown Lands Act. This Plan also takes into account the principles of Crown Land management as set out in the Crown Land Act 1989, updated September 2001.

### 1.3 Community Consultation

Community consultation is integral to the appropriate provision of facilities across the city. It provides Council with an understanding of local issues and the community values attached to natural areas and associated facilities. Community involvement and consultation also encourages an appreciation of Council's land management aims, counters possible misunderstanding, and fosters Community stewardship of local parks and reserves.

In order to generate widespread community awareness of this draft Plan of Management, advertisements were placed in the Hawkesbury Gazette and Hawkesbury Courier; letters were sent to known user groups and copies of the draft were posted on Council's website, with hard copies available at Council Offices and the public libraries at Windsor and Richmond.

During the exhibition period of the draft document, comment was invited on the values and issues addressed in the Plan, with suggestions for alternative strategies also requested. Council has considered all submissions relevant to the plan of management prior to finalisation and subsequent adoption of the plan.

Comments regarding this or any other adopted Plan of Management may be submitted at any time for consideration in future plans of management.

### 1.4 Scope of the Plan

This plan of management applies to all community land that has been categorised as **natural area** as defined in the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, and to the structures and facilities directly associated with these areas. The principles are also applicable to bushland on Crown Lands under Council's care and control.

Other documents may imply management strategies and actions over community land that is not identified in this plan. Specific reference should be made, but not be limited, to the following:

Hawkesbury City Council Documents:

- Access Policy
- Community Strategic Plan 2010-2030
- General Community Use Generic Plan of Management
- Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 1989
- Hawkesbury Mobility Plan 2010
- Landscape Plan - Bellbird Hill Reserve
- Operational Plan
- Parks Generic Plan of Management
- Pesticide Use Notification Plan 2010
- Price Lane – Proposed Drainage Works
- Sportsground Generic Plan of Management
- Statement of Equity Principles

Legislation:

- Companion Animals Act 1998
- Crown Lands Act 1989
- Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan 2011 (still to be released)
- Dividing Fences Act 1991
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- Fisheries Management Act 1994
- Native Title Act (Commonwealth) 1993
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
- Noxious Weeds Act 1993
- Pesticides Act 1999
- Pesticides Regulation 2009
- Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act 1948
- Rural Fires Act 1997
- SREP No. 20 Hawkesbury-Nepean River (No.2 – 1997)
- SEPP No. 19 Bushland in Urban Areas
- Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995
- Other legislation where relevant

This Plan has been developed to give clear management directions for community land by means of identifying the objectives and performance targets for the natural areas, means of achieving these targets and how they will be assessed.

## 2 Basis for Management

The plan of management has been written to outline the ways that the land will be used and the objectives for management. It may be used to determine the allocation of priorities for use of resources and funds.

This plan of management applies to all community land that has been categorised Natural Area within the Hawkesbury Local Government Area. The total area of land to which this plan applies is approximately 1,622 hectares. This category applies to 82% of Council's open space.

Biodiversity in the Hawkesbury area is diverse and complex, reflecting the diversity of environments with regard to influences such as the Hawkesbury-Nepean River, geology, and climate.

### 2.1 Community Values

The 1995 Hawkesbury City Council Residents Recreation Survey identified that 85% of residents felt that bush reserves were very important or extremely important as a land use, both for recreational opportunities and conservation value. Activities such as walking, relaxation, reading, bird watching, camping and passive recreation were indicated by residents as some of the recreational pursuits undertaken in bushland areas. Respondents also felt that conservation of natural areas was important as a resource for future generations, and for its scenic qualities.

Community feedback since that time confirms the above values are still relevant. Some additional issues specifically raised include concern about the health of the Hawkesbury Nepean River, concern about Bushfire hazards and requests for all community land to be identifiable and interpretation signage for historic areas/objects.

### 2.2 Corporate Goals

To ensure that this plan of management is consistent with Council's corporate direction it is important to note the following management statements.

#### Hawkesbury City Council Charter:

*"To provide directly or on behalf of other levels of government, after due consultation, adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities for the community and to ensure that those services and facilities are managed efficiently and effectively".*

*"To properly manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment of the area for which it is responsible, in a manner that is consistent with and promotes the principles of ecologically sustainable development".*

*"To bear in mind that it is the custodian and trustee of public assets and to effectively account for and manage the assets for which it is responsible".*

*"To exercise its functions in a manner that is consistent with and promotes social justice principles of equity, access, participation and rights".*

*"To facilitate the involvement of councillors, members of the public, users of facilities and services and council staff in the development, improvement and co-ordination of local government".*

*"To keep the local community and the State Government (and through it the wider community) informed about its activities".*

#### Hawkesbury City Council's Corporate Vision:

*“In 2030 we want Hawkesbury to be a place where we have:”*

*“A community in which the area’s character is reserved and lifestyle choices are provided with sustainable planned, well serviced development, safe and friendly neighbourhoods”*

*“A community dedicated to minimising its ecological footprint, enjoying a clean river and an environment that is nurtured, healthy, protected and provides opportunities for its sustainable use”*

## 2.3 Core Objectives

The core objectives, as outlined in the 1993 Local Government Act, for management of community land categorised as a Natural Area 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; and
- To maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting; and
- To provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land; and
- To 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; and
- To assist in and facilitate the implementation of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan prepared under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* or the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as bushland 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 (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land; and
- To protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational, and scientific values of the land; and
- To promote the management of 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 directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion; and
- To restore degraded bushland; and
- To protect existing land forms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores; and
- To retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term; and
- To protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as wetland are:

- To restore and regenerate degraded wetlands; and
- To facilitate community education in relation to wetlands, and the community use of wetlands, without compromising the ecological values of the wetlands.

Core objectives for management of community land categorised as an escarpment are:

- To protect any important geological, geomorphological or scenic features of the escarpment; and
- To facilitate safe community use and enjoyment of the escarpment.

