

Plan of Management

Beryl Humble Sports Complex and East Maitland Common Reserve

R89147

maitland
CITY COUNCIL

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Wonnarua People as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land within the Maitland Local Government Area. Council pays respect to all Aboriginal Elders, past, present and future with a spiritual connection to these lands.

Version control

VERSION DATE	AUTHOR	REVIEWED BY
V1 20 May 2022 V2 7 July 2022	EConPlan – Isabelle Connolly	CGM Planning
Preliminary Draft 20 July 2022	EConPlan & CGM Planning	Issued for Council review
Final Issued Draft 6 June 2023	CGM Planning & Development P/L	CGM Planning

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01 Key Information

This Plan of Management (POM) has been prepared by Maitland City Council and provides direction as to the use and management of a Council managed Crown reserve classified as ‘community land’ in the Maitland Local Government Area (LGA). The POM is required in accordance with Section 3.23 of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (CLM Act) and Section 36 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act).

This POM specifically addresses the management of Beryl Humble Sports Complex and East Maitland Common Reserve, located within the Parish of Maitland, County of Northumberland. The POM outlines the way the land will be used and provides the framework for Council to follow in relation to the express authorisation of leases and licences on the land.

This Plan was adopted by Maitland City Council on <insert date>.



02 Introduction

The Wonnarua people – the ‘people of the hills and the plains’, are the First Peoples and traditional custodians of the lands within the Maitland LGA. Wonnarua people have been living in the Hunter Valley for tens of thousands of years and have maintained a strong sense of cultural identity despite the impact of colonisation on their traditional lands and culture.

Maitland LGA is located on the rich alluvial flats of the Hunter and Paterson Rivers, in the geographical centre of the Hunter Region, approximately 32 kilometres north west of Newcastle and 163 kilometres north of Sydney. It comprises 396 square kilometres extending from Woodberry in the east and Lochinvar in the west, Tocal in the north and Gillieston Heights in the south.

Maitland is one of the oldest regional centres in New South Wales and evolved from a cedar getters settlement in the early 1800s. Over time, Maitland grew to become an important regional centre in the colony.

Today, Maitland LGA is one of the fastest growing inland cities in Australia with an annual growth rate consistently above 2.4 per cent. The current estimated population is 95,957 residents (as of 2023) and is expected to grow to at least 144,550 residents by 2041 (an increase of 51 per cent). This Plan of Management (POM) for Beryl Humble Sports Complex and East Maitland Common Reserve, complies with a legislative framework and responds to Commonwealth, State, regional and local government policies, plans and strategies.

Under the *Local Government Act 1993* (Section 36C(2)), land with significant natural features or land that provides a wildlife corridor must be covered by a site specific Plan of Management. Maitland City Council has identified the land as part of a wildlife corridor in the Maitland Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040 + (LSPS), adopted by Council in 2020. Additionally, on parts of the land there are two different bushlands; Endangered Ecological Communities and one wetland Endangered Ecological Community under the *NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

The Plan also reflects Council’s other key strategic documents including the Maitland Community Strategic Plan, known as Maitland’s Future Community Strategic Plan 2025. These documents are built around community objectives and priorities that provide direction for the use and management of Beryl Humble Sports Complex and East Maitland Common Reserve, that are classified as ‘community land’ in the Maitland LGA.

This plan also considers the Crown Land 2031 First Action Plan (Department of Planning and Environment April 2022) which is the strategic plan for Crown land for the next decade.

It sets the vision, priorities, outcomes and overarching strategy for managing Crown land in NSW (refer to Appendix 5).

2.1 Purpose of the Plan of Management (POM)

The *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act) requires a Plan of Management (POM) to be prepared for all public land classified as ‘community land’ under that Act.

The *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (CLM Act) authorises local councils (council managers) appointed to manage dedicated or reserved Crown land to manage that land as if it were public land under the *Local Government Act 1993*. A POM is required for all Council managed Crown reserves on community land.

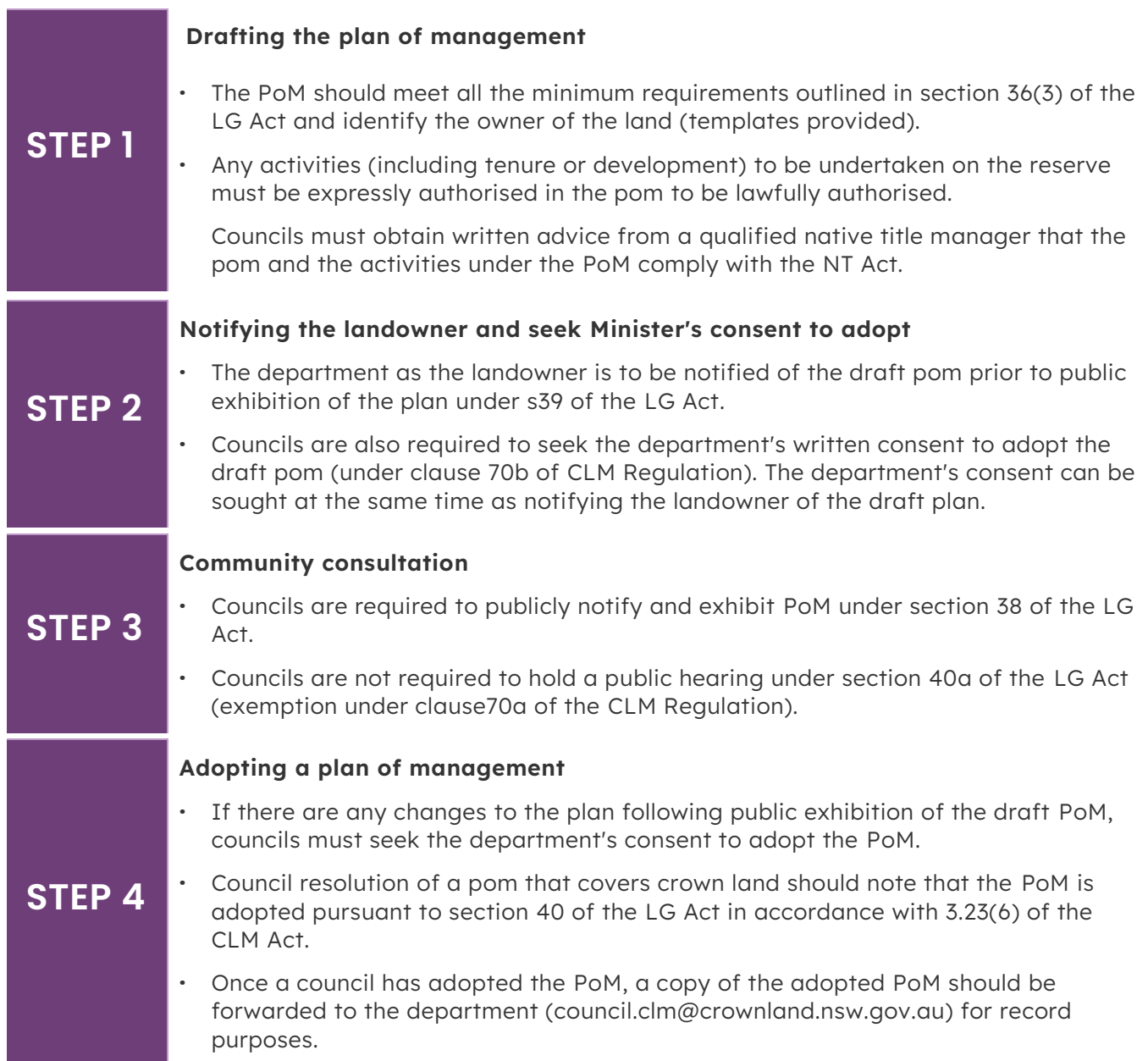
The purpose of this POM is to:

- contribute to Council's broader strategic goals and objectives as set out in Maitland's Future Community Strategic Plan 2025 and Maitland Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040+
- 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, and
- ensure consistent management that supports a unified approach to meeting the varied needs of the community.

Further information about the legislative context of Crown Reserve POMs can be found in Appendix 3 of this document.

2.2 Process of Preparing this Plan of Management

Figure 1 illustrates the process undertaken by Maitland City Council in preparing this POM.



2.3 Change and review of plan of management

This POM will require regular review in order to align with community values and changing community needs, and to reflect changes in Council priorities. Council has determined that it will review the POM within 5 years of its adoption.

However, the performance of this POM will be reviewed on an as needed basis to ensure Beryl Humble Sports Complex and East Maitland Common Reserve are being managed in accordance with the POM, are well maintained and provide a safe environment for public enjoyment.

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 POM may be updated from time to time, 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 reviews of this POM.

2.4 Community consultation

To assist the preparation of this draft POM, consultation was undertaken with key users of the site as well as Council staff involved with the operation and management of the land.

Consultation with the main user groups and organisations was conducted through structured interviews to identify values, issues and potential solutions, future uses and suggested improvements. The groups consulted were:

- City of Maitland Society of Aeromodellers Inc
- Earthcare Park Landcare Group Inc.
- Maitland BMX Club
- Tenambit Sharks Football Club, and
- Tenambit Morpeth District Cricket Club.

The outcomes of the consultation have been incorporated into this POM and form the basis for the management action planning for each category in Section 5.

This POM was placed on public exhibition from [insert dates to insert dates], in accordance with the requirements of section 38 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. A total of [XX] submissions were received during the advertised period. Council considered these submissions before adopting the POM.

In accordance with section 39 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, prior to being placed on public exhibition, the draft POM was referred to the Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure - Crown Lands, as representative of the State of NSW, which is the owner of the Reserve. Council has included in the plan any provisions that have been required by the Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure - Crown Lands and received Minister's consent to adopt the POM.

The CLM Act and Regulation no longer require a public hearing if the community land categories assigned to Crown reserves are amended after Council's Notice of Initial Assignment. The LG Act does require a public hearing for community land, or parts of community land where categories are assigned for the first time or amended.

03 Land Description

This site specific Plan of Management covers one reserve known as Crown reserve East Maitland Common R89147. However, locally the land is known as Beryl Humble Sports Complex (Beryl Humble) and East Maitland Common Reserve (the Common) within the Parish of Maitland, County of Northumberland. The land is owned by the Crown and is managed by Maitland City Council as Crown land manager under the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.

The land as Crown land was reserved for the purpose of Public Recreation, notified by Government Gazette as East Maitland Common Reserve R89147 on 8 February 1974.

The legal description of the land comprising Beryl Humble and the Common is:

- Lot 7005 in DP 1057112, and
- Lot 7300 in DP 1132148.

The land is categorised and managed as if it is Community Land under the *Local Government Act 1993*. Information about the land covered in this POM is detailed in Table 1. Figure 2 indicates the site location and Figure 3 indicates the lot boundaries for the reserve and adjoining land uses.

Beryl Humble and the Common are situated about two kilometres north of the Green Hills Shopping Centre. The land is bounded by Metford Road to the west and Raymond Terrace Road to the south and the remainder is surrounded by wetlands and flood liable land.

The whole reserve has a total area of approximately 110.6 hectares. The northern section comprising the Sporting Complex includes two sports fields and one amenities building, which is primarily used by the Tenambit Sharks Football Club, with shared use by the Maitland BMX Club and the Tenambit Maitland Cricket Club.

A playground is located along Metford Road, adjacent to the sports fields. This sportsground area also includes a BMX track, canteen, a kiosk and two storage containers used by the Maitland Tenambit BMX Club.

Two Mile Creek traverses the site from Maitland Golf Club to the west and flows generally through the middle of the site to Tenambit Wetlands to the east. Three Mile Gully Creek flows into the south east of the reserve and into Tenambit Wetlands. The two creeks and areas of the reserve identified as core wetland have been identified on the NSW State Government Biodiversity Values Map prepared under Part 7 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act). The map identifies land that is of high biodiversity value and is particularly sensitive to impacts from development and clearing.

Earthcare Park is a long term Landcare area of approximately 35 hectares that has a nonexclusive licence from Maitland City Council. It consists of two shelters, walking tracks, seating and educational signage. Earthcare Park is used for community engagement, education programs and bird watching and is maintained by a volunteer Landcare group who ensure the rehabilitation and care of the land.

