

1.0 INTRODUCTION

What is a Plan of Management?

A Plan of Management provides the framework for managing public land. In general there are two types of plans prepared by Council, plans that cover a single area (for example the Dee Why Lagoon Wildlife Refuge Plan of Management) or plans that cover several areas. Those that cover several areas are generally referred to as a *Generic Plan of Management*. Warringah Council has designated Warringah's coastal open space as a *Geographic Plan of Management* in recognition of its key values, role and purpose within the reserves system being linked through its coastal geographic nature.

It is a general requirement for Council to prepare plans of management for all land classified as "Community Land". This classification means that the land is owned by Council and is managed for use by the community. Plans of Management are being prepared for all parcels of Community Land within Warringah. The Plans are to be consistent with the Local Government Act 1993 and the amendments of 1998, the Crown Lands Act 1989 and other relevant legislation.

1.1 What are the aims of this Plan?

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

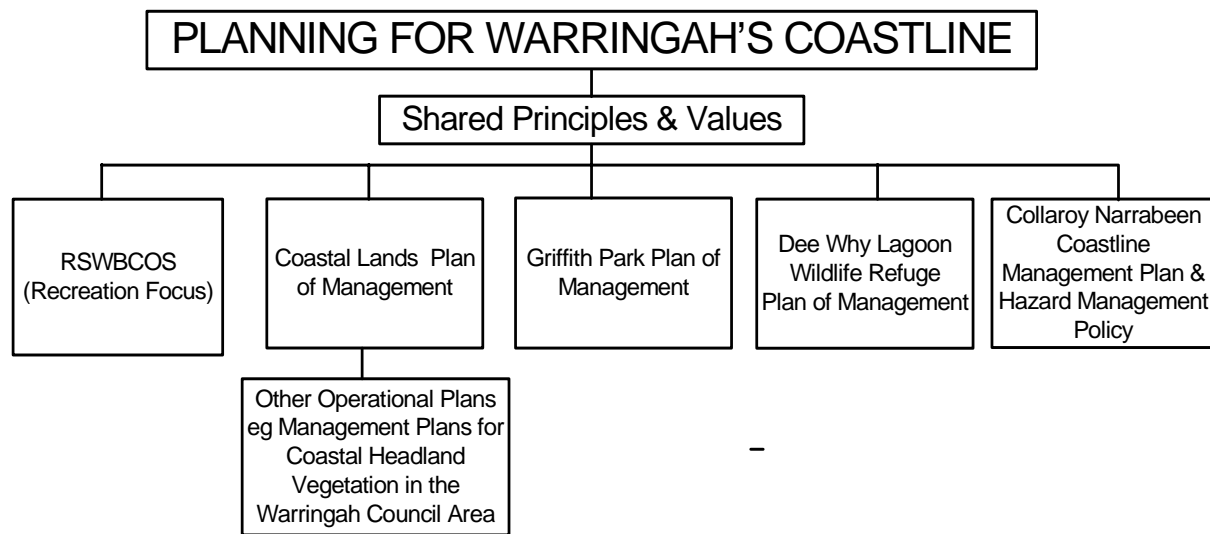
The primary purpose of this Plan is to provide the community, users and Warringah Council with a clear direction on the future use and management of Warringah's coastal open space. The efficient and appropriate management of this land is essential if its value to the community is to be maintained and enhanced.

In accordance with Council's broader goals and objectives, the Plan aims to provide the following strategic outcomes for Warringah's coastal open space.

- Identify and assess the reserve's values and uses;
- Define the reserves role within its Local Government Area and regional context;
- Identify and assess key issues affecting the resource base;
- Develop an understanding of the resource at an organisational level;
- Set a vision for the coast spanning the next 20 – 30 years;
- Establish management strategies and their resource implications;
- Assign directions and priorities in a strategic plan (5 years); and
- Develop a series of master plans for the coast.

The Coastal Lands Plan of Management covers all public open space located on or adjacent to Warringah's coastline, with the exception of Dee Why Lagoon and environs and Griffith Park, which is the subject of two separate Specific area Plans of Management. (see the Dee Why Wildlife Refuge Plan of Management and the Griffith Park Plan of Management). The Plan is designed to provide the overall framework for coastal management and should be used in conjunction with other key documents that provide management guidance for the coast.

