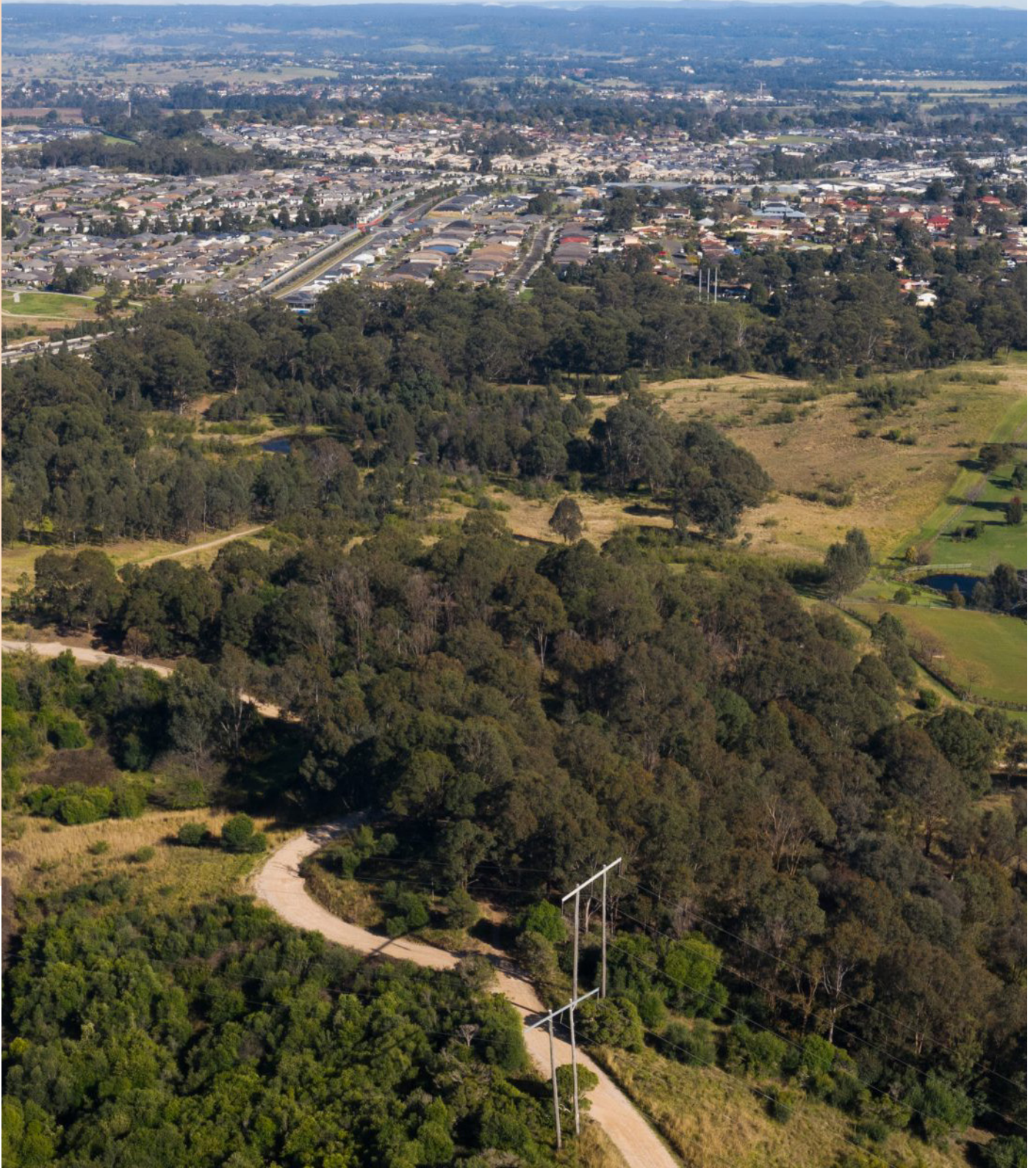




GENERIC COMMUNITY LAND PLAN OF MANAGEMENT 2023

CAMDEN COUNCIL



COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGES THE DHARAWAL PEOPLE AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THIS LAND AND PAYS OUR RESPECT TO THEIR ELDERS BOTH PAST AND PRESENT.

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1

INTRODUCTION



1. INTRODUCTION

A Plan of Management is a document which provides high-level direction as to the use and management of community land. Council must have an adopted Plan of Management to meet legislative requirements. A Plan of Management assists Council to manage the large amount of community land in the Local Government Area (LGA) that share similar characteristics.

This Plan of Management has been prepared by Camden Council and provides direction as to the use and management of Council-owned community land and Council-managed Crown reserves classified as 'community land' in the Camden LGA. The Plan of Management is required in accordance with legislation.

This Plan of Management covers all community and Crown land within the Camden LGA with the following exceptions:

- Land covered by another Plan of Management;
- Public open space that is owned or managed by other entities (e.g. William Howe Regional Park); or
- Private land that is marked available for public use or closed roads.