The Don MacIndoe Memorial Flying Field is located in the south eastern corner of the reserve and comprises flight infrastructure and field for the City of Maitland Society of Aeromodellers (COMSOA). The area is under a current five year licence from Maitland City Council that includes the entirety of Lot 7300 in Deposited Plan 1132148, with an exclusive use portion that is bounded by a former horse training track. Specific flying rules are implemented by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) to ensure the safe use and management of the land. The exclusive use portion includes an aeromodelling airfield, pitches for participants, shelters and a storage building and the former training track.

The physical area generally regarded as comprising Beryl Humble and the Common also includes two other parcels of land, being Lot 1 in DP 1274406 – the Maitland Animal Management Centre and Lot 201 in DP 755237 – the City of Maitland Pistol Club and Morpeth Small Bore Rifle Range.

The Maitland Animal Management Centre is a Crown reserve (R86571) for Public Pound Purposes and managed by Council as operational land under the LG Act.

The City of Maitland Pistol Club and Morpeth Small Bore Rifle Range are located on Lot 201 Deposited Plan 755237, which is a Crown Reserve (R93605) under the management of the Crown Lands Minister and reserved for Future Public Requirements. The Crown reserve is under a Crown land lease for club house and shooting range used by the Morpeth Small Bore Firing Range or the City of Maitland Pistol Club.

These two Crown reserves (R86571 and R93605) are not governed by this POM.

Table 1. Information about Beryl Humble Sports Complex and East Maitland Common Reserve

RESERVE NUMBER	89147
Reserve purpose	Public recreation
Land parcels	7005/1057112 and 7300/1132148
Area (Ha)	110.6
LEP Zoning	C2 Environmental Conservation & RE1 Public Recreation
Initial Assigned Category	General Community Use
New categories	Sportsground, Natural Area – Bushland and Natural Area – Wetland

Contact Maitland City Council or refer to Council's website for information about other public land not listed above.

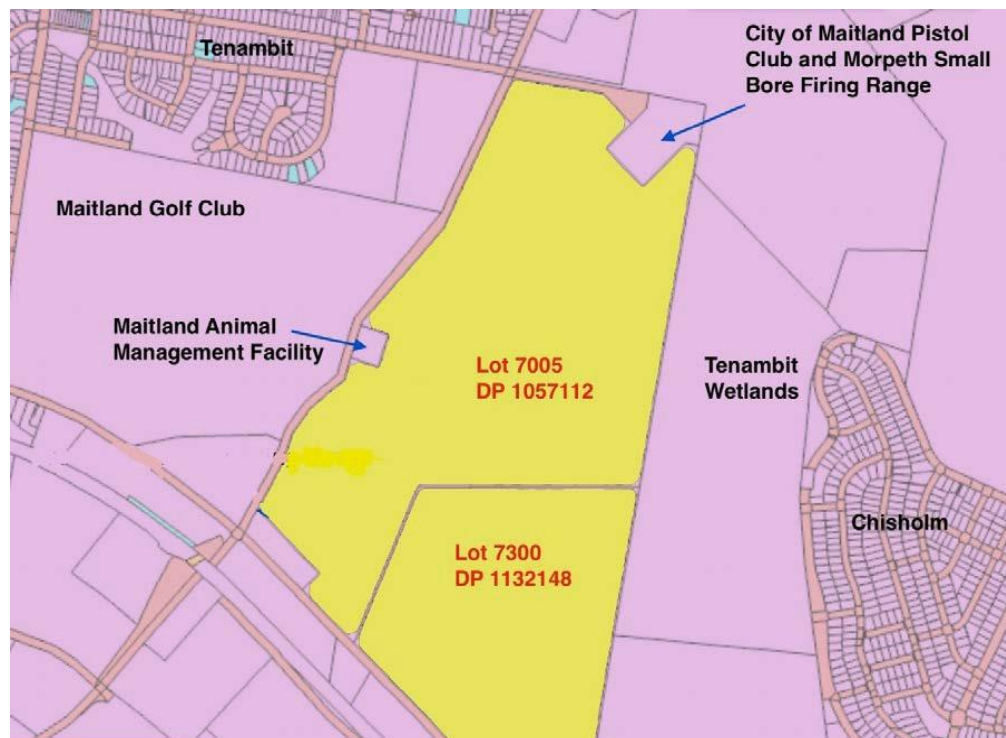


Figure 2. Site location map of Beryl Humble Sports Complex and East Maitland Common Reserve



Source: Nearmap latest (April 2024)

Figure 3. Lot boundary map and adjoining land uses of Beryl Humble Sports Complex and East Maitland Common Reserve



3.1 Land containing significant natural features

Beryl Humble and the Common is located within two biodiversity corridors of local significance, as indicated in Figure 4 below, which link into a regional corridor indicated in Figure 5. The two local corridors extend from the Hunter River and diverge within the reserve. One biodiversity corridor extends to the south west through East Maitland and the other extends further south east through a network of reserves, riparian areas and wetland.

Two Mile Creek, Three Mile Gully Creek and the areas of the reserve identified as core wetland have been identified on the NSW State Government Biodiversity Values Map prepared under Part 7 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. The map identifies land that is of high biodiversity value and is particularly sensitive to impacts from development and clearing (refer to purple areas in Figure 6).

The State Government has mapped key fish habitat for areas that are important to the sustainability of aquatic species populations and the survival and recovery of threatened aquatic species.

Figure 4. Local biodiversity corridor identified in Maitland Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040 +

Source: Maitland City Council, Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040+ (June 2020)

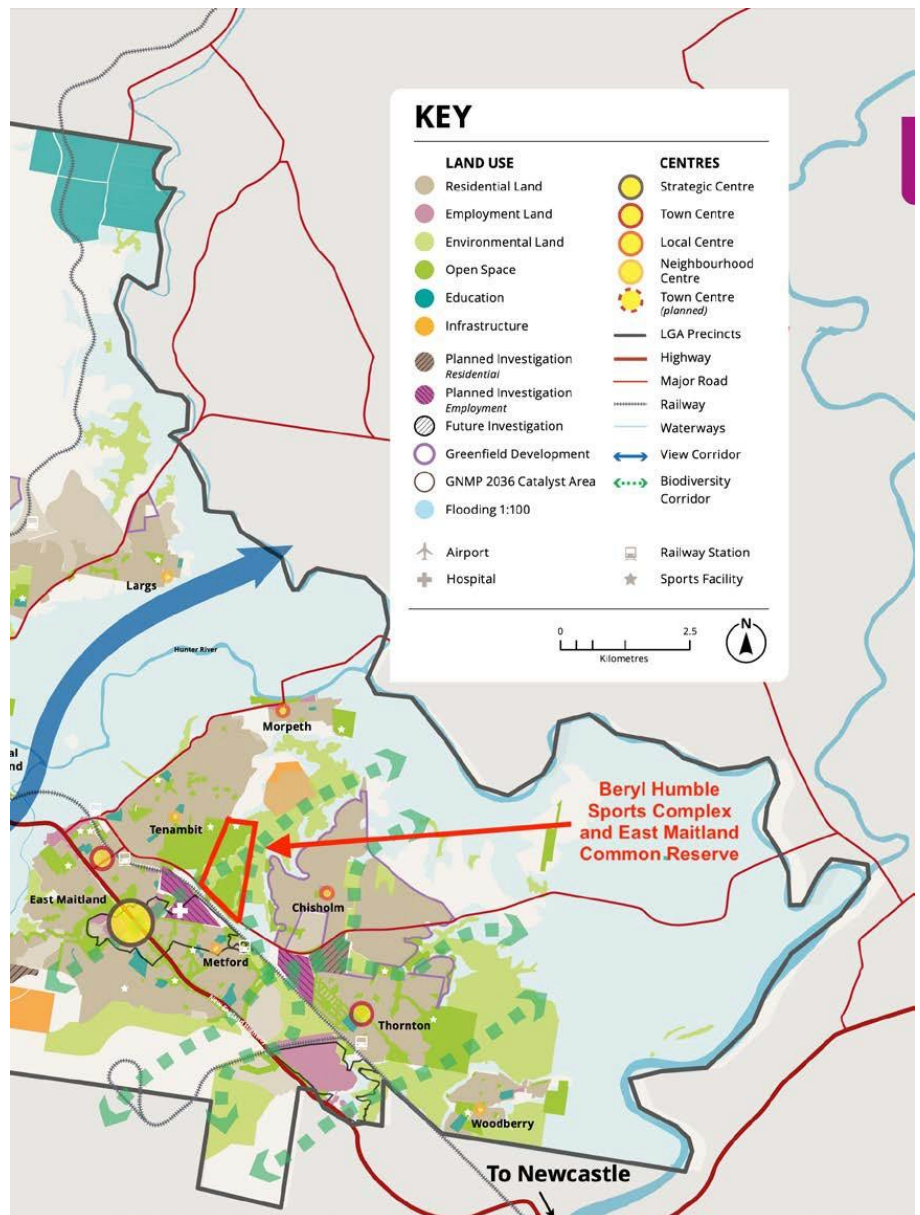


Figure 5. Regional biodiversity corridor identified in Maitland Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040 +



Source: Maitland City Council, Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040+ (June 2020)

Figure 6. NSW Government Biodiversity Values Map

Natural areas of the site contain Lower Hunter Spotted Gum Ironbark Forest in the Sydney Basin and NSW North Coast Bioregions, which is listed as an Endangered Ecological Community under the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act). In the opinion of the NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee, it is facing a very high risk of extinction in NSW, in the near future.

Freshwater wetlands on coastal floodplains of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and south east corner bioregions occur in the lower areas of the reserve associated with periodic or semi permanent inundation by freshwater. This vegetation community is listed as an Endangered Ecological Community under the BC Act and forms part of the Tenambit Wetlands.

Hunter lowland redgum forest in the Sydney Basin and NSW North Coast bioregions is another Endangered Ecological Community listed under the BC Act and occurs in the south east corner of the Reserve.



04 Basis of Management

Maitland City Council intends to manage its community land to meet:

- assigned categorisation of community land
- the LG Act guidelines and core objectives for community land
- restrictions on management of Crown land community land
- the Council's strategic objectives and priorities, and
- development and use of the land outlined in Section 6 of the LG Act.

4.1 Categorisation of the land

All community land is required to be categorised 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 organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.

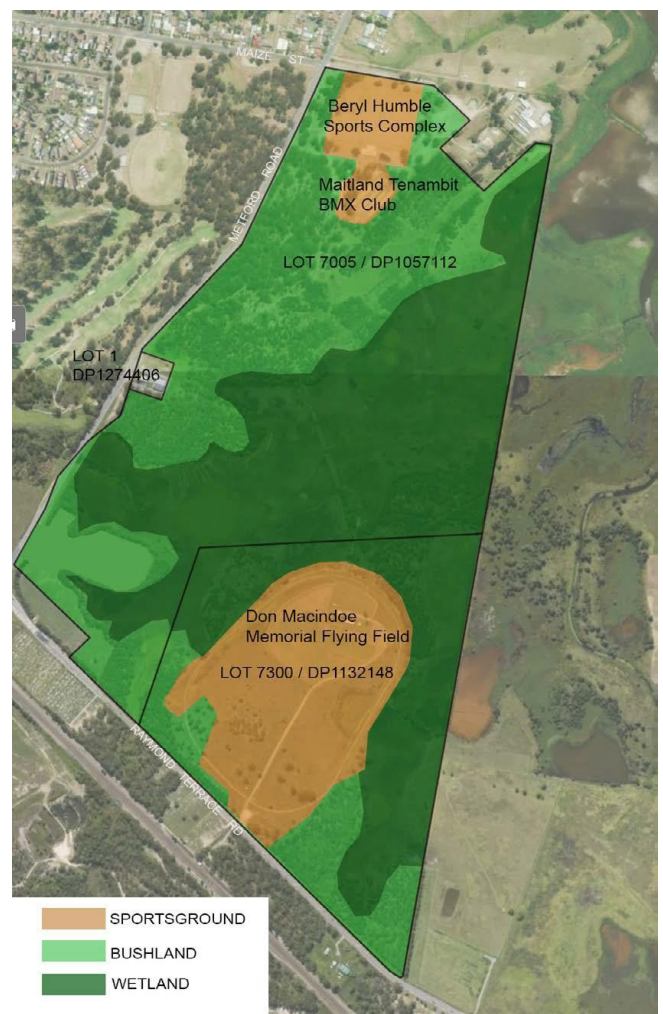
General community use – for all areas where the primary purpose relates to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social, and intellectual welfare or development of members of the public. This includes venues such as community halls, scout and guide halls and libraries.

