



Plan of Management

September 2012

LOSEBY PARK

Bowral, NSW

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Loseby Park

Plan of Management

Adopted
September 2012

Prepared by



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**Your submission is now sought for
Loseby Park - Draft Plan of Management**

The *Local Government Act 1993, as amended* and the *Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act, 1998* requires a Plan of Management to be prepared for all Public Open Space zoned Community Land. A Plan of Management is a legal document that outlines how Community Land will be managed in the years ahead.

The procedure for the adoption of this Plan of Management, as specified in the Local Government Act, includes:

- After considering all submissions received by it concerning the draft Plan of Management, Council may decide to amend the draft plan or to adopt it without amendment as the Plan of Management for the Community Land concerned.
- If Council decides to amend the draft plan it must either:
 - Publicly exhibit the amended draft plan in accordance with the provisions of the Division relating to the public exhibition of draft plans, or
 - If it is of the opinion that the amendments are not substantial, adopt the amended draft plan without public exhibition as the Plan of Management for the Community Land concerned.
- If Council adopts an amended plan without public exhibition of the amended draft plan, it must give public notice of that adoption, and of the terms of the amended Plan of Management, as soon as practicable after the adoption.

Once Council has adopted the plan, no operations may be undertaken within Loseby Park except those which are in accordance with the plan. The plan may also apply to any future additions to the Reserve. Where management strategies or works are proposed for any additions that are not consistent with the plan, an amendment to the plan will be required.

Written submissions on this draft Plan of Management for the site are now sought. Submissions should be forwarded to:

Loseby Park - Draft Plan of Management

Wingecarribee Shire Council
Civic Centre,
Elizabeth Street,
MOSS VALE NSW 2577

Attention Joshua Patterson
 Recreation Planner

The closing date for comments on this plan is Monday 28th July 2012

Foreword

The Local Government Act requires that Council have in place a Plan of Management for all Community Land. Community Land generally includes Parks and Reserves, Bushland and Community Facilities such as Community Centres, where the land is owned by Council or under Council's care and control.

This Plan of Management has been prepared to comply with the Local Government Act 1993, as amended and the Local Government (General) Regulation which commenced on 1st January 1999. This plan has been prepared to reflect the needs of:

- Council as managers of the land;
- All user groups;
- Local residents as users and neighbours of the land;
- Visitors and tourists; and
- The local community as custodians of the community assets.

Community input into the Plans of Management

The Local Government Act 1993 requires that all plans of management be placed on public display for a minimum period of 28 days. A minimum period of 42 days after the draft is placed on exhibition is allowed for written submissions to be made to Council.

Submissions provide an opportunity for the community and other stakeholders, to express opinions, provide information and suggest alternatives to the proposed Management Strategies for Community Land within the Shire. On closure of the period of public comment, and after consideration of submissions received, Council may decide to amend the draft Plan of Management, or adopt it without further amendment. If a Council adopts an amended plan without public exhibition of the amended draft plan, it must give public notice of that adoption and of the terms of the amended Plan of Management, as soon as practicable after the adoption.

Public Hearing Land Categorisation

In accordance with Section 40A of the Local Government Act 1999, a public hearing was held on 3rd October 2007, in respect to the categorisation of the land.

Acknowledgements

This Plan of Management has been prepared by Micris Management Services Pty Ltd for Wingecarribee Shire Council's Parks and Property Branch, with contributions from Council's Information Technology and Strategic Planning Branches.

This plan has been prepared following consultation with user groups, key stakeholders and the local community. A community workshop was held 5th September 2007.

Numerous individuals and groups have contributed valuable ideas and information in the preparation of this plan and their efforts are gratefully acknowledged. In particular the contribution of those individuals who were involved in the preparation of the plan is sincerely appreciated. This includes:

Wingecarribee Shire Council

Peter Bowmer, Peter Byrne, Karen Allison and Chris Richmond

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

This Plan of Management provides the framework for managing Loseby Park. Designated as a Significant Area by Wingecarribee Shire Council, this Reserve is highly valued by the local community and visitors alike. Loseby Park is an outstanding resource in terms of its scenic, environmental, social and passive recreational values. It plays a vital role in Wingecarribee's open space system. This Plan of Management provides a comprehensive framework for management of all activities within the Park.

This Plan takes a value based approach to land planning and management, identifying the Parks key values, role and purpose so that these assets may be protected and enhanced. The Parks unique qualities, its environmental sensitivity and susceptibility to changing uses are all defining criteria for the way in which this land must be managed. Issues will come and go but the values which make Loseby Park unique are more enduring. However, these values can be easily lost, damaged or diminished so it is important to ensure their protection for the enjoyment of this generation as well as for generations to come. The issues currently or potentially threatening these values are therefore central to the Plan of Management.

Wingecarribee Shire Council's approach in facilitating this process and providing opportunities for extensive consultation has significantly improved understanding of these values and issues amongst stakeholders and the broader community. The following issues were discussed during the public discussions:

Access and Parking

- Improved access to the Loseby Park
- Formalisation of car park area and provision of additional car parking spaces
- Limit vehicle access to car park area only
- Segregate vehicles from park users (children), with the exception of emergency vehicles
- Informal circulation access throughout the park

Development

- Enhance the identification of the park for visitors to the area
- Improvements to the park infrastructure based on the masterplan accompanying this PoM
- Improved sporting facilities and passive open space
- Improve the public amenity

Safety

- Conflict between cars and park users
- Insufficient flood lighting (within the oval) for training

Basis for Management

Reflecting community values expressed through community consultation, the Plan defines the Parks values, its role and purpose in the context of being a Significant Area and Community Reserve. The following key values were identified as part of the development of this Plan of Management:

- Health Values
- Recreational Values
- Social Values
- Natural Values

These values are affected, and in some cases potentially threatened, by a broad range of uses, actions, management practices, development and lease proposals. Some of these threats, opportunities and constraints are current while others may not yet exist. The Plan seeks to address all of these current and potential issues within an appropriate planning framework which will ensure the protection of the Park's identified values, role and purpose.

The vision statement for Loseby Park encapsulates these values, provides guiding principles and addresses the fundamental expectations of the community as follows:

To recognise Loseby Park as a “significant place” in Wingecarribee Shire Council’s open space system, ensuring protection and conservation of identified values through appropriate management, in a way which best meets the environmental, recreational, educational and social needs of the present community and future generations.

Management Principles

In accordance with this vision statement, the Plan has established a set of management principles which will determine the direction Wingecarribee Shire Council as the Land Owners and the Reserve Trust Managers will follow in implementing the specific strategies, and are summarised as follows:

- Recognise, protect and enhance the understanding, protection and restoration of the natural landscape and ecological values of the Park;
- Permit a wide range of recreational opportunities compatible with the natural/physical, scenic and cultural features of the Park, in response to community needs;
- Encourage community “ownership” and use of the park
- Encourage and promote public use by providing a range of high quality, safe, accessible and enjoyable recreational and leisure facilities;
- Adopt Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design and Safer by Design principles in managing the park to minimise vandalism and increase personal safety in the park.
- Protect and enhance the visual and social values of the Park;
- Provide opportunities for informal recreation and social interaction.
- Ensure continued free public access.

Action Plan

The above principles were used in the development of the management strategies or desired outcomes form the basis by which the Parks values can be managed and protected on a sustainable basis. Performance measures and priorities for action have been assigned accordingly. The masterplan identifies the physical locations and relationships of proposed actions within the Park.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Community Land*

Local Government councils own and manage a variety of land. All the land that councils own or manage, with five exceptions is called ‘public land’ under the Local Government Act, 1993.

The five types of land that are not included in councils’ collection of public land are:

- A public road;
- Land to which the Crown Lands Act 1989 applies;
- A common;
- Land subject to the Trustees of Schools of Arts Enabling Act 1902; and
- A regional park under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.

Public land must be classified as one of two forms of public land, either as ‘community land’, or as ‘operational land’. Operational is land that Councils may deal with in a relatively unfettered manner – it can be leased or licensed, managed or even sold without the restrictions that apply to community land. Operational land is land that council may regard as a temporary asset or as an investment, or intends to use in a way that will significantly restrict the community’s use or access to the land. Council works depots or administrative buildings are good examples of operational land uses.

Community land is land for which Councils must prepare a ‘Plan of Management’; to set out the directions and practices Council intends to follow to manage the land. Councils may not sell community land, unless it is re-classified as operational land, and Councils are not allow to enter into any leases, or licences (other than for certain short-term casual uses) unless the Plan of Management authorises the agreement. Councils adopt a community land Plan of Management to give the Plan of Management force under the Local Government Act, 1993.

The Plan of Management also ‘categorises’ the community land to help define the suitable uses and development. Guidelines are provided in the Local Government (General) Regulation, 1999, to help Councils categorise the community land, and ‘core objectives’ are provided in the Local Government Act, 1993, to provide the basic planning, development and management framework for Council and community use of community land.

1.2 *What is a Plan of Management*

A Plan of Management is a document that identifies issues affecting public open space, and outlines how that open space is intended to be used, improved and managed in the future. A Plan of Management is typically accompanied by a Masterplan that shows proposed on-the-ground changes to that open space.

1.3 Definition of a Plan of Management

The Local Government Act 1993, as amended and the Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998 requires that all public land owned by Council be classified as either community land or operational land. Generally speaking, community land refers to any property which is retained for use by the general public, whilst operational land need not be retained for public use. Local Government must prepare a Plan of Management for all Community Land, to ensure that an endorsed framework guides the operation and development of these community resources.

Plans of Management are public documents, and as such require stakeholders to be involved in their formation. A process of research and community consultation provides opportunities for community participation and involvement, establishing a sense of ownership in stakeholders and contributing to the ongoing success of the plans.

Until a Plan of Management for Community Land is adopted, the nature and use of the land cannot be changed and Council cannot carry out new development or improvements to the land.

Plans of Management assist Council to budget and source funds for the future maintenance, improvement and development of community land. Each plan provides Council with a current survey of its resources, a guideline for expenditure and plans for the development of the site.

This Plan of Management has been prepared in order to achieve a balanced, responsible and sustainable use of the land and to ensure that it addresses the needs of local user groups and the broader community. It identifies appropriate outcomes for the site and provides a way of achieving these outcomes through a series of clear management objectives and supporting strategies and actions.

This Plan of Management supersedes any other Plan of Management prepared for this site.

1.4 Role of a Plan of Management

A Plan of Management fulfils a number of functions. It sets out planning and design opportunities and constraints through the categorisation of the community land, the inclusion of core and other objectives, the development of performance targets, identification of the means to achieve the targets (the action), and the methods used to assess the success of the performance targets.

The Plan of Management is a council commitment to the use and management of the land. It provides direction for both Council and community in the planning and management of the land. The Plan of Management is placed on public exhibition and the community has the opportunity to make submissions and comments on the draft Plan of Management.

This Plan of Management will also enable a master plan, and proposals for development and conservation of the lands, to be considered by the community, and approved by Wingecarribee Shire Council's adoption of the Plan of Management.

A Plan of Management also authorises certain uses and activities on the community land. When community land is categorised, each category and its objectives will generally define the suitable uses of the land, and any proposed developments and agreements, such as leases and licences need to be consistent with the objectives of the category.

1.5 Land to which this Plan of Management Applies

This Plan of Management applies to Loseby Park, which is approximately 5.1 hectares in area. The land within Loseby Park is owned by Wingecarribee Shire Council. Loseby Park is one of the key sporting and leisure facilities within Bowral. Consequently, this Plan of Management has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Key features of Loseby Park include:

- Its prominent location within Bowral;
- Four different sporting codes;
- Sporting fields and amenities building;
- Public Reserve for informal recreation;
- BMX and Skateboard facility;
- Children's play area;
- Loseby Park Youth Centre;
- Mature planting in a pleasantly landscaped setting;



Figure 1 – The plan above shows the extent of Loseby Park that is covered by this Plan of Management

1.6 Purpose of this Plan of Management

This Plan of Management has been prepared by Wingecarribee Shire Council under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*, as amended which requires Councils to prepare Plans of Management for all land under Council ownership or control classified as community land.

This Plan of Management aims to provide a clear, concise and practical framework for the management of Loseby Park. It aims to be performance oriented in order to contribute towards Council achieving its strategic goals, vision, mission and outcomes. As a means of achieving these aims, the plan uses a values-based approach to land planning and management. This approach facilitates strategies which will protect and enhance values, whilst identifying the issues which may pose a threat to these values. It ensures the longer-term objectives of sustainable management.

The primary purpose of this plan is to provide the community, users and Wingecarribee Shire Council with a clear statement on the future use and management of Loseby Park. The efficient and appropriate management of this land is essential if its value to the community is to be maintained and enhanced.

The Plan of Management will be consistent with Council's other policies and plans, ensuring a strategic vision and approach to open space across the Wingecarribee LGA.

The plan will comply with the Local Government Act 1993, as amended and the Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998 and other relevant legislation in relation to the preparation of Plans of Management.

This Plan of Management will cover the development and management actions of the land for community purposes, over the life of this plan.

1.7 Process of Preparing this Plan of Management

1.7.1 The Planning Process

The planning process for this Plan of Management is based on a number of principles. These are:

- Using community values as a basis for management;
- Adopting a consultative approach, incorporating input from stakeholders; including Council officers, government authorities and the local community to ensure the plan reflects the visions and values of all;
- Providing site specific analysis information to add value;
- Providing practical recommendations which are achievable in the short term; and
- Incorporating the Landscape Master Plan.

The process undertaken to prepare this Plan of Management follows the guidelines as set out in "Public Land Management" – Department of Local Government, 2000.

