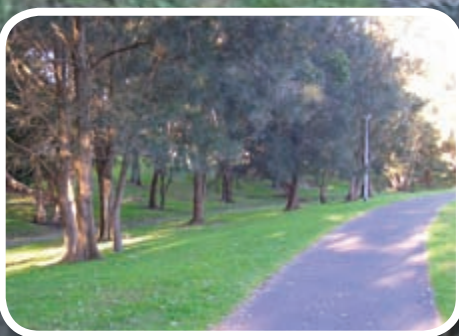


WARRINGAH COUNCIL



Dee Why Valley and South Creek Open Space Corridor Plan of Management



**Warringah
Council**

Adopted June 2008

Photo of Manly United courtesy of Manly Warringah Football Association, features Daniel Lock against Sutherland Sharks.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Plan of Management provides the framework for managing the Dee Why Valley and South Creek Open Space Corridor. It sets a direction which Council and the community have developed through consultation and research.

The plan covers the 13 reserves which stretch along South Creek from Beacon Hill to Narrabeen Lagoon and through Dee Why Creek in Cromer to Dee Why Park. It aims to satisfy the requirements of the *Local Government Act* 1993 and the *Crown Land Act* 1989.

The plan's actions and directions focus on protecting the identified community values of this land. This area is highly valued for the environmental, recreational and sporting opportunities it provides. The community also views the appearance, accessibility and management of the reserves as important.

Many people were involved in the community consultation activities and considerable information was collected about the values and issues of this area. The major issues were weed infestation, lack of access through the reserves, poor sporting facilities and the degradation of the natural areas.

The management actions set out in this plan focus on achieving the following objectives:

- To protect, preserve and enhance the natural environment within the South Creek Open Space Corridor and Dee Why Valley.
- To improve the management of the reserves and resolve the outstanding land ownership and tenure issues.
- To develop accessible, attractive and inviting open space areas linked by a network of pathways which take advantage of the linear nature of the reserves from Narrabeen to Dee Why and Beacon Hill.
- To manage, maintain and improve the sportsgrounds to meet the needs of the users and local community.
- To provide a wide range of enjoyable and safe opportunities for the local community to participate in.

Over 60 actions have been listed in this plan which aims to contribute to the above objectives. Such actions include:

- Expansion of the weed eradication program
- Identification of new areas for bush regeneration and additional habitat areas
- Development of a network of pathways throughout the area
- Allowing new and improved sporting facilities and recreational opportunities
- Improving the overall atmosphere, appearance and usage of all the reserves
- Obtaining control of publicly owned land within the open space corridor that is not currently under Council's care control and management.

An issues and options discussion paper was exhibited in June 2007 which listed all identified issues and proposed a list of management options. Over 30 submissions were received from the community regarding the proposals. All comments have been taken into consideration in the development of this Plan.

The implementation of this plan requires Council to undertake an annual review of each action. All actions within a plan of management are assessed against other areas of Council and final commitment to implementing an action is given once they appear in Council's Strategic Community Plan and other relevant documents.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 What is a Plan of Management

A plan of management provides the framework for managing public land. Dee Why Valley and South Creek Open Space Corridor have been nominated as requiring a 'Specific Area Plan of Management' in recognition of the geographical, recreational and ecological importance of this area.

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires that Council prepare plans of management for all land classified as "Community Land". This classification means that the land is owned by Council and is managed for use by the community. There are 13 reserves in this plan, eight of which are wholly owned by Council and two other reserves which include some land parcels owned by Council.

Warringah Council is responsible for five Crown Reserves in this area and has the responsibility to manage these reserves under the *Crown Lands Act, 1989*. This Plan of Management will ensure that Crown Land is used and managed in accordance with the purpose for which it has been reserved. It is not a statutory requirement for these reserves to be managed by a plan of management however Council has chosen to include these reserves to ensure all 13 reserves are strategically planned and managed.

