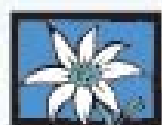



WARRINGAH COUNCIL



JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve Plan of Management



**Warringah
Council**



Adopted June 2010

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Appendix I(b): Community Issues Discussion Paper

Appendix 2: Reserve Action Plans

Appendix 3: Lease and licence legislation

Acknowledgements

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Executive Summary

ES1 Introduction

This Plan of Management applies to the area described as JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and adjoining community land located within the suburb of Terrey Hills. The Reserve covers an area of approximately forty-four (44) hectares and consists entirely of community land (ie. owned in fee simple by Warringah Council). This community land is located between Mona Vale Road and Kimbriki Recycling and Waste Disposal Centre and extends from Tumbledown Dick Hill immediately south of Kimbriki Road south to the boundary with the Warringah Pittwater District Emergency Control Centre and Kamber Road.

The Reserve forms an outstanding natural setting of relatively contiguous native bushland with outstanding scenic opportunities over neighbouring Garigal National Park and the coast. The former land-fill area in the reserve's south-western corner forms the focus for a range of recreational activities and specialist facilities serving local user groups as well as a broader metropolitan catchment. Such activities include equestrian activities, BMX riding, and field archery. In addition, the reserve has unique environmental and biodiversity values with remnant stands of Duffy's Forest (scheduled as an endangered ecological community). This community contains scheduled threatened species such as Caley's Grevillea and possibly other threatened species. The reserve also contains large areas of high conservation habitat and a range of vegetation communities from Peppermint-Angophora Forest in the sheltered gullies to Ridge-top Woodland and Coastal Heath on the exposed ridges. It is also home to a number of Rare or Threatened Australian Plants (ROTAP) species (Briggs and Leigh, 1996), for example *Eucalyptus luehmanniana*.

Overall, this Plan of Management aims to satisfy the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* and other relevant legislation. The Plan takes a values-based approach to land planning and management, identifying the reserve's key values, role and purpose so that these assets may continue to be protected and enhanced. The reserve's significant qualities, its environmental sensitivity and susceptibility to changing uses and impacts are all defining criteria for the way in which this land must be managed. Issues will come and go but the values which make this reserve what it is are potentially far longer lasting. Moreover, these values can be easily lost, damaged or diminished so it is important that this Plan of Management will ensure their protection for the enjoyment of this generation as well as for generations to come.

ES2 Community Consultation

Warringah Council's approach in providing opportunities for extensive consultation has significantly improved understanding of the reserve's values and issues amongst stakeholders and the broader community. The process of preparing the adopted Plan of Management in 2001 provided a forum for this discussion through public meetings/workshops, Council meetings, distribution of the community issues discussion paper, Council's Steering Committee meetings, meetings with key stakeholders and letters/submissions to Council. For further detailed discussion of issues raised in 2001 refer to Appendix I (b): *Community Issues Discussion Paper*. Consultation with user groups, a community meeting and submissions made during the public exhibition of the Draft Plan of Management in December 2009-February 2010 reinforced these values and raised new and ongoing issues for consideration.

JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve plays an important role in Warringah's open space system. The focus for community values lies within the flat, ridge-top south-western corner of the site and relates directly to the recreational use of the reserve. This area is highly valued by local and regional recreational user groups, particularly by those involved in equestrian events/ cross-country, BMX riders and field archers. The reserve is also used as a criterium circuit for bike-riders, for dog obedience classes and a range of informal active and passive recreational pursuits. A weather station has also been established on the site. In recent years, the adjoining steep slopes of the escarpment have been used by mountain bike riders, which has been an unauthorised activity. The extensive development of multiple tracks on steep highly erodible slopes within bushland has had a significant environmental impact on this part of the reserve.

ES3 Basis for Management

In concurrence with community consultation, the Plan has further investigated and defined the reserve's values, its role and purpose in the context of being a Significant Area. The following key values were identified:

- ❑ outstanding natural and scenic values;
- ❑ surrounded by largely contiguous bushland associated with Ku-ring-gai and Garigal National Parks;
- ❑ diverse range of vegetation communities and habitat;
- ❑ many of the reserve's communities and component species have a limited distribution and are poorly represented in local reserves and National Parks;
- ❑ Duffys Forest ecological community scheduled as an endangered ecological community under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995* and the subject of a draft Recovery Plan;
- ❑ Caley's Grevillea (*Grevillea caleyi*) is scheduled as an endangered species under the TSC Act (1995) and is currently the subject of a National Parks and Wildlife Service Recovery Plan from 2004;
- ❑ high possibility of other endangered species in the reserve;
- ❑ possibility of indigenous heritage (requiring further investigation);

- ❑ recreational facilities are highly valued by local residents and have a regional catchment and significance;
- ❑ recreational facilities are not reproduced in Warringah or adjoining local government areas.

Key values were divided into four major categories as follows:

1. Natural/cultural setting
2. Environmental/ biodiversity
3. Heritage
4. Public access, recreation and circulation.

Through further investigation and evaluation, these values were assigned a significance ranking. Of the identified values, the ecological significance of the endangered Duffys Forest vegetation community including *Grevillea caleyi* is considered to be of State significance. *Grevillea caleyi* is also listed at a Commonwealth level on the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The recreational values have a local and regional significance. Further investigation is required to establish the significance of archaeological/ indigenous heritage values.

The reserve's natural bushland setting of rock outcrops, steep scarps, diverse vegetation communities and high scenic qualities are important factors in determining the reserve's special character. However, these natural values remain largely unknown, with the majority of user groups attracted to the reserve's recreational facilities.

The identified environmental values are affected, and in some cases threatened, by a broad range of activities, management practices and pressures from within and outside the reserve's boundaries. The former use of part of the reserve as a landfill site has modified and disturbed the original habitat. This area, particularly its margins and embankments, and downslope into good bushland, requires remedial environmental treatments, management and restoration. In addition the operation of the recreational clubs and the configuration of facilities within the reserve present management issues that require further resolution.

The issues and threats to identified values were assessed and analysed. This exercise provided opportunities for developing a co-ordinated planning framework which will help to ensure the protection of the reserve's identified values, its role and purpose. The vision statement, as developed in Section 4.0 Basis for Management, encapsulates these values, provides guiding principles and addresses the fundamental expectations of the community as follows:

"To maintain and enhance the role of JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and adjoining community land as a "significant natural asset" in the Warringah open space system, ensuring protection and conservation of identified values through appropriate management, in a way which best meets the environmental, recreational, educational and social needs of the present community and future generations".

ES4 Management Strategies

In accordance with this vision statement and requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*, this Plan of Management establishes the following guiding principles or desired outcomes to:

- ❑ establish an appropriate land management framework for this community land;
- ❑ establish guidelines for assessing development proposals and impacts;
- ❑ establish guidelines for assessing leases, licenses and other estates;
- ❑ protect the reserve's natural/ cultural setting, its scenic, environmental and recreational values and to promote ecologically sustainable management practices;
- ❑ investigate any potential heritage sites within the reserve and ensure protection of all heritage values;
- ❑ maintain and enhance the quality of recreational facilities and amenities.

and core objectives are established in relation to community land comprising:

- ❑ Sportsground
- ❑ Natural Area: Bushland
- ❑ General Community Use.

The Plan tables desired outcomes and core objectives and includes a description of the means of achievement (management actions), means of assessment (of actions) and priorities for implementation. Key actions of the management strategies, as developed in this Plan, are summarised as follows (refer to section 5.0 Management Strategies):

1. Land Management

- ❑ ensure consistency in land management objectives;
- ❑ ensure appropriate protection, management and rehabilitation of scenic vistas, natural bushland and faunal corridors;
- ❑ ensure recreational activities and intensity of use are consistent with the protection of the reserve's identified values and public safety;
- ❑ ensure protection of identified threatened species and/ or endangered communities as scheduled under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* and the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* from development proposals within the reserve;
- ❑ establish guidelines for assessing development proposals, and leases, licenses and other estates;
- ❑ address licensing or granting of any other estate over the land, including easements, as expressly authorised by this Plan;

- ❑ prepare a Reserve Action Plan (RAP) for the bushland reserve that sets out actions to address natural values and issues. This should be an integrated strategy for stormwater management, weed management, bush regeneration and fire hazard management.

2. Biodiversity Management

- ❑ ensure effective implementation of *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act* requirements including draft and adopted Recovery Plans, Priority Action Statements, and Threat Abatement Plans;
- ❑ conduct faunal survey including faunal trapping;
- ❑ continue to assess and map bushland condition;
- ❑ continue to update fire management data to assist in updating the Reserve's Fire Regime Management Plan (2006) when required;
- ❑ continue to control and monitor feral animal populations;
- ❑ continue community-based environmental programs;

3. Catchment Management

- ❑ investigate management options for adjacent stormwater outlets;
- ❑ monitor changes to creek-line erosion/ altered flow patterns.

4. Weed Management, Bush Regeneration and Rehabilitation

- ❑ establish a clear time-frame for recovery and sustainability;
- ❑ identify degraded landfill batters as appropriate soil seedbank translocation sites and/or sandstone capping and revegetation sites;
- ❑ investigate existing soil conditions on old land-fill areas prior to rehabilitation;
- ❑ ensure appropriate species selection and management techniques;
- ❑ continue to develop and implement a quantifiable assessment process for bushland management.

5. Bushfire Management

- ❑ ensure requirements under the *Rural Fires Act 1997* are fulfilled;
- ❑ maintain existing fire trails and access for emergency service vehicles and emergency helicopter landings on the equestrian area;
- ❑ co-ordinate with NSW Rural Fire Services to implement community education programs in accordance with the Warringah Pittwater Bush Fire Risk Management Plan;
- ❑ integrate environmental and biodiversity programs with the objectives of fire management policy.

6. Indigenous Heritage

- ❑ conduct review with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, National Parks and specialist staff to establish if any possible sites exist within the reserve.

7. Recreation Management

- ❑ review options to establish a 'User Group Committee' to replace the previously chartered Management Committee;
- ❑ continue to seek a favourable resolution of over-crowding issues and incompatible simultaneous use of equestrian facilities/ cross-country course, BMX track and criterium circuit;
- ❑ address all safety/ risk management issues related to the operation of existing recreational facilities;
- ❑ undertake an ecological assessment and a safety and constraints analysis within the field archery range (in consultation with key user groups) with a view to establishing guidelines for use.
- ❑ upgrade security controls to prevent vandalism/ unauthorised access;
- ❑ ensure recreational facilities are maintained to a high standard;
- ❑ prevent over-development of recreational facilities;
- ❑ improve landscape quality of area around the BMX track including removal of weeds;
- ❑ address visual quality of current storage facilities for the BMX track;
- ❑ provide no further pedestrian tracks/ pony trails within bushland and restrict opportunities for unauthorised pedestrian access to Kimbriki Recycling and Waste Disposal Centre;
- ❑ enhance landscape quality and accessibility of open grassed barbecue / picnic area;
- ❑ address visual and environmental amenity of unsealed main carpark area and other overflow carparks including removal of all dumped rubbish/ stockpiled materials and revegetation/ landscaping;
- ❑ provide new carpark adjacent to existing main carpark for field archery range and rehabilitate bushland in existing carpark location;
- ❑ review current arrangements regarding access/ security to main carpark;
- ❑ develop an integrated system of signage.

ES5 Action Plan

The management strategies form the basis for which JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and adjoining community land's values can be managed and protected on a sustainable basis, whilst meeting the needs of the present community as well as for future generations.

Performance measures and priorities for actions have been assigned accordingly. The landscape masterplan identifies the physical locations and relationships of proposed actions within the reserve.

Landscape masterplan



1.0 Introduction

1.1 Location

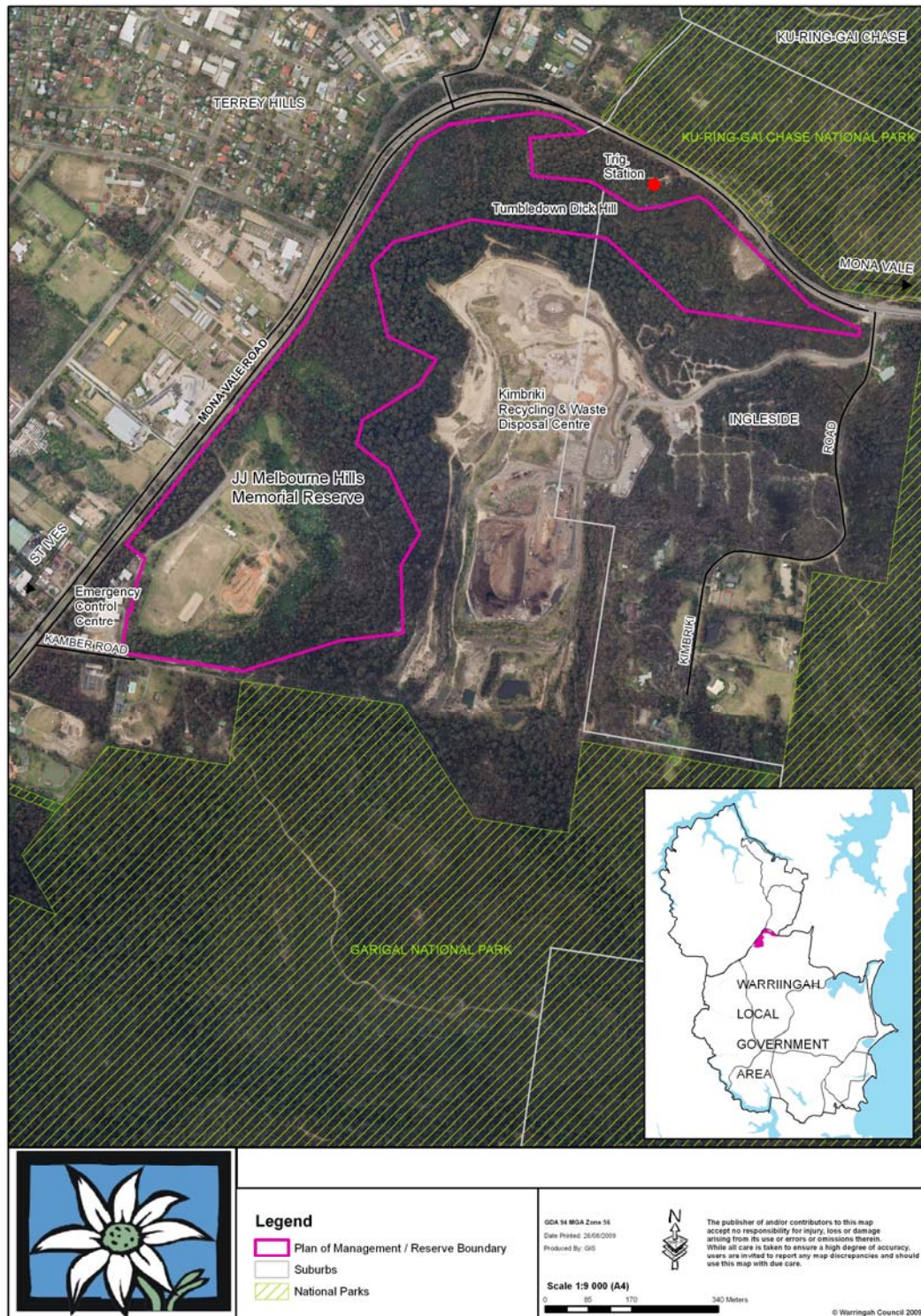
This Plan of Management applies to the area described as JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and adjoining community land located within the semi-rural suburb of Terrey Hills (refer to **Figure 1.1**). This total land parcel is described as the “reserve” in this Plan of Management, covering an area of approximately forty-four hectares and consisting entirely of community land (ie. owned in fee simple by Warringah Council).

The reserve lies within the upper reaches of the Deep Creek catchment and has an irregular boundary confined to the lineal escarpment and slopes adjacent to Mona Vale Road. The site lies immediately to the south-west of Tumbledown Dick Hill and extends to Kamber Road and the boundary with the Warringah Pittwater District Emergency Control Centre. The south-eastern slopes of the reserve adjoin Kimbriki Recycling and Waste Disposal Centre. The reserve is surrounded by the steep bushland valleys and escarpments of Ku-ring-gai National Park to the north and Garigal National Park to the south-east and the suburb of Terrey Hills to the west.

1.2 Overview

In conjunction with the much larger Garigal and Ku-ring-gai National Parks, JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and adjoining community land forms an outstanding natural setting of relatively contiguous native bushland. Outstanding scenic opportunities of Garigal National Park and the coast are afforded within the reserve. Much of the south-western corner of the reserve has been affected by past land-fill operations. This area now forms the focus for a range of recreational activities and specialist facilities serving local user groups as well as a broader metropolitan catchment. In addition, the reserve has unique environmental and biodiversity values with remnant stands of Duffy's Forest ecological community (scheduled as an endangered ecological community). This community contains scheduled threatened species such as Caley's Grevillea (*Grevillea caleyi*) and possibly other threatened species. The reserve also contains large areas of high conservation habitat and a range of vegetation communities from Peppermint-Angophora Forest in the sheltered gullies to Ridge-top Woodland and Sandstone Heath on the exposed ridges. It is also home to a number of Rare or Threatened Australian Plants (ROTAP) species (Briggs and Leigh, 1996), for example *Eucalyptus luehmanniana*.

Figure 1.1 Location of JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve



1.3 What are the aims of this Plan?

Warringah Council has designated JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and adjoining community land as a significant area in recognition of its key values, role and purpose within Warringah's open space system (refer to Section 4.0 Basis for Management for further details of the reserve's values).

1.4 Background to preparing this Plan of Management

Since adoption of the previous Plan of Management in 2001, use and management of JJ Melbourne Hills Reserve has remained consistent. In that time:

- ☐ the Reserve was considered for a regional netball complex in 2004 which did not eventuate.
- ☐ The Forest Hills Pony Club received funding from Council's Capital Assistance Program to help build an Olympic-sized dressage sand arena, which was completed in early 2008.
- ☐ continued subsidence and settlement has resulted in a proposal by Council, in consultation with the Forest Hills Pony Club, to rehabilitate the existing equestrian playing surface on an annual basis.
- ☐ In 2009 the former AGL site was approved under SEPP (Infrastructure) 2007 as a recipient site for a Duffys Forest soil seedbank translocation as a development consent condition for a private Development Application. The translocation was completed in August 2009.

The key impetus to review the Plan of Management for JJ Melbourne Hills Reserve that was adopted in 2001 was a proposal by the Forest Hills Pony Club to extend the building they use. The 2001 Plan of Management did not permit or authorise such development, so amendment of the Plan of Management was necessary.

The Administrator's Minute No. 12/2008 to the Council meeting on 8 July 2008 stated:

'That Council conduct a review of the JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve POM, limited in scope to how it relates to the size and use of the Pony Club building, to consider an enlarged and upgraded facility in this location. The review will include the normal public consultation process involved in amending a POM.'

At the same time, Council took the opportunity to update other aspects of the adopted Plan of Management as well as authorising extension and upgrading of the Pony Club building.

1.5 What are the aims of this Plan?

Plans of Management are prepared as a means of providing the framework for managing public land. These Plans have either been prepared or are being prepared for all of Warringah's significant open space areas. This Plan of Management aims to provide a

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

While preparation of the Plan has ensured an environment of consultation with the local community and key stakeholders, it is important to recognise that the approach has remained values-based rather than issues-driven in the management outcomes. At an organisational level, the Plan has evolved through a team approach with direction provided by key Council staff.

Furthermore, in accordance with Council's broader goals and objectives, the Plan aims to provide the following strategic outcomes for JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and adjoining community land to:

- ☐ identify and assess the reserve's values, uses and condition;
- ☐ define the reserve's role within the local government area and regional context;
- ☐ identify and assess key issues affecting the resource base;
- ☐ address current and future permitted uses and purposes for this land;
- ☐ address any future leases/ licenses attached to this land;
- ☐ set a vision for the reserve spanning the next 20-30 years;
- ☐ establish management strategies and their resourcing implications;
- ☐ assign directions and priorities in a strategic plan (5-years);
- ☐ prepare a masterplan showing proposed spatial changes.

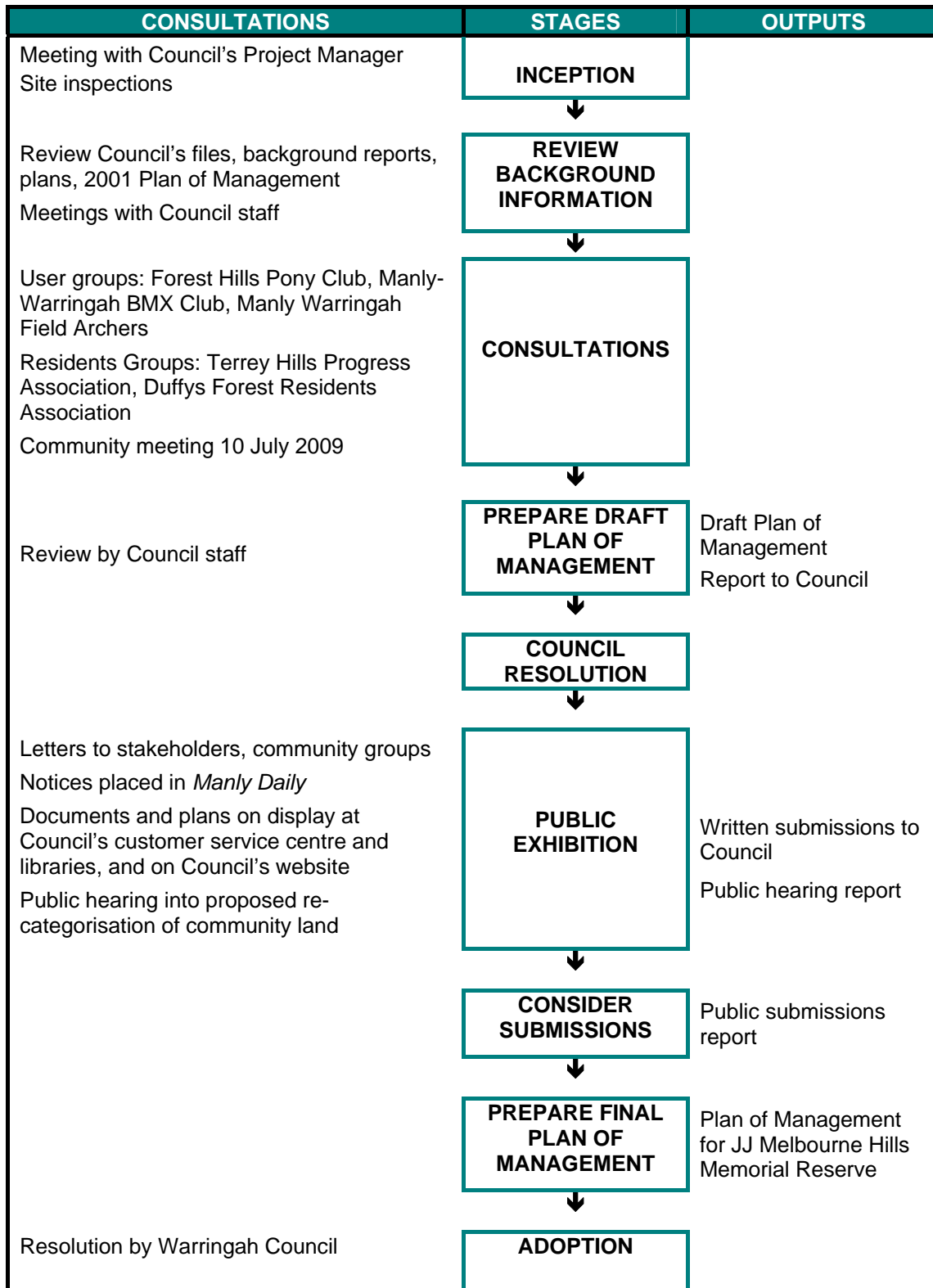
1.6 Process of preparing this Plan

The process of preparing this Plan of Management, consultations with stakeholders, and documents produced at each stage, are shown in **Figure 1.2**.

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires that draft Plans of Management are placed on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days, with a further 14 days allowed for written comments.

The draft Plan of Management was exhibited for public comment from 12 December 2009 to 9 February 2010. Four submissions resulting from the public exhibition of the Draft Plan of Management were received. Comments and issues raised in the submissions were considered, presented to Council, and incorporated into the final Plan of Management as appropriate.

Figure 1.2 Process of preparing this Plan of Management



A public hearing into the proposed categorisation of community land comprising the Reserve was held during the public exhibition period on 1 February 2010. A separate report on the public hearing was prepared.

1.7 List of Abbreviations used in this Plan

BOM	Bureau of Meteorology
FHPC	Forest Hills Pony Club
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LGA	Local Government Area (Warringah)
MWBMXC	Manly Warringah BMX Club
MWCC	Manly Warringah Cycling Club
MWFA	Manly Warringah Field Archers
NP	National Park
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service (NSW)
NSWRFS	New South Wales Rural Fire Services
ROTAP	Rare or Threatened Australian Plants database
TCM	Total Catchment Management
TSC Act	Threatened Species Conservation Act (1995)
EP&A Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979)
RFS Act	Rural Fires Act (1997)
EPBC Act	Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)
RAP	Reserve Action Plan

2.0 Land Description and Planning

2.1 Land Description

As outlined in the previous section, JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and adjoining community land is comprised entirely of community land (refer to **Figure 2.1** and **Table 2.1**).

2.2 Local Government Act

Community land

All public land must be managed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*. Under the Act Councils must classify public land as “operational” or “community” land, and Plans of Management must be prepared for community land. The ways in which community land can be used and managed are strictly governed in accordance with an adopted Plan of Management and any law permitting the use of the land for a specified purpose or otherwise regulating the use of the land.

Community land is owned in fee simple by Council and must not be sold, exchanged or otherwise disposed of except in the instance of enabling the land to be added to a Crown reserve or a protected area under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Leases, licenses or estate may be granted subject to requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*. The period for leases and licenses cannot exceed 21 years. The use and management of community land must also be consistent with its designated categories and core objectives (refer to Sections 2.5 What are Community Land “Categories”? and 5.0 Management Strategies). Furthermore, the nature and use of community land may not change without an adopted plan of management. Operational land is not subject to the same restrictions.

