


Plan of Management

Southern Highlands Botanic Garden

October 2023



A close-up photograph of a branch with several small, bright pink flowers and green leaves. The background is blurred, showing more of the same plant and some green foliage.

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

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

PHOTO CREDIT: FORD KRISTO PHOTOGRAPHY

REVISIONS

VERSION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY
1	23 November 2021	Draft Plan of Management for Natural Areas has provided the basis of this Plan of Management	CGM Planning
2	09 August 2023	Draft Plan of Management for public exhibition	WSC
3	31 October 2023	Final Plan of Management for adoption	WSC

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1 Key information

This plan of management (POM) has been prepared by Wingecarribee Shire Council (WSC) and provides direction as to the use and management of council-owned community land at the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens in Wingecarribee Shire.

The POM is required in accordance with Section 36 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act).

This POM is a specific document covering the community land within the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens categorised as Park, Natural Area – Watercourse and General Community Use.

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

This plan was adopted by Wingecarribee Shire Council at the meeting of <insert date>



2 Introduction

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

Wingecarribee is also known as the Southern Highlands due to its position on a spur of the Great Dividing Range, 640 to 800 metres above sea level.

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

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

The Shire has a land area of 2700 km² and is predominantly rural with agricultural land surrounding the three main towns – Mittagong, Bowral and Moss Vale – and the many villages, including Berrima, Bundanoon and Robertson. The 2021 population was 52,456 and this is expected to increase over the next 20 years, largely driven by people moving from the greater Sydney area.

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



This plan of management is a site-specific plan which applies to the land occupied by the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens.

A detailed description of the site is included in Chapter 3 Land Description.

See **Figure 1** for the location of Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens within Wingecarribee Shire.

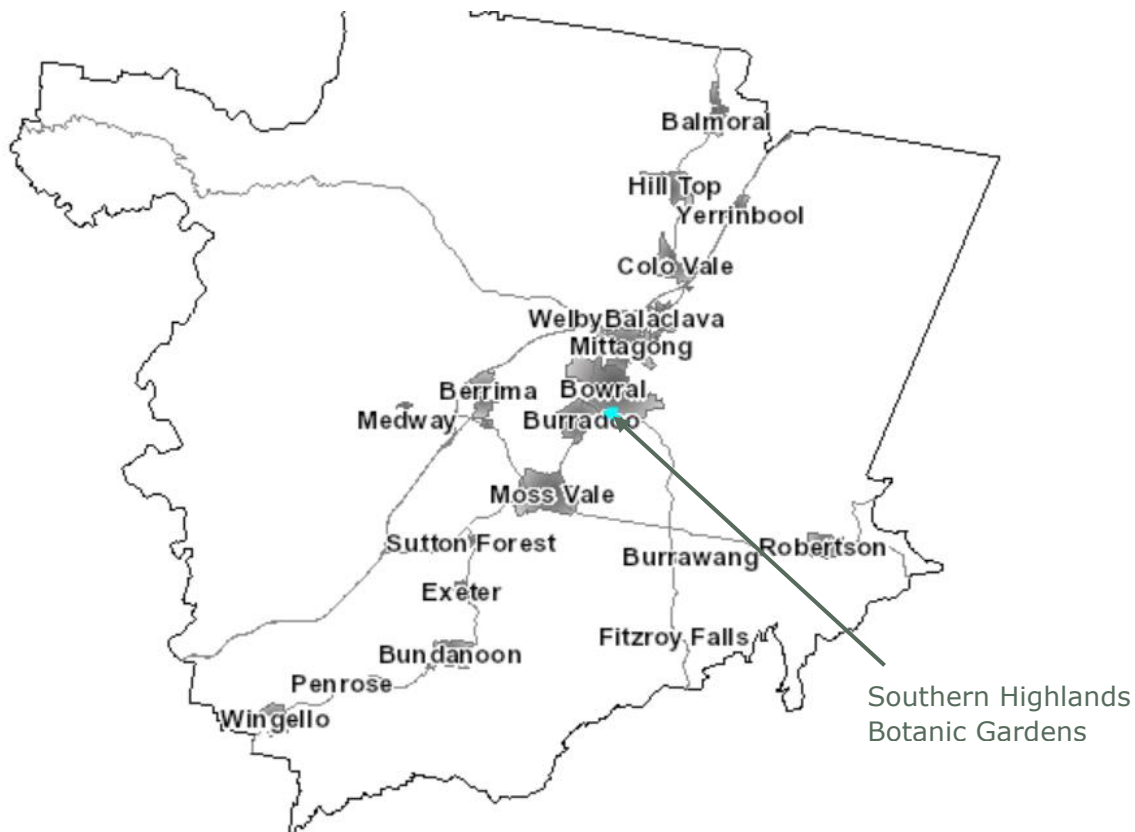


FIGURE 1 - WINGECARRIBEE SHIRE SHOWING CENTRAL LOCATION OF SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BOTANIC GARDENS

2.1 Purpose of the plan of management

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

The purpose of this specific POM is to:

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

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

2.2 Process of preparing this plan of management

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

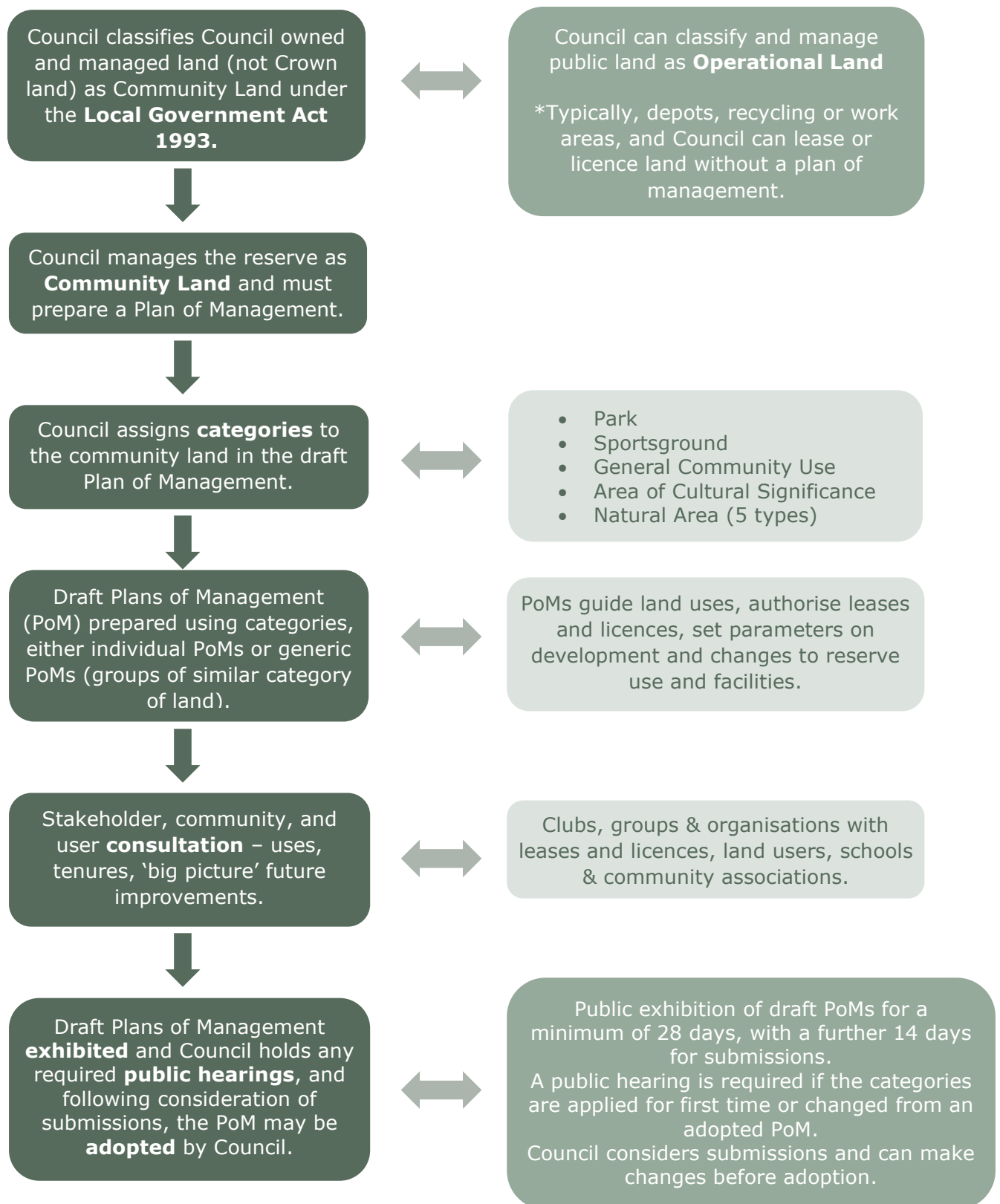


FIGURE 2 - PLAN OF MANAGEMENT PROCESS STEPS FOR COMMUNITY LAND

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2.3 Change and review of this Plan of Management

This POM will require regular review to align with community values and changing community needs, and to reflect changes in council priorities. Council may continue to acquire or divest land for the benefit of the community. Land may also come into council's ownership by dedication of land for open space.

Council has determined that it will review the POM within five years of its adoption. However, the performance of this POM will be reviewed internally on a yearly basis to ensure that the land is being managed in accordance with the POM.

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

2.4 Community Consultation

The community has had opportunity to have input into the preparation of this POM.

Community engagement to inform the preparation of the draft POM took place via:

- An on-site meeting with key representatives of Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Limited management board on 21 February 2023
- Online community survey through Your Say Wingecarribee from 3 April 2023 to 1 May 2023.

This feedback identified the values, management and land use issues and opportunities. These values, issues and opportunities form the basis for management of the POM.

A summary of the feedback was published on the Your say Wingecarribee project page from August 2023.

2.5 Public Exhibition

Public exhibition of the draft POM from 21 August 2023 to 3 October 2023 in accordance with the requirements of section 38 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

A total of 19 submissions on the draft POM were received by the 3 October 2023.

Council considered the submissions received and resolved to adopt the POM with only minor amendments to the categorisation of the water bodies on site as Natural Area – Wetland as well to make minor amendments to some of the actions and the structure of the POM based off community feedback.

2.6 Public Hearing

Public hearing on the proposed categorisation of the land held on 13 September 2023 at the Moss Vale Civic Centre and the report was made available on Council's website on 21 September 2023.

In accordance with the requirements of Sections 40(A) and 47(G) of the LG Act, a public hearing is required for community land, or parts of community land where categories are assigned for the first time or amended.

3 Land Description

3.1 Site description

This POM applies to the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens shown in **Figure 3** and is Council owned community land.

