

COUNCIL MEETING UNDER SEPARATE COVER ATTACHMENTS - Plans of Management (various)

Strathfield Municipal Council

Tuesday 1 December 2020

6:30pm
Council Chambers
65 Homebush Road, Strathfield

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ATTACHMENT 4





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1. Introduction

1.1 Title

This plan is titled the Airey Park Plan of Management.

The current plan was adopted by Council resolution at the meeting of xx and replaces the Airey Park Plan of Management 2008.

This plan of management applies to land located at Airey Park including Sutherland Reserve. Airey Park is bounded by Bates Street, Badgery Avenue, Fraser Street, The Crescent and Kessell Avenue.

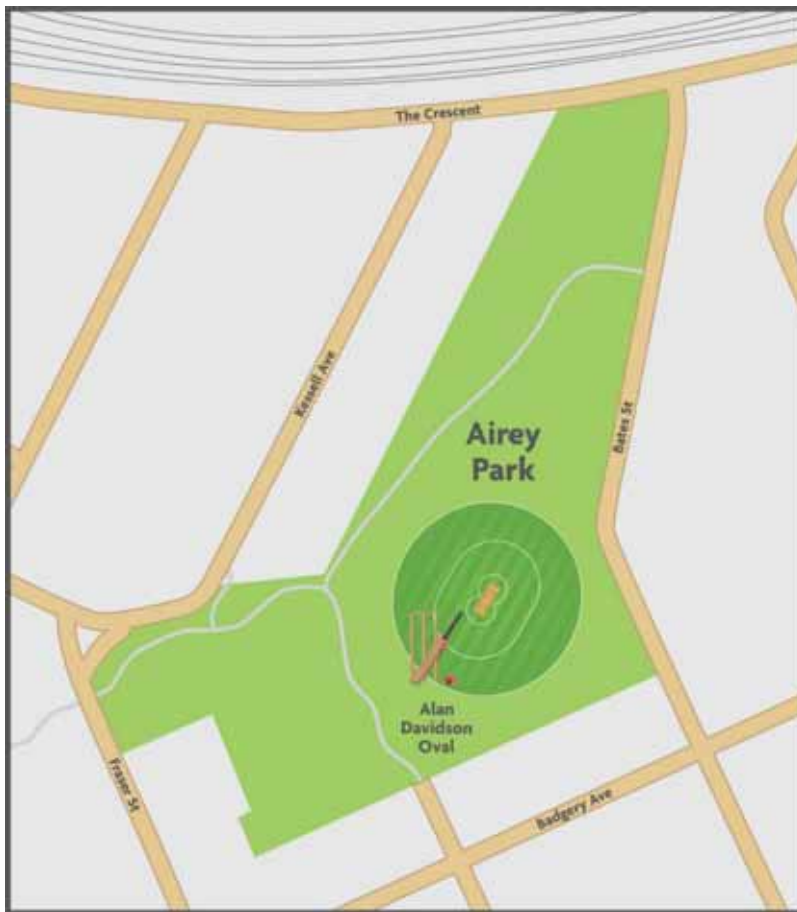
The buildings located in Airey Park are included in the Community Facilities Plan of Management.

Ownership, lot details and zoning information is set out in Table 1 (based on information in Council's Geographical Information System GIS 2019). The location map of Airey Park is set out in Figure 1.

Table 1 – Ownership, title and zoning details

Owner	Lot Details	Zoning Strathfield LEP 2012
Strathfield Council	Lot 1-2 DP 126151	RE1 Public Recreation
Strathfield Council	Lot 1 DP 914922	RE1 Public Recreation
Strathfield Council	Lot 45-46 DP 10055	RE1 Public Recreation
Strathfield Council	Lot 68 Section 2 DP 12467	RE1 Public Recreation

Figure 1 – Airey Park Location Map



1.2 Purpose of this Plan of Management

The *Local Government Act 1993* and amendments to the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* require all public land including Crown Reserves, owned or managed by Council, to be classified as either 'community' land or 'operational' land. Land classified as 'community' land must be managed and used in accordance with an adopted Plan of Management. The land described in this Plan of Management is classified as community land.

Plans of Management are developed by Council in consultation with the community. A Plan of Management describes the features of the community land and outlines how the land may be managed and used, consistent with land categorisations, core objectives and zoning, to provide a transparent and co-ordinated approach to public land management.

The purpose of this Plan of Management is to:

- contribute to the strategic goals and vision as set out in the Strathfield Community Strategic Plan
- ensure compliance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and relevant legislation and guidelines
- provide clarity regarding use and access to the community land as described in this plan.

1.3 Contents of this Plan of Management

This Plan of Management is divided into the following sections, as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2 – Structure of this Plan of Management

Section	What does it include?
1. Introduction	Title, land covered by plan, purpose, contents and review of the plan
2. About the Strathfield LGA	Recognition of traditional custodians, Strathfield LGA snapshot, trends, community vision, legislative and policy framework and references.
3. Land – category, classification, use and access	Site description, land use/history, land categories and classifications, maps, use of land and structures, environmental features, condition of land and structures and heritage.
4. Land Uses	Permissible uses and development, scale and intensity of use, authorisation of leases, licences and short-term uses.
5. Management of the land	Objectives, performance targets, means and manner for assessment of performance

1.4. Change and Review of Plan of Management

This Plan of Management will require regular review in order to align with community values and changing community needs, and to reflect changes in Council priorities. The performance of this Plan of Management will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure the use of land and structures is well maintained and consistent with Council's strategic objectives and community values.

Strategic reviews of this Plan of Management will be required where there is significant change to legislation, land ownership/management or proposed land use. Regular reviews should occur at five (5) year intervals.

2. About the Strathfield Local Government Area

2.1 Recognition of Traditional Custodians

Strathfield Council acknowledges the Wangal people, the traditional Custodians of the lands on which the Strathfield area is located. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

2.2 Snapshot of Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA)

The Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA) is well known for transport connections, educational opportunities, attractive streetscapes, parks, heritage and buildings. The Strathfield LGA is centrally located in Sydney's Inner West, approximately 10.5 kilometres from the Sydney CBD and half way between Parramatta and the Sydney CBD. The LGA includes the suburbs of Strathfield (postcode 2135), Strathfield South (2136), Homebush (2140), Homebush West (2140), part of Belfield (2191) and part of Greenacre (2190). Sydney Markets (postcode 2129) is also located within Strathfield LGA.

Strathfield LGA is well known for its extensive green open spaces and high quality recreational facilities, which enhance the liveability, amenity and sustainability of the local area. The Strathfield LGA has a total area of approximately 1390 ha (13.9km²) with 104 ha of the total area being public open space (2018 estimates). There is currently 9.06 ha of remnant bushland in the LGA and about 6 ha is under Council management.

In 2019, the estimated residential LGA population was about 47,000 residents and by 2041, the resident population is estimated to reach over 80,000 people (NSW Planning 2019). The growing population and accompanying building density will increase demand for access to and usage of available open space and community facilities. Therefore, management of community land is of critical importance to current and future communities.

Open spaces range from regional and district sporting grounds to smaller local parks and reserves. Significant parks with major sporting facilities include Airey Park, Bressington Park, Bark Huts Reserve, Begnell Field, Cooke Park, Hudson Park, Mason Park and Strathfield Park. Many local biodiversity conservation and habitat connectivity priority areas, including flora and fauna assets, are located within Strathfield LGA's parks and reserves. A number of connected parks and open spaces form the Cooks River Foreshore open space network, an important local and regional habitat corridor and pedestrian and cycle transport connection.

Strathfield LGA also provides many community facilities, located on community land including meeting rooms, halls and community centres which are available for hire by groups and individuals for sporting, community, recreation, social and other purposes.

2.3 Strathfield LGA community and recreational trends

Some of the challenges facing the Strathfield LGA include increasing and competing demands for public open space and community facilities. Strathfield Council is strongly focused on identifying and meeting the current and future needs of the Strathfield community in a sustainable manner.

Recent community engagement and analysis of social and recreational trends indicate increasing participation in recreation, sporting and leisure activities such as organised team sports, walking, cycling, running, aerobic fitness and dog walking. There is increased demand for access to community and recreation facilities, outdoor and indoor.

Priorities for Council involve increasing the capacity of local community facilities, parks and sportsgrounds, developing new community and recreational facilities as required and ensuring equity of access to land and facilities, to meet changing and diverse needs.

2.4 Community Vision and Key Strategic Directions

The community vision describes the community's aspirations for the future of the Strathfield Local Government Area by 2030:

“Strathfield is a culturally diverse and socially cohesive community with respect for its heritage and environment and proud of its well-connected transport, business and educational institutions”.

Strathfield 2030 is the community strategic plan for the Strathfield Local Government Area until 2030. The plan was developed following extensive community engagement and is divided into the key themes of Connectivity, Community Wellbeing, Civic Pride and Management. Liveable Neighbourhoods and Responsible Leadership. This plan particularly aligns with Council's strategic goals of Healthy and Active Communities (2.2), Safe and Accessible Places (2.3), Thriving and Resilient Environment (4.3) and relevant actions set out in the four year Delivery Program and annual Operational Plan.

This plan is aligned with the Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) which defines the long term vision for land use and infrastructure provisions within the Strathfield LGA and supports place within the Greater Sydney and District planning frameworks. This plan of management aligns with the LSPS Priority P13 'Biodiversity and ecological health and resiliency is conserved, restored and enhanced' and Priority P15 'Quality Open Spaces and thriving green corridors offset the impacts of growth across the LGA' and action plan A93 to review and prepare new plans of management.

2.5 Legislative and Policy Framework

The following legislation and policies provide a framework for the preparation of this Plan of Management.

Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (LG Act) requires the preparation of Plans of Management (POMs) for Council owned land, and requires all community land to be categorised.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) (EP&A Act) is the principal planning legislation for NSW, that provides a framework for the environmental planning and assessment of development proposals and preparation of environmental planning instruments (including the Local Environmental Plan or LEP).

Crown Lands Management Act 2016 (NSW) (CLM Act) governs the planning, management and use of Crown land, including provisions to reserve or dedicate lands for a prescribed public purpose and for leasing and licensing. Crown land under Council management requires classification and categorisations under the LG Act and preparation of Plans of Management.

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW) (BC Act) requires that Councils consider the impact on threatened species, populations and communities in fulfilling their statutory responsibilities under the EP&A Act for development approvals. It also covers management of threatened species and communities on Council owned lands.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth) (EPBC Act) provides a national scheme for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, and incorporates referral mechanisms and environmental impact assessment processes for projects of national significance.

State Environmental Planning Policy 19 – Bushland in Urban Areas aims to protect and preserve bushland in the Sydney Metropolitan area. The SEPP is concerned with disturbances and development affecting bushland areas.

Companion Animal Act 1998 (NSW) requires the identification and registration of companion animals (e.g. cats and dogs) and sets out the duties and responsibilities in relation to management of animals and specific areas of land.

Local Land Services Act 2013 (NSW) provides a framework to ensure the proper management of natural resources in the social, economic and environmental interests of the State. Strathfield is part of the Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS), which provides guidance on matters such as community engagement, biosecurity and weeds.

Also relevant are:

- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)
- Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (NSW) and Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)
- Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)
- Fisheries Management Act 1994 (NSW)
- Rural Fires Act 1997 (NSW)
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)

Related Strathfield Council policies and plans

- Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030
- Strathfield 2030 Community Strategic Plan (CSP)
- Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Development Control Plans 2005
- Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2020
- Disability Inclusion Plan 2020-2024

2.6 References

Eco Logical Australia and Strathfield Council, 2019, *Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2020-2030*

Insight Ecology, 2017, *The Fauna of Strathfield (Local Government Area)*

Jones, Cathy., 2019, *Parks and Reserves*, viewed at <https://strathfieldheritage.org/parks-and-reserves>

Near Maps – Strathfield LGA, 2019 at <https://www.nearmap.com/au/en>

NSW Department Planning, 2019, *Strathfield LGA Population Projections 2016-2041*.

Strathfield Council, *Local Environmental Plan 2012*

Strathfield Council, 2018, *Community Strategic Plan – Strathfield 2030*

Strathfield Council, 2019, *Geographical Information System (GIS) Data*

3. Land – category, classification, use and access

3.1 Description of site

Airey Park is over seven hectares in size and one of Strathfield's largest parks. There are entries to Airey Park from Bates Street, The Crescent, Badgery Avenue, Fraser Street and Kessell Avenue.

Most of the park is dedicated to the provision of formal sporting and other recreational facilities, including a cricket oval (summer activity), which doubles as a rugby league and soccer ground (winter activities), a barbecue and recreation area, community centre, two children's centres and a public car park.

Saleyards Creek, a concrete canal, runs in a north-south and north-east to south-west through the long axis of the park, near the western boundary. The park contains a biodiversity connectivity priority area of core native habitat that supports locally important fauna and flora on either side of the canal. The park has open grassed areas, playing fields and revegetated parkland mostly indigenous vegetation on the northern and western edges abutting Saleyards Creek and fringing Alan Davidson Oval.

A bicycle/path occurs on the western side of the canal, linking The Crescent with Fraser Street, and intersecting with another path that crosses the canal at one end and links up with Badgery Avenue at the other end.

3.2 Land prior use and history

Airey Park was first dedicated in 1920 as a public park and named in honour of Joseph Airey, an Alderman of Strathfield Council (1917-24). Airey was the Vice-Chairman of Strathfield Council's finance committee and was instrumental in inducing the firm of Marcus Clark, which he was Managing Director, to donate land to Council for a public park. The dedication of seven and half acres from the Executors of Clarke's estate in 1919 forms the core of this large park. Strathfield Council subsequently acquired additional land which has increased the size of this park.

The sporting oval was constructed by Council in 1958 with support from Homebush Boys' High School and their Old Boys' Union. A memorial plaque was dedicated to former pupils of the School who served in World War II. In 2003, Airey Oval was renamed Alan Davidson Oval. Davidson is a former Australian Test Cricketer and long term local resident of Strathfield. The Arthur Cave Pavilion is named for a former Mayor and has been rebuilt several times and provides amenities and clubhouse facility adjacent to the Oval. Airey Park also contains a number of community based facilities including the Strathfield Children's Centre, Strathfield Sessional Preschool and the Strathfield Community Centre. Both the Strathfield Children's Centre and Preschool were former Lawn Bowling Clubs. The Strathfield Community Centre was built in 1990.

A small section of the park facing Kessell Avenue was named Sutherland Place and was dedicated as a rose garden. Sutherland Place was named for Keith Sutherland, Alderman (1937-1959) and Deputy Mayor (1954-1955) of Strathfield Council.¹

¹ Jones, C (2019), Parks and Reserves

Figure 2 - Historical photographs of Airey Park.

The aerial historic photographs indicate changes in the park over time, particularly the building of the oval, structures and revegetation, especially near the canal and boundaries of the park.



Airey Park aerial photograph (1947)



Airey Park aerial photograph (1997)



Airey Park aerial 2009 © Near Maps



Airey Park aerial 2019. © Near Maps

3.3 Categories and classifications of community Land

The management of community land is governed by the categorisation of the land, and the core objectives of the relevant category of community land. The core objectives for each category are set out in the *Local Government Act 1993*. The guidelines and core objectives for relevant categories are set out in Table 3.

Table 3 – Guidelines for and core objectives of community land

Category	Guidelines ²	Core objectives ³
Park	<i>Regulation cl.104</i> Land which is, or proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, and for uses which are mainly passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others.	<i>Category Park – (Section 36G)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities. provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games. improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.
Sportsground	<i>Regulation cl.103</i> Land should be categorised as 'sportsground' if the land is used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.	<i>Category Sportsground - (Section 36F)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.
General Community Use	<i>Regulation cl.106</i> Land that may be made available for use of any purpose for which community land may be used, whether by the public at large or by specific sections of the public	<i>Category General Community Use - (Section 36I)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public. in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).

² *Local Government General Regulation 2005*

³ *Local Government Act 1993*

Category	Guidelines ²	Core objectives ³
Natural Area	<i>Regulation cl.102</i> Natural areas are where land, whether or not in an undisturbed state, possesses a significant geological feature, geomorphological feature, landform, representative system or other natural feature or attribute that would be sufficient to further categorise the land as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore	<i>Natural Area - (Section 36E)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised to a natural area; and to maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting, and to provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land, and to provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and to assist in and facilitate the implement of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan prepared under the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> or the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>
Natural Area – bushland	<i>Regulation cl.107</i> Land that contains primarily native vegetation that is the natural vegetation or a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land, or although not the natural vegetation, is still representative of the structure or floristics of the natural vegetation in the locality.	<i>Natural Area - Bushland (Section 36J)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land, and to protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and to promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and to restore degraded bushland, and to protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and to retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and to protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.

Additional objectives which support the above core objectives are included in Section 5 Management of the land. The land classified as community land under the *Local Government Act 1993* is categorised as Park, Sportsground, Natural Area (Bushland) and General Community Use. The categorised areas are marked in Figure 3.

Figure 3 – Map of Airey Park land categorisations



3.4 Use of the land and structures at date of adoption of the plan

Airey Park provides a wide range of land uses, which accommodate sporting, recreational and community facilities.

The land on which Alan Davison Oval is built is categorised as a Sportsground. The Oval is used for a wide range of formal and informal recreation and sporting purposes.

A number of community facilities are built within Airey Park and these areas have been categorised as General Community Use, which reflects the use of these facilities as community centres, childcare etc.

The park contains areas that are identified as biodiversity connectivity priority area in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy. These are primarily located on either side of the canal, which separates the park, and have been categorised as a Natural Area (Bushland).

The majority of land in Airey Park is categorised as a Park. This land is used for active and passive recreation and leisure purposes.

3.5 Environmental Features

Airey Park has open grassed areas with revegetated mostly indigenous vegetation occurring on the northern and western edges abutting Saleyards Creek and fringing Alan Davidson Oval. Land located in the park was identified in the Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2019 as a biodiversity connectivity priority area. These core areas of habitat have been categorised as Natural Area (Bushland).

Airey Park provides core native habitat that supports locally significant fauna and flora⁴. The corridor and dispersal pathways within the park allow fauna to move through the landscape. Planted eucalypts, she-oaks and camphor laurel are present along Saleyards Creek canal providing perches and food for Australasian Figbird, Eastern Rosella and Crested Pigeon.

To provide shelter and support hollow-nesting birds, micro chiropteran bats and brushtail and ringtail possums, artificial nest boxes have been installed in old planted figs along Saleyards Creek canal. The park features examples of Sydney Golden Wattle, Parramatta wattle, Sweet Bursaria, Pine-leaved Bottlebrush, River She-oak, River oak, Kangaroo Vine, Scurvy Weed, Blue Flax Lily, Berry saltbush, Red Mahogany, Fig, Bleeding Heart Tree, Spiny-headed Mat rush and Sweet pittosporum

Community volunteers through Bushcare programs and those participating in National Tree Day have assisted with much of the planting as well as weed removal. National Tree Days were held in Airey Park in 2017.

⁴ Strathfield Fauna Study (2017) and Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy (2019)

3.6 Condition of the land and structures on adoption of the plan

The criteria for assessing the condition of land and structure upon adoption of this plan of management are shown in Table 4 and the interpretation of the condition of infrastructure in Table 5.

Table 4 - Condition rating assessment criteria

Rating	Descriptor	Guide	Residual Life as a % of Total Life	Mean % age residual life
1 Excellent	Sound physical condition. Asset likely to perform adequately without major work.	Normal maintenance required	>86	95
2 Good	Acceptable physical condition, minimal short term risk of failure.	Normal maintenance plus minor repairs required (to 5% or less of the asset)	65 to 85	80
3 Satisfactory	Deterioration evident, failure in the short term unlikely. Minor components need replacement or repair now but asset still functions safely.	Significant maintenance and/or repairs required (to 10-20% of the asset)	41 to 64	55
4 Worn	Deterioration of the asset is evident and failure is possible in the short term. No immediate risk to health and safety.	Significant renewal required (to 20 - 40% of the asset)	10 to 40	35
5 Poor	Failed or failure is imminent or there is significant deterioration of the asset. Health and safety hazards exist which present a possible risk to public safety.	Over 50% of the asset requires renewal	<10	5

Table 5 – Condition of assets at Airey Park

Description	Condition
Alan Davidson Oval	Good
Arthur Cave Pavilion	Satisfactory
BBQ and picnic shelters	Satisfactory
Carparks	Satisfactory
Children's playground	Good
Cricket practice wickets (5)	Satisfactory
Fencing	Satisfactory
General park lighting	Satisfactory
Open space for informal recreational use	Satisfactory
Outdoor fitness equipment (around Alan Davidson Oval)	Satisfactory
Outdoor Table Tennis (2)	Satisfactory
Oval lighting	Good
Pathways	Satisfactory
Strathfield Child Care Centre (Fraser St)	Good
Strathfield Community Centre (Bates St)	Good
Strathfield Preschool (Bates St)	Good
Stretching outdoor fitness equipment (Bates St)	Excellent

3.7 Heritage

There are no statutory heritage listings associated with this land.

3.8 Photographs of Airey Park

Photographs are dated January 2019 and provide an overview of the various park uses and facilities.



Airey Park entry - view from Badgery Avenue



Alan Davidson Oval view from Bates Street



Alan Davidson Oval trees and lighting



Arthur Cave Pavilion – Badgery Avenue



5 cricket practice wickets



Former Lawn Bowling Green (Fraser St end)



Airey Park – park area (The Crescent)



Playground – The Crescent



Open space – cluster of trees



Open space – cluster of trees



Pathways



Open space – cluster of trees



Strathfield Sessional Preschool – Bates Street



Strathfield Community Centre – Bates Street



Strathfield Children's Centre – Fraser Street



Outdoor Fitness Equipment

4. Land Uses

4.1 Permissible uses and developments

The tables below set out the purpose/use of the land consistent with its land categorisation and the types of development generally associated with those uses. Facilities on community land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community. The anticipated uses, and associated development, identified in Tables 6-9 are intended to provide an overview or general guide. Development is subject to requirements set out in clauses 4.2 and 4.3

Table 6 – Permissible uses of land categories – Park

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Active and passive recreation including children's play• Group recreational use, such as picnics and celebrations• Publicly accessible ancillary areas eg toilets• Festivals, fairs, similar events and gatherings• Low intensity commercial activities• Filming and photographic projects• Public address (speeches)• Easement, utilities and estate• Community gardening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development for the purposes of improving access, amenity, and the visual character of the park eg paths, pergolas, flagpoles, lights, water bubblers, seating, paved areas, hard and soft landscaped areas etc• Development for the purposes of active recreation eg play equipment, children's playgrounds, exercise equipment, courts etc• Amenities to facilitate leisure use of the park eg picnic tables and shelters, BBQ's & sheltered eating areas• Kiosk/café, mobile food vans or refreshment areas• Restricted access ancillary areas (e.g. storage areas associated with functions, gardening equipment)• Transport access and service areas ancillary to the use of land (eg public transport, car parking, loading zones, bicycle racks)• Community gardens• Off-leash areas• Heritage and cultural interpretation eg signs, public art etc• Locational, directional and regulatory signage• Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that relate to approved uses/activities, discreet and temporary and approved by Council.• Water/Energy savings initiatives

Table 7 – Permissible uses of land categories – Sportsgrounds

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active and passive recreational and sporting activities consistent with the nature of the particular land and any relevant facilities Organised and unstructured recreation activities Community events or gatherings, and public meetings Commercial uses associated with sports facilities Easement, utilities and estate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development for the purpose of conducting and facilitating organised sport Sportsfields (turf and synthetic) including cricket, football, soccer, track and field athletics, baseball, softball etc Courts (basketball, netball, badminton, tennis, hockey, badminton etc) Amenities eg change room, lockers, shower/toilet facilities, first aid rooms, seating Café or kiosk facilities, mobile coffee cart or food vending subject to site assessment and Council approval Car parking and loading areas Ancillary areas eg staff rooms, meeting rooms, equipment storage areas Shade structures Seating and scoreboards Sports or fitness training, and practice facilities Heritage and cultural interpretation eg signs, public art Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that relate to approved uses/activities, discreet and temporary and approved by Council. Water/Energy savings initiatives Lighting and water (eg taps, bubblers)

Table 8 – Permissible uses of land categories – General Community Use

Purpose/Use	Development
<p>Provides a location for, and supports, the gathering of groups for a range of general social, cultural or recreational purposes</p> <p>Includes multi-purpose buildings e.g. community halls, clubhouses, childcare etc. Uses may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> casual or informal sporting and recreational use meetings (including for social, recreational, educational or cultural purposes) functions leisure or training classes including fitness educational and community centres, including libraries, information and resource centres 	<p>Development for the purposes of social, community, cultural, recreational activities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> landscaping and finishes, improving access, amenity and the visual character of the general community area provision of buildings or other amenity areas to facilitate use and enjoyment by the community development (particularly within buildings) for the purposes of addressing community or recreational needs (e.g. community hall, leisure centre, indoor courts) casual, seasonal, licence or lease agreements may be permitted consistent with purpose or use of facility.

Table 9 – Permissible uses of land categories – Natural Area (Bushland)

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking and cycling • Guided bushwalks and bird watching • Environmental programs and scientific study • Preservation of biodiversity and habitat • Bush regeneration and revegetation works • Relaxation and passive informal recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretative, regulatory and directional signage • Low impact lighting • Low impact carparking • Low impact pathways • Passive recreation • Seating • Small ancillary building eg storage and amenities for site maintenance • Water saving initiatives eg swales, sediment traps, rainwater gardens

In some instances, physical assets may be located on land, which falls into different categories. For example, community halls may be located on land categorised as Park, or on land categorised for General Community Use.

4.2 Future development and use of the community land

Minor changes to community land may occur on a routine basis, such as replanting and replacement of damaged or worn infrastructure eg play equipment. In the event of potential future development, proposed changes of use of community land will:

1. Meet legislative requirements – land use tables (zoning) in the Strathfield Council Local Environmental Plan specifies the range of uses and activities that may be permitted on the land. A number of uses are also set out in the Regulations to the *Local Government Act 1993*.
2. Be consistent with the guidelines and core objectives of the community land category - under the *Local Government Act 1993* uses and development of community land must be consistent with the guidelines for categorisation and the core objectives of each category, and any other additional objectives the Council proposes to place on the community land categories.
3. Be consistent with relevant Council policies - substantial upgrades and proposed new development will take into account a range of factors, including:
 - this Plan of Management and the core objectives for the land
 - the planning controls for the land
 - Council's adopted policies
 - the characteristics of the land affected, including existing and future use patterns
 - any landscape masterplan for the land.

4.3 Scale and intensity of land use

The scale and intensity of use and development associated with community land in Strathfield is generally dependent on:

- the nature of the approved uses and developments
- approved Development Applications and any conditions
- an approved masterplan

- the physical constraints of the land
- the carrying capacity of the land
- relevant government legislation
- permissible times of use
- proximity of neighbours

The scale and intensity of use of parks and sportsgrounds should be monitored by:

- regular inspection of the physical impacts on the park or sportsground
- consideration of reports regarding any conflicts between park and sportsground users or from adjoining neighbours

4.4 Authorisation of leases, licences or other estates over community land

The Act requires that any lease or licence of community land must be authorised by a Plan of Management. The lease or licence must be for purposes consistent with the categorisation and zoning of the land.

The maximum period for leases or licences on community land permitted under the Act is 21 years. If a lease or licence is proposed, then public notice should be given in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Where a lease arrangement has been entered into with Council for community land, subleasing the land may only occur with specific permission of Council and in accordance with the requirements of Section 47C of the Act, Clause 119 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* and conditions set out in agreements.

This Plan of Management authorises existing leases and licence agreements until the end of their current term. The leased or licensed areas may be renewed or changed in future. The leased or licensed areas may be reconfigured in the future to reflect changes in community needs.

This Plan of Management authorises Council to grant leases, licences or any other estates for community land covered in this Plan of Management for purposes and uses which are identified or consistent with those in Tables 6-9. Some examples of longer term arrangements, via licence, lease or other estates are outlined in the following Table 10. Shorter arrangements (for example, a short term agreement associated with a particular event, or an activity recurring regularly either via annual or seasonal agreement) are set out in Table 11.

Calculations for fees and charges for leases and licences will be based on independent market rental valuations that are based on comparisons to similar services and facilities with similar locations, building and land conditions. As a minimum standard, the financial return from licence fees should offset asset maintenance, renewal and any operational costs. Council may also apply subsidies to not for profit organisations where there are demonstrated community benefits or financial hardship. Subsidies are generally not applied to agreements with commercial operators.

Table 10 – Leases, Licences and other estates

Type of Arrangement Authorised	Land and Facilities covered	Purposes for which long term leasing/licensing will be granted
Licence or lease	Park Sportsground	<p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sporting and recreational purposes, including formal sports, fitness activities and games • kiosk, café, mobile food vending and refreshment purposes • use of court or similar facilities • work sheds or storage areas required in connection with maintenance • signs • temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project or works to be carried out
Licence or lease	Natural Area (Bushland)	<p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • educational or environmental programs, scientific studies and surveys or similar • walkways, pathways, bridges or causeways • signs, observation platforms • temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project or works to be carried out
Licence or lease	General Community Use (community land and buildings)	<p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the area to support the activity.</p> <p>Sympathetic, compatible uses may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • child care, vacation care, health providers associated with the relevant facility • community purposes including meetings, workshops, learning • cultural purposes including concerts, dramatic productions, and galleries • recreational purposes including fitness, dance and games • kiosk, café and refreshment purposes

Type of Arrangement Authorised	Land and Facilities covered	Purposes for which long term leasing/licensing will be granted
Other Estates	Park Sportsground General Community Use Natural Area (Bushland)	<p>This Plan of Management allows Council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities in accordance with the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>.</p> <p>Estates may also be granted across community land that is not affected by endangered communities for the provision of pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the Council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land.</p>

The grant of a lease or licence is an important step in using community land, but there may be other requirements relevant to any proposed use. For example, the refurbishment of a kiosk may also require development consent under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Any interested person should check carefully to make sure they are aware of all relevant requirements.

4.5 Short Term Uses

Agreements for use of community land may be granted for short duration, which may include casual hires, seasonal use (eg sportsfields) or regular hire arrangement. These short-term arrangements should be for the types of uses identified in Table 11 and consistent with prevailing Council policies.

Table 11 – Seasonal, regular and casual use agreements

Community land category	Purposes for which short term uses may be granted subject to council approval	Requirements
Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community events and festivals playing a musical instrument, or singing for fee or reward picnics and private celebrations such as family gatherings filming and photography session public performances engaging in an appropriate trade or business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proposed use must comply with terms and conditions approved e.g. SafeWork NSW regulations, insurance, waste management etc. the use should not result in physical damage to the park, sportsground or natural area the use should not result in a significant adverse impact on adjoining residents or disturbance to nearby residents organisers of the site should be responsible for cleaning up the site and notify authorities and Council of any damage or incidents that may occur
Sportsgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community events and festivals sporting fixtures and events sports and fitness training and classes filming or photography of sporting fixtures or events uses reasonably associated with the promotion or enhancement of sporting groups, fixtures and events 	
Natural Area (Bushland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> educational or environmental programs, scientific studies and surveys or similar temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project to be carried out 	
General Community Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> meetings, seminars and presentations, including educational programs events consistent with the size of facility and its terms and conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proposed use must comply with terms and conditions for facility use the use should not result in physical damage to the facility organisers of the site should be responsible for cleaning up the site and repairing any damage that may occur.

In assessing community land categorised as Park, Sportsground, Natural Area (Bushland) or General Community Use as a venue for any proposed utilisation, the Council applies the following minimum criteria:

- Council reserves the right to refuse bookings based on previous unsatisfactory payment or performance history or where proposed use would damage the facility or cause significant disruption to other regular users.

- Fees for short-term casual bookings will be charged in accordance with Council's adopted Fees and Charges at the time.

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5. Management of the land

5.1 Objectives and management of community land

The land is managed in accordance with the objectives and methods set out below:

Table 12 – Objectives, means and performance measures

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets
Access	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide safe and improved access to the parks, sportsgrounds and general community use properties for pedestrians and cyclists. 2. Provide access to and within parks for people with disabilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upgrades, refurbishments and/or improvement works on community land to consider public access requirements for mobility and connections. 2. Proposed ramps, stairs and pathways to comply with relevant Council and BCA requirements consistent with Australian Standards. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Audits of community land and facilities to comply with standards
Amenity and Character	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure Council's community land and facilities contribute to the amenity and character of the Strathfield LGA. 2. Promote parks, sportsgrounds and community use properties as desirable places for recreation, community celebration and commemoration. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide parks, facilities and pathways as attractive destinations. 2. Maintain and enhance community land and facilities 3. Promote parks, sportsgrounds and facilities in local media and website. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consult with residents and users regarding satisfaction of parks and facilities 2. Monitor and action complaint data
Community Facilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide sustainable community facilities for a range of community, social and other compatible activities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building and structure design specifications to consider park, sportsground and general community use character, expected use and environmental sustainability features. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor usage of community facilities as measured by bookings. 2. Community satisfaction surveys.

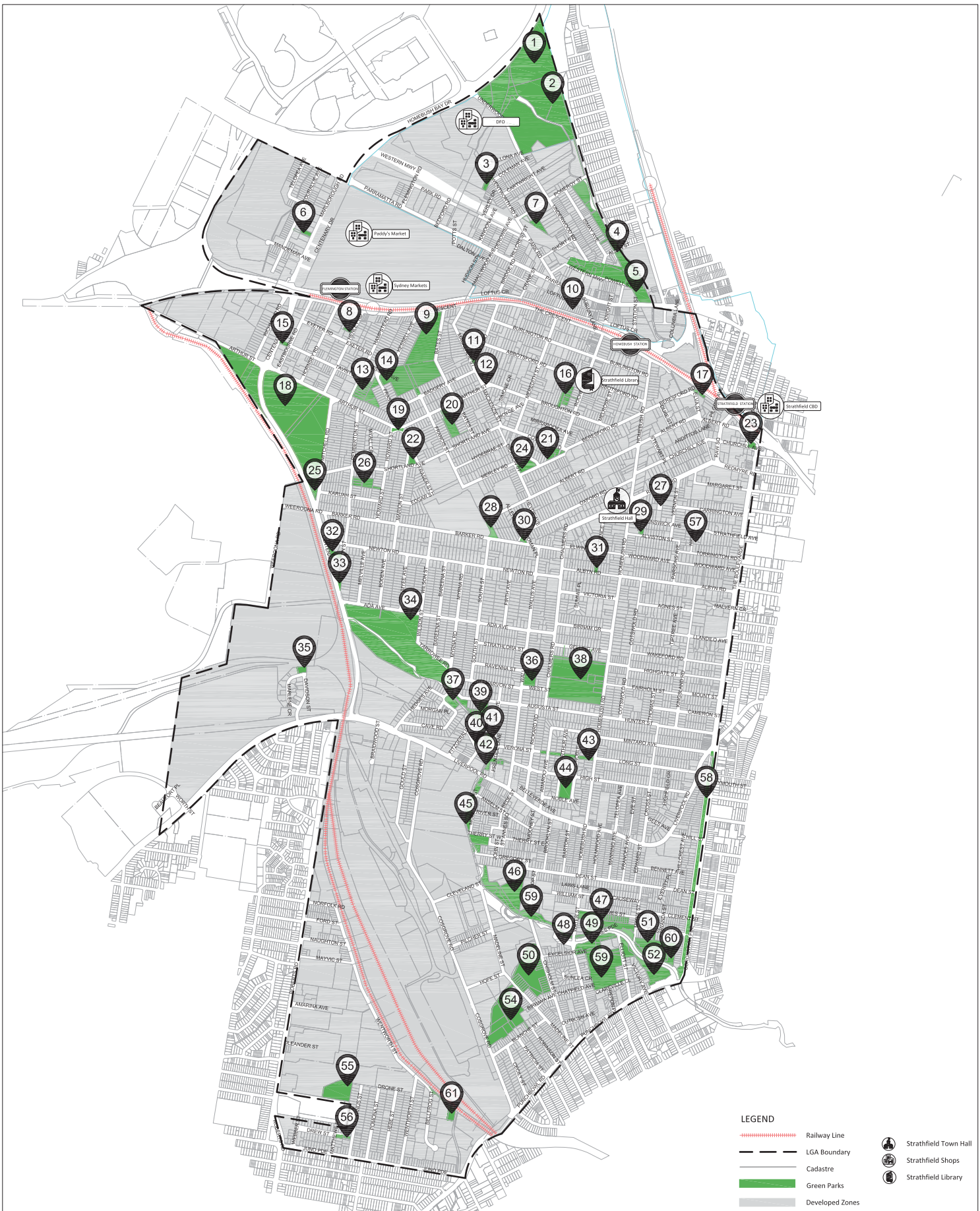
Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets
	<p>2. Ensure buildings positively contribute to community land amenity, facilitate a range of uses and have regard for environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance.</p>	<p>2. Provide community facilities which are multi-purpose and flexible to a range of appropriate uses.</p> <p>3. Ensure community facilities are universally accessible.</p> <p>4. Community facilities meet sustainable building requirements and/or are progressively upgraded to incorporate best practice energy and water efficiencies.</p>	<p>3. Facility inspections and audits.</p> <p>4. Monitor comments and complaints</p>
Environmentally Sustainable Principles	<p>1. Manage community land to ensure best environmental management practises and principles having regard to environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance.</p>	<p>1. Promote and monitor energy efficiency</p> <p>2. Minimise use of water</p> <p>3. Implement waste reduction programs</p> <p>4. Utilise natural heating and cooling</p>	<p>1. Measure and monitor via plans and strategies such as Energy and Water plans.</p> <p>2. Monitor usage and trends via quarterly and annual consumption and billing.</p> <p>3. Monitor and minimise water and energy use in parks, sportsgrounds and ancillary facilities.</p>
Historical and Heritage Significance	<p>1. Appreciation and interpretation of the historical and/or heritage significance of the site and structures e.g. memorials in terms of both natural and cultural components.</p>	<p>1. Undertake, when required, historical research or heritage and cultural assessment studies to identify cultural and heritage values for retention and interpretation.</p> <p>2. Incorporate historical information on property signage to enhance understanding and appreciation of the site and the history it represents, where relevant.</p> <p>3. Promote sense of place and local identity</p>	<p>1. Retention and interpretation of heritage and cultural values provides increased appreciation of the property and its history through community consultation.</p>
Landscape Character	<p>1. Maintain and improve landscape character and visual quality of public open spaces</p>	<p>1. Manage replacement planting strategies to ensure improvement to the current character.</p> <p>2. Maintain consistency in selection and design of park and sportsground furniture, paving,</p>	<p>1. Community consultation including surveys regarding community views</p>

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets
		<p>fencing that is appropriate to the setting and the sport or activity type.</p> <p>3. Implement & maintain co-ordinated signage strategy</p>	
Managing assets	<p>1. Provide effective and efficient management of community land and facilities</p>	<p>1. Schedule regular inspections and condition assessments.</p> <p>2. Inclusion of maintenance standards in licence, lease or hire agreements.</p> <p>3. Provide waste and recycling bins to cater for public use.</p> <p>4. Regular waste and recycling collection to minimise litter overflow</p>	<p>1. Measure against Service Standard KPIs.</p> <p>2. Respond to complaints and audits.</p> <p>3. Monitor agreements</p> <p>4. Review and update asset management plans periodically</p>
Natural Environment and Bushland management	<p>1. To maintain and enhance the health of park ecology, including flora and fauna, trees and soil</p>	<p>1. Manage trees, gardens and natural areas to maintain and improve the quality of the environment in accordance with Council's tree management and biodiversity strategies and plans.</p> <p>2. Retain habitat trees, protect foraging habitat and create/maintain habitat corridors through revegetation where possible</p> <p>3. Ensure revegetation is undertaken using locally sourced stock from agreed planting lists (refer Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy)</p> <p>4. Maintain weed management program to minimise spread of weeds</p> <p>5. Implement actions where required under recovery or threat abatement plan.</p>	<p>1. Measure and monitor tree canopies, vegetation, weeds and habitat.</p> <p>2. Undertake periodic flora and fauna reviews</p>

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets
Promote varied recreational uses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance opportunities for a balanced organised and unstructured recreational use of public open space 2. Optimise public access to public open space. 3. Maintain condition and useability of sportsgrounds and 'sustainable capacity'. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capital works program to plan for improvements and upgrades to community land. 2. Promote a range of organised and informal/unstructured activities on community land 3. Provide amenities that support use and enjoyment of parks and sportsgrounds e.g. toilets, change rooms and kiosk/café facilities. 4. Enforce provisions for management of dogs on community land as per requirements of Council's Companion Animal Policy. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor local use of parks and sportsgrounds by bookings, surveys, complaints and observation.
Safety and Risk Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide safe use and access to public land and facilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design and maintain layouts, landscaping and facilities in accordance with CPTED principles (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) principles including passive surveillance, good sight lines, territorial reinforcement and space management and lighting. 2. Review lighting and security for both day and night time use. 3. Work with local police to identify and act on safety issues. 4. Install and maintain facilities in accordance with relevant Australian standards. 5. Repair vandalism or graffiti within 48 hours where possible. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Works to be in accordance with relevant Australian Standards and CPTED principles. 2. Monitor and action incident and accident reports.
Traffic and Parking	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure traffic and parking requirements provide a safe 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minimise use of vehicles on community land and regulate and monitor vehicle access. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduced pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle conflicts.

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets
	environment for park, sportsgrounds and general community use property users and do not impact on the amenity of the properties.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Installation of signage preventing vehicles from entering unauthorised areas. 3. Where vehicles are permitted, provide clearly marked vehicle movement areas 4. Provide access for emergency or works services. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Improved public safety. 3. Traffic access to community land is via agreement.
Use agreements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That use arrangements facilitate wide community access to community land, community benefits and support financial sustainability. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Licence, leases, estates and short term use agreements comply with legislative and policy requirements. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor agreements in accordance with terms and conditions of agreement.





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Strathfield Council designs, constructs and maintains public infrastructure and other essential services over the council area. This includes the design, construction, maintenance and operation of roads, bridges, drains, footpaths, parks, libraries, community centres, and other public infrastructure. The council also provides a range of other services to the community, including waste management, recycling, and community development.

When parks are used for any purpose, including for any commercial, recreational or otherwise, it is the user's responsibility to ensure that the park is used in a safe and responsible manner. The council does not accept any liability for any injury or damage to persons or property arising from the use of any park.

date
31st January 2020

rev
01

scale 1:10000
0m 100 250 500 1000m

North Point

- Bressington Park
- Mason Park & Wetlands
- Wentworth Reserve
- Allen Street Reserve (Ismay Reserve)
- Ismay Reserve
- Austin Park
- Bill Boyce Reserve
- Henley Reserve
- Airey Park
- Augustus Loftus Reserve
- Slater Reserve
- Shortland Reserve Gardens
- Melville Reserve
- Sutherland Gardens
- Tavistock Reserve
- Fitzgerald Park
- Laker Reserve
- Hudson Park
- Lowe's Garden
- Pilgrim Park
- Davey Square Memorial Reserve
- Kessel Square
- Strathfield Square
- Inveresk Park
- Frank Zions Reserve
- Boden Reserve
- Redmyre Road Croquet Lawns
- Mt Royal Reserve
- Centenary Playground
- Todman Reserve
- Florence Reserve
- Cosgrove Reserve
- Pemberton Reserve
- Freshwater Park
- Marlene Reserve
- Wallis Reserve
- Chain of Ponds Reserve
- Strathfield Park
- Thew Reserve
- Fitzgerald Reserve
- Palmer Reserve
- Prentice Reserve
- Humphries Reserve
- Edwards Park
- St Annes Reserve
- Dean Reserve
- Ford Park
- Water Reserve
- Maria Reserve
- Cooke Park
- Southend Tennis
- Elliott Reserve
- Bark Hut Reserve
- Begnell Field
- Cox's Creek Reserve
- Drew St Playground
- Nichol Reserve
- Coronation Reserve
- South Cooks River Land
- Chiswick Reserve
- Greenacre Frog Ponds

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1. Introduction

1.1 Title

This plan is titled Bark Huts Reserve Plan of Management. .

The current plan was adopted by Council resolution at the meeting of xx.

This plan of management applies to land located at Bark Huts Reserve. This land is located at Elliott Street and Clareville Close, Belfield. The reserve is bounded to the south by Clareville Close, east by residential properties along Water Street and west by Elliott Street.

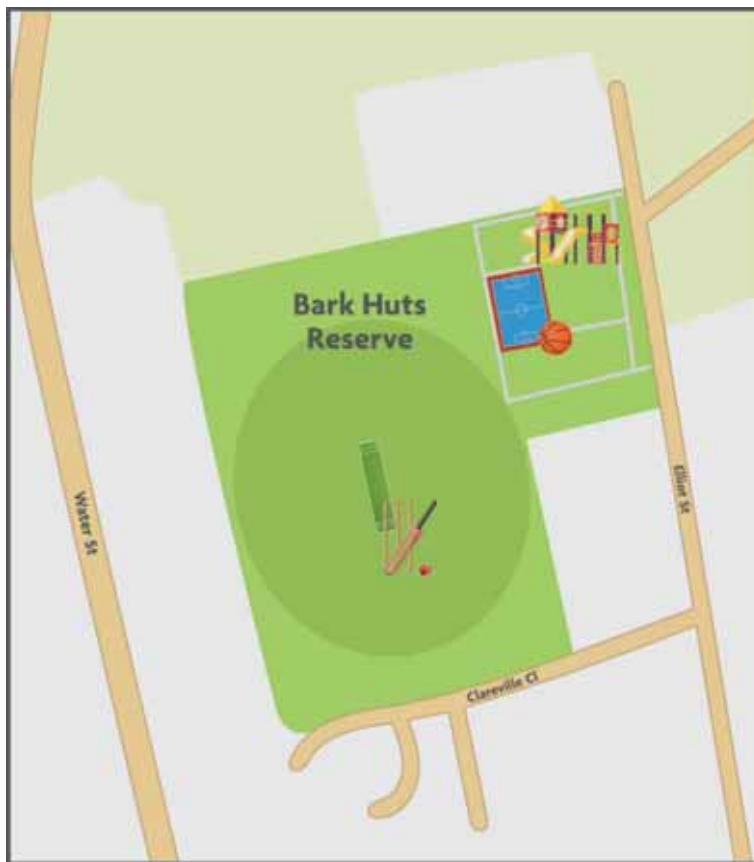
Ownership, lot details and zoning information is set out in Table 1 (information from Council Geographical Information System (GIS) 2019).

The location map of Bark Huts Reserve is set out in Figure 1.

Table 1 – Ownership, title and zoning details

Owner	Lot Details	Zoning Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012
Strathfield Council	Lot 1-3 DP 548994	RE1 - Public Recreation
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment	Lot 20 DP 653429	RE1 - Public Recreation

Figure 1 – Bark Huts Reserve Location Map



1.2 Purpose of this Plan of Management

The *Local Government Act 1993* and amendments to the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* require all public land including Crown Reserves, owned or managed by Council, to be classified as either 'community' land or 'operational' land. Land classified as 'community' land must be managed and used in accordance with an adopted Plan of Management. The land described in this Plan of Management is classified as community land.

Plans of Management are developed by Council in consultation with the community. A Plan of Management describes the features of the community land and outlines how the land may be managed and used, consistent with land categorisations, core objectives and zoning, to provide a transparent and co-ordinated approach to public land management.

The purpose of this Plan of Management is to:

- contribute to the strategic goals and vision as set out in the Strathfield Community Strategic Plan
- ensure compliance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and relevant legislation and guidelines
- provide clarity regarding use and access to the community land as described in this plan.

1.3 Contents of this Plan of Management

This Plan of Management is divided into the following sections, as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2 – Structure of this Plan of Management

Section	What does it include?
1. Introduction	Title, land covered by plan, purpose, contents and review of the plan
2. About the Strathfield LGA	Recognition of traditional custodians, Strathfield LGA snapshot, trends, community vision, legislative and policy framework and references.
3. Land – category, classification, use and access	Site description, land use/history, land categories and classifications, maps, use of land and structures, environmental features, condition of land and structures and heritage.
4. Land Uses	Permissible uses and developments, scale and intensity of use, authorisation of leases, licences and short term uses.
5. Management of the land	Objectives, performance targets, means and manner for assessment of performance

1.4. Change and Review of Plan of Management

This Plan of Management will require regular review in order to align with community values and changing community needs, and to reflect changes in Council priorities. The performance of this Plan of Management will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure the use of land and structures is well maintained and consistent with Council's strategic objectives and community values.

Strategic reviews of this Plan of Management will be required where there is significant change to legislation, land ownership/management or proposed land use. Regular reviews should occur at five (5) year intervals.

2. About the Strathfield Local Government Area

2.1 Recognition of Traditional Custodians

Strathfield Council acknowledges the Wangal people, the traditional Custodians of the lands on which the Strathfield area is located. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

2.2 Snapshot of Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA)

The Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA) is well known for transport connections, educational opportunities, attractive streetscapes, parks, heritage and buildings. The Strathfield LGA is centrally located in Sydney's Inner West, approximately 10.5 kilometres from the Sydney CBD and half way between Parramatta and the Sydney CBD. The LGA includes the suburbs of Strathfield (postcode 2135), Strathfield South (2136), Homebush (2140), Homebush West (2140), part of Belfield (2191) and part of Greenacre (2190). Sydney Markets (postcode 2129) is also located within Strathfield LGA.

Strathfield LGA is well known for its extensive green open spaces and high quality recreational facilities, which enhance the liveability, amenity and sustainability of the local area. The Strathfield LGA has a total area of approximately 1390 ha (13.9km²) with 104 ha of the total area being public open space (2018 estimates). There is currently 9.06 ha of remnant bushland in the LGA and about 6 ha is under Council management.

In 2019, the estimated residential LGA population was about 47,000 residents and by 2041, the resident population is estimated to reach over 80,000 people (NSW Planning 2019). The growing population and accompanying building density will increase demand for access to and usage of available open space and community facilities. Therefore, management of community land is of critical importance to current and future communities.

Open spaces range from regional and district sporting grounds to smaller local parks and reserves. Significant parks with major sporting facilities include Airey Park, Bressington Park, Bark Huts Reserve, Begnell Field, Cooke Park, Hudson Park, Mason Park and Strathfield Park. Many local biodiversity conservation and habitat connectivity priority areas, including flora and fauna assets, are located within Strathfield LGA's parks and reserves. A number of connected parks and open spaces form the Cooks River Foreshore open space network, an important local and regional habitat corridor and pedestrian and cycle transport connection.

Strathfield LGA also provides many community facilities, located on community land including meeting rooms, halls and community centres which are available for hire by groups and individuals for sporting, community, recreation, social and other purposes.

2.3 Strathfield LGA community and recreational trends

Some of the challenges facing the Strathfield LGA include increasing and competing demands for public open space and community facilities. Strathfield Council is strongly focused on identifying and meeting the current and future needs of the Strathfield community in a sustainable manner.

Recent community engagement and analysis of social and recreational trends indicate increasing participation in recreation, sporting and leisure activities such as organised team sports, walking, cycling, running, aerobic fitness and dog walking. There is increased demand for access to community and recreation facilities, outdoor and indoor.

Priorities for Council involve increasing the capacity of local community facilities, parks and sportsgrounds, developing new community and recreational facilities as required and ensuring equity of access to land and facilities, to meet changing and diverse needs.

2.4 Community Vision and Key Strategic Directions

The community vision describes the community's aspirations for the future of the Strathfield Local Government Area by 2030:

“Strathfield is a culturally diverse and socially cohesive community with respect for its heritage and environment and proud of its well-connected transport, business and educational institutions”.

Strathfield 2030 is the community strategic plan for the Strathfield Local Government Area until 2030. The plan was developed following extensive community engagement and is divided into the key themes of Connectivity, Community Wellbeing, Civic Pride and Management. Liveable Neighbourhoods and Responsible Leadership

This plan is aligned with the Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) which defines the long term vision for land use and infrastructure provisions within the Strathfield LGA and supports place within the Greater Sydney and District planning frameworks. This plan of management aligns with the LSPS Priority P13 'Biodiversity and ecological health and resiliency is conserved, restored and enhanced' and Priority P15 'Quality Open Spaces and thriving green corridors offset the impacts of growth across the LGA' and action plan A93 to review and prepare new plans of management.

2.5 Legislative and Policy Framework

The following legislation and policies provide a framework for the preparation of this Plan of Management.

Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (LG Act) requires the preparation of Plans of Management (POMs) for Council owned land, and requires all community land to be categorised.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) (EP&A Act) is the principal planning legislation for NSW, that provides a framework for the environmental planning and assessment of development proposals and preparation of environmental planning instruments (including the Local Environmental Plan or LEP).

Crown Lands Management Act 2016 (NSW) (CLM Act) governs the planning, management and use of Crown land, including provisions to reserve or dedicate lands for a prescribed public purpose and for leasing and licensing. Crown land under Council management requires classification and categorisations under the LG Act and preparation of Plans of Management.

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW) (BC Act) requires that Councils consider the impact on threatened species, populations and communities in fulfilling their statutory responsibilities under the EP&A Act for development approvals. It also covers management of threatened species and communities on Council owned lands.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth) (EPBC Act) provides a national scheme for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, and incorporates referral mechanisms and environmental impact assessment processes for projects of national significance.

State Environmental Planning Policy 19 – Bushland in Urban Areas aims to protect and preserve bushland in the Sydney Metropolitan area. The SEPP is concerned with disturbances and development affecting bushland areas.

Companion Animal Act 1998 (NSW) requires the identification and registration of companion animals (e.g. cats and dogs) and sets out the duties and responsibilities in relation to management of animals and specific areas of land.

Local Land Services Act 2013 (NSW) provides a framework to ensure the proper management of natural resources in the social, economic and environmental interests of the State. Strathfield is part of the Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS), which provides guidance on matters such as community engagement, biosecurity and weeds.

Also relevant are:

- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)
- Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (NSW) and Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)
- Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)
- Fisheries Management Act 1994 (NSW)
- Rural Fires Act 1997 (NSW)
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)

Related Strathfield Council policies and plans

- Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030
- Strathfield 2030 Community Strategic Plan (CSP)
- Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Development Control Plans 2005
- Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2020
- Disability Inclusion Plan 2020-2024

2.6 References

Eco Logical Australia and Strathfield Council, 2019, *Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2020-2030*, viewed at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/live/biodiversity/>

Insight Ecology, 2017, *The Fauna of Strathfield (Local Government Area)*, viewed at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/live/biodiversity/>

Jones, Cathy, 2019, *Parks and Reserves*, Strathfield Heritage website at <https://strathfieldheritage.org/parks-and-reserves>

Near Maps – Strathfield LGA, 2019 at <https://www.nearmap.com/au/en>

NSW Department Planning, 2019, *Strathfield LGA Population Projections 2016-2041*, viewed at <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Factsheets-and-faqs/Research-and-demography/Population-projections/2019-Strathfield.pdf>

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Strathfield Council, 2019, Geographical Information System (GIS) Data

3. Land – category, classification, use and access

3.1 Description of site

Bark Huts Reserve is one of Strathfield LGA's largest parks with a total land area of over 34 hectares. The Reserve contains mostly open space dedicated to sportsfields and recreation. There are areas of parkland occupied by a playground, seating, BBQs and shelters as well as a recently built amenities building, multipurpose court and cricket practice wickets.

Bark Huts Reserve joins Maria Reserve at its northern boundary. Maria Reserve is categorised as natural area (bushland). The northern area of Bark Huts Reserve has been categorised as park, which provides a transition or buffer area between Bark Huts and Maria Reserve.

3.2 Land prior use and history

Bark Huts Reserve was formerly known as Elliott Street Reserve, but renamed Bark Huts Reserve in 1985. Bark Huts was a former name of a half-way hotel and settlement near the Cooks River and Liverpool Road in the late 1800s. The hotel was built of long, low slabs with a bark roof and was a changing station for the coaches between Liverpool and Sydney for many years (Jones 2019).

The land on which the Reserve is situated was originally part of the land grant to John Alford in 1810, which was later subdivided as the 'Clareville Estate'. It appears that the site remained vacant until it was reserved in 1951 for county open space and road purposes under the Cumberland Planning Scheme. The road plans did not proceed and the land was later dedicated to Strathfield Council for park and recreation purposes.

Figure 2: Historical photograph of Bark Huts Reserve.

These historic photographs indicate the development of the reserve since the 1940s with additions of sportsfields, amenities, playgrounds and tree plantings.



Bark Huts Reserve aerial photograph (1947)



Bark Huts Reserve aerial photograph (1997)



Bark Huts Reserve aerial photograph (2009).
© Near Maps.



Bark Huts Reserve aerial photograph (2019).
© Near Maps.

3.3 Categories and classifications of Community Land

The management of community land is governed by the categorisation of the land, and the core objectives of the relevant category of community land. The core objectives for each category are set out in the *Local Government Act 1993*. The guidelines and core objectives for relevant categories are set out in Table 3.

Table 3 – Guidelines for and core objectives of community land

Category	Guidelines ¹	Core objectives ²
Park	<i>Regulation cl.104</i> Land which is, or proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, and for uses which are mainly passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others.	<i>Category Park – (Section 36G)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities.• provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games.• improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.
Sportsground	<i>Regulation cl.103</i> Land should be categorised as 'sportsground' if the land is used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.	<i>Category Sportsground - (Section 36F)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and• to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.

Council must manage community land in according to these core objectives. Any activities or uses of the land should be consistent with the core objectives for that category of land. Additional objectives which support the above core objectives are included in Section 5 Management of the land.

The land classified as community land under the *Local Government Act 1993* is categorised as Park and Sportsground. The categorised areas are marked in Figure 3.

¹ *Local Government General Regulation 2005*

² *Local Government Act 1993*

Figure 3 – Map of Bark Huts Reserve land categorisations



3.4 Use of the land and structures at date of adoption of the plan

Bark Huts Reserve is categorised for park and sportsground use.

The area categorised as Sportsground contains three sportsfields, sportsfield seating and lighting.

The area categorised as a Park contains open space, general park lighting, an outdoor multipurpose court, three cricket practice wickets, children's playground, amenities building, and general park seating, BBQ and shelter facilities, pathways and a carpark.

3.5 Environmental features

Bark Huts Reserve joins Maria Reserve at its northern boundary. Maria Reserve is categorised as natural area (bushland). The northern area of Bark Huts Reserve has been categorised as park, which provides a transition or buffer area into Maria Reserve.

The Strathfield Fauna Study 2017 identifies Bark Huts Reserve as containing revegetated parkland mostly indigenous vegetation of established eucalypts, bottlebrush and lomandra beds on the boundaries of the reserve and sportsfields. The revegetation provides an important habitat linkage role in Strathfield's southern landscape with the other parks on the Cooks River/Coxs Creek foreshore.

Green and Golden Bellfrogs (GGBF) are usually located in and around water bodies such as wetlands and lakes or on sites which humans have disturbed such as abandoned quarries or brickpits. In the Strathfield LGA, the GGBF core habitat area is located in Greenacre such as Coxs Creek Reserve and Greenacre Frog Ponds. An east-west GGBF linkage area is mapped in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy and covers parks such as Begnell Field, Cooke Park, and parts of Ford Park and Maria Reserve. However, with dispersal and movement of frogs, infrequent sightings have been reported in parks further along the Cooks River such as Elliott Reserve, Southend Tennis Centre and 'Chiswick Reserve'. However, these sightings were infrequent and have become increasingly rare. Since 2012, Council has received no reported sightings of GGBF in the Strathfield LGA.

3.6 Condition of the land and structures on adoption of the plan

The criteria for assessing the condition of land and structures upon adoption of this plan of management are shown in Table 4 and the interpretation of the conditions of infrastructure in Table 5.

Table 4 - Condition rating assessment criteria

Rating	Descriptor	Guide	Residual Life as a % of Total Life	Mean % age residual life
1 Excellent	Sound physical condition. Asset likely to perform adequately without major work.	Normal maintenance required	>86	95
2 Good	Acceptable physical condition, minimal short term risk of failure.	Normal maintenance plus minor repairs required (to 5% or less of the asset)	65 to 85	80
3 Satisfactory	Deterioration evident, failure in the short term unlikely. Minor components need replacement or repair now but asset still functions safely.	Significant maintenance and/or repairs required (to 10-20% of the asset)	41 to 64	55
4 Worn	Deterioration of the asset is evident and failure is possible in the short term. No immediate risk to health and safety.	Significant renewal required (to 20 - 40% of the asset)	10 to 40	35
5 Poor	Failed or failure is imminent or there is significant deterioration of the asset. Health and safety hazards exist which present a possible risk to public safety.	Over 50% of the asset requires renewal	<10	5

Table 5 – Condition of assets at Bark Huts Reserve

Description	Condition
Amenities building – toilets, kiosk, change rooms, storage and umpire room	Excellent (built 2018)
BBQ and shelters	Excellent (built 2018)
Carpark	Excellent (built 2018)
Children's playground	Excellent (built 2018)
Cricket practice wickets (3)	Excellent (built 2019)
Multipurpose court	Excellent (built 2018)
Park seating	Excellent (built 2018)
Pathways	Excellent (new & upgraded 2019)
Sports participant seating	Satisfactory
Sportsfield lighting and general park lighting	Good
Sportsfields (3)	Good

3.7 Heritage

There are no statutory heritage listings associated with this land.

3.8 Photographs of Bark Huts Reserve

Photographs dated January 2019 which provide an overview of the parkland and facilities



Bark Huts Reserve



Bark Huts Reserve sportsfield (2019)



Playground (2019)



Sportsfield (2019)



Playground (2019)



Playground (2019)



Amenities building (2019)



BBQ, shelter & seating (2019)



Multipurpose Court (2019)



Three lane cricket practice wickets (2020)

4. Land Uses

4.1 Permissible uses and developments

The tables below set out the purpose/use of the land consistent with its land categorisation and the types of development generally associated with those uses. Facilities on community land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community. The anticipated uses, and associated development, identified in Tables 6 and 7 are intended to provide an overview or general guide. Development is subject to requirements set out in clauses 4.2 and 4.3

Table 6 – Permissible uses of land categories – Park

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Active and passive recreation including children's play• Group recreational use, such as picnics and celebrations• Publicly accessible ancillary areas eg toilets• Festivals, fairs, similar events and gatherings• Low intensity commercial activities• Filming and photographic projects• Public address (speeches)• Easement, utilities and estate• Community gardening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development for the purposes of improving access, amenity, and the visual character of the park eg paths, pergolas, flagpoles, lights, water bubblers, seating, paved areas, hard and soft landscaped areas etc• Development for the purposes of active recreation eg play equipment, children's playgrounds, exercise equipment, courts etc• Amenities to facilitate leisure use of the park eg picnic tables and shelters, BBQ's & sheltered eating areas• Kiosk/café, mobile food vans or refreshment areas• Restricted access ancillary areas (e.g. storage areas associated with functions, gardening equipment)• Transport access and service areas ancillary to the use of land (eg public transport, car parking, loading zones, bicycle racks)• Community gardens• Off-leash areas• Heritage and cultural interpretation eg signs, public art etc• Locational, directional and regulatory signage• Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that relate to approved uses/activities, discreet and temporary and approved by Council.• Water/Energy savings initiatives

Table 7 – Permissible uses of land categories – Sportsgrounds

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active and passive recreational and sporting activities consistent with the nature of the particular land and any relevant facilities Organised and unstructured recreation activities Community events or gatherings, and public meetings Commercial uses associated with sports facilities Easement, utilities and estate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development for the purpose of conducting and facilitating organised sport Sportsfields (turf and synthetic) including cricket, football, soccer, track and field athletics, baseball, softball etc Courts (basketball, netball, badminton, tennis, hockey, badminton etc) Amenities eg change room, lockers, shower/toilet facilities, first aid rooms, seating Café or kiosk facilities, mobile coffee cart or food vending subject to site assessment and Council approval Car parking and loading areas Ancillary areas eg staff rooms, meeting rooms, equipment storage areas Shade structures Seating and scoreboards Sports or fitness training, and practice facilities Heritage and cultural interpretation eg signs, public art Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that relate to approved uses/activities, discreet and temporary and approved by Council. Water/Energy savings initiatives Lighting and water (eg taps, bubblers)

4.2 Future development and use of the community land

There have been recent significant upgrades made to Bark Huts Reserve which include new amenities, multipurpose court, playgrounds, changes to sportsfield configurations, cricket practice wickets and pathways. There are no proposed plans for further development in Bark Huts Reserve.

Minor changes to community land are regularly made on a routine basis, such as garden beds are replanted, and damaged play equipment is replaced.

In the event of potential future development other than that listed, proposed changes of use of community land will:

1. Meet legislative requirements – land use tables (zoning) in the Strathfield Council Local Environmental Plan specifies the range of uses and activities that may be permitted on the land. A number of uses are also set out in the Regulations to the *Local Government Act 1993*.

2. Be consistent with the guidelines and core objectives of the community land category - under the *Local Government Act 1993* uses and development of community land must be consistent with the guidelines for categorisation and the core objectives of each category, and any other additional objectives the Council proposes to place on the community land categories.

3. Be consistent with relevant Council policies - substantial upgrades and proposed new development will take into account a range of factors, including:

- this Plan of Management and the core objectives for the land
- the planning controls for the land
- Council's adopted policies
- the characteristics of the land affected, including existing and future use patterns
- any landscape masterplan for the land.

4.3 Scale and intensity of land use

The scale and intensity of use and development associated with community land in Strathfield is generally dependent on:

- the nature of the approved uses and developments
- approved Development Applications and any conditions
- an approved masterplan
- the physical constraints of the land
- the carrying capacity of the land
- relevant government legislation
- permissible times of use
- proximity of neighbours

The scale and intensity of use of parks and sportsgrounds should be monitored by:

- regular inspection of the physical impacts on the park or sportsground
- consideration of reports regarding any conflicts between park and sportsground users or from adjoining neighbours

4.4 Authorisation of leases, licences or other estates over community land

Council may from time to time enter into a licence or lease arrangements or permit casual, seasonal or regular bookings in order to encourage the use of the land and/or buildings appropriately and effectively.

The Act requires that any lease or licence of community land must be authorised by a Plan of Management. The lease or licence must be for purposes consistent with the categorisation and zoning of the land.

This Plan of Management authorises Council to grant leases, licences or any other estates for community land covered in this Plan of Management for purposes and uses which are identified or consistent with those in Tables 6 and 7. Some examples of longer term arrangements are outlined in the following Table 8. Shorter arrangements (for example, a short term agreement associated with a particular event, or an activity recurring regularly either annual or seasonal agreement) are set out in Table 9.

Calculations for fees and charges for leases and licences will be based on independent market rental valuations that are based on comparisons to similar services and facilities with similar locations, building and land conditions. As a minimum standard, the financial return from licence fees should offset asset maintenance, renewal and any operational costs. Council may also apply subsidies to not for profit organisations where there are demonstrated community benefits or financial hardship. Subsidies are generally not applied to commercial or residential leases or licences.

Table 8 – Leases, Licences and other estates

Type of Arrangement Authorised	Land and Facilities covered	Purposes for which long term leasing/licensing will be granted
Licence or lease	Park/ Sportsground	<p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sporting and recreational purposes, including team sports, fitness activities and games • kiosk, café and refreshment purposes • use of court or similar facilities • community and social activities
Other Estates	Park/ Sportsground	<p>This Plan of Management allows Council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities in accordance with the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>.</p> <p>Estates may also be granted across community land that is not affected by endangered communities for the provision of pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the Council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land.</p>

The grant of a lease or licence is an important step in using community land, but there may be other requirements relevant to any proposed use. For example, the refurbishment of a kiosk may also require development consent under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Any interested person should check carefully to make sure they are aware of all relevant requirements.

4.5 Short Term Uses

Agreements for use of community land may be granted for short duration which may include casual hires, seasonal use (eg sportsfields) or regular hire arrangement. These short term arrangements should be for the types of uses identified in Table 9 and consistent with prevailing Council policies.

Table 9 – Seasonal, regular and casual use agreements

Community land category	Purposes for which short term uses may be granted subject to council approval	Requirements
Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community events and festivals playing a musical instrument, or singing for fee or reward picnics and private celebrations such as family gatherings filming and photography session public performances engaging in an appropriate trade or business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proposed use must comply with terms and conditions approved eg SafeWork NSW regulations, insurance, waste management etc the use should not result in physical damage to the park the use should not result in a significant adverse impact on adjoining residents or disturbance to nearby residents organisers of the site should be responsible for cleaning up the site and notify authorities and Council of any damage or incidents that may occur
Sportsground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community events and festivals sporting fixtures and events sports and fitness training and classes filming or photography of sporting fixtures or events uses reasonably associated with the promotion or enhancement of sporting groups, fixtures and events 	

In assessing community land categorised as Park or Sportsground as a venue for any proposed utilisation, the Council applies the following minimum criteria:

- Council reserves the right to refuse bookings based on previous unsatisfactory payment or performance history or where proposed use would damage the facility or cause significant disruption to other regular users.
- Fees for short-term casual bookings will be charged in accordance with Council's adopted Fees and Charges at the time.

5. Management of the land

5.1 Objectives and management of community land

The land is managed in accordance with the objectives and methods set out below:

Table 10 – Objectives, means and performance measures

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Access	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide safe and improved access to the parks, sportsgrounds and general community use properties for pedestrians and cyclists. 2. Provide access to and within parks for people with disabilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upgrades, refurbishments and/or improvement works on community land to consider public access requirements for mobility and connections. 2. Proposed ramps, stairs and pathways to comply with relevant Council and BCA requirements consistent with Australian Standards. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Audits of community land and facilities to comply with standards
Amenity and Character	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure Council's community land and facilities contribute to the amenity and character of the Strathfield LGA. 2. Promote parks, sportsgrounds and community use properties as desirable places for recreation, community celebration and commemoration. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide parks and facilities and pathways as attractive destinations. 2. Maintain and enhance community land and facilities 3. Promote parks, sportsgrounds and facilities in local media and website. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consult with residents and users regarding satisfaction of parks and facilities 2. Monitor and action complaint data
Community Facilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide sustainable community facilities for a range of community, social and other compatible activities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building and structure design specifications to consider park, sportsground and general community use character, expected use and environmental sustainability features. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor usage of community facilities as measured by bookings. 2. Community satisfaction surveys.

