

**CAMDEN  
BICENTENNIAL  
EQUESTRIAN PARK**

**& ONSLOW PARK**

**SPECIFIC AREA**

**PLAN OF  
MANAGEMENT**

# CAMDEN BICENTENNIAL EQUESTRIAN PARK / ONSLOW PARK

## SPECIFIC AREA PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

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# **1 INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 Purpose**

This plan has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* section 36, which states that a Plan of Management must be prepared for Community land. This plan also includes Crown Land at Onslow Park as it is under the care control and maintenance of Camden Council. Additionally management schemes will be able to be incorporated with the surrounding area.

This plan of management specifies how Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park and Onslow Park will be used and managed, and the objectives for use. Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park and Onslow Park are in demand with an increase in the size and number of community groups who want to use the parks. Managing these demands will effectively help to preserve the quality of the environment, allow conservation of the special character of the place and provide for the retention of the floodplain.

The Plan will also allow for restoration and revegetation of riparian areas and also help to promote community education and encourage recreational pursuits that compliment and integrate into each other and the surrounding environment.

## **1.2 Location and Land Title**

Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park and Onslow Park are adjacent parks immediately west to the town centre of Camden, within the Camden Council Local Government area. The parks are on the western side of Cawdor Road and the eastern side of Camden Sewerage Treatment Plant. The land has road frontage to Sheathers Lane, Cawdor Road and also has an access point from Exeter Street.

Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park is in the ownership of Camden Council having been transferred from the former Department of Planning in June 1994 with the following conditions:

- 1) That the Council shall use the land for recreation purposes.
- 2) That the Council shall not erect, or permit to be erected on the land any building or structure without the prior consent of the Minister.
- 3) That Council shall demolish any existing improvements at the earliest time from the date of transfer.

From previous discussions with the department, Condition 2 is a procedural matter and Condition 3 is a standard condition aimed at reserves in which illegal dwellings have been erected.

Onslow Park is Crown Land under the ownership of the State Government.

**INSERT MAP 1**

**INSERT MAP 2**

**Table 1: The land to which this plan applies**

Park	Lot # and DP #	Description	Size (Ha)	Owner
Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park	Lot 41 DP 839537	Equestrian centre	31.44	Council
	Lot 3 DP 582010	Equestrian centre	35.63	Council
	Lot 1 DP 547945	Equestrian centre	0.2175	Council
Onslow Park	Lot 1 DP 205158	Access to Onslow Park from Cawdor Road	0.101	Crown
	Lot 1 DP668712	Onslow Park, outer fields		Crown
	Lot 1 231794	Camden Swimming Pool, part of outer playing fields and carpark.	0.9357	Crown
	Lot 1, (Pt Por A – DP 180616, 12 –DP 221552)	Main sporting arena	12.23	Crown

Lot 2 DP 522565 is land owned by the Camden Show Society and located between The Showground Oval at Onslow Park and Woolworths. It contains cattle yards and sheds and poultry pavilion. Council has leased land (Lot 10 DP845472) from Sydney Water. This land is located between the western boundary of Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park, the northern boundary of Camden Sewerage Treatment Plant and Werombi Road. It is leased until May 2007 for equestrian activities in conjunction with the Equestrian Park. This land also forms part of the 400 metre buffer for the Camden Sewerage Treatment Plant. Both lots are not community land and do not form part of this POM.

### **1.3 Leases**

There are no lease arrangements on Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park but agreements are developed between Council and Premier User Groups some are which are listed in Section 1.5 Key Stakeholders. Onslow Park has the Camden Bowling Club lease currently being negotiated by Camden Sporting Clubs. The finalisation of the lease is subject to a new survey of Onslow Park that plots a lot boundary for the Club and the greens. The survey will also plot lot boundaries for the swimming pool and the tennis courts. The lease for Camden Swimming Pools is currently vacant and being reviewed. There is currently a licence for the operation of the pool. Other community groups use the facilities at the park regularly, but do not have any lease over the property.

### **1.4 Land use**

The current land use is active and passive recreation in both parks. Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park has the principal focus as an equestrian activity with polocrosse, rodeo and camp drafting, dressage, show jumping, pony jumping and horse trial areas. Onslow Park is host to the swimming pools, tennis courts, and bowling club, skateboard ramp, children's play area, playing fields used for cricket, local breed agricultural shows football and athletics, and open space with BBQ and picnicking facilities. Additionally there is a monthly craft market and the annual Camden Show.



## 1.5 Key Stakeholders

There are many users of the park and many interests in the park representing diverse key stakeholders. They range from the council to state government, pony clubs, equestrian discipline clubs, sporting groups to the Camden markets and schools. Various organisations use the pools and bowling club, however these two facilities are not covered in this plan of management. These groups create a diverse usage of the parks, active and passive as well as conflicting land uses.

Organisation	Nature of Interest
Camden Council	Owens Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park and has care and control of Onslow Park. Manages all land except the Bowling Club and the Swimming Pool, which are leased.
Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources	Owens Onslow Park which is Crown Land
Pony Club Association of NSW inc.	Hires / uses Bicentennial Park for Competitions
Illawarra Dressage Association inc.	Hires / uses Bicentennial Park for Competitions
County of Cumberland Camp Drafting Club	Hires / uses Bicentennial Park for Competitions
Camden Horse Trials	Hires / uses Bicentennial Park for Competitions
Sydney Polocrosse Club	Hires / uses Bicentennial Park for Competitions
Cobbity Pony Club	Hires / uses Bicentennial Park for Competitions
Camden Show Society	Use of Parks during the Camden Show
Camden Rodeo Club	Uses Rodeo and Camp drafting facilities on Onslow park and Bicentennial Park
Camden Cricket Club	Seasonally hires the cricket facilities at Onslow Park
Athletics Club	Uses all ovals at Onslow Park for training and events
Rugby Union	Seasonally hires the main oval at Onslow Park
Junior Rugby League	Seasonally hires the secondary ovals at Onslow Park
Schools	Uses parks for sports, swimming carnivals and fun runs
Camden Craft Markets	Hires the grounds at Onslow Park for monthly markets and parking
Camden Tennis Association	Uses the six tennis courts and clubhouse and provides basic maintenance
Camden Sporting Clubs	Leases and maintains Camden Bowling Club and grounds (currently under negotiation), non-profit group using club, 2 current bowling greens and 1 previous bowling green converted to beach volley ball court.
Camden Swimming Club	Uses Camden Swimming Pool
Lessee of Camden Swimming Pools	Leases and maintains the Camden Swimming Pools (currently being reviewed)
Camden Historical Society	Has an interest particularly in regard to the heritage townscape of Onslow Park and the various heritage items.
General Public	Uses the fields and picnic facilities for passive and active recreation
Sydney Water	Discharges treated effluent into Matahil Creek, potential for use of treated effluent as irrigation of CBEP and Onslow Park.
Camden Council	Uses both parks for events, festivals, clinics symposiums.
Circus	Uses CBEP twice a year.

## **1.6 Adjacent land uses**

Bicentennial Park and Onslow Park are located adjacent to Camden Town Centre. To the north and south there is private property currently being grazed, Camden's Sewerage Treatment Plant lies to the south west and to the east and north east is the centre of Camden bordered by the Camden Show Society Hall, the Crown Hotel and the Camden Primary School. The parks also form a part of the Camden green horseshoe belt, which also includes Kirkham Estate Winery, Camden Town Farm (bequeathed by Miss Davies to Council) and Rotary Cowpasture Reserve down to Kings Bush

## **1.7 Background Information**

### **Aboriginal Heritage**

The Tharawal Local Land Council and the Cubbitch Barta Native Title Claimants Aboriginal Corporation have previously conducted surveys on this site to ascertain whether there were Aboriginal sites or areas of significance. They identified that “ the study area has also been subject to a high level of prior disturbance, associated with land clearing, farming and development activity. Given this high level of disturbance, any sites that are present in the study area are likely to have been highly disturbed or completely destroyed by these activities.

If sites were to exist they would have occurred around the creek confluences. Given this sensitivity, the recommendation in the original Plan of Management for Bicentennial Park was made to exclude construction or earthworks from these areas.

### **European Heritage**

Onslow Park and Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park occur within a large grant of land to John Macarthur in 1805. After being inherited by his granddaughter Elizabeth Macarthur-Onslow, she donated land in 1882 to become the Onslow Park Recreation Ground in the year of her husband, Captain Arthur Onslow's death. It was later enacted with the Onslow Park Act 1924.

The development of Onslow Park and the various facilities such as the showground arena over time has made an important contribution to the character and significance of the place as whole. There also are a number of significant heritage items including: Macarthur Onslow entry gates (1930), Sandstone memorial Fountain (1915), Heritage Rotunda (1904). Additionally as part of the curtilage of heritage items at Onslow Park there are significant heritage items on adjoining land, including: AH & I Hall (1880s), AH & I Hall extension (1930).

Bicentennial Park was dedicated in 1988, and in 1994 the deeds were transferred to Camden council from the State Government. But it was leased as grazing land until 1999 when Bicentennial Park was approved as an Equestrian and Passive Recreational Facility.

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## 2 LEGISLATION AND OTHER STRATEGIES

### 2.1 Local Government Act 1993

Under the *Local Government Act* as amended 1998, Councils must prepare a draft plan of management for community land, which may apply to one or more areas of community land. Whatever category of the land, the objectives for each category need to be addressed when developing future management proposals. The core objectives are contained in Appendix 1

Table 2: Requirements for Plans of management under the *Local Government Act*, amended 1998

Requirement	See Report Section
Categorise the land,	3
The plan must describe the condition of the land, and of any buildings or other improvements on the land	5 & 6
Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land,	10
The plan must describe the use of the land and any such buildings or improvements	10
The plan must specify the purposes for which the land, and any such buildings or improvements, will be permitted to be used	10
The plan must specify the purposes for which any further development of the land will be permitted, whether under lease or licence or otherwise	10
The plan must describe the scale and intensity of any permitted use or development	10
How the council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets,	10
How the council proposes to assess it's performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets,	10

Under the *Local Government Act 1993*, land as community land needs to be categorised as one or more of the following:

- (a) a natural area,
- (b) a sportsground,
- (c) a park,
- (d) an area of cultural significance,
- (e) general community use.

Land that is categorised as a natural area is to be further categorised as one or more of the following:

- (a) bushland,
- (b) wetland,
- (c) escarpment,
- (d) watercourse,
- (e) foreshore,
- (f) a category prescribed by the regulations.

## 2.2 Crown Lands Act 1989

There are various principles of Crown land management under the *Crown Lands Act 1989*, and associated responsibilities set down for Councils.

For the purposes of this Act, the principles of Crown land management are:

- (a) that environmental protection principles be observed in relation to the management and administration of Crown land,
- (b) that the natural resources of Crown land (including water, soil, flora, fauna and scenic quality) be conserved wherever possible,
- (c) that public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown land be encouraged,
- (d) that, where appropriate, multiple use of Crown land be encouraged,
- (e) that, where appropriate, Crown land should be used and managed in such a way that both the land and its resources are sustained in perpetuity, and
- (f) that Crown land be occupied, used, sold, leased, licensed or otherwise dealt with in the best interests of the State consistent with the above principles.

Application of *Local Government Act* where a Council manages a reserve trust

98. (1) If a Council is the manager of a reserve trust and the reserve (or the part of the reserve) is a public reserve, the trust has all the functions of a council under *the Local Government Act 1993* in relation to public reserves.

98. (1A) However, the trust has no power to classify the public reserve or any part of it as operational land under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

98. (3)...”public reserve” has the same meaning as it has in *the Local Government Act 1993*.

Preparation of draft plan of management

112 (2) A reserve trust may with the Minister’s consent, and if the Minister so directs shall, prepare a draft plan of management for the reserve.

### **2.3 Threatened Species Act 1995**

The applicable objective of the Threatened Species Act is to encourage the conservation of threatened species, populations and ecological communities by the adoption of measures involving co-operative management.

This act applies to all native plants and animals to NSW but excludes humans, fish and marine vegetation. All threatened species fall into either Endangered or Vulnerable and may also be on a broader scale of an Endangered Population and Endangered Ecological Communities (EEC). This act also allows for the listing of key threatening processes. An Endangered Ecological Community of Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest (SCRFF) was identified on the site. The NPWS have prepared a preliminary draft recovery plan for Cumberland Plain EECs (including SCRFF). While the exhibition of the draft plan is still awaited, the draft plan has been taken into account in the development of management requirements.

### **2.4 Fisheries Management Act 1994**

This act covers all fish and marine vegetation in all the waters of the state. The NSW Fisheries Act identifies threatened and endangered species, populations, communities and key threatening processes. There are two species of vulnerable fish and marine invertebrates here that may live here and over a broad area of water. The Adam's Emerald Dragonfly (*Archaeophyta adams*) and the Macquarie Perch (*Maquaria australasica*) may return here once an improvement of stream health has taken place.

### **2.5 Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act**

The Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act (R&FIAct) covers any works that are to be undertaken in respect of fill, excavation or other works in or near natural and artificial water bodies. These are known as protected water and can include clearly defined drainage lines, perennial (flowing) streams and modified stream channels. Part 3A of the Act is designed to control activities that have the potential to cause adverse impacts to the water body and also includes the bank, shore or bed of these water bodies, and adjacent land within 40 metres of the top of their banks. Where a Council is the applicant, a 3A Permit is not required for those activities which specifically relate to its legislative responsibilities. However the works that are carried out must be consistent with State Government and Departmental Policies and Guidelines.

## **2.6 Hawkesbury – Lower Nepean Catchment Blueprint**

Catchment Blueprints have been developed for all areas of New South Wales. The purpose of the Blueprints is to ensure the health of the landscape is improved by meeting key targets. An important consideration to Council is the Blueprint provides specific goals and indicates priorities for future programs and funding.

The Catchment Blueprint describes a plan for natural resource management in the Hawkesbury Lower Nepean and focuses on the biophysical natural resources including land, water and vegetation.

The relevant first order objectives are:

1. The waters are suitable for people to use and enjoy
2. Diverse native plants and animals live and evolve
3. The cultural heritage values within the catchment are acknowledged, respected, maintained and enhanced.
4. The beauty and natural processes of the catchment are protected while providing for social and economic needs.
5. Everyone is working together – individuals, community groups, business and government.

