



WARRINGAH
COUNCIL

ATTACHMENT BOOKLET

5a

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 27 AUGUST 2013



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Item No	Subject	
ATTACHMENT BOOKLET 1		
6.1	COUNCILLOR REPORTS FROM MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA (MAV) CONFERENCE – FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL SUMMIT AND THE MAKING CITIES LIVEABLE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION JOINT CONFERENCE	
	Attachment 1: Cr Harrison Conference Report - 2013 Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Conference – Future of Local Government National Summit	3
	Attachment 2: Cr Harrison Conference Report - Making Cities Liveable and Sustainable Transformation Joint Conference 2013.....	16
6.3	AUDITED GENERAL PURPOSE AND SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013 AND AUDITORS REPORTS	
	Attachment : 2013 Audited Financial Statements	20
7.2	INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012	
	Attachment : Internal Audit - Annual Report 2011-2012	103
8.1	COAST AND PORTS CONFERENCE 2013	
	Attachment : Coasts and Ports 2013 Program	112
ATTACHMENT BOOKLET 2		
8.3	ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013	
	Attachment 1: Warringah Annual Report 2013 Part A - Section 1-5.....	115
ATTACHMENT BOOKLET 3		
8.3	ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013	
	Attachment 2: Warringah Annual Report 2013 Part B - Section 6	286
	Attachment 3: Performance Against Planned Activities 2012-2013.....	371
ATTACHMENT BOOKLET 4		
8.7	PLANNING PROPOSAL FOR 20-24 TRALEE AVENUE, KILLARNEY HEIGHTS	
	Attachment 1: Planning Proposal Report.....	373
	Attachment 2: Minutes of the Warringah Development Assessment Panel meeting held 26 June 2013	563

ATTACHMENT BOOKLET 5a

8.8 LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE AUDIT: WARRINGAH COUNCILS POSITION IN RELATION TO OTHER COUNCILS

Attachment 1:	Roads AMP Summary	566
Attachment 2:	Buildings AMP Summary	568
Attachment 3:	Stormwater AMP Summary	570
Attachment 4:	Parks AMP Summary	572
Attachment 5:	Asset Management Policy	574
Attachment 6:	Asset Management Strategy 2013-2023	579

8.9 DRAFT MANLY WARRINGAH WAR MEMORIAL PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Attachment :	Draft Manly Warringah War Memorial Park Plan of Management...	634
--------------	---	-----

ATTACHMENT BOOKLET 5b

8.9 DRAFT MANLY WARRINGAH WAR MEMORIAL PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Attachment :	Draft Manly Warringah War Memorial Park Plan of Management...	634
--------------	---	-----

8.11 NEW 24 HOUR ALCOHOL PROHIBITED AREAS IN WARRINGAH

Attachment :	Proposed 24 Hour Alcohol Prohibited Areas - Narrabeen Lagoon - Council 27 August 2013	851
--------------	--	-----

ATTACHMENT BOOKLET 6a

8.13 ADOPTION OF THE DEE WHY SOUTH CATCHMENT FLOOD STUDY

Attachment :	Stage 3: Flood Study Report for the Dee Why South Catchment Flood Study - 27 June 2013	856
--------------	---	-----

ATTACHMENT BOOKLET 6b

8.13 ADOPTION OF THE DEE WHY SOUTH CATCHMENT FLOOD STUDY

Attachment :	Stage 3: Flood Study Report for the Dee Why South Catchment Flood Study - 27 June 2013	856
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WARRINGAH COUNCIL

ROADS ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY DOCUMENT



COUNCIL'S ROLE STATEMENT

Council's role is to facilitate, invest in and encourage sustainable management and development of road and transport assets.

This summary document communicates the different aspects of the Roads Asset Management Plan. This information provides a snapshot of the assets that Warringah Council maintains, their condition, and the plan to provide and expand those assets.

SUMMARY OF ASSETS

Below is a summary of the Roads Assets in Warringah, and the costs to replace each of these assets, as at 30 June 2012.

Type	Quantity	Replacement Cost
Public Roads	523km	\$274,761,380
Kerb and Gutter	835km	\$50,399,680
Guard Rails	4.5km	\$569,428
Footpath	267km	\$39,577,675
Road Reserve Bridges	10	\$5,472,420
Bus Shelters	246	\$3,352,039
Car Parks (number of spaces)	5,872	\$17,899,291
Retaining Walls	48	\$4,263,127
Pedestrian Crossings	129	\$1,862,404
Roundabouts	119	\$2,090,915
Traffic Control Devices	279	\$5,498,522
Road Landscaping		\$390,505
General Infrastructure		\$2,022,465
Total Assets		\$408,159,851

COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

Council has developed a new Community Strategic Plan (CSP) on behalf of the Warringah Community. This plan identifies six outcome areas that represent overarching community objectives that Council will look to address, with each outcome area containing a number of community priorities that have been identified through the consultation process.

The CSP aligns Roads asset management with the objectives listed below. These objectives will guide asset management and inform the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) within the organisation.

Connected Transport

- We have an effective interconnected public transport system that is safe, efficient and affordable
- We use a well maintained and functioning road network
- We can conveniently access parking near transport hubs and close to urban centres
- We can safely and conveniently walk or ride around Warringah

Livable Neighbourhoods

- We have attractive and functional urban and commercial centres that meet the needs of residents and business

CONDITION LEVEL OF ASSETS

Warringah Council undertakes an evaluation of assets on a regular basis to determine their overall condition. The chart below shows the overall condition of Roads assets across the LGA.



*Source: Warringah Council Annual Financial Statements 2011 - 2012



FUTURE EXPENDITURES

Council forecasts capital expenditures (capex) based on "New Assets" or "Renewals", which are projects to replace existing assets as they wear out.

These projects are generally forecast out four years from the current date, allowing Council to ensure that projects are both relevant to the needs of the people and budgeted appropriately.

The chart below shows forecast expenditures for the next four financial years, until 2016/17. The jump in capital expenditure in 2015/16 is due to planned traffic and streetscape works in the Dee Why Town Centre.

UPCOMING MAJOR PROJECTS:

Collaroy Basin Road Renewals and Improvements

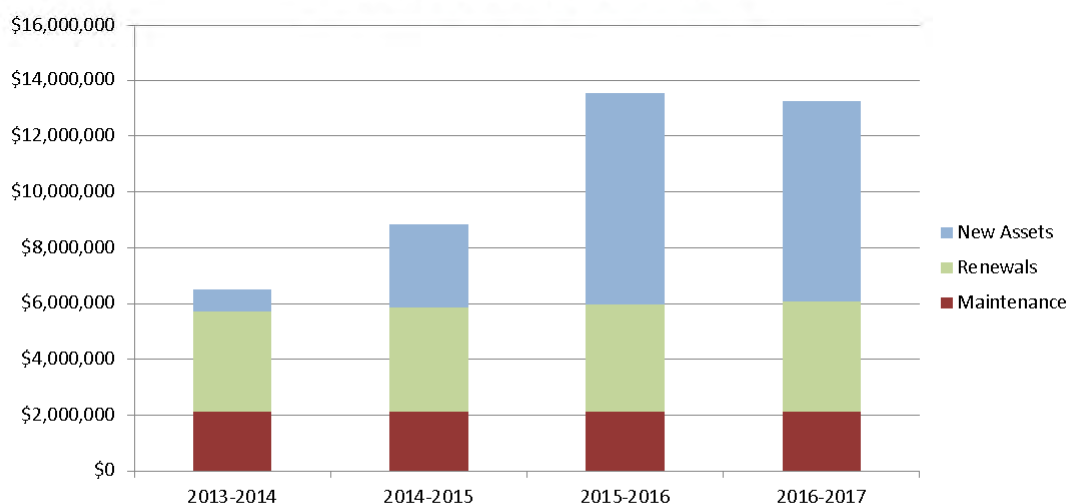
As part of Council's ongoing asset renewal program, road pavement resurfacing and rehabilitation Beach Road and Cliff Road in the Collaroy Basin, will be done in Council's Capital Works Program in 2012/13 and 2013/14.

These poorly drained, aging pavements are narrow with edge breaks and drops, with potholes caused by poor drainage of stormwater. This program of works will restore the road network to as new condition.

Dee Why Town Centre

Work will be commencing in the next 12-24 months to design the streetscape improvements in Dee Why Town Centre, Oaks and Howard Avenues. This work will see a significant increase in expenditure as works on the ground begin.

**Forecast Roads Asset Expenditures:
New Assets, Renewals and Maintenance***



*Source: Warringah Council Annual Financial Statements 2011 - 2012

WARRINGAH COUNCIL BUILDINGS ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY DOCUMENT



COUNCIL'S ROLE STATEMENT

Council's role is to facilitate the provision of services, activities and meeting places which address community needs, to promote the development of associations to meet community needs, and promote access and equity in community buildings.

This summary document communicates the different aspects of the Buildings Asset Management Plan. This information provides a snapshot of the assets that Warringah Council maintains, their condition, and some of the plans to provide and expand those assets.

SUMMARY OF ASSETS

Building assets can be categorised into several types of infrastructure. Below is a summary of all of these assets in Warringah, how much of each type of asset Council maintains and the costs to replace each type, as at 30 June 2012.

Type	Quantity	Replacement Cost
Administration and Depots	38	\$41,891,182
Amenities	37	\$10,392,640
Beach (surf clubs, towers, etc)	21	\$32,727,955
Bushfire	16	\$8,783,502
Business Operations	4	\$31,335,221
Community (community centres, libraries, scout halls, senior citizen centres, etc.)	49	\$50,886,865
Council Rented - Commercial	1	\$472,304
Council Rented - Residential	3	\$659,681
Sporting facility	70	\$46,105,526
Total		\$223,254,876

COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

Council has developed a new Community Strategic Plan (CSP) on behalf of the Warringah Community. This plan identifies six outcome areas that represent overarching community objectives that Council will look to address, with each outcome area containing a number of community priorities that have been identified through the consultation process.

The CSP aligns Buildings asset management with the objectives listed below. These objectives will guide asset management and inform the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) within the organisation.

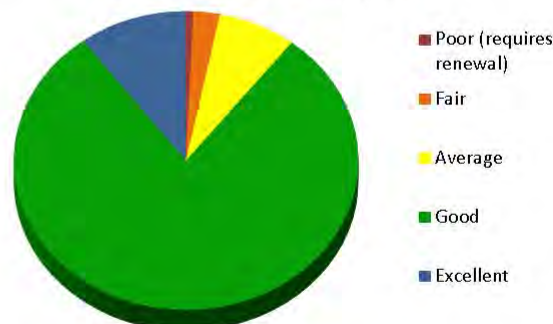
Vibrant Community

- We support and care for all our community members and provide opportunities to socialise

CONDITION LEVEL OF ASSETS

Warringah Council undertakes an evaluation of assets on a regular basis to determine their overall condition. The chart below shows the overall condition of Building assets across the LGA.

Condition Level of Building Assets*



*Source: Warringah Council Annual Financial Statements 2011 - 2012



UPCOMING MAJOR PROJECT:

Glen Street Theatre Revitalisation

Council has committed to a redevelopment of Glen Street Theatre. This 2-stage redevelopment will create a long overdue cultural centre for Warringah.

The project is divided into two phases to allow the community to enjoy the facility as soon as possible.

Stage 1: Committed and budgeted
Construct new foyer, box office and bar, upgrade storage areas, increase accessibility, and complete external landscaping, lighting and ancillary upgrade works.

Stage 2: In Planning – not budgeted
Relocate the Belrose Library and theatre administration offices, construct a new restaurant and patron's lounge and increase accessibility in the theatre.

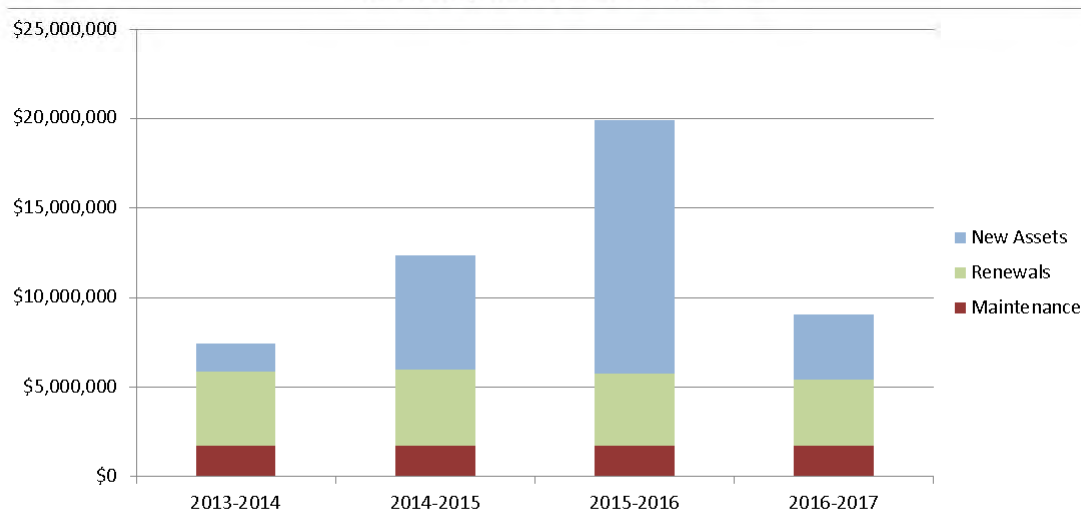
FUTURE EXPENDITURES

Council forecasts capital expenditures (capex) based on "New Assets" or "Renewals", which are projects to replace existing assets as they wear out.

These projects are generally forecast out four years from the current date, allowing Council to ensure that projects are both relevant to the needs of the people and budgeted appropriately.

The chart below shows forecast expenditures for the next four financial years, until 2016/17. The jump in capital expenditure in 2014/15 is due to the planned works for the Dee Why Town Centre Parking and Community Facility.

**Forecast Building Asset Expenditures:
New Assets, Renewals and Maintenance***



*Source: Warringah Council Annual Financial Statements 2011 - 2012

WARRINGAH COUNCIL

STORMWATER ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY DOCUMENT



COUNCIL'S ROLE STATEMENT

Council's role in providing stormwater drainage is to manage stormwater flows through the modified urban landform and minimise the impact of contaminants on receiving waters and the natural environment.

This summary document communicates the different aspects of the Stormwater Asset Management Plan. This information provides a snapshot of the assets that Warringah Council maintains, their condition, and the plan to provide and expand those assets into the future.

SUMMARY OF ASSETS

Stormwater assets can be categorised into several types of infrastructure. Below is a summary of the type and quantity of stormwater assets in Warringah and the replacement costs for these assets, as at 30 June 2012.

Type	Quantity	Replacement Cost
Stormwater pipes	339.8km	\$243,082,013
Culverts	8.08km	\$25,705,183
Pits and Headwalls	14620	\$60,579,114
Lined and unlined drainage channels	213	\$410,161
Water quality improvement devices	130	\$5,694,848
Total Assets		\$335,471,318

COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

Council has developed a new Community Strategic Plan (CSP) on behalf of the Warringah Community. This plan identifies six outcome areas that represent overarching community objectives that Council will look to address, with each outcome area containing a number of community priorities that have been identified through the consultation process.

The CSP aligns Stormwater asset management with the objectives listed below. These objectives will guide asset management and inform the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) within the organisation.

Leisure and Lifestyle

- We have inviting public spaces that are clean, green and well designed

Healthy Environment

- We value the health of our beaches and foreshores for the preservation of the environment and for our enjoyment
- We maintain the health and sustainability of our waterways and bushland for our enjoyment and as habitats for our wildlife to flourish
- We effectively plan for and respond to natural hazards and climate change in a sustainable way

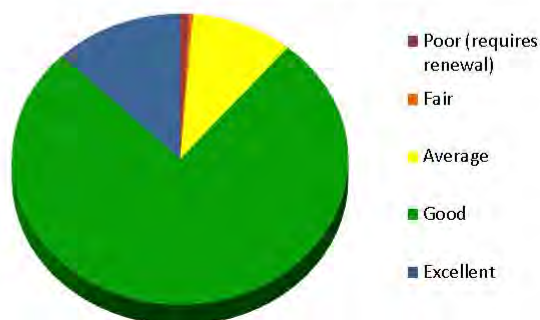
Livable Neighbourhoods

- We have attractive and functional urban and commercial centres that adapt to the needs of residents and businesses

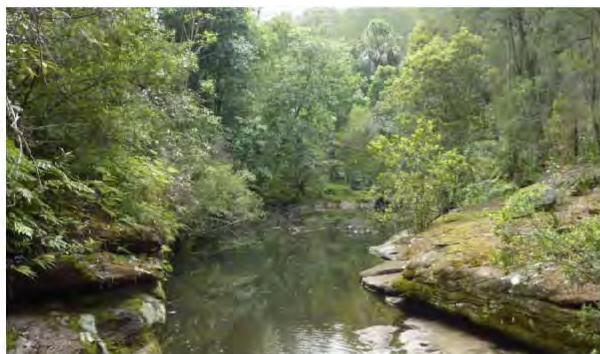
CONDITION LEVEL OF ASSETS

Warringah Council undertakes ongoing evaluations of assets to determine their condition. The chart below shows the condition of stormwater assets across the LGA. The condition data is based on evaluations carried out thus far (this has included 18% to 20% of the current network).

Condition Level of Stormwater Assets*



*Source: Warringah Council Annual Financial Statements 2011 - 2012



FUTURE EXPENDITURES

Council forecasts capital expenditures (capex) based on "New Assets" or "Renewals" which are projects to replace existing assets as they wear out.

These projects are generally forecasted out four years from the current date, allowing Council to ensure that projects are both relevant to the needs of the people and budgeted appropriately.

The chart below shows the forecasted capital expenditures for the next financial year, until the 2016/17 financial year.

UPCOMING MAJOR PROJECT:

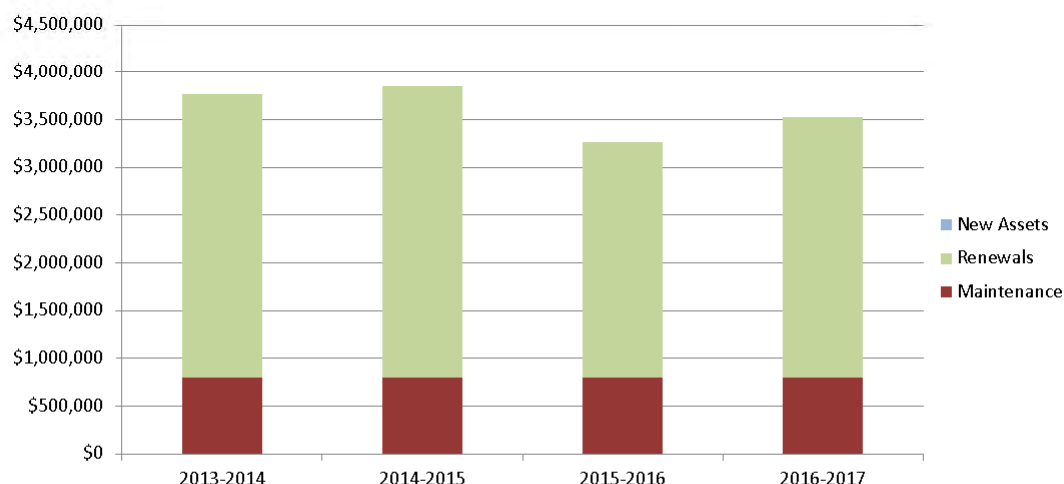
Collaroy Stormwater Outlet Design/ Construction

The Collaroy stormwater outlet was constructed in the late 1970s. It is a prominent structure on Collaroy Beach that extends approximately 85m from the seawall at the back of the beach into the surf zone. The outer portion of the structure has suffered structural damage due to wave impact forces. As a result a new outlet is required to replace the existing failed structure.

On the 26 June 2012 Council resolved that the new outlet is to be constructed at the site of the existing outlet, and that its length be kept to the minimum required.

During 2012/13 the project progressed through concept design, detailed design and procurement. The construction of the new outlet is scheduled to commence late 2013.

**Forecast Stormwater Asset Expenditures:
New Assets, Renewals and Maintenance***



*Source: Warringah Council Annual Financial Statements 2011 - 2012

WARRINGAH COUNCIL PARKS, RESERVES AND FORESHORES ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY DOCUMENT



COUNCIL'S ROLE STATEMENT

Council's major role is provision of quality sporting facilities and park settings to support a diverse range of recreation experiences. Generally the focus is providing recreation facilities for the local community, although there is also a significant regional and tourism focus.

This summary document communicates the different aspects of the Parks, Reserves and Foreshores (PRF) Asset Management Plan. This information provides a snapshot of the assets that Warringah Council maintains, their condition, and the plan to provide and expand those assets into the future.

SUMMARY OF ASSETS

PRF assets can be categorised into several types of infrastructure. Below is a summary of the PRF assets in Warringah, how much of each type of asset Council maintains and the costs to replace each type, as at 30 June 2012.

Type	Quantity	Replacement Cost
Playgrounds	147	\$11,814,000
Sportsfield Floodlight Systems	45	\$6,504,000
Rockpools	8	\$4,107,632
Boardwalks	-	\$3,078,518
General Infrastructure	-	\$33,196,969
Land Improvements	-	\$24,462,303
Major Seawalls	22	\$5,882,849
Total Assets		\$85,532,862

COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

Council has developed a new Community Strategic Plan (CSP) on behalf of the Warringah Community. This plan identifies six outcome areas that represent overarching community objectives that Council will look to address, with each outcome area containing a number of community priorities that have been identified through the consultation process.

The CSP aligns PRF asset management with the objectives listed below. These objectives will guide asset management and inform the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) within the organisation.

Leisure and Lifestyle

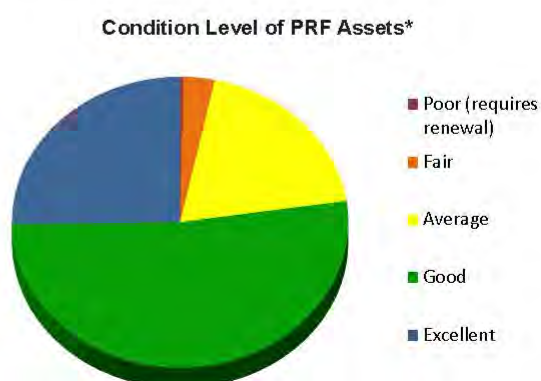
- We have access to a diverse range of recreational facilities that meet the needs of the local community and sporting groups
- We access attractive parks and natural areas that encourage and support a safe healthy lifestyle
- We have inviting public spaces that are clean, green and well designed

Being Involved

- We develop (and can participate in) effective partnerships to plan for the future and to work collaboratively

CONDITION LEVEL OF ASSETS

Warringah Council undertakes an evaluation of assets on a regular basis to determine their overall condition. The chart below shows the overall condition of Park, Recreation and Foreshore assets across the LGA.



*Source: Warringah Council Annual Financial Statements 2011 - 2012



FUTURE EXPENDITURES

Council forecasts capital expenditures (capex) based on "New Assets" or "Renewals", which are projects to replace existing assets as they wear out.

These projects are generally forecast out four years from the current date, allowing Council to ensure that projects are both relevant to the needs of the people and budgeted appropriately.

The chart below shows forecast expenditures for the next four financial years, until 2016/17.

UPCOMING MAJOR PROJECT:

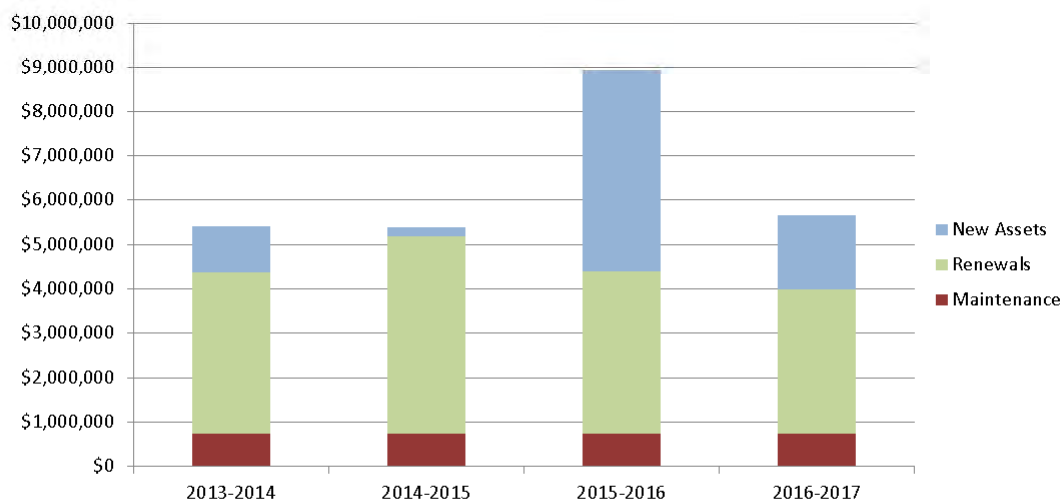
Collaroy Upgrade and Improvement

Council will be providing a state of the art playground suitable for children of all abilities. This playground will include roundabouts, spinners, large rocking see-saws, a water play area, an interactive play wall, swings, and musical instruments.

The car park layout will be revised in order to reduce conflict between vehicles and pedestrians, enhancing safety for visitors. This new layout will also improve vehicle circulation and accessibilities while maintaining similar parking opportunities.

Other upgrades in the area include improved lighting and seating, as well as enhanced safety and experience for visitors. In addition, landscaping enhancements are scheduled for the area, with the goal of improving the amenity of the park while reducing maintenance costs in the future.

**Forecast PRF Asset Expenditures:
New Assets, Renewals and Maintenance***



*Source: Warringah Council Annual Financial Statements 2011 - 2012



Warringah Council Policy

Policy No. GOV - PL 550

Asset Management Policy

1 Purpose of Policy

- To provide a broad framework, guidelines and principles for implementing consistent and coordinated asset management processes throughout Council.
- To ensure that the management of Council's assets is consistent with Council's Corporate Vision, Goals and Objectives.
- To ensure that a sustainable approach is adopted in the provision and management of Council's assets.

2 Background

Council is the custodian of a large number of physical assets that support core business, which is the delivery of service to the community. Council is committed to implementing a systematic asset management methodology to facilitate best practice asset management processes across all areas of Council.

In its commitment to manage assets in accordance with recognised best practice, Council regularly reviews and updates its Asset Management Plans, Policies and Procedures. Council endorsed an Asset Management Policy (GOV-PL 550) on 23 November 1999 which superseded Council's Asset Management Policy MG-PL 704. Council's current Asset Management Policy (GOV-PL 550) has been reviewed and updated to ensure compliance with the Division of Local Government's Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements and to ensure consistency with the criteria set by the National Framework for Asset Planning and Management.

3 Commitment to Asset Management

Council is committed to managing its assets in accordance with recognised best practice. This includes ensuring that assets are planned, created, operated, maintained, renewed and disposed of in accordance with Council's current priorities for service delivery, as identified in Council's Community Strategic Plan. Council will review and manage its assets in accordance with the principles of this Policy.

4 Asset Management Framework

To facilitate best practice and effective asset management, Council has established a framework for asset management that promotes clear linkages between the Asset Manager, the Service Provider and the Provider of Maintenance Services. Asset Management shall embrace a "Whole of Council" approach and apply to all assets managed by Council, with Council responsible for delivering sustainable services to the community.



GOV – PL 550

The eight (8) key components of Council's Asset Management Framework are as follows:



1. Asset Management Policy

The Asset Management Policy provides a broad framework, guidelines and principles for implementing consistent and coordinated asset management processes throughout Council.

2. Asset Management Strategy

The Asset Management Strategy is Council's high level, 10-Year Action Plan to deliver the Asset Management Policy. The Asset Management Strategy analyses the current situation, specifies asset management objectives and articulates how Council will achieve these objectives. Council is required to prepare a Community Strategic Plan every four years and the Asset Management Strategy will be reviewed every four years to ensure consistency with Council's Community Strategic Plan.

3. Asset Management Plans

Long term asset management plans, for all of Council's major asset classes, will identify agreed Levels of Service (LOS) and costs to deliver services now and in the future (20 year Plans). There will be consistency between Council's Major Asset Management Plans and the Strategic Delivery Program that is contained within Council's Community Strategic Plan.

4. Strategy Documents

Council has prepared a large number of strategy documents that provide long term guidelines and strategic directions for Council (e.g. Recreation Strategy 2009 and Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2012-2022). These Strategy documents provide an invaluable insight into current and future trends and assist in determining asset management priorities.

GOV – PL 550

5. Enterprise Risk Management Policy

In compliance with Australian Standards, Council has developed a Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Policy which encourages a coordinated approach across the organisation to manage risks, leading to a well-defined strategic, operational and project related risk actions. Council will continue to review its methods and processes for the management of risk and adopt a proactive and strategic approach in the identification of events that have the potential to compromise Council in achieving its Corporate and Community Objectives. All of Council's Major Asset Management Plans will incorporate risk management strategies.

6. Workforce Management Plan

Council's Asset Management Plans will provide information to support the Workforce

Planning process in keeping with Council's long term commitment to good asset management practice. An emphasis will be on training to support people in their roles, retain corporate knowledge, and facilitate business excellence.

7. Financial Plan

Council's Asset Management Plans will provide information and data required to prepare long term financial forecasts regarding asset management and service sustainability. This information will be used to inform Council's Long Term Financial Plan.

8. Asset Management System

Asset management software has been installed to support the efficient and effective delivery of Council's service obligations, the delivery of critical data for long term financial and workforce management planning, and provide for continuous improvement in asset management by monitoring adherence to legislative requirements and agreed standards. The system will monitor the progress of all key asset management functions and monitor the condition of all key assets and provide a condition report annually in accordance with legislative requirements.

5 Principles

To ensure that all decisions and actions relating to asset management are conducted in accordance with best practice and in a consistent manner, Council has adopted eight (8) Key Principles for the management of its assets, as follows:



Asset Management Policy
28 August 2012

Version 1

Page 3 of 5

GOV – PL 550

1. Full Life Cycle Costing

Full life cycle costs will be used as the basis for decisions on asset maintenance and asset selection, acquisition, renewal, replacement and disposal.

2. Best Practice & Statutory Compliance

Asset Management Plans will be developed that will ensure systematic and appropriate asset management best practice is implemented throughout Council and ensure compliance with statutory requirements.

3. Consistency with Council's Community Strategic Plan

Council's Asset Management Plans will be aligned to the Community Strategic Plan and the Long Term Financial Plan.

4. Defined Service Levels

Service levels will be defined by the community consultation and engagement processes, in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy, and will be reflected in Council's Asset Management Plans.

5. Risk Assessment & Asset Condition Review

Council's Asset Management Plans will include initiatives to reduce the exposure to asset failure by the continued application of risk management and asset condition assessment. The need for regular condition assessment is mandated in legislation.

6. Systematic and Cyclic Reviews

Systematic and cyclic reviews will be applied across all asset classes to ensure that the assets are managed, depreciated and valued in accordance with appropriate best practice and applicable Australian Standards.

7. Continuous Improvement & Business Excellence

Council will undertake 'Continuous Improvement' and pursue 'Business Excellence' to ensure that Council identifies opportunities to improve processes and procedures, and implements best practice across the organisation. It is imperative that Council continues to explore opportunities to improve its asset management processes.

8. Annual Reporting

Current asset performance and future life cycle costs will be reported as part of the decision making process for new services and upgrading of existing services (assets). Council's Long Term Financial Plan will encompass all cost elements explored under lifecycle costing and assist in the preparation of Council's annual budget process. A measurement of overall sustainability will be made and reported annually as part of the monitoring process for good asset management practice.

6 Authorisation

This Policy was adopted by Council on 28 August 2012.

It is effective from 28 August 2012

It is due for review in August 2016.

7 Amendments

This Policy was last amended in August 2012.

GOV – PL 550

8 Who is responsible for implementing this Policy?

The elected Council, Executive Management Team, and Service Unit Managers are responsible for ensuring the application of this Policy.

9 Document owner

Deputy General Manager – Environment.

10 Related Council Documents

- a) Warringah Council Asset Management Strategy 2013 - 2023 [Note: Adoption date to be inserted following CSP finalisation June 2013 in accordance with the dlgs requirements]
- b) Warringah Council's Asset Management Plans.
- c) Warringah Council Community Strategic Plan 2011.

11 Legislation and references

- a) Local Government Act 1993.
- b) Planning and Reporting Manual for Local Government in NSW 2010 (dlg).
- c) International Infrastructure Management Manual 2011.
- d) National Framework for Asset Planning & Management.
- e) Warringah Council Community Engagement Policy (PL520).
- f) Warringah Council Community Engagement Toolkit (February 2011).
- g) Warringah Council Community Engagement Matrix (as amended November 2011).

