



Plan of Management Mansfield Reserve

Issue B – February 2009

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Plan of Management

Mansfield Reserve

Issue B - February 2009

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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 24th October 2007, in respect to the categorisation of the land.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This draft 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 draft plan has been prepared following consultation with user groups, key stakeholders and the local community. A community workshop was held 5th December 2006.

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 draft plan is sincerely appreciated. This includes: Penny Kelly, Sue Pritchard and Lou Flower from the Mansfield and Hammock Hill community groups; Edward Anderson, Greg Bray and Belinda Rowe from Wingecarribee Shire Council.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Plan of Management provides the framework for managing the Mansfield Reserve. The public open space within Mansfield Reserve has been identified as a significant area by Wingecarribee Shire Council, as having a high conservation value for the community and user groups, the Reserve provides an area of usable open space within an urban environment.

The Plan of Management satisfies the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993, as amended and the Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998. It takes a values – based approach to land planning and management, identifying the reserve’s key values, role and purpose.

As part of the process of preparing this Plan of Management, extensive community consultation has been carried out. Including community workshops, user group consultation, meetings with key stakeholders and distribution of community questionnaires. This community consultation process has identified a number of values that fall into the broad categories of:

- Ecological and Environmental Values
- Educational and Scientific Values
- Health Values
- Recreational Values
- Social Values

The values and subsequent issues raised at the workshops have been addressed within the action plan. A set of core objectives, as determined by the Local Government Act (1993), have been addressed within the action plan.

A Masterplan for Mansfield Reserve has been developed in conjunction with this Plan of Management. The Masterplan is based on the values identified for the reserve and the key actions.



Photo 1 - One of the walking trails

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 sorts of 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 licenses (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 *Reasons for this Plan*

The Local Government Act, 1993, makes it mandatory for councils to prepare plans of management for community land. Wingecarribee Shire Council has prepared this Plan of Management, not only to meet this basic requirement of the Local Government Act, 1993, but also to set out a vision for the development and conservation of Mansfield Reserve.

Wingecarribee Shire Council has recognised the need for improved planning and design for the community lands within Mansfield Reserve.

The improved planning, design and management for this community land will be outcomes of the Plan of Management through the landscape development plan and management strategies within the Plan of Management.

1.3 Role of the Plan

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, and identification of the means of achievement for the targets and the methods of assessment of success in achievement.

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.

1.4 Location and Context

Mansfield Reserve is located in East Bowral, approximately twelve kilometres north of Moss Vale, off Mansfield Road, in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales (NSW). Majority of the land surrounding Mansfield Reserve is residential, environmental protection and rural areas. The catchment area is made up of a variety of different land uses including residential / rural areas and community land. (*refer to Figure 1 & 2*).

Mansfield Reserve covers an area of 34.41 hectares, the site is referred to and commonly known as Mansfield Reserve. The Geographical Names Board of NSW has no formal record of this site being formally named.

1.5 Site Significance

Mansfield Reserve 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 Shire.

Mansfield Reserve is one of the few remaining significant areas of the Southern Highlands Shale Woodland areas set aside for Public Recreation and the protection of Flora and Fauna. Mansfield Reserve has a high conservation value including samples of native vegetation types that are classified as endangered and species that are nationally endangered as a result of loss of habitat.

The reserve provides opportunities for visitors to enjoy recreational activities in a natural setting. The reserve is popular for wildlife viewing, walking, and nature study. Visitors also make use of BBQ and picnic facilities, located at the entrance of the Reserve that fronts Mansfield Road.



Figure 1 – Location Map

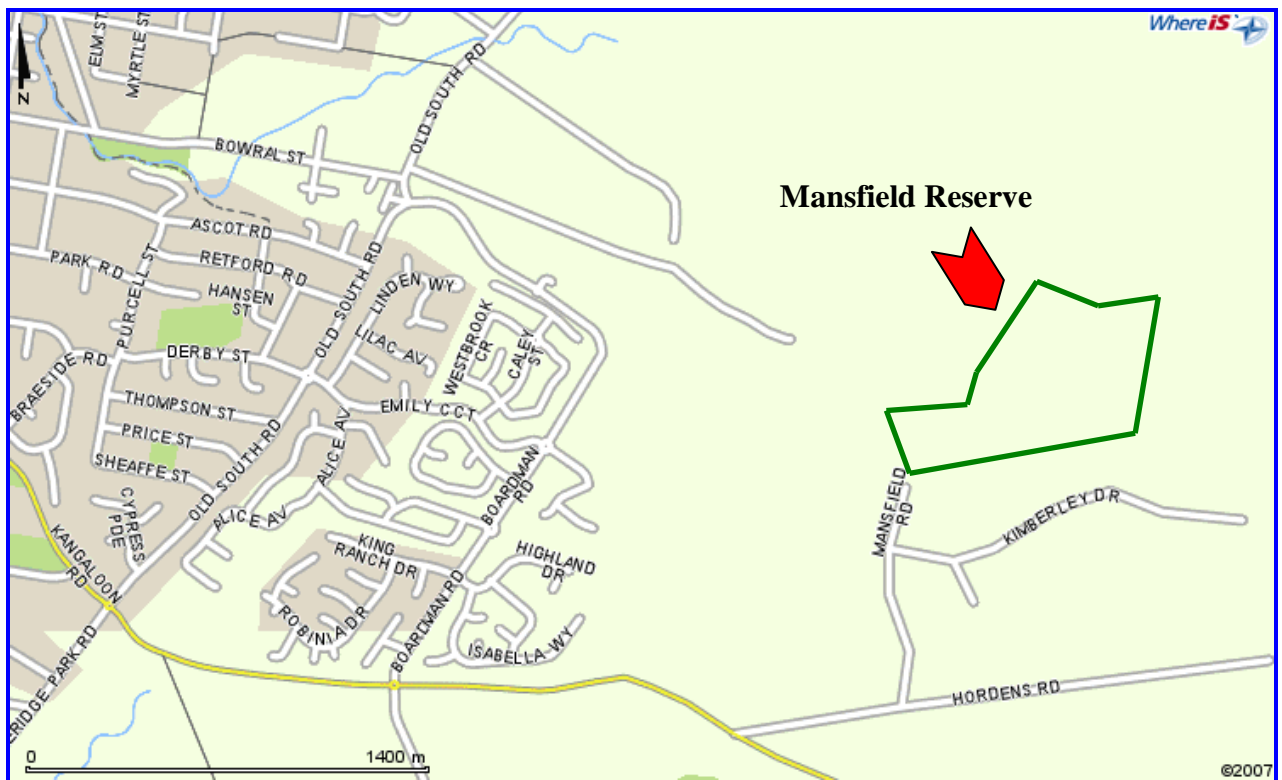


Figure 2 –Site Location

1.6 Background Information

Mansfield Reserve is a public open space reserve that may be described as consisting of a combination of wooded areas and open grasslands, majority of the Reserve is gently undulating rising to 800 meter on the north eastern boundary.

A tributary of the Mittagong Creek flows through the Reserve from east to west, the Reserve has a visitor car park, BBQ's and a site map located at the main entrance off Mansfield Road. The Reserve consists of two walking tracks referred to as 'Wombat and Wallaby' tracks which are both 1.9kms in length.

The Reserve's flora value may be segregated into two segments:

- Areas of open grasslands that have been previously cleared for grazing prior to the site becoming a public Reserve;
- Areas that have significant remanent native vegetation that forms part of Endangered Ecological Communities.

Mansfield Reserve is considered by Wingecarribee Shire Council as a highly significant site in terms of its Passive Recreational uses, Environmental Importance and its cultural and social contents.

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

Table 1 Over View of Mansfield Reserve

Item	Description
Ownership	Wingecarribee Shire Council
Land title information	Lot 41 in Deposition Plan Number 749010
Area	34.41 hectares
Land categories	The Reserve is community land categorised as: Park, General Community use, Natural Area – Watercourse & Bushland.
Zoning	6(a) Open Space (Existing Recreation) under Wingecarribee Local Environmental plan 1989

Source: Wingecarribee Shire Council

1.7 History of the Area

There is little documented information available relating to the history of Mansfield Reserve. The following information provides a momentary look into the past.

Mansfield Reserve was once parts of Retford Park Estate, the property belong to the Hordern Family who also owned the neighbouring property, Milton Park.

Originally known as Broomfield Estate, it appears that the original Crown Grant of 3030 acres containing this estate was made to Edward Riley in 1822 although the NSW Calendar and GPO Directory notes in 1832 that the estate belonged to Alexander Riley and the National Trust listing proposal notes that it was granted to G.R. Nicholis in 1841 and held in trust for the Riley family. In the 1830s George Riley was living there and operating a store - no doubt along the Great South Road.

The property was subdivided in 1880 and Samuel Hordern V bought a block of 1600 acres which he named Retford Park. The name derives from Retford in Nottinghamshire from where the family came.

Sam Hordern had married Jane Booth, the daughter of John Booth, a produce merchant of Sussex Street in Sydney and an old friend of Sam's father, Anthony II. Sam's main interests were animals and boats; he was a noted breeder of horses and ponies, and at Retford Park he settled down to cattle breeding in earnest, importing from England the Jersey and Ayrshire stock which were to earn him distinction in the show ring. Thus he was the founder of a family of stock breeders, in which his elder two sons eventually surpassed him.

The property, together with Milton Park, became an agricultural showpiece and world re-known for stock breeding, particularly horses and cattle. Samuel Hordern II died in 1956, after which Retford Park was owned by the King Ranch Company of the USA who continued the stock breeding interests. In 1964 it was purchased by Mr James Fairfax of the Fairfax publishing family.

On the 29 April 1987, a deed of understanding between Retford Park Estate Pty Limited and Wingecarribee Shire Council was executed, where Retford Park Estate Pty Limited donated to Council a portion of their land the deed of understanding, governed the transfer of this land, that it be used for the benefit of the community in perpetuity.

Council leased the land for grazing up until 1991, sometime between 1991 and 1994 the site usage changed from grazing land to a natural regeneration Reserve, used for passive recreational activities, which it remains today.

The site was never officially named with the Geographical Names Board of NSW, however the Community, Mansfield Reserve Management Committee and Council decided to name the site as Mansfield Reserve on 8th October 1994.

1.8 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, this is 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.

1.9 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 Mansfield Reserve. It aims to be performance oriented in order to contribute towards Council achieving its strategic goals, vision, mission and strategic 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 Mansfield Reserve. 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. An annual review of this Plan of Management will be performed and documented.

1.10 Land Ownership and Planning Context

1.10.1 Land Ownership

This Plan of Management relates to the site known as Mansfield Reserve, East Bowral as shown in photo 2 below the site is identified as being Lot 41 in Deposition Plan Number 749010.

