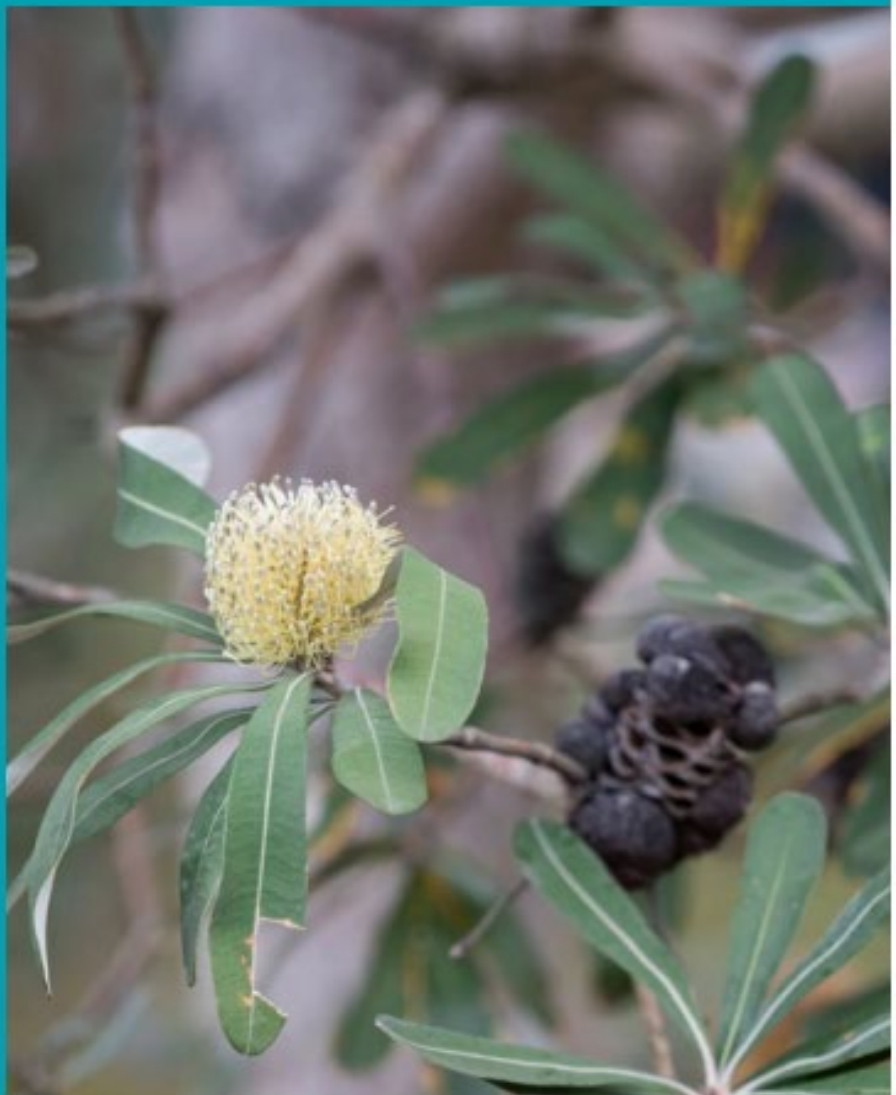


# Kent Guardians Landcare

2023 to 2026



The core objective of this plan, as supported through volunteer actions, is to preserve and maintain the land to meet the current and future needs of the local community in ways that are ecologically, socially and economically sustainable.



**PORT STEPHENS**  
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## GUUDJI YIIGU

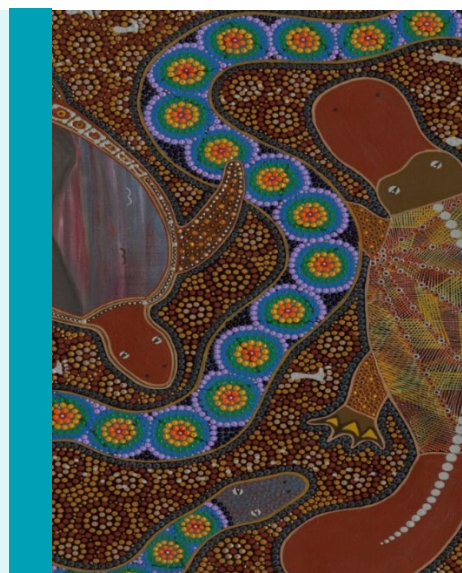
(GOO-JEE IK-KOO)

We welcome you to Port Stephens – part of the Worimi Aboriginal Nation. Port Stephens Council acknowledges the Worimi people as traditional owners and custodians of the lands and waterways on which we all live, learn, work and play.

