# **Mallabula Parks and Reserves**

## 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.



## **Table of Contents**

| Purpose of the Plan1                                 |
|--|
| Objectives of the Plan1                              |
| Site Details 1                                       |
| Scope of Works2                                      |
| Consultation2  |
| Safety Considerations                                |
| Action Plan Map – Rookes Point4                      |
| Detailed Action Plan5                                |
| Key site considerations – Rookes Point8              |
| Environmental  |
| Property management9                                 |
| Heritage9  |
| Bushfire   |
| Waterways and soil                                   |
| Infrastructure                                       |
| Action Plan Map – Panorama Outlook12                 |
| Detailed Action Plan13                               |
| Heritage & Culture                                   |
| Bushfire   |
| Waterways and soil16                                 |
| Infrastructure                                       |
| Action Plan Map – Mallabula Parkway Drainage Reserve |
| Detailed Action Plan                                 |
| Heritage   |
| Bushfire21   |
| Waterways and soil21                                 |
| Infrastructure21                                     |
| References   |
| Appendix A – Species list24                          |
| Appendix B – Plant Community Types (PCT) Map25       |

#### **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 volunteers to undertake works across Rookes Point, Panorama Outlook and Mallabula Parkway Drainage Reserve.

### **Objectives of the Plan**

For the Mallabula Parks and Reserves Committee and Port Stephens Council to work together to protect and enhance the character of these sites.

### **Site Details**

Table 1: Rookes Point / Mallabula Wharf site details

| Site Address                     | 30 Mallabula Road, Mallabula / 39 The Parkway, Mallabula                    |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Lot / DP                         | Lot 7028 DP 1095147, Lot 1 DP 11392   |
| Land zoning                      | C2 – Environmental Conservation   |
| Owner                            | State of NSW (Crown)* (PSC Trustee), Port Stephens Council (community land) |
| Crown Reserve                    | 78605 – 18 May 1956   |
| Local Aboriginal<br>Land Council | Worimi  |
| Reserve                          | Rookes Point (See Action Plan Map)  |

#### Table 2: Panorama Outlook Reserve site details

| Site Address                     | Opposite 30 Watersleigh Avenue, Mallabula |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Lot / DP                         |   |
| Land zoning                      | C2 – Environmental Conservation           |
| Owner                            | Port Stephens Council (road reserve)      |
| Local Aboriginal<br>Land Council | Worimi                                    |
| Reserve                          | Panorama Outlook                          |

 Table 3: Mallabula Parkway Drainage Reserve site details

| Site Address | The Parkway, Mallabula          |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Lot / DP     |                                 |
| Land zoning  | C2 – Environmental Conservation |

| Owner                            | Port Stephens Council (road reserve) |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Local Aboriginal<br>Land Council | Worimi                               |
| Reserve                          | Mallabula Parkway Drainage Reserve   |

### **Scope of Works**

Volunteer works within the identified areas 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 Mallabula Parks and Reserves Committee and internal Council departments in the preparation of this plan.

### **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 forms are provided to volunteers by the coordinator and are also available by request to Council's VSO.

Working bees require prior formal notification from the coordinator to all group members and VSO including the date, time and meeting location.

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

Hazard considerations

**General controls** 

| Outdoor work                                      | Fitness for work, appropriate PPE (as per 4.11 of volunteer WHS Handbook).   |
|---|--|
| Working near water                                | Work in teams and note uneven ground nearby drainage channels.   |
| Working near access ways (vehicle and pedestrian) | Use of 'volunteers working' signage, yellow vests to be worn.  |
| Pollution   | Green waste to remain on site, only<br>approved chemical use (if applicable).<br>Do not place sediment or waste in<br>drainage channels. |
| Wildlife hazards                                  | Awareness of surroundings, First Aid kit on site at all times, suitable PPE.   |
| Weather conditions                                | Reschedule works in unsuitable weather.  |
| Antisocial behaviour                              | Maintain PSC Code of Conduct, report any dangerous behaviour to local police.  |
| Fatigue   | 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 – Rookes Point**

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   |
|--------|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|----------|--|
| Zone 1 | Weed removal                      | <ul> <li>Removal of identified weeds</li> <li>Passive regeneration encouraged, no plantings</li> </ul>  | Mallabula<br>Parks and<br>Reserves<br>Committee<br>(MPRC) | Routine working<br>bees<br>Green waste to<br>remain on site                                | Ongoing  | Encouraged   |
|        | Confirmation<br>on mowing<br>area | <ul> <li>10 metre APZ<br/>approved to be<br/>mown from property<br/>boundaries</li> <li>No vegetation<br/>maintenance (weed<br/>removal excepted)<br/>beyond 10m</li> </ul> | Residents<br>MPRC<br>Council                              | Scheduled Council<br>mowing program<br>Educational<br>resources for weed<br>identification | Ongoing  | Approved   |
|        | Erosion control                   | <ul> <li>Remediation works to reduce erosion</li> <li>Soft landscaping only (minor planting of locally native shrubs and ground covers) by volunteers</li> </ul>            | Council<br>MPRC   | Council works plan<br>Coastal Management<br>Plan   | Pending  | Pending<br>funding and<br>further<br>investigation |