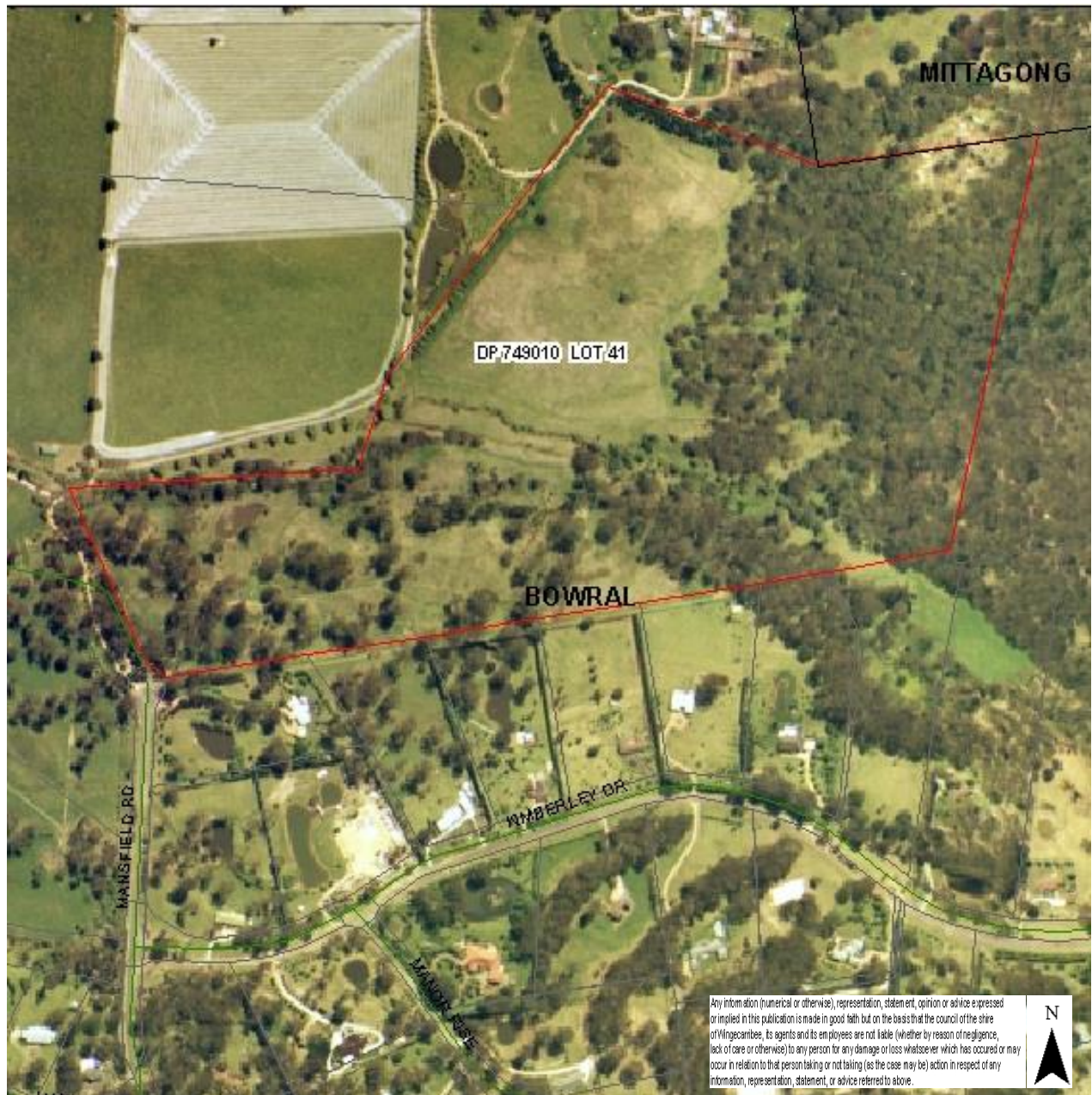


Photo2 – Aerial photo of Mansfield Reserve

1.10.2 Deposition Plan

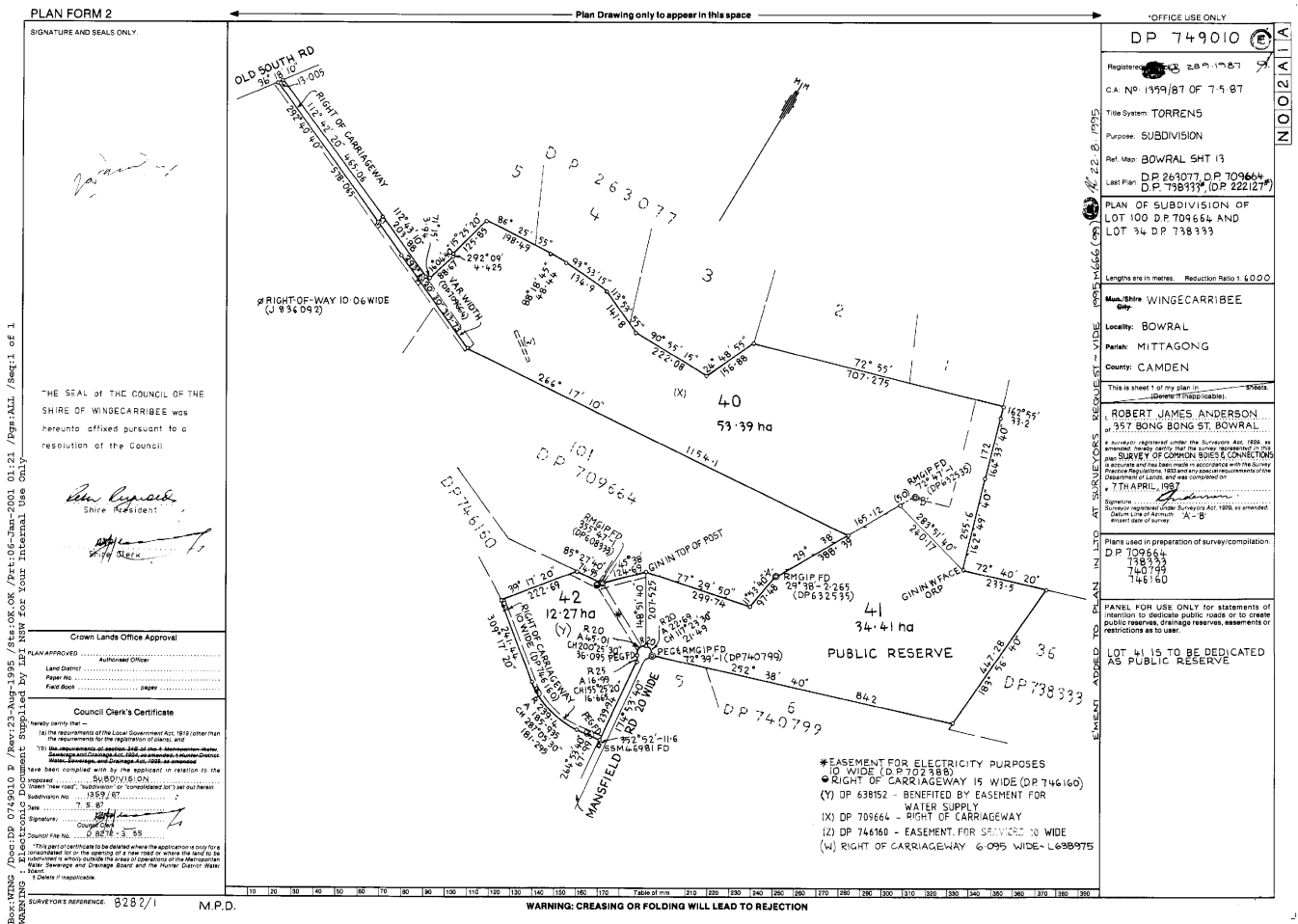


Figure 3 – Mansfield Reserve Deposition Plan 749010

The land covered by this Plan shown in **Figure 3** above is owned by Wingecarribee Shire Council. Mansfield Reserve is located in East Bowral. The ownership of Mansfield Reserve was dedicated to Wingecarribee Shire Council in May 1987.

1.10.3 Zoning Plan

Mansfield Reserve is classified 6(a) Open Space (Existing Recreation) under Wingecarribee LEP 1989. The site consists of a total area of 34.41 hectares. A plan from Councils LEP appears below, showing the zoning of the site and surrounding areas.

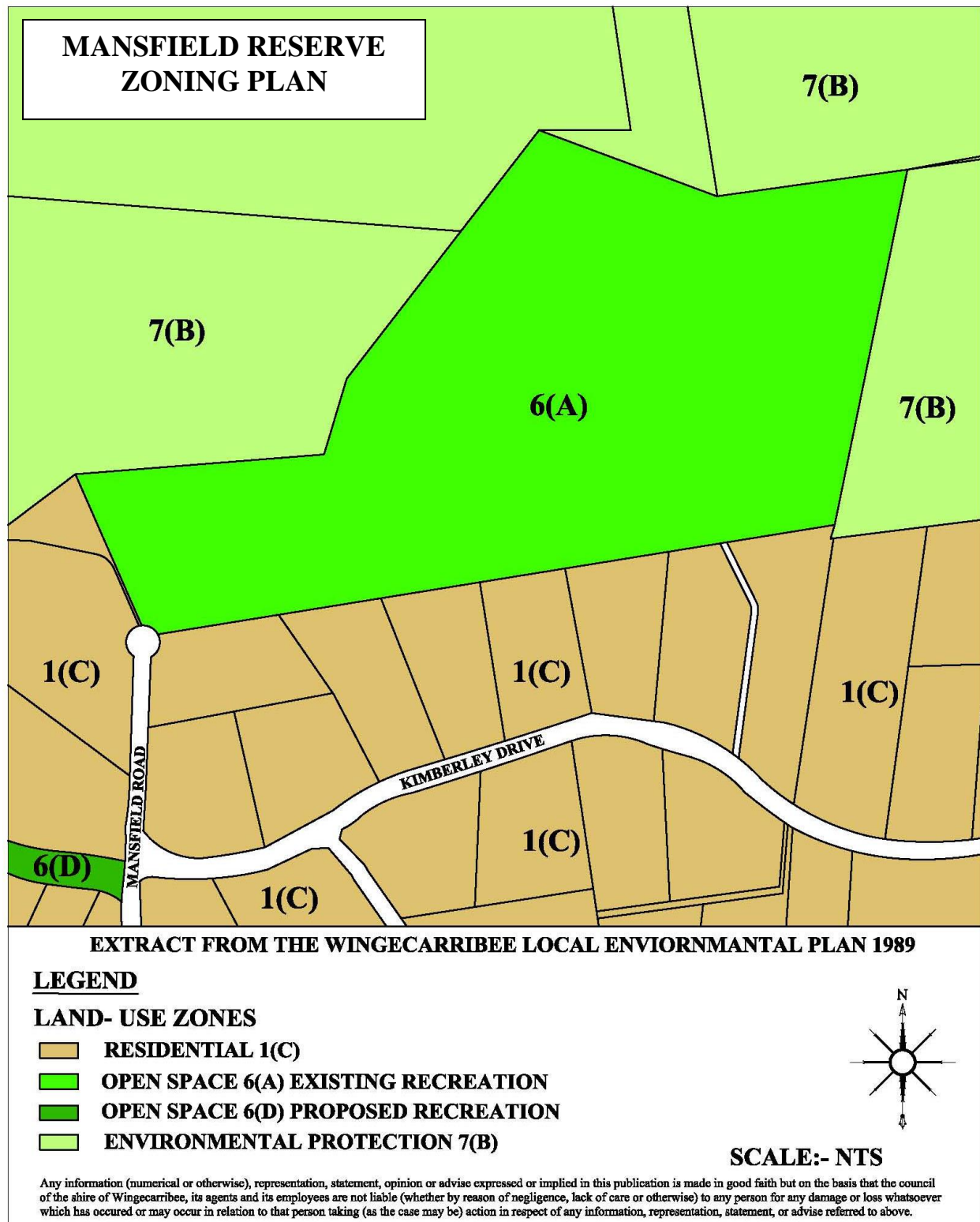


Figure 4 – Zoning Plan for Mansfield Reserve and surrounding land

2.0 SITE ANALYSIS

2.1 Current Facilities and Condition

The Reserve consists of mown walking paths that exist throughout the site, including informal desire trails and mown asset protection zones (fire breaks). The site also has a main entry statement off Mansfield Road where direct access to the Reserve is located.

