



The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP
Minister for the Environment
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Heritage

Lithgow City Council
Scanned ☐

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Years

Clr Stephen Lesslie and Mr Graeme Faulkner
Mayor and General Manager
City of Lithgow Council
PO Box 19
LITHGOW NSW 2790

Email: council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au

Dear Clr Lesslie and Mr Faulkner

Stephen & Graeme

I refer to previous correspondence concerning the intention to issue a Performance Improvement Order (PIO) to the City of Lithgow Council under section 438A of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The Notice of Intention provided Council with an opportunity to make a submission in respect of the proposal to issue a PIO. I understand that Council engaged the services of Morrison Low to review its financial position, to assist with its response to the Notice of Intention and to draft a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) to improve Council's financial position.

It is disappointing that it took the issue of the Notice of Intention for Council to commit to addressing its long term financial sustainability.

After consideration of Council's submission, I have decided not to issue the proposed PIO. Nevertheless, the Council remains **not fit** and I expect Council to continue its commitment to work with its consultants to develop and implement a PIP to ensure its long term financial sustainability.

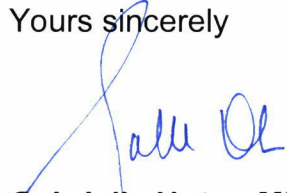
This strategy must include the development and adoption of a Long Term Financial Plan which demonstrates adherence to sound financial management principles. Council must ensure that its forecast spending is responsible and sustainable, aligning general revenue and expenses.

I expect that Council provides monthly reports to the Office of Local Government and also to report quarterly on its progress against the PIP for the next 12 months. It is imperative that Council adheres to the agreed reporting regime until the completion of the strategies and actions identified in its PIP.

If I am not satisfied with the commitment and progress of Council, I will revisit the requirement to issue a PIO to improve the performance of Council.

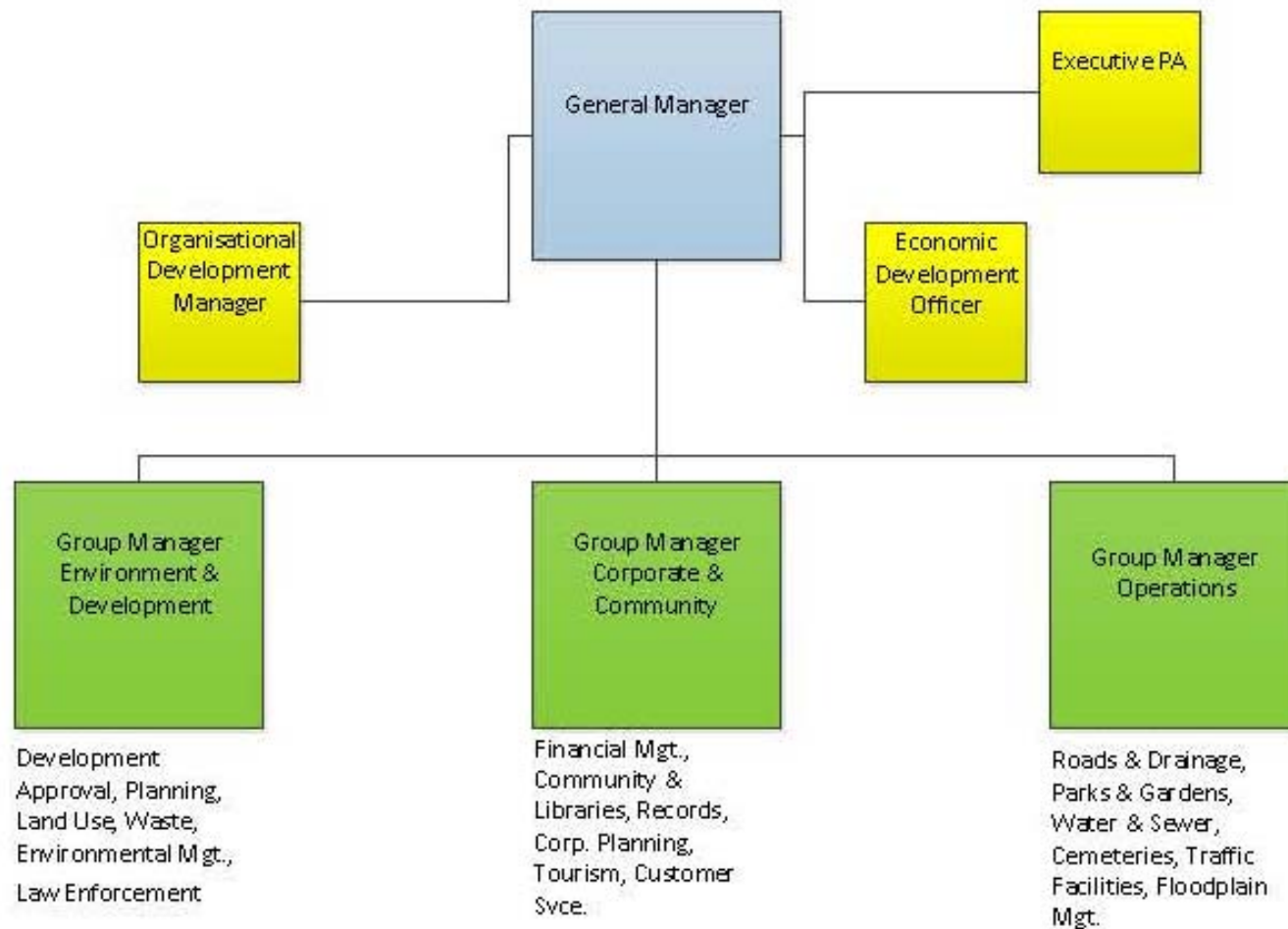
At my request, Mr Grant Gleeson from the Office of Local Government is available on (02) 4428 4100 or grant.gleeson@olg.nsw.gov.au should you have any further enquiries.

Yours sincerely



Gabrielle Upton MP
Minister for the Environment
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Heritage

25.6.17



Department Structure
Final Working Option
(Community & Corporate
with OD)

General Manager

Organisational Development, Corporate Planning &
Community Services

Directors

Economic Development & Environment

Health & Development

- Development and Construction Approvals
- Waste Management & Recycling
- Environmental Health
- Environmental Management
- On Site Sewerage
- Animal Control
- Parking/Local Laws

Strategic Planning

- Strategic Land Use Planning
- Public Land and Property Management

Economic Development Commercial Response Unit

- Economic Development
- Tourism
- Business Support
- Events

Infrastructure Services

- Roads & Drainage
- Stormwater
- Parks & Gardens
- Recreation
- Water and Sewer
- Trade Waste
- Infrastructure Planning
- Cemeteries
- Floodplain Management
- Traffic Facilities
- Building Maintenance & Operational Asset Management
- Cleaning

Finance and Assets

- Financial Management
- Records Management
- Customer Service
- Corporate Planning and Reporting
- IT
- Insurances
- Asset Management (*All Facets except Building Maintenance, Cleaning etc*)

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

Annual Report and Determination

*Annual report and determination under sections 239
and 241 of the Local Government Act 1993*

**12 April
2017**

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Executive Summary

The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal (the Tribunal) is required to report to the Minister for Local Government by 1 May each year as to its determination of categories and the maximum and minimum amounts of fees to be paid to mayors, councillors, and chairpersons and members of county councils.

Categories

Since the making of the 2016 determination a number of councils have been amalgamated resulting in the creation of 20 new councils. The impact of those structural changes is an overall reduction in the number of councils in NSW from 152 to 128. This significant change has prompted a review of the existing categories and the allocation of councils into each of those categories.

In undertaking the review the Tribunal examined the existing categories, a range of statistical and demographic data and considered the views of councils and Local Government NSW. Having regard to that information the Tribunal has determined a categorisation model which differentiates councils primarily on the basis of their geographic location. Other factors which differentiate councils for the purpose of categorisation include population, the sphere of the council's economic influence and the degree of regional servicing.

In accordance with section 239 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act) the categories of general purpose councils are determined as follows:

Metropolitan

- Principal CBD
- Major CBD
- Metropolitan Large
- Metropolitan Medium
- Metropolitan Small

Non-metropolitan

- Regional City
- Regional Strategic Area
- Regional Rural
- Rural

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The determination provides for the retention of five existing categories (some with new titles) and the creation of two new categories. Each council is allocated into one of the categories based on the criteria outlined on pages 12 to 15 of the report.

Fees

The majority of councils will receive an increase of 2.5 per cent only which is consistent with the government's wages policy. Six existing councils will be eligible for increases of more than 2.5 per cent as those councils have been categorised into a higher or new category on the basis of the revised criteria.

The 20 new councils have been placed in one of the existing or new categories. These 20 councils replaced 44 former councils. The scale of the new councils means that the majority of these new councils will be eligible for fees that are higher than those paid to the former entities. However, the significant reduction in the number of councils from 152 to 128 has resulted in an estimated maximum saving on the overall cost of councillor fees in NSW of approximately \$2.5M.

Section 1 Introduction

1. Section 239 of the LG Act provides for the Tribunal to determine the categories of councils and mayoral offices and to place each council and mayoral office into one of those categories. The categories are to be determined at least once every 3 years.
2. Section 241 of the LG Act provides for the Tribunal to determine, not later than 1 May in each year, for each of the categories determined under section 239, the maximum and minimum amount of fees to be paid to mayors and councillors of councils, as well as chairpersons and members of county councils.
3. In determining the maximum and minimum fees payable in each of the categories, the Tribunal is required, pursuant to section 242A of the LG Act, to give effect to the same policies on increases in remuneration as those of the Industrial Relations Commission. The current policy on wages is that public sector wages cannot increase by more than 2.5 per cent, and this includes the maximum and minimum fees payable to councillors and mayors and chairpersons and members of county councils.
4. The Tribunal's determinations take effect from 1 July in each year. The Tribunal's Report and Determination of 2016, made on 29 March 2016, provided a general increase of 2.5 per cent which was consistent with the Government's policy on wages.
5. Since the making of the 2016 determination there has been a reduction in the number of councils in NSW from 152 to 128. In response to this significant change the Tribunal will review the categories and the allocation of each council and mayoral offices into those categories, pursuant to section 239 of the LG Act.

Section 2 Local Government Reform

Update on council amalgamations

6. The NSW Government has been working with local councils since 2011 to create stronger councils and strengthen local communities.
7. On 12 May 2016 the NSW Government announced the formation of 19 new councils. The proclamation of the new Bayside Council occurred on 9 September 2016 following

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the conclusion of legal action in the Court of Appeal. This took the total number of new councils created in 2016 to 20.

8. The decision to create new councils follows four years of extensive community and industry consultation and independent research and analysis which found a strong case for reform.
9. Detailed information on the reform process and progress to date can be found on the [Fit for the Future](#) and [Stronger Councils](#) websites.
10. On 14 February 2017, the Government announced that all merged councils in NSW will remain in place and the proposed formation of a further five new councils in Sydney would proceed, subject to the outcome of court proceedings. However, there will be no further regional council mergers.

Amendments to the *Local Government Act 1993*

11. The LG Act was amended in July 2016 to insert sub-clauses (3) and (4) into section 242A to clarify the intent of the impact of the government's wages policy on a determination which may change the category of a council as follows:

242A Tribunal to give effect to declared government policy on remuneration for public sector staff

- (1) In making a determination, the Remuneration Tribunal is to give effect to the same policies on increases in remuneration as those that the Industrial Relations Commission is required to give effect to under section 146C of the Industrial Relations Act 1996 when making or varying awards or orders relating to the conditions of employment of public sector employees.*
- (2) The policies referred to in subsection (1) do not include any policy that provides for increases in remuneration based on employee-related savings.*
- (3) This section does not apply to a determination by the Remuneration Tribunal that changes the category of a council or mayoral office (whether or not the effect of the change is to increase the range of amounts payable to the councillors and mayor of a council).*
- (4) To avoid doubt, this section extends to a determination of the minimum and maximum amounts payable for a category in existence when the determination is made.*

12. The impact of these amendments to the LG Act is outlined in section 4 of this report.

Section 3 Review of Categories

Scope of review

13. Section 239 of the LG Act requires the Tribunal to determine the categories of councils and mayoral offices at least once every 3 years. The Tribunal last reviewed the categories during the 2015 annual review.

14. Since the making of the 2016 determination there has been an overall reduction in the number of councils from 152 to 128. This significant change has prompted a review of the existing categories and the allocation of councils into each of those categories.

15. In determining categories the Tribunal is required to have regard to the following matters that are prescribed in section 240 of the LG Act:

“240 (1)

- the size of areas*
- the physical terrain of areas*
- the population of areas and the distribution of the population*
- the nature and volume of business dealt with by each Council*
- the nature and extent of the development of areas*
- the diversity of communities served*
- the regional, national and international significance of the Council*
- such matters as the Remuneration Tribunal considers relevant to the provision of efficient and effective local government*
- such other matters as may be prescribed by the regulations.”*

16. The Tribunal is tasked with determining a categorisation model in which councils with the largest number of features in common can be grouped together for remuneration purposes. This is not straightforward as each council has challenges and issues which are unique.

17. The existing categories group councils primarily on the basis of their geographic location (predominantly metropolitan or rural). Categories are then further differentiated on other factors including population, the sphere of the council’s economic influence and the council’s degree of regional servicing.

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18. The Tribunal reviewed this model having regard to a large amount of statistical material, including population and financial data, demographic indicators and indicators of regional significance. The Tribunal found that while the existing criteria continue to provide an equitable and transparent model by which to differentiate councils for the purposes of determining remuneration, there existed some scope to refine these criteria to address a number of categorisation anomalies and to better reflect the composition of councils post amalgamations.
19. In considering a new model the Tribunal sought to improve consistency and transparency in the determination of categories and the allocation of councils into each of those categories. Having considered the existing and new councils, the Tribunal identified a number of councils that specifically warranted either recategorisation into an existing category or a new category.
20. The current model provides for the councils of Newcastle, Wollongong, Central Coast (former Wyong and Gosford) and Lake Macquarie to be grouped with councils in the Sydney Metropolitan Area. These councils are not located in what is generally defined as the Sydney Metropolitan Area and the categorisation did not adequately reflect their regional status. Having assessed the characteristics of these councils the Tribunal was of the preliminary view that the categories should differentiate metropolitan and non-metropolitan councils. On that basis two new categories were proposed for the regional group to accommodate these councils.
21. In respect of the larger metropolitan councils, amalgamations in the Sydney metropolitan area have resulted in a significant number of councils with populations of greater than 200,000. The 2016 determination provided for the Council of the City of Parramatta to be categorised in the same category (Metropolitan City) as Newcastle and Wollongong City Councils. The proposal to move Newcastle and Wollongong into the non-metropolitan group necessitated a re-think of the categorisation for Parramatta City Council having regard to its status in the metropolitan region. The Tribunal found that Parramatta City Council was significantly differentiated from other large metropolitan councils on the basis of its secondary CBD status as recognised by the State Government. On this basis a new category of Major CBD was proposed for Parramatta City Council.
22. Prior to seeking the views of Local Government NSW (LGNSW) and councils the Tribunal's preliminary view was that most of the existing categories should be retained but there

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should also be some new categories to reflect the evolving shape of local government in NSW. The proposed model was as follows:

Metropolitan

- Principal CBD
- Major CBD
- Metropolitan Major
- Metropolitan Centre
- Metropolitan

Regional

- Regional City
- Regional Strategic Centre
- Regional Rural
- Rural

23. To test this model the Tribunal wrote to all mayors in November 2016 advising of the commencement of the 2017 Annual Review. In doing so the Tribunal advised councils of its intention to revise the existing categorisation model following examination of the list of existing and new councils. To assist councils in making their submissions the Tribunal outlined its preliminary thinking on a proposed model for metropolitan and non-metropolitan councils as follows:

“Metropolitan

Five metropolitan categories are proposed. The existing Principal City category is proposed to be retained for Sydney City Council and renamed Principal CBD. Major City is proposed to be abolished and a new category created for Parramatta City Council. The Tribunal’s preliminary thinking is that this category will be titled Major CBD. The existing Metropolitan Major, Metropolitan Centre and Metropolitan categories will be retained for the new and remaining existing councils.....

Non-metropolitan

Four non-metropolitan categories are proposed. A new Regional City category will be created for Newcastle and Wollongong City Councils. A new Regional Strategic Centre category will be created for Central Coast and Lake

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Macquarie Councils. The existing Regional Rural and Rural categories will be retained for other new and remaining councils.....

County Councils

The Tribunal does not intend to make any change to the categorisation of county councils and will retain the existing categories of Water and Other.”

24. The Tribunal also outlined its approach to the criteria for categorising councils into the proposed metropolitan and non-metropolitan categories as follows:

“The Tribunal’s 2009 annual determination outlines the characteristics for the existing categories. At this stage the Tribunal intends to adopt a similar approach and will determine descriptors for the proposed categories for the purposes of classifying councils into the categories. Population is likely to remain a determining factor for differentiating categories of councils. The Tribunal will also have regard to the matters prescribed in section 240 of the LG Act.”

25. The Tribunal invited submissions on the proposed categorisation model, criteria for the allocation of councils into the categories, fees for the proposed categories and any other matters.
26. The Tribunal also wrote to the President of LGNSW in similar terms, and subsequently met with the President and Chief Executive of LGNSW. The Tribunal wishes to place on record its appreciation to the President and Chief Executive for meeting with the Tribunal.

Submissions received - categorisation

27. In response to this review the Tribunal received 28 submissions from individual councils and a submission from LGNSW. A summary of the key points is below.

Categorisation

28. Approximately half of the submissions (46 per cent) supported the proposed categories with no variation or supported the proposed categories with variations to titles or the number of categories. The balance of the submissions (54 per cent) did not express a view in respect to the proposed categorisation model.

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29. In respect to variations put forward in submissions, the LGNSW requested that the proposed “Major CBD” and “Metropolitan Major” be merged and called “Metropolitan Major” and an additional category be created called “Special/Interim”. The “Metropolitan Major” category would include councils with a population of at least 250,000 and/or that met other specified indicators that set them apart from other metropolitan councils. The “Special/Interim” category would apply on an interim basis to councils that demonstrate special attributes/circumstances that are out of the ordinary, for example high population growth.
30. Council submissions requested additional categories such as a “Metropolitan Growth Centre” or “Metropolitan Major – Growth Centre” for councils dealing with high growth; “Metropolitan Gateway” for councils that connect the regions to metropolitan areas; and “Peri-Urban” for councils that interface between urban and rural areas.

Criteria

31. A number of submissions referred to the criteria provided in section 240 of the LG Act, either noting or stating the criteria remain relevant (18 per cent) or suggesting that additional criteria to those provided in section 240 is required (50 per cent). Other submissions explained how their individual council performed against the section 240 criteria (29 per cent). The balance of the submissions did not express a view in respect to the criteria for categorisation (18 per cent).
32. The LGNSW suggested that the criteria need to be expanded to include a wider range of factors such as the level of disadvantage an area suffers, annual growth rate of an area (relative to population) and expenditure of an area.
33. Council submissions suggested additional criteria such as status as a NSW Evocity; the nature of a council’s business, for example some do not provide water and sewerage services; level of economic activity in a local government area; specific population thresholds; resident/councillor ratio and planning significance in terms of Government targets.
34. Councils were also asked to provide submissions on the matter of fees. Comments relating to fees are outlined in section 4.

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Findings - categorisation

35. The Tribunal is appreciative of the number of submissions received and the effort made in those submissions to comment on the proposed categorisation model and to provide further suggestions for consideration. Given the broad support the Tribunal will determine the categories as proposed with a number of minor variations which in part reflect the feedback received.
36. Since seeking the views of councils the Tribunal has reconsidered the titles of the former metropolitan categories being Metropolitan Major, Metropolitan Centre and Metropolitan. The Tribunal found that these titles did not adequately describe the characteristics of the councils in those groups or articulate the difference between them. The Tribunal has determined that the three categories will be retained but that they will be re-titled Metropolitan Large, Metropolitan Medium and Metropolitan Small. The primary determinant for categorisation into these groups will be population.
37. The Tribunal also considers that the title of Regional Strategic Centre is more appropriately titled Regional Strategic Area. The two councils to be categorised into this group are local government areas which represent a large number of townships and communities of varying scale.
38. The revised model which will form the basis of this determination is as follows:

Metropolitan

- Principal CBD
- Major CBD
- Metropolitan Large
- Metropolitan Medium
- Metropolitan Small

Non-metropolitan

- Regional City
- Regional Strategic Area
- Regional Rural
- Rural

39. The criteria for each of the categories are outlined below. As with the previous categories the predominant factor to guide categorisation is population. Other common features of councils within those categories are also broadly described. These criteria

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have relevance when population alone does adequately reflect the status of one council compared to others with similar characteristics. In some instances the additional criteria will be significant enough to warrant the categorisation of a council into a group with a higher population threshold.

40. There is no significant change to the categorisation of county councils. A proclamation was published in the NSW Government Gazette No 52 of 22 June 2016 dissolving the Richmond River County Council and Far North Coast and the transferring their functions and operations to Rous County Council with effect 1 July 2016. County councils continue to be categorised on the basis of whether they undertake water and/or sewerage functions or administer, control and eradicate declared noxious weeds as a specified Local Control Authority under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*.

Criteria for categories

The following criteria will apply to each of the categories:

Principal CBD

The Council of the City of Sydney (the City of Sydney) is the principal central business district (CBD) in the Sydney Metropolitan area. The City of Sydney is home to Sydney's primary commercial office district with the largest concentration of businesses and retailers in Sydney. The City of Sydney's sphere of economic influence is the greatest of any local government area in Australia.

The CBD is also host to some of the city's most significant transport infrastructure including Central Station, Circular Quay and International Overseas Passenger Terminal. Sydney is recognised globally with its iconic harbour setting and the City of Sydney is host to the city's historical, cultural and ceremonial precincts. The City of Sydney attracts significant visitor numbers and is home to 60 per cent of metropolitan Sydney's hotels.

The role of Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney has significant prominence reflecting the CBD's importance as home to the country's major business centres and public facilities of state and national importance. The Lord Mayor's responsibilities in developing and maintaining relationships with stakeholders, including other councils, state and federal governments, community and business groups, and the media are considered greater than other mayoral roles in NSW.

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Major CBD

The Council of the City of Parramatta (City of Parramatta) is the economic capital of Greater Western Sydney and the geographic and demographic centre of Greater Sydney. Parramatta is the second largest economy in NSW (after Sydney CBD) and the sixth largest in Australia.

As an secondary CBD to metropolitan Sydney the Parramatta local government area is a major provider of business and government services with a significant number of organisations relocating their head offices to Parramatta. Public administration and safety has been a growth sector for Parramatta as the State Government has promoted a policy of moving government agencies westward to support economic development beyond the Sydney CBD.

The City of Parramatta provides a broad range of regional services across the Sydney Metropolitan area with a significant transport hub and hospital and educational facilities. The City of Parramatta is home to the Westmead Health and Medical Research precinct which represents the largest concentration of hospital and health services in Australia, servicing Western Sydney and providing other specialised services for the rest of NSW.

The City of Parramatta is also home to a significant number of cultural and sporting facilities (including Sydney Olympic Park) which draw significant domestic and international visitors to the region.

Metropolitan Large

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Large will typically have a minimum population of 200,000.

Other features may include:

- total operating revenue exceeding \$200M per annum
- the provision of significant regional services to greater Sydney including, but not limited to, major education, health, retail, sports, other recreation and cultural facilities
- significant industrial, commercial and residential centres and development corridors
- high population growth.

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Large will have a sphere of economic influence and provide regional services considered to be greater than those of other metropolitan councils.

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Metropolitan Medium

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Medium will typically have a minimum population of 100,000.

Other features may include:

- total operating revenue exceeding \$100M per annum
- services to greater Sydney including, but not limited to, major education, health, retail, sports, other recreation and cultural facilities
- industrial, commercial and residential centres and development corridors
- high population growth.

The sphere of economic influence, the scale of council operations and the extent of regional servicing would be below that of Metropolitan Large councils.

Metropolitan Small

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Small will typically have a population less than 100,000.

Other features which distinguish them from other metropolitan councils include:

- total operating revenue less than \$150M per annum.

While these councils may include some of the facilities and characteristics of both Metropolitan Large and Metropolitan Medium councils the overall sphere of economic influence, the scale of council operations and the extent of regional servicing would be below that of Metropolitan Medium councils.

Regional City

Councils categorised as Regional City will typically have a population above 150,000. These councils are metropolitan in nature with major residential, commercial and industrial areas. These Councils typically host government departments, major tertiary education and health facilities and incorporate high density commercial and residential development.

These councils provide a full range of higher order services and activities along with arts, culture, recreation and entertainment facilities to service the wider community and broader region. These councils typically also contain ventures which have a broader State and national focus which impact upon the operations of the council.

Newcastle City Council and Wollongong City Councils are categorised as Regional City.

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Regional Strategic Area

Councils categorised as Regional Strategic Area are differentiated from councils in the Regional Rural category on the basis of their significant population. Councils categorised as Regional Strategic Area will typically have a population above 200,000. These councils contain a mix of urban and rural settlements. They provide a range of services and activities including business, office and retail uses, along with arts, culture, recreation and entertainment facilities to service the wider community. These councils host tertiary education campuses and health facilities.

While councils categorised as Regional Strategic Area may have populations which exceed those of Regional City, they would not typically provide the same range of regional services or have an equivalent sphere of economic influence.

Central Coast Council and Lake Macquarie Council are categorised as Regional Strategic Area.

Regional Rural

Councils categorised as Regional Rural will typically have a minimum population of 20,000.

Other features which distinguish them from other non-metropolitan councils include:

- a major town or towns with the largest commercial component of any location in the surrounding area
- a significant urban population existing alongside a traditional farming sector, and are surrounded by smaller towns and villages or may be located on or close to the coast with high levels of population and tourist facilities
- provide a full range of higher-order services including business, office and retail uses with arts, culture, recreation and entertainment centres
- regional services to the wider community through principal referral hospitals, tertiary education services and major regional airports
- these councils may also attract large visitor numbers to established tourism ventures.

Rural

Councils categorised as Rural will typically have a population below 20,000.

Other features which distinguish them from other non-metropolitan councils include:

- one or two significant townships combined with a considerable dispersed population spread over a large area and a long distance from a major regional centre
- a limited range of services, facilities and employment opportunities compared to Regional Rural councils
- local economies based on agricultural/resource industries.

County Councils - Water

County councils that provide water and/or sewerage functions with a joint approach in planning and installing large water reticulation and sewerage systems.

County Councils - Other

County councils that administer, control and eradicate declared noxious weeds as a specified Local Control Authority under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*.

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41. These criteria will be included in future determinations as an appendix to ensure they are readily accessible.

Allocation of council into categories

42. In accordance with section 239 of the LG Act the Tribunal is required to allocate each of the councils into one of the categories. The allocation of councils is outlined in the determination under section 6.
43. In determining the allocation of councils into these categories the Tribunal found that that there were certain councils that could warrant categorisation into another category based on additional criteria. The Tribunal notes that a number of metropolitan and non-metropolitan councils have or are expected to experience significant development and population growth in the future. A number of these local government areas have been identified in the State Government's key planning strategies and include Camden and The Hills councils. The Tribunal acknowledges the additional responsibilities these and other councils may face now and in the future, however for the initial categorisation these councils have been categorised primarily on the basis of their population. The Tribunal will continue to monitor these and other councils to determine the appropriateness of the allocation of councils and the categorisation model for future determinations.

Section 4 Fees

Scope of review

44. In determining the maximum and minimum fees payable in each of the categories, the Tribunal is required, pursuant to section 242A of the LG Act, to give effect to the same policies on increases in remuneration as those that the Industrial Relations Commission is required to give effect to under section 146C of the Industrial Relations Act 1996 (IR Act), when making or varying awards or orders relating to the conditions of employment of public sector employees.
45. The current policy on wages pursuant to section 146C(1)(a) of the IR Act is articulated in the Industrial Relations (Public Sector Conditions of Employment) Regulation 2014 (the Regulation). The effect of the Regulation is that public sector wages cannot increase by

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more than 2.5 per cent, and this includes the maximum and minimum fees payable to councillors and mayors and chairpersons and members of county councils.

46. The LG Act was amended in July 2016 to insert sub-clauses (3) and (4) into section 242A to clarify the intent of the impact of the government's wages policy on a determination which may change the category of a council as follows:

242A Tribunal to give effect to declared government policy on remuneration for public sector staff

(1) In making a determination, the Remuneration Tribunal is to give effect to the same policies on increases in remuneration as those that the Industrial Relations Commission is required to give effect to under section 146C of the Industrial Relations Act 1996 when making or varying awards or orders relating to the conditions of employment of public sector employees.

(2) The policies referred to in subsection (1) do not include any policy that provides for increases in remuneration based on employee-related savings.

(3) This section does not apply to a determination by the Remuneration Tribunal that changes the category of a council or mayoral office (whether or not the effect of the change is to increase the range of amounts payable to the councillors and mayor of a council).

(4) To avoid doubt, this section extends to a determination of the minimum and maximum amounts payable for a category in existence when the determination is made.

47. Those amendments make clear that the minimum and maximum fees applicable to the existing categories cannot be increased by more than 2.5 per cent. The Tribunal is however able to determine that a council can be placed in another existing or a new category with a higher range of fees without breaching the government's wage policy. These changes provided the Tribunal with greater flexibility in reviewing fees for existing and new councils.

Submissions received - Fees

48. A number of submissions supported an increase in fees either by no less than 2.5 per cent or by an unspecified amount (25 per cent of responses). Several submissions suggested an alternative fee model (11 per cent) or made other general comments (29 per cent). The balance of submissions did not express a view in respect to fees (36 per cent).

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49. The LGNSW submitted that the Tribunal must increase fees by no less than 2.5 per cent being of the view that fees have already fallen behind comparable roles. Also, that the fee structure fails to recognise the work of councillors and is often inadequate to attract and retain people with the necessary skills and expertise. The LGNSW also made reference to the changes to the LG Act that have expanded the role of the governing body (section 223) and mayors and councillors (sections 226 and 232). These points were also put forward in several council submissions along with requests that fees account for additional duties performed as members of a joint organisation.
50. In respect to alternative fee models several councils requested the Tribunal to consider a fee model similar to those applying to local governments in Victoria or Queensland; that fees are calculated as a percentage of the salary payable to members of the NSW Parliament; or that fees be benchmarked against the remuneration for the Principal CBD category.

Findings - Fees

51. The Tribunal is required to have regard to the Government's wages policy when determining the increase to apply to the maximum and minimum fees that apply to councillors and mayors. The public sector wages policy currently provides for a cap on increases of 2.5 per cent.
52. The Tribunal has reviewed the key economic indicators, including the Consumer Price Index and Wage Price Index, and had regard to budgetary limitations imposed by the Government's policy of rate pegging , and finds that the full increase of 2.5 per cent is warranted. The 2.5 per cent increase will apply to the minimum and the maximum of the ranges for all existing categories.
53. The new categories have their remuneration ranges determined for the first time in this determination. As an initial determination the ranges for the new categories are not subject to the wages policy, however any future increase will be impacted in accordance with section 242A(4) of the LG Act.
54. The minimum and maximum fees for the new categories have been determined having regard to the relativities that exist between the existing groups.
55. For the category of Major CBD the maximum councillor fee is set at approximately 85 per cent of maximum councillor fee for Principal CBD. The maximum mayoral fee is set at

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

approximately 50 per cent of the maximum mayoral fee for Principal CBD. The minimum fees for both councillors and mayors are set at the same as that determined for the Metropolitan Large.

56. For the category of Regional City the maximum councillor fee is set at approximately 80 per cent of maximum councillor fee for Principal CBD. The maximum mayoral fee is set at approximately 45 per cent of the maximum mayoral fee for Principal CBD. The minimum fees for both councillors and mayors are set at the same as that determined for the Regional Strategic Area.
57. The minimum and maximum fees payable to the category of Regional Strategic Area will be the same as those payable to Metropolitan Large.

Impact of fee increase and new categories

58. The majority of councils will receive an increase of 2.5 per cent only.
59. Six councils will be eligible for increases of more than 2.5 per cent as those councils have been categorised into a higher or new category on the basis of the revised criteria.
60. The twenty new councils have been placed in one of the existing or new categories. These twenty councils replaced forty-four former councils. The scale of the new councils means that the majority of these new councils will be eligible for fees that are higher than those paid to the former entities. However, the significant reduction in the number of councils from 152 to 128 has resulted in an estimated maximum saving on the overall cost of councillor fees in NSW of approximately \$2.5M.

Section 5 Other matters

Fees for Deputy Mayors

61. Several council submissions requested that the Tribunal review the remuneration payable to Deputy Mayors (14 per cent). It was suggested that the remuneration be increased to reflect the additional duties undertaken or that elected deputy mayors receive an allowance based on a percentage of the councillor fee.
62. Councils have raised the matter of separate fees for Deputy Mayors on previous occasions and the Tribunal notes that it has previously determined that there is no provision in the

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

LG Act to empower the Tribunal to determine a separate fee or fee increase for Deputy Mayors. The method for determining separate fees, if any, for a Deputy Mayor are provided in section 249 of the LG Act as follows:

249 Fixing and payment of annual fees for the mayor

- (1) *A council must pay the mayor an annual fee.*
- (2) *The annual fee must be paid in addition to the fee paid to the mayor as a councillor.*
- (3) *A council may fix the annual fee and, if it does so, it must fix the annual fee in accordance with the appropriate determination of the Remuneration Tribunal.*
- (4) *A council that does not fix the annual fee must pay the appropriate minimum fee determined by the Remuneration Tribunal.*
- (5) *A council may pay the deputy mayor (if there is one) a fee determined by the council for such time as the deputy mayor acts in the office of the mayor. The amount of the fee so paid must be deducted from the mayor's annual fee."*

Conclusion

63. The Tribunal's determinations have been made with the assistance of the two Assessors - Mr Ian Reynolds and Mr Tim Hurst. The allocation of councils into each of the categories, pursuant to section 239 of the LG Act, is outlined in Determination No. 1. The maximum and minimum fees paid to councillors and mayors and members and chairpersons of county councils, pursuant to section 241 of the LG Act, is outlined in Determination No. 2.

64. On 14 February 2017, the Government announced that the proposed formation of a further five new councils in Sydney would proceed, subject to the outcome of court proceedings.

65. The Tribunal may need to consider the categorisation of further new councils following the conclusion of legal action. Should this occur prior to the making of the 2018 determination the Minister may direct the Tribunal to make a special determination(s) in accordance with section 242 of the LG Act.

The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

Signed

Dr Robert Lang

Dated: 12 April 2017

Section 6 Determinations

Determination No. 1- Determination Pursuant to Section 239 of Categories of Councils and County Councils Effective From 1 July 2017

Table 1: General Purpose Councils - Metropolitan

Principal CBD (1)	Major CBD (1)
Sydney	Parramatta
Metropolitan Large (8)	Metropolitan Medium (9)
Blacktown	Bayside
Canterbury-Bankstown	Campbelltown
Cumberland	Georges River
Fairfield	Hornsby
Liverpool	Ku-ring-gai
Northern Beaches	Inner West
Penrith	Randwick
Sutherland	Ryde
	The Hills
Metropolitan Small (11)	
Burwood	
Camden	
Canada Bay	
Hunters Hill	
Lane Cove	
Mosman	
North Sydney	
Strathfield	
Waverley	
Willoughby	
Woollahra	

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

Table 2: General Purpose Councils – Non-Metropolitan

Regional City (2)		Regional Strategic Area (2)	
Newcastle		Central Coast	
Wollongong		Lake Macquarie	

Regional Rural (37)		Rural (57)	
Albury		Balranald	Kyogle
Armidale		Bellingen	Lachlan
Ballina		Berrigan	Leeton
Bathurst		Bland	Liverpool Plains
Bega		Blayney	Lockhart
Blue Mountains		Bogan	Moree Plains
Broken Hill		Bourke	Murray River
Byron		Brewarrina	Murrumbidgee
Cessnock		Cabonne	Muswellbrook
Clarence Valley		Carrathool	Nambucca
Coffs Harbour		Central Darling	Narrabri
Dubbo		Cobar	Narrandera
Eurobodalla		Coolamon	Narromine
Goulburn Mulwaree		Coonamble	Oberon
Griffith		Cootamundra-Gundagai	Parkes
Hawkesbury		Cowra	Snowy Valleys
Kempsey		Dungog	Temora
Kiama		Edward River	Tenterfield
Lismore		Federation	Upper Hunter
Lithgow		Forbes	Upper Lachlan
Maitland		Gilgandra	Uralla
Mid-Coast		Glen Innes Severn	Walcha
Mid-Western		Greater Hume	Walgett
Orange		Gunnedah	Warren
Port Macquarie-Hastings		Gwydir	Warrumbungle
Port Stephens		Hay	Weddin
Queanbeyan-Palerang		Hilltops	Wentworth
Richmond Valley		Inverell	Yass
Shellharbour		June	
Shoalhaven			
Singleton			
Snowy Monaro			
Tamworth			
Tweed			
Wagga Wagga			
Wingecarribee			
Wollondilly			

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

Table 3: County Councils

Water (5)
Central Tablelands
Goldenfields Water
Mid-Coast
Riverina Water
Rous

Other (7)
Castlereagh-Macquarie
Central Murray
Hawkesbury River
New England Tablelands
Southern Slopes
Upper Hunter
Upper Macquarie

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

Determination No. 2- Determination Pursuant to Section 241 of Fees for Councillors and Mayors

Pursuant to s.241 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the annual fees to be paid in each of the categories to Councillors, Mayors, Members and Chairpersons of County Councils effective on and from 1 July 2017 are determined as follows:

Table 4: Fees for General Purpose and County Councils

Category		Councillor/Member Annual Fee		Mayor/Chairperson Additional Fee*	
		Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
General Purpose Councils – Metropolitan	Principal CBD	26,310	38,580	160,960	211,790
	Major CBD	17,540	32,500	37,270	105,000
	Metropolitan Large	17,540	28,950	37,270	84,330
	Metropolitan Medium	13,150	24,550	27,940	65,230
	Metropolitan Small	8,750	19,310	18,630	42,120
General Purpose Councils – Non-metropolitan	Regional City	17,540	30,500	37,270	95,000
	Regional Strategic Area	17,540	28,950	37,270	84,330
	Regional Rural	8,750	19,310	18,630	42,120
	Rural	8,750	11,570	9,310	25,250
County Councils	Water	1,740	9,650	3,730	15,850
	Other	1,740	5,770	3,730	10,530

*This fee must be paid in addition to the fee paid to the Mayor/Chairperson as a Councillor/Member (s.249(2)).

The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

Signed

Dr Robert Lang

Dated: 12 April 2017

Circular Details	17-08 / 10 May 2017 / A545404
Previous Circular	16-15
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers
Contact	Council Governance Team / 02 4428 4100
Action required	Council to Implement

2017/18 Determination of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

What's new or changing

- The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal (the Tribunal) has determined an increase of 2.5% to mayoral and councillor fees for the 2017/18 financial year, with effect from 1 July 2017.
- Following the creation of 20 new councils in 2016, the Tribunal, in consultation with the sector, has conducted a review of the categories of councils and mayoral offices pursuant to section 239 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act).
- The determination provides for the retention of five existing categories (some with new titles) and the creation of two new categories. In accordance with section 239, the categories of general purpose councils have been determined as follows:

Metropolitan

Principal CBD
Major CBD
Metropolitan Large
Metropolitan Medium
Metropolitan Small

Non-metropolitan

Regional City
Regional Strategic Area
Regional Rural
Rural

- Each council is allocated into one of these categories based on criteria identified by the Tribunal in pages 12 to 15 of its determination.

What this will mean for your council

- Sections 248 and 249 of the Act require councils to fix and pay an annual fee based on the Tribunal's determination for the 2017/18 financial year.
- Six existing councils will be eligible for increases of more than 2.5% as those councils have been categorised into a higher or new category on the basis of the revised criteria.
- The 20 new councils created as a result of the 2016 mergers have been placed in one of the existing or new categories.

Key points

- The level of fees paid will depend on the category the council is in.
- A council cannot fix a fee higher than the maximum amount determined by the Tribunal.

- If a council does not fix a fee, the council must pay the minimum fee determined by the Tribunal.

Where to go for further information

- The Tribunal's report and determination is available on the Office of Local Government's website www.olg.nsw.gov.au and on the NSW Remuneration Tribunal's website www.remtribunals.nsw.gov.au.



Tim Hurst
Acting Chief Executive



DRAFT LITHGOW CITY COUNCIL

7. PLANNING

Policy 7.11

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT

OBJECTIVES: To provide a framework for the management of asbestos in all aspects of Council's operations.

POLICY:

1.0 APPLICATION OF POLICY

1.1 Management Plan

In order to provide a framework for Council's management of asbestos in all its regulatory and workplace roles, an Asbestos Management Plan (the Plan) (attached) has been prepared to:

- Outline the role and powers of key NSW Government agencies and Council in managing asbestos;
- Provide general advice for residents or businesses to assist them manage asbestos appropriately;
- Identify the procedures to be implemented to address asbestos when assessing applications for development consent or approval; and
- Describe Council's procedures for managing asbestos in its workplace.

1.2 Operation of Management Plan

The Plan shall be followed, or used as a guide as necessary, by staff when dealing with asbestos related matters that is referred to in the Plan.

1.3 Amendments to the Plan

By virtue of the provisions provided by Section 377 of the Local Government Act 1993, amendments may be made to the Plan from time to time under the delegation of the General Manager if they relate to:

- Minor errors not impacting on any process provided by the Plan.
- Changes to legislation or NSW Government policy that impacts on the Plan or any process within the Plan
- New or updated information provided by the NSW Government that requires an update or alteration to the Plan

All other changes to the Plan or this Policy shall be considered by the Council.

2.0 Review

This policy shall be reviewed within 12 months of the election of a new Council.

Maintained by Department:	Environment and Development	Approved by:	Council		
Reference:	ECM: Policy Register	Council Policy No:	X.X	Effective Date:	XX/.XX/XX

Min No:	XX	Version No:	X	Review Date:	XX/XX/XX
Attachments:	Asbestos Management Plan				



Draft

Asbestos Management Plan

for

Lithgow City Council



Asbestos Management Plan for Lithgow City Council

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DISCLAIMER

This management plan was formulated to be consistent with Council's legislative obligations and within the scope of Council's powers. This policy should be read in conjunction with relevant legislation, guidelines and codes of practice. In the case of any discrepancies, the most recent legislation should prevail.

This management plan is based upon the Model Asbestos Policy for NSW Councils developed by the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Office of Local Government to promote a consistent Local Government approach to asbestos management across NSW.

This management plan does not constitute legal or professional advice. Legal or professional advice should be sought in relation to particular circumstances and liability will not be accepted for losses incurred as a result of reliance on this policy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This *Asbestos Management Plan* has been prepared by Lithgow City Council to:

- Outline the role and powers of key NSW Government agencies (particularly SafeWork NSW and EPA) and also Council in managing asbestos;
- Provide general advice for residents or businesses to assist them manage asbestos appropriately;
- Identify the procedures to be implemented to address asbestos when assessing applications for development consent or approval; and
- Describe Council's procedures for managing asbestos in its workplace.

Asbestos fibres when airborne, have the potential to cause serious health impacts, including asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma. Asbestos in the Lithgow Local Government Area may occur in one of the following forms.

- Naturally occurring asbestos.
Mapping has identified naturally occurring asbestos in the Lithgow Local Government Area in isolated locations that would not impact on Council operations.
- Asbestos products in buildings and other infrastructure.
Asbestos was commonly used in the manufacture of building products until the mid-1980's, after which it was gradually phased out. Many buildings constructed prior to a total ban on the use of asbestos in 2003 are likely to have asbestos containing materials. Table 1 provided a 'general rule' of the likelihood that a building would contain asbestos materials.

Table 1
General Likelihood of a Building Containing Asbestos
(Source: Office of Local Government – Model Asbestos Policy for NSW Councils)

Date of Construction	Likelihood Structure Contains Asbestos
Before the mid-1980s	Highly likely to contain asbestos containing materials;
Between the mid 1980s and 1990	Likely to contain asbestos containing materials;
Between 1990 and 31 December 2003	Unlikely to contain asbestos containing materials;
After 31 December 2003	Very unlikely to contain asbestos containing materials as a total ban on any activity involving asbestos products became effective on that date.

- Asbestos contamination resulting from disturbance of either of the above.
Contamination may be the result of illegal dumping of asbestos containing materials, from incidents such as building fires or prior uncontrolled placement of asbestos containing materials.

Various legislation and regulations impose responsibility and obligations for managing asbestos on organisations and individuals. This document provides guidance in relation to measures that will assist with compliance with those requirements.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Asbestos in the Lithgow Local Government Area may occur in one of three forms, namely:

- Naturally occurring asbestos.
- Asbestos in asbestos containing materials in buildings and other infrastructure; or
- Asbestos contamination resulting from disturbance of either of the above.

Where asbestos containing material is in a non-friable form (that is, cannot be crushed into a powder by hand), is undisturbed and is painted or otherwise sealed, it may remain safely in place. However, where asbestos containing material is friable, broken, damaged, disturbed or mishandled, fibres can become loose and airborne, posing a risk to health. Similarly, where naturally occurring asbestos or asbestos-contaminated land is disturbed, asbestos fibres can become airborne. Breathing in dust containing asbestos fibres can cause asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma. (see [Section 1.4](#)).

It is often difficult to identify the presence of asbestos by sight. Where a material cannot be identified or is suspected to be asbestos containing, it is best to assume that the material is asbestos and take appropriate precautions.

This *Asbestos Management Plan* has been prepared generally in accordance with the *Model Asbestos Policy for NSW Councils* prepared by the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, Office of Local Government. This Plan provides:

- Background information in relation to asbestos in the Lithgow Local Government Area;
- Procedures to be implemented by Council's Development Division when assessing applications for development consent or approval; and
- Procedures to be implemented by Council and Council workers in relation to management of asbestos in Council buildings, on Council-owned land and also in asbestos-related emergencies.

1.2 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Plan is to outline:

- The role of a variety of NSW Government agencies, Council and other organisations in managing asbestos;
- Council's relevant regulatory powers;
- Council's approach to dealing with naturally occurring asbestos, asbestos containing materials and sites contaminated by asbestos in Council workplaces and elsewhere;
- General advice for residents or businesses carrying out development in areas of naturally occurring asbestos or involving structures that may contain asbestos;
- General advice for residents or businesses on renovating homes that may contain asbestos;
- Council's development approval process for development that may involve asbestos and conditions of consent;

- Waste management and regulation procedures for asbestos waste in the Local Government Area;
- Sources of further information for Council employees and others; and
- To comply with Section 23A of the *Local Government Act 1993* in terms of taking into account relevant Guidelines (*Model Asbestos Policy for NSW Councils*) prior to exercising any of its functions.

It should be noted that the adoption of this management plan is not for the purpose of restricting the development of the land because of the potential or likelihood of asbestos contamination or naturally occurring asbestos being present on the land. That is, the focus of this management plan is upon the management of the substance (asbestos) rather than the restriction of the development of land.

1.3 SCOPE

This Plan applies to all of the Lithgow Local Government Area and all friable, non-friable (bonded) and naturally occurring asbestos within that area.

This Plan outlines Council's commitment and responsibilities in relation to safely managing asbestos and contains general advice. For specific advice, individuals are encouraged to contact Council or the appropriate organisation (see **Appendices A and C**).

This Plan does not provide detail on specific procedures. Practical guidance on how to manage risks associated with asbestos and asbestos containing materials can be found in the following documents.

- *How to manage and control asbestos in the workplace: Code of practice* published by SafeWork NSW.
- *How to safely remove asbestos: Code of practice* published by SafeWork NSW.
- Additional guidance material listed in **Appendix A**.

1.4 HEALTH HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH ASBESTOS

Breathing in asbestos fibres can cause asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma. The risk of contracting these diseases increases with the number of fibres inhaled and the risk of lung cancer from inhaling asbestos fibres is greatly increased if you smoke. Small fibres are the most dangerous and they are invisible to the naked eye. People who are at most risk are those who have been exposed to high levels of asbestos for a long time. Infrequent exposure at low concentrations is unlikely to result in adverse health implications. The symptoms of these diseases do not usually appear for some time (about 20 to 30 years) after the first exposure to asbestos.

Asbestosis is the irreversible scarring of lung tissue that can result from the inhalation of substantial amounts over a period of years. It results in breathlessness that may lead to disability and in some cases, death.

Lung cancer can be caused by asbestos. Lung cancer is related to the amount of fibre that is inhaled and the risk of lung cancer is greatly increased in those who also smoke tobacco.

Mesothelioma is a cancer of the pleura (outer lung lining) or the peritoneum (the lining of the abdominal cavity). Mesothelioma rarely occurs less than 15 years from the first exposure with most cases occur over 30 year after first exposure.

1.5 AVAILABILITY OF THIS PLAN

This document is available via Council's website and intranet. Part 3 of this document contains a range of procedures and measures to be implemented by Council. Public access to that information is provided for information only and users of that information should undertake their own risk assessment and not assume that the procedures identified in this document will adequately manage asbestos-related risks in non-Council workplaces or land.

All Council workers will receive general information in relation to asbestos management during Council's induction program.

Any Council workers (including employees, contractors, consultants and, where relevant, volunteers and members of the public) who may be involved in any activity or activities that may disturb asbestos will be provided with access to this Plan and relevant supporting documents. This includes any workers involved in commencing, arranging, undertaking, regulating, inspecting or supervising a potentially hazardous activity or activities. Managers are responsible for ensuring workers who report to them will have access to this Plan and appropriate information, documentation and training in asbestos awareness (as per the Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011) prior to planning the activity or activities.

Finally, Council will require compliance with the Plan in all relevant contracts and agreements with workers (including employees, contractors, consultants and, where relevant, volunteers and members of the public).

2. DEFINITIONS

Definitions are provided in **Appendix B**.

PART 2 – ASBESTOS IN THE LITHGOW

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

3. NATURALLY OCCURRING ASBESTOS

3.1 BACKGROUND

Naturally occurring asbestos identified by mapping in the LGA is in locations that would not impact on Council operations. Naturally occurring asbestos only poses a health risk when elevated levels of fibres are released into the air, either by human activities or by natural weathering and these fibres are breathed in by people. Mapping of naturally occurring asbestos is provided in the link in Appendix A. This information is indicative, and not a complete picture of all naturally occurring asbestos in NSW.

3.2 REGULATORY ROLES FOR NATURALLY OCCURRING ASBESTOS

For naturally occurring asbestos that will remain undisturbed by any work practice, council is the lead regulator.

Where development applications propose activities that may disturb areas of naturally occurring asbestos (such as excavation), any consent or approval should contain conditions requiring: testing to determine if asbestos is present, and the development of an asbestos management plan if the testing reveals naturally occurring asbestos is present. Council will verify compliance with environmental planning and assessment legislation and together with the EPA and SafeWork will coordinate enforcement where non-compliance is suspected.

Where naturally occurring asbestos will be disturbed due to a work process, including roadwork, excavation and remediation work, SafeWork is the lead regulator. Requirements for workplaces are summarised in the *Naturally-occurring asbestos fact sheet* (catalogue no. WC03728) published by WorkCover. Where naturally occurring asbestos is part of a mineral extraction process, Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure is the lead regulator.

3.3 MANAGING NATURALLY OCCURRING ASBESTOS

Where naturally occurring asbestos is encountered or suspected, the risk from disturbance of the naturally occurring asbestos should be assessed by an occupational hygienist.

The management of naturally occurring asbestos that stays in its natural state is not prohibited if managed in accordance with an asbestos management plan. Requirements for risk management, asbestos management plans and provisions for workers are outlined in the *Naturally-occurring asbestos fact sheet* (catalogue no. WC03728) published by SafeWork NSW.

If naturally occurring asbestos is discovered in the LGA, Council will develop risk controls, an asbestos management plan in relation to the naturally occurring asbestos and provide guidance materials where necessary.

4. ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIALS

4.1 BACKGROUND

Asbestos was mined and widely used in the manufacture of a variety of materials. Asbestos was gradually phased out of building materials in the 1980s and the supply and installation of asbestos containing materials has been prohibited in Australia since 31 December 2003.

Asbestos containing materials still exist in many homes, building and other infrastructure. It is estimated that 1 in 3 Australian homes contains building materials with asbestos. It is often difficult to identify the presence of asbestos by sight. If in doubt, assume that asbestos is present. It is important to note, that most accurate way to find out whether a material contains asbestos is to engage a licensed asbestos removalist or occupational hygienist to inspect and arrange testing where necessary.

Table 2
General Likelihood of a Building Containing Asbestos
 (Source: Office of Local Government – *Model Asbestos Policy for NSW Councils*)

Date of Construction	Likelihood Structure Contains Asbestos
Before the mid 1980s	Highly likely to contain asbestos containing materials;
Between the mid 1980s and 1990	Likely to contain asbestos containing materials;
Between 1990 and 31 December 2003	Unlikely to contain asbestos containing materials;
After 31 December 2003	Very unlikely to contain asbestos containing materials as a total ban on any activity involving asbestos products became effective on that date.

Fibre cement sheeting, commonly known as ‘fibro’, ‘asbestos sheeting’ or ‘AC sheeting’ (asbestos containing sheeting) is the most commonly found asbestos containing material in residential premises, however asbestos was used in variety of materials such as carpet underlays, floor tiles, downpipes and other pipes, meter boards, pipe lagging, guttering, ceiling insulation, etc. See **Appendix F** for a list of asbestos containing materials often used in buildings. Additional information has been prepared by a range of government and industry bodies. **Appendix F** also includes links to selected information prepared by those bodies.

Finally, it is noted that in the 1960s and 1970s a loose fill asbestos ceiling insulation material was installed in commercial and residential premises by and ACT-based company trading as ‘Mr Fluffy’. This product was made of crushed, loose asbestos and was either pumped or spread by hand into the ceiling space. This material may be very easily disturbed, generating airborne asbestos fibres that may cause health risks if inhaled or ingested. Additionally the material can migrate from the ceiling to other areas of the building, such as walls and subfloor areas.

There is some evidence to suggest that this loose fill asbestos insulation material was installed not only in the ACT, but also in many areas of NSW, including Lithgow. Residents with queries regarding the use of loose fill asbestos insulation and details of how to have the material safely sampled and tested should contact Service NSW on 13 77 88.

4.2 RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ASBESTOS IN BUILDINGS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE

Responsibility for asbestos in buildings and other infrastructure lies with the owner of the land or building, whether the buildings and infrastructure be owned by the Government, Council, a corporation or an individual.

4.3 MANAGING ASBESTOS IN BUILDINGS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE

Where the asbestos containing material is non-friable (or bonded), undisturbed, and painting or otherwise sealed, it may remain safely in place. However, where the asbestos containing material is broken, damaged or mishandled, fibres can become loose and airborne, posing a risk to health. Disturbing or removing asbestos unsafely can create a health hazard.

Procedures for managing asbestos in Council buildings and infrastructure are identified in Part 3.

Where a building or infrastructure is a workplace, WorkCover is the lead agency. In that case, Clause 425 of the Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011 identifies that where the building was constructed prior to 31 December 2003 or where asbestos may occur within the workplace an *Asbestos Register* must be prepared and kept at the workplace. The *Asbestos Register* must identify the location, type and condition of the asbestos or asbestos containing material.

In addition, Clause 429 of the Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011 identified that an *Asbestos Management Plan* must be prepared where asbestos has been identified or is likely to be present at a work place. The *Asbestos Management Plan* must include information in relation to:

- The identification of asbestos containing materials;
- Decisions, and reasons for decisions, about the management of asbestos or asbestos containing materials at the workplace, including safe work procedures and control measures;
- Procedures for detailing incidents or emergencies involving asbestos or asbestos containing materials at the workplace; and
- Consultation, responsibilities, information and training for workers carrying out work involving naturally occurring asbestos.

Owners of buildings and infrastructure are advised to seek independent advice from an occupational hygienist or licensed asbestos removalist in relation to managing asbestos-related risks. It is suggested that building or infrastructure owners require contractors to provide a copy of their licence prior to engaging them. Building or infrastructure owners can then check with SafeWork NSW (phone 13 10 50) or email contact@safework.nsw.gov.au to confirm the contractor has the appropriate class of licence for the asbestos removal job. Further details in relation to licence requirements are provided in Section 7.1.

Some older infrastructure such as water and sewerage drainage pipes may have been constructed from asbestos containing materials. This infrastructure must be handled in accordance with the requirements of the Work Health and Safety Act 2011. The NSW Water Directorate published Cutting, Handling and Disposal of Asbestos Cement (AC) Pipe Guidelines June 2014 which provides guidance to infrastructure providers when working with these assets.

5. CONTAMINATION OF LAND WITH ASBESTOS

5.1 BACKGROUND

Contamination of soils with asbestos or asbestos containing material can present a risk if the asbestos can give rise to elevated levels or airborne fibres that people can breathe. Whilst buried material may not give rise to airborne asbestos fibres if securely contained, inappropriate disturbance of this could give rise to harmful levels of asbestos fibres in air.

Situations where asbestos contamination may occur include, but are not limited to:

- Disturbed land where naturally occurring asbestos may have been stockpiled or used and where appropriate encapsulation techniques have not been implemented;
- Industrial land where asbestos or asbestos containing materials may have been used;
- Land that may have been used for asbestos waste disposal or dumping sites, including illegal dumping;
- Pre-2004 buildings or structures damaged by fire or storm;
- Land with fill or foundation material of unknown composition;
- Land where buildings or structures have been improperly demolished or renovated, or where relevant documentation is lacking; or
- Land containing disused services with asbestos containing piping, underground electrical and telephone wires and telecommunications trenches or pits.

For sites that are significantly contaminated, the EPA and WorkCover are the lead regulatory authorities under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997. The EPA maintains a Register of Significantly Contaminated Sites. At the time of finalisation of this Plan, there were no sites within the Lithgow Local Government Area listed on the NSW State Register as a result of asbestos contamination.

5.2 RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CONTAMINATED LAND

Responsibility for cleaning up contaminated land lies with the person responsible for contaminating the land or the relevant landowner. Both the State and Local Governments play key roles in enforcing the management of asbestos contamination through a range of regulatory powers.

During site redevelopment, Council will consider contamination in general, including contamination with asbestos containing materials in accordance with requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the Contaminated Lands Management Act 1997 and State Environmental Planning Policy 55 – Remediation of Land.

A person whose activities have contaminated land or a landowner whose land has been contaminated is required to notify the EPA when they become aware of the contamination.

Council may issue notices to landowners or occupiers requiring information about land it has reason to believe may be contaminated by asbestos using Section 192 and Section 193 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.

5.3 MANAGING ASBESTOS CONTAMINATED LAND

The EPA and SafeWork NSW are the lead regulatory authorities under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997 for sites that are significantly contaminated. Those agencies may issue a range of orders in relation to management of such sites.

Council may also issue a **Clean Up Notice** under Part 4.2 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 to the occupier of premises at or from which Council reasonably suspects that a pollution incident has occurred, or is occurring, requiring asbestos waste to be removed.

Council may also issue a **Prevention Notice** under Part 4.3 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 to ensure appropriate environmental practice.

If a person does not comply with a Notice or Order given to the person, Council may take action to cause compliance with the Notice or Order. Any reasonable costs incurred by Council in monitoring or enforcing clean up and prevention notices may be recovered through a **Compliance Cost Notice** issued under Part 4.5 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.

6. RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES AND INCIDENTS

6.1 BACKGROUND

Emergencies and incidents such as major collapses, explosions, fires, storms, or vandalism can cause damage to buildings or land that contain asbestos. This may include working with state agencies in accordance with the NSW Asbestos Emergency Plan and the Disaster Assistance Guidelines. This can create site contamination issues and potentially expose emergency service workers and the wider public to asbestos.

6.2 COUNCIL PROCEDURES IN THE CLEAN UP AFTER AN EMERGENCY OR INCIDENT

If the emergency or incident occurs at a workplace, WorkCover is the lead agency. The EPA may also be involved in incident response whereby asbestos material is transported and disposed of, such as the time following bushfires.

Council may play a role in an emergency or incident by ensuring that asbestos containing materials are cleaned up at non-workplace-related sites. In doing this, Council may take regulatory action against the owner or occupier of the premises using Notices, Orders and penalty infringement notices issued under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, Local Government Act 1993 or the Protection the Environment Operations Act 1997.

Additionally, Council may take additional action when responding to an emergency or incident, depending on the situation, as is deemed appropriate at the time. This action may include the following.

- Seek advice for an occupational hygienist on the likely level of risk and appropriate controls required.
- Liaise with or consult the appropriate agencies.
- Inform emergency personnel of any hazards known to Council as soon as practicable.
- Complete a risk assessment or Job Safety Analysis prior to commencing work and fully implement all identified Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS). In developing site-specific SWMS, Council will consider the following Codes of Practice and procedures:
- The How to safely remove asbestos: Code of practice published by SafeWork NSW.

- Ensure that any Council workers attending the site have appropriate training and are wearing appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Exclude the public from the site.
- Inform the public of the potential sources of exposure to asbestos, health risks and emergency management response.
- Minimise the risks posed by any remaining structures.
- Address the risks posed by disturbed asbestos containing materials by engaging a licensed asbestos removalist or issuing a clean up or prevention notice to ensure asbestos containing materials are removed for disposal.
- Ensure, where appropriate, that the site is kept damp at all times or sprayed with PVA glue, particularly where friable asbestos is present. In some instances this may not be appropriate, for example if there are live electrical conductors or if major electrical equipment could be permanently damaged or made dangerous by contact with water.
- Ensure that asbestos containing materials are disposed of at a facility licensed to accept asbestos waste and sight proof of appropriate disposal through weighbridge dockets or similar documentation.

During the clean up after an emergency or incident, potential exists for neighbours to be exposed to asbestos fibres. Where Council is involved in such clean up works, it may provide the following advice to neighbouring properties during such clean up operations.

- Avoid unnecessary outdoor activity. Where outdoor activity is necessary, appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be worn.
- Do not put any washing outside to dry during the clean up.
- Close all external doors and windows and stay indoors during the clean up.
- Avoid using air conditioners that introduce air from outside into the home during the clean up.
- Dispose of any laundry/washing that may have been contaminated with asbestos as asbestos waste after the clean up.
- Use a low pressure hose on a spray configuration to remove visible dust from pathways after the clean up.
- Wipe dusty surfaces with a damp cloth, and bag and dispose of the cloth as asbestos waste after the clean up.
- Any other measures recommended by an occupational hygienist following assessment of the situation.
- Depending on the significance of an incident and the role of response agencies involved in the clean up activities, advice to neighbours may be more appropriately coordinated and managed by another response agency, such as WorkCover, EPA or an emergency service provider.