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
	<p>2. Ensure buildings positively contribute to community land amenity, facilitate a range of uses and have regard for environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance.</p>	<p>2. Provide community facilities which are multi-purpose and flexible to a range of appropriate uses.</p> <p>3. Ensure community facilities are universally accessible.</p> <p>4. Community facilities meet sustainable building requirements and/or are progressively upgraded to incorporate best practice energy and water efficiencies.</p>	<p>3. Facility inspections and audits.</p> <p>4. Monitor comments and complaints</p>
Environmentally Sustainable Principles	<p>1. Manage community land to ensure best environmental management practises and principles having regard to environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance.</p>	<p>1. Promote and monitor energy efficiency</p> <p>2. Minimise use of water</p> <p>3. Implement waste reduction programs</p> <p>4. Utilise natural heating and cooling</p>	<p>1. Measure and monitor via plans and strategies such as Energy and Water plans.</p> <p>2. Monitor usage and trends via quarterly and annual consumption and billing.</p> <p>3. Monitor and minimise water and energy use in parks, sportsgrounds and ancillary facilities.</p>
Historical and Heritage Significance	<p>1. Appreciation and interpretation of the historical and/or heritage significance of the site and structures eg memorials in terms of both natural and cultural components.</p>	<p>1. Undertake, when required, historical research or heritage and cultural assessment studies to identify cultural and heritage values for retention and interpretation.</p> <p>2. Incorporate historical information on property signage to enhance understanding and appreciation of the site and the history it represents, where relevant.</p> <p>3. Promote sense of place and local identity</p>	<p>1. Retention and interpretation of heritage and cultural values provides increased appreciation of the property and its history through community consultation.</p>
Landscape Character	<p>1. Maintain and improve landscape character and visual quality of public open spaces</p>	<p>1. Manage replacement planting strategies to ensure improvement to the current character.</p>	<p>1. Community consultation including surveys regarding community views</p>

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain consistency in selection and design of park and sportsground furniture, paving, fencing that is appropriate to the setting and the sport or activity type. Implement & maintain co-ordinated signage strategy 	
Managing assets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide effective and efficient management of community land and facilities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule regular inspections and condition assessments. Inclusion of maintenance standards in licence, lease or hire agreements. Provide waste and recycling bins to cater for public use. Regular waste and recycling collection to minimise litter overflow 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Measure against Service Standard KPIs. Respond to complaints and audits. Monitor agreements Review and update asset management plans periodically
Natural Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain and enhance the health of park ecology, including flora and fauna, trees and soil 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Manage trees, gardens and natural areas to maintain and improve the quality of the environment in accordance with Council's tree management and biodiversity strategies and plans. Retain habitat trees, protect foraging habitat and create/maintain habitat corridors through revegetation where possible Ensure revegetation is undertaken using locally sourced stock from agreed planting lists (refer Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy) Maintain weed management program to minimise spread of weeds Implement actions where required under recovery or threat abatement plan. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Measure and monitor tree canopies, vegetation, weeds and habitat. Undertake periodic flora and fauna reviews

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Promote varied recreational uses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance opportunities for a balanced organised and unstructured recreational use of public open space 2. Optimise public access to public open space. 3. Maintain condition and useability of sportsgrounds and 'sustainable capacity'. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capital works program to plan for improvements and upgrades to community land. 2. Promote a range of organised and informal/unstructured activities on community land 3. Provide amenities that support use and enjoyment of parks and sportsgrounds eg toilets, change rooms and kiosk/café facilities. 4. Enforce provisions for management of dogs on community land as per requirements of Council's Companion Animal Policy. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor local use of parks and sportsgrounds by bookings, surveys, complaints and observation.
Safety and Risk Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide safe use and access to public land and facilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design and maintain layouts, landscaping and facilities in accordance with CPTED principles (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) principles including passive surveillance, good sight lines, territorial reinforcement and space management and lighting. 2. Review lighting and security for both day and night time use. 3. Work with local police to identify and act on safety issues. 4. Install and maintain facilities in accordance with relevant Australian standards. 5. Repair vandalism or graffiti within 48 hours where possible. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Works to be in accordance with relevant Australian Standards and CPTED principles. 2. Monitor and action incident and accident reports.

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Traffic and Parking	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure traffic and parking requirements provide a safe environment for park, sportsgrounds and general community use property users and do not impact on the amenity of the properties. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minimise use of vehicles on community land and regulate and monitor vehicle access. 2. Installation of signage preventing vehicles from entering unauthorised areas. 3. Where vehicles are permitted, provide clearly marked vehicle movement areas 4. Provide access for emergency or works services. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduced pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle conflicts. 2. Improved public safety. 3. Traffic access to community land is via agreement.
Use agreements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That use arrangements facilitate wide community access to community land, community benefits and support financial sustainability. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Licence, leases, estates and short term use agreements comply with legislative and policy requirements. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor agreements in accordance with terms and conditions of agreement.



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1. Introduction

1.1 Title

This plan is titled the Begnell Field Plan of Management.

The current plan was adopted by Council resolution at the meeting of xx.

This plan of management applies to land located at Begnell Field. This land is located at Madeline Street, Blanche Street and Cosgrove Road Belfield. The northern boundary of the park abuts Coks Creek.

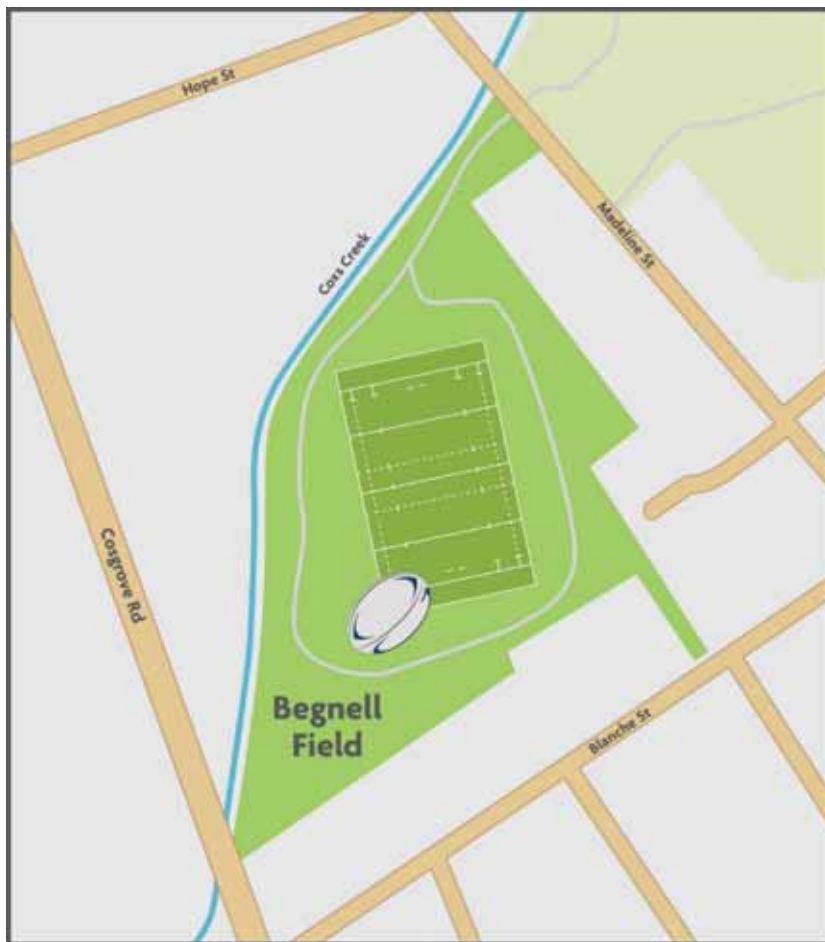
Begnell Field Pavilion is included in the Community Facilities Plan of Management. The land in Begnell Field categorised as natural area (bushland) is included in the Cooks River Natural Area (Bushland) Plan of Management.

Ownership, Lot details and zoning information is set out in Table 1 (based on information in Council's Geographical Information System GIS 2019). The location map of Begnell Field is set out in Figure 1.

Table 1 – Ownership, title and zoning details

Owner	Lot Details	Zoning Strathfield LEP 2012
Strathfield Municipal Council	Lot 1-2 DP 1164778	RE1 - Public Recreation
Strathfield Municipal Council	Lot 1 DP 201778	RE1 - Public Recreation
Strathfield Municipal Council	Lot 1 DP 212699	RE1 - Public Recreation
Strathfield Municipal Council	Lot 1 DP 505372	RE1 - Public Recreation
Strathfield Municipal Council	Lot 2 DP 203199	RE1 - Public Recreation
Strathfield Municipal Council	Lot 4-6 DP 1130051	RE1 - Public Recreation
Strathfield Municipal Council	Lot 5 DP 512216	RE1 - Public Recreation
Strathfield Municipal Council	Lot 21 DP 533008	RE1 - Public Recreation

Figure 1 – Begnell Field Location Map



1.2 Purpose of this Plan of Management

The *Local Government Act 1993* and amendments to the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* require all public land including Crown Reserves, owned or managed by Council, to be classified as either 'community' land or 'operational' land. Land classified as 'community' land must be managed and used in accordance with an adopted Plan of Management. The land described in this Plan of Management is classified as community land.

Plans of Management are developed by Council in consultation with the community. A Plan of Management describes the features of the community land and outlines how the land may be managed and used, consistent with land categorisations, core objectives and zoning, to provide a transparent and co-ordinated approach to public land management.

The purpose of this Plan of Management is to:

- contribute to the strategic goals and vision as set out in the Strathfield Community Strategic Plan
- ensure compliance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and relevant legislation and guidelines
- provide clarity regarding use and access to the community land as described in this plan.

1.3 Contents of this Plan of Management

This Plan of Management is divided into the following sections, as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2 – Structure of this Plan of Management

Section	What does it include?
1. Introduction	Title, land covered by plan, purpose, contents and review of the plan
2. About the Strathfield LGA	Recognition of traditional custodians, Strathfield LGA snapshot, trends, community vision, legislative and policy framework, and references.
3. Land – category, classification, use and access	Site description, land use/history, land categories and classifications, maps, use of land and structures, environmental features, condition of land and structures and heritage.
4. Land Uses	Permissible uses and development, scale and intensity of use, authorisation of leases, licences and short-term uses.
5. Management of the land	Objectives, performance targets, means and manner for assessment of performance

1.4. Change and Review of Plan of Management

This Plan of Management will require regular review in order to align with community values and changing community needs, and to reflect changes in Council priorities. The performance of this Plan of Management will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure the use of land and structures is well maintained and consistent with Council's strategic objectives and community values.

Strategic reviews of this Plan of Management will be required where there is significant change to legislation, land ownership/management or proposed land use. Regular reviews should occur at five (5) year intervals.

2. About the Strathfield Local Government Area

2.1 Recognition of Traditional Custodians

Strathfield Council acknowledges the Wangal people, the traditional Custodians of the lands on which the Strathfield area is located. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

2.2 Snapshot of Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA)

The Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA) is well known for transport connections, educational opportunities, attractive streetscapes, parks, heritage and buildings. The Strathfield LGA is centrally located in Sydney's Inner West, approximately 10.5 kilometres from the Sydney CBD and half way between Parramatta and the Sydney CBD. The LGA includes the suburbs of Strathfield (postcode 2135), Strathfield South (2136), Homebush (2140), Homebush West (2140), part of Belfield (2191) and part of Greenacre (2190). Sydney Markets (postcode 2129) is also located within Strathfield LGA.

Strathfield LGA is well known for its extensive green open spaces and high quality recreational facilities, which enhance the liveability, amenity and sustainability of the local area. The Strathfield LGA has a total area of approximately 1390 ha (13.9km²) with 104 ha of the total area being public open space (2018 estimates). There is currently 9.06 ha of remnant bushland in the LGA and about 6 ha is under Council management.

In 2019, the estimated residential LGA population was about 47,000 residents and by 2041, the resident population is estimated to reach over 80,000 people (NSW Planning 2019). The growing population and accompanying building density will increase demand for access to and usage of available open space and community facilities. Therefore, management of community land is of critical important to current and future communities.

Open spaces range from regional and district sporting grounds to smaller local parks and reserves. Significant parks with major sporting facilities include Airey Park, Bressington Park, Bark Huts Reserve, Begnell Field, Cooke Park, Hudson Park, Mason Park and Strathfield Park. Many local biodiversity conservation and habitat connectivity priority areas, including flora and fauna assets, are located within Strathfield LGA's parks and reserves. A number of connected parks and open spaces form the Cooks River Foreshore open space network, an important local and regional habitat corridor and pedestrian and cycle transport connection.

Strathfield LGA also provides many community facilities, located on community land including meeting rooms, halls and community centres which are available for hire by groups and individuals for sporting, community, recreation, social and other purposes.

2.3 Strathfield LGA community and recreational trends

Some of the challenges facing the Strathfield LGA include increasing and competing demands for public open space and community facilities. Strathfield Council is strongly focused on identifying and meeting the current and future needs of the Strathfield community in a sustainable manner.

Recent community engagement and analysis of social and recreational trends indicate increasing participation in recreation, sporting and leisure activities such as organised team sports, walking, cycling, running, aerobic fitness and dog walking. There is increased demand for access to community and recreation facilities, outdoor and indoor.

Priorities for Council involve increasing the capacity of local community facilities, parks and sportsgrounds, developing new community and recreational facilities as required and ensuring equity of access to land and facilities, to meet changing and diverse needs.

2.4 Community Vision and Key Strategic Directions

The community vision describes the community's aspirations for the future of the Strathfield Local Government Area by 2030:

"Strathfield is a culturally diverse and socially cohesive community with respect for its heritage and environment and proud of its well-connected transport, business and educational institutions".

Strathfield 2030 is the community strategic plan for the Strathfield Local Government Area until 2030. The plan was developed following extensive community engagement and is divided into the key themes of Connectivity, Community Wellbeing, Civic Pride and Management. Liveable Neighbourhoods and Responsible Leadership

This plan is aligned with the Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) which defines the long term vision for land use and infrastructure provisions within the Strathfield LGA and supports place within the Greater Sydney and District planning frameworks. This plan of management aligns with the LSPS Priority P13 'Biodiversity and ecological health and resiliency is conserved, restored and enhanced' and Priority P15 'Quality Open Spaces and thriving green corridors offset the impacts of growth across the LGA' and action plan A93 to review and prepare new plans of management.

2.5 Legislative and Policy Framework

The following legislation and policies provide a framework for the preparation of this Plan of Management.

Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (LG Act) requires the preparation of Plans of Management (POMs) for Council owned land, and requires all community land to be categorised.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) (EP&A Act) is the principal planning legislation for NSW, that provides a framework for the environmental planning and assessment of development proposals and preparation of environmental planning instruments (including the Local Environmental Plan or LEP).

Crown Lands Management Act 2016 (NSW) (CLM Act) governs the planning, management and use of Crown land, including provisions to reserve or dedicate lands for a prescribed public purpose and for leasing and licensing. Crown land under Council management requires classification and categorisations under the LG Act and preparation of Plans of Management.

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW) (BC Act) requires that Councils consider the impact on threatened species, populations and communities in fulfilling their statutory responsibilities under the EP&A Act for development approvals. It also covers management of threatened species and communities on Council owned lands.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth) (EPBC Act) provides a national scheme for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, and incorporates referral mechanisms and environmental impact assessment processes for projects of national significance.

State Environmental Planning Policy 19 – Bushland in Urban Areas aims to protect and preserve bushland in the Sydney Metropolitan area. The SEPP is concerned with disturbances and development affecting bushland areas.

Companion Animal Act 1998 (NSW) requires the identification and registration of companion animals (e.g. cats and dogs) and sets out the duties and responsibilities in relation to management of animals and specific areas of land.

Local Land Services Act 2013 (NSW) provides a framework to ensure the proper management of natural resources in the social, economic and environmental interests of the State. Strathfield is part of the Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS), which provides guidance on matters such as community engagement, biosecurity and weeds.

Also relevant are:

- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)
- Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (NSW) and Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)
- Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)
- Fisheries Management Act 1994 (NSW)
- Rural Fires Act 1997 (NSW)
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)

Related Strathfield Council policies and plans

- Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030
- Strathfield 2030 Community Strategic Plan (CSP)
- Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Development Control Plans 2005
- Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2020
- Disability Inclusion Plan 2020-2024

2.6 References

Eco Logical Australia and Strathfield Council, 2019, *Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2020-2030*, viewed at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/live/biodiversity/>

Insight Ecology, 2017, *The Fauna of Strathfield (Local Government Area)*, viewed at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/live/biodiversity/>

Jones, Cathy, 2019, *Parks and Reserves*, Strathfield Heritage website at <https://strathfieldheritage.org/parks-and-reserves>

Near Maps – Strathfield LGA, 2019 at <https://www.nearmap.com/au/en>

NSW Department Planning, 2019, *Strathfield LGA Population Projections 2016-2041*, viewed at <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Factsheets-and-faqs/Research-and-demography/Population-projections/2019-Strathfield.pdf>

Strathfield Council, *Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012*, viewed at <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/EPL/2013/115>

Strathfield Council, 2018, *Community Strategic Plan – Strathfield 2030* viewed at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/council/policies-plans-and-regulations/community-strategic-plan/>

Strathfield Council, 2019, Geographical Information System (GIS) Data

3. Land – category, classification, use and access

3.1 Description of site

Begnell Field is one of Strathfield Council's largest parks measuring over four hectares in size. Begnell Field is located between Madeline Street, Cosgrove Road and Blanche Street, Belfield. It is bounded at the north east by Cooke Park and Coks Creek Chanel to the north and residential development on Blanche Street and Madeline Street.

The park has limited street visibility. Vehicle and pedestrian entry to the site is via Madeline Street. There is pedestrian entry via laneway entry on Blanche Street. Entry on Cosgrove Road is gated but can be opened as required.

The site accommodates a large sportsfield, with some open space and car parking. There is a large amenities block with seating, toilets, kiosk, change rooms and multi-activity areas.

Begnell Field is one of the Cooks River/Coks Creek Foreshore parks and land in Begnell Field is identified as a Biodiversity Connectivity Priority area in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2019.

3.2 Land prior use and history

The land on which Begnell Field built is part of the Ripon Estate, a subdivision of the original 1810 James Morris land grant. Part of the land occupied by the park was acquired under the Cumberland Planning Scheme in the 1950s as county open space. Strathfield Council also acquired additional land for open space purposes. In 1973, the county open space was transferred to the care and control of Strathfield Council by the State Planning Authority¹

Coks Creek, which abuts the land at the southern northern boundary, was replaced by a concrete stormwater channel in the 1930s.

Council once referred to the site as Madeline Street Open space, but formally named Begnell Field after James (Jim) Begnell, Treasurer and Life Member of the Western Suburbs District Junior Rugby Football League, who died in 1971. Begnell had long advocated the development of the land into a sporting field. In 1981, the Begnell Field amenities block was named for former Mayor of Strathfield, James Smith. This building has since been demolished and replaced.

¹ Jones, C (2019) Parks and Reserves

Figure 2: Historical photograph of Begnell Field

The aerial historic photographs indicate changes in the land over time, particularly the building of the oval, roadways, structures and revegetation, especially near the canal and boundaries of the park.



Begnell Field aerial photograph (1947)



Begnell Field photograph (1996)



Begnell Field aerial photograph (2009)
© Near Maps.



Begnell Field aerial photograph (2019)
© Near Maps.

3.3 Categories and classifications of Community Land

The management of community land is governed by the categorisation of the land, and the core objectives of the relevant category of community land. The core objectives for each category are set out in the *Local Government Act 1993*. The guidelines and core objectives for relevant categories are set out in Table 3.

Table 3 – Guidelines for and core objectives of community land

Category	Guidelines ²	Core objectives ³
Sportsground	<i>Regulation cl.103</i> Land should be categorised as 'sportsground' if the land is used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.	<i>Category Sportsground - (Section 36F)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.
Park	<i>Regulation cl.104</i> Land which is, or proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, and for uses which are mainly passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others.	<i>Category Park – (Section 36G)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities. provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games. improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.
General Community Use	<i>Regulation cl.106</i> Land that may be made available for use of any purpose for which community land may be used, whether by the public at large or by specific sections of the public	<i>Category General Community Use - (Section 36I)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public. in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).
Natural Area	<i>Regulation cl.102</i> Natural areas are where land, whether or not in an undisturbed state, possesses a significant geological feature, geomorphological	<i>Natural Area - (Section 36E)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised to a natural area; and

² *Local Government General Regulation 2005*

³ *Local Government Act 1993*

Category	Guidelines ²	Core objectives ³
	feature, landform, representative system or other natural feature or attribute that would be sufficient to further categorise the land as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting, and • to provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land, and • to provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and • to assist in and facilitate the implement of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan prepared under the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> or the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>
Natural Area – bushland	<p><i>Regulation cl.107</i> Land that contains primarily native vegetation that is the natural vegetation or a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land, or although not the natural vegetation, is still representative of the structure or floristics of the natural vegetation in the locality.</p> <p>.</p>	<p><i>Natural Area - Bushland (Section 36J)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land, and • to protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and • to promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and • to restore degraded bushland, and • to protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and • to retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and • to protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.

Council must manage community land in according to these core objectives. Any activities or uses of the land should be consistent with the core objectives for that category of land. Additional objectives, which support the above core objectives, are included in Section 5 Management of the land.

The land classified as community land under the *Local Government Act 1993* is categorised as Sportsground, Park, General Community Use and Natural Area (Bushland). The categorised areas are marked in Figure 3.

Figure 3 – Map of Begnell Field land categorisations



3.4 Use of the land and structures at date of adoption of the plan

Begnell Field provides a wide range of land uses, which support various sporting, recreational and community and environmental uses. The land is categorised as Sportsground, General Community Use, Natural Area (Bushland) and Park.

Part of the land on which Begnell Field is built is categorised as a Sportsground. This includes the sportsfield which is used for a wide range of formal and informal recreation and sporting purposes and is supported by lighting, sports participant seating, general park seating, pathways and carparking.

The large amenities and clubhouse is categorised as General Community Use, which reflects the use of this facilities for general amenities and a clubhouse for multi-purpose activities.

There is a small area of land on Cosgrove Reserve, north-west of the park and separated by the canal, which is categorised as General Community Use.

The park contains a habitat corridor, which is identified as biodiversity connectivity priority area in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy. This is located on the northern side of the Cocks Creek canal and has been categorised as a Natural Area (Bushland).

A small area of Begnell Field is categorised as a Park and is used for active and passive recreation and leisure purposes.

3.5 Environmental features

Begnell Field is one of the Cooks River/Cocks Creek foreshore parks. Parts of this land are identified in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2019 as a Biodiversity Connectivity area. These corridors are also identified as Priority Biodiversity Areas and a Priority Green Grid Project in Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2020. The land in Begnell Field categorised as natural area (bushland) is included in the Cooks River Natural Area (Bushland) Plan of Management.

The natural area (bushland) in Begnell Field is mainly indigenous revegetation, on the northern and western edges abutting Cocks Creek Channel, which has important habitat linkages with other corridor parks. Pre-1990s plantings were largely single specimens of trees such as species *Casuarina glauca* (Swamp Oak) which have subsequently formed copses that support open nesting and/or cover-dependent birds of the understorey such as Superb Fairy-wren, Red-whiskered Bulbul and Willie Wagtail. Begnell Field also contains open parkland areas containing established eucalypt, she-oak and melaleuca plantings and individual planted trees and shrubs are planted along the boundaries of the open parkland and playing fields. Much of the planting was undertaken by the volunteer group Men of the Trees during the late 1990s and early 2000s and subsequently by community based Bushcare programs.

Green and Golden Bellfrogs (GGBF) are usually located in and around water bodies such as wetlands and lakes or on sites which humans have disturbed such as abandoned quarries or brickpits. In the Strathfield LGA, the GGBF core habitat area is located in Greenacre such as Cocks Creek Reserve and Greenacre Frog Ponds. Begnell Field is contained within the east-west GGBF linkage area as mapped in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy (p17), which also covers parks such as Cooke Park, and parts of Ford Park and Maria Reserve. However, with dispersal and movement of frogs, infrequent sightings have been reported in parks further along the Cooks River such as Elliott Reserve, Southend Tennis Centre and 'Chiswick Reserve'. However, these sightings were infrequent and have become increasingly rare. Since 2012, Council has received no reported sightings of GGBF in the Strathfield LGA.

3.6 Condition of the land and structures on adoption of the plan

The criteria for assessing the condition of land and structures upon adoption of this plan of management are shown in Table 4 and the interpretation of the condition of infrastructure in Table 5.

Table 4 - Condition rating assessment criteria

Rating	Descriptor	Guide	Residual Life as a % of Total Life	Mean % age residual life
1 Excellent	Sound physical condition. Asset likely to perform adequately without major work.	Normal maintenance required	>86	95
2 Good	Acceptable physical condition, minimal short term risk of failure.	Normal maintenance plus minor repairs required (to 5% or less of the asset)	65 to 85	80
3 Satisfactory	Deterioration evident, failure in the short term unlikely. Minor components need replacement or repair now but asset still functions safely.	Significant maintenance and/or repairs required (to 10-20% of the asset)	41 to 64	55
4 Worn	Deterioration of the asset is evident and failure is possible in the short term. No immediate risk to health and safety.	Significant renewal required (to 20 - 40% of the asset)	10 to 40	35
5 Poor	Failed or failure is imminent or there is significant deterioration of the asset. Health and safety hazards exist which present a possible risk to public safety.	Over 50% of the asset requires renewal	<10	5

Table 5 – Condition of assets at Begnell Field

Description	Condition
Amenities building – toilets, kiosk, change rooms and storage	Satisfactory
Carpark	Worn
Pathways	Worn
Sports participant seats	Satisfactory
Sportsfield	Satisfactory
Sportsfield lighting	Good

3.7 Heritage

There are no statutory heritage listings associated with this land.

3.8 Photographs of Begnell Field

Photographs of Begnell Field provide an overview of key features on the site. The photographs were taken in 2019.



Sportsfield – northerly aspect



Sportsfield – southerly aspect



Sportsfield



Amenities building



Laneway – Blanche St



Entry – Madeline St



Open space – Cosgrove Rd



Open space – Cosgrove Rd



Natural Area Bushland



Natural Area Bushland

4. Land Uses

4.1 Permissible uses and developments

The tables below set out the purpose/use of the land consistent with its land categorisation and the types of development generally associated with those uses. Facilities on community land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community. The anticipated uses, and associated development, identified in Tables 6 to 9 are intended to provide an overview or general guide. Development is subject to requirements set out in clauses 4.2 and 4.3

Table 6 – Permissible uses of land categories – Sportsgrounds

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Active and passive recreational and sporting activities consistent with the nature of the particular land and any relevant facilities• Organised and unstructured recreation activities• Community events or gatherings, and public meetings• Commercial uses associated with sports facilities• Easement, utilities and estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development for the purpose of conducting and facilitating organised sport• Sportsfields (turf and synthetic) including cricket, football, soccer, track and field athletics, baseball, softball etc• Practice facilities eg cricket practice wickets etc and Courts (basketball, netball, badminton, tennis, hockey, badminton etc)• Amenities eg change room, lockers, shower/toilet facilities, first aid rooms, seating• Café or kiosk facilities, mobile coffee cart or food vending subject to site assessment and Council approval• Car parking and loading areas• Ancillary areas eg staff rooms, meeting rooms, equipment storage areas• Shade structures• Seating and scoreboards• Sports or fitness training, and practice facilities• Heritage and cultural interpretation eg signs, public art• Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that relate to approved uses/activities, discreet and temporary and approved by Council.• Water/Energy savings initiatives• Lighting and water (eg taps, bubblers)

Table 7 – Permissible uses of land categories – Park

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active and passive recreation including children's play • Group recreational use, such as picnics and celebrations • Publicly accessible ancillary areas eg toilets • Festivals, fairs, similar events and gatherings • Low intensity commercial activities • Filming and photographic projects • Public address (speeches) • Easement, utilities and estate • Community gardening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development for the purposes of improving access, amenity, and the visual character of the park eg paths, pergolas, flagpoles, lights, water bubblers, seating, paved areas, hard and soft landscaped areas etc • Development for the purposes of active recreation eg play equipment, children's playgrounds, exercise equipment, courts etc • Amenities to facilitate leisure use of the park eg picnic tables and shelters, BBQ's & sheltered eating areas • Kiosk/café, mobile food vans or refreshment areas • Restricted access ancillary areas (e.g. storage areas associated with functions, gardening equipment) • Transport access and service areas ancillary to the use of land (eg public transport, car parking, loading zones, bicycle racks) • Community gardens • Off-leash areas • Heritage and cultural interpretation eg signs, public art etc • Locational, directional and regulatory signage • Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that relate to approved uses/activities, discreet and temporary and approved by Council. • Water/Energy savings initiatives

Table 8 – Permissible uses of land categories – General Community Use

Purpose/Use	Development
<p>Provides a location for, and supports, the gathering of groups for a range of general social, cultural or recreational purposes</p> <p>Includes multi-purpose buildings e.g. community halls, clubhouses, childcare etc. Uses may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • casual or informal sporting and recreational use • meetings (including for social, recreational, educational or cultural purposes) • functions • leisure or training classes including fitness • educational and community centres, including libraries, information and resource centres • carparking • kiosk or mobile food vending 	<p>Development for the purposes of social, community, cultural, recreational activities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • landscaping and finishes, improving access, amenity and the visual character of the general community area • provision of buildings or other amenity areas to facilitate use and enjoyment by the community • development (particularly within buildings) for the purposes of addressing community or recreational needs (e.g. community hall, leisure centre, indoor courts) • casual, seasonal, licence or lease agreements may be permitted consistent with purpose or use of facility.

In some instances, physical assets may be located on land which falls into different categories. For example, amenities building may be located on land categorised as Sportsground, or on land categorised for General Community Use.

Table 9 – Permissible uses of land categories – Natural Area (Bushland)

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking and cycling Guided bushwalks and bird watching Environmental programs and scientific study Preservation of biodiversity and habitat Bush regeneration and revegetation works Relaxation and passive informal recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretative, regulatory and directional signage Low impact lighting Low impact carparking Low impact pathways Passive recreation Seating Small ancillary building eg storage and amenities for site maintenance Water saving initiatives eg swales, sediment traps, rainwater gardens

4.2 Future development and use of the community land

Council intends to review and upgrade facilities at Begnell Field. This may include sportsfield upgrade, upgraded carpark, amenities including function room, vehicle/pedestrian and roadway upgrade.

Minor changes to community land may occur on a routine basis, such as replanting and replacement of damaged or worn infrastructure eg play equipment. In the event of potential future development, proposed changes of use of community land will:

1. Meet legislative requirements – land use tables (zoning) in the Strathfield Council Local Environmental Plan specifies the range of uses and activities that may be permitted on the land. A number of uses are also set out in the Regulations to the *Local Government Act 1993*.
2. Be consistent with the guidelines and core objectives of the community land category - under the *Local Government Act 1993* uses and development of community land must be consistent with the guidelines for categorisation and the core objectives of each category, and any other additional objectives the Council proposes to place on the community land categories.
3. Be consistent with relevant Council policies - substantial upgrades and proposed new development will take into account a range of factors, including:
 - this Plan of Management and the core objectives for the land
 - the planning controls for the land
 - Council's adopted policies
 - the characteristics of the land affected, including existing and future use patterns
 - any landscape masterplan for the land.

4.3 Scale and intensity of land use

The scale and intensity of use and development associated with community land in Strathfield is generally dependent on:

- the nature of the approved uses and developments
- approved Development Applications and any conditions
- an approved masterplan
- the physical constraints of the land
- the carrying capacity of the land
- relevant government legislation
- permissible times of use
- proximity of neighbours

The scale and intensity of use of parks and sportsgrounds should be monitored by:

- regular inspection of the physical impacts on the park or sportsground
- consideration of reports regarding any conflicts between park and sportsground users or from adjoining neighbours

4.4 Authorisation of leases, licences or other estates over community land

The Act requires that any lease or licence of community land must be authorised by a Plan of Management. The lease or licence must be for purposes consistent with the categorisation and zoning of the land.

The maximum period for leases or licences on community land permitted under the Act is 21 years. If a lease or licence is anticipated, then public notice should be given in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Where a lease arrangement has been entered into with Council for community land, subleasing the land may only occur with specific permission of Council and in accordance with the requirements of Section 47C of the Act, Clause 119 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* and conditions set out in agreements.

This Plan of Management authorises existing leases and licence agreements until the end of their current term. The leased or licensed areas may be renewed or changed in future. The leased or licensed areas may be reconfigured in the future to reflect changes in community needs.

This Plan of Management authorises Council to grant leases, licences or any other estates for community land covered in this Plan of Management for purposes and uses which are identified or consistent with those in Tables 10. Some examples of longer term arrangements, including licences, leases and other estates, are outlined in the following Table 10. Shorter arrangements (for example, a short term agreement associated with a particular event, or an activity recurring regularly either via annual or seasonal agreement) are set out in Table 11.

Calculations for fees and charges for leases and licences will be based on independent market rental valuations that are based on comparisons to similar services and facilities with similar locations, building and land conditions. As a minimum standard, the financial return from licence fees should offset asset maintenance, renewal and any operational costs. Council may also apply subsidies to not for profit organisations where there are demonstrated community benefits or financial hardship. Subsidies are generally not applied to commercial agreements.

Table 10 – Leases, Licences and other

Type of Arrangement Authorised	Land and Facilities covered	Purposes for which long term leasing/licensing will be granted
Licence or lease	Park Sportsground	<p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sporting and recreational purposes, including formal sports, fitness activities and games • kiosk, café, mobile food vending and refreshment purposes • use of court or similar facilities • work sheds or storage areas required in connection with maintenance • signs • temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project or works to be carried out
Licence or lease	General Community Use (community land and buildings)	<p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the area to support the activity.</p> <p>Sympathetic, compatible uses may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community purposes including meetings, workshops, learning • recreational purposes including fitness, dance and kiosk, café and refreshment purposes • carparking
Licence or lease	Natural Area (Bushland)	<p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • educational or environmental programs, scientific studies and surveys or similar • walkways, pathways, bridges or causeways • signs, observation platforms • temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project to be carried out
Other Estates	Park Sportsground General Community Use	<p>This Plan of Management allows Council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities in accordance with the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>.</p>

Type of Arrangement Authorised	Land and Facilities covered	Purposes for which long term leasing/licensing will be granted
	Natural Area (Buahland)	Estates may also be granted across community land that is not affected by endangered communities for the provision of pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the Council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land.

The grant of a lease or licence is an important step in using community land, but there may be other requirements relevant to any proposed use. For example, the refurbishment of a kiosk may also require development consent under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Any interested person should check carefully to make sure they are aware of all relevant requirements.

4.5 Short Term Uses

Agreements for use of community land may be granted for short duration, which may include casual hires, seasonal use (eg sportsfields) or regular hire arrangement. These short-term arrangements should be for the types of uses identified in Table 11 and consistent with prevailing Council policies.

Table 11 – Seasonal, regular and casual use agreements

Community land category	Purposes for which short term uses may be granted subject to council approval	Requirements
Sportsgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community events and festivals sporting fixtures and events sports and fitness training and classes filming or photography of sporting fixtures or events uses reasonably associated with the promotion or enhancement of sporting groups, fixtures and events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proposed use must comply with terms and conditions for event approval e.g. SafeWork NSW regulations, insurance, waste management etc. the use should not result in physical damage to the park, sportsground or natural area the use should not result in a significant adverse impact on adjoining residents or disturbance to nearby residents organisers of the site should be responsible for cleaning up the site and notify authorities and Council of any damage or incidents that may occur
Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community events and festivals playing a musical instrument, or singing for fee or reward picnics and private celebrations such as family gatherings filming and photography session public performances engaging in an appropriate trade or business 	
Natural Area (Bushland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> educational or environmental programs, scientific studies and surveys or similar temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project to be carried out 	
General Community Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> meetings, seminars and presentations, including educational programs events consistent with the size of facility and its terms and conditions carparking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proposed use must comply with terms and conditions for facility use the use should not result in physical damage to the facility organisers of the site should be responsible for cleaning up the site and repairing any damage that may occur.

In assessing community land for any proposed utilisation, the Council applies the following minimum criteria:

- Council reserves the right to refuse bookings based on previous unsatisfactory payment or performance history or where proposed use would damage the facility or cause significant disruption to other regular users.
- Fees for short-term casual bookings will be charged in accordance with Council's adopted Fees and Charges at the time.

5. Management of the land

5.1 Objectives and management of community land

The land is managed in accordance with the objectives and methods set out below.

Table 12 – Objectives, means and performance measures

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Access	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide safe and improved access to the parks, sportsgrounds and general community use properties for pedestrians and cyclists. 2. Provide access to and within parks for people with disabilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upgrades, refurbishments and/or improvement works on community land to consider public access requirements for mobility and connections. 2. Proposed ramps, stairs and pathways to comply with relevant Council and BCA requirements consistent with Australian Standards. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Audits of community land and facilities to comply with standards
Amenity and Character	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure Council's community land and facilities contribute to the amenity and character of the Strathfield LGA. 2. Promote parks, sportsgrounds and community use properties as desirable places for recreation, community celebration and commemoration. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide parks and facilities and pathways as attractive destinations. 2. Maintain and enhance community land and facilities 3. Promote parks, sportsgrounds and facilities in local media and website. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consult with residents and users regarding satisfaction of parks and facilities 2. Monitor and action complaint data
Community Facilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide sustainable community facilities for a range of community, social and other compatible activities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building and structure design specifications to consider park, sportsground and general community use character, expected use and environmental sustainability features. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor usage of community facilities as measured by bookings. 2. Community satisfaction surveys.

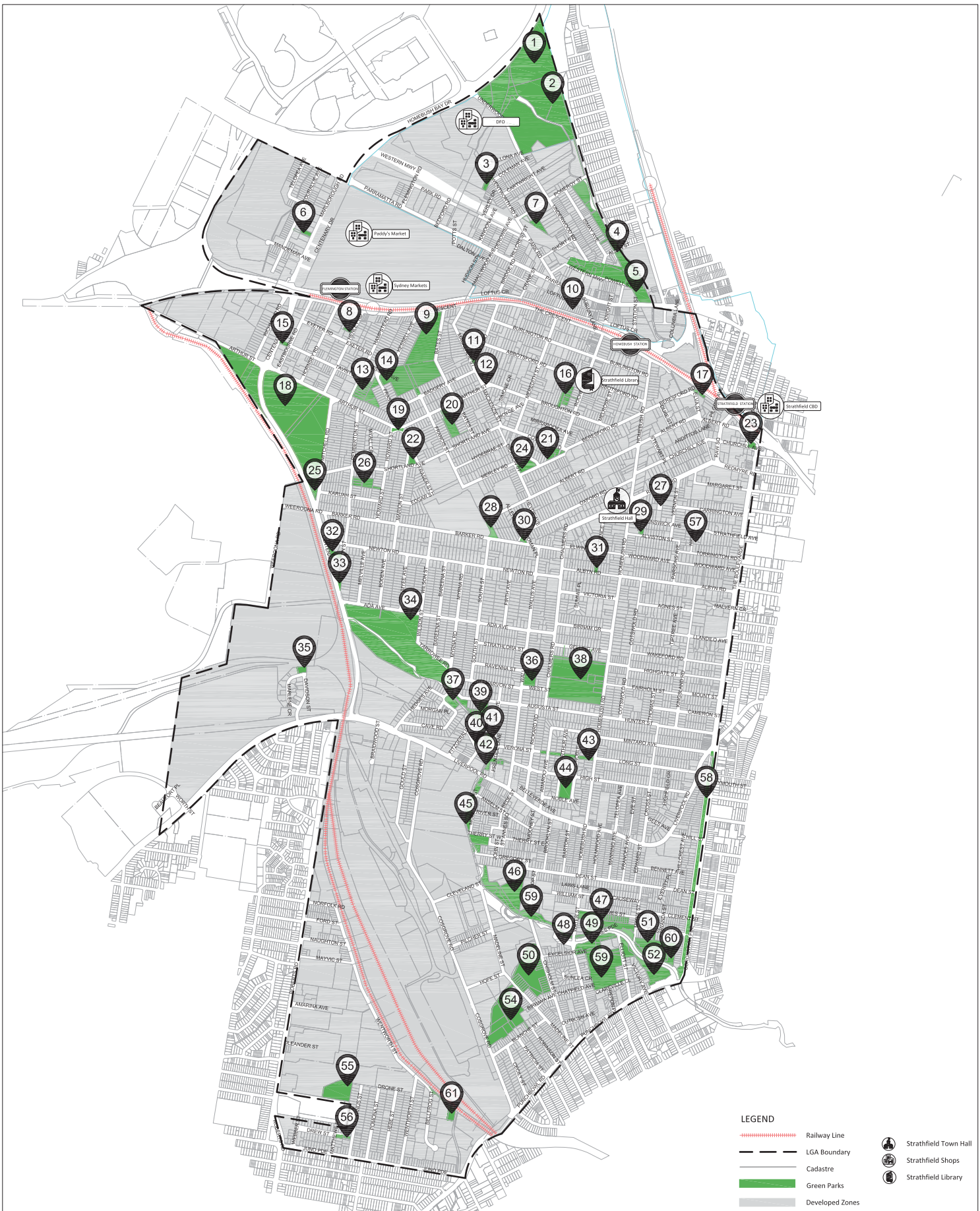
Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
	<p>2. Ensure buildings positively contribute to community land amenity, facilitate a range of uses and have regard for environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance.</p>	<p>2. Provide community facilities which are multi-purpose and flexible to a range of appropriate uses.</p> <p>3. Ensure community facilities are universally accessible.</p> <p>4. Community facilities meet sustainable building requirements and/or are progressively upgraded to incorporate best practice energy and water efficiencies.</p>	<p>3. Facility inspections and audits.</p> <p>4. Monitor comments and complaints</p>
Environmentally Sustainable Principles	<p>1. Manage community land to ensure best environmental management practises and principles having regard to environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance.</p>	<p>1. Promote and monitor energy efficiency</p> <p>2. Minimise use of water</p> <p>3. Implement waste reduction programs</p> <p>4. Utilise natural heating and cooling</p>	<p>1. Measure and monitor via plans and strategies such as Energy and Water plans.</p> <p>2. Monitor usage and trends via quarterly and annual consumption and billing.</p> <p>3. Monitor and minimise water and energy use in parks, sportsgrounds and ancillary facilities.</p>
Historical and Heritage Significance	<p>1. Appreciation and interpretation of the heritage significance of the site and structures e.g. memorials in terms of both natural and cultural components.</p>	<p>1. Undertake, when required, historical research or heritage and cultural assessment studies to identify cultural and heritage values for retention and interpretation.</p> <p>2. Incorporate historical information on property signage to enhance understanding and appreciation of the site and the history it represents, where relevant.</p> <p>3. Promote sense of place and local identity</p>	<p>1. Retention and interpretation of heritage and cultural values provides increased appreciation of the property and its history through community consultation.</p>
Landscape Character	<p>1. Maintain and improve landscape character and visual quality of public open spaces</p>	<p>1. Manage replacement planting strategies to ensure improvement to the current character.</p>	<p>1. Community consultation including surveys regarding community views</p>

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain consistency in selection and design of park and sportsground furniture, paving, fencing that is appropriate to the setting and the sport or activity type. Implement & maintain co-ordinated signage strategy 	
Managing assets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide effective and efficient management of community land and facilities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule regular inspections and condition assessments. Inclusion of maintenance standards in licence, lease or hire agreements. Provide waste and recycling bins to cater for public use. Regular waste and recycling collection to minimise litter overflow 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Measure against Service Standard KPIs. Respond to complaints and audits. Monitor agreements Review and update asset management plans periodically
Natural Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain and enhance the health of park ecology, including flora and fauna, trees and soil 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Manage trees, gardens and natural areas to maintain and improve the quality of the environment in accordance with Council's tree management and biodiversity strategies and plans. Retain habitat trees, protect foraging habitat and create/maintain habitat corridors through revegetation where possible Ensure revegetation is undertaken using locally sourced stock from agreed planting lists (refer Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy) Maintain weed management program to minimise spread of weeds Implement actions where required under recovery or threat abatement plan. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Measure and monitor tree canopies, vegetation, weeds and habitat. Undertake periodic flora and fauna reviews

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Natural Area (Bushland)	1. Refer to the Cooks River Natural Area	Plan of Management 2020	
Promote varied recreational uses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance opportunities for a balanced organised and unstructured recreational use of public open space 2. Optimise public access to public open space. 3. Maintain condition and useability of sportsgrounds and 'sustainable capacity'. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capital works program to plan for improvements and upgrades to community land. 2. Promote a range of organised and informal/unstructured activities on community land 3. Provide amenities that support use and enjoyment of parks and sportsgrounds e.g. toilets, change rooms and kiosk/café facilities. 4. Enforce provisions for management of dogs on community land as per requirements of Council's Companion Animal Policy. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Monitor local use of parks and sportsgrounds by bookings, surveys, complaints and observation.
Safety and Risk Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide safe use and access to public land and facilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design and maintain layouts, landscaping and facilities in accordance with CPTED principles (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) principles including passive surveillance, good sight lines, territorial reinforcement and space management and lighting. 2. Review lighting and security for both day and night time use. 3. Work with local police to identify and act on safety issues. 4. Install and maintain facilities in accordance with relevant Australian standards. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Works to be in accordance with relevant Australian Standards and CPTED principles. 2. Monitor and action incident and accident reports.

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
		5. Repair vandalism or graffiti within 48 hours where possible.	
Traffic and Parking	1. Ensure traffic and parking requirements provide a safe environment for park, sportsgrounds and general community use property users and do not impact on the amenity of the properties.	1. Minimise use of vehicles on community land and regulate and monitor vehicle access. 2. Installation of signage preventing vehicles from entering unauthorised areas. 3. Where vehicles are permitted, provide clearly marked vehicle movement areas 4. Provide access for emergency or works services.	1. Reduced pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle conflicts. 2. Improved public safety. 3. Traffic access to community land is via agreement.
Use agreements	1. That use arrangements facilitate wide community access to community land, community benefits and support financial sustainability.	1. Licence, leases, estates and short term use agreements comply with legislative and policy requirements.	1. Monitor agreements in accordance with terms and conditions of agreement.





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Strathfield Council designs, constructs and maintains public infrastructure and other essential services over the council area. This includes the design, construction, maintenance and operation of roads, bridges, drains, footpaths, parks, libraries, community centres, and other public infrastructure. The council is responsible for the design, construction, maintenance and operation of public infrastructure and other essential services over the council area. This includes the design, construction, maintenance and operation of roads, bridges, drains, footpaths, parks, libraries, community centres, and other public infrastructure.

When parks are used for any purpose, the council is responsible for the design, construction, maintenance and operation of public infrastructure and other essential services over the council area. This includes the design, construction, maintenance and operation of roads, bridges, drains, footpaths, parks, libraries, community centres, and other public infrastructure.

scale 1:10000
0m 100 250 500 1000m

date
31st January 2020

rev
01

North Point

1. Bressington Park
2. Mason Park & Wetlands
3. Wentworth Reserve
4. Allen Street Reserve (Ismay Reserve)
5. Ismay Reserve
6. Austin Park
7. Bill Boyce Reserve
8. Henley Reserve
9. Airey Park
10. Augustus Loftus Reserve
11. Slater Reserve
12. Shortland Reserve Gardens
13. Melville Reserve
14. Sutherland Gardens
15. Tavistock Reserve
16. Fitzgerald Park
17. Laker Reserve
18. Hudson Park
19. Lowe's Garden
20. Pilgrim Park
21. Davey Square Memorial Reserve
22. Kessel Square
23. Strathfield Square
24. Inveresk Park
25. Frank Zions Reserve
26. Boden Reserve
27. Redmyre Road Croquet Lawns
28. Mt Royal Reserve
29. Centenary Playground
30. Todman Reserve
31. Florence Reserve
32. Cosgrove Reserve
33. Pemberton Reserve
34. Freshwater Park
35. Marlene Reserve
36. Wallis Reserve
37. Chain of Ponds Reserve
38. Strathfield Park
39. Thew Reserve
40. Fitzgerald Reserve
41. Palmer Reserve
42. Prentice Reserve
43. Humphries Reserve
44. Edwards Park
45. St Annes Reserve
46. Dean Reserve
47. Ford Park
48. Water Reserve
49. Maria Reserve
50. Cooke Park
51. Southend Tennis
52. Elliott Reserve
53. Bark Hut Reserve
54. Begnell Field
55. Cox's Creek Reserve
56. Drew St Playground
57. Nichol Reserve
58. Coronation Reserve
59. South Cooks River Land
60. Chiswick Reserve
61. Greenacre Frog Ponds

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1. Introduction

1.1 Title

This plan is titled Community Facilities Plan of Management. This plan replaces the previously adopted Community Facilities Plan of Management (2014).

The current plan was adopted by Council resolution at the meeting of xx.

This plan of management includes facilities located on community land in the Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA), with the exception of facilities on Crown Land such as Hudson Park. The community facilities covered by this Plan of Management are set out in Table 1

Table 1 – facilities included in Plan of Management

Name	Address
1 Loftus Crescent	1 Loftus Crescent Homebush
Arthur Cave Pavilion	Badgery Avenue Homebush (Airey Park)
Begnell Field Pavilion	Blanche, Madeline and Cosgrove Roads, Belfield
Dutton Centre	40-44 Augusta Street Strathfield (Thew Reserve)
High Street Community Centre	64 High Street Strathfield (Edwards Park)
Kuralee Children's Centre	52 Hampstead Road Homebush West (Melville Reserve)
Melville Reserve Community Hall	Hampstead Road Homebush West (Melville Reserve)
Pomeroy Street Community Facilities	26-28 Pomeroy Street Homebush (Ismay Reserve)
Strathfield Children's Centre	A2 Fraser Street Homebush (Airey Park)
Strathfield Community Centre	1B Bates Street Homebush (Airey Park)
Strathfield Sessional Preschool	1 Bates Street Homebush (Airey Park)

1.2 Purpose of this Plan of Management

The *Local Government Act 1993* and amendments to the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* require all public land including Crown Reserves, owned or managed by Council, to be classified as either 'community' land or 'operational' land. Land classified as 'community' land must be managed and used in accordance with an adopted Plan of Management. The land described in this Plan of Management is classified as community land.

Plans of Management are developed by Council in consultation with the community. A Plan of Management describes the features of the community land and outlines how the land may be managed and used, consistent with categorisations, core objectives and zoning, to provide a transparent and co-ordinated approach to public land management.

The purpose of this Plan of Management is to:

- contribute to the strategic goals and vision as set out in the Strathfield Community Strategic Plan
- ensure compliance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and relevant legislation and guidelines
- provide clarity regarding use and access to the community land as described in this plan.

1.3 Contents of this Plan of Management

This Plan of Management is divided into the following sections, as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2 – Structure of this Plan of Management

Section	What does it include?
1. Introduction	Title, land covered by plan, purpose, contents and review of the plan
2. About the Strathfield LGA	Recognition of traditional custodians, Strathfield LGA snapshot, trends, community vision, legislative and policy framework, and references.
3. Land – category, classification, use and access	Site description, land use/history, land categories and classifications, maps, use of land and structures, environmental features, condition of land and structures and heritage.
4. Land Uses	Permissible uses and development, scale and intensity of use, authorisation of leases, licences and short term uses.
5. Management of the land	Objectives, performance targets, means and manner for assessment of performance

1.4. Change and Review of Plan of Management

This Plan of Management will require regular review in order to align with community values and changing community needs, and to reflect changes in Council priorities. The performance of this Plan of Management will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure the use of land and structures is well maintained and consistent with Council's strategic objectives and community values.

Strategic reviews of this Plan of Management will be required where there is significant change to legislation, land ownership/management or proposed land use. Regular reviews should occur at five (5) year intervals.

2. About the Strathfield Local Government Area

2.1 Recognition of Traditional Custodians

Strathfield Council acknowledges the Wangal people, the traditional Custodians of the lands on which the Strathfield area is located. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

2.2 Snapshot of Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA)

The Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA) is well known for transport connections, educational opportunities, attractive streetscapes, parks, heritage and buildings. The Strathfield LGA is centrally located in Sydney's Inner West, approximately 10.5 kilometres from the Sydney CBD and half way between Parramatta and the Sydney CBD. The LGA includes the suburbs of Strathfield (postcode 2135), Strathfield South (2136), Homebush (2140), Homebush West (2140), part of Belfield (2191) and part of Greenacre (2190). Sydney Markets (postcode 2129) is also located within Strathfield LGA.

Strathfield LGA is well known for its extensive green open spaces and high quality recreational facilities, which enhance the liveability, amenity and sustainability of the local area. The Strathfield LGA has a total area of approximately 1390 ha (13.9km²) with 104 ha of the total area being public open space (2018 estimates). There is currently 9.06 ha of remnant bushland in the LGA and about 6 ha is under Council management.

In 2019, the estimated residential LGA population was about 47,000 residents and by 2041, the resident population is estimated to reach over 80,000 people (NSW Planning 2019). The growing population and accompanying building density will increase demand for access to and usage of available open space and community facilities. Therefore, management of community land is of critical important to current and future communities.

Open spaces range from regional and district sporting grounds to smaller local parks and reserves. Significant parks with major sporting facilities include Airey Park, Bressington Park, Bark Huts Reserve, Begnell Field, Cooke Park, Hudson Park, Mason Park and Strathfield Park. Many local biodiversity conservation and habitat connectivity priority areas, including flora and fauna assets, are located within Strathfield LGA's parks and reserves. A number of connected parks and open spaces form the Cooks River Foreshore open space network, an important local and regional habitat corridor and pedestrian and cycle transport connection.

Strathfield LGA also provides many community facilities, located on community land including meeting rooms, halls and community centres which are available for hire by groups and individuals for sporting, community, recreation, social and other purposes.

2.3 Strathfield LGA community and recreational trends

Some of the challenges facing the Strathfield LGA include increasing and competing demands for public open space and community facilities. Strathfield Council is strongly focused on identifying and meeting the current and future needs of the Strathfield community in a sustainable manner.

Recent community engagement and analysis of social and recreational trends indicate increasing participation in recreation, sporting and leisure activities such as organised team sports, walking, cycling, running, aerobic fitness and dog walking. There is increased demand for access to community and recreation facilities, outdoor and indoor.

Priorities for Council involve increasing the capacity of local community facilities, parks and sportsgrounds, developing new community and recreational facilities as required and ensuring equity of access to land and facilities, to meet changing and diverse needs.

2.4 Community Vision and Key Strategic Directions

The community vision describes the community's aspirations for the future of the Strathfield Local Government Area by 2030:

“Strathfield is a culturally diverse and socially cohesive community with respect for its heritage and environment and proud of its well-connected transport, business and educational institutions”.

Strathfield 2030 is the community strategic plan for the Strathfield Local Government Area until 2030. The plan was developed following extensive community engagement and is divided into the key themes of Connectivity, Community Wellbeing, Civic Pride and Management. Liveable Neighbourhoods and Responsible Leadership. This plan particularly aligns with Council's strategic goals of Healthy and Active Communities (2.2), Safe and Accessible Places (2.3), Thriving and Resilient Environment (4.3) and relevant actions set out in the four year Delivery Program and annual Operational Plan.

This plan is aligned with the Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) which defines the long term vision for land use and infrastructure provisions within the Strathfield LGA and supports place within the Greater Sydney and District planning frameworks. This plan of management aligns with the LSPS Priority P13 'Biodiversity and ecological health and resiliency is conserved, restored and enhanced' and Priority P15 'Quality Open Spaces and thriving green corridors offset the impacts of growth across the LGA' and action plan A93 to review and prepare new plans of management.

2.5 Legislative and Policy Framework

The following legislation and policies provide a framework for the preparation of this Plan of Management.

Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (LG Act) requires the preparation of Plans of Management (POMs) for Council owned land, and requires all community land to be categorised.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) (EP&A Act) is the principal planning legislation for NSW, that provides a framework for the environmental planning and assessment of development proposals and preparation of environmental planning instruments (including the Local Environmental Plan or LEP).

Crown Lands Management Act 2016 (NSW) (CLM Act) governs the planning, management and use of Crown land, including provisions to reserve or dedicate lands for a prescribed public purpose and for leasing and licensing. Crown land under Council management requires classification and categorisations under the LG Act and preparation of Plans of Management.

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW) (BC Act) requires that Councils consider the impact on threatened species, populations and communities in fulfilling their statutory responsibilities under the EP&A Act for development approvals. It also covers management of threatened species and communities on Council owned lands.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth) (EPBC Act) provides a national scheme for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, and incorporates referral mechanisms and environmental impact assessment processes for projects of national significance.

State Environmental Planning Policy 19 – Bushland in Urban Areas aims to protect and preserve bushland in the Sydney Metropolitan area. The SEPP is concerned with disturbances and development affecting bushland areas.

Companion Animal Act 1998 (NSW) requires the identification and registration of companion animals (e.g. cats and dogs) and sets out the duties and responsibilities in relation to management of animals and specific areas of land.

Local Land Services Act 2013 (NSW) provides a framework to ensure the proper management of natural resources in the social, economic and environmental interests of the State. Strathfield is part of the Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS), which provides guidance on matters such as community engagement, biosecurity and weeds.

Also relevant are:

- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)
- Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (NSW) and Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)
- Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)
- Fisheries Management Act 1994 (NSW)
- Rural Fires Act 1997 (NSW)
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)

Related Strathfield Council policies and plans

- Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030
- Strathfield 2030 Community Strategic Plan (CSP)
- Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Development Control Plans 2005
- Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2020
- Disability Inclusion Plan 2020-2024

2.6 References

Eco Logical Australia and Strathfield Council, 2019, *Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2020-2030*

Insight Ecology, 2017, *The Fauna of Strathfield (Local Government Area)*

Jones, Cathy., 2019, *Parks and Reserves*, viewed at <https://strathfieldheritage.org/parks-and-reserves>

Near Maps – Strathfield LGA, 2019 at <https://www.nearmap.com/au/en>

NSW Department Planning, 2019, *Strathfield LGA Population Projections 2016-2041*.

Strathfield Council, *Local Environmental Plan 2012*

Strathfield Council, 2018, *Community Strategic Plan – Strathfield 2030*

Strathfield Council, 2019, *Geographical Information System (GIS) Data*

3. Land – category, classification, use and access

3.1 Local Government Act 1993

Facilities available for community use through private use agreements are located on community and operational land. Facilities on operational land are not required under the *Local Government Act 1993* to be included in Plans of Management.

Amenities which are ancillary to a park or sportsground such as toilets, change rooms/canteens and storerooms are not considered to be 'community facilities' under this Plan of Management as they do not have a purpose other than providing an amenity to the primary use of the park or sportsground.

Some facilities are located in parks and sportsgrounds. The larger land use may be subject of other Plans of Management which are listed below.

3.2 Facilities located on Community Land

A summary of each community facility located on community land is set out in this section. Property information including lot details and zoning are informed by Council's Geographical Information System (GIS) 2019.

1 Loftus Crescent Homebush

Address

1 Loftus Crescent Homebush

Lot details

Lot D DP 340860

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

R4 High Density Residential

Categorisation

General Community Use

Associated Plans

n/a

Description and condition of land and structures

This site is currently occupied by a 1930s residential flat building. The land was acquired by Council for future community purposes. The units are currently leased for residential occupation. The building is in satisfactory condition.

1 Loftus Crescent is part of the Parramatta Road Corridor, a planned precinct for high density development. The facility is opposite Homebush Rail Station and close to the Homebush shopping village.



Arthur Cave Pavilion

Address

Badgery Avenue, Homebush (Airey Park)

Lot details

Lot 1 DP 914922, Lot 68 Section 2 DP 12467

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

General Community Use

Associated Plans

Airey Park Plan of Management

Description and condition of land and structures

The Arthur Cave Pavilion is located in Airey Park Homebush. The Pavilion provides clubhouse/amenities for park and sports oval users. The building contains a multi-use area, kitchen, change rooms, office, toilets and store rooms. The building is in satisfactory condition.

There is on-street parking on Bates Street and Badgery Avenue. There is a parking area facing Fraser Street. The facility is within walking distance to Flemington Rail Station and shops. There are pedestrian/cycle linkages via Bay to Bay cycle/pathway in Airey Park.



Begnell Field Pavilion

Address

Madeline Street, Blanche Street and
Cosgrove Road, Belfield (Begnell Field)

Lot details

Lot 5 DP 1130051

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

General Community Use

Associated Plans

Begnell Field Plan of Management

Description and condition of land and structures

The Begnell Field Pavilion is located in Begnell Field and provides clubhouse/amenities for the park and sports oval. The building is in satisfactory condition. The building contains a kitchen, change rooms, toilets and store rooms. There is on-site parking with vehicle access from Madeline Street. There is pedestrian access via Blanche Street.



Dutton Centre

Address

40-44 Augusta Street Strathfield (Thew Reserve)

Lot details

Lot 82 DP14865

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

General Community Use

Associated Plans

Local Parks Plan of Management

Description and condition of land and structures

The Dutton Centre is located in Thew Reserve and operates as a community centre. The building is assessed as being in very good condition. The building contains meeting rooms, multiple offices, amenities areas, kitchen, toilets and store rooms and a large multi-use area. There is limited on-site and street parking on Augusta Street. The Centre is close to Cave Road shops and pedestrian/cycle linkages via Bay to Bay shared pathway.



High Street Community Facility

Address

64 High Street Strathfield (Edwards Park)

Lot details

Lot 442 DP 708250

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

General Community Use

Associated Plans

Local Parks Plan of Management

Description and condition of land and structures

The High Street Community Centre is located in Edwards Park Strathfield and was built in 2008. The building provides reception, two multi-purpose meeting rooms, office space, kitchenette, storerooms and toilets. The building is in good condition. There is no future development planned at the time of preparation of the Plan of Management.

There is limited on-street parking on High Street and Noble Avenue and the facility is within walking distance to Strathfield South shops. The facility is located within a short distance of pedestrian/cycle linkages via Bay to Bay cycle/pathway with entry on Wallis Avenue.



Kuralee Children's Centre

Address

52 Hampstead Road Homebush West (Melville Reserve)

Lot details

Lot D DP 381826

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

General Community Use

Associated Plans

Local Parks Plan of Management

Description and condition of land and structures

Kuralee Children's Centre is located in Melville Reserve. The building is assessed as good condition. The building contains the following facilities: long day care centre, nursery, 2-years room, 3-years room, 4-5 years room and outdoor play areas, office space, kitchen, storerooms and toilets. The facility was upgraded in 2019-2020.

There is vehicle access with limited on-site parking from Hampstead Road. The centre is within walking distance to Flemington Rail Station and shops and there are pedestrian/cycle linkages via Bay to Bay shared pathway.



Melville Reserve Community Hall

Address

Hampstead Rd, Homebush West (Melville Reserve)

Lot details

Lot 9 - 12 DP 14766

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

General Community Use

Associated Plans

Local Parks Plan of Management

Description and condition of land and structures

Melville Community Hall is located in Melville Reserve and was built in 2020. The building contains an activity area, office space, kitchen, storage and toilets.

There is vehicle access with limited on-site parking on Hampstead Road. The facility is within walking distance to Flemington Rail Station and shops with pedestrian/cycle linkages via Bay to Bay shared pathway.



Pomeroy Street Community Facilities

Address

26-28 Pomeroy Street Homebush (part of Ismay Reserve)

Lot details

Part Lot 1 DP 126555

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

General Community Use

Associated Plans

Local Parks Plan of Management

Description and condition of land and structures

Pomeroy Street Community Facilities are located in Pomeroy Street, adjacent to Powells Creek. There are two buildings, the larger is a former Bowling Club which is in poor condition and the smaller a workshop containing office space, which is in satisfactory condition. There is a carpark at the rear of the buildings. The former bowling club is unoccupied and the workshop occupied by Men's Shed.

There is limited on-site parking on Pomeroy Street. There are pedestrian/cycle linkages via Bay to Bay shared pathway.



Strathfield Children's Centre

Address

A2 Fraser Street Homebush (Airey Park)

Lot details

Lot 2 DP 126151

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

General Community Use

Associated Plans

Airey Park Plan of Management

Description and condition of land and structures

The Strathfield Children's Centre building contains the following facilities: long day care centre (upper floor), three classrooms, outdoor play area, offices used for early childhood centre (lower floor), kitchen, storerooms and toilets. There is vehicle access with on-site parking from Fraser Street. The facility is within walking distance to Flemington Rail Station and shops and there are pedestrian/cycle linkages via Bay to Bay shared pathway in Airey Park.



Strathfield Community Centre

Address

1B Bates Street Homebush (Airey Park)

Lot details

Lot 2 DP 126151

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

General Community Use

Associated Plans

Airey Park Plan of Management

Description and condition of land and structures

Strathfield Community Centre is located in Airey Park and the building is assessed as in satisfactory condition. The building contains the following facilities: meetings rooms: Redmyre Room, Airey Room and Wangal Room, offices x 3, kitchen, storerooms and toilets. There is vehicle access with limited on-street parking on Bates Street. The facility is within walking distance to Flemington Rail Station and shops and there are pedestrian/cycle linkages via Bay to Bay shared pathway.



Strathfield Sessional Preschool

Address

1B Bates Street Homebush (Airey Park)

Lot details

Lot 2 DP 126151

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

General Community Use

Associated Plans

Airey Park Plan of Management

Description and condition of land and structures

Strathfield Sessional Preschool is located in Airey Park. The building is assessed as in good condition. The building contains the following facilities: activity rooms, office space, kitchen, storerooms and toilets. There is vehicle access with limited on-street parking on Bates Street. The facility is within walking distance to Flemington Rail Station and shops and there is pedestrian/cycle linkages via Bay to Bay shared pathway in Airey Park.



Table 3 Council facilities located on Operational Land

These facilities are located on operational land but available for various community uses. While operational land does not require inclusion in a Plan of Management under the *Local Government Act 1993*, the table below is included for information purposes. ** denotes heritage listed item or site located in a heritage conservation area in Strathfield Council's Local Environmental Plan 2012

Name	Address	Facility Use	Lot/DP
52 Redmyre Road Strathfield**	52 Redmyre Road, Strathfield	Health care	Lot F DP 376063
Enfield Town Hall**	Coronation Parade, Strathfield	General use	Lot 1 DP 84300
25 Broughton Road Homebush	25 Broughton Road Homebush	Childcare	Lot 2 DP 985073
Strathfield Library	65-67 Rochester St, Homebush	Library	Lot 1 DP 1083569
Strathfield Square Kiosk	Albert Rd and Churchill Avenue Strathfield	Café/kiosk	Lot 2 DP 1125845
Strathfield Town Hall facilities**	65-69 Redmyre Road, Strathfield	Community Uses	Lot 1 DP 208343 Lot 2 DP 921090 Lot 2-3 DP 208343

3.3 Categories and classifications of community land

The management of community land is governed by the categorisation of the land, and the core objectives of the relevant category of community land. Council may then apply more specific management objectives to community land, but these must be compatible with the core objectives for the land.

Section 36(4) of the Act requires community land to be categorised into one of five categories as set out in the Act, which are:

- Natural Area (to be further sub-categorised as Bushland, Wetland, Escarpment, Watercourse or Foreshore)
- Sportsground
- Park
- Area of Cultural Significance
- General Community Use

The categories reflect land use and/or the physical characteristics of the land. Categorisation enables Council to focus its attention on the dominant character of the land, and the operational management of the asset.

The majority of community facilities are categorised as “General Community Use” and include buildings erected on community land including library, halls or community centres. Buildings such as amenities (ie toilets, change rooms, storage), are not included in this plan as their purpose is to provide ancillary uses pursuant to the primary use of a park or sportsground. Buildings located in Local Parks Plans of Management or specific plans of management detail the relationship of the buildings to the other uses of the land.

The guidelines for categorisation of community land are set out in the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*. The core objectives for each category are set out in the *Local Government Act 1993*. The guidelines and core objectives for General Community Use categories are set out in Table 5.

Table 4 – Guidelines for and core objectives of community land – General Community Use

Category	Guidelines¹	Core objectives²
General Community Use	<i>Regulation cl.106</i> Land that may be made available for use of any purpose for which community land may be used, whether by the public at large or by specific sections of the public	<i>Category General Community Use - (Section 36I)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public. - in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).

Council must manage community land in according to these core objectives. Any activities or uses of the land should be consistent with the core objectives for that category of land. Additional objectives which support the above core objectives are included in Section 5 Management of the land.

3.4 General Community Use

Land categorised as General Community Use may consist of areas with an operational function that have not been classified as operational land. Properties included within this category can include buildings that fully cover the land or have a substantial presence upon the balance of the land. The land may house buildings and structures such as community centres and halls that cater for formal and informal leisure and recreational activities, educational, cultural and social functions.

Open space areas associated with General Community Use also offers the community a range of recreation opportunities. This provides individuals and communities with health related benefits achieved through physical activity such as physical, mental, social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that lead to the overall health and wellbeing of the community.

3.5 Heritage

Strathfield Council has carried out a number of heritage studies, and recognises the heritage significance of items by their inclusion in its Local Environmental Plan. The use and development of heritage items is then managed through Development Control Plans and if required Conservation Management Plans.

The inclusion of heritage significant items within an LEP provides a strong framework to protect these assets. This Plan of Management is not only intended to be consistent with the LEP framework, but to also focus primarily on the nature and balance of use, management and care of the land as a whole.

¹ *Local Government General Regulation 2005*

² *Local Government Act 1993*

4. Land Uses

4.1 Permissible uses and developments

The tables below set out the purpose/use of the land consistent with its land categorisation and the types of development generally associated with those uses. Facilities on community land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community. The anticipated uses, and associated development, identified in Table 5 are intended to provide an overview or general guide. Development is subject to requirements set out in clauses 4.2 and 4.3

Table 5 - Permissible uses of land categorised as General Community Use

Purpose/Use	Development
<p>Provides a location for, and supports, the gathering of groups for a range of general social, cultural or recreational purposes</p> <p>Includes multi-purpose buildings e.g. community halls, childcare etc. Uses may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">casual or informal sporting and recreational usemeetings (including for social, recreational, educational or cultural purposes)functionsleisure or training classes including fitnesseducational and community centres, including libraries, information and resource centresaccommodation	<p>Development for the purposes of social, community, cultural, recreational activities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">landscaping and finishes, improving access, amenity and the visual character of the general community areaprovision of buildings or other amenity areas to facilitate use and enjoyment by the communitydevelopment (particularly within buildings) for the purposes of addressing community or recreational needs (e.g. community hall, leisure centre, indoor courts)casual, seasonal, licence or lease agreements may be permitted consistent with purpose or use of facility.residential accommodation

In some instances, physical assets may be located on land which falls into different categories. For example, community halls may be located on land categorised as Park, or on land categorised for General Community Use.

4.2 Future development and use of the community land

Except if works are specifically outlined in Section 3, it is expected that future development and use of facility on community land may require:

- Minor changes to community land are regularly made on a routine basis, such as garden beds are replanted, and damaged play equipment is replaced.
- In the event of potential future development other than that listed, proposed changes of use of community land will:

1. Meet legislative requirements – land use tables (zoning) in the Strathfield Council Local Environmental Plan specifies the range of uses and activities that may be permitted on the land. A number of uses are also set out in the Regulations to the *Local Government Act 1993*.

2. Be consistent with the guidelines and core objectives of the community land category - under the *Local Government Act 1993* uses and development of community land must be consistent with the guidelines for categorisation and the core objectives of each category, and any other additional objectives the Council proposes to place on the community land categories.

3. Be consistent with relevant Council policies - substantial upgrades and proposed new development will take into account a range of factors, including:

- this Plan of Management and the core objectives for the land
- the planning controls for the land
- Council's adopted policies
- the characteristics of the land affected, including existing and future use patterns
- any landscape masterplan for the land.

4.3 Scale and intensity of land use

The scale and intensity of use and development associated with community land in Strathfield is generally dependent on:

- the nature of the approved uses and developments
- approved Development Applications and any conditions
- an approved masterplan
- the physical constraints of the land
- the carrying capacity of the land
- relevant government legislation
- permissible times of use
- proximity of neighbours

The scale and intensity of use of parks and sportsgrounds should be monitored by:

- regular inspection of the physical impacts on the park or sportsground
- consideration of reports regarding any conflicts between park and sportsground users or from adjoining neighbours

4.4 Authorisation of leases, licences or other estates over community land

The Act requires that any lease or licence of community land must be authorised by a Plan of Management. The lease or licence must be for purposes consistent with the categorisation and zoning of the land.

The maximum period for leases or licences on community land permitted under the Act is 21 years. If a lease or licence is anticipated, then public notice should be given in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Where a lease arrangement has been entered into with Council for community land, subleasing the land may only occur with specific permission of Council and in accordance with the requirements of Section 47C of the Act, Clause 119 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* and conditions set out in agreements.

This Plan of Management authorises existing leases and licence agreements until the end of their current term. The leased or licensed areas may be renewed or changed in future. The leased or licensed areas may be reconfigured in the future to reflect changes in community needs.

This Plan of Management authorises Council to grant leases, licences or any other estates for community land covered in this Plan of Management for purposes and uses which are identified or consistent with those in Tables 5. Some examples of longer term arrangements are outlined in the following Table 6. Shorter arrangements (for example, a short term agreement associated with a particular event, or an activity recurring regularly either via annual or seasonal agreement) are set out in Table 7.