Figure 2.1 Land tenure

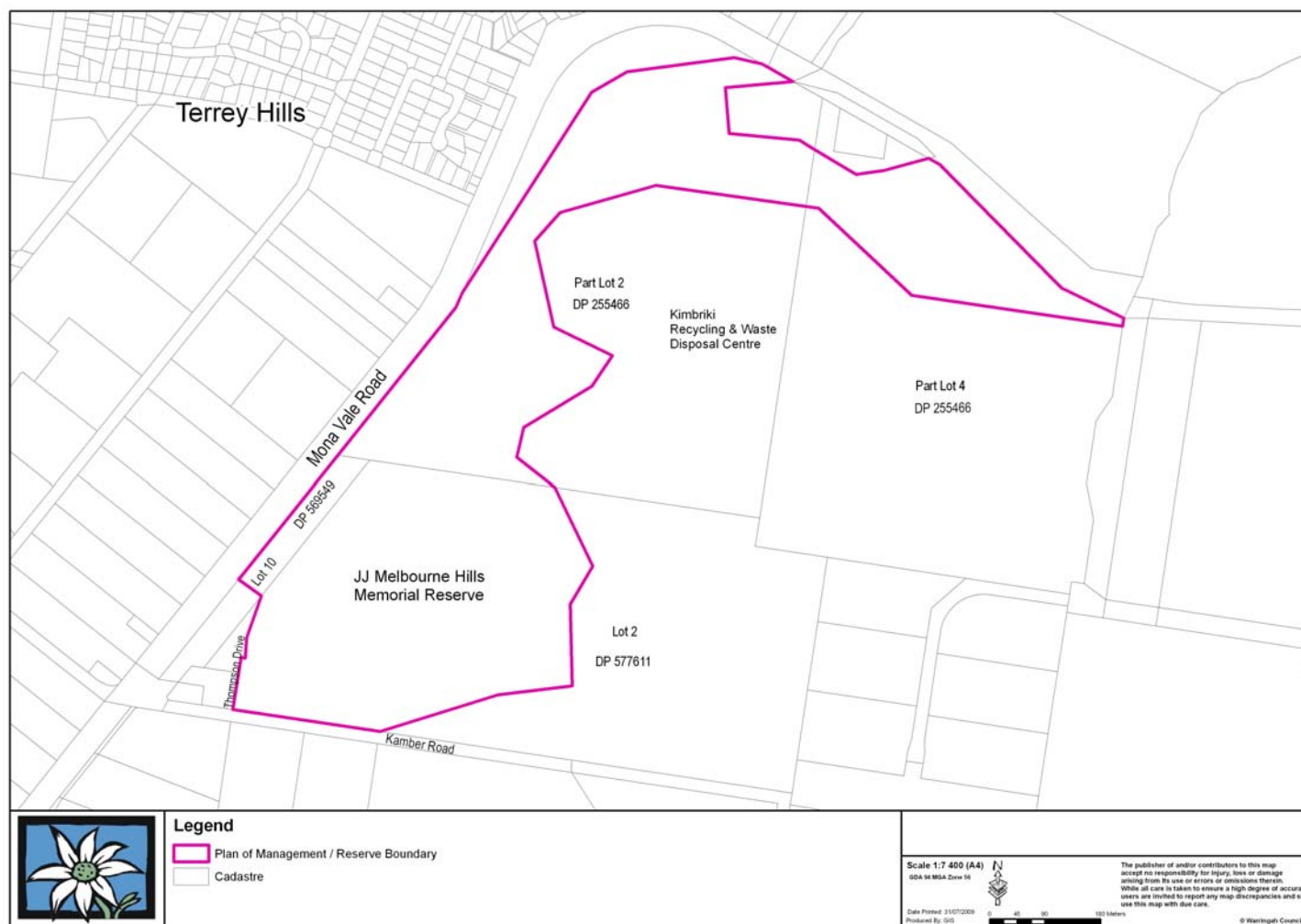


Table 2.1 Land description

Land Description and D.P Number	Register Number	Community Land Category	Existing Facilities/ Improvements	Condition
DP 255466, Lot 4 [part of]	120A/ 1A	Natural Area: Bushland	Dufftys Forest ecological community soil seedbank translocation site	good
DP 255466, Lot 2 [part of]	120A/ 1B	Natural Area: Bushland	fire-trail/ horse trail	poor
		Sportsground	unformed tracks/ target areas associated with field archery range	fair
			MWFA clubhouse and target storage container: metal construction, kitchen in fair condition ⁽¹⁾	good
			MWFA amenities: demountable male and female toilet and shower facilities ⁽¹⁾	good
		Natural Area: Bushland	unsealed carpark	poor
DP 577611, Lot 1 [part of]	120A/ 1C	Natural Area: Bushland	pony trail [part]	fair
		Sportsground	part of sealed access road [Thompson Drive]	good
DP 577611, Lot 2 [part of]	120A/ 1C	Natural Area: Bushland	unformed tracks/ target areas associated with field archery range; old fire-trail	poor
		Sportsground	FHPC clubhouse, canteen, office and amenities. Brick wall and steel roof building ⁽¹⁾	good
			equestrian area and cross-country course	good
			post and rail timber fencing/ steel gates	poor
			jumps and associated timber structures	good
			colorbond storage shed	good
			unsealed main carpark and overflow carparks	fair
			sealed and unsealed sections of access road	
			Bitumen sealed criterium circuit/ gates	good
			BMX track with colorbond shelter	good
			BMX starter's tower	good
			2 X shipping containers	poor
			wood-fuelled BBQs, picnic tables	fair
		General Community Use	BoM weather station/ security fencing/ gates	good

Notes: (1) Howell (2006)

A Plan which satisfies the requirements of the relevant Acts

Under the legislative requirements of Section 36 (a) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, councils must prepare and adopt plans of management for all community land. A plan may apply to one or more areas of community land, providing all the Acts' requirements are fulfilled.

To comply with requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the Plan of Management must be consistent with requirements of the Local Government Act as amended for community land, including its categories and core objectives (Section 36 (a)-(n)).

The Act states that the Plan must identify the following:

- ❑ “the **category** of the land;
- ❑ the **objectives and performance targets** of the plan with respect to the land;
- ❑ the **means** by which the council proposes **to achieve** the plan’s **objectives and performance targets**;
- ❑ 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”

and must include a description of the following:

- ❑ “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;
- ❑ the use of the land and any such buildings or improvements as at that date”;

and:

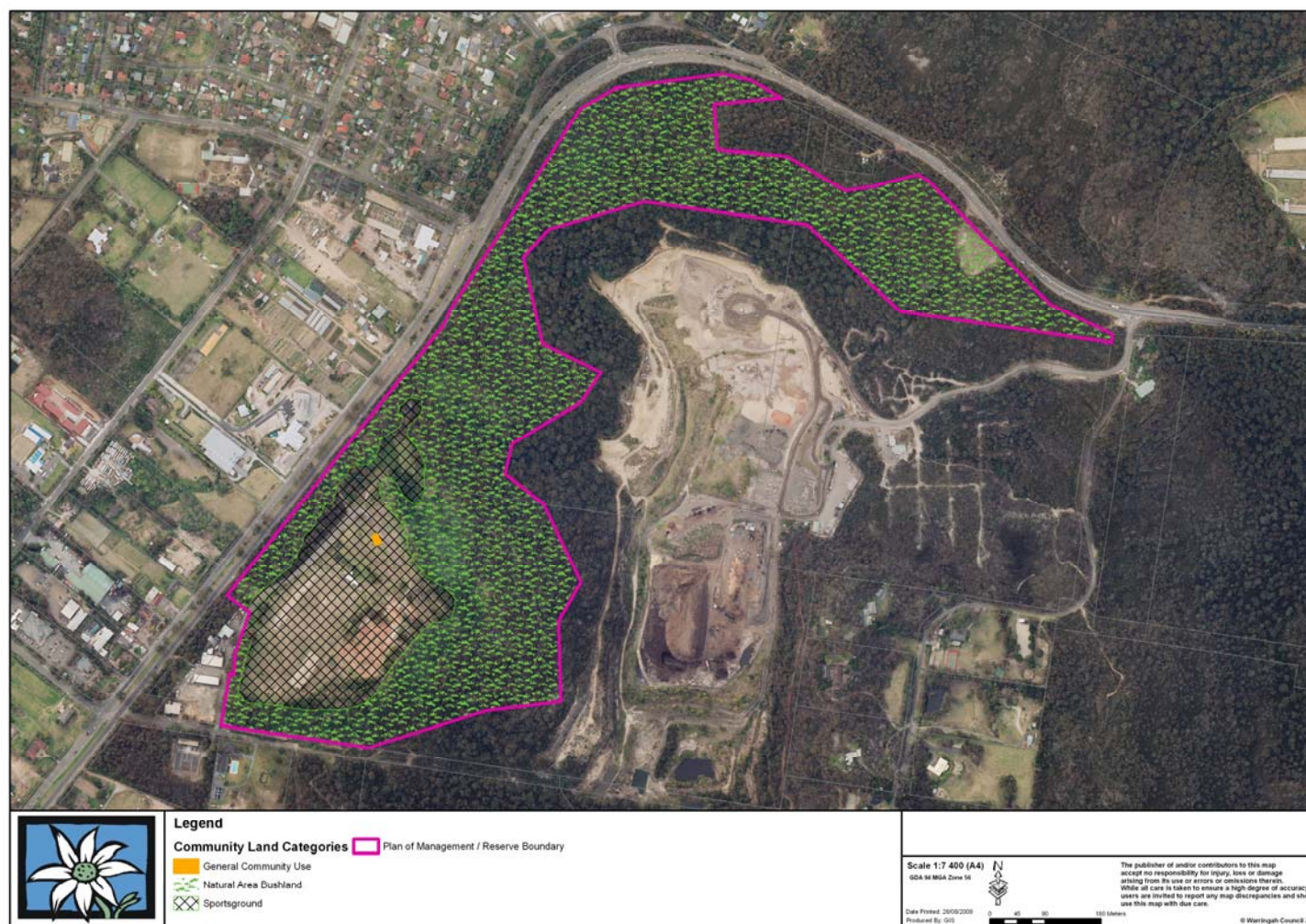
- ❑ “specify the purposes for which the land, and any such buildings or improvements, will be permitted to be used, and
- ❑ specify the purposes for which any further development of the land will be permitted, whether under lease or license or otherwise, and
- ❑ describe the scale and intensity of any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

What are Community Land “Categories”?

Community land must be categorised as either a natural area, a sportsground, a park, an area of cultural significance or for general community use, or a combination of these categories. The *Local Government Act 1993* has a further requirement that land categorised as a “natural area” must be given a sub-category of either bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse, foreshore or a category prescribed by the regulations (see **Figure 2.2**).

The 2001 Plan of Management categorised the former AGL site in the north-eastern section of the Reserve as General Community Use due to its disturbed condition. It is proposed to recategorise this site from General Community Use to Natural Area – Bushland to reflect Council’s recent completion of a Duffys Forest ecological community soil seedbank translocation across the entire site. Submissions to the public hearing supported the proposed recategorisation of the former AGL site from ‘General Community Use’ to ‘Natural Area-Bushland’.

Figure 2.2 Categories of community land



How are these “Categories” defined?

The following definitions are in accordance with the guidelines for categorising community land in the *Local Government (General) Regulation 1999*:

1. Natural Area: Bushland

Land which contains primarily the original native vegetation or a remnant of the natural vegetation or is still representative of the structure or floristics of the natural vegetation of this locality. Such land includes:

- ☐ mostly undisturbed bushland with a range of habitats and largely intact ecosystem including canopy trees and an understorey of shrubs, herbs, native grasses, etc. with little or no weed invasion; or
- ☐ moderately disturbed bushland, retaining natural ecosystem functions and habitat values, including natural regeneration, with low to medium level of weed invasion; or
- ☐ highly disturbed bushland where the natural ecosystem functions and habitat values are significantly disrupted, native tree canopy is largely fragmented, native understorey has been removed, opportunities for regeneration are restricted and weeds are a significant component, but where the land is still capable of being rehabilitated.

2. Sportsground

Land should be categorised as a sportsground if the land is used or proposed to be used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.

3. General Community Use

In accordance with the Act, land should be categorised as general community use if the land:

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

Refer to section 4.0 Basis for Management for details relating to the condition and use of the land. For core objectives, permitted uses and future development refer to 5.0 Management Strategies.

2.3 Other relevant legislation and policies

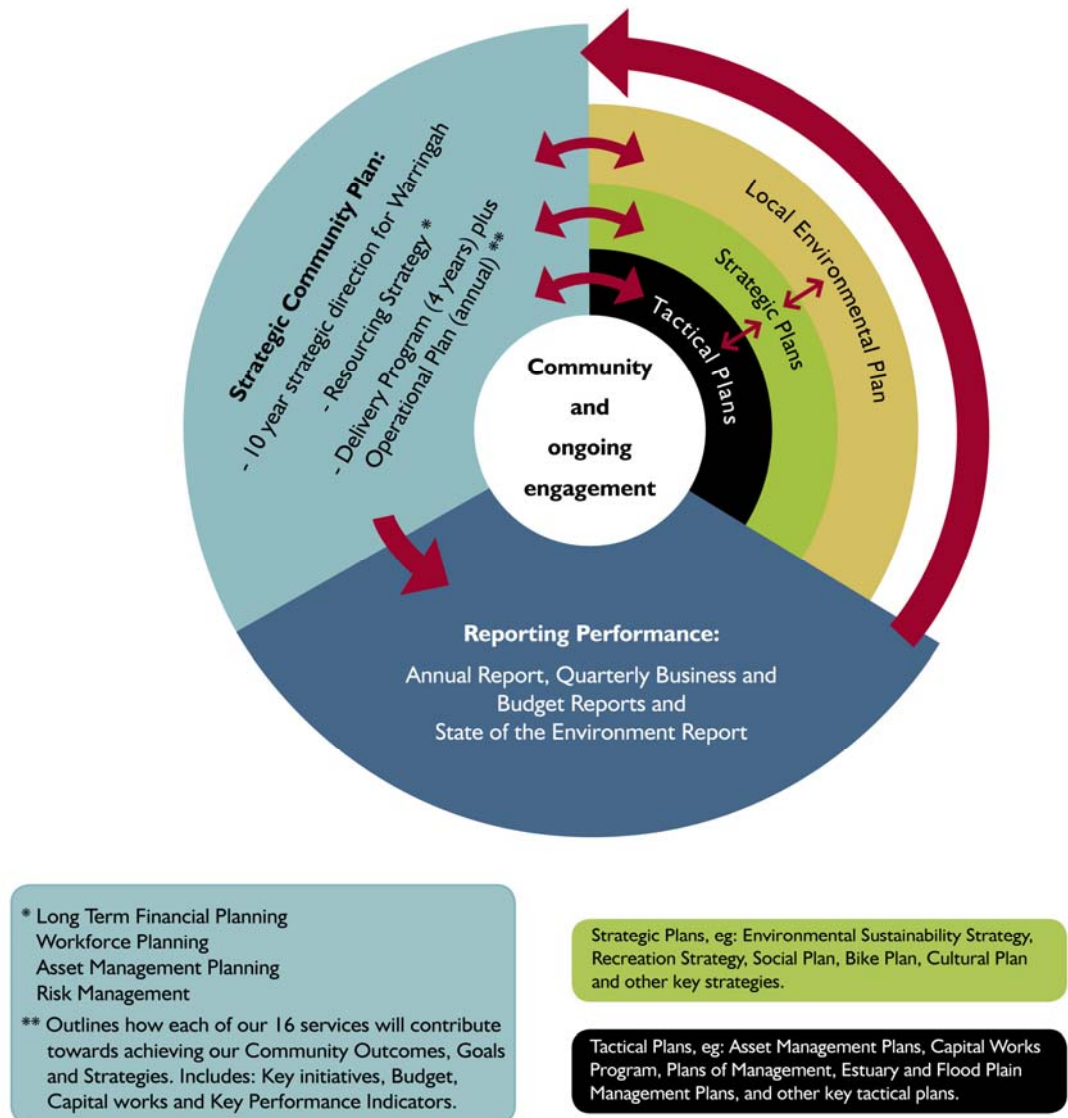
This Plan must be in accordance with the provisions contained within relevant legislation and policy guidelines, including but not limited to the following:

- ❑ Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
 - SEPP 19: Bushland in Urban Areas
 - SEPP 44: Koala Habitat Protection
 - SEPP 55: Remediation of Land
 - SEPP 64: Advertising and Signage
 - SEPP (Infrastructure) 2007
 - SEPP (Temporary Structures and Places of Public Entertainment) 2007.
- ❑ National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
- ❑ Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975
- ❑ Disability Discrimination Act 1992
- ❑ Noxious Weeds Act 1993
- ❑ *Waste Minimisation Act 1995*
- ❑ Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995
- ❑ Rare or Threatened Australian Plants database (ROTAP) 1996
- ❑ Rural Fires Act 1997
- ❑ Anti-Discrimination Act 1997
- ❑ *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*
- ❑ Companion Animals Act 1998
- ❑ Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

2.4 How does this Plan relate to Council's other strategic documents?

In accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Warringah Council has adopted a co-ordinated approach to planning. This involves development of a number of linked strategic documents under the guidance of 'Living Warringah' and the current Strategic Community Plan. This Plan highlights Council's commitment to protecting Warringah's identity, high quality of life and enhancement of natural environmental, aesthetic, cultural, heritage and recreational values. **Figure 2.3** illustrates the framework for planning and this Plan's relationship to other strategy documents which share the same guiding principles.

Figure 2.3 Relevant Council strategic planning documents



Specific documents used to guide the strategic outcomes of this Plan, ensuring consistency in values, principles and policies are:

- ❑ Community Strategic Plan (2009);
- ❑ Living Warringah (2005);
- ❑ Local Environmental Plan (2000);

- ❑ Management Strategy for Weed Control and Fire Management Access Zones (1996);
- ❑ Policy for Plans of Management on Public Open Space (2003);
- ❑ Sports In Warringah Strategy (2004);
- ❑ Recovery Plan for *Grevillea caleyi* (2004);
- ❑ Warringah Natural Area Survey (2005): Vegetation communities and plant species, Fauna species, and Vegetation history and wildlife corridors;
- ❑ Bushfire Risk Management Plan (2000);
- ❑ JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve Fire Regime Management Plan (2006);
- ❑ Local Habitat Strategy (2007);
- ❑ Bushland Policy (2008);
- ❑ Draft Generic Bushland Reserves Plan of Management (2009);
- ❑ Bushfire Environmental Assessment Code 2006 NSW RFS
- ❑ Bushfire Hazard Reduction Certificate Assessment Guidelines 2006 NSW RFS
- ❑ Draft Recovery Plan Duffys Forest (2003)
- ❑ Warringah Recreation Strategy (2009)
- ❑ Draft Recovery Plan for *Microtis angusii* (September 2009).

Council is currently preparing a Horse Strategy that, when finalised, will be directly relevant to this Plan.

A complete list of policy documents, relevant studies and references are contained in the Bibliography.

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3.0 Community Issues

3.1 Introduction

Community consultation is a vital component in the preparation of all Plans of Management. This process continues through to public exhibition of the Draft Plan of Management, including opportunities for public submissions. The purpose of the public meetings/ workshops is to assist Council and the community to identify the important values attached to this reserve and to provide a forum for discussion of community issues. Furthermore, this process provides an opportunity to identify key issues which may be contributing to existing or future impacts on the resource base. It may also assist in developing management opportunities and understanding the constraints affecting this community land and its values.

During the preparation of the 2001 Plan of Management, a total of thirty-one people attended two public meetings/ workshops held on 7 and 8 June 2000. A summary of issues raised are tabled in Appendix 1(a) *Summary of Meeting Issues*. Exploring Issues Papers were also distributed at these public meetings/ workshops and 19 written responses were received. A further detailed submission was prepared by the Forest Hills Pony Club Inc.

The issues raised in the public meetings/ workshops, Exploring Issues Papers and submissions provided the basis for preparation of the Community Issues Discussion Paper. All attendees who registered at the meeting were mailed a copy of this Paper (dated 21 July 2000). Refer to Appendix 1(b) *Community Issues Discussion Paper*. The preparation of this Plan of Management has also been guided by Council's Steering Committee, Council officers, meetings with representatives from the various clubs and user groups, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service's Threatened Species Unit and NSW Rural Fire Services.

Community consultation for the 2009-10 review and update of the Plan of Management involved meeting with user groups, holding a community meeting on 10 July 2009, and receiving submissions on the draft Plan of Management. Comments made during the community consultation are integrated into this Plan of Management.

3.2 Community Values

It is important to recognise that JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and adjoining community land has significant ecological, recreational, educational and scenic values at local and regional levels. The value and significance of this reserve to the local community was highlighted in the public meetings and the "Exploring Issues Papers".

The focus for community values lies within the flat, ridge-top south-western corner of the site and relates directly to the recreational use of the reserve. This area incorporates managed sportsfields and bushland to the east and south of the ridgetop corner, and is highly valued by local and regional recreational user groups, particularly by those involved in equestrian events/cross-country, BMX, and field archery. The reserve is also used as a criterium circuit for bike-riders, for dog obedience classes and a range of informal active and passive recreational pursuits. A weather station has also been established on the site. In recent years, the adjoining steep slopes of the escarpment have been used by mountain bike riders. This has been an unauthorised activity. The extensive development of multiple tracks on steep highly erodible slopes within bushland has had a significant environmental impact on this part of the reserve.

The public meetings/ workshops in 2000 defined a strong sense of community ownership and management of the reserve with the expressed desire to ensure the protection of its natural, ecological, scenic and recreational values. It was strongly expressed that the reserve's recreational facilities, in particular, should be identified as significant and unique within the Warringah local government area and that they should be subject to appropriate management and protection. The following points identify the values and importance attached to this reserve by the participants at the public meetings/ workshops and through the Exploring Issues Papers:

- ☐ the reserve offers a range of recreational opportunities and facilities for equestrian events/ cross-country, BMX, cycling, dog obedience and field archery in a bushland setting;
- ☐ the reserve offers unique opportunities – there are no other similar facilities in Warringah;
- ☐ recreational facilities have a regional profile addressing a range of abilities;
- ☐ standard of recreational facilities is the result of a long term commitment to maintenance and improvements by the respective clubs;
- ☐ easy public access and parking, connected by a system of cross country pony/ fire-trails;
- ☐ bushland qualities provide passive and active recreation opportunities;
- ☐ outstanding panoramic views from many vantage points;
- ☐ recognition of habitat for the endangered Caley's Grevillea.

3.3 Issues and Threats

The public meetings/ workshops and Exploring Issues Papers highlighted a number of community issues and identified the need for management and protection of these values as follows:

- ☐ concerns over possible loss of recreational opportunities particularly in light of recent decisions by National Parks and Wildlife Service to remove pony-trails from Ku-ring-gai NP and to discourage mountain bike riding in Garigal National Park;
- ☐ desire to improve contact with Council regarding the management of recreational facilities and promote a more integrated management framework between the individual user groups;
- ☐ address overcrowding within the reserve and incompatibility of some user groups, particularly between the pony club activities/ dressage events and criterium circuit racing;
- ☐ address conflicting issues related to simultaneous use of neighbouring recreational facilities;
- ☐ address public safety and risk management issues, particularly with respect to unauthorised use of the criterium circuit by motor-bikes and cars, and field archery;
- ☐ improve controls over unauthorised recreational activities (eg. mountain-bikes on steep slopes, cars/ motorbikes and golf practice on the arena);
- ☐ improve controls on illegal rubbish dumping and address insufficient number of litter bins;
- ☐ reduce negative impacts of recreational activities on environmental values;
- ☐ improve standard of public amenities to respond to high levels of use;
- ☐ remove weeds and provide appropriate rehabilitation of weed infested areas, including addressing drainage issues;
- ☐ improve visual/ landscape character surrounding recreational facilities.

3.4 Community Issues Discussion Paper

The Community Issues Discussion Paper is divided into the following sections:

- A. Protection of Community Values
- B. Environmental Issues
- C. Public Access
- D. Major Recreational User Groups and Facilities
- E. Adjoining Land Uses

A detailed discussion of these items is contained in Appendix 1(b): *Community Issues Discussion Paper*.

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4.0 Basis for Management

4.1 Objectives

The Basis for Management document has the following objectives, to:

- ❑ identify the values attached to this area by the community, why they are valued and the importance of each of these values;
- ❑ determine the role of this significant area in the lives of the community and within the greater Warringah open space system; and
- ❑ establish a mechanism for reviewing values in relation to specific issues/ threats and develop opportunities for appropriate management; and
- ❑ provide a vision for the future of this significant area.

4.2 Determining Key Values

As previously discussed, this Plan takes a values-based approach to planning and management of JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and adjoining community land. This approach allows the reserve's key values, role and purpose to be identified so that these assets may be protected and enhanced. "Values" can be simply described as the things which make a place important. Community values and the issues affecting these values have been identified through the community consultation process (refer to section 3.0 Community Issues and Appendix 1(b): *Community Issues Discussion Paper*).

Key values have been developed through further investigation and analysis of the reserve's resource base. These key values are divided into four major categories which form the basis for further discussion in this section as follows:

1. Natural/ Cultural Setting
2. Environmental/ Biodiversity
3. Heritage
4. Recreation/ Access and Circulation

Table 4.1: Values and Level of Significance assigns a significance ranking to each of these values, based on either a local metropolitan (regional), state or national basis. The reserve supports environmental/ biodiversity values of national significance. Recreation values of the major sporting clubs have been confirmed as having regional or metropolitan significance. Further investigation is required to establish the significance of archaeological/ indigenous heritage values. The reserve's values, the issues and threats affecting them and the opportunities available for management are summarised later in **Table 4.4:** Basis for Management.

Table 4.1 Values and level of significance

Values	Level of significance			
	Local	Regional	State	National
Natural / cultural setting				
Predominantly natural bush setting				
Cultural landscape / cleared open space				
Scenic values				
Environmental / biodiversity				
Scheduled endangered ecological community				
Scheduled endangered flora species				
Educational / scientific values				
Heritage				
natural				
European / cultural				
Aboriginal / indigenous	Subject to further investigation			
Recreation, access and circulation				
Active recreation / organised sporting clubs				
Passive recreation				
Public access / circulation and linkages				

4.3 Natural/ Cultural Setting

Bushland and semi-rural context

JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and adjoining community land covers an area of approximately 44 hectares with a significant amount of this being bushland. This reserve is largely confined to a lineal section of the escarpment adjacent to Mona Vale Road. It is located in the semi-rural setting of Terrey Hills and adjoins Garigal National Park. JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve refers specifically to the small area of largely modified, cleared and rehabilitated land in the south-western portion of the site. This area, formerly the Terrey Hills Landfill Depot, is now the reserve's focus for active organised recreation and is highly valued by the community, particularly for equestrian activities, field archery and BMX racing.



PHOTO 1: View looking south-west over JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and Adjoining Community Land. Smooth-barked Apple (*Angophora costata*) in flower [background].

Opportunities for equestrian uses are well integrated with the adjoining residential area via pony trails. The reserve offers a purpose built equestrian cross-country course, an area for events, a sand arena, and other facilities. The BMX track and criterium circuit is located within this open area along with a dog training area. The surrounding steep topography and dense bushland provides an ideal environment for a field archery range. The area's natural values and accessibility have also attracted other uses such as mountain bike `riding which has caused serious environmental degradation in some areas.



PHOTO 2: Existing equestrian area, clubhouse [right foreground] and carpark area [background] at JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve.

The surrounding bushland covering steep valleys and escarpments, provides an idyllic natural setting and back-drop to these activities. The reserve also offers a range of outstanding environmental and scenic qualities, from intimate bushland experiences in the

steep valleys to expansive views from the ridge-line and sandstone outcrops. These views extend to the Pacific Ocean over-looking Garigal National Park.