An informal car-park, picnic areas including wood fuel BBQ are located at the main entry point to the Reserve, the main entry point also contains a large site map identifying the walking trails and the Reserves attributes.

A dam/wetland with limited aquatic vegetation is located north west of the main entrance and is feed via surface runoff from the Reserve and the neighboring property to the north of the site. The Reserve consists of areas of remnant vegetation together with areas that have been re-vegetated either by natural means or via programs commissioned by Council and the local community groups.

The following table describes existing areas, current uses, and the condition of the infrastructure within the Reserve.

Table 2 Condition assessment

Area Description	Facility	Condition
Mown walking paths including informal trails	Formal and informal walking paths are located through the site.	Good
Fire Breaks	6m fire breaks are located between the Reserve and adjacent properties.	Good
Main entrance statement	A main entrance statement is located off Mansfield Road to identify the site.	poor
Car-park	An informal car-park is located at the main entrance point of the site.	poor
BBQ's	Two wood fuel BBQ's are located at the main entry point.	Poor
Picnic Tables	Two timber picnic tables are located at the main entrance point.	Fair
Site identification map	A large site map identifying the walking trails and the Reserves attributes	Excellent
dam/wetland	A dam/wetland is located north west of the main entrance	Good
remnant vegetation	The Reserve consists of remnant endangered vegetation throughout the site.	Good
Revegetation areas	The Reserve has areas that have undergone revegetation programs or have been regenerated naturally	Good

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>

2.2 Users and Facilities

It is envisaged that the main users of the site will be formal and informal organisations such as social groups, interest groups, schools, community groups and local residents, living within and outside of the surrounding area of the site.

The reserve provides opportunities for visitors to enjoy recreational activities in a natural setting. The reserve is popular for wildlife viewing, walking, and nature study. Visitors also make use of BBQ and picnic facilities, located at the entrance of the Reserve that fronts Mansfield Road.

The provision, accessibility and quality of open space is one factor that guides and influences people's choice in participating in recreational activities. Mansfield Reserve provides passive recreational opportunities. Councils aim is to promote a healthy and progressive lifestyle for the community of Wingecarribee by fostering and providing recreational services for the people of the region.

Components of the master plan 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 site.

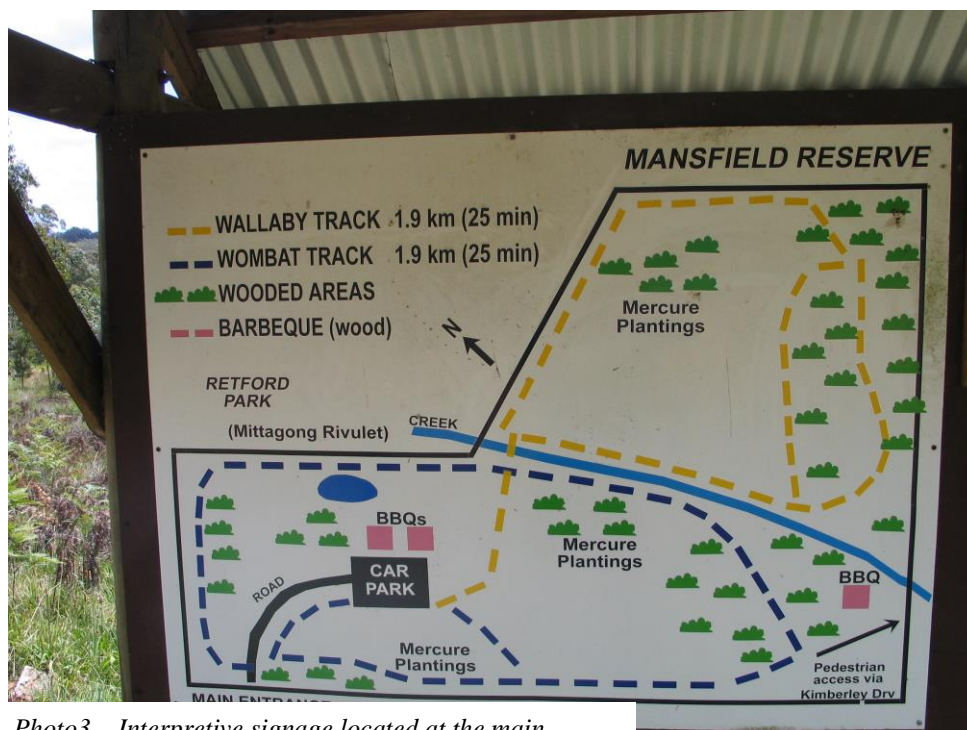


Photo3 – Interpretive signage located at the main entrance of the Reserve

2.2.1 Other Uses

In addition to the existing passive recreational use of the open space the site is used for social events. This Plan of Management authorises the following additional activities:

Table 3 Additional Usage

Weddings
Business events
School events
Community function
Educational events



Photo4 – Main entrance to the Reserve

2.3 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.

2.3.1 Entrances

The Reserve has only two entry points, the main entrance to the site is via Mansfield Road with a secondary pedestrian entry off Kimberley Drive, there are no formal signage identifying the Reserve to those passing, which may contribute to limited awareness of the Reserve by the surrounding communities.

2.3.2 Pedestrian Access

The existing pedestrian access and movement through the site is mown walking tracks. The walking tracks used to move park users throughout the site have been designed to accommodate the surrounding environment and intended use of the Reserve.

2.3.3 Disabled Access

The site does not currently provide adequate disabled access, the landform severely limit the potential to provide access to the Reserve for all levels of mobility. However some limited access could be provided at the main entrance of the Reserve including the picnic facility area.

2.3.4 Vehicular Access

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

There is no established need for the provision of vehicle access throughout the site, the recreational purpose of the Mansfield Reserve is not anticipated to change from its existing use and function.

MANSFIELD RESERVE EXISTING CIRCULATION PLAN

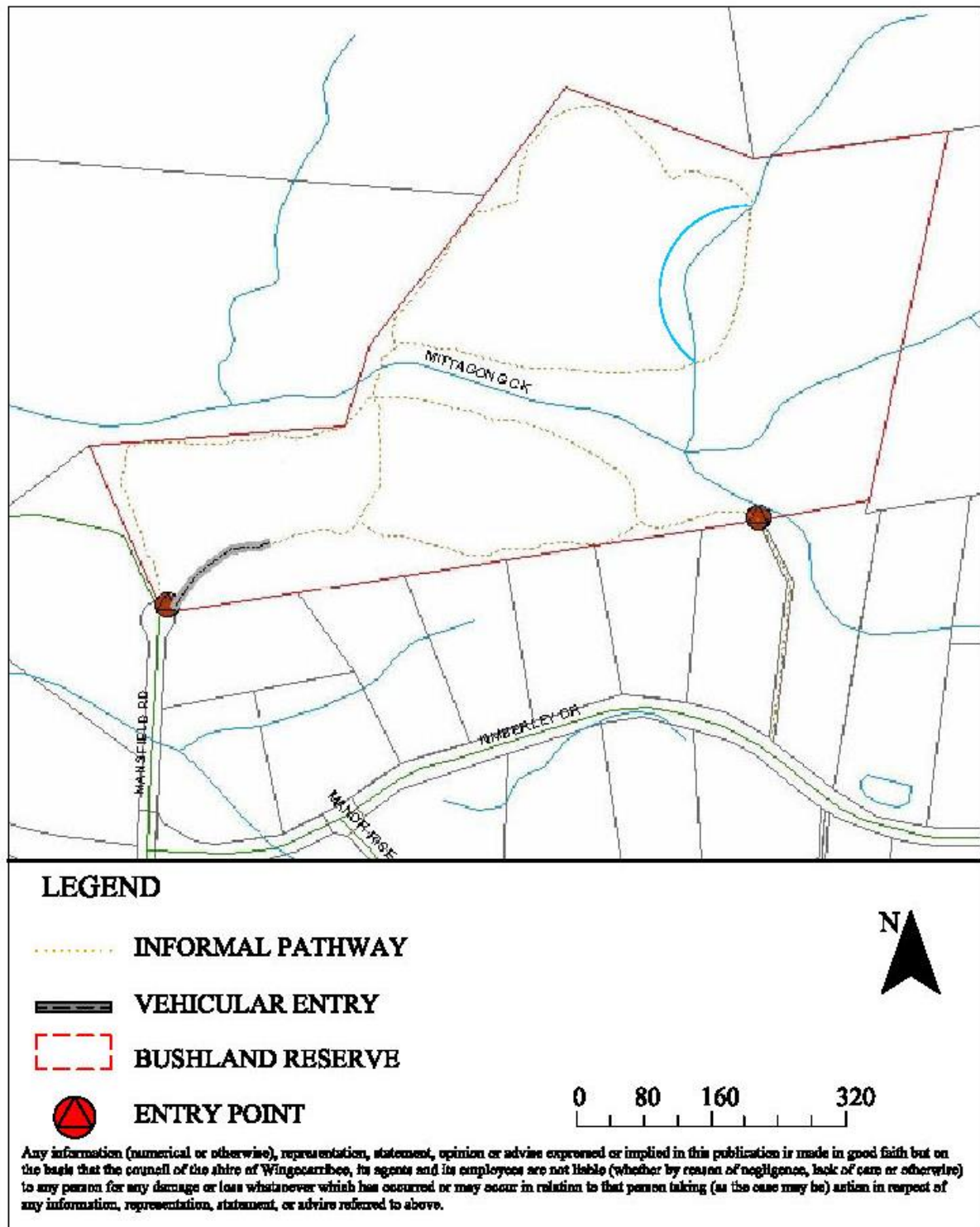


Figure 5 – Existing circulation plan

2.4 Landform and Drainage

2.4.1 Geology and Soil

The predominant soil type present on the site is typically derived from Wianamatta Shale (mainly kangaloon, Mt. misery, Lower Mittagong and basalt shale), during revegetation activities the properties of the soil was described to be heavy loam and quite moist. The soil is considered to be fertile; this will be an important attribute in the success of establishing new vegetation on site.