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.

The categorisation of the land comprising Beryl Humble Sports Complex and East Maitland Common Reserve is identified in Appendix 1 and Figure 7 below. It designates Beryl Humble Sports Complex and Don MacIndoe Memorial Flying Field as Sportsground, and the rest of the site is either Natural Area – Bushland or Wetland.

Figure 7. Categorisation of land for Beryl Humble Sports Complex and East Maitland Common Reserve



4.2 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 3.1 Categorisation of the land). 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 LG Act. The guidelines and core objectives for the Sportsground and Natural Area categories are set out in the relevant category sections of this POM.

Community land is valued for its important role in the social, intellectual, spiritual and physical enrichment of residents, workers and visitors to the Maitland City Council area.

The intrinsic value of community land is also recognised, as is the important role this land plays in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem function as well as for sporting or other interest groups in providing an opportunity to connect and share interests, activities and companionship to socialise, learn and grow.

4.3 Restrictions on management of crown land

Council is the Crown land manager of the Crown reserve (Reserve number: R89147 – East Maitland Common Reserve) known as Beryl Humble and the Common that is described in this POM 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 POM 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 be in conflict with any interests and rights granted under the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*, and
- consider any interests held on title.

This POM is to also be consistent with the principles and objectives of the CLM Act (see Appendix 2), and compliant with any CLM Act terms of appointment as CLM, or CLM land management rules.

There are no conditions attached to any Crown land manager appointment notice for Council, and only one state wide Crown land management rule has application to Maitland City LGA.

This gazetted rule has been made under s.3.15 of the CLM Act and can be viewed in full at: Granting leases and licences for communication infrastructure-related purposes on Crown land.

The rule is:

Crown land managers cannot, under any act (including the *Local Government Act 1993*), grant any lease or licence authorising:

- the installation or construction of communication infrastructure on Crown land

- the placement of infrastructure on Crown land
- the use of communication infrastructure that is located on Crown land
- access to communication infrastructure that is located on Crown land.

Any company with a lease or license granted by the Minister for communication infrastructure may be able to sublet if permitted.

R89147 is burdened by five easements.

Lot 7005 in Deposited Plan 1057112

1. Notification in Government Gazette Dated 11-10-1996 Fol 6940.

Easement to Drain Sewage 4 Wide and Variable affecting the part of the land above described shown designated (B) in DP266765.

2. Notification in Government Gazette Dated 24-04-1941 Fol 1641 and 1642.

Easement for Sewerage Pipeline 2.415 wide affecting the part of the land above described shown so burdened in Crown Plan 4488-3070.

3. Notification in Government Gazette Dated 06-01-1967 Fol 15.

Easement for Access 4.57 wide affecting the part of the land above described shown so burdened in DP228621.

4. Notification in Government Gazette Dated 06-01-1967 Fol 15.

Easement for Access and Pipeline 6.095 wide affecting the part of the land above described shown so burdened in DP228621

Lot 7300 in Deposited Plan 1132148

1. Notification in Government Gazette Dated 6-1-1967 Fol 15.

Easement for Access and Pipeline 6.095 Metres wide affecting the part of the land above described shown so burdened in DP228621

4.4 Council's strategic objectives and priorities

Maitland City Council, in consultation with the community, has developed strategies and plans to identify the priorities and aspirations of the community and the delivery of a vision for the future. These documents have also been influenced by state and regional policies and plans and the legislative framework outlined in Appendix 3 of this POM.

The key strategic State Government document to influence Council direction is the Hunter Regional Plan 2041, released in 2022. The Hunter Regional Plan 2041 is a 20 year blueprint for the future of the Hunter and is currently under review. The following directions and summarised actions are relevant to this POM:

Direction 14: protect and connect natural areas investing in conservation (including biodiversity offsets) that protects, and where possible, enhances habitat connections across the landscape.

Actions:

- Identify terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity values and protect areas of high environmental value.
- Identify and strengthen biodiversity corridors as places for priority biodiversity offsets and secure the long term protection of regionally significant biodiversity corridors.

Direction 15: sustain water quality and water catchments in the region including the Hunter River system. Monitor and manage the impacts of existing land uses, essential to protect the quality and security of the region's water supplies.

Direction 16: increase resilience to hazards and climate change. The NSW Government will support councils to develop evidence and provide strategic advice to inform their decision making in relation to flooding, sea level rise, bushfire, mine subsidence and land contamination.

Direction 18: enhance access to recreational facilities and connect open spaces expanding on the recreational walking and cycling trails that already exist in the region.

Actions:

- Enhance public access to natural areas.
- Assist councils to develop open space and recreation strategies. Integrate open space, active transport and recreation networks.
- Deliver connected biodiversity rich corridors and open space areas for community enjoyment.

Direction 19: identify and protect the region's heritage. The Hunter contains natural features that are important to the cultural heritage of Aboriginal communities. Conserving these assets and respecting the Aboriginal community's right to determine how they are identified and managed, will preserve their significant values.

Actions:

- Consult with local Aboriginal communities to identify and protect heritage values and to recognise their contribution to the character and landscape of the region.
- Prepare heritage studies to inform the development of strategic plans, including regional Aboriginal cultural heritage studies.

Maitland City Council has developed plans and policies that are concerned to some extent with the management of community land. The strategic objectives and priorities in the Council documents listed below, directly influence the objectives, uses and management approach in this POM for Beryl Humble and the Common.

Maitland's Future Community Strategic Plan 2025

Council's community strategic plan Maitland's Future Community Strategic Plan 2025 states our community wants to love and look after our great outdoors and aims to:

- Tread lightly while enjoying our areas of bushland and open space;
- Protect our native plants and animals; and
- Improve the quality of our waterways and wetlands.

The community also identified their love for opportunities to connect and relax with each other, and make sure everyone feels included in areas such as sports, culture and arts.

Our community wants to stay friendly, happy and proud as our city grows and:

- improve our neighbourhoods with spaces, activities and programs that connect us;
- connect with each other through participation in local arts, cultural and library activities and programs; and
- take steps to feel safe wherever we are, any time of day or night.

Our community also wants:

- to acknowledge First Nations peoples and their stewardship of the land within our city by recognising and respecting our First Nations peoples and their connection with the land and waterways for thousands of years; and
- to be healthy and active with access to local services and facilities including providing facilities that enable us to participate in recreational and sports activities, no matter our background, ability or age.

These aspirations are particularly relevant to the land categorised as Sportsground and in managing the Natural Areas identified in this POM.

Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040+

The Maitland Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040+ (LSPS) was adopted by Council in 2020. Key community priorities in relation to open space and the environment in this document include:

- more opportunity to connect with the river and more passive and active recreation in general across the LGA;
- existing sporting and community facilities upgraded, and more opportunities to be active and healthy;
- sustainability, climate change, water security and loss of biodiversity; and
- more trees to cool suburbs and to get people outside.

Other planning priorities in the LSPS which have some application to the public use of community land are:

- plan for healthy, culturally rich and socially connected communities; and
- provide good quality, accessible and appropriate community infrastructure across the city.

While these are goals for precinct or place planning, the reserve itself provides opportunity to achieve these outcomes through its sporting, community interest groups and open spaces which will become even more valuable as the region grows its population.

The planning priorities in the LSPS for the environment are:

- protect, conserve and celebrate the city's Indigenous and colonial cultural heritage;
- protect, conserve and celebrate the city's Indigenous and colonial cultural heritage;
- protect, conserve and enhance our natural environment including waterways, floodplains and wetlands;
- protect our city's rural lands, natural assets and rural landscape;
- plan for a resilient city that can adapt to natural hazards and changing climate;
- improve the accessibility and connectivity of our city's Green and Blue Grid; and
- manage energy, water and waste efficiently to support sustainability. In the LSPS, Council committed to actions to build on the 2002 Maitland Greening Plan and improve environmental performance over time. This includes preparation of an Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

Maitland Local Environmental Plan 2011

Beryl Humble and the Common are zoned RE1 Public Recreation and C2 Environmental Conservation under Maitland LEP 2011 (at the time of adoption of this POM) as shown in Figure 8. Given some of the important conservation areas categorised as Natural Area – Bushland in this POM (refer to Figure 7

above) are zoned RE1 Public Recreation, rezoning parts of these areas to Zone C2 Environmental Conservation will assist in the protection of the conservation values through appropriate land use.

Figure 8. Land use zoning of Beryl Humble Sports Complex and East Maitland Common Reserve under the Maitland LEP 2011

The zone objectives and permissible uses in these zones are indicated in Table 2.

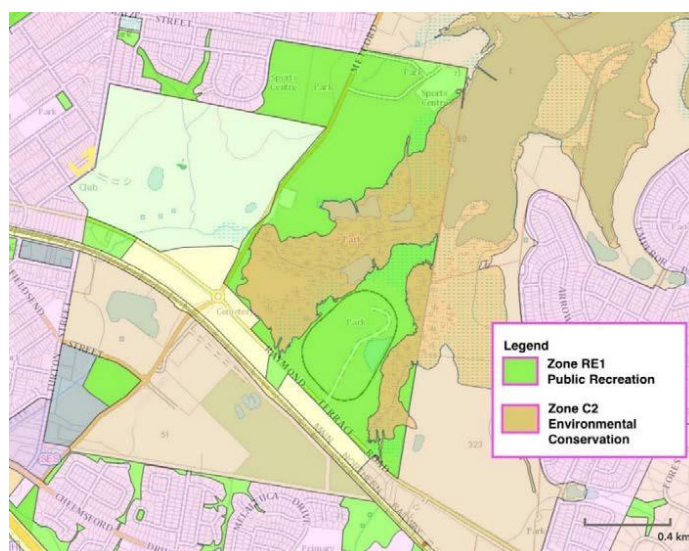


Table 2. Land Use Zones and Permissible Development under Maitland LEP 2011

Objectives	Permitted without consent	Permitted with consent	Prohibited
Zone RE1 Public Recreation			
• Enable land to be used for public open space or recreational purposes. • Provide a range of recreational settings and activities, and compatible land uses. • Protect and enhance the natural environment for • recreational purposes.	Environmental facilities; environmental protection works	Aquaculture; boat launching ramps; boat sheds; camping grounds; car parks; caravan parks; centre based child care facilities; charter and tourism boating facilities; community facilities; information and education facilities; jetties; kiosks; markets; public administration buildings; recreation areas; recreation facilities (indoor); recreation facilities (major); recreation facilities (outdoor); respite day care centres; roads; signage; water recreation structures; water supply systems.	Any development not specified in item 2 or 3

Objectives	Permitted without consent	Permitted with consent	Prohibited
Zone C2 Environmental Conservation			
- Protect, manage and restore areas of high ecological, scientific, cultural or aesthetic values. - Prevent development that could destroy, damage or have an adverse effect on those values. - Ensure development and management of the land has minimal impact on water quality and environmental flows of receiving waters. - Permit limited extensive agricultural uses where they don't compromise ecological values of the wetland.	Nil	Environmental facilities; environmental protection works; extensive agriculture; oyster aquaculture; water reticulation systems.	Business premises; dairies (pasture based); hotel or motel accommodation; industries; multi dwelling housing; pond based aquaculture; recreation facilities (major); residential flat buildings; restricted premises; retail premises; seniors housing; service stations; tank based aquaculture; warehouse or distribution centres; any other development not specified in item 2 or 3.

Development allowed in the above zones is subject to both state and local policies whereby state policies prevail over local policies. This POM does not remove the requirement for a development application under Part 4, or an environmental assessment under Part 5, of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 if applicable.

Maitland Development Control Plan 2026 (DCP)

Council's DCP provides guidelines for development permitted under the LEP and is another key document to consider when undertaking use and development within the reserve.

