

3 BASIS FOR MANAGEMENT

3.1 Council's management goals

In 2005 Council developed the "Living Warringah" Strategic Plan, which set Council's vision:

Warringah – A vibrant community, improving our quality of life by living in balance with our special bush and beach environment

To be able to achieve such a vision a series of goals were developed in four main areas. The following goals are relevant to the Dee Why Valley and South Creek Corridor and provide direction for this plan:

- **Living Environment Goal 1.** To maintain the diversity of natural environments at their current levels or better.
- **Living Environment Goal 2:** To manage Warringah catchments, waterways and marine environments in a sustainable way.
- **Living Spaces Goal 1:** To provide a diverse range of high quality open space and recreation facilities to meet the needs of the community.
- **Living Spaces Goal 2:** To provide recreational access to natural areas while ensuring the sustainability of the natural environment.
- **Living Communities Goal 5:** To actively encourage and support the community to use open space and participate in recreation.

3.2 Council's planning and management principles for public open space

The planning and management principles aim to create a safe and healthy environment to ultimately improve the quality of life for both residents and visitors to Warringah. The following principles are used to guide the management of open space:

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

3.3 Community values

This plan takes a values-based approach to land use planning and management. This allows the key values, role and purpose to be identified so that they may be protected and enhanced. 'Values can simply be described as what is important about a place' (DLWC & Manidis Roberts, 1996).

The consultation process has confirmed that Dee Why Valley and the South Creek Open Space Corridor is considered a valuable area. The following value groups have been identified:

- Natural Environment
- Access, Appearance and Use of the Reserves
- Sporting
- Recreational, Social and Cultural
- Land Management

The following provides a brief explanation of why each value is important to the community and how this plan will focus on protecting and improving each value area.

The natural environment

The location of these reserves along South and Dee Why Creeks means that there is an important link with both the Narrabeen and Dee Why Lagoons and neighbouring bushland such as the National Parks. The condition and health of the creeks and surrounding areas impacts directly on the larger waterways and affects the survival of many native plants and animals.

There are a number of areas where endangered vegetation communities have been identified. These include Swamp Oak Forest, Estuarine Reedland, Swamp Mahogany Forest and Coastal Dune Swamp which are all considered threatened in NSW. These communities also provide potential habitat for threatened animal life including the Black Bittern, Koala, Regent Honey Eater and the Swift Parrot.

The need to protect and improve the existing natural areas is very important to the community and they highly value the diversity of plant and animal life in the area. Almost 50% of the survey respondents (Appendix D) said they valued the natural open space of the corridors with another 20% noting that the native plants and animals in the area are important to them. The condition of the creeks and the surrounding vegetation was considered the most important issue at the community workshop (Appendix D).

All actions regarding this value are based around the protection, preservation and improvement of the natural environment.

Access, appearance and availability

These reserves are located adjacent to many homes and many other people live within a few minutes walk to at least one of the reserves. Most reserves can be accessed from several locations and the continuous nature of these corridors provides people with a feeling of space. Many felt the reserves allow them to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

Nearly half of survey respondents used these reserves as a means of transit with most moving within the local area of Cromer and Dee Why. Many commented on the reserves closeness to their homes and the fact that any one could use them. In rating the various aspects of each reserve the survey results (Appendix D) indicate that the respondents generally thought access to the open space was good to excellent.

The two parks most visited in the last 12 months were Dee Why Park and Multi Use Access Path which are the only two with a hard surface track suitable for both walking and cycling. This may indicate the popularity and importance of such facilities.

The appearance and the way the area looks were very important to many people. It was felt that the weed infestation and wild looking appearance of the reserves affects the popularity and use of the reserves. Some did not know that they were actually public open spaces for them to visit

The actions included in this plan have focused on the development of a system of pathways throughout the area and improving the overall appearance, accessibility and use of the area.

Sporting

The three sportsgrounds play an important role in the lives of many people. They are valued for the recreational opportunities that they provide and the variety of sports that they cater for. The quality of the facilities at Cromer Park and its potential as a regional sporting facility was seen as important to some people.

The sportsfields were well used over the last 12 months (Appendix D) with the three grounds being in the top four most visited reserves.

All the Sporting Clubs interviewed valued the opportunity to be able to provide a diverse range of sporting programs and competitions for a wide variety of ages and levels.

The actions within this plan focus on providing well managed and maintained sportsgrounds. Any suggested development at the grounds has been based on meeting the needs of all users.

Recreational, Social and Cultural

These reserves provide opportunities for people of all ages to participate in many different activities. The survey results showed the reserves are very popular for walking, bike riding, causal sport, dog walking and for undertaking regular exercise.

There are four playgrounds in this area and they were seen as important for young families, especially the Dee Why Park playground which is situated close to many units and is used by children during sporting competitions.

The cultural and historical significance of the reserves was noted. There is some evidence that they played an important role in the lives of our indigenous community.

