



COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Thursday 13 July 2023

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a **Meeting of the Community Services and Planning Committee** will be held in the Warialda Office Council Chambers on **Thursday 13 July 2023**, commencing at **9:00 am** to discuss the items listed in the Agenda.

Your attendance is respectfully requested.

Yours faithfully,

Max Eastcott
General Manager

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1 OFFICIAL OPENING AND WELCOME - MAYOR

2 APOLOGIES

Cr Dr Matthews and Cr Mulligan have given their apologies.

3 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Minutes of the Community Services and Planning Committee held on Thursday 8th June 2023 as circulated be taken as read and CONFIRMED.

4 PRESENTATION

Rhiannon O'Brien will be presenting the Warialda Creek Plan of Management.

At 9.30 am a Citizenship Ceremony will be conducted for Ms. Hazel Doyle from the Philippines.

Lunch will be held at the Warialda CHSP Room following the official opening of the Warialda Gym Improvements by The Hon. Mark Coulton MP at 12 noon.

5 CALL FOR THE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, GIFTS RECEIVED AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

6 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Confidential Organisation & Community Services Report

It is recommended that the Council resolve into Committee of the Whole with the press and public excluded to allow consideration of this Item, as provided for under Section 10 A (2) (a) of the Local Government Act, 1993, on the grounds the report contains personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

7 OFFICERS' REPORTS

7.1 Warialda Creek Plan of Management

File Reference: NA

Delivery Program

Goal:

- 1. A healthy and cohesive community
- 3. An environmentally responsible shire

Outcome: 1.1 We have healthy and inviting spaces and places

	3.2 We use and manage our natural resources wisely
Strategy:	1.1.3 Provide the right places, spaces and activities 3.2.4 Identify and make best use of our land resource
Author:	Rhiannon O'Brien

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

That council places the draft Warialda Creek Plan on public exhibition for 28 days.

TABLED ITEMS Nil

BACKGROUND

The adoption of the Warialda Creek Crown Reserve Plan of Management (POM) will provide the council with an action plan and direction for short, medium and long-term goals in the creek's overall management.

Further, the council can seek funding opportunities to action these goals and outcomes as presented in the action plan.

The management goals and outcomes include the installation of walking trails, footpaths, picnic/ public amenities, interpretative signage, weed control and restoration/rehabilitation. (See pp 53-56; 79-84; 97-108 draft POM).

COMMENT

The draft Plan of Management (POM) is attached.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Warialda Creek Crown Reserve Plan of Management (POM) be put on public exhibition for 28 days.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Plan of Management Draft Reedy Creek 2 Revised Version 2.1.2 [7.1.1 - 138 pages]



WARIALDA CREEK CROWN RESERVE PLAN OF MANAGEMENT



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Key information

Title

This plan is known as the Warialda Creek Community Land and Crown Reserves Plan of Management 2023.



Authority

This Plan of Management (POM) has been prepared by Gwydir Shire Council in consultation with the community and provides direction as to the use and management of Council-managed Crown Reserves classified as 'Community Land' in the Gwydir Shire Council area. The Plan of Management is required in accordance with Section 3.23 of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* and Section 36 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

This Plan of Management specifically addresses the management of Warialda Creek Crown Reserve. The Plan of Management outlines the way the land will be used and provides the framework for Council to follow in relation to the express authorization of leases and licence on the land.

Commencement

This plan commences on (insert date)

	Plan of Management for Warialda Creek Community Land and Crown Reserves 2023	
	Version: 1 (Draft)	Author: Rhiannon O'Brien
	Version: 2 (Draft)	

Document History and Version Control Table

Version Number	Date Approved	Approved By	Brief Description

Acknowledgement to Country

The council acknowledges the traditional owners of the land, the Weraerai people of the Gomeroi Nation and pays its respect to Elders both past and present.

Introduction

Gwydir Shire Council is situated within the North-West slopes and plains of New South Wales, approximately 600 kilometres north of Sydney, 500 kilometres south of Brisbane, 80 kilometres east of Moree and 60 kilometres west of Inverell (**Figure 1**). The Shire is nestled along the tourist route, The Fossickers Way covering an area of 9,122km² which borders the Nandewar Range in the south, Mount Kaputar, and its geological remnants of a shield volcano in the west and undulating, basaltic slopes near the Queensland border in the north. Gwydir Shire has a population of 5,258 people, according to the 2016 census (ABS, 2021) with a steady increase of tree changers or people seeking a healthier, affordable pace of life. The district centres of Bingara and Wialda together with villages such as Wialda Rail, Gravesend, North Star, Croppa Creek, Upper Horton and Coolatai make up the urban areas of the shire with smaller rural locales situated throughout the region. The township of Bingara is established either side of the Gwydir River forming part of the Murray Darling Basin while 40 kilometres north, Wialda is settled on both sides of Wialda Creek, a major tributary of the Gwydir River system. These district centres boast an array of historic buildings, small but vibrant shopping centres, hospitals, medical centres including a range of tourism, recreational and open space opportunities. The shire is a diversified agricultural region with livestock production in the south and broadacre, mixed farming enterprises in the north.

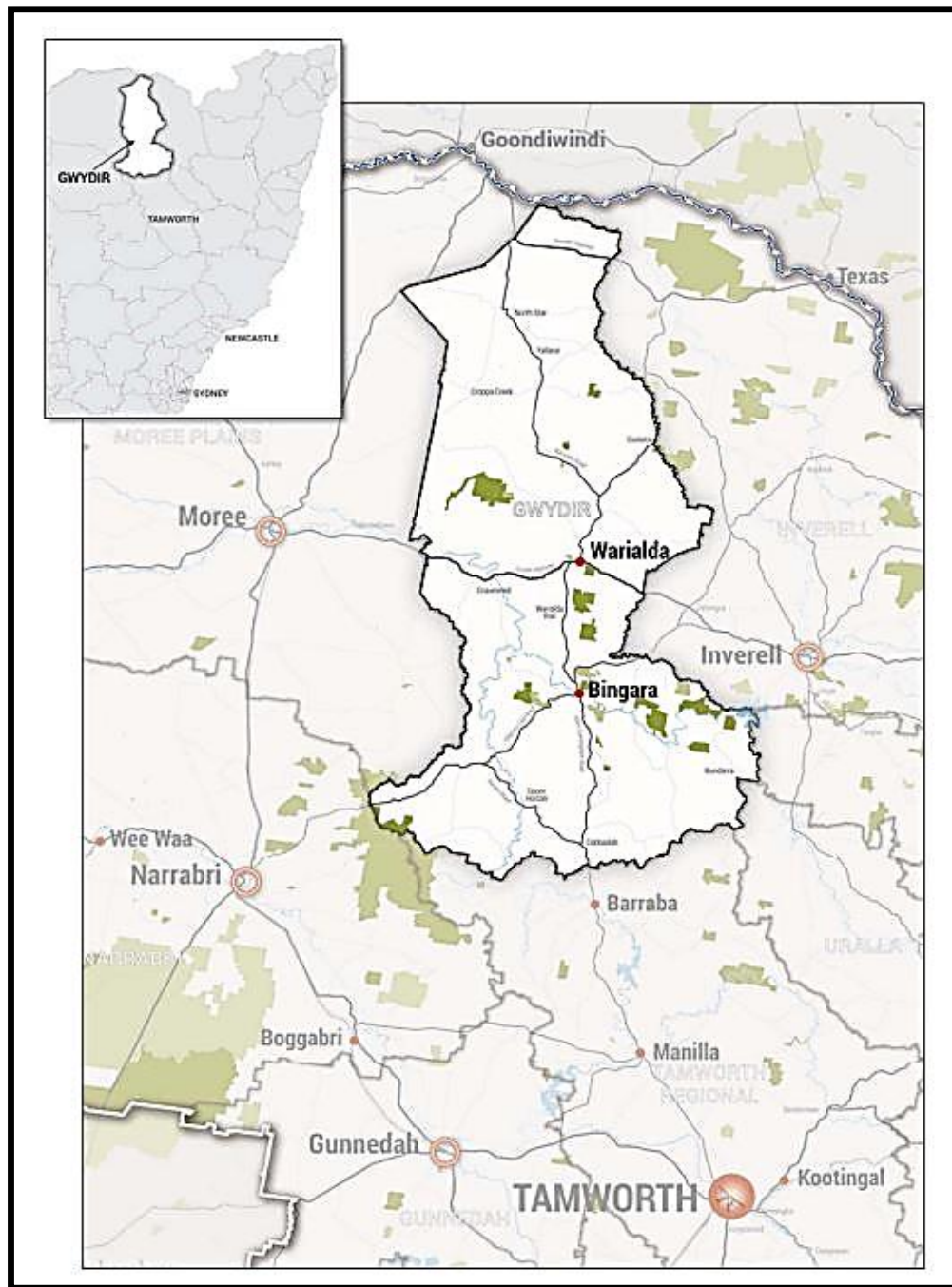


Figure 1. Gwydir Shire Council location within New South Wales.
(Source: *Gwydir Shire Council Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036*)

Vision for Warialda Creek

To provide a sustainable, rehabilitated creekside reserve that aims to enhance biodiversity and everyday public recreational use, for the enjoyment of all.

The intent of this Plan of Management is to enable Gwydir Shire Council to encourage public use of the reserves, provide a safe environment for visitors whilst simultaneously conserving, restoring, and enhancing the natural environment including the cultural, social, and built features along the Warialda Creek Crown Land Reserve. Forming part of the **Gwydir Shire Council Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036**, **Gwydir Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027** and **Warialda Strategy Plan 2008**, the Plan of Management for Warialda Creek Crown Reserve will guide the Council into achieving “a viable and sustainable long-term role in meeting the needs of our residents in a responsible caring way, attract sustainable development while maintaining the traditional rural values, character and culture of our people”. This will in turn achieve the community’s vision for a vibrant, energetic place that Warialda will be in the future (Mongard, 2008). In doing so, the Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036 in unison with the Gwydir Community Strategic Plan outlines several outcomes related to the responsible management and use of The Warialda Creek Crown Reserve in accordance with the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* and the *Local Government Act 1993*. Please see the planning priorities and objectives regarding the management of Warialda Creek from the Gwydir Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027 (pp. 26-29).

Purpose of the Plan of Management

The purpose of this Plan of Management is to construct the foundational framework together with ongoing management procedures of Warialda Creek Crown Reserve. The Plan of Management is to:

- contribute to the Council’s broader strategic goals and vision as set out in The Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036, The Gwydir Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027, and Warialda Strategy Plan 2008.
- ensure compliance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.
- provide clarity in the future development, use and management of the Community Land.
- ensure consistent management that supports a unified approach to meeting the varied needs of the community.

Therefore, this Plan of Management will satisfy the requirements and obligations of *The Local Government Act 1993*, the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (see Legislative Framework; Appendix 2) as well as the outcomes outlined in the Local Strategic

Planning Statement 2036, Gwydir Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027, and the Warialda Strategy Plan 2008.

Legislative Framework (Requirements)

Local Government Act 1993

1). *The Local Government Act 1993* requires all Council owned land to be ‘classified’ as **Community or Operational Land**.

All land classified as Community Land must be kept for use by the general community and must not be sold, leased, licensed, consist of a granted estate over the land of more than 30 years or be alienated for private purposes. Also, it must be managed by a Plan of Management and the *Local Government Act 1993* sets out the requirements for Community Land (Table 2).

Operational Land is land held as a temporary asset or as an investment that facilitates a Council carrying out its functions or is land which is not open to the public such as a works depot or sewerage works.

The Warialda Creek Crown Reserve is identified as Council owned land and is **classified as Community Land**.

Community Land is required to be used and managed in accordance with a Plan of Management and any law permitting the use
Council must prepare a Plan of Management for the land and provide a category for the land
The plan must identify the core objectives for the management of the land in accordance with the category
The plan must provide a description of the land condition and any structures on the land
The plan must specify the purpose for which any development of the land will be permitted and the scale and intensity
The plan must detail the performance targets and a means of assessment
A lease or licence over Community Land if it is expressly authorised by the Plan of Management in accordance with the reserve purpose.

Table 1: Requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* for Community Land.

2). *The Local Government Act 1993 (LG Act)* requires a Plan of Management (POM) to be prepared for all public land that is classified as 'Community Land' under that Act. The Act, Part 2, Divisions 1 and 2 provide guidelines for categorisation and further categorisation if applicable of Community Land. The following categories are:

- a Natural Area
- a Sportsground
- a Park
- General Community Use
- An Area of Cultural Significance

Land that is categorised as a Natural Area is further categorised as one or more of the following:

- Bushland
- Wetland
- Escarpment
- Watercourse (Riparian Zone)
- Foreshore
- a category prescribed by the regulations.

Therefore, this Plan of Management has been recognised and categorised in accordance with the Act. An individual land parcel or any connecting land parcels may consist of one or more categories. The land parcels associated with Warialda Creek Crown Reserve have been identified with either one or more categories that align with current or potential/ future land use. Overall, these land parcels are General Community Use, Natural Area-Watercourse (Riparian Zone) and Natural Area- Foreshore. (Please refer to Basis of Management Section, Management of Land by Category Section and Appendix 2 for more information).

Under the *Local Government Act 1993, Division 2, Section 36I*, the core objectives for management of Community Land categorised as **General Community Use** state that land is 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).

Under the *Local Government Act 1993, Division 2, Section 36M*, the core objectives for the management of Community Land categorized as a **Natural Area- Watercourse** are:

- A) To manage watercourses to protect the biodiversity and ecological values of the instream environment, particularly in relation to water quality and water flows and
- B) To manage watercourses to protect the riparian environment, particularly in relation to riparian vegetation and habitats and bank stability, and
- C) To restore degraded watercourses, and
- D) To promote community education and community access to and use of the watercourse, without compromising the other core objectives of the category.

Under the *Local Government Act 1993, Division 2, Section 36N*, the core objectives for management of Community Land categorised as **Natural Area-Foreshore** are:

- A) To Maintain the foreshore as a transition area between the aquatic and the terrestrial environment, and to protect and enhance all functions associated with the foreshore's role as a transition area, and
- B) To facilitate the ecologically sustainable use of the foreshore, and to mitigate impact on the foreshore by community use.

Crown Land Management Act 2016

3). The *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (the CLM Act) authorises local Councils (Council Managers) appointed to manage dedicated or reserved Crown Land as if it were public land under the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act). A Plan of Management is required for all Council-managed Crown Reserves on Community Land. The role and obligations of Council Managers are as follows (see table 2):

Table 2. Functions of Council Managers

Must manage the land as if it were Community Land under the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> , and has the functions that a local Council has under the Act (including the ability to lease or licence Community Land)
A Council-Manager may not sell or dispose of the land in any other way unless the Minister gives written consent
Council Land Managers must adopt a Plan of Management for all Crown Reserves classified as 'Community Land'
The first Plan of Management may be prepared and adopted under division 2, Part 2 of Chapter 6 of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> by: Amending an existing Plan of Management so that it applies to or adopting a new Plan of Management
The Plan must meet all the requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> .

(Source: *Crown Land Management Act 2016*)

The principles under the *Crown Management Act 2016* state:

- A) That environmental protection principles be observed in relation to the management and administration of Crown land, and
- B) That the natural resources of Crown land (including water, soil, flora, fauna, and scenic quality) be conserved wherever possible, and
- C) That public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown land be encouraged, and
- D) That, where appropriate, multiple use of Crown land be encouraged, and

- E) That, where appropriate, Crown land should be used and managed in such a way that both 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.

Zoning and Planning Controls

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A) is the principle legislation regulating land use in NSW. *Part 4* of the *EP&A Act 1979* outlines the factors that must be considered when a development application is assessed. The *EP&A Act 1979* includes other provisions including that a public authority may become the determining authority for development (activity) that is permissible without consent under *Part 5* of the Act.

The purpose of *Part 5* of the Act is to ensure public authorities fully consider environmental issues before they undertake or approve activities that do not require development consent. As such, it has commonly been used to assess activities such as roads, railways, dredging and construction of facilities on public land, which do not require consent. If these activities are judged by the relevant public authority to significantly affect the environment, then an environmental impact statement will need to be prepared and considered by this authority.

State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs)

Transport and Infrastructure SEPP 2021

Under the *Transport and Infrastructure SEPP 2021*, certain types of development do not require consent under *Part 4* of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. It includes provisions for exempt development and for development without consent on parks and other public reserves.

Under *Division 12, Clause 65(2)(d)* of the SEPP, development can be carried out without consent by a Crown Land Manager of the land if the development is for purposes of implementing a plan of management adopted for the land under the *Local Government Act 1993*. However, a review of environmental factors (REF) under *Part 5* of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* is still required.

Clause 66 provides and sets out exemptions for certain works within parks and other public reserves undertaken by a public authority.

Biodiversity and Conservation SEPP 2021- Ch. 4. Koala Habitat Protection 2021

Under the *Biodiversity and Conservation SEPP 2021-Ch 4. Koala Habitat Protection 2021* the principles are to:

-
- Help reverse the decline of koala populations by ensuring koala habitat is carefully considered during the development assessment process.
 - Provide a process for Councils to strategically manage koala habitat through the development of koala plans of management.

Under *Part 1, section 3 of the Act- Ch. 4. Koala Habitat Protection 2021*, the aim of the policy is to encourage the proper conservation and management of areas of natural vegetation that provide habitat for koalas to ensure a permanent free-living population over their present range and reverse the current trend of koala population decline-

- a) by requiring the preparation of plans of management before development consent can be granted in relation to areas of core koala habitat and
- b) by encouraging the identification of core koala habitat, and
- c) by encouraging the inclusion of areas of core koala habitat in environment protection zones.

Though there are no recorded Koalas sightings present in the focus areas of this Plan of Management, consideration must be given to land adjacent to Community Land observed as Koala Habitat. Land zoned as RU1-Primary Production in this Plan of Management applies to this Policy.

Legislation and Statutory Controls

This Plan of Management does not over-rule existing legislation that also applies to the management of Community Land. Other legislation and policies to be considered in the management process include, but are not limited to, the:

- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*
- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (supersedes several Acts; see Appendix 2)
- *Water Management Act 2000*
- *Clean Waters Act 1970*
- *Companion Animals Act 1998*
- *Rural Fires Act 1997*
- *Rural Fires and Environmental Assessment Legislation Amendment Act 2002*
- *Biosecurity Act 2015*
- *Pesticides Act 1999*
- *Fisheries Management Act 1994*
- *Protection of The Environment Operations Act 1997*

- *Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022*
- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*

The Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013

The *Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013* is a statutory document prepared under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. It controls development at a local level and sets out through land use zoning and how land is to be used. Each zone has objectives and specifies if developments are permitted with consent, without consent or prohibited. All land, whether privately owned, leased, or publicly owned is subject to the controls set out in the *Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013*. The land parcels involved in this Plan of Management in accordance with the Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013 are zoned RU5-Village and RU1-Primary Production.



Figure 2. Parcels of Land within this Plan of Management zoned under the Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013.

(Please refer to Appendix 1-Maps: *Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013*)

Under the LEP, the objectives for **RU5 Village** are as follows:

Objectives of the Zone:

1. To provide for a range of land uses, services and facilities that are associated with a rural village.

The following parcels of land (Figure 2) that are zoned as RU5 Village are concentrated in the vicinity of the Old Saleyards Camping Ground to the vicinity of the recreation ground as follows:

→ **RU5 Village:**

Lot 41 DP 751137; Lot 344 DP 40394; Lots 7032, 7033 DP 1029725; Lot 7034 DP 1032714; Lots 7323, 7324, 7325 DP 1164676; Lot 7329 DP 1166640; Lot 7336 DP 116817.

Under the LEP, the objectives for **RU1 Primary Production** are as follows:

Objectives of the Zone:

1. To encourage sustainable primary industry production by maintaining and enhancing the natural resource base.
2. To encourage diversity in primary industry enterprises and systems appropriate for the area.
3. To minimize the fragmentation and alienation of resource lands.
4. To minimize conflict between land uses within this zone and land uses within adjoining zones.

The following parcels of land (Figure 2) that are zoned as RU1 primary production are concentrated west of the sewerage treatment plant are as follows:

→ **RU1 Primary Production:**

Lot 7309 DP 1136160; Lot 7317 DP 1139630; Lot 7335 DP 1167324

Further information about the legislative context of the Crown Reserve Plan of Managements can be found in Appendix 2 of this document.

Process of preparing this Plan of Management

The process of creating the **Plan of Management for Warialda Creek Crown Reserve** can be viewed in Figure 3. The process must be consistent with the prescribed diagram (Figure 3). The Steps are as follows:

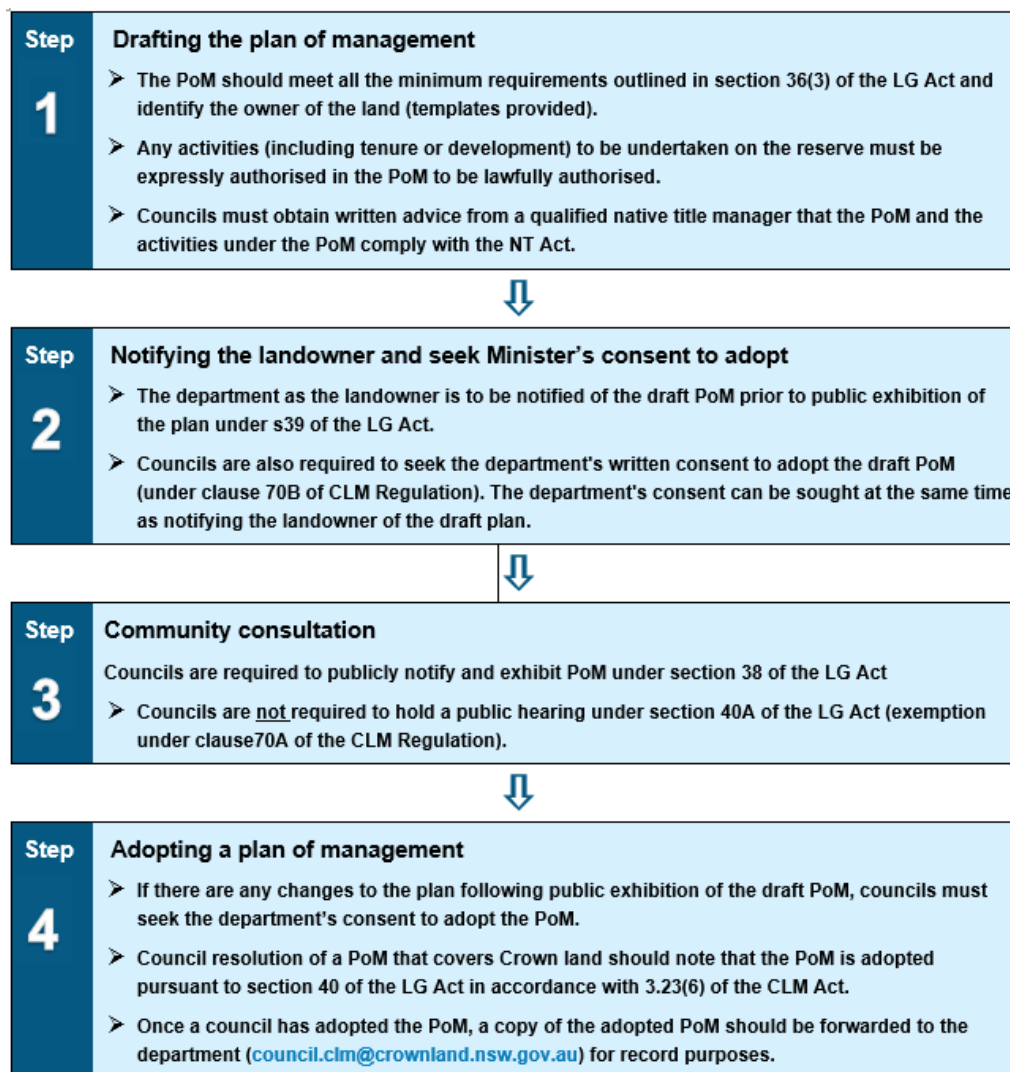


Figure 3. Illustrative process undertaken by Council in preparing the Plan of Management for Warialda Creek Crown Reserve.

Change and review of Plan of Management

This Plan of Management will require regular review to align with community values and changing needs and reflect changes in Council priorities. The council has determined that it will review the Plan of Management within 5 years of its adoption. However, the performance of this Plan of Management will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that the Reserve is being managed in accordance with the Plan of Management, is well maintained and provides a safe environment for public enjoyment.

The council may continue to acquire or divest land for the benefit of the community. Land may also come into Council's ownership by dedication of land for open space. The appendices to this Plan of Management may be updated occasionally, reflecting significant changes to the condition of the Community Land or to reflect new acquisitions or dedications of land.

The community will have an opportunity to participate in reviewing this Plan of Management as part of the process required by legislation.

Community Consultation

Community input and consultation is a significant component of the planning process when developing a plan of management. This is to ensure the community's needs are met but allows Council to implement with community support, management of the reserve. The Warialda Strategy Plan 2008 was formulated from a community design and planning process that focused on community comment and good ideas over a five-day period. During this time at least 85 people were consulted in the process. The consultation process included a community meeting, several small meetings and one on one discussions. Issues and ideas were placed into lists and were collated into the strategy plan. Issues and ideas that were raised during consultation for the creek reserve concentrated on the needs for infrastructure and public facilities.

The following issues/ ideas are:

- More places to sit by the river are needed, shade and seating by the fishing spots and nice picnic spots.
- Provide an access way down from beside the bridge and caravan stop.
- Riverbank edges need to be shaped to allow for easier maintenance.
- The river needs another fish ladder near the footbridge to help create a larger body of water.
- Furniture on the riverbanks should be metal, not timber, so they are not easily destroyed-it is a popular place for a few drinks.
- More trees should be put around the existing benches.
- Provide more help for the river care group with more funding or work for the dole people.

-
- The river needs an amphitheatre.
 - Provide a proper path through the riverside parklands so wheelchairs and prams can use it as well.
 - Provide better access down the river.
 - Improve existing access points so they are safer and easier to use.

This Plan of Management was placed on public exhibition from [XX/XX/XXXX to XX/XX/XXXX], in accordance with the requirements of section 38 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. A total of [XX] submissions were received. The council considered these submissions before adopting the Plan of Management.

In accordance with *section 39* of the *Local Government Act 1993*, prior to being placed on public exhibition, the draft Plan of Management was referred to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Crown Lands, as representative of the state of NSW, which is the owner of the Reserve. The council has included in the plan any provisions required by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Crown Lands.

Land Description

Dissecting the township of Warialda, Warialda Creek Crown Reserve is a tributary of the Gwydir River within the Gwydir Shire Council Local Government Area, Northwest New South Wales (Figure 4). This Plan of Management is specific to the section of Warialda Creek passing primarily through the township of Warialda. Furthermore, this Plan of Management begins about 600m upstream near the Old Saleyards Camping ground, east of the township and finishes west, downstream at the boundary of Cunningham's Rest owned by LLS (Appendix 1-Maps). The entire focus area is 3.2 kms long and includes both the northern and southern banks of Warialda Creek Crown Reserve.

Currently, the main public recreational area of amenity value is about 670m long and is centrally on the southern bank adjacent to the township. This refers to the Hope Street low level creek crossing (the slab) and concluding at the footbridge crossing in Plunkett Street. It is open, and park-like with stands of vegetation, consisting of introduced turf species, pockets of woody weeds such as Willow or introduced exotic species on the foreshore/ lower banks. Small stands or single tree specimens of Cottonwood (*Populus*) exist within this area. The upper banks in this area, on the south side, contain mixtures of non-endemic natives and exotic tree/shrub species (Appendix 11). The rest of the lower and upper north and south banks outside the main recreational area, upstream and downstream, are a mixture of overgrown grass/weed species and sporadic stands of native endemic and exotic vegetation (Appendix 12). These remnants of endemic native vegetation are of an endangered ecological community (Carr and Spark, 2017). The Endangered Ecological Community is the White/ Yellow Box/ Blakely's Gum Ecological Community within the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion. The characteristics of this community are reminiscent of a grassy eucalypt dominant open woodland.

The riparian zone along Warialda Creek Crown Reserve has sporadic pockets of vegetation while other areas are less vegetated. Overall, the landscape is highly modified with some endemic vegetation present throughout the village sector of the creek reserve. Previous land uses due to land clearing, stock grazing practices and neglect have contributed to an absent riparian zone of endemic native tree species along the waterway. This has potentially led to poor water quality, weed incursion, sedimentation, channelization, and other detrimental degradation (NSW DPIE, 2020, NSW-DPI, 2018).

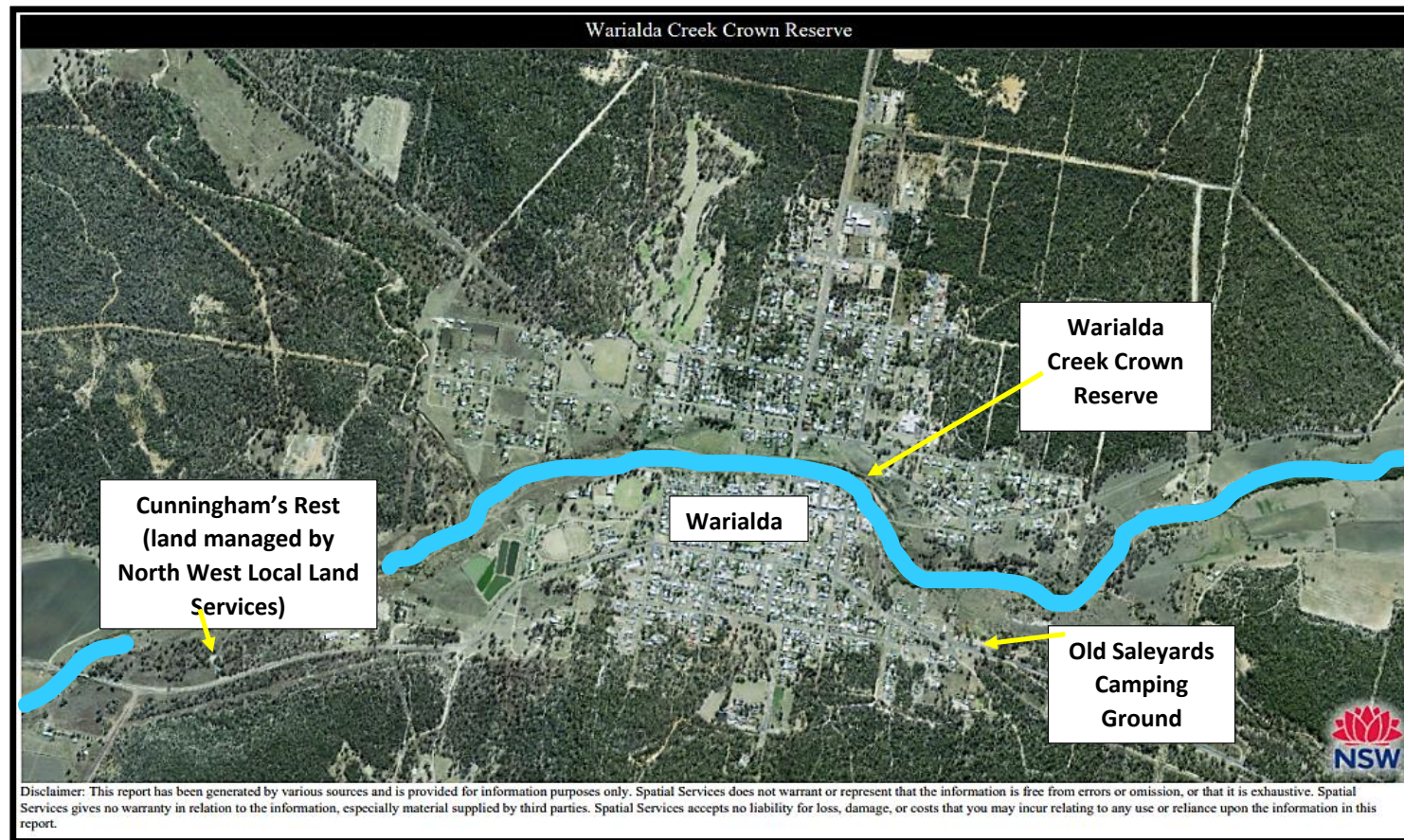


Figure 4. Warialda Creek Crown Reserve (centre of image in blue). Warialda Creek dissecting the township of Warialda NSW 2402. Refer to Appendix 2 for more information. (Source: SIXMAPS, retrieved 25 March 2022 from www.maps.six.nsw.gov.au)

There are few amenities available to the public along the watercourse with the exception of two seating areas or picnic areas. Recently, an addition was constructed for a vehicle/ caravan pull off and picnic table area located close to the Hope Street Slab as part of the Warialda Strategic Plan. A looping road connecting Market Street and Hope Street provides vehicular access to and from the General Community Use area, Foreshore and Watercourse (Riparian Zone) areas of the creek.

Warialda Creek has moderate to severe weed incursion containing priority weeds throughout sections of the waterway. Because of terrain or neglect, this is evident in places such as the steep banks near the slab in Hope Street or west of the Plunkett Street footbridge on both sides of the creek.

Overall, the land is owned by the Crown and is managed by the Council as the Crown Land Manager under the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*. The following table (Table 3) summarizes land information related to this Plan of Management. (Refer to Appendix 1-Maps for more information)

Table 3: Information about reserve covered by this plan of management.

Reserve Number	71531
Reserve purpose	Public Recreation
Land parcel/s	Lot 41 DP 751137, Lot 194 DP751137; Lot 344 DP 40394, Lots 7032-7033 DP 1029725, Lot 7034 DP 1032714, Lot 7317 DP 1139630, Lots 7323,7324,7325 DP 1164676, Lot 7329 DP 1166640, Lot 7335 DP 1167324, Lot 7336 DP 116817
Area (Ha)	Approximately 29.686876 Ha
LEP zoning	Village (RU5); Primary Production (RU1)
Assigned category/categories	General Community Use; Natural Area-Watercourse; Natural Area-Foreshore
Native Title Claim/ Determination	This reserve is part of a Native Title Claim of the Moree Aboriginal Lands Council Gomeroi People.

This Plan of Management is specific to the land mentioned in **Table 3**. Contact the Council or refer to the Council's website for information about other public land not listed above.

Land comprising habitat of endangered species or threatened species.

Desktop analysis revealed that there were no plant community types that were part of an Endangered Ecological Community within the watercourse area of Warialda Creek. However, Endangered Ecological Communities were present adjacent to Warialda Creek. The Endangered Ecological Community identified was the White Box - Yellow Box - Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland in the NSW North Coast, New England Tableland, Nandewar, Brigalow Belt South, Sydney Basin, Southeastern Highlands, NSW Southwestern Slopes, Southeast Corner and Riverina

Bioregions. Please refer to Natural Area Watercourse and Foreshore (see pages 61-69) for endangered or threatened flora and fauna species that occur in the area.

Land containing significant natural features.

Under the *Local Government Act 1993, Section 36C, part 2* land with significant natural features must be covered by a site-specific plan of management. Significant natural features include known natural, geological, geomorphological, scenic or other features considered by the Council to warrant protection or special management considerations. This applies to the foreshore and watercourse areas of Warialda Creek Crown Reserve.

Under *section 36C, part 3* of the *Local Government Act 1993*, objectives, performance targets and other matters:

- i) Are designed to protect the area, and
- ii) Take account of the existence of the features of the site identified by the Council's resolution, and
- iii) Incorporate the core objectives prescribed under section 36 in respect of Community Land categorised as a natural area.

Please refer to Appendix 1-Maps for categorisation of land containing significant features.

Culturally Significant Land

Under *Section 36D* of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the reserve has not been identified as an Area of Cultural Significance.

Aboriginal Significance

An AHIMS (Aboriginal Heritage and Information Management System) search did not identify Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the focus area of this Plan of Management.

Non-Aboriginal Significance

A search of non-aboriginal significance was conducted on the Warialda Creek Crown Reserve and was not listed locally as a significant item of environmental heritage under the *Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013 (LEP)*.

Basis of management

Gwydir Shire Council intends to manage its Community Land to meet:

- assigned categorization of Community Land.
- the *Local Government Act 1993* guidelines and core objectives for Community Land.
- restrictions on management of Crown Land-Community Land. *Note this section isn't required in the first plan of management*
- the Council's strategic objectives and priorities.
- development and use of the land outlined in *Section 6* of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Categorisation of the Land

All Community Land must be categorized as one or more of the following categories. Where the land is owned by the Crown, the category assigned should align with the purpose for which the land is dedicated or reserved.

The LG Act defines five categories of Community Land:

- **Park** – for areas primarily used for passive recreation.
- **Sportsground** – for areas where the primary use is for active recreation involving organized sports or the playing of outdoor games.
- **General community use** – for all areas where the primary purpose relates to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social, and intellectual welfare or development of members of the public. This includes venues such as community halls, scout and guide halls, and libraries.
- **Cultural significance** – for areas with Aboriginal, aesthetic, archaeological, historical, technical, research or social significance.
- **Natural area** – for all areas that play an important role in the area's ecology. This category is further subdivided into bushland, escarpment, foreshore, watercourse, and wetland categories.

Guidelines and core objectives for management of Community Land

The management of Community Land is governed by the categorisation of the land, its purpose, and the core objectives of the relevant category of Community Land (see categorisation of the land; Legislative Framework). The council may then apply more specific management objectives to Community Land, though these must be compatible with the core objectives for the land.

The guidelines for categorisation of Community Land are set out in the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*. The core objectives for each category are set out in the *Local Government Act 1993*. The guidelines and core objectives for General Community Use and Natural Area categories are set out in the relevant category sections of this Plan of Management (see Legislative Framework; Management of Land).

Community Land is valued for its important role in the social, intellectual, spiritual, and physical enrichment of residents, workers, and visitors to the Gwydir Shire area.

The intrinsic value of Community Land is also recognized, as is the important role this land plays in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem function.

Gwydir Shire Council encourages a wide range of uses of Community Land and intends to facilitate uses which increase its land's activation, where appropriate. Within buildings, swimming pools, and recreational and sporting facilities, Gwydir Shire Council intends to permit and encourage a range of appropriate activities.

The plan of management refers to the contiguous parcels of Crown Land adjacent and along Warialda Creek Crown Reserve. Beginning in the vicinity of the Old Saleyards Rest area in the east, within the town limits, the land then follows Warialda Creek, meandering and continuing to "the Slab," a low-level road/creek crossing' in Hope Street. This progresses west along the watercourse ending at the travelling stock route owned by the LLS comprising Cunningham's Rest. Desktop analysis using the Crown Land Reserves portal, indicates that land parcels Lot 41(7035) DP 751137; Lots 7032-7033 DP 1029725; 7034 DP 1032714; Lots 7323, 7324, 7325 DP 1164676; Lot 7329 DP 1166640 are for the primary purpose of Public Recreation. These highlighted land parcels on the Crown Lands portal are concentrated on both north and south banks of Warialda Creek starting in the vicinity of Philp Street and ending at the town bridge, then resuming in the vicinity of Holden Street, below Warialda Recreation Ground and reaching the Warialda Sewerage treatment plant. However, there are additional land parcels included in the Plan of Management due to its relevancy such as Lots 7309 DP 1136160; Lot 7317 DP 1139630; Lot 7335 DP 1167324; Lot 7336 DP 116817 and Lot 344 DP 40344 which are parcels of land west of the Warialda sewerage treatment plant, ending in the vicinity of Cunningham's Rest.

The Watercourse (Riparian Zone) of Warialda Creek is also managed by Gwydir Shire Council. Further analysis within the Crown Lands portal did not indicate that the land had an assigned category such as Community/Operational; General Community Use, Natural Area- Foreshore and Watercourse (Riparian Zone), under the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* and *Local Government Act 1993*. However, legislation required according to the Council Crown Land Manager website and webcast presentation on categorisation (accessed, 2021) indicates the land is 'defaulted' and categorized as 'Community Land'. Additionally, under the *Local Government Act 1993, Section 36*, and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, Council must assign one or more additional categories that closely relate to the purposes for which the land is dedicated or reserved (Council Crown Land Manager, accessed 30 November 2021). In this Plan of Management, the land was determined or categorised as General Community Use as well as Natural Area- Foreshore and Watercourse due to its natural features, being Warialda Creek, contained within the land. Additionally, General Community Use was part of the categorisation process due to the nature in which the reserve is currently used with consideration to the proposed future uses of development. Overall, the future uses will need to accommodate the needs and ongoing demands of the community.

On further inspection within LEP zoning, the parcels of land are zoned as Rural Zone-Village and Primary Production, respectively. Bushfire risk assessment will need to be considered due to the zoning and location of Warialda creek in relation to Warialda Township in accordance with the *Rural Fires Act 1997*. The categorization of the land is identified by maps in Appendix 1-Maps.

Restrictions on management of Crown land

Council is the Crown Land Manager of the Crown Reserves described in this Plan of Management in accordance with the legislation and conditions imposed by the minister administering the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*. The use of the land described in this Plan of Management must:

- be consistent with the purpose for which the land was dedicated or reserved.
- consider native title rights and interests and be consistent with the provisions of the Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993*
- consider the inchoate interests of Aboriginal people where an undetermined Aboriginal Land Claim exists.
- consider and not conflict with any interests and rights granted under the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*
- consider any interests held on title.

The Council will consult the Local Aboriginal Lands Council- Northwest Aboriginal Land Council in respect to Aboriginal inchoate interests or land claims on the Warialda Creek Crown Reserve. The lots and DP that need to be considered under Native Title requirements are as follows (Please also refer to Appendix 8):

Land Parcels	Lot 41 DP 751137; Lot 344 DP 40394; Lot 7032 DP 1029725; Lot 7034 DP1032714; Lot 7317 DP 1139630; Lot 7323 DP 1164676 Lot 7324 DP 1164676; Lot 7325 DP 1164676; Lot 7335 DP 1167324
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Table 4. Land Parcels with undetermined Aboriginal Land Claims on Warialda Creek Crown Reserve.

Councils' strategic objectives and priorities

Councils' strategic objectives and priorities from the **Gwydir Community Strategy 2017-27** outline the key outcomes applicable to this plan (pp24-27).

Gwydir Goals and Outcomes



1. A healthy and cohesive community

Outcome 1.1 We have healthy and inviting spaces and places

Outcome 1.2 Our community is an inviting and vibrant place to live

A liveable community has pride of place, ease of access, community harmony, a mobile and healthy population that participates in community life, a feeling of safety and security, a strong vibrant cultural base and places to relax, study and play.

Outcome 1.1 We have healthy and inviting spaces and places

We have access to a range of high-quality health care services. All residents are supported in living a healthy and active life through the opportunity to participate in recreation activities.

Strategies to get there.

- 1.1.1. Improve local access to health services
- 1.1.2. Encourage and enable healthy lifestyle choices
- 1.1.3. Provide the right places, spaces and activities

Council Role

- Work with service providers to improve access to health services
- Provide Community Home Support (CHSP) services
- Promote health lifestyle choices for staff and the community
- Support local sporting groups and sporting clubs
- Provide fit for purpose recreation infrastructure
- Investigate recreation opportunities to address the needs of the community
- Assist recreation providers

Community Role

- Be physically active
- Embrace a healthy lifestyle and encourage others to as well
- Monitor your health – have regular medical check ups
- Maintain a good work/life balance
- Enjoy your parks, sportsgrounds and recreation facilities

Our Partners

Partners who can help achieve our objectives will include Federal and State Government Agencies, service providers and community groups such as:

- Primary Health Networks
- Department of Education and Communities
- Department of Family and Community Services
- Peak industry bodies and local sporting groups

Outcome 1.2 Our community is an inviting and vibrant place to live

Our community is strong, safe and connected with equal access to the services and facilities that ensure a great quality of life for all ages. Community pride and a sense of belonging are fostered through a caring and connected community, with suitable programs and activities for all ages and abilities. Our residents' lives are enriched through access to lifelong learning opportunities as well as activities and events that celebrate our culture and encourage participation.



Strategies to get there

- 1.2.1 Enable accessible and affordable lifestyle options
- 1.2.2 A shared responsibility for community safety
- 1.2.3 Celebrate our creativity and cultural expression

Council Role

- Advocate and plan for improved social, health and transport outcomes
- Deliver programs and services that support the community through all stages of life
- Monitor and regulate environmental and food safety standards
- Promote responsible animal ownership
- Promote and plan for improved road safety
- Deliver community programs
- Conduct citizenship ceremonies
- Support community events and festivals
- Conduct NAIDOC Week activities
- Provide library services
- Coordinate and promote events and tourism

Community Role

- Report criminal activity and antisocial behaviour
- Support community safety programs
- Be a responsible pet owner
- Report unsafe conditions on roads
- Promote positive youth role models
- Respect the rights of others
- Be a responsible driver
- Participate in celebrations and events
- Visit a library
- Volunteer

Our Partners

Partners who can help achieve our objectives will include Federal and State Government Agencies, service providers and community groups such as:

- Department of Education and Learning Communities
- Arts North West
- Department of Family and Community Services
- Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services
- Roads and Maritime Services
- Police and Emergency Services
- Peak industry bodies and local sporting groups

3. An environmentally responsible shire



Outcome 3.1 Our community understands and embraces environmental change
Outcome 3.2 We use and manage our natural resources wisely

A sustainable community is characterized by our appreciation of natural surroundings and biodiversity. This is supported by responsible planning and management practices and the lifestyle actions we agree to, to reduce our impact on the natural environment and to conserve valuable resources.

Outcome 3.1 Our community understands and embraces environmental change.

We respect and value our natural environment, understand the effects of our actions and make wise decisions to retain balance. We endeavor to use all our natural resources wisely with a view to minimizing the impact on our natural environment.

Strategies to get there

- 3.1.1 Encourage respectful planning, balanced growth and good design
- 3.1.2 Respond to our changing environment
- 3.1.3 Value, protect and enhance our natural environment

Council Role

- Ensure planning is responsive to the environment and community needs
- Encourage sustainable land use
- Plan for the impacts of natural disasters and support local emergency services
- Undertake regeneration
- Support environmental volunteers
- Deliver environmental education programs
- Undertake bushfire hazard reduction

Community Role

- Get involved in activities and events that assist to enhance the environment
- Take ownership of the natural environment.
- Use water and energy wisely
- Compost
- Plant a tree
- Know what to do in an emergency

Our Partners

Partners who can help achieve our objectives will include Federal and State Government Agencies, service providers and community groups such as:

- Local Land Services
- Department of Planning and Infrastructure
- Office of Environment and Heritage
- Landcare Groups
- Department of Primary Industries

Outcome 3.2 We use and manage our natural resources wisely.

We take responsibility for the management and consumption of our valuable resources and recognise the impact that our actions have both today and on future generations.



Strategies to get there

- 3.2.1 Develop a clean energy future
- 3.2.2 Use our water wisely
- 3.2.3 Reduce, reuse and recover waste
- 3.2.4 Identify and make best use of our land resource

Council Role

- Provide water and sewer services
- Undertake waste minimisation and education programs
- Provide and promote initiatives to reduce water, energy and waste
- Provide waste and recycling services
- Support the protection of our land through long term planning
- Plan community spaces wisely

Community Role

- Reduce, reuse and recycle
- Use water thoughtfully
- Choose energy efficient appliances
- Compost kitchen and garden waste
- Be responsible in the disposal of waste
- Take note of what goes down the drain
- Use environmentally friendly products
- Install energy and water saving options in your home
- Use recyclable bags and say no to plastic
- Carpool, ride a bike or walk
- Employ sustainable farming and grazing practices

Our Partners

Partners who can help achieve our objectives will include Federal and State Government Agencies, service providers and community groups such as:

- Department of Planning and Infrastructure
- Office of Environment and Heritage
- Department of Primary Industries

DEVELOPMENT AND USE

Introduction

This section provides an overview on the land use history and the current use of Warialda Creek. It also discusses land and facility use at Warialda Creek including the permitted use and development of the land.

Land Use History

Traditional Owners

Warialda Creek is within the traditional lands of the Weraerai (Wirraayaraay) people, a tribal clan of the Kamilaroi /Gamilaroi /Gomeroi (Gamilaraay) nation (AIATSIS, accessed 10 January 2022). Prior to the arrival of the first European settlers, generations of Weraerai (Wirraayaraay) custodians cared for the land, hunted, and gathered animals, fish, root crops and fruits in a seasonal cycle (Mongard, 2008). The Weraerai identity derived from the people's spiritual relationship with the land (Mongard, 2008; AIATSIS, accessed January 2022). Today, there are ancestors of the Weraerai people and Gomeroi nation who are connected to country within the area. The town's name is derived from the local Aboriginal Wirraayaraay (Gamilaraay) language (accessed AIATSIS, 2022) meaning 'A Place of Wild Honey'.