Greening Plan

The Greening Plan was adopted by Council in 2002 to provide a strategic framework for the future management of vegetation in Maitland. It provides a strategy to address land degradation, habitat and biodiversity loss through protection of remnant vegetation, habitat enhancement and community based revegetation programs.

Since 2002, more than 85 hectares have been revegetated on public and private land.

In 2021, Council prepared a report card for Beryl Humble and the Common that provides a baseline to evaluate the success of revegetation and identify future work required to maintain and improve the quality of vegetation in Tenambit Wetlands. Refer to Section 5.2 for more information on the report card.

Maitland Bike Plan 2014

Maitland Bike Plan and strategy provides recommendations of potential improvements to the existing cycle network infrastructure, catering for various user groups. A number of extensions and improvements to the network are being planned and constructed.

The Bike Plan includes a future indicative bicycle track link along Metford Road and Raymond Terrace Road that bound the reserve. This would improve access to the reserve from nearby urban areas of East Maitland, Tenambit, Thornton and Morpeth.



Bushland and grassland areas within the Reserve looking east to Chisholm.

05 Development and use

5.1 Current use of the land

Each category section of this POM (Sportsground and Natural Area – Bushland or Wetland) contains information about the existing use of the land, including condition and use of the land and structures, and current leases and licences on the land.

In summary, Beryl Humble and the Common provides for a range of constructed community and recreation facilities including but not limited to:

- playground equipment;
- football fields;
- cricket wickets;
- a BMX track;
- two club houses;
- toilets;
- aeromodelling field, pilot pitches, runway;
- kiosks, shade and shelter structures;
- informal walking trails;
- formal and informal car parking;
- revegetation and planning activities; and
- educational signage.



5.2 Permissible uses / future uses

Community land is valued for its important role in the social, intellectual, spiritual and physical enrichment of residents, workers and visitors to the Maitland City Council area.

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

Maitland City Council encourages a wide range of uses of community land and intends to facilitate uses which increase the activation of its land, where appropriate.

Within buildings and recreational and sporting facilities in particular, Council intends to permit and encourage a broad range of appropriate activities. The use of community land is often supported by appropriate ancillary development such as playground equipment, amenity blocks or food kiosks.

The general types of uses which may occur on community land categorised as Sportsground and Natural Area, and the forms of development generally associated with those uses, are set out in Section 5.1 Sportsground, 5.2 Natural Area, 5.3 Natural Area – Bushland and Section 5.4 Natural Area – Wetland in this POM.

It must be noted that the existing land use zone under Maitland LEP 2011 for RE1 Public Recreation allows a range of uses as listed in Table 2 above, that are not consistent with the purpose of the Natural Area category or for areas of high conservation value that exist within Earthcare Park and around the aeromodelling field. These areas will need to be rezoned from RE1 Public Recreation to C2 Environmental Conservation to assist in the protection of the environmental values through appropriate land use which includes environmental protection works.

5.3 Express authorisation of leases and licences and other estates

Under section 46(1)(b) of the LG Act, 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. The term ‘other estates’ includes other interests, charges, rights or titles in relation to the land, for example an easement.

A lease is a contract between a landowner or manager and another entity, granting that entity a right to occupy an area for a specified period of time for agreed purposes. The main difference between a lease and licence is that a licence does not permit the sole, or exclusive, use of the area. Licences may be granted to formally recognise and endorse shared uses. For example, a sportsground is used in the summer for playing cricket and in the winter for football.

Licences can include conditions relating to the handover at the end of the playing season.

Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this POM 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.

Section 46 of the LG Act permits Council to grant a lease, licence or other estate on community land, without an adopted Plan of Management for:

- the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities; or
- the purpose of providing pipes, conduits or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the council or other public utility provider.

5.3.1 Maximum time period for leases or licences over any community land covered by this plan of management

The maximum period for any lease or licence is 30 years (including any option) and Minister's consent is required if the lease/ licence exceeds 21 years (Sect 47(5)(b)). Unless exempt by the regulations, all such leases, licences or grant of other estate must be advertised and the community notified in accordance with the provisions of sections 47 and 47A of the LG Act.

The grant of any tenures (e.g. tenure terms and limits, tendering, and notification and approvals) will be subject to the provisions of Part 2, Division 2 of the LG Act.

Council must call tenders for leases or licences over five years, unless the lease or licence is to be granted to a non profit organisation (s.46A).

Subleases are only allowable for the same purpose as the original lease, except for a handful of exceptions listed in cl.26, Local Government (General) Regulation.

Council may only grant exclusive occupation of community land through a lease, licence or other estate.

For leases between five and 21 years,

Council must:

- give public notice of the proposal; place a notice of the proposal on the land;
- notify owners adjoining the land;
- notify persons living in the vicinity of the land if the council believes that the land 'is the primary focus of the person's enjoyment of community land' consider submissions made about the proposal; and
- refer the proposal to the Minister for Local Government if council has received an objection to the proposal.

If an objection has been received, the council cannot grant the lease or licence but must refer the proposal to the Minister for approval.

5.3.2 Leases and licences for natural areas

The LG Act imposes restrictions on the ability of Council to grant leases, licences or other estates over community land categorised as Natural Area and further subcategorised as Bushland, Wetland, Escarpment, Watercourse or Foreshore.

Council may only grant a lease, licence or other estate over Natural Area category land if:

- it is authorised under the POM; the purpose is consistent with the core objectives for that category of land; the uses of the land are consistent with the reserve's purpose(s); and

- the lease/ licence is for a purpose specified in section 47B of the LG Act (as below).

Section 47B restricts the grant of a lease, licence or other estate that would enable the erection of structures or buildings to only the use or erection of these listed below:

- walkways;
- pathways;
- bridges;
- causeways;
- observation platforms, or
- signs.

Council is able to authorise the erection and use of those buildings or structures for the following purposes: information kiosks; refreshment kiosks (but not restaurants); work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land; toilets or rest rooms.

While these structures are permitted to be constructed on community land categorised as Natural Area, a development application may also be required prior to their construction in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

It is noted however, that the legislation does not restrict the use of the land or the issue of a lease or licence in a Natural Area category for activities such as walking tours, environmental tours, bushcare, canoe hire etc.

See sections 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4 for leases and licenses authorised by this POM for Natural Areas.

5.3.3 Existing leases and licences on land in this pom

Council has existing agreements previously granted for use and occupation of land with this POM: short term licences, licences and leases, for Crown reserves and Council owned community land.

A list of short term licences, licences and leases is in **Appendix 2**.

5.3.4 Leases and licences authorised by the plan of management

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

- the activity is consistent with this PoM;
- the agreement is consistent with the core objectives for the categories of Sportsground, and Natural Area Wetland and Natural Area Bushland;
- 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 (Cwth);
- 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; and
- the lease, licence or other estate is for a purpose listed in the tables in each Development and Use Section of this Plan of Management.

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

Short term licences

Short term licences and bookings (including permits or hire agreements) may be used to allow the Council to program different uses of community land at different times, allowing the best overall use.

There are specific limitations on short term licensing under Clause 116 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

Short term licences under the LG Act that apply to Council owned community land and Crown reserves are authorised for the purpose of:

- the playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward;
- engaging in a trade or business;
- the playing of a lawful game or sport;
- the delivery of a public address (speeches, talks or presentations as permitted by Council);
- commercial photographic sessions;
- picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings; or
- filming sessions.

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

Section 2.20 and Section 3.17 of the CLM Act also permits Crown land managers to grant a short term licence over dedicated or reserved Crown land (Crown reserves) for any prescribed purpose, as set out in Clause 31 of the Crown Land Management Regulation 2018.

Short term licences (up to a 12 month period) are authorised under Section 2.20 and Section 3.17 of the CLM Act on Crown reserves for the following purposes:

- access through a reserve; advertising;
- catering;
- community, training or education; emergency occupation; entertainment, including low scale;
- performance or art (e.g performance arts
- environmental protection, conservation or restoration or environmental studies);
- exhibitions;
- filming (as defined in the LG Act); functions;
- hiring of equipment;

- low intensity commercial activities
- (e.g. commercial fitness training);
- markets;
- meetings, public address (speeches) and/ or distributing pamphlets (e.g. charity), environment groups;
- mooring of boats to wharves or other
- structures;
- shows;
- site investigations;
- stalls for community or charity fundraising;
- sporting and organised recreational
- activities; and
- storage.

In addition to any other condition to which a short term licence granted under section

2.20 of the CLM Act is subject, the condition that the relationship of landlord and tenant is not created between the parties.

The period of one year is prescribed as the maximum term for which a short term licence may be granted under section 2.20 of the CLM Act (including any further term available under an option or holding over provision).

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

When planning to grant a lease or licence, 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 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. Maitland City Council has received Native Title Manager advice and considered the advice prior to referral of the draft POM to the Landowner: the Minister administering the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.

Future Acts

Dealings in land or water that affect (impair or extinguish) Native Title are referred to as 'future acts' and these acts must be done in compliance with the Native Title Act. Granting a lease or licence over Crown land may be a future act.

Certain types of future acts can be validated under the Native Title Act. Where future acts are undertaken, Native Title claimants and holders may be entitled to specific procedural and substantive rights. As such, the written advice of a Native Title Manager is required. The advice must state that the act complies with the Native Title Act, and any necessary procedural requirements must be fulfilled prior to the act taking place.

06 Management of land by category

6.1 Sportsground

There are two areas of land in the East Maitland Common Reserve categorised as Sportsground:

- the Beryl Humble Sports Complex, which includes the soccer and cricket fields and Tenambit BMX Track facility, located at Metford Road, Tenambit, situated in the north west corner of Lot 7005 Deposited Plan 1057112 in the Reserve; and
- the Don MacIndoe Flying Field (and the former Fairhall Park Training Track), located at Raymond Terrace Road, Tenambit, situated in the south east corner of the Reserve and occupying the majority of Lot 7300 in Deposited Plan 1132148.

The location of these facilities is shown in Figure 9 and the category mapping in Appendix 1.



Figure 9. Sportsground Facilities Location Map

The Sports Complex includes two soccer football fields with a synthetic cricket pitch between the fields, fully fenced with four night lights for evening use. The Sports Complex also comprises a canteen, changerooms, public toilets, playground and car parking for approximately 55 vehicles.

The Tenambit BMX Track is an approximate 1.6 hectare area adjacent (south) of the Sports Complex. The Track is comprised of competition standard compacted dirt and asphalt track (straights, circuit, dips and berms) and start gates, two canteen structures and container storage, and car parking.

City of Maitland Society of Aeromodellers (COMSOA) use the Don MacIndoe Memorial Flying Field and the former horse track and storage building with a dirt access road entered at the main gate from Raymond Terrace Road. The former training track comprises an approximate 1,500 metre dirt loop track and is used by the Aeromodellers and casual walkers through the reserve. The facilities comprise a marked and organised flying field, one shed, four covered shelters, a toilet block and car parking for approximately 20 vehicles.

The oval size and shape of the area is fundamental to the use of the land with the area inside the racetrack used for the runways with the wider area above for flying. It is recognised as one of the best airfields in NSW for visibility and safety and is one of the largest active clubs in NSW, providing mentoring and social contact for its members.

Part of these sports facilities – a section of the track on the eastern side – is categorised as Natural

Area Wetland and is subject to the core objectives of, and management actions for that category.

A list of the main facilities and a condition description of the Sportsground land and structures is at Appendix 6.



Car parking area with BMX track and infrastructure in the background

The Sportsground land and this PoM does not include the adjoining Crown reserve under a Crown lease for club house and shooting range used by the Morpeth Small Bore Firing Range and the City of Maitland Pistol Club.

See Appendix 1 for a map showing the community land categories assigned in the POM including those for Sportsground.

6.1.1 Guidelines and core objectives

Sportsgrounds are defined in clause 103 of the LG (General) Regulation as land used primarily

for active recreation involving organised sports or playing outdoor games.

The core objectives for Sportsgrounds, as outlined in Section 36F of the LG Act, are to:

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

6.1.2 Key issues

The user group survey and Council workshop, combined with site inspections, identified the key issues for the land categorised as Sportsground.