1.7.2 Local Government Act

Division 2 – Use and Management of Community Land; within the Local Government Act 1993 outlines the requirements involved in developing a Draft Plan of Management. Once a Plan of Management is in Draft format, the Plan is placed on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days, with a further 14 days allowed for written comments.

The development of this Plan of Management for Loseby Park may be divided into four phases.

The **first phase** - understanding the site, this phase includes reviewing the background of the site incorporating all reports, historical information and correspondence relating to the site, a detailed site analysis including a site survey.

The **second phase** covers all consultation and workshops with all major stakeholders, user groups including any Government Agency with an interest in the site.

The **third phase** covers the preparation and review of the Plan of Management and masterplan.

The **final phase** covers the exhibition, review of public submissions and Council adoption of the plan.

A detailed process of the steps involved in the development of this Plan of Management is shown in Figure 2.

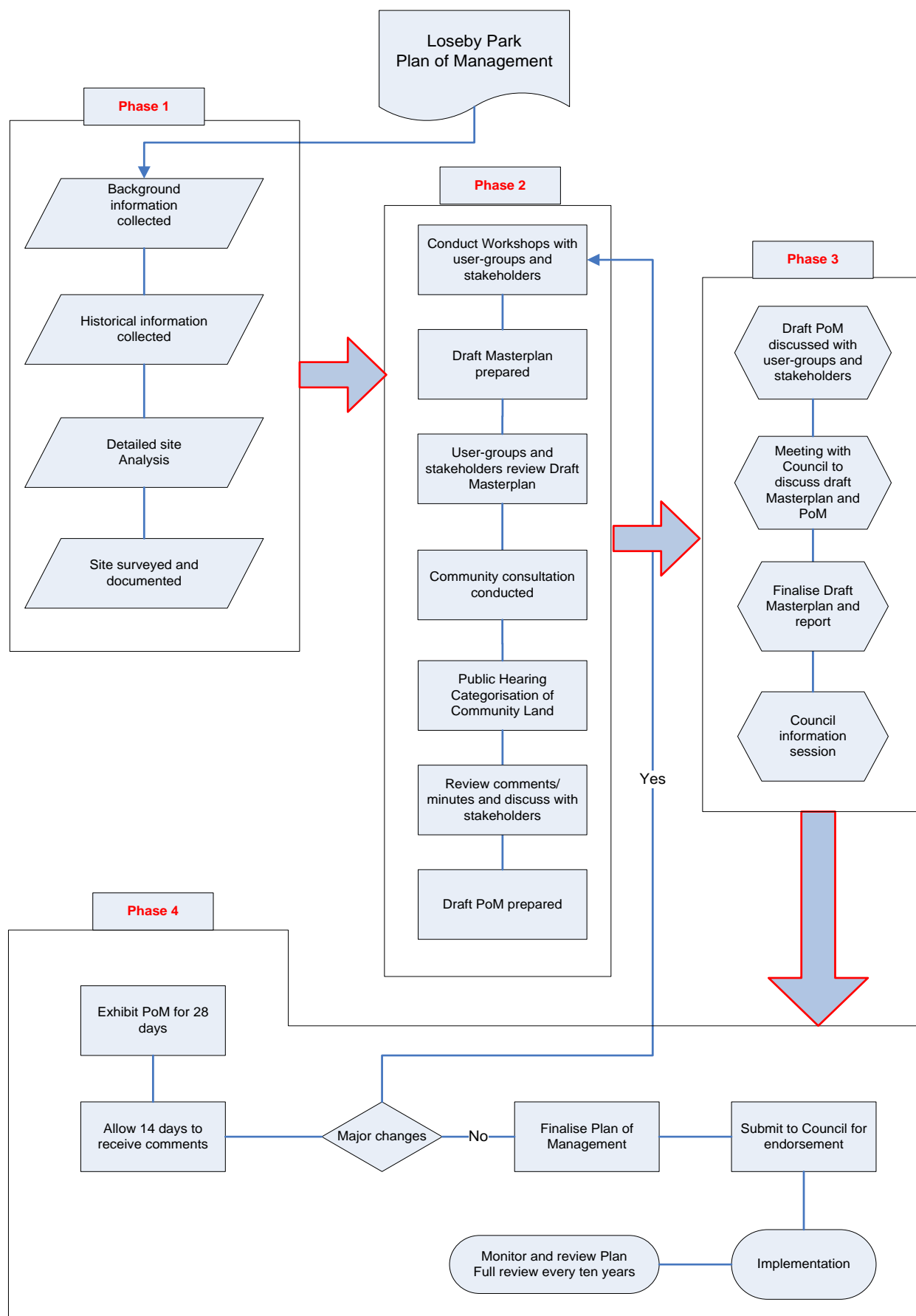


Figure 2 –Plan of Management Process

1.7.3 Community Consultation

Wingecarribee Shire Council actively seeks the involvement of the community in the preparation of its Plans of Management to ensure the plans address community desires, values and needs and to ensure they comply with the Local Government Act, 1993, and the 1998 amendments. The main advantages of involving the community in the process are that it:

- Creates a sense of ownership with the Reserve;
- Taps into the large amount of local knowledge about the site, and;
- Advises and keeps the community informed.

Community consultation is a vital component in the preparation of this Plan of Management as well as in the Public Exhibition/ submission period following release of the Draft. The purpose of this community consultation is to identify the values attached to this Community Land being Public Reserve and to provide a forum in which to collect and understand related community issues.

1.7.4 Methods of Communication

A number of workshops with key stakeholders were conducted. The workshops were designed to allow stakeholders to have an active involvement in the development of the Plan of Management and Masterplan. A list of the workshops held is shown in *Table 1*

The proposed masterplan and improvements to Loseby Park were presented to the community via a community workshop. The workshop was advertised in the Southern Highland News on 25th November and 2nd December 2009. The community workshop was held at Wingecarribee Shire Council on the 9th December 2009.

Table 1 *Stakeholder and Community Workshops*

Workshop/meetings	Date
Initial meeting with Council	18 th July 2008
Workshop with Council	20 th August 2008
Workshop with Southern Highlands Junior AFL Club	3 rd September 2008
Workshop with Bowral Junior Rugby League Club	3 rd September 2008
Workshop with Bowral Tennis Club	4 th September 2008
Workshop with Bowral Little Athletics Club	4 th September 2008
Workshop with Loseby Park Youth Centre	4 th September 2008
Meeting with Council	30 th September 2008
Community workshop	9 th December 2009
Workshop with Schools	10 th December 2009
Meeting with Council	8 th February 2010
Meeting with Council	13 th July 2010

1.7.5 Management Issues

Issues have the potential to challenge the core objectives and community values that form the basis of how Loseby Park should be managed. Based on workshops conducted and community feedback the following issues have been identified.

1.7.5.1 Access and Parking

- Improved access to the Loseby Park
- Formalisation of car parking area and provision of additional car parking spaces
- Limit vehicle access to car park area only
- Segregate vehicles from park users (children), with the exception of emergency vehicles
- Informal circulation access throughout the park

1.7.5.2 Development

- Enhance the identification of the park for visitors to the area
- Improvements to the park infrastructure based on the masterplan accompanying this PoM
- Improved sporting facilities and passive open space
- Improve the public amenity

1.7.5.3 Safety

- Conflict between cars and park users
- Insufficient flood lighting (within the oval) for training

1.8 What is included in this Plan of Management

This Plan of management is divided into the following sections, as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2 – Structure of this Plan of Management

Section	What is covered
1. Introduction	Background to the Plan of Management, community consultation, and management issues relating to the Park.
2. Description of Loseby Park	History, facilities, uses, physical description.
3. Legislative and Statutory Requirements	State Government planning legislation, local planning context.
4. Legislation Relating to Loseby Park	Land categorisation, core objectives, leases and licences.
5. Basis for Management	Council's strategic direction, community values, role of the area, vision for the Park, management objectives for the Park.
6. Strategies and Action Plans	Strategies and actions to resolve management issues identified.
7. Masterplan	Concept Masterplan developed as a result of community consultation.
8. Implementation and Review	Implementation review and monitoring of the Plan of Management.
9. Appendix	Funding and statutory provisions.

Requirements of the Local Government Act for the contents of a Plan of Management, and where they can be found in this Plan, are listed in Table 3.

Table 3 - Contents of a Plan of Management for community land

Requirement of the Local Government Act	How this plan satisfies the Act
The category of community land.	Section 4
The objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land.	Section 6
A means for assessing the achievement of the plans objectives and performance targets.	Section 6
A description of the condition of the land, and of any buildings or other improvements on the land as at the date of adoption of the Plan of Management.	Section 2
A description of the use of the land and any such buildings or improvements as at the date of adoption of the Plan of Management.	Section 2
The purposes for which the land, and any such buildings or improvements, will be permitted to be used.	Sections 2, 3

Table 3 - Contents of a Plan of Management for community land (Cont.)

The purposes for which any further development of the land will be permitted, whether under lease or licence or otherwise.	Sections 3, 4
A description of the scale and intensity of any such permitted use or development.	Section 2
The core objectives for management of community land for the category nominated.	Section 4
Public hearing in relation to proposed plans of management.	Section 4
Leases, licences or other estates in respect of community land.	Section 4
Identify the owner of the land	Section 2
Whether the land is subject to any trust, estate, interest, dedication, condition, restriction or covenant	Section 2
whether the use or management of the land is subject to any condition or restriction imposed by the owner	Section 2

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF LOSEBY PARK

2.1 Location and Context

Loseby Park is located in the township of Bowral within the Southern Highlands of New South Wales. The Southern Highlands lies within one and a half hour drive of Sydney and Canberra, and two and a half hour's from the South Coast (Batemans Bay).

Bowral is located approximately 5 km southwest of Mittagong and 10 km from Moss Vale. The Southern Highlands is a rural area mixed with larger towns and small historic villages. Loseby Park is located just 1.5 km south east of Bowral Railway Station. The Park sits in a prominent location within Bowral and is flanked by Ascot Road to its North, Park Road to the South, Loseby Street to its East and Sheffield Road to its West.

Bowral Hospital lies to the north of Loseby Park and has secondary access from Ascot Street. Some of the other landmarks that are in close proximity to Loseby Park include Bowral High School to the south, Bowral Golf Course to the south west and Bradman Oval to the north east.

The majority of the land surrounding Loseby Park is residential, public and private use. The catchment area is made up of a variety of different land uses including residential / rural areas, business and community land. Figure 3 shows the location of Loseby Park within the Southern Highlands while Figure 4 shows the location and context of Loseby Park.

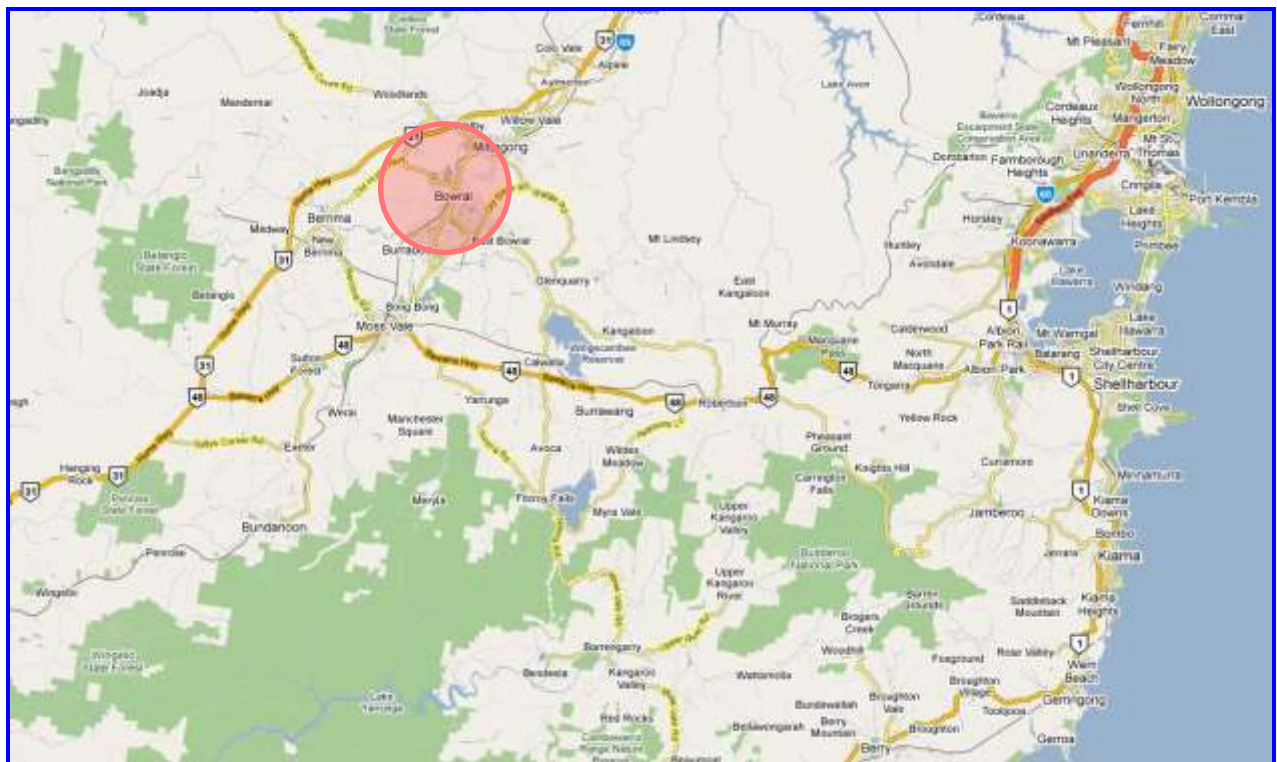


Figure 3 - Location Map of Bowral within the Southern Highlands



Figure 4 - Location and context of Loseby Park

Bowral is a small town located in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales, in Wingecarribee Shire. It is the largest town in the Southern Highlands (also known as the Highlands). It is considered to be the commercial center of the Highlands as it has the biggest CBD of all the towns of the Highlands, encompassing retail outlets, boutiques, cafés, restaurants, and other businesses. It also contains significant local cultural attractions.