2.4.2 Topography

The topography of Mansfield Reserve ranges from creek flats through undulating land to a high hill in the north of the Reserve.

2.4.3 Drainage

A tributary of the Mittagong Creek runs through the Reserve from east to west, with two smaller streams running into the main tributary.

There are two pond located within the Reserve, the larger pond is situated to the west and the smaller pond to the far east. The two pond are located in the low lining areas of the Reserve which allows the ponds to collect run off from overland flows during rain periods.



Photo5 – One of the ponds within the Reserve

MANSFIELD RESERVE LANDFORM and DRAINAGE PLAN

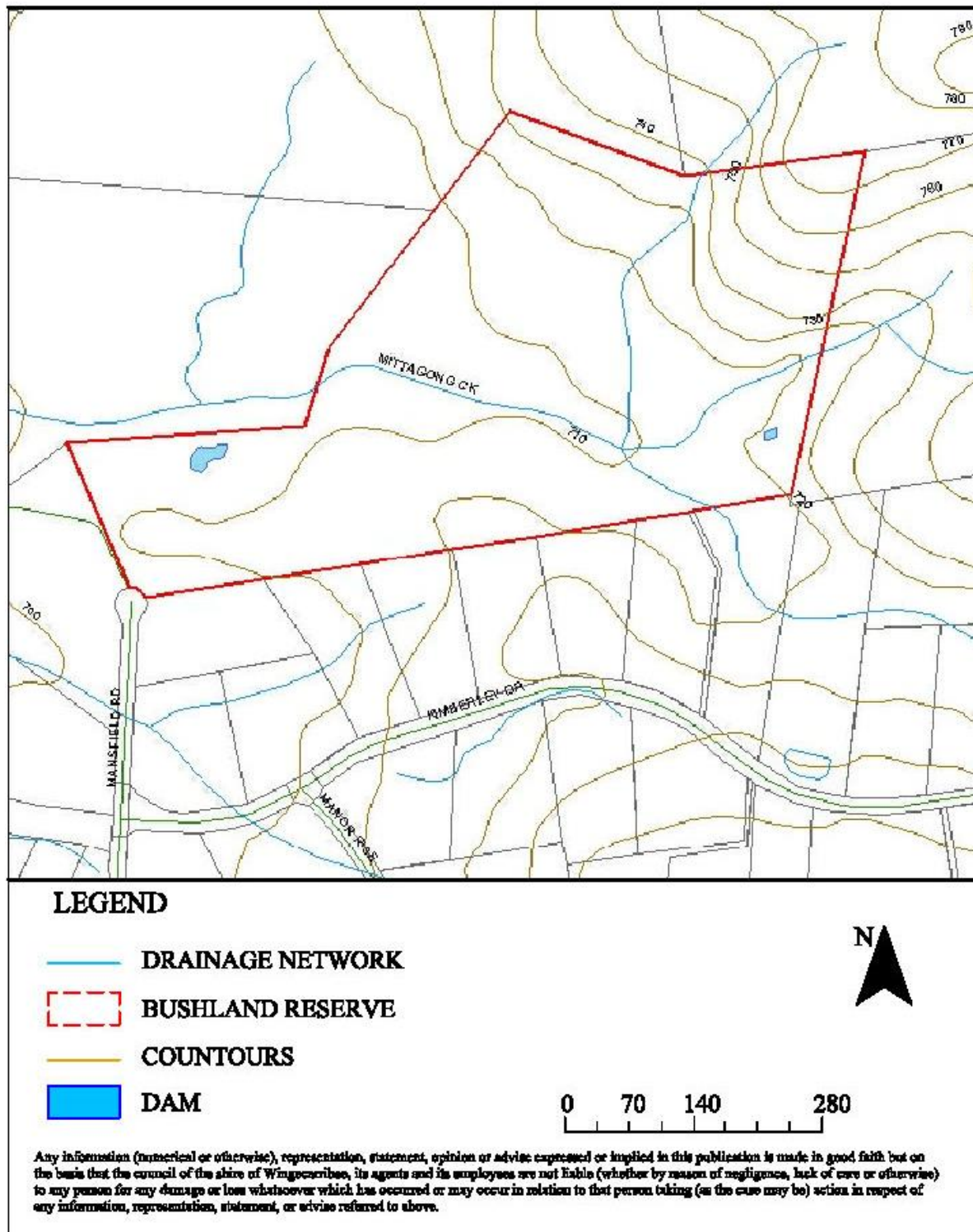


Figure 6 – Landform and drainage plan

2.5 Flora

The following information is an extract from a bushland vegetation assessment conducted on the Reserve in August 1996.

2.5.1 Vegetation structure

The structure of vegetation in the reserve is directly influenced by the climate, topography, geology, fire regime, past land use and weed species. These influences directly limit where and what vegetation occurs in the reserve. As a result the reserve vegetation is comprised of sown pasture, woodland, open forest and tall open forest.

Clearing of native vegetation and grazing cattle has had a significant impact on the vegetation in the reserve. In particular, vegetation clearing and grazing has led to pastoral plant species dominating in the western areas and in the understorey of the southern sections of the reserve.

Modified land management practices, more sympathetic of conservation has enhanced the reserves ability to regenerate. Currently native vegetation is healthy and represented by three plant communities, all listed under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 as being Endangered Ecological Communities. Generally vegetation found in the south to south western reaches of the reserve is characteristic of Southern Highlands Shale Woodland, while the vegetation found on the northern and eastern boundaries of the reserve is characteristic of Mt Gibraltar Forest and Robertson basalt Tall Open Forest.

2.5.2 Regeneration

Regeneration of native plant communities is now being encouraged in order to enhance the natural character and educational values of the reserve, provide further habitat for native animals and conserve Endangered Ecological Communities.

Over the past 15 years land management has progressed from grazing to natural area conservation. Under the new management practices the succession of native vegetation has evolved into a regenerative process rather than a degenerative process. Regeneration in Mansfield Reserve is typically governed by previous land use and the condition of remaining vegetation.



Photo6 - An area regenerated with the Local Community involvement

In areas previously cleared, sown with exotic pasture and grazed, the conditions may have been altered to the extent that regeneration will no longer occur. The Southern sections of the reserve supports a healthy remnant canopy with the under storey comprised of native and exotic species. Regeneration in this area is occurring at a low rate with low biodiversity. North Eastern areas of the reserve exhibit vegetation high in biodiversity with little weed growth impacting on the health of the forest.

Ecologically this area could be described as being in a healthy state, demonstrating good signs of ecological function. Regeneration in this area is limited to the natural succession of the forest; the area is currently in good health with no disturbed areas requiring regeneration as a healing process.

By and large the conditions in Mansfield Reserve are favourable of indigenous regeneration.

2.5.3 Degradation

Clearly the main degrading influence effecting Mansfield Reserve is past agricultural practices, removal of fallen timber and gully erosion through the lower reaches of the reserve. As a result of the past land management practices the reserve now supports a secondary degrading process, invasive weeds. Commonly most weed has derived from past agricultural uses as pastoral plants, while other degraded areas of the reserve now support Environmental Weeds and Noxious Weeds.

By far the most insidious weed species in the reserve is blackberry. This species grows sporadically either as individual plants or in clumps throughout the reserve, but is particularly prevalent in the erosion gullies and lower reaches of the reserve. Birds and Foxes inhabiting the reserve use the blackberries as a food source and subsequently disperse the seeds throughout the reserve. It is expected that blackberries will be a perennial weed problem and that total eradication will be impossible. As well as the threat to plants and animals blackberries may re-invade neighbouring properties, are unsightly and foster a poor image with the public.

Through adopting a more conservation based management policy, these degrading influences will be managed to reduce the ongoing impact on the reserve.

2.6 Fauna

While no formal survey of fauna was carried out within Mansfield Reserve for this Plan of Management Wingecarribee Biodiversity Strategy - Phase One, indicates the potential fauna that may be present within the reserve.

The following fauna list was taken from “Wingecarribee Biodiversity Strategy Phase One” prepared by Eco Logical Australia, June 2003.

Black-Cockatoo;
Speckled Warbler;
Diamond Fire Tail;
Regent Honey Eater;
Eastern Pygmy Possum;
Spotted Tail Quoll;
Squirrel Glider;
Long Nosed Potoroo.

2.7 *Landscape Character*

2.7.1 *Views and Vistas*

When standing at the far northern end of the Reserve there is a spectacular view looking down into the Reserve. The Reserve provides an important visual amenity to the surrounding residences and visitors to the Reserve.

Due to the nature of the topography, clear views exist across majority of the site, Mansfield Reserve is bound by residential property to the south and east with rural property to the north and west which are environmentally protected. The existing vegetation and proposed revegetation areas will enhance the Reserves vista.

2.7.2 *Landscape character*

The Reserve is undeveloped creating a natural environment and has a generally open woodland character. Informal walking tracks have been formed offering park visitors two different scenic areas.

The Reserve is essentially large areas of regenerating woodland with open canopy of predominantly remnant Eucalyptus trees. The canopy density varies as you move throughout the Reserve, this contributes to the character of the Reserve.

The large number of trees and revegetation areas create a bushland experience and the greater canopy cover gives a sense of shade and enclosure, with views being defined by the canopy. There are areas within the Reserve that have a more open character such as in the centre of the Reserve and at the far northern areas which is elevated with extensive views to the south of the site.