European Heritage

In the past, Warialda Creek was also referred to as **Reedy Creek**. Reedy (Warialda) Creek established its namesake presumably from descriptive accounts by the Explorer and Botanist, Allan Cunningham in 1827. It was believed that Cunningham camped in the vicinity (present day Cunningham's Rest) and was the first official visitor in 1827 (SMH, 2014). A decade later, in 1837, the first European settlement is described to have taken place alongside Reedy Creek. This was followed by a police outstation, situated in proximity of Reedy Creek and Bligh's Gully (present day golf and bowling green) around 1840. In 1850, the townsite was officially gazetted in situ to the creek (NSW Government Gazette, 1850 (Figure 5). The waterway formally changed names from Reedy Creek to Warialda Creek in March 1979 under the *Geographical Names Act 1966* (Figure 6). This was most likely to eliminate dual naming of the creek. Nevertheless, it's original name continually persists in the Warialda community today. Warialda Creek Crown Reserve was gazetted in 1945 for public recreation with an addition to the area in 1947 (Figure 7 and Figure 8). The addition was later revoked in 1971 (Figure 9). The land gazetted involved current day DP Lots 7034, 7324, 7032, 7033, 7323 and 7325 which is primarily central to the CBD and the recreation ground of Warialda (Figure 10). Figures 11 and 12 depict how the land on either side of the creek has developed since European settlement through to present day.

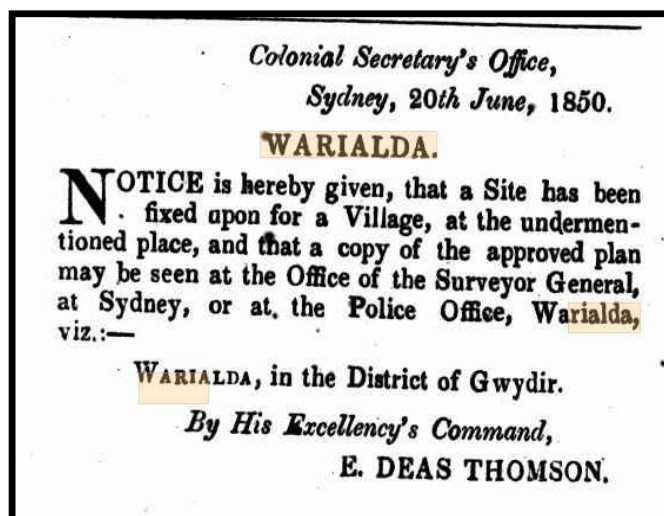


Figure 5. Warialda township site announcement. (Source: New South Wales Government Gazette, 1850, retrieved 24 March 2022 from National Library Australia, www.trove.nla.gov.au)

(1425) Sydney, 9th March, 1979.

GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES ACT, 1966

HAVING reviewed place names on Central Mapping Authority 1:25 000 maps of CHERRY TREE HILL, DELUNGRA, WARIALDA and MOUNT RODD (within BINGARA 9028 1:100 000 map area) within the area bounded by latitudes 29° 30', 29° 45' and longitudes 150° 30', 151° 00' Counties Arrawatta, Burnett and Murchison, Shires Ashford, Bingara, Macintyre and Yallaroi, Land Districts Bingara, Inverell and Warialda, the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales proposes to discontinue the recorded names shown in the first column hereunder and assign in their place the geographical place names shown in the third column.

Also, the Board proposes to assign geographical names and discontinue the use of recorded names as indicated hereunder. Any objections should be in writing and lodged with the undersigned within one month of 9th March, 1979.

CHERRY TREE HILL					
Recorded Names Proposed to be Discontinued.	Designation	Proposed Geographical Name	Latitude	Longitude	Parish
Boundary Gully	Creek	Boundary Creek	29° 34'	150° 49'	Burnett and Gragin
Branch of Reedy Creek	Creek	Rogerson Creek	29° 32'	150° 53'	Burnett
Paddys Gully	Creek	Paddys Creek	29° 34'	150° 59'	Bannockburn
Reedy Creek or Sugar Loaf Springs	Creek	Sugarloaf Springs Creek	29° 37'	150° 53'	Burnett
Rough Rocky Gully	Creek	Wiltshire Creek	29° 36'	150° 46'	Gunnee
Swampy Gully	Creek	Cherry Tree Creek	29° 32'	150° 59'	Redbank
Warialda or Reedy Creek and Head of Reedy Creek.	River	Warialda Creek	29° 35'	150° 51'	Gunnee, Burnett, etc.
Wyndhams or Graman Creek, Head of Wyndhams Creek and Heads of Wyndham Creek.	Creek	Wyndhams Creek	29° 31'	150° 58'	Redbank

Proposed Geographical Name	Designation	Latitude	Longitude	Parish
Black Creek	Creek	29° 32'	150° 48'	Gragin
Cherry Tree Hill	Locality	29° 32'	150° 59'	Redbank
Dimonds Creek	Creek	29° 36'	150° 58'	Bannockburn and Burnett
Duffs Sugarloaf	Hill	29° 35'	150° 59'	Bannockburn
Gunnee Hills	Hills	29° 34'	150° 51'	Burnett
Morelma Gully	Creek	29° 37'	150° 58'	Burnett and Bannockburn
Morelma Hills	Ridge	29° 37'	150° 59'	Bannockburn
Woods Gully	Gully	29° 37'	150° 56'	Burnett
Yoi Mountain	Hill	29° 33'	150° 56'	Redbank and Burnett

Figure 6. Reedy Creek name changed to Warialda Creek in 1979. (Source: Government Gazette of the State of NSW, 1979, retrieved 6 January 2022 from National Library Australia, www.trove.nla.gov.au)

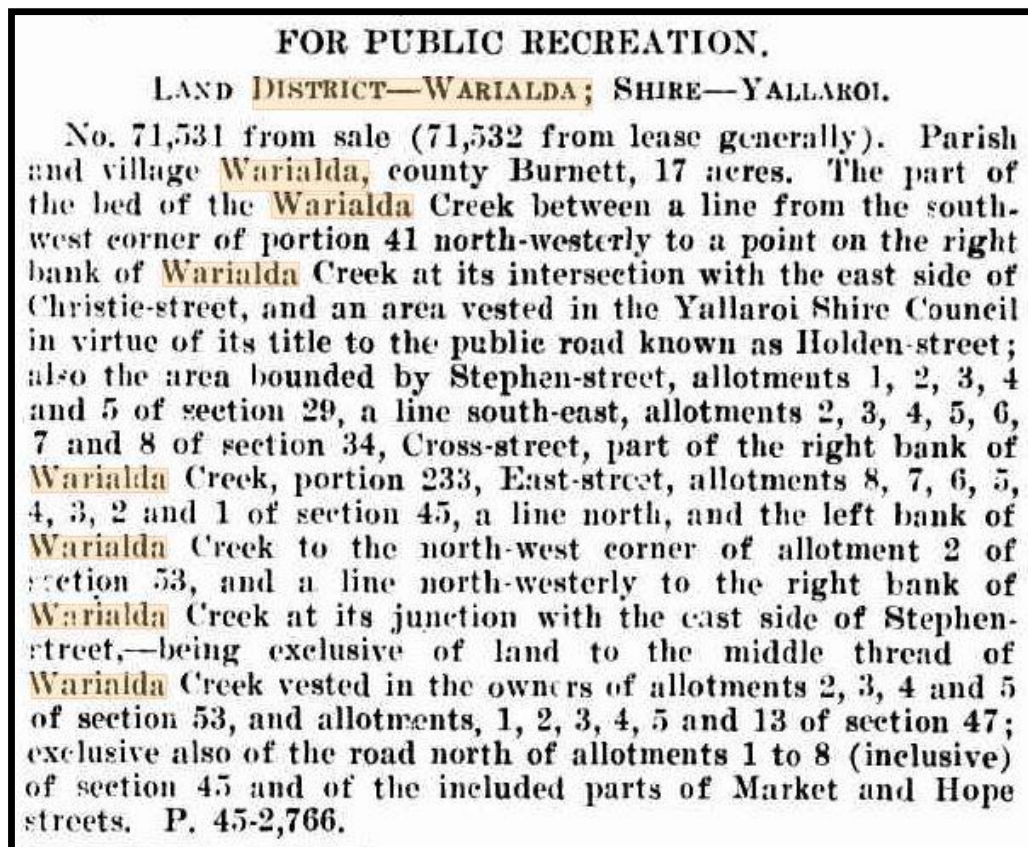


Figure 7. Warialda Creek set aside for public recreation. (Source: Government Gazette of the state of NSW, 1945, retrieved on 6 January 2022 from National Library Australia, www.trove.nla.gov.au).

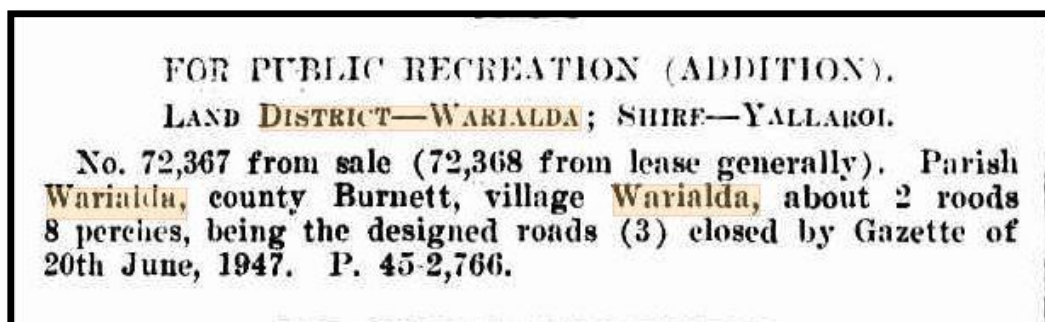


Figure 8. Additional land set aside for public recreation on Warialda Creek.
(Source: Government Gazette of the State of NSW, 1947, retrieved on 6 January 2022 from National Library Australia, www.trove.nla.gov.au).

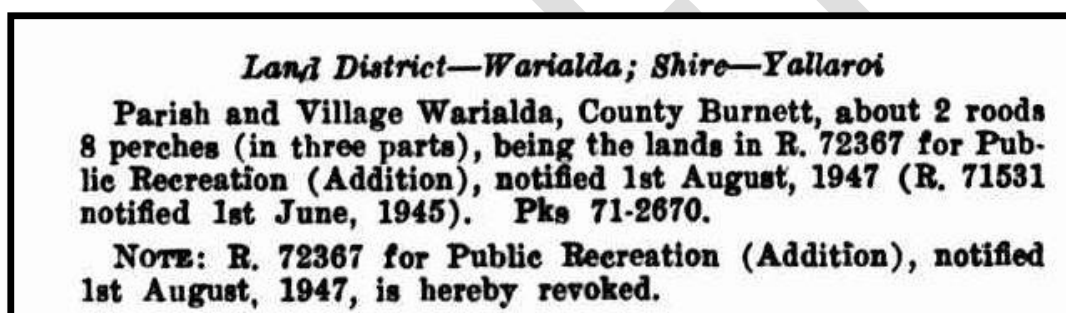


Figure 9. Land on Warialda Creek revoked for public recreation in 1971. (Source: Government Gazette of the State of NSW, 1971, retrieved on 13 January 2022 from National Library Australia, www.trove.nla.gov.au).

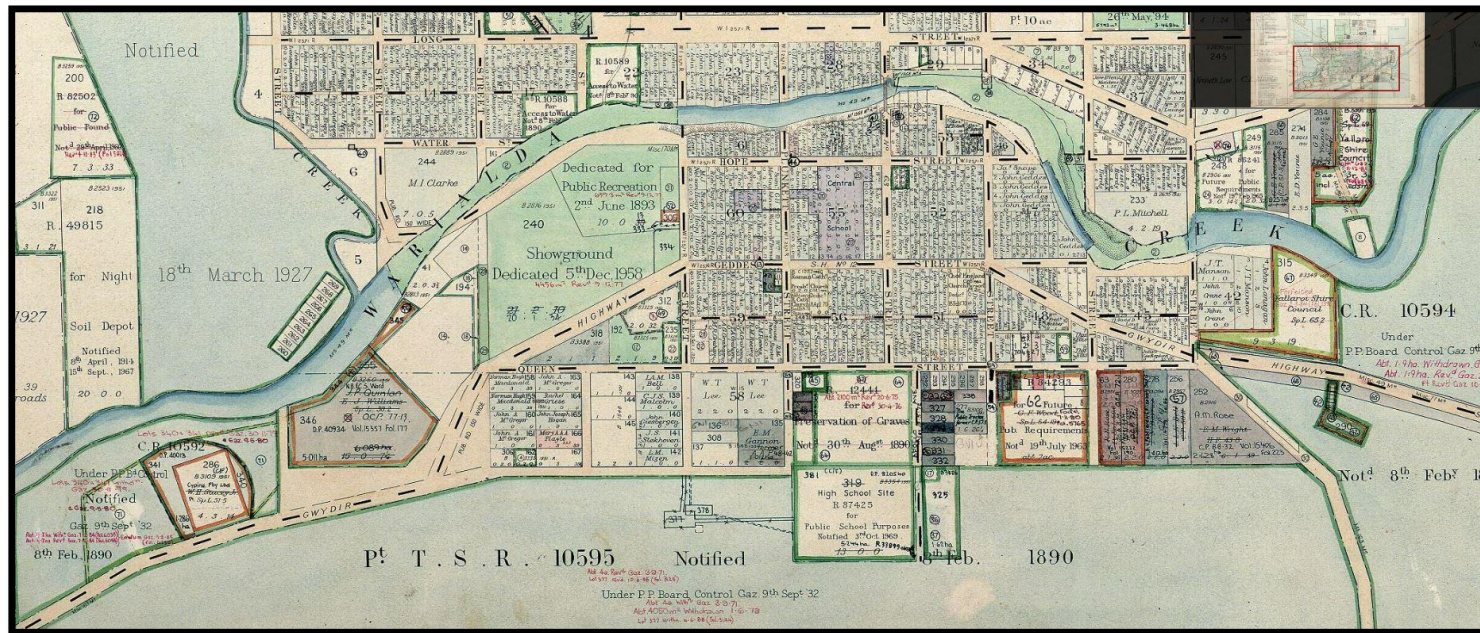


Figure 10. Land gazetted for public recreation (green sections) on Warialda Creek Crown Reserve. (Source: Department of Lands, 1970, retrieved 12 January 2022 from National Library Australia, www.trove.nla.gov.au)

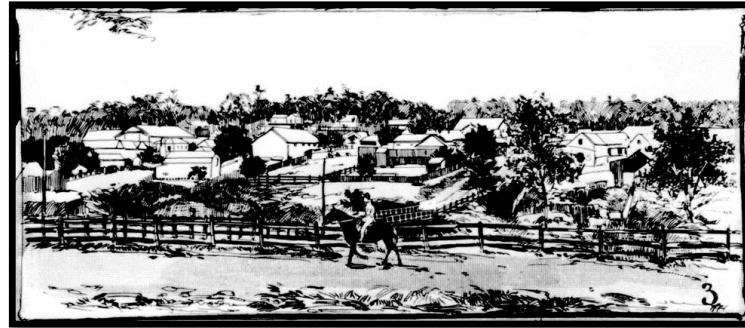


Figure 11. Sketch of Wialda township in 1897. Northern viewpoint looking back across Wialda Creek. (Source: Town and Country Journal, 1897, retrieved 6 January 2022 from National Library Australia, www.trove.nla.gov.au)



Figure 12. Wialda township 2022. Northern viewpoint looking back across Richard Bligh bridge, towards CBD in Stephen Street, Wialda. This is the main road bridge crossing over Wialda Creek.

Current Use of The Land

Warialda Creek Crown Reserve continues to be used for daytime public recreation offering picnicking, bird watching, walking, fishing, and other passive recreational activities. The reserve provides a relaxing environment for people who seek a natural setting with views to the waterfront itself. A recent addition to the area is now used for a rest and picnic area. The new infrastructure installed involves a vehicle pull off/ parking area and picnic amenities. Currently there are plans to expand vehicular access from Market street through to Hope Street slab, Market Street to Hall Street as well as a pedestrian walkway from Hall Street to Richard Bligh Bridge in Stephen Street. A children's bike pathway and additional amenities will be constructed near the bridge.

Subsequently, there are opportunities to view both birdlife and wildlife along Warialda Creek Crown Reserve. Gwydir Shire Council promotes "***Bird Routes of The Warialda District***" a tourist brochure that incorporates Warialda Creek as one of the many areas for bird watching. Warialda prides itself on the diverse number of species observed and has been referred to as the meeting point of eastern and western bird species (appendix 6).

It is expected visitation numbers will increase due to the improvement and provision of recreational facilities. Therefore, ongoing management will be required to mitigate impacts such as erosion, vegetation decline, weed incursion and rubbish intrusion.

The foreshore area of Warialda Creek has held events such as Rhythm on the Reedy and annual Christmas carnivals. These involved live music, Christmas related activities and market stalls located on the south bank foreshore area adjacent to the CBD. These events were operated under Council permission or licence.

Permissible Uses / Future Uses

Warialda Creek Crown Reserve will remain significant to the community in the future. This is due to the intrinsic values of natural habitats towards biodiversity, ecosystem function as well as enhancing the health and wellbeing of its residents, workers, and visitors to the Gwydir Shire area. Moreover, Warialda Creek will continue to be appreciated for its role in the social, intellectual, and spiritually inherent qualities it possesses. This will support the vision upheld in the Warialda Community Strategy Plan. Future uses and developments will include ongoing conservation and education, harmonizing community use with major or special events, expansion of informal recreation activities or opportunities where applicable, improve access and circulation including developing suitable entry points and create all weather recreation facilities that support increasing community needs.

Gwydir Shire Council in lieu of this Plan of Management will continually encourage the use of Warialda Creek Crown Reserve to operate as a venue for passive public recreation. However, Gwydir Shire Council intends to permit and promote a broad range

of suitable activities and facilitate further use or activation of the land where appropriate.
(See ***Gwydir Shire Community Strategic Plan 2017- 2027***)

Therefore, this Plan of Management established land to be catergorised for:

- **General Community use**
- **Natural Area- Foreshore**
- **Natural Area- Watercourse.**

These areas will require Council to mitigate potential human impacts by formalising access points such as the introduction of walkways (walking paths) and viewing platforms plus restricting access in restorative spaces. Subsequently, this will lessen impacts on native vegetation loss, soil degradation and re-infestation of weed species. Currently, the foreshore and watercourse areas are unrestricted access due to minimal management and visitor numbers. With ongoing development, management, visitor increases and issues, the Plan of Management will allow flexibility to control access in vulnerable areas when appropriate.

Bushfire Hazard and Flood Planning are significant factors that must be addressed in this Plan of Management. In the event of a flood, Warialda Creek Reserve will be inaccessible due to flood levels and therefore vehicular access will be prevented. The reserve area will remain temporarily closed to traffic on the Hope Street Slab (Figure 13), the reserve picnic/rest area as well as the Warialda Creek access road from both Market and Hall Streets (when developed), until levels subside and safety inspections can be carried out.



Figure 13. Road Closure over Hope Street slab (low level road crossing) during minor flooding of Warialda Creek, 30 March 2022.

During a Bushfire event, access may be limited owing to smoke hazard, therefore bushfire plans should be followed accordingly while seeking designated evacuation points in Warialda (Appendix 5). Likewise, public recreational areas will temporarily close during Bushfire Hazard Reduction, site works, site rehabilitation or other operational works.

Subsequently, identifying potential effects of climate change will necessitate adjustments into the future. This Plan of Management will authorise future mitigation to safeguard against the effects of climate change such as increased frequencies in flooding (Figure 14) causing erosion for example, severe drought and bushfire.

Flood Planning

In the ***Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013*** development of land regarding Flood Planning is as follows:

In Part 6, Clause 6.2 of the ***Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013***:

- (1) The objectives of this clause are as follows:
 - (a) to minimise the flood risk to life and property associated with the use of land,
 - (b) to allow development on land that is compatible with the land's flood hazard, taking into account projected changes as a result of climate change,
 - (c) to avoid significant adverse impacts on flood behavior and the environment.
- (2) This clause applies to land at or below the flood planning level.
- (3) Development consent must not be granted to development on land to which this clause applies unless the consent authority is satisfied that the development:
 - (a) is compatible with the flood hazard of the land, and
 - (b) will not significantly adversely affect flood behaviour resulting in detrimental increases in the potential flood affectation of other development or properties, and
 - (c) incorporates appropriate measures to manage risk to life from flood, and
 - (d) will not significantly adversely affect the environment or cause avoidable erosion, siltation, destruction of riparian vegetation or

a reduction in the stability of riverbanks or watercourses, and

(e) is not likely to result in unsustainable social and economic costs to the community as a consequence of flooding.

(4) ^(OBJ) A word or expression used in this clause has the same meaning as it has in the Floodplain Development Manual (ISBN 0 7347 5476 0) published by the NSW Government in April 2005, unless it is otherwise defined in this clause.

(5) In this clause:
flood planning level means the level of a 1:100 ARI (average recurrent interval) flood event plus 0.5 metre freeboard.

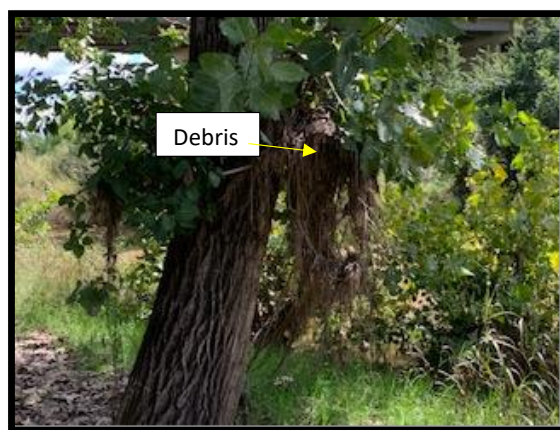


Figure 14. Debris in *Populus* species along Warialda Creek provides vital clues for future flood planning.

Bushfire Hazard Reduction

In the **Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013**, bushfire hazard reduction is as follows:

In Part 5, Clause 5.11 of the **Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013**, bushfire hazard reduction work authorised by the *Rural Fires Act 1997* may be carried out on any land without development consent.

Note. The *Rural Fires Act 1997* also makes provision relating to the carrying out of development on bush fire prone land. (See Appendix 5 for Warialda Survival Map, Map of Bushfire threat)

Therefore, Bushfire hazard reduction may be required in parts of Community Land related to this Plan of Management.

Permitted Development of The Land

Within the requirements of relevant legislation, the Council's Local Environmental Plan, Community Strategies and policies, the Plan of Management is authorised to proceed with development. The following aims of the **Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013** in relation to permitted development are as follows:

- (1) This Plan aims to make local environmental planning provisions for land in Gwydir in accordance with the relevant standard environmental planning instrument under *Section 33A* of the Act.
- (2) The aims of this Plan are as follows:
 - (a) to encourage the proper management, development and conservation of environmental, economic and social resources in Gwydir,
 - (b) to facilitate economic growth and development consistent with the aim specified in paragraph (a) and that:
 - (i) minimises the cost to the community of fragmented and isolated development, and
 - (ii) facilitates the efficient and effective delivery of amenities and services, and
 - (iii) facilitates stimulation of demand for a range of residential, enterprise and employment opportunities and promotes agricultural diversity, and
 - (iv) utilises, where feasible, existing infrastructure and roads when considering new development and future potential development,
 - (c) to facilitate development in accordance with flood management Planning.
 - (d) to facilitate development that is compatible with adjoining and nearby uses,
 - (e) to facilitate development that is appropriate in scale and type to the characteristics of the zone,
 - (f) to identify, protect and conserve places of European heritage significance and Aboriginal heritage and cultural significance,
 - (g) to identify, protect, conserve and enhance natural assets.

Easements

Under the *Crown Lands Management Act 2016*, Division 5.9 Council is required to apply for easements on Council managed Crown Reserves. Requests allow ongoing access for essential services of town water supplies, sewer systems and stormwater drainage. This also permits adjoining landowners to connect to either Council or non-Council utilities.

In the *Local Government Act 1993*, Gwydir Shire Council nevertheless has the authority to enter the reserve and carry out works related to utilities on Warialda Creek Crown Reserve. However, under section 5.5 of the *Crown Lands Management Act 2016*, the requirement to enter the reserve will remain occasional maintenance and not ongoing routine. Moreover, the granting of easements is not a present requirement but will be subject to the provisions under the *Native Title Act 1993* if tentative interests are accepted (see Appendix 8).

Express authorisation of leases and licences and other Estates

Under section 46(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, leases, licences, and other estates formalise the use of Community Land. A lease, licence or other estate may be granted to organisations and persons, community groups, sports clubs and associations, non-government organisations, charities, community welfare services, non-profit organisations, and government authorities.

The lease or licence must be for uses consistent with the reserve purpose(s), the assigned categorisation and zoning of the land, be in the best interests of the community as a whole, and enable, wherever possible, shared use of Community Land.

Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and the capacity of the Community Land itself and the local area to support the activity.

A lease is normally issued where exclusive control of all or part of an area by a user is proposed. In all other instances a licence or short-term licence or hire agreement will be issued.

Leases and licences authorised by the Plan of Management

This plan of management **expressly authorises** the issue of leases, licences and other estates over the land covered by the plan of management, provided that:

- the purpose is consistent with the purpose for which it was dedicated or reserved.
- the purpose is consistent with the core objectives for the category of the land.
- the lease, licence or other estate is for a permitted purpose listed in the *Local Government Act 1993* or the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*

- the issue of the lease, licence or other estate and the provisions of the lease, licence or other estate can be validated by the provisions of the *Native Title Act 1993*.
- where the land is subject to a claim under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* the issue of any lease, licence or other estate will not prevent the land from being transferred in the event the claim is granted.
- the lease, licence or other estate is granted and notified in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993* or the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*.
- the issue of the lease, licence or other estate will not materially harm the use of the land for any of the purposes for which it was dedicated or reserved.

Tables in the relevant category sections of this plan of management further identify the purposes for which leases and licences may be issued over the reserves identified in this plan of management.

Short-term licences

Short-term licences and bookings may be used to allow the Council to program different uses of Community Land at different times, allowing the best overall use.

Short-term licences are authorised for the purpose of:

- (a) the playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward
- (b) engaging in a trade or business
- (c) the playing of a lawful game or sport
- (d) the delivery of a public address
- (e) commercial photographic sessions
- (f) picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings
- (g) filming sessions
- (h) vehicle access

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

Native title and Aboriginal land rights considerations in relation to leases, licences and other estates

Gwydir Shire Council will consult the Northwest Aboriginal Lands Council regarding inchoate claims made on Warialda Creek Crown Reserve. Further engagement with indigenous persons connected to the land will be required to convey developments of the land. Moreover, further discussions will need to include development or uses in relation to any leases or licences that may occur on this land.

When planning to grant a lease or licence on Crown Reserves, the Council must comply with the requirements of the *Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993* (NT Act) and have regard for any existing claims made on the land under the NSW *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*.

It is the role of the Council's engaged or employed Native Title Manager to provide written advice in certain circumstances to advise if the proposed activities and dealings are valid under the *Native Title Act 1993* (see Appendix 2 and Appendix 8 for more information).

MANAGEMENT OF LAND BY CATEGORY

Introduction

This section provides an overview of Council's broad development and maintenance strategy, the extent and frequency with maintenance of the land and the role/engagement of volunteers. Furthermore, the Plan of Management then focuses on individual land categories assigned to Community Land. It details the core management and objectives, management actions as well as the development and maintenance of Warialda Creek Crown Reserve

Development and Maintenance Strategy

The development and maintenance of Community Land within Gwydir Shire Council demands significant financial resources to help improve and conserve its assets. Councils' commitment to develop Community Land is reliant on procuring and prioritizing funds within resourcing constraints. Council funds new development and maintenance from various sources, though not exhaustive, such as rate revenue, loans and state or federal government grants.

The actions proposed to be implemented by this Plan of Management will proceed as determined by the ***Warialda Strategy Plan 2008, Gwydir Shire Council Community Strategy Plan 2017-2027 and the Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036.***

Development on Adjoining Land

An ecological survey conducted upstream on adjoining land made available for the Warialda bypass revealed an ecological community of significance. Additionally, the survey unveiled a rich array of flora and fauna as well as vulnerable or endangered species. In additional investigations, there was also evidence of Aboriginal significance. Therefore, permission was sought from the traditional landowners to progress the development of the bypass. Currently, there is inchoate interest in the land parcels associated with this Plan of Management, Warialda Creek Crown Reserve. Advice will be required from the North-West Aboriginal Lands Council in relation to the proposed development on Warialda Creek Crown Reserve.

Maintenance of The Land

The extent and frequency of maintaining Community land across Gwydir Shire Council is provisional to available funding and the prioritization of financial resources. Annual budgeting allocations determine the amount of operational/ maintenance works to be carried out in any given year. However, unforeseen events such as road damage caused by floods will impact on contingencies and reduce maintenance frequencies on Community Land.

Risk Management

Council as Crown Land Manager will need to prepare and implement a risk management strategy. The strategy will be required to identify and assess the potential risks and hazards associated with Community Land. Therefore, Council will be obligated to apply control measures, emergency and evacuation procedures as well as general risk management for users.

Role of Volunteers

Gwydir Shire Council has benefited from the hard work and dedication of volunteer community groups such as Rotary, River Care Committee, Landcare and Apex. These groups have been committed and dedicated to volunteering their time towards the care and maintenance of Warialda Creek Reserve. Apex has recently been involved in the management and clean-up of the western portions of reserve. Previous achievements from volunteer groups have included tree planting along both north/south upper banks, weed eradication, rubbish removal and mowing. Volunteer community groups are committed in assisting Gwydir Shire Council towards the management of Warialda Creek Crown Reserve in the present and future. Their valuable contribution will assist Council in achieving its objectives, targets and actions identified in this plan of management. Their involvement has given the Warialda community a sense of pride, ownership and admiration towards this Community Land.

GENERAL COMMUNITY USE AREAS

The General Community Use section has been developed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government (General) Regulations (2005)*. The land categorized in this Plan of Management is managed by Gwydir Shire Council and is classified as Community Land. Please refer to Appendix 1-Maps, Warialda Creek Crown Reserve categorisation map to determine General Community Use land parcels proposed for Warialda Creek Crown Reserve.

Guidelines and Core Objectives

General Community Use land is defined in *Clause 106* of the *Local Government (General) Regulation (2005)* as land that may be made available for use for any purpose for which Community Land may be used, and does not satisfy the definition of natural area, sportsground, park or area of cultural significance.

Core Objectives

The core objectives for Community Land categorised as General Community Use, as outlined in *Section 361* of the *Local Government Act 1993*, are to:

- promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land
- 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).

Significance of General Community Use Areas

General community areas are valuable areas that can provide access for passive recreation, public services and community facilities. These areas promote places or activities for visitors and members of the community to enjoy while creating opportunities on a social, economic and cultural scale. General Community Use areas also provide the linkages to natural area of importance.

Key Issues

Access issues due to the lands' topography will make it difficult to develop General Community Use areas that cater for all people's needs. People who have physical impediments or overall mobility issues will not have equity of access unless effectively developed. Consequently, public safety is at the forefront when developing the reserve for General Community Use.

Developments on General Community Use land which neighbour residential areas have potential issues relating to noise pollution and land values. Mitigation of impacts on residents will be an ongoing crucial issue to ensure that these areas are successfully managed.

Linkages to natural areas from General Community Use areas will be difficult to manage due to these areas overlapping, therefore careful management will be required to ensure that edge effects will be alleviated appropriately.

Management framework for reserves categorised as General Community Use

The general management framework and principles (guidelines and core objectives) that Council adheres to in General Community Use Areas are determined by the following factors. The factors are:

- volunteer management
- fees and charges/conditions of hire
- maintenance

Therefore, measures will be taken to provide facilities to meet community needs which includes the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare aspects of Community Land. Ongoing management will integrate both Council employees and contribution from volunteers. This will be organised to meet the guidelines and core objectives of General Community Use areas. Volunteers will be permitted to manage General Community Use areas in accordance with *Chapter 12, Part 1, Section 355 and Section 377, under the Local Government Act 1993*. Applications including associated fees and charges with hiring General Community Use Areas will be in accordance with Council's booking system.

Development and Use

Infrastructure and Facilities

Gwydir Shire Council may develop the land and or permit development and/ or activities by the general community (**Table 5**). These developments or activities may or may not require consent. These developments and activities must align with the core objectives within this category.

Permitted and Prohibited Activities

This Plan of Management identifies activities that are permitted without consent, approved with consent or prohibited. The following **Tables 5, 6 and 7** outline activities that fall under these requirements according to the General Community Use land category.

Special Events

Council in the past has approved land to be used for markets, concerts and carnivals upon application and consent. These events are dependent on conditions and are approved in accordance with the core objectives within the category.

Sale of Alcohol

The sale of alcohol requires approval of Liquor and Gaming NSW through the issue of a Limited Licence. Applicants must comply with the conditions of the licence and will be contingent to Gwydir Shire Council approving the consumption of alcohol during such events.

Alcohol Free Areas

Gwydir Shire Council may prohibit the consumption of alcohol contained in specific areas or exclude completely. On occasions, alcohol may be permitted, but within a restricted period.

Signage

Permissible signage incorporates signs installed by Gwydir Shire Council to regulate various activities according to *Section 632* under the *Local Government Act 1993*. These signs can include permanent and temporary signage that includes advertising facilities, directional signage and traffic signage. Temporary signage to advertise special events will require consent.

Parking

Gwydir Shire Council provides parking facilities in proximity to General Community Use areas. These parking facilities cater for vehicles such as cars, recreational vehicles and cars towing caravans or camper trailers.

Current use of the land

Condition of the land and structures

The condition of the land and structures within General Community Use land for this Plan of Management is overall well maintained through general facility and ground maintenance such as mowing and weed control. Maintenance programs occur on a regular basis as required and funding through grants and other means help Council keep facilities presentable, up to date and in good condition. At times, the community will report issues through Council's customer request service systems and are resolved accordingly within practical time limits. Gwydir Shire Council takes pride in the facilities it provides and strives to always serve the general community. Figures 15 through to 17 demonstrate the current facilities categorized as General Community Use within Warialda Creek Crown Reserve.



15a.



15b.



15c.

Figures 15a-c. Market Street Road entrance access to Warialda Creek rest/picnic stop.



15d.



15e.



15f.

Figures 15d-f. Continuation of the access road to the Warialda Creek rest/picnic stop in Figure 15f. Figure 15d. View towards Market Street Entrance. The General Community Use area overlaps the Foreshore and Watercourse areas.



16a.



16b.



16c.

Figure 16a-c. All weather picnic facilities at the Warialda Creek rest/picnic Stop.



17a.



17b.



17c.

Figure 17a. Garden installed parallel to Hope Street. Figure 17b-c. Parking and picnic amenity facilities at the Warialda Creek rest/picnic Stop.

Use of the land and structures

The General Community Use Area within the CBD on Warialda Creek has parking, picnicking and nearby toilet facilities.

Current leases and licences

No interests have been registered over this site.

Permissible Uses / Future Uses

The general types of uses which may occur on Community Land categorised as General Community Use, and the forms of development associated with those uses, are set out in detail in **Table 5**. The facilities on Community Land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community.

Table 5: Permissible use and development of Community Land categorised as General Community Use by Council or the community.

Purpose/Use, such as...	Development to facilitate uses, such as...
<p>Providing a location for, and supporting, the gathering of groups for a range of social, cultural or recreational purposes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> casual or informal recreation meetings (including for social, recreational, educational or cultural purposes) functions concerts, including all musical genres. performances (including film and stage) exhibitions fairs and parades workshops leisure or training classes childcare (for example, before and after school care, vacation care) designated group use (e.g., Scout and Girl Guide use) educational centres, including libraries, information and resource centres. entertainment facilities 	<p>Development for the purposes of social, community, cultural and recreational activities.</p> <p>Development includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provision of buildings or other amenity areas to facilitate use and enjoyment by the community. development (particularly within buildings) for the purposes of addressing the needs of a particular group (for example, a stage) landscaping and finishes, improving access, amenity and the visual character of the general community area. water-saving initiatives such as rain gardens energy-saving initiatives such as solar lights and solar panels car parking and loading areas. advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that:

Purpose/Use, such as...	Development to facilitate uses, such as...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> caravan parks and camping grounds. Bicycle or Cycleways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> relate to approved uses/activities. are discreet and temporary. are approved by the Council. locational, directional and regulatory signage.

Express authorisation of leases, licences and other estates – General Community Use

This Plan of Management **expressly authorises** the issue of leases, licences and other estates over the land categorised as General Community Use, listed in **Table 6**.

Table 6: Leases, licenses and other estates and purposes for which they may be granted for Community Land categorised as General Community Use.

Type of tenure arrangement	Maximum term	Purpose for which tenure may be granted
Lease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> up to 12 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> childcare or vacation care. educational purposes, including libraries, education classes, workshops. cultural purposes, including concerts, dramatic productions and galleries. recreational purposes, including fitness classes, dance classes and games. sporting uses developed/operated by a private operator. kiosk, café and refreshment purposes commercial retail uses associated with the facility (e.g., sale or hire of sports goods). caravan parks and camping grounds
Licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> up to 12 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> social purposes (including childcare, vacation care). educational purposes, including libraries, education classes, workshops. recreational purposes, including fitness classes and dance classes. café/kiosk areas

Type of tenure arrangement	Maximum term	Purpose for which tenure may be granted
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sale of goods or services that are ancillary to Community Land use and reserve purposes, for example flower sales.
Short-term licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> up to 12 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> public speeches, meetings, seminars and presentations, including educational programs. functions (including commemorative functions, book launches, film releases, balls, and similar activities). displays, exhibitions, fairs, fashion parades and shows. events (including weddings, corporate functions, and community gatherings) concerts and other performances, including both live performances and film (cinema and TV). broadcasts associated with any event, concert, or public speech. engaging in an appropriate trade or business delivering a public address, community events, auctions, markets and similar activities.
Other estates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined upon application. 	This Plan of Management allows the Council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities and provision of services, or connections for premises adjoining the Community Land to a facility of the Council or public utility provider on the Community Land in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993.

Action plan

Section 36 of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires that a Plan of Management for Community Land details:

- objectives and performance targets for the land
- the means by which the Council proposes to achieve these objectives and performance targets.
- the manner in which the Council proposes to assess its performance in achieving the objectives and performance targets.

The requirements for Community Land categorised as General Community Use are set out below in Table 7.

Table 7 (below). Objectives and performance targets, means of achieving them and assessing achievement for Community Land categorised as General Community Use.

Table 7. General Community Use- Warialda Creek Crown Reserve (Caravan rest/picnic stop)

Management Issue	s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	Priority Short, Medium & Longterm	Estimated Costings per unit-not Project	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Facilitate pedestrian access.	Develop dual road/pedestrian access over Hope Street Slab low level crossing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate upgrading low level slab road crossing at Hope Street for dual road/ pedestrian crossing to improve connectivity and construct if feasible. Investigate the potential of upgrading pipe culverts to wide box culverts that are more environmental/ fish friendly and construct if feasible. 	Medium/ Longterm	To be planned/ developed by engineering and operational works departments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dual road/ pedestrian access developed, installed and maintained as required in compliance with relevant legislation and Council policy. Connectivity is significantly increased from CBD to east of Hope Street.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install new entry and exit points for pedestrians in Hall Street and Stephen Street at Richard Bligh Bridge. 	Medium	Grant opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public safety improved. Box culverts are installed and maintained in slab crossing to be more fish/ environmentally friendly in compliance with relevant legislation and Council policy. Fish are seen downstream of the slab.
	Develop pedestrian access from Stephen Street at Richard Bligh bridge and Hall Street to General Community Use Areas/ Natural Area Foreshore & Watercourse		Medium	Grant Opportunities- Part of Childrens Bicycle Pathway project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pedestrian access points installed down to Warialda Creek.

Management Issue	s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	Priority Short, Medium & Longterm	Estimated Costings per unit-not Project	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Rubbish Control/ Removal.	Instigate removal of dumped rubbish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct regular checks of any dumped rubbish, utilise clean up Australia Day groups every March to clean up any disposed waste. Installation of appropriate garbage bins at picnic amenities. Installation of regulatory litter signage. 	<p>Immediate-ongoing</p> <p>Immediate</p> <p>Immediate</p>	<p>Internal Staff costs.</p> <p>Volunteer Groups- Grant opportunities.</p> <p>\$ 3000 per bin dependent on design. Internal staff costs.</p> <p>\$550/ sign. Internal Staff costs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular rubbish checks conducted, area stays free of rubbish and tidy, littering reduced. Clean Up Australia groups every March conduct rubbish collection along reserve. Bins are installed and maintained in accordance with relevant legislation and Council policy. Design, install and maintain litter signage in accordance with relevant legislation and Council policy, compliance by visitors and littering reduced.
Eradicate Priority/Pest Weed Species	Instigate removal of priority and pest weed species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delegate to Weeds/ Biosecurity Officer the removal of priority and pest weeds. 	Immediate-ongoing	Internal staff costs. (Biosecurity/ Weed Officer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority/ pest weeds are eradicated with ongoing management in identifying and removal of weeds. Weed incidence decreased.

Facilitate additional enhancement of recreational facilities to meet needs of community.	Develop additional recreational facilities and amenity infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the potential for a viewing/ observation platform using existing cement pillar infrastructure in creek. 	Medium	Masterplan required to assess project costings. Grant opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viewing platform is designed, installed and maintained in accordance with relevant legislation and Council policy.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install Children's Bike Pathway and footpath as per grant funding from Transport for NSW. 	Medium	\$68,000-Grant funding TfNSW.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Bicycle Pathway and pedestrian access installed and maintained in accordance with relevant legislation and Council policy.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the feasibility of a natural amphitheatre. 	Medium	Masterplan required. Grant opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural amphitheatre is developed, installed and maintained in accordance with relevant legislation and Council policy.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of garbage bins at picnic amenities. 	Immediate	\$3000 per bin dependent on design. Internal Staff costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bins are installed and maintained in accordance with relevant legislation and Council policy.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the potential of providing/ renewing/ replacing as well as providing additional shaded seating facilities in general community use area; employ 	Medium	\$600- \$2000 per seat dependent on design. Internal Staff costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance by visitors in using garbage facilities in keeping area rubbish free. Additional seating and renewal of current seating installed and maintained in shaded areas in accordance with relevant legislation

Management Issue	s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	Priority Short, Medium & Longterm	Estimated Costings per unit-not Project	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
		<p>men's shed to build extra seating.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of additional sheltered furniture and sheltered picnic areas on creek. 	Medium	<p>\$600- \$2000 per seat dependent on design. \$8,000-\$12,00 per sheltered picnic table dependent on design. Internal Staff costs.</p>	<p>and council policy; men's shed supplied extra seating for reserve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional sheltered and picnic areas installed and maintained providing all weather facilities.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of interpretative signage in General Community Use or Foreshore areas (sheltered signage to protect from weather) on Biodiversity, Indigenous culture and awareness on invasive species threats such as the Cane Toad. 	Medium	<p>\$550/ sign. Internal Staff costs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretative signage is installed and maintained in accordance with relevant legislation and Council policy. Visitors are educated on Biodiversity, Indigenous culture and potential threats from pest flora and faunal species.

Natural Areas

The Natural Area section has been developed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government (General) Regulations (2005)*. The land categorized in this Plan of Management is managed by Gwydir Shire Council and is classified as Community Land. Under the act, additional categorisation is required for Community Land- Natural Area. These categories are as follows:

- Bushland
- Wetland
- Escarpment
- **Watercourse**
- **Foreshore** or
- A category prescribed by the regulations

Please refer to Appendix 1-Maps: Warialda Creek Crown Reserve categorisation map to determine land parcel categorisation proposed for Warialda Creek Crown Reserve. Please note: Categories underlined are featured in this Plan of Management.

Guidelines and Core Objectives

Natural areas are defined in *Clause 102* of the *Local Government Regulation (2005)* as land possessing a significant feature that would be sufficient to further categorize the land as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore. Natural Area characteristics can be described as land possessing a significant feature, geomorphological feature, landform, representative system or other natural feature or attribute.

The core objectives for natural areas, as outlined in *Section 36E* of the *Local Government Act 1993*, are to:

- conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised as a natural area
- maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting
- provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land
- provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion
- assist in and facilitate the implementation of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* or the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.

Significance of Natural Areas

The significance of natural areas is determined by several factors which affect Councils' assessment regarding the categorization of land. Natural Area significance may be established by the physical and environmental attributes but also the social, economic or cultural aspects.

Environmental factors that can contribute to Councils' assessment in determining the significance of natural areas have several considerations to be taken into account. These aspects range from whether land comprises ecological or threatened communities, rare, vulnerable or endangered flora and fauna species, food and habitat for wildlife, wildlife corridors, geological or geomorphological features or landforms including other natural features and attributes that require protection or conservation. Improved waterway health in conjunction with improving fish habitat and fish populations of tributaries within the Murray Darling Basin, is an aspect that Council may use to assess the significance of Warialda Creek Crown Reserve.

Social benefits that contribute to Councils' assessment when determining the significance of natural areas is how green spaces contribute positively to our health and wellbeing as a community. These spaces improve people's health and wellbeing by allowing the land to be used for passive recreational purposes such as bird watching, walking, relaxation, nature connection, education, swimming or fishing. Being in nature is good for our health and helps increase self-esteem, mood and our natural immunity. Natural areas also promote the reduction of stress, depression and anxiety (NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, accessed 2022).

Economic factors that can contribute to Councils' assessment when determining the significance of natural areas is the benefits from eco-tourism. Ecotourism allows visitors and members of the community to enjoy the natural environment while supporting the local economy through the utilization of goods and services on offer within the Shire.

Cultural factors that can contribute to Councils' assessment when determining the significance of natural areas is the relationship that Indigenous people have with the land. Promoting positive relationships with indigenous people who have strong cultural and spiritual connections to the land supports the recognition of cultural heritage (land use, habitation, artifact scatters) its people and customs such as art sites, ceremonial sites and burial grounds. European heritage cultural aspects also contribute to the significance of natural areas by providing insights on historical developments of the land such as infrastructure, stands of trees or other historical features (Cultural Heritage Legislation (Indigenous and Non-Indigenous) Guidelines, (2018) Australian Government-Geoscience Australia, accessed February 9, 2022).

Legislative Restrictions/Limitations on Licence and Estates

Under the *Local Government Act 1993, section 47B*,

- 1) a lease, licence or other estate must not be granted, in respect of Community Land and categorised as a natural area-
 - (a) to authorise the erection or use of a building or structure that is not a building or structure of a kind prescribed by this section or the regulations, or
 - (b) to authorise the erection or use of a building or structure that is not for a purpose prescribed by this section or the regulations.
- (2) A lease, licence or instrument granting any other estate is void to the extent that its provisions are inconsistent with this section.
- (3) In this section, erection of a building or structure includes rebuilding or replacement of a building or structure.
- (4) The following buildings and structures are prescribed for the purposes of subsection (1)(a)-
 - (a) walkways,
 - (b) pathways,
 - (c) bridges,
 - (d) causeways,
 - (e) observation platforms,
 - (f) signs.
- (5) The following purposes are prescribed for the purposes of subsection (1)(b)-
 - (a) information kiosks,
 - (b) refreshment kiosks (but not restaurants),
 - (c) work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with maintenance of the land,
 - (d) toilets or restrooms.

- (6) Despite subsection (1), a lease, licence or other estate may be granted, in respect of Community Land categorised as a natural area, to authorise the erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out, subject to the conditions prescribed by subsection (7) and the regulations.
- (7) It is a condition of any lease, licence or other estate referred to in subsection (6)-
 - (a) that any building or structure so erected must be temporary in nature, and
 - (b) that as soon as practicable after the termination of the lease, licence or other estate-
 - (i) any building or structure erected must be removed, and
 - (ii) any damage to the land caused by the erection or use of a building or structure must be made good, and
 - (iii) the land must be restored as nearly as possible to the condition that it was in at the time the lease, licence or other estate was granted,

at the expense of the person to whom the lease, licence or other estate was granted.

Therefore, under this section of the Act, Council is primarily authorised, as Crown Land Manager, to carry out development in natural areas only. However, organisations involved with filming will be permitted to erect temporary structures for the duration of their project. Once the lease/licence/other estate expires, filming organisations are required to remove temporary structures and restore land or repair damage as indicated above.

Further details about managing any natural area sub-categories in this Plan of Management are outlined in sections, Natural Area-Watercourse and Natural Area-Foreshore.

Natural Areas- Physical Environment

Watercourse and Foreshore

Topography

Warialda Creek Crown Reserve has an elevation of 320m above sea level (Australian Height Datum) and is the lowest point of Warialda (Figure 18). Dissecting the town into north and south, altitudes increase on both sides creating a town situated in a valley. The northern portion of Warialda features a dramatic gradient along Stephen Street, reaching an elevation of over 380m above sea level whereas the southern side is consistently sloped more gently, reaching a gradual 358m above sea level. The incline varies from 1% to 3% dependant on the area being accessed.

