



# Hawkesbury City Council

## attachment 1 to item 161

DRAFT - Windsor Foreshore Parks  
Plan of Management

date of meeting: 13 August 2013  
location: council chambers  
time: 6:30 p.m.





# **Windsor Foreshore Parks**

(Incorporating the Great River Walk)

## **Draft Plan of Management**

July 2013



Prepared by

Hawkesbury City Council Staff  
(based on the plan developed by Environmental Partnership (NSW) Pty Ltd, 2009)





## CONTROLLED DOCUMENT

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D	Revised Draft			



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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 OVERVIEW

A plan of management provides the framework for managing public land by a Council or other management authority

This plan of management applies to a series of foreshore open spaces along the Hawkesbury River at Windsor: Macquarie Park, Deerubbin Park, Howe Park, Hollands Paddock, Thompson Square, Windsor Wharf Reserve and Governor Phillip Park. These reserves are highly valued by the local community in terms of river access, natural and cultural riverside settings, scenic qualities and opportunities for passive and active recreation.

The parks and reserves covered in this Plan of Management are currently classified as community and operational land under the Local Government Act 1993 or are Crown Lands under the care, control and management of Council for the purpose of public recreation and wharfage. Three small parcels of land within Howe Park are currently owned by Sydney Water Corporation and are managed by Council for park purposes.

The lands covered by this plan form part of the route of the Great River Walk. The Great River Walk project is an ambitious and visionary undertaking to expand the network of regional recreational trails serving the Sydney basin.

Ultimately the walk will extend for 570 kilometres along the length of the Hawkesbury Nepean River, from the estuary at Broken Bay to its source in the Southern Highlands and beyond to Canberra.

The incorporation and enhancement of foreshore open spaces within Windsor to provide a linked river trail is an important focus of this Plan of Management. The process of linking public open spaces will provide further opportunities for the enhancement of recreation in Windsor both in terms of the overall open space system and of specific parks.

### 1.2 LOCATION AND CONTEXT

The Windsor township is located on the Hawkesbury River 55km from Sydney and 20km North-East of Penrith. Deerubbin Park, Howe Park, Windsor Wharf Reserve and Governor Phillip Park are all located along the south bank of the Hawkesbury River with Macquarie Park on the northern bank. Thompson Square and Holland's Paddock are both immediately adjacent to Howe Park, separated by a road. *(Refer to Figures 1.0 and 1.1 for park/reserve context and locations)*



# WINDSOR FORESHORE PARKS - DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

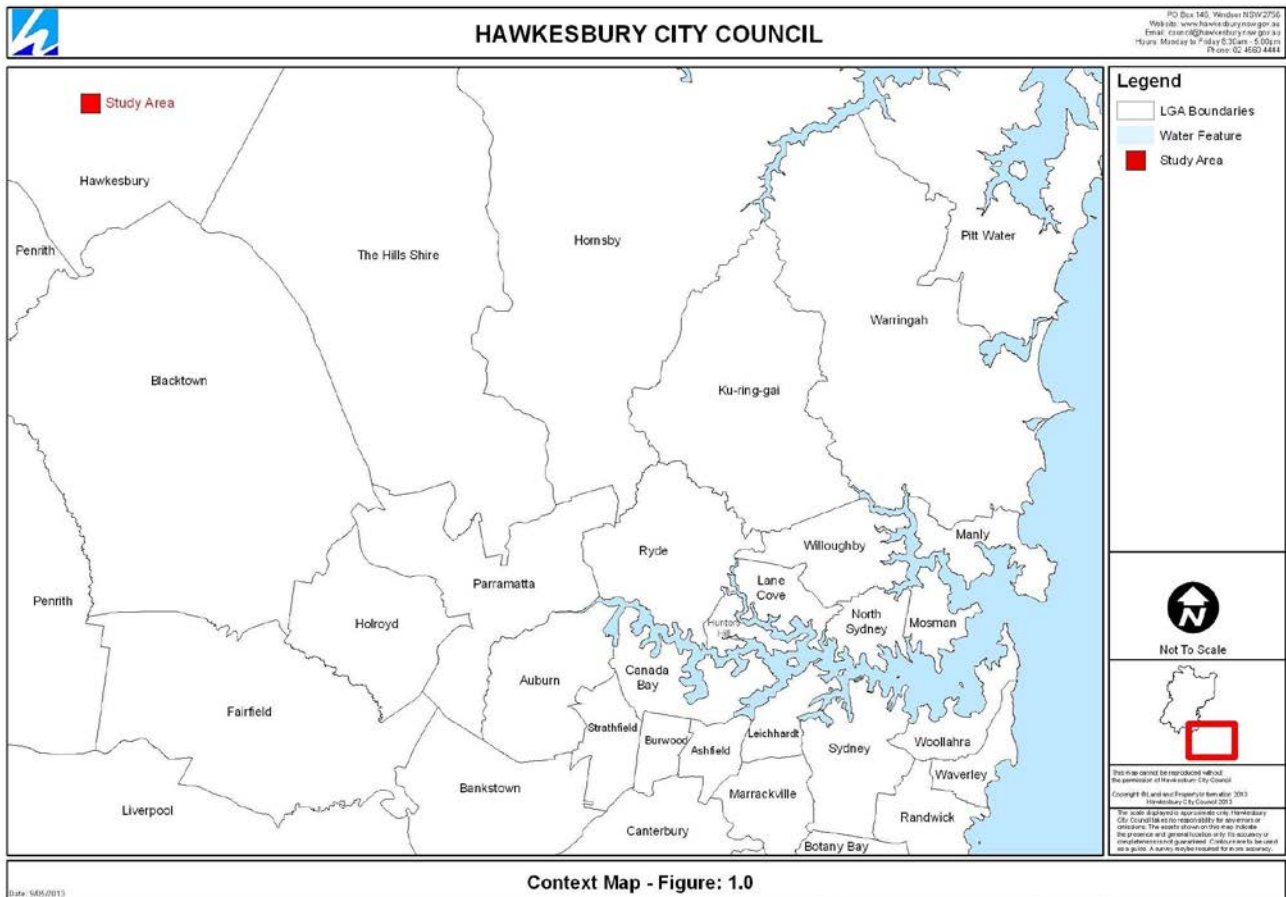


Figure 1.0 Context Map

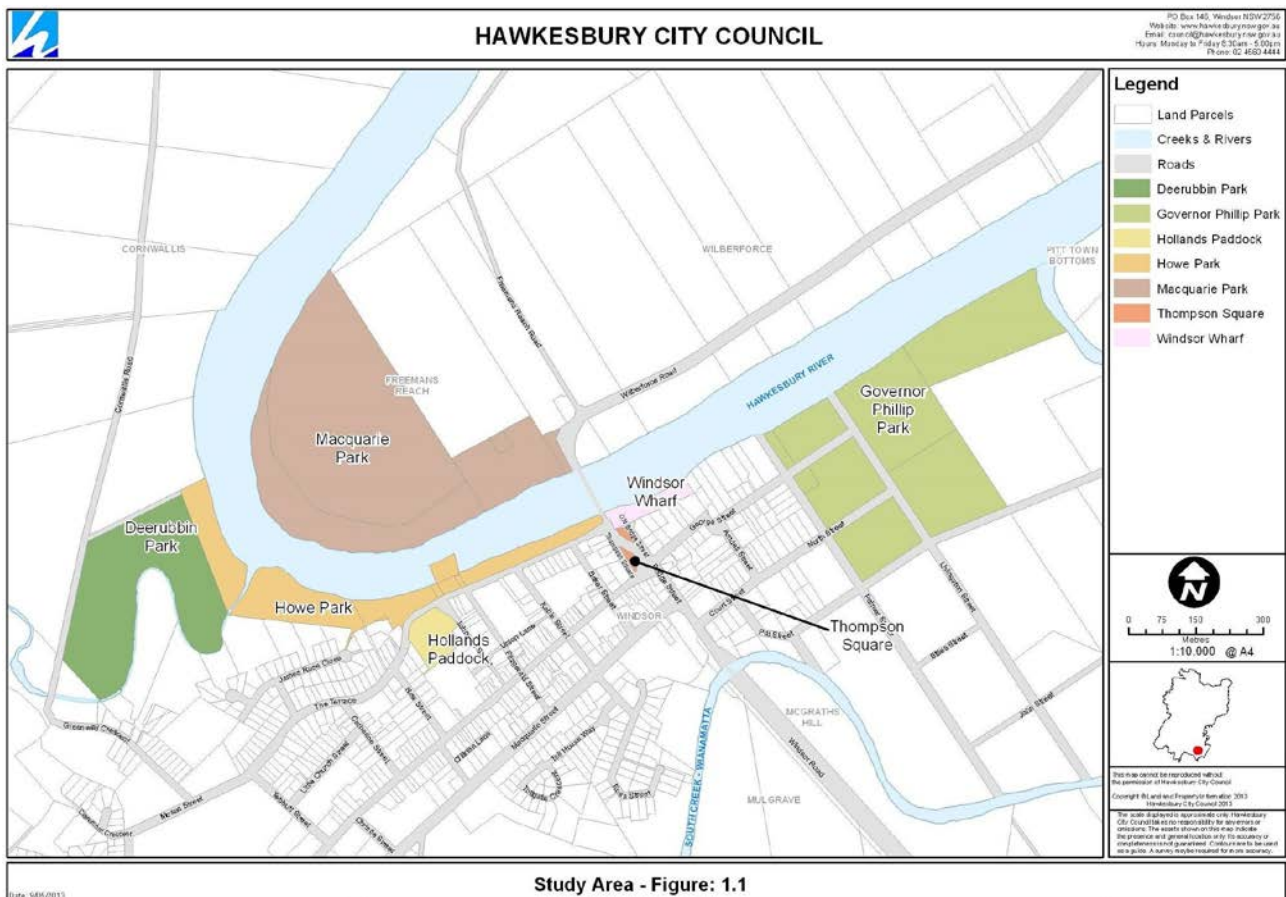


Figure 1.1 Study Area

### 1.3 AIM OF THIS PLAN

This plan of management provides the framework for managing community land and crown land in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, the Crown Lands Act 1989 and other relevant legislation and policies. This plan of management is an updated version of the 2009 Windsor Foreshore Parks Plan of Management originally prepared by Environmental Partnership for Hawkesbury City Council under the direction of Council's Parks & Recreation section. This Plan was updated in June 2013 to incorporate objectives of new strategic plans recently developed and to accommodate changed needs of park users. It aims to be performance oriented and is consistent with the Planning and Design Guidelines developed as part of the Hawkesbury Regional Open Space Strategy 2013 (ROSS). The ROSS is the guiding strategic document by which Council can plan and manage its recreational open space. The objectives of the ROSS are compatible with the overarching Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan 2013-2032

### 1.4 PLAN OF MANAGEMENT FORMAT

The following summary describes the structure of the plan of management and the intent of the content within each section.

#### Section 2.0 The Great River Walk

- Identify what the Hawkesbury Nepean Great River Walk is and the role that Hawkesbury City Council has in developing the walk

#### Section 3.0 Land Description and Planning

- Identify land ownership, zoning as in accordance with HCC Local Environment Plan 2012, and land classification (where applicable to council lands in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993.);
- Identify principles of Crown Land management in accordance with the Crown Lands Act 1989;
- Identify requirements of community land management
- Establish current land categorisation for POM study area in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993
- Identify any other relevant legislation/policy that may influence the management of parks and reserve within this POM
- Identify existing facilities, uses and circulation within the POM study area as applicable to individual parks, reserves and the broader corridor area
- Specify the purpose for which the land, buildings or improvements, will be permitted to be used
- Specify the purpose for which any further development of the land will be permitted to be used
- Establish status of leases and licences relating to parks and reserves within this POM and make recommendations for review of current leases/licences and existing lands/facilities that are not currently covered by lease/licence agreements
- Establish an overview of heritage relating to POM study area
- Establish an overview of environmental factors relating to POM study area
- Review achievement of actions from the 2009 Plan of Management

#### Section 4.0 Community Consultation

- Review and assess community and stakeholder issues affecting the Windsor Foreshore Parks
- Determine community goals, values, needs and expectations for the future use and management of the parks & reserves

#### Section 5.0 Basis for Management

- Identify and assess key values associated with the parks and reserves
- Define the community land's role within the local area and broader district context

- Identify the issues relating to these values and determine objectives for the future management of the parks and reserves that respond to the key values
- Identify Management Objectives for the parks based on objectives from relevant legislation, Council strategic plans and value based objectives
- Summarise key values and objectives into a vision for enactment

#### **Section 6.0 Management Strategies**

- Develop appropriate performance targets, the means of achieving these targets and the means of assessing Council's performance with respect to the plan's objectives
- Assign directions and priorities

#### **Section 7.0 Masterplan**

- Develop a master plan for the implementation of the strategic plan

### **1.5 LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS STUDY**

Abbreviations used in this plan are summarised following:

POM	Plan of Management
HCC	Hawkesbury City Council
HSC	Hawkesbury Sports Council
LGA	Local Government Area
GRW	Great River Walk
NVC	Native Vegetation Conservation
LEP	Local Environment Plan 2012
NWA	Noxious Weed Act
HRCC	Hawkesbury River County Council
ROSS	Hawkesbury Regional Open Space Strategy 2013
RMS	Roads and Maritime Services

## 2 THE GREAT RIVER WALK

### 2.1 OVERVIEW

The Hawkesbury Nepean Great River Walk was initially conceived in 1999 by the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Trust to showcase the natural and cultural environment of the Hawkesbury Nepean River and its catchment.

The Walk is now managed by an incorporated committee consisting of community and stakeholder representatives. Hawkesbury City Council resolved to support the concept of the Great River Walk in October 1999 and to favourably consider the allocation of resources to the project.

The Great River Walk is planned to extend 570 km along the length of the Hawkesbury Nepean River, from the estuary at Broken bay to its source in the Southern Highlands and ultimately to Canberra, our national capital.



Figure 2.0 Proposed Route for the Hawkesbury Nepean Great River Walk



Due to restrictions in resources to develop the Walk as well as the complex and large scale nature of such a development, the Great River Walk is a long term project. The first two locations identified for the development of the Walk are at Penrith and Windsor. It is recognised that in the early stages of development, the ideal route may not be possible, so interim routes may have to be developed to provide connections between sections.

People using the GRW could do so by walking the whole or any part of its length or simply by visiting any one of its scenic and interpretive locations. It would be capable of access by individuals, small parties or large groups, and provide a major focus for school groups and special interest groups, as well as being a significant attraction for interstate and overseas tourists.

As well as providing for walking activities, it is proposed to be enjoyed by cyclists, and in some sections, horse ridings and canoes or kayaks may be used.

Within the Hawkesbury, there are many attractions, and it is proposed to create a series of loops and variations to the walk to showcase the rich history of the Hawkesbury, be it Agricultural, Natural, Aboriginal or European heritage.

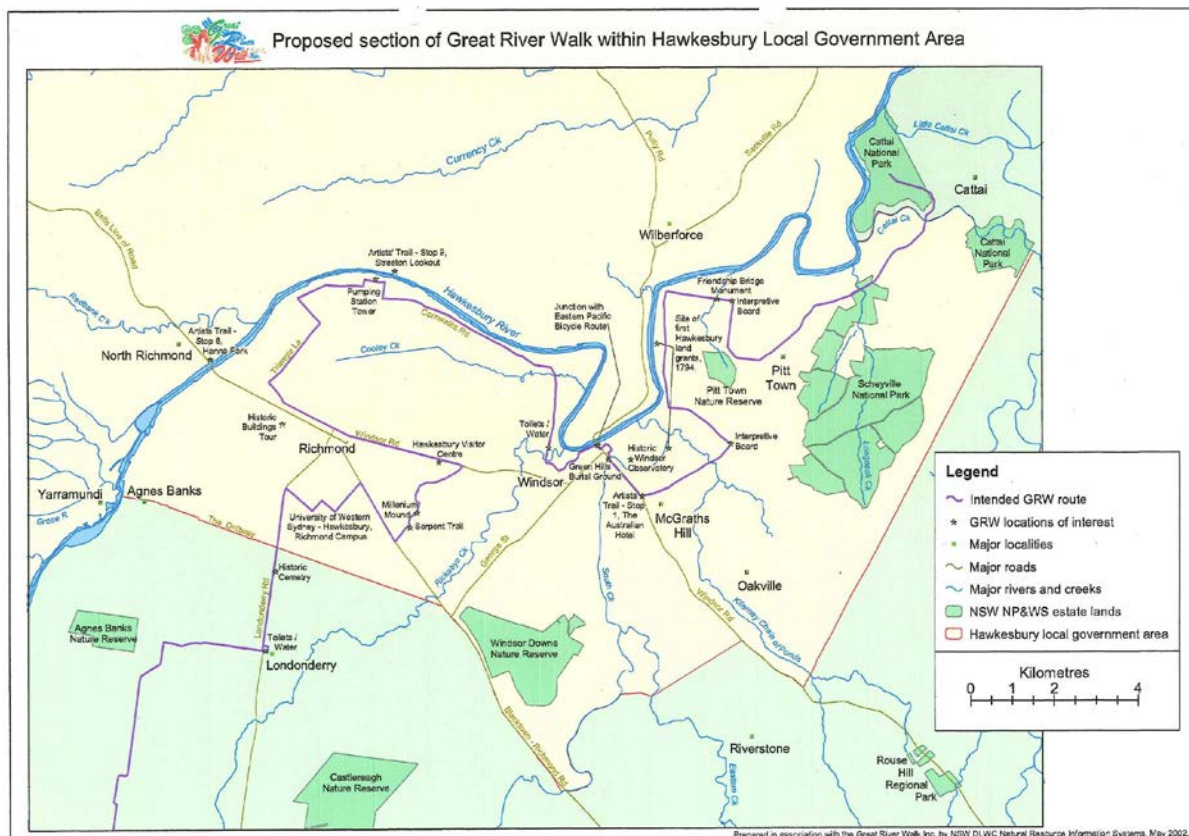


Figure 2.1 Proposed section of the Great River Walk (main route) within the Hawkesbury Local Government Area

For communities along the route, anticipated benefits are: improved recreational facilities for residents; increased visitor numbers for the tourism industry; increased economic activity and greater awareness and appreciation of the environment and the significance of the catchment area as a major source of water supply.

The first stage of the development of the GRW within the Hawkesbury is within the Windsor Foreshore Parks, as infrastructure is mostly developed in this location and it is one of the few publicly owned river frontages in the area.

### 3 LAND DESCRIPTION AND PLANNING

#### 3.1 LAND TENURE AND DESCRIPTION

The parks & reserves within the study area are classified as community and operational under the *Local Government Act 1993* and as Crown land under the care, control and management of Council for the purpose of public recreation and wharfage. Three small parcels of land are currently owned by Sydney Water Corporation. Governor Phillip Park and Thompson Square incorporate undeveloped road reserves, usage of which is consistent with the adjoining park areas.

##### General Description

The parks within this Plan comprise of approximately 60 hectares in total, with Macquarie Park (24 Ha) and Governor Phillip Park (19 Ha) being the largest two parks.

The total river frontage along the Hawkesbury River is approximately 3.4 kilometres, almost 1.4 km of which is on the northern bank, at Macquarie Park. The longest continuous river frontage on the south bank is along Howe Park and the adjoining Wharf Reserve, which is approximately 1.2 km.

Each of the open spaces has individual character and value to the community and there are a variety of recreational amenities distributed amongst the reserves.

Macquarie Park is located on the northern bank of the Hawkesbury River directly opposite Howe Park. The park has two distinctive areas; the first is a formalised picnic ground with grassed areas and a privately leased restaurant and kiosk. Within this area there are picnic tables, children's playground, picnic shelters with BBQs, and public toilets. The second area has a more natural bushland character. A sandy beach stretches around much of the bank which is still well used as a swimming beach despite the deterioration of water quality around 20 years ago. Access through interior bushland is lacking. Apart from these two areas, there is also a large mown area of grass to the north of the site, which is used for informal sports and for periodic events

Deerubbin Park is immediately adjacent to Howe Park north of Rickabys Creek and stretches back to Cornwallis Road. It is comprised of a number of sports fields, a clubhouse/change room, picnic shelter, car parking and open grassed areas. Three private pumps and associated irrigation infrastructure are located within the park and are pre-existing to the Local Government Act 1993.

Howe Park is a linear park beginning at Bridge Street to the East and adjoining Deerubbin Park in the West. The park has a viewing platform, seating, BBQ and picnic areas and is the most intensely landscaped section of the study area. A continuous path extends along the length of the park from Wharf Reserve in the south to a footbridge which provides access across Rickabys Creek. This footbridge and path were constructed in 2009-2010. The intensively landscaped section of the park which contains a viewing platform and BBQs was upgraded in 2012. South of this area, the landscaping dates from 1995.

Holland's Paddock is an open green park with grass and large established trees. A Girl Guide hall is located within the park. A path provides access to Howe Park for people wanting to access the foreshore from the elevated deck adjoining the adjacent Shopping Centre. The site is a topographic low point in the town and is subject to flooding

Thompson Square is a well used town centre 'green square'. It has had continuous use as an open space for almost 218 years. This square is part of the Thompson Square precinct and is listed as a State item of cultural significance. The park is bordered by historically significant buildings and is used for live music. It contains some picnic tables and civic monuments. The park was bisected by the construction of the existing Bridge Street in 1934. The lower parkland is not extensively used as it is difficult to access from the town centre. The proposed imminent upgrade and realignment of the Windsor Bridge will provide the opportunity to connect the two existing sections of the parkland, improving the size, amenity, appearance and use of the greenspace. Note: should the proposed bridge replacement project be given approval, land comprising Thompsons Square and Windsor



## WINDSOR FORESHORE PARKS - DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Wharf Reserve will be resumed for road works. Once construction and associated landscaping is complete, Council will be given the remaining land to manage as parkland once again. See Appendix 1 for further information on this proposal and how it will affect Thompson Square and Windsor Wharf Reserve.

The Windsor Wharf Reserve contains a small wharf as well as an adjoining park and car parking facilities. The wharf is used regularly by *The Hawkesbury Paddlewheeler Co.* Other than the new wharf which was constructed in 2011, the main landscaping works and development date from 1995.

Governor Phillip Park consists of: a broad grassed riverbank; general parkland; clubhouse; boat launching ramp; small pontoon; car parking; playground; picnic & BBQ areas; and fenced in paddocks that serve as car parking during major events. The general landscaping and provision of picnic facilities dates from 1997, the appearance of which is mostly run down.

Table 3.0: Land Description

Park Name	Park Size (approx)	Land Tenure	Owner*	Zoning	Classification	Leases/ Licences
Macquarie Park	24 Ha	Lot 7008 DP 1032358 Lot 1 DP 606535 Lot 1 DP 883806 Lot 2 DP 883806 Lot 1 DP 226141	Crown HCC Crown Crown HCC	RU2 Rural Landscape RE1 Public Recreation RE1 Public Recreation RE1 Public Recreation RU2 Rural Landscape	N/A Community N/A N/A Community	Yes
Deerubbin Park	8 Ha	Lot 45 DP 244472	HCC	RE1 Public Recreation	Community	Yes
Howe Park	6 Ha	Lot 44 DP 244472 Lot 5 DP 575193 Lot 3 DP 593192 Lot A DP 161824 Lot 1 DP 986497 Lot 3 DP 986497 Lot 7011 DP 1030959	HCC HCC HCC SW SW SW Crown	RE1 Public Recreation RE1 Public Recreation RE1 Public Recreation RE1 Public Recreation RE1 Public Recreation RE1 Public Recreation RE1 Public Recreation	Community Community Community N/A N/A N/A N/A	No
Holland's Paddock	1 Ha	Lot 50 DP 1073306	HCC	RE1 Public Recreation	Community	Yes
Thompson Square	2 Ha	Lot 345 DP 752061 Lot 7007 DP 1029964 Road Reserve - Bridge St Road Reserve - George St Road Reserve - Old Bridge St	Crown Crown RMS HCC HCC	RE1 Public Recreation RE1 Public Recreation SP2 Infrastructure B2 Local Centre R2 Low Density Residential	N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A	No
Windsor Wharf Reserve	0.7 Ha	Lot 7008 DP 1029964	Crown	RE1 Public Recreation	N/A	No
Governor Phillip Park	19 Ha	Lot A DP 38709 Lot B DP 38709 Lot C DP 38709 Lot 110 DP 630860 Lot 1 DP 998507 Lot x DP 161237 Lot Y DP 161764 Lot 1 DP 654523 Road Reserve - George St Road Reserve - Livingston St Road Reserve - North Street Road Reserve - Palmer St	HCC HCC HCC HCC HCC HCC HCC HCC HCC HCC HCC HCC HCC	RE1 Public Recreation RE1 Public Recreation RE1 Public Recreation RE1 Public Recreation RE1 Public Recreation RE1 Public Recreation RE1 Public Recreation RE1 Public Recreation RE1 Public Recreation RE1 Public Recreation RE1 Public Recreation RE1 Public Recreation RU2 Rural Landscape	Operational Community Community Community Community Community Community Community Community Community N/A N/A N/A N/A	In process

\* HCC = Hawkesbury City Council, SW = Sydney Water, Crown = Department of Crown Lands

### 3.2 CROWN LANDS MANAGEMENT

There are seven Crown land parcels within the study area, as such, the Crown Lands Act 1989 applies to their management. Refer to Figure 3.0 for location of Crown Reserve parcels.

The Crown Lands Act 1989 governs the planning, management and use of Crown Land, including reservation or dedication for a range of public purposes, leasing and licensing. The Department of Lands, together with Reserve Trusts appointed by the Minister, are responsible for the management of the crown reserve system throughout New South Wales to ensure that crown land is managed for the benefit of the people of New South Wales, and having regard for the principles of crown land management.

A Reserve Trust is a corporation established and appointed to manage a crown reserve. Trusts are nominated by the Minister for Lands (Section 92 of the Crown Lands Act 1989). Hawkesbury City Council manages the affairs of Reserve Trusts under sections 92-95 of the Crown Lands Act 1989.

A Trust Board has functions conferred on it under the Crown Lands Act 1989. The Trust has care, control and management of the reserve in its everyday operation. The Minister cannot direct the Trust as to how it manages the reserve, unless the Trust exceeds its powers. The Minister can only suggest or make representations to the Trust regarding management.

#### Use and Management of Crown Land

The use and management of Crown land is determined or influenced by:

- the objectives of the Crown Land Act (Section 10), particularly that Crown lands are managed for the benefit of the people of NSW
- the principles of Crown land management (Section 11 of the Act)
- the public purpose(s) of the land (Section 80 and 87). Crown land is reserved or dedicated for a public purpose(s), which means the reserve must provide public benefit. Uses, activities, developments and agreements in a Crown reserve are defined by the public purpose(s) of the reserve. All uses of Crown reserves must be acceptable according to their public purpose(s). An additional purpose may be proposed in a draft Plan of Management under Section 112 of the Act
- Department of Lands' policies, such as the Food & Beverage Outlets on Crown Reserves Policy Position 2004
- native title legislation
- rental from leases or licences. 15% of the rental received from new leases and or licences of Crown land (rental over \$2000) is placed in the Public Reserve Management Fund. This fund is a State govt. initiative that raises funds to assist Reserve Trusts in NSW
- case law judgements, which influence the policy and practice of the Department of Lands and Trust managers
- any conditions and provisions within the zoning in the Council's Planning Scheme Ordinance. However, the applicable Public Purposes defined by State government legislation overrides the local zoning
- an adopted Plan of Management, a contractual agreement (lease or licence) ,or a combination of both to more specifically define the permitted uses

#### Principles of Crown Land Management

The principles of Crown Land management are listed in Section 11 of the Crown Lands Act 1989. These principles are outlined below.

- Observe environmental protection principles in relation to the management and administration of Crown Land
- Conserve the natural resources of Crown Land (including water, soil, flora, fauna and scenic quality) wherever possible
- Encourage public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown Land
- Encourage multiple use of Crown Land, where appropriate

- Use and manage Crown Land in such a way that both the land and its resources are sustained in perpetuity
- Occupy, use, sell, lease, licence, or otherwise deal with Crown Land in the best interests of the State, consistent with the above principles

### 3.3 COMMUNITY LAND MANAGEMENT

Community land must be managed in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and other relevant legislation and policies. The ways in which community land can be used and managed are strictly governed in accordance with an adopted plan of management and any law permitting the use of the land for a specified purpose or otherwise regulating its use. The nature and use of community land may not change without an adopted plan of management. Community land must not be sold, exchanged or otherwise disposed of except in the instance of enabling the land to be added to Crown reserve or a protected area under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. The use and management of community land must also be consistent with its designated categories and core objectives.

Refer to Figure 3.0 for land ownership;

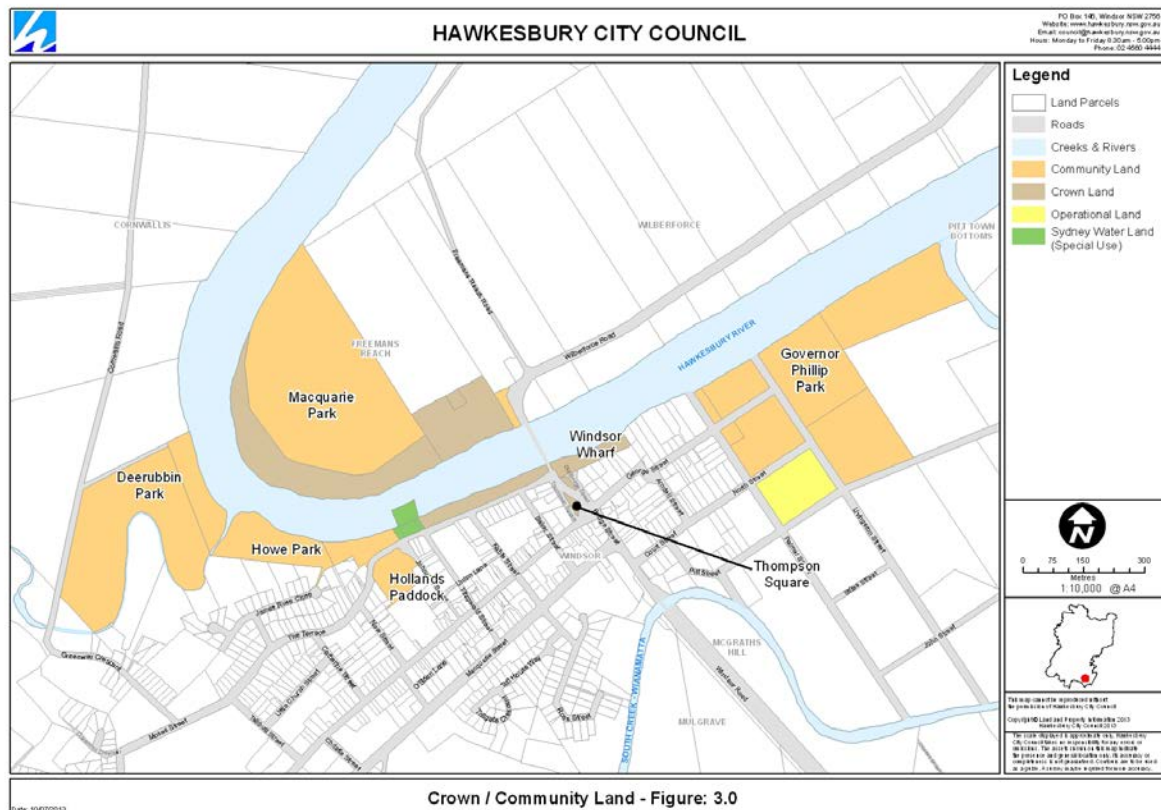


Figure 3.0 Crown/Community Land

### 3.4 COMMUNITY LAND CATEGORISATION

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* all community land must be categorised as either a natural area, a sportsground, a park, an area of cultural significance or for general community use, or a combination of these categories. Council has elected to categorise the Crown land in this plan of management to provide a consistent approach for all land parcels

The community land categorisation for the Windsor Foreshore Parks, as identified in this plan of management, is in accordance with the guidelines of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*. Refer to table 3.1 for categorisation of Parks & Reserves within the study area of this Plan of Management. Following table 3.1 is the HCC Land Categorisation map (*Figure 3.1*).