| Zone                         | Objective                                  | Actions  | Responsibility  | Resources   | Timeline | Status   |
|------------------------------|--|--|-----------------|---|----------|--|
|                              | Safe vehicle<br>and firefighting<br>access | • Turning circle at end of<br>Mallabula Road will<br>receive repairs and<br>scheduled maintenance<br>as required   | Council         | Report and Request as required                              | Ongoing  | Encouraged   |
| Zone 2                       | Weed removal                               | <ul> <li>Removal of identified weeds</li> <li>Passive regeneration encouraged, no plantings</li> </ul>   | MPRC            | Routine working<br>bees<br>Green waste to<br>remain on site | Ongoing  | Encouraged   |
|                              | Proposed<br>pathway                        | <ul> <li>Establishment and<br/>maintenance of pathway<br/>no more than 1m width</li> <li>No ground breaking,<br/>minor vegetation pruning</li> <li>Rhyolite or mulched<br/>base along pathway</li> </ul> | MPRC            | Routine working<br>bees                                     | Ongoing  | Approved   |
| Zone 3<br>Mallabula<br>Wharf | Improve public<br>access                   | <ul> <li>Maintain area to<br/>promote public access<br/>and passive recreation</li> <li>Expand boundaries of<br/>maintained area into<br/>overgrown weed<br/>infested areas</li> </ul>                   | MPRC<br>Council | Routine working<br>bees<br>Green waste to<br>remain on site | Ongoing  | Pending<br>funding and<br>further<br>investigation |

| Zone  | Objective   | Actions   | Responsibility                                | Resources   | Timeline | Status     |
|---|---|---|---|---|----------|------------|
|   |   | • Proposal for a ladder access in the water at the jetty  |   | Council mowing<br>program<br>Works on Council<br>Land application and<br>assessment required  |          |            |
|   | Remove weeds  | <ul> <li>Remove weed species<br/>through expansion of<br/>park boundaries into<br/>areas of non-native<br/>unmanaged vegetation</li> </ul>  | MPRC<br>Council<br>mowing where<br>applicable | Routine working<br>bees<br>Green waste to<br>remain on site   | Ongoing  | Supported  |
| Applies to<br>all sites<br>within this<br>plan. | Monitoring and<br>reporting to<br>support group<br>resourcing | <ul> <li>Monitor and record<br/>activities undertaken by<br/>group</li> <li>Reporting on areas<br/>weeded, areas planted,<br/>success rates, new and<br/>emerging weeds, fauna<br/>sightings, etc.</li> </ul> | MPRC  | Reporting should be<br>undertaken through<br>councils online CRM<br>tool for<br><u>Environmental Works</u><br><u>Records</u><br>Regular working bee<br>check-ins with VSO | Ongoing  | Encouraged |

# Key site considerations – Rookes Point

### Environmental

| Threatened species  | <ul> <li>There are no recorded individual threatened plant species within 200 metres of the Reserve.</li> <li>Over the last 20 years, approximately 15 sightings of Koalas, 1 sighting of Powerful Owl, 2 sightings of Green Turtles have been recorded within 200 metres of the site (NSW DPIE 2023).</li> <li>The Koala (<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>) is listed as Endangered under NSW and Federal legislation.</li> <li>The Powerful Owl (<i>Ninox Strenua</i>) and Green Turtle (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>) are listed as Vulnerable under NSW legislation (NSW DEH 2022).</li> <li>The site is mapped as 'Preferred' and 'Preferred Buffer' Koala habitat under the Comprehensive</li> </ul> |
|---|--|
|   | Koala Plan of Management (CKPoM) (PSC 2002)<br>which falls under the State Environmental Planning<br>Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021.  |
| Endangered<br>Ecological<br>Communities (EEC) /<br>Biodiversity value | 'Paperbark swamp forest of the coastal lowlands of<br>the NSW North Coast Bioregion and Sydney Basin<br>Bioregion' and 'Swamp Oak swamp forest of the<br>coastal lowlands of the NSW North Coast Bioregion'<br>are present. These plant communities are<br>considered Endangered Ecological Communities<br>(EEC).  |
|   | Approximately 70% of these EECs have been<br>historically cleared. Key threats include changes to<br>hydrological conditions, clearing for urban<br>development and changes to species diversity as a<br>result of weeds (NSW DPIE 2021).  |
|   | This vegetation is listed as endangered under the<br><i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> and<br><i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity</i><br><i>Conservation Act 1999,</i> and is state and federally<br>protected.   |
| PLEASE<br>NOTE  | Only permitted works under this plan may be<br>undertaken within this vegetation type because it<br>is highly sensitive.   |
|   | Other Plant Community Types present on the site include:   |

|                | <ul> <li>'Spotted Gum - Broad-leaved Mahogany - Red<br/>Ironbark shrubby open forest', classed as<br/>Hunter-Macleay Dry Sclerophyll Forests.</li> </ul>   |
|----------------|--|
| Priority weeds | Rookes Point is managed by the PSC Environmental Operations team in accordance with the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015.</i>   |
|                | Identified priority weeds within and directly adjoining this site include Mother of Millions.  |
|                | Additional weeds on site managed by volunteer<br>activities include, but are not limited to Lantana,<br>Bitou, Senna, Hawthorn, Passionfruit, Fishbone<br>Fern, Watsonia, Asparagus species, Formosa Lily,<br>Ochna, Dietes, Camphor Laurel, African Daisy and<br>alien grass species. |