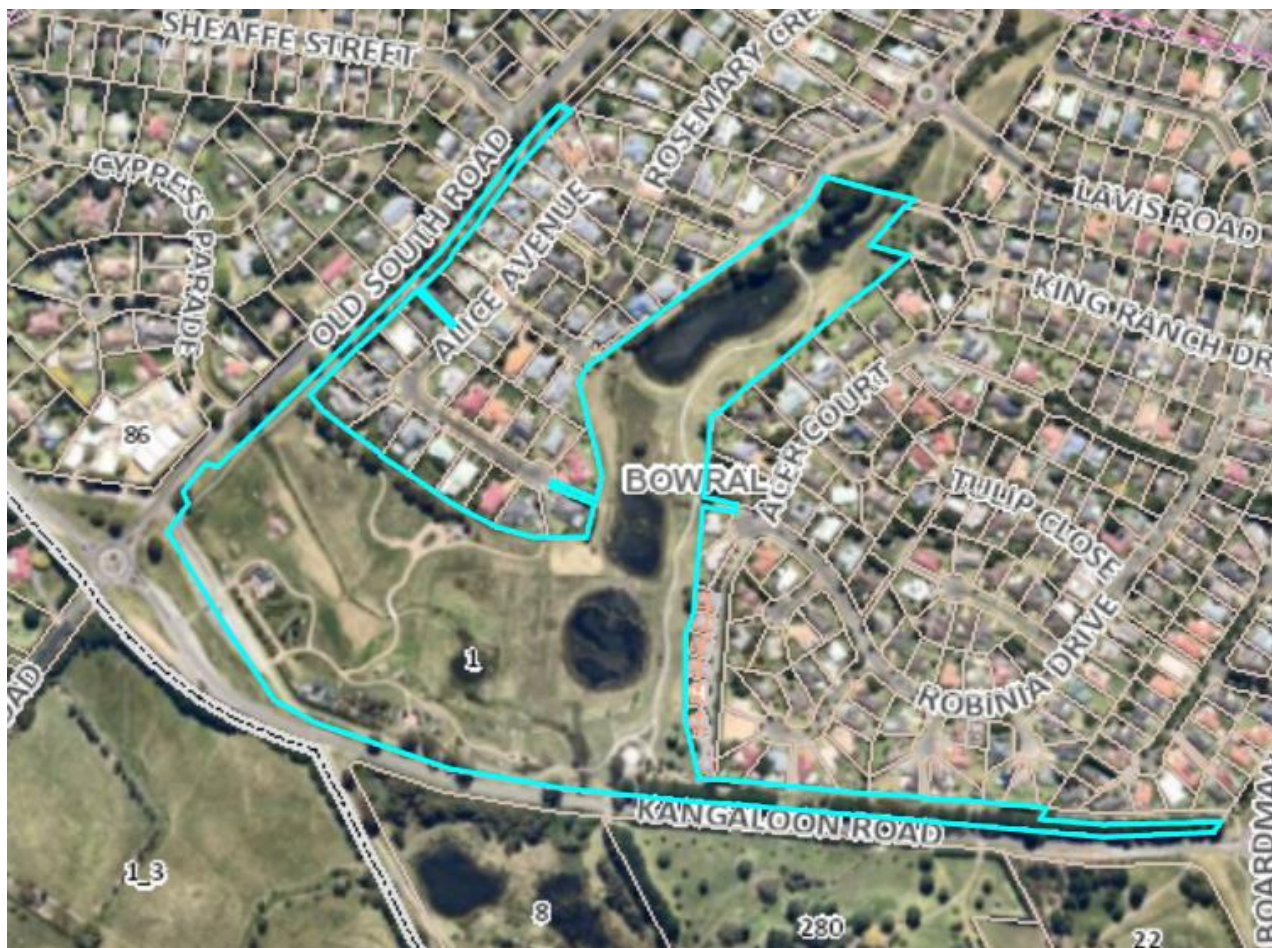


FIGURE 3 – SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BOTANIC GARDENS

Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens covers an area of approximately of 14.8 hectares. The site is centrally located between Bowral and Mittagong in the suburb of East Bowral. It is bounded by Kangaloon Road to the south, Old South Road to the west and residential properties to the east and north.

The Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens land is:

- Council-owned community land is predominately zoned RE1 Public Recreation, and the; carpark area is zoned R2 Low Density Residential;
- in a prominent position in East Bowral, well positioned in cycle path network;
- adjacent to residential areas to north and east, New Living Area to the south;
- a key leisure facility of district significance, with an emphasis on passive recreation;
- contains walking trails, picnics, gardens, children's playspace, plant nursery;
- focus on both native and exotic flora of the Southern Highlands;
- the site is home to a population of internationally protected migratory bird Latham Snipe;
- the site contains endangered tree species *Eucalyptus macarthurii* (Paddys River Box);
- contains a constructed chain of stormwater ponds with wetland properties.

3.2 Property descriptions

Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens is made up of a single parcel of land owned by Wingecarribee Shire Council, as shown in **Figure 4**.

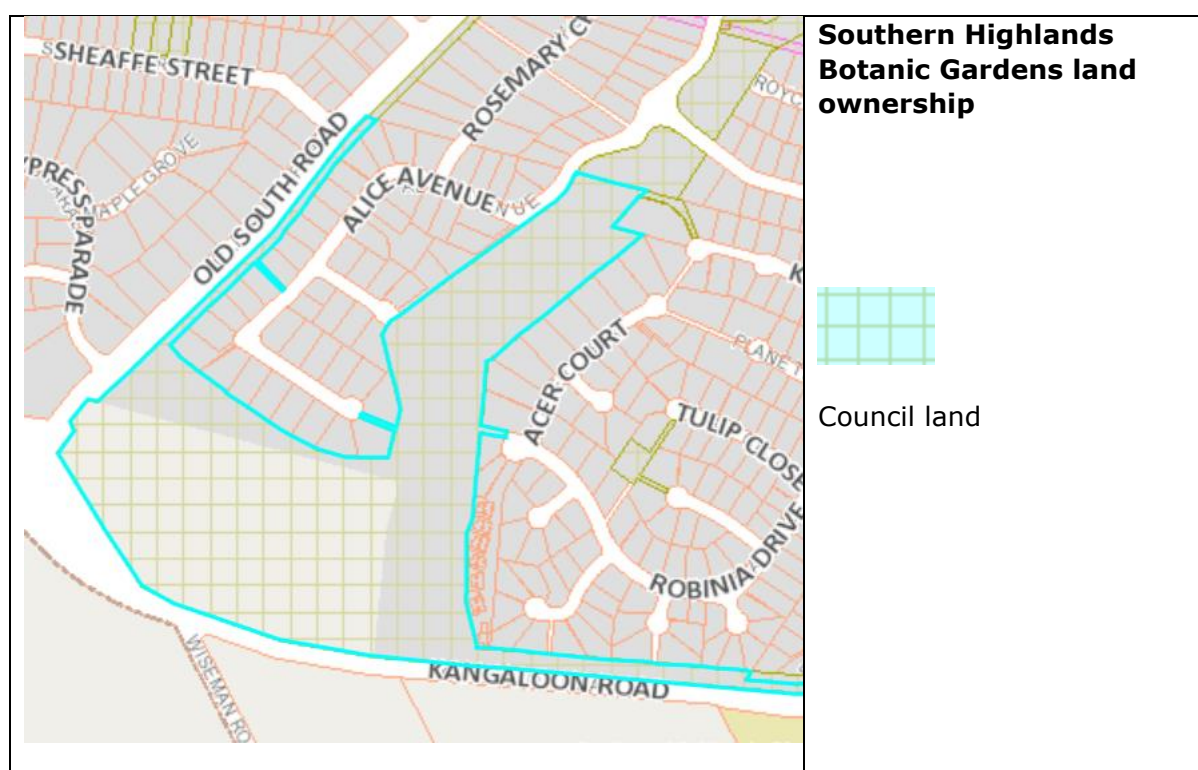


FIGURE 4 – LAND OWNERSHIP MAP

The community land is defined by real property identifiers (lots and deposited plans)

Table 1 – Land parcels to which this POM apply		
Asset ID	Lots and DP	Area (m ²)
205080	LOT 1 DP 1231536	148160

Part of the unformed road reserve on the corner of Kangaloon and Old South Roads Bowral is subject to a lease to the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Limited for a period of 5 years from 2019. The intention is that the land will vest in Council and be consolidated within the title for the botanic gardens site.

3.3 Landscape character

The land is relatively level ground, gradually sloping to the south-east, with scattered trees, open grassed areas and a series of ponds.

It was farming land for many decades and retains several remnant trees *Eucalyptus macarthurii* (Paddys River Box), an endangered species.

The watercourse has been modified as constructed wetlands, forming a chain of ponds – “ponds of reflection” – with riparian areas landscaped.

The site has now been established as botanic gardens to reflect the seasons in a cool climate. Plantings reflect the 3 garden types - a town garden with exotic plants; a country garden with a mix of exotics and native plantings; and a regional garden with native plantings, including some areas of revegetation of the Southern Highlands Shale Woodland plant community.

The site includes an area set aside to protect and manage the habitat of the Latham’s Snipe, a migratory bird species, in accordance with Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities Order dated 27 September 2012. (Order Number: Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens 2012/6273).

In accordance with the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO Act), if the order placed on the Botanic Gardens site is in any way breached, significant penalties can be enforced on Council as landowner.

Penalties are classified as Tier 1, 2 or 3 offences and can attract penalties of up to \$5million and 7 years gaol depending on the severity of the offence.

The site currently includes established gardens along the southern fenced area of the botanic gardens.

The main creek is mapped as Riparian Land category 2 – Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat in the WLEP 2010. See **Figure 5**: Land Sensitivity Map below.

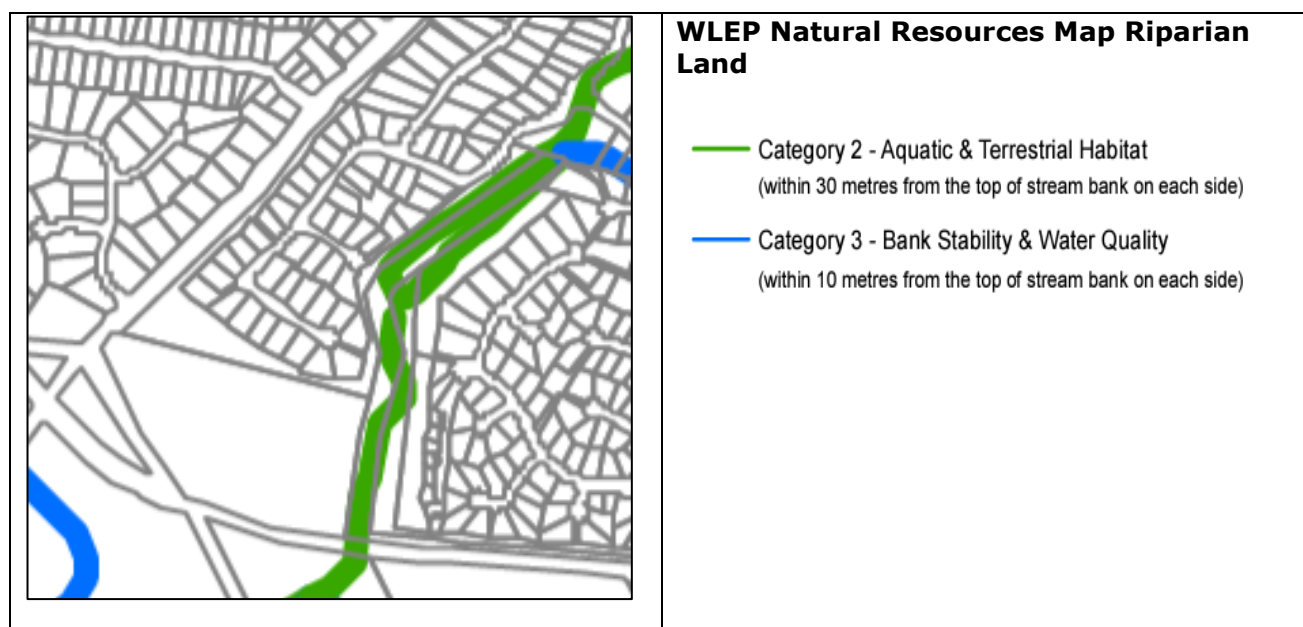


FIGURE 5 – LAND SENSITIVITY MAP

4 Basis of Management

WSC intends to manage its community land to meet:

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

4.1 Categorisation of community land

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

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



4.2 Management of community land

Community land is valued for its important role in the social, intellectual, spiritual and physical enrichment of residents, workers, and visitors to the Wingecarribee Shire area. The intrinsic value of community land is also recognised.