7. MANAGING ASBESTOS AS A WASTE

7.1 REMOVING ASBESTOS WASTE FOR DISPOSAL

Table 3 presents an overview of the licensing requirements for removal of asbestos. Only persons with a WorkCover licence are permitted to remove asbestos where the criteria for a Class A or Class B licence are met. A contractor's licence can be verified by contacting SafeWork NSW's Certification Unit on telephone 13 10 50, or email contact@safework.nsw.gov.au.

Table 3
Asbestos Licence Requirements

Type of licence	What asbestos can be removed?
Class A	Can remove any amount or quantity of asbestos or asbestos containing material, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any amount of friable asbestos or asbestos containing material Any amount of asbestos containing dust Any amount of non-friable asbestos or asbestos containing material.
Class B	Can remove: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any amount of non-friable asbestos or asbestos containing material Asbestos containing dust associated with the removal of non-friable asbestos or asbestos containing material. <p>Note: A Class B licence is required for removal of more than 10m² of non-friable asbestos or asbestos containing material but the licence holder can also remove less than this quantity.</p>
No licence required	Can remove: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 10m² of non-friable asbestos or asbestos containing material Asbestos containing dust that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associated with the removal of less than 10m² of non-friable asbestos or asbestos containing material Not associated with the removal of friable or non-friable asbestos and is only a minor contamination.

All asbestos removal is required to be undertaken in accordance with the document *How to safely remove asbestos: Code of Practice* published by SafeWork. Individuals or organisations should be aware of the procedures identified in the Code when engaging a licensed asbestos removal contractor.

7.2 TRANSPORTING ASBESTOS WASTE

The following requirements apply to the transport of asbestos waste. Non compliance with these requirements is an offence under Clause 78 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014*:

- any part of any vehicle in which the person transports the waste is covered, and leak proof, during the transportation, and
- if the waste consists of bonded asbestos material it is securely packaged during the transportation, and
- if the waste consists of friable asbestos material it is kept in a sealed container during transportation, and

- (d) if the waste consists of asbestos contaminated soils it is wetted down.

Asbestos waste that is transported interstate must be tracked in accordance with the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014*. The transport of asbestos waste in NSW must be recorded from the place of generation to its final destination. The waste tracking system is administered by the EPA. Operators that use the EPA's WasteLocate system will be in compliance with these requirements. See: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/wasteregulation/transport-asbestos-tyres.htm

An environment protection license issued by the EPA is required to transport asbestos waste interstate where any load contains more than 200 kilograms of asbestos waste.

It is an offence to transport waste to a place that cannot lawfully receive that waste, or cause or permit waste to be so transported (under section 143 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*). Penalty notices may be issued for \$7,500 (to individuals) and \$15,000 (to corporations). NSW courts may impose penalties up to \$250,000 (for individuals) and \$1,000,000 (for corporations) found guilty of committing this offence.

7.3 DISPOSING OF ASBESTOS WASTE AT WASTE FACILITIES

Asbestos waste (in any form) must only be disposed of at a landfill site that may lawfully receive asbestos waste. Asbestos must not be placed in domestic garbage or recycling bins, general waste skip bins, be reused, buried or dumped.

Council operates the Lithgow Solid Waste Depot which is the only location in the Council area licensed to accept asbestos waste. Details in relation to that facility are as follows.

- Address: Off Geordie Street Lithgow
- Hours of operation: 8am to 5pm, 7 days per week
- Contact details: Weighbridge Phone: 0417226429

Further information is available from Council's Website – www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au

Asbestos waste received at the Lithgow Solid Waste Depot must be packaged as identified in [Section 7.2](#). Asbestos waste that does not meet those requirements will be rejected. Council requests that a minimum of 24 hours notice is given prior to the delivery of asbestos materials for disposal.

Persons delivering asbestos waste to the Lithgow Solid Waste Depot must comply with the following:

- a person delivering the waste must inform the landfill operator of the presence of asbestos when delivering the waste.
- the waste must be uploaded and disposed of in such a manner as to prevent the generation of dust or the stirring up of dust.

Non-compliance with these requirements is an offence under the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014* and these regulations attract strong penalties.

Asbestos waste may be rejected from a waste facility if the waste is:

- not correctly packaged for delivery and disposal (as per sections 10.2 and 10.3)
- not disclosed by the transporter as being asbestos or asbestos containing materials, or
- taken to a waste facility that does not accept asbestos waste.

Where waste is rejected, the waste facility must inform the transporter of the waste of a waste facility to which the waste may be transported, that is, a waste facility at which the waste can be legally accepted (as required by the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2005*).

Individuals may be fined \$7,500 and corporations may be fined \$15,000 under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* and *Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014* for transporting asbestos waste to a facility that cannot lawfully receive asbestos waste.

7.4 ILLEGAL DUMPING OF ASBESTOS WASTE

Illegal dumping is the unlawful deposit of waste onto land. That is waste materials dumped, tipped or otherwise deposited onto private or public land where no licence or approval exists to accept such waste. Illegal landfilling, which is waste used as fill material with or without the consent of the

owner or occupier of the land but without the necessary council or EPA approvals, is also considered to be illegal dumping and pollution of land.

Illegal dumping of asbestos waste in public places such as parks, streets or nature strips can attract regulatory action including:

- on the spot fines of up to \$5000
- prosecution for pollution of land of up to \$1 million for a corporation and \$120,000 for each day the offence continues (under section 142A of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997), or
- up to \$1 million, or seven years imprisonment, or both for an individual (under section 119 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997).

The responsibility for cleaning up illegally dumped waste lies with the person or company that deposited the waste. If they cannot be identified the relevant landowner becomes the responsible party.

Local councils are the appropriate regulatory authority for illegal dumping unless:

- the activity was part of the carrying on of an activity listed in Schedule 1 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
- the activity was carried out by a public authority or the state, or
- the site is regulated by a different authority such as the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure.

A handbook to assist Aboriginal communities to prevent and arrange the clean up of illegal dumping (published by the EPA) is noted in Appendix B.

PART 3 – MANAGING ASBESTOS RISKS THROUGH THE PLANNING SYSTEM

8. COUNCIL’S PROCESS FOR CHANGING LAND USE

Council recognises the need to exercise care when changing zoning for land uses, approving development or excavating land due to the potential to uncover known or unknown asbestos material from previous land uses (for example, where a site has been previously been used as a landfill or for on-site burial of asbestos waste).

State Environmental Planning Policy No. 55 – Remediation of Land states that land must not be developed if it is unsuitable for a proposed use because it is contaminated. If the land is unsuitable, remediation must take place before the land is developed.

Managing sites contaminated with asbestos material is addressed in Section 5.

9. COUNCIL’S PROCESSES FOR ASSESSING DEVELOPMENT

9.1 BACKGROUND

This section applies to Development Applications assessed under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and complying Development Applications assessed under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008.

9.2 RESPONSIBILITIES FOR APPROVING DEVELOPMENT

Council is the consent authority for the majority of Development Applications in the Local Government Area. The Joint Regional Planning Panel is also consent authority for certain local or regional development. Council may have representation on the Joint Regional Planning Panel. Council or the Joint Regional Planning Panel may impose conditions of consent to a development consent to ensure the safe management of asbestos, in any form, where asbestos has either been identified as being present, or may be reasonably assumed to be present.

Either Council or a private certifier may assess a Complying Development Certificate. Where a private certifier is engaged to assess a Complying Development Certificate, the private certifier is responsible for ensuring that the proposed development activities include adequate plans for the safe removal and disposal of asbestos.

The above also applies to the demolition of buildings. In certain circumstances, Certifiers are able to issue a Complying Development Certificate under the Demolition Code of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008. Further information on demolition is provided in Section 10.4.

It is the Certifier’s responsibility to follow up and ensure that works, including asbestos handling, removal and disposal, if required, are carried out appropriately in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 (Clause 136E) prior to issuing an occupation certificate.

9.3 SECTION 149 CERTIFICATES

A person may apply to Council under Section 149(5) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 for a Planning Certificate.

A Planning Certificate obtained under Section 149(5) may identify whether Council records identify land as being contaminated with asbestos. Council aims to ensure that its records are, as far as possible, accurate. In some instances, Council may not have up-to-date information about asbestos for a property. Council may be able to provide general advice on the likelihood of asbestos being present on the land based on the age of the buildings or structures on the land, as detailed in Section 4.1 of this Plan.

It should be noted that a Planning Certificate obtained under Section 149(2) would not normally identify whether or not Council records indicate that the subject land is subject to contamination from asbestos materials, as a 149(2) Planning Certificate only contains information pertaining to matters which is prescribed by the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, such as whether or not the land is affected by a policy adopted by Council (or by any other public authority) that restricts the development of land because of the likelihood of land slip, bushfire, tidal inundation, subsidence, acid sulphate soils or any other risk (other than flooding).

Furthermore as previously identified in Section 1.2, the adoption of this Management Plan is not for the purpose of restricting the development of the land because of the potential/ likelihood of asbestos contamination or the likelihood of the presence of naturally occurring asbestos on the land. That is, the focus of this Management Plan is upon the management of the substance (asbestos), not on the restriction of the development of land.

9.4 REMOVING ASBESTOS, REFURBISHMENTS AND DEMOLITIONS

9.4.1 Identifying the Presence of Asbestos

The most accurate way to find out if a building or infrastructure contains asbestos is to obtain an asbestos inspection by a person competent in the identification and assessment of asbestos. A competent person is defined by the Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011. This is highly advisable before undertaking major renovations to buildings constructed, or containing materials manufactured prior to 2004. If in doubt, however, material should be assumed to contain asbestos until confirmed otherwise.

Property owners and agents are encouraged to inform any tenants or occupiers of the presence of asbestos and to address any potential asbestos hazards where appropriate.

Property owners who let their properties out are required to identify any asbestos within those properties before any work is carried out (this includes residential properties).

Part 8.3 of the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 states that the person conducting a business or undertakings in any building constructed before 31 December 2003 must identify if there is any asbestos in the building.

All commercial properties that contain asbestos must have and maintain a current asbestos register and asbestos management plan.

9.4.2 Removing Asbestos at Domestic Premises

If development is undertaken by contractors then the work is considered to be at a workplace and is regulated by SafeWork NSW under the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011. This requires that a person conducting a business or undertaking who is to carry out refurbishment or demolition of residential premises must ensure that all asbestos that is likely to be disturbed by the refurbishment or demolition is identified and so far as reasonably practicable, is removed before the refurbishment or demolition is commenced.

Depending on the nature and quantity of asbestos to be removed, a licence may be required to remove the asbestos. The requirements for licenses are outlined in Section 7.1 and **Table 3**. WorkCover is responsible for issuing asbestos licences.

All asbestos removal should be undertaken in accordance with the How to safely remove asbestos: Code of Practice

If a residential premise is a workplace, the licensed asbestos removalist must inform the following persons before licensed asbestos removal work is carried out:

- The person who commissioned the work
- A person conducting a business or undertaking at the workplace
- The owner and occupier of the residential premises
- Anyone occupying premises in the immediate vicinity of the workplace (as described in Clause 467 of the Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011).

In certain circumstances, a premise may be used for both residential and commercial purposes and is therefore classified as a workplace.

All licensed asbestos removal must be:

- Supervised by a supervisor named to SafeWork NSW
- Notified to SafeWork NSW at least five days prior to the work commencing

Requirements for the transport and disposal of asbestos waste are covered in Sections 7.2 and 7.3.

9.4.3 Removing Asbestos at Workplaces

The Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 specifies requirements for demolition and refurbishment at a workplace with structures or plant constructed or installed before 31 December 2003.

WorkCover is the lead agency for regulating the safe management of asbestos at workplaces.

9.4.4 Obtaining Approval for Demolition

Demolition work must comply with *Australian Standard AS 2601 – 2001: The demolition of structures*. In most circumstances demolition of a structure requires development consent or a complying development certificate. Applicants need to enquire to Council as to whether and what type of approval is required. Where a Development Application is required Council's standard conditions need to be applied to ensure that asbestos is safely managed. Council's conditions for development consent are referred to in Section 9.6.2.

The Demolition Work – Code of Practice 2015 provides practical guidance to persons conducting a business or undertaking on how to manage the health and safety risks associated with the demolition work. The Demolition Work – Code of Practice applies to all types of demolition work.

9.5 EXEMPT OR COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT

9.5.1 Exempt Development

Exempt development does not require any planning or construction approval if it meets the requirements of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008.

This means that there is limited ability for Council to impose safeguards for the handling of asbestos through conditions of development consent. However, Council advises that all asbestos removal work should be carried out in accordance with the document How to safely remove asbestos: Code of Practice.

9.5.2 Complying Development

Clause 136E of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 outlines conditions under which a complying development certificate can be issued for development that involves building work or demolition work and friable or non-friable asbestos.

Applications for complying development certificates must include details of the estimated area (if any) in square metres of friable and/or non-friable asbestos material that will be disturbed, repaired or removed in carrying out the development (under Schedule 1 part 2 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000.) Clause 136E of the Regulations identifies standard conditions for a complying development certificates.

If the work involves less than 10 square metres of non-friable asbestos and is not undertaken by a licensed contractor, the work must be undertaken in a manner that minimises risks as detailed in the How to safely remove asbestos: Code of practice.

Where asbestos removal is less than 10 square metres of non-friable asbestos and not from a place of work, then WorkCover would not be the agency responsible for regulating this activity. Concerns or complaints may be directed to Council as outlined in Section 11.

Clause 136AB of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 outlines the requirements for the applicant to notify their neighbours that works may include asbestos removal. Further requirements to inform other persons of licensed asbestos removal are described in Clause 467 of the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011.

9.6 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

If a proposed development does not meet the requirements of exempt or complying development then a Development Application is required. A Development Application can only be approved by a local Council or the Joint Regional Planning Panel. For very large, State-significant development proposals, the Minister for Planning will be the determining authority. A Development Application needs to be prepared and will be assessed in accordance with the relevant development standards.

Development Applications for land containing or potentially containing the following will be required to address management of asbestos as part of the supporting documentation.

- Naturally occurring asbestos.
- Asbestos containing materials.
- Asbestos contamination.

9.6.1 Pre-Development Application Advice Regarding Asbestos

Council's Development Application pre-lodgement service enables proponents to discuss asbestos-related issues with Council prior to lodging a Development Application.

9.6.2 Conditions of Consent

The following presents Council's standard conditions of consent that may be included in any development consent issued by Council in relation to an application that involved asbestos containing materials.

- Condition: Building demolition is to be carried out in accordance with *Australian Standard 2601:2001 – The Demolition of Structures* and the requirements of the NSW SafeWork Authority.
- Condition: Asbestos cement sheeting must be removed in accordance with the provisions of the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and any guidelines or Codes of Practice published by SafeWork NSW..

To assist applicants with developing an Asbestos Management Plan, applicants are encouraged to access the '*Asbestos Management Plan for Lithgow Council 2015*', which is available on Council's website: www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au

Other conditions of consent may be applied by Council in certain circumstances.

9.7 COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

9.7.1 Responsibilities for Compliance and Enforcement

Where a development is being undertaken on a worksite, as defined by the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*, the lead Regulatory Authority is SafeWork NSW. In other cases, or where it is deemed necessary, Council or a Private Certifier may take action to enforce compliance with development consent conditions. Additionally, Council may also issue Orders in relation to any other development, including exempt and complying development, in accordance with its regulatory powers (see Section 4.3). These orders may relate to management of asbestos.

9.7.2 Compliance Strategies

Illegal works include:

- Works that are undertaken without a required development consent or complying development certificate; or
- Works that are undertaken that do not comply with the conditions of the development consent or complying development certificate.

Where Council becomes aware of illegal work involving asbestos or asbestos containing materials, Council will notify SafeWork NSW if the site is a workplace.

Where the site is not a work place, Council may consider the use of Orders to direct specific works to be undertaken or to refrain from specific works, as detailed in [Section 4.3](#).

Council may audit asbestos-related demolition works by using a legal notice under [Section 192 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997](#) to require developers to provide information and records regarding disposal of their asbestos waste.

10. COMPLAINTS AND INVESTIGATIONS

Complaints and inquires regarding a workplace should be directed to WorkCover (Telephone 13 10 50).

Complaints and inquires about incidents in public places and private properties beyond the circumstances detailed above, may be directed to Council (Telephone (02) 63549999).

Council will respond to complaints and inquiries regarding:

- Council's requirements in relation to development, land management and waste management;
- Derelict properties;
- General asbestos safety issues;
- Illegal dumping;
- Safe removal and disposal of minor quantities of asbestos materials; and
- Unsafe work at a residential property conducted by a homeowner or tenant.

Complaints about Council in relation to asbestos may be made directly to Council or alternatively may be directed to the Office of Local Government or the NSW Ombudsman.

10.1.1 Regulatory Action

NSW Government Agencies such as SafeWork NSW and the EPA, may issue a range of Orders in relation to the management and disposal of asbestos. Similarly, Council may also issue Orders to either the owner or occupier of a building or land under [Section 121B of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979](#) or [Section 124 of the Local Government Act 1993](#). The principle orders that Council may issue are outlined in **Table 4**.

Table 4
Orders that may be issued by Council

Order No	Required Action
<i>Section 121B Environmental and Planning Assessment Act 1979</i>	
2	To demolish or remove a building
4	To repair or make structural alterations to a building
15	To comply with a development consent
<i>Section 124 Local Government Act 1993</i>	
21	To do or refrain from doing such things as are specified in the order to ensure that land is, or premises are, placed or kept in a safe or healthy condition

PART 4 – MANAGEMENT OF ASBESTOS RISKS WITHIN COUNCIL WORKPLACES

11. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF WORKERS AT THE COUNCIL WORKPLACE

11.1 RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNCIL TO COUNCIL WORKERS

11.1.1 Council's General Responsibilities

Council has general responsibilities under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011. Accordingly Council will:

- Not use any asbestos containing materials (unless in accordance with Part 7.1 (Clause 419 of the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011) and will not cause or permit asbestos waste in any form to be reused or recycled;
- Ensure that exposure of a person at the workplace to airborne asbestos is eliminated so far as is reasonably practicable;
- Ensure that the exposure standard for asbestos (defined in Section 13.3.5.2) is not exceeded in the workplace;
- Notify SafeWork NSW immediately if persons are likely to be affected by asbestos fibres or if an air monitoring process records respirable asbestos fibre levels above 0.02 fibres/ml of air (see also Section 13.3.5);

For additional information relating to notification of air monitoring results see:

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Documents/notification-of-respirable-asbestos-fibre-levels-WC03589.pdf>

- Ensure that any contractors engaged to undertake the removal of asbestos for Council are appropriately licensed; and
- Consult with workers as required by the Work Health and Safety Act 2011.

Council will not import asbestos or asbestos containing material into Australia as prohibited under the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956. If plant or other materials are imported from countries where asbestos is not yet prohibited, Council shall ensure that plant or materials do not contain asbestos prior to supply or use in the workplace.

11.1.2 Education, Training and Information for Workers

As required by the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011, Council will:

- Provide any information, training, instruction or supervision that is necessary to protect all persons at the workplace from risks to their health and safety arising from work carried out as part of the conduct of Council business; and
- Ensure workers who Council reasonably believe may be involved in asbestos removal work or the carrying out of asbestos-related work in the workplace are trained in the identification, safe handling and suitable control measures for asbestos and asbestos containing material.

All *workers* at Council controlled sites on which asbestos has been identified as being present or is likely to be present, will be given appropriate Asbestos Awareness Training to ensure adequate awareness of the health risks of asbestos, methods of prevention and control, proper work practices, emergencies and use of personal protective equipment.

Asbestos Awareness Training will be provided for *workers* who may become involved with:

- The handling of asbestos containing materials;
- Responding to asbestos related emergencies or incidents; or
- The management or supervision of workers involved with the above.

Asbestos Awareness Training may include topics outlined within the documents *How to manage and control asbestos in the workplace: Code of Practice* and *How to safely remove asbestos: Code of Practice* and would be delivered by appropriately qualified and, where required, accredited individuals.

Contractors, non-Council personnel and visitors will be provided with an appropriate level of site specific training during their induction to ensure that they are aware of the requirements of this Plan and any asbestos containing materials or naturally occurring asbestos within their work environment. Site specific induction procedures will include, as appropriate:

- A copy of the relevant section(s) of the this Plan and the Asbestos Register (or access to Council's online documentation);
- The identification and safe handling of, and suitable control measures for asbestos and asbestos containing material (ACM), including details relating to any personal protective requirements; and
- General information in relation to asbestos and asbestos management, including the hazards and risks associated with naturally occurring asbestos for workers who carry out work where naturally occurring asbestos is likely to be found.

A record of asbestos training undertaken by each worker and visitor will be kept for at least five years after the worker ceases to work for Council or the date of the visit.

A list of workers who have received the appropriate training to respond to asbestos hazards is available from Council's Organisational Development Section.

11.1.3 Health Monitoring for Workers

Council will ensure health monitoring is provided to a worker if they are at risk of exposure to asbestos when carrying out Council-related work. The health monitoring will be consistent with the *How to safely remove asbestos: Code of practice* and meet the requirements of the *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 (Part 8.5 Division 1)*.

Health counselling may be appropriate where a heightened sense of concern exists for individuals possibly exposed to elevated levels of airborne asbestos fibres.

Further information in relation to asbestos monitoring is provided in Section 13.3.5.

11.2 DUTIES OF COUNCIL WORKERS

Table 5 presents the duties of Council workers at the Council workplace.

Table 5
Duties of Council Workers

Position	Responsibility
General Manager and Group Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercise due diligence to ensure that Council complies with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Work Health and Safety Act 2011</u> <u>NSW Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011</u> Take reasonable steps to ensure that Council has and uses appropriate resources and processes to eliminate or minimise risks associated with asbestos
Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure workers who report to them have access to this Plan Ensure implementation and compliance with this Plan
All workers	<p>Workers have a duty to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and ensure that they do not adversely affect the health and safety of other persons.</p> <p>Accordingly workers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must comply with this Plan and any reasonable instruction or procedure relating to health and safety at the workplace Must immediately report to their supervisor / Manager and Council's Organisational Development Department, any material found that is suspected of containing asbestos Must use any personal protective equipment provided, in accordance with information, training and reasonable instruction provided so far as the worker is reasonably able May cease, or refuse to carry out, work if the worker has a reasonable concern that to carry out the work would expose them, or other persons, to a serious health or safety risk, emanating from an immediate or imminent exposure to a hazard Should ensure they are using the latest version of all relevant procedures, plans, guidelines and legislation

12. IDENTIFYING AND RECORDING ASBESTOS HAZARDS IN THE COUNCIL WORKPLACE

12.1 INTRODUCTION

This section outlines Council's asbestos identification and recording procedures for Council buildings and infrastructure only. The identification of naturally occurring asbestos and asbestos contamination are addressed in Section 4 and 6 respectively.

12.2 IDENTIFYING ASBESTOS

Council will ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that all asbestos or asbestos containing material at the workplace is identified by an appropriately trained and competent person. Where a sample is required to be collected to enable identification of asbestos, the sample will only be collected by appropriately trained and competent person. Analysis of the sample will be carried out by a National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) accredited laboratory. If a material cannot be identified or accessed, it will be assumed to be asbestos containing, unless Council has reasonable grounds to believe the contrary.

12.3 LOCATION OF ASBESTOS

Council will clearly indicate the presence and location of any asbestos or asbestos containing material identified or assumed at the workplace. Where it is reasonably practicable to do so, Council will indicate the presence and location of the asbestos and asbestos containing material by a label.

12.4 ASBESTOS REGISTER

Council has prepared an asbestos register which may be accessed via Council's intranet. Hard copies of the register, or sections of it, will be made available as required. All workers, including contractors, carrying out or intending to carry out work that involved a risk of exposure to airborne asbestos at a Council workplace will be given access to either the online register or a hard copy extract of it.

The asbestos register will be accessible, reviewed, revised and otherwise managed as mandated by Clauses 425 to 428 of the *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011*.

12.5 REPORTING SUSPECTED ASBESTOS

If a worker suspects there is asbestos in a Council workplace, they must cease all work that may disturb the suspected asbestos containing materials and inform their manager or supervisor immediately. The worker and their supervisor shall check the asbestos register for identified asbestos locations within the workplace. Where required, the site may also require isolation an inspection and sampling of the material may be undertaken. Only once the workplace has been cleared, and/or safe work procedures developed and approved by the Supervisor and Manager may works recommence.

13. MANAGING ASBESTOS IN THE COUNCIL WORKPLACE

13.1 INTRODUCTION

This section describes Council's procedures for managing asbestos in Council workplaces. Council's workplaces are classified as follows. Each of the following is addressed in a separate subsection

- Workplaces containing asbestos containing materials.
- Workplaces containing asbestos contamination.

13.2 ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR NATURALLY OCCURRING ASBESTOS

Mapping has identified naturally occurring asbestos in the LGA in isolated locations that would not impact on Council operations. If naturally occurring asbestos is discovered, council will prepare an asbestos management plan in relation to the naturally occurring asbestos in accordance with the NSW Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011 part 8.4 (Management of Naturally Occurring Asbestos).

13.3 WORKPLACES CONTAINING ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIALS

13.3.1 Risk Assessment and Rating

Council will ensure that risk assessments are undertaken prior to any site disturbance by competent persons for all areas identified as having asbestos and/or asbestos containing materials to determine appropriate control measures and inspection schedules. Risk assessments will be reviewed regularly, particularly when:

- There is evidence that the risk assessment is no longer valid;
- A significant change is proposed within the area that the risk assessment relates to; or
- There is a change in the condition of the asbestos containing materials, including degradation, damage, enclosure, sealing or removal

Council will determine risk rating for asbestos containing materials in Council workplaces based on the risk rating determined by multiplying each of the hazard levels associated with the risk factors identified in **Table 6**. Based on the determined risk rating, the action priority level identified in **Table 7** will be applied.

Table 6
Risk Factors and Hazard Levels

Risk Factor	Description		Hazard Level
Asbestos Type	Bonded or Non-Friable	Materials that contain asbestos in a bonded matrix (may consist of Portland cement or various resin/binders and cannot be crushed by hand when dry).	2
	Friable	Asbestos containing materials which, when dry is or may become crumbled, pulverised or reduced to powder by hand pressure.	3
Condition	Good	No sign of damage or deterioration due to weather, non-friable.	1
	Fair	Only mild damage or deterioration by weathering, friable with force.	2
	Poor	Severe damage or deterioration by weathering, very friable.	3
Accessibility	Low	Totally enclosed behind a false ceiling or wall, sealed or painted, inaccessible due to height, minimal exposure to weathering, people and maintenance.	1
	Moderate	Partially protected by encapsulation, low activity area, low exposure to weathering, people and maintenance.	2
	High	No encapsulation, high activity area, exposed to weathering, people and maintenance.	3
Airborne Potential	Low	Not present in return air flow pathway.	1
	Moderate	Exposed to natural ventilation.	2
	High	Exposed to forced ventilation (ie intakes/vents, air conditioners, fans).	3
Exposure	Low	Only accessed by maintenance personnel.	1
	Moderate	Readily accessible to small numbers of workers and public	2
	High	Readily accessible to large numbers of workers and public.	3

Table 7
Health Risk and Action Priority Rating

Hazard Level	Health Risk	Action Priority
>50	High	Priority 1
20-49	moderate	Priority 2
4-19	Low	Priority 3
0-3	Negligible	Priority 4

For example, asbestos-containing fibro ceiling that is in good condition adjacent to an air-conditioning duct in the foyer of a commonly accessed building would have the following action priority rating.

- Asbestos type – bonded = 2.
- Condition – good = 1.
- Accessibility – low = 1.
- Airborne potential – high = 3.
- Exposure – high = 3.
- Hazard Level – $2 \times 1 \times 1 \times 3 \times 3 = 18$.
- Health Risk – low.
- Action Priority – Priority 3.

13.3.2 Management of Asbestos Containing Materials in the Council Workplace

Management procedures for each of the above action priority levels are as follows. It is noted that where asbestos containing materials are to be removed that the procedures identified in Section 13.3.3 are to be implemented.

Action Priority 1 – Materials that pose an immediate or elevated health risk to workers or the public.

- Evacuate all workers and visitors immediately and ensure continued exclusion for non-authorised personnel.
- Restrict air movement as far as practicable.
- Ensure asbestos containing materials are removed, transported and disposed of as required (see Section 13.3.3). During asbestos removal operations, consider implementation of the following.
- Ensure that entry and exit can only be obtained through a decontamination unit.
- Ensure that all workers that access the site are wearing respirators fitted with P2 filters, disposable coveralls and boot covers.
- Ensure that coveralls are wiped thoroughly with a wet rag and removed immediately prior to exiting the area and placed in a seal/labelled plastic bag, with the wet rag, and treated as asbestos-contaminated waste.
- Ensure that relevant asbestos containing materials are removed by a person with an appropriate asbestos removal licence (for all areas $>10\text{m}^2$ or material that contains friable asbestos) or a suitably experienced person (for bonded asbestos with an area of $<10\text{m}^2$) and disposed of at a licensed facility as soon as practicable.
- Ensure that all contaminated areas are vacuumed with an approved asbestos vacuum cleaner.
- Ensure that a clearance certificate is issued by an independent licensed asbestos assessor (for Class A asbestos removal work) or an independent competent person (in any other case) prior to access to the area being restored.
- Record asbestos removal and management measures in the asbestos register.

Action Priority 2 – Products or materials that pose a potential health risk to workers and the public in their current state.

- Consider evacuation of workers and visitors and non-authorised personnel if there is an immediate risk of release of asbestos fibres.
- Erect signage as required.
- Ensure asbestos containing materials are scheduled for removal and transported and disposed of as required (see Section 12.3). During asbestos removal operations, consider implementation of the following.
- Ensure that all workers that access the site are wearing half-face cartridge type respirators fitted with P2 filters, disposable coveralls and boot covers.
- Ensure that relevant asbestos containing materials are removed or stabilised by a licensed person and, if removed, transported and disposed of at a licensed facility as soon as practicable.
- Ensure that all contaminated areas are vacuumed with an approved asbestos vacuum cleaner.
- Ensure that a clearance certificate is issued by an independent licensed asbestos assessor (for Class A asbestos removal work) or an independent, competent person (in any other case) prior to access to the area being restored.
- Record asbestos removal, stabilising works and management measures in the asbestos register.

Action Priority 3 – Products or materials that pose little health risk to workers and the general public unless further disturbed.

- Erect warning signs advising of the presence of asbestos in accordance with the procedures identified in Section 12.3.
- Ensure that with the exception of asbestos removal operations, asbestos containing materials are not disturbed. In the event that asbestos containing materials are to be removed, procedures identified for Action Priority 1 or 2 as appropriate are to be implemented.
- Ensure that areas containing asbestos containing materials are protected from inadvertent damage.
- Ensure renovations or alterations in the vicinity of the asbestos containing materials take into account the presence of that material and allow for its removal.
- Record asbestos removal and/or stabilising works and management measures in the asbestos register.

Action Priority 4 – Products or materials that pose negligible health risk to workers and the general public.

- Erect warning signs advising of the presence of asbestos in accordance with the procedures identified in Section 13.3.
- Ensure that with the exception of asbestos removal operations, asbestos containing materials are not disturbed. In the event that asbestos containing materials are to be removed, procedures identified for Action Priority 1 or 2 are to be implemented.

- Ensure that areas containing asbestos containing materials are protected from inadvertent damage.
- Ensure renovations or alterations in the vicinity of the asbestos containing materials take into account the presence of that material and allow for its removal.
- Record asbestos removal and/or stabilising works and management measures in the asbestos register.

13.3.3 Removal of Asbestos in the Council Workplace

13.3.3.1 General Removal Procedures

Removal of asbestos or asbestos containing materials in the Council workplace will be undertaken in accordance with the:

- Work Health and Safety Act 2011.
- Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011.
- How to safely remove asbestos: Code of practice.

Asbestos removal work for areas of asbestos containing materials greater than 10m² will be undertaken by a licensed asbestos removalist who must ensure that the requirements of the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 are complied with, including the following:

- Notify SafeWork NSW at least five days prior to the asbestos removal work commencing. In the case of emergency work, such as burst pipes, fires and illegally dumped asbestos, Council may request to SafeWork NSW that this five days period be waived.
- Prepare, supply and keep an Asbestos Removal Control Plan.
- Obtain a copy of the asbestos register for the workplace before carrying out asbestos removal work at the workplace (this does not apply if the asbestos removal work is to be carried out at residential premises, for example cleaning up asbestos that has been illegally dumped at a residential premises).
- Inform the person with management or control of the workplace that the licensed asbestos removal work is to be carried out at the workplace.
- Erect signs and barricades.
- Limit access to the asbestos removal area.
- Properly dispose of asbestos waste and dispose of, or treat, contaminated personal protective equipment.
- Arrange for a clearance inspection and clearance certificate to be issued by an independent licensed asbestos assessor (for Class A asbestos removal work) or an independent competent person (in any other case).

Removal of less than 10m² of bonded asbestos may be undertaken by a person who does not hold an asbestos removal licence, provided that they are competent at asbestos removal.

13.3.3.2 Removal by Council Employees

Council will ensure that before any Council employee undertakes asbestos (or suspected asbestos) removal work they:

- Are appropriately trained;
- Complete a suitable risk assessment and implement all identified SWMS;
- Are adequately supervised;
- Are provided with appropriate personal protective equipment and clothing; and
- Are provided access to this Plan and Asbestos Register.

13.3.3.3 Removal by Contractors

Where Council commissions the removal of asbestos by a contractor, Council will implement the following.

- Ensure that the prospective Contractors hold the appropriate licence. Copies of all licences and training records/certificates are to be provided to Council prior to acceptance of quotations/tenders or proposals and all licences will be verified with Safe Work NSW's Certification Unit;
- Provide access to either the online Asbestos Register or a hard copy extract of it; and
- Report breaches of asbestos removal procedures to SafeWork NSW.

Council will require a statement in a written contract or agreement with the licensed asbestos removalist that the licensed asbestos removalist who will undertake the work has been adequately trained and is provided with appropriate health monitoring by their employer.

The licensed asbestos removalist is to provide the following documentation prior to carrying out asbestos removal work:

- Asbestos removal control plan
- Public liability certificate of currency
- Workers compensation certificate of currency
- SafeWork NSW confirmation details to carry out the removal work.

13.3.3.4 Clearance Inspections and Certificates

Where Council commissions any licensed asbestos removal work, Council will ensure that once the licensed asbestos removal work has been completed, a clearance inspection is carried out and a clearance certificate is issued by an independent licensed asbestos assessor (for Class A asbestos removal work) or an independent competent person (in any other case) before the asbestos removal area is re-occupied.

The friable asbestos clearance certificate will require visual inspection as well as air monitoring of the asbestos removal site. The air monitoring must be conducted before and during Class A asbestos removal work by an independent licensed asbestos assessor.

The friable asbestos clearance certificate is to state that there was no visible asbestos residue in the area or vicinity of the area where the work was carried out and that the airborne asbestos fibre level was less than 0.01 asbestos fibres/ml.

13.3.4 Accidental Disturbance of Asbestos by Workers

In situations where asbestos is or may potentially have been accidentally disturbed by Council work, Council will implement the following:

- Cease works in the vicinity of the asbestos or suspected asbestos containing materials and evacuate the area immediately;
- Inform the site supervisor and relevant workers immediately;
- Restrict access to the area and ensure only appropriate trained and equipped Council workers attend the site;
- Prevent the risk of airborne contamination by switching off air handling systems and closing windows and doors to the area, if required;
- Prevent the spread of contamination by turning, if required;
- Complete Council's incident notification and report the incident to SafeWork NSW where required;
- Provide information, training and supervision to all workers potentially at risk;
- Implement an air monitoring program to assess asbestos exposure levels and specific risk control measures where required;
- Seek advice from an occupational hygienist, where required;
- Remove disturbed asbestos in accordance with prescribed procedures; and
- Record asbestos removal and/or stabilising works and management measures in the asbestos register.

13.3.5 Monitoring for Asbestos

13.3.5.1 Implementing Asbestos Monitoring

Council will implement asbestos monitoring in the following circumstances in accordance with Clause 475 and Clause 482 of the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011.

- Immediately following an accidental disturbance or, incident or emergency involving asbestos containing materials where the Priority Action levels are determined to be Level 1 or 2 (see Section 13.3.1); and
- During and following Class A asbestos removal work.

Asbestos monitoring will be undertaken by an independent licensed asbestos assessor (for Class A asbestos removal work) or a competent person (in all other cases) in accordance with the requirements of How to safely remove asbestos: Code of practice.

13.3.5.2 Asbestos Monitoring Criteria

Table 7 identified air quality criteria for asbestos monitoring, as well as required control measures and actions in the event of particular criteria being exceeded.

Table 8
Asbestos Monitoring Criteria

Action Level	Control	Action
Less than 0.01 fibres/ml	No new control measures are necessary	Continue with control measures
At 0.01 fibres/ml or more than 0.01 fibres/ml but less than or equal to 0.02 fibres/ml	1. Review	Review control measures
	2. Investigate	Investigate the cause
	3. Implement	Implement controls to eliminate or minimise exposure and prevent further release
More than 0.02 fibres/ml	1. Stop removal work	Stop removal work
	2. Notify regulator	Notify SafeWork NSW that work has ceased and the results of the air monitoring
	3. Investigate the cause	Conduct a thorough visual inspection of the enclosure (if used) and associated equipment in consultation with all workers involved with the removal work
Source: <i>How to safely remove asbestos: Code of practice</i> – Section 3.11		

For additional information relating to notification of air monitoring results see:

<http://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Documents/notification-of-respirable-asbestos-fibre-levels-WC03589.pdf>

14. COUNCIL'S ROLE IN THE DISPOSAL OF ASBESTOS WASTE

14.1 RESPONDING TO ILLEGAL DUMPING OF ASBESTOS ON COUNCIL OWNED LAND

Removal of illegally dumped asbestos material or suspected asbestos material by Council employees or contractors will be undertaken in accordance with procedures identified in Section 7.4.

Where Council becomes aware of illegally dumped asbestos material outside of Council's jurisdiction, Council will promptly notify the relevant authority.

14.2 TRANSPORTING AND DISPOSING OF ASBESTOS WASTE

Council will transport and dispose of waste in accordance with the procedures outlined in Sections 7.3 and 7.4.

14.3 COUNCIL'S WASTE FACILITY

Council through its contractor operates the Lithgow Solid Waste Depot off Geordie Street, Lithgow. The Lithgow Solid Waste Depot is licensed to accept asbestos waste for disposal to landfill on site. Clause 80 of the Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014 requires that:

- Asbestos waste in any form must be disposed of only at a landfill site that may lawfully receive the waste;
- When asbestos waste is delivered to a landfill site, the occupier of the landfill site must be informed by the person delivering the waste that the waste contains asbestos;
- When unloading and disposing of asbestos waste at a landfill site, the waste must be unloaded and disposed of in such a manner as to prevent the generation of dust or the stirring up of dust; and
- Asbestos waste disposed of at a landfill site must be covered with virgin excavated natural material or other material as approved in the facility's environment protection licence.

Asbestos waste presented at the Lithgow Solid Waste Depot may be rejected if it is:

- Not correctly packaged for delivery and disposal; or
- Not disclosed by the driver as being asbestos or asbestos containing materials.

Council's contractor will provide the driver with information in relation to appropriate packing and transportation of asbestos waste and will require that the waste be removed from the site, appropriately packaged and returned to site. Council's contractor will also record the following details and will follow up with the driver or transport company should the asbestos waste not be returned to the Geordie Street Site:

- Name and contact details of the driver/transport company;
- Origin of the asbestos or asbestos containing material;
- Amount and type of asbestos or asbestos containing material;
- Reasons why the asbestos waste was not properly packaged, disclosed or transported; and
- Development consent details (if applicable).

When council follows up on material that was initially rejected, if the material has not been appropriately disposed of at the Lithgow Solid Waste Depot and the driver/transport company cannot provide evidence of appropriate disposal of the waste, Council will report the driver/transport company to the EPA.

Fees for disposal of asbestos waste generated within the Lithgow Local Government Area are set by Council annually from 1 July as detailed within Council's Community Strategic Plan.

Council's contractor issues a receipt for asbestos waste received. The receipt provided may note the time, date and location of disposal, weight of asbestos containing materials disposed, method of disposal and a receipt number.

Council will not accept any asbestos waste from outside the Lithgow Local Government Area.

14.4 RECYCLING FACILITIES

Council should screen and inspect incoming loads at recycling facilities for the presence of asbestos or asbestos containing materials to minimise asbestos contamination risk.

To prevent contamination of recycled products and to manage situations where contamination has occurred, council should adhere to the guide: *Management of asbestos in recycled construction and demolition waste*.

14.5 RE-EXCAVATION OF LANDFILL SITES

The re-excavation of a council landfill site where significant quantities of asbestos waste are deposited should only be considered with reference to any available records on the nature, distribution and quantities of asbestos waste required under the relevant legislation, and consultation with the Environment Protection Authority (as the appropriate regulatory authority under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*).

15. ADVICE TO TENANTS/OCCUPANTS AND PROSPECTIVE BUYERS OF COUNCIL OWNED PROPERTY

Council may provide advisory notes to tenants and prospective buyers of Council-owned property. Council requires that tenants in Council property:

- Advise Council of any hazards relating to asbestos;
- Minimise damage to asbestos containing material;
- Co-operate with Council in facilitating any risk management work arranged by Council; and
- Act on advice from Council to minimise risks from asbestos.

16. IMPLEMENTING COUNCIL'S ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN

16.1 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

The following legislation, regulations and documents provide relevant background and guidance in relation to asbestos and management of asbestos.

- *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*.

- Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011.
- Contaminated Land Management Act 1997.
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.
- How to manage and control asbestos in the workplace: Code of practice.
- How to safely remove asbestos: Code of practice.

In addition, SafeWork NSW provide a range of useful information sheets which may be accessed from the [SafeWork Website](#).

In addition, relevant Council documents include the following.

- Asbestos Management Plan;
- Asbestos register;
- Risk assessment procedures;
- Maintenance and inspection schedules for Council owned assets;
- Safe work method statements/ procedures;
- Incident reporting guidelines;
- Site specific asbestos management plans; and
- Training registers/ records (relevant to identifying, handling and removing of asbestos materials).

16.2 NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PLAN

Failure by workers to adhere to the requirements of this document and failure by managers to adequately inform relevant workers of this document shall be considered non-compliance with this Plan.

The appropriate Supervisor, Manager, Group Manager or the General Manager, may take action in the case on non-compliance with this Plan. This may include:

- Providing education and training;
- Issuing a disciplinary verbal or written warning;
- Alternating the worker's duties; or
- In the case of serious breaches, terminating the worker's services.

Each case shall be assessed on its merits with the aim of achieving a satisfactory outcome for all parties.

Workers should approach their supervisor or manager if they are experiencing difficulties in understanding or implementing the Plan or if they are concerned that other workers are not complying with the Plan.

17. PLAN REVIEW

This Plan will be reviewed at the time of any relevant legislative changes, or will be reviewed annually.

Appendix A

Further Information and Useful Documents

Useful websites

SafeWork NSW Website

- [Asbestos resources.](#)
- [General information on SafeWork's role in asbestos management.](#)

EPA Website.

- [Safely disposing of asbestos waste.](#)

NSW Health Website.

- [Health impacts of asbestos](#)

Asbestos Education Committee.

- [Asbestos awareness.](#)

Naturally Occurring Asbestos Mapping

- <https://trade.maps.arcgis.com/apps/PublicInformation/index.html?appid=87434b6ec7dd4aba8cb664d8e646fb06>

Aboriginal communities

[Illegal dumping prevention and clean-up. Handbook for Aboriginal communities, 2008 \(EPA\).](#)

Asbestos services and contractors

WorkCover provides a link on its website to a variety of asbestos services:

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/newlegislation2012/asbestos/Pages/find-asbestos-services.aspx>

For a listing of asbestos removal contractors in your area, refer to your local telephone directory or the [Yellow Pages](#) or by contacting the [Asbestos Removal Contractors Association NSW \(ARCA\)](#) Phone: (02) 8586 3521.

An asbestos removal contractor's licence can be verified by contacting the WorkCover NSW's Certification Unit on 13 10 50 or email contact@workcover.nsw.gov.au.

The Demolition and Contractors Association of NSW are an industry group whose members work with demolition, asbestos removal and related sectors of the demolition industry and may be able to advise on services available in the industry.

[Demolition & Contractors Association \(DCA\) NSW](#)

Asbestos waste

[Crackdown on Illegal Dumping: A Handbook for Local Government, 2007 \(EPA\)](#)

Management of asbestos in recycled construction and demolition waste, 2010 SafeWork NSW
Safely disposing of asbestos waste from your home, 2009 (EPA and SafeWork NSW)

For information on illegal dumping and safely disposing of asbestos waste visit the EPA website:
www.environment.nsw.gov.au.

Contaminated land

Guidelines on the duty to report contamination under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997, 2009 (EPA)

Managing Land contamination: Planning guidelines SEPP 55 – Remediation of land, 1998

Environmental risk assessment

Environmental health risk assessment; Guidelines for assessing human health risks from environmental hazards, 2002 (Commonwealth of Australia)

Health

Asbestos and health risks (NSW Health)

Further advice concerning the health risks of asbestos can be obtained from your local public health unit on 1300 066 055.

Renovation and development

Asbestos: A guide for householders and the general public, 2012 (Commonwealth of Australia)

Choosing and working with a principal certifying authority: A guide for anyone planning to build or subdivide, 2011 (Building Professionals Board)

Think asbestos website, 2011 (Asbestos Education Committee) (and Printable Website Handbook)
Working with asbestos guide, 2008 (SafeWork NSW)

Practical guidance

Code of practice on how to manage and control asbestos in the workplace (catalogue no. WC03560) published by SafeWork NSW

Code of practice on how to safely remove asbestos (catalogue no. WC03561) published by SafeWork NSW

Cutting, Handling and Disposal of Asbestos Cement (AC) Pipe Guidelines June 2014 published by the Water Directorate

Tenants

Tenants rights Fact sheet 26 Asbestos and lead, 2010 (Tenants NSW)

Appendix B

Definitions

The terms used in this Plan are defined as below, consistent with the definitions in the:

- Code of practice on how to manage and control asbestos in the workplace published by WorkCover NW
- Code of practice on how to safely remove asbestos published by WorkCover NSW
- Contaminated Land Management Act 1997
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Clean-Up Program Guidelines 2008
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
- Waste classification guidelines part 1 classifying waste 2008
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011
- Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011

Accredited certifier in relation to matters of a particular kind, means the holder of a certificate of accreditation as an accredited certifier under the Building Professional Act 2005 in relation to those matters.

Airborne asbestos means any fibres of asbestos small enough to be made airborne. For the purposes of monitoring airborne asbestos fibres, only respirable fibres are counted.

Asbestos means the asbestiform varieties of mineral silicates belonging to the serpentine or amphibole groups of rock forming minerals including the following:

- Actinolite asbestos
- Grunerite (or amosite) asbestos (brown)
- Chrysotile asbestos (white)
- Crocidolite asbestos (blue)
- Tremolite asbestos
- A mixture that contains 1 or more of the materials referred to in paragraphs (a) to (f).

Asbestos containing material means any material of thing that, as part of its design, contains asbestos.

Asbestos-contaminated dust or debris means dust or debris that has settled within a workplace and is, or is assumed to be, contaminated with asbestos.

Asbestos-related work means work involving asbestos that is permitted under the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011, other than asbestos removal work.

Asbestos removal licence means a Class A asbestos removal licence or a Class B asbestos removal licence.

Asbestos removal work means:

- Work involving the removal of asbestos or asbestos containing material, or
- Class A asbestos removal work or Class B asbestos removal work.

Asbestos removalist means a person conducting a business or undertaking who carries out asbestos removal work.

Asbestos waste means any waste that contains asbestos. This includes asbestos or asbestos containing material removed and disposable items used during asbestos removal work including plastic sheeting and disposal tools.

Bonded asbestos see **friable asbestos**

Certifying authority means a person who is authorised by or under section 85A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* to issue complying development certificates, or is authorised by or under section 109D of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* to issue part 4A certificates.

Class A asbestos removal licence means a licence that authorises the carrying out of Class A asbestos removal work and Class B asbestos removal work by or on behalf of the licence holder.

Class A asbestos removal work means the removal of friable asbestos which must be licensed under clause 485 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*. This does not include: the removal of ACD that is associated with the removal of non-friable asbestos, or ACD that is not associated with the removal of friable or non-friable asbestos and is only a minor contamination.

Class B asbestos removal licence means a licence that authorises the carrying out of Class B asbestos removal work by or on behalf of the licensed holder.

Class B asbestos removal work means the removal of more than 10 square metres of non-friable asbestos or asbestos containing material work that is required to be licensed under clause 487, but does not include Class A asbestos removal work.

Competent person means: a person who has acquired through training or experience the knowledge and skills of relevant asbestos handling practice. Depending on the role of the person they may also require qualifications or licenses (eg. A person who issues a Clearance Certificate – see definition ‘*specified Vocational Educational and Training*’)

Complying development is a 10 day approval process where a building or activity meets all of the predetermined standards established in either a state or local Council planning document. A complying development certificate can be issued by either a local Council or an accredited certifier.

Contaminant means any substance that may be harmful to health or safety.

Contamination of land means the presence in, on or under the land of a substance at a concentration above the concentration at which the substance is normally present in, on or under (respectively) land in the same locality, being a presence that presents risk of harm to human health or any other aspect of the environment.

Control measure, in relation to a risk to health and safety, means a measure to eliminate or minimise the risk.

Demolition work means work to demolish or dismantle a structure, or part of a structure that is loadbearing or otherwise related to the physical integrity of the structure, but does not include:

- The dismantling of formwork, falsework, or other structures designed or used to provide support, access or containment during construction work, or
- The removal of power, light or telecommunication poles.

Development means:

- a) The use of land
- b) The subdivision of land
- c) The erection of a building
- d) The carrying out of a work
- e) The demolition of a building or work
- f) Any other act, matter or thing referred to in section 26 of Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 that is controlled by an environmental planning instrument.

Development Application means an application for consent under part 4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to carry out development but does not include an application for a complying development certificate.

Emergency service organisation includes any of the following:

- a) The Ambulance Service of NSW
- b) Fire and Rescue NSW
- c) The NSW Rural Fire Service
- d) The NSW Police Force
- e) The State Emergency Service
- f) The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association
- g) The NSW Mines Rescue Brigade established under the Coal Industry Act 2001
- h) An accredited rescue unit within the meaning of the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989

Exempt development means minor development that does not require any planning or construction approval because it is exempt from planning approval.

Exposure standard for asbestos is a respirable fibre level of 0.1 fibres/ml of air measure in a person's breathing zone and expressed as a time weighted average fibre concentration calculated over an eight-hour working day and measured over a minimum period of four hours in accordance with the Membrane Filter Method or a method determined by the relevant regulator.

Friable asbestos means material that:

- a) Is in a powder form or that can be crumbled, pulverised or reduce to a powder by hand pressure when dry
- b) Contains asbestos.

Health means physical and psychological health.

Health monitoring, of a person, means monitoring the person to identify changes in the person's health status because of exposure to certain substances.

Independent, in relation to clearance inspections and air monitoring means:

- a) Not involved in the removal of the asbestos
- b) Not involved in a business or undertaking involved in the removal of the asbestos, in relation to which the inspection or monitoring is conducted.

In situ asbestos means asbestos or asbestos containing material fixed or installed in a structure, equipment or plant, but does not include naturally occurring asbestos.

Licence holder means: in the case of an asbestos assessor licence – the person who is licensed:

- a) To carry out air monitoring during Class A asbestos removal work
- b) To carry out clearance inspections of Class A asbestos removal work
- c) To issue clearance certificates in reaction to Class A asbestos removal work, or
 - In the case of an asbestos removal licence – the person conducting the business or undertaking to whom the licence is granted, or
 - In the case of a major hazard facility licence – the operator of the major hazard facility to whom the licence is granted or transferred.

Licensed asbestos assessor means a person who holds an asbestos assessor licence.

Licensed asbestos removalist means a person conducting a business or undertaking who is licensed under the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 to carry out Class A asbestos removal work or Class B asbestos removal work.

Licensed asbestos removal work means asbestos removal work for which a Class A asbestos removal licence or Class B asbestos removal licence is required.

NATA means the National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia.

NATA-accredited laboratory means a testing laboratory accredited by NATA, or recognised by NATA either solely or with someone else.

Naturally occurring asbestos means the natural geological occurrence of asbestos minerals found in association with geological deposits including rock, sediment or soil.

Non-friable asbestos means material containing asbestos that is not friable asbestos, including material containing asbestos fibres reinforced with a bonding compound.

(Note: Non-friable asbestos may become friable asbestos through deterioration (see definition 'friable asbestos')).

Occupational hygienist means a person with relevant qualifications and experience in asbestos management who is a full member of the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists (AIOH).

Occupier includes a tenant or other lawful occupant of premises, not being the owner.

Officer means an officer as defined in the Work Health and Safety Act 2011.

Orphan waste means materials that have been placed or disposed of on a premises unlawfully that may have the potential to pose a risk to the environment or public health.

Person conducting a business or undertaking a 'person' is defined in laws dealing with interpretation of legislation to include a body corporate (company), unincorporated body or association and a partnership.

Personal protective equipment means anything used or worn by a person to minimise risk to the person's health and safety, including air supplied respiratory equipment.

Respirable asbestos fibre means an asbestos fibre that:

- a) Is less than three micrometres wide
- b) More than five micrometres long
- c) Has a length to width ratio of more than 3:1

Specified Vocational Education and Training course means:

- a) In relation to Class A asbestos removal work – the following Vocational Education and Training courses:
 - i. Remove non-friable asbestos
 - ii. Remove friable asbestos, or
- b) In relation to Class B asbestos removal work – the Vocational Educational and Training course Remove non-friable asbestos, or
- c) In relation to the supervision of asbestos removal work – the Vocational Education and Training course Supervise asbestos removal, or
- d) In relation to asbestos assessor work – the Vocational Education and Training course Conduct asbestos assessment associated with removal.

Structure means anything that is constructed, whether fixed or movable, temporary or permanent, and includes:

- a) Buildings, masts, towers, framework, pipelines, transport infrastructure and underground works (shafts or tunnels)
- b) Any component of a structure
- c) Part of a structure
- d) Volunteer means a person who is acting on a voluntary basis (irrespective of whether the person receives out-of pocket expenses).

Waste includes:

- Any substance (whether solid, liquid or gaseous) that is discharged, emitted or deposited in the environment in such volume, constituency or manner as to cause an alteration in the environment, or
- Any discarded, rejected, unwanted, surplus or abandoned substance, or
- Any otherwise discarded, rejected, unwanted, surplus or abandoned substance intended for sale or for recycling, processing, recovery or purification by a separate operation from that which produced the substance, or
- Any process, recycled, re-used or recovered substance produced wholly or partly from waste that is applied to land, or used as fuel, but only in the circumstances prescribed by the regulations, or
- Any substance prescribed by the regulations made under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 to be waste.

Waste facility means any premises used for the storage, treatment, processing, sorting or disposal of waste (except as provided by the regulations).

Worker a person is a worker if the person carries out work in any capacity for a person conducting a business or undertaking, including work as:

- a) An employee, or
- b) A contractor or subcontractor, or
- c) An employee of a contractor or subcontractor, or
- d) An employee of a labour hire company who has been assigned to work in the person's business or undertaking, or
- e) An outworker, or
- f) An apprentice or trainee, or
- g) A student gaining work experience, or
- h) A volunteer, or
- i) A person of a prescribed class.

Workplace a workplace is a place where work is carried out for a business or undertaking and includes any place where a worker goes, or is likely to be, while at work. Place includes: a vehicle, vessel, aircraft or other mobile structure, and any waters and any installation on land, on the bed of any waters or floating on any waters.

Appendix C

Relevant Contacts

Lithgow City Council

General, waste disposal and development-related enquires

Lithgow City Council

- General, technical and development-related enquires.

Street address: 180 Mort Street, Lithgow NSW 2790

Postal address: PO Box 19, Lithgow NSW 2790

Telephone: (02) 63549999

Email: council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au

- Lithgow Solid Waste Depot

Street address: Off Geordie Street, Lithgow NSW 2790

Telephone: 0417226429

Asbestos-related disease organisations (non-exhaustive)

Asbestos Diseases Foundation Australia

Phone: (02) 9637 8759

Helpline: 1800 006 196

Email: infor@adfa.org.au

Website: www.adfa.org.au

Asbestos Disease Research Institute

Phone: (02)9767 9800

Email: infor@adri.org.au

Website: www.adri.org.au

Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists Inc.

Phone: (03)9336 2290

Email: admin@aioh.org.au

Website: www.aioh.org.au

Dust Diseases Board

Phone: (02) 8223 6600

Toll Free: 1800 550 027

Email: enquiries@ddb.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.ddb.nsw.gov.au

Environment Protection Authority (EPA)

Phone: (02) 9995 5000

Environment line: 13 15 55

Email: info@environment.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/epa

Licensed Asbestos Contractor

For a listing of asbestos removal contractors in your area, refer to your local telephone directory or the Yellow Pages website: www.yellowpages.com.au or contact:

Asbestos Removal Contractors Association NSW (ARCA)

Phone: (02) 8586 3579

Email: infor@arca.net.au

Website: www.arca.asn.au

Verification of an asbestos removal contractor's licence can be checked by contacting WorkCover NSW's Certification Unit Phone: 13 10 50

Civil Contractors Federation (CCF)

Phone: (02) 9009 4000

Website: www.civilcontractors.com

Demolition & Contractors Association (DCA) NSW

Phone: 1300 65 3282

Email: demolitionassn@bigpond.com

Website: <http://demolitioncontractorsassociation.com.au>

NSW Ombudsman

Phone: (02) 9286 1000

Toll free (outside Sydney metro): 1800 451 524

Email: nswombo@ombo.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.ombo.nsw.gov.au

Training providers (non-exhaustive)

TAFE NSW

Phone: 1300 131 499

Website: www.tafensw.edu.au

Housing Industry Association (HIA)

Phone: (02) 9978 3333

Website: <http://hia.com.au/>

Local Government Training Institute

Phone: (02) 4922 2333

Website: www.lgti.com.au

Masters Builders Association (MBA)

Phone: (02) 8586 3555

Website: www.masterbuilders.com.au

Asbestos Removal Contractors Association NSW (ARCA)

Phone: (02) 8586 3579

Website: www.arca.asn.au

SafeWork NSW

SafeWork Information Centre Phone: 13 10 50

SafeWork NSW – Asbestos/Demolition Hotline Phone: (02) 8260 5885

Website: www.safework.nsw.gov.au

Appendix D

Waste Management Facilities that accept Asbestos Waste

Below is a list of waste management facilities that are located within the Central West of NSW and are licensed to accept and dispose of asbestos waste. This list was obtained from the EPA.

Always contact the landfill beforehand to find out whether asbestos is accepted and any requirements for delivering asbestos to the landfill.

Bathurst	Bathurst Waste Management Centre, College Road, Bathurst; (02) 6332 9111
Blayney	Blayney Waste Disposal Depot, Mid Western Highway, Blayney; (02) 6368 3639
Broken Hill	Broken Hill Waste Depot, Wills Street, Broken Hill; (08) 8080 2270
Cootamundra	Cootamundra Landfill, Turners Lane, Cootamundra; (02) 6940 2100
Cowra	Cowra Material Recycling Facility, Glenlogan Road, Cowra; (02) 6340 2140
Dubbo	Whylandra Waste Disposal Depot, Cooba Road, Dubbo; (02) 6801 4000
Forbes	Daroobalgie Waste Depot, Daroobalgie Road, Forbes; (02) 6850 1300
Lithgow	Lithgow Solid Waste Depot, Geordie Street, Lithgow; (02) 6354 9999
Mudgee	Mudgee Waste Facility, Hill End Road, Mudgee; (02) 6378 2770
Narromine	Narromine Waste Facility, Gainsborough Road, Narromine; (02) 6889 9999
Orange	Ophir Road Resource Recovery Centre, 261 Ophir Road, Orange; (02) 6393 8861
Parkes	Parkes Waste Depot, Brolgan Road, Parkes; (02) 6861 2373
Wellington	Wellington Waste Disposal Depot, Nanima Road, Wellington; (02) 6840 1722

**Source: EPA Website: <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/asbestos/cwasbestos.htm>
accessed 2 December 2014**

Please note that while every effort has been made to ensure that the information provided is correct and useful, neither Council nor the EPA endorse any of the landfills listed or guarantee that they will accept asbestos under all circumstances. Users are responsible for checking these details before taking asbestos to the landfills listed.