Core objectives for management of community land categorised as a watercourse are:

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

Core objectives for management of community land categorised as foreshore are:

- To maintain the foreshore as a transition area between the aquatic and the terrestrial environment, and to protect and enhance all functions associated with the foreshore's role as a transition area; and
- To facilitate the ecologically sustainable use of the foreshore, and to mitigate impact on the foreshore by community use.

These corporate goals and core objectives define the strategic framework under which management objectives have been developed. The implementation plan will refer to these management objectives from which performance targets can be set and the means to achieving and assessing these targets.

## 2.4 Management Objectives

Based on legislative goals, community needs and expectations, and the values and assets of the natural areas themselves, the following broad primary, management objectives have been identified:

- To ensure management of natural areas takes into consideration the principles of Crown Land management.
- To ensure that the actions outlined in the Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan, and endorsed by Council are undertaken where appropriate.
- To provide for public safety.
- To efficiently and effectively manage public assets.
- To provide the wider community with sufficient appropriate access to natural areas.
- To encourage community involvement in the management of natural areas.
- To create awareness of the importance of natural systems within the community
- To protect the natural areas as self-sustaining ecological systems, retaining as far as possible the native plants and animals.
- To maintain the scenic, scientific, educational, aesthetic, cultural and heritage values of the natural areas.
- To prevent degradation of natural areas and to minimise physical disturbance to land, and to work towards restoring or reclaiming degraded land including weed-infested areas.
- To promote, foster awareness and support for the Council's natural areas management programme.
- To provide a broad spectrum of safe, high quality recreational opportunities having regard to the objectives outlined above, and to limit development in natural areas.
- To undertake and to foster research and monitoring of the natural areas to document their significance and to assess and improve management practices.

These objectives have been used to guide policy development and formulation of the action plan.

## 3 Planning and Management Issues

Following is a list of major planning and management issues relevant to the management of Natural areas in the Hawkesbury.

### 3.1 Safety and Risk Management

Safety is an issue Council needs to address on a permanent basis. Council has a statutory responsibility to provide facilities/structures that meet relevant Australian Standards and is obliged under common law to take appropriate steps to protect people from reasonably foreseeable risk or harm in the use of public spaces and public assets. This implies a responsibility to maintain all natural areas and associated facilities to an acceptable standard:

- Due to the number of natural areas distributed over a wide area, staff are unable to inspect each natural area on a regular basis.
- The effects of Anti-social behaviour are ongoing issues.
- Dogs, off leash, can threaten the health and safety of other users.
- Natural areas are potentially affected by natural disasters such as flood, fire or severe windstorms, posing a threat to the safety of users.
- People often defecate in natural areas where there is no toilet facilities provided. This may pose a health issue if other members of the public work in or visit these areas.
- Chemical usage needs to minimise the potential impacts upon the community.
- There are some existing private pump houses in natural areas that may pose a safety risk to the public if moving parts are exposed.

### 3.2 Access and Parking

Access and parking are very important issues in natural areas as often this can lead to degradation of areas through introduction of weeds and pest animals. By their nature, natural areas are often difficult to access, therefore not always available to the broad cross section of the community.

- The majority of natural areas do not have structured pathways, nor have suitable toilets, which can limit use by parts of the community.
- Design of facilities in the past has not taken in to account the needs of physically disabled users and parents with prams.
- Provision of emergency access or egress from natural areas can often not be provided. Flood and fire evacuation of users needs to be addressed.
- There is limited access for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders to and within natural areas.
- In many areas horses, bicycles and motorbikes can damage tracks and cause problems such as erosion and spread of weeds.
- Some high use natural areas require suitable parking areas.
- As most natural areas are unfenced, unauthorised vehicular access is difficult and expensive to curb.
- Too many access tracks through natural areas exposes them to rubbish dumping, vandalism, anti social behaviour and feral animal movements.
- Vandalism of fences and gates to allow unauthorised vehicular access is prevalent. Placing physical obstructions along access routes deems the route inaccessible for emergency or service vehicles.
- Gates on some entries to natural areas can limit access for emergency and service vehicles.
- Closure of natural areas can alienate the community.

### 3.3 Recreation and Land Use

Recreation activities are encouraged in natural areas but are subsidiary to the objective of management of the land to retain its natural features and qualities.

- There is a lack of dog off leash areas as well as areas for other domestic animals such as horses.
- The drinking of alcohol within natural areas can lead to anti-social behaviour as well as broken glass causing a safety issue.
- A lack of signage identifying what can or cannot occur within each natural area makes it difficult to curb certain activities. The over usage of signs can however lead to clutter and visual pollution.
- Currently there are private water pumps used for irrigation, located within natural areas.
- In some natural areas, overnight camping is conducted even though camping is prohibited in natural areas.
- There are few existing boat ramps in natural areas.
- There is little provision of access for canoeists.
- Off road recreation vehicles are prohibited in natural areas, except on properly constructed roads or where used for maintenance or management purposes.
- Horse riding is not permitted in natural areas except on designated tracks.
- Many unauthorised tracks are often created by horse or bike riders, this opens natural areas up to weed invasion and predation and can have negative impacts on the biodiversity values of the natural areas.
- Where barbeques have been provided in natural areas, they are open fireplaces. This is not appropriate where bushfires can easily be started or where fuel is sourced from natural areas.
- Often Cyclists or horse riders do not stick to formed tracks.
- It is difficult to prevent the use of swing ropes into the river from natural areas due to the vast number of areas requiring monitoring.
- Swimming and or diving into water bodies can be dangerous due to variable water quality and submerged logs, rocks.

### 3.4 Landscape Character and Design

Any structures, signs, paths etc in natural areas should be sympathetic to the existing setting, its landscape values or the unique character and features of each site. The inherent landscape features of natural areas thus need to be retained, and where possible enhanced, when developing natural areas.