The watercourse itself has variations of gentle to steep upper and lower bank sections with evidence of bank erosion. Moreso, upper bank plateau areas of Warialda Creek, according to NSW Spatial data (2022), reach up to 20 metres above in some areas. Accessibility issues for management and public recreation may be challenging along Warialda Creek.

Hydrology

Warialda Creek (fifth order stream) forms part of the Murray Darling basin and is a major tributary of the Gwydir River Catchment. Like most watercourses, the creek is subject to flooding in times of high rainfall and vulnerable to low flows/cease to flow in dry spells or drought. Natural riparian areas have been highly modified or removed and replaced with weed species, exotic tree species and non-endemic native species (Appendix 11 and 12). Therefore, intensified stream flows from weather events, increased sedimentation from vegetation removal and diminished water quality (turbidity, temperature, dissolved oxygen) are potential issues associated with modified hydrology. Altered hydrological regimes from road construction, unregulated urban development, storm water and unregulated extraction are detrimental factors to hydrology. (Carr and Spark, 2017). According to NSW DPIE (2020), unregulated extraction has impacted on both low flows and cease to flow periods within Warialda Creek. Their report highlights how low flows have become less frequent while cease to flow periods have increased. Subsequently, when rainfall has been inadequate, water has been diverted, adversely impacting natural flow regimes.

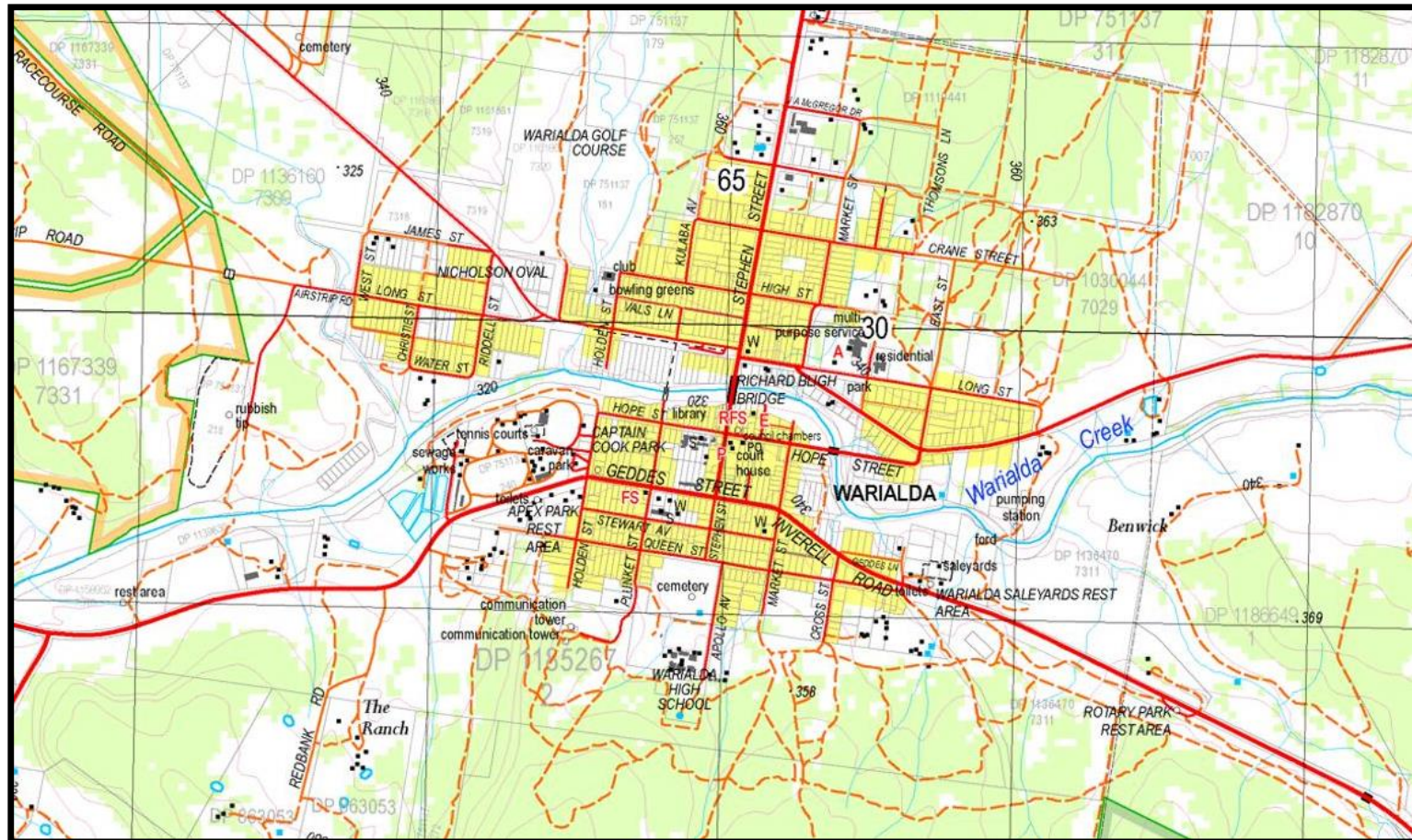


Figure 18. Topographic map showing Warialda Creek elevation 320m above sea level (Source: NSW eplanning Spatial Map Viewer retrieved on 14 February 2022 from www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au)

Geology and Soils

Geology

Utilising several online websites such as ASRIS, eSPADE and NSW SEED Maps, desktop analysis revealed the geology for Warialda Creek Crown Reserve. The creek area has Alluvial Valley deposits that occurred up to 2.58 million years ago in the Quaternary-Holocene period. These deposits are characterised by a silt, clay (fluvially deposited) lithic to quartz-lithic sand and fine gravel (Appendix 4). These deposits overlaid the foundational layer-Pilliga sandstone, which is sub-categorised as Warialda Sandstone. Pilliga Sandstone or Warialda Sandstone occurred in the Late Jurassic period 152 million to 166 million years ago. It is a medium to very coarse-grained well sorted, angular to subangular quartzose sandstone and conglomerate. Minor interbeds of mudstone, siltstone and fine-grained sandstone including coal are present. There are also common carbonaceous fragments with iron staining and rare lithic fragments (MinView, access 2022).

Soils

The soils associated with Warialda Creek Reserve from desktop analysis are Sodosols, formerly known as Solodic soils. Characteristics of these soils are basalt alluvial soils, calcareous and siliceous sand, deep sands and shallow stony soils. These soils are not strongly acidic, have a strong texture contrast between the sandy to clay loam surface "A" horizon and the dense/coarsely structured clayey subsoil, "B" horizon. The colours of these soils can range from red, yellow, brown, grey and black. Yellow and darker sodosols occur lower in the landscape and are associated with drainage lines. In the grey and black Sodosols, subsoils can be vertic and could be regarded as Vertosols as indicated in ASRIS mapping for Warialda (see map-ASRIS, accessed, 2022). Management concerns indicated for this soil group include erodibility especially after vegetation removal, permeability, compaction, moisture availability, reduced vegetation establishment and salinity (Victorian Resources Online, accessed 2022).

Vegetation

The vegetation of Warialda Creek Crown Reserve was investigated upstream in relation to Council's bypass project. Stringybark Ecological carried out an ecological survey in 2016 for Council that provided a significant benchmark in identifying endemic flora species along the creek and adjoining land. This has given Council vital clues on flora species that were present within the focus area of this Plan of Management almost 200 years ago. Newspaper articles early in the 20th century validate the types of vegetation that were present at the time and provide insights on vegetative planting activities (Figure 19 and Figure 20). As most of the riparian vegetation had been removed during European settlement, it is important for Council to recognise the endemic species suited to the geology, soil type, typography and hydrology along Warialda Creek. This will

benefit Council as land managers towards making proper informed decisions when it comes to management.

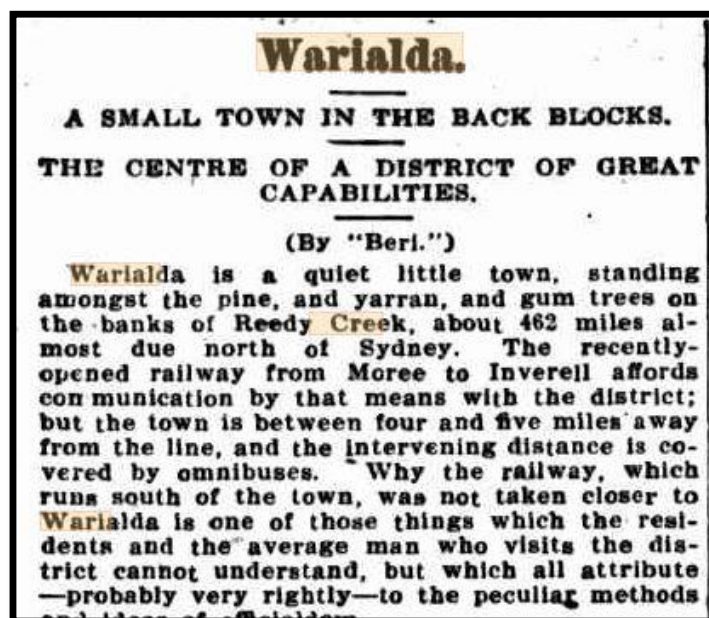


Figure 19. Description of vegetation present along Warialda Creek in 1902.
(Source: Australian Town and Country Journal, 1902, retrieved 13 January 2022
from National Library Australia, www.trove.nla.gov.au)

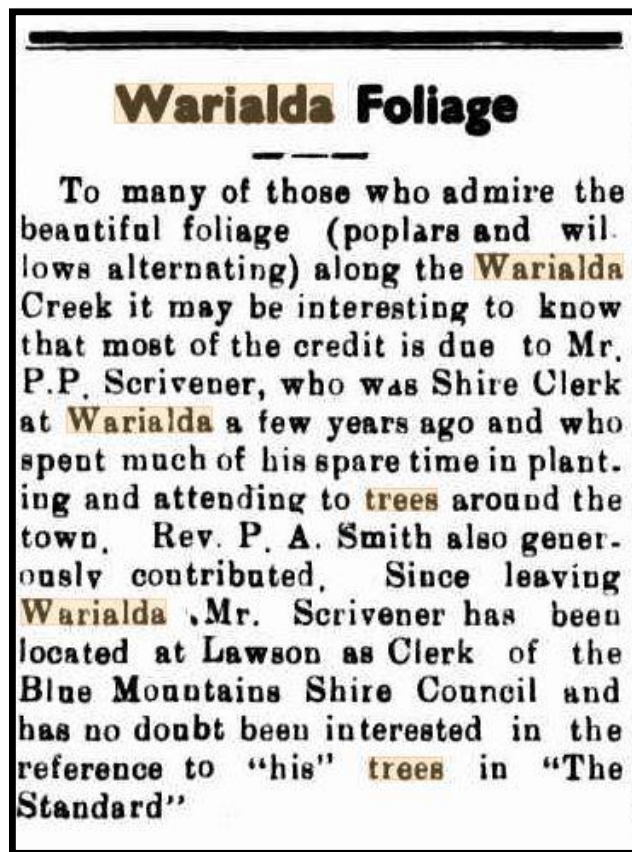


Figure 20. Exotic species planted along Warialda Creek. (Source: Warialda Standard and Northern Districts Advertiser, 1945, retrieved 6 January 2022 from National Library Australia, www.trove.nla.gov.au)

Plant communities that were identified in the ecological survey in-situ to the creek area were the White Box (*Eucalyptus albens*), Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus mellidora*) and Blakely's Red Gum (*Eucalyptus blakelyi*) Woodland and Silver Leaved Ironbark (*Eucalyptus melanopholia*) Grassy Tall Woodland. This was determined from Benson's et al. 2010 paper based on *Plant Communities in NSW Brigalow Belt South, Nandewar and West New England Bioregions*. These woodlands have been identified as a Critically Endangered Ecological Community under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (now *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*) and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Several other flora species were identified during the survey that are either vulnerable or endangered. These species are Hawkweed (*Picris euae*), Native Milkwort (*Polygala linariifolia*), Austral Toadflax (*Thesium australe*), Pine Orchid (*Diuris tricolor*) and Belson's

Panic (*Homopholis belsonii*) (Stringybark Ecological, 2016). However, the list is not extensive and several other species potentially occur (BioNet Atlas, accessed 2022).

Protected species listed in schedule 13 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, were found to occur, during the survey. These were *Gahinia sieberiana* (Saw Sedge), *Isopogon petiolaris*, *Petrophile canescens* (Drumsticks), *Persoonia sericea* (Silky Geebung), *Persoonia cornifolia*, *Pycnosorus globosus* (Billy's Buttons), *Actinotus helianthii* (Flannel Flower) and *Xanthorrhoea johnsonii* (Grass Tree). Native flora is protected under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, and requires a licence under Part 9, Division 2, Section 120 if harming flora or under Section 131 if to 'pick' protected flora under the act.

Endangered Ecological Communities such as the White, Yellow Box and Blakely's Red Gum Woodland are critically endangered resulting in diminished distribution and environmental processes. (EPA, accessed 2022). Species extinction due to changes in composition or structure, disturbances to natural functions, overgrazing /trampling, human disturbances, altered fire regimes, climate change, habitat fragmentation or degradation, exotic weed incursion and feral animal invasion have led to decline (NSW OEH, 2020).

Fauna

Faunal investigations conducted by Carr and Spark (Stringybark Ecological) in 2017, revealed an assortment of species located upstream of Warialda Creek Crown Reserve. This has given Council significant information on the species present and emphasises the type of management and conservation required in protecting fauna in both aquatic and terrestrial habitats downstream. Faunal representations include mammals, reptiles, amphibians and crustaceans. However, the survey did not have representations of arachnids, insects or fish species and the identity of any Threatened or Endangered species in these groups.

Despite this, desktop analysis revealed several recorded fish species known to occur in Warialda Creek. These species are Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) (Figure 21), Freshwater Catfish (*Tandanus tandanus*) and Spangled Perch (*Leiopotherapon unicolor*) (NSW DPIE, 2020). However, based on modelling assumptions made by NSW DPIE (2020), it is possible that Murray Darling Rainbow Fish (*Melanotaenia fluviatilis*), Bony Herring (*Nematalosa erebi*), Australian Smelt (*Retropinna semoni*), Golden Perch (*Macquaria ambigua*), Murray Cod (*Maccullochella peelii*), Purple Spotted Gudgeon (*Mogurnda adspersa*) and Unspecked Hardyhead (*Craterocephalus fulvus*) are potentially present.



Figure 21. Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) found at Warialda Creek Crown Reserve indicating one of the fish species present.

Besides general information, arachnids, insects and molluscs species are poorly represented in data available online (NSW Government) and do not convey if rare, unusual, threatened or endangered are present in the focus area. An exception to this is the Mount Kaputar Pink Slug (*Triboniophorus aff. Graeffei*), a mollusc known to occur only in the Kaputar area including the Kaputar Hairy Snail and several other cannibalistic snail species. These are endemic to Kaputar Mountain only and all are Threatened Species in a Threatened Ecological Community neighbouring Gwydir Shire Council (Australian Geographic, accessed 2022).

Furthermore, endangered and vulnerable terrestrial species were detected during the survey with supplementary evidence from BioNet Atlas (accessed 2022). These threatened fauna species were *Petaurus norfolcensis* (Squirrel Glider), *Chanlinobolus picatus* (Little Pied Bat), *Nyctophilus corbeni* (Corben's Long-eared Bat), *Melithreptus gularis gularis* (Black Chinned Honeyeater eastern subspecies), *Glossopitta pusilla* (Little Lorikeet), *Pomastostomus temporalis temporalis* and (Grey-crowned Babbler-eastern subspecies). However, the list is not extensive and several other species potentially occur (BioNet Atlas, accessed 2022). One faunal species that should be noted here is the Koala (*Phascolarctos cinerus*). Though Koalas were not recorded in the survey, populations of Koalas do occur in the Warialda area. According to BioNet Atlas (2022) and community input, evidence of Koala scats and known sightings have occurred on the western fringes of Warialda, including the Cunningham's Rest area adjacent to Warialda Creek Reserve.

Climate Change

Temperature

The minimum temperature for Warialda is 8.3°C and the maximum is 26.1°C on average per year. Summer temperatures in Warialda during January average a maximum of 33.5°C while winter minimum temperatures in July average 0°C annually (BOM, accessed 2022). The number of days recorded in Warialda of 30°C or less was 101.1 days, 35°C or less, 25.6 days and 40°C or less, 0.9 days. The minimum temperatures of 2°C or less was 72.7 days and 0°C or less, 52.6 days.

It is projected by 2030 (**Table 13**), the Northwest region will experience mean temperature increases of 0.7°C resulting in an additional 5 to 12 days of temperatures reaching over 35°C in Summer (AdaptNSW, accessed 2022). Cooler nights during winter are expected to decrease, averaging 6 fewer days of less than 2°C per year. The minimum temperature increase is between 0.5°C to 1.0°C. Observations since 1970 have indicated that temperatures are on the rise with higher temperatures experienced in recent decades (AdaptNSW, accessed 2022).

There are many implications caused by temperature shifts such as loss of biodiversity, increased fire danger, damage to ecosystems, decreased quality of life, altered tourist visitation, high energy demand and crop failure to name a few (OEH, 2017; Adapt NSW, accessed 2022).

Rainfall-Flood/ Drought

The mean rainfall for Warialda is 683.2mm per year with January on average recording the highest rainfall of 85.2mm per year and August recording the lowest mean rainfall of 39mm per year (BOM, accessed 2022).

By 2030 (**Table 8**), modelling projections predict in general, autumn rainfall to increase and summer/ winter rainfall to decrease in the Northwest. However, the complexity of weather systems that generate rainfall are challenging, thus several models are used to identify rainfall increases or decreases in any given season (AdaptNSW, accessed 2022). Despite winter and summer rainfall overall decreasing, the modelling expects winter rainfall to increase by 15% and summer rainfall by 14% appearing contradictory. Autumn rainfall is predicted to increase by 47% and spring rainfall by 19% (AdaptNSW, accessed 2022).

Changing rainfall patterns within the region will potentially impact native species' reproductive cycles and crop productivity in agriculture. Subsequently, extreme weather events such as major flooding or prolonged drought are correlated with changing rainfall patterns and can trigger secondary issues related to water quality and soil erosion (AdaptNSW, accessed 2022).

Table 8. Climate change projections for the Northwest Region for 2030 and 2070

Climate variable (average across the region)	Trend	Projections	
		Near future (2030)	Far future (2070)
Atmospheric CO ₂	Increase	A2 IPCC emissions scenario	
Max temperature	Increase	0.7°C	2.2°C (2.5°C in spring)
Min temperature	Increase	<0.5 – 1.0°C	1.5 – 3°C
Hot days	Increase	10 – 20	20 – >40
Cold nights	Decrease	1 – 10	5 – 30
Heatwaves	Increase (frequency)	1 – 1.5 events	2.5 – 4.5 events
	Increase (intensity)	1.5 – 4.5°C	4.5°C
	Increase (duration)	1.4 – 3.5 days	7 – 9 days
Annual rainfall*	Drying & wetting	–9% to +13%	–8 to +24%
Changes in average rainfall by season*	Drying & wetting	Summer 0% to –10%	Summer +5% to +30%
		Autumn +10% to +30%	Autumn +10% to +30%
		Winter 0% to –20%	Winter 0% to +10%
		Spring 0% to +10%	Spring 0% to –10%
*Negative values represent drying and positive values represent wetting under projections for annual rainfall and seasonality rainfall. Source: Office of Environment and Heritage (2014)			

(Source: AdaptNSW-NSW OEH 2014, retrieved 22 February 2022 from www.climatechange.environment.nsw.gov.au)

Bushfire

In the Northwest region, **average** fire weather is expected to increase by 2030 during winter, spring and summer, therefore, impacting burning periods in spring and peak fire season in summer. Nevertheless, **severe** fire weather is forecasted to increase in spring and summer, extending severe fire danger by two or more days per year. However, severe fire weather in autumn is likely to decrease because of higher rainfall (AdaptNSW, accessed 2022).

In February 2022, Gwydir Shire Council was awarded funding by NSW Rural Fire Service and NSW Crown Lands to start work on a large scale 49-hectare asset protection zone or firebreak around the township of Warialda. Work includes upgrading 28 kilometres of fire trails at a width of 40m wide. This action follows concerns made by Gwydir Shire Council of a potentially catastrophic fire in Warialda prompted by the 2019-2020 Black Summer fires (Appendix 5).

Natural Area – Watercourse

The Natural Area- Watercourse section has been developed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government (General) Regulation (2005)*. The land in this sub-category is managed by Gwydir Shire Council and is classified as Community Land. Please refer to Appendix 1-Maps: Warialda Creek Crown Reserve categorisation map to determine land parcel Natural Area-Watercourse (Riparian Zone) categorisation proposed for Warialda Creek Crown Reserve.

Guidelines and core objectives

Watercourses are defined in *Local Government Regulation 110* as any stream of water, perennial or intermittent, in a natural or artificial channel, and associated riparian land or vegetation.

The core objectives for watercourses, as outlined in *Section 36M* of the *Local Government Act 1993*, are to:

- manage watercourses so as to protect the biodiversity and ecological values of the instream environment, particularly in relation to water quality and water flows
- manage watercourses so as to protect the riparian environment, particularly in relation to riparian vegetation and habitats and bank stability
- restore degraded watercourses
- promote community education, and community access to and use of the watercourse, without compromising the other core objectives of the category.

Key Issues

Warialda Creek Watercourse is affected by several issues including:

- Historic clearing of endemic native vegetation along the riparian zone has subsequently altered natural processes within the ecosystem and impacted on overall biodiversity.
- Erosion on bank toes and channelization within the watercourse from flooding and stormwater in heavy rainfall events. The removal of the riparian zone has potentially caused higher velocities of water due to less resistance.
- Sedimentation impeding waterflow and potentially fish passage.
- Runoff from herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers and other contaminants potentially lowering water quality.
- Illegal dumping of rubbish and garden clippings where green waste has most likely contributed to weed incursion and nutrient loadings.

Management framework for reserves categorised as Natural Area – Watercourse

The general management framework and principles (guidelines and core objectives) that Council adheres to in Natural Area-Watercourse are determined by the following factors. The factors are:

- Biodiversity conservation
- Protection of Watercourse Values
- Management of Watercourse
- Restoration and rehabilitation
- Community access and education

Therefore, measures will be taken to maintain existing natural habitats, rehabilitate riparian areas absent of vegetation and/or endemic species, allow for restricted public access and amenity while protecting sensitive areas, minimise effects of pollution such as rubbish control and continue with ongoing management such as water sampling, weed control and improvement on the foundational aspects of general management.

Development and use

Infrastructure and Facilities

Gwydir Shire Council may develop the land and or permit development and/ or activities by the general community (**Table 9**). These developments or activities may or may not require consent. These developments and activities must align with the core objectives within this category.

Permitted and Prohibited Activities

This Plan of Management identifies activities that are permitted without consent, approved with consent or prohibited. The following **Tables 9** and **10** outline activities that fall under these requirements according to the Natural Area-Watercourse land category.

Current Use of the Land

Condition of the Land and Structures

The land has been left to its own devices due to being modified and mismanaged over a 100-year period. Lack of appropriate management along the riparian zone has resulted in weed incursion and increasing issues such as bank erosion and sedimentation from land clearing or development. Some areas of the riparian zone have little riparian vegetation and any riparian vegetation present is non endemic natives or exotic/ weed species (Appendix 12). Remnants of endemic vegetation however, become more obvious as you reach the outskirts of the town. The only structures within the watercourse area is Richard Bligh bridge, the slab creek crossing in hope street, the weir, old cement pillars, stormwater drains and the footbridge. All road and pedestrian structures appear to be in good condition; however, the weir will require a more thorough assessment (Figures 22-28).



22a.



22b.



22c.



22d.



22e.

Figures 22a-b. Warialda Creek upstream from Hope Street slab crossing. Some endemic vegetation exists on riparian zone. Figures 22c-d, Hope Street slab road crossing facing upstream. Figure 22e. Makeshift mini weir/fish trap found in creek.



23a.



23b.



23c.

Figure 23a. Rubbish and weeds on riparian zone. Figures 23b-c. Non-endemic native riparian vegetation.



24a.



24b.



24c.

Figure 24a. Sedimentation downstream of Hope Street slab. Figure 24b. Priority weed species, right hand foreground and bank erosion in background. Figure 24c. Hope Street slab in minor flood March 2022.



25a.



25b.



25c.

Figures 25a-b. Riparian vegetation density along the watercourse adjacent to CBD. Figure 25c. Australian Wood Ducks (*Chenonetta jubata*) swimming on Warialda Creek.



26a.



26b.



26c.

Figures 26a-b. Native vegetation along the Riparian Zone (*Eucalyptus spp.*; *Callistemon spp.*). Figure 26c. View from footbridge depicting exotic tree species (*Populus spp.*) and priority weeds (*Salix spp.*) planted on the riparian zone around 100 years ago.



27a.



27b.



27c.

Figures 27a-b. Storm water drains entering the watercourse at various locations in Warialda Creek. Figure 27c. Weir structure to mitigate channelization, under flooding waters late March 2022.



28a.



28b.



28c.

Figure 28a. Richard Bligh bridge over Warialda Creek watercourse, connecting north and south sides of Warialda. Figure 28b-c. Cement infrastructure from a past unknown structure.

Use of the land and structures

The land is used for passive recreation such as fishing, walking, swimming and bird watching. There are no facilities available along the watercourse itself apart from a footbridge that allows pedestrians to cross from one side of the town to the other and the main arterial Richard Bligh bridge for vehicle/ pedestrian traffic.

Current leases and licences

No interests have been registered over this site.

Permissible uses / future uses

The general types of uses which may occur on Community Land categorised as Natural Area – Watercourse, and the forms of development associated with those uses, are set out in detail in **Table 9**. The facilities on Community Land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community.

Table 9. Permissible use and development of Community Land categorised as Natural Area – Watercourse by Council or the community.

Purpose/Use, such as...	Development to facilitate uses, such as...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation of the Council's natural heritage including the identified endangered ecological communities • Preservation of biological diversity and habitat • Providing a location for relaxation and passive, informal, water-based recreation, unless prohibited. • Approved bush care projects requiring ecological restoration activities associated with the protection and conservation of flora and fauna. • Restoration works associated with the protection of the biodiversity and ecological values of the in-stream environment. • Drought proofing devices such as natural weirs, fishways and snags to achieve water security for biodiversity by protecting fish and wildlife including flora from the effects of drought and bushfire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor facilities: toilets, picnic tables, BBQs, sheltered seating areas, cycleways, footpaths, ramps, lighting, low-impact carparks, refreshment kiosks (but not restaurants) • Low-impact walking trails • Interpretive signage, information kiosks • Water-saving initiatives such as rain gardens, swales and sediment traps • Bridges, observation platforms • Work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land. • Bicycle/boat hire or similar • Temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out. • Locational, directional and regulatory signage

Purpose/Use, such as...	Development to facilitate uses, such as...
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood mitigation works, such as detention basins, realignment of water flows and banks, installation of pipes, culverts and other structures to assist in control of flood waters.

Express authorisation of leases, licences and other estates - Natural Area – Watercourse

This Plan of management **expressly authorises** the issue of leases, licences and other estates over the land categorised as Natural Area – Watercourse, listed in **Table 10**. This is required under *section 46 (1)(b)* and *section 36(3A)* of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Table 10. Leases, licences and other estates and purposes for which they may be granted for Community Land categorised as Natural Area-Watercourse.

Type of tenure arrangement	Maximum term	Purpose for which tenure may be granted
Lease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> walkways, pathways, bridges, causeways observation platforms, signs information kiosk kiosk selling light refreshments (but not restaurants) bicycle/boat hire or similar work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land. toilets temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out
Licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> walkways, pathways, bridges, causeways observation platforms, signs Information kiosk Kiosk selling light refreshments (but not restaurants) Bicycle/boat hire or similar work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land

Type of tenure arrangement	Maximum term	Purpose for which tenure may be granted
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • toilets • temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out
Short-term licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scientific studies and surveys or similar • bicycle/boat hire or similar • temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out
Other estates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determined on application. 	This Plan of Management allows the Council to grant 'an estate' over Community Land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities and provision of services, or connections for premises adjoining the Community Land to a facility of the Council or public utility provider on the Community Land in accordance with the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> .

Action plan

Section 36 of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires that a Plan of Management for Community Land details:

- objectives and performance targets for the land
- the means by which the Council proposes to achieve these objectives and performance targets.
- the manner in which the Council proposes to assess its performance in achieving the objectives and performance targets.

Table 11 sets out these requirements for Community Land categorised as Natural Area-Watercourse.

Table 11. Objectives and performance targets, means of achieving them and assessing achievement for Community Land categorised as Natural Area – Watercourse.

Table 11. Natural Areas- Watercourse

Management Issues	s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	Priority (Short, Medium & Longterm)	Estimated Costings Per Unit- not Project Cost	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Restoration of Riparian zones.	Facilitate planting endemic and non-endemic native species in riparian areas to reduce erosion, improve water quality and biodiversity including enhancing recreational benefits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify areas for restoring riparian zones. Plant/ establish vegetation to remediate unstable creek banks, increase native habitat, aquatic biodiversity, and improve water quality along Warialda Creek. 	Medium	Master Plan required for planting design/ area to be planted. Grant Funding opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Native trees/ shrubs are planted, established and maintained that rejuvenate the riparian area. Native vegetation successful established with little impact from human activity. Biodiversity values improve.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilise volunteer groups such as Apex and the River care committee or have Planting Community Days to plant and establish vegetation in riparian zones. 	Medium	Volunteer Groups. Grant funding opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer groups are actively involved to assure success of the creek's vegetation establishment including overall maintenance of the reserve.

Management Issues	s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	Priority (Short, Medium & Longterm)	Estimated Costings Per Unit- not Project Cost	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Water Testing	Conduct water testing intermittently for Warialda Creek in assessing water health at several locations over a period of time. This is to evaluate water column health and mitigate issues through proper ongoing management by creating baseline information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out water testing at several locations starting at Cranky Rock and finishing past Waste facility for laboratory testing on an annual basis. 	Medium/ ongoing	\$ 210 - \$250/ sample-chemistry and TOC, require samples at 3 or 4 different locations. \$850-\$1,500 per sampling period/ year. Internal staff costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water testing is carried out at intervals over several years demonstrating improvement to the water column. Correct management of the reserve is conducive to the creek's water column improving through testing. Create baseline and historical information to gauge the properties of the creek's water health for future management decisions.
Aerial Survey	Conduct an aerial survey of Warialda Creek to gain a better perspective for holistic management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employ a professional, licenced drone operator to create detailed imagery of Warialda Creek Crown Reserve. This will provide a 	Short term	\$8000 per survey.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed imagery is produced and supplied by drone operator. Imagery has distinguished topographical features, vegetation densities and other features compared to satellite imagery.

Management Issues	s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	Priority (Short, Medium & Longterm)	Estimated Costings Per Unit- not Project Cost	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
	and to collect baseline information.	more distinguished vision of topographical features, vegetation densities and identify precisely reserve issues for improved management.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drone imagery gives more up to date view of the reserve identifying current issues to make informed management decisions.
Creation of 'snags' for aquatic biodiversity and erosion mitigation.	Facilitate the creation of snags in creek bed to improve aquatic diversity and mitigate active erosion in specific areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek advice from relevant stakeholders e.g., NSW DPI (Fisheries) for installing "snags" to mitigate issues with biodiversity and erosion. Install snags in relevant locations to combat erosion and improve fish habitat. 	Medium	Grant funding opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice obtained from NSW DPI- Fisheries with development and installation of snags placed in specific locations in the creek to assist with aquatic biodiversity during low flow and/or drought. • Observed Aquatic biodiversity is improved. • Damage from active erosion has decreased with sediment infill occurring from natural creek processes.
Removal of Excessive sedimentation in Warialda Creek.	Facilitate the removal of excessive creek bed sediment impeding water flow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek advice and permission from relevant stakeholders e.g., NSW DPI (Fisheries) in obtaining a permit 	Medium	Grant funding opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice obtained from NSW DPI- Fisheries and permission granted to potentially remove excessive sediment load located near slab in hope street.

Management Issues	s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	Priority (Short, Medium & Longterm)	Estimated Costings Per Unit- not Project Cost	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
	and fish passage or migration. Investigate possible causes of sedimentation and propose methods of proactive mitigation management.	or other measure for the removal of excessive sediment impacting on aquatic biodiversity. Complete during low flow and or drought.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sediment is removed and re-installed in areas of erosion/ scouring where snags are placed to assist with sediment infilling. Watercourse flow channel is unimpeded, improving fish passage/ migration and overall aquatic biodiversity.
Reinstate Original Watercourse Name.	Investigate feasibility of renaming Warialda Creek to Reedy Creek as described by Alan Cunningham in 1827. Investigate Indigenous dual naming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a community survey on creek name preference via Council's website or other survey methods. Application to NSW Government Geographical Names Board if community demands the creek be reinstated with original and/or indigenous dual name. 	<p>Short term</p> <p>Short term</p>	<p>Internal staff costs.</p> <p>Internal Staff costs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community survey is completed with name change preference. If community prefers Reedy Creek, with dual indigenous naming, application is completed to NSW Government Geographical Names Board and permission is granted.

Management Issues	s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	Priority (Short, Medium & Longterm)	Estimated Costings Per Unit- not Project Cost	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install signage indicating creek name as per community preference. 	Short term	\$550-\$1000 Internal Staff Costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name change is implemented with signage developed, installed and maintained according to legislation and Council policy.
Weir.	Investigate feasibility of rebuilding existing creek weir to incorporate a fishway.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek advice and permission from relevant stakeholders- NSW DPI (Fisheries) for Weir redesign, rebuild and additional weir integrating fishway. Install redesigned weir to allow fish migration and improve drought resilience for terrestrial vegetation, aquatic habitat and fire hazard resilience. 	Medium/ Longterm	Grant funding opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permission is obtained from NSW DPI- Fisheries to redesign and reinstall weir including second weir for improved fish passage/ migration and to help maintain terrestrial biodiversity values. Weir is redesigned, developed, installed and maintained integrating fishway according to legislation and Council policy. Secondary weir is built to same specifications. Drought/ fire resilience improved; increased aquatic survival rates in drought and improved aquatic biodiversity, riparian vegetation staying 'green' to mitigate fire hazard and maintain habitat. Drinking water is available for terrestrial faunal species. Passive recreation values are maintained for visitors.

Management Issues	s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	Priority (Short, Medium & Longterm)	Estimated Costings Per Unit- not Project Cost	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Eradicate Priority/Pest Weed Species.	Instigate removal of priority and pest weed species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delegate to Weeds/Biosecurity Officer the removal of priority and pest weeds. • Weed removal community days 	Immediate/ongoing	<p>Internal staff costs Biosecurity Officer.</p> <p>Volunteers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority/pest weeds are eradicated with ongoing management in identifying and removing weeds. • Weed incidence decreased, priority weeds eradicated and prevented from re-establishment.
Management Plan for Faunal Pest Species Threats such as Cane Toads.	Monitor area for threats of Invasive Pest Faunal Species such as Cane Toads and plan for control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological surveys that also monitor for Cane Toad threats and other watercourse pest species. 	Immediate/ongoing	Internal Staff- Biosecurity Officers and Ecologists, local community members- Grant funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community awareness of potential threat. • Pest invasive species are continually monitored for occurrence and controlled.
Ecological Survey & scoping study for Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS)	Ecological survey to obtain baseline data of flora and faunal species on Warialda Creek as well as identifying biodiversity credits for BOS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employ Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) accredited ecologist to survey creek for baseline data and to determine if BOS is feasible for the management of the creek. 	Short term/ medium and Longterm	Ecologists- Grant funding through BOS credits or other grant funding sources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline ecological survey obtained and biodiversity credits identified for BOS. • Consecutive ecological surveys to assess improved watercourse/ foreshore habitat. • Create baseline and historical information to gauge improvements health for future management decisions.

Natural Area – Foreshore

The Natural Area- Foreshore section has been developed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government (General) Regulation (2005)*. The land in this sub-category is managed by Gwydir Shire Council and is classified as Community Land. Please refer to Appendix 1-Maps: Warialda Creek Crown Reserve categorisation map to determine land parcels Natural Area-Watercourse categorisation for Warialda Creek Crown Reserve.

Guidelines and core objectives

Foreshores are defined in *Local Government Regulation 111* as land situated on the water's edge forming a transition zone between the aquatic and terrestrial environment.

The core objectives for foreshores, as outlined in *Section 36N* of the *Local Government Act 1993*, are to:

- maintain the foreshore as a transition area between the aquatic and the terrestrial environment.
- protect and enhance all functions associated with the foreshore's role as a transition area.
- facilitate the ecologically sustainable use of the foreshore, and to mitigate impact on the foreshore by community use.

Key Issues

There are several issues that can impact the reserves foreshore areas along Warialda Creek.

Warialda Creek foreshore areas are affected by several issues including:

- Historic clearing of endemic native vegetation which has altered natural processes within the ecosystem and overall biodiversity.
- Evidence of erosion from flooding and stormwater in heavy rainfall events along the foreshore. Urbanisation has also contributed as a result of land clearing.
- Illegal dumping of rubbish and garden clippings where green waste has most likely contributed to weed incursion.

Management framework for reserves categorised as Natural Area – Foreshore

The general management framework and principles (guidelines and core objectives) that Council adheres to in Natural Area-Foreshore are determined by the following factors. The factors are:

- Biodiversity conservation
- Protection of Foreshore Values
- Management of Foreshore
- Restoration and rehabilitation
- Community access and education

Therefore, measures will be taken to maintain existing natural habitats, restore/ rehabilitate areas absent of vegetation and/or endemic species, allow for restricted public access and amenity while protecting sensitive areas, minimise effects of pollution such as rubbish control and continue with ongoing management such as weed control and improvement on the foundational aspects of general management.

Development and use

Infrastructure and facilities

Gwydir Shire Council may develop the land and permit development and/ or activities by the general community (Table 12-pg.93). These developments or activities may or may not require consent. These developments and activities must align with the core objectives within this category.

Permitted and Prohibited Activities

This Plan of Management identifies activities that are permitted without consent, approved with consent or prohibited. The following Tables 12 and 13 (pg. 93,94,95) outline activities that fall under these requirements according to the Natural Area-Foreshore land category.

Current use of the land

Condition of the land and structures

The land has been left to its own devices due to being modified and mismanaged over a 100-year period. Lack of appropriate management on the outer reaches of the foreshore in the east and west of the CBD, have resulted in weed incursion, increasing issues with bank erosion as well as sedimentation from land clearing. Some areas of the foreshore have pockets of trees and shrubs, mostly non- endemic natives or exotic vegetation species. The foreshore areas have become overgrown with grass and weed species. Remnants of endemic vegetation, begin to appear on the outskirts of the town. The only structures within the foreshore area is the road bridge, footbridge and a small number of bench seating that are inconspicuous within the foreshore setting (Figures 29-39). Picnic amenities in General Community Use areas including parking areas can also be considered as overlapping structures within the Natural Area-Foreshore categorization. All road and pedestrian structures are in good condition. The picnic facilities are new, being built in the last 12 months. Bench seating has been constructed of steel and appear to be structurally sound but need improvements regarding their location and appearance.



29a.



29b.



29c.



29d.



29e.

Figure 29a-e. The foreshore area adjacent to the Old Saleyards camping ground along Warialda Creek Crown Reserve. The area is overgrown with grass and weed species. Remnant endemic vegetation can be seen in background on the northern bank in 29c-29e. (Photos: 29a, 29b and 29e courtesy of S. Standerwick)



30a.



30b.



30c.

Figure 30a. Hope Street slab road crossing and weed incursion in background on foreshore, facing upstream. Figure 30b. Proposed viewing/ picnic area described in Table 14., upstream of Hope Street slab crossing. Figure 30c. Upper foreshore area on south side of Warialda Creek facing northwards.



31a.



31b.



31c.

Figure 31a. *Populus spp.* planted early last century. Figure 31b. Bench seat hidden in grassy overgrowth next to Plunkett Street footbridge. Figure 31c. Old fence requiring removal near footbridge.



32a



32b.



32c.

Figure 32a. Existing mural on pillar of Richard Bligh bridge. Figure 32b-c. Bench seating along creek foreshore.



33a.



33b.



33c.

Figures 33a-b. The foreshore facing downstream and upstream on the south bank. Figure 33c. View of Richard Bligh bridge from southern foreshore.



34a.



34b.



34c.

Figure 34a. Bench seating close to rest/picnic stop on Warialda Creek foreshore. Figure 34b-c. Northern foreshore of Warialda Creek upstream of Richard Bligh bridge.



35a.



35b.



35c.

Figure 35a. Viewpoint from CBD overlooking southern foreshore in foreground and northern foreshore in background. Figure 35b. View of foreshore downstream of footbridge. Figure 35c. Northern foreshore upstream in the vicinity of footbridge.



36a.



36b.



36c.

Figure 36a. Southern foreshore heading west from footbridge. Figure 36b-c. Sewerage pump station on upper bank of southern foreshore adjacent to CBD.



37a.



37b.



37c.

Figure 37a. Plunkett Street footbridge. Figure 37b. Abandoned bin infrastructure on south foreshore. Figure 37c. Drain located near seating/ parking area in caravan carpark on upper bank of southern foreshore near CBD.



38a.



38b.



38c.

Figure 38a-c. Seating area and carpark including park areas for caravans on upper bank of southern foreshore, near CBD.



39a.



39b.



39c.

Figure 39a. Entrance point to Warialda Creek from CBD to southern foreshore. Figure 39b. Richard Bligh bridge, view underneath on southern foreshore. Figure 39c. Lighting infrastructure near Market Street access road onto foreshore.

Use of the land and structures

Please refer to the Natural Area-Watercourse and General Community Use descriptions on pages 49 and 76 as the category, Natural Area-Foreshore, overlaps with the uses and structures within Warialda Creek Crown Reserve.

Current leases and licences

No interests have been registered over this site.

Permissible uses / future uses

The general types of uses which may occur on Community Land categorised as Natural Area – Foreshore, and the forms of development associated with those uses, are set out in detail in **Table 12**. The facilities on Community Land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community.

Table 12. Permissible use and development of Community Land categorised as Natural Area – Foreshore by Council or the community.

Purpose/Use, such as...	Development to facilitate uses, such as...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation of the Council's natural heritage including the identified endangered ecological communities • Preservation of biological diversity and habitat • Providing a location for formal and informal recreation • Walking and cycling • Environmental and scientific study • Approved bush care projects requiring ecological restoration activities associated with protection of flora and fauna. • Fire hazard reduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor facilities: toilets, picnic tables, BBQs, sheltered seating areas, cycleways, footpaths, ramps, lighting, low-impact carparks, refreshment kiosks (but not restaurants) • Low-impact walking trails • Interpretive signage and information kiosks • Water-saving initiatives such as rain gardens, swales and sediment traps • Energy-saving initiatives such as solar lights and solar panels • Bridges, observation platforms • Work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land. • Bicycle/boat hire or similar • Temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out.

Purpose/Use, such as...	Development to facilitate uses, such as...
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locational, directional and regulatory signage

Express authorisation of leases, licences and other estates - Natural Area – Foreshore

This plan of management **expressly authorises** the issue of leases, licences and other estates over the land categorised as Natural Area – Foreshore, listed in **Table 19**. This is required under *section 46 (1)(b)* and *section 36(3A)* of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Table 13. Leases, licences and other estates and purposes for which they may be granted for Community Land categorised as Natural Area – Foreshore.

Type of tenure arrangement	Maximum term	Purpose for which tenure may be granted
Lease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • walkways, pathways, bridges, causeways • observation platforms, signs • information kiosk • kiosk selling light refreshments (but not restaurants) • bicycle/boat hire or similar • work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land. • toilets • temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out
Licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • walkways, pathways, bridges, causeways • observation platforms, signs • Information kiosk • Kiosk selling light refreshments (but not restaurants) • Bicycle/boat hire or similar • work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land. • toilets

Type of tenure arrangement	Maximum term	Purpose for which tenure may be granted
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out
Short-term licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> scientific studies and surveys or similar bicycle/boat hire or similar temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out
Other estates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined on application. 	This Plan of Management allows the Council to grant 'an estate' over Community Land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities and provision of services, or connections for premises adjoining the Community Land to a facility of the Council or public utility provider on the Community Land in accordance with the <i>Local Government Act, 1993</i> .

Action plan

Section 36 of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires that a Plan of Management for Community Land details:

- objectives and performance targets for the land
- the means by which the Council proposes to achieve these objectives and performance targets.
- the manner in which the Council proposes to assess its performance in achieving the objectives and performance targets.

Table 14. sets out these requirements for Community Land categorised as Natural Area-Foreshore.

Table 14. Objectives and performance targets, means of achieving them and assessing achievement for Community Land categorised as Natural Area – Foreshore.

Table 14. Natural Area- Foreshore

Management Issues	s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	Priority Short, Medium & Longterm	Estimated Costings Per Unit- not Project	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Facilitate low impact walking trail connecting key recreational areas such as natural viewing areas.	Develop low impact walking trail connecting key recreational areas along foreshore both upstream and downstream.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop low impact walking trail on foreshore heading west, creating a trail past footbridge towards recreation ground and beyond 	Medium	Internal staff costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low impact walking trail is installed and maintained. Pedestrian connectivity restored past footbridge.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creek bank access mown from trail; view of creek from trail 	Short	Internal staff costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creek bank access is mown and maintained. Views/ access to the riparian zone are improved.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate feasibility of and easement for low impact walking track upstream of Hope Street slab to rock platform viewing area and continuing uphill to Gwydir Highway. 	Medium	\$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low impact walking trail upstream of Hope Street slab to viewing rock platform area, continuing to highway is installed and maintained. Decreased impacts to habitat and biodiversity e.g., vegetation losses, erosion due to visitors utilising designated tracks along foreshore

Management Issues	s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	Priority Short, Medium & Longterm	Estimated Costings Per Unit- not Project	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Facilitation of a Walking trail beyond town limits along Warialda Creek (long term project).	Develop a Walking trail spanning Cranky Rock Reserve to Cunningham's rest stop, linking all existing walking trails in Warialda Creek Crown Reserve.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the feasibility (scoping study) of a low impact walking trail from Cranky Rock Reserve to Cunningham's rest. 	Longterm	\$20,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility study carried out to assess the likelihood of walking trail from Cranky Rock Reserve to Cunningham's Rest.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target landholders and or stakeholders by negotiating easements on private property to Cranky Rock Reserve from Warialda Creek Reserve. 	Longterm	Internal staff costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easements are negotiated with landholders/ stakeholders and access is granted for the development of a low impact walking trail to Cranky Rock.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of low impact walking trail from Cranky Rock to Cunningham's rest, linking up existing trails and recreational spaces within Warialda Creek Reserve. 	Longterm	To be assessed Grant funding opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low impact walking trail from Cranky Rock to Cunningham's Rest is installed and maintained in accordance with relevant legislation and Council policy.

Management Issues	s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	Priority Short, Medium & Longterm	Estimated Costings Per Unit- not Project	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Vegetation Reduction in Overgrown or inaccessible areas.	Investigate methods to remove overgrown vegetation along Warialda Creek Reserve to help identify accessibility tracks/ spaces to creek bank. This also allows for improved management such as mowing, weed control, erosion control and rehabilitation of degraded foreshore.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application of methods to reduce overgrown vegetation. 	Short/ Medium	Grant funding opportunities Internal staff costs. Volunteer Groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual amenity, safety and accessibility improved on foreshore and riparian area to creek bank. Fire hazard is significantly reduced on crown land. Ongoing management is achieved towards lessening fire risk. Foreshore regularly maintained e.g., mown/ slashed, weed control etc. to reduce the need for future hazard reduction of overgrown vegetation loads. Improvement of Biodiversity values such as natural vegetation restoration or recruitment. Endangered ecological communities are preserved and protected. Increased Wildlife populations observed.

Management Issues	s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	Priority Short, Medium & Longterm	Estimated Costings Per Unit- not Project	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Eradication of Priority Weeds/ Pest Weed Species.	Instigate removal of priority and pest weed species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delegate to Weeds/ Biosecurity Officer the removal of priority and pest weeds. 	Immediate/ ongoing	Internal staff costs (Biosecurity Officer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority/ pest weeds are eradicated with ongoing management in identifying and removal of weeds. Weed incidence decreased.

