

5.0 BASIS FOR MANAGEMENT

5.1 Council's Management Goals

Warringah Council recognises the need to plan ahead and provide management frameworks to meet the challenges of today and the future. Council's Warringah PLAN 2002-2005 outlines Council's visions and mission statement.

Warringah Council's **Vision** statement is:

" Warringah is a community which values its quality of life and strives to care for its special bush and beach environment."

5.2 Council's Principles for Community Land Management

The way in which Community Land is managed by Council is about creating a safe and healthy living environment, thereby influencing the quality of life of residents and visitors to Warringah.

The following principles have been developed to guide Council and the community in the management of Community Land:

- To ensure Warringah's community has an opportunity to be involved in the planning and management of public open space,
- To plan, maintain and enhance a diversity of recreational public open space opportunities;
- To plan and maintain a hierarchy of quality, multi-use public open space facilities;
- To conserve and enhance the natural environment and rehabilitate degraded areas of public open space;
- To recognise the importance of culture and heritage;
- To ensure a high standard of risk management in the provision, maintenance and management of public open space and facilities; and
- To apply the above principles in an economically responsible manner.

5.3 Community Values

The Coastal Lands Plan of Management takes a values-based approach to land use planning and management. This approach allows the key values, role and purpose to be identified so that these assets may be protected and enhanced. "Values" can simply be described as "what is important about a place" (DLWC & Manidis Roberts, 1996). The values identified for the coast are outlined below, whilst the issues are summarised for each objective in the Actions Tables. Appendix 4 provides background information into the values and issues identified in this Plan of Management.

The process of community consultation has confirmed that Warringah's coastal open is a highly valued area. The consultation provided Council with information on how the community values the coast and subsequently the way in which it should be managed. Management of the coast should ensure the protection of the significant natural, conservation and aesthetic values of the area whilst also taking into account the cultural, recreational, access and educational values.

The main consideration for management of the coast is the need to balance formal organised access and use of the beach and associated open space and community facilities, with informal casual use, whilst conserving the coastal environment. Any concept of management must

therefore consider the unique conservation value of the coast, which must be maintained in order to support the other values and uses the community draws from Warringah's coastal open space.

Table 1 below outlines the level of significance for each value. For plans of management that cover more than one area the level of significance commences at a district level since the Plan addresses land areas beyond the local level.

Table 1. Level of Significance for each value identified.

Values	Level of Significance			
	District	Regional	State	National
Natural Environment	✓	✓		
Recreation	✓	✓	✓	
Education	✓	✓		
Scenic/Aesthetic	✓	✓		
Social	✓	✓		
Heritage/Cultural	✓	✓		
Access	✓	✓		

Natural Environment

Warringah's coast is valued highly for its diverse and relatively intact coastal zone. Some of the special natural features for Warringah's coast include:

- Dee Why Headland Inter-tidal protected area
- Large areas of coastal dune in good to fair condition
- Significant remnant headland vegetation
- Coastal cliffs

This Plan of Management seeks to reinforce the ongoing efforts of Council and the community in managing the conservation value of coastal open space. The contiguous nature of the coastal open space network also provides a valuable habitat corridor.



Figure 2 - Volunteers working on the coast

The other unique feature, particularly given the urban environment, is that this coastal corridor links to the four estuaries adjacent to Warringah's beaches. Overall this provides for extended areas of habitat corridor stretching a considerable distance along and inland from the coast.

Threatened & Pest Species Management

Under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act there are two plant species identified as rare that occur along the coast. These are *Rulingia hermanniifolia* and *Pultenaea scabra* (Rough Bush Pea). The management of headland vegetation is covered in the existing operational plan *Management Plans for Coastal Headland Vegetation in the Warringah Council Area*. Refer to Section 3 for a further description of this plan. If, during the life of this Plan, Recovery Plans are prepared for these species, then those areas supporting the threatened species would require the preparation of single area plans of management (in accordance with the Local Government Act).

Council has, for a number of years, targeted a number of pest plant and animal species. This program has focussed on feral rabbits and cats in dune areas. In addition Bitou Bush, (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) is targeted to ensure that it is suppressed to a manageable level.

Bush regeneration and dune management

Council and the community conduct bush regeneration in a number of locations along the coast. Both professional bush regeneration contractors and volunteers conduct bush regeneration. Further, Council has an annual program of dune maintenance that seeks to provide access to the beach through dune areas whilst maintaining dune protection areas (that are fenced to prevent damage and encourage a stable diverse dune ecosystem).

Recreation

Warringah's coastal open space and associated facilities (such as the surf club buildings, rock pools and playgrounds) are some of the most valued open space in Warringah. In fact, the importance of beach to the life style enjoyed by the community is highlighted in Council's vision statement as described in Section 5.1. These values were reinforced in the community consultation undertaken for this Plan of Management.