Bowral is also known for its interest in sports and recreation. Some of the important public sporting facilities in Bowral include

- Centennial Park (soccer),
- Loseby Park Sportsground (rugby league, tennis, skate-boarding),
- Eridge Park (hockey, rugby, netball, cycling velodrome, cricket wickets),
- Bradman Oval (cricket),
- Stephens Park (cricket & soccer),
- Bowling club, country club (leased), golf club, pony club, swimming centre, cycleway, Golf courses (2), school facilities, etc.

This Plan of Management establishes the long-term management framework to protect and enhance the passive and sporting values of the reserve, flora, fauna and cultural values of the reserve and create quality visitor experiences.

The site covered by this Plan of Management is shown in Figure 5.



Figure 5 –Loseby Park as covered by this Plan of Management

2.2 Significance of Loseby Park

Loseby Park contributes substantially to the beauty, character and charm of the local area, and reflects the tranquil surroundings experienced by the local residents and visitors to the village.

Loseby Park is located in a prominent location within Bowral and is the focal point for public recreation for the area. The reserve and surrounding areas are known for its 'English style' attractive scenery and country village atmosphere.

Loseby Park provides passive and sporting recreational activities in a natural setting. The reserve provides an opportunity to develop a significant local recreational resource.

Loseby Park is significant because it:

- of its location within Bowral;
- is an area greater than 5 hectares
- offers visitors a unique and diverse number of recreational opportunities ranging from structured field and court sports to more private areas for family picnics and children's play.
- is one of the main sporting and recreational public open spaces in Bowral. As such, Loseby Park is in high demand.
- is a popular and suitable venue for community events and functions.

2.3 Park Name

Mr. Robert Loseby generously donated his 10 acre land to council to be developed into a Park in 1923. The Park was subsequently developed to a first class sports ground in 1925 and named as Loseby Park on the basis of his contributions to the open space within Bowral.

Loseby Park is currently is not registered on the NSW Geographical Names Board and this Plan of Management recommends having the name officially registered with the department for future use.

2.4 Land Ownership

2.4.1 Introduction

The ownership of the five parcels of land that comprise Loseby Park are shown in Figure 6 and detailed in Table 4.

The parcels of land subject to this Plan of Management are owned by Wingecarribee Shire Council.

The total area of Loseby Park is 5.1 hectares



Figure 6 –Land Ownership Plan in Loseby Park

Table 4 - Overview of Loseby Park

	Lot 1 DP 9243788	Lot 1 DP 798513	Lot 2 DP 798513	Lot 3 DP 798513	Lot 4 DP 798513
Features	Rugby and AFL field, Tennis Courts, BMX Skateboard facility, Rugby and AFL club rooms, Youth Centre, Toilets, Tennis Clubhouse, Play Area, BBQ facility, Trotting Track, Car Park.	Part of Tennis Clubhouse, Part of Tennis Courts, Part of Parking.	Part of Parking, Recreation.	Part of Parking, Access, Recreation.	Part of Parking, Part of Access, Recreation.
Area (ha)	4.05	0.4	0.25	0.15	0.25
Area Total (ha)	5.1 hectares				
Owner	Wingecarribee Shire Council				
Zoning	RE 1Public Recreation under Wingecarribee Local Environmental plan 2010				
Categorisation					
Leases	No	No	No	No	No
Licences	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes

2.4.2 Community Land

Loseby Park is land owned in fee simple by Wingecarribee Shire Council, and is classified as Community Land under the Local Government Act 1993. All land classified as Community Land must be managed in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993. Wingecarribee Shire Council manages Community Land in the Wingecarribee Shire Local Government Area.

2.4.3 Leases and Licences in Loseby Park

The sporting fields in Loseby Park and associated facilities are used by a range of sporting clubs subject to seasonal hire agreements. These facilities are available for use by the community at other times. Sporting clubs currently using Loseby Park include Southern Highland and Hawks Junior Australian Football Club, Bowral Junior Rugby League, Bowral Tennis Club. A number of local schools use the park's sporting and recreational facilities as well.

2.4.4 Key Stakeholders in Loseby Park

Table 5 - Key Stakeholders in Loseby Park

Organisation	Responsibilities
Wingecarribee Shire Council	Land owner; Management; Consent Authority; Bookings; Maintenance.
Loseby Park Youth Centre	Meet the requirements of leases, licences, user agreements as appropriate.
Loseby Community Hall	Meet the requirements of leases, licences, user agreements as appropriate.
Sporting Groups	Meet the requirements of leases, licences, user agreements as appropriate.



Photo1 – Community Workshop 9th December 2009

2.4.5 Zoning Plan

The current Local Environment Plan for Wingecarribee Shire Council is ‘Wingecarribee LEP 2010’ under this LEP the zoning applied to Loseby Park is as shown in Figure 7 on the following page.

- RE1 - Public Recreation

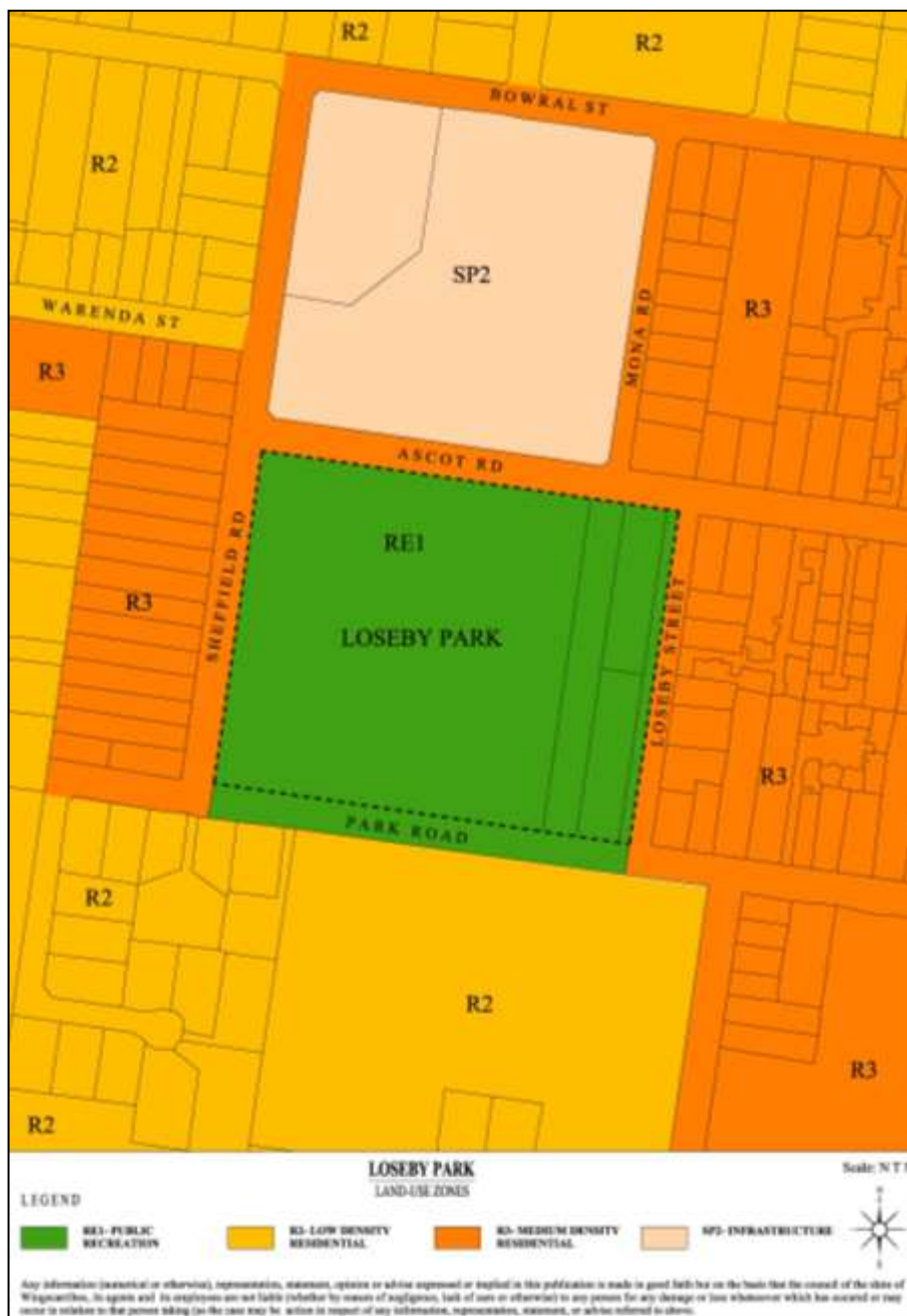


Figure 7 - Zoning Plan for Loseby Park and surrounding land

2.5 History of the Area

A Brief History of Bowral

Bowral was originally part of a property named Wingecarribbee owned by the sons of noted explorer John Oxley in the 1820s. Grazing sheep and cattle on their property, a road was built across the property 10 years later as other graziers settled locally. With news that a railway line was to be extended through their property in the 1850s, John Oxley would subdivide the land around the proposed station site, with smaller residential lots amongst the town centre and small farms in the fringes of the township. Many of these allotments were taken by wealthy Sydney merchants looking for a suitable place to build an English-style country retreat, and further subdivisions of land saw good returns on the initial investments made - a real estate trend which has continued in Bowral since this time.



Despite the town's gentrified roots, the first great population swell would come with an influx of railway workers in the 1860s. With the formidable task of digging a long tunnel under Mt. Gibraltar and laying railway tracks along the extension of the line, the job would take several years to complete and several businesses including the town's first hotel, the Wingecarribbee Inn, would form to cater for the

growing community. With the railway line finished in 1867 coinciding with the Robertson Lands Act two years previous, the loss of the railway workers to the town's population would soon be filled with cattle and dairy farmers who took up over 30 000 acres in the surrounding areas.

As a private town with no formal planning, the town centre appeared to have no cohesion to it and as a main street which ran off the railway station surrounded by properties it lacked any public space whereby the residents could spend leisure time within the town itself.

A gentrification plan of the town was initiated by residents in the 1880s which included the planting of many deciduous trees along the town's streets and the



establishment of Glebe Park. Today Glebe Park holds the Bradman Museum within its grounds, commemorating legendary Bowral-born Australian cricketer Sir Donald Bradman's life and achievements. Many of the grand houses which were built in the prosperity of the 1880s remain standing in Bowral today and are a good reminder of the wealth on which the town was founded.



Bowral would have gas street lights by the 1890s following the establishment of a gas works. The construction of a sewerage system in 1935 was 40 years ahead of the rest of the highlands and Bowral's streets were the first in the area to be laid with bitumen in the 1950s. As one of the most technologically forward towns in the southern highlands, Bowral would be the service and retail

centre for the surrounding towns and despite its location off the major highways, is today the best known town in the Southern Highlands.

A Brief History of Loseby Park

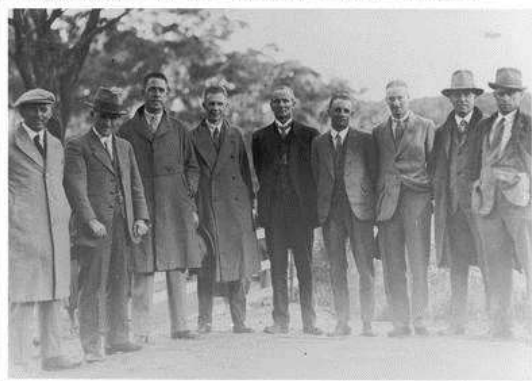
The present day Loseby Park was once the private property of Mr. Robert Loseby. Robert Loseby generously donated ten acres of his land to Council in 1923 and council later bought an additional three and a half acres. It had been turned into a first class sports ground by 1925 with over \$ 1,400 spent on tree lopping and new buildings. The park became known as Loseby Park containing 2 ovals and a trotting track. Trotting Track and Horse riding were an important part of recreational activities and Loseby Park provided the opportunity for the open space that was required to pursue this recreational activity.

Back in the days, Mr. Loseby took keen interest in the development of the town and district and could always be relied upon for practical help in any constructive development of the local area. His other contributions included a generous \$1000 donation to Bowral Council to build a Town Hall.

Loseby Park can also be termed as one of his gifts to the local community as he handed over a parcel of land to be dedicated as public open space. This open space was commonly known throughout the Highlands as Loseby Park.

Loseby Park was developed into a sports field from 1923 to 1930 and was officially opened at the hands of eminent personalities of Southern Highlands in presence of Sir Don Bradman.

Taken when Loseby Park was opened, Bowral. 6. 1930



Frank Cushi: Alf Stephens: Ted Adams: Vic Bradman: George Bradman: Don Bradman:
- Fraser (St. George's W/Keeper): R.L. "Dick" Jones: Mick Morgan.

On the 12th March 1927 the Bowral Trotting Club held its first horse show. The name changed in June 1927 to Bowral District Horse Show and Gymkhana and it proposed to hold an annual horse show and four to five gymkhanas. It was staged at Loseby Park. In 1936 the society began greyhound racing at Loseby Park that went for six and a half years.