Management Issues	s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	Priority Short, Medium & Longterm	Estimated Costings Per Unit- not Project	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Pedestrian Access/ Equity of Access.	Investigate and develop all ability access to foreshore area, creating several access points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate feasibility and design suitable all-ability access pathways between parking areas or entry points from the main street to the creek. 	Medium	Grant funding opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All ability access pathways are designed, installed and maintained at several entry points from the main street in accordance with legislation and Council policy.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install directional signage in accordance with Council policy and legislation. 	Medium	\$550/ sign Internal staff costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directional signage is designed, installed and maintained in compliance to legislation, Disability Access Plan and Council policy. Safety improved to all users. Mitigation of human disturbance to biodiversity in using designated pathways/ ramps.

Management Issues	s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	Priority Short, Medium & Longterm	Estimated Costings Per Unit- not Project	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Remove old/ damaged infrastructure e.g., fencing.	Instigate removal of old fence materials left on foreshore behind Warialda Medical Centre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delegate removal of fencing material left on foreshore to operational works or another relevant department. 	Immediate/ short term	Internal staff costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old fence is removed and disposed to waste facility; area left clean, tidy and maintained Safety improved to all users.
Facilitate New Mural Painting Annually.	Instigate annual update of Mural painting on Richard Bligh bridge pillar.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involve local schools to update Mural on bridge pillar traversing Warialda Creek, annually. A new theme every year potentially reflects aspects of the community. 	Short term/ ongoing	\$2,000-\$4000 (per year) \$40-\$100 per litre of exterior paint in white Grant funding opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School involvement in creating new mural completed annually. Mural is kept maintained eliminating defacement or graffiti damage. Survey comments made by general community, schools and visitors conveying interest and appreciation.

Management Issues	s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	Priority Short, Medium & Longterm	Estimated Costings Per Unit- not Project	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Restricted Vehicle Access to sensitive areas.	Develop vehicle barrier/ bollard system to prevent visitors entering sensitive areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install bollards on foreshore bordering General community use areas to protect sensitive areas from vehicle traffic in line with Council policy and legislation. 	Medium	\$1,000-\$2,500/ bollard-dependent on design Internal staff costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicles are restricted to parking spaces and roads in General Community Use areas preventing damaged caused by traffic and preserving the ecological values within the reserve.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational/ maintenance vehicles can enter restricted areas by bollard removal to gain access for maintenance such as mowing, weed removal etc. 	Short/ ongoing	Internal staff costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational maintenance vehicles can gain access in restricted areas to maintain foreshore areas. Biodiversity is preserved and protected along foreshore. Preservation of the transition zone between foreshore and watercourse is maintained and enhanced.

Management Issues	s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	Priority Short, Medium & Longterm	Estimated Costings Per Unit- not Project	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
General Foreshore Maintenance.	Instigate ongoing foreshore maintenance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delegate reserve management to volunteers' groups such as Apex and/ or relevant Council department for ongoing maintenance program such as mowing, slashing, tree establishment, rubbish management, general tidy etc. 	Short/ ongoing	Internal staff costs Volunteer Groups Grant funding opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foreshore management is ongoing and well maintained for the enjoyment of passive recreation. Apex/ River Care Committee and or other volunteer groups contribute to the maintenance of the reserve area.

Management Issues	s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	Priority Short, Medium & Longterm	Estimated Costings Per Unit- not Project	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Picnic facilities linking all abilities park and Naroo Frail Aged Care Facility.	Develop picnic amenities on the upper north foreshore, linking Naroo and all abilities park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install infrastructure for all weather picnic amenities on northern foreshore of Warialda Creek. Install footpath infrastructure from street to amenities. 	Medium	\$8,000-\$12,000 per picnic table Internal staff costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picnic amenities are developed, installed and maintained in accordance with legislation and Council policy.
			Medium	\$250/m-\$450/m Internal staff costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Footpath is developed, installed and maintained in accordance with legislation and Council policy.
	Investigate the potential of establishing tree species in the area for amenity value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant suitable native tree species to revegetate the area for amenity value such as shade and restoration. 	Medium	\$6-\$9 per 10cm pot Internal staff costs. \$60-\$100 corflute tree guards/ 50 pack Wood stakes \$15-\$25/ 10 pack.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Native trees are planted, established and maintained for amenity value.

Management Issues	s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	Priority Short, Medium & Longterm	Estimated Costings Per Unit- not Project	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Revegetation of Non endemic native species along main recreational Foreshore Area.	Facilitate planting of non-endemic native specimen trees to complement existing exotic species and to create additional shaded foreshore spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate/ select suitable native tree species to complement Poplar species e.g., height, park like aesthetic, established along foreshore. Establish/ maintain growth of these species for their park like amenity value. 	Medium	<p>\$6- \$9 per 10cm pot Internal staff costs.</p> <p>\$60-\$100 corflute tree guards/ 50 pack Wood stakes \$15-\$25/ 10 pack.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-endemic native specimen trees are planted, established and maintained that give a park like tree aesthetic. Trees are successfully established providing shaded areas along the foreshore. Observed improved biodiversity values.

Management Issues	s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	Priority Short, Medium & Longterm	Estimated Costings Per Unit- not Project	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Revegetation/Preservation of native endemic species upstream and downstream of main Foreshore recreational area.	Facilitate planting of endemic native species upstream and downstream along the foreshore of the reserve. Develop specific plant placement in high fire danger areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate/ select suitable endemic native species to revegetate/ rehabilitate areas absent of vegetation. Investigate steppingstone habitats, plant spacings and block planting to create natural fire breaks, potentially lessening severity of fire danger. 	Medium/ Longterm	Master Plan required. Grant funding opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endemic trees are planted, established and maintained to revegetate and rehabilitate areas absent of vegetation. Plants are planted in blocks but spaced appropriately to limit canopy overlap and with integration of steppingstone habitat to create natural fire breaks, lessening severity of fire danger. Successful establishment of vegetation. Observed improved biodiversity values.

Management Issues	s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	Priority Short, Medium & Longterm	Estimated Costings Per Unit- not Project	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Signage to Warialda Creek	Develop signage from CBD to Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install signage directing people from the main street to Warialda Creek Reserve. 	Medium	\$550-\$1000/ sign Internal staff costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signs are designed, installed and maintained in accordance with legislation and Council policy. Visitor numbers increase at the reserve.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Maps

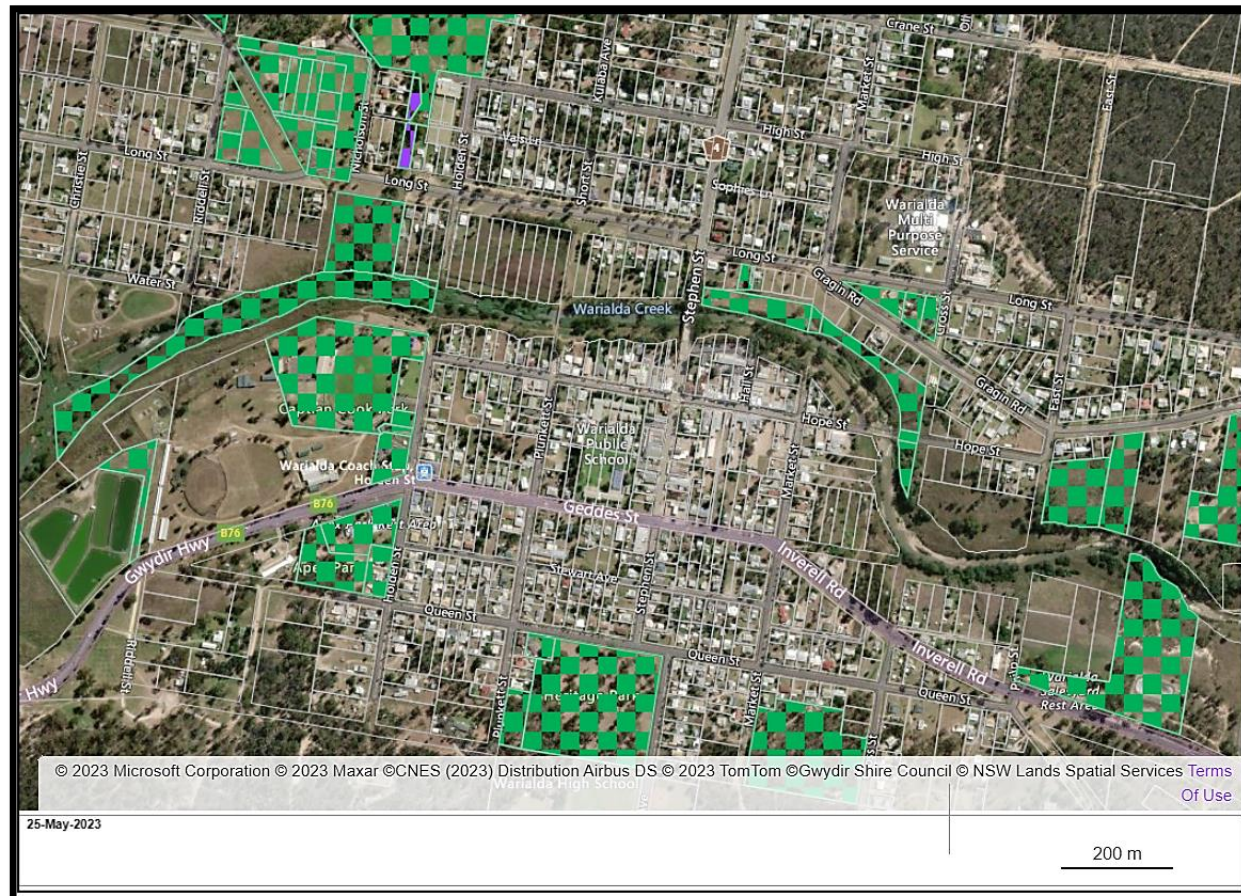
The Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 (Clause 113) requires that a draft Plan of Management that categorises an area of Community Land, or parts of an area of Community Land, in more than one category must clearly identify the land or parts of the land and the separate categories (by a map or otherwise).

In addition, a map of the reserve allows the reader to clearly understand the land use and context of the land in the surrounding area.

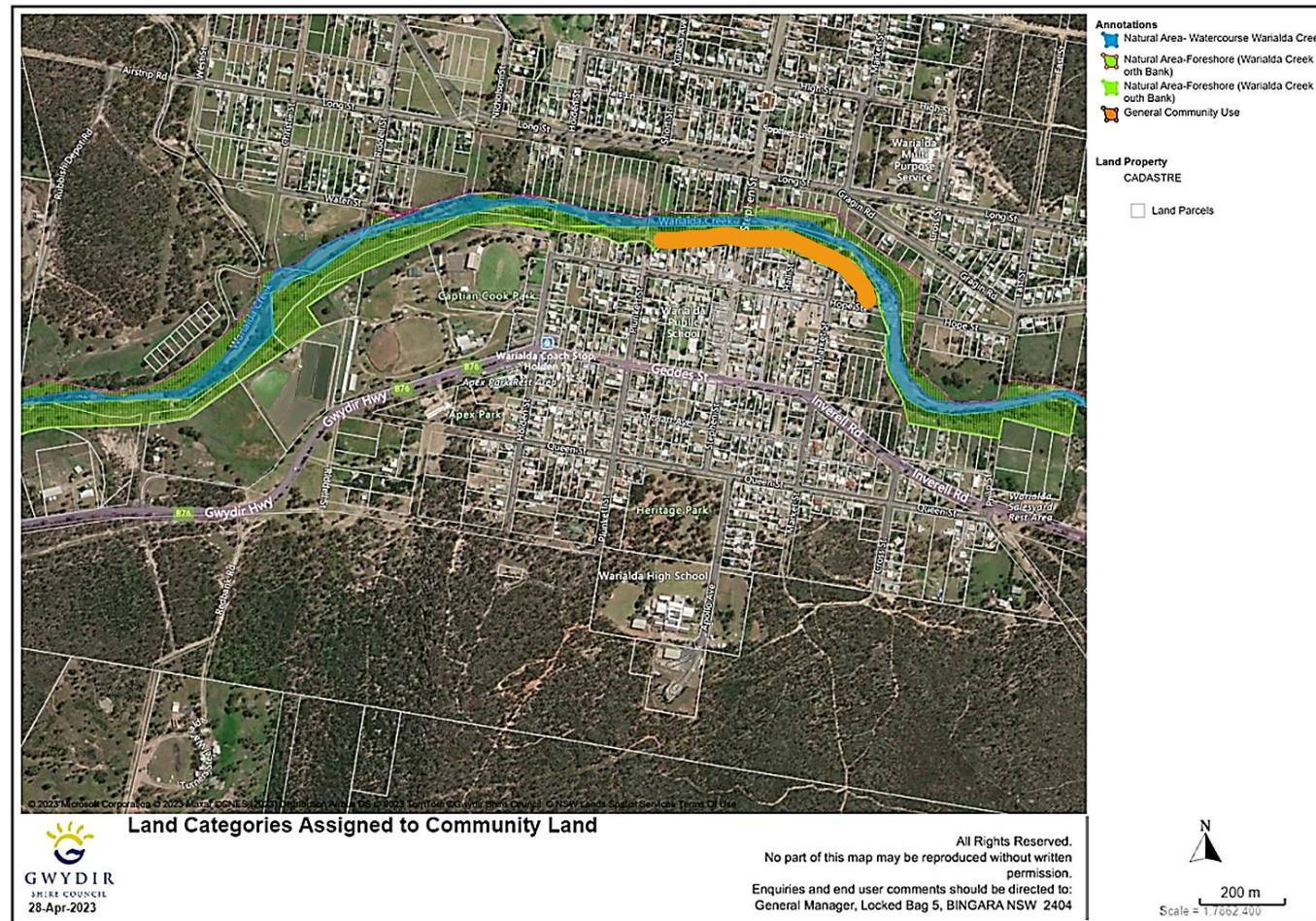
The maps should clearly identify:

- *The owner of the land, where the Plan of Management covers both lands owned by Council and Crown land.*
- *The Community Land categories applied to the land, whether one category is assigned or multiple categories.*
- *Key features of the land*
- *Zoning of the land under the LEP (optional)*
- *Proposed Children's Bike Path*
- *Indigenous Land Claims*

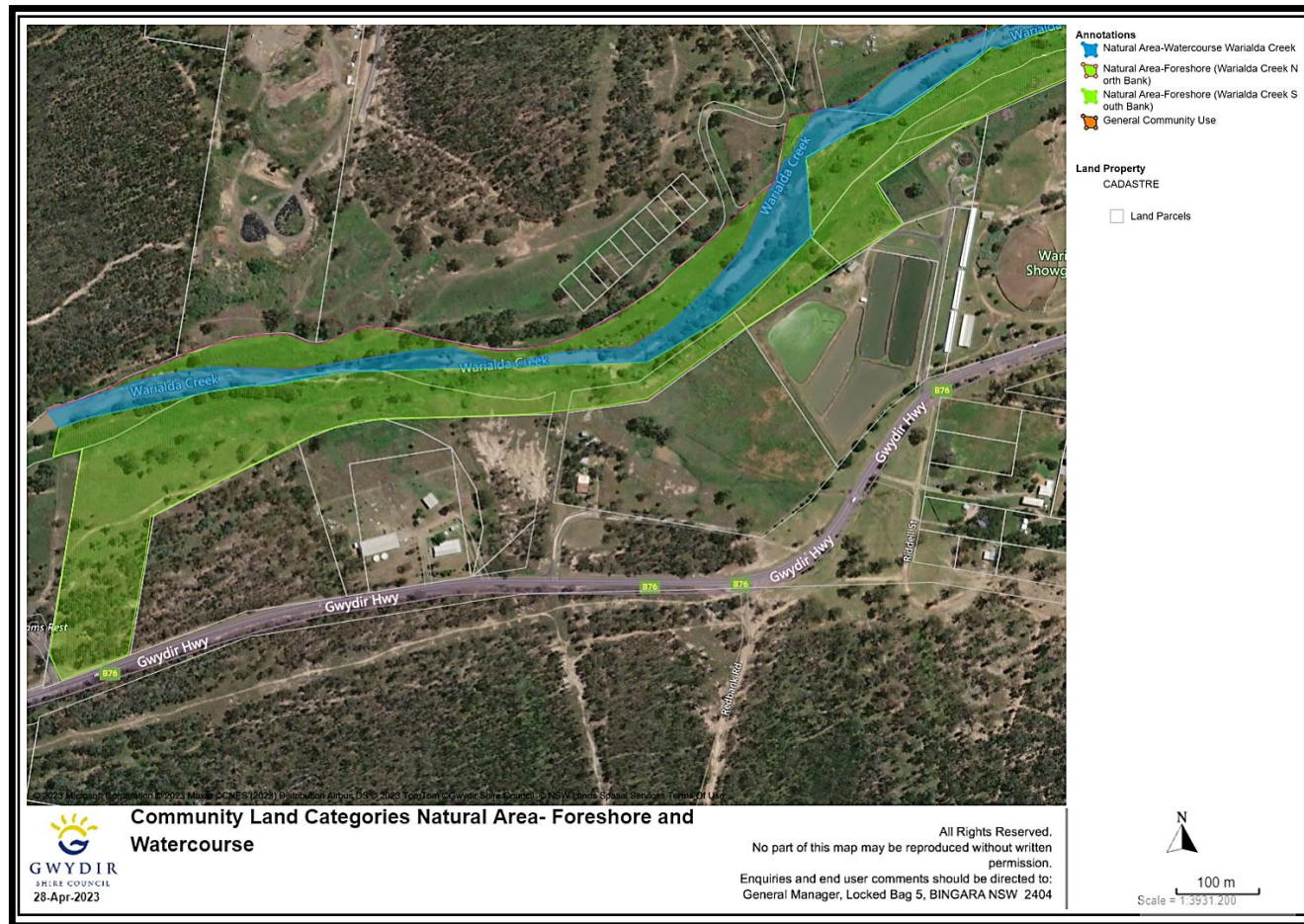
Map 1. Crown Land Devolved to Council (draft map)



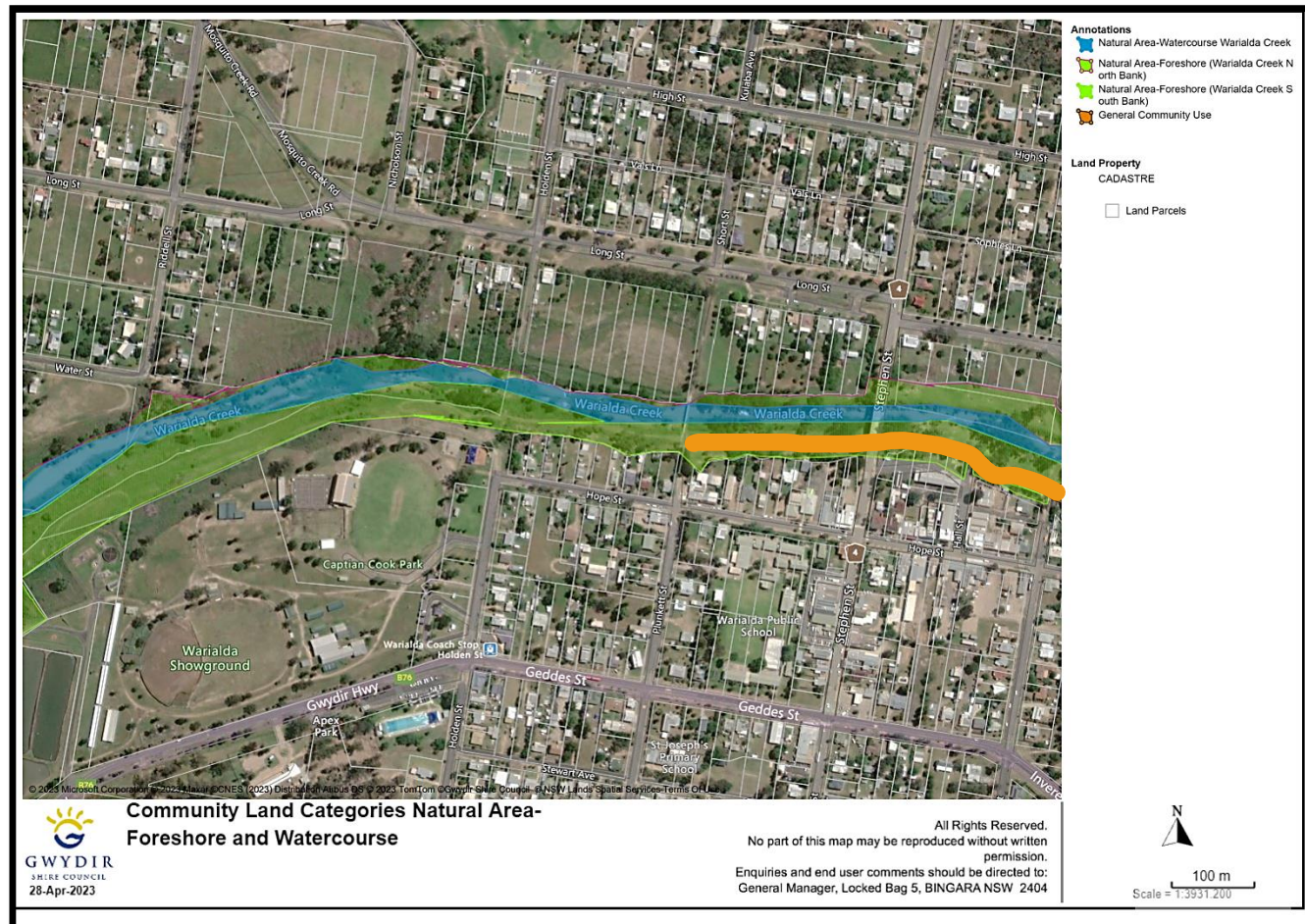
Map 2. Community Land categorised. (draft map)



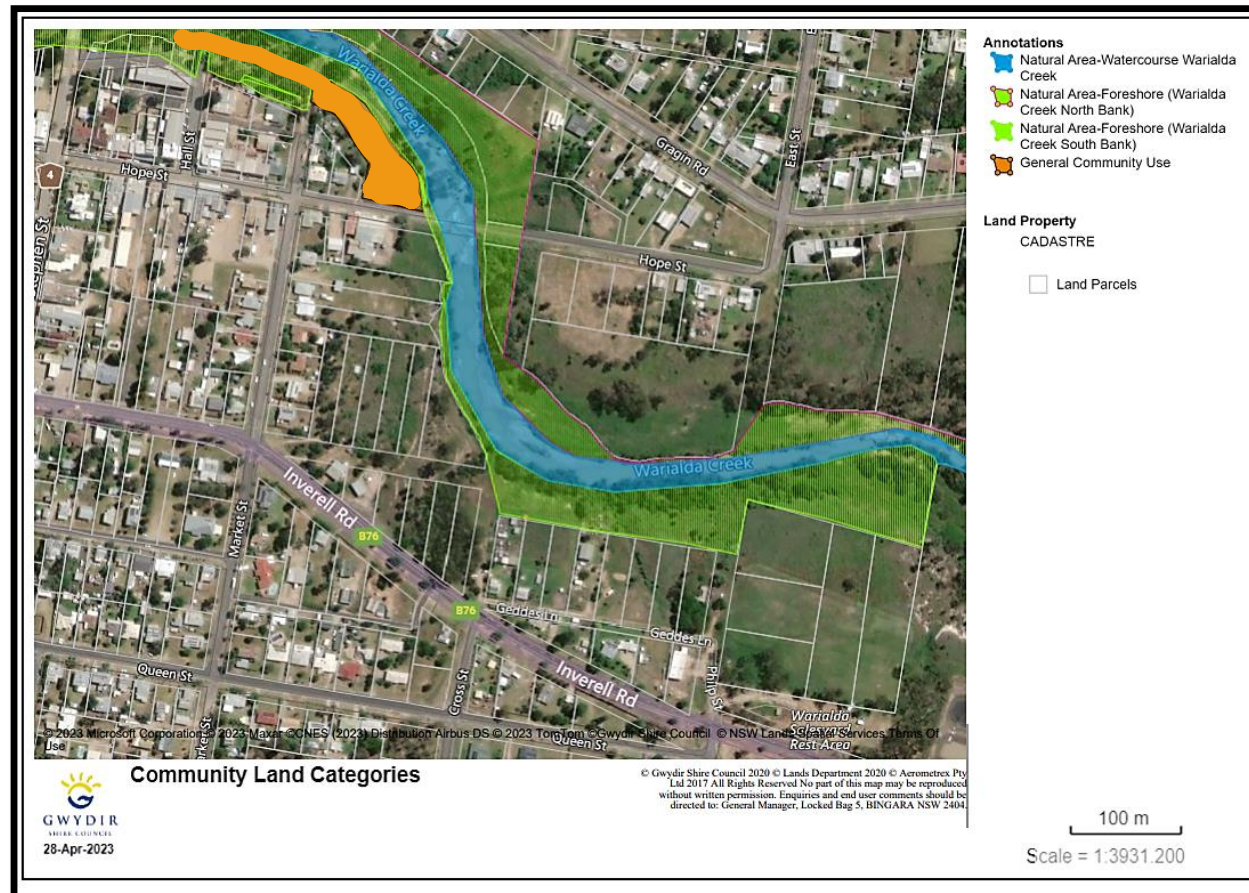
Map 3a. Community Land, Natural Areas- Foreshore and Watercourse (draft map).

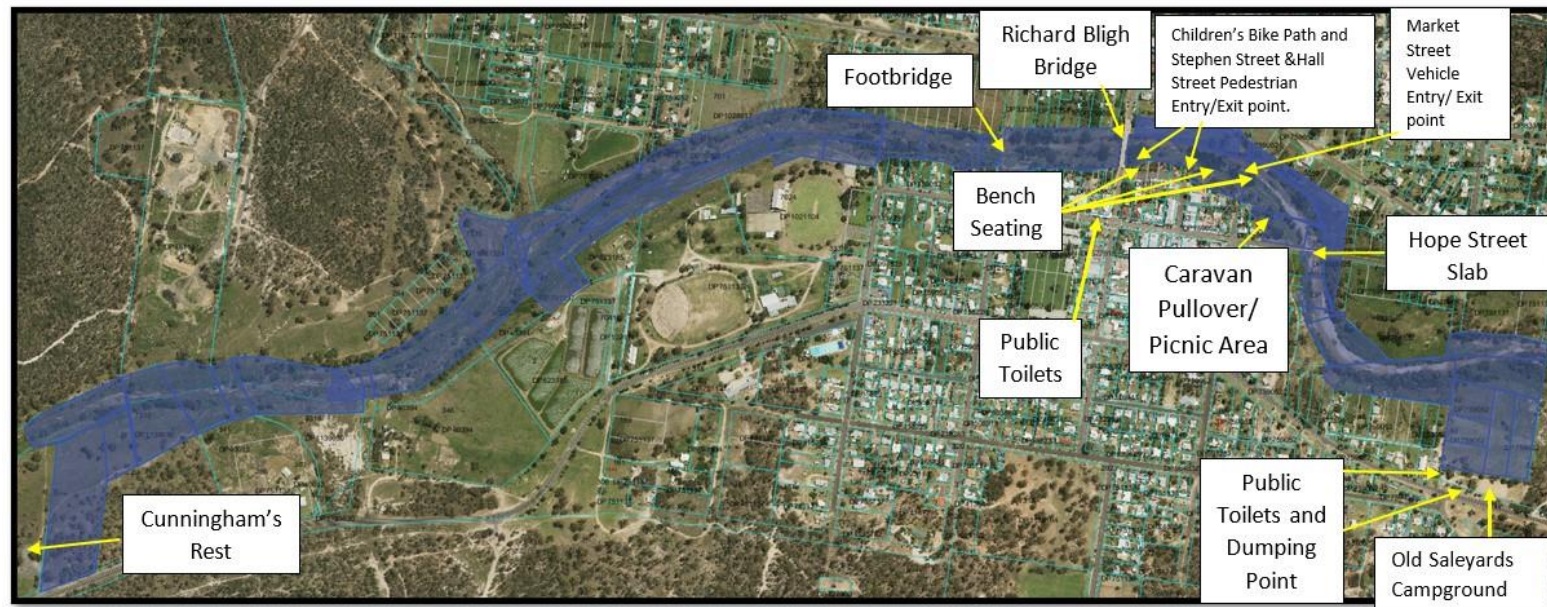


Map 3b. Community Land, Natural Areas- Foreshore and Watercourse (draft map).

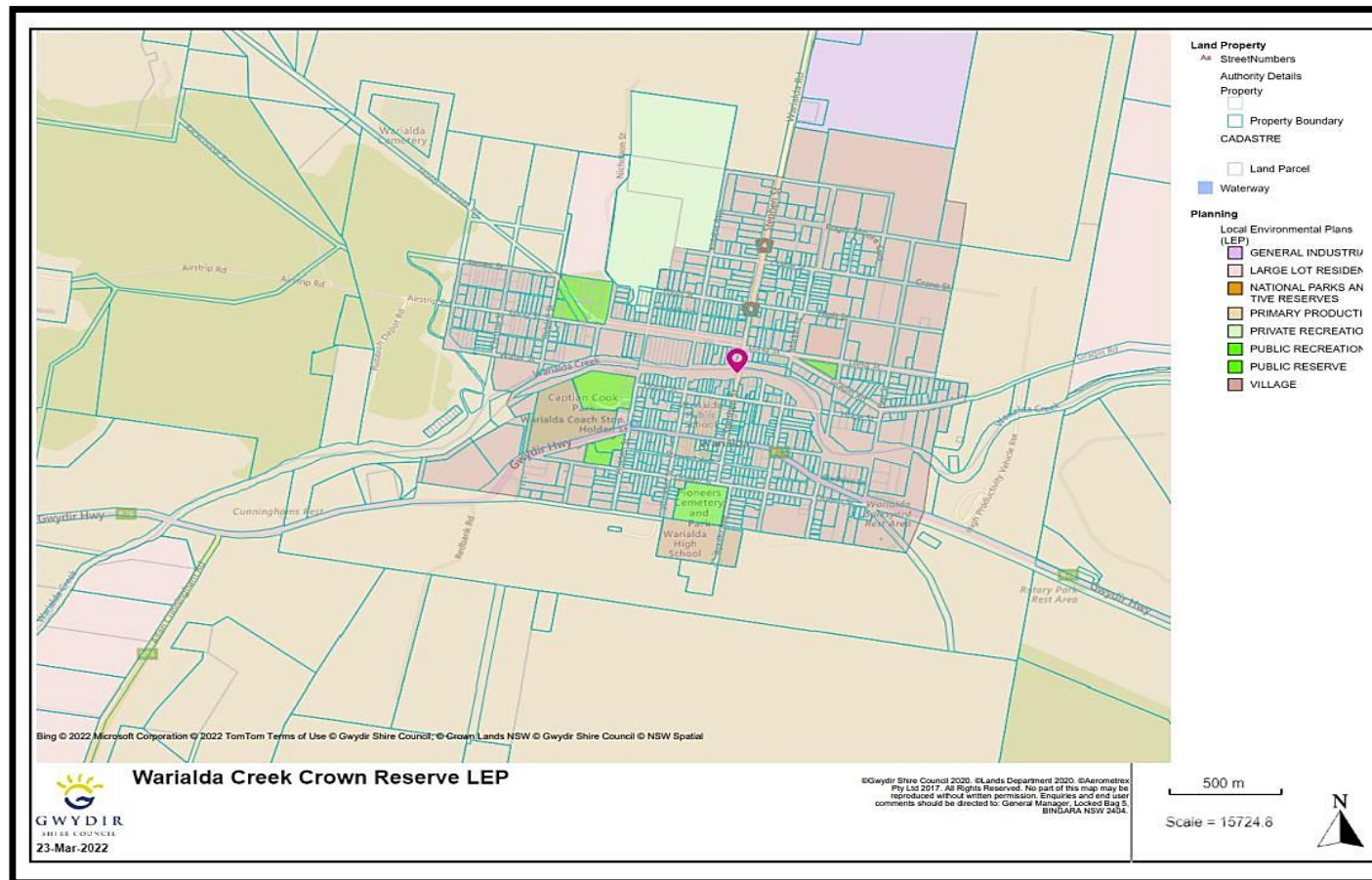


Map 3b. Community Land, Natural Areas- Foreshore and Watercourse (draft map).





Map 4. Wialalda Creek Crown Reserve (in blue) and its key features.



Map 5. Local Environmental Plan Assigned Land Use

Appendix 2 – Plan of Management Legislative Framework

The primary legislation that impacts on how Community Land is managed or used is briefly described below. You can find further information regarding these acts at www.legislation.nsw.gov.au.

Local Government Act 1993

Section 35 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act) provides that Community Land can only be **used** in accordance with:

- the plan of management applying to that area of Community Land, and
- any law permitting the use of the land for a specified purpose or otherwise regulating the use of the land, and
- the provisions of Division 2 of Chapter 6 of the Act.

Section 36 of the Act provides that a plan of management for Community Land must identify the following:

- a) the category of the land,
- b) the objectives and performance **targets** of the plan with respect to the land,
- c) the means by which the Council proposes to **achieve** the plan's objectives and performance targets,
- d) the manner in which the Council proposes **to assess its performance** with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets,

and may require the prior approval of the Council to the carrying out of any specified activity on the land.

A plan of management that applies to just one area of Community Land:

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

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

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

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

- a) bushland
- b) wetland
- c) escarpment
- d) watercourse

- e) foreshore
- f) a category prescribed by the regulations.

Additionally, under section 36 of the LG Act, a site-specific Plan of Management must be made for land declared:

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

Classification of public land

The LG Act requires classification of public land into either 'Community' or 'Operational' Land (Section 26). The classification is generally made for Council-owned public land by the Council's Local Environmental Plan (LEP) or in some circumstances by a resolution of the Council (Section 27).

Crown reserves managed by Council as Crown land manager have been classified as Community Land upon commencement of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (CLM Act). Councils may manage these Crown reserves as operational land if written consent is obtained from the Minister administering the CLM Act.

Classification of land has a direct effect on the Council's ability to dispose of or alienate land by sale, leasing, licensing or some other means. Under the LG Act, Community Land must not be sold (except for scheduled purposes), exchanged or otherwise disposed of by the Council, and the land must be used and managed in accordance with an adopted Plan of Management. In addition, Community Land is subject to strict controls relating to leases and licences (sections 45 and 46) of the LG Act.

By comparison, no such restrictions apply to operational land that is owned by Councils. For example, operational land can be sold, disposed, exchanged or leased including exclusive use over the land, unencumbered by the requirements which control the use and management of Community Land. Crown reserves managed by Council as operational land may generally be dealt with as other operational land but may not be sold or otherwise disposed of without the written consent of the Minister administering the CLM Act.

Operational land would usually include land held as a temporary asset or an investment, land which facilitates the Council carrying out its functions or land which may not be open to the general public (for example, a works depot).

The classification or reclassification of Council-owned public land will generally be achieved by a Local Environmental Plan (LEP) or by a resolution of Council in accordance with sections 31, 32 and 33 of the LG Act. If land is not classified by resolution within a three-month period from acquisition it automatically becomes Community Land, regardless of whether it satisfies the objectives for Community Land as outlined in the LG Act.

For Crown land, Council cannot reclassify Community Land as operational land without consent of the Minister administering the CLM Act.

Crown Land Management Act 2016

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

Crown land is governed by the CLM Act, which provides a framework for the state government, local Councils and members of the community to work together to provide care, control and management of Crown reserves.

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

Councils must also manage Crown land in accordance with the objects and principles of Crown land management outlined in the CLM Act. The objects and principles are the key values that guide Crown land management to benefit the community and to ensure that Crown land is managed for sustainable, multiple uses.

Principles of Crown land management

- Environmental protection principles are to be observed in the management and administration of Crown land.
- The natural resources of Crown land (including water, soil, flora, fauna and scenic quality) will be conserved wherever possible.
- Public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown land are to be encouraged.
- Where appropriate, multiple uses of Crown land should be encouraged.
- Where appropriate, Crown land should be used and managed in such a way that both the land and its resources are sustained.
- Crown land is to be occupied, used, sold, leased, licensed or otherwise dealt with in the best interests of the state of NSW, consistent with the above principles.

Crown land management compliance

In addition to management and use of Crown reserves that is aligned with the reserve purpose(s), there are other influences over Council management of Crown reserves. For example, Crown land managers may have conditions attached to any appointment instruments, or Councils may have to comply with specific or general Crown land management rules that may be published in the NSW Government Gazette. Councils must also comply with any Crown land regulations that may be made.

Native Title Act 1993

The Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993* (NT Act) recognises and protects native title rights and interests. The objects of the NT Act are to:

- provide for the recognition and protection of native title.
- establish ways in which future dealings affecting native title may proceed and to set standards for those dealings.

- establish a mechanism for determining claims to native title.
- provide for, or permit, the validation of past acts invalidated because of the existence of native title.

The NT Act may affect use of Crown land, particularly development and granting of tenure.

Specifically, the CLM Act makes it mandatory for Council to engage or employ a native title manager. This role provides advice to Council as to how the Council's dealings and activities on Crown land can be valid or not valid in accordance with the NT Act.

Council must obtain the written advice from an accredited native title manager that Council complies with any applicable provisions of the native title legislation when:

- a) granting leases, licences, permits, forestry rights, easements or rights of way over the land
- b) mortgaging the land or allowing it to be mortgaged
- c) imposing, requiring or agreeing to covenants, conditions or other restrictions on use (or removing or releasing, or agreeing to remove or release, covenants, conditions or other restrictions on use) in connection with dealings involving the land.
- d) approving (or submitting for approval) a plan of management for the land that authorises or permits any of the kinds of dealings referred to in (a), (b) or (c).

Council plans and policies relating to this plan of management.

Council has developed plans and policies that are concerned to some extent with the management of Community Land. These documents have been considered when preparing this Plan of Management.

The following is a list of documents that have a direct association with this Plan of Management:

- **Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036,**
- **Gwydir Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027**
- **Warialda Strategy Plan 2008**
- **Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013**

Other state and Commonwealth legislation

NSW state legislation

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) provides the framework for planning and development across NSW and guides environmental planning instruments which provide a basis for development control.

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

This Act is also the enabling legislation for planning policies which may have a direct influence on open space management. On a state-wide level there are State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs). On a regional level there are Regional

Environmental Plans (REPs). On a local level there are Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) as well as Development Control Plans (DCPs).

Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983

The *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (ALR Act) is important legislation that recognises the rights of Aboriginal peoples in NSW. It recognises the need of Aboriginal peoples for land and acknowledges that land for Aboriginal people in the past was progressively reduced without compensation. Crown land meeting certain criteria may be granted to an Aboriginal Land Council. This Act may affect dealings with Crown land that is potentially claimable.

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

Statutory responsibilities on the Council arising from this Act specifically relate to the protection of sites of pre- and post-European contact archaeological significance. This Act may affect Community Land categorised as cultural significance, natural area or park.

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

Note: This Act repealed several pieces of legislation including the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*, *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*, the *Nature Conservation Trust Act 2001*, and the animal and plant provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

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

The *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* has been repealed and superseded by the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. However, references to the former legislation remain in the LG Act and are therefore retained in this guideline.

DPIE's Energy, Environment and Science division advises that recovery plans and threat abatement plans made under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* were repealed on the commencement of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act* in 2017. These plans have not been preserved by any savings and transitional arrangement under the Biodiversity Conservation Act or LG Act, meaning pre-existing plans have no legal effect.

For this reason, requirements relating to recovery plans and threat abatement plans for local Councils preparing plans of management under section 36B of the LG Act are now redundant. Councils will be advised if future amendments are made to the LG Act to enable these mechanisms.

Certain weeds are also declared noxious under this Act, which prescribes categories to which the weeds are assigned, and these control categories identify the course of action which needs to be carried out on the weeds. A weed may be declared noxious in part or all of the state.

Fisheries Management Act 1994

The *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (FM Act) includes provisions for the management of state fisheries, including the conservation of fish habitats, threatened

species, populations and ecological communities of fish and marine vegetation and management of the riparian zone, waterways and threatened marine/freshwater aquatic species. This relates to Community Land categorised as natural area (foreshore, watercourse or wetland).

Where an area of Community Land is declared to be critical habitat, or if that area is affected by a recovery plan or threat abatement plan under Part 7A of the FM Act, a site-specific plan of management will need to be undertaken.

Rural Fires Act 1997

This Act contains provisions for bushfire risk management and the establishment of a Bushfire Management Committee. It also includes direction on development in bushfire prone lands.

Water Management Act 2000

This Act is based on the concept of ecologically sustainable development, and its objective is to provide for the sustainable and integrated management of the water sources of the state for the benefit of both present and future generations. The Act recognises:

- the fundamental health of our rivers and groundwater systems and associated wetlands, floodplains, estuaries has to be protected.
- the management of water must be integrated with other natural resources such as vegetation, native fauna, soils and land.
- to be properly effective, water management must be a shared responsibility between the government and the community.
- water management decisions must involve consideration of environmental, social, economic, cultural and heritage aspects.
- social and economic benefits to the state will result from the sustainable and efficient use of water.

Heritage Act 1977

This Act contains provisions for the conservation of items of heritage and may relate to Community Land categorised as cultural significance or natural area.

Commonwealth legislation

Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Management Act 1999

This Act enables the Australian Government to join with the states and territories in providing a national scheme of environment and heritage protection and biodiversity conservation. It incorporates threatened species on a national level and with relevance to Matters of National Environmental Significance.

Telecommunications Act 1997

This Act provides for telecommunication facilities being permitted on Community Land without authorisation in a Plan of Management.

State Environmental Planning Policies

State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007

This planning policy lists development allowed with consent or without consent on Community Land.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Sydney Drinking Water Catchment) 2011

This aims to protect quality of surface water and the ecosystems that depend on it and requires that any development would have a neutral or beneficial effect on water quality.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas) 2017

This policy deals with clearing of native vegetation in urban areas and land zoned for environmental protection.

Koala Habitat Protection SEPP 2021; 2020

The principles of the Koala SEPP 2021 are to help koalas thrive by ensuring koala habitat is carefully considered during the development assessment process, and to provide a process for Councils to strategically manage koala habitat through the development of koala plans of management.

Other relevant legislation, policies and plans

Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

Biosecurity Act 2015

Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003

Companion Animals Act 1998

Disability Discrimination Act 1992

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Management Act 1999 (Cth)

Fisheries Management Act 1994

Local Land Services Act 2013

Operations Act 1997

Pesticides Act 1999

Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997

Retail Leases Act 1994

Rural Fires Act 1997

Soil Conservation Act 1938

Telecommunications Act 1997 (Cth)

Water Management Act 2000

NSW Invasive Species Plan 2008-2015

National Local Government Biodiversity Strategy

NSW Biodiversity Strategy

Appendix 3 – Aboriginal interests in Crown land

Crown land has significant spiritual, social, cultural and economic importance to the Aboriginal peoples of NSW. The CLM Act recognises and supports Aboriginal rights, interests and involvement in Crown land.

The management of Crown land can be impacted by the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) and the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW).

Native Title

Native title describes the rights and interests that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have in land and waters according to their traditional law and customs. Native title is governed by the Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993* (NT Act).

Native title does not transfer the land to the native title holder, but recognises the right to land and water, by providing access to the land and if applicable, compensation for any loss, diminution, impairment or other effect of the act on their native title rights and interests.

All Crown land in NSW can be subject to a native title claim under the NT Act. A native title claim does not generally affect Crown land where native title has been extinguished or it is considered excluded land.

When preparing a Plan of Management, Council is required to employ or engage a qualified native title manager to provide advice and validate acts (developments and tenures) over the reserve, in line with the NT Act. The most effective way to validate acts under the NT Act is to ensure all activities align with the reserve purpose.

If native title rights are found to exist on Crown land, Council Crown land managers may be liable to pay compensation for acts that impact on native title rights and interests. This compensation liability arises for local Councils whether or not the act was validated under the NT Act.

For further information about native title and the future acts framework see the Crown lands website.

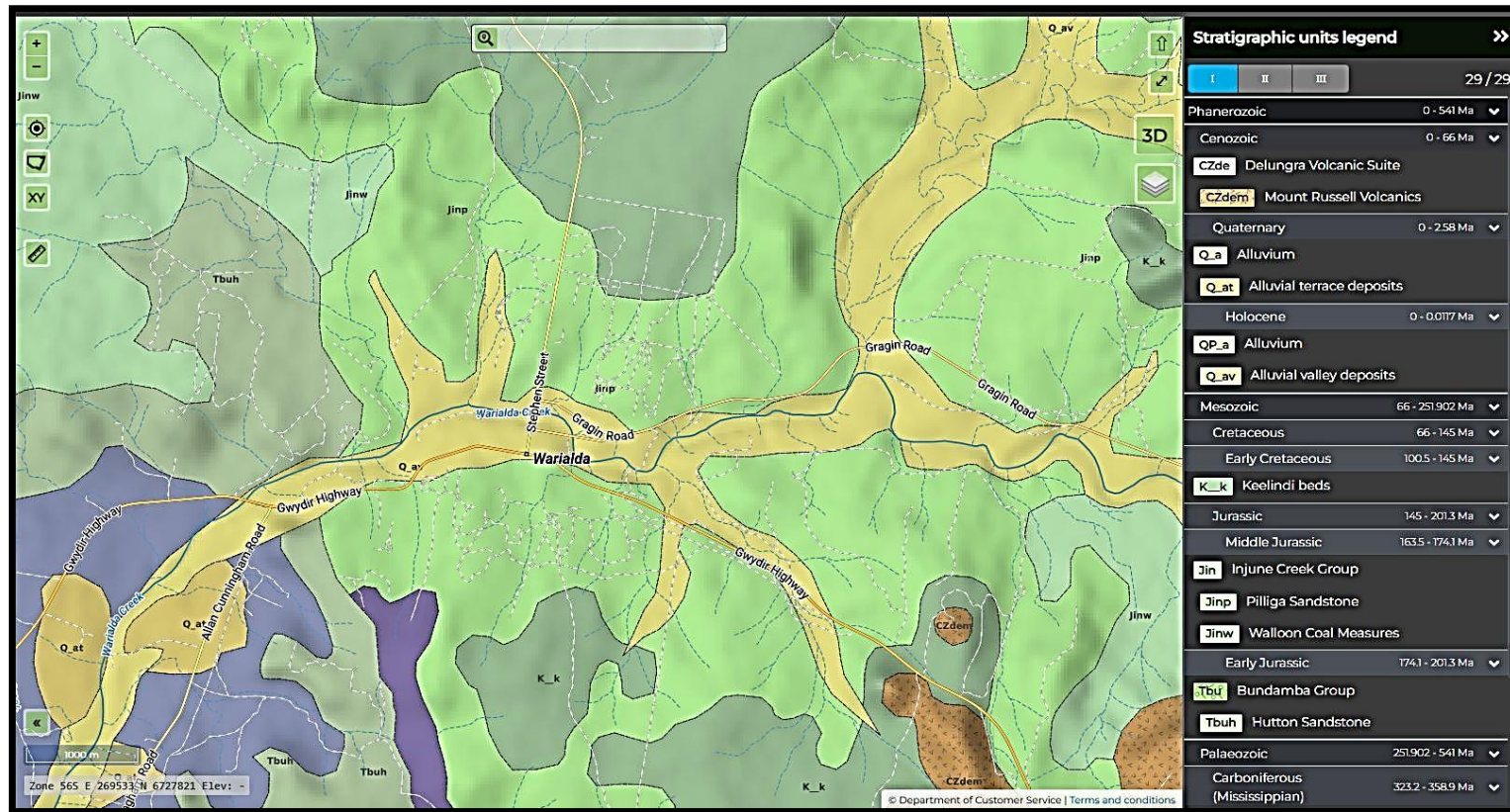
Aboriginal Land Rights

The *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (ALR Act) seeks to compensate Aboriginal peoples for past dispossession, dislocation and removal of land in NSW (who may or may not also be native title holders).

Aboriginal land claims may be placed on any Crown land in NSW. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is responsible for investigating claims as defined in the ALR Act. If a claim is established, the land is transferred to the Aboriginal Land Council as freehold land.