12 Definitions

Critical Assets: Those assets that are likely to result in more significant financial, environment and social cost in terms of impact on organisational objectives.

Major Asset

Management Plans: Council's major Asset Management Plans include the following:

- Building;
- Roads;
- Stormwater;
- Parks, Reserves and Foreshores.

Physical Assets: An item that has potential value to Council such as plant, machinery, and buildings.





Contents

Contents	i
The General Manager's Message	iii
Structure of the Strategy	1
1. Purpose of this Strategy	2
2. Background	3
2.1 Introduction	3
2.2 National Framework for Asset Planning and Management 2009	3
2.3 Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework Requirements 2010	4
2.4 Asset Management History at Warringah Council	4
2.5 Best Practice Asset Management	6
2.6 Relationship to Council's Asset Management Policy 2012	6
3. Community Engagement	8
3.1 Annual Community Engagement Process	8
3.2 Community Responses & Analysis – Assets & Services	8
3.3 Community Strategic Plan – Community Engagement Outcomes	9
4. Warringah Council's Assets & Management Practices	11
4.1 Current Situation	11
4.2 Asset Management Governance – Strategic Group (Works & Assets)	12
4.3 Current Asset Inventory & Current Replacement Costs	13
4.4 Asset Valuations	14
4.5 Condition of Council's Assets	15
4.6 Annual Maintenance Costs	18
4.7 Financial Sustainability	18
4.8 Risk Management Practices	19
5. Population Growth & Demographic Trends	21
5.1 Warringah's Historical Growth & Estimated Resident Population	21
5.2 Warringah's Historical Demographic Trends	22
5.3 Warringah's Five Year Age Group Analysis 2011	23
5.4 Warringah's Historical Trends in Five Year Age Structure	24
5.5 Population Forecasts & Average Household Size	25
5.6 Population Growth & Demographic Trends by Suburb	27
6. Forecasting Future Demand	31
6.1 Implications of Population Growth on Council's Assets (2013-2023)	31
6.2 Other Factors Influencing Asset Demand	32
6.3 Facilities & Services Forecasting	32
7. Strategic Asset Management Objectives 2013-2023	37
7.1 Organisational Integration	37
7.2 Meet Community Expectations	37
7.3 Strong Service Focus	37
7.4 Sustainability	37
7.5 Life Cycle Asset Management	37
7.6 Increase Knowledge	37
7.7 Continuous Improvement	37
7.8 Strong Governance & Accountability	37
7.9 Regular Monitoring & Review	38

8. Actions for achieving our Asset Management Objectives.....	39
9. Conclusion	40

APPENDICES:

Appendix A - DLG's IPRF Manual & Guidelines for Asset Management
Self Assessment

Appendix B - Warringah Council Asset Management Policy (endorsed 28 Aug 2012)

Appendix C - Asset Management Improvement Plan 2013-2023

The General Manager's Message

"As an organisation that strives for excellence and innovation in all areas of business, we are pleased to present the Warringah Council Asset Management Strategy 2013–2023.

Warringah Council provides a wide range of services to the community and Council is the custodian of approximately \$1.05 billion of built infrastructure assets that assist in the delivery of many of these services.

We're not just maintaining and improving our assets but also planning how to best use them in the future – in line with community needs.

Council's Asset Management Strategy 2013–2023 forms part of Council's Resourcing Strategy for the delivery of the Warringah Community Strategic Plan. It has been prepared in accordance with the NSW State Government's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework requirements.

The Asset Management Strategy will be regularly reviewed throughout its 10 year life to ensure it accurately reflects current market conditions and changing public preferences".

Rik Hart

GENERAL MANAGER



Structure of the Strategy

(1) Purpose of the Strategy:

Explains why Council has prepared the Strategy.

(2) Background:

Provides introductory information and outlines the legislative requirements; relevant guidelines and resources; the history of asset management at Council; and the relationship to Council's Asset Management Policy.

(3) Community Engagement:

Provides a summary and analysis of the results of Council's Annual Community Survey in relation to Council's assets. The feedback from the community is analysed and historical trends are explored to determine changing priorities and satisfaction ratings. This information assists in predicting what the priorities will be for the next 10 years.

(4) Warringah Council's Assets & Management Practices:

Provides a summary of Council's assets including current replacement costs for Council's major assets, governance processes, Council's asset renewal ratio, condition of Council's assets, and details Council's current asset management practices, risk management practices, revaluation processes, and outlines Council's commitment to financial sustainability in the management of its assets.

(5) Population Growth and Demographic Trends:

In this section historic population growth patterns and population forecasts are analysed. Current and future demographic trends are explored and population growth and demographic trends at a suburb level are also considered.

(6) Forecasting Future Demand:

This section highlights the key factors that need to be considered when determining future demand for Council assets, services and facilities. A strategic benchmark analysis is undertaken to determine whether our current levels of provision are adequate and to determine the likely future demand for key services and facilities, based on forecasted population growth and changing demographics.

(7) Strategic Asset Management Objectives 2013-2023:

'Where do we want to be in 2023?'

Outlines the strategic initiatives and actions that Council would like to achieve over the next 10 years (i.e. the life of the Asset Management Strategy 2013-2023).

(8) Actions for Achieving our Asset Management Objectives 2013-2023:

'How will we get there?'

Outlines the actions (in the form of an Asset Management Improvement Plan) that Council will pursue over the next 10 years to achieve its strategic asset management objectives.

(9) Conclusion:

Provides a closing summary of the Strategy.

1. Purpose of this Strategy

Warringah Council acknowledges that a solid framework is needed to provide a platform for consistent and effective asset management.

This Strategy provides a clear linkage between the vision, outcomes and objectives in the Warringah Community Strategic Plan to the day-to-day management of Council's assets.

The Strategy does not provide the actual measure in which individual assets will be reviewed (this information is contained with Council's Asset Management Plans). However, the Strategy provides a consistent mechanism for the implementation of asset management and evaluation of assets across the entire organisation.

It clearly articulates how Council will manage its assets now and into the future by providing objectives, actions for improvement, timeframes and responsibilities. This holistic approach to asset management provides greater certainty and limits Council's exposure to financial risk and asset failure by planning for the future.

2. Background

2.1 Introduction

Warringah Council is custodian of approximately \$1.05 billion worth of infrastructure assets. The magnitude of investment exposes Council to political, managerial and financial risk. The size and value of Council's asset portfolio makes it imperative that a coordinated and strategic approach is adopted to manage these assets now and into the future.

The size of Council's asset portfolio requires a balanced approach to be taken in the investment of new asset intensive services and the need to maintain existing asset intensive services at levels of cost and quality that are acceptable to the residents of Warringah Local Government Area (LGA) and the broader community. All decisions need to be economically, environmentally and socially sustainable.

These sustainability principles need to be embedded into Council's asset management regime and all decisions need to be consistent with Council's Strategic Framework for the management of its assets. In this context, the term "asset management" is defined in the International Infrastructure Management Manual 2011 as:

"the combination of management, financial, economic, engineering and other practices applied to physical assets with the objective of providing the required level of service in the most cost effective manner".

Asset Management is essentially a set of processes that must consider the whole lifecycle of assets. It is a practical and financial responsible means of managing assets through creation, acquisition, maintenance, operation, rehabilitation and disposal of assets to provide for present and future community needs.

2.2 National Framework for Asset Planning and Management 2009

The Local Government and Planning Ministers' Council (LGPMC) was made up of Local Government and Planning Ministers from across Australia and New Zealand and the President of the Australian Local Government Association. The LGPMC was created to lead debate and decision making on key strategic policy matters for Local Government and planning in Australia and New Zealand and focussed on issues that were more appropriately addressed at the national level.

In May 2009 the LGPMC released a paper that provided the key elements and principles for a nationally consistent framework for the planning and management of public infrastructure and assets. The paper outlined the need for a nationally consistent framework for local government asset management to be legislated across each State and Territory. Seven (7) key elements for a national framework were identified, as follows:

- Development of an asset management policy
- Strategy and planning
- Governance and management arrangements
- Defining levels of service
- Data and systems
- Skills and processes
- Evaluation

Although the LGPMC was wound up in 30 June 2011, the asset management framework remains an example of a best practice framework for the planning and management of assets across local government. The framework established by LGPMC has been used as a basis to inform the preparation of this Strategy document and has been considered in the development of Council's overall framework for Asset Management.

2.3 Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework Requirements 2010

On 25 June 2009 the (then) Department of Local Government (now the Division of Local Government) introduced the Local Government Amendment (Planning and Reporting) Bill 2009 to State Parliament and was subsequently assented to on 1 October 2009. This legislative amendment now requires that all Councils within NSW prepare and adopt a Community Strategic Plan, Resourcing Strategy, Delivery Program and an Operational Plan (refer to Figure 1: DLG's Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework).

Pursuant to Section 403(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, a council must have a Resourcing Strategy that includes Asset Management planning. The Division of Local Government (DLG) has prepared a Planning and Reporting Manual which provides guidelines for what documents councils are required to prepare as part of their Asset Management planning. Section 3 (3.4.1) of the DLG's Integrated Planning and Reporting Manual (IP&R Manual) specifies that all councils must have an Asset Management Strategy and an associated Asset Management Policy. Section 3 (3.4.2) of the IP&R Manual requires councils to have Asset Management Plans for all assets under council's control.

Figure 1: DLG's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

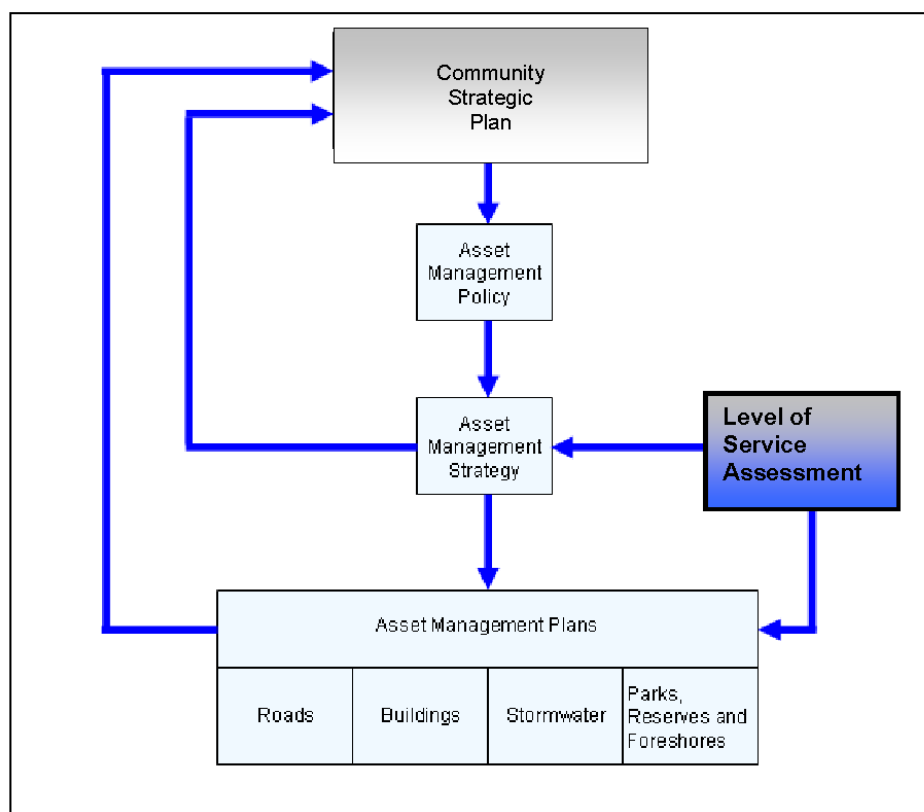


2.4 Asset Management History at Warringah Council

In the early 1990s, Council began thinking more holistically about asset management and methods for improving the way assets were managed.

Between 2005 and 2012 Council continued to develop its asset management practices and in 2009 created a Level of Service Assessment Framework (Figure 2). This Framework was the first step in providing a systematic approach that enabled the alignment of asset planning and management practices with service delivery priorities and strategies, whilst recognising the limitations of available resources.

Figure 2: Warringah Council's Level of Service Assessment Framework



As mentioned earlier, Council developed an innovative framework system for assessing the management of its assets (Warringah Council Level of Service (LoS) Framework for Asset Management) in 2009. Under this framework LoS assessments were undertaken to measure how well assets deliver the services they are designed to deliver, using a rating system that allows comparison across different services, assets and asset types.

In more recent years there has been a strong desire to link Council's Corporate Strategies with the provision of services and the provision of assets. Between 2009 - 2012 all of Council's Asset Management Plans were reviewed and updated to, not only ensure best practice principles were embedded in the documents, but to ensure consistency with Council's vision and corporate objectives. This process of review and updating is ongoing.

2.5 Best Practice Asset Management

The DLG's Planning & Reporting Manual 2010 consistently references two publications for guidance in asset management. The referenced documents are:

1. the International Infrastructure Management Manual (IIMM 2011) and its sister publication
2. the Australian Infrastructure Financial Management Guidelines – Version 1.0, 2009 (AIFMG)

The IIMM is widely recognised by practitioners as the best practice manual for providing guidance to those responsible or involved in managing assets, including asset managers, asset planners, operators, maintainers and developers. The content of the IIMM is strongly aligned to international standards such as the British Publicly Available Specification 55 (PAS 55) and the International standards developed by the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), for example ISO/IEC 19770-1:2012 –Software Asset Management.

The AIFMG links the technical and financial aspects of infrastructure management (The reference to the AIFMG is assumed to be to the current Version 1.3 - 2012 Edition)

The best practice principles contained in the IIMM 2011 and AIFMG 2012 have been used as the baseline minimum for the preparation of this Strategy and in certain circumstances these principles have been enhanced and built upon to ensure that Council continues to challenge best practice methods by encouraging innovation and excellence.

Warringah Council also subscribes to the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA) NAMS.PLUS program for improving asset management practices.

The NAMS.PLUS program is based on the IIMM framework and is aimed to assist service delivery organisations such as councils, with long life assets, with their asset management planning. NAMS.PLUS training is supported by a suite of templates, tools and provides a guided pathway to sustainable asset management.

As the NAMS.PLUS program is an organisation-based subscription program, its entitlements are available to all staff in the organisation, not only those staff that are members of IPWEA. This enables all of Council's asset management related staff to acquire up-to-date knowledge and skills on best practice.

In addition to the NAMS.PLUS formal training, Warringah's asset management staff regularly attend IPWEA asset management related training sessions, workshops and seminars.

In terms of best practice asset management, since Council first adopted asset management planning systems and practices, Council has now moved into the cyclic improvement phase.

Council has prepared this Strategy to ensure that all assets are managed consistently across the organisation, and to provide a best practice framework and guiding principles for the management of Council's assets now and into the future.

2.6 Relationship to Council's Asset Management Policy 2012

This Strategy has been prepared to support the implementation of Council's Asset Management Policy which was endorsed by Council on 28 August 2012 (refer to Appendix B). The primary objectives of the Asset Management Policy are as follows:

- To provide a broad framework, guidelines and principles for implementing consistent and coordinated asset management processes throughout Council.
- To ensure that the management of Council's assets is consistent with Council's Corporate vision, goals and objectives.
- To ensure that a sustainable approach is adopted in the provision and management of Council's assets.

This Strategy provides a high level and long-term (10 year) action plan for how Council will manage its assets and articulates how Council will achieve the objectives that are listed in the Asset Management Policy 2012. Council's Asset Management Policy and Strategy are supplemented by detailed Asset Management Plans.

3. Community Engagement

3.1 Annual Community Engagement Process

Council recognises the importance of community engagement to gain a better understanding on the views of the community on how Council should be managing its assets. Effective engagement is good business practice and is critical to good government. For this reason, Council made a commitment to continue to engage with the Warringah community on the management and future provision of assets and services.

To ensure that Council is fully aware and responsive to the community's asset and service priorities, Council undertakes an Annual Community Survey which is analysed and interpreted to inform the operational priorities for the organisation. Council has been undertaking the survey for over a decade, so the results of the survey provide a very good guide as to what assets and services the community values most (i.e. the community's priorities). The survey also provides an accurate insight into what assets and services that the community is satisfied with and areas where improvements can be made.

3.2 Community Responses & Analysis – Assets & Services

An analysis of the Annual Community Survey results from the last 5 years (2007-2012) identifies those asset related services that the community values the most, those that the community is satisfied with, and those that may need further attention.

Table 1 lists the assets and services and the associated importance rating from one (1) to ten (10), with 1 being least important and 10 being very important to the community. Similarly, based on the community's response, each asset and service is provided a satisfaction rating from 1 to 10, with 1 being least satisfied and 10 being most satisfied.

The results of the Annual Community Surveys over the last five years confirms that the community places a high importance on household waste collection, provision of lifeguards on beaches, maintaining local/major (arterial) roads and maintaining our beaches and rock pools. Those assets and/or services that the community rated as being less important were bike paths, Brookvale Oval, Glen Street Theatre, walking trails and tracks, and bus shelters.

The assets and services given a high satisfaction rating by the community were Council's library services, the provision of lifeguards on beaches, household waste collection, maintenance of beaches and rock pools, Glen Street Theatre, Warringah Aquatic Centre, and parks and recreation areas.

In comparing the average importance rating (over the last 5 years) of each asset and service with the average satisfaction rating, Council gains an understanding of where the community feels that Council could improve. This is achieved by undertaking a gap analysis which identifies the gap between average importance rating and the average satisfaction rating.

The results of the gap analysis indicate that the community is extremely satisfied with the library services that Council provides, the Glen Street Theatre, walking tracks and trails, and the Warringah Aquatic Centre. The community is least satisfied with the maintenance of local roads, the condition of public toilets, the provision of car parking, and the maintenance of major arterial (State) roads.

Table 1: Annual Community Survey Results (2007-2012) – Assets & Services

Asset/Service	Av. Importance Rating	Av. Satisfaction Rating	Gap Analysis
Household waste collection	9.3	8	-1.3
Provision of lifeguards on beaches	9.2	8.2	-1
Maintaining major roads	8.8	6.3	-2.5
Maintaining local roads	8.8	6	-2.8
Maintenance of beaches and rock pools	8.8	7.4	-1.4
Parks and recreation areas	8.7	7	-1.7
Management of waterways & lagoons	8.6	6.3	-2.3
Cleaning of public areas	8.6	6.7	-1.9
Caring for bush areas	8.5	6.9	-1.6
Sporting fields and amenities	8.3	6.6	-1.7
Provision of car parking	8.3	5.6	-2.7
Provision of street lighting	8.3	6.7	-1.6
Footpaths	8.3	6	-2.3
Facilities and services for people with disabilities	8.3	6.4	-1.9
Facilities and services for older people	8.2	6.5	-1.7
Facilities and services for youth	8.2	5.8	-2.4
Management of street trees	8	5.6	-2.4
Library services	7.9	9.6	1.7
Management of local flooding/Stormwater	7.9	6.4	-1.5
Condition of public toilets	7.7	4.9	-2.8
Community centres	7.6	6.8	-0.8
Provision of childcare services	7.4	6.3	-1.1
Warringah Aquatic Centre	7.4	7.1	-0.3
Bus shelters	7	6.2	-0.8
Walking Trails & Tracks	6.8	6.6	-0.2
Glen Street Theatre	6.7	7.2	0.5
Brookvale Oval	6.7	5.7	-1
Bike Paths	5.9	5.1	-0.8

3.3 Community Strategic Plan – Community Engagement Outcomes

In addition to Council's Annual Community Survey, Council completed a comprehensive engagement process as part of the preparation of Warringah's Community Strategic Plan. This engagement process commenced in mid 2012 and consisted of a wide range of engagement techniques to ensure maximum participation from a diverse range of stakeholders. The engagement techniques that were used are summarised in Figure 3 (CSP Community Engagement Techniques).

Over 1,500 submissions were received which emphasises the high level of engagement. The overall feedback from the community was positive, however there were areas identified for improvement. The outcomes can be summarised as follows:

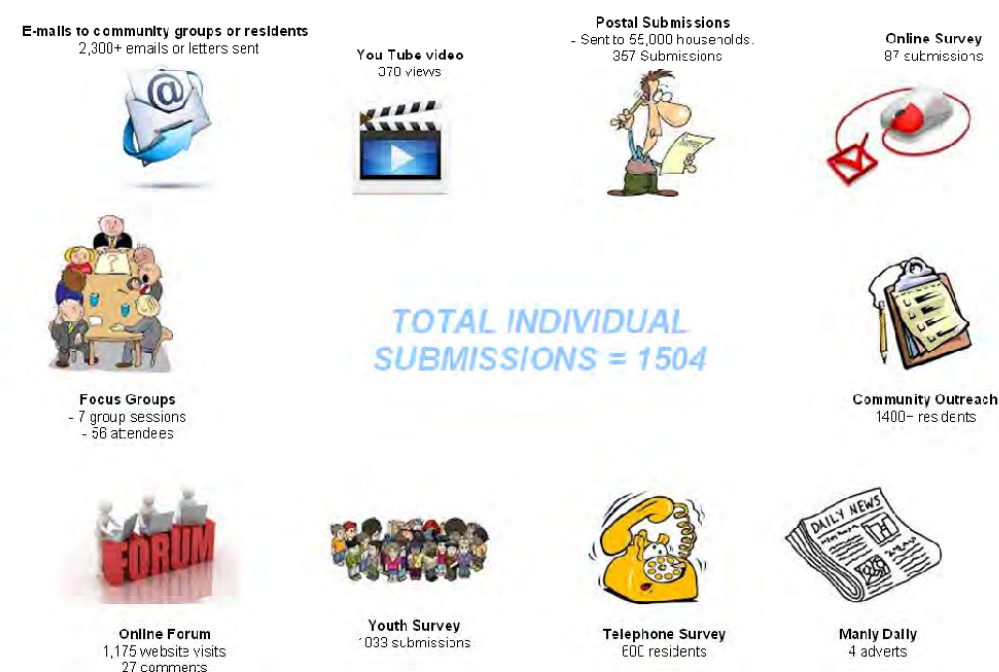
Valued and doing well

- Protect our natural environment
- Opportunities for recreational pursuits

Opportunities for improvement

- Revitalise Dee Why
- Address traffic congestion
- Realistic population growth with supporting infrastructure
- Appropriate development that doesn't unduly impact what makes the area special
- Keep the area clean, safe and well presented
- Foster community connections

Figure 3: CSP Community Engagement Techniques 2012



Through Council's community engagement to date, the community has identified some things they want Council to improve that are actually the responsibilities of the NSW Government. The three most frequently recurring issues are:

- Traffic congestion - the information provided by the community shows that their concerns about congestion generally relate to state roads controlled by the NSW Government through the Roads and Maritime Service.
- Suggestions to ease the congestion often point to better public transport, which in Warringah is controlled by the NSW Government through Sydney Buses.
- Excessive population growth - the targets for increased population are set by the NSW Government through the NSW Department of Planning.

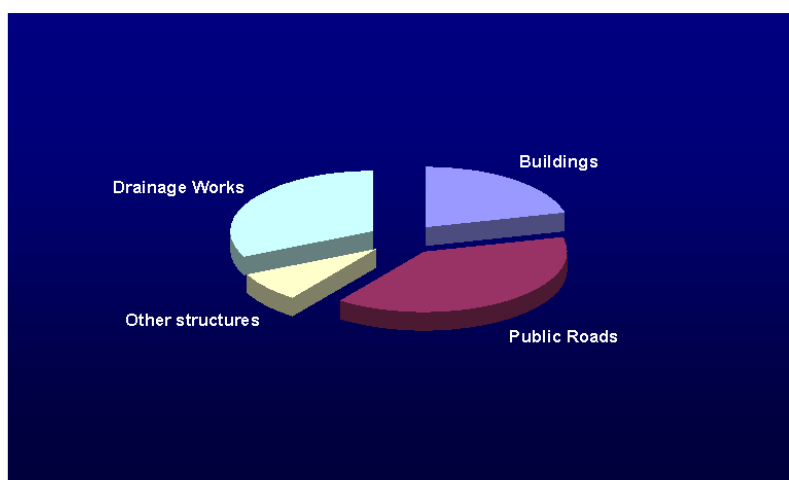
4. Warringah Council's Assets & Management Practices

4.1 Current Situation

Council is the custodian of approximately \$1.05 worth of built/infrastructure assets, including roads and transport facilities, stormwater, drainage, buildings, and other structures located in parks, reserves and foreshores (refer to Figure 4 – Council's Built/Infrastructure Assets – What are they?).

Council is responsible for effectively managing all assets while considering the long term and cumulative effects of decisions. This is a core function of councils, as reflected in section 8 of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).

Figure 4: Council's Built/Infrastructure Assets – What are they?



Council has a good working knowledge of the condition of its assets. Some knowledge gaps exist for assets, such as our stormwater drainage network, as frequent inspection of the physical condition of all of Council's pipes is cost prohibitive. In order to address this gap, Council undertakes selected video inspections and modelling, to provide a predicted overall condition of the overall network.

Council's Asset Management framework is contained within Council's Asset Management Policy which was endorsed by Council on 28 August 2012. It provides a structured and systematic approach that enables the alignment of asset planning and management practices with service delivery priorities and strategies, within the limits of resources available. This is essential for providing the required level of service in the most cost effective manner over the long term.

A key component of Council's Asset Management Framework has been the development of new Asset Management Plans for our major asset classes between 2005 and 2012. These Asset Management Plans are updated annually, with a major review undertaken every four years (refer to Appendix C for the current review program contained in Council's Asset Management Improvement Plan).

Asset Management Plans provide the link between corporate strategies, the provision of services and the provision of assets. Council's focus is on providing only those assets that support the delivery of Council's identified core services, as determined by the Community.

Another integral component of this framework is Council's Asset Management System which is the 'Asset Management Module' of Council's Enterprise business software – *Technology One*. It performs a number of functions – a warehouse for all asset information data, a works component

that manages all maintenance (routine and reactive) and capital works undertaken, a strategic decision-making component to assist in future planning, direct linkages to other corporate systems, (finance, property, leasing, rates, customer requests, GIS), and the ability to provide this information in an accessible format.

Council's Asset Management Plans provide more detailed information on the type and number of assets; the level of service an asset provides; and long term projections of asset maintenance, rehabilitation and replacement costs. The Plans also highlight assets that fail to provide an identified core service, or fail to provide that core service to an acceptable level or in a cost effective manner. Where an asset no longer plays a viable role in supporting core service delivery, the information contained in Council's Asset Management Plans enable us to make an appropriate decision about its renewal or disposal.

4.2 Asset Management Governance-Strategic Group (Works & Assets)

In recognition of the importance of a coordinated approach to asset management across the organisation, a senior level working group (Strategic Working Group – Works & Assets) was established in May 2012. The Strategic Working Group meets monthly, is cross-organisational and is chaired by the Deputy General Manager – Environment. The membership of the Strategic Working Group (Works & Assets) is as follows:

- Deputy General Manager – Environment (Chairperson)
- Deputy General Manager – Community
- Chief Finance Officer
- Group Manager – Strategic Planning
- Group Manager – Natural Environment
- Group Manager – Buildings, Property, & Spatial Information
- Group Manager – Parks, Reserves, & Foreshores
- Group Manager – Roads, Traffic, & Waste
- Manager Asset Strategy
- Principal Planner (Assets & Growth)

Although the Group considers a wide variety of matters relating to asset management within the organisation, the role of the Strategic Working Group is as follows:

1. Provide corporate direction on key decisions regarding the management of Council's assets
2. Strategy development & implementation
3. Monitor & co-ordinate the preparation and review of Council's Asset Management Plans
4. Monitor and review the implementation of Council's Asset Management Plans
5. Develop practices for improving asset management in the organisation
6. Agree on procedures and actions to improve asset management across the organisation and to ensure uniformity of approach throughout Council
7. Share knowledge across the organisation
8. Risk management
9. Ensure statutory compliance

10. Review and monitor the implementation of Council's Asset Management Improvement actions (as contained in Council's Asset Management Strategy)
11. Research and review innovative approaches to asset management with a view to implementing, where appropriate, new processes & procedures to improve efficiencies and/or financial outcomes (value for money).

4.3 Current Asset Inventory & Current Replacement Costs

The assets listed below in Table 2 represent Council's major infrastructure assets. These assets have been grouped by asset class. The current replacement values of the assets contained in these four major infrastructure asset classes is \$1.05 billion. Further detailed information is contained in the relevant asset management plans.

Table 2: Current Replacement Costs by Asset Class

<u>Asset Class</u>		
Buildings	Quantity	Current Replacement Cost
Administration & depots	38	\$41,891,182
Amenities	37	\$10,392,640
Beach (including surf clubs, viewing towers etc.)	21	\$32,727,955
Bushfire	16	\$8,783,502
Business Operations	4	\$31,335,221
Community (inc. community centres, libraries, scout halls, senior citizen centres etc.)	49	\$50,886,865
Council rented - Commercial	1	\$472,304
Council rented - Residential	3	\$659,681
Sporting Facility	70	\$46,105,526
Total	239	\$223,254,876

<u>Asset Class</u>		
Stormwater / Drainage Works	Quantity	Current Replacement Cost
Stormwater pipes	339.8 km	\$243,082,013
Culverts	8.08 km	\$25,618,624
Pits and Headwalls	14620	\$60,559,567
Lined and unlined drainage channels	213 no.	\$404,576
Water quality improvement devices	130	\$5,694,848
Total	-	\$335,359,628

<u>Asset Class</u>		
Public Roads	Quantity	Current Replacement Cost
Public roads	523 km	
Road component - Wearing course		\$69,670,300
Road component - Pavement		\$140,267,209
Road component - Formation		\$64,823,870
Sub-total roads		\$274,761,380
Kerb & gutter	835 km	\$50,399,680

Guard rails	4.5 km	\$569,428
Footpath	267 km	\$39,577,675
Vehicle Bridges within road reserves	10	\$5,472,420
Bus Shelters	246	\$3,352,039
Car Parks	5,872 spaces	\$17,899,291
Retaining Walls	48	\$4,263,127
Pedestrian Crossings	129	\$1,862,404
Roundabouts	119	\$2,090,915
Traffic Control Devices	279	\$5,498,522
Road landscaping	-	\$390,505
General infrastructure - Roads	-	\$2,022,465
Total	-	\$408,159,851

<u>Asset Class</u>		
Other Structures / Parks, Reserves and Foreshores	Quantity	Current Replacement Cost
Playground Equipment		\$8,300,590
Sportsfield Floodlighting Systems	45	\$6,504,000
Rockpools	7	\$4,107,632
Boardwalks	-	\$3,078,518
General Infrastructure	-	\$33,196,970
Land improvements including landscaping	-	\$24,462,303
Major Seawalls	22	\$5,882,849
Total		\$85,532,862

Total of all four (4) Asset Classes	=	\$1,052,307,215
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In addition to the infrastructure assets, Council owns, controls, manages and maintains other physical financial assets, including an extensive range of plant and equipment, office equipment, library books and furniture/fitings in community buildings and council offices.

The value of these particular assets fluctuates throughout the year, but at 30 June 2012, the combined value was \$24m.

4.4 Asset Valuations

Council carries out valuations of its assets in accordance with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standard AASB 116 - Property, Plant and Equipment and the 'Fair Value' depreciation methodology. Council's valuation process complies with the NSW Division of Local Government requirements, particularly with respect to componentisation of large assets and timing of the valuations for various classes.

For infrastructure assets, the Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC) methodology is used to determine fair value. DRC is outlined in the Australian Infrastructure Financial Management Guidelines 2012 (AIFMG). This methodology complies with AASB 116.

Assets have been componentised or aggregated where appropriate, to a level that adequately reflects differing useful lives, residual values and depreciation rates.

The current overall status and program for the valuation of Council's assets is contained in Table 3.