A consequence of the the Catchment Blueprint has been the need to review the previously prepared two Stormwater Management Plans (SMP) (Upper Nepean River and South Creek) which applied to the two catchments in Camden Local Government Area and adjoining LGAs...Matahil Creek is within the Upper Nepean River catchment. Council Officers through the 'Environmental Systems Work Group' has developed the Camden Council Stormwater Management Plan Implementation Strategy.

The proposed Implementation Strategy is designed to

- (1) identify actions which Council must consider in meeting its obligations specified within the Catchment Blueprint, and
- (2) demonstrate how existing Council actions and strategies work towards meeting the requirements of the Catchment Blueprint.

Both the Catchment Blueprint and the Camden Council Stormwater Management Plan Implementation Strategy have been taken into consideration in the preparation of the Bicentennial Park / Onslow Park Specific POM.

## **2.7 Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (SREP) No. 20 – Hawkesbury-Nepean River**

Bicentennial Park falls within the SREP 20 Area and is identified within the accompanying report – ‘Scenic Quality Study’ and the Landscape Unit 3.1.2 Macarthur Bridge to Mt Hunter Rivulet Weir. Policies regarding environmentally sensitive areas, water quality and quantity from the report are:

- The environmental quality of environmentally sensitive areas must be protected and enhanced through careful control of future land use changes and through management and remediation of existing uses.
- that total catchment management is integrated with environmental planning for the catchment;
- Aquatic ecosystems must not be adversely affected by development which changes the flow characteristics of surface water or ground water in the catchment.
- Wetlands should be protected from future development and from impacts of land use within their catchment
- Flora and fauna communities should be conserved as much as possible

## **2.8 NSW Wetland Policy**

The NSW Wetlands Policy encourages the protection and the restoration of the States’s wetland. The Carex wetland at Bicentennial Park is consistent with the definition of a wetland under the policy.

Relevant goals and principles of the policy are:

- Land use and management practices that maintain or rehabilitate wetland habitats and process will be encouraged.
- New developments will require allowance for suitable water distribution to and from wetlands.
- Water entering natural wetlands will be of sufficient quality so as not to degrade the wetlands.
- The construction of purpose-built wetlands on the site of viable natural ones will be discouraged.
- Natural wetlands should not be destroyed, but when social or economic imperatives require it, the rehabilitation or construction of a wetland should be required.

## **2.9 Camden 2025**

This is Council’s strategic plan, which is driving the future direction of planning. Relevant extracts of strategies and directions (compiled from various sections)

- To protect and restore the water quality of the rivers and creeks (and ground water) to ensure sustainable habitats and diverse recreational opportunities.
- To preserve the areas biological diversity.

- To preserve and enhance the visual, cultural and scenic landscape qualities.
- To minimise the level of household, commercial and industrial waste generation.
- Encourage extensive tree planting.
- ANZECC Protection of Aquatic Ecosystems water standard is achieved
- ...Implement a roadside vegetation plan.
- Implement a policy for the conservation of known threatened ecological communities.
- Support a seed collection and propagation program
- Conserve the important cultural and scenic landscapes that characterise the Camden area.
- Promotion of Camden as a working country town.
- Encourage community participation and celebration to develop a sense of identity and belonging.
- Develop Camden's unique character by enhancing its landscape setting.
- Develop landscaped gateways on access/entrance's in the Camden area.

## **2.10 Camden Local Environment Plan No. 45**

Only Lot 1 DP 231794 (the swimming pool) is covered under the Camden LEP 45 and is zoned as Open Space Existing 6 (a2). The objectives of this zone are to ensure there is provision of adequate open space areas and to enhance the total environmental quality of the Camden Town Centre.

## **2.11 Camden Local Environment Plan No. 46**

The whole of Bicentennial Park and Onslow Park (excluding the swimming pool) is zoned as Open Space Existing 6(a1).

The objectives of this zone are:

- a) To ensure there is provision of adequate open space areas to meet the needs of all residents and provide opportunities to enhance the total environmental quality of the Municipality of Camden.
- b) To identify land which is now owned by the Council for open space or public recreation purposes; and
- c) To identify certain land, which is, owned by the crown and under the care, control and management of the council as public open space.

## **2.12 Council Resolutions**

Motions passed from various Council meetings have determined the approach on what becomes the focus of these parks usage, within the conditions of recreation purposes. While a number of resolutions have been passed the following listed resolutions state Council's current position but also highlight Council's stated stance on the Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park. An outcome of the resolutions has been the development and adoption (in most part) of the Bicentennial Equestrian Park Strategic and Master Plan which is covered in Section 2.16.



At an ordinary meeting held on the 23rd August 1999, it was determined that:

- *“Bicentennial Park will be developed as a major equestrian centre with limited cricket facilities, subject to the development being undertaken in a time frame to permit the use of the site as a pre Olympic training venue, and subject to the appropriate agency concurrences.*
- *The Camden Equestrian Committee be advised that council reserves its right to review and negotiate the multi use proposal with increased cricket facilities in the event that the pre Olympic deadline is not reasonably met, and if Councils right is to be exercised, the proposal must be reviewed and submitted to Council.*
- *Consideration be given to the allocation of sites within the proposed urban release areas to cricket fields in the event that only a limited cricket development occurs at Bicentennial Park.*
- *The following conditions required to achieve a satisfactory standard of equestrian facility be imposed:*
  - a) *The show jump area be moved out of Onslow Park;*
  - b) *A business plan be furnished establishing the level of usage of the equestrian centre and funds generated by its usage;*
  - c) *Equestrian facilities providing a superior standard of operation must be complete and operational by June 2000, to constitute development as a major equestrian centre;*
  - d) *Expansion of the Tennis Club and Bowling Club, as requested, be permitted to proceed”.*

Council resolved at its Resources and Services Committee meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2003 that:

- *“The Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park retain its sole equestrian focus;*
- *Camden Cricket Club be advised of Councils decision;*
- *Camden Cricket Club’s current and projected needs be incorporated into the Recreation Strategic Plan”.*

Council resolved at its meeting of 11 October in respect of the Section 355 Committee that:

- *Council adopt option2 – a fully functioning 355 Community Management Committee with equestrian and community membership with full care, control and management for an initial trial period of 12 months starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2005.*

Council resolved at its meeting of 22 November 2004 in respect of the Draft Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park Strategic Plan (includes Master Plan) that

- *“Further consideration of this matter be deferred for a workshop to be scheduled in the New Year, in order that the new Section 355 Committee and other user groups of Onslow Park and the Showground precinct and other affected parties maybe involved.*
- *Members of the 355 be endorsed and the Bicentennial Equestrian Park Strategic Plan be adopted with the exception of the area identified on the plan*
- *Area on the plan to be subject to a workshop in the New Year as scheduled”.*

The area on the plan included the Carex Wetland (shown as dense wetland on Map 4 of this POM) and the proposed Eastern Parking Zone in the Master Plan.

In relation to the issues immediately above and the exhibition of the draft POM Council resolved on 26 April 2005 that:

- i. *Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park / Onslow Park Plan of Management be exhibited for a period of 28 days.*
- ii. *The CBEP Masterplan be amended in respect of the Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park Section 355 Committee resolution of 13 April 2005 and as per the BEP Masterplan amendment.*
- iii. *The above proposed amendment and the issue of wetlands in Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park be discussed as part of the Draft POM exhibition process and public hearing.*
- iv. *The current situation of undertaking show jump activities at Onslow Park as part of the Camden Show be maintained.*
- v.

The Masterplan (including amendments) have been fully considered in the preparation of the POM and further detail is provided in Section 9.2.

### **2.13 Previous POM for Bicentennial Park**

A previous POM was prepared for Bicentennial Park by consultants Janlyn Planning and Certification Pty Ltd. An associated ecological assessment and report was prepared by EcoSearch – Environmental Consultants. The report identified that the *Carex appressa* wetland adjacent to the Bowling Club as the most important habitat of the site. Council in December 1999 had undertaken the fencing of the *Carex appressa* wetland to ensure the areas preservation and protection.

The objectives of the plan are;

- a) to recognise and protect flora, fauna and scenic qualities;
- b) to encourage recreational activities within a total catchment management plan;
- c) to undertake regeneration of the natural bush;
- d) to recognise the environmental, scientific, cultural and recreational values that contribute to the community and the role that these areas play in maintaining natural and community well being;
- e) to acknowledge the contribution that visual qualities of the Park contribute to the landscape; and
- f) to encourage, promote and facilitate an effective community contribution implementing the plan of management.

### **2.14 Camden Riparian Areas Plan Of Management**

This Plan applies to those areas of land categorised as wetlands and watercourse in open space areas under Council's care and control. An aim of the Plan is to address issues broadly applicable across all riparian areas, including the management of riparian areas. For each issue, strategies have been developed and these strategies incorporated into an action plan. Many of the proposed strategies and actions from the Plan are applicable to each specific area, for which Specific Area Plans of Management are prepared, including the Bicentennial / Onslow Park POM.

The strategies principally relate to biodiversity conservation, vegetation management, fauna management, water quality, recreation, landscape character, cultural heritage, and monitoring and evaluation.

The outcome that is supported from the implementation of the Plan is that:

“The riparian areas of the Camden LGA will comprise an ecologically diverse, sustainable network of green corridors that stretch unbroken from the Nepean River to the catchment headwaters, and successfully integrate with the needs and desires of those who live and work in the surrounding urban and rural environment”.

## **2.15 Camden Natural Assets Policy**

The purpose of the policy is to integrate the regulatory requirements of state natural resource management legislation and policies. It also provides guidance for the development, redevelopment and subdivision of land that may impact on natural assets. The policy aims to:

- Facilitate ecological sustainable development;
- Protect the environment of the Camden LGA;
- Maintain the natural hydrological processes of the landscape; and
- Provide an offsetting mechanism to provide flexibility in the implementation of the policy.

In relation to “development of land containing or near streams & wetlands” there are specific pertinent guidelines, including,

- Development in the vicinity of wetlands shall not result in the degradation of the quality or size of wetlands by maintaining existing hydrological regimes, water quality and biota.
- Reclamation, filling, draining or other works that result in any loss of, or disturbance to, wetlands or streams or other associated natural habitat must not be carried out.

## **2.16 Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park Strategic Plan**

Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park Strategic Plan (includes Masterplan) was adopted by Council on 22 November 2004 with exception of the area on the plan including the Carex Wetland (shown as dense wetland on Map 4 of this POM) and the proposed Eastern Parking Zone in the Master Plan.

As per Councils resolution of 22 November 2004 these areas of the plan were proposed to be subject to a workshop in early 2005. The new Section 355 Committee and other user groups of Onslow Park and the Showground precinct and other affected parties are to be involved. Council resolved on 26 April 2005 the above proposed amendment and the issue of wetlands in Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park be discussed as part of the Draft POM exhibition process and public hearing.

The Strategic Plan and Masterplan (including amendments) have been fully considered in the preparation of the POM and further detail is provided in Section 9.2.

### 3 LAND CATEGORIES

All land categorised as community land must have a Plan of Management clearly identifying the land category and location, under the Local Government Act Amendment 1998. The categories included in this plan are Sportsground and Natural Areas – Watercourse and Wetland.

Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park is categorised as Sportsground as the land has been designated as a public recreation area for passive and active recreation purposes. There is the exception of Matahil Creek and its riparian areas listed as Natural Areas Watercourse and the *Carex appressa* wetland as Natural Areas Wetland. The community land category has been mapped to correlate to the 40 metre riparian buffer (as per the The River and Foreshores Improvement Act, see Section 2.5). The riparian buffer has been determined by measuring 40 metres from the top of each bank positioned immediately adjacent to the normal water flow or level. Both Natural Areas are identified on the following map. Appendix 2 sets out guidelines for land categorisation and their applicability to Bicentennial Park and Onslow Park.

The remnant vegetation of Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest, theoretically could fall under two categories; Natural Area Bushland, as it is a remainder of the native vegetation and Watercourse, as all the remnant vegetation is riparian vegetation which is protected under the Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act 1948. However the same area of community land cannot have two categories and for the purposes of this Plan of Management, the remnant vegetation will be listed as apart of the watercourse, as it directly impacts on the health of the river.

Onslow Park is not categorised under the Local Government Act as it is Crown Land, but the land category 'Sportsground' is adopted for land management purposes. Similarly the objectives for Sportsground have been adopted for the purposes of this draft Plan of Management due to the organised and active nature of the activities and the buildings used primarily for supporting the activities.

Insert Map 3



## **4 BIOPHYSICAL RESOURCES**

### **4.1 Topography**

Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park and Onslow Park both form part of the Cumberland Plain and the flood plain catchment of the Matahil Creeks. The land is generally flat with the east and west Matahil creeks having deeply incised banks 1-3 metres deep, then joining midway in Bicentennial Park and skirting around Onslow Park to travel a further 700m to join the Nepean River.

### **4.2 Geology and Soil**

The Middle Triassic Wianamatta Group is found on the Cumberland Lowlands. The upper part of the group, the Bringelly Shale consists of a shale/sandstone sequence in which brown shale predominates, creating clay-based soils. Yellow podzolic soils and solodic soils occur on the flood plains and valley floors and alluvial soils and gleyed podzolic soils occur in poorly drained depressions and close to recent flow lines.

The soil landscape (which integrates soil and topographic constraints into combined map units) as mapped by Hazelton and Tille (1990) is the Monkey Creek landscape. The soils are generally poorly drained, have a low permeability and some waterlogged sections are saline. A large influence on these soils is the build up caused by backwaters from the Nepean River during flooding events. The erosion hazard here is very high for disturbed soils. The risk of compaction is also high with poorly drained soils, which would increase the amount of erosion.

Salinity may be found in the sub-soils, which may be exposed in the creek banks and by developments.

### **4.3 Hydrology**

An ecological report prepared by EcoSearch Consultants in 2000 describe the East Matahil Creek as slow moving and sluggish, entering from a drain running under Cawdor Rd, picking up drainage from the wetlands along the eastern bank. Camden Sewerage Treatment plant and agricultural lands give regular flow to West Matahil Creek.