- Site planning, materials selection and colour schemes are not often considered when designing structures in natural areas.
- Often landscape design in areas adjoining natural areas opposes the ecological values of the site.
- Often natural areas are unsigned and entrances are not obvious.
- Flooding is a constraint to the location and type of structures placed in natural areas.
- Stormwater is generally designed to flow into natural watercourses. This water often contains sediment, weed propagates and seed and is high in nutrients, thus promoting the spread of weeds into natural areas.
- Pumps and pipes within reserves can detract from the appearance of the reserve, particularly where they run down escarpments.
- Consideration of Safer by Design principles should be incorporated into new designs for Natural Areas where possible, to improve safety of park users and staff and reduce the incidence of crime.

### 3.5 Biodiversity Conservation

Management and maintenance of natural areas needs to be carried out in an ecologically sustainable manner to prevent any long-term impacts upon the environment. It is necessary to maintain ecological processes and systems when managing natural areas.

- Fragmentation of bushland areas can expose natural areas to impacts such as weed invasion, dumping, predation of native animals, etc.
- Small isolated pockets of native vegetation may limit the viability of plant and animal populations.
- It is important to ensure habitat values are not compromised.
- Biodiversity values may be compromised in response to public perceptions about threats posed by native fauna eg snakes.
- It is necessary to manage threatened species, communities and key threatening processes in accordance with recovery plans and threat abatement plans.
- Pest plants or animals compete with native plants and animals for resources.
- Domestic animals can prey upon native wildlife.
- There is a lack of data about the attributes and condition of Council's natural areas.
- There is a lack of data about the fire history of Council's natural areas, making it difficult to plan for hazard reduction activities and ecological burns.

### **3.6 Maintenance of Natural Areas and Associated Facilities**

Due to the relative low use of natural areas, maintenance of these areas is often limited.

- There is minimal budget for maintenance of the infrastructure, roads, carpark or natural areas.
- Buildings, fences and other structures are often outdated and not appropriate to the needs of user, nor acceptable to the general community.
- Many natural areas lack essential facilities and structures such as shelters.
- Vandalism and inappropriate behaviour is a problem in natural areas.
- Litter and dumping of household and industrial rubbish is a problem in many natural areas.
- Security is difficult due to the lack of resources and the wide distribution of natural areas.

A challenge to the management of natural areas is to reduce bushfire risk to life and property while maximising biodiversity values.

- There is a need for appropriate asset protection zones and access tracks for fire management vehicles within natural areas.
- There is a need for a Bushfire Risk Management Plan to be developed for Natural Areas.

Identification and management of areas of cultural heritage is important if these are to be retained.

- Many areas of Cultural significance have not yet been identified or documented.

### **3.7 Community Involvement/Neighbour Relations**

Good neighbourly relations are important in the management of natural areas. Neighbours and community users are vital for the contribution to the planning and management process as well as informing Council of any ongoing issues:

- There is often encroachment or dumping of rubbish and garden refuse into natural areas.
- In some cases, the community and neighbours are affected by issues such as anti-social behaviour and presence of pest animals such as rabbits and foxes.
- Often community awareness of natural area qualities and management issues is poor. A broader understanding would ensure that as far as possible residents and visitors have a positive interaction with the bushland.

### **3.8 Planning Framework**

Development of adjoining private properties often impacts upon natural areas through pollution, spread of weeds, fire hazards, etc.

- Although new adjoining developments should be designed with perimeter roads to assist in natural area management and fire protection, many older developments do not have such a buffer.
- Often there are no corridors for wildlife across private properties to or from Natural Areas.

## 4 Management Strategy

### 4.1 Leases, Licences and Other Estates

Leases and licences formalise the use of community land by groups such as sporting clubs, community groups and schools, or by commercial organisations and individuals providing facilities or services for public use.

The Local Government Act contains important restrictions on the ability of Council to grant leases, licences and other estates over community land as these alienate the land and limit the ability of the public to use that land. A summary of these restrictions is included in Appendix 3. Generally a lease will be required where exclusive occupation or use of all, or part, of an area is proposed. A licence may be required for activities that may affect other users.

This Plan of Management authorises the following uses, to be leased or licensed as appropriate. The purpose of such leases, licences and other estates must be consistent with the core objectives for Natural areas.

#### **Easements**

This plan of management authorises the lease, licence or grant of any other estate over Natural areas for the purpose of providing easements for public utilities, providing pipes, conduits or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility on the community land provided that:

- there is no feasible alternative to connecting to a facility on the community land;
- there is no significant impact on the natural area; and
- in all cases, the applicant is to be responsible for all costs incurred by Council in the creation of the easement.

#### **Encroachments**

In instances where there is an encroachment upon public land by a permanent structure, and the structure does not significantly interfere with the functioning of the reserve, Council may consider a lease or licence agreement with the adjoining property owner and recoup a fee as part of that agreement. This lease or licence will be required to be advertised and may not be granted for more than twenty-one years.

#### **Filming**

This plan of management authorises the granting of a lease or licence for the purpose of commercial photographic sessions and filming.

#### **Picnics**

This plan of management authorises the granting of a licence for picnic and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings.

## **Playing of Musical Instruments**

This plan of management authorises the granting of a licence for the playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward.

## **Pumps**

This plan of management authorises the granting of a licence for pump houses and associated infrastructure where they currently exist. No further approvals for pumps or irrigation pipes is permitted on community land.

## **Roads**

This Plan of Management authorises the granting of a lease, license or other estate for the purpose of the provision of public roads, where the provision of that road is consistent with the core objectives stated herein and where the road is necessary for the enjoyment of that land.

This plan of management authorises the granting of a licence for the use of an existing road of fire trail to:

- transport building materials and equipment required in relation to building work that is to be, or is being carried out on land adjoining the community land, or
- to remove wast that is consequential on such work.