Wingecarribee Shire Council (WSC) encourages a wide range of uses of community land and intends to facilitate uses which increase the activation of its land, where appropriate.

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

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

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

4.3 Categorisation of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens

The first POM for the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens was adopted in 2011. This POM categorised the Council owned community land as Park, Natural Area – Watercourse and General Community Use. This categorisation enabled the establishment of the botanic gardens and its early development. See **Figure 6** for the Southern Highlands Categorisation Map 2011.

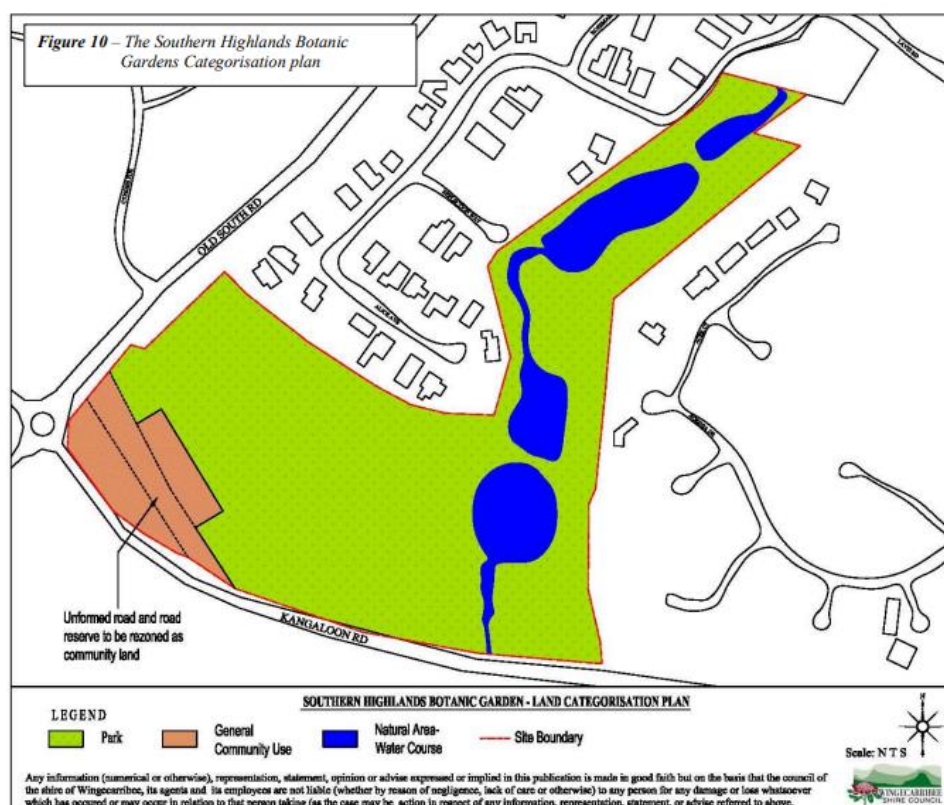


FIGURE 6: SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BOTANIC GARDENS CATEGORISATION MAP 2011

The 2011 categorisation map for the community land has been reviewed as part of the preparation of this POM.

Based on the existing land character and use, the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens will continue to be categorised as Park, Natural Area – Watercourse and General Community Use.

Those parts of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens that are open park areas, garden areas, playground and picnic areas are categorised as Park.

Table 2 – Guidelines and core objectives for Park category	
Guidelines (LG Regulation Clause 104)	Core objectives (LG Act Section 36G)
Parks are land that is, or is proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, for use mainly for passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that do not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others.	(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.

TABLE 2 – GUIDELINES AND CORE OBJECTIVES FOR PARK

The waterbodies connecting the constructed wetlands within the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens have been categorised as Natural Area – Watercourse.

Table 3 – Guidelines and core objectives for Natural Area - Watercourse category	
Guidelines (LG Regulation Clause 110)	Core objectives (LG Act Section 36M)
Watercourse is land which includes: (a) any stream of water, whether perennial or intermittent, flowing in a natural channel, or in a natural channel that has been artificially improved, or in an artificial channel that has changed the course of the stream of water, and any other stream of water into or from which the stream of water flows, and (b) associated riparian land or vegetation, including land that is protected land for the purposes of the Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act 1948 or State protected land identified in an order under section 7 of the Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997.	(a) to manage watercourses so as to protect the biodiversity and ecological values of the instream environment, particularly in relation to water quality and water flows, 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.

TABLE 3 – GUIDELINES AND CORE OBJECTIVES FOR NATURAL AREA – WATERCOURSE

The constructed wetlands within the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens have been categorised as Natural Area – Wetland.

Table 4 – Guidelines and core objectives for Natural Area - Wetland category	
Guidelines (LG Regulation Clause 108)	Core objectives (LG Act Section 36K)
Land categorised as Natural Area - Wetland includes marshes, mangroves, backwaters, billabongs, swamps, sedgelands, wet	a) to protect the biodiversity and ecological values of wetlands, with particular reference to their

meadows or wet heathlands that form a waterbody that is inundated cyclically, intermittently or permanently with fresh, brackish or salt water, whether slow moving or stationary.	<p>hydrological environment (including water quality and water flow), and to the flora, fauna and habitat values of the wetlands, and</p> <p>b) to restore and regenerate degraded wetlands, and</p> <p>c) to facilitate community education in relation to wetlands, and the community use of wetlands, without compromising the ecological values of wetlands.</p>
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TABLE 4 – GUIDELINES AND CORE OBJECTIVES FOR NATURAL AREA – WETLAND

Those parts of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens that are occupied by the education centre, maintenance shed, plant nursery and car park and the intended footprint of the conference / function centre are categorised as General Community Use.

Table 5 – Guidelines and core objectives for General Community Use category	
Guidelines (LG Regulation Clause 106)	Core objectives (LG Act Section 36I)
<p>Land categorised as General Community Use:</p> <p>(a) 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</p> <p>(b) is not required to be categorised as a natural area under section 36A, 36B or 36C of the Act and does not satisfy the guidelines under clauses 102–105 for categorisation as a natural area, a sportsground, a park or an area of cultural significance.</p>	<p>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:</p> <p>(a) in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public, and</p> <p>(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).</p>

TABLE 5 – GUIDELINES AND CORE OBJECTIVES FOR GENERAL COMMUNITY USE

The 2011 categorisation map has been reviewed and updated. Some specific sites within the community land have been amended so that the proposed categorisation more closely reflects the existing and intended uses for the land.

See **Figure 7** for the revised Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens categorisation map.

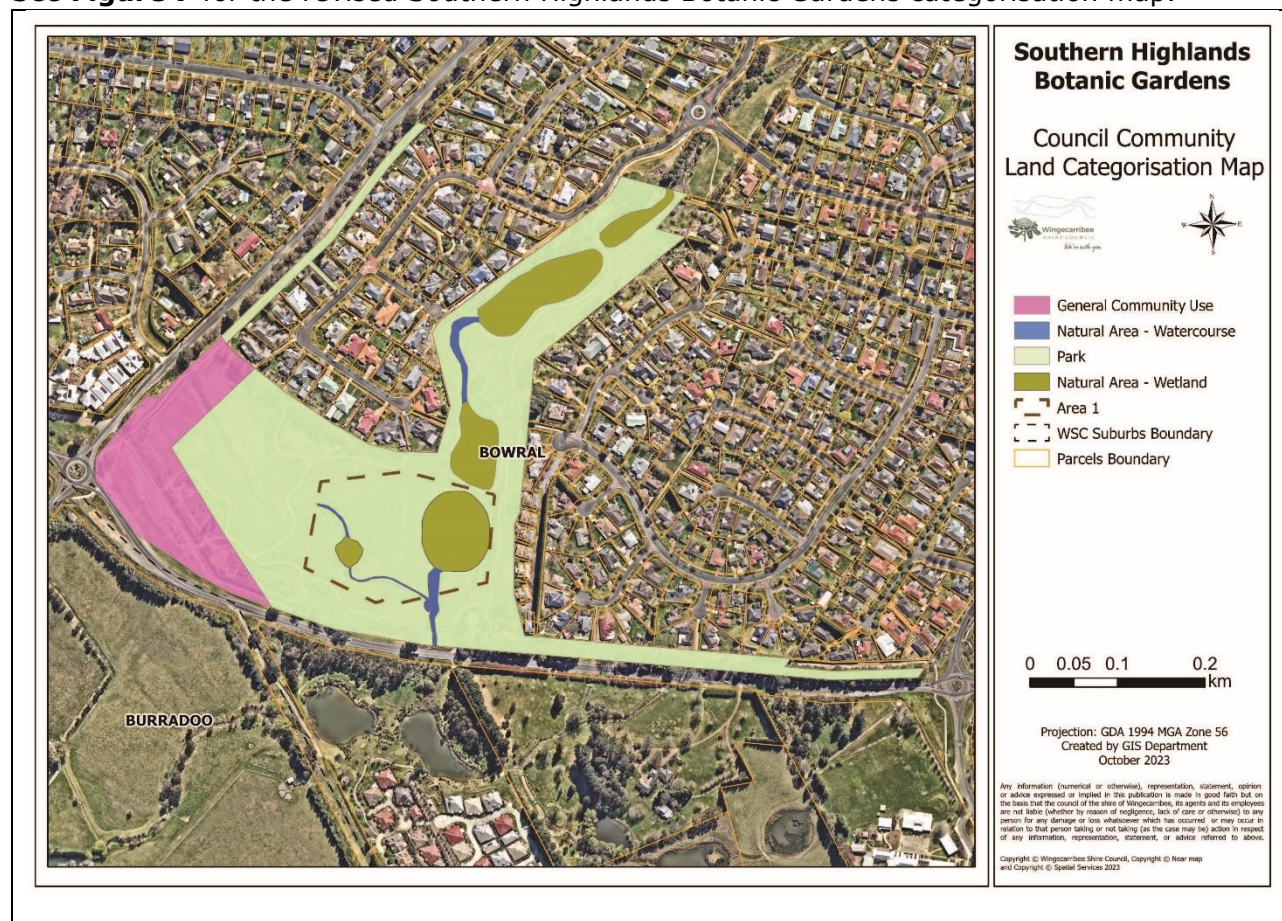


FIGURE 7: SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BOTANIC GARDENS CATEGORISATION MAP

4.4 Council's strategic objectives and priorities

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

Community Strategic Plan - Wingecarribee 2041

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

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

This vision provides direction for the use and management of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens.

Wingecarribee 2041 is structured around the themes of leadership, people, places, environment and economy. No one theme is more important than another and all are equally important in achieving the aspirations of the Wingecarribee community.

The CSP was developed through extensive engagement with our community over a number of years. This engagement process identified key issues and challenges which have been integrated into the Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) and are covered in this section below.