Anecdotal evidence suggest the site is subject to minor flooding for the 1-2 year ARI (average recurrence interval), this would involve braking of the creek banks but no flooding of the flat land of the Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park. The overall flood depth over the flat areas of the site varies from 7 metres at the 20 year ARI to 13 metres at the PMF (Possible Major Flood) (Source: Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park Masterplan). However there is a warning of 8 hours for these floods because of the nature of the flooding and the low velocity.

There is currently a regular outflow from the Camden Sewerage Treatment Plant into Matahil Creek of 7 MI per day. With the upgrade of the Treatment Plant this is expected to increase to 22 MI per day. Exiting crossings of Matahil creek are not expected to be affected by the increased flow.

#### **4.4 Vegetation and Condition**

The health of the present vegetation may be used as an indicator of the usage pressures and health of the ecosystem

The vegetation in Onslow Park is primarily of a heritage character that has been enhanced over the years to create stands of mature and semi mature trees. These are listed in Appendix 5, 'Significant trees and Vegetated Landscapes'. These significant trees are the remaining trees of past cultural landscapes and developments. Around the western perimeter and northern carpark, there are remnant trees (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*) that provide an example of the remnant vegetation prior to extensive clearance in the locality.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service have produced maps of 'Native Vegetation of the Cumberland Plain. In Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park a small patch of native vegetation is mapped as the Endangered Ecological Community, Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest (type alluvial woodland). Onslow Park had no remnant vegetation mapped.

The small area of remnant SCRFF is moderately disturbed and is comprised principally of Swamp Oak (*Casuarina glauca*) with just a few understorey shrubs and grasses. There is a high prevalence of weeds, primarily Briar Rose, Blackthorn, Thistles, Honey Locust, Blackberry and exotic grasses that are through the riparian zone. The mown grassed areas while consisting of some native species, it is primarily exotic grass species.

The *Carex appressa* wetland area in Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park forms an important habitat and plays a vital role in improving the water quality flowing into lower Matahil Creek. Grazing and slashing in the past and current mowing practices has modified the wetlands on the site. They also have large amounts of Briar Rose, Honey Locust and Blackberry growing that need weed control treatment.

Matahil Creek is lined with *Phragmites australis* sedgeland for most of its length except in the south west corner where there is the occurrence of a Saltmarsh community of *Juncus kraussii*, *Triglochin striatum* and *Phragmites australis*. This indicates there is some level of salinity in the Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park and the upper catchment associated with groundwater movement.



Insert Map 4

## 4.5 WATER QUALITY

East Matahil Creek starts flowing from the Razorback Range in the Wollondilly Local Government Area. Upstream the primary stresses are from agriculture (93.45 of catchment area) and the new developments on the outskirts of Camden and Wollondilly (3.3% of catchment area) with erosion and pollution being the main issues. The Matahil Creek catchment is 4581 hectares in size with 72% of the catchment in Wollondilly Shire and 28% in Camden Council Local Government Area.

The nearest stresses on the creek are from established housing areas whose stormwater drains directly into East Matahil Creek. As the East Matahil Creek flows into Bicentennial Park, it is sluggish flowing through reeds with a visible amount of oils and pollution in the water.

Midway through the short branch that is West Matahil Creek, Camden's Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) releases treated effluent into the creek with a defined licence from the Department of Environment and Conservation. The main nutrient loadings on the creek are phosphorous and nitrogen and the EPA licence allows a phosphorous load of 0.5 kg/day and nitrogen load of 101kg/day.

In respect of percentage compliance with ANZECC guidelines for primary contact recreation (Source: EPA & Sydney Water, cited in HNCM, 1996 in Stormwater Management Plan for Upper Nepean River Catchment, P11) at the downstream location of Camden STP is 96% for Total Phosphorous, 4% for Total Nitrogen, 88% for Faecal Coliform

## 4.6 Fauna

Fauna was sighted and heard while ground truthing the areas and Ecosearch consultants prepared a preliminary Flora and Fauna Assessment in 1999. All fauna sighted were avifauna and frog calls heard. The abundance of other fauna is considered low due to the land clearing and grazing.

*Casuarina glauca* is considered habitat for the Glossy Black Cockatoo but was not sighted. Raptors were not sighted but may also forage over the area.

The Carex Wetland is likely habitat for the native Brown Antechinus (*Antechinus stuartii*) and the Swamp Rat (*Rattus lutreolus*). The watercourse is also possible habitat for the Water Rat (*Hydromys chrysogaster*). The Red Bellied Black Snake is also considered to be likely on this site. The Ecosearch consultants assessed the sonograms of various frog calls and identified three species, *Crinia signifera*, (Spotted Marsh Frog) *Limnodynastes tasmaniensis* and Striped Marsh Frog (*Limnodynastes peronii*).

Macro invertebrates have been sampled on this site for the Bug Watch survey as a bio-indicator of the condition and health of the creek. The following table identifies fauna observed during two periods of field work.

**Table 4.1 – Fauna Recorded on-Site**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Genus</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Survey</b>
Australian Kestrel	<i>Falco</i>	<i>Cenchroides</i>	O
Australian Magpie	<i>Gymnorhina</i>	<i>Tibicen</i>	O
Black Shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus</i>	<i>Axillaris</i>	O
Brown Striped Frog	<i>Limnodynastes</i>	<i>Peronii</i>	ES
Common Mynah	<i>Acridotheres</i>	<i>Tristis</i>	O
Common Eastern (Brown) Froglet	<i>Crinia</i>	<i>Signifera</i>	ES
Crested Pigeon	<i>Ocyphaps</i>	<i>Lophotes</i>	O
House Mouse	<i>Mus</i>	<i>Musculus</i>	ES
Purple Swamp Hen	<i>Porphyrio</i>	<i>Porphyrio</i>	ES
Red-Rumped Parrot	<i>Psephotus</i>	<i>Haematonotus</i>	O
Spurwinged Plover	<i>Vanellus</i>	<i>Novaehollandia</i> <i>e</i>	O
Superb Fairy Wren	<i>Malurus</i>	<i>Cyaneus</i>	ES
Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura</i>	<i>Leucophrys</i>	O
Wood Duck	<i>Chenonetta</i>	<i>Jubata</i>	ES
Spotted Marsh Frog	<i>Limnodynastes</i>	<i>Tasmaniensis</i>	ES

O - Species observations during fieldwork, September 2004

ES - Eco Search survey 1999

The above surveys were limited but the following threatened fauna species may occur on the site based on other surveys on similar habitat.

No threatened fauna species were recorded at the site during the above periods of fieldwork. No nocturnal fauna surveys were carried out during these periods, however any potential threatened fauna species would be limited to the riparian vegetation area and Matahil Creek, these are not proposed to be developed other than for a bridge crossing.

Threatened fauna species that are known to occur within 10 kms of the site and may possibly inhabit or visit the site are listed in the following table. The sources of these records are listed below the table. However given the limited size of the habitat it would be more probable they would periodically forage in the riparian zone. The species include Blue-billed Duck, Freckled Duck, Large-footed Myotis, Greater Broad-nosed Bat. Longer term should the vegetation habitat be increased through revegetation it is expected the following species could inhabit or visit the site; Grey-headed Flying-fox, Eastern Freetail- Bat, and Large-eared Pied Bat

**Table 4.2- Threatened Species Recorded within 10 kms of the site which could possibly inhabit or visit the site at present**

Scientific Name	Common Name	TS Code	Source	Habitat	Comments
(Aves)					
<i>Oxyura australis</i>	Blue-billed Duck	V	1,2	Deep, permanent freshwater lakes and lagoons and swamps with extensive reed beds	Habitat may be limited in size
<i>Stictonetta naevosa</i>	Freckled Duck	V	1	Swamps heavily infested with Cumbungi, farm dams	Habitat may be limited in size
(Mammalia)					
<i>Myotis adversus</i>	Large-footed Myotis	V	1,2,	Roosts on caves, tunnels, old buildings and in dense foliage. Inhabits sites near water bodies where its forages on aquatic pests Recorded at Mater Dei complex at Camden.	Habitat limited but may forage for food.
<i>Scotoneaux ruepellii</i>	Greater Broad-nosed Bat	V	1,2,3,4	Generally roosts in tree hollows and forages along tree-lined creeks between woodland and open paddocks. Recorded at Elderslie, Spring Farm and Mater Dei complex.	Habitat limited but may forage for food

Source:

1. National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), 2001, Atlas of NSW Wildlife (Camden LGA 7/11/07, [www.canri.nsw.gov.au](http://www.canri.nsw.gov.au))
2. Gunninah Environmental Consultants, 1999, Camden Structure Plan Local Government Area Flora and Fauna Issues, Gunninah Environmental Consultants
3. Conacher and Travers (2001) Flora and Fauna Assessment, Elderslie Release Area, Lodges Road and Hilder Street, Elderslie, Report to Camden Council.
4. Conacher Travers Pty Ltd (August 2002), Fauna and Fauna Habitat Study, Spring Farm Urban Release Area for the Consortium Landcom, Conacher Travers Pty Ltd, Somersby

## 5 ASSETS AND FACILITIES AND THEIR CONDITIONS

The Local Government Act requires the conditions and uses of the land, buildings and improvements be described in a plan of management. Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park contains equestrian facilities and some natural assets. Onslow Park primarily contains sporting facilities and improvements. A full list and description is below in Table 3. Overall the conditions are fair to good but with some exceptions of poor condition. These exceptions need to be taken into account when planning and implementing actions over the long term.

Scale used for assets, facilities and their conditions is based on the usable life of the assets.

Good: In the first 1/3 of its usable life and is in generally good condition.

Fair: In the middle 1/3 of its usable life and needs some extra upkeep

Poor: In the final 1/3 of its usable life and needs a lot of upkeep.

Bushland: Refer appendix 4 - Assessment of Condition of Urban Bushland

**Table 5.1: The land, buildings, structures and their condition**

ASSET	DESCRIPTION	CONDITION
<b>Onslow Park</b>		
Oval 1	The largest oval, fenced in with a gravel track on the outside and a sprint track. Used for cricket, athletics, and rugby union and school sports and the Camden Show. Lacks watering facilities	Good The wooden fences need repair.
Ovals 2,3&4	Smaller ovals that are not fenced in, with artificial pitches, and 2 long jumps, discus nets and cricket nets with portable grandstands. Uses are junior rugby league, athletics, and cricket and school sports. Lacks watering facilities	Fair
Fencing and Bollards	Around the main oval	Fair Some rotted and loose timbers and peeling paint.
Lighting	1. Around the main oval	Good Fairly new
	2. Around the car park	Fair Not up to current standards
Perimeter Seating	Aluminium benches around oval 1	Fair Some damage
Car Park	This runs around the perimeter of the main oval, with it being primarily used by the park visitors.	Good
Grandstand Seating	A permanent grandstand, seating approximately 500 people, at edge of oval 1. No shading, lack of disabled access	Fair

ASSET	DESCRIPTION	CONDITION
<b>Onslow Park cont.</b>		
Portable Grandstand Seating	Ten metal and wooden grandstands 3 – fields ovals 5 – main oval 2 – skateboard ramp	Poor Poorly maintained and lacking safety aspects
Toilet blocks	1. near Onslow Park entrance gates	Fair
	2. next to skateboard ramp	Fair
	3. in grandstand inc. showers and change rooms	Good
Kiosk	Under grandstand	Poor Poorly lit, not up to current standards.
Litter Receptacles	Placed around the oval and in the picnic area. Do not effectively contain the litter from being spread by wild animals	Fair
Picnic tables & BBQ area	Picnic tables are situated next to the skateboard ramp and near the Rotunda. Out of character with the surrounding items.	Fair
Storage Container	Owned and used by the athletics club	Fair Situated in flood prone area
Skateboard ramp	A small skate facility made from prefabricated metal	Fair
Bowling Club	Lease by Camden Sporting Club - clubhouse - 2 bowling greens - 1 bowling green	Good Good Poor – proposed to be converted to beach volleyball
Tennis courts		
▪ Club house	- The clubhouse is just used for the Camden Tennis Association	Good
▪ Courts	- Six tennis courts used by the tennis association and schools.	Good
Children's Play Area	A fenced off area with playground equipment next to Cawdor St	Good
Livestock Loading Ramps	Two loading ramps for cattle, next to cattle sheds	Good
Portable shelter	Animal shelter that is used by the show society	Fair
Heritage Gates	An entrance into Onslow Park	Fair Non-heritage repair work and some deterioration.
Watering Trough	A sandstone inscripted trough from 1899	Poor Overgrown and poorly maintained
Cattle Sheds	At rear of park, two new sheds and two old sheds	Good Fair Some broken wooden boards in the old sheds
Fountain	A heritage style sandstone fountain	Good

ASSET	DESCRIPTION	CONDITION
<b>Onslow Park cont.</b>		
Rotunda	A heritage style covered picnic shelter at the front of Onslow Park	Fair Electrical power box a possible hazard and maintenance has not been done to appropriate standards
Significant Stands of Trees	Mature and semi mature trees with heritage significance, planted along Cawdor Road	Good
Original Tree Planting Around the Ovals	London Plane and Pin Oak trees planted around the edge of the oval	Good One diseased tree
	Remnant Eucalyptus trees around the outer oval edge	Fair Some diseased trees and missing trees
<b>Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park</b>		
Equestrian centre:		
Clubhouse	Facility to provide toilet facilities and a place to eat lunch, a place for viewing competition and a storage facility.	Good
Fields	Include adjacent Sydney Water land being leased for cross country	Good
Camp drafting and Rodeo	Next to Sheathers Lane	Good
Cross country jumps	Placed in various parts of the park	Good
Office	Rudimentary shed	Poor
Toilets	At Camp drafting and in clubhouse	Good
Pump stations	One next to the Clubhouse and one at the Camp drafting area – to connect to Sydney Water facilities.	Good
Undercover eating area	Next to the camp drafting area	Fair
Remnant vegetation	Small patches of vegetation next to the creek	Moderately disturbed bushland
Carex wetland	1 main area	Good, some weed infestation
Landing-pad	This is the emergency landing site for helicopters for the hospital	Good
Day Yards	Throughout park	Good

Future development proposed to be constructed in 2005 includes; a clubhouse, more yards, training cross country track, and dressage arenas.