Where there is no existing road, access may be permitted (and licensed accordingly) to adjoining land for the above purpose provided no damage to the park is expected. A bond will be required in this instance. Where a natural area is to be used to transport building materials or waste to or from adjoining private land, the licence will be valid for no more than 1 month.

## **4.2 Other Permitted Activities**

In addition to the uses requiring a lease or licence, this Plan of Management authorises the following uses, to be leased or licensed as appropriate

### **Pumps**

This plan of management authorises the installation of pumps and bores on community land for the purpose of supplying facilities on that land with water. For example, to provide water to toilet blocks.

### **Signage**

This plan of management authorises the erection of regulatory, interpretive and directional signage within natural areas.

### **Stormwater**

This plan of management authorises the construction of relevant structures for the purposes of stormwater treatment and or retention as prescribed in s28 of the Regulations.

This plan authorises the continued use of drains, channels and easements and creation of new drains, channels and easements.

## **Structures**

This Plan of Management authorises the building and use of the following structures:

- Walkways
- Pathways
- Bridges
- Causeways
- Observation platforms
- Information Kiosks
- Work Sheds or Storage required in connection with the maintenance of the land
- Toilets or Restrooms
- Parking areas where appropriate. To be used only by those visiting natural areas.

\*Please note that development approvals will be required for the building or installation of some of these structures, This approval process will provide for the appropriate community consultation in relation to such development. See Appendix 3 for more information regarding development that does not require development consent.

### **4.3 Conditions of Use**

Approval conditions must be in keeping with the existing relevant Council policies and may require a resolution from Council.

Any approval for leases or licences must include, but not be limited to, the following provisions:

- No significant damage to the area is anticipated as a result of the proposed activity.
- A bond in respect of potential damage is held by Council.
- The activity is permissible under the objective identified for natural areas.
- The use or occupation does not involve the erection of any building or structure of a permanent nature.
- There is anticipated to be no significant disturbance to adjacent property owners.
- There is no interference with other users.
- Proof is obtained by Council of suitable insurances.
- All litter is removed.

### **4.4 Restricted Activities**

Activities that are prohibited or restricted within Natural Areas include, but are not limited to:

- Bicycle riding including BMX
- Camping
- Dogs off leash
- Drinking alcohol
- Firearms
- Fishing
- Horse Riding
- Lighting of fires
- Motorbikes
- Remote control vehicles including boats, aeroplanes and cars
- Unauthorised vehicles

## **4.5 Action Plan**

The action plan is the working component of the plan of management. This section links management strategies to proposed actions for all natural areas. It outlines the means of achieving the objectives and how that performance is to be measured.

Management / Planning Issue	Objective	Performance Target / Strategies / What is to be achieved	Action / Means of Achievement	Program Responsibility	Budget Area	Priority	Performance Measure
Safety and Risk Management	To ensure the safety of public when visiting natural areas	Recreation equipment, including playing facilities, tables, and the like shall be installed and maintained in accordance with acceptable standards	Conduct quarterly inspections of infrastructure and formed walking trails.	Land Management Officer / Parks Project Officer / Parks Manager / Parks Foreman	Existing Resources	High Ongoing	Quarterly inspections of key infrastructure
		Encourage community involvement in the recognition and remediation of public risk	Respond promptly to reports of hazards within reserves	Parks Foreman	Existing Resources	High / As needed	Prompt response and remediation of hazards
		Prevent unsafe usage of the reserve	Install signage prohibiting dangerous activities such as jumping off cliffs into water or diving into water bodies.	Parks Manager	Existing Resources	High	Number of signs erected
			Conduct regular inspections for swing ropes and remove immediately	Land Management Officer / Parks Foreman	Existing Resources	Ongoing	Number of inspections carried out.
			Erect fencing and signage in appropriate locations to prevent access where high risk is involved.	Land Management Officer	Existing Resources / Parks Capital Works Program	High	Number of fences / signs erected
		Discourage anti-social behaviour	Redesign areas that encourage anti-social behaviour	Parks Manager / Parks Project Officer	Parks Capital Works Program	Medium	Reports of anti-social behaviour.
		Protect users and staff from harm	Use Safer by Design principles when developing Parks	Parks Project Officer	Existing Resources	Ongoing	New designs consider Safer by Design principles
		Ensure that health and safety of the community is not threatened by contact with dogs	Install signage instructing that dogs must be on a lead at all times, except in designated off leash areas.	Parks Manager	Existing Resources	Medium	Number of complaints received.

Management / Planning Issue	Objective	Performance Target / Strategies / What is to be achieved	Action / Means of Achievement	Program Responsibility	Budget Area	Priority	Performance Measure
			Install signage and encourage the community to pick up the faeces of their dogs.	Parks Manager	Existing Resources	Medium	Evidence of dog faeces in natural areas
		Ensure the public is not at threat from flood	Develop a list of reserves that could be impacted by flooding. Erect signposts for Park Closed signs.	Land Management Officer	Existing Resources	High	Development of list of reserves to monitor after floods
			Close parks that are threatened by flood until the park is assessed as being safe.	Parks Foreman SES	Existing Resources	When required	Number of Reserves closed.
			Assess roads and paths in riverside parks, in terms of allowing safe evacuation in times of flood.	Parks Manager	Existing Resources	High	All access routes have been assessed in terms of safety evacuation
	Ensure the public is not at threat from Fire	Natural areas are to be closed from the public whilst there is a high threat of fire entering the reserve.	Land Management Officer / Parks Foreman / RFS	Existing Resources	High When needed	Parks closed when a fire is close to reserves	
		Develop and maintain Asset Protection zones along property boundaries	Parks Manager / Land Management Officer	Existing resources / RFS funding	High	Asset Protection zones established where appropriate and maintained	
		Develop Bushfire Risk Management Plans for reserves that pose a high bushfire risk	Parks Manager		High	Bushfire Risk Management Plans developed	