This Plan should be read in conjunction with the Recreation Strategy for Warringah's Beaches and Coastal Open Space (RSWBCOS), a planning document that sets the overall management direction for all recreational open space along the Warringah Coastline. The diagram below illustrates Council's planning framework for Warringah's coastline.



This Plan's four objectives are:

- *To protect and enhance the natural environmental qualities of the coast.*
- *To provide quality recreation facilities and settings which cater for all groups in the community.*
- *To preserve and manage coastal open space as the people's space, ensuring broad community access and availability to the resource.*
- *To manage the land in a manner which protects and enhances its aesthetic, cultural, heritage and recreational qualities.*

Appendix 1 provides further detail on how this Plan of Management relates to other strategic and operational plans of Council.

1.2 Location & Area Description

Warringah's coast is characterised by a series of embayments, generally backed by coastal reserves that stretch from North Narrabeen in the north to Queenscliff rock pool in the south. The beaches and associated coastal reserves form some of the most valued recreational open space in Warringah. At the same time this open space is of significant environmental importance. Areas such as Dee Why and North Curl Curl headlands contain very important stands of coastal heath, forming part of a habitat corridor that stretches almost the length of the northern beaches. For the purposes of this plan the coastal reserves have been identified as those immediately adjacent the coast.

1.3 Background Information

In 1998 Council adopted two key documents for managing Warringah's coast - The Geographic Plan of Management for Coastal Community Land and the Recreational Strategy for Warringah's Beaches and Coastal Open Space.

Subsequent to the adoption of the Geographic Plan of Management (which covered Community Land) the Local Government Act was amended. As a result of this Council is in the process of reviewing all of its Community Lands plans of management prepared before the amendment.

In reviewing the Geographic Plan of Management for Coastal Community Land Council has, for the sake of completeness, elected to include other public land parcels that comprise the coastal reserve system within one plan. This revised plan is to be referred to as the Coastal Lands Plan of Management.

1.4 History of the area

Warringah's beaches evolved to their present condition relatively recently (in geological terms). About 17 000 years ago as the last ice age ended sea levels started to rise. At about 6000 years ago the sea level stabilised. This rise in sea level 'pushed' sand 'upwards' and deposited within the current embayments, giving rise to the familiar sandy beaches seen along the New South Wales coast. Further reading on the evolution of New South Wales beaches can be found in the NSW Coastal Management Manual as listed in the references section.

Aboriginal occupation of Warringah extends back at least 40 000 years. The coast and its resources were very important to local Aboriginal people (the Kuringgai) who occupied Warringah in pre-European times. Fishing and harvesting were an integral part of their culture and lifestyle. This strong association is often reflected in the art work of the area.