Detailed strategies and actions of relevance to this PoM and which dovetail with the aspirations of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Limited have been collated and are included in **Appendix 1**.

Wingecarribee 2040 Local Strategic Planning Statement

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

The LSPS outlines six (6) key land use themes including our environment and sustainability, our rural lands, our economy, our housing, our infrastructure and our place. Each land use theme includes a set of planning priorities and actions to achieve the communities' vision for the Wingecarribee Shire.

Broad planning priorities and actions have been identified for implementation across the Shire. Several of these can be implemented by this POM, the most relevant are listed in **Table 6** with a corresponding response on how the POM can contribute to their achievement.

TABLE 6: LOCAL STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS FOR THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BOTANIC GARDENS

PLANNING PRIORITIES & ACTIONS	How the POM can contribute to achieving the priorities and associated actions
Planning Priority 1.1 Reduce carbon emissions and increase energy, water and waste efficiencies	
i. Ensure that new developments and alterations and additions to existing developments demonstrate improved building standards with high efficiency in energy, water and waste (H)	Ensure any new facilities demonstrate improved building standards with high efficiency in energy, water and waste.
ii. Increase the uptake of rainwater tanks and dual reticulation of recycled water in new developments and alterations and additions to existing developments (M)	Use rainwater tanks and dual reticulation of recycled water wherever possible.
iii. Reduce potable water used for non-potable uses (NL)	Reduce potable water used for non-potable uses across the land
iv. Create walking and cycling friendly communities and encourage the use of public transport (M)	Create walking and cycling opportunities in, to and around the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens.
v. Facilitate the use of electric vehicles in the Shire (L)	Where possible consider electric vehicle charging station with new or improved infrastructure/buildings on the land.

Planning Priority 1.2 As a Council and as a community, we seek to mitigate, adapt and build resilience to climate change and natural disasters	Plan for an adaptive and resilient landscape through considered species selection, resilient and the use of sustainable materials and implementing Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles across the site.
Planning Priority 1.3 To improve biodiversity corridor connectivity and reduce fragmentation.	Monitor and protect the Lathem Snip Habitat area, 'Area 1'. Retain existing mature trees and support with appropriate understory species. Maintain and protect existing waterways within the gardens.
Planning Priority 3.1 Our Shire supports businesses' and attracts people to work, live and visit	Promote the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens as a key tourist destination within the Southern Highlands.
Planning Priority 5.1 Plan for and deliver enabling infrastructure to unlock the potential of the Southern Highlands	Ensure the SHBG future projects continue to support the recreational infrastructure needs of the Wingecarribee Shire.
Planning priority 6.1 Maintain the unique character of our towns and villages, separated by rich natural areas and rural landscapes	A place-based approach is taken to planning to ensure the landscape character of the SHBG enhances Bowral's unique character and identity.
Planning priority 6.2 Identify, protect and promote our cultural and built heritage	The existing infrastructure and facilities are repurposed, and Indigenous and European heritage is celebrated on the grounds.
Planning Priority 6.3 Enhance the liveability of our towns and villages, with facilities and services to support a healthy, culturally rich and socially connected Wingecarribee community	
i. Engage with local communities and business owners to understand their priorities for each town and village (NL)	Council to continue to work with the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Limited and the community to understand the needs and priorities.
ii. Improve our network of safe, accessible and interconnected shared pathways to encourage people to be active, and build social connections within our community (L)	Improve the network of paths to, around and within the SHBG.
iii. Facilitate and provide opportunities for the delivery of integrated, inclusive and accessible services and programs that contribute to community wellbeing (NL)	The gardens, including the buildings and structures, are constructed to facilitate inclusive and accessible events, activities and programs.
iv. Continue to plan for and deliver community infrastructure to meet the changing needs of our community (M)	Review and update the plan of management, master plan and other strategic documents as needed.

Community and Recreational Facilities Strategy 2023

The Community and Recreational Facilities Strategy (CRFS) is a 20year strategic document developed to guide and inform Council and the Community to plan, fund and deliver formal community and recreation facilities across the Shire.

Strong partnerships are one of the foundational principles of the CRFS. The Strategy highlights the importance of Council working closely with private and not-for-profit facilities and operators, such as the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Limited, to provide support for the community.

It is recognised in the strategy that the gardens have become a key community hub within Bowral and the wider Southern Highlands, providing opportunities for passive recreation, community gatherings and events. The SHBG also play a key role in the Southern Highlands visitor economy with 44,000 visitors recorded within the last 12month period.



4.5 Strategic management of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens

Council strategic objectives and priorities outlined previously in Section 4.4 create the management framework for the land and include the Community Strategic Plan, the Local Strategic Planning Statement and the Wingecarribee LEP.

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

- Bicycle Plan 2016
- Biodiversity Strategy (2003)
- Community and Recreational Facilities Strategy (draft 2023)
- Environment and Climate Change Strategy (in development)
- Open Space Review and Long-term Strategy 2007
- Parks Strategy 2016
- Pesticides Notification Plan 2018-2023
- Southern Highlands Destination Strategy 2020-2030



5 Development and Use

5.1 Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan (WLEP) - Land use zoning

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

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

Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens covered by this POM is zoned under the WLEP as:

- RE1 Public Recreation
- R2 Low Density Residential

The land surrounding the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens is low density residential (R2) along the northern, eastern and western boundaries of the site, and environmental management (C3) along the southern boundary of the site.

A section of road reserve is zoned R2 is currently used for car parking for the Gardens. See **Figure 8** Land use zoning.

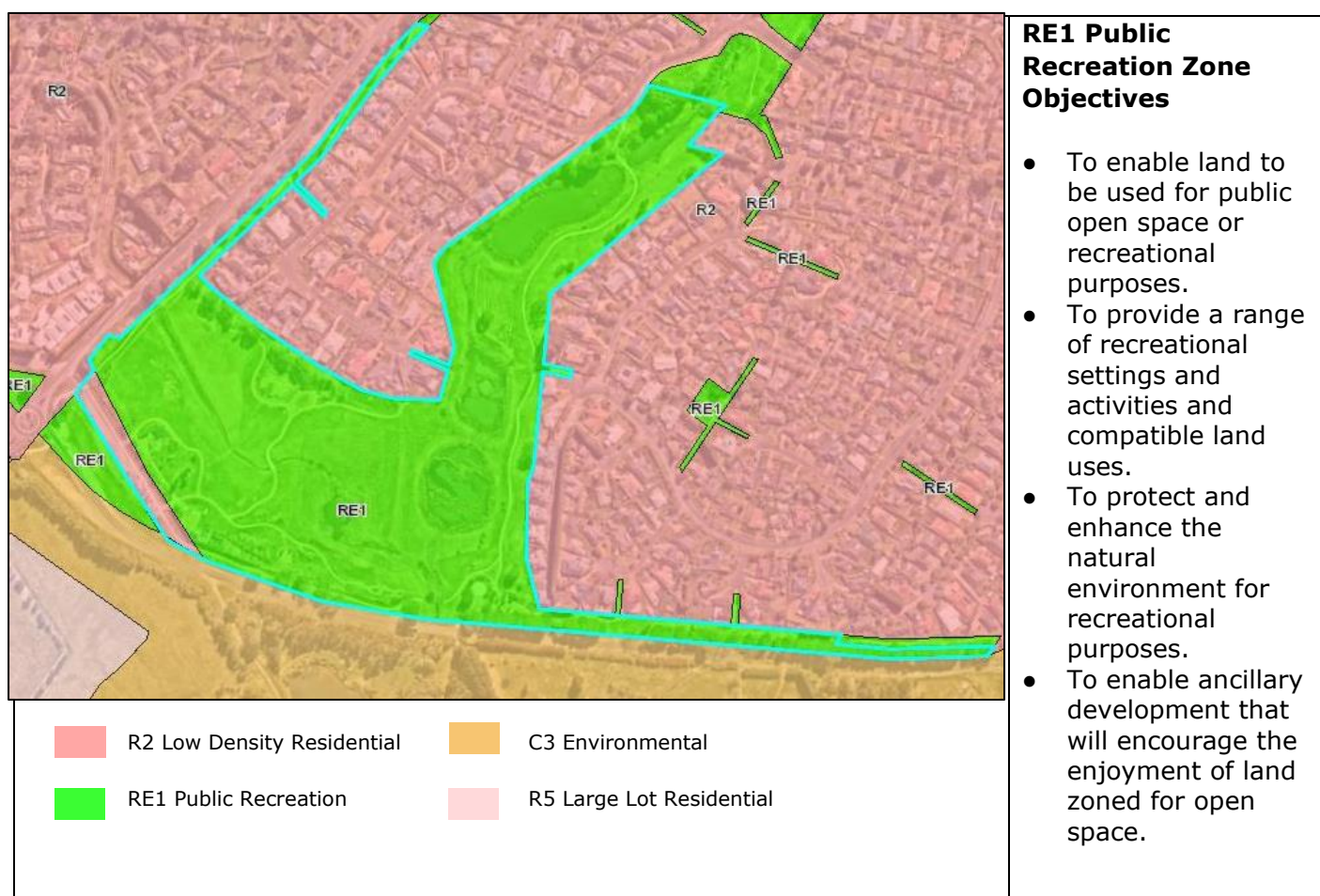


FIGURE 8 LAND USE ZONING

5.2 Development of Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens

Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens has been established with aims to educate the general public about horticulture and landscaping, plants and biological communities, and raise community awareness about biodiversity and plant conservation. It is a centre for study and education for botany and horticulture students; for school aged children with regards to all aspects of the environment; and for amateur and professional garden enthusiasts alike.

The development of the Gardens follows the *2004 Open Space, Recreation, Cultural and Community Facilities Needs Study, Strategy & Action Plan*, which recommended that Council consider the establishment of a 'Central Park' facility in Wingecarribee..

Council adopted the original *Plan of Management for the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens* in 2011, which categorised the Council owned community land as Park, Natural Area – Watercourse and General Community Use and set out an action plan for the establishment of the botanic gardens and its early development.

In September 2013, a Land Use Application for the masterplan for the development of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens received staged development consent, in accordance with the adopted Plan of Management 2011, the SHBG Masterplan prepared by Taylor Cullity Lethlean dated March 2013 and Latham's Snipe survey report. No physical works were approved.

Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens is managed by the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Limited who are the lessees of the land.

The Gardens has data on entry numbers with a significant increase in visitation figures over the past few years, from 14,500 in 2019 to an estimate of 44,000 this year based on current trends.

Progress has been made on implementing the 2013 Masterplan, including the construction of new fences and entry signage, several acres of plantings, pathways, utilities, amenities as well as recently commencing the construction of an Education Centre.

5.3 Current condition and uses of the land

A POM that applies to just one area of community land must include a description of the condition of the land, and of any buildings or other improvements on the land, and the use of the land and any such buildings or improvements as at the date of adoption of the POM.

A summary of the current condition description of the land, buildings and infrastructure at Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens is in **Table 7** below.