1.1 Purpose of this Plan of Management

This Plan of Management has been prepared in order to:

- Meet Council's obligations regarding public land management under legislation;
- Provide a basis for guiding Council's ongoing management of natural areas, sportsgrounds, parks, and general community use land within the Camden LGA in accordance with the requirements of relevant legislation;
- Meet the objectives of the Camden Community Strategic Plan as well as Council's other relevant plans and policies;
- Provide a strategic framework for Council to guide sustainable development, use, management and maintenance of natural areas, sportsgrounds, parks, and general community use land in the Camden LGA;
- Reflect the values and expectations of the community, park users and stakeholders in the future use and development of natural areas, sportsgrounds, parks, and general community use land in the Camden LGA; and
- Facilitate use of Council's open space and community facilities through granting of appropriate leases, licences, permits and other estates.

This Plan of Management references NSW and Commonwealth legislation and policies which apply to the planning, development and management of parks and general community use land in the Camden LGA. These are outlined in section two of this document.

1.2 Structure of the Document

This Plan of Management is structured so that general matters which relate to all areas of community land are addressed in the first part of the Plan of Management, subsequent sections relate to each category of community land individually, such as general community use, park, sportsground and natural area respectively.

The final section of the Plan of Management includes Appendices and Schedules which provide information on individual reserves, as well as mapping displaying the assigned category to each area of land.

1.3 Relationship to Other Plans of Management

A number of Plans of Management have been previously adopted by Council. Table one below outlines the plans, their date of adoption by Council and whether they are current or will be superseded by this Generic Plan of Management.

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT	ADOPTION DATE	CURRENT STATUS
Gundungurra Reserve Plan of Management	2004	Will be superseded by Community Land Plan of Management 2023
Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park/ Onslow Park Plan of Management	2005	Will be superseded by Community Land Plan of Management 2023
Camden Riparian Areas Plan of Management	2002	Will be superseded by Community Land Plan of Management 2023
Lake Annan Plan of Management	2014	Will be retained
Herbert's Hill Reserve Specific Area Plan of Management	2015	Will be retained



Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan

2 RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

2. RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

This Plan of Management is structured so that general matters which relate to all areas of community land are addressed in the first part. Subsequent sections relate to each category of community land individually, such as general community use, park, sportsground and natural area respectively.

The final section of the Plan of Management includes Appendices and Schedules which provide information on individual reserves, as well as mapping displaying the assigned category to each area of land.

2.1 Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)

Section 35 of *The Local Government Act 1993* provides that community land can only be used in accordance with:

- The Plan of Management applying to that area of community land;
- Any law permitting the use of the land for a specified purpose or otherwise regulating the use of the land; and
- The provisions of Division 2 of Chapter 6 of the Act.

Section 36 of the Act provides that a Plan of Management for community land must identify the following:

- a) The category of the land;
- b) The objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land;
- c) The means by which the Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets;
- d) The manner in which the council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets; and
- e) May require the prior approval of the Council to the carrying out of any specified activity on the land.

A Plan of Management that applies to just one area of community land:

- a) Must include a description of:
 - (i) the condition of the land, and of any buildings or other improvements on the land, as at the date of adoption of the Plan of Management; and
 - (ii) the use of the land and any such buildings or improvements as at that date, and
- b) Must:
 - (i) specify the purposes for which the land, and any such buildings or improvements, will be permitted to be used;
 - (ii) specify the purposes for which any further development of the land will be permitted, whether under lease or licence or otherwise; and
 - (iii) describe the scale and intensity of any such permitted use or development.

Land is to be categorised as one or more of the following:

- a) Natural area;
- a) Sportsground;
- b) Park;
- c) An Area of Cultural Significance; and
- d) 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; and
- f) A category prescribed by the regulations.

Additionally, under Section 36 of the *Local Government Act*, a site-specific Plan of Management must be made for land declared:

- As critical habitat, or directly affected by a threat abatement plan or a recovery plan under threatened species laws (Sections 36A(2) and 36B(3));
- By Council to contain significant natural features (Section 36C(2)); and
- By Council to be of cultural significance (Section 36D(2)).

2.2 Crown Land Management Act 2016 (NSW)

Crown reserves are land set aside on behalf of the community for a wide range of public purposes, including environmental and heritage protection, recreation and sport, open space, community halls, special events and government services.

Crown Land is governed by the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*, which provides a framework for the state government, local councils and members of the community to work together to provide care, control and management of Crown reserves.

Under the *Crown Land Management Act*, councils manage Crown Land as if it were public land under the *Local Government Act*. However, it must still be managed in accordance with the purpose of the land and cannot be used for an activity incompatible with its purpose – for example, Crown Land assigned the purpose of ‘environmental protection’ cannot be used in a way that compromises its environmental integrity.

Councils must also manage Crown Land in accordance with the objects and principles of Crown Land management outlined in the *Crown Land Management Act*.

The objectives and principles are the key values that guide Crown Land management to benefit the community and to ensure that Crown Land is managed for sustainable, multiple uses.

2.3 Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)

This Act covers conservation of threatened species, populations and ecological communities, and the protection of native flora and fauna. The *Biodiversity Conservation Act* primarily relates to community land categorised as natural area. However, other categories may also be affected.

The *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* has been repealed and superseded by the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. However, references to the former legislation remain in the *Local Government Act* and related documents.