Calculations for fees and charges for leases and licences will be based on independent market rental valuations that are based on comparisons to similar services and facilities with similar locations, building and land conditions. As a minimum standard, the financial return from licence fees should offset asset maintenance, renewal and any operational costs. Council may also apply subsidies to not for profit organisations where there are demonstrated community benefits or financial hardship. Subsidies are generally not applied to commercial or residential leases or licences.

Table 6 – Leases, Licences and other estates

Type of Arrangement Authorised	Land and Facilities covered	Purposes for which long term leasing/licensing will be granted
Licence or lease	General Community Use (community land and buildings)	<p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the area to support the activity.</p> <p>Sympathetic, compatible uses may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • child care, vacation care, health providers associated with the relevant facility • community purposes including meetings, workshops, learning • cultural and educational purposes including exhibitions, performance • recreational purposes including fitness, dance and games • kiosk, café and refreshment purposes • residential leases (1 Loftus Crescent only)

The grant of a lease or licence is an important step in using community land, but there may be other requirements relevant to any proposed use. For example, the refurbishment of a kiosk may also require development consent under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Any interested person should check carefully to make sure they are aware of all relevant requirements.

4.5 Short Term Uses

Agreements for use of community land may be granted for short duration which may include casual hires, seasonal use (eg sportsfields) or regular hire arrangement. These short term arrangements should be for the types of uses identified in Table 8 and consistent with prevailing Council policies.

Table 7 – regular and casual use agreements

Community land category	Purposes for which short term uses may be granted subject to council approval	Requirements
General Community Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• meetings, workshops, seminars and presentations, including educational, recreational and health programs• community activities, displays, exhibitions• events and functions consistent with the size of facility and its conditions including times of use	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the proposed use must comply with terms and conditions for facility use• the use should not result in physical damage to the facility• organisers of the site should be responsible for cleaning up the site and repairing any damage that may occur.

The functions and events conducted at each particular location may vary significantly, in light of the facilities available in that location. For example, kitchens are available in some (not all) community buildings.

In assessing community land categorised as General Community Use as a venue for any proposed event, the Council applies the following minimum criteria:

- Council reserves the right to refuse bookings based on previous unsatisfactory payment or performance history or where proposed use would damage the facility or cause significant disruption to other regular users.
- Fees for short-term casual bookings will be charged in accordance with Council's adopted Fees and Charges at the time.

5. Management of the land

5.1 Objectives and management of community land

The land is managed in accordance with the objectives and methods set out below:

Table 8 – Objectives, means and performance measures

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Access	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide safe and improved access to the parks, sportsgrounds and general community use properties for pedestrians and cyclists. 2. Provide access to and within parks for people with disabilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upgrades, refurbishments and/or improvement works on community land to consider public access requirements for mobility and connections. 2. Proposed ramps, stairs and pathways to comply with relevant Council and BCA requirements consistent with Australian Standards. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Audits of community land and facilities to comply with standards
Amenity and Character	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure Council's community land and facilities contribute to the amenity and character of the Strathfield LGA. 2. Promote parks, sportsgrounds and community use properties as desirable places for recreation, community celebration and commemoration. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide parks and facilities and pathways as attractive destinations. 2. Maintain and enhance community land and facilities 3. Promote parks, sportsgrounds and facilities in local media and website. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consult with residents and users regarding satisfaction of parks and facilities 2. Monitor and action complaint data
Community Facilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide sustainable community facilities for a range of 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building and structure design specifications to consider park, sportsground and general 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor usage of community facilities as measured by bookings.

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
	<p>community, social and other compatible activities.</p> <p>2. Ensure buildings positively contribute to community land amenity, facilitate a range of uses and have regard for environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance.</p>	<p>community use character, expected use and environmental sustainability features.</p> <p>2. Provide community facilities which are multi-purpose and flexible to a range of appropriate uses.</p> <p>3. Ensure community facilities are universally accessible.</p> <p>4. Community facilities meet sustainable building requirements and/or are progressively upgraded to incorporate best practice energy and water efficiencies.</p>	<p>2. Community satisfaction surveys.</p> <p>3. Facility inspections and audits.</p> <p>4. Monitor comments and complaints</p>
Environmentally Sustainable Principles	<p>1. Manage community land to ensure best environmental management practises and principles having regard to environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance.</p>	<p>1. Promote and monitor energy efficiency</p> <p>2. Minimise use of water</p> <p>3. Implement waste reduction programs</p> <p>4. Utilise natural heating and cooling</p>	<p>1. Measure and monitor via plans and strategies such as Energy and Water plans.</p> <p>2. Monitor usage and trends via quarterly and annual consumption and billing.</p> <p>3. Monitor and minimise water and energy use in parks, sportsgrounds and ancillary facilities.</p>
Historical and Heritage Significance	<p>1. Appreciation and interpretation of the historical and/or heritage significance of the site and structures e.g. memorials in terms of both natural and cultural components.</p>	<p>1. Undertake, when required, historical research or heritage and cultural assessment studies to identify cultural and heritage values for retention and interpretation.</p> <p>2. Incorporate historical information on property signage to enhance understanding and appreciation of the site and the history it represents, where relevant.</p> <p>3. Promote sense of place and local identity</p>	<p>1. Retention and interpretation of heritage and cultural values provides increased appreciation of the property and its history through community consultation.</p>

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Landscape Character	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain and improve landscape character and visual quality of public open spaces 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage replacement planting strategies to ensure improvement to the current character. 2. Maintain consistency in selection and design of park and sportsground furniture, paving, fencing that is appropriate to the setting and the sport or activity type. 3. Implement & maintain co-ordinated signage strategy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community consultation including surveys regarding community views
Managing assets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide effective and efficient management of community land and facilities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Schedule regular inspections and condition assessments. 2. Inclusion of maintenance standards in licence, lease or hire agreements. 3. Provide waste and recycling bins to cater for public use. 4. Regular waste and recycling collection to minimise litter overflow 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Measure against Service Standard KPIs. 2. Respond to complaints and audits. 3. Monitor agreements 4. Review and update asset management plans periodically
Natural Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To maintain and enhance the health of park ecology, including flora and fauna, trees and soil 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage trees, gardens and natural areas to maintain and improve the quality of the environment in accordance with Council's tree management and biodiversity strategies and plans. 2. Retain habitat trees, protect foraging habitat and create/maintain habitat corridors through revegetation where possible 3. Ensure revegetation is undertaken using locally sourced stock from agreed planting lists (refer Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Measure and monitor tree canopies, vegetation, weeds and habitat. 2. Undertake periodic flora and fauna reviews

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Maintain weed management program to minimise spread of weeds 5. Implement actions where required under recovery or threat abatement plan. 	
Promote varied recreational uses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance opportunities for a balanced organised and unstructured recreational use of public open space 2. Optimise public access to public open space. 3. Maintain condition and useability of sportsgrounds and 'sustainable capacity'. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capital works program to plan for improvements and upgrades to community land. 2. Promote a range of organised and informal/unstructured activities on community land 3. Provide amenities that support use and enjoyment of parks and sportsgrounds e.g. toilets, change rooms and kiosk/café facilities. 4. Enforce provisions for management of dogs on community land as per requirements of Council's Companion Animal Policy. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor local use of parks and sportsgrounds by bookings, surveys, complaints and observation.
Safety and Risk Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide safe use and access to public land and facilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design and maintain layouts, landscaping and facilities in accordance with CPTED principles (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) principles including passive surveillance, good sight lines, territorial reinforcement and space management and lighting. 2. Review lighting and security for both day and night time use. 3. Work with local police to identify and act on safety issues. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Works to be in accordance with relevant Australian Standards and CPTED principles. 2. Monitor and action incident and accident reports.

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
		4. Install and maintain facilities in accordance with relevant Australian standards. 5. Repair vandalism or graffiti within 48 hours where possible.	
Traffic and Parking	1. Ensure traffic and parking requirements provide a safe environment for park, sportsgrounds and general community use property users and do not impact on the amenity of the properties.	1. Minimise use of vehicles on community land and regulate and monitor vehicle access. 2. Installation of signage preventing vehicles from entering unauthorised areas. 3. Where vehicles are permitted, provide clearly marked vehicle movement areas 4. Provide access for emergency or works services.	1. Reduced pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle conflicts. 2. Improved public safety. 3. Traffic access to community land is via agreement.
Use agreements	1. That use arrangements facilitate wide community access to community land, community benefits and support financial sustainability.	1. Licence, leases, estates and short term use agreements comply with legislative and policy requirements.	1. Monitor agreements in accordance with terms and conditions of agreement.



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1. Introduction

1.1 Title

This plan is titled Cooke Park Plan of Management.

The draft plan was exhibited from 3 February 2020 to 9 April 2020. The current plan was adopted by Council resolution at the meeting of xx.

This plan of management applies to land located at Cooke Park. This land is located between Madeline Street and Chisholm Street, Belfield, north at Coxs Creek and at south located at the rear of residences facing Madeline Street and Birriwa Avenue. There are small areas of land located north of Coxs Creek.

The land in Cooke Park categorised as natural area (bushland) is included in the Cooks River Natural Area (Bushland) Plan of Management.

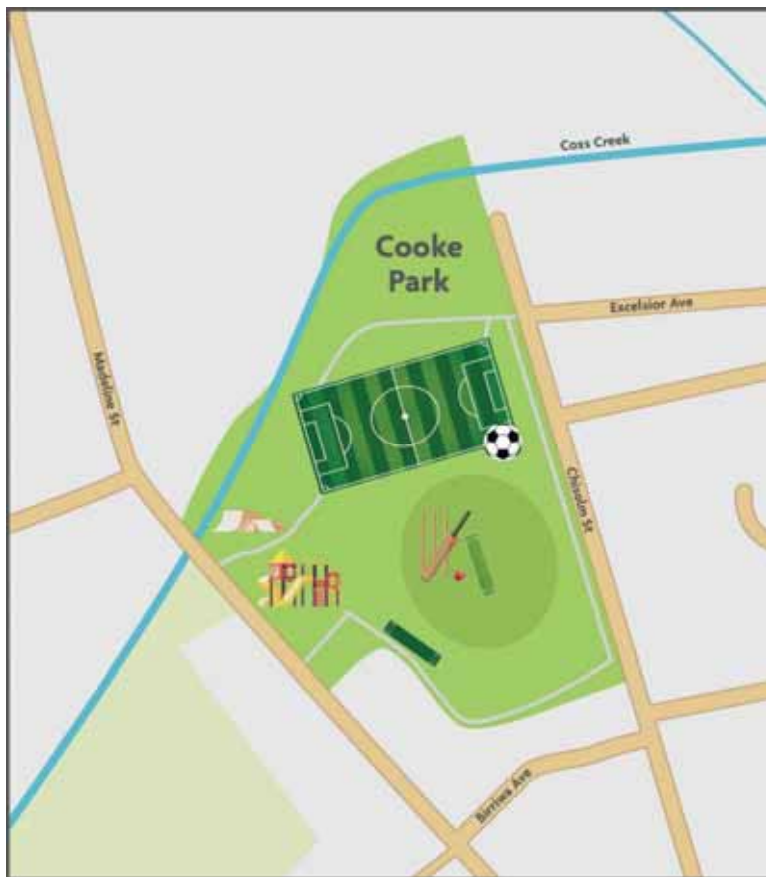
Ownership, lot details and zoning information is set out in Table 1 (information from Council Geographical Information System (GIS) 2019).

The location map of Cooke Park is set out in Figure 1.

Table 1 – Ownership, title and zoning details

Owner	Lot Details	Zoning Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012
Strathfield Council	Lot 26 DP 8960	RE1 - Public Recreation
Strathfield Council	Lot A DP 357501	RE1 - Public Recreation
Strathfield Council	Lots 1-27 DP 18185	RE1 - Public Recreation
Strathfield Council	Lot 1 & 2, DP 107494	INI – General Industrial

Figure 1 – Cooke Park Location Map



1.2 Purpose of this Plan of Management

The *Local Government Act 1993* and amendments to the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* require all public land including Crown Reserves, owned or managed by Council, to be classified as either 'community' land or 'operational' land. Land classified as 'community' land must be managed and used in accordance with an adopted Plan of Management. The land described in this Plan of Management is classified as community land.

Plans of Management are developed by Council in consultation with the community. A Plan of Management describes the features of the community land and outlines how Council intends to manage, use or develop the land in the future, thereby providing a transparent and co-ordinated approach to public land management.

The purpose of this Plan of Management is to:

- contribute to the strategic goals and vision as set out in the Strathfield Community Strategic Plan
- ensure compliance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and relevant legislation and guidelines
- provide clarity regarding use and access to the community land as described in this plan.

1.3 Contents of this Plan of Management

This Plan of Management is divided into the following sections, as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2 – Structure of this Plan of Management

Section	What does it include?
1. Introduction	Title, land covered by plan, purpose, contents and review of the plan
2. About the Strathfield LGA	Recognition of traditional custodians, Strathfield LGA snapshot, trends, community vision, legislative and policy framework, and references.
3. Land – category, classification, use and access	Site description, land use/history, land categories and classifications, maps, use of land and structures, environmental features, condition of land and structures and heritage.
4. Land Uses	Permissible uses and development, scale and intensity of use, authorisation of leases, licences and short term uses.
5. Management of the land	Objectives, performance targets, means and manner for assessment of performance

1.4. Change and Review of Plan of Management

This Plan of Management will require regular review in order to align with community values and changing community needs, and to reflect changes in Council priorities. The performance of this Plan of Management will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure the use of land and structures is well maintained and consistent with Council's strategic objectives and community values.

Strategic reviews of this Plan of Management will be required where there is significant change to legislation, land ownership/management or proposed land use. Regular reviews should occur at five (5) year intervals.

2. About the Strathfield Local Government Area

2.1 Recognition of Traditional Custodians

Strathfield Council acknowledges the Wangal people, the traditional Custodians of the lands on which the Strathfield area is located. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

2.2 Snapshot of Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA)

The Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA) is well known for transport connections, educational opportunities, attractive streetscapes, parks, heritage and buildings. The Strathfield LGA is centrally located in Sydney's Inner West, approximately 10.5 kilometres from the Sydney CBD and half way between Parramatta and the Sydney CBD. The LGA includes the suburbs of Strathfield (postcode 2135), Strathfield South (2136), Homebush (2140), Homebush West (2140), part of Belfield (2191) and part of Greenacre (2190). Sydney Markets (postcode 2129) is also located within Strathfield LGA.

Strathfield LGA is well known for its extensive green open spaces and high quality recreational facilities, which enhance the liveability, amenity and sustainability of the local area. The Strathfield LGA has a total area of approximately 1390 ha (13.9km²) with 104 ha of the total area being public open space (2018 estimates). There is currently 9.06 ha of remnant bushland in the LGA and about 6 ha is under Council management.

In 2019, the estimated residential LGA population was about 47,000 residents and by 2041, the resident population is estimated to reach over 80,000 people (NSW Planning 2019). The growing population and accompanying building density will increase demand for access to and usage of available open space and community facilities. Therefore, management of community land is of critical importance to current and future communities.

Open spaces range from regional and district sporting grounds to smaller local parks and reserves. Significant parks with major sporting facilities include Airey Park, Bressington Park, Bark Huts Reserve, Begnell Field, Cooke Park, Hudson Park, Mason Park and Strathfield Park. Many local biodiversity conservation and habitat connectivity priority areas, including flora and fauna assets, are located within Strathfield LGA's parks and reserves. A number of connected parks and open spaces form the Cooks River Foreshore open space network, an important local and regional habitat corridor and pedestrian and cycle transport connection.

Strathfield LGA also provides many community facilities, located on community land including meeting rooms, halls and community centres which are available for hire by groups and individuals for sporting, community, recreation, social and other purposes.

2.3 Strathfield LGA community and recreational trends

Some of the challenges facing the Strathfield LGA include increasing and competing demands for public open space and community facilities. Strathfield Council is strongly focused on identifying and meeting the current and future needs of the Strathfield community in a sustainable manner.

Recent community engagement and analysis of social and recreational trends indicate increasing participation in recreation, sporting and leisure activities such as organised team sports, walking, cycling, running, aerobic fitness and dog walking. There is increased demand for access to community and recreation facilities, outdoor and indoor.

Priorities for Council involve increasing the capacity of local community facilities, parks and sportsgrounds, developing new community and recreational facilities as required and ensuring equity of access to land and facilities, to meet changing and diverse needs.

2.4 Community Vision and Key Strategic Directions

The community vision describes the community's aspirations for the future of the Strathfield Local Government Area by 2030:

"Strathfield is a culturally diverse and socially cohesive community with respect for its heritage and environment and proud of its well-connected transport, business and educational institutions".

Strathfield 2030 is the community strategic plan for the Strathfield Local Government Area until 2030. The plan was developed following extensive community engagement and is divided into the key themes of Connectivity, Community Wellbeing, Civic Pride and Management. Liveable Neighbourhoods and Responsible Leadership

This plan is aligned with the Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) which defines the long term vision for land use and infrastructure provisions within the Strathfield LGA and supports place within the Greater Sydney and District planning frameworks. This plan of management aligns with the LSPS Priority P13 'Biodiversity and ecological health and resiliency is conserved, restored and enhanced' and Priority P15 'Quality Open Spaces and thriving green corridors offset the impacts of growth across the LGA' and action plan A93 to review and prepare new plans of management.

2.5 Legislative and Policy Framework

The following legislation and policies provide a framework for the preparation of this Plan of Management.

Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (LG Act) requires the preparation of Plans of Management (POMs) for Council owned land, and requires all community land to be categorised.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) (EP&A Act) is the principal planning legislation for NSW, that provides a framework for the environmental planning and assessment of development proposals and preparation of environmental planning instruments (including the Local Environmental Plan or LEP).

Crown Lands Management Act 2016 (NSW) (CLM Act) governs the planning, management and use of Crown land, including provisions to reserve or dedicate lands for a prescribed public purpose and for

leasing and licensing. Crown land under Council management requires classification and categorisations under the LG Act and preparation of Plans of Management.

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW) (BC Act) requires that Councils consider the impact on threatened species, populations and communities in fulfilling their statutory responsibilities under the EP&A Act for development approvals. It also covers management of threatened species and communities on Council owned lands.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth) (EPBC Act) provides a national scheme for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, and incorporates referral mechanisms and environmental impact assessment processes for projects of national significance.

State Environmental Planning Policy 19 – Bushland in Urban Areas aims to protect and preserve bushland in the Sydney Metropolitan area. The SEPP is concerned with disturbances and development affecting bushland areas.

Companion Animal Act 1998 (NSW) requires the identification and registration of companion animals (e.g. cats and dogs) and sets out the duties and responsibilities in relation to management of animals and specific areas of land.

Local Land Services Act 2013 (NSW) provides a framework to ensure the proper management of natural resources in the social, economic and environmental interests of the State. Strathfield is part of the Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS), which provides guidance on matters such as community engagement, biosecurity and weeds.

Also relevant are:

- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)
- Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (NSW) and Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)
- Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)
- Fisheries Management Act 1994 (NSW)
- Rural Fires Act 1997 (NSW)
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)

Related Strathfield Council policies and plans

- Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030
- Strathfield 2030 Community Strategic Plan (CSP)
- Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Development Control Plans 2005
- Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2020
- Disability Inclusion Plan 2020-2024

2.6 References

Eco Logical Australia and Strathfield Council, 2019, *Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2020-2030*

Insight Ecology, 2017, *The Fauna of Strathfield (Local Government Area)*

Jones, Cathy, 2019, *Parks and Reserves*, Strathfield Heritage website at <https://strathfieldheritage.org/parks-and-reserves>

Near Maps – Strathfield LGA, 2019 at <https://www.nearmap.com/au/en>

NSW Department Planning, 2019, *Strathfield LGA Population Projections 2016-2041*.

Strathfield Council, *Local Environmental Plan 2012*

Strathfield Council, 2018, *Community Strategic Plan – Strathfield 2030*

Strathfield Council, 2019, *GIS Data*

3. Land – category, classification, use and access

3.1 Description of site

Cooke Park is located at Chisholm Street and Madeline Street, Belfield. Cooke Park is one of Strathfield Council's largest parks and is over 34 hectares in size. The park contains sportsfields, skate park, playground, an amenities building and small car park. Cooke Park is bounded to the east by Bark Huts Reserve, and south west by Begnell Field, with rear boundaries of residential properties that occur along Birriwa Ave and Madeline St.

Cooke Park is one of the Cooks River/Coxs Creek Foreshore parks and land in Cooke Park is identified as a Biodiversity Connectivity Priority area in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2019.

3.2 Land prior use and history

Cooke Park is located between Madeline Street and Chisholm Street Belfield with frontage on Coxs Creek (Cooks River). Cooke Park is named for Thomas Cooke, a former Alderman (1941-1948) and Mayor of Enfield Council (1941-1946, 1948).

The park is built on the Chisholm Estate, which was subdivided in 1937 and created residential lots along Chisholm and Madeline Streets. A large portion of the site measuring over 4 acres contained a large waterhole and was considered to be difficult to develop. The sub divider approached Enfield Council to purchase this land (Lot 27). Initially, the Council agreed to purchase Lot 27 for £100 but later acquired additional lots on the frontages of both streets and its river foreshore.

The site accepted fill to level out the land and in 1942, on the instigation of the Mayor of Enfield, Thomas Cooke, plans were developed to format the site into a park with playing fields. On 1 January 1949, the west ward of Enfield Council amalgamated with Strathfield Council. Cooke Park was dedicated as a public reserve on 15 October 1952¹.

¹ Jones, C, 2019, Parks and Reserves

Figure 2: Historical photograph of Cooke Park

The aerial historic photographs indicate changes in the land over time, particularly the building sportsfields, structures and revegetation, especially near the canal and boundaries of the park.



Cooke Park aerial photograph (1947)



Cooke Park aerial photograph (1997)



Cooke Park aerial photograph (2009). © Near Maps



Cooke Park aerial photograph (2019). © Near Maps

3.3 Categories and classifications of community Land

The management of community land is governed by the categorisation of the land, and the core objectives of the relevant category of community land. The core objectives for each category are set out in the *Local Government Act 1993*. The guidelines and core objectives for relevant categories are set out in Table 3.

Table 3 – Guidelines for and core objectives of community land

Category	Guidelines ²	Core objectives ³
Park	<i>Regulation cl.104</i> Land which is, or proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, and for uses which are mainly passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others.	<i>Category Park – (Section 36G)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities. provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games. improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.
Sportsground	<i>Regulation cl.103</i> Land should be categorised as 'sportsground' if the land is used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.	<i>Category Sportsground - (Section 36F)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.
Natural Area	<i>Regulation cl.102</i> Natural areas are where land, whether or not in an undisturbed state, possesses a significant geological feature, geomorphological feature, landform, representative system or other natural feature or attribute that would be sufficient to further categorise the land as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore.	<i>Natural Area - (Section 36E)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised to a natural area; and to maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting, and to provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land, and to provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and to assist in and facilitate the implement of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan prepared under the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> or the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>

² *Local Government General Regulation 2005*

³ *Local Government Act 1993*

Category	Guidelines ²	Core objectives ³
Natural Area – bushland	<p><i>Regulation cl.107</i> Land that contains primarily native vegetation that is the natural vegetation or a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land, or although not the natural vegetation, is still representative of the structure or floristics of the natural vegetation in the locality.</p>	<p><i>Natural Area - Bushland (Section 36J)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land, and • to protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and • to promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and • to restore degraded bushland, and • to protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and • to retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and • to protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.

Council must manage community land in according to these core objectives. Any activities or uses of the land should be consistent with the core objectives for that category of land. Additional objectives, which support the above core objectives, are included in Section 5 Management of the land.

The land classified as community land under the *Local Government Act 1993* is categorised as Park, Sportsground and Natural Area (Bushland). The categorised areas are marked in Figure 3.

Figure 3 – Map of Cooke Park land categorisations



3.4 Use of the land and structures at date of adoption of the plan

Cooke Park provides a wide range of land uses, which support various sporting, recreational and community and environmental uses. The land is categorised as Sportsground, Natural Area (Bushland) and Park.

Part of the land on which Cooke Park is built is categorised as a Sportsground. This sportsground category contains two sportsfields and sportsfield lighting.

Cooke Park contains a habitat corridor, which is identified as biodiversity connectivity priority area in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy. This is located on the northern side of the Coks Creek canal and has been categorised as a Natural Area (Bushland).

Land in Cooke Park is categorised as a Park and is used for active and passive recreation and leisure purposes which include general park lighting, a concrete skatepark, children's playground, amenities building and general park seating, BBQ, shelter facilities, small carpark and pathways

3.5 Environmental features

Cooke Park is one of the Cooks River/Coxs Creek foreshore parks. Parts of this land are identified in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2019 as a Biodiversity Connectivity area. These corridors are also identified as Priority Biodiversity Areas and a Priority Green Grid Project in Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2020. The land in Cooke Park categorised as natural area (bushland) is included in the Cooks River Natural Area (Bushland) Plan of Management.

Cooke Park comprises a mixture of revegetated parkland and open playing fields. The revegetated parkland is mainly in the northern section abutting Coxs Creek Channel and contains mostly indigenous vegetation planted as strips and/or blocks. Eucalypts, acacia, paperbark and she-oak are planted along its northern edge adjoining Cox's Creek Channel and fringed by some woody weeds. These provide a narrow but thick movement corridor to Cooks River supporting the Superb Fairy-wren, Red-whiskered Bulbul and Silvereye. There are individual planted trees and shrubs planted along the boundaries of the open parkland and playing fields.

National Tree day has run for many years in the LGA. Dedicated events have been run in Cooke Park in 2014 and 2008. It provides habitat for native species, diverts runoff from storm drains, filters air pollution, reduces urban heat and sequesters carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. It is directly in line with council's Community Strategic Plan and Environmental Sustainability Plan goals. Achievements included engaging over 300 community members who planted 2500 native plants from 50 different species. This equates to approximately 7000 tons of CO2 captured annually, potentially reducing 30 Mega Litres of runoff per year. The community members also enjoyed education on waterway health and biodiversity from event partners.

Green and Golden Bellfrogs (GGBF) are usually located in and around water bodies such as wetlands and lakes or on sites which humans have disturbed such as abandoned quarries or brickpits. In the Strathfield LGA, the GGBF core habitat area is located in Greenacre such as Coxs Creek Reserve and Greenacre Frog Ponds. Cooke Park is contained within the east-west GGBF linkage area as mapped in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy (p17), which also covers parks such as Begnell Field and parts of Ford Park and Maria Reserve. However, with dispersal and movement of frogs, infrequent sightings have been reported in parks further along the Cooks River such as Elliott Reserve, Southend Tennis Centre and 'Chiswick Reserve'. However, these sightings were infrequent and have become increasingly rare. Since 2012, Council has received no reported sightings of GGBF in the Strathfield LGA.

3.6 Condition of the land and structures on adoption of the plan

The criteria for assessing the condition of land and structure upon adoption of this plan of management are shown in Table 4 and the interpretation of the condition of infrastructure in Table 5.

Table 4 - Condition rating assessment criteria

Rating	Descriptor	Guide	Residual Life as a % of Total Life	Mean % age residual life
1 Excellent	Sound physical condition. Asset likely to perform adequately without major work.	Normal maintenance required	>86	95
2 Good	Acceptable physical condition, minimal short term risk of failure.	Normal maintenance plus minor repairs required (to 5% or less of the asset)	65 to 85	80
3 Satisfactory	Deterioration evident, failure in the short term unlikely. Minor components need replacement or repair now but asset still functions safely.	Significant maintenance and/or repairs required (to 10-20% of the asset)	41 to 64	55
4 Worn	Deterioration of the asset is evident and failure is possible in the short term. No immediate risk to health and safety.	Significant renewal required (to 20 - 40% of the asset)	10 to 40	35
5 Poor	Failed or failure is imminent or there is significant deterioration of the asset. Health and safety hazards exist which present a possible risk to public safety.	Over 50% of the asset requires renewal	<10	5

Table 5 – Condition of assets at Cooke Park

Description	Condition
Amenities building – toilets, kiosk, change rooms, storage and umpire room	Excellent (built 2019)
BBQ	Excellent (built 2019)
Carpark	Excellent (built 2019)
Children's playground	Excellent (built 2018)
Cricket Practice Wicket	Excellent (built 2019)
General park lighting	Good
Park seating	Excellent (built 2018)
Pathways	Good
Shelter & seating	Excellent (built 2019)
Skatepark	Satisfactory
Sportsfield	Good
Sportsfield lighting	Satisfactory
Synthetic Sportsfield	Excellent (built 2019)

3.7 Heritage

There are no statutory heritage listings associated with this land.

3.8 Photographs of Cooke Park

These photographs provide an overview of facilities and spaces at Cooke Park. Unless specified, photographs are dated 2019.



Sportsfield – Chisholm St



Sportsfield – (2018 before construction)



Synthetic sportsfield



Skatepark



Newly planted trees in 2018



Cluster of trees near Coxs Creek



Solar lights, trees near Coxs Creek at Chisholm St



Shelter, seating and all inclusive BBQ



Playground



Sportsfield (turf)



Single cricket practice wicket



Amenities Building – Madeline St

4. Land Uses

4.1 Permissible uses and developments

The tables below set out the purpose/use of the land consistent with its land categorisation and the types of development generally associated with those uses. Facilities on community land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community. The anticipated uses, and associated development, identified in Tables 6 to 8 are intended to provide an overview or general guide. Development is subject to requirements set out in clauses 4.2 and 4.3

Table 6 – Permissible uses of land categories – Park

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Active and passive recreation including children's play• Group recreational use, such as picnics and celebrations• Publicly accessible ancillary areas eg toilets• Festivals, fairs, similar events and gatherings• Low intensity commercial activities• Filming and photographic projects• Public address (speeches)• Easement, utilities and estate• Community gardening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development for the purposes of improving access, amenity, and the visual character of the park eg paths, pergolas, flagpoles, lights, water bubblers, seating, paved areas, hard and soft landscaped areas etc• Development for the purposes of active recreation eg play equipment, children's playgrounds, exercise equipment, courts etc• Amenities to facilitate leisure use of the park eg picnic tables and shelters, BBQ's & sheltered eating areas• Kiosk/café, mobile food vans or refreshment areas• Restricted access ancillary areas (e.g. storage areas associated with functions, gardening equipment)• Transport access and service areas ancillary to the use of land (eg public transport, car parking, loading zones, bicycle racks)• Community gardens• Off-leash areas• Heritage and cultural interpretation eg signs, public art etc• Locational, directional and regulatory signage• Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that relate to approved uses/activities, discreet and temporary and approved by Council.• Water/Energy savings initiatives

Table 7 – Permissible uses of land categories – Sportsground

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active and passive recreational and sporting activities consistent with the nature of the particular land and any relevant facilities Organised and unstructured recreation activities Community events or gatherings, and public meetings Commercial uses associated with sports facilities Easement, utilities and estate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development for the purpose of conducting and facilitating organised sport Sportsfields (turf and synthetic) including cricket, football, soccer, track and field athletics, baseball, softball etc Courts (basketball, netball, badminton, tennis, hockey, badminton etc) Amenities eg change room, lockers, shower/toilet facilities, first aid rooms, seating Café or kiosk facilities, mobile coffee cart or food vending subject to site assessment and Council approval Car parking and loading areas Ancillary areas eg staff rooms, meeting rooms, equipment storage areas Shade structures Seating and scoreboards Sports or fitness training, and practice facilities Heritage and cultural interpretation eg signs, public art Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that relate to approved uses/activities, discreet and temporary and approved by Council. Water/Energy savings initiatives Lighting and water (eg taps, bubblers)

Table 8 – Permissible uses of land categories – Natural Area (Bushland)

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking and cycling Guided bushwalks and bird watching Environmental programs and scientific study Preservation of biodiversity and habitat Bush regeneration and revegetation works Relaxation and passive informal recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretative, regulatory and directional signage Low impact lighting Low impact carparking Low impact pathways Passive recreation Seating Small ancillary building eg storage and amenities for site maintenance Water saving initiatives eg swales, sediment traps, rainwater gardens

In some instances, physical assets may be located on land which falls into different categories. For example, amenities building may be located on land categorised as Park, or on land categorised for Sportsground.

4.2 Future development and use of the community land

There are no future plans for development in Cooke Park at the time of adoption of this plan of management.

However, it is expected that future development and use of facility on community land may require:

- Minor changes to community land are regularly made on a routine basis, such as garden beds are replanted, and damaged play equipment is replaced.
- In the event of potential future development other than that listed, proposed changes of use of community land will:
 1. Meet legislative requirements – land use tables (zoning) in the Strathfield Council Local Environmental Plan specifies the range of uses and activities that may be permitted on the land. A number of uses are also set out in the Regulations to the *Local Government Act 1993*.
 2. Be consistent with the guidelines and core objectives of the community land category - under the *Local Government Act 1993* uses and development of community land must be consistent with the guidelines for categorisation and the core objectives of each category, and any other additional objectives the Council proposes to place on the community land categories.
 3. Be consistent with relevant Council policies - substantial upgrades and proposed new development will take into account a range of factors, including:
 - this Plan of Management and the core objectives for the land
 - the planning controls for the land
 - Council's adopted policies
 - the characteristics of the land affected, including existing and future use patterns
 - any landscape masterplan for the land.

4.3 Scale and intensity of land use

The scale and intensity of use and development associated with community land in Strathfield is generally dependent on:

- the nature of the approved uses and developments
- approved Development Applications and any conditions
- an approved masterplan
- the physical constraints of the land
- the carrying capacity of the land
- relevant government legislation
- permissible times of use
- proximity of neighbours

The scale and intensity of use of parks and sportsgrounds should be monitored by:

- regular inspection of the physical impacts on the park or sportsground
- consideration of reports regarding any conflicts between park and sportsground users or from adjoining neighbours

4.4 Authorisation of leases, licences or other estates over community land

The Act requires that any lease or licence of community land must be authorised by a Plan of Management. The lease or licence must be for purposes consistent with the categorisation and zoning of the land.

The maximum period for leases or licences on community land permitted under the Act is 21 years. If a lease or licence is anticipated, then public notice should be given in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Where a lease arrangement has been entered into with Council for community land, subleasing the land may only occur with specific permission of Council and in accordance with the requirements of Section 47C of the Act, Clause 119 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* and conditions set out in agreements.

This Plan of Management authorises existing leases and licence agreements until the end of their current term. The leased or licensed areas may be renewed or changed in future. The leased or licensed areas may be reconfigured in the future to reflect changes in community needs.

This Plan of Management authorises Council to grant leases, licences or any other estates for community land covered in this Plan of Management for purposes and uses which are identified or consistent with those in Table 6 to 8. Some examples of longer term arrangements are outlined in the following Table 9. Shorter arrangements (for example, a short term licence associated with a particular event, or recurring for a few hours each season) are set out in Table 10.

Calculations for fees and charges for leases and licences will be based on independent market rental valuations that are based on comparisons to similar services and facilities with similar locations, building and land conditions. As a minimum standard, the financial return from licence fees should offset asset maintenance, renewal and any operational costs. Council may also apply subsidies to not for profit organisations where there are demonstrated community benefits or financial hardship. Subsidies are generally not applied to commercial agreements.

Table 9 – Leases, Licences and other estates

Type of Arrangement Authorised	Land and Facilities covered	Purposes for which long term leasing/licensing will be granted
Licence or lease	Park/ Sportsground	<p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sporting and recreational purposes, including team sports, fitness activities and games • kiosk, café and refreshment purposes • use of court or similar facilities
Licence or lease	Natural Area	<p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • educational or environmental programs, scientific studies and surveys or similar • walkways, pathways, bridges or causeways • information kiosks • work sheds or storage areas required in connection with maintenance • signs, observation platforms • temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project to be carried out
Other Estates	Park/ Sportsground	<p>This Plan of Management allows Council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities in accordance with the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>.</p> <p>Estates may also be granted across community land that is not affected by endangered communities for the provision of pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the Council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land.</p>

The grant of a lease or licence is an important step in using community land, but there may be other requirements relevant to any proposed use. For example, the refurbishment of a kiosk may also require development consent under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Any interested person should check carefully to make sure they are aware of all relevant requirements.

4.5 Short Term Uses

Agreements for use of community land may be granted for short duration, which may include casual hires, seasonal use (eg sportsfields) or regular hire arrangement. These short-term arrangements should be for the types of uses identified in Table 9 and consistent with prevailing Council policies.

Table 10 – Seasonal, regular and casual use agreements

Community land category	Purposes for which short term uses may be granted subject to council approval	Requirements
Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community events and festivals playing a musical instrument, or singing for fee or reward picnics and private celebrations such as family gatherings filming and photography session public performances engaging in an appropriate trade or business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proposed use must comply with terms and conditions approved e.g. SafeWork NSW regulations, insurance, waste management etc. the use should not result in physical damage to the park, sportsground or natural area the use should not result in a significant adverse impact on adjoining residents or disturbance to nearby residents organisers of the site should be responsible for cleaning up the site and notify authorities and Council of any damage or incidents that may occur
Sportsground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community events and festivals sporting fixtures and events sports and fitness training and classes filming or photography of sporting fixtures or events uses reasonably associated with the promotion or enhancement of sporting groups, fixtures and events 	
Natural Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> educational or environmental programs, scientific studies and surveys or similar temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project to be carried out 	

In assessing community land categorised as Park, Sportsground or Natural Area as a venue for any proposed utilisation, Council applies the following minimum criteria:

- Council reserves the right to refuse bookings based on previous unsatisfactory payment or performance history or where proposed use would damage the facility or cause significant disruption to other regular users.
- Fees for short-term casual bookings will be charged in accordance with Council's adopted Fees and Charges at the time.

5. Management of the land

5.1 Objectives and management of community land

The land is managed in accordance with the objectives and methods set out below:

Table 11 – Objectives, means and performance measures

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Access	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide safe and improved access to the parks, sportsgrounds and general community use properties for pedestrians and cyclists. 2. Provide access to and within parks for people with disabilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upgrades, refurbishments and/or improvement works on community land to consider public access requirements for mobility and connections. 2. Proposed ramps, stairs and pathways to comply with relevant Council and BCA requirements consistent with Australian Standards. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Audits of community land and facilities to comply with standards
Amenity and Character	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure Council's community land and facilities contribute to the amenity and character of the Strathfield LGA. 2. Promote parks, sportsgrounds and community use properties as desirable places for recreation, community celebration and commemoration. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide parks and facilities and pathways as attractive destinations. 2. Maintain and enhance community land and facilities 3. Promote parks, sportsgrounds and facilities in local media and website. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consult with residents and users regarding satisfaction of parks and facilities 2. Monitor and action complaint data
Community Facilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide sustainable community facilities for a range of 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building and structure design specifications to consider park, sportsground and general 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor usage of community facilities as measured by bookings.

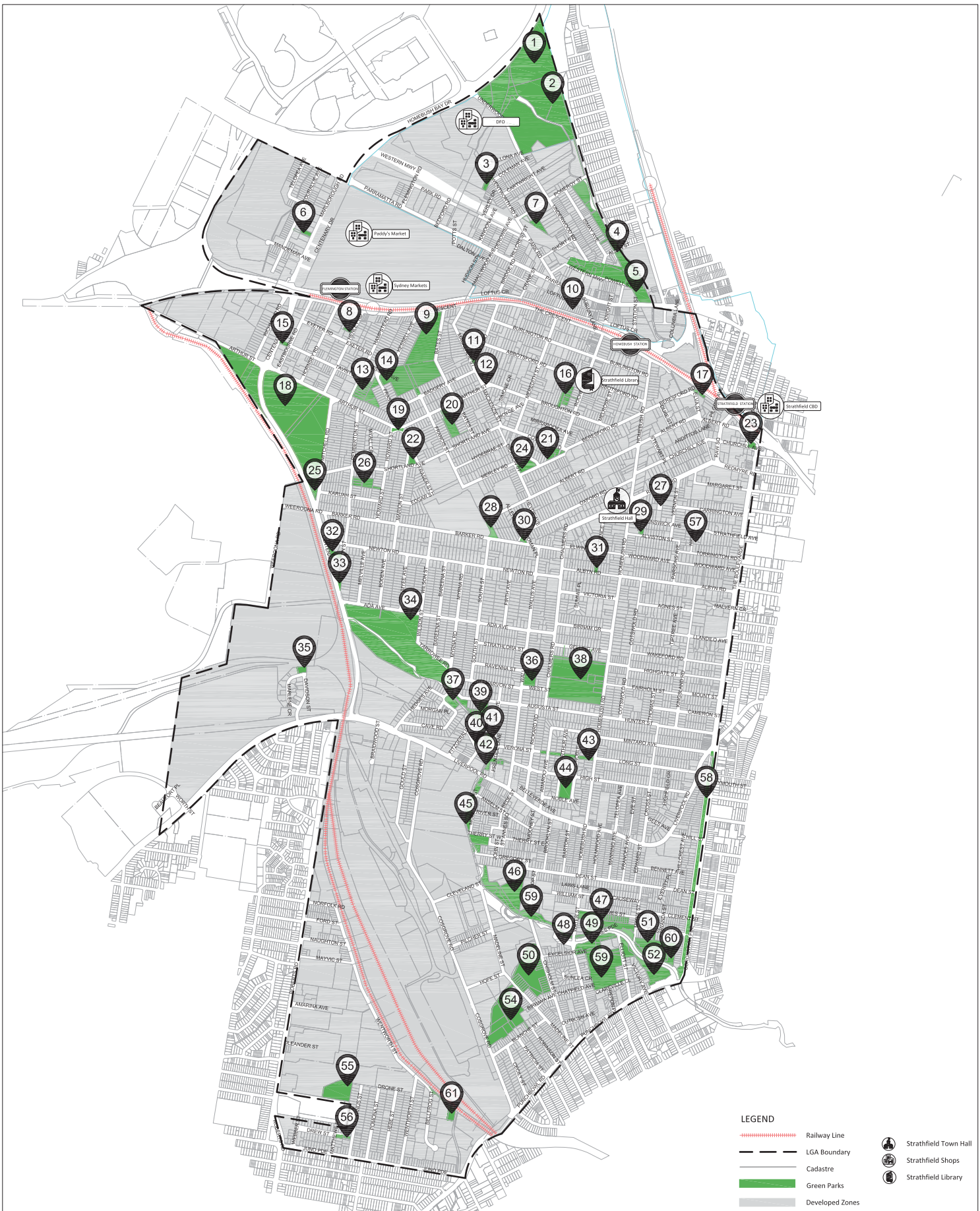
Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
	<p>community, social and other compatible activities.</p> <p>2. Ensure buildings positively contribute to community land amenity, facilitate a range of uses and have regard for environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance.</p>	<p>community use character, expected use and environmental sustainability features.</p> <p>2. Provide community facilities which are multi-purpose and flexible to a range of appropriate uses.</p> <p>3. Ensure community facilities are universally accessible.</p> <p>4. Community facilities meet sustainable building requirements and/or are progressively upgraded to incorporate best practice energy and water efficiencies.</p>	<p>2. Community satisfaction surveys.</p> <p>3. Facility inspections and audits.</p> <p>4. Monitor comments and complaints</p>
Environmentally Sustainable Principles	<p>1. Manage community land to ensure best environmental management practises and principles having regard to environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance.</p>	<p>1. Promote and monitor energy efficiency</p> <p>2. Minimise use of water</p> <p>3. Implement waste reduction programs</p> <p>4. Utilise natural heating and cooling</p>	<p>1. Measure and monitor via plans and strategies such as Energy and Water plans.</p> <p>2. Monitor usage and trends via quarterly and annual consumption and billing.</p> <p>3. Monitor and minimise water and energy use in parks, sportsgrounds and ancillary facilities.</p>
Historical and Heritage Significance	<p>1. Appreciation and interpretation of the historical and/or heritage significance of the site and structures e.g. memorials in terms of both natural and cultural components.</p>	<p>1. Undertake, when required, historical research or heritage and cultural assessment studies to identify cultural and heritage values for retention and interpretation.</p> <p>2. Incorporate historical information on property signage to enhance understanding and appreciation of the site and the history it represents, where relevant.</p> <p>3. Promote sense of place and local identity</p>	<p>1. Retention and interpretation of heritage and cultural values provides increased appreciation of the property and its history through community consultation.</p>

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Landscape Character	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain and improve landscape character and visual quality of public open spaces 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage replacement planting strategies to ensure improvement to the current character. 2. Maintain consistency in selection and design of park and sportsground furniture, paving, fencing that is appropriate to the setting and the sport or activity type. 3. Implement & maintain co-ordinated signage strategy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community consultation including surveys regarding community views
Managing assets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide effective and efficient management of community land and facilities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Schedule regular inspections and condition assessments. 2. Inclusion of maintenance standards in licence, lease or hire agreements. 3. Provide waste and recycling bins to cater for public use. 4. Regular waste and recycling collection to minimise litter overflow 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Measure against Service Standard KPIs. 2. Respond to complaints and audits. 3. Monitor agreements 4. Review and update asset management plans periodically
Natural Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To maintain and enhance the health of park ecology, including flora and fauna, trees and soil 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage trees, gardens and natural areas to maintain and improve the quality of the environment in accordance with Council's tree management and biodiversity strategies and plans. 2. Retain habitat trees, protect foraging habitat and create/maintain habitat corridors through revegetation where possible 3. Ensure revegetation is undertaken using locally sourced stock from agreed planting lists (refer Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Measure and monitor tree canopies, vegetation, weeds and habitat. 2. Undertake periodic flora and fauna reviews

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain weed management program to minimise spread of weeds Implement actions where required under recovery or threat abatement plan. 	
Natural Area (Bushland)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to the Natural Area (Bushland) Plan of Management 2020 		
Promote varied recreational uses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance opportunities for a balanced organised and unstructured recreational use of public open space Optimise public access to public open space. Maintain condition and useability of sportsgrounds and 'sustainable capacity'. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Capital works program to plan for improvements and upgrades to community land. Promote a range of organised and informal/unstructured activities on community land Provide amenities that support use and enjoyment of parks and sportsgrounds e.g. toilets, change rooms and kiosk/café facilities. Enforce provisions for management of dogs on community land as per requirements of Council's Companion Animal Policy. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor local use of parks and sportsgrounds by bookings, surveys, complaints and observation.
Safety and Risk Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide safe use and access to public land and facilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Design and maintain layouts, landscaping and facilities in accordance with CPTED principles (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) principles including passive surveillance, good sight lines, territorial reinforcement and space management and lighting. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Works to be in accordance with relevant Australian Standards and CPTED principles. Monitor and action incident and accident reports.

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Review lighting and security for both day and night time use. Work with local police to identify and act on safety issues. Install and maintain facilities in accordance with relevant Australian standards. Repair vandalism or graffiti within 48 hours where possible. 	
Traffic and Parking	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure traffic and parking requirements provide a safe environment for park, sportsgrounds and general community use property users and do not impact on the amenity of the properties. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise use of vehicles on community land and regulate and monitor vehicle access. Installation of signage preventing vehicles from entering unauthorised areas. Where vehicles are permitted, provide clearly marked vehicle movement areas Provide access for emergency or works services. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle conflicts. Improved public safety. Traffic access to community land is via agreement.
Use agreements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> That use arrangements facilitate wide community access to community land, community benefits and support financial sustainability. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Licence, leases, estates and short term use agreements comply with legislative and policy requirements. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor agreements in accordance with terms and conditions of agreement.





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Strathfield Council designs, constructs and maintains public infrastructure and other essential services over the council area. This includes the design, construction, maintenance and operation of roads, bridges, drains, footpaths, parks, playgrounds, libraries, community centres, and other public facilities. The council also manages the council's assets, including land, buildings, and infrastructure. The council's services are provided to the community through a range of channels, including the council's website, social media, and direct communication with residents and businesses.

When parks are used for any purpose, the council is responsible for ensuring that the parks are safe and secure for all users. The council also ensures that the parks are well-maintained and that the facilities are in good condition. The council's goal is to provide a high-quality public infrastructure and other essential services to the community.

date
31st January 2020

rev
01

scale 1:10000
0m 100 250 500 1000m

North Arrow

1. Bressington Park
2. Mason Park & Wetlands
3. Wentworth Reserve
4. Allen Street Reserve (Ismay Reserve)
5. Ismay Reserve
6. Austin Park
7. Bill Boyce Reserve
8. Henley Reserve
9. Airey Park
10. Augustus Loftus Reserve
11. Slater Reserve
12. Shortland Reserve Gardens
13. Melville Reserve
14. Sutherland Gardens
15. Tavistock Reserve
16. Fitzgerald Park
17. Laker Reserve
18. Hudson Park
19. Lowe's Garden
20. Pilgrim Park
21. Davey Square Memorial Reserve
22. Kessel Square
23. Strathfield Square
24. Inveresk Park
25. Frank Zions Reserve
26. Boden Reserve
27. Redmyre Road Croquet Lawns
28. Mt Royal Reserve
29. Centenary Playground
30. Todman Reserve
31. Florence Reserve
32. Cosgrove Reserve
33. Pemberton Reserve
34. Freshwater Park
35. Marlene Reserve
36. Wallis Reserve
37. Chain of Ponds Reserve
38. Strathfield Park
39. Thew Reserve
40. Fitzgerald Reserve
41. Palmer Reserve
42. Prentice Reserve
43. Humphries Reserve
44. Edwards Park
45. St Annes Reserve
46. Dean Reserve
47. Ford Park
48. Water Reserve
49. Maria Reserve
50. Cooke Park
51. Southend Tennis
52. Elliott Reserve
53. Bark Hut Reserve
54. Begnell Field
55. Cox's Creek Reserve
56. Drew St Playground
57. Nichol Reserve
58. Coronation Reserve
59. South Cooks River Land
60. Chiswick Reserve
61. Greenacre Frog Ponds

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1. Introduction

1.1 Title

This plan is titled Cooke Park Plan of Management.

The draft plan was exhibited from 3 February 2020 to 9 April 2020. The current plan was adopted by Council resolution at the meeting of xx.

This plan of management applies to land located at Cooke Park. This land is located between Madeline Street and Chisholm Street, Belfield, north at Coxs Creek and at south located at the rear of residences facing Madeline Street and Birriwa Avenue. There are small areas of land located north of Coxs Creek.

The land in Cooke Park categorised as natural area (bushland) is included in the Cooks River Natural Area (Bushland) Plan of Management.

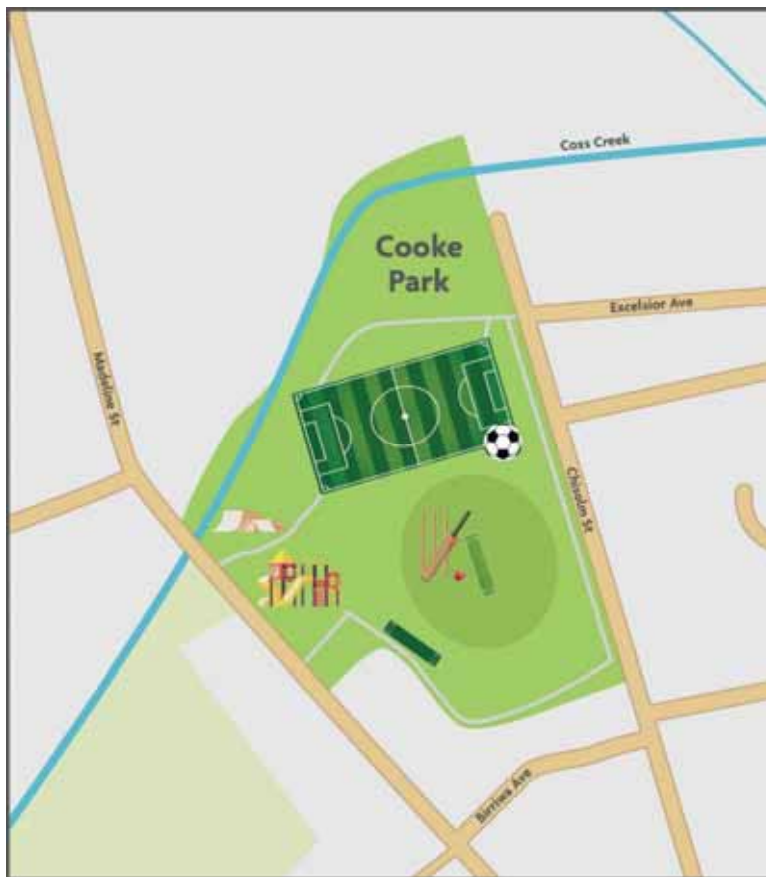
Ownership, lot details and zoning information is set out in Table 1 (information from Council Geographical Information System (GIS) 2019).

The location map of Cooke Park is set out in Figure 1.

Table 1 – Ownership, title and zoning details

Owner	Lot Details	Zoning Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012
Strathfield Council	Lot 26 DP 8960	RE1 - Public Recreation
Strathfield Council	Lot A DP 357501	RE1 - Public Recreation
Strathfield Council	Lots 1-27 DP 18185	RE1 - Public Recreation
Strathfield Council	Lot 1 & 2, DP 107494	INI – General Industrial

Figure 1 – Cooke Park Location Map



1.2 Purpose of this Plan of Management

The *Local Government Act 1993* and amendments to the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* require all public land including Crown Reserves, owned or managed by Council, to be classified as either 'community' land or 'operational' land. Land classified as 'community' land must be managed and used in accordance with an adopted Plan of Management. The land described in this Plan of Management is classified as community land.

Plans of Management are developed by Council in consultation with the community. A Plan of Management describes the features of the community land and outlines how Council intends to manage, use or develop the land in the future, thereby providing a transparent and co-ordinated approach to public land management.

The purpose of this Plan of Management is to:

- contribute to the strategic goals and vision as set out in the Strathfield Community Strategic Plan
- ensure compliance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and relevant legislation and guidelines
- provide clarity regarding use and access to the community land as described in this plan.

1.3 Contents of this Plan of Management

This Plan of Management is divided into the following sections, as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2 – Structure of this Plan of Management

Section	What does it include?
1. Introduction	Title, land covered by plan, purpose, contents and review of the plan
2. About the Strathfield LGA	Recognition of traditional custodians, Strathfield LGA snapshot, trends, community vision, legislative and policy framework, and references.
3. Land – category, classification, use and access	Site description, land use/history, land categories and classifications, maps, use of land and structures, environmental features, condition of land and structures and heritage.
4. Land Uses	Permissible uses and development, scale and intensity of use, authorisation of leases, licences and short term uses.
5. Management of the land	Objectives, performance targets, means and manner for assessment of performance

1.4. Change and Review of Plan of Management

This Plan of Management will require regular review in order to align with community values and changing community needs, and to reflect changes in Council priorities. The performance of this Plan of Management will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure the use of land and structures is well maintained and consistent with Council's strategic objectives and community values.

Strategic reviews of this Plan of Management will be required where there is significant change to legislation, land ownership/management or proposed land use. Regular reviews should occur at five (5) year intervals.

2. About the Strathfield Local Government Area

2.1 Recognition of Traditional Custodians

Strathfield Council acknowledges the Wangal people, the traditional Custodians of the lands on which the Strathfield area is located. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

2.2 Snapshot of Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA)

The Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA) is well known for transport connections, educational opportunities, attractive streetscapes, parks, heritage and buildings. The Strathfield LGA is centrally located in Sydney's Inner West, approximately 10.5 kilometres from the Sydney CBD and half way between Parramatta and the Sydney CBD. The LGA includes the suburbs of Strathfield (postcode 2135), Strathfield South (2136), Homebush (2140), Homebush West (2140), part of Belfield (2191) and part of Greenacre (2190). Sydney Markets (postcode 2129) is also located within Strathfield LGA.

Strathfield LGA is well known for its extensive green open spaces and high quality recreational facilities, which enhance the liveability, amenity and sustainability of the local area. The Strathfield LGA has a total area of approximately 1390 ha (13.9km²) with 104 ha of the total area being public open space (2018 estimates). There is currently 9.06 ha of remnant bushland in the LGA and about 6 ha is under Council management.

In 2019, the estimated residential LGA population was about 47,000 residents and by 2041, the resident population is estimated to reach over 80,000 people (NSW Planning 2019). The growing population and accompanying building density will increase demand for access to and usage of available open space and community facilities. Therefore, management of community land is of critical importance to current and future communities.

Open spaces range from regional and district sporting grounds to smaller local parks and reserves. Significant parks with major sporting facilities include Airey Park, Bressington Park, Bark Huts Reserve, Begnell Field, Cooke Park, Hudson Park, Mason Park and Strathfield Park. Many local biodiversity conservation and habitat connectivity priority areas, including flora and fauna assets, are located within Strathfield LGA's parks and reserves. A number of connected parks and open spaces form the Cooks River Foreshore open space network, an important local and regional habitat corridor and pedestrian and cycle transport connection.

Strathfield LGA also provides many community facilities, located on community land including meeting rooms, halls and community centres which are available for hire by groups and individuals for sporting, community, recreation, social and other purposes.

2.3 Strathfield LGA community and recreational trends

Some of the challenges facing the Strathfield LGA include increasing and competing demands for public open space and community facilities. Strathfield Council is strongly focused on identifying and meeting the current and future needs of the Strathfield community in a sustainable manner.

Recent community engagement and analysis of social and recreational trends indicate increasing participation in recreation, sporting and leisure activities such as organised team sports, walking, cycling, running, aerobic fitness and dog walking. There is increased demand for access to community and recreation facilities, outdoor and indoor.

Priorities for Council involve increasing the capacity of local community facilities, parks and sportsgrounds, developing new community and recreational facilities as required and ensuring equity of access to land and facilities, to meet changing and diverse needs.

2.4 Community Vision and Key Strategic Directions

The community vision describes the community's aspirations for the future of the Strathfield Local Government Area by 2030:

"Strathfield is a culturally diverse and socially cohesive community with respect for its heritage and environment and proud of its well-connected transport, business and educational institutions".

Strathfield 2030 is the community strategic plan for the Strathfield Local Government Area until 2030. The plan was developed following extensive community engagement and is divided into the key themes of Connectivity, Community Wellbeing, Civic Pride and Management. Liveable Neighbourhoods and Responsible Leadership

This plan is aligned with the Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) which defines the long term vision for land use and infrastructure provisions within the Strathfield LGA and supports place within the Greater Sydney and District planning frameworks. This plan of management aligns with the LSPS Priority P13 'Biodiversity and ecological health and resiliency is conserved, restored and enhanced' and Priority P15 'Quality Open Spaces and thriving green corridors offset the impacts of growth across the LGA' and action plan A93 to review and prepare new plans of management.

2.5 Legislative and Policy Framework

The following legislation and policies provide a framework for the preparation of this Plan of Management.

Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (LG Act) requires the preparation of Plans of Management (POMs) for Council owned land, and requires all community land to be categorised.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) (EP&A Act) is the principal planning legislation for NSW, that provides a framework for the environmental planning and assessment of development proposals and preparation of environmental planning instruments (including the Local Environmental Plan or LEP).

Crown Lands Management Act 2016 (NSW) (CLM Act) governs the planning, management and use of Crown land, including provisions to reserve or dedicate lands for a prescribed public purpose and for

leasing and licensing. Crown land under Council management requires classification and categorisations under the LG Act and preparation of Plans of Management.

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW) (BC Act) requires that Councils consider the impact on threatened species, populations and communities in fulfilling their statutory responsibilities under the EP&A Act for development approvals. It also covers management of threatened species and communities on Council owned lands.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth) (EPBC Act) provides a national scheme for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, and incorporates referral mechanisms and environmental impact assessment processes for projects of national significance.

State Environmental Planning Policy 19 – Bushland in Urban Areas aims to protect and preserve bushland in the Sydney Metropolitan area. The SEPP is concerned with disturbances and development affecting bushland areas.

Companion Animal Act 1998 (NSW) requires the identification and registration of companion animals (e.g. cats and dogs) and sets out the duties and responsibilities in relation to management of animals and specific areas of land.

Local Land Services Act 2013 (NSW) provides a framework to ensure the proper management of natural resources in the social, economic and environmental interests of the State. Strathfield is part of the Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS), which provides guidance on matters such as community engagement, biosecurity and weeds.

Also relevant are:

- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)
- Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (NSW) and Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)
- Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)
- Fisheries Management Act 1994 (NSW)
- Rural Fires Act 1997 (NSW)
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)

Related Strathfield Council policies and plans

- Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030
- Strathfield 2030 Community Strategic Plan (CSP)
- Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Development Control Plans 2005
- Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2020
- Disability Inclusion Plan 2020-2024

2.6 References

Eco Logical Australia and Strathfield Council, 2019, *Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2020-2030*

Insight Ecology, 2017, *The Fauna of Strathfield (Local Government Area)*

Jones, Cathy, 2019, *Parks and Reserves*, Strathfield Heritage website at <https://strathfieldheritage.org/parks-and-reserves>

Near Maps – Strathfield LGA, 2019 at <https://www.nearmap.com/au/en>

NSW Department Planning, 2019, *Strathfield LGA Population Projections 2016-2041*.

Strathfield Council, *Local Environmental Plan 2012*

Strathfield Council, 2018, *Community Strategic Plan – Strathfield 2030*

Strathfield Council, 2019, *GIS Data*

3. Land – category, classification, use and access

3.1 Description of site

Cooke Park is located at Chisholm Street and Madeline Street, Belfield. Cooke Park is one of Strathfield Council's largest parks and is over 34 hectares in size. The park contains sportsfields, skate park, playground, an amenities building and small car park. Cooke Park is bounded to the east by Bark Huts Reserve, and south west by Begnell Field, with rear boundaries of residential properties that occur along Birriwa Ave and Madeline St.

Cooke Park is one of the Cooks River/Coxs Creek Foreshore parks and land in Cooke Park is identified as a Biodiversity Connectivity Priority area in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2019.

3.2 Land prior use and history

Cooke Park is located between Madeline Street and Chisholm Street Belfield with frontage on Coxs Creek (Cooks River). Cooke Park is named for Thomas Cooke, a former Alderman (1941-1948) and Mayor of Enfield Council (1941-1946, 1948).

The park is built on the Chisholm Estate, which was subdivided in 1937 and created residential lots along Chisholm and Madeline Streets. A large portion of the site measuring over 4 acres contained a large waterhole and was considered to be difficult to develop. The sub divider approached Enfield Council to purchase this land (Lot 27). Initially, the Council agreed to purchase Lot 27 for £100 but later acquired additional lots on the frontages of both streets and its river foreshore.

The site accepted fill to level out the land and in 1942, on the instigation of the Mayor of Enfield, Thomas Cooke, plans were developed to format the site into a park with playing fields. On 1 January 1949, the west ward of Enfield Council amalgamated with Strathfield Council. Cooke Park was dedicated as a public reserve on 15 October 1952¹.

¹ Jones, C, 2019, Parks and Reserves

Figure 2: Historical photograph of Cooke Park

The aerial historic photographs indicate changes in the land over time, particularly the building sportsfields, structures and revegetation, especially near the canal and boundaries of the park.



Cooke Park aerial photograph (1947)



Cooke Park aerial photograph (1997)



Cooke Park aerial photograph (2009). © Near Maps



Cooke Park aerial photograph (2019). © Near Maps

3.3 Categories and classifications of community Land

The management of community land is governed by the categorisation of the land, and the core objectives of the relevant category of community land. The core objectives for each category are set out in the *Local Government Act 1993*. The guidelines and core objectives for relevant categories are set out in Table 3.

Table 3 – Guidelines for and core objectives of community land

Category	Guidelines ²	Core objectives ³
Park	<i>Regulation cl.104</i> Land which is, or proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, and for uses which are mainly passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others.	<i>Category Park – (Section 36G)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities. provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games. improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.
Sportsground	<i>Regulation cl.103</i> Land should be categorised as 'sportsground' if the land is used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.	<i>Category Sportsground - (Section 36F)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.
Natural Area	<i>Regulation cl.102</i> Natural areas are where land, whether or not in an undisturbed state, possesses a significant geological feature, geomorphological feature, landform, representative system or other natural feature or attribute that would be sufficient to further categorise the land as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore.	<i>Natural Area - (Section 36E)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised to a natural area; and to maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting, and to provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land, and to provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and to assist in and facilitate the implement of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan prepared under the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> or the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>

² *Local Government General Regulation 2005*

³ *Local Government Act 1993*

Category	Guidelines ²	Core objectives ³
Natural Area – bushland	<p><i>Regulation cl.107</i> Land that contains primarily native vegetation that is the natural vegetation or a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land, or although not the natural vegetation, is still representative of the structure or floristics of the natural vegetation in the locality.</p>	<p><i>Natural Area - Bushland (Section 36J)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land, and • to protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and • to promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and • to restore degraded bushland, and • to protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and • to retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and • to protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.

Council must manage community land in according to these core objectives. Any activities or uses of the land should be consistent with the core objectives for that category of land. Additional objectives, which support the above core objectives, are included in Section 5 Management of the land.

The land classified as community land under the *Local Government Act 1993* is categorised as Park, Sportsground and Natural Area (Bushland). The categorised areas are marked in Figure 3.

Figure 3 – Map of Cooke Park land categorisations



3.4 Use of the land and structures at date of adoption of the plan

Cooke Park provides a wide range of land uses, which support various sporting, recreational and community and environmental uses. The land is categorised as Sportsground, Natural Area (Bushland) and Park.

Part of the land on which Cooke Park is built is categorised as a Sportsground. This sportsground category contains two sportsfields and sportsfield lighting.

Cooke Park contains a habitat corridor, which is identified as biodiversity connectivity priority area in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy. This is located on the northern side of the Cocks Creek canal and has been categorised as a Natural Area (Bushland).

Land in Cooke Park is categorised as a Park and is used for active and passive recreation and leisure purposes which include general park lighting, a concrete skatepark, children's playground, amenities building and general park seating, BBQ, shelter facilities, small carpark and pathways

3.5 Environmental features

Cooke Park is one of the Cooks River/Coxs Creek foreshore parks. Parts of this land are identified in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2019 as a Biodiversity Connectivity area. These corridors are also identified as Priority Biodiversity Areas and a Priority Green Grid Project in Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2020. The land in Cooke Park categorised as natural area (bushland) is included in the Cooks River Natural Area (Bushland) Plan of Management.

Cooke Park comprises a mixture of revegetated parkland and open playing fields. The revegetated parkland is mainly in the northern section abutting Coxs Creek Channel and contains mostly indigenous vegetation planted as strips and/or blocks. Eucalypts, acacia, paperbark and she-oak are planted along its northern edge adjoining Cox's Creek Channel and fringed by some woody weeds. These provide a narrow but thick movement corridor to Cooks River supporting the Superb Fairy-wren, Red-whiskered Bulbul and Silvereye. There are individual planted trees and shrubs planted along the boundaries of the open parkland and playing fields.

National Tree day has run for many years in the LGA. Dedicated events have been run in Cooke Park in 2014 and 2008. It provides habitat for native species, diverts runoff from storm drains, filters air pollution, reduces urban heat and sequesters carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. It is directly in line with council's Community Strategic Plan and Environmental Sustainability Plan goals. Achievements included engaging over 300 community members who planted 2500 native plants from 50 different species. This equates to approximately 7000 tons of CO₂ captured annually, potentially reducing 30 Mega Litres of runoff per year. The community members also enjoyed education on waterway health and biodiversity from event partners.

Green and Golden Bellfrogs (GGBF) are usually located in and around water bodies such as wetlands and lakes or on sites which humans have disturbed such as abandoned quarries or brickpits. In the Strathfield LGA, the GGBF core habitat area is located in Greenacre such as Coxs Creek Reserve and Greenacre Frog Ponds. Cooke Park is contained within the east-west GGBF linkage area as mapped in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy (p17), which also covers parks such as Begnell Field and parts of Ford Park and Maria Reserve. However, with dispersal and movement of frogs, infrequent sightings have been reported in parks further along the Cooks River such as Elliott Reserve, Southend Tennis Centre and 'Chiswick Reserve'. However, these sightings were infrequent and have become increasingly rare. Since 2012, Council has received no reported sightings of GGBF in the Strathfield LGA.

3.6 Condition of the land and structures on adoption of the plan

The criteria for assessing the condition of land and structure upon adoption of this plan of management are shown in Table 4 and the interpretation of the condition of infrastructure in Table 5.

Table 4 - Condition rating assessment criteria

Rating	Descriptor	Guide	Residual Life as a % of Total Life	Mean % age residual life
1 Excellent	Sound physical condition. Asset likely to perform adequately without major work.	Normal maintenance required	>86	95
2 Good	Acceptable physical condition, minimal short term risk of failure.	Normal maintenance plus minor repairs required (to 5% or less of the asset)	65 to 85	80
3 Satisfactory	Deterioration evident, failure in the short term unlikely. Minor components need replacement or repair now but asset still functions safely.	Significant maintenance and/or repairs required (to 10-20% of the asset)	41 to 64	55
4 Worn	Deterioration of the asset is evident and failure is possible in the short term. No immediate risk to health and safety.	Significant renewal required (to 20 - 40% of the asset)	10 to 40	35
5 Poor	Failed or failure is imminent or there is significant deterioration of the asset. Health and safety hazards exist which present a possible risk to public safety.	Over 50% of the asset requires renewal	<10	5

Table 5 – Condition of assets at Cooke Park

Description	Condition
Amenities building – toilets, kiosk, change rooms, storage and umpire room	Excellent (built 2019)
BBQ	Excellent (built 2019)
Carpark	Excellent (built 2019)
Children's playground	Excellent (built 2018)
Cricket Practice Wicket	Excellent (built 2019)
General park lighting	Good
Park seating	Excellent (built 2018)
Pathways	Good
Shelter & seating	Excellent (built 2019)
Skatepark	Satisfactory
Sportsfield	Good
Sportsfield lighting	Satisfactory
Synthetic Sportsfield	Excellent (built 2019)

3.7 Heritage

There are no statutory heritage listings associated with this land.

3.8 Photographs of Cooke Park

These photographs provide an overview of facilities and spaces at Cooke Park. Unless specified, photographs are dated 2019.



Sportsfield – Chisholm St



Sportsfield – (2018 before construction)



Synthetic sportsfield



Skatepark



Newly planted trees in 2018



Cluster of trees near Coxs Creek



Solar lights, trees near Coxs Creek at Chisholm St



Shelter, seating and all inclusive BBQ



Playground



Sportsfield (turf)



Single cricket practice wicket



Amenities Building – Madeline St

4. Land Uses

4.1 Permissible uses and developments

The tables below set out the purpose/use of the land consistent with its land categorisation and the types of development generally associated with those uses. Facilities on community land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community. The anticipated uses, and associated development, identified in Tables 6 to 8 are intended to provide an overview or general guide. Development is subject to requirements set out in clauses 4.2 and 4.3

Table 6 – Permissible uses of land categories – Park

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Active and passive recreation including children's play• Group recreational use, such as picnics and celebrations• Publicly accessible ancillary areas eg toilets• Festivals, fairs, similar events and gatherings• Low intensity commercial activities• Filming and photographic projects• Public address (speeches)• Easement, utilities and estate• Community gardening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development for the purposes of improving access, amenity, and the visual character of the park eg paths, pergolas, flagpoles, lights, water bubblers, seating, paved areas, hard and soft landscaped areas etc• Development for the purposes of active recreation eg play equipment, children's playgrounds, exercise equipment, courts etc• Amenities to facilitate leisure use of the park eg picnic tables and shelters, BBQ's & sheltered eating areas• Kiosk/café, mobile food vans or refreshment areas• Restricted access ancillary areas (e.g. storage areas associated with functions, gardening equipment)• Transport access and service areas ancillary to the use of land (eg public transport, car parking, loading zones, bicycle racks)• Community gardens• Off-leash areas• Heritage and cultural interpretation eg signs, public art etc• Locational, directional and regulatory signage• Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that relate to approved uses/activities, discreet and temporary and approved by Council.• Water/Energy savings initiatives

Table 7 – Permissible uses of land categories – Sportsground

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active and passive recreational and sporting activities consistent with the nature of the particular land and any relevant facilities Organised and unstructured recreation activities Community events or gatherings, and public meetings Commercial uses associated with sports facilities Easement, utilities and estate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development for the purpose of conducting and facilitating organised sport Sportsfields (turf and synthetic) including cricket, football, soccer, track and field athletics, baseball, softball etc Courts (basketball, netball, badminton, tennis, hockey, badminton etc) Amenities eg change room, lockers, shower/toilet facilities, first aid rooms, seating Café or kiosk facilities, mobile coffee cart or food vending subject to site assessment and Council approval Car parking and loading areas Ancillary areas eg staff rooms, meeting rooms, equipment storage areas Shade structures Seating and scoreboards Sports or fitness training, and practice facilities Heritage and cultural interpretation eg signs, public art Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that relate to approved uses/activities, discreet and temporary and approved by Council. Water/Energy savings initiatives Lighting and water (eg taps, bubblers)

Table 8 – Permissible uses of land categories – Natural Area (Bushland)

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking and cycling Guided bushwalks and bird watching Environmental programs and scientific study Preservation of biodiversity and habitat Bush regeneration and revegetation works Relaxation and passive informal recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretative, regulatory and directional signage Low impact lighting Low impact carparking Low impact pathways Passive recreation Seating Small ancillary building eg storage and amenities for site maintenance Water saving initiatives eg swales, sediment traps, rainwater gardens

In some instances, physical assets may be located on land which falls into different categories. For example, amenities building may be located on land categorised as Park, or on land categorised for Sportsground.