Table 3.1 Land Categorisation

Category	Macquarie Park	Deerubbin Park	Howe Park	Hollands Paddock	Thompson Square	Windsor Wharf Reserve	Governor Phillip Park
<b>Natural Area (Watercourse)</b> Land includes any stream of water and associated riparian land or vegetation	√		√			√	
<b>Natural Area (Foreshore)</b> Land situation on the water's edge and forms a transition zone between the aquatic and the terrestrial environment							√
<b>Park</b> Land used or proposed to be used mainly for passive recreational, social, educational or cultural pursuits	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
<b>Sportsground</b> Land used or proposed to be used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports		√					
<b>General Community Use</b> Land used for a purpose that does not fit into any of the other categories	√			√			√

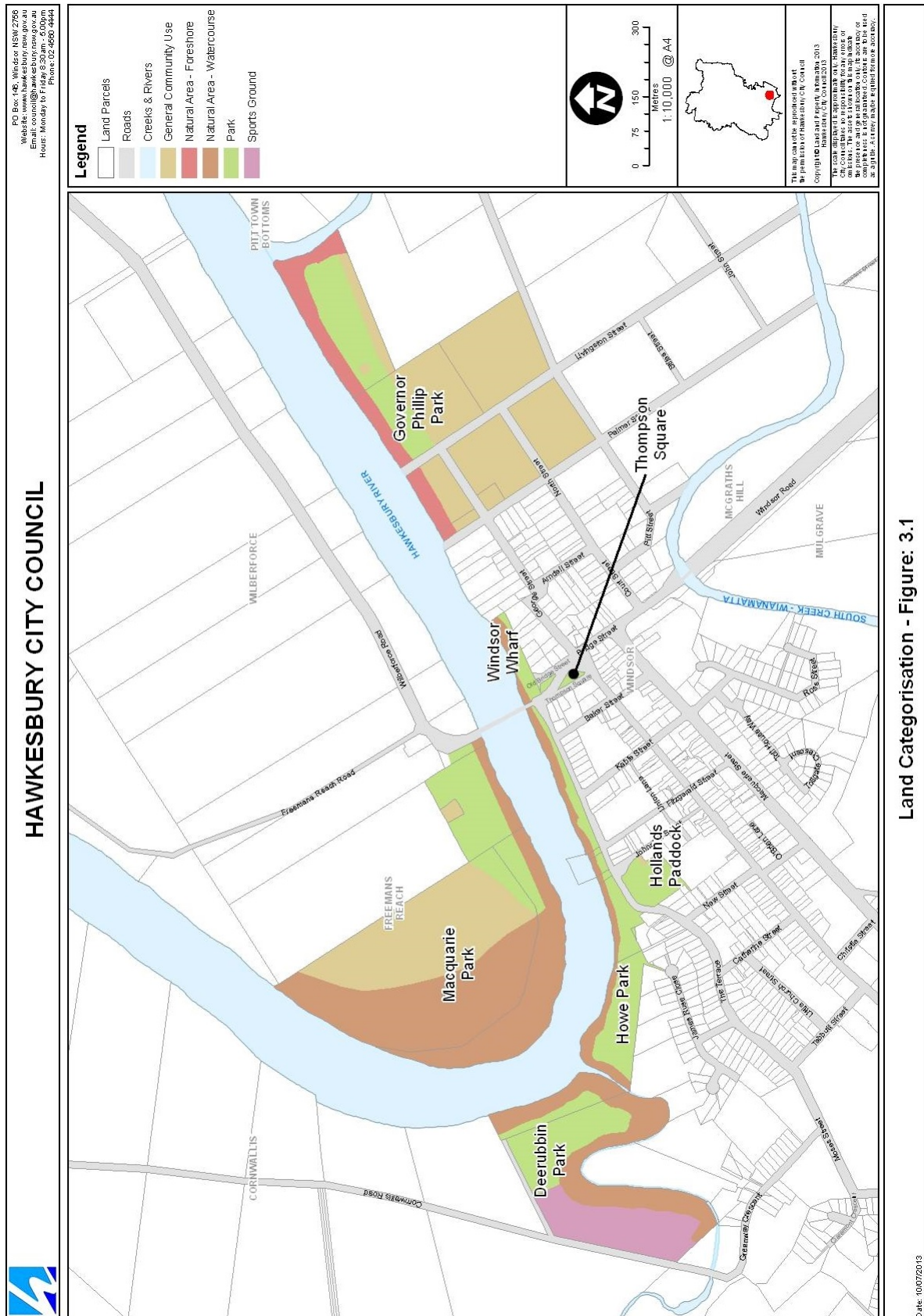


Figure 3.1 Land Categorisation



### 3.5 COMMUNITY LAND SETTING TYPE

The Hawkesbury Regional Open Space Strategy has identified a variety of setting types and their relationship to the categories of land. The Setting types are based on the "Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government", adapted to the specifics of the Hawkesbury Landscape and provide a more evolved description than that provided by the Local Government Act. See table 3.2 for the description and facilities in each setting and how this relates to the category of land.

- Passive Parklands: reserves managed for informal and unstructured leisure and recreation
- Outdoor Sports: reserves designed, managed and used for organised sports
- Civic and Urban Spaces: public domain in urban areas used for leisure and recreation (e.g. plazas)
- Natural Areas / Bushland: reserves comprising physical features or flora and fauna of natural value
- Cultural Heritage: reserves with structures, landscapes or associations of heritage value
- River Foreshore: open space adjoining rivers (e.g. Hawkesbury River)
- Creeks and Waterways: reserves principally comprising a narrow creek corridor

Table 3.2 Setting Type

Setting Type	Description / Function / Use	Facilities / Assets	Equivalent Category
Passive Parklands	Land that has its physical character and /or vegetation modified to support community recreation, community development and wellbeing uses	Play, paths, fencing, gardens, public art, interpretation, ornamental gardens, play facilities, stages and amphitheatres, toilets, amenity buildings, café/kiosk, shade structures, community gardens, formal or informal lawns, tree and shrub planting (native and ornamental), dog facilities, youth spaces	Park
Outdoor Sports	Venues designed to support organised sports, including training and competition. This setting may include buildings where these have a recreation function (e.g. swimming pools or sports halls)	Formal fields, courts, buildings (change rooms, toilets, amenities, café), swimming pools (indoor and outdoor), sports halls, club rooms, scout halls, grandstands etc. Includes lighting, irrigation, fencing, car parks and associated passive rec facilities (play, access and circuit paths, seating kiosk etc)	Sportsground
Civic and Urban Spaces	Plazas, squares, public building and shopping centre forecourts which accommodate social gatherings or special events	Forecourts, steps, lighting, public art, interpretation, visitor information, structures, monuments, gardens, lawns, historic features, banners and flags, youth spaces	Cultural Significance Community Use
Conservation of Natural and Cultural Heritage	Reserves created to protect and enhance natural and cultural resources, but which also have a quiet/passive recreation/leisure dimension e.g. walking, cycling, tourism visitation	Native bushland or grasslands, ephemeral creek, salt marshes	Bushland Wetland Escarpment
River Foreshore	River foreshores, includes immediate foreshore e.g. within tide-line or for access to waterway itself. May include an open water body itself where this has recreation use (e.g. sailing/rowing)	Beaches, launching ramps, buoys, pontoons, defined sailing/rowing areas, protected wildlife areas	Watercourse Foreshore
Creeks and Wetlands	Lake, pond, permanent or ephemeral creek	Shoreline, creekbank, boardwalks, water treatment infrastructure, pipes and weirs	Watercourse Foreshore

See appendix 2 which indicates which setting occurs within each park



### 3.6 OTHER RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

In addition to the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* this plan of management has been prepared in accordance with the provisions contained in other relevant legislation and policy guidelines, including but not limited to the following:-

- Native Title Act (Commonwealth) 1993
- Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act 1948
- Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003
- Native Vegetation Conservation Act 2003
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995
- Fisheries Management Act 1994
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
- NSW Heritage Act 1977
- Noxious Weeds Act 1993
- Rural Fires Act 1997
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992
- SREP No. 20 Hawkesbury-Nepean River (No.2 – 1997)
- SEPP 19: Bushland in Urban Areas
- Hawkesbury Lower Nepean Catchment Blueprint 2003
- Hawkesbury Nepean Floodplain Management Strategy 1998
- NSW Flood Policy 1984
- NSW State Rivers and Estuaries Policy 1993
- NSW Wetlands Management Policy 1996
- NSW Floodplain Management Manual 2001

Hawkesbury City Council documents relevant to the Management of Parks:

- Hawkesbury City Council Charter
- Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan 2013-2032
- Delivery Program 2012-2016
- Annual Management Plans (Operational)
- Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012
- Hawkesbury Development Control Plan 2002
- Section 94 Contributions Plan 2008
- Section 94a Development Contributions Plan 2006
- Hawkesbury Cultural Plan 2013 (Draft)
- Hawkesbury Regional Open Space Strategy 2013 (Draft)
- Hawkesbury Regional Open Space Strategy – Planning and Design guidelines 2013
- Governor Phillip Reserve – Noise Policy 2011
- Governor Phillip Reserve – Exclusive Use Policy 2007
- Mobility Plan 2010, Adopted 11 May 2010
- Interpretive Signage and Public Art Policy, Adopted 31 August 2010
- Draft Interpretive Signage Guide, 2011
- Flood Risk Management Plan, Adopted 11 December 2012
- Asset Management Policy 2009

### ***Native Title Act (Commonwealth) 1993***

This plan of management acknowledges the significance of the Hawkesbury River area as a traditional resource area for the Darug Aboriginal people. The preparation of this plan of management has pursued an open, transparent approach to community consultation including an open invitation to all the Darug Aboriginal groups. The plan of management strategies encourages broader collaboration with traditional Aboriginal custodians in the future management of the reserves.

An appraisal of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage values was undertaken as part of this plan of management. Refer to section 3.9 for summary outcomes.

### ***Rivers and Foreshores Improvements Act 1948***

The parks and reserves covered by this Plan of Management are subject to the provisions of the Rivers and Foreshores Improvements Act 1948. This Act provides broad regulatory control over activities within the riparian corridor (i.e. "protected lands" as defined in the Act) including the following:-

- a) making an excavation on, in or under protected land;
- b) removal of material from protected land; or
- c) works which obstruct or detrimentally affect the flow of protected waters, or which are likely to do so.

Protected land is defined under the *Rivers and Foreshores Improvements Act 1948* as:-

- a) land that is the bank, shore or bed of protected waters (i.e. named and identified watercourses); or
- b) land that is not more than 40 metres from the top of the bank or shore of protected waters (measured horizontally from the top of the bank or shore); or
- c) material at any time deposited, naturally or otherwise and whether or not in layers, on or under land referred to in the above description.

### ***Native Vegetation Conservation Act 2003***

The new *Native Vegetation Conservation Act 2003* applies to State Protected Land within the Hawkesbury City LGA. Such land is defined as being "within 20 metres of the bank or within the bed of a prescribed stream or lake, land mapped as having a slope in excess of 18 degrees, land mapped as environmentally sensitive or land subject to siltation or erosion" (i.e. the Hawkesbury River and its tributaries in this catchment).

The NVC Act applies to this reserve and it is important that the riparian corridor is managed in a way which provides consistency with the following objectives of the Act:-

- a) to provide for the conservation and management of native vegetation on a regional basis;
- b) to encourage and promote native vegetation management in the social, economic and environmental interests of the State;
- c) to protect native vegetation of high conservation value;
- d) to improve the condition of existing native vegetation;
- e) to encourage the revegetation of land and the rehabilitation of land with appropriate native vegetation;
- f) to prevent the inappropriate clearing of vegetation;
- g) to promote the significance of native vegetation in accordance with the principles of ecological sustainable development.

***SREP No. 20 Hawkesbury-Nepean River (No.2 – 1997)***

The parks and reserves covered by this Plan of Management are subject to the provisions under *SREP No.20 Hawkesbury – Nepean River (No.2 – 1997)* which controls any development which has the potential to impact on the river environment (i.e. water quality, environmentally sensitive areas and riverine scenic quality).

***Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979***

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* forms the basis of statutory planning in New South Wales, including the preparation of Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) which regulate land use and development. Hawkesbury City Council, as the consent authority under the *Local Environmental Plan 1989 (LEP 1989)* and the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* controls development and the use of land on parks and reserves in the Hawkesbury City Council local government area.

Refer to Table 2.1. for zoning of lands in this Plan of Management under *Hawkesbury City Council Local Environmental Plan (LEP 2012)*.

***NSW Heritage Act 1997***

The *NSW Heritage Act 1997* is the principle legislation governing the management of heritage items (relics and places containing relics) in NSW. Heritage structures, ruins, and sub-surface archaeological features and deposits are afforded automatic statutory protection under the relic's provisions of the Act.

Built Heritage

The Act provides statutory protection for items listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR).

Archaeology

Sections 139 to 145 of the Act prevent the excavation or disturbance of land for the purpose of discovering, exposing or moving a relic, except by a qualified archaeologist to whom an excavation permit has been issued by the Heritage Branch of NSW Department of Planning.

The relevant permits are an s60 permit for state significant SHR listed sites and an s140 permit for non-SHR listed sites. There are some circumstances (generally for minor, low impact works) in which a permit is not required. Such circumstances are outlined in the Heritage Council's lists of general exemptions/exceptions.

***Hawkesbury Regional Open Space Strategy 2013***

This strategy addresses the open space needs for existing and future residents, users and/or visitors to the Hawkesbury's public open space.

### 3.7 LANDUSE & FACILITIES

A broad range of facilities and landuses are distributed across the parks along the Windsor foreshore. Each plays a role in fulfilling the recreation and leisure needs of the local and broader community. See Table 3.3 which summarises existing facilities within each park.

Table 3.3: Existing Landuse & Facilities

Park	Facilities	Maintenance Inputs	Uses
Macquarie Park	Picnic tables Car parking Toilet block Children's playground Picnic shelters with picnic tables BBQs, Restaurant/Kiosk Aboriginal garden, monument and plaque Canoe storage		Walking, dog walking, using playground, Picnicking/BBQ, canoe launching, events (e.g. canoe classic, show days – car clubs, motorcycle clubs) dining, fishing and swimming;
Deerubbin Park	Picnic shelter with table Two rugby fields with lights One Rugby field without lights Two modified fields Car park s Toilets/change rooms/storage rooms		Rugby, walking, dog walking, dog training, rural fire service training, triathlon training and personal training.
Howe Park	Bench seats Picnic tables BBQs Pergola Viewing deck Drinking fountain Bike Path / Great River Walk Footbridge over Rickaby's Creek Memorial Plaque		Walking, dog walking, picnicking/BBQ, cycling, events (such as International Sand Sculpting Competition).
Hollands Paddock	Guide Hall and adjoining car park Dining/observation deck Water tank		Walking, dog walking, hall is used primarily by guides but occasionally by other groups, dining, events (e.g. proposed relocation of Blues and Roots Festival)
Thompson Square	Picnic tables Drinking fountain Monument		Picnicking, live entertainment/events
Windsor Wharf Reserve	Picnic tables Car parking Wharf Artist Trail signage		Picnicking, fishing, boat mooring
Governor Phillip Reserve	Picnic Shelters with BBQs Picnic tables Clubhouse/amenities Boat launch facilities Children's playground Asphalt car parking Turf overflow car parking facilities Jetty/Pontoon		Walking, dog walking, events (e.g. Bridge to Bridge boat race), boat launching, picnicking/BBQ, using playground;

### ***Macquarie Park***

This park provides the local, district and regional community direct access to the river for fishing and canoeing and is a popular swimming spot. It is the starting point for the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, an annual marathon canoe race of 111km from Windsor to Brooklyn. The race attracts about 600 paddlers and has been running since 1977.

The reserve also features a restaurant within Macquarie Park House (reconstructed after fire in 1994) and has a newly developed regional playground with associated picnic/BBQ facilities developed in 2010 and 2012. Council plans to continue the upgrade of this park as funds allow.

Within the revegetated section along the riverbank, a memorial bush tucker garden has been developed around a sandstone monument (rock engraving) which commemorates the meeting along the River of the local Aboriginal people with European explorers in 1791. The engraving was prepared by Edna Watson –a fifth generation descendant of Yarramundi, opened in 1999.





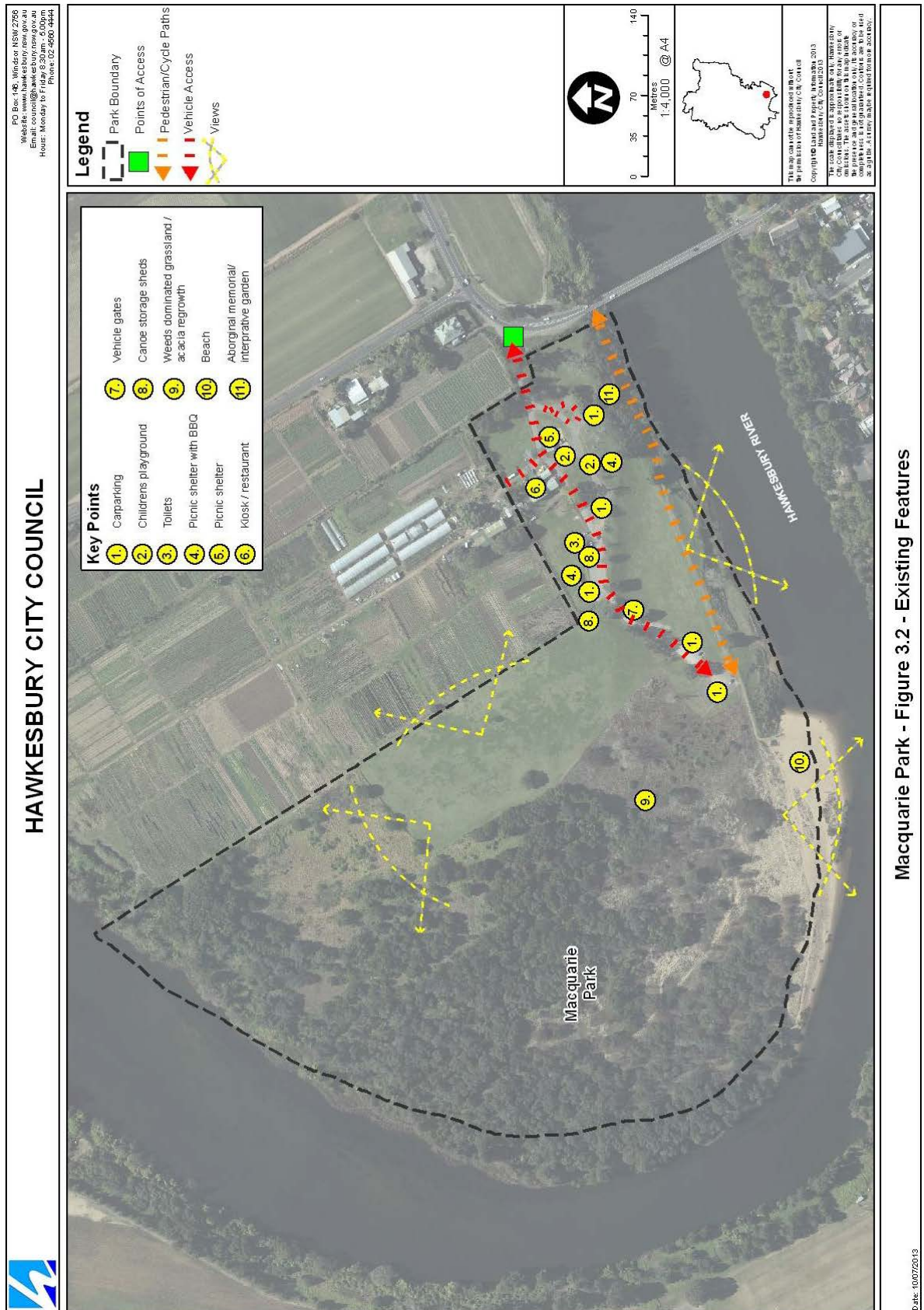


Figure 3.2 Macquarie Park Existing Features



***Deerubbin Park***

The main facilities in Deerubbin Park cater for the sporting needs of local and district residents. The upgrade of the change rooms (2009) and extra fields in 2012 has allowed the facility to be able to accommodate regional sporting events.

Three private pumps and associated infrastructure are located within Deerubbin Park. Exact location of underground pipes is unknown, however an asbestos pipe, believed to be unused, runs between the training fields and Rickabys Creek.



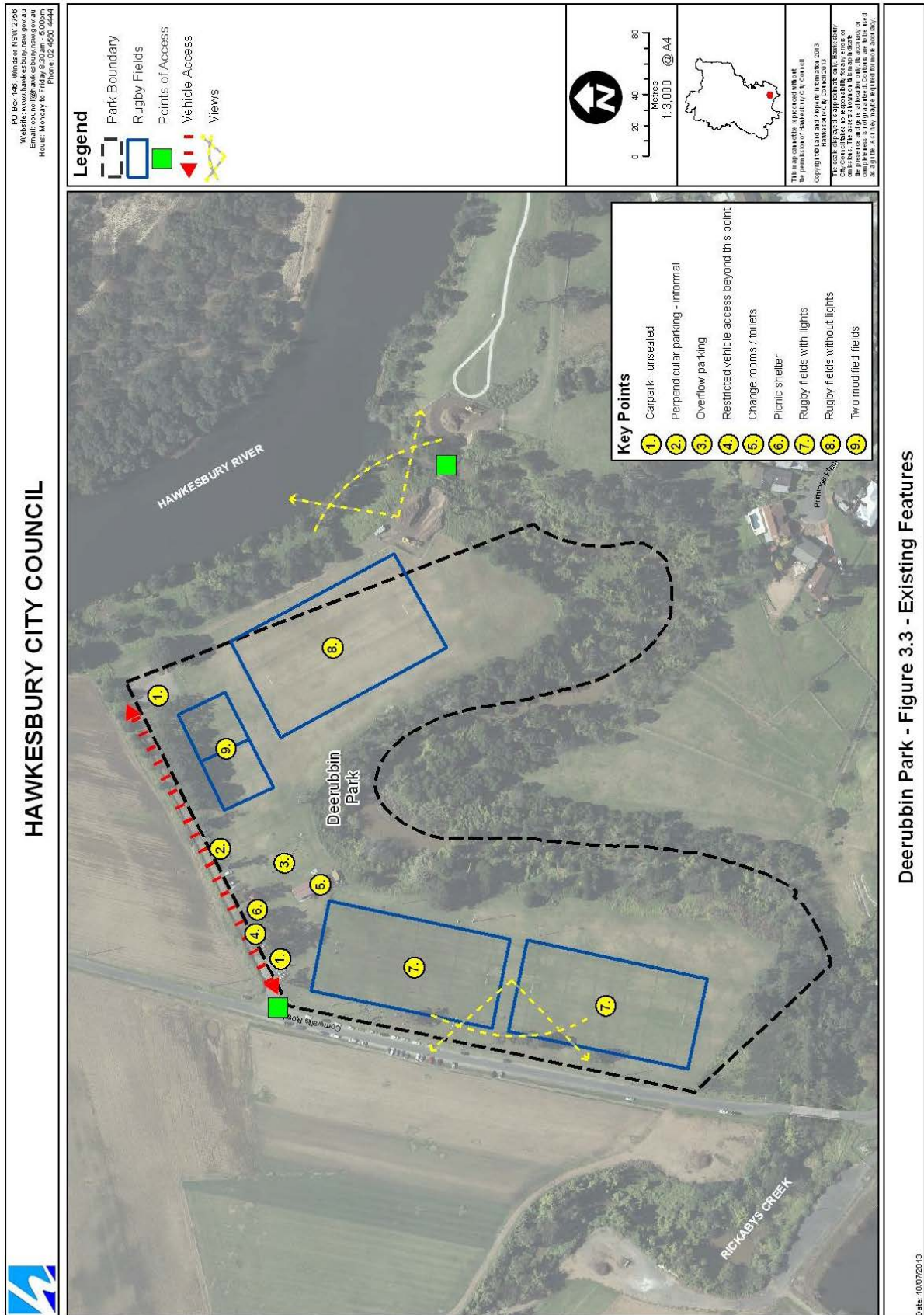


Figure 3.3 Deerubbin Park Existing Features



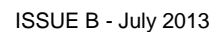
### Howe Park

Howe Park provides facilities for leisure and tourism. It has a highly landscaped area that is intensively used for picnics, BBQ's and general access to river views which is immediately accessed from the Windsor township. Upgrading of the picnic area from the pergola to the start of the concrete path was undertaken in 2012. Works included the replacement of: paving, seating, picnic tables, BBQ, viewing deck and pergola. Council plans to upgrade the (circa 1995) path and seating, downstream from the pergola, in the near future.

The path through the park is the first stage of the development of the Great River Walk within the Hawkesbury Local Government Area. In 2009, the gravel pathway was upgraded to concrete and a footbridge was constructed over Rickaby's Creek. This has allowed for the extension of a continuous path along the river and provides access to the Richmond Lowlands which was otherwise disconnected from pedestrians and cyclists from Windsor.









***Hollands Paddock***

This park provides a direct connection from civic spaces in Windsor to the foreshore parks. The observation deck is used for dining and is the primary access from the shopping centre to the park.

The park also provides for the gathering of community such as in the Girl Guides Hall (built 2007) and there is a proposal to relocate the annual Blues and Roots Festival to the park.



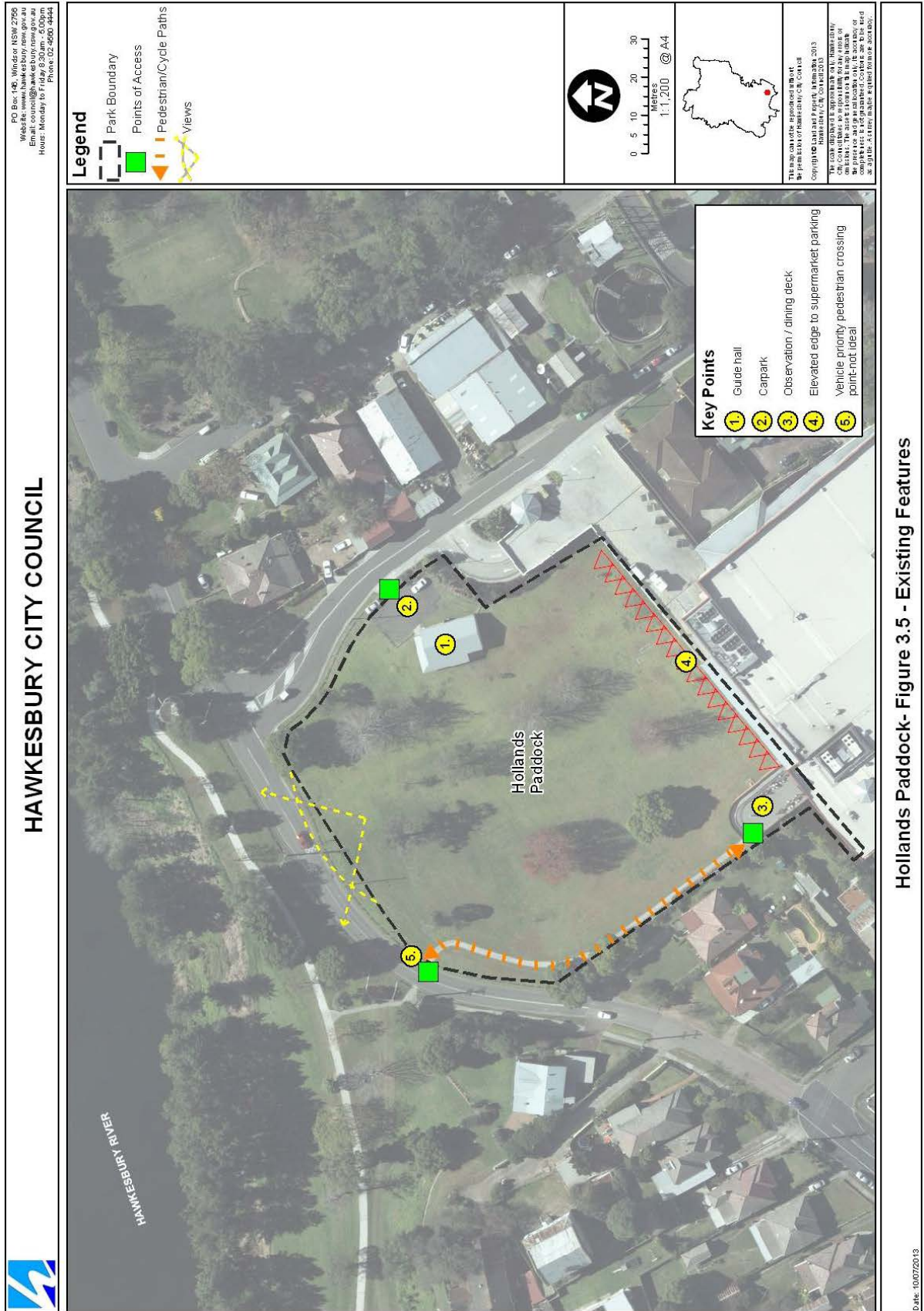


Figure 3.5 Hollands Paddock Existing Features



***Thompson Square***

Thompson Square caters to the leisure needs of mainly district and regional visitors to the area. It is located in an area of high conservation value and adjacent to the main dining precinct of Windsor. Landscaping in this area is currently low key and requires upgrading. The imminent construction of a new road and replacement of Windsor Bridge will provide the opportunity to consolidate the park once again and upgrade the amenity of the park.





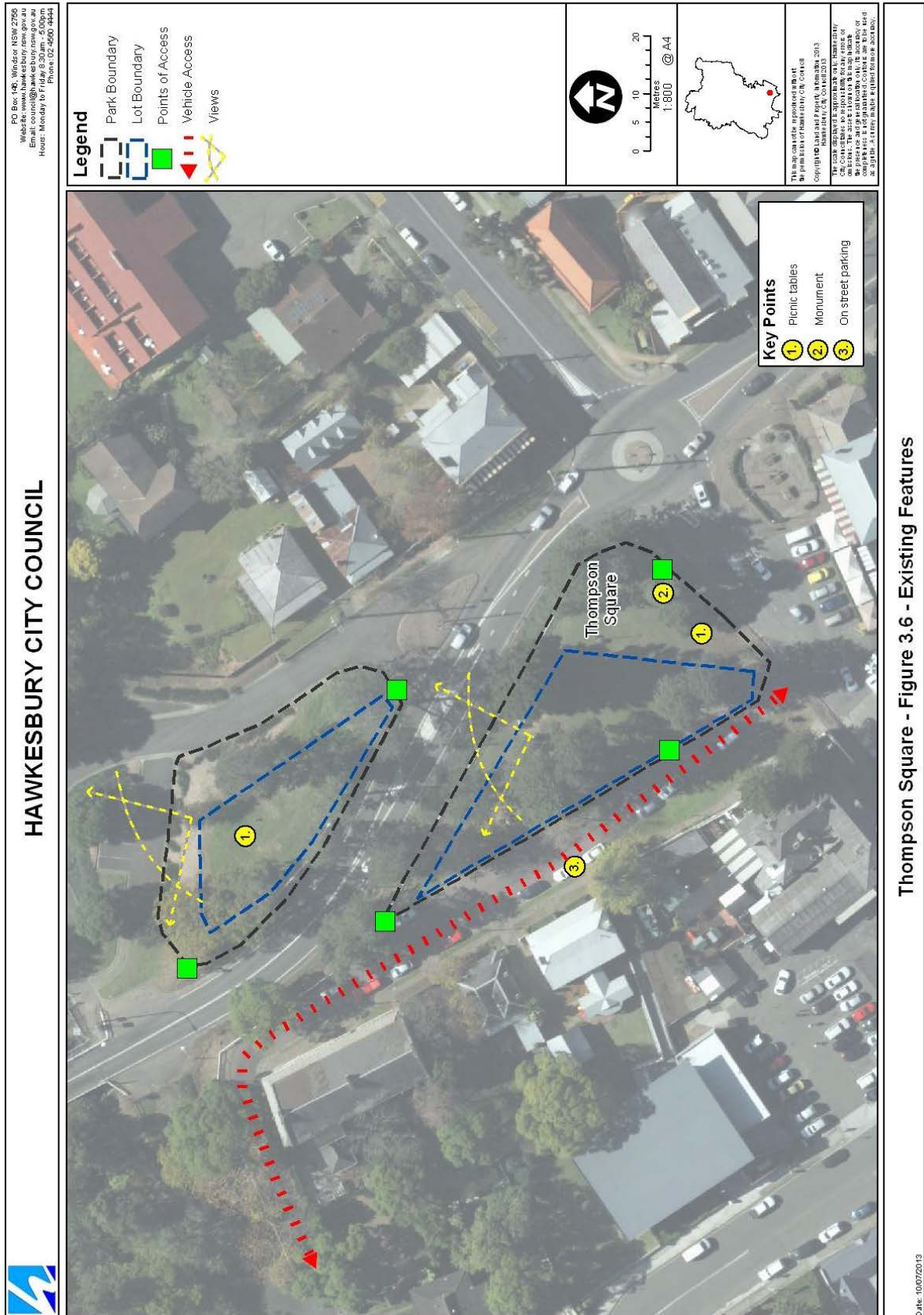


Figure 3.6 Thompson Square Existing Features



### ***Windsor Wharf Reserve***

This reserve provides direct access to the River for fishing and access to the Paddle Wheeler, a tourism drawcard to the reserve. It is on the route of the Artists Trail tourism drive. Landscaping dates from 1995 and requires upgrading, however a new wharf was constructed in 2011-12.

The replacement and relocation of Windsor Bridge will provide opportunities for this reserve to be upgraded and better linked to Howe Park, extending the usability of the foreshore pathway and providing better access to the park from the Windsor Township.