1.2 The aims of this Plan

This Plan of Management aims to provide a clear, concise and practical outline for the management of Dee Why Valley and South Creek Open Space Corridor. It also aims to assist Council in meeting its broader strategic goals and vision as set out in the 'Living Warringah' Strategic Plan (2005). The plan uses a values-based approach to land planning and management and aims to provide strategies that will protect and enhance community values for this land by addressing any issues threatening these values.

It aims to also satisfy the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Crown Land Act 1989*.

1.3 Lands to which this plan of management applies

The Dee Why Valley and South Creek Open Space Corridor is made up of 13 separate reserves following South Creek from Beacon Hill to Narrabeen Lagoon and Dee Why Creek starting in Cromer to Dee Why Park. Figure 1.3.1 illustrates the reserves which are included in this Plan of Management.

The reserves are primarily located in a residential area with some being adjacent to land used for small industry. The reserves include a diversity of landscape types from bushland and wetlands to parkland and formal sporting fields. There are also a number of community facilities close to these reserves, including schools, childcare centres, community centres and private recreation clubs.

Appendix A lists the specific information relating to each parcel of land within this Plan of Management.

1.4 Land status and ownership

The Department of Lands owns part of or all of the following reserves:

- Cromer Park
- St Matthews Farm
- South Creek Foreshore
- Multi Use Access Pathway (one parcel owned by the Crown)
- Birinta Reserve (two land parcels owned by the Crown)

The other following reserves are owned by Council and are classified as community land:

- McIntosh Reserve
- Towradgi Reserve
- Birinta Reserve (one parcel owned by the Council)
- Lidwina Reserve
- Tyagarah Reserve
- Wabash Reserve
- South Creek Reserve
- Dunic Place
- Dee Why Park
- Multi Use Access Pathway (two parcels owned by the Council)

There are a number of parcels of land within the corridor which are neither owned by Council nor the Department of Lands. These land parcels are not managed by Council and cannot be managed in this plan however there are a number of actions within this document which aim to obtain control of such land. Figure 1.4.1 shows those parcels owned by Council, the Crown and other groups.

1.5 Use of the reserves

Cromer Park, St Matthews Farm and Dee Why Park have sportsfields within their boundaries and are used for sporting competitions and training throughout the year. The Sportsground Hierarchy (contained in the Sportsground Plan of Management) places the sportsgrounds into groups to assist Council in managing and developing all of Warringah's sportsfields. The hierarchy has listed Cromer Park as a 'Regional Sportsground B' as it is used for regional, district and local level sporting competitions. St Matthews Farm is considered a 'Sub Regional Sportsfield' as it is used by a variety of sports and clubs. Dee Why Park is listed as a 'Local A Sportsfield' and is used by both adults and juniors at a local level.

Each of the other reserves would be considered individually as 'local neighbourhood parks' but together they form a continuous open space link and are important both locally and regionally.

As part of this project a 'Residents Survey' (Appendix C) was undertaken and people were asked what they did when they visited the reserves. The results (Appendix D) indicated that the reserves were well used and very popular for walking, bike riding, competitive and casual sport and visiting the children's playgrounds. Dee Why Park, Multi-Use Access Pathway and St Matthews Farm were the most popular reserves and were used extensively for physical activity.

The reserves are also a very important natural resource, both locally and regionally. The creek and natural bush environment provides an important area for both animals and native plants to grow and thrive. Smith (2005) categorised the South Creek Corridor and Dee Why Valley as an important 'Wildlife Corridor' because it maintains a link with the larger areas of remnant bushland in the region. Such links assist with the protection and improvement of the natural bushland and habitat throughout Warringah and the Northern Beaches.