Amenity and Infrastructure provision and maintenance

Landscape Character and Amenity

The Sportsground areas have distinctive uses and facilities, generally bounded by natural areas. Landscape character and amenity will contribute to each area and provide for different community and types of activities.

A landscape masterplan to guide future develop and enrich character and amenity is required to enable better optimisation of the land and its uses.

Buildings and Infrastructure – Management, Maintenance and Upgrade

The Sportsground areas' differing buildings and infrastructure that service the activities and community use require specific maintenance and upgrade to provide for current and future needs.

Safety and Risk Management

There is potential for user conflicts at all three main Sportsground areas. Public liability, user safety and use conflict reduction is important as are essential risk and harm minimisation practices.

Vehicle Access and Parking



Tenambit Sharks amenities block, canteen and seated shelter

Motor vehicle entry, internal road systems and vehicle parking are focus areas for management action due to the need for more formal and improved parking, clear entry and exit points, reduction of informal and unsafe routes within areas and user vehicle conflicts.

Signage and Advertising

Improved and increased signage will assist in providing a safe environment, clearly establishing local, district and regional facility status, managing vehicle access and parking, informing users of appropriate activities and reduction of antisocial and destructive behaviour.

Encroachment on Public Land

The surrounding natural areas require clear action to identify and deal with any encroachments on the land.

Future development of Sportsgrounds

Building and Structures Provision

A number of the buildings and structures require improvement, upgrading, replacement or new construction to service existing and future demand and use.

A landscape masterplan to guide future development and enrich character and amenity is required.

Field and Facility Development

Field and facility development is required to meet future and existing specific standards for football, cricket, aeromodelling flight and BMX bike use including growth of sports, increased female participation and modernisation of facilities.

Football, cricket and BMX facilities both have expressed demand and lost opportunities for increased female participation.

Aeromodellers are almost at capacity and aim to maintain a sustainable membership for the site which because of the orientation of the runways and the pits (for the pilots) enable all day use (when the weather is good) as the sun is behind the pilot which provides optimum flying safety. Improvement to lighting, fencing, signage and drainage are needed.

A landscape masterplan to guide future development and enrich character and amenity is required for the whole reserve.

Interim Use and Development

Interim uses and development should be specifically limited until a landscape masterplan to guide future develop and enrich character and amenity is completed.

Field and Facility maintenance

Field and facility maintenance is the responsibility of Council (football), and user groups (BMX and airfield) but all sports have specific needs for improved fields and facilities to reduce maintenance needs.

Security of tenure is an expressed need for several key stakeholders and moving from license to lease to enable grant applications to be submitted.

Amenity Provision

Toilets, change rooms and canteens are limited or aged in some instances and can be made safer and improved for growth in sports participation, including female participation.

Lighting

Improved lighting is required to assist in increased safety for users and visitors, as well as reduction in antisocial behaviours. It would also allow for greater use of the fields.

Fences

Aged or less functional fencing and entry gating systems require replacement or upgrade to ensure asset security, limit public and user risk as well as offer limits to natural area access and impacts from unwarranted access.

Utilities maintenance

Power and Water

Supplied utilities can be reviewed and action identified to meet use, demand and future development.

Environmental Sustainability – Management and Cost Efficiency

There are opportunities to improve environmental sustainability to ensure a safer environment, less impacts on natural areas, and long term reductions in ongoing user costs.

Access and equity

Public Access and Multiple Use

The Sportsground areas provide for multiple use in different areas but require attention to ensure that equitable access and use is encouraged and appropriately managed.

Booking Systems, Allocation of Space and Use Agreements

Council's booking and hire systems are effective but there is user group concern for more secure tenure to enable long term planning and development, as well as being able to effectively seek and obtain grant funding.

Event Management

Football events are limited, but the BMX and airfield facilities both service a local, district and regional catchment with a need for safe and efficient event management for larger participation events and uses.

Undesirable or Antisocial Behaviour

Undesirable and antisocial behaviour is a common occurrence across the Sportsground areas and management action is required to reduce instances of illegal access, motor vehicle and motor bike access, vandalism, theft and property damage, recreational drug use and drunken activities and rubbish dumping.

Dogs and Public Land

Dogs and companion animals can be encouraged in the Sportsground areas but with specific limits to reduce impacts on football and cricket fields, conflicts with BMX users and aeromodellers.

Personal Trainers, and Small Event Bookings

The instances of personal trainers or small events is limited but management action can provide effective and safe use if demand increases.

Community Involvement

All Sportsground user groups are community based organisations with a need to grow and service interested members of the community. Opportunities exist to increase the role of volunteers and community participation in use and management.

6.1.3 Management framework for reserves categorised as sportsground

Council provides fields, facilities, infrastructure and maintenance of the Sportsground assets. Maintenance of all fields, facilities and infrastructure is undertaken by Council's Infrastructure and Works Group with licensing and hiring, and customer liaison managed by Council's Culture, Community & Recreation Group.

The use of the fields, facilities and infrastructure is licensed to user groups by Council on a seasonal permit or hire system. Council undertakes a seasonal expression of interest process to establish user group requirements and have agreements over use and management of the fields, facilities and infrastructure.

Council's fees and charges for hiring and use of the Sportsground land are approved and published annually and available on Council's website.

Council has a Wet Weather Ground Closure Procedure and an open/closed fields and grounds notification service.

The general area of the former horse training track is managed and maintained by Council with the flying field and associated structures maintained by the licensee: the City of Maitland Society of Aeromodellers (COMSOA).

6.1.4 Development and use

This adopted POM provides the legal framework for development and use of the Sportsground category land, in association with Council's plans and priorities set out in Council's strategic and operational planning documents.

This includes any Council adopted master or concept plan for the Sportsground land that is consistent with the provisions of this POM.

However, while the POM sets out the permitted uses and developments under the LG Act for community land, development for certain activities and land use is still governed by the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979.

Use and development of community land is authorised by Council's adoption of a POM. In addition, section 44 of the LG Act states that pending the adoption of a Plan of Management for community land, the nature and use of the land must not be changed.

6.1.5 Current use of the land

Condition of the land and structures

Section 36 (3A) (a) of the LG Act requires the Plan of Management to include a description of the condition of the land and structures on adoption of the plan.

A list of the main facilities and a condition description of the Sportsground land and structures is at Appendix 6.

Use of the land and structures

The current use of the Sports Complex is for soccer/football during winter and summer, and junior local and district cricket in the summer.

The Don MacIndoe Flying Field is used by the COMSOA all year.

A list of licences and hiring with current use days and times for the Sportsground category land is available at Appendix 2.

Current leases and licences

A list of licences and hiring for the Sportsground category land is available at Appendix 2.

6.1.6 Permissible uses / future uses

Section 36(3A)(b) of the LG Act requires that a site-specific PoM, such as this PoM, must specify the purposes for which the land, and any such buildings or improvements, as well as future uses and developments, will be permitted to be used, and describe the scale and intensity of any such permitted use or development.

The permissible uses of Crown reserves are required to align both with the reserve purpose and the core objectives of the assigned categorisation.

The Sportsground category land will be used in future for sporting training, competition and other sports related activities and community events. Council will permit the erection of amenities and change room block(s), sports fields and training facilities, storage areas and buildings, seating and spectator facilities, pathways and infrastructure and utilities as required for use and events, including lighting.

The scale and intensity of these permissible uses and developments will be determined in context with this plan of management, Council assessment and development approvals, leasing and licensing that are consistent with the reserve purposes, category core objectives and any identified carrying capacity of the proposed site or locations.

The general types of uses which may occur on community land categorised as Sportsground and the forms of development generally associated with those uses, are set out in detail in Table 3. The facilities on community land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community.

Table 3 specifies the authorised permissible uses and activities, as well as developments for which the land, and any such buildings or improvements, that may be undertaken in the Sportsground category area, by Council, or lessees or licensees consistent with their user agreements, following Council assessment, approvals and any booking or hire arrangements established by, or with the agreement of Council.

Table 3: Permissible Uses, Activities and Developments for Sportsground

Uses and activities	Developments
• Active and passive recreational and sporting activities and competition compatible with the nature of the land and any relevant facilities. • Commercial uses associated with sports facilities. • Organised and unstructured recreation and sporting activities. Community events and gatherings. • Festivals, parades, markets, fairs, exhibitions and similar events and gatherings. • Filming and photographic projects. • Concerts, including all musical genres, • performances (including film and stage). • Leisure or training classes.	• Development for the purpose of conducting and facilitating organised sport (both amateur and professional), for example: • Sports field (cricket, football, track and field athletics, baseball, softball). • BMX and bicycle tracks. • Aero and vehicle model uses. or • Marked court (basketball, volleyball, badminton, tennis, hockey, netball etc.). • Professional rooms for hire associated with the reserve. purpose of public recreation. • Facilities for sports training. • Compatible, small scale commercial uses (e.g. sports tuition and health, sports physiotherapy). • Gymnasiums, exercise classes and activities. • Change room/locker areas. • Shower/toilet facilities. • Car parking and loading areas. • Ancillary areas (staff rooms, meeting rooms, recording rooms, equipment storage areas). • Café or refreshment areas (kiosks/restaurants) including external seating. • Shade structures. • Storage ancillary to sporting and recreational uses, community events or gatherings, and public meetings. • Development for the purposes of improving access, amenity and the visual character of the land (e.g. paths, public art, pergolas). • Heritage and cultural interpretation (e.g signs). • Equipment sales/hire areas. • Amenities to facilitate the safe use and enjoyment of the park (e.g. picnic tables, BBQs, sheltered seating areas or temporary structures for markets, festivals etc.). • Lighting, paved areas, hard and soft landscaped areas. • Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that: • relate to approved uses/activities; • are discreet and temporary; and • are approved by the council. • Water saving initiatives such as stormwater harvesting, rain gardens and swales. • Energy saving initiatives such as solar lights and solar panels. • Locational, directional and regulatory signage.



Part of the BMX track



Part of Aeromodellers field and infrastructure

6.1.7 Express authorisation of leases, licences and other estates –

Sportsground

This POM expressly authorises the issue of leases, licences and other estates over the land categorised as Sportsground, listed in Table 4.

Table 4: Leases, licences and other estates and purposes for which they may be granted for community land categorised as Sportsground

Type of tenure arrangement	Maximum term	Purpose for which tenure may be granted
Lease	Five years to 21 years	• Use and management of field, course, court facilities and buildings and fixtures that provide for sports uses. • Food and beverage outlets, such as café/kiosk areas, including seating and tables. • Hire or sale of sports or recreational equipment childcare facilities that provide for sportsground users. • Health and fitness goods and services for sportsgrounds users and visitors. • Sports related recreational purposes, including fitness classes, bike riding and games. • Sporting uses developed/operated by a private operator. • Commercial retail uses associated with the facility (e.g. sale or hire of sports goods).
Licence	One year to 21 years	• Use and management of field, course, court facilities and buildings and fixtures that provide for sports uses. • Outdoor café/kiosk seating and tables. • Hire or sale of sports or recreational equipment. • Health and fitness goods and services for sportsgrounds users and visitors. • Emergency services purposes.
Short term licence as issued ad hoc with Council formal application process, permissions and/or approvals	Consistent with (LG Act, S.46, LG (General) Regulation, Cl.117, and CLM Act Ss. 2.20 and 3.17, CLM Regulation Cl. 31	• Sporting fixtures and events. • Sports and fitness training and classes. • Ancillary ceremonies (e.g. rehearsal of opening and closing ceremonies, cheer squads, etc.). • Access through a reserve. • Advertising. • Broadcasting or filming of sporting fixtures. • Concerts and other performances, including both live performances and film (cinema and TV). • Community events and festivals.

		• Commercial photographic sessions and filming (as defined in the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>). • Delivery of a public address. • Emergency occupation. • Entertainment. • Exhibitions. • Fairs, markets, auctions and similar activities. • Hiring of equipment. • Picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings. • Playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward. • Playing of a lawful game or sport. • Public performances. • Sales. • Shows. • Site investigations. • Storage associated with sporting events or use agreements. • Limited area function uses reasonably associated with the promotion or enhancement of sporting groups, fixtures and events (e.g. guest events for juniors, gala days, club meetings).
Other estates	Variable	• This POM 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 in accordance with the LG Act. • Estates may also be granted across community land for the provision of pipes, conduits or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land.

