



C.O.U.N.C.I.L

*... a community partnership*

# **SPORTSGROUNDS**

## **GENERIC**

## **PLAN OF MANAGEMENT**

***ADOPTED: 26<sup>TH</sup> March 2002***

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## Executive Summary.

This Generic Plan of Management has been prepared to enable Council to meet its obligations under the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended). It is Council's intention to continually review this Plan of Management and prepare specific Plans of Management's for various lands as and when they are required.

This Plan of Management provides a broad framework for the future management of the respective land. It relies upon the completion of other planning processes and reference to already completed planning documents.

The changes to the Local Government Act (1993) only legally effects land that is classified as community land under this Act. Therefore, the open space that council manages on behalf of the Department of Land and Water Conservation is not technically effected by this legislation. However, it is our intention to include these lands in our overall plan of management process so as to provide for consistency and transparency in how Council manages its overall open space system.

### 1.0 Introduction.

#### 1.1. Background.

The subject lands (**Appendix A**) are either owned or managed (DLWC owned land) by Port Stephens Council. This Plan of Management categorises the land into the various categories (**Appendix A**) as prescribed by the Local Government Act (as amended) 1993. This Plan of Management meets the requirements of the Local Government Act (as amended) 1993. For those lands effected by the Crown Lands Act (1989), this Plan of Management will act as a management guideline only.

#### 1.2 Site Description.

This plan of management deals with areas of land which are primarily seen as sportsgrounds. That is, areas which have the primary category of sportsground. Some of these areas may also have secondary and/or tertiary categories of natural area (bushland, wetland, escarpment and/or watercourse) and/or park. All areas and their relevant categories are identified in **Appendix A** and the relevant maps

These categories were determined using the guidelines prescribed under Part 2A Division 1 of the Local Government Act (as amended) 1993.

The description of the Crown Reserve purposes and Trust names are provided in **Appendix C**.

### 1.3 Rationale.

The preparation of this Plan of Management is required for a number of reasons which are outlined below:

- Port Stephens Council as managers of the land requires a strategic framework that will provide guidance and direction for both the current and future management of the site.
- To provide a mechanism for the community to participate in setting the management direction for the study area.
- To identify any current or potential issues and provide policy and strategy to manage these in the future
- To satisfy the legislative requirements as outlined in the Local Government Act (as amended) 1993.

### 1.4 Methodology.

The Local Government Act 1993 (as amended) provides the minimum requirements for public consultation for the preparation of plans of management. As mentioned previously, many of the parcels of land subject to this plan of management are effected by the Local Government Act and Councils approach to consultation during this process will be in line with these requirements.

The following processes have or will be undertaken during the preparation of this document:

- Consultation with Port Stephens Council internal stakeholders
- Initial round of public meetings to:
  - Explain LGA requirements for plans of management
  - Explain Council's approach to developing generic plans of management
  - Identify and discuss various issues related to the development of a plan of management
- Develop draft plan of management
- Send information to known stakeholders for comment. Review and amend the draft plan of management in view of feed back received from stakeholders– **this is where the process is up to**
- Report to Port Stephens Council for approval to place Draft Plan of Management on public exhibition
- Public exhibition period of forty- two (42) days which included actual display period of twenty- eight (28) days.
- Collation of comments provided through the exhibition period and amendments where necessary made to the draft Plan of Management
- Report to Port Stephens Council for adoption of the Plan Of Management or if there are any amendments place back on exhibition (as required by the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended))

## 1.5 Document Structure.

To assist in making this document as user friendly and practical as possible, the following components have been provided for

**Executive Summary** - short concise summary of the document and outcomes

**Introduction** - background information that provides the basis for understanding the study area

**Aims and Objectives** - Provide targets for and desired outcomes for the site

**Issues, Policies and Strategies** – a detailed listing of the issues that relate to the study area and the means for managing them

**Implementation plan** - Identification of actions to be completed together with responsibilities, timeframes and costings (where applicable)

**Appendices**

## 2.0 Aims and Objectives.

### 2.1 Long Term Goals.

- ◆ To assist in meeting the sporting needs of both the residents and visitors to Port Stephens
- ◆ To provide quality facilities which support the overall open space system in satisfying the recreation needs of both residents and visitors to Port Stephens

### 2.2 Local Government Act Core Objectives.

This plan of management deals with land, which is categorised as sportsground.