Table 7 – Current use and condition of the land

Item	Condition description	Use
Administration building, including storage room and M/F and disabled toilets	Good	Operational
Perimeter fences and bollards	Good	Site protection
Shared user path	Good	Recreation
Gravel pedestrian paths	Good	Recreation
Bridges and boardwalks	Good	Recreation
Children's playspace with seating, drinking fountain, shade sail and fencing	Good	Recreation
2 x Picnic Shelters with picnic table and seating	Good	Recreation
Bench seats (various)	Good	Recreation
Park signage (various)	Good	Recreation
Bird sanctuary and fencing	Good	Latham Snip habitat protection
Plant nursery including fencing and shade sail	Good	Operational
Shade house	Good	Visitor parking
Foundation square with paving, low brick walls, shade sail and drinking fountain	Good	Recreation
3 x feature stone walls with signage and retainer garden beds	Good	Recreation
Bore (not operational)	Fair	Operational
Garden bollard lighting and car park lighting	Good	Recreation
Car Park	Fair	Operational



5.4 Permissible uses and development

The development and use of community land should be compatible with the legislated purpose of the land and the wider community context.

Section 36(3A) (b) of the LG Act requires that a site-specific POM must:

- specify the purposes for which the land, and any such buildings or improvements, will be permitted to be used
- specify the purposes for which any further development of the land will be permitted, whether under lease or licence or otherwise
- describe the scale and intensity of any such permitted use or development.

Section 68, Part D, of the LG Act requires council to issue approvals for certain activities on community land. Authorised permissible uses and permitted developments are required to be consistent with the land use zoning and the core objectives of the categories assigned to the land.

The scale and intensity of these permissible uses and developments will be determined in context with this POM, Council assessment and development approvals, leasing and licensing that are consistent with the land use zoning, category core objectives and any identified carrying capacity of the land and its infrastructure.

The facilities on community land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community. The anticipated uses and associated development identified in the table are intended to provide a general guide.

The general types of uses which may occur on community land categorised as Park, and the forms of development generally associated with those uses, are set out in **Table 8** below.

Permissible use and development of community land categorised as Park	
Purpose/Use	Development to facilitate uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active and passive recreation including children's play • Group recreational use, such as picnics and private celebrations, including weddings • Community & corporate use, such as conferences, meetings, seminars • Festivals, parades, markets, fairs, auctions and similar events and gatherings • Exhibitions • Concerts • Performances • Busking • Filming and photographic projects • Public address (speeches) • Community gardens • Café or refreshment areas (kiosks/restaurants) including external seating • Retail shop, plant sales • Publicly accessible ancillary areas, such as toilet facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development for the purposes of improving access, amenity and the visual character of the park • Development for the purposes of active recreation such as play equipment, exercise equipment, bike racks • Amenities to facilitate the safety, use and enjoyment of the park e.g. children's play equipment • Landscaping and finished, improving access, amenity and the visual character of the park • Lighting, seating, toilet & shower facilities, courts or marked areas e.g. access paths and walking tracks • Hard and soft landscaped areas • BBQ facilities and sheltered seating areas • Ancillary service, transport or loading areas • Commercial development which is sympathetic to and supports use in the area, e.g. cafes, kiosks, recreation hire equipment areas • Car parking and loading areas

Permissible use and development of community land categorised as Park	
Purpose/Use	Development to facilitate uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restricted access ancillary areas (e.g. storage areas associated with functions, gardening equipment) • Service areas ancillary to use of land (e.g. loading areas, car spaces, bike racks) • Low intensity commercial activities (e.g. recreational equipment hire) • Sale of alcohol (subject to a licence from NSW Liquor and Gaming) • Restoration works and ecological restoration activities associated with the protection of the biodiversity and ecological values and conservation of flora and fauna (with Area 1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event spaces (eg amphitheatre, rotunda) • Community gardens • Storage sheds, compost area • Structures to facilitate community events & gatherings • Shade structures • Water-saving initiatives such as stormwater harvesting, rain gardens and swales • Energy saving initiatives such as solar lights and solar panels • Bio-banking and carbon sequestration initiatives • Area 1 must be protected and managed in a way which supports its ongoing suitability as habitat for Latham's • No formed footpaths, barbeque areas, playgrounds or any other facilities that are inconsistent with protection of Latham's Snipe are to be constructed within area 1 (with the exception of a bridge across the creek channel within 20 metres of the bridge channel as per the lease) • The area within 10 metres outside the perimeter of Area 1 must only be planted with shrubs or other low growing plants. • Any construction activity within 25 metres of the perimeter of Area 1 must only be undertaken between the months of April and August (inclusive).

TABLE 8: PERMISSIBLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY LAND CATEGORISED AS PARK

Permissible use and development of community land categorised as Natural Area - Watercourse	
Purpose/Use	Development to facilitate uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing a location for informal recreation including walking paths and boardwalks, informal children's play • Restoration works and ecological restoration activities associated with the protection of the biodiversity and ecological values and conservation of flora and fauna • Filming and photographic projects • Restricted access ancillary areas (e.g. storage areas, gardening equipment) • Service areas ancillary to the use of land (e.g. loading areas, bicycle racks) • Low intensity commercial activities (e.g. guided walks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development for the purposes of improving access, amenity and the visual character of the natural areas • Any development or activity that promotes the restoration and regeneration of the land • Amenities to facilitate the safety, use and enjoyment of the natural area e.g. children's playspace (natural focus) • Lighting, seating, marked areas (e.g. access paths and activity trails) that will not adversely affect the natural state or setting of the area

Permissible use and development of community land categorised as Natural Area - Watercourse	
Purpose/Use	Development to facilitate uses
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard and soft landscaped areas that will not adversely affect the natural state or setting of the area • Seating areas that will not adversely affect the natural state or setting of the area • Ancillary service, transport or loading areas that will not adversely affect the natural state or setting of the area • Commercial development which is sympathetic to and supports use in the area, that will not adversely affect the natural state or setting of the area, e.g. guided walks

TABLE 9: PERMISSIBLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY LAND CATEGORISED AS NATURAL AREA - WATERCOURSE

Permissible use and development of community land categorised as Natural Area - Wetland	
Purpose/Use	Development to facilitate uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration works and ecological restoration activities associated with the protection of the biodiversity and ecological values and conservation of flora and fauna • Rehabilitation of disturbed areas, including vegetation restoration, weed control and erosion control measures • Passive recreation such as footpaths, where native vegetation is not adversely impacted • Conservation fencing and gates to controlled undesired access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation and maintenance programs that address the natural values of the sites • Works arising from such management including protection, restoration and regeneration works in addition to bank stabilisation works • To facilitate sustainable access controlled path and boardwalk works may be considered along with interpretive information to aid understanding of natural values and wayfinding • Area 1 must be protected and managed in a way which supports its ongoing suitability as habitat for Latham's • No formed footpaths, barbeque areas, playgrounds or any other facilities that are inconsistent with protection of Latham's Snipe are to be constructed within area 1 (with the exception of a bridge across the creek channel within 20 metres of the bridge channel as per the lease) • The area within 10 metres outside the perimeter of Area 1 must only be planted with shrubs or other low growing plants. • Any construction activity within 25 metres of the perimeter of Area 1 must only be undertaken between the months of April and August (inclusive).

TABLE 10: PERMISSIBLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY LAND CATEGORISED AS NATURAL AREA - WETLAND

Permissible use and development of community land categorised as General Community Use	
Purpose/Use	Development to facilitate uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a location for, and supports, the gathering of groups for a range of general social, cultural or recreational purposes Providing multi-purpose buildings (e.g. community halls and centres) with specialised community uses such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> casual or informal meetings, (including for social, recreational, educational or cultural purposes) functions and private celebrations commercial functions (conferences, seminars, etc) community events and gatherings publicly accessible ancillary areas, such as toilets designated group use e.g. educational centres, including libraries, information and resource centres entertainment facilities <p>Activities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> concerts including all musical genres performances including film and stage exhibitions festivals and fairs workshops, leisure or training classes eating and drinking in a relaxed setting Commercial uses compatible with the location and use of the land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development for the purposes of social, community, cultural, recreational activities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscaping and finishes, improving access, amenity and the visual character of the general community area Provision of buildings or other amenity areas to facilitate use and enjoyment by the community Development (particularly within buildings) for the purposes of addressing the needs of a particular group e.g. storage areas Café or refreshment areas (kiosks/restaurants) including external seating Amenities to facilitate the safe use Signage including interpretive signage Carparking and loading areas Ancillary areas (e.g. staff rooms, meeting rooms) Storage ancillary to recreational uses, community events or gatherings, and public meetings Commercial development that is sympathetic to and supports use of the area

TABLE 11: PERMISSIBLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY LAND CATEGORISED AS GENERAL COMMUNITY USE

5.5 Express authorisation of leases, licences and other estates

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

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

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

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

5.6 Existing leases and licences

Lease

Council entered into a 21-year Lease of the whole of the site with Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Limited in 2015 with an expiration date of 2036. The Lessee pays \$1.00 per annum (if demanded).

The Lessee is an Australian public non-profit company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. It has raised funds (and continues fundraising) for the ongoing development and operation of the Botanic Gardens site.

In August 2018, Council was approached by the Lessee with a request to terminate the existing 21-year Lease and to enter into a new 30 year Lease. The Lessee's reasoning for the request was to secure a longer term to enable significant donations for the development of the site, the donors seeking confidence in the tenure of the site for a term beyond that remaining on the existing 21 year Lease.

A new lease for the whole of the site will be entered into in accordance with Council resolution 13 May 2020 (MN 121/20).

Road Lease

The Lessee currently holds a road lease for occupation of the road reserve adjacent to the Botanic Gardens on the corner of Kangaloon Road Bowral, for car park, in accordance with Council resolution 13 February 2019 (MN 11/19).

An area of the road subject to lease is currently in the process of closure.

Upon closure of the area of road reserve, title will be consolidated into the Botanic Gardens site.

5.7 Leases and Licences authorised by the Plan of Management

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

- the activity is consistent with this PoM
- the purpose is consistent with the core objectives for the category of the land

- the lease, licence or other estate is for a permitted purpose listed in the LG Act or the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* and as outlined in **Table 12**
- the lease, licence or other estate is granted and notified in accordance with the provisions of the LG Act or the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*
- the issue of the lease, licence or other estate will not materially harm the use of the land for any of the purposes for which it was dedicated or reserved.

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

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

A lease or licence exceeding 5 years may only be granted by tender unless it is to be granted to a non-profit organisation.

A lease or licence with a term greater than 21 years and less than 30 years can only be granted in special circumstances with the consent of the Minister of Local Government.

5.8 Short-term Licences

Short-term licences and bookings may be used to allow SHBG Limited, to program different uses of community land at different times, allowing the best overall use, if the use is aligned with the category purpose and the consent of Council has been obtained in accordance with the terms of the lease.

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

This POM expressly authorises the issue of leases, licences and other estates over the land categorised as Park, General Community Use, Natural Area – Watercourse and Natural Area Wetland consistent with the provisions outlined earlier in Section 4.3.

Table 12 further identifies the purposes for which leases and licences may be issued over the reserves identified in this plan of management as Park, General Community Use, Natural Area – Watercourse and Natural Area - Wetland

Type of tenure arrangement	Purpose for which tenure may be granted
Lease Up to 30 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • botanic gardens • café/kiosk areas, including seating and tables • hire or sale of recreational equipment
Licence Up to 30 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • café/kiosk areas, including seating and tables • hire or sale of recreational equipment
Short-term licence Less than 12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific studies and surveys or similar • Filming, commercial photography session • Temporary erection or use of a building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out • Community events and festivals • Public performances • Engaging in an appropriate trade or business

Type of tenure arrangement	Purpose for which tenure may be granted
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picnics and private celebrations
Other estates	This POM allows the council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities and provision of services, or connections for premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the council or public utility provider on the community land in accordance with the LG Act.