We value and respect the Worimi people and the legacy 60,000 years of Aboriginal Nation traditions and culture brings with it. As part of Council’s culture of acceptance, diversification and harmony we walk alongside the Worimi people on a journey of listening and learning.

Together we will strive to make this a better place for all peoples. As guardians of these lands, we ask that you tread lightly to help preserve the biodiversity and respect those who came before as well as those who will follow.

*Artwork by Regan Lilley.*



## Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of this plan is to provide an agreed framework and detailed action plan to support and guide the volunteer group to undertake works in Kent Gardens Reserve and Greenplay Point Reserve.

*Note: This Action Plan between Kent Guardians Landcare Group and Port Stephens Council (PSC) does not replace the Littoral Rain Forest (LRF) Management Plan (PSC 2021).*

## Objectives of the Plan

For the Kent Gardens Landcare Group and Port Stephens Council to work together to protect and enhance the character of Kent Gardens Reserve and Greenplay Point Reserve to the benefit and enjoyment of those visiting and using the reserves.

## Site Details

<b>Site Address</b>	<b>55B Kent Gardens, Soldiers Point</b>
<b>Lot / DP</b>	Lot 459 DP 27844
<b>Land zoning</b>	RE1 – Public Recreation
<b>Owner</b>	Port Stephens Council (PSC) (community land)
<b>Local Aboriginal Land Council</b>	Worimi
<b>Reserve</b>	Greenplay Point Reserve (See Action Plan Map)

## Scope of Works

Volunteer works within Kent Gardens Reserve and Greenplay Point Reserve must be consistent with this Agreed Action Plan. This plan encourages the activities listed in the detailed action plan below.

If a volunteer group would like to undertake a project or activity that is outside of this plan, authorisation will be required from Council. The Volunteers Support Officer (VSO) will assist groups to liaise with Council for any activities outside of this plan.

This plan does not provide permission to erect, place or repair any structures, nor remove any trees or native vegetation unless authorised under this plan.

## Consultation

Consultation has been undertaken with the Kent Guardians Landcare Group on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and internal Council departments in the preparation of this plan. This plan has been subject to public exhibition to the local community.

## Safety Considerations

All activities should be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Council, including Work Health and Safety processes such as site induction and daily attendance records.

Site inductions are required prior to the commencement of any works at the subject site for volunteers. First Aid kits are to be on site during working bees.

All volunteers are to sign attendance sheets and maintain an understanding of applicable Safe Work Method Statements (SWMS) and Specific Worksite Assessment Toolbox (SWAT) forms. These documents detail the relevant procedures for all volunteer activities on the site/s. Forms are provided to volunteers and are also available via Council’s Volunteers Support Officer.

Working bees require formal notification to all group members and Volunteers Support Officer including date, time and meeting location. Email will be the normal method of notification whilst additional forms of notification may include Facebook posts and notices posted on the Kent Guardians Landcare Group website.

The table below lists the key safety hazard considerations for the site and the controls that are to be put in place to mitigate these hazards.

Hazard considerations	General controls
<b>Outdoor work</b>	Fitness for work, appropriate PPE.
<b>Working near water</b>	Caution around coastline areas.
<b>Working near access ways (vehicle and pedestrian)</b>	Use of ‘volunteers working’ signage, yellow vests to be worn.
<b>Pollution</b>	Green waste to remain on site, only approved chemical use (if applicable). Do not place sediment or waste in drainage channels.
<b>Wildlife hazards</b>	Awareness of surroundings, First Aid kit and mobile phone on site at all times.
<b>Weather conditions</b>	Reschedule works in unsuitable weather.
<b>Antisocial behaviour</b>	Maintain PSC Code of Conduct, report any dangerous behaviour to local police.
<b>Fatigue</b>	Rest breaks and hydration. PPE from sun exposure.