Management / Planning Issue	Objective	Performance Target / Strategies / What is to be achieved	Action / Means of Achievement	Program Responsibility	Budget Area	Priority	Performance Measure
			Ensure barbecues are designated in formal picnic areas only, with a minimum cleared distance of 20 metres to bushland and provision of reticulated water supply on site	Land Management Officer / Parks Foreman	Existing Resources	High Ongoing	All Barbecues are located in appropriate sites
			Barbecues shall wherever possible not require timber for fuel.	Land Management Officer / Parks Project Officer / Parks Foreman	Existing Resources	Medium Ongoing	All new barbecues installed in natural areas are to be electric wherever possible.
General maintenance and management	Ensure infrastructure / facilities are appropriate to the needs of users	Repair or replace outdated facilities to an acceptable standard	Conduct a review of all facilities within natural areas and source funding for replacement where necessary	Land Management Officer	Existing Resources	Medium	Review of infrastructure is undertaken
		Install facilities / amenities where required	Conduct a review of all facilities within natural areas and source funding for new facilities where necessary	Land Management Officer	Existing Resources	Medium	Review of infrastructure is undertaken
	Reduce the occurrence of vandalism	Repair vandalism promptly to discourage further vandalism	Repair any sites that have been vandalised within 48 hours if damage is minor.	Parks Manager / Parks Foreman	Existing Resources	High Ongoing	Number of repairs undertaken within 48 hours.
		Reduce visual barriers that hide vandalism activities	Install lighting where appropriate -carparks or at toilet blocks	Parks Manger	Existing Resources	High Ongoing	Number of sites being vandalised.

Management / Planning Issue	Objective	Performance Target / Strategies / What is to be achieved	Action / Means of Achievement	Program Responsibility	Budget Area	Priority	Performance Measure
		Lock Facilities and reduce access to parks where required	Erect fencing and gates at reserves that are frequently vandalised. Lock these gates either all the time or in the evenings, depending upon individual situations	Land Management Officer / Parks Manager	Existing Resources	High Ongoing	Number of sites being vandalised
		Lock amenity buildings if necessary		Parks Manager	Existing Resources	High Ongoing	Number of amenity buildings being vandalised.
	Reduce the amount of litter and number of dumping incidents	Track down offenders	Report dumping incidents to Council Compliance Officers to chase up offenders	Parks Manger	Existing Resource	High Ongoing	dumping incidents occurring
		Clean up dumped rubbish immediately where appropriate	Clean up dumped rubbish within 72 hours of report.	Parks Foreman	Existing Resources	High Ongoing	Cleanup operations undertaken within 72 hours.
		Install signage and or fencing to discourage dumping	Install signage at known dumping sites and where appropriate fence the reserve to limit access.	Land Management Officer	Existing Resources	Medium	Number of complaints.
		Improve aesthetics of an area by reducing litter	Provide rubbish bins where necessary	Parks Foreman	Parks Capital Works Program	Medium Ongoing	Evidence of litter.
Access and parking	Ensure that essential pedestrian and vehicular access through or into natural areas minimises the	Prevent unauthorised access to natural areas	Close non-essential pedestrian and vehicular access.	Land Management Officer	Existing Resources	Med	Number of unauthorised access points.
			Stop permanent or temporary use of natural areas on community land for access to private lands. Limit access from adjoining properties to pedestrian access only	Parks Manager	Existing Resources	Med	Number of access points remaining.

Management / Planning Issue	Objective	Performance Target / Strategies / What is to be achieved	Action / Means of Achievement	Program Responsibility	Budget Area	Priority	Performance Measure
	impact on the area	Erect locked gates over emergency or service vehicle entries	Identify all emergency vehicle or service vehicle access requirements and place locked gates over these roads.	Land Management Officer	Existing Resources	Medium	Number of access points with gates.
		Maintain existing roads and walking tracks to ensure safety and prevent erosion	Inspect tracks annually and maintain when necessary	Land Management Officer / Parks Foreman	Existing Resources	Med	Number of Inspections
		Design and construct walking tracks ensuring minimal erosion and soil loss and be constructed of a suitable standard to require minimal maintenance	Plan and develop the path of new tracks to ensure minimal erosion and soil loss.	Land Management Officer / Parks Project Officer	Existing Resources / grants / PIP	Med	Number of maintenance repairs required.
		Limit unauthorised parking in natural areas	Provide adequate parking facilities where appropriate	Land Management Officer / Parks Project Officer	Parks Capital Works Program / Grant	Medium	Areas disturbed / damaged by unauthorised parking
			Lock carparks in the evening where appropriate - make arrangements with neighbouring residents to take on this responsibility.	Land Management Officer	Parks Capital Works Program	Medium	Percentage of carparks locked in evenings
		Reduce inappropriate use of bicycles in natural areas.	Provide cycle ways in other areas to discourage the use of sensitive natural areas	Hawkesbury Mobility Plan Implementation Committee	Grant funding	Low	A reduction of inappropriate use of natural areas.
			Install signage prohibiting bicycles in sensitive natural areas.	Land Management Officer	Parks Capital Works Program	Medium	A reduction of inappropriate use of natural areas