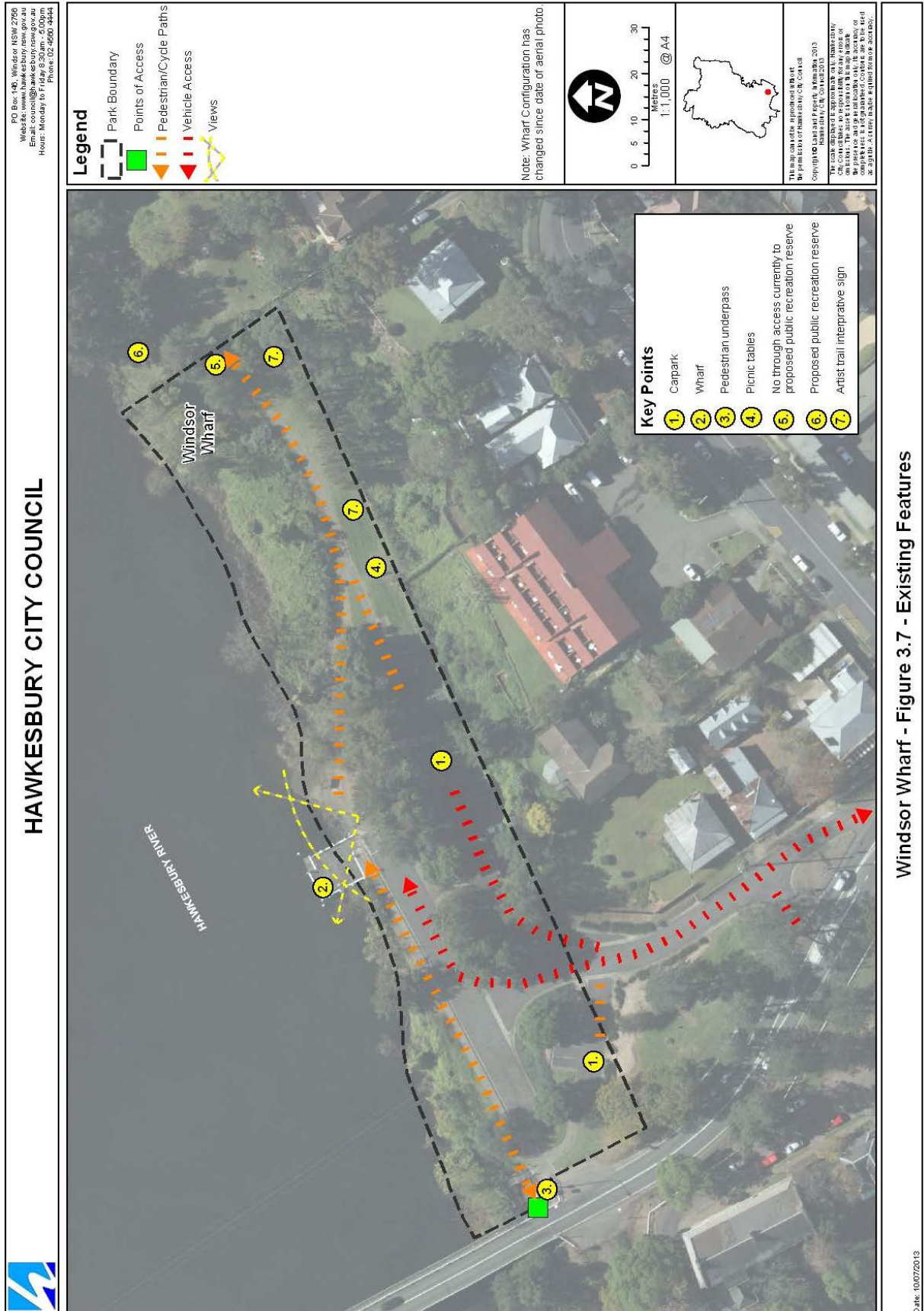


Figure 3.7 Windsor Wharf Existing Features



### **Governor Phillip Park**

Currently the major use of this park is for boating access to the river. Four large events that cater for a large number of visitors include: the Bridge to Bridge Power Boat Race (May); Bridge to Bridge Water Ski Classic (November); Hawkesbury 120 Ski Race Classic (August); and the Powerboat Spectacular Windsor (September) are held within this park each year

There are two large shelters with BBQs and a children's playground - a popular picnicking spot directly on the river. This area was developed in 1997.

A pump and irrigation pipes are located within Governor Phillip Park. This infrastructure is owned by Council and provides water to an adjoining Council owned property.





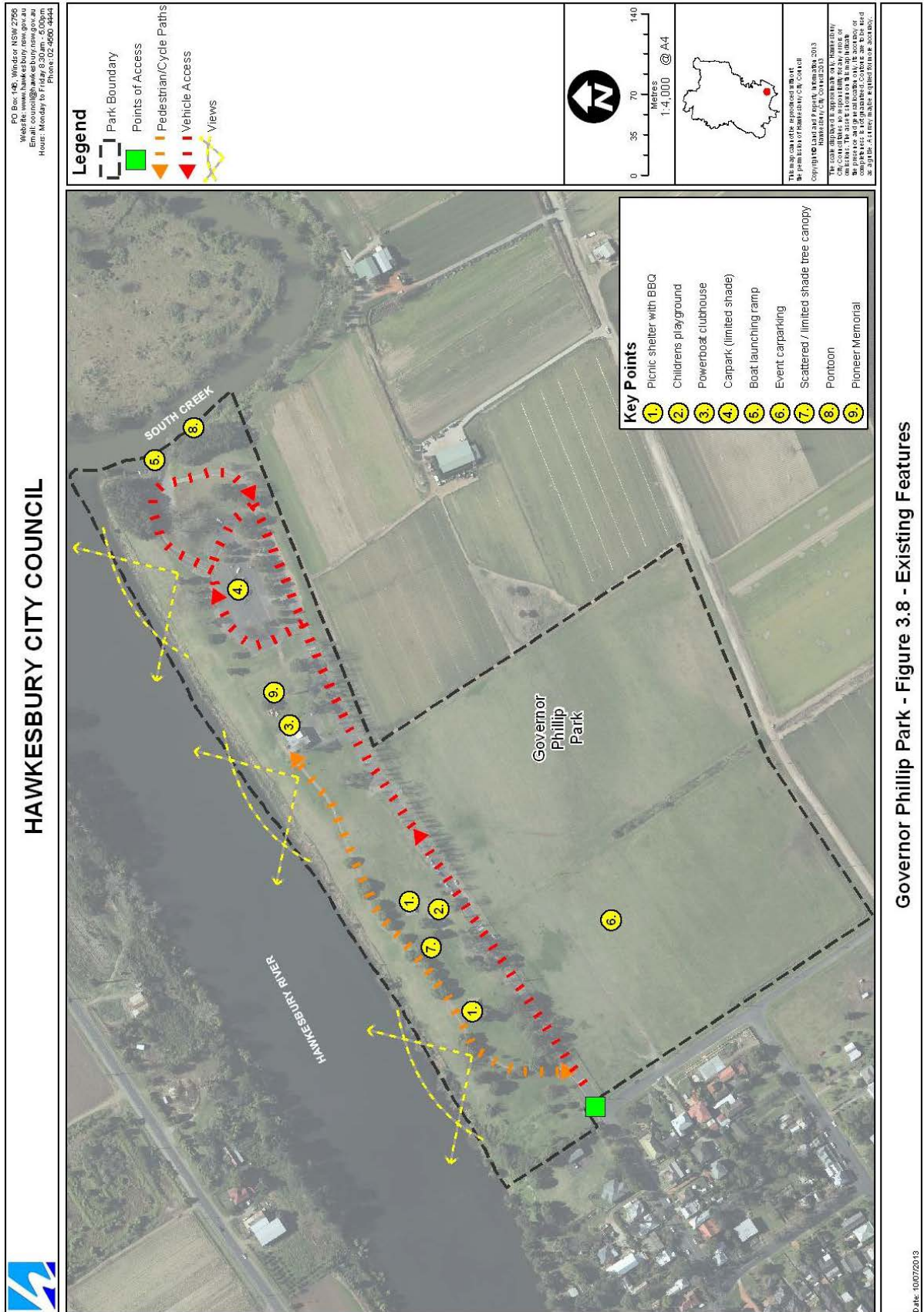


Figure 3.8 Governor Phillip Park Existing Features

**Entry signage:**



Deerubbin Park



Windsor Wharf Reserve



Governor Phillip Park



Macquarie Park



Macquarie Park



Macquarie Park Entry Gates



**Interpretive signage examples:**



Windsor Warf Reserve



Howe Park



Windsor Warf Reserve



Macquarie Park



Macquarie Park

**Memorials, plaques and monuments**



Howe Park - Luke Worsley Bridge



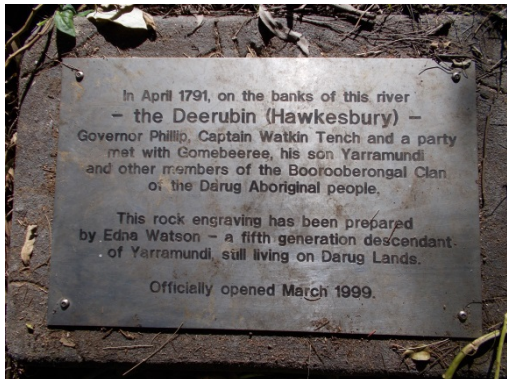




Thompson Square



Thompson Square



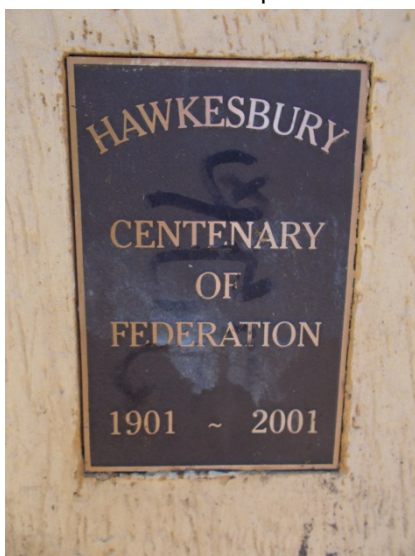
Macquarie Park



Macquarie Park



Governor Phillip Park



Howe Park



Howe Park





Howe Park

**Park Furniture:**



Howe Park



Deerubbin Park, Macquarie Park,  
& Governor Phillip Park



Howe Park, Windsor Wharf Reserve.,  
Thompson's Square, Macquarie Park





Howe Park



Howe Park



Howe Park



Howe Park



Howe Park



Howe Park, Macquarie Park &  
Governor Phillip Park



Howe Park



Howe Park





Windsor Warf Reserve, Thompson Square



Thompson Square



Governor Phillip Park



Macquarie Park



Howe Park



Thompson Square





Macquarie Park



Macquarie Park



Deerubin Park



Governor Phillip Park



Howe Park



Macquarie Park, Governor Phillip Park



Macquarie Park, Governor Phillip Park



Macquarie Park, Governor Phillip Park



**Park Structures:**



Boat Ramp (Governor Phillip Park)



Pontoon (Governor Phillip Park)



Pontoon (Windsor Wharf Reserve)



Viewing Deck (Howe Park)



Footbridge (Howe Park)



Underpass (Howe Park, Windsor Wharf)



Club House, Governor Phillip Reserve



Restaurant, Macquarie Park





Amenities/ Change rooms - Deerubbin Park



Amenities – Macquarie Park



Girl Guide Hall – Hollands Paddock



Dining Deck – Hollands Paddock



Pergola – Howe Park



Lighting – Howe Park, Thompson Square



Macquarie Park



Macquarie Park





Governor Phillip Park

***Paths:***



Brick - Howe & Governor Phillip Parks



Concrete – Howe Park & Windsor Wharf



Gravel – Macquarie Park, Gov. Phillip Park



Howe Park new access point

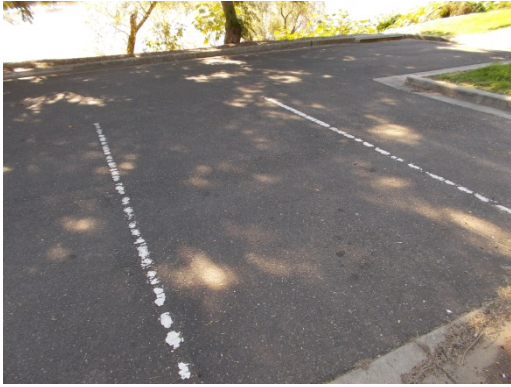
***Parks:***



Sealed - Governor Phillip Park



Governor Phillip Park



Sealed - Howe Park, Hollands Paddock



Gravel – Macquarie Park



Unsealed – Deerubbin Park



Unformed, 90° parking – Deerubbin Park

As can be seen from the above photographs, there is a wide diversity of finishes, furniture and signage used between and within the foreshore parks



### 3.8 PERMITTED USES AND DEVELOPMENTS

The Local Government Act 1993 outlines certain restrictions and requirements on how Community Land may be used or developed. All uses or development must be consistent with the core objectives for the category of community land and a lease or a licence is required for certain activities or events, if the activity or event will alienate the land and limit the ability of the public to use that land.

#### LEASES, LICENCES OR 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. Wherever there is exclusive use, a lease or licence is required.

A lease, licence or other estate may be granted, in accordance with an express authorisation by this plan of management, providing the lease, licence or other estate is for a purpose prescribed in s.46 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. The purpose must be consistent with core objectives for the category of community land.

Council must not grant a lease, licence or other estate for a period (including any period for which the lease could be renewed by the exercise of an option) exceeding 21 years. A lease, licence or other estate may be granted only by tender in accordance with s.46A of the *Local Government Act 1993* and cannot exceed a term of 5 years (including any period for which the lease could be renewed by the exercise of an option), unless it satisfies the requirements as scheduled in s.47, or is otherwise granted to a non-profit organisation (refer to *Leases, licences and other estate in respect of community land – s.46, 46A, 47 and 47A Local Government Act 1993*).

#### *Natural Areas*

Furthermore, in accordance with s.47B *Local Government Act 1993*, leases, licences or other estate must not be granted in respect of land categorised as a natural area:

- to authorise the erection or use of a building or structure that is not prescribed under sub-section 47B (a) (including re-building or replacement). The prescribed buildings or structures include walkways, pathways, bridges, causeways, observation platforms and signs.
- to authorise the erection or use of a building or structure that is not for a purpose prescribed under sub-section 47B (b). The prescribed purposes include information kiosks, refreshment kiosks (but not restaurants), work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land and toilets or rest rooms.

The *Crown Lands Act 1989* enables Crown reserve trusts, with Minister's consent, to enter into leases and licences with individuals with third parties to use all or part of a reserve on an ongoing basis. Issues that are to be considered regarding the granting of a lease or licence are:

- whether the proposed lease or licence is in the public interest
- whether the purpose of the proposed lease or licence is compatible with the reserve purpose
- the environmental impacts of the activities permitted by the lease or licence
- whether the proposed lease or licence was or is proposed to be selected by public competition or, if not, the circumstances relating to the selection of the proposed lessee or licensee
- whether the proposed rent represents a proper return to the public for use of the public land
- whether the proposed lease or licence will contain provisions for the periodic updating or review of the rent, and
- whether the proposed lease or licence contains clauses relating to:
  - the termination of the lease or licence in the event of a revocation of the reserve
  - the indemnification of the reserve trust, the Crown and the NSW Government against claims for compensation
  - appropriate insurance provisions

Please Refer to Table 3.4 for current leases and licences.

## CURRENT LEASES

Table 3.4: Current Leases &amp; Licences

Park / Facility / Lot No.	Lease/ licence	Lessor/ licensor	Lessee/ licensee	Term	Permitted uses	Lessor/Licensor responsibilities	Lessee/Licensee responsibilities
<b>Macquarie Park</b>  Restaurant Lot 1 DP 883806 (Crown Land)	Lease	Macquarie Park (D500060) Reserve Trust	PNB	5 years 1 October 2010 to 30 September 2015	Kiosk/Restaurant	Structural repairs and/or major repairs	Pay for all consumables including but not limited to; •local council rates & charges; •water sewerage & drainage charges •electricity •garbage disposal •maintenance (not including structural) •pest control •fire protection •Grounds & lawn maintenance
<b>Macquarie Park</b>  Storage room and container Lot 2 DP 883806 and Lot 1 DP 606535	Licence	Hawkesbury City Council	Windsor Canoe Club	Ongoing	Canoe Storage	Structural repairs and / or major repairs of storage room in amenities block	Provision of storage container and all associated maintenance of container Minor repairs of storage room Retain Public Liability Insurance
<b>Governor Phillip Park</b>	Lease	Hawkesbury City Council	Upper Hawkesbury Power Boat Club	5 years 1 February 2012 to 31 January 2017	Clubhouse and Meeting Rooms	Structural repairs and/or major repairs	Pay for all consumables including but not limited to; •water sewerage & drainage charges •electricity •garbage disposal •maintenance (not including structural) •pest control •fire protection
<b>Holland's Paddock</b>  Observation Deck and Water Tanks Lot 50 DP 1073306 (Community Land)	Lease	Hawkesbury City Council	Pirasta Pty Ltd	5 years 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2018	Dining Purposes Water Storage Tanks		Minor repairs Pay for all consumables including but not limited to; •electricity •garbage disposal •maintenance •pest control •fire protection •Grounds & lawn maintenance of the entire park

**WINDSOR FORESHORE PARKS - DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT**

Park / Facility / Lot No.	Lease/ licence	Lessor/ licensor	Lessee/ licensee	Term	Permitted uses	Lessor/Licensor responsibilities	Lessee/Licensee responsibilities
<b>Deerubbin Park</b>  Front two fields Lot 45 DP244472	Licence	Hawkesbury Sports Council	Macquarie Towns All Breed Dog Training	6 Monthly	Dog Agility Training Equipment Storage	Ground maintenance Major Repairs Rubbish removal	Minor repairs Pay fees by due date Keep areas clean and tidy Observe ground closures Only use within allocated periods Retain Public Liability Insurance Control behaviour of players and spectators Attend HSC delegates meetings Return keys at end of season Electricity distribution boards locked
<b>Deerubbin Park</b>  All fields Lot 45 DP244472	Licence	Hawkesbury Sports Council	Hawkesbury Valley Rugby Club	6 Monthly	Rugby Equipment Storage	Ground Maintenance Major Repairs Provide and install goal posts Rubbish removal	Minor repairs Pay fees by due date Keep areas clean and tidy Observe ground closures Only use within allocated periods Retain Public Liability Insurance Control behaviour of players and spectators Attend HSC delegates meetings Return keys at end of season Electricity distribution boards locked
<b>Deerubbin Park</b>  River Access Lot 45 DP244472	Licence	Hawkesbury Sports Council	Hawkesbury Triathlon Club	6 Monthly	Triathlon (access to the river) Equipment Storage	Ground Maintenance Major Repairs Rubbish removal	Minor repairs Pay fees by due date Keep areas clean and tidy Close grounds in wet weather Observe ground closures Only use within allocated periods Retain Public Liability Insurance Control behaviour of players and spectators Attend HSC delegates meetings Return keys at end of season Electricity distribution boards locked



# WINDSOR FORESHORE PARKS - DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Park / Facility / Lot No.	Lease/ licence	Lessor/ licensor	Lessee/ licensee	Term	Permitted uses	Lessor/Licensor responsibilities	Lessee/Licensee responsibilities
<b>Deerubbin Park</b>  Back Field Lot 45 DP244472	Licence	Hawkesbury Sports Council	Original Bootcamp	6 Monthly	Personal Training activities	Ground maintenance Major Repairs Rubbish removal	Minor repairs Pay fees by due date Keep areas clean and tidy Observe ground closures Only use within allocated periods Retain Public Liability Insurance Control behaviour of players and spectators Attend HSC delegates meetings Return keys at end of season Electricity distribution boards locked

Note: this table includes long-term/regular lease or licences. It does not include short-term, casual licence arrangements.

## LEASES, LICENCES AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORISATION

This Plan of Management expressly authorises the granting of easements over the community land for the purpose of providing pipes, conduit or other connections under the surface of the ground. This is limited to easements that connect land adjoining community land to an existing water, sewer, drainage or electricity facility of council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land. The granting of easements on community land must be consistent with community land categories, their core objectives and the development guidelines in this Plan of Management.

This Plan of Management expressly authorises the granting of leases, licences or other estate over the community land for the purposes of providing goods, services and facilities, and the carrying out of activities, appropriate to current and future needs within the local community and of the wider public in relation to any of the following:

- public recreation, social and educational activities
- the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of persons; and
- only if the purpose for which it is granted is consistent with the core objectives of its categorisation

### Short Term Uses

This Plan of Management expressly authorises the granting of a lease or licence over community land on a short-term or casual basis for the following uses and activities subject to compliance with core objectives for the category of land and provided use of occupation does not involve the erection of any building or structure of a permanent nature and does not continue for more than 3 consecutive days:

- the playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward
- engaging in a trade or business,
- the playing of a lawful game or sport,
- the delivery of a public address,
- commercial photographic sessions,
- picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings,
- filming sessions,

### Long Term Uses and developments

This Plan of Management expressly authorises the granting of a lease or licence over community land on a long term basis (greater than 12 months or events with a duration greater than 3 consecutive days) for the following purposes subject to the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 and the conditions of use as specified by Council:

- Café/Restaurant – This Plan of Management authorises the continued use of Macquarie Park House to be used as a restaurant or café. This Plan permits the development and use of café facilities at Governor Phillip Park (within proximity to the Clubhouse) and Howe Park (near the existing water tank). Note that the maximum term of the lease cannot exceed 5 years unless granted by Tender or to a non-profit organisation.
- Storage – This Plan of Management authorises the use of storage containers to be provided at Macquarie Park and Deerubbin Park for the purpose of housing equipment relevant to recreation activities undertaken at each park. This Plan also authorises the erection of purpose built storage facilities at each of these locations provided they are consistent with the Master Plans for the site and relevant development applications are approved. Any permanent structures will be the property of Council and Council must be involved in the design and construction process.
- Sport – This Plan of Management authorises the use of Deerubbin Park for sporting purposes (including personal training and dog agility training) consistent with the core objectives of Sportsgrounds. Use of the Riverbank at Howe Park is permitted for triathlon activities and personal training. Hawkesbury Sports Council (HSC) manages the sporting uses of Deerubbin Park and all users must apply to them for approval to use the grounds. (HSC) has a user policy which outlines conditions of hire for the grounds. Priorities for use of the grounds are based on

past use and are allocated on a seasonal basis. Refer table 3.4 for existing leases/licences. This Plan of Management supports the Hawkesbury Sports Council's continuing management of ground hire and maintenance.

- **Sporting Facilities** - This Master Plan authorises the development of sporting facilities, and subsequent hire, at Macquarie park and /or Governor Phillip Park, the nature of which, if any, is to be determined in the Hawkesbury Sports Plan
- **Fitness Equipment** – This Plan of Management authorises the installation of fitness equipment within Howe Park. The preferred location is indicated in the Master Plan.
- **Clubhouse**
  - Governor Phillip Park – This Plan of Management authorises the continued use of the Clubhouse at Governor Phillip Park for club activities consistent with the long term vision for Governor Phillip Park as an events and active recreation park.
  - Macquarie Park - This Plan of Management authorises the development of a meeting room/club house to be attached to storage facilities for the Windsor Canoe Club, within Macquarie Park, as shown in the Master Plan. Ideally, public toilets are to be integrated into the building to allow for removal of the existing amenities building.
  - Deerubbin Park - This Plan of Management authorises the development of a clubhouse and storage at Deerubbin Park, exact location to be determined within the Landscape Plan for the site.
- **Amenities Building / Change Rooms** - This Plan of Management authorises the addition of toilets to the existing amenities building at Deerubbin Park and the installation of a shade shelter on the field side of the building, subject to development approval.
- **Power Boat /Water Ski Events** – This Plan of Management authorises the use of Governor Phillip Park for power boat / Water Ski events. The number and type of events within a calendar year are to be approved by Council who hold the right to refuse or limit proposed events. Due to the potentially intrusive nature of such events (noise, traffic etc), strict conditions must be applied to limit impacts upon neighbouring properties and other users. It is recommended that exclusive use events not be held on consecutive weekends or public holiday periods.
- **Boat Wash Down Facility** – this Plan of Management authorises the development of a boat wash-down facility within Governor Phillip Park.
- **Jetty** – This Plan of Management authorises the development of a jetty at Governor Phillip Park, on South Creek, adjacent to the existing pontoon.
- **Events** – This Plan of Management authorises the use of all parks within this Plan, for cultural events. The nature and size of each event will influence which park, and location within each park, is most suitable for use and is to be determined by Council's Parks and Recreation Branch, guided by the core objectives for each category of land and each Master Plan. As a guide, the following existing events are permitted within each of these parks:
  - Howe Park – International Sand Sculpture Competition and Exhibition. This event has occurred each January since 2012, for a period of 4 weeks, along the bank of the Hawkesbury River at Howe Park
  - Thompson Square – Live Entertainment coordinated by the Macquarie Arms Hotel. Specific conditions for this lease/licence must include cessation of noise by 4pm and be valid for no longer than 12 months, after which a new licence is required. Any approval must be consistent with the requirements for Crown Lands under the Crown Lands Act 1989.
  - Hollands Paddock – Events such as Carols by Candle Light, and the Blues and Roots Festival would be appropriate to hold within this park.
  - Macquarie Park – large scale events such as car rallies and motorcycle displays are appropriate for Macquarie Park, which has a larger capability in terms of open space

provision. Macquarie Park is also appropriate for events relating to kayak use – see below.

- Stage - This Plan of Management Authorises Council to construct a low stage, without a permanent awning, within Hollands Paddock subject to the relevant development approvals and the Master Plan.
- Camping – This Plan of Management authorises camping at Deerubbin Park in relation to the Blues and Roots Festival.
- Rest-a-while – This Plan of Management authorises the development and use of Macquarie Park as a Rest-a-while camping site. Overnight stays are to be limited to one night and must be in the designated area only.
- Canoe Trips/Races – This Plan of Management authorises the use of Macquarie Park for activities relating to canoe or kayak events. Activities related to canoe hire are permitted within this park.
- Girl Guide Hall – This Plan of Management authorises the use of the Hall within Hollands Paddock for activities associated with the Girl Guides. Sublease for the purpose of community meetings is permitted. Currently the Girl Guides Association (NSW) has been granted licence to use this hall, however considering the long term nature of use, a formal lease is recommended. Specific conditions should be included in the lease and may include:
  - Ongoing maintenance is the responsibility of the lessee/licensee;
  - The area is kept clean and tidy
  - Sub-lease for the purpose of community meetings is permitted
- Observation Deck - The observation deck attached to the Windsor Riverview Shopping Centre is part of Holland's Paddock community land and is categorised as Park. This Plan of Management authorises the granting of a lease or licence that is consistent with the core objectives for land categorised as Park and may include activities such as dining. Note that the maximum term of the lease cannot exceed 5 years unless granted by Tender or to a non-profit organisation. The approval for leases or licences must include specific conditions such as:
  - Ongoing maintenance is the responsibility of the lessee/licensee;
  - The area is kept clean with regular maintenance to fixtures including lighting, pavement, tables and chairs and potted plants
  - Public access is maintained during and outside food court operational hours
  - The area is to remain free of private advertisements
- Shade Structure – This Plan of Management authorises the construction of permanent and/or temporary shade structures over the observation deck at Hollands Paddock for the purpose of providing shelter for people from the sun or weather, subject to relevant building approvals.
- Water Storage Tanks
  - Water storage tanks are installed below the observation deck at Hollands Paddock. They take roof runoff from the adjoining shopping centre. This Plan of Management authorises the granting of a lease for the use of water from the tanks, for the purpose of maintaining Hollands Paddock and/or Howe Park.
  - The large water tank located at Howe Park is sitting on land owned by Sydney Water Inc. Sydney Water Inc have discussed with Council staff the likely decommissioning and removal of the water tank within Howe Park. Should this occur, this Plan recommends that the land parcels currently owned by Sydney Water be transferred to Council's ownership once their infrastructure has been removed.
- Memorials – There are currently a large number of memorials/commemorative plaques etc within the river foreshore parks and reserves. To minimise the contribution of new memorials to visual clutter, new memorials/plaques will only be considered/approved if they are installed as part of the existing or new infrastructure and remain for the life of that infrastructure. For example, trees, park benches or picnic shelters with dedication plaques.



- Irrigation infrastructure – The existing private irrigation infrastructure within Deerubbin Park is inconsistent with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 – i.e. is not permitted on community land.
  - Within Deerubbin Park, any future upgrades of pump infrastructure or new infrastructure must be relocated to the road reserve within the park and that portion of park between the end of the road reserve and the river. This portion of community land is recommended to be reclassified as operational land for this purpose, following appropriate public hearing requirements, separate to this Plan of Management process.

### 3.9 CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Hawkesbury LGA is an area rich in cultural heritage and conservation areas. The character of the area has been greatly influenced by its natural, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal culture.

This study area is no exception. Many of the parks and reserves reflect this heritage and allow scope for a more integrated interpretation strategy aligning with the route of the Great River Walk.

Information about cultural heritage for this Plan has been summarised from the advice prepared for the original 2009 Plan of Management and from recent studies covering the area that will be affected by the future potential replacement of Windsor Bridge, including portions of Thompsons Square, Howe Park, Windsor Wharf Reserve and to some extent Macquarie Park. More detailed information, including archaeological investigations, can be found in the RMS published Windsor Bridge Replacement Project EIS - Volumes 1 and 2, November 2012.

The 2012 LEP provides for the conservation of heritage items and requires consent for certain works within or adjacent to conservation items or areas. It is consistent with the Heritage Act 1977. These should be referred to prior to any proposed works potentially affecting heritage items within these parks and reserves.

#### Aboriginal Heritage

##### Contextual Information

The Hawkesbury LEP 2012, produced in accordance with the EP&A Act, makes provision for the conservation of archaeological sites, Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places of heritage significance. There are no Aboriginal heritage listings in the LEP that relate to the Study Area, however archaeological research conducted in the Windsor area indicates significant, intact archaeological deposits, with high artefact densities. These discoveries and the potential of more findings in the area will open the possibility to understand more about the original custodians of the area and their complex culture.

In addition to protection of Aboriginal heritage under the LEP, The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 provides protection for Aboriginal objects (sites, relics, human remains and cultural material) and Aboriginal places. Under Section 90 of the NPW Act, it is an offence to knowingly destroy, deface, damage or desecrate, or cause or permit the destruction, defacement, damage or desecration of, an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place, without the prior written consent from the Director-General of the DECC. It is also an offence, under Section 86 of the NPW Act, to disturb or excavate land for the purpose of discovering an Aboriginal object, or disturb or move an Aboriginal object on any land, without first obtaining a permit (Preliminary Research Permit, Excavation Permit, Collection Permit or Rock Art Recording Permit) under Section 87 of the NPW Act. Under Section 91 of the NPW Act, it is also a requirement to notify the Director-General of the DECC of the location of an Aboriginal object. Identified Aboriginal items and sites are registered with the DECC on its AHIMS Register.

There is currently a native Title Claim over a large portion of western Sydney, including the Windsor area. This claim (NC97/8) was brought by the Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation (DTAG) and remains unresolved, though has been amended (reduced) to a core area from its original extent. Since lodgement, the DTAC has split into several groups such that Darug descendants are now represented primarily by the DTAG, the Darug Custodians Aboriginal Corporation (DCAC) and Darug

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessments (DACHA). These organisations are routinely involved in cultural heritage matters in the western Sydney area.

The 1983 NSW Land Rights Act established a system of Aboriginal land councils with administrative boundaries across the state. These land councils have a statutory responsibility “to promote the protection of Aboriginal culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons” and also routinely participate in cultural heritage work. The land council covering the study area is the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council (DLALC).

### History

Before European settlement, the Hawkesbury was home to a large Aboriginal population, known as the Darug, who occupied the land for up to 14,000 years before European Settlement. Their lifestyle was supported by the abundant resources in the area, particularly the Hawkesbury River.

The first contact between Europeans and the local Aboriginal people was when Governor Phillip initially explored the area in 1791. As new arrivals settled the floodplain, conflict gradually intensified as the spread of settlement denied Aboriginal people access to resources and their spiritual areas.

Aboriginal people attempted to live in or retain access to their traditional country by camping on local properties and working for local farmers as well as sometimes managing their own farms. However, by the late 1800s, many were moved to specially create Aboriginal reserves, particularly the one located at Lower Portland.

### *Potential Impacts on Archaeological Remains*

Flooding is the major impact to affect the study area before and after the arrival of Europeans. Flood events are known to have scoured riverbank areas on a regular basis, removing evidence of Aboriginal occupation from some areas and dispersing and depositing this evidence to other areas. In some instances, deposition of sediments has helped to preserve and protect evidence of Aboriginal occupation, with many layers of alluvial sediments at least several metres thick.

Along the southern bank of the Hawkesbury River, east of Rickaby's Creek, the area is underlain with tertiary alluvium. This older alluvium corresponds to the higher ground on which the Windsor township was developed. A large orange/red sandy deposit of several metres thickness which has been shown to contain substantial quantities of Aboriginal Artefacts occurs somewhere between the northern terrace and the riverbank.