**The following activities are prohibited: confined space entry, excavation, use of machinery/ unapproved power tools, tree removal, working at heights, burning and unapproved chemical handling.**

In the event that an individual would like to use chemicals or power tools, approval from Council must be sought, followed by training and sign off by the VSO prior to use. It is up to the discretion of Council to determine if chemical or power tool use is appropriate for the activity proposed.

All hazards, incidents, near misses, injuries and unsafe practices must be reported immediately, and documented and reported in writing to Council within 24 hours.

For further information, consult the Work Health & Safety Handbook (PSC 2020).



# Action Plan Map

The below Action Plan Map is to be read in conjunction with the Detailed Action Plan below.



## Detailed Action Plan

The below detailed action plan is to read in accordance with the action plan map above.

Zone	Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Resources	Timeline	Status
Public Access <sup>1</sup> (PA) 1	Maintain clear informal APZ to prevent fire hazards adjoining properties <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal of weeds and hazardous vegetation.</li> <li>Maintain vegetation boundary as per Action Plan and Littoral Rainforest (LRF).</li> </ul>	Kent Guardians	Routine working bees	Ongoing	In practice
	Succession planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify suitable replacement locations for koala feed trees.</li> <li>Ensure any planting doesn't impact APZ requirements.</li> </ul>	Kent Guardians Landcare	Routine working bees	Ongoing	Encouraged, in progress

<sup>1</sup> Public Access may traverse Council managed bushland, LRF plan and Vegetation Map (Appendix B) overrules Public Access boundaries.

<sup>2</sup> RFS has previously determined no requirement for an APZ in this area. Any works must not impact the boundary of the LRF plan.

Zone	Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Resources	Timeline	Status
	Document vegetation boundaries as per the Littoral Rainforest Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site visit.</li> <li>• Photographic evidence to illustrate Littoral Rainforest Plan boundaries.</li> <li>• Boundaries to be maintained as is, no further encroachment.</li> </ul>	Kent Guardians Landcare and Council	Site visit by VSO with support of Kent Guardians.	> 1 year	Pending further consultation and investigation
PA2 & PA3 <sup>3</sup>	Maintain public access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removal of weeds.</li> <li>• Maintain vegetation boundary as per Action Plan and Littoral Rainforest (LRF).</li> </ul>	Kent Guardians Landcare	Routine working bees	Ongoing	Encouraged
	Document vegetation boundaries as per the Littoral Rainforest Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site visit.</li> <li>• Photographic evidence to illustrate</li> </ul>	Kent Guardians Landcare and Council	Site visit by VSO with support of Kent Guardians.	> 1 year	Pending further consultation and investigation

<sup>3</sup> Public Access may traverse Council managed bushland, LRF plan and Vegetation Map (Appendix B) overrules Public Access boundaries.



Zone	Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Resources	Timeline	Status
		Littoral Rainforest Plan boundaries. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boundaries to be maintained as is, no further encroachment.</li> </ul>				
PA4 & PA5 <sup>4</sup>	Maintain public access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal of weeds</li> <li>Maintain vegetation boundary as per Action Plan and Littoral Rainforest (LRF).</li> </ul>	Kent Guardians Landcare	Routine working bees	Ongoing	Encouraged
	Succession planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify suitable replacements for koala feed trees.</li> </ul>	Kent Guardians Landcare	Routine working bees	Ongoing	Encouraged, in progress
	Support community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate opportunities for further educational</li> </ul>	Kent Guardians Landcare	Focused working bees	Ongoing	Pending further consultation

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<sup>4</sup> Public Access may traverse Council managed bushland, LRF plan and Vegetation Map (Appendix B) overrules Public Access boundaries.

Zone	Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Resources	Timeline	Status
	education on ecological values	signage using grant funding.	with support from Council	Assistance from Volunteers Support Officer		and investigation
PA6 & PA7 <sup>5</sup>	Maintain public access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal of weeds.</li> <li>Maintain vegetation boundary as per Action Plan and Littoral Rainforest (LRF).</li> </ul>	Kent Guardians Landcare	Routine working bees	Ongoing	Encouraged
	Document vegetation boundaries as per the Littoral Rainforest Plan and other forested areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site visit.</li> <li>Photographic evidence to illustrate Littoral Rainforest Plan boundaries.</li> <li>Boundaries to be maintained as is, no further encroachment.</li> </ul>	Kent Guardians Landcare and Council	Site visit by VSO with support of Kent Guardians.	> 1 year	Pending further consultation and investigation

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<sup>5</sup> Public Access may traverse Council managed bushland, LRF plan and Vegetation Map (Appendix B) overrules Public Access boundaries.