The social importance of this area was highlighted with over 71% of survey respondents saying that they visited the reserves with other people.

Many also felt that local residents needed to take on more responsibility for the area and become more involved in the future management of the area. The impact that some people's behaviour is having on the natural environment was noted.

The actions in this plan focus on improving the current recreational facilities, developing new facilities, building stronger relationships with adjacent land owners and users and addressing those issues which affect people's enjoyment of the areas.

Land Management

Land management is not traditionally considered a value but this issue was consistently raised as being important. The community generally felt that it is important that this land is managed well and takes into account all of the different uses of the reserves.

The actions protecting these values look specifically at addressing outstanding land issues which impact on the continuous nature of the corridors or conflict with the other values seen as important in the area.

All values are important but some have a greater impact on our community than others. Table 3.3.1 identifies the level of significance assigned to each value. These have been considered on a local, district, regional, state or national basis. From this it can be seen that the condition and health of the environment in this area is of significant value to Warringah although the community consultation activities have also indicated that the local community strongly value the open space areas which allow them to relax, recreate, socialise and exercise.

Values	Level of Significance				
	Local	District	Regional	State	National
Natural Environment	√	√	√	√	
Access, Appearance and availability of open space	√	√			
Sporting	√	√	√		
Recreation/ Social / Cultural	√	√			
Land Management	√	√			

Table 3.3.1 Level of significance for each value identified

3.4 Community issues

A detailed Issues and Options Discussion Paper (Appendix F) was written as part of the development of this Plan of Management. The paper was based on the information collected from the community consultation and was exhibited for public comment. Table 3.4.1 summarises the issues raised regarding the reserves. The last column lists those actions from this Plan which address the issues, in some cases it includes those ongoing management actions (OM) discussed in section 4.3. If another plan or document addresses a specific issue this has also been noted.

Value	Topic area	Issue Summary	Ref to action
Environment	Flooding	Serious flooding has and can occur in much of this area, affecting both the open space and neighbouring residences, businesses and community facilities.	7 South Creek Flood Management Plan
	Creek and riparian zones	Both creeks are highly degraded. There are also issues with weeds and bank stability.	1,5,7
	Domestic animals	There were some concerns about the impact of pets on the environment.	6,19,20,51
	Water quality and pollutants	The quality of the water in the creeks and the impact that both development and industry may be having on the riparian zones was noted.	OM1
	Weed infestation	This was a major issue as it affects access and enjoyment and impacts on the condition of the natural area.	1, 59
	Endangered communities	There are several locations with identified endangered vegetation communities. The need to protect and if possible restore these is important to the community.	2,3
	Habitat	There were many reports of the movement and presence of native animals in this area. A 'Habitat Study' was undertaken as part of this project. This study highlighted the need to protect current habitat areas and consider restoration of other areas.	2,3,4,6
Recreation, Cultural and Social	Safety and security	There were reports of unleashed dogs and native animals and pests, poor landscape lighting and regular vandalism and antisocial behaviour – these affected how safe people felt in the area.	31,37,49,50,OM4
	Playgrounds/Children's areas	There are 4 playgrounds in the area. They all require an upgrade to meet Australian standards in the Playground Strategy (August 2007). The lack of areas for children to ride bikes safely was noted.	54, Playground Strategy
	Youth spaces	A shortage of facilities throughout Warringah for young people was noted and there were several requests for skate areas and other such facilities.	52, 54, 56
	Over 50s	Cromer has a high proportion of the population over 50 years old with forecasts predicting an increase in this age group over the next 10 years. It is important that this area provides accessible and suitable facilities. There are 3 major retirement homes, each adjacent to a reserve.	22, 23, 25, 60, 61, OM5
	People with disabilities	At this stage there are few specific facilities that cater for people with disabilities and in some cases access to some of the reserves would not be possible.	22, 23, 25, 60,OM5
	Volunteers	There has been considerable work by volunteers in the past and there were suggestions that further voluntary support is required to improve the current condition of the area.	59, 60
Recreation, Cultural and Social	Indigenous heritage	There is evidence of an indigenous presence in the area, which needs to be protected.	OM2
	Community health	The reserves provide opportunity for exercise and relaxation which are important components of good health.	22, 23, 25,39, 41 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58
	Education	There were many calls for the local community to be further educated about their role in protecting the environment and the local reserves.	51
	European heritage	A request was made to acknowledge the role Dee Why Park played in providing vegetables for the armies in World War II.	No specific action in this plan