At Onslow Park the assets listed as; lighting, portable grandstand seating, livestock loading ramps and cattle sheds are Camden Show Society Incorporated' assets. Additionally the Society owns the following assets at CBEP; concrete culvert creek crossing, stock loading ramp and overhead electricity service. The Society has advised "they are not available for unrestricted use without agreement over maintenance and repairs and liability issues."

Insert Map 5



## 6 VALUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Up until recently, the management of public land has traditionally focused upon geographical elements and constraints such as land boundaries, soils, vegetation and topography. The advent of the Local Government Act in 1993 however, provided the catalyst for a more 'values' management approach to public land management, enabling those elements of importance to the community to be managed beyond the constraints of park and reserve boundaries.

Values are the qualities of a reserve deemed by the community to be special, that should be protected or enhanced.

Roles are the functions of the reserves within the context of local and regional open space systems.

The values and roles of Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park and Onslow Park have been summarily listed as follows:

### **Natural Environment**

- Riparian Corridor
- Bushland Corridor
- Native Fauna Habitat
- Water Quality

### **Social/ Cultural**

- Open Space System
- Cultural Landscape

### **Recreation**

- Active & Passive Recreation
- Relationship to Camden Town Centre
- Relationship to Wider Urban Area

### **Educational**

- Natural & Cultural Heritage
- Scientific

### **Heritage**

- Cultural Significance

### **Visual**

- Landscape Connectivity
- Visual Character

### **Management**

- Existing Standards
- Access Management
- Utilities
- Commercial Opportunities

Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park and Onslow Park are one of the primary recreational spaces available in Camden. It provides space for all of the community to enjoy and enhances the open space quality of Camden. Allowing a variety of passive and active recreation activities, not compromising the environment and maintaining the heritage aspect of the parks as a link to being a working country town in the last two centuries.

Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park is a regional equestrian centre that has the capacity to be developed to State, National and International competition level. Anticipated increase in the usage of both of the parks will give opportunities to increase the level of facilities to cater for current and future visitor levels.

The two arms of Matahil Creek flowing through Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park with small pockets of remnant vegetation and wetland areas provide important conservation values to the area once covered by Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest, now an endangered ecological community. Restoring and enhancing the condition of the native vegetation, Carex wetlands and Matahil Creek would add to the visual amenity of the area, and enhance the quality of habitat for both common and threatened and endangered fauna species.

There are also opportunities to enhance the scientific and educational values, which give an understanding of the need for natural systems and a resource to allow study into ecosystems, habitats and natural watercourses.

Overall the development of recreation facilities at Onslow and Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park in a complimentary manner with the natural and heritage values will create a place with a high quality image, a strong sense of place and be an attractive place for both residents and visitors to Camden

## 7 IMPACTS / MANAGEMENT ISSUES & CONSIDERATIONS

### 7.1 Impacts and Management Issues

This section contains an overview of issues identified by Council through site inspections and user group consultations held on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2004 and community consultation on 29<sup>th</sup> September and 20<sup>th</sup> October to support the preparation of the Camden Equestrian Park Strategic Plan (& Masterplan). Additionally issues were identified during the development of the Landscape Concept for Bicentennial Park in August 2004

**Table 7.1: Management Issues and Their Location**

IMPACT AND ISSUES	CAQMDEN BICENTENNIAL EQUESTRIAN PARK			ONSLOW PARK
	NATURAL AREAS – WATERCOURSE	NATURAL AREAS - WETLANDS	SPORTSGROUND	SPORTSGROUND
<b>CATCHMENT</b>				
Catchment & Stormwater Drainage	X	X	X	
Flooding	X	X	X	X
Sewerage Treatment Plant	X	X	X	
Water Quality/ Excess Nutrients	X	X		
Drainage Channels	X	X	X	
<b>SOILS</b>				
Erosion	X		X	X
Water Logged Soils	X	X	X	
Salinity	X	X	X	
Soil Compaction	X		X	X
<b>VEGETATION</b>				
Remnant Vegetation (EEC)	X	X		
Vegetation Management	X	X	X	X
Weeds	X	X	X	X
Riparian Buffer	X	X		

IMPACT AND ISSUES	CAMDEN BICENTENNIAL EQUESTRIAN PARK			ONSLow PARK
	NATURAL AREAS – WATERCOURSE	NATURAL AREAS - WETLANDS	SPORTSGROUND	SPORTSGROUND
<b>HABITAT</b>				
Habitat Corridor	X	X		
Biodiversity	X	X		
Threatened fauna	X			
Pest Fauna	X	X		
<b>RECREATION</b>				
Equestrian		X	X	
Showground			X	X
Conflicting uses		X	X	X
Passive Recreation	X	X	X	X
Connectivity to Adjoining Land – town farm etc	X	X	X	X
<b>FACILITIES and OPERATIONS</b>				
Facilities Maintenance and Development			X	X
Lighting			X	X
Fencing	X	X	X	X
Waste Management	X	X	X	X
Irrigation			X	X
Security			X	X
Noise			X	X
Emergency Helicopter Landing Pad			X	
Mowing and Clearing	X	X	X	
On Site Waste and Litter			X	X
Dumping	X	X	X	

IMPACT AND ISSUES	CAMDEN BICENTENNIAL EQUESTRIAN PARK			ONSLow PARK
	NATURAL AREAS – WATERCOURSE	NATURAL AREAS - WETLANDS	SPORTSGROUND	SPORTSGROUND
<b>ACCESS</b>				
Service Access Requirements			x	x
Traffic			x	x
Parking			x	x
Internal Vehicular Traffic			x	x
Pedestrian (Walking tracks)			x	x
Connectivity to Adjoining Land – town farm (including cycle route)			x	x
Disabled			x	x
<b>LANDSCAPE</b>				
Landscape character	X	x	x	x
Views	X	x	x	x
Community Art / Site Identity	X	x	x	x
<b>HERITAGE</b>				
Heritage			x	x
Townscape			x	x
<b>COMMUNITY</b>				
Awareness, education, involvement	X	x	x	x
<b>OTHER</b>				
Companion Animals	X	x	x	x
Leases, Licenses and other			x	x
Funding & Financial Sustainability	X	x	x	x
Community Management Committee	X	x	x	

## 7.2 Management Issues and Their Consideration

Issues may range from impacts on the natural environment to conflicting land uses. Their consideration is important in developing management strategies including associated actions and performance criteria.

**Table 7.2: Management Issues and Their Consideration**

IMPACT AND ISSUES	CONSIDERATION
<b>NATURAL AREAS</b>	
<b>CATCHMENT</b>	
Catchment and Stormwater Drainage	The catchment area for Matahil Creek includes Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park (CBEP) and Onslow Park and flows directly into the Nepean River. Pollution from the parks impact on the water quality such as litter, sediment and erosion. Although in both parks impacts are generally confined to the drainage outlets. A Stormwater Management Plan (SMP) has been prepared for the Upper Nepean Catchment (Boyden and Partners 1999) Actions in the SMP which are currently relevant have been incorporated into this plan through consideration of Camden Council's Stormwater Management Plan Implementation Strategy and the Hawkesbury Lower Nepean Catchment Blueprint. Also Water sensitive Urban Design principles should be incorporated in all future stormwater development for both CBEP and Onslow Parks. The stormwater drainage is a source of pollution into the creek, which affects weed growth and the remnant riparian vegetation.
Flooding	Bicentennial Park and Onslow Park being part of the Nepean River floodplain are subject to major floods. The flood level for events of magnitude greater than and equal to the 20 year Average Recurrent Interval (ARI) is subject to backwater flooding from the Nepean River. According to anecdotal evidence backwater flooding in CBEP for flood events may be as frequent as the 2 year ARI event. In a 100 year ARI flood event the site lies under a maximum of 15 metres of water at the downstream end of the site and 9 metres of water at the upstream of the site. Therefore all equestrian structures such as jumps, etc need to be stabilised to not float in a flood event. Likewise any new bridge will need to consider all flood conditions including force of water, debris loading and buoyancy. There are also habitat considerations discussed under habit Other more permanent substantial building structures shall be subject to Council's Flood Policy so as not to significantly increase flood levels or adversely affect flood behaviour.
Stormwater Treatment Plant	The West Camden STP upgrade and amplification is expected to increase the outfall from the current 11 ML to 22.9ML per day. Sydney Water has identified the dry weather flow at 22.9 ML will not overtop the causeway. Also Sydney Water is committed to recycling some of these flows during dry weather, including the potential as irrigation on CBEP and Onslow Park .As per Sydney Waters response to Council's previous concern on this issue, " The increase in wet weather flows is considered to be negligible. The upgraded and amplified plant will have minor impact on flooding to the causeway both during dry and wet weather flows."

IMPACT AND ISSUES	CONSIDERATION
<b>NATURAL AREAS</b>	
<b>CATCHMENT cont.</b>	
Water Quality/ Excess Nutrients	Nutrient run off increases aquatic plant growth in the Creek and the Nepean River. Sources may be from surrounding farms, the sewerage treatment plant and excess nutrients from fertilising the playing fields. The Sewerage Treatment Plant has its release water tested and Camden Council tests the water in the Nepean River The extensive <i>Phragmites australis</i> reeds growing along the edge of Matahil Creek and the beds of the drainage channels play an important part in uptake of nutrients. Snags in the creek also increase macrophyte biodiversity and stream health, and their removal should be strongly discouraged where there is no danger to the community.
Drainage Channels	Drainage channels are used around the equestrian jumps to prevent the ground from becoming too muddy and churned by the horses. Natural revegetation is slow around the drainage lines and erosion and soil compaction is occurring. There is also some scalding possibly from salinity.
<b>SOILS</b>	
Erosion / Soil Compaction	Erosion and soil compaction is an issue around some of the equestrian jumps near the creek where drainage measures have been taken. Erosion could become a problem at the stormwater outlet if the banks are destabilised by vegetation removal.
Water Logged Soils	Water logged soils would be largely anaerobic with a high salt content. Inappropriate soil disturbance may create salinity and change the fragile wetland ecosystem.
Salinity	Parts of Camden are affected by salinity caused from urbanisation, this may affect CBEP and a soil analysis should be done. There is also some scalding around drainage channels possibly from salinity. Also there is a saltmarsh community in the drainage channels leading into the western tributary of Matahil Creek, indicating salinity may be impacting on a wider catchment basis. Testing for salinity should be undertaken when any new structure or disturbance to the soil structure is proposed..
Soil Compaction	Due to the land previously used as a dairy farm, the soil already has a high level of compaction and is increasing near jumps and vehicle tracks. Aeration of soil where events take place will need to be an ongoing process.

IMPACT AND ISSUES	CONSIDERATION
<b>NATURAL AREAS cont.</b>	
<b>VEGETATION</b>	
Remnant Vegetation	<p>There are two types of remnant vegetation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest, classified as an Endangered Ecological Community under the Threatened Species Act and,</li> <li>- <i>Carex appessa</i> wetland which is meant to be fenced, but are either out growing their fences or are not fenced.</li> </ul> <p>Both remnants should be conserved and enhanced.</p>
Vegetation Management	<p>Vegetation management consists of a range of regimes including:</p> <p>Mowing of sporting / equestrian facilities and park areas at both parks,  Amenity tree planting and maintenance of trees ,  Landscaping and maintenance of landscape beds,  Ecological Restoration, including bushland, wetland and riparian revegetation, weed control including noxious and environmental weeds</p>
Weeds	<p>There are noxious weeds and environmental weeds present. Blackberry is a large problem within the wetland areas and boxthorn and thistles are a large problem in the riparian zone. Other environmental weeds are Honey Locust and Briar Rose. Removal of these weeds should form part of the restoration of the vegetation remnants and targeted weed removal. A Weed Management Plan should be developed as part of the restoration work to the riparian zone along Matahil Creek and the Carex wetland. There are a number of aquatic noxious weeds such as Alligator Weed, Salvinia, Water hyacinth, and Spiny Rush which cause considerable damage in other waterways of Camden, but have not been observed at CBEP. Periodic monitoring should be carried out to ensure such weeds do not pose an ecological threat to bicentennial Park.</p>
Riparian Buffer	<p>A riparian buffer of at least 40m each side is required along the Creek to maintain stability and connectivity along the creek lines. A large proportion of this has been planted with SCRFF canopy species under the guidance of Greening Australia and the sponsorship of Illum-a-lite (a Sydney based lighting company). The shrub and groundcover layer will need to be developed in the future with an adequate maintenance program with the involvement of a Bushcare group.</p>



IMPACT AND ISSUES	CONSIDERATION
<b>NATURAL AREAS cont</b>	
<b>HABITAT</b>	
Habitat Corridor	At present there is no connectivity of remnant vegetation. A habitat corridor may be created by; enhancing the biodiversity within the remnant vegetation, and connecting with the surrounding properties and other parcels of native vegetation. Fish habitat is an important consideration, NSW fisheries have identified that bridges will not impede or restrict fish passage. In effect NSW fisheries and DIPNR have previously advised Council there will be no new wet crossings (such as causeways) and creek crossings will be dry crossings such as bridges. The policies and guidelines by NSW Fisheries should be followed in respect creek crossings.
Native fauna (including threatened fauna)	Information on native fauna for CBEP is limited. Further surveys should be undertaken to understand the change from the riparian zone. The surveys could involve volunteers such as those doing Bushcare and all information should be incorporated on Council's biodiversity inventory. At present no threatened fauna have been observed but based on records within 10 km of the site, existing habitat and food sources it is possible that 2 duck and 2 small bat species may visit the riparian zone. If the habitat in the riparian zone is expanded through revegetation, it is expected that 3 additional threatened bat species may visit the site.
Pest Fauna	Pest fauna that may cause problems include Mosquito fish ( <i>Gambusia holbrooki</i> ), Carp ( <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> ), Mosquitoes and domestic and nuisance native birds such as the Purple Swamp Hen and Native Ibis. The two mentioned pest fish species were not observed at CBEP but are most probably likely to occur in the lower part of Matahil Creek where it is open to the Nepean River. Also birds are not causing a nuisance at present. Likewise mosquitoes are most probably kept in check because of good reed growth and continual flushing in most of the creek from the Camden STP. Pest fauna should be monitored annually to ensure a program can be devised and implemented to manage any potential problems.
<b>SPORTSGROUND</b>	
<b>FACILITIES and OPERATIONS</b>	
Facilities Maintenance and Development	As the usage and type of usage of the parks are increasing; maintenance needs to be increased. In respect of Onslow Park the usage needs to be well defined or limited with some activities sent elsewhere. The level of usage and location should be determined as per Council's recreational strategy currently being finalised. This issue is discussed in detail below under 'Recreation- Conflicting Uses. Heritage items such as the rotunda, fountain, water trough and gates need to be conserved and restored when required. A Conservation Management Plan (CMP) covering these items should be prepared for Onslow Park as part of a Masterplan for Onslow Park. Appropriately planning sporting facilities and storage of equipment Ongoing maintenance of all public facilities to reduce public liability hazards.

