

Report by Bernadette Murray, Natural Resources Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That the successful grant application for the development of a Plan of Management (POM) for Cox's Creek Reserve be noted.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Council of the successful grant submission to Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority (SMCMA) for the development of a Plan of Management (POM) for Cox's Creek Reserve, Greenacre.

REPORT

Council has responsibilities for significant natural areas and biodiversity conservation as defined under a number of statutes including the Local Government Act 1993, Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

Under the Local Government Act 1993 Council has the responsibility to update and review its Plans of Management for all facilities, parks, reserves and bushland areas. Currently a review is required to bring the existing *Cox's Creek Reserve Plan of Management 2001*, into line with legislative requirements for community land.

Council was recently successful in its submission for external funding through the SMCMA for wetland management. Council successfully received \$25,000 for the development of a POM for this environmentally significant habitat.

Cox's Creek Bushland Reserve is a 1.65 hectare remnant of Cooks River Castlereagh Ironbark Forest located in the suburb of Greenacre. The reserve is situated in a mixed residential/industrial area in the south of the Strathfield LGA. The site is dissected by two open watercourses forming part of a low lying alluvial floodplain of Cox's Creek which is a minor tributary to the Cooks River. The site is now the only remaining remnant of the series of paperbark swamps that were originally located near the junction of Roberts Road and Juno Parade. Prior to Council management, the reserve was subjected to rubbish dumping, clearing, damage from vehicles and impacts from storm water surges. The existing POM will be updated to provide strategic direction particularly for the management of stormwater pollution, wetland management and threatened species recovery. The site provides habitat for threatened species including *Litoria aurea* (Green and Golden Bell Frog), *Acacia pubescens*, *Wahlenbergia multicaulis* and the Endangered Ecological Community Cooks River Castlereagh Ironbark Forest.

The revised POM for Cox's Creek Reserve will be prepared to provide Council with an integrated and consistent approach to management. The Plan should identify a set of best practice guidelines for the rehabilitation and future maintenance of this important ecological community, creek and wetland as well as providing a framework to guide Strathfield Council's decision-making processes. In particular to guide the allocation of the resources necessary to effectively manage the reserve. The POM must reflect the needs of Council (as land managers), of current

and future visitors to the reserve, and the local community (both adjoining residents and those industrial/commercial establishments sited nearby).

REFERRAL FROM OTHER DEPARTMENT

This grant opportunity was identified and the submission prepared jointly between the Parks and Properties Section and the Environmental Services Section.

Development of the Plan of Management will be in consultation with Environmental Services.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Proposed Expenditure: Council has received \$25,000 in funding from the SMCMA. Council will be required to fund a maximum of \$8,000 for community consultation and advertising. Project management and project officer time will be covered within existing budget allocations.

Funding has been provided in the current budget for this purpose as set out below:

Program	Approved Budget	Expenditure to Date
<i>Parkscape</i>	<i>\$2,348,830</i>	<i>\$1,513,540</i>

Report approved by:

John Gordon	Rob Bourke
Manager Parks and Properties	Director Operations