<b>Zone</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Status</b>
PA8 <sup>6</sup>	Road reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain in current state.</li> </ul>	Council	Council	Ongoing	Encouraged
Car Park (CP)1	Recreation area (RE1 zoning)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permissible activities for this area will need to be proposed to Council through Works On Council Land application.</li> </ul>	Council	Council		Pending
Reserve (R1)	Open space for community use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal of identified weeds and management of grasses.</li> <li>Prevent encroachment onto LRF and forested areas.</li> </ul>	Kent Guardians Landcare	Routine working bees	Ongoing	Encouraged
	Succession planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify suitable replacements for koala feed trees.</li> </ul>	Kent Guardians Landcare	Routine working bees	Ongoing	Encouraged, in progress

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<sup>6</sup> Public Access may traverse Council managed bushland, LRF plan and Vegetation Map (Appendix B) overrules Public Access boundaries.

Zone	Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Resources	Timeline	Status
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor progress of plantings.</li> </ul>				
	Provide and enhance native habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify areas mowing may be reduced and native flora encouraged.</li> <li>Identify areas for replacement of exotics with native flora.</li> </ul>	Kent Guardians Landcare	Routine working bees  Locally native plants provided by Council	Ongoing	Encouraged, in progress
	Support community education on ecological values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate opportunities for further educational signage.</li> </ul>	Kent Guardians Landcare with support from Council	Focused working bees Assistance from VSO	Ongoing	Pending further consultation and investigation
	Document vegetation boundaries as per the Littoral Rainforest Plan and other forested areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site visit.</li> <li>Photographic evidence to illustrate Littoral Rainforest Plan boundaries.</li> </ul>	Kent Guardians Landcare and Council	Site visit by VSO with support of Kent Guardians.	> 1 year	Pending further consultation and investigation
Pedestrian Track (T)1	Allow access to water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain access in a line LRF Plan.</li> </ul>	Passive		<1 year	Passive
T2, T3 & T4	Allow access to water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain access in line LRF Plan.</li> </ul>	Kent Guardians	Pending	>1 year	Supported

Zone	Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Resources	Timeline	Status
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weed and prevent encroachment of non-native species into LRF.</li> <li>Consult with residents to consider reduction of track width to 1.5m.</li> <li>Consider removal of invasive grass and replacement with mulch or rhyolite.</li> </ul>	Landcare, Kent Guardians Association and Council			
T5 & T6	Allow access to water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain access in a line LRF Plan.</li> </ul>	Passive		<1 year	Passive
Council Managed Bushland, including LRF	Preserve endangered vegetation and promote native bush regeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual 'weeding' working bee with Council and local community to manage priority weed species in identified areas as per LRF plan.</li> </ul>	Kent Guardians Landcare and Council	Nominated annual working bee to be scheduled with Council and community Green waste to remain on site	Ongoing	Encouraged with conditions
	Support community education on ecological values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate opportunities for further educational signage.</li> </ul>	Kent Guardians Landcare and Council	Focused working bees Grant funding	Ongoing	Pending further consultation

Zone	Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Resources	Timeline	Status
				Assistance from Volunteers Support Officer		and investigation
	Succession planting in areas not designated as littoral rainforest or swamp oak forest (endangered ecological communities).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify suitable replacements for koala feed trees.</li> <li>Monitor progress of plantings.</li> <li>Replace exotic plantings with local native species.</li> </ul>	Kent Guardians Landcare	Routine working bees	Ongoing	Encouraged, in progress
<i>Applies to all zones</i>	Monitoring and reporting to support group resourcing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor and record activities undertaken by group.</li> <li>Reporting on areas weeded, areas planted, success rates, new and emerging weeds, fauna sightings, etc.</li> <li>Consider progress of working bees and action plan objectives.</li> </ul>	Kent Guardians Landcare	<p>Reporting should be undertaken through councils online CRM tool for <u>Environmental Works Records</u></p> <p>Regular working bee check ins with Volunteers officer</p>	Ongoing	Encouraged