Table 3: Council Asset Revaluation Program

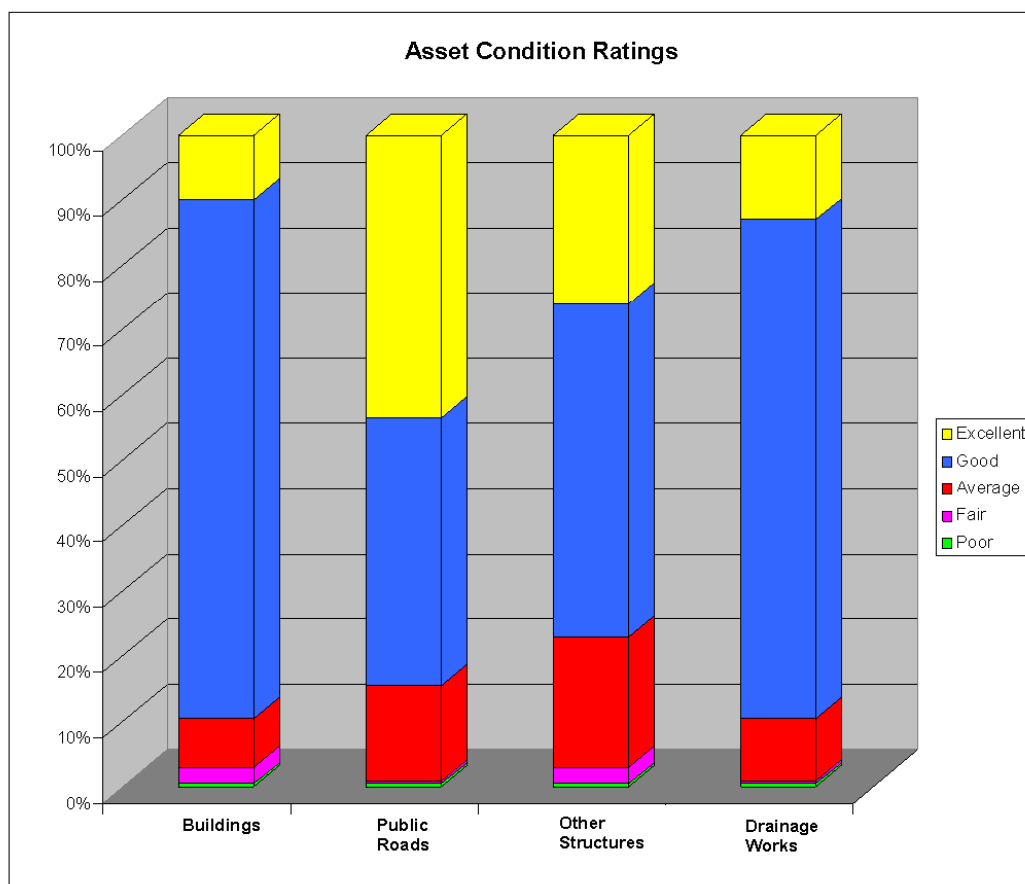
Asset Class	Revaluation interval	Last revalued	Revaluation due	Revaluation due
Community Land	5 years	2011	2016	2021
Operational Land	Annual	2012	2013	Continue Annually
Land Under Roads	5 years	2011	2016	2021
Community Buildings	5 years	2008	2013	2018
Investment Properties	Annual	2012	2013	Continue Annually
Roads	5 years	2010	2015	2020
Stormwater	5 years	2010	2015	2020
Land Improvements	5 years	2011	2016	2021
Other Structures	5 years	2011	2016	2021

4.5 Condition of Council's Assets

Council undertakes regular inspections of its assets to determine their condition. In addition, Council has developed an 'Asset Responsibilities Matrix' which identifies asset groups and nominates which areas of Council have responsibility for undertaking various components of the asset lifecycle such as asset management planning, capital renewal, maintenance, customer requests, cleaning and scheduled inspections.

The 'Asset Responsibilities Matrix' not only outlines accountabilities across the organisation, but also provides confidence that inspections are undertaken on a regular basis. In accordance with the Integrated Planning and Reporting Manual (2010), Council has rated the condition of all its major assets and identified those assets that are at a 'Poor' condition level. As illustrated in Figure 5 (Council's Asset Condition Ratings), the majority of Council's assets are well maintained and have a condition rating of 'Good' or better.

Figure 5: Council's Asset Condition ratings 2011/12



Source of data: Warringah Council Financial Statement 2011/12 (as at 30 June 2012)

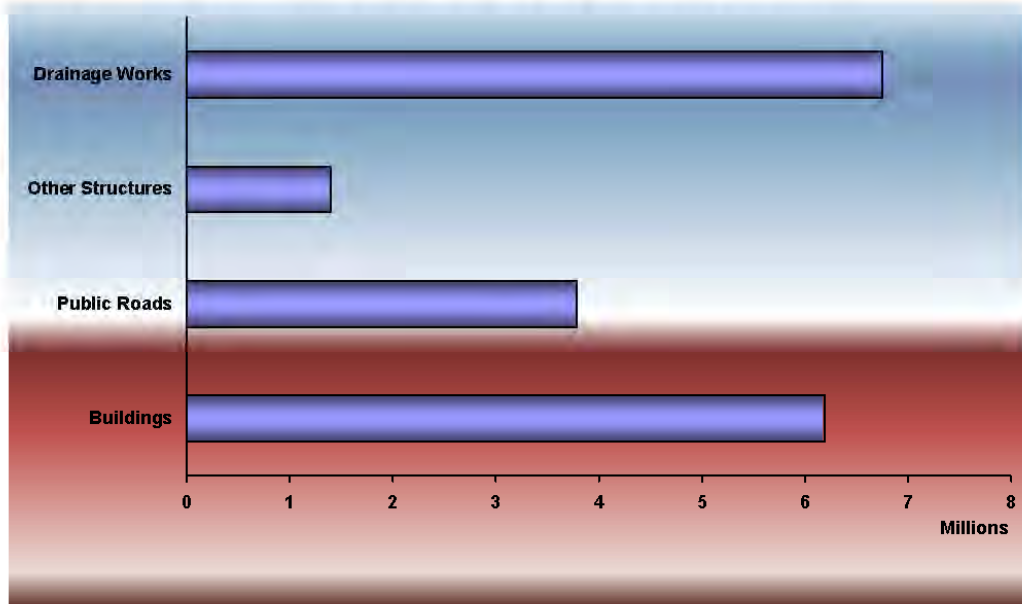
Level 1	Excellent	No work required (normal maintenance)
Level 2	Good	Only minor maintenance work required
Level 3	Average	Maintenance work required
Level 4	Fair	Renewal required
Level 5	Poor	Urgent renewal / upgrade required

Condition ratings recommended by DLG - Local Government Code of Accounting Practice & Financial Reporting and Integrated Planning and Reporting Manual

An assessment has been undertaken to determine the cost to bring Council's assets to a satisfactory standard. In this regard, satisfactory refers to the estimated cost to bring the condition of a 'Poor', 'Fair', or 'Average' rated asset to a satisfactory condition (i.e. to a 'Good' condition or better) as deemed by Council and does not include any planned "enhancement(s)" to the existing

asset. As illustrated in Figure 6 the estimated cost to bring Council's assets to a 'Satisfactory' standard as at 30 June 2012, is approximately \$18 million.

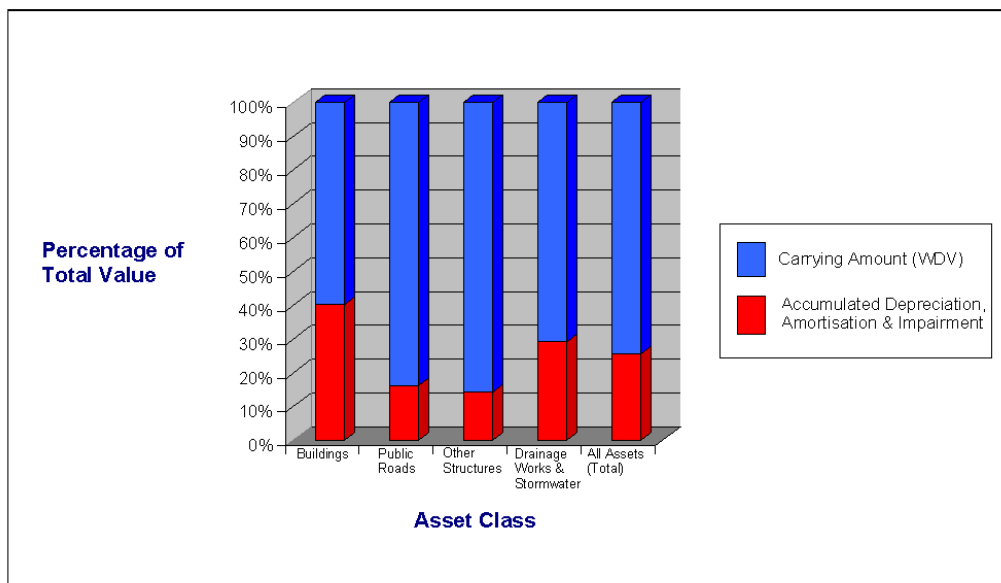
Figure 6: Estimated Cost to Bring Assets to a Satisfactory Standard



Source of data: Warringah Council Financial Statement 2011/12 (as at 30 June 2012)

Council is able to determine the accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment of all assets. Of Council's four major asset classes, the buildings and drainage classes have the highest percentage of assets that have depreciated, approximately 40% and 25% respectively (refer to Figure 7 – Accumulated Depreciation by Asset Class).

Figure 7: Accumulated Depreciation by Asset Class

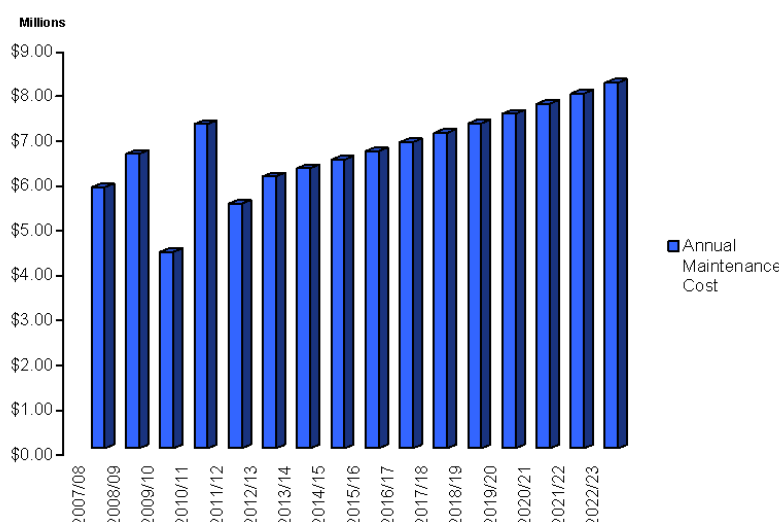


Source of data: Warringah Council Financial Statement 2011/12 (as at 30 June 2012)

4.6 Annual Maintenance Costs

The annual cost to maintain Council's assets over the last five financial years has ranged from \$4.3 million to \$7.2 million depending on operational priorities. Current forecasts indicate that Council's annual maintenance costs will continue to be in the vicinity of \$6 million per year with a steady rise in costs when adjusted to account for rises in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). With CPI applied it is expected that annual cost to maintain Council's assets will rise to approximately \$8.4 million by 2022/2023, excluding the cost to maintain any new assets that may be built in the future (refer to Figure 8).

Figure 8: Council's Historic & Forecasted Annual Maintenance Costs



4.7 Financial Sustainability

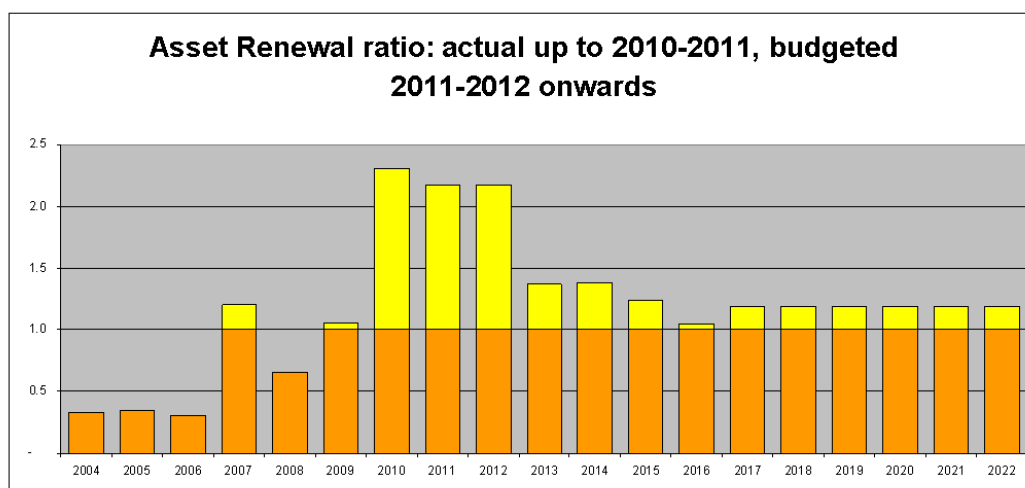
Council has adopted a sustainable approach to the management of its assets, both financially and environmentally. Council has placed an emphasis on developing management practices to ensure that Council's existing assets can be maintained at a satisfactory level prior to committing to the development of new assets. In this regard, Council is committed to best practice financial management processes to achieve sustainable outcomes, including the following:

- Concerted efforts to reduce any infrastructure backlog and reduce the funding gap between allocated budgets and the true maintenance and renewal costs of existing infrastructure assets.
- Achieving an Asset Renewal Ratio of 1:1 or better
- Thoroughly analysing decisions on new infrastructure and life-cycle cost implications prior to committing the development of new assets
- Balance investment in new and existing infrastructure
- Integration of Council's Asset Management Plans with Council's Long Term Financial Plan

Figure 9 (Asset Renewal Ratio), provides a longer term indicator of the condition and cost to maintain public infrastructure assets. A strategic approach to asset management has been

adopted and Council will be able to meet its ongoing asset renewal requirements and will be able to achieve the desired ratio of over 1:1 throughout the life of this Strategy (i.e. up until 2023). Further details on Council's sustainable approach to the management of its assets are contained within Council's Resourcing Strategy - Long Term Financial Plan.

Figure 9: Warringah Council's Actual & Budgeted Asset Renewal Ratio



Source: Council Financial Statement 2011/12 (as at 30 June 2012)

4.8 Risk Management Practices

As detailed in this report, Council has a high level of investment in built/infrastructure assets (approximately \$1.05 billion) and due to this scale of investment, Council is exposed to considerable managerial, political and financial risk. So that these and other organisational risks could be effectively managed, Council developed and adopted an enterprise risk management framework (Council Policy PL700 Risk – Enterprise Risk Management Framework). Council's Enterprise Risk Management Framework is based on the key principles of Australian Standard *AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009* and encourages a holistic and coordinated approach for identifying, assessing, mitigating and monitoring the various risks and opportunities that have the potential to impact on Council.

Sitting under this framework are the following:

- an Operational Management Standard - Enterprise Risk Management OMS445 - Risk
- a central Risk Register (Trim Document 2012/257398)
- a number of procedures (e.g. Infrastructure Risk Management and Work Prioritisation) to manage risk effectively

With respect to infrastructure assets, Council recognises that implementation of the Enterprise Risk Management Framework requires:

- ongoing development and review of risk assessments and risk management strategies for each critical asset
- the analysis and review of risk data and implementation of risk-based programmes
- an understanding of failure modes of critical assets
- review of strategies that are put in place to minimise the failure of critical assets

In addition, Council's Asset Management Plans outline in more detail the risk management strategies used to reduce risk related to Council's infrastructure.

The Asset Management Plans consider where applicable, potential risk factors such as:

- Asset reliability
- Asset knowledge
- Asset and system performance
- Environmental and legal compliance
- Health and safety
- Ratepayer equity and financial management
- Business continuity/natural disasters
- Staff/management practices
- Council image and reputation

5. Population Growth & Demographic Trends

The expected demand for local infrastructure associated with population growth will require the allocation and provision of additional services throughout the life of this Strategy. While capacity may exist to accommodate the anticipated population growth, there are some asset classes, particularly the buildings asset class, for which Council will need to plan for increased demand and adopt innovative solutions to manage the expectations of the community whilst retaining acceptable levels of service.

5.1 Warringah's Historical Growth & Estimated Resident Population

The Hon Brad Hazzard, NSW Minister for Planning and Infrastructure has advised that Warringah Local Government Area (LGA) would need to accommodate 10,300 new dwellings by 2031 (2005-2031). The State Government is in the process of reviewing this target with a view to identifying new targets up until the year 2036. Irrespective of the outcomes of the review, the population of Warringah LGA is expected to increase from a population of **147,611** (Estimated Resident Population 2011) to approximately 157,858 by 2023 (i.e. during the life of this Strategy) and to 161,902 by 2036 (Source: id Planning 2012).

During the last census period (2006-2011) the figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) indicate that Warringah LGA's Estimated Resident Population increased by 8,448 from 139,163 in 2006 to 147,611 with an annual growth rate of 1.19% per annum during this period (refer to Table 4 & Figure 10 Warringah LGA ERP).

In 2010-2011 Warringah LGA's population continued to grow at a consistent rate (approximately 1%) in comparison to previous years with the LGA growing 1.07% per annum and a total population increase of 1,565.

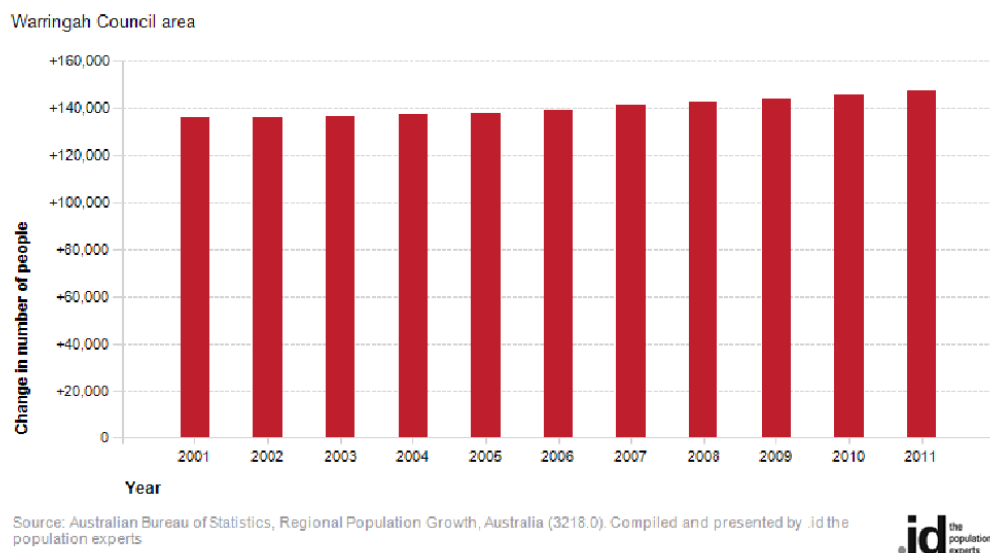
According to the ABS, Warringah was the 49th fastest growing LGA in NSW (out of 148 LGAs) in the year 2010-2011 and was ranked 20th (out of 148 LGAs) in terms of actual population growth during the year 2010-11.

Table 4: Warringah LGA – Estimated Resident Population (ERP) 2001-2011

Year (ending June 30)	Number	Change in number	Change in percent
2001	136,175		
2002	136,422	+247	+0.18
2003	136,679	+257	+0.19
2004	137,112	+433	+0.32
2005	138,048	+936	+0.68
2006	139,163	+1,115	+0.81
2007	141,010	+1,847	+1.33
2008	142,587	+1,577	+1.12
2009	144,304	+1,717	+1.20
2010	146,046	+1,742	+1.21
2011	147,611	+1,565	+1.07

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional Population Growth, Australia (3218.0). Compiled and presented by .id The population experts

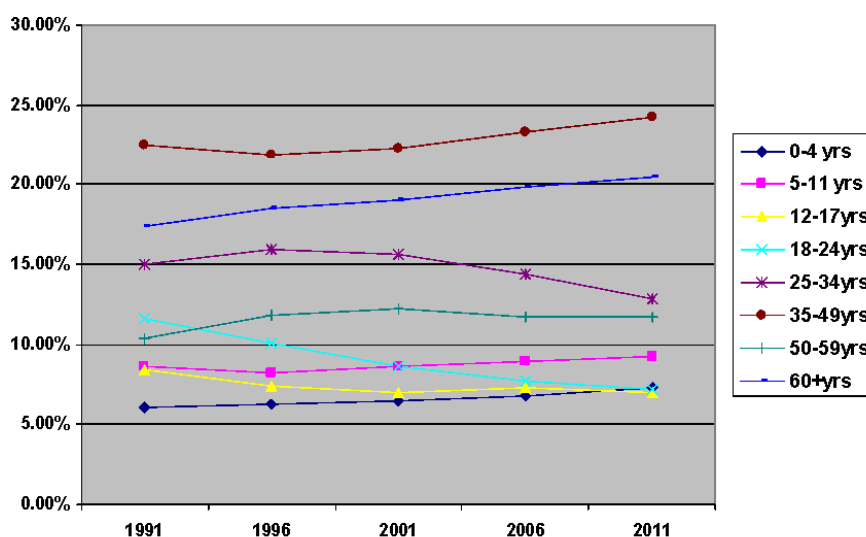
Figure 10: Warringah LGA – Estimated Resident Population 2001-2011



5.2 Warringah's Historical Demographic Trends

It is important to have a thorough understanding of demographic trends which have the potential to impact on the level of demand for council services. Since 1991 only two age brackets (0-4yrs and 60+yrs) have consistently continued to grow throughout each census period (refer to Figure 11). Since 1991 the percentage of the total population in the 0-4 age category has continued to grow steadily with actual numbers increasing from 7,313 in 1991 to 10,218 in 2011.

Figure 11: Warringah LGA – Percentage of Population by Age Category (1991-2011)



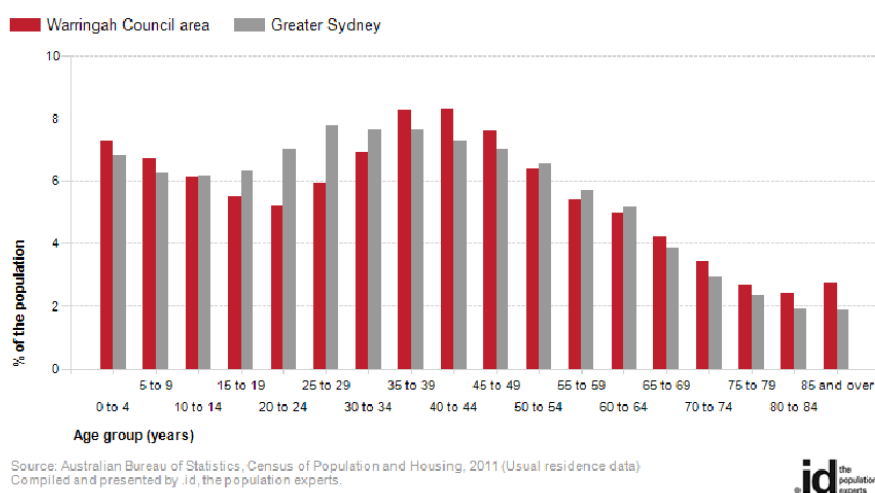
The largest relative percentage growth has occurred in the 60+ year age bracket. In 1991, there were 20,896 people in Warringah LGA that were aged 60+ years old and in the 2011 Census the number of people in the 60+ age category had increased significantly to 28,728, or 19.5% of the

total population. The age category with the largest decrease over the last 10 years has been the 18-24 age category (Youth) which has decreased from 11.62% in 1991 to 7.24% of the total population in 2011.

5.3 Warringah's five year age group analysis 2011

Analysis of the five year age groups of Warringah Council area in 2011 compared to Greater Sydney (refer to Figure 12 Warringah LGA – five year age structure in 2011) shows that Warringah is home to a higher proportion of people in the younger age groups (aged 0-9), a higher proportion of people aged 35-49 as well as a higher proportion of people in the older age groups (65+).

Figure 12: Warringah LGA – Five year age structure in 2011



Overall, 20.1% of the population was aged between 0 and 15, and 15.5% were aged 65 years and over, compared with 19.2% and 12.8% respectively for Greater Sydney.

Further analysis of Figure 10 reveals that, in comparison to Greater Sydney, Warringah LGA has:

- A *larger* percentage of persons aged 40 to 44 (8.3% compared to 7.3%)
- A *larger* percentage of persons aged 85 and over (2.8% compared to 1.8%)
- A *larger* percentage of persons aged 35 to 39 (8.3% compared to 7.6%)
- A *larger* percentage of persons aged 45 to 49 (7.6% compared to 7.0%)

5.4 Warringah's historical trends in five year age structure

Examining the change in population is key to understanding the provision requirements in the council area. Figure 13 displays the change in population across 5 year age groups across Warringah LGA. The greatest growth is in the ranges of 0 to 14 (2,745, or 10.7%), 40 to 54 (3,207 or 11.4%), 60 to 74 (1,728 or 10.8%) and over 85s (607 or 18.6%). This is contrast to 30-34 year olds, which declined by 1,139 or 10.5%. Other 5 year age ranges, such as those between 15 and 29, 55 to 59, and 75 to 84 year olds remained fairly stagnant in terms of population growth.

In comparison, the population change in the Sydney Metropolitan area (refer to Figure 14) was positive across all age brackets, with the exception of the 75 to 79 age bracket. The brackets with the strongest growth were 0-4, 25 to 29, 60 to 64, and 65 to 69.

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Figure 13: Warringah LGA – Change in five year age structure – 2006 to 2011

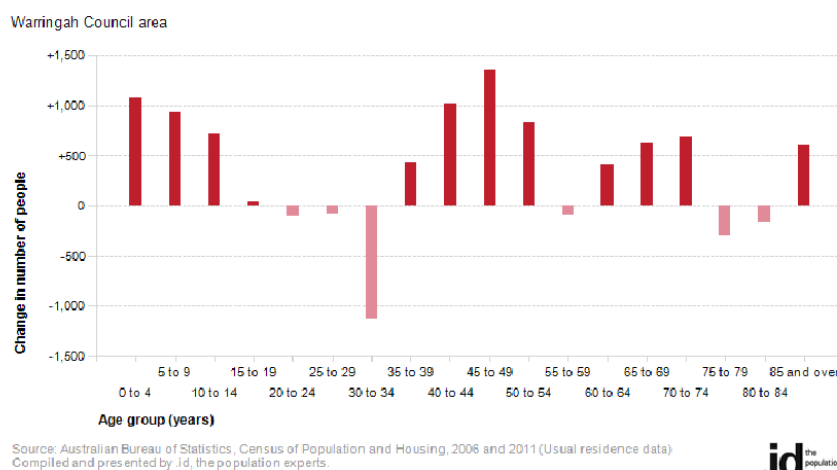
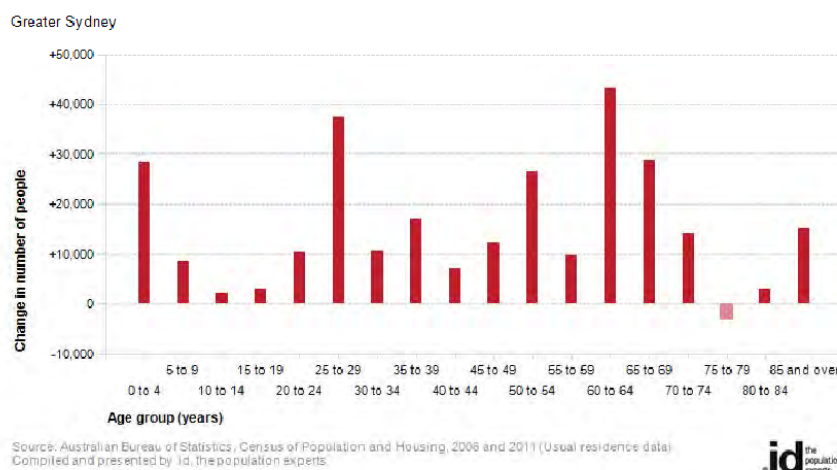


Figure 14: Greater Sydney – Change in five year age structure – 2006 to 2011

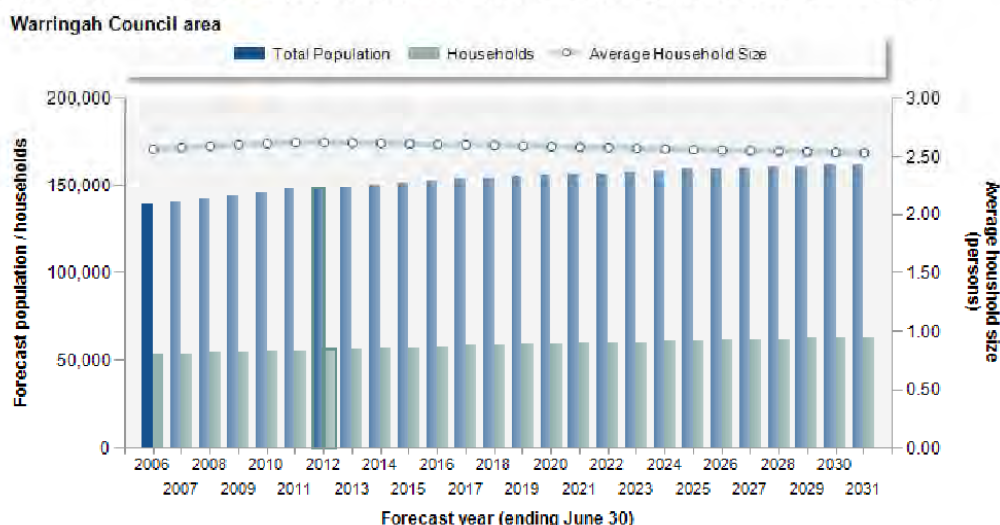


Section 5.6 of this Strategy explores growth patterns in Warringah LGA in more detail, highlighting the growth of various demographic groups by suburb.

5.5 Population Forecasts & Average Household Size

Analysis of population and household forecasts allow Warringah LGA to plan for the expansion of services and facilities in the future, as well as density requirements. Figure 15 outlines the anticipated growth of the total population and number of households, in addition to the average household size. These forecasts are based on 2006 Census data and have been updated as additional data becomes available, including the 2011 Census.

Figure 15: Forecast population, households & average household size to 2031



Whilst Warringah LGA experienced a 1.19% per annum growth rate between the 2006 Census and 2011 Census (approximately 8,450 people over the period), that growth rate is expected to steadily slow over the coming years. In 2011, the total population of Warringah LGA was estimated at being 147,611. During the life of this Strategy (i.e. up until 2023) it is expected that the population of Warringah LGA will increase by 10,247 to 157,858 or 0.56% per annum.

It is anticipated that average household size will decrease as the growth of lone and couple households outpaces that of family households during the life of this Strategy. During the last census period (2006-2011) the average household size (persons per household) in Warringah LGA increased from 2.58 persons per household in 2006 to 2.70 in 2011 (refer to Figure 13). This trend is expected to reverse during the course of this strategy, returning to 2.58 in 2023. This highlights the need to consider household demographics in the future provision of infrastructure, particularly social infrastructure.

Table 5: Warringah LGA – Forecast age structure 2013-2023

Age structure	Pop No. 2013	Percentage of Total 2013	Pop No. 2023	Percentage of Total 2023	Pop No. change 2013 to 2023
0-4 years	10,204	6.9	10,151	6.4	-53
5-9 years	9,973	6.7	9,920	6.3	-53
10-14 years	9,011	6.1	9,670	6.1	659
15-19 years	8,241	5.5	9,393	6	1,152
20-24 years	8,112	5.4	8,806	5.6	694
25-29 years	9,144	6.1	9,219	5.8	75
30-34 years	10,581	7.1	10,539	6.7	-42
35-39 years	11,454	7.7	11,326	7.2	-128
40-44 years	12,645	8.5	11,491	7.3	-1,154
45-49 years	10,943	7.3	11,264	7.1	321
50-54 years	9,946	6.7	11,352	7.2	1,406
55-59 years	8,267	5.6	9,722	6.2	1,455
60-64 years	7,080	4.8	7,711	5.4	1,472
65-69 years	6,769	4.5	6,625	4.5	383
70-74 years	5,146	3.5	6,159	3.8	918
75-79 years	4,119	2.8	4,664	3.4	1,311
80-84 years	3,431	2.3	3,595	2.5	530
85 years and over	3,840	2.6	3,821	2.4	7

Table 5 & Figure 16 display the forecasted changes in population of 5 year age groups within the Warringah LGA. Of particular interest is the continuing growth of 10-24 year olds and those aged 50 and over, compared to the flat or declining population changes of other age groups. These trends should be considered when planning for an increase in asset provision across the LGA in the future.