IMPACT AND ISSUES	CONSIDERATION
<b>SPORTSGROUND</b>	
<b>FACILITIES and OPERATIONS cont.</b>	
Lighting	Increased lighting is required at the picnicking facilities and the rotunda. Any lighting including those for the showground should be to Australian Standards.
Fencing	Not all areas of the Carex wetlands have been adequately fenced. To protect these areas from mowing practices and development stresses permanent and aesthetic fencing needs to be erected. Update fencing along edges of Onslow park and timber balustrades around the main oval (in style defined by CMP) to give a look of accessibility
Irrigation	It is anticipated the level of water usage will increase at Bicentennial Park for needs such as having a wet track for some equestrian events or maintaining adequate grass cover. At present there is access to potable water, however the access to this resource may be at risk due to ongoing water restrictions. Consultation is currently taking place with Sydney Water on the use of treated effluent and a water usage and irrigation plan should be developed. Recreation use might be best capitalised through increased irrigation allowing the surface to withstand extra use. The mown grass will have to be periodically harvested and moved off-site to ensure there is not a build-up of nutrients in the soil.
Security	Vandalism may be a problem associated with an unsupervised skate park (proposed to be removed), however vandalism is a minor issue at present and security should be reviewed in the future should vandalism become a major concern. Passive surveillance of the area by park users and people passing by provided an effective surveillance measure at present.
Emergency Helicopter Landing Pad	The location of the pad has been accommodated adequately to date. This designated mown area and access should be maintained for hospital and emergency services
Noise	Potentially traffic noise from Cawdor Road and Sheathers Lane could cause unnecessary stress to horses performing at Bicentennial Park. However it does not appear to be a problem at present. Noise from events where there is the use of a public address system may affect the township, businesses, and residents. To date the PA system used by the Camden show is located on a pole in Bicentennial Park and to date has not caused any duress to nearby residents. This activity would need to be monitored and compliance with current noise laws policed.
Mowing and Clearing	Part of the Carex wetlands have been gradually mown and decreased, fencing and signage in the wetlands would prevent this from happening and would protect the wetlands. The riparian zone also is not clearly defined and should be clearly marked with bollards and signage to prevent potential mowing in this area.

IMPACT AND ISSUES	CONSIDERATION
<b>SPORTSGROUND</b>	
<b>FACILITIES and OPERATIONS cont.</b>	
On Site Waste and Litter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Litter is mainly focused in the stormwater channel inlet from outside CBEP. A GPT may need consideration to be attached to the stormwater drain. Litter was also concentrated around the picnicking facilities, this may be from birds pulling rubbish out of uncovered bins. More litter receptacles needed around the markets area and the current and future picnicking areas.</li> <li>- Toilet and shower facilities are currently available for both activities at CBEP and Onslow Park under the grandstand and toilet block at Onslow Park. A new toilet facility is currently being built at the rodeo site.</li> <li>- In respect of washing facilities for horses, they need to have a very gentle run-off area on a grass surface and well a way from Matahil Creek and drains.</li> <li>- To ensure there is not a build up of nutrients in the soil or run-off into Matahil Creek, all manure from horses and other livestock will need to be collected at the end of the days event and moved off-site and disposed of appropriately..</li> </ul>
Dumping	Objects such as old logs, concrete piping, tyres, old fences and barbed wire have been dumped / left behind and may have been there for a considerable period. They are unsightly and should be removed by all users of equestrian facilities at CBEP.
<b>GENERAL</b>	
<b>RECREATION</b>	
- Equestrian	CBEP to function as a viable equestrian centre must have a range of recreational activities and associated facilities provided. Consultation was carried out with the User Groups by the architects, Timothy Court and Company Pty Ltd in February 2004. The range of activities and associated facilities to be provided are summarised in Section 4 Masterplan.
- Passive	Passive recreation may occur when other events are not occurring in CBEP such as walking. A track would need to be designed to minimise impacts in environmentally sensitive areas. Camden RSL currently has a grant to construct a 8km track linking CBEP< Onslow Park and Camden Town Farm.
- Showground	The main show ground is heavily used and irrigation would enable the turf to be maintained with a higher usage level

IMPACT AND ISSUES	CONSIDERATION
<b>GENERAL</b>	
<b>RECREATION cont.</b>	
- Conflicting uses	<p>Large events of either the equestrian centre or the sports ground competes for parking space            There are limitations to people accessing CBEP during equestrian events. Signage should be incorporated during equestrian activities to notify the broader public of the access restrictions operating at the time. There is a Procedure Plan already in place.            During the Camden Show there can be no other users of the park.            At Onslow Park the recreation activities and facilities are operating at capacity and their limited scope for new uses. In recent times the Camden Cricket Club has lobbied for additional cricket facilities at CBEP. Council has resolved that CBEP retain its sole equestrian focus and cricket needs be incorporated into the Recreation Strategic Plan. Council has however resolved the show jump area be maintained at Onslow Park. Also the skate board ramp can be removed upon the completion of the skate board ramp at Kirkham Park.            The Athletics facilities are substandard and rather than embellishing existing facilities it would be more advantageous to relocate to purpose built facilities which could be funded under Section 94 contributions.</p>
Sportsground Development	Room for sports ground development could only be into the equestrian centre or as upgrading of current facilities.
Equestrian Development	Development may impact and deteriorate the Carex wetland and Matahil Creek
<b>ACCESS /TRAFFIC</b>	
Traffic	Modelling of the peak traffic generation is that the impact of all vehicles entering or exiting the CBEP for an equestrian event during a single peak period is similar to the impact generated by the monthly Camden Craft Markets. However vehicles are more likely to enter and exit the site across a number of days with no distinct peak periods. Large events need a traffic management plan. Further if marshalling is utilised as per the market days, impacts for through flows on Cawdor Rd will be reduced.
Access	Onslow Park users principally access through Mitchell St and off Cawdor Road south-west of the roundabout with Murray Street.
Parking	Parking is generally adequate for most activities at Onslow Park. It spills out onto CBEP and surrounding roads during the Camden Show. For a large unique event, this is generally accepted by the community of Camden. The vehicle parking (both cars and trucks) required for the various equestrian activities is large but is able to be accommodated on-site and is shown on the Masterplan. Major events at CBEP are scheduled to avoid other major traffic generating events such as the Camden Show or monthly Camden craft markets.

IMPACT AND ISSUES	CONSIDERATION
<b>GENERAL</b>	
<b>ACCESS /TRAFFIC cont.</b>	
Internal Vehicular Traffic	Selected routes should be considered for vehicle traffic to reduce conflict with other activities internally, compaction of the soils and erosion on the equestrian track. It will also allow well-defined access and exit to site entrance points. The Masterplan sets out the routes.
Pedestrian(Walking Tracks)	At present there are a large number of people who walk (also with dogs) or run through CBEP. As the usage increases in CBEP and the surrounding population grows there is some advantage to formalising a path network so as to accommodate such activity without conflicting with other equestrian activity. Also it will aid internal pedestrian movement within the park when there are a number of coinciding equestrian activities and also connect to Onslow Park and facilities such as toilets. The only potential conflict of the walking track is with the cross-country course in quite a few locations and a major part of the walking track will need to be closed at this time. The walking track will allow a presence of a considerable number of people undertaking desirable activities and act as a deterrent to undesirable activities in this location.
Connectivity to Adjoining Land –town farm etc (including cycle track)	For maximum use of the park by as many people as possible, accessibility and visibility is important. This would include both pedestrian and bicycle access. The Camden Council Bicycle Plan designates a local route which connects Grasmere / Cawdor / Camden. It is proposed to travel along the Sheather Lane and Cawdor Road boundaries of Bicentennial Park. It then travels between Bicentennial Park and Onslow Park to connect to the Camden Town Farm and beyond to both Narellan and the existing Nepean Cycleway along the Nepean River. The proposed internal walking tracks as per the Masterplan will connect to the designated local bicycle route..
Disabled	There are legislative requirements for disabled access to facilities.
<b>LANDSCAPE</b>	
Landscape Character	Matahil Creek, its floodplain and remnant vegetation provide a dominant landscape feature on the west side of Camden Township and its preservation and enhancement are an important aspect of maintaining the ‘country town’ identity of Camden. The open park nature of Onslow Park with its open historic tree planting and large remnant Eucalypts also forms part of the ‘country town identity’. Both form part of the Camden green horseshoe belt including the adjoining Town Farm (previously Miss Davies farm), Kirkham Estate Winery and Rotary Cowpasture Reserve down to Kings Bush. There is potential to carry out further planting in Onslow Park but it should make reference to the existing significant stand of trees and heritage items. A landscape plan should be developed for Onslow Park as part of a Masterplan for Onslow Park and take into account the Conservation Management Plan for heritage items. In addition to planting in the riparian zone there is potential enhance the landscape character and at the same time improve the amenity of both CBEP and Onslow Parks by providing more shade for recreational users and spectators.

IMPACT AND ISSUES	CONSIDERATION
<b>GENERAL</b>	
<b>LANDSCAPE cont.</b>	
Views	The openness of both parks allows views to and from Camden Town Centre across the floodplain. There are views from the parks to the Razorback Range to the south and rolling hills to the west marked by a historic home. Importantly there are vistas within the park to features such as the AH & I Institute Hall adjoining Onslow Park. Maintaining current views and creation of vistas will enhance the park. Development of a detailed landscape plan that protects sensitive areas while creating and enhancing views should be developed.
Community Art / Site Identity	While both parks are within close proximity to Camden Town Centre apart from landscape character there is no contemporary identification of this relationship. Development of community art in a sensitive manner would identify this relationship and also allow the identity of Bicentennial Park as a regional and state equestrian centre to be cemented. Also while Onslow Park has a strong site identity with its heritage gates, this is lacking at Bicentennial Park. Development of entry treatments at Cawdor Road, Exeter Street and Sheathers Lane as per the Masterplan for CBEP should enhance the identity of CBEP.
<b>HERITAGE</b>	
Heritage Townscape	Onslow Park forms an important part of the heritage townscape of Camden and contains important items such as the heritage gates, watering trough, fountain, rotunda, significant stand of trees. CBEP has been grazing land since its origins as a land grant of land to John Macarthur in 1805. Preserving these heritage items and aspects are in the important consideration in the future development and enhancement of Bicentennial and Onslow Parks.
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	
Awareness, Education, Involvement	Raising community awareness of the scenic value of the park and of the recreational value of the park. There is also an opportunity for education about our natural environment including wetlands, remnant vegetation, and riparian issues. There is potential for the development of a Bushcare group to undertake the enhancement of the riparian zone.
<b>OTHER</b>	
Companion Animals	People walk their dogs in CBEP and Onslow Park and their numbers will be increasing as Camden develops. Due to the large number of recreational activities at both CBEP and Onslow Parks all dogs need to be managed at all times and excluded from designated areas when there potential with recreational activities such as equestrian events. A Companion Animal Management Plan should be prepared for both parks with the possibility of a leash free area being put to the 355 Committee and the general community. Facilities for depositing faeces should be installed to prevent potential pollution of the park and creek.

IMPACT AND ISSUES	CONSIDERATION
<b>GENERAL</b>	
<b>OTHER cont.</b>	
Leases, Licenses and other	The leasing, licensing or granting of any estate over the parks, and any buildings / facilities on these parks, categorised as sportsground, for any community purpose as determined by Council should be consistent with the core objectives of the Local Government Act (see Appendix 1). The lease for the Swimming Pool is currently under review and the Bowling Club lease is currently being negotiated with Camden Sporting Clubs and is subject to a new survey for ne lot boundaries.
Funding & Financial Sustainability	<p>Council - In respect of the equestrian facility, Council resolved that a business plan be furnished establishing the level of usage of the equestrian centre and funds generated by its usage. This would include park user groups. Grants – Council currently has a grant under the Sustainable Regions Programme (Australian Commonwealth Government initiative) to develop facilities for CBEP that provides a viable and sustainable equestrian facility. The initial outcome is to build a clubhouse with further applications to focus on facilities such as stable complex and bridges. There are number of grant which are focused on a range of outcomes from restoration and enhancement of natural assets to development of recreational facilities and Council should undertake to submit applications for relevant grants.</p> <p>Sponsorship – Council in 2003 had sponsorship from Illum-a-lite to plant 5000 trees and shrubs in the riparian zone of Matahil Creek. There is the potential to obtain further sponsorship not only for environmental works but for recreational facilities and events.</p>
Community Management Committee	An issue of public land management at local government level is the need to ensure management roles are clear and open. The CBEP Community Management Committee under Section 355 of the Local Government Act has been delegated the care, control and management of CBEP. It has defined delegated management responsibilities and limitations of powers. To date it has combined with Council to provide a range of facilities including construction of the Rodeo and Camp Drafting facility. To ensure the Council has an ongoing productive relationship with the community of Camden in the development and operation of the CBEP it is important the Section 355 committee continue in its current role.





## **8 MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS**

Management strategies allow Council guidance in making management decisions, both in implementation and reviewing the provisions. Strategic considerations include:

- Catchment and Water Quality,
- Biodiversity, Vegetation Management and Habitat
- Landscape and Heritage
- Recreation
- Facilities and Operations
- Access / Traffic
- Community Awareness /Involvement
- Management / Maintenance
- Monitoring / Reporting
- Funding / Financial Sustainability, leases, Licences & Other.

Within each strategic area, there is a broad aim supported by objectives and associated actions. The outcomes expected from the range of actions have attached performance criteria or measures to allow monitoring, reporting and reviewing of the overall management process. The timeframe are determined as a priority rating set at High (H), Medium (M), or Low (L).