Over the years, the field has been used by various sporting bodies and been home to various sports stars. Loseby Park has a long history related to sports. Today, it boasts of being a home ground to the local AFL, Rugby and Tennis Clubs.

2.7 Physical Characteristics

2.7.1 Climate

Loseby Park is located in close proximity to the Bowral (Parry Drive) meteorological stations within the Southern Highlands.

Under the Modified Köppen classification system provided by the Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology, the climate within the Southern Highlands would be described as no dry season (warm summer) Temperate, (a temperate climate has mild to warm summers and cooler winters) BoM (2009). Refer to Attachment A for details.

Taking an approximate average of meteorological data provided by Bowral (Parry Drive), Loseby Park would experience:

Mean daily maximum summer temperature of	22°C
Mean daily Minimum winter temperature of	4°C
Mean annual rainfall of approximately	906 mm
Wet days per month	3-5 days
Mean wind speed at 9am	10-11 km/h

Bowral has moderate year-round temperatures with average maximum summer temperature of 22.0 degrees. The average winter daytime temperature is 12 degrees, dropping to an average 2 degree at night.

The annual median rainfall was found to be 906 mm with the highest rain fall being experienced in June. The average annual humidity was found to be 77%, with the maximum average humidity being experienced in the same period (May/June).

The annual average wind speed was found to be 10 to 11 km/h, with the maximum average wind speed recorded in August to September.

2.7.2 Landform and Soil

Landform and Topography

The Southern Highlands form part of the Woronora Plateau. In geological terms they form the southern edge of the Hawkesbury sandstone of the Sydney Basin, which in turn is part of the Sydney Gunnedah-Bowen basin.

Underlying geology of the region is the Wiannamatta Group of Triassic sedimentary rocks, predominantly shale overlain by tertiary volcanic basalts. The fringes and surrounds are Hawkesbury sandstone, mostly coarse grained quartz cemented sandstones, which actually underlie the Wiannamatta Group.

Essentially the Wingecarribee region is a plateau. It averages 700m (above sea level) and is largely flat to undulating with some areas steeply dissected by rivers.

Loseby Park has a visibly flat topography within the site boundary. Its topography makes the site an ideal playing field for variety of sports and a user friendly recreational facility.

Geology and Soils

Environmental factors have a direct influence on soils such as climate (past and present), parent material (lithology), position in landscape (topography) and time. Vegetation types are also a part of this process and form an integral relationship with soil development, accumulation of organic matter and recycling of nutrients.

The predominant soil type present within Loseby Park is typically Acidic Eutrophic Brown Dermosol (ASC) and Yellow Earth (GSG). This type of soil is characterised as highly permeable, well-drained soils with silty loamy texture and strongly acid (pH 6.5).

The soil profile summarised in the table below was taken from data collected by NSW Soil & Land Information System –NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change) surveyed in 5th November 1998, collected from a batter in Bowral opposite Price Street (based on the sampling map provided online).

The soil profile for Loseby Park is summarised below:

Table 6 - Loseby Park Soil Profile

Site Location	Buradoo Road 500m from Moss Vale Road
Physiography	Hillcrest under grassland/herbland on sandstone-quartz lithology and used for urban. Slope 5 % (estimated) , elevation 680 m . profile is rapidly drained
Soil Hydrology	profile is highly permeable profile is rapidly drained
Soil Type	Acidic Eutrophic Brown Dermosol (ASC) , Yellow Earth (GSG)
Lithology	
Solum PM	Sandstone-quartz
Rock Outcrop	Nil
Substrate Strength	Weak
Weathering & Alteration	m
Discontinuities	5
Fragment Amount	NA
Soil Description	
Layer 1 00.00 - 00.30 m A1 Horizon	Silty loam with weak pedality (sub-angular blocky 5 - 10 mm , rough-faced peds), common (10-25/10x10cm) roots (<1mm) , field pH is 6.5 . Coarse fragments are as parent material, gravel (6-20 mm); smooth gradual (50-100 mm) boundary to...
Layer 2 00.30 - 00.55 m A2 Horizon	Silty loam with massive structure (earthy) , common (10-25/10x10cm) roots (<1mm), field pH is 6.5 . Coarse fragments are as parent material, gravel (6-20 mm); smooth clear (20-50 mm) boundary to...
Layer 3 01.00 - 01.10 m B Horizon	Silty clay loam with moderate pedality (sub-angular blocky 5 - 10 mm, rough faced peds), common (10-25/10x10cm) roots (<1mm), field pH is 5.5 . Coarse fragments are as parent material , gravel (6-20 mm)

Source: NSW Soil & Land Information System –NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change)

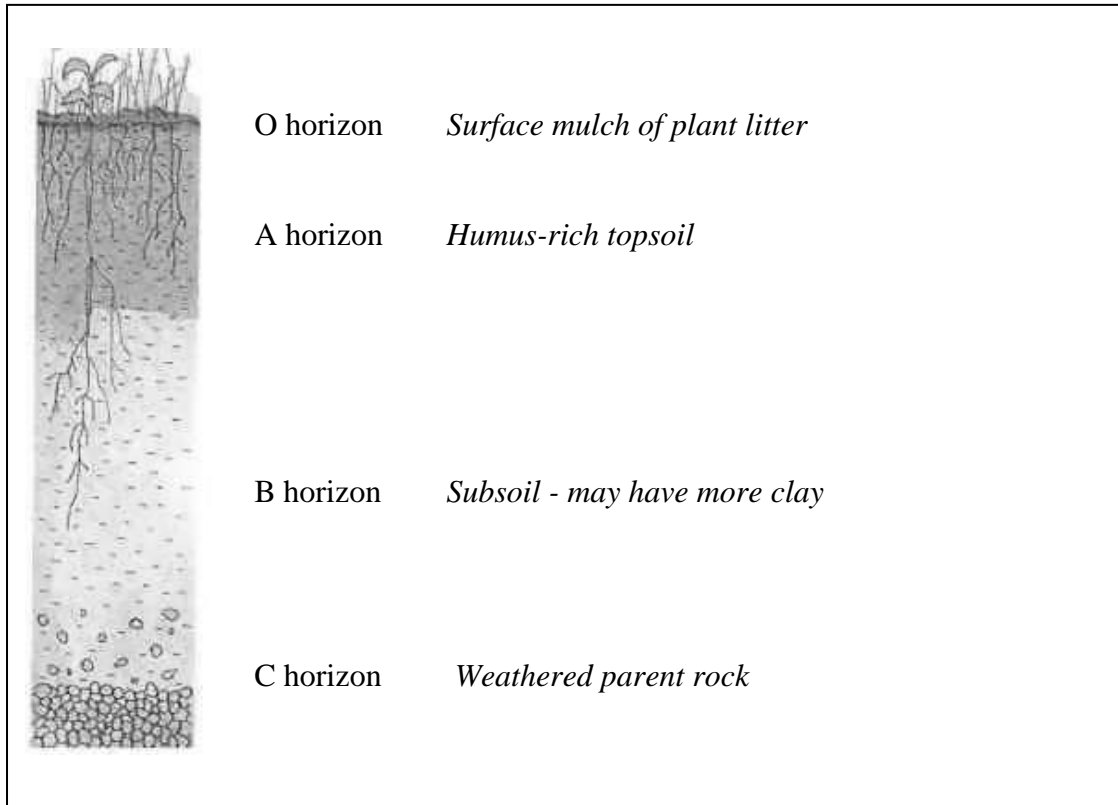


Figure 8 – Typical Soil Profile



Photo2 – view of the north eastern side of Loseby Park

2.7.4 Visual Assessment

Views and Vista

Loseby Park occupies a prominent position in Bowral. Due to its location, Loseby Park is visible from the surrounding areas, and offers views of high scenic quality in a tranquil setting within a rural environment.

Loseby Park is one of the most popular sports fields / public reserves in the Southern Highlands. There are stands of mature trees around the park and recently planted trees with large open grassed areas for spectators surrounding the oval.

Due to the nature of the topography, clear views exist across the majority of the site. The park provides an important visual amenity to the surrounding residences and visitors to the Park. The existing vegetation and proposed landscape improvements will enhance the parks vista.



Photo3 – views extending to the north of Loseby Park



Photo4 – views extending to the north east of Loseby Park

Character

Loseby Park is a rural green space of great significance for Bowral and the Southern Highlands as a whole. The park has evolved over the years to a significant open space offering social opportunities to local and regional communities as well as a diverse range of sporting activities – from soccer, Football, and tennis to croquet. The park is very well served by public transport and is the recreational focal point of the Town.

2.8 Access and Circulation

In accordance with Council's obligation to ensure equality, the site and its facilities will be accessible to all members of the community, regardless of age, sex, socio-economic status or mobility.

2.8.1 Access to the Park

The Park is easily accessible by foot, bicycle, private and authorised vehicles and buses.

Pedestrian

Entry points to the Park for pedestrians are via Park Road and cnr of Sheffield and Ascot Street. There are three main pedestrian entry points to Loseby Park the first is off Park Road via the gate at south entrance, the second park entrance is also off Park Road adjacent to the Loseby Park Youth Centre, with the third entrance to the park is via the memorial gate to the north west corner of the Park.

There is a formal entrance statement identifying the park at one of the entry points on the cnr of Sheffield and Ascot Street. The existing park signage located on this gate front may need some repairs and painting

Vehicle

Access for vehicles is via the main gate entry of Park Road. One more vehicular entry point is located at corner of Park Street and

There is no direct formal public access to the majority of the site, except for the provision of access for maintenance or emergency vehicles.

There is no established need for the provision of unsupervised vehicle access throughout the Park; the recreational purpose of Loseby Park is not anticipated to change from its existing use and function.

2.8.2 Circulation within the Park

Pedestrian

The existing pedestrian access and movement through the Park is via informal pedestrian paths and desire lines.

The proposed masterplan will continue to provide pedestrian movement through the Park via informal pedestrian paths and desire lines, to maintain the character and function of the Park and ensure the significance of the Park is not altered.

2.9 Current Facilities

Loseby Park is a multi-purpose reserve incorporating facilities and features for active and passive recreation. Around 38% of the Park is used for structured recreation/sportsgrounds. There is limited scope for provision of additional active recreation facilities. The remaining 62% of the Park is open space, and is used for unstructured recreation.

The existing facilities in Loseby Park, and their use and conditions are set out in Table 10 and shown in Figure 14.



Photo 5 – Tennis clubhouse with the courts to the south of the clubhouse



Photo 6 – Loseby Park Youth Centre



Photo 7 – Skateboard Facility with the play area in the background



Photo 8 – Loseby Park formal entrance



Photo 9 – Boundary fence off Ascot Rd



Photo 10 –Loseby Park amenities and clubhouse



Photo 11 – Tennis courts with tennis practice wall



Photo 12 – Play area adjacent to the tennis courts



Photo 13 – Community hall and youth center



Photo 14 – Sports field after a typical rain event



Table 7 - Condition Assessment

Area Description	Facility	Condition
Entrance Gate and Statement to north west of the Park	Main entrance to the site consisting of wrought iron fabricated gates with Fabricated “LOSEBY PARK” sign.	Fair
Access Road	The access road is an unsealed road, accessed via entry point at Park Road and Loseby Street.	Poor
Informal car-park	There are four areas designated as an informal car park accessed by two entry points both located along Park Road.	Poor
Car Parking for Tennis facility	Semi sealed car park surface accessed via Park Road for Tennis Facility within the Park	Good
Children’s playground	A Children’s play area is located to the north of the Tennis Courts adjacent to the skateboard facility.	Poor
Children’s playground- 2	Another Children’s Play area is located immediate adjacent to the Tennis Courts	Poor
Tennis Club House	The Tennis clubhouse is located on the western side of the site in front of the tennis.	Good
AFL and Rugby Union Club House	AFL and Rugby Union Club House is located near informal Car Park along Park Road	Poor
Loseby Youth Centre	Loseby Youth Centre hall is located along the front boundary of the site, off Park Road and has got a dedicated pedestrian entry to its premises.	Fair
Public Amenities	Masonry male and female public amenities buildings are located directly next o the AFL and Rugby Club House.	Poor
Boundary fence Timber	A timber post and rail fence surrounds majority of the site	Fair
Boundary Fence Wire Mesh	A 1.5m highwire mesh fence exists at some location along the periphery of the Park	Poor
Fencing and Open space for Youth Centre	1.5m high wire mesh fence around the Youth Centre and also the open space courtyard within this fenced area	Fair
Tennis Courts	8 Tennis Courts are located to the south west corner of the Park with fenced boundary.	Good
Park furniture	There are few bench seats located along Tennis Courts	Fair
Sand Pits for Long Jump	Sand pits are provided to the north of Tennis courts for long jump practice.	Poor
BMX Skateboard Facility	The skateboard facility is clearly a very popular sport amongst youth and is located to the north of the Park along Ascot Road.	Good
Practice Tennis Wall and Basketball nets	Practice Tennis Wall and Basketball nets are located adjacent to the Tennis Courts.	Good
Flood Lights	The Park has number of flood lights in operation and are located in all prominent locations	Poor-Fair
Community Hall	Community Hall is located next to the Youth Centre	Fair

Interpretation of building/site condition

<i>Excellent</i>	<i>these assets are in ‘as new’ condition and require little maintenance or upgrade.</i>
<i>Good</i>	<i>these assets are well maintained for their age but require on-going maintenance.</i>
<i>Fair</i>	<i>these assets are suitable for their current use but need repairs, renovations or upgrade.</i>
<i>Poor</i>	<i>these assets are in poor condition and require maintenance to make serviceable.</i>

2.10 Use of Loseby Park

2.10.1 Introduction

Loseby Park is a multi-purpose reserve incorporating facilities and features for active and passive recreation. Users of Loseby Park participate in a variety of informal and organised recreation and social activities.

