

APPENDIX A:

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

APPENDIX A

NOT AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY

APPENDIX B:

RED HILL AND GOLDEN GROVE, BEACON HILL

SURVEY FOR ABORIGINAL SITES

– Helen Brayshaw Heritage Consultants

APPENDIX B

NOT AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY

APPENDIX C:

**FLORA AND FAUNA ASSESSMENT OF RED HILL AND
GOLDEN GROVE PARKS AT BEACON HILL**

– P & J Smith Ecological Consultants

APPENDIX C

NOT AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY

APPENDIX D:

COMMUNITY ISSUES DISCUSSION PAPER

COMMUNITY ISSUES

What Are the Issues?

A series of issues have been developed which need addressing. The issues have been identified from assessment of the existing environment, review of previous studies, consultation with the community, discussion with Council and consideration of public submissions. The issues have been summarised, and associated issues grouped together to produce the following list of issues.

Open Space Being Difficult to Access

The community meetings raised the issue of the land in Golden Grove being too steep for children to access. The topography does have an elevational difference of 68 metres, which makes access difficult in parts. The open space does follow the alignment of the blocks, so immediate access into the bushland is available.

The issue of the Red Hill Park being too difficult to access was also noted, but this is due mainly to its location at one end of the subdivision. There is no easy answer to these issues as the subdivision planning is complete.

Access to Schools and Buses

The difficulty of crossing the creek in wet weather was raised, along with the need for a good bike/pedestrian/trail network, which provides links to the school and the bus stops. An elevated walkway would provide all weather access across the South Creek. Commuter tracks across the site, East and West were requested, especially from Golden Grove to Friendship Place and from Golden Grove to Endeavour Place.



Suitable creek crossing



**Reynolds Crescent. -
suitable crossing point**

South Creek Flooding

The fast rate that water rises in the creek after storms was mentioned by residents. Discussions with Council officers since has confirmed that the 1:100 year flood level on the creek is not available, and flood inundation maps will be prepared. The Dee Why Valley and South Creek Plan of Management (Clouston, 1996) recommended that South Creek have a separate management plan for flooding.

Bushfire Risk

Being a bushland area, bushfire management needs to be put into perspective with the need to conserve the indigenous flora and fauna. The initial analysis has highlighted the need for further bush fire management controls along one of the boundaries facing Red Hill. Council will undertake detailed site assessments and assess inner and outer fuel zones as part of their fuel Management Plan for these areas.

Traffic Impact

There was concern expressed about a possible increase in traffic if the Red Hill Park was developed with a regional focus. Most people did not want to see a substantial increase in visitors and traffic. The Red Hill Park site has regional significance and measures will need to be taken to ensure that traffic numbers are not excessive and do not adversely effect the existing residents.

Privacy of Neighbouring Properties

Residents in Brooker Avenue were concerned with their perceived lack of privacy due to the proposed trail, north of their properties. The trail has been sensitively sited further north than the initial location on the first Landscape Concept Plan (which was presented at the second community meeting 21 March, 1998) and is difficult to see from the residential boundaries. Existing trees and proposed planting will ameliorate any views of people along the trail. Views and intrusion of privacy will have to be considered for any future trails and play ground locations. Privacy of the adjoining residents needs also to be balanced against the need for the open spaces to provide facilities for the public and for a comprehensive trail network to be incorporated into the parks.

Traffic Calming Devices

The speed of traffic along Golden Grove Road was noted as an issue and a request for traffic calming devices was noted. Council engineers and planners will address this issue.

Dogs

Control of dogs, and the need for "off leash" areas were both noted. Council policy requires that dogs are on leads in these public spaces. The option of Red Hill Park to offer an "off lead" area for dogs will be considered by Council.

Damage from Off-road Vehicles

Much environmental damage is caused by trail bikes, motor bikes and four wheel drives. Any future planning must take this into account and design for sufficient barriers to these vehicles.

Vandalism of Aboriginal Sites

There are many Aboriginal sites of National significance within the surrounding areas. There is a need to organise ways of protecting the sites from future vandalism, in collaboration with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council and National Parks. Perspex screens, interpretative signage and redirection of some trails are all possibilities to be considered.

Water Quality Ponds / Detention Ponds

There are many ponds on site, and they provide different functions. They are:

- The large gross pollutant trap and sedimentation pond at the Southern end of Golden Grove (within land parcel 56/8). This was constructed during the Red Hill subdivision by Landcom and Council was given \$10,000 to remove it after the subdivision is complete. It is now predominantly bare, apart from a few reeds, and the batters are engineered and unattractive. The public were concerned with the appearance of it and of safety issues. Council require it to be left until after all blocks are developed, they will then recommend what works, if any, will be undertaken. Council have the responsibility to maintain the siltation pond for five years after the development has been completed.
- The gross pollutant trap and sedimentation pond in the open space South of Endeavour Drive (within land parcel 56/9). This pond has caused concern within the community in relation to safety. The maintenance is problematic and its safety issues are problematic. There is a desire line through the open space from the North, to link to South Creek, to the South. At present it is difficult to walk through this space, as only a narrow wedge of land to the West is available, and there are steep inclines to the creek, requiring steps, and steep embankments to the pond itself. The pond requires urgent attention in relation to safety requirements. Obviously any work on the area would be substantial and costly.
- The sedimentation pond South of Endeavour Drive (within land parcel 56/6) only serves a small area, mostly the developments around Friendship Place. The pond is currently full of reeds which act to improve water quality.
- The sedimentation pond in the open space off the Eastern end of Brooker Avenue (within land parcel 56/12). This pond has gentler slopes, and sufficient circulation space around it. Significant areas of reedy vegetation have established and only slight modifications to the pond will be required in the future.
- The sedimentation pond at the end of Guardian Parade (within land parcel 56/8) services the top of the catchment and is not as structured as the other ponds. The future of the pond will be determined by Council and a decision will be made whether to maintain and upgrade the pond or whether to rehabilitate the area.