## 8.1 Catchment and Water Quality

**Aim: To mitigate and minimise impacts of stormwater on the terrestrial and aquatic environments, and manage potential stormwater impacts resulting from development and recreational activities**

Stormwater can impact on terrestrial and aquatic environment in respect of water quality and water flows. Development and recreational activities have the potential to impact on water quality and water flows. Various actions need to be put in place to mitigate or minimise these impacts.

Objective		Action	Performance Criteria	Priority
Manage Matahil Creek so as to protect biodiversity and ecological values of the instream environment particularly in relation to water quality and water flows.	1.1	Instigate the Camden Council Stormwater Management Plan Implementation Strategy as it applies to the Matahil Creek sub-catchment	Implementation of the Camden Council Stormwater Management Plan Implementation Strategy and all identified stakeholders involved.	M
	1.2	Undertake consultation with Sydney Water and investigate recycling of effluent from Camden STP.	Consultation and investigation undertaken. Deed of Agreement on recycling of effluent at CBEP and Onslow Park in place.	M
Protect, maintain and enhance existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and riparian zones.	1.3	Designate all Matahil Creek ,drainage lines and associated wetland as Natural Areas – Watercourse and Wetland respectively	All watercourses designated as Natural Areas – Watercourse and wetland as Natural Areas – Wetlands	H
	1.4	Ensure the Carex wetland retains its natural drainage function as a sub-surface wetland	Have not impeded the catchment of the wetland areas in respect of water flow.	H
	1.5	In cooperation with relevant State Department, comply with the Rivers and Foreshore Ac and related guidelines, particularly the controls on 40m buffer zones, including prohibition of the clearing of indigenous vegetation.	Buffer in place and protection of riparian areas including vegetation, no clearing of riparian vegetation.	H
	1.6	Rehabilitate stream banks to a natural state.	No bank erosion sites. Bank erosion repaired	M

Objective		Action	Performance Criteria	Priority
Ensure developments do not negatively impact on the water quality	1.7	Put in place a litter / sediment trap on the stormwater outlets draining into Matahil Creek (as per CBEP Masterplan) and establish a regular maintenance program,	Litter and sediment trap installed No deposition of litter or sediment in Matahil Creek or in drainage lines leading to the creek.	M
	1.8	Investigate feasibility of implementing water quality treatment WQCP at outlet from drain from Camden and upstream of Carex wetland	WQCP installed if considered feasible, and wetland performing required function	M
	1.9	Incorporate WSUD into the new developments within the parks,	All new developments to have WSUD principles incorporated	H
	1.10	Council to enforce stringent erosion and sediment control measures for all new development as part of the development consent process	Council undertakes periodic auditing of all sediment and erosion control measures as part of DA requirements.	H
Determine soil salinity and its potential impact on and offsite for development.	1.12	Test for salinity and map All development to be assessed for potential impact from salinity.	Level of salinity determined , potential impacts determined and ameliorated.	M
	1.13	As part of salinity amelioration undertake planting of trees in riparian zone to help lower water table as required	Trees in place and water table lowered.	M

## 8.2 Biodiversity, Vegetation Management and Habitat

**Aim: To conserve and enhance local biodiversity and habitat in the bushland, watercourse and wetland and to mitigate and minimise impacts**

Conserving and improving the condition of endangered and environmentally significant ecological communities is important, and needs best management practice, conservation processes and resources to ensure appropriate maintenance and enhancement of local biodiversity and habitat.

Objective		Action	Performance Criteria	Priority
To protect the ecologically endangered community Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest remnant	2.1	Adopt the NPWS recovery plan for the Cumberland Plain Endangered Ecologically Communities when finalised	Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest is protected and maintained.	M
	2.1	Prohibit clearing of SCRFF remnant	No local indigenous species removed in remnant SCRFF	H
	2.3	Retain the natural significance of the SCRFF by ensuring all conservation work (restoration or reinstatement) in the riparian zone are in accordance with the Australian Natural Heritage Charter (ANHC)	All conservation work in the riparian zone in accordance carried out in accordance with the ANHC.	M

Objective		Action	Performance Criteria	Priority
To restore the SCRFF	2.4	Prepare a Weed Management Plan (WMP) for noxious and environmental weed	WMP prepared in compliance with Plan Monitoring program in place and successfully operating	H
	2.5	Undertake weed removal and regeneration	Complete removal of Boxthorn, Privet, Blackberry and Briar Rose  And substantial implementation of the WMP program with regard to the eradication / suppression of other existing weed infestations  Local indigenous species increasing and weed species decreasing	H & M
To create and protect habitat corridor along the riparian zone of Matahil Creek	2.6	Revegetate the Matahil Creek riparian zone, including the rehabilitation of existing Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest remnant vegetation within the riparian areas and seek funding where available for revegetation works.	Seed collection, propagation and planting of local indigenous species undertaken. Upper mid and lower storeys of SCRFF created and maintained Increased habitat for wildlife , increased fauna visitation and habitation Grants applications made and relevant revegetation works undertaken.	L
	2.7	Install fences where there is recreational activity with potential for adverse impact on the riparian zone.	Riparian zone protected from recreation and general disturbances.	M

Objective		Action	Performance Criteria	Priority
To protect the biodiversity and ecological values of the Carex 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 through restoration and reinstatement works.	2.8	Install bollards and signage around the Carex wetland area to protect it and the users of the park.	No adverse impacts on the Carex wetland.	M
	2.9	Undertake feasibility study into the proposed Water Quality Control Ponds and their potential impacts on the hydrological function of the Carex wetlands	Feasibility study of WQCP undertaken, and the potential impacts on the Carex wetlands determined	M
	2.10	Retain the natural significance of the Carex Wetlands by ensuring all conservation work (restoration or reinstatement) in the riparian zone are in accordance with the Australian Natural Heritage Charter (ANHC)	All conservation work in the riparian zone in Carex Wetlands carried out in accordance with the ANHC.	M
	2.11	Prepare a Weed Management Plan (WMP) for noxious and environmental weed	WMP prepared in compliance with Plan Monitoring program in place and successfully operating	H
	2.12	Undertake weed removal and regeneration	Complete removal of Privet, Honey Locust, Blackberry and Briar Rose  And substantial implementation of the WMP program with regard to the eradication / suppression of other existing weed infestations  Local indigenous species increasing and weed species decreasing	H & M

Objective		Action	Performance Criteria	Priority
Enhance the habitat value of Matahil creek	2.13	Prepare a Stream Restoration Vegetation Management Plan	SRVMP prepared in compliance with the plan  Commence substantial implementation of the SRVMP as it applies ....	M
	2.14	Retain snags to increase macrophytes	Increased habitat for aquatic fauna, increased aquatic and terrestrial fauna visitation and habitation	M
.Protect the habitats from animal pests.	2.15	Introduce a pest animal control plan in coordination with the Rural Lands Protection Board, to prevent any increases in pest numbers that may affect the biodiversity  Liase with adjacent land managers to ensure effective and coordinated approach to the parks management	Adjoining land owners partaking in pest control program. Increased fauna biodiversity.	L
	2.16	Monitor Mosquitoes and Mosquito Fish – control if present	Monitoring program in place, if mosquitoes or mosquito fish present put in place an amelioration / eradication program.	L

### 8.3 Landscape and Heritage

**Aim: To conserve and enhance the important cultural heritage and scenic landscapes that characterise Camden Bicentennial Equestrian and Onslow Parks and their setting within Camden.**

There are important heritage items in Onslow Park and both parks have important scenic values which can be protected and enhanced through the development & implementation of appropriate Landscape Plan and Conservation Management Plan and their subsequent implementation.

Objective		Action	Performance Criteria	Priority
To improve the amenity of the recreation areas at both Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park and Onslow Park making reference to both the natural area and heritage requirements	3.1	Undertake landscaping plan that does not impact on adjacent natural areas.	Develop schedule with local indigenous species and exotic species that don't have the potential to become environmental weeds  Landscaping not impacting on adjoining natural areas.	M
	3.2	Landscape plan developed and landscaping undertaken.	Landscape providing adequate views and heritage design incorporated where appropriate.  Shade and feature trees planted in appropriate locations.	M
To ensure development in Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park maintains the rural nature of the locality and has a continuity of style and vernacular	3.3	Adopt a code for the style of building as historic rural vernacular as per the CBEP Masterplan.	All buildings constructed at CBEP are in a historic rural vernacular style.	H



Objective		Action	Performance Criteria	Priority
To enhance the identity of Onslow and Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Parks at both a local and regional level.	3.4	As part of the Landscape Plan define the development of community art that allows the identity of CBEP to be highlighted, and defines the relationship between CBEP and Onslow Parks and Camden.	Community art defined in the Landscape Plan.	H
	3.5	Develop entry treatments to Bicentennial Park at Cawdor Road, Exeter Street and Sheathers Lane as per the Masterplan for Bicentennial Park	Entry treatments developed as per the Masterplan for CBEP	L
To protect the scenic values of both parks	3.6	Maintain identified views through assessment at Development Application stage for new development	Identified views from parks to Camden Town (in particular St Johns Church spire), Razorback Range and rolling hills to the west (including historic house) maintained	H
	3.7	Ensure within the Landscape Plan there are view lines to heritage items from the town of Camden in the landscape plan.	Heritage criteria incorporated into the landscape plan for visibility and appreciation. Heritage items are visible when the Landscape Plan is implemented.	H

Objective		Action	Performance Criteria	Priority
To enhance the qualities that characterize Camden and preserve the heritage items in Onslow Park that show Camden's past.	3.8	Develop a Conservation Management Plan Ensure all restoration and maintenance are done using heritage methods, standards and style.	CMP completed  The maintenance and restoration of heritage items in compliance with heritage requirements.	M
	3.9	All new development in Onslow Park are to make reference to heritage items in Onslow Park and assessed in accordance with the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance ((the Burra Charter)	Heritage items are conserved and .new development assessed in accordance with the Burra Charter.	H
	3.10	Maintain the original plantings around the ovals and trees of heritage significance.	Original plantings retained	H
	3.11	Develop and execute a landscape plan that retains original plantings, replacement of diseased trees and makes reference to the CMP for Onslow Park	Landscape plan developed and executed  Diseased trees replaced.	M

## 8.4 Recreation

**Aim: Encourage, promote and facilitate a range of recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games and also which are compatible with the natural values of the area.**

Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park to function as a viable equestrian centre must have a range of recreational activities and associated facilities provided. To ensure recreational activities at Onslow Park operate efficiently the recommendations of the Recreation Strategy should be taken into account. Recreational activity should also be compatible with the natural values of the area.

Objective		Action	Performance Criteria	Priority
Ensure CBEP will be used primarily for equestrian activities and developed to a defined level	4.1	Build new equestrian facilities as per the CBEP Masterplan	Principally equestrian activities being undertaken at CBEP	H,M,L
Promote a range of recreational activities at Onslow Park, organised informal, sustainable and provided in an efficient and coordinated manner.	4.2	Incorporate the recommendations of the Recreation Strategy in respect of Onslow park	Onslow Park recreational activities managed without conflict Skateboard ramp removed from Onslow Park upon construction of skateboard ramp at Kirkham Park	M
To facilitate public use and enjoyment of CBEP and Onslow Park which is compatible with the conservation and protection of the Natural Areas (Watercourse and Wetland)	4.3	All recreational/sporting activities and developments are managed to not damage the Natural Areas.	No damaging developments or activities on Natural Areas category areas.	H
Provide separate access for equestrian and pedestrians to ensure there is no conflict between the two.	4.4	Put in self-closing gates or bollards in the pedestrian access. Install clearly marked walking paths	Self-closing gates or bollards in place Clearly marked walking paths in place	M

## 8.5 Facilities and Operations

**Aim: Promote the management of land in a particular manner that protects and enhances the values and qualities of the land and Matahil Creek, and to implement measures directed at sustainable practices which minimise or mitigate any disturbance caused by human and recreation activities.**

There are potential direct and indirect impacts from the facilities and operations onsite to the existing recreational areas and natural areas and offsite to nearby residences. It is important to manage and mitigate these impacts as they arise and to ensure that activities do not impact on the amenity of the area and are compatible with conservation and protection of the area.

Objective		Action	Performance Criteria	Priority
Ensure all operations and facilities are undertaken in an efficient and sustainable manner	5.1	Develop an Operations Plan in relation to the operation and maintenance of the parks, monitor and review periodically	Operations Plan in place, undertaken and reviewed annually as a budget consideration.	H
	5.2	Develop and install an irrigation system at both CBEP and Onslow Parks which incorporates water conservation and effluent reuse	Irrigation system installed, water use reduced and effluent reuse undertaken as part of irrigation practices.  Provide Irrigation system for the ovals in Onslow Park to allow more intensive use and CBEP for provision of a safe surface for horse events.	M & L
	5.3	Develop facilities and undertake activities at CBEP as per the CBEP Masterplan and at Onslow park as per the Recreational Strategy, proposed Conservation Management Plan and Masterplan..	Facilities meeting the capacity of activities able to be accommodated on site.	H& M

Objective		Action	Performance Criteria	Priority
Ensure all operations, activities and facilities are not adversely impacting on the aquatic and terrestrial environment, and surrounding residents	5.4	Develop environmental management criteria for the Operations Plan at both CBEPI and Onslow Parks and review periodically	All operations and maintenance meeting designated environmental management criteria and reviewed annually	H
	5.5	Maintain all sewerage connections and facilities to prevent leaks and contamination into the creek and thus the Nepean River.	- All connections and facilities regularly checked and no sewerage leaks occurring	H
	5.6	- Provide more litter receptacles with appropriate lids. - Undertake rubbish removal on 'Clean Up Australia' day' - Install signage advising no dumping	Reduced litter quantities in recreation areas and Matahil Creek. Clean up Australia day activity undertake Signage installed	M
	5.7	Arrange horse faeces to be picked up within a reasonable time period after events	-Horse and cattle faeces picked up from site within 5 working days of the event. - Contaminants and excess nutrients from horse faeces not entering Matahil Creek, drains or wetland..	H
	5.8	Undertake the washing of horses on-site so that nutrients are released onto open grassed areas / constructed sub-surface wetlands, r off-site such as a mobile horse wash.	Nutrients from horse washing not entering Matahil Creek, drains or wetlands..	M

Objective		Action	Performance Criteria	Priority
Ensure all operations, activities and facilities are not adversely impacting on the aquatic and terrestrial environment, and surrounding residents <i>cont.</i>	5.9	Construct culverts and bridges as per the guidelines of the Fisheries Act	Culverts and bridges not impinging the passage of fish and macro-invertebrates in Matahil Creek	H
	5.10	Ensure noise produced from events is within noise pollution standards. Plan large events and the appropriate placement of equipment such as PA systems	Noise is within noise pollution standards	H,M, &L
	5.11	Manage inappropriate use of both parks through signage detailing unlawful use and provision of bollards and fencing to prevent vehicular, recreational intrusion in sensitive or inappropriate areas	Signage in place, bollards / fencing in place as per the Bicentennial Masterplan.	M
	5.12	A Companion Animal Management Plan should be prepared for both parks and consultation with the 355 committee and .the general community.	A Companion Animal Management Plan is prepared for both parks  Consultation with the 355 committee and general community undertaken  Signage on the requirements of companion animals provided in both parks  All dogs excluded from designated areas when there is potential conflict with recreational activities such as equestrian events.	L
	5.13	Facilities for depositing faeces are to be installed to prevent potential pollution of the park and creek.	Facilities in place	M

## 8.6 Access / Traffic

**Aim: To provide appropriate and adequate access to all facilities and activities and manage traffic and parking both on and off site to allow efficient operation of both parks with no adverse impacts on surrounding areas.**

The development of Bicentennial Park into a regional equestrian park will mean an increase in traffic and parking. The development of adequate access, provision of adequate on-site parking and management of traffic will ensure both efficient on-site operations and no adverse impacts to the surrounding areas.