Passive recreation infrastructure is limited within the reserve reflecting the historic development of the reserve, ridge-line access off Mona Vale Road and the very steep topography of the site. Nevertheless, the reserve offers a range of passive recreational opportunities for bushwalking, environmental study and relaxation. It provides important access and linkage opportunities between Garigal National Park and Ku-ring-gai National Park. While active organised sporting activities were recognised as key values by the local community, the reserve's environmental values were also highly regarded as important factors in defining the reserve's unique character. These environmental values provide opportunities for enhanced recreational experiences through improved access, education and interpretation.



PHOTO 3: View looking south-west over JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and Adjoining Community Land from Tumbledown Dick Hill. Sydney Sandstone Ridgetop Woodland [foreground] with a diverse understorey of flowering shrubs.

Views

The reserve is within a scenic escarpment area of very high visual significance. A number of informal bush tracks east of the BMX track provide access to numerous sandstone outcrops offering many vantage points with expansive panoramic views over Garigal National Park to the Pacific Ocean. It is important to recognise that the Kimbriki Recycling Centre, although a substantial land-fill and recycling site bordering the reserve, is not visible from many of the vantage points around the popular south-western open space. The steep bushland and topography effectively conceal much of this site. However, bush tracks adjoining the Telecommunications site on Tumbledown Dick Hill have a high exposure to this land-fill site particularly from the escarpment area. The old land-fill site's high level of disturbance with its altered contours and extent of weed invasion creates a marked visual change in the natural landscape. This dramatic change in the landscape is clearly evident from this north-eastern portion of the reserve.

Topography

The Mona Vale Road ridge-line and escarpment forms the reserve's western boundary. Two spurs form the northern and southern boundaries separated by a deep valley. This valley, at the headwaters of the Deep Creek catchment has been highly modified through the current land-fill operations of Kimbriki Recycling Centre. The northern spur, Tumbledown Dick Hill, forms a relatively isolated section of the site effectively cut off from the popular south-western section. The equestrian, BMX and cycling facilities are all located within the predominantly level area created by the land fill.

Geology and soils

The ridge-line and upper bushland slopes are characterised by steep Hawkesbury sandstone scarps and outcrops with ironstone derived soils present. Slopes consist of colluvial debris of the Hawkesbury sandstone. Along the creek-lines and deeper sheltered gullies there are alluvial soils of sandy and silty clays.

These soils are highly modified within the former land-fill site in the south-western portion of the reserve. A waste disposal site operated through the late 1940s into the 1960s, receiving putrescible waste (organic matter capable of being decomposed) and some non-putrescible waste (inert waste) (GHD, 2008). In the early 1970s the site was developed as an open space recreational area. The level of weed invasion is indicative of those areas which have been modified.

Creek-lines and local catchment

The site is located within the north-western portion of the upper Deep Creek catchment which drains into Narrabeen Lagoon. The reserve contains a number of minor modified stormwater drainage lines feeding from adjoining ridge-line residential, nursery and small-acreage semi-rural development. Most of these lines drain through the reserve into the landfill area of the Kimbriki Recycling Centre.

A major natural creek-line drains the steep valley along the north-eastern edge of the field archery range before entering the Kimbriki Recycling Centre land-fill area. A stormwater outlet adjacent to the clubhouse of the Manly Warringah Field Archers drains into this creek-line and creates localised nuisance ponding and waterlogged soils with high nutrient loadings and a high level of exotic weed infestation. Other formed tracks and areas of multiple tracking on the escarpment have also created a range of eroded drainage channels and localised gullying. All these minor drainage lines are similarly affected by exotic weeds.

4.4 Environmental/ Biodiversity Values

Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity refers to the richness and diversity of a place, its life forms including plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems they form. JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and its adjoining community land, in association with the adjoining Garigal National Park and Kur-ring-gai National Park, is an area which is highly significant as a reservoir of rare and threatened biodiversity. These values can be summarised as follows:

- ❑ the reserve serves as an important linkage between two National Parks;
- ❑ the reserve plays a vital role in conserving regional biodiversity;
- ❑ some of the reserve's vegetation communities and component species are poorly represented in local reserves and National Parks;
- ❑ the reserve contains stands of Duffys Forest, a listed endangered ecological community (*Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*);
- ❑ the reserve contains a significant population of threatened plant species including Schedule 1 endangered species such as Caley's Grevillea (*Grevillea caley*), subject of a current Recovery Plan;
- ❑ the Sandstone Swamp community has a restricted distribution in the Warringah Council area and adjacent National Parks is a potential feeding habitat for the threatened Regent Honeyeater, and may support populations of Red Crowned Toadlet and the Giant Burrowing Frog;
- ❑ the Yellow-top Ash Mallee community is rare outside Warringah and has a moderately restricted distribution in the Warringah Council area and adjacent National Parks. It provides habitat for the threatened Red-crowned Toadlet, Giant Burrowing Frog, Heath Monitor, Regent Honeyeater and Southern Brown Bandicoot;
- ❑ in general the mosaic of vegetation communities creates a diverse range of habitats for native fauna;
- ❑ opportunities for faunal corridors and genetic exchange are becoming increasingly fragmented and restricted by adjoining land-fill operations and surrounding urban development.

Vegetation Communities

The reserve can be divided into six vegetation communities based on Benson and Howell's Sydney vegetation map units classification (1994) and the Warringah Natural Area Survey by Smith and Smith (2005). The distribution and extent of these communities are shown in **Figure 4.1: Vegetation Communities** and **Figure 4.2: Significant Vegetation Communities**. The conservation significance and threatening processes are summarised in **Table 4.2: Conservation Significance: Vegetation Communities**.

Figure 4.1 Vegetation communities

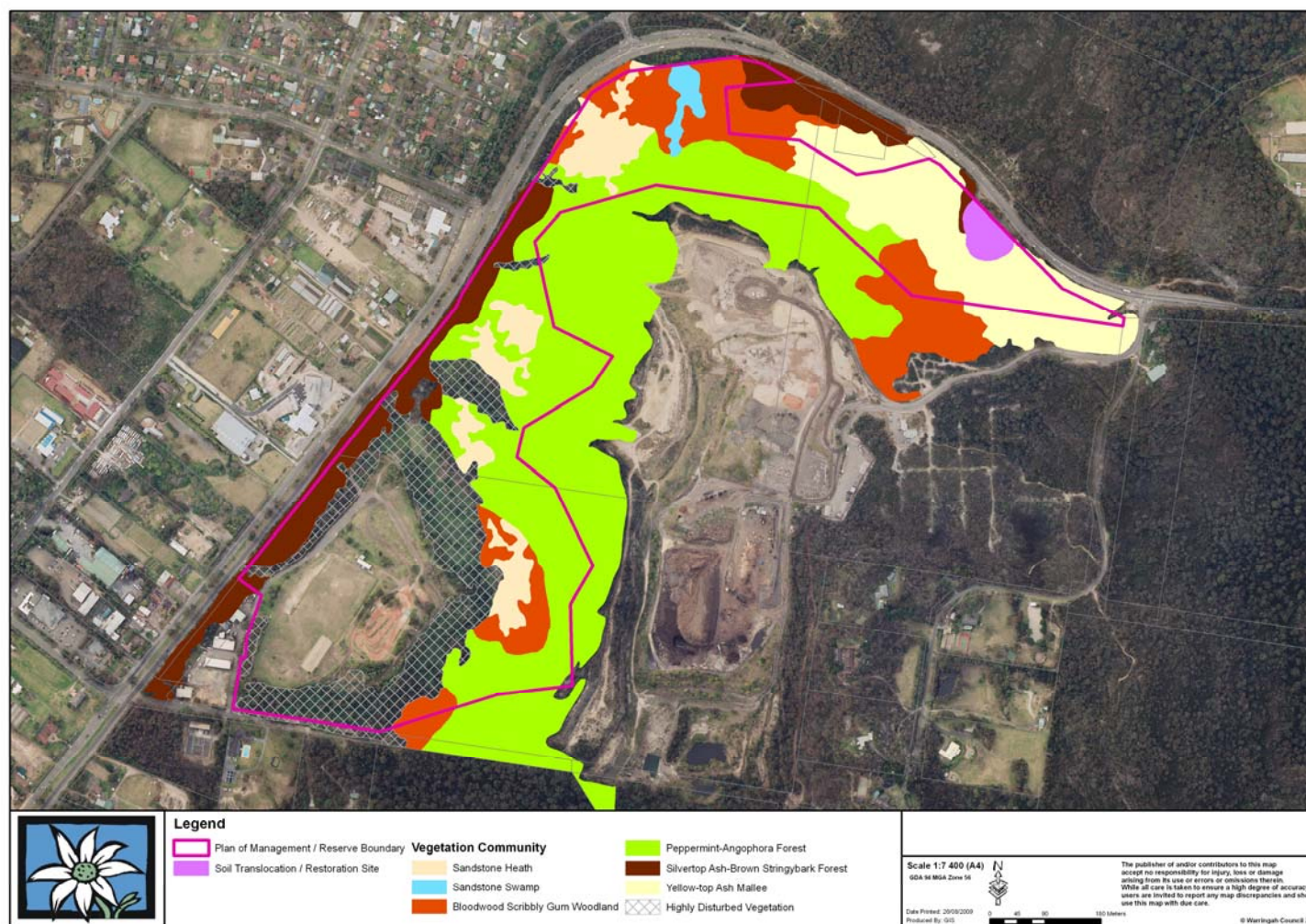


Figure 4.2 Significant vegetation communities

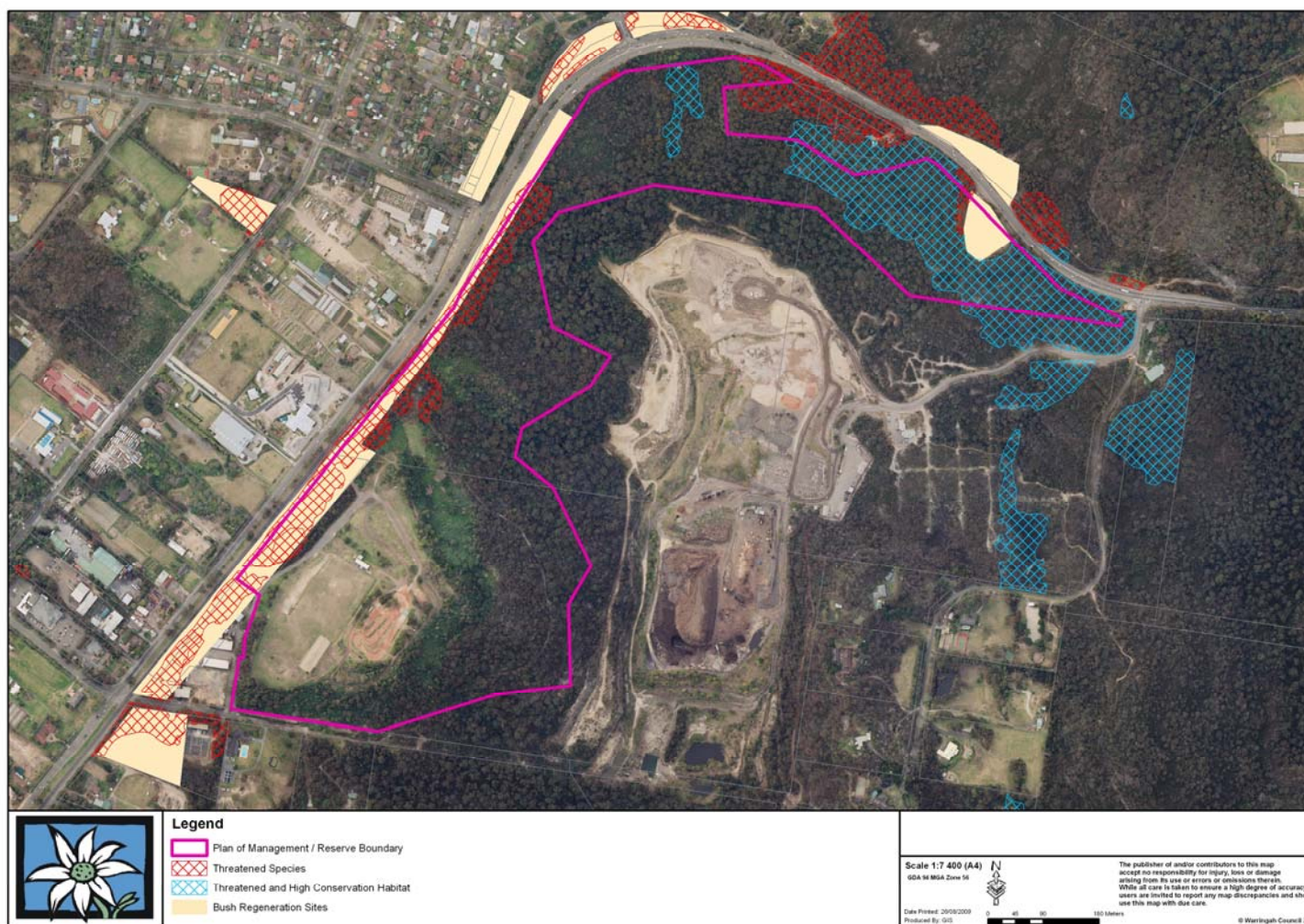


Table 4.2 Conservation Significance: Vegetation Communities

Vegetation Communities	Description	Conservation Significance and Threatening Processes
Northern Hinterland Wet Sclerophyll Forest Silvertop Ash-Brown Stringybark Forest (Duffys Forest)	<p>Open-forest or woodland, with a mixed and varying tree species composition.</p> <p>Occurs in scattered sites from Duffys Forest to North Balgowlah. Restricted distribution in Warringah LGA and adjacent national parks, although more extensive than other forms of Duffys Forest. Representation in other adjoining LGA's (Pittwater and Ku-ring-gai) is very limited.</p> <p>A listed endangered ecological community in NSW. Supports at least five threatened plant species: <i>Epacris purpurascens</i> var <i>purpurascens</i>, <i>Grevillea caleyi</i>, <i>Persoonia hirsuta</i>, <i>Pimelea curviflora</i> var. <i>curviflora</i>, <i>Tetradlea glandulosa</i>; three rare species: <i>Amperea xiphoclada</i> var. <i>papillata</i>, <i>Angophora crassifolia</i> and <i>Lomandra brevis</i>; 21 species threatened in northern Sydney, and one species threatened in Warringah.</p>	<p>Priority 1</p> <p>Threatened in NSW.</p> <p>Community restricted to narrow corridor immediately adjacent to Mona Vale Road.</p> <p>Threats include land clearing, habitat degradation by rubbish dumping and multiple tracking, trail bikes and other off road vehicles, altered hydrology/drainage, urban runoff, inappropriate fire regime, trampling by horses, and weed encroachment.</p>
Coastal Heath Swamps: Sandstone Swamp	<p>Varies from closed-sedgeland to closed fernland, open-heath or closed-heath. Species composition also varies.</p> <p>Restricted distribution in scattered sites in the Warringah local government area and adjacent national parks.</p> <p>Potential habitat for the nomadic threatened species Regent Honeyeater (<i>Xanthomyza phrygia</i>) and supports two ROTAP species: <i>Darwinia diminuta</i> and <i>Gonocarpus salsoides</i>. These plant species, together with <i>Haloragis heterophylla</i>, <i>Lepidosperma forsythia</i>, <i>Lepyrodia Muellieri</i> and <i>Tetrarrhena turfosa</i>, have not been recorded in Ku-ring-gai Chase or Garigal National Parks. Potential habitat for the threatened frog species Red-crowned Toadlet (<i>Pseudophryne australis</i>) and Giant Burrowing Frog (<i>Heleioporus australiacus</i>)</p>	<p>Priority 2</p> <p>Threatened in Warringah.</p> <p>Limited representation on site affected by weed encroachment due to altered hydrology.</p>
Sydney Coastal Heaths: Yellow-top Ash Mallee	<p>Open-scrub dominated and characterised by the mallee Yellow-top Ash (<i>Eucalyptus luehmanniana</i>). Red Bloodwood (<i>Corymbia gummifera</i>) is the most common of several other low eucalypts that occur in these stands. The community typically takes the form of clumps of mallee intermixed with patches of heath and swamp vegetation.</p> <p>Moderately extensive in Warringah local government area and adjacent national parks although distribution is far more extensive than other priority one and two communities. The community is rare outside Warringah.</p> <p>Some stands provide habitat for threatened species of flora including <i>Tetradlea glandulosa</i> and fauna including the Red-crowned Toadlet, Giant Burrowing Frog, Rosenberg's Goanna, Regent Honeyeater, and Southern Brown Bandicoot. Supports three ROTAP species: <i>Eucalyptus luehmanniana</i>, <i>Angophora crassifolia</i>, <i>Darwinia procera</i>, and <i>Lomandra brevis</i>.</p>	<p>Priority 2</p> <p>Rare in Australia.</p> <p>Community occurs on steep slopes above Kimbriki Recycling Centre.</p> <p>Community threatened by recreational encroachment, inappropriate/unauthorised activities, altered hydrology, nutrient enrichment and weed invasion.</p>

Vegetation Communities	Description	Conservation Significance and Threatening Processes
Sandstone Heath	Common and widespread in the Warringah Council area and well represented in Ku-ring-gai and Garigal National Parks. Provides habitat for threatened fauna species such as the Red-crowned Toadlet, Giant Burrowing Frog, Heath Monitor, Regent Honeyeater and Southern Brown Bandicoot. Some stands provide potential Koala habitat (SEPP 44) as well as habitat for the threatened species <i>Tetratheca glandulosa</i> and <i>Eucalyptus camfieldii</i> . Supports eight ROTAP species and five species not recorded in Ku-ring-gai or Garigal National Parks.	Priority 3 Local habitat. Limited representation on site occurring on higher exposed slopes. Threats include disturbance and habitat modification due to clearing and fragmentation within Field Archery Range and exposure to weed invasion.
Northern Hinterland Wet Sclerophyll Forest:: Peppermint-Angophora Forest	Open-forest, sometimes woodland, in which the main tree species are Sydney Red Gum (<i>Angophora costata</i>), Red Bloodwood (<i>Corymbia gummifera</i>), Sydney Peppermint (<i>Eucalyptus piperita</i>) and Silvertop Ash (<i>E. sieberi</i>). Common and widespread in the Warringah local government area and well represented in Ku-ring-gai and Garigal National Parks. Plant species recorded in the community include at least five rare plant species (<i>Angophora crassifolia</i> , <i>Darwinia procera</i> , <i>Eucalyptus luehmanniana</i> , <i>Hibbertia nitida</i> and <i>Lomandra brevis</i> ; and 14 species threatened in northern Sydney. Some stands provide habitat for threatened fauna species such as the Red-crowned Toadlet, Giant Burrowing Frog, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Powerful Owl, and Spotted-tailed Quoll.	Priority 3 Local Habitat Community threatened by recreational encroachment, inappropriate/unauthorised activities, altered hydrology, nutrient enrichment and weed invasion.
Sydney Coastal Dry Sclerophyll Forest: Bloodwood-Scribbly Gum Woodland	Typically woodland, but varies in structure from low open-woodland to open-forest. The most common trees are Red Bloodwood (<i>Corymbia gummifera</i>), Broad-leaved Scribbly Gum (<i>Eucalyptus haemastoma</i>), Sandstone Stringybark (<i>E. oblonga</i>), and Silvertop Ash (<i>E. sieberi</i>). Common and widespread in the Warringah local government area, and well represented in Ku-ring-gai and Garigal National Parks. Some stands provide habitat for threatened plant species <i>Eucalyptus camfieldii</i> and <i>Tetratheca glandulosa</i> . Community supports eight ROTAP species and five species not recorded in Ku-ring-gai and Garigal National Parks. Some stands provide habitat for threatened fauna species such as the Red-crowned Toadlet, Giant Burrowing, Heath Monitor, Glossy Black Cockatoo and Southern Brown Bandicoot. Stands including good numbers of <i>Eucalyptus haemastoma</i> offer potential Koala habitat (SEPP 44).	Priority 3 Local Habitat Community is fragmented and subject to weed invasion due to altered hydrology, nutrient enrichment, past clearing and recreational activities.

Note: Data based on Vegetation Survey by Smith and Smith (1998) and Survey of Duffys Forest Vegetation Community (2000), and compiled into the Warringah Natural Area Surveys (Smith and Smith, 2005).



PHOTO 4: Sydney Sandstone Ridgetop Woodland and Waratah (*Telopea speciosissima*) [mid-foreground] on Tumbledown Dick Hill, JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and Adjoining Community Land.

The **Duffys Forest** ecological community, listed as an endangered ecological community on Schedule 1 of the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act (1995)*, forms a significant, albeit relatively small component of the site's vegetation along the Mona Vale Road ridge-line. The type of Duffys Forest found at this reserve is identified as Silvertop Ash-Brown Stringybark Forest. This community is the typical form of the Duffys Forest Ecological Community and supports at least five threatened plant species (*Epacris purpurascens* var. *purpurascens*, *Grevillea caleyi*, *Persoonia hirsuta*, *Pimelea curviflora* var. *curviflora* and *Tetratheca glandulosa*), three rare species (*Amperea xiphoclada* var. *papillata*, *Angophora crassifolia* and *Lomandra brevis*), 21 species threatened in northern Sydney (Smith and Smith 2005). A Draft Recovery Plan has been prepared for the Duffys Forest Endangered Ecological Community (2005).

Sandstone Swamp is considered threatened in Warringah according to the Natural Area Survey (2005). It occurs in the wettest sites on Hawkesbury Sandstone soils, either as valley swamps or as 'hanging swamps' in seepage zones on hillsides (Buchanan, 1979). The community supports two rare plant species (*Darwinia diminuta* and *Gonocarpus salsoloides*) and eight species threatened in northern Sydney (*Baumea nuda*, *Deyeuxia decipiens*, *Gymnoschoenus sphaerocephalus*, *Haloragis heterophylla*, *Lepidosperma forsythii*, *Lepyrodia muelleri*, *Symphionema paludosum* and *Tetrarrhena turfosa*). Areas with large numbers of flowering *Banksia ericifolia* shrubs are a major winter food source for nectar-feeding fauna, including one nomadic threatened species, the Regent Honeyeater. Some sites may support populations of the threatened frog species, the Red-crowned Toadlet and Giant Burrowing Frog.

According to the Natural Area Survey (2005), **Yellow-top Ash Mallee** is a vegetation community that is moderately extensive in Warringah and adjacent National Parks but rare outside Warringah. The dominant species, *Eucalyptus luehmanniana*, is a rare species on the national list of Rare or Threatened Australian Plants (Briggs and Leigh, 1996). The community also supports three other rare plant species (*Angophora crassifolia*, *Darwinia*

procera, and *Lomandra brevis*), one threatened species (*Tetratheca glandulosa*), and one species threatened in northern Sydney (*Plinthanthesis paradoxa*). Furthermore this community provides potentially important habitat for threatened fauna species such as the Red-crowned Toadlet, Giant Burrowing Frog, Rosenberg's Goanna, Regent Honeyeater and Southern Brown Bandicoot.

Duffys Forest and Draft Recovery Plans for Threatened Species

The significance of the remaining stands of Duffys Forest is illustrated in its listing as an endangered ecological community under Schedule 1 of the TSC Act (1995). Duffys Forest is found on the remnants of ironstone soils and deeply weathered shale-derived soils on the ridge-tops and plateaus of Frenchs Forest, Belrose, Terrey Hills and Duffys Forest. The species composition of Duffys Forest is different from the predominant woodland communities on the surrounding Hawkesbury Sandstone with a greater representation of Proteaceae species. Half of the Proteaceae species found in Ku-ring-gai National Park are represented in local stands of Duffys Forest (Benson and Howell, 1990). Due to its restricted natural distribution, together with past quarrying of ironstone soils for road materials and the level of urban development in these areas this vegetation community is now very rare.

The Scientific Committee's Final Determination states that representation of the Duffys Forest community is highly fragmented by urban development with an estimated 15% of the original area of the community remaining. It also states that only small fragments of the community exist within Ku-ring-gai and Garigal National Parks and all of these are located only on the boundaries of the parks along roadways. The Scientific Committee's Final Determination lists threatening processes as land clearing, habitat degradation by rubbish dumping and access by people, trail bikes and other vehicles, weed invasion facilitated by urban runoff, inappropriate fire regimes and unauthorised horse riding activities in the area. It is the opinion of the Scientific Committee that the Duffys Forest community is "*likely to become extinct in nature in NSW unless the circumstances and factors threatening its survival or evolutionary development cease to operate*".

In November 2000, P and J Smith prepared a report titled "*Survey of the Duffys Forest Vegetation Community*" for NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and Warringah Council. This survey confirmed that this community supports six threatened plant species including *Grevillea caleyi*, *Microtis angusii* and *Persoonia hirsuta* (listed as "endangered" on Schedule 1 of the Threatened Species Conservation Act) and *Epacris purpurascens* var. *purpurascens*, *Pimelea curviflora* var. *curviflora* and *Tetratheca glandulosa* (listed as "vulnerable" on Schedule 2 of the Threatened Species Conservation Act). Caley's Grevillea (*Grevillea caleyi*) has recently been listed nationally under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. At least two other nationally significant species may occur within this community including *Angophora crassifolia* and *Lomandra brevis*. These species are also scheduled on the Rare or Threatened Australian Plants database (ROTAP). In addition, this community also supports *Pultenaea scabra* var. *biloba*, a plant species that has been identified for possible listing as a threatened species (see Duffys Forest in **Table 4.2: Conservation Significance: Vegetation Communities**).



PHOTO 5: Caley's Grevillea (*Grevillea caleyi*) in Duffys Forest community, JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and Adjoining Community Land.

Until recently much of the scientific investigation on the Duffys Forest community has focused on the endangered Caley's Grevillea (*Grevillea caleyi*), a medium to tall shrub. The Final Determination of the NSW Scientific Committee states that *Grevillea caleyi* is restricted to the Duffys Forest vegetation community although it may not be present in all remnant stands of the community. A Recovery Plan for *Grevillea caleyi* was finalised in 2004 in accordance with the *Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995*. In addition, the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) is preparing a Draft Recovery Plan for another threatened species, *Microtis angusii*, also supported in this community.

The strip of Duffy's Forest within this reserve directly adjacent to Mona Vale Road, supports a number of discrete populations of *Grevillea caleyi*. All of this Duffys Forest community is potential habitat for this threatened species. The number of individual plants and the age structure within a population varies considerably over time and is closely linked to the frequency of fire within the area. Although plants may not be visible in a given area, there may be a dormant viable seedbank in the topsoil/ leaf litter waiting for the right conditions for germination. *Grevillea caleyi* habitat in this reserve is currently under a bush regeneration programme in accordance with the NPWS Recovery Plan for *Grevillea caleyi* (2004). It is important to note that a significant population of *G. caleyi* exists immediately adjoining the reserve's boundary on the telecommunications site near the Trig Station (refer to **Figures 4.1 and 4.2**). This important habitat continues to be disturbed and degraded through dumping and maintenance works.

