

Barry Park Volunteers Agreed Action Plan

2024 to 2027



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.



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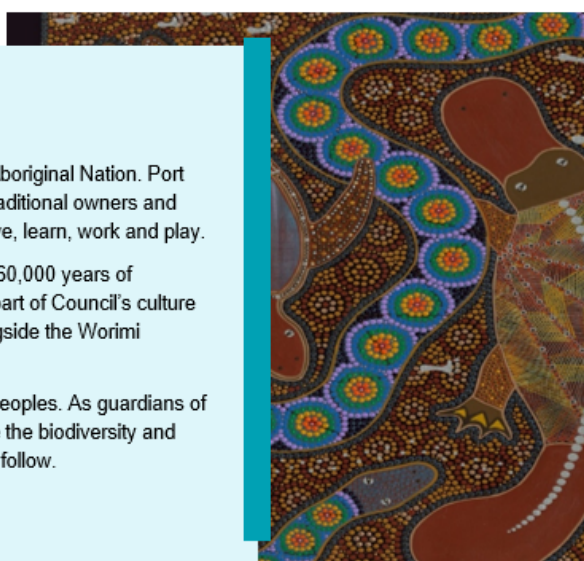
(GOO-JEE IK-KOO)

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 in Barry Park, Fingal Bay.

Objectives of the Plan

For the Fingal Bay, Barry Park volunteers and Port Stephens Council to work together to protect and enhance the character of these sites.

This plan may also be used in applications for grant funding and to promote the group to prospective volunteers.

Site Details

Table 1: Shoal Bay West foreshore site details

Site Address	96 Marine Drive, Fingal Bay
Lot / DP	Lot 477 DP 728139
Land zoning	RE1 – Public Recreation
Owner	State of NSW (Crown Trusteeship)* managed by Port Stephens Council
Crown Reserve	79059 – 9 November 1956
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Worimi
Reserve	Barry Park (See Action Plan Map)

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 Barry Park volunteers 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 group should also consider park use by the public, such as weddings and events, when determining working bee schedules.

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 and waterways.
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 approved chemical use (if applicable). Do not place sediment or waste in 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.
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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 – Overview

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
Barry Park	Vegetation maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor pruning of vegetation along pathways to maintain accessibility. Management of grasses in central cleared area. Clearing of tree debris from pathways and grassed areas. 	Barry Park Group (BPG)	Routine working bees Green waste to remain on site	Ongoing	Approved
	Weed control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control of identified weeds such as asparagus fern, bitou and lantana along pathways is encouraged. 	BPG	Routine working bees Green waste to remain on site	Ongoing	Approved
	Graffiti removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report any damage to community assets via Council's reporting system. Minor repair and removal of vandalism to community assets. 	BPG Residents Council	<u>Report and Request</u>	Ongoing	Approved

Zone	Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Resources	Timeline	Status
	Picnic tables, lookout and shelters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community assets are the responsibility of Council. Any additions or significant alterations must be approved by Council. Minor maintenance such as painting of these assets by volunteers is supported. No assets are to be installed without approval. 	Council	<u>Report and Request</u> Routine working bees	Ongoing	Approved
	Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preservation of park map and other local signage. Investigate option for 'Don't feed wildlife' signs to deter birds at picnic tables. 	BPG Council	Routine working bees	Ongoing	Approved
	Event accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule any working bees on off-peak times due to the use of the park as an event venue. Saturdays, Fridays and Thursdays are considered peak days. 	BPG	Routine working bees	Ongoing	Approved
	Vegetation maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor pruning of vegetation along 	BPG	Routine working bees	Ongoing	Approved

Zone	Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Resources	Timeline	Status
Northern and entry pathway		pathways to maintain accessibility.		Green waste to remain on site		
	Gravel pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the integrity of existing gravel pathways by applying additional gravel. Report any landscaping concerns to Council. 	BPG	Routine working bees	Ongoing	Approved
Southern pathway	Vegetation maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor pruning of vegetation along pathways to maintain accessibility. 	BPG	Routine working bees Green waste to remain on site	Ongoing	Approved
	Weed control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control of identified weeds such as asparagus fern, bitou and lantana along pathways is encouraged. 	BPG	Routine working bees Green waste to remain on site	Ongoing	Approved
Board walk	Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This community asset is the responsibility of Council. Any significant repairs must be reported. Council are responsible for the compliance, registration and 	Council	<u>Report and Request</u> or call 4988 0255	Ongoing	Approved

Zone	Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Resources	Timeline	Status
		maintenance of the board walk.				
	Monitoring and reporting to support group resourcing	Monitor and record activities undertaken by group Reporting on areas weeded, areas planted, success rates, new and emerging weeds, fauna sightings, etc.	BPG	Reporting should be undertaken through council's online <u>Environmental Works Records</u> (on PSC website under 'Environment' – 'Weeds'). Regular working bee check-ins with VSO	Ongoing	Encouraged