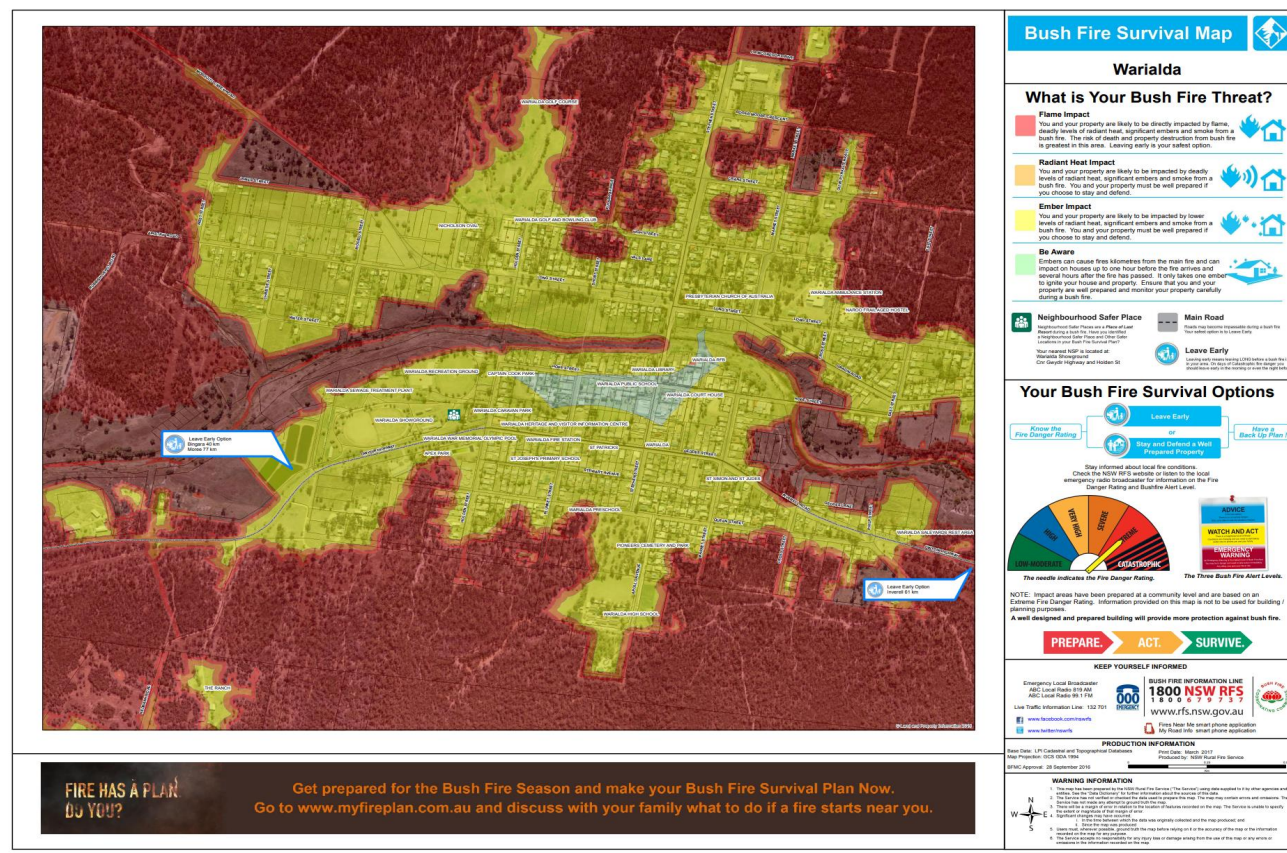
At the time of preparing this plan of management, Warialda Creek Crown Reserve is affected by several undetermined Aboriginal land claims on individual lots. Council has considered the claims in development of this plan of management.

Appendix 4- Warialda Creek Crown Reserve Geology



Warialda Creek Crown Reserve Geology with Legend (Source: MinView, accessed February 2022 from www.minview.geoscience.nsw.gov.au)

Appendix 5- Warialda Bushfire Survival Map



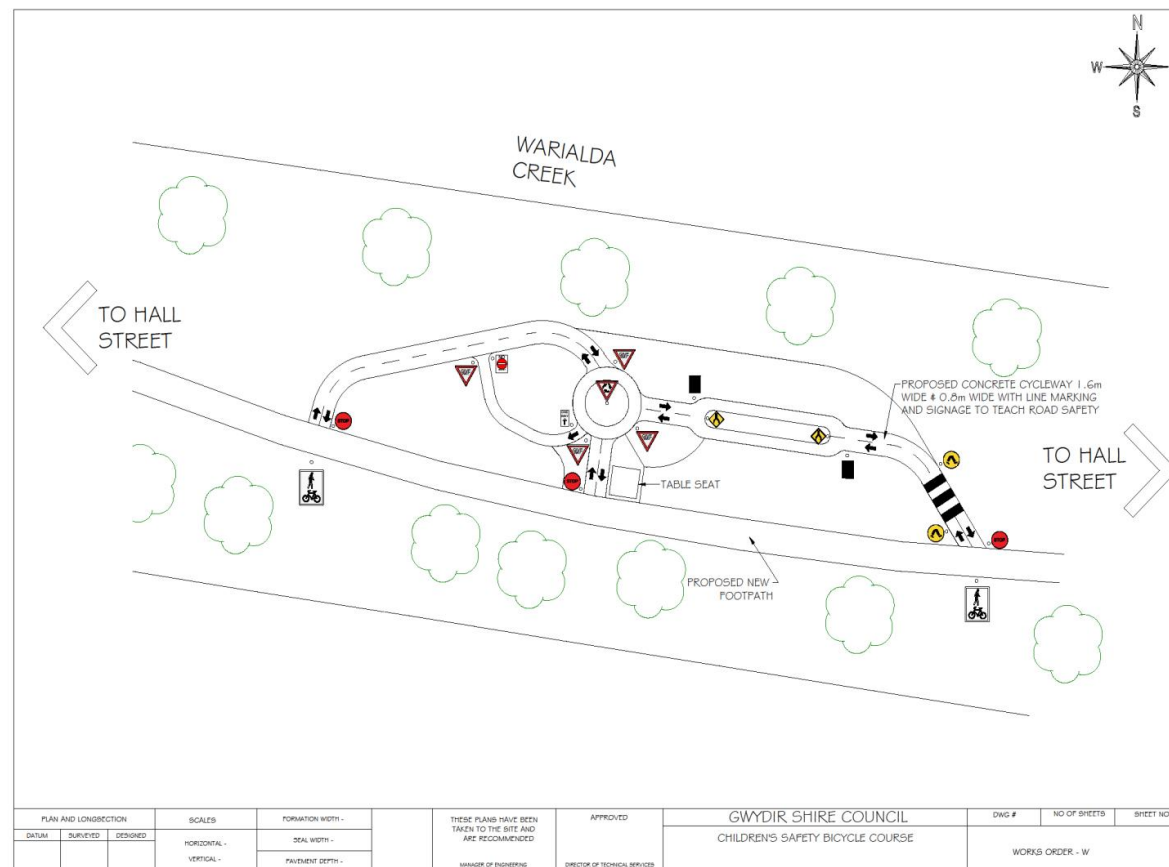
Warialda Bushfire Survival Map Displaying Flame Impact and Ember Impact effecting Warialda Creek Crown Reserve (Source: RFS (2017), accessed January 2022 from www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)

Appendix 6- Bird Routes of the Wialalda District



Wialalda Bird Routes Indicating an array of bird species within Gwydir Shire Council (Source: Bird Routes of the Wialalda District, Gwydir Shire Council, accessed January 2022 from www.wialaldansw.com.au)

Appendix 9. Plans for Children's Bike Pathway proposal linking Hall Street and Richard Bligh Bridge (Stuart Surveys, 2022).





Appendix 10. Proposed Pedestrian Footpath Between Hall Street and the Plunkett Street foot bridge.

Appendix 11

Exotic Trees/ shrubs

- *Ulmus parvifolia*-Chinese Elm
- *Populus spp.*-Cottonwood
- *Phoenix dactylifera*- Date Palm
- *Rosmarinus officinalis*- Rosemary
- *Shinus areira*- Peppercorn Tree
- *Fraxinus excelsior Aurea*- Golden Ash
- *Fraxinus oxycarpa*- Claret Ash

Endemic Native Tree/shrub Species *Occurring up/downstream

- *Eucalyptus Blakelyi*-Blakely's Red Gum
- *Eucalyptus melanophloia*- Silver Leaved Ironbark
- *Brachychiton populneus*- Kurrajong
- *Callitris glaucophylla*- White Cypress Pine
- *Callitris enderlichi*- Black Cypress Pine
- *Acacia deanei*-Wattle
- *Melaleuca bracteata*- Black Tea Tree
- *Lomandra longifolia*-Lomandra

- *Eucalyptus creba*-Narrow leaf Ironbark
- *Eucalyptus sideroxylon*- Mugga Ironbark

Non-endemic Native Species of Plants At Warialda Creek

- *Eucalyptus dealbata*- Tumbledown red Gum
- *Casuarina cunninghamiana subsp. cunninghamiana*- River Oak
- *Callistemon spp.*- Bottlebrush
- *Eucalyptus cinerea*- Argyle Gum
- *Grevillea robusta*-Silky Oak
- *Acacia baileyana*-Cootamundra Wattle
- *Acacia longifolia*- Sydney Golden Wattle
- *Eucalyptus populnea*-Bimble Box
- *Melaleuca squarrosa*- Scented Paperbark

Appendix 12

Weed Species

- *Conyza spp.* Fleabane- growing along watercourse and foreshore.
- *Xanthium occidentale*- Noogoora burr- growing within watercourse and foreshore.
- *Sorghum halepense*- Johnson Grass-extensively seen along watercourse and foreshore.
- *Silybum marianum*- Variegated Thistle- seen in patches
- *Cestrum parqui*- Green Cestrum-all along parts of the foreshore
- *Arundo donax*- Giant Reed (Giant Cane Grass; Elephant Grass)- in the vicinity of Plunkett street footbridge.
- *Lycium ferocissimum*- African Boxthorn
- *Vachellia farnesiana*- Mimosa Bush
- *Ailanthus altissima*- Tree-of-heaven
- *Robinia pseudoacacia*- Black Locust
- *Ligustrum lucidum*- Privet
- *Salix spp.*- Willows-planted over the last 80 years along the creek
- *Ipomoea indica* -Blue Morning Glory
- *Hyparrhenia hirta* -Coolatai Grass
- *Verbena bonariensis*- Purple Top
- *Bidens pilosa*- Cobbler's Pegs
- *Alternanthera pungens* -Khaki Weed
- *Argemone ochroleuca ssp. Ochroleuca*- Mexican Poppy Ochroleuca

7.2 Organisation & Community Services

File Reference: NA

Delivery Program

Goal: 5. Organisational management

Outcome: 5.1 Corporate management

Strategy: 5.1.5 Provision of responsible internal governance

Author: Leeah Daley, OCD Director

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

The monthly Organisation and Community Services Report details the activities carried out by the Department during June 2023.

TABLED ITEMS Nil

BACKGROUND

The monthly Organisation and Community Services report forms part of a regular reporting regime. The purpose of the report is to inform Council of the activities carried out within the Department.

COMMENT

AGED CARE – NAROO FRAIL AGED HOSTEL

Residents Outings

Residents have enjoyed being able to go out once more since lockdown was lifted. The ladies enjoyed going back to HACCC and Cards, and Leah, and several of the gentleman to Goondiwindi to the care show this month which they thoroughly enjoyed. Some horse therapy was also enjoyed as an outing.





Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) – Warialda/Delungra Budget

Sharon Baker

Meetings

Next meeting with CHSP Manager, to be advised.

Volunteers

Meals on Wheels volunteers are still low, managing with Coordinator filling in throughout the Month.

Transport And Trips

Two trips to Inverell Shopping this month. Client transport covered Armidale, Tamworth, Moree, Inverell this Month. Naroo use CHSP bus once or twice a Month for outings. No social outings this month due to Coordinator being off with COVID when visits booked, rebooked for July.

Social Support

Social support always given when attending Day Centres, outing, Meals on Wheels phone calls, client's inquiries & transport.

Day Centres

Those attending Daycentre Monday, Wednesday & Fridays, are very grateful with their service they receive.

Food Service

Positive feedback from MOW clients with meals supplied by Naroo.

Clients enjoying meals at Daycentre Monday, Wednesday & Friday.

Warialda/Delungra CHSP June 2023 Report		
	Delungra	Warialda
Day Centre		
Total Active Clients	19	108
Clients Receiving Service	12	54
Total Meals	49	150
Hours Clients Receive in Centre	148	341
Social Support		
Number of Clients	12	54
Individual Hours	8	69
Group Hours	140	272
Total Hours Received	148	341
Food Service – Meals on Wheels		
Clients	0	12
Meals	0	194
Transport		
Number of Clients	1	12
Number of Trips	8	72
Access Bus to Inverell		
Number of Clients	1	7
Number of Trips	1	4
Volunteers		
Number of Volunteers – (June)	1	32
Monthly Volunteer Hours	16	419

SOCIAL SERVICES

Bingara Neighbourhood Centre

Funding body – NSW Department of Communities and Justice

Bingara Neighbourhood Centre has continued to aid with access to welfare and other forms of referral and advocacy.

S355 Committees

Bingara Community Op Shop

This month has mainly focused on refining systems within the shop and shed. Daily and Weekly task lists have been developed to ensure that all necessary tasks are covered each day. Volunteers have been encouraged to give more hours if possible as the business has grown and at least six volunteers are necessary to cover the shop and shed each day. On very busy days ten helpers are necessary.

A security system has been installed in the shed, walkie talkies are being used for shed / shop communication and the bathroom now has a functioning toilet. Two volunteers help with odd jobs, painting and tip runs. Preparations for the Orange Festival are well on the way.

Two volunteers will oversee the float. Sunday the 25th will be used to get the lanterns ready. They will be turned on Thursday night or Friday morning. The Friday soup evening will also involve the ukelele group leading a singalong, a dancing mat, a seating area around a chiminea and late trading.



The AGM will be held on the third Monday of August. The shop continues to be a busy hub. One customer was heard to say as she left the shop, "You can't leave this place without feeling happy". The volunteers should be proud of their efforts which result in such comments.

Centrelink

The Centrelink agency operated as normal this month.

Youth Mentoring Program

Month	Number of Participants
June	5

The Youth mentoring program has been assisting young people with Centrelink, Medicare, job applications, behaviour management & resumes.

Youth Services

Funding body - NSW Department of Communities and Justice

Attendance at the after-school program at Warialda dipped in June even though registrations increased. Adjustments were made to the age group encouraged to attend from 12 – 24 years to 12 – 17 years. The sessions will be on hiatus from 21st

Warialda Toy Library	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	May 2023	June 2023
Total daily attendance count for children, (calculating each child, each day over the month –total points of contact).	58	62	74	89
Full borrowing memberships (new and/or renew)	1	1	0	1
Non borrowing memberships (new and/or renew)	0	0	1	1
Casual borrowing memberships (new and/or renew)	0	0	0	0
Commemorative Birth Certificate applications received	0	2	4	0
Toys returned	6	3	2	4
Toys borrowed	8	3	3	3
Groups using the service (FDC carer, Pharmacy)	0	0	0	0
Tuesday group morning session x 1	11	10	12	14
Wednesday group morning session x 3	14	25	21	18
Thursday group morning session x 3	23	15	19	35
Friday group morning session x 1	10	12	12	22

June to 26th July due to The Youth Exchange and the school holidays.

Youth Exchange

Preparations continue for this month's Youth Exchange with Willoughby City Council. Ten students and two supervisors will be coming from Willoughby and Gwydir will have nine young people and two supervisors participating. A full program of activities has been arranged for the four days and nights of the event from 29th June to 3rd July.

Holiday Break

Office for Regional Youth – Department of Regional NSW

Notice of a successful grant application for \$4500 to run July school holiday activities.

"Food, film and fabulous times" will include safe food handling, cooking, and filming skills workshops held in Warialda and Bingara. The footage from the sessions will be shown at a joint event later in July, followed by a social with a DJ.

Supported Playgroup Development Worker

Funding body – Department of Communities and Justice



The Children at Warialda Toy Library have enjoyed painting using paint with glitter and sticking on some pom poms. Painting is currently the most requested craft that all children enjoy.

Throughout the month a change around with the toys and their location in the room. Has had the children exploring more with what toys are in the service. The children have enjoyed exploring and finding their favorites.



The Warialda Toy Library had a birthday celebration this month with cake, some fruit and balloons. The children enjoyed the day using the roller coaster and driving the cars around the Centre.

Throughout the month staff have added displays on the walls and freshened up some old signage. On display is the alphabet, numbers, shapes and colours. and pictures of farm animals.

The Warialda Toy Library has welcomed some new faces this month. Afternoon sessions have been held between 1-3pm during June. This allows time for the families who cannot make it to our regular playgroup session 10am-12pm.

Bingara Toy Library

Funding body – NSW Department of Education and Communities

This month families were offered a variety of activities, handouts, multiple guest speakers, chat topics and general swapping of helpful ideas of support.

The Kool Skool group enjoyed card games, puzzles, picture match games, who am I, chalk drawing, Lego, find a word, and drawing during their afternoons.

Guest speakers this month were; Charmaine the director of Bingara Preschool with a presentation on how to join Preschool, Emma from Rural Outreach with ideas on saving costs wherever possible and Sandy from Warialda MPS, speech pathologist, on speech and language development. Wednesday 24 saw Playgroup visit the local Preschool for a play date. This was a fabulous morning for the families who attended.

	April 2023	May 2023	June 2023
Total daily attendance count for children, (calculating each child, each day over the month –total points of contact).	40	88	70
Full borrowing memberships (new and/or renew)	0	0	0
Non borrowing memberships (new and/or renew)	0	1	0
Casual borrowing memberships (new and/or renew)	0	1	1
Commemorative Birth Certificate – Voucher memberships	0	1	0
Toys returned	6	16	6
Toys borrowed	8	9	1
Children/Group using the service (FDC carer, pharmacy)	8	8	4
Tuesday group morning session x 1	8child 8adult	15child 13adult	8child 6adult
Wednesday group morning session x 2	19child 12adult	18child 16adult	17child 11adult
Thursday group morning session x 3	3child 2adult	10child 7adult	17child 14adult
KSK group afternoon session x 5	7boy 3girl	33boy 12girl	22boy 6girl



Bingara Preschool

*Funding Body – Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate
NSW Department of Education and Communities.*

Days	June 2023
Tuesday	27
Wednesday	27
Thursday	24
Friday	27

Toy Library Presentation

On Thursday 1st June, the Director of Bingara Preschool visited the Toy Library to present information about the Preschool Service. The Director spoke to the Toy Library families about the orientation process, the importance of the Service's Philosophy and the documentation required to commence an enrollment. The Director also discussed the importance of the Nutrition Policy and spoke about the Illness Policy to provide the families the underpinning knowledge of the expectations of Bingara Preschool.



Support Services

On Tuesday 6th June, Bingara Preschool welcomed the Community Health Speech Pathologist to the Service. The Speech Pathologist visits regularly to support a Bingara Preschool family, as they are unable to travel to Wyallda for their child's appointments. The Speech Pathologist works with the child's Key Focus Educator to implement the child's speech plan, whilst attending Preschool.

Touriandi Visit

On Tuesday 20th June, Bingara Preschool welcomed the residents and staff from Tourandi, the Local Aged Facility. The residents, staff, children, and Educators

enjoyed sharing morning tea and then went outside and explored the yard together. The children were playing with the Orbeez and the residents asked what they were? An Educator held some up for the residents to feel and then she laughed and commented: 'No wonder why the children like playing with them.'



Library Services Coordinator Visit:

On Wednesday 21st June, the Library Services Coordinator visited Bingara Preschool. She came and read stories to the children, who sat and listened eagerly. The Library Services Coordinator read a range of books that covered a variety of children's interests including jungle animals. The Library Services Coordinator finished off her visit with a group dance, 'The Hokey Pokey'.



Colour Dress Up Day at Preschool:

Following on from the children's interest, Bingara Preschool held a dress up day on Wednesday 21st June, where the children were invited to wear their favourite colour or colours. The children arrived with coloured hair, dressed up in their favourite Superhero costume and some even dressed fully in their favourite colour. The reason the Educators chose the favourite colour as the theme, is because this is achievable for all families and the children can then implement their own perception of what this means to them. The children were also encouraged to bring a piece of fruit from home to share with the class.



Educational Leader

The Educational Leader has commenced studying for the Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood Teaching). This will increase the Educational Leaders knowledge base and will assist further with mentoring the Educators at the Bingara Preschool.

The Educational Leader has researched the available webinars for the Educators to participate in, which are in line with the Services identified goals within the Quality Improvement Plan.

Tharawonga Mobile Resource Unit

Funding body – Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment.

Days and Venues	November 2022
Monday at Croppa Creek	7 (0 extra casual places)
Tuesday at North Star	10 (7 extra casual places)
Wednesday at Yallaro	9 (5 extra casual places)
Thursday at Yetman	4 (0 extra casual places)
Friday at North Star	4 (9 extra casual places)

Significant celebrations

We connected with several international days of recognition, including World Ocean Day and World Environment Day. Educators programmed group experiences for children to share their knowledge and experiences with the ocean and environment and to learn about ways we can act to protect our Earth's resources. We continued learning about Aboriginal Australians and the Kamilaroi people through discussing our Acknowledgement of Country, listening to oral Aboriginal stories, observing art as provocation, and reading stories which reflect the cultural experiences of Aboriginal peoples. We participated in Biggest Morning Tea, inviting families to our service for a cuppa and fruit and raising funds for Cancer Council through a gold coin donation.

Croppa Creek – Educators have been supporting the younger children at this venue to learn about and practice their self-help skills. Children engage in dramatic play with babies, using the prams, learning dressing skills with babies' clothes and blankets, and bathing the babies in tubs. This play encourages language development skills and building relationships with staff and peers. Educators have focused on fine motor skill and development, providing age-appropriate scissors and a range of cutting and crafting activities. Using music at group times, educators aim to promote language, rhythm and beat through music and song.



North Star – Children are exploring colours, shapes and numbers, while educators provide intentional learning experiences to teach recognition, classification and numeracy knowledge and skills. The children show a strong interest in painting and crafting, so educators are expanding and introducing new resources for the children to experiment and explore a range of media and mediums – such as using salt and water to paint, using tape and different glues, and mixing paints to make different hues. Outside the children have loved using their creative imagination and teamwork to plan and construct swags, houses, tunnels, rockets, castles, and sheds out of the large waffle blocks. Educators provide opportunities for children to learn about the traditional owners of this land, the Aboriginal people, through art, books, and stories.



Yallaroi – Educators have planned and implemented a comprehensive program to target children's fine and gross motor skills and development at Yallaroi. They have introduced threading, hammering, sensory doughs and tools, crafting and painting with a range of brushes. Children continue their engagement with the waffle blocks, demonstrating creativity, teamwork, communication with peers, persisting through challenges, problem solving and seeking joy and companionship with each other in shared play experiences. Educators and children think about and discuss the emotions we experience through the day, using examples from children's play and experiences at Tharawonga, a book series titled "Feelings", and sharing examples of the actions and ways we can be kind, caring and respectful to others. Educators support children to express feelings like anger, frustration and disappointment in safe ways.



Yetman – Educators are supporting children to learn about, name and regulate their emotions in everyday life. They use spontaneous learning opportunities and planned group experiences to teach about emotions. Children have also been strengthening and developing their fine motor skills, engaging in experiences such as construction, sensory doughs, cutting, and hammering. Educators are introducing more science concepts and topics. We experimented with bicarb soda and vinegar to create a

volcano and learn about cause-and-effect concepts. The children also made cloud dough, learning about different textures. Yetman school invited us to participate in their Biggest Morning Tea. Our children interacted beautifully with the school and community in attendance.



TOURISM

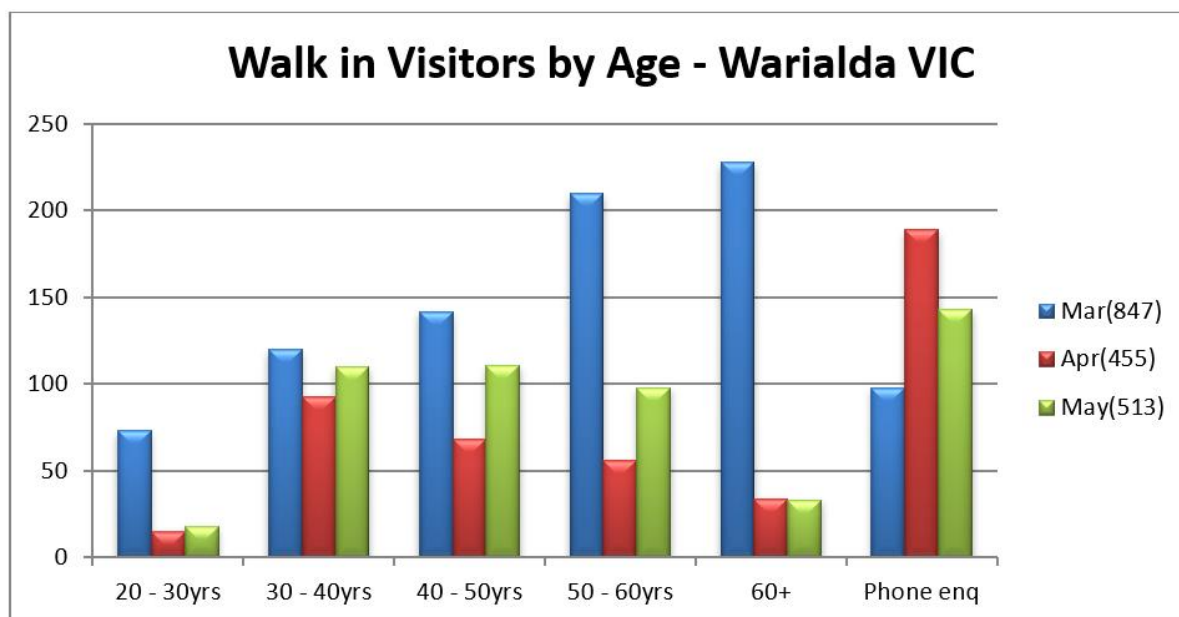
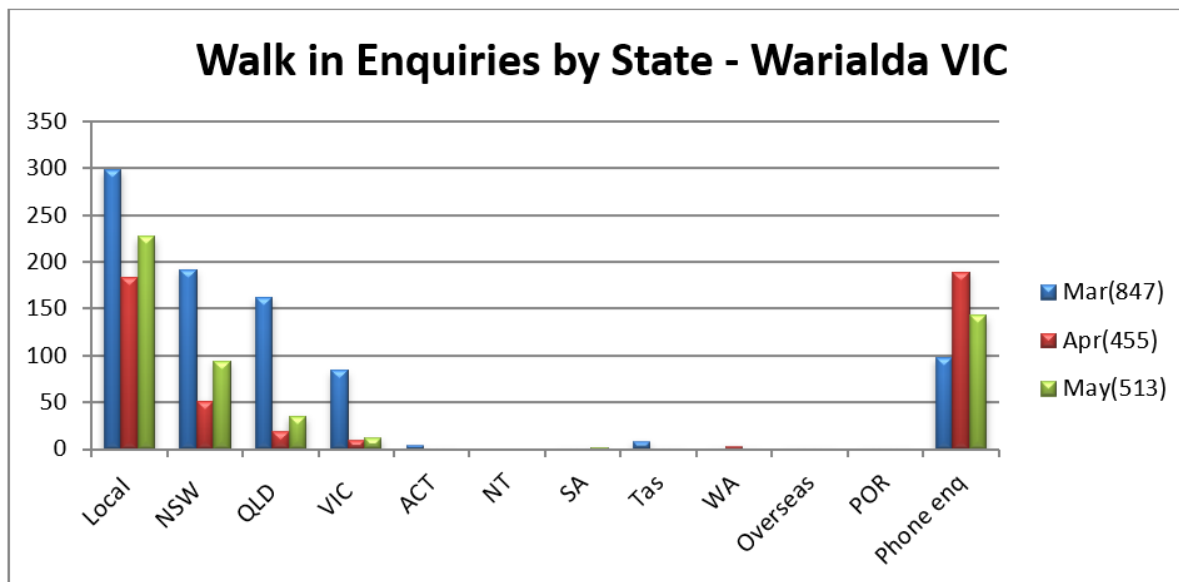
Warialda Visitor Information Centre

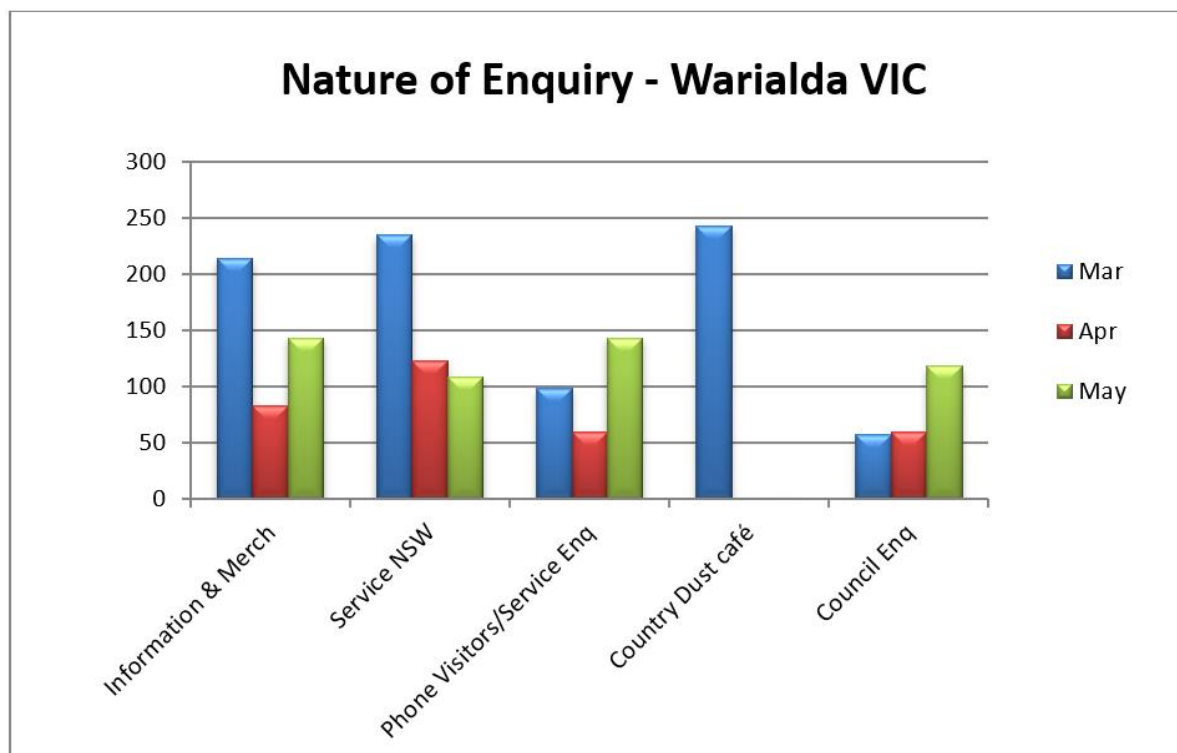
MARCH 2023	APRIL 2023	MAY 2023
Opening Hours = 154	Opening Hours = 140	Opening Hours = 154
Volunteering Hours = 18	Volunteering Hours = 15.25	Volunteering Hours = 18

INCOME	\$March	\$April	\$May
Merchandise sales GST Free	309.00	341.00	524.00
Merchandise Sales	522.29	611.83	308.63
Subtotal	831.29	952.83	832.63
Total Monthly Income	738.03	952.83	832.63

Visitors at Warialda VIC	March	April	MAY
Visitors	214	83	143
RMS	235	123	109
Cafe	243	0	0
Phone Visitor /Service NSW enquires	98	189	143

Council	57	60	118
Total	847	455	513





Bingara Visitor Information Centre (VIC)

Mar 2023	April 2023	May 2023
Opening Hours = 153.5	Opening Hours = 132	Opening Hours = 164
Volunteer Hours = 29.5	Volunteer Hours = 21.5	Volunteer Hours = 27.5

Income – Bingara VIC	\$ March	\$ April	\$ May
Products on Consignment	\$00.00	\$00.00	\$00.00
Merchandise	\$1,169.12	\$990.48	\$874.58
Subtotal	\$1,169.12	\$990.48	\$874.58
Less payments to consignees	\$00.00		\$00.00
Total Merchandise sales	\$1,169.12	\$990.48	\$874.58
VIC Commission received on Event bookings undertaking on behalf of Community Groups – sub total			
Total Monthly Income Bingara VIC	\$1,169.12	\$990.48	\$874.58
Roxy Tour Income	\$470.00	\$452.73	\$940.00
Visitors at Bingara VIC	410	499	569

Tourism Visitation: Saw an increase in visitation during the month this could be attributed to the more pleasant weather conditions.

Roxy Tours: Also saw an increase with 94 people touring the facility.

TLC Meeting/Workshop/Private Function hire and Bunkhouse accommodation Meeting/Workshop/Private Function hire bookings and Fees receipted through the VIC: Meeting, workshop, or private hire fee collection of \$ 1675.00 receipted via the VIC on behalf of TLC. The hire fees included Elly Williams (Private Function Gender reveal party), North Slopes Landcare (Workshop) and Otter Family (Funeral accommodation)

Campaign Monitor Email Blast send out: Nil

Roxy Web Site ticketing/booking design: Myall Creek Committee – Myall Creek Rocks the Roxy Concert

Community Groups – Assistance - Ticketing sales via the VIC: North West Theatre Company – Ticketing sales - The Jungle Books production - \$1220.00. Orange Festival Stall holder fees \$100.00.

Roxy Conference Room fees generated: Nil

Camping Donations - collected by Council rangers and receipted by the VIC: Honesty box donations of \$ 1176.

Comments/notes from Visitors found in Camping Donation Boxes:

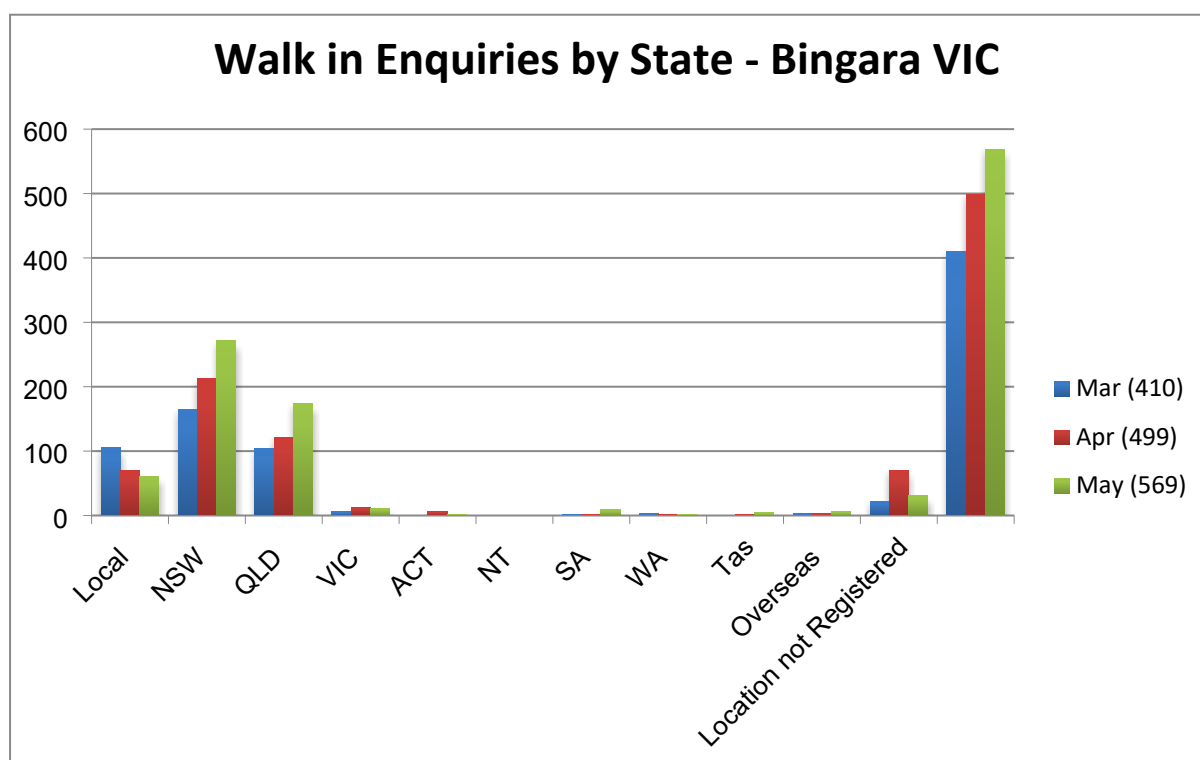
A couple from Tasmania Wrote - *“Thank you for offering camping to us, it is a great camp, we spent \$425.70 in you town at IGA, Fuel, Hardware, Bakery, Laundromat, Pub and Sports Club.”*

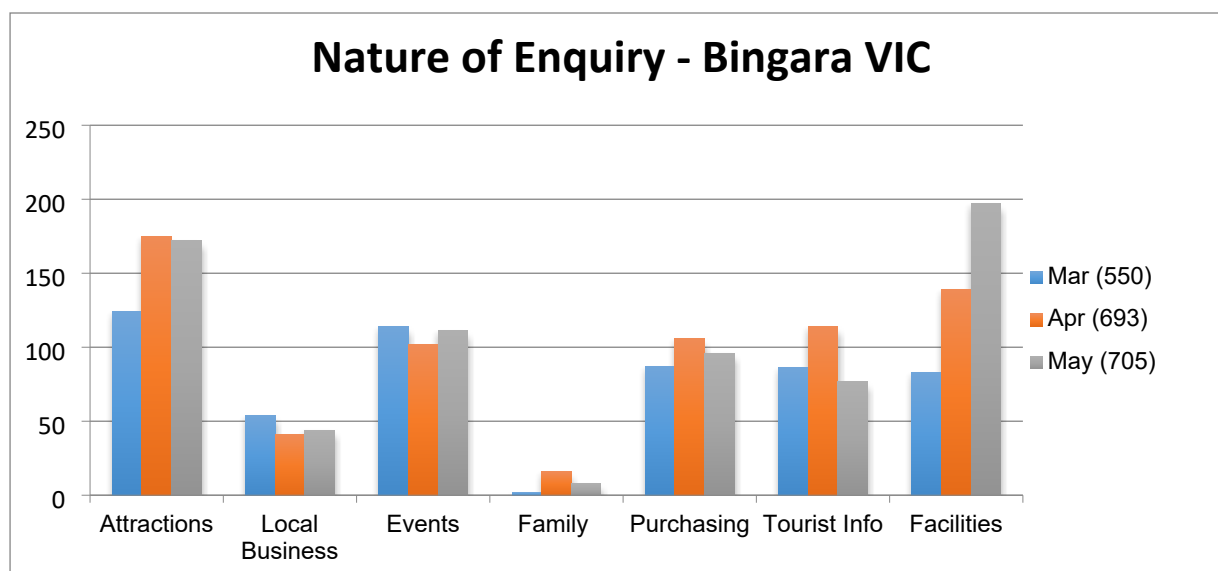
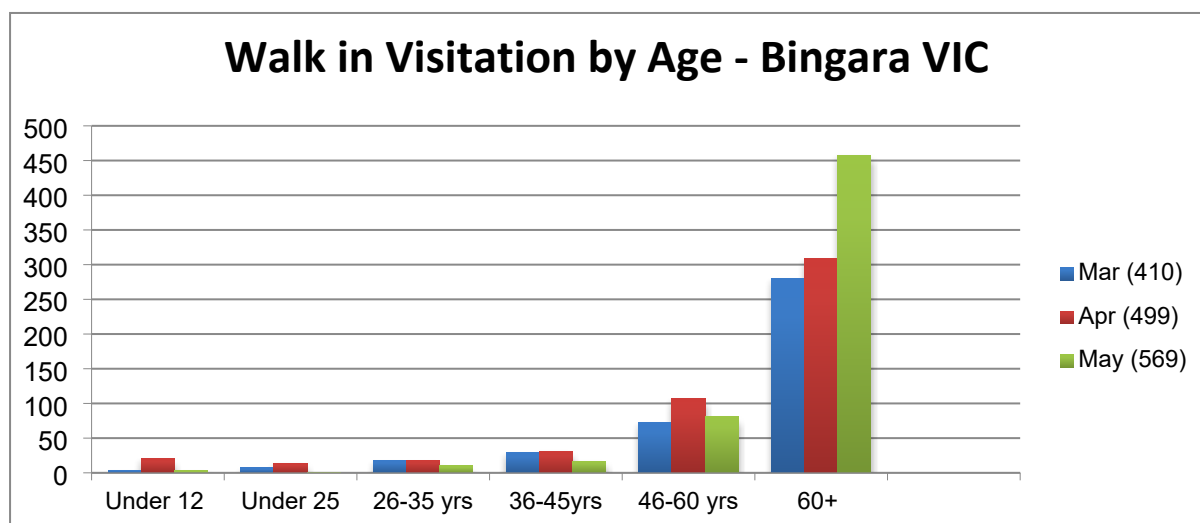
A couple from Tamworth commented - *“spending in Bingara – Hardware \$15.00, Imperial \$40.00, Craft Shop \$17.50, IGA \$20.60, Bakery \$20.80, Chemist \$38.65 = Total \$152.55*

Others commented:- *“Thank you Bingara for a great camp spot, we also spent \$400.00 in town.”*

“Thank you for a brilliant spot by the river.”

“Thank you for providing a wonderful camping area, we spent nearly \$200.00 in your town today.”





CUSTOMER SERVICE REQUESTS (CRMs)

CRMs carried forward from:

Department	Outstanding as at 1 June 2023	Completed since 1 June 2023	Outstanding as at 1 July 2023
Technical Services	35	19	16
Environment and Sustainability	23	18	5
Town Utilities Parks and Gardens	27	22	5
Building Services	11	8	3
Total Outstanding	96	67	29

CRM's - 1 June 2023 to 1 July 2023:

Department	Received during June 2023	Completed during June 2023	Outstanding as at 1 July 2023
Technical Services	20	5	15
Environment and Sustainability	12	7	5
Town Utilities Parks and Gardens	27	25	2
Building Services	5	2	3
Executive	3	3	0
Organisation and Community Services	5	0	5
Totals	72	42	30

CRMs received since 1 June 2023 and still outstanding as at 1 July 2023:

Department	Open
Technical Services	31
Environment and Sustainability	10
Town Utilities Parks and Gardens	7
Building Services	6
Executive	0
Organisation and Community Services	5
Total	59

CONSULTATION

Consultation has occurred within the Organisation and Community Development Directorate.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Policy implications are those relating to the 2023/2024 Operational Plan and the Policies of Gwydir Shire Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The activities carried out by the Organisation and Community Services Department are in line with the 2023/2024 Operational Plan.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The activities undertaken by the Organisation and Community Services Department regarding social and environmental factors are targeted in line with the 2023/2024 Operational Plan.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

7.3 Executive Services

File Reference: NA

Delivery Program

Goal: 5. Organisational management

Outcome: 5.1 Corporate management

Strategy: 5.1.5 Provision of responsible internal governance

Author: Max Eastcott, General Manager

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

This report is for reception.

TABLED ITEMS Nil

COMMENT

PLANNING

The following Development (D/A) and Development Modification (s96) applications were approved during the month of May 2023:

No.	Property Description	Development/ Work	\$	D/A	s96
38/2022	Stahman Property Pty Ltd Lot 20 DP 1112160 1507 River Road Pallamallawa	Modification of rural workers accommodation site	\$550,000	-	✓
57/2022	J D Graham Lot 11 & 57 DP 751115 39 Yallaroi Road Coolatai	Change type of development from a rural worker dwelling to a dwelling house	\$388,151	-	✓
16/2023	P Navanita & C Nagaraja Lot 4 DP 1239213 20 Ridley Street Bingara	Dwelling with attached Granny Flat	\$304,000	✓	-
18/2023	M L Taylor-Holmes Lot 5 DP 1239213 22 Ridley Street Bingara	Dwelling with attached Granny Flat	\$304,000	✓	-
19/2023	M R Ritchie Lot 2 DP 1181554 6 Rosehill Drive Bingara	Garage	\$48,178	✓	
20/2023	J B Green Lot 2 DP 629765 8 Pound Street Bingara	Garage	\$40,000	✓	-

The following Development (D/A) and Development Modification (s96) applications were received during or prior to May 2023 and remain undetermined at the end of May 2023:

No.	Property Description and Description of Work	Reason	D/A	s96
49/2016	Ceres Ag 'Gunyaerwarildi' 1470 North Star Road Warialda - Continued occupation/use of rural worker accommodation being the installation of a number of premanufactured cabins	Approved in principle awaiting compliance certification or engineering certification for the cabins.	✓	-
50/2022	M J Keating 12 East Street Bingara - Modification of dwelling location	Being notified and exhibited in accordance with the Gwydir Communication Participation Plan	-	✓
21/2023	Z P Collins 21 Bowen Street Bingara - Garage/shed	Request of Addition Information and payment of fees	✓	-
22/2023	Field Solutions Pty Ltd 6226 North Star Road North Star - Telecommunications and Communications Facility	Being notified and exhibited in accordance with the Gwydir Communication Participation Plan	✓	-
23/2023	J A Grant / Pinchgut Pty Ltd 12 Stephen Street Warialda - 10-bedroom boarding house	Being notified and exhibited in accordance with the Gwydir Communication Participation Plan	✓	-
24/2023	SMK Consultants / Gwydir Shire Council 33 -35 Maitland Street Bingara - Demolition of all buildings	Being notified and exhibited in accordance with the Gwydir Communication Participation Plan	✓	-
25/2023	SMK Consultants / Gwydir Shire Council 43 Hope Street Warialda - Demolition of Total Ag buildings	Being notified and exhibited in accordance with the Gwydir Communication Participation Plan		

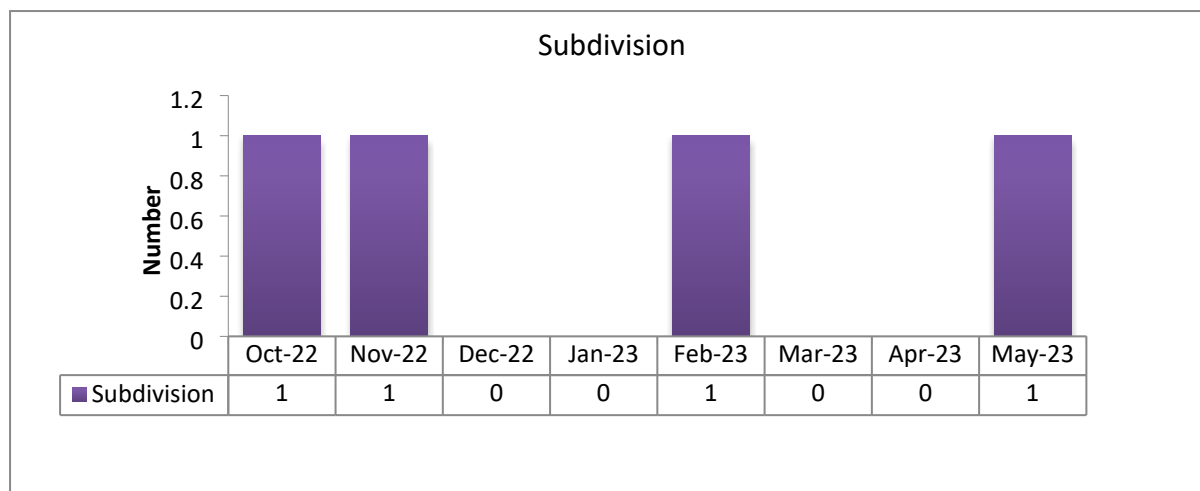
There were no Development (D/A) or Development Modifications (s96) applications approved and not previously reported to Council for the month of May 2023.

There were no Development (D/A) or Development Modifications (s96) application(s) refused (R), withdrawn (W) or cancelled (C) during the month of May 2023.