Fauna and faunal corridors

Bushland fragmentation resulting from land clearing, roads and infrastructure, small acreage rural development, nurseries and residential development has severely restricted opportunities for dispersal, movement and genetic exchange of native fauna in this local

area. The reserve plays an important role in linking Garigal National Park and Ku-ring-gai National Park, particularly within the contiguous bushland corridor of Tumbledown Dick Hill. Thus the bushland of the reserve has a significant role in the dispersal of ground dwelling species between these areas. The continuing urban development of Terrey Hills and upgrading of Mona Vale Road, currently east of the reserve, is likely to have an increasing impact on native faunal movement.

Previous studies, including the Review of Environmental Factors, Mona Vale Road (1999) have identified that Garigal National Park and Ku-ring-gai National Park provide a range of resources important to the life cycle needs of an extensive number of native amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) vocalisations have been recorded to the east of the reserve in Garigal National Park with recent sightings also recorded at Elanora Heights and Belrose. Early in 2000, a Koala was killed by passing traffic on Forest Way. With no such information available for the reserve the extent and diversity of native fauna is unknown although anecdotal evidence suggests that species diversity may be continuing to decline. The causes for this decline may also be related to predation by foxes and feral cats.

Bush regeneration

Professional bushland regenerators are contracted by Council to improve the condition of the habitat for *G. caleyi* in JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve, and to strategically control noxious and environmental weeds, and to improve habitat for other native flora and fauna.

Current works in the bushland within the reserve include:

- ☐ controlling herbaceous weeds on the Mona Vale Road, bridal track and Rural Fire Service boundary.
- ☐ progressing worked areas with post-fire weeding near the Archery Club, the good bush edge of the pond area, and dense *Aristea ecklonii* plumes.
- ☐ sweeping core areas for woody weeds, including woody wattles.
- ☐ preventing shading and encroachment over *Grevillea caleyi* specimens.

4.5 Indigenous and Cultural Heritage Values

Indigenous Heritage

“Over many thousands of years, Aboriginal people have left signs of their occupation of Australia. The reminders of where people lived, where they ate or collected food, how they hunted, their art and their sacred sites are all a special part of Australia’s heritage ... [These places] document the lives of Australian indigenous people not only before European settlement, but also the changes wrought by colonialism”.

Australian Heritage Commission (1997)

The Cultural Heritage Services Division of NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) maintains the Aboriginal Sites Register for the Warringah LGA. A total of 399 Aboriginal Heritage sites have been recorded in the Warringah LGA. These sites include rock engravings, axe grinding grooves, water holes, open shell middens and rock shelters with occupation deposits, camp sites, burial sites and quarries.

The significant escarpment outlook, large sandstone outcrop areas and overhangs make it highly likely that the reserve was used by Aborigines for shelter, rock carvings and engravings, however little is known about the detailed aboriginal heritage of this location. However, the concentration of art and engraving sites and rock shelters with potential archaeological deposits (PAD) that exist in a small valley immediately south of the reserve, and the discovery in 1988 of two art sites and four occupation sites adjacent to the Water Quality Management Area of the Kimbriki Recycling Centre suggest that similar sites may be contained within the reserve.

It is therefore recommended that priority be given to an investigation into potential indigenous heritage sites within the reserve. Under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974*, all Aboriginal sites, whether recorded or not, are protected. Protection under the Act includes limiting public access to sites, promotion of educational/ interpretive programs in Aboriginal heritage and conducting archaeological surveys to better understand this heritage.

Aboriginal Reconciliation

In May 1998, Warringah Council adopted a reconciliation strategy with the formation of the Aboriginal Land Working Group. The main objectives of the group are to address land management issues concerning Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council lands within the Warringah LGA, including access and protection of heritage sites, catchment planning, cross cultural training, tourism management and environmental assessment.

Non-Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

In the 1870's Samuel Hills acquired 650 acres (256 Hectares) in the area now known as Terrey Hills and with James Terrey became the first permanent settlers in this area. The first house in the area was constructed by Samuel Hill on what is now JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve. Around 1907 Samuel's eldest son, Joseph John Melbourne Hills, purchased land opposite their father's property and expanded an existing wildflower picking and distribution operation to commercial flower growing. The Hills family also operated a general store known as the Pioneer Store that traded on the same site on Mona Vale Road until the road was widened in 1982. The area, known as Duffys Forest, remained a small isolated community until the extension of the railway to Pymble in the 1930's. During this time an influx of immigrant market gardening contributed to the growth of the area and shaped it's present day semi-rural character. The area acquired its present name in 1932 following a request from the local community to name it after the original landowners.

Dedication of JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve for Recreation

The land, now known as JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve, was acquired by Council in lieu of unpaid rates. Until 1978, the site was used as a tip and land-fill site, known as the Terrey Hills Landfill Depot. Following rehabilitation of the site including capping, re-contouring and turfing, a reserve was established for public recreation in February 1988. Facilities were established for equestrian, field archery and BMX club members.

4.6 Recreation Values

Introduction

Table 4.3: Existing Community/ Recreational Facilities, Settings and Activities provides a summary of the range of recreational facilities and opportunities available. **Figure 4.3:** Recreation, Access and Circulation shows vehicular and pedestrian access, main entry points to the reserve and the location of recreational facilities. **Table 5.1:** Basis for Management provides an analysis of existing public access, recreational linkages and facilities. For further discussion refer to Appendix 1(b): *Community Issues Discussion Paper* C. Public Access and E. Existing Recreational Facilities and Amenities.



PHOTO 6: Equestrian use of JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and Adjoining Community Land.

Table 4.3 Existing community and recreational facilities, settings and activities

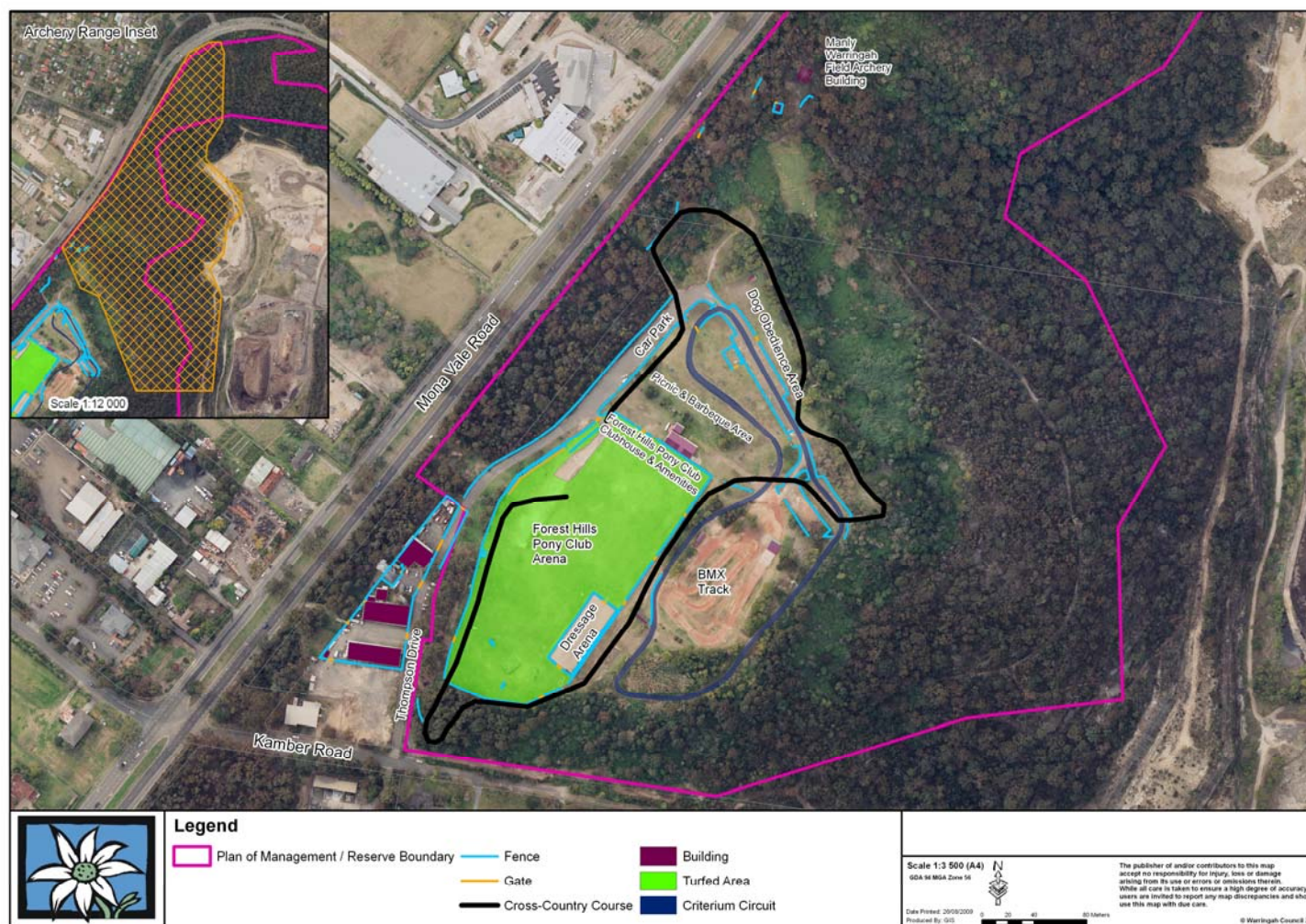
Facility/Setting	Activities
Equestrian Area and Cross-country Course: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - located on elevated flat grassed area (old Terrey Hills Landfill Depot). - Facilities constructed between 1993-97 - Facilities include fenced open area, sand arena, cross-country pony course (incl. jumps) and clubhouse/canteen and public amenities. - High scenic quality and outlook - Large unsealed carpark adjoins arena area (access off Kamber Road). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - venue for formal activities of Forest Hills Pony Club. - popular venue for informal week day equestrian activities. - hosts regional equestrian events - temporary helicopter landing, staging and victualling area for the Warringah Pittwater Emergency Control Centre during emergencies.
BMX track: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - located on lower arena area within criterium circuit (old land-fill site). - Track constructed in 1984 and reinstated in 1997 after maintenance lapsed in 1993. - Track consists of vertically exaggerated jumps and depressions, and super-elevated corners with compacted clay/gravel surface. - Large shipping container for storage is located adjacent to track. - Steel and colorbond shelter over starting gate area. - Landscape/visual quality around track is poor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - venue for activities of the Manly Warringah BMX Club - venue for regional BMX competitions - available for hire from Council for parties and similar events.
Criterium Circuit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - located adjacent to BMX track and pony arena (old land-fill site). - Circuit constructed in 1998. - Operated independent of BMX track - Sealed bitumen track over varying grades, straights and corners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - facility for 'fast cycling' - unauthorised use by motor vehicles, motorbikes
Field Archery Range: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - located in bushland setting adjacent to Mona Vale Road extending down valley to boundary with Kimbriki Recycling Centre. - Associated with reserve since 1983. - Facilities include clubhouse with toilets, storage areas, canteen/kitchen, outdoor seating and fireplaces in bush clearing. - Separate informal unsealed carpark with independent access to southbound lanes of Mona Vale Road. - Field range consists of bush tracks, shooting stations and filled hessian bag targets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - venue for activities of the Manly Warringah Field Archers (MWFA) - use of range is restricted to members - club activities of MWFA take place weekly on Wednesday afternoons and on the third Sunday of the month. - Also casual use of field archery range by members on daily basis

Facility/Setting	Activities
Dog Obedience Area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - located adjacent to Pony Club facilities and Criterium Circuit. - Level grassed area with scenic values. - Shipping container maintained for storage in scenic location. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No longer used by organised club.
Picnic/BBQ area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - located on flat grassed area adjacent to Criterium Circuit and Pony Club clubhouse. - Picnic tables and wood fuelled BBQs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - opportunities for picnicking and family gatherings - children's unstructured play - bushwalking or jogging rest point - walking a leashed dog/ no unleashed dogs - opportunities for recreation enhancement linked to bushwalking and casual pony/ horse riding activities.
Informal Recreation: The trails, tracks and grassed areas are also used for a variety of informal unorganised activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Picnicking - Bushwalking - Mountain biking



PHOTO 7: BMX track

Figure 4.3 Recreation, access and circulation



Recreation Needs

The Warringah Recreation Strategy Plan (December 2009) sets out a vision for recreation in Warringah:

A healthy and active Warringah community that has access to a wide range of appropriate, sustainable and quality recreational opportunities, both now and into the future.

To achieve the best possible recreational outcomes for the community a set of guiding principles have been developed by which Council should be working in the provision and development of recreational facilities, programs and services. All of these guiding principles should be considered in the management of JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve:

1. Being a leader in the planning, management and facilitation of recreational assets, services and programs for the community.
2. Recognising and continuing to support high levels of participation of all ages and abilities by providing accessible infrastructure, programs and services.
3. Working regionally with government and non-government organisations, creating ongoing structures, links and partnerships to increase participation.
4. Working with external organisations to improve and increase their capacity to provide appropriate and successful programs, assets and services for Warringah residents.
5. Developing and implementing administrative frameworks and policies that provide consistency and certainty for administrators and users and reflects Council's direction.
6. Communicating with residents about what is on offer and involving residents and stakeholders in the planning and development of their recreational environment.
7. Incorporating a 'healthy active' planning approach to all physical and urban development.
8. Assessing funding priorities against evidence based strategic directions, identified need and whole of life costing.
9. Basing asset provision and development on the principles of sharing, multi-use, fit for purpose, appropriate safety standards, full life costing and environmental, sustainable and flexible designs.
10. Considering the improvement, consolidation and / or usage of existing recreation areas and assets, before provision of new assets.
11. Balancing planning and management efforts to reflect current and future demand for sport and recreational activities.
12. Regularly evaluating and monitoring Council's performance (assessed against recognised and relevant benchmarks and levels of customer satisfaction) through the collection of relevant data.

13. Adopting a sustainable and environmentally responsible approach to recreation planning and development.

The Recreation Strategy indicated that:

- ☐ Warringah residents participate in sport and recreation activities at a level that is above the Sydney metropolitan and national average.
- ☐ Outdoor and natural areas in Warringah, including bushland, are a focus for recreational activity and receive a high level of use. There is evidence that high usage levels and some recreation activities are degrading natural environments and in some cases is blamed on the lack of appropriate infrastructure, management and maintenance of these areas.
- ☐ Increasing demand for access to Warringah's natural areas are expected to create a greater impact on natural areas and will require increased management.

In relation to specific activities catered for in JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve the Strategy has noted that:

- ☐ There has been anecdotal evidence that the number of people participating in mountain biking has and is increasing. At this stage Manly Dam is the only permissible area for mountain bikes in Warringah.
- ☐ There has been recent increased participation in BMX and other forms of off-road cycling among young people, although there are few facilities to cater for these sports.
- ☐ Poor satisfaction ratings were received for horse riding facilities in Warringah.

The Strategy recommends:

- ☐ Adopting a specific management model for major recreational facilities in natural areas, such as the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS), Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC), and the Visitor Impact Management (VIM) system.
- ☐ Undertake a mountain bike research paper reviewing the provision of facilities for off road cycling.

Where appropriate, this Plan aims to address recreational needs and specific shortfalls, as outlined in **Table 5.1: Basis for Management**.



PHOTO 8: Existing pony trail and part of cross-country course near Mona Vale Road, JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and Adjoining Community Land.

Role of JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and adjoining community land

Bushland reserves within the Warringah area form an extensive open space system which is characterised by a diverse range of recreational settings and opportunities. Recreational values are closely linked with environmental quality and significance of a place as well as the opportunities, activities and facilities available for public recreation and visitation.

The reserve's role is that of a significant regional asset in the Warringah open space system in terms of its community values as a recreational resource providing for sporting activities and its broader scenic, educational and environmental/ biodiversity values. The reserve's combination of natural bushland and cultural setting, its scenic opportunities combined with its specialised recreational facilities, are all considered to be important factors in determining the reserve's special character.

As Sydney continues to grow and the density of development increases, accordingly there will be an ever-increasing demand for easily accessible bushland recreational settings, particularly those areas with high scenic values and suitable recreational facilities and opportunities.

The existing level of usage and regional profile of the reserve's organised recreational facilities is high within and beyond the Warringah Council area. These facilities are not duplicated elsewhere in the Warringah LGA (BMX track and field archery area) and are limited in the Sydney Metropolitan area (equestrian facilities). The facilities are in keeping

with the character of the surrounding area and reflect its bushland and semi-rural character. As a result the organised recreational facilities perform a significant role in providing specialist recreational opportunities for the local community and for a broader metropolitan to a State catchment. The reserve plays host to State-level equestrian events such as the Australian Mounted Games Association (NSW) Championships, and Olympic BMX competitors train on the BMX track. The reserve is also a venue for special events, such as a fun run held in December 2008.



PHOTO 9: Field Archery (JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and Adjoining Community Land.).

Managing Recreational Values

The number of visitors, time available to participate in leisure activities, and an ever-increasing range of recreational pursuits will continue to impose pressures on the reserve's fragile natural environment and significant biodiversity values. In addition, increases in recreational use will likely lead to greater contact between users with the possibility of negative impacts such as perceived crowding, conflict between user groups over incompatible activities, dissatisfaction with experience and perceived resource impacts. These types of conflicts are already occurring within the reserve. Furthermore, these changes can lead to a continuing loss of experiential quality and eventual visitor/ user group displacement (Loomis and Graefe, 1992). Conflicts between recreational uses in the reserve are currently managed co-operatively by the user groups who arrange to hold club and other training and events on separate days and times.

Research has shown that visitor surveys which identify the level of satisfaction are not necessarily a reliable measure for determining social carrying capacity. Reserve development and introduction of facilities can easily change the type of user groups of a given area and hence alter recreation experiences and satisfaction. Creeping or incremental development of a recreational setting can easily lead to visitor displacement and recreational succession. The concerns over the introduction and future management of the criterium circuit have been discussed in Appendix 1(b): Community Issues Discussion Paper. An understanding of this process has important implications for the introduction of any further recreational opportunities and the management of existing recreational facilities.

All forms of outdoor recreation will inevitably lead to compaction and/ or erosion of soils, disturbance of vegetation communities and loss of wildlife habitat. These impacts exhibit relatively predictable patterns both in space and over time. Bio-physical research has consistently confirmed that the fragility of most natural environments is such that very little use causes substantial amounts of impact (ie. most negative environmental impacts are caused during the initial phase after opening an area to visitors).

The reserve's combination of steep topography and natural bushland has attracted use by mountain bike riders seeking this type of terrain and challenge. It is suspected that this activity may have a high impact considering the erodible soils in the area. The field archery also raises weed dispersal and impact issues, albeit more gradual and subtle, over a relatively large area of the reserve's natural bushland. It is important to control the spatial extent of recreational user groups and hence impact.

National Parks and Wildlife Service NSW have reported use of trails in neighbouring Garigal National Park by mountain bikers. There is a potential for JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve to provide a link to the Garigal National Park trails and act as a base point for mountain bikes in this area. Any such use would need to be managed taking into consideration other users and sustainable trail development.

It is essential that all these environmental and social impacts are managed on a sustainable basis in order to meet the future needs of the community. Objective limits need to be established on the **types** and **amounts** of change that are either desirable or acceptable for the reserve. Management strategies for recreational facilities and activities should therefore focus on the following:

- ☐ continue to maintain recreational activities within the most durable sites (ie. former land-fill/ heavily disturbed areas);
- ☐ maintain and promote the long term viability of the reserve as a limited resource base, yet multi-use venue;
- ☐ address overcrowding of recreational facilities, including safety and circulation;
- ☐ seek to remove incompatible recreational uses and activities (environmental and social);
- ☐ address uncontrolled activities and dispersal issues in fragile areas;
- ☐ rehabilitate transitional areas (between natural bushland/ former land-fill site);
- ☐ continue to rationalise and maintain existing pedestrian and pony trail circulation;
- ☐ consider the provision of off-road cycling facilities including trails and links as a means of managing user impact and connecting with neighbouring facilities;
- ☐ review visitor numbers and type of activities (eg. provision of appropriate facilities);
- ☐ address alienation of community land and dumping of garden refuse on public open space (road-side areas within endangered Duffys Forest community);
- ☐ improve low impact education (eg. interpretive facilities/ signage, brochures);
- ☐ site hardening/ shielding options need to address potential changes to visitor numbers/ user groups and the loss of natural values;
- ☐ establish closed sites for regeneration/ rehabilitation of bushland, particularly areas identified as containing threatened species.

In establishing limits of desirable or acceptable change, this Plan provides a framework for the reserve's future management.

4.7 Social Values

JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve is a venue for local people, and for people who enjoy using natural areas and participating in unique recreational activities to socialise and participate in their chosen activity.

The reserve is also a venue for emergency services to train or carry out emergency procedures.

4.8 Leases, licences and other estates

Current use agreements

One current lease agreement applies to the reserve. The agreement is between Warringah Council and the Commonwealth of Australia for the Australian Bureau of Meteorology weather station, located on Lot 201 DP 1044605 between the former dog obedience area and the Forest Hills Pony Club facilities. The area is secured with a 2.4 metre high chain-wire fence. The site was licensed for temporary use during the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000, however due to its monitoring capabilities of extreme weather conditions and events there was a more permanent need for this facility. The site is leased for a 10 year period commencing 1 January 2002 until 31 December 2011, with an option to renew for a period of 10 years until 31 December 2021. The maximum period of tenancy under this lease is 20 years. Permissible uses under the lease are installation, maintenance and usage of an all-weather station to obtain data necessary for the lessee's functions under the *Meteorology Act (Cth) 1955*. The lessee is responsible for maintenance of the facility.



PHOTO 10: Weather station (JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and Adjoining Community Land.).

This Plan of Management authorises continuation of the current lease to the Commonwealth of Australia, including options to renew the lease agreement. This Plan of Management authorises continuation of the current lease to the Commonwealth of Australia, including options to renew the lease agreement.

Use agreements with the formal user groups of the reserve (Forest Hills Pony Club, Manly Warringah BMX Club and Manly Warringah Field Archers) are not currently in place. It is the intention of this Plan of Management to authorise such agreements.

Refer to 5.0 Management Strategies: for further details and locations of all future leases, licences and use agreements within the reserve.

Community Land

A lease, licence or estate may be granted, in accordance with an express authorisation by this Plan of Management, providing the lease, license or estate is for a purpose prescribed in Section 46 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and is consistent with the core objectives for these categories. Council must not grant a lease, license or other estate for a period (including any period for which the lease could be renewed by the exercise of an option) exceeding 21 years.

A lease, licence or other estate may be granted only by tender in accordance with Section 46A of the Act and cannot exceed a term of 5 years (including any period for which the lease could be renewed by the exercise of an option), unless it satisfies the requirements as scheduled in Section 47, or is otherwise granted to a non-profit organisation.

Leases, licences and other estates complying with the 5 year term are subject to the requirements as scheduled in Section 47A of the Act. Leases, licenses and other estates must not be granted in respect of land categorised as a natural area, unless it is for a purpose prescribed in Section 47B of the Act.

4.9 Vision Statement for JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and adjoining community land

Warringah Council recognises the importance placed on its bushland and recreational settings by the community, and has identified the need for appropriate planning as a priority for Council (Living Warringah, 2005). In its Strategic Community Plan (2009), Council has established the following Vision Statement for the whole Warringah local government area:

“A vibrant community, improving our quality of life by living and working in balance with our special bush and beach environment”.

This section of the Plan of Management has identified the values, public purpose and role of JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and adjoining community land. A vision statement defines a guiding purpose for the reserve. It is a statement which describes the way the community wants to see values protected, managed and enhanced for enjoyment by people today and for future generations. The following statement provides a vision for the reserve

which will form the basis of management strategies as developed further in the next section of this Plan:

“To maintain and enhance the role of JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and adjoining community land as a significant natural asset in the Warringah open space system, ensuring protection and conservation of identified values through appropriate management, in a way which best meets the environmental, recreational, educational and social needs of the present community and future generations”.

Table 4.4 Basis for Management

Values	Issues/Threats
Natural / cultural setting	
<p>JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and adjoining community land is largely defined by its:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - natural setting of steep scarps and bushland. - located along a scenic rim adjoining Mona Vale Road - surrounded by largely contiguous bushland associated with Ku-ring-gai NP and Garigal NP. - Adjoins the semi rural suburb of Terrey Hills - Reserve consists of parcels of Community land owned in fee simple by Council - Recreational uses are largely concentrated within the south-western corner of the site (the old land-fill area). - Diverse range of vegetation communities and habitat - Presence of threatened vegetation communities and species scheduled under TSC Act (refer to Environmental biodiversity values). 	<p>The quality of bushland setting is affected by a range of factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - stormwater outlets along the ridgeline transporting nutrient rich run-off from semi-rural/urban development into reserve and impacting on fragile natural vegetation communities growing on Hawkesbury sandstone soils. Natural vegetation communities growing on these soils have a low resistance to impacts and similar low ability to recover. - previous clearing and land fill works in the south western corner of the site and at the former AGL compound have altered local drainage, hydrology and created a more simplified ecosystem within these areas. - the level of past disturbance has provided opportunities for extensive weed invasion within the margins surrounding these areas. - rugged terrain and inaccessibility of much of the site has tended to restrict the impact of recreational activities however site increasingly under threat by more 'extreme sports'. - incremental changes to natural values are likely to have long term negative impact on the natural setting (eg: loss of vegetation, habitat values and recreational experience). - seek to minimise negative recreational impacts (refer to Recreation, Access and Circulation values). - need for appropriate protection and management of natural values (refer to Recreation, Access and Circulation values). - enhance recreational opportunities appropriate to a natural setting. - need to protect and enhance views. - extensive weed invasion associated with the old land fill site has a negative impact on scenic values. - Kimbriki Recycling and Waste Disposal Centre is visually contained within the lower part of the site.

Values	Issues/Threats
Environmental / biodiversity	
<p>Biodiversity Management:</p> <p>Conservation significance of native flora and fauna:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many of the reserve's communities and component species have a limited distribution and are poorly represented in local reserves and national parks. - Occurrence of <i>Grevillea caleyi</i> and possibly <i>Microtis angusii</i> and other species scheduled under the TSC Act (1995). <i>G. caleyi</i> and <i>M. angusii</i> are subjects of approved and draft recovery plans. - Occurrence of Duffys Forest ecological community scheduled as endangered under the TSC Act (1995), now subject to a Draft DFEC Recovery Plan. - High national significance and high conservation priority for these communities and species. - Population of <i>Grevillea caleyi</i> exists on adjoining former Optus / Telstra land near Trig Station. Also habitat of other scheduled threatened flora species. - High possibility of other endangered species in reserve. - Vegetation communities provide habitat for threatened species of flora and fauna. - reserve is a reservoir of genetic biodiversity - reserve provides a contiguous bushland corridor between Garigal NP and Ku-ring-gai NP - mosaic of vegetation communities creates a diverse range of habitats for fauna - representative role in conserving regional biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - data gaps exist in the measurement of biophysical changes - need for detailed data on appropriate fire regimes within the reserve - no detailed field survey/trapping data to determine faunal significance - occurrence of Duffys Forest community restricted to discontinuous narrow strip of vegetation adjoining Mona Vale Road. - <i>Grevillea caleyi</i> is very restricted within this Duffys Forest community - Duffys Forest west of archery carpark and adjacent to Mona Vale Road has been modified with a low to medium level of weed invasion. - continuing process of ecosystem fragmentation and simplification due to increasing human impacts within reserve and road edges. - shape of reserve forms a lineal corridor along the escarpment with a high vulnerability to further disturbance and modification over time. - high level of disturbance along most edges (including Kimbriki Centre). - need to address threats and management of endangered communities - Optus/Telstra site (Trig Station) in good condition but vulnerable to ongoing damage by maintenance vehicles and dumping. Need to investigate options to improve protection of threatened species. - need to manage feral animal populations in accordance with Warringah-wide priorities for feral animal control. - need to prepare a Reserve Action Plan (RAP) addressing biodiversity management, catchment management, bush regeneration/rehabilitation, fire management, and visitor and site management.