Appendix E

Asbestos-Related Legislation, Policies and Standards

- Demolition Work Code of Practice 2015
- Contaminated Land Management Act 1997
- Code of practice on how to manage and control asbestos in the workplace published by WorkCover NSW
- Code of practice on how to safely remove asbestos published by WorkCover NSW
- Code of practice for demolition work published by Safe Work Australia, 2012
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000
- Local Government Act 1993
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2005
- Protection of the Environment Operation (General) Regulation 2009
- Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
- State Environmental Planning Policy No. 55 – Remediation of Land
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011
- Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011
- Worker's Compensation (Dust Diseases) Act 1942

Appendix F

Asbestos Containing Materials

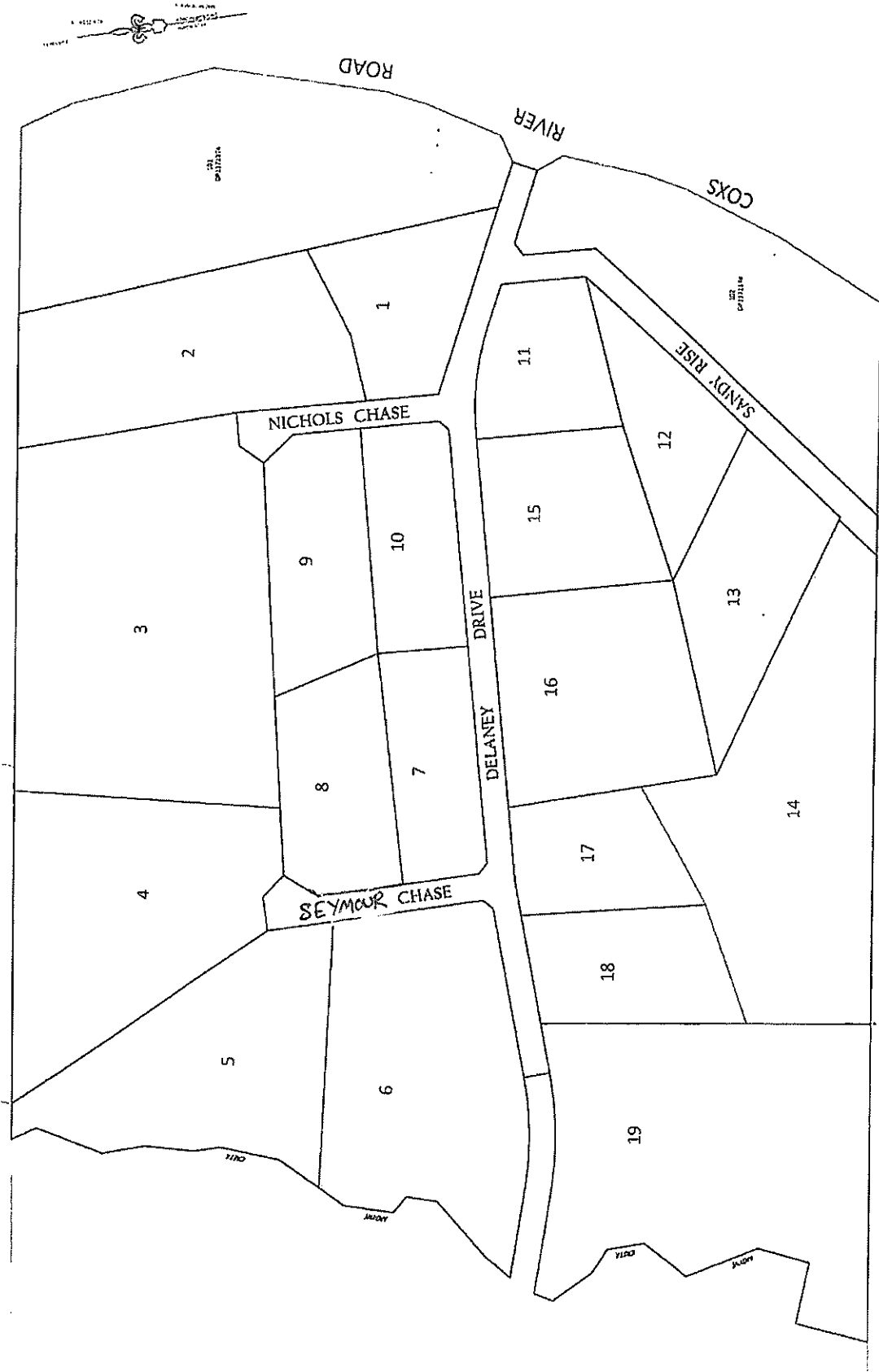
Some asbestos containing materials found in New South Wales domestic settings (non-exhaustive list).

Asbestos containing materials	Approximate supply dates
Cement sheets	Imported goods supplies from 1903 locally made 'fribrolite' from 1917
Cement roofing/ lining slates	Imported goods supplied from 1903 locally made 'fribrolite' from 1917
Mouldings and cover strips	Available by 1920s and 1930s
Super-six (corrugated) roofing	Available by 1920s and 1930s – 1985
'Tilex' decorative wall panels	Available by 1920s and 1930s
Pipes and conduit piping	Available by 1920s and 1930s
Motor vehicle brake linings	Available by 1920s and 1930s
Striated sheeting	Available from 1957
'Asbestolux' insulation boards	Available from 1957
'Shadowline' asbestos sheeting for external walls, gable ends and fences	Available from 1958 – 1985
Vinyl floor ties impregnated with asbestos	Available up until 1960s
Asbestos containing paper backing for linoleum	Available up until 1960s
'Durasbestos' asbestos cement products	Available up until 1960s
'Tilex' marbletone decorative wall panels	Available from early 1960s
'Tilex' weave pattern decorative wall panels	Available from early 1960s
'Hardiflex' sheeting	Available from 1960s – 1981
'Versilux' building board	Available from 1960s – 1982
'Hardiplank' and 'Hardigrain' woodgrain sheeting	Available from 1970s – 1981
Loose-fill, fluffy asbestos ceiling insulation	Supplied from 1968 – 1978 by a Canberra contractor and believed to be generally restricted to houses in the Australian Capital Territory with some materials supplied to the Queanbeyan area and other local government areas.
Asbestos rope gaskets for wood heaters. Heaters and stove insulation	Dates of supply availability unknown but prior to 31 December 2003
Compressed fibro-cement sheets	Available from 1960s – 1984
Villaboard	Available until 1981
Harditherm	Available until 1984
Highline	Available until 1985
Coverline	Available until 1985
Roofing accessories	Available until 1985
Pressure pipe	Available until 1987

Source: NSW Government, 2011, Asbestos Blueprint: A guide to roles and responsibilities for operational staff of state and local government.

Further information in relation to asbestos containing materials is available from the following websites.

- [Asbestos – a guide for householders and the general public](#)
- [Common locations of materials containing asbestos in a house](#)
- [Common locations of materials containing asbestos in a 1970s house](#)
- [Common locations of materials containing asbestos in a commercial building](#)
- [Where may asbestos be found in a home?](#)



MOYNE FARM

NOTES:		REV:		DATE:		DESIGNED:		DRAWN:		DATE:		DRAWING NO:		REV:	
		A		22-03-2017		P. SKINIS		D. MACKEE		23-03-2017		MFRD_RN		A	
PLAN: MOYNE FARM ESTATE - STAGE ONE															
PLAN OF PROPOSED ROAD NAMING															
COUNTY: S3 AC PTY LTD				LOCALITY: LITTLE HARTLEY				LOCALITY: LITHGOW							
SCALE: 1:1500 (A1 Sheet)				DATE: 22-03-2017				DRAWN: D. MACKEE				REV: A			

Hassans Walls Reserve

Plan of Management



for



June 2017

Hassans Walls Reserve

Plan of Management

for Lithgow City Council

June 2017

Document Control

Revision	Date	Description	By	Reviewed By
1	14.11.16	Preliminary Draft for Council Review	ARG	AJG
2	20.1.17	Draft incorporating Council comments	ARG	AJG
3	29.6.17	Revised post public exhibition	ARG/AJG	AJG/ARG

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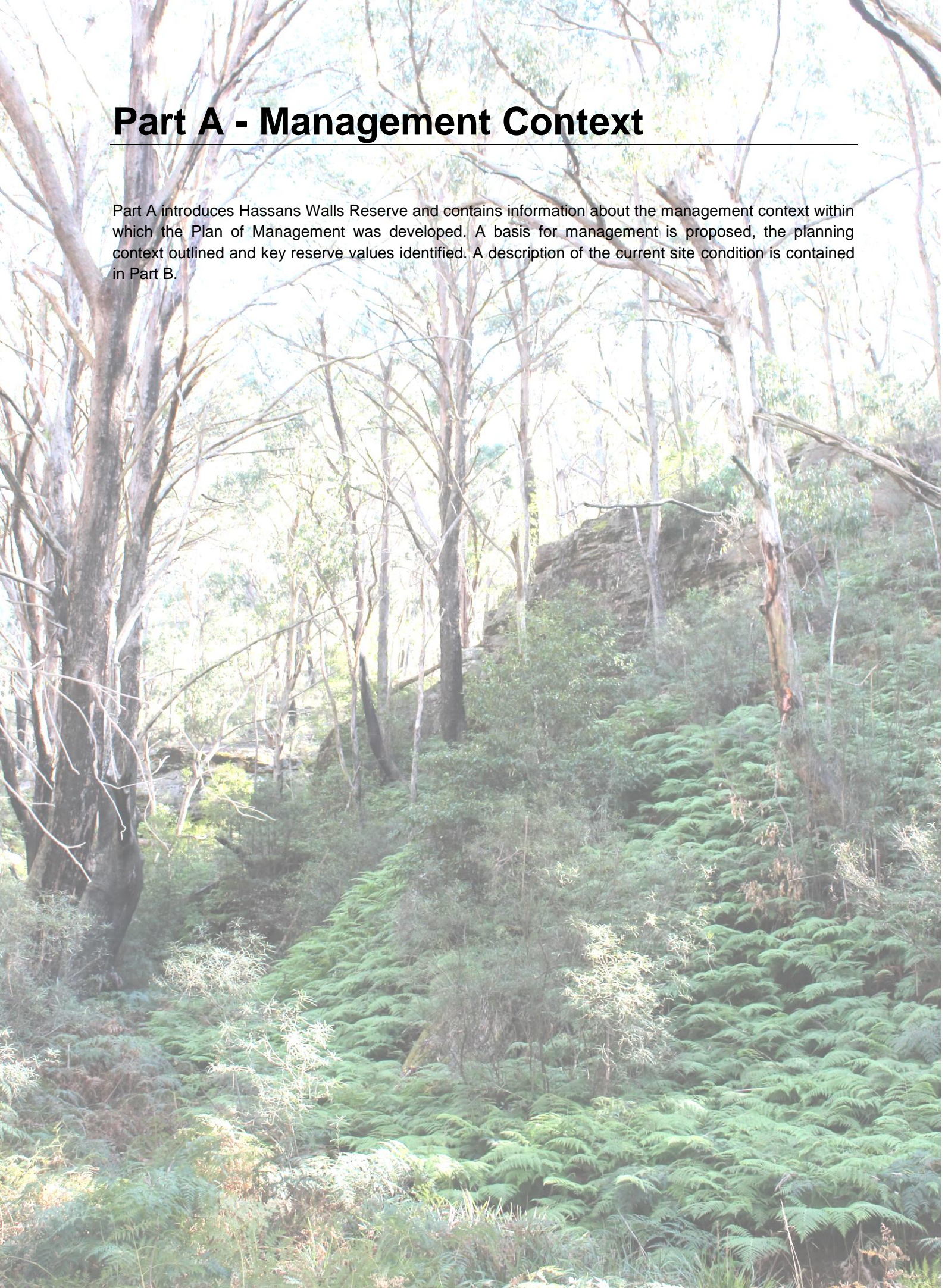
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Part A - Management Context

Part A introduces Hassans Walls Reserve and contains information about the management context within which the Plan of Management was developed. A basis for management is proposed, the planning context outlined and key reserve values identified. A description of the current site condition is contained in Part B.



1. The Plan of Management

1.1 Background

Hassans Walls Reserve is a 780 hectare area of both Crown Land (reserved for Public Recreation) and Community Land managed by Lithgow City Council. It is located immediately south of the Lithgow CBD and south and east of much of the town's residential areas – as shown on Figure 1. The Reserve is a significant environmental and recreation asset, contains infrastructure to support essential services and is a sizeable area under Council's management. Its management therefore warrants description and direction through a Plan of Management – as consistent with the *Crown Lands Act 1989* and *Local Government Act 1993*.

Hassans Walls were named by Governor Macquarie after travelling past the area on the recently constructed Western Road in 1815. The line of cliffs reminded him of hill forts of Northern India where he served in the early 19th century.



Figure 1 - Location and extent of Hassans Walls Reserve (cross hatched orange)

1.2 What is a Plan of Management?

A Plan of Management is developed, in consultation with the community, to provide direction for the future management of a place – usually for a park, reserve or other area of open space. The Plan defines the values, use and future management intent and practices for the area. A plan contains a

range of actions to guide the management of the area over the life of the document – usually a ten year period.

How to read this Plan of Management

Part A introduces Hassans Walls Reserve and provides information about the management context within which the Plan of Management was developed. A basis for management is proposed and key reserve values identified.

Part B contains information about the known values of Hassans Walls Reserve.

Part C provides a framework for managing Hassans Walls Reserve. The Reserve is divided into four Management Zones and a range of objectives and strategies are recommended for each Management Zone and for the entire site. A Concept Masterplan is provided in this section.

Part D considers the implementation of this Plan of Management and contains information on potential funding sources, reporting, evaluation and review.

1.3 Land to which this Plan applies

Hassans Wall Reserve includes 17 parcels of both Community Land and Crown Land managed by Lithgow City Council.

The Plan of Management applies to Crown Land reserved for public recreation – with this reservation dating from 1917 and most recently 1978 – and Community Land owned by Lithgow City Council. Lithgow City Council is responsible for the Reserve's care, control and management. The greater majority of the Reserve is zoned as Environmental Management under the *Lithgow Local Environment Plan 2014* (a small portion of one parcel encompassing an area associated with the shooting range is zoned as General Industrial). The Reserve is also incorporated into the Environmentally Sensitive Area – Biodiversity Overlay map for the purposes of the application of the *Lithgow Local Environment Plan 2014*.

The landholdings that comprise Hassans Walls Reserve are listed in Table 1 and shown on Figure 2.

1.4 Objectives of this Plan of Management

This Plan of Management has been prepared to provide a clear strategic direction for future management and use of Hassans Walls Reserve.

The principal objectives of this Plan of Management are;

- Identify a vision for Hassans Walls Reserve;
- Identify the values of Hassans Walls Reserve;
- Set out the strategic direction for future management of Hassans Walls Reserve;
- Outline management actions for Hassans Walls Reserve;
- Propose a concept masterplan for future development;
- Provide direction on the conservation and environmental management of natural resources within Hassans Walls Reserve;
- Provide direction on the conservation and protection of cultural heritage sites within Hassans Walls Reserve;
- Identify and minimise risks within Hassans Walls Reserve;
- Consolidate information into a single document for ease of reference; and
- Identify future studies that may be required to inform future Reserve management and implementation of this Plan.

1.5 Vision for Hassans Walls Reserve

Hassans Walls Reserve is a regionally important bushland open space area managed to protect its significant natural, heritage and scenic values while also providing environmentally sustainable nature-based or natural-setting recreation opportunities to the local and regional community.

Lot	Deposited Plan (DP)	Land Classification
5	33996	Crown
6	33996	Crown
69	751650	Crown
203	751650	Crown
206	751650	Crown
249	751650	Crown
2	875910	Crown
7027	1059095	Crown
7036	1059097	Crown
207	1118161	Crown
165	1118256	Crown
1	251935	Community
2	251935	Community
3	251935	Community
90	751650	Community
1	1094395	Community
2	1094395	Community

Table 1 – Hassans Walls Reserve Land Parcels

(Source: Lithgow City Council)

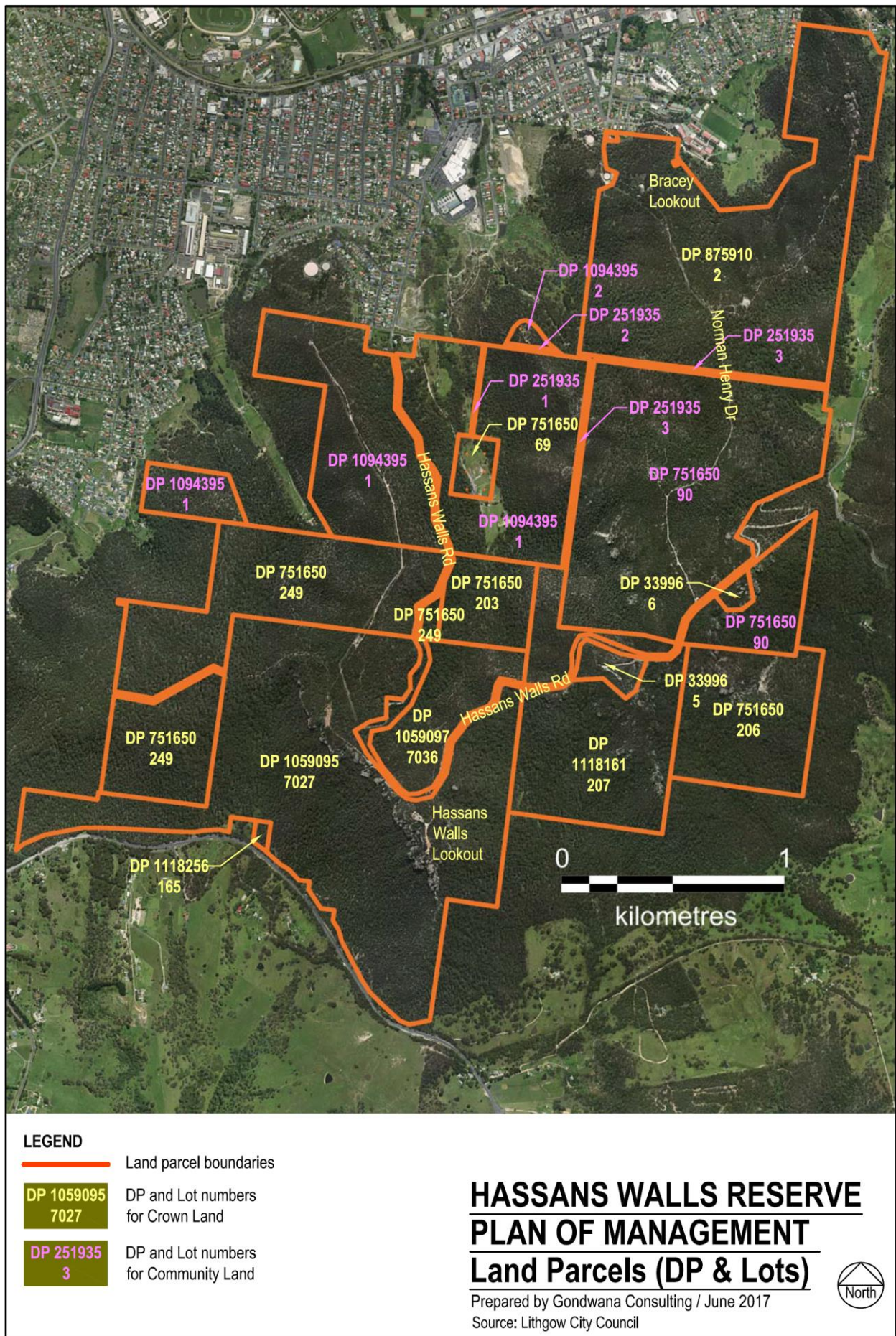


Figure 2 – Hassans Walls Reserve land parcels

2. Basis for Management

2.1 Roles and Responsibility of the Hassans Walls Reserve Trust

The Crown Land portions of the Reserve were progressively reserved for Public Recreation – initially 143 hectares was reserved in 1882 and incorporated the escarpments of the highest cliffs and adjacent lowlands to what is now the Great Western Highway. Subsequent gazettals also occurred in 1889, 1898 and on March 9, 1917 when Government Gazette No. 37 created Reserve 52017. Additional lands were added (after Council surrendered lands to the Crown) by Gazette No. 82 on 1 July, 1978.

Today Crown land portions of Hassans Walls Reserve are managed by Lithgow City Council via the Hassans Walls Reserve Public Recreation Reserve Trust appointed by the Minister for Lands on 15 August 1969. The Trust has responsibility for the Reserve's care, control and management consistent with the dedicated public purpose of the reservation – in this case public recreation – as well as the principles of Crown Land management as set out in the Act.

A Reserve Trust operates with a degree of autonomy in this care, control and management role and can enter into maintenance contracts, determine the development of an area (subject to Crown consent), set entry fees, employ staff, and perform other reserve management functions. The Department of Primary Industry – Lands provides Reserve Trusts with operational support, guidance and financial assistance primarily through the Public Reserves Management Fund Program.

Under section 122 of the *Crown Lands Act 1989* Reserve Trusts are required to provide an annual report to the Minister which includes (in accordance with Clause 33 of the *Crown Lands Regulation 2000*) details of income, expenditure, assets, liabilities, improvements, leases and licences granted or in force, uses made of the reserve and any matters of pecuniary interest.

The current administration and management arrangements implemented for Hassans Walls Reserve, applicable to both the Crown and Community land parcels, have proven effective, throughout the past decades, in protecting and presenting the Reserve as the valued place it is today.

Lithgow City Council has been responsible for and financially supported management of the Reserve in excess of any revenue generated by the area, despite the area's use by visitors from a far wider catchment than the immediate LGA.

2.2 Plan of Management Process

This Plan of Management was prepared by Gondwana Consulting drawing on in-house Lithgow City Council expertise and understanding of the Reserve, a number of previous studies relating to the Reserve, several on-site assessments and inspections, and multiple community engagement/input actions. The planning process for preparing the Plan of Management is summarised in the schematic overleaf.

Preparation of the Draft Plan of Management was also extensively informed by the results of four community consultation phases undertaken during the planning process - an initial phase identifying issues and values, a full day on-site survey and feedback opportunity for Reserve users/visitors, an exhibition phase seeking comments on an "Issues and Discussion Paper", and formal exhibition of the Draft Plan of Management for community feedback.

The "Issues and Discussion" paper was prepared through initial consultation with the general community, specific stakeholders and relevant Council staff. It was informed by a review of other background/resource information and field inspections. (Note that detailed environmental surveys have not been undertaken during this planning process and it has been dependent on existing available information.) The "Issues and Discussion Paper" provided a brief overview of these initial consultations, the current values and management issues for the Reserve, and presented options for some of the key management issues to be addressed in the Plan of Management as well as listing more "routine" reserve



management actions. The “Issues and Discussion” paper was made available for community/stakeholder comment during September and October 2016.

Community feedback on the “Issues and Discussion”, and further discussions with Council, informed preparation of the Draft Plan of Management. The Draft Plan of Management for Hassans Walls Reserve was placed on public exhibition during March and early April 2017, with submissions accepted until Friday 28th April 2017.

A total of seventeen (17) submissions on the Draft Plan were received – both from individuals and groups. These submissions were analysed in detail and the subject of a separate report to Council, which included suggested amendments to the Draft Plan in response to the submissions received. More than 90 amendments – ranging from minor factual or detail corrections to amended or additional management directions or actions – were subsequently made in preparation of this final Plan of Management.

2.3 Community Consultation

The planning process for Hassans Walls Reserve involved three major consultation phases that have informed the preparation of this Plan of Management.

Initial Consultation

The initial phase involved seeking information from the community in relation to values for the Reserve and ideas for its future management. This phase was promoted via Council’s website, in local media, direct contact with known interest groups and interested individuals and notification to immediate neighbours. An Information Sheet and a separate reply paid Feedback Form was provided as part of this initial contact and was also made available on Council’s website and in Council offices. Relevant Government agencies and affected private companies were also notified of the planning process and provided with opportunity to comment.

This initial consultation phase elicited 110 responses via the Feedback form and attendance at a Focus Group meeting by eleven interested people / representatives of known interest groups. The comments provided by the respondents and the attendees at the Focus Group Workshop were reviewed and collated into seven broad categories or topics, presented in Table 2.

A number of key points were highlighted during the initial consultation phase, including the following.

- Shared and common values are held for the Reserve - with these values common across ages, gender and reasons for use.
- A particularly high value is placed on the views available from the Reserve and the views of the Reserve from Lithgow township.
- The high value placed on the Reserve’s natural ecology, flora and fauna.

Value	Number of responses received (Totals more than 121 due to multiple responses)	Percentage of total respondents from survey and workshop (Totals more than 100% due to multiple responses)	Percentage of total value responses received
Aesthetics – views from and of the reserve	73	57.9%	27.8%
Natural values – Flora, Fauna, biodiversity	54	44.6%	20.5%
A natural area accessible and close to town	46	38%	17.5%
Passive Recreation	44	36.4%	16.7%
Active Recreation	35	28.9%	13.3%
Economic Benefits and Tourism	7	5.8%	2.7%
Heritage Values	4	3.3%	1.5%

Table 2 – Community Values for Hassans Walls Reserve

- The importance of the Reserve as a natural area close to Lithgow township that provides respite from urban living.
- The Reserve's recreational value – as a venue for both passive recreation (walking, nature appreciation) and active recreation (mountain biking, running, exercise).

“Issues and Discussion Paper” Exhibition

The “Issues and Discussion Paper” was publicly exhibited for a two week period concluding on 10 October 2016. All individuals and organisation who responded to the initial consultation phase were notified of the availability of the Paper and opportunity to provide comment. All Government agencies and affected private companies notified during the initial consultation phase were also contacted. The “Issues and Discussion Paper” and Feedback Form were made available on Council’s website and hard copies were made available in the Lithgow Library and Learning Centre and the Council’s Administration Centre.

A total of twenty five (25) responses were received.

Draft Plan of Management Exhibition

The Draft Plan of Management was placed on public exhibition from Monday 6th March until Friday 7th April 2017, with submissions accepted until Friday 28th April 2017.

The Draft Plan was available on a dedicated page on Council’s website, and hard copies were made available at the Lithgow Library and Learning Centre and Council’s Administration Building. Two “drop-in information sessions” were also held during the Draft Plan’s public exhibition period, on Tuesday 4th April 2017. An on-line feedback form was included on Council’s website, with hard copies also available, and

submissions also received by letter, e-mail and other means. All individuals, organisations and other stakeholders who provided submissions in either of the preceding two community consultation stages – or on Council's list of stakeholders – were contacted (either by e-mail, telephone call or letter on 6th and 7th of March 2017) and advised of the availability of the Draft Plan and opportunity to provide comment.

A total of seventeen (17) submissions were received.

2.4 Values

2.6.1 Natural Environmental Values

Community consultation has consistently identified the natural environment as one of the most highly valued aspects of the Reserve. Respondents valued the diversity of flora and fauna found within the Reserve (both common and rare or endangered species), the large and un-fragmented character of the bushland (extending from valley to ridgetop), and the bushland's "high quality" (as generally weed-free vegetation) and habitat value. The usage and aesthetic benefits of such a large and accessible expanse of the natural environment adjoining an urban setting were also highly valued – notably the area's "peace and quiet", its scenic qualities, and as a place offering a physical, visual and recreational respite from urban living.

2.6.2 Cultural Heritage Values

The Reserve lies close to the boundary of the traditional lands of the Darug and Wiradjuri Aboriginal people who would have occupied the area prior to European settlement. Before European settlement the Reserve is likely to have consisted of forest and woodlands, rocky outcrops and escarpments with contained feeder creeks running into the downstream watercourses. Interpretive material at Hassans Walls Lookout notes that middens and rock art are present in the Hassans Walls Reserve however the Wiradjuri traditional owners desire that the location of such sites is not publicly disclosed.

Hassans Walls Reserve contains a diverse range of physical evidence of the non-Aboriginal activities in the Reserve and also provides a link to the heritage of the Lithgow township and surrounding area via evidence of activities of earlier generations. Many of the visitor destinations within Hassans Walls Reserve are named after prominent locals such as James Padley, Major H Bracey and ex-Prime Minister Joseph Cook. Information regarding the history of walking tracks, caves, lookouts and other features of the Reserve could provide a source for potential interpretation of the history of the Reserve and by association, the township of Lithgow.

Hassans Walls Reserve contains one site included on the NSW State Heritage Register – known as the Lithgow Heavy Anti-Aircraft Gun Stations and Dummy Station complex (Listing Number 01862, gazettal date 5 August 2011).

2.6.3 Recreational Values

Hassans Walls Reserve is a valued and popular destination offering a range of passive and active recreational opportunities for local and regional visitors. Hassans Walls Reserve is a generally undeveloped setting offering the opportunity for a variety of passive and active nature based recreational activities in a mostly uncrowded social environment. Local residents of Lithgow value highly the undeveloped and uncrowded nature of the Reserve, combined with its proximity to the township.

Hassans Walls Reserve contains two recreational nodes with visitor facilities – Hassans Walls Lookout with views over the Hartley Valley and Blue Mountains and Bracey Lookout offering views over Lithgow township. These nodes are the key sites that the vast majority of visitors to the Reserve access. Second Lookout is a former recreational node, but is now closed to vehicle access and not signposted/promoted while this area regenerates, and so only receives low levels of use (mainly by knowledgeable locals).

There is a network of walking tracks and mountain bike tracks throughout the Reserve based on the roads, 4WD standard access tracks to communication towers and other infrastructure and an indeterminate number of informal tracks.

Hassans Walls Reserve also plays a significant role in meeting the demand for competitive downhill mountain bike riding as the purpose built “Pony Express” tracks is used for the annual NSW mountain bike State Championships.

A snapshot visitor monitoring program conducted in June 2016 estimated that over 2,200 people visited the Reserve by vehicle in a two week period.

2.6.4 Landscape and Amenity Values

Due to its proximity, the Reserve contributes to the sense of place and visual amenity of the Lithgow urban area, serving as an aesthetic backdrop on the southern edge of town. The proximity of the Reserve to town is highly valued by residents for its recreational opportunities and the ability to escape and unwind from the pressures of day to day life.



Clockwise from top left – Rock pagodas near Sir Joseph Cook boardwalk; Rubbish dumping - an ongoing and regular management issue; Hassans Walls Road is popular for walkers, often with dogs on a leash; Hassans Walls Reserve is highly valued for the spectacular views over Hartley Valley and the Blue Mountains

3. Planning Context

3.1 Crown Lands Act 1989

The *Crown Lands Act 1989* provides direction on the management of Hassans Walls Reserve through the relevant objects of the Act and Principles of Crown Land management prescribed in the Act, as cited below.

As on-ground manager (on behalf of the Trust) of the Crown Lands comprising the Reserve, Lithgow City Council has the responsibility to manage Hassans Walls Reserve in accordance with the requirements of the *Crown Lands Act 1989*.

Division 6 of the Act provides for but does not explicitly require a plan of management to be prepared for Crown Lands. Should a plan of management be prepared it must be developed in accordance with an area's purpose of reservation as well as the principles of Crown Land management and the objects of the *Crown Lands Act*. The Plan must address the objects of the Act and define the value, use, management practices and intent for the broad public purpose for which the land has been reserved or dedicated.

Those Crown Land areas included in the Hassans Walls Reserve Plan of Management were originally reserved for the purposes of "public recreation".

"Objects of Act (S10) – The objects of this Act are to ensure that Crown land is managed for the benefit of the people of New South Wales....' and

Section 11 - provides a set of principles for Crown Land management, as listed below:

- (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.

Table 3 identifies how/where this Plan of Management complies with these principles of Crown land management.

3.2 Local Government Act 1993

The *Local Government Act 1993* gives direction on how a plan of management is to be written for community land. The Act requires land to be categorised depending on how it is intended to be used and provides the core objectives for directing the management of land so categorised.

The categories as applied to Hassans Walls Reserve are depicted in Figure 11 in Part C of this Plan. A detailed description of the categories which apply to Hassans Walls Reserve and relevant core objectives are also provided in Part C.

This Plan of Management has been prepared according to the requirements of both the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Crown Lands Act 1989*. The Department of Primary Industry – Lands has previously accepted Plans of Management developed under the Local Government Act model.

Principles of Crown Land Management (Section 11 of the <i>Crown Lands Act 1989</i>)	Compliance with the principles of Crown Land Management
<i>That environmental protection principles be observed in relation to the management and administration of Crown land.</i>	The natural environment is a key value identified by this Plan of Management. Management actions have been created to protect this key value.
<i>That the natural resources of Crown Land (including water, soil, flora, fauna and scenic quality) be conserved wherever possible.</i>	The Plan of Management provides management actions to conserve and protect these natural resources.
<i>That public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown Land be encouraged.</i>	The Crown Land is reserved for “public recreation”. This reservation is supported by the Plan of Management and the management actions identified provide a means of maintaining and improving the experiences of public use and enjoyment of the Reserve in a sustainable fashion without detracting from the area’s underlying values.
<i>That, where appropriate, multiple use of Crown Land be encouraged.</i>	There is already a high degree of multiple use of the Reserve. The Plan encourages and supports the continuation of multiple use.
<i>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.</i>	The Plan of Management aims to protect the values identified for the Reserve. A vision has been set, and management actions and priorities identified, to ensure protection of its natural environment and cultural heritage and provide for sustainable use of the Reserve into the future.
<i>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.</i>	Leases, licences or otherwise are only permitted where they are consistent with the values of the Plan of Management and the provisions of the <i>Crown Lands Act 1989</i> .

Table 3 - Compliance with the Principles of Crown Land Management

3.3 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979* establishes the statutory planning framework for environmental and land use planning of all land in NSW. One of the main instruments for implementing the Act are Local Environmental Plans - statutory planning tools that set controls over development in the area to which they apply. They contain zoning controls as well as controls for heritage conservation areas and protected areas, amongst other matters.

The greater majority of the Reserve is zoned Environmental Management under the *Lithgow Local Environment Plan 2014*. A small portion of one parcel encompassing an area associated with the shooting range is zoned as General Industrial. The Reserve is also incorporated into the Environmentally Sensitive Area – Biodiversity Overlay map for the purposes of the application of the *Lithgow Local Environment Plan 2014*.

3.4 National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage has legislative responsibility for Aboriginal sites, through the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Under this Act landholders / managers have obligations regarding the protection and management of known Aboriginal sites on their lands. The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage also maintains the *Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS)*. The AHIMS includes:

- information about Aboriginal objects that have been reported to the Director General, Department of Premier and Cabinet
- information about Aboriginal Places which have been declared by the Minister for the Environment to have special significance with respect to Aboriginal culture
- archaeological reports.

The AHIMS records do not include any Aboriginal sites or Places in Hassans Walls Reserve. That is not to say that no such sites exist or that there is no evidence of Aboriginal occupation and use of the Reserve.

3.5 Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995

This is an Act to provide for the conservation of threatened species, populations and ecological communities of animals and plants (although the Act does not generally apply to fish). The Act sets out a number of specific objects relating to the conservation of biological diversity and the promotion of ecologically sustainable development.

Identified species, populations, ecological communities and key threatening processes are listed in the Schedules to the Act. Provision is made for the preparation of recovery plans for listed threatened species, populations and ecological communities and threat abatement plans to manage key threatening processes.

The Act also provides for the declaration and mapping of habitats that are critical to the survival of those identified threatened species, populations and ecological communities that are classified as endangered (critical habitats).

3.6 Heritage Act 1977

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage has legislative responsibility for managing Heritage sites through the NSW Heritage Act, 1977. The Act makes provisions to conserve the State's environmental heritage and provides for the identification and registration of items of State heritage significance. The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage maintains the State Heritage Register - a list of places and objects of particular importance to the people of NSW. The register lists over 1,650 items, in both private and public ownership. Listing on the State Heritage Register means the item:

- is of particular importance to the people of NSW and enriches understanding of our history and identity;
- is legally protected as a heritage item under the NSW *Heritage Act 1977*
- requires approval from the Heritage Council of NSW for major changes
- is eligible for financial incentives from the NSW and Commonwealth governments.

3.7 Rural Fires Act 1997

Council has legal obligations under the *Rural Fires Act 1997* and *Lithgow Bush Fire Risk Management Plan 2015* (NSW Rural Fire Service, 2015) to manage bush fire risk on its own land. As the Reserve's

manager Council has a responsibility to “protect persons and property” immediately adjacent to the Reserve from hazards – notably wildfires – originating on the Reserve. Council also seeks to ensure that its management of the area does not detract from surrounding residents’ “quiet enjoyment” of their properties.

The Reserve has been identified as a high risk for bushfires under the *Lithgow Bush Fire Risk Management Plan 2015* (NSW Rural Fire Service, 2015). The whole of the Reserve is managed as a Strategic Fire Advantage Zone (SFAZ) which recognises that hazard reduction burning around specific assets is necessary as well as back burning during bushfire events. Currently there is no Reserve specific fire management plan that informs the *Lithgow Bush Fire Risk Management Plan 2015*.

3.8 State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007

State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007 (ISEPP) aims to facilitate the effective delivery of infrastructure across the State. The Infrastructure SEPP assists local government and the communities they support by simplifying the process for providing essential infrastructure.

The Infrastructure SEPP has specific planning provisions and development controls for 25 types of infrastructure works or facilities including roads, emergency services, electricity delivery, parks and other public reserves and telecommunications networks.

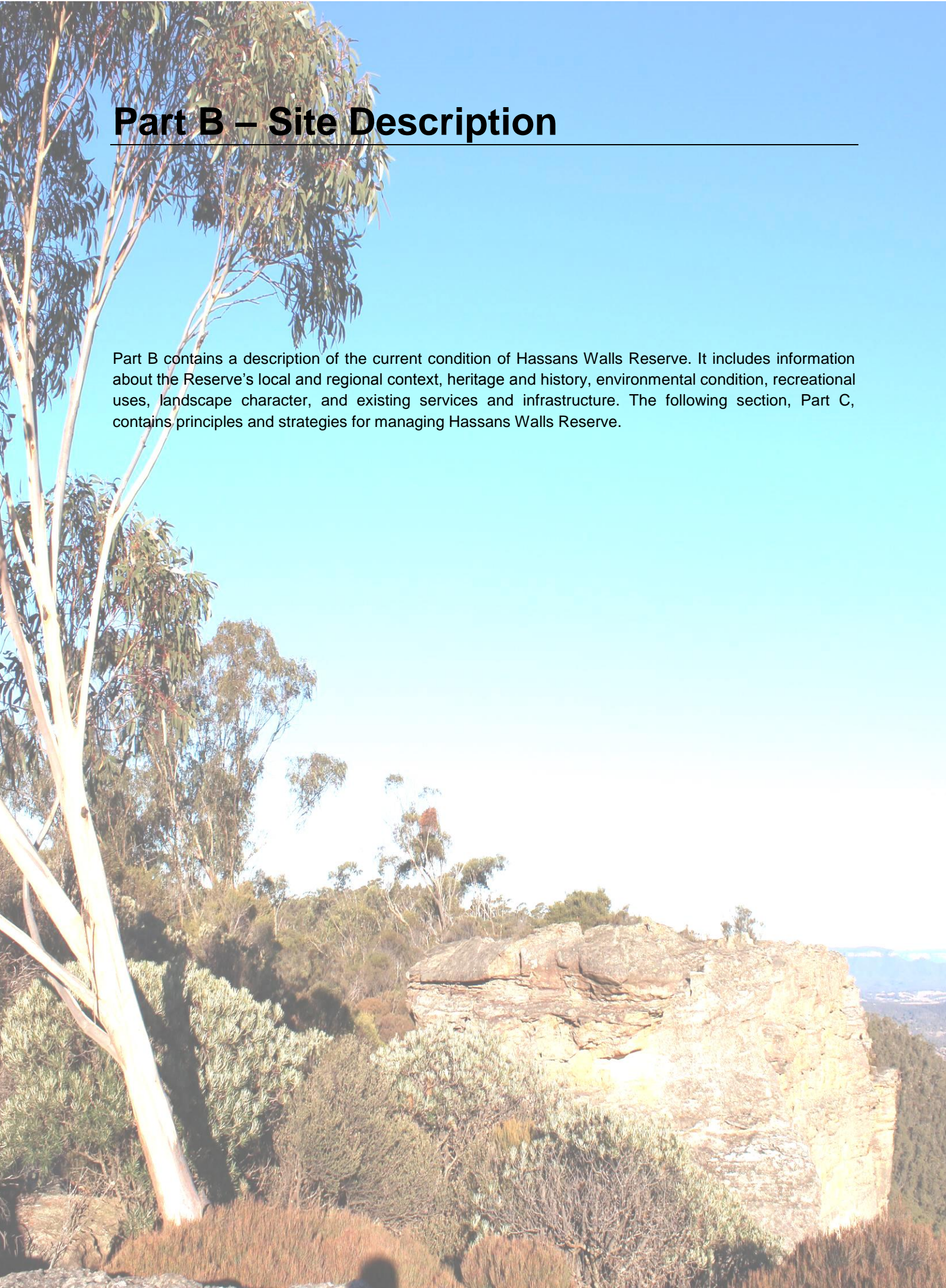
The Infrastructure SEPP outlines the planning rules for such works and facilities, including:

- Where such development can be undertaken;
- What type of infrastructure development can be approved by a public authority under Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (EP&A Act) following an environmental assessment (known as ‘development without consent’);
- What type of development can be approved by the relevant local council, Minister for Planning or Department of Planning under Part 4 of the EP&A Act (known as ‘development with consent’); and
- What type of development is exempt or complying development.

Of particular relevance to Hassans Walls Reserve is Clause 65 that specifies that development for any purpose may be carried out without consent if the development is for the purposes of implementing an adopted plan of management. The clause also lists a range of ancillary developments permitted without consent. Clause 66 provides for a range of exempt developments within a public reserve such as the construction, maintenance and repair of walking tracks, boardwalks, stairways, gates, seats shelters and shade structures.

Part B – Site Description

Part B contains a description of the current condition of Hassans Walls Reserve. It includes information about the Reserve's local and regional context, heritage and history, environmental condition, recreational uses, landscape character, and existing services and infrastructure. The following section, Part C, contains principles and strategies for managing Hassans Walls Reserve.



4. Local and Regional Context

Hassans Walls Reserve adjoins the residential area of the Lithgow township, within Lithgow City Council Local Government Area. Lithgow is 140 kilometres west of Sydney CBD and 37 kilometres west of Katoomba in the Blue Mountains. The main western railway line from Sydney also provides access to Lithgow.

The Reserve is approximately 780 hectares in size with a boundary of around 17 kilometres in length and is predominantly natural bushland. The northern boundary of Hassans Walls Reserve abuts Lithgow's urban areas while the Reserve's southern boundary adjoins the Great Western Highway. Hassans Walls Road provides vehicle access to the Reserve from either Lithgow township or via Browns Gap Road with other roads providing access from Hassans Walls Road to Hassans Walls Lookout and Bracey Lookout. Local residents also access the Reserve by foot or bicycle.

The Reserve consists predominantly of native bushland, providing a relatively natural area on the doorstep of Lithgow. The Reserve contains a large partially disturbed representative sample of a range of vegetation communities and is located within the far northern South Eastern Highlands Bioregion close to the Sydney Basin Bioregion. Although no comprehensive flora and fauna survey has been conducted the Reserve is known to support a number of conservation significant species.

The primary destination for many visitors to the Reserve is Hassans Walls Lookout. This site comprises a small dirt car park and a recently constructed walkway (an elevated boardwalk comprising a fibreglass reinforced plastic deck with a metal superstructure and safety railings) that leads over 50m to a lookout point with views over the Hartley Valley, Blue Mountains and west towards Bathurst. Several information and interpretive signs provide a short history of the Reserve. A second lookout facility, and small sealed parking area, is located at Bracey Lookout, offering views north over Lithgow township. There are numerous walking and mountain bike tracks throughout Hassans Walls Reserve.

The Reserve is an important recreation resource for the local community for exercise (walking and running), bush walking / nature appreciation and is a popular and well-known destination for local and other mountain bikers. The Pony Express track that is frequently used for local and state-wide competitive mountain bike events is managed by the Central Tablelands Mountain Bike Club, who actively promote the area and other rides within the Reserve.

As stated, Hassans Walls Reserve adjoins an urban context, with existing and planned residential development within the Lithgow city area. More people will seek to do more things within the Reserve, potentially leading to greater and more diverse pressures on the area's attractions and values as well as conflicts between activities and user groups. Residential areas adjacent to the northern and western boundaries of the Reserve will likely generate direct and indirect impacts on these bushland areas – in terms of weed intrusion, rubbish dumping, utility and service corridors, encroachments, visual intrusion, anti-social behaviours and others.

Careful planning will be required to protect and manage the Reserve and its values in the face of these external pressures in order to realise the full range of biophysical, recreational, visual and cultural values that the area holds for the community.

5. Natural Environment Values

The Reserve is located within the far northern part South Eastern Highlands Bioregion. The South Eastern Highlands Bioregion lies just inland from the coastal bioregions of the South East Corner and the Sydney Basin, bounded by the Australian Alps and South Western Slopes bioregions to the south and west. It contains approximately 6.11 per cent of NSW.

There is a diverse range of vegetation communities within the Bioregion related to variations in soils, altitude, temperature and rainfall. Just less than 15% of the Bioregion is within conservation tenures, the majority of which are national parks and nature reserves (12.22% of the Bioregion).

5.1 Vegetation Communities and Flora

The vegetation communities of Hassans Walls Reserve have been mapped in two vegetation surveys of the region. “The Vegetation of the Western Blue Mountains” (DEC, 2006) incorporates the northern half of the Reserve and “Native Vegetation of Southeast NSW: a revised classification and map for the coast and eastern tablelands” (DEC, 2010) includes the southern half of the Reserve. The former report addresses a significantly smaller land area and classifies vegetation communities on a much finer scale than the latter. Neither report involved a systematic field survey of the Reserve.

The *Native Plants Hassans Wall Reserve Lithgow* (Lollback et al, 2014) lists 487 species of plants including 79 species of orchid, 21 species of fern, 30 species of liverworts, 29 mosses, 28 species of fungi (although the forward notes over 260 as occurring in the Reserve) and 12 species of lichen. This publication provides by far the most comprehensive list of flora in the Reserve.

A number of site specific surveys and reports have been prepared as part of the development assessment processes for proposed uses within the Reserve – namely, *Flora and Fauna Assessment of Proposed Mountain Bike Track Hassans Walls* (Epacris Environmental Consultants, 2008) and *Flora and Fauna Survey of Hassans Wall Lookout Area* (Epacris Environmental Consultants, 2012). As part of these reports the vegetation communities and the occurrence of rare or otherwise significant plant species in the affected areas have been surveyed at a finer scale and described.

There is a diversity of vegetation communities in the Reserve, much of which are largely undisturbed. The Reserve is physically linked to broader natural landscapes and areas of remnant native bushland which assists to maintain wildlife population connectivity.

Figure 3 provides a combined map of the vegetation communities within the Reserve, as identified by the two above mentioned DEC reports. The vegetation communities of Hassans Walls Reserve as classified in the two reports are not directly comparable – that is, the vegetation communities in one report do not directly equate to those of the other.

Vegetation Communities identified in *Native Vegetation of Southeast NSW: a revised classification and map for the coast and eastern tablelands* (DEC, 2010)

This survey was undertaken at a scale of 1:100,000 and covered much of the southeast of NSW coast and adjacent ranges and plains. It provides mapping and description of broad vegetation communities based on field survey data from an extensive list of sources. Without reviewing each of these sources it is not possible to understand if any on ground survey sites were located within Hassans Walls Reserve.

The vegetation community descriptions below are derived from a 1:100,000 scale survey with limited ground truthing. Descriptions at this scale apply to large areas of land and their applicability / accuracy in relation to Hassans Walls Reserve would need to be verified by on ground surveys. All of the species ascribed to each vegetation community may not necessarily occur within the Reserve.

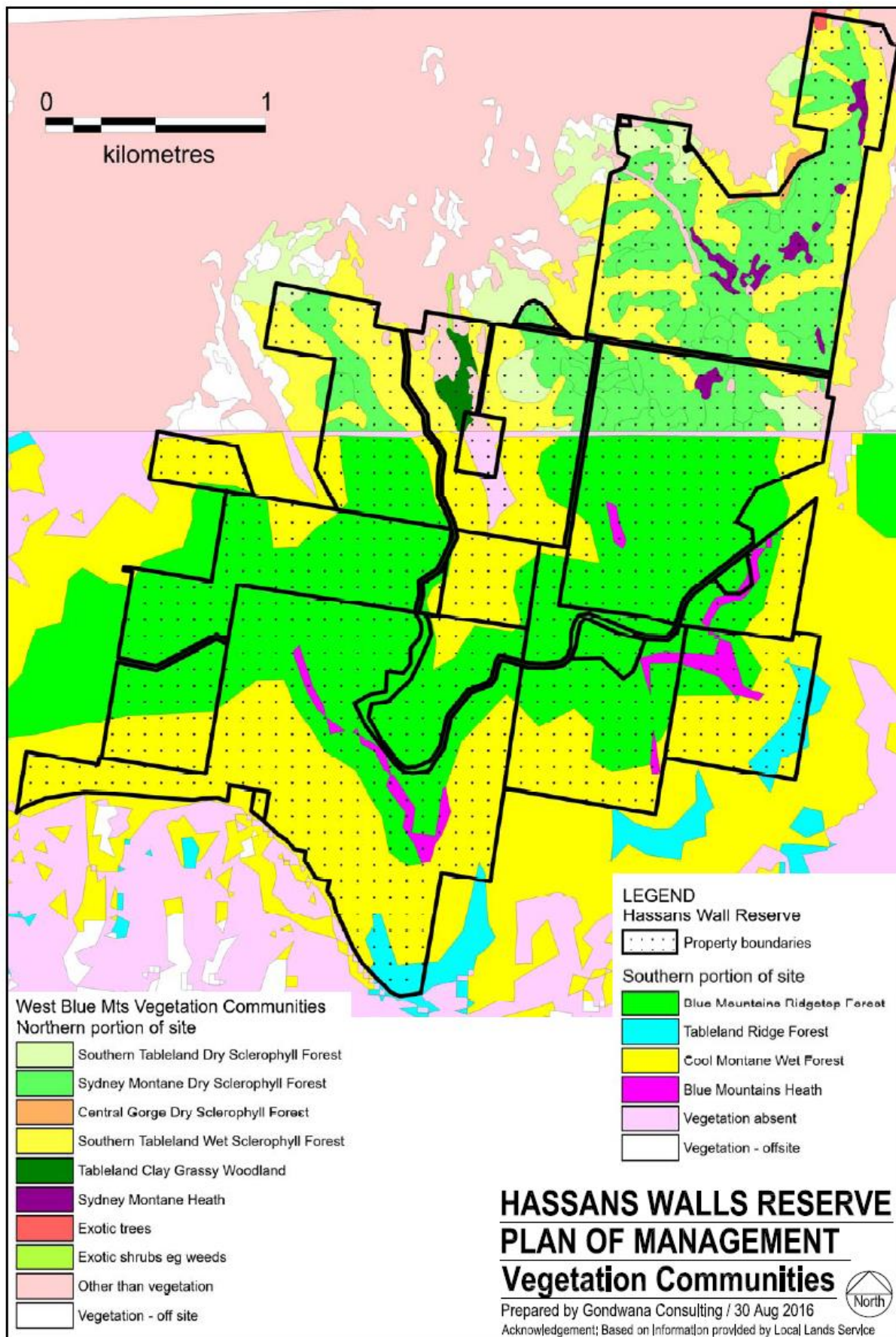


Figure 3 – Vegetation communities of Hassans Walls Reserve

Tableland Ridge Forest – a eucalypt forest with an open understorey of sclerophyll shrubs, forbs, sedges and grass occurring at elevations of 600 – 1200m above sea level. Dominant trees are Black Ash (*Eucalyptus sieberi*) and Narrow-leaved Peppermint (*E. radiata*) and common shrubs include Grey Guinea Flower (*Hibbertia obtusifolia*), Narrow-leaved Geebung (*Persoonia linearis*), Lance-leaf Beard Heath (*Leucopogon lanceolatus*) and Prickly Broom Heath (*Monotoca scoparia*). This community occurs in the south eastern portion of the Reserve.

Cool Montane Wet Forest – a tall eucalypt forest with open shrub layer and moist groundcover occurring at elevations between 750 – 1300m above sea level. Dominant trees are Narrow-leaved Peppermint (*E. radiata*), Brown Barrel (*E. fastigata*), Broad-leaved Ribbon Gum (*E. dalrympleana*) and Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*). Often occurs in gullies with deep moist loam soil adjacent to ridgetops containing Tableland Ridge Forest. This community occurs on the foothills and slopes adjoining the escarpments of Hassans Walls Reserve.

Blue Mountains Ridgetop Forest - a low eucalypt forest with an abundant sclerophyll shrub storey and a groundcover dominated by sedges and forbs on sandy loam soils between 650 and 1050m above sea level. Dominant trees are Sydney Peppermint Gum (*E. piperita*), Black Ash (*E. sieberi*) and common shrubs include Flaky-barked Tea-tree (*Leptospermum trinervium*), Narrow-leaf Platysace (*Platysace linearifolia*), Hairpin Banksia (*Banksia spinulosa*), Broad-leaved Geebung (*Persoonia levis*), Crinkle Bush (*Lomatia silaifolia*), Prickly Broom Heath (*Monotoca scoparia*), Gorse Bitter-pea (*Daviesia ulicifolia*), Narrow-leaf Drumsticks (*Isopogon anemonifolius*), *Bossiaea heterophylla*, and Broad-leaved *Hakea* (*Hakea dactyloides*). This community occurs on the ridgetops of much of Hassans Walls Reserve.

Blue Mountains Heath – an open to dense shrub canopy with some emergent mallees and a groundcover of sedges and forbs. Mainly occurs in scattered patches on shallow, damp loamy soils on exposed plateaus between 600 – 1100m above sea level and is commonly associated with Blue Mountains Ridgetop Forest. The emergent mallee is typically Blue Mountains Mallee Ash (*E. stricta*) and shrubs include Narrow-leaf Drumsticks (*Isopogon anemonifolius*), Dwarf Sheoak (*Allocasuarina nana*), Flaky-barked Tea-tree (*Leptospermum trinervium*), Pale Mat-rush (*Lomandra glauca*), Narrow-leaf Platysace (*Platysace linearifolia*), Common Conestick (*Petrophile pulchella*), Heath-leaved Banksia (*Banksia ericifolia*) and *Hakea laevipes*. Patches of this community have been mapped on the southern plateaus of the Reserve.

Vegetation Communities identified in *The Vegetation of the Western Blue Mountains* (DEC, 2006)

This vegetation survey provides a significantly more detailed analysis of the composition and distribution of vegetation communities than the previous survey, having been undertaken at a 1:25,000 scale. It divides vegetation communities into a series of mapping units that reflect local variations in geology, soil type, topography, elevation and rainfall. The survey and report is based on data collected at over 1200 sites (in this or previous surveys) – however no sites were located within Hassans Walls Reserve. Consequently, there has been no ground truthing of the vegetation communities mapped as occurring in the Reserve. The applicability / accuracy of the vegetation communities in relation to Hassans Walls Reserve would need to be verified by on ground surveys. All of the species ascribed to each vegetation community may not necessarily occur within the Reserve.

The descriptions below are based at the vegetation community scale (described in Section 4.1 of Volume 1 of the report) to allow for a degree of comparability between this survey and that of the southern part of the Reserve. The mapping units identified within Hassans Walls Reserve are provided for subsequent ease of reference back to the source document, if necessary.

Sydney Montane Dry Sclerophyll Forest (mapping units 26, 29 and 30) – A low forest with a distinctive sclerophyll shrub understorey that occurs at altitudes more than 900 metres above sea level. Dominant trees are typically Black Ash (*E. sieberi*) with shrubs including *Acacia*, *Dillwynia*, *Pultenaea*, *Hakea*, *Isopogon* and *Petrophile*. This community is comparable to the Blue Mountains Ridgetop Forest described earlier.

Sydney Montane Heath (mapping units 43 and 44) – Heathland communities that occur on skeletal soils in exposed plateaus, also in association with rock pagodas. Usually a combination of moderately dense thickets of *Banksia*, Tea-tree (*Leptospermum*) and Dwarf She-oak (*Allocasuarina nana*) with clumps of Sedge (*Lepidosperma*) and *Platysace*. When occurring in association with pagodas Common Fringe-myrtle (*Calytrix tetragona*) and Blunt Beard-heath (*Leucopogon muticus*) are most common. This community is comparable to the Blue Mountains Heath described earlier.

Southern Tableland Wet Sclerophyll Forest (mapping unit 8) – Tall open eucalypt forests with a herbaceous or ferny understorey, generally in areas receiving more than 900mm annual rainfall. The type of this community identified in Hassans Walls Reserve occurs primarily in gullies and features tall Brown Barrel (*E. fastigata*), *Blue Mountains Ash* (*E. oreades*), Mountain Grey Gum (*E. cypellocarpa*) and Sydney Peppermint Gum (*E. piperita*).

Tableland Clay Grassy Woodland (mapping unit 11) – associated with deeper soils found along creeks, flats and gullies at high elevations. The woodland is dominated by Ribbon Gum (*E. viminalis*), Broad-leaved Ribbon Gum (*E. dalrympleana*), Snow Gum (*E. pauciflora*) with smaller shrubs such as Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*). Snow grass dominates the ground cover.

Southern Tableland Dry Sclerophyll Forest (mapping units 35 and 37) - low growing (<20m in height) woodlands and open forests on crests and steep slopes. Broad-leaved Ribbon Gum *E. dalrympleana* forms a taller canopy over a smaller tree layer of Broad-leaved Peppermint (*E. dives*) with a sclerophyll shrub layer and grassy ground cover usually present.

Communities identified by local botanist (Drewe, pers com, 2016)

Further to the above vegetation classifications, local amateur botanist Helen Drewe, provided a map of the distribution of vegetation communities based on her on ground field experience, long interest and association with the Reserve. The classification is broadly comparable with the above surveys but utilises a slightly different nomenclature, identifying the following communities:

- Blue Mountains Ash / Black Ash Open Forest and Woodland
- Black Ash / Blaxland's Stringybark Open Forest and Woodland
- Black Ash / Blaxland's Stringybark and Poa Woodland
- Blaxland's Stringybark / Broad-leaved Ribbon Gum and Black She-oak Woodland
- Mountain Grey Gum / Brown Barrel Tall Open Forest
- Broad-leaved Peppermint / Ribbon Gum / Snow Gum Open Forest
- Dwarf She-oak / Heath-leaved Banksia Heathland
- Blue Mountains Mallee Ash / Black Ash Heathland
- Mountain Grey Gum / Blaxland's Stringybark / Possumwood Woodland

The distribution of these communities within Hassans Walls Reserve is illustrated in Figure 4.

Conservation Significant Plant Species

Several species of conservation significance have been recorded within the Reserve, these are listed in Table 4.

Hassans Walls Reserve also contains a high diversity of orchid species, with over 70 species recorded from the area - making the site one of the most significant for this species in the Central Tablelands (Lollback et al, 2014).

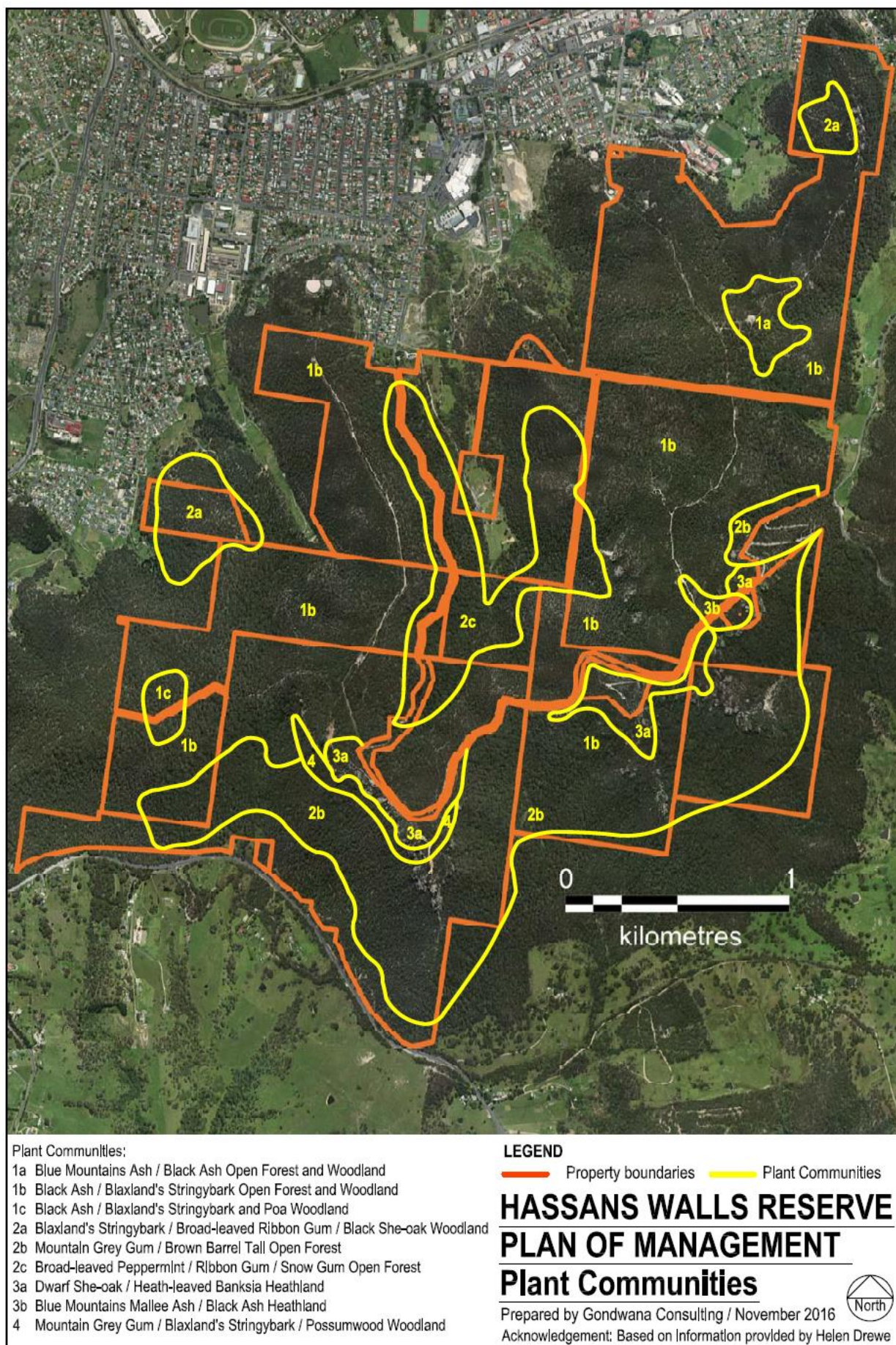


Figure 4 – Vegetation communities of Hassans Walls Reserve (source: H Drewe, pers. comm.)

Name	Location	TSC Act, 1995	RoTAP code, 1988	EPBC Act, 1999	Comments
<i>Acacia asparagoides</i>	Heath areas / plateaus	-	2R	-	Found in heathland at Hassans Walls Lookout, and elsewhere in Reserve. Range extending over less than 100km. Rare but with no current identifiable threat.
<i>Philotheca obovalis</i>		-	3RCa	-	
<i>Leptospermum</i> p. nov. "L"		-	2R, local endemic	-	
<i>Leptospermum blakelyi</i>	Heath areas / plateau tops	-	2R, local endemic	-	Found in heathland at Hassans Walls Lookout, and elsewhere in Reserve. Only known from the Reserve and rocky areas around Lithgow, Newnes Plateau, and Shipley Plateau. Range extending over less than 100km. Rare but with no current identifiable threat.
<i>Persoonia acerosa</i>	Damp, disturbed areas	Vulnerable	-	Vulnerable	
<i>Pseudanthus divaricatissimus</i>	Heath areas / plateau tops	-	3RCa	-	Found in heathland at Hassans Walls Lookout. Range more than 100km, but in small populations. Rare but with no current identifiable threat. Occurs within a conservation reserve, and considered to be adequately reserved (1000 or more plants protected).

Source: Kidd (2009) and Epacris Environmental Consultants (2012).

Table 4 – Significant Plant Species of Hassans Walls Reserve

Introduced Plants

The *Native Plants Hassans Wall Reserve Lithgow* (Lollback et al, 2014) lists 92 pest plant species in the Reserve. These weeds are generally concentrated around disturbed areas such as the developed visitor use nodes as well as roads, walking and bike tracks and parts of the Reserve that adjoin the urban areas of Lithgow.