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 to ensure a license has been obtained prior to the commencement of works.** 

#### **Property management**

Native Title Act (1993) applies to the site however for the purposes of some volunteer activities, subdivision 24LA (2)(b) low impact future acts may be employed. Exclusions under the Act includes the clearing of introduced plant species, regeneration and environmental protection activities. Any other activities outside of these exclusion will require detailed assessment. Please contact the Volunteers Support Officer if you require further information.

In the event that an Aboriginal Land Claim is filed and determined in the Local Aboriginal Land Council's favour, volunteers will be notified that all access and approvals to undertake maintenance on the site are to cease immediately.

#### Heritage

The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) (DPIE 2022) lists 3 recorded Aboriginal sites at the subject site and 0 Aboriginal places in proximity to the subject site.

The utmost care must be taken to avoid disturbance to the area if volunteers suspect they have located the recorded Aboriginal artefact deposits in the location.

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 Volunteers Support Officer must be contacted.

#### **Bushfire**

The reserve is identified as Category 1 vegetation and vegetation buffer, and is identified as Bushfire Prone Land in the NSW ePlanning Spatial Viewer. The Lower Hunter Bush Fire Risk Management Plan (BFMC 2023) identifies the local area as high current risk to residential and SFPP but lowest current environmental risk.

There is an APZ managed by Port Stephens Council on the site on Lot 1 DP 11392 extending along the rear of houses adjoining the lot. No strategic fire advantage zone (SFAZ) impacting the subject site. Activities should not impact the accessibility and standards of these zones. No planting or rafting of green waste within this zone is permitted however weeding is encouraged in these areas.

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 adjoins identified Wetlands under the Port Stephens Local Environmental Plan 2013. It also borders the Port Stephens Great-Lakes Marine Park general use zone. No works are permitted outside of the subject site.

Acid Sulphate Soils (ASS) are not likely to be present on the northern boundary of the site however along the western boundary ASS is likely to be present below the ground surface. Volunteers are directed to stop digging and fill any holes that indicate ASS presence (indicated by a scent of sulphuric acid/rotten eggs).

#### 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.

"<u>Before You Dig</u>" should be consulted prior to any ground breaking activities and advice sought from Council if any assets are present.

\*State of NSW (Crown) land may require additional permits and approvals as Port Stephens Council is not the land owner. Native Title Act 1993 applies to the land however under Subdivision L, clearing of noxious or introduced plant species, regeneration and environmental protection activities are exclusions under the Act. Any activities proposed outside of these exclusions will require assessment under the Act.

### **Action Plan Map – Panorama Outlook**



### **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  |
|---|---|--|-----------------|---|----------|---|
| Boundaries as<br>per Panorama<br>Lookout site | Weed removal  | <ul> <li>Removal of<br/>identified weeds</li> <li>Passive<br/>regeneration<br/>encouraged, no<br/>plantings</li> </ul>                           | MPRC            | Routine working<br>bees<br>Green waste to<br>remain on site | Ongoing  | Encouraged  |
|   | Asset<br>Protection Zone<br>(APZ)                       | <ul> <li>No increase to<br/>vegetation density<br/>within APZ (as per<br/>map) therefore no<br/>planting in this area</li> </ul>                 | MPRC            | Routine working<br>bees                                     | Ongoing  | Encouraged  |
|   | Improve<br>pedestrian<br>accessibility of<br>fire trail | <ul> <li>Adjustment of bush rocks to create clear pathway</li> </ul>   | MPRC            | Routine working<br>bees                                     | Ongoing  | Pending<br>resources if<br>mechanical<br>removal is<br>required |
| Pedestrian<br>access                          | Accessibility   | <ul> <li>Minor pruning and<br/>clearing to improve<br/>access ways</li> <li>Council to<br/>investigate opening<br/>of southern access</li> </ul> | MPRC<br>Council | Routine working<br>bees                                     | Pending  | Pending<br>funding and<br>further<br>investigation              |

| Zone           | Objective                      | Actions   | Responsibility | Resources | Timeline | Status   |
|----------------|--------------------------------|---|----------------|-----------|----------|--|
| TBD            | Installation of public seating | <ul> <li>Investigate<br/>opportunity for the<br/>provision of a seat<br/>at the site</li> </ul>                 | Council        | Pending   | Pending  | Pending<br>funding and<br>further<br>investigation |
| Access to site | Southern<br>access             | <ul> <li>Investigate access<br/>improvement on<br/>pathway between<br/>no. 26 and 24 The<br/>Parkway</li> </ul> | Council        | Pending   | Pending  | Pending<br>funding and<br>further<br>investigation |