6.1.8 Action plan for sportsground

Section 36 of the LG Act requires that a POM 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; and
- the manner in which the Council proposes to assess its performance in achieving the objectives and performance targets.

Table 5 sets out these requirements for community land categorised as Sportsground.

Table 5. Objectives and performance targets, means of achieving them and assessing achievement for community land categorised as Sportsground.

Management issues LG Act	Object	Means of achievement of objectives s.36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of performance s.36(3)(d)
1. Landscape character and amenity			
Landscape design, grounds and vegetation management.	- Well planned and developed facilities and landscape at sportsground land. - Provide landscape amenity and environmental - benefits at Sportsground facilities. - Trees and shrubs health maintained, and public risk managed. - Grass and turf maintained to user requirements and standards. - Shade provided at all facilities including playgrounds. - Outdoor fixtures – seats, tables, bins, provided at all sites where outdoors space is associated with facilities. - Play equipment provided at sites where children are substantial numbers of visitors or users.	- Prepare landscape masterplan for Sportsground land. - Conduct stakeholder workshop for opportunities and constraints mapping for East Maitland Common landscape masterplan to account for needs of the various users. - Retain and maintain existing trees and vegetation in parks and around Sportsground for environmental and community benefit such as wind reduction, shade and aesthetic landscape benefits. - Regular program of tree and shrub maintenance to ensure healthy and safe vegetation. - Agreed user and community standards for grass and turf maintenance, including limitation of small fire and reduction of danger on sites (e.g. noxious plants, feral or dangerous animals). - Review of outdoor spaces associated with facility buildings and structures to evaluate and implement outdoor fixture provision.	- Council preparation of landscape masterplan. - Stakeholder consultation for masterplan conducted. - Council consider report on vegetation management plans, retention and improvement of existing vegetation. - User and tenure holders consulted in standards for field, - grass and turf standards. - Installation of shade structures or increased use of shade trees to meet shade and sun protection needs. - Fire risk vegetation management in regular maintenance program - Feral animal, noxious weeds and pest, and dangerous animal reduction programs implemented. - Installation of park and outdoor fixtures, including play, leisure and health equipment is subject to landscape master planning for high use sites, or provided consistent with any specific Council policies.

		• Review of facilities and sites with substantial numbers of children and teenagers to ensure adequate provision of play equipment and suitable health and leisure fixtures. • Review of cleaning of Play Equipment Roster.	• User group and community consultation for provisions of play, leisure and health equipment. • 12 month audit of Play Equipment by contracted auditor.
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2. Buildings and infrastructure – management and maintenance

Safe maintenance and upgrade of buildings, structures and facilities.	• Maintain buildings, field and grounds, and community facilities to required standards for users and public safety. • Building and structures compliance with Australian Standards and NSW Building Codes. • Regular repairs, painting and maintenance. • Safe electrical systems. • Safe gas supply. • Sustainable water supply. • Fire systems compliance with NSW Standards. • Safe and operational kitchens. Safe chemical storage and use.	• Implement asset maintenance plans for sportsground, buildings, structures and landscape assets. • Annual audit and review of buildings and structures to comply with Australian and NSW Building Codes standards. • System to receive reports/requests for maintenance needs is clearly published and acted upon. • Annual program of (Test & Tag) electrical equipment inspection and testing by a competent person to identify and repair/replace damaged, worn and faulty electrical equipment. • Annual electrical, gas and water supply systems check and review for maintenance and upgrade needs. • Bi-annual fire safety systems check for maintenance or upgrade to meet standards and codes by local Fire brigade or registered authority. • Biannual inspection of any kitchens by health and safety officers to ensure clean, healthy and safe kitchens for users and visitors. • All chemical storage, use and handling to be certified by • current NSW authority, e.g. WorkSafe NSW.	• Asset management plans in place and implemented with annual reports to Council. • Grants Officer to work with the reserve users to coordinate funding for identified needs. • Relevant Council Director responsible for program to review/audit sportsground, parks and community facilities compliance with codes and standards. • Audit and review conducted. Relevant Council Director approves maintenance system and is accountable for reporting. • Annual Test & Tag inspection results and response actions reported to Council. • Annual electrical, gas and water supply systems check and review for maintenance and upgrading needs. • Biannual fire safety systems check, and response actions • reported to Council. • Biannual inspection of all kitchens by health and safety officers to and response actions. Chemical storage, use and handling certification and response actions reported to Council.
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3. Safety and risk management

A safe environment and public risk minimisation.	• Ensure public safety and minimise user risk at Sportsground and facilities.	• Risk Management and Harm Minimisation Strategy prepared for Sportsground and community facilities. • Annual Safety Audit of all facilities on Sportsgrounds conducted by Council in conjunction with formal occupants (lessees, licensees and contracted management). • Improved lighting for security along pedestrian walkway/ lanes and at key entry points and carparking areas – conducted quarterly night audits. • Council to review needs for security around buildings and structures.	• Annual reporting on implementation and risk minimisation. • Annual Council and formal occupant audit of facilities conducted, and response actions reported to Council. • Installation of additional lighting to increase safety and reduce risk and antisocial behaviour. Council review and report on security needs and options for improvement to relevant facility buildings.
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4. Vehicle access and parking

Roads, vehicle access and parking.	• Provide a safe, effective and efficient vehicle and pedestrian environment for Sportsground facilities and associated open spaces users and visitors.	• Review of Sportsground vehicle and traffic infrastructure current supply to identify new or additional car parking spaces as well as entry, internal movement and vehicle pedestrian conflict minimisation. • Formalise car parking at eastern side of football and cricket field amenities and change room building with suitable hard surfacing, delineated spaces and internal access routes to limit vehicle, pedestrian and BMX bike use conflicts. • Identify and formalise pistol club access from Maize Street and eliminate informal road access to pistol and small bore rifle clubs from car parking east of football and cricket field amenities.	• Vehicle and traffic infrastructure review conducted. • Car parking provided at eastern side of football and cricket fields amenities building. • Formalise Maize Street access to pistol and small bore rifle clubs and informal access across the reserve eliminated. • New car parking constructed. • Motor vehicle parking spaces and internal access and movements marked and completed. • Monitor use of accessible car parking spaces with equitable accessibility for adequate supply.
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		• Improve car parking spaces definition at all car parking spaces in sportsground category land with clear in/out directional access. • Provide accessible (disabled) car parking spaces with equitable accessibility links to facilities.	
	• Adequately provide access and vehicle parking at BMX facility and airfield to recognise regional and state status.	• Install signposting and wayfinding signage – directional, place name and branding, regulatory, speed and parking times. • Provide larger parking areas to accommodate trailers for BMX bikes. • Provide adequate parking for peak use and events periods. • Formalise access to, and parking at BMX facility to meet competition needs. • Create separate BMX warm up area as car park areas used for BMX rider preparation.	• Signage installed. • Larger car and trailer parking bays provided for BMX. • Consultation with BMX track events organisers to confirm regional and state competition needs.
	• Reduce soil compaction and traffic parking impacts on park grasses and vegetation, and vehicle impacts during wet weather.	• Prepare a landscape masterplan to provide clear direction for parking and vehicle access on sportsground land, with a focus on safe traffic movements, designated parking areas and management of overlapping uses. • Removal of all non designated car parking and vehicle traffic. • Parking areas, speed and vehicle limits clearly signed and marked. • Dedicated parking and thoroughfares or internal access routes to minimise use	• Review conducted and traffic and car parking management implemented. • Signage and markings installed. • Dedicated parking and thoroughfares or internal access routes provided. • Informal vehicle parking eliminated.

		conflict or site landscape or asset degradation. Eliminate informal parking at eastern side of football and cricket field amenities building and along Metford Road.	
	Safe vehicle speeds for internal park access roads (e.g. to BMX facility and shared road used by age groups).	10km per hour signposting of vehicular road. - Install traffic slowing mechanisms on shared roads as required. - Placement of speed limit signs at prominent locations. Vehicle type and use restrictions, and parking times clearly signposted where required.	- Signposting and traffic slowing measures installed. - Speed limits signage installed at sites and facilities where required after review. - Vehicle use and parking time signage installed.
	Events using Sportsground facilities and associated open spaces have safe traffic management and reduce the potential for user/ vehicle conflict.	- Clear marking of designated access routes and parking arrangements for user and organiser vehicles. - Lessees and/or licensees have event and traffic management plans incorporated into user agreement conditions as part of agreement. - Regional or state events have traffic, user and organisation vehicle management plans prepared in liaison with Local Area Police. - Regulation of user parking and vehicle at events. - Placement of event speed limit signs at prominent locations. - Vehicle type and use restrictions, and parking times clearly signposted where required.	- Designated traffic, parking and pedestrian lanes marked for areas where events are held and at high attendance facilities. - Event licences and permits to include conditions for event and traffic, user and organisation vehicle management plans prepared in liaison with Local Area Police when regional or state events. - Council resource regulatory officers for traffic and vehicle management at high attendance special events. - Dedicated access routes and parking arrangements for organiser vehicles provided in event agreements. - Speed limits signage installed at sites and facilities where required after review. - Vehicle use and parking time signage installed.

	Improved child safety at playground.	Informal car parking 'north' of playground, along Metford Road needs to be reviewed and managed as it creates children and pedestrian conflicts with vehicles.	Informal car parking 'north' of playground, along Metford Road is removed, relocated or better managed.
	Limit antisocial and unsafe behaviours.	- Restrict vehicle access to north west and western side of football and cricket fields to reduce antisocial activity and limit compaction around trees. - Clear understory at north west and western side of fields to implement CPTED principles and reduce anti-social activity.	- Vehicle access reduced - Vegetation understory cleared and sightlines available.

5. Signage and advertising

Signage and advertising including town wayfinder and site based directional.	- Upgrade reserve signage and wayfinding for - general visitors and district or regional users. - Provide clear signage guidance to sportsground facilities and natural area users on reserves conditions of use, including alcohol free zones, permissible and non-permissible activities, dog leash or leash-free zones, times of specific uses, and internal site or facility directions. - On-site directional signs installed to advise of facilities and service locations on site. - Delineate airfield flight area (beyond the immediate runways)	- Implement a reserve wayfinder signage program including: - entry and directional maps and signage; and - Sportsgrounds, parks, natural areas and community facilities information, use, permissible activity and regulation signage. - Site based facility, structure, field and open space - regulatory signage to address activity, including: - alcohol-free zones; permissible and non-permissible activities; dog leash or leash-free zones; and times of specific uses.	- Signage program implemented as per resources and priorities, including site based facility, building/structure, field and open space signage, and permissible/non permissible activity signage. - Installation of regulatory signage at Sportsgrounds and community facilities. - Airfield flight area signage installed.
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	to enable safe passage of walkers, bird watchers, photographers etc. Advertising signage at Crown Reserves should be ancillary or supportive of the reserve purposes and activities and is not generally acceptable for solely external advertising purposes.	- Use of community awareness and public education signage to assist reduction of antisocial behaviours. - Airfield flight area signage to specify flight area. - Evaluate any signage proposals (land is Crown reserve) to ensure advertising is ancillary to reserve use and management.	
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6. Encroachment on public land

Managing encroachments	Encroachments on public land, once identified are resolved as quickly as possible to minimise the impact of unlawful use or unauthorised developments on the reserves.	- Council rectification of encroachments or illegal developments on all Council owned and managed open and public spaces. - Licence agreements can be issued for some encroachments on Crown land.	Identified encroachments rectified.
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7. Building and structures provision

	- Future development and use is consistent with landscape masterplan, adopted POM, public purpose and core objectives. - Adequate and safe storage at football fields, BMX track and airfield. - Provide female change rooms at football, cricket and BMX tracks.	- Review of all proposed future developments and uses for consistency with landscape masterplan, adopted POM, public purpose and core objectives. - Council investigate storage deficiencies in consultation with user groups/licensees and determine options and action plan to address storage needs. - Consider/investigate construction of new and purpose-built amenities block with change rooms, disabled	- Proposed future developments and uses are reviewed. - Storage investigation and consultation conducted, and development of storage actions. - Amenities block investigation conducted. - Priorities established for future action and projects. - Female change rooms provided. - Implement interim solutions as possible.
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	• Provide toilets to cope with football and BMX heavy use during peak event periods.	- access, storage and first aid room(s) for BMX users. • Enable refurbishment of existing football and cricket field amenities for female football and cricket users/ player. • Investigate interim solutions to expand existing facilities to provide storage and female change rooms.	
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8. Field and facility development

	• Improved access movement between similar parts of reserves such as Sportsground land facilities.	• Provide pathways and signage between sports fields, BMX facility and suitable access movement to adjacent natural areas.	• Pathway development and maintenance program approved and implemented by Council . • Provide improve pathways and all weather covering where required between buildings at Sportsground facilities. • Pathway development and maintenance program approved and implemented by Council.
	• Potential for better connections to local walking and cycling links.	• Investigate ways to better integrate the Sportsground land with other parts of the larger reserve with local cycle paths and pop up tourist cycleways and route.	• Demonstrated integration of cycle paths and ways.
	• Improved connectivity and access for use by local community, visitors, and schools.	• Consult local community, tourism operators and nearby schools to identify access and use improvements.	• Consultations held and improvements implemented.
	• Manage event and activity noise, traffic, waste management and visitor issues for local and nearby residents.	• Prepare and implement user agreements (licences or permit) system. User agreements include conditions to limit impacts from noise, rubbish, traffic.	• Licences published and used with conditions to limit or reduce impacts from noise, rubbish, traffic.