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

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

Other categories which may apply to areas of land covered by this plan of management are natural area (bushland, wetland) and park. Appendix A details which categories apply to particular areas of land.

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

- (a) to conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised as a natural area, and
- (b) to maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting, and
- (c) to provide for the restoration and regeneration of land, and
- (d) to provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and
- (e) to assist in and facilitate the implementation of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan prepared under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 or the Fisheries Management Act 1994.

**The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a park are:**

- (a) to encourage promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities, and
- (b) to provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and
- (c) to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.

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

- (a) to ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land, and
- (b) to protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and
- (c) to promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilities public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and
- (d) to restore degraded bushland, and
- (e) to protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and
- (f) to retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and
- (g) to protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.

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

- (a) to protect the biodiversity and ecological values of wetlands, with particular reference to their hydrological environment (including water quality and water flow), and to the flora, fauna and habitat values of the wetlands, and
- (b) to restore and regenerate degraded wetlands, and
- (c) to facilitate community education in relation to wetlands, and the community use of wetlands, without compromising the ecological values of wetlands.

### **3.0 Issues, Policies and Strategies.**

#### **3.1 Management Development and Administration Issues**

The site will be managed in accordance with any Council policy or relevant legislation that is applicable from time to time. The major legislation or planning instruments that may effect any of the sites are:

- Local Government Act 1993 and Local Government Amendment (*Community Land Management*) Act 1998
- Local Environment Plan 2000
- Any State Environmental Planning Policies
- Crown Lands Act 1989
- Companion Animals Act, 1999
- Port Stephens Koala Plan of Management
- The Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
- PSC Stormwater Management Plan
- Regional Erosion and Sediment Control Policy and Code of Practice
- PSC Bitou Bush Management Plan
- PSC Environmental Management Plan

The site will be maintained by Port Stephens Council within its current resource allocation and in line with predetermined service levels outlined in the Community and Recreation Facilities Strategy. Community groups that wish to be involved in management/maintenance of the site will need to be coordinated by Council officers and in line with Council's Volunteer policy or other relevant legislation. The development of works programs are seen to be valuable tools for the management of these groups.

The use of volunteers in the management and administration of open space has been and will remain as an important means of providing service by Council. The means by which Council structures volunteers in the future may change but the use of these people will be critical to the ongoing operation of open space in this local government area

The subject sites provide a variety of activities where leasing, licensing or other forms of estates may be required. If this is to occur, they should be consistent with the objectives of the land and for a purpose permitted by the Local Government Act (as amended) 1993. It would be beneficial if any lease/licence or other estate provided for some form of public access to the site. Current leases, licenses and any other forms of estates (**appendix B**) should be permitted to continue their current and any optional terms.

These sites have been set aside for use as active/organised recreation areas. These uses are to be continued and promoted where possible. The actual type of active/organised pursuits that are undertaken on the sites may change from time to time in the future. These changes should be decided upon in close consultation with the respective sports council or sports/parks committee.

The future management of dog exercise activities is an important issue. As communities change and the open space system develops, the usage of sites may also be altered. Further to this, the potential habitation of sites by koalas and other fauna may change over time. All of these factors need to be considered when assessing the sites for dog exercise purposes. Consideration must also be given to the Companion Animals Act which requires Council to provide at least one dog exercise area within its Local Government Area.