Figure 16: Warringah LGA – Forecast age structure 2013-2023

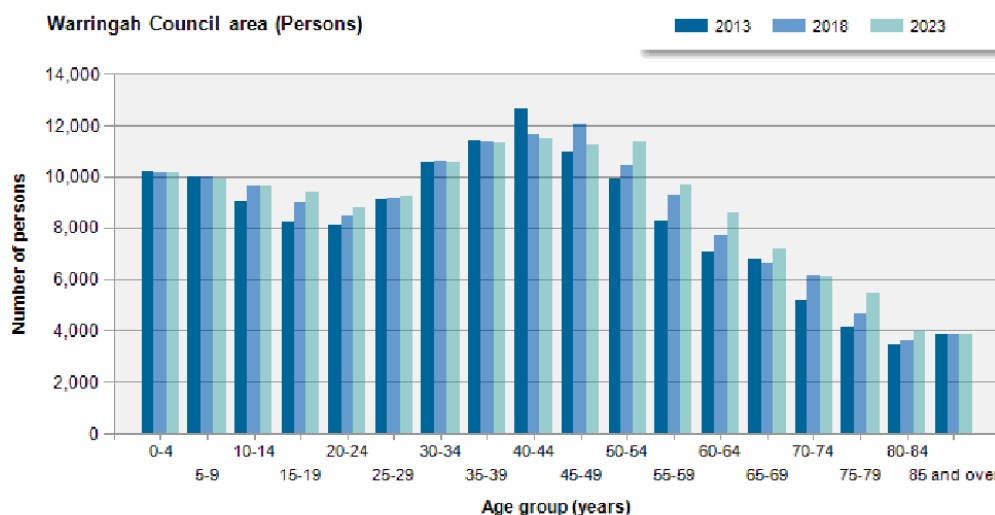
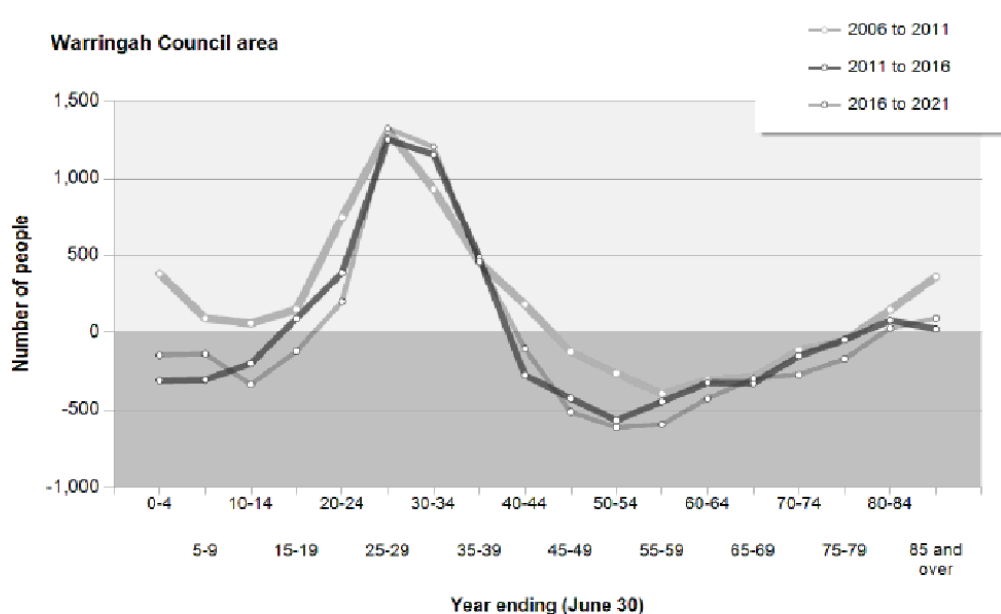


Figure 17 displays the net migration for Warringah LGA by five year period. The migration patterns are largely broken up into four age groups: 0 to 19, 20 to 39, 40 to 69, and 70 and over. The forecasts suggest an influx of young families with children (0 to 19 and 20 to 39), with mature families moving to other areas (40 to 69), and retirees moving in (70 and over). These forecasts suggest an overall need for assets and services that cater to young parents, their children, and retirees. The next section reviews demographic trends by suburb to understand those needs at a local level.

Figure 17: Warringah LGA – Forecast migration by age 2006-2021



5.6 Population Growth & Demographic Trends by Suburb

When planning for the future provision and maintenance of assets in a local government area (LGA) as large as Warringah LGA (14,936ha or 149 km²) it is important to consider growth suburbs within the LGA to ensure that services are distributed equitably so that all residents have suitable access to these services without the need to travel long distances. This section of the Strategy identifies those areas in Warringah LGA which have had the highest and lowest population growth (in absolute numbers) over the last 10 years (i.e. 2001-2011) and also identifies those suburbs which have a high number of people in the various service age groups (e.g. babies and preschoolers, youth and the elderly etc.).

Population Growth Suburbs (from 2001 to 2011)

In addition to having the largest population growth in terms of actual numbers, the suburbs in Table 6, with the exception of Collaroy, have experienced a proportional growth of 8.7% exceeding the average growth of the entire council area over the period 2001-2011.

Table 6: Population Growth Suburbs (from 2001 to 2011)

Population Growth Suburbs (2001 to 2011)	Population Growth	Percentage Growth
DEE WHY	3615	22.6%
BELROSE / OXFORD FALLS	890	11.4%
COLLAROY	753	5.5%
MANLY VALE	726	14.6%
BROOKVALE	598	30.2%

Brookvale and Dee Why are of particular interest. Dee Why has experienced a high growth rate in terms of both absolute and relative growth, whilst Brookvale has experienced a smaller level of absolute growth, but a very high level of relative growth. If left unaccounted for, this growth could lead to higher strain on existing assets in areas such as Dee Why, while areas such as Brookvale may not have the assets required due to rapidly shifting demographics. However, knowledge gathered through the Census and forecasting process allows Council to properly plan for the requirements in these areas.

Declining or Low Population Growth Suburbs (from 2001 to 2011)

As illustrated in Table 7, only two of Warringham's 27 suburbs experienced a negative growth rate between 2001 and 2011, Davidson and Terrey Hills. This can largely be attributed to young adults moving out of the area, as well as older families and retirees. While younger families have been moving into these areas, they have not been able to offset these migration patterns. With regards to asset management, this would illustrate a lesser priority for new assets in these areas, with asset provision geared towards the growing segments composed of younger families.

Table 7: Declining or Low Population Growth Suburbs (from 2001 to 2011)

Declining or Low Population Growth Suburbs (2001 to 2011)	Population Growth	% Growth or Decline
DAVIDSON	-130	-4.6%
TERREY HILLS	-86	-2.4%
KILLARNEY HEIGHTS	141	3.4%
NORTH BALGOWLAH	214	6.6%
CROMER	226	3.2%

Suburbs with the highest forecasted populations in 2023

Table 8 lists the five suburbs that are forecasted to have the largest populations in 2023, at the end of this Strategy. Each of these suburbs are mentioned in at least one of the specialty tables above, demonstrating that they require both assets that cater to individual demographics, as well as those that serve the general population. As these suburbs continue to develop, Warringah Council will continue to plan for and assess the needs of their communities.

Table 8: Suburbs with the highest forecasted populations in 2023

Suburbs with the highest forecasted Population in 2023	Current Population (2011)	Population 2023
DEE WHY	20,653	24,137
COLLAROY	15,161	16,311
FRENCHS FOREST	13,359	13,725
FRESHWATER	11,941	12,184
BELROSE / OXFORD FALLS	9,094	10,142

Suburbs with the highest no. of babies/Pre schoolers (0-4 years) in 2011

Table 9 lists the five suburbs with the largest population of 0-4 year olds as of the 2011 Census, as well as their proportion of the entire population. The average proportion of 0-4 year olds in the entire Warringah LGA is 7.3%.

Table 9: Suburbs with the highest no. of babies/pre schoolers (0-4 years) in 2011

Suburbs with the highest no. of babies/pre schoolers (0-4 years) in 2011	Population	% of Total Suburb Pop
DEE WHY	1462	7.4%
COLLAROY	1018	7.1%
FRENCHS FOREST	957	7.5%
FRESHWATER	680	8.0%
FORESTVILLE	610	7.6%

In addition, Dee Why, Collaroy and Frenchs Forest have higher proportions of one parent households (9.0%, 9.5% and 9.3%, respectively) than Warringah LGA (8.8%). Combined, these figures indicate that the suburbs above require a higher concentration of assets and services for young children and their households.

Suburbs with the highest no. of Youth (15-24 years) in 2011

Table 10 lists the five suburbs with the largest population of 15-24 year olds as of the 2011 Census, as well as their proportion of the entire population. The average proportion of 15-24 year olds in the entire Warringah LGA is 10.7%. Given that these five suburbs account for nearly 40% of the 15-24 year population, there is a strong case for maintaining a strong contingent of assets and services geared towards the demographic. This data is used to determine the appropriateness of the current allocation, and for planning in the future.

Table 10: Suburbs with the highest no. of Youth (15-24 years) in 2011

Suburbs with the highest no. of Youth (15-24 years) in 2011	Population	% of Total Suburb Population
DEE WHY	1955	10.0%
COLLAROY	1574	10.9%
FRENCHS FOREST	1429	11.2%
MANLY VALE	589	10.3%
BROOKVALE	295	11.5%

Suburbs with the highest no. of elderly residents (65+ years) in 2011

Table 11 lists the five suburbs with the largest population of 65+ year olds, as of the 2011 Census, as well as their proportion of the entire population within the suburb. The average proportion of 65+ year olds in the entire Warringah LGA is 15.5%. Given that these five suburbs account for over 46% of the 65+ year population, there is a strong case for maintaining a strong contingent of assets and services geared towards the demographic. This data is used to determine the appropriateness of the current allocation, and for planning in the future.

Table 11: Suburbs with the highest no. of elderly residents (65+ years) in 2011

Suburbs with the highest no. of Elderly (65+ years) in 2011	Population	% of Total Suburb Population
DEE WHY	2129	10.8%
BELROSE – OXFORD FALLS	2049	23.6%
COLLAROY	2016	14.0%
NARRABEEN	1939	26.1%
FRENCHS FOREST	1931	15.1%

6. Forecasting Future Demand

6.1 Implications of Population Growth on Council's Assets (2013-2023)

Based on the current population growth, demographic trends and on the assumption that household size would remain between 2.80 and 2.90, it can be expected that Warringah LGA will have on average 1,550 new residents each year (from 2013 up until 2023) and during this period would need 542 new dwellings per year to accommodate this anticipated growth. Although this growth is manageable, Council needs to adopt a strategic approach in the management of its assets and establish clear timeframes for when assets will be required to be procured, renewed and disposed in consideration of the changing demographics and forecasted population growth.

Statistics released by the ABS have revealed that Warringah has a larger proportion of the total population (15.5%) in the older age category (65+) when compared to the Sydney Statistical Division (SD) which has 12.7% in this age category. This trend is set to continue and will have implications on Council's services and facilities as the demand for services for the aged reaches unprecedented levels. For these reasons, population growth and demographic trends are one of a number of factors that have been carefully considered and analysed in the preparation of this Strategy (refer to Figure 18: Asset Management Strategy – Key factors for consideration 2013-2023).

Figure 18: Asset Management Strategy - Key Factors for Consideration 2013-2023



6.2 Other Factors Influencing Asset Demand

There are a large number of macro-environment changes that need to be considered when formulating Council's Asset Management Objectives and Actions. Strong consideration needs to be given to high-level drivers such as land-use development patterns, housing densities, community expectations, political factors, government policy, technology, transport patterns, economic and employment factors, leisure trends, and environmental factors. All these factors are required to be considered in developing the demand forecasts for Council's assets.

6.3 Facilities & Services Forecasting

Due to the multitude of factors that influence asset demand (particularly community assets) and the varying impacts that these factors may have on different areas, it makes it extremely difficult to develop benchmark requirements/guidelines for the provision of assets across all areas. For example, one community (or Local Government Area) may have a strong demand for certain facilities and/or services, where an adjoining LGA may have very limited demand due to a variance of the factors outlined in Section 5 of this Strategy. For example, a particular LGA may have a higher proportion of people aged between 12-18 which may increase demand for youth facilities (eg skate parks & youth centres) where another area may have a high proportion of elderly (60+) which may increase the demand for such services as senior citizen centres.

No state-wide guidelines currently exist, however a number of Council's in New South Wales (NSW) have developed their own benchmark requirements based on previous experience, expectations of the community, and lessons learnt from State agencies and adjoining Councils.

Benchmark standards and service thresholds are only a starting point to determine future needs. An assessment based on these standards alone, is unlikely to reflect the true needs of a community as the individual characteristics of community are not captured. Given the limited information available and in acknowledgement that demand for assets is somewhat fluid, Warringah Council has developed its own benchmark "starting point" requirements based on an analysis of macro-level demand factors, previous experience, analysis reports, community needs assessments, technical reports, community consultation (expectations), usage statistics, and forecasts. In addition to the above, other factors such as geographic distribution, socio-economic characteristics of an area, and availability of services in adjoining areas need to be considered in addition to Council's benchmark requirements.

Benchmark standards and service thresholds are a good preliminary assessment tool and can be used to predict the likely future demand for Council's various assets. The benchmark requirements that have been developed by Council will continue to be reviewed throughout the life of this Strategy to ensure that Council manages and maintains its assets at the optimum level and in accordance with the changing desires of the community over time. Council's own guiding thresholds for the provision of public facilities and infrastructure are summarised in Table 12.

These population-based requirements are used as a starting point when undertaking periodical reviews of Council's Asset Management Plans in accordance with the requirements of this Strategy. In preparing these guidelines consideration has also been given to the complimentary facilities provided by the private sector and future implications of private sector expansion of existing facilities and/or development of new facilities (for example child care centres, leisure centres, licensed clubs which have private spaces for hire for sporting clubs, social groups and senior groups, and privately run community centres such as Warringah Mall Community Room and church halls).

Table 12 identifies that Warringah Council currently has a satisfactory and, in some cases more than adequate, provision of facilities and open space. Open space consists of both passive and active areas. Active space includes all land that is used for organised and formal sporting activities and includes sports fields, ovals, outdoor hard courts, golf courses and generally all outdoor sports. Passive open space provides, by default, for all other recreational uses both sedentary in nature and informal activities not associated with organised sport.

It is important to recognise that the benchmark assessment is based on current built services/facilities and does not account for planned or proposed facilities, such as the PCYC development and the proposed Community Hub at Dee Why. In addition, the benchmark does not acknowledge that some facilities or services that Council provides are in excess of the normal standard, for example the standard size of a community centre may be 150sqm – 200sqm and Council may provide additional space which may reduce the need for an additional centre to be built to meet the anticipated future demand.

Warringah LGA has an abundance of public land that is used for passive and/or active open space purposes with over 631 hectares of land zoned for open space which includes 492 hectares of passive open space areas. In addition Warringah LGA has 251 hectares of land that is used for active recreation purposes of which Council owns 139 hectares. Of the 251 hectares of land used for active recreation purposes, there are 76 hectares of Council owned land used for active playing fields and 175 hectares used for other active recreation purposes such as golf.

Table 12: Guiding Thresholds for the Provision of Public Facilities & Infrastructure

Facility or Reserve	Current Provision	Warringah Benchmark "Starting Point" Guidelines	Source	Amount required in accordance with Council's Guidelines (Current Pop. 147,611)	Amount required in 2023 (Est Pop. 157,858)	Amount required in 2031 (Est Pop. 161,903)
Local Community Centres (Standard size)	24 (Does not include proposed new facilities eg PCYC & the Community Hub)	1 per 6,000 people	NSW Growth Centres Development Code 2006	24	26	27
Senior Citizens Centres	3	1: 8,000 – 10,000 people; dependent on age profile of population	Commonwealth Department of Housing and Regional Development, AMCORD (1995)	3	3	4
Council owned or operated Child Care Centres (long day care)	5 centres comprising of 235 spaces	1 space per 5 children aged 0-4 years Note: Private sector Child Care Centres absorb the majority of this demand.	NSW Growth Centres Development Code 2006	2,043 spaces	2,572 spaces	3,129 spaces
Dedicated Youth Centres	1	1 per 10,000 people aged 15-24	Commonwealth Department of Housing and Regional Development & AMCORD (1995)	1	2	2
District Libraries	4 (plus 2 Community Libraries)	1 per 40,000 people	NSW Growth Centres Development Code 2006	3	4	4
Regional Swimming & Leisure Centre	1	1 per 110,000 - 500,000 people	WAC draft Site Development Strategy Strategic Leisure Group Nov 2012	1	1	1

Facility or Reserve	Current Provision	Warringah Benchmark "Starting Point" Guidelines	Source	Amount required in accordance with Council's Guidelines (Current Pop. 147,611)	Amount required in 2023 (Est Pop. 157,858)	Amount required in 2031 (Est Pop. 161,902)
Public Active Recreation Areas (Including sports grounds, actual playing fields and adjacent ancillary land). Note: Excludes schools & Private Recreation facilities.	287 ha Equates to 1.94 ha per 1,000 or (19.4 m ² per 1,000 people)	17m ² of active recreation land per person or 1.7ha per 1,000 people	NSW Department of Sport & Recreation	251 ha	268 ha	275 ha
Local Parks (Passive Recreation) (500sqm-2000sqm) Includes recreational structures. (excluding sportsgrounds/ playing fields, bushland and small land parcels below 500sqm)	81	1 per 4,000 people	NSW Department of Planning (1989 & 2010)	36	39	40
		1 per 2,000 people	NSW Department of Sport and Recreation	74	79	81
District Parks and Reserves (Passive Recreation) > 2,000sqm Includes recreational structures. (excluding sportsgrounds/ playing fields, bushland and small land parcels below 500sqm)	69	1 per 10,000 people	NSW Department of Planning (1989)	14	15	16

Facility or Reserve	Current Provision	Warringah Benchmark "Starting Point" Guidelines	Source	Amount required in accordance with Council's Guidelines (Current Pop. 147,611)	Amount required in 2023 (Est Pop. 157,858)	Amount required in 2031 (Est Pop. 161,902)
Total General (Passive) Open Space (excluding playing fields and bushland)	492 ha	2.83 ha per 1,000 people	NSW Growth Centres Development Code 2006	419 ha	431ha	458ha

7. Strategic Asset Management Objectives 2013-2023

Council has identified a number of Strategic Asset Management Objectives that it is committed to achieving in the ten year period 2013-2023 to enable the Council's Asset Management Policy to be achieved. These strategic objectives have been developed following consultation with the community on what they felt were important issues and priorities for Council with regard to its assets and services. In addition to the above, the strategic objectives were prepared to ensure that Council continues to manage its assets in accordance with best practice and adopts a culture of continuous asset management improvement throughout the organisation. Council's strategic objectives are as follows:

7.1 Organisational Integration

Create a coordinated and consistent approach to asset management across the organisation by ensuring that all decisions meet the long term objectives of the community vision and council's corporate vision, as defined in Warringah's Community Strategic Plan.

7.2 Meet Community Expectations

Continue to engage the community to gain a better understanding of their changing expectations regarding service standards to ensure that the physical, social and recreational needs of the community are provided.

7.3 Strong Service Focus

Document, capture and maintain relevant and reliable asset related information to demonstrate that the desired service levels of the community can, and will continue, to be achieved now and into the future.

7.4 Sustainability

Establishing and maintaining an Asset Management Framework that is robust and sustainable to allow decisions to be made now that will meet the needs of the future by considering all social, economic, cultural and environmental factors.

7.5 Life Cycle Asset Management

Adopting a life cycle approach to asset management whereby all decisions and actions consider the anticipated life of an asset from planning through to disposal.

7.6 Increase Knowledge

Improve the recording systems and collection of asset data to gain a better understanding of the condition of all assets so more informed decisions can be made regarding maintenance, renewal and replacement.

7.7 Continuous Improvement

Continue to explore opportunities to improve the way that Council manages its assets by implementing targeted optimised maintenance and replacement programs that are well informed by the collection of asset related data and records.

7.8 Strong Governance & Accountability

Develop an enhanced management framework that requires the managers of assets to adopt governance and management practices that clearly link decision making with service delivery by assigning roles and responsibilities for each Asset Manager while maintaining accountability.

7.9 Regular Monitoring & Review

Establish a program for the continuous and regular monitoring and evaluation of Council's Asset Management Policy and Asset Management Framework to ensure that all plans are consistent with Warringah's Community Strategic Plan.

8. Actions for achieving our Asset Management Objectives

The actions that are required for council to achieve its Organisational Asset Management Objectives (i.e. an Asset Improvement Plan) are attached as Appendix C. The dates specified are for the corresponding financial year. To increase accountability on the delivery of the actions across the organisation, progress will be reviewed regularly as a standing item on the agenda of Council's Strategic Working Group (Works & Assets) Meetings. The first Strategic Working Group Meeting each financial year will be dedicated to discussion on the Asset Management Strategy actions for the year ahead. The timelines for each action have been graphically documented, in a Gantt chart, and included as Appendix C.

In addition to the above, the Asset Improvement Plan Actions have been loaded in to Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Tool.

9. Conclusion

This strategy provides a clear linkage between the vision, outcomes and objectives in Warringah's Community Strategic Plan to the day-to-day management of Council's assets.

The Strategy clearly articulates how Council will manage its assets now and into the future by providing objectives, outcomes, timeframes and responsibilities. This holistic approach to asset management provides greater certainty and limits Council's exposure to financial risk and asset failure by planning for the future.

In addition, the Strategy articulates how the principles contained with Council's Asset Management Policy will be achieved. Council's Asset Improvement Plan (Appendix C) identifies opportunities where Council can refine and strengthen its current asset management practices. The preparation of this Strategy re-enforces Council's commitment to best practice asset management and its strong desire for continuous improvement in the management of its assets.

APPENDIX A

DLG IPRF Manual & Guidelines for Asset Management: Self Assessment

IPR NO.	IPR REQUIREMENTS	COMPLY YES/NO	RELEVANT SECTION OF THE AM STRATEGY
2.9	Each council must account for and plan for all of the existing assets under its ownership, and any new asset solutions proposed in the Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program.	YES	Section 4
2.10	Each council must prepare an Asset Management Strategy and Asset Management Plan/s to support the Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program.	YES	Warringah Asset Management Strategy 2013-2023 & four (4) AM Plans
2.11	The Asset Management Strategy and Plan/s must be for a minimum timeframe of 10 years.	YES	AM Strategy timeframe 10 years - 2013-2023 AM Plans 10 years with specified review program (Section 8)
2.12	The Asset Management Strategy must include a council endorsed Asset Management Policy.	YES	Appendix B
2.13	The Asset Management Strategy must identify assets that are critical to the council's operations and outline risk management strategies for these assets.	YES	Section 4
2.14	The Asset Management Strategy must include specific actions required to improve council's asset management capability and projected resource requirements and timeframes.	YES	Sections 7, 8 & Appendix C
Timing	The community will need to have some <u>basic information about community assets and their condition</u> to help inform its strategic planning process, but the final strategy for asset management can't be completed until the Community Strategic Plan has been finalised.	YES	Asset Management Strategy presented to Council at the same meeting as CSP.

APPENDIX B**Warringah Council Asset Management Policy (GOV-PL 550)****Warringah Council Policy****GOV - PL 550****Asset Management Policy****1 Purpose of Policy**

- To provide a broad framework, guidelines and principles for implementing consistent and coordinated asset management processes throughout Council.
- To ensure that the management of Council's assets is consistent with Council's Corporate Vision, Goals and Objectives.
- To ensure that a sustainable approach is adopted in the provision and management of Council's assets.

2 Background

Council is the custodian of a large number of physical assets that support core business, which is the delivery of service to the community. Council is committed to implementing a systematic asset management methodology to facilitate best practice asset management processes across all areas of Council.

In its commitment to manage assets in accordance with recognised best practice, Council regularly reviews and updates its Asset Management Plans, Policies and Procedures. Council endorsed an Asset Management Policy (GOV-PL 550) on 23 November 1999 which superseded Council's Asset Management Policy MG-PL 704. Council's current Asset Management Policy (GOV-PL 550) has been reviewed and updated to ensure compliance with the Division of Local Government's Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements and to ensure consistency with the criteria set by the National Framework for Asset Planning and Management.

3 Commitment to Asset Management

Council is committed to managing its assets in accordance with recognised best practice. This includes ensuring that assets are planned, created, operated, maintained, renewed and disposed of in accordance with Council's current priorities for service delivery, as identified in Council's Community Strategic Plan. Council will review and manage its assets in accordance with the principles of this Policy.

4 Asset Management Framework

To facilitate best practice and effective asset management, Council has established a framework for asset management that promotes clear linkages between the Asset Manager, the Service Provider and the Provider of Maintenance Services. Asset Management shall embrace a "Whole of Council" approach and apply to all assets managed by Council, with Council responsible for delivering sustainable services to the community.

The eight (8) key components of Council's Asset Management Framework are as follows:



1. Asset Management Policy

The Asset Management Policy provides a broad framework, guidelines and principles for implementing consistent and coordinated asset management processes throughout Council.

2. Asset Management Strategy

The Asset Management Strategy is Council's high level, 10-Year Action Plan to deliver the Asset Management Policy. The Asset Management Strategy analyses the current situation, specifies asset management objectives and articulates how Council will achieve these objectives. Council is required to prepare a Community Strategic Plan every four years and the Asset Management Strategy will be reviewed every four years to ensure consistency with Council's Community Strategic Plan.

3. Asset Management Plans

Long term asset management plans, for all of Council's major asset classes, will identify agreed Levels of Service (LOS) and costs to deliver services now and in the future (20 year Plans). There will be consistency between Council's Major Asset Management Plans and the Strategic Delivery Program that is contained within Council's Community Strategic Plan.

4. Strategy Documents

Council has prepared a large number of strategy documents that provide long term guidelines and strategic directions for Council (e.g. Recreation Strategy 2009 and Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2012-2022). These Strategy documents provide an invaluable insight into current and future trends and assist in determining asset management priorities.

5. Enterprise Risk Management Policy

In compliance with Australian Standards, Council has developed a Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Policy which encourages a coordinated approach across the organisation to manage risks, leading to a well-defined strategic, operational and project related risk actions. Council will continue to review its methods and processes for the management of risk and adopt a proactive and strategic approach in the identification of events that have the potential to compromise Council in achieving its Corporate and Community Objectives. All of Council's Major Asset Management Plans will incorporate risk management strategies.

6. Workforce Management Plan

Council's Asset Management Plans will provide information to support the workforce Planning process in keeping with Council's long term commitment to good asset management practice. An emphasis will be on training to support people in their roles, retain corporate knowledge, and facilitate business excellence.

7. Financial Plan

Council's Asset Management Plans will provide information and data required to prepare long term financial forecasts regarding asset management and service sustainability. This information will be used to inform Council's Long Term Financial Plan.

8. Asset Management System

Asset management software has been installed to support the efficient and effective delivery of Council's service obligations, the delivery of critical data for long term financial and workforce management planning, and provide for continuous improvement in asset management by monitoring adherence to legislative requirements and agreed standards. The system will monitor the progress of all key asset management functions and monitor the condition of all key assets and provide a condition report annually in accordance with legislative requirements.

5 Principles

To ensure that all decisions and actions relating to asset management are conducted in accordance with best practice and in a consistent manner, Council has adopted eight (8) Key Principles for the management of its assets, as follows:



1. Full Life Cycle Costing

Full life cycle costs will be used as the basis for decisions on asset maintenance and asset selection, acquisition, renewal, replacement and disposal.

2. Best Practice & Statutory Compliance

Asset Management Plans will be developed that will ensure systematic and appropriate asset management best practice is implemented throughout Council and ensure compliance with statutory requirements.

3. Consistency with Warringah's Community Strategic Plan

Council's Asset Management Plans will be aligned to the Community Strategic Plan and the Long Term Financial Plan.

4. Defined Service Levels

Service levels will be defined by the community consultation and engagement processes, in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy, and will be reflected in Council's Asset Management Plans.

5. Risk Assessment & Asset Condition Review

Council's Asset Management Plans will include initiatives to reduce the exposure to asset failure by the continued application of risk management and asset condition assessment. The need for regular condition assessment is mandated in legislation.

6. Systematic and Cyclic Reviews

Systematic and cyclic reviews will be applied across all asset classes to ensure that the assets are managed, depreciated and valued in accordance with appropriate best practice and applicable Australian Standards.

7. Continuous Improvement & Business Excellence

Council will undertake 'Continuous Improvement' and pursue 'Business Excellence' to ensure that Council identifies opportunities to improve processes and procedures, and implements best practice across the organisation. It is imperative that Council continues to explore opportunities to improve its asset management processes.

8. Annual Reporting

Current asset performance and future life cycle costs will be reported as part of the decision making process for new services and upgrading of existing services (assets). Council's Long Term Financial Plan will encompass all cost elements explored under lifecycle costing and assist in the preparation of Council's annual budget process. A measurement of overall sustainability will be made and reported annually as part of the monitoring process for good asset management practice.

6 Authorisation

This Policy was adopted by Council on 28 August 2012.

It is effective from 28 August 2012

It is due for review in August 2016.

7 Amendments

This Policy was last amended in August 2012.

8 Who is responsible for implementing this Policy?

The elected Council, Executive Management Team, and Service Unit Managers are responsible for ensuring the application of this Policy.

9 Document owner

Deputy General Manager – Environment.

10 Related Council Documents

- a) Warringah Council Asset Management Strategy 2013 – 2023 DRAFT
- b) Warringah Council's Asset Management Plans.
- c) Warringah Community Strategic Plan 2011.

11 Legislation and references

- a) Local Government Act 1993.
- b) Planning and Reporting Manual for Local Government in NSW 2010 (dlg).
- c) International Infrastructure Management Manual 2011.
- d) National Framework for Asset Planning & Management.
- e) Warringah Council Community Engagement Policy (PL520).
- f) Warringah Council Community Engagement Toolkit (February 2011).
- g) Warringah Council Community Engagement Matrix (as amended November 2011).

12 Definitions

Critical Assets: Those assets that are likely to result in more significant financial, environment and social cost in terms of impact on organisational objectives.

Major Asset

Management Plans: Council's major Asset Management Plans include the following:

- Building;
- Roads;
- Stormwater;
- Parks, Reserves and Foreshores.

Physical Assets: An item that has potential value to Council such as plant, machinery, and buildings.