The Department of Planning and Environment advises that recovery plans and threat abatement plans made under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* were repealed on the commencement of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act in 2017*. These plans have not been preserved by any savings and transitional arrangement under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act* or *Local Government Act*, meaning pre-existing plans have no legal effect.

For this reason, requirements relating to recovery plans and threat abatement plans for local councils preparing a Plan of Management under Section 36B of the *Local Government Act* are now redundant. Councils will be advised if future amendments are made to the *Local Government Act* to enable these mechanisms.

2.4 Biosecurity Act 2015 (Commonwealth)

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* provides for the risk-based management of biosecurity risks including animal and plant pests and diseases, weeds and contaminants. The Act focusses on preventing entry of new biosecurity risks, minimising the impacts of those that cannot be eradicated and has implications for the management of community land within the Camden LGA.

2.5 Other Legislation

2.5.1 ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT 1979 (EP&A ACT) (NSW)

The *EP&A Act* provides the framework for planning and development across NSW and guides environmental planning instruments which provide a basis for development control.

The *EP&A Act* ensures that effects on the natural environment, along with social and economic factors, are considered by the council when granting approval for or undertaking works, developments or activities.

This Act is also the enabling legislation for planning policies which may have a direct influence on open space management. On a state-wide level there are *State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs)*. On a regional level there are *Regional Environmental Plans (REPs)*. On a local level there are *Local Environmental Plans (LEPs)* as well as *Development Control Plans (DCPs)*.

2.5.2 CAMDEN LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 2010 (CLEP) (NSW)

The CLEP establishes zones that allow certain types of uses and standards that regulate what kind of development may occur on that land. The CLEP is developed by Council and provides high level planning controls and objectives.

2.5.3 COMPANION ANIMALS ACT 1998 (NSW)

The *Companion Animals Act* provides for the identification and registration of companion animals and for the duties and responsibilities of their owners. The *Companion Animals Act* sets rules for handling dogs in public places. Council manages dog access to community land through the provisions of this Act.

2.5.4 FOOD ACT 2003 (NSW)

The *Food Act 2003* regulates how food businesses manage and sell their food products. This Act covers any activity including the handling of food intended for sale or the sale of food. For the purposes of this Plan of Management it would include any sale or handling of food on community land regardless if it is commercial, charitable or of a community nature.

2.5.5 PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT OPERATIONS ACT 1997 (NSW)

The *Protection of the Environment Operations Act* is a key piece of environmental protection legislation administered by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA). The Act enables the NSW Government to set out explicit protection of the environment policies and to adopt innovative approaches to reducing pollution. It also provides for licencing arrangements and regulates scheduled and non-scheduled activities.

2.5.6 PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 2010 (NSW)

The *Public Health Act* regulates a number of areas in order to protect and promote public health and control risks to public health. The Act deals with a range of public health matters.

2.5.7 NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (C'WEALTH)

The *Native Title Act 1993* is a law passed by the Australian Parliament that recognises the rights and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in land and waters according to their traditional laws and customs.

2.6 Camden Council Plans, Policies and Strategies Context

Council has a range of adopted strategies, plans and policies which are relevant to the management of community land and Crown Land in the Camden LGA. The following documents have been considered in the development of this Plan of Management.

2.6.1 COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2036

The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) provides strategic planning guidance to inform actions and initiatives of Council, as well as the community, government stakeholders and other non-government stakeholders within the Camden LGA. Through extensive stakeholder consultation, the plan has explored values and priorities of the community to develop visions. The Plan is built on five key directions to make Camden Welcoming, Liveable, Prosperous, Balanced, and Leading. These directions, with the objectives and strategies that support them, give all community members – Council staff, residents and other partners – a shared and united approach to shaping Camden's future.

2.6.2 LOCAL STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT 2020

The Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) provides planning framework for economic, social, and environmental land use for the Camden LGA over a 20-year period (2020-2040). Land use priorities are set out to guide development to align with current and future goals for the LGA. The LSPS is informed by the priorities identified by the Greater Sydney Region Plan and Western City District Plan. The Plan sets out 21 local planning priorities which sit under four themes and identify opportunities to realise the goals of the community's future vision.

2.6.3 CAMDEN SPORTSGROUND STRATEGY 2020-24

The Strategy consists of three distinct areas – sportsground strategic context, current infrastructure and provisions, and future planning and actions for the Camden LGA sports facilities.

2.6.4 SPACES AND PLACES STRATEGY 2020

The Camden Spaces and Places Strategy aims to address several challenges and provide a strategic framework and action plan for the provision of open spaces, recreation, and community facilities in the Camden LGA. The Strategy aligns with, and supports the principles and objectives of a range of statutory and strategic documents that are required to plan for an effective network of open space, play spaces, and community facilities

2.6.5 SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2020

The Sustainability Strategy is a four-year plan that brings together actions Council will implement to work towards creating a Sustainable Camden. The Strategy is linked to the key directions of the Camden CSP and the priorities of the Camden LSPS. The Sustainability Strategy sets out 18 objectives which sit under five key themes.