Key site considerations

Environmental

Threatened species	<p>There are no recorded individual threatened plant species within 200 metres of the Reserve.</p> <p>Over the last 20 years, approximately 3 sightings of Wallum Froglet and 1 sighting of Mahony's Froglet have been recorded within 200 metres of the site (NSW DPIE 2023).</p> <p>Wallum Froglet (<i>Crinia tinnula</i>) is listed as Threatened under NSW and Federal legislation.</p> <p>Mahony's Toadlet (<i>Uperoleia mahonyi</i>) is listed as Endangered under NSW and Federal legislation.</p> <p>The site is mapped as 'Other Vegetation' under the Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management (CKPoM) (PSC 2002).</p>
Endangered Ecological Communities (EEC) / Biodiversity value	<p>There are no Endangered Ecological Communities identified on site. The following are Plant Community Types are on site and illustrated in Appendix B.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Broad-leaved Paperbark - Swamp Mahogany - Swamp Oak - Saw Sedge swamp forest of the Central Coast and Lower North Coast.• Smooth-barked Apple – Blackbutt- Old Man Banksia woodland on coastal sands of the Central and Lower Coast.• Coast Tea Tree - Old Man Banksia coastal shrub land on fore dunes of the Central and lower North Coast.• Broad-leaved Apple - Scribbly Gum woodland in the Guy Fawkes River area of the NSW North Coast Bioregion.
Priority weeds	<p>The area is controlled by the PSC Environmental Operations team in accordance with the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i>.</p> <p>Identified priority weeds within and directly adjoining this site include Mother of Millions.</p>

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.

The Volunteer Group acknowledge that Lot 477 DP 728139 is subject to an undetermined Aboriginal Land Claim. Should the claim be determined in the 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 & Culture

The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) (DPIE 2022) lists 2 recorded Aboriginals site in proximity to subject site in the south however this is outside the action plan boundary.

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 mapped as Bushfire Prone Land (Buffer and Category 1) in the NSW ePlanning Spatial Viewer. There are no Asset Protection Zones (APZ) or strategic fire advantage zones (SFAZ) impact 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 40 m buffer of the Port Stephens – Great Lakes Marine Park Habitat Protection 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 (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. A Works on Council Owned Land Application must be completed and is subject to assessment by Council.

“Before You Dig” 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.

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- Port Stephens Council. 2020. Work Health & Safety 2020 Handbook. Raymond Terrace.
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CONTROLLED DOCUMENT INFORMATION:

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VERSION HISTORY:

Version	Date	Author	Details
1	1 February 2024	Volunteers Support Officer	Created document.
2	11 April 2024	Strategy and Environment Section Manager	Document reviewed internally. Volunteer feedback to be requested.
3	2 May 2024	Volunteers Support Officer	Final consultation with group and adoption.

Appendix A – 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. Trees may not be planted in the reserve unless consultation has occurred with the VSO and these specifications have been considered.

	ZONE A Most constraints (Greatest risk)	ZONE B Moderate constraints (Moderate risk)	ZONE C Fewest constraints (Minimum risk)
Electrical & telecommunications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Un-insulated low and high voltage wires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bundled cables (ABC) Insulated cables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No power lines
Below ground services typical layouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fibre optic cables High voltage power 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water mains Gas mains Stormwater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No underground services
Paved areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area wholly paved Surface wholly sealed Brick pavers laid on sand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partially paved areas Non reinforced concrete 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grass up to 6m
Verge width	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less than 3.0m 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 3m to 4m 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4m or wider
Building set back	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less than 6m 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6m or greater
Street lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over pedestrian crossings Traffic intersections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Street lighting other than crossings and intersections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No street lighting
Safety signage; ie traffic signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dual carriageways Arterial roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium density residential streets Arterial roads in rural zones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low density rural/residential streets
Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heavy vehicles Public transport in heavy volumes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public transport in moderate volume Heavy vehicles in moderate volumes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public transport in low volume Residential traffic in low volume Cul-de-sacs.
Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shallow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderately compacted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deep profile
Soil Volume per tree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5-15 m³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20-40 m³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50-80 m³
Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frontline salt wind exposure Prevailing wind exposure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second line coastal salt influence Moderate wind exposure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum salt influence Minimal wind exposure
Street – Width & Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrow; CBD residential & commercial; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non CBD; narrow residential & commercial; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average to wide residential/ commercial

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.

More information can be found [here](#). Table 3 is recommended as a valuable resource when considering the characteristics of specific tree and shrub species.

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 2.4m above ground height

Appendix B – Vegetation Mapping

Vegetation Mapping



DISCLAIMER
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- (1626) Smooth barked Apple Broad leaved Mahogany Red Bloodwood heathy low open forest on hills at Nelson Bay
- (1644) Coast Tea Tree Old Man Banksia coastal shrubland on foredunes of the Central and lower North Coast
- (1646) Smooth barked Apple Blackbutt Old Man Banksia woodland on coastal sands of the Central and Lower North Coast
- (1717) Broad leaved Paperbark Swamp Mahogany Swamp Oak Saw Sedge swamp forest of the Central Coast and Lower North Coast



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