APPENDIX C

Asset Management Improvement Plan

Asset Management Improvement Plan 2013-2023

Objective	Action	Owner	Financial Year									
			2013/ 2014	2014/ 2015	2015/ 2016	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022	2022/ 2023
Organisational Integration	Undertake an annual review of all current Tactical and Strategy documents to capture all actions and prioritise these actions for future consideration when preparing organisational budgets	Manager Asset Strategy										
	Define and document a framework (including criteria) to assist in determining asset priorities and budget allocation and improve linkages to Council's LTFP	Manager Asset Strategy										
	Review and update Council's Asset Management Policy, as per the review program specified under Section 5 (Authorisation) of the policy	Principal Planner (Assets & Growth)										
	Continually review and refine Council's Asset Management Strategy	Principal Planner (Assets & Growth)										
	Undertake a detailed review of Council's Community Strategic Plan (including the Resource Strategy & associated Asset Management Strategy) to ensure that the allocation of resources is capable of delivering the services (and service levels) that the community desires	Manager Asset Strategy										
	Complete a strategic review of demand across the organisation for major new assets	Manager Asset Strategy										
	Prepare and maintain management dashboards to track capital expenditure	Manager Asset Strategy										
Meet Community Expectations	Investigate innovative approaches for the provision of assets	Principal Planner (Assets & Growth)										
	Develop an options report for assets if utilisation is poor	Manager Asset Strategy										
	Undertake an annual community survey which includes a component on asset management to assist in establishing the community's expectations and priorities	Community Engagement & Research Manager										
	Explore further innovative techniques to assist in the delivery of services for the community	Manager Asset Strategy										
	Incorporate community aspirations for asset management by ensuring these aspirations are included in the LTFP by updating the Capital Works Program provided by the relevant Asset Managers.	CFO										
Strong Service Focus	Determine levels of service for assets, based on the information that is collected in Council's community surveys & questionnaires etc.	Manager Asset Strategy										
	Identify areas for improving the integration between the CRM & EAM Systems	Manager Asset Strategy										
	Implement any measures identified for improving the integration between the CRM & EAM Systems	Chief Information Officer										
	Explore new technology and techniques for achieving the communities expectations	Manager Asset Strategy										
	Survey of core user groups to identify current level of service and future requirements	Manager Asset Strategy										
	Activation of mobile services for reactive and scheduled maintenance	Manager Asset Strategy										
	Undertake Community and user group consultation for specific projects	Manager Asset Strategy										
Sustainability	Develop a 10-year strategic capital works program	Manager Asset Strategy										
	Review existing asset disposal policies & incorporate policies for asset disposal into all Asset Management Plans.	Manager Asset Strategy										
	Develop a business case for a Strategic Asset Management System	Manager Asset Strategy										
	Implement the Strategic Asset Management System	Chief Information Officer										
	Review depreciation lines to determine appropriate depreciation rates for each of Council's assets	Manager Asset Strategy										
	Carry out revaluations in accordance with Council's Asset Management Strategy	Manager Asset Strategy										
	Lifecycle costs to be considered in all decision making processes relating to new/upgrade services and assets	Manager Asset Strategy										

49



MANLY WARRINGAH WAR MEMORIAL PARK

Plan of Management



Department of
Primary Industries
Catchments & Lands



WARRINGAH
COUNCIL

CONTROLLED DOCUMENT
"Manly Warringah War Memorial Park Plan of Management"

FINAL DRAFT ISSUE

(Version V8)

ISSUED 24 June 2013

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for use by – Manly Warringah War Memorial Park Reserve Trust,
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Table of Contents

	Page
Executive Summary.....	6
1 Setting the Scene	9
1.1 What is a Plan of Management ?	9
1.2 Land to Which This Plan Applies.....	9
1.3 Why and How is Council Preparing this Plan of Management?	12
1.4 Manly Warringah War Memorial Park – A Brief Description.....	14
1.4.1 History	15
1.4.2 Current Condition and Use.....	15
1.4.3 Current and Future Pressures.....	16
1.5 Future Directions for Manly Warringah War Memorial Park.....	16
1.6 Guiding Principles of Management	17
1.7 Structure of this Plan of Management.....	17
2 Preparing this Plan of Management	18
2.1 Legislative Requirements and Relevant Planning Documents.....	18
2.1.1 Crown Lands Act, 1989.....	18
2.1.2 Principles of Crown Land Management and Relevant Crown Land Policies	19
2.1.3 Other State and Commonwealth Legislation.....	20
2.1.4 Council's Strategic Documents and Policies.....	20
2.1.5 Relationship to the Warringah Local Environmental Plan 2011	22
2.2 Review of the 1998 Plan of Management	22
2.3 Consultation	23
2.3.1 Community Consultation Report on Values – August 2010.....	24
2.3.2 Community Workshop – November 2010	25
2.3.3 Submissions on the Issues and Directions Discussion Paper.....	26
3 Park Description, Values and Use	29
3.1 Overview	29
3.2 Regional Bushland Reserve Context	30
3.3 Park Values and Current Uses.....	31
3.3.1 Natural Heritage Values	33
3.3.2 Catchment and Water Quality Values	39

3.3.3	Cultural Heritage Values	40
3.3.4	Visitor Use, Recreation and Enjoyment	42
3.3.5	Landscape and Scenic Values.....	54
3.3.6	Leases, Licences and Special Uses	54
3.4	Park Assets	56
3.5	Park Neighbours.....	56
3.6	Park Management and Administration	57
4	Basis for Management	60
4.1	Overview of Threats to Values and Management Issues.....	60
4.2	Vision Statement	67
5	Management Actions	68
5.1	Overview	68
5.2	Management Zones – Management Intent and Objectives.....	68
5.2.1	Bushland Zone	70
5.2.2	Waterbody Zone.....	70
5.2.3	Day Use Zone	70
5.2.4	Urban Edge Zone.....	71
5.2.5	Park Management Zone.....	72
5.2.6	Golf Course and Tennis Courts Zone	72
5.3	Management Actions.....	73
5.3.1	Cultural Heritage	88
5.3.2	Visitor Use, Recreation and Enjoyment	92
5.3.3	Environmental Management	116
5.3.4	Park Management and Administration	124
6	Funding and Implementation	135
6.1	Funding	135
	Glossary.....	139
	References	140
	List of Appendices.....	144
Appendix A	Built Assets, Current Condition and Use	
Appendix B	Legislation, <i>Crown Lands Act 1989</i>	
Appendix C	Excluded, Prohibited, Restricted and Consent Activities from the 1998 Plan	
Appendix D	Community Consultation: Report on Values	
Appendix E	Summary of Community Workshop – Held Monday 29th November 2010	
Appendix F	Summary of Community Submissions on the Manly Dam Issues and Directions Discussion Paper	

Executive Summary

Manly Warringah War Memorial Park is an area of Crown Land reserved for the purposes of “public recreation”. It is managed by the Manly Warringah War Memorial Park (R68892) Reserve Trust, as appointed by the Minister for Lands in August 1997. Warringah Council manages the affairs of the Trust, under the provisions of the *Crown Lands Act 1989*, and is also responsible for the Park’s day-to-day management on behalf of the Trust.

The Park area that is the subject of this Plan covers approximately 377 hectares, as 33 individual land parcels comprising the majority of Crown Reserve 68892 and part of Crown Reserve 83492 as well as several unmade Crown road reserves. This Plan of Management will replace an earlier Plan prepared in 1998.

The Park is located among the suburbs of Manly Vale, North Balgowlah, Allambie Heights and Frenchs Forest on Sydney’s northern beaches. It features an extensive area of typical Sydney sandstone bushland surrounding the 30 hectare sheltered freshwater waterbody retained behind the historic Manly Dam. The area is both a significant environmental and recreation asset and highly valued by the local community as a recreation venue, conservation area, scenic asset and for its water catchment roles. Picnicking, water sports and walking are common recreation pursuits and the Park is a popular venue for mountain biking and waterskiing.

This Plan of Management aims to provide a clear, concise and practical framework for the Park’s future management. A value-based approach to land planning and management has been used. Management actions have been developed to protect and enhance the Park’s values, address any issues that may threaten these values and ensure that the Park is managed in line with current community expectations – and consistent with the purposes for which the area was reserved.

A community consultation process has contributed to the Plan’s preparation, including – wide publicity regarding the Plan’s preparation, Focus Group meetings with organisations and individuals having a particular interest in the Park, exhibition of an *Issues and Directions Discussion Paper* for community feedback, and a Community Workshop involving invited representatives from key stakeholder groups to discuss concerns, opportunities and constraints and to suggest management options to resolve identified issues.

The management vision subsequently developed for Manly Warringah War Memorial Park is – “a large protected area of bushland and waterways, with a diversity of flora and fauna, high water quality and scenic value, that ensures protection of its natural environment and cultural values, conserves threatened species and communities, provides opportunity for a variety of recreational activities in a low-key natural setting, offers an educational asset and acknowledges its importance as a war memorial park”.

The following guiding principles of management have been identified for the Park:

- sustainable management of the Park to protect its natural areas, while providing for a variety of passive and active recreational activities;
- protect and enhance threatened flora and fauna within the Park;
- protect and enhance the water quality of the dam waterbody and Park waterways;
- provide safe and equitable access to the Park and its facilities for all user groups; and
- protect and enhance the Park's heritage.

To implement these principles, and achieve the management objectives identified for both the Park as a whole and individual management zones, a set of prioritised management actions have been set out in Chapter 5 of this Plan. These management actions address the following areas:

- Biodiversity, Catchment and Landscape – comprising separate sets of management actions for native flora and vegetation communities and habitats, native fauna, weeds and pests and introduced animals, catchment and water quality, bushland linkages, and landscape and scenic values;
- Cultural Heritage – comprising separate sets of management actions for Aboriginal cultural heritage, historic (non-Aboriginal) heritage, and war memorial and commemorations;
- Visitor Use, Recreation and Enjoyment – comprising separate sets of management actions for tracks and trails, waterbody, day use areas, access, information and interpretation, educational uses, Wakehurst Golf Course and Wakehurst Couvret Tennis Courts;
- Environmental Management – comprising separate sets of management actions for environmental protection and sustainability, fire management, Park boundary management, surrounding lands uses and park neighbours, and easements; and
- Park Management and Administration – comprising separate sets of management actions for Park administration and management activities, co-operation with other agencies, community involvement, leases and licences and special uses and commercial activities, land tenure issues and boundary rationalisation, and finance and revenue generation.

The Masterplan on the following page summarises the Park's key management directions and actions.

Park Masterplan – key management directions



1 Setting the Scene

1.1 What is a Plan of Management ?

A Plan of Management is developed, in consultation with the community, to provide direction for the future management, use, development and maintenance of places such as public open space, parks and bushland reserves.

Manly Warringah War Memorial Park is an area of reserved Crown Land (known as a Crown Reserve) for the purposes of “public recreation”. The Park is under the care, control and management of the Manly Warringah War Memorial Park (R68892) Reserve Trust, with Warringah Council both managing the affairs of the Trust and carrying out the day-to-day management of the Park on behalf of the Trust – under the provisions of the *Crown Lands Act 1989*.

It is not a statutory requirement for a Plan of Management to be prepared for a Crown Reserve. However Warringah Council, on behalf of the Trust, has previously chosen to prepare a Plan of Management for the Park – in 1981 and again in 1998 – to ensure that the Park is strategically planned and managed. This Plan will continue this approach to setting out a clear direction and actions or guidelines for the Park’s management.

This Plan of Management aims to provide a clear, concise and practical framework for the management of the Park. A value-based approach to land planning and management has been used. Management Actions have been developed to protect and enhance the Park’s values, address any issues that may threaten these values and ensure that the Park is managed in line with current community expectations – and is managed consistent with the purposes for which the area has been reserved.

The timeframe of this Plan of Management is up to 10 years and the Management Actions identified within the Plan are to be implemented, or progressed, during this period.

1.2 Land to Which This Plan Applies

The land to which this Plan applies is identified in Figure 1 and detailed in Table 1. The greater majority of the 33 individual land parcels within the 376.8 hectares of the Park (to be covered by this Plan) are Crown Land reserved for Public Recreation – predominantly as part of Crown Reserve 68892 and small parts of Crown Reserve 83492 – as well as parts of some unmade Crown road reserves. The current tenure of a small number of land parcels is yet to be fully determined.

Table 1 Lands to Which This Plan Applies

OWNER		PARCELS		AREA (ha)
		REG. NO. (Council)	LOT NO	
Reserve 68892 for Public Recreation (notified 8 Dec. 1939, 23 June 1967, 26 Sept. 1969, 2 June 1989, 17 Nov. 1989 and 24 Feb. 1995)				
Crown	C46/7			.0734
Crown	60/16	7312	1146408	.1020
Crown	59/22	2	734661	.1631
Crown	70J/5	2802	727031	.4523
Crown	76/20	7073	1029974	.5297
Crown	70J/4	1	771902	.7036
Crown	76/23	7074	1029974	.8100
Crown	76/22	1549	752038	1.0666
Crown	C46/6	72	504238	1.2771
Crown	59/17	2	710023	1.5928
Crown	C46/4	70	504238	1.9796
Crown	C46/5	71	504238	2.1379
Crown	C46/3	13	504238	2.2292
Crown	C50/4			2.6962
Crown	76/21	1239	752038	2.8667
Crown	59/17	2	67342	3.1174
Crown	C46/7			3.3983
Crown	59/17	77	504237	3.4002
Crown	59/17	76	504237	3.7014
Crown	C50/2	74	504238	3.7879
Crown	59/17	1	67342	4.1364
Crown	59/17			29.2792
Crown	C50/3			37.3642
Crown	59/17			266.4579
Crown	Road			.0471
Crown	Road			.3272
Crown	Road			.3293
Crown	Road			.4509
Crown	Road			.7936
Crown	Road			.9539
		Sub-total R68892		376.2251
Part of - Reserve 83492 for Public Recreation (notified 6 Oct. 1961, 20 June 1969 and 3 Feb. 1989)				
Crown	60/15	Part 7311	1146408	.0154
Crown	60/8	Part 2701	752038	.0595
Crown	60/9	Part 2409	752038	.5204
		Sub-total part R83492		.5954
		TOTAL AREA		376.8205

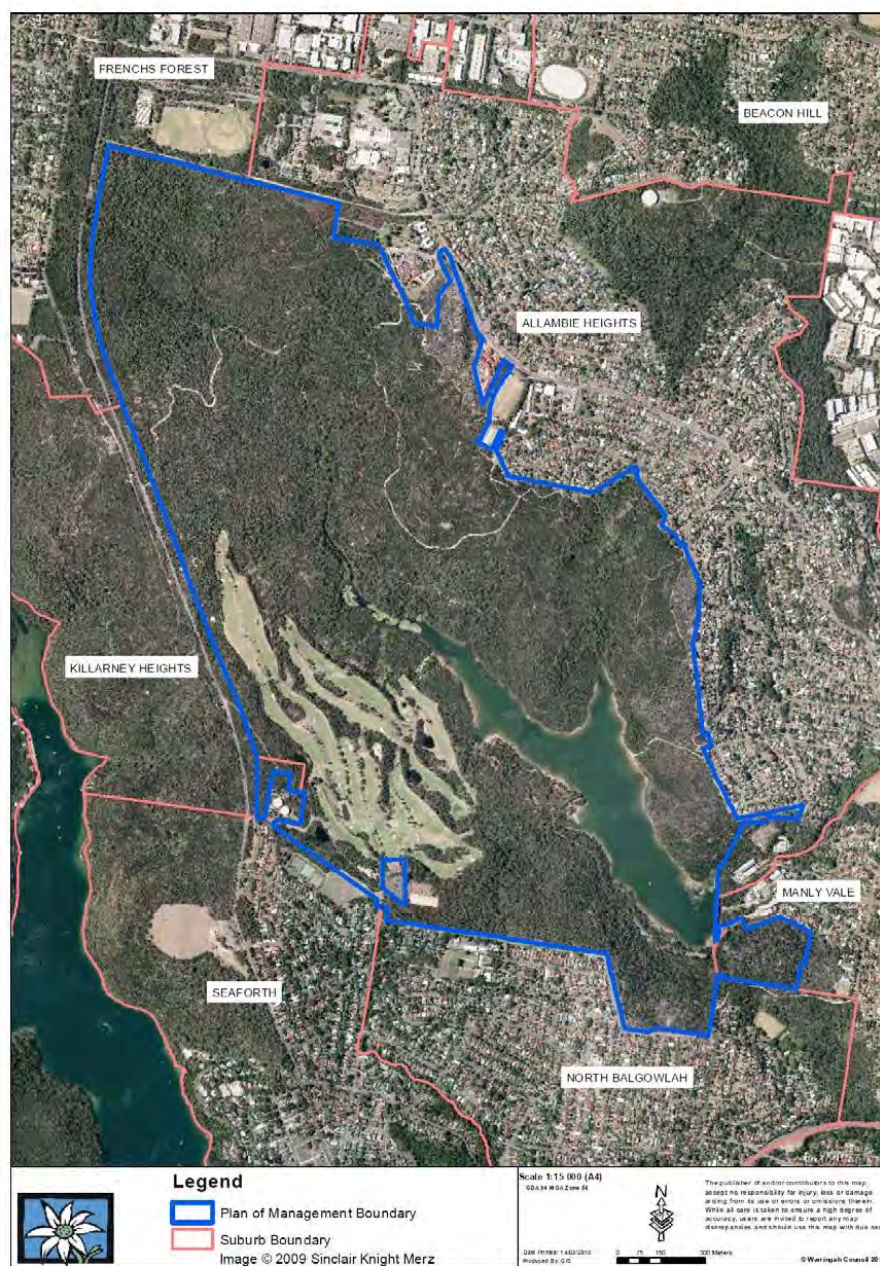


Figure 1 Lands covered by this Plan of Management

Crown Reserve 68892 covers by far the greater majority of the Park, while those small parts of Crown Reserve 83492 (as covered by this Plan) are located in the Allambie Oval and Roosevelt Avenue area of Allambie Heights.

Crown Reserve 68892 was reserved for public recreation on 8th December 1939 with additional areas gazetted on 23rd June 1967, 26th September 1969, 2nd June 1989, 17th November 1989 and 24th February 1995. Crown Reserve 68892 was reserved for public recreation on 6th October 1961 with additional areas gazetted on 20th June 1969 and 3rd February 1989.

Warringah Council manages the Manly Warringah War Memorial Park on behalf of the Manly Warringah War Memorial Park (R68892) Reserve Trust, which was appointed by the Minister for Lands on 22nd August 1997. Warringah Council also manages the affairs of the Trust. Before this time (since 24 April 1953) Council managed the lands that comprised Manly Warringah War Memorial Park in a "trustee" role under the *Public Trusts Act*.

Council has similar roles as Trust Manager for Reserve 83492, appointed on 19th February 1962.

1.3 Why and How is Council Preparing this Plan of Management?

The most recent Plan of Management for Manly Warringah War Memorial Park was adopted by Council in July 1998. Although this 1998 Plan was never formally adopted by the Minister for Lands it provided the basis for Council's management of the Park over the subsequent years.

Many of the Plan's strategic initiatives and recommended actions have been completed since its adoption, while other actions are now less relevant. The need for a review of the 1998 Plan and preparation of a new Plan of Management has also become necessary as a means of clarifying the future uses of the Park.

A new Plan of Management is also timely to take a fresh look at the values that the community ascribes to the land and to develop current management actions to maintain, protect and enhance these values – including balancing recreational use of the area with biodiversity conservation and water quality values. A new Plan can also incorporate recent studies and information gathered in relation to the Park, and address changes in applicable legislation and policies.

The objectives of this new Plan of Management are therefore to:

- identify and assess the values of, and held for, the Park;
- identify and assess the key issues for the Park;
- define the role and uses of the Park within the Warringah Local Government Area and the region;
- set a vision for the Park;

- develop Management Actions and an Implementation Plan to protect and enhance the area's key values, as consistent with the public purpose for which the area has been reserved;
- develop a guiding "Masterplan" for the Park; and
- comply with the principles of Crown land management, as well as applicable legal requirements and policy directions.

There are a number of steps involved in the preparation of a new Plan of Management, including several opportunities for community engagement and input. Key steps the Plan preparation process are illustrated below in Figure 2.

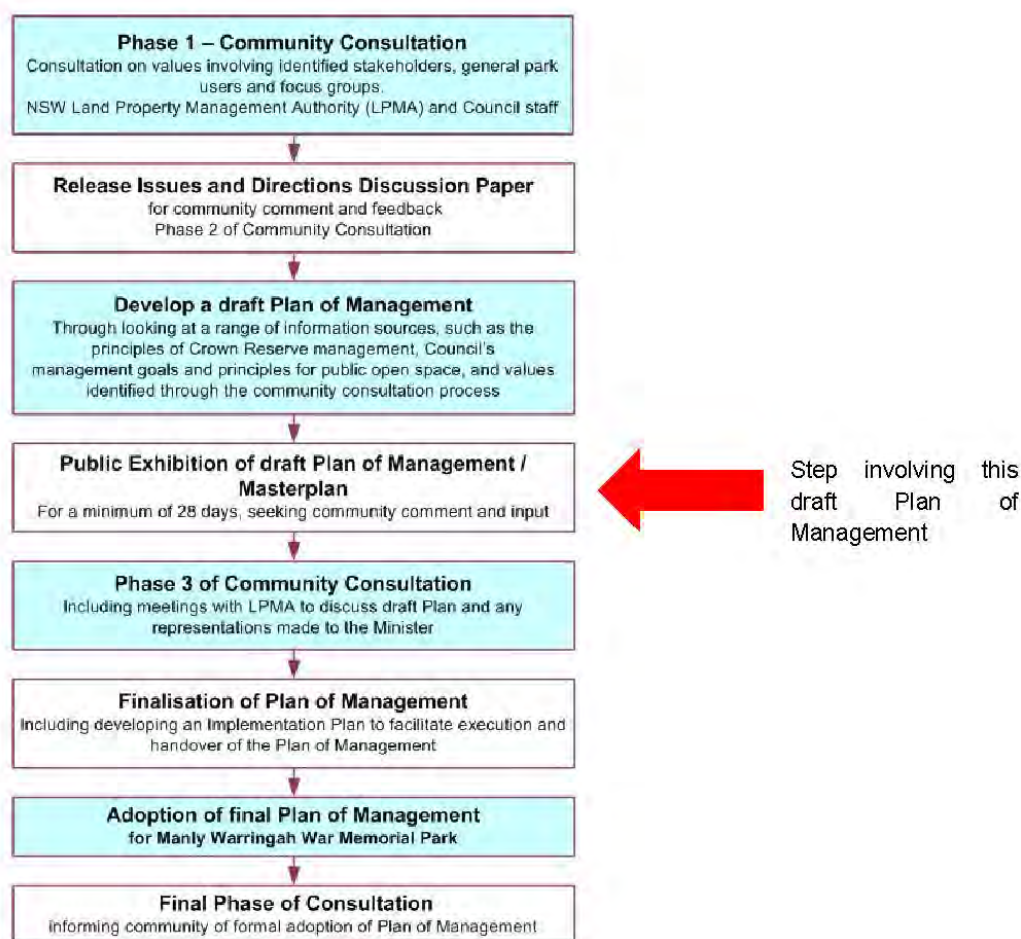


Figure 2 Steps involved in Preparing this Plan of Management

The *Reserve Trust Handbook 2007*, prepared by the former Land and Property Management Authority (now the Crown Lands Division of the NSW Department of Primary Industries), provides additional details on preparation and content of management plans for Crown Reserves.

1.4 Manly Warringah War Memorial Park – A Brief Description

Manly Warringah War Memorial Park is located among the suburbs of Manly Vale, North Balgowlah, Allambie Heights and Frenchs Forest within the Warringah Local Government Area (LGA). The majority of the Park area to be covered by this Plan is bushland and the area is both a significant environmental and recreation asset. The surface area of Manly Dam covers approximately 30 hectares. The Dam is freshwater, sheltered and deep (in most parts) and is one of the largest freshwater “lakes” in Sydney. Overall the Park is a sizeable area, and a valuable community asset, under Council’s management.

The land uses surrounding the Park are predominantly residential, with suburban homes and a number of retirement villages along the north eastern boundary, and a mix of light industry, housing and open space (playing fields) adjoining the area’s northern boundary. Wakehurst Parkway forms the Park’s western boundary, with Garigal National Park on the opposite side of this arterial road. Figure 3 shows the location, and wider context, of the Park and the surrounding land uses.

The Park is Crown Land reserved for public recreation – with this reservation dating from 1939 for most of the area. Warringah Council is responsible for the Park’s care, control and management.



Figure 3 Location plan
(source: UBD Sydney Suburban Map 262)

The greater majority of the Park is land identified as Public Open Space under the Warringah Local Environment Plan 2011.

1.4.1 History

The Warringah area has long been recognised as being part of the traditional lands of the Guringai people. However more recently this has been contested by claims that the area is located in the traditional lands of the coastal people of the Darug Aboriginal language group. Before European settlement the Park most probably consisted of open bushland with rocky outcrops, waterfalls, gullies and feeder creeks running into the watercourse now known as Curl Curl Creek. There are a number of Aboriginal heritage sites found within the Park, demonstrating its use and occupation prior to European settlement.

A dam wall was first constructed across Curl Curl Creek in the late 1800's to supply drinking water to the local settlement. This continued until 1936. Management of the bushland catchment of Manly Dam was given to a committee of ex-servicemen around 1920. The committee established some of the picnic areas. Recreational use of the bushland and waterway continued and expanded after 1939 when an area was formally reserved for "Public Recreation" (Reserve 68892). Over the subsequent years, further bushland areas have been progressively added to the Park and other foreshore sites have been developed for more formal recreation. Two areas within the Park catchment were used as land fill sites, at the present Wakehurst Golf Course site and Aquatic Reserve (this latter site is beyond the ambit of this Plan).

1.4.2 Current Condition and Use

Manly Warringah War Memorial Park now consists predominantly of native bushland, providing a relatively natural catchment area for Manly Dam. The bushland areas of the Park provide a large and intact or less-disturbed representative sample of Sydney Sandstone bushland. The Park supports a variety of flora and fauna, including threatened species. The large expanse of bushland provides relief from the urban environment, and there are many vantage points from within the Park where surrounding urban development cannot be seen. Conversely, views of the Park can be enjoyed from many surrounding areas. The Park includes four developed picnic areas and associated facilities/amenities located in bushland settings on the Dam foreshore, as well as a district and neighbourhood playground, an extensive walking track network, an 11 kilometre mountain bike circuit (mostly on the Park), fire trails, a dedicated waterskiing area, the Wakehurst Golf Course and the Wakehurst Couvret Tennis Courts (both of which are located on leased/sub-leased areas within the Park).

The Park is an important recreation destination and asset for the local community, as well as a regional attraction for visitors.

A telephone survey was conducted in April 2008 to inform Warringah Council's *Recreation Strategy*, adopted in 2009. The survey sampled 621 randomly chosen residents, fifteen years and over, asking a series of questions regarding their recreation participation over the last 12 months. Manly Warringah War Memorial Park was identified as the third most used regional or major attraction in Warringah, following Narrabeen Lagoon (first) and the Warringah Aquatic Centre (second).

Further details of the current condition and use of the Park are provided in Section 3 and Appendix A.

1.4.3 Current and Future Pressures

Manly Warringah War Memorial Park sits within an urban context, with increasing residential populations in its immediate, and regional, surrounds. Greater residential densities and local population numbers are already placing increasing usage pressures on the Park, and these trends will continue in the future. Large areas of public open space will become increasingly important for recreational use, and as “green space”, as backyards and private open spaces continue to shrink. More people will seek to do more things within the Park, potentially leading to greater and more diverse pressures on the area’s attractions and values as well as possible conflicts between activities and user groups.

Natural areas of significant size, such as offered by the Park and the adjoining sections of Garigal National Park, will also be increasingly important in breaking up the urban landscape – both physically and visually, as well as in providing a “refuge” from urbanised spaces. However urbanisation and increasing land use densities/intensities will generate direct and indirect impacts on these natural areas – in terms of water quality, weed intrusion, rubbish dumping, utility and service corridors, encroachments, visual intrusion and others.

Careful planning will be required to protect and manage the Park and its values in the face of these external pressures in order to realise the full range of biophysical, recreational, visual and cultural values that the area holds for the community.

1.5 Future Directions for Manly Warringah War Memorial Park

The importance placed on its natural environment and quality of life by Warringah Council and its residents is reflected by the vision statement for Warringah. This vision statement was developed as part of Warringah’s Community Strategic Plan 2023 and was established to encompass the next 10 years and beyond.

“A vibrant, caring community thriving in a unique beach and bush environment, supporting a balance of lifestyle, business and recreation.”

Key directions for the future of Manly Warringah War Memorial Park have been reaffirmed or identified through the development of this Plan of Management.

This has drawn upon Council’s vision as described above, the management principles as set out in the *Crown Lands Act 1989* (see Section 2.1.1), and the vision as defined in the 1998 Plan of Management. These key directions reflect the community’s values identified through the preparation of this new Plan of Management and provide a basis for the development of management actions that will enhance and protect the values ascribed to the Park. A new vision statement for Manly Warringah War Memorial Park is identified in Section 4.2 of this Plan.

The importance of the bushland areas and natural environment, the ability for the Park to provide for a variety of recreational opportunities, the respite it affords from the urban environment and its importance as a war memorial have all been acknowledged as key directions for the future of the Park – and are recognised in the new Park vision.

1.6 Guiding Principles of Management

The Park's guiding principles of management follow from the above key directions, support the vision for the Park (see Section 4.2) and have been used to inform the objectives and management actions as described in Chapter 5.

The following guiding principles of management have been identified for the Park:

- sustainable management of the Park to protect its natural areas, while providing for a variety of passive and active recreational activities;
- protect and enhance threatened flora and fauna within the Park;
- protect and enhance the water quality of the dam waterbody and Park waterways;
- provide safe and equitable access to the Park and its facilities for all user groups; and
- protect and enhance the Park's heritage.

1.7 Structure of this Plan of Management

This Plan of Management has been divided into 6 sections as described below.

1. **Setting the Scene.** Provides an introduction to Manly Warringah War Memorial Park and identifies the need for a new Plan of Management.
2. **Preparing this Plan of Management.** Describes the legislative requirements of a Plan of Management and linkages to other planning documents. Summarises the community consultation carried out during the development of this Plan.
3. **Park Description, Values and Use.** Provides an overview of the Park and how it is valued and used by the community.
4. **Basis for Management.** Identifies and evaluates the current threats to the Park values. Introduces the new Vision Statement for the Park.
5. **Management Actions.** Identifies a management framework, founded on specific management actions and guidelines or policies, to protect and enhance the Parks values as well as the Plan's desired outcomes and means of assessing their achievement.
6. **Implementation Plan.** Identifies the priorities and resource requirements to implement the Management Actions.

2 Preparing this Plan of Management

2.1 Legislative Requirements and Relevant Planning Documents

The Manly Warringah War Memorial Park is a Crown Reserve which Warringah Council manages on behalf of the Manly Warringah War Memorial Park (R68892) Reserve Trust. Warringah Council also manages the affairs of the Trust.

Crown Reserves are parcels of Crown Land retained or acquired by the State and set aside for specific public purposes. Crown Land can be reserved for a multitude of purposes, including public recreation, environmental protection, access, heritage purposes, community purposes, water, among others (LPMA, 2007). The Manly Warringah War Memorial Park is reserved for Public Recreation as Crown Reserve 68892 (as are those parts of Crown Reserve 83492 which are also covered by this Plan).

The *Crown Lands Act 1989* is the principal legislation protecting and governing how these lands may be used and managed for public benefit. The Act describes how a Plan of Management for Crown Land is to be prepared and what is to be included in the Plan.

In addition to the *Crown Lands Act* however there are a number of other legislative requirements and planning documents relevant to the Park. These include the Warringah Local Environmental Plan 2000, along with other strategic documents and policies, prepared by either the State or Warringah Council.

Following is a summary of the relevant requirements of the *Crown Lands Act* along with a list of other relevant legislation, policies and planning documents.

2.1.1 Crown Lands Act, 1989

As on-ground manager (on behalf of the Trust) of the Crown Lands comprising the Park, Warringah Council has the responsibility to manage the Manly Warringah War Memorial Park in accordance with the requirements of the *Crown Lands Act 1989*.

It is not a statutory requirement for a Plan of Management to be prepared for a Crown Reserve. However where a Plan of Management for Crown Land is prepared it must be developed in accordance with the Public Purpose of the reserve and the Principles of Crown Land Management. The Plan must address the objects of the Act and define the value, use, management practices and intent for the broad public purpose for which the land has been reserved or dedicated.

Any Plan of Management for Crown Land must be prepared in accordance with the Act in order to be adopted by the Minister responsible for administering the Act. Appendix B

provides further discussion in relation to the *Crown Lands Act* – particularly regarding the requirements for Plans of Management as well as in the areas of public purpose, the objects of the Act, the principles of Crown Land management, reserve trusts, leases and licenses, proceeds from Crown land and reporting.

2.1.2 Principles of Crown Land Management and Relevant Crown Land Policies

Section 11 of the *Crown Lands Act 1989* provides a set of principles for Crown Land management – as detailed in Appendix B. These principles and how this Plan of Management is compliant with them, is outlined in Table 2 below.

Table 2 Compliance with the Principles of Crown Land Management

Principles of Crown Land Management (Section 11 of the <i>Crown Lands Act 1989</i>)	Compliance with the principles of Crown Land Management
<i>That environmental protection principles be observed in relation to the management and administration of Crown land.</i>	The natural environment is a key value identified by this Plan of Management. Management actions have been created to protect this key value.
<i>That the natural resources of Crown Land (including water, soil, flora, fauna and scenic quality) be conserved wherever possible.</i>	The Plan of Management provides management actions to conserve and protect these natural resources.
<i>That public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown Land be encouraged.</i>	The Crown Land is reserved for “public recreation”. This reservation is supported by the Plan of Management and the management actions identified provide a means of maintaining and improving the experiences of public use and enjoyment of the Park in a sustainable fashion without detracting from the area’s underlying values.
<i>That, where appropriate, multiple use of Crown Land be encouraged.</i>	There is already a high degree of multiple use of the Park. The Plan encourages and supports the continuation of multiple use.
<i>That, where appropriate, Crown Land should be used and managed in such a way that both the land and its resources are sustained in perpetuity.</i>	The Plan of Management aims to protect the values identified for the Park. A vision has been set, and management actions and priorities identified, to ensure protection of its natural environment and cultural heritage and provide for sustainable use of the Park into the future.
<i>That Crown Land be occupied, used, sold, leased, licensed or otherwise dealt with in the best interests of the State consistent with the above principles.</i>	Leases, licences or otherwise are only permitted where they are consistent with the values of the Plan of Management and the provisions of the <i>Crown Lands Act 1989</i> .

The following Crown Land Policy may also be relevant to this Plan of Management.

- **Food and Beverage Outlets on Crown Reserves: Policy Position Version 3, 2004.**
However this does not apply to mobile vendors – but rather to fixed or built outlets such as kiosks, cafes, restaurants and bistros none of which occur in the Park.

2.1.3 Other State and Commonwealth Legislation

Below is a list of relevant State and Commonwealth legislation and State policy guidelines which may apply to the future management of the Park.