MANSFIELD RESERVE PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ZONES

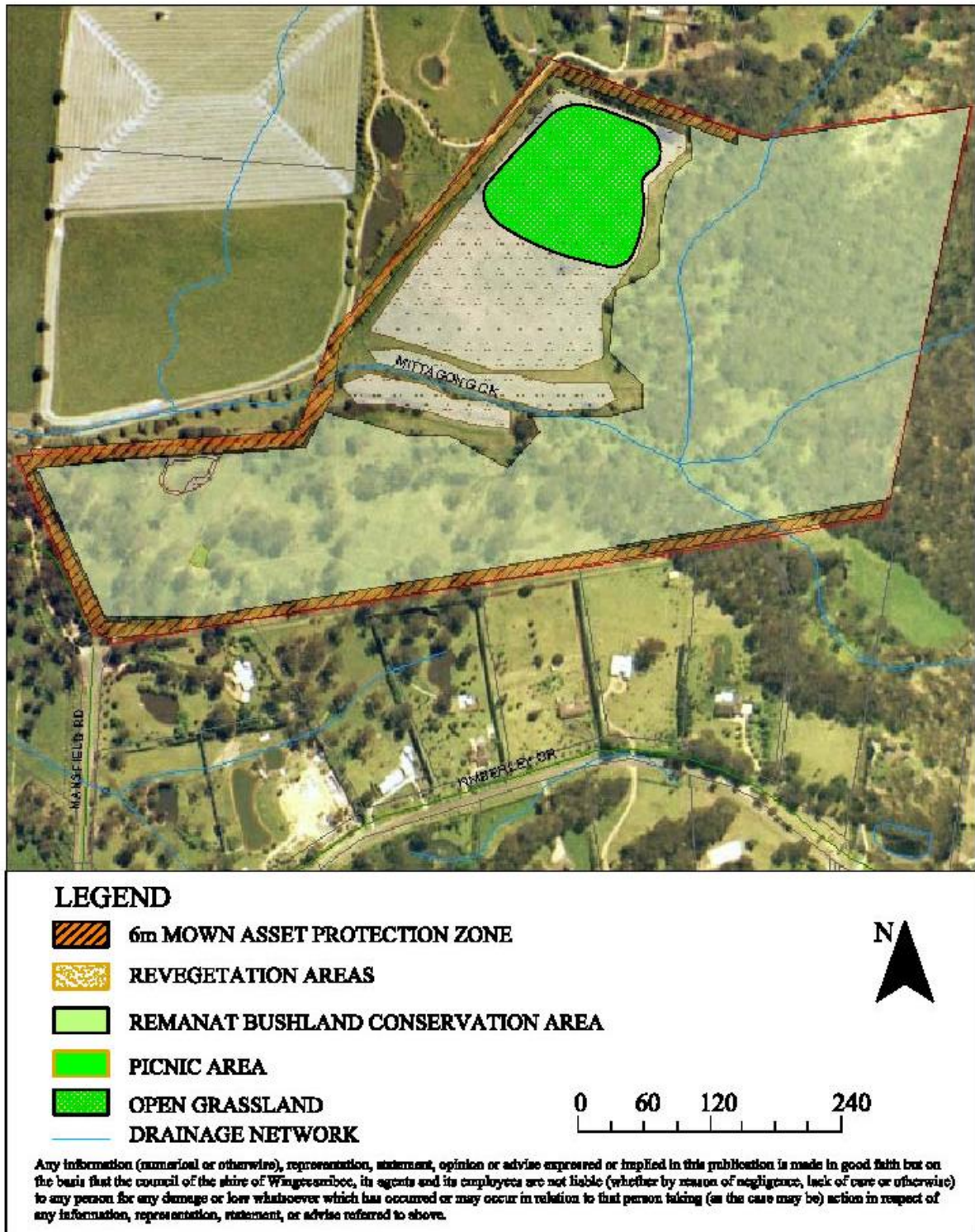


Figure 7 –Proposed management zones

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 license 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 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 1989;
- Wingecarribee Open Space, Recreation, Cultural and Community Facilities Needs Study, 2004;
- Wingecarribee Management Plan 2008 – 2011;
- Wingecarribee Shire Council Open Space and Recreation Facilities Section 94 contributions plans (July 1993);
- Wingecarribee Social Plan – 2005 – 2010;
- State of the Environment Report 2006-2007;
- 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 9.2 for a complete listing.

4.0 LEGISLATION RELATING TO MANSFIELD RESERVE

4.1 Councils role in managing Mansfield Reserve

Mansfield Reserve 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 7).

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 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 diverted 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, geomorphological or scenic qualities.

4.3 Categorisation of Land within Mansfield Reserve

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:

- General Community Use
- Park
- Natural Area: Watercourse
- Natural Area: Bushland

4.3.1 Land Categorisation

A Public Hearing on the categorisation of the site was held at Wingecarribee Shire Council's Theatre on Wednesday 24th October 2007.

The notice of the Public Hearing was advertised in the Southern Highland News on 10th October 2007 and 17th October 2007. Micris Management Services were commissioned to chair the meeting. A subsequent report will be presented to Council to adopt the recommendations.

4.4 Core Objectives

The following Section outlines Council's objectives for the future management of Mansfield Reserve, East Bowral, 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).

4.4.2 Park objectives

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

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

4.4.3 Natural Area: Watercourses objectives

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

- (a) To manage watercourses so as to protect the bio diversity and ecological values of the insert environment, particularly in relation to water quality and water flows, and
- (b) To manage watercourses so as to protect the riparian environment, particularly in relation to riparian vegetation and habitats and bank stability, and
- (c) To restore degraded watercourses, and
- (d) To promote community education and community access to and use of the watercourse, without compromising the other core objectives of the category.

4.4.4 Natural Area: Bushland objectives

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

- (a) To ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological bio diversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land, and
- (b) To protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and
- (c) To promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitate public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbances caused by human intrusion, and
- (d) To restore degraded bushland, and
- (e) To protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and
- (f) To retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and
- (g) To protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.

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 Mansfield Reserve.

Table 4 Lease and licences consent levels

Facility	Activity	Purpose	Agreement	Maximum Permissible Term	Advertise
Public Open Space	Organised & informal passive activities or other community use	Public recreation and ancillary activities	Lease / 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 PREPARATION OF THIS PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

5.1 *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;
- 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.

5.2 *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.

5.2.1 *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.

The community workshop was advertised by distributing 1,000 flyers throughout East Bowral and advertising the workshop in the Southern Highland News on 22nd, and 29th November 2006. The community workshop was held at Wingecarribee Shire Council held on the 5th December 2006

Participants were encouraged to complete a questionnaire outlining their values, issues and thoughts regarding the site. 55 of the questionnaire sheets were completed and returned to Council.

A preliminary draft Plan of Management was developed based on the research undertaken with stakeholders and community workshops, incorporating the analysis of the community and user group questionnaires.

An exhibition and submission period was undertaken for a period of six (6) weeks between 23rd July 2008 and the 19th August 2008. No submissions were received during this period.

A final draft of the Plan of Management was prepared incorporating recommendations generated from the Categorisation report.

5.3 *Management Issues*

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

5.3.1 *Access*

Appropriate and sustainable community access to Mansfield Reserve needs to be provided through the development and maintenance of walking tracks and trails. Lack of defined trails results in visitors creating their own paths. This increases the potential for damage to sensitive vegetation, and hinders access for those with impaired mobility and sensory abilities (e.g. wheelchairs, blind, etc).

Uncontrolled vehicular access by cars, motor and BMX bikes into and through Mansfield Reserve results in erosion and damage to vegetation and habitat in the sensitive environment.

5.3.2 *Biodiversity & Ecosystem Function*

Mansfield Reserve is home to a variety of ecosystems, containing a diverse range of plant and animal species. Past vegetation clearing has resulted in the remaining quality bushland areas only occurring along creek systems, or on areas with steep grades and rock outcrops which were generally unsuitable for agricultural purposes. Bushland found in these areas of the reserve are typically high in biodiversity as vegetation supports diverse canopy, mid canopy, under story and ground layers.

Areas previously clear and grazed are currently recovering through natural regeneration processes, particularly in these areas the vegetation is fragmented, low in biodiversity, in some areas the natural systems have been altered to such an extent that natural regeneration will no longer occur.

Biodiversity & Ecosystem Function in Mansfield Reserve is particularly threatened and continually degraded through removal of habitat structures such as bush rock, logs and dead trees with hollows, altered fire regime, feral animals, erosion and weed invasion.

It is expected that the species diversity will increase substantially, particularly by addition of further woodland species, as re-establishment of native vegetation and elimination of introduced species proceeds.

5.3.3 Community Education & Involvement

Humans significantly impact upon natural areas through dumping of weeds and rubbish, clearing of vegetation, etc. A proportion of the community also have negative perceptions about the dangers of living in close proximity to or visiting natural areas, such as snakes, predatory adults, bushfire, etc. Cultural barriers and negative experiences, particularly affect appreciation of natural areas by some people of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

However, members of the community provide a significant contribution towards the ongoing protection, restoration and revegetation of bushland and waterways, through participation in local Bushcare groups. These groups enable local residents to become involved in the management of their local natural areas (and adjoining community land such as parks) through regular planting and weeding activities, corridor and riparian reinstatement.

5.3.4 Domestic & Feral Animals

Introduced animals in the reserve include the Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*, Common Starling, Cats, Dogs, Foxes, Deer, Hare and Rabbits.

The cats and dogs are generally domestic animals invading the reserve from the neighbourhood or are abandoned at the reserve by their owners. They all have the potential to significantly impact upon natural areas, particularly native fauna. These introduced animals are highly effective predators that can devastate populations of native animals and destroy native under story native vegetation.

These animals thrive due to lack of native predators and impact upon the native flora and fauna significantly through native habitat and soil disturbance, competition for food and predation of native wild life.

Coupled with the moral obligation to control pest animals on land under Council management, Council has a statutory obligation to control certain pest animals under the Rural Lands Protection Act 1998.

Although management is able to control the impacts of pest animals to an acceptable level, their total eradication is rarely practical, and the need for their management will have to continue into the future, requiring a sustained long term control program to minimise the direct impact of pest animals on environmental, economic and social values. Not addressing the issue of feral animal control will result in Mansfield Reserve becoming a refuge and protected habitat for pest animal species along with all various impacts associated with feral animals.

Pest control works have previously been under taken by Moss Vale RLPB for the control of specific pest species. Generally the main pest species targeted in the reserve is Foxes and Rabbits. Less frequently controlled pests are Hares, Deer and Feral Cats. The main baits utilized are Pindone (Rabbits, Hares), 1080 (Foxes, Wild Dogs).

5.3.5 Erosion & Storm water

Increasing urban development, extent of impervious surfaces and water usage in the catchment dramatically increases storm water levels. Storm water from developed catchments has historically been piped to outlets on the edge of Bushland Areas. Litter, unauthorised pollution discharges and spills, run-off from roads, sewer pipes and other hard surfaces also increase storm water volumes.

These negatively impact Natural Areas through increased water nutrient levels, heavy metal pollution, erosion, increased sediment loads, and high peak flows that scour watercourses, and make it almost impossible for aquatic organisms to survive

5.3.6 Fire Management

The ecological benefits of a regular fire regime vary depending upon the vegetation community, season, intensity and frequency of fires. If fires occur too frequently, plants may not have had sufficient time to reproduce and restore the seed bank, which can alter the vegetation communities and result in localised extinction of species. However, infrequency or exclusion of fires allows fuel loads to accumulate, which pose a hazard to adjoining properties. Fire infrequency can also have a detrimental effect to the essential regeneration of certain species.

5.3.7 Litter & Dumping

Bushland areas such as Mansfield Reserve are particularly susceptible to littering and dumping of domestic, commercial and garden rubbish. Natural areas are particularly vulnerable to these activities due to their isolation and poor passive surveillance. Dumping of items such as unwanted household goods and industrial rubbish by neighboring properties and littering by visitors to natural areas is a major problem affecting the amenity and biodiversity of these areas. Garden waste also can potentially release exotic vegetation. Some litter may leach toxic chemicals and nutrients into the air, soil and waterways, which further spread the negative effects on the health of local flora and fauna.