9. Interim use and development

Interim uses	- Occupancy agreements are implemented at each location only for low impact uses and without any permanent structures. - Enclosure/fencing is the responsibility of occupants during interim uses. - Interim uses and purposes are used as conditions in occupancy agreements.	- Occupancy agreements include condition that only provide for: - low impact uses and limits on permanent structures; - and - occupant responsibility for adequate and suitable fencing of properties.	Occupancy agreements contained required conditions.
Development and uses	Limited to low impact uses with no fixtures or structures unless approved through adopted landscape masterplan, Plan of Management and Council Approval.	Council approval and adopted Plan of Management permission for developments and uses (other than low impact uses without permanent structures).	Permission provided by landscape masterplan, and this Plan of Management, and Council Approval.

10. Field and facility maintenance

Field quality	Optimise field use for all sportsground areas.	- Implement program of improved drainage at football - and cricket fields, with better sub surface soil profile. - Investigate improved football and cricket field irrigation including irrigation system that can connect to golf course water pipe under fields. - Investigate field surface levels and drainage at airfield to identify viable solutions to drainage and training track	- Drainage improved to reduce wet weather limitations and cancellations. - Irrigation system investigated, funding sourced and improvements completed. - Airfield investigations completed and solutions identified.
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		grading influence on ground water and water table. Investigate regrading or modification of airfield former racetrack to reduce surface and ground water collection and return to more natural state.	
Field maintenance	Maintain a high level of sportsground and playing surface and associated equipment.	Mowing - Playing fields and ovals will be mowed in accordance - with approvals, manuals or schedules as required. Line Marking - Line marking may be undertaken by Council but will normally be the responsibility of users. Erection of Posts - The erection of posts on playing fields is allowed by this - POM and is the responsibility of Council. Watering - Watering of playing fields and ovals shall be undertaken as required and according to specific water restrictions that may be in place. - Sustainable water supply and management options investigated to minimise long term costs. Wet Weather Use - During periods of wet weather, Council may restrict use of playing fields and	- Annual or seasonal (as appropriate) user and sportsground hirer or tenure holder's satisfaction surveys for: - quality of field surfaces or pitches by clubs; - mowing; - line marking and erection of posts; watering; - wet weather use and availability; and - hours of operation. - Progressive reduction in water supply and/or management costs as sustainable innovative solutions introduced.

		ovals to prevent damaged to grass surfaces. Hours of Operation Council may restrict the hours of operation of any playing field at its discretion.	
Facility expansion	Extend diversity of bike sports at BMX facility to enable greater community uses and extend range of district, regional and state events.	- Investigate and consider development of 'pump' bike track facilities - Develop/ construct two-lane sprint track to provide for warm-up and warm-down BMX activities and reduce vehicle/bike/pedestrian conflicts.	- Investigation conducted. - Options for pump track considered. - Construction of sprint track.
Amenity Provision	- Amenities provided are kept clean and accessible to users and visitors during daylight hours and at high or frequent visitation sites during facility or site opening hours. - Amenities are maintained for safety, usability and modern standard.	Regular inspection and maintenance regime that is clearly published and provides contact details for community and visitor maintenance requests.	- Analysis of user and visitor satisfaction surveys. - Relevant Council Director approves maintenance program and is accountable for reporting on outcomes and monitoring of contact queries and complaints.
11. Lighting			
Lighting	- Lighting is provided for visitor and user safety at all buildings and on structures where night/dark use is present. - Lighting impact on neighbours and other users not requiring lighting is minimised.	- Review of facilities and structures to evaluate lighting needs and gaps for safety and to meet users and visitor needs. - Lighting for evening and night grounds uses conform to Australian and industry/sports standards, including lighting spill and brightness.	- Lighting needs review and implementation program prepared and adopted by Council. - All lighting approved by development application to meet - identified standards. - Night/dark safe lighting needs review conducted, incorporating CPTED principles and provision priorities reported to Council.

	• Lighting is supplied at all car parks where night/ dark use is present. • Lighting is provided for user and visitor throughfare travel at sites of frequent use.	• Review provision of safe lighting at night/dark use carparks and user or visitor throughfares and install lighting to meet needs or gaps in provision. • Include lighting in development approval conditions and event or user agreements.	• Relevant Council Director to manage review and report to Council on any response outcomes. • Council Planning directorate to integrate public lighting into development application approval conditions.
	• Reduction of antisocial behaviour at Sportsground facilities.	• Increased Sports Complex, BMX and public area lighting to provide safe environment and reduce anti-social behaviour. • Improved night lighting at informal car parking adjacent (east) to Sportsground amenities building.	• Lighting focused on damage and antisocial behaviour reduction installed.

12. Fencing and gates

	• Improved child and player safety at football fields.	• Install raised height fencing at locations to be determined with football club (e.g. northern end near pistol club and small bore rifle range and behind goals) to limit football loss over fences and need for juniors to cross roads or leave sports area to retrieve balls.	• Consultations held to identify required raised fencing sites. • Raised fencing installed.
	• Maintain BMX 'open access' facility for community use but restrict anti-social behaviour and asset damage.	• Construct suitable BMX facility constraints to limit 'illegal access' and reduce unwanted vehicles and antisocial behaviour – bollards and/or BMX club keyed gates. • Improved fencing between BMX facility and Bushland area to reduce unwanted access. • Improved fencing around BMX facility in general to formalise use areas and	• Consultations with BMX club held. • Agreed access constraints and fencing installed. • Soil compaction and vegetation damage from informal vehicle use and parking reduced.

		reduce compaction of soils and impacts on vegetation.	
	- Clearly define Sportsground areas and main - facility components.	- Replace or refurbish outside fencing at BMX and airfield - facilities due to age and condition. - Install internal facility fencing at BMX and airfield to reduce inappropriate or unwanted access (e.g. walkers during competition or events, or dogs and golfers on airfield). - Provide suitable community awareness and educational - signage at airfield. - Install or repair fencing between all sportsground areas and bushland or wetland areas to reduce impacts of natural areas.	- Outside fencing at BMX and airfield facilities replaced or - refurbished. - Internal facility fencing at BMX and airfield installed. - Suitable community awareness and educational signage - installed at airfield.
	Removal or maintenance of old fencing.	Removal or maintenance of airfield racetrack fencing.	Airfield racetrack fencing removed or refurbished.
	Reduce unwarranted access, vandalism and rubbish dumping.	Upgraded fences and gates to minimise opportunistic vandalism and dumping of rubbish.	Fences and gates upgraded.
13. Utilities maintenance			
Power, water	- Adequate power for additional lighting and or CCTV infrastructure. - Suitable irrigation systems for fields.	- Review lighting requirements and power sources and provision. - Review options for additional water and irrigation systems. - Energy and water use efficiency practices and systems,	- Reviews conducted. - Implementation of energy efficient systems and practices. - Energy and water use efficiency practices and systems,

	- Reduction in operational costs for energy and water use through a range of environmental and sustainable means to reduce costs and wastage. - Surface water run off loss reduction and collection practices to optimise water use and reduce stormwater loss to minimise use of town or reticulated water supplies during periods of limited availability.	- including timing systems or regulated watering practices. - Council investigation of investment into water efficiency actions. - Safe reuse of effluent and grey waters. - Water harvesting from storm and ground water through collection for use at Sportsground.	- including timing systems or regulated watering practices. - Investment into water efficiency actions. - Safe reuse of effluent and grey waters. - Water harvesting from storm and ground water through collection for use at Sportsground.
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14. Environmental management and sustainability

	- Council investigation of environmental sustainability options and infrastructure, at sportsgrounds and community facilities. - Limit dispersal of sustainable fertiliser and pesticide into less robust environmental systems such as watercourse and water bodies, and limit human contact from aerial or surface exposure. - Development and maintenance is undertaken with environmentally sustainable practices and within Australian or NSW standards. - All hazardous materials and chemicals are handled, stored and used in accordance with NSW legislation.	- Investigate implementation of alternate energy sources such as solar electricity and heating systems at facilities on sites. - Review waste management storage and removal at all sports field facilities to maximise ease of recycling and security of waste receptacles. - Council and user organisations with occupancy and use agreements for sustainable fertiliser and pesticide application and management plans and practices. - All chemical storage, use and handling to be certified by current NSW authority (e.g. WorkSafe NSW) and initiatives to replace or reduce use investigated. - Investigate into the area around the aeromodelling field	- Council investigate and consider options for cost-efficiency and sustainability of: Sources such as solar electricity and heating systems at facilities on sites - Review of waste management conducted with improved waste management outcomes - Council publication and use of user agreements that include conditions for sustainable fertiliser and pesticide application and management plans and practices. - Chemical storage, use and handling certification and - response actions reported to Council.
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		to be rezoned to C2 – Environmental Conservation.	
Cost efficiency in utilities and infrastructure	Reduce costs to Council, users and hirers/ tenants at sportsground facilities.	- Review of water and energy use at facilities - Investigation of alternate and cost-effective energy and water systems - Investigate timed or smart lighting.	Review and investigations conducted, and response actions reported to Council.
Environmental sustainability	- Use of chemicals and fertilisers is limited and sustainable. - Groundwater run off is contained and recycled - where possible, or directed to storage. - Conditions of use and development clearly outlined in occupancy agreements.	- User/occupants to provide annual report on chemical and fertiliser use. - Occupancy agreements detail environmentally sustainable conditions including groundwater management plan.	- Annual reports provided to relevant Council Director - Occupancy agreements contained required conditions.
Feral animals, pests and noxious weeds	- Removal of pests and noxious weeds is undertaken and pest and feral animals captured, removed or reduced in compliance with legislation and council policies. - Conditions for management and reduction of feral animals, pest animals and noxious weeds included in occupancy agreements.	- User/occupants to provide annual report on pests, noxious weeds and feral animal management. - Occupancy agreements detail pest animals, noxious weeds and feral animal management conditions.	- Annual reports provided to relevant Council Director - Occupancy agreements contain required conditions.