<b>Zone</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Status</b>
	Capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate relevant educational opportunities for volunteers to improve flora and weed identification.</li> </ul>	Council	Resource materials and training  Access to networking opportunities	Ongoing	Encouraged
	Signage for group to inform community during working bees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council to provide 'working bee in progress' sign to support group when undertaking activities.</li> </ul>	Council	Council to supply  Signage to be set up any time work in the reserve is being undertaken	Ongoing	Encouraged
	Annual group meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual group meetings to review progress of action plan, complete inductions and forward plan.</li> </ul>	Kent Guardians Landcare	Volunteers Support Officer to schedule annual meeting, distribute agenda and prepare minutes  Agenda items to be submitted to the Volunteers Support Officer	Ongoing	Encouraged

Zone	Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Resources	Timeline	Status
	Kent Guardians Landcare website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate opportunity for group managed web-page.</li> </ul>	Kent Guardians Landcare and Council		>1 year	Passive

# Key site considerations

## Environmental

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### Threatened species

There are no recorded individual threatened plant species within 200 metres of the Reserve.

Over the last 20 years, approximately 62<sup>7</sup> sightings of Koalas, 1 sighting of Powerful Owl, have been recorded within 200 metres of the site (NSW DPIE 2023).

The Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) is listed as Endangered under NSW and Federal legislation.

The Powerful Owl (*Ninox Strenua*) is listed as Vulnerable under NSW legislation (NSW DEH 2022).

The site is mapped as 'Preferred' Koala habitat under the Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management (CKPoM) (PSC 2002) which falls under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021.

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### Endangered Ecological Communities (EEC) / Biodiversity value

The vegetation is currently subject to a management plan (PSC 2021) and is at varying levels of passive and active regeneration according to the plan.

The majority of the site's plant community type is identified as 'Swamp Oak swamp forest of the coastal lowlands of the NSW North Coast Bioregion' which is classed as Coastal Floodplain Wetlands and is an Endangered Ecological Community.

There are also patches of plant community identified as 'Tuckeroo - Yellow Tulipwood - Red fruited Olive Plum Littoral Rainforest of the lower North Coast', which is classed as Littoral Rainforest and is an Endangered Ecological Community.

This vegetation community is very rare in New South Wales as it only occurs in small stands throughout the coast and accounts for less than 1 percent of total area of rainforest in New South Wales. It has been identified that invasive weeds and pests, sea-

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<sup>7</sup> As indicated by BioNet which may not be a true representation of the significant local koala population.

level rise and degradation of boundaries, clearing and physical disturbance of areas pose a key threat to this endangered ecological community (NSW DEH 2022).

Both vegetation communities are listed as endangered under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, and are federally protected. Proposed works may only consider impact on areas in existing managed condition.

PLEASE  
NOTE

**Only licensed and permitted works may be undertaken within the vegetation because it is highly sensitive.**

Other Plant Community Types present on the site include:

- 'Blackbutt tall moist forest of the coastal ranges of the central and southern NSW North Coast Bioregion', classed as North Coast Wet Sclerophyll Forests. There is no associated TEC.

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### Priority weeds

Kent Gardens Reserve and Greenplay Point Reserve is managed by PSC Environmental Operations in accordance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

Chinese Violet has been identified in proximity to adjoining site.

The site receives scheduled weed maintenance and regeneration activities in the areas identified through the management plan (PSC 2021). There will be opportunities annually for Kent Guardians Landcare to work with contractors and Council staff to undertake targeted working bees within the sensitive vegetation areas.

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A specific licence is required under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, and applies to nominated individuals carrying out activities involving threatened ecological communities or areas of outstanding biodiversity value in accordance with the Department of Planning and Environment's scientific licensing policy. **Please check with VSO regarding licensing prior to the commencement of works.**

### Heritage

The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) (DPIE 2022) lists no recorded Aboriginal sites or Aboriginal places in proximity to the subject site. The site does not contain state or locally listed heritage items.

Unexpected Finds - if Aboriginal heritage items are uncovered during the works, all works in the vicinity of the find must cease and the VSO must be contacted.