The spread of weeds into and through the Reserve can be inadvertently assisted by recreational use and other activities such as road maintenance / grading. The use of introduced gravel to establish and maintain roads can also provide additional nutrients to the adjacent soil which has the potential to favour introduced species. Weeds may also be introduced into the Reserve by the dumping of garden waste and by natural means such as wind and birds.

The spread and establishment of weeds has the potential to alter the composition and structure of the Reserve's natural vegetation communities and the availability of resources (light and soil moisture).

5.2 Fauna

A systematic fauna survey of Hassans Walls Reserve has not been undertaken. Rather, a range of previous reports and studies have collated existing records and / or undertaken fauna surveys on a site basis in response to specific development proposals. As a result the understanding of the fauna is incomplete.

Consolidated records from a number of sources - *Hassans Wall Draft Management Plan* (Goldney and Smith, 2003), *Hassans Walls Reserve* (Kidd, 2009) *Flora and Fauna Assessment of Proposed Mountain Bike Track Hassans Walls* (Epacris Environmental Consultants, 2008) and *Flora and Fauna Survey of Hassans Wall Lookout Area* (Epacris Environmental Consultants, 2012) - list 72 birds, 16 mammals (including 5 microbats), 7 reptiles, 2 amphibians and 7 butterflies as occurring in the Reserve.

The diverse fauna of the Reserve is typical of bushland areas in the bioregion. The largely undisturbed nature of most of the Reserve as well as the diversity of vegetation communities and niche habitats (such as the escarpment and rock pagodas) increase the range of habitats within the Reserve. The broader connection of Hassans Walls Reserve to surrounding large areas of remnant vegetation that ultimately provides connectivity to National Parks enable mobile fauna to move over larger areas in relative safety. Regular roadkill on Browns Gap Road (for example, wombats, echidnas, wallabies and kangaroos) is evidence of fauna movement on this eastern boundary of the Reserve.

Conservation Significant Fauna Species

Three threatened bird species Gang-gang Cockatoo, Scarlet Robin and Little Lorikeet have been recorded in the area and one threatened microbat species, the Eastern Bentwing Bat. These species are listed as Vulnerable in NSW – as shown in Table 5.

Name	Common name	Location	Status under TSC Act, 1995	Status under EPBC Act, 1999
<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	Gang-gang Cockatoo	Heath, Woodlands	Vulnerable	
<i>Petroica boodang</i>	Scarlet Robin	Forest and Woodlands	Vulnerable	
<i>Glossopsitta pusilla</i>	Little Lorikeet	Heath, Forest and Woodlands	Vulnerable	
<i>Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis</i>	Eastern Bentwing Bat	Escarpment	Vulnerable	
<i>Paralucia spinifera</i>	Purple Copper Butterfly	Foothills of northern escarpment	Endangered	Vulnerable

Source – Goldney and Smith (2003), Kidd (2009) and Epacris Environmental Consultants (2008 and 2012).

Table 5 – Significant Animal Species of Hassans Walls Reserve

The Purple Copper Butterfly, first described by scientists in 1978, is one of Australia's rarest butterflies. Numerous populations of the endangered Purple Copper Butterfly (*Paralucia spinifera*) are located in the Reserve, on the northern foot slopes (Epacris Environmental Consultants, 2008), western escarpments and the Forty Bends area (SKM and PB, 2012). The butterfly occurs at elevations above 850 metres where it feeds exclusively on a form of Blackthorn, *Bursaria spinosa* subsp. *Lasiophylla*. The butterfly has a mutualistic relationship with a species of small black ant, *Anonychomyrma itinerans*. Butterfly eggs are laid on Blackthorn bushes or adjacent debris near nests of the ant. Once the eggs hatch and mature the ants keep them underground in their nest during the day and shepherd them out at night for the larvae to graze on blackthorn leaves. At maturity, the larvae pupate in the ants nest and emerge as butterflies. For their part, the ants receive a sugary excretion from a gland on the back of the larvae.

Also of note are records of Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus macropus*) nesting in the Reserve and the numerous Superb Lyrebird (*Menura novaehollandiae*) nests, dancing mounds and scratchings.

Introduced Animals

A range of introduced animals have been recorded from the Reserve including foxes, rabbits, pigs, goats and cats. Competition for resources, habitat destruction and predation can have considerable impacts on populations of native mammals, reptiles, frogs and birds. Introduced animals also impact native plant species through grazing, rutting and impacts on soils and increased potential for soil erosion.

Local residents with dogs on and off leads regularly use the Reserve for walking and exercise. Dogs off leads is illegal and has a high potential to pose a potential danger to other Reserve visitors and directly impact native fauna via disturbance and predation while dogs on leads may also impact native fauna.

As with native fauna, there has been no systematic survey of introduced animals within the Reserve and therefore limited information is available.

5.3 Fire Management

The rugged terrain and close proximity of Lithgow to the relatively large area of Eucalypt forest in Hassans Walls Reserve has a high potential to present a risk to life and assets should a large fire take hold. Fire mapping (Figure 5 overleaf) shows only small areas have burnt since the Vickers Fire that impacted much of the Reserve in 2002.

The Reserve has been identified as a high risk for bushfires under the *Lithgow Bush Fire Risk Management Plan 2015* (NSW Rural Fire Service, 2015). The whole of the Reserve is managed as a Strategic Fire Advantage Zone (SFAZ) which recognises that hazard reduction burning around specific assets is necessary as well as back burning during bushfire events. Currently there is no Reserve specific fire management plan that informs the Lithgow Bush Fire Risk Management Plan 2015.

The NSW Rural Fire Service carries out targeted hazard reduction burns in parts of the Reserve to minimise the risk of large fires and to protect assets. The primary aim of this mechanical burning is to protect life and assets, however, consideration is also given to protecting fire sensitive vegetation communities and species and maintaining biodiversity assets.

None of the vehicle tracks within the Reserve are classified as Category 1 fire trails by the NSW Rural Fire Service – rather they are regarded as Category 7 and 9 access tracks. This distinction is important as the latter categories require access tracks to be only a minimum of 3 metres wide with a height clearance of 3.5 metres while Category 1 tracks are required to have greater widths and height clearances.

The 2002 bushfire burnt virtually the entire escarpment and gully areas of the Reserve. Some parts of the Reserve are still recovering from this fire. Generally speaking most Eucalypt forests and woodlands are well adapted to fire and need some burning to remain healthy, however frequent and intense fires pose a risk. Other vegetation communities and species are not well adapted to fire and only persist because they are naturally protected against fire by aspect or presence of moisture. Uncontrolled frequent and intense

fires have the potential to encroach into fire sensitive communities and change floristic structures and species composition over time. Some species may also disappear from the Reserve under such a fire regime.

Obligate seeders are plants that can only regenerate after fire from seed. Obligate seeders (such as *Eucalyptus oreades*, which is uncommon in the Reserve), are particularly vulnerable to fire - If fires are too frequent plants cannot reach maturity to set seed and species persistence may be threatened. Populations of obligate seeders in Hassan Walls Reserve (such as *E. oreades*,) may disappear from the Reserve if not protected from frequent and / or intense fires.

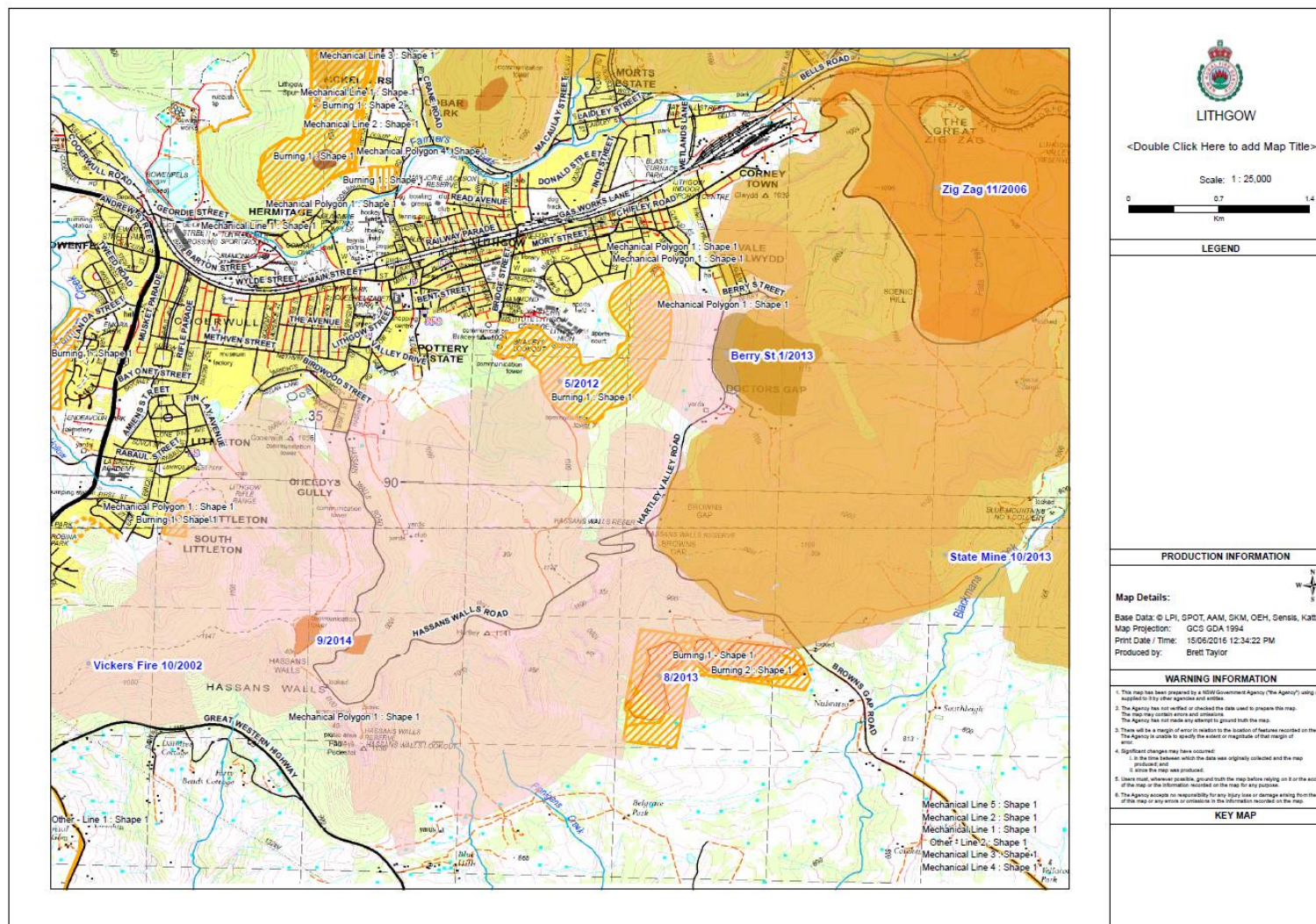


Figure 5 – Map of fires in Hassans Walls Reserve since 2006

Source – NSW Rural Fire Service (Brett Taylor, pers. comm.)

6. Cultural Heritage Values

6.1 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

The Reserve lies close to the boundary of the traditional lands of the Darug and Wiradjuri Aboriginal People who would have occupied the area prior to European settlement. Before European settlement the Reserve is likely to have consisted of forest and woodlands, rocky outcrops and escarpments with contained feeder creeks running into the downstream watercourses.

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage maintains the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS). The AHIMS includes:

- information about Aboriginal objects that have been reported to the Director General, Department of Premier and Cabinet
- information about Aboriginal Places which have been declared by the Minister for the Environment to have special significance with respect to Aboriginal culture
- archaeological reports.

AHIMS has operated since the 1970s, and as at June 2011 contained detailed information on 67,000 recorded sites and 10,700 archaeological and other Aboriginal heritage reports.

The AHIMS records do not include any Aboriginal sites or Places in Hassans Walls Reserve. That is not to say that no such sites exist or that there is no evidence of Aboriginal occupation and use of the Reserve. Interpretive material at Hassans Walls Lookout notes that middens and rock art are present in the Hassans Walls Reserve however the Wiradjuri traditional owners desire that the location of such sites is not publicly disclosed.

6.2 Historic Heritage

How often the early residents of Lithgow and surrounds visited Hassans Walls is largely unknown, however the 1882 gazettal as a recreation reserve of a 143 hectare area encompassing the highest escarpments and adjacent lowlands indicates the area was being visited.

A 1998 *Blue Mountains Walking Track Heritage Study* by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service notes that three walking tracks were constructed around the time of WWI by brothers Richard and Thomas Merrick for the Lithgow Progress Association. One track leading from Hassans Walls Road in Lithgow township to the Hassans Walls Lookout was built in 1910, an easterly track from Hassans Walls Lookout to Browns Gap Road (known as “Browns Gap Track”) was built in 1915, and Heffernans Pass (a westerly track leading to a ridge overlooking Old Bowenfels) was built in 1915-6. A range of visitor facilities including shelter pavilions and seating are also reported as being constructed around this time. The walking track to Hassans Walls Lookout and through to Browns Gap Road was upgraded to a dirt road as part of an Unemployment Relief programme, chiefly using manpower and some explosives, during the 1930s. Although some sections of the Browns Gap Track, and the first section of the 1915-16 Heffernans Pass, remain intact other parts of these routes have been substantially altered, and none of the three original walking tracks are regarded as having heritage significance.

The *Blue Mountains Walking Track Heritage Study* also describes the Hassans Walls Undercliff Walking Track, which commenced at the 1912 shelter shed (called the “Centenary Pavilion”) then ran east/north-east to descend into Hassans Glen and extended beneath the cliff line at Hassans Walls Lookout and west past Rutherford Glen at the approximate western end of the main escarpment. The walking track was constructed between 1916 and 1920. The glen sections of the track are recorded as containing “fine stone staircases”. This track is regarded as of historical significance at a regional level as one of the most westerly examples of track making in the Blue Mountains with the stone staircases regarded as

having aesthetic significance comparing well with the best examples elsewhere in the Blue Mountains. After being officially reopened to public access in 1990 the track was closed in 1992 due to public safety concerns arising from rockfalls.

The Hassans Walls Reserve track system is the most westerly example of the Blue Mountains tourist track building phenomenon of the early 1900's. The walking tracks are evidence of the attempts by the Lithgow Progress Association to create nature based tourist attractions in the industrialised pre WWI Lithgow.

A plinth with a directional dial display indicating places and points of interest visible in the distance – known as the Padley Memorial Direction Dial – was erected at Hassans Walls Lookout in October 1929. The directional dial is no longer evident, however the plinth remains (albeit in poor condition) adjacent to the lookout boardwalk.

Many of the visitor destinations within Hassans Walls Reserve are named after prominent locals such as James Padley, Major H Bracey and ex Prime Minister Joseph Cook. There is some existing interpretive information at both Hassans Walls Lookout and Bracey Lookout and a range of historic photos of Lithgow township at Bracey Lookout.

A local amateur historian and author has commenced researching the background to walking tracks, caves, lookouts and other features of the Reserve (K Painter, pers. comm.). This information could provide a source for potential interpretation of the history of the Reserve and by association, the township of Lithgow.

NSW Heritage Register Listing

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage maintains the State Heritage Register - a list of places and objects of particular importance to the people of NSW. The register lists over 1,650 items, in both private and public ownership. Listing on the State Heritage Register means the item:

- is of particular importance to the people of NSW and enriches understanding of our history and identity;
- is legally protected as a heritage item under the NSW *Heritage Act 1977*
- requires approval from the Heritage Council of NSW for major changes
- is eligible for financial incentives from the NSW and Commonwealth governments.

Hassans Walls Reserve contains one site included on the NSW State Heritage Register – known as the Lithgow Heavy Anti Aircraft Gun Stations and Dummy Station complex (Listing Number 01862, gazettal date 5 August 2011). Only the Dummy Station included as part of this Heritage complex is within the Reserve. The Statement of Significance in the Heritage Register notes:

“The Lithgow Anti Aircraft Gun Stations and Dummy Station have state significance as the only known inland heavy anti aircraft gun stations of their type in NSW. The emplacements were introduced as an important part of the network of defence sites established at Lithgow during the latter half of World War Two. The defences were introduced to protect Lithgow's important mining, manufacturing and transport industries and the Lithgow Small Arms Factory.”

The Register describes the Dummy Station as comprising:

“at least two examples of dummy gun emplacements are known to exist near Hassans Wall Road at Lithgow. The dummy emplacements are located in small clearings with small, scrubby, native plantings. Raised octagonal cement platforms with a central iron pipe located in the centre cut off to the height of the platform are located on a larger circular base appearing to consist of sand, cement, slag and other materials

that have now broken down to form a loose surface that has deteriorated significantly. Overall, each dummy emplacement has a diameter of approximately six metres.”

The Register listing makes no recommendations on the need for conservation measures to protect or maintain the dummy stations.



Remains of the Anti Aircraft Dummy Station, west of Norman Henry Drive



Remains of the plinth (the Padley Memorial Direction Dial) at Hassans Walls Lookout

7. Visitor Use and Recreation Values

Hassans Walls Reserve is a valued and popular destination offering a range of passive and active recreational opportunities for local and regional visitors. A growing population within the Local Government Area and the Sydney region is, anecdotally, placing increased demand on Hassans Walls Reserve as a recreational venue. This increased demand can create both conflicts in the type of activities undertaken (or competing demands for intended uses) as well as concerns about equitable access to and recreational use of the Reserve.

7.1 Visitor Use Levels

To attempt to gain an understanding of the number of visits to the Reserve, Lithgow City Council and Gondwana Consulting implemented a short visitor monitoring program in June and July. By its very nature any such program will provide only a snapshot of the number of people visiting the Reserve at a given time.

The visitor monitoring program involved:

- Installation of traffic counters on Hassans Walls Road at the Lithgow and Browns Gap Road entry points, on the access track to Hassans Walls Lookout and on Norman Henry Drive to Bracey Lookout Road (see Figure 6 below).
- The counters were installed at 9 a.m. on Monday June 6 and removed between 4 and 7 pm on Monday 20 June. (To allow for accurate comparison the data for each site presented below includes up to 4pm on Monday 20 June, 2016.)
- Installation of an infrared people counting device at the start of the 4WD Track that leads west off Hassans Walls Rd and also on the track to the closed second lookout. At both locations the counter was installed in proximity to the gated barrier across each track. The counter was in place for one week at each location. A counter was not installed at Hassans Walls Lookout as a discrete and secure location was not achievable.

The location of the traffic counters not only recorded the number of vehicle passes over time at each point within the Reserve but also allowed for the identification of movement patterns within the Reserve. The counters were set to record data at 15 minute intervals and hence provide a picture of visitor numbers throughout the day.

When using traffic counts to estimate total visitor numbers to a site a generally accepted industry standard is that each vehicle carries, on average, 2.5 passengers. The application of this ratio to vehicle numbers allows an estimate to be made of actual visitors, travelling by vehicle, to Hassans Walls Reserve. Given the Reserve contains only two vehicle points of entry a more accurate estimate is possible than would otherwise be the case.

The visitor monitoring snapshot highlighted the following:

- Hassans Walls Reserve is a popular destination with an estimated 2,245 people visiting by vehicle in a two week period (including a long weekend) in June 2016. (Note that during the two week period there were several instances of days of cold and wet weather which is likely to have impacted on visitation to the Reserve.)
- The vast majority of vehicular access and egress is via Hassans Walls Road at Sheedys Gully, Lithgow.
- Hassans Walls Lookout is the most popular destination, receiving just under 70% of all vehicle based visits.

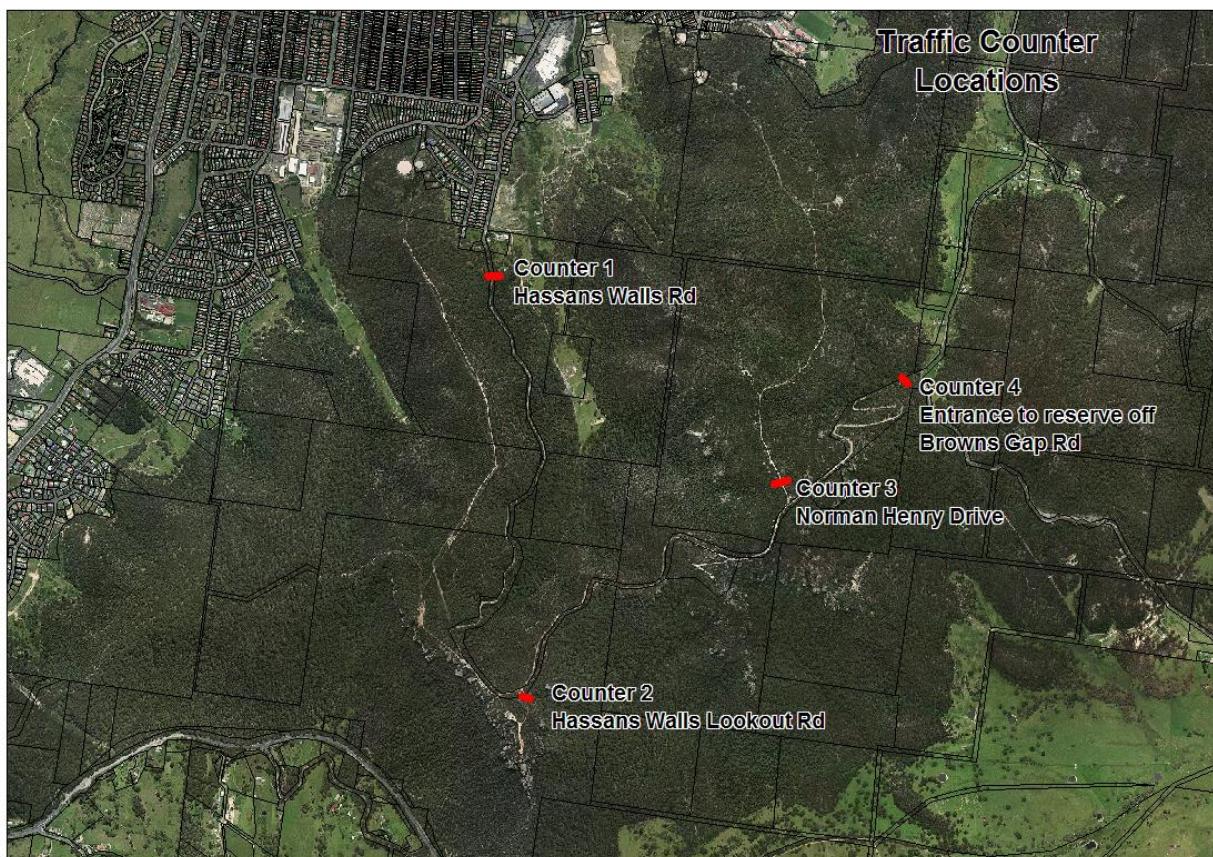


Figure 6 – Location of traffic counters

Source: Lithgow City Council

- Approximately 30% of vehicle based visits are to Bracey Lookout.
- Unsurprisingly, there was a significant increase in visitors on the June holiday long weekend with an approximate 300% increase on Saturday and 500% increase on Sunday relative to the preceding weekdays.
- Over the two week period, just under 50% of vehicle based visits occurred between 1 and 5 p.m.
- The two hour period of 4 – 6 p.m. prior to and including sunset received approximately 20% of vehicle based visits.
- Over the two week period, a total of 35 vehicles entered the Reserve between 9pm and midnight and 15 between midnight and 6 a.m.
- There was a marked increase in the use of the monitored recreational trails on weekends.

7.2 Access and Visitor Uses

Hassans Walls Reserve is a generally undeveloped setting offering the opportunity for a variety of passive and active nature based recreational activities in a mostly uncrowded social environment. Local residents of Lithgow value highly the undeveloped and uncrowded nature of the Reserve, combined with its proximity to the township.

Access to the Reserve may be gained from Hassans Walls Road via either Lithgow township or by turning off Browns Gap Road. Although being “tar-sealed” in the late 1930s, today Hassans Walls Road has a surface that is variously compacted natural soil or in-situ material and mostly imported gravel fill (although some fragments of the former sealed surface remain). It is suitable for two wheel drive vehicles. A short narrow spur two wheel drive dirt road provides access to the primary attraction of Hassans Walls Lookout. Norman Henry Drive provides access off Hassans Walls Road to Bracey Lookout overlooking Lithgow and is mainly a compacted natural dirt surface although some steeper sections have been bitumenised in the past.

Hassans Walls Reserve contains two (accessible/promoted) recreational nodes where visitor facilities are located – Hassans Walls Lookout and Bracey Lookout. These nodes are the key sites that the vast majority of visitors to the Reserve access.

There is a network of walking tracks and mountain bike tracks throughout the Reserve based on the roads, 4WD standard access tracks to communication towers and other infrastructure and an indeterminate number of informal tracks presumably established by walkers and mountain bike riders.

Hassans Walls Reserve also plays a significant regional role in meeting the demand for competitive downhill mountain bike riding as the purpose built “Pony Express” tracks is used for the NSW mountain bike State Championships. This track is the only downhill mountain bike track in the Reserve that has been formally approved by Council rather than being established by ongoing use.

7.3 Hassans Walls Lookout Day Use Area and Environs

The primary destination for many visitors to the Reserve is Hassans Walls Lookout, located on a south facing escarpment with impressive views over the Hartley Valley including historic Mount Blaxland, the Blue Mountains to the east, and Mount Lambie and the Great Dividing Range to the west towards Bathurst. The site comprises a broad dirt expanse serving as a car park (with one concrete space for people with a disability), several large stone boulders (placed around parts of the perimeter to define/contain vehicle movement), a small sandstone and timber shelter (originally constructed in 1939) with a disused water tank, a garbage bin and a concrete path to a recently constructed 50m elevated boardwalk (fibreglass reinforced plastic deck with a metal superstructure and safety railings) leading to a lookout point. The boardwalk has been named in honour of Sir Joseph Cook, a Lithgow resident who served as Prime Minister for two years prior to WWI. A trig station is within 5m of the lookout point of the boardwalk and impedes viewlines over Hartley Valley. The old plinth, the base of the Padley Memorial Direction Dial (discussed earlier), is also near the lookout point. Two information and interpretive signs at the start of the boardwalk provide a short history of the Reserve and a summary of its values.

A small natural rock cave is visible north-west of the boardwalk and is accessed by an informal track leading from the small shelter near the car park. The cave provides views over the adjacent cliff wall - wire mesh has been erected over its outer opening for visitor safety purposes. Approximately 50% of people were observed to visit the cave after having seen it from the boardwalk.

A second small sandstone and timber shelter is located approximately 100m north of the car park area in a small clearing adjacent to a fenced communication tower. Vehicles are also parked in this area.

A number of small wire fences, some with now faded warning signs attached, have been previously erected at locations along the edge of the escarpment past the boardwalk and near the rock cave. There are also some short sections of newer safety/barrier fencing in the lookout area. Discrete/separate sections of low fences also occur along parts of the escarpment further away from Hassans Walls Lookout and west for up to several hundreds of metres. Some are now obscured by shrubs while others are very obvious - all are decades old and are showing deterioration in condition. Some of the fences may serve to provide a sense of safety and security and encourage visitors to venture further on past the boardwalk construction. Council sought advice in 1993 and again in 2010 regarding the retention or otherwise of the fences.

The length of stay for most visitors to the site is 5 - 10 minutes, with slightly longer stays around dusk as people appreciate the views with the setting sun. The lookout is often the end / turnaround point for locals walking through the Reserve for exercise.

Visitor impacts

Apart from the natural stone bollards the car park is generally ill defined, with the exception of the allocated space for people with a disability. As a result the space available is not efficiently used for parking and at busy times the lack of parking space has resulted in drivers encroaching into adjacent bushland that is known to contain plant species of conservation significance.

The regular emptying of the garbage bin assists in ensuring litter is not a major issue at the site. Rubbish including discarded food packets, drink containers and cigarette butts are most obvious in the fringing bushland and beneath the boardwalk. Used toilet paper is also strewn among the adjacent bushland.

There is track braiding evident between the shelter and the small “cave” and in the bushland north west of the shelter. The walls and roof of the cave are substantially covered in graffiti.

7.4 Bracey Lookout Day Use Area

Bracey Lookout is the second most visited destination within the Reserve, providing views north over the valley and Lithgow township. The access road to this area is steep and narrow where it descends from the primary ridgeline and sections have been surfaced with bitumen, parts of which is failing and causing deep potholes. Several lay bys are evident adjacent to the track to allow for the two way movement of traffic. The lookout can also be reached using the walking track (The Eskbank Track) from Eskbank Street in Lithgow.

Visitor facilities at the site include a defined bitumen parking area for 6 vehicles that abuts a broad compacted gravel / concrete lookout with a low railing on the outside edge. Three picnic tables and seats and a garbage bin are provided. A large interpretive sign provides old photographs of Lithgow and of people visiting this part of the Reserve in the early 1900's. Vegetation has been felled or trimmed over an area approximately 70m by 50 metres downslope of the lookout to facilitate an improved view.

As with Hassans Walls Lookout the average length of stay at the site is 5 – 10 minutes.

Visitor impacts

The formalised nature of Bracey Lookout and the lack of nearby attractions to encourage exploring in the bushland results in visitors confining their activities to the space provided. Consequently visitor impacts are minimal and generally restricted to occasional litter.

The most significant impact at the site is the clearing / trimming of vegetation downslope of the site in order to offer enhanced views. Without clearing of this vegetation the views over Lithgow would be substantially restricted and the function of Bracey Lookout significantly limited.

7.5 Second Lookout (Closed)

A second lookout point on the southern ridgeline of the Reserve was also provided in past years, located approximately 800m north-east of Hassans Walls Lookout. The ridge line descends more gradually than near Hassans Walls Lookout and there are no escarpments in the immediate vicinity of the closed lookout's former access tracks and facilities node. A 150 metre compacted gravel track provided access from Hassans Walls Road to the site. Facilities previously accessible at the site include a gravel access road and carpark(s), a sandstone and timber picnic shelter similar to Hassans Walls Lookout (one of two originally at this site), three roughly built fireplaces, and several concrete and timber picnic tables or seats. The picnic shelter is now unused and in disrepair, as are two old sandstone toilet blocks located in bushland a short distance to the west. The lookout afforded views over the Hartley Valley, although not the same expansive vista as at Hassans Walls Lookout.

Today concrete barriers block the start of the access track and the site is closed to vehicular access. The picnic shelter has significantly deteriorated, such that the main sandstone structure and some timber elements and partial iron roofing is all that remains. The seats are mostly overgrown by the Montane Heath vegetation community and many now lack the timber slats. The area can still be accessed by walkers and bike riders and is receiving a low level of use based on observations and results of the visitor monitoring program in June 2016.

7.6 Recreational Trails – Walking and Mountain Bike Riding

There is a network of recreational trails throughout the Reserve based on the roads, restricted (vehicle) access fire trails and management accesses (mostly 4WD standard access tracks along ridgelines leading to communication towers and other infrastructure), an approved downhill mounting bike track (The Pony Express), and a number of informal tracks presumably established by Reserve users (some of which provide linkages to the urban areas of Lithgow). Together the roads, fire trails and management accesses, informal trails as well as linkages to the urban areas provide an extended network of recreational trails.

Mountain bike riding and casual walking, nature enjoyment/appreciation and dog-walking (on leash) are the main uses of this track network. Less frequent uses include jogging or fitness training, and educational activities.

The primary recreational track/trail routes within the Reserve are illustrated in Figure 7 and include:

- Hassans Walls Road (a public road within a separate road reserve) and Norman Henry Drive. The section of Hassans Walls Road between the Sheedys Gully entry and Hassans Walls Lookout is used daily by local residents walking, running for exercise or cycling.
- Fire trails and management accesses (many accessing communications towers and transmission lines within the Reserve) – the gravel road (now closed) to the Second Lookout, the Channel 6 Trail and Donnybrook Trail in the west, vehicle tracks along the lower section of Sheedys Gully, and the Townhouses Trail in the north-east.
- The Eskbank Walking Track, constructed between Eskbank Street and Bracey Lookout.
- The Pony Express Track, an approved downhill mounting bike “single” track from Hassans Walls Road (near the turn-off to Hassans Walls Lookout) to the head of Sheedys Gully.
- Several informal/unapproved “single” tracks, established and maintained through mountain bike use (almost exclusively). These include – the “Donnybrook Track” (a westward extension of the Donnybrook fire trail), the “Pottery Track”, the “Ewok Forest Track”, the “Townhouses Track” (a northwards extension of the Townhouses fire trail), and the “Gun Club Track” (to be closed as a development approval condition for The Pony Express Track), several informal tracks paralleling and criss-crossing fire trails/management accesses, a number of informal tracks connecting from ridgeline end-points of fire trails/management accesses to and from the nearby urban areas of Lithgow, and possibly other unmapped/“unknown” tracks.

This network of roads, 4WD tracks and other track/trails provide a range of walking and mountain bike routes of varying lengths and standards. The multiple entry points to the recreational track network means the Reserve is very accessible which adds to its levels of use and value for walking and mountain bike riding.

Walking

Although actual user numbers are not available, walking and associated activities are believed to be one of the largest and most frequent recreational uses of the Reserve. Recreational or social walking, dog-walking (on-leash) and fitness training are popular activities.

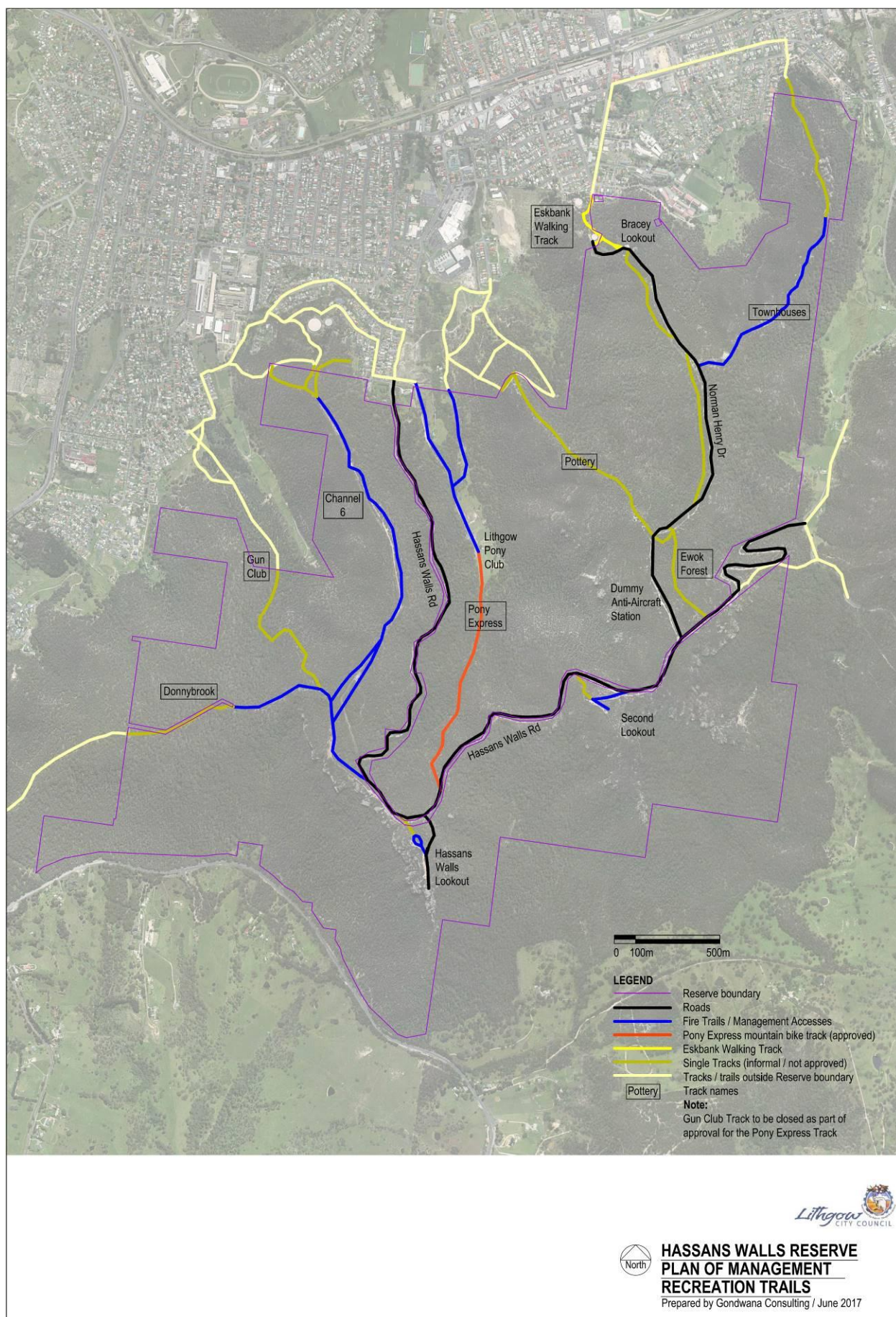


Figure 7 – Recreation trails in and around Hassans Walls Reserve

This is despite the Reserve's lack of dedicated, walkers-only, tracks or routes. The short Eskbank (Walking) Track is the only dedicated walking track at present within the Reserve (other than the short path and new elevated boardwalk at Hassans Wall Lookout). Hassans Walls Road from the Sheedys Gully entry to Hassans Walls Lookout appears the most popular route for walkers.

The former Undercliff Walking Track, which extended from Hassans Glen in the east to pass below the Hassans Walls Lookout and continue westward past Rutherford Glen, was closed in 1992 due to public safety concerns – although sections of this route remain. Several other former walking track routes have been similarly closed (or overgrown) – such as the ridgetop track between Hassans Walls Lookout and the Second Lookout, and Heffernans Pass.

Mountain Bike Riding

Along with walking, mountain bike riding is one of the most popular recreational activities in the Reserve. Mountain bike riders are one of the Reserve's more organised user groups, with the Central Tablelands Mountain Bike Club promoting the area and maintaining high levels of communication among the Reserve's many mountain bike users. Mountain bike riding is experiencing a growth in the number of participants.

The Central Tablelands Mountain Bike Club has a membership of around 120 people from Lithgow, the Blue Mountains and Bathurst with approximately 30% preferring downhill riding. The Club's website lists a total of 13 trails within the Reserve of varying standards and ranging in length from 490m to 3 kilometres. The Club's President advises that most of the off road / track trails are regarded as upper intermediate to advanced standard. The Club's website also indicates the numerous opportunities for mountain bike riding in the Region listing 16 sites in the Blue Mountains and 12 locations in the Central Tablelands.

The "heat map" in Figure 8 indicates the location of trails used by mountain bike riders and the relative use levels. The map is based on data uploaded by riders to an Application that records their use and maps the route. Routes are indicated by blue lines – a thicker line indicates a higher level of use. The period of use that the map represents is not known however it clearly illustrates the most popular routes within the Reserve.

Riding along Hassans Walls Road to Hassans Walls Lookout appears the most popular route followed by riding the length of Hassans Walls Road to Brown Gap Road. Norman Henry Drive and the various 4WD access tracks are also well used.

In 2009 the Central Tablelands Mountain Bike Club obtained Lithgow City Council approval for the construction of a mountain bike trail in the Reserve. The trail, known as Pony Express, runs from Hassans Walls Road near the turnoff to Hassans Walls Lookout downhill on the eastern side of the gully and terminates near the Lithgow Pony Club in Sheedys Gully. The Development Approval contained a number of conditions relating to track construction and maintenance, environmental impacts and their management and requirements during major events.

User conflicts

Few collisions or conflicts between riders and walkers are reported to the Reserve managers each year, and no serious injuries are known to have been sustained. The road and fire trail/management access routes provide sufficient room and visibility to allow riders and walkers to share these routes. "Single track" sections present a somewhat greater risk – due to the narrower track widths, usually little or no passing or step-off space, sharp or blind corners, loose or uneven track surfaces and steeper slopes in places. These risks are exacerbated on downhill sections due the higher speed of riders and less time to react to the presence of a walker, particularly when sight lines along the track ahead are limited. As a result most walkers are deterred by mountain bike use of single tracks – especially downhill tracks – and avoid these routes. This exacerbates the Reserve's lack of dedicated, or attractive, walking tracks/routes.

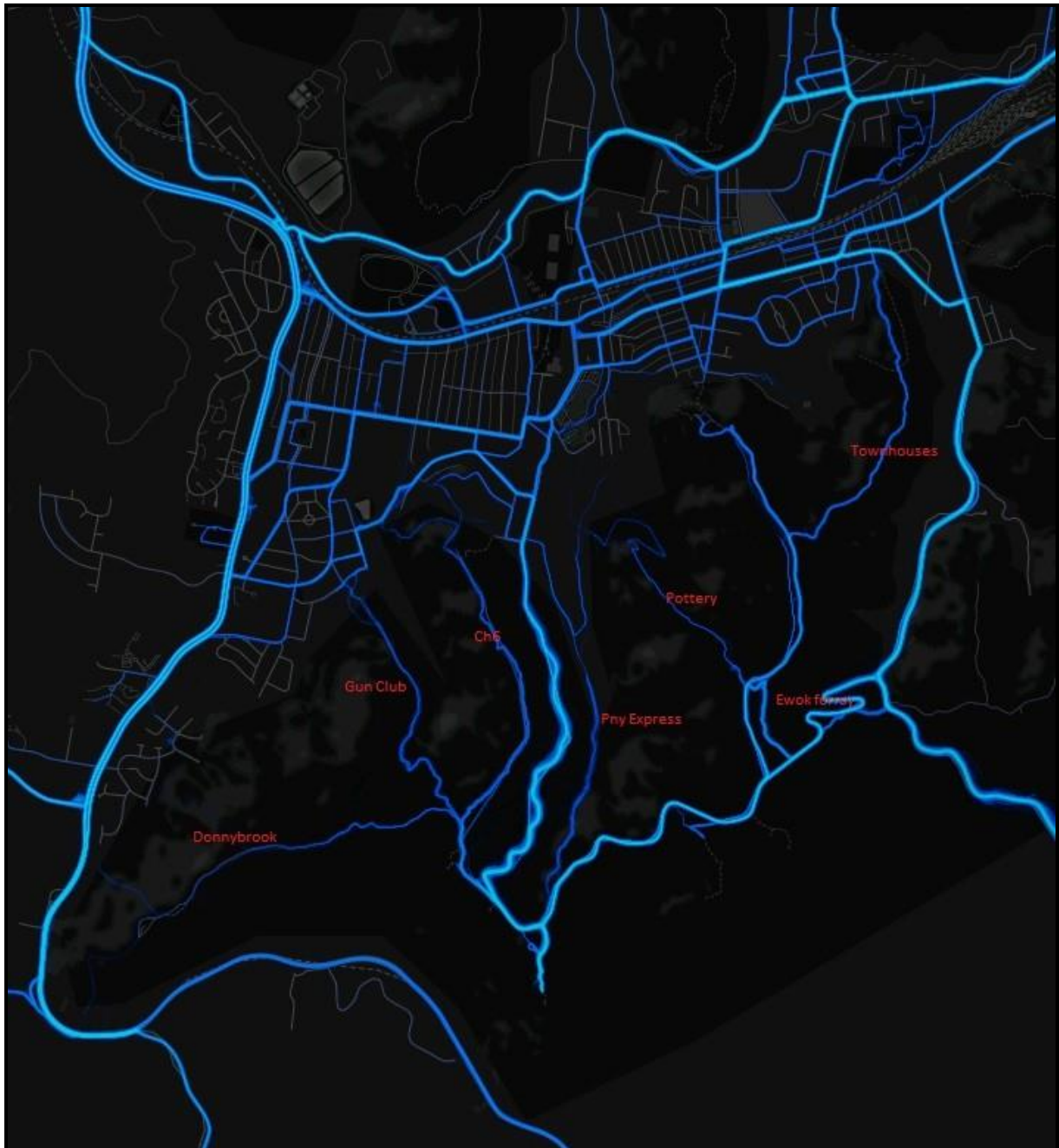


Figure 8 – “Heat Map” of mountain bike trail usage in and around Hassans Walls Reserve

(Source: Craig Flynn, President, Central Tablelands Mountain Bike Club)

7.7 Horse Riding

The Lithgow Pony Club has occupied an area of the Reserve in the lower part of Sheedys Gully since the 1970's for the purpose of conducting equestrian sports and events, instructing people in horse riding and other ancillary activities. The first lease over the site was established in 1978 and permitted, with Council consent, the construction of buildings, fences and levelling of land to facilitate the proposed use. Subsequent leases ensued the most recent lease expired in 2010. At this time Council elected to implement a Licence pending completion of the Plan of Management for Hassans Walls Reserve.

The site is accessed from Hassans Walls Road (outside the northern boundary of the Reserve) via a dirt road that initially passes through private lands currently subject to subdivision and development for housing. Horses are not stabled on site.

The leased / licenced area contains both undisturbed native vegetation and a large generally level cleared area with introduced grasses. The cleared area is used by the Lithgow Pony Club and the surrounding vegetated areas appear little disturbed or impacted by Pony Club activities. The Pony Club has invested in a number of facilities at the site including a small clubhouse / canteen, yards, an equestrian event ring with adjoining spectator seating, a second sand equestrian ring and a large car park with a blue metal surface. Some piles of blue metal have been pushed into the adjoining vegetation. The whole site shows evidence of an established rabbit population and there are several clumps of Blackberry along the access track and scattered throughout the cleared area.

The Pony Express mountain bike trail terminates several hundred metres upslope from the area used by the Lithgow Pony Club and bike riders and walkers regularly walk through the area en-route back to Hassans Walls Road. The Central Tablelands Mountain Bike Club and the Lithgow Pony Club have agreed that mountain bike riders will dismount and walk through the Pony Club area when horses are present.

7.8 Other uses

There are a number of other uses of the Reserve not addressed above including –

- A free-standing house is located in the lower part of Sheedys Gully, within the area now used by the Lithgow Pony Club. The building came into Council ownership when the Lithgow Valley Colliery Co land on which it is located was transferred to Council. The house is currently occupied and subject to a separate lease arrangement.
- Recreational use of areas of the Reserve adjoining urban area by local children for bush play.
- Use for specific recreational events such as that recently proposed by ParkRun involving regular timed runs.
- Cliff recreation such as rock climbing and abseiling are currently occurring on an infrequent basis.
- Occasional use for training by the local State Emergency Services and other organisations including the Mine Rescue Station.

7.9 Unauthorised Activities

The dumping of rubbish on roadsides within the Reserve is an ongoing and regular occurrence. Popular locations include the Hassans Walls Road verge near the Reserve boundary at Sheedys Gully and at several other roadside clearings near the Hassans Walls Lookout. Dumped rubbish is generally domestic garbage in bags, household waste such as furniture, mattresses and the like or green waste from gardens. There are a number of old car bodies that have been pushed over an escarpment past the Norman Henry Drive turnoff. Lithgow City Council generally responds quickly to reports of dumped rubbish and it is typically removed within one business day. The few garbage bins within the Reserve are also serviced regularly and do not generally have heaped garbage near them.

The type of rubbish and locations used suggests rubbish is being dumped from vehicles. The traffic counters placed in the Reserve in June 2016 recorded a low number of vehicles entering the Reserve between dusk and dawn.

The collection of firewood from within the Reserve was raised as a concern by community members, although no locations were specified. Other activities reported as occurring in the Reserve include graffiti, vandalism of facilities, unauthorised fires and parties.

7.10 Information, Interpretation and Education

A small brochure available at the Lithgow Visitor Information Centre and limited information on several tourism webpages appear to be the only pre-visit information available regarding the recreation activities on offer at Hassans Walls Reserve.

The exception to this is information relating to mountain bike riding opportunities at the Reserve which are well documented, primarily on the Central Tablelands Mountain Bike Club website. The mountain bike community is well organised and networked with up to date web pages highlighting the mountain bike opportunities the area offers.

Once on site, information is generally limited to the interpretive signs at Hassans Walls and Bracey Lookouts. Finger board signs provide directions to the Hassans Walls Lookout and Bracey Lookout. There is an absence in the Reserve of information regarding available recreation opportunities such as walking or mountain bike riding.

The provision of updated orientation and interpretive information throughout the Reserve would significantly improve visitor appreciation and enjoyment of the natural and cultural features of the area. This could be in the form of orientation information placed at strategic locations such as entry points and key (publicly accessible and promoted) two lookouts. Other opportunities include the development of an online webpage dedicated to the Reserve and / or an Application containing orientation and interpretive information that could be used by visitors prior to and during visits to the Reserve.

Being located on the doorstep of Lithgow the Reserve is well placed to be used for educational purposes by local schools and other education institutions. The Reserve provides an opportunity for general community education regarding the natural environment, recreational activities and the management of natural areas.

8. Landscape and Amenity Values

The altitude of Hassans Walls Reserve, its vegetated ridgelines and associated escarpments and their relief from the Lithgow and Hartley Valleys makes the Reserve a highly visible natural area to travellers on the Great Western Highway and residents of, and visitors to, Lithgow and the Hartley Valley. Due to its proximity the Reserve contributes to the sense of place and visual amenity of the Lithgow urban area, serving as an aesthetic backdrop on the southern edge of town. The proximity of the Reserve to town is highly valued by residents for its recreational opportunities and the ability to escape and unwind from the pressures of day to day life.

The presence of numerous communications towers detracts from the natural views of the Reserve as by their nature the towers are located in prominent positions.

The views from Hassans Walls Reserve to the Hartley Valley and east to the Blue Mountains and other features of the Great Dividing Range are a significant feature of the Reserve. The views available from Hassans Walls Lookout are the most commonly identified value for the Reserve for locals and visitors alike. Continued subdivision and increased development intensity in the Hartley Valley and other lowlands visible from the Reserve has the potential to alter the aesthetic values of the view.

The Reserve contributes to the quiet bushland character of parts of Lithgow township, particularly for residences located in neighbouring streets, or that are near neighbours.

8.1 Mining Subsidence and Cliff Instability

The Reserve is underlain by extensive mining activity (from 120 to 180m beneath the surface) associated with both the Lithgow Valley and Hassans Walls Colliery Workings. Mining beneath the Reserve appears to have not occurred since the early 1970's. There have been a number of escarpment rock falls and there are innumerable cracks in the sandstone surface rock that are obvious at Hassans Walls Lookout and the escarpment to the west. The exact extent and depth of such cracks on all of the exposed sandstone formations in the Reserve appears to be largely unknown.

In 1984 the NSW Mine Subsidence Board engaged Coffey & Partners Pty Ltd to undertake a geotechnical assessment of reported subsidence related cracking in the Reserve. The assessment was restricted to the section of cliff line and adjoining rock outcrops west from an area termed the Eastern Promontory (the ridge east of the now closed Second Lookout) to the western end of the cliff line (west of Hassans Walls Lookout). The assessment located and mapped cracks and recorded data on crack orientation, width and in some cases depth. The report identified the most dangerous areas as a small promontory near the junction of Hassans Walls Road and the gated fire trail heading west, an area immediately west of the Trig Station at Hassans Walls Lookout and most of the area termed Eastern Promontory. The report recommended fences be erected in the most dangerous areas.

In 1998 Council approached the NSW Mine Subsidence Board regarding mine subsidence and rock formation cracking and potential impacts of ongoing recreational use of the Reserve. Field inspections were undertaken at this time. Notes and outcomes of that assessment of the reserve include:

- Cracks are up to 0.5m wide.
- Mining has impacted upon the surface environment within the Reserve, although natural weathering processes have also had an impact. It is difficult to apportion the extent of the cracking to either mining or natural processes.
- Rock falls had occurred from small escarpment edges in the Reserve and were associated with areas of subsidence cracking through intact rock. .
- Effects of cliff line instability might continue to occur for many years.

The process appears to have been inconclusive in determining the extent of the cracks and the potential for ongoing rock falls and the associated risk to visitors to the Reserve.

The Undercliff Walk was previously closed to public access, in 1992, due to concerns over rock falls injuring visitors.

9. Assets and Infrastructure

The Reserve contains five communications towers owned by a variety of organisations. Four of the towers are licensed by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (the Prime TV tower in Lot 1 DP 1094395 is not as yet licenced) however their presence within the Reserve must also be leased / licensed by the Minister for Lands. The issuing of such licenses will need to be addressed and authorised by the Plan of Management.

Each tower owner can elect to issue co-user licenses to other organisations for the erection of their own facility on the tower. Figure 9 overleaf illustrates the location of each tower licenced by ACMA and provides information on the tower owner and co-users. The ownership of the tower labelled as 1 in Figure 9 is unclear.

The ongoing operation of the communications facilities on the towers within the Reserve is essential for the continued provision of services to the community of NSW.

Endeavour Energy maintain three high voltage powerlines and eight substations within the Reserve to provide power to each of the communications towers. No easements exist for these powerlines, however the *Electricity Act 1995* provides access rights to the assets in the Reserve.

Ground inspections of the powerlines are undertaken every 4 -5 years with aerial inspections carried out annually. Endeavour Energy's maintenance regime generally involves a 9m access (centred on the poles) being maintained for smaller lines and an 18m access for larger powerlines. Vegetation is typically cleared / trimmed within this envelope to ensure asset integrity.



Sir Joseph Cook Boardwalk, Hassans Walls Lookout

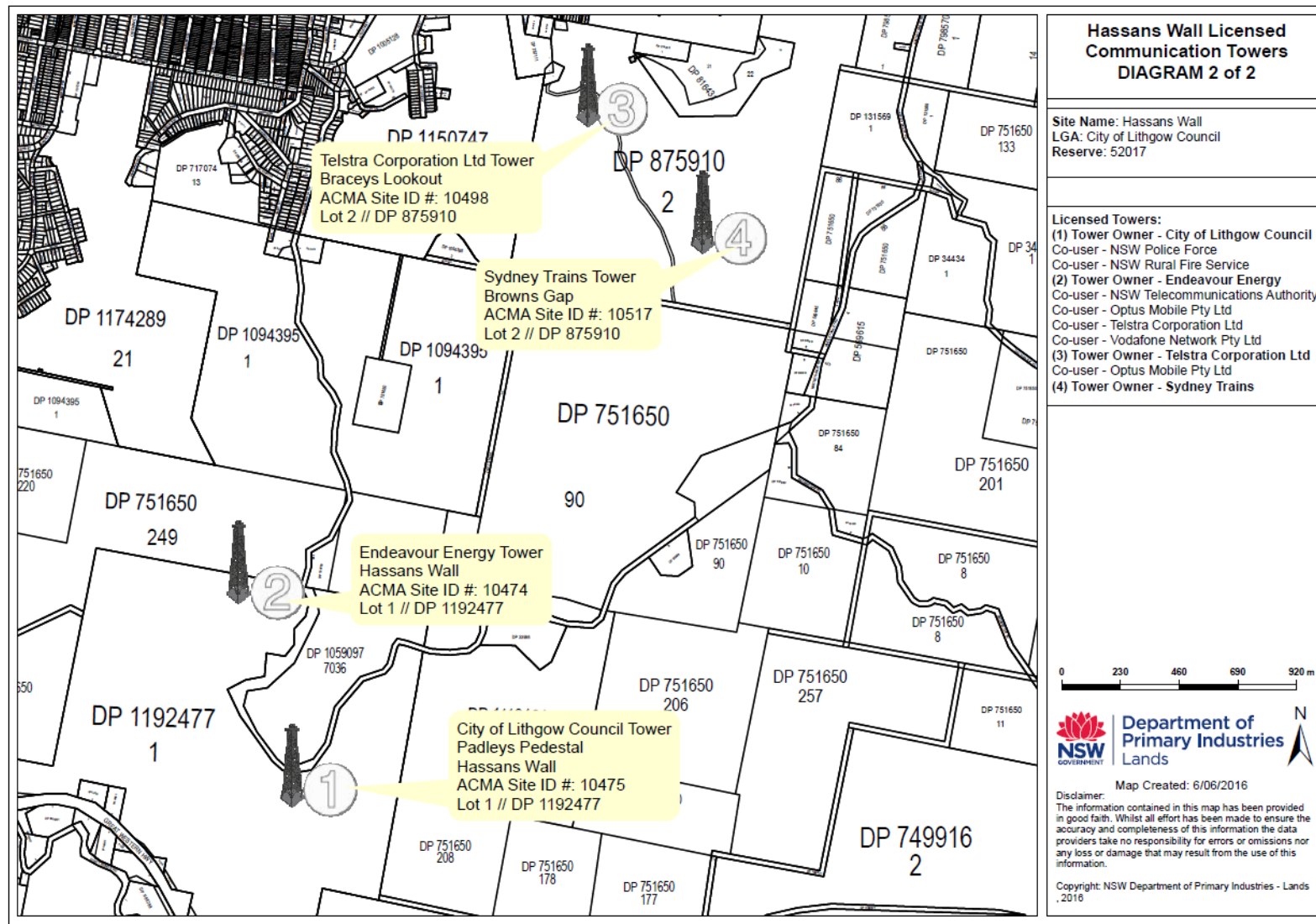


Figure 9 – Licenced communication towers in Hassans Walls Reserve

(Note: An as yet unlicensed communications tower is also located in Lot 1 DP 1094395 – not shown above)

Part C - Management Framework

Part C outlines the framework within which Hassans Walls Reserve is to be managed. Consistent with requirements of the *Local Government Act, 1993* the Reserve has been categorised and the associated objectives listed. For management purposes the site has been divided into four Management Zones based on natural attributes and proposed land management practices. General management strategies have been provided for the entire site and specific management strategies are proposed for each Management Zone. A Concept Masterplan is also contained in Part C.



10. Land Categorisation

A central requirement of the *Local Government Act 1993* is that all Community land must be assigned to one or more land “categories”. Land categorisation defines how Council will manage certain parcels of land. Each category has an associated set of objectives for land so categorised.

Whilst not all lands covered by this plan of management are community lands administered under the *Local Government Act 1993*, the entire Reserve has been categorised to provide a consistent management approach across both Community and Crown land managed by Council. The categorisations of Crown land, while not legislatively supported by the *Local Government Act 1993* in this instance, still provide a clear management direction for Council and the community. This approach has also been applied to Hassans Walls Road – which is located in a separate road reserve (despite running to, and through, the Reserve).

In 2012 the NSW Government initiated a review of the management of Crown Lands within NSW, the outcome of which is the Crown Land Management Bill 2016. The Bill will consolidate a range of existing Crown Land legislation into a single Act (assuming the Bill is passed into law). The Bill continues to allow land to be vested in local councils and enables local councils to manage Crown reserves under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*. The categorisation of Crown lands in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, as proposed in this Plan of Management, is consistent with the provisions of the Crown Lands Management Bill 2016.

The Community land parcels of Hassans Walls Reserve were previously categorised in Council's Generic Community Lands Plan of Management, 2013 - as variously Bushland and General Community Use (as shown on Figure 10). The categorisations in the Generic Community Lands Plan of Management, 2013 will no longer apply to the Community land parcels in Hassans Walls Reserve upon adoption of the Hassans Walls Reserve Plan of Management.

Table 6 indicates the categorisation of Community lands in the Generic Community Lands Plan of Management, 2013 and the categorisations proposed in this Plan of Management.

Community Land Parcel	Category in Generic CL PoM, 2013	Proposed category in Hassans Walls Reserve PoM	Public Hearing Required
Lots 2 and 3, DP 251935	Bushland	Bushland	No
Lot 1, DP 1094395 and Lot 1, DP 251935	Bushland and General Community Use	Bushland and General Community Use	No
Lot 2, DP 1094395	Bushland	Bushland	No
Lot 90, DP 751650	Bushland	Bushland and Escarpment	No. (as per sect. 40(A)2 of the LG Act 1993)

Table 6 – Categorisation of Community Land

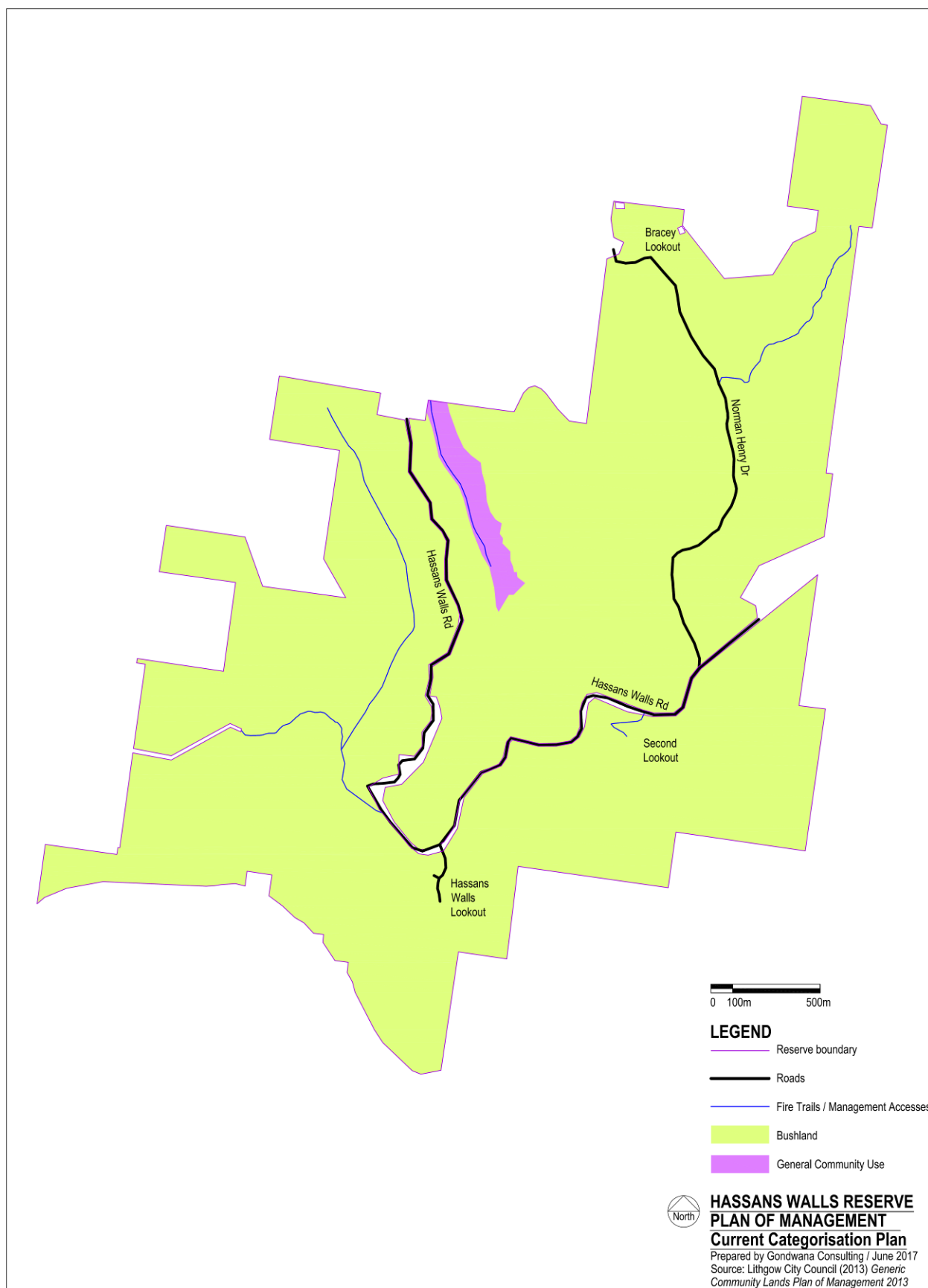


Figure 10 – Current Community Land categories (Generic Community Lands Plan of Management, 2013)

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires that a council must hold a public hearing in relation to a proposed plan of management (including a plan of management that affects lands within an existing plan of management) if the proposed plan would have the effect of categorising, or altering the categorisation of, community land. Such a public hearing is typically held during the public exhibition of the relevant Draft Plan of Management and provides the community with the opportunity to make formal comment on the categorisations proposed within the Draft Plan of Management. However, section 40(A)2 of the *Local Government Act 1993* provides that a public hearing is not required if the proposed plan would merely have the effect of altering the categorisation of the land under section 36 (5) - that is, a public hearing is not required if categorisation changes are made between any of the categories of bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse, and foreshore (as in the case of the proposed categorisations within Lot 90, DP 751650, as shown in Table 6).