Of particular importance to people is the need to maintain the natural areas and facilities that are already in place, to a better standard. In general people were satisfied with the variety and number of facilities provided, but emphasised that the maintenance of these facilities could be improved. This is reflected in the Actions tables, with moderate new improvements being recommended in conjunction with a focus of restoring and improving existing facilities.



Figure 3 - Wind Surfers at Long Reef Beach

Surf Life Saving Club Buildings

The volunteer surf life saving movement's role in assisting Council to provide for safe and enjoyable use of Warringah's beaches is of high importance to Council and the community. The volunteer surf life saving movement provides a valuable service that greatly contributes to the character of Warringah's coastal open space. For these Clubs to continue to grow and flourish, this Plan of Management recognises the need for greater financial independence from Council. This Plan of Management seeks to allow Clubs to pursue greater financial independence through the provision of recreational services to the broader community. In some circumstances this will involve new and different ways of managing the existing buildings, including some expansion of the club buildings as identified in the Actions tables and the master plans.

It is important to note however, that the shared use principle under which these community buildings have been traditionally managed, is to be maintained. Any new use for activities must be in keeping with the recreational values of the coast and must maintain an acceptable level of general community use of the buildings.



Figure 4 - South Curl Curl Rock Pool

Education

Coastal open space is an important area for learning about both the natural environment and about the important historical cultural and heritage values held for the coast. For example school groups utilise areas such as Narrabeen Beach to study coastal processes of erosion and accretion. In addition areas such as Long Reef Point now include interpretive information on the natural and cultural environment.

This Plan of Management seeks to improve the use of interpretive information found at a variety of locations along the coast. The Actions tables list some specific proposals.

Scenic and aesthetic

The scenic and aesthetic value of the coast is of great importance to the community. How to protect these values is somewhat more difficult due to their nebulous nature. The maintenance of these values on coastal open space is inherent in many of the actions that relate to managing the natural and recreational values of the land. In addition the Actions tables give guidance for the assessment of development applications for land adjoining coastal open space. It should be noted that Warringah's Local Environment Plan (LEP) that controls development is the main tool for managing the impact of development. The LEP for example contains provisions that recognise the importance of coastal features such as coastal cliffs and how the development of private land adjacent public open space should proceed.



Figure 5 - View north from Fisherman's Beach

Social

This value is closely linked with the heritage and cultural values of the beach and associated activities. Warringah's beaches and adjacent reserves provide an ideal location for undertaking a wide variety of social activities, both formal and informal. These activities are often recreationally focused, but the importance of these activities, such as participation in surf life saving or in the amateur swim clubs, in building social capital should not be undervalued. Actions in the Plan that assist in strengthening these institutions also aid in providing a strong social environment.

Heritage and Cultural

Warringah's coastal areas have a rich cultural and heritage tradition, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal. As discussed in Section 1.5, much of the physical examples of Aboriginal culture, which would have occurred on lands covered by this Plan of Management, have been lost as European settlement occurred in Warringah. Council is engaged in a project to reassess Aboriginal sites in Warringah. As part of this process sites will be identified and plans of management will be listed for review if required.

Council values and recognises the importance of Aboriginal culture to Warringah. This is reflected in the development of projects, such as Long Reef look out, which incorporates Aboriginal stories into public art.

The beach and adjoining reserves are of special cultural and heritage importance to the Warringah community generally. Association with the coast is reflected in the surf life saving movement and the much valued ocean rock pools. Actions in this Plan of Management seek to maintain these institutions and where possible strengthen them.

Access

The ability to equitably access the beaches and adjoining reserves easily and without undue restriction is highly valued by the community. This value includes access not only to open space, but also to the buildings and facilities that are developed on public open space. Throughout the Actions tables the values of shared, multi use of open space and associated facilities are reinforced. In particular this Plan of Management recognises the need to develop facilities that are accessible to the broadest number of people in the community. For example, in designing new facilities or upgrading existing facilities, the design process should seek to overtly consider groups such as young people and the less mobile within the community.

5.4 Community Issues

In addition to identifying the community's values for the coast, a number of specific issues of concern to the community have been identified and documented. These are listed at the top of each relevant value. In addition the Community Issues Discussion Paper tabled in Appendix 4 provides a description of the issues as identified by the community. Table 2 below provides a reference list of issues against the values identified in the Actions Table.

Table 2: Table of Values & Issues

Values	Issues
Natural Environment Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dune maintenance • Coastal heath management • Water quality • Coastal hazards
Access and Open Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad community access • Coastal walk • Public amenities
Recreation	<p>Surf life saving club buildings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General facilities provision • Rock pool maintenance
Cultural/Heritage, Educational & Aesthetic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public art • Regulatory enforcement • Litter • Heritage sites