4.2 Future development and use of the community land

There are no future plans for development in Cooke Park at the time of adoption of this plan of management.

However, it is expected that future development and use of facility on community land may require:

- Minor changes to community land are regularly made on a routine basis, such as garden beds are replanted, and damaged play equipment is replaced.
- In the event of potential future development other than that listed, proposed changes of use of community land will:
 1. Meet legislative requirements – land use tables (zoning) in the Strathfield Council Local Environmental Plan specifies the range of uses and activities that may be permitted on the land. A number of uses are also set out in the Regulations to the *Local Government Act 1993*.
 2. Be consistent with the guidelines and core objectives of the community land category - under the *Local Government Act 1993* uses and development of community land must be consistent with the guidelines for categorisation and the core objectives of each category, and any other additional objectives the Council proposes to place on the community land categories.
 3. Be consistent with relevant Council policies - substantial upgrades and proposed new development will take into account a range of factors, including:
 - this Plan of Management and the core objectives for the land
 - the planning controls for the land
 - Council's adopted policies
 - the characteristics of the land affected, including existing and future use patterns
 - any landscape masterplan for the land.

4.3 Scale and intensity of land use

The scale and intensity of use and development associated with community land in Strathfield is generally dependent on:

- the nature of the approved uses and developments
- approved Development Applications and any conditions
- an approved masterplan
- the physical constraints of the land
- the carrying capacity of the land
- relevant government legislation
- permissible times of use
- proximity of neighbours

The scale and intensity of use of parks and sportsgrounds should be monitored by:

- regular inspection of the physical impacts on the park or sportsground
- consideration of reports regarding any conflicts between park and sportsground users or from adjoining neighbours

4.4 Authorisation of leases, licences or other estates over community land

The Act requires that any lease or licence of community land must be authorised by a Plan of Management. The lease or licence must be for purposes consistent with the categorisation and zoning of the land.

The maximum period for leases or licences on community land permitted under the Act is 21 years. If a lease or licence is anticipated, then public notice should be given in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Where a lease arrangement has been entered into with Council for community land, subleasing the land may only occur with specific permission of Council and in accordance with the requirements of Section 47C of the Act, Clause 119 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* and conditions set out in agreements.

This Plan of Management authorises existing leases and licence agreements until the end of their current term. The leased or licensed areas may be renewed or changed in future. The leased or licensed areas may be reconfigured in the future to reflect changes in community needs.

This Plan of Management authorises Council to grant leases, licences or any other estates for community land covered in this Plan of Management for purposes and uses which are identified or consistent with those in Table 6 to 8. Some examples of longer term arrangements are outlined in the following Table 9. Shorter arrangements (for example, a short term licence associated with a particular event, or recurring for a few hours each season) are set out in Table 10.

Calculations for fees and charges for leases and licences will be based on independent market rental valuations that are based on comparisons to similar services and facilities with similar locations, building and land conditions. As a minimum standard, the financial return from licence fees should offset asset maintenance, renewal and any operational costs. Council may also apply subsidies to not for profit organisations where there are demonstrated community benefits or financial hardship. Subsidies are generally not applied to commercial agreements.

Table 9 – Leases, Licences and other estates

Type of Arrangement Authorised	Land and Facilities covered	Purposes for which long term leasing/licensing will be granted
Licence or lease	Park/ Sportsground	<p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sporting and recreational purposes, including team sports, fitness activities and games • kiosk, café and refreshment purposes • use of court or similar facilities
Licence or lease	Natural Area	<p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • educational or environmental programs, scientific studies and surveys or similar • walkways, pathways, bridges or causeways • information kiosks • work sheds or storage areas required in connection with maintenance • signs, observation platforms • temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project to be carried out
Other Estates	Park/ Sportsground	<p>This Plan of Management allows Council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities in accordance with the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>.</p> <p>Estates may also be granted across community land that is not affected by endangered communities for the provision of pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the Council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land.</p>

The grant of a lease or licence is an important step in using community land, but there may be other requirements relevant to any proposed use. For example, the refurbishment of a kiosk may also require development consent under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Any interested person should check carefully to make sure they are aware of all relevant requirements.

4.5 Short Term Uses

Agreements for use of community land may be granted for short duration, which may include casual hires, seasonal use (eg sportsfields) or regular hire arrangement. These short-term arrangements should be for the types of uses identified in Table 9 and consistent with prevailing Council policies.

Table 10 – Seasonal, regular and casual use agreements

Community land category	Purposes for which short term uses may be granted subject to council approval	Requirements
Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community events and festivals playing a musical instrument, or singing for fee or reward picnics and private celebrations such as family gatherings filming and photography session public performances engaging in an appropriate trade or business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proposed use must comply with terms and conditions approved e.g. SafeWork NSW regulations, insurance, waste management etc. the use should not result in physical damage to the park, sportsground or natural area the use should not result in a significant adverse impact on adjoining residents or disturbance to nearby residents organisers of the site should be responsible for cleaning up the site and notify authorities and Council of any damage or incidents that may occur
Sportsground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community events and festivals sporting fixtures and events sports and fitness training and classes filming or photography of sporting fixtures or events uses reasonably associated with the promotion or enhancement of sporting groups, fixtures and events 	
Natural Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> educational or environmental programs, scientific studies and surveys or similar temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project to be carried out 	

In assessing community land categorised as Park, Sportsground or Natural Area as a venue for any proposed utilisation, Council applies the following minimum criteria:

- Council reserves the right to refuse bookings based on previous unsatisfactory payment or performance history or where proposed use would damage the facility or cause significant disruption to other regular users.
- Fees for short-term casual bookings will be charged in accordance with Council's adopted Fees and Charges at the time.

5. Management of the land

5.1 Objectives and management of community land

The land is managed in accordance with the objectives and methods set out below:

Table 11 – Objectives, means and performance measures

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Access	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide safe and improved access to the parks, sportsgrounds and general community use properties for pedestrians and cyclists. 2. Provide access to and within parks for people with disabilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upgrades, refurbishments and/or improvement works on community land to consider public access requirements for mobility and connections. 2. Proposed ramps, stairs and pathways to comply with relevant Council and BCA requirements consistent with Australian Standards. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Audits of community land and facilities to comply with standards
Amenity and Character	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure Council's community land and facilities contribute to the amenity and character of the Strathfield LGA. 2. Promote parks, sportsgrounds and community use properties as desirable places for recreation, community celebration and commemoration. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide parks and facilities and pathways as attractive destinations. 2. Maintain and enhance community land and facilities 3. Promote parks, sportsgrounds and facilities in local media and website. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consult with residents and users regarding satisfaction of parks and facilities 2. Monitor and action complaint data
Community Facilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide sustainable community facilities for a range of 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building and structure design specifications to consider park, sportsground and general 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor usage of community facilities as measured by bookings.

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
	<p>community, social and other compatible activities.</p> <p>2. Ensure buildings positively contribute to community land amenity, facilitate a range of uses and have regard for environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance.</p>	<p>community use character, expected use and environmental sustainability features.</p> <p>2. Provide community facilities which are multi-purpose and flexible to a range of appropriate uses.</p> <p>3. Ensure community facilities are universally accessible.</p> <p>4. Community facilities meet sustainable building requirements and/or are progressively upgraded to incorporate best practice energy and water efficiencies.</p>	<p>2. Community satisfaction surveys.</p> <p>3. Facility inspections and audits.</p> <p>4. Monitor comments and complaints</p>
Environmentally Sustainable Principles	<p>1. Manage community land to ensure best environmental management practises and principles having regard to environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance.</p>	<p>1. Promote and monitor energy efficiency</p> <p>2. Minimise use of water</p> <p>3. Implement waste reduction programs</p> <p>4. Utilise natural heating and cooling</p>	<p>1. Measure and monitor via plans and strategies such as Energy and Water plans.</p> <p>2. Monitor usage and trends via quarterly and annual consumption and billing.</p> <p>3. Monitor and minimise water and energy use in parks, sportsgrounds and ancillary facilities.</p>
Historical and Heritage Significance	<p>1. Appreciation and interpretation of the historical and/or heritage significance of the site and structures e.g. memorials in terms of both natural and cultural components.</p>	<p>1. Undertake, when required, historical research or heritage and cultural assessment studies to identify cultural and heritage values for retention and interpretation.</p> <p>2. Incorporate historical information on property signage to enhance understanding and appreciation of the site and the history it represents, where relevant.</p> <p>3. Promote sense of place and local identity</p>	<p>1. Retention and interpretation of heritage and cultural values provides increased appreciation of the property and its history through community consultation.</p>

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Landscape Character	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and improve landscape character and visual quality of public open spaces 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Manage replacement planting strategies to ensure improvement to the current character. Maintain consistency in selection and design of park and sportsground furniture, paving, fencing that is appropriate to the setting and the sport or activity type. Implement & maintain co-ordinated signage strategy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Community consultation including surveys regarding community views
Managing assets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide effective and efficient management of community land and facilities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule regular inspections and condition assessments. Inclusion of maintenance standards in licence, lease or hire agreements. Provide waste and recycling bins to cater for public use. Regular waste and recycling collection to minimise litter overflow 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Measure against Service Standard KPIs. Respond to complaints and audits. Monitor agreements Review and update asset management plans periodically
Natural Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain and enhance the health of park ecology, including flora and fauna, trees and soil 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Manage trees, gardens and natural areas to maintain and improve the quality of the environment in accordance with Council's tree management and biodiversity strategies and plans. Retain habitat trees, protect foraging habitat and create/maintain habitat corridors through revegetation where possible Ensure revegetation is undertaken using locally sourced stock from agreed planting lists (refer Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Measure and monitor tree canopies, vegetation, weeds and habitat. Undertake periodic flora and fauna reviews

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain weed management program to minimise spread of weeds Implement actions where required under recovery or threat abatement plan. 	
Natural Area (Bushland)	1. Refer to the Natural Area (Bushland) Plan of Management 2020		
Promote varied recreational uses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance opportunities for a balanced organised and unstructured recreational use of public open space Optimise public access to public open space. Maintain condition and useability of sportsgrounds and 'sustainable capacity'. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Capital works program to plan for improvements and upgrades to community land. Promote a range of organised and informal/unstructured activities on community land Provide amenities that support use and enjoyment of parks and sportsgrounds e.g. toilets, change rooms and kiosk/café facilities. Enforce provisions for management of dogs on community land as per requirements of Council's Companion Animal Policy. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor local use of parks and sportsgrounds by bookings, surveys, complaints and observation.
Safety and Risk Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide safe use and access to public land and facilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Design and maintain layouts, landscaping and facilities in accordance with CPTED principles (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) principles including passive surveillance, good sight lines, territorial reinforcement and space management and lighting. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Works to be in accordance with relevant Australian Standards and CPTED principles. Monitor and action incident and accident reports.

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Review lighting and security for both day and night time use. Work with local police to identify and act on safety issues. Install and maintain facilities in accordance with relevant Australian standards. Repair vandalism or graffiti within 48 hours where possible. 	
Traffic and Parking	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure traffic and parking requirements provide a safe environment for park, sportsgrounds and general community use property users and do not impact on the amenity of the properties. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise use of vehicles on community land and regulate and monitor vehicle access. Installation of signage preventing vehicles from entering unauthorised areas. Where vehicles are permitted, provide clearly marked vehicle movement areas Provide access for emergency or works services. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle conflicts. Improved public safety. Traffic access to community land is via agreement.
Use agreements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> That use arrangements facilitate wide community access to community land, community benefits and support financial sustainability. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Licence, leases, estates and short term use agreements comply with legislative and policy requirements. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor agreements in accordance with terms and conditions of agreement.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Title and Background

This plan is titled Cooks River Natural Area (Bushland) Plan of Management. This plan covers the land categorised as natural area (bushland) that are located in the Cooks River (including Cox Creek) corridor in the Strathfield LGA. This plan applies only to the land categorised as natural area (bushland) areas. Most natural areas are located within a larger park or reserve and this plan should be read in combination with the associated plans of management which is set out in Table 1.

Strathfield LGA's Biodiversity (or Wildlife) Corridors are identified and mapped in the Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2019. These corridors are also identified as Priority Biodiversity Areas and a Priority Green Grid Project in Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2020. Most of these areas are located in parks and reserves on the foreshores of the Cooks River and Cox's Creek Corridor. Under section 36 of the Local Government Act Areas community land with significant natural features such as Wildlife Corridors are categorised as Natural Areas (bushland).

The draft Plan of Management was adopted by Council resolution at the meeting of xx.

1.2 Purpose, coverage and inclusions

The *Local Government Act 1993* and amendments to the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* require all public land including Crown Reserves, owned or managed by Council, to be classified as either 'community' land or 'operational' land. Land classified as 'community' land must be managed and used in accordance with an adopted Plan of Management.

Plans of Management are developed by Council in consultation with the community. A Plan of Management describes the features of the community land and outlines how the land may be managed and used, consistent with land categorisations, core objectives and zoning, to provide a transparent and co-ordinated approach to public land management.

The purpose of this Plan of Management is to:

- contribute to the strategic goals and vision as set out in the Strathfield Community Strategic Plan
- ensure compliance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and relevant legislation and guidelines
- provide clarity regarding use and access to the community land as described in this plan.

This plan of management relates only to community land categorised as natural area (bushland). The table below sets out the locations of Natural Area (Bushland) and the associated plan of management.

Table 1 Natural Area locations, property information and associated plans of management

Natural Area (Bushland) locations	Associated Plan of Management
Maria Reserve, Elliot St, Belfield	-
Land located in Prentice Reserve, off Prentice Ln, Strathfield	Local Parks Plan of Management (2020)
St Anne's Reserve Strathfield South	-
South Cooks Land, off Water St, Strathfield South	-
Land located in Chain of Ponds Reserve Strathfield	Local Parks Plan of Management (2020)
Land located in Begnell Field, Madeline St, Belfield	Begnell Field Plan of Management (2020)
Land located in Cooke Park, Madeline St, Belfield	Cooke Park Plan of Management (2020)
Land located in Elliott Reserve, Elliot St, Belfield	Elliott Reserve Plan of Management (2020)
Land located in Freshwater Reserve, Augusta St, Strathfield	Freshwater Park Plan of Management (2020)
Land located in 'Chiswick Reserve', off Chiswick St, Strathfield South	Local Parks Plan of Management (2020)
Land located in Ford Park, James St, Strathfield South	Local Parks Plan of Management (2020)
Land located in Palmer Reserve, Strathfield	Local Parks Plan of Management (2020)
Land located in Thew Reserve, Augusta St, Strathfield	Local Parks Plan of Management (2020); Community Facilities Plan of Management (2020)
Land located in Southend Tennis Centre, Chiswick St, Strathfield South	Southend Tennis Centre Plan of Management (2020)

1.3 About this Plan

This plan only applies to land that is categorised as natural area (bushland) areas and sets out requirements that are specific to the management of this land only.

1.4 Legislative and Policy Framework

The following legislation and policies provide a framework for the preparation of this Plan of Management. A more detailed list is outlined in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy (pages 62-66).

Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (LG Act) requires Council to classify public land, to categorise and prepare Plans of Management (POMs) for community land which set out how the land is to be managed. In respect of significant natural areas such as habitat or wildlife corridors, the plan set s out reasons for the categorisation of land, the area which is categorised and identification of objectives and performance targets to protect the area.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) (EP&A Act) is the principal planning legislation for NSW, that provides a framework for the environmental planning and assessment of development proposals and preparation of environmental planning instruments (including the Local Environmental Plan or LEP).

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW) (BC Act) requires that Councils consider the impact on threatened species, populations and communities in fulfilling their statutory responsibilities under the EP&A Act for development approvals. It also covers management of threatened species and communities on Council owned lands.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth) (EPBC Act) provides a national scheme for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, and incorporates referral mechanisms and environmental impact assessment processes for projects of national significance.

Companion Animal Act 1998 (NSW) requires the identification and registration of companion animals (e.g. cats and dogs) and sets out the duties and responsibilities in relation to management of animals and specific areas of land.

Local Land Services Act 2013 (NSW) provides a framework to ensure the proper management of natural resources in the social, economic and environmental interests of the State. Strathfield is part of the Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS), which provides guidance on matters such as community engagement, biosecurity and weeds.

Also relevant are:

- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)
- Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (NSW) and Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)
- Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)
- Fisheries Management Act 1994 (NSW)
- Rural Fires Act 1997 (NSW)
- State Environmental Planning Policy 19 – Bushland in Urban Areas.
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)

Local plans and studies

Strathfield Council adopted a vision in its community strategic plan that describes the community's aspirations for the future of the Strathfield Local Government Area by 2030:

“Strathfield is a culturally diverse and socially cohesive community with respect for its heritage and environment and proud of its well-connected transport, business and educational institutions”.

This vision was supported by the Community Strategic Plan, which contains goals and objectives related to the biodiversity and natural environment in Theme 4 Liveable Neighbourhoods, which includes a ‘Thriving and Resilient Environment’ as a goal and ‘conserve, restore and enhance Strathfield’s biodiversity and ecological health and resiliency’ as a strategy.

Council adopted the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030 in December 2019, which sets out the management of the LGA’s natural environment until 2030. This strategy is supported by previous studies including the Strathfield Fauna Studies in 2016-2017 and 2008. Community consultation including surveys and workshops were held in 2019 and informed the preparation of the strategy and action plan.

Council adopted its Local Strategic Planning Statement in 2020, which includes a thematic direction of Sustainability with five main planning priorities, which support a range of actions to address biodiversity and ecological health, and thriving green corridors. The LSPS identifies as an opportunity the development of a masterplan for the Green Grid Priority Cooks River Open Space Corridor, which broadly covers the community land of the Cooks River and Coxs Creek Corridor which is address in this Plan of Management.

1.5 Change and Review of Plan of Management

This Plan of Management will require regular review in order to align with community values and changing community needs, and to reflect changes in Council priorities. The performance of this Plan of Management will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure the use of land and structures is well maintained and consistent with Council’s strategic objectives and community values.

Strategic reviews of this Plan of Management will be required where there is significant change to legislation, land ownership/management or proposed land use. Regular reviews should occur at five (5) year intervals.

1.6 References

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Jones, Cathy, 2019, *Parks and Reserves*, Strathfield Heritage website at <https://strathfieldheritage.org/parks-and-reserves>

Near Maps – Strathfield LGA, 2019 at <https://www.nearmap.com/au/en>

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NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion profile, updated 2019, viewed at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspeciesapp/profile.aspx?id=10789>

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, *P. prunifolia* in the Parramatta, Auburn, Strathfield and Bankstown Local Government Areas – profile, updated 2019, viewed at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedSpeciesApp/profile.aspx?id=10655>

Strathfield Council, *Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012*, viewed at <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/EPL/2013/115>

Strathfield Council, 2018, *Community Strategic Plan – Strathfield 2030* viewed at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/council/policies-plans-and-regulations/community-strategic-plan/>

Strathfield Council, 2019, Geographical Information System (GIS) Data

1.7 Categories and classifications of Community Land

The management of community land is governed by the categorisation of the land, and the core objectives of the relevant category of community land. The core objectives for the category are set out in the *Local Government Act 1993*. The guidelines and core objectives for relevant categories are set out in the table below.

Table: Guidelines for and core objectives of community land

Category	Guidelines ¹	Core objectives ²
Natural Area	<i>Regulation cl.102</i> Natural areas are where land, whether or not in an undisturbed state, possesses a significant geological feature, geomorphological feature, landform, representative system or other natural feature or attribute that would be sufficient to further categorise the land as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore	<i>Natural Area - (Section 36E)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised to a natural area; and to maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting, and to provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land, and to provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and to assist in and facilitate the implement of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan prepared under the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> or the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>
Natural Area – bushland	<i>Regulation cl.107</i> Land that contains primarily native vegetation that is the natural vegetation or a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land, or although not the natural vegetation, is still representative of the structure or floristics of the natural vegetation in the locality.	<i>Natural Area - Bushland (Section 36J)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land, and to protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and to promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and to restore degraded bushland, and to protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and

¹ *Local Government General Regulation 2005*

² *Local Government Act 1993*

Category	Guidelines ¹	Core objectives ²
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and to protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.

Council must manage community land in according to these core objectives. Any activities or uses of the land should be consistent with the core objectives for that category of land. Additional objectives which support the above core objectives are included in the Action Plan.

1.8 Natural Area (Bushland) in Cooks River/Coxs Creek Corridors

The Cooks River/Coxs Creek Open Space Corridor runs at the east from the junction of Punchbowl Road and Coronation Parade (bounding City of Canterbury-Bankstown Council) to Freshwater Park Strathfield. Coxs Creek Corridor meets Cooks River at Water Street Belfield. Along these waterways are parks and open spaces, which contain a natural area bushland corridor, which is mostly indigenous revegetation typical of Cooks River and its tributaries.

'Bushland' is defined in State Environmental Planning Policy 19 – Bushland in Urban Area (SEPP 19) as:

"...land on which there is vegetation which is either a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land, or if altered, is still representative of the structure and floristics of the natural vegetation"

The Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2019 (page 16) identified various areas of community land in the Strathfield Local Government Area as biodiversity corridors (also known as wildlife corridors or ecological corridors), which are areas of connected habitat across the landscape that:

- allows the movement of animals and the dispersal of plants
- ensures genetic exchange of flora and fauna population that may otherwise become extinct in the long-term
- allows recolonisation of habitat areas by fauna and flora that have become locally extinct from events such as land clearing, fire, disease, fluctuating food supply and extreme weather.
- provides a relatively safe route for the movement of animals across the landscape.

The figure below maps the biodiversity corridors, which follow the Cooks River and Coxs Creek corridor and the east-west Green and Golden Bellfrog (GGBF) linkage area.

1.8.1 Biodiversity Corridors and Priority Areas

The Priority Biodiversity Corridor in the Strathfield LGA is located along Cooks River and Coxs Creek and is mapped in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2019

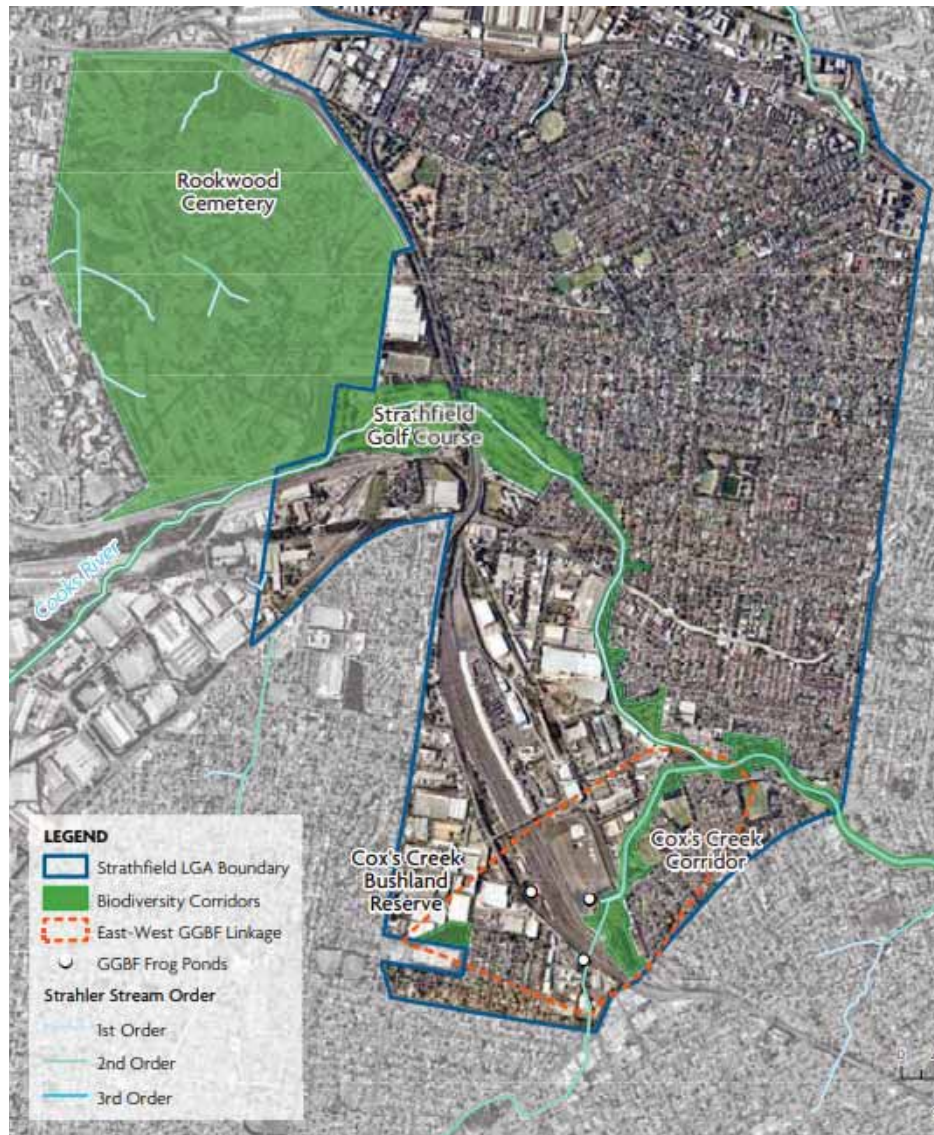


Figure 1 Biodiversity Corridors as mapped in Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy (2019: 16)

The Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2019 further identifies various priority areas. Both Connectivity Priority areas and Community Engagement Priority Areas are located in the Cooks River/Coxs Creek Corridor.

Connectivity Priority Areas contain core native habitat that supports locally important fauna and flora. Acts as a 'stepping stone' and corridors that provide dispersal pathways for fauna to move through the landscape.

Community engagement priority areas – areas that are easily accessible by community members for activities including Bushcare and planting days. These areas have biodiversity and connectivity potential.

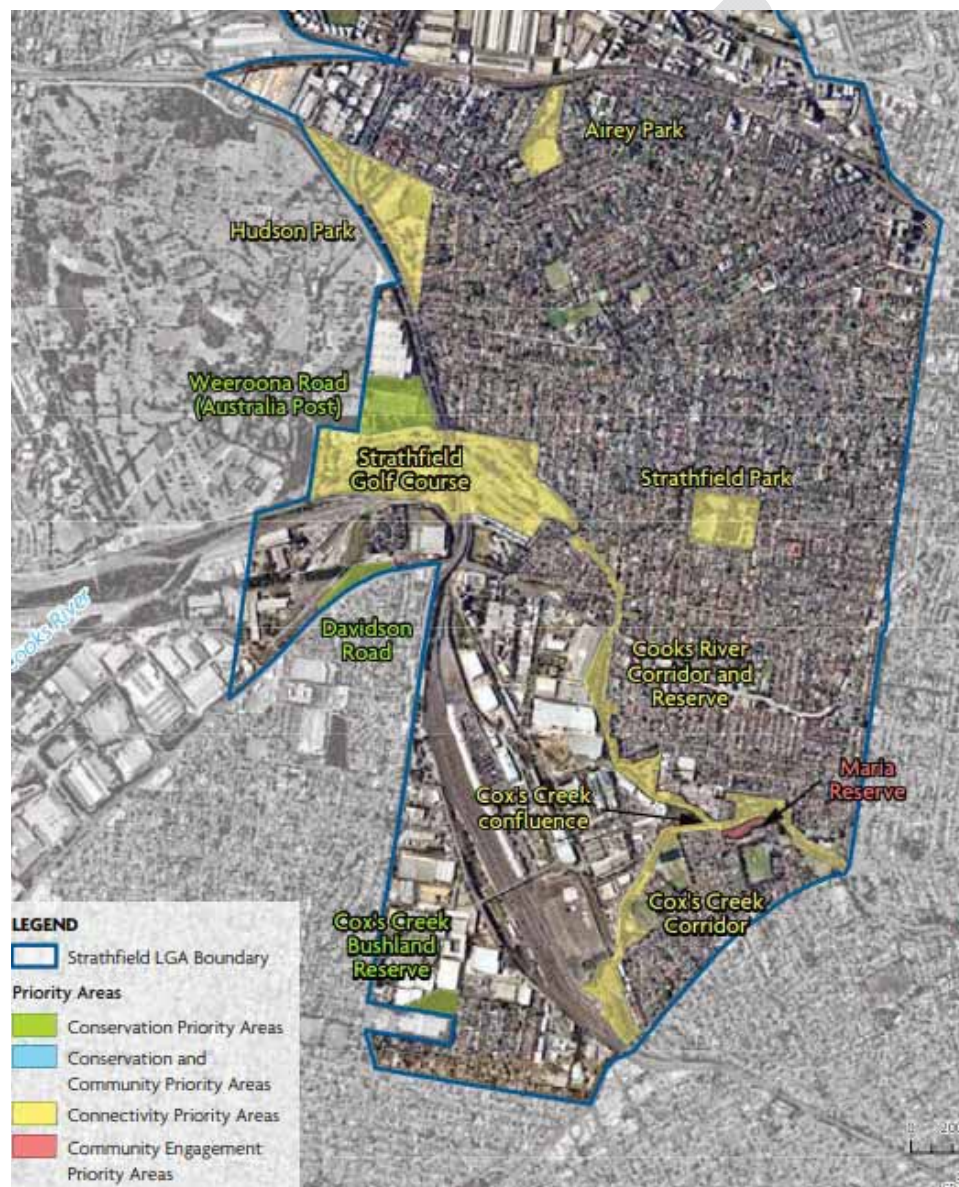


Figure 2 Conservation, Community and Connectivity Priority Areas as mapped in Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy (2019: 16)

The Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2020 identifies and maps the locations of biodiversity priority areas and Priority Green Grid Project areas, which align with the Cooks/Coxs Corridor.

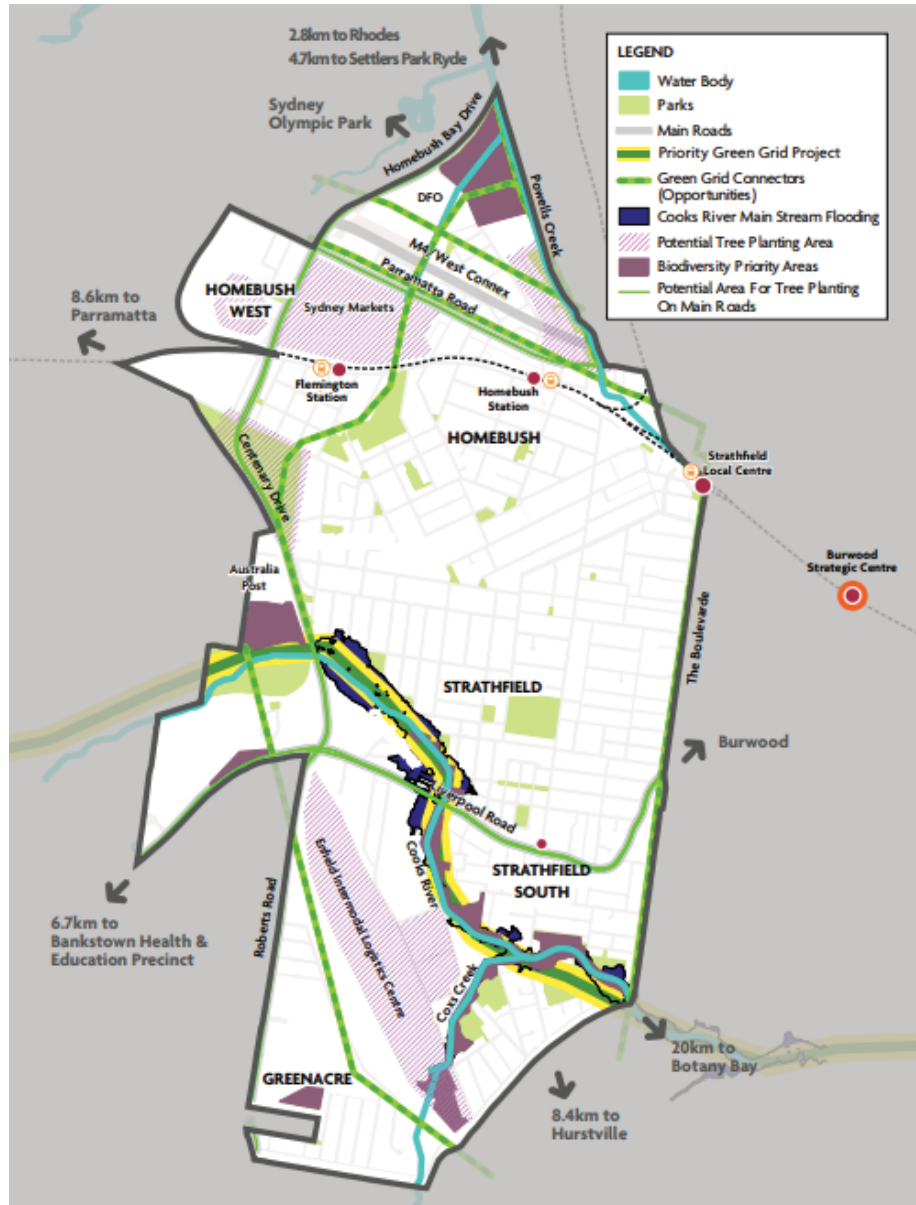


Figure 3 Priority Green Grid Cooks River Open Space Corridor – Strathfield LSPS 2020 (p69).

1.9 About the Cooks River/Coxs Creek Corridor

1.9.1 Historical development

The Strathfield LGA is divided into two distinct catchment areas, the original creek systems drained into either Cooks River/Coxs Creek in the south and Powells Creek/Parramatta River in the north. It is known that these local waterways provided camping, fishing and hunting grounds for the Aboriginal Wangal clan of the Darug Tribe. Following land grants to European settlers from the late 18th and early 19th century, small farms developed along the Cooks River, followed by larger scale residential and industrial development.

By 1899, large brickworks were established in Water Street and Dean Street Strathfield South near the Cooks River foreshore. Development required clearing of land. This had a devastating impact on the natural landscape, causing reduction in size and fragmenting and isolating natural vegetation communities. Increased pressure from further sub-division of land, urban development and land-fill coupled with the invasion of exotic weeds from new cultural plantings resulted in further reduction and alienation of remnant native plant communities.

Aerial photographs dated 1943 shows that many of the foreshore corridor areas were cleared of vegetation and much of the river had been concreted. By 1943, construction and concreting of Coxs Creek from Water Street to Greenacre and the Cooks River in the Strathfield LGA had been completed from Punchbowl Road Belfield to Water Street, Strathfield South. Construction of the canals altered the natural form of the river.



1943 photograph of the area now occupied by Elliott Reserve (south of river) and Southend Tennis Centre and 'Chiswick Reserve' (north of river). Source: Six Maps



2020 photograph showing Elliott Reserve (south of river) and Southend Tennis Centre and 'Chiswick Reserve' (north of river). © Near Maps 2020



1943 photograph of the area now occupied by Maria Reserve (south of river) and Ford Park (north of river). Source: SIX Maps



2020 photograph of Maria Reserve (south of river) and Ford Park (north of river). © Near Maps 2020



1943 photo of the area now occupied by South Cooks Land and Dean Reserve, which was formerly a brickpit. Source: SIX Maps



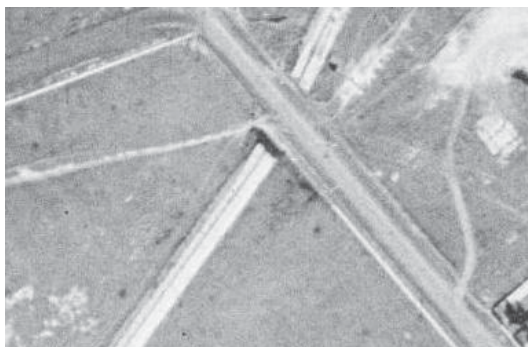
2020 photo of the area now occupied by South Cooks Land (near the river) and Dean Reserve. @ Near Maps 2020



1943 Water Street diversion and concreting of Cooks River (top) and Coss Creek (bottom). Source: SIX Maps



2020 photo of diversion of the Cooks River and Coss Creek. @ Near Maps 2020



1943 photo showing Madeline Street and top section of Cooke Park (at right) and Begnell Field (at left). Source: SIX Maps



2020 photo showing Madeline Street with Cooke Park (at right) and Begnell Field (at left). @ Near Maps 2020



1943 photograph of the area occupied by St Anne's Reserve. Source: SIX Maps



2020 photograph of the area occupied by St Anne's Reserve. @ Near Maps 2020



1943 photograph of Cooks River near Palmer Ave. Source: SIX Maps



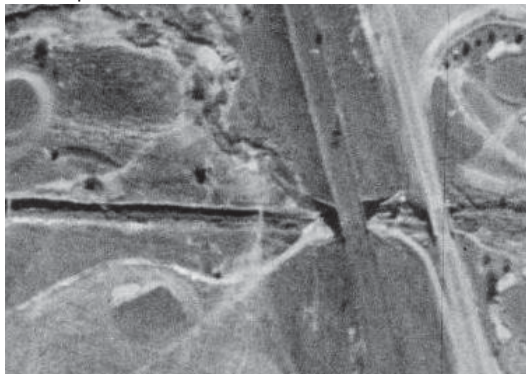
2020 photograph of Cooks River and Palmer Reserve. @ Near Maps 2020



1943 Cooks River featuring Augusta St, now Chain of Ponds and Freshwater Park. Source: SIX Maps



2020 Chain of Ponds Reserve and Freshwater park to the left. Cave Road has been added, Augusta St is still visible. @ Near Maps 2020



1943 Cooks River Freshwater Park and S Strathfield Golf Course (east) bisected by the railway. Source: SIX Maps



2020 Freshwater Park and Strathfield Golf Course (west) bisected by the railway and Centenary Drive. @ Near Maps 2020

Further concreting of the river continued in the 1960s from Water Street to Augusta Street Strathfield (Chain of Ponds Reserve). This has resulted in both the Cooks River and Cocks Creek been fully concreted except for the sections of the river near Freshwater Park and running through the Strathfield Golf Course.

Since the 1970s, Strathfield Council has taken actions, particularly on the foreshore land adjacent to local waterways, to address the degraded natural environment of the foreshore parks. Council, with the assistance of local volunteer groups including Men of Trees and Bushcare, commenced establishing vegetation corridors along the Cooks River and on land near the Cocks Creek foreshore that was owned by Council. This occurred in tandem with the building of the new pedestrian/cycleway from Botany Bay to Homebush Bay. Most of the foreshore land was devoid of any vegetation. The open space corridors along the Cooks River and Cox Creek managed by Council now contains established plantings, mainly revegetation. In 1995, Council established a Bushland Reserve at Maria Reserve Belfield.



Maria Reserve 2001 before revegetation



Maria Reserve 2007 after revegetation



Dean Reserve planting 2006



Dean Reserve 1998



Freshwater Park prior to works 2003



Freshwater Post post-2007

1.9.2 Riverbank Stabilisation and Naturalisation

Between 2003 and 2008, works were undertaken on the Cooks River and adjacent Strathfield Golf Course (Freshwater Park) to stabilise the riverbank, which had been eroding. This project also involved revegetation of the corridor and naturalisation of parts of the river in Freshwater Park.

From 2003 to 2007, Stage 1 of partial restoration of Freshwater Park and Cooks River Restoration works were completed. These works accounted for of half the length of the river within Freshwater Park. The Cooks River Restoration Project, Area B, Freshwater Park forms part of the ongoing rehabilitation program to re-establish an valuable green corridor.

Action was taken to restore approximately 400 m of the upper Cooks River through ecologically sensitive bank modification and revegetation works.

Sandstone rock walling, extensive weed control and the installation of approximately 22,000 plants from 42 different locally indigenous species has reduced erosion and contributed to the re-establishment of native vegetation along this important section of the Cooks River.

The project aimed at restoring the waterway to be self-sustaining, rich in biodiversity and demonstrating an efficient use of open space in a highly urbanised area. Several engineering and landscaping measures were adopted to arrest the erosion that was destabilising the riverbanks and bed of the Cooks River within Freshwater Park (leased to Strathfield Golf Club). These included:

- Battering of riverbanks to reduce steep bank slope
- Stabilisation with appropriate materials, including appropriate local provenance native vegetation, geotextiles and natural rock
- Ongoing monitoring and maintenance

1.9.3 Bay to Bay Shared Pathway

A large portion of the Cooks River corridor contains the Bay to Bay, a regional cycle and walking shared pathway which runs from Settlers Park in Ryde to Botany Bay. Much of the pathway travels through the foreshore parks along the Cooks River. The pathway provides easy access to a variety of places in the Strathfield Local Government Area.



1.9.4 Environmental Considerations

Cooks and Coxs Creek's foreshore open space forms a biodiversity corridor. As noted by the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy, the key considerations to protect and promote Strathfield's natural environment include:

Native planting

Planting regimes should aim to be diverse and replicate the composition of the ecological community that would naturally occur in an area. Different plant species and forms contribute to the ecosystems through the habitat they provide. For instance, small native birds need dense shrubs to protect from larger, more aggressive species. Vegetation communities are mapped in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy (p24). Appendix E of the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy lists species associated with each of the ecological communities that occur in the LGA and should be used to select species for revegetation projects in the Cooks River Corridor.

Foraging – creating environment

Introducing breeding, roosting and foraging habitat to the landscape to supplement plantings. This can include logs, nest boxes (different configuration for different target species) and water features with features with fringing vegetation. Highly sensitive areas should be fenced with signage outlining the purpose of fencing.

Weeds

Weeds are prevalent across the Strathfield LGA which can include Weeds of National Significance (WONS). Landowners, including Council, have legal obligations to control certain weeds. This can include preventing new weeds establishing in an area, treating them so they do not spread to other areas, or removing them. The Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022 priorities weeds for management purposes and provides details that should be considered in any weed control program. Best practice weed control techniques are described in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy Appendix F.

Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

Many of Strathfield's plants and animals are threatened with extinction and are listed under the Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and/or the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. Threatened native plants occurring in the Cooks River/Coxs Creek Corridor include Pomaderris Prunifolia and Acacia Pubescens (Downy Wattle); the Castlereagh Ironbark Forest and native fauna such as Green and Golden Bell Frog (GGBF) and Grey-headed Flying Fox.

Green Golden Bell Frog (GGBF)

GGBF are usually located in and around water bodies such as wetlands and lakes or on sites which humans have disturbed such as abandoned quarries or brickpits. In the Strathfield LGA, the GGBF core habitat area is located in Greenacre such as Coxs Creek Reserve and Greenacre Frog Ponds. An east-west GGBF linkage area is mapped in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy, which covers parks such as Begnell Field, Cooke Park, and parts of Ford Park and Maria Reserve. However, with dispersal and movement of frogs, infrequent sightings have been reported in parks further along the Cooks River such as Elliott Reserve, Southend Tennis Centre and 'Chiswick Reserve'. However, these sightings were infrequent and became increasingly rare. Council has received no reported sightings of GGBF in the LGA since 2012.

2. Natural Area (Bushland) descriptions

Begnell Field

Address

Madeline Street Belfield

Lot details

Lot 1-2 DP 1164778, Lot 1 DP 201778, Lot 1 DP 212699, Lot 4-6 DP 1130051, Lot 5 DP 512216

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Natural Area (Bushland)

Associated Plans

Begnell Field Plan of Management (land categorised as sportsground, park and general community use)

Descriptions

The natural area (bushland) in Begnell Field is mainly indigenous revegetation, on the northern and western edges abutting Coks Creek Channel, which has important habitat linkages with other corridor parks. Pre-1990s plantings were largely single specimens of trees such as species *Casuarina glauca* (Swamp Oak) which have subsequently formed copses that support open nesting and/or cover-dependent birds of the understorey such as Superb Fairy-wren, Red-whiskered Bulbul and Willie Wagtail.

Begnell Field also contains open parkland areas containing established eucalypt, she-oak and melaleuca plantings and individual planted trees and shrubs are planted along the boundaries of the open parkland and playing fields. Much of the planting was undertaken by the volunteer group Men of the Trees during the late 1990s and early 2000s and subsequently by community based Bushcare programs.

In the Strathfield LGA, the GGBF core habitat area is located in Greenacre such as Coks Creek Reserve and Greenacre Frog Ponds. Begnell Field is contained within the east-west Green and Golden Bellfrog (GGBF) linkage area as mapped in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy (p17), which also covers parks such as Cooke Park, and parts of Ford Park and Maria Reserve. However, with dispersal and movement of frogs, infrequent sightings have been reported in parks further along the Coks River such as Elliott Reserve, Southend Tennis Centre and 'Chiswick Reserve'. However, these sightings were infrequent and have become increasingly rare. Since 2012, Council has received no reported sightings of GGBF in the Strathfield LGA.



Figure 4 Begnell Field Land Categorisation Map

“Chiswick” Reserve

Address

22A Chiswick Street Strathfield South

Lot details

Lot 2 DP 842991

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Natural Area (Bushland)

Associated Plans

Local Parks Plan of Management (land categorised as park)

Descriptions

Land located in ‘Chiswick Reserve’, mainly on the foreshore of Cooks River, was identified in the Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2019 as a biodiversity connectivity priority area. This area has been categorised as Natural Area (Bushland).

Chiswick Reserve is open space and provides a revegetated link along Cooks River which form a habitat corridor. Together with Elliott Reserve (opposite), enables bird species such as Yellow Thornbill, Yellow-faced Honeyeater and Superb Fairy-wren to access Maria and Dean Reserves, Ford Park and other reserves along Cooks River.

In the Strathfield LGA, the GGBF core habitat area is located in Greenacre such as Coxs Creek Reserve and Greenacre Frog Ponds. However, with dispersal and movement of frogs, infrequent sightings have been reported in parks further along the Cooks River such as ‘Chiswick Reserve’. However, GGBF sightings have become increasingly rare and since 2012, Council has received no reported sightings of GGBF in the Strathfield LGA.



Figure 5 Chiswick Reserve Land Categorisation Map

Cooke Park

Address

22 Chiswick Street Strathfield South

Lot details

Lot 26 DP 8960, Lot A DP 357501, Lots 1-27 DP 18185, Lot 1 & 2, DP 107494 (Council)

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Natural Area (Bushland)



Figure 6 Cooke Park Land Categorisation Map

Associated Plans

Cooke Park Plan of Management (land categorised as park and sportground)

Descriptions

Land located in Cooke Park, mainly on the foreshore of Cocks Creek, was identified in the Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2019 as a biodiversity connectivity priority area and GGBF linkage area. This area has been categorised as Natural Area (Bushland).

Cooke Park has a mixture of revegetated parkland and open playing fields. The revegetated parkland is mainly in the northern section abutting Cocks Creek Channel and contains mostly indigenous vegetation planted as strips and/or blocks. Eucalypts, acacia, paperbark and she-oak are planted along its northern edge adjoining Cox's Creek Channel and fringed by some woody weeds. These provide a narrow but thick movement corridor to Cooks River supporting the Superb Fairy-wren, Red-whiskered Bulbul and Silvereye. There are individual planted trees and shrubs planted along the boundaries of the open parkland and playing fields.

Dedicated National Tree Day events were run in Cooke Park in 2014 and 2008. It provides habitat for native species, diverts runoff from storm drains, filters air pollution, reduces urban heat and sequesters carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. It is directly in line with council's Community Strategic Plan and Environmental Sustainability Plan goals. Achievements included engaging over 300 community members who planted 2500 native plants from 50 different species. This equates to approximately 7000 tons of CO2 captured annually, potentially reducing 30 Mega Litres of runoff per year. The community members also enjoyed education on waterway health and biodiversity from event partners.

In the Strathfield LGA, the GGBF core habitat area is located in Greenacre such as Cocks Creek Reserve and Greenacre Frog Ponds. Begnell Field is contained within the east-west Green and Golden Bellfrog (GGBF) linkage area as mapped in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy (p17), which includes Cooke Park. However, these sightings have become increasingly rare and since 2012, Council has received no reported sightings of GGBF in the Strathfield LGA.

Chain of Ponds Reserve

Address

Augusta Street and Cave Road Strathfield

Lot details

Lot 3 DP 243041, Lot 1 224899, Lot 3 DP 854298, Lot 19 DP 243041 (Council); Lot 1 DP 243041, Lot 9 DP 243041 and Lot 18 DP 243041 (Sydney Water); Lot 61 DP 570036 (DPIE)

Ownership

Strathfield Council, Sydney Water & Department of Planning, Industry & Environment

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Natural Area – Bushland

Associated Plans

Local Parks Plan of Management (land categorised as park)

Descriptions

Land located in Chain of Ponds Reserve, on the foreshore of the Cooks River, was identified in the Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2019 as a biodiversity connectivity priority area. This area has been categorised as Natural Area (Bushland).

Chain of Ponds Reserve contains revegetated parkland that is mostly indigenous vegetation typical of Cooks River and its tributaries. The Reserve is located on both sides of the Cooks River and is important area connecting the habitat corridor with the other foreshore Cooks River parks.

A biodiversity corridor of mainly revegetated indigenous vegetation typical of Cooks River and its tributaries forms a connected habitat corridor with the other foreshore Cooks River parks. This runs through the centre of the park on the foreshore of the Cooks River. This land has been categorised as Natural Area (Bushland).

A pedestrian bridge links the north and south sides of the park. The park was recently upgraded and is in good condition. The Bay to Bay cycleway runs through the park near Augusta Street.



Figure 7 Chain of Ponds Reserve Land Categorisation Map

Elliott Reserve

Address

Elliott Street Belfield

Lot details

Lot 3 DP 132222 (Council); Lot A DP 349975 (RMS); Lot 4 DP 132222 (Sydney Water)

Ownership

Strathfield Council, Roads & Maritime Services and Sydney Water

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation; SP2 Stormwater Management

Categorisation

Natural Area (Bushland)

Associated Plans

Elliott Reserve Plan of Management (land categorised as park)

Descriptions

Elliott Reserve comprises a mixture of open grassed areas and revegetated parkland. The revegetated parkland is mainly in the northern section abutting the Cooks River and contains mostly indigenous vegetation planted as strips and/or blocks such as she-oak, eucalyptus, paperbark and lomandra plantings along the west bank of Cooks River. The Reserve provides an important habitat linkage and corridor along Cooks River that supports various bird species.

Much of the plantings at Elliot Reserve have been undertaken by community volunteers through the Bushcare programs. This program worked to achieve the following: strategically remove weeds, add groundcover and understorey vegetation, improve diversity of tree, shrub and grass species and improve linkages to other habitat. Bushcare at Elliot reserve ran for 12 months during 2018, with volunteers from the Hwa Tsang Monastery. The program used plants from the Strathfield Nursery to strengthen the habitat in Elliot Reserve, furthering the local genetic provenance and enhancing the Cooks River Green Corridor.

In the Strathfield LGA, the GGBF core habitat area is located in Greenacre such as Cocks Creek Reserve and Greenacre Frog Ponds. However, with dispersal and movement of frogs, infrequent sightings have been reported in parks further along the Cooks River such as Elliott Reserve, however sightings have become increasingly rare and since 2012, Council has received no reported sightings of GGBF in the Strathfield LGA.



Figure 8 Elliott Reserve Land Categorisation Map

Ford Park

Address

James Street Strathfield South

Lot details

Lot 1 & 2 132222, Lot 1-3 DP 450118, Lot G DP 345800, Lot 13-25 DP 15647 (Council)

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Natural Area (Bushland)

Associated Plans

Local Parks Plan of Management (area of land categorised as Park)

Descriptions

Land located in Ford Park adjacent to the Cooks River is identified in the Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2019 as a biodiversity connectivity priority area and Green and Golden Bellfrog (GGBF) linkage area. This area is categorised as natural area (bushland).

Ford Park contains revegetated parkland that is mostly indigenous vegetation typical of Cooks River and its tributaries. The land abutting Cooks River contains a habitat corridor which connects with the other Cooks River/Coxs Creek foreshore parks.

Community volunteers through Bushcare programs and those participating in National Tree Day have assisted with much of the planting as well as weed removal. National Tree Days were held in Ford Park in 2012 and 2013 resulting in 7500 new plantings.



Figure 9 Ford Park Land Categorisation Map

Freshwater Park

Address

Augusta Street and Cave Road Strathfield

Lot details

Lot 3 DP 854298 & Lot 176 DP 15955

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Natural Area (Bushland)

Associated Plans

Freshwater Park Plan of Management (land categorised as park, sportsground and natural area (wetland))

Descriptions

Land located in Freshwater Park is identified in the Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2019 as a biodiversity connectivity priority area. The Reserve contains Natural Area (Bushland) and Natural Area (Wetlands). Freshwater Park contains riparian vegetation and aquatic habitats and their associated vegetation.

Acacia pubescens (Downy Wattle) is present at Freshwater Park. While there are historic records of *Acacia pubescens* in Freshwater Park, the current plants are revegetated and planted during the river restoration works which occurred around 2010. This flora is also located in other areas of the Golf Course, around Weeroona Road, on land owned by the Golf Course.

This flora is listed as Vulnerable under the Biodiversity Act (NSW) and Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (Comm.). The habitat for this flora is open woodland and forest, including Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest. It occurs on alluviums, shales and at the intergrade between shales and sandstones³. *Acacia pubescens* flowers from August to October. Pollination of *Acacia* flowers is usually by insects and birds, rather than from seedlings. The pods mature in October to December. The percentage of pod production and seed fall for this species appears to be low.

The threats to *Acacia pubescens* include habitat degradation (through mechanical damage, rubbish dumping, and illegal track creation), disease, hybridisation, illegal and accidental clearing, and impacts of invasive grasses including African Lovegrass, *Paspalum* and *Briza* species or canopy species including African Olive, Privet and Cootamundra Wattle⁴.



Figure 10 Freshwater Reserve Land Categorisation Map

³ NSW Planning Industry & Environment, Downy Wattle Profile

⁴ NSW Planning, Industry & Environment, Downy Wattle Profile

Yarrowee Wetlands is an artificial wetland and located in Freshwater Park, the upper reaches of the Cooks River. This land has been categorised as Natural Area (Wetland). The wetland was restored in 2010, providing an aquatic habitat feeding habitat and breeding site for a variety of native wildlife including frogs, skinks and small birds. The wetland was constructed to treat stormwater flowing from a local catchment and features over 2000 locally native shrubs, grasses and groundcovers. Though the wetland could provide habitat for frogs, including the Green and Golden Bellfrog, an endangered ecological community, there have been no recorded sightings of the Green and Golden Bellfrog at Freshwater Park or the nearby Chain of Ponds Reserve.

Maria Reserve

Address

Elliott Street Belfield

Lot details

Lot 2 & 3 DP 1034484, Lot 2 DP 1079450, Lot 231 DP 131941, Lot 11 DP 131946 (Council); Lot 4 & 5 DP 1034484 (DPIE)

Ownership

Strathfield Council & Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE)

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Natural Area (Bushland)

Descriptions

Maria Reserve is identified in the Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2019 as a Community Engagement Priority Area and Green and Golden Bellfrog (GGBF) linkage area. Maria Reserve contains remnant individual trees Turpentine (*Syncarpia glomulifera*) and Grey Myrtle (*Backhousia myrtifolia*).

Maria Reserve was developed on land reserved in 1951 by NSW Government for a proposed roadway along the Cooks River travelling from Botany Bay to Chullora. However, this proposal was abandoned in favour of the construction of the M5 Motorway. Maria Reserve contained isolated individual remnant trees (mostly Turpentine and Ironbark) of the Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest Endangered Ecological Community. In 1995, the land was established as a bushland reserve and was extensively landscaped with revegetated native species. The Reserve supports a community of mature eucalypts and a variety of shrubs. Bush regeneration regularly takes place in the Reserve to maintain the bushland.

Maria Reserve measures approximately 1.7 hectares in area and is a strip of open space along the banks of the Cooks River from Water St to Elliot St Belfield. The Reserve is a green link in a chain of reserves and open space along the Cooks River and Cox's Creek in the Belfield area. The reserve provides important habitat connectivity for birds, possums and fish along the upper Cooks River.

Maria Reserve contains a dry 'creek bed' that runs through the Reserve and a small bridge over the 'bed', however it appears that the creek has never had water in it. The Reserve also contains a walkways and open grassed areas, seating, and footpaths.

Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest in the Strathfield LGA is listed as an Critically Endangered Ecological Community (CEEC) under the Biodiversity Act 2016 (NSW) and Critically Endangered under the Environment and Biodiversity Conservation Protection Act 1999 (Comm.).



Figure 11 Maria Reserve Land Categorisation Map

Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest occurs in Sydney and is heavily fragmented with only 0,5 percent of its original extant remaining intact⁵. The habitat occurs close to the shale/sandstone boundary on the more fertile shale influenced soils, in higher rainfall areas on the higher altitude margins of the Cumberland Plain, on the shale ridge caps of sandstone plateaus.

Threats include clearing and loss of vegetation and fragmentation, weeds and inappropriate treatment including over spraying of herbicides and inappropriate use of herbicides, illegal dumping of hazardous, household and green garden waste into reserves and remnants, loss of key fauna habitat resources for associated species (native and threatened) including but not restricted to loss of hollows⁶.

To protect and promote the Turpentine-Ironbark Forest in Inveresk Park, actions support a range of actions that include:

- Promote public involvement in restoration activities.
- Protect habitat by minimising further clearing of the community.
- Promote regrowth by avoiding unnecessary mowing.
- Control weeds.
- Undertake restoration including bush regeneration and revegetation.

Pomaderris Prunifolia was identified in the Biodiversity Strategy 2019 as also present at Maria Reserve. This flora is listed as Endangered under the Biodiversity Act (NSW). The shrub is 1 - 3 metres high, stems with rusty stellate hairs. Leaves ovate to oblong to more or less elliptic, 2 - 4cm long, 8 - 15mm wide, apex broadly acute; margins more or less toothed, upper surface very wrinkled; lower surface more or less rusty with stellate hairs. Flowers yellow, on a short pedicel, in short panicles. Petals absent. Hypanthium (cup-like structure above the ovary) with long whitish hairs, capsule with long rusty hairs⁷.

It does not appear to spread vegetatively and its longevity is thought to be 10-25 years. Buds are present for many months before flowers open and probably killed by fire⁸. The main threats include unsympathetic landscaping and landscape maintenance and pressure from residents and nearby businesses to "tidy up" the plants and their habitat or weed invasion.

Activities to assist this species include:

- Continue propagation attempts
- Education campaigns for council staff, local business and residents
- Weed control at all sites.
- Conduct bush regeneration and rehabilitation activities

In the Strathfield LGA, the GGBF core habitat area is located in Greenacre such as Cocks Creek Reserve and Greenacre Frog Ponds. Begnell Field is contained within the east-west Green and Golden Bellfrog (GGBF) linkage area as mapped in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy (p17), which also covers parks such as Cooke Park, and parts of Ford Park and Maria Reserve. However, with dispersal and movement of frogs, infrequent sightings have been reported in parks further along the Cooks River such as Elliott Reserve, Southend Tennis Centre and 'Chiswick Reserve'. However, these sightings were infrequent and have become increasingly rare. Since 2012, Council has received no reported sightings of GGBF in the Strathfield LGA.

⁵ Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest profile, NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

⁶ Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest profile, NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

⁷ NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, *P. prunifolia* in the Parramatta, Auburn, Strathfield and Bankstown Local Government Areas – profile

⁸ NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, *P. prunifolia* in the Parramatta, Auburn, Strathfield and Bankstown Local Government Areas – profile



Maria Reserve aerial photograph (1947)



Maria Reserve aerial photograph (1997)



Maria Reserve aerial 2009 © Near Maps



Maria Reserve aerial 2020 © Near Maps



Entrance – Water Street



Pathway, cluster of trees



Prentice Reserve

Address

Prentice Lane, Strathfield

Lot details

Lot 1 & 2, DP 571633, Lot 37 DP 243941, Lot A DP 435103, Lot C DP415702

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Natural Area (Bushland)

Associated Plans

Local Parks Plan of Management (land categorised as park)

Descriptions

Land located in Prentice Reserve is identified in the Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2019 as a biodiversity connectivity priority area. The Strathfield Fauna Study 2017 describes this Reserve as containing mainly revegetated parkland that is mostly indigenous vegetation typical of Cooks River and its tributaries. The revegetated parkland forms a habitat corridor with other Cooks River foreshore parks. This area is categorised as natural area (bushland).

The Reserve is adjacent to the Cooks River and the Bay to Bay Cycle/Walkway.



Figure 12 Prentice Reserve Land Categorisation

St Anne's Reserve

Address

Therry Street, Strathfield South

Lot details

Lot 5,6, 11 & 12 DP 243042 (Council); Lot 1, 3, 4, 7, 10, 14, 14, 17,-18 DP 243042 (Sydney Water); Lot 2 DP 687630 & Lot 101 DP 862278 (DPIE)

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation; SP2 Stormwater Management

Categorisation

Natural Area (Bushland)

Descriptions

St Anne's Reserve is located next to the Cooks River and connects with Dean Reserve and with the other parks north of Liverpool Road. The Reserve contains mature plantings, open grassed areas and Bay to Bay shared pathway. This reserve contains revegetated plantings which form a habitat corridor with the other Cooks foreshore parks and is identified in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy as a habitat connectivity priority area. This area is categorised as natural area (bushland).

The site facing Therry St West owned by Sydney Water is exempt from this listing and contains water infrastructure.

Land located in St Anne's Reserve is identified in the Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2019 as a biodiversity connectivity priority area. St Anne's Reserve contains revegetated parkland that is mostly indigenous vegetation typical of Cooks River and its tributaries, which forms a habitat corridor with the other Cooks River foreshore parks. The Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2019 identified the presence of flora species in this Reserve including Blue-Flax Lily (*Dianella caerulea*), Silky Hakea (*Hakea sericea*), Bladey grass (*Imperata cylindrica*), Spiny-headed Mat Rush (*Lomandra longifolia*) and Prickly paperbark (*Melaleuca stypheloides*).



Figure 13 St Anne's Reserve Land Categorisation

South Cooks River Land

Address

West of Water Street abutting Cooks River,
Strathfield South

Lot details

Lot: 2 & 9 DP: 243043 & Lot 31 DP 2433042
(Council); Lot 24, 25 & 27 DP 243042 (Sydney
Water)

Ownership

Strathfield Council & Sydney Water

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Natural Area (Bushland)

Descriptions

Land located in South Cooks Land is identified in the Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2019 as a biodiversity connectivity priority area and GGBF linkage area. This area is categorised as natural area (bushland).

The Strathfield Fauna Study 2017 identifies that the land at South Cooks Land contains revegetated parkland that is mostly indigenous vegetation typical of Cooks River and its tributaries which forms a habitat corridor which connects with the other Cooks River/Coxs Creek foreshore parks.

This land contains a section of the Bay to Bay Walk/Cycleway which provides pathway linkage to other Cooks River foreshore parks as well as regional connections beyond the LGA. This area contains a revegetated habitat corridor which connects St Anne's Reserve, Dean Reserve and Ford Park with plantings and pathways. Mature and recent plantings in pleasantly landscaped, sheltered and visually separated park spaces



Figure 14 South Cooks Land categorisation



Southend Tennis Centre

Address

22 Chiswick Street Strathfield South

Lot details

Lot 1 DP 842991

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Natural Area (Bushland)

Associated Plans

Southend Tennis Centre Plan of Management
(land categorised as sportsground)

Descriptions

Land located in the Southend Tennis Centre aside the Cooks River on its southern boundary is identified in the Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2019 as a biodiversity connectivity priority area. This area is categorised as natural area (bushland).

The land provides a revegetated link along Cooks River with habitat connections with nearby Ford Park, Elliott Reserve and Maria Reserves. The Strathfield Fauna Study 2017 identifies the following being present on this land: she-oak, eucalyptus, paperbark, callistemon planted in a thin strip along Cooks River at the southern boundary of the site. Bird species such as Yellow Thornbill, Yellow-faced Honeyeater and Superb Fairy-wren access this and other nearby parks. The Bay to Bay shared pathway runs along the river at the southern boundary of the land.



Figure 15 Southend Tennis Centre Land Categorisation Map

Thew Reserve

Address

Augusta Street Strathfield

Lot details

Lot 82 DP 14865, Lot 7 DP 243041, Lot A DP 407917, Lot A DP 402961 (Council); Lot 271 DP 572906 (DPIE)

Ownership

Strathfield Council and Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Natural Area (Bushland)

Associated Plans

Local Parks Plan of Management (land categorised as park and general community use)

Descriptions

Land located in Thew Reserve near the Cooks River is identified in the Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2019 as a biodiversity connectivity priority area. The natural area (bushland) is on and near the foreshore of the Cooks River.

Thew Reserve contains mainly revegetated parkland that is mostly indigenous vegetation typical of Cooks River and its tributaries. The revegetated parkland forms a habitat corridor with other Cooks River foreshore parks. The Bay to Bay shared pathway runs along the river at the southern boundary of the Reserve.



Figure 16 Thew Reserve Land Categorisation

3. Land Uses

3.1 Permissible uses and developments

The permissible types of uses which may occur and the forms of development generally associated with those uses, are set out in Table 2.

Table 2 Permissible uses of land categories – Natural Area (Bushland)

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bush regeneration and revegetation works• Environmental programs and scientific study• Guided bushwalks and bird watching• Preservation of biodiversity and habitat• Relaxation and passive informal recreation• Walking and cycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interpretative, regulatory and directional signage• Low impact lighting• Low impact carparks• Low impact pathways• Seating• Small ancillary building eg storage and amenities for site maintenance• Water saving initiatives eg swales, sediment traps, rainwater gardens

3.2 Use of community land

Minor changes to community land are regularly made on a routine basis, such as weeding and replanting, and damaged play equipment is replaced.

In the event of potential future development other than that listed, proposed changes of use of community land will:

1. Meet legislative requirements – land use tables (zoning) in the Strathfield Council Local Environmental Plan specifies the range of uses and activities that may be permitted on the land with and without permission. A number of uses are also set out in the Regulations to the *Local Government Act 1993*.
2. Be consistent with the guidelines and core objectives of the community land category - under the *Local Government Act 1993* uses and development of community land must be consistent with the guidelines for categorisation and the core objectives of each category, and any other additional objectives the Council proposes to place on the community land categories.
3. Be consistent with relevant Council policies - substantial upgrades and proposed new development will take into account a range of factors, including:
 - this Plan of Management and the core objectives for the land
 - the planning controls for the land
 - Council's adopted policies
 - the characteristics of the land affected, including existing and future use patterns
 - any landscape masterplan for the land.

3.3 Scale and intensity of land use

The scale and intensity of use and development associated with community land in the Strathfield LGA is generally dependent on:

- the nature of the approved uses and developments
- approved Development Applications and any conditions
- an approved masterplan
- the physical constraints of the land
- the carrying capacity of the land
- relevant government legislation
- permissible times of use
- proximity of neighbours

The scale and intensity of use of land should be monitored by regular inspections and consideration of reports regarding any conflicts between land use and adjoining neighbours

3.4 Authorisation of leases, licences or other estates over community land

The Act requires that any lease or licence of community land must be authorised by a Plan of Management. The lease or licence must be for purposes consistent with the categorisation and zoning of the land.

The maximum period for leases or licences on community land permitted under the Act is 21 years. If a lease or licence is anticipated, then public notice should be given in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Where a lease arrangement has been entered into with Council for community land, subleasing the land may only occur with specific permission of Council and in accordance with the requirements of Section 47C of the Act, Clause 119 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* and conditions set out in agreements.

This Plan of Management authorises existing leases and licence agreements until the end of their current term. The leased or licensed areas may be renewed or changed in future. The leased or licensed areas may be reconfigured in the future to reflect changes in community needs.

This Plan of Management authorises Council to grant leases, licences or any other estates for community land covered in this Plan of Management for purposes and uses which are identified or consistent with those in Table 3. Some examples of longer-term arrangements are outlined in the following Table 4.

Calculations for fees and charges for leases and licences will be based on independent market rental valuations that are based on comparisons to similar services and facilities with similar locations, building and land conditions. As a minimum standard, the financial return from licence fees should offset asset maintenance, renewal and any operational costs. Council may also apply subsidies to not for profit organisations where there are demonstrated community benefits or financial hardship. Subsidies are generally not applied to commercial or residential leases or licences.

Table 3 Leases, Licences and other estates

Type of Arrangement Authorised	Land and Facilities covered	Purposes for which long term leasing/licensing will be granted
Licence or lease	Natural Area (Bushland)	<p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the area to support the activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> educational or environmental programs, scientific studies and surveys or similar temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project to be carried out
Other Estates	Natural Area (Bushland)	<p>This Plan of Management allows Council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities in accordance with the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>.</p> <p>Estates may also be granted across community land that is not affected by endangered communities for the provision of pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the Council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land.</p>

The grant of a lease or licence is an important step in using community land, but there may be other requirements relevant to any proposed use such as development consent under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Any interested person should check carefully to make sure they are aware of all relevant requirements.

3.5 Short Term Uses

Agreements for use of community land may be granted for short duration which may be anything from a few hours to a few days. These short term arrangements should be for the types of uses identified in Table 4.

Table 4 Seasonal, regular and casual use agreements

Community land category	Purposes for which short term uses may be granted subject to council approval	Requirements
Natural Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> educational or environmental programs, scientific studies and surveys or similar, recreational activities temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project to be carried out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> filming projects must comply with special provisions in s.47AA of the Local Government Act and must notify or advertise the proposal as prescribed by the regulations. the proposed use must comply with terms and

Community land category	Purposes for which short term uses may be granted subject to council approval	Requirements
		<p>conditions for event approval e.g. SafeWork NSW regulations, insurance, waste management etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the use should not result in physical damage to the natural area the use should not result in a significant adverse impact on adjoining residents or disturbance to nearby residents organisers of the site should be responsible for cleaning up the site and notify authorities and Council of any damage or incidents that may occur

In assessing applications for use of this community land, Council applies the following minimum criteria:

- Council reserves the right to refuse bookings based on previous unsatisfactory payment or performance history or where proposed use would damage the facility or cause significant disruption to other regular users.
- Fees for short-term casual bookings will be charged in accordance with Council's adopted Fees and Charges at the time.