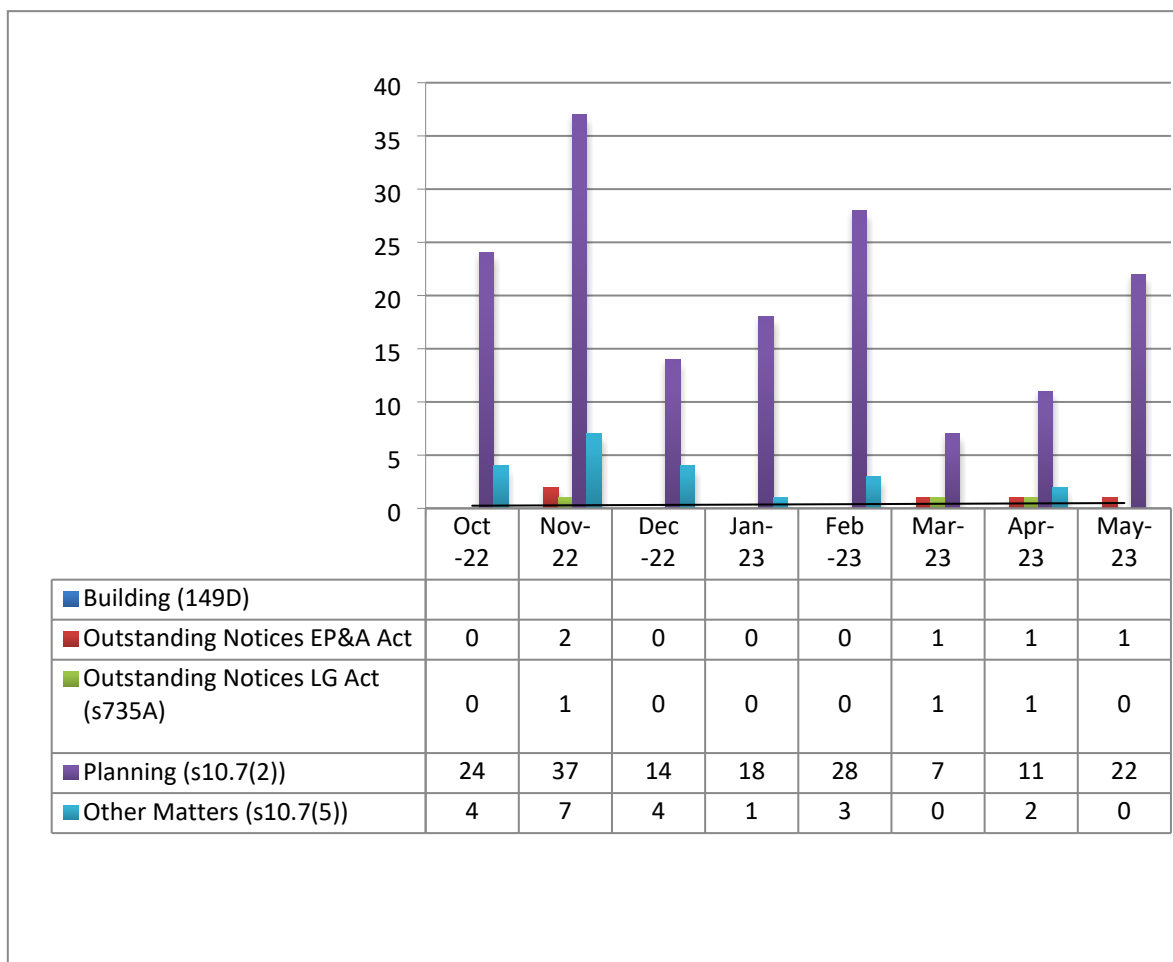
No.	Property Description	Reason	R	W	C
26/2023	J A Grant / Pinchgut Pty Ltd 12 Stephen Street Warialda 10-bedroom boarding house	Incorrectly lodged twice, also see DA 23/2023	-	-	✓

There were no Development (D/A) applications determined where there has been a variation in standards under clause 4.6 of the Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013 during the month of May 2023.

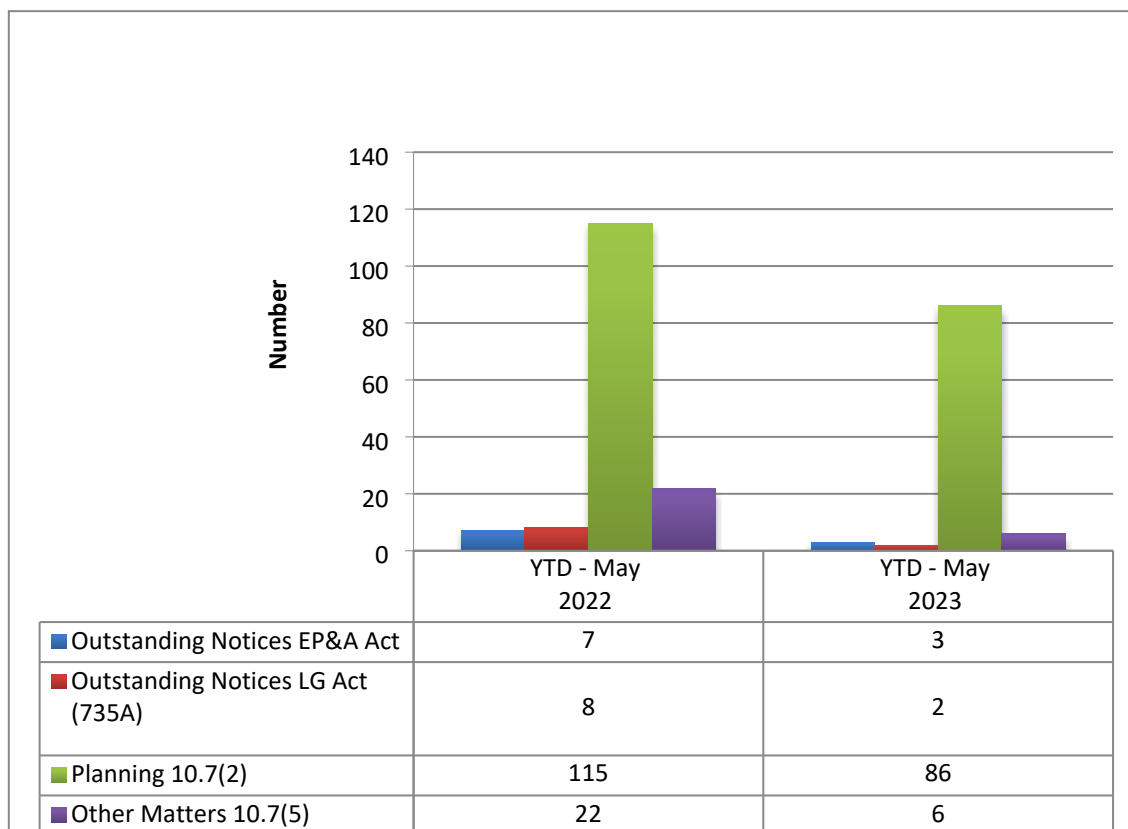
The following graph shows the Subdivision Certificates issued during the month of May 2023.



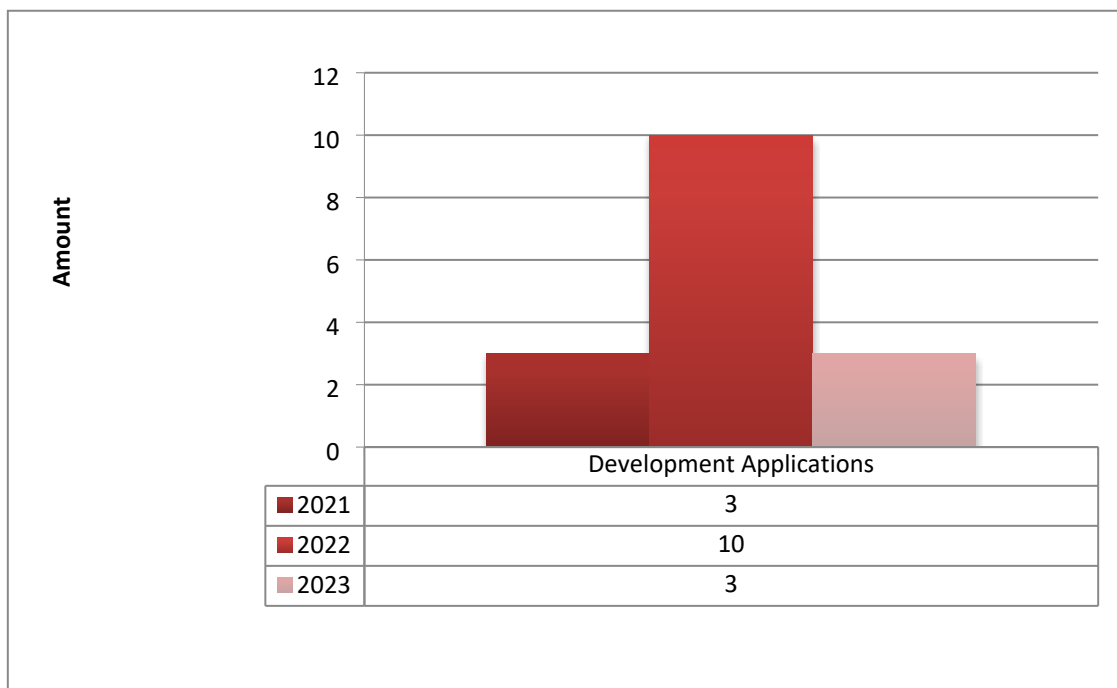
The following graph shows the Conveyancing Certificates issued during month of May 2023 compared to the previous seven months:



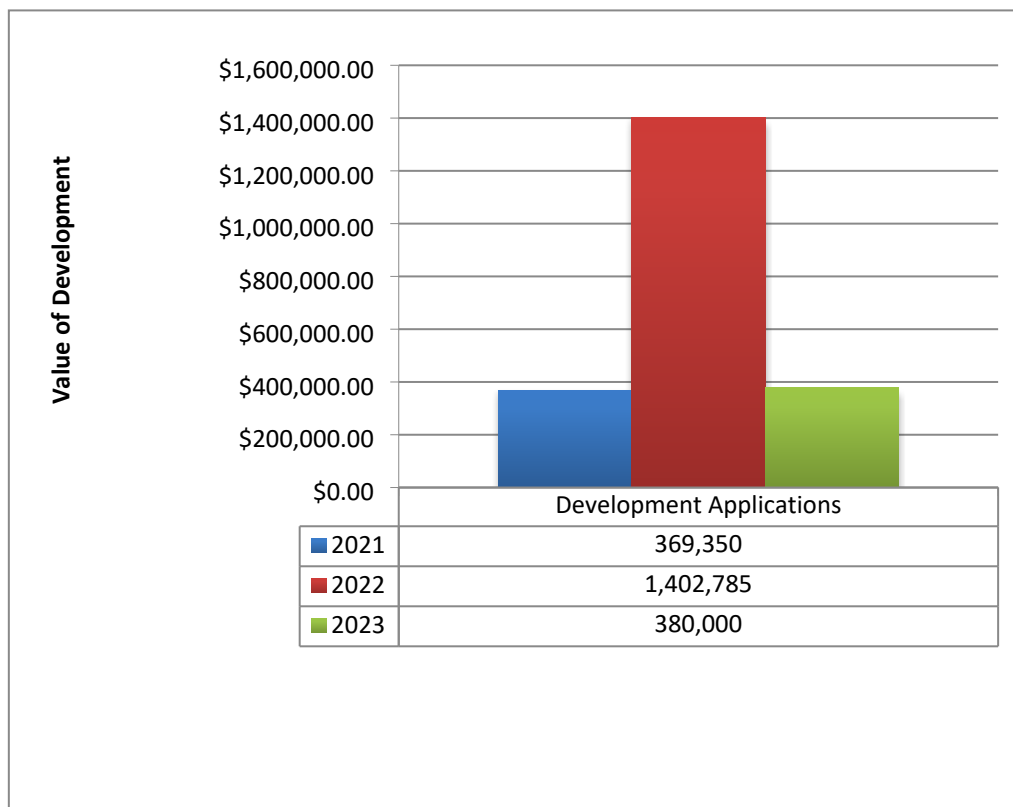
The following graph shows the Conveyancing Certificates issued up to and including the month of May 2023 compared with the same period in 2022:



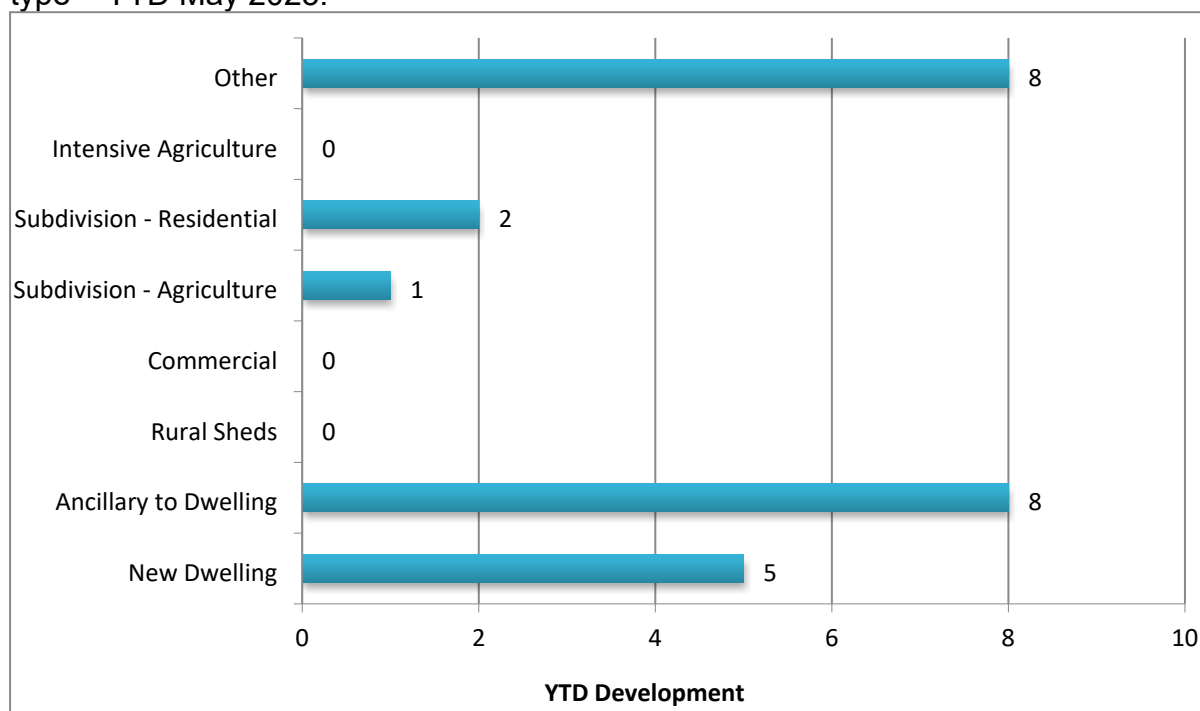
The table below shows a comparison between total development applications (excluding s4.55 modification applications) lodged during the month of May 2023 compared to the same period in the previous two years:



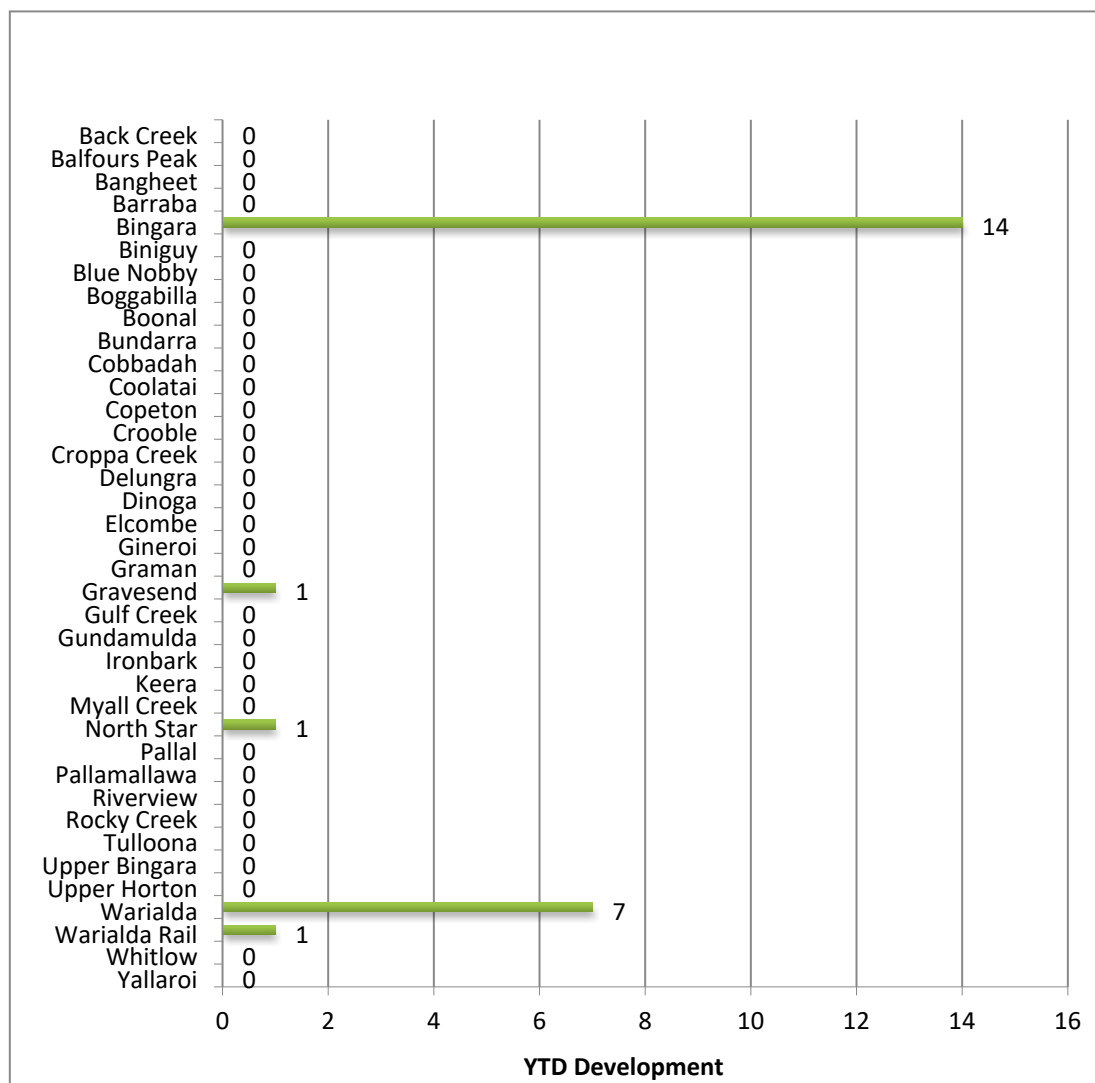
The table below shows a comparison between total value of development applications (excluding s4.55 modification applications) lodged during the month of May 2023 compared to the same period in the previous two years:



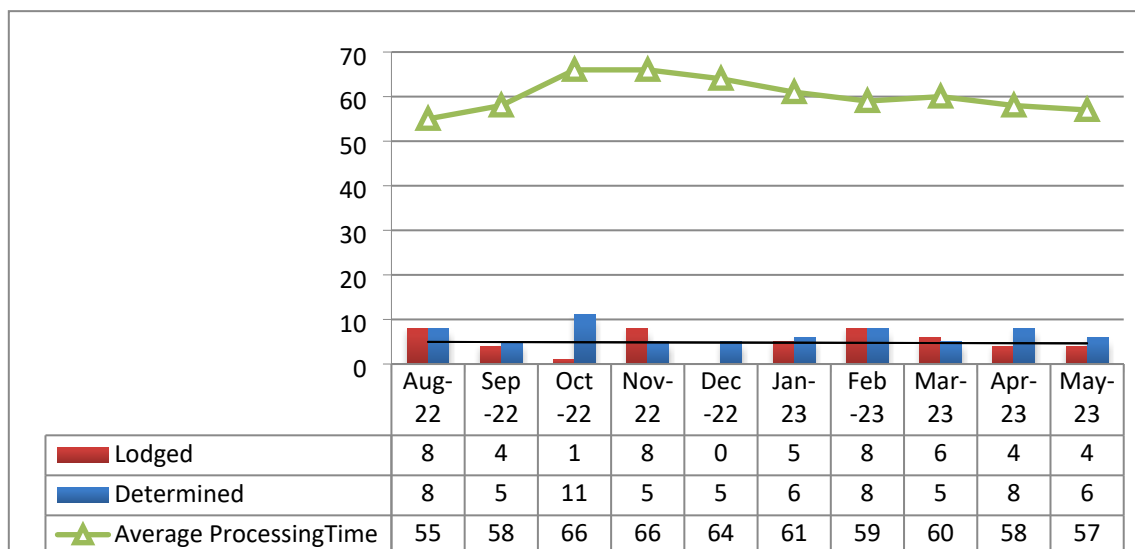
Development Applications (excluding s4.55 modifications) received for the year by type – YTD May 2023:



Development Applications (excluding s4.55 modifications) received for the year by locality – YTD May 2023:



Development Application Analysis (including s4.55 modifications) – for the ten months up to the end of May 2023:



BUILDING SERVICES – JUNE 2023

The Department continues to receive enquiries and provide advice on a range of planning and building matters including:

- Minor structure construction e.g., sheds
- Commercial opportunities and construction
- Basix (Building Sustainability Index)
- Bushfire requirements
- Building construction standards and requirements
- Stormwater
- Licensing and owner builder requirements
- Fees and charges

The department is continuing to receive a high volume of applications via the NSW Planning Portal. It is mandatory that all applications for Construction Certificates, Complying Development and Building Information Certificates be lodged with Council via the NSW Planning Portal. There are currently sixty-three active approvals that are at varying stages of the building process and working towards their completion and the issue of an Occupation Certificate.

The following Construction Certificate (CC), Complying Development Certificate (CDC), Building Information Certificate (BIC) and S68 applications have been approved for June 2023.

No.	Property Description	Development/Work	\$	C/C	CDC	BIC	S68
57/2022	39 Yallaroi Road Coolatai	Footings for pre-manufactured office building	\$14,000	✓			
5/2023	134 Maitland Street	Garage/Shed and Carport	\$27,500	✓			

	Bingara						
15/2023	29 Dinoga Street Bingara	Dwelling	\$422,320	✓			
20/2023	8 Pound Street Bingara	Shed	\$40,000	✓			
30/2022	39 Yallaroi Road Coolatai	Installation of Pre- manufactured Dwelling (DA 57/2022)	N/A				✓
10/2023	6 Frazer Street Bingara	Water supply, sanitary plumbing, sewerage and stormwater work	N/A				✓
14/2023	596 Munsies Road Warialda	Install new onsite sewerage management system	N/A				✓
18/2023	33 Maitland Street Bingara	Amusement Rides - Bingara Orange Festival	N/A				✓
19/2023	28 Ridley Street Bingara	Water supply, sanitary plumbing, sewerage and stormwater work	N/A				✓
5/2023	596 Munsies Road Warialda	Dwelling	\$400,000			✓	

Number Of Complaints/Inspections June 2023

Type	No.	Yr. to Date	Actioned	Pending
Building	38	504	486	18

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

The Department continues to receive requests to carry out minor maintenance and these are generally dealt with in a timely manner. Otherwise, the works are scheduled into maintenance staff building activities including new works for attention.

Projects Worked On

Staff worked on the following projects during the reporting period:

- Nicholson Oval Clubhouse – works are progressing as expected, the main blockwork has been completed and the framework has been erected and the project is progressing as expected.
- Plunket Street Aged Units – general repairs and maintenance is currently being undertaken



Nicholson Oval Clubhouse

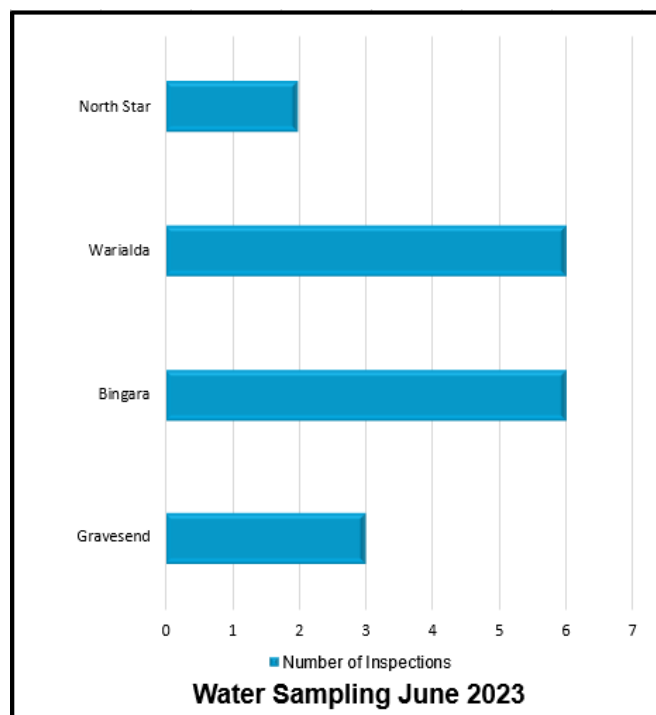
Environment & Sustainability Department 22 May 2023 to 30 June 2023

The Department continues to receive enquiries and provide advice on a range of health matters including:

- Overgrown properties
- Food premises design and fit-out
- Food handling practices
- Mobile food vendors
- Food business notification
- Pet Ownership

Water Surveillance

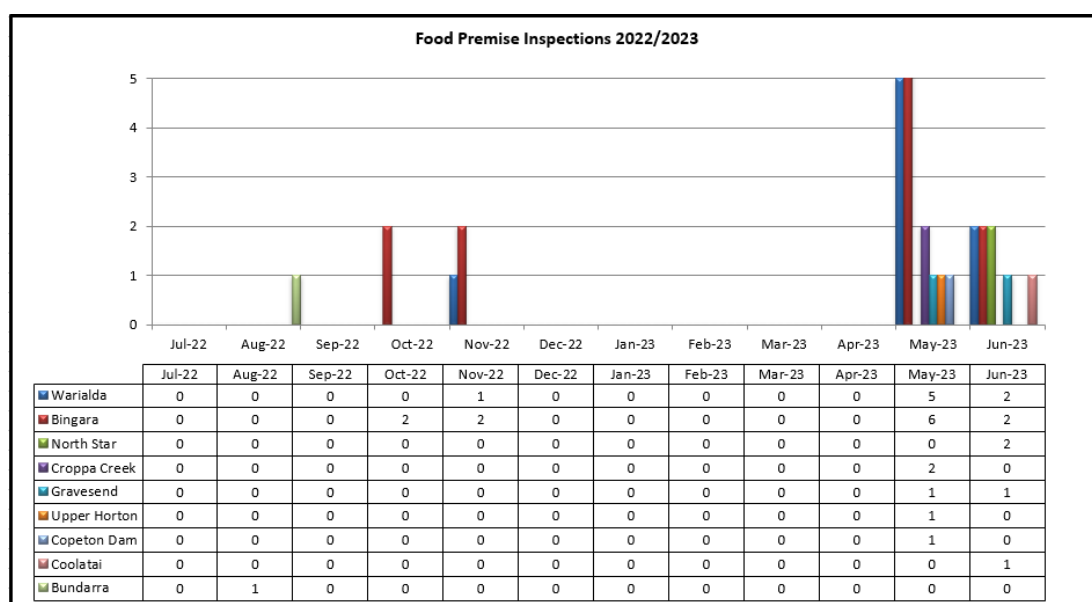
The Department continues to carry out routine sample collection for microbiological and chemical testing of the water supplies in the towns of Warialda and Bingara, fortnightly sampling of Gravesend and monthly sampling at North Star.



Food Inspections

Food Premise Inspections are carried out on an annual basis for each food business. There are approximately 40 registered food service businesses within the Council area including supermarkets, clubs/pubs, motels, bakeries, cafés and takeaway food shops, mobile food vendors and school canteens. Depending on the nature of the food being served some businesses are exempt from inspection unless a complaint or issue arises.

The graph below shows inspections that have been carried out for the current financial year. Enquiries or complaints are actioned as necessary.

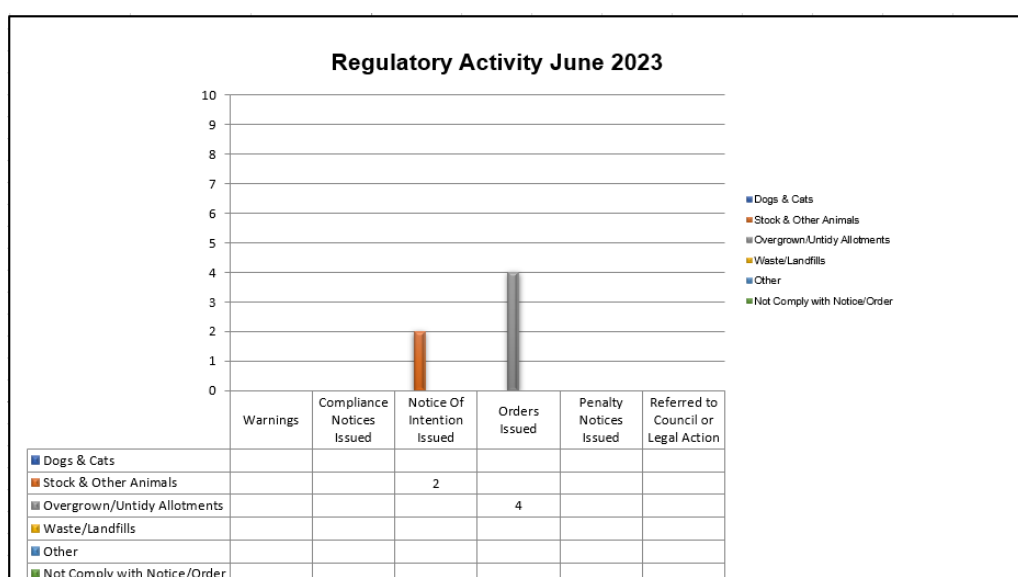
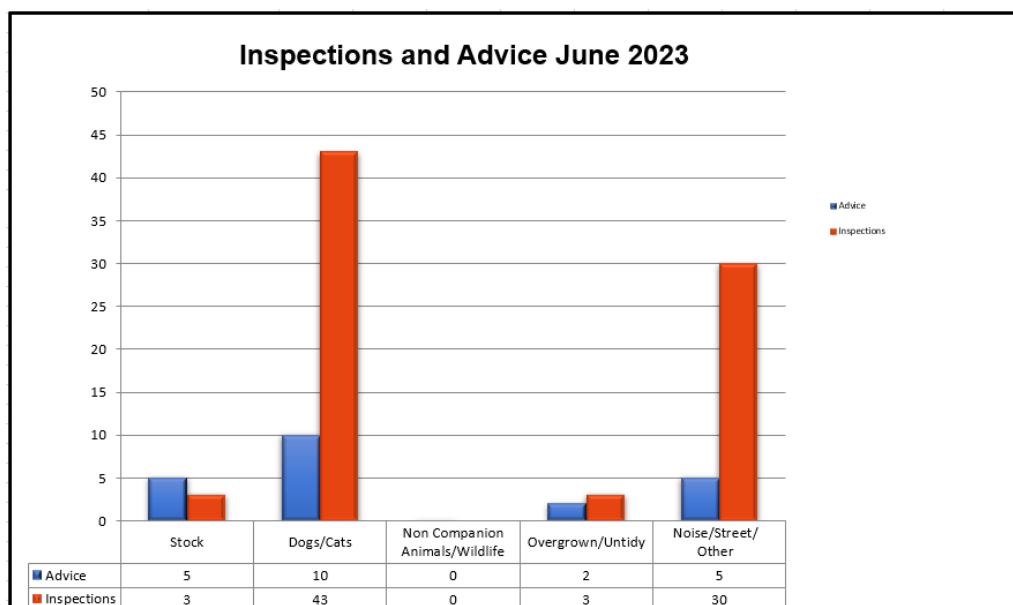


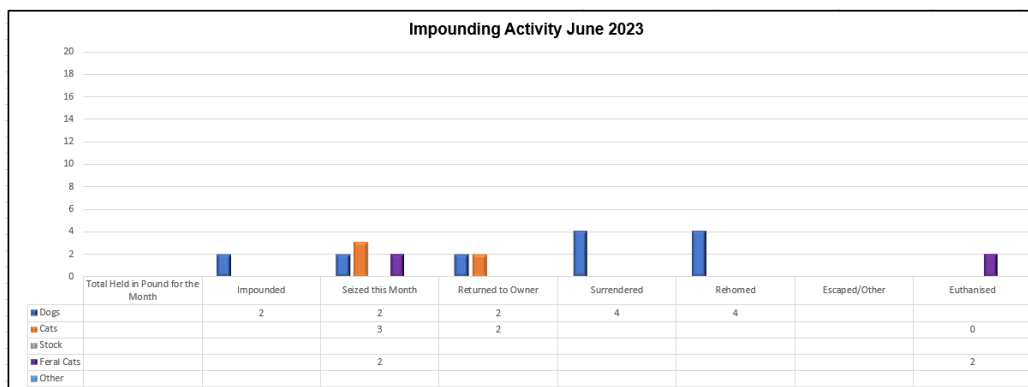
Compliance and Regulatory Control

The compliance team has recruited a new Compliance Officer to the team. He has been quick to pick up the ropes under the guidance of the current Compliance Officer.

The fencing materials for relocating the off-leash dog exercise area from Pioneer Cemetery to Captain Cook Park have been delivered, and construction will start in the new financial year.

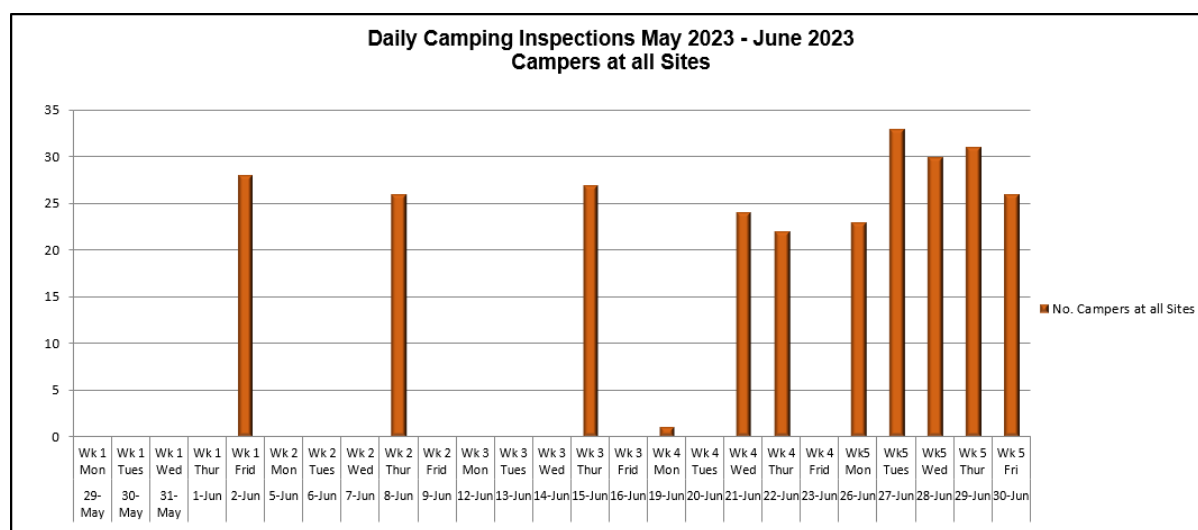
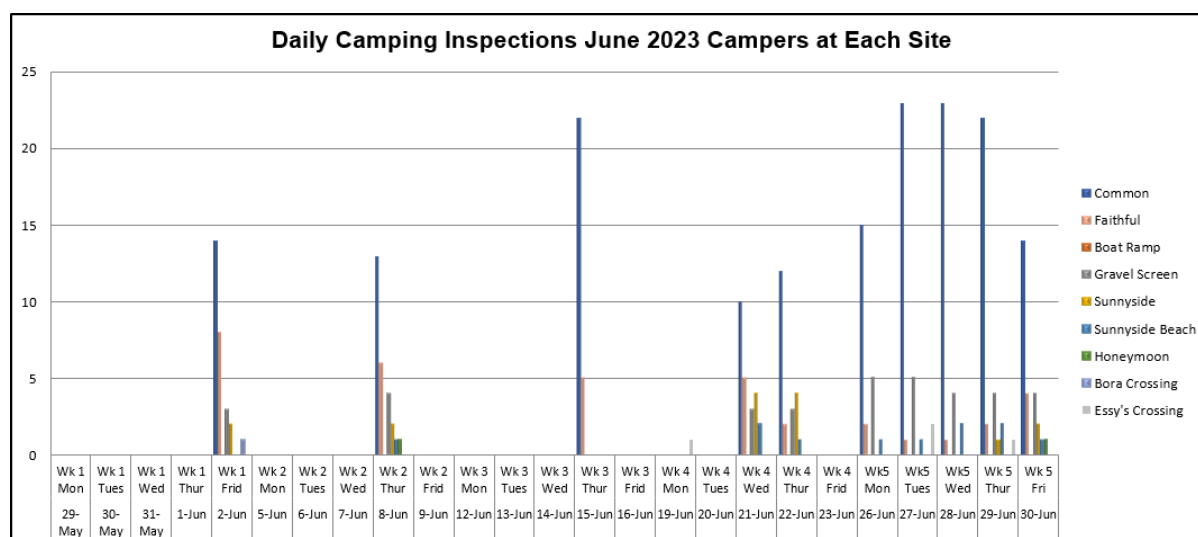
Council has received customer requests regarding overgrown block, roaming dogs, roaming stock, noise, the keeping of animals and other concerns during the month of June 2023. These are investigated and actioned as necessary.





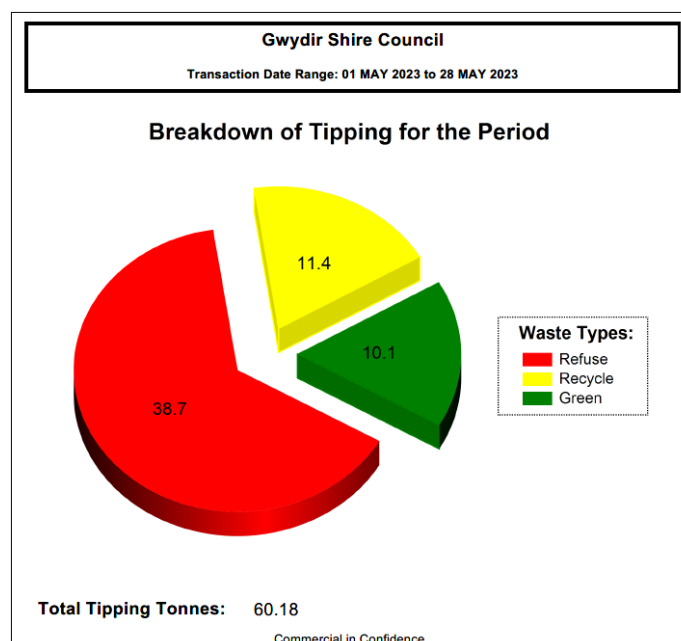
Riverside Camping

Council's Compliance Officers aim to carry out daily checks along the river to ensure that camping is being conducted in a safe and hygienic manner. Flyers promoting local events and services are distributed to campers and enquiries from campers are addressed as required. The graphs below show total numbers of campers and the distribution of campers at the different campsites.

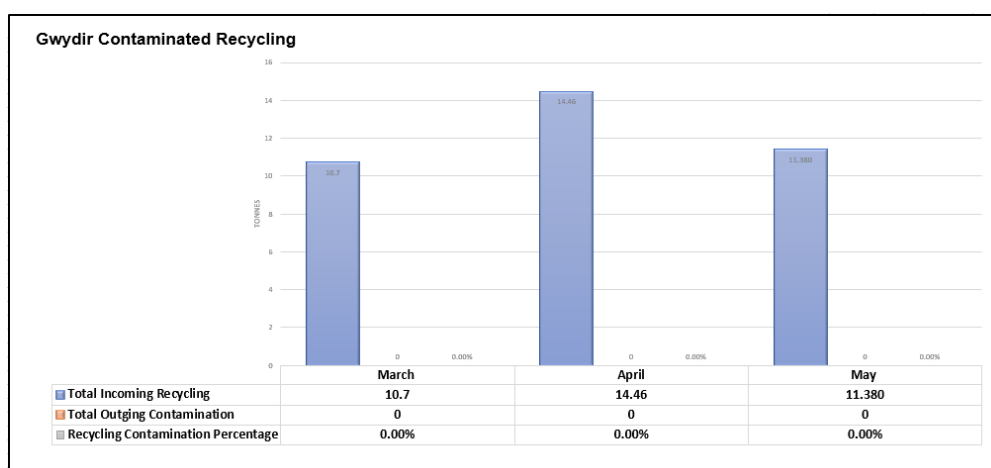


Waste Contract Services – May 2023

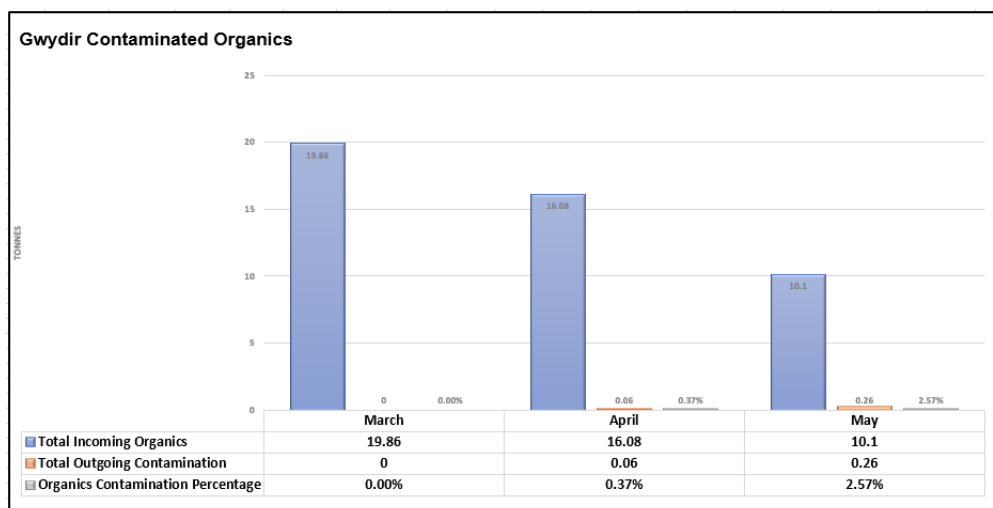
At the time of the report the available data from Cleanaway is for the previous reporting period.



Recycling Contamination



Organics Contamination



Comment from Cleanaway

Recycling

As there is still a backlog of recycling in the transfer station that we are still working on having transporting to Challenge, we are unable to differentiate between the Moree and Gwydir loads which would explain the report showing Moree as having a high percentage and Gwydir having zero recycling processed.

Priority Weed Control

Property Inspection Program

The newly recruited weeds officers have been undergoing the mandatory induction training with the DPI, whilst also continuing to assist land holders and the community with:

- Advice on the control of Priority Weeds and Biosecurity Duties
- Private and Public Property inspections
- Spraying of priority weeds and emerging weeds
- Completing the works program for the Murray–Darling Healthy Rivers Program Small Grant
- Authorised Officers are continuing to participate in ongoing Rapid Response Task Force in response to Parthenium Weed incursions in the Croppa Creek region and surrounds. The recent wet weather in the Croppa Creek area has caused the program to be temporarily put on hold.

Weeds Inspections

Public Property inspections have continued as scheduled. Private property inspections in Section E will resume upon the completion of the Authorised Officer's Training for the two new weeds officers. The parthenium outbreak at Croppa Creek continues to be inspected and monitored to ensure it is identified, contained, and then eliminated.

Weeds Officers are currently concentrating their efforts on the continuing Parthenium incursion in the Croppa Creek area and cestrum control works along the waterways and campgrounds in the council area.

The following graphs and charts show the noxious weed inspections carried out during the reporting period.



Priority Weeds Inspections for the Month of June 2023

<i>Areas Inspected</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Ha</i>	<i>Rd km</i>	<i>Weeds Present</i>
Roadside – High Risk Pathways	4	450	90	Mimosa Bush, Blackberry
Roadside	16	805	161	Green Cestrum, African Boxthorn, Cumbungi, Sweet Briar, Tiger Pear, Johnson Grass, Rope Pear
Waterways – High Risk	1	9	1.8	None Found
Other Council Lands	2	4.5	0.9	Green Cestrum, African Boxthorn
NWLLS Reserves	1	0.5	-	Green Cestrum

Priority Weeds Control Works for June 2023

Road/Property	Weeds Present	Area Ha	Road - km	High Risk Road	Roadside	Private Works	Other
---------------	---------------	---------	-----------	----------------	----------	---------------	-------

Gwydir River Common	Green Cestrum & African Boxthorn	9	-	1			
17 Old Keera Rd	Green Cestrum	2	-	1			
Link Common	Green Cestrum	0.5	-	1			1
Bora Road	Green Cestrum & African Boxthorn	1	-				1

The Planning & Environment Department report for June 2023 was compiled with information available at the time of preparing the report.

COMMUNITY ASSETS – March to June 2023

Caravan Park

During the reporting period the Warialda Caravan Park office has been renovated with cupboards being installed to house linen and cleaning supplies. All the microwaves and several kitchen items, such as new graters and chopping boards have been replaced.

At the Bingara Caravan Park the electricity, water, sewage, and gas have all now been installed at the new residence. The installation of the electricity has been a very prolonged and frustrating process having taken over 14 months. Delay was incurred due to design, certification and site works waiting times.

The Bingara Caravan Park amenities building has been closed. Asbestos has been removed. The existing amenities building will be demolished in July and the new transportable building is being placed. The new building should be operational by the end of September. In the interim the adjacent swimming pool amenities are being utilised.

Pools

Congratulations to the many Gwydir Shire students who qualified to compete at the NSW State Swimming Championships in April. This is a credit to the swim squad training available at both pools.

Pools closed for the season on Friday 31 March.

Bingara Pool had a mechanical breakdown at the end of March resulting in early closure. Possible repair solutions are currently being investigated.

The Warialda 50 metre pool paint works will be redone at no expense to Council. The contractor has guaranteed that the painting will be redone during the off season and that the issue as to the paint lifting was due to faulty paint material.

Expressions of Interest (EOI) were invited from a suitably qualified contractor, or contractors for the management and operation of one or more, of up to three (3) Council facilities under short-term licenses in accordance with the provisions of the Crown Lands Management Act, 2016.

The facilities being:

1. Bingara War Memorial Baths, 4 Copeton Dam Road, Bingara
2. Warialda War Memorial Olympic Pool, 12869 Gwydir Highway, Warialda

4. Riverside Caravan Park, 6 Copeton Dam Road, Bingara.

The advertised period for the EOI closed on Friday 24 June 2023 with only four responses being received. The advertised period was extended and closes on Friday 7 July 2023.

Cranky Rock

The Cranky Rock caretaker continues to present the site and amenities in good condition. The current interpretive signage will be replaced over the coming months.

Myall Creek Massacre Memorial Site

The Myall Creek site is presented in a consistent, tidy, and clean manner.

Stringybark Ecological Pty Ltd has now completed a restoration plan for the site ATTACHMENT 1. The company's ecologist, David Carr attended a day with Elders on Saturday 13 May 2023 to show them what is growing on the site. The Elders had great delight in rediscovering plants that they once foraged, ate, and used. It is quite remarkable how many plants are growing naturally onsite; this is most likely because the site is Travelling Stock Route and over time has not been consistently grazed.

The annual June long weekend events saw over 250 people enjoy a concert on the Saturday at The Roxy, and over 600 people attend the Sunday ceremony.

Awareness of, and interest in the Myall Creek site and massacre show with over 20 schools attending the site during May and June.

Gwydir Libraries

Gwydir Libraries March - May 2023 (June figures are not available)

Statistics	Bingara	Warialda	Gwydir
Door Count	3006	1684	
Loans	3170	568	
New Members	18	9	
E-resource Users			181
Downloads			1260
PC usage	361	110	
WIFI usage	800	420	
Programs	57	20	
Adult Program attendees	106	95	
Home Delivery	10	2	
Institution Delivery	10	4	

Seniors Be Connected sessions	35	8	
Community support hub	34	6	

Bingara Library

Bingara Library continued with its normal services, including bulk home delivery to individual housebound members, Touriandi and Bingara MPS residents. This was supplemented with extra visits for a craft and library information session.

Be connected internet tutorials resumed with sessions offered face to face or by phone. Daily assistance was given to members of the community through the community hub.

Assistance was required for mobile phones, changes to details on-line, MyGOV and more.

In terms of younger demographics, emails were sent to all schools across the shire offering bulk loans and assistance to students with research and projects, which several have requested. In addition, Bingara Central school accepted the offer for a 'lunch brunch' book club at the school, sessions will be scheduled over the coming winter months.

After school programs resumed 26 April 2023, although were temporarily paused from 23 May to 26 May due to the influx of COVID into the community. Class visits to Bingara Central School and Preschool will resume in June.

Families' Week Walk to School Safely Day was a resounding success for families who access services at the Bingara Library. Students were invited to begin their day with a pancake breakfast, followed by some quiet leisure time before a communal safe walk to school together.

The full NSWPLA North East Zone meeting was held on Thursday 11 May at the Roxy conference room with 16 attending from across the zone. (Inverell, Tweed/Richmond, Narrabri, Tenterfield, Tamworth, Bellingen, Richmond Upper-Clarence), including Ellen Forsyth from the State Library of NSW. Furthermore, many members who were unable to make the meeting in person elected to connect digitally.

Lunch was provided by Friends of Touriandi group in the Roxy Café. The attendees were most impressed with the café's history and atmosphere. Following the meeting the attendees were given a guided tour of the Roxy Theatre, Living Classroom and Library. The entire group were very impressed with the facilities in Bingara and have suggested another meeting here again in 2024.

Warialda Library

In-person interaction at the Warialda Library has included senior technology sessions, which continue to be well-attended, with members of the group becoming increasingly confident with technology as each week progresses.