### **Key site considerations – Panorama Outlook**

| Environmental   |   |
|---|---|
| Threatened species  | <ul> <li>There are no recorded individual threatened plant species within 200 metres of the Reserve.</li> <li>Over the last 20 years, approximately 17 sightings of Koalas have been recorded within 200 metres of the site (NSW DPIE 2023).</li> <li>The Koala (<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>) is listed as Endangered under NSW and Federal legislation.</li> <li>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</li> </ul> |
| Endangered<br>Ecological<br>Communities (EEC) /<br>Biodiversity value | There are no known identified Plant Community<br>Types as this site has not had an independent<br>ecological assessment.<br>The site is likely to form Spotted Gum - Broad-leaved<br>Mahogany - Red Ironbark shrubby open forest',<br>classed as Hunter-Macleay Dry Sclerophyll Forests.  |
| Priority weeds  | There are currently no identified priority weeds at this<br>site. This reserve is managed by the PSC<br>environmental operations team in accordance with<br>the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> .<br>Additional weeds on site managed by volunteer<br>activities include, but are not limited to Lantana,<br>Bitou, Senna, Hawthorn, Passionfruit, Fishbone<br>Fern, Watsonia, Asparagus species, Formosa Lily,<br>Ochna, Dietes, Camphor Laurel, African Daisy and<br>alien grass species.   |

#### Heritage & Culture

The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) lists 0 recorded Aboriginal sites or Aboriginal places at the subject site.

There are no recorded European heritage items under the State Heritage Inventory (SHI, 2023).

#### **Bushfire**

The reserve is identified as Category 1 vegetation and vegetation buffer, and is identified as Bushfire Prone Land in the NSW ePlanning Spatial Viewer.

The Lower Hunter Bush Fire Risk Management Plan (BFMC 2023) identifies the local area as high current risk to residential and SFPP but lowest current environmental risk.

There is an APZ managed by Port Stephens Council across a significant proportion of the site. No strategic fire advantage zone (SFAZ) impacting the subject site. Activities should not impact the accessibility and standards of these zones.

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 Port Stephens Local Environmental Plan 2013 Wetlands 40 m buffer zone. Care should be taken to avoid any runoff of chemicals or green waste produced during working bees.

Acid Sulphate Soils (ASS) are not likely to be present on the Panorama Outlook site but is classified as within 500m of adjacent ASS land. Volunteers are directed to stop digging and fill any holes that indicate ASS presence (indicated by a scent of sulphuric acid/rotten eggs).

#### Infrastructure

"<u>Before You Dig</u>" should be consulted prior to any ground breaking activities and advice sought from Council if any assets are present.

### Action Plan Map – Mallabula Parkway Drainage Reserve



### **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   |
|--|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|--|----------|--|
| Boundaries<br>of Parkway<br>Drainage<br>site | Weed<br>removal           | <ul> <li>Removal of identified weeds</li> <li>Passive regeneration<br/>encouraged, no plantings</li> </ul>                    | MPRC                      | Routine working<br>bees<br>Green waste to<br>remain on site                            | Ongoing  | Encouraged   |
|  | Maintain<br>accessibility | <ul> <li>Maintenance and minor repairs<br/>to pathway</li> <li>Clearing of debris from pathway</li> </ul>                     | MPRC                      | Routine working bees   | Ongoing  | Supported  |
|  | Bridge creek              | <ul> <li>Investigate opportunity to install<br/>a bridge over the creek to<br/>connect north and south<br/>parkway</li> </ul> | Council (Civil<br>Assets) | Assessment<br>under SEPP<br>Transport &<br>Infrastructure,<br>and EP&A Act<br>required | Pending  | Pending<br>funding and<br>further<br>investigation |
| Focus<br>zone 1                              | Weed<br>removal           | <ul> <li>Removal of identified weeds</li> <li>Passive regeneration<br/>encouraged, no plantings</li> </ul>                    | MPRC                      | Routine working<br>bees<br>Green waste to<br>remain on site                            | Ongoing  | Encouraged   |
|  | Education                 | Promote responsible green     waste management to   | MPRC                      | Working bees<br>Council  | Ongoing  | Encouraged   |

| Zone | Objective | Actions                                       | Responsibility | Resources                 | Timeline | Status |
|------|-----------|---|----------------|---------------------------|----------|--------|
|      |           | discourage green waste<br>dumping in the bush |                | webpages and social media |          |        |