2.6.6 DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN 2022-2026

Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan has been developed in accordance with NSW Disability Inclusion Action Planning Guidelines for Local Government and includes what Council will deliver under four key focus areas.

2.6.7 LOCAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY 2013

The Local Biodiversity Strategy aims to address Council's responsibilities under the *Local Government Act 1993* charter to properly manage, develop, protect, restore and enhance the environment of the area for which it is responsible in a manner that is consistent with and promotes the principles of ecologically sustainable development. The Local Biodiversity Strategy brings together available information about biodiversity within the LGA and provides a clear and practical approach to guide future management of biodiversity.

2.7 Community Consultation

Community consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the *Local Government Act* and the *Crown Land Management Act*. Public exhibition gives an opportunity for the community to express their thoughts and opinions, to give additional information and to suggest changes. At the conclusion of the community consultation, each submission made will be considered and Council may decide to amend the Plan of Management to reflect submissions or may decide to adopt it as is.

If a Draft Plan of Management would re-categorise land, then Council must undertake a Public Hearing in addition to Public Exhibition.

All Community consultation will align with relevant legislation and with the Camden Community Participation Plan 2021 and the Communication and Community Engagement Strategy 2022.



4



Timely

Objective:

Adapting to the needs of our growing community, we will deliver communication in a timely and consistent manner, and undertake consultation in a way that offers residents a reasonable amount of time to respond and engage.

We will:

- Deliver communications consistently on time and over an accessible time period;
- Establish regular and consistent communication channels; and
- Coordinate engagement sessions to ensure the community is not over consulted or unable to participate in multiple activities because of schedule conflicts.

6



Innovative

Objective:

Our communication and engagement practitioners will explore innovative practices to maximise promotion and inspire community interaction.

We will:

- Utilise best practise in the local government and private industry to ensure all residents are reached;
- Draw upon the latest developments in methodology and technology to design, plan and deliver community engagement practises; and
- Drive Council's use of innovation with the intention that everything is done with the community as the priority.

A scenic landscape photograph of a pond with trees and a fence. The pond is in the middle ground, reflecting the sky and trees. In the foreground, there is a wooden fence and some grass. The background features a line of trees under a blue sky with light clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and natural.

3 BASIS FOR MANAGEMENT

3. BASIS FOR MANAGEMENT

This section provides an overview of the broad strategic goals and objectives for Council owned and Crown Reserves covered by this Plan of Management. It gives guidance on how Council intends to manage community land to align with:

- Assigned categorisation of community land;
- The *Local Government Act* guidelines and core objectives for community land;
- Council's strategic objectives and priorities; and
- Development and use of land outlined in Section 6 of the Local Government Act.

3.1 Permissible Uses and Development

The use and development of community land categorised in this Plan of Management as natural areas, sportsgrounds, parks, and general community use should be compatible with both the intended function of the land and wider community context.

Camden Council encourages a broad range of uses on community land and activities which increase activation, sustainability, and general enjoyment of the land.

Permissible uses and development in natural areas, sportsgrounds, parks, and general community use land in Camden will be consistent with:

- The guidelines and core objectives for the natural areas, sportsgrounds, parks and general community use categories in the *Local Government Act*, and any other additional objectives Council proposes to place on those categories in this plan;
- Uses listed in the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*;
- The requirements of the *Crown Land Management Act*;
- The *Native Title Act 1993* in the case of Crown Land;
- Uses permitted on community and Crown Land without consent under SEPP (State Environmental Planning Policies) (Infrastructure) 2007;
- The objectives for and permissible uses listed under the relevant land zoning in the Camden Local Environment Plan 2020 (Camden LEP [Local Environmental Plans]); and
- Authorised lease, licence, permit or easement, and relevant Council policies.

Any current and planned development and activities including upgrades and proposed new development on natural areas, sportsgrounds, parks, and general community land will consider:

- Planning controls for the land;
- Strategic directions and objectives for each category of land;
- Characteristics of the land and adjacent land;
- Existing and future use patterns;
- Any landscape masterplan for the land;
- The physical constraints of the land;
- The carrying capacity of the land;
- Relevant legislation, plans, policies and strategies; and
- Any adopted masterplan over the land.

Examples of authorised uses and development are listed in Section 4.2, 5.2, 6.2 and 7.2 of this Plan of Management. These examples are not considered exhaustive but are provided as a guide and illustrate some of the potential uses and development authorised by this Plan of Management.

This Plan of Management expressly authorises and enables community land use such as the issuing of leases and licences. This Plan of Management authorises activities which may attract high numbers of people including organised sport activities and training, school sport competitions, commercial activities and one-off community events and performances.

Any activities associated with the development of community land will also consider assessment of community needs through community consultation in accordance with Council policy.

Development and associated activities are required to consider relevant planning approvals established under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and Camden Local Environmental Plan 2010 as well as Councils Temporary Food Stall and Mobile Food Vehicle Policy, the Food Act 2003 and any other relevant Council policies and legislation.

The *Local Government Act* addresses those activities which may be carried out on community land with the prior approval of Council, except when regulations or a local policy adopted under Part 3 of the Local Government Act allows the activity to be carried out without approval.