The soils within the study area are weakly to strongly acidic in nature and therefore organic material of archaeological nature (eg animal or human bone, plant materials) are unlikely to remain. However gravels known as “Rickabys Creek Gravels” occur within these deposits and include a range of stone raw materials known to have been used by Aboriginal people (eg silcrete, chert, quartz, quartzite).

Another major impact on archaeological remains in the area is that of post-settlement modifications. The study area landscape has undergone large scale excavations such as that which occurred in Macquarie Park and Thompson Square. Much of this sand/soil was removed, in other cases, used in filling and reshaping activities. In some instances, fill from outside the area may have been brought in. Recent test pits in Thompson Square indicate that material in the fill used to level the site included artefacts from as late as the 1950s and included Aboriginal midden material.

### *Known / Predicted Archaeological Remains in the Area*

In the Windsor area stone artefacts are the most likely evidence that would be found, either on the surface or in buried deposits and in varying degrees of density and integrity (no rock shelters exist in the study area). There is also some chance that culturally modified (carved or marked) trees may survive but these would have to be at least 100-150 years old. Other remains may be the buried remnants of cooking or heating fires in the form of charcoal concentrations or stone lined hearths.

A recent investigation relating to the proposed upgrade/replacement of the Windsor Bridge confirmed the presence of subsurface Aboriginal archaeological material. The majority of recovered artefacts

comprised flaked debitage (the waste flakes from creating stone tools). There were also modified cobbles of quartzite or their fragments. One igneous flake, probably off an edge ground hatchet head, was also identified. The test excavations (North and South of the river) revealed a total of 191 stone items considered to be Aboriginal artefacts. Two test pits within Thompson Square revealed most of the artefacts – 114 stone artefacts were found within an intact sand layer, near George Street and above the 100 year flood level. An additional 64 artefacts were found in a mid-slope test square below the 100 year flood level, within a layered grey humic sandy deposit mixed in with historical material. The archaeological material included a disturbed Aboriginal shell midden, possibly redeposited during historic times.

The area of the southern bank is considered to have a higher archaeological significance than the northern bank due to the greater densities of artefacts found and the greater potential for intact artefacts to occur. The significance of the archaeological deposit is linked to the presence of sand bodies and is influenced by the extent of soil disturbance.

In addition there are several other 'types' of Aboriginal heritage which may be present to a degree within the study area. These relate to evidence of post-European contact Aboriginal use of the land (for example the memorial gardens at Macquarie Park); there may also be places of known Aboriginal historical and/or cultural association for which no physical remains are likely to have survived (eg fishing places). Finally there may be places of cultural/spiritual significance to Aboriginal people which may (eg ceremonial grounds) or may not contain constructed physical remains.

#### *Cultural Significance*

Conclusions from the Aboriginal stakeholder consultations held as part of the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project's Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report identified that the area has a strong cultural heritage value to the local Aboriginal community. No specific places or items were identified; however there is a general connection with every element of "country".

Some of the Aboriginal cultural heritage values expressed by stakeholders include:

- Strong association with the land.
- Responsibility to look after the land, including the heritage sites, plants and animals, creeks and the land itself.
- Artefact sites, especially the high value site associated with the Windsor Museum.
- Historic Aboriginal and European interactions within Windsor.
- Landscape features especially the sand bodies along the Hawkesbury River.
- Indigenous plants and animals.
- General concern for burials, as their locations are not always known and they can be found anywhere.

#### Conclusions and Recommendations

On the basis of the above information it could be anticipated that:

- Aboriginal *archaeological* remains which may occur within the study area are likely to be restricted to stone artefacts in varying densities in surface or subsurface soils. In addition, remains of fireplaces (hearthstones, charcoal) may also be identified. There is little chance that trees of sufficient age to bear scars of possible Aboriginal cultural origin will be present within the study area.
- All of the study area can be considered to retain some degree of Aboriginal archaeological potential. As far as the tertiary terrace deposit extends towards the river through Windsor Township (at least to around Baker Street), this potential is likely to be restricted to the top 20-30cm of any remaining original topsoil which survives in these areas. The remaining portions of the study area may contain similar archaeological deposits as well as evidence of older occupation at greater depth, as suggested by the Windsor Museum excavations. As such, any subsurface impacts may adversely impact Aboriginal archaeological remains.
- Aboriginal associations with the study area are unlikely to be of a nature which would preclude plans for recreational facilities within the study area, but may provide opportunities for interpretive displays or other means of telling the Aboriginal story of the area (e.g. public art).



There do not appear to be any documented areas of traditional spiritual or cultural significance within the study area, and it is considered unlikely that further Aboriginal consultation will lead to the identification of any such places (given the amount of Aboriginal community consultation, particularly in recent years, which has been undertaken in the Windsor area).

In the event of proposed developments within the Windsor foreshore parks and reserves, the following approach is recommended:

1. Consultation with the local Aboriginal community in relation to any proposed works in the study area should be initiated as early in the planning process as possible to facilitate the early identification of Aboriginal heritage issues from their perspective, as well as to investigate the possibility for appropriate representation/interpretation of the Aboriginal history of the area.
2. An archaeological field survey focussing on specific areas of proposed impact should be undertaken by a suitable qualified archaeologist in conjunction with representatives of the local Aboriginal community. This would be likely to result in the location of any surface evidence of Aboriginal occupation (stone artefacts, culturally modified trees) and a targeted and more detailed assessment of subsurface archaeological potential.
3. Dependent on the above field assessment, it could be anticipated that some areas of the study area may require archaeological test excavation to determine the presence/absence, extent and significance of any subsurface Aboriginal archaeological deposit and the nature of any constraint it may pose to proposed works (e.g. path construction). Any such excavations would need to be undertaken by a suitable qualified archaeologist in conjunction with representatives of the local Aboriginal community under an appropriate National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974 s87 Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit.
4. Planning for works within the study area should include consideration of the interpretive potential of the area in terms of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal history and heritage. Any planning for Aboriginal heritage interpretation should involve consultation with local Aboriginal community organisations to establish the appropriate form for such interpretation to take.

As noted above, the established Aboriginal stakeholders for the subject land are the DLALC, DTAC, DCAC and DACHA. These organisations have been consulted on all archaeological assessments and excavations in adjacent areas.

### European Heritage

The Hawkesbury LEP 2012, produced in accordance with the EP&A Act, makes provision for the conservation of the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas, including associated fabric, settings and views and the conservation of archaeological sites. The LEP is consistent with the requirements of The Heritage Act 1977.

Within the Study Area, two land parcels comprising Thompson Square are listed and mapped as belonging to part of the State Heritage listed Thompsons Square Conservation Area. Immediately adjacent to Howe Park, Windsor Wharf Reserve and Thompson Square, there are many other heritage items that would offer significant opportunities for interpretation along the route of the Great River Walk (See Figure 3.13).

Many of the parks within the Study Area contain plaques or monuments that acknowledge early European heritage of the area and many of the parks are named after significant people that have greatly influenced the development of the early township of Windsor.

Following is a summary of known history of the area, particularly Thompson Square, Windsor Wharf Reserve and to a more limited extent, Macquarie Park. Information for this section was mainly sourced from the working paper of the EIS for the proposed Windsor Bridge Upgrade Project and studies commissioned as part of the 2009 Windsor Foreshore Parks Plan of Management.

### Green Hills 1795 – 1800

This settlement at Green Hills, now Windsor Township, is the third oldest within the colony after Sydney and Parramatta. Governor Arthur Phillip, the first governor of the British Colony of New South Wales, explored the Hawkesbury River in 1789 with the view to finding suitable areas for food

production. Although permanent settlement of the land around Windsor was prohibited due to the distance from Sydney, Lieutenant Governor Grose granted land to 22 men and their families in 1794 that had already established farms around the Pitt Town Bottoms area, north-east of the present town of Windsor, with a few located on South Creek close to the confluence with the Hawkesbury River. (Note the monument at Governor Phillip Reserve retelling this history). Another 96 grants were issued within the first year of settlement and the area became known as "Green Hills /Mulgrave Place".

In 1795, the creation of stores, wharf and small garrison provided the focus for an administrative settlement centered on the now Windsor Wharf Reserve and Thompson Square area. By 1799 the settlement also featured a temporary barracks and in the ensuing years additional public and civil buildings were erected including additional military accommodation and a weatherboard Government House.

### Windsor, a Macquarie Town

In 1810, Governor Macquarie toured the region, where he identified five favourable sites, above flood level, for the establishment of townships to accommodate the settlers whose farms were liable to be flooded. One of the sites was at the already established village of Green Hills, where Macquarie laid out the new town of Windsor, extending to a new town square to the east of the village, and incorporating the village of Green Hills.

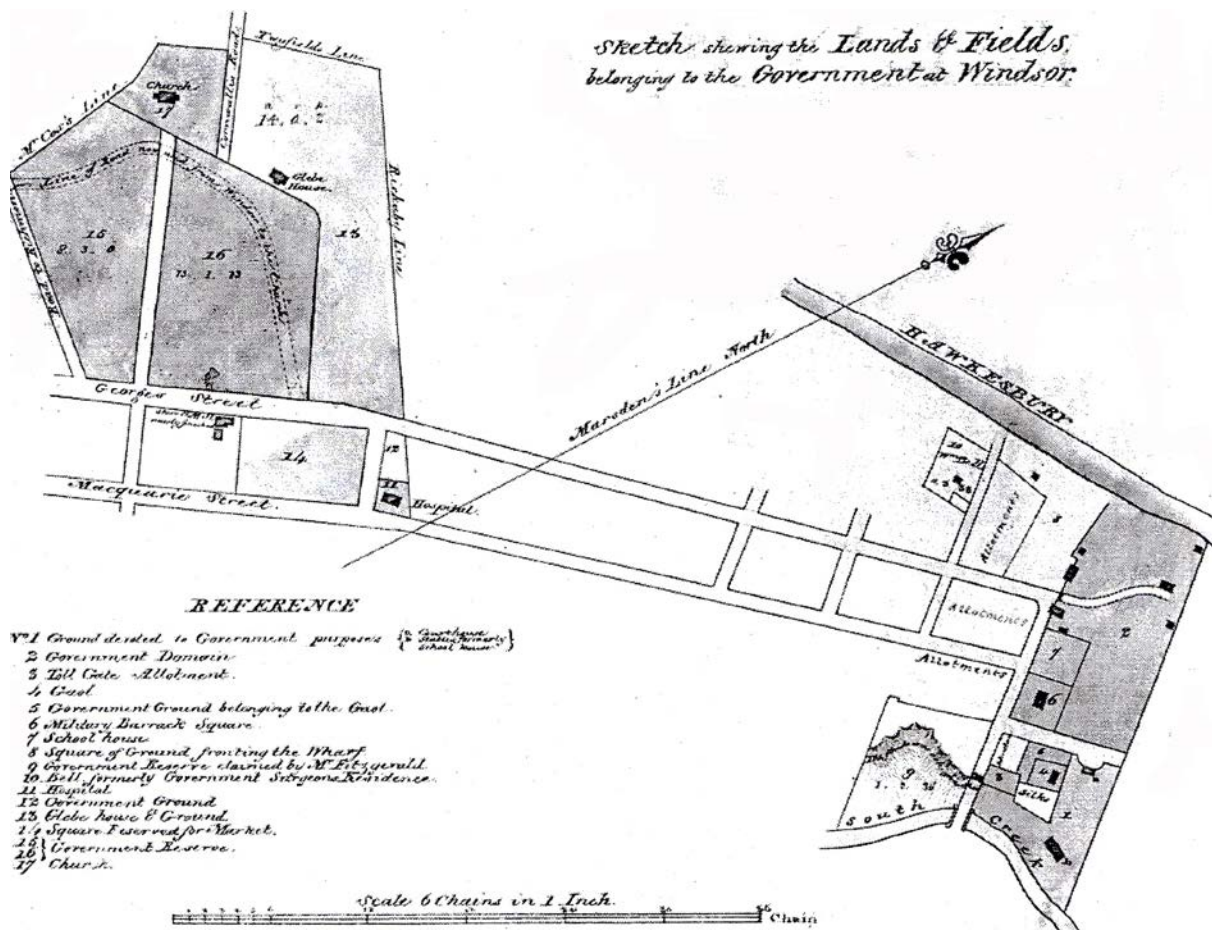


Figure 3.9: Early Government Landuse at Windsor

Drawing titled *Lands & fields belong to the Government at Windsor* (c.1825). Plan shows early Government landuse at Windsor with development concentrations between South Creek and Thompson Square (North Windsor) and the St Matthew's Church and Glebe. SRNSW AO Reel Surveyors Sketch Books Vol. 1

Macquarie ensured that his towns were well planned with surveyed streets, building sites and town square(s). Amongst the works instigated by Macquarie, were:

- Wharf (1817) designed by Francis Greenway
- Bridge over South Creek (1813)
- Toll house
- Military barracks (1817)
- Convict barracks - later a hospital (1820)
- St Matthews Anglican Church

Macquarie also issued directives relating to residential dwellings which called for all dwellings to be not less than three metres high and constructed universally of brick or weatherboard with brick chimneys and shingle roofs.

### Thompson Square

Thompson Square, named by Governor Macquarie in 1810 when he extended the boundaries of Green Hills to create Windsor, is located on the sloping southern bank of the Hawkesbury River and overlies an area that was used intensively by the inhabitants of Green Hills prior to and after its inclusion into the new town of Windsor. Thompson Square has continuously been used as an open public space for over 200 years, although its boundaries and size have been modified in that time.

Macquarie's Thompsons Square was a fraction of the size of the earlier civic space and became a more formalised space, consistent with other squares established within each Macquarie Town. The township of Windsor was unique in that it contained a new large town square close to the church and schools in the east, as well as the smaller town square of Thompsons square which was already existing and functioning as a civic space.

On 12 January 1811 Macquarie recorded in his diary that after he marked out the Glebe;

*" I walked over the whole of the present village of Green Hills forming the beginning or basis for the town of Windsor, in which I planned a square and several new streets;....The square in the present town I have named Thompson Square in honor of the memory of the good and worthy late Andrew Thompson Esqr...who may justly be said to be the father and founder of the village hitherto known by the name of Green Hills; there being hardly a vestige of a single building here, excepting the Government Granary, when he first came to reside on the Green Hills ten years ago. I had a post erected this afternoon in Thompson Square having a board nailed thereon with the name painted on it in large characters..."<sup>3</sup>*

The original civic space, from which Thompson Square was derived, was first used by people to access the river and to store produce. It is considered Australia's earliest remaining civic square. As mentioned earlier, it was the focus of almost all the principal government buildings of the early settlement. The relationship to the river and an anchorage there established this place as the direct link between the agricultural settlement at Green Hills and Sydney.

From the 1830s, Thompson Square began to assume a more focused identity for the local community. From 1832 it became the site of a weekly market. Less desirably it was also the possible site of public stocks.

Thompson Square retained its importance to town life up until the decline of river traffic in the later years of the nineteenth century. By the late 1880s, the effects of almost a century of deforestation in the catchment led to the siltation of the river and the shipping channel to Windsor was no longer navigable for large vessels. The rail line, established in 1864, took on a more prominent role and many businesses and government agencies expanded to other parts of Windsor. Thompson Square, however, continued to be a thoroughfare for land and river transport up to the present day, and it was from this time that it was landscaped and it has become increasingly valued for its aesthetic and picturesque qualities.

The Square embodies the history of the town and gives it a sense of place and identity, as evidenced by the many postcard photos and illustrations of Windsor over the years. It is a place used for many community activities and is a valued destination for tourists.



Thompson Square Reserve has seen a lot of physical change over the last 218 years. Originally there was a densely vegetated, steep and uneven descent to the river from a ridgeline along what is now George Street. The bank was subject to erosion and deposition of flood material. Since the early settlement, vegetation was extensively removed and the land form of present-day Thompson Square was actively shaped to allow tracks to be made to a punt and wharf. A summary of key developments is listed below:

Table 3.5 : Key Developments at Thompson Square

Date	Development	Description
1795	Wharf	The first wharf was built in 1795, evidence of which may be preserved in deep deposits of fill at the northern end of Thompson Square and within the river. This site is possibly located within the area of the present Windsor Bridge, constructed towards the centre of a sandy inlet. It is believed that the wharf probably ran out into the river.
1795	Timber Store	The first timber store was built approximately 20m from the river but swept away by floods shortly after.
Early 1800s	Boat-slip	a boat-slip or dry dock may have existed on the eastern side of the wharf extending from the river up the slope in the general area of Old Bridge Street or on the eastern side of the reserve.
Early 1800s	Road	a road ran through the reserve down to the wharf, generally down the alignment of Old Bridge Street. It is visible in historic drawings and photographs. as early as the 1790s
1814	Ferry	a ferry was established to provide communication between the northern and southern sides of the river. It was privately operated and left from the wharf.
1815	Wharf	The original commercial wharf was replaced in 1815. Macquarie described this new structure: "A Large substantial wooden wharf or quay Constructed in the Centre of Town on the right Bank of the River Hawkesbury for the convenience of Vessels and Boats, trading to Windsor, and at which Quay Vessels of 100 tons burthen can load their Cargoes". The wharf ran along the shoreline rather than out into it as the earlier wharf or jetty appears to have done.
1815	Drain	A barrel drain was constructed through the reserve.
1832	Punt	The ferry service was taken over by the Government and was replaced by a punt operating on a cable. This was located on the alignment of the western boundary of the reserve.
1874	Bridge	The first bridge across the Hawkesbury was constructed, replacing the punt operation. It consisted of 11 spans and was 138 metres long.
1880s	Fencing and tree planting	The parkland areas within Thompson Square were fenced and ornamental plantings were undertaken. By the 1940s, the density of plantings, some of which appear to be self-seeded, had assumed an appearance not dissimilar to that present today,
1882	Pavilion	A pavilion was constructed within the reserve but was not popular with the local community. It was removed in 1904.
1882	Lighting	The a gas lamp was donated by an alderman to the reserve.
1897	Bridge upgrade	The Windsor Bridge was raised by 2.4 metres. The approach to the bridge was consequently filled
1897	Park upgrades	Seats were repaired and repainted and the reserve below Thompson Square was levelled by Council and trees and seats were added.
1922	Bridge upgrade	The Windsor Bridge was upgraded with concrete decking.
1934	Road cutting	The approaches to the bridge were realigned and reconstructed though Thompson Square to accommodate the requirements of motor traffic.. Although the reserve had been divided before by roads running diagonally across the reserve, down to the river, this road and cutting isolated the two portions of reserve, with the lower portion now difficult to access from the Township.

Date	Development	Description
1935	Park Upgrades	Plans to improve the appearance of the park included levelling the park, creating terraces and replanting it. Not much of this work was completed however it was reported in 1937 that pines and other plants had been put in the park.
1950s-1960s	Boat shed	A boat shed was constructed on the lower portion of the reserve in the 1950s but was removed in the 1960s. It is believed that it was built over part of the 1815 drain.
1980s	Wharf	A new timber wharf was constructed during the 1980s at the same location as the existing wharf. This wharf was removed in 2011.
Circa 1988	Monument and park upgrades	Installation of the Hawkesbury Pioneer Families Monument and other features such as picnic tables and chairs was undertaken as part of the lead up to the Sydney Bicentenary. Works included the roadway paving, fencing, turfing and reconstruction of sandstone kerbing.
2012	Wharf	A new steel wharf and pontoon was constructed in 2011-2012, however floods early in 2013 damaged the pontoon and it is currently removed, requiring repair.

Note: The specific location of many of these sites cannot be identified, meaning that the entire precinct must be treated as one of archaeological sensitivity.

Refer to the Heritage Assessment for the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project – Working Paper 1 of the EIS, for more detailed information about potential archaeological remains.

The Thompson Square Conservation precinct was nominated to the National Heritage List in February 2012. It is important for its archaeological evidence about the earliest uses of the place and the expansion of the colony. Thompson Square can not only provide evidence from the early period of development, but it has value as a cumulative profile of over two centuries of European occupation.

#### Roads

Evidence of roads and tracks through the square can be seen in images and surveys from as early as 1809. (See Figure 3.10, an extract from the Windsor Bridge replacement Project – Working Paper 1.)



Figure 3.10 Evidence of roads and tracks through Thompson Square  
(Extract from Working Paper 1 – Windsor Bridge Replacement Project EIS, 2012).

### Separate Reserves

The outcome of roads through the square was the delineation of two reserves or green spaces. This was even more evident after the construction of the cutting in 1934. The separate reserves were first gazetted in October 1899; the southern portion was Reserve 2990 and the northern portion Reserve 29901. Following the construction of the 1934 cutting through the reserve, and the creation of new land parcels, Thompson Square Reserve 74215 was created, which consisted of the northern portion only. It was reserved for public recreation on 18 May 1951, with the southern portion being added on 15 July 1998. Council was appointed Trust Manager.



Figure 3.11: 1890 Survey of Thompson Square – the two roads servicing the wharf and the bridge are clearly defined.

### Views



Views to and from Thompson Square have been captured in a variety of forms since its earliest use and are an important part of the cultural identity of Windsor today. Paintings from as early as 1907-1813, capture of images of the township of Green Hills / Windsor focused on Thompson Square and its immediate vicinity. Most views of the Square are from the north bank of the river looking toward the Square, however many views from the Square toward the river have also been captured.

Today, the large number of trees within the reserve and along both banks of the river, obscure views to and from the Square and disconnect the many historical elements of the area.

### Howe Park

Council had written to the Lands Department to request that "...all that piece of ground known as Thompson's Square, also the land along the banks of the river from Fitzgerald Street to the Punt House be invested in Council" (source – Sydney Morning Herald 21 March 1874).

River Park was proclaimed on 11 March 1887 for the purpose of public recreation. However it seems to only cover part of what is now Howe Park and remained Crown Land. Council was likely the Trust Manager. Howe Park was further Dedicated for the purpose of Public Recreation on 10 July 1959.



Figure 3.12: River Park proclaimed 1887

A summary of development is included below:

Table 3.6: Key developments at Howe Park

Date	Development	Description
1995	Landscaping	Works consisted of the construction of an observation platform, pergola, paved footpath and picnic tables and chairs.
1998 - 2002	Riverbank Restoration	In 1997-98, a grant was received for riverbank restoration works which included revegetation of the riverbank in the vicinity of the main picnic area. Works have continued to date with a limited budget, with weed control and maintenance of plantings.
2009	Concrete Path	The gravel path from the landscaping area to Rickabys Creek was upgraded to concrete
2010	Observation Deck	A new, Steel observation deck was installed to replace the

		dilapidated timber deck and boardwalk
2011	Footbridge	A concrete footbridge was constructed over Rickabys Creek affording the first crossing of Rickabys Creek to the western portion of Howe Park and Deerubbin park
2012-13	Landscaping	The intensive landscaped area was upgraded. Works consisted of: repaving the path and seating areas, replacement of the timber retaining wall with gabions, replacement of Arbour posts, new seating, picnic tables, BBQs, garden beds and placement of turf.
2012-13	Access	An all abilities access was constructed in the park at the end of Baker Street to allow access to the park.

### Windsor Wharf Reserve

Terrace Wharf Reserve, Reserve 77883, was gazetted on 19 August 1955 for the purpose of Public Recreation and Wharfage. This is the park known as Windsor Wharf Reserve.

### Macquarie Park

Part of Macquarie Park is dedicated for the purpose of public recreation on 7 December 1956, with Council as Trust Manager.

Following is the wording used in the sign at Macquarie Park titled "A brief History of Macquarie Park", erected in 1996.

*"On 22 July 1795, Richard Turner was granted 30 acres of land on the banks of the Hawkesbury River on the proviso that the land be farmed for at least five years. In 1798, the land was taken from him because he failed to fulfil this requirement. The new owner was Lieutenant Braithwaite who, after finding life in NSW not to his liking, returned to England. On his death in 1806, he bequeathed the proceeds from the farm to an orphan school. But the orphans never saw a penny of it, as a succession of Windsor solicitors secured their interest in the farm for over 100 years. Finally, in 1930, Torrens Title was granted to Captain Edmund Lawrence Braithwaite.*

*During this time, two major developments had a significant impact on the site. The advent of the motor car, and the opening of Windsor Bridge in 1874, enabled large numbers of people to access the beautiful sandy beach on the river's edge. The site became a popular picnic spot and remains so to this day.*

*Meanwhile, a local farmer, Frank Woods continued to farm the land, which he had leased from Albert Charles Hannabis in 1912. His attempts to run cattle and horses were thwarted by constant problems due to visitors leaving farm gates open and allowing his stock to stray. Bowing to the inevitable, Frank established the Macquarie Beach Picnic Ground. The photo below shows the bush huts constructed by Frank and his sons. If you look closely, you can see four small huts on the lower level, one small hut on the upper level (a kiosk) and another large hut that was big enough to provide shelter for 20 - 30 cars. The picnic grounds were very popular and flourished until Frank and his family were forced to leave, when the new title holder, Captain Braithwaite sold the land to Matthew Johnston in 1930.*

*Johnston constructed Macquarie Park House in 1930 and demolished the bush huts in favour of a more modern look. Floods caused extensive damage to his improvements and he soon mortgaged the land to a Wilberforce orchardist, James Salter. In 1932, floods once again devastated the area and this mortgage was discharged. Matthew Johnston then leased the grounds to Ann & Joyce Arnold who made a considerable investment in the park by constructing six cabins on the riverbank. Yet again, floods destroyed these hopes and dreams for Macquarie Park.*

*Records for the next few years are difficult to trace but the story begins again in the 1960s, when Jimmy Gough leased the land from Colo Council and developed a caravan park that served the district for over 10 years.*

*In the 1970s, Colo Council again took over the management of the area and closed the park due to flood damage to the banks. During the 1980s, Colo and Windsor Councils amalgamated to become Hawkesbury Shire Council, and undertook a series of improvements to enable Macquarie Park House to be used once again. The house was used as both a kiosk and an accommodation service for young people until a fire all but destroyed it in 1993. After the fire, Hawkesbury City Council fully refurbished the house for use as a restaurant. The photo below shows Macquarie Park House in 1997 with cafe downstairs and a popular seafood restaurant on the first floor."*

What the above historical account has not mentioned is that in the 1980s, Council leased a large part of the park to J. Gough for the purpose of sand extraction. The area affected is Lot 1 DP 606535 and may have also included Lot 7008 DP 1032358. Up to 4 metres depth of sand was removed from the site, tapering down to the water level on the western side. This explains the highly degraded nature of the site and is likely the catalyst for the 1988 landscape/restoration plan that Council developed and partially implemented.

A summary of development is below:

In 1994, Council successfully applied for grant funding from the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning under its Greenspace Program, for the Macquarie Park Enhancement Project. - Stage 1 The project was designed to restore Macquarie Park to a pleasant and safe recreational facility, while undertaking environmental restoration work on the banks of the Hawkesbury River. Additional funding from the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Trust and Council brought the total value of the project to \$125,000.

Stage 1 works consisted of: bank stabilisation plantings; walking paths; installation of cable fencing to restrict vehicle access to the riverbank; and formalisation of car parking. Works were undertaken in 1995/1996. This project led to a vast improvement in bank stability along this section of the River, where riverbank erosion was a major problem due the combined problem of unrestricted vehicular access to the sandy river banks and the effects of flood.

Stage 2 of the Macquarie Park Enhancement Project was undertaken in 1996/1997 with additional funding received under the Greenspace Program. The intention of this stage was to further develop the park as a regional recreational facility. Works consisted of further bank stabilisation and mass plantings, shade tree planting (40); design and construction of entry gates into the park; and placement of interpretive signage throughout the park, the themes being: history of the park, flora in the park, interesting views from the park, floods in the Hawkesbury and a general information sign about facilities in the park. The total budget for this stage of the project was \$25,000.

2010 and 2012 – The Playground has been upgraded and the roads/parking in that vicinity has been modified. Two shade structures with picnic tables and 1 BBQ were installed adjacent to the play area.



## Heritage on or near the proposed Great River Walk route

The following section provides a brief overview of the main heritage precincts and sites located on or near the proposed walking route.

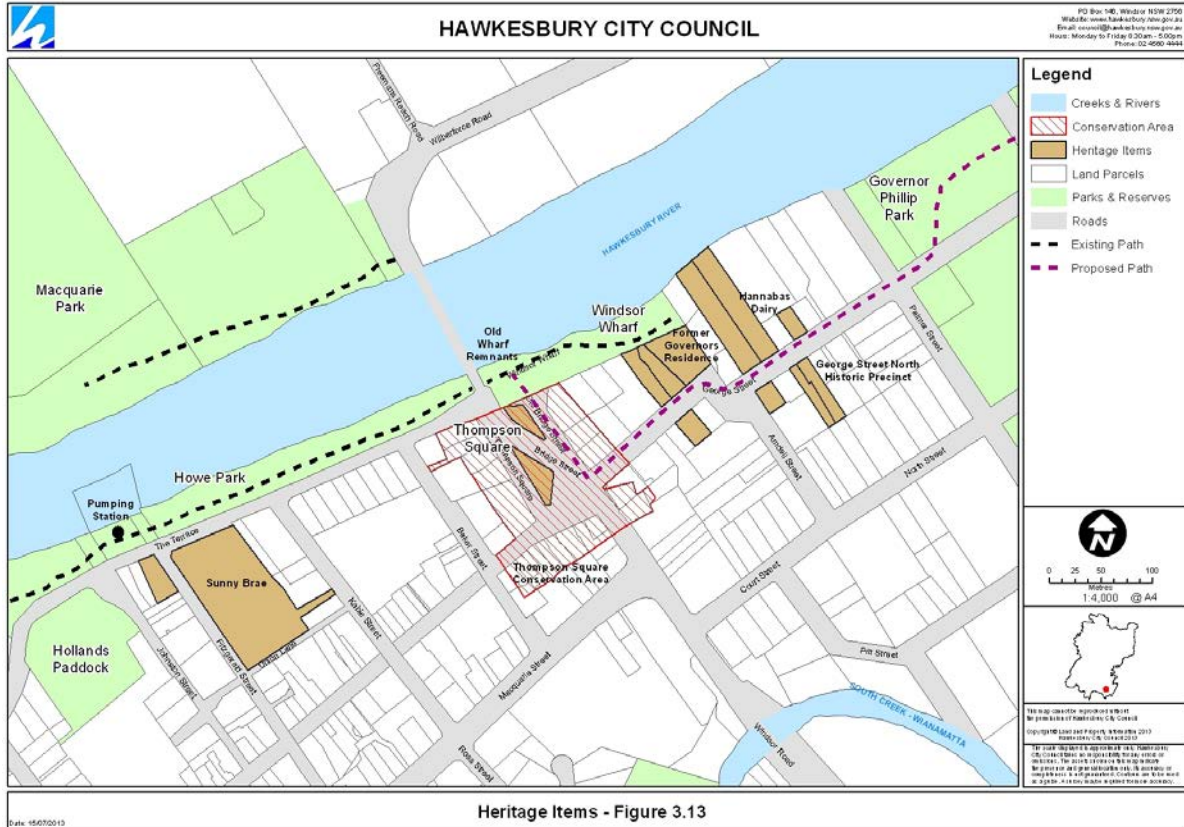





Figure 3.13: Great River Walk – Heritage on or near the GRW



Table 3.7: Heritage along the Great River Walk

Heritage Precinct/site	Item	Item Description	Street Address	Image
<b>George Street North Precinct</b>  (between Palmer Street and Thompson Square)	Hannabas Dairy Site	<p>Site includes two houses (25 &amp; 27 George Street), a milking shed, and a hay shed that was formerly occupied by two generations of the Hannabas (Hanna bas) family and used as a dairy. They grazed their cattle to the northeast of the property beyond Palmer Street.</p> <p>The oldest house is 27 George Street (built for Albert Hannabas) - a Late Victorian Cottage with a corrugated iron hipped roof and bullnose veranda. 25 George Street was built for Albert's son Dick and is an Inter-war brick house with a tiled roof.</p>	27 George Street	
	Villa	Victorian cottage villa constructed of rendered brick with a projecting front gable wing and bay window. The c.1891 residence also features decorative cast-iron veranda supports and frieze, scalloped barge boards and a gabled iron roof.	31 George Street	
	Cottage	Victorian cottage(c.1850s) - weatherboard with corrugated galvanized iron roof and picket fence.	32 George Street	
	Cottage	Victorian cottage (c.1850s) - part brick with corrugated galvanized iron roof and picket fence.	34 George Street	




Heritage Precinct/site	Item	Item Description	Street Address	Image
	Cottage	Brick cottage with a facade etched to look like ashlar/stone. The cottage was constructed in c.1850 and has twelve pane windows; a four panel front door; and a slightly curved veranda.	35 George Street	
	Cottage	Intact Victorian cottage (c.1890) with a bull-nose veranda and cast iron brackets. The cottage has a simple hipped iron roof and a basement, with a feature being the decorative ironwork (balustrades & brackets).	40 George Street	
	Government House Site	<p>This location was the site of 'Old Government House' (c.1798-1919). The building was used initially as a Commandant's quarters - then served as the Government house, magistrates' residence, and visiting Governor's accommodation. The structure was ultimately demolished.</p> <p>At present, the location features an intact c.1920s residence. The location is marked by an interpretive plaque.</p>	41 George Street	
	Cottage	Early Victorian cottage (c 1850s) – “typical Hawkesbury style and design”	43 George Street	
	Cottage	Early Victorian cottage (c 1850s) – “typical Hawkesbury style and design”	45 George Street	
			48 George Street	