# Key site considerations – Mallabula Parkway Drainage Reserve

| Threatened speciesThere are no recorded individual threatened plant<br>species within 200 metres of the Reserve.<br>Over the last 20 years, approximately 22 sightings of<br>Koalas, and 1 sighting of Spotted-tailed Quoll have<br>been recorded within 200 metres of the site (NSW<br>DPIE 2023).<br>The Koala ( <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> ) is listed as<br>Endangered under NSW and Federal legislation.<br>The Spotted-tailed Quoll ( <i>Dasyurus maculatus</i> ) is<br>listed as Vulnerable under NSW legislation (NSW<br>DEH 2022).<br>The site is mapped as 'Preferred Koala Habitat<br>Buffer Over Supplementary' under the<br>Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management<br>(CKPOM) (PSC 2002) which falls under the State<br>Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and<br>Conservation) 2021Endangered<br>Ecological<br>Communities (EEC) /<br>Biodiversity valueAn associated Endangered Ecological Community is<br>present - 'Paperbark swamp forest of the coastal<br>lowlands of the NSW North Coast Bioregion and<br>Sydney Basin Bioregion'.<br>This vegetation is listed as endangered under the<br>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and<br>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity<br>Conservation Act 1999, and is state and federally<br>protected.Priority weedsThere are no identified priority weeds at this site. This<br>reserve is managed by the PSC environmental<br>operations team in accordance with the Biosecurity<br>Act 2015.<br>Additional weeds on site managed by volunteer<br>activities include, but are not limited to Tradescantia,<br>Lantana, Bitou, Sena, Hawthorn, Passionfruit,<br>Fishbone Fern, Watsonia, Asparagus species, | Environmental                     |   |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| Koalas, and 1 sighting of Spotted-tailed Quoll have<br>been recorded within 200 metres of the site (NSW<br>DPIE 2023).The Koala (Phascolarctos cinereus) is listed as<br>Endangered under NSW and Federal legislation.<br>The Spotted-tailed Quoll (Dasyurus maculatus) is<br>listed as Vulnerable under NSW legislation (NSW<br>DEH 2022).The site is mapped as 'Preferred Koala Habitat<br>Buffer Over Supplementary' under the<br>Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management<br>(CKPOM) (PSC 2002) which falls under the State<br>Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and<br>Conservation) 2021Endangered<br>Ecological<br>Communities (EEC) /<br>Biodiversity valueAn associated Endangered Ecological Community is<br>present - 'Paperbark swamp forest of the coastal<br>lowlands of the NSW North Coast Bioregion and<br>Sydney Basin Bioregion'.<br>This vegetation is listed as endangered under the<br>Biodiversity valuePriority weedsThere are no identified priority weeds at this site. This<br>reserve is managed by the PSC environmental<br>operations team in accordance with the Biosecurity<br>Act 2015.<br>Additional weeds on site managed by volunteer<br>activities include, but are not limited to Tradescantia,<br>Lantana, Bitou, Senna, Hawthorn, Passionfruit,  | Threatened species                | •   |
| Endangered under NSW and Federal legislation.<br>The Spotted-tailed Quoll (Dasyurus maculatus) is<br>listed as Vulnerable under NSW legislation (NSW<br>DEH 2022).<br>The site is mapped as 'Preferred Koala Habitat<br>Buffer Over Supplementary' under the<br>Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management<br>(CKPOM) (PSC 2002) which falls under the State<br>Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and<br>Conservation) 2021Endangered<br>Ecological<br>Communities (EEC) /<br>Biodiversity valueAn associated Endangered Ecological Community is<br>present - 'Paperbark swamp forest of the coastal<br>lowlands of the NSW North Coast Bioregion and<br>Sydney Basin Bioregion'.<br>This vegetation is listed as endangered under the<br><i>Biodiversity value</i> Priority weedsThere are no identified priority weeds at this site. This<br>reserve is managed by the PSC environmental<br>operations team in accordance with the Biosecurity<br>Act 2015.<br>Additional weeds on site managed by volunteer<br>activities include, but are not limited to Tradescantia,<br>Lantana, Bitou, Senna, Hawthorn, Passionfruit,   |                                   | Koalas, and 1 sighting of Spotted-tailed Quoll have been recorded within 200 metres of the site (NSW  |
| Iisted as Vulnerable under NSW legislation (NSW<br>DEH 2022).The site is mapped as 'Preferred Koala Habitat<br>Buffer Over Supplementary' under the<br>Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management<br>(CKPoM) (PSC 2002) which falls under the State<br>Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and<br>Conservation) 2021Endangered<br>Ecological<br>Communities (EEC) /<br>Biodiversity valueAn associated Endangered Ecological Community is<br>present - 'Paperbark swamp forest of the coastal<br>lowlands of the NSW North Coast Bioregion and<br>Sydney Basin Bioregion'.<br>This vegetation is listed as endangered under the<br><i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> and<br><i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity</i><br><i>Conservation Act 1999</i> , and is state and federally<br>protected.Priority weedsThere are no identified priority weeds at this site. This<br>reserve is managed by the PSC environmental<br>operations team in accordance with the Biosecurity<br>Act 2015.<br>Additional weeds on site managed by volunteer<br>activities include, but are not limited to Tradescantia,<br>Lantana, Bitou, Senna, Hawthorn, Passionfruit,  |                                   |   |
| Buffer Over Supplementary' under the<br>Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management<br>(CKPoM) (PSC 2002) which falls under the State<br>Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and<br>Conservation) 2021Endangered<br>Ecological<br>Communities (EEC) /<br>Biodiversity valueAn associated Endangered Ecological Community is<br>present - 'Paperbark swamp forest of the coastal<br>lowlands of the NSW North Coast Bioregion and<br>Sydney Basin Bioregion'.<br>This vegetation is listed as endangered under the<br>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and<br>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity<br>Conservation Act 1999, and is state and federally<br>protected.Priority weedsThere are no identified priority weeds at this site. This<br>reserve is managed by the PSC environmental<br>operations team in accordance with the Biosecurity<br>Act 2015.<br>Additional weeds on site managed by volunteer<br>activities include, but are not limited to Tradescantia,<br>Lantana, Bitou, Senna, Hawthorn, Passionfruit,   |                                   | listed as Vulnerable under NSW legislation (NSW   |
| Ecological<br>Communities (EEC) /<br>Biodiversity valuepresent - 'Paperbark swamp forest of the coastal<br>lowlands of the NSW North Coast Bioregion and<br>Sydney Basin Bioregion'.<br>This vegetation is listed as endangered under the<br>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and<br>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity<br>Conservation Act 1999, and is state and federally<br>protected.Priority weedsThere are no identified priority weeds at this site. This<br>reserve is managed by the PSC environmental<br>operations team in accordance with the Biosecurity<br>Act 2015.Additional weeds on site managed by volunteer<br>activities include, but are not limited to Tradescantia,<br>Lantana, Bitou, Senna, Hawthorn, Passionfruit,  |                                   | Buffer Over Supplementary' under the<br>Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management<br>(CKPoM) (PSC 2002) which falls under the State<br>Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and   |
| protected.Only permitted works under this plan may be<br>undertaken within this vegetation type because it<br>is highly sensitive.Priority weedsThere are no identified priority weeds at this site. This<br>reserve is managed by the PSC environmental<br>operations team in accordance with the Biosecurity<br>Act 2015.<br>Additional weeds on site managed by volunteer<br>activities include, but are not limited to Tradescantia,<br>Lantana, Bitou, Senna, Hawthorn, Passionfruit,   | Ecological<br>Communities (EEC) / | present - 'Paperbark swamp forest of the coastal<br>lowlands of the NSW North Coast Bioregion and<br>Sydney Basin Bioregion'.<br>This vegetation is listed as endangered under the<br><i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> and<br><i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity</i> |
| reserve is managed by the PSC environmental<br>operations team in accordance with the Biosecurity<br>Act 2015.<br>Additional weeds on site managed by volunteer<br>activities include, but are not limited to Tradescantia,<br>Lantana, Bitou, Senna, Hawthorn, Passionfruit,  |                                   | protected.<br>Only permitted works under this plan may be<br>undertaken within this vegetation type because it  |
| activities include, but are not limited to Tradescantia,<br>Lantana, Bitou, Senna, Hawthorn, Passionfruit,   | Priority weeds                    | reserve is managed by the PSC environmental operations team in accordance with the Biosecurity  |
|  |                                   | activities include, but are not limited to Tradescantia,<br>Lantana, Bitou, Senna, Hawthorn, Passionfruit,  |