Values	Issues/Threats
Catchment Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - water quality/ local catchment management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reserve is located in the upper reaches of the relatively undisturbed bushland catchment of Deep Creek - old land fill site has altered the hydrology in this local area and may be contributing to high nutrient loadings, poor water quality and weed invasion. Similar though smaller scale impacts at former AGL compound - continuing erosional damage along upper creek lines/drainage lines - stormwater lines draining twithin the site are contributing to weed invasion within the reserve and causing localised wet areas in bushland for example drainage from Emergency Control Centre vehicle compound which is degrading adjoining threatened species habitat
Bushfire Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - public safety / bush fire risk management - habitat protection and enhancement - conservation and protection of threatened species 	<p>Legislative requirements and priorities of the <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> to ensure the protection of life and property and the environment. Bushfire management issues to be addressed are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - best practice environmental assessment is undertaken during planning and approval processes. - need to ensure total compliance with the Rural Fires Act and Bush Fire Risk Management Plan - need to collect and update data to provide accurate detail for future updates of the Fire Regime Management Plan for the Reserve - opportunities to integrate environmental and biodiversity management programmes with the objectives of fire management policy - bushfire hazard reduction should ensure that sufficient bushland habitat remains for the reserve's biota and that threatened habitat benefits from the burn - continue to implement community education programs - need to make adequate provision for emergency vehicle access/egress and parking for Emergency Control Centre vehicles - all threatened species and habitat should be afforded appropriate protection from any future proposals for vehicular access or widening of fire trails - need for use of equestrian area and open grassed areas during emergencies, operational and training purposes.
Bush regeneration/rehabilitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft and adopted Recovery Plans for <i>Grevillea caleyi</i>, <i>Duffys Forest Ecological Community</i> and <i>Microtis angusii</i> in Duffy's Forest strips along Mona Vale Road. - Although some areas and drainage lines are highly compromised large core areas of natural vegetation remain in very good to excellent condition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Grevillea caleyi</i> and Duffys Forest ecological community habitat under Council's bush regeneration program and in accordance with adopted and draft Recovery Plans. - need for appropriate ecological fire management regime - current rehabilitation work being undertaken along main car park embankment and area south east of field archery car park - user groups have highlighted difficulties in managing weeds

Values	Issues/Threats
Bush regeneration/ rehabilitation (cont.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - continuing management issues within highly disturbed margins of old land fill site particularly near the main car park, road side areas, upper archery range, the BMX criterium circuit and adjoining embankments. - extensive mountain bike multiple tracking on escarpment near BMX track provides significant opportunities for further weed invasion. - Reserve Action Plan needs to address on going nutrient loadings from drainage lines, uncontrolled points of access from car parks and road edges, rubbish/garden refuse dumping, clearing and inappropriate recreational activities. Plan can also define priorities for future contract or volunteer bush regeneration programs, - disturbed vegetation communities have simplified ecosystems which have low durability and will continue to be infested by weeds. - need for integrated approach to bush regeneration /bush rehabilitation - long term management commitment needed to ensure protection and sustainability of the ecosystem - future bush regeneration programs need to establish a clear time frame for recovery and sustainability based on potential funding. - facilitate management of bushland in accordance with this Plan and other relevant documents. - need for increased community awareness of regeneration projects through interpretive signage.
Heritage	
Indigenous Heritage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - expansive panoramic views, large sandstone outcrops and recorded sites within the area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - no confirmed indigenous sites in the Reserve however a number of recorded sites within the immediate area - undertake investigation as a priority
Natural Heritage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - endangered vegetation communities and species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - opportunities for further detailed investigation and mapping - need for improved protection and conservation

Values				Issues/Threats
Access, recreation and circulation				
Equestrian Area/ Pony Club facilities:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - has a large number of regular formal and casual users - maintained by the Forest Hills Pony Club (largest pony club membership in NSW) - facilities are highly valued by local residents and regional visitors - facilities include clubhouse, equestrian area, sand arena and purpose-built cross country course - equestrian facilities are linked to residential area of Terrey Hills via pony trail and underpass 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure the size, condition and function of the Pony Club clubhouse and amenities building meets the needs of the pony club and other reserve users - operation of the Pony Club and its facilities are being affected by other incompatible uses/overcrowding of recreational facilities (ie: Criterium Circuit bike-riders), cross country course divided by bike circuit - use of facilities on weekends is currently alternated between all user groups - poor surface drainage adjacent to clubhouse and general maintenance - high level of weekday access to facilities via pony trail - need to address quality of cross country course, surfaces and layout.
BMX Track:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - popular local and regional recreational facility with a high level of growth - maintenance of track by MWBMXC - venue for high standard BMX competition - configuration of track is suitable for beginners and experts - unique facility in northern metropolitan arena - BMX track is available for casual hire 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - use of the track on weekday evenings and weekends is co-ordinated with the use of equestrian facilities - address the quality and safety of the track and associated facilities - make changes to the layout of the track within the track 'envelope' - visual quality and amenity need to be addressed - needs a more integrated approach to facility development, weed management and bushland rehabilitation - Current storage facility is visually obtrusive - Continuing concerns with overcrowding of facilities - No signage exists informing the public of the risks in using the track
Cycling Criterium Circuit:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - purpose-built venue for 'fast cycling' 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - criterium circuit is currently under-utilised due to concerns over safety and performance standards - further modifications and upgrading of facility required. However user groups highlight overcrowding issues and incompatible simultaneous use of facilities, particularly in relation to equestrian events and impact on cross country course - lack of signage identifying purpose of circuit and direction of use - blind corners, undulations of circuit, and clay deposited on the circuit after wet weather exacerbate public safety problems - no physical barrier preventing collision between high speed cyclists on the circuit and other reserve users.

Values	Issues/Threats
Field Archery Range: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - unique facility in the northern metropolitan area - large membership (approximately 100) includes juniors and seniors competing at State, national and International levels - maintenance of range by MWFA - MWFA maintains a clubhouse and outdoor picnic/BBQ area for members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - public access nominally restricted in this part of the reserve to use by members of MWFA through ad hoc signage - potential for damage to threatened species by further track clearing/encroachment - MWFA members meet weekly on Wednesday afternoons and on the third Sunday of the month - casual use of the range by members on a daily basis - informal/unauthorised use raises serious public safety issues - need to address the potential for user group conflicts, clear definition of the range. Risk management issues and existing signage - general maintenance and weed management of area - clearing of multiple tracks increases the threat of weed encroachment into fragile bushland vegetation communities - car park off Mona Vale Road is located within the endangered Duffy's Forest community. Caley's Grevillea occurs in this location. Need for car park relocation - extent of range needs to be clearly defined within designated limits - no formal use agreement or reserve booking system is in place with conditions to ensure the land is managed to minimise environmental risk and to address safety concerns, including the built structures on the site.
Former Dog Obedience Area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - high scenic values in this open area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - unauthorised vehicle access has caused damage to the grass surface.
Bush tracks/horse trails: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - main ridge top trail links residential area of Terrey Hills to reserve via Mona Vale Road underpass. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - existing ridge top trail located within endangered Duffy's Forest vegetation community - intentional and non-intentional damage to threatened species and and non threatened vegetation along track edges - inadequate protection of threatened species and habitat adjacent to trails - need to contain activities within Reserve to prevent further disturbance and weed encroachment (ie: no further dispersal of activities) - need to investigate opportunities for rider awareness environmental programs - address illegal vehicular access to ridge top fire trail - need to rationalise multiple tracks - address potential conflict between user groups/visitor safety on tracks particularly in relation to field archery range in dense bushland.

Values	Issues/Threats
Bush tracks/horse trails (cont.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - low-key bush tracks and fire trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - need for ecological assessment to provide best practice management standards for maintenance works on horse trails in bushland areas. - need to maintain horse trails to a safe standard. - seek to improve regulation of unauthorised uses such as off-road motor bikes and mountain bikes - address unauthorised pedestrian access to Kimbriki Recycling Centre via old vehicular access track at end of Kamber Road. - address level of identification, entry and directional signage in the Reserve (eg. informal tracks are not readily identifiable to public)
Informal Recreation Informal recreational values closely linked to environmental quality (refer to natural/cultural setting): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - predominantly natural bushland environment - natural setting with sandstone outcrops and overhangs - high scenic values/ steep topography - conservation and protection of threatened species - opportunities for appropriate passive recreational activities within this bushland setting (ie. bushwalking, picnics, environmental study) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reserve's values should provide a guide to appropriate recreational uses (ie. natural bushland setting should have appropriate protection and management) - review opportunities for improving visitor and site management - low impact education (eg. improved interpretive signage) - avoid dispersal options within fragile areas - site hardening/shielding options need to address potential changes to visitor numbers/user groups and loss of natural values (ie. Identify potential for recreational succession) - options for temporary site closures for periodic recovery - enhance opportunities for visitor/wildlife interaction where appropriate, ensuring protection of nesting/breeding area - need to restrict visitor impacts in fragile habitat (eg. steep scarps, Duffy's Forest community/<i>Grevillea caleyi</i> habitat adjacent to ridge top trail) - need for rehabilitation of disturbed margins and bushland interface providing enhanced recreational sites for intensification of activities - need to manage mountain bike use of the area and potential conflicts with other users.
Main vehicular access, circulation and security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - main entry to reserve via Thompson Drive off Kamber Road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - address emergency access and parking issues on Thompson Drive - poorly signposted entry point and identification/directional signage - sight distances are compromised by over-hanging vegetation at intersection of Thompson Lane and Kamber Road - address security issue relating to the main gates and unauthorised vehicular access into the Reserve (refer to criterium circuit) - Reserve's remote location makes it vulnerable to vandalism and dumping - address poor visual quality of expansive unsealed car park - dumping and stock piling of materials needs to be addressed - need for improved emergency vehicle circulation/access - accommodate parking for field archers and a turning circle large enough for emergency vehicles and vehicles towing horse floats.

Values	Issues/Threats
Former AGL compound <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - former works depot/fenced compound off Mona vale Road: now an approved Dufftys Forest ecological community soil seedbank translocation site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - address issues related to public access on community land and current rehabilitation of this degraded land fill site and works depot - re-categorise former AGL site from General Community Use to Natural Area – Bushland. <p>Now an approved recipient site for DFEC topsoil translocation under the SEPP (Infrastructure) 2007. Need to manage this area in accordance with approved Soil Translocation Plan.</p>
Automatic weather station <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - location for current weather monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - security fencing around weather station adjacent to dog obedience area - under current lease arrangement with Bureau of Meteorology - possibility that facility may need a permanent lease arrangement

5.0 Management Strategies

5.1 Objectives

The Management Strategies section has the following objectives to:

- ❑ formulate management strategies (ie. desired outcomes);
- ❑ ensure consistency with core objectives for community land categories;
- ❑ develop means of achievement (ie. management actions);
- ❑ provide means of assessment (of the actions);
- ❑ assign priorities for each of the performance targets; and
- ❑ develop a masterplan for implementation.

5.2 Desired outcomes

This section of the Plan provides the framework for protection and management of values identified in 4.0 Basis for Management. The vision statement (refer to 4.9 Vision Statement) provides the basis for developing “guiding principles” or “desired outcomes” for the management of JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and adjoining community land. These are summarised as follows to:

- ❑ establish an appropriate land management framework for this community land;
- ❑ establish guidelines for assessing development proposals and impacts in compliance with requirements for community land and to ensure consistency with the relevant Acts;
- ❑ establish guidelines for assessing leases, licences and other estates and to ensure consistency with the relevant Acts;
- ❑ protect the reserve’s natural/ cultural setting, its scenic, environmental and recreational values and to promote ecologically sustainable management practices;
- ❑ investigate any potential heritage sites within the reserve and ensure protection of all heritage values; and
- ❑ maintain and enhance the quality of recreational facilities and amenities.

5.3 Core objectives

Introduction

Desired Outcomes need to be consistent with the core objectives relating to community land categories. The parcels of community land within JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and adjoining community land are assigned the following categories as identified in section 2.0 Land Description and Planning (refer to **Figure 5.1: Community Land Categories**).

1. **Natural Area: bushland**
2. **Sportsground**
3. **General Community Use**

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and *Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998*, each category and sub-category are provided with a set of core objectives as follows:

Natural Areas

“The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a **natural area** are:

- a) to conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised as a natural area, and;
- b) to maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting, and;
- c) to provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land, and;
- d) to provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and;
- e) to assist in and facilitate the implementation of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a Recovery Plan, Priority Action Statement or Threat Abatement Plan prepared under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* or the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*, and in compliance with the requirements of the *Local Government (Community Land Management) Act 1993* Section 36A Community Land comprising the habitat of endangered species and 36B Community land comprising the habitat of threatened species”.

Natural Area: Bushland

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

- a) to ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, and flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land, and;

- b) to protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and;
- c) to promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and;
- d) to restore degraded bushland, and;
- e) to protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and;
- f) to retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and;
- g) to protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface”.

Sportsground

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

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

General Community Use

“The core objectives for management of community land categorised as **general community use** are:

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

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

5.4 Permitted future uses and developments

Introduction

It is not possible to forecast every use and development that may be desirable in JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve in the future. New uses and developments may be proposed as funding or another opportunity becomes available, or to address a need or management issue that may not be evident when preparing this Plan of Management.

This Plan of Management expressly authorises certain uses and developments in respect of JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve. It also seeks to achieve the best practice management of the Reserve in a manner which meets changing community needs.

Guidelines for assessing the appropriateness of new uses and developments proposed to be undertaken in JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve are outlined below.

Relevant stakeholders will be consulted before any significant change of use or development of the Reserve as per the Community Consultation Strategy STR-PL 520.

Permissible uses

Uses that are permitted in JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve are those uses that are consistent with all of the following (as applicable):

- ☐ The objectives of this Plan of Management.
- ☐ The objectives and principles for management of the Reserve.
- ☐ Relevant legislation, particularly the *Local Government Act 1993*, and the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.
- ☐ The categorisation of community land.
- ☐ Zoning of the land and any relevant provision of the Warringah Local Environmental Plan.
- ☐ Values of the Reserve.
- ☐ any future Council documents, strategies and programs which may be developed relating to the management, development and maintenance of the Reserve are to be considered when assessing use and development possibilities.

Under the current Warringah Local Environmental Plan 2000, JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve is in the Mona Vale Road East locality. In this locality the natural landscape, including landforms and vegetation, will be protected and, where possible, enhanced. Activities and developments authorised in an adopted Plan of Management are permissible on land zoned for Public Recreation.

The Draft Warringah Local Environmental Plan 2009 is currently on public exhibition. If the draft LEP is adopted by Council and gazetted by the NSW Government, the objectives of the RE1 Public Recreation zone that is proposed to apply to the reserve are to:

- ☐ enable land to be used for public open space or recreational purposes.
- ☐ provide a range of recreational settings and activities and compatible land uses.
- ☐ protect and enhance the natural environment for recreational purposes.
- ☐ protect and enhance areas of ecological, scientific, cultural or aesthetic values.
- ☐ maintain and provide visual open space links to a diversity of public and private spaces and facilities as an integral part of the open space system.

Table 5.1 sets out permissible developments in the proposed RE1 zone.

Table 5.1 Permissible developments in the proposed RE1 Public Recreation zone

Permitted without consent	Permitted with consent	Prohibited
Exempt development	Child care centres Community facilities Demolition Environmental facilities Environmental protection works Information and education facilities Kiosks Recreation areas Recreation facilities (indoor) Recreation facilities (outdoor) Roads Utility installations Works or activities identified in a Plan of Management adopted under the <i>Crown Lands Act 1989</i> .	Any other development not otherwise specified.

Source: Draft Warringah Local Environmental Plan 2009

Examples of uses that may be permissible in JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve are listed in Table 5.2.

Table 5.2 Examples of permissible use and development of JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve

Examples of uses that may be permissible on the land.	Examples of further development of the land that may be permissible on the land.
<p>Archery</p> <p>Camping (short-stay, less than 3 days)</p> <p>Children's play</p> <p>Community activities</p> <p>Community events</p> <p>Cultural activities</p> <p>Cycling</p> <p>Education and training activities</p> <p>Equestrian activities</p> <p>Emergency evacuation / welfare centre</p> <p>Fire management</p> <p>Food and beverage provision</p> <p>Functions (public and private) / social activities</p> <p>Fundraising activities (not-for-profit)</p> <p>Informal leisure / recreation</p> <p>Landing of helicopters (emergencies)</p> <p>Lighting of buildings</p> <p>Markets</p> <p>Photography / filming</p> <p>Recreational activities</p> <p>Recreational equipment hire</p> <p>Scientific research / data collection</p> <p>Sporting activities (outdoor)</p> <p>Training for and responding to emergency situations</p> <p>Vehicle parking</p>	<p>Access for people with disabilities</p> <p>Advertising (temporary)</p> <p>Amenities (toilets, change rooms etc.)</p> <p>Bicycle storage facilities</p> <p>Children's play equipment</p> <p>Complying development</p> <p>Decking</p> <p>Drainage</p> <p>Earthworks</p> <p>Environmental facilities / protection works</p> <p>Exempt development</p> <p>Food and beverage outlet (permanent, temporary, mobile) e.g. kiosks, cafes</p> <p>Hardstand for event structures</p> <p>Information, education facilities</p> <p>Landscaping / gardening</p> <p>Meteorological equipment</p> <p>Outdoor furniture (e.g. picnic shelters, barbecues)</p> <p>Pathways</p> <p>Recreation and sporting facilities / areas</p> <p>Sand arena within the equestrian area</p> <p>Sculpture / public art</p> <p>Shade structures</p> <p>Signage</p> <p>Solar panels and other energy saving devices</p> <p>Storage</p> <p>Temporary structures (tents, marquees, booths, mobile structures)</p> <p>Utility installations</p> <p>Vehicle access and parking areas</p> <p>Water, sewerage and stormwater infrastructure</p> <p>Water storage structures</p>

Council is able to grant a temporary licence for short stay camping for less than 3 days with conditions as part of a reserve booking. Short stay camping is a permissible activity in the Plan of Management for the purpose of supporting equestrian or other events held in the reserve.

However short stay camping should not diminish the availability and enjoyment of the reserve for other reserve users. Conditions on camping may include a maximum number of people, camping being restricted to grassed areas, and the hirer being responsible for provision of adequate toilets and waste disposal.

Authorised developments

Authorisation of development in this Plan of Management endorses the development for the purpose of Division 2 of Part 2 of Chapter 6 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Section 47E of the Local Government Act has specific requirements for permissible development on community land as follows:

- 1) "No power of a council under an environmental planning instrument to consent to the carrying out of development on community land may be delegated by the council, if:
 - a) the development involves the erection, rebuilding or replacement of a building (other than a building exempted by or under subsection (2) from the operation of this paragraph), or;
 - b) the development involves extensions to an existing building that would occupy more than 10 per cent of its existing area, or;
 - c) the development involves intensification, by more than 10 per cent, of the use of the land or any building on the land, or;
 - d) the location of the development has not been specified in the plan of management applying to the land and the development is likely, in the opinion of the council, to be unduly intrusive to nearby residents.
- 2) The following buildings are exempt from the operation of subsection (1) (a):
 - a) toilet facilities;
 - b) small refreshment kiosks;
 - c) shelters for persons from the sun and weather;
 - d) picnic facilities;
 - e) structures (other than accommodations for spectators) required for the playing of games or sports;
 - f) playground structures;
 - g) work sheds or storage sheds;
 - h) buildings of a kind prescribed by the regulations.

- 3) An existing area referred to in subsection (1) (b) does not include the area of any awning, balcony, verandah or other thing that extends beyond the main structural outline of the building.
- 4) A delegation granted before the commencement of this section, to the extent that the delegation could not have granted if this section had been in force at the time it was granted, is void".

This Plan of Management, however, cannot and does not grant consent or any other authorisation under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* or other legislation. Any developments that are authorised in this Plan of Management will nevertheless need to be assessed in accordance with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and other relevant legislation before they are undertaken.

Examples of new developments that may potentially be permissible in JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve were listed in Table 5.1. Each development proposed will need to be considered on its own merits.

Consultation will be carried out as per the Community Consultation Policy regarding any significant changes to uses or developments in JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve.

Building guidelines

Future buildings in the reserve will be generally designed and constructed according to relevant Development Control Plans. Buildings in the Reserve will be managed to:

- ☐ meet the needs of potential users.
- ☐ allow multi-purpose use.
- ☐ minimise disturbance to vegetation and landforms.
- ☐ minimise visual impact of scale, bulk, colour and materials.
- ☐ blend with the colours and textures of the natural landscape.
- ☐ use sustainable materials.
- ☐ meet Building Code of Australia requirements.
- ☐ permit sharing of use of the building by multiple user groups.

This Plan of Management expressly authorises additions and alterations to the existing Pony Club building to include:

- ☐ an extensive undercover area to enable club training activities when needed or in wet weather.
- ☐ elevated viewing capacity for club and championship events.
- ☐ increased capacity to hold pony club social events and perform administrative activities at the pony club grounds.
- ☐ secure and expanded storage facilities for club equipment.

- ☐ expansion of the cramped canteen facilities.
- ☐ improved toilet facilities
- ☐ new shower facilities.
- ☐ improved club office space.
- ☐ improved security.
- ☐ sustainable initiatives such as water tanks and composting toilets.
- ☐ water catchment and retention (guttering and water tanks).

5.5 Leases, licences and other estates

What are leases and licences?

Leases and licences are a method of formalising the tenure of community land and related facilities. Leases or licences can be held by entities such as sporting or community groups, schools, commercial organisations, or individuals providing facilities and / or services for the public.

A lease is generally provided where exclusive use of all or part of an area is required due to the scale of investment, security measures or the relationship between the activity on the land and the activity of the controller of the land (eg, football stadium and racecourse) or would be desirable in the interest of the management of the area (Land Management Manual, *Local Government Act 1993*).

Licences are short term occupation or control of all or part of an area. A number of licences can apply to the same site at the same time provided there is no conflict of interest (Land Management Manual, *Local Government Act 1993*).

Council supports a multi user approach to use of community assets and prefers the use of licences rather than leases.

In addition to the general requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* Council has the following guidelines:

- ☐ All licences for commercial activities are to be in keeping with the zoning and categorisation of the land, must not unreasonably alienate the land, have a component of community benefit and/or demonstrate a clear nexus between the activity and the reserves.
- ☐ Council policy supports a multi-user approach to community assets and prefers the use of licences and user agreements (typically a seasonal licence) that allow for a broad range of uses.
- ☐ All licences or permits must comply with all relevant Council policies.
- ☐ All licenses of facilities/areas covered by this Plan should encourage broad community use and access to facilities/areas where possible at all reasonable times.

The following section provides information regarding existing leases and licences, restrictions to commercial uses and express authorisation of leases, licences and other estates that are considered appropriate for land covered by this Plan of Management.

Existing leases and licences

There is one current lease agreement applying to the reserve. The lease agreement is between Warringah Council and the Commonwealth of Australia for the Australian Bureau of Meteorology weather station. The site is leased for a 10 year period commencing 1 January 2002 until 31 December 2011, with an option to renew for a period of 10 years until 31 December 2021. The maximum period of tenancy under this lease is 20 years. Permissible uses under the lease are installation, maintenance and usage of an all-weather station to obtain data necessary for the lessee's functions under the *Meteorology Act (Cth) 1955*. The lessee is responsible for maintenance of the facility.

This Plan of Management expressly authorises this lease agreement until the end of its current term on 31 December 2011 with an option to renew for a period of 10 years until 31 December 2021.

Authorisation of future leases, licences and other estates

Some user groups occupy land in JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve under the terms of an expired lease or licence, or according to an agreement with Warringah Council. This Plan of Management expressly authorises Warringah Council to enter into an appropriate formal agreement (lease, licence or other agreement) to use land and facilities in JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve in circumstances where a formal user agreement is not in place.

Council policy supports a multi-user approach to community assets and prefers the use of licences and user agreements (typically a seasonal licence) that allow for a broad range of uses. The appropriate agreement, and the specific conditions of such agreement, will be negotiated by Council's property section using the issues addressed below. All relevant Council plans and policies will be taken into consideration when negotiating the agreement.

Future leases, licences and other estates for use of JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve are expressly authorised if they also meet the guidelines outlined below.

Table 5.3 Authorisation of leases and licences or other estates for JJ Melbourne Hills Reserve

Authorised leases, licences or other estates	Additional conditions of leases, licences or other estates
<p>Authorisation relates to use of buildings, facilities and land within the boundaries of JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve.</p> <p>Uses must be consistent with the categorisation of community land.</p> <p>Authorised purposes on land categorised as Natural Area – Bushland are those that are consistent with the Threatened Bushland Reserves (Duffys Forest Ecological Community North) Plan of Management and Urban Bushland Reserves Plan of Management.</p> <p>Authorised purposes on land categorised as Sportsground are those that are consistent with the Sportsgrounds Plan of Management (2007).</p> <p>Authorised purposes on land categorised as General Community Use are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Current purpose(s). – Community purposes and developments. – Recreational purposes and developments. – Educational purposes and developments. – Social purposes and developments. – Cultural purposes and developments. – Ancillary purposes and developments. – Specific activities listed in Table 5.1. 	<p>The agreement must be in accordance with the Local Government Act.</p> <p>Council policies, strategies and guidelines relating to JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve should be considered.</p> <p>Proposed activities must consider existing agreements with other users.</p>

Legislative requirements for leases and licences under the *Local Government Act 1993* are outlined in **Appendix C**.

Leasing and licensing of JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve will be in accordance with the objectives and principles of Council's Strategic Community Plan.

All proposed activities under lease or licence would be subject to Council's conditions, approval processes and booking fees.

Lease, licence or other agreements should address:

- ☐ Lease / licence area.
- ☐ Lease / licence term.
- ☐ Permissible uses.
- ☐ Access by other users.
- ☐ Hiring to third parties.
- ☐ Recovery of outgoings.
- ☐ Fees and rent reviews.

- ☐ Ownership of improvements.
- ☐ Responsibility for maintenance.
- ☐ Communication between Council and the lessee / licensee.
- ☐ Reporting requirements (use by other groups, insurance, building safety inspections, provision of usage data).
- ☐ Termination of the agreement.