5.3.8 Recreational Use & Facilities

The community highly values and utilises Bushland Areas as recreation spaces. Mansfield Reserve provides a peaceful environment where the community can enjoy a broad range of recreational activities such as walking, picnicking and bird watching. Due to the cultural and ecological sensitivity of these areas however, the primary focus of these areas is conservation. The need to provide for public access and a variety of recreation usages must be maximised, whilst not impacting substantially upon the environment in which they are occurring.

5.3.9 Risk Management & Public Safety

Council is concerned with ensuring the safety of all users of community land. The relative isolation and characteristics of Bushland areas however, can make them susceptible to the conducting of illegal or inappropriate activities, such as drug use and illicit behaviour. This presents unique challenges for the protection of both the environment and visitors to these areas.

5.3.10 Weeds

Natural areas are frequently used as places to dump garden clippings, dog faeces and other rubbish, particularly from adjoining properties. This dumping results in a variety of problems, particularly the growth and invasion of weed species including aquatic weeds and exotic plants. These introduced species tend to outgrow, and smother native vegetation due to a lack of predators. This severely hinders the regeneration and replacement of canopy trees and destruction of understorey, which reduces biodiversity through simplification of the ecosystem.

Weeds can also spread rapidly through pockets of native vegetation via creeklines and human track networks that transport seeds further beyond the immediate area in which original dumping occurred.

6.0 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 the 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 Mansfield Reserve.

In addition to the community values and management issues associated with Community Land, effective management of Mansfield Reserve requires the consideration and incorporation of a multitude of legislative and policy requirements for community land. In managing Mansfield Reserve, Council must comply with the core objectives for General Community Use, Park, Natural Area Watercourse and Natural Area Bushland (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 9.2 Statutory Provisions.

6.1 Council's Management Goals

Wingecarribee Shire Council recognises the importance towards the future and provides a management framework to meet the challenges of today and the future. Council's Management Plan 2008-2011 outlines Council's vision and mission statements.

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

"To make the Shire a better place in which to live."

Wingecarribee Shire Council's **Vision** statements is 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 six vision statements which includes:

- ***Enhance the spirit, character and qualities of the Shire***
- ***Respond to challenges and opportunities***
- ***Retain the balance of rural and residential lifestyle***
- ***Pursue social and recreational opportunities***
- ***Ensure sustainability of the built and natural environments***
- ***Provide appropriate and responsive planning controls***

6.2 Council's Strategic Direction

Wingecarribee Shire Council's 2008-2011 Management Plan is structured around five specific programs. Within each program are activities that ensure Council's Strategic Direction is delivered.

The purpose of having programs 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 2008-2011 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 Programs' strategic aims.

The five programs and their objectives are defined as:

Program 1 – Governance and Accountability

Open and transparent governance led by the Council and supported by the organisation.

Program 2 – Management, Organisation and Communication

Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation.

Program 3 – Business Enterprise and Development

Strengthen the economic base of the Shire and provide sustainable employment opportunities through promotion of the Southern Highlands as the preferred tourist destination and business location.

Program 4 – Lifestyle and Community

Enhance the quality of life of the Shire's residents

Program 5 – Environmental Sustainability

Protect and enhance the Shire's natural qualities and move towards sustainability.

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

6.3 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 the community sees as important about a place or a set of beliefs about how things should be. 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.

Based upon previous research and ongoing interaction with the community, Council has identified the following values:

6.3.1 Ecological and Environmental Values

As Mansfield Reserve is predominantly based on previously cleared agricultural land it is largely a cultural landscape rather than a natural environment. Nevertheless it has very high ecological and conservation values. The reserve is one of few conservation areas in the Bowral area that support three Ecological Endangered Communities. The reserve provides habitat for fauna and flora, enhanced ground water quality, and provide protection for three remnant Ecological Endangered Communities. Vegetation found in Bushland such as Mansfield Reserve provides cover that lowers air temperatures and protects soils. It improves air quality through removal of air pollutants, particularly removal of carbon dioxide through photosynthesis, which releases oxygen into the air.

Bushland such as Mansfield Reserve reduces urban storm water runoff by acting as a mini reservoir, catching rainfall and storing it in leaves and other surfaces. This slows the rain falling to the soil, assisting in water filtration, reduction in run-off volumes and soil erosion, reducing flood levels, and overall protection of water quality.

6.3.2 Educational and Scientific Values

Mansfield Reserve provides a valuable community resource for education and research. Mansfield Reserve provides an opportunity for adults and children to experience nature and develop awareness and interest in the environment.

Bushland areas such as Mansfield Reserve are frequently used as a local teaching resource by local schools, with additional opportunities to develop skills in bush crafts, water quality monitoring, and outdoor recreational activities. Tertiary institutions utilise these areas for research and teaching, as they provide opportunities to develop an understanding of the many processes and conditions that affect the functioning of an extensive variety of flora and fauna communities. These areas are highly valued for scientific research and opportunities to utilise and appreciate natural environments should be maximised.

6.3.3 Health Values

Recent research shows that many of societies' 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. Bushland areas have enormous restorative powers that have profound positive impacts on human behaviour and function, and help recovery from mental fatigue and stress. Provision of Bushland areas such as Mansfield Reserve also improves the wellbeing of the community through improving air and water quality and providing visual relief from enveloped environments.

6.3.4 Recreational Values

The community is increasingly realising the health and wellbeing benefits of recreation in enhancing their quality of life. Mansfield Reserve provide many opportunities for outdoor/nature based recreational activities. Active pursuits such as walking as well as an extensive variety of passive activities such as photography, painting, bird watching and picnicking are popular in Bushland and Watercourse areas. Many Bushland areas link to other areas of open space greatly increasing their recreational value to the community.

6.3.5 Social Values

The outdoors has long been part of the Australian culture, with open space areas highly valued as social venues. These areas are becoming increasingly important to the community. Bushland areas are valued for their aesthetic and scenic qualities, and for the tranquil space they provide to relax and escape the pressures of urban lifestyles.

The unique environment of Bushland areas provides opportunities to interact with nature and wildlife. They provide an ideal atmosphere for community interaction and socialising, which increase social capital and improve the health and wellbeing of the community. These areas must be protected and conserved to ensure these opportunities are available for future generations.

6.4 Roles of the Area

The main 'role' of Mansfield Reserve is to provide a local and regional passive recreational resource.

A significant role of Mansfield Reserve focuses on the protection and enhancement of the endangered remnant Bushland and regeneration areas.

Mansfield Reserve significance could be classed as regional or greater. A secondary role of the Reserve is the opportunity for social interaction, particularly for the residents of the surrounding area.

7.0 STRATEGIES and ACTION PLANS

The following tables outline the direction for the management and development of the site. 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;
- To assign priorities for each of the performance targets; and

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.

7.1 Access

The proposed actions listed in the tables below are authorised for development.

Table 5 - Proposed action plan for access

No.	Performance Target	Means to Achieve (Action)	Performance Assessment	Priority
1	Provide opportunities to encourage sustainable community access and enjoyment.	a. Maintain existing and establish new signposted walking tracks to encourage visitors to keep to the defined paths b. Ensure track surfaces are maintained to an acceptable standard c. Promotion of access to Mansfield Reserve facilities for all groups within the community	Increase in the number of signposted track routes Improvement in track conditions Increased number of visitors to Mansfield Reserve	High
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	Increased involvement in Bushland Area events and activities by different community groups All events comply with Council policies and Legislation	High
3	Sensitive vegetation areas and significant wildlife habitat are protected from human impacts to ensure future sustainability	a. Minimise unrestricted public access to sensitive revegetation areas or significant habitat/wildlife sites to prevent further environmental damage b. Restrict vehicular access to bushland Areas, except for maintenance, fire control and emergency purposes	Appropriate access restrictions implemented and further damage to sensitive natural areas minimised Decrease in amount of vehicle damage	High
4	Provide opportunities for people with disabilities to access Mansfield Reserve	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)	Increase in the number of people with disabilities visiting Mansfield Reserve future improvements comply with the equal access policy.	Medium

Access (continued)

No.	Performance Target	Means to Achieve (Action)	Performance Assessment	Priority
5	Improve opportunities for groups within the community that traditionally face difficulties in accessing Bushland Areas	a. Provide resources to support biodiversity education of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) groups b. Support and encourage emerging, non-traditional groups to participate in restoration and regeneration activities	Increased awareness and appreciation of Bushland Areas by culturally and linguistically diverse groups Number of CALD community groups involved in Bushcare or planting events	Medium

7.2 Biodiversity & Ecosystem Function

Table 6 – Proposed action plan for Biodiversity & Ecosystem Function

No.	Performance Target	Means to Achieve (Action)	Performance Assessment	Priority
1	To protect indigenous flora and fauna and their habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify, map and protect all remnant vegetation and habitat b. Prepare a bushland management plan and regeneration strategy. c. Maintain and restore Bushland Areas using appropriately qualified contractors as per EEC licensing requirements d. Maintain an provenance seed bank through local seed collection e. Use provenance species when undertaking any planting or revegetation, and landscaping in other areas f. Apply appropriate management and conservation strategies for identified threatened species, populations and ecological communities in consultation with NPWS and other relevant authorities 	<p>No further loss in remnant vegetation</p> <p>Bushland management plan prepared and implemented</p> <p>Specific Plans of Management developed for each EEC</p> <p>Contractors suitably qualified and NPWS requirements followed</p> <p>provenance seedbank maintained</p> <p>Increased percentage of locally provenance plants used in planting and landscaping</p> <p>Appropriate management of threatened species, populations and ecological communities</p>	High

Biodiversity & Ecosystem Function (continued)

No.	Performance Target	Means to Achieve (Action)	Performance Assessment	Priority
2	To maintain and enhance the environmental values of all Bushland Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Maintain and expand planting in riparian corridors to provide a buffer zone to improve stream health and increase fauna habitat and movement b. Buffer planting on reserve boundary c. Enhance natural linkages such as creek lines corridors 	<p>Riparian corridors expanded along creeklines</p> <p>Enhance climatic condition within the reserve</p> <p>Number of remnant areas under restoration and linked by revegetation</p>	High
3	To protect terrestrial and aquatic Fauna and enhance opportunities for their expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Incorporate retention of logs, breeding hollows, and roosts for habitat into the design of revegetation projects to suit local fauna b. Monitor the effectiveness of revegetation corridors through regularly surveying fauna movement c. Maintain a database of native fauna sightings 	<p>Increased numbers of fauna movement</p> <p>Increased variety of fauna utilising revegetation corridors</p> <p>Database maintained regularly</p>	Low