Value	Topic area	Issues Summary	Ref to Action
Land Management	Management of dogs	There were many requests for suitable dog exercise areas. The impact that dogs may be having on the environment and people's enjoyment of the open space was raised.	19,20
	Land tenure and ownership	There are a number of parcels of publicly owned land not wholly controlled by Council or the Crown. There are land ownership issues at Lidwina Reserve, Wabash Reserve and the Multi Use Access Path. The Crown owns the South Creek Foreshore Reserve but there is a Permissive Occupancy with Cromer Golf Club, which allows them to use the land. Both the Golf Club and Council have a variety of issues regarding this land.	10 -17
	Rubbish	There are incidences of illegal dumping on the reserves. The process for the management of dumping as it occurs is to be dealt with through Council's Customer Response System.	18, 51
	Encroachment	There are numerous encroachments on the reserves including: garden beds, play equipment, vehicles and sheds. Some residents also mow or dump rubbish and garden clippings on the reserves.	18, 51
	Stormwater facilities	There are many facilities through out the catchment. There were requests to improve signage and weed infestations around these facilities.	OM10
	Customer service	There were a number of comments regarding Council's response to complaints and requests. This will be addressed through Council's Customer Response System.	Not covered in this plan
	Maintenance	Due to location, topography and weather variability the growth rate of both the weeds and grass appears to exceed what is managed by the current maintenance programs and schedules.	8
Access, Appearance and Availability	Tracks and cycle ways	The current tracks are very popular and well utilized. There were many requests for the development of more tracks.	23-26, 52, 53
	Facilities and services	A lack of tables, seating, barbecues, opened toilets and shade suitable for picnics and gatherings was noted in all the reserves.	22, 52- 7
	Border clarification within reserves	There is little to show reserve borders. This may be causing other issues i.e. encroachments, lack of community awareness etc. This is particularly evident in Towradgi, Lidwina and Tyagarah Reserves.	31
	Inaccessible areas	The weeds have blocked off a number of areas within the reserves. There is also a large Sydney Water Pipe blocking access through Tyagarah Reserve – this reserve is used as access to a school.	1, 23-30
Access, Appearance and Availability	Unwanted facilities	There is a large concrete slab in Tyagarah Reserve. This affects accessibility through the reserve and is unsuitable for any recreational facility development. A request to move it was made.	29
	Car parking	There were requests for all three sportsfields to have more parking.	32-36
	Inappropriate use	There have been incidences of people riding motor bikes or motorised scooters in the reserves.	18, 31, 51
	Awareness and Promotion	There were numerous requests for additional signage of all types in the area. There were also some questions regarding some reserve names – i.e. Multi Use Access Pathway is not an easy or representative name, what will we call the new land which has been purchased adjacent to Dumic Place? Dee Why Park appears to be known by several different names.	31

Value	Topic area	Issue Summary	Ref to action
Sporting	Development at Sportsgrounds	There were several requests for upgrades at Cromer Park – including lights, seating and modifications to the amenity building and an all weather sportsfield/ facility. Dee Why Park users requested upgrades to the amenity building, a cricket net and a barbecues and seating area. St Matthews Farm users requested a new northern amenities building.	39
	Leases and Licences	There are currently two leases. Cromer Park field one is leased exclusively to the Manly Warringah Soccer Association and the southern amenity block at St Matthews Farm is leased to Cromer Kingfishers Rugby Club. There have been requests for other leases, in particular field 2 at Cromer Park and mobile food and coffee vans for the area.	Section 4.6
	Overuse and allocation	A number of the clubs commented on the lack of grounds available, the inequity of allocation and the resultant poor surfaces and amenities.	40, 47, 48 Generic Sports - ground PoM
	Impact of neighbours	The increase in lighting and night time usage impacts on the local residents. There were also comments on the early morning noise at Dee Why Park.	44, Generic Sports - ground PoM
	Lighting	There has been a request for 100 lux lighting at most fields to allow night time practice games and competitions.	OM3 Generic Sports - ground PoM
	New spaces for mini fields	Several areas were suggested for mini soccer fields – Dumic Place, Campbell Parade end of Dee Why Park and the mown area of Lidwina Reserve. The possibility of negotiating the use of the local school fields for weekend sport usage was also raised.	47, 48
	Cromer Park	Other specific issues included: ample recovery time for the ground, inadequate lighting, vandalism, poor irrigation and drainage, exclusive use of the fields by one sport and the lack of use during weekdays. Cromer park is only used for soccer and it was considered important that it be made into a multiuse facility with greater recreational opportunities for the community.	39,40,41, 47,49 Generic Sports - ground PoM
Sporting	St Matthews Farm	Other specific issues included: subsidence, drainage, excessive use of some parts of the fields, tension between clubs, faulty irrigation system and unclean and unsuitable buildings.	39, 40, 42 45, 47, 49 Generic Sports - ground PoM
	Dee Why Park	Other specific issues included: balls in creek, poor drainage, lack of flood lighting, poor turf condition, vandalism, lack of junior pitches and vandalism. There were also requests for advertising space.	39, 40 , 43,44, 45m, 47, 48, 49, Generic Sports - ground PoM

Table 3.4.1: Current issues of the Dee Why Valley and South Creek Plan of Management Area