- **Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act, 1992** – promotes the rights of people with disabilities
- **Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999** – the Australian government's central piece of environmental legislation.
- **NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979** – sets requirements for assessment and approval of activity or development proposals.
- **NSW Heritage Act, 1977** – provides for the assessment, protection and management of non-Aboriginal heritage.
- **NSW Local Government Act, 1993** – governs the functions of Local Government and their relationship to land management.
- **NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974** – provides for the conservation management and protection of natural and cultural heritage as well as fostering public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of these values. This includes the protection and management of Aboriginal heritage, including Aboriginal sites and materials.
- **NSW Noxious Weeds Act, 1993** – sets requirements for the control of declared noxious weeds.
- **NSW Protection of the Environment Operations Act, 1997** – addresses air quality, water quality, pollution control and noise control requirements and offences.
- **NSW Rural Fires Act, 1997** – provides for the prevention and management of bushfires.
- **NSW Rural Lands Protection Act, 1998** – provides for the control of pest animals.
- **NSW SEPP 19: Bushland in Urban Areas** – provides for the protection of bushland in public open space zones.
- **NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995** – identifies and protects native plants and animals in danger of becoming extinct and provides for species recovery and threat abatement programmes.
- **Companion Animals Act, 1998** – deals with the responsible management and care of companion animals, mainly dogs and cats, in New South Wales.

2.1.4 Council's Strategic Documents and Policies

The following Council documents have been used to assist and guide the strategic outcomes of this Plan, ensuring consistency in values, principles and policies. Relevant recommendations from these documents and policies have been incorporated into the Management Actions within this Plan where relevant.

- **Bushland Policy, 2008** – sets goals for bushland management programmes and identifies the approach to managing bushland areas.

- **Community Facilities Management and Subsidies Policy, 2006** – provides a framework for the equitable, efficient and effective management of Council's community facilities.
- **Cultural Plan, 2007** – supports the expansion and promotion of environmental walks, educational information to explain and celebrate the natural environment and the continuation of cultural events such as the "Ripple Festival".
- **Environmental Sustainability Strategy, 2012-2022** – assists in guiding the community and Council toward a more ecologically sustainable way of living.
- **Generic Bushland Reserves Plan of Management, 2009** – a plan of management for the management of almost 100 reserves (over 300 hectares of bushland in total) throughout Warringah. Provides objectives and management actions for the management of the bushland reserves.
- **Interim Policy on the Management of the Commercial Use of Beaches, Reserves and Buildings/Facilities in Warringah, 2006** – provides a framework for the management of commercial use at the Park and identifies Manly Warringah War Memorial Park as a "restricted area" in terms of its availability for commercial activities (with only privately provided educational activities to be considered, as consistent with a plan of management).
- **Community Strategic Plan 2023** – sets a vision for Warringah and identifies goals for achieving the vision.
- **Local Habitat Strategy, 2007** – provides management actions to preserve, protect, enhance and restore Warringah's habitat areas. Specific management actions are provided regarding the Park.
- **Manly Warringah War Memorial Park Fire Regime Management Plan, 2006** – provides recommendations for fire management zones, alternatives for fuel management, and strategies to protect Park infrastructure as well as persons and property adjacent the Park.
- **Warringah-Pittwater Bush Fire Risk Management Plan 2010** – aims to reduce the adverse impact of bush fires on life, property and the environment by reducing the number of human-induced bush fire ignitions causing damage to life, property or the environment; managing fuel loads to reduce the spread and intensity of bush fires while minimising environmental/ecological impacts; reducing the community's vulnerability to bush fires and improving its bushfire preparedness; and effectively containing potentially harmful bushfires. The Plan includes provisions for fire management within the Park.
- **Playground Strategy, 2007** - identifies existing playgrounds and management strategies, a playground hierarchy and actions and priorities for specific playgrounds. There is one district playground (in Picnic Area 1) and one neighbourhood playground (off Cootamundra Drive) within the Park, as identified as by the Strategy's hierarchy.
- **Policy for the Use of Council Open Space for Commercial Fitness Groups and Personal Trainers, 2010** – ensures equity in access to public open space, manages the impact of fitness activities on open space assets and addresses public liability risks.
- **Recreation Strategy, 2009** – provides a long term strategic direction for the future provision and management of recreational assets, programmes and services in Warringah, including specific actions relevant to the Park.
- **State of Warringah, 2007** – provides a summary of water quality at Manly Dam and the suitability of the dam for swimming.
- **State of Environment Reports** – State of the Environment (SoE) Reports provide a snapshot of the condition of the environment, pressures impacting on the environment

and the responses by Council to address these pressures - including major programmes and achievements at specific sites or Council-wide (since 2006-07 Warringah Council's SoE Report has been part of the wider Shore Regional Organisation of Councils' environmental reporting).

- **Warringah Bike Plan, 2007** – identifies a vision for cycling in Warringah, identifies a range of bike routes, infrastructure priorities, funding opportunities, education, promotion and events.
- **Warringah Council Community Strategic Plan, 2010** – was Council's primary forward planning document. It includes a 10 year strategic direction for Council, and a detailed four year delivery programme, via the Capital Works Programme for 2010-2014. A number of projects are identified within this programme for the Park.
- **Warringah Design Guidelines Public Spaces, 2003** – provides guidance for signage, furniture and access to public spaces, with a focus on built or more developed sites and streetscapes.
- **Warringah Local Environmental Plan, 2011** – contains the rules and regulations for development in Warringah. Manly Warringah War Memorial Park is included within the Locality G3 Manly Lagoon Suburbs (see Section 2.1.5 below).
- **Warringah Regional Multiple-Use Trail Strategy, 2007** – focuses on bushland areas within Warringah and linkages with neighbouring local government areas. The document is a planning strategy for a regional multiple-use trail network and identifies multiple-use trails within the Park.
- **Mountain Biking in Warringah Research and Directions, 2012** – This document discusses the current status of the provision of mountain biking facilities in Warringah in addition to the complexity of issues surrounding any increase in mountain biking in this area.

2.1.5 Relationship to the Warringah Local Environmental Plan 2011

This Plan of Management identifies appropriate development within the Manly Warringah War Memorial Park. Guiding principles have also been identified to ensure development does not impact on the values of the Park, see Section 5.3.1. Development proposals however may only proceed subject to the development consent requirements of the Warringah Local Environmental Plan 2011. Any development proposals for the Park must therefore be consistent with the Plan of Management, the Warringah LEP 2011 and any other relevant planning policies.

2.2 Review of the 1998 Plan of Management

A Plan of Management was adopted for Manly Warringah War Memorial Park by Warringah Council in 1998. This Plan of Management superseded the 1981 Plan of Management for the Park. Although the 1998 Plan was prepared in accordance with the *Crown Lands Act 1989*, it was never formally approved by the Minister for Lands, as required under the Act. The main direction of the 1998 Plan of Management was to provide a Park which protected its natural areas, as well as providing low key visitor facilities and a range of recreational opportunities.

As part of the process of preparing this new Plan of Management, the actions of the 1998 Plan have been audited and reviewed. The 1998 Plan of Management described a total of

117 actions. Approximately 75% of these actions have been completed, partially completed or are considered to be ongoing actions. The remaining 25% of actions are incomplete. This is largely due to the actions being overtaken by a change in events, or the actions having become redundant over time.

2.3 Consultation

The importance placed by Council on community consultation is highlighted by the Community Consultation Policy, Matrix and Toolkit. These documents provide a framework for community consultation and community engagement and were adopted by Council in February 2011. The following policy statement has been extracted from the Community Consultation Policy, February 2011.

Warringah Council recognises that community engagement and participation processes are a vital part of local democracy. Effective engagement is good business practice and critical to good government. For this reason Council is committed to engaging with the Warringah community

Prior to the adoption of this policy, community consultation was informed by Council's *Community Consultation Matrix (A guide to community consultation)*. This matrix was used to inform consultation for the Manly Warringah War Memorial Park Plan of Management.

A Community Consultation Plan was developed in June 2010 to support the preparation of this new Plan of Management. The Consultation Plan included a number of different methods of community consultation aimed at informing the community of the preparation of the new Plan and seeking information from the community in relation to their values for the Park and views for its future management.

The following is a summary of consultation carried out to date.

- A general notice in the "Mayoral Column" in the *Manly Daily* advising of the new Plan of Management's preparation, the start of consultation, Focus Group dates and an invitation to attend.
- Two sets of on-site information posters at key locations within the Park, informing and inviting the community to become involved.
- A "letter box drop" to neighboring properties around the perimeter of Manly Warringah War Memorial Park, informing them that preparation of a new Plan of Management for Manly Warringah War Memorial Park commenced and requesting their input and comments (eliciting 19 written submissions and 3 phone calls).
- Three Focus Group meetings with organisations and individuals having a particular interest in the Park – grouped by mountain bikers, waterway users, and bushland users (a total attendance of 55 people).
- A simple survey/questionnaire distributed to identified stakeholder groups and to general Park users (eliciting 54 submissions in total).
- Discussions with relevant Council staff, as well as representatives from the Crown Lands Division and other state agencies, throughout the planning process.

- A follow-up invitation to comment, and simple survey/questionnaire distributed to Park neighbours, (eliciting 20 submissions in total).
- Public exhibition of the *Issues and Directions Discussion Paper*. A memo/poster and copy of the Discussion Paper, and Comments Sheets for easy feedback, were made available at all Warringah Libraries and Customer Service Centres. The exhibition was advertised in the "Mayoral Column" of the *Manly Daily* and information was posted on the www.yoursaywarringah.com.au site as well as posters placed at Manly Warringah War Memorial Park.
- Email updates to all registered stakeholders for the Plan of Management project, informing people of project progress and release of the *Issues and Directions Discussion Paper* for comment (373 contacts).
- A Community Workshop involving invited representatives from a range of stakeholder groups to discuss concerns, opportunities and constraints and to suggest management options to resolve identified issues (a total attendance of 55 people).
- A news item incorporated in the bi-monthly *Warringah LINC'S Disability Newsletter*.
- Ongoing information and updates provided on the www.yoursaywarringah.com.au online discussion forum.

The preparation of a new Plan of Management for Manly Warringah War Memorial Park and the release of the *Issues and Directions Discussion Paper*, also received considerable coverage in the *Manly Daily*.

All of these consultation efforts involved asking three fundamental questions:

1. Why is Manly Warringah War Memorial Park (Manly Dam) important to you ?;
2. What do you value about the area ?; and
3. How would you like the Park managed in the future ?

Throughout the development of this Plan of Management, input has been sought from the general community, stakeholder groups, Council staff and the Crown Lands Division of the NSW Department of Primary Industries (formerly the Land and Property Management Authority, LPMA, within the Department of Lands). A Working Party made up of Council staff and a representative from the Crown Lands Division was convened at regular intervals to oversee the project and provide input and direction where necessary.

2.3.1 Community Consultation Report on Values - August 2010

The initial community consultation identified a range of values for the Park, including inherent or underlying values and the usage values ascribed by the community. A number of key points were also highlighted during the initial consultation phase, including:

- shared and common values are held for the Park – with these values common across ages, gender and reasons for use. Such values include maintaining the status quo in terms of the area's use and management, its natural features, the social values and the "peace and quiet" of the place;
- the Park's recreational value – as a venue for walking, mountain biking, picnicking and water-based activities;
- a particularly high value is placed on facilities such as shelters, accessible toilets and disabled parking places by seniors and disability groups; and
- the importance of the Park as a respite from urban living.

Feedback throughout the initial community consultation process highlighted that the majority of people were happy with the Park, the facilities provided and how the area is now used and managed.

This is not to say that some issues of concern were not highlighted in particular areas or around specific matters. However overall the general consensus from the initial community consultation was that most visitors, and others with an interest in or association with the Park, were happy with the Park's current character and management and were comfortable with the "status quo".

A copy of the *Community Consultation Report on Values - August 2010*, prepared by Council at the conclusion of the initial round of consultation is attached at Appendix C.

2.3.2 Community Workshop – November 2010

A facilitated Community Workshop was held following the release of the *Issues and Directions Discussion Paper*. The Workshop was by invitation, to ensure a balanced representation of key stakeholders. The aim of the workshop was to further engage the community in the process of developing a new Plan of Management for the Park. In particular, the workshop aimed to provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to:

- understand the issues and constraints involved;
- listen to different perspectives;
- discuss potential trade-offs that may need to be made; and
- work together to discuss, deliberate and move towards the resolution of issues.

A total of 55 key stakeholders attended the workshop. Discussion of the options identified within the *Issues and Directions Discussion Paper* was a key component of the workshop. Following is a summary of workshop outcomes. A copy of the *Summary of Community Workshop – held Monday 29th November 2010* can be found in Appendix D. This includes discussion on other general comments made in relation to the Park. Following the format of the *Issues and Directions Discussion Paper* the workshop's discussions were focused on the differing "management zones" suggested in the Paper (these are further described in Section 5.2).

2.3.2.1 Bushland Management Zone

Workshop discussions regarding the bushland zone were mostly focused around recreational use of the Park's track and trails, and especially the future use of narrower sections of the mountain bike circuit which Council closed to walkers in February 2010. Key outcomes from the discussions were:

- broad support for Option 2 for track and trail management from the *Issues and Directions Discussion Paper* – that is retaining the entire designated mountain bike circuit and allowing for the shared-use, by both mountain bikers and walkers, of all single track sections employing a "risk management" approach;
- a range of views on separating bikers and walkers – with some participants seeking to separate these uses for safety reasons, while others had mixed views on the need or advantages of separating users and disputed the perception of walker-cyclist conflict;
- broad support for minimising impacts on the environment from track and trail maintenance and use;

- broad support for better track design and maintenance; and
- broad support for better education and signage – for both walkers and mountain bikers.

Other issues raised or discussed, but with less prominence or consensus, were – support alternative management options for The Trig Track, perceiving night mountain bike riding as a new issue, the need to plan for and better regulate mountain bike use (such as limiting the numbers of users, a user pays system or the registration of bike users).

2.3.2.2 Waterbody Management Zone

Workshop discussions around recreational use of the waterbody, and in particular the allocation of access and exclusive use of this feature, offered far more diverse views. In relation to the future management of waterskiing on the dam, comments ranged from – “phasing out water skiing in the future as it is not sustainable in the long term and is not really in keeping with the ... peaceful nature of the Park”, through “have ski free days, including 1 full weekend day”, to support for the status quo. However there was broad support for more equitable recreational use of the waterbody, for further consideration of waterbody recreation issues, and re-examining current uses of the waterway.

2.3.2.3 Day Use and Urban Edge Zones

Discussion of future management of the Day Use Zone and Urban Edge Zone raised a variety of directions and concerns, the most frequent of which are listed below.

- Support for connecting the picnic areas with a high standard track, offering a mix of booked and “free” tables in the picnic areas, improved catchment management and actions to manage water quality in the dam, addressing feral animal control and managing domestic animals, better weed management, and reducing impacts on the Park from adjacent land uses.
- Some support for additional dog areas within the Park.
- A range of views regarding management of the picnic areas and appropriate standards of development, maintaining the War Memorial and Remembrance Point facilities as a key part of the Park’s identity and the main Park entry.
- Concerns or comments regarding fire management within the Park, car parking

2.3.3 Submissions on the Issues and Directions Discussion Paper

A report was prepared by Council in January 2011 to summarise the submissions received in response to the Manly Warringah War Memorial Park *Issues and Directions Discussion Paper*. A total of 262 submissions were received, including:

- 219 submissions (of which 101 were “form letters”) focussed on waterskiing and the Waterbody Management Zone;
- 17 submissions focussed on the natural values, tracks and trails and the Bushland Management Zone; and
- 26 submissions offering general comments or feedback on the whole Discussion Paper.

Following is a summary of the key findings. A full copy of the submissions analysis report – *Report Summary of Community Submissions on the Manly Dam Issues and Directions Discussion Paper* – can be found in Appendix E.

2.3.3.1 Waterbody Management Zone

The vast majority of submissions focused on the waterbody and waterskiing expressed strong support for maintaining waterskiing at Manly Dam (189 submissions, including 101 “form letters”), and supporting the “status quo” option as presented in the Discussion Paper. The number of people participating in waterskiing at the dam was a prominent issue, with some submissions raising concerns about equitable access to the waterbody for casual waterskiers (along with a perception that a change to the times available for waterskiing could result in a reduction in allocations to non-members of the Manly Warringah Waterski Club, and the subsequent reluctance to see a reduction in the overall allocation).

The exclusion of other users from the middle section of the waterbody, clashes with other waterbody users and the inappropriateness of waterskiing and powerboating within a predominately natural park were the main issues raised by the 30 submissions that sought less, or no, waterskiing at the Park. Some submissions also requested further detail for issues such as fishing requirements, flood management and maintenance of water quality.

2.3.3.2 Bushland Management Zone

The majority of the 17 submissions addressing tracks and trails within the Bushland Management Zone supported the shared use of the narrow tracks currently only designated for use by mountain bikers and risk management approach. They sought a return to the previous shared use of these tracks, by both walkers and mountain bikers, but with increased risk management techniques.

Several submissions expressed strong views regarding “preserving” and enhancing the Park’s natural values and flora and fauna, especially when addressing recreational use of the area. Night mountain bike riding, paid parking, feral animal control and fire trail clearing were all issues where further discussion or consideration was requested.

2.3.3.3 Day Use Management Zone

Only 10 submissions were received in relation to the Day Use Management Zone (the Discussion Paper did not present any specific management options within this zone). The submissions reinforced a number of important points and issues such as linking the picnic areas via a new walking trail, improvement of amenities, and the need for increased availability of educational material for the public.

Additional discussion was requested into finalisation of the war memorials, the number and type of picnic tables available, and the possibility of re-examining the current booking system.

2.3.3.4 Urban Edge Zone and remaining sections of the Discussion Paper

Only 2 submissions were received in relation to the Urban Edge Zone, raising concerns re formalising and promoting selected park access points and the proposed roundabout at the entrance to the Park.

The remaining sections of the Discussion Paper (addressing the Park Management Zone, Golf Course/Tennis Courts Management Zone, and Park Administration) did not attract the same level of attention as the topics discussed above. There was a lack of contentious issues discussed in these Zones, and therefore less community interest.

3 Park Description, Values and Use

3.1 Overview

Manly Warringah War Memorial Park is a large bushland reserve within a predominantly urban landscape. The bushland supports a variety of vegetation communities and provides habitat for a range of native fauna. There are a number of vegetation communities, plant species and fauna species found within the Park that warrant protection due to their conservation status. The large size of the reserve and its connections with other remnant bushland reserves provide an opportunity for protection of these significant flora and fauna species and the area's extensive bushland.



The natural environment of the Park also provides an opportunity for recreation within a natural bushland setting. Many activities are undertaken within this setting – such as mountain bike riding, walking and dog walking – catered for by an extensive track and trail network. The bushland also provides an opportunity for a range of environmental education activities.



Located within this natural bushland setting is a sheltered, deep and freshwater dam. The role of the dam is varied: it is a flood mitigation tool for properties around Manly Lagoon; the water is used as a bulk water supply for Manly Hydraulics Laboratory and Water Research Laboratory, as well as for irrigation of Wakehurst Golf Course; the dam is an educational tool for schools and universities; and notably it is used by a variety of recreational pursuits such as waterskiing, fishing, kayaking, swimming and boating, among others.



The Park features an elongated day use area along the dam's south-western margin, and accessed via the main (King Street) entrance to the Park. This area receives high



levels of use by both the local community and visitors from across the region. The four individual picnic areas are accessible to a variety of users, and can be booked for large and small groups. The picnic areas' low key, bushland setting, is a much valued resource. The Park's perimeter provides many opportunities to access the Park and provides its own recreational experiences with the provision of trails and a playground. The Wakehurst Golf Course and Wakehurst Couvret Tennis Courts are also located along the edge of the Park. These are two valuable recreational facilities.



Figure 4 provides an overview of the Park, its layout, and main features.

This Section of the Plan of Management provides information about the Park, its values, condition and use. The information has been used to inform the Management Actions identified later in the Plan.

3.2 Regional Bushland Reserve Context

Manly Warringah War Memorial Park is the largest single area of bushland managed by a local council in Sydney's northern beaches. It is a valuable natural area for the protection of native flora and fauna. Linkages to other reserves (both Council managed and National Parks) through bushland corridors, provides an important genetic exchange and contributes to a more sustainable biodiversity for the wider region.

The Park caters for a number of activities that are not considered appropriate in the nearby National Parks, such as waterskiing, dog exercising, golf and tennis. Although visitor use of the main picnic areas at Manly Warringah War Memorial Park is high, the facilities provided reflect the low key, natural setting of the area. Wood fire barbeques are provided and there is a sense of being "in nature" that is not provided at many of the other highly frequented reserves within the region (many of which may have more developed picnic areas, and kiosks or restaurants).

Manly Warringah War Memorial Park plays an important role in the provision of open space within the region. Its role in the region is unique and its attributes are highly valued by the community and visitors to the Park. Table 3 provides a summary of other large bushland reserves within the region which also feature waterways. A comparison with Manly Warringah War Memorial Park is also provided.

This section of the Plan of Management provides an overview of the Park's values, assets and condition and a description of the current uses of the Park.

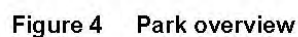


Table 3 Comparison With Other Bushland Reserves in the Region

Park	Approx. Size	Main Features
Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park	14,977 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highly visited park with visitors from Sydney, interstate as well as overseas. ▪ Focus of park is nature conservation with recreational opportunities provided in a natural setting. ▪ Visitor centre, information centres, ranger walks, landscaped picnic areas, developed camping areas, walking tracks, shops, boat ramps, marinas, and restaurants/kiosks.
Garigal National Park	2,202 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Visitors to park are mainly from the northern beaches and north shore of Sydney. ▪ Focus of park is nature conservation with recreational opportunities provided in a natural setting. ▪ High usage landscaped/developed picnic areas, swimming enclosure, boat ramp, and walking tracks.
Sydney Harbour National Park	392 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highly visited park with visitors from Sydney, interstate and overseas. ▪ Focus of park is nature and heritage conservation as well as public recreation on the harbour and foreshore. ▪ Highly developed settings - including accommodation and conference facilities, cafes/kiosks, regular guided tours, developed picnic areas and walking tracks.
Lane Cove National Park	635 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High visitor numbers, mostly from Sydney's north shore. ▪ Focus of park is picnicking and social gatherings, river and bushwalks. ▪ Well developed/landscaped riverside picnic areas, commercial caravan park and camping area, walking tracks, shop, kiosk, boat hire and river boat cruises.
Narrabeen Lagoon and Foreshore Reserves	390 ha (excluding Cromer Golf Course & Narrabeen Sport and Recreation Centre)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Visitors mostly from northern beaches and north shore. ▪ Focus of area is water-based and foreshore recreation, picnicking and social gatherings, and environmental education. ▪ Caravan park, Coastal Environment Centre, NSW Academy of Sport and Recreation Centre, Cromer Golf Course, developed/managed walking tracks and paths, and informal waling routes.
Manly Warringah War Memorial Park	376 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Visitors mostly from Warringah and northern beaches. ▪ Focus of park is social gatherings, water sports, bushland recreation and golf/tennis. ▪ Low-key bushland setting picnic areas, walking tracks and mountain bike circuit, waterski area with ski jump, and Wakehurst Golf Course and commercial tennis courts.

3.3.1 Natural Heritage Values

3.3.1.1 Native flora, vegetation communities and habitats

The Park is predominantly a bushland reserve, dominated by Hawkesbury Sandstone vegetation, with six native vegetation communities plus areas of highly disturbed vegetation. It is considered a floristically rich area, for an urban bushland reserve, with over 300 native plant species recorded (including 18 different native orchids). The vegetation communities present in the Park are shown on Figure 5 and their conservation status summarised in Table 4 and discussed below.

Table 4 Vegetation Communities of Manly Warringah War Memorial Park and Their Conservation Status

Vegetation Community	Occurrence within MWWMP	Legislative Status (TSC Act 1995 listings)	Conservation Status in Warringah ^A		Warringah Conservation Priority ^B
			% of 1750 extent now remaining	Total % of 1750 extent now reserved (% in OEH national parks) [% in other reserves]	
Sydney Sandstone Ridgetop Woodland (Bloodwood-Scribbly Gum Woodland)	Extensive	Not listed	84.1	47.5 (41.7) [5.7]	3
Coastal Sandstone Heath	Extensive	Not listed	88.0	46.9 (38.4) [8.6]	3
Sydney Sandstone Gully Forest (Peppermint-Angophora Forest)	Common	Not listed	88.7	58.7 (53.0) [5.8]	3
Duffys Forest (Silvertop Ash-Brown Stringybark Forest)	Limited, 3 sites and 1 area	Endangered Ecological Community	16.0 [#]	10.5 (8.0) [2.5] [#]	1
Coastal Sandstone Swamp	Single site	Not listed (but likely to be listed in future, refer text re Scientific Committee preliminary determination)	88.0	41.1 (35.1) [5.9]	2
Artificial Wetland (derived vegetation community, analogous to naturally occurring Coastal Freshwater Lagoon Swamp) – FW	Restricted	Not listed due to being a derived community (but Coastal Freshwater Lagoon Swamp is an Endangered Ecological Community)	N/A	N/A	1
Highly disturbed vegetation	Common	Not listed	N/A	N/A	N/A

^A source: P & J Smith Ecological Consultants, *Warringah Natural Area Survey: Vegetation History and Wildlife Corridors, 2005*

- A figure of 15% of the pre-1750 area of a vegetation community has been adopted by the Commonwealth and NSW Governments as a benchmark for the minimum proportion of a vegetation community that should be set aside in reserves

^B source: P & J Smith Ecological Consultants, *Warringah Natural Area Survey: Vegetation Communities and Plant Species, 2005*

- Priority 1 areas are endangered ecological communities, listed under the TSC Act, 1995, or represent potentially important habitat.
- Priority 2 conservation areas are considered important for the conservation of biodiversity at the local level.
- Priority 3 vegetation communities are considered well represented and common in Warringah.

[#]source: P & J Smith Ecological Consultants, *Survey of Duffys Forest Vegetation Community, 2000*

OEH (Office of Environment and Heritage) formerly the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water

Sydney Sandstone Ridgetop Woodland (Bloodwood-Scribbly Gum Woodland) and Coastal Sandstone Heath are the most widespread vegetation communities within the Park. Sydney Sandstone Gully Forest (Peppermint-Angophora Forest) occurs mostly along the valleys and creeklines within the Park. These three vegetation communities are well represented throughout Warringah.



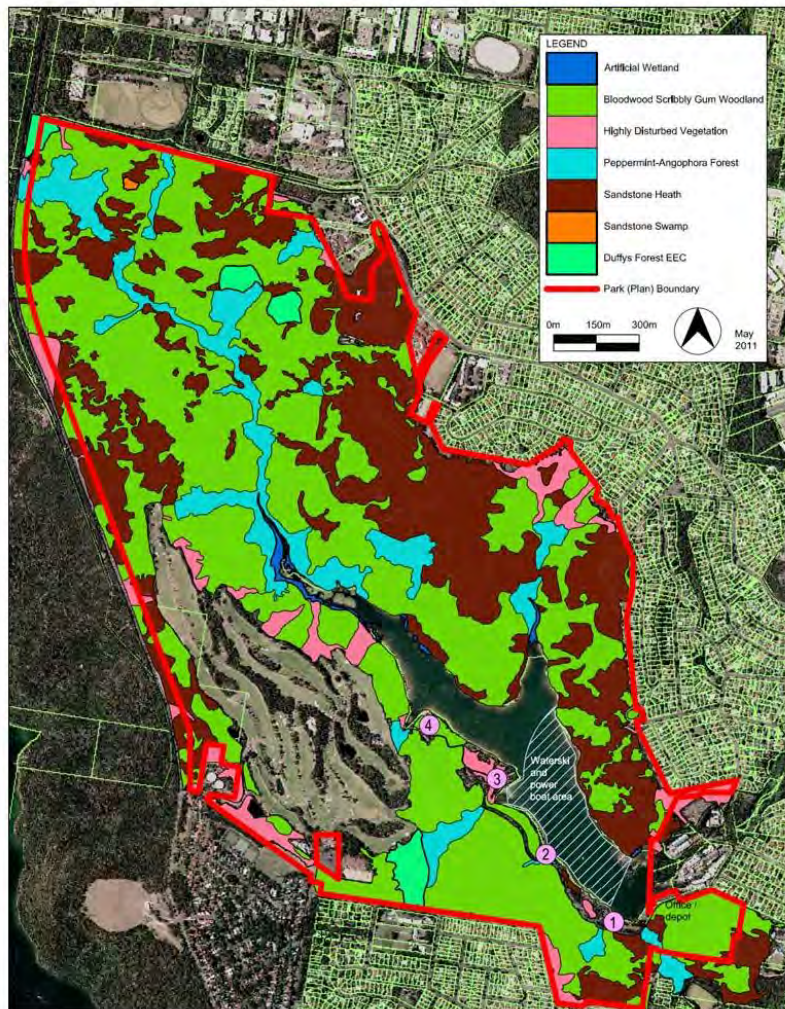


Figure 5 Vegetation communities

Duffys Forest (Silvertop Ash-Brown Stringybark Forest) is listed as an Endangered Ecological Community under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (TSC Act)* and is present within the Park.

A single area of Coastal Sandstone Swamp is located in the Park's north. This vegetation type is not, at present, listed under the *TSC Act* however it is considered to be rare in Warringah and is therefore of local conservation significance. The NSW Scientific



Committee (established by the *TSC Act*) has made a preliminary determination to list "Coastal Upland Swamp" in the Sydney Basin Bioregion as an Endangered Ecological Community under the *TSC Act* and this may increase the conservation status of the Park's Coastal Sandstone Swamp.



A human created vegetation community classified as "artificial wetland" and resembling vegetation found in the naturally occurring Coastal Freshwater Lagoon Swamp community is found in the upper reaches of the dam. Whilst the naturally occurring community is listed under the *TSC Act*, the human created vegetation community is not. It's similarity to an endangered ecological community however makes it of local significance.

Three threatened plant species, listed under the *TSC Act*, have also been recorded in the Park. Seaforth Mintbush, *Prostanthera marifolia* – an erect, straggly, openly branched shrub



up to 300 millimetres high – has been recorded from three locations within the Park, however its full extent and distribution within the area is not well known. Seaforth Mintbush is considered critically endangered in NSW. *Tetratheca glandulosa* – a small, spreading shrub growing 20-50 centimetres in height often with entwining stems – has been recorded from the picnic areas. It is classed as vulnerable both in NSW and nationally. *Pimelea curviflora* var *curviflora* – a small, erect shrub growing 30-50 centimetres in height – has

also been recorded from the picnic areas. It is classed as a vulnerable species.

Angus's Onion Orchid, *Microtis angusii* – a terrestrial orchid classed as endangered both in NSW and nationally – was previously thought to have occurred on the Park however this is now unconfirmed.

Angophora crassifolia – a small tree growing to 15 metres high – is also recorded in the Park and has been classified as a rare Australian plant according to the Rare and Threatened Australian Plants list developed by the CSIRO. However this listing has no legal standing.

The large expanse of native vegetation, variety of vegetation communities and varied landscape within the Park provide a variety of habitat conditions for native fauna. Habitat degradation, especially by weed invasion and disturbance, and both feral and domestic animals impact the Park's native fauna values.

Community consultation has consistently identified the natural environment as one of the most highly valued aspects of the Park. The community particularly appreciates the diversity of flora and fauna found within the Park (both common and rare or endangered species), the large and unfragmented character of the bushland (extending from valley to ridgetop), and the bushland's "high quality" (as generally weed-free vegetation) and habitat values. The usage and aesthetic benefits of such a large and accessible expanse of the natural environment in an urban setting are also highly valued – notably the area's "peace and

quiet”, its scenic qualities, and as a place offering a physical, visual and recreational respite from urban living.

3.3.1.2 Native fauna

The Park’s bushland, waterbody and foreshores provide habitats for a variety of native fauna – including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish. However the diversity and abundance of native mammals in the Park is lower than recorded for surrounding national parks – due most likely to its size, “edge effects” and isolation.

Mammals commonly recorded within the Park include the Brushtailed Possum, Ringtail Possum, Brown Antechinus, Bush Rat, Long-nosed Bandicoot and Short-beaked Echidna – however the nocturnal habits of many mammal species means they are less frequently seen by visitors. Reptiles are more readily observed, with common species including the Eastern Blue-tongued Lizard and Eastern Water Dragon. Lace Monitors, Southern Leaf-tailed Geckos, Diamond Pythons and Red-bellied Black Snakes also occur in the Park. Eastern Long-necked Turtles occur in the dam waterbody and larger watercourses. Common Eastern Froglets, Eastern Dwarf Tree Frogs and Eastern Banjo Frogs are also common. Australian Bass are found in both fresh and saltwater and are native to the Manly Dam area, while the dam was also stocked with Silver Perch in the past and this species is believed to still occur in small numbers.