Responsibilities of the lessee / licensee should include:

- ☐ Using premises only for authorised uses.
- ☐ Not altering, transferring or sub-letting without Council consent.
- ☐ Maintaining the facility to a standard acceptable to Council.
- ☐ Taking out insurance and producing evidence of currency.
- ☐ Reporting to Council (as outlined in the agreement).

Exclusive use of land and facilities in JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve is discouraged, but will be considered in limited circumstances, including if:

- ☐ Only some area within a building or the land is required exclusively
- ☐ It will not unduly impact on other users
- ☐ It will not unduly impact on other activities
- ☐ land is still accessible for use by others
- ☐ A strong rationale can be provided that justifies exclusive use.

Specific requirements in relation to community land categorised as a natural area, under section 47B of the Local Government Act, are scheduled as follows:

- 1) "A lease, licence or other estate must not be granted, in respect of community land categorised as a natural area:
 - a) to authorise the erection or use of a building or structure that is not a building or structure of a kind prescribed by this section of the regulations, or;
 - b) to authorise the erection or use of a building or structure that is not for a purpose prescribed by this section or the regulations.
- 2) A lease, licence or instrument granting any other estate is void to the extent that its provisions are inconsistent with this section.
- 3) In this section, erection of a building or structure includes rebuilding or replacement of a building or structure.
- 4) The following buildings and structures are prescribed for the purposes of subsection (1) (a):
 - a) walkways;
 - b) pathways;
 - c) bridges;
 - d) causeways;
 - e) observation platforms;

- f) signs.
- 5) The following purposes are prescribed for the purposes of subsection (1) (b):
- a) information kiosks;
 - b) refreshments kiosks (but not restaurants);
 - c) work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land;
 - d) toilets or rest rooms”.

For further details, refer to items C1-C3 in the following Table: Management Strategies.

5.6 Action Plan

An Action Plan defines the “means of achievement” (Management Actions) in response to desired outcomes and core objectives (refer to the following Management Strategies tables). The “means of assessment” provide a system of checks and balances to assess actions and performance. Priorities are assigned according to the specific action’s relative importance.

5.7 Masterplan

Refer to the Executive Summary for the masterplan and specific actions.

Table 5.4 Management Strategies

Performance Target (strategies)	Item	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
<p>Desired Outcome: To establish an appropriate land management framework for this community land</p> <p>Core Objective: Management of community land categorised as Natural Area: Bushland (36J)</p> <p>a) to ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land,</p> <p>b) to protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land,</p> <p>c) to promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed at minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion.</p> <p>d) To restore degraded bushland,</p> <p>e) To protect existing land forms such as natural drainage lines, water courses and foreshores,</p> <p>f) To retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and;</p> <p>g) To protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.</p> <p>Core Objective: Management of Community Land categorised as a sportsground (36F)</p> <p>a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and</p> <p>b) to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.</p> <p>Core Objective: Management of Community Land categorised as general community use (36I)</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>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>				
- ensure that all identified values are given adequate protection and have consistent land management objectives	A1	Ensure consistency in land management objectives over all land parcels including in-situ conservation and management of threatened species and ecological communities and future rehabilitation of former land-fill sites and depots.	Broader recognition and protection of ecological and biodiversity values in this natural area.	High ongoing
- protect the reserve's outstanding scenic and environmental values.	A2	Ensure appropriate protection, management and rehabilitation of scenic vistas, natural bushland and faunal corridors.	Reserve's natural setting and values afforded appropriate protection and management consistent with this plan.	High ongoing
- manage recreational values and impacts on the natural/cultural setting.	A3	Ensure recreational activities and intensity of uses are consistent with the protection of reserve's identified values and public safety. Implement appropriate management and control measures to restrict any incompatible recreational uses and activities.	All incompatible recreational activities and uses addressed in accordance with this Plan.	High ongoing
- address land management and conservation priorities for threatened species on adjoining lands.	A4	Investigate future options for acquisition of portion of Telstra/Optus telecommunications site at the Trig Station (Tumbledown Dick Hill) to enhance protection of contiguous remnant bushland and significant habitat of threatened species and ecological communities.	Subject land provided appropriate conservation status under the land management objectives of this Plan.	High ongoing

Management Strategies (continued)

Performance Target (strategies)	Item	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
Desired Outcome: To establish an appropriate land management framework for this community land Core Objective: Management of community land categorised as Natural Area: bushland (36J), Sportsground (36F) and General Community Use (36I)				
- develop an appropriate strategic response to encroachments and alienation of community land.	A5	Develop an appropriate strategic framework to address and prioritise actions relating to inappropriate uses and activities, unauthorised clearing, dumping of refuse and encroachments on community land. Public comment should be sought in its development.	Strategic framework developed and implemented.	High ongoing
Desired Outcome: To establish guidelines for assessing development proposals and impacts in compliance with requirements for community land and to ensure consistency with the relevant Acts a) development must be in accordance with the Local Government Act s. 47E sub-sections (1) (a)-(d), (3) and (4) and listed exemptions (2) (a)-(h); and b) the granting of a lease, licence, estate or erection of a building or structure must be consistent with the core objectives for the category of land, and; a lease, licence, estate or authorisation for erection of a building or a structure must not be granted in an area categorised as a natural area except for the prescribed purposes as scheduled in this Plan in accordance with the Local Government Act s. 47B sub-sections (4) (a)-(f) and (5) (a)-(c).				
- ensure through community consultation in any development proposals. - protect reserve's values from inappropriate development. - protect reserve's values from unauthorised uses and activities - implement actions which will restrict incremental impacts	B1	Continue to promote an open, community based consultative process with all development proposals in this reserve.	- level of community consultation used in any new development within reserve.	ongoing
	B2	Ensure consistency with the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> and other relevant Acts including core objectives for community land, Council's adopted LEP, Council policy and all other relevant legislation.	- number and % of changes to area not consistent with relevant legislation and policy.	ongoing
	B3	Development proposals within the reserve must address the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - environmental sustainability and protection of identified values - consistent with character and scale of existing facilities and intensity of use - adequately provide for public access, equity and broad community use - ensure future permitted uses, scale and intensity are consistent with reserve's existing natural, environmental and scenic values - ensure that open space is not alienated or fragmented by development - maintain amenity and public safety in relation to noise emissions and pollutants, building surface glare and reflection - maintain and enhance public safety and security - minimise traffic hazards and pedestrian conflict in relation to vehicular access, car parking, service and delivery areas - ensure appropriate indigenous planting/screening in accordance with site specific environmental constraints 	- number and % of proposed developments that address and adhere to development guidelines - measure trends over time	ongoing

Management Strategies (continued)

Performance Target (strategies)	Item	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
Desired Outcome: To establish guidelines for assessing development proposals and impacts in compliance with requirements for community land and to ensure consistency with the relevant Acts (continued)				
- see previous page	B4	Ensure appropriate environmental assessment is undertaken under the EPA Act and TSC Act to assess the impact of proposed development and activities on bushland.	- number of development applications	ongoing
	B5	Development proposals within the reserve are not permissible without appropriate environmental assessment if they may: - directly or indirectly threaten identified values of the reserve. - adversely impact on any threatened species and/or endangered communities as scheduled under the TSC Act (1995), and/or may be the subject of a Recovery Plan (eg. as for <i>Grevillea caleyi</i> and <i>Microtis angustii</i>).	- number and % of proposed developments that address and adhere to development guidelines - measure trends over time	ongoing
Desired Outcomes: To establish guidelines for assessing leases, licences and other estates and to ensure consistency with the relevant Acts b) the granting of a lease, licence or estate or erection of a building or structure must be consistent with the core objectives for the category of land, and; c) a lease, licence, estate or authorisation for erection of a building or a structure must not be granted in an area categorised as a natural area except for the prescribed purposes as scheduled in this Plan in accordance with the Local Government Act s. 47B sub-sections (4) (a)-(f) and (5) (a)-(c).				
- ensure all leases, licences, hiring agreements and other estates comply with the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>	C1	Land categorised as Natural Area - Bushland may only be granted a lease, licence or other estate to accommodate walkways, pathways, bridges, causeways, observation platforms, signs, information kiosks, refreshment kiosks (not restaurants), work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with maintenance of land, and toilets or rest rooms.	- assess in accordance with permitted uses.	ongoing
	C2	This Plan of Management expressly authorises that areas scheduled under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 can be excluded from the licencing/leasing or granting of any other estate over the land.	- areas scheduled under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 are adequately protected and managed in accordance with this Plan.	High ongoing
	C3	This Plan of Management expressly authorises a detailed ecological assessment and safety and constraints analysis within the Field Archery range with a view to establishing guidelines for use. The formalised hiring agreement will be implemented in accordance with the outcomes of this analysis and will be subject to boundary changes and conditions.	- detailed ecological assessment and safety and constraints analysis within the Field Archery range produced. - hiring agreement implemented using Council's reserve booking system.	High ongoing
	C4	This Plan of Management expressly authorises a hiring agreement under Council's reserve booking system of the BMX area to the Manly Warringah BMX Club, or similar, for the operation of recreational activities, subject to a site safety audit or similar.	- hiring agreement implemented using Council's reserve booking system.	High ongoing

Management Strategies (continued)

Performance Target (strategies)	Item	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
Desired Outcomes: To establish guidelines for assessing leases, licences and other estates and to ensure consistency with the relevant Acts (continued)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure all leases, licences, hiring agreements and other estates comply with the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> - granting of short term and casual hirings and reserve bookings. 	C5	This Plan of Management expressly authorises the licensing of the clubhouse to the Forest Hills Pony Club and/or other non-profit sporting or community body using the JJ Melbourne Hills Sportsground, and the hiring under Council's reserve booking system of the equestrian area and cross country course for the operation of recreational activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - licence implemented in accordance with this Plan. - hiring agreement implemented using Council's reserve booking system. 	High ongoing
	C6	This Plan of Management expressly authorises a hiring agreement under Council's reserve booking system of the criterium circuit to the Manly Warringah Cycling Club, or similar, for the operation of recreational cycling and appropriate activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - hiring agreement implemented using Council's reserve booking system. 	High ongoing
	C7	This Plan of Management expressly authorises the leasing/licencing or granting of any other estate to a commercial entity or non-profit organisation for operating a kiosk within the Forest Hills Pony Club clubhouse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - licence implemented in accordance with this Plan. 	ongoing
	C8	<p>The use or occupation of land categorised as Sportsground for the following events is prescribed, in the Local Government Act Regulations, as a purpose for which a licence may be granted in respect of community land on a short term, casual basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the playing of a musical instrument, or singing for a fee or reward; - engaging in a trade or business; - the playing of a lawful game, sport, or recreational activity; - delivering a public address; - commercial photographic sessions; - picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings; - filming for cinema or television. <p>The use or occupation of community land for such short term or casual events is prescribed only if the use or occupation does not involve the erection of any building or structure of a permanent nature.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assess against policies, principles and permitted uses. 	ongoing

Management Strategies (continued)

Performance Target (strategies)	Item	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
Desired Outcome: To establish guidelines for assessing leases, licences and other estates and to ensure consistency with the relevant Acts (continued)				
- granting of short term and casual hirings and reserve bookings.	C9	Authorisation is given for the development of a hiring agreement for the purposes of providing goods, services and facilities, and the carrying out of activities, appropriate to the current and future needs within the local community and of the wider public in relation to any of the following: - public recreation; - the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of persons; - only if the purpose for which it is granted is consistent with the core objectives of its categorisation; and - any future intensification of recreational activities or facilities must ensure that existing user groups are not adversely affected by these activities or facilities.	- assess against policies, principles and permitted uses. - hiring through the reserve booking system is implemented in accordance with this Plan.	ongoing
- protect reserve's values and role from inappropriate leases, permits and commercial activities - granting of short term and casual hirings and reserve bookings.	C10	Ensure that all hiring agreements for commercial activities or non-profit activities are in accordance with: - adopted Council policy and permitted uses - spatial and temporal constraints (subject to reserve values & core objectives) - legislative responsibilities for management of threatened species and bushland. - General Principles of Development Control in Warringah LEP (including development relating to or in the vicinity of heritage items) - Development guidelines as outlined in this Plan (items B1-B5).	- number of reserve bookings approved in accordance with this Plan. - measure trends over time	ongoing
	C11	Commercial Use: This Plan of Management expressly authorises the leasing/licencing or granting of any other estate for the operation of a recreational, social or educational activity on the land categorised as a Sportsground to a commercial entity.	- leases / licences implemented in accordance with this Plan.	ongoing
	C12	Non-profit Use: This Plan of Management expressly authorises the leasing/licencing or granting of any other estate over the land to a non-profit organisation for the purposes of operating a recreational, community or educational activity on the land categorised as a Sportsground.	- leases / licences implemented in accordance with this Plan.	ongoing

Management Strategies (continued)

Performance Target (strategies)	Item	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
Desired Outcome: To establish guidelines for assessing leases, licences and other estates and to ensure consistency with the relevant Acts (continued)				
- address existing lease agreement	C13	Investigate options for continuing the existing lease with the Australian Bureau of Meteorology for the Weather Station. This Plan of Management expressly authorises the leasing /licencing or granting of any other estate to the Bureau of Meteorology for the operation of the weather station after 2011 if the investigation under this action is favourable.	- investigation completed and recommendations implemented	ongoing
- address existing licence agreement and future development subject to investigation.	C14	This Plan of Management expressly authorises the replacement of the temporary weather station with a permanent weather station subject to the investigation in item C13. The permanent weather station is to be of the same scale and intensity as the temporary weather station. The station will be fenced within a 10m x 15m area and the mast will be 10m high.	- development and licence implemented in accordance with this Plan.	ongoing
- address granting of easements	C15	Easements in Relation to community land: This Plan of Management expressly authorises the granting of easements over the land for the purpose of providing pipes, conduit or other connections under the surface of the ground. This is limited to easements that connect land adjoining community land to an existing water, sewer, drainage or electrical facility of Council or other public utility provider that is situated on Community land. The granting of easements must be consistent with this Plan's development guidelines. The granting of easements above or under the surface of Community land to land that is not community land, is not within the authority of this Plan of Management. This includes, but is not limited to piping of natural watercourse, piping to a facility through community land to a facility on land under other ownership, and private access (vehicular or pedestrian).	- number of easements granted in accordance with this Plan.	ongoing

Management Strategies (continued)

Performance Target (strategies)	Item	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
Desired Outcome: To protect the reserve's natural/cultural setting, its scenic, environmental and recreational values and to promote ecologically sustainable management practices Core Objectives: Management of community land categorised as Natural Area: bushland (36J), sportsground (36F) & general community use (36I)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - protect Duffy's Forest community scheduled as an endangered ecological community under the TSC Act (1995) - protect <i>Grevillea caleyi</i> scheduled as an endangered species under the TSC Act (1995) and currently under a Recovery Plan. - protect <i>Microtis angusii</i> scheduled as endangered under the TSC Act (1995) and currently subject of a draft Recovery Plan - address conservation significance of reserve's native flora and fauna - ensure long term protection and viability of reserve's biota 	D1	Biodiversity management: <i>Grevillea caleyi</i> Recovery Plan 2004 <i>Microtis angusii</i> Draft Recovery Plan 2009 Duffys Forest Ecological Community Draft Recovery Plan 2003 Ensure effective implementation of Priority Action Statements , draft and approved Recovery Plan objectives for known population of <i>Grevillea caleyi</i> and possible population of <i>Microtis angusii</i> located within the reserve's lineal, fragmented strip of Duffy's Forest community along Mona Vale Road.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - implementation of Priority Action Statements - implementation of draft and final Recovery Plans - enhanced sustainability of all sites - in situ conservation priorities and integrity of populations preserved and maintained 	High ongoing
	D2	Protect vital habitat from future disturbances or development associated with recreational access, activities and facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - threatening processes managed in accordance with Plan - continuing monitoring and research 	ongoing
	D3	- continue to monitor and remove any dumped materials/garden refuse where practical and rubbish or any unauthorised uses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - number of dumpings removed - number of unauthorised uses addressed 	ongoing
	D4	- reconsider/relocate existing field archery range carpark area off Mona Vale Road and rationalise multiple tracking within this location based on the outcomes of constraints analysis (C3)	- works undertaken subject to outcomes from constraints analysis and available funding	Medium
	D5	- continue current recovery actions including weed management, bush regeneration and rubbish removal subject to licencing approval under the National Parks and Wildlife Act (refer to items F1-F2). Implement an appropriate ecological fire regime for <i>Grevillea caleyi</i> , <i>Microtis angusii</i> populations and Duffys Forest in accordance with Recovery Plans.	- works undertaken in accordance with plans and subject to available funding	Ongoing
	D6	- review options for acquisition of portion of Telstra/Optus site at Trig Station on Tumbledown Dick Hill (see item A4)	- investigation completed and recommendations implemented	Ongoing
	D7	- conduct a faunal survey focusing on other threatened species within the reserve. Sharing this information with the community will be subject to Warringah Council's DECCW S132C fauna trapping licence conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - quantitative faunal study completed with recommendations - confirmation of threatened species status and habitat values 	Medium
	D8	- conduct an ecological assessment to assist in determining appropriate fire regimes for the reserve's range of vegetation communities and habitats, emphasising protection and management of threatened species.	- detailed study completed with recommendations implemented	High ongoing

Management Strategies (continued)

Performance Target (strategies)	Item	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
Desired Outcome: To protect the reserve's natural/cultural setting, its scenic, environmental and recreational values and to promote ecologically sustainable management practices Core Objectives: Management of community land categorised as Natural Area: Bushland (36J), Sportsground (36F) and General Community Use (36I)				
	D9	- undertake invasive species management including weed management in accordance with Warringah-wide priorities, the NSW Invasive Species Plan and other agency partnerships e.g. DECCW Fox Threat Abatement Plan and the Urban Feral Animal Action Group Sydney North Rabbit Management Plan 2007-2012.	- number of invasive species programs undertaken.	ongoing
	D10	- consider proposals for community-based environmental education and/or bush care programs in accordance with Warringah-wide strategic environmental objectives and priorities	- number of proposals for community education and/or bushcare programs received and considered.	ongoing
	D11	- develop an integrated program for the rehabilitation of all disturbed land-fill areas and their edge conditions, including protection of all adjoining undisturbed or partially-disturbed bushland (see items F3-F4).	- works undertaken subject to appropriate resourcing, planning and available funding	High ongoing
	D12	This Plan of Management expressly authorises the use of the technique of crushed sandstone capping and/or topsoil translocation to rehabilitate highly disturbed landfill areas and their edges.	- works undertaken subject to appropriate resourcing, planning and available funding	High ongoing
	D13	Re-categorise the former AGL site from General Community Use to Natural Area-Bushland to reflect the management objective to carry out soil relocation and to rehabilitate this area as bushland.	- re-categorisation of the former AGL site to Natural Area Bushland	High
- monitor stormwater changes and prioritise works	Catchment Management:			
	E1	Maintain integrity of existing stormwater infrastructure.	- co-ordinated strategy implemented in accordance with maintenance funding.	High ongoing
	E2	Prioritise and cost remediation based on the impact on bushland values in or immediately adjacent to the reserve (within the framework of Warringah-wide priorities for water quality and sediment control works.	- works undertaken subject to appropriate resourcing, planning and available funding - number and type of water quality management initiatives undertaken within and adjoining the reserve	

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Management Strategies (continued)

Performance Target (strategies)	Item	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
Desired Outcome: To protect the reserve's natural/cultural setting, its scenic, environmental and recreational values and to promote ecologically sustainable management practices. Core Objectives: Management of community land categorised as Natural Area: bushland (36J), Sportsground (36F) and General Community Use (36I)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - enhance opportunities for simplified ecosystems to recover and increase durability over time - ensure long term management commitment and sustainability 	F3	Bush Restoration (Highly Disturbed/Impacted Sites); Any restoration/planting program should be in accordance with the Reserve Action Plan and will only focus on heavily disturbed areas of no natural resilience. These areas will be prioritised within the Reserve Action Plan. Investigation into existing soils and some soil testing on old land-fill areas may be required before any rehabilitation works. Areas preliminarily listed in priority order: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - batter at eastern end of sportsfield and adjoining the existing field archery carpark/embankment - eastern embankment to arena adjoining criterium circuit (including <i>Acacia saligna</i> infestation) - area within and surrounding southern and eastern portion of criterium circuit - north-eastern embankment between criterium circuit and the proposed archery carpark (including the pony club cross-country course) - southern bushland area adjoining the arena (cross-country course) - weed plume area north-east of the field archery clubhouse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - works implemented in accordance with Reserve Action Plan's priorities and appropriate funding. - rehabilitation sites and imported soils analysed in accordance strategic objectives in the Reserve Action Plan 	High/Medium ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establish a quantifiable means of assessment of the program emphasising the long term objective of sustainability 	F4	Program Monitoring: Ensure that the Program fully addresses the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - long term sustainability as its key objective - appropriate recovery management of threatened community species; - consistent with current and future budget projections (and that works do not become over-extended beyond available resources); - on-going nutrient loadings from adjoining land, roads/drainage lines; - removal of all stockpiled waste materials and spoil on site - co-ordination of an appropriate weed management/fire regime which addresses specific requirements of threatened species; - investigate the feasibility of water quality devices (trash-racks, sedimentation basins, energy dissipaters) and regular maintenance of structures and appropriate access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - program linked to 5-year CAPEX Program and fully integrated with catchment management and fire management. 	High ongoing

Management Strategies (continued)

Performance Target (strategies)	Item	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - protect the reserve's remnant bushland and habitat values within an increasingly urbanised context - ensure an effective integrated management approach - identify and effectively manage threatening processes 	F5	Weed Management, Bush Regeneration and Restoration Investigate introducing a quantifiable bushland management assessment process that monitors changing patterns of ecosystem durability and sustainability over time: This investigation is a Warringah-wide objective and bush regeneration sites where this is used will be prioritised accordingly This investigation may involve prioritisation of monitoring specific regeneration sites using standard rapid assessment/measurement techniques(e.g. use of quadrats), involvement of universities and TAFE in monitoring and comparison of the effectiveness/value for money of two different techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Warringah-wide priorities for monitor changes and trends over time in bush regeneration sites established 	Medium
In accordance with the Bush Fire Risk Management Plan (2000) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - protect life, property and the environment - protect, maintain and wherever possible enhance natural and cultural values through the management of appropriate fire regimes 	G1	Bushfire Management Maintain existing fire-trails and access for emergency services vehicles. No further fire trails or vehicular access or widening of existing tracks within Duffys Forest community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fire trails/access maintained at all times - no increase/widening of fire trails in vital habitat. 	High ongoing
	G2	Co-ordinate with NSWRFs to implement education programs and ensure appropriate bush fire hazard reduction/public safety measures are undertaken in accordance with the Warringah Pittwater Bush Fire Risk Management Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - education program implemented - no loss of life or property 	High ongoing
	G3	Ensure adequate provision for all emergency vehicular access, vehicle storage, access to fuel requirements and emergency helicopter landing on the equestrian area associated with operations of the NSW Rural Fire Services (NSWRFS) Warringah Pittwater District Emergency Control Centre. Investigate protocol regarding authorisation for emergency helicopter landing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - all emergency access and operational requirements addressed 	High ongoing
	G4	Ensure appropriate environmental assessment is undertaken when assessing proposals for hazard reduction burns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - environmental assessment meets legislative requirements 	High ongoing
	G5	Integrate environmental and biodiversity programs with the objectives of fire management policy. Promote co-operation in facilitating an appropriate ecological fire regime for the Duffy's Forest strip of vegetation along Mona Vale Road in accordance with Recovery Plans. Wetting agents or chemical retardants should not be used in Duffys Forest community (threatened species habitat).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - co-ordinated strategy with NSW Rural Fire Service - appropriate fire regime implemented 	High ongoing

Management Strategies (continued)

Performance Target (strategies)	Item	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
Desired Outcome: To investigate any potential heritage sites within the reserve and ensure protection of all heritage values				
Core Objectives: Management of community land categorised as Natural Area: Bushland (36J), Sportsground (36F) and General Community Use (36I)				
Indigenous Heritage: - no confirmed sites	H1	Conduct review with Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, National Parks and specialist staff to establish the location of any sites.	- investigation conducted and recommendations implemented	High
Desired Outcome: To maintain and enhance the quality of recreational facilities and amenities				
Core Objectives: Management of community land categorised as Natural Area: Bushland (36J), Sportsground (36F) and General Community Use (36I)				
- address over-crowding and suitability of recreational facilities, uses and activities	I1	Recreational Clubs and Committee: Ensure that the applications for intensification of uses and facilities, or proposed additional activities/user groups address any possible adverse impacts on existing user groups and activities. Proposals for activities such as radio controlled cars and/or development of a velodrome would be an inappropriate intensification of uses and therefore not permitted.	- uses and activities in accordance with this Plan.	ongoing
- establish an appropriate User Group Committee to address relevant issues	I2	Review options to establish a 'User Group Committee' to replace the previously chartered Management Committee.	- options investigated and recommendations implemented within 12 months	High
- address all insurance requirements	I3	Clubs must be compliant with all insurance requirements and any specific requirements of the associated/affiliated clubs.	- compliance with all insurance requirements	High ongoing
	I4	Prepare an Operational Manual for the Committee addressing membership issues, office-bearers, meetings, finance/insurances, leases/licences/hiring agreements, use of buildings, facilities and grounds, responsibilities for capital works and general maintenance, public safety/risk management, security, insurances and environmental protection.	- Operational Manual prepared within 12 months - monitor changes in complaints/satisfaction by user groups - responsibilities for capital works and maintenance clearly defined and implemented	High
- address security and tenure issues	I5	Address security and tenure arrangements for clubs.	- lease, licence and hiring agreements according to Council's reserve booking system implemented in accordance with this Plan.	ongoing
- address public safety issues	I6	Review options to install a permanent emergency telephone in the reserve.	- investigation completed and recommendations implemented	High

Management Strategies (continued)

Performance Target (strategies)	Item	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
Desired Outcome: To maintain and enhance the quality of recreational facilities and amenities				
Core Objectives: Management of community land categorised as Natural Area: Bushland (36J), Sportsground (36F) and General Community Use (36I)				
- continue to focus recreational activities within the most durable sites (ie: former land-fill/highly disturbed areas)	J1	Forest Hills Pony Club – Equestrian area, cross-country course and clubhouse: This Plan of Management expressly authorises an enlarged, upgraded and multi-purpose Pony Club building. Pony Club to prepare and lodge a Development Application for the building.	- development application prepared and lodged. - Pony Club building enlarged and upgraded.	High
	J2	Continue to seek a favourable resolution of over-crowding issues and incompatible simultaneous use of equestrian facilities/cross-country course and criterium circuit. Maintain co-ordinated use with the other user groups through Council's Reserves Booking Officer.	- public safety and risk management issues addressed - number of complaints by user groups - trends over time	High
	J3	Undertake an annual assessment of the equestrian area surface to determine if any fertilising, topdressing and other rectification works are required.	- increased safety of equestrian participants and horses - satisfaction of equestrian users	ongoing
	J4	Remove existing weeds (<i>Acacia saligna</i>) along embankment to criterium circuit and plant appropriate local indigenous species for screening (eg <i>Allocasuarina torulosa</i>) in large mulched beds.	- works completed in accordance with appropriate funding	High
	J5	Ensure appropriate maintenance of jumps and fences, ground surfaces, grades and trails, addressing all safety/risk management issues.	- number of complaints by user group - trends over time	High ongoing
	J6	Improve regulatory control/ranger inspections to monitor unauthorised and incompatible activities within equestrian area (eg: golf practice on arena, unauthorised vehicles). Address ongoing security issues with closure of gates on Thompson Drive.	- improved regulatory controls/inspections implemented - number of complaints by user group - trends over time	Medium ongoing
	J7	Rationalise, upgrade and maintain existing cross-country course to a high standard. Install timber barriers/fences to enclose trail link near the existing field archery carpark. Restrict casual trail use to existing fire-trail linking to Mona Vale Road underpass. Ensure protection of vital habitat for threatened species.	- improved rider experience and safety - number of complaints by user group - trends over time - enhanced protection of Duffys Forest habitat	High ongoing