The ‘*Wingecarribee Open Space, Recreation, Cultural and Community Facilities Needs Study*’ prepared by Parsons Brinckerhoff in 2004 specifies Loseby Park to be home to sports like AFL and Tennis in the local area. It also mentions that Loseby Park has low patronage and is poorly maintained but has relatively high community attachment.

It is envisaged that the main users of Loseby Park will be formal and informal organisations such as social groups, interest groups, organised sporting clubs, social sporting clubs, schools and local residents living within the surrounding area of the site, residents and community groups throughout the Shire and visitors/community groups/sporting clubs from outside of the area (throughout the NSW basin).

The open space and associated facilities will cater for both active and passive recreation. The users of the sporting facilities will be only organised competitors such as schools and sporting clubs for competition and training. The Reserve will also cater for casual or informal users such as ball games, walking etc.

The community facility is able to cater for formal and informal functions, events, business meeting and social gatherings etc. The hall has the added advantage to overflow onto the reserve and benefit from the public open space.

The provision, accessibility and quality of open space is one factor that guides and influences people’s choice in participating in recreational activities. Loseby Park provides a variety of structured and unstructured recreation opportunities. Councils aim is to promote a healthy and progressive lifestyle for the community of Wingecarribee by fostering and providing sporting and recreational services for the people of the region.

2.10.2 Informal Activities

Informal uses of the Park include:

- ☐ Picnics and barbecues;
- ☐ Informal games within the grassed area;
- ☐ Walking, cycling, jogging, walking the dog (on a leash);
- ☐ Social activities (such as sports, group functions etc);
- ☐ Children’s play and informal games in the playground in the Park and on grassed areas;
- ☐ Sitting and relaxing;
- ☐ Family functions;
- ☐ Etc.

2.10.3 Organised Use

Organised sporting uses in Loseby Park for which seasonal user agreements are made are AFL, Rugby and Tennis. Sporting groups and local schools participate in organised sport. The fields are available for casual sporting games outside pre-booked times.

Loseby Park may be used for a range of activities for which a formal user group application is required. These activities include:

- ☐ Community events (such as carols in the Park, formal community celebrations etc);
- ☐ School functions and carnivals;
- ☐ Filming, photography etc;
- ☐ Corporate functions;
- ☐ Educational events;
- ☐ Private functions (such as weddings);

2.10.5 Prohibited Uses

Prohibited activities in the Park include open fires, camping, flying model aeroplanes, motor bikes, horses, cars, golf practice, off-leash dog exercise and shooting firearms.



Photo 15 – Weekday use of the tennis facility



Photo 16 – Sports field in use with Oz tag

3.0 LEGISLATIVE AND STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

This Plan of Management consists of Community Land and must therefore satisfy the:

- Local Government Act, 1993, as amended; and
- Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act, 1998.

3.1 *Principles of Community Land Management*

Under legislative requirements of the Local Government Act 1993, as amended and the Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act, 1998, s36 (a) – (n), Councils must prepare and adopt Plans of Management for all Community Land. A plan may apply to one or more areas of Community Land, providing all the Act's requirements are fulfilled.

The Act states that the Plan must identify the following:

- (a) The category of land;
- (b) The objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land;
- (c) The means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets;
- (d) The manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets.

As this is a Plan of Management that applies to just one area of community land it must also:

- (a) Include a description of:
 - i. The condition of the land, and of any buildings or other improvements as at the date of adoption of the Plan of Management; and
 - ii. The use of the land and any such buildings or improvements as at that date, and
- (b) must:
 - i. Specify the purposes for which the land, and any such buildings or improvements, will be permitted to be used, and
 - ii. Specify the purposes for which any further development of the land will be permitted, whether under lease or licence or otherwise, and
 - iii. Describe the scale and intensity of any such permitted use or development.

3.2 Council Dealings with Community Land

- (a) Council has no power to sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of Community Land, except for the purpose of enabling that land to become, or to be added to, a Crown Reserve or land reserved or dedicated under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974;
- (b) Council may grant a lease or licence on Community Land, but only in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, as amended;
- (c) A Council may grant any other estate in Community Land to the extent permitted by the Local Government Act 1993, as amended

3.3 Leases or Licences on Community Land

3.3.1 Granting a Lease or Licence on Community Land

Leases and licenses are a method of formalising the use of Community Land and facilities. Leases or licences can be held by groups such as sporting clubs, schools, commercial organisations or individuals providing facilities and/or services for public use.

The Local Government Act 1993, as amended allows Council to grant leases or licences over all or part of Community Land. The use of land under a lease or licence must be compatible with the Local Environment Plan or Council requirements and provide benefits and services or facilities for the users of the land. Terms and conditions of a lease should reflect the interests of Council and the public and ensure proper management and maintenance.

3.3.2 Conditions of Granting a Lease or Licence

The following conditions must be met when granting a lease or licence over Community Land:

- The lease or licence must not be granted for a period exceeding 21 years;
- A lease or licence for a period greater than five years may only be granted by tender, unless it is granted to a non-profit organisation; and
- The Plan of Management must expressly authorise a lease or licence.

Council must:

- Give public notice of the proposal;
- Exhibit notice of the proposal on the land to which the proposal relates;
- Give notice of the proposal to such persons who appear to own or occupy land adjoining the Community Land; and
- Give notice of the proposal to any other person (owner or occupier of land in the vicinity of the Community Land), if in the opinion of the Council the subject to the proposal is likely to form the primary focus of the person's enjoyment of Community Land.

3.3.3 Events Exempt from Lease or Licence

Casual Uses

Casual uses of a public reserve for events of no more than three consecutive days will not be required to arrange a formal lease or licence with Council, provided that:

- The activity is permissible under the objectives identified for that land category,
- No significant damage to the reserve is anticipated as a result of the proposed activity,
- There is no anticipated disruption to adjacent properties as a result of the activity or event,
- The use or occupation does not involve the erection of any permanent buildings or structures,
- There is no interference with other users,
- Council obtains proof of suitable insurances,
- The organisers, in consultation with Council, make arrangements for the provision of extra toilets, waste collection, traffic management, security, and any other requirements deemed necessary by Council.

3.4 Strategic Documents used in the Preparation of this Plan

The following Council documents have been used to assist and guide the strategic outcomes of this Plan, ensuring consistency in values, principles and policies:

- Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan 2010;
- Wingecarribee Open Space, Recreation, Cultural and Community Facilities Needs Study, 2004;
- Wingecarribee Management Plan 2009 – 2012;
- Wingecarribee Shire Council Open Space and Recreation Facilities Section 94 contributions plans (July 1993);
- Wingecarribee Social Plan – 2005 – 2010;
- State of the Environment Report 2008-2009;
- Wingecarribee Biodiversity Strategy 2003

3.5 Other Relevant legislation and Policies

The Plan must also be in accordance with the provisions contained within relevant legislation and policy guidelines refer to Section 10.0 for a complete listing.

4.0 LEGISLATION RELATING TO LOSEBY PARK

4.1 *Councils role in managing Loseby Park*

Loseby Park is classified as “Community Land”. All public land must be managed in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, including the Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998. The Act requires that Councils must classify public land as “operational” or “community” and that Plans of Management must be prepared for Community Land. 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 the use of the land.

4.2 *Categories of Community Land*

Community Land must be categorised in accordance with the Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998. A category describes the land and each category has a set of core objectives. All current and intended uses of the land must comply with the core objectives and the objectives are defined and addressed within the Action Plan (Section 6).

The Local Government (General) Regulation 1999 provides guidelines for each of the categories, as described below:

4.2.1 *General Community Use*

Land should be categorised as general community use if the land:

- May be made available for use for any purpose for which Community Land may be used, whether by the public at large or by specific sections of the public; and
- Is not required to be categorised as a natural area, or does not satisfy the guidelines for categorisation as a sportsground, a park or an area of cultural significance.

4.2.2 *Park*

Land that is, or is proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities for use mainly for recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that do not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others.

4.2.3 *Sportsground*

Land that is used or proposed to be used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.

4.2.4 An Area of Cultural Significance

Land described as an area of Aboriginal, aesthetic, archaeological, historical, technical or research, or social significance.

4.2.5 Natural Area

Land which, whether or not in an undisturbed state, possesses a significant geological feature, geomorphological feature, landform, representative system or other natural feature or attribute that would be sufficient to further categorise the land as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore. Community Land that has been declared critical habitat or which is directly affected by a recovery plan or threat abatement plan under the Threatened Species Act 1995 or the Fisheries Management Act 1994 must be categorised as a natural area.

Natural Area: Bushland

Land that contains primarily native vegetation and that vegetation is:

- The natural vegetation or a remainder of the natural vegetation of that land; or
- Are still representative of the structure and/or floristics of the natural vegetation in the locality.

Natural area: Wetland

Land that includes marshes, mangroves, backwaters, billabongs, swamps, sedgelands, wet meadows or wet heathlands that form a water body that is inundated cyclically, intermittently or permanently with fresh, brackish or salt water, whether slow moving or stationary.

Natural area: Watercourse

Land described as:

- Any perennial or intermittent stream, flowing in a natural, artificially improved or rediverted channel; or
- Associated riparian land or vegetation, including land which is protected under the relevant legislation.

Natural area: Foreshore

Land that is situated on the water's edge and forms a transition zone between the aquatic and terrestrial environment.

Natural area: Escarpment

Land that includes features such as a long cliff-like ridge or rock and includes significant or unusual geological, geomorphologic or scenic qualities.

4.3 Categorisation of Land within Loseby Park

The Local Government Act requires Community Land to be categorised. A combination of categories may be used for the one parcel of land. Accordingly this Plan of Management has identified the following categories:

Under Section 36 (4) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Loseby Park is categorised as follows:

- General Community Use
- Sportsground

4.3.1 Land Categorisation

A Public Hearing on the categorisation of the site was held at Wingecarribee Shire Council on Wednesday 9th December 2009.

The notice of the Public Hearing was advertised in the Southern Highland News on 125th November and 2nd December 2009. Micris Management Services were commissioned to chair the meeting. A subsequent report was prepared and presented to Council to adopt the recommendations.

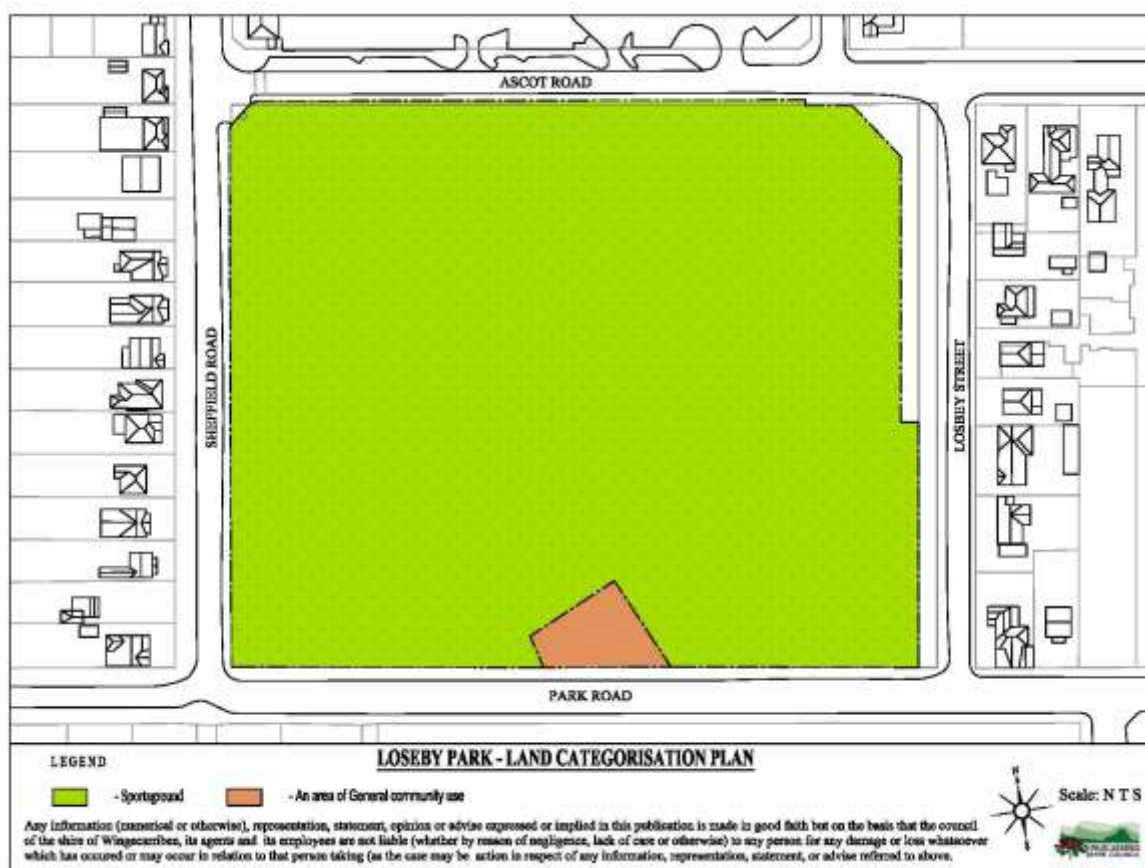


Figure 10 –Loseby Park Categorisation plan

4.4 Core Objectives

The following Section outlines Council's objectives for the future management of Loseby Park. These form the basis for the strategies developed in this Plan of Management. These strategies combine the objectives as outlined in the Local Government Act with those of the Council and the Community.