Objective		Action	Performance Criteria	Priority
Manage access so as to have no adverse impact on nearby residences	6.1	Five vehicular access points developed as per the CBEP Masterplan.	Five vehicular access points developed. Traffic disruptions to surrounding areas minimised.  No conflict in site use, parking or access..	M
	6.2	A traffic management plan is to be developed for large events	Traffic management plan in place for large events  Traffic being managed on the day of event.	H
Provide adequate, safe and convenient parking for visitors to the parks events, including horse trailers and floats.	6.3	Provide parking facilities as per the CBEP Masterplan	CBEP and Onslow Park with adequate car parking for events	M

Objective		Action	Performance Criteria	Priority
Provide desirable access points, recreational access, pathways and internal and external linkages for both pedestrians and equine users and spectators.	6.4	Provide pedestrian access to and through Bicentennial Park as per the CBEP Masterplan, i.e. near the watercourse and wetland areas to increase visibility and ownership, plus linkages Camden township and the proposed City Farm.	Walking tracks designed and built, and meeting the requirements of the 40 metre riparian buffer.	M & L
	6.5	Bike track linking Grasmere to Camden township provided	Bike track designed and built	L
Provide disabled access to all recreation activities, both participating and spectator	6.6	.Install disabled access to all recreational facilities, grandstand seating and to toilets	Disabled access to all recreational facilities, grandstand seating and to toilets installed.	M
Maintain access for emergency helicopter	6.7	Helicopter landing and launching area at Onslow Park retained	Emergency helicopters able to land at Onslow Park at any time.	H



## 8.7 Community Awareness / Involvement

**Aim: To develop community awareness and promote and facilitate community contribution in the parks operation.**

A program to develop community awareness of both the recreational and ecological importance of the parks will ensure greater community ownership of the parks and appropriate participation in operations.

Objective		Action	Performance Criteria	Priority
Develop community awareness and a sense of ownership of the two parks	7.1	Inform the community of the areas recreational and ecological importance.  Erect signs at entrances of the park of the environmental features, recreational assets and activities.	4 entrance signs installed  A2 lectern style interpretive signs installed at wetlands, remnant vegetation, and watercourse – 5 in total.	L
	7.2	Develop and undertake publicity / promotional program to increase the awareness of the community in relation to SCRFF, Carex wetlands and Matahil Creek	Information in the environmental column in local paper, mayoral column, supply of conservation packs,  Engagement in the NPWS community involvement program for Cumberland Plain EECs when in place	L
Develop and implement an Environmental Educational Program	7.3	Develop an educational signage program aimed at community awareness of site and catchment related issues.	Signs in place	L
	7.4	Produce educational materials for local schools.  Design and distribute the educational material.	Distributions of brochure and materials to all local schools. Website up and running with educational material, facts and information.	L
Encourage and facilitate public participation	7.5	Develop and resource local Bushcare group	Number of volunteers involved and work undertaken	M

## 8.8 Management / Maintenance

**Aim: To ensure all assets and facilities are managed and maintained to an appropriate standard to provide both sustainable assets and facilities and a safe environment**

A program to define maintenance requirements of natural assets and recreational facilities will allow an appropriate maintenance regime to be developed and implemented to ensure sustainable assets and facilities. A safe environment likewise can be achieved appropriate risk assessment and resultant risk aversion or risk minimisation measures put in place.

Objective		Action	Performance Criteria	Priority
Ensure adequate maintenance is carried out on Councils recreational facilities, natural assets and water quality control facilities.	8.1	Prepare maintenance mapping in respect of riparian zone, wetlands, litter / sediment traps, water quality control pond, recreational facilities and associated data collection	Mapping and associated data prepared	M
	8.2	Implement maintenance regime and allocate responsibility, funds and equipment required for maintenance as per a maintenance manual	Regular maintenance and inspection regime in place	H & M
To ensure the Council has an ongoing productive relationship with the community in the development and operation of the CBEP	8.3	Allow the Section 355 full management committee for CBEP to continue in its current role.	The Section 355` committee operating effectively	H
To provide a safe environment for users of the parks	8.4	Undertake public risk assessment for all facilities, activities and operations, develop an appropriate risk management plan for risk aversion or risk minimisation measures and review annually.	Public risk assessment undertaken, risk management plan in place. The above assessment reviewed annually. Injuries resulting from public risk at a reasonable level .	H

## 8.9 Monitoring / Reporting

**Aim: Develop a better understanding of the site and delivering of outcomes through appropriate monitoring and reporting.**

Objective		Action	Performance Criteria	Priority
Develop a better scientific understanding of Matahil Creek, the riparian zone, remnant vegetation (including SCRFF and the Carex wetlands) and flora and fauna	9.1	Establish and maintain a regular water quality and macro-invertebrate monitoring program in Matahil Creek.	Regular water bugs surveys and water quality testing established. Schools involved in program	M & L
	9.2	If water quality is lower than the ANZECC guidelines, identify 'hot spots' of pollutants entering Matahil creek and programs to combat these.	Algal blooms reduced at Sharpes Weir.	M
	9.3	Monitor the return of flora and fauna species and viability of populations by undertaking periodic seasonal flora and fauna surveys at Bicentennial Park and monitor revegetation	Flora and fauna records collected on database and analysed.	L
	9.4	Supplement Council's Biodiversity inventory and incorporate the information in its GIS system	Compliance with the plan	L
	9.5	Evaluate work programs	Work records kept, Information recorded on GIS associated database, s/sheets	M
	9.6	Evaluate future impacts, monitor disturbed areas and ongoing regeneration	Information recorded	M
Ensure clear accountability and responsibility for the effective achievement of outcomes identified in the POM	9.7	Develop a monitoring and reporting system that includes identification and collection of baseline data to report on the success of the POM	All reported targets / performance measures in SOE	H & M

## 8.10 Funding / Financial Sustainability, Leases, Licenses and other

**Aim: To ensure the parks are financially secure and sustainable, and leases / licences on the site are appropriate to the values of the land and meet the core objectives of the Local Government Act.**

Parks which are financially secure and sustainable will be achieved through a business plan and various funding opportunities such as grants and an identified capital works program. Leases / licences on the land need to be issued in the best interests of the community.

Objective		Action	Performance Criteria	Priority
Develop and operate a largely self-funding facility in particular at Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park	10.1	Develop and implement a business & marketing plan establishing the level of usage of the equestrian centre and funds generated by its usage.	<p>Sponsorship for recreational facilities and events sought and in place</p> <p>Entrepreneurial activities identified and undertaken</p> <p>Events undertaken at both parks which return a profit</p> <p>Overnight / stopovers at CBEP occurring.</p> <p>Identify and finalise appropriate fees and charges</p>	H

Objective		Action	Performance Criteria	Priority
Upgrade facilities when funds are available and plan progressive improvement of recreational quality	10.2	Undertake applications for grants	Applications for grants made.	H & M
	10.3	Council to provide support for community based applications for rehabilitation of riparian zone and wetlands.	Increased success rate for community based applications	M
	10.4	Develop and implement a capital works program which includes utilising identified Sec94 funds	Ongoing capital works program for both parks in place	H & M
Ensure leases and license and other estates over community land are in the best interests of the community as a whole, and ensure that such agreements enable, wherever possible, shared use of community land.	10.5	Authorise the leasing, licensing or granting of any estate over the parks, and any buildings / facilities on these parks, categorized as sportsground , for any community purpose as determined by Council, provided these are consistent with the core objectives of the Local Government Act, (see Apendix 1).	Leases issued for Camden Swimming Pools and Camden Bowling Club and associated grounds identified on Map 6 – Implementation Map.  Other than mobile phone facilities, no leases and licences issued on the area of the parks categorized natural areas, except as detailed in section 47B of the Local Government Act (including walkways, pathways, bridges, causeways, observation platforms and signs)	H & M



## **9 IMPLEMENTATION / MASTERPLAN**

The implementation of the Plan of Management for Onslow Park and Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park is conceptually shown on Map6 – Implementation Map. The map conceptualises the actions and performance criteria that are site based and set out in Section 8 Management Strategies and Actions. Further detail is provided in the Masterplan that has been prepared for Bicentennial Park and is covered in detail in Section 9.2. A Landscape Plan of Management has been prepared as a supplement to the main Plan of Management.

### **9.1 Onslow Park**

Detailed implementation requirements for Camden Bowling Club and Camden Swimming Pool are as per the leases determined for those facilities. In respect of the remainder of Onslow Park there is a broad conceptual Masterplan (Page 74) with the detailed site recreation requirements to be determined by the relevant recreation set out in the Camden Recreation Strategy.

Further site requirements need to be determined in greater detail by a Conservation Management Plan that preserves the heritage items and their settings in Onslow Park. The Landscape Plan of Management sets out landscape requirements reflecting the heritage requirements, retention of identified view corridors and to integrate with the surrounding landscape.

### **9.2 Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park**

The implementation of the Plan of Management for Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park (CBEP) as per Map 6 (Page 73) is conceptualised into zones as per the land categories. For natural areas; within the watercourse / riparian zone, in principal there is remnant regeneration, revegetation with provision for a walking track. ; within the wetland zone there is proposed a water quality control pond and wetland rehabilitation.

The proposals for the remainder of CBEP are set out in detail in the Masterplan (Page 75) with some amendments (Page 76) as per Councils' resolution of 26 April 2005. The Landscape Plan of Management sets out a range of landscape principles for CBEP, but particularly relevant are;

- Visual integration of the surrounding landscapes
- Amenity planting,
- Retention if identified view corridors,
- Habitat provision and wildlife corridors,
- Retention and enhancement of remnant vegetation and ecosystems,
- Recreation of 'natural' riparian corridors.

The Masterplan for CBEP has been prepared by Timothy Court and Company Architects. It has been prepared taking into account

comprehensive consultation with Section 355 Committee members (both Equine Users, Non Equine User), and Council Officers.

The following information is a summary of both the proposed Equestrian Field facilities / activities and site planning concepts

### **9.11 Equestrian Field Facilities / Activities**

Camp Drafting – is comprised of 1400 square metre arenas, 1400 square metre stock paddocks, up to 2500 spectators and generation up to 400 floats / trucks used by competitors. It is proposed the camp drafting be retained in its existing location just off Sheathers Lane, allowing ease of access from Sheathers Lane. It also allows simultaneous use of Bicentennial Park Equestrian Centre.

Polocrosse facilities – incorporates 5 fields which are placed in the middle south area, in a modified layout to the existing field placement. An additional 9 fields are proposed as ‘one-offs’ in other parts of CBEP and the showground area of Onslow Park for the Australian Nationals and possibly the World Polocrosse championships in 2007.

Dressage – the Masterplan places the dressage facilities in the northern zone, in a similar location to the existing use. It consists of 8 arenas, 1 warm up area, with competitors generating up to 200 floats / trucks.

Pony Club Grounds – have not been included in the Masterplan as there is not available location for them in the CBEP, based on projected usage and potential conflict with other users. It is proposed Council investigate other land options, preferably adjacent to CBEP to ensure there was a close relationship between equestrian facilities in Camden.

Showjumping – are proposed in the prime location in conjunction with the proposed Multi-use Arena. It is comprised of two arenas in a total area comprising 90 metres X 90 metres.

Eventing – requires 3 distinctive areas; Dressage arenas, Showjumping arenas and Cross Country Course. Dressage and showjumping can be provided in the above described facilities. Cross country has been designed by Camden Horse Trials and is principally in its existing location with the proposed course redesigned to make better use of the land and withdraw from areas of conflict such as camp drafting parking area. A new bridge crossing is proposed so no areas of fill or abutment are required.

Carriage Driving – while not presently on the site it is proposed that the polocrosse fields be used as dressage arenas for carriage driving and the showjumping arenas be used for the precision driving areas. Additionally it is recommended that a mown verge adjacent to the cross country course be utilised as part of the course along with the rest of CPEP and linkage to private land.

Show Society Use – The Masterplan recommends that the Show Society re-evaluate its CBEP use to make better use of the proposed infrastructure and facilities.



**Insert Map 6**

**Insert Onslow Park Masterplan**

**Insert CBEP Masterplan as adopted by Camden Council on 22 November  
2004**

**Insert CBEP Masterplan – recommended amendments as per Council resolution of 26 April 2005**

Multi Use Arena – is expected to get the predominant use of any arena on the site, used by most equine disciplines as well as other non equestrian one off uses such as dog shows. It will be the central spectator focus for the park and is therefore centrally located. It has also been the basis of a successful grant received by Camden Council. It occupies an area 90 metres X 140 metres.