4. Actions

4.1 Objectives and management of community land

The land is managed in accordance to the objectives and methods set out below:

Table 5 Objectives, means and performance measures

Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36E & 36H Local Government Act 1993	Performance targets and means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets
<p>To conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem functions in respect of the land or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised natural area; and</p> <p>To ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land; by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land.</p>	<p>Ensure that Threatened Ecological Communities (TECS) are actively restored through bush regeneration.</p> <p>Ensure revegetation in reserves and parks is undertaken using locally sourced stock from agreed planting lists (refer Appendix E Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy)</p> <p>Retain dead timber in reserves as habitat for fauna and to create a more complex understory structure and shelter sites from predators.</p> <p>Prepare weed management plans in consideration of the Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022</p>	<p>Increase the number of plants planted and surviving in reserves and parks that are indigenous to the local area</p> <p>Monitor, map and assess changes to vegetation and tree canopies.</p> <p>Incorporate routine weeding in maintenance and volunteer activities</p> <p>Reduce or eliminate use of herbicides, pesticides or chemicals near waterways and natural areas</p>
<p>To maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting; and</p> <p>To protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land; and</p> <p>To protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores; and</p> <p>To protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface; and</p> <p>To provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land; and</p>	<p>Coordinate and manage Bushcare and National Tree Day Programs (CSP)</p> <p>Identify new sites of conservation value/priority that would benefit from establishment of new Bushcare group or volunteer program.</p> <p>Increase the number of community planting days to 4 per annum. Identify and prioritise sites suitable for community planting events/activities based on</p>	<p>Inspect and observe health of native vegetation, weed species and increased biodiversity in bushland areas.</p> <p>No of plantings from events and community planting days</p>

Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36E & 36H Local Government Act 1993	Performance targets and means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets
To restore degraded bushland	<p>priority areas identified in Map 6 Biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>Support natural regeneration where there is resilience and revegetate with indigenous locally source stock</p>	
<p>To provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion; and</p> <p>To promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhance the values and quality of the land and facilities public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion</p>	<p>Maintain and improve existing bushland pathways to protect, conserve and enhance natural landforms.</p> <p>Install interpretative and information signage to protect and educate about bushland areas. Should highly sensitive areas be fenced, signage should be erected to specifying the purpose of fencing.</p> <p>Install wayfaring signage along corridor for areas of interest, directions etc (CSP)</p> <p>Protect foraging habitat in the Cooks River/Coxs Creek parks</p>	<p>Improve access to natural areas and Cooks/Coxs Corridor</p> <p>Monitor and review natural area signage</p> <p>Review Plans of Management on regular basis</p>
To assist in and facilitate the implementation of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan	<p>Determine the presence/absence, abundance and condition of threatened species (eg Acacia pubescens)</p> <p>Conduct a targeted field survey of mapped Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest (CRCIF) TEC's to determine whether they meet the criteria for listing under the EPBC Act 1999</p> <p>Review internal Council planning processes including processes for providing and retaining habitat (eg tree hollows), review assessment practices in regard to threatened species, consideration of biodiversity in development assessment procedures</p>	<p>Undertake periodic flora and fauna reviews</p> <p>Complete and update mapping vegetation CRCIF TECs</p> <p>Completion of field survey of TEC's and assessment</p> <p>Implement actions required under a recovery plan or threat abatement plan</p>

Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36E & 36H Local Government Act 1993	Performance targets and means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets
	Comply with any related a recovery plan, threat abatement plan or priority under Save Our Species Program within specified period	

4.2 References

Eco Logical Australia and Strathfield Council, 2019, *Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2020-2030*, viewed at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/live/biodiversity/>

Insight Ecology, 2017, *The Fauna of Strathfield (Local Government Area)*, viewed at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/live/biodiversity/>

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1. Introduction

1.1 Title

This plan is titled 'Croquet Lawns' Plan of Management.

The current plan was adopted by Council resolution at the meeting of xx.

This plan of management applies to land located at located at 50 Redmyre Road Strathfield. The lawns are located behind 52 Redmyre Road. The lawns are surrounded at east, south and west by residential properties.

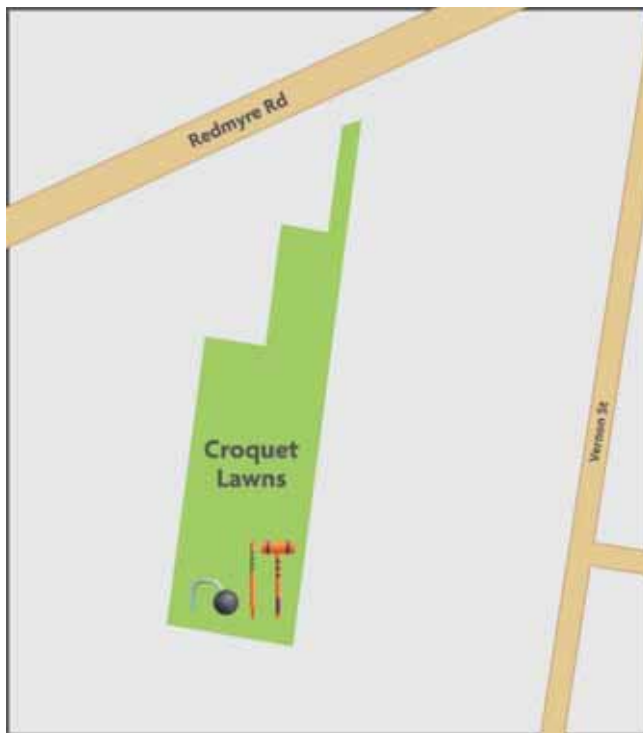
Ownership, lot details and zoning information is set out in Table 1 (information from Council Geographical Information System (GIS) 2019).

The location map of Croquet Lawns is set out in Figure 1.

Table 1 Ownership, title and zoning details

Owner	Lot Details	Zoning Strathfield LEP 2012
Strathfield Council	Lot F DP 376063	RE1 - Public Recreation

Figure 1 Croquet Lawns at 50 Redmyre Road Strathfield Location Map



1.2 Purpose of this Plan of Management

The *Local Government Act 1993* and amendments to the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* require all public land including Crown Reserves, owned or managed by Council, to be classified as either 'community' land or 'operational' land. Land classified as 'community' land must be managed and used in accordance with an adopted Plan of Management.

Plans of Management are developed by Council in consultation with the community. A Plan of Management describes the features of the community land and outlines how the land may be managed and used, consistent with land categorisations, core objectives and zoning, to provide a transparent and co-ordinated approach to public land management. The land described in this Plan of Management is classified as community land.

The purpose of this Plan of Management is to:

- contribute to the strategic goals and vision as set out in the Strathfield Community Strategic Plan
- ensure compliance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and relevant legislation and guidelines
- provide clarity regarding use and access to the community land as described in this plan.

1.3 Contents of this Plan of Management

This Plan of Management is divided into the following sections, as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2 - Structure of this Plan of Management

Section	What does it include?
1. Introduction	Title, land covered by plan, purpose, contents and review of the plan
2. About the Strathfield LGA	Recognition of traditional custodians, Strathfield LGA snapshot, trends, community vision, legislative and policy framework, and references.
3. Land – category, classification, use and access	Site description, land use/history, land categories and classifications, maps, use of land and structures, environmental features, condition of land and structures and heritage.
4. Land Uses	Permissible uses and development, scale and intensity of use, authorisation of leases, licences and short term uses.
5. Management of the land	Objectives, performance targets, means and manner for assessment of performance

1.4. Change and Review of Plan of Management

This Plan of Management will require regular review in order to align with community values and changing community needs, and to reflect changes in Council priorities. The performance of this Plan of Management will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure the use of land and structures is well maintained and consistent with Council's strategic objectives and community values.

Strategic reviews of this Plan of Management will be required where there is significant change to legislation, land ownership/management or proposed land use. Regular reviews should occur at five (5) year intervals.

2. About Strathfield Local Government Area

2.1 Recognition of Traditional Custodians

Strathfield Council acknowledges the Wangal people, the traditional Custodians of the lands on which the Strathfield area is located. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

2.2 Snapshot of Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA)

The Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA) is well known for transport connections, educational opportunities, attractive streetscapes, parks, heritage and buildings. The Strathfield LGA is centrally located in Sydney's Inner West, approximately 10.5 kilometres from the Sydney CBD and half way between Parramatta and the Sydney CBD. The LGA includes the suburbs of Strathfield (postcode 2135), Strathfield South (2136), Homebush (2140), Homebush West (2140), part of Belfield (2191) and part of Greenacre (2190). Sydney Markets (postcode 2129) is also located within Strathfield LGA.

Strathfield LGA is well known for its extensive green open spaces and high quality recreational facilities, which enhance the liveability, amenity and sustainability of the local area. The Strathfield LGA has a total area of approximately 1390 ha (13.9km²) with 104 ha of the total area being public open space (2018 estimates). There is currently 9.06 ha of remnant bushland in the LGA and about 6 ha is under Council management.

In 2019, the estimated residential LGA population was about 47,000 residents and by 2041, the resident population is estimated to reach over 80,000 people (NSW Planning 2019). The growing population and accompanying building density will increase demand for access to and usage of available open space and community facilities. Therefore, management of community land is of critical importance to current and future communities.

Open spaces range from regional and district sporting grounds to smaller local parks and reserves. Significant parks with major sporting facilities include Airey Park, Bressington Park, Bark Huts Reserve, Begnell Field, Cooke Park, Hudson Park, Mason Park and Strathfield Park. Many local biodiversity conservation and habitat connectivity priority areas, including flora and fauna assets, are located within Strathfield LGA's parks and reserves. A number of connected parks and open spaces form the Cooks River Foreshore open space network, an important local and regional habitat corridor and pedestrian and cycle transport connection.

Strathfield LGA also provides many community facilities, located on community land including meeting rooms, halls and community centres which are available for hire by groups and individuals for sporting, community, recreation, social and other purposes.

2.3 Strathfield LGA community and recreational trends

Some of the challenges facing the Strathfield LGA include increasing and competing demands for public open space and community facilities. Strathfield Council is strongly focused on identifying and meeting the current and future needs of the Strathfield community in a sustainable manner.

Recent community engagement and analysis of social and recreational trends indicate increasing participation in recreation, sporting and leisure activities such as organised team sports, walking, cycling, running, aerobic fitness and dog walking. There is increased demand for access to community and recreation facilities, outdoor and indoor.

Priorities for Council involve increasing the capacity of local community facilities, parks and sportsgrounds, developing new community and recreational facilities as required and ensuring equity of access to land and facilities, to meet changing and diverse needs.

2.4 Community Vision and Key Strategic Directions

The community vision describes the community's aspirations for the future of the Strathfield Local Government Area by 2030:

"Strathfield is a culturally diverse and socially cohesive community with respect for its heritage and environment and proud of its well-connected transport, business and educational institutions".

Strathfield 2030 is the community strategic plan for the Strathfield Local Government Area until 2030. The plan was developed following extensive community engagement and is divided into the key themes of Connectivity, Community Wellbeing, Civic Pride and Management. Liveable Neighbourhoods and Responsible Leadership. This plan particularly aligns with Council's strategic goals of Healthy and Active Communities (2.2), Safe and Accessible Places (2.3), Thriving and Resilient Environment (4.3) and relevant actions set out in the four year Delivery Program and annual Operational Plan.

This plan is aligned with the Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) which defines the long term vision for land use and infrastructure provisions within the Strathfield LGA and supports place within the Greater Sydney and District planning frameworks. This plan of management aligns with the LSPS Priority P13 'Biodiversity and ecological health and resiliency is conserved, restored and enhanced' and Priority P15 'Quality Open Spaces and thriving green corridors offset the impacts of growth across the LGA' and action plan A93 to review and prepare new plans of management.

2.5 Legislative and Policy Framework

The following legislation and policies provide a framework for the preparation of this Plan of Management.

Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (LG Act) requires the preparation of Plans of Management (POMs) for Council owned land, and requires all community land to be categorised.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) (EP&A Act) is the principal planning legislation for NSW, that provides a framework for the environmental planning and assessment of development proposals and preparation of environmental planning instruments (including the Local Environmental Plan or LEP).

Crown Lands Management Act 2016 (NSW) (CLM Act) governs the planning, management and use of Crown land, including provisions to reserve or dedicate lands for a prescribed public purpose and for

leasing and licensing. Crown land under Council management requires classification and categorisations under the LG Act and preparation of Plans of Management.

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW) (BC Act) requires that Councils consider the impact on threatened species, populations and communities in fulfilling their statutory responsibilities under the EP&A Act for development approvals. It also covers management of threatened species and communities on Council owned lands.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth) (EPBC Act) provides a national scheme for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, and incorporates referral mechanisms and environmental impact assessment processes for projects of national significance.

State Environmental Planning Policy 19 – Bushland in Urban Areas aims to protect and preserve bushland in the Sydney Metropolitan area. The SEPP is concerned with disturbances and development affecting bushland areas.

Companion Animal Act 1998 (NSW) requires the identification and registration of companion animals (e.g. cats and dogs) and sets out the duties and responsibilities in relation to management of animals and specific areas of land.

Local Land Services Act 2013 (NSW) provides a framework to ensure the proper management of natural resources in the social, economic and environmental interests of the State. Strathfield is part of the Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS), which provides guidance on matters such as community engagement, biosecurity and weeds.

Also relevant are:

- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)
- Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (NSW) and Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)
- Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)
- Fisheries Management Act 1994 (NSW)
- Rural Fires Act 1997 (NSW)
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)

Related Strathfield Council policies and plans

- Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030
- Strathfield 2030 Community Strategic Plan (CSP)
- Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Development Control Plans 2005
- Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2020
- Disability Inclusion Plan 2020-2024

2.6 References

Eco Logical Australia and Strathfield Council, 2019, *Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2020-2030*, viewed at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/live/biodiversity/>

Insight Ecology, 2017, *The Fauna of Strathfield (Local Government Area)*, viewed at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/live/biodiversity/>

Jones, Cathy, 2019, *Parks and Reserves*, Strathfield Heritage website at <https://strathfieldheritage.org/parks-and-reserves>

Near Maps – Strathfield LGA, 2019 at <https://www.nearmap.com/au/en>

NSW Department Planning, 2019, *Strathfield LGA Population Projections 2016-2041*, viewed at <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Factsheets-and-faqs/Research-and-demography/Population-projections/2019-Strathfield.pdf>

Strathfield Council, *Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012*, viewed at <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/EPL/2013/115>

Strathfield Council, 2018, *Community Strategic Plan – Strathfield 2030* viewed at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/council/policies-plans-and-regulations/community-strategic-plan/>

Strathfield Council, 2019, Geographical Information System (GIS) Data

3. Land – category, classification, use and access

3.1 Description of site

50 Redmyre Road Strathfield has croquet lawns and a small amenities/clubhouse building.

3.2 Land prior use and history

The land on which the Strathfield Croquet Club is located was owned by Thomas Holley, who operated a produce, fuel and general store. In 1941, the site was acquired by Strathfield Council from Holley's estate for £2750. Council built a Baby Health Centre at the land facing Redmyre Road in 1944 and Strathfield Croquet Club in 1946 at the rear.

Strathfield Croquet Club, 50 Redmyre Road, was formerly part of Strathfield Recreation Club, which was established in 1881 as the Union Recreation Club with tennis and bowling facilities. Croquet was established at the Strathfield Recreation Club in 1922 and was separated from this Club in 1941 and relocated to the Redmyre Road site. This site has been continuously leased by Strathfield Council to Strathfield Croquet Club since 1946. The relocation of the Croquet Club permitted the expansion of Bowling Greens at Strathfield Recreation Club.

The Croquet Lawns site has two croquet lawns and an amenities building, which serves as a small clubhouse for members of the Strathfield Croquet Club. The Clubhouse was given by the Firth family to honour of Clara Ruth Firth a committed Club member, and several times Club President and Club Champion. Clara was the wife of John Robert Firth, principal of P J Firth paper and cardboard manufacturers, Alderman (1911-1948) and Mayor of Strathfield (1916-17, 1927-1931)¹.

The Clubhouse was officially opened on 29th May 1947. The Clubhouse was presented to Strathfield Council by the Firth family for use in connection to the Croquet Lawns and as a mark of their love and affection for their mother.

¹ Jones, C (2019), *Parks and Reserves*

Figure 2 Historical photograph of Croquet Lawns



Strathfield Croquet Lawns aerial photograph (1947)



Strathfield Croquet Lawns aerial photograph (2019) © Near Maps

3.3 Categories and classifications of Community Land

The management of community land is governed by the categorisation of the land, and the core objectives of the relevant category of community land. The core objectives for the category are set out in the *Local Government Act 1993*. The guidelines and core objectives for relevant categories are set out in Table 3.

Table 3 - Guidelines for and core objectives of community land

Category	Guidelines ²	Core objectives ³
Sportsground	<i>Regulation cl.103</i> Land should be categorised as 'sportsground' if the land is used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.	<i>Category Sportsground - (Section 36F)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and• to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.

Council must manage community land in according to these core objectives. Any activities or uses of the land should be consistent with the core objectives for that category of land. Additional objectives which support the above core objectives are included in Section 5 Management of the land.

The land classified as community land under the *Local Government Act 1993* is categorised as Sportsground. The categorised areas are marked in Figure 3.

² *Local Government General Regulation 2005*

³ *Local Government Act 1993*

Figure 3 Map of 50 Redmyre Road Strathfield land categorisations



3.4 Use of the land and structures at date of adoption of the plan

This land is currently used for recreation and playing of Croquet, Ricochet, Gateball and Golf Croquet. The land is categorised as Sportsground.

The Sportsground currently contains two croquet lawns and a club house.

3.5 Environmental features

This site has various plantings around the borders of the croquet lawns.

3.6 Condition of the land and structures on adoption of the plan

The criteria for assessing the condition of land and structure upon adoption of this plan of management are shown in Table 4 and the interpretation of the condition of infrastructure in Table 5.

Table 4 Condition rating assessment criteria

Rating	Descriptor	Guide	Residual Life as a % of Total Life	Mean % age residual life
1 Excellent	Sound physical condition. Asset likely to perform adequately without major work.	Normal maintenance required	>86	95
2 Good	Acceptable physical condition, minimal short term risk of failure.	Normal maintenance plus minor repairs required (to 5% or less of the asset)	65 to 85	80
3 Satisfactory	Deterioration evident, failure in the short term unlikely. Minor components need replacement or repair now but asset still functions safely.	Significant maintenance and/or repairs required (to 10-20% of the asset)	41 to 64	55
4 Worn	Deterioration of the asset is evident and failure is possible in the short term. No immediate risk to health and safety.	Significant renewal required (to 20 - 40% of the asset)	10 to 40	35
5 Poor	Failed or failure is imminent or there is significant deterioration of the asset. Health and safety hazards exist which present a possible risk to public safety.	Over 50% of the asset requires renewal	<10	5

Table 5 Condition of assets at Croquet Lawns

Description	Condition
Clubhouse	Satisfactory
Croquet Lawns	Good

3.7 Heritage

50 Redmyre Road Strathfield is located within the Redmyre Road Heritage Conservation area. This is listed in Schedule 5 (Environmental Heritage) of the Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012.

3.8 Photographs of 50 Redmyre Road Strathfield

Photographs are dated January 2019



Clubhouse/Amenities



Croquet Lawn



Croquet Lawn



Croquet Lawn



Croquet Lawn



Croquet Lawn

4. Land Uses

4.1 Permissible uses and developments

The tables below set out the purpose/use of the land consistent with its land categorisation and the types of development generally associated with those uses. Facilities on community land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community. The anticipated uses, and associated development, identified in Table 6 are intended to provide an overview or general guide. Development is subject to requirements set out in clauses 4.2 and 4.3

Table 6 - Permissible uses of land categories – Sportsgrounds

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Active and passive recreational and sporting activities consistent with the nature of the particular land and any relevant facilities eg croquet lawns (sports may include croquet, golf croquet, ricochet and gateball)• Organised and unstructured recreation activities• Community events or gatherings, and public meetings• Commercial uses associated with sports facilities• Easement, utilities and estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development for the purpose of conducting and facilitating organised sport• Sportsfields eg croquet lawns (sports may include low impact activities such as croquet, golf croquet, ricochet and gateball)• Amenities eg change room, lockers, shower/toilet facilities, first aid rooms, seating• Café or kiosk facilities, mobile coffee cart or food vending subject to site assessment and Council approval• Car parking and loading areas• Ancillary areas eg staff rooms, meeting rooms, equipment storage areas• Shade structures• Seating and scoreboards• Sports or fitness training, and practice facilities• Heritage and cultural interpretation eg signs, public art• Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that relate to approved uses/activities, discreet and temporary and approved by Council.• Water/Energy savings initiatives• Lighting and water (eg taps, bubblers)

The sportsground is currently licenced to the Strathfield Croquet Club and short term bookings can be made with the licence holder subject to approval.

4.2 Future development and use of the community land

There are no plans for development at Southend Tennis Centre at the time of preparation of the Plan of Management.

Minor changes to community land are regularly made on a routine basis, such as garden beds are replanted, and damaged play equipment is replaced.

In the event of potential future development other than that listed, proposed changes of use of community land will:

1. Meet legislative requirements – land use tables (zoning) in the Strathfield Council Local Environmental Plan specifies the range of uses and activities that may be permitted on the land. A number of uses are also set out in the Regulations to the *Local Government Act 1993*.
2. Be consistent with the guidelines and core objectives of the community land category - under the *Local Government Act 1993* uses and development of community land must be consistent with the guidelines for categorisation and the core objectives of each category, and any other additional objectives the Council proposes to place on the community land categories.
3. Be consistent with relevant Council policies - substantial upgrades and proposed new development will take into account a range of factors, including:
 - this Plan of Management and the core objectives for the land
 - the planning controls for the land
 - Council's adopted policies
 - the characteristics of the land affected, including existing and future use patterns
 - any landscape masterplan for the land.

4.3 Scale and intensity of land use

The scale and intensity of use and development associated with community land in Strathfield is generally dependent on:

- the nature of the approved uses and developments
- approved Development Applications and any conditions
- an approved masterplan
- the physical constraints of the land
- the carrying capacity of the land
- relevant government legislation
- permissible times of use
- proximity of neighbours

The scale and intensity of use of the sportsground should be monitored by:

- regular inspection of the physical impacts on the sportsground
- consideration of reports regarding any conflicts between sportsground users or from adjoining neighbours

4.4 Authorisation of leases, licences or other estates over community land

The Act requires that any lease or licence of community land must be authorised by a Plan of Management. The lease or licence must be for purposes consistent with the categorisation and zoning of the land.

The maximum period for leases or licences on community land permitted under the Act is 21 years. If a lease or licence is anticipated, then public notice should be given in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Where a lease arrangement has been entered into with Council for community land, subleasing the land may only occur with specific permission of Council and in accordance with the requirements of Section 47C of the Act, Clause 119 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* and conditions set out in agreements.

This Plan of Management authorises existing leases and licence agreements until the end of their current term. The leased or licensed areas may be renewed or changed in future. The leased or licensed areas may be reconfigured in the future to reflect changes in community needs.

This Plan of Management authorises Council to grant leases, licences or any other estates for community land covered in this Plan of Management for purposes and uses which are identified or consistent with those in Tables 5. Some examples of longer term arrangements are outlined in the following Table 6. Shorter arrangements (for example, a short term agreement associated with a particular event, or an activity recurring regularly either via annual or seasonal agreement) are set out in Table 7.

Calculations for fees and charges for leases and licences will be based on independent market rental valuations that are based on comparisons to similar services and facilities with similar locations, building and land conditions. As a minimum standard, the financial return from licence fees should offset asset maintenance, renewal and any operational costs. Council may also apply subsidies to not for profit organisations where there are demonstrated community benefits or financial hardship. Subsidies are generally not applied to commercial or residential leases or licences.

Table 7 - Leases, Licences and other estates

Type of Arrangement Authorised	Land and Facilities covered	Purposes for which long term leasing/licensing will be granted
Licence or lease	Sportsground	<p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sporting and recreational purposes, including team sports, fitness activities and games • Clubhouse, kiosk, café and refreshment purposes • Use of lawns or similar facilities
Other Estates	Sportsground	<p>This Plan of Management allows Council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities in accordance with the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>.</p> <p>Estates may also be granted across community land that is not affected by endangered communities for the provision of pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the Council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land.</p>

The grant of a lease or licence is an important step in using community land, but there may be other requirements relevant to any proposed use. For example, the refurbishment of a clubhouse may also require development consent under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Any interested person should check carefully to make sure they are aware of all relevant requirements.

4.5 Short Term Uses

50 Redmyre Rd is currently licenced to Strathfield Croquet Club and short term bookings may be booked through the Strathfield Croquet Club, subject to approval.

Agreements for use of community land may be granted for short duration which may be anything from casual hire to a regular use arrangement (eg more than 10 annual hires annually). These short term arrangements should be for the types of uses identified in Table 7 and consistent with prevailing Council policies.

Table 8 - Seasonal, regular and casual use agreements

Community land category	Purposes for which short term uses may be granted subject to council approval	Requirements
Sportsground	<ul style="list-style-type: none">community events and festivalssporting fixtures and eventssports and fitness training and classesfilming or photography of sporting fixtures or eventsuses reasonably associated with the promotion or enhancement of sporting groups, fixtures and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none">the proposed use must comply with terms and conditions for event approval eg SafeWork NSW regulations, insurance, waste management etcthe use should not result in physical damage to the sportsgroundthe use should not result in a significant adverse impact on adjoining residentsorganisers of the site should be responsible for cleaning up the site and notify authorities and Council of any damage or incidents that may occur

In assessing community land categorised as Sportsground as a venue for any proposed utilisation, the Council applies the following minimum criteria:

- Council reserves the right to refuse bookings based on previous unsatisfactory payment or performance history or where proposed use would damage the facility or cause significant disruption to other regular users.
- Fees for short-term casual bookings will be charged in accordance with Council's adopted Fees and Charges at the time.

5. Management of the land

5.1 Objectives and management of community land

The land is managed in accordance to the objectives and methods set out below:

Table 9 Objectives, means and performance measures

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Access	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide safe and improved access to the sportsground for pedestrians and cyclists. 2. Provide access to and within the sportsground for people with disabilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upgrades, refurbishments and/or improvement works on community land to consider public access requirements for mobility and connections. 2. Proposed ramps, stairs and pathways to comply with relevant Council and BCA requirements consistent with Australian Standards. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Audits of community land and facilities to comply with standards
Amenity and Character	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure Council's community land and facilities contribute to the amenity and character of the Strathfield LGA. 2. Promote sportsgrounds as desirable places for recreation, community celebration and commemoration. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide facilities and pathways as attractive destinations. 2. Maintain and enhance community land and facilities 3. Promote sportsgrounds in local media and website. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consult with residents and users regarding satisfaction of sportsgrounds and facilities 2. Monitor and action complaint data
Community Facilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide sustainable community facilities for a range of community, social and other compatible activities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building and structure design specifications to consider sportsground character, expected use and environmental sustainability features. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor usage of community facilities as measured by bookings. 2. Community satisfaction surveys. 3. Facility inspections and audits.

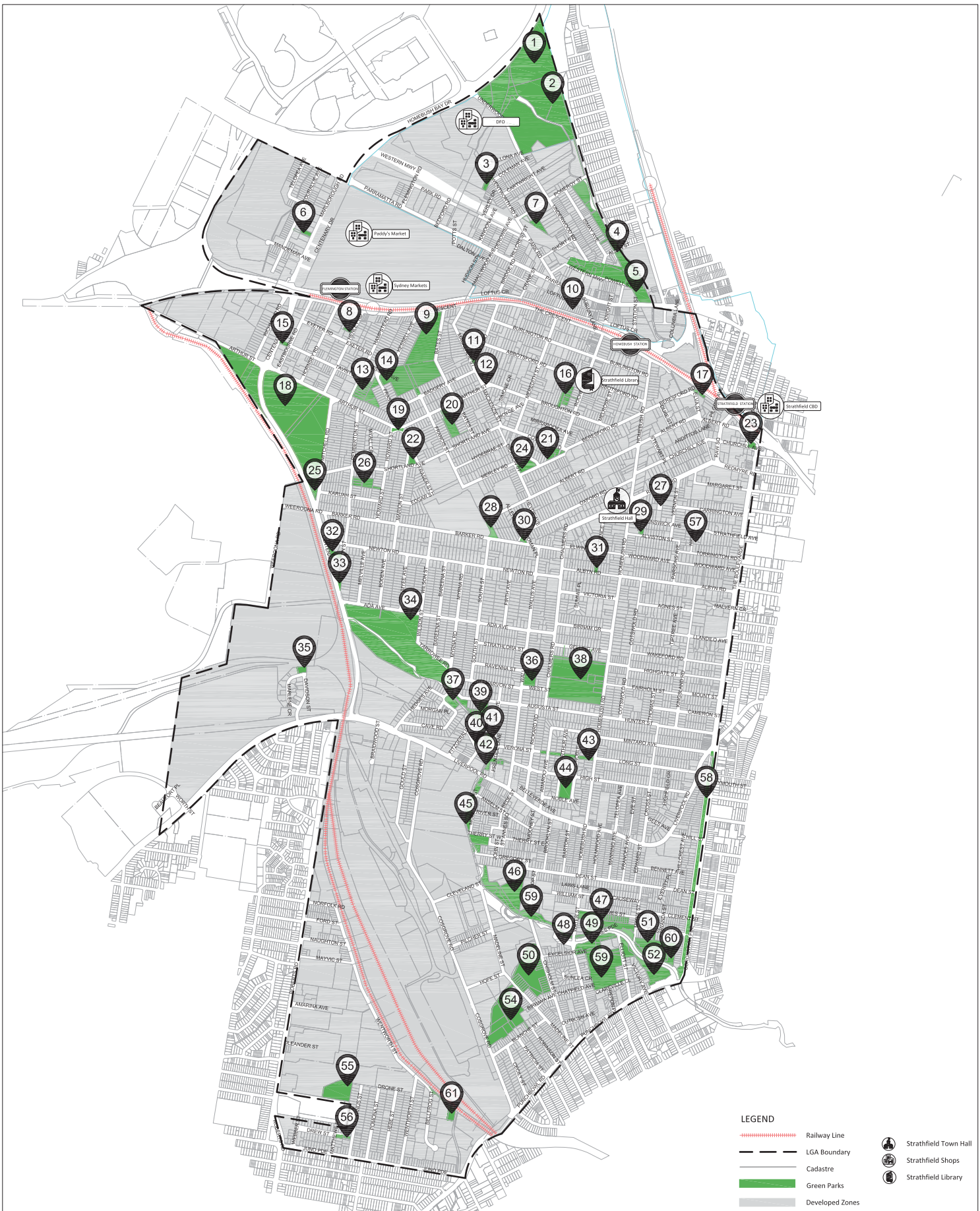
Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
	<p>2. Ensure buildings positively contribute to community land amenity, facilitate a range of uses and have regard for environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance.</p>	<p>2. Provide community facilities which are multi-purpose and flexible to a range of appropriate uses.</p> <p>3. Ensure community facilities are universally accessible.</p> <p>4. Community facilities meet sustainable building requirements and/or are progressively upgraded to incorporate best practice energy and water efficiencies.</p>	<p>4. Monitor comments and complaints</p>
Environmentally Sustainable Principles	<p>1. Manage community land to ensure best environmental management practises and principles having regard to environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance.</p>	<p>1. Promote and monitor energy efficiency</p> <p>2. Minimise use of water</p> <p>3. Implement waste reduction programs</p> <p>4. Utilise natural heating and cooling</p>	<p>1. Measure and monitor via plans and strategies such as Energy and Water plans.</p> <p>2. Monitor usage and trends via quarterly and annual consumption and billing.</p> <p>3. Monitor and minimise water and energy use in sportsgrounds and ancillary facilities.</p>
Historical and Heritage Significance	<p>1. Appreciation and interpretation of the heritage significance of the site and structures eg memorials in terms of both natural and cultural components.</p>	<p>1. Undertake, when required, heritage and cultural assessment studies to identify cultural and heritage values for retention and interpretation.</p> <p>2. Incorporate historical information on property signage to enhance understanding and appreciation of the site and the history it represents.</p> <p>3. Promote sense of place and local identity</p>	<p>1. Retention and interpretation of heritage and cultural values provides increased appreciation of the property and its history as measured by user surveys.</p>
Landscape Character	<p>1. Maintain and improve landscape character and visual quality of public open spaces</p>	<p>1. Manage replacement planting strategies to ensure improvement to the current character.</p>	<p>1. Community consultation including surveys regarding community views</p>

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain consistency in selection and design of furniture, paving, fencing that is appropriate to the setting and the sport or activity type. Implement & maintain co-ordinated signage strategy 	
Managing assets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide effective and efficient management of community land and facilities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule regular inspections and condition assessments. Inclusion of maintenance standards in licence, lease or hire agreements. Provide waste and recycling bins to cater for public use. Regular waste and recycling collection to minimise litter overflow 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Measure against Service Standard KPIs. Respond to complaints and audits. Monitor agreements Review and update asset management plans periodically
Natural Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain and enhance the health of park ecology, including flora and fauna, trees and soil 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Manage trees, gardens and natural areas to maintain and improve the quality of the environment in accordance with Council's tree management and biodiversity strategies and plans. Retain habitat trees, protect foraging habitat and create/maintain habitat corridors through revegetation where possible Ensure revegetation is undertaken using locally sourced stock from agreed planting lists (refer Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy) Maintain weed management program to minimise spread of weeds Implement actions where required under recovery or threat abatement plan. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Measure and monitor tree canopies, vegetation, weeds and habitat. Undertake periodic flora and fauna reviews

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Promote varied recreational uses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance opportunities for a balanced organised and unstructured recreational use of public open space Optimise public access to public open space. Maintain condition and useability of sportsgrounds and 'sustainable capacity'. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Capital works program to plan for improvements and upgrades to community land. Promote a range of organised and informal/unstructured activities on community land Provide amenities that support use and enjoyment of parks and sportsgrounds eg toilets, change rooms and kiosk/café facilities. Enforce provisions for management of dogs on community land as per requirements of Council's Companion Animal Policy. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor local use of parks and sportsgrounds by bookings, surveys, complaints and observation.
Safety and Risk Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide safe use and access to public land and facilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Design and maintain layouts, landscaping and facilities in accordance with CPTED principles (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) principles including passive surveillance, good sight lines, territorial reinforcement and space management and lighting. Review lighting and security for both day and night time use. Work with local police to identify and act on safety issues. Install and maintain facilities in accordance with relevant Australian standards. Repair vandalism or graffiti within 48 hours where possible. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Works to be in accordance with relevant Australian Standards and CPTED principles. Monitor and action incident and accident reports.

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Traffic and Parking	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure traffic and parking requirements provide a safe environment for park, sportsgrounds and general community use property users and do not impact on the amenity of the properties. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minimise use of vehicles on community land and regulate and monitor vehicle access. 2. Installation of signage preventing vehicles from entering unauthorised areas. 3. Where vehicles are permitted, provide clearly marked vehicle movement areas 4. Provide access for emergency or works services. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduced pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle conflicts. 2. Improved public safety. 3. Traffic access to community land is via agreement.
Use agreements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That use arrangements facilitate wide community access to community land, community benefits and support financial sustainability. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Licence, leases, estates and short term use agreements comply with legislative and policy requirements. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor agreements in accordance with terms and conditions of agreement.





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Email: council@strathfield.nsw.gov.au
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Strathfield Council designs, constructs and maintains public infrastructure and other essential services over the council area. This includes the design, construction, maintenance and operation of roads, bridges, drains, footpaths, parks, playgrounds, libraries, community centres, and other public facilities. The council also manages the council's assets, including land, buildings, and infrastructure. The council's services are provided to the community through a range of channels, including the council's website, social media, and direct communication with residents and businesses.

When parks are used for any purpose, including for the purpose of the council's services, the council is not responsible for any damage or injury to persons or property. The council is not responsible for any damage or injury to persons or property caused by the council's services. The council is not responsible for any damage or injury to persons or property caused by the council's services.

date
31st January 2020

rev
01

scale 1:10000
0m 100 250 500 1000m

North Arrow

1. Bressington Park
2. Mason Park & Wetlands
3. Wentworth Reserve
4. Allen Street Reserve (Ismay Reserve)
5. Ismay Reserve
6. Austin Park
7. Bill Boyce Reserve
8. Henley Reserve
9. Airey Park
10. Augustus Loftus Reserve
11. Slater Reserve
12. Shortland Reserve Gardens
13. Melville Reserve
14. Sutherland Gardens
15. Tavistock Reserve
16. Fitzgerald Park
17. Laker Reserve
18. Hudson Park
19. Lowe's Garden
20. Pilgrim Park
21. Davey Square Memorial Reserve
22. Kessel Square
23. Strathfield Square
24. Inveresk Park
25. Frank Zions Reserve
26. Boden Reserve
27. Redmyre Road Croquet Lawns
28. Mt Royal Reserve
29. Centenary Playground
30. Todman Reserve
31. Florence Reserve
32. Cosgrove Reserve
33. Pemberton Reserve
34. Freshwater Park
35. Marlene Reserve
36. Wallis Reserve
37. Chain of Ponds Reserve
38. Strathfield Park
39. Thew Reserve
40. Fitzgerald Reserve
41. Palmer Reserve
42. Prentice Reserve
43. Humphries Reserve
44. Edwards Park
45. St Annes Reserve
46. Dean Reserve
47. Ford Park
48. Water Reserve
49. Maria Reserve
50. Cooke Park
51. Southend Tennis
52. Elliott Reserve
53. Bark Hut Reserve
54. Begnell Field
55. Cox's Creek Reserve
56. Drew St Playground
57. Nichol Reserve
58. Coronation Reserve
59. South Cooks River Land
60. Chiswick Reserve
61. Greenacre Frog Ponds

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1. Introduction

1.1 Title

This plan is titled Elliott Reserve Plan of Management.

The current plan was adopted by Council resolution at the meeting of xx.

This plan of management applies to land located at Elliott Reserve, Elliott Street Belfield. The reserve is bounded to the south by Punchbowl Road, south-west by residential properties along Victory Avenue, west by Elliott Street and north by the Cooks River.

The land in Elliott Reserve categorised as natural area (bushland) is included in the Cooks River Natural Area (Bushland) Plan of Management.

Ownership, lot details and zoning information is set out in Table 1 (information from Council Geographical Information System (GIS) 2019).

The location map of Elliott Reserve is set out in Figure 1.

Table 1 Ownership, title and zoning details

Owner	Lot Details	Zoning Strathfield LEP 2012
Strathfield Council	Lot 3 DP 132222	RE1 - Public Recreation
Strathfield Council	Lot 4 DP 450118	RE1 - Public Recreation
Strathfield Council	Lot 11 DP 131946	RE1 - Public Recreation
The Commissioner for Main Roads	Lot A DP 349975	R2 - Low Density Residential
Sydney Water Corporation	Lot 4 DP 132222	RE1 - Public Recreation SP2 - Stormwater Management

Figure 1 Elliott Reserve Location Map



1.2 Purpose of this Plan of Management

The *Local Government Act 1993* and amendments to the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* require all public land including Crown Reserves, owned or managed by Council, to be classified as either 'community' land or 'operational' land. Land classified as 'community' land must be managed and used in accordance with an adopted Plan of Management. The land described in this Plan of Management is classified as community land.

Plans of Management are developed by Council in consultation with the community. A Plan of Management describes the features of the community land and outlines how the land may be managed and used, consistent with land categorisations, core objectives and zoning, to provide a transparent and co-ordinated approach to public land management.

The purpose of this Plan of Management is to:

- contribute to the strategic goals and vision as set out in the Strathfield Community Strategic Plan
- ensure compliance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and relevant legislation and guidelines
- provide clarity regarding use and access to the community land as described in this plan.

1.3 Contents of this Plan of Management

This Plan of Management is divided into the following sections, as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2 Structure of this Plan of Management

Section	What does it include?
1. Introduction	Title, land covered by plan, purpose, contents and review of the plan
2. About the Strathfield LGA	Recognition of traditional custodians, Strathfield LGA snapshot, trends, community vision, legislative and policy framework, and references.
3. Land – category, classification, use and access	Site description, land use/history, land categories and classifications, maps, use of land and structures, environmental features, condition of land and structures and heritage.
4. Land Uses	Permissible uses and development, scale and intensity of use, authorisation of leases, licences and short term uses.
5. Management of the land	Objectives, performance targets, means and manner for assessment of performance

1.4. Change and Review of Plan of Management

This Plan of Management will require regular review in order to align with community values and changing community needs, and to reflect changes in Council priorities. The performance of this Plan of Management will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure the use of land and structures is well maintained and consistent with Council's strategic objectives and community values.

Strategic reviews of this Plan of Management will be required where there is significant change to legislation, land ownership/management or proposed land use. Regular reviews should occur at five (5) year intervals.

2. About the Strathfield Local Government Area

2.1 Recognition of Traditional Custodians

Strathfield Council acknowledges the Wangal people, the traditional Custodians of the lands on which the Strathfield area is located. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

2.2 Snapshot of Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA)

The Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA) is well known for transport connections, educational opportunities, attractive streetscapes, parks, heritage and buildings. The Strathfield LGA is centrally located in Sydney's Inner West, approximately 10.5 kilometres from the Sydney CBD and half way between Parramatta and the Sydney CBD. The LGA includes the suburbs of Strathfield (postcode 2135), Strathfield South (2136), Homebush (2140), Homebush West (2140), part of Belfield (2191) and part of Greenacre (2190). Sydney Markets (postcode 2129) is also located within Strathfield LGA.

Strathfield LGA is well known for its extensive green open spaces and high quality recreational facilities, which enhance the liveability, amenity and sustainability of the local area. The Strathfield LGA has a total area of approximately 1390 ha (13.9km²) with 104 ha of the total area being public open space (2018 estimates). There is currently 9.06 ha of remnant bushland in the LGA and about 6 ha is under Council management.

In 2019, the estimated residential LGA population was about 47,000 residents and by 2041, the resident population is estimated to reach over 80,000 people (NSW Planning 2019). The growing population and accompanying building density will increase demand for access to and usage of available open space and community facilities. Therefore, management of community land is of critical importance to current and future communities.

Open spaces range from regional and district sporting grounds to smaller local parks and reserves. Significant parks with major sporting facilities include Airey Park, Bressington Park, Bark Huts Reserve, Begnell Field, Cooke Park, Hudson Park, Mason Park and Strathfield Park. Many local biodiversity conservation and habitat connectivity priority areas, including flora and fauna assets, are located within Strathfield LGA's parks and reserves. A number of connected parks and open spaces form the Cooks River Foreshore open space network, an important local and regional habitat corridor and pedestrian and cycle transport connection.

Strathfield LGA also provides many community facilities, located on community land including meeting rooms, halls and community centres which are available for hire by groups and individuals for sporting, community, recreation, social and other purposes.

2.3 Strathfield LGA community and recreational trends

Some of the challenges facing the Strathfield LGA include increasing and competing demands for public open space and community facilities. Strathfield Council is strongly focused on identifying and meeting the current and future needs of the Strathfield community in a sustainable manner.

Recent community engagement and analysis of social and recreational trends indicate increasing participation in recreation, sporting and leisure activities such as organised team sports, walking, cycling, running, aerobic fitness and dog walking. There is increased demand for access to community and recreation facilities, outdoor and indoor.

Priorities for Council involve increasing the capacity of local community facilities, parks and sportsgrounds, developing new community and recreational facilities as required and ensuring equity of access to land and facilities, to meet changing and diverse needs.

2.4 Community Vision and Key Strategic Directions

The community vision describes the community's aspirations for the future of the Strathfield Local Government Area by 2030:

“Strathfield is a culturally diverse and socially cohesive community with respect for its heritage and environment and proud of its well-connected transport, business and educational institutions”.

Strathfield 2030 is the community strategic plan for the Strathfield Local Government Area until 2030. The plan was developed following extensive community engagement and is divided into the key themes of Connectivity, Community Wellbeing, Civic Pride and Management. Liveable Neighbourhoods and Responsible Leadership

This plan is aligned with the Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) which defines the long term vision for land use and infrastructure provisions within the Strathfield LGA and supports place within the Greater Sydney and District planning frameworks. This plan of management aligns with the LSPS Priority P13 'Biodiversity and ecological health and resiliency is conserved, restored and enhanced' and Priority P15 'Quality Open Spaces and thriving green corridors offset the impacts of growth across the LGA' and action plan A93 to review and prepare new plans of management.

2.5 Legislative and Policy Framework

The following legislation and policies provide a framework for the preparation of this Plan of Management.

Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (LG Act) requires the preparation of Plans of Management (POMs) for Council owned land, and requires all community land to be categorised.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) (EP&A Act) is the principal planning legislation for NSW, that provides a framework for the environmental planning and assessment of development proposals and preparation of environmental planning instruments (including the Local Environmental Plan or LEP).

Crown Lands Management Act 2016 (NSW) (CLM Act) governs the planning, management and use of Crown land, including provisions to reserve or dedicate lands for a prescribed public purpose and for leasing and licensing. Crown land under Council management requires classification and categorisations under the LG Act and preparation of Plans of Management.

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW) (BC Act) requires that Councils consider the impact on threatened species, populations and communities in fulfilling their statutory responsibilities under the EP&A Act for development approvals. It also covers management of threatened species and communities on Council owned lands.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth) (EPBC Act) provides a national scheme for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, and incorporates referral mechanisms and environmental impact assessment processes for projects of national significance.

Companion Animal Act 1998 (NSW) requires the identification and registration of companion animals (e.g. cats and dogs) and sets out the duties and responsibilities in relation to management of animals and specific areas of land.

Local Land Services Act 2013 (NSW) provides a framework to ensure the proper management of natural resources in the social, economic and environmental interests of the State. Strathfield is part of the Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS), which provides guidance on matters such as community engagement, biosecurity and weeds.

Also relevant are:

- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)
- Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (NSW) and Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)
- Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)
- Fisheries Management Act 1994 (NSW)
- Rural Fires Act 1997 (NSW)
- State Environmental Planning Policy 19 – Bushland in Urban Areas.
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)

Related Strathfield Council policies and plans

- Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030
- Strathfield 2030 Community Strategic Plan (CSP)
- Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Development Control Plans 2025
- Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS)
- Disability Inclusion Plan

2.6 References

Eco Logical Australia and Strathfield Council, 2019, *Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2020-2030*, viewed at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/live/biodiversity/>

Insight Ecology, 2017, *The Fauna of Strathfield (Local Government Area)*, viewed at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/live/biodiversity/>

Jones, Cathy, 2019, *Parks and Reserves*, Strathfield Heritage website at <https://strathfieldheritage.org/parks-and-reserves>

Near Maps – Strathfield LGA, 2019 at <https://www.nearmap.com/au/en>

NSW Department Planning, 2019, *Strathfield LGA Population Projections 2016-2041*, viewed at <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Factsheets-and-faqs/Research-and-demography/Population-projections/2019-Strathfield.pdf>

Strathfield Council, *Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012*, viewed at <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/EPL/2013/115>

Strathfield Council, 2018, *Community Strategic Plan – Strathfield 2030* viewed at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/council/policies-plans-and-regulations/community-strategic-plan/>

Strathfield Council, 2019, *Geographical Information System (GIS) Data*

3. Land – category, classification, use and access

3.1 Description of site

Elliott Reserve is a large area of open space on the south-western side of Cooks River in Belfield. The Reserve is bounded to the south by Punchbowl Road, south-west by residential properties along Victory Avenue, west by Elliott Street and north-east by Cooks River. The Southend Tennis Courts are on the opposite bank on Cooks River.

A dense corridor of riparian and forest species such as acacias, she-oaks, tea-trees and eucalypts have been planted along the south-western bank of the river and the southern boundary of the Reserve. This connects with other Cooks River/Coxs Creek foreshore parks in creating a biodiversity corridor.

Elliott Reserve is identified as a Biodiversity Connectivity Priority area in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2019.

3.2 Land prior use and history

Elliott Reserve takes its name from the adjacent street. The Elliott family were early settlers in the Belfield district and their landholdings, which was subdivided in 1905, were marketed as the 'Elliott Estate'.

In the 1930's the Cooks River was concreted as a Great Depression work relief program. It appears that most of the park land remained vacant and in the 1950s, the land was reserved by the Cumberland Planning Scheme for road purposes. However, the road plans did not proceed and the land was then dedicated for open space and park purposes¹.

¹ Jones, C (2019) Parks & Reserves

Figure 2: Historical photograph of Elliott Reserve

The aerial historic photographs indicate changes in the park over time, particularly revegetation of the park, especially near the canal and boundaries of the park.



Elliott Reserve aerial photograph (1947)



Elliott Reserve aerial photograph (1997)



Elliott Reserve aerial map 2009 © Near Maps



Elliott Reserve aerial map 2019. © Near Maps

3.3 Categories and classifications of Community Land

The management of community land is governed by the categorisation of the land, and the core objectives of the relevant category of community land. The core objectives for each category are set out in the *Local Government Act 1993*. The guidelines and core objectives for relevant categories are set out in Table 3.

Table 3 Guidelines for and core objectives of community land

Category	Guidelines ²	Core objectives ³
Park	<i>Regulation cl.104</i> Land which is, or proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, and for uses which are mainly passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others.	<i>Category Park – (Section 36G)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities. provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games. improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.
Natural Area	<i>Regulation cl.102</i> Natural areas are where land, whether or not in an undisturbed state, possesses a significant geological feature, geomorphological feature, landform, representative system or other natural feature or attribute that would be sufficient to further categorise the land as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore	<i>Natural Area - (Section 36E)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised to a natural area; and to maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting, and to provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land, and to provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and to assist in and facilitate the implement of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan prepared under the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> or the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>
Natural Area – bushland	<i>Regulation cl.107</i> Land that contains primarily native vegetation that is the natural vegetation or a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land, or although not the natural vegetation, is still representative of the structure or floristics of the natural vegetation in the locality.	<i>Natural Area - Bushland (Section 36J)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land, and

² *Local Government General Regulation 2005*

³ *Local Government Act 1993*

Category	Guidelines ²	Core objectives ³
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and • to promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and • to restore degraded bushland, and • to protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and • to retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and • to protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.

Council must manage community land in according to these core objectives. Any activities or uses of the land should be consistent with the core objectives for that category of land. Additional objectives which support the above core objectives are included in Section 5 Management of the land.

The land classified as community land under the *Local Government Act 1993* is categorised as Park. The categorised areas are marked in Figure 2.

Figure 2 Map of Elliott Reserve land categorisations



3.4 Use of the land and structures at date of adoption of the plan

Elliott Reserve is categorised as park and natural area (bushland).

Elliott Reserve is mainly used for off leash dog exercise area, passive recreation and casual bookings for large events. This area of land is categorised as Park.

Elliott Reserve contains natural areas which are identified as biodiversity connectivity priority area in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy. These is located near the River and has been categorised as a Natural Area (Bushland).

3.5 Environmental Considerations

Elliott Reserve is one of the Cooks River/Coxs Creek foreshore park. Parts of this land are identified in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy as a Biodiversity Connectivity area. The land in Elliott Reserve categorised as natural area (bushland) is included in the Cooks River Natural Area (Bushland) Plan of Management.

Elliott Reserve comprises a mixture of open grassed areas and revegetated parkland. The revegetated parkland is mainly in the northern section abutting the Cooks River and contains mostly indigenous vegetation planted as strips and/or blocks such as she-oak, eucalyptus, paperbark and lomandra plantings along the west bank of Cooks River. The Reserve provides an important habitat linkage and corridor along Cooks River that supports various bird species as well as providing shelter, foraging and breeding habitat.

Much of the plantings at Elliot Reserve have been undertaken by community volunteers through the Bushcare programs. This program worked to achieve the following: strategically remove weeds, add groundcover and understorey vegetation, improve diversity of tree, shrub and grass species and improve linkages to other habitat. Bushcare at Elliot reserve ran for 12 months during 2018, with volunteers from the Hwa Tsang Monastery. The program used plants from the Strathfield Nursery to strengthen the habitat in Elliot Reserve, furthering the local genetic provenance and enhancing the Cooks River Green Corridor.

Green and Golden Bellfrogs (GGBF) are usually located in and around water bodies such as wetlands and lakes or on sites which humans have disturbed such as abandoned quarries or brickpits. In the Strathfield LGA, the GGBF core habitat area is located in Greenacre such as Coxs Creek Reserve and Greenacre Frog Ponds. An east-west GGBF linkage area is mapped in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy and covers parks such as Begnell Field, Cooke Park, and parts of Ford Park and Maria Reserve. However, with dispersal and movement of frogs, infrequent sightings have been reported in parks further along the Cooks River such as Elliott Reserve, Southend Tennis Centre and 'Chiswick Reserve'. However, these sightings were infrequent and have become increasingly rare. Since 2012, Council has received no reported sightings of GGBF in the Strathfield LGA.

3.6 Condition of the land and structures on adoption of the plan

The criteria for assessing the condition of land and structure upon adoption of this plan of management are shown in Table 4 and the interpretation of the condition of infrastructure in Table 5.

Table 4 Condition rating assessment criteria

Rating	Descriptor	Guide	Residual Life as a % of Total Life	Mean % age residual life
1 Excellent	Sound physical condition. Asset likely to perform adequately without major work.	Normal maintenance required	>86	95
2 Good	Acceptable physical condition, minimal short term risk of failure.	Normal maintenance plus minor repairs required (to 5% or less of the asset)	65 to 85	80
3 Satisfactory	Deterioration evident, failure in the short term unlikely. Minor components need replacement or repair now but asset still functions safely.	Significant maintenance and/or repairs required (to 10-20% of the asset)	41 to 64	55
4 Worn	Deterioration of the asset is evident and failure is possible in the short term. No immediate risk to health and safety.	Significant renewal required (to 20 - 40% of the asset)	10 to 40	35
5 Poor	Failed or failure is imminent or there is significant deterioration of the asset. Health and safety hazards exist which present a possible risk to public safety.	Over 50% of the asset requires renewal	<10	5

Table 5 Condition of assets at Elliott Reserve

Description	Condition
Bins and dog bag dispenser	Good
Drinking fountain	Excellent
Fences	Good
Park furniture / seating	Excellent
Signage	Excellent

3.7 Heritage

There are no statutory heritage listings associated with this land.

3.8 Photographs of Elliott Reserve

Photographs taken January 2019



Elliott Reserve – Elliott Street entry



Open space – Elliott Street



Open space – Elliott Street



Cluster of trees near Maria Street & Cooks River



Open space, fence line near Victory Ave



Cluster of trees near Punchbowl Road & Cooks River

4. Land Uses

4.1 Permissible uses and developments

The tables below set out the purpose/use of the land consistent with its land categorisation and the types of development generally associated with those uses. Facilities on community land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community. The anticipated uses, and associated development, identified in Tables 6 and 7 are intended to provide an overview or general guide. Development is subject to requirements set out in clauses 4.2 and 4.3

Table 6 Permissible uses of land categories – Park

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Active and passive recreation• Group recreational use, such as picnics and celebrations• Festivals, fairs, markets, circuses, similar events and gatherings• Low intensity commercial activities• Filming and photographic projects• Public address (speeches)• Easement, utilities and estate• Community gardening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development for the purposes of improving access, amenity, and the visual character of the park eg paths, pergolas, flagpoles, lights, water bubblers, seating, paved areas, hard and soft landscaped areas, fencing etc• Development for the purposes of active recreation eg play equipment, children's playgrounds, exercise equipment, courts etc• Amenities to facilitate leisure use of the park eg picnic tables and shelters, BBQ's & sheltered eating areas• Kiosk/café, mobile food vans or refreshment areas• Restricted access ancillary areas (e.g. storage areas associated with functions, gardening equipment)• Transport access and service areas ancillary to the use of land (eg public transport, car parking, loading zones, bicycle racks)• Community gardens• Off-leash areas• Heritage and cultural interpretation eg signs, public art etc• Locational, directional and regulatory signage• Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that relate to approved uses/activities, discreet and temporary and approved by Council.• Water/Energy savings initiatives

Table 7 Permissible uses of land categories – Natural Area

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking and cycling • Guided bushwalks and bird watching • Environmental programs and scientific study • Preservation of biodiversity and habitat • Bush regeneration and revegetation works • Relaxation and passive informal recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretative, regulatory and directional signage • Low impact lighting • Low impact carparking • Low impact pathways • Passive recreation • Seating • Small ancillary building eg storage and amenities for site maintenance • Water saving initiatives eg swales, sediment traps, rainwater gardens

4.2 Future development and use of the community land

Strathfield Council intends to review facilities in Elliott Reserve which include park lighting, pathways and fencing of the off-leash areas to protect natural area flora and fauna (especially birds and wildlife). Council may also review the size of the off-leash area in order to increase access and use of the park for other informal recreation activities.

Minor changes to community land may occur on a routine basis, such as replanting and replacement of damaged or worn infrastructure eg play equipment. In the event of potential future development, proposed changes of use of community land will:

1. Meet legislative requirements – land use tables (zoning) in the Strathfield Council Local Environmental Plan specifies the range of uses and activities that may be permitted on the land. A number of uses are also set out in the Regulations to the *Local Government Act 1993*.
2. Be consistent with the guidelines and core objectives of the community land category - under the *Local Government Act 1993* uses and development of community land must be consistent with the guidelines for categorisation and the core objectives of each category, and any other additional objectives the Council proposes to place on the community land categories.
3. Be consistent with relevant Council policies - substantial upgrades and proposed new development will take into account a range of factors, including:
 - this Plan of Management and the core objectives for the land
 - the planning controls for the land
 - Council's adopted policies
 - the characteristics of the land affected, including existing and future use patterns
 - any landscape masterplan for the land.

4.3 Scale and intensity of land use

The scale and intensity of use and development associated with community land in Strathfield is generally dependent on:

- the nature of the approved uses and developments
- approved Development Applications and any conditions
- an approved masterplan

- the physical constraints of the land
- the carrying capacity of the land
- relevant government legislation
- permissible times of use
- proximity of neighbours

The scale and intensity of use of parks and sportsgrounds should be monitored by:

- regular inspection of the physical impacts on the park or sportsground
- consideration of reports regarding any conflicts between park and sportsground users or from adjoining neighbours

4.4 Authorisation of leases, licences or other estates over community land

The Act requires that any lease or licence of community land must be authorised by a Plan of Management. The lease or licence must be for purposes consistent with the categorisation and zoning of the land.

The maximum period for leases or licences on community land permitted under the Act is 21 years. If a lease or licence is anticipated, then public notice should be given in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Where a lease arrangement has been entered into with Council for community land, subleasing the land may only occur with specific permission of Council and in accordance with the requirements of Section 47C of the Act, Clause 119 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* and conditions set out in agreements.

This Plan of Management authorises existing leases and licence agreements until the end of their current term. The leased or licensed areas may be renewed or changed in future. The leased or licensed areas may be reconfigured in the future to reflect changes in community needs.

This Plan of Management authorises Council to grant leases, licences or any other estates for community land covered in this Plan of Management for purposes and uses which are identified or consistent with those in Tables 8 and 9. Some examples of longer term arrangements, including licences, leases and other estates, are outlined in the following Table 8. Shorter arrangements (for example, a short term agreement associated with a particular event, or an activity recurring regularly either via annual or seasonal agreement) are set out in Table 9.

Calculations for fees and charges for leases and licences will be based on independent market rental valuations that are based on comparisons to similar services and facilities with similar locations, building and land conditions. As a minimum standard, the financial return from licence fees should offset asset maintenance, renewal and any operational costs. Council may also apply subsidies to not for profit organisations where there are demonstrated community benefits or financial hardship. Subsidies are generally not applied to commercial agreements.

Table 8 Leases, Licences and other estates

Type of Arrangement Authorised	Land and Facilities covered	Purposes for which long term leasing/licensing will be granted
Licence or lease	Park	<p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sporting and recreational purposes, including team sports, fitness activities and games • kiosk, café and refreshment purposes • use of court or similar facilities
Licence or lease	Natural Area	<p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • educational or environmental programs, scientific studies and surveys or similar • walkways, pathways, bridges or causeways • signs, observation platforms • temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project to be carried out
Other Estates	Park Natural Area (Bushland)	<p>This Plan of Management allows Council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities in accordance with the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>.</p> <p>Estates may also be granted across community land that is not affected by endangered communities for the provision of pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the Council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land.</p>

The grant of a lease or licence is an important step in using community land, but there may be other requirements relevant to any proposed use. For example, the refurbishment of a kiosk may also require development consent under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Any interested person should check carefully to make sure they are aware of all relevant requirements.

4.5 Short Term Uses

Agreements for use of community land may be granted for short duration which may be anything from a few hours to a few days. These short term arrangements should be for the types of uses identified in Table 9.

Table 9 Seasonal, regular and casual use agreements

Community land category	Purposes for which short term uses may be granted subject to council approval	Requirements
Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community events and festivals playing a musical instrument, or singing for fee or reward picnics and private celebrations such as family gatherings filming and photography session public performances engaging in an appropriate trade or business uses reasonably associated with the promotion or enhancement of sporting groups, fixtures and events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proposed use must comply with terms and conditions approved eg SafeWork NSW regulations, insurance, waste management etc the use should not result in physical damage to the park or natural area the use should not result in a significant adverse impact on adjoining residents or disturbance to nearby residents organisers of the site should be responsible for cleaning up the site and notify authorities and Council of any damage or incidents that may occur
Natural Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> educational or environmental programs, scientific studies and surveys or similar temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project to be carried out 	

In assessing community land categorised as Park or Natural Area as a venue for any proposed utilisation, the Council applies the following minimum criteria:

- Council reserves the right to refuse bookings based on previous unsatisfactory payment or performance history or where proposed use would damage the facility or cause significant disruption to other regular users.
- Fees for short-term casual bookings will be charged in accordance with Council's adopted Fees and Charges at the time.

5. Management of the land

5.1 Objectives and management of community land

The land is managed in accordance with the objectives and methods set out below:

Table 10 Objectives, means and performance measures

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Access	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide safe and improved access to the parks, sportsgrounds and general community use properties for pedestrians and cyclists. 2. Provide access to and within parks for people with disabilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upgrades, refurbishments and/or improvement works on community land to consider public access requirements for mobility and connections. 2. Proposed ramps, stairs and pathways to comply with relevant Council and BCA requirements consistent with Australian Standards. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Audits of community land and facilities to comply with standards
Amenity and Character	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure Council's community land and facilities contribute to the amenity and character of the Strathfield LGA. 2. Promote parks, sportsgrounds and community use properties as desirable places for recreation, community celebration and commemoration. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide parks and facilities and pathways as attractive destinations. 2. Maintain and enhance community land and facilities 3. Promote parks, sportsgrounds and facilities in local media and website. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consult with residents and users regarding satisfaction of parks and facilities 2. Monitor and action complaint data
Community Facilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide sustainable community facilities for a range of 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building and structure design specifications to consider park, sportsground and general 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor usage of community facilities as measured by bookings. 2. Community satisfaction surveys.

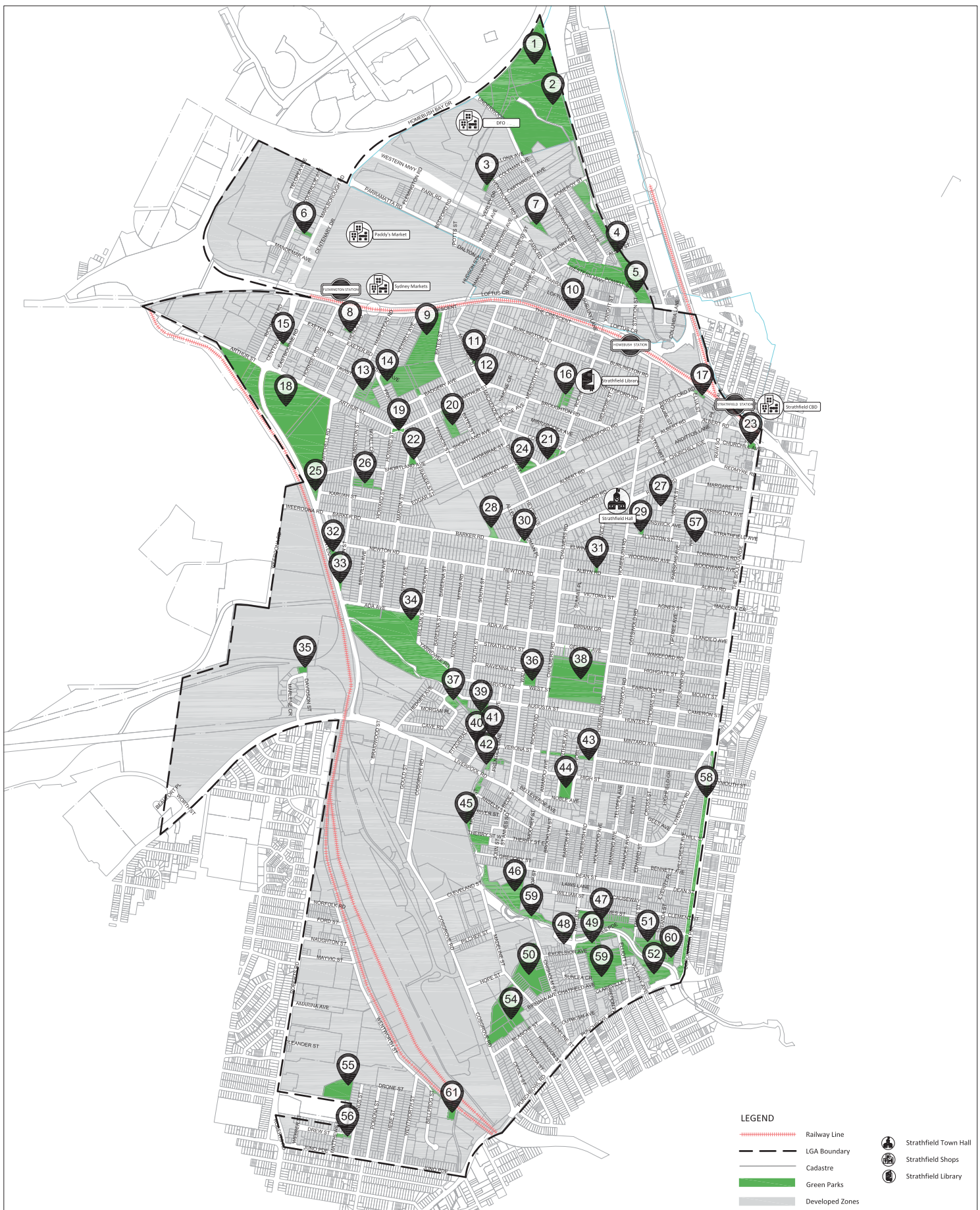
Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
	<p>community, social and other compatible activities.</p> <p>2. Ensure buildings positively contribute to community land amenity, facilitate a range of uses and have regard for environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance.</p>	<p>community use character, expected use and environmental sustainability features.</p> <p>2. Provide community facilities which are multi-purpose and flexible to a range of appropriate uses.</p> <p>3. Ensure community facilities are universally accessible.</p> <p>4. Community facilities meet sustainable building requirements and/or are progressively upgraded to incorporate best practice energy and water efficiencies.</p>	<p>3. Facility inspections and audits.</p> <p>4. Monitor comments and complaints</p>
Environmentally Sustainable Principles	<p>1. Manage community land to ensure best environmental management practises and principles having regard to environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance.</p>	<p>1. Promote and monitor energy efficiency</p> <p>2. Minimise use of water</p> <p>3. Implement waste reduction programs</p> <p>4. Utilise natural heating and cooling</p>	<p>1. Measure and monitor via plans and strategies such as Energy and Water plans.</p> <p>2. Monitor usage and trends via quarterly and annual consumption and billing.</p> <p>3. Monitor and minimise water and energy use in parks, sportsgrounds and ancillary facilities.</p>
Historical and Heritage Significance	<p>1. Appreciation and interpretation of the historical and/or heritage significance of the site and structures eg memorials in terms of both natural and cultural components.</p>	<p>1. Undertake, when required, historical research or heritage and cultural assessment studies to identify cultural and heritage values for retention and interpretation.</p> <p>2. Incorporate historical information on property signage to enhance understanding and appreciation of the site and the history it represents, where relevant.</p> <p>3. Promote sense of place and local identity</p>	<p>1. Retention and interpretation of heritage and cultural values provides increased appreciation of the property and its history through community consultation.</p>

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Landscape Character	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain and improve landscape character and visual quality of public open spaces 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage replacement planting strategies to ensure improvement to the current character. 2. Maintain consistency in selection and design of park and sportsground furniture, paving, fencing that is appropriate to the setting and the sport or activity type. 3. Implement & maintain co-ordinated signage strategy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community consultation including surveys regarding community views
Managing assets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide effective and efficient management of community land and facilities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Schedule regular inspections and condition assessments. 2. Inclusion of maintenance standards in licence, lease or hire agreements. 3. Provide waste and recycling bins to cater for public use. 4. Regular waste and recycling collection to minimise litter overflow 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Measure against Service Standard KPIs. 2. Respond to complaints and audits. 3. Monitor agreements 4. Review and update asset management plans periodically
Natural Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To maintain and enhance the health of park ecology, including flora and fauna, trees and soil 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage trees, gardens and natural areas to maintain and improve the quality of the environment in accordance with Council's tree management and biodiversity strategies and plans. 2. Retain habitat trees, protect foraging habitat and create/maintain habitat corridors through revegetation where possible 3. Ensure revegetation is undertaken using locally sourced stock from agreed planting lists (refer Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy) 4. Maintain weed management program to minimise spread of weeds 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Measure and monitor tree canopies, vegetation, weeds and habitat. 2. Undertake periodic flora and fauna reviews

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
		5. Implement actions where required under recovery or threat abatement plan.	
Natural Area (Bushland)	1. Refer to the Cooks River Corridor	Natural Area (Bushland) Generic Plan of Management 2020 for more detailed actions	
Promote varied recreational uses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance opportunities for a balanced organised and unstructured recreational use of public open space Optimise public access to public open space. Maintain condition and useability of sportsgrounds and 'sustainable capacity'. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Capital works program to plan for improvements and upgrades to community land. Promote a range of organised and informal/unstructured activities on community land Provide amenities that support use and enjoyment of parks and sportsgrounds eg toilets, change rooms and kiosk/café facilities. Enforce provisions for management of dogs on community land as per requirements of Council's Companion Animal Policy. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor local use of parks and sportsgrounds by bookings, surveys, complaints and observation.
Safety and Risk Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide safe use and access to public land and facilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Design and maintain layouts, landscaping and facilities in accordance with CPTED principles (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) principles including passive surveillance, good sight lines, territorial reinforcement and space management and lighting. Review lighting and security for both day and night time use. Work with local police to identify and act on safety issues. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Works to be in accordance with relevant Australian Standards and CPTED principles. Monitor and action incident and accident reports.

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Install and maintain facilities in accordance with relevant Australian standards. 5. Repair vandalism or graffiti within 48 hours where possible. 	
Traffic and Parking	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure traffic and parking requirements provide a safe environment for park, sportsgrounds and general community use property users and do not impact on the amenity of the properties. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minimise use of vehicles on community land and regulate and monitor vehicle access. 2. Installation of signage preventing vehicles from entering unauthorised areas. 3. Where vehicles are permitted, provide clearly marked vehicle movement areas 4. Provide access for emergency or works services. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduced pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle conflicts. 2. Improved public safety. 3. Traffic access to community land is via agreement.
Use agreements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That use arrangements facilitate wide community access to community land, community benefits and support financial sustainability. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Licence, leases, estates and short term use agreements comply with legislative and policy requirements. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor agreements in accordance with terms and conditions of agreement.





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Strathfield Council designs, constructs and maintains public infrastructure and other essential services over the council area. This includes the design and construction of roads, bridges, drains, sewers, water supply, and other infrastructure. The council also manages the council area's parks and recreation facilities, including the design and construction of new parks and the maintenance of existing ones. The council also manages the council area's waste management services, including the collection and disposal of household waste, and the management of the council area's public buildings and facilities.