7.3 Community Education & Involvement

Table 7 – Proposed action plan for Community Education & Involvement

No.	Performance Target	Means to Achieve (Action)	Performance Assessment	Priority
1	Increased community involvement in the care and maintenance at Mansfield Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Promote and expand community involvement in the Bushcare program b. Continue to provide adequate information ,supervision, and other resources to volunteer bushcare groups c. Provide training to bushcare groups to ensure all work is undertaken safely and does not negatively impact on the environment d. Regularly liaise with local community groups in relation to maintenance issues e. Assist Bushcare groups to apply for grant funding for projects in Bushland Areas f. Encourage schools and local community groups to care for bushland areas through planting, weed and litter reduction activities g. Encourage school and community group involvement in environmental events h. Ensure that the community (particularly adjoining residents) are consulted regarding major improvement works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of new Bushcare volunteers Number of successful restoration activities undertaken by volunteer bushcare groups Bushcare training program reflects industry standards, meets NPWS requirements and legislation Improved results from community satisfaction surveys Number of successful grants obtained by volunteer groups Number of schools and community groups undertaking local planting, weed and litter removal activities Number of schools and community groups participating in environmental events and activities Reduction in community complaints 	Medium

Community Education & Involvement (continued)

No.	Performance Target	Means to Achieve (Action)	Performance Assessment	Priority
2	Increased community appreciation and awareness of Bushland Areas	<p>a. Encourage community and school education regarding the negative impacts of nutrients, chemicals, domestic animals and exotic plants on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems</p> <p>b. Develop culturally specific education material to increase appreciation and understanding of the value of Bushland Areas by people of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds</p> <p>c. Promote wildlife awareness and appreciation to local residents and schools</p>	<p>Increased community appreciation and awareness of the impacts on Bushland Areas through positive feedback</p> <p>Increased use and appreciation of Bushland Areas by people of culturally and linguistically diverse Backgrounds</p> <p>Increased community awareness and appreciation of wildlife</p>	Low

7.4 Domestic & Feral Animals

Table 8 – Proposed action plan for Domestic & Feral Animals

No.	Performance Target	Means to Achieve (Action)	Performance Assessment	Priority
1	Responsible use of Bushland Areas by pet owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Encourage the reporting of nuisance dogs with in Mansfield Reserve b. Install signage to educate owners to remove dog faeces and undertake proper disposal c. Educate cat and dog owners about their responsibilities under the Companion Animals Act 1988 d. Encourage reporting and removal of cats found within Mansfield Reserve 	<p>Increased community reports of nuisance dogs</p> <p>Reduction in impacts due to dogs</p> <p>Increased community awareness of cat/dog impacts Within Bushland Areas</p> <p>Number of cats reported and removed</p>	Medium
2	Reduce the impacts of feral animals on habitat and native wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Control feral animals which significantly impact upon local fauna b. Liaise with Rural Land Protection Board (RLPB), adjacent land owners and Department of Primary Industries to ensure co-ordinated control programs c. Encourage research and implementation of additional feral animal control programs as alternative technology becomes available 	<p>Reduced number of feral animals</p> <p>A control action group is established</p> <p>Additional feral animal control programs utilising alternative technology investigated and implemented</p>	Medium

7.5 Erosion & Stormwater

Table 9 – Proposed action plan for Erosion and Stormwater

No.	Performance Target	Means to Achieve (Action)	Performance Assessment	Priority
1	Reduce the impacts of storm water on the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide control systems at storm water pipe outlets to reduce erosion, nutrients, sediment and pollution inputs b. Undertake storm water control prior to initiating bushland restoration to reduce future impacts c. Encourage adoption of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) into Councils Development Control Plan to improve the quality and reduce the quantity of storm water from properties that drain into Mansfield Reserve. d. Ensure that any new developments adjoining Mansfield Reserve are in accordance with Council's Development Control Plans for Environmental Protection zoning e. Encourage the community to report spills or pollution discharges into waterways and mitigate promptly through appropriate cleanup and prosecution (if appropriate) f. Educate the community on appropriate actions to prevent pollution of storm water g. Rehabilitation of Mittagong creek and adjoining creek to improve water quality h. Improve bank stability by expanding riparian corridors along the creek line through revegetation, reinstatement and restoration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of end of pipe solutions implemented and improvement in water quality Number of treated storm water impacts in bushland restoration areas Number of developments that comply with WSUD All future development applications adjoining Mansfield Reserve incorporate appropriate environmental controls Pollution or spills into waterways are reported and mitigated promptly Reduction in storm water pollution Improved water quality within Mittagong creek and other adjoin streams Riparian reinstatement or revegetation undertaken 	Medium

7.6 Fire Management

Table 10 – Proposed action plan for Fire Management

No.	Performance Target	Means to Achieve (Action)	Performance Assessment	Priority
1	To minimise the threat of bushfires and the associated risks to life and property adjacent Mansfield Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Undertake all fire management activities in cooperation with Rural Fire Service and the community, particularly those with adjoining properties b. Regularly liaise with Rural Fire Service to identify potential bushfire hazards c. Maintain a system of firebreaks, fuel reduction zones, appropriate location of water supply points and community education to minimise identified bushfire risks d. Conduct controlled hazard reduction & ecological fire burns to reduce fuel loads, stimulate regeneration, and reduce weed loads e. Encourage the community to report acts of arson f. Conduct mapping of fire history to better manage fuel loads g. Prepare bushfire management plan 	<p>Cooperative fire management activities conducted Regularly</p> <p>Bushfire hazards identified</p> <p>Reduction in identified bushfire risks</p> <p>Number of ecological/hazard reduction burns planned and undertaken</p> <p>Reduction in number of arson incidents & level of regeneration after fire</p> <p>Fire history mapped and regularly updated on GIS</p> <p>Completion of bushfire management plan</p>	High
2	To minimise the harmful impact of bushfires on the environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Conduct environmental assessments to ensure the appropriate fire regime for each ecological community 	No further damage to ecological communities due to fire management activities	Medium

Fire Management (continued)

No.	Performance Target	Means to Achieve (Action)	Performance Assessment	Priority
3	To ensure fire is recognised as an environmental factor in the maintenance and conservation of native vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify and conduct fire regimes which are appropriate for maintaining and enhancing animal and plant community health and diversity b. Ensure planned burning is not detrimental to the survival of known rare or endangered plants, plant communities or areas of significant native wildlife habitat c. Establish photographic and monitoring reference points to regularly assess changes and trends in vegetation and fuel loads 	<p>Biodiversity of plant and animal communities is Maintained</p> <p>No burning undertaken in areas with rare or endangered communities without prior assessment</p> <p>Reference points established with regular monitoring taking place</p>	High

7.7 Litter & Dumping

Table 11 – Proposed action plan for Litter & Dumping

No.	Performance Target	Means to Achieve (Action)	Performance Assessment	Priority
1	Litter and rubbish dumping is minimised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Encourage the community to report incidents of littering and rubbish dumping b. Ensure that all litter and dumping reports are acted upon in a timely manner to maximise opportunities for offender prosecution c. Reduce litter within the Reserve to reduce impacts on water quality, fauna and visual amenity d. Encourage visitors to the Reserve to keep the surrounding areas clean and tidy 	<p>Reduction in the number of unreported dumping Incidents</p> <p>Number of successful investigations</p> <p>Decreased amounts of litter</p> <p>Reduction in amount of litter left by visitors</p>	Medium
2	Increased community awareness of the effects of dumping on Bushland Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Encourage community education and awareness about the harmful effects of dumping and littering in Bushland Areas b. Install signage outlining penalties imposed for littering and dumping 	<p>Reduction in dumping/littering incidents</p> <p>Increased community awareness of penalties for dumping/littering</p>	Medium

7.8 Recreational Use & Facilities

Table 12 – Proposed action plan for Recreational Use & Facilities

No.	Performance Target	Means to Achieve (Action)	Performance Assessment	Priority
1	Provide recreational facilities and opportunities which don't impact upon the ecological sensitivity of Natural Areas	<p>a. future works to be designed with regard to Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles. Eg. Maintain sightlines, passive surveillance, patrols, signage.</p> <p>b. All future work to be designed with regard to Councils equal access policy.</p> <p>c. Create picnic / seating areas where indicated on the master plan. Area to provide facilities for people with disabilities or low mobility.</p> <p>d. Install bushland interpretive signage as indicated on the master plan.</p> <p>e. Construct Baillieu Walk and look out as shown on the master plan.</p> <p>f. enhance existing dam to incorporate an ecologically sustainable wetland.</p> <p>g. Increase community awareness of the location of the Reserve and the recreational opportunities available.</p> <p>h. Ensure location and maintenance of existing and proposed tracks and facilities do not adversely impact upon Natural Areas, particularly significant ecological sites</p> <p>i. Utilise construction techniques and materials for tracks and structures which are visually and environmentally sympathetic</p> <p>j. Promote passive recreational activities in Natural Areas</p>	<p>No further fragmentation or deterioration of Bushland areas</p> <p>All future works assessed with regard to equal access principles.</p> <p>Picnic areas and seating installed</p> <p>Signage designed and installed</p> <p>Walking track lookout installed and operational</p> <p>Wetlands designed, installed and self sufficient.</p> <p>Increase usage and community education</p> <p>No further damage to sensitive areas.</p> <p>Visually and environmentally sympathetic materials used in construction or upgrade of any facilities located within the Reserve</p> <p>Increased use of Natural Areas for passive recreation</p>	High

Recreational Use & Facilities (continued)

No.	Performance Target	Means to Achieve (Action)	Performance Assessment	Priority
3	Walking tracks and trails	<p>a. Ensure that existing and any proposed walking tracks and trails are maintained to an appropriate standard and are enhanced via signage and surface upgrades where appropriate.</p> <p>b. Conduct regular inspections of tracks and other recreational facilities and ensure repairs are carried out in a timely manner to minimise risk and liability</p>	<p>Increased quality and standard of walking tracks and trails</p> <p>Reduction in injuries and incidents</p>	High

7.9 Risk Management & Public Safety

Table 13 – Proposed action plan for Risk Management & Public Safety

No.	Performance Target	Means to Achieve (Action)	Performance Assessment	Priority
1	Community perceives Mansfield Reserve as safe	a. Increase passive surveillance through low density plantings at track entrances and on the edges of the Reserve b. Council rangers to regularly undertake patrols to monitor for the occurrence of antisocial behaviour and report illegal activities to local Police and other appropriate organisations c. Encourage legitimate use of Bushland through passive monitoring and reporting of inappropriate activities by local residents	Community satisfaction indicates improvement in surveillance capacity Regular patrols undertaken Reduction in the occurrence of anti-social behavior and illegal activities	High
2	Minimise Council exposure to compensation and litigation	a. Implement pro-active risk management through regular inspections of infrastructure, natural features and surfaces b. Identify potential hazards and quantify the level of risk and Council's potential liability for each identified hazard c. Eliminate or minimise identified safety risks (as appropriate)	Regular inspections carried out Risk assessments undertaken and hazards identified Fewer insurance claims resulting from visitors	High