Over 80 species of birds have been recorded in the Park, both waterbirds and terrestrial species (as well as migrant and vagrant species). The Park’s avifauna includes many increasingly rare species in urban bushland areas, such as wrens and thornbills.

Threatened fauna species recorded from the Park include four terrestrial species – Rosenberg’s Goanna (or Heath Monitor), the Red-crowned Toadlet and single sightings of the Koala and the Spotted-tailed Quoll – as well as two mobile threatened fauna species have also been sighted in the Park – the Grey-headed Flying-fox and Eastern Bent-wing Bat. All four resident species are considered vulnerable (*TSC Act* listed). The Powerful Owl has also been recorded close to the Park’s boundary and sighted within the Park. The Climbing Galaxias (the most northerly population of this small, 150-170 millimetres long, “climbing” species in Australia) is an uncommon species of interest also present on the Park.



The opportunities provided by the Park to see native wildlife, were identified as valuable by many respondents in the community consultation process.

3.3.1.3 Weeds, pests and introduced animals

The condition of the Park’s bushland is generally good, however at least 100 weed species are known to be present within the area. The Park continues to be impacted by weeds due

to regular and on-going human disturbance – particularly around its edges, down creeklines, and along tracks and roads. Aquatic weeds can be a particular problem. Bush regenerators, both volunteer and professionals, rehabilitate the bushland on a regular basis to address areas degraded by weeds and other site disturbances.

A bushland rehabilitation programme was prepared for the Park in 2005 – *Bushland Rehabilitation Program for Manly Warringah War Memorial Park*. It provides an operational plan for the rehabilitation of bushland within the Park over 10 years, until 2015. The broad aims of the plan, as identified within the report, are to:

- improve bushland condition and diversity;
- manage bushland within the broader catchments;
- minimise the risk of spread and impact of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* die back; and
- integrate fire and bushland management within the Park, with consideration of weeds.

The programme identifies “management areas” within the Park as well as a prioritised work programme. A propagation nursery has been established at the Park, in the King Street depot, to supply bush regeneration volunteers (“Friends of the Bush”) with local native plant species required for regeneration works within the Park, and the wider Warringah local government area.

Reports from Park neighbours suggest that rabbits have become an increasing problem within the Park in recent years, and are now regularly seen grazing in the cleared grass margins along the Park’s urban edges. Dogs, which are allowed on leash along the tracks and trails within the Park’s bushland areas, can disturb wildlife – both directly and indirectly. Foxes exert continuing predation pressures on the Park’s fauna. Cats are prohibited from the Park, and are also prohibited from living within some of the adjoining recent residential developments (through covenants). However feral and domestic cats are a continuing problem on the Park. Feral fish and introduced ducks occur in and around the dam waterbody.

Myrtle rust – a newly described fungus that which affects plants in *Myrtaceae* family (including Australian natives such as bottle brush, tea tree and eucalypts) – has recently been discovered nearby in the Burnt Bridge Creek Catchment and may become a threat to the Park in the future.

3.3.1.4 Fire Management

Council has legal obligations under the *NSW Rural Fires Act 1997* and *Warringah Pittwater Bush Fire Risk Management Plan* to manage bush fire risk on its own land. As the Park’s manager, Council has a responsibility to “protect persons and property” immediately adjacent to the Park from hazards – notably wildfires – originating in the Park. Council also seeks to ensure that its management of the area does not detract from surrounding residents’ “quiet enjoyment” of their properties. Conversely having a large natural area adjacent to their property provides an attractive outlook and is considered by many residents as enhancing their quality of life, as well as improving the monetary value of their property.

The primary risk to Park neighbours is uncontrolled wildfires, with past bush fire incidents requiring evacuation of the retirement homes and other areas along the Park’s east side.

This area is particularly susceptible to wildfire impacts due to its elevated west-facing position above a bushland slope.

An analysis of fire history data was carried out as part of the Park's 2006 *Fire Regime Management Plan* (refer below). This analysis showed that 76% of the Park had been burnt since 1952, "with the major source of fire emanating from the adjacent Garigal National Park".

The *Manly Warringah War Memorial Park Fire Regime Management Plan* was prepared in 2006 to guide fire management within the Park. This Plan includes – fire management zones, fuel management techniques, measures to protect the infrastructure within the Park, and strategies to protect life and property within or immediately adjacent to the Park. The Plan also provides recommendations in relation to fire trails and a schedule of "hazard reduction" burns up to 2016. The Plan provides a guide only for fire management, as environmental conditions and other events may subsequently delay/prevent or modify the proposed schedule of works. Council Officers are required to undertake appropriate environmental assessments for both clearing and burning for fire management purposes.

The *Fire Regime Management Plan* identifies several "Asset Protection Zones" (APZs) along the Park's eastern and southern boundary, supported by a schedule of prescribed "hazard reduction" burns in the adjacent bushland to manage the fire risk along these urban edges. APZs are areas where the fire fuel load is intensively managed – typically by establishing fuel free zones (such as open grassed areas), slashing, raking, bushland management (such as fire resistant/retarding species selection) and burning. The width of these APZs can vary according to slope, bushland types and the type of assets being protected and their distance from vegetated areas. Along the Park's eastern and southern margins APZs are typically managed as open grassed clearings, varying in width from 10 to 30 metres (on average). These clearings are also used for routing parts of the designated mountain bike circuit and other tracks/trails.

3.3.1.5 Bushland linkages

Bushland linkages, also called "wildlife corridors", provide a means of movement for individual animals and genetic exchange for flora and fauna. The size of the Park, although large, limits the potential for diversity of flora and fauna. Through bushland linkages, inside and outside the Park, the area can be joined to other bushland reserves within the region.

The habitat value of the Park is improved through such links and corridors, as they increase the area of habitat available to native fauna and flora. They also allow fauna to move from the Park to other remnant bushland reserves, notably Garigal National Park. This movement provides an opportunity for the fauna populations within the Park to survive in the longer term.

Bushland linkages are also known to facilitate the movement of animal-borne pollen and seeds. This again, provides an opportunity for flora populations within the Park to survive in the longer-term, and can result in the recolonisation of areas of former habitat where plant populations may have died out.

Existing and potential wildlife corridors have been identified through Council's 2005 *Natural Area Survey: Vegetation History and Wildlife Corridors*. Both Priority 1 and Priority 2

corridors are linked to Manly Warringah War Memorial Park. These provide linkages to Garigal National Park (and through to Ku-ring-gai National Park) as well as linkages to smaller nearby Council reserves, such as Allenby Park. These links are important in reinforcing the Parks flora, fauna and habitat values.

3.3.1.6 Landscape Protection

The landscape of Manly Warringah War Memorial Park is valued for a number of reasons. The Park protects a large intact area of bushland over a varied landscape or landform types. The landscape extends from ridgetops to gullies, it includes rocky outcrops and diverse vegetation communities such as woodlands, forests, heaths, swamps and wetlands. As well as providing a diversity of fauna habitats this bushland landscape assists in protecting water quality within the dam and provides a scenic undeveloped or "natural view" from vantage points within and surrounding the Park. The area's undeveloped character and bushland scenery was highly valued by many respondents in the community consultation process.

3.3.2 Catchment and Water Quality Values

The dam's immediate catchment – within the Park – is predominantly bushland, with Curl Curl Creek and minor drainage lines discharging into the dam. The Park's bushland and largely intact riparian vegetation assists in maintaining water quality in the dam and downstream sections of Manly Creek. The majority of in-flows are largely free of contaminants. However off-site stormwater impacts have been problematic in the past due in part to pollution from light industry and residential development in the upper catchment beyond the Park. These are now more effectively managed and various water quality improvement measures have since been installed on the creeklines feeding the dam, both within the Park and in the surrounding areas.



Two former landfill sites occur within the catchment, on the site of the Wakehurst Golf Course and Aquatic Reserve (the latter outside the ambit of this Plan) with the potential that these sites are discharging leachate and other pollutants into the groundwater and surrounding areas.

A water quality monitoring programme has been in place at the dam since 1986, however the variables assessed have changed over time. Despite this, considerable data has been collected in relation to water quality within the dam.

Given the dam's significant level of recreational use it is important to ensure the waterbody maintains water quality levels consistent with accepted standards for "primary contact" (that is, for direct-contact recreational use). Blue-green algal blooms have been an issue in the waterbody in the past, and at times have closed the area to swimming. Blue-green algal blooms can result in the discolouration of water, "scums" on top of the water, an unpleasant odour and some blue-green algae can be toxic. The waterbody was monitored as suitable for swimming 100% of the time in 2009-10, with this result now consistent over several years. A two metre diameter submersible propeller is installed on the dam wall to aid water

circulation and reduce the severity and frequency of these occurrences. Regular monitoring continues to be carried out for blue-green algae.

The water within the dam is used by surrounding organisations and also managed for flood safety. Such uses include:

- Manly Hydraulics Laboratory (MHL) and Water Research Laboratory (WRL) draw water from the Dam for their operations and experiments;
- Warringah Council discharges water from the Dam to provide 1.7 metres of flood storage to minimise flood impacts on properties downstream along Manly Creek and around Manly Lagoon;
- Sydney Water discharges water from the Dam to manage and protect its infrastructure (the dam wall); and
- Wakehurst Golf Club Limited has a licence to draw irrigation water from the dam.

The dam's high water quality, which supports its recreational use, as well as the continuing water quality management efforts employed, were seen as an important aspect of the Park during the community consultation process. The dam was also valued as a tool to minimise flood damage to properties around Manly Lagoon.

3.3.3 Cultural Heritage Values

3.3.3.1 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

The Warringah area has long been recognised as being part of the traditional lands of the Guringai people. However more recently this has been contested by claims that the area is located in the traditional lands of the coastal people of the Darug Aboriginal language group. There is evidence of prior occupation of the Park area by Aboriginal people, through the presence of rock paintings, rock engravings and axe-grinding grooves with several recorded Aboriginal heritage sites within the Park. Most known sites are located within the Park's bushland areas, however several are located within the boundaries of Wakehurst Golf Course. The protection of these sites is valued by the community, and enforced through State Government legislation. The entire Park is rated as Extremely High for possible Aboriginal heritage areas/values, according to Council mapping, and other sites are most likely yet to be located and documented in the less disturbed bushland areas.

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) in the Department of Premier and Cabinet (formerly the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water or DECCW) has legislative responsibility for Aboriginal sites, through the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

Under this Act landholders/managers have obligations regarding the protection and management of known sites on their lands. The Aboriginal Heritage Office, a specialist agency serving several local councils including Warringah, provides expertise and assistance in the management of Aboriginal sites within the Council's area. The park is within the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council area.

3.3.3.2 Historic (non-Aboriginal) heritage

A dam wall was first constructed across Curl Curl Creek in 1892 by Manly Municipal Council to supply drinking water to the local settlement. The then Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage took over management of the dam in 1902 and the dam wall was raised three times in the subsequent decades – in 1909 and 1914, and again in 1922 when it reached its present height. Drinking water was supplied from the dam until 1936, and was reinstated briefly in 1942 when Sydney's water supply was threatened due to a long-running drought. The use of the waterway as local water supply is an important aspect of the area's non-Aboriginal history and heritage.



The dam wall is listed on the State Heritage Register, however it is outside the boundary of the Park and its management remains the responsibility of Sydney Water.

Two historic survey markers, of local interest, and dating back to the mid 1850s are situated in bushland adjacent the Wakehurst Golf Course (adjacent to The Trig Track).

3.3.3.3 War memorial and commemorations

Manly Dam was established as a War Memorial Park after World War I. A committee of ex-servicemen were given the responsibility of managing the bushland catchment of Manly Dam around 1920. The Manly Warringah War Memorial Park holds particular significance in remembering fallen service personnel from the First and Second World Wars, as well as being of significance to past and present day members of the Defence forces.

The Manly Warringah War Memorial Park Remembrance Trust was established in 1995 to oversee the planning, construction and management of the memorial and special services at the site.

There has been a growing interest in Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services in recent years. As provided for in the 1998 Plan of Management, a war memorial, sculptures and flagpole are located in Picnic Area 1 – the more intensively developed and landscaped of the Park's picnic areas. These are the focus of events on these special days each year. In 1995 the area was re-dedicated to the memory of service personnel as part of the "Australia Remembers" celebrations.



The venue is valued by the community for these memorial services, and the peaceful nature of the Park that adds to its commemorative roles.

3.3.4 Visitor Use, Recreation and Enjoyment

3.3.4.1 Access

The easy accessibility of the Park – both the area itself and the waterbody within it – is highly valued by the community. Many users of the Park live in close proximity to the area, often within riding or walking distance and use the area in early mornings and of an evening. Although not an inherent value of the Park, it is a large part of its appeal and results in high levels of use and appreciation by local residents. Community consultation has identified a strong desire for the Park's high accessibility to be maintained.

The 2008 *Warringah Recreation Needs Assessment* found that 39% of residents surveyed had used or visited Manly Dam at least once in the 12 month period prior to August 2008. Manly Warringah War Memorial Park was the third most accessed facility, behind Narrabeen Lagoon (57%) and the Warringah Aquatic Centre (44%). Results also indicated that 76% of those residents rated the overall quality of the facilities they had used as being in good condition, 22% rated them as average condition and no one thought facilities they had used were in poor condition (although 2% were uncertain).

The Park is also an important destination and valued outing for many special user groups such as the elderly and people with a disability. Many of these groups such as the Sunnyfield Association, the Cerebral Palsy Alliance and a variety of retirement homes are located along the north-eastern boundary of the Park and are very regular users (notably on a weekday). Some user groups simply drive through the Park to enjoy the view, while others use the picnic areas and associated facilities. Easy access to these areas is important to these user groups.

There are currently four parking areas within the Park, all are sealed, two servicing Picnic Area 1 and one each for Picnic Areas 3 and 4. At peak times (weekends and public holidays, in particular Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Mothers Day, Fathers Day and Easter) all parking bays may be occupied, and access to the Park by vehicle is then managed by the Park's Ranger staff. There are at present four disability parking bays available within the picnicking zone, however these are usually taken up very quickly.



Peak use periods, when the Park's car parking capacity is full or exceeded, can also cause congestion and safety issues at the main Park entrance off King Street – as there is no turn around bay at this point and access along King Street is narrow, making it difficult for vehicles (particularly buses) to turn around.

An accessible pathway was recently established inside the Park's main King Street entry, however pedestrian access to the Park entrance along King Street is hazardous due to the narrow width and absence of a footpath. Once inside the Park people moving between the picnic areas are forced to walk along the roadway between Picnic Areas 2, 3 and 4 due to the absence of an off road track or pathway.

The King Street entry and picnic areas are closed, to vehicles, at night with closing/opening times varying throughout the year.

In addition to the main King Street entry, the Park is also accessible from many points on the surrounding road network and adjoining open space areas – as shown in Figure 4. However only one of these access points, at the end of Nyrang Road, has additional car parking (beyond on-street parking). None of these secondary access points have additional park entry/orientation signage.

There is a large informal lay-by – on Roads and Maritime Services land beside Wakehurst Parkway – on the Park's north-west boundary which is heavily used as a carparking and access point by mountain bikers. There are also two northern entry points to the Park's walking track network from Aquatic Reserve – under and over the water main – however these appear little used. The Park's secondary perimeter access points are not formally closed after-hours.

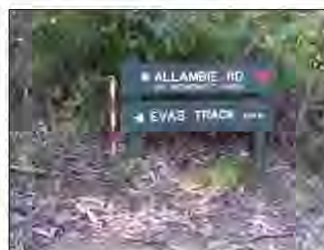
3.3.4.2 Tracks and trails

The Park's fire trails, and an extensive network of narrower tracks and trails, provide for recreational use of the bushland setting. Mountain bike riding and casual walking are the main uses of the track network. Less frequent uses include jogging or fitness training, dog-walking (on leash), nature enjoyment/appreciation and educational activities.

The Park offers over 16 kilometres of walking tracks, including 7 identified and marked routes, and a single 11 kilometre mountain bike circuit (not all of which was explicitly approved for mountain bike use under the 1998 Plan of Management). Approximately 4 kilometres of both networks are situated together, on shared-use fire trails and management accesses. Some of the trails within the Park are identified within Warringah's *Regional Multiple-Use Trail Strategy 2007* as "proposed strategic bushland multiple-use trails" – specifically the main mountain bike circuit and the link track to Allambie Heights (Roosevelt Avenue). The strategy recommended upgrading of the "Manly Dam Circuit (eastern and southern strategic sections)".

Walking Track Network

There are 7 identified and promoted walking tracks within the Park, as shown on Figure 6 – the Park Circuit Track (incorporating the Gulgadya Muru self-guided Aboriginal walk) around the dam and adjacent slopes, the Wildflower Walk and Nature Trail radiating from the day-use area, McCombs Hill Track near the Park entry, Curl Curl Track and Eva's Track in the far north, and the Heath Track looping off Allambie Heights.



Several link tracks connect the walking track network to surrounding residential streets on the Park's eastern and southern boundaries. As a result the Park is very "permeable", with multiple access points for nearby residents and visitors, which adds to its levels of use and value for walking.

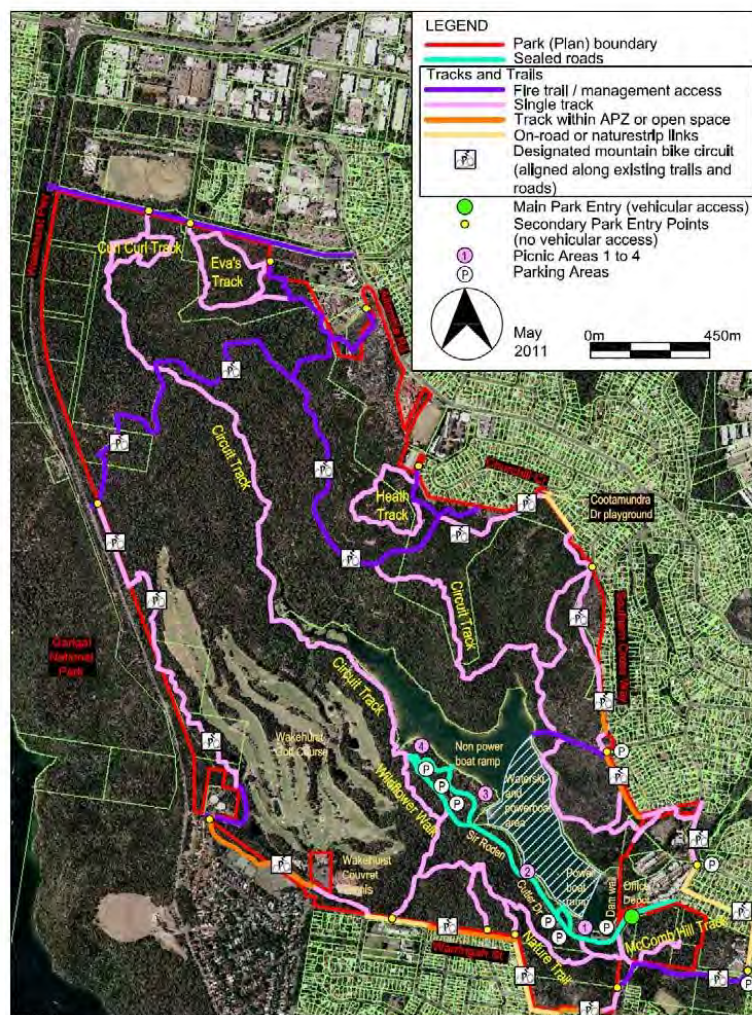


Figure 6 Tracks and trails

The tracks vary in distance and degree of difficulty and include a mixture of narrow or “single tracks”, as well as more open tracks through mown grass “fire breaks” (Asset Protection Zones) on the Park boundary and fire trails or management accesses. These tracks and trails vary in the attractions and experiences they offer – such as bushland, wildflowers, waterside scenery, waterfalls, and panoramic views.

The accessibility of the Park’s track network, appeal of walking within the bush and also beside the dam, the “peace and quiet” of the bushland, and the family-friendly character of the tracks (including being able to walk with children riding their bikes, and a non-threatening setting for less experienced bushwalkers) were identified strongly as Park values during the community



consultation process to-date. The “dog friendly” character of the Park, and the extended track network and large area it offers to walk dogs, were also valued.

Mountain Bike Circuit

The 11.2 kilometre mountain bike circuit is located mainly around the periphery of the Park and comprises sections of the fire trail system, fire breaks at the rear of private properties, sections of single track (at present signposted exclusively for mountain bike use) and off-Park sections along residential streets. The circuit provides a variety of conditions for mountain bike riders, including some “technical” sections requiring higher levels of ability. The route overall is rated as requiring a high to medium level of technical ability.

The mountain bike circuit has become an attraction at the regional level and beyond. It is estimated that up to 500 riders per day use the track in peak demand times on weekends, plus regular weekday use. A recent one-off “snapshot” survey of mountain bike usage levels on the mountain bike circuit (on 5 and 7 March 2011) showed the following:

- a low weekday morning usage, around 20 riders per hour, rising to 40 riders per hour afternoon; and
- on Saturday morning the peak usage was 80 riders per hour, largely comprising family groups (parent(s) and child/children) and friends, and an afternoon (after 3pm) average of 40 riders per hour with far fewer family groups.

The volume of mountain bike riding within the Park, as well as the frequency of use, both appear to be increasing. Anecdotal reports suggest that after-work and weekday use has increased, and the availability of high power LED lights has seen the emergence of night riding in recent years – with an increase in rider numbers into the evening/night, associated noise and light disturbances for adjoining properties, and unknown impacts for the area’s native fauna.

Riders typically use the entire loop, often completing a number of circuits, as well as congregating at more technical sections. The wider sections of the circuit – fire trail and sections along open/grassed boundary fire breaks – are used for multiple purposes including bush walking, dog walking, jogging and scenic viewing.

A five year work programme was proposed in 2008 to address safety issues, critical route upgrading and maintenance along with less urgent improvement works. The works programme has been progressively implemented. The opportunity exists for ongoing involvement from the mountain biking community, both in relation to track planning and maintenance.



The circuit is highly valued as a recreation asset by the mountain biking community. The route is valued for its length, mix of challenging sections and range of standards (that cater for a variety of skill and fitness levels), its loop configuration allowing for convenience and easy navigation, as a safe riding venue (without 4WDs or trailbikes), the proximity to picnic areas and facilities, and high levels of management. The sections of single track are especially valued by mountain bikers, as offering a sense of being “immersed in nature” and the feeling of “being out in the bush”.

In early 2010 Council became aware that parts of the 11.2 kilometre mountain bike circuit then in use were not approved for mountain biking under the 1998 Plan of Management. In February 2010, Council authorised mountain bike (and bicycle) use of this circuit track, through provisions of the 1998 Plan; and as part of the same resolution, prohibited walkers from two sections of narrow single track that form the mountain bike circuit. Figure 7 identifies the two current “bike only” sections of the circuit.



Figure 7 Current “bike only” sections of the mountain bike loop route

Four management options were presented in the *Manly Warringah War Memorial Park Issues and Discussion Paper* to address mountain biking and walking within the Park, and specifically these two narrow sections of the mountain bike circuit. Specific management actions have been developed based on the feedback received, a subsequent risk assessment (as below), Council’s available resources and expertise, and other management considerations.

The management actions for mountain biking in the Park are included within Section 5.3.3 of this Plan of Management.

Risk Management

A risk assessment of sections of the current mountain bike circuit was carried out by Statewide Mutual for Warringah Council in March 2011. The assessment focussed on these two sections currently closed to walkers (the “single track” section known as the “Trig Track” and the single track section in the Cootamundra Drive area). The Risk Assessment identified that:

“there is a risk that if walkers are allowed to share [the] bike trail, the bikers and/or walkers could be injured following a collision with, or in trying to avoid a collision with a walker”

Overall the assessment considered that the narrow track sections could be shared, provided that a range of risk management measures were first implemented. These measures, or possible controls, included:

- signage;
- directing bikers to ride clockwise around the trail, and walkers to walk anti-clockwise on the shared trail sections;
- consult with bikers to identify high speed/high risk locations where interaction with walkers could be of highest risk;
- consider options to provide "run-off" areas;
- bikers to use auditory alerts when approaching "blind" locations;
- walkers to be encouraged to wear high visibility clothing; and
- iPods' and MP3's not to be used in nominated shared locations.



Some of these measures present impracticalities in terms of implementation or enforcement.

3.3.4.3 Waterbody

Manly Dam has a capacity of approximately 2,000 megalitres (ML) and its waterbody is sheltered and deep (in most parts) with a surface area of approximately 30 hectares. The dam wall was first constructed across Curl Curl Creek in the late



1800's to supply drinking water to the local settlement. The dam's role in the supply of drinking water continued until 1936, after which time it became an important recreational facility for the local area and beyond. The waterbody currently provides a valued facility for swimming, fishing, waterskiing, canoe/kayaking and boating, among other activities. Significantly Manly Dam offers the largest, and only, sheltered freshwater "lake" on the northern beaches.

A growing population within the area, and the Sydney region, is placing more and more demand on the waterbody as a recreational venue. This increased demand can create both conflicts in the type of activities undertaken (or competing demands for intended uses) on and around the waterbody, as well as concerns about equitable access to and recreational use of the waterbody.

Waterskiing

Waterskiing has been undertaken on the dam since 1947. It is now only permitted within a designated area of the dam and within specific times each day. Current waterskiing times encompass most of the available daylight hours each day – totalling 67 hours per week during daylight saving times, and 63 hours per week in non-daylight saving times, as shown in Table 5. The waterskiing zone is well-marked with buoys across the water surface as well as signs along the water's edge. The



designated area covers approximately 40% of the waterbody's surface area, within the mid-section of the dam between Picnic Area 1 and Picnic Area 3, and blocks passage between the lower and upper reaches of the waterbody. A waterski jump is located within the designated area and the waterskiing zone offers tournament (jump and slalom) training as well as a disabled ski course. Figure 8 identifies the waterskiing and powerboat zone.



The dam is highly valued by the waterskiing community as the only venue of its type on the northern beaches, with the nearest comparable sheltered freshwater venue a considerable distance away in western Sydney.

Table 5 Current Waterskiing Timetable

Current Waterskiing Timetable - Daylight Savings Time (non-daylight savings times are everyday 8:00am to 5:00pm)		
Monday	10:00am to 7:00pm	9 hours
Tuesday	7:30am to 5:00pm	9.5 hours
Wednesday	7:30am to 7:00pm	11.5 hours
Thursday	10:00am to 7:00pm	9 hours
Friday	7:30am to 5:00pm	9.5 hours
Saturday	9:00am to 7:00pm	10 hours 2 slots – morning for social/casual users, afternoon for Club Members
Sunday	7:30am to 4:00pm	8.5 hours 2 slots – morning and afternoon both for Club Members

Note: There are no changes to the timetable for public holidays

The Manly Warringah Water Ski Club has managed the use of this area since 1962, under the direction of the Park Manager and various agreements with Council. A fee is charged by Council for this usage agreement. At the time of writing the Ski Club had 12 members and 18 registered boats, as well as over 130 associate or social members with a further 40-plus boats. The current agreement requires the Ski Club to limit boat noise and makes insurance compulsory for all boats that use the area. A maximum of 2 boats are permitted to use the area at any given time, with bookings made on an allocated time or "slot" basis (usually of 3-4 hours duration each).

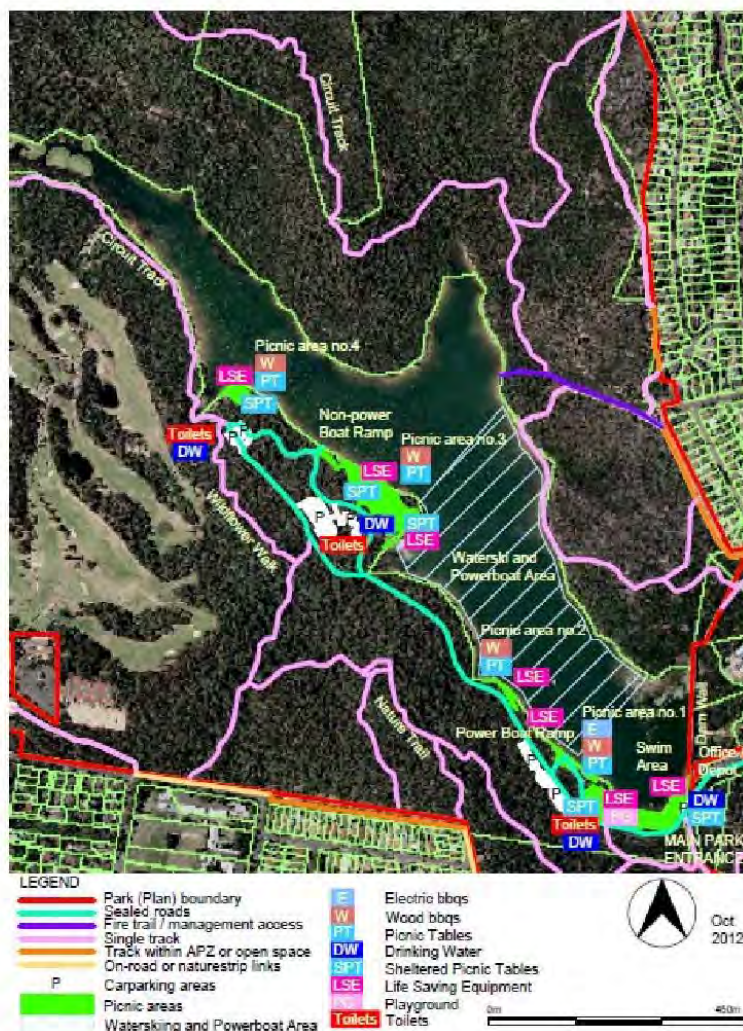


Figure 8 Picnic areas and waterski/powerboat zone

Weekends are the busiest waterskiing time and the typical usage pattern in the past, and at present, has been for slots to be made available to Ski Club members on Saturday afternoons, Sunday mornings and Sunday afternoons, with associate members and casual users being allocated Saturday morning slots only – as shown in Table 5.

Under the Ski Club's terms of use it is required to take bookings for non-members, such as casual users, to use the area for water skiing. The Ski Club carries insurance for its members. Non-members seeking to use the dam for water skiing must, according to the Agreement, carry appropriate insurance – including insurance coverage for use of ski jumps

(regardless of whether the individual intends using the jump or not). The Ski Club acts as “gatekeeper” for the designated waterskiing area checking the insurance, boat registration and licensing of non-members applying to use the area.

Other recreational activities make use of the designated water skiing area when skiers and power boats are not on the water, however this is discouraged by current signage at the dam. The location of the waterskiing zone divides the waterbody into three activity areas and restricts the overall recreational use of the dam – especially for long-distance activities and opportunities to use the entire waterbody.

Other recreational users of the waterbody

Manly Dam’s waterbody caters for many other recreational pursuits in addition to waterskiing – such as swimming, kayaking, canoeing, sail boarding, boating, model yacht and replica boats and fishing. The venue is used for triathlon training, a range of training uses by local surf life saving clubs, and is growing in popularity for paddle boarding (conventional and stand-up).



These activities are permissible within two separate areas of the waterbody – near the dam wall, adjacent Picnic Area 1, and within the northern section of the dam, adjacent to Picnic Areas 3 and 4.

These activities are excluded from the waterskiing zone (located in between them) to reduce conflict and safely separate motorised from non-motorised waterway uses.

The waterbody provides a protected area for these activities and there are few freshwater recreational facilities such as this within the Sydney region. Recreational users include organised groups such as; Scouts, Surf Life Saving Clubs, Swimming Clubs, Triathlon Clubs and the Model Boat Club. Many of these groups also value the resource as a training venue.



Manly Dam is a popular venue for recreational fishing. Three native and three non-native fish can be found at Manly Dam. The dam is periodically re-stocked with Australian Bass and has been stocked with Silver Perch in the past. Section 4, near the wetlands is thought to be the best fishing spot.

Overall the waterbody is a highly valued recreational facility catering for a variety of activities. Users value the venue’s sheltered freshwater and (mostly) deep nature, and as a “safe” and attractive place providing for a variety of activities within a bushland setting. It is a venue with the potential to better accommodate these and other water-based recreational uses in the future.

3.3.4.4 Day use areas

The day use area of the Park comprises the four designated picnic areas located around the south-western edge of the dam. They are a popular northern beaches recreation venue, and the most intensively developed and heavily used part of the Park.

Access to the area is provided via the main entrance to the Park at the end of King Street, Manly Vale. The day use area includes four parking areas, three amenities blocks, a district playground (provided in Area 1) and barbeques (both electric and wood-burning), picnic tables and seat sets, and open grassed picnic spaces. A power boat ramp is provided between Section 1 and 2 and a non-power boat ramp provided adjacent to Section 3, both with vehicle access.