The *Local Government Act* addresses approvals required for activities on Crown Land. Additionally, Section 3.39 of the *Crown Land Management Act* requires Council approval of activities on dedicated or reserved Crown land comply with this Plan of Management.

Public works on Crown Land must also consider the *Native Title Act 1993* and the requirement to provide Aboriginal Traditional Owners opportunity to comment on proposed development and use. The *Native Title Act 1993* provides a definition of public work.

3.2 Prohibited Uses and Developments

Prohibited uses will be communicated via Council bookings, leases, and licence agreements, or otherwise communicated where prohibited activities may be temporary.

Prohibited activities will also be communicated using regulatory signage located on community land where appropriate.

Prohibited development is that which is not permitted with or without development consent in the Camden Local Environmental Plan 2010.

Crown Land may not be utilised for purposes inconsistent with the purposes for which it is dedicated or reserved (or any purpose incidental or ancillary to a purpose for which it is dedicated or reserved) unless it is authorised by an Act including for any prescribed purpose under Section 2.20 of the *Crown Land Management Act*.

3.3 Leases, Licences and Other Estates

The *Local Government Act* and the *Crown Land Management Act* allow councils to grant leases, licences and other estates over all or part of community land. The granting of leases, licences and permits formalises the use of community land by groups such as sporting clubs, community groups and schools, or by commercial organisations and individuals providing facilities and/or services for public use.

A lease or licence will generally be required where exclusive use or control of all or part of a sportsground, park or general community use area is desirable in providing community and commercial outcomes. A lease or licence may also be preferred where the scale of investment towards the delivery of community and commercial outcomes justifies the longer-term security of tenure. Leases or licences may be granted for exclusive use to an organisation for a community purpose as determined by Council, on such terms as Council may consider, negotiate, and provide.

Sub-leases are only permissible where a lease arrangement has been entered into with Council for community land and only when approved by Council. Any proposed sub-leasing of the land must be in accordance with the requirements of Section 47C of the *Local Government Act* and for the same purpose as the original lease.

A licence may be required where intermittent or short-term use of all or part of the sportsground, park or general community use land is proposed. Concurrent licences for different users can apply to the same area at the same time, provided there is no conflict of interest or detriment to community land and associated development. Council will determine the users for the site which is appropriate specific for the subject site.

Other estate includes other rights over land such as easements and other entitlements as defined by legislation.

CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS

Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements, previously known as Biobanking Agreements, are a type of permanent conservation agreement established under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 to provide for the enhancement and management of biodiversity values in perpetuity. Under these agreements, Council is required to undertake management actions to protect and manage natural areas.

Council has an existing Biobanking Agreement under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* for land at Gundungurra Reserve, Spring Farm. This agreement is also recognised as a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. The agreement provides for the enhancement and maintenance of biodiversity values of the site in perpetuity and includes a 20-year management plan for implementation once the site transitions to active management.

This plan also allows Council to enter into a conservation agreement, including a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement, under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* to provide for the enhancement and maintenance of biodiversity values in natural areas.

3.4 Ongoing Relevancy

Upon adoption of this Plan of Management Council is obliged to carry out its recommendations in order of priority established in the action plans over the next five to 10 years.

The land included in this Plan of Management will continue to be managed by Camden Council as either owner of community land under the *Local Government Act* or as Council Crown Land Manager under the *Crown Land Management Act*.

Implementation of this Plan of Management will involve ongoing engagement between Council and all relevant community and third-party stakeholders to ensure the recommended actions continue to meet the community's changing needs for natural areas, sportsgrounds, parks, and general community use land. Community consultation and engagement will be developed in accord with the specific planning, works and actions for individual sites.

The community will also have an opportunity to participate in reviews and updates of this Plan of Management and subsequent versions when they are placed on public exhibition for comment.

3.5 Funding

This Plan of Management contains a substantial list of management actions. Some of these are management guidelines, providing policies or directions to guide future decision making for the management of community land, whilst others are physical actions that will require the commitment of Council or other funds or resources, such as staff time, to implement.

The management and development of community land as described in this Plan of Management will ultimately be reliant on, and largely determined by, the funding and resources available to Council.

As such, the management actions must be assessed against the other priorities of Council, and budget allocations assigned as part of Council's annual Operational Plan along with annual budget cycles and business planning for Council's various service units.



4 MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS



Macarthur Park

4. MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

A number of matters have been identified by Council in the management of community land. The following are indicative and not exhaustive. These are not specific to any category of land and may be present over some or all community land. Council may employ various methods to attempt to address them and some issues are addressed through the management actions included in this Plan of Management. Key items for consideration include:

4.1 Access

Community land should be accessible to all of the community. Consideration needs to be given to maximise accessibility while balancing this with the need to prevent uncontrolled and/or unauthorised access.

4.2 Biodiversity and Threatened Species

A range of ecosystems occur in natural areas and these are made up of a range of native flora and fauna. Activities such as vegetation clearing for farming and human settlement has caused native vegetation and habitat quality to be substantially reduced in areas across the Cumberland Plain, including the Camden LGA.

Some vegetation communities and flora and fauna species are now threatened and listed at a State and National Level. Threatened Ecological Communities by Reserves are listed in Schedule One, Threatened Flora Species by Reserve are listed in Schedule Two and Threatened Fauna Species by Reserve are listed in Schedule Three.