Heritage Precinct/site	Item	Item Description	Street Address	Image
<b>Thompson Square Conservation Area</b>  (set between Old Bridge Street, The Terrace, George Street and Thompson Square)	The Doctor's House	This building is a Georgian terrace of two houses constructed of brick and raised on a stone basement. The exact date of construction is uncertain - it was used as a hotel in the late 1830s and possibly replaced an earlier hotel on the same site. The first doctor associated with the site, if not the building itself, was Dr Benjamin Clayton who had been apprenticed to colonial surgeon William Bland. Since the 1870s, the terrace has been associated with a string of doctors - the northernmost residence has been continuously used as a medical residence since 1903. Additions include a sympathetic service wing added to the northern terrace in the 1950s.	1-3 Thompson Square	
	Cottage	Near original, three-bay brick Georgian cottage. Constructed in c.1840 the cottage has corrugated iron roof, a balustrade/picket fence, and an old outbuilding.	5 Thompson Square	

Heritage Precinct/site	Item	Item Description	Street Address	Image
	House	Two storey Georgian house built of rendered masonry. The c.1843 building is five bays wide and has been previously used as an inn (Coffeys Inn). The balcony is a Victorian addition. The site was given as a two allotment to John Howe in 1811 and he is known to have lived at the site for 30 years. He worked for Andrew Thompson, was Chief Constable at Windsor (1813-1825); and was also a notable explorer. he is known to have run a pre-bridge punt service across the Hawkesbury River. The building was used to publish The Australian ( a weekly) between 1876 and 1899. It was most recently operated at the Hawkesbury Museum prior to its relocation to the rear of the property.	7 Thompson Square	
	Public Reserve	(Photo c 1897)	No address	
	Public Reserve		3 Old Bridge Street	
	House		8 Old Bridge Street	

**WINDSOR FORESHORE PARKS - DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT**

Heritage Precinct/site	Item	Item Description	Street Address	Image
	Building	Two story residence constructed in c.1856	10 Old Bridge Street	
	Former School of Arts	The School of Arts building was constructed at Thompson Square in 1862 after petitioning from the Windsor School of Arts Committee (formed in 1857). The building, which has more recent additions and steps attached to the frontage, was used for Arts until around 1915. It was sold to Enoch Taylor who used the place as a boot factory in 1947. More recently, it has housed a music school.		
	Cottage and Shops	A colonial cottage (corner of George & Bridge Streets) and row of shops (including Ridgely Didge Pies & Aldos Pizza). The latter was formerly a c.1840 single story Georgian Terrace rebuilt to accommodate shops.	62-68 George Street	








Heritage Precinct/site	Item	Item Description	Street Address	Image
	Former Garage	Former Hawkesbury garage site - now Stir Crazy noodle bar, Akuntuka burger bar, & Gloria Jeans.	70-72 George Street	
	AC Stearn Building		74 George Street	
			80-82 George Street	
	Macquarie Arms Hotel	The Macquarie Hotel is a large Georgian Hotel constructed by Henry Kitchen for emancipist Richard Fitzgerald in 1815. The structure is of 'exceptional' significance and represents one of the most intact and sophisticated examples of pre-1820 colonial commercial construction in NSW. It is possibly the oldest building that has been used as a hotel in Australia, but it has not been continually licensed. The history of the hotel is extensive and includes a period of use in the 1830s by army officers stationed at Windsor during which time it was referred to as the 'Mess House'. During the 1870s the Hotel traded under the name the 'Royal Hotel'. It was re-badged as the Macquarie Arms in 1961.	81 George Street	
			84 George Street	
<b>Fitzgerald Street</b> (at intersection with The Terrace)			1 Fitzgerald Street	
	Paine House, 'Sunny Brae'		12 Fitzgerald Street	

### Miscellaneous Items

The following table lists heritage items that are on or near the proposed route but may be visible from it (i.e. landmark features)

Table 3.8: Heritage items visible from the GRW route

Item	Item Description	Image
<p><b>Peninsula House (Tebbutt's Observatory)</b></p> <p><i>Site not on route but visible at end of Palmer Street from Governor Phillip Reserve</i></p>	<p>Site that comprises a two storey Georgian style house of sandstock brick (1845) , and garden containing two observatories (1864; 1869). House built for John Tebbutt senior free migrant, farmer and storekeeper at Windsor. Observatories relate to his son, John Tebbutt junior who was a private astronomer and a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. He achieved sudden international fame when he was the first to discover the great comet of 1861. Tebbutt descendants still own the property.</p>	
<p><b>Windsor Bridge</b></p> <p><i>Windsor Bridge (MR 182) over the Hawkesbury River.</i></p>	<p>This bridge, constructed in the 1870s by Turnbull and Dixon, has eleven spans. The deck is of reinforced concrete formed in two longitudinal sections - each with four integral beams. The deck is typically supported on piers formed of two cast iron cylinders with cross bracing which have been raised to their present level by the addition of 2.4 m (8 feet) sections of caisson.</p> <p>This Bridge may be removed if the new Windsor Bridge is constructed due to its poor structural integrity</p>	

Item	Item Description	Image
<p><b>St Matthew's Anglican Church, Rectory, Stables &amp; Cemetery</b></p> <p><i>Site not on route but church bell-tower is highly visible from southern part of proposed walk. Located at the corner of Moses Street and Greenway Crescent.</i></p>	<p>The church is a Georgian building constructed in c.1817 entirely by convict labour using sandstock bricks and sandstone. The dominant element is a sculptural square tower with octagonal cupola, axially arranged with a rectangular nave and semi circular apse. The builder was William Cox; the designer Francis Greenway or Standish Harris (as the Government Architect).</p>	
<p><b>Water Elevated Reservoir (WS0140)</b></p> <p><i>Site not on route but visible on Fitzgerald Street</i></p>	<p>Elevated water storage constructed by John F. Sharkey for Windsor Council in 1889. Site comprises a cast iron reservoir on a tubular pipe frame in association with an unusual water filtering system including a concrete settling tank.</p>	
<p><b>Windsor Water Pumping Station (WPS62)</b></p> <p><i>Sited on the proposed walking route, riverside, near the junction of Terrace Road and Fitzgerald Street.</i></p>	<p>Water pumping station constructed in 1960 and decommissioned in the 1970s. A riverside landmark, the structure is a good example of a large reinforced concrete electrical pumping station with a direct river source.</p>	



## Heritage Interpretation along the Great River Walk

The following section outlines some potential European cultural heritage interpretation opportunities on and off-path.

### Background

The township of Windsor has been the subject of informal and semi-directed heritage walking tours since at least the 1970s. These walks focus on the principal heritage buildings and historic locations in the Windsor township - some of which are interpreted on-site (with plaques and placards) others of which have no or very limited interpretation.

Appropriate interpretation has the ability to provide a tangible connection between people, place and the past and there appears to be an opportunity with the proposed walk to establish a consolidated interpretive regime along the length of the proposed walk.

Interpretation need not be in the form of signs and plaques, but may also include downloadable material/audio files accessible from mobile devices. Refer to Council's Interpretive Signage and Public Art Policy.

### Themes & Locations

Historically, Windsor is focused on the Hawkesbury River with settlement and industry set primarily on its banks and elevated high-ground nearby. This section of the proposed walk is set mainly along the river bank, however from the walk there is opportunity to interpret much of the towns history and landscape.

### River

The river was the focus of activity for Aborigines and white settlers alike in the post-contact period and served as a transport corridor, means of communication, and a food, recreation, and water resource.

The open-space reserve areas which have river vistas (especially Governor Phillip Reserve and Macquarie Park) would appear to be good locations from which to provide general interpretation of the river and its history. Being large open areas with little infrastructure, a range of interpretive media would be appropriate including such things as information boards and low level plaques.

It is noted that South Creek was an important location for Aboriginal people in the post-contact period and that there existed a post-contact clan group referred to as the 'South Creek Tribe'. The location at which South Creek joins the Hawkesbury at the end of Governor Phillip Reserve may be an appropriate location to interpret this history.

### River Bank

The riverbank was the focal point for early industry on the Hawkesbury including boat building, milling and grain storage, and riverside infrastructure such as wharves and jetties (and more recently the Windsor Bridge).

Much of the earliest activity was focused on the riverside portion of Thompson Square (Howe Park / Windsor Wharf Reserve). Although this area is much altered there exists opportunity for interpretation:

- Remnants of an early timber wharf exist in Windsor Wharf Reserve
- Flood history (there are numerous flood records and depictions of historic flooding at Windsor)

Further south into Howe Park:

- Boatbuilding was undertaken on the riverbank - Charles Beasley, for instance, built the ship Windsor in 1811 at the bottom of Fitzgerald Street
- A decommissioned water pumping station (c.1960s) at the junction of The Terrace and Fitzgerald Street is a highly visible remnant of Council provision of utility services

### High-ground

High-ground above the major floodlines was the focus of settlement, commerce and administrative infrastructure.

The most significant area is **Thompson Square**, an acknowledged conservation area comprising a town square with historic residential and commercial buildings about. This location is already partly interpreted but overall interpretation is difficult given both the slope of the land and the dissected nature of the locale. That said, there remain discreet opportunities for a range of interpretive locations and strategies - principally focused on the square (an early example of insightful town planning) and the commercial buildings around it including the Doctors House and the Macquarie Arms Hotel. The proposed new Windsor Bridge will provide opportunity for interpretation also, particularly in the consolidation of the park and landscaping materials/design.

The other important high-ground area is the **George Street North Precinct** which comprises a cluster of intact houses spanning a number of historic periods as well as the sites of Old Government House (represented by 41 George Street but formerly extending beyond it as the Governor's domain) and the Hannabas Dairy (23-27 George Street).

This is a residential neighbourhood and interpretive strategies for the area would have to be carefully considered and presumably be low-key. It would appear to be best to interpret the precinct rather than the individual items - with the possible exception of the Governor's residence site (already marked with a commemorative plaque) and the former dairy.

It is also noted that historic houses are present on both sides of the George Street (which is dog-legged) and that there are presently few areas to cross over it safely. Interpretive strategies and locations should bear this in mind.

### Other

Other opportunities for interpretation relate not directly to proposed path route but to 'hidden history' and items visible only at a distance.

- Archaeological excavation in the vicinity of the Hawkesbury Regional Museum has revealed large numbers of Aboriginal objects stone artefacts providing tangible evidence of Aboriginal life near the river. There may be opportunity for 'tie-in' interpretation focusing on the area's buried history, as well as providing a connection to the nearby museum which thematically interprets local history.
- Items which impose themselves on the skyline along the proposed walk include the 1880s elevated water reservoir in Fitzgerald Street (visible from Howe Park) and the imposing spire of St Matthews Anglican Church (c.1810s) which is visible from Macquarie and Deerubbin Parks.

### Interpretation Plan

It is considered advisable that a specific interpretation plan be developed for this section of the GRW. The development proponent should consult with the Hawkesbury City Council's heritage advisor on both the nature of the interpretive scheme adopted for the walking track and its presentation (media; appropriateness; location of interpretive points). It is also advised to work in collaboration with the cultural services division to provide an integrated strategy for all of Windsor. All interpretative materials must comply with the 2010 Interpretive Signage and Public Art Policy and the draft Interpretive Signage Guide, 2011.

An Interpretation Plan is a document that provides the policies, strategies and detailed advice for interpreting a heritage item. It is based on research and analysis and plans to communicate the significance of the item, both during a conservation project and in the ongoing life of the item. The plan identifies key themes, storylines and audiences and provides recommendations about interpretation media. It includes practical and specific advice about how to implement the plan.

Refer NSW Heritage Branch guidelines Heritage Interpretation Policy at <http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/docs/interpretationpolicy.pdf>

### 3.10 ENVIRONMENT

Windsor town centre is sited on a ridge of the Hawkesbury River floodplain. The riparian corridor is subject to flood events which disturb plant communities and cause erosion and deposition along the riverbanks.

Historically, much of the vegetation along the riverbanks was cleared within the early years of settlement. Although there has been some regrowth of native vegetation, much of the native vegetation existing within the Foreshore Parks today has been planted under various revegetation schemes and is heavily infested by weeds in many locations.

Revegetation works have been concentrated along Howe Park and Macquarie Park with the main incentive being the stabilisation of the river banks. One consequence of this is the narrowing or elimination of views to and from these reserves. Tree species include River She Oaks (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*) and Parramatta Wattle (*Acacia parramattensis*). Exotic trees and shrubs such as Willow and Green Cestrums dominate much of the remaining riparian zone. Riverside areas at Windsor Wharf Reserve, Howe Park adjacent to Deerubbin Park and along Rickaby's Creek are heavily dominated by weeds.

In general, the existing vegetation is in poor condition. There is little species diversity within the vegetation and it is not expected to support a high diversity or abundance of native fauna species that rely upon high quality habitat or large remnants. It is therefore regarded as having low ecological value

#### Floods

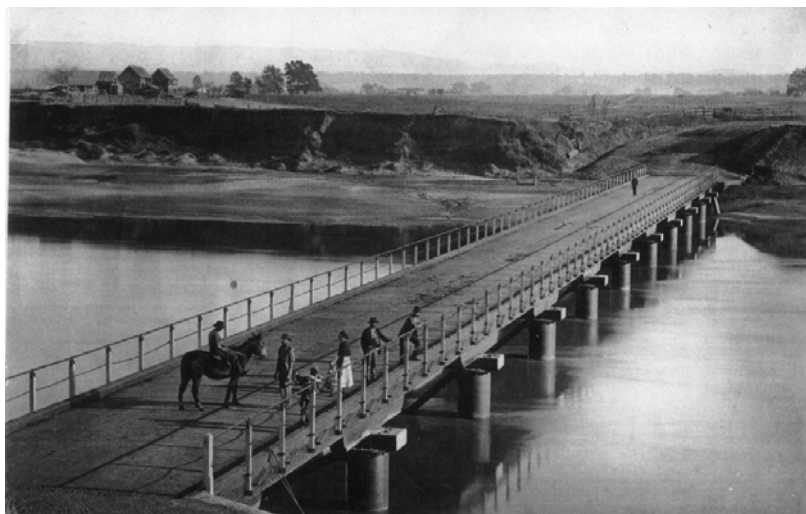
Records of flooding on the Hawkesbury River have been documented since the 1790s. They were particularly devastating to the early settlers, whose farms and crops were damaged, threatening the existence of the colony.

In the years between 1799 and 1819 there were ten major floods. In the ensuing 60 years there were 16 - the largest being 1867 when the river at Windsor peaked at 63 feet.

#### Erosion and Damage

The riverbank today varies remarkably from the landscape of early nineteenth century images. Where once the banks were gently sloping, the land has now been cut back, leaving steep banks in many places.

The photograph below, dated from c.1875 shows the riverbank looking north toward what is now Macquarie Park. The riverbank was cut back, leaving a low flat river frontage and steep banks at a distance from the water's edge.





Photos from the early 1900s show the banks to be less steep, possibly through a combination of slumping of the banks and deposition from floods.

Today, the riverbanks are still affected by slumping and in the case of Macquarie Park, deposition of sand on the bend. Much of the current landform, however has been shaped by human intervention – either through extraction (such as at Macquarie Park), or filling and regrading of the steep embankments.

### Vegetation

Vegetation communities that would be expected to have occurred within the Windsor Foreshore Parks at the time of early European colonisation include Riverflat Eucalypt Forest on the floodplain of the Hawkesbury, intergrading with Freshwater Wetlands in low lying areas. River Oak Forest would have fringed the Hawkesbury River directly. On higher ground, Shale Plains Woodland is likely to have occurred however as most of the Study area is prone to flooding, the upper portion of Thompson Square is the only likely portion that may have once contained this vegetation community.

Today, the only native vegetation community occurring in the Study area is a highly degraded Riparian Forest (part of the Riverflat Eucalypt Forest ecological community). It is comprised mostly of *Casuarina cunninghamiana* and it is difficult to tell how much of the vegetation is regrowth or planted, however there are no trees of a significant age occurring directly along the riverbank. Within Macquarie Park, the peninsula is covered in Acacia regrowth with no major canopy trees present. Further from the riverbank at Howe Park and Macquarie Park, there are some mature Eucalypt trees that may be natural regrowth.

Most of the parks within the Study Area are parkland or landscaped environments. These areas are typically planted with either introduced horticultural species or non-locally occurring Australian natives chosen for their aesthetic properties. These areas consist of mature trees with a mown grass understorey.

### Fauna

An assessment of fauna within part of the study area was undertaken as part of the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project – Working Paper 4. Due to the similarity of environs, observations in that study have been applied to the Windsor Foreshore Parks within this Plan. Whilst this may be sufficient for the purpose of this Plan, more detailed studies may be required if development proposals are likely to affect fauna habitat.

#### Fauna Habitat and Condition

As habitats have been extensively cleared within the study area and fragmented during agricultural and residential development, limited potential for fauna habitat occurs.

Vegetation within the study area provides poor quality fauna habitat due to poor structure of canopy, midstorey and groundcover flora. Ground debris is generally absent. There do not appear to be any habitat trees (hollow-bearing trees including large dead trees) directly on the riverbank, however there are some isolated mature specimens further from the river that may contain hollows.

Additionally, all riparian areas are in poor condition and provided minimal resources for fauna in terms of breeding and foraging opportunities. Shelter and refuge for some bird and arboreal mammal species may be provided in the canopy of riparian areas, particularly for the Common Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus peregrinus*). Riparian areas also provide habitat for aquatic species such as the Sydney Hawk Dragonfly (*Austrocordulia leonardi*) and Adams Emerald Dragonfly (*Archaeophya Adamsi*).

As the habitats are likely to provide limited opportunities for shelter, breeding and foraging resources for some common frog and reptile species and a low diversity of bird and mammal species, the diversity of fauna species recorded within the study area is expected to be low.

Within the vicinity of the Windsor Bridge, seven native fauna species were recorded during surveys, comprising two reptile species and five bird species. The birds identified in the area were predominantly urban birds, tolerant of modified and fragmented habitats such as parrots, miners and swallows. The two reptile species recorded were the Eastern Water Dragon (*Physignathus lesueurii*) and Eastern Water Skink (*Eulamprus quoyii*).<sup>1</sup>

### Macquarie Park

The vegetation within Macquarie Park is highly disturbed and contains no remnant vegetation communities. (Much of the park was subject to sand extraction activities).

The peninsular portion of Macquarie Park is dominated by Acacia (*Acacia parramattensis*) and Coast Myall (*Acacia binervia*), with an exotic grass understorey consisting mainly of African Love Grass (*Eragrostis curvula*). Other major weeds within this area include Box Elder (*Acer negundo*), Green Cestrum (*Cestrum parqui*), Moth Vine (*Araujia sericifera*), Balloon Vine (*Cardiospermum grandiflorum*) and Wandering Jew (*Tradescantia fluminensis*).

The area along the riverbank, west of the Bridge, was planted as part of the Macquarie Park Enhancement Project. (Stage 1 was in 1995/96, Stage 2 was in 1996/97) Revegetation works consisted of planting a canopy of River Oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*), with a sub canopy of Prickly-leaved Paperbark (*Melaleuca styphelioides*) and White Sally (*Acacia floribunda*). *Lomandra longifolia* was planted along the river side of the pathway. Plastic weed matting is still evident at the base of most trees, this and the heavy leaf litter from the River Oak seem to be suppressing the establishment of ground layer plants. Two exceptions are within the Bush Tucker Garden around the plaque and sandstone monument; and along the pathway where the canopy starts to open.

The plantings were intended to be established in a block pattern with the functions to include bank stabilisation, shade, restoration of native vegetation to the riverbank, and screening the traffic from the park. Notes from the Stage two works indicate that over 700 plants were to be planted on the riverbank, most of them were to be ground covers with some low growing shrubs and few taller trees for the low points around the waterline. It is unknown what the final composition of species was but it was reported that a vast majority of plants failed. A second planting schedule was proposed. This could explain the almost monoculture of River Oak that exists along the river presently.

There are some weeds species occurring mostly on the edges of the planting area, they include Paddys Lucerne, Fleabane (*Conyza* sp), Balloon Vine, Moth Vine and Cobblers Peg (*Bidens pilosa*). Castor Oil Plant (*Ricinus communis*), is the main weed along the open river edge and boundaries of the park near the Restaurant and canoe storage area.



Macquarie Park - 1995



Same view 2013

<sup>1</sup> Windsor Bridge Replacement Project EIS 2012



Lomandra was planted in the Stage 2 riverbank planting project. Note the lack of species diversity and dominance of River Oak down to the water's edge. Photo taken: 2013.

Within the picnic areas, there are various shade trees that have been planted. These are mostly exotic tree species, similar to the older, historical plantings found in Windsor and native rainforest species that highlight the variety and splendour of native trees. The main species used include: Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*), Peppercorn (*Schinus areira*), River Peppermint (*Eucalyptus elata*), Ivory Curl Flower (*buckinghamia celississima*), and Lilly Pilly (*Syzygium paniculatum*). It is believed that 40 shade trees were planted as part of the 1997 Stage 2 Enhancement Project. At least 6 mature trees were existing prior to the enhancement project.

These include:

- White Cedar (*Melia azedarach*) – planted approximately 1935
- Weeping Willow (*Salix babylonica*) – planted approximately 1955
- Peppercorn (*Schinus areira*) – planted approximately 1945
- Poplar (*Populus albus*) – planted approximately 1975
- Mountain Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus deanei*) – planted approximately 1965

### Deerubbin Park

Deerubbin Park contains some old Eucalyptus trees bordering the car park and vehicle access road that appear to have been planted. Weeds largely dominate the riparian zone along Rickabys Creek. The site has a large internal area of mown lawn that is currently irrigated by hand. It is dominated by Khaki Weed. The future management of both riparian vegetation and turf would benefit from a maintenance edge

### Governor Phillip Reserve

The riparian zone to most of Governor Phillip Reserve is largely constructed and free from vegetation other than slashed grasses. There is a stand of riparian vegetation at the upstream end of the reserve, contiguous with riparian vegetation on private lands, however it is highly weed infested and of poor quality. The internal vegetation of the reserve is turf and trees. There are many established and valuable exotic and native trees within the reserve. The vehicle access is lined with an avenue planting of poplars and near the boat launch and along South Creek there are large stands of casuarinas. There is potential to increase the existing tree canopy in the reserve, particularly along the top edge of the event viewing embankment where views can still be maintained. The riparian zone could be revegetated in some areas with low growing sedges and rushes whilst constructing water access points to discourage erosion. Garden beds or an understorey could also be created in some areas of the park to improve the diversity of vegetation.

### Holland's Paddock

Holland's Paddock consists of a flat turf area flanked by embankments. There are some large established exotic tree and an area of garden bed bordering the guide hall car park. Water tanks



situated underneath the observation deck are available for irrigation which could be used to create screen plantings against the *Windsor Riverview Shopping Centre*. Turf areas are also quite dry during summer months and would benefit from irrigation.

## Howe Park

The *Terrace* section of Howe Park is an intensely landscaped section of Windsor's foreshore. There are large native and exotic trees forming a well shaded promenade with low planter beds containing exotic shrubs. The riparian zone along the *Terrace* was revegetated many years ago, with additional infill plants added from 1998-2002. Plants included: *Casuarina cunninghamiana*, *Casuarina glauca*, *Melia azedarach*, *Melaleuca styphelioides*, *Meleleuca lineariifolia*, *Eucalyptus moluccana*, *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, *Tristaniopsis laurina*, *Acacia parramattensis*, *Acacia floribunda*, *Acacia longifolia*, *Leptospermum polygalifolium*, *Bursaria spinosa*, *Callistemon salignus*, *Callistemon citrinus* and *Lomandra longifolia*. A variety and weeds and weed density occurs across the site. Some of the major weeds include Balloon Vine, Madiera Vine, and Castor Oil Plant.

Species planted within the landscaped area, along the path, include: White Cedar (*Melia azedarach*); Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*); Liquid Amber (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), Peppercorn (*Schinus sp.*) and more recently, Figs (*Ficus sp*)

The western section of Howe Park contains some large Eucalyptus trees. It is a mainly open grassed area with some small garden beds of *Lomandra longifolia*. These garden beds were planed in 2002 and were intended to be a bush tucker garden, planted and maintained under an employment scheme.. Vegetation is currently slashed to a certain point of the riparian zone which is dominated by weeds.

The riverbank west of Rickabys Creek and along the creek itself is heavily infested with weeds amongst the occasional River Oak. Weeds include Balloon Vine, Green Cestrum (*Cestrum parqui*) and Wandering Jew (*Tradescantia fluminensis*)



1999



Same view 2013



1999



Same view 2013

### Thompson Square

Thompson Square contains a few significant, large exotic trees. The square is well shaded but the quality of the turf surface is poor and undulating over root growth from trees. The area of Thompson Square separated by Bridge Road is similar with some low shrub plantings contained to the borders.

Three landmark trees within Thompson Square include a Bunya Pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*) and two Norfolk Island Pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*).

### Windsor Wharf Reserve

The riparian zone of Windsor Wharf Reserve is a highly disturbed weed infestation. Internally there are turf, low shrub areas and a clump of casuarinas separating the upper and lower car parking areas

## 3.11 ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE 2009 PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

In 2009, Hawkesbury City Council Parks and Recreation Branch engaged Environmental Partnership (NSW) Pty Ltd to develop a Plan of Management for the Windsor Foreshore Parks, incorporating the Great River Walk.

The Plan referenced information gathered from members of the Community to assist in the development of Management Strategies and Master Plans for the parks as a whole and individually, including the incorporation of the GRW.

An action plan identified management objectives, means of achievement, means of assessment and priority ranking for each management action. Council recognised that not all actions would be achievable within a 5 year time frame, however actions would be undertaken as funding allows.

Of the proposed 60 actions, there were 17 actions considered to be of high priority; 29 Mid-term actions; 11 long-term actions and 3 actions not assigned a priority.

The following table outlines measures that have been undertaken in response to the Action Plan.

Table 3.9: Achievements of the 2009 Plan of Management

Management Action	Item	Priority	Means of Achievement	Comments
Seek input and possible funding from various state and federal bodies involved in environmental foreshore projects/issues	A03	High	Funding secured through Federal Biodiversity Fund to improve riparian vegetation at Howe Park and Deerubbin Park. Funding sought from Estuary Management Program (NSW) for bank stabilisation works at Governor Phillip Park	
Undertake targeted weed management to foreshore zones	A05	Mid-term	Targeted weed control in sections of Howe Park along Hawkesbury River and Rickabys Creek	
Establish vegetation along riparian corridors in parks & reserves where appropriate	A09	Long-term	Revegetation works undertaken along Rickabys Creek in Howe Park and Deerubbin Park	
Maximise overhanging tree canopy to foreshores to optimise aquatic habitat values and landscape / visual amenity	A10	Mid-term	Canopy increased through riparian revegetation works at Howe Park and Deerubbin Park along Rickabys Creek	
Establish bank stabilisation measures	A11	Mid-term	Revegetation along sections of Rickabys Creek	
Future developments and ongoing maintenance of foreshore open space should respond to the idea of the foreshore integrated entity	C01	High	Consultation with Windsor Bridge Replacement Project designers regarding landscape plan to better integrate: Thompson Square with Howe Park; better link Howe Park and Windsor Wharf Reserve; and provide better pedestrian and cycle access to Macquarie Park	
Individual parks & reserves should be developed to contain similar elements of amenity and vegetation management that work as a legible element throughout the foreshore corridor	C02	High	New furniture placed within Howe Park and Macquarie Park are consistent in design	The new BBQ installed at Macquarie Park is stainless steel and the new BBQs installed at Howe Park are core ten steel
Prepare landscape/improvement plan for Deerubbin Park to consider: improvement of playing field and other organised sports amenities upgrading of parking areas to improve function and reduce	C05	Long-term	Change room/toilet facilities have been upgraded at Deerubbin Park. A new field and two mod fields have been installed.	Works have been undertaken prior to the development of a Landscape Plan.



# WINDSOR FORESHORE PARKS - DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Management Action	Item	Priority	Means of Achievement	Comments
impacts on trees provide vehicular management/barrier system coordinated with all other foreshore parks				
Prepare landscape / improvement plan for Howe Park to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• updating and upgrading of the Terrace section of Howe Park as an high use picnicking area</li> <li>• re-establish views to Macquarie Park</li> <li>• address security issues</li> <li>• provide viewing / seating areas where views to river can be managed and maintained</li> <li>• recognise key linkage points back up to town centre</li> <li>• provides nodal gathering / event space</li> <li>• improves pedestrian linkages to Hollands Paddock</li> </ul>	C06	Long-term	Landscape plan developed for 4 sections along Howe Park.  Landscape upgrade for Howe Park Terrace picnic area includes - new viewing deck, paving, furniture, BBQs, pergola and path to Rickabys Creek. New access point at end of Baker Street.	An overall landscape plan for Howe Park has not been developed.  Further upgrade works are still required as budgets permit: additional bins, view establishment ; furniture replacement
Reconstruct Windsor Wharf to allow for use by a wider variety of water vessels	C11	Mid-term	Wharf designed and constructed	
Prepare landscape/improvement plan for Windsor Wharf Reserve to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved pedestrian access to The Terrace facilitated through RTA Bridge replacement project</li> <li>• Addressing 'dead-end' visual/spatial character of Windsor Wharf Reserve - activate use of foreshore spaces for fishing and other activities through reduction of spatial impacts of parking and access</li> <li>• integration of RTA bridge replacement to Windsor Road</li> <li>• Optimisation of slope as design feature – eg viewing areas</li> <li>• Consideration of longer term potential for GRW access to be pursued along foreshore through 6b zoning – to supplement access to Bridge Street</li> </ul>	C12	Long-term	Working with landscape designers for the Windsor Bridge Upgrade Project in their development of a landscape plan addressing part of Windsor Wharf Reserve	
Prepare landscape / improvement plan for Macquarie Park to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved pedestrian access to the town centre facilitated</li> </ul>	C13	Mid-term	A Concept Plan was developed in 2009 for the Playspace area within Macquarie Park.	An overall landscape plan for Macquarie Park is being planned for development in 2013.

# WINDSOR FORESHORE PARKS - DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Management Action	Item	Priority	Means of Achievement	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>through RTA bridge replacement project</li> <li>Improved linkage from park to bridge for pedestrians and cycles</li> <li>Extension of park area to east – extended shaded foreshore area</li> <li>Rationalisation and reconfiguration of vehicular access and parking areas to optimise recreational use of higher amenity foreshore spaces</li> <li>Upgrading of amenities</li> <li>Upgrading of play facilities</li> <li>Upgrading of picnic facilities</li> <li>Event use of 'paddock' area</li> <li>Improved Kayak access to water</li> <li>Improved access to beach area</li> <li>Potential loop walk through vegetated area integrating river viewing point</li> </ul>			<p>The playspace has been upgraded with new equipment and softfall, its design guided by the playspace concept plan.</p> <p>Two shelters with picnic tables have been installed near the play equipment. One has a BBQ.</p> <p>One of the roads has been closed to consolidate the play space.</p> <p>Council is working with landscape designers for the Windsor Bridge Upgrade Project in their development of a landscape plan addressing pedestrian and cycle access off the new bridge and into the park as well as other landscape treatments. The park will be extended to the east as part of the bridge replacement project.</p>	Dislocation of play space from the foreshore has not been addressed. The 2013 Park Landscape Plan should consider opportunities for addressing this.
Pursue the proposed Rickabys Creek Footbridge to connect Deerubbin to Howe Park	C18	High	Footbridge constructed	
Establish path along Deerubbin Park river foreshore and upgrades along Howe Park	C19	Mid-term	The gravel path through Howe Park has been upgraded to a concrete path and connected to the footbridge to provide for pedestrians and cyclists	
Liaise with the RTA to establish a signalled crossing at the intersection of Bridge Road & George Street	C21	High	A signalised crossing is planned as part of the Windsor Bridge Upgrade Project	
Ensure universal access occurs where the provision of recreational amenity is most intense (refer item C03)	C24	High	<p>A new, universal, access point has been constructed at the end of Baker Street, into Howe Park.</p> <p>Universal access has been provided for in the upgrade of The Terrace area of Howe Park</p>	
Pursue all avenues of state & federal funding for foreshore access trails	C25	Mid-term	State funding has been received for the upgrades undertaken at Howe Park, including the Rickaby's Creek Footbridge, and the new	

# WINDSOR FORESHORE PARKS - DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Management Action	Item	Priority	Means of Achievement	Comments
			wharf at Windsor Wharf Reserve	
Encourage appropriate use of parks for community events	D01	Mid-term	<p>The Inaugural International Sand Sculpture Competition was held in Howe Park in 2012 and is planned as a continuing event.</p> <p>Existing events such as the Power Boat racing and the Canoe Classic continue to operate</p>	
Pursue partnerships between user groups and council management in the use and care of parks and reserves	D03	High	Ongoing relationships between Council and special interest groups such as Sports Council, Windsor Canoe Club and Upper Power Boat Club have been maintained.	
Encourage specialisation of recreational activities in parks & reserves where appropriate	D04	Mid-term	Further development of sports fields at Deerubbin Park and provision of change room facilities encourages specialised use of this park	



## 4 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

Community consultation was a key component in the preparation of the 2009 plan of management, on which this Plan has been based. Then, and now, Hawkesbury City Council has promoted an open, transparent approach to community consultation, providing opportunities for stakeholders and members of the community to contribute comments and submissions or to discuss specific issues.