| Formosa Lily, Ochna, Dietes, Camphor Laurel, |  |
|--|--|
| African Daisy and alien grass species.       |  |

#### Heritage

The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) lists 3 recorded Aboriginal sites in proximity to the subject site and 0 Aboriginal places in proximity to the subject site. The utmost care must be taken to avoid disturbance to this area if volunteers suspect they have located the recorded Aboriginal art in the location.

There are no recorded European heritage items under the State Heritage Inventory (SHI, 2023) or the Port Stephens Local Environmental Plan.

#### **Bushfire**

The reserve is identified as Category 1 vegetation and vegetation buffer, and is identified as Bushfire Prone Land in the NSW ePlanning Spatial Viewer. The Lower Hunter Bush Fire Risk Management Plan (BFMC 2023) identifies the local area as high current risk to residential and SFPP but lowest current environmental risk.

There are no asset protection zones (APZ) or strategic fire advantage zones (SFAZ) impacting the subject site.

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 Port Stephens Local Environmental Plan 2013 Wetlands 40 m buffer zone. Care should be taken to avoid any runoff of chemicals or green waste produced during working bees.

Acid Sulphate Soils (ASS) are likely to be present at the Parkway Drainage site as it is classified as works below and beyond 1-2 m below the natural ground surface may contain ASS. Volunteers are directed to stop digging and fill any holes that indicate ASS presence (indicated by a scent of sulphuric acid/rotten eggs).

#### Infrastructure

The assets present at the site including a pathway and interpretive signage.