TABLE 12: LEASES, LICENCES AND OTHER ESTATES AND PURPOSES FOR WHICH THEY MAY BE GRANTED FOR COMMUNITY LAND CATEGORISED AS PARK, GENERAL COMMUNITY USE, NATURAL AREA – WATERCOURSE AND NATURAL AREA - WETLAND.



6 Management of Land

6.1 Values of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens

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

Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens is valued and embraced by the community for the following values:

- A place to reflect the local area and showcase the plants of the Southern Highlands
- A green space to experience nature and a haven for plants and wildlife
- A community hub bringing people together to volunteer, attend events and for education and tourism
- A safe and accessible open space for locals and visitors
- A place of peace and tranquillity in a suburban setting
- A developing garden changing over the seasons and years.

As well as these aesthetic, natural, social, recreational, health and historical values, the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Limited management board has identified the following additional values:

- Economic value provided to the region and local economy from increasing visitor numbers, especially as development progresses
- Intrinsic value of the full development of the site and its location on a strategic entrance point to Bowral
- Scientific value of the registered collections and the collective plantings including the flora that remain or become resilient to the warming climate
- Significant value of the trees or other plants in the asset register.

6.2 Key management issues for the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens

The community has identified the following key issues:

- Lack of sufficient funding for the maintenance of the existing gardens and for the implementation of the SHBG Masterplan
- Limitations of the over-reliance on volunteers for the maintenance of the existing gardens and to fundraise for the implementation of the SHBG Masterplan
- Slow progress on developing the botanic gardens
- Balance between showcasing exotic garden plants and revegetation using local indigenous plants
- Biodiversity, habitat protection and loss, particularly for the Latham's snipe
- Management transparency
- Parking and access issues
- Lack of Council support

The Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Limited management board has identified the following three key issues:

- Lack of funding to develop the site due to this garden being a community funded botanic garden.

- Need for more community awareness and participation in the garden.
- Need for council support and a good working relationship.

Additional issues identified by the SHBG board are described below:

- Climate change and the weather generally - very wet weather, strong winds and drought have a serious impact on the sustainability of some plants.
- Lack of important infrastructure including all-weather building for community gatherings, limited toilet facilities and a substandard carpark.
- Need for more awareness in the local community to encourage them to come to the garden and engage with this project, donate funds, get involved as a volunteer and bring skills and expertise that they can transfer to help SHBG.
- Need to promote more activity in the garden from community, private and corporate groups to use the garden for events and increase revenue to continue SHBG development.
- Need for more interest in the education program for school aged children, as education is a core function for a botanic garden.
- Lack of firm funding to develop the site - the SHBG is operated and managed by volunteers, including raising funds for both operational and development costs.
- More resources required as the garden becomes more developed - volunteers provide 'manpower' and fundraise at events but are mostly elderly and there is a pressing need to employ people to keep this garden in good condition all year.
- Need for staff to focus on 'marketing' the garden as a venue for hire to pay for operational costs, with development costs sourced through competitive grant funding
- Need to implement the 2018 business plan which anticipated SHBG as being financially self-sufficient within two years of becoming fully operational - the potential is there to realise the economic and social benefits the garden and associated infrastructure would bring to the region and local community
- Need for good working relationship, partnership and cooperation with WSC, visible to the local community.

7 Action plan for the Southern Highlands Botanic Garden

This action plan has been developed from the core objectives, identified values and key management issues, under the following headings:

7.1 LAND

- Landscape character, culture and heritage
- Threatened ecological communities and species
- Watercourse protection and management
- Maintenance of the land
- Future development and use

7.2 BUILDINGS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE

- Amenity and access
- Maintenance of the buildings and other infrastructure
- Environmental management and sustainability
- Wayfinding and lighting
- Traffic, vehicular access and parking
- Safety and risk management

7.3 USERS

- Relationship with surrounding land users
- Permitted and prohibited uses
- Booking systems, fees and charges and conditions of hire
- Event management

The responsibilities abbreviations are as follows:

WSC	Wingecarribee Shire Council
SHBG	Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens

Within this action plan, each performance target has been given a priority, which can be linked to the following timeframe.

- ❖ Short – commenced within the next 3-4years
- ❖ Medium – commenced within 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 LAND					
Key Management Issue	Objectives and Performance Targets - LG Act S 36(3)(b)	Means of achieving Objectives - LG Act S36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of Performance - LG Act S36(3)(d)	Priority	Responsibility
Landscape character, culture and heritage	Integrated and site-appropriate landscape treatments for setting as a botanic garden.	Landscape planting provides a botanic garden setting consistent with the SHBG Masterplan.	Landscape activity is demonstrated as being consistent as part of project planning.	Ongoing	SHBG
	Undertake planting consistent with SHBG Masterplan. Maintain the established trees, garden planting and lawn areas.	Undertake works consistent with the SHBG Masterplan.	Masterplan implemented. Established trees maintained where applicable.	Ongoing	SHBG
	Manage the natural areas to protect the land's natural environment, habitats and biodiversity values.	No reduction in natural areas (watercourse or wetlands) extent or biodiversity value.	Observation, mapping, photographic monitoring. Annual review.	Ongoing	WSC

7.1 LAND					
Key Management Issue	Objectives and Performance Targets - LG Act S 36(3)(b)	Means of achieving Objectives - LG Act S36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of Performance - LG Act S36(3)(d)	Priority	Responsibility
Threatened ecological communities and species	Protect and manage the habitat of the Latham's snipe.	Monitor, protect and manage the habitat of the Latham's snipe consistent with the EPBC Act Federal Order 2012 and any updates.	No loss or damage to habitat of the Latham's snipe.	Ongoing	WSC (lead) & SHBG
	Protect and manage endangered tree species Eucalyptus macarthurii (Paddys River Box)	Monitor and manage the health and succession of the Eucalyptus macarthurii trees. Maintain the health of the existing population consistent with the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) and the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.	No loss or damage to existing endangered trees species	Ongoing	WSC (lead) & SHBG

7.1 LAND					
Key Management Issue	Objectives and Performance Targets - LG Act S 36(3)(b)	Means of achieving Objectives - LG Act S36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of Performance - LG Act S36(3)(d)	Priority	Responsibility
Watercourse protection and management	Protect and manage watercourses, wetlands and riparian areas.	Monitor the creek and pond banks, particularly after flood and storm events for erosion, bank slump, soil compaction and weed infestation. Maintain wetlands and water courses in association with Wingcarribee's Council's environmental specialist staff.	Watercourse and wetland condition is improved.	Ongoing	WSC (lead) & SHBG
Maintenance of the land, including weeds, pests and diseases	Vegetation health maintained, and public risk managed.	Regular maintenance to ensure healthy and safe vegetation.	Vegetation maintenance specification prepared and implemented.	Ongoing	SHBG
	Manage and suppress weeds, pests,	Target weeds, pests, diseases and pathogens according	Compliance with state, regional and local priorities under	Ongoing	SHBG

7.1 LAND					
Key Management Issue	Objectives and Performance Targets - LG Act S 36(3)(b)	Means of achieving Objectives - LG Act S36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of Performance - LG Act S36(3)(d)	Priority	Responsibility
	diseases and pathogens.	to state, regional and local priorities under the NSW <i>Biodiversity Act 2015</i> .	the NSW <i>Biodiversity Act 2015</i> .		
	Limit dispersal of sustainable fertiliser and pesticide into stormwater or ground run off, and limit human contact from aerial or surface exposure.	Council and user organisations with occupancy and use agreements for sustainable fertiliser and pesticide application practices.	Fertiliser and pesticide use monitored.	Ongoing	SHBG
Property actions	Land is appropriately assigned as community or operational land and integrated into the land for consolidation and management where appropriate.	Consolidate Lots and DPs to reduce the number or to a single lot, as other property actions are done.	Appropriate land is integrated into the land.	Short	WSC

7.1 LAND					
Key Management Issue	Objectives and Performance Targets - LG Act S 36(3)(b)	Means of achieving Objectives - LG Act S36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of Performance - LG Act S36(3)(d)	Priority	Responsibility
	Improve the sites usability for recreation purposes.	Rezone the public road to RE1 Community land that dissects the site at the south-western corner and incorporate as part of the SHBG.	Rezone and incorporate as part of the SHBG	Short	WSC
Land use zone	Ensure the land use zone under LEP is consistent with the category of the land under the LG Act and Regulations.	Rezone any land acquired for inclusion in the SHBG and subject to this POM as RE1 under LEP to be consistent with the category in this POM.	Land use zone under the LEP consistent with category under the LG Act and Regulations.	Short	WSC
Aboriginal heritage	Communicate information about indigenous culture to the local community.	Develop an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study and implement the recommendations.	Aboriginal and cultural heritage study completed, and implementation strategy commenced.	Short	WSC

7.1 LAND					
Key Management Issue	Objectives and Performance Targets - LG Act S 36(3)(b)	Means of achieving Objectives - LG Act S36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of Performance - LG Act S36(3)(d)	Priority	Responsibility
Future development and uses	Future development and uses is consistent with Council development consent and adopted POM.	Review of all proposed future developments and uses for consistency with adopted POM.	Proposed future developments and uses are reviewed prior to approval or implementation.	Ongoing	WSC (lead) & SHBG
Decision making not addressed in this POM	To facilitate decision making not addressed in this POM.	Any management decisions or issues outside of the scope of this POM should be assessed and resolved in the context of the Core Objectives as per the LGA 1993, Land Zoning, and Council Policy.	Compliance with the POMs core objectives outlined in <i>Section 4.3 Categorisation of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens</i> .	Ongoing	WSC (lead) & SHBG
Disaster management	Ensure safety of community, emergency workers and Council employees and contractors.	Close land or damaged sections of land during a natural disaster until assessed as safe.	All land or affected sections closed until assessed as safe.	Ongoing	SHBG (lead) & WSC

7.1 LAND					
Key Management Issue	Objectives and Performance Targets - LG Act S 36(3)(b)	Means of achieving Objectives - LG Act S36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of Performance - LG Act S36(3)(d)	Priority	Responsibility
	Resources are available to manage biodiversity after natural disasters.	Undertake resource planning as part of risk assessments for lands following flood, fire, storm and drought events.	Natural Disaster Resource Plan prepared and integrated into Council's financial planning and grant fund planning.	Ongoing	WSC

7.2 BUILDINGS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE

Key Management Issue	Objectives and Performance Targets - LG Act S 36(3)(b)	Means of achieving Objectives - LG Act S36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of Performance - LG Act S36(3)(d)	Priority	Responsibility
Facilities / Building amenity and access	Provide for the amenity, quality and maintenance of the botanic garden settings and facilities.	Provide well maintained botanic garden facilities including play equipment and picnic facilities. Review and update the maintenance schedules ensuring amenities are of the right type, quantity and quality to meet population demands and perceptions.	Community feedback indicates high level of satisfaction about botanic garden maintenance	Medium	SHBG
	Enhance the existing or add new infrastructure as per the master plan.	Plan for flexible facilities that support a range of recreation needs and cultural, social and educational activities that do not unduly intrude on the	Community is informed about proposed improvements prior to works undertaken. Works undertaken consistent with EP&A Act or SEPP	Medium	SHBG (lead) & WSC