Management Strategies (continued)

Performance Target (strategies)	Item	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
Desired Outcome: To maintain and enhance the quality of recreational facilities and amenities				
Core Objectives: Management of community land categorised as Natural Area: bushland (36J), Sportsground (36F) and General Community Use (36I)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - address visual and environmental amenity values and rehabilitate degraded former land-fill areas - address over-crowding of recreational facilities, including public safety, access and circulation - maintain and promote appropriate recreational activities and facilities - restrict incompatible uses and activities (environmental and social) - maintain current intensity of recreational uses and facilities - address security, public safety and risk management 	K1	BMX Track: Remove existing weeds (<i>Acacia saligna</i>) along embankments and adjoining areas to track and criterium circuit. Cultivate compacted soils and plant appropriate local indigenous species for screening, shade and visual amenity in large mulched beds.	- works completed in accordance with appropriate funding	High
	K2	This Plan of Management authorises works to change the internal layout of the BMX track to provide a changed track configuration, and works to maintain the track.	- works completed in accordance with appropriate funding	Medium
	K3	Investigate options for a more suitable structure than a shipping container for storage and administration.	- options explored	Medium
	K4	Install recreational facilities such as picnic tables/seating, litter bins (standard bins with lids) and pathway link between the carpark and BMX facility.	- works completed in accordance with appropriate funding	Medium
	K5	Investigate opportunities to develop a 'trails track' adjacent to existing criterium track.	- investigation completed and recommendations implemented	Medium
	K6	Review current hiring to casual groups and public liability insurance for informal use of track.	- investigation completed and recommendations implemented	High
	K7	Install safety signage at the BMX track regarding adult supervision of children using the track and other safety issues.	- signage installed	High
	K8	Continue to manage the unauthorised use by mountain bike riders in JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve.	- no conflicts between mountain bike riding and other uses of the Reserve.	High ongoing
	L1	Cycling/Criterium Circuit: Address safety/risk management issues (subject to investigation) by installing identification signage clearly stating the purpose of the facility.	- investigation completed and recommendations implemented	High ongoing
	L2	Upgrade existing overflow carparks with compacted, stabilised crushed sandstone finish.	- works implemented subject to CAPEX funding	Medium ongoing
	L3	Investigate the current condition of the criterium track, current use, demand for such a facility, and any conflicts of use, with the view to retaining, modifying and upgrading the track to meet the needs of the community.	- investigation completed and recommendations implemented	Medium

Management Strategies (continued)

Performance Target (strategies)	Item	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
Desired Outcome: To maintain and enhance the quality of recreational facilities and amenities				
Core Objectives: Management of community land categorised as Natural Area: Bushland (36J), Sportsground (36F) and General Community Use (36I)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - address visual and environmental amenity values and rehabilitate degraded former land-fill areas - restrict incompatible uses and activities (environmental and social) - maintain current intensity of recreational uses and facilities - maintain and promote appropriate recreational activities and facilities - address over-crowding of recreational facilities, including public safety, access and circulation - address security, public safety and risk management issues - restrict incompatible uses and activities (environmental and social) 	M1	Dog Obedience Area: Address poor visual quality of existing storage container in scenic location by removing the shipping container.	- investigation completed and recommendations implemented	Medium
	M2	Promote multi-use opportunities in this location, including passive recreational uses. Continue to co-ordinate dog obedience activities with other user groups through Council's Reserves Bookings Officer.	- number of complaints by user group - trends over time	High
	M3	Plant appropriate local indigenous tree species for shade and visual amenity in picnic/barbecue area. Protect and frame existing panoramic views in specific locations.	- works implemented subject to CAPEX funding	Medium ongoing
	M4	Implement fencing or other works to prevent vehicle access to the grassed dog obedience area.	- no damage due to vehicle access	High
	N1	Manly-Warringah Field Archers – Field Archery Range: Warringah Council to undertake a detailed ecological assessment and safety and constraints analysis within the Field Archery range with a view to formalising the activities on the site. This may involve establishing guidelines, and a formal lease and reserve booking system. MWFA will be required to address environmental and public safety/risk management issues following the outcome of this study. This study may include investigation of some of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - current operations and feasibility of activities - insurance requirements - existing warning signage and current public safety/risk management - attendance registers - location of built structures/ carparks etc. - a detailed survey by a qualified surveyor to clarify existing extent of field archery range - potential conflict points with other recreational activities/uses - dispersal of activities, disturbance or clearing of target areas within existing bushland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - investigation completed and recommendations implemented - public safety and risk management issues addressed - environmental management issues addressed - trends over time 	High ongoing

Management Strategies (continued)

Performance Target (strategies)	Item	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
Desired Outcome: To maintain and enhance the quality of recreational facilities and amenities				
Core Objectives: Management of community land categorised as Natural Area: Bushland (36J), Sportsground (36F) and General Community Use (36I)				
	N2	This Plan of Management expressly authorises Council to implement outcomes and actions of the ecological assessment and safety and constraints analysis within the Field Archery range. This will require cross-departmental involvement and co-ordination.	- number of actions implemented.	High
	N3	Implementation of relevant actions of the JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve Action Plan at the Field Archery Range by the Field Archers in consultation with Council.	- relevant actions and recommendations of the Reserve Action Plan implemented	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - address uncontrolled activities and dispersal issues within fragile areas - continue to focus recreational activities within the most durable sites (ie: former land-fill/highly disturbed areas). 	O1	Bush tracks/casual pony trails: Carry out environmental assessment and develop appropriate management standards for maintenance works on horse trails in bushland. The information contained in the Horse riding trails and facilities in Terrey Hills and Duffy Forest Research Paper (2009) could be used to assist this process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - environmental assessment completed. - best practice maintenance standards determined. 	Medium
	O2	Minimise any further disturbance to bushland, particularly within steep escarpment areas. Provide no further pedestrian tracks/pony trails within these fragile, highly erodible areas. Rehabilitate existing areas of multiple tracking and indiscriminate clearing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reserve's environmental values protected - works implemented in accordance with CAPEX program 	Medium Ongoing
	O3	Continue to maintain horse trails using standards discussed in the Horse Riding Trails and Facilities in Terrey Hills and Duffy Forest Research Paper (2009) until such time as Australian Standards for horse trails are adopted.	- no safety issues associated with horse trails	
	O4	Consider the development of links and related facilities to improve access for mountain bikes to neighbouring Garigal National Park as well as a means of managing bikes in JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve.	- reserve's environmental values protected	ongoing
	O5	Restrict opportunities for unauthorised pedestrian access to Kimbriki Recycling Centre via the old vehicular access track off Kamber Road by installing a boom gate.	- public safety and risk management issues addressed	Medium
	P1	Open Grassed BBQ/Picnic area: Enhance accessibility to cater for a broad range of user groups (eg: people with disabilities, frail, aged, children, strollers, etc). Remove stockpiled materials (providing barrier) at boom gate and upgrade entry point/access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - monitor recreational trends over time - measure visitor satisfaction with facilities 	Medium Ongoing

Management Strategies (continued)

Performance Target (strategies)	Item	Means of Achievement (Management Actions)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
Desired Outcome: To maintain and enhance the quality of recreational facilities and amenities				
Core Objectives: Management of community land categorised as Natural Area: Bushland (36J), Sportsground (36F) and General Community Use (36I)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - implement actions which will restrict incremental impacts on the reserve's bushland setting - continue to maintain, and where appropriate rationalise existing pedestrian tracks/pony trails within the reserve - address visitor orientation and facilitate public access - address uncontrolled activities and dispersal issues within fragile areas - address the needs of recreational user groups in the provision of facilities and amenities - provide an appropriate level of maintenance for facilities and amenities - address existing vehicular entry/access, circulation and parking - provide enhanced opportunities for public access and off-street parking adjacent to the arena and its facilities 	P2	Replace existing wood-fuelled barbecues with electric barbecues, including park shelter structures and litter bins. Maintain and continue to upgrade existing picnic table settings and seating.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - monitor recreational trends over time - measure visitor satisfaction with facilities 	Medium ongoing
	Q1	Reserve Signage: Develop an integrated system of identification, interpretative, directional and regulatory signage to improve visitor awareness of appropriate low-impact activities and prohibited activities, and the range of recreational opportunities and linkages available. Signs should include the use of maps and consider sensory and multi-lingual options.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - works implemented in accordance with CAPEX program 	Medium ongoing
	Q2	Liaise with the RTA regarding directional signage to the Reserve from Mona Vale Road.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - directional signage to the Reserve from Mona Vale Road is resolved. 	Low
	R1	Main Vehicular Entry and Existing Unsealed Carpark: Maintain sight distances at intersection of Kamber Road/ Mona Vale Road and Thompson Drive (ie: selective removal of overhanging vegetation).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - public safety issues addressed 	High ongoing
	R2	Continue to maintain and upgrade Thompson Drive as the entry-exit road to all recreational facilities in the Reserve. Options for a secondary loop road are restricted by RTA requirements, protection of threatened species and construction costs relating to steep grades adjoining the south-western corner of the equestrian area and bushland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - existing access road maintained and upgraded in accordance with appropriate funding 	ongoing
	R3	Review current arrangements regarding access/security to main carpark and investigate expanding role of caretaker based at Emergency Control Centre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - investigation conducted and recommendations implemented 	High
	R4	Enhance landscape quality and environmental amenity of main carpark area. Re-grade carpark and provide bitumen seal with selected light-coloured aggregate topping to central roadway. Construct carparking areas in compacted stabilised crushed sandstone finish with landscaped bays. Make provision for cars and horse floats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - works implemented in accordance with CAPEX program 	Medium ongoing

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Appendices:

Appendix 1(a): Summary of Meeting Issues

Appendix 1(b): Community Issues Discussion Paper

**Meeting of JJ Melbourne Hills Management Committee
7 June 2000, 5.00pm to 7.00pm
Flannel Flower Room**

ISSUES FOR PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

- Drainage
- Keep settling ponds in good area
- Runoff from old tip – contaminates affecting vegetation
- Pony tracks = cross country course (part of) used in competition
- Pony rally days have approx 80 children
- Tracks will cause erosion
- Field archery prefer bush tracks/natural land
- Old tip area has disturbed vegetation – not easy to keep weed free
- Difficult to grow trees etc due to what is under the surface/soil
- Consolidate uses not minimise – all activities will have an impact on the environment
- Eradication of Pampas Grass
- Rabbits – impact on Bandicoots
- Mountain biking – clearing of areas
- Motor bikes use tracks
- Motor bikes – damage to vegetation and rocks
- Nothing with an engine was to use the Reserve – could Council erect signs?
- Security of Reserve
- Criterion track was to have bollards – needs signage NB track is a bike track (car problem)
- Archery area – gate recently knocked down and track now used by 4WD's
- 4WD's
- Burning of picnic tables – underage drinking
- Responsibility of opening/closing gates – Caretaker at Emergency Services – concerns re safety and who has authority
- BMX Club has 90 riders – great facility
- BMX = only track on northern beaches – nearest Parramatta, Carlingford
- Safety issues re Criterion track – no reply to letter sent to Council re this issue (Graham Jones raised issue and wrote letter)
- Design of Criterion track – access issues
- Approx. 2 ½ weeks ago meeting Cr J Sutton and D Corbett – money towards Criterion track
- Increase use of Criterion track = possibility
- Safety of Criterion track – cars should not use track – signage
- Steep track behind BMX track – safety issues to Criterion track
- Criterion track and pony track not to be used at same time
- Pony club = biggest in NSW (120 riding members)
- Warringah Dressage Assoc – don't use area any longer due to State competitions and distractions of horses
- Communication between clubs
- Fence around BMX Club? = option due to damage by motor bikes
- No support from Council to BMX track in 1997
- Clay not removed from site (was dumped 1 year ago)
- Illegal dumping – security of residents who confront dumpers
- Council provision of bollard to Criterion track
- Committee meetings are not regular – difficult when there are problems – maybe 3 monthly – Emergency Services to attend

- Development of Emergency Services Area and conflict with recreational areas
- Emergency Services – have problem with parking/access with own members
- Dogs don't use training area very much
- Contingency Management Plan if Criterion tracks are not used
- Buffer between horses and bikes
- Council spending money on areas which aren't extensively used
- Rubbish – no bins – should be part of booking – not enough bins
- Working bees require Council input – can't work when facility is hired out
- Insurance
- Hazard sign for BMX Club to be erected
- WIRES people walk through archery area as they release injured animals there
- Extend BMX Club area (south end) BMX trail officer
- Council maintenance staff to attend Committee meetings
- Toilet maintenance to be regular
- Lack of maintenance to Reserves area
- Don't double book areas eg BMX
- Flooding of areas within Equestrian area
- Golf
- Irresponsible parents
- Emergency telephone available through BMX Club – request Council to install phone line

**Community Meeting / Workshop
8 June 2000, 7.00pm to 9.00pm
Terrey Hills Community Centre**

**ISSUES FOR JJ MELBOURNE HILLS MEMORIAL RESERVE AND
ADJOINING COMMUNITY LAND PLAN OF MANAGEMENT**

- Life and future of Kimbriki Tip
 - Estimated life of tip?
 - To be clarified in Issues Paper
 - Clarify environmental impacts – especially towards JJ Melbourne Hills
- Mountain bikes – environmental impacts – need to balance their needs and management actions. Devise better/less impacting facilities
- BMX vs mountain bike impacts AND needs of all users
- Need to have a focus area for mountain bikes to use so as to minimise potential impacts elsewhere
- Include mountain bike club/users in Management Committee
- Value of the area – rural style community – horse owners able to utilise the area. Need ongoing facilities for the community
- Safe and only place left in region with such facilities – VALUE quality, size of area and type of area
- Encourage multi-use of area – but need to do so in a safe way
- Pony Club and Archers are happy with the size of the area allocated to them
- VALUE – as an area of open space. Important that buffer zones/development should not impact on current usage eg no radio controlled cars near horses
- Suggestion to fence dog exercise/obedience area. Level of usage to be confirmed. Could area be utilised in a different way – or use as an area for passive recreation by local dog walkers (off leash area)??
- Need to evaluate level of user groups of each area. Are they being best utilised? Are those groups contributing to ongoing maintenance like the Pony Club does? VALUE of Pony Club as a recreational option.
- Query as to what Council/other group have in mind or proposed as to future development of the area eg Criterion circuit
- Is area becoming too crowded?
- Suitability of different areas for bushwalkers? Safety? Lower areas too rugged – These issues apply for mountain bikes?? Environmental impacts
- VALUE of area to Archers as they are the only bush archers group in Sydney Metropolitan. Need for future generations too. They are low impact multi-purpose trail suggested between Kimbriki Road and Pony Club area
- CRITERION TRACK – Safety issues. Too crowded an area for this track. Danger of cars using this area. Need for a gate/slip rail has already been identified. NEEDS Action – risk/safety. Legal liability issue
- Facility viability needs assessment (and either upgraded or removed??)
- Criterion track – is a hard surface close to Pony jumping area – Safety Danger of horses reacting poorly to cyclists. Needs assessment
- SUGGESTION – reassessment of “best use” and “best allocation” of the area for user groups
- NO INTENSIFICATION of use is seen as an option for the group
- VALUE – a unique area for so many groups to co-exist in. No other area in Sydney Metropolitan
- HAPPY with the use of the area.

Community Issues Discussion Paper

A.1 Community Consultation

Introduction

Community consultation is an important component in the preparation of all Plans of Management. This process continues through to public exhibition of the Draft Plan of Management, including opportunities for public submissions. The purpose of the public meetings/ workshops is to assist Council and the community to identify the important values attached to this reserve and to provide a forum for discussion of community issues. These issues form the basis for the following Community Issues Discussion Paper and will help to ensure the protection of identified values in a way which best meets the recreational and other needs of the community.

Scope of Plan

JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and its adjoining land, as described in this Plan of Management, is classified as community land. This area is located within the semi-rural suburb of Terrey Hills on the southern side of Mona Vale Road and bounded by Kimbriki Road in the east and Kamber Road in the south-west (see Figure 1.1: Location Plan). The Kimbriki Recycling and Waste Disposal Centre, adjoining the reserve's southern boundary and Warringah Pittwater Emergency Control Centre, located on its far south-western boundary, are not included within this Plan of Management.

The reserve, including its adjoining lands, contains a significant area of contiguous bushland. It is bordered by Garigal National Park to the east and south and Ku-ring-gai National Park to the north and north-east. It is important to recognise that the site covers part of a significant scenic escarpment dominated by bushland and sandstone outcrops. While the south-western ridge-top area and former land-fill depot is relatively flat, most of the site is very steep. The ridge-top vegetation communities include the endangered Duffy's Forest Community and species including Caley's Grevillea which are scheduled under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

The relatively flat south-western corner of the site, known specifically as JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve, was rehabilitated in 1974 following closure of the Terrey Hills Landfill Depot. This part of the reserve now provides the focus for a range of active recreational opportunities with facilities serving both the local community and a much broader regional catchment beyond the Terrey Hills area. The JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve was opened in 1988 as a multi-use recreational facility to be shared by the *equestrian fraternity, archers and BMX club members* (Holstead, 1988). Other recreational facilities have been developed over

recent years and this has significantly increased the pressures on various user groups and land resources.

Public Meetings/ Workshops

The public meetings/ workshops for JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve & adjoining community land were held as follows:-

Venue: Warringah Council (Meeting with JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve Management Committee)
Date: 7 June 2000
Time: 6pm - 7.30pm

Venue: Terrey Hills Community Centre (Public Meeting)
Date: 8 June 2000
Time: 7pm - 9.00pm

Distributed Items:

- < Council's Principles of Community Land Management in Warringah;
- < Council's Brochure: 'What are Community Land Plans of Management?'
- < Exploring Issues: Written Comments.

Publicity

The public meeting/ workshop was advertised in the local press, Warringah Council's libraries and at JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve. More than 120 invitations were distributed to the management committee, local residents, stakeholders, Councillors and members of local community groups.

Presentation and Discussion

The public meetings/ workshops were opened with an introduction to the Community Land Plans of Management Process by Georgina Sherwin, Strategy Co-ordinator for Warringah Council. This overview was followed with a brief presentation by Noel Ruting, Director of LandArc. A series of overheads and slides were used to highlight the reserve's significant values, the threats and impacts affecting these values and opportunities to better manage the reserve. Both meetings were then opened for public discussion (refer to A.2 Community Issues). In addition, Exploring Issues Papers were distributed for further detailed comments.

At the meetings, community issues were summarised on a whiteboard as well as being recorded in detail for further development in this Paper. The Summary of Issues are attached. The meetings were formally brought to a close after all comments from participants appeared to have been raised. It was requested that further written comments on the Issues Papers be returned as soon as possible to Warringah Council or LandArc.

There was a total of 31 attendees for both meetings who registered at the desk for the Mailing List (13 attended the meeting of the Management Committee and 18 attended the public meeting). A total of 19 written submissions were received on

the Exploring Issues Papers and one detailed submission from the Forest Hills Pony Club. Table A1: Exploring Issues Demographics shows a simple breakdown of respondents= age group and sex.

TABLE A1: EXPLORING ISSUES DEMOGRAPHICS

AGE GROUP Years	SEX	
	Male	Female
< 20	-	1
20-35	1	1
36-50	2	6
50-65	6	-
> 65	-	1
unknown	1	-
Total	10	9

A.2 Community Values and Issues

A. Protection of Community Values

It is important to recognize that JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and adjoining community land has significant ecological, recreational, educational and scenic values at local and regional levels. The value and significance of this reserve to the local community was highlighted in the public meetings and the "Exploring Issues Papers".

The focus for community values lies within the flat, ridge-top south-western corner of the site and relates directly to the recreational use of the reserve. This area is highly valued by local and regional recreational user groups, particularly by those involved in equestrian events/ cross-country, BMX riders and field archers. The reserve is also used as a criterium circuit for bike-riders, for dog obedience classes and a range of informal active and passive recreational pursuits. A weather station has also been established on the site. In recent years, the adjoining steep slopes of the escarpment have been used by mountain bike riders. This has been an unauthorised activity. The extensive development of multiple tracks on steep highly erodible slopes within bushland has had a significant environmental impact on this part of the reserve.

The public meetings/ workshops defined a strong sense of community ownership and management of the reserve with the expressed desire to ensure the protection of its natural, ecological, scenic and recreational values. It was strongly expressed that the reserve's recreational facilities, in particular, should be identified as significant and unique within the Warringah local government area and that they should be subject to appropriate management and protection. The following points identify the values and importance attached to this reserve by the participants at the public meetings/ workshops and through the Exploring Issues Papers:-

- ☐ the reserve offers a range of recreational opportunities and facilities for equestrian events/ cross-country, BMX, cycling, dog obedience and field archery in a bushland setting;
- ☐ the reserve offers unique opportunities – there are no other similar facilities in the Warringah/ Pittwater area;
- ☐ recreational facilities have a regional profile addressing a range of abilities;
- ☐ standard of recreational facilities is the result of a long term commitment to maintenance and improvements by the respective clubs;
- ☐ easy public access and parking, connected by a system of cross country pony/ fire-trails;
- ☐ bushland qualities provide passive and active recreation opportunities;
- ☐ outstanding panoramic views from many vantage points;
- ☐ recognition of habitat for the rare and endangered Caley's Grevillea.

The public meetings/ workshops and Exploring Issues Papers highlighted a number of community issues and identified the need for management and protection of these values as follows:-

- ☐ concerns over possible loss of recreational opportunities particularly in light of recent decisions by the National Parks and Wildlife Service to remove pony-trails from Ku-ring-gai NP;
- ☐ desire to improve contact with Council regarding the management of recreational facilities and promote a more integrated management framework between the individual management committees;
- ☐ address overcrowding within the reserve and incompatibility of some user groups, particularly between the pony club activities/ dressage events and criterium circuit racing;
- ☐ address conflicting issues related to simultaneous use of neighbouring recreational facilities;
- ☐ address public safety and risk management issues, particularly with respect to unauthorised use of the criterium circuit by motor-bikes and cars;
- ☐ improve controls over unauthorised recreational activities (eg. mountain-bikes on steep slopes, cars/ motorbikes and golf practice on the arena);
- ☐ improve controls on illegal rubbish dumping and address insufficient number of litter bins;
- ☐ reduce negative impacts of recreational activities on environmental values;
- ☐ improve standard of public amenities to respond to high levels of use;
- ☐ remove weeds and provide appropriate rehabilitation of weed infested areas, including addressing drainage issues;
- ☐ improve visual/ landscape character surrounding recreational facilities.

The following provides a more detailed discussion of the community issues.

B. Environmental Issues

Natural Landscape Character and Scenic Qualities

JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and adjoining community land supports extensive areas of natural bushland directly adjoining Garigal National Park. The reserve lies within a scenic rim offering expansive views to the ocean and overlooking bushland within the Deep Creek catchment. The predominantly steep topography, relative isolation and lack of development, including formal tracks and fire trails, have provided opportunities for the protection of much of the reserve's natural values and integrity. The Kimbriki Recycling and Waste Disposal Centre, although occupying a relatively large disturbed area adjacent to the reserve, is visually contained within the deep valley below the escarpment. It is not readily visible from Mona Vale Road or the main recreation area in the south-western corner of the site.

Recreational Impacts

The landscape is relatively flat within the main recreation area adjacent to Mona Vale Road. Most of the recreational uses and impacts occur only within a very small portion of the reserve and in most instances are contained within the reclaimed former tip site. The major exception however is the unauthorised use of the steep bushland escarpment by mountain bike enthusiasts. Participants at the public meetings/ workshops and in the Exploring Issues Papers highlighted the importance of recreational opportunities within this natural environment.

It is important to note however the concerns shared by each of the major user groups with respect to protecting these natural bushland and biodiversity values and the issue of possible exclusion of potentially incompatible activities. Views were expressed that while the protection of natural values were a high priority for the Plan, it was important that environmental considerations should not limit organized recreational activities in the reserve.

In the case of the Field Archery Range environmental impacts are inherent in the type of recreational experience provided. Notably, the club has developed much of the range within relatively flat to gently sloping areas thus limiting the impact of erosion on the site's shallow and highly erodible soils. However, the development of tracks linking cleared target areas within the Archery Range provides ongoing opportunities for soil instability, erosion and weed invasion. These tracks and target areas need to be carefully designed, constructed and maintained to restrict these impacts.

It was noted at the public meetings/ workshops that the good condition of the bushland adjacent to the pony/ fire trails, particularly leading to the Mona Vale underpass is in contrast to the multiple tracking by mountain-bike riders on the steep escarpment area. This point highlights the need for well-designed and maintained pony trails.

The use of the steep escarpment by mountain bike riders is not permitted by Warringah Council. In recent years, the area has been increasingly used by this group leading to a broad range of environmental impacts. The escarpment soils are highly fragile and susceptible to erosion. The preference of mountain bike riders for steep slopes and high speed over difficult terrain has left this natural area in a degraded state. The need for changing courses has created extensive clearings in the bushland, multiple tracking and erosion, further weed encroachment, damage to rock outcrops and a stream of discarded plastic course ribbon. Creek-lines and swampy areas have been particularly affected by erosional damage and weed invasion. It was suggested that motorbikes are also using these tracks, further exacerbating the damage to environmental values. It was believed that greater regulation and monitoring of these inappropriate activities should be a high priority. These issues and their impact on the reserve's values will be examined further in this Plan.

Weed Management

The main infestations of exotic weeds occur wherever there has been past disturbance, particularly along the Mona Vale Road interface, the former tip site and landfill areas in the south-western corner of the reserve and along the steep drainage lines. Broad swathes of exotic weeds dominate the former landfill areas between the field archery range and the pony club arena and carpark. This area has high visual exposure from the elevated eastern parts of the site, adjacent to Mona Vale Road. Other areas of significant weeds occur in the perimeter areas of the arena, to the south-east of the BMX track (adjacent to the criterium circuit), near the end of Kamber Road, north-east of the archery range clubhouse and the embankment between the unsealed carpark and Mona Vale Road. This embankment is currently under weed management and rehabilitation. The clearing, multiple tracking and erosional impacts of mountain bike riders, below the BMX track, are providing conduits for further weed invasion into this formerly undisturbed and relatively pristine bushland.