"<u>Before You Dig</u>" should be consulted prior to any ground breaking activities and advice sought from Council if any assets are present.

### References

Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC). 2023. Lower Hunter Bushfire Risk Management Plan. 21 July.

Department of Premier and Cabinet. 2022. <u>State Heritage Inventory</u>. NSW Government.

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE). 2022. <u>Aboriginal Heritage</u> <u>Information Management System (AHIMS).</u> NSW Government, Parramatta NSW.

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE). 2022. <u>NSW BioNet Atlas</u>. NSW Government, updated 28 June.

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE). 2021. <u>Swamp Sclerophyll</u> <u>Forest on Coastal Floodplains of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and</u> <u>South East Corner Bioregions – profile.</u> Updated 24 March 2020, NSW Government.

NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI). 2022. <u>NSW WeedWise</u>. NSW Government.

NSW Government. 2023. <u>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 No 203, Part</u> <u>5 Infrastructure and environmental impact assessment</u>. Current version 13 January 2023.

NSW Government. 2023. <u>State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007, Part 1</u> <u>and Part 3 Division 12</u>. Current version 1 January 2022 to 28 February 2022.

NSW Rural Fire Service. 2019. Planning for Bushfire Protection. RFS, Sydney.

Port Stephens Council (PSC). 2002. Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management (CKPoM) – June 2002. Prepared by PSC and Australian Koala Foundation, Raymond Terrace.

Port Stephens Council (PSC). 2014. Technical Specification TREE – September 2014. Raymond Terrace.

Port Stephens Council. 2019. Procedure – Work Health and Safety, Management of Volunteers. Enterprise Risk Management System – WHS Management of Volunteers, EDRMS: 16/469990.Version 5.2, dated 15 January.

Port Stephens Council. 2020. Work Health & Safety 2020 Handbook. Raymond Terrace.

Port Stephens Council. 2023. Environmental Assessment Level 2 – Mallabula Parks and Reserves. EDRMS PSC2022-02259.

#### CONTROLLED DOCUMENT INFORMATION:

| This is a controlled document. Hardcopies of this document may not be the latest version. Before using this document, check it is the latest version; refer to Council's website www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au |   |  |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| EDRMS container<br>No  | PSC2022-02612 EDRMS record No 23/369945   |  |  |  |
| Audience   | Mallabula Parks and Reserves Committee    |  |  |  |
| Process owner  | Strategy and Environment Section Manager  |  |  |  |
| Author   | Kate Mannell - Volunteers Support Officer |  |  |  |
| Review timeframe   | 3 years Next review date 22/12/2026       |  |  |  |
| Adoption date  | 22/12/2023                                |  |  |  |

#### **VERSION HISTORY:**

| Version | Date                                      | Author   | Details   |
|---------|---|--|---|
| 1       | 11 October<br>2023                        | Volunteers Support<br>Officer                  | Created document.   |
| 2       | 22 December<br>2023                       | Strategy and<br>Environment Section<br>Manager | Document reviewed internally.<br>Volunteer feedback to be<br>requested. |
| 3       | 14 December<br>2023 / 22<br>December 2023 | Volunteers Support<br>Officer                  | Final consultation with group and adoption.                             |

### Appendix A – Species list

Any plantings should be in consideration of the relevant Plant Community Type (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 stratum species lists are relevant to the identified PCTs.

Spotted Gum - Broad-leaved Mahogany - Red Ironbark shrubby open forest

- Corymbia maculata;
- Eucalyptus umbra;
- Eucalyptus fibrosa;
- Allocasuarina torulosa;
- Pultenaea villosa;
- Persoonia linearis;
- Breynia oblongifolia;
- Bursaria spinosa;
- Leucopogon juniperinus;
- Daviesia ulicifolia;
- Pandorea pandorana;
- Microlaena stipoides;
- Themeda australis;
- Imperata cylindrica;
- Cymbopogon refractus;
- Aristida vagans;
- Pratia purpurascens;
- Vernonia cinerea;
- Dianella caerulea;
- Lomandra multiflora;
- Lepidosperma laterale;
- Cheilanthes sieberi.

Paperbark swamp forest of the coastal lowlands of the NSW North Coast Bioregion and Sydney Basin Bioregion

- Melaleuca quinquenervia;
- Melaleuca linariifolia;
- Melaleuca sieberi;
- Melaleuca alternifolia;
- Melaleuca styphelioides;

- Melaleuca nodosa;
- Eucalyptus robusta;
- Callistemon salignus;
- Lophostemon suaveolens;
- Eucalyptus tereticornis;
- Casuarina glauca;
- Leptospermum spp.;
- Melastoma affine;
- Parsonsia straminea;
- Blechnum indicum;
- Gahnia spp.;
- Hypolepis muelleri.

Swamp Oak swamp forest of the coastal lowlands of the NSW North Coast Bioregion

- 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.