7.10 Weed Management

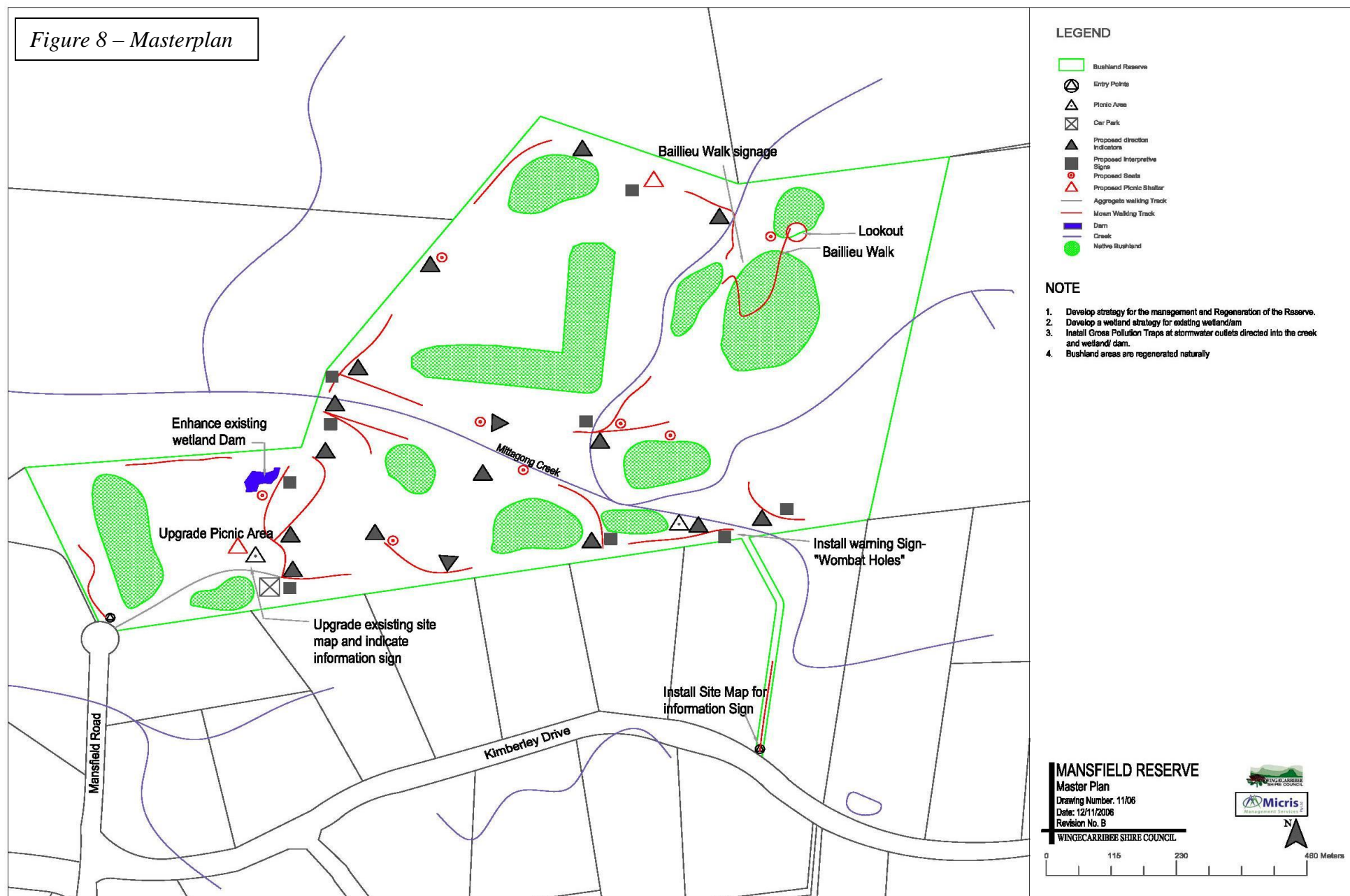
Table 14 – Proposed action plan for Weed Management

No.	Performance Target	Means to Achieve (Action)	Performance Assessment	Priority
1	Reduction of weed populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Conduct regular targeted weeding of noxious and high priority environmental weeds utilising volunteer bushcare groups and external contractors b. Undertake regular weed removal along trail edges, riparian areas and vegetation corridors to prevent the further spread of weeds c. Encourage community participation in weed control through volunteer bushcare groups 	<p>Reduction in noxious and environmental weeds</p> <p>Reduction of weeds in vegetation corridors, trail and riparian areas</p> <p>Increase in number of bushcare volunteers participating in weed control</p>	High
2	Natural Areas protected from weed infestations and nutrient incursions from surrounding lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Encourage community weed education and awareness particularly for adjoining residents b. Work with surrounding property owners to coordinate weed control and mitigation, through regular property inspections c. Undertake regular noxious weed inspections 	<p>Increased community awareness and reporting of weed occurrences</p> <p>Reduction in weed infestations from surrounding Properties</p> <p>Number of inspections undertaken</p>	High

8.0 MASTER PLAN

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

Figure 8 – Masterplan



9.0 APPENDIX

9.1 *Funding and Grant Sources*

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 spend on embellishing local and district open space and community facilities.

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 programs is they 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 and involve qualified people to achieve the restoration, and must broadly benefit the environment of NSW.

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.

Private Corporation Grants

A number of grants are available to local communities working in conjunction with Councils, and generally have an environmental focus. Applications for these grants would be lent considerable weight by involving the local community (local schools, action groups and special interest groups) in the planning and execution of the programs. Examples of such grants are:

- The BP Conservation Program
- The Readers Digest Environmental Awards.

9.2 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 Mansfield Reserve. The main aspects of current legislation, plans and policy affecting the management and protection of Mansfield Reserve 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 include 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 totally 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;
- 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 fisheries 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 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
- 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, and
- for the co-ordination of bush fire fighting and bush fire prevention throughout the State, and
- for the protection of persons from injury or death, and property from damage, arising from fires, and
- for 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, and 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;
- 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 Aboriginal people 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;
- 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 Aboriginal communities, industry, State Government agencies and Local Government, in conserving biodiversity.
- 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.

Green Web Sydney Vegetation Management Plan 1997

This is a joint initiative of the Sydney Regional Organisations of Council's (ROC's) to protect core bushland areas and provide corridor linkages to assist their future survival. It aims to:

- identify, protect and enhance biodiversity, environmental health, natural heritage and landscape amenity
- re-establish habitat by the means of enhancing and creating sustainable ecological systems where the long term survival of local species is guaranteed
- create bush corridors between core habitats for the movement of native animal and plant species
- protect habitat from degradation caused by inappropriate use, encroachment of invasive plants and from predation by cats and dogs
- encourage natural regeneration on public and private land with a particular focus on riverine environments, coastal foreshores, endangered species and ecological communities
- initiate the restoration of natural ecosystems to repair environmental degradation and to prevent increasing costs to the community by preventing further loss of natural systems, ecological processes and natural resources

State Environmental Planning Policy 19 (Bushland in Urban Areas)

This policy protects and preserves bushland within certain urban areas, as part of the natural heritage or for recreational, educational and scientific purposes. It aims to protect remaining urban bushland, which predominantly exists in public open space zones and reservations, and to ensure that bush preservation is given a high priority when local environmental plans for urban development are prepared.

This Plan of Management for Mansfield Reserve is consistent with SEPP 19, which aims to protect and preserve bushland within urban areas, because of:

- i. its value to the community as part of the natural heritage
- ii. its aesthetic value, and
- iii. its value as a recreational, educational and scientific resource.

Under Clause 8(4) of this policy, a Plan of Management for bushland must specify measures to implement the aims of this policy, which are to:

- protect the remnants of plant communities which were once characteristic of land now within an urban area;
- retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration which will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term;
- protect rare and endangered flora and fauna species;
- protect habitats for native flora and fauna;
- protect wildlife corridors and vegetation links with other nearby bushland;
- protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface;

- protect bushland for its scenic values, and to retain the unique visual identity of the landscape;
- protect significant geological features;
- protect existing landforms, such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores;
- protect archaeological relics;
- protect the recreational potential of bushland;
- protect the educational potential of bushland;
- maintain bushland in locations which are readily accessible to the community, and;
- promote the management of bushland in a manner which protects and enhances the quality of the bushland and facilitates public enjoyment of the bushland compatible with its conservation.

In addition, this clause also requires that a Plan of Management for bushland specify measures to:

- (a) enable recreational use of the bushland;
- (b) reduce hazard from bushfire;
- (c) prevent degradation of bushland, including degradation through alteration of drainage patterns, rubbish dumping, infestation with weeds and exotic plants or the intrusion of vehicles, and
- (d) restore and regenerate degraded areas of bushland.

Local Plans and Policies

Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 1989

The Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 1989 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:

Environmental Protection Zone **(7a)**;

Environmental Protection (Landscape Conservation) Zone **(7b)**;

Open Space (Existing Recreation) Zone **(6a)**;

Open Space (Private Recreation) Zone **(6b)**;

Open Space (Special Purpose) Zone **(6c)**;

Open Space (Proposed Recreation Reservation) Zone **(6d)**;

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 stricter development controls than Open Space Zoning.

Land Zoned Environmental Protection (7a)

The objectives for land zoned **7a** are:

- (a) To identify and protect wetland areas and foreshores possessing special aesthetic, ecological or conservation value, hill-lands, escarpments, river valleys, inland waterways, lakes and other landscape features of scenic significance, prominent escarpments which are intrinsic natural features of the landscape and water catchment areas of significance for local water purposes; and
- (b) To identify, by means of a development control plan, performance standards for the carrying out of development in the zone.

Environmental Protection (Landscape Conservation) Zone (7b)

The objectives for land zoned **7b** are:

- (a) To identify and protect areas of particular scenic value and to ensure the preservation of their culture, heritage, aesthetic and environmental significance;
- (b) To recognize the value of the rural scenic landscape to the local tourist economy;
- (c) To permit development and land use activities which are compatible with the heritage and scenic qualities of the key cultural landscape; and
- (d) To recognize the potential of coal and extractive resources on land within the zone, and to ensure that their winning takes place by means which are compatible with the heritage and scenic qualities of the key cultural landscape.

Open Space (Existing Recreation) Zone (6a);

The objective of this zone is to provide land for public recreation purposes.

Open Space (Private Recreation) Zone (6b);

The objective of this zone is to provide land for private recreation purposes (including clubs and commercial premises associated with the prime recreation purpose) and for private recreation areas (including areas containing recreational areas with leases on Crown Land).

Open Space (Special Purposes) Zone (6c);

The objective of this zone is to identify areas having special open space significance such as State forests and passive recreation areas.

Open Space (Proposed Recreation Reservation) Zone (6d);

The objective of this zone is to identify land not in public ownership which is proposed to be acquired for the purposes of public open space.

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

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 as is:

- to properly identify the existing and likely future community needs for open space, recreation, cultural and community facilities in Wingecarribee for the next ten years;
- 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 meet the needs of the Wingecarribee community for the next five to ten years.

9.3 *References*

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