In 2009, a community workshop was held during preparation of the draft plan of management. Further consultation continued through to release of the draft plan of management (i.e. public exhibition), at which time the community was able to make final comments and submissions. This process highlights the importance of community involvement and ownership in the adopted plan of management.

In 2013, consultation with specific park user groups has been undertaken during the preparation of the draft plan of management. Further consultation with the broader community will be undertaken through a public exhibition and advertising of the Plan, at which time members of the community are able to provide comment and submissions.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* the draft plan of management must be placed on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days (i.e. four weeks). A further two weeks are provided for completion of written submissions. During the public exhibition period the draft plan of management will be available for viewing at the Hawkesbury City Council Administrative Offices, Hawkesbury Central Library (in the Deerubbin Centre), Windsor and on Council's web-site <http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/>

All public submissions and any comments submitted by other government agencies will be reviewed by Hawkesbury City Council. The draft plan of management, as amended following public submissions and review, will be submitted to Council for adoption.

This Plan of Management also references issues brought forward by previous Management Plans, specifically the *Macquarie Park POM (2008)*, *Hollands Paddock POM (2005)*, *Draft Windsor Masterplan (2004)* and the 2009 version of the *Windsor Foreshore Parks Plan of Management*.

## 4.2 KEY ISSUES

Participants of the 2009 community meeting were prompted to comment on issues relating to both individual parks within the study area of this POM and the foreshore corridor as a whole. These issues have been summarised in the following table (table 4.0) under the following five headings:

- Recreation and Leisure
- Access and Circulation
- Cultural Heritage and Natural Environment
- Landscape Character and identity
- Management and Maintenance

Table 4.0 : Issues – Community Meeting 2009

	Issue
Recreation and Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was an idea from the group that canoe/kayak launch facilities should be established at Macquarie Park, near the beach, and that a hire operation would work well at that site</li> <li>• The large mown grass area to the north of Macquarie Park (which currently holds events) was identified as a possible site for a growers market or other organized event.</li> <li>• There were some negative sentiments about the picnicking and play area of Macquarie Park and that the quality of these spaces was not good and too far setback from the river. (Play area was upgraded in 2012)</li> <li>• There was also a thought that the current operation of the restaurant and kiosk at Macquarie Park was not of a good standard. (new management has taken over operation of the restaurant since this time)</li> <li>• There was an idea that there should be more picnic tables, but that their placement should be targeted as some open spaces would not/are not appropriate for this use.</li> <li>• Howe Park was identified as a place where people loiter and drink alcohol.</li> <li>• Howe Park was a well used placed for picnicking (paved area) which was having the effect of pushing out anti-social use.</li> <li>• The group overwhelmingly agreed that Hollands Paddock was a strategic point to place more amenities - play facilities and seating. (This is in contrast to the community desire for Hollands Paddock to remain undeveloped (2005 PoM)</li> <li>• There was a general feeling that Governor Phillip Reserve powerboat events could be managed better, the key issue being exclusion of non-paying park users on major event days, and significant noise levels (Since the 2009 POM, this has been addressed however there are still issues surrounding management of non-paying park users enjoying benefits of the events).</li> <li>• The group supported the ongoing use of Governor Phillip Park for powerboat events.</li> <li>• There was some opposition from members of the group that identified themselves as being 'peninsula' residents, to the idea of new playing fields to be installed at Governor Phillip Park in that it would cause more disturbances to their amenity.</li> <li>• It was agreed that the operational hours of the live entertainment at Thompson Square should remain as currently used (i.e., finished by 4.00pm) to manage noise levels.</li> <li>• It was thought that there might need to be further playing fields for local users</li> <li>• It was felt that the wharf at Windsor Wharf Reserve needed to be used by more groups/individuals to justify upgrading. (Upgrade was undertaken in</li> </ul>

	Issue
	<p>2011 due to structural defects)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was stated that the boat ramp at Windsor Wharf Reserve was not used. (Access to the ramp is now prevented by new landscaping)</li> </ul>
Access and Circulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stroller access is lacking for many parks/reserves in Windsor.</li> <li>It was hoped that the proposed RTA bridge replacement could facilitate an exclusively pedestrian/cycle access to/ from Howe and Macquarie Parks. (Improved cycle/pedestrian access is incorporated in the new bridge design).</li> <li>There was a comment from the group that there was not enough parking within the town centre to access public spaces (particularly Thompsons Square).</li> <li>Safety of road crossings was a factor for people being able to access Macquarie Park from the southern bank.</li> <li>Road and parking uses are significant impacts on Macquarie Park</li> <li>Governor Phillip Reserve is isolated as a consequence of there being no through access</li> <li>The existing fence at Governor Phillip Park, , which separates foreshore park space from inland lots, is perceived as the extent of publicly usable/accessible land and that the inland portion was not for public use despite it being community land. Most members of the group were unaware that these lots were actually public land.</li> <li>From this realization there was some suggestion of making better use of this land including removal of fence. One idea was to have a playing field.</li> <li>It was agreed by the group that creating a separate road entry to these lots of the park may be a strategy worth examining.</li> <li>The consultant noted the potential of a line marked cycle way from Thompson Square to Governor Phillip Park to compliment the pedestrian path given the narrow and in some cases steep verge condition.</li> <li>A member of the group felt that George Street was too narrow to allow for a cycle way. The consultant noted that this issue can be reviewed.</li> <li>There was a concern from the group that Governor Phillip Reserve was not a good place to link the GRW to the area to the east as there was no obvious place for a crossing of South Creek. It was suggested that the trail could be pulled back along Pitt Street to take advantage of heritage building and to use an existing South Creek crossing point.</li> <li>The consultant and Council staff noted that the final location of South Creek crossing would be deferred as an ongoing task. The focus of this POM was the Governor Phillip Reserve (GPR) to Deerubbin Park linkages. As such one of the councils objectives was to provide a functional and day to day link (for both local and other users) from Governor Phillip Park to Windsor Wharf Reserve and the Town Centre</li> <li>Most of the group felt that the European heritage of the town was primarily set back from the river and that a foreshore trail would not take advantage of this, as such links back to the town centre are required;</li> </ul>
Cultural Heritage and Natural Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The community group was concerned that opening new areas of the foreshore to public accessibility could have detrimental environmental impacts, particularly erosion of banks;</li> <li>There was a desire to protect existing views of the river and the varied "natural" or "cultural" visual character the river provides;</li> <li>There was also concern that any infrastructure would need to consider flood events in it's alignment and construction;</li> <li>The weed infestation along the riparian zone was identified as an issue for the site , particularly weed encroachment onto private property;</li> <li>There was a strong sense from the group that the towns flooding history was important as a thing that defined it's relationship to the river;</li> <li>An idea of the river as a corridor important to the essence of aboriginal and European settlement was raised;</li> <li>There was general support for an on-street path connecting the town</li> </ul>

	Issue
	centre to Governor Phillip Reserve, although there was some concern that George Street may lose its heritage character if this was not designed in a sensitive way,
Landscape Character and Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was a desire from the group that the supermarket be screened opposite Hollands Paddock.</li> <li>• Hollands Paddock park is seen as a quality park space</li> <li>• Hollands Paddock was identified as a park that could be more intensely designed, in particular a member of the group felt that a playground would be good there.</li> <li>• The group felt that live music in Thompsons Square was generally a positive aspect of current park use and that a permanent amenity, such as a rotunda may be good to support this use.</li> <li>• A suggestion was put forward from the group to use Macquarie Park as a public car park overflow site for the town with a complimentary shuttle service.</li> </ul>
Management and Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was a feeling that current council maintenance for Windsor parks and reserves was already stretched and that additional open space in the form of opening new areas of the foreshore to public access would exacerbate this problem ;</li> <li>• Liability and safety were also concerns with the foreshore trails proximity to the river;</li> <li>• There was a feeling from the group that the POM should have local residents as its focus rather than tourists who may come to the town to use the GRW. It was noted by the study team that it was essential the POM address both local and broader use.</li> <li>• Again there was a concern expressed that any new projects would not be able to be maintained by council and that funds should be concentrated on improvements for existing open spaces</li> <li>• Members of the group (residents of Bridge Street that would be affected by the proposed foreshore path to Gov Phillip Reserve) stated that they believed that a scheme which directed foreshore access through their properties would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- devalue properties;</li> <li>- cause security problems for residents;</li> <li>- reduce privacy for residents;</li> <li>- cause an area of visual seclusion that may lead to anti-social behaviour;</li> <li>- miss the opportunity to direct path past heritage buildings along George Street</li> <li>- and, cost too much for rate payers (in that in addition to path infrastructure, land would have to be acquired)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• One member of the group suggested that there needed to be toilet facilities in Thompson Square.</li> </ul>

The following table outlines issues identified by members of the community since the implementation of the 2009 plan as well as additional points raised by user groups in key stakeholder meetings held in 2013 as part of the development of this Plan. In addition to concerns raised, table 4.1 outlines needs and expectations of stakeholder groups for the future use and management of the parks and reserves.



Table 4.1 : Issues identified 2013

<b>Macquarie Park</b>	- Request for a clubhouse / canoe storage
<b>Deerubbin Park</b>	<p>Key user groups have submitted ideas for future developments to Deerubbin Park to facilitate better usage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Formal (fenced) dog training / off-leash area is required to keep the sporting fields free of dog faeces</li> <li>- Existing light poles which are too short require upgrading / relocating</li> <li>- Competition field needs lights</li> <li>- Additional shade shelters required around training fields</li> <li>- Suggestion for spectator mounds between training field and creek</li> <li>- Desire for a clubhouse to be built</li> <li>- Suggestion for a possible playground</li> <li>- Tar the laneway (chip and spray may be hazardous to bike riders)</li> <li>- Access path needed from laneway to new bridge (already planned for)</li> <li>- Better/safer access to the river required (Howe Park)</li> </ul>
<b>Governor Phillip Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- issues surrounding current partial exclusive use of the park during large events – difficult to manage</li> <li>- concern over proposal for revegetation along foreshore – need to maintain line of sight from safety cameras on building and buoys in river (up to 2m is ok)</li> <li>- concern over previous plan proposing craft mooring on river foreshore – need this area clear in times of race – keep mooring in South Creek</li> <li>- Would like to upgrade turnstile for events</li> </ul>

In 2009, the Plan of Management consultant team identified a number of general landscape issues for each of the foreshore open spaces. Table 4.2 identifies these issues as well as some additional issues identified by Council in 2013. (See *Figure 4.0 which illustrates issues relating to the Great River Walk / park linkages*).

Table 4.2 : General Landscape Appraisal

<b>Macquarie Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need management/maintenance edge between native vegetation and grassland</li> <li>- Weed domination of vegetated areas – poor natural values</li> <li>- Poor pedestrian / cycle links to existing Windsor Bridge and Windsor township</li> <li>- Potential for improved pedestrian/cycle links over the river if proposed Windsor Bridge goes ahead</li> <li>- Potential for additional parkland to the east if proposed Windsor Bridge goes ahead</li> <li>- Dislocation of facilities (toilets, picnic tables, playspace) from main foreshore area</li> <li>- Domination of vehicular access/parking to park character</li> <li>- Poor water quality impacts on potential recreational use of river and value of beach environment</li> <li>- Improved kayak access / launching desirable</li> <li>- Potential for loop walk around the peninsular</li> <li>- Landscaping requires upgrading – new furniture, paths, signage etc</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Potential to incorporate public toilets into a future clubhouse building to replace the existing amenities building</li> <li>- Potential to enlarge the existing “paddock” area, to provide for sporting facilities</li> <li>- Some thinning of dense vegetation at eastern side of reserve required for views, light penetration and safety</li> </ul>
<b>Deerubbin Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need management/maintenance edge between native vegetation and grassland</li> <li>- Weed domination of riparian vegetation</li> <li>- Need to optimise viewing points to the river</li> <li>- Need to upgrade parking areas – provide for more onsite parking, considering impacts to tree health</li> <li>- Trees along access road suffering decline – potential impacts include compaction from parking and possibly change in pH from lime stabilisation of road surface</li> <li>- Need to screen storage containers / build new storage facilities</li> <li>- Entry sign is in poor location and poor condition</li> <li>- Need to identify future GRW path from Deerubbin Park – long term look at private foreshore lands, short-term, consider route along Cornwallis Road</li> <li>- Three private pumps and associated infrastructure (pipes, power boxes) are located within the reserve (pre-existing to the Local Government act 1993) and are not permissible on community land under the Act</li> </ul>
<b>Howe Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need management/maintenance edge between native vegetation and grassland</li> <li>- Remaining furniture is old and inconsistent in style</li> <li>- Views are blocked by dense vegetation</li> <li>- Weed domination of riparian vegetation - poor natural values</li> </ul>
<b>Hollands Paddock</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Elevated edge to shopping centre – dominant and unattractive frontage – landscape treatment required</li> <li>- Safer pedestrian linkage to Howe Park required – review opportunities for new crossing point that provides for greater pedestrian priority</li> </ul>
<b>Thompson Square</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Impacts/opportunities presented by future Windsor Bridge replacement</li> <li>- Poor pedestrian access across Windsor Road at The terrace (foreshore) and at Bridge Street</li> <li>- Potential for improved heritage interpretation within park</li> </ul>
<b>Windsor Wharf Reserve</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need management/maintenance edge between native vegetation and grassland</li> <li>- Weed dominated riparian zone</li> <li>- Isolated from main foreshore and town centre</li> <li>- Domination of vehicular access / parking to park character</li> <li>- Steep / eroded topography is limitation to potential use and accessibility</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Impacts/opportunities presented by future Windsor Bridge replacement</li> </ul>
<b>Governor Phillip Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need management/maintenance edge between native vegetation and grassland</li> <li>- Weed dominated riparian zone</li> <li>- Poor shade provision to general park areas</li> <li>- Poor shade provision to car parking areas</li> <li>- No parking provision near playground and picnic shelters</li> <li>- Severe bank erosion upstream of armoured section</li> <li>- Existing car park inefficient and poorly designed</li> <li>- Need event parking</li> <li>- Potentially improved / enhanced relationship to open spaces to south</li> <li>- Potential recreational role of open spaces to south eg playing fields</li> <li>- Poor Entry statement - lacks visual appeal</li> <li>- Need signage at entry to notify of upcoming park closures and alternative foreshore parks/facilities</li> <li>- Need entry gates to prohibit entry in times of flood.</li> <li>- Event parking use alternative access to main entry</li> <li>- No direct foreshore access for fishing or walking</li> <li>- Need to identify GRW route from Governor Phillip Park, in interim, potential link back to township</li> </ul>

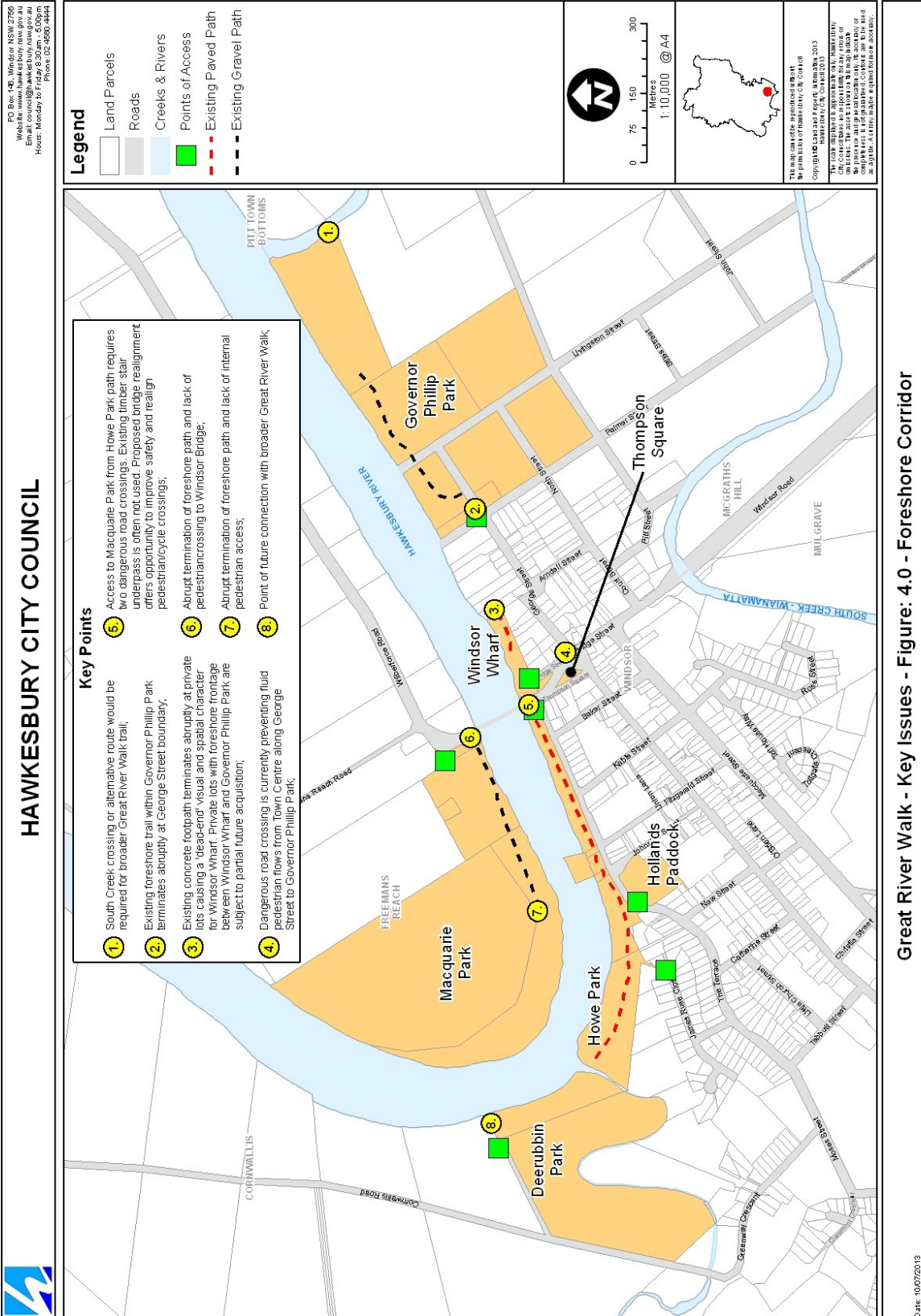


Figure 4.0 Great River Walk – Key Issues – Foreshore Corridor



## 5 BASIS FOR MANAGEMENT

### 5.1 AIMS

This section of the plan of management has the following aims:-

- *to identify and assess key values associated with the community land*
- *Define the community land's role within the local area and broader district context,*
- *to identify the issues relating to these values and determine objectives for the future management of the parks and reserves that respond to the key values*
- *To identify Management Objectives for the parks based on objectives from relevant legislation, council strategic plans and community values,*
- *Summarise key values and objectives into a vision for enactment*

### 5.2 DETERMINING KEY VALUES

"Values" can be simply described as the things that make a place important. Management objectives must be based on a sound understanding of the resource base and associated values and the desire to protect and enhance those values.

The key values form the basis for the identification of management objectives which also have regard for the core objectives of community land and crown land management (see *Section 5.4 - Core objectives - Community & Crown Land Management*)

The following key values have been developed through community consultation (refer to previous section) and further investigation, analysis and assessment.

Table 5.0 Issues & Values

	Key Issues	Key Values
Recreation and Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution of amenities in parks is inadequate or inappropriate</li> <li>• Lack of recreation diversity (passive/active) within foreshore open space</li> <li>• There is a general shortfall of active recreation facilities in Windsor and the Hawkesbury generally</li> <li>• Need to accommodate a range of events/activities and integrate with civic spaces</li> <li>• There is difficulty managing partial exclusive use of Governor Phillip Park during large events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place for a variety of gatherings and events</li> </ul>
Access and Circulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dangerous pedestrian crossing points</li> <li>• Linkages between open spaces is limited</li> <li>• Provision of equal access</li> <li>• Difficulty in providing pedestrian and cycle path to Governor Phillip Park along George Street</li> <li>• Part of Governor Phillip Park is isolated from public usage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access enhances recreational amenity</li> <li>• Foreshore open spaces provide a potentially linked &amp; integrated system</li> <li>• The River is a major draw for leisure and recreation</li> </ul>
Cultural Heritage and Natural Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weed infestations along riparian corridor</li> <li>• Poor quality or lack of existence of fauna habitat in revegetated areas</li> <li>• Erosion of riverbanks</li> <li>• Impacted by floods</li> <li>• Poor water quality of river</li> <li>• Loss of heritage character though inappropriate development of open space</li> <li>• Lack of coordination and integration of heritage and environment values in interpretation methods</li> <li>• Need to improve access to the river for recreation</li> <li>• Some of the parks have high European Heritage values that are of State significance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presence of heritage fabric</li> <li>• Many of the parks preserve historical evidence from early European use</li> <li>• Filter to the urban areas adjoining the river</li> <li>• The Hawkesbury River is the symbolic heart of the community</li> <li>• Vegetation assists in riverbank stability and prevention of erosion</li> <li>• Vegetation provides valuable habitat for terrestrial and aquatic species</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Landscape Character and Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Windsor Foreshore has no "identity"</li> <li>• Inconsistencies in landscape design within and between the parks, in particular park furniture and signage</li> <li>• Poor shade provision to car parks</li> <li>• Views to, from and within parks are restricted</li> <li>• Quality of park infrastructure needs to be improved/updated</li> <li>• Dislocation of facilities (toilets, picnic tables, play spaces) from main foreshore areas</li> <li>• Domination of vehicular access / parking to park character within some parks</li> <li>• landscape trees lack coordinating scheme</li> <li>• informal character of landscaping scheme is important characteristic</li> <li>• Landscaping is currently not compatible with status of Regional parks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetation and River provides high visual qualities</li> </ul>
Management and Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High level of maintenance singularly directed at turf mowing</li> <li>• Management of Power Boat events within Governor Phillip Park, including traffic, noise and extent of tenure needs to be addressed</li> <li>• Integrate passive recreation space and facilities within all sports reserves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High quality, low maintenance infrastructure</li> <li>• Multifunctional spaces to accommodate a variety of recreational and leisure needs efficiently</li> </ul>

### 5.3 ROLE AND STATUS OF EACH PARK

Each of the Windsor Foreshore parks and reserves has a specialised role that they play. This ensures facilities are distributed throughout the reserves, providing a diversity of attractors for users. The status (hierarchy) of each park also differs, according to the user profile. It is important that this hierarchy be identified, to ensure that the facilities/amenities provided are appropriate for the status of each park. For example, a Regional park would require a higher level of amenity than a park of district or local level.

See Table 5.1 for status (hierarchy) and role (function) of each park.

Table 5.1: Hierarchy and Function (Status and Role)

	Hierarchy	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Tertiary Function	Other
Macquarie Park	Regional	River Access –(passive) e.g. kayak	Passive (picnic, walking, play)		
Deerubbin Park	District	Sporting	Passive (walking)		
Howe Park	Regional	River Access (views)	Passive (picnic, walking)	Linkage	Tourism
Hollands Paddock	District	Linkage	Passive (dining)	Event	Guide hall
Thompson Square	Regional	Linkage	Passive (picnic)	Event	Heritage/Tourism
Windsor Wharf Reserve	Regional	Wharfage	Passive (fishing, walking)	Tourism (Artist Trail)	
Governor Phillip Park	Regional	River Access (active) e.g. power boats	Passive (picnic, play)		



## 5.4 CORE OBJECTIVES-COMMUNITY & CROWN LAND

Objectives set under relevant legislation or strategic plans are outlined below. These core objectives are incorporated into a set of management objectives for this Plan, the relationship of which can be seen in table 5.2. Codes have been applied to each objective for identification purposes.

### ***Local Government Act 1993:***

#### **Sports Ground – Core objectives:**

LGA 1 – Encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuit in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games.

LGA2 – Ensure such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.

#### **Park - Core objectives:**

LGA 3- Encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities.

LGA4 – Provide for passive recreational activities and pastimes and for the casual playing of games.

LGA5 – 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 – Core objectives:**

Promote, encourage and provide for the use of land, and provide facilities on the land to meet the current and future needs of the local community and the wider public in relation to;

- a) public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public; (LGA6)and
- b) purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public facilities) (LGA7)

#### **Natural Area - Core objectives:**

LGA8 – 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.

LGA9 – Maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting.

LGA10 – Provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land.

LGA11 – 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.

LGA12 – 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*.

#### **Natural Area-Watercourse – Core objectives:**

- a) 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, (LGA13) and
- b) to manage watercourses so as to protect the riparian environment, particularly in relation to riparian vegetation and habitats and bank stability, (LGA14)and
- c) to restore degraded watercourses, (LGA15) and

- d) to promote community education, and community access to and use of the watercourse, without compromising the other core objectives of the category (LGA16)

**Natural Area-Foreshore – Core Objectives:**

- a) 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 foreshores role as a transition area (LGA17)
- b) to facilitate the ecologically sustainable use of the foreshore, and to mitigate impact on the foreshore by community use (LGA18)

**Core objectives of Crown Land Management**

The core objectives of Crown Land management are listed in Section 11 of the *Crown Lands Act 1989* outlined below:

- Observe environmental protection principles in relation to the management and administration of Crown Land; (CLA1)
- Conserve the natural resources of Crown Land (including water, soil, flora, fauna and scenic quality) wherever possible (CLA2)
- Encourage public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown Land (CLA3)
- Encourage multiple use of Crown Land, where appropriate (CLA4)
- Use and manage Crown Land in such a way that both the land and its resources are sustained in perpetuity (CLA5)
- Occupy, use, sell, lease, licence, or otherwise deal with Crown Land in the best interests of the State, consistent with the above principles (CLA6)

**Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan – 5 vision statements**

To ensure that the Objectives of this POM are compatible with the community's wider vision and aspirations for the future of the City of Hawkesbury, the five Vision Statements of the Community Strategic Plan 2013-2032 are set out below:

- CSP1 – Looking After People and Place – a community in which the area's character is preserved and lifestyle choices are provided with sustainable planned, well serviced development, within strongly connected, safe and friendly neighbourhoods (CSP1)
- CSP2 – Caring for Our Environment – 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. (CSP2)
- CSP3 – Linking the Hawkesbury – a community which is provided with facilities and services efficiently linked by well maintained roads and accessible and integrated transport and communication systems which also connect surrounding regions (CSP3)
- CSP4 – Supporting Business and Local Jobs – New and existing industries which provide opportunities for a range of local employment and training options, complemented by thriving town centres.
- CSP5 – Shaping Our Future Together – An independent, strong and engaged community, with a respected leadership which provided for the future needs of its people in a sustainable and financially responsible manner

**Hawkesbury Regional Open Space Strategy**

The objectives from the Hawkesbury Regional Open Space Strategy are listed below under five themes.

**Recreation and Leisure - Objectives**

- ROSS1 – Provide a sustainable open space system that equitably reflects population scale, distribution and demography across the Hawkesbury LGA.
- ROSS2 - Maintain a recreation framework that integrates and balances complimentary passive and active recreation opportunities

- ROSS3 – Incorporate flexibility for multiple uses in parks and reserves
- ROSS4 – Position the Hawkesbury River and its tributaries and creeks at the heart of the City's waterways and foreshore recreation network
- ROSS5 – Promote healthy active lifestyles through readily accessed open space linked to home, work, school, transport and shops
- ROSS6 – Offer recreation opportunities for play and youth that reflect all ages and interests
- ROSS7 – Integrate open space resources with all related tourism strategies (eg. River use, access to National Parks, Farm gate program, self-guided tours, etc)
- ROSS8 – Foster an event-based recreation program as a metropolitan, regional and national drawcard.

#### **Access and Circulation - Objectives**

- ROSS9 – Provide a recreation network that encourages walking and cycling within and between all towns and rural areas across the City
- ROSS10 – Seek optimal day-to-day access to public open space for all residents (ie. Within 400-500 metres in towns)
- ROSS11 – Identify the Hawkesbury River as the hub and principal focus of the City's walking network
- ROSS12 – Integrate the City's cycle network into a recreation and transport system, both on and off road
- ROSS13 – Optimise opportunities for disability access to all parks and reserves
- ROSS 14 – Enable simple wayfinding and provide accessible information and interpretation.

#### **Cultural Heritage and Natural Environment - Objectives**

- ROSS15 – Manage the City's open spaces as a primary component of the ecological systems network across the LGA
- ROSS16 – Conserve, integrate and interpret all heritage items that lie within public open space
- ROSS17 – Enhance natural values, habitat connectivity and viability in all recreation corridors
- ROSS18 – Protect all major open space assets by location or adaptation to minimise flood damage across the Hawkesbury floodplain
- ROSS19 – Adapt parks to meet the potential impacts of climate change (eg. flood, high temperatures, storm)
- ROSS20 – Tell the story of Aboriginal custodianship, European first contact and non-European heritage as an integrated narrative
- ROSS21 – Express the City's rich Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage through park design
- ROSS22 – Employ Water Sensitive Design Principles (WSUD) to stormwater in all open spaces.

#### **Landscape Character and Identity - Objectives**

- ROSS23 – Establish and maintain the open space character that reflects the particulars of each urban township or rural locality
- ROSS24 – Draw on the City's rich history and natural environment in creating local identity for each park
- ROSS25 – Identify, enhance and conserve all significant views and vistas across the City from open space
- ROSS26 – Enhance basic amenity in all parks (eg seating, paths, shade, shelter, play)
- ROSS27 – Employ public art to express the identity and culture of the City

### **Management and Maintenance - Objectives**

- ROSS28 – Manage the City's open space system in a manner that meets Quadruple Bottom Line values (eg. economic, cultural, social and environmental)
- ROSS29 – Operate Service Level Agreements for maintenance to meet the structure proposed in the ROSS
- ROSS30 – Administer sports in the City to optimise recreation opportunity, involvement of community and provide equity of opportunity
- ROSS31 – Foster partnerships with all other agencies related to recreation and open space provision (eg universities, tourism agencies, Heart of Hawkesbury, adjoining Councils, NPWS, YMCA, etc)
- ROSS32 – Develop and maintain parks to meet the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
- ROSS33 – Integrate community participation in all planning and design of the City's open spaces
- ROSS34 – Promote and foster volunteers in the management and delivery of active and passive recreation across the City.

### **The Hawkesbury-Nepean Great River Walk (including Windsor to Bents Basin Sub-Section) Core Objectives**

- GRW1 – Create a means through which to showcase and promote the many attributes of the Hawkesbury Nepean and associated regions to Australia and the world
- GRW2 – Promote and enhance environmental values of the Hawkesbury Nepean region and its environs as a riverine environment of significance both nationally and internationally
- GRW3 – Promote greater understanding of the interaction between human settlement and the natural environment
- GRW4 – Create economic activity and employment opportunities through generation of new income for the local economy
- GRW5 – Foster contact with and involvement of Aboriginal people with cultural links to the region throughout the development of the project and ensure appropriate acknowledgement of involvement with and respect for Aboriginal culture associated with the whole length of the trail
- GRW6 – Ensure that Aboriginal people are employed in, or subcontracted to manage Aboriginal cultural activities and features along the trail
- GRW7 – Develop strong ownership and support for the trail concept by local communities, regional tourism and local government
- GRW8 – Progressively develop and improve the trail on an ongoing basis so all communities along the route are involved and receive benefit
- GRW9 – Meet the needs of walkers, cyclists, passive waterway users and others who use the trail, including where possible, the needs of users with disabilities. Where appropriate the trail to be divided so that walkers and cyclists can be separated
- GRW10 – Work closely with adjacent landowners and managers to ensure their needs are considered and accommodated where possible
- GRW11 – Provide effective management, administration and promotion for the trail

### **Hawkesbury Interpretive Signage and Public Art Policy – Objectives**

- ISAP1 – Support the creation of enriching and engaging public spaces which explore Hawkesbury themes and tell Hawkesbury stories
- ISAP2 – Encourage the development of well-researched interpretive trails which can most effectively promote understanding of the Hawkesbury's significant sites and landscapes within their geographic and cultural context;
- ISAP3 – Reinforce the meanings and appeal of interpretive trails through the use of public art and/or the incorporation of specific design elements to everyday object within the public domain – public seating, footpaths, bridge railings, lighting – which may be located along these trails;



- ISPAP4 – Promote a consistent approach to the installation of interpretive and directional signs through the application of “good practice” principles as they apply to the design, location and construction of these signs; having particular regard to the needs of people with disabilities;

## 5.5 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The following management objectives have been identified to guide decision making and provide performance targets for strategies in this document. They are based on the above statutory/planning objectives and the key issues identified in the previous section. Relevance to the legislative and strategic planning objectives is indicated in table 5.2.