4.3 Biodiversity Conservation

Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements, previously known as Biobanking Agreements, are a type of permanent conservation agreement established under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* to provide for the enhancement and management of biodiversity values in perpetuity. Under these agreements Council is required to undertake management actions to protect and manage natural areas.

Council has an existing Biobanking Agreement under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* for land at Gundungurra Reserve, Spring Farm. This agreement is also recognised as a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. The agreement provides for the enhancement and maintenance of biodiversity values of the site in perpetuity and includes a 20-year management plan for implementation once the site transitions to active management. Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements by Reserve are listed in Schedule Four.

It may be appropriate to expand the number of reserves with formal conservation agreements over time to ensure their ongoing management and protection.

4.4 Habitat Corridors and Connectivity

Habitat corridors can provide connectivity for mobile fauna species such as bats and birds. They can also be linear corridors for flora and also prevent genetic inbreeding of particular species. Where there is substantial weed growth along a corridor, the lack of connectivity can prevent gene flow and lead to inbreeding and impact the viability of a species, such as in the case of the Camden White Gum (*Eucalyptus benthamii*) along the Nepean River.

4.5 Community Engagement, Education and Participation

Members of the community provide a significant contribution to the management and maintenance of community land through programs like Bushcare as well as the activities of sporting clubs. These groups facilitate a sense of stewardship of community land and strengthen relationships between Council and the community.

Council will continue to prioritise engagement and participation of the local community, so that residents and user groups are kept informed and consulted on issues that may potentially affect them or their use of community land.

4.6 Feral and Pest Animals

As a public land manager Council has a responsibility to protect and preserve our natural environment including the plants, animals and their habitats. Feral and pest animals can threaten native plants and animals and damage the environment.

Animals that are known to impact natural areas include foxes, rabbits, cats, goats, deer and carp. Council may undertake specific control/management actions to control feral animals.

Some native animals may impact the community directly or indirectly because of particular behaviour traits at certain locations. These native animals include magpies, plovers, and snakes. Large congregations of native animals such as Australian White Ibis may impact on water quality.

4.7 Weeds

Weeds can be spread by birds, wind or dumping of garden waste. Some weeds such as African lovegrass that are listed as a weed of National Significance have spread prolifically and have dramatically altered the composition of native vegetation, both floristically and structurally. This also impacts on the habitat quality for native fauna, causing a reduction in native fauna. Some weeds also pose a biosecurity risk both to native vegetation and agriculture.

4.8 Key Threatening Processes, Recovery Plans and Programs, Threat Abatement Plans

Key threatening processes for biodiversity are listed under the *NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Recovery plans and programs have been applied at both a state and commonwealth level to mitigate the risks and threats from key threatening processes. Recovery plans at a state level were previously incorporated under the now defunct *NSW Threatened Species Act (1995)* but have not been incorporated in the replacement *NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. Many of the actions in the recovery plans for the Cumberland Plain and species like *Pimelea spicata* still have relevance in undertaking management actions for the recovery of threatened ecological communities like *Pimelea spicata* in Council's natural areas.

Threat Abatement Plans have been prepared and legislated at a federal level. Threat Abatement Plans can apply to threats such as feral animals, Weeds of National Significance, as well as specific threats like the root-rot fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. Responsibilities of local government under Commonwealth Threat Abatement Plans can involve the implementation of risk mitigation and management actions to minimise the addressed key threatening process prioritising local environmental assets, threatened native species and endangered ecological communities.

No specific obligations at this time have been directly attributed to Council's community land. At present no threatened communities, flora and fauna species implicated by a Threat Abatement Plan have been

identified at a Council reserve. Council will align strategies and actions with relevant Threat Abatement Plans when required as a threat arises to minimise the risk to natural assets in Camden LGA. Relevant Threat Abatement Plans are listed in Schedule five.

4.9 Bushfire Management

Responsible fire management is an important part of the management of community land. Fire regimes should be prepared on a case by case basis for community land dependent on the ecological community, season and the intensity and frequency of previous fires.

Fire management for community land includes the identification and maintenance of asset protection zones (APZ) to minimise the risk of bushfire to the community, the provision of access for firefighting and the use of hazard reduction burns in conjunction with other agencies to manage risk.

4.10 Unauthorised use of Bushland

The unauthorised creation and use of tracks by BMX, mountain bike riders and motorbikes is an emerging and significant issue in the management of Camden's community land. Council recognises the social and recreational value of these activities however their location should be carefully managed to minimise impacts on areas of high biodiversity values, including threatened ecological communities and habitat for threatened plant and animal species.

4.11 Levels of Maintenance

Maintenance of community land is undertaken by Council staff and contractors. Maintenance can include mowing, slashing, weed removal, planting of vegetation, waste collection and the cleaning and repairs of amenities and facilities. The frequency and extent of maintenance is determined by the category of land and the service standards that are in place to guide the level of maintenance.

While Council understands that some members of the community prefer mown and tidy areas this level of maintenance may not be appropriate in natural areas or in other parts of community adjoining natural areas. No mow zones are used in locations where regeneration of native plants, including grasses, is encouraged.