The Local Government Act (1993) and the Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998 establishes a set of core objectives for each category. These objectives are significant in ensuring any activities and uses of the site are consistent with the desired activities and uses for that category of land. Wingecarribee Shire Council has the responsibility to manage and develop the land in accordance with these core objectives.

4.4.1 General community use objectives

The core objectives for community land categorised for general community use are:

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

- (a) In relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public, and;
- (b) In relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).

4.4.3 Sportsground objectives

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

- (a) To encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and;
- (b) To ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.

4.5 Express Authorisation of Lease / Licences

This Plan of Management expressly authorises Council to enter into a lease, licence or other estate with an appropriate organisation of its choice to manage the following facilities of Loseby Park.

Table 8 - Lease and licences consent levels

Facility	Activity	Purpose	Agreement	Maximum Permissible Term	Advertise
Public Open Space (including sporting ovals)	Organised and informal passive activities or other community use	Public recreation and ancillary activities	Licence agreement	21 years	Yes
Loseby Community Hall	General community, cultural and social activities	Hire and/or use of community space for community based activities and ancillary services	Licence agreement	21 years	Yes
Loseby Park Youth Centre	General community, cultural and social activities	Hire and/or use of community space for community based activities and ancillary services	Lease / Licence agreement	21 years	Yes
Tennis Clubhouse and tennis courts (current and in the future)	Organised and informal passive activities or other community use	Public recreation and ancillary activities	Licence agreement	21 years	Yes

4.6 Easements

This Plan of Management expressly authorises the granting of easements over the land that is **not** affected by endangered communities for the purpose of providing pipes, conduit or other connections under the surface of the ground. This is limited to easements that connect premises adjoining Community Land to existing water, sewer, drainage or electricity facility of Council or other public utility provider that is situated on Community Land where there is no reasonable alternative.

The granting of easements above, on or under the surface of Community Land or to land that is not Community Land is not within the authority of this Plan of Management. This includes but is not limited to:

- Piping to a natural watercourse,
- Piping to a facility through Community Land to a facility on land under private ownership,
- Private access, vehicular or pedestrian.

4.7 Authorised Development

In accordance with the Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998 the Plan of Management must expressly authorise any proposed developments on the land. This authorisation in a Plan of Management gives ‘in principle’ support for an activity to proceed to the development assessment stage. This plan does not grant consent. Any proposed developments that are consistent with the plan are still subject to the normal development consent processes of Council.

5.0 BASIS FOR MANAGEMENT

For the effective ongoing management of community land, Council needs to consider its characteristics, current condition and use. This helps identify the community values for the land and management issues that have the potential to impact upon these values. Identification and understanding of these influencing factors will form the basis for Council's future management for Loseby Park.

In addition to the community values and management issues associated with Community Land, effective management of Loseby Park requires the consideration and incorporation of a multitude of legislative and policy requirements for community land. In managing Loseby Park, Council must comply with the core objectives for General Community Use, Park and Sportsground (refer to Section 4.4 - Core Objectives) and as specified in the Act, as well as various Federal, State and local level legislation and policy. The main aspects of this current legislation and policy affecting the management of community land are outlined in Section 10.0 Statutory Provisions.

5.1 Council's Management Goals

Wingecarribee Shire Council recognises that strategic planning provides a management framework to meet the challenges of today and the future. Council's Management Plan 2009-2012 outlines Council's vision and mission statements.

Wingecarribee Shire Council's **Mission** statement is:

"To augment the economic, environmental and social quality of life in the Wingecarribee Shire by serving the community well"

Wingecarribee Shire Council's **Vision** statements are a long term set of strategies which underpins the future direction of the Shire. It represents the combined Community and Council view on the desired future for Wingecarribee Shire. The vision for Wingecarribee Shire contains five vision statements which include:

- ***Enhance transparency and accountability in all decision making processes and outcomes***
- ***Gain the trust and confidence of the community by keeping the communities informed and respect their input***
- ***Enhance the services and civic and natural assets of the Shire for this and future generations***
- ***Promote a live locally, work locally sustainability focus***
- ***Support and encourage the Shire's tourism industry and character***

5.2 Council's Strategic Direction

Wingecarribee Shire Council's 2009-2012 Management Plan is structured around four specific priorities. Within each priority are activities that ensure Council's Strategic Direction is delivered.

The purpose of having these priorities is to create focus areas of importance to the community, and to help the organisation plan and think in terms of high level outcomes for the community.

Wingecarribee Shire Council's 2009-2012 Management Plan provides the link between the strategic direction of the organisation and the operational plans that detail the services and projects that will be provided over the period. Each project and service that is provided in the organisation will have a clear 'line of sight' to one or more of the Priority's strategic aims.

The priority areas identified to be addressed within and by organisation over the next few years are:

Governance

- *Attracting and retaining a motivated workforce to achieve council's plans*
- *Improving procedures and processes for improved efficiency and effectiveness*
- *Adopting communication methods between council's staff and Councillors that promote clarity and trust*
- *Improving transparency and accountability of Council's finances*

Economic

- *Facilitating the growth of new business within the Shire that provides local jobs across a wide range of skills and professions*
- *Supporting the Moss Vale Enterprise Zone and the tourism industry to develop sustainable environmentally responsible business development.*

Environmental

- *Reaffirming council's commitment to preserving and improving our natural environment*
- *Retaining rural, village and town character with appropriate planning controls*

Social

- *Adjusting service provision to community priorities with particular emphasis on the projected aging of our community*
- *Increasing support services to members of the community*

This Plan of Management aims to meet these strategic objectives through actions for the future development and management of Loseby Park.

5.3 Community Values

To effectively manage community land and meet community needs, Council needs to consider the values of the community. Community values tend to be broad in nature and remain constant for a considerable length of time. They can be defined as “what is important about a place” (Department of Land and Water Conservation & Manidis Roberts Consultants (1996). *Succeeding with Plans of Management*).. These community values provide a framework to underpin the way in which Council manages Community Land.

This Plan of Management incorporates this values-based approach to ensure best practice management of Community Land.

The values placed on the Loseby Park are those attributes which people find most important or of high regard and would wish to see enhanced in the future. In addition to these prevalent attributes there are other values that the community may find important and potentially need to be addressed. The intrinsic value of a regional sporting venue such as Loseby Park is in offering a facility that satisfies the needs of the wider community.

Based upon previous research, consultation and ongoing interaction with the community, the following values have been identified:

5.3.1 Health Values

Recent research shows that many of society’s health related conditions (physical and mental) could be lessened through increasing levels of physical activity and relaxation.

Regular participation in these activities allows individuals to improve their overall health and wellbeing through development of mental alertness, stress management, coordination, balance and other functions. Passive and sporting recreational areas as well as natural areas have enormous restorative powers that have profound positive impacts on human behaviour and function, and help recovery from mental fatigue and stress.

5.3.2 Recreational Values

The community is increasingly realising the health and wellbeing benefits of recreation in enhancing their quality of life. Loseby Park provides many opportunities for passive, sporting, outdoor based recreational activities. Active pursuits such as organised and casual sport, walking as well as an extensive variety of passive activities such as photography, painting, bird watching and picnicking are popular in public open space areas. Many recreational areas link to other areas of open space greatly increasing their recreational value to the community.

5.3.3 Social Values

Loseby Park gives a unique opportunity for social attraction by providing an outdoor space that is aesthetic and tranquil. This combination is becoming increasingly important to the community and is valued as social venues.

The community has developed a strong sense of ownership of this site with the desire to protect and enhance its sporting and passive recreational values, the site also provides a level of social interaction across all sporting codes.

The passive open space with Loseby Park provides an ideal atmosphere for community interaction and socialising, which increases social capital and improves the health and wellbeing of the community.

5.3.4 *Natural Values*

Loseby Park provides contains a balance of natural, built and recreational environment and is characteristic of the previous era. Any future development should consider this natural value.

5.4 *Roles of the Area*

The main ‘role’ of Loseby Park is to provide a popular local and district sporting and passive recreational resource.

A secondary role for Loseby Park is the opportunity for social interaction, particularly for the residents of the surrounding area.

Loseby Park is considered of district significance because of its ability to hold quality events and the opportunity of offering a variety of sporting activities and passive recreation. Loseby Park plays a significant role for competitive sports within Wingecarribee Shire. Loseby Park is in high demand for weekend competition and weekly training. Local school groups utilise this facility for regular competitions.

5.5 *Vision and Objectives for the Park*

A vision and objectives for management have been identified to guide and direct the management of the Park. These can also be considered as ‘guiding principles’ or ‘desired outcomes’ which define the expectations and directions for decision making in relation to the management and use of Loseby Park.

5.5.1 *Vision for Management*

The vision for Loseby Park ‘sits above’ the management objectives, providing the overall direction for the Plan of Management. It defines where Council and the community would like Loseby Park to be in the future, and the direction that management activities (through the implementation of the Plan of Management) should take.

Management Vision

To recognise Loseby Park as a “significant place” in Wingecarribee Shire Council’s open space system, ensuring protection and conservation of identified values through appropriate management, in a way which best meets the environmental, recreational, educational and social needs of the present community and future generations.

5.5.2 Management Principles

The following principles establish the direction the Wingecarribee Shire Council as the Land Owners will follow in implementing specific strategies to achieve the vision:

- Recognise, protect and enhance the understanding, protection and restoration of the natural landscape and ecological values of the Park;
- Permit a wide range of recreational opportunities compatible with the natural/physical, scenic and cultural features of the Park, in response to community needs;
- Encourage community “ownership” and use of the park
- Encourage and promote public use by providing a range of high quality, safe, accessible and enjoyable recreational and leisure facilities;
- Adopt Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design and Safer by Design principles in managing the park to minimise vandalism and increase personal safety in the park.
- Protect and enhance the visual and social values of the Park;
- Provide opportunities for informal recreation and social interaction.
- Ensure continued free public access.

6.0 STRATEGIES and ACTION PLANS

The strategies to resolve the management issues consistent with the Community Values from Section 5 and to implement the Masterplan are presented in the following tables. The tables have the following objectives:

- To formulate performance targets;
- To ensure consistency with core objectives for community land categories;
- To develop actions that will define the way that Council will achieve its performance targets;
- To provide a means of assessment, which is the way that Council measures its performance; and
- To assign priorities for each of the performance targets.

The responsibilities abbreviations are as follows:

WSC	Wingecarribee Shire Council
SHJA	Southern Highland and Hawks Junior Australian Football Club,
LBYP	Loseby Park Youth Centre,
BRL	Bowral Junior Rugby League,
BTC	Bowral Tennis Club,

Within this action plan, each has been given a priority, which can be linked to the following time frame:

- **High** – commenced within the next 3-4 years
- **Medium** – commenced in 4 – 7 years
- **Low** – commenced after 7 + years
- **Ongoing** – throughout time as the Plan of Management is in operation

It should be recognised however that the commencement and completion of the actions would be dependent on the available resources and funds.

6.1 *Passive and Sports facilities*

6.1.1 *Amenities and Facilities*

Table 9 - Proposed action plan for Amenities & Facilities

No.	Performance Target	Means to Achieve (Action)	Priority	Performance Assessment	Responsibility
1	Provide quality active and passive recreational facilities	Design and construct a main formal car park incorporating lighting, fencing, drainage, landscaping etc.	High	Car park designed, all works completed and car park operational.	WSC
2		Design and install an entrance statement (eg signage) that compliments the memorial gates that identifies the site.	High	Entrance statement implemented and all works completed.	WSC
3		Design and install an entrance statement at the northern entrance to the site (off Park Road) that identifies the site.	High	Entrance statement implemented and all works completed. WSC	WSC
4		Design and install an entrance statement at the north eastern entrance to the site (tennis entrance) that identifies the site.	Medium	Entrance statement implemented and all works completed. WSC	WSC
5		Upgrade and replace Boundary fence in appropriate areas as shown on Masterplan, providing an entry adjacent to the skateboard facility off Ascot Road.	Medium	Boundary fence replaced.	WSC
6		Provide new sports floodlighting to the oval - lighting level should be suitable for AFL and Rugby League	Medium	Floodlighting to the oval installed and operational.	WSC
7		Design and construct a new children's play area and picnic facility adjacent to the tennis court	Medium	Playground redesigned and construction completed.	WSC
8		Design and construct a new children's play area adjacent to skateboard facility.	Medium	Playground construction completed.	WSC

Table 9 - Proposed action plan for Amenities & Facilities (cont.)