When parks are used for any purpose, the council is responsible for ensuring that the parks are safe and secure for all users. The council also ensures that the parks are well-maintained and that the facilities are in good condition. The council also ensures that the parks are accessible to all members of the community, including people with disabilities.

date
31st January 2020

rev
01

scale 1:10000
0m 100 250 500 1000m

North Arrow

1. Bressington Park
2. Mason Park & Wetlands
3. Wentworth Reserve
4. Allen Street Reserve (Ismay Reserve)
5. Ismay Reserve
6. Austin Park
7. Bill Boyce Reserve
8. Henley Reserve
9. Airey Park
10. Augustus Loftus Reserve
11. Slater Reserve
12. Shortland Reserve Gardens
13. Melville Reserve
14. Sutherland Gardens
15. Tavistock Reserve
16. Fitzgerald Park
17. Laker Reserve
18. Hudson Park
19. Lowe's Garden
20. Pilgrim Park
21. Davey Square Memorial Reserve
22. Kessel Square
23. Strathfield Square
24. Inveresk Park
25. Frank Zions Reserve
26. Boden Reserve
27. Redmyre Road Croquet Lawns
28. Mt Royal Reserve
29. Centenary Playground
30. Todman Reserve
31. Florence Reserve
32. Cosgrove Reserve
33. Pemberton Reserve
34. Freshwater Park
35. Marlene Reserve
36. Wallis Reserve
37. Chain of Ponds Reserve
38. Strathfield Park
39. Thew Reserve
40. Fitzgerald Reserve
41. Palmer Reserve
42. Prentice Reserve
43. Humphries Reserve
44. Edwards Park
45. St Annes Reserve
46. Dean Reserve
47. Ford Park
48. Water Reserve
49. Maria Reserve
50. Cooke Park
51. Southend Tennis
52. Elliott Reserve
53. Bark Hut Reserve
54. Begnell Field
55. Cox's Creek Reserve
56. Drew St Playground
57. Nichol Reserve
58. Coronation Reserve
59. South Cooks River Land
60. Chiswick Reserve
61. Greenacre Frog Ponds

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1. Introduction

1.1 Title

This plan is titled Freshwater Park Plan of Management.

The current plan was adopted by Council resolution at the meeting of xx.

This plan of management applies to land located at Freshwater Park. This land is bounded by Ada Avenue, Wilson Street, Yarrowee Road, Myrna Road and Centenary Drive Strathfield.

The land in Freshwater Reserve categorised as natural area (bushland) is included in the Cooks River Natural Area (Bushland) Plan of Management.

Ownership, lot details and zoning information is set out in Table 1 (information from Council Geographical Information System (GIS) 2019).

The location map of Freshwater Reserve is set out in Figure 1.

Table 1 – Ownership, title and zoning details

Owner	Lot Details	Zoning Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012
Strathfield Council	Lot 3 DP 854298	RE1 - Public Recreation
Strathfield Council	Lot 176 DP 15955	RE1 - Public Recreation

Figure 1 – Freshwater Park Location Map



1.2 Purpose of this Plan of Management

The *Local Government Act 1993* and amendments to the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* require all public land including Crown Reserves, owned or managed by Council, to be classified as either 'community' land or 'operational' land. Land classified as 'community' land is to be managed and used in accordance with an adopted Plan of Management. The land described in this Plan of Management is classified as community land.

Plans of Management are developed by Council in consultation with the community. A Plan of Management describes the features of the community land and outlines how the land may be managed and used, consistent with land categorisations, core objectives and zoning, to provide a transparent and co-ordinated approach to public land management.

This Freshwater Park Plan of Management consolidates and updates previous Plans of Management. The purpose of this Plan of Management is to:

- contribute to the strategic goals and vision as set out in the Strathfield Community Strategic Plan
- ensure compliance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and relevant legislation and guidelines
- provide clarity regarding use and access to the community land as described in this plan.

1.3 Contents of this Plan of Management

This Plan of Management is divided into the following sections, as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2 – Structure of this Plan of Management

Section	What does it include?
1. Introduction	Title, land covered by plan, purpose, contents and review of the plan
2. About the Strathfield LGA	Recognition of traditional custodians, Strathfield LGA snapshot, trends, community vision, legislative and policy framework, and references.
3. Land – category, classification, use and access	Site description, land use/history, land categories and classifications, maps, use of land and structures, environmental features, condition of land and structures and heritage.
4. Land Uses	Permissible uses and development, scale and intensity of use, authorisation of leases, licences and short term uses.
5. Management of the land	Objectives, performance targets, means and manner for assessment of performance

1.4. Change and Review of Plan of Management

This Plan of Management will require regular review in order to align with community values and changing community needs, and to reflect changes in Council priorities. The performance of this Plan of Management will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure the use of land and structures is well maintained and consistent with Council's strategic objectives and community values.

Strategic reviews of this Plan of Management will be required where there is significant change to legislation, land ownership/management or proposed land use. Regular reviews should occur at five (5) year intervals.

2. About the Strathfield Local Government Area

2.1 Recognition of Traditional Custodians

Strathfield Council acknowledges the Wangal people, the traditional Custodians of the lands on which the Strathfield area is located. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

2.2 Snapshot of Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA)

The Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA) is well known for transport connections, educational opportunities, attractive streetscapes, parks, heritage and buildings. The Strathfield LGA is centrally located in Sydney's Inner West, approximately 10.5 kilometres from the Sydney CBD and half way between Parramatta and the Sydney CBD. The LGA includes the suburbs of Strathfield (postcode 2135), Strathfield South (2136), Homebush (2140), Homebush West (2140), part of Belfield (2191) and part of Greenacre (2190). Sydney Markets (postcode 2129) is also located within Strathfield LGA.

Strathfield LGA is well known for its extensive green open spaces and high quality recreational facilities, which enhance the liveability, amenity and sustainability of the local area. The Strathfield LGA has a total area of approximately 1390 ha (13.9km²) with 104 ha of the total area being public open space (2018 estimates). There is currently 9.06 ha of remnant bushland in the LGA and about 6 ha is under Council management.

In 2019, the estimated residential LGA population was about 47,000 residents and by 2041, the resident population is estimated to reach over 80,000 people (NSW Planning 2019). The growing population and accompanying building density will increase demand for access to and usage of available open space and community facilities. Therefore, management of community land is of critical importance to current and future communities.

Open spaces range from regional and district sporting grounds to smaller local parks and reserves. Significant parks with major sporting facilities include Airey Park, Bressington Park, Bark Huts Reserve, Begnell Field, Cooke Park, Hudson Park, Mason Park and Strathfield Park. Many local biodiversity conservation and habitat connectivity priority areas, including flora and fauna assets, are located within Strathfield LGA's parks and reserves. A number of connected parks and open spaces form the Cooks River Foreshore open space network, an important local and regional habitat corridor and pedestrian and cycle transport connection.

Strathfield LGA also provides many community facilities, located on community land including meeting rooms, halls and community centres which are available for hire by groups and individuals for sporting, community, recreation, social and other purposes.

2.3 Strathfield LGA community and recreational trends

Some of the challenges facing the Strathfield LGA include increasing and competing demands for public open space and community facilities. Strathfield Council is strongly focused on identifying and meeting the current and future needs of the Strathfield community in a sustainable manner.

Recent community engagement and analysis of social and recreational trends indicate increasing participation in recreation, sporting and leisure activities such as organised team sports, walking, cycling, running, aerobic fitness and dog walking. There is increased demand for access to community and recreation facilities, outdoor and indoor.

Priorities for Council involve increasing the capacity of local community facilities, parks and sportsgrounds, developing new community and recreational facilities as required and ensuring equity of access to land and facilities, to meet changing and diverse needs.

2.4 Community Vision and Key Strategic Directions

The community vision describes the community's aspirations for the future of the Strathfield Local Government Area by 2030:

“Strathfield is a culturally diverse and socially cohesive community with respect for its heritage and environment and proud of its well-connected transport, business and educational institutions”.

Strathfield 2030 is the community strategic plan for the Strathfield Local Government Area until 2030. The plan was developed following extensive community engagement and is divided into the key themes of Connectivity, Community Wellbeing, Civic Pride and Management. Liveable Neighbourhoods and Responsible Leadership

This plan is aligned with the Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) which defines the long term vision for land use and infrastructure provisions within the Strathfield LGA and supports place within the Greater Sydney and District planning frameworks. This plan of management aligns with the LSPS Priority P13 'Biodiversity and ecological health and resiliency is conserved, restored and enhanced' and Priority P15 'Quality Open Spaces and thriving green corridors offset the impacts of growth across the LGA' and action plan A93 to review and prepare new plans of management.

2.5 Legislative and Policy Framework

The following legislation and policies provide a framework for the preparation of this Plan of Management.

Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (LG Act) requires the preparation of Plans of Management (POMs) for Council owned land, and requires all community land to be categorised.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) (EP&A Act) is the principal planning legislation for NSW, that provides a framework for the environmental planning and assessment of development proposals and preparation of environmental planning instruments (including the Local Environmental Plan or LEP).

Crown Lands Management Act 2016 (NSW) (CLM Act) governs the planning, management and use of Crown land, including provisions to reserve or dedicate lands for a prescribed public purpose and for leasing and licensing. Crown land under Council management requires classification and categorisations under the LG Act and preparation of Plans of Management.

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW) (BC Act) requires that Councils consider the impact on threatened species, populations and communities in fulfilling their statutory responsibilities under the EP&A Act for development approvals. It also covers management of threatened species and communities on Council owned lands.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth) (EPBC Act) provides a national scheme for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, and incorporates referral mechanisms and environmental impact assessment processes for projects of national significance.

Companion Animal Act 1998 (NSW) requires the identification and registration of companion animals (e.g. cats and dogs) and sets out the duties and responsibilities in relation to management of animals and specific areas of land.

Local Land Services Act 2013 (NSW) provides a framework to ensure the proper management of natural resources in the social, economic and environmental interests of the State. Strathfield is part of the Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS), which provides guidance on matters such as community engagement, biosecurity and weeds.

Also relevant are:

- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)
- Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (NSW) and Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)
- Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)
- Fisheries Management Act 1994 (NSW)
- Rural Fires Act 1997 (NSW)
- State Environmental Planning Policy 19 – Bushland in Urban Areas.
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)

Related Strathfield Council policies and plans

- Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030
- Strathfield 2030 Community Strategic Plan (CSP)
- Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Development Control Plans 2025
- Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS)
- Disability Inclusion Plan

2.6 References

Eco Logical Australia and Strathfield Council, 2019, *Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2020-2030*, viewed at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/live/biodiversity/>

Insight Ecology, 2017, *The Fauna of Strathfield (Local Government Area)*, viewed at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/live/biodiversity/>

Jones, Cathy, 2019, *Parks and Reserves*, Strathfield Heritage website at <https://strathfieldheritage.org/parks-and-reserves>

Near Maps – Strathfield LGA, 2019 at <https://www.nearmap.com/au/en>

NSW Department Planning, 2019, *Strathfield LGA Population Projections 2016-2041*, viewed at <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Factsheets-and-faqs/Research-and-demography/Population-projections/2019-Strathfield.pdf>

Strathfield Council, *Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012*, viewed at <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/EPL/2013/115>

Strathfield Council, 2018, *Community Strategic Plan – Strathfield 2030* viewed at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/council/policies-plans-and-regulations/community-strategic-plan/>

Strathfield Council, 2019, Geographical Information System (GIS) Data

3. Land – category, classification, use and access

3.1 Description of site

Freshwater Park is an open parkland area that adjoins private open space owned by the Strathfield Golf Course at its northern boundary. Cooks River runs in an approximately north-west to south-east direction through Freshwater Park.

Part of Freshwater Park has been leased or licenced to Strathfield Golf Club since the 1930s. The area within the park that is west of Cooks River is part of the Strathfield Golf Course and contains golfing fairways that are landscaped on the edges by trees and bushes.

The area east of Cooks River consists largely of mowed lawns with perimeter landscaping and contains a children's playground, open space for informal recreational use, a barbecue, one cricket practice wicket, shelters and seating, and a concrete cricket wicket and small sportsfield.

Freshwater Park is a Cooks River foreshore park and identified as Biodiversity Connectivity Priority area by the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy. The park contains significant revegetation and Yarrowee Wetlands.

3.2 Land prior use and history

The land on which Freshwater Park Strathfield is located was considered unsuitable for building by the developers of the Strathlea Estate in the late 1920s due to frequent flooding from the Cooks River, which runs through the park. The developers transferred part of the Strathlea Estate to Council ownership and over time, Council purchased additional land which expanded the size of the park. The park was formally dedicated in 1929 by Council and named in honour of William Freshwater, Strathfield Council's head gardener from 1887 to 1929.

In October 1931, the Strathfield Golf Club was formed with the intention of establishing a golf course in Freshwater Park. The Golf Club negotiated an agreement with Strathfield Council for the use of 37 acres of Freshwater Park. The first Golf course of 9 holes and extended to 18 holes in 1934 (Jones 2019).

The majority of the park is occupied by the Golf Course, there are publicly accessible areas of Freshwater Park. A section of Freshwater Park, facing Ada Avenue, was set aside for a public park which included a children's playground, a junior sports ground and seating. Another area facing Yarrowee Road features an artificial wetland called "Yarrowee Wetland" which was constructed in 2010 to provide filtration of stormwater pollutants prior to entering the Cooks River. The Bay to Bay cycle way and pedestrian pathway runs through the park.¹

¹ Jones, C, 2019, Parks and Reserves

Figure 2: Historical photograph of Freshwater Park

The aerial historic photographs indicate changes in the park over time, particularly the building of the golf course, structures and revegetation, especially near the river and boundaries of the park.



Freshwater Park aerial photograph (1943)
<https://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/>



Freshwater Park aerial photograph (1947)



Freshwater Park aerial 2009 © Near Maps



Freshwater Park aerial 2019. © Near Maps

3.3 Categories and classifications of community land

The management of community land is governed by the categorisation of the land, and the core objectives of the relevant category of community land. The core objectives for each category are set out in the *Local Government Act 1993*. The guidelines and core objectives for relevant categories are set out in Table 3.

Table 3 – Guidelines for and core objectives of community land

Category	Guidelines ²	Core objectives ³
Park	<i>Regulation cl.104</i> Land which is, or proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, and for uses which are mainly passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others.	<i>Category Park – (Section 36G)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities. provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games. improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.
Sportsground	<i>Regulation cl.103</i> Land should be categorised as 'sportsground' if the land is used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.	<i>Category Sportsground - (Section 36F)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.
Natural Area	<i>Regulation cl.102</i> Natural areas are where land, whether or not in an undisturbed state, possesses a significant geological feature, geomorphological feature, landform, representative system or other natural feature or attribute that would be sufficient to further categorise the land as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore	<i>Natural Area - (Section 36E)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised to a natural area; and to maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting, and to provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land, and to provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and to assist in and facilitate the implement of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan prepared under the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> or the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>

² *Local Government General Regulation 2005*

³ *Local Government Act 1993*

Category	Guidelines ²	Core objectives ³
Natural Area – bushland	<p><i>Regulation cl.107</i> Land that contains primarily native vegetation that is the natural vegetation or a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land, or although not the natural vegetation, is still representative of the structure or floristics of the natural vegetation in the locality.</p>	<p><i>Natural Area - Bushland (Section 36J)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land, and • to protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and • to promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and • to restore degraded bushland, and • to protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and • to retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and • to protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.
Natural Area - Wetland	<p><i>Regulation cl.108</i> Marshes, mangroves, backwaters, billabongs, swamps, sedgelands, wet meadows or wet heathlands that form a waterbody.</p>	<p><i>Natural Area - Bushland (Section 36K)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to protect the biodiversity and ecological values of wetlands, with particular reference to their hydrological environment (including water quality and water flow), and to the flora, fauna and habitat values of the wetlands, and • to restore and regenerate degraded wetlands, and • to facilitate community education in relation to wetlands, and the community use of wetlands, without compromising the ecological values of wetlands.

Council must manage community land in according to these core objectives. Any activities or uses of the land should be consistent with the core objectives for that category of land. Additional objectives which support the above core objectives are included in Section 5 Management of the land.

The land classified as community land under the *Local Government Act 1993* is categorised as Park, Sportsground, Natural Area (Bushland and Wetland). The categorised areas are marked in Figure 3.

Figure 3 – Map of Freshwater Park land categorisations



3.4 Use of the land and structures at date of adoption of the plan

Freshwater Park provides a wide range of land uses, which facilitate sporting, recreational and community uses as well as significant natural areas.

The land on which the Strathfield Golf Course is built has been categorised as a Sportsground. The Golf Course is primarily dedicated to golfing purposes.

The park contains a habitat corridor, which is identified as biodiversity connectivity priority area in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy. This is located near the River and has been categorised as a Natural Area (Bushland).

The Yarrowee Wetland is categorised as Natural Area (Wetland).

The areas of Freshwater Park with street frontages are used for active and passive recreation and leisure purposes and are categorised as a Park.

3.5 Environmental Features

Freshwater Park is one of the Cooks River/Coxs Creek foreshore parks in the Strathfield LGA. It is located at the western boundary of the LGA. Parts of this land are identified in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2019 as a Biodiversity Connectivity area. These corridors are also identified as Priority Biodiversity Areas and a Priority Green Grid Project in Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2020.

Freshwater Park contains key fauna habitats including riparian vegetation. Many stormwater systems overflow into the bushland reserves of Freshwater Park. Often the discharge from these systems is short-lived but dynamic. To reduce the erosional effects of these rapid discharges of stormwater, concrete troughs and basins have been created to disrupt the energy of the water.

Freshwater Park contains natural areas (bushland) and natural area (wetland). The natural area (bushland) contains *Acacia pubescens* (Downy Wattle), which is listed as Vulnerable under the NSW Biodiversity Act.

Natural Area (Bushland)

The natural area is located adjacent to the Cooks River and on land within the Strathfield Private Golf Course.

Acacia pubescens (Downy Wattle) is present at Freshwater Park. While there are historic records of *Acacia pubescens* in Freshwater Park, the current plants are revegetated and planted during the river restoration works which occurred around 2010. This flora is also located in other areas of the Golf Course, around Weeroona Road, on land owned by the Golf Course.

This flora is listed as Vulnerable under the Biodiversity Act (NSW) and Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (Comm.). The habitat for this flora is open woodland and forest, including Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest. It occurs on alluviums, shales and at the intergrade between shales and sandstones⁴.

Acacia pubescens flowers from August to October. Pollination of Acacia flowers is usually by insects and birds, rather than from seedlings. The pods mature in October to December. The percentage of pod production and seed fall for this species appears to be low.

The threats to *Acacia pubescens* include habitat degradation (through mechanical damage, rubbish dumping, and illegal track creation), disease, hybridisation, illegal and accidental clearing, and impacts of invasive grasses including African Lovegrass, *Paspalum* and *Briza* species or canopy species including African Olive, Privet and Cootamundra Wattle⁵.

The land in Freshwater Park categorised as natural area (bushland) is also included in the Cooks River Natural Area (Bushland) Plan of Management as it connects with other foreshore parks creating a habitat corridor.

Refer to section 5.2 for actions relating to management of the natural area (bushland).

⁴ NSW Planning Industry & Environment, Downy Wattle Profile

⁵ NSW Planning, Industry & Environment, Downy Wattle Profile

Natural Area (Wetland)

Yarrowee Wetlands is an artificial wetland and located in Freshwater Park, the upper reaches of the Cooks River.

The wetland was restored in 2010 to provide an aquatic habitat feeding habitat and breeding site for a variety of native wildlife including frogs, skinks and small birds. The wetland was constructed to treat stormwater flowing from a local catchment and features over 2000 locally native shrubs, grasses and groundcovers. Though the wetland provides habitat for frogs, there have been no recorded sightings of the Green and Golden Bellfrog, a threatened species.

Refer to section 5.2 for actions relating to management of the natural area (bushland).

3.6 Condition of the land and structures on adoption of the plan

The condition of land and structures upon adoption of this plan of management are shown in Table 4 and the interpretation of buildings/site conditions include:

Table 4 - Condition rating assessment criteria

Rating	Descriptor	Guide	Residual Life as a % of Total Life	Mean % age residual life
1 Excellent	Sound physical condition. Asset likely to perform adequately without major work.	Normal maintenance required	>86	95
2 Good	Acceptable physical condition, minimal short term risk of failure.	Normal maintenance plus minor repairs required (to 5% or less of the asset)	65 to 85	80
3 Satisfactory	Deterioration evident, failure in the short term unlikely. Minor components need replacement or repair now but asset still functions safely.	Significant maintenance and/or repairs required (to 10-20% of the asset)	41 to 64	55
4 Worn	Deterioration of the asset is evident and failure is possible in the short term. No immediate risk to health and safety.	Significant renewal required (to 20 - 40% of the asset)	10 to 40	35
5 Poor	Failed or failure is imminent or there is significant deterioration of the asset. Health and safety hazards exist which present a possible risk to public safety.	Over 50% of the asset requires renewal	<10	5

Table 5 – Condition of assets at Freshwater Park

Description	Condition
BBQ, shelter and seating	Good
Children's playground	Excellent (built 2018)
Cricket Wicket	Good
Fencing	Satisfactory
Golf Course	Excellent
Open space for informal recreational use	Good
Park lighting	Satisfactory
Pathways	Good
Outdoor Fitness Equipment	Excellent (built 2020)

3.7 Heritage

There are no statutory heritage listings associated with this land.

3.8 Photographs of Freshwater Park

Photographs taken in 2019



Freshwater Park (corner Ada Avenue & Wilson Street)



Sportsfield (view from Ada Avenue)



Seat, bike rack, pathway and cluster of trees



BBQ, shelter & seating (Ada Avenue)



Playground (Ada Avenue)



Cluster of trees

4. Land Uses

4.1 Permissible uses and developments

The permissible types of uses which may occur and the forms of development generally associated with those uses, are set out in Tables 6-9.

The tables below set out the purpose/use of the land consistent with its land categorisation and the types of development generally associated with those uses. Facilities on community land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community. The anticipated uses, and associated development, identified in Tables 6 to 9 are intended to provide an overview or general guide. Development is subject to requirements set out in clauses 4.2 and 4.3

Table 6 – Permissible uses of land categories – Park

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Active and passive recreation including children's play• Group recreational use, such as picnics and celebrations• Publicly accessible ancillary areas eg toilets• Festivals, fairs, similar events and gatherings• Low intensity commercial activities• Filming and photographic projects• Public address (speeches)• Easement, utilities and estate• Community gardening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development for the purposes of improving access, amenity, and the visual character of the park eg paths, pergolas, flagpoles, lights, water bubblers, seating, paved areas, hard and soft landscaped areas etc• Development for the purposes of active recreation eg play equipment, children's playgrounds, exercise equipment, courts etc• Amenities to facilitate leisure use of the park eg picnic tables and shelters, BBQ's & sheltered eating areas• Kiosk/café, mobile food vans or refreshment areas• Restricted access ancillary areas (e.g. storage areas associated with functions, gardening equipment)• Transport access and service areas ancillary to the use of land (eg public transport, car parking, loading zones, bicycle racks)• Community gardens• Off-leash areas• Heritage and cultural interpretation eg signs, public art etc• Locational, directional and regulatory signage• Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that relate to approved uses/activities, discreet and temporary and approved by Council.• Water/Energy savings initiatives

Table 7 – Permissible uses of land categories – Sportsgrounds

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active and passive recreational and sporting activities consistent with the nature of the particular land and any relevant facilities • Organised and unstructured recreation activities • Community events or gatherings, and public meetings • Commercial uses associated with sports facilities • Easement, utilities and estate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development for the purpose of conducting and facilitating organised sport • Sportsfields eg golf or those consistent with primary use of the land • Amenities eg change room, lockers, shower/toilet facilities, first aid rooms, seating • Café or kiosk facilities, mobile coffee cart or food vending subject to site assessment and Council approval • Car parking and loading areas • Ancillary areas eg staff rooms, meeting rooms, equipment storage areas • Shade structures • Seating and scoreboards • Sports or fitness training, and practice facilities • Heritage and cultural interpretation eg signs, public art • Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that relate to approved uses/activities, discreet and temporary and approved by Council. • Water/Energy savings initiatives • Lighting and water (eg taps, bubblers)

Table 8 – Permissible uses of land categories – Natural Area - Wetland

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking and cycling Guided bushwalks and bird watching Environmental programs and scientific study Preservation of biodiversity and habitat Bush regeneration and revegetation works Relaxation and passive informal recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretative, regulatory and directional signage Low impact lighting Low impact pathways Passive recreation Seating Small ancillary building eg storage and amenities for site maintenance Water saving initiatives eg swales, sediment traps, rainwater gardens

Table 9 – Permissible uses of land categories – Natural Area – Bushland

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking and cycling Guided bushwalks and bird watching Environmental programs and scientific study Preservation of biodiversity and habitat Bush regeneration and revegetation works Relaxation and passive informal recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretative, regulatory and directional signage Low impact lighting Low impact carparking Low impact pathways Passive recreation Seating Small ancillary building eg storage and amenities for site maintenance Water saving initiatives eg swales, sediment traps, rainwater gardens

4.2 Future development and use of the community land

There have been recent facilities installed at Freshwater Park including outdoor fitness equipment and a single lane cricket practice net. There are no other proposed plans for development in Freshwater Park at the time of adoption of the Plan of Management.

Minor changes to community land are regularly made on a routine basis, such as garden beds are replanted, and damaged play equipment is replaced.

In the event of potential future development other than that listed, proposed changes of use of community land will:

1. Meet legislative requirements - zoning tables in the Strathfield Council Local Environmental Plan specifies the range of uses and activities that may be permitted on the land. A number of uses are also set out in the Regulations to the *Local Government Act 1993*.
2. Be consistent with the guidelines and core objectives of the community land category - under the *Local Government Act 1993* uses and development of community land must be consistent with the guidelines for categorisation and the core objectives of each category, and any other additional objectives the Council proposes to place on the community land categories.

3. Be consistent with relevant Council policies - substantial upgrades and proposed new development will take into account a range of factors, including:

- this Plan of Management and the core objectives for the land
- the planning controls for the land
- Council's adopted policies
- the characteristics of the land affected, including existing and future use patterns
- any landscape masterplan for the land.

4.3 Scale and intensity of land use

The scale and intensity of use and development associated with community land in Strathfield is generally dependent on:

- the nature of the approved uses and developments
- approved Development Applications and any conditions
- an approved masterplan
- the physical constraints of the land
- the carrying capacity of the land
- relevant government legislation
- permissible times of use
- proximity of neighbours

The scale and intensity of use of parks and sportsgrounds should be monitored by:

- regular inspection of the physical impacts on the park or sportsground
- consideration of reports regarding any conflicts between park and sportsground users or from adjoining neighbours

4.4 Authorisation of leases, licences or other estates over community land

The Act requires that any lease or licence of community land must be authorised by a Plan of Management. The lease or licence must be for purposes consistent with the categorisation and zoning of the land.

The maximum period for leases or licences on community land permitted under the Act is 21 years. If a lease or licence is anticipated, then public notice should be given in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Where a lease arrangement has been entered into with Council for community land, subleasing the land may only occur with specific permission of Council and in accordance with the requirements of Section 47C of the Act, Clause 119 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* and conditions set out in agreements.

This Plan of Management authorises existing leases and licence agreements until the end of their current term. The leased or licensed areas may be renewed or changed in future. The leased or licensed areas may be reconfigured in the future to reflect changes in community needs.

This Plan of Management authorises Council to grant leases, licences or any other estates for community land covered in this Plan of Management for purposes and uses which are identified or

consistent with those in Tables 6-9. Some examples of longer term arrangements, including licences, leases or other estates, are outlined in the following Table 10. Shorter arrangements (for example, a short term agreement associated with a particular event, or an activity recurring regularly either via annual or seasonal agreement) are set out in Table 11.

Calculations for fees and charges for leases and licences will be based on independent market rental valuations that are based on comparisons to similar services and facilities with similar locations, building and land conditions. As a minimum standard, the financial return from licence fees should offset asset maintenance, renewal and any operational costs. Council may also apply subsidies to not for profit organisations where there are demonstrated community benefits or financial hardship. Subsidies are generally not applied to commercial agreements.

Table 10 – Leases, Licences and other estates

Type of Arrangement Authorised	Land and Facilities covered	Purposes for which long term leasing/licensing will be granted
Licence or lease	Park Sportsground	<p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sporting and recreational purposes, including formal sports, fitness activities and games • kiosk, café, mobile food vending and refreshment purposes • use of court or similar facilities • work sheds or storage areas required in connection with maintenance • signs • temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project or works to be carried out
Licence or lease	Natural Areas (Bushland and Wetland)	<p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recreation • educational or environmental programs, scientific studies and surveys or similar • walkways, pathways, bridges or causeways • information kiosks, low impact refreshment or mobile food vending • work sheds or storage areas required in connection with maintenance • signs, observation platforms • temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project to be carried out

Type of Arrangement Authorised	Land and Facilities covered	Purposes for which long term leasing/licensing will be granted
Other Estates	Park Sportsground Natural Areas	<p>This Plan of Management allows Council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities in accordance with the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>.</p> <p>Estates may also be granted across community land that is not affected by endangered communities for the provision of pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the Council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land.</p>

The grant of a lease or licence is an important step in using community land, but there may be other requirements relevant to any proposed use. For example, the refurbishment of a kiosk may also require development consent under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Any interested person should check carefully to make sure they are aware of all relevant requirements.

4.5 Short Term Uses

Agreements for use of community land may be granted for short duration, which may include casual hires, seasonal use (eg sportsfields) or regular hire arrangement. These short-term arrangements should be for the types of uses identified in Table 11 and consistent with prevailing Council policies.

Table 11 – Seasonal, regular and casual use agreements

Community land category	Purposes for which short term uses may be granted subject to council approval	Requirements
Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community events and festivals playing a musical instrument, or singing for fee or reward picnics and private celebrations such as family gatherings filming and photography session public performances engaging in an appropriate trade or business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proposed use must comply with terms and conditions for event approval e.g. SafeWork NSW regulations, insurance, waste management etc. the use should not result in physical damage to the park, sportsground or natural areas the use should not result in a significant adverse impact on adjoining residents or disturbance to nearby residents organisers of the site should be responsible for cleaning up the site and notify authorities and Council of any damage or incidents that may occur
Sportsgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community events and festivals sporting fixtures and events sports and fitness training and classes filming or photography of sporting fixtures or events uses reasonably associated with the promotion or enhancement of sporting groups, fixtures and events 	
Natural Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> educational or environmental programs, scientific studies and surveys or similar temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project to be carried out 	

In assessing community land categorised as Park, Sportsground or Natural Area as a venue for any proposed utilisation, the Council applies the following minimum criteria:

- Council reserves the right to refuse bookings based on previous unsatisfactory payment or performance history or where proposed use would damage the facility or cause significant disruption to other regular users.
- Fees for short-term casual bookings will be charged in accordance with Council's adopted Fees and Charges at the time.

5. Management of the land

5.1 Objectives and management of community land

The land is managed in accordance with the objectives and methods set out below:

Table 12 – Objectives, means and performance measures

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Access	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide safe and improved access to the parks, sportsgrounds and general community use properties for pedestrians and cyclists. 2. Provide access to and within parks for people with disabilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upgrades, refurbishments and/or improvement works on community land to consider public access requirements for mobility and connections. 2. Proposed ramps, stairs and pathways to comply with relevant Council and BCA requirements consistent with Australian Standards. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Audits of community land and facilities to comply with standards
Amenity and Character	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure Council's community land and facilities contribute to the amenity and character of the Strathfield LGA. 2. Promote parks, sportsgrounds and community use properties as desirable places for recreation, community celebration and commemoration. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide parks and facilities and pathways as attractive destinations. 2. Maintain and enhance community land and facilities 3. Promote parks, sportsgrounds and facilities in local media and website. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consult with residents and users regarding satisfaction of parks and facilities 2. Monitor and action complaint data
Community Facilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide sustainable community facilities for a range of 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building and structure design specifications to consider park, sportsground and general 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor usage of community facilities as measured by bookings.

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
	<p>community, social and other compatible activities.</p> <p>2. Ensure buildings positively contribute to community land amenity, facilitate a range of uses and have regard for environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance.</p>	<p>community use character, expected use and environmental sustainability features.</p> <p>2. Provide community facilities which are multi-purpose and flexible to a range of appropriate uses.</p> <p>3. Ensure community facilities are universally accessible.</p> <p>4. Community facilities meet sustainable building requirements and/or are progressively upgraded to incorporate best practice energy and water efficiencies.</p>	<p>2. Community satisfaction surveys.</p> <p>3. Facility inspections and audits.</p> <p>4. Monitor comments and complaints</p>
Environmentally Sustainable Principles	<p>1. Manage community land to ensure best environmental management practises and principles having regard to environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance.</p>	<p>1. Energy efficiency</p> <p>2. Water savings</p> <p>3. Waste reduction</p> <p>4. Natural heating and cooling</p>	<p>1. Measure and monitor via plans and strategies such as Energy and Water plans.</p> <p>2. Monitor usage and trends via quarterly and annual consumption and billing.</p> <p>3. Monitor and minimise water and energy use in parks, sportsgrounds and ancillary facilities.</p>
Historical and Heritage Significance	<p>1. Appreciation and interpretation of the historical and/or heritage significance of the site and structures e.g. memorials in terms of both natural and cultural components.</p>	<p>1. Undertake, when required, historical research or heritage and cultural assessment studies to identify cultural and heritage values for retention and interpretation.</p> <p>2. Incorporate historical information on property signage to enhance understanding and appreciation of the site and the history it represents, where relevant.</p> <p>3. Promote sense of place and local identity</p>	<p>1. Retention and interpretation of heritage and cultural values provides increased appreciation of the property and its history through community consultation.</p>

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Landscape Character	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and improve landscape character and visual quality of public open spaces 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Manage replacement planting strategies to ensure improvement to the current character. Maintain consistency in selection and design of park and sportsground furniture, paving, fencing that is appropriate to the setting and the sport or activity type. Implement & maintain co-ordinated signage strategy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Community consultation including surveys regarding community views
Managing assets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide effective and efficient management of community land and facilities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule regular inspections and condition assessments. Inclusion of maintenance standards in licence, lease or hire agreements. Provide waste and recycling bins to cater for public use. Regular waste and recycling collection to minimise litter overflow 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Measure against Service Standard KPIs. Respond to complaints and audits. Monitor agreements Review and update asset management plans periodically
Natural Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain and enhance the health of park ecology, including flora and fauna, trees and soil 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Manage trees, gardens and natural areas to maintain and improve the quality of the environment in accordance with Council's tree management and biodiversity strategies and plans. Retain habitat trees and create/maintain habitat corridors through revegetation where possible Maintain weed management program to minimise spread of weeds 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Measurement and monitoring of tree canopies, vegetation, weeds and habitat.

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Promote varied recreational uses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance opportunities for a balanced organised and unstructured recreational use of public open space Optimise public access to public open space. Maintain condition and useability of sportsgrounds and 'sustainable capacity'. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Capital works program to plan for improvements and upgrades to community land. Promote a range of organised and informal/unstructured activities on community land Provide amenities that support use and enjoyment of parks and sportsgrounds e.g. toilets, change rooms and kiosk/café facilities. Enforce provisions for management of dogs on community land as per requirements of Council's Companion Animal Policy. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor local use of parks and sportsgrounds by bookings, surveys, complaints and observation.
Safety and Risk Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide safe use and access to public land and facilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Design and maintain layouts, landscaping and facilities in accordance with CPTED principles (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) principles including passive surveillance, good sight lines, territorial reinforcement and space management and lighting. Review lighting and security for both day and night time use. Work with local police to identify and act on safety issues. Install and maintain facilities in accordance with relevant Australian standards. Repair vandalism or graffiti within 48 hours where possible. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Works to be in accordance with relevant Australian Standards and CPTED principles. Monitor and action incident and accident reports.

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Traffic and Parking	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure traffic and parking requirements provide a safe environment for park, sportsgrounds and general community use property users and do not impact on the amenity of the properties. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minimise use of vehicles on community land and regulate and monitor vehicle access. 2. Installation of signage preventing vehicles from entering unauthorised areas. 3. Where vehicles are permitted, provide clearly marked vehicle movement areas 4. Provide access for emergency or works services. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduced pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle conflicts. 2. Improved public safety. 3. Traffic access to community land is via agreement.
Use agreements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That use arrangements facilitate wide community access to community land, community benefits and support financial sustainability. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Licence, leases, estates and short term use agreements comply with legislative and policy requirements. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor agreements in accordance with terms and conditions of agreement.

5.2 Objectives and management of Natural Area (Bushland and Wetland) – Freshwater Park

The land at Inveresk Park is managed in accordance with the objectives and methods set out below:

Table 13 – Objectives, means and performance measures for Freshwater Park

Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36E & 36H Local Government Act 1993	Performance targets and means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets
<p>In respect of Natural Area (Bushland)</p> <p>To conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem functions in respect of the land or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised natural area; and</p> <p>To ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land; by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land.</p>	<p>Ensure that Threatened Ecological Communities (TECS) are actively restored through bush regeneration.</p> <p>Ensure revegetation in reserves and parks is undertaken using locally sourced stock from agreed planting lists (refer Appendix E Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy)</p> <p>Retain dead timber in reserves as habitat for fauna and to create a more complex understory structure and shelter sites from predators.</p> <p>Prepare weed management plans in consideration of the Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022</p>	<p>Increase the number of plants planted and surviving in reserves and parks that are indigenous to the local area</p> <p>Monitor, map and assess changes to vegetation and tree canopies.</p> <p>Incorporate routine weeding in maintenance and volunteer activities</p> <p>Reduce or eliminate use of herbicides, pesticides or chemicals near waterways and natural areas</p>
<p>To maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting; and</p> <p>To protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land; and</p> <p>To protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores; and</p>	<p>Promote public involvement in regeneration or revegetation activities</p> <p>Support natural regeneration where there is resilience and revegetate with indigenous locally source stock</p>	<p>Inspect and observe health of native vegetation, weed species and increased biodiversity in bushland areas.</p> <p>No of plantings from events and community planting days</p>

Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36E & 36H Local Government Act 1993	Performance targets and means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets
<p>To protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface; and</p> <p>To provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land; and</p> <p>To restore degraded bushland</p>		
<p>To provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion; and</p> <p>To promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhance the values and quality of the land and facilities public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion</p>	<p>Maintain and improve existing bushland pathways to protect, conserve and enhance natural landforms.</p> <p>Install interpretative and information signage to protect and educate about bushland areas. Maintain signage around fenced sensitive areas specifying the purpose of fencing.</p> <p>Protect foraging habitat in Freshwater Park</p>	<p>Monitor and review natural area signage</p> <p>Review Plans of Management on regular basis</p>
<p>To assist in and facilitate the implementation of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan</p>	<p>Determine the presence/absence, abundance and condition of threatened species</p> <p>Review internal Council planning processes including processes for providing and retaining habitat (eg tree hollows), review assessment practices in regard to threatened species, consideration of biodiversity in development assessment procedures.</p> <p>Comply with any related a recovery plan, threat abatement plan or priority under Save Our Species Program within specified period</p>	<p>Undertake periodic flora and fauna reviews</p> <p>Complete and update mapping vegetation</p> <p>Completion of field survey of TEC's and assessment</p> <p>Implement actions required under a recovery plan or threat abatement plan</p>
In respect of Natural Area (Wetlands)		

Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36E & 36H Local Government Act 1993	Performance targets and means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets
<p>Protect biodiversity and ecological values of wetlands, water quality and flow, and flora, fauna and habitat values</p> <p>Restore and regenerate degraded wetlands</p> <p>Facilitate community education in relation to wetlands</p>	<p>Manage wetland and natural areas to maintain and improve the quality of the environment in accordance with biodiversity strategies and plans.</p> <p>Review and assess condition of wetland</p> <p>Retain habitat trees through revegetation where possible</p> <p>Maintain weed management program to minimise spread of weeds</p> <p>Coordinate and provide information about natural areas and wetlands to community</p>	<p>Measurement and monitoring of trees, vegetation, weeds and habitat.</p> <p>Undertake works to address restoration of degraded wetlands</p> <p>Conduct testing of water health and quality on a regular basis.</p> <p>Increase flora, fauna and habitat information available from Council</p>



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1. Introduction

1.1 Title

This plan is titled the Greenacre Frog Ponds Plan of Management.

The Bellfrog Area at Greenacre was created as a conservation area for the endangered Green and Golden Bell frog (*Litoria aurea*). However, the habitat has been lost and the species vacated the site. This plan addresses actions to re-instate habitat for the Green and Golden Bell to enable the site to become core habitat for this species.

The current plan was adopted by Council resolution at the meeting of xx.

This plan of management applies to land located at Greenacre Frog Ponds, 23 Bellfrog Street Greenacre. The site is bounded by Coxs Creek, railway land and Bellfrog Street (industrial area).

Ownership, lot details, classification, categorisation and zoning information is set out in Table 1 (information from Council Geographical Information System (GIS) 2020). The location map of Greenacre Frog Ponds is set out in Figure 1.

Table 1 Ownership, Lot, classification, categorisation and zoning details

Lot Details	Lot 25 DP 1133214
Owner	Strathfield Council
Zoning	Strathfield LEP 2012 - E2 Environmental Conservation
Land classification	Community Land
Land categorisation	Natural Area (Bushland)

Acknowledgements

Arthur White, an Ecologist, provided advice on requirements for the Green and Golden Bellfrog in the preparation of this plan.

Figure 1 Greenacre Frog Ponds Location Map



1.2 Purpose of this Plan of Management

The *Local Government Act 1993* and amendments to the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* require all public land including Crown Reserves, owned or managed by Council, to be classified as either 'community' land or 'operational' land. Land classified as 'community' land must be managed and used in accordance with an adopted Plan of Management.

Plans of Management are developed by Council in consultation with the community. A Plan of Management describes the features of the community land and outlines how the land may be managed and used, consistent with land categorisations, core objectives and zoning, to provide a transparent and co-ordinated approach to public land management.

The purpose of this Plan of Management is to:

- contribute to the strategic goals and vision as set out in the Strathfield Community Strategic Plan
- ensure compliance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and relevant legislation and guidelines
- provide clarity regarding use and access to the community land as described in this plan.

1.3 Contents of this Plan of Management

This Plan of Management is divided into the following sections, as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2 Structure of this Plan of Management

Section	What does it include?
1. Introduction	Title, land covered by plan, purpose, contents and review of the plan
2. About the Strathfield LGA	Recognition of traditional custodians, Strathfield LGA snapshot, trends, community vision, key strategic directions, legislative and policy framework and references.
3. Land – category, classification, use and access	Site description, land use/history, land categories and classifications, maps, use of land and structures, environmental management, condition of land and structures and heritage.
4. Land Uses	Permissible uses and development, scale and intensity of use, authorisation of leases, licences and short-term uses.
5. Management of the land	Objectives, performance targets, means and manner for assessment of performance

1.4. Change and Review of Plan of Management

This Plan of Management will require regular review in order to align with community values and changing community needs, and to reflect changes in Council priorities. The performance of this Plan of Management will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure the use of land and structures is well maintained and consistent with Council's strategic objectives and community values.

Strategic reviews of this Plan of Management will be required where there is significant change to legislation, land ownership/management or proposed land use. Regular reviews should occur at five (5) year intervals.

2. About the Strathfield Local Government Area

2.1 Recognition of Traditional Custodians

Strathfield Council acknowledges the Wangal people, the traditional Custodians of the lands on which the Strathfield area is located. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

2.2 Snapshot of Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA)

The Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA) is well known for transport connections, educational opportunities, attractive streetscapes, parks, heritage and buildings. The Strathfield LGA is centrally located in Sydney's Inner West, approximately 10.5 kilometres from the Sydney CBD and half way between Parramatta and the Sydney CBD. The LGA includes the suburbs of Strathfield (postcode 2135), Strathfield South (2136), Homebush (2140), Homebush West (2140), part of Belfield (2191) and part of Greenacre (2190). Sydney Markets (postcode 2129) is also located within Strathfield LGA.

Strathfield LGA is well known for its extensive green open spaces and high quality recreational facilities, which enhance the liveability, amenity and sustainability of the local area. The Strathfield LGA has a total area of approximately 1390 ha (13.9km²) with 104 ha of the total area being public open space (2018 estimates). There is currently 9.06 ha of remnant bushland in the LGA and about 6 ha is under Council management.

In 2019, the estimated residential LGA population was about 47,000 residents and by 2041, the resident population is estimated to reach over 80,000 people (NSW Planning 2019). The growing population and accompanying building density will increase demand for access to and usage of available open space and community facilities. Therefore, management of community land is of critical important to current and future communities.

Open spaces range from regional and district sporting grounds to smaller local parks and reserves. Significant parks with major sporting facilities include Airey Park, Bressington Park, Bark Huts Reserve, Begnell Field, Cooke Park, Hudson Park, Mason Park and Strathfield Park. Many local biodiversity conservation and habitat connectivity priority areas, including flora and fauna assets, are located within Strathfield LGA's parks and reserves. A number of connected parks and open spaces form the Cooks River Foreshore open space network, an important local and regional habitat corridor and pedestrian and cycle transport connection.

Strathfield LGA also provides many community facilities, located on community land including meeting rooms, halls and community centres which are available for hire by groups and individuals for sporting, community, recreation, social and other purposes.

2.3 Strathfield LGA community and recreational trends

Some of the challenges facing the Strathfield LGA include increasing and competing demands for public open space and community facilities. Strathfield Council is strongly focused on identifying and meeting the current and future needs of the Strathfield community in a sustainable manner.

Recent community engagement and analysis of social and recreational trends indicate increasing participation in recreation, sporting and leisure activities such as organised team sports, walking, cycling, running, aerobic fitness and dog walking. There is increased demand for access to community and recreation facilities, outdoor and indoor.

Priorities for Council involve increasing the capacity of local community facilities, parks and sportsgrounds, developing new community and recreational facilities as required and ensuring equity of access to land and facilities, to meet changing and diverse needs.

2.4 Community Vision and Key Strategic Directions

The community vision describes the community's aspirations for the future of the Strathfield Local Government Area by 2030:

“Strathfield is a culturally diverse and socially cohesive community with respect for its heritage and environment and proud of its well-connected transport, business and educational institutions”.

Strathfield 2030 is the community strategic plan for the Strathfield Local Government Area until 2030. The plan was developed following extensive community engagement and is divided into the key themes of Connectivity, Community Wellbeing, Civic Pride and Management. Liveable Neighbourhoods and Responsible Leadership

This plan is aligned with the Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) which defines the long term vision for land use and infrastructure provisions within the Strathfield LGA and supports place within the Greater Sydney and District planning frameworks. This plan of management aligns with the LSPS Priority P13 'Biodiversity and ecological health and resiliency is conserved, restored and enhanced' and Priority P15 'Quality Open Spaces and thriving green corridors offset the impacts of growth across the LGA' and action plan A93 to review and prepare new plans of management. The LSPS (p26) also identifies this area of community land as a potential area for green connection with other areas in the Strathfield LGA.

2.5 Legislative and Policy Framework

The following legislation and policies provide a framework for the preparation of this Plan of Management.

Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (LG Act) requires the preparation of Plans of Management (POMs) for Council owned land, and requires all community land to be categorised.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) (EP&A Act) is the principal planning legislation for NSW, that provides a framework for the environmental planning and assessment of development proposals and preparation of environmental planning instruments (including the Local Environmental Plan or LEP).

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW) (BC Act) requires that Councils consider the impact on threatened species, populations and communities in fulfilling their statutory responsibilities under the EP&A Act for development approvals. It also covers management of threatened species and communities on Council owned lands.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth) (EPBC Act) provides a national scheme for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, and incorporates referral mechanisms and environmental impact assessment processes for projects of national significance. Companion Animal Act 1998 (NSW) requires the identification and registration of companion animals (e.g. cats and dogs) and sets out the duties and responsibilities in relation to management of animals and specific areas of land.

State Environmental Planning Policy 19 – Bushland in Urban Areas aims to protect and preserve bushland in the Sydney Metropolitan area. The SEPP is concerned with disturbances and development affecting bushland areas.

Crown Lands Management Act 2016 (NSW) (CLM Act) governs the planning, management and use of Crown land, including provisions to reserve or dedicate lands for a prescribed public purpose and for leasing and licensing. Crown land under Council management requires classification and categorisations under the LG Act and preparation of Plans of Management.

Local Land Services Act 2013 (NSW) provides a framework to ensure the proper management of natural resources in the social, economic and environmental interests of the State. Strathfield is part of the Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS), which provides guidance on matters such as community engagement, biosecurity and weeds.

Also relevant are:

- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)
- Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (NSW) and Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)
- Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)
- Fisheries Management Act 1994 (NSW)
- Rural Fires Act 1997 (NSW)
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)

Related Strathfield Council policies and plans

- Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030 (2019)
- Strathfield 2030 Community Strategic Plan (CSP)
- Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Development Control Plans 2005
- Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2020
- Disability Inclusion Plan 2020-2024

2.5 References

Ecology Partners, 2008, *Current Status and Distribution of the Green and Golden Bell Frog, Litoria aurea*, at Greenacre New South Wales

Eco Logical Australia and Strathfield Council, 2019, *Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2020-2030*, viewed at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/live/biodiversity/>

ID Profile, 2018, Strathfield Community Profile at <https://profile.id.com.au/strathfield>

Insight Ecology, 2017, *The Fauna of Strathfield (Local Government Area)*, viewed at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/live/biodiversity/>

Jones, Cathy, 2019, *Parks and Reserves*, Strathfield Heritage website at <https://strathfieldheritage.org/parks-and-reserves>

Near Maps – Strathfield LGA, 2019 at <https://www.nearmap.com/au/en>

NSW Department Planning, 2019, *Strathfield LGA Population Projections 2016-2041*, viewed at <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Factsheets-and-faqs/Research-and-demography/Population-projections/2019-Strathfield.pdf>

Strathfield Council, *Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012*, viewed at <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/EPL/2013/115>

Strathfield Council, 2018, *Community Strategic Plan – Strathfield 2030* viewed at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/council/policies-plans-and-regulations/community-strategic-plan/>

Strathfield Council, 2019, Geographical Information System (GIS) Data

3. Land – category, classification, use and access

3.1 Description of site

The Greenacre Frog Ponds are located on the former site of the Enfield Brickworks (formerly Juno Parade Greenacre, now Bellfrog Road Greenacre). This site was formerly occupied by the Enfield Brickworks and until the redevelopment of the site in the 2000s; the pits had become an important habitat site for the Greenacre population of the Green & Golden Bell Frog (*Litoria aurea*).

Following approval of consent for the fill of the brick pit and redevelopment of the land for industrial purposes, a small frog habitat area was created and the land was transferred to Council ownership. Entry to the site is via Bellfrog Street Greenacre. There is a small carpark on Bellfrog Street which is the only entry to the site. There is a long corridor to the site, where the ponds are located.

While the Bellfrog Area at Greenacre was created as a conservation area for the endangered Green and Golden Bell frog (*Litoria aurea*), the site has become extensively overgrown and invaded by weeds. As a result, habitat for the Green and Golden Bell frog has been lost and the species has vacated this site. It is proposed that the site be re-instated to become habitat for the Green and Golden Bell frog once more, and that the Bellfrog site become core habitat for this species.

In general, the works will entail:

1. Clearing most of the existing vegetation from the site
2. Reshaping the landforms so that the existing basins for the old frog ponds are filled in and pads created for the emplacement of pre-fabricated, above-ground ponds.
3. Erecting a rainwater catchment awning along the western and southern boundary of the site.
4. Installing a large rainwater storage tank in the south-western corner of the site.
5. Installing plumbing to divert the awning run-off into the holding tank.
6. Install pipes and control valves from the water tank to the frog ponds.
7. Replant the area of the site with vegetation suitable for habitat use by the Green and Golden Bell frogs.
8. Establish emergent plants in pots inside of the pre-fabricated ponds.
9. Place a pre-constructed work shed near the north-western boundary of the site. The shed will have electricity, internal lights, power points and other internal fittings.

Site plans, construction details and timelines will be presented in an accompanying Construction Plan of Management. An Operational Plan of Management will also be prepared to provide guidance for managing the site once the construction is completed.

3.2 Land prior use and history

This site was formerly occupied by the Enfield Brickworks and the brick pit became an important habitat site for the Greenacre population of the Green & Golden Bell Frog (*Litoria aurea*). In December 2000, Council approved the filling and subdivision of the Brick Pit site (DA9900/278). To protect the Green & Golden Bell Frog (GGBF) population, a frog habitat area was created measuring 0.3698ha. The site is bounded by rail and industrial sites.

In 2008, the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change engaged Ecology Partners to undertake targeted surveys to determine the status, habitat and threats for the Green and Golden Bell

Frog population of the Greenacre area. The study was commissioned to address several actions outlined in the Management Plan for the Green and Golden Bell Frog Key Population at Greenacre.

The results of the study indicate that the frog habitat area at the former Greenacre Parade Brick Pit site retains the core population of Green and Golden Bell Frogs (GGBF) in the Greenacre area and that other important habitat includes Freightcorp's 'frog pond' (former Enfield Marshalling Yards site) and Cox's Creek Bushland Reserve. The study strongly recommended that existing habitats be managed and that additional suitable breeding habitat and movement corridors are established to ensure the long-term survival of the GGBF Key Population.

In 2009, the developer transferred ownership and care, control and maintenance of the frog habitat area to Strathfield Council. The 2012 Strathfield Local Environment Plan zoned this site as E2 - Environmental Conservation.

However, despite actions to maintain this area as a GGBF site, no sightings have been made for over 10 years.

Figure 2 Historical photographs of Greenacre Frog Ponds



Enfield Brick Pits (part of current Greenacre Frog Ponds) aerial photograph (1947)



Enfield Brick Pits (part of current Greenacre Frog Ponds site) photograph (1986)



Greenacre Frog Ponds aerial map 2010 © Near Maps



Greenacre Frog aerial map 2019. © Near Maps

3.3 Categories and classifications of community Land

The management of community land is governed by the categorisation of the land, and the core objectives of the relevant category of community land. The core objectives for each category are set out in the *Local Government Act 1993*. The guidelines and core objectives for relevant categories are set out in Table 3.

Table 3 Guidelines for and core objectives of community land

Category	Guidelines ¹	Core objectives ²
Natural Area	<i>Regulation cl.102</i> Natural areas are where land, whether or not in an undisturbed state, possesses a significant geological feature, geomorphological feature, landform, representative system or other natural feature or attribute that would be sufficient to further categorise the land as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore	<i>Natural Area - (Section 36E)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised to a natural area; and to maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting, and to provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land, and to provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and to assist in and facilitate the implement of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan prepared under the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> or the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>
Natural Area – bushland	<i>Regulation cl.107</i> Land that contains primarily native vegetation that is the natural vegetation of the land, or although not the natural vegetation, is still representative of the structure or floristics of the natural vegetation in the locality.	<i>Natural Area - Bushland (Section 36J)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land, and to protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and to promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and to restore degraded bushland, and

¹ *Local Government General Regulation 2005*

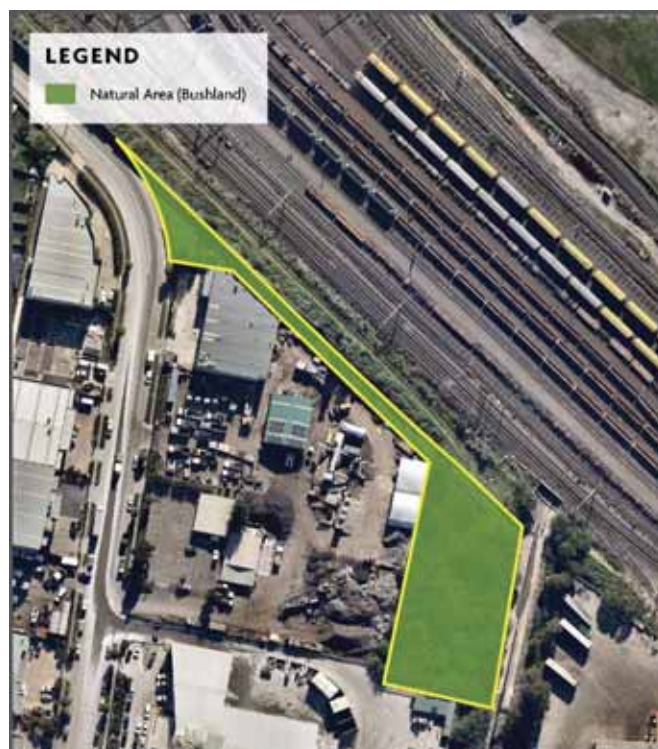
² *Local Government Act 1993*

Category	Guidelines ¹	Core objectives ²
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and to retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and to protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.

Council must manage community land in according to these core objectives. Any activities or uses of the land should be consistent with the core objectives for that category of land. Additional objectives which support the above core objectives are included in Section 5 - Management of the land.

The land classified as community land under the *Local Government Act 1993* is categorised as Natural Area (Bushland). The categorised areas are marked in Figure 3.

Figure 3 Map of Greenacre Frog Ponds land categorisations



3.4 Use of the land and structures at date of adoption of the plan

The Greenacre Frog Ponds is a dedicated environmental area. There is a small concreted carpark on Bellfrog Street with a long walkway to the larger area of open space, where the ponds are situated. The site was in poor condition but recent works have been undertaken to restore the site, including weed removal, restoration of walkways from Bellfrog Street and installation of new breeding ponds.

This Environmental Management Plan has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Environmental Protection & Assessment Act 1979*.

Issues relating to threatened species have been discussed with representatives from the Department of Planning and Environment.

As no threatened species are currently on site, a Statement of Environmental Effects was not required.

No special licences are required for the earthworks or revegetation of the site and all approvals for this work will be assessed under the Council's normal protocols.

After the site has been rehabilitated, a Translocation Location will be sought to re-establish Green and Golden Bell frogs on the site. The licence application will be reviewed by the Department of Planning and Environment.

The rehabilitation of this site for the conservation of Green and Golden Bell frogs is in keeping with Strathfield Council Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030.

There are no current adopted threat abatement plans or recovery plans for the GGBF under the *Commonwealth EPBC Act* or *NSW Biodiversity Act 2016*.

3.5 Condition of the land and structures on adoption of the plan

The condition of land and structures upon adoption of this plan of management are shown in Table 4 and the interpretation of buildings/site conditions include:

Table 4 Condition rating assessment criteria

Rating	Descriptor	Guide	Residual Life as a % of Total Life	Mean % age residual life
1 - Excellent	Sound physical condition. Asset likely to perform adequately without major work.	Normal maintenance required	>86	95
2 – Good	Acceptable physical condition, minimal short term risk of failure.	Normal maintenance plus minor repairs required (to 5% or less of the asset)	65 to 85	80
3 – Satisfactory	Deterioration evident, failure in the short term unlikely. Minor components need replacement or repair now but asset still functions safely.	Significant maintenance and/or repairs required (to 10-20% of the asset)	41 to 64	55
4 – Worn	Deterioration of the asset is evident and failure is possible in the short term. No immediate risk to health and safety.	Significant renewal required (to 20 - 40% of the asset)	10 to 40	35
5 - Poor	Failed or failure is imminent or there is significant deterioration of the asset. Health and safety hazards exist which present a possible risk to public safety.	Over 50% of the asset requires renewal	<10	5

Table 5 Condition of assets at Greenacre Frog Ponds

Description	Condition
Rain catchment awning, water storage tanks and associated plumbing	2
Above-ground frog ponds	2
Revegetation areas and areas of modified frog habitat	2
On-site shed with water and electrical connections.	1

3.6 Heritage

There are no statutory heritage listings associated with this land.

3.7 Photographs of Greenacre Frog Ponds

Photographs are dated September 2019 and provide an overview of the site.



Entrance (2019)



Greenacre Frog Ponds Natural Area Bushland



Natural Area Bushland (2019)



Natural Area Bushland (2019)

4. Environmental Considerations

4.1 Introduction

The Greenacre Frog Ponds are identified as a key area for the Sydney Green and Gold Bell Frog (GGBF). The GGBF are listed as Endangered under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act* 2016 and Vulnerable under the *EPBC Act*.

In view of the threatened species rating given to the Green and Golden Bell frog, Council is required to ensure where possible to maintain and/or enhance existing habitat for this species, to conserve and manage areas where Green and Golden Bell frogs occur and to protect these areas from degradation or deterioration arising from surrounding land uses.

Prior to works being undertaken in the pond area that Part V and Environmental works method statements will be prepared and used. Environmental issues that need to be addressed for the safe preparation and operation of this site are as follows:

Erosion and Sediment Control

1. An erosion and sediment control plan will be prepared and signed off on prior to work being carried out.
2. The erosion and sediment control plan will include specifications on groundcover, sediment capture and site maintenance to minimise soil erosion and waterway pollution and ensure best practice site management.
3. Land clearing will be confined to the internal boundaries of the subject land.
4. Areas of land that are devegetated during the site preparation phase of the project will be periodically doused with water or tarpaulins will be placed over bare patches to prevent dust and stormwater run-off leaving the site.
5. Silt fences and/or hay bales will be used to prevent surface run-off from entering the Cooks River Canal.
6. No soil will be taken off site but some land fill may need to be imported onto the site. Soil stockpiles will be covered until they are ready to be used.
7. Surface run-off will be directed into the existing pond basins and prevented from entering the Cooks River canal.

Noise and Vibration

1. To ensure that noise and vibration during earth works and site clearing are not a problem all works will be carried out between 7.00 am and 6.00pm.
2. Fit and maintain noise attenuating devices on equipment and vehicles being used on site.

Construction and On-site Waste Management

1. To minimise the amount of solid waste that needs to be taken off site, non-putrescible solid wastes will be buried on site and used to form land surfaces.
2. Excess green waste will be trucked off site and disposed off through the Council's wastes services.

Barriers to Weed Introduction

1. All vehicles and equipment shall be free of soil or vegetation traces before coming onto site.
2. All vehicles and equipment will be cleaned of soil and vegetation traces before coming onto the site. Cleaning will occur at designated wash-down points, near the entrance way onto the site.

Fauna Management

1. Prior to any removal of vegetation or earth works an inspection of the site will be carried out to see if there is native fauna present that will need to be relocated prior to the works. In particular, frog surveys of the existing ponds will be required and all frogs caught will be relocated and released at the nearest appropriate site.
2. Bird nests with eggs or chicks may need to be relocated using avifauna specialists.

Disease Control

1. Any imported soil, mulch or landscaping materials will need to be heat-treated before being accepted on site. Heat-treatment kills soils pathogens such as *Phytophthora* and frog pathogens such as *Batrachochytrium* sp. which cause frog Chytrid Disease.
2. Any heavy machinery of plant will be washed down off site to remove soil or mud adhering to the equipment. The equipment will then be treated with a 10% solution of bleach to disinfect all surface that may have come in contact with soil.
3. All staff working on site will be required to undertake a site induction to alert them to the special provision relating to this site.
4. All staff entering the work site will need to disinfect their boots and any hand equipment being brought onto the site. A sign-on register will be placed near the entrance way to the site and all staff must disinfect and sign-on to register that they have followed the correct disinfecting procedures.

Night Light Spillage

1. To reduce the amount of night light spillage into the frog habitat area from the outside business lots, a rainfall catchment awning will be constructed along the western and southern boundaries of the site. Apart from catching and directing rain water into on-site storage tanks, the awning will also act as a night light shield, blocking night light from the adjoining business lots.
2. The only internal lights that will exist inside in the frog habitat area will be those for the small shed that will be located along the north-western boundary of the site. The windows of this shed will have screens that will block night light.
3. At present, very little night light comes from the eastern side of the site (ie from the railway yards). Should this change, a screen of low trees and shrubs will be established along the eastern boundary of the site to block night light from that direction.

5. Land Uses

5.1 Permissible uses and developments

The permissible types of uses which may occur and the forms of development generally associated with those uses, are set out in Table 6 and 7.

The anticipated uses, and associated development, identified in Table 5, 6 and 7 are intended to provide an overview or general guide.

The site is zoned E2- Environmental Conservation in the Strathfield LEP 2012. The objectives of the zoning are to protect, manage and restore areas of high ecological, scientific, cultural or aesthetic values: and to prevent development that could destroy, damage or otherwise have an adverse effect on those values.

- Works permitted without consent - Environmental protection works; and
- Works permitted with consent - Environmental facilities; Oyster aquaculture; Recreation areas

Table 6 – Permissible uses of land categories – Natural Area (Bushland)

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Walking and cycling• Guided bushwalks and bird watching• Environmental programs and scientific study• Preservation of biodiversity and habitat• Bush regeneration and revegetation works• Relaxation and passive informal recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interpretative, regulatory and directional signage• Low impact lighting• Low impact carparking• Low impact pathways• Passive recreation• Seating• Small ancillary building eg storage and amenities for site maintenance• Water saving initiatives eg swales, sediment traps, rainwater gardens

5.2 Future development and use of the community land

This plan is concerned with reinstatement of the habitat for Green and Golden Bellfrog as the species has vacated this site. This will enable the Bellfrog site to become core habitat for this species. To support maintenance and environmental activities on site, it is likely a small ancillary building for storage and amenity may be built in the future.

Minor changes to community land are regularly made on a routine basis, such as weeding and replanting, and replacement of damaged equipment.

In the event of potential future development other than that listed, proposed changes of use of community land will:

1. Meet legislative requirements – land use tables (zoning) in the Strathfield Council Local Environmental Plan specifies the range of uses and activities that may be permitted on the land with

and without permission. A number of uses are also set out in the Regulations to the *Local Government Act 1993*.

2. Be consistent with the guidelines and core objectives of the community land category - under the *Local Government Act 1993* uses and development of community land must be consistent with the guidelines for categorisation and the core objectives of each category, and any other additional objectives the Council proposes to place on the community land categories.

3. Be consistent with relevant Council policies - substantial upgrades and proposed new development will take into account a range of factors, including:

- this Plan of Management and the core objectives for the land
- the planning controls for the land
- Council's adopted policies
- the characteristics of the land affected, including existing and future use patterns
- any landscape masterplan for the land.

5.3 Scale and intensity of land use

The scale and intensity of use and development associated with community land in the Strathfield LGA is generally dependent on:

- the nature of the approved uses and developments
- approved Development Applications and any conditions
- an approved masterplan
- the physical constraints of the land
- the carrying capacity of the land
- relevant government legislation
- permissible times of use
- proximity of neighbours

The scale and intensity of use of land should be monitored by regular inspections and consideration of reports regarding any conflicts between land use and adjoining neighbours

5.4 Authorisation of leases, licences or other estates over community land

The Act requires that any lease or licence of community land must be authorised by a Plan of Management. The lease or licence must be for purposes consistent with the categorisation and zoning of the land.

The maximum period for leases or licences on community land permitted under the Act is 21 years. If a lease or licence is anticipated, then public notice should be given in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Where a lease arrangement has been entered into with Council for community land, subleasing the land may only occur with specific permission of Council and in accordance with the requirements of Section 47C of the Act, Clause 119 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* and conditions set out in agreements.

This Plan of Management authorises existing leases and licence agreements until the end of their current term. The leased or licensed areas may be renewed or changed in future. The leased or licensed areas may be reconfigured in the future to reflect changes in community needs.

This Plan of Management authorises Council to grant leases, licences or any other estates for community land covered in this Plan of Management for purposes and uses which are identified or consistent with those in Tables 6. Some examples of longer-term arrangements are outlined in the following Table 7. Shorter arrangements (for example, a short-term agreement associated with a particular event, or an activity recurring regularly either via annual or seasonal agreement) are set out in Table 8.

Calculations for fees and charges for leases and licences will be based on independent market rental valuations that are based on comparisons to similar services and facilities with similar locations, building and land conditions. As a minimum standard, the financial return from licence fees should offset asset maintenance, renewal and any operational costs. Council may also apply subsidies to not for profit organisations where there are demonstrated community benefits or financial hardship. Subsidies are generally not applied to commercial or residential leases or licences.

Table 6 Leases, Licences and other estates

Type of Arrangement Authorised	Land and Facilities covered	Purposes for which long term leasing/licensing will be granted
Licence or lease	Natural Area (Bushland)	<p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the area to support the activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • educational or environmental programs, scientific studies and surveys or similar • temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project to be carried out •
Other Estates	Natural Area (Bushland)	<p>This Plan of Management allows Council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities in accordance with the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>.</p> <p>Estates may also be granted across community land that is not affected by endangered communities for the provision of pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the Council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land.</p>

The grant of a lease or licence is an important step in using community land, but there may be other requirements relevant to any proposed use. For example, the refurbishment of a kiosk may also require development consent under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Any interested person should check carefully to make sure they are aware of all relevant requirements.

5.5 Short Term Uses

Agreements for use of community land may be granted for short duration which may be anything from a few hours to a few days. These short term arrangements should be for the types of uses identified in Table 7.

Table 7 Seasonal, regular and casual use agreements

Community land category	Purposes for which short term uses may be granted subject to council approval	Requirements
Natural Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• educational or environmental programs, scientific studies and surveys or similar, recreational activities• temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project to be carried out	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• filming projects must comply with special provisions in s.47AA of the Local Government Act and must notify or advertise the proposal as prescribed by the regulations.• the proposed use must comply with terms and conditions for event approval e.g. SafeWork NSW regulations, insurance, waste management etc.• the use should not result in physical damage to the natural area• the use should not result in a significant adverse impact on adjoining residents or disturbance to nearby residents• organisers of the site should be responsible for cleaning up the site and notify authorities and Council of any damage or incidents that may occur

In assessing applications for use of this community land, Council applies the following minimum criteria:

- Council reserves the right to refuse bookings based on previous unsatisfactory payment or performance history or where proposed use would damage the facility or cause significant disruption to other regular users.
- Fees for short-term casual bookings will be charged in accordance with Council's adopted Fees and Charges at the time.