4.12 Litter and Dumping

Litter includes a range of materials, but in particular is comprised of single use food wrapping and plastic beverage bottles. Dumping in reserves with materials such as garden clippings and dog faeces contribute to significant weed growth in natural areas and pollution of waterways. Visual impacts are caused by dumping of building material, shopping trolleys and household goods and furniture.

4.13 Water Quality

Low water quality can be created by stormwater releasing excess nutrients leading to algal and aquatic plant growth, reduced water flow and low dissolved oxygen in the water. Unmanaged stormwater can cause erosion and siltation which can substantially lower the quality of water in creeks and the Nepean River.

4.14 Aboriginal Heritage

The Camden LGA sits in traditional Dharawal lands and is a historically significant area in relation to local Aboriginal culture and heritage and natural areas. The local Aboriginal people possess a unique social, cultural and ecological knowledge of the Aboriginal cultural heritage and the natural environment of

Camden. This knowledge is essential in the understanding and management of the Aboriginal cultural values and natural environment of natural areas in the Camden LGA. Recognition is also given to surrounding Aboriginal Nation Groups that may also have connections to areas within the Camden LGA (e.g. Gundungurra, Dharug).

4.15 Dog Access

Dog access is managed in accordance with the *Companion Animals Act 1998*. Dogs are permitted on leash on many community land reserves, provided the dog is under effective control by means of chain, leash or cord that is attached to the dog and is being held or secured to a competent person. Dogs are not permitted in prohibited areas as described in Section 14 of the *Companion Animals Act*.

Dog Prohibited Areas include:

- Children's play areas;
- Food preparation/consumption areas;
- Recreation areas where dogs are prohibited by Council;
- Public bathing areas where dogs are prohibited;
- School grounds; and
- Childcare centres.

4.16 Green Blue Grid Principles

The Green and Blue Grid is a network of open spaces that provide biodiversity and habitat corridors, help cool the urban environment and provide opportunities for recreation. The delivery of the Green and Blue Grid has been identified as a priority within the Western City District Plan, which includes the Camden LGA.

Camden's Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) sets the 20-year planning vision for the Camden LGA and is a local response to the priorities and directions set within the Greater Sydney Region Plan and the Western City District Plan. The LSPS contains priorities and actions for Council to consider in future land use planning around the four themes of Infrastructure and Collaboration, Liveability, Productivity and Sustainability. This Plan of Management aims to support the actions set in the LSPS.



Lake Yandefora, Mount Annan

5 GENERAL COMMUNITY USE

Herriot Reserve, Gledswood Hills

5. GENERAL COMMUNITY USE

5.1 Overview

The general community use land covered by this Plan of Management is varied in nature and use. It can range from land incorporating community buildings and infrastructure to land which does not adhere to the categorisation guidelines of park, sportsground or natural area or area of cultural significance.

5.2 Core Objectives

The core objectives for community land categorised as general community use, are to:

- Promote, encourage, and provide for the use of the land; and
- Provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public:
 - a) in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public; and
 - b) in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).

5.3 Authorised Uses Table

AUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT	AUTHORISED USE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development for the purpose of providing buildings and other amenity areas that facilitate the use and enjoyment of the land; • Development associated with the specialised community use of multipurpose buildings (e.g. youth services, senior services); • Development for the purpose of addressing the needs of a group (e.g. youth and seniors' spaces, library facilities, cultural facilities, performance areas); • Development for the purpose of providing ancillary facilities (e.g. toilet facilities, meeting rooms, shade structures, storage, seating, and BBQ settings); • Development for the purpose of improving amenity, access, and visual character of the general community use area; • Development for the purpose of social, educational, community, cultural, and recreational activities; • Development for the purpose of landscaping and finishes; • Development for the purpose of social, educational, community, cultural, and recreational activities; and • Development that promotes a variety of uses of the facility including those identified in the permissible uses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organised activities that are consistent with the nature, function and facilities provided (e.g. support groups, special interest groups, low impact recreation such as, bridge, bingo, dance classes); • Activities associated with the specialised community use of multipurpose buildings (e.g. Youth services, senior services); • Organised group social and recreational use (e.g. health and wellbeing, educational/ vocational, social, and cultural as well as, birthdays and private celebrations); • Activities required for the provision of community and cultural events and initiatives typically associated with community cohesion, capacity building and other social functions. (e.g. meetings, presentations, electoral activities, support groups, creative arts, performances) and other complimentary activities such as music and the provision of food and refreshment, no impact temporary signage and decorations; • Designated group use inclusive of children services, community services, special interest groups, education/vocational groups, and service clubs & associations (e.g. scout and girl guide use, before and after school care, vacation care, holiday programs, Rotary/Lions/Country Women's Association service club facilities); and • Any other council approved use consistent with the nature and function of the facility and deemed to be of community benefit e.g. community/civic events, markets, auctions, exhibitions, workshops, entertainment, public meetings, worship and religious services and regional emergency management requirements and similar events and initiatives.