## **Bushfire**

Part of the reserve falls within a Category 1 vegetation buffer and is identified as Bushfire Prone Land in the NSW ePlanning Spatial Viewer.

There is an APZ in proximity to the site behind Hutcheson Ave, however group activities will not impact this. This APZ is under a management arrangement for bushfire mitigation by Council. There is a SFAZ in proximity to the site in the adjoining Stoney Ridge Reserve however, group activities will not impact this.

Care should be taken to avoid the creation of bushfire hazards directly adjoining residential allotments. This action plan does not provide guaranteed commitment to future management as required by Planning for Bushfire Protection (PBP) (2019).

## **Waterways and soil**

The site falls within the 40 m buffer of the Port Stephens – Great Lakes Marine Park General Use Zone and the Port Stephens Local Environmental Plan 2013 Wetlands zone. Care should be taken to avoid any runoff of chemicals or green waste produced during working bees.

Acid Sulphate Soils (ASS) may be present on site below 2m of natural ground surface. Volunteers are directed to stop digging and fill any holes that indicate ASS presence (a scent of sulphuric acid).

## **Infrastructure**

Infrastructure within the reserve is owned and managed by Council. Council is responsible for erecting and repairing any structures within the reserve. No structures are to be erected by the group. The VSO is to consult with the Parks Supervisor and the Community Assets Officers on any infrastructure work requested on the land.

One Council maintained open drain is identified on site. No spraying of herbicide should be undertaken within two metres of water. Minor clearing of debris and vegetation regrowth within drainage channel is allowed however it is the responsibility of Council to maintain the water flow within the drains.

There are a number of assets present at the site. Land management activities should not negatively impact these. “Before You Dig” should be consulted prior to any ground breaking activities.

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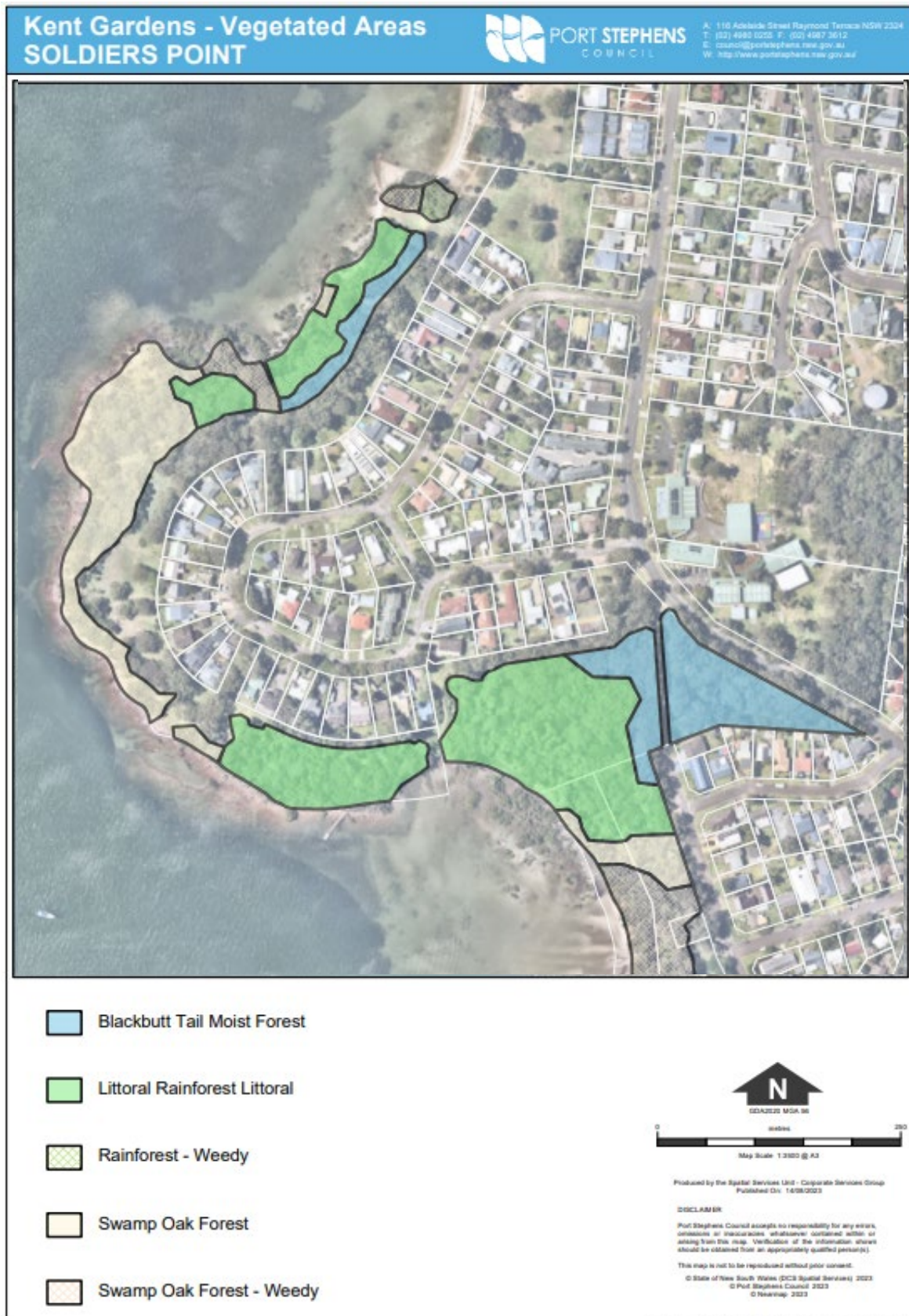
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EDRMS container No	PSC2022-01827	EDRMS record No	23/368688
Audience	Kent Guardians Landcare		
Process owner	Strategy and Environment Section Manager		
Author	Kate Mannell - Volunteers Support Officer		
Review timeframe	3 years	Next review date	21 December 2026
Adoption date	21 December 2023		