It was highlighted at the public meetings/ workshops that the reserve's previous use as a tip/ landfill site and subsequent attempts at rehabilitation have contributed to ongoing management issues, particularly the weed issues. It was suggested that drainage works prior to the development of the site for recreation has resulted in poor soil. Soil pollutants and poor water quality were attributed to this fill site. Previous attempts to landscape exposed areas around the equestrian area and BMX track had only limited success and participants believed that soil quality was a major cause for this failure. Soil preparation and mulching, exposure to winds, plant selection, level of impact from rabbits and on-going maintenance may also be important factors.

Although individual user groups undertake some regular weed maintenance of their sites, there is currently no integrated long-term programme of weed management and on-going support for these volunteer initiatives. The Manly Warringah Field Archers stated that the club controls the impact of weeds in relation to their activities. The club highlighted the difficulty in managing the significant weed problem above the fire trail. Apart from this area the club believes that no significant weed problem exists in the archery range. This issue needs to be further

investigated, particularly with respect to the development of tracks to target areas within existing bushland.

In addition, the height and density of weeds adjacent to the criterium circuit were raised as an important issue. These weeds obscure views and further restrict sight lines around the existing circuit. This was considered a priority safety issue at the public meetings and in the Exploring Issues Papers, particularly with respect to the use of the circuit by children and at times unauthorised use by motor-bikes and cars.

Protecting Biodiversity

Notably, the ridge-tops of the reserve contain a number of small areas of the endangered Duffy's Forest Community and Caley's Grevillea (*Grevillea caleyi*). Both this vegetation community and plant species are scheduled under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. It was stated at the public meetings/ workshops that Caley's Grevillea occurs adjacent to the archery range carpark. This rare vegetation community and species will be further investigated in this Plan to ensure appropriate protection and sustainable management.

It was stated at the public meetings/ workshops that the rabbit population was reaching Aepidemic proportions@. Furthermore, it was stated that native fauna, including Lyre birds and Bandicoots, were numerous on the site only thirty years ago but these species had all but vanished from the area possibly due to predation by feral animals. The Manly Warringah Field Archers stated that the volunteer fauna rescue group WIRES have on a number of occasions released native fauna into the archery range. Council is currently involved in monitoring and managing feral animal impacts in the reserve and adjoining community land. This Plan will address the need to determine potential habitat values for threatened fauna species.

Bushfire Management

Bushfires were not discussed at the public meetings/ workshops or Exploring Issues Papers, possibly due to the reserve's location on the southern side of Mona Vale Road away from the main residential area of Terrey Hills. Although bushfire management was not discussed as a community issue, it is nevertheless an integral component of this predominantly natural landscape, shaping vegetation communities and habitats, species composition, structure, diversity and regeneration strategies. The last major wildfire to sweep through adjoining Garigal National Park was in January 1994. The cycle of natural regeneration since these fires has again transformed the bushland.

Fire management needs to be well researched and co-ordinated to ensure the best frequency and intensity of fire on natural vegetation and regeneration patterns. If fires are too frequent or too hot, plant diversity, habitat values and threatened species may be seriously compromised. The objectives of biodiversity management, particularly with respect to threatened species, need to be integrated with fire management policy. As such, the objectives should aim to create a patchwork of areas burned at different times to ensure a diversity of edge conditions, refuge and food for fauna during and after any burn.

The NSW Rural Fire Services Warringah Pittwater District Emergency Control Centre immediately adjoins the reserve off Kamber Road. A Bush Fire Risk Management Plan (BFRMP) has been prepared by the Warringah Pittwater Bush Fire Management Committee, comprising of representatives from major land management agencies.

The BFRMP states that *'the strategies established in the bush fire risk management plan address the bush fire hazard, the vulnerability of assets to fire, the safety of the community and fire fighters, the protection of the land and environment from fire, and recognises that biodiversity can be managed through the application of appropriate fire regimes upon the landscape'*.

Rubbish Dumping and Litter Management

Rubbish dumping was raised as an important issue in the public meetings/ workshops. Illegal dumping and litter resulting from a lack of adequate litter bins was considered by user groups to have a significant negative impact on the amenity of the reserve. A dumped car is currently located on the pony/ fire trail near the Mona Vale Road underpass. This should be removed. It was suggested that the reserve's former use as a tip/ landfill site, inadequate security, lack of regulatory controls/ enforcement and general inadequate landscaping/ rehabilitation has continued to encourage negative behaviour in the community. Moreover, the opinion was expressed that parts of the reserve "look like a tip", thus contributing to illegal dumping. It was also claimed that the Council had in the past dumped fill material on the cross-country track and sandstone blocks near the BMX track.

In response to illegal dumping, the regular user groups have been active in reporting and documenting these activities. However, it was believed that the present situation has the potential to place individuals in difficult situations with those involved in illegal dumping. It was further suggested that there should be improved security and greater enforcement of the regulations by Council. However, it should be noted that an improved level of regulatory controls and Council ranger enforcement of environmental issues needs careful consideration with respect to associated costs versus return to the community. Responsible use of the reserve and understanding of its vulnerability to urban edge disturbances should be addressed through community education.

The lack of litter bins was also raised as an important issue. At present, temporary bins are supplied by the individual user groups and litter is removed from the site at their expense. For example, when Council hires the BMX track to other user groups there are no provisions for litter management. The Manly Warringah BMX Club has to remove the rubbish. It was suggested that a suitable number of permanent bins should be installed in appropriate locations.

Automatic Weather Station

An automatic weather station was constructed in the reserve adjacent to the criterium course at the request of the Bureau of Meteorology. The area, under a current license with Council, is surrounded by security fencing. The original purpose

of the station was to monitor weather patterns up to and during the Olympic Games, however the recent fires at Mt Ku-ring-gai have underlined the need for the station to remain as a more permanent fixture.

AGL Compound

A secured compound, located in the eastern portion of the reserve, adjacent to Mona Vale Road (between Kimbriki Road and the Telstra/ Optus telecommunications site), is currently a temporary storage depot for AGL. This former land-fill site has storage sheds and a range of building materials within the compound. It is largely screened from the main road by a small remnant strip of native vegetation. The depot may be used by AGL for another two years. After this time, the compound and adjoining slopes would need to be appropriately rehabilitated and consolidated within the surrounding bushland reserve.

C. Public Access

Main Vehicular Entry and Security

Thompson Drive, the major entry point off Kamber Road into the reserve, is poorly signposted and sight-distances are compromised by the level of adjacent vegetation at this intersection. At present, control over public vehicular access to the reserve is the responsibility of the organised clubs. This requires members to open and shut the main vehicular gates. At times, members need to remove groups and individuals who may not be associated with the club's activities. It was stated that this current arrangement often resulted in the gates being left open.

There was general agreement by the Forest Hills Pony Club, Manly Warringah BMX Club and Manly Warringah Archery Club that security remained a major issue. The relatively remote location of the reserve and the siting of facilities, especially the clubhouse of the Archery Club, make them vulnerable to acts of vandalism.

Main Unsealed Carpark Area

The unsealed carpark covers an expansive area adjacent to the Forest Hills Pony Club Arena. This carpark area is a visually obtrusive element in this bushland setting. There is no delineation of carparking spaces or bays and no landscaping to address its scale. The meetings/ workshops and Exploring Issues Papers highlighted this poor visual character as a contributing factor to encouraging inappropriate and anti-social behaviour. It is important to recognise however that the adjoining embankment will be rehabilitated with locally indigenous species, improving the peripheral environmental quality of this area.

Unauthorised Vehicular Access

Concern was expressed regarding unauthorised vehicular access into the reserve. Opportunities for access were believed to exacerbate existing problems with dumping. They also raised serious public safety and risk management issues, particularly with respect to the criterium circuit. At present, a gate located at the

eastern end of the carpark, prevents vehicular access to this circuit but this is regularly vandalised.

Participants at the public meetings/ workshops also expressed concern over the use of the BMX track and horse trails by motorbike riders. The potential public safety risk and damage to the environment and facilities needs to be addressed. Although it was acknowledged that physically preventing motorbike access to the reserve was far more difficult than for vehicles it was suggested that a combination of fencing, bollards and gates may need to be considered to ensure greater security and public safety.

Signage

The existing system of reserve signage (identification, directional and regulatory) is ad hoc and needs to present a more cohesive and integrated message to the public. There is no directional signage on any of the reserve's bushland tracks, including pony trails, fire-trails and the Mona Vale Road underpass. The existing signage designating the field archery range/ club area, prohibiting public access also needs to be addressed within a more integrated approach. Interpretive signage should also be considered within the reserve.

Informal Bush Tracks and Multiple Tracking

The reserve's steep topography, past ridge-line pattern of development and land-uses have largely determined the configuration of existing tracks. Public access is generally restricted to the south-western corner of the reserve and the eastern entry/ exit point of Kimbriki Waste Disposal and Recycling Centre. Access to much of the reserve's bushland is difficult and poorly connected due to the steep topography. Informal tracks are easily overgrown and are not readily identifiable to the public. Upgrading of any tracks would need to be undertaken with sensitivity, addressing local hydrology and ensuring a minimal level of site disturbance. Improved circulation would require detailed site-specific planning and ecological assessment of route options.

As previously discussed, the reserve contains many areas of multiple tracking which need to be rationalized and managed on a more sustainable basis. Environmentally incompatible and inappropriate activities need to be excluded. Apart from the environmental issues related to mountain bikes the possibility also exists for riders to come into conflict with the field archery range as these two areas merge and overlap.

Pony Trails/ Fire-Trails

There are two major fire trails in the reserve. These include the main ridge-top trail and a further trail, known as the 'old fire-trail', which passes through the field archery range. Both trails are used by pony riders and bushwalkers. The ridge-top trail generally runs parallel to Mona Vale Road and provides a safe link to Terrey Hills via the Mona Vale Road underpass. This trail has been well-constructed and is in good condition with little evidence of weed invasion associated with its use. This trail is an essential connection between the residential area of Terrey Hills and the

equestrian facilities of the Pony Club. It was stated at the meetings/ workshops that 50% of weekday access to the reserve by horse-riders was via this trail.

The 'old fire-trail' passes through the field archery range linking through to the base of the steep slopes (affected by mountain bikes) and the lower end of Kamber Road. At present this trail becomes too overgrown for pony riders past the facilities/ target area of the Archery Club. A branch track off the end of Kamber Road was constructed some years ago providing 4WD vehicular access to Kimbriki Waste Disposal and Recycling Centre. This vehicular access track was abandoned however unrestricted pedestrian access is still possible to KWDRRC via an existing track.

D. Major Recreational User Groups and Facilities

The reserve is used by five sporting and recreation clubs as follows:

- ☐ Forest Hills Pony Club (FHPC);
- ☐ Manly Warringah BMX Club (MWBMXC);
- ☐ Manly Warringah Field Archers (MWFA);
- ☐ Manly Warringah Cycle Club (MWCC);
- ☐ Manly District Dog and Kennel Club (MDDKC).

Up until recently there have been other user groups of the reserve, such as the Manly Warringah Dressage Association (MWDA) and mountain bike riders. The mountain bike riders are no longer permitted on the reserve's steep slopes below the BMX track (refer to *Unauthorised Mountain Biking*).

The clubs/ associations, with the exception of Manly District Dog and Kennel Club (MDDKC) and mountain bike riders, were represented at each of the public meetings/ workshops and provided further details/ submissions on the Exploring Issues Papers. Following these meetings/ workshops, the MDDKC confirmed their continuing use of the designated dog obedience area however no further comments or submissions have been received from MDDKC. All of the other clubs highlighted their importance at the Sydney regional level of competition and that their facilities attracted broad regional use and support.

Equestrian

The Forest Hills Pony Club (FHPC) were the major group to attend the second public meeting/ workshop and also provided a detailed submission. The FHPC stated that it holds the largest membership of all the pony clubs in NSW (and possibly Australia) with over 120 riding members ranging from learners to Olympic trialists. Demand for membership has resulted in the club closing its books to new members. Presently 80-90 individuals participate in the organised activities of the club on the first and third Saturday of each month. This timetable of activities is designed to alternate with the other major user group, namely the MWBMXC.

The existing equestrian facilities were constructed between 1993 and 1997, and include an open arena, dedicated cross-country pony course, various jumps including a water jump and a clubhouse. All facilities are maintained by the FHPC. The cross-country pony course, a purpose-built facility, provides the venue for regular competition events that often involve up to 120 individuals. In addition to the organised activities of the club, informal use of the equestrian facilities occurs regularly during the week. The facilities are highly valued by pony and horse owners living in Terrey Hills. This area was claimed at the public meeting/ workshop to have the highest representation of horse ownership per head of population in Sydney. It was also stated that suitable open space/ equestrian facilities are rare in the metropolitan area making the facilities at this reserve a valuable local as well as regional resource. Furthermore, the recent prohibition of horse riding in Ku-ring-gai National Park has significantly reduced the opportunities for informal horse riding in this area. There was concern by the club that further restrictions could be placed on their activities in this reserve.

Participants at the public meetings/ workshops stated that the toilets in the clubhouse are operating at capacity due to the high level of usage. The level of maintenance of existing fences and continuing problems with poorly drained areas were also identified as important issues. A localised depression/ subsidence area, located immediately adjacent to the clubhouse within the heavily used marshalling area, regularly fills up with rain water after periods of rain. The area may require sub-surface drainage, appropriate backfilling, levelling and turfing.

A major issue raised by the FHPC in their submission related to the number of user groups in this location and incompatible recreational activities which are diminishing recreational values. Until recently, JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve was a venue for the activities of the Manly Warringah Dressage Association. The MWDA no longer use the reserve's facilities due to problems between horses and bike-riders in the immediate perimeter of the arena. The horses tend to be easily upset by bike-riders sudden movements, usually within the horses' peripheral vision.

It was stressed by the FHPC that the location of the criterium circuit continues to have a negative impact on the operations of the equestrian facilities, notably the cross-country pony course. There has always been an unresolved problem with the surface of the crossing for horses. The speed of the bikes also poses a safety risk to both horses and riders. Protective barriers or bollards and appropriate signage have not been installed and no landscaping/ screening has been undertaken to address these issues (see *Cycling/ Criterium Circuit*). Other incompatible uses include dog obedience classes being conducted at the same time as equestrian events and casual golfers hitting balls on the arena and adjoining cross-country course. This latter activity has potential to cause serious injury to horses when they accidentally step on lost balls.

BMX

The track was first constructed by a local resident in 1984, although maintenance of the track lapsed in 1993. The track was re-instated in 1997 and has since become a popular local and regional recreational facility. The track has a compacted clay/ gravel finish with vertically exaggerated jumps and depressions and super-elevated

corners. The area has a barren, desolate visual quality and yet can be transformed with a vibrant, exciting character when it is being used by a large group of people.

As with much of the reserve, there is a need for a more integrated approach to facility development along with weed management and bushland rehabilitation. It was stated that the MWBMXC would be more motivated to rehabilitate the area surrounding the track upon resolution of the criterium course issue. MWBMXC representatives also stated that they wished to expand existing facilities by installing a 'trials' track within the criterium circuit. Recent works on the existing track include a steel and colourbond roofed shelter over the starting gate area. The club currently uses a shipping container for the storage of equipment. As in the dog obedience area, this structure is ad hoc and visually obtrusive.

Since the track was re-developed and upgraded, membership of the Manly Warringah BMX Club has increased from 10 to 80 people. The organised activities of the Club occur on Tuesday and Friday evenings and on alternate Saturdays around the FHPC event days. In addition to use by the MWBMXC, the track is available for hire from the Council. This track has proven to be a popular venue for parties and other events. These arrangements continue on the basis that they do not interfere with the activities of the Forest Hills Pony Club. The track layout and level of difficulty was claimed to be suitable for professional riders as well as beginners. It had a good reputation amongst professional riders. As such, it has been the regular venue for competition events with 391 riders (including two world champions) from twelve clubs participating in the BMX Southern Zone Championships in June 1999. The track is the only one of its kind on the northern beaches with the nearest alternative track located at Fred Caterson Reserve, Castle Hill. It was further confirmed that the JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve track had regional significance with riders travelling from as far away as the Blue Mountains to use the track.

The organisation of competitions, track maintenance and upgrades are undertaken by members of the club. It was believed that the present arrangement requiring the club to book the track in order to undertake necessary maintenance needed review. Concern was also raised regarding the club's personal injury insurance which did not apply to non-members. Furthermore, it was suggested that there should be signage warning of the risk in using the track. The club stated that they are willing to install a permanent emergency telephone, primarily for unsupervised use of the track, and would welcome Council's input regarding this matter.

Cycling/ Criterium Circuit

The criterium circuit is a sealed cycling track for racing and training managed by the Manly Warringah Cycle Club (MWCC) and operates independently of the MWBMXC. The criterium circuit was constructed in 1998 as a venue for 'fast cycling'. The circuit was jointly funded by the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation, Warringah Council and each of the cycling clubs. Since its construction, the circuit has remained a contentious issue amongst all of the clubs.

Due to issues relating to the design and configuration of the course, the MWCC have chosen not to use the circuit on a regular basis. A similar facility, located at

Brookvale, is currently the club's favoured venue. It was confirmed at the Management Committee meeting that the circuit was scheduled to be used only three times this year. The MWCC representative acknowledged the low level of current usage but confirmed that if specific improvements were made relating to safety and performance, use of the facility may increase dramatically. It was further stated that the 'ultimate' course may be beyond the site. Nevertheless, it was believed that even a partially improved facility may help to increase usage.

At the Management Committee meeting concerns were raised over the lack of suitable signage identifying the track as a dedicated cycling circuit. In the event of the carpark gate being left open or vandalised the circuit can be easily mistaken as an internal access road. The circuit is also subject to unauthorised use by motorbikes and cars (refer to *Unauthorised Vehicular Access*). These problems are exacerbated by hills and 'blind corners' on the circuit and a lack of directional signage indicating the movement of cyclists. Concerns were also raised over the lack of suitable barriers or bollards surrounding the track. At present there is no physical barrier preventing collision between high speed cyclists using the circuit and other park users. These safety issues are currently being investigated by Council.

It is important to note that this circuit has been placed around the BMX area and directly adjacent to the Pony Club's arena. The two major clubs, namely the MWBMXC and FHPC, already alternate their weekends to address potential user group conflicts. This arrangement is currently working well. It would appear that the criterium circuit's future use would need to address these existing spatial and temporal constraints as well as the outstanding safety, performance and risk management issues (refer to *Equestrian* and *BMX* in this section).

Field Archery

Use of the archery range is restricted to members of the Manly Warringah Field Archers (MWFA). The activities of this club occur on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month and have been associated with JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve since circa 1983. The 1st Sunday of the month is a social day including non-competitive archery and the 3rd Sunday is the 'main shoot'. The archery range is not used outside these times.

The club has averaged approximately 120 members annually over its 20-year history. The MWFA membership includes juniors and seniors competing up to State, National and International levels. At one stage membership numbered 240. It was stated that the club maintains the only field archery facility in the Sydney northern metropolitan area with the nearest alternative located at Campbelltown. A further facility is currently being developed at Penrith.

The facilities associated with the range consist of a clubhouse located near Mona Vale Road that has independent access from Mona Vale Road (southbound lane only) to an unsealed informal carpark. The clubhouse has its own toilets and is located in a bush clearing with fireplaces and outdoor seating. The range itself consists of bush tracks leading to a number of 'shooting' stations and targets. The targets consist of filled hessian bags marked with the image of a wild animal.

Although most of the tracks are located on gently sloping ground, there are some steep sections which have been formed and stabilised with make-shift car tyres and timber. These tracks are in fair condition (refer to *Recreational Impacts* and *Weed Management*).

The extent of the range needs to be clearly defined, particularly with respect to other user groups and safety considerations. At present the “DO NOT ENTER” generic signage surrounding the range is potentially confusing, particularly for visitors who may not have been in the area before. The approach to risk management needs to be addressed in a manner that reflects the potential for serious injury (refer to *Signage*).

The maintenance and upgrading of club facilities including the field archery range are undertaken solely by the MWFA. The club is seeking security of tenure over its facilities through a formal lease arrangement with Council.

Dog Obedience Training

Although no member of the Manly District Dog and Kennel Club (MDDKC) was present at the meetings/ workshops, the club has recently advised that the new facility is now located at Deep Creek Reserve in Pittwater Council area.. The club retains a visually obtrusive shipping container for storage purposes on this mown lawn area.

Unauthorised Mountain Biking

As previously discussed, over recent years unauthorised mountain bike activities have increased significantly within the reserve's steep escarpment and bushland areas below the BMX track. There was no representative from this user group at any of the meetings/ workshops and no submissions have been received. It was however stated at the Management Committee meeting that Warringah's steep topography provides a 'mecca' for mountain biking. It was suggested at this meeting that due to it being an Olympics demonstration sport this year, the popularity of mountain biking would no doubt increase, thus placing further pressure on the Warringah LGA to manage an increased demand for this recreational activity.

It is however important to recognise the very fragile nature of these steep slopes. The Hawkesbury Sandstone bedrock weathers to form highly erodible and unstable skeletal soils. Within this context, mountain bike riding tends to be concentrated on the steepest slopes leading inevitably to a very high level of environmental degradation. Plastic tape, installed to demarcate tracks down the steep slopes, has been left over large areas of heavily disturbed and impacted bushland. Moreover, the level of clearing, multiple tracking, damage to rock outcrops, soil erosion and gullyng has seriously compromised the reserve's natural environmental values. These impacts are clearly unacceptable and unsustainable in this environment. Warringah Council has therefore made the decision to prohibit this activity on the reserve's steep slopes.

E. Adjoining Land Uses

Kimbriki Recycling and Waste Disposal Centre

The site of the Kimbriki Recycling and Waste Disposal Centre, adjoining the reserve's southern boundary, was first established as a landfill site in 1974. Following closure of the Terrey Hills Landfill Depot in 1978 (now JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve), the Kimbriki Centre was established as a waste disposal centre. The recycling and waste disposal activities of the Centre are operated by a Joint Services Committee (JSC) consisting of Manly, Mosman, Pittwater and Warringah Councils with the centre managed by Warringah Council.

Warringah Pittwater Emergency Control Centre

The Warringah Pittwater Emergency Control Centre, established in 1990, provides a control centre during any type of large scale emergency. The facility adjoins the south-western boundary of the reserve, located between Mona Vale Road, Thompson Drive (the access road leading into JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve) and the Terrey Hills Exchange.

Telecommunications Area (Pittwater Trig Station)

This area contains telecommunications equipment and towers within bushland. It is located adjacent to the reserve's boundary on Mona Vale Road at Tumbledown Dick Hill.

Appendix 2: Reserve Action Plans

Reserve Action Plans

1 Introduction

The Generic Bushland Plan of Management applies to a large number of bushland reserves throughout Warringah. The specific way some of the actions in this plan are implemented in each reserve will vary depending on the individual characteristics of each reserve. To overcome this uncertainty, the plan recommends that Reserve Action Plans (RAPs) be prepared for individual reserves or groups of reserves (action G9). The RAPs will be consistent with the aims and objectives of this plan and will provide the specific bushland management strategies to be applied to individual bushland areas. They will be prepared in consultation with reserve neighbours.

2 Priorities for RAP Preparation

RAPs will be prepared in order of reserve priority. Priority will be determined by a number of factors, including conservation status, presence of threatened species or endangered ecological communities, location in relation to wildlife corridors and core bushland, size, position within the catchment, intensity of use, presence of heritage items, etc. This will enable resources and management effort to be focussed where it will have most effect.

RAPs will consist of an outline of any specific management issues, a plan detailing the specific works required and a schedule and costing of specific site works. These plans will be developed progressively following the adoption of the Plan of Management.

3 Content of RAP

An *Inventory* of reserve, including map and text identifying and describing features and management issues including:

- ☐ Condition and conservation status of **vegetation** communities, including location of any threatened species and known ROTAP species.
- ☐ Location of creeks or other **waterways**, including any stormwater outlets.
- ☐ Location of any **special features** of the reserve, including historical heritage items (Aboriginal or European) and natural heritage items (such as significant rock formations, caves, waterfalls, unusual plant communities, etc)
- ☐ Any **hazard** zones or areas including bushfire or land slip areas, and individual risk areas such as rock faces, cliff lines, etc
- ☐ Location of any Council **assets** or facilities, including walking trails, picnic facilities, etc.
- ☐ Any **existing works programs**, including bush regeneration, threatened species management, targeted noxious weed control, urban boundary weed removal, manual hazard reduction works and Friends of the Bush sites, with details of site history that might affect current management.

- ☐ Detailed condition mapping of bushland areas highlighting areas requiring regeneration / restoration and the degrading influence(s) involved. These degrading influences might include:
 - **management history** (including past management practices, fire hazard management, etc);
 - **boundary issues / edge effects**, (including swimming pools that could discharge into the reserve, stormwater outlets, sewage overflows and any activities on adjacent land that might affect the reserve)
 - **illegal activities** (including dumping, tree vandalism, neighbour encroachments, trail bike riding, etc);
- ☐ Any significant **erosion** areas which require treatment.
- ☐ Any other **threats to native biodiversity**, including weed infestations (and the suspected cause), feral animals, presence of companion animals and recreational activities.

A *Plan of works* for the reserve, including prioritised schedule and costing of specific site works. The plan of works will be based on an analysis of the reserve's features and the management issues that have been identified. It will contain strategies which, where possible, integrate all works and management activities to maximise their effectiveness. Typically, a plan of work will contain actions such as:

- ☐ Practical measures **to address the causes** of processes that threaten plant communities and or locally significant species, such as weed infestations, encroachments, etc.
- ☐ **Stabilisation** program for eroding areas
- ☐ A staged outline of **bush regeneration** required
- ☐ Measures to protect any **heritage items** and other values of the reserve
- ☐ Site specific strategies to address any management issues associated with Council **assets**.

The aim of the RAP is to ensure that work in each reserve is prioritised to achieve the greatest management benefit. It will promote wholistic management of the reserve and focus action on the causes rather than the effects of degradation. For example, if an area of bushland is being covered by sediment and weeds from an eroding track further uphill, the RAP will recommend addressing the track erosion and weed transport before any bush regeneration is carried out in the degraded area of bushland down the hill.

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Appendix 3: Lease, licence and other estates legislation

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires that any lease or licence of community land be authorised by a Plan of Management. Leases and licences formalise the use of community land by groups and organisations. Activities must be compatible with the zoning of the land and provide benefits, services, or facilities for users of the land.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 46 of the Local Government Act, Council may lease or licence community land in a Plan of Management for purposes consistent with the categorisation and zoning of the land.

The maximum period for leases and licences on community land allowable under the Local Government Act is 21 years for purposes consistent with the categorisation and core objectives of the particular area of community land. Community land may only be leased or licensed if public notice is given according to the requirements of the Local Government Act.

Where a lease arrangement has been entered into with Council for community land, subleasing of the land must be in accordance with the requirements of Section 47C of the Local Government Act.

The Local Government Act allows Council to grant “an estate” over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities, as well as activities.