### 1. Recreation and Leisure

- Use foreshore open space for an integrated mix of sporting, cultural, social and educational activities.

### 2. Access & Circulation

- Provide a linked network of foreshore open space.
- Optimise opportunities for disability access to all parks and reserves
- Ensure access and parking at reserves is efficient in circulation and adequate for needs, especially where public transport access is presently poor.
- Ensure the safety of park users
- Identify the Hawkesbury River as the hub and principal focus of the walking network

### 3. Cultural Heritage and Natural Environment

- Conserve and communicate Aboriginal and non-aboriginal cultural values relating to the riverfront environment and the heritage aspects of Windsor.
- Enhance natural values, habitat connectivity and viability along riparian corridors
- Minimise flood damage to major assets
- Employ Water Sensitive Design Principles (SWUD) to stormwater

### 4. Landscape Character and Identity

- Protect and enhance important views to and from the foreshore parks.
- Establish and maintain the open space character that reflects the Windsor township or rural locality
- Enhance basic amenity in all foreshore parks (e.g. seating, paths, shade, shelter, play) that is integrated and reflects each park's Regional or District status.

### 5. Management and Maintenance

- Integrate community participation in the planning and design of the foreshore park open spaces
- Foster community participation in the management and delivery of active and passive recreation across the City.
- Manage the parks in a manner that meets Quadruple Bottom Line values (economic, cultural, social and environmental)

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Table: 5.2 - Relation of Management Objectives to Legislative and Strategic Planning Objectives

	Key Values	Management Objective	Reference
Recreation and Leisure	Multifunctional spaces to accommodate a variety of recreational and leisure needs	Use foreshore open space for an integrated mix of sporting, cultural, social and educational activities	LGA1, LGA3, LGA4, CLA4, ROSS2, ROSS3, ROSS6
Access and Circulation	Foreshore open spaces provide a potentially linked and integrated system	Provide a linked network of foreshore open space.	CSP3, ROSS9, GRW1
	Access enhances recreational opportunity and enjoyment	Optimise opportunities for disability access to all parks and reserves	LGA16, CLA3, ROSS13, GRW9
		Ensure access and parking at reserves is efficient in circulation and adequate for needs, especially where public transport access is presently poor	CSP3, ROSS5
	Parks need to be safe places	Ensure the safety of park users	CSP1, ROSS32
	The River is a major draw for leisure and recreation	Identify the Hawkesbury River as the hub and principal focus of the walking network	CSP2, CSP4, ROSS4, ROSS11, GRW1
Cultural Heritage and Natural Environment	Many of the parks contain historical evidence from early European use and aboriginal occupation	Conserve and communicate Aboriginal and non-aboriginal cultural values relating to the riverfront environment and the heritage aspects of Windsor.	ROSS16, ROSS20, ROSS21 GRW3, ISPAP1
	Vegetation provides valuable habitat for terrestrial and aquatic species	Enhance natural values, habitat connectivity and viability along riparian corridors	LGA8, LGA9, LGA10, LGA13, LGA14, LGA15, CLA1, CLA2, CSP2, ROSS17, GRW2
	Water quality of the river (River Health) is important	Employ Water Sensitive Design Principles (SWUD) to stormwater	LGA13, CLA1, CSP2, ROSS22
Landscape Character and Identity	Parkland, vegetation, the River and historic buildings provides high visual qualities	Protect and enhance important views to and from the foreshore parks	CSP1, ROSS25
		Establish and maintain the open space character that reflects the Windsor township or rural locality	CSP1, ROSS23, ROSS24, ISPAP3
		Enhance basic amenity in all foreshore parks (e.g. seating, paths, shade, shelter, play) that is integrated and reflects each park's Regional or District status	LGA5, LGA6, CLA3, ROSS26, GRW8
Management and Maintenance	Community involvement in the management and planning of open spaces	Integrate community participation in the planning and design of the foreshore park open spaces	CSP5, ROSS33
		Foster community participation in the management and delivery of active and passive recreation across the City	CSP5, ROSS30, ROSS34
	High quality, low maintenance infrastructure	Manage the parks in a manner that meets Quadruple Bottom Line values (economic, cultural, social and environmental)	LGA2, LGA11, CLA1, CLA2, CLA5, CSP1, CSP2, CSP5, ROSS28
		Minimise flood damage to major assets	CSP5, ROSS18

## 5.6 VISION STATEMENT

The following statement provides a vision for the Windsor Foreshore Parks and this section of the Great River Walk, which forms the basis for the following management strategies.

*Creating and managing a foreshore open space corridor in Windsor that provides a valuable resource for recreation, cultural engagement and identity to the community both local and metropolitan, and that pursues sustainable best practice environmental management that contributes to the health of the broader river catchment system.*

## 6 MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

### 6.1 MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management strategies incorporated in this Plan of Management reflect a value-based approach. The first component of the management strategy is the action plan. This establishes a series of responses and required actions to the sites identified values and objectives for the future management of both the foreshore corridor as a whole and its component open spaces. From this basis a master plan (see section 7.0) direction for ongoing enhancement and management of the corridor and individual sites can be developed.

### 6.2 ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan (refer to Table 6.0) is set out in a series of tables, according to priority ranking. The actions include planning, design and management proposals and identify what further detailed plans or related strategies may be needed to fully deliver the objectives.

Each section includes the following:-

- *priority ranking;*
- *performance targets or management objectives;*
- *item or reference number;*
- *means of achievement or management*
- *means of assessment of the actions.*

#### **Priority ranking**

Each management action has been assigned a relative priority for implementation. It is envisaged that actions will be addressed on a priority basis and in accordance with the means of assessment as follows:

HIGH	=	Where there are no impediments to its delivery, this action should be achieved in the short to medium term (1-2 years). Where there may be delays such as budget, design and/or development approvals required, the process needs to commence within the short term.
MEDIUM	=	This is the second tier priority with implementation to be commenced/due in the medium-term (eg 3-5 years)
LOW	=	although this is still an important action, its implementation is not urgent and may be beyond the life of this plan, depending upon resourcing constraints
ONGOING	=	this is a recurrent action that may be regularly repeated and is not assigned a relative importance

#### **Performance Target (Management Objectives)**

Within each table, actions are organised according to the relevant management objective, as defined in the previous section. Each management objective is grouped according to five headings as shown:-

#### **Recreation and Leisure**

- Use foreshore open space for an integrated mix of sporting, cultural, social and educational activities.



### **Access & Circulation**

- Provide a linked network of foreshore open space.
- Optimise opportunities for disability access to all parks and reserves
- Ensure access and parking at reserves is efficient in circulation and adequate for needs, especially where public transport access is presently poor.
- Ensure the safety of park users
- Identify the Hawkesbury River as the hub and principal focus of the walking network

### **Cultural Heritage and Natural Environment**

- Conserve and communicate Aboriginal and non-aboriginal cultural values relating to the riverfront environment and the heritage aspects of Windsor.
- Enhance natural values, habitat connectivity and viability along riparian corridors
- Minimise flood damage to major assets
- Employ Water Sensitive Urban Design Principles (WSUD) to stormwater

### **Landscape Character and Identity**

- Protect and enhance important views to and from the foreshore parks.
- Establish and maintain the open space character that reflects the Windsor township or rural locality
- Enhance basic amenity in all foreshore parks (eg seating, paths, shade, shelter, play) that is integrated and reflects each park's Regional or District status.

### **Management and Maintenance**

- Integrate community participation in the planning and design of the foreshore park open spaces
- Foster community participation in the management and delivery of active and passive recreation across the City.
- Manage the parks in a manner that meets Quadruple Bottom Line values (economic, cultural, social and environmental)

### **Management actions**

The performance targets or management objectives provide the framework for developing specific *management actions* or the *means of achievement*.

### **Item reference**

This is a reference number for each management action to enable easier referencing to particular items

### **Performance measures**

The Action Plan establishes the means to assess the performance delivery of actions (ie. *means of assessment*).

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Table 6.0: Action Plan – High – Short -term

Management Objective	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Item	Means of Assessment (of actions)
<b>Recreation and Leisure</b>			
<i>Use foreshore open space for an integrated mix of sporting, cultural, social and educational activities</i>	Consider feasibility of Macquarie Park and Governor Phillip Park as potential sites for sporting facilities as part of the proposed Hawkesbury Sports Plan (including potential for polocrosse fields)	H1	Feasibility of Macquarie park and Governor Phillip Park considered as potential sites for sporting facilities, as part of the development of the Hawkesbury Sports Plan
	Review opportunities to provide for non-field/court based Sports such as river based sports (kayak, fishing) or event sports (including triathlon, cycling, marathons)	H2	Consider providing opportunity for non/field based sports as part of park improvement plans
<b>Access and Circulation</b>			
<i>Provide a linked network of foreshore open space.</i>	Extend the path along the western portion of Howe Park river foreshore (adjacent to Deerubbin Park)	H3	Construction of pedestrian cycle path
	Improve pedestrian/cyclist link from Thompson Square to Governor Phillip Park	H4	Pedestrian / cyclist link provided
<b>Cultural Heritage and Natural Environment</b>			
<i>Enhance natural values, habitat connectivity and viability along riparian corridors</i>	Develop a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) for the foreshore corridor	H5	Vegetation Management Plan developed
<b>Landscape Character and Identity</b>			
<i>Protect and enhance important views to and from the foreshore parks.</i>	Record important views and establish maintenance strategies to ensure vegetation does not obscure those views.	H6	Important views identified and recorded
			Maintenance strategies developed to retain views
<i>Establish and maintain the open space character that reflects the Windsor township or rural locality</i>	Identify the unique elements of the foreshore park's landscape character and how they will be conserved – eg river foreshore, critical views	H7	Unique character elements of each park identified as landscape/improvement plans are developed.
			Strategies developed to maintain that unique character
<i>Enhance basic amenity in all foreshore parks (eg seating, paths, shade, shelter, play) that is integrated and reflects each park's Regional or District status.</i>	Maintenance practices and future developments reflect the idea of the foreshore as an integrated entity eg use of linking elements	H8	Use linking elements throughout all the parks eg furniture style, signage style
	Continue the improvements to landscape design quality of the foreshore parks. – Develop landscape plans for Deerubbin Park, Thompson Square, and Windsor Wharf Reserve as first priorities	H9	Landscape / improvement Plans developed
			Landscape / improvement plans implemented

# WINDSOR FORESHORE PARKS - DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Table 6.1: Action Plan – Ongoing

Management Objective	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Item	Means of Assessment (of actions)
<b>Recreation and Leisure</b>			
<i>Use foreshore open space for an integrated mix of sporting, cultural, social and educational activities</i>	Extend capacity of parks through more efficient layouts that make better use of the space and increase user capacity	O1	Park capacity increased
	Integrate passive recreation opportunity and facilities into sports reserves (eg circuit paths, seating in shade, planting, play, picnic/BBQ and informal kick-about spaces)	O2	Sports Reserves include passive recreation opportunities
	Provide facilities and opportunities that meet the widest community needs	O3	Facilities provided that respond to family /social culture such as shaded lawn areas or larger shelters
			Locations for performance, cultural events and temporary art installations provided for
	Encourage access to the water's edge and recreation by and on the water (boating, fishing, paddling etc)	O4	Define water access points along foreshore in Governor Phillip Park and Macquarie Park in consultation with user groups
	Encourage specialisation of recreational activities in parks & reserves where appropriate eg sportsgrounds, event space	O5	Establish amenities for specialised recreation eg stage, river access points
<b>Access and Circulation</b>			
<i>Optimise opportunities for disability access to all parks and reserves</i>	Audit access of each foreshore park to determine where improvements can be achieved towards universal access to public space.	O6	Ease of access to park entries off streets
			Provision of circuit paths that can be easily walked or wheeled for prams, wheelchairs or children's bikes
			Disabled car park spaces close to park entries and exploiting views of the park/sports fields
			Optimise access to play facilities for all abilities
<i>Ensure access and parking at reserves is efficient in circulation and adequate for needs, especially where public transport access is presently poor.</i>	Design entries, circulation and parking to optimise use of space, minimise footprint and limit impacts on local residential amenity	O7	Access and circulation efficiencies considered in park improvement plans
	Identify overflow parking areas for major events in District and Regional parks, especially Deerubbin Park and Governor Phillip park	O8	Overflow parking considered in landscape / improvement plans
	Review parking surfaces and parking area definition to Deerubbin Park, Macquarie Park and Governor Phillip park to improve function	O9	Improved functionality of parking
<i>Ensure the safety of park users</i>	Review safety of reserves through criteria addressed in Crime Prevention Through	O10	Reserves assessed

**WINDSOR FORESHORE PARKS - DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT**

Management Objective	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Item	Means of Assessment (of actions)
	environmental Design (CPTED) principles enshrined in the Safer By Design Guidelines		
<i>Identify the Hawkesbury River as the hub and principal focus of the walking network</i>	Pursue state & federal funding for foreshore access trails	O11	Establishment of funding partnerships with state and federal bodies for Great River Walk
<b>Cultural Heritage and Natural Environment</b>			
<i>Conserve and communicate Aboriginal and non-aboriginal cultural values relating to the riverfront environment and the heritage aspects of Windsor.</i>	Conservation of sites and potential sites of aboriginal and non-aboriginal heritage	O12	Preparation of Statement of heritage Impact for developments that may affect heritage values
<i>Enhance natural values, habitat connectivity and viability along riparian corridors</i>	Seek input and possible funding from various state and federal bodies involved in environmental foreshore projects	O13	Funding secured from state and/or federal bodies for environmental foreshore projects
	Assess/map sites of current and potential bank instability/erosion	O14	Sites of current and potential bank erosion identified
	Undertake bank stabilisation, preferably through revegetation, where appropriate	O15	Riverbank stabilisation work undertaken
	Ensure recreation access does not cause erosion to embankments	O16	Restrict recreational activities causing erosion of riverbanks or provide mitigation methods (eg armouring) to reduce damage
	Optimise riparian vegetation along river foreshores and creek corridors (ensuring key views to creeks and rivers are identified and maintained)	O17	Incorporate bushland conservation, restoration and fabrication into Master/landscape plans for each park
	Undertake vegetation management activities (weed control, revegetation etc)	O18	Vegetation actively managed
	Use low growing sedges and grasses along riparian edge where views are required	O19	Low growing species used where views are required
	Minimising wave damage to river banks from recreational vessels at Governor Phillip Park	O20	Riverbanks not damaged by wave action
	Incorporate bushland conservation, restoration and fabrication as a key part of planning documents	O21	Planning documents incorporate bushland conservation values
	Undertake tree planning design integrated with other park improvements to: - Macquarie Park - Howe Park - Hollands Paddock - Gove Phillip Park	O22	Improved tree canopy and visual character to parks and car parking
<i>Minimise flood damage to major assets</i>	Minimise flood damage to new major assets through adaptive design and/or	O23	New developments are designed or located with consideration of flooding



# WINDSOR FORESHORE PARKS - DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Management Objective	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Item	Means of Assessment (of actions)
	placement		impacts
<i>Employ Water Sensitive Urban Design Principles (WSUD) to stormwater</i>	Integrate best practice Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) into all design, planning and management of the River and creeks.	O24	WSUD principles incorporated into design, planning and management
<b>Landscape Character and Identity</b>			
<i>Protect and enhance important views to and from the foreshore parks.</i>	Enhance and retain visibility of the river from critical view locations	O25	Retain major views of the river from key locations including Howe Park observation deck, Governor Phillip Park foreshore paths, Macquarie Park foreshore paths, Thompson Square, Windsor Wharf and Windsor Bridge
<i>Enhance basic amenity in all foreshore parks (eg seating, paths, shade, shelter, play) that is integrated and reflects each park's Regional or District status.</i>	Parks and reserves should specialise in the provision of appropriate recreational experiences	O26	Establishment of individual park/reserve identity
	Consider Macquarie Park as a potential dog-off leash area depending upon local needs and demands, including time allocation where appropriate.	O27	Creation of dog off leash areas
	Investigate provision of play space to Hollands Paddock integrated with overall park design and access to other foreshore parks	O28	Play space option investigated (as part of the overarching Hawkesbury Play implementation Plan
	Apply more local identity to the parks though a range of design opportunities including: retention or adaptive reuse of local heritage fabric; use of materials that may be common in the neighbourhood, local plant species (both native and exotic species where they have historically been planted in the locality); public art addressing local culture, landscape and/or heritage.	O29	Landscape plans to consider applying a local identity to the parks  Use public art to express the identity and culture of the City, relating in particular to the River and heritage values of each park.
<b>Management and Maintenance</b>			
<i>Integrate community participation in the planning and design of the foreshore park open spaces</i>	Employ best practice consultation processes (as per Council's Consultation Policy) for all Plans of Management and Master plans.	O30	The community is consulted in the development of all relevant policies, plans of management, and masterplans
<i>Foster community participation in the management and delivery of active and passive recreation across the City.</i>	Engage special interest groups in the use of parks/reserves	O31	Establish ongoing relationships between council and special interest groups
	Pursue partnerships between user groups and council management in the use and care of parks and reserves	O32	Effectiveness of lease/licensing agreements and establishment of new agreements that reflect a healthy community association with public open space
		O33	Review and update all aspects of active involvement of the community in the care and stewardship of the parks including sport forums
<i>Manage the parks in a manner that meets</i>	Reduce mown grass and irrigation requirements through design of higher	O34	Review maintenance reduction options

# WINDSOR FORESHORE PARKS - DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Management Objective	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Item	Means of Assessment (of actions)
<i>Quadruple Bottom Line values (economic, cultural, social and environmental)</i>	and lower maintenance turf areas and native grass zones.		Initiate trials of new products/techniques etc
			Increase lifecycles of materials and recycling/reuse options
	Investigate potential for reduction of area of turf and establishment of increased tree canopy to western area of Howe Park in coordination with overall plan for Howe Park	O35	Establishment of new planting and reduction in recurrent lawn mowing
	Investigate and implement more practical and sustainable maintenance edge between maintained grass areas and natural areas	O36	Reduced maintenance
	Ensure all new planning, design and management actions ensure optimum sustainability	O37	Optimising the ecology of the parks
			Minimising built form footprint (car parks/buildings)
			Using materials and design with low embodied energy
			Conserving and reusing water
	Review all current leasing and licensing arrangements	O38	Amend policy for exclusive use of Governor Philip Park
			Amend policy/guidelines for noise at Governor Phillip Park
			Establish leasing / licensing of private irrigation infrastructure within Deerubbin Park.
	Relocate new or upgraded irrigation infrastructure to road reserve within Deerubbin Park	O39	Irrigation infrastructure relocated to road reserve
	Ensure all infrastructure is maintained in accordance with relevant building and safety standards	O40	All public safety / risk management issues addressed

# WINDSOR FORESHORE PARKS - DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Table 6.2: Action Plan – Medium term

Management Objective	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Item	Means of Assessment (of actions)
<b>Access and Circulation</b>			
<i>Ensure access and parking at reserves is efficient in circulation and adequate for needs, especially where public transport access is presently poor</i>	Improve pedestrian access to watercraft, through the construction of a jetty at Governor Phillip Reserve, designed to dock multiple vessels at once.	M1	New jetty constructed.
<b>Cultural Heritage and Natural Environment</b>			
<i>Conserve and communicate Aboriginal and non-aboriginal cultural values relating to the riverfront environment and the heritage aspects of Windsor.</i>	Develop a Conservation Management Plan for Thompson Square and Windsor Wharf Reserve	M2	Adoption of a Conservation Management Plan for Thompson Square and Windsor Wharf
	Reinstate connection between the Hawkesbury Riverfront and Thompson Square	M3	Completion of Landscape projects that reinstate a connection between the Hawkesbury Waterfront and Thompson Square
	Interpretation of cultural heritage through landscape design, planning, public art and performance etc	M3	Preparation of Interpretation Plan
<i>Enhance natural values, habitat connectivity and viability along riparian corridors</i>	Implement the Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) for the foreshore corridor	M5	Vegetation Management Plan implemented
	Build a washdown facility at Governor Phillip Park	M6	Washdown facility built
<b>Landscape Character and Identity</b>			
<i>Protect and enhance important views to and from the foreshore parks.</i>	Enhance views to and within the parks from critical view locations	M7	Clear views to historic plantings or historic buildings
<i>Enhance basic amenity in all foreshore parks (e.g. seating, paths, shade, shelter, play) that is integrated and reflects each park's Regional or District status.</i>	Consider appropriate scale and locations of future play spaces within the foreshore parks as part of the review undertaken for the Children's Play Implementation Plan	M8	Implement recommendations from the proposed Children's Play Implementation Plan with regard to type and location of play facilities within each foreshore park.
	Establish kayak and canoe launching facilities near beach at Macquarie Park	M9	Construction of launching facilities

# WINDSOR FORESHORE PARKS - DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Table 6.3: Action Plan – Long-term

Management Objective	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Item	Means of Assessment (of actions)
<b>Access and Circulation</b>			
<i>Provide a linked network of foreshore open space.</i>	Plan for the extension of the GRW including liaison with landowners to extend public access along river/creeks in private ownership (this may entail reciprocal assistance to landowners with revegetation or native habitat)	L1	GRW extended
	Implement on street link (along George Street) between Governor Phillip Park and Thompson Square as a short to medium term solution to existing missing GRW link. Consider longer term provision of foreshore access subject to consideration of issues identified in community consultation	L2	Construction of on street link
	Negotiate acquisition of Sydney Water owned land at Howe Park to retain park continuity	L3	Sydney Water Land at Howe Park acquired
<i>Ensure access and parking at reserves is efficient in circulation and adequate for needs, especially where public transport access is presently poor.</i>	Establish a circuit trail connecting existing foreshore trail in Macquarie Park that loops through the park's interior	L4	Construction of circuit
<b>Cultural Heritage and Natural Environment</b>			
<i>Conserve and communicate Aboriginal and non-aboriginal cultural values relating to the riverfront environment and the heritage aspects of Windsor.</i>	Liaise with the Aboriginal community to establish the means through which their cultural heritage can best be recognised	L5	Consultation with local Aboriginal community groups to inform the preparation of the Cultural Heritage Interpretation Plan
<i>Enhance natural values, habitat connectivity and viability along riparian corridors</i>	Maintain current proposed recreation zoning for foreshore zone between Governor Philip Park and Windsor Wharf reserve, and review desirability of potential implementation through acquisition or easement for the long-term management of weeds, water quality and embankment stabilisation	L6	Environmental quality of foreshore zone improved
<b>Landscape Character and Identity</b>			
<i>Enhance basic amenity in all foreshore parks (eg seating, paths, shade, shelter, play) that is integrated and reflects each park's Regional or District status.</i>	Upgrade lighting, considering the principles of encouraging evening use of passive parklands and sports facilities, limiting lighting in areas that may impact on native fauna, discouraging anti-social behaviour and using latest technology to limit power use.	L7	Lighting upgraded
	Consider Howe Park and Governor	L8	Café/Kiosk facilities considered if



# WINDSOR FORESHORE PARKS - DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Management Objective	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Item	Means of Assessment (of actions)
<b>Access and Circulation</b>			
	Phillip park as potential locations for cafes/kiosks and mobile refreshments if it can be demonstrated to show direct benefit to users.		demand arises
<b>Management and Maintenance</b>			
<i>Manage the parks in a manner that meets Quadruple Bottom Line values (economic, cultural, social and environmental)</i>	Investigate and implement as applicable the potential for valid recreational use of lands in the southern part of Governor Phillip reserve (currently used for event parking). Potential uses may include sporting fields, circuses another events (consider also integrating operational lands to the south of the park as well)	L9	Improved community use of lands
	Establish an area of operational land within Deerubbin Park for the purpose of irrigation from the end of the road reserve to the river in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993	L10	Portion of community land at end of road reserve within Deerubbin Park re-categorised as operational land

## 7 MASTER PLAN

The Landscape Master plans (*refer to Figures 7.0-7.7*) identify key management actions to be implemented subject to available funding.

### 7.1 SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS

Specific landscape / improvements plans are required to provide further design detail consistent with the requirements of this Plan of Management. Each of those specific landscape plans shall consider, but not be limited to, the following:

#### Macquarie Park Landscape Plan

Landscape / improvement plan for Macquarie Park to consider:

- improved pedestrian / cyclist access to the town centre facilitated through bridge replacement project
- possible extension of park area to east
- Upgrade of signage – regulatory and interpretive, including possible new entry gate location
- rationalisation and reconfiguration of vehicular access and parking areas to optimise recreation use of higher amenity foreshore spaces
- continued upgrading of picnic facilities
- Separation of play area from access road e.g. low wall
- Event use of ‘paddock’ area
- Improved kayak access to water
- Improved access to beach area
- Potential loop walk
- Greater utilisation of large open space to north and west e.g. playing fields
- Improve relationship of picnic area to the river
- Provide views to River, Howe Park and Thompson Square
- Consider options for additional (permanent) storage facilities / clubhouse for canoe club

#### Deerubbin Park Landscape Plan

Landscape / improvement plan for Deerubbin Park to consider:

- upgrading of parking areas to improve function and reduce impacts on trees
- provide vehicular management/barrier system coordinated with all other foreshore parks
- installation of floodlights to new field
- construction of paths to link parking areas to amenities and GRW route
- construction of secondary path along riparian area to provide a maintenance edge
- improve safety of water access for Triathlon users and people fishing
- upgrade signage, fencing and entry to reserve
- formal dog training area
- new shade shelters, bike racks, possible playground
- spectator mounds / seating
- Possible Clubhouse location
- Possible sealing of laneway

#### Howe Park Landscape Plan

Landscape / improvement plan for Howe Park to consider:

- incorporation of the existing landscape ‘node’ plans
- re-establishing views to Macquarie Park, Windsor Bridge and Thompson Square
- incorporate a fitness area
- vegetation management and riparian restoration areas
- Potential removal of Lomandra garden beds adjacent to Rickabys Creek
- Review suitability of trees e.g. figs within the park. Select species consistent with those already in the park or locality.

### **Hollands Paddock Landscape Plan**

Landscape / improvement plan for Hollands Paddock to consider:

- landscape treatment of edge to shopping centre
- improve pedestrian crossing / access to Howe Park
- Inclusion of a performance stage
- Upgrade of fencing around reserve, to remain low key and informal

### **Thompson Square Landscape Plan**

Landscape / improvement plan for Thompson Square to consider:

- Integration with RMS proposed landscaping
- Landscaping to retain informal / casual atmosphere
- Retention / creation of historic views
- Incorporation of interpretive elements
- Need for further assessment of archaeological potential

### **Windsor Wharf Reserve Landscape Plan**

Landscape / improvement plan for Windsor Wharf Reserve to consider:

- Improve access along the foreshore
- Improve bank stability and reshape erosion areas to facilitate better access and usage
- Improve general amenity of foreshore
- address 'dead-end' visual / spatial character of the reserve
- Integration of RMS bridge replacement and associated landscaping
- Optimisation of slope as design feature – e.g. viewing areas
- consideration of longer term potential for GRW access to be pursued along foreshore - to supplement access to Bridge Street

### **Governor Phillip Park Landscape Plan**

Landscape / improvement plan for Governor Phillip Park to consider:

- Planted buffer adjoining residences
- improved tree canopy through park where appropriate
- improved tree canopy to riverfront and embankments for habitat and amenity, providing for views to water
- reduce mown area on embankment by planting with low growing sedges and grasses
- erosion control at toe of embankment – extension of rip rap
- Extension of pontoon for craft mooring
- Foreshore access for walking and fishing
- Replacement of tree avenue
- New entrance gates incorporating signage notifying of upcoming park closures
- Upgrade signage
- Upgrade existing car park
- Provision of a boat wash-down facility
- Provision of event parking
- Consideration of potential sporting facilities in the southern portion of the reserve