## VERSION HISTORY:

Version	Date	Author	Details
1	6 July 2023	Volunteers Support Officer	Created document.
2	21 December 2023	Strategy and Environment Section Manager	Document reviewed internally. Stakeholder consultation complete.
2	25 September 2023	Volunteers Support Officer	Final consultation with group and adoption.

# Appendix A – Detailed vegetation map



## Appendix B – Species list

Any plantings should be in consideration of the relevant Plant Community Type(s) (PCT) at the site and species that are local to the area. Genetic provenance refers to the use of locally sourced and grown seedlings, preferred for any plantings.

The below species list is relevant to the identified PCTs.

Swamp oak forest:

- *Casuarina glauca*;
- *Melaleuca quinquenervia*;
- *Eucalyptus tereticornis*;
- *Goodenia ovata*;
- *Hibiscus diversifolius*;
- *Melaleuca ericifolia*;
- *Melaleuca styphelioides*;
- *Parsonsia straminea*;
- *Baumea juncea*;
- *Enydra fluctuans*;
- *Fimbristylis ferruginea*;
- *Gahnia clarkei*;
- *Ischaemum australe*;
- *Juncus kraussii*;

Littoral rainforest:

- *Cupaniopsis anacardioides*;
- *Elaeodendron australe*;
- *Drypetes deplanchei*;
- *Planchonella australis*;
- *Ficus rubiginosa*;
- *Elaeocarpus obovatus*;
- *Livistona australis*;
- *Alphitonia excelsa*;
- *Ficus fraseri*;
- *Acmena smithii*;
- *Wilkiea huegeliana*;
- *Sarcomelicope simplicifolia*

- *Pittosporum revolutum*;
- *Diospyros australis*;
- *Claoxylon australe*;
- *Guioa semiglauca*;
- *Cissus antarctica*;
- *Smilax australis*;
- *Dioscorea transversa*;
- *Parsonsia straminea*;
- *Pellaea falcata*;
- *Doodia aspera*;
- *Dianella caerulea*;

Blackbutt tall forest

- *Eucalyptus pilularis*;
- *Eucalyptus microcorys*;
- *Lophostemon confertus*;
- *Eucalyptus campanulata*;
- *Syncarpia glomulifera*;
- *Acacia melanoxylon*;
- *Allocasuarina torulosa*;
- *Caldcluvia paniculosa*;
- *Cyathea australis*;
- *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*;
- *Synoum glandulosum*;
- *Blechnum cartilagineum*;
- *Calochlaena dubia*;
- *Dianella caerulea*;
- *Lomandra longifolia*;
- *Pteridium esculentum*.



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