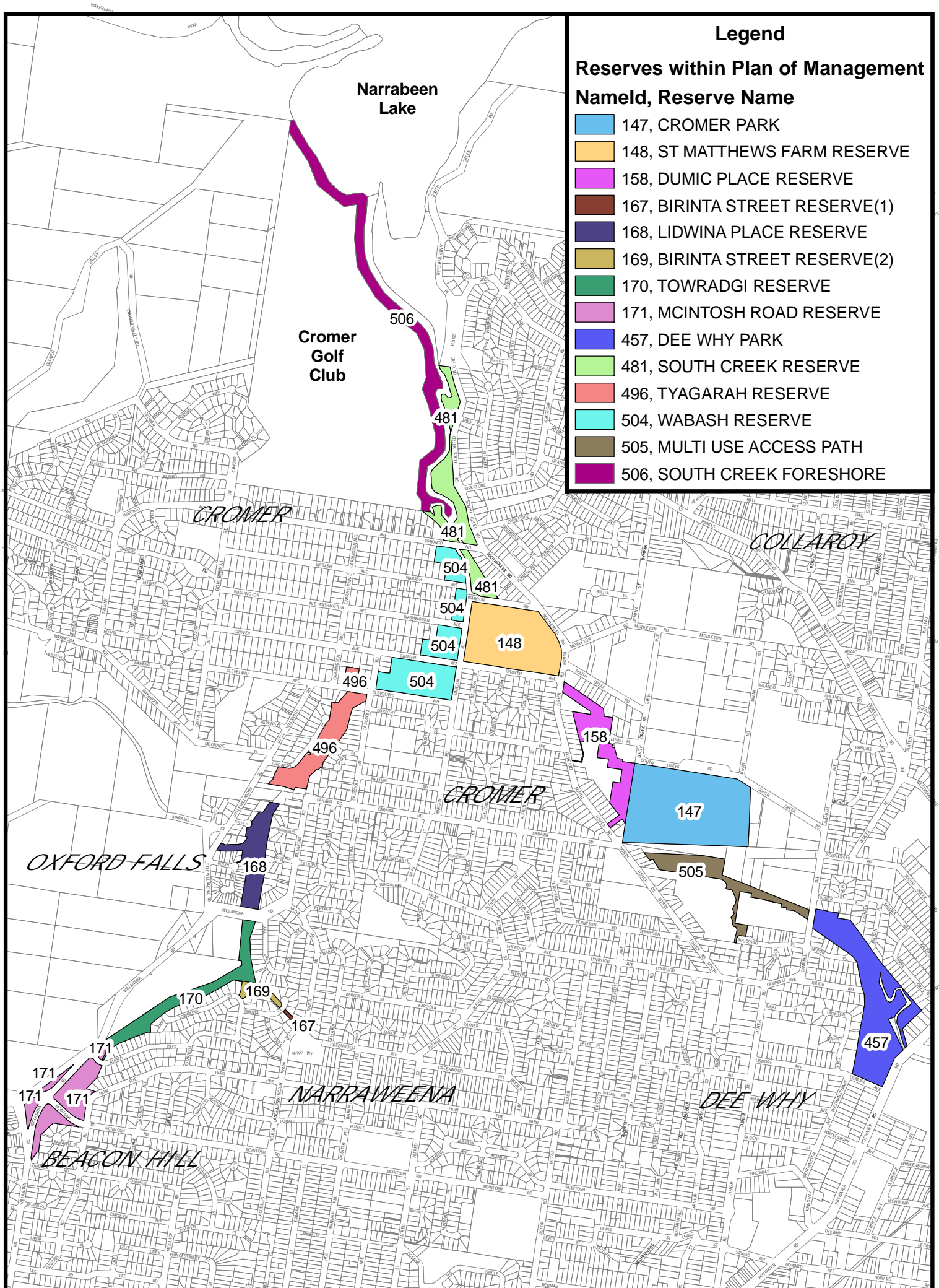


Figure 1.3.1 Reserves within Dee Why Valley and South Creek Open Space Plan of Management