In addition to these sessions, the Seniors' Craft Group gather every second Wednesday morning which facilitates friendship through crafts, chats, and morning tea. Interaction external to the library bounds included bulk home deliveries to

individuals, housebound members, Naroo residents and Warialda MPS residents. These residents also benefited from visits to undertake craft and library information sessions.

Gwydir Learning Region

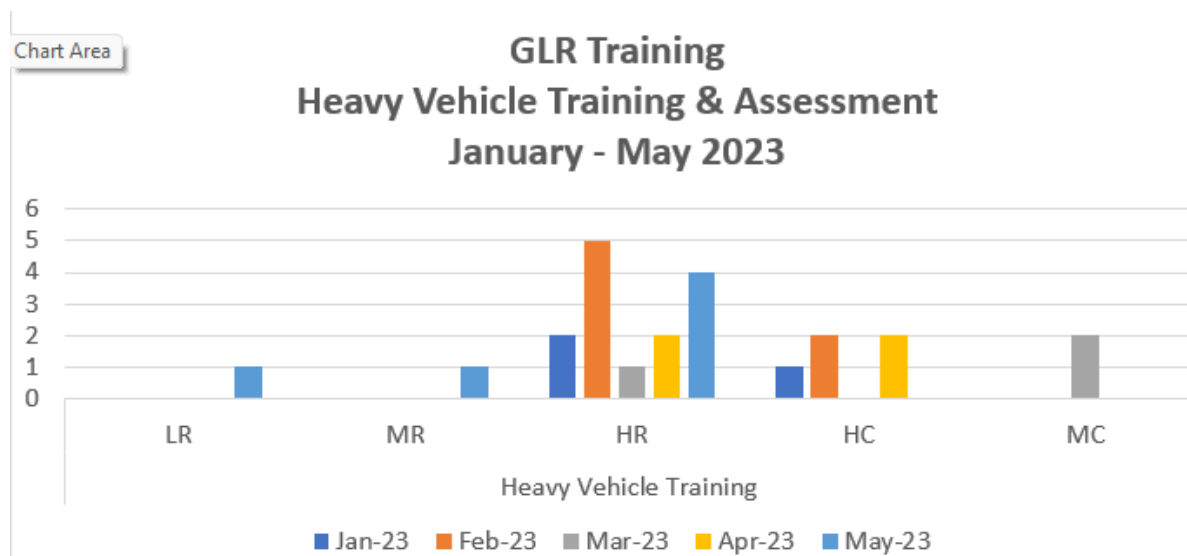
Heavy Vehicle Training and Assessment

Training numbers for March are reduced due to the GLR Training Heavy Vehicle truck and trailer requiring maintenance and RMS inspections. Training numbers for March are reduced due to the Easter Long Weekend and Anzac Day public holiday. Heavy vehicle training numbers for May have increased with six clients completing their training and assessment. In addition, two days were set aside for clients who required extra training prior to re-sitting their final competency assessment (FCA).

Four future bookings are scheduled for next month and there are currently eleven clients on the waiting list for smart and skilled funding, their applications for smart and skilled funding will be submitted to Training Services NSW once GLR Training is advised that the new activity period is open.

January – May 2023 statistics (June statistics are not available) are as follows:

	Enquiries	Applications for S&S Funding Submitted and approved	Paying Clients	Training completed	Future bookings
January	11	5	1	3	
February	4	1	2	7	9
March	6	3	0	3	9
April	5	4	0	4	7
May	8	1	0	6	4



Heavy Vehicle Training Payments received in March 2023.

Fee Paying Clients	Nil
Smart and Skilled subsidies (Received from NSW Dept of Education)	\$6,991.20

Heavy Vehicle Training Payments received in April 2023.

Fee Paying Clients	Nil
Smart and Skilled subsidies (received from NSW Dept of Education)	\$5,731.20

Heavy Vehicle Training Payments received in May 2023.

Fee Paying Clients	\$1,800.00
Smart and Skilled subsidies (received from NSW Dept of Education)	\$2,918.40

GLR Training requests that all learners complete a feedback form at the completion of their training. Below are some of the recent comments received from clients:

"Received amazing service throughout my course".

“Excellent way of teaching. Very efficient, helpful with any queries”

“Loved it”

“Really learnt a lot. Great knowledge and happy to share with me”.

“Great trainer who explained everything”.

“Instructor was very thorough in all aspects”.

“Great course. Would recommend the training to anyone”.

“Training was professional”.

Smart and Skilled Contract

As previously notified, GLR Training applied for 2023-24 Smart and Skilled Funding in December 2022. It was expected that outcomes would be advised early April 2023, Training Services NSW have extended the notification date to the end of May.

GLR Training Learner Driver Car Lessons (1 hour/lesson)



No learner driver lessons were carried out in April due to public holidays and cancellations.

Warialda High School

The GLR is investigating having carpentry and other building skills added to its scope in order to provide these courses to students, in a similar manner to the current courses offered in the Automotive Trade Training Centre.

Property Management

The Council owned house at 113 Long Street, Warialda, was vacated in February 2023. JA McGregor Property and Livestock advertised the property available for rent and invited applications. Nine applications were considered, these included: Following review and consultation it was recommended that the property be offered to a local couple with two preschool aged children, who were currently living with family members. This family have now moved into the property, which will be managed by JA McGregor Property and Livestock.

Unit 3, 18 Holden Street, Warialda, became vacant following the passing of Mr Robert Stevens. While the unit was unoccupied Council's Building Services staff took the opportunity to complete necessary repairs and maintenance, including replacement of flooring, repainting, and the replacement of shower recess.

Most recently, Unit 3, 96 Maitland Street, Bingara, has been vacated due to the passing of Miss Lucy Mitchell. The Council's Building Services staff have inspected the unit and will complete minor repairs and maintenance prior to it being occupied again. The Council currently has ten applications from residents seeking aged accommodation in Bingara. Applicants have been contacted by telephone to determine their current housing situation. Only four of the applicants wish to be considered at this time.

Gwydir Country Education Fund (CEF)

Each year, Country Education Foundation Australia invite applications for the Katie Walker Outstanding Service Award. The award is an honour bestowed to a volunteer for their extraordinary efforts. We are delighted that CEF Gwydir committee member, Robyn Phillips, has been announced as the 2023 Katie Walker Award winner.

Robyn has been involved with the Gwydir Branch of CEF for the past 10 years and has undertaken the role of Secretary since 2019, although her contributions to the committee and the community as a whole go far above and beyond the requirements of her executive role.

Robyn was a key player in the committee adopting the CEF brand and she has been instrumental in promoting the purpose and benefits of the Country Education Foundation for regional and remote students. Her effort in encouraging and attracting local school leavers to apply for CEF funding has been fundamental to the success of the organisation.

Robyn's devotion, commitment, and enthusiasm for sourcing additional funding for Gwydir CEF has greatly contributed to its sustainability. This affirmation is supported by her involvement in organising fundraising events including the performance of 'Oliver Twist', and 'Discover Gwydir Car Rally', a fundraising event involving participants travelling throughout Gwydir Shire completing various tasks at key locations. Unfortunately, this event was cancelled at the last minute due to Covid 19 restrictions, however, will certainly remain on our calendar as a future fundraiser.

Robyn's passion for helping the youth of our area to achieve their educational and career aspirations is inspirational and this was demonstrated in recent times when one of our recipients required urgent accommodation. Without hesitation Robyn offered to take her in until campus accommodation was obtained, in addition she assisted with finding tutoring options and transport. Robyn's support for the recipients, and for other committee members, is no less than extraordinary. She

understands the value of investing in the future of our youth to ensure they have every opportunity to reach their potential.

Congratulations Robyn!

Gwydir CEF currently has 13 local students receiving financial assistance. The table below indicates the total amount of funding provided.

Recipients have claimed reimbursement for education related expenses including laptops, computer accessories, textbooks, uniforms and work boots, fuel, and accommodation.

January	February	March	April	May	Total funds distributed
\$2,798.99	\$2,519.93	\$1,696.30	\$500.00	\$1,526.81	\$9,042.03

Gwydir Career Start Program

The following table outlines the subsidies claimed. These figures also include commencement and completion incentives.

<i>Period</i>	<i>No. of employees</i>	<i>Claimed/Paid</i>
01/07/2022 – 30/09/2022	9	\$27,535.82
1/10/2022 – 31/12/2022	20	\$125,695.54
1/01/2023 – 31/03/2023	9	\$10,142.54
1/04/2023 – 31/05/2023	14	\$56,403.22
Total subsidies claimed and paid current financial year		\$216,961.81

Events

Reconnecting Regional NSW Community Events Program

Throughout the month of March, several events were held utilising funding received by Council from the NSW Government under the Reconnecting Regional NSW Community Events Program. In keeping with the requirements of the program, the following events were conducted on or before 31 March 2023: Grazing on the Gwydir; Mind the Madness; North Star's Art in Ag Workshops and Naroo Open Day. All the functions were well received, with many positive comments heard throughout the community.

The Gravesend event has been postponed until Saturday 9 September 2023. All details of this event remain the same.

Fifteen events were conducted under the grant funding with all Event Management Plans submitted and approved. This concludes the end of the events covered under the funding.

Business Growth in Challenging Times

A highly recommended action coach, Mark Blume, ran business workshops in Bingara and Warialda to assist Gwydir Shire Council residents with all things business related.

The coaching program comprised:

- 2 x 1 day group coaching sessions conducted face-to-face.
- 2 x 1 hour one on one coaching session conducted by Zoom.

Sessions run from approximately 9am – 5pm each day. Participants are being provided with lunch and morning. There were nine registrations for Bingara and eleven for Warialda. Initial feedback from attendees is very positive.

Upcoming Major Events

Honey Festival – Saturday 21 October 2023

Bingara Christmas Carnival – Friday 1 December 2023

Warialda Christmas Carnival – Friday 8 December 2023

Warialda Rail Christmas Carnival – Saturday 16 December 2023

Orange Festival Update

At the time of collating this report, the Event Management Plans for Orange Picking and Orange Festival have been approved by Council's insurance company and the corresponding Traffic Control Plans approved by NSW Police.

Currently, the Orange Festival has 70 confirmed stall holders. Amusement rides have been secured for this event as well as several other entertainment providers. These include the Rockin' Bodgies, Shelley and Lawrie Minson, Sydney Swing Katz, Memphis Moovers Roving Duo, Bingara Central School Band and MC Tony Worsley famous for his Velvet Waters single.

Gwydir Media and Communications

Social Media Designs

Disability Inclusion Meetings – Social Tile

Warialda ANZAC Day – Social Tile

Warialda Swimming Club – Certificate of Achievement

Warialda Races – Fashions on the Field – Poster

Save the Date – Orange Festival – Social Tile

Art in Ag – Makers Workshop – North Star Event – Social Tile

All Staff Day – Lock Screen

Grazing on the Gwydir – Thank You – Lock Screen

Warialda Showground Drainage Works – Thank You – Lock Screen

History of The Roxy – Flyer

The Roxy Bingara – A venue for all occasions - Flyer
March 2023 – Staff Newsletter
Various Positions Vacant and Other Council Messages – Social Tiles
Warialda Christmas Carnival – Save the Date – Social Tile
Bingara Christmas Carnival – Save the Date – Social Tile
Neighbourhood Watch Program – Warialda – Social Tile and Poster
Community Meetings – Social Tile
Easter Trading Hours – Social Tiles
Warialda Sports Council AGM – Social Tile
Warialda Show - Young Woman Competition – Social Tile
Maranatha Worship Nights – Poster
Active Super Representative Visit – Lock Screen
Warialda Gym Feedback – Lock Screen
Well Done – Planning Department – Lock Screen
Major Phone Outage – Lock Screen
Warialda Show - Secretary's Office – Opening Hours – Social Tile
Warialda Rail Christmas Carnival – Save the Date – Social Tile
Orange Festival – Stall Holders Wanted – Social Tile
Orange Festival - Poster
Fondue Nights at The Roxy – Poster
Bingara Preschool's - Biggest Morning Tea – Social Tile
Community Meeting Feedback – North Star – Lock screen
Farewell Kelly Skelton – Lock screen
Carinda House – Biggest Morning Tea – Lock screen
150 Years of Shows in Warialda – Social Tile

Gwydir Website

The new VisitGwydir.com.au website continues to require extensive work on all aspects of content – from descriptions to photographs to contact details. A team of three Community Assets staff are currently working on this when able, outside of their regular position descriptions, and their ad-hoc job requests such as manning the Warialda VIC front counter, running library services and caretaking the Bingara Caravan Park.

Staff attended the May meeting of Bingara and District Vision 20/20 and the June meeting of Warialda Chamber of Commerce meeting to provide attendees with an update on work done to that date.

Members of the group were also given the opportunity to interact in a two-way fashion, which was acknowledged to be beneficial. Assistance was offered to all in

terms of content and being kept up to date with alterations and additions made. Feedback was acknowledged and will be acted upon.

Gwydir Shire Council Website Statistics

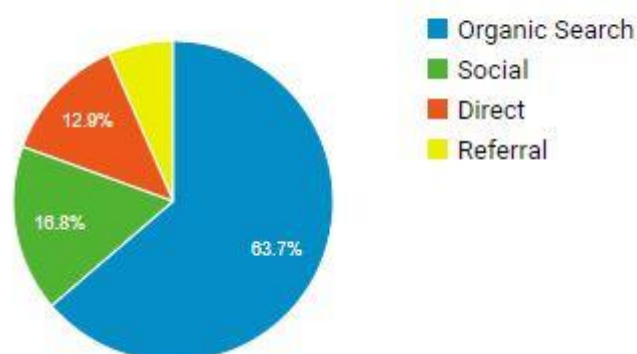
Audience Overview of March 2023



The above graphs highlight the number of users of the Council's website for the month of March. Depicted are the 8,427 pageviews for the month which are broken down to average session duration and the percentage of new visitors and returning visitors to the website. There were 76.8% new visitors to the website and 23.2% return users.

Acquisition Search Traffic Sources

Top Channels



The difference between the types of search traffic sources:

- **Organic Search:** Traffic from search engine results that is earned, not paid for. For instance, the higher rank for certain keywords, the more often the search result appears.
- **Direct:** Any traffic where the referrer or source is unknown (the URL is typed into the address bar)
- **Referral:** Traffic that occurs when a user finds you through other websites

- **Social:** Traffic from a social media platform, such as Facebook or Instagram

Page Behaviour Overview



The above chart depicts the ten most visited pages on the website for the month of March 2023. More than 16% of page views are on the homepage with a total of 1378 views for the month. There were 603 pageviews for the Positions Vacant section of the website, making up 7.16% of total views. Followed closely by Contact Council with 504 views or 5.98% of pageviews for the month. After this, the page clicks start to reduce. A more in-depth report can be viewed in Google Analytics.

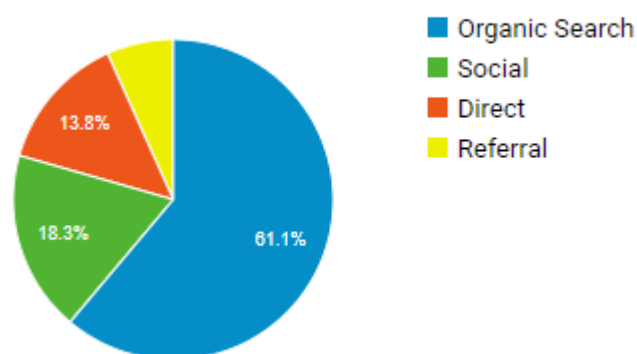
Audience Overview of April 2023



The above graph highlights the number of users to Council's website for the month of April. Depicted are the 8,470 pageviews for the month which are broken down to average session duration and the percentage of new visitors and returning visitors to the website. These numbers are slightly greater compared with last month.

Acquisition Search Traffic Sources

Top Channels



The difference between the types of search traffic sources:

- **Organic Search:** Traffic from search engine results that is earned, not paid for. For instance, the higher rank for certain keywords, the more often the search result appears.
- **Direct:** Any traffic where the referrer or source is unknown (the URL is typed into the address bar)
- **Referral:** Traffic that occurs when a user finds you through other websites
- **Social:** Traffic from a social media platform, such as Facebook or Instagram

The Top Channels vary only slightly from the month of March. April sees a slight increase in the number of social referrals by about 1.5%. There was a 2.6% decrease in the amount of organic searches when compared with the previous month. A 0.9% increase in the direct referrals was noted for the month of April.

Page Behaviour Overview

Page		Pageviews	% Pageviews
1. /Home		1,400	16.53%
2. /Council/Positions-Vacant		672	7.93%
3. /Council/Events-Directory/Warialda-Show-2023		383	4.52%
4. /Council/Contact-Council		374	4.42%
5. /Council		243	2.87%
6. /Council/Building-and-Development		210	2.48%
7. /Environment/Waste-and-Recycling/Landfills		183	2.16%
8. /Council/Positions-Vacant/Planning-and-Building-Administration-Officer-March-2023		173	2.04%
9. /Council/Council-Meetings		171	2.02%
10. /Council/Events-Directory/2023-Bingara-Happy-Days-ORANGE-FESTIVAL		148	1.75%

The above chart depicts the ten most visited pages on the website for the month of April 2023. Pages most visited are similar to that of last month. The main difference is upcoming events feature slightly better this month, as opposed to last month.

The Gwydir News

The Gwydir News continues to evolve, most often in line with feedback gained from the community it serves. A completely revamped and updated Classifieds section was first published in the March issue. No feedback from advertisers nor readers following the update was forthcoming. The planned March issue Easter feature fell by the wayside, with no uptake of the offer of advertising nor advertorials.

Continued positive feedback is garnished weekly about the “What’s On” pages – most community groups are eager to post their relevant information. This is still being published weekly and pinned at the top of the Facebook page. Another positive initiative has been the introduction of competitions, with the opportunity for residents to submit entries which require considered thought. As the result of the most recent competition, a local student will have their personal artwork printed onto limited merchandise for the upcoming Orange Festival.

The April Monthly issue of the Gwydir News was supplemented by two online weekly versions, as a trial for an ongoing weekly issue. The decision to produce a weekly digital issue ensued from feedback (both directly and from word of mouth) that many people in the Gwydir Shire missed having a more frequent source of local news. Furthermore, the level of frustration with Facebook as a news dissemination outlet was being jointly felt by the Editor and subscribers. Many posts reach less than 100 accounts, despite having well in excess of 3,500 subscribers to The Gwydir News.

Thus began a trial weekly issue, initially for a fortnight, to see if it was a viable proposition and to garner feedback as to what would work going forward. As only 24 hours are available to work on the paper each week, the publications were primarily a re-hash of media releases and Facebook posts. No editor-authored articles were written which are normally included as standard in the monthly issue. Furthermore, it was only issued in a digital format, as there was neither the budget nor time to have copies printed and mailed to subscribers.

Feedback about the weekly issue was hence:

“I would think that you should be able to get people to submit things whether they be articles like NWTC and U3A do or whether they be funeral notices. If you were perhaps to promote that aspect of it, I am sure that you would get submissions and then you would just need to edit and collate them. I think in particular that is what the older residents are looking for. Perhaps an email to subscribers on the sort of thing you are looking for and perhaps a flyer or two in the library and IGA etc describing what you want in the way of submissions.

I am sure that this is actually what people want as it is very difficult to keep abreast of what is going on and in our case, it is very difficult to advertise what is going on in advance of it happening. We certainly have problems with promoting things on Facebook as you do also.

My feedback would be try and stick with it as a simple promotion of what is happening or has just very recently happened in the community (such as births and deaths) and then people would seek it out. We seriously need that type of news and information dissemination in Bingara.

Thanks for your efforts.” – Bingara resident

Verbal feedback typically centred on older citizens who wish to have a weekly newspaper, with information about roadworks, general Council works, upcoming events, births deaths and marriages, some sport (primarily golf and bowls), and a few social event photos. They felt the weekly issue as produced was too time-consuming and not necessary. They would prefer access to a hard copy only.

Verbal feedback at the first two Community meetings was limited to two residents, one each at North Star and Croppa Creek who both stated they enjoyed the current Gwydir News as is – felt it had plenty of content, relevant to everyone in the Gwydir Shire. A weekly publication would be preferred, with no loss of content. Access to both hard copy and soft copy is a preference.

During the month of May, The Gwydir News attended the last of the six Community Meetings held in Upper Horton where discussion arose about the transition to a weekly publication. Feedback from residents in attendance was that a hard copy was preferred, with the suggestion of a pick-up by one parent each week from the Bingara Central School for a drop-off at the Sports Club, where locals could collect a copy. Residents enjoyed the content within as currently presented. One resident specifically thanked the Council for their continued investment in producing a locally written newspaper.

The final monthly issue of The Gwydir News was published in late May, with the usual flurry of last-minute copy submission by numerous contributors. Readers acknowledged the information about Community Meetings, albeit only reported minimally. Suggestions revolved around the Council supplying more information about them – whether uploaded on YouTube, or printed copies of a thorough report.

As news about a permanent weekly publication has filtrated throughout the Shire, there has been an influx of phone, email, and personal feedback about what should be included, how the paper should be distributed, right through to what font size it should be typed in. The greatest concern has been from older or out-of-town residents who are not sure how they will be able to pick up a hard copy if it will not be mailed.

The first weekly edition of the Gwydir News was Thursday 15 June 2023.

Going forward, the concern from the Editor is that the Gwydir News will be transformed from a legitimate literacy-rich periodical offering to that of a mere “throw-together” flyer - not a publication needing the skillset of an Editor.

The Living Classroom (TLC)

Council has been developing an alliance with Southern Cross University - Regenerative Ag Alliance. The university is so committed to their relationship with Council and the community they have employed an Adoption and Extension Officer with the Drought Innovation Hub. The successful applicant, Janelle Schafer is based in Bingara and working out of TLC.

The Living Classroom took delivery of five new cabins on 2 March.

The following organisations have used TLC for various meetings/courses: Chainsaw course, NWTC Jungle Book rehearsal, Regional Development Australia meeting, 3-day Quilters Retreat, U3A Armchair Travel, and various private functions. See monthly booking calendars attached. ATTACHMENT 2

TLC staff assisted other Council departments with various tasks including helping water street trees, pressure cleaning Maitland Street paths, setting up Council's outdoor stage trailer, deliveries between Council's offices and depots, testing and tagging electrical items.

The Roxy Complex

The Roxy Complex continues to be well utilised. See monthly booking calendars attached. ATTACHMENT 2



























OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

ATTACHMENTS

1. roxy and TLC calendars - attachment 2 [7.3.1 - 4 pages]
2. Myall Creek Restoration Plan Draft 2 [7.3.2 - 43 pages]

2023 . MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2  MEETING  MEETING	3  MEETING  PLAY READING	4
5	6  MEETING	7  MEETING  MEETING  BUSINESS OWNER HIRE	8  MEETING	9  BUSNISS OWNER HIRE	10  MEETING	11
12  REHEARSALS	13  BUSINESS OWNER HIRE	14  MEETING  MEETING  BUSINESS OWNER HIRE	15  MEETING	16  MEETING  MEETING	17  MEETING  MEETING  FAMILY VISIT  SECOND FAMILY VISIT  BACK TO DINNER	18  GREEK DINNER DANCE  GREEK DINNER DJ  FAMILY VISIT  GREEK DINNER GUESTS  BACK TO BINGARA
19  COMMUNITY GROUP NWTC REHEARSAL	20	21  REGIONAL MEETING  BUSINESS OWNER HIRE	22  MEETING  MEETING  REHEARSALS	23  RETREAT  RETREAT  MEETING  MEETING	24  RETREAT  RETREAT  MEETING  MEETING  GROUP TOUR	25  RETREAT  RETREAT
26  RETREAT  REHEARSALS  FILM CLUB	27  MEETING	28  MEETING  BUSNISS OWNER HIRE	29  MEETING  COMMUNITY GROUP MEETING  REHEARSALS	30	31  FAMILY BIRTHDAY  FAMILY BIRTHDAY  ALL STAFF DAY	























































Legend: Roxy: Theatre - Kitchen - conference room



TLC: Classroom - Bunkhouse



2023 . APRIL






































SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30  GROUP TOUR  REHEARSALS  FILM CLUB						1  FAMILY BIRTHDAY  FAMILY BIRTHDAY
2  FAMILY BIRTHDAY  REHEARSALS	3	4  BUSINESS OWNER HIRE  GIVE BACK BIKE RIDE  GIVE BACK BIKE RIDE	5  MEETING  GIVE BACK BIKE RIDE  GIVE BACK BIKE RIDE  REHEARSALS	6	7  FAMILY REUNION & BIRTHDAY  FAMILY REUNION	8  FAMILY REUNION & BIRTHDAY  FAMILY REUNION
9  FAMILY REUNION & BIRTHDAY  REHEARSALS	10	11  BUSINESS OWNER HIRE  MEETING X2  FAMILY FUNERAL  FAMILY FUNERAL	12  MEETING X2  REHEARSALS  FAMILY FUNERAL  FAMILY FUNERAL	13  MEETING  MEETING	14	15  COMMUNITY GROUP
16  REHEARSALS	17	18  BUSINESS OWNER HIRE  MEETING	19  MEETING  REHEARSALS	20  MEETING  GROUP TOUR  GROUP TOUR	21	22  FAMILY FUNERAL  FAMILY FUNERAL
23  FAMILY FUNERAL  FAMILY FUNERAL  REHEARSALS	24  FAMILY FUNERAL  FAMILY FUNERAL	25	26  MEETING  UNI STAFF	27  MEETING X2  REHEARSALS  MEETING  UNI STAFF	28  MEETING  MEETING  MEETING	29

Legend: Roxy: Theatre - Kitchen - conference room

TLC: Classroom - Bunkhouse



2023 . MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	 SCHOOL EXPERIENCE  SCHOOL EXPERIENCE  MEETING X2  COMMUNITY MEETING	 SCHOOL EXPERIENCE  SCHOOL EXPERIENCE  MEETING  GROUP TOUR  REHEARSALS	 SCHOOL EXPERIENCE  SCHOOL EXPERIENCE  MEETING  MEETING	 SCHOOL EXPERIENCE  SCHOOL EXPERIENCE  WORKSHOP	6
 REHEARSALS	 MEETING	 BUSINESS OWNER HIRE	 SCHOOL EXPERIENCE  MEETING  REHEARSALS	 SCHOOL EXPERIENCE	 GROUP TOUR	 MEETING  MEETING GROUP  PERFORMANCE
 PERFORMANCE	15	 MEETING	 MEETING  PERFORMANCE  MEETING	18	 PERFORMANCE  MEETING  MEETING  MEETING	20
 PERFORMANCE	 MEETING	 MEETING  GROUP TOUR  BUSINESS OWNER HIRE	 FAMILY FUNERAL  FAMILY FUNERAL  MEETING  GROUP TOUR	 FAMILY FUNERAL  FAMILY FUNERAL	 FAMILY FUNERAL	 FAMILY PARTY
 FILM CLUB	 MEETING	 MEETING  MEETING	 WORKSHOP			














































Legend: Roxy: Theatre - Kitchen - Conference Room



TLC: Classroom - Bunkhouse



2023 . JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1  MEETING  BRIEFING	2	3
4	5  MEETING	6  MEETING	7  MEETING  MEETING  MEETING	8  MEETING  FAMILY GROUP  FAMILY GROUP	9  MEETING  FAMILY GROUP  FAMILY GROUP  MEETING	10  MYALL CREEK CONCERT  FAMILY GROUP  FAMILY GROUP
11  FAMILY GROUP  FAMILY GROUP	12  FAMILY GROUP  FAMILY GROUP	13  BUSINESS OWNER HIRE	14  MEETING	15  WORKSHOP	16	17
18  PLAY READING	19  MEETING  MEETING	20  MEETING	21  MEETING  MEETING	22  MEETING  UNI STAFF	23  MEETING  UNI STAFF	24  MEETING  RETREAT
25  FILM CLUB	26  MEETING  MEETING	27  BRIEFING  BUSINESS OWNER HIRE	28	29  YOUTH EXCHANGE	30  YOUTH EXCHANGE  WORKSHOP  ORANGE FESTIVAL	

Legend: Roxy: Theatre - Kitchen - conference room

TLC: Classroom - Bunkhouse





Restoration Plan

Myall Creek Restoration Plan

Restoring Box Gum Grassy Woodland in a Cultural Context

230109_01



Stringybark Ecological

Restoration Plan

Myall Creek Restoration Plan

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Document

Restoration Plan – Myall Creek Restoration Plan

Document ID: 230109_01

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Document author: David Carr and Ned Garlick-Kelly

Created

July 2023

While reasonable care has been taken in preparing this report to ensure the information is true and correct, the author gives no assurance as to the accuracy of any information in this report.

The author expressly disclaims, to the maximum extent permitted by law, all responsibility and liability to any person, arising directly or indirectly from any act or omission, or for any consequences of any such act or omission, made in reliance on the contents of this publication, whether or not caused by any negligence on the part of the author.

Scientific licence for collection of specimens: SL102094



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1 Introduction

The Myall Creek Memorial is a nationally significant site of reconciliation and acknowledgement of Aboriginal culture. The site is located at Myall Creek, between Delungra and Bingara on the North West Slopes of NSW (Figure 1).

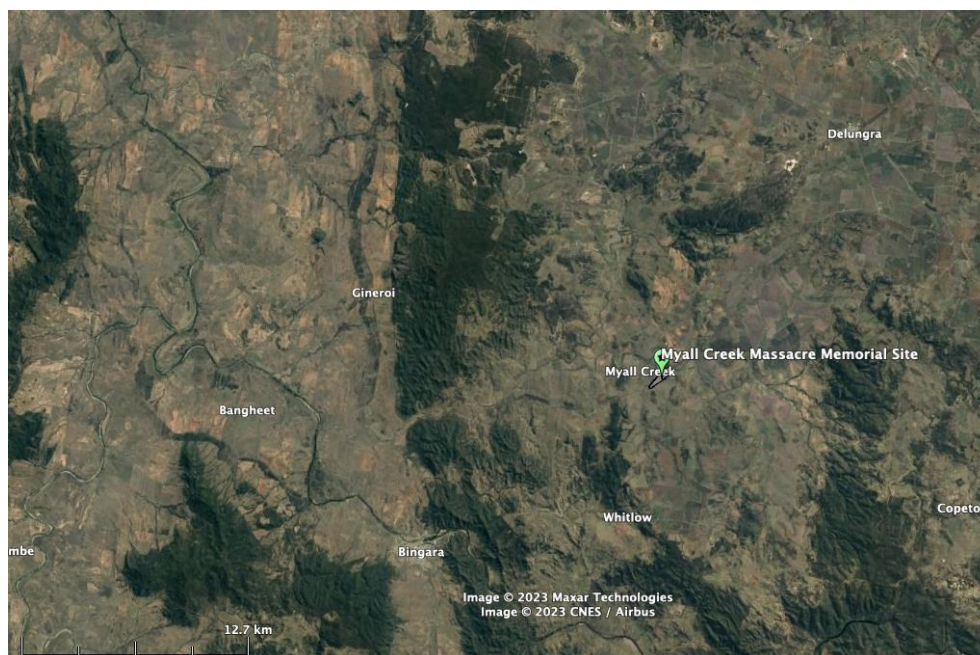


Figure 1: Location of the Myall Creek Massacre Memorial site. (Source: Google Earth)

Recent developments at the site include a 'bush food' garden to highlight plants used by Aboriginal people for food, medicine and other uses. While such a garden is useful to highlight these plants, it does not show the relationship between Aboriginal people and the landscape that produces these foods. Aboriginal people managed the whole of the landscape to produce food including plants and the animals that depend on them.

The Myall Creek site supports a remnant of this food producing landscape in relatively good condition. The vegetation at the site is a grassy woodland, which would have once been highly valued for its food production. Grassy woodlands supported a range of grass species used to provide seeds, tuberous plants such as lilies and orchids, fruiting plants and trees supporting game such as possums, goannas, echidnas and birds. Regular burning of the grasslands encouraged kangaroos to eat the new shoots, allowing easier hunting.

Once Europeans arrived in the area, bringing sheep, cattle, horses and eventually rabbits, these food-producing landscapes changed forever. Coupled with the loss of Aboriginal burning and management, these practices caused the staple foods such as Yam Daisy, Chocolate Lily and orchids to disappear forever. Fortunately, the Myall Creek site has been part of a Travelling Stock Route for a very long time. This means that grazing was always for short periods with long rest periods in between. This has ensured that the vegetation at the site is in better condition than many surrounding farms.

With the recent publication of Bruce Pascoe's book, *Dark Emu*, Australians are viewing Aboriginal management of the land in a new light. The Myall Creek site can act as a living example to all Australians of this ancient living history of sustainable land use. The whole site can support the role of the memorial by representing the landscape of the Wirrayaraay people before European occupation and change. To achieve this goal, the site must undergo ecological restoration.

Ecological restoration is the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been damaged, degraded or destroyed (SER, 2004). It uses both ecological and traditional science to compare the current state of the site to a 'reference ecosystem'. The reference ecosystem can be an existing site in good condition or it can be a virtual site known from historical descriptions or records.

Ecological restoration of the site will be an opportunity for local Aboriginal people to apply their existing knowledge and cultural practices, learn new ecological knowledge and develop skills applicable to the broader landscape.

1.1 The process of ecological restoration

The ecological restoration of the site would have the following components:

1. Identification of stakeholders and partners including: traditional owners, Land Council, restoration ecologist, neighbours, local government, scientists, Local Land Services and interested individuals.
2. Identification of a reference ecosystem and setting restoration goals and objectives for the site.
3. Detailed assessment and description of the site, including identification of threats and assets.
4. Preparation of a restoration plan, including management and monitoring.
5. Skills audit of stakeholders, matching skills to restoration plan and identifying gaps for training.
6. Carry out management of the site, based on restoration plan.
7. Training for stakeholders as required – formal training, informal on-the-job training and adaptive management.
8. Monitoring against the goals and objectives and adjusting management accordingly.
9. Sharing the learning – with visitors during the June long weekend event, training events and written and oral communication.

'Assets' at the site include: a relatively intact ground layer with few weeds; large box trees with hollows; fertile, rocky soil; some locally uncommon plants such as Tall Oat Grass and Chocolate Lily; a diversity of shrubs and wildflowers.

'Threats' include presence of Coolatai Grass and other weeds on parts of the site and nearby; feral animals such as cats, foxes, rabbits and pigs; lack of key plant species such as Yam Daisy and lilies.

Management may include: cultural and ecological burning, weed control, revegetation of trees, shrubs and wildflowers, feral animal control, re-instatement of logs and timber on the ground, installation of nest boxes.

While restoration is an ongoing process which will include indefinite cultural management, restoration works to manage the threats listed above are likely to be substantially completed within 5 years.

1.2 Site Assessment

The restoration site has been delineated to include the area of the TSR where the Memorial Site is located, bounded by Myall Creek on the north side, the Delungra road (and road reserve) on the west and the fence just north of Horseshoe Creek in the south (Figure 2). This area includes the infrastructure surrounding the memorial (the memorial, paths, toilets, car park, dance area and gardens) as well as areas of native vegetation. The total area designated for ecological restoration is 50ha.

The native vegetation at the site includes grassy woodlands dominated by White Box (*Eucalyptus albens*) [bibil in Gamilaraay] or Silver-leaved Ironbark (*E. melanophloia*) [thiinyaay in Gamilaraay] and grasslands derived from these woodlands through removal of trees.



Figure 2: Extent of the restoration area at Myall Creek. (Source: Google Earth).

On 15/11/2022, we carried out a site assessment, which included four plot-based vegetation assessments, soil tests, assessments of weeds and their extent and an evaluation of other threats. We followed this up with a further five plot assessments (Plots 5-9) on 14/3/2023.

The vegetation plots are 20 x 20m quadrats. Within each plot we recorded a full list of species along with the foliage projected-cover and approximate abundance of each species. The detail of these plots is shown in Appendix A. The location of each plot is shown in Figure 3.

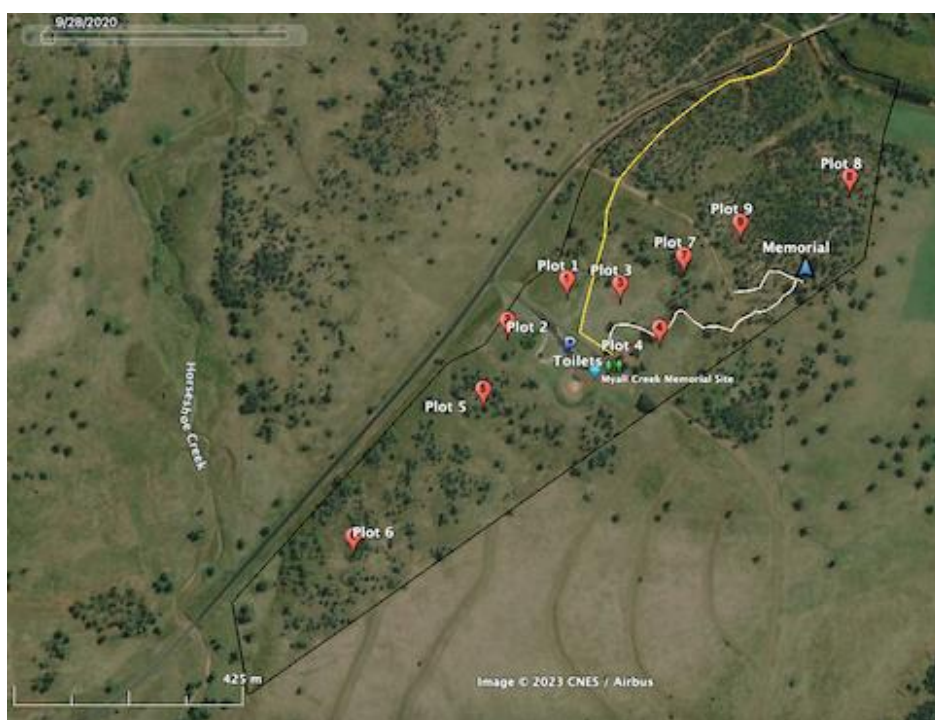


Figure 3: Vegetation survey plot locations in relation to infrastructure. Pink polygon shows area recently developed.

Soil tests were carried out in each plot at 10cm below the surface. Field texture and colour was recorded for each sample. In addition to the plot-based surveys, we walked across the whole site noting tree and shrub species, groundlayer vegetation, weeds and any significant species.

1.3 Plant Community Type (PCT) Determination

Based on the detailed floristic plots and observations of areas with tree cover, the vegetation on the upper part of the site (Figure 4) is part of PCT 589: *White Box - White Cypress Pine - Silver-leaved Ironbark grassy woodland on mainly clay loam soils on hills mainly in the Nandewar Bioregion*. This plant community is part of the Critically Endangered Threatened Ecological Community: White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland.

Areas at the site where there are no, or few trees, are a Derived Native Grassland version of PCT 589. Where the site slopes away to the south west and the north, the White Box drops out and the Silver-leaved Ironbark is dominant. In these areas the vegetation could be classified as PCT 593 *Silver-leaved ironbark – White Cypress Pine Grassy Woodland mainly in the northern Nandewar Bioregion*, but it is very similar to the PCT 589 with low shrub cover and similar species in the grassy ground layer. The only difference between the two areas is that the upper slope is dominated by White Box and the slopes to the north and south-west are dominated by Silver-leaved Ironbark, with some Rough-barked Apple (*Angophora floribunda*) present.

In the lower slope areas of the site (in the north east corner and south west end) the vegetation is dominated by Yellow Box and Rough-barked Apple with no White Box or Silver-leaved ironbark. Both of these species occur in PCT 589 so we are considering all of the vegetation to be that PCT.

For the purposes of this restoration plan, we are going to consider all of the vegetation on the site to be part of PCT 589.

The characteristics of all PCTs, as they occur at Myall Creek, are shown in Table 1. These characteristics should be used to guide the restoration of the site, including choosing species for revegetation.

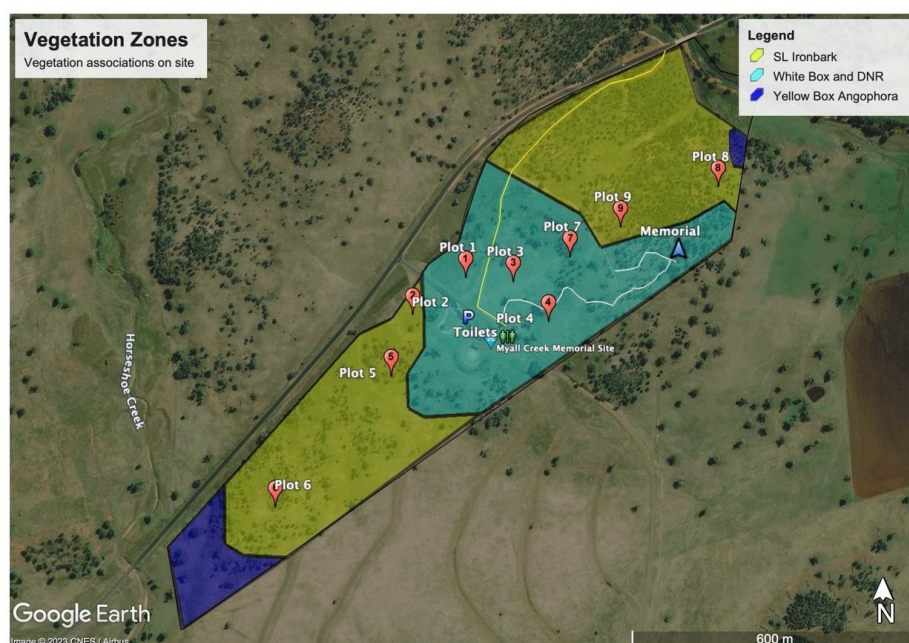


Figure 4: Vegetation zones on site based on local variation of PCT 589.

Table 1: Characteristics of PCT 589 and 593 and species found at the site

Species	Other names	Growth form	Food /Medicine/ Useplant?	Present?
<i>Eucalyptus albens</i>	White Box; bibil	T	Y	Y
<i>Eucalyptus melanophloia</i>	Silver-leaved Ironbark; thiinyaay	T	Y	Y
<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellow Box; bibil	T	Y	Y
<i>Callitris glaucophylla</i>	White Cypress Pine; gurraari	T	Y	Y
<i>Angophora floribunda</i> (593)	Rough-barked Apple; bulamin	T	Y	Y
<i>Brachychiton populneus</i>	Kurrajong; nhimin	T	Y	Y
<i>Acacia pendula</i>	Myall; mayaal	T	Y	Y
<i>Notelaea microcarpa</i>	Native Olive	S	Y	Y
<i>Geijera parviflora</i>	Wilga; dhiil	S	Y	Y
<i>Cassinia laevis</i>	Cough bush	S	Y	Y
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> ssp <i>angustifolium</i>	Hop bush; yiilay	S	Y	Y
<i>Acacia decora</i>	Western Golden Wattle	S	Y	N
<i>Maireana microphylla</i>	Eastern Cottonbush	S		N
<i>Dichanthium sericeum</i>	Qld Bluegrass	G		Y
<i>Panicum decompositum</i>	Native Millet, guli	G	Y	Y
<i>Themeda avenacea</i>	Tall Oat Grass	G	Y	Y
<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Kangaroo Grass; garaarr	G	Y	Y
<i>Digitaria divaricatissima</i>		G	Y	Y
<i>Elymus scaber</i>	Wheat Grass	G	Y	Y
<i>Eulalia aurea</i>	Silky Browntop	G		Y
<i>Rytidosperma racemosus</i>	Wallaby Grass	G		N
<i>Austrostipa scabra</i>	Spear Grass	G		Y

<i>Austrostipa verticillata</i>	Slender Bamboo Grass	G	Y	Y
<i>Austrostipa aristiglumis</i>	Plains Grass	G	Y	Y
<i>Aristida ramosa</i>	Wire Grass	G		Y
<i>Chloris truncata</i>	Windmill Grass	G		Y
<i>Chloris ventricosa</i>	Tall windmill grass	G		Y
<i>Bothriochloa decipiens</i>	Pitted Bluegrass	G		Y
<i>Glycine tabacina</i>	Variable Glycine	F		Y
<i>Brunoniella australis</i>	Blue Trumpet	F		Y
<i>Calotis lappulacea</i>	Yellow Burr Daisy	F		Y
<i>Rostellularia adscendens</i>	Pink Tongues	F	Y	Y
<i>Swainsona galegifolia</i>	Darling Pea	F		Y
<i>Eremophila debilis</i>	Aemulla	F	Y	Y
<i>Cullen tenax</i>	Emufoot	F		Y
<i>Asperula conferta</i>	Common Woodruff	F		Y
<i>Mentha saturoides</i>	Native Pennyroyal	F	Y	Y
<i>Geranium solanderi</i>	Native Geranium	F	Y	Y
<i>Pratia concolor</i>	Purple Root	F		
<i>Zorynia dictyocarpa</i>		F		Y
<i>Thysanotus tuberosus</i>	Fringe Lily	F		
<i>Cymbonotus lawsonianus</i>	Bear's ear	F		
<i>Goodenia fascicularis</i>	Mallee Goodenia	F		
<i>Bulbine semibarbata</i>	Wild Onion	F	Y	Y

1.4 Threatened species and communities

The vegetation community at the site is part of the Critically Endangered Ecological Community White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland (NSW) / Box Gum Grassy Woodland (Commonwealth).

During the vegetation surveys we found two threatened plant species: Austral Toadflax (*Thesium australe*) and Hawk Weed (*Picris euae*). It is highly likely that two other threatened plant species also occur on site: *Dichanthium setosum* and *Tylophora linearis*. The endangered shrub *Acacia atrox* is known from two sites close to the Myall Creek site and grows on the same soils and aspect as the site. One of the known occurrences of this species is within a few hundred metres of the restoration area.

It is possible that a number of threatened fauna species also use the habitat at the site, but we have not carried out fauna surveys as part of this assessment. Nine threatened fauna species have been recorded within a 10 x 10 km² area centred on the site (Bionet search):

- Little Eagle (*Hieraeetus morphnoides*),
- Glossy Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*),
- Brown Treecreeper (eastern subspecies) (*Climacterus picumnus victoriae*),
- Speckled Warbler (*Chthonicola sagittatus*),
- Painted Honeyeater (*Grantiella picta*),
- Grey-crowned Babbler (eastern subspecies) (*Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis*),
- Dusky Woodswallow (*Artamus cyanopterus cyanopterus*),
- Hooded Robin (south-eastern form) (*Melanodryas cucullatus cucullatus*),
- Diamond Firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*).

It is also possible that Koalas (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) and Squirrel Gliders (*Petaurus norfolcensis*) may use the large eucalypts at the site occasionally.

1.5 Weeds

Weeds are a significant threat to Grassy Woodlands. Some species have the potential to completely alter the composition and structure of the ground layer vegetation. One such weed is Coolatai Grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*) which is present on the Myall Creek site. Throughout the Inverell and Bingara areas, this perennial tussock grass weed has displaced many thousands of hectares of grassy woodland. As a result, it has changed the habitat for fauna and flora species and significantly changed the fire regime. Fortunately, Coolatai Grass has not yet completely infested the Myall Creek site, although it is the dominant grass in patches throughout and on the road reserve. It also occurs as individual plants or small clusters scattered throughout areas of predominantly native grass.

Coolatai Grass is favoured by disturbance and fire, so great care must be taken when disturbing the soil (such as drains and paths) and conducting burns. It is the greatest threat to the integrity of the ecological community at the site and the biggest challenge for restoration.

Johnson Grass (*Sorghum halapense*) is another significant perennial grass weed present on the site. It is a large grass with underground runners, which can be difficult to control with herbicide. It is readily spread by seed and can be spread vegetatively. Early in the growing season, Johnson Grass is significantly taller than other native species, especially after mowing. At this stage it may be possible to control using a wick-wiper to apply herbicide to just the Johnson Grass without affecting other species.

Serious non-grass weeds include: Purpletop (*Verbena bonariensis*), Veined Verbena (*Verbena rigida*) and St Barnaby's Thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*). These weeds can displace other species and alter the composition and structure of the vegetation. They can be difficult to control because they grow amongst more desirable species. Noogoora Burr (*Xanthium occidentale*) is a serious weed in the Myall Creek channel and floodplain, displacing many other species and affecting wildlife. Tiger Pear (*Opuntia aurantiaca*) occurs on parts of the site. While it does not displace other plants through competition it is very dangerous for wildlife leading to crippling injuries and infections from the spines.

There are many other exotic species which occur on the site, but they do not pose a significant threat to the native vegetation or the recovery of the site. These include: Great Brome (*Bromus catharticus*), Cobbler's Pegs (*Bidens alternans*), Bishops Weed (*Ammi majus*), Fleabane (*Conyza bonariensis*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Prickly Lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), Catsear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), Mullein (*Viburnum thapsus*), Paspalum (*Paspalum dilitatum*),

Perennial Rye Grass (*Lolium perenne*), Dead Nettle (*Lamium amplexicaule*) and Dog Rose (*Rosa rubiginosa*).