The proposed categories for Hassans Walls Reserve are shown in Figure 11. The objectives for each category give a broad strategic direction for management of this land, which is the same for all categories across NSW. Policies relating specifically to Hassans Walls Reserve have been developed in accordance with core objectives of the *Crown Lands Act 1989*, *Local Government Act 1993* and in response to the values of the Reserve.

This Plan of Management applies the following three (3) land categories to Hassans Walls Reserve:

- Bushland
- Escarpment
- General Community Use.

Bushland Category

The core objectives for management of Community land categorised as bushland are:

- (a) to ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land, and
- (b) to protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and
- (c) to promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and
- (d) to restore degraded bushland, and
- (e) to protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and
- (f) to retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and
- (g) to protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.

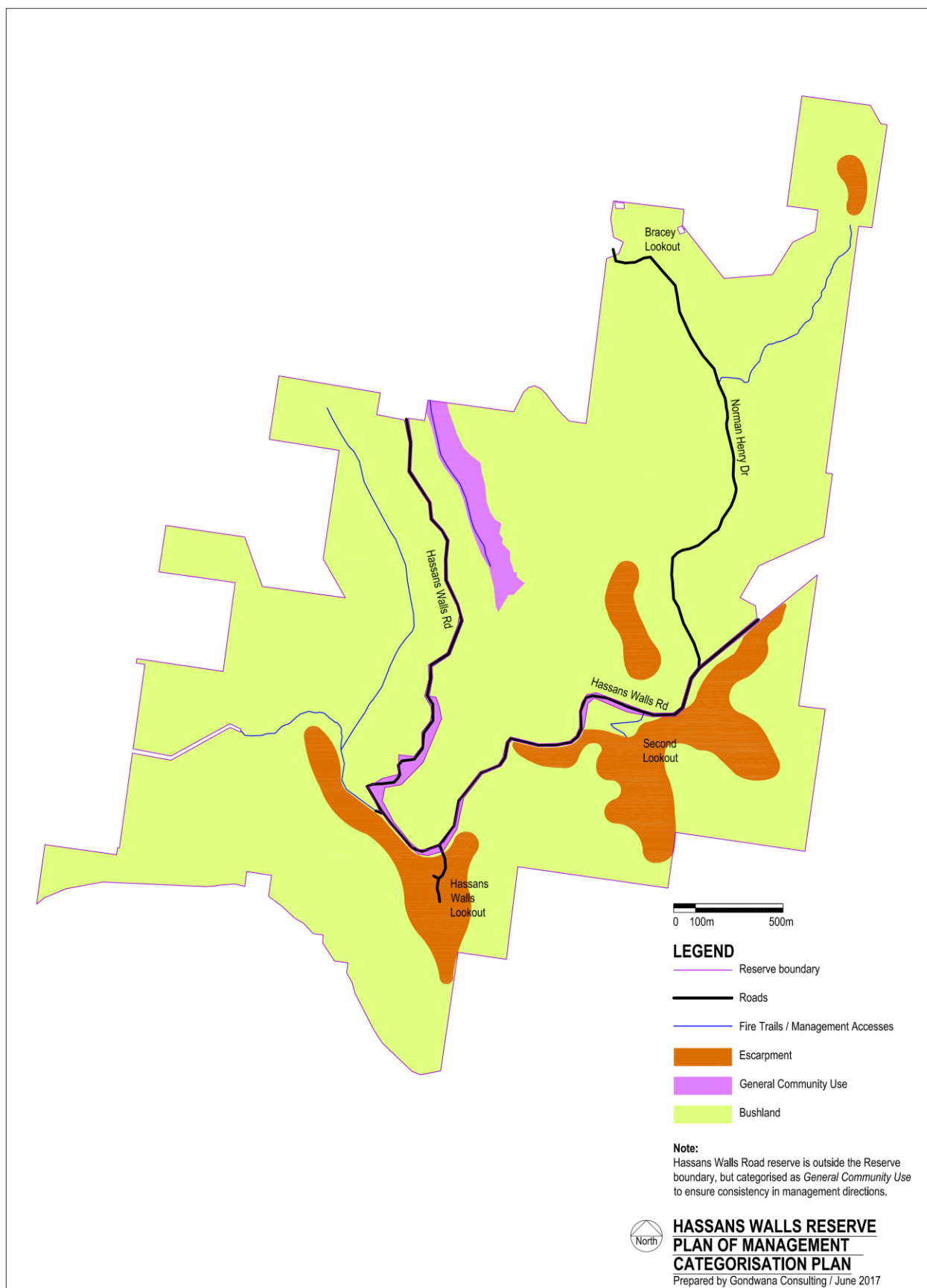


Figure 11 – Community Land categories

Escarpment

The core objectives for management of Community land categorised as an escarpment are:

- (a) to protect any important geological, geomorphological or scenic features of the escarpment, and
- (b) to facilitate safe community use and enjoyment of the escarpment.

General Community Use

The core objectives for management of Community land categorised as a General Community Use are to promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public:

- (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).



Hassans Walls Reserve contributes significantly to the visual amenity and landscape of Lithgow.

11. Management Zones for Hassans Walls Reserve

Management zones are a way of defining different areas within the Reserve based on the values that management aims to protect and the types of activities and uses that are permitted. Zoning is a useful way of summarising the broad management intent of particular areas of the Reserve – describing management objectives and, importantly, management priorities for different Reserve areas.

Management zones and their boundaries are determined by the arrangement of the major reserve values and features – such as bushland and biodiversity, landscapes, scenic qualities, access and accessibility, and facilities and levels of development. Management zones can be based on both the natural features and the human attributes of an area. They are generally, but not necessarily always, areas that have common values and features. However it is in expressing consistent management aims and priorities for an area where they are of most use.

Management zones:

- provide a geographic framework within which to manage the Reserve
- reflect or acknowledge key Reserve values and features;
- describe the overall management intentions for different parts of the Reserve;
- identify those management objectives that have priority in different parts of the Reserve;
- indicate the types and levels of use, especially recreational use, that are appropriate in different parts of the Reserve;
- help in reducing and managing existing and possible future conflicts between uses/activities and the protection of the Reserve's key values, as well as conflicts between different uses and activities;
- provides a basis for evaluating future - as yet unforeseen - uses, activities and development proposals; and
- can be used to guide visitors in their safe, enjoyable and sustainable use of the Reserve.

To be most useful and efficiently applied, management zones should generally be larger areas with broadly common or shared values, features and management demands or intensities.

The following management zones are proposed to provide a framework for the Reserve's future management:

- Conservation
- Managed Use Bushland;
- Day Use;
- Urban Edge; and
- Utilities Zone

The location and extent of these management zones is shown in Figure 12.

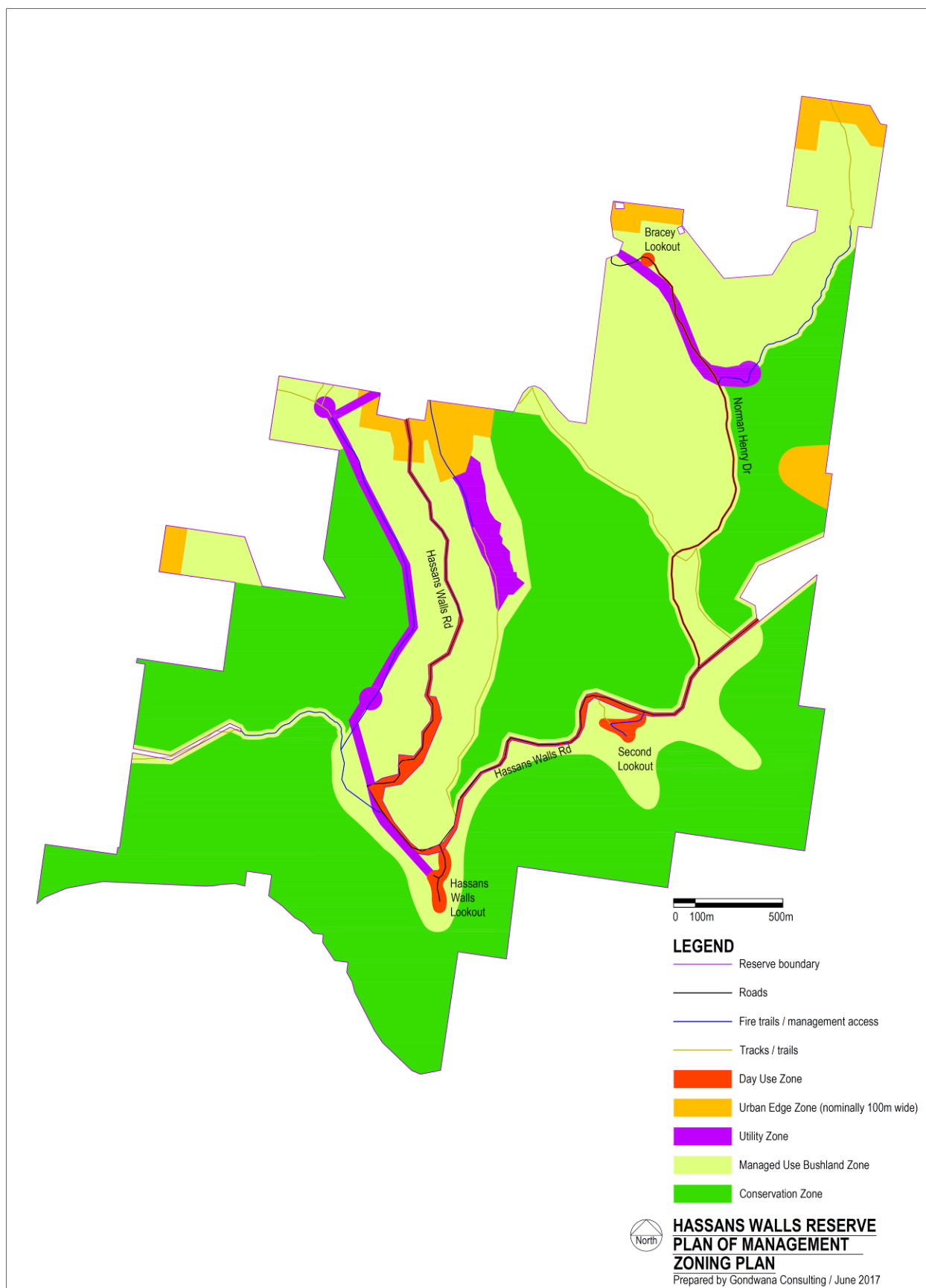


Figure 12 – Zoning Plan

11.1 Description of Management Zones

The “management intent” and “management priorities” for each of these five management zones are described below. Management priorities are separated into “primary” or “secondary” priorities.

Primary management objectives are the over-riding or over-arching management objectives for a zone – they are the most important outcomes that management should achieve, and take the main role in driving/shaping management actions, and take priority in the case of any conflicting issues/outcomes.

Secondary, or supporting, management objectives are other objectives that may be pursued within the primary purpose – once the primary management objectives have been realised, and as long as these secondary actions do not conflict with or compromise the primary purpose.

Conservation Zone

Management Intent – To maintain the majority of the Reserve as natural bushland and a scenic landscape, protecting communities and species of high conservation value.

Management Priorities

Primary Management objectives:

- To protect communities and species legislated as having high conservation value.
- To maintain and enhance the natural systems, biodiversity, habitat, and scenic values of a large natural bushland area.
- To not provide access or facilities to encourage recreational use within this zone.

Secondary Management objectives:

- To maintain links to adjacent or nearby natural areas.
- To assist in maintaining the Reserve’s undeveloped bushland skyline, as seen from internal and external vantage points and use areas.

Managed Use Bushland Zone

Management Intent – To maintain large areas of the Reserve as natural bushland for biodiversity and scenic landscape protection while allowing for sustainable dispersed recreational and educational uses without significantly impacting on these wider environmental values.

Management Priorities

Primary Management objectives:

- To maintain large areas of the Reserve as natural bushland to protect their biodiversity and scenic landscape values.
- To provide sustainable opportunities for dispersed recreational and educational uses within these areas without significantly impacting the wider bushland setting, biodiversity and scenic values or natural processes.

Secondary Management objectives:

- To accommodate occasional special uses or activities, with prior approval.
- To assist in maintaining the Reserve’s undeveloped bushland skyline, as seen from internal and external vantage points and use areas.

Day Use Zone

Management Intent – To maintain the existing main visitor access roads (Hassans Walls Road and Norman Henry Drive) and most visited day use areas at Hassans Walls Lookout and Bracey Lookout and allow for increased use of Second Lookout.

Management Priorities

Primary Management objectives:

- To offer a high quality day-use experience for Reserve visitors - providing for visitor vehicle access and accommodating passive day-use recreational activities at the key lookout locations.
- To provide visitor facilities, as warranted by demand and use levels, appropriate to day use destinations in a bushland environment in proximity to Lithgow.
- To provide for visitor safety.

Secondary Management objectives:

- To maintain existing Reserve access standards with improved vehicle parking within this zone.
- To accommodate use by elderly, mobility impaired and disabled visitors and groups.
- To promote links (walking tracks) to the adjoining bushland areas of the Reserve.

Urban Edge Zone

Management Intent – To manage those sections of the Reserve boundary adjacent to residential areas and other developments to effectively manage hazards and reduce inconveniences to Reserve neighbours, as well as minimising adverse impacts from adjoining land uses on the Reserve and its values.

Management Priorities

Primary Management objectives:

- To minimise the risks to life and property posed by occasional wildfires on the Reserve.
- To reduce direct and indirect impacts on the Reserve and its values from adjacent land uses, as well as to avoid undue inconvenience to Reserve neighbours from on-Reserve activities.

Secondary Management objectives:

- To provide sustainable opportunities for dispersed recreational and educational uses, without significant adverse impacts on adjacent natural areas.
- To provide for the lease of lands for recreational use by Lithgow Pony Club while enabling access and use by other park visitors.
- To provide for the leasing or licencing, for occupation or use, of the Council-owned residence at the north end of Sheedys Gully.

Utilities Zone

Management Intent – To manage the ongoing presence of a range of infrastructure assets (radio towers, electricity transmission lines), and approved lease (the Lithgow Pony Club), located within the Reserve.

Management Priorities

Primary Management objectives:

- To authorise the ongoing presence of a range of infrastructure within the Reserve, including their access and management by authorised persons.
- To minimise impacts of these assets and their management on the natural values of the Reserve.

Secondary Management objectives:

- To allow for recreational use of fire trails and management access tracks.
- To provide for the lease of lands for recreational use by Lithgow Pony Club while enabling access and use by other park visitors.

12. Concept Masterplan

A Masterplan provides the broad management direction and layout intended for the future use and development of a Reserve. As resources are identified to implement specific elements of the Masterplan, each element will be subject to a detailed design process and approval process and involve community consultation where appropriate and as Council's planning approvals require. For example, more detail on the layout for the proposed improved Hassans Walls Lookout car park and consideration of impacts on significant fringing vegetation will be required prior to approval and implementation

It is intended that the Masterplan contained in Figure 13 is implemented over time as resources become available.

Key elements of the Masterplan are outlined below.

Flora and Fauna

To better understand and to guide future management /conservation of the Reserve's ecological values a flora and fauna survey of the Reserve will be undertaken. Both surveys will be undertaken at various times of the year / seasons that will allow for survey of the full suite of flora and fauna in the Reserve. The results of the flora and fauna surveys will be used to update and inform the planning provisions of the review of this Plan of Management in 5 – 10 years.

In the absence of these surveys, surveys will be undertaken to inform the planning and approval of site specific developments proposed in this Plan.

The greater majority of the Reserve will be managed - both within the Bushland Zone and elsewhere - to protect and enhance the Reserve's natural environment, habitats and biodiversity values and contribute to the Reserve's recreation and scenic appeal.

Cultural Heritage

The existing policy of not publicly disclosing the location of Aboriginal sites as the principal management tool and means of protecting such places will be continued. Aboriginal people will be involved in the presentation of Aboriginal heritage should traditional owners desire.

The Dummy Anti-Aircraft Station built heritage elements will be maintained in their current form. Surrounding vegetation will be regularly trimmed / removed in order to avoid accelerated decay of the items. Funding will be sought to prepare a Conservation Management Plan to provide direction for future management of the heritage structures. Public access to the sites will not be promoted until the CMP has been developed.

Access

Maintain Hassans Walls Road as a two way compacted gravel/natural surface. Apart from providing conventional vehicle access the Road will continue to serve both walkers and bicycle riders. To ensure walker and rider safety a 40 km/h speed limit is proposed along with improved signposting to increase driver awareness of the shared road, improved traffic warning signs and traffic calming devices such as speed humps and road verge barriers in strategic locations.

Norman Henry Drive will also be maintained as a two way road primarily with natural surface. Maintenance of bitumen surface sections will be enhanced to provide an improved surface at the steep section of the road. Existing informal passing lay-bys will be signposted to improve driver awareness of narrow road sections and minimise off road driving in order to pass oncoming traffic.

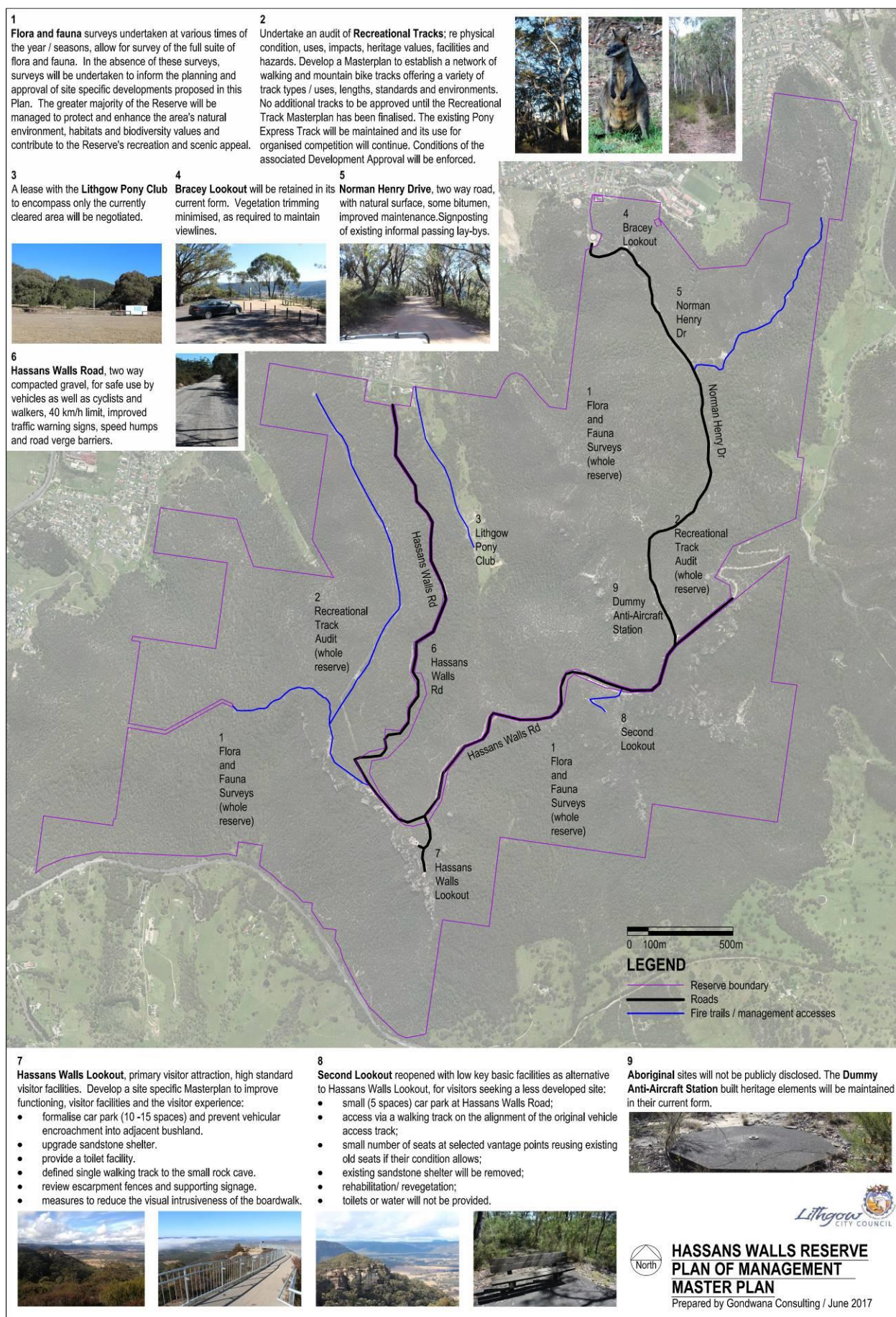


Figure 13 – Hassans Walls Reserve Master Plan

Hassans Walls Lookout

Hassans Walls Lookout is the primary visitor attraction of the Reserve with a high standard of visitor facilities. The area referred to as Hassans Walls Lookout includes all elements of the site past the turn off from Hassans Walls Road - being the access track, communications tower and surrounds, all current parking areas and pedestrian access points, the small cave and the main lookout.

Develop a site specific Masterplan for Hassans Walls Lookout to guide the improved functioning of the site, provision of improved visitor facilities and to enhance the visitor experience. The Masterplan will include:

- Relocation / redesign of car park to allow the efficient use of space, define 10 -15 car parks and a mini bus space and prevent vehicular encroachment into adjacent bushland.
- Improved role and function of the sandstone shelter structure to potentially provide a water supply point, improved visitor appeal and potential site for inclusion of visitor information and interpretation.
- The provision of a toilet facility.
- Providing a defined single walking track to the small rock cave.
- Rehabilitation / revegetation.
- A review of the functionality of the escarpment fences and their retention, the removal of those that may be obsolete and the need for supporting signage.
- Provision of a directional dial replica on the stone plinth.
- Measures to reduce the visual intrusiveness of the boardwalk.

Bracey Lookout

Bracey Lookout will be retained essentially in its current form. Regular inspections will be conducted to monitor incursions of overflow car parking into bushland and allow for management responses as required. The extent of vegetation trimming will be minimised to that which is essential to maintain sightlines from the lookout structure.

Second Lookout

The Second Lookout site will be reopened to public access with low key basic facilities in order to provide an alternative to Hassans Walls Lookout. The site will cater for visitors seeking a less developed, less visited site than Hassans Walls Lookout. To achieve this desired character a small (5 vehicle maximum) car park will be established at Hassans Walls Road near the current gate and access to the lookout will be via a walking track on the alignment of the original vehicle access track. The lookout area will provide a small number of seats at selected vantage points reusing existing old seats if their condition allows. The partially destroyed sandstone shelter will be removed. Rehabilitation/ revegetation will be undertaken of much of the width of the access track and old car park area to reduce the disturbed footprint of the site. Toilets or water will not be provided.

Recreational Tracks

Undertake an audit of the existing recreational tracks in the Reserve. The audit will record each track's - type; access points and connections; existing condition including soil and vegetation characteristics, track surface and erosion, drainage, impacts, public safety (hazards, risks, sightlines), signage and any heritage values; existing users/usage; and management issues.

The audit results will be used to develop a Recreational Track Plan for Hassans Walls Reserve to establish a network of walking and mountain biking tracks (and shared routes if safe/appropriate) offering

tracks of a variety of types, lengths, standards and environments and will examine the potential for track linkages along the northern boundary. The Recreational Track Plan will aim to provide additional walkers-only tracks within the Reserve. The Plan will be constrained by the Zoning Scheme with no tracks to be recommended within in the Conservation Zone, but potentially recommending recreational tracks/trails where considered appropriate (after necessary planning, assessment and approval) in any other management zone. The Plan will propose a desired standard for each track based on the proposed visitor experience and environmental sustainability, and develop a staged management / maintenance program for each track. Shared use by walkers and mountain bikers/cyclists will generally be limited to public roads, fire trails or management vehicle accesses, and any designated shared routes if safe/appropriate - not on "single tracks" (either dedicated walkers only or mountain bike only tracks).

No additional recreational tracks will be formally approved until the Recreational Track Masterplan has been finalised.

The existing Pony Express Track will be maintained and its use for organised competition will continue in the absence of the Recreational Track Masterplan. Conditions of the associated Development Approval, including closure and rehabilitation of the "Gun Club Track", will be enforced.

Lithgow Pony Club

A new lease with the Lithgow Pony Club will be negotiated. This will encompass only the currently cleared area (and be limited to the area categorised as General Community Use) and will include provisions for pest plant and animal control and restricting encroachments into surrounding native vegetation or revegetating areas, and will permit access by other Reserve users while including conditions to minimise impacts by other users on the Pony Club's use of the site.

13. Staged Implementation

Given the size of Hassans Walls Reserve there is a range and scale of initiatives / actions proposed to be undertaken all of which require either recurrent Council commitment in the form of personnel and funding or one off allocated funding for specific initiatives in the Plan of Management. The implementation of the Plan will therefore necessarily be staged over time.

This section of the Plan describes how the Reserve will be managed using a broad two stage approach over a ten year period. This broad approach can be used as a guide to implementation until the Plan is reviewed and updated.

First Stage (Years 1 - 5)

It is proposed that the first stage of the Plan's implementation focus primarily on improving the understanding of the Reserve's natural, heritage and recreational values to provide a sound information base that will enable informed decisions on other initiatives proposed in the Plan. At the same time, in recognition of the Reserve's high use by Lithgow locals and regional visitors, it is proposed that works be undertaken to improve visitor safety on Hassans Walls Road, improve the functioning of the site and recreational experience offered at the primary attraction of Hassans Walls Lookout and improve information availability and promotion of the Reserve.

Specific high priority actions in this time include:

Information Gathering

1. Flora and fauna survey of the Reserve. (Cost estimate - \$60,000)
2. Audit of Recreational tracks. (Cost estimate - \$45,000)
3. Geotechnical study of the rock formations and escarpments within the Reserve to assess the location and extent of subsidence and rock cracking, the risk of future rock falls and any ongoing monitoring requirements. (Cost estimate - \$40,000)
4. Identify and document historic heritage sites / features within the Reserve. (Cost estimate - \$40,000)

Improved Recreational Experience

5. Implement management measures proposed for Hassans Walls Road to improve pedestrian and rider safety and enable continued shared use of the road. (Cost estimate - \$50,000)
6. Implement Norman Henry Drive improvements. (Cost estimate - \$15,000)
7. Prepare and implement Masterplan for Hassans Walls Lookout. (Cost estimate - \$20,000 for Masterplan, \$150,000 for works)
8. Prepare and implement Masterplan for Second Lookout. (Cost estimate - \$10,000 for Masterplan, \$50,000 for works)
9. Enhance information availability and promotion of recreational opportunities at Hassans Walls Reserve. (Cost estimate - \$10,000 ex staff time)

Environmental Management

10. Implement Purple Copper Butterfly Recovery Plan management measures relevant to Hassans Walls Reserve. (Cost estimate - \$2,000 per annum ongoing)

11. Continue to prepare and implement a rolling programme of weed control and bush regeneration efforts within the Reserve. (Cost estimate – nominal \$15,000 per annum, ongoing)
12. Undertake flora and fauna surveys to inform the planning and approval of the Hassans Walls Lookout site Masterplan works (should the Reserve wide flora and fauna surveys not have been completed when the Masterplan is in preparation). (Cost estimate - \$10,000)

Second Stage (Years 6 – 10)

The second stage of the Plan's implementation will focus on using the enhanced understanding of the Reserve's natural, heritage and recreational values to improve environmental and recreational management of the Reserve.

Specific high priority actions in this time include:

Expanded Recreational Opportunities

13. Prepare and commence implementation of the Recreational Track Plan to establish a network of safe and sustainably managed walking and mountain bike tracks (and shared routes if safe/appropriate) offering tracks of a variety of types, lengths, standards and environments.

Targeted Environmental Management

14. Prepare and implement Hassans Walls Reserve Fire Management Plan to identify fire sensitive areas and populations of threatened and rare species requiring special fire management regimes, prioritise areas for burning and identify burning regimes appropriate for maintaining biodiversity as well as protecting other assets in the Reserve.
15. Prepare and implement specific management plans for species identified by the flora and fauna survey that are listed under *Threatened Species Conservation Act*, to establish specific management regimes to locally manage / conserve the species within the Reserve.
16. Improved targeting and prioritisation of weed control and bush regeneration efforts within the Reserve based on enhanced understanding of weed distribution, vegetation communities of high conservation significance and habitats/populations of native flora and fauna species of high conservation significance.

14. Management Actions

The following Action Tables present a variety of management actions – comprising both policies and management directions or guidelines, as well as more specific on-ground or tangible actions – that will guide the Reserve's management over the coming 5 to 10 years. The management actions have been identified in response to the Reserve's values, the threats to these values and other management issues, community values and aspirations as expressed through the various community consultation measures during the Plan's preparation, and the stated Reserve vision and management objectives.

Given the size of Hassans Walls Reserve there are a range and scale of initiatives / actions proposed to be undertaken all of which require either recurrent Council commitment in the form of personnel and funding or one off allocated funding for specific initiatives in the Plan of Management. The implementation of the Plan will necessarily be staged over time.

Management Actions have been grouped into specific value or operational areas (which approximate the value descriptions used in the preceding sections of the Plan), as follows:

Natural Environment – management actions for native flora and vegetation communities and habitats, native fauna, weeds and pests and introduced animals and fire management.

Cultural Heritage – management actions for Aboriginal cultural heritage and historic (non-Aboriginal) heritage.

Visitor Use and Recreation – management actions for access, day use areas, recreational tracks, information and interpretation, and educational uses.

Landscape and Amenity – management actions for retaining viewlines to and from the Reserve and addressing risk related to mining subsidence.

Reserve Management and Administration – management actions for Reserve administration and management activities, leases and licences and special uses and commercial activities, and assets and infrastructure.

The Action Tables also include an indication of the order of resources required, priority and implementation responsibilities for each management action – as a guide to the Plan's implementation or operation.

Resource requirements are generalised according to the following categories -

- negligible or minor – actions that are routinely part of the Reserve's management and can be met from normal Reserve or Council operational budgets;
- moderate – actions that will require special allocations in the Reserve's or Council's operational budgets, additional resourcing, may extend over a number of funding cycles, and/or require a level of capital works funding;
- high – actions that are significant projects, typically requiring sizeable capital works or other funding; and
- not applicable (n/a) – actions that are of a policy nature or guidelines, that do not have a resource requirement attached or where implementation / operational costs are part of other actions.

The identified priorities give an indication of both the relative importance, and preferred timing, of each action – as follows.

- High – Essential to achievement of the Reserve’s management objectives, or where there is potential for the public to be exposed to an unacceptable level of risk, or there is potential for a serious threat to Reserve values or the environment and warranting funding consideration until achieved.
- Medium – These actions are desirable to enhance achievement of the Reserve’s management objectives, or to address issues that meet a significant community need, or to improve Reserve management outcomes and ideally should be implemented within the life of this Plan.
- Low – These actions are useful for the overall management of the Reserve or address issues that have longer-term impacts (such as meeting less urgent community needs or improving inefficient services) and should be undertaken if resources permit.
- Where relevant, actions have also been identified as “Ongoing” – where the action in question will apply or continue throughout the Reserve’s management and/or the life of this Plan.

Responsibilities for the implementation of each management action have been identified to the organisation level.

Intended outcomes, and associated performance measures or means of assessing and tracking progress towards the stated management objectives, are identified following the Action Table for each general value or operational area as a whole.

14.1 Natural Environment

Vegetation Communities and Flora

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
NE1	Undertake a comprehensive flora survey of Hassans Walls Reserve to identify and map the extent of vegetation communities and the location and extent of conservation significant flora species. Seek management advice from the Office of Environment and Heritage and other specialist agencies, where required.	Moderate	High	Council OEH
NE2	Prepare specific management plans for <i>Persoonia acerosa</i> and any species identified by the flora survey that are listed under <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act</i> , to establish specific management regimes to locally manage / conserve the species within the Reserve. Seek management advice from the Office of Environment and Heritage and other specialist agencies, where required.	Moderate	High	Council OEH
NE3	Manage the greater majority of the Reserve as bushland - both within the Bushland Zone and elsewhere - to protect and enhance the Reserve's natural environment, habitats and biodiversity values as well as to contribute to the area's recreation and scenic appeal.	n/a	High (ongoing)	Council
NE4	Protecting the existing extensive areas of native vegetation and minimising bushland disturbances (to the extent as consistent with other actions identified in this Plan), will be the dominant "passive" management measures employed to maintain native flora, vegetation community and habitat values across most of the Reserve.	n/a	High (ongoing)	Council

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
NE5	<p>Continue to prepare and implement a rolling programme of weed control and bush regeneration efforts within the Reserve, with adequate on-going commitments to follow-up works at treated sites (both existing sites and future sites) to ensure effectiveness. This will include the monitoring of revegetation, bush regeneration and rehabilitation efforts. Priorities for weed control and bush regeneration measures will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ declared noxious weeds, and environmental weeds with a high potential for spread; ➤ vegetation communities of high conservation significance; ➤ habitats/populations of native flora and fauna species of high conservation significance; ➤ disturbed sites and existing weed infestations; ➤ areas vulnerable to weed invasion/spread (such as roadsides, tracksides and major visitor nodes); and ➤ Reserve boundaries. 	Minor	High (ongoing)	Council (Volunteers/ groups)
NE6	A monitoring programme will be prepared and implemented targeting areas vulnerable to the introduction and spread of weeds – this will include regular monitoring of the Reserve boundary, high visitor use areas as well as periodic monitoring of Reserve access roads, fire trails and tracks/trails.	Minor	Medium	Council
NE7	Revegetation and supplementary bush regeneration plantings will only use local-provenance endemic species, preferably grown from seeds or vegetative material sourced (under managed conditions) from within the Reserve.	Minor	High (ongoing)	Council Volunteers
NE8	Undertake or facilitate periodic bushland condition assessments - to assist in formulating, targeting and monitoring bush regeneration and weed control measures.	Minor	Medium	Council Other agencies/ institutions

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
NE9	Ensure neighbouring residences are included in the distribution of any Council bushland management education and promotional material. Such material will include advice regarding cat control and responsible pet ownership - as well as other issues such as suitable indigenous plants for gardens, minimising fertiliser use, responsible disposal of garden waste, urban wildlife, stormwater management, environmentally responsible fire protection measures and other “good bush neighbour” advice as warranted.	Minor	Low	Council

Performance Measures and Outcomes:

- Increased knowledge of the Reserve’s native vegetation communities, flora and habitats.
- Condition of the Reserve’s bushland maintained or enhanced – based on survey, monitoring and observation.
- No long-term reduction in the Reserve’s bushland area – based on survey and monitoring.
- Extent, occurrence and condition of significant vegetation communities, listed threatened species, and species of regional conservation significance maintained or enhanced – based on survey, monitoring and observation.
- Weed control and bush regeneration programme in place and regularly reviewed.
- Reduction in the extent of weed degraded bushland – based on monitoring and observation.
- Reduced incidence of new weed infestations/introductions – based on monitoring and observation.

Fauna

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
NE10	Undertake an initial fauna survey to obtain baseline data on the Reserve’s wildlife. Seek management advice from the Office of Environment and Heritage and other specialist agencies, where required.	Moderate	High	Council OEH

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
NE11	Habitat protection – through protecting the existing extensive areas of native vegetation and minimising bushland disturbances and fragmentation both within the Bushland Zone and elsewhere (to the extent as consistent with other actions identified in this Plan or unless for works otherwise approved in this Plan) – will be the dominant “passive” management measures employed to support native fauna populations within the Reserve.	n/a	High (Ongoing)	Council
NE12	Undertake special management measures, as / where required to protect and conserve threatened or significant native fauna species within the Reserve – including relevant measures set out in any applicable Approved Recovery Plans under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. This may include limitations on visitor access and use if warranted. Seek management advice from the Office of Environment and Heritage and other specialist agencies, where required.	Minor	High	Council OEH
NE13	Undertake or facilitate targeted surveys of the Reserve’s threatened or significant native fauna species, as/when required, to support their conservation management.	Minor	Medium	Council OEH Other agencies/ institutions /volunteers
NE14	Undertake or facilitate periodic fauna survey and monitoring within the Reserve, according to a systematic and structured programme to provide long-term and comparable data on the Reserve’s wildlife.	Minor	Low	Council OEH Other agencies/ institutions /volunteers
NE15	Undertake periodic monitoring of the location and abundance of pest animal populations to inform and target control measures.	Minor	Medium (Ongoing)	Council
NE16	Participate in co-ordinated regional pest animal control programmes, as well as Council initiated control actions.	Moderate	High (ongoing)	Council OEH/ other agencies

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
NE17	Dogs will be permitted on the Reserve's road and track network, but only if on a leash and under full control. Appropriate signage will be provided, at key points, regarding dog controls/obligations. This policy will be periodically reviewed – especially in regard to taking dogs into the Reserve's more natural areas, possible impacts on the area's biota, visitor safety and nuisance issues, and the perceptions of other visitors – and dogs may subsequently be banned from all or part of the Reserve. Dog owners/walkers will be required to collect and remove all dog faeces from the Reserve.	Minor	Medium (ongoing)	Council
NE18	Other domestic animals/pets, including horses, will be prohibited from the Reserve, and the relevant Council by-laws notified and enforced within the Reserve.	Minor	Medium (ongoing)	Council

Performance Measures and Outcomes:

- Increased knowledge of the native wildlife within the Reserve.
- Diversity and abundance of the Reserve's native wildlife is maintained or enhanced (consistent with naturally occurring/sustainable levels) – based on survey, monitoring and observation.
- Reserve's native wildlife population is comparable to that of other, ecologically similar, large bushland conservation reserves in the Lithgow region – based on survey, monitoring and observation.
- Native fauna species or populations listed as threatened, or of regional conservation significance, are maintained or enhanced – based on survey, monitoring and observation.
- Reduced populations of, and adverse impacts of, pest animals – based on monitoring and observation.
- Dogs and other domestic animals effectively managed within the Reserve.

Fire Management

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
NE19	Continue to manage fire hazards in accordance with the <i>Rural Fires Act</i> , directions set out in the Lithgow Bush Fire Risk Management Plan 2015 and other relevant policies and legislation.	Minor	High (Ongoing)	Council RFS

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
NE20	<p>Prepare a Hassans Walls Reserve Fire Management Plan to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ inform and comply with the <i>Lithgow Bush Fire Risk Management Plan 2015</i>, ➤ identify fire sensitive areas and populations of threatened and rare species requiring special fire management regimes, ➤ prioritise areas for burning and identify burning regimes appropriate for maintaining biodiversity as well as protecting other assets in the Reserve ➤ Maintenance of access for hazard reduction burning and fire control ➤ Provide for cooperative arrangements with the NSW RFS and other fire management agencies. <p>Results of the flora and fauna surveys will inform the biodiversity management requirements of the Plan.</p>	Moderate	High (Ongoing)	Council RFS Other agencies
NE21	Liaise with Reserve neighbours to assist in the management of fire risks to their properties and explain on-Reserve fire hazard management measures.	Minor	Medium (ongoing)	Council
NE22	Ensure that fire trails are managed - by Council, RFS and utility agencies - as far as practicable to reduce adverse bushland, erosion and visual impacts.	Minor	Medium (ongoing)	Council RFS Utility agencies

Performance Measures and Outcomes:

- Successful completion of hazard reduction measures – as assessed against programme targets.
- Reduced incidence of damage to on-Reserve, and neighbouring, assets.
- Environmentally sensitive management of fire trails – as assessed by pre and post works impact observation / recording, and compliance with best practice guidelines.
- Increased neighbour awareness and implementation of fire hazard reduction measures – as demonstrated by greater incidence of private property hazard reduction efforts.

14.2 Cultural Heritage

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
CH1	Ensure Aboriginal heritage sites are appropriately managed throughout the Reserve, as consistent with the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> . Continue the existing approach of not publicly disclosing the location of Aboriginal sites as the principal management tool and means of protecting such places.	Minor	High (Ongoing)	Council
CH2	Liaise with the Office of Environment and Heritage as well as relevant Aboriginal people/groups (e.g. the Mingaan Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation and Wiradjuri Aboriginal People and local Elders) regarding the management and protection of Aboriginal heritage sites within the Reserve.	Moderate	High (Ongoing)	Council RFS Other agencies
CH3	Actively involve Aboriginal people in protection and presentation of the Reserve's Aboriginal cultural heritage.	Minor	Medium (ongoing)	Council
CH4	Provide interpretive and educational material / resources regarding the Reserve's use by Aboriginal people, surviving Aboriginal evidence (generically) and continuing importance for Aboriginal people today.	Minor	Medium	Council Aboriginal community
CH5	Investigate funding to undertake a systematic survey to identify and record Aboriginal heritage sites. Undertake survey if external funding can be secured, and involve the local Aboriginal community in the survey process.	Negligible	Medium	Council Aboriginal community

Performance Measures and Outcomes:

- Compliance with relevant legislation.
- Suitable public information available regarding Reserve's Aboriginal heritage values.
- Effective liaison with the OEH and relevant Aboriginal people/groups (e.g. the Mingaan Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation and Wiradjuri Aboriginal People and local Elders).

Historic (non-Aboriginal) Heritage

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
CH6	Identify and document historic heritage sites / features within the Reserve and provide appropriate management and protection for these features where warranted.	Medium	High	Council
CH7	In the absence of a Conservation Management Plan, the State Heritage listed Dummy Anti-Aircraft Station heritage structures will be maintained in their current form. Surrounding vegetation will be regularly trimmed / removed in order to avoid accelerated decay of the items.	n/a	High (Ongoing)	Council
CH8	Funding will be sought to prepare a Conservation Management Plan to provide direction for future management of the Dummy Anti-Aircraft Station heritage structures. Public access to the sites will not be promoted until the Conservation Management Plan has been developed.	Moderate	Medium (ongoing)	Council OEH
CH9	Reinstate a directional dial display on the Padley Memorial Direction Dial plinth (including restoration of the stone plinth if/as necessary) at Hassans Walls Lookout. Research the points of interest indicated on the original display and reproduce this feature as far as practicable.	Minor	Medium	Council
CH10	Ensure Historic Heritage is considered in the provision of visitor information, both on site and through off site media and promotion of the Reserve.	Minor	Low	Council

Performance Measures and Outcomes:

- Increased knowledge, and active management (if necessary) of historic heritage sites/items.
- Suitable public information available regarding Reserve's historic heritage values.

14.3 Visitor Use and Recreation

Access

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
VR1	Retain Hassans Walls Road as a two way thoroughfare at compacted gravel/natural surface 2WD standard and continue to cater for shared use with pedestrians and cyclists. A speed limit of 40km/h will apply. The shared use nature of the road and speed limit will be signposted accordingly.	Minor	High (ongoing)	Council
VR2	With the majority of shared use of Hassans Walls Road occurring between the Sheedys Gully entrance and Hassans Walls Lookout turnoff, this section of road will be subject to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Regular maintenance of the road surface to reduce risks of accidents, ➤ Installation of traffic calming devices and road verge barriers (as required) ➤ Signage warning of narrow road sections, the presence of walkers and bike riders ➤ Ongoing monitoring of pedestrian and cyclist safety risks. 	Moderate	High (ongoing)	Council
VR3	Close and rehabilitate / revegetate the small informal cleared parking area near the Hassans Walls Lookout turnoff and the start of the Pony Express Mountain Bike Track. Until revegetation is complete, erect interim signage directing visitors to parking at Hassans Walls Lookout.	Minor	Low	Council
VR4	Program regular inspections and maintenance of the bitumen section of Norman Henry Drive to retain a smooth road surface and discourage vehicle tracking off road.	Minor	High (ongoing)	Council
VR5	Monitor roadside compaction of vegetation by passing vehicles on the narrow steep section of Norman Henry Drive. Establish and signpost passing lay-bys as a preventative measure as required.	Minor	Moderate (ongoing)	Council
VR6	Maintain the Reserve's internal roads and carparks through a programmed system of maintenance, supported by responsive and opportunistic maintenance works, as required.	Minor	High (ongoing)	Council

Performance Measures and Outcomes:

- Internal vehicle access and carparking operates safely and efficiently – as assessed by observed congestion, accidents/incidents and user feedback.
- The Reserve is accessible to a broad range of community/user groups – as assessed by regular user surveys/observations, and range of users evident.

Day Use Areas

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
VR7	<p>Develop and implement a site specific Masterplan for Hassans Walls Lookout Day Use Area to guide the improved functioning of the site, provision of improved visitor facilities and to enhance the visitor experience while protecting the area's key values. The Masterplan will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Relocation / redesign of the car park to allow the efficient use of space, define 10 -15 car park spaces and one mini-bus parking space and prevent vehicular encroachment into the adjacent bushland. ➤ Improved role and function of the sandstone shelter structure to potentially provide a water supply point, improved visitor appeal and site for inclusion of visitor information and interpretation. ➤ The possible provision of a toilet facility and the most appropriate type/standard of toilet – with consideration to visitor numbers and types, length of stay, availability of services, location, public safety/risk, environmental and visual impacts, and management/operational issues. ➤ Providing a defined single natural surface walking track to the small rock cave. ➤ Rehabilitation / revegetation of disused areas. ➤ A review of the functionality of the escarpment fences retention (including consideration of any heritage value of older sections of fencing) and their retention/upgrading/management (including removal of those that may be obsolete) and the need for supporting signage. ➤ Provision of a directional dial replica on the stone plinth. ➤ Measures to reduce the visual intrusiveness of the boardwalk. <p>The Masterplan will encompass all elements of the site past the turn off from Hassans Walls Road - being the road, communications tower and surrounds, all current parking areas and pedestrian access points, the main lookout, the small cave and escarpment areas.</p>	High	High	Council

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
VR8	Bracey Lookout Day Use Area will be retained in its current form. Regular inspections will be undertaken to monitor impacts / incursions of overflow car parking into bushland and allow for management responses as required.	Minor	Low (ongoing)	Council
VR9	The extent of vegetation trimming downslope of Bracey Lookout area will be minimised to that which is essential to maintain viewlines and will not involve the clearing and grubbing of native vegetation.	Minor	Low (Ongoing)	Council
VR10	<p>The Second Lookout site will be reopened to public access with low key basic facilities designed to provide an alternative to Hassans Walls Lookout catering for visitors seeking a less developed, less visited site. A site specific Masterplan for Second Lookout Day Use Area will be prepared to guide redevelopment of the site. The Masterplan will be developed to achieve the desired site character and will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provision of a small (5-10 vehicles maximum) car park at Hassans Walls Road near the <i>start of the</i> access track (currently barricaded) (earthworks may be required to achieve a suitably sized and level area), or at a suitable site prior to reaching the partially destroyed sandstone shelter's vicinity. ➤ Access to the lookout via a walking track on the alignment of the original vehicle access track. ➤ Provision of a small number (maximum 5) of seats at selected vantage points reusing existing old seats if their condition allows. ➤ Assessment/consideration of any potential heritage significance of the partially destroyed sandstone shelter and old stone toilets. ➤ Investigation of the potential for restoration and re-use of the partially destroyed sandstone shelter. ➤ Rehabilitation/ revegetation of much of the width of the access track and old car park area to reduce the disturbed footprint of the site. ➤ Conservation of the old stone toilets. ➤ Consideration of scattered picnic tables in a bush-setting. ➤ Toilets or water will not be provided. 	High	Medium	Council

Performance Measures and Outcomes:

- Day use area usage levels are maintained within acceptable social and environmental impact limits – as assessed by regular usage surveys and impact monitoring.
- The existing / proposed character of the three day use areas is maintained, and incremental development avoided – as assessed by regular facilities audits and user feedback.
- Visitor facilities/infrastructure within the three day use areas area maintained as safe, serviceable (consistent with relevant standards), presentable and meet community expectations – as assessed by regular facilities audits, and user feedback.

Recreational Tracks

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
VR11	Undertake an audit of the existing recreational tracks in the Reserve. The audit will record each track's type; standard and (descriptive) parameters; access points and connections; existing condition (including soil and vegetation characteristics, track surface and erosion, and drainage); environmental setting and impacts; any heritage values, existing users/usage and levels of use; public safety (hazards, risks, sightlines) and signage; and management issues.	Moderate	High	Council
VR12	All fire trails within the Reserve's bushland zone will be available for use by walkers and riders (except when closed due to management, safety or other reasons).	n/a	High	Council, NSW RFS, Utilities agencies

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
VR13	<p>Use the audit results to develop a Recreational Track Plan for Hassans Walls Reserve to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ establish a network of safe and sustainably managed walking and mountain bike tracks (and shared routes if safe/appropriate) of differing track standards / conditions, distance / duration and character; ➤ provide additional walkers-only tracks within the Reserve (outside of the Conservation Zone); ➤ include bush tracks and existing fire trails in the Reserve's bushland areas and limit shared use of the Reserve's Road network as much as possible; ➤ examine the potential for track linkages along the northern boundary; ➤ investigate potential recreational track/trail links, or entry points, across surrounding private lands; ➤ propose a desired standard for each track based on the visitor experience and environmental sustainability; and ➤ include a staged management / maintenance program for each track. <p>The Recreational Track Plan will be constrained by the Zoning Scheme. It will not recommend recreational tracks/trails within the Conservation Zone, however new walking or mountain bike (or shared) tracks may be identified where considered appropriate for retention, rationalisation or development in any other management zone (subject to the necessary planning, assessment and approvals – as required by Action RA8).</p>	Moderate	High	Council, User Groups
VR14	Implementation of the Recreational Track Plan will be staged based on achieving a diversity of track offerings as an immediate goal.	Moderate	High	Council, User groups
VR15	Establish a recreational trail consultative group to provide an avenue for user group involvement in the Recreational Track Plan, its implementation and ongoing track maintenance. Representation to include mountain bike riders, walkers, environmentalists and local users of the Reserve – both individuals and as representatives from established community groups.	Minor	High	Council, User groups and individuals
VR16	No additional recreational tracks will be formally approved until the Recreational Track Masterplan has been finalised.	n/a	High	Council

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
VR17	<p>In advance of the Recreational Track Masterplan's preparation Council may temporarily close, or permanently close and rehabilitate, any informal, unauthorised or newly formed tracks where these are generating (or may lead to) unacceptable impacts on natural or scenic values, or generate user conflicts or safety concerns, or impact previously undisturbed areas. Such tracks warranting closure would include (as a guide) those tracks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ totally or partially within the Conservation Zone; ➤ with adverse impacts on stands, or local populations, of listed threatened species; ➤ likely to result in the disappearance of locally significant flora species from the reserve; ➤ with adverse impacts on significant habitat areas or wildlife corridors; ➤ that intrude into previously undisturbed areas of bushland (beyond existing road, management/service track or utility corridors; or the "zone of disturbance" around existing activity/facility nodes; or existing "in-use" tracks/trails); ➤ leading to, along, or under escarpments or other unstable areas; ➤ creating possible user conflicts or unacceptable safety issues for users or other visitors; ➤ that detract from the reserve's key activity/facility nodes or visitor attractions; ➤ degrading significant rock formations/features; ➤ generating erosion or deposition issues along a significant proportion of their route; or ➤ causing obvious landscape "scars", or intruding on views, from key vantage points within the reserve and from surrounding areas. 	Minor	High	Council User groups
VR18	The existing Pony Express Track will be maintained and its use for organised competition will continue in the absence of the Recreational Track Masterplan. Conditions of the associated Development Approval will be enforced.	Negligible	Moderate	Council, Central Tablelands Mountain Bike Club
VR19	The "Gun Club Track" will be closed and rehabilitated, as required by the development approval for The Pony Express track. This can occur in the absence of, and in advance of, the Recreational Track Masterplan	Minor	Moderate	Council, Central Tablelands Mountain Bike Club

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
VR20	All tracks proposed in the Recreational Track Plan will be maintained through a programmed system of monitoring/inspections and maintenance, supported by responsive maintenance works as required. Maintenance measures may include the minor re-routing of short problematic track sections where necessary (subject to any planning, assessments and approvals warranted). All maintenance, preventative and other works will be documented. Informal and unauthorised tracks will be closed and rehabilitated – and track alignment, design and treatments will endeavour to minimise the likelihood of the creation of unauthorised/alternative tracks.	Moderate	High	Council, Proposed recreational trail consultative group
VR21	Liaise with other agencies (such as the Rural Fire Service and utilities agencies) as required regarding maintenance scheduling, standards and environmental safeguards that should, preferably, be applied on those sections of the Reserve's fire trail and tracks network that are subject to maintenance by other agencies.	Negligible	Medium (ongoing)	Council, NSW RFS, Utilities agencies
VR22	Horse riding on recreational tracks within the Reserve will not be permitted.	n/a	High	Council

Performance Measures and Outcomes:

- Recreational track audit undertaken and Recreational Plan completed.
- Recreational track network progressively established according to the Recreational Track Plan priorities.
- Maintenance programme in place with tracks maintained to planned/determined standards – as assessed by regular track condition audits, works reporting and user feedback.
- Track safety standards achieved – as assessed by number of reported incidents/accidents.
- Increased stakeholder involvement in track management – via the recreational track consultative group and as assessed by participation hours and projects.

Information, Interpretation and Educational Uses

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
VR23	Provide improved Reserve name signage, welcome, orientation and visitor information signage at the two Reserve vehicle entries.	Moderate	Low	Council
VR24	Provide Reserve orientation and information signage as a part of the proposed redevelopment of Hassans Walls Lookout and the Second Lookout and incorporate into signage at Bracey Lookout.	Moderate	Medium	Council
VR25	Update the Reserve brochure, website information and other promotional/pre-visit information as/when required – to ensure that intending visitors have easy access to the latest information concerning the Reserve.	Minor	High (Ongoing)	Council
VR26	Develop a dedicated Hassans Walls Reserve webpage and online Application that collates available information on the Reserve's values and provides orientation information for intending visitors. Online interpretive information for the Day Use Areas and specific recreational tracks could be included for use as an online resource for visitors while in the Reserve.	Moderate	Medium (ongoing)	Council
VR27	Incorporate Hassans Walls Reserve into regional tourism promotion campaigns and other tourism initiatives; for example include Hassans Walls Reserve in scenic trails and heritage trails.	Minor	Medium (ongoing)	Council
VR28	Liaise with Central Tablelands Mountain Bike Club to request / negotiate inclusion on their website of only those tracks recommended by the Recreational Track Plan. In advance of the Recreational Track Plan's preparation, liaise with the Central Tablelands Mountain Bike Club in relation to limiting the promotion of mountain biking within the reserve to existing approved routes only (Hassans Walls Road, Norman Henry Drive, fire trails/management accesses, and The Pony Express).	Negligible	High (ongoing)	Council, CTMBC
VR29	Offer guided walks and other face-to-face interpretive services – on a fee paying basis when appropriate – on special occasions and as/when resources permit.	Minor	Low	Council
VR30	Encourage and accommodate use of the Reserve as a venue and asset for environmental, outdoor and other educational uses – including community-based environmental education projects.	Minor	Medium (ongoing)	Council

Performance Measures and Outcomes:

- Provision of orientation and visitor information signage at Reserve entry points and three Day Use Areas.
- Provision of online website and Application with information on the Reserve's values and visitor information.
- Increased educational use of Reserve – as assessed by booking data, requests, user surveys and observation.
- Establishment and growth in the delivery of face-to-face educational services – as assessed by staff time commitments to education services, and user feedback.

Unauthorised Activities

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
VR31	Continue to quickly respond to incidences of rubbish dumping and remove rubbish as soon as possible.	Minor	Medium	Council Volunteers
VR32	<p>Monitor the location and frequency of unauthorised activities such as rubbish dumping and firewood collection. A range of adaptive management measures will be implemented according to ongoing and / or escalating rubbish dumping or firewood collection, in order of increasing effort, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Education programs to promote the Reserve's intrinsic values and discourage rubbish dumping and firewood collection. ➤ Installation of prohibition signage at known hot spots for such activities. ➤ Increased presence of Council Rangers in hot spot areas of the Reserve, during the day and early evening hours. ➤ Prosecution of offenders and publication/promotion of outcomes. ➤ Installation of suitable (sympathetically designed and sited/screened) road or cliff edge barriers in rubbish dumping (including vehicle dumping) trouble spots. 	Moderate	Medium	Council
VR33	Explore measures / opportunities for removal of car bodies dumped south off Hassans Walls Road (for example, training exercise by Emergency Services or other agencies).	Low	Medium	Council, other agencies
VR34	Camping in the Reserve or living in the small caves in the Reserve is not permitted and offenders will be moved on.	Negligible	Low	Council

Performance Measures and Outcomes:

Decline over time of rubbish dumping, firewood collection and other unauthorised activities – as measured by instances such activities to which Council responds.

14.4 Landscape and Amenity

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
LA1	Maintaining the greater majority of the Reserve as bushland will be an important contributor to protecting its scenic qualities and views.	Medium	Medium	Council Volunteers
LA2	Investigate appropriate planning controls that may be applied to adjoining rural areas (within the visual catchment from Hassans Walls Lookout and Second Lookout) to ensure retention of the predominantly rural vista as seen from within the Reserve and to minimise the visual intrusion/ impacts of developments.	Negligible	High	Council
LA3	Maintain the current dispersed character and largely bushland setting of the existing picnic areas and internal car parks, as well as the small-scale and low-profile character of Reserve buildings and infrastructure.	n/a	High (ongoing)	Council
LA4	Possible impacts on the landscape and scenic values will be considered in the siting and design of all future Reserve developments – at all scales from tracks/trails to new structures or facilities. This will include consideration of the visual impacts of visitor use – such as carpark “glare”, reflection from built structures and people in the landscape. Ensure Reserve developments do not impact on the natural skyline of vegetation.	Negligible	Medium (ongoing)	Council
LA5	When radio towers come to the end of their asset life or require significant maintenance to retain them in a serviceable condition, Council will liaise with asset owners and users to consolidate transmission elements on other towers (providing functionality of the asset is not diminished) and encourage the use of non-reflective material and colour that minimise visual impacts.	Negligible	Low	Council Asset owners and lessees

Performance Measures and Outcomes:

- No further visual intrusion/impacts on Reserve’s skyline due to Reserve of communication tower development – as assessed by photopoint recording.
- Consideration of visual catchment from the Reserve’s southern lookouts included in Council’s planning and development approvals system.

- Existing low-key bush-setting character of Reserve maintained – as determined by user/community feedback and landscape/visual assessments.

Mining Subsidence and Cliff Stability

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
LA6	Commission a geotechnical study of the rock formations within the Reserve to assess the location and extent of subsidence and rock cracking, the risk of future rock falls and any ongoing monitoring requirements. Priority for the geographical scope of the study should be given to existing and proposed visitor use areas in the first instance should funding of the study be prohibitive. Liaise with the Mine Subsidence Board in commissioning the geotechnical study to ensure the scope of the study is to industry standard.	Medium	High	Council, Subsidence Advisory NSW
LA7	No new additional recreational facilities will be developed in proximity to rock formations until the Geotechnical Study is complete and risks to visitor safety are understood and regarded as manageable	N/a	High (ongoing)	Council
LA8	Undertake a review of the functionality of the escarpment fences and determine those to be retained, upgraded or removed and the need for supporting warning signs. Seek assistance from qualified risk management personnel in conjunction.	Medium	High (ongoing)	Council
LA9	Highlight the potential danger of rock formation instability to Reserve visitors and provide strategically located on-site warning signs at Hassans Walls Lookout and at other visible formations where cracking is obvious. Provide similar warnings on Reserve promotional material and the proposed web page.	Minor	High (ongoing)	Council

Performance Measures and Outcomes:

- Geotechnical study completed and recommendations implemented according to priority.
- Risk management assessment of escarpment fences completed.
- Suitable public information available regarding potential rock formation safety hazards/risks.