As with most open space land in the local government area, pressures to maximise the use of these lands is increasing. The sites covered in this plan of management are no different. Any improvements however will add to the current supply of facilities in the local government area and therefore require consideration from a local government area perspective. It should also be noted and recognised that community needs in respect to sporting facilities change over time and the management of these sites needs to be able to adapt to these changes.

### **3.1.1 Policy Statements**

- The site will be managed in accordance with all relevant legislation and Council policy
- The preparation of council endorsed works programs to guide volunteer efforts on the sites shall be promoted where possible
- Any community involvement in maintenance and or management activities on the site shall be coordinated by the Port Stephens Council staff
- The issuing of short, medium and long term (in line with timeframes from either the LGA 1993 or the Crown Lands Act 1989) leases, licenses or other estates for not for profit community based organisations shall be considered as appropriate form of partnerships management if required. The purposes of such lease/licences or other estates shall be for either recreation, cultural or community based activities.
- Any lease, licence or other form of estate shall be consistent with the objectives of the land and or for a purpose permitted by the Local Government Act (as amended) 1993
- Public access to the sites shall be maintained and promoted where possible. The only time that access can be restricted is for a purpose related to either recreation, cultural or community based activities on a not for profit basis



- The use of the sites by dogs shall be in accordance of Council's adopted policy
- Maintenance to the site shall be in accordance with Council determined service levels and may vary from time to time
- Parking and vehicular access within the site should be managed to reduce public liability risk. The development of car parks on the subject lands is permitted but only when ancillary to the recreation or community use of the land or buildings
- Development and the provision of infrastructure and facilities shall be in line with Councils Community Service and Facility Strategy, the Sports Development Strategy and adopted Forward Works Program. Further, consideration of Acid Sulfate Soils should be undertaken prior to any approvals or development works occurring on the site. The development and improvement of these sites for sporting, recreation and community purposes should be promoted.
- The sites should be managed so as to allow for changes in use from time to time to ensure that the changing needs of the community are catered for. Further, the use of these sites shall be promoted for the widest range of activities as possible, including non-sport uses
- The development of fees and charges for the use of sportsgrounds shall be conducted by PSC and the relevant respective Sports Council/parks committee
- Impacts on neighbouring properties should be considered prior to approval of any development
- Any development that is considered to cause negative impact on neighbouring properties should be submitted for Development Approval prior to implementation
- The design of any new works within the site shall take into account the positioning of existing facilities and adjoining properties. Landscaping works should be provided that reduce the effect that any development may have on neighbouring properties and the remainder of the site.
- The provision of advertising structures or material should be allowed to be continued in line with Port Stephens Councils Advertising Signs Code. Prior to any advertising structures or material being provided the approval of the respective Sports Council/parks committee and Council must be given
- Any future provision of facilities shall be in line with any relevant government or Port Stephens Council standards
- Development that negatively impacts on koala or other rare, endangered or threatened fauna or flora habitat should not be permitted

### **3.2 Environmental Issues**

The sportsground sites of the Port Stephens area are valued highly by both residents and visitors alike for both their recreational and aesthetic attributes. The development of sportsground sites has diversified the recreational experiences that can be sought within the local government area and also provided increased lifestyle benefits to both residents and visitors to the area.

There is however still many varied environmental issues associated with these sites which need to be considered. The desire to keep and enhance vegetation cover where possible is to be supported but must at all times be non-restrictive to the sporting use of the sites.

The use of fertilisers and chemicals must be continually monitored to ensure the Best Practice procedures are followed and there is no negative impacts on the environment

### **3.2.1 Policy Statements**

- The environmental values of the site shall be protected and enhanced where appropriate
- The enhancement of vegetation cover shall be promoted where appropriate but not to the detriment of the sporting use of the sites
- The use of any chemicals or cultural practices for the turf areas shall be in line with recognised Best Practices for such works.
- Any development of the site shall consider environmental impacts as a major factor in decision making