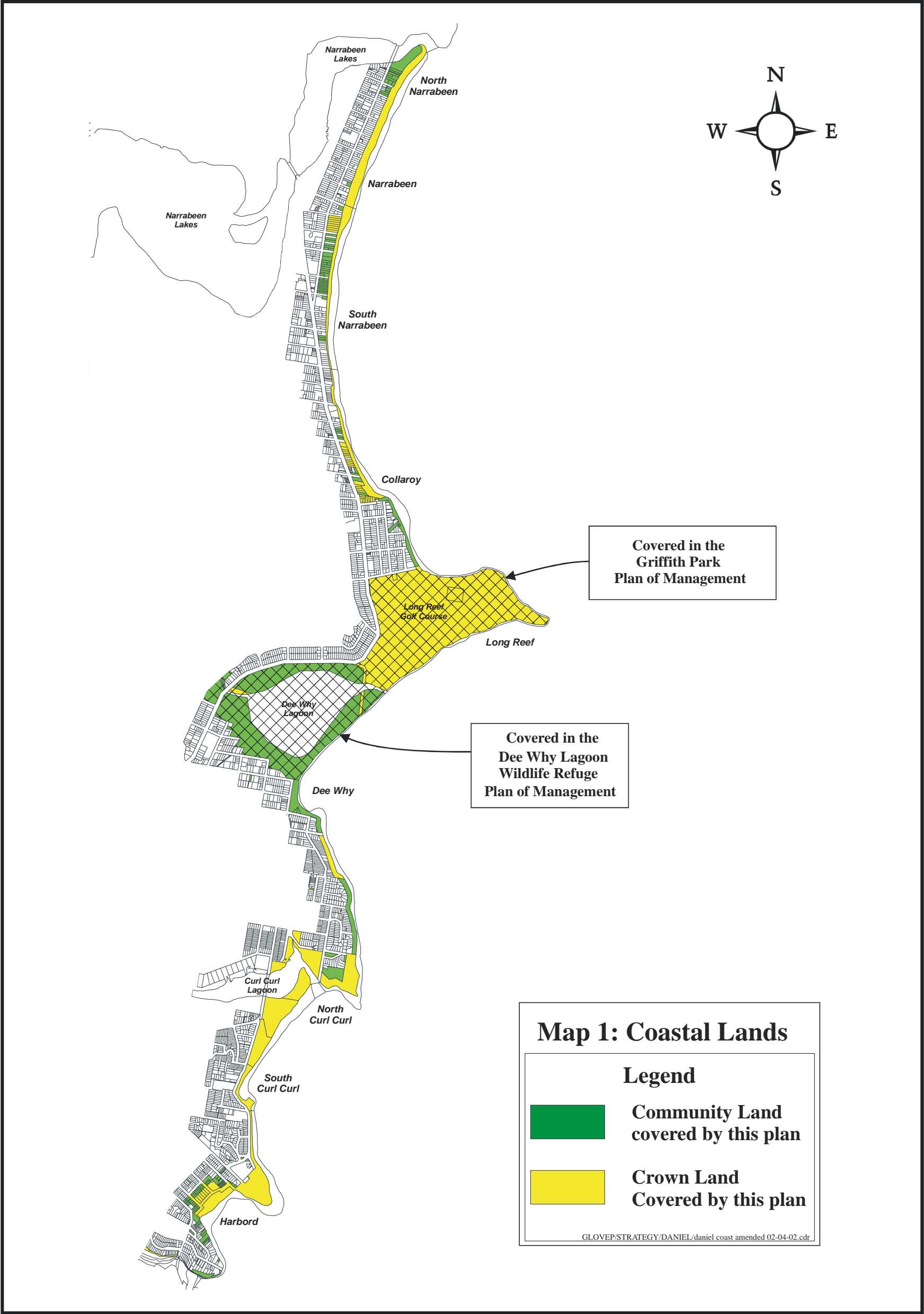
European settlement brought about major changes for both the local inhabitants and the natural environment. Disease heavily impacted on the indigenous inhabitants, meaning much of the detail of their culture has been lost to time. Further reading on the Aboriginal occupation around Sydney is listed in the reference section.

In addition European settlement has significantly altered the natural coastal environments of Warringah. Past practices included removal of dune sand for construction, grazing and even landfill. For example, the dune area at North Curl Curl was used for landfill. Clearly, these practices have a significant impact on the coastal ecosystem. During the 1970s and 1980s substantial effort was made to restore these damaged systems. This mostly consisted of dune re-planting and fencing. Whilst this has been largely successful in its primary aim of stabilising dune systems, future efforts must seek to return the dune systems to a state that more closely resembled past conditions. This would entail activities such as replicating the plant diversity within the dune systems.

Land Status and Ownership

Map 1 identifies the ownership of land parcels within the Coastal Lands Plan of Management

Map 1: Coastal Lands



1.5 What Council and the community have achieved since 1998

It is worthwhile to reflect on what has been achieved by Council and the community since 1998 and the adoption of the earlier Plan of Management. Below is a summary of some of the actions that have occurred in the last three years or so along the coast.

- In excess of 2000 hours in volunteer bush regeneration at areas such as Long Reef, Curl Curl and Freshwater (supported by Council)
- \$3.1 M on Dee Why seawall upgrade (with assisting State Government funding) See Figure 1
- \$435 000 on rock pool refurbishments (with assisting State Government funding)
- \$260 000 on Long Reef lookout
- \$497 000 on new playgrounds & maintenance of existing playgrounds at North Narrabeen Beach, Collaroy Beach and James Meehan Reserve
- \$150 000 on surf club building improvements by Council
- \$180 000 in rock pool cleaning, general dune maintenance & fencing
- \$60 000 on special dune maintenance at Narrabeen Beach (with assisting State Government funding)



Figure 1 - Dee Why Sea Wall Construction (1999)