14.5 Reserve Management and Administration

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
RA1	Liaise with the Department of Industry – Lands to include “flora and fauna protection”, or similar, as an additional Reservation Purpose for those Crown Lands that comprise the Reserve	Minor	High	Council, DPI – Lands
RA2	Maintain the status-quo of Reserve management – with the Reserve under the day-today care, control and management of Lithgow City Council.	Negligible	High (ongoing)	Council, DPI - Lands
RA3	Identify opportunities to consolidate the Reserve’s northern and north-western boundary – and realise these as/where practical – to expand the Reserve to incorporate adjacent / fringing bushland areas to ensure these areas are retained and serve as an increased buffer from residential edge effects / pressures and impacts from adjacent urban or disruptive land uses.	Minor (any land transfer or acquisition costs not determined)	Medium	Council, DPI - Lands
RA4	Incorporate the existing road reserve (“unmade” road) entering the south-western portion of the Reserve’s, continuing west from the Donnybrook Fire Trail and east of South Bowenfels, into the Reserve. If/when this area becomes part of the Reserve it will be categorised as “Bushland” and managed as part of the “Managed Use Bushland Zone”.	Negligible	Medium	Council, DPI - Lands
RA5	Establishment a sub-Committee to Council’s Environmental Advisory Committee or similar Committee of Council to facilitate ongoing community involvement in the planning and management of the Reserve. Over time the sphere of interest may expand to address other natural areas managed by Council.	Negligible	Medium (ongoing)	Council, DPI Lands
RA6	Preparation of the Masterplans for Hassans Walls Lookout and Second Lookout and the Recreational Track Plan will include opportunity for community input and comment.	Low	High	Council
RA7	All visitor facilities and infrastructure within the Reserve will be maintained in a safe, serviceable and presentable condition through a programmed system of monitoring, maintenance and replacement - supported by responsive and opportunistic maintenance works, as required. Priority will be afforded to facilities/infrastructure items providing for visitor safety.	Medium	High (ongoing)	Council

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
RA8	All major new works or major maintenance projects undertaken on the Reserve will be subject to appropriate environmental planning and approval procedures and provide opportunity for community input / review.	Low	High (ongoing)	Council
RA9	Reserve development proposals must address the following (among other/site specific issues): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ environmental sustainability and reversibility; ➤ the protection of identified values; ➤ demonstrate a clear connection with the Reserve's role and natural bushland setting; ➤ public accessibility and equity (where applicable); ➤ consistency with the character and scale of a site and any existing facilities; ➤ aesthetic impacts, both to and from the Reserve; ➤ site amenity and public and staff safety; ➤ pollution impacts and risks; ➤ traffic and access matters (where applicable); ➤ indigenous planting / landscaping or screening; and ➤ impact amelioration and remediation measures. 	Minor	High	Council
RA10	Continue Council Reserve staff professional development activities, and liaison with the managers of adjacent natural lands where appropriate, to stay up-to-date regarding natural area and recreation management.	n/a	High (ongoing)	Council
RA11	Retain the locked gate on the fire tail to the communications towers. Liaise with affected agencies to establish a common key to facilitate ease of use of the locked gate.	n/a	Medium (ongoing)	Council, NSW RFS, Utilities agencies
RA12	Discourage / do not promote cliff recreation in Hassans Walls Reserve. Include monitoring of the location and observational evidence of cliff recreation in routine Reserve inspections and monitoring programs.	Negligible	Medium (ongoing)	Council
RA13	Establish a visitor number monitoring program, including monitoring the number of vehicles entering the Reserve and the three Day Use Areas, and use of the recreational track network. Undertake monitoring efforts at repeat times during the year to ensure comparability of results over time.	Minor	Medium (ongoing)	Council

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
RA14	Determine the on ground extent of the Thales danger area template that encompasses part of the Reserve. Ensure this area is considered in the Recreational Track Plan. Ensure the template area is adequately signposted where it overlaps/intersects with proposed recreational tracks and visitors are aware of the potential danger.	Low	Medium	Council
RA15	Collate Reserve reports and studies regarding environmental, historical, usage and other data in relation to the Reserve and make available at Lithgow City Council's Library and online on a dedicated website and the proposed Application.	Minor	Medium (ongoing)	Council
RA16	Encourage and support research activities in relation to the Reserve, with results of research available to Council.	Minor	Low (ongoing)	Council
RA17	Prepare an annual report for the Minister for Lands – as required under the <i>Crown Lands Act 1989</i> – that includes details of income, expenditure, assets, liabilities, improvements effected, leases and licences granted or in force, uses made of the Reserve, any particulars of pecuniary interests recorded and other matters as set out in the Act.	Minor	High (ongoing)	Council

Performance Measures and Outcomes:

- Additional Reservation Purpose investigated and enacted.
- Reserve values data collected, compiled and publicly available.
- The Reserve continues to be managed by Lithgow City Council.
- Opportunities for community input and comment on major Reserve planning or development initiatives.
- Annual report prepared for the Minister for Lands – as assessed by compliance with statutory requirements.

Leases and Licences, Special Uses and Commercial Activities

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
RA18	This Plan of Management expressly authorises a lease to the existing asset owner for the purposes of the operation of a communications tower - for the five communications towers currently within the Reserve. Each Lease will incorporate the minimum area required to safely permit the operation and maintenance of the tower.	Negligible	High	Council, Communication tower owners
RA19	This Plan of Management expressly authorises a lease (5+5 years option) of a portion of the Reserve in Sheedys Gully to Lithgow Pony Club for the purposes of operating a community based, equestrian sport recreation area. The Lease will authorise the presence of associated facilities and infrastructure to reflect existing assets and infrastructure. The Lease area will be revised from the previous lease / licence to Lithgow Pony Club such that it will encompass only currently cleared areas (generally involving introduced grasses, access roads and car park areas) and not the areas of native vegetation contiguous with the Reserve. (It may, or may not, include the Council-owned residence at the north end of Sheedys Gully - see Action RA20 below.) The Lease will include responsibility for pest plant and animal control, restrict encroachments into adjoining native vegetation, and permit access by other Reserve users while including conditions to minimise impacts by other users on the Pony Club's quiet use of the site.	Negligible	High	Council, Lithgow Pony Club

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
RA20	This Plan of Management expressly authorises the lease (up to a 3 year maximum term, per lease), or licence, of the Council-owned residence (and its surrounds) at the north end of Sheedys Gully. Such a lease or licence may be for occupation, visitor services, environmental education, community purposes, usage by or in conjunction with the Lithgow Pony Club, or other uses as deemed appropriate by Council (and which do not impact on the Reserve's biodiversity or heritage values, visitor enjoyment, or scenic quality). If maintenance and use of this residence is no longer required, or viable, Council may choose to demolish this building and rehabilitate the area to match its surrounds.	Negligible (Moderate if demolition option is pursued)	High	Council
RA21	Licences and permits will not be granted for activities that are purely commodity or product marketing oriented.	n/a	Low (ongoing)	Council
RA22	Inquiries and use/activity applications from commercial interest or organised ("members only") groups will be strictly assessed and reviewed to ensure that the Reserve's values, intended character and settings, and visitor experiences are not compromised; and on-going exclusive use arrangements are not created; and undue demands on Reserve management do not result.	n/a	Low (ongoing)	Council
RA23	Licences or permits will be granted for commercial filming within the Reserve, as required by the <i>Filming Related Legislation Amendment Act 2008</i> , and as consistent with relevant Council policies.	n/a	Low (ongoing)	Council

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
RA24	<p>This plan expressly authorises the granting of – licences for periods of up to 3 years (by Council and with concurrence of the Minister for Lands), temporary licences (up to 12 months duration), once-off or set (short) duration activity or event permits, and other estates/approvals (excluding leases) – for educational, scientific, community, social, recreational or park management activities (such as fire management or seed collection). Licences will only be granted as consistent with the provisions of the <i>Crown Lands Act 1989</i> and the <i>Crown Lands Regulation 2006</i>.</p> <p>Licences and permits will not be granted for activities that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ may have a negative impact on natural areas, on endangered ecological communities or threatened species, on historical or cultural sites; or ➤ are inconsistent with an area's values, or have unacceptable effects on the Reserve's values or intended character and settings; or ➤ exclude or unduly disadvantage other users, or are likely to impair an area's reasonable enjoyment by others; or ➤ places excessive demands on Reserve management resources and finances. <p>In addition, licences and permits will only be granted for activities that are consistent with the management intent, objectives and uses of the Management Zones (as described in this Plan) within which the activity will operate / occur. Licences, permits and activity applications will be subject to particularly stringent assessments within the Bushland Zone.</p> <p>Licences will only be issued for commercial activities where these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ consistent with, or ancillary to, the Reserve's current reservation purpose (and any additional reservation purpose); and ➤ do not involve the erection of any building or other substantial structure, or permanent advertising that detracts from the visual qualities of the Reserve. <p>Appropriate income generation will be implemented consistent with the above licencing specifications.</p>	n/a	High (ongoing)	Council

Performance Measures and Outcomes:

- Lithgow Pony Club Lease and communication tower lease / licences executed.
- Licences, permits and other estates comply with specified guidelines and restrictions.

Assets and Infrastructure

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
RA25	In the event of a communications tower requiring significant maintenance or replacement, the opportunity for the consolidation of assets onto a reduced number of towers in order to minimise visual impacts (and impacts from the ongoing maintenance of access tracks and power lines within the Reserve) will be investigated. Such consolidation should not be to the detriment of the functionality of the communication assets. Liaison will be undertaken with ACMA, tower owners and co-users to ensure no loss of functionality. The relevant Leases / licences for towers will include provision for this process.	Minor	High	Council, ACMA, tower owner and users
RA26	In the event of significant maintenance or upgrade of a tower, non-reflective materials and materials that that minimise visual impact will be used. The relevant Leases / licences for towers will include provision for this.	Negligible	Medium	Council, tower owner
RA27	Clarify the ownership of Tower 1 indicated in Figure 9.	Negligible	Medium	Council, NSW Police
RA28	The existing tracks to built assets will be maintained to a 4WD standard on a base of natural material suitable for agency access for maintenance and operations purposes.	Low	Low	Council

Action No.	Actions	Implementation		
		Resource Estimation	Priority	Responsibility
RA29	Develop effective and on-going communication protocols with utility providers operating services through the Reserve and communication tower owners regarding their management requirements/operations and measures to reduce impacts on the Reserve and its values – especially in relation to service access, track maintenance, soil erosion, vegetation clearing, visual impacts and visitor safety. Negotiate access, maintenance and remediation agreements, standards or protocols where possible. Require, where feasible, the owners/operators of previous abandoned/terminated communications tower sites to undertake remediation/rehabilitation of such areas.	Negligible	Medium	Council, Endeavour Energy, other agencies

Performance Measures and Outcomes:

- Investigation of communication tower consolidation undertaken as opportunities arise.
- Effective communication protocols in place between utility providers, communication tower owners and Council.
- Reduced adverse impacts from utilities and communication towers presence/management – as assessed by ad hoc monitoring and observation, and user/.community reports.

Section D - Implementation and Review

Part D considers the implementation of this Plan of Management and contains information on potential funding sources, reporting, evaluation and review.



15. 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 Reserve's management.

However many are physical actions that will require the commitment of Council funds or resources – such as staff time – to implement. Council does not have the capacity to undertake all of these, more resource-intensive, management actions immediately. Management and development of Hassans Walls Reserve will ultimately be reliant on, and largely determined by, the funding and resources available to Council. As such the Reserve's management actions must be assessed against the other priorities of Council, and budget allocations assigned as part of Council's wider four-yearly Lithgow City Council Delivery Program and three yearly Operational Plan, annual budget cycles and business planning for Council's various units.

Council also provides funds for the operational management of the Reserve – including staff salaries, contract services, repairs and maintenance and the like – and raises a negligible income from licence fees. However Lithgow City Council has supported and funded the Reserve's management far in excess of any revenue generated by the area. The Crown Lands Division's policy in respect of Crown Reserves is that income generated by a Trust should be reinvested in those reserves under the Trust's management – supported by annual income and expenditure reporting obligations.

In view of these financial realities/constraints a priority has been assigned to each management action – as shown in the actions Tables in Chapter 14 – to reflect their relative importance and implementation timing in order to achieve the Plan's objectives (but also noting that actions which are of a more management guideline, policy or direction-setting character may not require the direct allocation of resources).

In terms of the resourcing and timing of management, the assigned priorities can be described as follows.

High – Considered “essential”, and will be considered in Council's funding processes annually until they can be resourced, then included in the Management Plan and business plan of the relevant unit within Council each year until completed.

Medium – Considered “desirable”, and should be implemented within the life of this Plan and will be reviewed by the responsible unit within Council each year as to their current relevance/importance and consideration for resourcing and/or placement on relevant work plans.

Low – Considered “useful” or longer-term actions, and should be undertaken if resources permit but may not be allocated appropriate resources until formally reviewed or until resources are available for such actions and relevant units within Council should consider including these actions in their respective work plans each year.

Actions can be single tasks or identified as “ongoing” – where the action in question will require funding throughout the Reserve's management and/or the life of this Plan.

Recognising that funding and resources may come from many sources, including volunteer involvement or specific-purpose grant funding, identified Management Actions of different priority may proceed in differing orders or at different rates – and high priority actions need not necessarily precede lower-priority actions. Implementation of some actions may also be contingent on or influenced by the results of other actions, changing management circumstances or opportunities to gain management efficiencies. In some cases, the resources to deliver a longer-term action may be available before a high priority action. This may be due to the amount of money required, or the project being funded from resources other than Council funds, or factors outside of Council's control.

Council may also choose to seek Grant funding from both Commonwealth and State Government grant programmes. Potential grants include the Green Army and National Landcare Programmes (Commonwealth Government) and Heritage Office grants, the Public Reserves Management Fund, Environmental Trust and Bushfire Mitigation Works Funds (State Government).

16. Reporting, Evaluation and Review

16.1 Reporting

The Hassans Walls Reserve Public Recreation Reserve Trust (Lithgow City Council) is required under the *Crown Lands Act 1989* to prepare an annual report for the Minister for Lands at the end of each financial year. The Report is required to include details of income, expenditure, assets, liabilities, improvements effected, leases and licences granted or in force, uses made of the Reserve, any particulars of pecuniary interests recorded and other matters as set out in the Act. Section 32 of the Crown Lands Regulation 2006 lists the required contents of the annual report.

Council may also choose to report on the implementation of the Plan of Management as part of its established reporting practices.

16.2 Evaluation

The objectives, actions and performance measures outlined in the Plan of Management provide a basis for qualitative reporting on performance of Council in managing the Reserve and progress in implementing the Plan of Management. Evaluation of performance should be undertaken at the end of each financial year to align with the Trusts reporting requirements.

The proposed sub-Committee (see Action RA5) should be involved in annual reporting and evaluation.

16.3 Review

Typically a Plan of Management will remain relevant and have a time horizon of ten (10) years. However, management strategies and actions can be reviewed and updated prior to the ten year sunset period if required. The fact that a plan of management has Ministerial approval does not mean that the management direction cannot change in the future. Ministerial approval can be given to amend a plan provided the proposed changes have firstly been exhibited for public comment.

Implementation of this Plan and its ongoing relevance will be reviewed annually as part of Council's internal and external reporting processes.

Consideration of the need for a major review and update of the Plan of Management will occur ten years from the date of adoption of the Plan.

Selected References

- Blue Mountains Conservation Society and Colong Foundation for Wilderness (2009), *Seeing the Gardens: the Other Blue Mountains: Nature-based Tourism and Recreation in the Gardens of Stone Stage 2 Park Proposal*, Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc. and Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd.
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- DEC (2006) *The Vegetation of the Western Blue Mountains*. Unpublished report funded by the Hawkesbury – Nepean Catchment Management Authority. Department of Environment and Conservation, Hurstville.
- DEC (2010) Native Vegetation of southeast NSW: a revised classification and map for the coast and eastern tablelands. Version 1.0. Department of Environment and Conservation, Hurstville.
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- Gondwana Consulting (2016) *Hassans Walls Reserve Plan of Management Issues and Discussion Paper*. Prepared for Lithgow City Council
- Goldney, D. and Smith, J. (2003) *Draft Hassans Walls Reserve Plan of Management*. Prepared for Lithgow City Council.
- Kidd, T. (2009) *Hassans Walls Reserve*
- Lollback S, Drewe H, Coveny R & Durie K (2014) *Native Plants Hassans Walls Reserve Lithgow*, Suzanne Lollback (Publisher)
- Lithgow Bush Fire Management Committee (2015) *Bush Fire Risk Management Plan*.
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- Painter K. (2017), *Hassans Walls - Prized and Pillaged*, NSW Mountain Mist Books.
- SKM & PB (2012). *Forty Bends Upgrade – Review of Environmental Factors. Technical Paper 1: Biodiversity*. Report prepared for Roads and Maritime Services.

SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF SUBMISSIONS

Hassans Walls Reserve Draft Plan of Management and Concept Masterplan

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION (<i>italics indicate direct quotes from a submission</i>)	Submission Number	COMMENT / RESPONSE And Proposed Amendments to Plan of Management
GENERAL		
<i>I think this is a well balanced plan and will enable people to enjoy the area well into the future. Well developed plan.</i>	2	Note only. No amendments recommended.
<i>Just having a Concept Masterplan will be beneficial, as long as it is not used to lock in an existing, unacceptable situation.</i>	5	
<i>Overall direction of the POM is good and reflects the general opinion in the community that the bushland nature of the reserve should be retained.</i>	7	
<i>Vision and overall future directions identified are good ... The draft plan will be very helpful.</i>	11	
<i>Yes, general direction [of the DPoM] is good.</i>	13	
<i>A master plan is required due to the many issues that face council in the management of Hassans Walls. It is imperative that a master plan is required before any other plan is done. A master plan is required above any other plan.</i>	14	
<i>The ... overall general direction is OK.</i>	15	
<i>Endorses the general schema of the draft PoM.</i>	17	
<i>More work needs to be done prior to the POM being adopted. Council should not adopt this Plan of Management in its current form but instead carry out all of the studies required prior to making any further decision on the Reserve.</i>	8	Council has resolved to prepare a PoM for Hassans Walls Reserve, and there is community expectation for such a plan, to provide a vision and clear directions (supported by specific actions) to guide the future protection, management, development, use and enjoyment of the

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION <i>(italics indicate direct quotes from a submission)</i>	Submission Number	COMMENT / RESPONSE And Proposed Amendments to Plan of Management
<i>Adoption of any definitive Plan of Management for the Hassans Walls Reserve should be deferred until Lithgow City Council has carried out the necessary studies required.</i>	17	<p>Reserve and to ensure that its values are sustained for future generations. A Draft Plan of Management for Hassans Walls Reserve was commenced more than 10 years ago (Goldney and Smith, 2003) but never completed or adopted by Council. A Plan of Management is now required to provide long "overdue" direction and certainty in the area's management.</p> <p>Notably the DPoM takes a "precautionary approach" and does not propose expanding the development or infrastructure "footprint" within the Reserve much, if at all, beyond the existing used/impacted areas. The DPoM is similarly cautious in relation to new works, and requires that "all major new works or major maintenance projects undertaken on the Reserve will be subject to appropriate environmental planning and approval procedures and provide opportunity for community input/review (Action RA6, page 72) – to ensure that key values/assets are not compromised (knowingly or unintentionally).</p> <p>To again delay the adoption of a Plan of Management for Hassans Walls Reserve risks ad hoc and unco-ordinated management of the Reserve's key values/assets in the absence of a clear overall direction, limits realisation of the area's sustainable use and enjoyment potential, constrains wider community input and involvement in shaping the Reserve's future, and restricts Council's capacity to secure external funding or resources to assist in the area's management. No amendments recommended.</p>
<i>The whole of the Reserve should be Zoned Conservation Zone until such a time as ALL of the key plans are undertaken, at which time the Plan of Management can be appropriately informed and reviewed for further public comment</i>	8	To zone the entire reserve a Conservation Zone requires a POM. Applying the management intent and management objectives for a Conservation Zone, as identified in the current DPoM, would preclude all forms of recreation access, use of facilities within the Reserve (and may even require the removal of existing infrastructure/utilities. No amendments recommended.
<i>Blue Mountains Conservation Society should have been individually consulted as a stakeholder of some significance, certainly with an interest and track record in the greater good.</i>	5	Key/known stakeholders for Hassans Walls Reserve were identified by Council, and this list provided the basis for an initial round of stakeholder contact and discussions early in the plan preparation process. Neither

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION <i>(italics indicate direct quotes from a submission)</i>	Submission Number	COMMENT / RESPONSE And Proposed Amendments to Plan of Management
<p>The Colong Foundation for Wilderness should have been individually consulted to obtain <i>our input during the preparation of the draft plan.</i></p> <p><i>Colong Foundation has been excluded from the draft planning process as mountain bike riders have usurped control of the reserve and the plan does not challenge this control.</i></p>	4	<p>the Blue Mountains Conservation Society nor the Colong Foundation for Wilderness were on the stakeholder list as supplied by Council. The consultation phase, for determining values and issues to address in the DPoM, as well as public exhibition of the subsequent "Hassans Walls Reserve Issues and Discussion Paper" were both notified in the local press and on Council's website. Neither group responded at this stage or made contact to request meeting/discussion. None of those people/groups who did respond to the engagement process identified these groups as stakeholders warranting contact. Note only, no amendments recommended.</p>
MANAGEMENT CONTEXT		
<p>Include <i>a full map of the Reserve showing all of the DP and Lot numbers, so the community can see which is Crown Land and which is Community Land.</i></p>	8	<p>Action: Include an additional figure to accompany Table 1 Hassans Walls Reserve Land Parcels (page 3) showing DP and Lot numbers, and community and Crown land.</p>
<p>Supports the DPoM's vision. <i>But the vision statement in section 1.5 should be better expressed as follows:</i></p> <p><i>"Hassans Walls Reserve is a regionally important bushland open space area managed to protect its significant heritage and natural values ensure that environmentally sustainable recreation opportunities to the regional community remain compatible with the protection of these values."</i></p>	4	<p>Action: Amend 1.5 Vision for Hassans Walls Reserve to read as follows - Hassans Walls Reserve is a regionally important bushland open space area managed to protect its significant natural, heritage and scenic values while also providing environmentally sustainable nature-based or natural-setting recreation opportunities to the local and regional community.</p>
<p>Focus on <i>preservation of the Reserve in a natural state for future generations for hundreds of years into the future... Specifically bushland its plants and fauna, its biodiversity.</i></p> <p><i>I would just like more value for the future on plants, biodiversity as The Reserve could become an important oasis for many of our plants and animals.</i></p>	7	
<p><i>I agree with the Vision with the addition of words ... nature-based (to change "recreation opportunities to the regional community" to "nature-based recreation opportunities to the regional community").</i></p>	8	
<p><i>The vision ... is OK.</i></p>	15	

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION <i>(italics indicate direct quotes from a submission)</i>	Submission Number	COMMENT / RESPONSE And Proposed Amendments to Plan of Management
Endorsement for the DPoM's <i>general vision ... for the Reserve to be a place that aims to strike a reasonable balance between the various interests at stake in the Reserve – which includes passive (non-motorised) human recreational interests.</i>	17	
<i>I believe it should say there are four "recreational nodes". First Lookout and other nearby lookouts - which get a lot of visitation, Hassans Walls Lookout, Second Lookout, and Bracey Lookout.</i>	6	Action: Amend/add text to recognise Second Lookout as former node, but now closed to vehicle access and not signposted, and so only receives lower levels of use (mainly by knowledgeable locals).
<i>The paragraph containing ... The current administration and management arrangements ... have proven effective ... needs to be modified - on the basis that Council's management of weeds and litter have been ineffective.</i>	8	Hassans Walls is an area of reasonably intact and largely undisturbed bushland, as demonstrated by the area's flora and biodiversity assets. This is despite its location next to an urban area to the north and west, and major highway to the south. While this is due in part to its elevated position, rugged topography and top-of-catchment location Council and the community have also played an important role in the area's management. Compared with other peri-urban bushland areas in Sydney and the Blue Mountains the Reserve is in generally good condition and both the natural values and visitor use/pressures are adequately and effectively managed. All natural areas subject to vehicle access, recreational use and urban edge effects will have on-going management challenges. No amendments recommended.
<i>The last paragraph under this section [3.2 Local Government Act 1993] refers to the Crowns Land Act, and should be removed. It is a repeat from the previous page.</i>	8	Action: Delete last paragraph from 3.2 Local Government Act 1993 and amend 3.1 Crown Lands Act 1989 third paragraph to read "as well as the principles of Crown Land management and the objects of the Crown Lands Act".
<i>Page 14 increasing residential development ... is this statement correct ?</i>	8	Action: Amend reference to "with increasing residential development in its immediate surrounds" to "with existing and planned residential development within the Lithgow city area" (page 14 paragraph 6).
SITE DESCRIPTION		
<i>The new elevated boardwalk at Hassans Walls Lookout is not made of steel mesh! It is FRP - Fibreglass Reinforced Plastic.</i>	6	Action: Amend text to describe the new boardwalk at Hassans Walls Lookout as a fibreglass reinforced plastic deck with a metal

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION <i>(italics indicate direct quotes from a submission)</i>	Submission Number	COMMENT / RESPONSE And Proposed Amendments to Plan of Management
7.3 Hassans Walls Lookout Day Use Area and Environs (paragraph 1) – the recently constructed 50m steel mesh walkway leading to a lookout point is <i>not steel mesh but Fibreglass Reinforced Plastic (FRP)</i> .	6	superstructure and safety railings.
Parking area at Bracey Lookout is a <i>tar-sealed car park, not dirt !</i>	6	Action: Amend text to describe parking bays at Bracey Lookout as sealed (bitumen).
High conservation values <i>must be identified and mapped before they can be protected.</i>	4	The DPoM identifies the following high priority investigations of the Reserves natural and cultural heritage values, to be undertaken in the Plan's first 5 years (pages 53-4) - flora and fauna survey, geotechnical study (to assess the location and extent of subsidence and rock cracking as well as the risk of future rock falls), and historic heritage sites/features report. These studies are also specified in individual management actions.
<i>I believe that all surveys need to be carried out and completed prior the plan being adopted and/or any decisions regarding it, being made.</i> <i>Priority should be given to the surveys.</i>	7	
<i>A flora and fauna study be undertaken as a matter of urgency to identify and map not only listed flora and fauna under the Threatened Species Conservation Act, but also those species that are vulnerable or rare on the Reserve ... including the Reserve's' significant community of native orchids.</i> A flora and fauna study, threatened species management plans, geotechnical study, audit of formal and informal recreational tracks, and heritage items mapping/assessment should be undertaken in advance of all other planning and used to <i>inform plans for such things as lookout areas, recreational tracks, bushfire management, road improvements, car parks, and Management Zones, etc.</i> <i>I fully support the development of a Flora (and Fauna) Study and believe that it is critical prior to any other management decision being made ... and that these Studies be undertaken as a matter of HIGHEST PRIORITY.</i> The flora survey should also <i>identify and map ... those species that are vulnerable or rarely found on the Reserve (which may not be listed as Threatened under the Act). This mapping should include the significant community of native orchids.</i>	8	

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION <i>(italics indicate direct quotes from a submission)</i>	Submission Number	COMMENT / RESPONSE And Proposed Amendments to Plan of Management
<p><i>It is critical that a full flora and fauna study be undertaken, prior to any other decisions being made about the Reserve.</i></p> <p><i>Plant species of interest need to be appropriately mapped and scientific studies undertaken on them.</i></p> <p><i>Plants such as the Leptospermum blakelyi, which only grows in the Lithgow area ... needs to be further studied.</i></p>	9	Reserve risks ad hoc and unco-ordinated management of the Reserve's key values/assets in the absence of a clear overall direction, limits realisation of the area's sustainable use and enjoyment potential, constrains wider community input and involvement in shaping the Reserve's future, and restricts Council's capacity to secure external funding or resources to assist in the area's management. No amendments recommended.
<i>Less money spent on surveys and planning and a little more on actual works and repairs would be beneficial.</i>	10	
<i>Ensuring that the surveys recommended in the draft plan such as the flora and fauna, historical survey be completed before decisions are made before decisions are made on usage of the area.</i>	12	
<p><i>Hassans Walls has been studied to death. It's time to get on with the job of implementation.</i></p> <p><i>Stage 1 of the Implementation Plan has a lot of money spent on further management plans information gathering. I believe Hassans Walls has been studied enough and it might be a good idea to get on with the works program.</i></p>	13	
<p><i>A survey of flora and fauna is required. (Take into account the books already produced on orchids and native flowers).</i></p> <p><i>Also required is a survey of historical sites (including Aboriginal).</i></p>	14	
<i>Survey and documentation of natural and heritage values should be completed first. This will then determine what type of 'active' recreation will be permissible, and whereabouts it may or may not be appropriate.</i>	15	

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION <i>(italics indicate direct quotes from a submission)</i>	Submission Number	COMMENT / RESPONSE And Proposed Amendments to Plan of Management
<p><i>More work needs to be done to be able to adequately map the environmental and cultural heritage aspects of the Reserve.</i></p> <p>Effective management of visitor use to protect high conservation value land, rare and threatened species, ecological communities, and water quality requires that <i>these key values are first identified and mapped. It is not possible to protect high conservation values unless these are first identified and mapped.</i></p> <p>The Plan needs to <i>better map the high conservation values, rare or threatened species, archeological [sic] heritage sites, and public safety risks posed by mine subsidence and competing recreational uses within the Reserve. Necessary studies on conservation values, archeological [sic] heritage items, and mine subsidence should be completed early in the management process.</i></p> <p><i>Fails to identify Aboriginal and European cultural heritage items that may need to be protected, avoided, or otherwise effectively managed.</i></p>	17	

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION (<i>italics indicate direct quotes from a submission</i>)	Submission Number	COMMENT / RESPONSE And Proposed Amendments to Plan of Management
<p><i>Some of the information [in Section 5.1] is incorrect in terms of species within some areas. Eg. Eucalyptus piperita is not known on the Reserve.</i></p>	8	<p><i>Eucalyptus piperita</i> (ssp. <i>piperita</i>) (Sydney Peppermint) is listed as occurring on the Reserve in a 2009 report by Trish Kidd. No amendments recommended.</p> <p><i>Eucalyptus piperita</i> is mentioned in the DPoM on pages 16 and 18 in the description of vegetation communities – this information was taken from two vegetation reports that cover differing parts of the Reserve.</p> <p>The background/description in the DPoM re each of these vegetation reports outlines the comprehensiveness of each of these surveys, and makes it clear that one has been done based on a combination of prior surveys and is at 1:100,000 scale while the other is based more on field work and is at 1:25,000 scale.</p> <p>The DPOM's introduction to the 1:100,000 vegetation community descriptions (page 15) explains "The vegetation community descriptions below are derived from a 1:100,000 scale survey with limited ground-truthing. Descriptions at this scale apply to large areas of land and their applicability/accuracy in relation to Hassans Walls Reserve would need to be verified by on ground surveys" and stresses s that "All of the species ascribed to each vegetation community may not necessarily occur within the Reserve."</p> <p>The DPOM's introduction to the 1:25,000 vegetation community descriptions (page 16) states "The survey and report is based on data collected at over 1,200 sites (in this or previous surveys) – however no sites were located within Hassans Walls Reserve. Consequently, there has been no ground-truthing of the vegetation communities mapped as occurring in the Reserve. The applicability/accuracy of the vegetation communities in relation to Hassans Walls Reserve would need to be verified by on ground surveys" and again stresses that "All of the species ascribed to each vegetation community may not necessarily occur within the Reserve."</p> <p>Essentially, the DPoM has summarised two much wider existing vegetation portions of which encompass parts of the Reserve and has made the limitations of these surveys very clear. Consequently, due to the lack of accurate, ground-truthed vegetation information the DPoM has recommended a vegetation survey of the Reserve (pages 53-4, and Actions NE1 and NE10).</p>
<p>Summary and Analysis of Submissions - Hassans Walls Reserve Draft Plan of Management Gondwana Consulting, June '17</p>		<p>Recognising this problem, of the lack of a single "formal" vegetation survey applicable to the entire Reserve, the DPoM has also included an account of the Reserve's vegetation communities as provided by a local amateur botanist.</p>

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<i>Helen's (Helen Drewe) botanical names should be included on page 18 in "Communities identified by local botanist (Drewe, pers com, 2016)".</i>	6	The vegetation community names used on page 18 ("Communities identified by local botanist (Drewe, pers com, 2016)") and on Figure 3 - Vegetation Communities of Hassans Walls Reserve (source: H Drewe, pers. comm.) are as supplied by Helen Drewe during consultation for the DPoM's research and preparation. No amendments recommended.
Table 4 shows <i>Leptospermum p. nov. "L" ... this species needs to be clarified.</i>	8	This species is cited as such in a table listing threatened species recorded in or adjacent to the study area (the Reserve) in a 2009 report by Trish Kidd. No amendments recommended (or possible due to lack of further data – information from this report has been included in good faith and acknowledged).
Table 4 - <i>Persoonia acerosa</i> has this ever been seen on the Reserve.	8	<i>Persoonia acerosa</i> (Needle Geebung) is listed as occurring on the Reserve in a 2009 report by Trish Kidd. No amendments recommended.
<i>Whilst the Draft Plan acknowledges the threatened species known to occur in the Reserve, many more threatened species have the potential to occur, but until a comprehensive flora survey is conducted no one will ever know.</i>	17	The DPoM identifies a flora and fauna survey as a high priority action to be undertaken the Plan's first 5 years (pages 53-4, and Actions NE1 and NE10). No amendments recommended.
<i>Although the Draft Plan notes the Threatened species that are known to occur in the Reserve, the Plan fails to identify just how rare some of these species actually are.</i>	17	"Conservation Significant Plant Species" are briefly described and tabulated (Table 4) on page 20 of the DPoM. Action: Add extra column to Table 4 with additional information for each plant species of conservation significance, where known and of management relevance.
<i>Plants of importance on the Reserve, even if not listed as rare and endangered in Australia, should be cared for if rare on the Reserve.</i>	7	An agreed template is required for assessing the conservation significance/status of plant and animal species for planning and undertaking land management. At the state level this is provided by the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> (and nationally by the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>). Land managers, and others, have legal obligations in respect of plant (and animal species) and vegetation communities listed under the TSC Act.
<i>Some plant species present are vulnerable or rare on the Reserve (the plant occurs in some cases as a single plant, or very few plants are known. Plants may also be known in very small communities in a particular habitat. These plants may not be listed as Threatened under the Act). However such species that are rare on the Reserve should nevertheless be recognised and protected in the PoM. Other plant species may be considered of conservation value ... due to their being only very few plants on the Reserve.</i>	8	Other lists – such as the Rare or Threatened Australian Plants (ROTAP) list developed by the CSIRO – can offer an additional perspective on the status of a plant species, but have no legal standing. At progressively smaller scales a species' status can be assessed at the regional or catchment scale, and then at the local or individual reserve level.

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		These levels of conservation significance provide useful guidance for land managers in deciding where they should (legally and practically) expend their management efforts – establishing a “hierarchy” of action or management response (with species or communities listed under the TSC Act warranting greater management effort than species that may simply be uncommon within a park). The DPOM acknowledges this, and allocates a high priority for the preparation of “specific management plans for ... any species identified by the flora survey that are listed under <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act</i> (action NE2, page 56 as well as item 15 page 54). Other measures in the DPOM – such as managing the greater majority of the Reserve as bushland (Action NE3, page 56), a comprehensive flora survey if the Reserve (Action NE1, page 56), weed control and bush regeneration measures (Action NE5, page 57), bushland condition assessments (Action NE8, page 57) and prior assessment of sites of new major works or maintenance projects (Action RA6, page 72) will assist in protecting species of regional or local conservation significance. No amendments recommended.
<i>Recognition should be made here that two comprehensive studies of flora have been made with the resulting publications ... and "Native Plants Hassans Walls Reserve Lithgow".</i> <i>Recognition should be made of the work already done -- see the Native Plants of Hassans Walls and Orchids books!!!</i>	6	The DPoM acknowledges that there has been no systematic field survey of the Reserve in terms of vegetation communities and flora species (page 15), and the information presented is derived from multiple sources – including “The Native Plants Hassans Wall Reserve Lithgow” (Lollback et al, 2014), Department of Environment and Conservation wider area vegetation mapping (in 2006 and 2010), site specific flora and fauna assessments of areas within the Reserve, a 2009 report on the Reserve by Trish Kidd, and information provided by local amateur botanist Helen Drewe. Vegetation community nomenclature is not consistent across these studies, and this is recognised as a limitation by the DPoM. The DPoM identifies a flora survey of the entire Reserve as a high priority action to be undertaken the Plan’s first 5 years (Actions NE1, page 53). Information on the location of significant orchids was not explicit in the DPoM, at the informant’s request, to protect these plants from collection/souveniring. No amendments recommended.
<i>Mapping provided by Helen Drewe is correct, however, it does not map the whole Reserve and in some cases has not identified the full range of relevant species within the areas.</i> <i>Council [should] build upon the valuable information contained within the Native Plants Hassans Walls book and complete a full Flora and Fauna Study for HWR.</i>	8	
<i>Take into account the books already produced on orchids and native flowers. I understand that a volunteer group has worked for several years to compile a lost [sic] of flowering times etc.</i>	14	“The Native Plants Hassans Wall Reserve Lithgow” (Lollback et al, 2014) is included in the Selected References (page 82). No amendments recommended.

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<p><i>Recognition should be made here that two comprehensive studies of flora have been made with the resulting publications "Hassans Walls Orchids Lithgow" and ...</i></p> <p><i>Recognition should be made of the work already done -- see the Native Plants of Hassans Walls and Orchids books!!!</i></p>	6	The lead author of this publication Helen Drewe provided considerable local knowledge, and mapping, of the Reserve's vegetation communities that has been included in the DPoM – page 18 and Figure 3 Vegetation Communities of Hassans Walls Reserve (source: H Drewe, pers. comm.) (page 19). Information of the location of significant orchids was not explicit in the DPoM, at the informant's request, to protect these plants from collection/souveniring.
<p><i>Take into account the books already produced on orchids and native flowers. I understand that a volunteer group has worked for several years to compile a lost [sic] of flowering times etc.</i></p>	14	Action: Include "Hassans Walls Orchids" in Selected References (page 82) as a source of further information for those interested.
"Hassans Walls Orchids" by Drewe, Durie and Lollback not cited.	17	
6.2 Historic Heritage (paragraph 2) – <i>There was no John Merrick - this was an error in that document</i> (Blue Mountains Walking Track Heritage Study by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service). <i>The tracks were made by brothers Richard Harley Merrick and Thomas Merrick.</i>	6	Action: Amend reference to "John Merrick" to read "brothers Richard and Thomas Merrick".
6.2 Historic Heritage (paragraph 2) – The track from Hassans Walls Road in Lithgow to the Hassans Walls Trig (at Hassans Walls Lookout) was built in <i>1910 - not 1909 and 1914</i> . Also <i>there was no trig station then</i> .	6	Action: Amend reference to "1909 and 1914" to read "1910", and delete reference to "Hassans Walls Trig".
6.2 Historic Heritage (paragraph 2) – The easterly track from Hassans Walls Lookout to Browns Gap was <i>named Browns Gap Track</i> . Also <i>there was no trig station</i> (at Hassans Walls Lookout) <i>then</i> .	6	Action: Amend text to name easterly track the Browns Gap Track ", and delete reference to "Hassans Walls Trig".
6.2 Historic Heritage (paragraph 2) – The westerly Heffernan's Track was known as <i>Heffernans Pass</i> (and) <i>was built in 1915-16</i> .	6	Action: Amend reference to "Heffernan's Track" to read "Heffernans Pass", and amend date of construction to read "1915-16".
6.2 Historic Heritage (paragraph 2) – Upgrading of the 1910 walking from Hassans Walls Road in Lithgow to the Hassans Walls Lookout <i>was done as unemployment relief work using manpower and some explosives. No mechanized machinery was used. Also there was no trig station</i> (at Hassans Walls Lookout) <i>then</i> .	6	Action: Amend text to read " The walking track to Hassans Walls Lookout and through to Browns Gap Road was upgraded to a dirt road as part of an Unemployment Relief programme, chiefly using manpower and some explosives, during the 1930s", and delete reference to "Hassans Walls Trig".

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6.2 Historic Heritage (paragraph 2) – <i>There are surviving sections of the Browns Gap Track and the first section of the 1915-16 Heffernans Pass has been found intact!!</i>	6	Action: Amend text to read “Although some sections of the Browns Gap Track, and the first section of the 1915-16 Heffernans Pass, remain intact other parts of these routes have been substantially altered, and none of the three original walking tracks are regarded as having heritage significance.”
6.2 Historic Heritage (paragraph 3) – <i>The trig was not there in 1915! The base point was actually the 1912 shelter shed called the Centenary Pavilion.</i>	6	Action: Amend text to delete reference to “Hassans Walls Trig” and include reference to “the 1912 shelter shed called the Centenary Pavilion”.
6.2 Historic Heritage (paragraph 3) – <i>The Hassans Walls Undercliff Walking Track went a long way past Rutherford Glen which is not the approximate end of the escarpment!! The cliffs continue for about 800m beyond Rutherford Glen.</i>	6	Action: Amend text to read “west past Rutherford Glen at the approximate western end of the main escarpment”.
6.2 Historic Heritage (paragraph 3) – <i>The Undercliff Walking Track was closed in 1992, not 1991.</i>	6	Action: Amend text to read “the track was closed in 1992 due to public safety concerns arising from rockfalls”.
6.2 Historic Heritage (paragraph 5) – <i>Name the plinth with directional dial display at Hassans Walls Lookout - it is the Padley Memorial Direction Dial.</i>	6	Action: Amend text to read “A plinth with a directional dial display indicating places and points of interest visible in the distance – known as the Padley Memorial Direction Dial – was erected at Hassans Walls Lookout in October 1929.”
6.2 Historic Heritage (paragraph 5) – <i>Local amateur historian and informant does not live at Mount Victoria.</i>	6	Action: Amend reference to “A Mount Victoria amateur historian” to read “A local amateur historian and author”.
Much of the information provided by the local amateur historian (K. Painter) was not reflected in the Plan, and not referenced. Selected References (page 82) information provided by local amateur historian (K. Painter) not referenced - <i>I assume the consultant did not bother to read the material I sent to him!!</i>	6	“Hassans Walls - Prized and Pillaged” by K Painter was published in April 2017, after the DPoM's preparation. Its preparation was acknowledged in the DPoM, however PoMs are values based documents, and detailed description of the area's history is not necessary. Action: Include “Hassans Walls - Prized and Pillaged” in Selected References (page 82) as a source of further information for those interested.
“Hassans Walls - Prized and Pillaged” by K. Painter (April 2017) not cited.	17	
Lower photograph on page 26 should be labelled <i>the Padley Memorial Direction Dial.</i>	6	Action: Amend caption to read “Remains of the plinth (the Padley Memorial Direction Dial) at Hassans Walls Lookout”.

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<i>All heritage items be properly mapped and an assessment be made of their combined significance.</i>	8	The DPoM identifies a historic heritage sites/features report as a high priority investigation to be undertaken in the Plan's first 5 years (pages 53-4). This study is also specified at Action CH6. Action CH5 addresses the need for a survey to identify and record Aboriginal heritage sites/values (funding permitting).
Mine Subsidence Technological Society "Proceedings of the Second Triennial Conference on Buildings and Structures subject to Mine Subsidence", Mine Subsidence Technological Society Maitland, 25th to 27th August - not cited.	17	The DPoM addresses mining subsidence and cliff instability in some detail in section 8.1, and recommends a geotechnical study to assess the location and extent of subsidence and rock cracking as a priority investigation (page 53) and identifies four related management actions (LA6 to LA9). A detailed technical analysis of mining subsidence and cliff instability is not necessary in the PoM, given that the issue is recognised and actions to address it identified. No amendments recommended.
"Nature-based Tourism and Recreation Management Plan for the Gardens of Stone Stage Two Reserve Proposal" <i>describes the existing visitor use at Hassans Walls and proposes a need for 'improved management of the lookout facilities and the installation of information/interpretation panels'. These findings are compatible with the draft plan ... no references to our reports in the draft plan of management.</i>	4	This report was reviewed but contains very little detail regarding Hassans Walls. It does acknowledge that the reserve "is suited to day activities only, and a high level of visitor use" and suggested a "need for improved management of the lookout facilities and the installation of information/interpretation panels" but with "no additional facilities" proposed. The report's discussion of conservation and other values, management issues, and overall direction were mostly generalised across the larger Gardens of Stone which did not allow for specific reference to Hassans Walls.
"Nature-based Tourism and Recreation in the Gardens of Stone Stage 2 Proposal" by the Blue Mountains Conservation Society and the Colong Foundation for Wilderness not cited, but its <i>findings are compatible with the draft plan.</i>	17	Action: Include "Nature-based Tourism and Recreation in the Gardens of Stone Stage 2 Proposal" in Selected References (page 82) as a source of further information for those interested.
<i>Money set aside in Council budget for the recommended surveys, seeking community support.</i>	7	PoMs identify management objectives, directions and prioritised actions for implementation according to a land manager's available funds and

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION <i>(italics indicate direct quotes from a submission)</i>	Submission Number	COMMENT / RESPONSE And Proposed Amendments to Plan of Management
<p><i>Council allocate \$250,000 in the 2017-18 Budget to undertake the required studies (over the next 18 – 24 months) to properly inform the Plan of Management and any future works.</i></p> <p><i>That funds be provided in Council's 2017-18 budget to undertake the flora and fauna study (over a 12-18 month period), geotechnical study, audit of tracks and mapping of heritage sites and features. These studies to be completed by December 2018 to enable budgets to be identified for following years.</i></p>	8	<p>within the context of competing resource demands. PoMs do not drive/dictate a Council's budget or funding priorities or decisions. No amendments recommended.</p>
<p><i>Council should allocate appropriate funding in the next budget year for comprehensive surveys with management plans for Flora, Fauna, Ecological Communities, Aboriginal and European History, Fire Management, and a geotechnical study of Mine Subsidence (prior to approving a Plan of Management).</i></p>	17	
<p>Roads are incorrectly labelled on "Figure 5 – Location of Traffic Counters" – <i>not Braceys Lookout Rd but Norman Henry Drive and not Padleys Pedestal Access Rd but Hassans Walls Lookout road.</i></p>	6	<p>Plan as supplied by Council, cannot be amended. No amendments recommended.</p>
<p>7.2 Access and Visitor Uses (paragraph 2) - <i>Hassans Walls Road was tar sealed about 1938. Some fragments of the tarseal remain.</i></p>	6	<p>Action: Amend text to read (Although being "tar-sealed" in the late 1930s, today Hassans Walls Road has a surface that is variously compacted natural soil or in-situ material and mostly imported gravel fill (although some fragments of the former sealed surface remain). It suitable for two wheel drive vehicles."</p>
<p>7.3 Hassans Walls Lookout Day Use Area and Environs (paragraph 1) – <i>elaborate description of view from Hassans Walls Lookout as over the Hartley Valley including historic Mount Blaxland, the Blue Mountains to the east, and Mount Lambie and the Great Dividing Range to the west.</i></p>	6	<p>Action: Amend text to read "...with impressive views over the Hartley Valley including historic Mount Blaxland, the Blue Mountains to the east, and Mount Lambie and the Great Dividing Range to the west."</p>
<p>7.3 Hassans Walls Lookout Day Use Area and Environs (paragraph 1) – <i>The shelter at Hassans Walls Lookout was constructed in 1939.</i></p>	6	<p>Action: Amend text to read "a small sandstone and timber shelter originally constructed in 1939".</p>
<p>7.3 Hassans Walls Lookout Day Use Area and Environs (paragraph 1) – <i>Placed rocks Hassans Walls Lookout carpark are rock boulders not bollards!!</i></p>	6	<p>Action: Amend description of rocks and their function.</p>

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7.3 Hassans Walls Lookout Day Use Area and Environs (paragraph 1) – <i>The Padleys Pedestal Trig Station is actually an important part of the view!!</i> Rather than impeding viewlines over Hartley Valley.	6	Incorrect and subjective. No amendments recommended.
7.3 Hassans Walls Lookout Day Use Area and Environs (paragraph 1) – The old plinth ... also near the lookout point is actually <i>the Padley Memorial Direction Dial, not "plinth"</i> .	6	Action: Amend text to read “The plinth/base of the Padley Memorial Direction Dial is also near the lookout point”.
7.3 Hassans Walls Lookout Day Use Area and Environs (paragraph 2) – <i>The Bridge and Eastern End Lookout have been ignored.</i>	6	Existing description is adequate and is for explanation/clarity only. No amendments recommended.
7.3 Hassans Walls Lookout Day Use Area and Environs (paragraph 3) – The shelter sheds at Hassans Walls Lookout and 100m to the north <i>are not small.</i>	6	Shelters are small in relation to comparable facilities elsewhere. No amendments recommended.
7.3 Hassans Walls Lookout Day Use Area and Environs (paragraph 3) – <i>Should distinguish between two types of fences: The older lookout fences; and the newer "barrier" fences to prevent access to areas considered to be dangerous.</i>	6	Action: Amend text to read “ ... and near the rock cave. There are also some short sections of newer safety/barrier fencing in the lookout area.”
7.3 Hassans Walls Lookout Day Use Area and Environs (paragraph 4) – <i>The fenced lookouts are heritage features and should be upgraded not removed. It would be an insult to the people who made them to remove them and their removal would create greater danger. Upgrade them with modern materials like those used at Cahills Lookout at Katoomba. UNLESS the subsidence studies reveal the area is unstable.</i> <i>No fences should be removed! They should be upgraded and more added between the boardwalk and the Eastern End Lookout.</i> Figure 11 Hassans Walls Reserve Masterplan – <i>Upgrade escarpment fences and add to them at Hassans Walls Lookout.</i>	6	The DPoM provides for a review of the functionality of the escarpment fences and their retention, removal of those that may be obsolete and the need for supporting signage as apart of the preparation of a masterplan for the Hassans Walls Lookout Area (Action VR7, page 64). More widely it also provides for a review of the functionality of the escarpment fences and determine those to be retained, upgraded or removed and the need for supporting warning signs (with assistance from qualified risk management personnel) (Action LA8, page 71). Action: Amend Action VR7 (page 64) and Action LA8 (page 71) to include consideration of any heritage value of older fencing when assessing their retention/upgrading/management.
7.4 Bracey's Lookout Day Use Area (paragraph 1) - <i>The Eskbank Track - give it its proper name!</i>	6	Action: Amend text to read “The lookout can also be reached using the walking track (<i>The Eskbank Track</i>) from Eskbank Street in Lithgow”.

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7.4 Bracey's Lookout Day Use Area (paragraph 4) - The formalised nature of Bracey's Lookout and the lack of nearby attractions to encourage exploring in the bushland results in visitors confining their activities to the space provided. Consequently visitor impacts are minimal and generally restricted to occasional litter. <i>A contributing factor here is that the Eskbank Track is not signposted at Bracey Lookout.</i>		Note only. No amendments recommended.
7.5 Closed Second Lookout (paragraph 1) - The ridge line descends more gradually at the Second Lookout "than near Hassans Walls Lookout and there are no escarpments in this immediate area". ... 1938-39 ... <i>there are escarpments here ... there is a fenced lookout!! There were two shelter sheds and two toilets and three fireplaces and five picnic tables with seats.</i>	6	There are no escarpments in the immediate vicinity of the Closed Second Lookout access and facility areas, although cliff lines do commence approximately 100m to the south-west, 150m to the south and 200m to the south/south-east of the site (the latter two escarpments are part of a narrow "neck" of ridge line extending to the south). Rocky escarpments are also visible approximately 300m to the south-east on the opposite side of a valley head. Action: Amend text to read " ... there are no escarpments in the immediate vicinity of the closed lookout's former access tracks and facilities node".
7.5 Closed Second Lookout (paragraph 1) - <i>There were two shelter sheds and two toilets and three fireplaces and five picnic tables with seats at the closed Second Lookout.</i> <i>Plus two sandstone toilet buildings and three stone fireplaces. Plus there were originally two shelter sheds and they and the toilets had tile roofs.</i>	6	Action: Amend text to read "Facilities previously accessible at the site include a gravel access road and carpark(s), a sandstone and timber picnic shelter similar to Hassans Walls Lookout (one of two originally at this site), three roughly built fireplaces, and several concrete and timber picnic tables or seats. The picnic shelter is now unused and in disrepair, as are two old sandstone toilet blocks located in bushland a short distance to the west."
7.5 Closed Second Lookout (paragraph 2) - <i>There is no gate! (on the closed access road to the Second Lookout).</i>	6	Action: Amend text to read "Today concrete barriers block the start of the access track ...".
7.5 Closed Second Lookout (paragraph 2) – The shelter at the Second Lookout <i>has not been burnt!</i>	6	Action: Amend text to read "The picnic shelter has significantly deteriorated, such that the main sandstone structure and some timber structure and partial iron roofing is all that remains."
7.6 Recreational Trails – Walking and Mountain Bike Riding – The ridge in the reserve's north-east, towards at High Street, was <i>named Clwydd Ridge</i> in 1915.	6	Note only. No amendments recommended.

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Figure 6 - <i>It is disturbing to see the site of the dummy gun emplacements shown to the public.</i> Figure 11 Hassans Walls Reserve Masterplan (Box 9) – <i>Do not disclose location of dummy gun sites.</i>	6	This information is already in the public domain (Schedule 5 - Environmental Heritage of the Lithgow LEP and the State Heritage Register Listing for the Lithgow Heavy Anti Aircraft Gun Stations and Dummy Station) and the key values of the reserve need to be identified/recognised in the PoM process. No amendments recommended.
7.7 Horse Riding - <i>The council-owned house in the area below the Pony Club should be discussed in this POM.</i>	6	Action: Add reference to house in Sheedys Gully, originally built on Lithgow Valley Colliery Company land (land rent applied) and came into Council ownership when this land was transferred to Council. House is currently occupied under a lease through LJ Hooker Lithgow.
7.9 Unauthorised Activities - <i>illegal fires</i> also occur on the reserve.	6	Action: Amend text to include reference to unauthorised fires.
7.10 Information, Interpretation and Education (paragraph 4) - <i>There are more than two lookouts!! In fact there are ten fenced lookouts plus several unfenced but named lookouts!!</i>	6	Action: Amend text to read “ ... orientation information placed at strategic locations such as entry points and key (publicly accessible and promoted) lookouts”.
8. Landscape and Amenity Values (paragraph 2) - <i>The NSW government plans to rationalise the use of towers by combining facilities.</i>	6	Note only. No amendments recommended.
8.1 Mining Subsidence and Cliff Instability (paragraph 2) - <i>Padleys Pedestal is a trig station not the lookout.</i>	6	Action: Amend text to read “The assessment was restricted to the section of cliff line and adjoining rock outcrops west from an area termed the Eastern Promontory (the ridge east of the now closed Second Lookout) to the western end of the cliff line (west of Hassans Walls Lookout).”
8.1 Mining Subsidence and Cliff Instability (paragraph 2) - <i>The Undercliff Path had been closed in 1992, before this study (the Mine Subsidence Board study) which was done in 1998.</i>	6	Action: Amend text to read “The Undercliff Walk was previously closed to public access, in 1992, due to concerns over rock falls injuring visitors.”
MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK		
Include a map of the existing Land Categorisation of the Reserve.	8	Action: Include an additional figure to accompany Table 6 Categorisation of Community Land (page 40) showing current land categorisation.

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION <i>(italics indicate direct quotes from a submission)</i>	Submission Number	COMMENT / RESPONSE And Proposed Amendments to Plan of Management
Figure 9 Categorisation Plan - <i>Isn't the road (Hassans Walls Road) a public road and not part of the reserve??</i> Action VR6 (page 63) - <i>Is not the road (Hassans Walls Road from town to Browns Gap) a public road and not part of the Reserve?</i>	6	Hassans Walls Road is a public road reserve and not technically part of the reserve, despite being the primary access and movement route, it has been included within the area's categorisation for completeness and to guide its future management as a key part of Council's management of the reserve. No amendments recommended.
<i>Land categories on page 40 have not been translated into the management zones on page 45.</i> <i>Land categories do not aggregate environmental values, such as rare plants, plant communities within one [sic] the categories and then logically afforded protection.</i> <i>The management zones are derived from existing authorised use and bare little relation to land categories.</i>	4	Land categorisation is a legislatively prescribed process. The <i>Local Government (General) Regulation 2005</i> provides guidelines for how and under what specified category an area of community land should be categorised - based on the attributes of an area. The <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> sets out the "core objectives for management" for each of these categories. This overarching process sets broad management directions only (as well as ensuring a PoM complies with legislative requirements), but still leaves a wide "corridor of management" and multiple options possible in the on ground use, development and management of each category of community land. Management zones provide a more refined level of detail and management directions to guide the use, development and management of an area.
<i>A full explanation be provided as to why areas have been allocated certain management zones.</i> <i>There appears to be no logic in this zoning.</i>	8	The Land Categories in the DPoM respond to the known, and suspected values, of the Reserve – and also take a precautionary approach in recognition of data limitations. The Management Zones are consistent with these Land Categories and provide a greater level of detail/prescription to guide Council's future management of the area – particularly in terms of balancing and prioritising conservation and use across the Reserve. No amendments recommended.
<i>Scenic values are only partly identified in the escarpment land category. This category is incomplete as pagoda rock outcrop needs to be mapped and included in this land category.</i> <i>The escarpment zone needs to be expanded to include and protect pagoda rock outcrops.</i>	4	The <i>Local Government (General) Regulation 2005</i> provides that an area should be categorised as "Natural Area – Escarpment" if: (a) the land includes such features as a long cliff-like ridge or rock, and (b) the land includes significant or unusual geological, geomorphological or scenic qualities.
<i>There is more escarpment along Clwydd Ridge than shown here on Figure 9 Categorisation Plan.</i>	6	The area categorised as "Natural Area – Escarpment" under the DPoM captures all major/continuous areas of cliffline, rocky escarpment and stone pagoda terrain evident in the Reserve. No amendments recommended.

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<p><i>The management zones on page 45 are only guidance to Council of the current authorised use.</i></p> <p><i>The draft plan does not identify and then protect the high conservation value lands that are proposed be mapped at a later date. It is not possible to protect high conservation values under the zoning plan from damaging visitor use (e.g. clearing and trampling) unless these areas are first known and mapped.</i></p> <p><i>The visitor use zone map must be adjusted in the light of improved heritage plant and scenic value mapping.</i></p> <p><i>The land category and visitor use zone maps should be deferred until the vegetation and pagoda mapping and the recreation track Master Plan are completed. These maps should be adjusted when adequate heritage and scenery information is available and judgements can be made regarding the types of visitor use in relation to the track plan. To do otherwise is to ensure the land category and visitor use zoning maps remain meaningless and allow use that is likely to damage unidentified heritage values.</i></p>	4	<p>The DPoM provides that the vast bulk of the Reserve is maintained and managed as natural bushland. Acknowledging the absence of comprehensive natural and cultural heritage studies, the DPoM takes a “precautionary approach” in maintain the greater majority of the area in its “natural” condition and limiting use and development to existing disturbed/usage areas while prioritising the investigations required to increase understanding of the Reserve’s values and better inform planning and management.</p> <p>The majority of the Reserve is zoned as a Conservation Zone (Figure 10 – Zoning Plan) with the management intent being “to maintain the majority of the Reserve as natural bushland and a scenic landscape, protecting communities and species of high conservation value”. The primary management objectives of this zone are to “to protect communities and species legislated as having high conservation value”, “to maintain and enhance the natural systems, biodiversity, habitat, and scenic values of a large natural bushland area” and “to not provide access or facilities to encourage recreational use within this zone”.</p>
<p><i>The major, and fatal, flaw with this plan is that it has subdivided the area before the ecosystem studies have been done.</i></p>	5	<p>Much of the remainder of the Reserve is zoned as a Managed Use Bushland Zone (Figure 10 – Zoning Plan) with the management intent being “to provide for sustainable dispersed recreational and educational uses without significant impact on natural processes” and a similar primary management objective.</p>
<p><i>This sort of breakup of the reserve (as shown on Figure 10) is quite unnecessary. Why are such enormous areas arbitrarily classified as Managed Use Bushland Zone?</i></p>	6	<p>Action: Amend the management intent of the Managed Use Bushland Zone to “To maintain large areas of the Reserve as natural bushland for biodiversity and scenic landscape protection while allowing for sustainable dispersed recreational and educational uses without significantly impacting on these wider environmental values”.</p>
<p><i>There appears to be no logic in this zoning, unless it is to approve and / or to support the building of new mountain bike tracks.</i></p> <p><i>Much of the area designated ‘Managed Bushland’ is unspoilt natural bushland with very steep gullies and hillsides and is, in places, covered with relatively dense foliage. There is currently little to no public usage in these areas. These areas should not be disturbed and afforded a higher level of protection.</i></p>	8	<p>Action: Amend the primary management objectives of the Managed Use Bushland Zone to “To maintain large areas of the Reserve as</p>

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Priority to preservation/improvement of the current unspoilt natural values of the reserve including - preventing unnecessary fire damage during 'controlled burns', protection of threatened species, feral animal/weed control. No further 'development'.	11	natural bushland to protect their biodiversity and scenic landscape values" and "To provide sustainable opportunities for dispersed recreational and educational uses within these areas without significantly impacting the wider bushland setting, biodiversity and scenic values, or natural processes".
The Plan needs some more detail in environmental evaluation and more detailed environmental and cultural heritage studies need to be undertaken prior to development of wider usage/zoning mapping. The Management Zones do not adequately delineate the high conservation value lands ... It is not possible to protect high conservation values unless these are first identified and mapped. The Draft Plan of Management needs further work to address the balance between visitor use conflicts and protection and management of high conservation value plants, animals and ecological communities. The Draft Plan of Management does not provide adequate guidance on the effective management of visitor use to protect high conservation value land, rare and threatened species, ecological communities, and water quality.	17	
There seems no difference between the proposed Bushland zone and the Managed use bushland zone and even the Day use zone. The purpose of these zones should be to regulate use and this is not apparent, indeed it seems absent and the zones more or less meaningless.	4	The "management intent" and primary "management objectives" for each of the 5 management zones specified in the DPoM vary considerably (refer 11.1 Description of Management Zones, pages 46-8). This is especially in relation to the objectives for recreational access, use, and facilities in each zone.
Although the bush is mentioned as important, details for its ... preservation could be spelt out in more detail.	7	Action: Amend the management intent of the Managed Use Bushland Zone to "To maintain large areas of the Reserve as natural

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Full descriptions of each management zone be spelled out to enable the community to fully understand usage	8	bushland for biodiversity and scenic landscape protection while allowing for sustainable dispersed recreational and educational uses without significantly impacting on these wider environmental values". Action: Amend the primary management objectives of the Managed Use Bushland Zone to ""To maintain large areas of the Reserve as natural bushland to protect their biodiversity and scenic landscape values" and "To provide sustainable opportunities for dispersed recreational and educational uses within these areas without significantly impacting the wider bushland setting, biodiversity and scenic values, or natural processes".
Figure 10 Zoning Plan – Caption for Urban Edge Zone <i>100mm is just 4 inches!!</i>	6	Action: Amend text to read "(nominally 100m wide)".
Replace the 'Managed Bushland' ... with 'Conservation Zone' with the exception of along the main roads, and the 3 designated lookout areas, until such time as the flora and fauna study, threatened species management plans, geotechnical study, audit of formal and informal recreational tracks, and heritage items mapping/assessment are undertaken.	8	This would exclude all recreational access, use and facilities from the greater majority of the Reserve, and almost all of the bushland areas, limiting visitor use to the public roads and lookouts. It would preclude use of The Pony Express track which Council has previously formally approved for development/use. It would not be consistent with, or help achieve the Reserve's vision as an area managed to protect its significant heritage and natural values while providing sustainable recreation opportunities to the regional community. No amendments recommended.