No.	Performance Target	Means to Achieve (Action)	Priority	Performance Assessment	Responsibility
9		Construct landscape areas and tree planting as shown on the masterplan.	Medium	Landscape improvements and tree planning completed.	WSC
10		Upgrade Fence around Club House	Medium	New Fence installed and old fence removed	BRL, SHJA &WSC
11		Upgrade and extend Club House	Low	Club House upgrade completed including extension for storeroom.	BRL, SHJA &WSC
12		Design and Install Fence to south and West of the Skateboard facility	Low	New fence installed and facility operational	WSC
13		Upgrade Loseby Park Youth Centre to facilitate future requirements as needed.	Low	Youth Centre improvements made and centre operational.	WSC & LBYC
14		Provide retaining wall and associated landscaping on the north eastern side of the site – off Loseby Street	Low	Retaining wall installed and landscape works completed	WSC
15		Provide retaining wall and associated landscaping on the northern side of the site – off Park Road	Low	Retaining wall installed and landscape works completed	WSC
16		Upgrade and provide park furniture as shown on the Masterplan.	Low	Existing / new park furniture replaced / installed	WSC

6.1.2 Access

Table 10 - Proposed action plan for access

No.	Performance Target	Means to Achieve (Action)	Priority	Performance Assessment	Responsibility
1	Provide opportunities to encourage sustainable community access and enjoyment.	a. Promotion of access to Loseby Park facilities for all groups within the community. b. Ensure all permitted organised events comply with Council's policies and relevant legislation.	High	Increased number of visitors to Loseby Park. All events comply with Council policies and Legislation.	WSC
2	Public access and use of community land is maintained and provided on a fair and equitable basis.	a. Provide opportunities for all community groups to be involved in events and activities. b. Ensure all permitted organised events comply with Council's policies and relevant legislation.	High	Increased involvement in events and activities by different community groups. All events comply with Council policies and Legislation.	WSC
3	Provide opportunities for people with disabilities to access Loseby Park	a. Identify and provide wheelchair and disabled access in where it is feasible. b. Incorporate the requirements of Council's equal access policy into future facility improvements (where applicable)	Medium	Increase in the number of people with disabilities visiting Loseby Park Future improvements comply with the equal access policy.	WSC

6.1.4 Management

Table 11 - Proposed action plan for Management

No.	Performance Target	Means to Achieve (Action)	Priority	Performance Assessment	Responsibility
1	Relevant management units within Council are aware of the Plan of Management and its objectives.	Once approved ensure that all relevant sections of Council are aware of the PoM and their responsibility to conform to the objectives of the plan.	High	All sections of Council, interim and long term lessees that carry out works or occupy facilities in the park are aware of the Plan of Management and its requirements.	WSC
2	Improved promotion of the site and facilities available.	Develop a management strategy for the Park.	High	Management strategy developed and implemented.	WSC
3		Increase community awareness of the location of the Park and the recreational opportunities available.	High	Increase usage and community education.	WSC
4		Submit an application to Geographical Names Board to officially name the Park 'Loseby Park'.	High	Park name approved and registered with the Geographical Names Board.	WSC
5		Develop an asset management plan for the site	Ongoing	Asset management plan developed and implemented.	WSC
6		Conduct regular safety audits, assessing the area for personal safety risks.	Ongoing	Safety audits conducted, documented and improvements made if required.	WSC

7.0 MASTER PLAN

The Masterplan for Loseby Park has been developed as a result of community consultation and identifies numerous issues within the Reserve. Refer to Masterplan attached.

Components of the Masterplan may not occur for some years depending on funding. This Plan of Management recommends staging of the works, however the staging is dependent on availability of funding, demand and use of the facilities and review of the needs assessment for the community and user groups of the park.

Figure 11 – Masterplan



8.0 IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

8.1 Implementation of this Plan of Management

Implementation of the Plan will be monitored annually with the preparation of annual performance standards and capital works programs. Performance standards and works programs for administration and upgrading works are revised each year to meet allocated budgets and works priorities determined in Council's Management Plan.

Funding for management of the Reserve will be sought from a range of government, Council, corporate and community sources on an ongoing basis.

8.2 Review of this Plan of Management

This Plan of Management is intended to be reviewed and updated within ten years (by 2021). It should be updated to reflect changing community and Council priorities and issues, incorporating changes in grants and funding, legislation or Council directions, and to recognise completed actions.

Review of this Plan of Management should also consider outcomes of periodic reviews of Council's strategic and operational plans. The Action Plan tables should be reviewed and revised annually in accordance with Council's budget, Capital Works Program and changing priorities.

9.0 APPENDIX

9.1 *Funding and Grant Sources*

Introduction

There are a number of strategies used by Council to fund the implementation of this Plan of Management. Council generally utilises a number of funding sources to implement the proposed action plan.

9.1.1 *Council Funding*

General

Funding for construction of new facilities and upgrade of existing facilities is generally via the annual budgeting process, however projects (if the funding criteria is met) may be partly funded through State and Federal Government grant allocations, which may involve matching funding from Council.

Staging of works will need to occur because Council cannot meet the cost of every single item of work proposed at one time, due to other financial commitments throughout the Shire. Actions listed in the action plans have been prioritised which will assist in developing works programs and annual budgets.

Environmental levy

Funds raised from Council's environmental levy may be used for environmental open space projects.

Partnerships

An opportunity exists to develop partnerships with community groups and interested people in relation to park improvements and ongoing management, such as regeneration of bushland areas.

Wingecarribee Shire Council's Section 94 Plan

Council's Section 94 plan for its established areas, allow for Council to collect funds from new developments to be spent on embellishing local and district open space and community facilities.

9.1.2 Grant Funding

A number of Commonwealth and State Government grants are available to assist with capital works. While not exhaustive, the following gives an indication of the range of available grant programs through which improvements to the park consistent with its size, catchment and intended uses could be funded.

Commonwealth Government

Natural Heritage Trust Grants

The Commonwealth Government funds environmental and natural resource management programs, and particularly supports projects run in partnership between landholders, community groups and Government.

Australia Council for the Arts Grants

The Australia Council is an arts advisory and funding body to the Commonwealth Government. It offers a diverse range of grants to individuals and organisations, through which it seeks to promote excellence in the arts and encourage cultural expression. Projects that are successful in achieving grants usually have a strong community focus in their aims and implementation.

Community, Environment, Art and Design Fund (CEAD)

CEAD supporting one off projects between communities, artists and designers in the planning and design of public open space.

Public Art Program

The NSW Government offers financial assistance for arts and cultural activities through Arts NSW. Grants of up to \$4,000 are available to assist in the commissioning of concept proposals by artists. Matching grants of up to \$20,000 are available for commissioning public art.

Water for the Future Funding

Offers grants in order to assist local community organisations to save, recycle or improve the health of the local water resources. Grants are available for projects related to water saving and efficiency, water recycling, and water treatment to improve surface and groundwater health.

State Government

Environmental Trust Grants

The Environmental Trust is a State Government Trust established to support exceptional environmental projects. It is governed by the Environmental Trust Act 1998, and has been formed to provide grants and supervise their expenditure. A particular requirement of the Trust's program is to encourage community involvement and input, making their purpose twofold - providing both educational and environmental benefits.

The Environmental Education Program

Provides resources to increase environmental awareness amongst individuals, communities and special interest groups.

The Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation Program

This program funds projects which restore, protect, enhance and prevent further environmental degradation in natural environments. It requires applicants to include community involvement, cost efficiency, involve qualified people to achieve the restoration and must broadly benefit the environment of NSW.

NSW Department of Sport and Recreation

The Department of Sport and Recreation offers two levels of grants to local Councils known as:

- Capital Assistance Program;
- Regional Sports Facilities Program;
- International Sporting Events Program; and
- Sports Development Program.

These programs provide funding for recreational infrastructure – both indoor and outdoor. In the past it has funded schemes as diverse as floodlighting, turf resurfacing, building upgrades and provision of other such sports facilities.

NSW Community Relations Commission

- Community Development Grants Program

The Community Development Grant Program provides funding for long term benefits for the Community. Projects may include the promotion of cultural expression, enhancement of community development or capital based projects, development of community networks and structures and projects addressing critical issues relating to cultural diversity at a local level.

Metropolitan Greenspace Program

Planning NSW provides funding under the Metropolitan Greenspace Program to assist Council's plan and develop regionally significant open space areas. Improvements may include paths, interpretive signage, educational programs and natural heritage conservation works, including bush regeneration.

10.0 STATUTORY PROVISIONS

In addition to the legislation and policy outlined within this Plan of Management, there are a number of local, regional, state and national legislative documents, plans and policies that relate to the management and protection of Loseby Park. The main aspects of current legislation, plans and policy affecting the management and protection of Loseby Park are outlined below.

Commonwealth Legislation

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999 (EPBC)

The EPBC Act introduces an assessment and approvals system for actions that have a significant impact on matters of “national environmental significance” (NES), which includes nationally threatened species and ecological communities. The Act has the potential to capture a wide range of activities, including land clearing activities, irrigation developments, water infrastructure projects (e.g. weirs and dams), certain urban developments, mineral exploration activities and many marine activities.

Endangered Ecological Communities in NSW affected by this legislation include Southern Highlands Shale Woodland (found within the Wingecarribee LGA), however the EPBC Act may list ecological communities not listed under the TSC Act.

State Legislation

Local Government Act 1993

The Local Government Act 1993 includes a range of requirements on the management and use of public land. Council owned land must be classified as either community or operational land.

Section 35 of the Act requires that community land is used and managed in accordance with the following:

- The Plan of Management applying to the land
- Any law permitting the use of the land for a specified purpose or otherwise regulating the use of the land
- This Division

Section 38 of the Act requires that Council give public notice of a draft Plan of Management. The plan must be exhibited for at least 28 days with a submission period totalling 42 days. Any relevant supplementary material must also be exhibited.

A public hearing is only required if the Plan of Management proposes that community land be re-categorised or categorised for the first time. Section 45 of the Act dictates what dealings a Council can have with community land, as follows:

- i. A Council has no power to sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of community land
- ii. A Council may grant a lease or licence of community land, but only in accordance with this Division

- iii. A Council may grant any other estate in community land to the extent permitted by this Division or under the provisions of another Act

This section does not prevent a Council from selling, exchanging or otherwise disposing of Community Land for the purpose of enabling that land to become, or be added to, a Crown Reserve or to become, or be added to, land that is reserved or dedicated under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.

Sections 46 and 47 of the Act provide clear guidelines for Council with respect to the granting of leases, licences and other estates on community land. This includes permissible uses, means of granting leases, licences and other estates, timeframes and subleases, development and dedication of community land as public road.

The Local Government Act 1993 also considers acts of vandalism in public places (eg. Injuring plants and animals or defacing property) and gives Councils the power to establish and enforce alcohol free zones.

Environmental Planning & Assessment (EP & A) Act 1979

This planning instrument applies to development and use of all land within Wingecarribee LGA. Under this instrument, any use or development proposed for an area must be consistent with the applicable zoning as outlined in this plan for that area.

In relation to Natural Areas, the Environmental Planning and Assessment (EP & A) Act aims to encourage the proper management, development and conservation of natural resources for the purpose of promoting the social and economic welfare of the community and a better environment. It also plans for the protection of the environment, including the protection and conservation of native animals and plants, including threatened species, populations and ecological communities and their habitats.

Environment Assessments must be carried out for any proposed activity or development. Any change in the use of a land area requires a development application (DA) and environmental assessment of the proposed activity under Part 4 of the EP&A Act forms part of the DA. A review of environmental factors (REF) under Part 5 of the EP&A Act must also be written for those proposed activities that do not require development consent.

Protection of Environment Operations Act 1997

This legislation replaces the Clean Air Act 1961, Clean Waters Act 1970, Pollution Control Act 1970, Noise Control Act 1975, and the Environmental Offences and Penalties Act 1989. It is an offence for a person to discharge pollutants to waters unless they hold an environment protection license.

Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003

This legislation establishes catchment management authorities and has the following objectives:

- To establish authorities for the purpose of devolving operational, investment and decision-making natural resource functions to catchment levels;
- To provide for proper natural resource planning at a catchment level;
- To ensure that decisions about natural resources take into account appropriate catchment issues;
- To require decisions taken at a catchment level to take into account State-wide standards and to involve the Natural Resources Commission in catchment planning where appropriate;
- To involve communities in each catchment in decision making and to make best use of catchment knowledge and expertise;
- To ensure the proper management of natural resources in the social, economic and environmental interests of the State;
- To apply sound scientific knowledge to achieve a fully functioning and productive landscape; and
- To provide a framework for financial assistance and incentives to landholders in connection with natural resource management.

Fisheries Management Act 1994

The primary purpose of this Act is to conserve, develop and share the fishery resources of the State for the benefit of present and future generations, with the following objectives:

- To conserve fish stocks and key fish habitats;
- To conserve threatened species, populations and ecological communities of fish and marine vegetation;
- To promote ecologically sustainable development, including the conservation of
- To promote viable commercial fishing and aquaculture industries;
- To promote quality recreational fishing opportunities;
- To appropriately share fishery resources between the users of those resources;
- To provide social and economic benefits for the wider community of New South Wales.

Noxious Weeds Act 1993

Local Government is responsible for the application of the Noxious Weed Act administered by the Department of Primary Industries. Council is required to enforce the control of State and locally declared noxious weeds on both private and public lands, and therefore

- Must control declared noxious weeds on Council managed lands;
- Must inspect and enforce control of declared noxious weeds on private land; and
- Must be a member of a regional weed committee and produce regional plans to ensure funding from Department of Primary Industries

Rural Fires Act 1997

The objects of this Act are to provide for:

- The prevention, mitigation and suppression of bush and other fires in local government areas (or parts of areas) and other parts of the State constituted as rural fire districts;
- The co-ordination of bush fire fighting and bush fire prevention throughout the State;
- The protection of persons from injury or death, and property from damage, arising from fires; and
- The protection of the environment by requiring certain activities referred to in the above paragraphs to be carried out having regard to the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

This Act applies to both community and Crown land. Its protection and conservation principles in this Act are consistent with the core objectives for Natural Areas. It also aims to foster public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of nature and cultural heritage and their conservation. It provides protection and conservation powers for:

- Habitat, ecosystems and ecosystem processes;
- Biological diversity at the community, species and genetic levels;
- Landforms of significance, including geological features and processes;
- Landscapes and natural features of significance including wilderness and wild rivers
- Places, objects and features of significance to Aboriginal people;
- Places of social value to the people of New South Wales; and
- Places of historic, architectural or scientific significance.