## **9.12 Site Planning Concepts**

Site Access - The following access points are proposed in the Masterplan  
Entry 1, Cawdor Road – Main Entrance -  
Entry 2, Cawdor Road – Showground entry – initial stage primary entry point to the site  
Entry 3, Sheathers Lane – enables two distinct zones to be established, with events able to be staged with no conflict in site use, parking or access.  
Entry 4, Exeter Street – secondary access to be used only in large events or in special circumstances  
Entry 5, Ferguson Lane – minor access to existing buildings on the leased land only.

Pedestrian Access - Throughout the site via a network of gravel pathways that follow banks of Matahil Creek – allow pedestrian and community use of the park, plus for equine users and spectators for access to equestrian activities. Also link a number of picnic areas.

Creek Crossings - Crossings 1 to 4 are existing crossings with 3 and 4 being existing bridges with an additional pedestrian crossing to be constructed on the side to avoid horse traffic utilising the main part of the bridge. Crossing 1 (culvert) has steep approaches, which is inappropriate for horses and is proposed to be increased in height for use by heavy vehicles.  
Crossings 5 to 7 are bridges, with Crossing 5 being multi-purpose for both horses and pedestrians, Crossing 6 for pedestrians using the walkway and Crossing 7 to be used primarily for cross country.

Built Structures – it is proposed to minimise the number of buildings to keep the site rural in nature and visually scenic from the adjacent Cawdor Road. Additionally it is proposed to have a continuity of style and vernacular across the buildings proposed for the park.  
Style of buildings to be of a historic rural vernacular.  
Construction should be slab on ground.  
Bulk and Scale should not exceed that of the existing camp draft open pavillion.  
Materials shall include galvanised or zincalume corrugated metal roofs and walls that are either or a combination of the following; galvanised or zincalume corrugated metal sheeting in a custom-orb profile, rough sawn timber used either vertically (board and batten) or horizontally (weatherboard) and stain or natural finish.

Existing Buildings – There are a number of existing buildings which are proposed to be retained, replaced or refurbished.:

Camp Draft Open pavilion is to be retained, and of appropriate style.

Camp Draft Arena, is in a state of repair, needs to be reconstructed and of to camp draft standards.

Onslow Park Showground Toilets that recently have been refurbished are recommended for use by CBEP users.

Proposed Built Structures – There are a number of structures proposed including:

Club House to the north of the proposed multi use area. It will be elevated because of floods and have elevated views across the site

Camp Draft / Polocrosse Canteen / Refreshments buildings, Camp Draft / Polocrosse Toilets, Horse Yards

Camping and Parking – vehicle access is limited to the site peripheries, with parking / camping restricted to two main areas. One is to the south of the site, associated with the camp drafting area and one was proposed in the Masterplan (adopted 22 November 2004) to the east of the site adjacent to the multi use arena. Both have a grass surface with limited shade trees. 142 spaces are allocated at the southern parking zone and an additional 80 spaces at the Polocrosse. 235 spaces were proposed at the eastern parking zone, but these have been deleted through Councils adoption (April 26, 2004) of amending the Masterplan as per the Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park Section 355 Committee resolution of 13 April 2005. This amendment removed the connecting access road to Onslow Park and was replaced by an internal road within Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park (CBEP) providing access from Cawdor Road to the northern part of CBEP.

Wetland and Water Quality – The Masterplan proposes a system of water quality improvement to ensure that the water being released into the eastern tributary of Matahil Creek is clean as possible. The proposed system is as follows:

The existing open drainage line and swale to the south west of the tennis courts are to be filled and the water diverted via sumps and subsoil drains to newly created water quality control pond (WQCP).

The existing drainage lines that come onto the site under Cawdor Road are also diverted to the WQCPs

Rubbish traps are constructed at the outfalls of the drainage lines to collect refuse from the stormwater prior to its release in to the WQCPs.

A system of macrophyte planting in the WQCPs collects excessive nutrient loads from the stormwater as it enters the WQCPs

The stormwater is then dispersed into the existing Carex wetlands.

The WQCPs act as moderators of flow to reduce the flow through the Carex wetlands in storm events, and ensure a flow through dry periods.

A berm is constructed around the low side of the existing Carex wetlands to capture the sheet flow of water out of the wetlands, ensuring the all weather viability of the adjacent cross country course.

A series of pipes beneath the cross country disperse the water draining from the wetlands into the eastern tributary of Matahil Creek evenly over a 350 metre section of the creek.

This proposal is subject further discussion as part of the Draft Plan of Management exhibition process and public hearing.

A series of WQCPs (with macrophyte planting) and grass swales are proposed in the south western corner to capture runoff from the cattle paddocks prior to its release into the western tributary of Matahil Creek.

Landscaping – A comprehensive Landscape Plan has been prepared to provide avenue planting, shade tree planting to all yard areas, feature planting across the site and rehabilitation planting in the riparian zones.

Site Containment – The CBEP is conveniently divided into zones by the creek lines that traverse it. It is proposed to construct post and single rail fencing at the eastern grass parking area, southern grass parking area and polocrosse parking areas to separate horses from vehicles and the adjoining Sheathers Lane and Onslow Park. Additionally as there is considerable boundary distance, and horse and rider safety is of utmost importance, it is recommended there be rewiring of existing fencing and 2 metre chainwire fencing where human exclusion is required.

Services / Infrastructure – The minimisation of the number and spread of buildings across the site reflects the need to limit the length of proposed new services required. It is recommended in respect of:

Multi use Arena Clubhouse, that all provision of services be installed underground. While electricity is available, communication and water services will need to be installed.

Toilet upgrade at Camp Draft precinct – Engineering investigations need to be carried out to determine the best method of sewer management above the existing pump out system.

Serviced Camp sites – are conveniently located close to existing services to allow provision of power and water services

Site lighting , The eastern parking area, multi use arena and camp draft arena require lighting for security and night use.

Recreational riding – may prove to be the most popular aspect of park use. However given the safety concerns of the jumps on the cross country course and the limitation to safety checks outside organised events, it is recommended that recreational riders not be allowed to use the jumps.





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## **APPENDICES**

### **Appendix 1**

Core objectives extracted from the Local Government Act 1993 - Sect 36.

#### **Core objectives for management of community land categorised as a sportsground**

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a sportsground are:

- (a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and
- (b) to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.

#### **Core objectives for management of community land categorised as a natural area**

- a) 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 as a natural area, and
- (b) to maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting, and
- (c) to provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land, and
- (d) 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
- (e) to assist in and facilitate the implementation 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 [Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995](#) or the [Fisheries Management Act 1994](#) .

#### **Core objectives for management of community land categorised as a watercourse**

- (a) to manage watercourses so as to protect the biodiversity and ecological values of the instream environment, particularly in relation to water quality and water flows, and
- (b) to manage watercourses so as to protect the riparian environment, particularly in relation to riparian vegetation and habitats and bank stability, and
- (c) to restore degraded watercourses, and

(d) to promote community education, and community access to and use of the watercourse, without compromising the other core objectives of the category.

**Core objectives for management of community land categorised as wetland**

a) 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

(b) to restore and regenerate degraded wetlands, and

(c) to facilitate community education in relation to wetlands, and the community use of wetlands, without compromising the ecological values of wetlands.

## Appendix 2

Table A: Guidelines for Land Categorisation  
*Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998*  
 and applicability to Bicentennial Park and Onslow Park.

Community Land Category	Guidelines for Land Categorisation Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998	Applicable to Land Parcels	
		Bicentennial Park	Onslow Park
Natural Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The land (whether in an undisturbed state or not) 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.</li> </ul>	4	
Natural Area (Bushland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The land contains native vegetation which is:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the natural vegetation (or a remainder of it) of the land; or</li> <li>b) although not the natural vegetation of the land, is still representative structure of floristics of the natural vegetation in the locality</li> </ul> </li> <li>Such land includes:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) bushland that is mostly undisturbed with a good mix of tree ages, and natural regeneration, where the understorey is comprised of native grasses and herbs or native shrubs, and which contains a range of native habitats for native fauna (such as logs, shrubs, tree hollows and leaf litter); or</li> <li>b) moderately disturbed bushland with some regeneration of trees and shrubs, where there may be a regrowth area with trees of even ages, where native shrubs and grasses are present, in the understorey even though there may be some weed invasion; or.</li> <li>c) Highly disturbed bushland where the native understorey has been removed, where there may be some weed invasion and where dead and dying trees are present, where there is no natural regeneration of trees and shrubs but where the land is still capable of being rehabilitated</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
		4	
		4	
Natural Area (Watercourse)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the land includes:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) any stream of water, whether perennial or intermittent, flowing in a</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	4	

	natural channel, or in a natural channel that has been artificially improved, or in an artificial channel that has changed the course of the stream of water, and any other stream of water into or from which the stream of water flows, and		
	b) associated riparian land or vegetation, including land that is protected land for the purposes of the Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act 1948 or State protected land identified in an order under section 7 of the Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997.	4	
Natural Area (Wetland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The land includes marshes, mangroves, backwaters, billabongs, swamps, sedgelands, wet meadows or wet heathlands that form a waterbody that is inundated cyclically, intermittently or permanently with fresh, brackish or salt water, whether slow moving or stationary</li> </ul>	4	
Sportsground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The land is used or proposed to be used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games</li> </ul>	4	4

## Appendix 3

### Assessment of Condition of Urban Bushland

<p><b>Very Poor</b></p> <p>&gt; 80% weed biomass</p>	<p>Areas where bushland has been completely replaced by exotic plant species.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Bushland where only mature specimens of the dominant highest stratum of the pre-urban plant community remain and seedling and/or saplings of those dominants are absent due to the infestation of the understorey by exotics or by invading native species.</p>
<p><b>Poor</b></p> <p>40-80% weed biomass</p>	<p>Areas where bushland is severely infested by exotics and/or invading native species.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Where the regeneration of the dominant species of the plant community is being significantly suppressed (has poor resilience and one of the levels has most probably gone).</p>
<p><b>Fair</b></p> <p>10-40% weed biomass</p>	<p>Areas of bushland with minor infestations of exotics and/or invading native species (has good resilience and regeneration is happening).</p>
<p><b>Good</b></p> <p>&lt;10% weed biomass</p>	<p>Areas of bushland virtually free of exotic plants where the native communities display the structure and species composition and diversity typical of those communities in non-urban situations.</p>
<p><b>Intermediate</b></p>	<p>Areas of bushland undergoing the process of regeneration of the native community after weed removal.</p> <p>Hatched over the colour of the bushland condition at the time of weed removal.</p>

As per National Trust categories for Bushland Condition.

## Appendix 4

### Camden Weed and Indigenous Species List

- 1 – Remnant vegetation
- 2 – Creek vegetation
- 3 – Carex wetlands
- c – Common species

Weed Species List						
Genus	Species	Family	Common Name	1	2	3
Lycium	ferocissimum	SOLANACEAE	African Boxthorn	4 c		
Olea	europaea subsp. Africana	OLEACEAE	African Olive	4		
Rubus	fruticosus	ROSACEAE	Blackberry		4	4
Rosa	rubiginosa	ROSACEAE	Briar Rose	4		4
Hypochaeris	radicata	ASTERACEAE	Catsear	4		
Axonopus	affinis	POACEAE	Carpet Grass	4		4
Sonchus	oleraceus	ASTERACEAE	Common Thowthistle	4		
Cynodon	dactylon	POACEAE	Couch, Bermuda grass	4		
Rumex	crispus	POLYGONACEAE	Curled Dock	4 c	4	4
Taraxacum	officinale	ASTERACEAE	Dandelion			4
Senecio	sp.	ASTERACEAE	Fireweed			4
Gleditsia	triacanthos	CAESALPINIOIDEAE	Honey Locust			4
Plantago	lanceolata	PLANTAGINACEAE	Lamb's Tongues	4		
Ligustrum	lucidum	OLEACEAE	Large-leaved Privet			4
Avena	sativa	POACEAE	Oats	4		4
Paspalum	dilatatum	POACEAE	Paspalum			4c
Schinus	areira		Peppercorn	4		
Verbena	bonariensis	VERBENACEAE	Purpletop			4
Vulpia	myuros	POACEAE	Rats-tail Fescue			4
Lolium	rigidum	POACEAE	Ryegrass			4
Onopordum	acanthium	ASTERACEAE	Scotch Thistle	4	4	
Ligustrum	sinense	OLEACEAE	Small-leaved privet			4
Malva	parvifolia	MALVACEAE	Small-flowered Mallow	4		
Cirsium	vulgare	ASTERACEAE	Spear Thistle	4	4	4
Juncus	acutus	JUNCACEAE	Spiny Rush	4	4 c	
Silybum	marianum	ASTERACEAE	Variegated Thistle	4	4	
Andropogon	virginicus	POACEAE	Whisky Grass	4		
Avena	fatua	POACEAE	Wild Oats			4



<b>Genus</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
Asperula	conferta	Common Woodruff	4		
Carex	appressa	Tussock Sedge	4		4c
Casuarina	glauca	Swamp Oak	4c	4	
Einadia	hastata	Saloop Saltbush	4		
Einadia	nutans ssp. linifolia		4		
Eucalyptus	amplifolia	Cabbage Gum	4		
Eucalyptus	baueriana	Blue Box	4	4	
Melaleuca	styhelioides	Prickly-leaved Paperbark	4		
Microlaena	stipoides	Weeping Meadow Grass	4		
Paspalum	distichum		4		
Phragmites	australis	Common Reed		4c	
Schoenoplectus	littoralis		4		
Senecio	diaschides			4	
Themeda	australis	Kangaroo Grass	4		
Typha	orientalis	Bull Rush		4	

## Appendix 5

### Cultural Plantings Onslow Park, Camden

London Plane Trees	<i>Platanus X hybrida</i>
Pin Oak	<i>Quercus pinaster</i>
Monterey Pine	<i>Pinus radiata</i>
Stone Pine	<i>Pinus pinea</i>
Camphor Laurel	<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>
Chinese Elm	<i>Ulmus parviflora</i>
Cottonwood Poplars	<i>Populus deltoides</i>
Large-leaved Privet	<i>Ligstrum lucidum</i>
Nettle Tree	<i>Celtis australis</i>
Jacaranda	<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>