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<p><i>The foreshadowed Recreational Track Master Plan is not finalised and it is not explained how this subordinate plan will make sense of the tracks in relation to the zoning scheme.</i></p> <p><i>Must establish whether bike track use is permissible in the Managed Use Bushland Zone upon approval through the foreshadowed audit and Recreational Track Master Plan.</i></p> <p><i>The DPOM fails to identify and resolve the visitor use conflicts that exist in the reserve especially the conflict between bike use and other users.</i></p>	4	<p>Action: Expand Action VR13 (or add a new action to “Recreational Tracks” [pages 66-7]), and expand the “Recreational Tracks” text (pages 50-1), to clarify that the Recreational Track Plan will be constrained by the Zoning Scheme and not be able recommend new mountain bike or walking (or shared) tracks in the Conservation Zone – but that recreational tracks/trails may be approved/provided where considered appropriate (after necessary planning, assessment and approval) in any other management zone.</p> <p>Action: Amend the Zoning Plan (Figure 10) to provide a connecting band of Managed Use Bushland Zone between the Hassans Walls and Second Lookouts (along the southern side of Hassans Walls Road to the escarpment edge or break-in-slope), to include the escarpment/rock pagoda areas south and south-east of the Second Lookout in the Managed Use Bushland Zone, and to widen/connect the Managed Use Bushland Zone north-west of the Hassans Walls Lookout to the escarpment edge or break-in-slope. These changes will increase the area potentially available for future track development – primarily for walking tracks – under the scope of the Recreational Track Plan.</p>
<p><i>Clarify the relationship of managed use bushland zone and the unauthorised mountain bike trails.</i></p>	4	<p>Action: Expand the “Recreational Tracks” text (pages 50-1) to clarify that recreational tracks/trails may be approved/provided in any management zone other than the Conservation Zone.</p> <p>Action: Include an additional action under “Recreational Tracks” (pages 66-67) to close (temporarily) or close and rehabilitate (permanently) - in the absence of the Recreational Track Masterplan - any unauthorised, informal or newly established tracks where these are having or may lead to unacceptable impacts on natural or scenic values, or generate user conflicts or safety concerns, or impact previously undisturbed areas.</p>
<p><i>The use zone map must also be adjusted to separate walkers and riders tracks.</i></p>	4	<p>This level of detail is not appropriate – or possible – on the zoning map. The separation of walkers-only and mountain bike tracks is (will be) addressed elsewhere in the PoM. No amendments recommended.</p>

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Urban Edge Zone identifies providing for the lease of lands for recreational use by Lithgow Pony Club while enabling access and use by other park visitors as one of the “Secondary Management Objectives” <i>BUT the map (Figure 10 – Zoning Plan) shows the Pony Club area as a Utilities Zone, not Urban Edge.</i>	6	<p>Figure 10 – Zoning Plan shows the Pony Club lease area are partly Urban Edge Zone in the north, partly Utilities Zone in the centre and partly Managed Use Bushland Zone in the south.</p> <p>Action: Amend Figure 10 – Zoning Plan to include the entire southern portion of the Pony Club lease area as Utilities Zone.</p> <p>Action: Amend the Management Intent for the Utilities Zone (page 47) to read “To manage the ongoing presence of a range of infrastructure assets (radio towers, electricity transmission lines), and approved lease (the Lithgow Pony Club), located within the Reserve”.</p> <p>Action: Add “To provide for the lease of lands for recreational use by Lithgow Pony Club while enabling access and use by other park visitors” as an additional Secondary Management Objective for the Utilities Zone (page 48).</p>
Inclusion of <i>the council house in Sheedys Gully</i> within the Utilities Zone ?	6	<p>Action: Add secondary management objective to Urban Edge Zone to “provide for the leasing or licencing, for occupation or use, of the Council-owned residence at the north end of Sheedys Gully”.</p> <p>Action: Additional management action in Reserve Administration to allow for future management of Council-owned residence at the north end of Sheedys Gully – to authorise “the lease (up to a 3 year maximum term, per lease), or licence, of the Council-owned residence (and its surrounds) at the north end of Sheedys Gully. Such a lease or licence may be for occupation, visitor services, environmental education, community purposes, usage by or in conjunction with the Lithgow Pony Club, or other uses as deemed appropriate by Council (and which do not impact on the Reserve’s biodiversity or heritage values, visitor enjoyment, or scenic quality). If maintenance and use of this residence is no longer required, or viable, Council may choose to demolish this building and rehabilitate the area to match its surrounds.”</p>

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Secondary Management Objective for the Utilities Zone (page 48) – The management tracks to the communications infrastructure pre-date the construction of these towers, <i>therefore it is in fact the other way around. The users of the communication facilities can have permission to use the access [sic] tracks!</i>	6	Does not alter the objective of shared use of these fire trails/management accesses. Action: Amend objective to read “To allow for recreational use of fire trails and management access tracks.”
The location (of the Dummy Anti-Aircraft Station) should not be advertised!	6	The DPoM provides that “Funding will be sought to prepare a Conservation Management Plan to provide direction for future management of the Dummy Anti-Aircraft Station heritage structures. Public access to the sites will not be promoted until the Conservation Management Plan has been developed.” (Action CH8, page 62). No amendments recommended.
The Cultural Heritage section of the Concept Masterplan <i>completely ignores all the other cultural heritage sites and features on the reserve!!</i>	6	The Concept Masterplan is intended to “provide the broad management direction and layout intended for the future use and development” of the Reserve and addresses key values/directions/actions only. Specific management action addressing cultural heritage are set out in 14.2 Cultural Heritage, Actions CH1 to CH10 (pages 61-2). No amendments recommended.
Description of the Hassans Walls Lookout area in Concept Masterplan (pages 49-50) is incomplete and should include <i>all the lookout area including the bridge and Eastern End Lookout.</i>	6	Existing description is adequate and is for explanation/clarity only. No amendments recommended.
The Lithgow Pony Club section of the Concept Masterplan should ensure that <i>access by other Reserve users needs to take into account the need for security of Pony Club assets. Visitation through that area should not be publicly encouraged.</i>	6	Discussion of the Lithgow Pony Club area/lease in the Concept Masterplan section (page 51) is in overview only. Detail is provided in Action RA17 (page 75) which indicates that the Lithgow Pony Club lease permits “access by other Reserve users while including conditions to minimise impacts by other users on the Pony Club’s quiet use of the site”. Exclusion of other users from transit through this area is not appropriate and inconsistent with the principles of Crown land management. No amendments recommended.
Box 6 Hassans Walls Road on Figure 11 Hassans Walls Reserve Masterplan – references walkers and bicycle rides but not cars, <i>what about cars!!</i> .	6	Action: Amend text box to describe Hassans Walls Reserve as safely accommodating vehicles, walkers and cyclists.

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Figure 11 Hassans Walls Reserve Masterplan – <i>some of the map's black lines are not roads!</i> as incorrectly indicated in Legend.	6	Action: Amend/correct Figure 11 to differentiate public roads and fire trails/management accesses and delete any other tracks from plan.
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS – Natural Environment		
<p><i>Specific Management Plans be developed for threatened species, for flora and fauna that are rare on the Reserve, as well as significant communities that support the biodiversity of the Reserve and maintain its integrity.</i></p> <p>The preparation and implementation of specific management plans for species identified by the flora and fauna survey that are listed under <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act</i> (Item 15, page 54) should be brought forward from years 6-10 to years 1-5 and linked to the overall flora and fauna survey (item 1 page 53) and the implementation of the Purple Copper Butterfly Recovery Plan (item 10, page 53).</p>	8	The DPOM provides for the preparation of “specific management plans for ... any species identified by the flora survey that are listed under <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act</i> (action NE2, page 56 as well as item 15 page 54). The preparation of specific management plans for species that are only “rare on the Reserve” would, to a degree, be duplicating management directions/provisions contained within the PoM (and is beyond the usual scope of a PoM). Community focused management plans are more typically applied to species/communities of conservation significance at the wider level – such as listings under the TSC or EPBC Acts (rather than at the individual reserve scale) – and even then require substantial and ongoing resource commitments to implement effectively. No amendments recommended.
<i>May need to develop management plans for plants on the Reserve that are poorly known and in vulnerable locations or “rare on the Reserve”.</i>	9	
<i>Although the bush is mentioned as important, details for its ... repair could be spelt out in more detail.</i>	7	The DPoM provides for the preparation and implementation of an annual rolling programme of weed control and bush regeneration efforts within

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<p><i>Council develop a management plan, including annual actions and budgets, for the rehabilitation of all disturbed areas.</i></p> <p><i>A bushland rehabilitation management plan should be developed. Rehabilitation works should be focused particularly around the urban edges of the Reserve and along the Great Western Highway following the extensive road works. This area is HIGHLY SENSITIVE to weeds and a number of plants have been listed only in this area on the Reserve.</i></p> <p><i>More funds need to be allocated for weed management and bush regeneration, particularly over the next few years until under control. A management plan needs to be developed that sets out a staged rehabilitation schedule that allows for the growing of locally provenanced [sic] plants and annual removal of weeds. \$15,000 is not enough. Council needs to allocate funds for the employment of professional bushcare people and not just rely upon green army and the like programs and / or volunteers.</i></p> <p>Improved targeting and prioritisation of weed control and bush regeneration efforts within the Reserve based on enhanced understanding of weed distribution and biodiversity values (item 16, page 54) should be brought forward from years 6-10 to years 1-5 and linked to the rolling programme of weed control and bush regeneration efforts within the Reserve (item 11 page 54).</p>	8	<p>the Reserve giving priority to (among others) disturbed sites, existing weed infestations and the Reserve boundaries (Action NE5, page 57). In the absence of the more detailed information provided by the studies listed on pages 53-4 of the DPoM this programme will still go ahead, as based on the best available information at the time (Council already has a good understanding of the weed “hotspots” within the Reserve). Action NE8 (page 57) in the DPoM also provides for “periodic bushland condition assessments - to assist in formulating, targeting and monitoring bush regeneration and weed control measures”. Funding for this will be dependent on Council’s annual budgetary processes and cannot be obligated by a PoM. Part of the management intent of the Urban Edge Zone identified in the DPoM – along parts of the Reserve’s northern, western and eastern margins (Figure 10 – Zoning Plan, page 45) – is to minimise “adverse impacts from adjoining land uses on the Reserve and its values” (page 47). The DPoM does not contain any provisions to preclude the use of professional bushcare personnel/contractors. No amendments recommended.</p>
Location of special plants in the area of Second Lookout <i>need to be mapped</i> prior to any works.	7	<p>The DPoM identifies a flora survey as a high priority action to be undertaken the Plan’s first 5 years (pages 53-4, and Actions NE1 and NE10). The DPoM also provides that “all major new works or major maintenance projects undertaken on the Reserve will be subject to appropriate environmental planning and approval procedures” (Action RA6, page 72) to ensure that local site-specific values are identified and protected/managed in the provision/development or upgrading of visitor or management facilities. No amendments recommended.</p>
Potentially unnamed species of plants are suspected/known to occur within the Reserve, some of these are in the vicinity of existing visitor use/facility areas where they <i>may easily be damaged by cars and people</i> or <i>found in other areas of the Reserve that may be subjected to further works.</i>	9	
Delete reference to <i>dam</i> at Action NE3 (page 56).	8	Action: Amend Action NE3 (page 56) to remove reference to a dam.

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<i>Priority for provenanced [sic] plants should be high with time allowed for collection of seed and their propagation – Action NE7 (page 57).</i>	8	Action: Amend priority identified for Action NE7 (page 57) - use of local-provenance endemic species in revegetation and supplementary bush regeneration plantings - from “Medium” to “High”.
<i>Exotic plant species invasion from homes to bush needs to be monitored and controlled.</i>	5	Action NE8 (page 57) provides for “periodic bushland condition assessments - to assist in formulating, targeting and monitoring bush regeneration and weed control measures”. Part of the management intent of the Urban Edge Zone identified in the DPoM – along parts of the Reserve’s northern, western and eastern margins (Figure 10 – Zoning Plan, page 45) – is to minimise “adverse impacts from adjoining land uses on the Reserve and its values” (page 47). No amendments recommended.
<i>Council develop a set of performance indicators to measure things such as ... rehabilitation works.</i>	8	The DPoM includes measures for “periodic bushland condition assessments - to assist in formulating, targeting and monitoring bush regeneration and weed control measures” (Action NE8, page 57), for monitoring areas vulnerable to the introduction and spread of weeds (Action NE6, page 57), and to undertake revegetation and supplementary bush regeneration plantings (Action NE7, page 57). Action: Add reference to monitoring revegetation, bush regeneration and rehabilitation efforts to Action NE7 (page 57).
<i>Why not mention the existing threatened and vulnerable fauna on site at Action NE10 (page 58) re proposed fauna survey.</i>	8	The DPoM describes fauna species of conservation significance at page 21 and Table 5 Significant Animal Species of Hassans Walls Reserve. No amendments recommended.
<i>No mention of cat control, specifically those that roam from private property on the urban interface and prey on native fauna.</i>	5	Action NE16 (page 59) provides for Council to “participate in co-ordinated regional pest animal control programmes” and to undertake “Council initiated control actions”. Action: Expand Action NE9 (page 57) regarding providing “Council bushland management education and promotional material” to adjacent residences to include cat control and responsible pet ownership (as well as other issues such as suitable indigenous plants for gardens, minimising fertiliser use, responsible disposal of garden waste, urban wildlife, stormwater management and environmentally responsible fire protection measures).

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION <i>(italics indicate direct quotes from a submission)</i>	Submission Number	COMMENT / RESPONSE And Proposed Amendments to Plan of Management
<i>Also required is a fire plan for bush fires.</i>	14	The DPoM specifies that a Hassans Walls Reserve Fire Management Plan will be prepared (Action NE20, page 60) and includes several other measures relating to fire management (Actions NE19, NE21 and NE22 on page 60). No amendments recommended.
<i>Time is required for native bush to regenerate after bush fires.</i>	14	The DPoM specifies that the Hassans Walls Reserve Fire Management Plan – to be prepared – will “identify burning regimes appropriate for maintaining biodiversity” (Action NE20, page 60). No amendments recommended.
<i>If tracks are to be fire trails, then they need to be formally designated as such. They also need to be subjected to a flora and fauna study.</i> <i>Fire trails need to be formalised and be subjected to flora and fauna study prior to doing so.</i>	8	Fire trails are identified by both Council and/or the RFS, and designated in documents such as the local Bush Fire Risk Management Plans and an area's PoM. The DPoM does not propose any new/additional fire trails and includes an action to manage fire trails “as far as practicable to reduce adverse bushland, erosion and visual impacts” (Action NE22, page 60). The DPoM also includes measures around the maintenance of management vehicle access tracks to utility inholdings and built assets (Action RA25, page 77). Flora and fauna surveys of fire trails and management vehicle access is not practical, as these accesses are already in place and required for Reserve management, fire management and safety purposes – and the realignment of these routes into/through surrounding bushland areas is likely to result in further flora/fauna impacts (compared with the maintenance of existing, already cleared, routes). No amendments recommended.
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS – Cultural Heritage		
<i>Include Aboriginal place names on signage etc.</i> <i>Include Aboriginal place names for Hassans Walls Reserve features ... in signs, brochure, website.</i>	11	The DPoM includes several measures for the identification, protection, management and presentation of the Reserve's Aboriginal cultural heritage values (Action CH1 to CH5, page 61). This could include the use of Aboriginal place names, however this would require prior advice and agreement from appropriate Aboriginal people/groups. No amendments recommended.
<i>The Reserve's signs, brochure and website should present the history of Hassans Walls and how it got it's [sic] name.</i>	11	The DPoM includes a measure to “Ensure Historic Heritage is considered in the provision of visitor information, both on site and through off site media and promotion of the Reserve” (Action CH10, page 62). No amendments recommended.

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION <i>(italics indicate direct quotes from a submission)</i>	Submission Number	COMMENT / RESPONSE And Proposed Amendments to Plan of Management
Question identifications of volunteers as being responsible (with Council) for implementing Action CH6 "Identify and document historic heritage sites / features within the Reserve and provide appropriate management and protection for these features where warranted" (page 62) - <i>volunteers???</i>	6	Action: Delete "volunteers" from Responsibility column for Action CH6 (page 62).
Questions identification of "Resource Estimation" of "Medium" for implementation of Action CH6 "Identify and document historic heritage sites / features within the Reserve and provide appropriate management and protection for these features where warranted" (page 62) - <i>On p53 it was stated \$40,000!!!!</i>	6	The DPoM identifies "medium" or "moderate" resource estimations for other priority actions costed in the order of \$40,000. No amendments recommended.
Action CH9 (page 62) - <i>The plinth is the Padley Memorial Direction Dial. Call it by its proper name please. Yes, we want it restored by October 2018. I have two sources which list the points shown on the dial.</i>	6	Action CH9 (page 62) of the DPoM provides for reinstating "a directional dial display on the plinth at Hassans Walls Lookout". Action: Amend Action CH9 (page 62) to refer to the "Padley Memorial Direction Dial" (not "stone plinth"), and amend Priority for this action from "Minor" to "Medium".
<i>The site of the 1950 Lithgow Ambulance two-way radio station needs to be preserved. Also the tall power pole. Also the telephone pole beside the Shortcut Track.</i>	6	The DPoM provides for the identification and documentation of "historic heritage sites / features within the Reserve" and the provision of "appropriate management and protection for these features where warranted" (Action CH6, page 62). Such investigations will allow for the identification and assessment of potential "local" historic heritage sites/item. No amendments recommended.
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS – Visitor Use and Recreation		
<i>I would like to see the reserve remain open and easy to access at all times</i>	2	The DPoM includes several proposals aimed at improving the Reserve's accessibility and appeal to <i>visitors/tourists</i> (in a sustainable manner and without significantly impacting the area's biodiversity, scenic and other values) - including upgrading the Hassans Walls Lookout, re-opening and upgrading the Second Lookout (now closed), improvements to Hassans Walls Road and upgraded Reserve access, better planning and management of the recreational trails network, improved signage and interpretation, and greater promotion of the Reserve. No amendments recommended.
<i>The Reserve could be made more attractive for visitors and tourists.</i>	10	
<i>I have a particular interest in the provision of seats and benches not only for people to eat and also look at the views but provide space for people to draw and paint.</i>	12	
<i>Improving facilities for the visitors</i>	13	

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION <i>(italics indicate direct quotes from a submission)</i>	Submission Number	COMMENT / RESPONSE And Proposed Amendments to Plan of Management
<i>I like the idea of making it [Hassans Walls Road] one-way.</i>	3	As the main link between the centre of Lithgow and the key attraction of the Hassans Walls Lookout making Hassans Walls Road one-way is not practical/desirable at this time, it would also direct considerable unnecessary "through" traffic through other parts of the Reserve. No amendments recommended.
<i>I think making it a loop would be great, ie, putting a shoulder or other path along Hartley Valley Road. Right now there is not enough room to really run along let alone push a pram there.</i>	3	Off-Reserve action, consider as part of Council's wider path/footpath capital works programme. No amendments recommended.
Support for proposed traffic calming on Hassans Walls Road to reduce user conflicts between vehicles and other users.	4	Note only. No amendments recommended.
<i>Shared use - cycling, pedestrians versus motor vehicles, i.e. safety/amenity of passive recreation users.</i>	11	
<i>Further speed humps are quite unnecessary. Road verge barriers were removed at community insistence. Don't go there again! A few speed limit signs would be good but keep the signs to a minimum. Figure 11 Hassans Walls Reserve Masterplan – no road verge barriers except a minimum amount of safety fencing on Hassans Walls Road.</i>	6	The DPoM provides for a 40km/h speed limit on Hassans Walls Road and signposting as a shared use road (Action VR1, page 63). 40km/h is a widely accepted speed limit in high pedestrian activity areas, and is considered the lowest vehicle speed limit that is likely to be obeyed/enforceable. The DPoM also includes additional traffic calming devices, shared use and safety measures (such as verge/edge barriers to separate vehicles and walkers) on that section of Hassans Walls Road between the Sheedys Gully entrance and the Hassans Walls Lookout turnoff (Action VR2, page 63). No amendments recommended.
<i>Main roads (used by cyclists/walkers/runners and cars) should have maximum speed limits 20-30kph, and traffic calming means. Action VR1 - speed limit should be lower - 20 -30 kph in shared zones. Duty of care by managing authority is paramount and limits should reflect this. Signage 'give way to pedestrians and cyclists'.</i>	11	

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION <i>(italics indicate direct quotes from a submission)</i>	Submission Number	COMMENT / RESPONSE And Proposed Amendments to Plan of Management
<i>The car park at the Hassans Walls Lookout does not need relocating!</i>	6	The DPoM provides for "relocation/redesign" of the Hassans Walls Lookout car park (page 50 and Action VR7, page 64) which allows for either relocation or redesign of the parking area as determined by a "site specific Masterplan for Hassans Walls Lookout Day Use Area to guide the improved functioning of the site, provision of improved visitor facilities and to enhance the visitor experience". The existing (main) parking area is largely unplanned and inefficient in design, and risks slowly encroaching into the adjacent bushland with increasing usage pressures. No amendments recommended.
<i>Other actions in the draft plan reserve master plan on page 52 [other than the steel gantry lookout at Hassans Walls] regarding this and the other lookouts in the reserve seem to be well considered and are supported.</i>	4	The DPoM provides for the development and implementation of a "site specific Masterplan for Hassans Walls Lookout Day Use Area to guide the improved functioning of the site, provision of improved visitor facilities and to enhance the visitor experience" as a high priority (Action VR7, page 64). Action: Amend first sentence in Action VR7 (page64) to read "Develop and implement a site specific Masterplan for Hassans Walls Lookout Day Use Area to guide the improved functioning of the site, provision of improved visitor facilities and to enhance the visitor experience while protecting the area's key values".
<i>Measures specified for the Hassans Walls Lookout precinct are excellent, and the plans for the other lookouts are sound.</i>	5	
<i>The shelter sheds (there are two) at the Hassans Walls Lookout should not be used for visitor information signs. Revegetation is not necessary. There is probably more vegetation here than there was 100 years ago, especially the trees. No fences should be removed! They should be upgraded and more added between the boardwalk and the Eastern End Lookout. Figure 11 Hassans Walls Reserve Masterplan – Upgrade escarpment fences and add to them. The Shortcut Track could be formalised with constructed steps and signposting. The Masterplan for Hassans Walls Lookout Day Use Area should ensure protection of the following lo heritage features - the site of the 1950 Lithgow Ambulance two-way radio station ... the tall power pole. Also the telephone pole beside the Shortcut Track.</i>	6	
<i>More works need to be done around Hassans Walls Lookout to be of interest to tourists and visitors, more seats erected ... walking tracks cleared of growth.</i>	10	

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION <i>(italics indicate direct quotes from a submission)</i>	Submission Number	COMMENT / RESPONSE And Proposed Amendments to Plan of Management
<i>Improve visitor facilities - car park/toilet.</i>	11	
<i>The steel gantry lookout at Hassans Walls was constructed before the draft plan of management was exhibited, let alone adopted ... we recommend its removal.</i>	4	The elevated metal walkway at Hassans Walls Lookout is a major visitor facility investment, assists in the management of visitor impacts and safety at this site, and has been well-received by the majority of visitors. Removal (or painting) is not practical, or likely to receive wide community support locally. No amendments recommended.
<i>Bushes will obscure some of it (the elevated metal walkway at Hassans Walls Lookout) gradually, it's already happening. A black colour may have been better than the silver.</i>	6	
<i>Toilets at the Hassans Walls Lookout should be built using the same design as those at the Second Lookout.</i>	6	The DPoM provides for the development and implementation of a "site specific Masterplan for Hassans Walls Lookout Day Use Area to guide the improved functioning of the site, provision of improved visitor facilities and to enhance the visitor experience" as a high priority (Action VR7, page 64). This now includes "the provision of a toilet facility".
<i>A toilet facility should be erected as soon as possible at the Hassans Walls Lookout.</i>	10	
<i>I doubt that toilets are required. Average time of visits is only about five minutes for most visits to the reserve.</i>	14	Action: Amend Action VR7 (page 64) to replace "the provision of a toilet facility" with "the possible provision of a toilet facility and the most appropriate type/standard of toilet – with consideration to visitor numbers and types, length of stay, availability of services, location, public safety/risk, environmental and visual impacts, and management/operational issues."
<i>Install a toilet at main lookout. If you want overnight camping then put in a toilet. You will have more shit [sic] than you do now. The VIC could inform visitors of the lack of facilities. If most people are only staying for 10-15mins then an AS-compliant toilet (50-85K) plus regular cleaning and maintenance may not be feasible.</i>	15	
<i>Install a new 'pedestal/plinth' at Hassans Walls Lookout indicating some names for local sites.</i>	11	Action CH9 (page 62) of the DPoM provides for reinstating "a directional dial display on the plinth at Hassans Walls Lookout".
<i>It is not the "stone plinth" but the Padley Memorial Direction Dial and the dial and tablet should be restored.</i>	6	Action: Amend references to "stone plinth" to "remains of the Padley Memorial Direction Dial" (or similar).

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION <i>(italics indicate direct quotes from a submission)</i>	Submission Number	COMMENT / RESPONSE And Proposed Amendments to Plan of Management
<p><i>A defined track to the cave at Hassans Walls Lookout is not necessary. It has worked well for about 80 years!</i></p> <p>Figure 11 Hassans Walls Reserve Masterplan – <i>Don't define the track to the cave.</i></p>	6	Track braiding, trample track formation and vegetation impacts are evident along the existing informal/unplanned track to the small cave and vantage point at Hassans Walls Lookout. Impacts, and the potential for users to wander off-track to possibly hazardous areas, will increase with greater visitor numbers. The DPoM provides for the need for an improved/defined track to the cave to be determined in the preparation of a "site specific Masterplan for Hassans Walls Lookout Day Use Area to guide the improved functioning of the site, provision of improved visitor facilities and to enhance the visitor experience" as a high priority (Action VR7, page 64). No amendments recommended.
<p><i>The tank (at the Hassans Walls lookout shelter) is only disused because vandals broke the tap and the council has been unwilling to replace it.</i></p> <p><i>The water tank should be put into use with a secure tap.</i></p>	6	Operational detail – not appropriate (too prescriptive) for a PoM. No amendments recommended.
<i>Replace the broken tap at the Hassans Walls Lookout water tank.</i>	13	
<p>Action VR3 (page 63) to close and rehabilitate / revegetate the small informal cleared parking area near the Hassans Walls Lookout turnoff and the start of the Pony Express Mountain Bike Track - NO!!! This area is the access for Hassans Glen!! It is also part of the original 1915 Browns Gap Track!!</p>	6	Use of this area for informal carparking is encroaching into, and impacting, the surrounding bushland (including a short vehicle track, and rubbish dumping site, extending eastwards), and presents a potential hazard for users. The Undercliffe Track, into Hassans Glen, is not open, or signposted, for visitor access (and closure of this site will not preclude access to Hassans Glen in any case, but simply require a walk from more distant parking areas). Closure of this area to vehicle access/use could also be undertaken with low profile (strong) fencing, barriers, or placed rocks – and revegetation would be unlikely to significantly detract from any heritage value/interest. No amendments recommended.

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION <i>(italics indicate direct quotes from a submission)</i>	Submission Number	COMMENT / RESPONSE And Proposed Amendments to Plan of Management
<p><i>There is already an excavated area beside the road a short distance from the road access. But what is wrong with restoring vehicle access to the shelter shed area and parking nearby?</i></p> <p><i>NOTE! The sandstone shelter must be kept and restored. These shelters need to be listed as Heritage items. Toilets should be provided using the existing 1939 beautiful sandstone toilet buildings.</i></p> <p><i>Revegetation is not necessary. Bushes are already encroaching onto the access road.</i></p> <p><i>Figure 11 Hassans Walls Reserve Masterplan – DO NOT remove shelter shed!!! and toilets to be reopened.</i></p> <p><i>Action VR10 (page 65) "The partially destroyed sandstone shelter will be removed" - NO! NO! NO! DO NOT EVEN THINK of removing the 1939 Heritage shelter shed. Picnic tables are already there. Why would anyone recommend removing them??!!</i></p>	6	<p>The DPoM provides for the preparation of a masterplan to guide redevelopment of this area "with low key basic facilities designed to provide an alternative to Hassans Walls Lookout catering for visitors seeking a less developed, less visited site", with a number of design considerations/directions set out to achieve this intended character, and preparation of the masterplan given a medium priority (Action VR10, page 65). The masterplan considerations include "rehabilitation/revegetation of much of the width of the access track and old car park area to reduce the disturbed footprint of the site" and the "conservation of the old stone toilets".</p> <p>Action: Amend the masterplan considerations (Action VR10, page 65) to read "Provision of a small (5-10 vehicles maximum) car park at Hassans Walls Road near the current gated access track (earthworks may be required to achieve a suitably sized and level area) or at a suitable site prior to reaching the partially destroyed sandstone shelter's vicinity."</p>
<p><i>Second Lookout: a master plan is a good idea but some of the suggestions made are unacceptable ... There is no need to extend the informal parking area that presently exists ... Road access is important for fire fighting ... No mention has been made of the stone toilet buildings ... and the current shelter should be utilised as a shelter from sun and rain ... repairs of a durable nature could be made for its use ... a mural could be commissioned to represent the flowers on the wall of the shelter.</i></p>	7	<p>Action: Amend the masterplan considerations (Action VR10, page 65) to provide for "investigation of the potential for restoration and re-use of the partially destroyed sandstone shelter" (rather than requiring removal of this shelter).</p> <p>Action: Amend the masterplan considerations (Action VR10, page 65) to provide for "consideration of scattered picnic tables in a bush-setting".</p>
<p><i>Second Lookout should be re-opened ... road could be cleared and formed again ... This lookout has some of the best views from the top with quite a large flat area where vehicles could be parked ... several seats are placed in different areas and could be restored or replaced ... The partly destroyed shelter could also be restored ... is far too good to be destroyed ... The two old stone toilets have stood the test of time.</i></p> <p><i>Money identified for preparation of a masterplan for the Second Lookout should be spent on repairing and restoring the lookout.</i></p>	10	<p>Action: Amend the masterplan considerations (Action VR10, page 65) to include "assess any potential heritage significance of the partially destroyed sandstone shelter and old stone toilets".</p>

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Many Actions in Section 14 provide for actions without being adequately assessed. One example is 'remove the sandstone shelters at closed lookout...'. Do you know if they have any heritage value at all? This has not yet been assessed.	15	
Council should remove the fallen tree now on one of the sandstone toilets at the Second Lookout - <i>The two old stone toilets have stood the test of time ... we should, be ashamed to leave the tree on the roof destroying it.</i>	10	Operational detail – not appropriate (too prescriptive) for a PoM. No amendments recommended.
Signposting of passing bays and narrow sections on Norman Henry Drive (page 49) <i>is not necessary. Common sense has worked for 65 years!</i> Figure 11 Hassans Walls Reserve Masterplan – <i>signposting not necessary</i> on Norman Henry Drive	6	Increasing traffic (through promotion and greater visitor/tourism use of the reserve) will likely result in additional vehicle numbers on Norman Henry Drive (especially by visitors unfamiliar with the area/road), with greater passing movements and the potential for confusion/conflict as well as more vehicles pulling-off/encroaching into and impacting adjacent bushland. No amendments recommended.
<i>Change the position of the disability car parking place [at Braceys Lookout] ... put it at the top of the carpark, not on the spot that has the greatest slope (Action VR8, page 64)</i>	8	Minor “operational” adjustments, such as relocation of park furniture or parking spaces, within the site’s current footprint can be undertaken without specification in the PoM. No amendments recommended.
Vegetation trimming at Bracey Lookout <i>is a minimum now! It needs to be done regularly to keep it as it was after the 2012 redevelopment.</i> Figure 11 Hassans Walls Reserve Masterplan – <i>reword to vegetation trimming will be continued to maintain viewlines</i> at Bracey Lookout.	6	Vegetation trimming at Bracey Lookout needs to maintain a balance between keeping the views from this vantage point and minimising impacts on native vegetation/habitat and ensuring that the lookout does not become too visible when viewed from the Lithgow urban area. No amendments recommended.
Action VR9 (page 65) indicating that vegetation trimming downslope of Bracey Lookout not involve the clearing and grubbing of native vegetation <i>is a contradiction! The vegetation that needs to be trimmed is native vegetation. It is like clearing under a powerline.</i>	6	“Clearing and grubbing” involves the total removal of trees, shrubs and other vegetation – as opposed to simply trimming, but retaining, vegetation. No amendments recommended.
<i>Mountain bike riding clubs have built several unauthorised trails in Hassans Walls Reserve ... as shown and named on figures 6 and 7 of the draft plan.</i> The DPOM <i>omits specific management prescriptions for these unauthorised trails in the draft plan.</i>	4	Many of the mountain bike routes identified occur on public roads or management tracks and/or are existing, and approved, uses/activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hassans Walls Road and Norman Henry Road are both public roads - Hassans Walls Road is within a separate road reserve, and Norman Henry Road leads to Bracey's Lookout (and then continues to cross

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<p><i>Risks imposed by both the unsupervised use of existing mountain biking trails and the creation of additional trails ... proliferation of such trails condemns the bushland to death by a thousand cuts.</i></p> <p><i>Bike tracks should not be expanded in the study area; preferably they should be rationalised by closing those existing routes least used and have been illegally created.</i></p> <p>Mountain bike tracks have traversed and damaged <i>valuable natural areas</i>.</p>	5	<p>the Reserve boundary at the water tanks) – cycling is permissible/authorised on both roads, and both routes are already heavily used by mountain bikers (and other cyclists).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several of the other mapped tracks now used by mountain bikes are total or predominantly fire trails/management accesses. “Channel 6 Track” is a fire trail/management access for most of its length (other than 2 “single track” sections at its far northern end – an 80m section north to/over Reserve boundary, and a 200m section to the north-east downhill under powerlines to Rutherford Lane, mapped as a track but with no actual track on-ground and no usage). “Donnybrook Track” is a fire trail/management access in east within Reserve and then a road reserve (not part of the Reserve area) to the west (although sections of the single track, as on-the-ground, run outside this road reserve – especially near the western boundary). “Townhouses Track” is a fire trail/management access for its southern two-thirds (to the escarpment) then single track north to/over the Reserve boundary. These routes are already moderately well used by mountain bikers. Cycling on fire trails/management accesses generally causes minimal impacts to surrounding bushland (providing riders stay on track and do not establish side/parallel routes or informal “guerrilla tracks”), and other natural area land managers (e.g. NPWS, SFNSW) routinely approve mountain bike use on fire trails.
<p>The track mapped on Figure 6 are <i>Mountain Bike Trails not Recreation Trails</i>. The source should be acknowledged.</p>	6	
<p><i>The proliferation of mountain bike tracks needs to be monitored carefully.</i></p>	7	
<p><i>The naming of illegal mountain bike tracks be removed from Figure 6 and that it be noted in the Plan of Management that apart from the Pony Express, all other listed mountain bikes tracks do not have the approval of council, and are thus illegal. The naming of the tracks in the document, infers that these tracks are supported with, or without, a recreation tracks plan.</i></p> <p><i>Apart from the Pony Express, no further mountain bike tracks be permitted on the Reserve.</i></p> <p><i>With the exception of the ‘Pony Express’ track, all other tracks listed as mountain bike tracks do not have the approval of Council ... It is entirely inappropriate to list illegal tracks (and name them!) in a Plan of Management, other than to say they are illegal and should not be promoted.</i></p> <p><i>The POM should clearly identify the only ‘legal’ mountain bike track and should develop actions for the policing and closing of all others.</i></p> <p><i>It may be appropriate that some of these tracks [mountain bike tracks] could be converted to low impact walking tracks and may assist with providing a more pleasant walk for some pedestrians rather than be on a dusty road.</i></p> <p><i>There are no formally approved recreational tracks on the reserve</i></p>	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “The Pony Express Track” (single track) is approved by Council and subject to development approval and other conditions, and is moderately well used by mountain bikers. “Gun Club Track”, “Pottery Track” and “Ewok Forest Track” are all single track, not on a fire trail/management access, and are not formally approved by Council. (The “Gun Club Track” has been previously identified for closure as part of the development approval for “The Pony Express Track”.) The “Ewok Forest Track” is well used by mountain bikers, the “Gun Club Track” receives moderate use, and the “Pottery Track” appear less frequently used. <p>The DPoM does not explicitly authorise mounting bike use of all the tracks shown on Figure 6. Action VR12 provides that “all fire trails within the Reserve’s bushland zone will be available for use by walkers and</p>

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<p>now.</p> <p><i>This Plan of Management should NOT BE AN ENDORSEMENT OF ANY TRACK UNTIL ALL RELEVANT STUDIES ARE MADE. SOME OF THE EXISTING TRACKS MAY NEED TO BE CLOSED.</i></p>		<p>riders (except when closed due to management, safety or other reasons)". The DPoM proposes a tracks/trails audit and preparation of a Recreational Track Plan, with input from a user/consultative group, to guide the rationalisation, development and management of recreation tracks/trails (including mountain bike routes) within the Reserve (Actions VR11, VR13, VR14 and VR15) and that "no additional recreational tracks will be formally approved until the Recreational Track Masterplan has been finalised (Action VR16). The DPoM also specifically provides for maintenance and use (including competition use) of the Pony Express Track in the absence of the Recreational Track Masterplan (Action VR17).</p>
<p><i>Further knowledge and consultation required and in particular related to tracks their creation and usage.</i></p>	12	
<p><i>All bike tracks except for one (ie The Pony Express) are currently illegal and unauthorized.</i></p> <p><i>Rationalization of the numerous unauthorized [mountain bike] tracks needs to occur.</i></p> <p><i>Council as the land manager needs to determine the process for legitimizing any of the unauthorized and current illegally constructed trails.</i></p> <p><i>Council as the land manager and consent authority needs to determine the process for legitimizing and approving any constructed trails.</i></p> <p><i>No more bike tracks should be considered until such time as all unauthorized tracks are assessed.</i></p>	15	<p>Action: Amend Figure 6 to differentiate the status of the named tracks (or parts thereof) as either – public road, fire trail or management vehicle access, approved mountain bike track, or unauthorised track (or unauthorised track to be closed in the case of the Gun Club Track).</p> <p>Action: Include an additional action under "Recreational Tracks" (pages 66-67) to close (temporarily) or close and rehabilitate (permanently) - in the absence of the Recreational Track Masterplan - any unauthorised, informal or newly established tracks where these are having or may lead to unacceptable impacts on natural or scenic values, or generate user conflicts or safety concerns, or impact previously undisturbed areas.</p>
<p><i>Numerous authorized and unauthorized mountain bike tracks listed and named in Figures 6 and 7 will be adopted and treated as though they are existing land uses?</i></p> <p><i>The construction, use, maintenance, and proliferation of these mountain bike tracks can pose a threat to rare and endangered species, proliferate weed spread into previously undisturbed area, create erosion problems which impact on water quality downstream, and create other visitor use conflicts. While the value of bike trails in this reserve is accepted, it is important that bike trails are located in appropriate areas that consider all these issues.</i></p> <p><i>With the exception of the Pony Express Track, no further mountain bike tracks should be formally developed on the Reserve until such time as the Plan of Management has been finalised, and proper DA planning processes have been fully complied with.</i></p> <p><i>Fails to adequately address the conflict between mountain bikes</i></p>	17	

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION <i>(italics indicate direct quotes from a submission)</i>	Submission Number	COMMENT / RESPONSE And Proposed Amendments to Plan of Management
<i>and high conservation values of the reserve.</i>		
<p>Unauthorised mountain bike <i>trails cut across all zones and land categories, muddling the intent of the draft plan.</i></p> <p><i>There is no relationship between these [mountain bike] trails and the proposed zoning scheme.</i></p> <p><i>The omissions [sic] trail prescriptions render the proposed zones on page 46 meaningless and this most important visitor management issue is thus been poorly considered in and addressed by the draft plan.</i></p>	4	<p>The majority of the Reserve is zoned as a Conservation Zone with the management intent being “to maintain the majority of the Reserve as natural bushland and a scenic landscape, protecting communities and species of high conservation value” and one of this zone’s primary management objectives being to “not provide access or facilities to encourage recreational use”. The “Ewok Forest Track” (an unauthorised single track) is the only mountain bike track located within this zone. All other existing mountain bike tracks fall within the Managed Use Bushland or Utility Zones. The management intent and primary management objective of the Managed Use Bushland Zone is to “provide for sustainable dispersed recreational and educational uses without significant impact on natural processes”. Such a zoning allows for the provision and use of mountain bike tracks, where this activity is approved under the PoM (such as on fire trails or management vehicle accesses and approved tracks).</p> <p>Action: Amend the management intent of the Managed Use Bushland Zone to “To maintain large areas of the Reserve as natural bushland for biodiversity and scenic landscape protection while allowing for sustainable dispersed recreational and educational uses without significantly impacting on these wider environmental values”.</p> <p>Action: Amend the primary management objectives of the Managed Use Bushland Zone to ““To maintain large areas of the Reserve as natural bushland to protect their biodiversity and scenic landscape values” and “To provide sustainable opportunities for dispersed recreational and educational uses within these areas without significantly impacting the wider bushland setting, biodiversity and scenic values, or natural processes”.</p> <p>Action: Amend Figure 10 Zoning Plan to include the area of the “Ewok Forest Track” (west to Norman Henry Road) as a continuation of the larger Managed Use Bushland Zone to the north.</p>
<i>There needs to be less emphasis on the development and retention of the multiple mountain bike tracks in the Reserve.</i>	7	
<i>In Figure 10, page 45, Managed Bushland Zone be removed from all areas where existing mountain bike tracks are.</i>	8	
<i>The network of authorized and unauthorized mountain bike tracks ... encompass almost the entire Reserve, and compromise the intention of the proposed Management Zones.</i>	17	

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION <i>(italics indicate direct quotes from a submission)</i>	Submission Number	COMMENT / RESPONSE And Proposed Amendments to Plan of Management
<i>The track known as the Gun Club is zoned managed use bushland zone. Under the current mountain bike club DA this track was to be closed and rehabilitated.</i>	8	<p>The “Gun Club Track” has been previously identified for closure as part of the development approval for The Pony Express track. Closure and rehabilitation of this track, and removal of recreational access/use on this route, would enable the Conservation Zones either side of (and now separated by) this track (and strip of Managed Use Bushland Zone) to be joined as a single larger Conservation Zone.</p> <p>Action: Include an additional action under “Recreational Tracks” (pages 66-67) to make it explicit that the “Gun Club Track” is to be closed and rehabilitated, as required by the development approval for The Pony Express track.</p> <p>Action: Amend Figure 10 – Zoning Plan to remove the Managed Use Bushland Zone along the “Gun Club Track” and show this area a single connected/enlarged Conservation Zone</p>
<i>I think it's silly to limit mountain biking to daylight hours only.</i>	3	The DPoM does not specify this requirement. No amendments recommended.
<i>Mountain biking trails are inherently not light-touch activities, and should be confined to private land or areas already degraded.</i>	5	Private lands are beyond the scope of this PoM, and there are no existing degraded areas on the Reserve of sufficient size or suitable location to accommodate mountain bike tracks of recreation value/appeal. Mountain biking is an existing approved, and popular, activity in the Reserve - occurring on The Pony Express track which Council has previously formally approved for development/use, as well as on public roads, and fire trails or management vehicle accesses. No amendments recommended.

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<p><i>I am opposed to mountain biking being permitted on the Reserve.</i></p> <p><i>All mountain bike riding on the Reserve cease apart from the Hassans Walls Road and Norman Henry Road.</i></p> <p><i>There is no need to promote Hassans Walls for mountain biking.</i></p> <p><i>Mountain biking should NOT be permitted on Hassans Walls Reserve except on the major formed Roads of Hassans Walls Road and Norman Henry Road.</i></p> <p><i>Bike tracks should only be mentioned in the Plan of Management for the purpose of closing them down and rehabilitating them.</i></p> <p><i>I believe that the flora and fauna studies will identify that mountain bike riding should be kept to the main roads and the Pony Express and that any tracks should be for low impact [walker] use only.</i></p>	8	<p>Mountain biking is an existing approved, and popular, activity in the Reserve - occurring on The Pony Express track which Council has previously formally approved for development/use, as well as on public roads, and fire trails or management vehicle accesses (and on informal and unauthorised or tracks). The DPoM includes measures to manage mountain biking and its impacts (and additional measures are proposed in response to community feedback on the DPoM). Prohibiting mountain biking, or limiting it to public roads only, would not be consistent with, or help achieve the Reserve vision as an area managed to protect its significant heritage and natural values while providing sustainable recreation opportunities to the regional community. It would also be contrary to Council's previous development approval for The Pony Express track. No amendments recommended.</p>
<p><i>Objects to the development of the concept of shared use tracks for walkers and riders, because these tracks are really for riders, not walkers.</i></p> <p><i>Misleading assertion that mountain bike riding is compatible with walking on the same trail. Safe and non-threatening passing of walker and bike users is not possible on the myriad of unauthorised downhill single tracks. Walking tracks and bike tracks should be considered separately as each has separate needs.</i></p> <p><i>Walking and riding are only compatible on closed reserve management roads that allow safe passing between these users.</i></p> <p><i>The lack of serious accident is not justification for assuming compatible joint track use. Bike tracks are not used by walkers because it is unenjoyable to do so, and not because using these tracks has not caused serious accidents, yet.</i></p>	4	<p>Shared use – by walkers and mountain bikers/cyclists – of public road and fire trails, or management vehicle accesses, is acceptable due to the extra width, superior sightlines (usually) and easier gradients (typically) of these routes. Other natural area land managers (e.g. NPWS, SFNSW) routinely approve mountain bike use on fire trails that are also open to walkers (and in some instances horse-riders). However, as acknowledged in the DPoM (page 34) shared use of "single track sections present a somewhat greater risk – due to the narrower track widths, usually little or no passing or step-off space, sharp or blind corners, loose or uneven track surfaces and steeper slopes in places".</p> <p>Action: Amend PoM to clarify that shared use by walkers and mountain bikers/cyclists will be limited to public roads and fire trails, or management vehicle accesses, or section of dual track and not on "single tracks" (either dedicated walkers only or mountain bike only tracks).</p>
<p><i>Mountain biking trails are not amenable to being shared by people on foot, and the Society welcomes the report's recognition of this.</i></p> <p><i>Rejects the suggestion that hikers and other walkers can share biking trails.</i></p>	5	<p>Action: Amend "User Conflicts" in "7.6 Recreational Trails – Walking and Mountain Bike Riding" (page 34) to recognise that many walkers are deterred by mountain bike use of single track – especially downhill tracks.</p>

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<p><i>All reference to 'shared tracks' be removed. Walkers and mountain bike riders do not mix.</i></p> <p><i>Amend reference to shared use tracks for walkers and riders re the Recreational Track Plan at item 13, page 54.</i></p> <p><i>Consideration needs to be given separately to both walkers and riders. Assumption should not be made that there will be any shared tracks.</i></p> <p><i>Mountain bike tracks cannot be shared tracks.</i></p> <p><i>Remove reference to shared tracks (at Action VR13 - Recreational Track Plan page 66) ... No assumptions should be made about shared tracks.</i></p>	8	
<p><i>Remove reference to 'shared tracks', and acknowledge that the shared use of bike trails by walkers and mountain bike riders are usually NOT compatible.</i></p> <p><i>Fails to adequately address the visitor use conflicts between mountain bikes and walkers.</i></p>	17	
<p><i>If the 'Pony Express' route is allowed to be retained, its maintenance and erosion prevention should be at the cost of the user group.</i></p>	5	<p>The DPoM provides for maintenance and continued use of The Pony Express track including for organised competitions (including in advance of the Recreational Track Masterplan's preparation) and enforcement of the development approval conditions (page 51) and mountain bike riders, walkers, environmentalists and local users of the Reserve – as proposed by the DPoM to help prepare the Recreational Track Plan (Action VR15, page 66) would also offer a forum to address management of The Pony Express track.. The DPoM also provides for the involvement of volunteers, community groups and third parties in aspects of the Reserve's management - which could again include The Pony Express track. No amendments recommended.</p>
<p><i>The downhill bike track is of concern.</i></p> <p><i>Council should call all interested parties together to work out all issues that this track is presenting such as erosion and how to develop a plan that will accommodate all issues.</i></p>	14	

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<p>The Pony Express track should be closed until such time as the DA is fully complied with, which includes the closing and rehabilitation of the track listed as 'Gun Club', as well as appropriate signage and measures to protect the purple copper butterfly.</p> <p>Should the Pony Express track continue, the Club should be made to fulfil the requirements of its DA, which it has never fully complied with, this includes the rehabilitation of the old illegal track and signage relating to the purple copper butterfly.</p>	8	<p>The DPoM provides for the conditions of the development approval for The Pony Express track to be enforced (Action VR17, page 67) and also enables continued use of this route (including organised competitions) in advance of the Recreational Track Masterplan's preparation. Closure of The Pony Express track would not be consistent with, or help achieve the Reserve vision as an area managed to protect its significant heritage and natural values while providing sustainable recreation opportunities to the regional community.</p>
<p>The bike track developer needs to be made accountable for not complying with the consent conditions in their DA. Council needs to actively enforce the DA consent conditions.</p>	15	<p>Action: Include an additional action under "Recreational Tracks" (pages 66-67) to make it explicit that the "Gun Club Track" is to be closed and rehabilitated, as required by the development approval for The Pony Express track.</p>
<p>Council request that all promotion relating to Mountain Bike tracks on Hassans Walls be immediately removed from the web-site of Central Tablelands Mountain Bike Club and other sites as become known.</p> <p>Close the Pony Express Track until such time as all reference to illegal tracks on the Central Tablelands Mountain Bike Clubs website, and any other websites, are removed! (Action VR26, page 68).</p>	8	<p>The DPoM already includes an action for Council to request/negotiate with the Central Tablelands Mountain Bike Club regarding the appropriate promotion of agreed trails within the Reserve – as per the Recreational Track Plan (Action VR26, page 68). Requesting total removal of references to Hassans Walls Reserve is not appropriate given that approved mountain bike trails/routes occur within the area (and the Club is an independent body).</p> <p>Action: Expand Action VR26 (page 68) to include promotion of approved tracks/route only, in advance of the Recreational Track Plan's preparation.</p>
<p>No more bike tracks should be considered until such time as the outstanding consent conditions [for The Pony Express track] fully complied with.</p>	15	<p>Council's planning and management of recreation assets/opportunities across the wider Reserve should not be contingent on the action, or inaction, of a third party. The DPoM provides for the conditions of the development approval for The Pony Express track to be enforced (Action VR17, page 67). No amendments recommended.</p>
<p>That the Central West Bike Club be closed until all conditions of the DA are fully complied with.</p>	8	<p>Outside of Council's power, and beyond the scope of a PoM. No amendments recommended.</p>
<p>Mountain bike clubs be encouraged to work with NSW Forestry to develop already disturbed Radiata Pine areas on the Newnes Plateau and in other non-native State Forests.</p>	8	<p>Beyond the scope of this PoM. No amendments recommended.</p>

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<i>Mountain bike clubs be encouraged to work with NSW Forestry to also develop tracks in previously disturbed Radiata Pine areas which are of lesser conservation value.</i>	17	
<i>Access to tracks through some private lands needs to be negotiated.</i>	8	Action: Include the investigation of potential recreational track/trail links, or entry points across private land as an item to address in preparation of the Recreational Track Plan (Action VR13, page 66).
Walking should be given <i>priority in relation to visitor use management</i> due to the fact that walking can be undertaken by almost anyone. There are no walking tracks on the Reserve other than <i>the short Eskbank Track and the closed historical walking track below the escarpment.</i> There is <i>latent demand for specific walking tracks in the reserve.</i> <i>Walkers should be granted more use of the reserve because they are the majority user in the Lithgow community and at present no tracks are available for walking and as a result walkers are obliged to use Hassans Walls Road.</i>	4	Action: Amend PoM to better differentiate between existing track types, and highlight comparative lack of walkers-only tracks. Action: Expand Action VR13 (or add a new action to “Recreational Tracks” [pages 66-7]), and expand the “Recreational Tracks” text (pages 50-1), to indicate that one of the Recreational Track Plan’s objectives/outcomes will be the provision of additional walkers-only tracks within the Reserve (outside of the Conservation Zone). Action: Amend the Zoning Plan (Figure 10) to provide a connecting band of Managed Use Bushland Zone between the Hassans Walls and Second Lookouts (along the southern side of Hassans Walls Road to the escarpment edge or break-in-slope), to include the escarpment/rock pagoda areas south and south-east of the Second Lookout in the Managed Use Bushland Zone, and to widen/connect the Managed Use Bushland Zone north-west of the Hassans Walls Lookout to the escarpment edge or break-in-slope. These changes will increase the area potentially available for future track development – primarily for walking tracks – under the scope of the Recreational Track Plan.
<i>Supports the planned heightened attention to the hiking tracks.</i>	5	
The DPoM <i>has ignored the established walking tracks!</i> The Recreational Tracks section of the Concept Masterplan (page 50) <i>completely ignores the fact that the first tracks were exclusively walking tracks. There will be tracks which are exclusively for walkers only.</i> <i>The Heffernans Pass cliff top track should be sensitively restored and signposted.</i> <i>Tracks and shelters that were named should be sensitively signposted.</i> <i>What about walker only tracks in line with the original intent of the first tracks?!</i> <i>The Shortcut Track could be formalised with constructed steps and signposting.</i>	6	

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<i>More consideration needs to be given to the interests and needs of walkers and passive recreational users, including artists, meditators, just people enjoying the difference of the Reserve.</i>	7	
<i>Original access tracks into the reserve were 6 feet wide. Walking tracks within the reserve were three feet wide. This standard should be maintained.</i>	6	Track standards and design will be guided by the Recreational Track Plan (Action VR13, page 66) - as well as the relevant Australian Standards (such as the "Users Guide to the Australian Walking Track Grading System"), best practice guidelines, local experience, safety considerations, site conditions, and other factors – and it would be pre-emptive to include this level of prescription in a PoM. Additionally, track standards from the 1915 to 1930s period are not necessarily applicable to current circumstances (despite being historically accurate). No amendments recommended.
<i>I propose that the Audit of Walking Tracks includes the reinstatement of the walking track between Hassans Walls Lookout and lookout No2 to encourage people to walk. Despite this track crossing through the proposed Conservation Zone.</i>	13	Action: Amend the Zoning Plan (Figure 10) to provide a connecting band of Managed Use Bushland Zone between the Hassans Walls and Second Lookouts (along the southern side of Hassans Walls Road to the escarpment edge or break-in-slope), and to include the escarpment/rock pagoda areas south and south-east of the Second Lookout in the Managed Use Bushland Zone.
<i>Tracks should not be retained that pass through areas of high conservation value or pagoda outcrop.</i> <i>Unauthorised tracks should be assessed for heritage values, high conservation values and whether any tracks are more suited for walking than riding</i>	4	Action: Expand Action VR11 to include consideration of the conservation and heritage assets/values of a track's setting, and its current or likely impacts (unmanaged or managed), as part of the "audit of the existing recreational tracks in the Reserve" – to also enable this to be considered in preparation of the subsequent Recreational Track Masterplan. Amend text box 2 on Figure 11 – Hassans Walls Reserve Master Plan accordingly.
<i>An audit of formal and informal recreational tracks be undertaken ... and that assessment of their impact upon the threatened, rare or vulnerable flora and fauna be considered at the same time.</i> <i>The recreational track plan should consider the protection of flora and fauna as identified in the studies.</i>	8	Action: Expand Action VR11 to include consideration of a track's most appropriate user group/activity, and usage levels, as part of the "audit of the existing recreational tracks in the Reserve". Action: Amend text box 2 on Figure 11 – Hassans Walls Reserve

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<p>A 'recreational trail audit' does need to be undertaken as per VR11; to determine whether any of these unauthorized trails are on unsustainable alignments and impact upon natural or cultural values. This is currently unknown.</p> <p>Unauthorized mountain bike tracks that impact upon reserve values or are on unsustainable alignments - closed and rehabilitated.</p>	15	<p>Master Plan accordingly.</p> <p>Action: Amend cost estimate for the Audit of Recreational Tracks” (page 53) to \$45,000.</p> <p>Action: Include an additional action under “Recreational Tracks” (pages 66-67) to close (temporarily) or close and rehabilitate (permanently) - in the absence of the Recreational Track Masterplan - any unauthorised, informal or newly established tracks where these are having or may lead to unacceptable impacts on natural or scenic values, or generate user conflicts or safety concerns, or impact previously undisturbed areas.</p> <p>Action: Expand Action VR18 to provide for the “inspection, monitoring and maintenance” of tracks as well as to allow for the re-routing of problematic track section where necessary (subject to the necessary planning, assessment and approval).</p>
No attention given ... to monitoring and remediation of erosional damage on bike tracks allowed to remain in use.	5	<p>Action: Expand Action VR18 to provide for the “inspection, monitoring and maintenance” of tracks as well as to allow for the re-routing of problematic track section where necessary (subject to the necessary planning, assessment and approval).</p>
Downhill mountain bike tracks accelerate erosion of the hillsides. e.g. see the western side of the Reserve which is being eroded away where the tracks have impacted on the landform	7	
Actions should also be included for the rehabilitation of the tracks in places where they are creating erosion.	8	
The historical escarpment track should be made safe and re-opened for walkers only.	4	<p>The Undercliff Walk was closed to public access due to concerns over rock falls injuring visitors. Making this route safe for walkers would most likely entail considerable geotechnical/cliff-face rock works that would be both very expensive and potentially impact the scenic qualities of the escarpment in the vicinity of the Hassans Walls Lookout. No amendments recommended.</p>
Re-open 'undercliff track' once stabilisation study completed.	11	
<p>Mountain bike riders have usurped control of the reserve and the plan does not challenge this control.</p> <p>The recreation track Master Plan must not be controlled by mountain bike riders.</p>	4	<p>The DPoM proposes “a recreational trail consultative group to provide an avenue for user group involvement in the Recreational Track Plan, its implementation and ongoing track maintenance (Action VR15). Representation of this group is to “include mountain bike riders, walkers,</p>

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<i>Mountain biking input has been given priority which is not acceptable and detracts from, and devalues, the DPoM as a whole.</i>	5	environmentalists and local users of the Reserve – both individuals and as representatives from established community groups”. No amendments recommended.
<i>Once adequate environmental mapping has occurred, then further meetings with the interested stakeholders should occur – to delineate the appropriate places where conservation priorities should be pre-eminent and other places where the ecology and topography is appropriate for other uses, such as mountain bike or horse riding trails.</i> <i>Further discussions between the various stakeholders as to how to manage these different needs and uses.</i>	17	
<i>Bike trail authorisation apparently will be controlled by mountain bike users.</i>	4	Incorrect. The DPoM proposes “a recreational trail consultative group to provide an avenue for user group involvement in the Recreational Track Plan, its implementation and ongoing track maintenance (Action VR15). Representation of this group is to “include mountain bike riders, walkers, environmentalists and local users of the Reserve – both individuals and as representatives from established community groups”. The approval of tracks and trails will still rest with Council as guided by the PoM and its provisions (management zones, actions, etc.). No amendments recommended.
<i>'Dogs on leash at all times' signage and mention fines.</i>	11	Action NE17 (page 59) permits dogs to be “on the Reserve’s road and track network, but only if on a leash and under full control” and includes other measures for the management of visitors dogs within the area. Action: Amend Action NE17 (page 59) to provide for signage, at key points, regarding dog controls/obligations.
<i>Exclusion of horses and pony riding from the reserve is supported for ecological reasons.</i>	4	The DPoM does not permit for horse riding on recreational tracks within the Reserve (Action VR20, page 67). No amendments recommended.
<i>Given the demonstrated avenue of weed dispersal by horse droppings, and given the erosion caused by hard-hoofed animals like shod horses, the banning of horse riding from multi-use tracks is applauded.</i>	5	

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<i>Could include horse riding in restricted areas that are less ecologically significant – accepting some ecological impacts in these zones ... these would likely be small areas that allow horse riders to have some access to the enjoyment of riding through the bush.</i>	17	
The camping ban proposed (Action VR32, page 69) <i>should not apply to small 'off track' adventure campers.</i>	11	Given its near urban location, high usage levels, the potential fire risks and the potential for damage to vegetation (clearing, firewood collection, etc.) it is not considered appropriate to permit camping in the Reserve (other than by permit under Action RA21, page 76). No amendments recommended.
A website or other information source should be developed to provide information about the Reserve such as <i>birds would be helpful.</i>	3	The DPoM provides for updating “the Reserve brochure, website information and other promotional/pre-visit information as/when required – to ensure that intending visitors have easy access to the latest information concerning the Reserve” (action VR23, page 68). No amendments recommended.
<i>No unsuitable activities incongruous to quiet enjoyment eg motor rallies.</i>	11	The DPoM provides for temporary licences and once-off or set (short) duration activity or event permits – but that such permits will not be granted for activities that “may have a negative impact on natural areas, on endangered ecological communities or threatened species, on historical or cultural sites, or are inconsistent with an area’s values, or have unacceptable effects on the Reserve’s values or intended character and settings, or exclude or unduly disadvantage other users, or are likely to impair an area’s reasonable enjoyment by others, or places excessive demands on Reserve management resources and finances”. Additionally “licences and permits will only be granted for activities that are consistent with the management intent, objectives and uses” of the relevant Management Zones and “applications will be subject to particularly stringent assessments within the Bushland Zone”. No amendments recommended.

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION <i>(italics indicate direct quotes from a submission)</i>	Submission Number	COMMENT / RESPONSE And Proposed Amendments to Plan of Management
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS – Landscape and Amenity		
A “Geotechnical study of the rock formations and escarpments within the Reserve to assess the location and extent of subsidence and rock cracking, the risk of future rock falls and any ongoing monitoring requirements” (page 53) - <i>Yes, this is a good idea.</i>	6	The DPoM addresses mining subsidence and cliff instability in some detail in section 8.1, and recommends a geotechnical study to assess the location and extent of subsidence and rock cracking as a priority investigation (page 53 and Action LA6, page 71). Actions LA7 to LA9 all address geotechnical/subsidence risks in relation to the siting of recreation facilities and visitor safety, the functionality of escarpment fences, and warnings for users (both on and off site). No amendments recommended.
<i>A geotechnical study be undertaken to assess the extent of subsidence and rock cracking.</i>	8	
<i>Management is required on mine subsidence.</i>	14	
<i>Fails to adequately address the safety risks for visitors due to mine subsidence cracks and unstable cliff faces.</i>	17	
Action LA6 (page 71) - <i>Mine Subsidence Board has a new name: Subsidence Advisory NSW.</i>	6	Action: Amend “Responsibility” column for Action LA6 (page 71) from “Mine Subsidence Board” to read “Subsidence Advisory NSW”.
There is scope for <i>interpretive guided tours.</i>	17	The DPoM provides for “guided walks and other face-to-face interpretive services – on a fee paying basis when appropriate – on special occasions and as/when resources permit” and “use of the Reserve as a venue and asset for environmental, outdoor and other educational uses” (Actions VR27 and VR28, page 68) – including on a licence basis (Action RA21, page 76). No amendments recommended.
Involvement of <i>local and visiting groups</i> in management, recreational and educational projects.	17	The DPoM provides for community and volunteer involvement in many aspects of the Reserve’s management. No amendments recommended.
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS – Reserve Administration and Management		
The road reserve in the area’s south-west (along the Donnybrook Trail, east of South Bowenfels – as shown on Figure 9 and other figures) <i>should be incorporated into the Reserve.</i>	6	Action: Add an extra Action, after Action RA3 (page 72), to provide for incorporation of this road reserve into the reserve.