## 4.0 Implementation Plan.

ACTION	PRIORI TY (high, med, low)	TIME FRAME	Performance Measure	RESPONSIBI LITY	COST
Review Dog area Policy on a periodic basis	Low	2002	Policy reviewed	PSC	Included in current resources
Update Sports Development Strategy	High	Ongoing	Strategy completed and included in FWP	PSC and sports councils	Included in current resources
Promote multi-use of facilities	Med	Ongoing	Utilisation of facilities increased	PSC and sports councils/parks committees	Included in current resources
Review fees and charges schedule	Med	2002	Fees and charges reviewed and emended where appropriate	PSC and sports councils/parks committees	Included in current resources
Finalise Skate Park strategy	High	2000	Strategy completed and included in FWP	PSC	Included in current resources
Undertake land assessment process	Med	2001	Assessment completed	PSC	Included in current resources
Ensure information on fauna habitat is referred to when considering developments	High	Ongoing	Available information is referenced and considered in decision making	PSC and stakeholders	Included in current resources
Identify areas of sportsgrounds that contain significant native vegetation	Med	2004	Areas identified and recorded	PSC and stakeholders	Included in current

					resources
Identify areas of sportsgrounds that require vegetation replacement	Med	2004	Areas identified and recorded	PSC and stakeholders	Included in current resources
Undertake vegetation replacement program	Med	2005	Program implemented	PSC	TBA
Consider fauna habitat when planning and designing re-vegetation/restoration programs	High	Ongoing	Fauna habitat considered	PSC	Included in current resources
Prepare works programs for the sites where possible	High	Ongoing	Works programs developed, endorsed by PSC and implemented	PSC and volunteer groups	Included in current resources
Ensure recommendations from Councils EMP are carried out	High	Ongoing	EMP recommendations implemented	PSC and stakeholders	TBA

## **APPENDICES**

### A) PROPERTY DESCRIPTIONS & MAPS

## B) EXISITNG LEASES, LICENCES OR OTHER ESTATES

Name	Location	Map Reference	Property Details	Number	Purpose
Newcastle Helicopters	Nelson Bay	635	Lot 471 DP 727265	LI\0013	Helicopter Joy Flights adjacent to Nelson Bay Depot.
Tilligery Aquatic Centre	Tanilba Bay	525	Res:86303	MA0004	Tilligery Aquatic Centre
Tomaree Aquatic Centre	Nelson Bay	675	Lot 535 DP 822120	LE\0004	Tomaree Aquatic Centre
Port Stephens Netball Association	Raymond Terrace	217	Lot 5 DP 939306	MA0002	Netball Clubhouse
Tanilba Bay Golf Club	Tanilba Bay	526	Lot 391 DP 1002768	Temp/ Licence	Golf Course

## **APPENDIX C – CROWN RESERVE INFORMATION**

### **CROWN RESERVES SUBJECT TO THE PLAN OF MANAGEMENT**

Reserve Trusts appointed under the Crown Lands Act 1989 are charged with care, control and management of the reserve of which they are appointed trustee. Port Stephens Council is the appointed Trustee of the following Crown Reserves that are proposed to be subject to this plan of management.

<b>Map Ref</b>	<b>Reserve No./Purpose</b>	<b>Trust Name</b>
113	R97841 for Public Recreation	Glen Oak Public Recreation (R97841) Reserve Trust
113	R15211 for Camping	Glen Oak Camping (R15211) Reserve Trust
526	Pt R88869 for Public Recreation	Tanilba Bay Public Recreation (R88869) Reserve Trust
525	R86303 for Public Recreation	Mallabula Sports-ground (R86303) Reserve Trust
610	R80621 for Public Recreation	Anna Bay Recreation (R80621) Reserve Trust
672	R86928 for Public Recreation	Fingal Bay Public Recreation (R86928) Reserve Trust
675	R91548 for Public Recreation	Gan Gan Recreation (R91548) Reserve Trust
676	R91548 for Public Recreation	Gan Gan Recreation (R91548) Reserve Trust