Serious Weeds	Coolatai Grass, Johnson Grass, St Barnaby's Thistle, Purpletop, Veined Verbena, Fleabane, Noogoora Burr, Tiger Pear
Minor Weeds	Great Brome, Cobbler's Pegs, Bishops Weed, Fleabane, Wild carrot, Prickly Lettuce, Catsear, Plantain, Mullein, Paspalum, Perennial Rye Grass, Dead nettle, Dog Rose.

1.6 Soils and topography

There are two main soil types at the site. The crest of the hill is predominantly black cracking clay (Vertosol), while the slope toward the creek is a red basalt clay (Ferrosol). There are coarse fragments up to boulder size present in both soil types, with some rock outcrops on the north-facing slope down to Myall Creek.

The cleared area has mostly Vertosol soils.

The area near the carpark, paths, toilets and memorial is close to flat, with a slight westerly aspect. The north end of the site drops off gradually (3°), then steeply (15°), towards Myall Creek, with a northerly aspect. The south western end of the site drops off gradually (3°) towards Horseshoe Creek with a south-westerly aspect.

2 Site Condition

The difference in condition between the ecosystems at the site and a reference ecosystem of similar type, gives the goals and objectives for the ecosystem restoration. Ecosystem restoration is a long-term, complex process which may take decades to achieve. In the short term, we can put the ecosystem on a trajectory towards restoration, by removing threats and barriers to restoration (SER, 2004).

Barriers to restoration may include: changed soil structure or chemistry, invasion by exotic plants, grazing by domestic or feral livestock, removal of trees or removal of habitat features. In the case of the Myall Creek site, the main barriers to regeneration of the ecosystem to pre-1750 condition, are weeds and the lack of seed sources for natural regeneration.

We have divided the site into different management zones (Table 2) (Section 3), based on similar threats or barriers, which allows management to be applied specifically to meet those threats.

Table 2 : Differentiation of management zones

Zone	Characteristics	Threats	Priority
Infrastructure	Infrastructure including car park, gardens, paths, toilets, dance area, shelter	Not considered under Restoration Plan	L
Mowing	Native and exotic grass area around Infrastructure zone	Source of weed seeds unless mown regularly.	M
Stop Mowing	Moderate diversity ground layer; few weeds; no trees	Lack of trees, missing key food/cultural species, potential weed invasion	H
Intensive thistle	Very high cover of weeds (thistle), low ground layer diversity, few trees	Weed dominance, Lack of trees, missing key food/cultural species, increased risk of fire.	H
Targeted weed control	Good tree and shrub diversity, moderate ground diversity, serious weeds in patches	Weed spread, missing key food/cultural species,	H
Coolatai-infested	Sparse to dense cover of trees with dense cover of Coolatai grass interspersed with diverse native grasses and forbs	Weed spread, increased fire,	M
Riparian Weeds	Riparian zone, narrow, sparse trees, high weed load	High nutrients, constant source of weed propagules, lack of ground layer seed sources	L

2.1 Reference Ecosystem

Plant community Type 589 (*White Box - White Cypress Pine - Silver-leaved Ironbark grassy woodland on mainly clay loam soils on hills mainly in the Nandewar Bioregion*) has been significantly affected by agricultural clearing, weed encroachment, grazing, feral animals and changes to water and nutrient regimes. As a result, it is difficult to find a local site that can act as a reference ecosystem. Instead, we have used benchmark data from the NSW Vegetation Classification.

Benchmark data for a reference ecosystem must include information about ecological function (litter cover, coarse woody debris, tree age/size classes, number of large trees, number of trees with

hollows); composition (number of species of trees, shrubs, grasses, forbs, ferns and others); and structure (cover of trees, shrubs, grasses, forbs, ferns and other). In regards to fauna, benchmark data should include the species likely to occur and the habitat requirements of these species.

Table 3: Attributes of the benchmark (reference) ecosystem compared to current site conditions.

Attribute	Benchmark value	Current value Woodland*	Current value DNG**
COMPOSITION			
# tree species	4	4	0
# shrub species	4	3	0
# grass species	11	9	5
# forb species	14	14	11
# fern species	1	0	0
# other species	3	3	1
STRUCTURE			
Cover tree species	16	32	0
Cover shrub species	2	3.6	0
Cover grass species	55	48	70
Cover forb species	8	6.7	8
Cover fern species	0	0.1	0
Cover other species	1	1.8	0.1
FUNCTION			
Litter cover	33	30	15
Length (m) coarse woody debris / 0.1ha	18	17	0
Tree regeneration (<5cm dbh)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Trees 5-10cm dbh	Yes	Yes	No
Trees 10-20cm dbh	Yes	Yes	No
Trees 20-30cm dbh	Yes	Yes	No
Trees 30-40cm dbh	Yes	Yes	No
Trees 40-50cm dbh	Yes	Yes	No
Trees >50cm dbh	2	1	No

* Woodland indicates areas of the site with trees; ** DNG is Derived native grassland

3 Initial Management Zones

We have divided the site into a number of management zones, grouped by the need for similar management actions. These are initial management actions, and once completed, will be regrouped based on the next management priorities such as revegetation. Figure 5 shows the management zones across the site. These zones are described below.

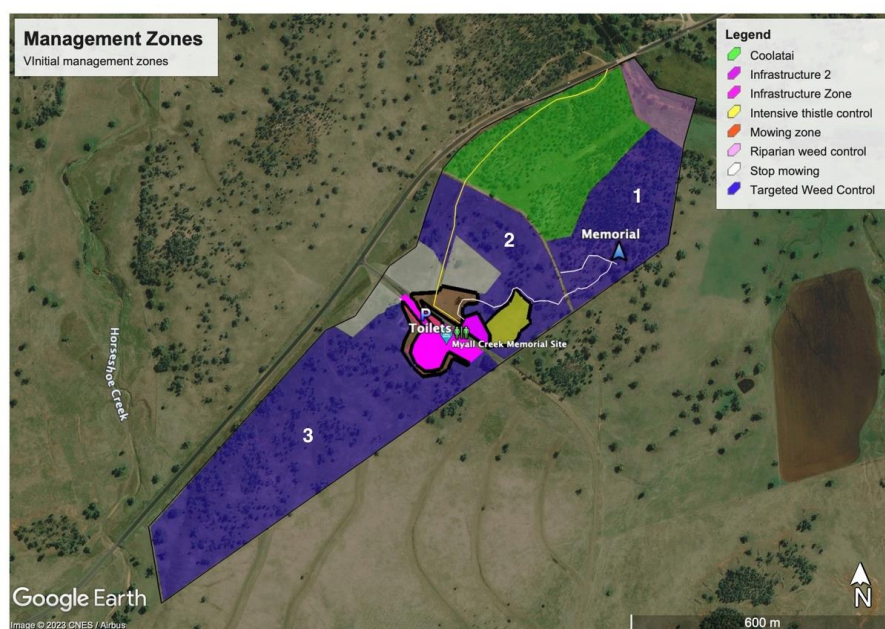


Figure 5: Management zones

3.1 Infrastructure Zone

This zone includes the original car park, tracks and the memorial itself, as well as the area developed as part of stage 2 which includes the car park, dance area, shade structure, interpretive signage, gardens, toilets and associated infrastructure. This zone is not considered as part of this restoration plan as it is subject to management for visitor experiences and functions, recreation and aesthetics.

3.2 Mowing Zone

This zone surrounds the Infrastructure Zone and is designed to maintain vistas for visitors, provide a 'tidy' appearance and minimise fire risk at the site. Although not shown in Figure 5, this zone includes a strip mown on either side of the track to the Memorial. This area should be mowed with a slasher as required, with care taken not to introduce new weeds to the site on the slasher or tractor. The slasher and tractor should be cleaned of weed seeds before entering the site by brushing or blowing any plant material off the equipment.

3.3 Stop Mowing Zone

The three zones where mowing should be stopped have predominantly native grasses with a high diversity of ground layer species. These are represented by Plots 1-3. Gwydir Shire Council ceased mowing in these three areas from September 2022. By ceasing mowing, the plants will have an opportunity to flower and set seeds, allowing regeneration of ground layer species to occur. It is likely that tree regeneration will also occur adjacent to mature trees.

There are isolated patches of weeds within this zone, which need to be monitored and controlled if they spread. Priority should be given to preventing Coolatai Grass and Johnson Grass gaining a foothold in this zone through the use of herbicides, cutting off flowering heads or removal of plants by hand.

3.4 Intensive Thistle Control Zone

This zone is adjacent to the northern carpark and was burnt in 2018 to control weeds. There is now 80% cover of St Barnaby's Thistle in this zone, growing over a native grass understorey (Figure 6).

In order to reduce the cover of thistles, this whole area should be sprayed with an appropriate herbicide (Department of Industry, 2018) using a Quickspray unit. If spraying cannot be completed before this plant flowers, the site should be slashed to prevent flowering and then sprayed to kill the plants.

Once the dense cover of thistles is reduced to <5% cover, the site should be managed as for the Targeted Weed Control Zone.



Figure 6: Dense cover of St Barnaby's thistle in the 'Intensive thistle control zone'

3.5 Targeted Weed Control Zone

This zone includes vegetation in reasonably good condition with weeds in clumps or patches. There is a high diversity of native species and either an intact native overstorey or regeneration of overstorey species. This zone includes areas of both Coolatai Grass and Johnson grass and is at risk of a continuing decline in condition.

There are three areas within this zone as shown in Figure 5.

Area 1 includes the section between the Memorial and the creek and the Coolatai-infested area. This area has the highest tree cover as well as large surface rocks or rock outcrops. This combination

makes access for vehicles difficult when required for weed spraying. As a result, some weed control may need to be done on foot using backpack spray units.

There are a few large patches of Coolatai Grass as well as scattered smaller patches. The ground layer is diverse and includes good stands of species that are rare elsewhere on the site. Carefully spray Coolatai Grass patches and avoid spraying desirable native plants.

There is a high density of the threatened forb *Thesium australe* in this area. Spray contractors must be aware of this plant and avoid spraying it or its host plants.

Area 2 includes the section between the carpark and Area 1 and surrounds the 'no mow' zone. This area is relatively flat and includes some areas of widely-spaced trees. There are some areas of large rocks and rock outcrops, requiring caution for vehicle-based spraying.

Both Coolatai Grass and Johnson Grass are present in this area. Coolatai Grass is present in small patches which should be targeted for herbicide control over two seasons in order to kill plants and any germinating seedlings. The NSW Weed Control Handbook (Department of Industry, 2018) recommends glyphosate or flupropanate (or a mix) to control Coolatai Grass. Glyphosate is a 'knock-down' herbicide which will kill the plant and prevent flowering and seed set but will not prevent seeds in the soil from germinating. It will require 2-3 applications per year while the grass is actively growing. Flupropanate is a residual herbicide that will slowly kill plants and prevent seeds in the soil from germinating. It can leave bare ground which is often colonised by broad-leaf weeds such as fleabane. Glyphosate should be used on larger patches. On steep sites where there is a risk of erosion, some sort of erosion control structure (coir logs, mulch) should be used after spraying to reduce the risk of erosion.

Johnson Grass is scattered throughout the native grasses in this area and has been suppressed by mowing in some places. In parts of this area where Johnson Grass is present and spreading, the immediate area should be mowed in late autumn or winter. When the Johnson Grass begins to grow in late winter or early spring, it should be targeted with a wick wiper herbicide applicator while there is a difference in height between it and the native grasses.

Wick wipers come in 2 versions. The simple version (Figure 7): Essentially a length of PVC with herbicide sitting inside the boom. Kits are cheap (~\$1000-\$2000 for a 3m boom) or could be made from scratch. Harder to height adjust and no reservoir for herbicide.



Figure 7: Low-tech wick wiper

The professional version shown in Figure 8 is a more customised and task specific system. Separate tow behind trailer with up to 50L reservoir. Height adjustable. Contact manufacturers for exact max height and rough price, but probably over \$4,000 for a proper system.



Figure 8: Commercially-made wick wiper designed for towing, with adjustable height.

Wick wipers will be effective for any other weeds where there is a height differential between the weed and surrounding desirable species. As for Coolatai Grass, both glyphosate and fluproponate can be used, although glyphosate would be the only herbicide suitable for use in the wick wiper. The NSW Weed Control Handbook recommends other herbicides as well. The most effective way to use wick wipers will be to mow the area in late autumn, then use the wick wiper when the target weed emerges in late winter or early spring.

Area 3 has patches of both Coolatai Grass and Johnson Grass and other weeds including St Barnaby's Thistle and Purpletop. This area will require regular targeted weed control measures using the methods outlined for Areas 1 and 2.

This area has scattered trees which will make vehicle access difficult in some areas, especially with a wick wiper.

Work west towards the Coolatai-infested Zone until Coolatai grass patches are too dense. Try to maintain a buffer between these two zones.

3.6 Dense Coolatai Grass Zone (8.2ha)

The north-west corner of the site slopes steeply down to Myall Creek floodplain. The understorey is dominated (up to 60% cover) by Coolatai Grass. This level of cover is considered too dense to easily manage. As such it should be left until there are sufficient resources to tackle it.

There is no clear method to control dense stands of Coolatai Grass such as this, so an adaptive management approach should be used. Set up trial blocks for different control methods, approximately 5000m² (70 x 70m). Within these blocks trial some, or all, of the following methods:

- Autumn burn followed by glyphosate 360 spraying of Coolatai tussocks (at 200mLin 10L water) as soon as it starts shooting, while retaining native grasses.
- Direct spraying of Coolatai grass tussocks with glyphosate 360 (at 200mLin 10L water), when actively growing (Sept to May),
- Direct spraying of Coolatai grass with glyphosate 360 (at 200mLin 10L water) and fluproponate 745g/L (at 300mL/100L water) between July and October,
- Direct spraying of Coolatai grass with fluproponate 745g/L (at 300mL/100L water) between July and October.

Monitor Coolatai grass cover before and after each trial and determine which method will be used through the rest of the site.

The Coolatai Grass in this area cannot be controlled with herbicide using a wick wiper because of the dense tree cover. The trees will also make it difficult for a vehicle-mounted Quickspray unit to access the site. Future control will likely need herbicide control from Quickspray units (where they can get access) and back pack sprays, possibly after small cool burns to make the Coolatai Grass tussocks stand out more clearly.

This area still has a high diversity of other grasses and forbs, so still has good biodiversity value. The emphasis in this area should be on containment to stop the grass seeds spreading into the other zones where it will be controlled.

3.7 Coolatai-infested area

This zone has the worst cover of Coolatai Grass on the site. This perennial grass weed has spread underneath trees from the road and in places makes up 60% of the ground cover. Some of the trees in this area have been badly affected by the 2018-19 drought, with much of the canopy dead in many trees.

Like Area 3 of the Targeted Weed Control Zone, the Coolatai grass grows among dense stands of trees and there are many surface rocks. While a Quickspray unit mounted on a ute would be the best method to control the weed, this type of vehicle will not be able to access much of the site.

The best strategy will be to work from the cleared area under the power lines using herbicides to spray tussocks of Coolatai Grass. There are still many plants of a range of native grass species present, so these can replace the Coolatai Grass. Work east, then west, from the powerlines until the majority of the Coolatai Grass is killed, then monitor and control regeneration.

3.8 Riparian Weed Control Zone

The riparian zone of Myall Creek is prone to inundation during high flows. It has a sandy loam alluvial soil with some rock outcrops. Like most riparian zones, it has high levels of nutrients which encourages weeds such as Noogoora Burr, Johnson Grass and Paspalum.

It is difficult to achieve lasting weed control in such a small section of the creek because weed seeds will continue to wash downstream. Nevertheless, weed control should be carried out regularly to allow space for more desirable species to regenerate, including trees and large shrubs.

Any glyphosate used in the riparian zone must be designated 'frog friendly' (i.e. no surfactants included).

3.9 Summary of management actions

Table 4: Summary of initial management actions

Zone	Management actions	Timing
Infrastructure	Maintain infrastructure	
Mowing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent weeds from going to seed, Keep machinery clean to prevent introduction of new weeds Use Wick Wiper to control Johnson Grass 	Monthly in growing season Aug - Oct
Stop Mowing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor for presence of serious weeds and control as needed. Monitor minor weeds and prevent seeding if possible (cut heads off), Avoid disturbance, Mow high in April. 	August - March August - March
Intensive thistle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use Quickspray or similar to spray thistles with appropriate herbicide, Monitor and control serious weeds after thistle control. 	Sept-Dec
Targeted weed control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot spray Coolatai Grass among trees 3x with glyphosate. Spray larger patches with glyphosate/fluproponate mix once only For Johnson Grass growing among natives, mow in winter. Use wick wiper with glyphosate Spray dense patches of Johnson Grass with glyphosate 3x. Monitor minor weeds and prevent seeding if possible (cut heads off), Cut stems of woody weeds close to ground and paint stump with straight glyphosate. 	Sept - May July-Oct Aug-Oct Sept-May Aug – March April

Coolatai-infested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up, carry out and monitor trials for Coolatai grass control. Work under the powerlines first, then east then west. Create Coolatai-free buffer between this zone and Targeted Weed Control Zone- Area 1 	See 3.7 for timing
Riparian Weeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor riparian zone and control serious weeds including Noogoora Burr. 	Sept - May

3.10 Secondary Management Zones

Once the initial management is complete, over the course of 2-3 years, some of the sites can move into a secondary management phase. The aim of the initial stage of management is to reduce weed cover to a more manageable level, while the aim of the secondary management is to increase species diversity through revegetation and habitat complexity by specific management.

Figure 8 shows the change in condition of each of the initial management zones. As the weeds in each zone are under better control, secondary management actions can commence which will move each zone to a higher condition state, which then puts the whole site on a trajectory back towards the original condition state.

3.10.1 Revegetation

The secondary management zones without trees will need to have trees planted as regeneration from standing trees will be too slow. The structure of the woodland at the site (Table 1) shows sparse tree cover, so revegetation should aim to plant a variety of tree species at 10-20m spacings. Allowing for losses over time, this will result in tree and shrub cover similar to the benchmark.

Approximately 7.5ha is suitable for sparse revegetation of trees and shrubs across the whole site.

Revegetation will also be necessary to increase species diversity, particularly those food, medicine and cultural use species that are missing from the site. This type of revegetation requires very good preparation and management. The initial aspect of this revegetation will be the collection of sufficient quantities of seeds and possibly building up seed volumes in seed production areas.

3.10.2 Habitat enhancement

As Table 1 shows, some of the ecosystem function features are low compared to benchmark values. Leaf litter, coarse woody debris (logs) and large trees (with hollows) are very low in the derived grassland areas and low to moderate in other areas. This can be rectified by artificially adding logs, branches, rocks and nest boxes. This will increase the habitat value for target fauna species. The exact fauna species to target and the habitat enhancement techniques to use, can be planned in consultation with elders and others.

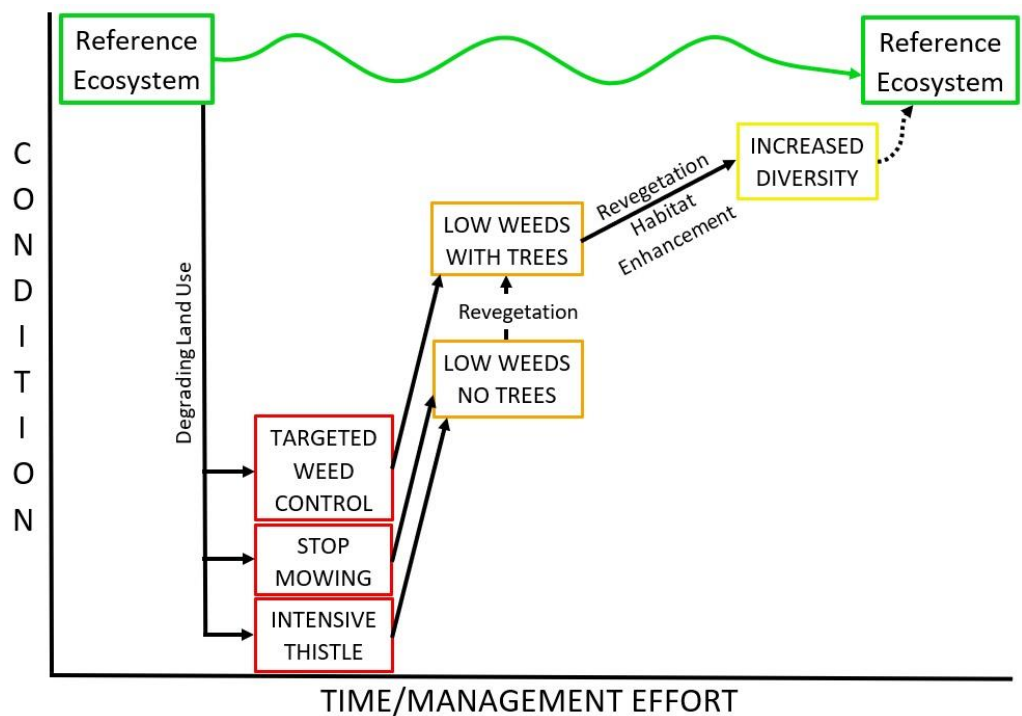


Figure 9: Change in condition of different management zones over time as management actions are implemented.

4 The cultural context of ecosystem restoration at Myall Creek

When the massacre of Wirrayaraay people occurred at Myall Creek in 1838, they had been living in the region for tens of thousands of years. Through this time, their management of the land developed through adaptive management with their livelihoods intricately linked to ecosystem condition (McKemey & White, 2011).

The current condition of the vegetation is still related to original Wirrayaraay management of the site. It is likely that regular cool burns were carried out to maintain feed for game and keep other food plants producing. The dominant tree at the site, White Box, is very long lived. It is likely that many of the trees currently growing on the site were mature trees or seedlings in 1838 and therefore a direct product of the management of the original inhabitants.

Apart from keeping the woodland open with fire to maintain kangaroo populations and other ground-dwelling mammals, the plants at the site would have been managed for food, fibre, medicine, ceremonial uses and trade. Several grass species on site produce edible seeds, while others produce strong fibres suitable for weaving into useful items. Many of the forb species have edible tubers and would have formed a staple component of the people's diet. Chocolate Lily, Bulbine Lily, Fringe Lily (milaan), Geranium, Carrot and Tarvine (wudhugaa) are still present on the site although in much fewer number than when well managed. Other important tubers such as Yam Daisy and several orchid species are long gone, when once they were staples. Yam Daisy has been re-introduced into the Bush Food garden and could also be planted throughout the site.

Berry fruits such as Blue Flax Lily, Aemulla and Raspberry are still present in limited numbers while other species such as native grape (mugiyala), bush banana (gaagulu) and ruby saltbush (burra) are no longer present. Medicinal plants such as Wilga (dhiil) and Berrigan (guwiira) are still sparsely present at the site, as are plants with edible leaves, such as Warrigal Greens (galan galaan) and Pigweed (dhamu).

Recovery of the ecosystem at Myall Creek will succeed most completely through reengagement of Wirrayaraay management techniques, and every effort should be made to support the Traditional Owners active involvement. The initial stages of restoration outlined in this plan are designed to recover the site from significant threats to its future. The continued improvement in condition along a trajectory to a healthy ecosystem and functioning cultural landscape requires the active involvement of local Aboriginal people in day-to-day management. Wirrayaraay management may take the form of cultural burns, planting and harvesting food plants, managing game, holding ceremonies for the health of the land or other activities.

With management to reduce weed threats and active revegetation of the missing or depleted food and other useful plants the site can become a living example of the cultural landscape of the Wirrayaraay people.

5 Monitoring

The success of the implementation of this Restoration Plan can only be measured with a simple, repeatable monitoring program. Monitoring is important to show the land managers, the community and funding providers that the restoration is achieving its goals.

5.1.1 Ecological Monitoring

We have used standard indicators of ecosystem condition to measure progress against benchmarks (Table 1). In assessing the site for this report, we established 9 permanent monitoring plots (Fig 3), which can be monitored using the Biodiversity Assessment Method 2020 (BAM2020) (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, 2020). This is a standard method used by many environmental consultants, which produces relatively consistent results.

Monitoring using the BAM2020 should occur in late spring each year. The results can then be used to monitor progress against the benchmark values shown in Table 3: Attributes of the benchmark (reference) ecosystem compared to current site conditions. Management can then be adapted to move closer to the benchmarks.

Fauna monitoring can be expensive as it requires specialised expertise and equipment. Monitoring of animals should focus on a number of species and simple techniques such as regular bird observations, camera traps and acoustic recorders. It may be possible to engage the community or visitors to the site in fauna monitoring activities. For example, many visitors are likely to have bird watching interests and skill and could be encouraged to observe and report bird sightings to Council or to Atlas of Living Australia, through readily available apps. Occasional community monitoring events could be held to look for signs (tracks or scats) or evidence of animals.

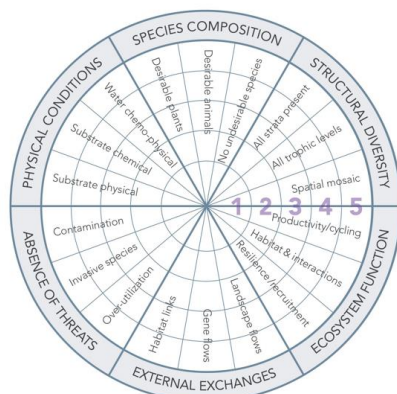
5.1.2 Social and cultural monitoring

Monitoring of social outcomes could include: the number of people actively engaged in management; the number of hours spent on cultural activities on site or the number of school groups visiting to learn about the ecology of the site. In addition, Traditional Owners and cultural visitors to the site could monitor the number and density of plants traditionally used for food, medicine and other uses.

5.2 SER Monitoring Wheel

The Society for Ecological Restoration has developed a monitoring wheel to easily record changes in site condition between monitoring periods (Standards Reference Group SERA, 2021). This tool uses a “5-star” system to monitor recovery with no stars indicating a degraded condition and 5 stars indicating close to the reference ecosystem condition.

The wheel measures condition change under six attributes, each with 3 sub-attributes:



1. Species composition – desirable plants, desirable animals, no undesirable plants.
2. Structural diversity – all vegetation strata, all trophic levels, spatial mosaic.
3. Ecosystem function – productivity/nutrient cycling, habitat and interactions, resilience/recruitment.
4. External exchanges – habitat links, gene flows, landscape flows.
5. Absence of threats – contamination, invasive species, over-utilisation.
6. Physical conditions – water chemo-physical, substrate physical, substrate chemical.

A different monitoring wheel should be used for each part of the site that is in a different condition state. As the Myall Creek site currently stands, monitoring wheels have been prepared for some management zones. The current star rating for each is shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Current Star Rating for management zones

Management Zone	Current Star Rating (out of 5)
No Mow	2.43
Intensive Thistle Control	1.43
Targeted weed control	3.43
Riparian Weed Control Zone	2.55
Coolatai-infested	3.02

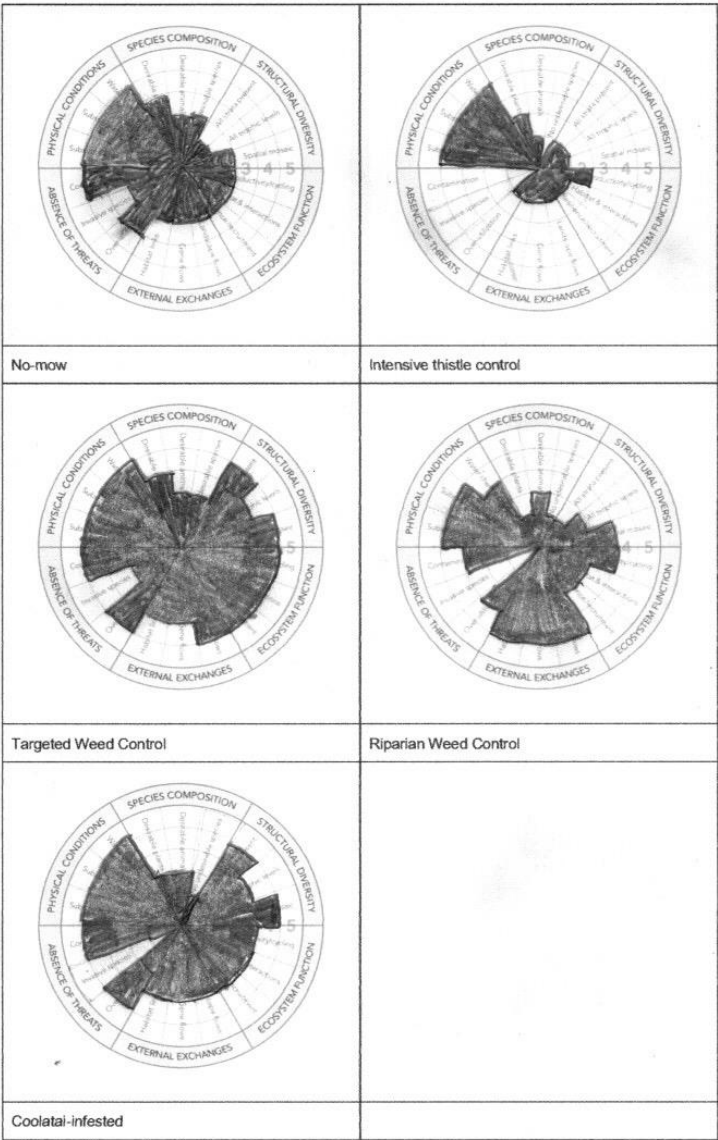


Figure 10: Baseline monitoring wheels for five management zones



Figure 11: Johnson Grass growing among native grasses. Ideal situation to use a weed wiper.



Figure 12: Patches of Coolatai Grass and thistles in Targeted weed control zone



Figure 13: Diverse ground layer in "No Mow" Zone.



Figure 14: Close up of distinctive hairs on the threatened plant *Picris evae*



Figure 15: Stem of *Picris evae* showing distinctive hairs.

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Appendix A Vegetation surveys

A.1 Monitoring Site 1. 221115_01.

Location: WP 2596. 29.78037°, 150.71158°. 393m. Bearing 30° (towards telegraph pole).

Site Description: Good grassland. Marked end with stake. 2° slope, west aspect. Black Vertosol.

Species	Growth Form	Cover (%)	Abundance
<i>Dichanthium sericeum</i>	G	20	500
<i>Themeda avenacea</i>	G	50	1000
<i>Elymus scaber</i>	G	10	100
<i>Panicum decompositum</i>	G	1	30
<i>Pycnosorus globosus</i>	F	20	0.7
<i>Picris evae</i> +	F	1	60
<i>Rhynchosia minima</i>	F	40	300
<i>Daucus glochidiatus</i>	F	1	500
<i>Tricoryne elatior</i>	F	2	1000
<i>Verbena gaudi-chaudii</i>	F	0.4	100
<i>Geranium solanderi</i>	F	3	300
<i>Conyza bonariensis</i> *		0.3	20
<i>Euchiton sphaericus</i>	F	0.2	20
<i>Asperula conferta</i>	F	2	200
<i>Aristida</i> sp.	G	5	200
<i>Digitaria divaricatissima</i>	G	3	100
<i>Lamiaceae</i> sp.		0.1	10
<i>Wahlenbergia</i> sp.	F	1	300
<i>Thesium australe</i> +	F	0.1	10
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> *		0.2	10
<i>Plantago debilis</i>	F	0.4	30
<i>Mentha saturoioides</i>	F	0.5	40

<i>Verbena sp. (rough)*</i>		0.1	5
<i>Neptunia gracilis</i>	F	0.2	30
<i>Sorghum halepense*</i>		0.4	10
<i>Bromus sp*</i>		0.5	40
<i>Lactuca serriola*</i>		0.1	2
<i>Hypochaeris radicata*</i>		0.1	1
<i>Glycine sp.</i>	O	0.1	50

*Invasive species

A.2 Monitoring Site 2. 221115_02.

Location: WP 2597. 29.78106°, 150.71043°. 367m. Bearing 220°.

Site Description: Good grassland. Recently stopped mowing. Marked send with stake. 1° slope, southwest aspect. Black Vertosol.

Nearby: *Angophora floribunda*, *Eucalyptus melanophloia*, *Pittosporum angustifolium*, *Pimelea neo-angliae*, *Geijera parviflora*.

Species	Growth form	Cover %	Abundance
<i>Themeda avenacea</i>	G	50	1000
<i>Geranium solanderi</i>	F	20	500
<i>Dichanthium sericeum</i>	G	10	300
<i>Elymus scaber</i>	G	15	500
<i>Pycnosorus globosus</i>	F	0.7	12
<i>Rhynchosia minima</i>	F	5	500
<i>Glycine sp.</i>	O	1	100
<i>Panicum decompositum</i>	G	1	50
<i>Lactuca serriola*</i>		0.1	10
<i>Conyza bonariensis*</i>		0.2	20
<i>Pieris evae</i>	F	0.2	20
<i>Tricoryne elatior</i>	F	3	300
<i>Verbena gaudi-chaudii</i>	F	0.9	40

<i>Lamiaceae</i> sp.*		0.2	20
<i>Lysimachia arvensis</i> *		0.1	2
<i>Digitaria divaricatissima</i>	G	0.5	10
<i>Neptunia gracilis</i>	F	0.5	30
<i>Asperula conferta</i>	F	2	200
<i>Euchiton sphaericus</i>	F	0.1	10
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> *		0.1	1
<i>Cullen tenax</i>	F	1	5
<i>Mentha saturioides</i>	F	0.6	100
<i>Cymbonotus lawsonianus</i>	F	0.1	5
<i>Daucus glochidiatus</i>	F	0.4	50
<i>Plantago debilis</i>	F	0.1	2
<i>Convolvulus erubescens</i>	F	0.1	10

*Invasive species

A.3 Monitoring Site 3. 221115_03.

Location: WP 2598. 29.78045°, 150.71260°. 370m. Bearing 10°N.

Site Description: Moderate. Recently stopped mowing. North half unmown. Marked S end with stake. 2° mid-slope, southwest aspect. Litter in mown, litter in unmown 70°.

Species	Growth Form	Cover %	Abundance
<i>Sorghum halepense</i> *		5	200
<i>Themeda avenacea</i>	G	2	50
<i>Swainsona galegifolia</i>	F	0.1	3
<i>Daucus glochidiatus</i>	F	4	1000
<i>Geranium solanderi</i>	F	25	1000
<i>Ammi majus</i> *		0.1	10
<i>Rhynchosia minima</i>	F	5	500
<i>Viburnum thapsus</i> *		0.1	1

<i>Lactuca serriola</i> *		0.8	200
<i>Austrostipa aristiglumis</i>	G	4	50
<i>Asperula conferta</i>	F	1	500
<i>Oxalis chnoodes</i>	F	0.1	1
<i>Elymus scaber</i>	G	0.2	100
<i>Picris euae</i> +	F	0.1	5
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i> *		2	100
<i>Verbena gaudi-chaudii</i>	F	0.2	40
<i>Wahlenbergia sp.</i>	F	0.2	10
<i>Pycnosorus globosus</i>	F	0.5	10
<i>Dichanthium sericeum</i>	G	40	500

*Invasive species

A.4 Monitoring Site 4. 221115_04.

Location: WP 2599. 29.78119°, 150.71336°. 372m. Bearing 80°.

Site Description: Burnt, then nothing. Very poor. 2° mid-slope, south aspect.

Nearby: *Eucalyptus albens*, *Callitris glaucophylla*, *Notelaea microcarpa*, *Dodonaea viscosa* ssp. *angustifolium*

SpeciesCover Abundance

Species	Growth Form	Cover %	Abundance
<i>Austrostipa aristiglumis</i>	G	5	50
<i>Sorghum halepense</i> *		2	20
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i> * (to 1.8m)		80	1000+
<i>Geranium solanderi</i>	F	5	100
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i> *		0.3	10
<i>Verbena bonariensis</i> *		0.2	10
<i>Lolium perenne</i> *		0.2	20
<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i> *		0.3	5
<i>Dichanthium sericeum</i>	G	2	40

<i>Arthropodium fimbriatum</i>	F	0.4	10
<i>Mentha satureioides</i>	F	0.2	10
<i>Viburnum thapsus</i> *		0.1	1
<i>Elymus scaber</i>	G	0.2	10
<i>Einadia nutans</i>	F	0.3	1
<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i> *		0.1	1
<i>Swainsona galegifolia</i>	F	0.1	1
<i>Verbena gaudi-chaudii</i>	F	0.2	10

*Exotic species

A.5 Monitoring Site 5. 230314_01.

Location: 56J 278621 6703149. 369m. Bearing 0°

Site Description: Grassy woodland. 1° slope, south aspect. Black Vertosol.

Species	Cover %	Abundance
<i>Eucalyptus melanophloia</i>	12	8
<i>Cassinia laevis</i>	6	20
<i>Dichanthium sericeum</i>	20	500
<i>Asperula conferta</i>	5	300
<i>Rhynchosia minima</i>	4	200
<i>Swainsona galegifolia</i>	1	100
<i>Lactuca serriola</i> *	0.5	70
<i>Panicum decompositum</i>	4	100
<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i> *	15	300
<i>Opuntia stricta</i> *	0.6	2
<i>Pimelea neo-angliae</i>	1	20
<i>Dianella caerulea</i>	0.7	50
<i>Mentha satureioides</i>	1	200
<i>Dichopogon fimbriatus</i>	0.2	40
<i>Glycine canescens</i>	1	100

<i>Wahlenbergia stricta</i>	1	40
<i>Brunoniella australe</i>	0.1	2
<i>Digitaria divaricatissima</i>	0.8	20
<i>Notelaea microcarpa</i>	0.9	2
<i>Gomphocarpus fruticosus</i> *	0.1	10
<i>Einadia nutans</i>	0.5	2
<i>Craspedia variabilis</i>	0.5	10
<i>Verbena bonariensis</i> *	0.1	1
<i>Thesium australe</i>	0.1	10
<i>Daucus glochidiatus</i>	0.1	5
<i>Desmodium brachypodium</i>	0.1	1
<i>Conyza bonariensis</i> *	0.3	60
<i>Eremophila debilis</i>	0.2	1
<i>Bidens alternans</i> *	0.2	20
<i>Petrorhagia nanteuillii</i> *	0.1	10
<i>Verbena gaudichaudii</i>	0.1	2
<i>Neptunia gracilis</i>	0.1	5
<i>Pavonia hastata</i> *	0.3	20
<i>Austrostipa aristiglumis</i>	0.8	5
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	0.7	3
<i>Acacia salicina</i>	0.1	1
<i>Convolvulus erubescens</i>	0.1	5
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i> *	0.1	1
<i>Sorghum halepense</i> *	0.2	1
<i>Pimelea linifolia</i>	0.2	5
<i>Bothriochloa biloba</i>	0.1	1
<i>Aristida ramosa</i>	0.1	1

*Exotic species

A.6 Monitoring Site 6. 230314_02.

Location: 56J 278382 6702870. Grassy Woodland. WSW aspect, 2° slope. Black Vertosol

Species	Cover %	Abundance
<i>Eucalyptus melanophloia</i>	7	4
<i>Angophora floribunda</i>	20	22
<i>Pimelea neo-angliae</i>	0.2	10
<i>Dichanthium sericeum</i>	25	500
<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i> *	5	100
<i>Panicum decompositum</i>	20	200
<i>Dianella caerulea</i>	0.3	20
<i>Asperula conferta</i>	0.8	50
<i>Rhynchosia minima</i>	1	300
<i>Gamochaeta calviceps</i> *	0.1	5
<i>Wahlenbergia stricta</i>	0.3	40
<i>Mentha saturioides</i>	0.3	50
<i>Neptunia gracilis</i>	0.1	30
<i>Bothriochloa biloba</i>	2	200
<i>Glycine clandestina</i>	0.1	10
<i>Forb sp.</i>	0.1	10
<i>Aristida leptopoda</i>	2	100
<i>Convolvulus erubescens</i>	0.1	2
<i>Swainsona galegifolia</i>	0.1	10
<i>Gomphocarpus fruticosus</i> *	0.1	5
<i>Lactuca serriola</i> *	0.2	50
<i>Craspedia variabilis</i>	0.1	10
<i>Senecio quadridentate</i>	0.1	2
<i>Thesium australe</i>	0.1	5
<i>Aristida ramosa</i>	0.1	10

<i>Themeda avenacea</i>	8	100
<i>Cassinia laevis</i>	0.1	2
<i>Elymus scaber</i>	0.1	10
<i>Eremophila debilis</i>	0.2	1
<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i> *	0.1	2

*Exotic species

A.7 Monitoring Site 7. 230314_03.

Location: WP 2907. 56J 278989 6703402. 376m. Bearing 0°

Site Description: Grassy woodland <1° slope, northwest aspect. Red clay

Species	Cover %	Abundance
<i>Eucalyptus albens</i>	36	5
<i>Notelaea microcarpa</i>	4	11
<i>Dichanthium sericeum</i>	6	100
<i>Aristida ramosa</i>	50	500
<i>Austrostipa verticillata</i>	5	50
<i>Desmodium brachypodium</i>	0.1	2
<i>Parsonsia eucalyptophylla</i>	0.1	10
<i>Opuntia aurantiaca</i> *	0.1	5
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	0.2	100
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i> *	0.2	20
<i>Verbena gaudichaudii</i>	0.3	20
<i>Oxalis perennans</i>	0.1	2
<i>Elymus scaber</i>	0.1	1
<i>Lactuca serriola</i> *	0.2	30
<i>Daucus glochidiatus</i>	0.7	100
<i>Brunoniella australis</i>	0.4	50
<i>Conyza bonariensis</i> *	0.1	10
<i>Boerhavia dominii</i>	0.2	10

<i>Chloris ventricosa</i>	0.5	30
<i>Calotis lappulacea</i>	0.2	10
<i>Einadia nutans</i>	0.3	20
<i>Jasminum suavisissimum</i>	0.8	40
<i>Asperula conferta</i>	0.2	10
<i>Petrorhagia nanteuilii</i> *	0.1	100
<i>Austrostipa scabra</i>	0.2	10
<i>Tweedia sp.</i> *	0.1	2
<i>Pimelea neo-angliae</i>	0.1	2
<i>Mentha sativioides</i>	0.1	10
<i>Solanum esuriiale</i>	0.1	1
<i>Rhynchosia minima</i>	0.2	10
<i>Swainsona galegifolia</i>	0.1	1
<i>Opuntia sericea</i> *	0.1	1
<i>Mallotus sp.</i> *	0.2	1
<i>Panicum decompositum</i>	1	50
<i>Paspalidium constrictum</i>	0.1	10
<i>Bothriochloa biloba</i>	15	300
<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i> *	6	100
<i>Callitris glaucophylla</i>	0.1	1
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> *	0.1	1
<i>Aristida leptopoda</i>	2	70
<i>Eremophila debilis</i>	0.5	3
<i>Schoenus apogon</i>	0.2	20
<i>Scleria mackaviensis</i>	0.1	5
<i>Senna barclayana</i>	0.3	20
<i>Glycine canescens</i>	0.1	30
<i>Commelina cyanea</i>	0.1	2

<i>Themeda avenacea</i>	2	50
<i>Dianella caerulea</i>	0.1	2
<i>Themeda triandra</i>	0.1	5

*Exotic species

A.8 Monitoring Site 8. 230314_04.

Location: WP 2908. 29.778651411° S, 150.717060856° E. 357m. Bearing 0°

Site Description: Grassy Woodland 3° slope, north aspect. Red clay

Species	Cover %	Abundance
<i>Eucalyptus melanophloia</i>	35	25
<i>Callitris glaucophylla</i>	27	12
<i>Pittosporum angustifolium</i>	1	1
<i>Cassinia laevis</i>	2	30
<i>Notelaea microcarpa</i>	1	10
<i>Geijera parviflora</i>	0.5	5
<i>Austrostipa scabra</i>	5	100
<i>Parsonsia eucalyptophylla</i>	0.2	10
<i>Thesium australe</i>	1	100
<i>Austrostipa verticillata</i>	0.3	10
<i>Aristida ramosa</i>	40	500
<i>Calotis cuneifolia</i>	1	100
<i>Pimelea neo-angliae</i>	0.2	10
<i>Neptunia gracilis</i>	0.5	60
<i>Asperula conferta</i>	0.1	10
<i>Desmodium brachypodium</i>	6	300
<i>Eremophila debilis</i>	2	40
<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i> *	4	100
<i>Swainsona galegifolia</i>	0.3	20
<i>Vachellia farnesiana</i>	0.1	1

<i>Petrorhagia nanteuillii</i> *	0.1	30
<i>Solanum esuriale</i>	0.1	10
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	0.1	1
<i>Brunoniella australis</i>	0.7	200
<i>Senna barclayana</i>	1	50
<i>Chloris ventricose</i>	0.3	20
<i>Cheilanthes sieberi</i>	0.1	10
<i>Daucus glochidiatus</i>	0.2	20
<i>Gomphocarpus fruticosus</i> *	0.1	2
<i>Cymbopogon refractus</i>	2	50
<i>Dichopogon fimbriatus</i>	0.1	1
<i>Maireana microphylla</i>	0.2	2
<i>Dianella caerulea</i>	0.1	2
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	0.6	200
<i>Glycine canescens</i>	0.1	10
<i>Lepidium sp.</i> *	0.1	1
<i>Conyza bonariensis</i> *	0.1	10
<i>Bidens alternans</i> *	0.1	1
<i>Calotis lappulacea</i>	0.4	10
<i>Abutilon oxycarpum</i>	0.1	5
<i>Carex inversa</i>	0.3	50
<i>Mentha satureioides</i>	0.1	1
<i>Gamochaeta calviceps</i> *	0.1	20
<i>Ajuga australe</i>	0.1	1
<i>Rytidosperma sp.</i>	0.1	2
<i>Verbena gaudichaudii</i>	0.1	5
<i>Opuntia stricta</i> *	0.1	1
<i>Dichelachne crinite</i>	0.1	2

<i>Panicum decompositum</i>	0.2	10
<i>Rhynchosia minima</i>	0.1	2
<i>Poa sieberiana</i>	0.1	2
<i>Glossogyne sp.</i>	0.1	1
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	0.1	1
<i>Rostellularia adscendens</i>	0.1	2

*Exotic species

A.9 Monitoring Site 9. 230314_05.

Location: WP 2909. 29.779426207° S, 150.714912958° E. 392m. Bearing 0°

Site Description: Grassy woodland. Trees affected by drought with many dead branches/trees. 4° slope, north aspect. Red clay

Species	Cover %	Abundance
<i>Eucalyptus melanophloia</i>	10	14
<i>Callitris glaucophylla</i>	5	5
<i>Notelaea microcarpa</i>	2	4
<i>Cassinia laevis</i>	2	20
<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i> *	45	500
<i>Sporobolus creber</i>	15	200
<i>Sorghum halepense</i> *	0.3	10
<i>Mentha satereioides</i>	0.4	40
<i>Verbena bonariensis</i> *	0.5	20
<i>Wahlenbergia stricta</i>	0.1	1
<i>Desmodium brachypodium</i>	0.2	20
<i>Calotis cuneifolia</i>	0.3	40
<i>Pimelea neo-angliae</i>	0.4	5
<i>Conyza bonariensis</i> *	0.2	30
<i>Bothriochloa biloba</i>	1	50
<i>Carex inversa</i>	0.1	20
<i>Cheilanthes sieberi</i>	0.1	10

<i>Bidens alternans</i> *	0.2	40
<i>Cyperus sp.</i>	0.1	5
<i>Glycine tabacina</i>	0.1	10
<i>Petrorhagia nanteuilii</i> *	0.1	50
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	0.2	50
<i>Daucus glochidiatus</i>	1	200
<i>Senecio quadridentatus</i>	0.1	10
<i>Geijera parviflora</i>	0.1	1
<i>Eremophila debilis</i>	1	10
<i>Austrostipa verticillata</i>	4	30
<i>Einadia nutans</i>	1	10
<i>Poa sieberiana</i>	0.3	3
<i>Cymbopogon refractus</i>	1	10
<i>Chloris ventricose</i>	8	100
<i>Opuntia stricta</i> *	0.1	1
<i>Lactuca serriola</i> *	0.1	10
<i>Calotis lappulacea</i>	0.2	5
<i>Cymbidium canaliculatum</i>	0.1	1
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i> *	0.1	1
<i>Panicum effusum</i>	0.5	10
<i>Dichanthium sericeum</i>	0.1	1
<i>Elymus scaber</i>	0.1	10
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	0.3	20
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i> *	0.1	2
<i>Centaureum sp.</i> *	0.2	30
<i>Dianella caerulea</i>	0.1	1

*Exotic species

8 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

9 CLOSURE