Management / Planning Issue	Objective	Performance Target / Strategies / What is to be achieved	Action / Means of Achievement	Program Responsibility	Budget Area	Priority	Performance Measure
			Where deemed appropriate, properly plan bike routes to limit the impacts upon the natural environment.	Parks Manager / Parks Projects Officer	Existing Resources / Bike Clubs	Medium	Number of planned versus unplanned bike tracks.
	Ensure that access to natural areas is provided to people with disabilities	Identify suitable locations for development of access for people with disabilities or with prams	Discuss with Council's Access Committee	Parks Manager	Grant / Parks Capital Works Program	Medium	Number of access points constructed versus number recommended in Plan
	and with prams.	Ensure amenities associated with natural areas take into account the needs of the physically disabled	Replace or alter existing toilet facilities to accommodate disabled access	Building Services Manager	Parks Capital Works Program	Medium	Number of toilet blocks still existing without appropriate access.
Community involvement / neighbour relations	To involve the community in the management of natural areas	Encourage the participation of the community in the Bushcare Program	Continue the support of bushcare volunteers through provision of training, supervision and resources.	Bushcare Officer	Existing Resources	High	Number of active Bushcare Volunteers
			Organise tree planting events to encourage the greater community to become involved with the care of our natural environment	Bushcare Officer	Existing Resources	Medium	Number of community members attending tree planting events
			Continue the development of the community nursery and encourage the community to use it.	Bushcare Officer	Existing Resources	Medium	Number of community members using the nursery
	Assess community values of natural areas	Conduct surveys of community values and involve the community in planning of reserves	Land Management Officer	Existing Resources	High	Community awareness	

Management / Planning Issue	Objective	Performance Target / Strategies / What is to be achieved	Action / Means of Achievement	Program Responsibility	Budget Area	Priority	Performance Measure
		Ensure reserve neighbours are aware of the special responsibilities and benefits of living adjacent to reserves	Develop brochures highlighting the responsibilities of living near bushland and how neighbours can assist in the management of the reserve	Land Management Officer	Parks Capital Works Program	Medium	Neighbour awareness.
		Develop and distribute a weed identification booklet	Land Management Officer	Grant / Parks Capital Works Program	High	Neighbour awareness.	
		To undertake actions identified in the Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan	Work with Aboriginal communities, landowners, community groups, and students to deliver best practice management in the Cumberland Plain priority conservation lands (Action 3.5 of that Plan)	Land Management Officer	Existing Resources / grants	High	Projects with community groups developed to deliver best practice management
		Develop interpretive programs for key local reserves that contain examples of the threatened biodiversity addressed in the Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan (Action 3.7 of that Plan)	Land Management Officer	Existing Resources / Grants	High	Interpretive programs developed for key reserves	
	To reduce the impact of use of the reserve onto adjoining residents	Encourage neighbours to notify Council of any concerns regarding vandalism, dumping etc	Respond efficiently to any reports from neighbours	Parks Manager	Existing Resources	Medium	Number of notifications
	To reduce the impact of neighbouring properties on	To stop encroachment onto reserves	Identify encroachments/dumping of rubbish onto the reserve and issue clean up notices	Land Management Officer / Council Ranger	Existing Resources	Medium	Number of notices issued over time

Management / Planning Issue	Objective	Performance Target / Strategies / What is to be achieved	Action / Means of Achievement	Program Responsibility	Budget Area	Priority	Performance Measure
	reserves	Reduce the spread of weeds onto reserves	Educate neighbours re responsibilities of living near reserves / weeds that spread to bushland and their impacts	Land Management Officer / Bushcare Officer	Existing Resources	Medium	Numbers of neighbours contacted / Spread of weeds.
Landscape character and design	Ensure that the landscape character of natural areas is retained	Any structures, signs, paths etc in natural areas should be sympathetic to the existing setting, its landscape values or unique character.	Plan appropriately, including materials selection and colour schemes	Land Management Officer, Parks Manager, Parks Project Officer	Existing Resources	Medium	Number of new structures etc that are sympathetic to landscape.
		To protect the aesthetic, heritage, cultural, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land	Consider the heritage, cultural, recreational, education and scientific values when designing or 'developing' in natural areas or on adjacent properties	Parks Manager / Parks Project Officer	Existing Resources	Medium	Values protected.
		Retain and enhance where possible, inherent landscape features	Prohibit clearing of native vegetation on escarpments	Land Management Officer / Planners	Existing Resources	Ongoing	Number of sites cleared.
		Limit visibility of buildings or structures on escarpments	Parks Manager / Planners	Existing Resources	Ongoing	Number of visible developments.	
	Consider constraints such as flooding when siting facilities.	New structures eg toilet blocks, shelters etc to be located in appropriate areas and designed appropriately	Assess impact of flood on structures when deciding on suitable location and design.	Parks Manager / Building Services Manager / Parks Project Officer	Parks Capital Works Program	High Ongoing	Appropriate location of structures.
	To protect existing land forms such as escarpments, natural drainage	To protect any important geological, geomorphological or scenic features of escarpments and watercourses.	Limit development in, on or near escarpments, drainage lines or foreshores.	Planners / Parks Manager	Existing Resources	High	Number of developments on or affecting escarpments, foreshores or watercourses

Management / Planning Issue	Objective	Performance Target / Strategies / What is to be achieved	Action / Means of Achievement	Program Responsibility	Budget Area	Priority	Performance Measure
	lines, watercourses and foreshores		Rehabilitate watercourses or foreshore if necessary	Land Management Officer	Parks Capital Works Program / Grants	High	No. of watercourses, foreshores etc rehabilitated
	New works within Natural Areas to improve safety of users and reduce crime	Reduce potential for crime within Natural Areas	Use Safer by Design principles when developing new areas, where possible	Parks Project Officer	Existing Resources	Ongoing	New designs consider Safer by Design principles where possible / Vandalism reduced
Land use and Planning Framework	Ensure development of adjoining properties does not impact upon natural areas	To ensure that a buffer between the development and natural areas is appropriate to restrict movement of weeds and fire into /from the reserve.	Adjoining developments are to be designed with perimeter roads to assist in natural area management and fire protection	Planners / Development control officer	Existing Resources	High	Adequate buffers on developments
			Adjoining developments should be designed to minimise initial and ongoing negative impacts on natural areas.	Planners / Development Control Officer	Existing Resources	High	Adequate buffers on developments.
			All efforts should be made to provide linkages for wildlife corridors.	Planners / Development Control Officer	Existing Resources	High	Provision of corridors
	Ensure signage / advertising within natural areas does not affect visual quality.	Limit amount of unnecessary signage	Develop a policy for signage in natural areas	Parks Manager	Existing Resources	Medium	Sign Policy developed
	Ensure all community land is identifiable	All community land to have signage that identifies the land	Install identifying signage and regulatory signage within natural areas where required(except where leased)	Parks Manager Parks Project Officer	Existing Resources	High	Signs installed