7.2 BUILDINGS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE

Key Management Issue	Objectives and Performance Targets - LG Act S 36(3)(b)	Means of achieving Objectives - LG Act S36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of Performance - LG Act S36(3)(d)	Priority	Responsibility
		peaceful enjoyment of the land by others.	(Transport and Infrastructure) as required.		
	Ensure high quality facilities that service needs and satisfy community expectations.	Undertake annual user satisfaction surveys.	User satisfaction surveys conducted.	Ongoing	SHBG
	<p>Amenities are suitable for all users and different age groups.</p> <p>Amenities are maintained for safety, usability and modern standard.</p> <p>Amenities provided are kept clean and accessible to users and visitors during</p>	<p>Review all amenities facilities to ensure equity in provision for all users and a range of age groups.</p> <p>Provide contact details for community and visitor maintenance requests.</p>	<p>Review conducted and amendments to provision implemented.</p> <p>Outcomes and monitoring of contact queries and complaints.</p>	Ongoing	SHBG (lead) & WSC

7.2 BUILDINGS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE

Key Management Issue	Objectives and Performance Targets - LG Act S 36(3)(b)	Means of achieving Objectives - LG Act S36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of Performance - LG Act S36(3)(d)	Priority	Responsibility
	daylight hours and at high or frequent visitation sites during facility or site opening hours.				
	Compliance of access pathways and ingress/egress points, toilets, car park and associated amenities infrastructure for disabled and equitable access.	Annual audit of all public use, visitor facilities to evaluate equitable access and maintenance or upgrade needs for compliance with State requirements.	Annual amenities equitable access audit and report and response actions reported to relevant Council Manager.	Ongoing	SHBG
	Outdoor fixtures, such as seats, tables and bins, provided where outdoors space is associated with community use.	Review of outdoor spaces associated with facility building and other infrastructure to evaluate and implement outdoor fixture provision.	Installation of park and outdoor fixtures consistent with any specific Council policies.	Medium	SHBG (lead) & WSC

7.2 BUILDINGS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE

Key Management Issue	Objectives and Performance Targets - LG Act S 36(3)(b)	Means of achieving Objectives - LG Act S36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of Performance - LG Act S36(3)(d)	Priority	Responsibility
Community access and use	Improve, promote and facilitate accessibility, safe access and linkages.	<p>All access plans to be updated to include the extension of the footpath along Eridge Park Road, across Kangaloon Road, connecting with the existing footpath which traverses through the Botanic Gardens frontage.</p> <p>Consult with residents to identify any access and use improvements.</p>	<p>Proposed access paths are to be reviewed prior to approval or implementation.</p> <p>Community involvement in proposal consistent with Council's Community Engagement Policy.</p>	Ongoing	SHBG (lead) & WSC
	Maintain connections to local walking and cycling links.	<p>Integrate the SHBG with Wingecarribee local cycle paths and tourist cycleways and routes.</p> <p>Identify pedestrian routes between the</p>	Integration of cycle paths and pedestrian ways with the SHBG.	Ongoing	WSC

7.2 BUILDINGS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE

Key Management Issue	Objectives and Performance Targets - LG Act S 36(3)(b)	Means of achieving Objectives - LG Act S36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of Performance - LG Act S36(3)(d)	Priority	Responsibility
		SHBG, bus stops and residences, and reinforce the safety and equitable access quality of these links.			
Maintenance of buildings and other infrastructure	Maintain building and community facilities to required standards for users and public safety.	Implement asset maintenance plans for community facilities buildings structures and landscape assets.	Asset management plans in place and implemented with annual reporting system.	Short	WSC
	Safe chemical storage and use.	All chemical storage, use and handling to be certified by current NSW authority, e.g: WorkSafe NSW Annual building condition inspection and assessment Implementation of any required	Certified chemical storage and use.	Short	SHBG

7.2 BUILDINGS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE

Key Management Issue	Objectives and Performance Targets - LG Act S 36(3)(b)	Means of achieving Objectives - LG Act S36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of Performance - LG Act S36(3)(d)	Priority	Responsibility
		improvements or upgrades			
Environmental management and sustainability	<p>investigation of environmental sustainability options and infrastructure.</p> <p>Reduction in operational costs for energy and water use through a range of environmental and sustainable means to reduce costs and wastage.</p>	<p>Investigate implementation of alternate energy sources.</p> <p>Energy and water use efficiency practices and systems, including timing systems or regulated watering practices.</p>	<p>Investigation of environmental sustainability options and infrastructure undertaken.</p> <p>Reduction in operational costs for energy and water use through a range of environmental and sustainable means to reduce wastage.</p>	Medium	SHBG (lead) & WSC
Safety and risk management	Ensure personal security around the facilities used at night.	Identify key movement and access and times and review lighting provision for implementation.	Review conducted with landscape plan provisions and implementation.	Medium	SHBG

7.2 BUILDINGS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE

Key Management Issue	Objectives and Performance Targets - LG Act S 36(3)(b)	Means of achieving Objectives - LG Act S36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of Performance - LG Act S36(3)(d)	Priority	Responsibility
	Install fencing where required.	Provide security measure including fencing to sections of the site.	Fencing maintained.	Medium	SHBG
	Maintain lighting to street access and carparking for night use.	Review night time and dark period uses and implement any additional lighting required for safety reasons.	Review done and any necessary additional lighting installed.	Medium	SHBG
Traffic, vehicular access and parking	Limit car park area to use capacity.	Parking areas, speed and vehicle limits clearly signed and marked.	Traffic and car parking management maintained.	Ongoing	SHBG
	Safe vehicle speeds for surrounding roads and internal car parking access	Appropriate vehicle speed signposting of adjacent streets Placement of speed limit signs at	Signposting and traffic slowing measures installed as required. Speed limits signage installed at sites and	Ongoing	WSC (lead) & SHBG

7.2 BUILDINGS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE

Key Management Issue	Objectives and Performance Targets - LG Act S 36(3)(b)	Means of achieving Objectives - LG Act S36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of Performance - LG Act S36(3)(d)	Priority	Responsibility
		<p>pedestrian-prominent locations</p> <p>Vehicle type and use restrictions, and parking times for car parks clearly signposted where required</p>	<p>facilities where required.</p> <p>Vehicle use and parking time signage installed.</p>		
Wayfinding	Maintain wayfinding for general visitors and provide visitors with information about the availability and location of the community facilities.	Maintenance of wayfinder signage for community facilities.	Maintain signage.	Medium	SHBG

7.3 USERS

Key Management Issue	Objectives and Performance Targets - LG Act S 36(3)(b)	Means of achieving Objectives - LG Act S36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of Performance - LG Act S36(3)(d)	Priority	Responsibility
Community and stakeholder collaboration including volunteers	Undertake community education campaigns, events, workshops and volunteer programs to improve community understanding of land values, issues and improve stewardship.	<p>Ensure projects are targeted.</p> <p>Collaborate with the community and stakeholders, when possible, to scale up resources.</p> <p>Undertake education programs that target community groups, business and corporate groups, schools and university students.</p> <p>Facilitate major community engagement environment events such as targeted</p>	<p>Number of volunteering and education projects and number of participants.</p> <p>Assessment reporting includes the number of collaborations and projects undertaken with each Community Group.</p>	Short / Ongoing	SHBG

7.3 USERS					
Key Management Issue	Objectives and Performance Targets - LG Act S 36(3)(b)	Means of achieving Objectives - LG Act S36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of Performance - LG Act S36(3)(d)	Priority	Responsibility
		<p>strategic planting days.</p> <p>Collaborate with NGOs, the Local Native Plant Society, Landcare, local Bird Conservation group, Residents Associations and Government on community engagement, education programs, natural area restoration, Latham Snipe projects and seeking grants for such activities.</p>			
Education and research	Expand knowledge of site managers and community stewards.	Seek opportunities to collaborate with research institutions to improve knowledge, data collection and	Resources and funding allocated for management.	Short / Ongoing	SHBG

7.3 USERS					
Key Management Issue	Objectives and Performance Targets - LG Act S 36(3)(b)	Means of achieving Objectives - LG Act S36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of Performance - LG Act S36(3)(d)	Priority	Responsibility
		<p>evidence-based decision making.</p> <p>Seek grant funding and allocate appropriate resources to ensure site managers and community volunteers have best practice and up to date knowledge to manage the land.</p>	<p>Better conservation outcomes.</p> <p>Education programs implemented.</p> <p>Number of successful grants.</p>		
Relationship to adjoining / surrounding land users	Reduce impacts from adjoining land owners.	Monitor boundaries for unauthorised neighbour encroachments, access, weed encroachment, stormwater or sewerage.	Reduced incidents of impacts from adjoining land owners on land values.	Ongoing	SHBG

7.3 USERS

Key Management Issue	Objectives and Performance Targets - LG Act S 36(3)(b)	Means of achieving Objectives - LG Act S36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of Performance - LG Act S36(3)(d)	Priority	Responsibility
		Engage with relevant landowners to rectify the encroachment.			
Permitted and prohibited uses	Provide for permissible activities in parks through the granting of licences for short-term casual purposes.	Review and update policies for filming, parties, weddings and other events and other short-term casual users. Aim to develop procedures in line with this POM for any sub-licences of parks by community service providers to include demonstrated community value.	Licencing of permissible activities in parks set out in <i>Local Government (General) Regulations</i> . Licences issued in accordance with the requirements of the <i>LG Act 1993</i> for purposes consistent with the core objectives for parks.	Short	SHBG & WSC
	Provide clear guidance to community facility users on conditions of	Site-based facility, structure, regulatory	Installation of regulatory signage at	Short / Ongoing	SHBG (lead) & WSC

7.3 USERS

<i>Key Management Issue</i>	<i>Objectives and Performance Targets - LG Act S 36(3)(b)</i>	<i>Means of achieving Objectives - LG Act S36(3)(c)</i>	<i>Manner of assessment of Performance - LG Act S36(3)(d)</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
	use, including alcohol free zones, permissible and non-permissible activities, times of specific uses, and internal site or facility directions.	signage to address activity, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alcohol free zones, • permissible and non-permissible activities, • times of specific uses. 	high use or visitation community facilities.		

8 Appendices

1. Plan of Management Legislative Framework (7 pages)

Appendix 1 – Plan of Management Legislative Framework

Prepared by CGM Planning Pty Ltd

The primary legislation that impacts on how community land is managed or used is briefly described below. You can find further information regarding these acts at www.legislation.nsw.gov.au

NSW Local Government Act 1993

Section 35 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act) provides that community land can only be **used** in accordance with:

- the plan of management applying to that area of community land, and
- any law permitting the use of the land for a specified purpose or otherwise regulating the use of the land, and
- the provisions of Division 2 of Chapter 6 of the Act.

Section 36 of the Act provides that a plan of management for community land must identify the following:

- a) the category of the land,
- b) the objectives and performance **targets** of the plan with respect to the land,
- c) the means by which the council proposes to **achieve** the plan's objectives and performance targets,
- d) the manner in which the council proposes **to assess its performance** with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets,

and may require the prior approval of the council to the carrying out of any specified activity on the land.

A plan of management that applies to just one area of community land:

- a) must include a description of:
 - (i) the condition of the land, and of any buildings or other improvements on the land, as at the date of adoption of the plan of management, 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.

Land is to be categorised as one or more of the following:

- a) a natural area
- b) a sportsground
- c) a park
- d) an area of cultural significance
- e) general community use.