Water Management Act 2001

The purpose of this Act is to provide for the sustainable and integrated management of the water sources for the benefit of both present and future generations. This is achieved through:

- Applying the principles of ecologically sustainable development;
- Protecting, enhancing and restoring water sources, their associated ecosystems, ecological processes and biological diversity and their water quality;
- Recognising and fostering the significant social and economic benefits to the State that result from the sustainable and efficient use of water, including:
 - i. benefits to the environment;
 - ii. benefits to urban communities, agriculture, fisheries, industry and recreation;
 - iii. benefits to culture and heritage;
 - iv. benefits to the Indigenous community in relation to their spiritual, social, customary and economic use of land and water.

- Recognising the role of the community, as a partner with Government, in resolving issues relating to the management of water sources;
- Providing for the orderly, efficient and equitable sharing of water from water sources;
- Integrating the management of water sources with the management of other aspects of the environment, including the land, its soil, its native vegetation and its native fauna;
- Encouraging the sharing of responsibility for the sustainable and efficient use of water between the Government and water users; and
- Encouraging best practice in the management and use of water.

Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995 (TSC Act)

This Act aims to assist with the protection and recovery of threatened native flora and fauna species, populations and communities, as well as their habitats within NSW. It has significant implications for Council in relation to the management of native vegetation.

NSW Biodiversity Strategy 1999

The core objectives of the NSW Biodiversity Strategy are to:

- Ensure the survival and evolutionary development of species, populations and communities of plants, animals and microorganisms native to NSW;
- Strengthen management of biodiversity on a bioregional basis while using existing catchment level networks to focus on specific actions, including the integration of biodiversity conservation and natural resource management, consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development;
- Identify, prevent or attack at-source the threats to biodiversity through timely implementation of targeted actions;
- Build on the success of existing initiatives to develop a coordinated and cost-effective biodiversity conservation program involving the community, industry and all levels of government and ensure that the rights, knowledge and values of local and Aboriginal communities are properly recognised and reflected;
- Strengthen actions to inform, motivate and achieve the support of the community including local and Indigenous communities, industry, State Government agencies and Local Government, in conserving biodiversity; and
- Increase our understanding of the ecological systems and processes required to conserve biodiversity through scientific research, survey and monitoring, taking into account the knowledge and values of Aboriginal and local communities.

NSW Heritage Act 1977

The NSW Heritage Act 1977 aims to conserve the environmental and cultural heritage of NSW. Proposed changes affecting sites on the State Heritage Register, and the management of archaeological and maritime archaeological sites, are covered by this Act. The Heritage Act also applies in managing excavation that may affect archaeological relics.

Local Plans and Policies

Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2010

The Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2010 provides planning and land use controls to encourage ecologically sustainable development for all land in the LGA. These controls provide for protection and enhancement of the natural environment, particularly remnant bushland. Under this instrument, any use or development proposed for an area must be consistent with the applicable zoning as designated for that area.

Natural Areas are zoned as either:

- RE1 Public Recreation;
- RE2 Private Recreation;
- E1 National Parks and Nature Reserves;
- E2 Environmental Conservation; and
- E3 Environmental Management.

Development in areas with either of these zonings must be in accordance with a Plan of Management adopted under the Local Government Act 1993. However, areas with Environmental Protection Zoning have harsher development controls than Public Recreation Zoning.

Land Zoned RE1 Public Recreation

The objectives for land zoned **RE1** are:

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

Land Zoned RE2 Private Recreation

The objectives for land zoned **RE2** are:

- (a) To enable land to be used for private open space or recreational purposes;
- (b) To provide a range of recreational settings and activities and compatible land uses; and
- (c) To protect and enhance the natural environment for recreational purposes.

Land Zoned E1 National Parks and Nature Reserve

The objectives for land zoned **E1** are:

- (a) To enable the management and appropriate use of land that is reserved under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* or that is acquired under Part 11 of that Act.
- (b) To enable uses authorised under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.
- (c) To identify land that is to be reserved under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and to protect the environmental significance of that land.

Land Zoned E2 Environmental Conservation

The objectives for land zoned **E2** are:

- (a) To protect, manage and restore areas of high ecological, scientific, cultural or aesthetic values.
- (b) To prevent development that could destroy, damage or otherwise have an adverse effect on those values.

Land Zoned E3 Environmental Management

The objectives for land zoned **E3** are:

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

Wingecarribee Biodiversity Strategy Phase 1 2003

This Plan of Management is to be implemented in conjunction with the Wingecarribee Biodiversity Strategy Phase 1 2003, which provides guidelines to direct Council's management of biodiversity. The overall aim is to:

‘To establish and implement measures to effectively conserve, protect, enhance and rehabilitate the biodiversity with the Shire’.

Wingecarribee Open Space, Recreation, Cultural and Community Facilities Needs - Study 2004 and Wingecarribee Open Space, Recreation, Cultural and Community Facilities Needs - Study and Strategy – Review (November 2009)

The plan provides a framework to guide the planning, development and management of Wingecarribee's open space systems in line with Council's strategic outcomes.

The overall purpose of Open Space, Recreation, Cultural and Community Needs Study is:

- To properly identify the existing and likely future community needs for open space, recreation, cultural and community facilities in Wingecarribee;
- To identify a strategic planning and management direction for an integrated and corporate approach to the provision of recreation, cultural and community activity opportunities, through public facilities and open space; and
- To develop a policy framework for Council to provide quality recreation, cultural and community activity opportunities and environments that meets the needs of the Wingecarribee community.

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ATTACHMENT A – Australian Climate Classification Groups

Köppen's scheme to classify world climates was devised in 1918 by Dr Wladimir Köppen of the University of Graz in Austria (Köppen 1931, Köppen and Geiger 1928, Köppen and Geiger 1930-39).

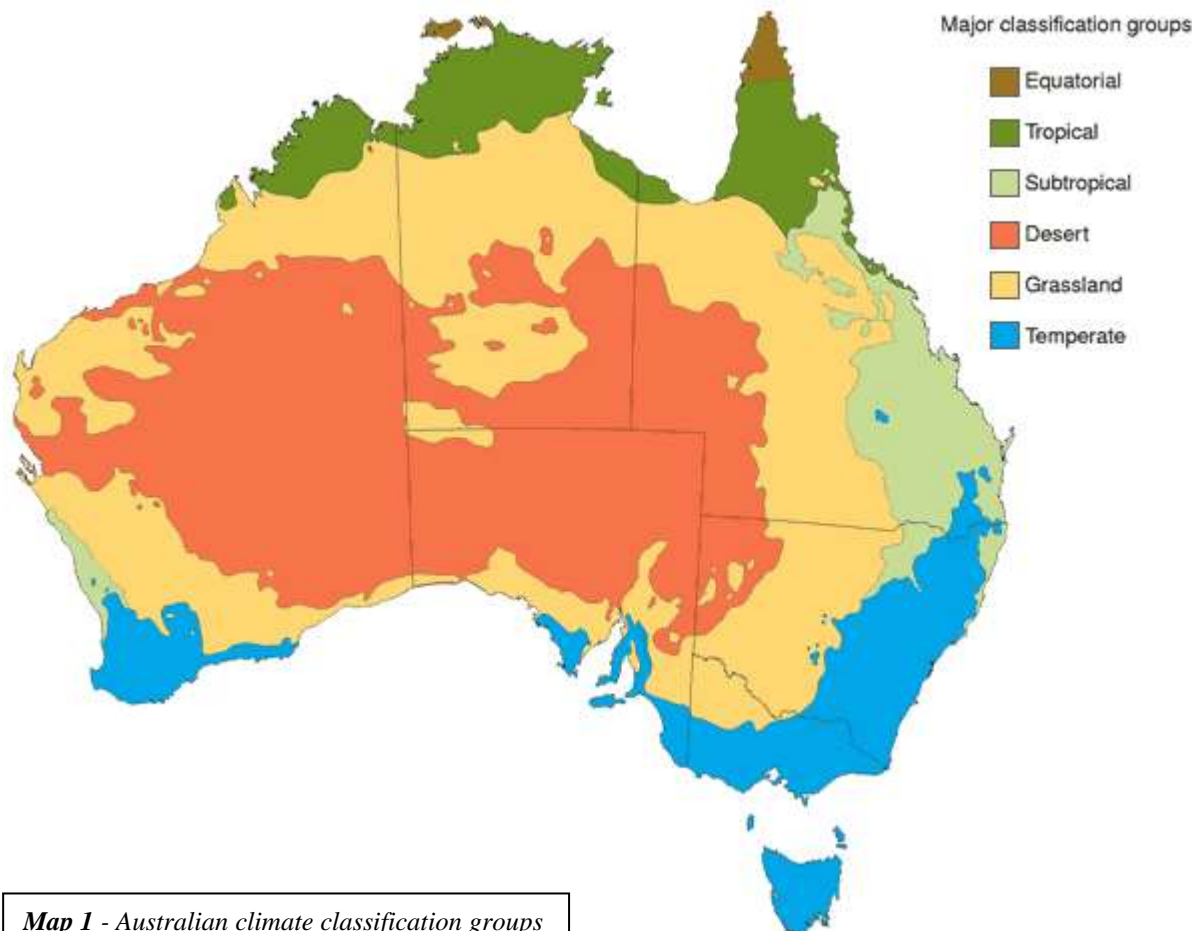
The Köppen classification is based on the concept that native vegetation is the best expression of climate, climate zone boundaries having been selected with vegetation limits in mind.

Köppen recognises five principal groups of world climates that are intended to correspond with five principal vegetation groups. These five climatic groups may be described as tropical rainy, dry, temperate rainy, cold snowy forest, and polar.

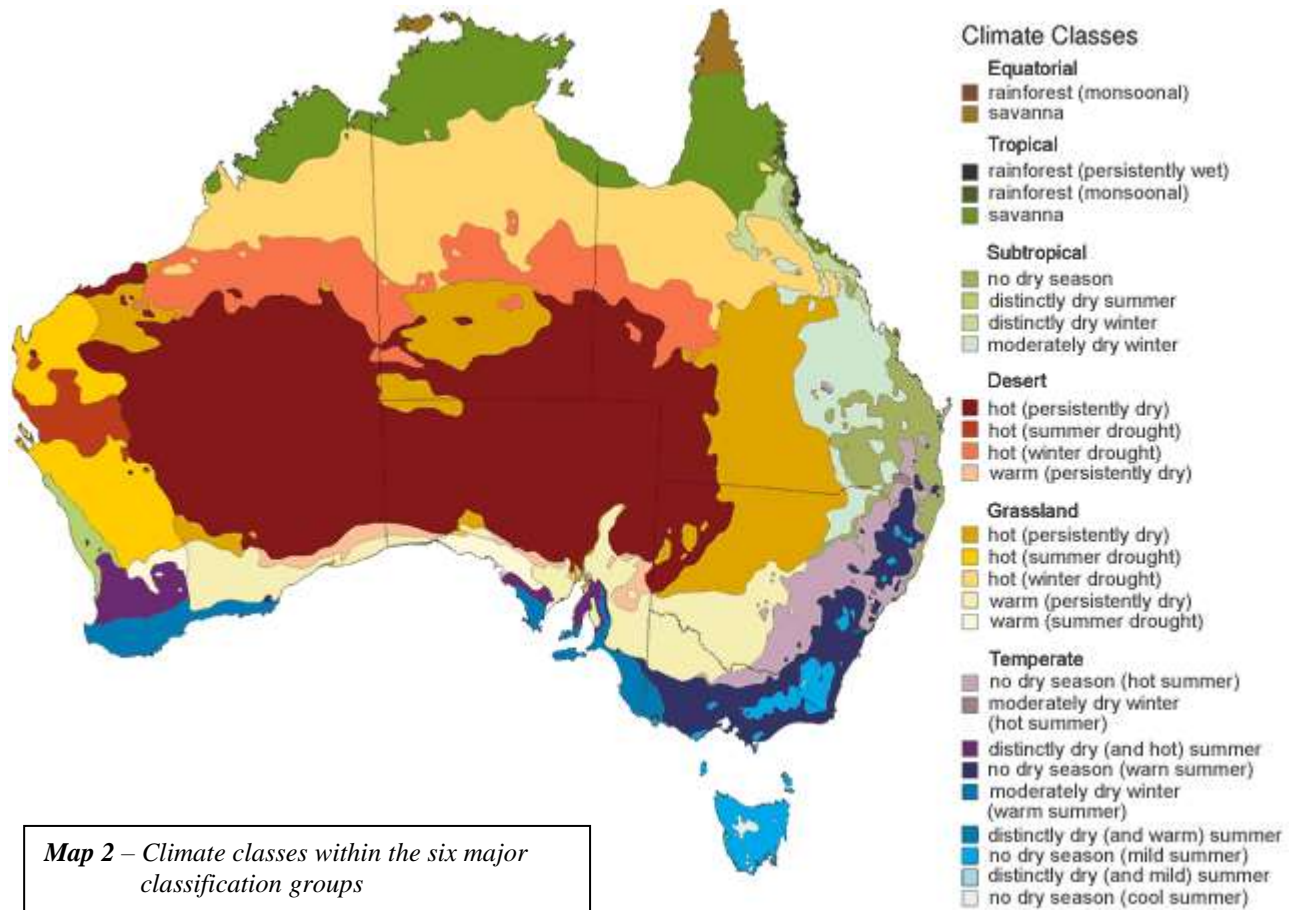
Each of these climates is further divided into sub-divisions based upon differences in the seasonal distribution of temperature and precipitation.

Under the Modified Köppen classification system provided by the Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology, the climate at Robertson would be described as no dry season (warm summer) Temperate, BoM (2009).

The first of the two maps below shows the six major Australian climate classification groups. The second map shows all the classes within the six major classification groups



Map 1 - Australian climate classification groups



Source: Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology – www.bom.gov.au, April 2010.