Pond at end of Brooker Avenue

Retention of Existing Bushland Character

This was a key issue brought up at the community meetings. Any future works in the open space areas must reinforce the bushland character of the site. The request was for “well maintained bushland.”

Bushland Regeneration

Members of the public were very keen to see bushland regeneration as a key priority, especially at Red Hill where so much disturbance has taken place. The Beacon Hill High School is already involved in bushland regeneration and is keen to continue its involvement where possible, some community members were interested in assisting. Weed infestation along South Creek is an issue which also requires community assistance. Willows and Camphor laurel trees should be removed in the long term.

Education and Interpretation

Signage and interpretation were considered high priority, along with historic interpretation of the area. Beacon Hill High School was interested in participating in the interpretation of natural and cultural elements.

Recreation Opportunities

The bushland character and sensitive ecologies of the site should determine the appropriate recreational use. There was strong community support to retain the informal recreational uses, such as bushwalking, nature study and viewing, and not to provide formal recreational facilities. The area on Red Hill does lend itself to creation of a large area for informal ball games, community meetings etc. Playground provision is covered elsewhere in this Plan, and it is acknowledged that "natural" play opportunities are abundant in this unique open space corridor. There is a need for a small car park facility adjacent to the Red Hill Park. Four wheel drives and trail bikes are currently causing havoc, and should be restricted.

The community's majority view was that a playing field is not required. The community requested trails as the first priority to provide some linkages between the open space areas. There was strong opposition to BBQs. Interpretation and signage were considered high on the priority list.

Playground Equipment

Whilst not a majority view, it was felt by some people that some play equipment would be required. The Beacon Hill area has 12 neighbourhood playgrounds catering for 75 children under the age of 12 years for each playground site. This figure is well above the average and it seems unnecessary for additional playground facilities to be provided. There are already three playgrounds in the vicinity - one at the school, one at Brooker Avenue, and one at Kerry Close.

Support was given for the idea of using the High School equipment after hours (pending the School's approval) and for upgrading the play ground at Brooker Avenue. It was confirmed that the character for any future play equipment should be "natural."



Existing Brooker Avenue playground



Areas of "natural plan" evident on site

Aboriginal Reconciliation

The idea that the two parks should involve some form of representation of Aboriginal themes or idea of reconciliation was generally agreed amongst the people at the meetings. The idea was included in the brief for the Red Hill and Golden Grove Parks and should be explored further in future works. Council have also adopted a Recreation Strategy Plan (Warringah Council, 1999) that identifies the Red Hill park as incorporating a Reconciliation Park. Close liaison with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council will be essential from the early stages.

Brooker Avenue Road Reserves

The road reserve shown as an extension to Brooker Avenue was brought up as a concern at the meetings. It is an unused road corridor, which cuts through sandstone cliffs and steep terrain. An eroded track is located within the Southern line of the reserve. The track needs to be repaired and it was recommended that the reserve be resumed for community land/reserve. Council confirmed that there was no intention to extend Brooker Avenue into the reserve. There was concern that Brooker Avenue might be extended into the road reserve in the future.

Diversity of trails

A range of trails was requested to provide for commuters, bicycles and recreational joggers. A variety of surfaces, including mulch and crushed sandstone were suggested. Concrete or asphalt was also suggested for trails often used by commuters or suitable in wet weather.

Invasive Species

There are noxious weed tree species, including Camphor Laurel, which should be removed along the South Creek corridor, especially in Egan Reserve.

Scenic Protection

The protection of ridgelines was considered a high priority at the community meetings, and is highlighted in the Site Analysis Drawing. The housing development on Red Hill impinges on the main skyline and it is important that any future development be considered more comprehensively with a visual impact assessment.

Flora and Fauna Management

There was a lot of concern for flora and fauna habitat protection. The emphasis was on retaining as much of the bush as is possible, and for bushland regeneration in the denuded areas. Conservation and maintenance of the bush were high on the agenda. Bush fire management and bushland character and enhancement of the indigenous flora and fauna need to be balanced.

Watercourse Pollution

Concern was raised about the pollution in South Creek. Rubbish, chlorine from pools, and erosion areas were all noted. A Plan for restoring the South Creek corridor should be created that addresses removal of weeds within the creek corridor, and the imposition of fines or controls on allowing polluted water to enter the creek.



South Creek litter

Maintenance

Concern was expressed for the general lack of maintenance of the existing open space areas. Issues included building rubbish scattered through the open spaces, long grass not being mown, and erosion and rubbish pollution through the creek.

Vandalism / Louts

There was concern that if the Red Hill Park was developed too much, that “louts” would become a problem.

Priorities

Prioritisation of management issues has been undertaken by considering the views of Council and community, management objectives, patterns of existing use, the existing environment and an assessment of planning objectives. The following list of high and medium priority issues has consequently been developed:-

High Priority:

- Rehabilitation of the Red Hill Park denuded landscape
- Trails to link the parks together, provide access to the school and bus stops, and links to regional park trails
- Bushland regeneration
- Safety of ponds
- Bushfire policy/management
- All weather access across South Creek

Medium Priority:

- Picnic facilities
- Viewing area/deck
- Cleaning up of South Creek
- Weed eradication along the creek corridor
- Environmental interpretation
- Improve the detention basin off Golden Grove