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The reserve's two vehicle entry points need to be securely gated and locked at night. This is essential for the welfare of the Reserve.	6	The installation of heavy duty lockable vehicle gates, and the introduction of a night hours closure (or vehicle exclusion) regime, for each end of Hassans Walls Road (in the north and east, where it enters/leaves the Reserve) is not considered practical at this time. Hassans Walls Road is also a public road. No amendments recommended.
Install gates on main access roads to be closed at sunset to sunrise to minimise vandalism (especially of new structures) and dumping. Any development of the lookout and other areas is pointless unless this forms part of the management plan - vandalism and dumping are rife. Key stakeholders would need to have keys to gates.	11	
Action RA9 (page 73) - The gate is still not locked despite being drawn to a council manager's notice in early December!!	6	Operational detail – not appropriate (too prescriptive) for a PoM. The DPoM provides for retaining “the locked gate on the fire trail to the communications towers” and “liaison with affected agencies to establish a common key to facilitate ease of use of the locked gate” (Action RA9, page 73). No amendments recommended.
The access gate to West (Cooerwull Ridge) needs much better security. Currently always unlocked, and routinely used by residents to collect wood.	11	
Council develop a plan of scheduled works for the Reserve, such as daily litter patrols, illegal dumping, road maintenance, maintenance of lookouts. Council develop a set of performance indicators to measure things such as day to day operations ... removal of litter by Council, etc.	8	Action RA2 (page 72) in the DPoM provides for the Reserve and its management to remain “under the day-to-day care, control and management of Lithgow City Council”. The DPoM includes several actions relating to managing rubbish dumping and removal (Action VR29 to VR31, page 69) and several actions relating to the maintenance of Hassans Walls Road and Norman Henry Road and parking areas (VR1-VR2 and VR4-VR6, page 63). Action VR30 (page 69) also provides for the monitoring of rubbish dumping and other impacts to assist/inform management. No amendments recommended (other than below). Action: Include an additional action under “Day Use Areas” (pages 64-65) to explicitly address the regular/scheduled and opportunistic maintenance of visitor use facilities.
Council 'rangers' need much more presence to deter/control rubbish dumping.	11	
Include the Reserve in the general maintenance schedule of LCC.	13	
Hidden cameras could be used to deter rubbish dumping, with the fines applied being used to defray the cost.	5	Operational detail – not appropriate (too prescriptive) for a PoM. No amendments recommended.
Surveillance cameras to monitor illegal activities. Install surveillance cameras.	11	

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION <i>(italics indicate direct quotes from a submission)</i>	Submission Number	COMMENT / RESPONSE And Proposed Amendments to Plan of Management
<i>Rubbish currently dumped below cliffs needs to be removed ASAP.</i>	11	The DPoM includes several actions relating to managing rubbish dumping and removal (Action VR29 to VR31, page 69). Action VR31 (page 69) specifically provides for the exploration of “measures/opportunities for removal of car bodies dumped south off Hassans Walls Road (for example, training exercise by Emergency Services or other agencies)” giving this a low priority. Action: Amend priority for Action VR31 (page 69) from “low” to “medium”.
Road verge barriers were removed at community insistence. Don't go there again! <i>Action VR31 (page 69) there are also car bodies near the Undercliff Path that were pushed off from the Mount York Claystone quarry area.</i>	6	The DPoM includes several actions relating to managing rubbish dumping and removal (Action VR29 to VR31, page 69). Action VR30 (page 69) specifically provides for the monitoring of rubbish dumping and other impacts to assist/inform management. Action: Include an additional point at Action VR30 (page 69) to specify consideration of suitable (sympathetically designed and sited/screened) road or cliff edge barriers in trouble spots.
Installation of <i>fences/barriers to prevent over cliff littering by 'drive over' and 'push over' incidents.</i>	11	
<i>Council develop a set of performance indicators to measure things such as ... visitation.</i>	8	The DPOM provides for the establishment of a visitor number monitoring programme (Action RA11, page 73). No amendments recommended.
<i>A Ranger/s should be appointed specifically for the Hassans Walls Reserve.</i>	6	It is not appropriate, practical or desirable for a PoM to direct a Council's staffing structure and individual positions. No amendments recommended.
<i>Develop a program to instil pride in the workforce relating to maintaining the natural environment that results in active involvement of staff in the removal of litter, the patrolling of the area, repairs and maintenance.</i> <i>Provide training for managers/supervisors in the outdoor workforce relating to the significance of the natural environment of the Reserve (and other areas) and the specific requirements for its care.</i> <i>Identify a dedicated team within Council to be responsible for the Reserve and receive training in the management of natural areas and identified areas of significance.</i>	8	The DPoM provides for the continued professional development of Council staff responsible for the Reserve's management. PoMs do not generally drive/dictate a Council's staffing and organisational “culture” arrangements – and not to the level of detail suggested. No amendments recommended.

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION <i>(italics indicate direct quotes from a submission)</i>	Submission Number	COMMENT / RESPONSE And Proposed Amendments to Plan of Management
<i>Ensure consultation with stakeholders be arranged before decisions are made on usage of the area, to access ... their knowledge and experience when these decisions are being made</i>	12	Action RA4 (page 72) of the DPoM provides for the "Establishment a sub-Committee to Council's Environmental Advisory Committee or similar Committee of Council to facilitate ongoing community involvement in the planning and management of the Reserve". The DPoM also proposes that the Recreational Track Plan be prepared with input from a user/consultative group (Action VR15, page 66). No amendments recommended.
<i>Consultation with identified stakeholder and interest groups needs to occur before various elements of the proposed recommendations are initiated. Noisy self-interested stakeholders that may have financial interests in further expansion of their facilities/offering should not be heard first by being the squeaky wheel. A fair, transparent and inclusive consultation process should be adopted. Council should have a community consultation protocol to help facilitate this process.</i>	15	
<i>The draft Plan does not describe the lease or license details between Council and the CTMTB Club. Do they pay an annual fee? Are they subject to the same requirements as the Pony Club lessees?</i>	15	The Central Tablelands Mountain Bike Club does not hold a lease or licence over The Pony Express track. The Club received development approval for the track's establishment – which included a number of conditions relating to track construction and maintenance, environmental impacts and their management, and requirements during major events. Commercial arrangements pertaining to leases/licences/permits are not typically specified in a PoM - enabling a land manager to vary these charges over time or depending on market conditions. No amendments recommended.
<i>Resist any proposals for in-reserve tourist accommodation facilities; this is the role of the township, and is adequately catered for.</i>	5	The DPoM provides for the strict assessment and review of "inquiries and use/activity applications from commercial interest or organised ("members

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION (<i>italics indicate direct quotes from a submission</i>)	Submission Number	COMMENT / RESPONSE And Proposed Amendments to Plan of Management
Suggestion to set up a Via Ferrata course <i>around the already spectacular and under utilised Hassan's Walls precinct</i> . Via Ferrata is described as <i>rock climbing based but with permanent ladders, rungs and anchor lines making it 100% safe to do by almost anyone of reasonable fitness, and its safety assured aspect makes it appealing too many fold recommended as an excellent location for such a venture</i> .	16	only") groups ... to ensure that the Reserve's values, intended character and settings, and visitor experiences are not compromised; and on-going exclusive use arrangements are not created; and undue demands on Reserve management do not result" (Action RA19, page 75). Action RA21 (page 76) also specifies that "licences will only be issued for commercial activities where these are - consistent with, or ancillary to, the Reserve's current reservation purpose (and any additional reservation purpose), and do not involve the erection of any building or other substantial structure, or permanent advertising that detracts from the visual qualities of the Reserve". These provisions would prohibit the development of commercial (built) tourist accommodation within the Reserve, and provide a framework against which to assess approaches from commercial tourism operators or proponents. No amendments recommended.
<i>It is of great concern to NSW Police that after considerable time & effort, the NSW Police owned comms tower [circled as 1 on the plan] detailed on page 42 of the PoM as " City of Lithgow Council tower Padleys Pedestal HASSANS WALL acma # 10475, is still being listed as a Council tower when it is NOT.</i>	1	There is some disagreement/confusion around the ownership of the communications tower just south of the Hassans Walls Lookout – shown as "Tower 1" on Figure 8 Licenced Communication Towers in Hassans Walls Reserve. The DPOM includes an action to address this and "clarify the ownership of Tower 1 indicated in Figure 8" (Action "RA24, page 77). No amendments recommended.
<i>The Council communications tower site # 10476 is not even listed in your plan !!</i>	1	Figure 8 Licenced Communication Towers in Hassans Walls Reserve (page 38) shows four licenced communications towers within the Reserve. The accompanying text (page 37) explains that although the Reserve contains five communications towers only "four of the towers are licensed by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (the Prime TV tower in Lot 1 DP 1094395 is not as yet licenced) however their presence within the Reserve must also be leased / licensed by the Minister for Lands". Action RA16 (page 74) of the DPOM expressly authorises leases over each of the five communications towers currently within the Reserve. Action: Add footnote to Figure 8 Licenced Communication Towers in Hassans Walls Reserve (page 38) to indicate that an as yet unlicensed communications tower is located in Lot 1 DP 1094395.

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION <i>(italics indicate direct quotes from a submission)</i>	Submission Number	COMMENT / RESPONSE And Proposed Amendments to Plan of Management
<i>There is also a disused facility on Coorwull Ridge between the Endeavour Energy site and the TV site. Previous occupant needs to be identified and compelled to clean the site.</i>	6	Action: Amend Action RA26 (page 77) to include reference to owners/operators of previous abandoned/terminated communications tower sites to undertake remediation/rehabilitation of such areas.
IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW		
<i>Estimated costings for the flora and fauna study, threatened species management plans, geotechnical study, audit of formal and informal recreational tracks, and heritage items mapping/assessment should be revised upwards as the amounts do not match the extent of works that are required for comprehensive studies.</i> <i>I fully support the range of studies and plans proposed but question if the amounts are enough to undertake the comprehensive work required.</i>	8	Costs included in the DPoM are estimates only, and will vary depending on when the studies are undertaken and other factors. They are based on the consultant's experience in commissioning other similar studies and informed by Council's local advice and experience. No amendments recommended (other than below, based on expanded scope of the recreational tracks audit). Action: Amend cost estimate for the Audit of Recreational Tracks" (page 53) to \$45,000.
<i>Does Council have a Purple Copper Butterfly Recovery Plan? If so, is it for Hassans Walls or for the whole of the Council area? Such a plan for Hassans Walls Reserve needs to relate to the flora and fauna study. The butterfly has been seen in many parts of the Reserve. Appropriate mapping needs to take place and would in itself cost much more than \$2,000.</i>	8	The Bathurst Copper Butterfly (<i>Paralucia spinifera</i>) Recovery Plan (2001) is an approved recovery plan prepared by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. Council does not have a separate recovery plan for this species – for the LGA or for Reserve specifically. It is considered more appropriate, cost effective and more likely to deliver positive conservation outcomes for the Council to implement relevant elements of the approved recovery plan (and use it to seek funding to this end) rather than preparing its own recovery plan for this species within the Reserve. No amendments recommended.
OTHER		
Typographical, spelling, grammatical, capitalisation and minor errors - on pages 4, 7, 29, 30, 36, 47, 52 (Figure 11), 53 and 54.	6	Action: Make corrections/changes as/where necessary.
All references to "Bracey's Lookout" should be corrected to "Bracey Lookout" – on pages 7, 14, 25, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 (Figure 6), 35, 42 (Figure 9), 45 (Figure 10), 47, 50, 52 (Figure 11), 64 and 68.	6	Action: Label as "Bracey Lookout" throughout.
All references to "Norman Henry Road" should be corrected to "Norman Henry Drive" – on pages 26, 29, 31, 32 (Figure 6), 35, 42 (Figure 9), 45 (Figure 10), 47, 49, 50, 52 (Figure 11), 53 and 63.	6	Action: Label as "Norman Henry Drive" throughout.

Comment [AG1]:

Comment [AG2]:

Hassans Walls Reserve Draft Plan of Management

Key to Public Submissions

ID No.	Submission / Respondent	Date
1	NSW Police	7 March
2	Private	7 March
3	Private	23 March
4	Colong Foundation for Wilderness	4 April
5	Blue Mountains Conservation Society	11 April
6	Private	19 April
7	Helen Drewe – Lithgow and District Community Nursery	23 April
8	Private	25 April
9	Private	25 April
10	Private	27 April
11	Private	27 April
12	Private	27 April
13	Thomas Ebersoll – Lithgow Environment Group	27 April
14	Sue Graves – Lithgow Tidy Towns	28 April
15	Trish Kidd – Lithgow Oberon Landcare	28 April
16	Private	28 April
17	Lithgow Environment Group Inc.	5 May *

* Lithgow Environment Group Inc. submission of 5 May amended a submission previously provided)

Le Fevre & Co.

Solicitors & Attorneys

Incorporating Thompson and Le Fevre, Est. 1907

Our Ref: TJL:27857

Lithgow City Council

Scanned ☐

5 June 2017

06 JUN 2017

Doc Set ID 1005027
GA Ref 723-100
Years pending

Mr Iain Stewart
Group Manager - Operations
Lithgow City Council
P O Box 19
LITHGOW NSW 2790

Dear Sir,

**RE: LITHGOW AGED CARE LIMITED
- PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE, PART SHORT STREET, LITHGOW**

We refer to our discussions on 31st May. The process which Council should now undertake is as follows:-

1. Council undertakes Road Status Search, advertising and referencing;
2. Council address the submissions made in response to advertising, carry out public consultation, negotiation and resolution of any objections. Council then signs off and forwards a report with formal application and fee of \$476.90 and Surveyors Plan to Business Centre Crown Lands. We have obtained a copy of the Deposited Plan in which the subject section of Short Street was dedicated to the public as a road, and presume this would satisfy the road status search requirements. It will be necessary for Council to advertise the proposal, and address any submissions made in response. It will also be necessary for a price to be negotiated with Lithgow Aged Care Limited. Accordingly, we enclose the formal application document which has been completed and requires signature by the relevant authorised officer of Council on page one (1). In due course this should be forwarded to Business Centre Crown Lands along with the application fee and Survey Plan. We have written to the surveyor requesting preparation of the Survey Plan. With regard to negotiation of the price, we have written to Opteon Valuers in Bathurst for the attention of Mark Hopcraft, requesting a valuation be provided to assist Council in negotiating a price with Lithgow Aged Care.
3. Business Centre Crown Lands will assess the application and if all is in order will approve the Road Closure, authorise the Survey Plan and return it to Council.

Principal: Allan J. Lindsay

City Chambers

Consultant: Tim Le Fevre

108 Main Street, Lithgow NSW 2790

P.O. Box 67, Lithgow NSW 2790

DX 3151 Lithgow

ABN: 27 759 019 416

Telephone: (02) 6352 2699 Facsimile: (02) 6352 1351

Email: info@lefevreco.com.au

O:\Docs\27857\161325.doc

Hours: 9a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday

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4. Council will then arrange to register the Plan at LPI, and will then notify Business Centre Crown Lands when the Plan has been registered.
5. Upon receipt of notification of registration of the Plan, Business Centre Crown Lands will Gazette the Road Closure and finalise the process and notify Council accordingly.
6. Upon finalisation of the Road Closure Process and issue of Title in Council's name, a sale to Lithgow Aged Care Limited can be effected at the negotiated price.

We will notify you when we receive the Road Closure Plan from CEH Survey, and shall provide you with the valuation when received from Opteon. In the meantime, Council should proceed to advertise the proposed closure. If you have any queries at this stage please advise.

Yours faithfully
LE FEVRE & CO.



Per:
T.J. Le Fevre



Encl.

Le Fevre & Co.

Solicitors & Attorneys

Incorporating Thompson and Le Fevre. Est. 1907

Our Ref: TJL:27857

3 July 2017

The General Manager
Lithgow City Council
P O Box 19
LITHGOW NSW 2790

Attn: Mr. Iain Stewart
Group Manager-Operations

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir,

**RE: LITHGOW AGED CARE LIMITED - PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE
- PART SHORT STREET, LITHGOW NSW**

We refer to our letter of 5th June 2017. We now enclose herewith copy of Valuation Report obtained by us on behalf of Council from Opteon Property Group. You will note that the Valuation Report indicates a market value of \$20,000.00, excluding the added value of the bitumen sealing and concrete kerbing and guttering. We note that Council has previously advised us that it is not Council's intention to seek compensation for the value of the bitumen sealing and concrete kerbing and guttering.

Accordingly, based on the Valuation Report, Council should seek payment from Lithgow Aged Care Limited of the sum of \$20,000.00 plus all costs and expenses, in connection with the acquisition of the land from Council.

We are still awaiting receipt from CEH Survey of the Survey Plan which will be required for registration.

With reference to our letter of 5th June 2017, we await your confirmation in due course that Council has resolved to close the relevant part of Short Street, Lithgow, being "eastern extremity of Short Street, Lithgow measuring 25.56 metres x 15 metres", and to sell same to Lithgow Aged Care Limited for \$20,000.00, plus all costs and expenses associated with the road closure and purchase.

We also await return to us of the Road Closure Application form duly signed by an authorised officer of Council. This form was sent to Council under cover of our letter of 5th June 2017. You will note that the form is to be accompanied by a cheque in favour of

Principal: Allan J. Lindsay

City Chambers
108 Main Street, Lithgow NSW 2790
P.O. Box 67, Lithgow NSW 2790
DX 3151 Lithgow
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Hours: 9a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday

Consultant: Tim Le Fevre

Crown Lands for \$767.30 application fee. We will in due course seek reimbursement from Lithgow Aged Care Limited, once the road closure has been formally approved by Crown Lands.

Finally, we enclose herewith the Tax Invoice received from Opteon Property Group, and shall be pleased if you would provide us with a cheque for \$1100.00 drawn in favour of Opteon Property Group to enable payment thereof. We will seek reimbursement from Lithgow Aged Care Limited in due course.

Yours faithfully
LE FEVRE & CO.



Per:
T.J. Le Fevre

VALUATION REPORT



Short Street Lithgow, New South Wales 2790

Prepared For	Le Fevre & Co Solicitors & Attorneys and Lithgow City Council
Report Purpose	Sale purposes
Valuation Date	29 June 2017
Our Reference	8028598
Client Reference	TJL:27857 / Lithgow City Council

Opteon Property Group
Opteon (Central West NSW) Pty Ltd
ABN 50 606 224 677
1/29 Sale Street, Orange, NSW 2800

P (02) 6392 0999 E orange.info@opteonsolutions.com
F (02) 6362 5116 W www.opteonsolutions.com

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*Cont 3 -
Lithgow*

1.0 Valuation Summary

1.1 Instructions

Instructing Party	T J Le Ferve, Le Fevre & Co Solicitors & Attorneys
Client / Authorised Party	Le Fevre & Co Solicitors & Attorneys
Client Reference	TJL:27857 / Lithgow City Council
Valuation Purpose	Proposed Sale purposes - <i>Please note, this report does not meet Practice Standards for valuations for mortgage/finance purposes and is specifically not suitable for this purpose.</i>

1.2 Property Details

Property Address	Short Street, Lithgow, New South Wales 2790
Property Description	Road as noted on survey plan.
Title Reference	No title issued -- land is road.
Tenure Type	Freehold
Registered Proprietor	Lithgow City Council
Encumbrances	None apparent
Zoning	R1 General Residential

1.3 Assumptions and Recommendations

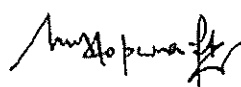
Key Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The instructions and information supplied contain a full disclosure of all information that is relevant;
Recommended Documents to Sight	None recommended

1.4 Valuation Details

Market Value \$20,000 (Twenty thousand dollars)

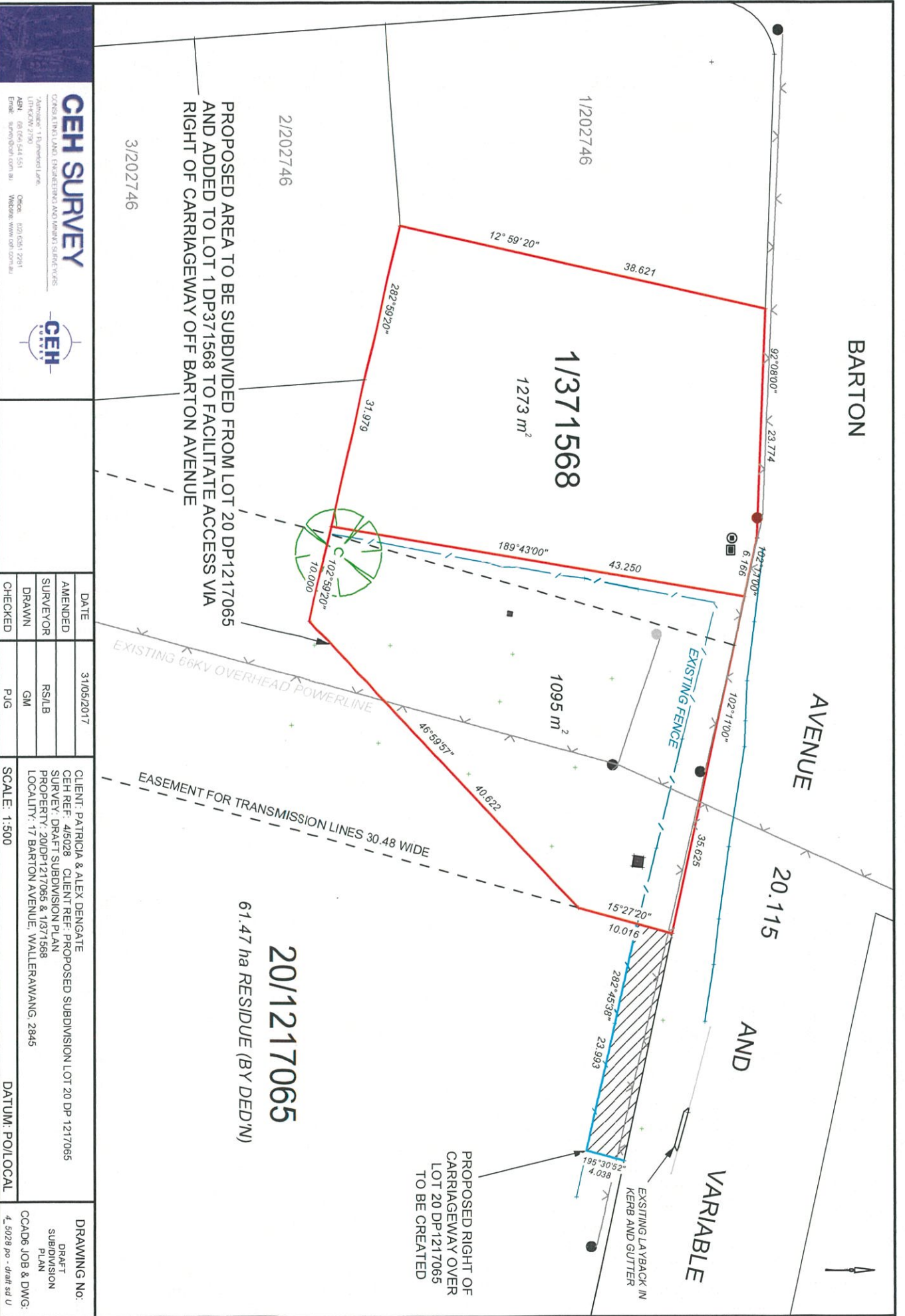
Interest Valued	Freehold
Date of Inspection	8 June 2017
Date of Valuation	29 June 2017
Date Issued	29 June 2017
Currency of Valuation	90 days from the date of valuation, or such earlier date if you become aware of any factors that have any effect on the valuation.
Pecuniary Interest	We confirm that the valuer does not have any pecuniary interest that would conflict with the proper valuation of the property.

Signatories

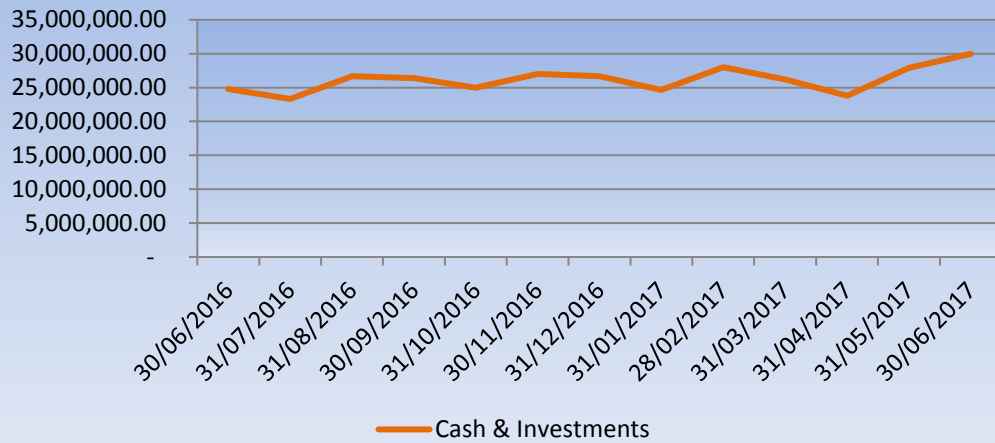


Mark Hopcraft
Consultant Valuer
FAPI, CPV
API No: 67630
Inspecting Valuer

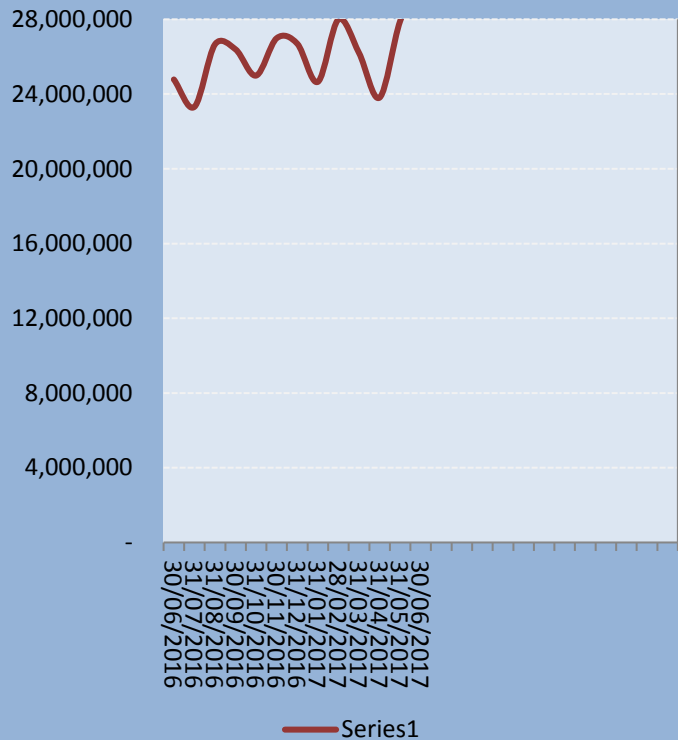
Important	<i>This Executive Summary must be read in conjunction with the remainder of this report. The Executive Summary is only a synopsis designed to provide a brief overview and must not be acted upon in isolation to the contents of the valuation report.</i>
Third Party Disclaimer	<i>This report has been prepared for the private and confidential use of our client, Le Fevre & Co Solicitors & Attorneys for the specified purpose. It should not be reproduced in whole or part without the express written authority of Opteon (Central West NSW) Pty Ltd or relied upon by any other party for any purpose and the valuer shall not have any liability to any party who does so. Our warning is registered here, that any party, other than those specifically named in this paragraph should obtain their own valuation before acting in any way in respect of the subject property.</i>
Digital Copies of Reports	<i>Where a report has been provided in digital copy and has not been received directly via our firm, the report contents, especially the valuations and critical assumptions, should be verified by contacting the issuing office to ensure the contents are bona fide. In particular if the reader of this report has suspicions that the report appears to be tampered or altered then we recommend the reader contact the issuing office.</i>
Reliance on Whole Report	<i>This valuation should be read in its entirety, inclusive of any summary and annexures. The valuer and valuation firm does not accept any responsibility where part of this report has been relied upon without reference to the full context of the valuation report.</i>



Lithgow City Council Total Cash & Investments



Lithgow City Council Total Cash and Investments



Lithgow City Council 2017/18 Budget/Operation Plan

	General Fund (\$,000)	Water Fund (\$,000)	Sewer Fund (\$,000)	Consolidated (\$,000)
1 MorrisonLow Surplus/(Deficit)	247	240	1,466	1,953
2 Depreciation adjust after Revaluation	-1,600			-1,600
Approved Operation plan Surplus/(Deficit)	-1,353	240	1,466	353
3 LED lighting solution removed from Improvement plan	570			570
4 Award increase Adjustment	-70			-70
5 Depn adjust Sewer mains			-686	-686
Surplus/(Deficit) after adjustments	-853	240	780	167

Notes

- 1 MorrisonLow surplus/deficit includes \$360k general fund additional resources and \$130k additional resources sewer fund and depreciation savings of \$1.3m.
- 2 Depreciation adjustment relates to the \$50m valuation increase for infrastructure assets.
- 3 LED lighting solution removed from MorrisonLow recommended improvement plan, saving \$570k.
- 4 Increase in the award was budgeted at 2% and final award agreement is 2.35%.
- 5 \$24m sewer main revaluation issue depreciation adjustment, resolved 5 July 2017.



Minutes

Community Development Committee

Tuesday 27 June 2017
Lithgow City Council
Committee Room
4.00 – 5.00 pm

Community Development Committee	
Item Number	Agenda
1	Welcome, Present & apologies
2	Previous Minutes
3	Business Arising from Previous Minutes
4	Financial Assistance
5	Update on Current projects
6	Committee Work Program
7	Art Scholarship
8	Sister Cities
9	General Business

**Minutes
Community Development Committee
27 June 2017**

ITEM: 1 WELCOME, PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Present: Cllr Lesslie, Cllr Coleman, Cllr Statham, Rachael Young, Glenda Anthes, Paul Phillips, Leanne Walding and Bryan Williamson,

Apologies: Sebastian Caruso

Officers: Ally Shelton, Matthew Johnson and Kristy Lenon

Declaration of Interests: In relation to Item 4, Financial Assistance, Rachael Young declared an interest in applications from the Rydal Show Society and Rydal Village Association and Leanne Walding for applications from Lithgow Child Protection Interagency and Lithgow Community Projects.

ACTION

THAT The Present and Apologies and Declarations of Interest be noted.

MOVED: Cllr Coleman **SECONDED:** Glenda Anthes
Carried

ITEM: 2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were endorsed by three members present and reported to Council on 29 May 2017.

ACTION

THAT

The endorsement of the previous minutes by three members present and their reporting to Council on 29 May 2017 be noted.

MOVED: Paul Phillips **SECONDED:** Cllr Coleman
Carried

ITEM: 3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1 Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Council resolved on 8 May 2017 to place the draft DIAP on public exhibition. Following closure of the exhibition period on 5 June, the DIAP was returned to Council on 26 June for final adoption.

3.2 Mount Dulabree Renaming proposal

Council resolved on 29 May 2017 to publicly exhibit the proposal for 28 days, and if there are no objections received, to advise the Geographic Names Board of NSW of Council's support for the proposal. The exhibition period will close on 14 July.

ACTION

THAT The business arising from the previous minutes be noted.

**Minutes
Community Development Committee
27 June 2017**

MOVED: Glenda Anthes
Carried

SECONDED: Cllr Coleman

ITEM: 4 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

SUMMARY

Round 1 2017/18 Financial Assistance applications were presented with a staff recommendation on amounts to be funded.

COMMENTARY

The Committee recommended at the previous meeting as follows:

1. That Council approve \$3,000 in Round 1 2017/18 financial assistance to the Wallerawang and Lidsdale Progress Association for its New Year's Eve Pyrotechnical event.
2. That the balance of the applications be deferred to the next Community Development Committee meeting and that Council staff provide a recommended amount for each line item.

Council considered this recommendation on 29 May 2017 where it resolved (Min 17-168) that:

- Financial assistance to the Wallerawang and Lidsdale Progress Association for its New Year's Eve Pyrotechnical event be deferred to the second half of this Calendar year.
- Note that the balance of the applications have been deferred to the next Community Development Committee meeting and that Council staff provide a recommended amount for each line item.

A table of Round 1 applications received, with staff recommendations, was provided beforehand for the Committee's consideration.

The Committee was advised that there is about \$73,000 available for allocation in Rounds 1 and 2 and that normally more than 50% of this is allocated in Round 1.

In accordance with the Declarations of Interest in Item 1:

Rachael Young left the room and did not participate in discussion or voting on Recommendation 1 in respect of applications 1 and 3 from Rydal Village Association and Rydal A H & P Society.

Leanne Walding left the room and did not participate in discussion or voting on Recommendation 2 in respect of applications 12 and 19 from Lithgow Child Protection Interagency and Lithgow Community Projects.

**Minutes
Community Development Committee
27 June 2017**

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

THAT Council:

1. Provide Round 1 2017/18 Financial Assistance to Rydal Village Association to the value of \$1,500 and Rydal A H & P Society to the value of \$1,000.

MOVED: Clr Lesslie
Carried

SECONDED: Clr Coleman

2. Provide Round 1 2017/18 Financial Assistance to Lithgow Child Protection Interagency to the value of \$3,000 and not approve the application from Lithgow Community Projects.

MOVED: Clr Lesslie
Carried

SECONDED: Paul Phillips

3. Provide Round 1 2017/18 Financial Assistance to the remaining sixteen (16) projects as attached to the value of \$26,272.

MOVED: Clr Coleman
Carried

SECONDED: Bryan Williamson

4. That the request from the Wallerawang Lidsdale Progress Association for funding support for the New Years Eve pyrotechnic display be referred directly to the Council for its consideration.

MOVED: Clr Lesslie
Carried

SECONDED: Bryan Williamson

ITEM: 5 UPDATE ON CURRENT PROJECTS

SUMMARY

An update was provided on projects currently underway in Community and Culture including Blast Furnace Masterplan works and the Museum Advisor Program.

COMMENTARY

Blast Furnace

The committee was advised that Council recently awarded a tender for Masterplan works which involve, raised walkways, viewing platforms, fencing, signage and carpark works. A new suite of interpretative signage will also be installed. Fabrication works have commenced offsite with onsite works to start in August and with a scheduled November 2017 completion.

A lighting strategy is also under development for carpark and walkway lighting as well as for feature lighting. There is not likely to be sufficient funds for much of this, other than carpark lighting, however the lighting concept plan could be implemented in stages as funds become available. Clr Coleman asked that installation of solar lights be further investigated.

**Minutes
Community Development Committee
27 June 2017**

Museum Advisor

Council has recently engaged a new Museum Advisor, Michael Huxley, on a 12 month contract to assist local museums and to update the Lithgow Cultural Plan.

ACTION

THAT the discussion on current projects be noted.

MOVED:	Rachel Young	SECONDED:	Paul Phillips
Carried			

ITEM: 6 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAM

SUMMARY

The Committee was asked to identify items that it would like to consider at future meetings.

COMMENTARY

The committee discussed the rollout of the NDIS in Lithgow and a number of initiatives that different organisations are undertaking to raise awareness of the needs and capabilities of people with a disability. Council staff were asked investigate how Council might support the setting up of a local awards system recognising the achievements of people with a disability as well as employers and other agencies which support people with a disability.

ACTION

THAT Council staff investigate how Council might support the setting up of a local awards system recognising the achievements of people with a disability as well as employers and other agencies which support people with a disability.

MOVED:	Rachel Young	SECONDED:	Paul Phillips
Carried			

ITEM: 7 ART SCHOLARSHIP

SUMMARY

The committee considered a suggestion of creating an arts-based scholarship / financial assistance to support young people heading to university to study arts-based subjects.

COMMENTARY

The Committee heard that Western Sydney University is planning to launch a Foundations in Art course in the near future and that the Hoskins Scholarship program also supports local students to attend tertiary education. Council staff will investigate this further including with Youth Council with the matter to be further discussed at the Committee's next meeting.

**Minutes
Community Development Committee
27 June 2017**

ACTION

THAT Council staff investigate options for setting up a scholarship program and bring this back to the Committee's next meeting.

MOVED: Leanne Walding
Carried

SECONDED: Glenda Anthes

ITEM: 8 SISTER CITIES

SUMMARY

The committee was asked to consider whether or not Sister City arrangements should be pursued.

COMMENTARY

The current CDC Terms of Reference include the Management of Sister City relationships however Council has no active Sister City relationships. The most recent arrangement was established between Lithgow and Huainan City China in 2007 and a formal agreement signed in 2011 for a 5 year period.

A delegation of business and government representatives from Huainan City visited Lithgow in July 2011 and undertook a visit to Clarence colliery and Mount Piper Energy Expo. There have been no visits by Lithgow Council Councillors or staff to Huainan City.

ACTION

THAT The report on Sister Cities arrangements be noted and no further action be taken.

MOVED: Cllr Lesslie
Carried

SECONDED: Paul Phillips

ITEM: 9 GENERAL BUSINESS

NIL

Meeting finished 5:00pm

**Next Meeting Tuesday 8 August from 4:00-5:00pm in the
Council Committee room**

Minutes

Sports Advisory Committee

27th June 2017
5.00pm

Sports Advisory Committee	
Item Number	Agenda
1	Present And Apologies
2	Declaration Of Interests
3	Confirmation Of Minutes
4	Business Arising From The Minutes
5	Financial Assistance Requests
6	2017 LJ Hooker Reg Cowden Sports Star Of The Year Awards
7	Booking Requests
8	New Members
9	NSW Future Needs of Sport Infrastructure Study
10	General Business
11	Next Meeting

ITEM 1: PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

PRESENT: Cllr J Smith, P Hughes, P Glasson, L Stevens, G Ryan, S Howarth, R Marjoram, M Dean, D Fardell, B Haddon, A Magus

APOLOGIES: T Nolan, J Kearney, R Whitty, D Whitty

OFFICERS: I Stewart, K Cibulka

ITEM 2: DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

NIL

ITEM 3: CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from the previous meeting held on the 30th May 2017 were endorsed by one member of the Committee:

- Cllr D Goodwin

These minutes were presented to Council on the 26th June 2017.

MOVED: P Hughes

SECONDED: R Marjoram

ITEM 4: BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

NIL

ITEM 5: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTS

SUMMARY

There were no complying financial assistance requests received in June 2017.

ACTION

THAT that the information regarding financial assistance be noted.

ITEM 6: 2017 LJ HOOKER REG COWDEN MEMORIAL SPORTS STAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

SUMMARY

Junior nominations for the month of May 2017 were received from:

- Brenna Croker (Hockey) – Selected as goalkeeper in U15 Girls State Team and competed in U15 Australia National Championships receiving a bronze medal.
- Rylee Millar (Hockey) – Selected in U15 NSW Girls State Team, competed in the U15 Australian National Championships receiving a bronze medal.
- Sara Lane (Baseball) – First female baseball player from the region to be selected in the NSW Country Baseball Youth side. The NSW Country Youth Women's side came fourth at the Women's National Baseball Championship in Canberra, ACT in April
- Lithgow U15 Girls Hockey Team – Division 2 State Champions in the NSW State Championships in Wagga Wagga. They defeated ACT in the final to win gold. They were also U15 Western Conference Champions.

No Senior nominations for the month of May 2017 were received.

MONTH	JUNIOR RECIPIENT(S)	SENIOR RECIPIENT(S)
December/January	Ethan Corney (Downhill) & Emmerson Banning (Tennis)	Richard Forbes (Table Tennis, Lawn Bowls, Darts, Petanque and Archery) & Roxanne Van Veen (Cricket)
February	Lucy Green (Tennis)	Cheryl Schram (Bowls) & Lesley Townsend (Bowls)
March	Morgan Watts (Triathlon)	Lithgow Lightning (Cricket)
April	Brenna Crocker (Hockey) Rylee Miller (Hockey)	Andrew Burton (Golf)
May	Sara Lane (Baseball) Lithgow U15 Girls Hockey Team (Hockey)	No Nominations Received
June		
July		
August		
September		
October		
November		

ACTION

THAT

1. The 2017 LJ Hooker Reg Cowden Memorial Junior Sports Star of the Year Award for January 2017 be awarded to Ethan Corney (Downhill) & Emmerson Banning (Tennis);

2. The 2017 LJ Hooker Reg Cowden Memorial Senior Sports Star of the Year Award for December 2016/ January 2017 be awarded to Richard Forbes (Table Tennis, Lawn Bowls, Darts, Petanque and Archery) & Roxanne Van Veen (Cricket).
3. The 2017 LJ Hooker Reg Cowden Memorial Junior Sports Star of the Year Award for February 2017 be awarded to Lucy Green (Tennis);
4. The 2017 LJ Hooker Reg Cowden Memorial Senior Sports Star of the Year Award for February 2017 be awarded to Cheryl Schram (Bowls) and Lesley Townsend (Bowls) ; and
5. The 2017 LJ Hooker Reg Cowden Memorial Junior Sports Star of the Year Award for March 2017 be awarded to (Morgan Watts) (Triathlon);
6. The 2017 LJ Hooker Reg Cowden Memorial Senior Sports Star of the Year Award for March 2017 be awarded to (Lithgow Lightning) (Cricket); and
7. The 2017 LJ Hooker Reg Cowden Memorial Junior Sports Star of the Year Award for April 2017 be awarded to Brenna Crocker & Rylee Miller (Hockey)
8. The 2017 LJ Hooker Reg Cowden Memorial Senior Sports Star of the Year Award for April 2017 be awarded to Andrew Burton (Golf).
9. The 2017 LJ Hooker Reg Cowden Memorial Junior Sports Star of the Year Award for May 2017 be awarded to Sara Lane (Baseball) & Lithgow U15 Hockey Team (Hockey);and
10. Merit certificates to be awarded to all other nominees.

ITEM 7: BOOKING REQUESTS

SUMMARY

The following bookings were received between 30th May 2017 and 27th June 2017, and do not conflict with any other approved bookings.

JM Robson Aquatic Centre, Lithgow			
User	Dates / Times	Purpose	Comments
Kurt Morton – NBM LHD	Between 4:00pm & 7:00pm on Thursdays from 12 th October 2017 to 14 th December 2017	Go 4 Fun Lithgow – Term 4	Approved subject to standard condition.
Joanna Tait Western School Sports Association	Between 10:00am & 1:15pm from Monday 20 th to Friday 24 th November 2017.	School Swimming & Water Safety Program – Coerwull & Wallerawang Schools	Approved subject to standard condition.
Tony Luchetti Sportsground, Lithgow			
User	Dates / Times	Purpose	Comments
NSW Rugby Union	Between 9:00am and 2:00pm on Monday 26 th June 2017	Canobolas Public School BP Shield	Approved subject to standard condition.
Walk N Talk Brad Cluff	Between 9:30am and 11:30am on Saturday 8 th July 2017	Walk N Talk	No booking form submitted but there has been widely spread advertising to the community. Approved subject to standard condition
Jim Monaghan Athletics Oval, Lithgow			
User	Dates / Times	Purpose	Comments
Lithgow RFS Brett Taylor	Between 9:00am to 12:00pm on Saturday 22 nd July 2017	Lithgow RFS	Approved subject to standard condition.

The approved bookings calendars are updated after each Sports Advisory Committee meeting, and can be viewed and / or downloaded from Council's website <http://www.council.lithgow.com/recreationFacilities.html>

ACTION

THAT

1. All bookings detailed in Item 7 be approved; and
2. That the use of Conran & Glanmire for parking purposes for Ironfest be denied.

ITEM 8: NEW MEMBERS

NIL

ITEM 9: NSW FUTURE NEEDS OF SPORT INFRASTRUCTURE STUDY

SUMMARY

The NSW Government has recently announced that they will provide funding of up to \$1.3 Billion Dollars in the Regional Growth fund, which includes regional sporting facilities. This is to ensure all regional residents have access to the same infrastructure and services as people in the city.

The NSW Office of Sports are calling all Councils to put forward at least 20 submissions identifying priorities for future investment of sport and active recreation facility in regional NSW to present in the NSW Office of Sports - "Future Needs of Sporting Infrastructure Study".

Council must put forward their submissions by the **5th July 2017** to be a part of the future funding program.

Ideas and Options that may be included:

- New Flood Lighting (LED) to achieve night TV Standard at the Tony Luchetti Sportsground
- New football complex for Lithgow
- New Skate Parks at Wallerawang, Portland, Capertee & Cullen Bullen
- New Amenities Block at Conran Oval
- Improved Lights at Wallerawang Oval
- Improved new Basketball Stadium
- Lights at the Wallerawang Baseball Oval
- New Grandstand at Portland
- Multi-Purpose Indoor Sport Centre
- Portland Pool upgrade
- Water Slide – Lithgow Pool
- Construct cycling network
- Ice Rink
- Play / exercise equipment for disabled and seniors use

ACTION

THAT at least 20 sporting fields and recreational facilities be included in this study for potential funding by the NSW Government in the 2017/2018 and future budgets.

ITEM 10: GENERAL BUSINESS

SUMMARY

1. WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Clr J Smith welcomed newcomer D Fardell from the Portland Cricket Association.

2. TONY LUCHETTI

Lithgow Bears asked if any action was taken in regards to the lights being turned off early, whilst the field was being used by other teams. It was advised that T Nolan & P Glasson have advised C Osborne.

Bears also brought up the issue of sharing the fields at Tony Luchetti when local games clash; it is up to the clubs to work out and not Councils responsibility. All Clubs will work together for a satisfactory solution.

3. WORKING WITH CHILDREN

R Marjoram again raised the importance of working with children. There is an audit currently underway; All Associations working with children should be registered. This registration process free online.

Please visit

<http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-organisations/working-with-children-check>

4. NSW GOVERNMENT REBATE

It was also advised that the NSW Government have a new rebate known as the 'Active Kid Rebate' where families that have school aged children who are playing any sport are eligible for an annual rebate of \$100.

5. FEES AND CHARGES FOR JM ROBSON AQUATIC CENTRE

The 2017/2018 fees and charges have been released to the public and the spectator fees for the JM Robson Aquatic Centre have raised some speculation. The fees and charges are advertised for 28 days to the public to comment before being put forward Council to be adopted. A Media release was posted on Social Media advising that this fee is a product of reduction from previously being \$6.00 per entry to \$3.00. It was also raised that other aquatic centres do not charge such a fee but after contacting local Councils it's known that Bathurst and Blue Mountains charge as similar fee. It's not a new fee and not an increase but a reduction.

Clr Smith also added that the Lithgow Government areas are quite lucky to have two great pool facilities in Lithgow & Portland.

6. CONGRATULATIONS TO BEARS AND WORKIES

Clr J Smith congratulated the Lithgow Bears on their upcoming milestone of 35 Years and the Lithgow Workies, 60 Years. J Smith would like to see the community get behind both of these clubs.

7. NEW STEERING COMMITTEE – UPDATE

Options for a possible location for a new sporting complex for the LGA were discussed and numerous parcels of land in the area were mentioned and more information to be researched about them including a site visit.

ACTION

THAT appropriate actions and reporting be undertaken in relation to the items raised during general business.

ITEM 11: NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: 5.00pm on Tuesday, 25th July 2017
Council Chambers, Administration Building,
180 Mort Street LITHGOW NSW 2790

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5:40pm

DRAFT

Minutes

Operations Committee

3rd July 2017

4.00pm

Operations Committee	
Item Number	Agenda
1	Present And Apologies
2	Declaration Of Interests
3	Confirmation Of Minutes
4	Business Arising From The Minutes
5	Lowther Cemetery – Fees & Charges
6	Budget Reallocation – Recreation Program
7	Black Spot Funding – Browns Gap Road
8	Project Status and Carry Forward Funds – Operations (Works)
9	Budget Reallocation – Footpath Construction- Barton Avenue, Wallerawang
10	General Business
11	Next Meeting

ITEM 1: PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

PRESENT: Clr S Ring, Clr R Thompson, Clr W McAndrew, Clr S Lesslie

APOLOGIES: NIL

OFFICERS: R Brownlow, J Edgecombe, I Stewart, K Cibulka

ITEM 2: DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

NIL

ITEM: 3 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from the previous meetings held on the 22nd May 2017 & 8th June 2017 were presented to Council on 26th June 2017.

ITEM 4: BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

NIL

ITEM 5: LOWTHER CEMETERY – FEES AND CHARGES

SUMMARY

Following advice concerning the ownership of the Catholic portion of the Lowther Cemetery it will be necessary to bring the fees and charges for this portion in line with Council charges.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council remove the special fee for the Catholic Section of Lowther Cemetery from the fees and charges and apply the adopted fees and charges set for all Councils Cemeteries.

MOVED: Clr S Ring

SECONDED: Clr R Thompson

ITEM 6: BUDGET REALLOCATION – RECREATION PROGRAM

SUMMARY

The capital works program in the Recreation area has been significantly completed. Projects not completed due to a variety of reasons are recommended for transfer of existing funds required to complete the project in 2017/2018.

These include \$10,000.00 for Cemetery Improvements at Lithgow, construction of a new access road, and \$69,246.00 for electrical work at the Marjorie Jackson and Wallerawang Oval.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council

1. Transfers unspent funds totalling \$10,000.00 for the completion of road works at the Lithgow Cemetery in 2017/2018; and
2. Transfer unspent funds totalling \$69,246.00 for the upgrade of lighting at the Marjorie Jackson and Wallerawang Ovals in 2017/2018
3. Issue a letter of recognition to Council Staff for their efforts in constructing the Walking/ Cycle path around the Watsford/ Coran Oval area.

MOVED: Clr S Lesslie

SECONDED: Clr S Ring

ITEM 7: BLACKSPOT FUNDING – BROWNS GAP ROAD

SUMMARY

Advice has been received from Roads and Maritime Services advising that the funding is to improve sealed shoulder on curve, mark road edge lines, install guideposts and roadside guardrails, wire rope barrier and raised pavement markers with the conditions of the project be completed by 30th June 2018 with a completion report and that any additional costs that exceed funding be funded by Council.

ATTACHMENT

1. Approved Project – Australian Government Black Spot Program 2017/18

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council accept the grant of \$398,908.00, subject to certain conditions from the Australian Government Black Spot program for the Browns Gap Road project.

MOVED: Clr S Lesslie

SECONDED: Clr R Thompson

ITEM 8: PROJECT STATUS AND CARRY FORWARD FUNDS – OPERATIONS (WORKS)

SUMMARY

Prior to commencing works in the 2017/18 financial year, management is required to report all project budgets that are to be 'rolled over' to the next financial year. This includes both finished and unfinished works.

Below is a spreadsheet which outlines the projects *not yet completed* which are to be completed early in 2017/18 and reasons for these projects not being completed. It also outlines projects that *have* been completed yet have budget saving amounts remaining. It is proposed that these remaining amounts be retained and rolled over into the new financial year to supplement existing projects. The suggested projects are also listed.

ATTACHMENT

1. Spreadsheet of Carry Forward Proposal – Operations (Works)

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council

1. Note the status report on major capital road projects in 2016/17; and that
2. The uncompleted Roads to Recovery program consisting of:
 - a. Hampton Road - \$350,000.00
 - b. Coxs River Road - \$300,000.00
 - c. McKanes Falls Road - \$150,000.00be transferred to the 2017/18 Roads to Recovery program; and
3. The savings achieved from the Urban Road Resealing program of \$49,311.00 be transferred to supplement the Urban Drainage Improvements program in 2017/18; and
4. The savings achieved from the Roads to Recovery program of \$280,261.00 be transferred to supplement the Browns Gap Road Blackspot program works in 2017/18; and
5. The savings achieved from the Infrastructure Levy Program of \$103,588.00 be transferred to supplement the Coxs River Road reseal in 2017/18; and
6. Consideration be given to the naming of the new bridge in the Wolgan Valley as the Winchester bridge after a local identity.

MOVED: Cllr R Thompson

SECONDED: Cllr S Lesslie

ITEM 9: BUDGET REALLOCATION – FOOTPATH CONSTRUCTION – BARTON AVENUE, WALLERAWANG

SUMMARY

Over the last 12 months, Council has received considerable feedback from the residents of Wallerawang, staff of the Wallerawang Public School and the Wallerawang Progress Association requesting a pedestrian crossing across Barton Avenue, north of the Bowling Club and west of the intersection of Barton Avenue and Lyon Parade.

A thorough investigation was undertaken regarding the feasibility of installing a pedestrian crossing in this location. The result of this investigation indicated that this request did not meet the required sight distance / road classification requirements and RMS warrants for demand / usage. For this reason the public were informed that their request was denied.

However, it is understood by Council officers that as Barton Avenue is an urban arterial road, the safety of pedestrians (particularly young children unable to catch the bus due to their proximity to the school) is of utmost concern. For this reason, the alternate option of installing a pedestrian refuge in this location has been explored. It has been found that this option is suitable based on site constraints and RMS / Australian Standards requirements. The recommended design for this facility is attached.

As this refuge will require the procurement of concrete, associated signage, line marking and potential additional street lighting, a budget of approximately \$50,000.00 is required. At this stage, it is recommended that Council reallocate the budget for the Barton Avenue Footpath Construction (Forest Ridge Drive to Wallerawang Public School) to this work as the budget required for this footpath construction would greatly exceed what has been allocated due to required bridge and embankment modifications.

Should the Barton Avenue Footpath Construction (Forest Ridge Drive to Wallerawang Public School) project be a priority in the future, it is suggested that appropriate investigation occur into adequate design and costing prior to budget approval and allocation to ensure works can be completed.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the reallocation of funds from the Barton Avenue Footpath Construction to the construction of the Barton Avenue Pedestrian Refuge Construction be approved.

ATTACHMENT

1. Pedestrian Refuge Design Layout

MOVED: Cllr S Ring

SECONDED: Cllr S Lesslie

ITEM 10: GENERAL BUSINESS

SUMMARY

PORTLAND AND CULLEN SEWERAGE TREATMENT WORKS

R Brownlow gave an update on both the Treatment Works.

Portland was waiting on a power supply upgrade plans which were received by Council 23 months after the request. Council is also looking in the quickest way to do the upgrade, Contractors to undertake work. A report will be presented to the operation committee with prices and more details in the near future.

Cullen Bullen treatment plant draft plans have been sent to the minister for approval.

LAKE WALLACE – ROAD MATERIAL

J Edgecombe advised that the Wallerawang/Lidsdale Association have approached Council advised a local road material company have approached them in regards to cheap road base to use at Lake Wallace which is believed to reduce dust. It was discussed that Council investigate and make enquires regarding the product and report back to Operations Committee.

POTHoles IN LOCAL AREA

Clr S Lesslie advised that he was in the vicinity of the crossroads from Sodwalls to Rydal Hampton road where he advised that there was many potholes, too many in fact for the area where he believed was not long ago repaired. It was discussed that there is a large volume of heavy traffic on the road due to railway repair work happening in the area.

ACTION

THAT appropriate actions and reporting be undertaken in relation to the items raised during general business.

ITEM 11: NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: 4.00pm on Monday, 24th July
Committee Room, Administration Building,
180 Mort Street LITHGOW NSW 2790

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4:55pm

Attachment 8

Carry Forward Proposal - Operations (Works)

Carry Forwards - Unfinished Projects

Number	PJ Number	Function	Project Title	Budget Remaining	Reason for Carry Forward
1	100027	Plant & Depot	Depot Improvements	\$ 13,713.00	Barcode system procurement to continue into 2017/18.
2	100024	Aquatic Centre	Aquatic Centre - Stage 4	\$ 223,032.00	Surveillance upgrades to continue into 2017/18. Design has been completed for additional cameras, poles are in the process of being erected and once preparation has been completed, the additional outdoor cameras will be installed.
3	100007	Urban Sealed	Lithgow CBD Revitalisation	\$ 178,649.00	Lithgow CBD Project to continue into 2017/18.
4	100010	Urban Sealed	Urban Drainage Improvements	\$ 24,282.00	Extensive urban drainage improvements are required in 2017/18. Carry forward will assist with in ensuring the completion of the required work.
5	100171	Urban Sealed	Footpath Construction - Barton Avenue Wallerawang	\$ 50,000.00	Project budget is a small percentage of what is required to complete this work. It is considered that this money would provide much greater benefit to Council and the community if it is reallocated to the construction of a pedestrian refuge on Barton Avenue. Project to be completed in 2017/18.
6	100204	Urban Sealed	Linemarking	\$ 40,000.00	Line marking has commenced and is to continue into 2017/18.

7	100283	Urban Sealed	Thornton Avenue Cul-de-Sac	\$ 1,746.00	Cul-de-sac pavement construction has been completed to allow the extinguishing of an easement burdening 1 Thornton Avenue. Hotmix surface to be added early in 2017/18.
8	100081	Rural Sealed	Rural Roads Improvements - Kanimbla Drive	\$ 455.00	50% of Kanimbla Drive still requires seal to the occurrence of surface lamination during the sealing process. Remaining seal will be laid by Council's day-labour early in 2017/18.
	100081	Rural Sealed	Rural Roads Improvements - Kanimbla Drive	\$ 6,042.00	
9	100177	Rural Sealed	Rural Roads Gravel Resheeting - Wattlemount Road	\$ 70,000.00	Project delayed due to unexpected circumstances. Project completion expected in 2017/18.
10	100189	Rural Sealed	Rural Roads Gravel Resheeting - Hartley Valley Road	\$ 37,345.00	Wolgan Road gravel resheeting 90% complete. Completion is expected in early 2017/18.
11	100222	Rural Sealed	Roads to Recovery Rydal-Hampton Road 2016/17	\$ 350,000.00	Works not started due to contractor inavailability. Works to be progreammed as soon as possible as a prioty in 2017/18.
12	100225	Rural Sealed	Roads to Recovery Coxs River Road Hartley 2016/17	\$ 300,000.00	
13	100229	Rural Sealed	Roads to Recovery McKanes Falls Rd 2016/17	\$ 150,000.00	
14	100240	Rural Sealed	Macauley St Intersection Upgrade 2016/17	\$ 10,781.00	Invoices are still outstanding for works completed. These are being chased as a priority however it is unknown if they'll come in before the 2016/17 cut-off date.
15	100241	Rural Sealed	Lithgow Street Upgrade 2016/17	\$ 59,292.00	
16	100255	Rural Sealed	ILP - Wolgan Valley Causeway	\$ 11,327.00	Project 90% completed. Full completion is expected very early in 2017/18.

<i>Total</i>	<i>\$ 1,526,664.00</i>
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Carry Forwards - Possible Unrestricted Reallocation (All listed projects complete, budget under-expenditure)

Number	PJ Number	Function	Project Title	Budget Remaining	Reallocate To:
1	100004	Urban Sealed	Urban Resealing - Ordnance Avenue	\$ 13,753.00	Main Street Footpath Repair/Investigation OR Supplement Urban Drainage Repairs
2	100178	Urban Sealed	Urban Resealing - Methven Street	\$ 2,558.00	
3	100165	Rural Sealed	Guardrail Installation	\$ 33,000.00	

Total \$ 49,311.00

Carry Forwards - Possible Roads to Recovery Reallocation (All listed projects complete, budget under-expenditure)

Number	PJ Number	Function	Project Title	Budget Remaining	Reallocate To:
1	100224	Rural Sealed	Roads to Recovery Main St Wallerawang 2016/17	\$ 141,054.00	Browns Gap Road to supplement approved Blackspot Program works. High friction seal, armco repairs and drainage improvements.
2	100226	Rural Sealed	Roads to Recovery Williwa St Portland	\$ 35,652.00	
3	100228	Rural Sealed	Roads to Recovery Glen Alice Road Bogee	\$ 103,555.00	

Total \$ 280,261.00

Carry Forwards - Possible Infrastructure Levy Program Reallocation (All listed projects complete, budget under-expenditure)

Number	PJ Number	Function	Project Title	Budget Remaining	Reallocate To:
1	100087	Rural Sealed	Roads to Recovery/ILP - Browns Gap Road	\$ 25,241.00	Coxs River Road to complete required reseal.
2	100186	Rural Sealed	ILP - Roads - Inch Street Lane	\$ 26,940.00	
3	100187	Rural Sealed	ILP - Bells Rd - Victoria Ave to Zig Zag Oval	\$ 14,393.00	
4	100208	Rural Sealed	Infrastructure Levy Program - Wilton Close	\$ 4,446.00	
5	100210	Rural Sealed	Infrastructure Levy Program - Curringa Place	\$ 2,709.00	
6	100211	Rural Sealed	Infrastructure Levy Program - Pindari/Koolyn Place	\$ 21,854.00	
7	100254	Rural Sealed	ILP - Cullenbenbong Road	\$ 8,005.00	

<u>Total</u>	\$ 103,588.00
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MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 3 July 2017

Inquiry into the Prevention of Youth Suicide

Parliament's Committee on Children and Young People is commencing an inquiry into the current approaches aimed at preventing youth suicide in New South Wales.

"Too many of us know, or know of, a young person who has taken their own life. The suicide of a young person has a huge and lasting impact on friends, families, schools, and entire communities," said Committee Chair and Holsworthy MP Melanie Gibbons.

"We know that there is much work being done in New South Wales aimed at preventing youth suicide. We want to better understand the ways in which this important issue is being tackled, including what is being done well, and what could be improved.

"We'll be looking at the efforts of government, service providers and schools to prevent the suicide of our young people. We'll also examine the services available on the ground in local communities, especially regional and rural areas."

The Committee will also inquire into any gaps in suicide prevention activities and programs across government, governance arrangements and accountabilities, data collection about the number of young people committing suicide or attempting suicide, the provision of services to vulnerable and at-risk groups, and the information and training available to service providers working on the frontline.

The Committee is currently inviting submissions from the public and in particular is keen to hear from individuals and organisations working to prevent youth suicide.

The closing date for submissions to the inquiry is Thursday 31 August 2017.

Further information about the inquiry can be obtained by visiting the Committee's website at: <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/children>

Media contact: Melanie Gibbons 02 9825 3653