6. Management of the land

6.1 Objectives and management of community land

The land is managed in accordance with the objectives and methods set out below:

Table 8 Objectives, means and performance measures

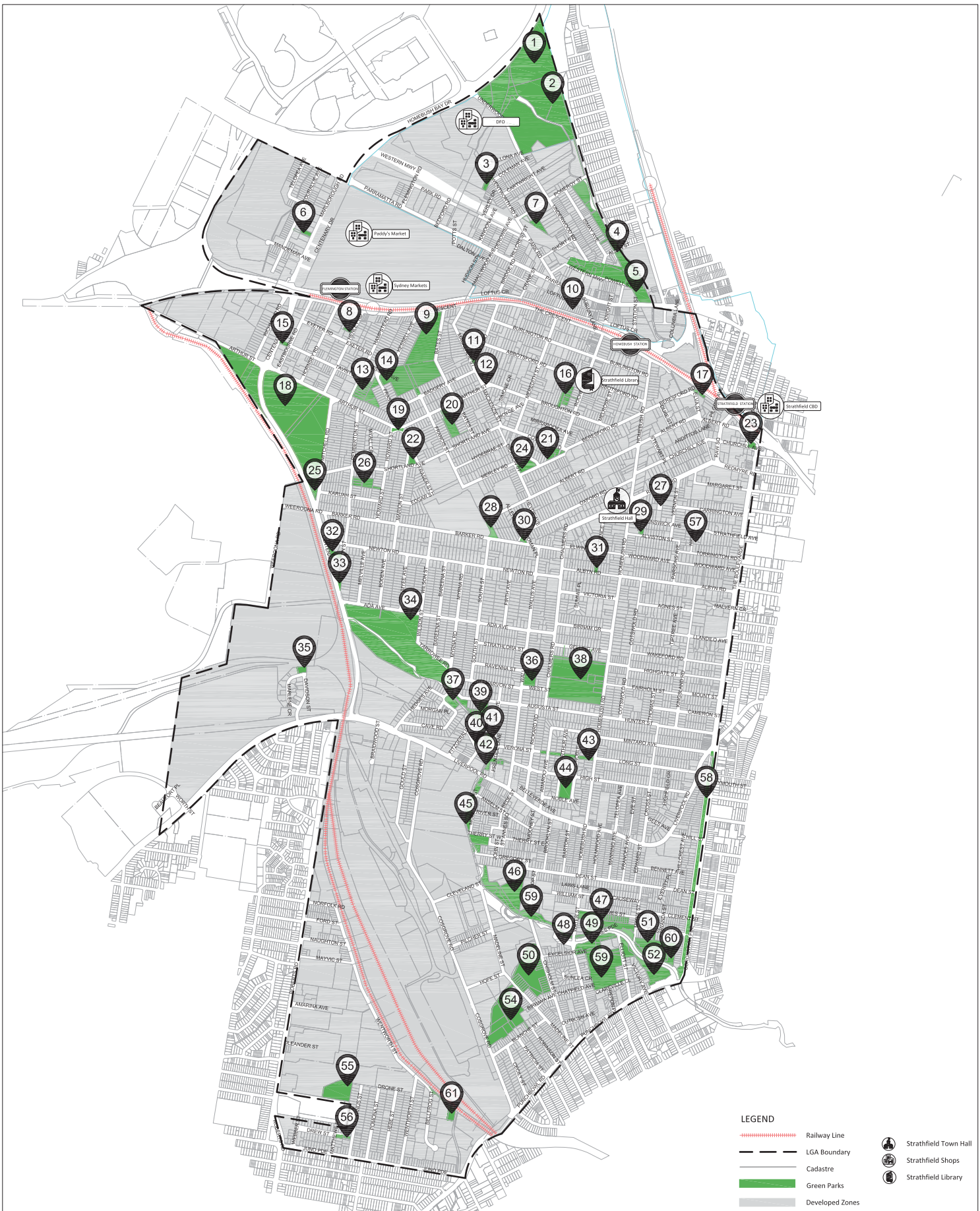
Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Access	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide safe and improved access to the site. 2. Provide access to and within the site for people with disabilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upgrades, refurbishments and/or improvement works on community land to consider public access requirements for mobility and connections. 2. Proposed ramps, stairs and pathways to comply with relevant Council and BCA requirements consistent with Australian Standards. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Audits of community land and facilities to comply with standards
Amenity and Character	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure Council's community land and facilities contribute to the amenity and character of the Strathfield LGA. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote the site as a environmental destination. 2. Maintain and enhance community land and facilities 3. Promote the site and community activities in local media and website. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consult with residents and users regarding satisfaction with the site and its management 2. Monitor and action complaint data
Ancillary Facilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide sustainable ancillary facilities to support the key activities on the site and have regard for environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building and structure design specifications to consider the setting and key objectives of the site, expected use and environmental sustainability features. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facility inspections and audits. 2. Monitor comments and complaints

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
		2. Where possible, ensure ancillary facilities are universally accessible and incorporate best practice energy and water efficiencies.	
Environmentally Sustainable Principles	1. Manage community land to ensure best environmental management practises and principles having regard to environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance.	1. Energy efficiency 2. Water savings 3. Waste reduction 4. Natural heating and cooling	1. Measure and monitor via plans and strategies such as Energy and Water plans. 2. Monitor usage and trends via quarterly and annual consumption and billing. 3. Monitor and minimise water and energy use in parks, sportsgrounds and ancillary facilities.
Historical and Heritage Significance	1. Appreciation and interpretation of the historical and/or heritage significance of the site natural and cultural components.	1. Undertake, when required, historical research or heritage and cultural assessment studies to identify cultural and heritage values for retention and interpretation. 2. Incorporate historical information on property signage to enhance understanding and appreciation of the site and the history it represents, where relevant. 3. Promote sense of place and local identity	1. Retention and interpretation of heritage and cultural values provides increased appreciation of the property and its history through community consultation.
Landscape Character	1. Maintain and improve landscape character and visual quality of public open spaces	1. Manage replanting with vegetation suitable for habitat use by the Green and Golden Bell Frog. 2. Maintain consistency in selection and design of furniture, paving, fencing that is appropriate to the setting 3. Implement & maintain co-ordinated signage strategy	1. Community consultation including surveys

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Managing assets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide effective and efficient management of community land and facilities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Schedule regular inspections and condition assessments. 2. Inclusion of maintenance standards in licence, lease or hire agreements. 3. Provide waste and recycling bins to cater for public use. 4. Regular waste and recycling collection to minimise litter overflow 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Measure against Service Standard KPIs. 2. Respond to complaints and audits. 3. Monitor agreements 4. Review and update asset management plans periodically
Natural Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To maintain and enhance the health of park ecology, including flora and fauna, trees and soil 2. To maintain Habitat for the Green and Golden Bell frog on site. 3. Maintain the population of Green and Golden Bell frogs on site. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage trees, gardens and natural areas to maintain and improve the quality of the environment in accordance with Council's tree management and biodiversity strategies and plans. 2. Retain habitat trees and create/maintain habitat corridors through revegetation where possible 3. Annual survey of habitat components by frog experts. 4. Monitor Green and Golden Bell frog population by community frog group. 5. Maintain weed management program to minimise spread of weeds 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Measurement and monitoring of tree canopies, vegetation, weeds and habitat. 2. Review of habitat surveys by frog experts to determine whether all the habitat requirements are being met. 3. Stability of Green and Golden Bell frog population to be determined by successful on-site breeding and recruitment.
Safety and Risk Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide safe use and access to public land and facilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design and maintain layouts, landscaping and facilities in accordance with CPTED principles (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) principles including passive surveillance, good sight lines, 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Works to be in accordance with relevant Australian Standards and CPTED principles. 2. Monitor and action incident and accident reports.

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
		territorial reinforcement and space management and lighting. 2. Review lighting and security for both day and night time use. 3. Work with local police to identify and act on safety issues. 4. Install and maintain facilities in accordance with relevant Australian standards. 5. Repair vandalism or graffiti within 48 hours where possible.	
Traffic and Parking	1. Ensure traffic and parking requirements provide a safe environment for site users	1. Minimise use of vehicles on community land and regulate and monitor vehicle access. 2. Installation of signage preventing vehicles from entering unauthorised areas. 3. Where vehicles are permitted, provide clearly marked vehicle movement areas 4. Provide access for emergency or works services.	1. Reduced pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle conflicts. 2. Improved public safety. 3. Public traffic access to community land is via agreement.
Use agreements	1. That use arrangements facilitate wide community access to community land, community benefits and support financial sustainability.	1. Licence, leases, estates and short term use agreements comply with legislative and policy requirements.	1. Monitor agreements in accordance with terms and conditions of agreement.





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Strathfield Council designs, constructs and maintains public infrastructure and other essential services over the council area. This includes the design, construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, drains, sewers, water supply, and other infrastructure. The council also manages the council's assets, including the council's buildings, land, and other infrastructure. The council's services are provided to the community through a range of channels, including the council's website, social media, and direct communication with the community.

When parks are used for any purpose, the council is responsible for ensuring that the parks are safe and secure for all users. The council also ensures that the parks are well-maintained and that the infrastructure is in good condition. The council's services are provided to the community through a range of channels, including the council's website, social media, and direct communication with the community.

date
31st January 2020

rev
01

scale 1:10000
0m 100 250 500 1000m

North Arrow

1. Bressington Park
2. Mason Park & Wetlands
3. Wentworth Reserve
4. Allen Street Reserve (Ismay Reserve)
5. Ismay Reserve
6. Austin Park
7. Bill Boyce Reserve
8. Henley Reserve
9. Airey Park
10. Augustus Loftus Reserve
11. Slater Reserve
12. Shortland Reserve Gardens
13. Melville Reserve
14. Sutherland Gardens
15. Tavistock Reserve
16. Fitzgerald Park
17. Laker Reserve
18. Hudson Park
19. Lowe's Garden
20. Pilgrim Park
21. Davey Square Memorial Reserve
22. Kessel Square
23. Strathfield Square
24. Inveresk Park
25. Frank Zions Reserve
26. Boden Reserve
27. Redmyre Road Croquet Lawns
28. Mt Royal Reserve
29. Centenary Playground
30. Todman Reserve
31. Florence Reserve
32. Cosgrove Reserve
33. Pemberton Reserve
34. Freshwater Park
35. Marlene Reserve
36. Wallis Reserve
37. Chain of Ponds Reserve
38. Strathfield Park
39. Thew Reserve
40. Fitzgerald Reserve
41. Palmer Reserve
42. Prentice Reserve
43. Humphries Reserve
44. Edwards Park
45. St Annes Reserve
46. Dean Reserve
47. Ford Park
48. Water Reserve
49. Maria Reserve
50. Cooke Park
51. Southend Tennis
52. Elliott Reserve
53. Bark Hut Reserve
54. Begnell Field
55. Cox's Creek Reserve
56. Drew St Playground
57. Nichol Reserve
58. Coronation Reserve
59. South Cooks River Land
60. Chiswick Reserve
61. Greenacre Frog Ponds

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1. Introduction

1.1 Title

This plan is titled the Ismay Reserve Plan of Management.

The current plan was adopted by Council resolution at the meeting of xx.

This plan of management applies to land located at Ismay Reserve Homebush. This includes land adjacent to Powells Creek, from Parramatta Road to Pomeroy Street, and land running along the M4/Westconnex from Powells Creek at the east to Short Street at the west. This site includes a number of smaller parks and reserves including Arnotts Reserve, Pomeroy Reserve and Allen Street Reserve. The location map of Ismay Reserve is set out in Figure 1.

The community buildings located in Ismay Reserve are included in the Community Facilities Plan of Management (2020). The parks owned by Strathfield Council were previously included in the Neighbourhood Parks Plan of Management (2014).

Ownership, lot details and zoning information is set out in Table 1 (Council GIS Data, 2019). Information below is drawn from Council's GIS data and care has been taken to provide accurate information, however due to the expansion of the M4/Westconnex roadway, recent changes in land ownership and land uses, information may be subject to change especially on land which is owned by State Agencies, not Strathfield Council.

Table 1 – Ownership, title and zoning details

Owner	Lot Details	Zoning Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012
Land adjacent to Powells Creek		
Strathfield Council	Lot 1 DP 126555 (Buildings, Open Space and Carpark); Lot 2 DP 128782; Lot C, DP 448981; Lot 11 DP 1216470	RE1 Public Recreation
Department Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE)	Lot 1, DP 448981; Lot 1 & Lot 2 DP 726732; Lot B DP 448981; Lot A & B, DP 448981	RE1 Public Recreation
Sydney Water	Lot 4 DP 184706	RE1 Public Recreation
Land Abutting M4/Westconnex		
Strathfield Council	Lot 1, DP128782	REI - Public Recreation
RMS	Lot 4A, 5, 5A DP 15561; Part Lots D & C, DP 15312; Lot 101 DP 874681; Part Lot 40, DP 15312; Part Lot 41A & 42B DP 321739; Part Lot 3 DP 130612;	R3 – Medium Density Residential
Land bounded by Underwood Rd and Short Street		
RMS	Lot 9 DP 958678; Lot: 20 DP: 1031702	R3 – Medium Density Residential

Figure 1 – Ismay Reserve Location Map



1.2 Purpose of this Plan of Management

The *Local Government Act 1993* and amendments to the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* require all public land including Crown Reserves, owned or managed by Council, to be classified as either 'community' land or 'operational' land. Land classified as 'community' land must be managed and used in accordance with an adopted Plan of Management. The land described in this Plan of Management is classified as community land.

Plans of Management are developed by Council in consultation with the community. A Plan of Management describes the features of the community land and outlines how the land may be managed and used, consistent with land categorisations, core objectives and zoning, to provide a transparent and co-ordinated approach to public land management.

The purpose of this Plan of Management is to:

- contribute to the strategic goals and vision as set out in the Strathfield Community Strategic Plan
- ensure compliance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and relevant legislation and guidelines
- provide clarity regarding use and access to the community land as described in this plan.

1.3 Contents of this Plan of Management

This Plan of Management is divided into the following sections, as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2 – Structure of this Plan of Management

Section	What does it include?
1. Introduction	Title, land covered by plan, purpose, contents and review of the plan
2. About the Strathfield LGA	Recognition of traditional custodians, Strathfield LGA snapshot, trends, community vision, legislative and policy framework, and references.
3. Land – category, classification, use and access	Site description, land use/history, land categories and classifications, maps, use of land and structures, environmental features, condition of land and structures and heritage.
4. Land Uses	Permissible uses and development, scale and intensity of use, authorisation of leases, licences and short term uses.
5. Management of the land	Objectives, performance targets, means and manner for assessment of performance

1.4. Change and Review of Plan of Management

This Plan of Management will require regular review in order to align with community values and changing community needs, and to reflect changes in Council priorities. The performance of this Plan of Management will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure the use of land and structures is well maintained and consistent with Council's strategic objectives and community values.

Strategic reviews of this Plan of Management will be required where there is significant change to legislation, land ownership/management or proposed land use. Regular reviews should occur at five (5) year intervals.

2. About the Strathfield Local Government Area

2.1 Recognition of Traditional Custodians

Strathfield Council acknowledges the Wangal people, the traditional Custodians of the lands on which the Strathfield area is located. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

2.2 Snapshot of Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA)

The Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA) is well known for transport connections, educational opportunities, attractive streetscapes, parks, heritage and buildings. The Strathfield LGA is centrally located in Sydney's Inner West, approximately 10.5 kilometres from the Sydney CBD and half way between Parramatta and the Sydney CBD. The LGA includes the suburbs of Strathfield (postcode 2135), Strathfield South (2136), Homebush (2140), Homebush West (2140), part of Belfield (2191) and part of Greenacre (2190). Sydney Markets (postcode 2129) is also located within Strathfield LGA.

Strathfield LGA is well known for its extensive green open spaces and high quality recreational facilities, which enhance the liveability, amenity and sustainability of the local area. The Strathfield LGA has a total area of approximately 1390 ha (13.9km²) with 104 ha of the total area being public open space (2018 estimates). There is currently 9.06 ha of remnant bushland in the LGA and about 6 ha is under Council management.

In 2019, the estimated residential LGA population was about 47,000 residents and by 2041, the resident population is estimated to reach over 80,000 people (NSW Planning 2019). The growing population and accompanying building density will increase demand for access to and usage of available open space and community facilities. Therefore, management of community land is of critical importance to current and future communities.

Open spaces range from regional and district sporting grounds to smaller local parks and reserves. Significant parks with major sporting facilities include Airey Park, Bressington Park, Bark Huts Reserve, Begnell Field, Cooke Park, Hudson Park, Mason Park and Strathfield Park. Many local biodiversity conservation and habitat connectivity priority areas, including flora and fauna assets, are located within Strathfield LGA's parks and reserves. A number of connected parks and open spaces form the Cooks River Foreshore open space network, an important local and regional habitat corridor and pedestrian and cycle transport connection.

Strathfield LGA also provides many community facilities, located on community land including meeting rooms, halls and community centres which are available for hire by groups and individuals for sporting, community, recreation, social and other purposes.

2.3 Strathfield LGA community and recreational trends

Some of the challenges facing the Strathfield LGA include increasing and competing demands for public open space and community facilities. Strathfield Council is strongly focused on identifying and meeting the current and future needs of the Strathfield community in a sustainable manner.

Recent community engagement and analysis of social and recreational trends indicate increasing participation in recreation, sporting and leisure activities such as organised team sports, walking, cycling, running, aerobic fitness and dog walking. There is increased demand for access to community and recreation facilities, outdoor and indoor.

Priorities for Council involve increasing the capacity of local community facilities, parks and sportsgrounds, developing new community and recreational facilities as required and ensuring equity of access to land and facilities, to meet changing and diverse needs.

2.4 Community Vision and Key Strategic Directions

The community vision describes the community's aspirations for the future of the Strathfield Local Government Area by 2030:

“Strathfield is a culturally diverse and socially cohesive community with respect for its heritage and environment and proud of its well-connected transport, business and educational institutions”.

Strathfield 2030 is the community strategic plan for the Strathfield Local Government Area until 2030. The plan was developed following extensive community engagement and is divided into the key themes of Connectivity, Community Wellbeing, Civic Pride and Management. Liveable Neighbourhoods and Responsible Leadership. This plan particularly aligns with Council's strategic goals of Healthy and Active Communities (2.2), Safe and Accessible Places (2.3), Thriving and Resilient Environment (4.3) and relevant actions set out in the four year Delivery Program and annual Operational Plan.

This plan is aligned with the Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) which defines the long term vision for land use and infrastructure provisions within the Strathfield LGA and supports place within the Greater Sydney and District planning frameworks. This plan of management aligns with the LSPS Priority P13 'Biodiversity and ecological health and resiliency is conserved, restored and enhanced' and Priority P15 'Quality Open Spaces and thriving green corridors offset the impacts of growth across the LGA' and action plan A93 to review and prepare new plans of management.

2.5 Legislative and Policy Framework

The following legislation and policies provide a framework for the preparation of this Plan of Management.

Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (LG Act) requires the preparation of Plans of Management (POMs) for Council owned land, and requires all community land to be categorised.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) (EP&A Act) is the principal planning legislation for NSW, that provides a framework for the environmental planning and assessment of development proposals and preparation of environmental planning instruments (including the Local Environmental Plan or LEP).

Crown Lands Management Act 2016 (NSW) (CLM Act) governs the planning, management and use of Crown land, including provisions to reserve or dedicate lands for a prescribed public purpose and for leasing and licensing. Crown land under Council management requires classification and categorisations under the LG Act and preparation of Plans of Management.

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW) (BC Act) requires that Councils consider the impact on threatened species, populations and communities in fulfilling their statutory responsibilities under the EP&A Act for development approvals. It also covers management of threatened species and communities on Council owned lands.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth) (EPBC Act) provides a national scheme for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, and incorporates referral mechanisms and environmental impact assessment processes for projects of national significance.

State Environmental Planning Policy 19 – Bushland in Urban Areas aims to protect and preserve bushland in the Sydney Metropolitan area. The SEPP is concerned with disturbances and development affecting bushland areas.

Companion Animal Act 1998 (NSW) requires the identification and registration of companion animals (e.g. cats and dogs) and sets out the duties and responsibilities in relation to management of animals and specific areas of land.

Local Land Services Act 2013 (NSW) provides a framework to ensure the proper management of natural resources in the social, economic and environmental interests of the State. Strathfield is part of the Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS), which provides guidance on matters such as community engagement, biosecurity and weeds.

Also relevant are:

- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)
- Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (NSW) and Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)
- Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)
- Fisheries Management Act 1994 (NSW)
- Rural Fires Act 1997 (NSW)
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)

Related Strathfield Council policies and plans

- Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030
- Strathfield 2030 Community Strategic Plan (CSP)
- Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Development Control Plans 2005
- Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2020
- Disability Inclusion Plan 2020-2024

2.5 References

Eco Logical Australia and Strathfield Council, 2019, *Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2020-2030*

Insight Ecology, 2017, *The Fauna of Strathfield (Local Government Area)*

Jones, Cathy., 2019, *Parks and Reserves*, viewed at <https://strathfieldheritage.org/parks-and-reserves>

Near Maps – Strathfield LGA, 2019 at <https://www.nearmap.com/au/en>

NSW Department Planning, 2019, *Strathfield LGA Population Projections 2016-2041*.

Strathfield Council, *Local Environmental Plan 2012*

Strathfield Council, 2018, *Community Strategic Plan – Strathfield 2030*

Strathfield Council, 2019, *Geographical Information System (GIS) Data*

3. Land – category, classification, use and access

3.1 Description of site

Ismay Reserve includes land adjacent to the west bank of Powells Creek Homebush, which joins the Parramatta River at its north and land on both sides of the M4/Westconnex. The Bay to Bay walk/cycleway runs through much of this parkland. Powells Creek was concreted in the 1930s but parts of the creek have recently been naturalised, with plans for further naturalisation.

The park contains recreational facilities including children's playground, shelters and BBQ, recreation areas, mature plantings, open grassed areas, Futsal court, toilet, outdoor fitness centre and walking/cycle paths.

The M4/Westconnex roadway runs above the park. The roadway concrete pylons and the Powells Creek on-ramp are located within the park. Expansion of the road in 2017-2019 resulted in some land clearing as well as the acquisition and demolition of buildings in Allen Street, Ismay Ave, Underwood Road and Short Street. With completion of the project, works have been undertaken to restore trees, vegetation and upgrade recreational facilities on surplus land.

While Council is largely responsible for the day to day management of these sites, there is currently multiple ownership of the land including NSW State Agencies, which is described in Table 1. These sites are currently used as public open space and for the purposes of consistent maintenance and management, they are included in this plan.

3.2 Land prior use and history

The land on which Ismay Reserve is built was part of a land grant to Thomas Rose in 1798. The land was purchased by Edward Powell (whom Powells Creek is named) and then sold to his son-in-law James Underwood (who Underwood Road is named) in 1823. Underwood owned significant lands in the Homebush district on both sides of the rail line. Subdivision commenced c.1880 with the creation of Pomeroy Street (then called Creek Street).

Some of the land along Powells Creek was used for early market gardens, while most of the land along Ismay Avenue and Allen Street remained undeveloped until c.1920s when it was subdivided for residential development. In the 1930s Powells Creek was concreted as a stormwater canal and the land abutting the Creek became open space.

The M4 Motorway was completed in 1982, which involved the acquisition on many homes and realignment of streets such as Short Street. A further widening of the M4 (called the Westconnex) occurred in 2018-2019, which again required acquisition of properties on Ismay Avenue and Allen Street. The residue land from the road widening has been dedicated as open space. Together with the open space abutting Powells Creek, a large open space corridor has been formed¹.

¹ Jones, C, 2019, Parks and Reserves

Figure 2 - Historical photographs of Ismay Reserve

The aerial historic photographs indicate changes in land use over time, which includes building of the M4 in 1982 (later widened as Westconnex in 2019), demolition of houses for road widening but also for open space and revegetation, especially near the Creek and boundaries of the open space.



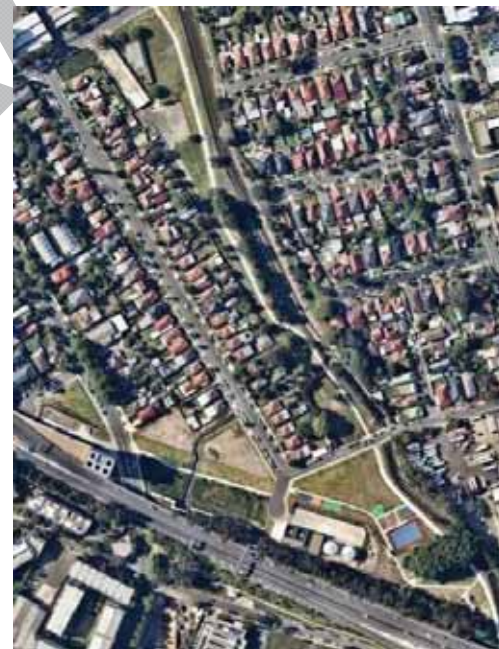
Ismay Reserve aerial photograph (1947). Indicating Parramatta Road to Pomeroy Street, prior to the building of the M4.



Ismay Reserve aerial photograph (1997) – Parramatta Road to Allen Street. Indicates the construction of the M4 Motorway.



Ismay Reserve aerial photograph (2009).
© Near Maps



Ismay Reserve aerial photograph (2019).
© Near Maps

3.3 Categories and classifications of community Land

The management of community land is governed by the categorisation of the land, and the core objectives of the relevant category of community land. The core objectives for each category are set out in the *Local Government Act 1993*. The guidelines and core objectives for relevant categories are set out in Table 3.

Table 3 – Guidelines for and core objectives of community land

Category	Guidelines ²	Core objectives ³
Park	<i>Regulation cl.104</i> Land which is, or proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, and for uses which are mainly passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others.	<i>Category Park – (Section 36G)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities. provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games. improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.
General Community Use	<i>Regulation cl.106</i> Land that may be made available for use of any purpose for which community land may be used, whether by the public at large or by specific sections of the public	<i>Category General Community Use - (Section 36I)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public. in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).

Council must manage community land in according to these core objectives. Any activities or uses of the land should be consistent with the core objectives for that category of land. Additional objectives which support the above core objectives are included in Section 5 Management of the land.

The land classified as community land under the *Local Government Act 1993* is categorised as Park and General Community Use. The categorised areas are marked in Figure 3.

² *Local Government General Regulation 2005*

³ *Local Government Act 1993*

Figure 3 – Map of Ismay Reserve land categorisations



3.4 Use of the land and structures at date of adoption of the plan

Ismay Reserve provides a wide range of sporting, recreational and community facilities. Ismay Reserve provides a corridor of open space and is situated on the Bay to Bay walk/cycleway which links suburbs, homes, shops, parks, schools and workplaces.

A number of community facilities are built within Ismay Reserve and these areas have been categorised as General Community Use.

The majority of land in Ismay Reserve is categorised as a Park. The land is used for active and passive recreation and leisure purposes. The park contains BBQ/Shelters, toilets, children's playground, futsal courts, seating and outdoor fitness facilities.

3.5 Environmental Features

Ismay Reserve contains individually planted trees and clusters of trees and shrubs planted in the centre of the park abutting Powells Creek.

There is mature and recent local vegetation connectivity along Powells Creek corridor to Homebush Bay and plantings in landscaped, sheltered and visually separated park spaces including Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*), feature Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*), Native Fig Trees (*Ficus macrophylla*), *Eucalyptus spp*, *Casuarina spp*, *Acacia spp*, *Grevillea spp*. There have been sightings of Pacific Black Duck and Chestnut Teal as well as Rainbow and Musk Lorikeets⁴.

Land was cleared in 2018-2019 for the expansion of the M4/Westconnex Motorway and new plantings have been made on this land.

3.6 Condition of the land and structures on adoption of the plan

The criteria for assessing the condition of land and structure upon adoption of this plan of management are shown in Table 4 and the interpretation of the condition of infrastructure in Table 5.

Table 4 - Condition rating assessment criteria

Rating	Descriptor	Guide	Residual Life as a % of Total Life	Mean % age residual life
1 Excellent	Sound physical condition. Asset likely to perform adequately without major work.	Normal maintenance required	>86	95
2 Good	Acceptable physical condition, minimal short term risk of failure.	Normal maintenance plus minor repairs required (to 5% or less of the asset)	65 to 85	80
3 Satisfactory	Deterioration evident, failure in the short term unlikely. Minor components need replacement or repair now but asset still functions safely.	Significant maintenance and/or repairs required (to 10-20% of the asset)	41 to 64	55
4 Worn	Deterioration of the asset is evident and failure is possible in the short term. No immediate risk to health and safety.	Significant renewal required (to 20 - 40% of the asset)	10 to 40	35
5 Poor	Failed or failure is imminent or there is significant deterioration of the asset. Health and safety hazards exist which present a possible risk to public safety.	Over 50% of the asset requires renewal	<10	5

⁴ Strathfield Fauna Study 2017

Table 5 – Condition of assets at Ismay Reserve

Description	Condition
Sandstone Park Entrance Name	Excellent (Built 2019)
BBQ and picnic shelters	Excellent (Built 2019)
Carpark (back of former Bowling Club)	Satisfactory
Children's playground	Excellent (Built 2019)
Fencing	Good
Former bowling club (Pomeroy Street)	Poor
Futsal Court	Excellent (Built 2019)
General park lighting	Good
Pathway lighting	Good
Men's Shed building (Pomeroy Street)	Good
Off-leash area (former Allen Street Reserve)	Satisfactory
Open space for informal recreational use	Excellent (Built 2019)
Outdoor fitness equipment	Excellent (Built 2019)
Pathways	Excellent (Built 2019)
Toilet block	Excellent (Built 2019)
Outdoor table tennis tables	Excellent (Built 2019)
Mirelle Art	Excellent (Completed 2019)
Bike rack	Excellent (Built 2019)

3.7 Heritage

There are no statutory heritage listings associated with this land.

3.8 Photographs of Ismay Reserve

Photographs are dated 2019 and provide an overview of the various park uses and facilities.



Sandstone Park Entrance Name Parramatta Rd



Outdoor Fitness Equipment



Bike Rack



Outdoor Fitness Equipment



Playground



Shelter, BBQ & Seating



Mirelle Art on pylons under M4



Mirelle Art on pylons under M4



Seating



Grove of Fig Trees (*Ficus macrophylla*)



Futsal Court



Outdoor Table Tennis Table

4. Land Uses

4.1 Permissible uses and developments

The tables below set out the purpose/use of the land consistent with its land categorisation and the types of development generally associated with those uses. Facilities on community land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community. The anticipated uses, and associated development, identified in Tables 6 and 7 are intended to provide an overview or general guide. Development is subject to requirements set out in clauses 4.2 and 4.3

Table 6 – Permissible uses of land categories – Park

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Active and passive recreation including children's play• Group recreational use, such as picnics and celebrations• Publicly accessible ancillary areas eg toilets• Festivals, fairs, similar events and gatherings• Low intensity commercial activities• Filming and photographic projects• Public address (speeches)• Easement, utilities and estate• Community gardening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development for the purposes of improving access, amenity, and the visual character of the park eg paths, pergolas, flagpoles, lights, water bubblers, seating, paved areas, hard and soft landscaped areas etc• Development for the purposes of active recreation eg play equipment, children's playgrounds, exercise equipment, courts etc• Amenities to facilitate leisure use of the park eg picnic tables and shelters, BBQ's & sheltered eating areas• Kiosk/café, mobile food vans or refreshment areas• Restricted access ancillary areas (e.g. storage areas associated with functions, gardening equipment)• Transport access and service areas ancillary to the use of land (eg public transport, car parking, loading zones, bicycle racks)• Community gardens• Off-leash areas• Heritage and cultural interpretation eg signs, public art etc• Locational, directional and regulatory signage• Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that relate to approved uses/activities, discreet and temporary and approved by Council.• Water/Energy savings initiatives

Table 7 – Permissible uses of land categories – General Community Use

Purpose/Use	Development
<p>Provides a location for, and supports, the gathering of groups for a range of general social, cultural or recreational purposes</p> <p>Includes multi-purpose buildings e.g. community halls, clubhouses, childcare etc. Uses may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> casual or informal sporting and recreational use meetings (including for social, recreational, educational or cultural purposes) functions leisure or training classes including fitness educational and community centres, including libraries, information and resource centres 	<p>Development for the purposes of social, community, cultural, recreational activities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> landscaping and finishes, improving access, amenity and the visual character of the general community area provision of buildings or other amenity areas to facilitate use and enjoyment by the community development (particularly within buildings) for the purposes of addressing community or recreational needs (e.g. community hall, leisure centre, indoor courts) casual, seasonal, licence or lease agreements may be permitted consistent with purpose or use of facility.

In some instances, physical assets may be located on land which falls into different categories. For example, community halls may be located on land categorised as Park, or on land categorised for General Community Use.

4.2 Future development and use of the community land

There has been significant recent development of recreational facilities over the last 2 years, however, there are no future development plans for Ismay Reserve at the time of adoption of this plan of management.

Minor changes to community land are regularly made on a routine basis, such as garden beds are replanted, and damaged play equipment is replaced.

In the event of potential future development other than that listed, proposed changes of use of community land will:

1. Meet legislative requirements - zoning tables in the Strathfield Council Local Environmental Plan specifies the range of uses and activities that may be permitted on the land. A number of uses are also set out in the Regulations to the *Local Government Act 1993*.

2. Be consistent with the guidelines and core objectives of the community land category - under the *Local Government Act 1993* uses and development of community land must be consistent with the guidelines for categorisation and the core objectives of each category, and any other additional objectives the Council proposes to place on the community land categories.

3. Be consistent with relevant Council policies - substantial upgrades and proposed new development will take into account a range of factors, including:

- this Plan of Management and the core objectives for the land
- the planning controls for the land
- Council's adopted policies

- the characteristics of the land affected, including existing and future use patterns
- any landscape masterplan for the land.

4.3 Scale and intensity of land use

The scale and intensity of use and development associated with community land in Strathfield is generally dependent on:

- the nature of the approved uses and developments
- approved Development Applications and any conditions
- an approved masterplan
- the physical constraints of the land
- the carrying capacity of the land
- relevant government legislation
- permissible times of use
- proximity of neighbours

The scale and intensity of use of parks and sportsgrounds should be monitored by:

- regular inspection of the physical impacts on the park or sportsground
- consideration of reports regarding any conflicts between park and sportsground users or from adjoining neighbours

4.4 Authorisation of leases, licences or other estates over community land

The Act requires that any lease or licence of community land must be authorised by a Plan of Management. The lease or licence must be for purposes consistent with the categorisation and zoning of the land.

The maximum period for leases or licences on community land permitted under the Act is 21 years. If a lease or licence is anticipated, then public notice should be given in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Where a lease arrangement has been entered into with Council for community land, subleasing the land may only occur with specific permission of Council and in accordance with the requirements of Section 47C of the Act, Clause 119 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* and conditions set out in agreements.

This Plan of Management authorises existing leases and licence agreements until the end of their current term. The leased or licensed areas may be renewed or changed in future. The leased or licensed areas may be reconfigured in the future to reflect changes in community needs.

This Plan of Management authorises Council to grant leases, licences or any other estates for community land covered in this Plan of Management for purposes and uses which are identified or consistent with those in Tables 8 and 7. Some examples of longer term arrangements are outlined in the following Table 8. Shorter arrangements (for example, a short term agreement associated with a particular event, or an activity recurring regularly either via annual or seasonal agreement) are set out in Table 9.

Calculations for fees and charges for leases and licences will be based on independent market rental valuations that are based on comparisons to similar services and facilities with similar locations, building

and land conditions. As a minimum standard, the financial return from licence fees should offset asset maintenance, renewal and any operational costs. Council may also apply subsidies to not for profit organisations where there are demonstrated community benefits or financial hardship. Subsidies are generally not applied to commercial agreements.

Table 8 – Leases, Licences and other estates

Type of Arrangement Authorised	Land and Facilities covered	Purposes for which long term leasing/licensing will be granted
Licence or lease	Park	<p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sporting and recreational purposes, including team sports, fitness activities and games • kiosk, café and refreshment purposes • use of court or similar facilities
Licence or lease	General Community Use (community land and buildings)	<p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the area to support the activity.</p> <p>Sympathetic, compatible uses may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • child care, vacation care, health providers associated with the relevant facility • community purposes including meetings, workshops, learning • cultural purposes including concerts, dramatic productions, and galleries • recreational purposes including fitness, dance and games • kiosk, café and refreshment purposes
Other Estates	Park General Community Use	<p>This Plan of Management allows Council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities in accordance with the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>.</p> <p>Estates may also be granted across community land that is not affected by endangered communities for the provision of pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the Council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land.</p>

The grant of a lease or licence is an important step in using community land, but there may be other requirements relevant to any proposed use. For example, the refurbishment of a kiosk may also require development consent under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Any interested person should check carefully to make sure they are aware of all relevant requirements.

4.5 Short Term Uses

Agreements for use of community land may be granted for short duration, which may include casual hires, seasonal use (eg sportsfields) or regular hire arrangement. These short-term arrangements should be for the types of uses identified in Table 9 and consistent with prevailing Council policies.

Table 9 – Seasonal, regular and casual use agreements

Community land category	Purposes for which short term uses may be granted subject to council approval	Requirements
Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community events and festivals playing a musical instrument, or singing for fee or reward picnics and private celebrations such as family gatherings filming and photography session public performances engaging in an appropriate trade or business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proposed use must comply with terms and conditions approved e.g. SafeWork NSW regulations, insurance, waste management etc. the use should not result in physical damage to the park the use should not result in a significant adverse impact on adjoining residents or disturbance to nearby residents organisers of the site should be responsible for cleaning up the site and notify authorities and Council of any damage or incidents that may occur
General Community Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> meetings, seminars and presentations, including educational programs events consistent with the size of facility and its terms and conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proposed use must comply with terms and conditions for facility use the use should not result in physical damage to the facility organisers of the site should be responsible for cleaning up the site and repairing any damage that may occur.

In assessing community land categorised as Park or General Community Use as a venue for any proposed utilisation, the Council applies the following minimum criteria:

- Council reserves the right to refuse bookings based on previous unsatisfactory payment or performance history or where proposed use would damage the facility or cause significant disruption to other regular users.
- Fees for short-term casual bookings will be charged in accordance with Council's adopted Fees and Charges at the time.

5. Management of the land

5.1 Objectives and management of community land

The land is managed in accordance with the objectives and methods set out below:

Table 10 – Objectives, means and performance measures

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Access	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide safe and improved access to the parks, sportsgrounds and general community use properties for pedestrians and cyclists. 2. Provide access to and within parks for people with disabilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upgrades, refurbishments and/or improvement works on community land to consider public access requirements for mobility and connections. 2. Proposed ramps, stairs and pathways to comply with relevant Council and BCA requirements consistent with Australian Standards. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Audits of community land and facilities to comply with standards
Amenity and Character	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure Council's community land and facilities contribute to the amenity and character of the Strathfield LGA. 2. Promote parks, sportsgrounds and community use properties as desirable places for recreation, community celebration and commemoration. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide parks and facilities and pathways as attractive destinations. 2. Maintain and enhance community land and facilities 3. Promote parks, sportsgrounds and facilities in local media and website. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consult with residents and users regarding satisfaction of parks and facilities 2. Monitor and action complaint data
Community Facilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide sustainable community facilities for a range of 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building and structure design specifications to consider park, sportsground and general 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor usage of community facilities as measured by bookings.

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
	<p>community, social and other compatible activities.</p> <p>2. Ensure buildings positively contribute to community land amenity, facilitate a range of uses and have regard for environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance.</p>	<p>community use character, expected use and environmental sustainability features.</p> <p>2. Provide community facilities which are multi-purpose and flexible to a range of appropriate uses.</p> <p>3. Ensure community facilities are universally accessible.</p> <p>4. Community facilities meet sustainable building requirements and/or are progressively upgraded to incorporate best practice energy and water efficiencies.</p>	<p>2. Community satisfaction surveys.</p> <p>3. Facility inspections and audits.</p> <p>4. Monitor comments and complaints</p>
Environmentally Sustainable Principles	<p>1. Manage community land to ensure best environmental management practises and principles having regard to environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance.</p>	<p>1. Promote and monitor energy efficiency</p> <p>2. Minimise use of water</p> <p>3. Implement waste reduction programs</p> <p>4. Utilise natural heating and cooling</p>	<p>1. Measure and monitor via plans and strategies such as Energy and Water plans.</p> <p>2. Monitor usage and trends via quarterly and annual consumption and billing.</p> <p>3. Monitor and minimise water and energy use in parks, sportsgrounds and ancillary facilities.</p>
Historical and Heritage Significance	<p>1. Appreciation and interpretation of the historical and/or heritage significance of the site and structures e.g. memorials in terms of both natural and cultural components.</p>	<p>1. Undertake, when required, historical research or heritage and cultural assessment studies to identify cultural and heritage values for retention and interpretation.</p> <p>2. Incorporate historical information on property signage to enhance understanding and appreciation of the site and the history it represents, where relevant.</p> <p>3. Promote sense of place and local identity</p>	<p>1. Retention and interpretation of heritage and cultural values provides increased appreciation of the property and its history through community consultation.</p>

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Landscape Character	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and improve landscape character and visual quality of public open spaces 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Manage replacement planting strategies to ensure improvement to the current character. Maintain consistency in selection and design of park and sportsground furniture, paving, fencing that is appropriate to the setting and the sport or activity type. Implement & maintain co-ordinated signage strategy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Community consultation including surveys regarding community views
Managing assets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide effective and efficient management of community land and facilities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule regular inspections and condition assessments. Inclusion of maintenance standards in licence, lease or hire agreements. Provide waste and recycling bins to cater for public use. Regular waste and recycling collection to minimise litter overflow 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Measure against Service Standard KPIs. Respond to complaints and audits. Monitor agreements Review and update asset management plans periodically
Natural Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain and enhance the health of park ecology, including flora and fauna, trees and soil 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Manage trees, gardens and natural areas to maintain and improve the quality of the environment in accordance with Council's tree management and biodiversity strategies and plans. Retain habitat trees, protect foraging habitat and create/maintain habitat corridors through revegetation where possible Ensure revegetation is undertaken using locally sourced stock from agreed planting lists (refer Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Measure and monitor tree canopies, vegetation, weeds and habitat. Undertake periodic flora and fauna reviews

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain weed management program to minimise spread of weeds Implement actions where required under recovery or threat abatement plan. 	
Promote varied recreational uses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance opportunities for a balanced organised and unstructured recreational use of public open space Optimise public access to public open space. Maintain condition and useability of sportsgrounds and 'sustainable capacity'. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Capital works program to plan for improvements and upgrades to community land. Promote a range of organised and informal/unstructured activities on community land Provide amenities that support use and enjoyment of parks and sportsgrounds e.g. toilets, change rooms and kiosk/café facilities. Enforce provisions for management of dogs on community land as per requirements of Council's Companion Animal Policy. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor local use of parks and sportsgrounds by bookings, surveys, complaints and observation.
Safety and Risk Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide safe use and access to public land and facilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Design and maintain layouts, landscaping and facilities in accordance with CPTED principles (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) principles including passive surveillance, good sight lines, territorial reinforcement and space management and lighting. Review lighting and security for both day and night time use. Work with local police to identify and act on safety issues. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Works to be in accordance with relevant Australian Standards and CPTED principles. Monitor and action incident and accident reports.

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
		4. Install and maintain facilities in accordance with relevant Australian standards. 5. Repair vandalism or graffiti within 48 hours where possible.	
Traffic and Parking	1. Ensure traffic and parking requirements provide a safe environment for park, sportsgrounds and general community use property users and do not impact on the amenity of the properties.	1. Minimise use of vehicles on community land and regulate and monitor vehicle access. 2. Installation of signage preventing vehicles from entering unauthorised areas. 3. Where vehicles are permitted, provide clearly marked vehicle movement areas 4. Provide access for emergency or works services.	1. Reduced pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle conflicts. 2. Improved public safety. 3. Traffic access to community land is via agreement.
Use agreements	1. That use arrangements facilitate wide community access to community land, community benefits and support financial sustainability.	1. Licence, leases, estates and short term use agreements comply with legislative and policy requirements.	1. Monitor agreements in accordance with terms and conditions of agreement.





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1. Introduction

1.1 Title

This plan is titled the Local Parks Plan of Management. This plan of management includes parks in the Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA) that are described as local parks ie smaller parks that service their local neighbourhoods.

The community land covered by this Plan of Management is described in Section 3.2.

The current plan was adopted by Council resolution at the meeting of xx.

The land located in the Cooks River corridor and categorised as natural area (bushland) is included in the Cooks River Natural Area (Bushland) Plan of Management.

This plan replaces the previously adopted Neighbourhood Parks Plan of Management (2014).

1.2 Purpose of this Plan of Management

The *Local Government Act 1993* and amendments to the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* require all public land including Crown Reserves, owned or managed by Council, to be classified as either 'community' land or 'operational' land. Land classified as 'community' land must be managed and used in accordance with an adopted Plan of Management. The land described in this Plan of Management is classified as community land.

Plans of Management are developed by Council in consultation with the community. A Plan of Management describes the features of the community land and outlines how the land may be managed and used, consistent with land categorisations, core objectives and zoning, to provide a transparent and co-ordinated approach to public land management.

The purpose of this Plan of Management is to:

- contribute to the strategic goals and vision as set out in the Strathfield Community Strategic Plan
- ensure compliance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and relevant legislation and guidelines
- provide clarity regarding use and access to the community land as described in this plan.

1.3 Contents of this Plan of Management

This Plan of Management is divided into the following sections, as outlined in Table 1.

Table 1 Structure of this Plan of Management

Section	What does it include?
1. Introduction	Title, land covered by plan, purpose, contents and review of the plan
2. About the Strathfield LGA	Recognition of traditional custodians, Strathfield LGA snapshot, trends, community vision, legislative and policy framework and references.
3. Land – category, classification, use and access	Site description, land categories and classifications, maps, use of land and structures, environmental features, condition of land and structures and heritage.
4. Land Uses	Permissible uses and development, scale and intensity of use, authorisation of leases, licences and short-term uses.
5. Management of the land	Objectives, performance targets, means and manner for assessment of performance

1.4. Change and Review of Plan of Management

This Plan of Management will require regular review in order to align with community values and changing community needs, and to reflect changes in Council priorities. The performance of this Plan of Management will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure the use of land and structures is well maintained and consistent with Council's strategic objectives and community values.

Strategic reviews of this Plan of Management will be required where there is significant change to legislation, land ownership/management or proposed land use. Regular reviews should occur at five (5) year intervals.

2. About the Strathfield Local Government Area

2.1 Recognition of Traditional Custodians

Strathfield Council acknowledges the Wangal people, the traditional Custodians of the lands on which the Strathfield area is located. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

2.2 Snapshot of Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA)

The Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA) is well known for transport connections, educational opportunities, attractive streetscapes, parks, heritage and buildings. The Strathfield LGA is centrally located in Sydney's Inner West, approximately 10.5 kilometres from the Sydney CBD and half way between Parramatta and the Sydney CBD. The LGA includes the suburbs of Strathfield (postcode 2135), Strathfield South (2136), Homebush (2140), Homebush West (2140), part of Belfield (2191) and part of Greenacre (2190). Sydney Markets (postcode 2129) is also located within Strathfield LGA.

Strathfield LGA is well known for its extensive green open spaces and high quality recreational facilities, which enhance the liveability, amenity and sustainability of the local area. The Strathfield LGA has a total area of approximately 1390 ha (13.9km²) with 104 ha of the total area being public open space (2018 estimates). There is currently 9.06 ha of remnant bushland in the LGA and about 6 ha is under Council management.

In 2019, the estimated residential LGA population was about 47,000 residents and by 2041, the resident population is estimated to reach over 80,000 people (NSW Planning 2019). The growing population and accompanying building density will increase demand for access to and usage of available open space and community facilities. Therefore, management of community land is of critical important to current and future communities.

Open spaces range from regional and district sporting grounds to smaller local parks and reserves. Significant parks with major sporting facilities include Airey Park, Bressington Park, Bark Huts Reserve, Begnell Field, Cooke Park, Hudson Park, Mason Park and Strathfield Park. Many local biodiversity conservation and habitat connectivity priority areas, including flora and fauna assets, are located within Strathfield LGA's parks and reserves. A number of connected parks and open spaces form the Cooks River Foreshore open space network, an important local and regional habitat corridor and pedestrian and cycle transport connection.

Strathfield LGA also provides many community facilities, located on community land including meeting rooms, halls and community centres which are available for hire by groups and individuals for sporting, community, recreation, social and other purposes.

2.3 Strathfield LGA community and recreational trends

Some of the challenges facing the Strathfield LGA include increasing and competing demands for public open space and community facilities. Strathfield Council is strongly focused on identifying and meeting the current and future needs of the Strathfield community in a sustainable manner.

Recent community engagement and analysis of social and recreational trends indicate increasing participation in recreation, sporting and leisure activities such as organised team sports, walking, cycling, running, aerobic fitness and dog walking. There is increased demand for access to community and recreation facilities, outdoor and indoor.

Priorities for Council involve increasing the capacity of local community facilities, parks and sportsgrounds, developing new community and recreational facilities as required and ensuring equity of access to land and facilities, to meet changing and diverse needs.

2.4 Community Vision and Key Strategic Directions

The community vision describes the community's aspirations for the future of the Strathfield Local Government Area by 2030:

“Strathfield is a culturally diverse and socially cohesive community with respect for its heritage and environment and proud of its well-connected transport, business and educational institutions”.

Strathfield 2030 is the community strategic plan for the Strathfield Local Government Area until 2030. The plan was developed following extensive community engagement and is divided into the key themes of Connectivity, Community Wellbeing, Civic Pride and Management. Liveable Neighbourhoods and Responsible Leadership

This plan is aligned with the Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) which defines the long term vision for land use and infrastructure provisions within the Strathfield LGA and supports place within the Greater Sydney and District planning frameworks. This plan of management aligns with the LSPS Priority P13 'Biodiversity and ecological health and resiliency is conserved, restored and enhanced' and Priority P15 'Quality Open Spaces and thriving green corridors offset the impacts of growth across the LGA' and action plan A93 to review and prepare new plans of management.

2.5 Legislative and Policy Framework

The following legislation and policies provide a framework for the preparation of this Plan of Management.

Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (LG Act) requires the preparation of Plans of Management (POMs) for Council owned land, and requires all community land to be categorised.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) (EP&A Act) is the principal planning legislation for NSW, that provides a framework for the environmental planning and assessment of development proposals and preparation of environmental planning instruments (including the Local Environmental Plan or LEP).

Crown Lands Management Act 2016 (NSW) (CLM Act) governs the planning, management and use of Crown land, including provisions to reserve or dedicate lands for a prescribed public purpose and for leasing and licensing. Crown land under Council management requires classification and categorisations under the LG Act and preparation of Plans of Management.

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW) (BC Act) requires that Councils consider the impact on threatened species, populations and communities in fulfilling their statutory responsibilities under the EP&A Act for development approvals. It also covers management of threatened species and communities on Council owned lands.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth) (EPBC Act) provides a national scheme for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, and incorporates referral mechanisms and environmental impact assessment processes for projects of national significance.

Companion Animal Act 1998 (NSW) requires the identification and registration of companion animals (e.g. cats and dogs) and sets out the duties and responsibilities in relation to management of animals and specific areas of land.

Local Land Services Act 2013 (NSW) provides a framework to ensure the proper management of natural resources in the social, economic and environmental interests of the State. Strathfield is part of the Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS), which provides guidance on matters such as community engagement, biosecurity and weeds.

Also relevant are:

- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)
- Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (NSW) and Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)
- Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)
- Fisheries Management Act 1994 (NSW)
- Rural Fires Act 1997 (NSW)
- State Environmental Planning Policy 19 – Bushland in Urban Areas.
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)

Related Strathfield Council policies and plans

- Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030
- Strathfield 2030 Community Strategic Plan (CSP)
- Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Development Control Plans 2025
- Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2020
- Disability Inclusion Plan

2.6 References

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3. Land – category, classification, use and access

3.1 Categories and classifications of Community Land

The management of community land is governed by the classification of the land and the core objectives of the relevant category of community land. The core objectives for each category are set out in Table 3.

A number of parks in the Strathfield LGA are built on unformed road reserves, which are under the *Local Government Act 1993* are exempt from classification and categorisations. Though they do not require a Plan of Management, parks located on road reserves are managed in a similar manner to other local parks on community land. Table 4 and 5 set out the details of land used for easements/other estates; and road reserves.

The management of community land is governed by the categorisation of the land, and the core objectives of the relevant category of community land. The core objectives for each category are set out in the *Local Government Act 1993*. The guidelines and core objectives for relevant categories are set out in Table 2.

Table 2 Guidelines for and core objectives of community land

Category	Guidelines ¹	Core objectives ²
Park	<i>Regulation cl.104</i> Land which is, or proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, and for uses which are mainly passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others.	<i>Category Park – (Section 36G)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities.• provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games.• improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.
Sportsground	<i>Regulation cl.103</i> Land should be categorised as 'sportsground' if the land is used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.	<i>Category Sportsground - (Section 36F)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and• to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.
General Community Use	<i>Regulation cl.106</i> Land that may be made available for use of any purpose for which community land may be used,	<i>Category General Community Use - (Section 36I)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future

¹ *Local Government General Regulation 2005*

² *Local Government Act 1993*

Category	Guidelines ¹	Core objectives ²
	whether by the public at large or by specific sections of the public	<p>needs of the local community and of the wider public:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public. - in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).
Natural Area	<p><i>Regulation cl.102</i></p> <p>Natural areas are where land, whether or not in an undisturbed state, possesses a significant geological feature, geomorphological feature, landform, representative system or other natural feature or attribute that would be sufficient to further categorise the land as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore</p>	<p><i>Natural Area - (Section 36E)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised to a natural area; and • to maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting, and • to provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land, and • to provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and • to assist in and facilitate the implement of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan prepared under the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> or the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>
Natural Area – bushland	<p><i>Regulation cl.107</i></p> <p>Land that contains primarily native vegetation that is the natural vegetation or a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land, or although not the natural vegetation, is still representative of the structure or floristics of the natural vegetation in the locality.</p>	<p><i>Natural Area - Bushland (Section 36J)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land, and • to protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and • to promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and • to restore degraded bushland, and

Category	Guidelines ¹	Core objectives ²
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and to retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and to protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.

Council must manage community land in according to these core objectives. Any activities or uses of the land should be consistent with the core objectives for that category of land. Additional objectives which support the above core objectives are included in Section 5 Management of the land.

3.2 Community Land – Local Parks

Descriptions of local parks and reserves are set out in this section which includes title, address, lot details, ownership, zoning, land categorisation, description and condition of land and structures.

Augustus Loftus Reserve

Address

29-30 Loftus Crescent, Homebush

Lot details

Lot 1 DP1105628; Lot 25 DP9154

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park

Description and condition of land and structures

Augustus Loftus Reserve provides open space for recreation and gardens. Therefore, this land has been categorised as a Park.

The park contains open grassed areas, children's playground, shade structure, drinking fountain, and shelter, seating, lighting and footpath. The park structures are in in good condition.

The park is located within walking distance of Homebush Rail Station and shops. There are pedestrian and cycle linkages via Bay to Bay shared pathway.



Figure 1 Land categorisation map Augustus Loftus Reserve



Austin Park

Address

Courallie Ave, Homebush West

Lot details

Lot

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park

Description and condition of land and structures

Austin Park provides open space for recreation and gardens. Therefore, this land has been categorised as a Park.

The park contains open grassed areas, children's playground, shade structure, drinking fountain, and shelter, seating, lighting and footpath. The park structures are in in good condition.



Figure 2 Land categorisation map Augustus Loftus Reserve



Bill Boyce Reserve

Address

Pomeroy Street Homebush

Lot details

Lot 10 DP 1216832

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park

Description and condition of land and structures

Bill Boyce Reserve provides open space for recreation and gardens. This land has been categorised as a Park.

Bill Boyce Reserve (formerly Pomeroy Reserve) is accessible from Pomeroy Street with the Westconnex/M4 at the rear boundary of the park. It is located adjacent to the Bay to Bay Walk/Cycleway and M4 pedestrian bridge. The reserve contains passive recreation areas containing individual planted trees and thin strips of trees and some shrubs along the boundaries.

The park contains small patches of planted lomandra, shrubs and older planted figs, camphor laurels and eucalypts, which provide food and shelter for Grey Fantail, New Holland Honeyeater and occasionally Common Brushtail Possum.

There is pedestrian, vehicle and bus access to Bill Boyce Reserve with limited on-street parking on Pomeroy Street. There are pedestrian/cycle linkages via Bay to Bay cycle/pathway adjacent to the reserve.

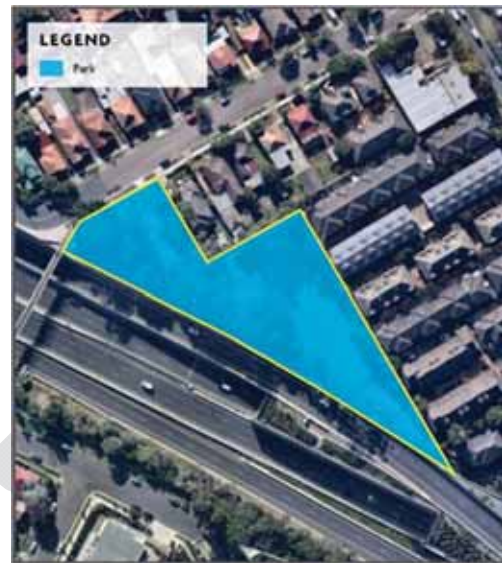


Figure 3 Land categorisation map Bill Boyce Reserve

Boden Reserve

Address

Pemberton Street and Howard Street, Strathfield

Lot details

Lot 193-195 DP 15259; Lot 210 DP 15229, Lot 219 DP 15259

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park

Description and condition of land and structures

Boden Reserve provides open space for recreation and gardens. This land has been categorised as a Park.

Boden Reserve was established in the 1930s and contains mature plantings, open grassed areas, children's playground, shade structure, seating and footpath. The playground was recently upgraded and park structures are in good condition.

The park has a mix of exotic and native flowering shrubs and trees such as eucalypts and large figs with a row of River Peppermint *E. elata* in the centre of the reserve.

The park has two entries on Pemberton Street (main street frontage) and Howard Street. There is on-street parking on both streets. There are nearby pedestrian/cycle linkages via Bay to Bay shared pathway.



Figure 4 Land Categorisation map Boden Reserve

Centenary Playground

Address

Alviston Street, Strathfield

Lot details

Lot 4 DP 701370

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park

Description and condition of land and structures

Centenary Playground provides open space for recreation and gardens. This land has been categorised as a Park.

Centenary Park was opened in 1985, the year of Strathfield Council's 100th centenary celebrations. The park has mature plantings, open grassed areas, children's playground, seating and lighting. The park structures are in satisfactory condition.



Figure 5 Land categorisation map Centenary Playground



Chain of Ponds Reserve

Address

Augusta Street and Cave Road Strathfield

Lot details

Lot 3 DP 243041, Lot 1 224899, Lot 3 DP 854298, Lot 19 DP 243041 (Council); Lot 1 DP 243041, Lot 9 DP 243041 and Lot 18 DP 243041 (Sydney Water); Lot 61 DP 570036 (DPIE)

Ownership

Strathfield Council, Sydney Water & Department of Planning, Industry & Environment

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park; Natural Area (Bushland)

Associated Plans

Cooks River Corridor Natural Area (Bushland) Plan of Management (land categorised as natural area – bushland)

Description and condition of land and structures

Land within Chain of Ponds Reserve provides open space for recreation and gardens, which is categorised as a Park.

The park has mature plantings, open grassed areas and shelters, bicycle rack, children's playground, shade structure, seating, lighting and footpath.

A biodiversity corridor of mainly revegetated indigenous vegetation typical of Cooks River and its tributaries forms a connected habitat corridor with the other foreshore Cooks River parks. This runs through the centre of the park on the foreshore of the Cooks River. This land has been categorised as Natural Area (Bushland).

A pedestrian bridge links the north and south sides of the park. The park was recently upgraded and is in good condition. The Bay to Bay shared pathway runs through the park near Augusta Street. The park is located near the Cave Road shopping centre.



Figure 6 Land categorisation map Chain of Ponds Reserve

Churchill Ave Carpark

Address

12-18 Albert Road, Strathfield

Lot details

Lot 101 DP 866163

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

3B Commercial Core

Categorisation

General Community Use

Description and condition of land and structures

The land is used as a public carpark and is located in the Strathfield Town Centre. The land is connected to 5 Churchill Avenue Strathfield (operational land), which is also used as a public carpark.

This land is located in the Strathfield Town Centre with access to a number of transport modes eg rail, bus, taxi, cycle and pedestrian.



Figure 7 Land categorisation map Churchill Ave Carpark



“Chiswick” Reserve

Address

22A Chiswick Street Strathfield South

Lot details

Lot 2 DP 842991

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park; Natural Area - Bushland

Associated Plans

Cooks River Corridor Natural Area (Bushland) Plan of Management (land categorised as Natural Area – Bushland).

Description and condition of land and structures

‘Chiswick Reserve’ is an area of open space adjacent to the Cooks River and Bay to Bay shared pathway and east of the Southend Tennis Centre. There are pedestrian/cycle linkages via Bay to Bay shared pathway. Entry to the park is from the Bay to Bay shared pathway or Chiswick Street. This land is categorised as Park.

Chiswick Reserve provides a revegetated link along Cooks River which forms a habitat corridor. This area is categorised as Natural Area – Bushland.

Together with Elliott Reserve, which is located opposite, bird species such as Yellow Thornbill, Yellow-faced Honeyeater and Superb Fairy-wren are enabled to access Maria and Dean Reserves, Ford Park and other reserves along the Cooks River.



Figure 8 Land Categorisation map Chiswick Reserve

Cosgrove Reserve

Address

Pemberton Street Strathfield

Lot details

Lot 14 DP259469

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation (Strathfield LEP 2012)

Categorisation

Park

Description and condition of land and structures

Cosgrove Reserve contains passive recreation, open grassed areas, landscaping, seating, shelter and pathways. The land has been categorised as a Park.

The park was upgraded in 2019 and the park assets are in good condition.

The park is located near to pedestrian/cycle linkages via Bay to Bay shared pathway



Figure 9 Land Categorisation Map Cosgrove Reserve



Crane Street Park

Address

Crane Street Homebush

Lot details

Lot 8 DP 477; Lot 2 DP 1073418

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

Former road.

Categorisation

Park

Description and condition of land and structures

Crane Street Park was established in 2020 on land created from a road closure.

The park provides passive recreation, open space, landscaping, seating and enhanced pathways.

The land has been categorised as a Park.

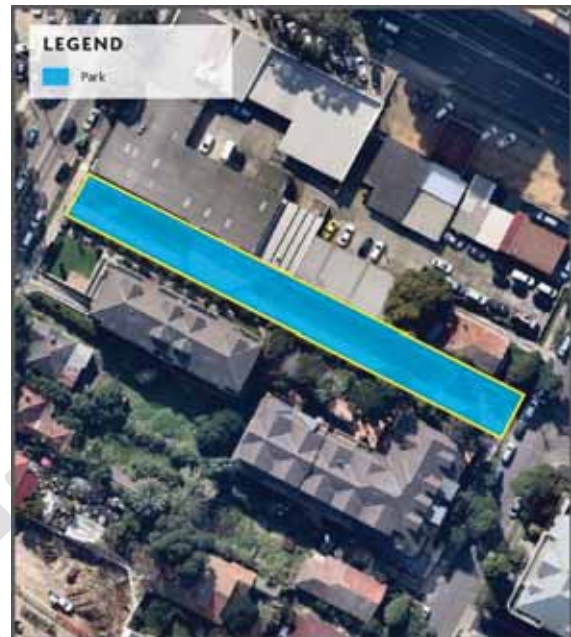


Figure 10 Land Categorisation Map Crane Street Park

Davey Square Reserve & Davey Square Memorial

Address

Rochester Street and Beresford Road Strathfield

Lot details

Lot 1 DP 928879 & Lot 1 DP1083947 (Reserve).

Lot 1 DP 937195 (Memorial)

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park

Description and condition of land and structures



Figure 11 Land Categorisation Map Davey Square and Memorial



Land within Davey Square and Davey Square Memorial provides open space for recreation and gardens, which is categorised as a Park.

The park has mature plantings, open grassed areas, seating, lighting and footpath. The park structures are in good condition.

Davey Square Memorial contains the historic Homebush War Memorial, originally built to commemorate WWI service of local residents. The newer Homebush-Strathfield RSL memorial featuring war service plaques from the former Homebush RSL Club. This was built in 2015 in Davey Square.

The Homebush War Memorial is a heritage item and listed on the Strathfield Local Environmental Plan.

Dean Reserve

Address

Dean Street Strathfield South

Lot details

Lot C DP30006, Lot 31 & 32 DP 243042 (Council);
Lot 2 DP 574123, Lot 33 DP 243041 (DPIE)

Ownership

Strathfield Council (Council), Department of
Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE)

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation (Strathfield LEP 2012)

Categorisation

Park

Description and condition of land and structures

Dean Reserve is located near Cooks River and the Bay to Bay walk/cycleway runs at its southern boundary. The area close to the foreshore is part of South Cooks River Land and is part of a natural area habitat corridor extending along the river foreshore.

Dean Reserve provides open space for recreation and gardens. This land has been categorised as a Park.

The park contains mature plantings, open grassed areas, public art (frog statues), public toilet, children's playground, shade structure, BBQ, carpark, seating, outdoor fitness equipment and walking/cycle paths. The park structures are in satisfactory condition.

Dean Reserve contains revegetated parkland that is mostly indigenous vegetation typical of Cooks River and its tributaries.



Figure 12 Land Categorisation Map Dean Reserve

Dean Reserve



Dean Reserve aerial photograph (1997)



Dean Reserve aerial photograph (2019) © Near Maps



Entrance at Dean Street



Shelter, BBQ & Seating

Drew St Playground

Address

Drew Street and 39 Sylvanus Street Greenacre

Lot details

Lot 7, Section 7, DP 845

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park

Description and condition of land and structures

Drew Street Playground provides open space for recreation and gardens. This land has been categorised as a Park.

Drew Street Playground features an outdoor fitness centre, children's playground, BBQ, shelter and footpath. The park was upgraded recently and all structures are in satisfactory condition. There are mature and recent plantings in pleasantly landscaped, sheltered and visually separated park spaces

The section of the park facing Drew Street and Matthews Street is partly built on a road reserve.

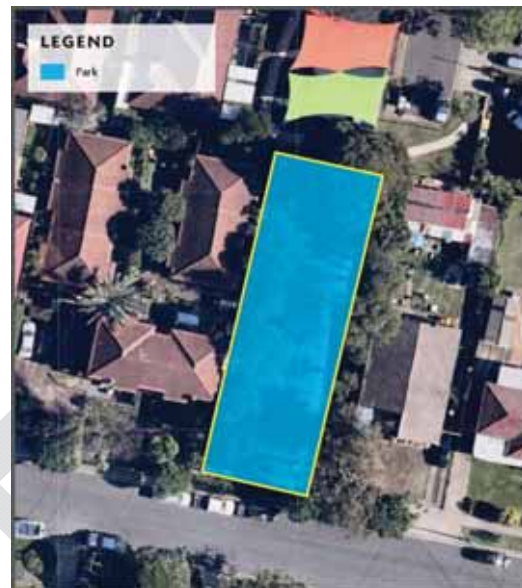


Figure 13 Land Categorisation Map Drew Street Playground



Edwards Park

Address

High Street and Noble Avenue Strathfield

Lot details

Lot 442 DP 708250

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park; General Community Use

Associated Plans

Community Facilities Plan of Management
(High St Community Centre)

Description and condition of land and structures

Edwards Park contains the High Street Community Centre, mature plantings, open grassed areas, carpark, children's playground, shade structure, table tennis tables, BBQ, shelter, seating and footpaths. The site is categorised as park, with the Community Centre is categorised as General Community Use. The park structures are in good condition.

Edwards Park was listed as a heritage item on the Strathfield Local Environmental Plan (LEP) (Item I184).

The park contains mature and recent plantings in pleasantly landscaped, sheltered and visually separated park spaces.



Figure 14 Land Categorisation Map Edwards Park

Fitzgerald Park

Address

Broughton Road, Rochester Street and Abbotsford Road
Homebush

Lot details

Lot 1 DP 122046, Lot 1-4 DP 129336

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park

Description and condition of land and structures

Fitzgerald Park has three entries on Broughton Road, Abbotsford Road (pathway behind Strathfield Library) and Rochester Street (pathway). The park contains mature plantings, stormwater canal, open grassed areas, children's playground, shade structure seating, BBQ, lighting, footpaths and grass netball courts. The Park structures are in good condition. The land is categorised as a Park.

The Homebush Out of Schools Hours (HOOSH) building is located near the entry to the park with a small carpark. This is a well used park in an area with increasing demand for open space with unit and population growth.



Figure 14 Land Categorisation Map Fitzgerald Park

Fitzgerald Park is open parkland with a planted perimeter strip flanked by old planted eucalypts, lillypilly, brushbox and other trees. The park attracts a significant numbers of Common Myna, ravens, ibis and other species that scavenge food scraps.

Fitzgerald Reserve

Address

Fitzgerald Crescent, Strathfield

Lot details

Lot 28, 32 & 34 DP 243041 (Council); Lot 2 DP 635485 (Sydney Water); Lot 33 DP 243041 (DPIE)

Ownership

Strathfield Council, Sydney Water and Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park

Description and condition of land and structures

The park is located on the Cooks River foreshore and is one of the many areas of connected open space. This land is categorised as Park.

The park contains mature plantings, stormwater canal, open grassed areas, walking/cycle paths. The park is in satisfactory condition.

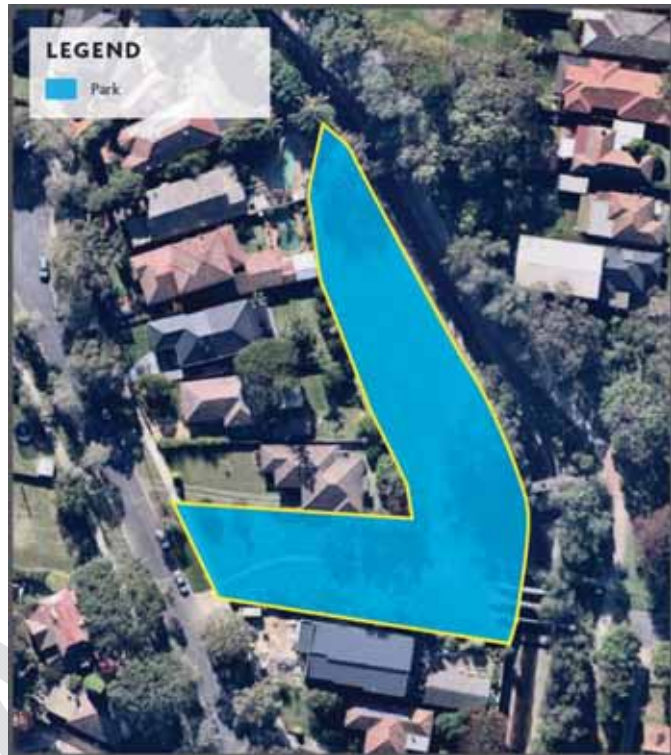


Figure 15 Land Categorisation Map Fitzgerald Reserve



Ford Park

Address

James Street Strathfield South

Lot details

Lot: G DP 345800, Lot 1 & 2 DP 132222, Lot 1-3 DP 450118 & Lot 13-25 DP 15647

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park; Natural Area (Bushland)

Associated Plans

Cooks River Corridor Natural Area (Bushland)
Plan of Management

Description and condition of land and structures

Ford Park is located on the Cooks River foreshore and is one of a number of connected parks forming a habitat corridor. Ford Park contains revegetated parkland that is mostly indigenous vegetation typical of Cooks River and its tributaries. This land is categorised as Natural Area – Bushland.

The park also contains mature plantings, open grassed areas, amenities building – toilets, children's playground, shade structure, seating, walking/cycle paths, outdoor fitness equipment and cricket practice wicket. The park structures are in good condition. This land is categorised as Park.



Figure 16 Land Categorisation Map Ford Park



Ford Park



Ford Park aerial photograph (1997)



Ford Park aerial photograph 2019 © Near Maps



Pathway, cluster of trees



BBQ, pathway, cluster of trees



Pathway, cluster of trees



Ford Park fountain (donated by the estate of the late Jessie E Broomfield erected 1948)

Frank Zions Reserve

Address

Mitchell Road Strathfield

Lot details

Lot 7 DP627719

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park

Description and condition of land and structures

Frank Zions Reserve is located at the western end of Hudson Park and the Bay to Bay Walk/Cycleway runs through the park. There are mature plantings, open grassed areas and walking/cycle paths. The park was upgraded in late 2019 as part of the Hudson District Park upgrade.



Figure 15 Land Categorisation Map Frank Zions Reserve



Henley Reserve

Address

Henley Road, Homebush West

Lot details

Lot 2 DP208220

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park

Description and condition of land and structures

Henley Reserve has mature plantings, open grassed areas, children's playground, shade structure and seating. The park structures are in good condition. The Reserve is located near the Homebush West Town Centre.



Figure 1816 Land Categorisation Map Henley Reserve



Inveresk Park

Address

Beresford Road, Merley Road and Dickson Street
Strathfield

Lot details

Lot 22 DP19348

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park; Natural Area (Bushland)

Land Use



Figure 19 Land Categorisation Map Inveresk Park

Inveresk Park is a small neighbourhood park which is bounded to the west by Dickson Street, south by Beresford Road and north and east by Merley Road.