Management / Planning Issue	Objective	Performance Target / Strategies / What is to be achieved	Action / Means of Achievement	Program Responsibility	Budget Area	Priority	Performance Measure
	To manage natural areas to reduce bushfire risk to life and property while maximising biodiversity values	Provide access to fire management vehicles	Identify appropriate locations for fire management vehicles	Land management Officer	Existing Resources	High	Adequate access provided
		Identify areas requiring permanent asset protection zones	Manage asset protection zones on an ongoing basis	Parks Foreman	Existing Resources	High	Number of asset protection zones identified and managed.
		Identify bushland requiring hazard reduction burns	Develop Bushfire Risk Management Plans for reserves that pose a high bushfire risk	Parks Manager		High	Bushfire Risk Management Plans developed
			Liaise with RFS and produce Hazard Reduction Certificates where required	Parks Manager / Land Management Officer	Existing Resources	High	Number of Hazard Reduction Certificates created each year
		Ensure use of Barbecues does not cause risk to life and property and does not compromise biodiversity values.	Establish and maintain a 20m fuel reduced zone around barbecues	Parks Foreman	Existing Resources	High	All barbecues have a 20 meter fuel free zone
			Ensure a reticulated water supply is provided to areas with a barbecue	Parks Foreman	Parks Capital Works Program	High	All Barbecues have a reticulated water supply
			Where barbecues require timber for fuel, this is to be obtained off site.	Parks Foreman	Existing Resources	Medium	Supply of timber for use in barbecues
			Wherever possible, installation of electric barbecues should be considered as opposed to open fire barbecues	Parks Manager / Parks Project Officer / Parks Foreman	Parks Capital Works Program	Medium	All new barbecues installed are to be electric where possible.

Management / Planning Issue	Objective	Performance Target / Strategies / What is to be achieved	Action / Means of Achievement	Program Responsibility	Budget Area	Priority	Performance Measure
		Use fire where appropriate, as a tool to maintain biodiversity	Identify areas that may require fire to maintain biodiversity	Land Management Officer	Existing Resources	Medium	Review conducted
Biodiversity conservation	Maintain ecological processes and systems when managing natural areas	Ensure habitat values are not compromised, improve habitat values where appropriate	Minimise the degree of disturbance in natural areas	Land Management Officer / Parks Project Officer	Parks Capital Works Program / Grant	Ongoing	Degree of disturbance
			Issue licence for seed collecting within Community Land	Land Management Officer	Existing Resources	Ongoing	Number of seed collecting licences issued
			Create habitat corridors through revegetation where possible	Land Management Officer	Parks Capital Works Program / Grant	Medium	Number of corridors established.
			Consult with RFS about obtaining their fire history data so ecological burns can be planned if necessary	Land Management Officer	Existing Resources	High	Data available regarding fire history of parks and reserves
			Retain habitat trees	Land Management Officer / Parks Foreman	Existing Resources	High	Number of trees retained.
		Avoid compromising biodiversity values in response to public perceptions about threats posed by native fauna eg snakes.	Land Management Officer	Existing Resources	Low	Number of issues arising.	
		Retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable existing plants and animals to survive in the long term	Land Management Officer	Existing resources	Low	Number of bushland reserves fragmented.	

Management / Planning Issue	Objective	Performance Target / Strategies / What is to be achieved	Action / Means of Achievement	Program Responsibility	Budget Area	Priority	Performance Measure
	To retain the distribution, abundance and diversity of native species and communities presently existing.	Identify the locations of rare and threatened species	Map and document location of rare and threatened species, when discovered, onto Council's GIS layer	Land Management Officer / GIS Officer	Existing Resources	Ongoing	New locations of rare and threatened species added to Council's threatened species layer
		Provide genetically sourced material for revegetation projects	Plan and collect genetic material	Land management Officer / Bushcare Officer	Existing Resources	Medium	Local Genetic plants available for revegetation projects
		Undertake ecological burns in reserves that have not been burnt according to the recommended period for biodiversity to be retained	Undertake ecological burns within natural areas where appropriate	Land Management Officer	Existing Resources	High	Ecological Burns undertaken where relevant
		To provide for the restoration and regeneration of bushland, wetlands and watercourses	Employ the services of Bush regenerators to rehabilitate degraded bushland	Land Management Officer	Parks Maintenance Program / Grants	High	Areas successfully rehabilitated.
		To undertake actions identified in the Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan	Manage to best practice standards any community land or land under Council's care and control which is affected by the Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan (Action 2.5 of that Plan)	Land Management Officer / Parks Manager	Existing Resources	High	Best Practice management implemented
	Manage and or eradicate pest plants and animals	Control weeds using best management practices	Conduct bush regeneration in natural areas where funding permits	Land Management Officer to employ contractors	Parks Maintenance Program / Grants	High	Number of reserves successfully rehabilitated
			Develop an ongoing maintenance program of areas treated	Land Management Officer	Existing Resources	High	Number of reserves on a maintenance program