The day use area is particularly popular on public holidays and weekends – with the carparking capacity occasionally exceeded at peak use periods. The picnic areas provide a respite from urban living in an attractive and largely natural surrounds. The areas' accessibility and facilities make them very popular with a wide range of the community – including the young, elderly, active, and passive visitors, as well as special needs groups, educational groups, Church groups and other organisations.

Weekends and public holidays – in particular Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Mothers Day, Fathers Day and Easter – are the busiest times for usage and bookings.

These facilities encourage and provide for visitor enjoyment of the Park and waterbody, and are highly valued by the community and an established "family venue" for many residents of the northern beaches. Seating and sheltered areas are particularly important to the elderly and people with special needs. Community consultation and past visitor surveys indicated that visitors are happy with the way these facilities are managed and maintained. The "low-key" and "less developed" nature of the picnic areas, and family-oriented character, are also a large part of the area's appeal. The community consultation process strongly supported the "status quo" – in terms of the amenities/facilities and the type of recreation/relaxation spaces provided – with "minimal structures and signs" and "minimal level of development" being especially important. The bushland setting of the more northern picnic areas – Sections 2, 3 and 4 – and the retention of wood-burning barbeques are both increasingly uncommon in parks across northern Sydney and so are highly valued by users of the Park and part of the area's attraction.



A number of the picnic tables are covered/sheltered, and all are available for booking – on a whole day basis – through Council's Booking System. The current booking fee is \$45 per table or \$65 per covered table. Each table and surrounding area can accommodate up to 50 people. It is recommended that groups over 50 book more than one table. The picnic areas are popular for large groups, who can reserve all or part of an area, as well as for corporate and organised events. The picnic areas are also a popular venue for community events.

The community highly values the "clean and well maintained facilities" – toilets, shelters, electric and wood-burning barbeques, playground and garbage bins. The area's appeal as a

location for family and group gatherings, and particularly its appeal as a peaceful setting in natural surrounds, were both expressed strongly in the community consultation process.

The social benefits of having facilities adjacent to other recreation areas and activities – such as waterskiing or mountain bike riding – is also valued by users of the Park.

3.3.4.5 Playgrounds

The playground within Picnic Area 1 of the day use area is identified as a 'District Playground' within Council's 2007 *Playground Strategy*. District playgrounds service a wider catchment for residents within a suburb and visiting from neighbouring areas. The Cootamundra Drive playground is also within the boundaries of Manly Warringah War Memorial Park, along the eastern boundary within Allambie Heights, and is classed as a "Neighbourhood Playground"



typically catering for a highly localised catchment within walking distance (10 minutes) from residences. A survey was carried out as part of the community consultation for the 2007 Strategy, with 505 respondents who identified the playground within Picnic Area 1 as one of the top 20 most visited parks/playgrounds in Warringah.

3.3.4.6 Information, Interpretation and Educational Uses

A number of groups use the bushland and dam as an educational venue or asset. Local schools frequently visit the Park, and Rangers regularly provide educational talks/tours and information regarding the natural environment and other Park values. These talks are often provided within the main picnic areas. Council also has a periodic education programme associated with the Park.

Tertiary students use the Park for studies on water quality and the natural environment. The Park also has a wide collection of internet based information, however on-site interpretive material is lacking.



The Park provides an opportunity for general community education regarding the natural environment. A number of information posters are currently provided within the picnic areas giving information about native flora and fauna as well as the dam's history and current pressures/impacts on the Park. The Wildflower Walk and Nature Trail both lead into the surrounding bushland from the picnic areas and are well suited to educational "walks and talks".

Council's "Keeping Our Dam Alive" held during 2007 and 2008 was a programme aimed at educating local residents and visitors on "why Manly Dam is such a special place". It provided information on how residents and visitors can help care for the bushland and water quality of the dam. Community events were held at the dam to raise awareness of the programme and an educational kit was developed for local schools.

Warringah Council's 2007 Cultural Plan, generally, supports environmental education through environmental walks, information and cultural events that celebrate the natural environment as well as continuing partnerships with local schools to promote environmental education. Manly Warringah War Memorial Park provides an excellent venue to support these initiatives.

Ranger education talks to groups are valued and the Parks' developed and accessible area provides an opportunity to target a large number of visitors with a variety of interpretive and educational information.

3.3.4.7 Wakehurst Golf Course

The Wakehurst Golf Course is located within the south-western section of the Park, and covers an area of approximately 50 hectares.

The Wakehurst Golf Club Limited has a lease agreement with Council for the greater majority of this area and its operation as a golf course. However the Clubhouse and most of the adjoining carparking area – which also services the adjacent Wakehurst Couvret Tennis Courts – is located on a separate area of Crown Reserve (Reserve 93184 for Future Public Requirements) which the Club leases directly from the Crown Lands Division (formerly the Land and Property Management Authority) as Special Lease 1970/4



Metropolitan. This smaller area is not part of the Park (and not subject to this Plan's provisions).

The 18-hole course has spectacular views over Manly Dam and the Park's surrounding natural areas. Areas of native vegetation are retained as part of the course layout.

A range of memberships are available to the Golf Club, and the course is accessible to the general public.

The Golf Course site was built up by way of a commercial landfill operation, and there is the possibility that the area is still discharging leachate and other pollutants into the groundwater and surrounding areas. The Park's vegetation mapping shows several plumes of "highly disturbed" vegetation filling the small gullies running downslope from the course and along the lower margins of the fairways. These may be a legacy of past landfill activity, or an off-site flow-on result of water and fertiliser usage on the course above. Wakehurst Golf Club Limited also has a licence to draw water from the dam to irrigate the course.

There are a number of Aboriginal rock engravings located within the boundaries of the golf course. The Park's staff previously assisted in the management of these sites, but this is now largely undertaken by the Wakehurst Golf Club Limited itself.

There are a number of land and environmental issues on the Wakehurst Golf Course lease area that have implications for downslope and other areas of the Park. The effective management of these, as well as the course's integration with the wider Park management objectives and programmes, has varied in the past.

Users of the course value its natural setting, and in particular the quality of the views over the Park and the dam.

3.3.4.8 Wakehurst Tennis Courts

The Wakehurst Couvret Tennis Courts consist of 10 courts (6 synthetic grass and 4 hard court), floodlit for night use, and associated amenities. They are located immediately east of the Wakehurst Golf Course parking area. The courts are managed as a sub-lease from Wakehurst Golf Club Limited. Parking for the facility is shared with Wakehurst Golf Course and is mostly located on the Club's special lease area from the Crown Lands Division.

3.3.5 Landscape and Scenic Values

The Park's bushland provides a "green space" within a largely urban setting. Once in the Park, the dominant scene is largely of a natural bushland area and a calm waterway. From many vantage points within the Park, particularly within the lower catchment area, it is hard to see evidence of the surrounding urban development. Bushland details – such as vegetation textures, flowers and rock formations provide aesthetics at the small scale. The Park is also very attractive for many neighbours who overlook the area.



The Park's visual qualities, as a natural green space in an urban environment, and the largely undisturbed skyline giving a feeling of "being in the middle of nowhere", were identified as important values during the community consultation.

3.3.6 Leases, Licences and Special Uses

3.3.6.1 Special Uses and Commercial Activities

The Park is used, by permission and sometimes at night, by groups such as Scouts and the Defence Force for training and education purposes. Some of the activities include camping, diver training, orienteering, night bike riding and night canoeing. It is also occasionally used as a training venue for emergency services such as the Westpac rescue helicopter, police divers and ambulance service.

Commercial activities at the Park must be in accordance with Council's *Interim Policy on the Management of the Commercial Use of Beaches, Reserves and Buildings/Facilities in Warringah 2006*. This Policy identifies Manly Warringah War Memorial Park as a "restricted area". The approval of commercial activities within the Park would not be consistent with the Policy, with the exception of privately provided educational activities. This Policy is currently under review by Council. Any application for commercial activities within the Park must be in accordance with the current Policy, as in place at the time of application, and must not impact on the values identified within this Plan of Management.

3.3.6.2 Leases and licences

The following leases, as shown on Figure 9, are current within the Manly Warringah War Memorial Park:

- Wakehurst Golf Club Limited – lease for golf course;
- Wakehurst Couvret Tennis Club – sub-lease, from Wakehurst Golf Club Limited, for tennis courts complex.

The only licence current within the Manly Warringah War Memorial Park is for Wakehurst Golf Club Limited for the extraction of irrigation water from the dam waterbody.

In most cases, granting of a lease or licence (excluding temporary licences) within the Park will require the consent of the Minister for Lands. Longer term of more significant leases and licences are appropriately offered via a public tender process, to ensure equity and transparency. The following issues will usually be considered by the Crown Lands Division when seeking the Minister's consent (as set out in Chapter 14 "Leases, Licences and External Land Management Agreements" of the *LPMA Reserve Trust Handbook 2007*.):

- whether the proposed lease or licence is in the public interest;
- whether the purpose of the proposed lease or licence is compatible with the reserve purpose;
- the environmental impacts of the activities permitted by the lease or licence;
- the proposed term of the lease or licence;
- whether the proposed lease or licence was or is proposed to be selected by public competition or, if not, the circumstances relating to the selection of the proposed lessee or licensee;
- whether the proposed rent represents a proper return to the public for the use of the public land;
- whether the proposed lease or licence will contain provisions for the periodic updating or review of the rent;
- whether the proposed lease or licence contains clauses relating to –
 - the termination of the lease or licence in the event of a revocation of the reserve,
 - the indemnification of the reserve trust, the Crown and the NSW Government against claims for compensation,
 - appropriate insurance provisions.



Figure 9 Current leases

A Trust does not need approval from the Minister or the Crown Lands Division to grant a temporary licence but it should apply similar consideration (as may be appropriate) to the above in deciding whether or not to grant such a licence.

Section 5.3.5 of this Plan provides management actions in relation to the granting of leases or licenses within the Park.

3.3.6.3 Filming

Over the years, a variety of filming projects have been carried out within the Park – providing a source of income for the Park.

The *Filming Related Legislation Amendment Act 2008* amended the *Crown Lands Act 1989* to allow the granting of a lease or licence for a filming project within a Crown Reserve, regardless of whether the use is consistent with an adopted plan of management or the purpose of the reserve.

Reserve Trusts must still seek Ministers consent for any lease or licence application greater than 12 months, temporary licences may however be granted by the Trust without Ministers consent. The State Government Policy 'Making NSW Film Friendly' encourages filming in Crown Reserves. This is further supported by the *Local Government Filming Protocol 2009*.

3.4 Park Assets

There are a variety of built assets provided within the Park. The largest array of these are provided within the day use areas and are used for recreation and public enjoyment. These include assets such as picnic tables, shelters, boat ramps, toilet blocks, car parks, bins, barbeques, signs, life buoys, memorials, retaining wall, and others. The other major concentration of asset is in the Park office and depot, where they are used for the purposes of park management and administration.

A condition assessment of park assets was carried out for the preparation of this Plan of Management. It provides a description of all built assets within the Park and their condition. Most of the assets provided within the Park can be rated as being in an "adequate" or "good". A copy of the Condition Assessment Table is provided in Appendix A.

3.5 Park Neighbours

Surrounding land uses generate a range of direct and indirect impacts on the Park, with these often exacerbated by their location upslope along the catchment's ridges. The Park's entire eastern edge, most of its southern boundary and part of its northern margin abut predominantly residential areas – in the suburbs of North Balgowlah, Manly Vale, Allambie



Heights and Frenchs Forest. Facilities offering independent and assisted care for seniors and people with disabilities, as well as primary schools, are also located on or close to the Park's boundary. These areas in particular, provide a higher density of living on the edge of the Park. In addition however, there is commercial and industrial development at the top of the catchment – along, and close to, the northern boundary to the Park (see Figure 4).

Continuing residential development presents silt and sediment issues, and both new and existing urban land uses have on-going water quality implications. Garden plant "escapees" as well as fertiliser and irrigation runoff from surrounding areas impact on the Park's vegetation (made worse at times by the deliberate dumping of garden wastes in the Park). Encroachments have sometimes occurred, with private gardens and furniture being established beyond private property boundaries and into the Park. Uncontrolled dogs and, in particular, cats prey on or disturb native wildlife.

Deliberate rubbish dumping is frequent along the Park's Wakehurst Parkway edge, and off less heavily trafficked roads.

A more subtle, but longer term threat, is the prospect of "visual pollution" from developments and large structures on and near the Park's boundary (and others located some distance away, but still highly visible) that detract from the Park's largely natural skyline and visual catchment – which is a central component of the quality of the recreational experience of Park users.

Council has addressed some of these environmental impacts via the installation of water quality improvement measures on the creeklines feeding the dam, both within the Park and in the surrounding areas, bush regeneration and weed control measures (both contract and community volunteer efforts) and neighbour education/awareness campaigns.

3.6 Park Management and Administration

The current administration and management arrangements have proven effective, throughout the past decades, in protecting and presenting the Park as the valued place it is today.

3.6.1.1 Warringah Council – Trust Manager

Warringah Council manages the affairs of the Manly Warringah War Memorial Park (R68892) Reserve Trust which was appointed by the Minister for Lands on 22nd August 1997. The Trust – and therefore Warringah Council as the Trust manager – has responsibility for the Park's care, control and management consistent with the dedicated public purpose of the reservation, in this case public recreation, as well as the principles of Crown Land management as set out in the of the *Crown Lands Act 1989*.

A Reserve Trust operates with a degree of autonomy in this care, control and management role and can enter into maintenance contracts, determine the level of development of an area (subject to Crown consent), set entry fees, employ staff, and perform other park management functions. As Trust Manager, these functions for Warringah War Memorial Park are undertaken by Warringah Council.

The Crown Lands Division usually provides Reserve Trusts with operational support, financial assistance and guidance. Under section 122 of the *Crown Lands Act 1989* Reserve Trusts are required to provide an annual report to the Minister which includes (in accordance with Clause 33 of the *Crown Lands Regulation 2000*) details of income, expenditure, assets, liabilities, improvements, leases and licences granted or in force, uses made of the reserve and any matters of pecuniary interest.

Warringah Council, as Trust Manager and day-to-day manager body for the Park, has supported and funded the Park far in excess of any revenue generated by the area, despite the area's use by visitors from a far wider catchment than the immediate LGA.

3.6.1.2 Staffing and resources

Manly Warringah War Memorial Park is currently managed by Council staff, who also have the responsibility to manage Stony Range Botanic Garden in Dee Why. The Park Manager and Rangers operate from the Park office and depot compound located at the Park's King Street entrance. Park staff manage the day-to-day activities of the Park – including overseeing maintenance, enforcement of Council's policies and legislative requirements, notification of reserve bookings, responding to complaints, risk management of recreational facilities, notification of closures to the Park (due to maintenance or weather conditions), oversee management of bush regeneration works and other works within the Park, and manage volunteer groups – among other responsibilities.

Park staff are part of Council's Parks, Reserves and Foreshore Group which is located at Council's Cromer Office. Bookings for picnic tables and events are managed through Council's Reserves Bookings Team, also located at Council's Cromer Office, and notified to Park staff who then manage the bookings on-site.

3.6.1.3 Park Office and Depot Compound

A small Park office and depot compound is located adjacent to the Park entry at the end of King Street and on the southern dam wall abutment. This area includes offices, staff facilities, workshops, outdoor and undercover storage and carparking all enclosed by a 1.8 metre high wire mesh fence and lockable gates. It provides the operational base from which the Park staff manage the area and provide information to visitors as required.

3.6.1.4 Land tenure issues and boundary rationalisation

There are anomalies in the tenure and boundaries of several land parcels around the Park boundary. A number of adjacent areas could be usefully added to the Park to consolidate the area's boundaries and provide a more effective management "edge".

Five parcels of land – 2 narrow blocks in the Park's south-east and 3 larger blocks beside Wakehurst Parkway in the north-west – are subject to land claims under the *NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*.

3.6.1.5 Easements

There are a number of easements throughout the Park – for sewer, water and power lines. These easements are often maintained by other Authorities, such as the Rural Fire Service, NSW Fire Brigades, electricity utilities and Sydney Water. They are maintained for their purpose as an easement/access which may include vegetation clearing or trimming and trail upgrading. The management of these easements however can impact on the surrounding natural environment through vegetation loss, weed introduction or spread and soil erosion/deposition.

3.6.1.6 Finance and revenue generation

Council's recent annual budget for the management of Manly Warringah War Memorial Park has typically been in the order of \$600,000 annually. This is significantly greater than the revenue generated by the Park – which is usually in the order of \$50,000 to \$60,000 annually. At present revenue generated by the Park chiefly comes from booking fees (for picnic areas, special events, and so on), lease fees from the Wakehurst Golf Club Limited, fees from Manly Water Ski Club, filming fees and other sundry charges.

A park entry fee has been charged at the Park, during peak use periods, in the past. However this proved not to be cost effective and is no longer in place. The introduction of a "pay and display" parking system has recently been investigated by Council and is proposed to be implemented within the life of this plan.

Council manages a centralised booking system for the picnic areas. Bookings are made with Council's Venue Management Team for use of the picnic tables and areas for events such as weddings and filming. People value being able to book areas for group gatherings, especially during peak usage times – including weekends and public holidays and in particular Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Mothers Day, Fathers Day and Easter.

Council's *Interim Policy on the Management of the Commercial Use of Beaches, Reserves & Buildings/Facilities in Warringah* (CCS-PL 612) specifically identifies Manly Warringah War Memorial Park as a "Restricted Area" – defined in the interim policy as areas that will not be available for commercial activities and where only privately provided educational activities will be considered (as consistent with a plan of management). This severely limits revenue generating opportunities within the Park. This Policy is under review at present.

Despite this policy a number of approved commercial operations have been undertaken in the Park in the past – such as canoe and sailboard hire – but none have been sufficiently viable/successful to continue for an extended period.

Revenue generation options must also recognise a prior agreement between Warringah and Manly Councils, dating from the period of the Manly and Warringah District Parks Joint Committee (which included the Park) from 1953 to 1991 when Manly Council provided some of the Park's management funding. On Manly Council's withdrawal from this Joint Management Agreement in 1991 it was agreed that "... the residents of the Municipality of Manly shall be entitled thereafter to access and use of the Manly Dam Reserve on the same conditions as those which apply from time to time to the residents of the Warringah Shire."

4 Basis for Management

4.1 Overview of Threats to Values and Management Issues

This Section of the Plan of Management sets the scene for the development of management actions for the Park. Table 6 identifies the key values held for the Park and the issues and/or threats to each of the values. These, along with the community's values and aspirations for the Park as expressed through the various stages of the consultation process, form the basis for management of the Park and have informed the development of Management Actions as described in the following Chapter.

Table 6 Basis for Management

VALUES	ISSUES / THREATS
NATURAL HERITAGE VALUES	
Native flora, vegetation communities and habitats	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Large bushland reserve within an urban landscape with over 75% of the reserve as bushland. - Supports three vegetation communities which are either listed under the TSC Act or are of other conservation significance. - Supports threatened flora. - Varied landscape and vegetation communities, and a large bushland area, provide a variety of habitats to support fauna within the Park. - The Park supports a diversity of flora and high quality bushland. - The Park provides a respite from the urban environment and provides "peace and quiet". - Bushland provides a scenic value. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special management/protection is required of endangered ecological communities, communities of local conservation significance and threatened or significant species. - Pressure from weeds and feral/domestic animals requires ongoing management - Ongoing need to raise community awareness due to "edge effect" disturbance and pressure such as garden plant escapees, fertiliser use and uncontrolled or polluted stormwater runoff. - Fragmentation of bushland by tracks and associated erosion and sedimentation problems. - Management (ongoing clearing) of easements by other Authorities impacting on vegetation and erosion. - Balance of bushland protection with recreational use, fire management and provision of easements. - Illegal vegetation clearing and property encroachments.
Native Fauna	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Park provides for a variety of fauna and provides opportunity for viewing native 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weed impacts of urban boundaries. - Dumping and spread of aquatic weeds in the

VALUES	ISSUES / THREATS
<p>wildlife in a predominantly urban area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports 4 resident species considered vulnerable under the TSC Act. - Supports the Climbing Galaxias, the most northerly population of this species in Australia, among other species of interest 	<p>waterbody – such as <i>Salvinia molesta</i>, <i>Egeria densa</i> and <i>Nymphaea Mexicana</i> (Mexican or Yellow Waterlily).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bush regeneration requires ongoing funding to keep areas weed free. - Presence of dogs (even on lead) can distress or deter wildlife. - Dumping of pest animals in the waterbody - ducks, fish and turtles. - Enforcement of 'no cats' covenants in adjacent residential areas is difficult. - Rabbits have become an increasing problem in recent years. - On-going threats related to fox predation. - Garden plant "escapees", fertiliser, sediment and stormwater runoff from surrounding areas impact on the Park's vegetation.
Fire Management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council has responsibility to protect persons and property, immediately adjacent to the Park, from hazards such as wildfires. - Council manages the bushland in accordance with the Park's Fire Regime Management Plan (Eco Logical 2006). - Asset Protection Zones are maintained along the Park's boundaries to manage fire risk along the urban edge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Persons and property, immediately adjacent the Park, are at risk from wildfires, this includes nursing homes and special accommodation facilities along the north-western boundary. Fire threats can also extend to more distant properties due to spot fires and ember attack. - Fire management needs to be planned and implemented in accordance with relevant policies and legislation. - Fire management is typically a top priority, and often an emotional issue, for people next to bushland areas.
Bushland Linkages	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bushland linkages / wildlife corridors provide a means of genetic exchange for flora and fauna between other bushland reserves in the area. - The viability of fauna and flora within the Park, and the variety of fauna and flora, can be improved by the successful management of bushland linkages. - Existing and potential corridors to the Park have been identified (see P&J Smith 2005b). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bushland linkages need to be protected and enhanced to enable movement of flora and fauna between reserves in Warringah. - Isolation of flora and fauna can result in a decrease in biodiversity within the Park. - Other area adjoining the Park could be considered as linkages, including links to Burnt Bridge Creek and District Park, in future reviews of Local Habitat Strategies.
Landscape Protection	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Park protects a large intact area of bushland and habitat. - This is the largest Park managed by local government within the Northern Beaches. Larger parks within the region are managed by National Parks. - The Park provides protection for the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing urban development provides increased pressures on the Park, increased number of visitors, increased edge effects and potential for pollution. - Large bulk or high rise developments in the Park's visual catchment, and/or on the skyline, detracting from the area's visual

VALUES	ISSUES / THREATS
catchment as the majority of the catchment is within the boundaries of the Park	appeal.
CATCHMENT AND WATER QUALITY VALUES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Predominantly bushland catchment- The Park's natural bushland and largely intact riparian vegetation assist in maintaining water quality in creeks and dam.- Water quality monitoring provides data for water safety and changes over time.- Two metre diameter submersible propeller installed near the dam wall aids in water circulation and reduces the severity and frequency of blue-green algal blooms.- Good water quality readings support the significant level of recreational use on the dam.- The dam is valued as a tool to minimise flood damage to properties around Manly Lagoon.- The dam water is important as a bulk water supply for the Manly Hydraulics Laboratory and Water Research Laboratory as well as the Wakehurst Golf Course and downstream for the Warringah Golf Club.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Two former landfill sites occur within the catchment, potentially impacting water quality.- Ongoing need for water quality management / improvements.- Ongoing need for neighbour education to maintain good water quality in feeder creeks and the dam.- Fertiliser, sediment and stormwater runoff from surrounding areas impact on the Park's water quality.- Sewerage overflows can adversely impact on water quality.- Blue-green algal blooms or poor water quality can significantly impact on the recreational use of the dam.
CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUES	
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- There is evidence of Aboriginal occupation within the Park.- The Park provides an opportunity for education regarding Aboriginal culture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Protection of known, newly located and unrecorded Aboriginal heritage sites threatened if management of these areas is not ongoing.- Opportunities to involve Aboriginal people in protecting and presenting the Park's Aboriginal heritage.
Historic (non-Aboriginal Heritage)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- There are a number of heritage items within the Park that provide a link with past use.- There are also records which provide a link with the Park's, and the dam's, past use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Protection of heritage items threatened if management of these areas is not ongoing.
War memorial and commemorations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Park was established as a War Memorial Park after World War 1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Emphasis on recognition of the Park being a War Memorial Park.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Park provides a venue to remember and commemorate fallen service personnel and respect members of the Defence forces.- A war memorial and sculptures provide a venue for Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Incomplete "initial" war memorial.

VALUES		ISSUES / THREATS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Peaceful nature of the Park adds to its commemorative role. 			
VISITOR USE, RECREATION AND ENJOYMENT			
Access			
<p>The Park is accessible to people of all ages and abilities..</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of disability parking bays is limited. - The main entrance becomes congested during peak usage periods and it is difficult for vehicles to turn around. - Pedestrian access to the Park entry along King Street is not well provided for. - Amenities in Area 1 are not true “accessibility” toilets. - Amenities generally are in need of upgrading to cater for increasingly high community expectations. - Amenities and facilities require a high level of maintenance. - Safe pedestrian access between Area 2 and Area 4 is not provided. - Carparking at secondary Park access points can cause congestion on residential streets. - Multiple access points can make managing visitor entry and activities difficult. - Entry point off Wakehurst Parkway may be hazardous. 	
Tracks and trails			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walking track network - Over 16 kilometres of walking tracks are provided, over 7 defined routes. - The Walking tracks and trails vary in distance and degree of difficulty and cater for a variety of users. - The Walking tracks and trails vary in attractions and experiences - The Park’s track network is easily accessible - Tracks and trails are “family friendly and “dog friendly”. They provide an opportunity to enjoy the “peace and quiet” of the bushland. - Mountain bike circuit - An 11 kilometre mountain bike circuit is provided. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable management of walking track and mountain bike circuit is needed to reduce impact on surrounding natural areas. - Safety of walkers and riders on shared use sections. - Community attitudes are divided on need for off leash dog areas within the Park. - Mountain bike circuit - Mountain bike traffic currently goes through the Cootamundra Drive Reserve and playground. - Mountain biking along the Park boundary can disturb adjoining residences. - There is an increase in demand for use of the mountain bike circuit, therefore increasing use and pressure on the circuit. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Users value the variety of experiences provided by the circuit, narrow trails, wide trails, technical sections, etc. - Single track sections are especially valued by the riders. - The circuit caters for up to 500 riders per day 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emergence of night riding and unauthorised track construction - Mountain bike “code of conduct” is not readily advertised. - Mountain bike “code of conduct” not adhered to by all riders 	

VALUES	ISSUES / THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> during peak periods, attracting riders from beyond the local area. - Proximity of track to picnic areas and facilities is valued by the riders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mountain bikers desires for greater/other uses of the circuit and other tracks and differing aspirations for the mountain bike circuit. - Some sections of the circuit are beyond the Park boundary. - Requests for events
Waterbody	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manly Dam is one of the largest freshwater lakes in Sydney. - Sheltered and deep freshwater lake provides a number of opportunities for recreation. - Waterskiing - There is a long history of waterskiing on the dam. It has been undertaken since 1947 and generations of families have become members of the Club. - The waterskiing zone offers tournament (jump and slalom) training as well as a disabled ski course. - Only waterskiing zone within the northern beaches, nearest comparable venue is in western Sydney. - Other recreational users of the dam - The dam provides a venue for a variety of recreational pursuits such as swimming, kayaking, canoeing, sail boarding, model boats and fishing. - The water quality, fresh water and clean, is highly valued by these user groups. - Many groups/organisations also value the dam as a training venue. - Dam is periodically re-stocked with Australian Bass for recreational fishing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Growing population within the area and the region is placing more demand on the dam as a recreational venue. - Pollution of water from outside sources can disrupt recreational use of the dam. - Visitor safety needs to be appropriately managed to reduce risk to people when using the waterbody. - Waterskiing. - A sheltered freshwater waterskiing venue is a rare recreational asset in northern Sydney. - Complex time allocation for use of waterskiing zone. - Designated waterskiing area represents a disproportionately large allocation of the waterbody. - Waterskiing zone divides the waterbody into three use areas and restricts movements between the areas, reducing recreational use of the whole waterbody. - Noise from waterskiing can detract from the enjoyment of the area. - Current booking system can result in exclusion of non-members of the Ski Club from using the waterskiing zone. - Requests for events
Day use areas	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The day use area is a popular venue. It provides picnic and barbeque facilities, and associated amenities, within a bushland setting. - The picnic area is valued as it can be booked for large and small groups, and is most popular on Public Holidays and weekends. - The wood fire barbeques are particularly valued as the Park is one of the few places that provides such an experience in the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Picnic areas are approaching capacity, in peak periods, in regard to the number of picnic tables/sites that can be accommodated without detracting from visitor experiences and crowding the area. - Limits on the level and intensity of site and facility development is required to maintain the low-key character of the area. - The booking fee for picnic areas is considered as prohibitive by some user groups.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excessive use of a bookings-only approach can disadvantage "walk-up" or occasional visitors. - Collection of kindling and firewood from

VALUES	ISSUES / THREATS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> nearby bushland can impact on the habitat value of these areas. Requests for events
Playgrounds	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two playgrounds are provided within the Park. A District Playground is provided within the Picnic Area 1 and a Neighbourhood Playground is provided within Cootamundra Drive Reserve, along the eastern boundary of the Park. These playgrounds cater for two distinct user groups. A survey carried out for the preparation of the 2007 Playground Strategy identified the playground within Picnic Area 1 in the top 20 most visited parks/playgrounds in Warringah. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cootamundra Drive Reserve playground is in need of upgrading to meet Australian Standards.
Information, Interpretation and Educational Uses	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local schools value the Park as an educational venue/tool. Rangers provide educational talks and tours and information regarding the natural environment. Tertiary students use the Park for studies on water quality and the natural environment. The Park provides an opportunity for general community education regarding the natural environment and the Parks' cultural history. High visitor use, easy accessibility and short walks within close proximity to the Day Use area all provide opportunity for education. The Park is an important venue for cultural, recreation and community events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational talks and tours require funding. Educational use of the Park could be promoted and accommodated more than it is now. Improve educational and interpretative signage within the Park
Wakehurst Golf Course and Wakehurst Couvret Tennis Courts	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wakehurst Golf Course provides a valuable recreational facility. Views from the 18-hole golf course, over the dam and the natural setting of the golf course are highly valued. A number of Aboriginal rock engravings are located within the boundaries of the golf course, management of these sites is by the Club. Wakehurst Couvret Tennis Courts provide a valuable recreational facility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irrigation and use of fertilisers and pesticides on the golf course, and leachate from its previous role as a landfill site, could impact on groundwater, the water quality of Manly Dam and could degrade downslope vegetation. Effective management is required for Aboriginal sites, weed and feral animal control, fire management, irrigation and runoff, fertiliser and herbicide use and environmental performance monitoring could be considered as conditions in future leases Wakehurst Couvret Tennis Courts are now managed as a sub-lease, from the Wakehurst Golf Club Limited.
Landscape and Scenic Values	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Park provides a "green space" within a largely urban setting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of the Parks' skylines and views will require provisions/measures in planning

VALUES		ISSUES / THREATS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The overall scene, once in the Park, is of a natural bushland area and calm waterway.- It is hard to see evidence of the surrounding urban development from many vantage points within the Park.- Park neighbours value the bushland setting and views over the Park.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- instruments beyond this Plan of Management, as well as negotiation with providers and other agencies.- Protection of the low-key, informal natural setting of the picnic areas	
PARK MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION			
Management compound			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The park management compound provides a venue for the operations of the Park. It includes offices, staff facilities, workshop, storage and carparking for staff.			
Land tenure issues and boundary rationalisation			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Consolidation of the Park boundaries could provide a more effective management “edge”.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Anomalies in land tenure and boundaries of several parcels around the Park boundary.- Five parcels of land within the Park are subject to land claims under the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983.	

4.2 Vision Statement

The key values, issues and threats that apply to Manly Warringah War Memorial Park have been identified throughout this Plan of Management. A vision statement has been developed to define a guiding purpose for Manly Warringah War Memorial Park. The statement aims to protect the values of the Park from the issues and threats of today and into the future.

The vision statement draws upon Council's own vision statement, as well as the management principles as set out in the *Crown Lands Act 1989*, and the vision identified for the Park in the 1998 Plan of Management. Following is the vision statement for Manly Warringah War Memorial Park:

A large protected area of bushland and waterways, with a diversity of flora and fauna, high water quality and scenic value, that ensures protection of its natural environment and cultural values, conserves threatened species and communities, provides opportunity for a variety of recreational activities in a low-key natural setting, offers an educational asset and acknowledges its importance as a war memorial park.