Inveresk Park is built on the subdivision of grounds of the house 'Inveresk' in Coventry Road Strathfield. 'Inveresk' was the home of businessman and amateur microscopist, George Begg Vickery, a member of the Royal Society of New South Wales. 'Inveresk' was the childhood home of Joyce Vickery (1908-1979), botanist and conservationist. After the death of George Begg Vickery in 1938, plans were devised to subdivide the grounds of the house into residential lots. The final plans involved creation of residential lots on Coventry Road and Merley Road and dedication of land for a park, named 'Inveresk Park' in 1940. The photographs in Table 3 illustrate changes in the park over time.

Inveresk Park is a local heritage item on Council's Local Environmental Plan, based on its historical associations with the influential Vickery family and the presence of remnants of the Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest, which are listed as critically endangered ecological communities under NSW legislation.

Land categorised as Park description

Land in Inveresk Park Strathfield is categorised as Park. This area has mature tree plantings, open grassed areas, children's playground, shade structure, seating and lighting. The park structures are in good condition. This area is surrounded by significant native plantings, which are located around the boundaries of the park.

Land categorised as Natural Area (Bushland)

Inveresk Park, though highly modified both structurally and floristically, supports one of the few remnants of Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest in the Strathfield LGA, which is listed as an Critically Endangered Ecological Community (CEEC) under the Biodiversity Act 2016 (NSW) and Critically Endangered under the Environment and Biodiversity Conservation Protection Act 1999 (Comm.).

Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest occurs in Sydney and is heavily fragmented with only 0,5 percent of its original extant remaining intact³. The habitat occurs close to the shale/sandstone boundary on the more fertile shale influenced soils, in higher rainfall areas on the higher altitude margins of the Cumberland Plain, on the shale ridge caps of sandstone plateaus.

Inveresk Park has an open lawn area with scattered individual mature trees, including Grey Box (*Eucalyptus moluccana*), Woollybutt (*Eucalyptus longifolia*), White Stringybark (*Eucalyptus globoidea*), Broadleaved Ironbark (*Eucalyptus fibrosa*) and Turpentine (*Syncarpia glomulifera*).

These trees form one of the most significant Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark remnants that presently occurs in the Strathfield LGA⁴. These trees provide nest hollows for cockatoos, parrots and lorikeets and nectar for some honeyeaters, mainly Noisy Miner and Red Wattlebird.

Threats

Threats include clearing and loss of vegetation and fragmentation, weeds and inappropriate treatment including over spraying of herbicides and inappropriate use of herbicides, illegal dumping of hazardous, household and green garden waste into reserves and remnants, loss of key fauna habitat resources for associated species (native and threatened) including but not restricted to loss of hollows⁵.

Actions

Over time there has been natural attrition of mature remnant trees present on site, but new trees have established via natural regeneration or planting. From April 2000, Council installed 'No Mow' hardwood timber bollards in four areas in Inveresk Park to support natural germination and regeneration of the native trees. The areas were enclosed to prevent damage by mowing and pedestrian traffic. Educational signs were installed to indicate the purpose of the enclosures.

To protect and promote the Turpentine-Ironbark Forest in Inveresk Park, actions support a range of actions that include:

- Promote public involvement in restoration activities.
- Protect habitat by minimising further clearing of the community.
- Promote regrowth by avoiding unnecessary mowing.
- Control weeds.
- Undertake restoration including bush regeneration and revegetation.

Refer to Section 5.2 for detailed actions related to Management of Inveresk Park – Natural Area (Bushland).

³ Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest profile, NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

⁴ Strathfield Vertebrate Fauna Study 2009 (pps 14-15) and Strathfield Fauna Study 2017 (pp 54-55).

⁵ Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest profile, NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Table 3 Photographs of Inveresk Park since 1930



1930 prior to subdivision and creation of park. Source: Spatial Services NSW



1943 Inveresk Park. Source: Six Maps.



1950s Inveresk Park. Source: Spatial Services NSW



1980s Inveresk Park. Source: Spatial Services NSW



Inveresk Park aerial photograph (1997)



Inveresk Park aerial photograph 2019 © Near Maps



Inveresk Park (2019)



Inveresk Park (2019)



Inveresk Park (2019)



Inveresk Park (2019)

Kessell Reserve

Address

Shortland Avenue Strathfield

Lot details

Lot 157 DP 12405

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park

Description and condition of land and structures



Figure 20 Land categorisation map Kessell Reserve

Kessell Reserve (originally Kessell Square) is located adjacent to the Marion Street heritage conservation area.

Mature and recent plantings in pleasantly landscaped, sheltered and visually separated park spaces.

Kessell Reserve has mature tree plantings, open grassed areas, seating and lighting. The park structures are in satisfactory condition.



Laker Reserve

Address

Elva Street, Strathfield

Lot details

Lot 1 DP1129437, Lot 1 DP187837

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park

Description and condition of land and structures

Laker Reserve is mainly occupied by the Strathfield Community Gardens. The Reserve is bounded by a stormwater canal, a railway line with medium to high-rise dwellings close to the site. The site contains a pergola shelter with BBQ and seating, storage for equipment and outdoor wash area. There is an entry from Elva Street via a small bridge for pedestrian access. Vehicle access is limited to authorised vehicles and by key only. The park structures are in satisfactory condition. The land near the bend of Elva Street and Beresford Road has seating, lighting and vegetation.

All community garden plantings are located above-ground due to previous site contamination. There is limited on-street parking and only approved vehicle access to the site.



Figure 2117 Land Categorisation Map Laker Reserve



Lowes Gardens

Address

Arthur Street Strathfield

Lot details

Lot A DP 339125

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park

Description and condition of land and structures

Lowes Gardens is mainly an open grassed area with mature tree plantings, seating and lighting. This land is categorised as Park.

The park is in satisfactory condition.



Figure 2218 Land Categorisation Map Lowes Gardens



Marlene Reserve

Address

Marlene Crescent, Greenacre

Lot details

Lot 7 DP 233429

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park

Description and condition of land and structures

Marlene Reserve contains mature plantings and open grassed areas which are pleasantly landscaped providing shelter and separated park spaces. There is a children's playground, shade structure, seating and lighting.

The park structures are in good condition.



Figure 2319 Land Categorisation Map Marlene Reserve



Melville Reserve

Address

Hampstead Road, Homebush West

Lot details

Lot 71 DP 9097, Lot 6-14 DP 14766, Lot F DP 394168 & Lot D DP381826

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park; General Community Use

Associated Plans

Community Facilities Plan of Management (Kuralee Children's Centre and Melville Community Hall)

Description and condition of land and structures

Melville Reserve is located on Hampstead Road with rear entry from Fraser Street. The park is bisected by Saleyards Creek, which is an open channel with fencing. A small bridge connects both sides of Melville Reserve. The Bay to Bay shared pathway runs through the Reserve providing north to south pedestrian/cycle linkages through the LGA and to regional destinations. The land on which the park is built was considered flood prone and acquired by Council in 1928 and dedicated as a park in 1937. The Flemington WW1 War Memorial gates (facing Hampstead Rd), memorials on the bridge and the fountain dedicated to the memory of former Mayor Alexander Melville are heritage listed on Strathfield Council's Local Environmental Plan.



Figure 24 Land categorisation map Melville Reserve



The park contains mature and recent plantings in a pleasantly landscaped, sheltered with visually separated park spaces and open grassed areas. The park contains a children's playground, shade structure, seating and footpaths. The park is in good condition.

The park also contains community facilities including Kuralee Children's Centre and Melville Community Hall (opened 2020). Kuralee Children's Centre was upgraded in 2020.

Palmer Reserve

Address

Palmer Avenue, Strathfield

Lot details

Lot 30 DP 243041, Lot 31 DP 607265 (Council);
Lot 331 DP589789 (DPIE)

Ownership

Strathfield Council and Department Planning,
Industry & Environment

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park

Associated Plans

Cooks River Corridor Natural Area (Bushland)
Plan of Management (land categorised as natural area – bushland)

Description and condition of land and structures



Figure 25 Land categorisation map Palmer Reserve

Palmer Reserve is located adjacent to the Cooks River. The reserve has open grassed areas, seating and mature and recent plantings in pleasantly landscaped, sheltered and visually separated park spaces. This land is categorised as Park.

There are pedestrian/cycle linkages via Bay to Bay shared pathway. There is a small pedestrian bridge over the Cooks River, which connects to this reserve to Fitzgerald Reserve. The park structures are in good condition.

Pemberton Reserve

Address

Pemberton Reserve, Strathfield

Lot details

Lot 5 DP 627720

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park

Description and condition of land and structures

Pemberton Reserve was formed from surplus land from the building of Centenary Drive in the 1980s. The Reserve is a small grassed area with established trees and a pathway. There is access to pedestrian/cycle linkages via Bay to Bay cycle/pathway within a short walk of this reserve.



Figure 26 Land categorisation map Pemberton Reserve

Pilgrim Reserve

Address

Arthur Street and Bates Street, Strathfield

Lot details

Lot 35, Section 1, DP 12467

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park



Figure 27 Land Categorisation Map Pilgrim Reserve

Description and condition of land and structures

Pilgrim Reserve has mature plantings, open grassed areas, children's playground, shade structure, small sports oval, seating, lighting, footpaths. The land is categorised as Park.

There are entries on Arthur Street and Bates Street to the park. The park structures were upgraded in 2018-2019 and are in excellent condition.



Prentice Reserve

Address

Prentice Lane, Strathfield

Lot details

Lot 1 & 2, DP 571633, Lot 37 DP 243941, Lot A DP 435103, Lot C DP415702

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park; Natural Area (Bushland)

Associated Plans

Cooks River Corridor Natural Area (Bushland)
Plan of Management (land categorised as Natural Area – Bushland)

Description and condition of land and structures

Prentice Reserve has mature plantings, open grassed areas, seating and walking/cycle paths, including the Bay to Bay shared pathway. The land is categorised as Park. The park is in a satisfactory condition.

Prentice Reserve contains revegetated parkland that is mostly indigenous vegetation typical of Cooks River and its tributaries. This revegetated parkland forms a habitat corridor with other Cooks River foreshore parks.

This area of the land is categorised as Natural Area – Bushland.



Figure 28 Land Categorisation Map Prentice Reserve



Slater Reserve

Address

Bridge Road and Mackenzie Street, Strathfield

Lot details

Lot 1 DP 187252

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park

Description and condition of land and structures

The land on which Slater Reserve is located contains mature plantings, open grassed areas, seating and lighting. There are mature and recent plantings in pleasantly landscaped, sheltered park spaces. The land is categorised as Park.

The park is in a satisfactory condition.



Figure 29 Land Categorisation Map Slater Reserve

Strathfield Square

Address

Churchill Avenue, Strathfield

Lot details

Lot 1 DP 1125845

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park

Description and condition of land and structures

Strathfield Square is an open space area in the Strathfield Town Centre, adjacent to transport (rail, bus and taxi) and shops and services. The Square provides space for seating, entertainment and places to meet or wait for transport services.

The primary purpose of the land is for passive recreation and the land is categorised as Park.

The Square was upgraded in 2016 and features lighting, seating, a water fountain and trees/planter boxes. There are recent plantings of trees and planter boxes in the Square.

There is a kiosk in the Square, however the land it occupies is classified as operational land.



Figure 30 Land Categorisation Map Strathfield Square

Thew Reserve

Address

40-44 Augusta Street, Strathfield

Lot details

Lot 82 DP 14865, Lot 7 DP 243041, Lot A DP 407917, Lot A DP 402961 (Council); Lot 271 DP 572906 (DPIE)

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park

Associated Plans

Community Facilities Plan of Management (Dutton Centre); Cooks River Corridor Natural Area (Bushland) Plan of Management

Description and condition of land and structures

Thew Reserve was formerly occupied by the Strathfield South Bowling Club, which was refitted as the Dutton (Community) Centre. There are substantial grassed areas (some former lawn greens) and mature plantings, car parks, seating and access at the rear to the Bay to Bay Walk/Cycleway and Cooks River. The land occupied by the Centre is categorised as Community General Use.

This reserve contains revegetated plantings which form a habitat corridor with the other Cooks foreshore parks and is identified in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy as a habitat connectivity priority area. This land area is identified as Natural Area (Bushland).

The residue of the park is used for passive and active recreation and is categorised as Park.



Figure 31 Land Categorisation Map Thew Reserve

Todman Reserve

Address

Barker Road and Oxford Road Strathfield

Lot details

Lot 1 DP 185945

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park

Description and condition of land and structures

The land at Todman Reserve is used passive recreation and contains open space and landscaping. Todman Reserve is categorised as a Park.

Todman Reserve is built on land but has been enlarged from reducing the width of Todman Place roadway. Part of the park is built on a road reserve. The Reserve is located in the intersection of Barker Road, Todman Place and Oxford Road and provides valuable open grassed areas, trees and seating.

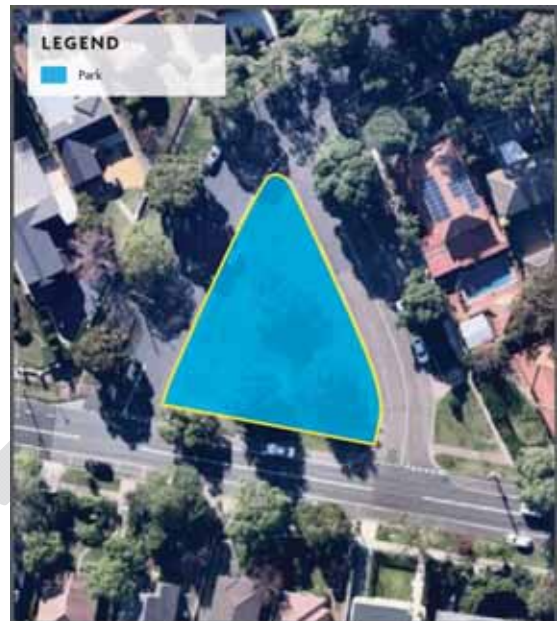


Figure 202 Land Categorisation Map Todman Reserve



Wallis Reserve

Address

Wallis Avenue, Strathfield

Lot details

Lot 36 DP 12876

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park



Figure 213 Land Categorisation Map Wallis Reserve

Description and condition of land and structures

The land at Wallis Reserve is used for passive recreation and contains open space and landscaping. The land is categorised as a Park.

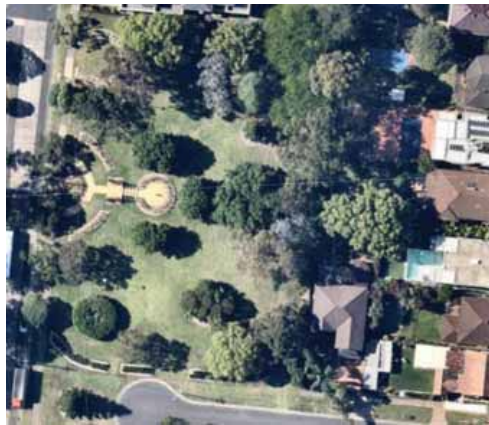
Wallis Reserve was dedicated as a park in the 1920s and was refurbished in 1960 for the 75th anniversary of Strathfield Council. The design and features of the park reflect its 1960s design with a pergola, commemorative sundial, grassed areas, traditional garden beds and plantings with rose gardens, seating and footpaths.

The park was upgraded in 2018 and is in very good condition. The west end of West Street was closed to traffic and this land has been incorporated into the park. Wallis Reserve features garden layouts reflecting the 1960 redesign and commemorative monuments.

Wallis Reserve



Wallis Reserve aerial photograph (1997)



Wallis Reserve aerial 2019 © Near Maps



Wallis Reserve (2019)



Wallis Reserve (2019)



Wallis Reserve (2019)



Wallis Reserve (2019)

Wentworth Reserve

Address

17 Wentworth Road, Homebush

Lot details

Lot 2 DP 632529

Ownership

Strathfield Council

Zoning

RE1 Public Recreation

Categorisation

Park

Description and condition of land and structures

Wentworth Reserve is a small reserve with mature plantings, open grassed areas, a children's playground and seating. The Reserve abuts a residential and industrial area and provides a small but important open space and recreation area. Wentworth Reserve has open parkland with planted edges. The Strathfield Fauna Study 2017 identifies that the park contains older planted eucalypts which attract a small number of hardier urban bird species. This land is used for passive and active recreation and is categorised as Park.



Figure 34 Land Categorisation Map Wentworth Reserve

Table 4 Miscellaneous

Community land containing easements, stormwater drainage and other estates.

Site Name	1A Beresford Road Strathfield		
Address	1A Beresford Road Strathfield		
Lot details	Lot 101 DP 104916	Zoning	R3 Medium Density Residential
Ownership	Strathfield Council	Category	General Community Use
Description and condition of land and structures	The land provides a walkway from Beresford Road to The Crescent Homebush. The walkway is located between two multiunit buildings and provides a pedestrian access from Beresford Road/Elva Street to Homebush Rail and Town Centre.		
Future development	No future development is planned at date of adoption of this plan.		

Site Name	Mirrabooka Avenue		
Address	Mirrabooka Avenue Strathfield		
Lot details	Lot: 16 DP 205361	Zoning	R2 Low Rise Residential
Ownership	Strathfield Council	Category	General Community Use
Description and condition of land and structures	Land dedicated to Council as public land from subdivision of the street. The land is part of the nature strip (verge) on Mirrabooka Avenue and is well maintained.		
Future development	No future development is planned at date of adoption of this plan.		

Site Name	Drainage Reserve		
Address	Telopea Avenue Homebush		
Lot details	Lot 141-142 DP114427		
Zoning	SP2 – Stormwater Drainage; R3 – Medium Density Residential		
Ownership	Strathfield Council	Category	General Community Use
Description and condition of land and structures	Stormwater Canal running from the rail line to Parramatta Road, adjacent to Telopea Avenue Homebush		
Future development	No future development is planned at date of adoption of this plan.		

Site Name	Madeline Street Open Space		
Address	Madeline Street (off)		
Lot details	Lot 29, DP 243042	Zoning	SP2 – Stormwater Drainage
Ownership	Department Planning	Category	General Community Use
Description and condition of land and structures	Small strip of land adjacent to Cooks River frontage (west bank).		
Future development	No future development is planned at date of adoption of this plan.		

Table 5 Road reserves used as parks

There are small open spaces and reserves in the Strathfield LGA which are located on road reserves. Under the Local Government Act 1993, road reserves are not required to be classified or categorised. However, these sites are listed for information purposes.

Name and Address	Description	Owner/Managed
"Fraser Place" Arthur & Fraser Street, Strathfield	A pocket park created by the road closure of the intersection of Fraser and Arthur Streets Strathfield. The site contains mature trees and seating.	Strathfield Council
Coronation Reserve, Coronation Parade, Strathfield South	Large open space reserve set in the centre of Coronation Parade, running from Liverpool Road to Punchbowl Road, Strathfield South, the boundary between Strathfield and Burwood Councils. Formerly the site of the Enfield-Mortlake & Cabarita Tram Service (discontinued 1948). The park is managed by Strathfield Council (north-end) and Burwood Council (south-end). The site contains pathways, children's playground and the Coronation Arch. The site on which the former Enfield Town Hall and Enfield War Memorial (between Liverpool Road and Plymouth Street) are located is operational land	RMS, Strathfield and Burwood Council managed
Drew Street Greenacre	Large traffic island in the middle of Drew Street with well-developed trees, grassed areas and seating.	Strathfield Council
Drew Street Playground, Drew Street, Greenacre	This park was extended to include a small section of road reserve.	Strathfield Council
Florence Reserve, Florence St and Albyn Road, Strathfield	A pocket park created from a road closure of intersection of Florence Street and Albyn Road Strathfield. The site is fenced with seating and a grassed area.	Strathfield Council
Mount Royal Reserve, Barker Road, Strathfield	Reserve was formed from the closure of South Street (between Barker Road and Albert Road). The site contains a walkway, vegetation and trees.	Strathfield Council
Nichol Reserve, Nichol Parade, Strathfield	A small area of open space on Nichol Parade with trees and park seating.	Strathfield Council
Shortland Reserve, Arthur Street, Strathfield	Traffic island near the intersection of Arthur Street and Mackenzie Street, Strathfield. There is a small grassed area with trees and vegetation.	Strathfield Council
Tavistock Reserve, Tavistock Road, Homebush West	Small park created by a road closure on Tavistock Road. Contains a small children's playground.	Strathfield Council
Wallis Reserve, Wallis Avenue, Strathfield	The western end of West Street was closed to traffic and the land incorporated into Wallis Reserve.	Strathfield Council

4. Land Uses

4.1 Permissible uses and developments

The permissible types of uses which may occur in local parks and the forms of development generally associated with those uses, are set out in Table 4 to 7.

The anticipated uses, and associated development, identified in Table 6 to 9 are intended to provide an overview or general guide. The expressions used are not intended to impose a strict, or defined meaning. For example, a reference to “cricket” is also intended to include the variations and modifications of that game.

Council anticipates that new sports may develop, and others increase in popularity. If this occurs, then some sections of community land may be adapted to allow that use, as it is a form of ‘active recreation’ enjoyed by members of the Council’s community and it can be accommodated within the facility or sportsground in a cost effective and sustainable manner, subject to Council’s approval.

References such as ‘field’, or ‘soccer’, are not intended to preclude development of an appropriate surface for that sport, even if that surface is usually described in a slightly different way.

Table 4 Permissible uses of land categories – Park

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Active and passive recreation including children’s play• Group recreational use, such as picnics and celebrations• Publicly accessible ancillary areas eg toilets• Festivals, fairs, similar events and gatherings• Low intensity commercial activities• Filming and photographic projects• Public address (speeches)• Easement, utilities and estate• Community gardening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development for the purposes of improving access, amenity, and the visual character of the park eg paths, pergolas, flagpoles, lights, water bubblers, seating, paved areas, hard and soft landscaped areas etc• Development for the purposes of active recreation eg play equipment, children’s playgrounds, exercise equipment, courts etc• Amenities to facilitate leisure use of the park eg picnic tables and shelters, BBQ’s & sheltered eating areas• Kiosk/café, mobile food vans or refreshment areas• Restricted access ancillary areas (e.g. storage areas associated with functions, gardening equipment)• Transport access and service areas ancillary to the use of land (eg public transport, car parking, loading zones, bicycle racks)• Community gardens• Off-leash areas• Heritage and cultural interpretation eg signs, public art etc• Locational, directional and regulatory signage• Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that relate to approved uses/activities, discreet and temporary and approved by Council.• Water/Energy savings initiatives

Table 5 Permissible uses of land categories – Sportsgrounds

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active and passive recreational and sporting activities consistent with the nature of the particular land and any relevant facilities Organised and unstructured recreation activities Community events or gatherings, and public meetings Commercial uses associated with sports facilities Easement, utilities and estate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development for the purpose of conducting and facilitating organised sport (both amateur and professional) Sportsfields (turf and synthetic) including cricket, football, soccer, track and field athletics, baseball, softball etc Courts (basketball, netball, badminton, tennis, hockey, badminton etc) Amenities eg change room, lockers, shower/toilet facilities, first aid rooms, seating Café or kiosk facilities, mobile coffee cart or food vending subject to site assessment and Council approval Car parking and loading areas Ancillary areas eg staff rooms, meeting rooms, equipment storage areas Shade structures Seating and scoreboards Sports or fitness training, and practice facilities Heritage and cultural interpretation eg signs, public art Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that relate to approved uses/activities, discreet and temporary and approved by Council. Water/Energy savings initiatives Lighting and water (eg taps, bubblers)

Table 6 Permissible uses of land categories – General Community Use

Purpose/Use	Development
<p>Provides a location for, and supports, the gathering of groups for a range of general social, cultural or recreational purposes</p> <p>Includes multi-purpose buildings e.g. community halls, childcare etc. Uses may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> casual or informal sporting and recreational use meetings (including for social, recreational, educational or cultural purposes) functions leisure or training classes including fitness educational and community centres, including libraries, information and resource centres 	<p>Development for the purposes of social, community, cultural, recreational activities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> landscaping and finishes, improving access, amenity and the visual character of the general community area provision of buildings or other amenity areas to facilitate use and enjoyment by the community development (particularly within buildings) for the purposes of addressing community or recreational needs (e.g. community hall, leisure centre, indoor courts) casual, seasonal, licence or lease agreements may be permitted consistent with purpose or use of facility.

In some instances, physical assets may be located on land which falls into different categories. For example, community halls may be located on land categorised as Park, or on land categorised for General Community Use.

Table 7 Permissible uses of land categories – Natural area

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking and cycling • Guided bushwalks and bird watching • Environmental programs and scientific study • Preservation of biodiversity and habitat • Bush regeneration and revegetation works • Relaxation and passive informal recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretative, regulatory and directional signage • Low impact lighting • Low impact carparking • Low impact pathways • Passive recreation • Seating • Small ancillary building eg storage and amenities for site maintenance • Water saving initiatives eg swales, sediment traps, rainwater gardens

4.2 Future development and use of the community land

There are currently no future development plans for local parks identified in this plan, unless identified in Section 3, beyond minor changes, replacement and renewal of infrastructure and routine maintenance such as replating, tree pruning, and damaged play equipment is replaced.

In the event of potential future development other than that listed, proposed changes of use of community land will:

1. Meet legislative requirements - zoning tables in the Strathfield Council Local Environmental Plan specifies the range of uses and activities that may be permitted on the land. A number of uses are also set out in the Regulations to the *Local Government Act 1993*.
2. Be consistent with the guidelines and core objectives of the community land category - under the *Local Government Act 1993* uses and development of community land must be consistent with the guidelines for categorisation and the core objectives of each category, and any other additional objectives the Council proposes to place on the community land categories.
3. Be consistent with relevant Council policies - substantial upgrades and proposed new development will take into account a range of factors, including:
 - this Plan of Management and the core objectives for the land
 - the planning controls for the land
 - Council's adopted policies
 - the characteristics of the land affected, including existing and future use patterns
 - any landscape masterplan for the land.

4.3 Scale and intensity of land use

The scale and intensity of use and development associated with community land in Strathfield is generally dependent on:

- the nature of the approved uses and developments
- approved Development Applications and any conditions
- an approved masterplan
- the physical constraints of the land
- the carrying capacity of the land
- relevant government legislation
- permissible times of use
- proximity of neighbours

The scale and intensity of use of parks and sportsgrounds should be monitored by:

- regular inspection of the physical impacts on the park or sportsground
- reports to Council regarding any conflicts between park and sportsground users
- reports to Council from adjoining neighbours.

4.4 Authorisation of leases, licences or other estates over community land

The Act requires that any lease or licence of community land must be authorised by a Plan of Management. The lease or licence must be for purposes consistent with the categorisation and zoning of the land.

The maximum period for leases or licences on community land permitted under the Act is 21 years. If a lease or licence is proposed, then public notice should be given in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Where a lease arrangement has been entered into with Council for community land, subleasing the land may only occur with specific permission of Council and in accordance with the requirements of Section 47C of the Act, Clause 119 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* and conditions set out in agreements.

This Plan of Management authorises existing leases and licence agreements until the end of their current term. The leased or licensed areas may be renewed or changed in future. The leased or licensed areas may be reconfigured in the future to reflect changes in community needs.

This Plan of Management authorises Council to grant leases, licences or any other estates for community land covered in this Plan of Management for purposes and uses which are identified or consistent with those in Tables 4-7. Some examples of longer term arrangements, via licence, lease or other estates are outlined in the following Table 8. Shorter arrangements (for example, a short term agreement associated with a particular event, or an activity recurring regularly either via annual or seasonal agreement) are set out in Table 9.

Calculations for fees and charges for leases and licences will be based on independent market rental valuations that are based on comparisons to similar services and facilities with similar locations, building and land conditions. As a minimum standard, the financial return from licence fees should offset asset maintenance, renewal and any operational costs. Council may also apply subsidies to not for profit organisations where there are demonstrated community benefits or financial hardship. Subsidies are generally not applied to agreements with commercial operators.

Table 8 Leases, Licences and other estates

Type of Arrangement Authorised	Land and Facilities covered	Purposes for which long term leasing/licensing will be granted
Licence or lease	Park Sportsground	<p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sporting and recreational purposes, including team sports, fitness activities and games • kiosk, café and refreshment purposes • use of court or similar facilities
Licence or lease	Natural Area	<p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • educational or environmental programs, scientific studies and surveys or similar • walkways, pathways, bridges or causeways • information kiosks • refreshment/mobile food vending • signs, observation platforms • temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project or works to be carried out
Licence or lease	General Community Use (community land and buildings)	<p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the area to support the activity.</p> <p>Sympathetic, compatible uses may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • child care, vacation care, health providers associated with the relevant facility • community purposes including meetings, workshops, learning • cultural purposes including concerts, dramatic productions, and galleries • recreational purposes including fitness, dance and games • kiosk, café and refreshment purposes
Other Estates	Park Sportsground	<p>This Plan of Management allows Council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public</p>

Type of Arrangement Authorised	Land and Facilities covered	Purposes for which long term leasing/licensing will be granted
	General Community Use Natural Area	<p>utilities in accordance with the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>.</p> <p>Estates may also be granted across community land that is not affected by endangered communities for the provision of pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the Council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land.</p>

The grant of a lease or licence is an important step in using community land, but there may be other requirements relevant to any proposed use. For example, the refurbishment of a kiosk may also require development consent under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Any interested person should check carefully to make sure they are aware of all relevant requirements.

4.5 Short Term Uses

Agreements for use of community land may be granted for short duration which may be anything from a few hours to a few days. These short term arrangements should be for the types of uses identified in Table 9.

Table 9 Seasonal, regular and casual use agreements

Community land category	Purposes for which short term uses may be granted subject to council approval	Requirements
Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community events and festivals playing a musical instrument, or singing for fee or reward picnics and private celebrations such as family gatherings filming and photography session public performances engaging in an appropriate trade or business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proposed use must comply with terms and conditions for event approval e.g. SafeWork NSW regulations, insurance, waste management etc. the use should not result in physical damage to the park, sportsground or natural area the use should not result in a significant adverse impact on adjoining residents or disturbance to nearby residents organisers of the site should be responsible for cleaning up the site and notify authorities and Council of any damage or incidents that may occur
Sportsgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community events and festivals sporting fixtures and events sports and fitness training and classes filming or photography of sporting fixtures or events uses reasonably associated with the promotion or enhancement of sporting groups, fixtures and events 	
Natural Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> educational or environmental programs, scientific studies and surveys or similar 	

Community land category	Purposes for which short term uses may be granted subject to council approval	Requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project to be carried out 	
General Community Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> meetings, seminars and presentations, including educational programs events consistent with the size of facility and its terms and conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proposed use must comply with terms and conditions for facility use the use should not result in physical damage to the facility organisers of the site should be responsible for cleaning up the site and repairing any damage that may occur.

In assessing community land categorised as Park, Sportsground, Natural Area or General Community Use as a venue for any proposed utilisation, the Council applies the following minimum criteria:

- Council reserves the right to refuse bookings based on previous unsatisfactory payment or performance history or where proposed use would damage the facility or cause significant disruption to other regular users.
- Fees for short-term casual bookings will be charged in accordance with Council's adopted Fees and Charges at the time.

5. Management of the land

5.1 Objectives and management of community land

The land is managed in accordance with the objectives and methods set out below:

Table 10 Objectives, means and performance measures

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Access	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide safe and improved access to the parks, sportsgrounds and general community use properties for pedestrians and cyclists. 2. Provide access to and within parks for people with disabilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upgrades, refurbishments and/or improvement works on community land to consider public access requirements for mobility and connections. 2. Proposed ramps, stairs and pathways to comply with relevant Council and BCA requirements consistent with Australian Standards. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Audits of community land and facilities to comply with standards
Amenity and Character	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure Council's community land and facilities contribute to the amenity and character of the Strathfield LGA. 2. Promote parks, sportsgrounds and community use properties as desirable places for recreation, community celebration and commemoration. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide parks and facilities and pathways as attractive destinations. 2. Maintain and enhance community land and facilities 3. Promote parks, sportsgrounds and facilities in local media and website. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consult with residents and users regarding satisfaction of parks and facilities 2. Monitor and action complaint data

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Community Facilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide sustainable community facilities for a range of community, social and other compatible activities. 2. Ensure buildings positively contribute to community land amenity, facilitate a range of uses and have regard for environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building and structure design specifications to consider park, sportground and general community use character, expected use and environmental sustainability features. 2. Provide community facilities which are multi-purpose and flexible to a range of appropriate uses. 3. Ensure community facilities are universally accessible. 4. Community facilities meet sustainable building requirements and/or are progressively upgraded to incorporate best practice energy and water efficiencies. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor usage of community facilities as measured by bookings. 2. Community satisfaction surveys. 3. Facility inspections and audits. 4. Monitor comments and complaints
Environmentally Sustainable Principles	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage community land to ensure best environmental management practises and principles having regard to environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Energy efficiency 2. Water savings 3. Waste reduction 4. Natural heating and cooling 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Measure and monitor via plans and strategies such as Energy and Water plans. 2. Monitor usage and trends via quarterly and annual consumption and billing. 3. Monitor and minimise water and energy use in parks, sportgrounds and ancillary facilities.
Historical and Heritage Significance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appreciation and interpretation of the historical and/or heritage significance of the site and structures e.g. memorials in terms of both natural and cultural components. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake, when required, historical research or heritage and cultural assessment studies to identify cultural and heritage values for retention and interpretation. 2. Incorporate historical information on property signage to enhance understanding and 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Retention and interpretation of heritage and cultural values provides increased appreciation of the property and its history through community consultation.

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
		<p>appreciation of the site and the history it represents, where relevant.</p> <p>3. Promote sense of place and local identity</p>	
Landscape Character	<p>1. Maintain and improve landscape character and visual quality of public open spaces</p>	<p>1. Manage replacement planting strategies to ensure improvement to the current character.</p> <p>2. Maintain consistency in selection and design of park and sportsground furniture, paving, fencing that is appropriate to the setting and the sport or activity type.</p> <p>3. Implement & maintain co-ordinated signage strategy</p>	<p>1. Community consultation including surveys regarding community views</p>
Managing assets	<p>1. Provide effective and efficient management of community land and facilities</p>	<p>1. Schedule regular inspections and condition assessments.</p> <p>2. Inclusion of maintenance standards in licence, lease or hire agreements.</p> <p>3. Provide waste and recycling bins to cater for public use.</p> <p>4. Regular waste and recycling collection to minimise litter overflow</p>	<p>1. Measure against Service Standard KPIs.</p> <p>2. Respond to complaints and audits.</p> <p>3. Monitor agreements</p> <p>4. Review and update asset management plans periodically</p>
Natural Environment	<p>1. To maintain and enhance the health of park ecology, including flora and fauna, trees and soil</p>	<p>1. Manage trees, gardens and natural areas to maintain and improve the quality of the environment in accordance with Council's tree management and biodiversity strategies and plans.</p> <p>2. Retain habitat trees, protect foraging habitat and create/maintain habitat corridors through revegetation where possible</p>	<p>1. Measure and monitor tree canopies, vegetation, weeds and habitat.</p> <p>2. Undertake periodic flora and fauna reviews</p>

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Ensure revegetation is undertaken using locally sourced stock from agreed planting lists (refer Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy) 4. Maintain weed management program to minimise spread of weeds 5. Implement actions where required under recovery or threat abatement plan. 	
Promote varied recreational uses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance opportunities for a balanced organised and unstructured recreational use of public open space 2. Optimise public access to public open space. 3. Maintain condition and useability of sportsgrounds and 'sustainable capacity'. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capital works program to plan for improvements and upgrades to community land. 2. Promote a range of organised and informal/unstructured activities on community land 3. Provide amenities that support use and enjoyment of parks and sportsgrounds e.g. toilets, change rooms and kiosk/café facilities. 4. Enforce provisions for management of dogs on community land as per requirements of Council's Companion Animal Policy. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor local use of parks and sportsgrounds by bookings, surveys, complaints and observation.
Safety and Risk Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide safe use and access to public land and facilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design and maintain layouts, landscaping and facilities in accordance with CPTED principles (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) principles including passive surveillance, good sight lines, territorial reinforcement and space management and lighting. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Works to be in accordance with relevant Australian Standards and CPTED principles. 2. Monitor and action incident and accident reports.

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Review lighting and security for both day and night time use. Work with local police to identify and act on safety issues. Install and maintain facilities in accordance with relevant Australian standards. Repair vandalism or graffiti within 48 hours where possible. 	
Traffic and Parking	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure traffic and parking requirements provide a safe environment for park, sportsgrounds and general community use property users and do not impact on the amenity of the properties. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise use of vehicles on community land and regulate and monitor vehicle access. Installation of signage preventing vehicles from entering unauthorised areas. Where vehicles are permitted, provide clearly marked vehicle movement areas Provide access for emergency or works services. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle conflicts. Improved public safety. Traffic access to community land is via agreement.
Use agreements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> That use arrangements facilitate wide community access to community land, community benefits and support financial sustainability. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Licence, leases, estates and short term use agreements comply with legislative and policy requirements. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor agreements in accordance with terms and conditions of agreement.

5.2 Objectives and management of Natural Area (Bushland) – Inveresk Park

The land at Inveresk Park is managed in accordance with the objectives and methods set out below:

Table 11 – Objectives, means and performance measures for Inveresk Park

Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36E & 36H Local Government Act 1993	Performance targets and means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets
<p>To conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem functions in respect of the land or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised natural area; and</p> <p>To ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land; by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land.</p>	<p>Ensure that Threatened Ecological Communities (TECS) are actively restored through bush regeneration.</p> <p>Ensure revegetation in reserves and parks is undertaken using locally sourced stock from agreed planting lists (refer Appendix E Stratfield Biodiversity Strategy)</p> <p>Retain dead timber in reserves as habitat for fauna and to create a more complex understory structure and shelter sites from predators.</p> <p>Prepare weed management plans in consideration of the Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022</p>	<p>Increase the number of plants planted and surviving in reserves and parks that are indigenous to the local area</p> <p>Monitor, map and assess changes to vegetation and tree canopies.</p> <p>Incorporate routine weeding in maintenance and volunteer activities</p> <p>Reduce or eliminate use of herbicides, pesticides or chemicals near waterways and natural areas</p>
<p>To maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting; and</p> <p>To protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land; and</p> <p>To protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores; and</p> <p>To protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface; and</p>	<p>Promote public involvement in regeneration or revegetation activities</p> <p>Support natural regeneration where there is resilience and revegetate with indigenous locally source stock</p>	<p>Inspect and observe health of native vegetation, weed species and increased biodiversity in bushland areas.</p> <p>No of plantings from events and community planting days</p>

Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36E & 36H Local Government Act 1993	Performance targets and means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets
<p>To provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land; and</p> <p>To restore degraded bushland</p>		
<p>To provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion; and</p> <p>To promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhance the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion</p>	<p>Maintain and improve existing bushland pathways to protect, conserve and enhance natural landforms.</p> <p>Install interpretative and information signage to protect and educate about bushland areas.</p> <p>Maintain signage around fenced sensitive areas specifying the purpose of fencing.</p> <p>Protect foraging habitat in Inveresk Park</p>	<p>Monitor and review natural area signage</p> <p>Review Plans of Management on regular basis</p>
<p>To assist in and facilitate the implementation of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan</p>	<p>Determine the presence/absence, abundance and condition of threatened species</p> <p>Review internal Council planning processes including processes for providing and retaining habitat (eg tree hollows), review assessment practices in regard to threatened species, consideration of biodiversity in development assessment procedures.</p> <p>Comply with any related a recovery plan, threat abatement plan or priority under Save Our Species Program within specified period</p>	<p>Undertake periodic flora and fauna reviews</p> <p>Complete and update mapping vegetation</p> <p>Completion of field survey of TEC's and assessment</p> <p>Implement actions required under a recovery plan or threat abatement plan</p>



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1. Introduction

1.1 Title

This plan is titled Southend Tennis Centre Plan of Management.

The current plan was adopted by Council resolution at the meeting of xx.

This plan of management applies to land on which the Southend Tennis Centre including the carpark is sited. The land is bounded at south by the Cooks River, west by Maria Street, north by residential properties facing Chiswick Street and east by 'Chiswick Reserve'. The street address of the centre is 22 Chiswick Street Strathfield South. There are entries to the site from Chiswick Street (pedestrian) and Maria Street (vehicle).

The land in Southend Tennis Centre categorised as Natural Area (bushland) is included in the Cooks River Natural Area (Bushland) Plan of Management.

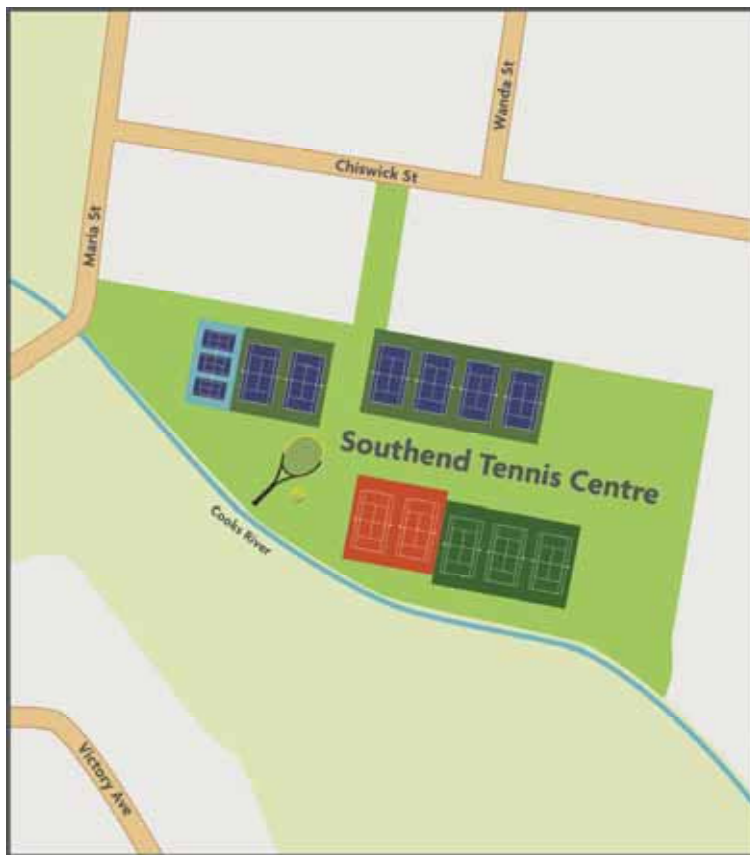
Ownership, lot details and zoning information is set out in Table 1 (information from Council Geographical Information System (GIS) 2019).

The location map of Southend Tennis Centre is set out in Figure 1.

Table 1 – Ownership, title and zoning details

Owner	Lot Details	Zoning Strathfield LEP 2012
Strathfield Council	Lot 1 DP 842991	RE1 - Public Recreation

Figure 1 – Southend Tennis Centre Location Map



1.2 Purpose of this Plan of Management

The *Local Government Act 1993* and amendments to the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* require all public land including Crown Reserves, owned or managed by Council, to be classified as either 'community' land or 'operational' land. Land classified as 'community' land must be managed and used in accordance with an adopted Plan of Management. The land described in this Plan of Management is classified as community land.

Plans of Management are developed by Council in consultation with the community. A Plan of Management describes the features of the community land and outlines how the land may be managed and used, consistent with land categorisations, core objectives and zoning, to provide a transparent and co-ordinated approach to public land management.

The purpose of this Plan of Management is to:

- contribute to the strategic goals and vision as set out in the Strathfield Community Strategic Plan
- ensure compliance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and relevant legislation and guidelines
- provide clarity regarding use and access to the community land as described in this plan.

1.3 Contents of this Plan of Management

This Plan of Management is divided into the following sections, as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2 – Structure of this Plan of Management

Section	What does it include?
1. Introduction	Title, land covered by plan, purpose, contents and review of the plan
2. About the Strathfield LGA	Recognition of traditional custodians, Strathfield LGA snapshot, trends, community vision, legislative and policy framework, and references.
3. Land – category, classification, use and access	Site description, land use/history, land categories and classifications, maps, use of land and structures, environmental features, condition of land and structures and heritage.
4. Land Uses	Permissible uses and development, scale and intensity of use, authorisation of leases, licences and short term uses.
5. Management of the land	Objectives, performance targets, means and manner for assessment of performance

1.4. Change and Review of Plan of Management

This Plan of Management will require regular review in order to align with community values and changing community needs, and to reflect changes in Council priorities. The performance of this Plan of Management will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure the use of land and structures is well maintained and consistent with Council's strategic objectives and community values.

Strategic reviews of this Plan of Management will be required where there is significant change to legislation, land ownership/management or proposed land use. Regular reviews should occur at five (5) year intervals.

2. About the Strathfield Local Government Area

2.1 Recognition of Traditional Custodians

Strathfield Council acknowledges the Wangal people, the traditional Custodians of the lands on which the Strathfield area is located. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

2.2 Snapshot of Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA)

The Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA) is well known for transport connections, educational opportunities, attractive streetscapes, parks, heritage and buildings. The Strathfield LGA is centrally located in Sydney's Inner West, approximately 10.5 kilometres from the Sydney CBD and half way between Parramatta and the Sydney CBD. The LGA includes the suburbs of Strathfield (postcode 2135), Strathfield South (2136), Homebush (2140), Homebush West (2140), part of Belfield (2191) and part of Greenacre (2190). Sydney Markets (postcode 2129) is also located within Strathfield LGA.

Strathfield LGA is well known for its extensive green open spaces and high quality recreational facilities, which enhance the liveability, amenity and sustainability of the local area. The Strathfield LGA has a total area of approximately 1390 ha (13.9km²) with 104 ha of the total area being public open space (2018 estimates). There is currently 9.06 ha of remnant bushland in the LGA and about 6 ha is under Council management.

In 2019, the estimated residential LGA population was about 47,000 residents and by 2041, the resident population is estimated to reach over 80,000 people (NSW Planning 2019). The growing population and accompanying building density will increase demand for access to and usage of available open space and community facilities. Therefore, management of community land is of critical importance to current and future communities.

Open spaces range from regional and district sporting grounds to smaller local parks and reserves. Significant parks with major sporting facilities include Airey Park, Bressington Park, Bark Huts Reserve, Begnell Field, Cooke Park, Hudson Park, Mason Park and Strathfield Park. Many local biodiversity conservation and habitat connectivity priority areas, including flora and fauna assets, are located within Strathfield LGA's parks and reserves. A number of connected parks and open spaces form the Cooks River Foreshore open space network, an important local and regional habitat corridor and pedestrian and cycle transport connection.

Strathfield LGA also provides many community facilities, located on community land including meeting rooms, halls and community centres which are available for hire by groups and individuals for sporting, community, recreation, social and other purposes.

2.3 Strathfield LGA community and recreational trends

Some of the challenges facing the Strathfield LGA include increasing and competing demands for public open space and community facilities. Strathfield Council is strongly focused on identifying and meeting the current and future needs of the Strathfield community in a sustainable manner.

Recent community engagement and analysis of social and recreational trends indicate increasing participation in recreation, sporting and leisure activities such as organised team sports, walking, cycling, running, aerobic fitness and dog walking. There is increased demand for access to community and recreation facilities, outdoor and indoor.

Priorities for Council involve increasing the capacity of local community facilities, parks and sportsgrounds, developing new community and recreational facilities as required and ensuring equity of access to land and facilities, to meet changing and diverse needs.

2.4 Community Vision and Key Strategic Directions

The community vision describes the community's aspirations for the future of the Strathfield Local Government Area by 2030:

"Strathfield is a culturally diverse and socially cohesive community with respect for its heritage and environment and proud of its well-connected transport, business and educational institutions".

Strathfield 2030 is the community strategic plan for the Strathfield Local Government Area until 2030. The plan was developed following extensive community engagement and is divided into the key themes of Connectivity, Community Wellbeing, Civic Pride and Management. Liveable Neighbourhoods and Responsible Leadership

This plan is aligned with the Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) which defines the long term vision for land use and infrastructure provisions within the Strathfield LGA and supports place within the Greater Sydney and District planning frameworks. This plan of management aligns with the LSPS Priority P13 'Biodiversity and ecological health and resiliency is conserved, restored and enhanced' and Priority P15 'Quality Open Spaces and thriving green corridors offset the impacts of growth across the LGA' and action plan A93 to review and prepare new plans of management.

2.5 Legislative and Policy Framework

The following legislation and policies provide a framework for the preparation of this Plan of Management.

Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (LG Act) requires the preparation of Plans of Management (POMs) for Council owned land, and requires all community land to be categorised.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) (EP&A Act) is the principal planning legislation for NSW, that provides a framework for the environmental planning and assessment of development proposals and preparation of environmental planning instruments (including the Local Environmental Plan or LEP).

Crown Lands Management Act 2016 (NSW) (CLM Act) governs the planning, management and use of Crown land, including provisions to reserve or dedicate lands for a prescribed public purpose and for leasing and licensing. Crown land under Council management requires classification and categorisations under the LG Act and preparation of Plans of Management.

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW) (BC Act) requires that Councils consider the impact on threatened species, populations and communities in fulfilling their statutory responsibilities under the EP&A Act for development approvals. It also covers management of threatened species and communities on Council owned lands.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth) (EPBC Act) provides a national scheme for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, and incorporates referral mechanisms and environmental impact assessment processes for projects of national significance.

State Environmental Planning Policy 19 – Bushland in Urban Areas aims to protect and preserve bushland in the Sydney Metropolitan area. The SEPP is concerned with disturbances and development affecting bushland areas.

Companion Animal Act 1998 (NSW) requires the identification and registration of companion animals (e.g. cats and dogs) and sets out the duties and responsibilities in relation to management of animals and specific areas of land.

Local Land Services Act 2013 (NSW) provides a framework to ensure the proper management of natural resources in the social, economic and environmental interests of the State. Strathfield is part of the Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS), which provides guidance on matters such as community engagement, biosecurity and weeds.

Also relevant are:

- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)
- Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (NSW) and Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)
- Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)
- Fisheries Management Act 1994 (NSW)
- Rural Fires Act 1997 (NSW)
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)

Related Strathfield Council policies and plans

- Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030
- Strathfield 2030 Community Strategic Plan (CSP)
- Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Development Control Plans 2005
- Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2020
- Disability Inclusion Plan 2020-2024

2.6 References

Eco Logical Australia and Strathfield Council, 2019, *Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2020-2030*, viewed at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/live/biodiversity/>

Insight Ecology, 2017, *The Fauna of Strathfield (Local Government Area)*, viewed at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/live/biodiversity/>

Jones, Cathy, 2019, *Parks and Reserves*, Strathfield Heritage website at <https://strathfieldheritage.org/parks-and-reserves>

Near Maps – Strathfield LGA, 2019 at <https://www.nearmap.com/au/en>

NSW Department Planning, 2019, *Strathfield LGA Population Projections 2016-2041*, viewed at <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Factsheets-and-faqs/Research-and-demography/Population-projections/2019-Strathfield.pdf>

Strathfield Council, *Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012*, viewed at <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/EPL/2013/115>

Strathfield Council, 2018, *Community Strategic Plan – Strathfield 2030* viewed at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/council/policies-plans-and-regulations/community-strategic-plan/>

Strathfield Council, 2019, Geographical Information System (GIS) Data

3. Land – category, classification, use and access

3.1 Description of site

Southend Tennis Centre is located adjacent to the Cooks River in Strathfield South with entry to the site from Maria Street (vehicle) and Chiswick Street (pedestrian). The Tennis Centre includes three synthetic grass courts, six hard courts, two clay courts and one court featuring three mini hot shots courts. There is a carpark with entry from Maria Street.

There are two small buildings on site, a pro shop and clubhouse. The pro shop has a shop, office and storage. The clubhouse has amenities and storage. The total area for Southend Tennis Centre is 1.41 hectares.

The centre is accessible via the Bay to Bay Shared Pathway. The land also contains a habitat corridor, which is located on the southern boundary of the site on the Cooks River foreshore, which connects to the other Cooks River foreshore parks and reserves.

3.2 Land prior use and history

The land on which the centre is built was formerly occupied by a dairy in the early 1900s. Significant works were required to fill the site and level the surface. In 1974, the first tennis courts were built by the Strathfield Junior Hardcourt Tennis Club with support of Strathfield Council. The location was named Southend, in reference to the location being the southern part of the Strathfield LGA, and officially opened in 1975. The centre continued to develop in stages with addition of courts, amenities and landscaping. Though the management of the centre has changed, the site has continued to be used as a tennis centre¹.

¹ Jones, C, 2019, Parks and Reserves

Figure 2: Historical photographs of Southend Tennis Centre

The aerial historic photographs indicate changes in the land use over time, particularly the building of the tennis centre and revegetation, especially near the canal and boundaries of the playing areas.



Southend Tennis Centre aerial photograph (1947)



Southend Tennis Centre aerial photograph (1997)



Southend Tennis Centre aerial photograph (2009) © Near Maps



Southend Tennis Centre aerial photograph (2019) © Near Maps

3.3 Categories and classifications of community Land

The management of community land is governed by the categorisation of the land, and the core objectives of the relevant category of community land. The core objectives for each category are set out in the *Local Government Act 1993*. The guidelines and core objectives for relevant categories are set out in Table 3.

Table 3 – Guidelines for and core objectives of community land

Category	Guidelines ²	Core objectives ³
Sportsground	<i>Regulation cl.103</i> Land should be categorised as 'sportsground' if the land is used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.	<i>Category Sportsground - (Section 36F)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.
Natural Area	<i>Regulation cl.102</i> Natural areas are where land, whether or not in an undisturbed state, possesses a significant geological feature, geomorphological feature, landform, representative system or other natural feature or attribute that would be sufficient to further categorise the land as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore	<i>Natural Area - (Section 36E)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised to a natural area; and to maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting, and to provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land, and to provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and to assist in and facilitate the implement of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan prepared under the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> or the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>
Natural Area – bushland	<i>Regulation cl.107</i> Land that contains primarily native vegetation that is the natural vegetation or a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land, or although not the natural vegetation, is still representative of the structure or floristics of the natural vegetation in the locality.	<i>Natural Area - Bushland (Section 36J)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land, and to protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and to promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and

² *Local Government General Regulation 2005*

³ *Local Government Act 1993*

Category	Guidelines ²	Core objectives ³
		<p>facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to restore degraded bushland, and • to protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and • to retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and • to protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.

Council must manage community land in according to these core objectives. Any activities or uses of the land should be consistent with the core objectives for that category of land. Additional objectives which support the above core objectives are included in Section 5 Management of the land.

The land classified as community land under the *Local Government Act 1993* is categorised as Natural Area (Bushland) and Sportsground. The categorised areas are marked in Figure 2.

Figure 2 – Map of Southend Tennis Centre land categorisations



3.4 Use of the land and structures at date of adoption of the plan

Southend Tennis Centre is used primarily for playing of tennis and other related sports purposes. The site has tennis courts, clubhouse, proshop and carpark. The land on which Southend Tennis Centre is sited is categorised as a Sportsground.

The land also contains a habitat corridor, which is located on the southern boundary of the site near the Cooks River and has been categorised as a Natural Area (Bushland).

3.5 Environmental issues

Part of the land on which Southend Tennis Centre is located provides a revegetated link along Cooks River, particularly on the southern boundary of the site. This area is identified in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2019 as a Biodiversity Connectivity area. These corridors are also identified as Priority Biodiversity Areas and a Priority Green Grid Project in Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2020.

The land in Southend Tennis Centre categorised as Natural Area (bushland) is included in the Cooks River Natural Area (Bushland) Plan of Management.

Southend Tennis Centre has open parkland with tennis courts. The Bay to Bay shared pathway is located near the southern boundary. She-oak, eucalyptus, paperbark, callistemon are planted in a thin strip along Cooks River at the southern boundary of the site. Together with the adjacent Elliott Reserve, bird species such as Yellow Thornbill, Yellow-faced Honeyeater and Superb Fairy-wren are enabled to access Maria and Dean Reserves, Ford Park and other reserves along Cooks River. The land has habitat connections with other corridor parks including 'Chiswick Reserve', Ford Park, Elliott Reserve and Maria Reserves⁴.

Green and Golden Bellfrogs (GGBF) are usually located in and around water bodies such as wetlands and lakes or on sites which humans have disturbed such as abandoned quarries or brickpits. In the Strathfield LGA, the GGBF core habitat area is located in Greenacre such as Coxs Creek Reserve and Greenacre Frog Ponds. An east-west GGBF linkage area, as mapped in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy (p17), includes parks such as Begnell Field, Cooke Park, and parts of Ford Park and Maria Reserve. However, with dispersal and movement of frogs, infrequent sightings have been reported in parks further along the Cooks River such as Elliott Reserve, Southend Tennis Centre and 'Chiswick Reserve'. However, these sightings were infrequent and have become increasingly rare. Since 2012, Council has received no reported sightings of GGBF in the Strathfield LGA.

⁴ Strathfield Fauna Study 2017 and Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2019

3.6 Condition of the land and structures on adoption of the plan

The condition of land and structures upon adoption of this plan of management are shown in Table 4 and the interpretation of buildings/site conditions in Table 5.

Table 4 - Condition rating assessment criteria

Rating	Descriptor	Guide	Residual Life as a % of Total Life	Mean % age residual life
1 Excellent	Sound physical condition. Asset likely to perform adequately without major work.	Normal maintenance required	>86	95
2 Good	Acceptable physical condition, minimal short term risk of failure.	Normal maintenance plus minor repairs required (to 5% or less of the asset)	65 to 85	80
3 Satisfactory	Deterioration evident, failure in the short term unlikely. Minor components need replacement or repair now but asset still functions safely.	Significant maintenance and/or repairs required (to 10-20% of the asset)	41 to 64	55
4 Worn	Deterioration of the asset is evident and failure is possible in the short term. No immediate risk to health and safety.	Significant renewal required (to 20 - 40% of the asset)	10 to 40	35
5 Poor	Failed or failure is imminent or there is significant deterioration of the asset. Health and safety hazards exist which present a possible risk to public safety.	Over 50% of the asset requires renewal	<10	5

Table 5 – Condition of assets at Southend Tennis Centre

Description	Condition
Bollards	Good
Car park	Good
Club house	Excellent
Fencing	Good
Pro shop	Excellent
Seating	Good
Tennis courts (3 synthetic grass, 6 hard courts, 2 clay courts and 3 mini hot shot courts)	Excellent

3.7 Heritage

There are no statutory heritage listings associated with this land.

3.8 Photographs of Southend Tennis Centre

Photographs taken January 2019



Southend Tennis Centre – (3 synthetic grass, 6 hard courts and 2 clay courts)



View of courts



Tree line, seating, pathway & club house



Pro shop



View of courts



View of lower courts



Park – open space



Open space



Trees line and pathway near Cooks River



Car park

4. Land Uses

4.1 Permissible uses and developments

The tables below set out the purpose/use of the land consistent with its land categorisation and the types of development generally associated with those uses. Facilities on community land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community. The anticipated uses, and associated development, identified in Tables 6 and 7 are intended to provide an overview or general guide. Development is subject to requirements set out in clauses 4.2 and 4.3

Table 6 – Permissible uses of land categories – Sportsgrounds

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Active and passive recreational and sporting activities consistent with the nature of the particular land and any relevant facilities• Organised and unstructured recreation activities• Community events or gatherings, and public meetings• Commercial uses associated with sports facilities• Easement, utilities and estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development for the purpose of conducting and facilitating organised sport• Courts (basketball, netball, badminton, tennis, hockey, badminton etc)• Amenities eg change room, lockers, shower/toilet facilities, first aid rooms, seating• Shop (consistent with use of sports facilities), café or kiosk facilities, mobile coffee cart or food vending subject to site assessment and Council approval• Car parking and loading areas• Ancillary areas eg staff rooms, meeting rooms, equipment storage areas• Shade structures• Seating and scoreboards• Sports or fitness training, and practice facilities• Heritage and cultural interpretation eg signs, public art• Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that relate to approved uses/activities, discreet and temporary and approved by Council.• Water/Energy savings initiatives• Lighting and water (eg taps, bubblers)

Table 7 – Permissible uses of land categories – Natural Area (Bushland)

Purpose/Use	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Walking and cycling• Guided bushwalks and bird watching• Environmental programs and scientific study• Preservation of biodiversity and habitat• Bush regeneration and revegetation works• Relaxation and passive informal recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interpretative, regulatory and directional signage• Low impact lighting• Low impact carparking• Low impact pathways• Passive recreation• Seating• Small ancillary building eg storage and amenities for site maintenance• Water saving initiatives eg swales, sediment traps, rainwater gardens

In some instances, physical assets may be located on land which falls into different categories. For example, amenities building may be located on land categorised as Park, or on land categorised for Sportsground.

4.2 Future development and use of the community land

There are no proposed plans for development at Southend Tennis Centre at the time of adoption of the Plan of Management.

Minor changes to community land may occur on a routine basis, such as replanting and replacement of damaged or worn infrastructure eg play equipment. In the event of potential future development, proposed changes of use of community land will:

1. Meet legislative requirements – land use tables (zoning) in the Strathfield Council Local Environmental Plan specifies the range of uses and activities that may be permitted on the land. A number of uses are also set out in the Regulations to the *Local Government Act 1993*.
2. Be consistent with the guidelines and core objectives of the community land category - under the *Local Government Act 1993* uses and development of community land must be consistent with the guidelines for categorisation and the core objectives of each category, and any other additional objectives the Council proposes to place on the community land categories.
3. Be consistent with relevant Council policies - substantial upgrades and proposed new development will take into account a range of factors, including:
 - this Plan of Management and the core objectives for the land
 - the planning controls for the land
 - Council's adopted policies
 - the characteristics of the land affected, including existing and future use patterns
 - any landscape masterplan for the land.

4.3 Scale and intensity of land use

The scale and intensity of use and development associated with community land in Strathfield is generally dependent on:

- the nature of the approved uses and developments

- approved Development Applications and any conditions
- an approved masterplan
- the physical constraints of the land
- the carrying capacity of the land
- relevant government legislation
- permissible times of use
- proximity of neighbours

The scale and intensity of use of parks and sportsgrounds should be monitored by:

- regular inspection of the physical impacts on the park or sportsground
- consideration of reports regarding any conflicts between park and sportsground users or from adjoining neighbours

4.4 Authorisation of leases, licences or other estates over community land

The Act requires that any lease or licence of community land must be authorised by a Plan of Management. The lease or licence must be for purposes consistent with the categorisation and zoning of the land.

The maximum period for leases or licences on community land permitted under the Act is 21 years. If a lease or licence is anticipated, then public notice should be given in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Where a lease arrangement has been entered into with Council for community land, subleasing the land may only occur with specific permission of Council and in accordance with the requirements of Section 47C of the Act, Clause 119 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* and conditions set out in agreements.

This Plan of Management authorises existing leases and licence agreements until the end of their current term. The leased or licensed areas may be renewed or changed in future. The leased or licensed areas may be reconfigured in the future to reflect changes in community needs.

This Plan of Management authorises Council to grant leases, licences or any other estates for community land covered in this Plan of Management for purposes and uses which are identified or consistent with those in Tables 6 and 7. Some examples of longer term arrangements, such licences, leases and other estates are outlined in Table 8. Shorter arrangements (for example, a short term agreement associated with a particular event, or an activity recurring regularly either via annual or seasonal agreement) are set out in Table 9.

Calculations for fees and charges for leases and licences will be based on independent market rental valuations that are based on comparisons to similar services and facilities with similar locations, building and land conditions. As a minimum standard, the financial return from licence fees should offset asset maintenance, renewal and any operational costs. Council may also apply subsidies to not for profit organisations where there are demonstrated community benefits or financial hardship. Subsidies are generally not applied to commercial agreements.

Table 8 – Leases, Licences and other estates

Type of Arrangement Authorised	Land and Facilities covered	Purposes for which long term leasing/licensing will be granted
Licence or lease	Sportsground	<p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sporting and recreational purposes, including formal sports, fitness activities and games • kiosk, café, mobile food vending and refreshment purposes • use of court or similar facilities • work sheds or storage areas required in connection with maintenance • signs • temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project or works to be carried out
Licence or lease	Natural Area	<p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • educational or environmental programs, scientific studies and surveys or similar • walkways, pathways, bridges or causeways • signs, observation platforms • temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project to be carried out
Other Estates	Sportsground Natural Area	<p>This Plan of Management allows Council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities in accordance with the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>.</p> <p>Estates may also be granted across community land that is not affected by endangered communities for the provision of pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the Council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land.</p>

The grant of a lease or licence is an important step in using community land, but there may be other requirements relevant to any proposed use. For example, the refurbishment of a kiosk may also require development consent under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Any interested person should check carefully to make sure they are aware of all relevant requirements.

4.5 Short Term Uses

Southend Tennis Centre is currently leased by Strathfield Council to Meriden School Strathfield. Meriden manages casual and short-term bookings, subject to approval. Short term arrangements should be for the types of uses identified in Table 9.

Table 9 – Seasonal, regular and casual use agreements

Community land category	Purposes for which short term uses may be granted subject to council approval	Requirements
Sportsground	<ul style="list-style-type: none">community events and festivalssporting fixtures and eventssports and fitness training and classesfilming or photography of sporting fixtures or eventsuses reasonably associated with the promotion or enhancement of sporting groups, fixtures and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none">the proposed use must comply with terms and conditions for event approval e.g. SafeWork NSW regulations, insurance, waste management etcthe use should not result in physical damage to the sportsground or natural areathe use should not result in a significant adverse impact on adjoining residents or disturbance to nearby residentsorganisers of the site should be responsible for cleaning up the site and notify authorities and Council of any damage or incidents that may occur
Natural Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">educational or environmental programs, scientific studies and surveys or similartemporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project to be carried out	

5. Management of the land

5.1 Objectives and management of community land

The land is managed in accordance with the objectives and methods set out below:

Table 10 – Objectives, means and performance measures

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Access	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide safe and improved access to the parks, sportsgrounds and general community use properties for pedestrians and cyclists. 2. Provide access to and within parks for people with disabilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upgrades, refurbishments and/or improvement works on community land to consider public access requirements for mobility and connections. 2. Proposed ramps, stairs and pathways to comply with relevant Council and BCA requirements consistent with Australian Standards. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Audits of community land and facilities to comply with standards
Amenity and Character	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure Council's community land and facilities contribute to the amenity and character of the Strathfield LGA. 2. Promote parks, sportsgrounds and community use properties as desirable places for recreation, community celebration and commemoration. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide parks and facilities and pathways as attractive destinations. 2. Maintain and enhance community land and facilities 3. Promote parks, sportsgrounds and facilities in local media and website. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consult with residents and users regarding satisfaction of parks and facilities 2. Monitor and action complaint data
Community Facilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide sustainable community facilities for a range of community, social and other compatible activities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building and structure design specifications to consider park, sportsground and general community use character, expected use and environmental sustainability features. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor usage of community facilities as measured by bookings. 2. Community satisfaction surveys.

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
	<p>2. Ensure buildings positively contribute to community land amenity, facilitate a range of uses and have regard for environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance.</p>	<p>2. Provide community facilities which are multi-purpose and flexible to a range of appropriate uses.</p> <p>3. Ensure community facilities are universally accessible.</p> <p>4. Community facilities meet sustainable building requirements and/or are progressively upgraded to incorporate best practice energy and water efficiencies.</p>	<p>3. Facility inspections and audits.</p> <p>4. Monitor comments and complaints</p>
Environmentally Sustainable Principles	<p>1. Manage community land to ensure best environmental management practises and principles having regard to environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance.</p>	<p>1. Promote and monitor energy efficiency</p> <p>2. Minimise use of water</p> <p>3. Implement waste reduction programs</p> <p>4. Utilise natural heating and cooling</p>	<p>1. Measure and monitor via plans and strategies such as Energy and Water plans.</p> <p>2. Monitor usage and trends via quarterly and annual consumption and billing.</p> <p>3. Monitor and minimise water and energy use in parks, sportsgrounds and ancillary facilities.</p>
Historical and Heritage Significance	<p>1. Appreciation and interpretation of the historical and/or heritage significance of the site and structures e.g. memorials in terms of both natural and cultural components.</p>	<p>1. Undertake, when required, historical research or heritage and cultural assessment studies to identify cultural and heritage values for retention and interpretation.</p> <p>2. Incorporate historical information on property signage to enhance understanding and appreciation of the site and the history it represents, where relevant.</p> <p>3. Promote sense of place and local identity</p>	<p>1. Retention and interpretation of heritage and cultural values provides increased appreciation of the property and its history through community consultation.</p>
Landscape Character	<p>1. Maintain and improve landscape character and visual quality of public open spaces</p>	<p>1. Manage replacement planting strategies to ensure improvement to the current character.</p>	<p>1. Community consultation including surveys regarding community views</p>

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain consistency in selection and design of park and sportsground furniture, paving, fencing that is appropriate to the setting and the sport or activity type. Implement & maintain co-ordinated signage strategy 	
Managing assets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide effective and efficient management of community land and facilities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule regular inspections and condition assessments. Inclusion of maintenance standards in licence, lease or hire agreements. Provide waste and recycling bins to cater for public use. Regular waste and recycling collection to minimise litter overflow 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Measure against Service Standard KPIs. Respond to complaints and audits. Monitor agreements Review and update asset management plans periodically
Natural Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain and enhance the health of park ecology, including flora and fauna, trees and soil 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Manage trees, gardens and natural areas to maintain and improve the quality of the environment in accordance with Council's tree management and biodiversity strategies and plans. Retain habitat trees, protect foraging habitat and create/maintain habitat corridors through revegetation where possible Ensure revegetation is undertaken using locally sourced stock from agreed planting lists (refer Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy) Maintain weed management program to minimise spread of weeds Implement actions where required under recovery or threat abatement plan. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Measure and monitor tree canopies, vegetation, weeds and habitat. Undertake periodic flora and fauna reviews

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Natural Area (Bushland)	1. Refer to the Natural Area (Bushland) Plan of Management 2020		
Promote varied recreational uses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance opportunities for a balanced organised and unstructured recreational use of public open space 2. Optimise public access to public open space. 3. Maintain condition and useability of sportsgrounds and 'sustainable capacity'. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capital works program to plan for improvements and upgrades to community land. 2. Promote a range of organised and informal/unstructured activities on community land 3. Provide amenities that support use and enjoyment of parks and sportsgrounds e.g. toilets, change rooms and kiosk/café facilities. 4. Enforce provisions for management of dogs on community land as per requirements of Council's Companion Animal Policy. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Monitor local use of parks and sportsgrounds by bookings, surveys, complaints and observation.
Safety and Risk Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide safe use and access to public land and facilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design and maintain layouts, landscaping and facilities in accordance with CPTED principles (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) principles including passive surveillance, good sight lines, territorial reinforcement and space management and lighting. 2. Review lighting and security for both day and night time use. 3. Work with local police to identify and act on safety issues. 4. Install and maintain facilities in accordance with relevant Australian standards. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Works to be in accordance with relevant Australian Standards and CPTED principles. 2. Monitor and action incident and accident reports.

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
		5. Repair vandalism or graffiti within 48 hours where possible.	
Traffic and Parking	1. Ensure traffic and parking requirements provide a safe environment for park, sportsgrounds and general community use property users and do not impact on the amenity of the properties.	1. Minimise use of vehicles on community land and regulate and monitor vehicle access. 2. Installation of signage preventing vehicles from entering unauthorised areas. 3. Where vehicles are permitted, provide clearly marked vehicle movement areas 4. Provide access for emergency or works services.	1. Reduced pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle conflicts. 2. Improved public safety. 3. Traffic access to community land is via agreement.
Use agreements	1. That use arrangements facilitate wide community access to community land, community benefits and support financial sustainability.	1. Licence, leases, estates and short term use agreements comply with legislative and policy requirements.	1. Monitor agreements in accordance with terms and conditions of agreement.