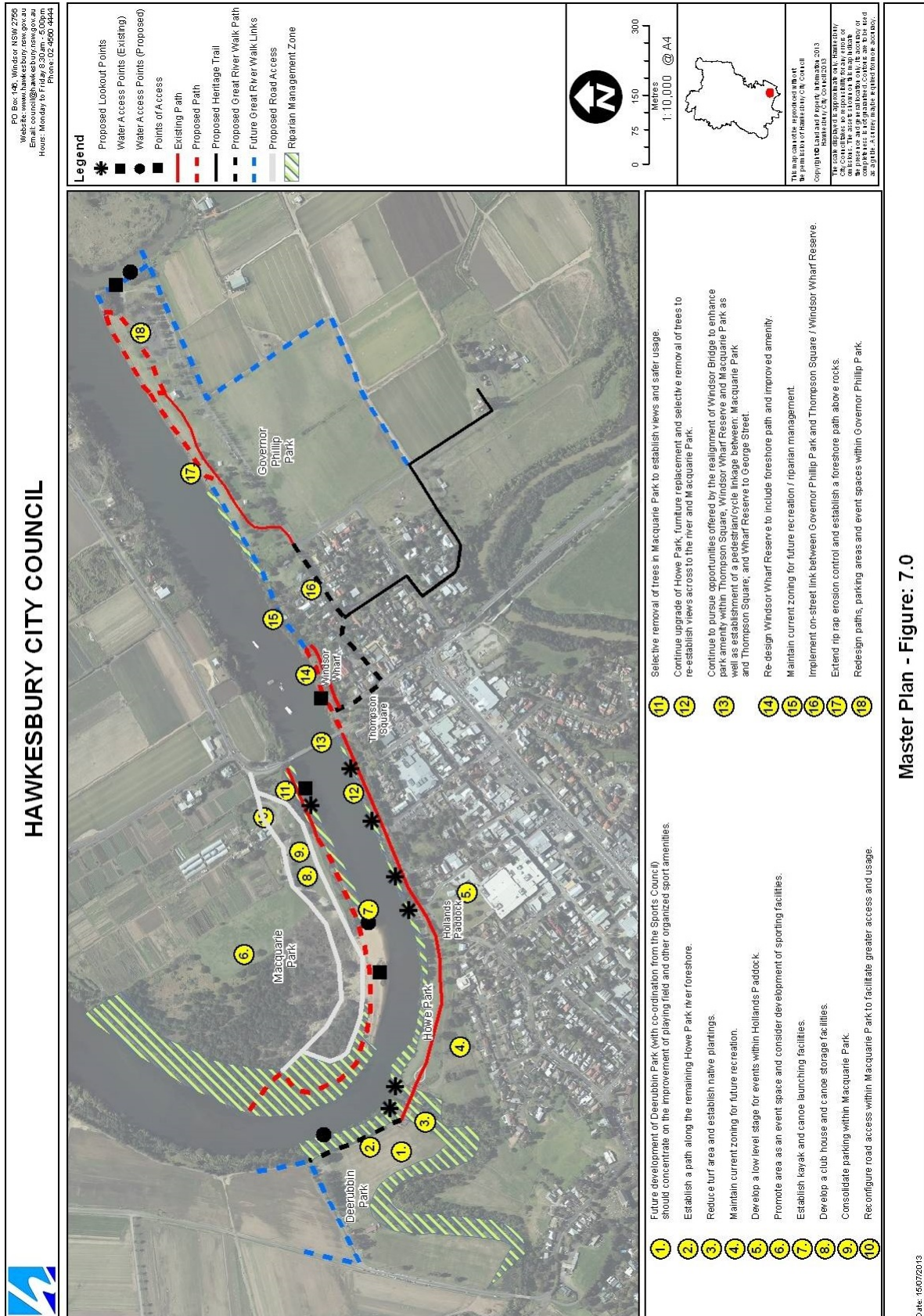


Figure 7.0 Masterplan



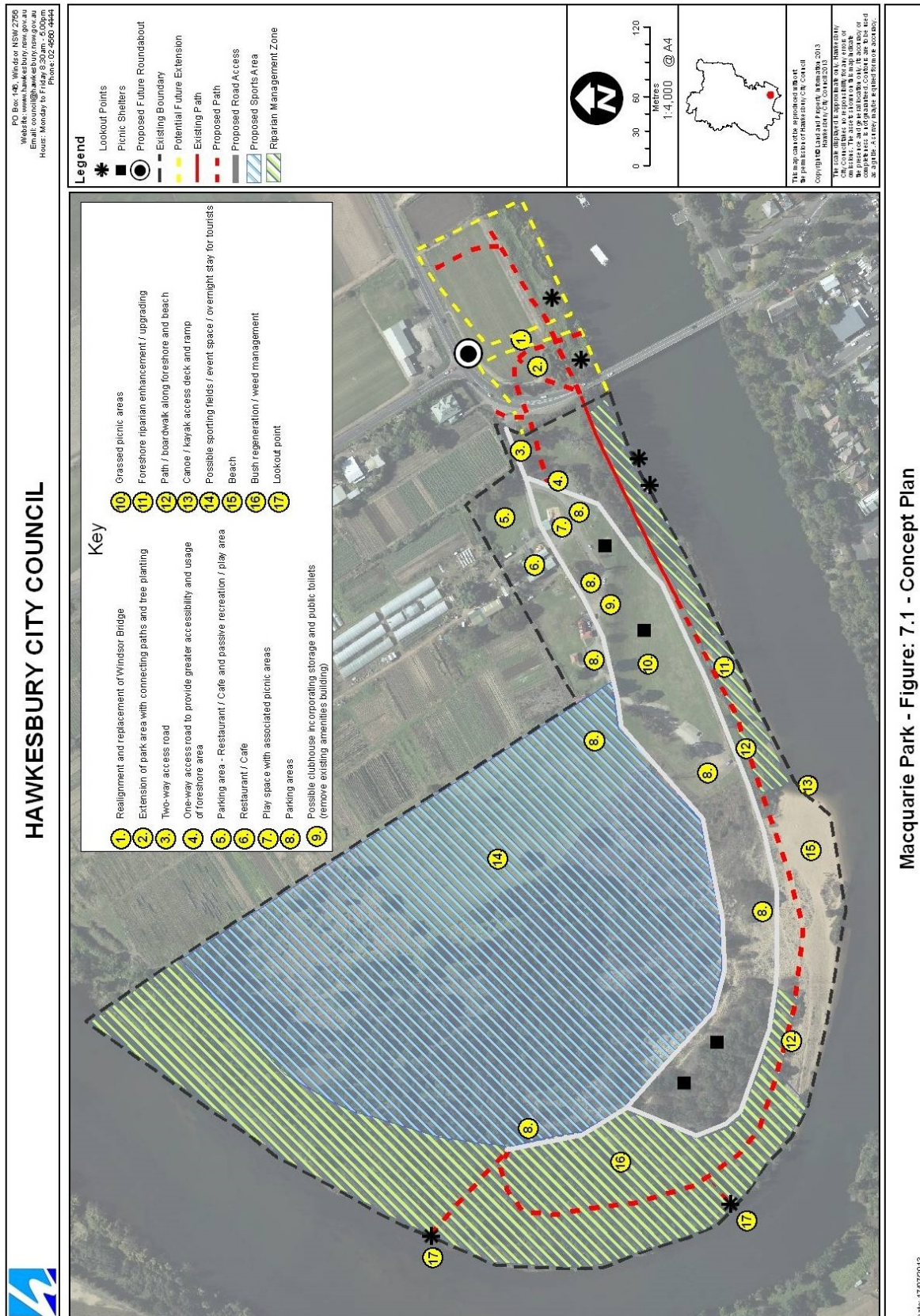


Figure 7.1 Macquarie Park Concept Plan



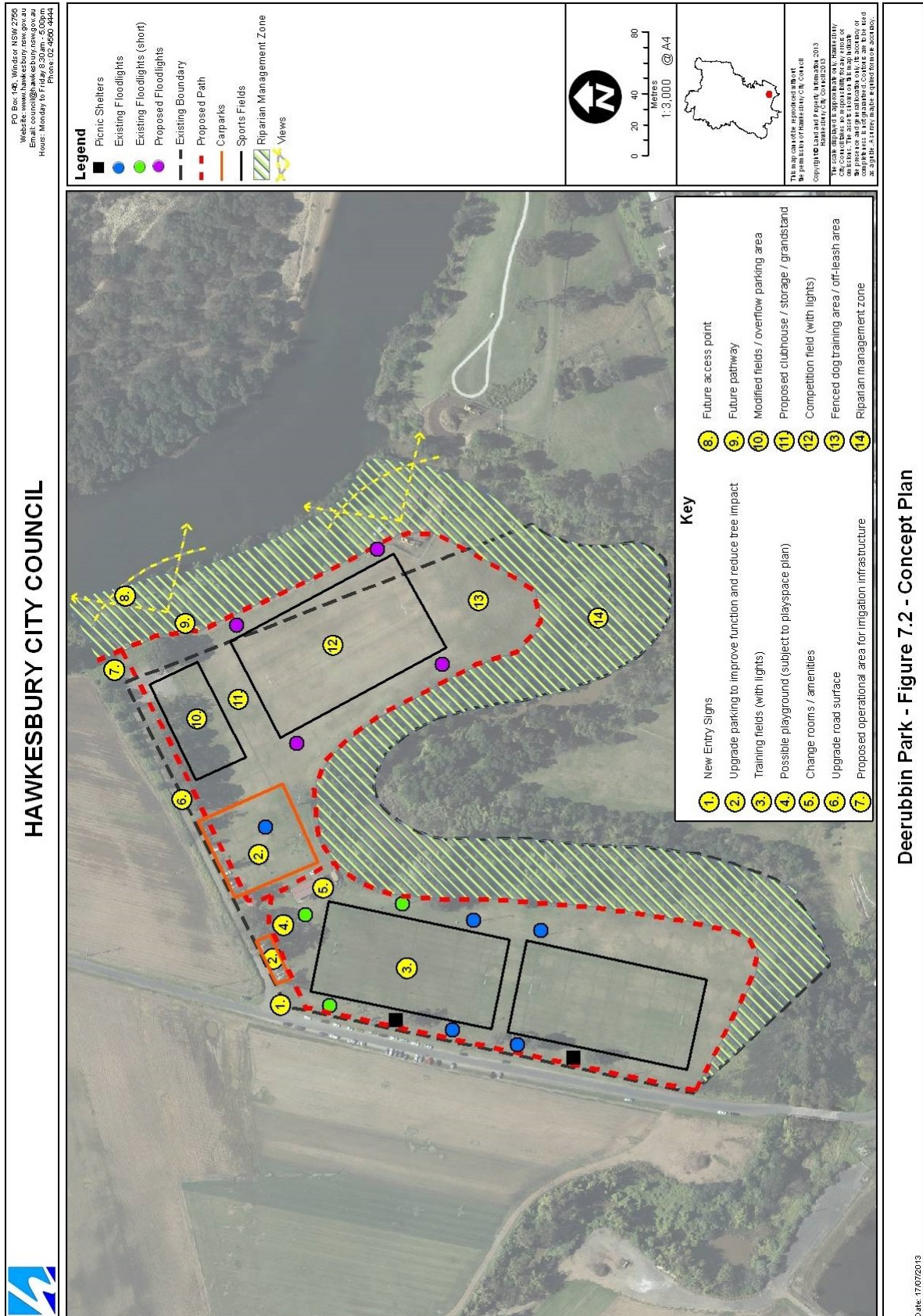


Figure 7.2 Deerubbin Park Concept Plan



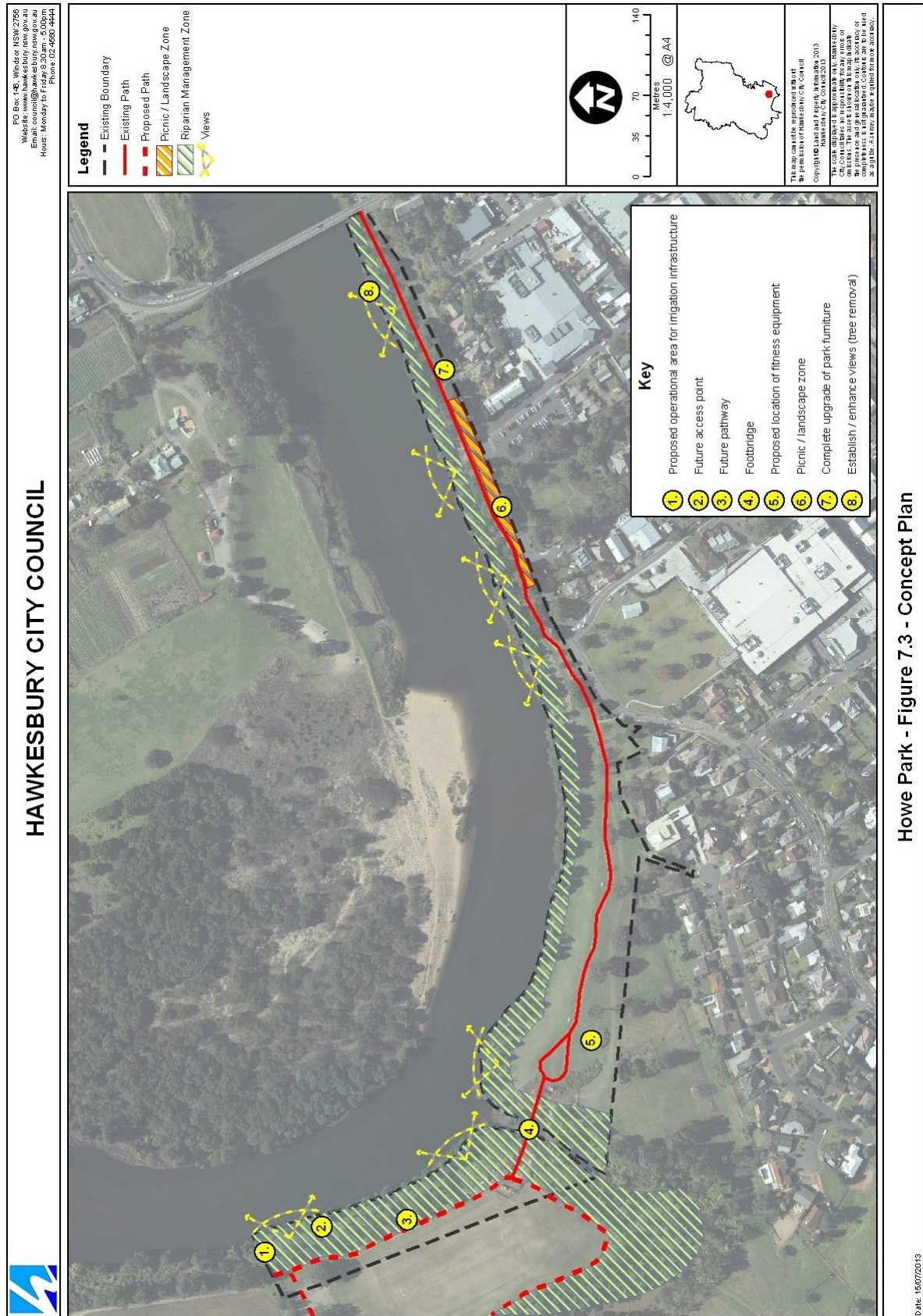


Figure 7.3 Howe Park Concept Plan



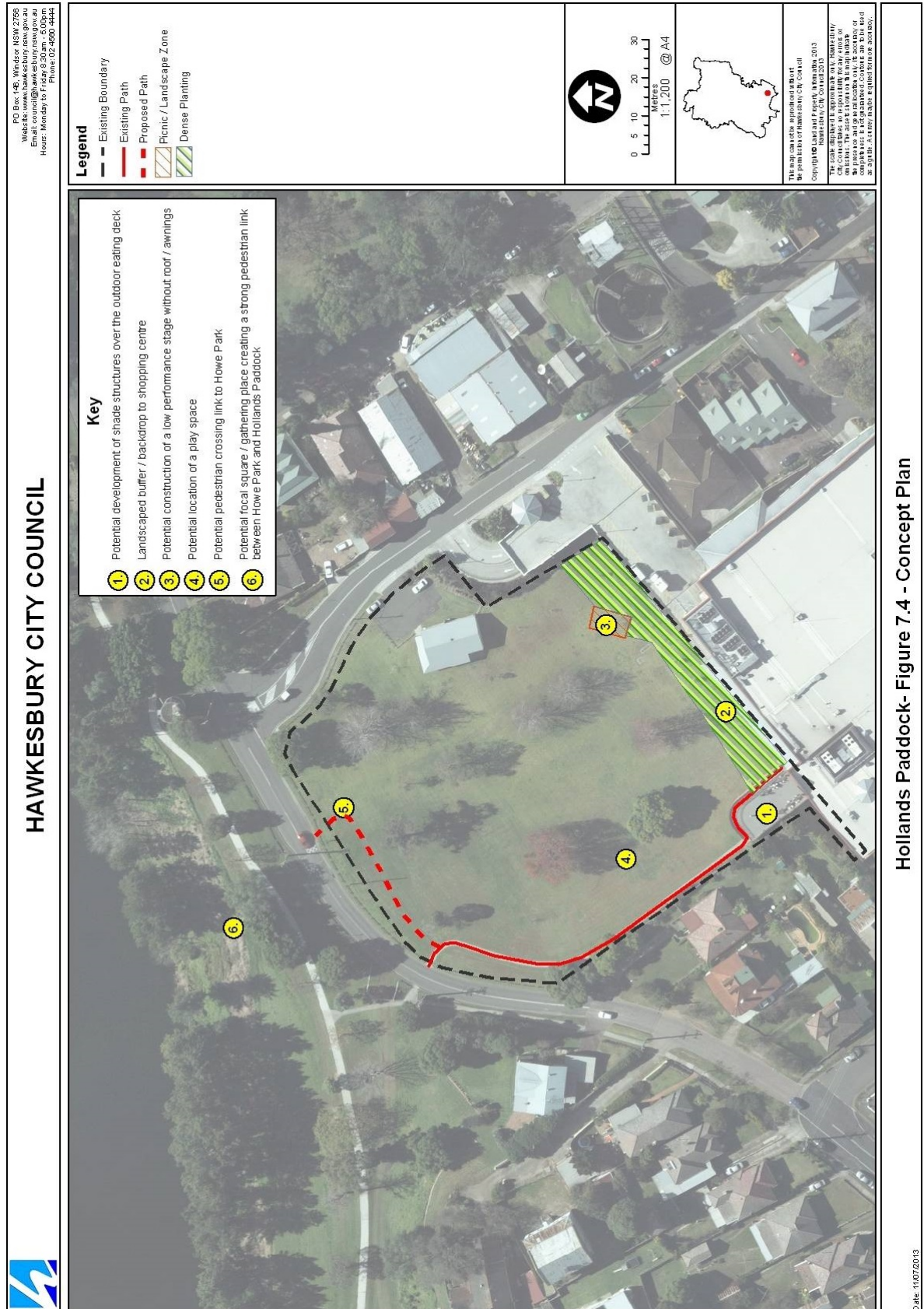


Figure 7.4 Hollands Paddock Concept Plan



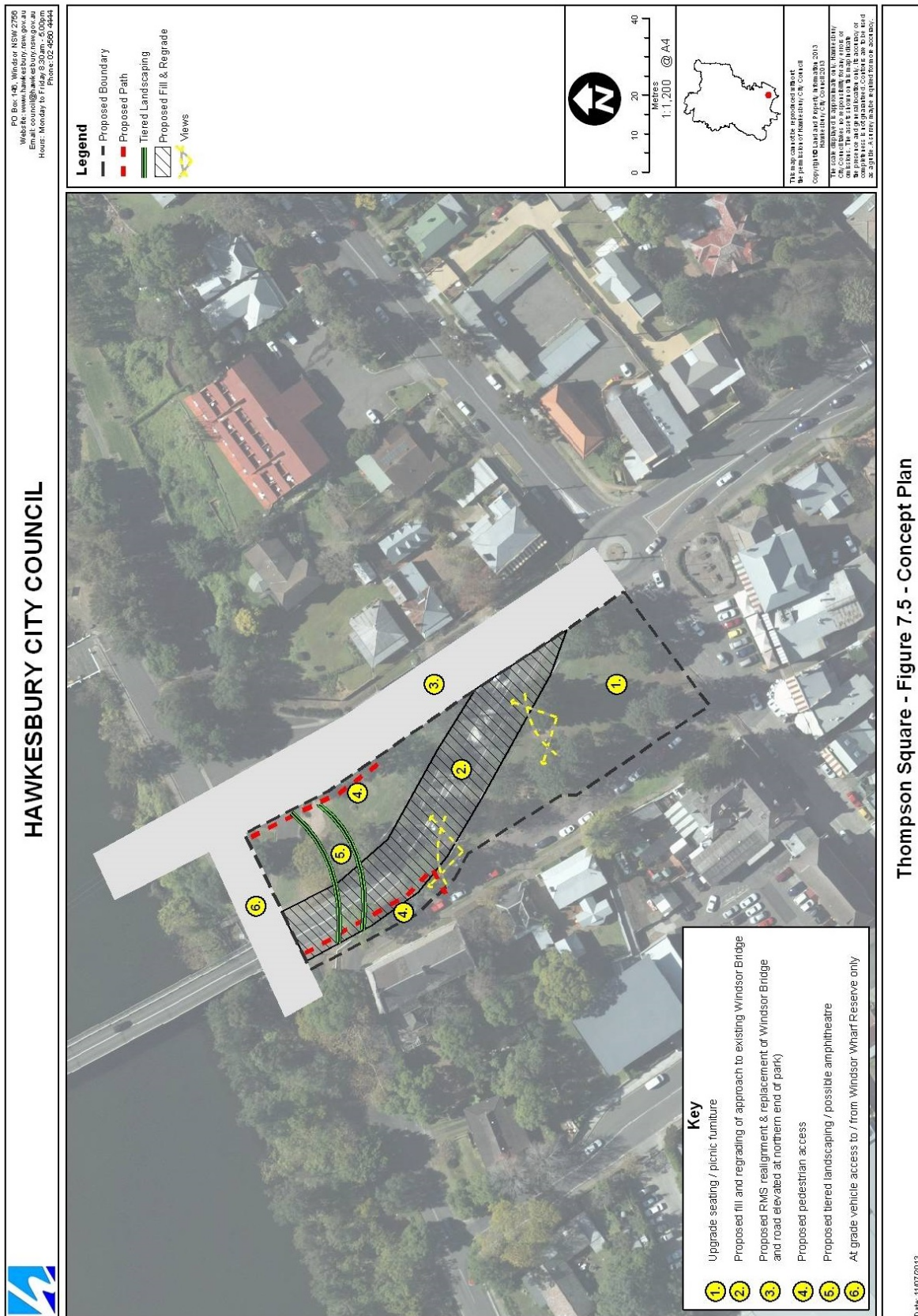


Figure 7.5 Thompsons Square Concept Plan

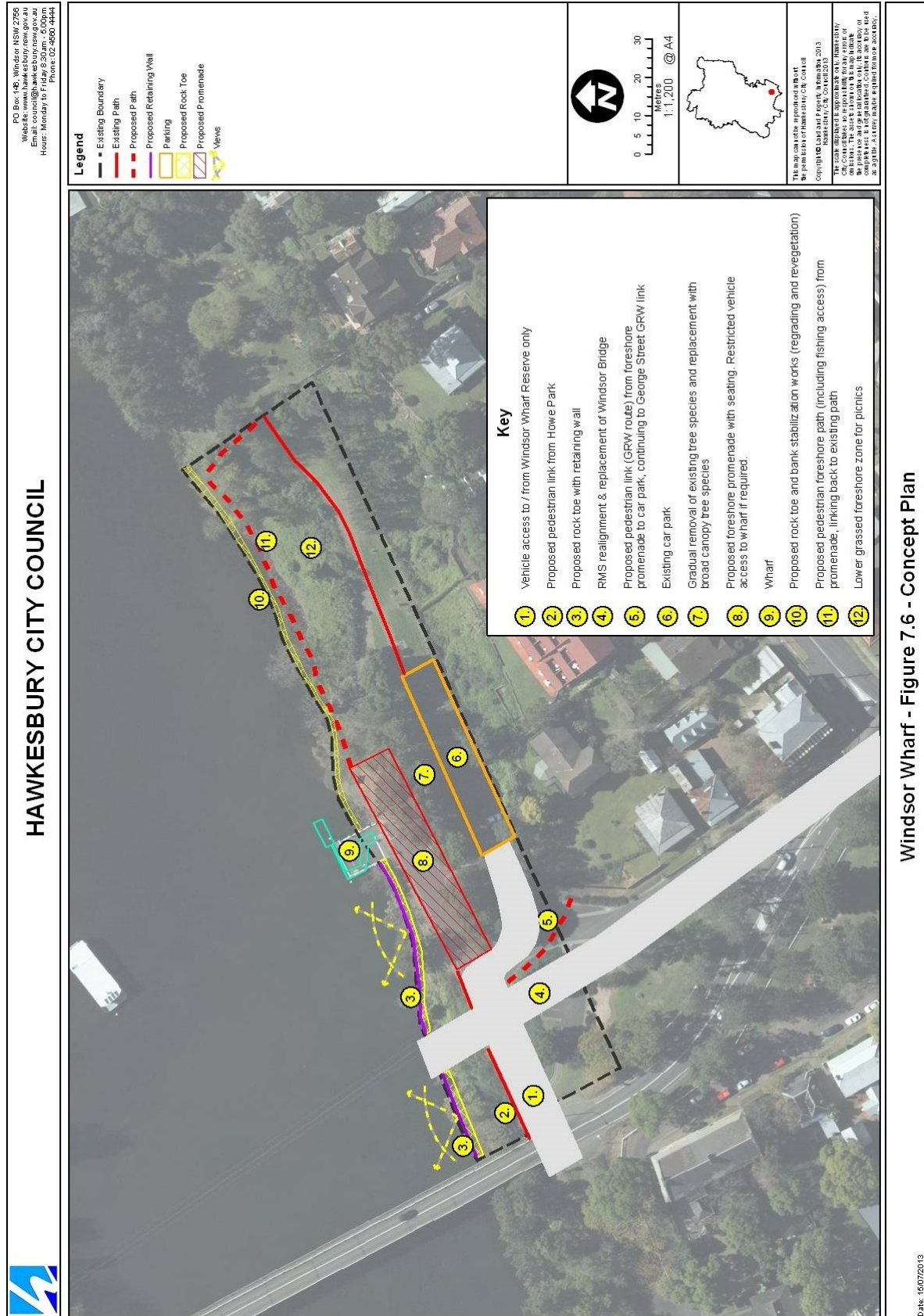


Figure 7.6 Windsor Wharf Concept Plan



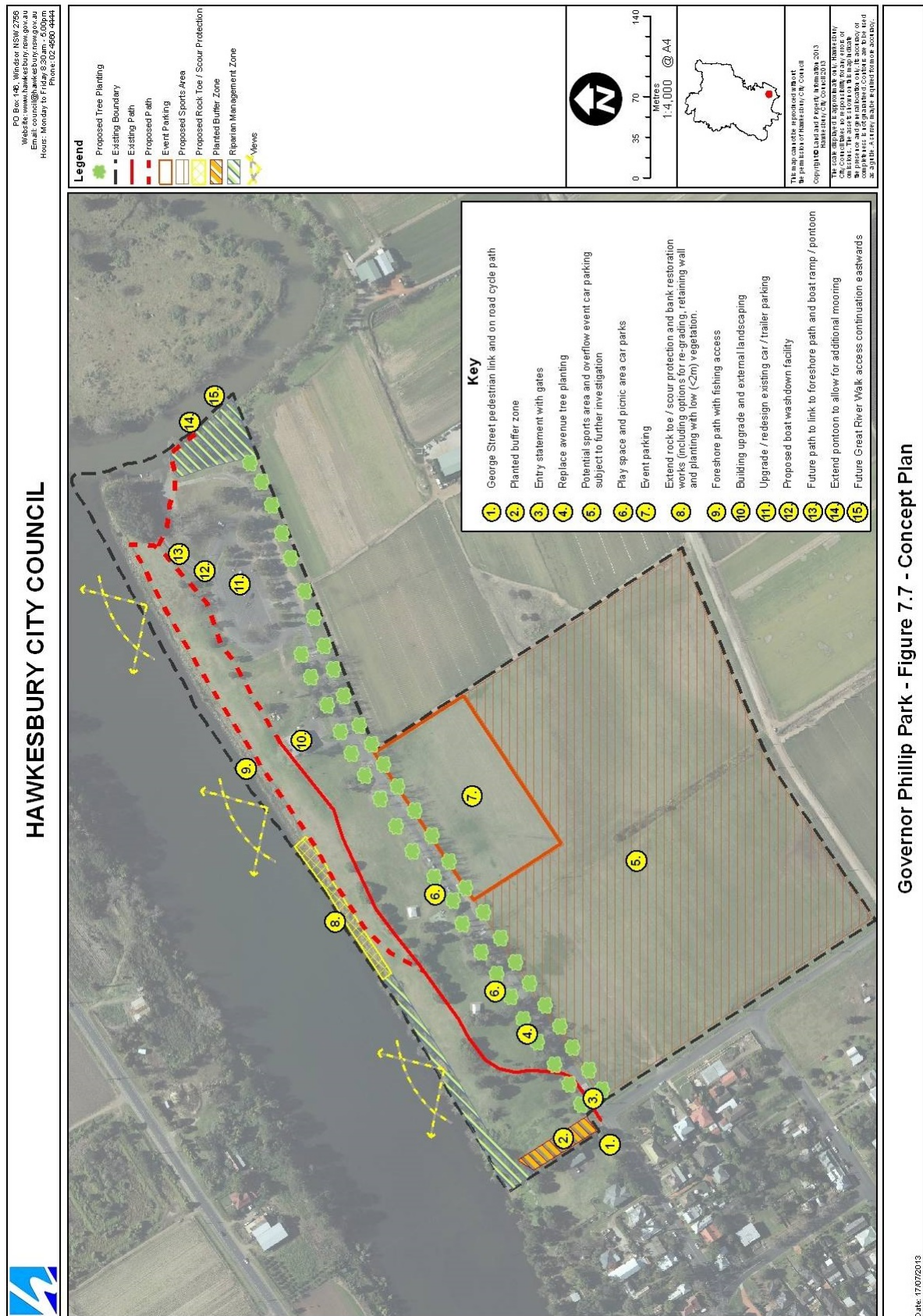


Figure 7.7 Governor Phillip Park Concept Plan

## 8 APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1

#### **Proposed changes to Thompson's Square, Windsor Wharf Reserve and Macquarie Park**

The proposed Windsor Bridge Replacement Project, undertaken by the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS), will have a big impact upon Thompson Square and Windsor Wharf Reserve, and to a lesser extent, Macquarie Park. In the short-term, works will impact upon the accessibility of the parks and will ultimately result in reconfiguration of landform and boundaries, and will provide the opportunity for enhancement of the parks visually and to some extent, functionally.

Currently the Project is awaiting Ministerial determination and has been through public consultation and exhibition processes. Extensive design and investigation have been undertaken, as documented in the EIS for the proposal. Concept plans for the future configuration and landscaping of Thompson Square and Windsor Wharf and new parkland adjoining Macquarie Park, have been developed. Further consultation and development of these plans will be undertaken in consultation with Council and other stakeholders, if the Project is approved.

#### **Proposed scope of works (relating to parkland and the GRW)**

- Infilling the southern approach to the existing bridge, therefore consolidating and reconnecting the two land parcels of Thompson Square.
- Removal of some trees which are either in poor condition or would be impacted by the project.
- Minor earthworks in Thompson Square lower parkland area to improve the connection of the parkland to the river.
- Construction of stairs from the bridge pedestrian/cyclist path to The Terrace and from Thompson Square Road to The Terrace to provide pedestrian access.
- Reinstatement of the section of The Terrace and riverbank currently bisected by the existing bridge and approach roads, including improvement of pedestrian access.
- Planting of trees and other vegetation in Thompson Square parkland
- Landscaping along the foreshore and adjoining the new road approach, wherever restoration works are required.
- Addition of parkland adjacent to Macquarie Park
- Provision of pedestrian and cyclist access across the bridge and to Macquarie Park
- Provision of pedestrian and cyclist access along The Terrace and on the eastern side of the new Bridge Street providing a link to George Street
- Provision of traffic lights at the intersection of George Street, facilitating a link from Thompson Square to Governor Phillip Park along George Street.

The majority of Thompson Square Park and all of Windsor Wharf Reserve will be closed to public access for the duration of works for safety reasons. Some areas of the park will be used for stockpile of materials and other associated works. The duration of works is estimated at 20 months (excluding pre-construction and early works).

Prior to construction, the land parcels comprising Thompson Square Park and Windsor Wharf Reserve will be acquired by the RMS. At conclusion of works, the parkland of Thompson Square and Windsor Wharf will be returned to Council. As a result, these parks will no longer be subject to this Plan of Management following acquisition by RMS. A new PoM will be required once the parks are returned to Council. See Figures 1a and 1b Illustrating the existing and proposed configuration of roads and parkland.





Figure 1a Thompson Square – existing conditions  
(pg 276 Windsor Bridge Replacement EIS, 2012)



Figure 1b Thompson Square – future conditions  
(pg 277 Windsor Bridge Replacement Project EIS, 2012)

It is highly recommended that landscape plans for the portions of Thompson Square and Windsor Wharf Reserve, not included in the RMS Plans, be developed to supplement the plans so that the remainder of the parks can be landscaped/improved by Council at the same time. It is also highly recommended that a landscape plan be developed for Macquarie Park which considers the future inclusion of land to the east and access to and from that land.

### Proposed Landscape Plan

The Urban Design and Landscape Concept Report (UDLC) (part of the project's EIS) promotes a future design for an informal landscaping scheme that retains the "natural" character of the parks. To create a pedestrian connection from George Street to the river, the concept plan is for a gentle terracing that begins halfway down to the river.



Figure 2a – Potential trees to be removed  
(Detail of the Urban Design and Landscape Concept Report, pg 71 Spackman Mossop and Michaels with Hills Thallis).



Figure 2b: - Proposed replanting scheme  
(Detail of the Urban Design and Landscape Concept Report, pg 71 (Spackman Mossop and Michaels with Hills Thallis)).





Figure 3a: Detail from the landscape concept plan prepared by Spackman Mossop and Michaels with Hills Thallis; page 76. (The area that would be landscaped as part of the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project is coloured pale green.)



Figure 3b: Detail from the landscape concept plan prepared by Spackman Mossop and Michaels with Hills Thallis; page 77. The northern bank would be landscaped with a combination of grass, trees, a riparian zone to screen the scour protection and the roundabout. Note, Macquarie Park immediately upstream from these works.

## Benefits arising from the project

Direct opportunities arising from the project would include:

- Uniting the two parkland areas of Thompson Square to create one cohesive civic space that addresses the Hawkesbury River
- Shared access along The Terrace to increase the use and enjoyment of the foreshore
- Improved pedestrian and cycle access between Thompson Square and the river foreshore, across the bridge to Macquarie Park and access across Bridge Street at the George Street intersection.
- Access improvement to Macquarie Park will encourage visitation
- The potential to integrate The Terrace and the northern bank into the Great River Walk
- Realising the potential of the archaeology to tell us more about the place and life in Windsor during human occupation
- Interpretation opportunities in situ, in the museum and as part of the Great River Walk

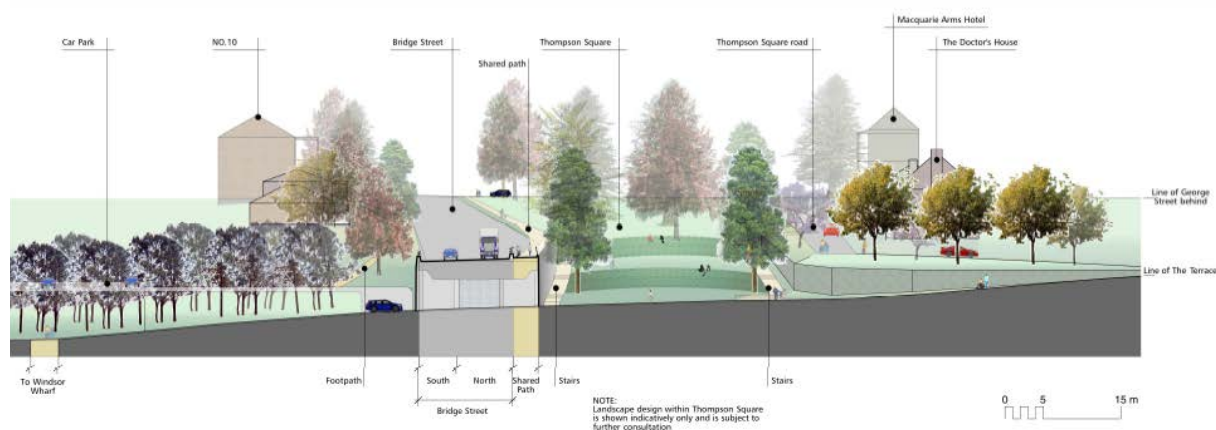


Figure 4 - Long section of the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project (including landscaping) along The Terrace (pg 281 Windsor Bridge Replacement Environmental Impact Statement)



## APPENDIX 2

## Park Inventory

Reserve Name	Macquarie Park	Deerubbin Park	Howe Park	Hollands Paddock	Thompsons Square	Windsor Wharf	Governor Phillip Park
Hierarchy	Regional	District	Regional	District	Regional	District	Regional
<b>Settings</b>							
Passive Parklands	4	3	1	2	3	2	1
Outdoor Sports		1					
Civic and Urban Spaces				2	2		
River Frontage	1	2	1			3	2
Natural Areas and Bushland	2						
Creeks and Wetlands							
Ancillary							
<b>LGA Act Category</b>							
Watercourse	*	*	*			*	
Foreshore							*
Park	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Sportsground							
General Community Use	*			*			*
<b>Assets</b>							
Buildings	*	*					*
Structures	*	*	*				*
Lighting	*	*					*
Paths / Walls	*	*	*				*
Street Furniture	*	*	*				*
Fencing	*	*					*
Play Equipment	*						*
Sports Fields		*					
<b>Functions / uses</b>							
Passive	*	*	*				*
Sports		*					
Play		*					*
Walking	*						
Cycle							
Dog							
Heritage / tourism	*		*				*
Education							

Note: "Settings" are ranked according to the primary function