### Appendix B – Plant Community Types (PCT) Map



### **Appendix C – Tree Technical Specification**

The long-term success of urban tree plantings is the end result of a detailed process involving many players. It requires a detailed analysis of site conditions and design constraints. It requires an extensive knowledge of the inherent characteristics of a wide range of species. Long-term benefits are gained when time is spent at the planning stage and when due consideration is given to solving potential conflicts and problems.

|  | ZONE A  | ZONE B  | ZONE C  |
|--|---|---|---|
|  | Most<br>constraints<br>(Greatest risk)  | Moderate constraints<br>(Moderate risk)   | Fewest constraints<br>(Minimum risk)  |
| Electrical & telecommunications          | <ul> <li>Un-insulated low and high<br/>voltage wires</li> </ul>   | <ul> <li>Bundled cables (ABC)</li> <li>Insulated cables</li> </ul>  | <ul> <li>No power lines</li> </ul>  |
| Below ground services<br>typical layouts | <ul><li>Fibre optic cables</li><li>High voltage power</li></ul>   | <ul> <li>Water mains</li> <li>Gas mains</li> <li>Stormwater</li> </ul>                                      | No underground services   |
| Paved areas                              | <ul> <li>Area wholly paved</li> <li>Surface wholly sealed</li> <li>Brick pavers laid on sand</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Partially paved areas</li> <li>Non reinforced concrete</li> </ul>                                  | Grass up to 6m  |
| Verge width                              | <ul> <li>Less than 3.0m</li> </ul>  | <ul> <li>From 3m to 4m</li> </ul>   | <ul> <li>4m or wider</li> </ul>   |
| Building set back                        | <ul> <li>None</li> </ul>  | <ul> <li>Less than 6m</li> </ul>  | <ul> <li>6m or greater</li> </ul>   |
| Street lighting                          | <ul> <li>Over pedestrian crossings</li> <li>Traffic intersections</li> </ul>                            | <ul> <li>Street lighting other than crossings<br/>and intersections</li> </ul>                              | <ul> <li>No street lighting</li> </ul>  |
| Safety signage; ie traffic<br>signs      | <ul> <li>Dual carriageways</li> <li>Arterial roads</li> </ul>   | <ul> <li>Medium density residential streets</li> <li>Arterial roads in rural zones</li> </ul>               | <ul> <li>Low density rural/residential<br/>streets</li> </ul>   |
| Traffic                                  | <ul> <li>Heavy vehicles</li> <li>Public transport in heavy volumes</li> </ul>                           | <ul> <li>Public transport in moderate<br/>volume</li> <li>Heavy vehicles in moderate<br/>volumes</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Public transport in low volume</li> <li>Residential traffic in low volume</li> <li>Cul-de-sacs.</li> </ul> |
| Soils                                    | <ul> <li>Shallow</li> </ul>   | <ul> <li>Moderately compacted</li> </ul>  | <ul> <li>Deep profile</li> </ul>  |
| Soil Volume per tree                     | <ul> <li>5-15 m<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>  | <ul> <li>20-40 m<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>   | <ul> <li>50-80 m<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>   |
| Climate                                  | <ul> <li>Frontline salt wind<br/>exposure</li> <li>Prevailing wind exposure</li> </ul>                  | <ul> <li>Second line coastal salt influence</li> <li>Moderate wind exposure</li> </ul>                      | <ul> <li>Minimum salt influence</li> <li>Minimal wind exposure</li> </ul>   |
| Street – Width & Usage                   | <ul> <li>Narrow; CBD residential &amp;<br/>commercial;</li> </ul>                                       | <ul> <li>Non CBD; narrow residential &amp;<br/>commercial;</li> </ul>                                       | <ul> <li>Average to wide residential/<br/>commercial</li> </ul>   |

Street tree planting should contribute to a coherent and regular spaced planting along the footway or roadway. The following guidelines should be used to assist layout of street trees subject to location of public utilities and other site-specific constraints.

| CONSTRAINT                         | NOMINAL CLEARANCE                        |  |  |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Constraint zone A                  | 7 metre spacing                          |  |  |
| Constraint zone B                  | 10 metre spacing                         |  |  |
| Constraint zone C                  | 15 metre spacing                         |  |  |
| Street intersection                | 10m from intersection curb line          |  |  |
| Power or light pole                | 5m from centre of pole                   |  |  |
| Storm water inlet                  | 3m from edge of inlet                    |  |  |
| Major underground service junction | 3m from edge of junction box             |  |  |
| Bus Stops                          | No trees planted along length of stop    |  |  |
| Traffic lights                     | 10m from pole of traffic lights          |  |  |
| Driveway.                          | 3m from edge of driveway                 |  |  |
| Fire hydrants.                     | 3m from center of hydrants               |  |  |
| Visibility                         | Trees trunks to be free of branches 2.4r |  |  |
|                                    | above ground height                      |  |  |

More information can be found <u>here</u>. Table 3 is recommended as a valuable resource when considering the characteristics of specific tree and shrub species.



council@portstephens.nsw.gov.au | 02 4988 0255 | PORTSTEPHENS.NSW.GOV.AU in f 🗹 🖸