Land that is categorised as a natural area is to be further categorised as one or more of the following:

- a) bushland
- b) wetland
- c) escarpment
- d) watercourse
- e) foreshore
- f) a category prescribed by the regulations.

Additionally, under section 36 of the LG Act, a site-specific PoM must be made for land declared:

- as critical habitat, or directly affected by a threat abatement plan or a recovery plan under threatened species laws (sections 36A(2) and 36B(3))
- by council to contain significant natural features (section 36C(2))
- by council to be of cultural significance (section 36D(2)).

Classification of public land

The LG Act requires classification of public land into either 'community' or 'operational' land (Section 26). The classification is generally made for council-owned public land by the council's Local Environmental Plan (LEP) or in some circumstances by a resolution of the council (Section 27).

Crown reserves managed by council as Crown land manager have been classified as community land upon commencement of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (CLM Act). Councils may manage these Crown reserves as operational land if written consent is obtained from the minister administering the CLM Act.

Classification of land has a direct effect on the council's ability to dispose of or alienate land by sale, leasing, licensing or some other means. Under the LG Act, community land must not be sold (except for scheduled purposes), exchanged or otherwise disposed of by the council, and the land must be used and managed in accordance with an adopted PoM. In addition, community land is subject to strict controls relating to leases and licences (sections 45, 46, 46A and 47) of the LG Act.

By comparison, no such restrictions apply to operational land that is owned by councils. For example, operational land can be sold, disposed, exchanged or leased including exclusive use over the land, unencumbered by the requirements which control the use and management of community land. Crown reserves managed by council as operational land may generally be dealt with as other operational land but may not be sold or otherwise disposed of without the written consent of the minister administering the CLM Act.

Operational land would usually include land held as a temporary asset or an investment, land which facilitates the council carrying out its functions or land which may not be open to the general public (for example, a works depot).

The classification or reclassification of council-owned public land will generally be achieved by a Local Environmental Plan (LEP) or by a resolution of council in accordance with sections 31, 32 and 33 of the LG Act. If land is not classified by resolution within a three-month period from acquisition it automatically becomes community land, regardless of whether it satisfies the objectives for community land as outlined in the LG Act.

For Crown land, Council cannot reclassify community land as operational land without consent of the minister administering the CLM Act.

NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) provides the framework for planning and development across NSW and guides environmental planning instruments which provide a basis for development control.

The EP&A Act ensures that effects on the natural environment, along with social and economic factors, are considered by the council when granting approval for or undertaking works, developments or activities.

This Act is also the enabling legislation for planning policies which may have a direct influence on open space management. On a state-wide level there are State Environmental Planning

Policies (SEPPs). On a regional level there are Regional Environmental Plans (REPs). On a local level there are Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) as well as Development Control Plans (DCPs).

NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983

The *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (ALR Act) is important legislation that recognises the rights of Aboriginal people in NSW. It recognises the need of Aboriginal people for land and acknowledges that land for Aboriginal people in the past was progressively reduced without compensation. Crown land meeting certain criteria may be granted to an Aboriginal Land Council. This Act may affect dealings with Crown land that is potentially claimable.

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

Statutory responsibilities on the council arising from this Act specifically relate to the protection of sites of pre- and post-European contact archaeological significance. This Act may affect community land categorised as cultural significance, natural area or park.

NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

Note: This Act repealed several pieces of legislation including the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*, *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*, the *Nature Conservation Trust Act 2001*, and the animal and plant provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. The *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* has been superseded by the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

This Act covers conservation of threatened species, populations and ecological communities and the protection of native flora and fauna. This Act primarily relates to community land categorised as natural area. However, other categories may also be affected.

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Energy, Environment and Science division advises that recovery plans and threat abatement plans made under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* were repealed on the commencement of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act* in 2017. These plans have not been preserved by any savings and transitional arrangement under the Biodiversity Conservation Act or LG Act, meaning pre-existing plans have no legal effect.

For this reason, requirements relating to recovery plans and threat abatement plans for local councils preparing plans of management under section 36B of the LG Act are now redundant. Councils will be advised if future amendments are made to the LG Act to enable these mechanisms. The NSW Saving Our Species program now directs recovery planning and threat abatement.

NSW Fisheries Management Act 1994

The *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (FM Act) includes provisions for the management of state fisheries, including the conservation of fish habitats, threatened species, populations and ecological communities of fish and marine vegetation and management of the riparian zone, waterways and threatened marine/freshwater aquatic species. This relates to community land categorised as natural area (foreshore, watercourse or wetland).

Where an area of community land is declared to be critical habitat, or if that area is affected by a recovery plan or threat abatement plan under Part 7A of the FM Act, a site-specific plan of management will need to be undertaken.

NSW Rural Fires Act 1997

This Act contains provisions for bushfire risk management and the establishment of a Bushfire Management Committee. It also includes direction on development in bushfire prone lands.

NSW Water Management Act 2000

This Act is based on the concept of ecologically sustainable development, and its objective is to provide for the sustainable and integrated management of the water sources of the state for the benefit of both present and future generations. The Act recognises:

- the fundamental health of our rivers and groundwater systems and associated wetlands, floodplains, estuaries has to be protected
- the management of water must be integrated with other natural resources such as vegetation, native fauna, soils and land
- to be properly effective, water management must be a shared responsibility between the government and the community
- water management decisions must involve consideration of environmental, social, economic, cultural and heritage aspects
- social and economic benefits to the state will result from the sustainable and efficient use of water.

NSW Biosecurity Act 2015

The NSW Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSWB Act) enables landholders, community, industry and Government to effectively manage and respond to biosecurity incursions and risks. A fundamental principle of the NSWB Act is that biosecurity is everyone's responsibility, and all land managers have the same responsibilities - a duty to prevent, eliminate or minimise risk as far as reasonably practicable.

Council has obligations under this Act to manage Priority Weeds on Council land or Council managed land. Under the Act, weeds are divided into State, Regional and Local Priority Weeds (formerly referred to as Noxious Weeds). State and Regional priority weeds are identified in the South East Regional Strategic Pest Management Plan 2018-2023 and outcomes for these weeds needs to demonstrate compliance with the Biosecurity Duty for the species listed as priority weeds in Appendix 1 of the Weed Management Plan.

Since 1 July 2018, the management of pest animals has been administered under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. Pests such as foxes, rabbits and feral cats are included in the South East Regional Strategic Pest Management Plan 2018-2023 and a threat abatement plan to rid them has been prepared under the Biodiversity Conservation Act. (*Source* https://southeast.ils.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/722706/South-East-Regional-Weed-Mgmt-Plan.pdf.)

NSW Heritage Act 1977

This Act contains provisions for the conservation of items of heritage and may relate to community land categorised as cultural significance or natural area.

Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

This Act enables the Australian Government to join with the states and territories in providing a national scheme of environment and heritage protection and biodiversity conservation. It incorporates threatened species on a national level and with relevance to Matters of National Environmental Significance.

Commonwealth Telecommunications Act 1997

This Act provides for telecommunication facilities being permitted on community land without authorisation in a PoM.

Other relevant NSW Legislation

- *Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003*
- *Companion Animals Act 1998*
- *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*
- *Local Land Services Act 2013*
- *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*
- *Pesticides Act 1999*
- *Soil Conservation Act 1938*

State Environmental Planning Policies

State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021 includes the following policies which apply to land within the Wingecarribee Shire:

- **Ch 2 Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas** deals with clearing of native vegetation in urban areas and land zoned for environmental protection.
- **Ch 3 & 4 Koala Habitat Protection** aims to encourage the conservation and management of areas of natural vegetation that provide habitat for koalas to support a permanent free-living population over their present range and reverse the current trend of koala population decline.
- **Ch 6 Bushland in Urban Areas** deals with bushland in urban areas and is applicable to POMs for community land categorised as Natural Area – Bushland.
- **Ch 8 Sydney Drinking Water Catchment** aims to protect quality of surface water and the ecosystems that depend on it and requires that any development would have a neutral or beneficial effect on water quality.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021

- **Div 12 Parks and Other Public Reserves** lists development allowed with consent or without consent on community land.

Councils Plans and Policies Relating to this Plan of Management

Council has developed plans and policies that are concerned to some extent with the management of community land. These documents have been considered when preparing this POM.

The following is a list of documents that have a direct association with this POM:

- Wingecarribee Community Strategic Plan 2041
- Wingecarribee 2040 Local Strategic Planning Statement
- Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan 2010

The following table lists the specific Community Strategic Plan (CSP) strategies and actions that can be reflected in the PoM.

Specific Community Strategic Plan - Strategies and Actions
<p>Goal 2.1 - A happy, healthy, active and resilient community</p> <p>2.1.3 Promote healthy lifestyle choices</p> <p>2.1.4 Provide a range of sport, recreation and leisure services and facilities across the Shire</p> <p>2.1.7 Provide lifelong learning and skills development for people of all ages and abilities</p>
<p>Goal 2.2 An inclusive community where everyone can participate in community life</p> <p>2.2.1 Improve community participation by reducing barriers, particularly for older, younger, culturally diverse and disadvantaged people.</p> <p>2.2.2 Encourage new ideas and nurture understanding through intergenerational and cultural programs and activities.</p> <p>2.2.3 Foster community spirit through volunteering.</p>
<p>Goal 2.3 A creative, diverse and vibrant community</p> <p>2.3.1 Bring people together through local events, festivals and celebrations</p> <p>2.3.2 Acknowledge and respect, listen and learn, from our First Nations and Torres Strait communities, culture and cultural heritage, and work together to improve outcomes for First Nations Peoples</p> <p>2.3.3 Support and promote our growing creative and cultural sector and community</p> <p>2.3.4 Embed culture and creativity across all aspects of community life through placemaking, performances, public art, and storytelling.</p>
<p>Goal 3.2 Unique towns, villages and rural landscapes</p> <p>3.2.1 Maintain and create the green spaces, gardens and rural landscapes between and across towns and villages</p> <p>3.2.2 Identify and protect the unique characteristics of towns and villages to retain a sense of place.</p>
<p>Goal 3.3 Liveable and sustainable communities</p>

3.3.2 Provide welcoming and accessible community facilities and open spaces that support opportunities for people to meet and connect with one another

3.3.3 Provide effective, safe and well-maintained local infrastructure and assets that service the needs of current and future generations

3.3.4 Enhance the liveability and sustainability of local neighbourhoods through well considered place and precinct planning

Goal 4.1 A protected, healthy and diverse natural environment.

4.1.1 Protect and enhance our native species, biodiversity, habitats and natural areas through a coordinated community, and all of government and approach.

4.1.2 Work collaboratively to reduce pollution, manage biodiversity risks, and the impact on our environment.

4.1.3 Conserve the key natural resources of the Shire and minimise the impact from development

4.1.4 Sustainably manage natural resources, such as water, for the benefit of all life

Goal 4.4 A resilient Shire that takes action on climate change

4.4.3 Plan for predicted impacts of climate change

4.4.5 Work collaboratively across all levels of government, business and industry to reduce carbon emissions and address climate change

4.4.6 Support the community to survive, adapt and thrive in the face of extreme weather events and other crises

Goal 5.1 People want to visit, work and invest in the Shire.

5.1.3 Promote slow and sustainable tourism that balances economic benefits with impacts on our environment and community

5.1.4 Provide diversity in tourist attractions and experiences including eco-tourism and open gardens

Goal 5.3A thriving and diverse agricultural industry.

5.3.3 Promote rural tourism and opportunities that showcase local produce and agricultural industries