5.4 Management Actions – General Community Use

MANAGEMENT ISSUE	S.36(3)(B) OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS	S36(3)(C) MEANS OF ACHIEVEMENT OF OBJECTIVES	S.36(3)(D) MANNER OF ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE
Active Transport	Provide linkages within open spaces and to nearby destinations. Encourage walkability to community facilities. Encourage and support cycling as means of alternative transport to community facilities.	Continue to maintain and upgrade existing pedestrian pathways both within general community use lands and to parks and other destinations.	Safe connectivity and access for all users. Positive feedback from users.
		Clearly define walking and cycling routes that pass through open spaces on general community use lands and incorporate these routes into the broader walking and cycling network.	Walking and cycling networks are developed.
		Provide suitable bike racks and storage and associated facilities in conjunction with community halls and facilities.	Bike racks and associated facilities installed.
		Construct pathways with resilient, hard-wearing, and sustainable materials in accordance with DDA and Australian Standards	Pathways and connectivity are established in accord with legislation and standards.
Equitable access to halls and facilities	To develop/provide facilities and community halls that provide for multipurpose uses.	Review existing community facilities to identify opportunities for the provision of multiple use. Ensure access to community halls and facilities is equitable through implementation of a booking system or allowance in leases for use by others.	Number of multiple use/users of community halls per annum.
Building/Facility Maintenance	Facilities are clean, attractive, functional and safe.	Maintain and clean facilities regularly and in accordance with agreed service levels and budget. Ensure facilities are functional, safe, and fit for purpose. Inspect and remove graffiti and acts of vandalism as required.	Service levels are attained and provided within budget.
Encroachments	Avoid encroachments onto community land.	Identify and delineate community land boundaries.	Land title, land register and maps are reviewed and up to date.
		Maintain inspection regime to observe or determine and remove encroachment and unauthorised private use onto community land.	Encroachments/ unauthorised access detected and removed and managed by Compliance team.

MANAGEMENT ISSUE	S.36(3)(B) OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS	S36(3)(C) MEANS OF ACHIEVEMENT OF OBJECTIVES	S.36(3)(D) MANNER OF ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE
Management	Management will be proactive and transparent.	Utilise online booking system to monitor usage and forecast provision needs.	Information available on Council website.
		Develop and publish layouts of community halls and availability for use on Council's website.	Maps are published online.
		Develop online communication tools to share information with the community of planned improvement and maintenance works, and community events likely to impact facility or land availability.	Information available on Council website.
Leases and User Agreements	Grant leases, licences, and other estates in accordance with the <i>Local Government Act</i> and <i>Crown Land Management Act</i> .	Expressly authorise Council to enter into leases, licences, permits and other estates which formalise the use of community halls and associated facilities by the community, community groups, individuals, schools, and groups, individuals, schools, and commercial organisations.	All usage agreements comply with legislation and Council policy.
		Undertake inspections of properties to monitor compliance with agreements.	Compliance tracking.
Hazard and Risk identification and management	General community use land is safe and fit for purpose.	Ensure Council's asset management system allows for ease of community reporting and recording of hazards and risks, for example through an online submission form.	Council website updated.
		Develop and maintain an inspection regime performed by Council staff and other providers to identify risks, hazards, and issues in accordance with agreed service levels and intervention levels.	Council inspections completed. Community feedback. Compliance with appropriate Australian Standards.
		Respond in a timely manner to reports of hazards and risks or those identified through the Council inspection regime	Annual hazard and risk reports.

MANAGEMENT ISSUE	S.36(3)(B) OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS	S36(3)(C) MEANS OF ACHIEVEMENT OF OBJECTIVES	S.36(3)(D) MANNER OF ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE
User Conflicts	Land and facilities will be managed to maximise availability for use and reduce user conflict.	Manage use and bookings to avoid conflicts with users.	Community feedback.
Vandalism	Reduce opportunities for vandalism and graffiti.	Review security measures mechanisms within and surrounding community halls to deter vandalism and graffiti.	Incidence of vandalism and graffiti.
		Maintenance activities are undertaken to ensure opportunities for passive surveillance are maximised by reducing visual barriers to buildings/facilities and lighting is provided.	Incidence of vandalism/graffiti over time
		Repair vandalism and remove graffiti promptly in order to discourage further incidents.	Incidence of vandalism/graffiti over time.
Vehicle Access	Protect general community use land from unauthorised vehicle access.	Implement vehicle exclusion measures as appropriate such as fencing, gateways, bollards or landscaping.	Reduction in incidents of vehicle access to land.
		Maintain access for pedestrians, cyclists, wheelchairs, and personal mobility devices. Ensure emergency vehicle and service vehicle access and egress points are managed with lockable gates.	
Planning	Ensure the provision and distribution of facilities on general community use land meets the current and future needs of the community.	Develop and implement plans for the provision and distribution of community facilities.	Community needs are met.
		Ensure community facilities planning and strategy development includes community and stakeholder engagement to understand current and future needs.	All community engagement is undertaken in accord with Council's Communication and Community Engagement Policy and Strategy.
Communication	Release and distribute information in a proactive, accessible and transparent manner.	Utilise various communication methods to notify the community and user groups of improvement works in a timely manner.	Number of notifications and interactions recorded.