Management / Planning Issue	Objective	Performance Target / Strategies / What is to be achieved	Action / Means of Achievement	Program Responsibility	Budget Area	Priority	Performance Measure
		Control pests where appropriate	Develop an eradication program in conjunction with the Rural Lands Protection Board and neighbouring properties to reduce pests	Land Management Officer	Existing Resources	Medium	Number of programs conducted
		Develop and follow protocols to reduce the risk of spread of soil pathogens such as phytophthora and other fungus	Land Management Officer	Existing Resources	High	Protocols developed and followed to control the spread of pathogens	
	Ensure domestic animal usage in natural areas is undertaken in a responsible manner	Prevent domestic animals from accessing natural areas except under direct control	Erect signage and issue fines where appropriate	Land Management Officer / Ranger	Existing Resources	High	Number of natural areas accessed.
		Exclude domestic animals from ecologically sensitive areas	Identify areas where domestic animals are to be excluded and erect notices	Land Management Officer	Existing Resources	Medium	Number of natural areas accessed
		Provide suitable natural areas where domestic animals are permitted, with conditions	Identify areas where domestic animals are permitted in natural areas and notify the community	Land Management Officer	Existing Resources	Medium	Number of areas provided.
	Reduce the impacts of fire and stormwater	Minimise stormwater impacts in natural areas	Conduct a review of stormwater impacts on natural areas	Construction and Maintenance Manager	Existing Resources	High	Study Completed

Management / Planning Issue	Objective	Performance Target / Strategies / What is to be achieved	Action / Means of Achievement	Program Responsibility	Budget Area	Priority	Performance Measure
	on natural areas		Implement best practice drainage solutions in reserves where funding permits	Construction and Maintenance Manager	Existing Resources	High	Best practice drainage solutions implemented where appropriate
		Undertake bushfire hazard reduction where appropriate	Develop permanent asset protection zones where relevant	Manager, Parks and Recreation	Parks Capital Works Program / Grants	High	Asset Protection Zones developed and maintained
		Prepare fire management plans for community land	Identify high priority reserves for fire management	Parks Manager / Land Management Officer	Existing Resources	High	Number of plans produced.
		Minimise impacts of hazard reduction on fauna and flora.	Burn in a mosaic pattern to retain patches of unburned vegetation	Land Management Officer / RFS	Existing Resources	Ongoing	Areas burned in a mosaic pattern
Cultural Heritage	Conserve and identify areas of cultural significance	Identify and protect areas of cultural significance as defined by the Local Government Act	Involve relevant Aboriginal groups in the identification and management of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage	Land Management Officer	Existing Resources	High	Review completed
			Consult with the Historical Society in regard to the identification, interpretation and management of items of European Cultural Significance	Land Management Officer	Existing resources	High	Review completed
Education and research	Encourage the study of natural areas	Measure the quality of water	Encourage schools to do stream watch	Environmental Health Officers	N/A	Medium	Number of stream watch groups

Management / Planning Issue	Objective	Performance Target / Strategies / What is to be achieved	Action / Means of Achievement	Program Responsibility	Budget Area	Priority	Performance Measure
	for education or research without compromising the values of these areas	Conduct studies of fauna and flora in reserves	Encourage the participation of TAFE classes to study natural areas.	Land Management Officer	Existing Resources	Medium	Number of TAFE classes using natural areas
Recreation	To facilitate use of natural areas for recreation whilst retaining its natural features and qualities	Limit noise, anti-social behaviour and reduce alienation of the general community	Prohibit overnight camping in natural areas except where specifically designated	Parks Manager	Existing Resources	Medium	Number of unauthorised camping
		Limit the impact of boating and launching boats on the quality of riverbanks	Maintain and upgrade existing boat ramps if necessary. Limit additional facilities.	Parks Manager	Parks Capital Works Program	Low	Number of ramps that don't impact upon the environment
		Limit riding of horses on tracks within natural areas	Identify and promote suitable areas where horse riding can be conducted without compromising the environment	Land Management Officer	Existing Budget	Low	Complete review
			Maintain tracks regularly, especially to control track damage and erosion and prevent spread of weeds.	Land Management Officer	Existing Budget	Medium	Tracks regularly maintained
		Restrict cycling to formed and constructed roads and tracks.	Maintain tracks regularly, especially to control track damage and erosion and prevent spread of weeds	Land Management Officer	Existing Budget	Medium	Tracks regularly maintained.
		Encourage use of natural areas for passive recreation such as bushwalking and photography through development of interpretive walking trails	Develop interpretive walking trails highlighting environmental values of particular reserves.	Land Management Officer	Grants	Low	Development of interpretive trails

Management / Planning Issue	Objective	Performance Target / Strategies / What is to be achieved	Action / Means of Achievement	Program Responsibility	Budget Area	Priority	Performance Measure
		Encourage the use of canoeing, kayaking and fishing by provision of suitable access points	Identify and provide suitable access for canoes, kayaks and 4-horsepower boats	Land Management Officer	Existing Resources	Low	Provision of suitable access points.
		Reduce potential impact of swimming in unsupervised areas	Signpost known areas used for swimming, highlighting inherent dangers such as submerged logs etc.	Parks Manager	Existing Resources / Grants	High	Signage complete
Information Gathering and Management	Develop a bushland management database with species lists, plant communities, bushfire history, weeds	Development of an efficient, effective recording system that can be easily used to access information.	A database will be developed and made available to all Council staff.	Land Management Officer	Existing Resources	High	Database to be developed
		Encourage educational and scientific use of natural areas	Education institutions are to advise Council of their activities and findings.	Land Management Officer	Existing Resources	Medium	Number of institutions contacted
Escarpment areas	Protect the visual integrity of escarpments	Ensure buildings or structures on escarpments are not highly visible	Plan structures on escarpments with visual integrity as key factor	Parks Manager / Planners	Existing Resources	Medium	Number of new structures not highly visible.
Wetlands	Maintain existing functions of wetlands	Ensure activities do not degrade the quality of wetlands	Develop management plans for wetlands.	Land Management Officer	Grant funding	High	Wetland functions maintained.

## 5 Appendices

The appendices for this document are under separate cover. Please refer to the document titled "Community Land Generic Plans of Management - Appendices".

Appendix 1 – Schedule of Lands

Appendix 2 – Community Land Category Maps

Appendix 3 – Leases, Licences and other Estates

Appendix 4 – Documents relating to the management of specific Parks and Reserves