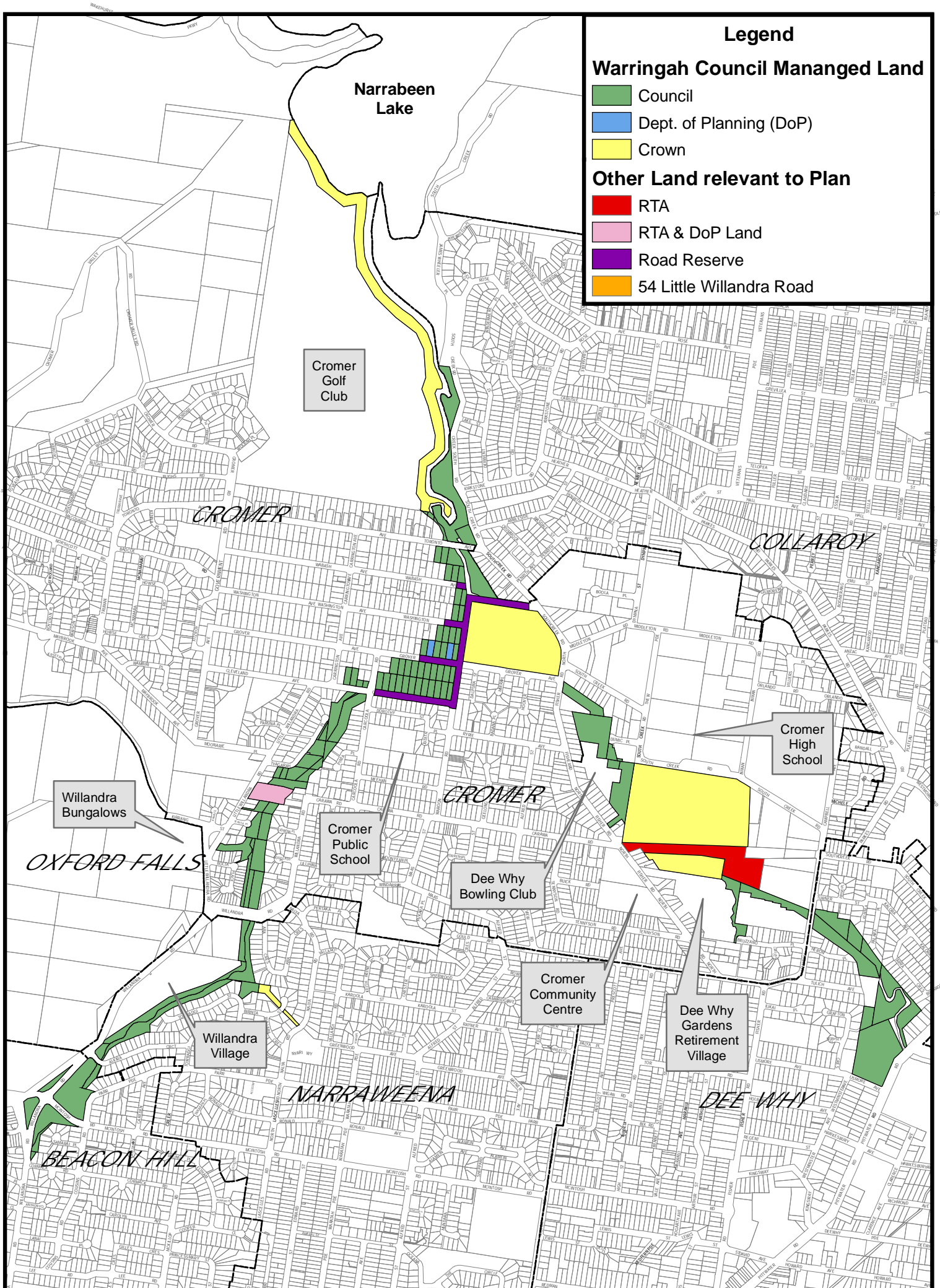


Figure 1.4.1 Land Tenure of Land Parcels