15. Public access and multiple use

Ensure public access and multiple use	• Compliance of toilets, change rooms and associated amenities infrastructure at sportsground facilities for disabled and equitable access uses. • Ensure public accessibility and multiple uses of land in any user occupancy agreements. • Provide for disabled and equitable access at key locations. • Examine verge or roadside parking for safe ingress and egress to reserve activities.	• Annual audit of all public use and visitor facilities to evaluate equitable access and maintenance or upgrade needs for compliance with State Legislation and Guidelines. • Include conditions in user agreements/licences that provide for multiple uses and public accessibility where safe to permit. • Identify disability parking spots at each field, park and facility. • User and visitor conditions of use and activity clearly published and notified to improve safety awareness. • Undertake annual user satisfaction surveys.	• Annual amenities equitable access audit and report with response actions prepared. • Publication and use of licence agreements that meet objectives. • Installation of disability parking spots. On street car parking times, places and conditions signposted. User satisfaction surveys conducted.
Pathways	• Improve sports field, BMX facility and airfield • paths and internal access. • Hard surface improvements around amenities areas (e.g. toilets, canteens).	• Review of pedestrian access and walkways to identify upgrades or installation. • Retain former race track for airfield use – collection of aircraft. • Consult with COMSOA to identify promotable community dog and people's walking tracks.	• Review conducted and improvements programmed subject to funding. • Slashing of race track retained for pedestrian use. • Consultations conducted and opportunities identified.

16. Booking systems allocation of space and use agreements

Security of tenure	• Provide user groups with security of tenure to enable grant funding and long term planning.	• Council consider user benefits and Council cost savings • of leases for all Sportsground licensees.	• Council consultation with user groups/licensees and decision about leasing.
Booking systems, fees and charges and conditions of hire	• Public awareness notices or policies of booking and hiring systems are clearly available. • Clear and accountable fees and charges for sportsground use and hire. • Conditions of use and hire are clearly published and supplied with booking and hire details. • Standard user agreement documents (e.g. leases, licences and short term use permits).	• Formal EOI and user agreement allocations to be conducted at annual or seasonal, as well as event based periods. • All bookings or hiring receive e-copy or paper copy of confirmation including any conditions of use and hire with contact details to assist hirer or user. • Publication of booking and hiring notices and policies, fees and charges on Council website, local media as required and at sites where warranted. • Council use lease, licence and casual hiring, short term and temporary licence agreements based on Crown Lands templates. • Clear and published conditions of hire and use, including permissible uses, times and user or hirer responsibilities.	• Review season allocations from the past season and roll over to each season. Council website publication. • Production and use of conditions of use and hire with contact details to assist hirer or user with all bookings or hiring standardised user agreements in use. • Council publication of conditions of hire and use, including permissible uses, times and user or hirer responsibilities on use agreements, and casual hire permits.

17. Event management

Event Management (district, regional or state)	• Ensure all events have event management licenses or permits through bookings or hiring. • Include event management plans, traffic management plans, waste and public safety plans in licence conditions.	• Prepare and use event licences or permits with inclusion of event management plans, traffic management plans, waste and public safety plans	• Publication and use of licences with conditions that address objectives. • Council website publication of booking and hire systems including seasonal dates and conditions of application. • Council is resourced to have a staff member/s able to • manage hire queries.
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	Establish clear and published booking and hire system for events.		
18. Undesirable or anti-social behaviour			
Antisocial behaviour	Reduction in illegal access, motor vehicle and motor bike access, vandalism, theft and property damage, recreational drug use and drunken activities, and rubbish dumping.	- See above for lighting, fencing and gates, signage. - Increased regulatory, community awareness and educational signage. 'Peak time' regulatory officer or police liaison. - Assist with provision of electricity to airfield to enable - future CCTV provision. - Investigate provision of internet or site-based Wi-Fi to enable CCTV installation to reduce anti-social behaviour, vandalism, break ins, asset damage and theft, and rubbish dumping.	- Lighting, fencing and gates actions implemented. - Increased signage. - Regulatory or police patrolling liaison and implemented. - Electricity provided to airfield. - Investigation into CCTV infrastructure conducted and any actions implemented.
Permitted and prohibited (e.g. alcohol free areas)	Provide clear guidance to park and community facility users on reserves conditions of use, including alcohol free zones, permissible and non-permissible activities, dog leash or leash free zones, times of specific uses, and internal site or facility directions.	- Site based facility, structure, field and open space - regulatory signage to address activity, including: - alcohol free zones; permissible and non-permissible activities; dog leash or leash free zones; and times of specific uses.	Installation of regulatory signage at high use or visitation park areas and community facilities.
19. Dogs and public land			
Dogs on Sportsgrounds,	Ensure dog use on Sportsgrounds complies with state legislation.	Install signage including restricted areas, particularly on playing fields, but	Signage installed.

parks and community facility open space	• Manage dog walking and play on and around Sportsground playgrounds, food preparation areas, footpaths, parks and reserves. • Reduce impacts of dog use on fields and at • facilities.	with an emphasis on no dogs within 10 metres of: • a children's playground; or • a food preparation area. • Provide at least one leash free dog area in the LGA. • Publish animal and dog handling guidelines on Council website.	• One leash free dog play area in LGA created and managed. • General waste bins provided at high use areas – Sportsgrounds, parks, community facilities and any identified or promoted walking tracks and trails. • Council website publication of Companion Animal and Dog Handling Rules and Regulations.
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20. Personal trainers, and small event bookings

Personal trainers, and small event bookings	• Personal trainers, fitness groups and small event bookings are safely conducted with minimal impacts on other reserve users and adjacent residences.	• Personal trainers, fitness groups and small event bookings are accommodated in the park under licence or hiring arrangements, subject to time and area limited with use conditions to enable use to limit conflicts of use with the general public.	• Licence system and documents prepared and used for personal trainers, fitness groups and small event bookings.
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21. Community involvement

Operating committees and incorporated bodies	• Increase user and community involvement in Sportsground, park and community facility management and maintenance.	• Establish a Reserve User Group where there are multiple users at a reserve Council.	• Half yearly meeting conducted with representatives from each group (Office bearer and member) with MCC representative and a Councillor.
Contract and Volunteer Labour	• Safe, legal and formal contractor and volunteer involvement in management, use and maintenance of community facilities and associated open spaces.	• Review of existing contract agreements and permits or licences for volunteer groups, organisations and any individuals. • Preparation and use of legal contracts and agreements, licences and permits.	• Review conducted, gaps and needs established. • Agreements, contract, licences and permits in use.

6.2 Natural area

Section 36(5) of the LG Act requires that any land categorised as a Natural area is to be further categorised as either bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore.

The natural areas in Beryl Humble Sporting Complex and East Maitland Common are defined as either bushland or wetland and extend around the peripheries of the Beryl Humble Sports Complex facilities, and the Don MacIndoe Memorial Flying Field and include Earthcare Park as indicated in Figure 7.

6.2.1 Guidelines and core objectives

Natural areas are defined in clause 102

of the LG Regulation as land possessing a significant feature that would be sufficient to further categorise the land as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore.

The core objectives for natural areas, as outlined in Section 36E of the LG Act, 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; and
- 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.

Strategic management is fundamental to enhance biodiversity and open space linkages across the landscape and integrate Beryl Humble Sports Complex and East Maitland Common Reserve with other local and regional land management initiatives including landscape restoration, fire management and catchment management to benefit the community and the environment.

Further detail about the management of the Natural Area - Bushland and Wetland subcategories contained in this POM is outlined in sections 5.3.2 and 5.3.3 below.

6.2.2 Natural area values and physical environment

The natural areas of Beryl Humble Sports Complex and East Maitland Common Reserve are embraced and valued by the community. Values include:

- ecological and environmental values;
- community stewardship, educational and scientific values;
- recreation and engagement with nature for physical and mental health;
- pre and post 1788 history and cultural landscapes; and
- a place for Aboriginal storytelling, custodianship and engagement with traditional lands.

6.2.3 Ecological and environmental values

Beryl Humble and the Common provide habitat for some of the 390 fauna and 1,290 flora species recorded in the Maitland LGA and listed under either the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 or

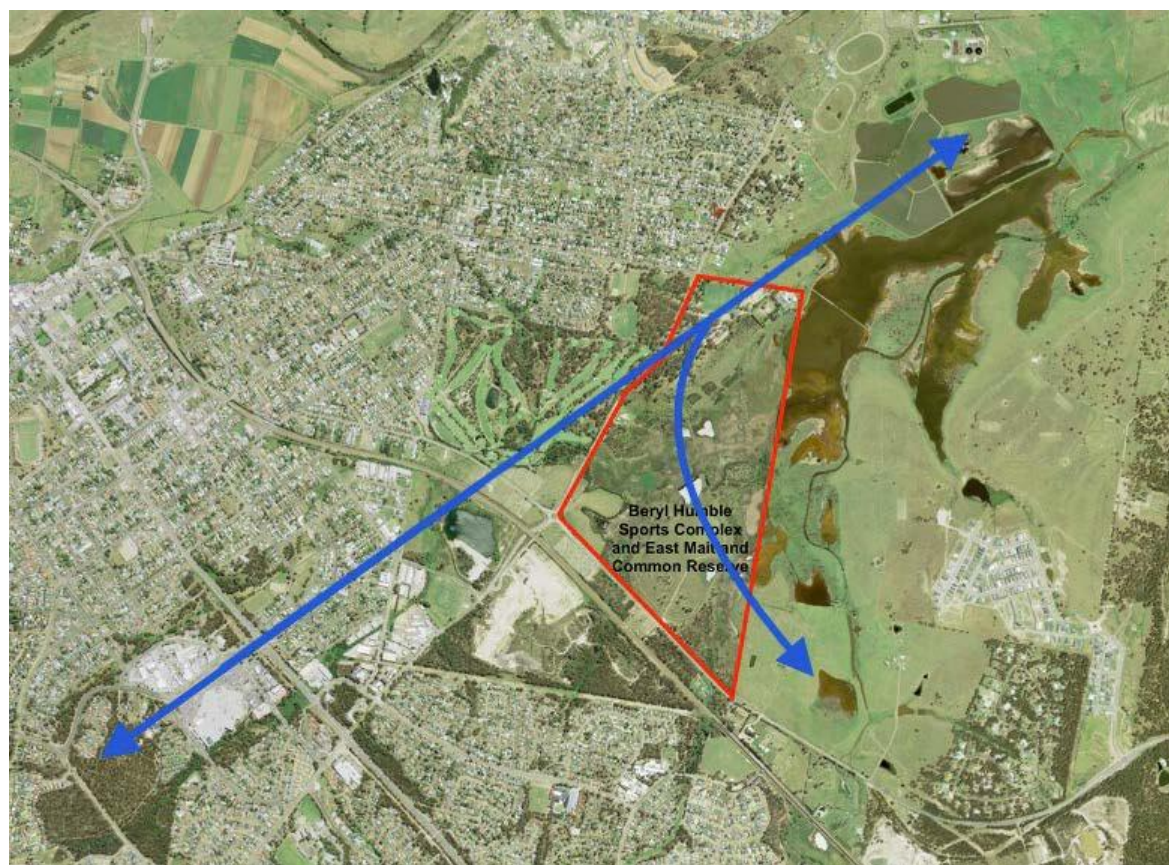
the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999. Of these species, 132 are listed as threatened. Furthermore, the reserve contains representations of three threatened ecological communities of the 20 recorded in the LGA.

During preparation of Council's draft Community Strategic Plan Maitland's Future Community Strategic Plan 2025, the community identified protection and enhancement of the environment as a key priority.

Maitland is home to significant wetland habitats including Tenambit which forms part of Beryl Humble and the Common. The site is also identified in Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement as being located within two biodiversity corridors of local significance, as indicated in Figure 3 above, which link into a regional corridor indicated in Figure 4.

The two local corridors extend from the Hunter River and diverge within the reserve. One biodiversity corridor extends to the south west through East Maitland and the other extends further south east through a network of reserves, riparian areas and wetland.

Figure 10. Aerial Image of approximate location of the Local Biodiversity Corridors



Source: NSW Government Six Maps 24 May 2022 (maps.six.nsw.gov.au)

The subject site possesses three separate remnant native vegetation communities that have been identified by the NSW Scientific Committee as Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) as they face a very high risk of extinction in NSW in the near future including:

- Lower Hunter Spotted Gum-Ironbark Forest in the Sydney Basin and NSW North Coast Bioregions (10.5ha); Hunter Lowland Red Gum Forest in the Sydney basin and NSW North Coast bioregions

(2.3ha); and Freshwater Wetland on Coastal Floodplains of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner bioregions Complex (40.5ha).

These communities have been mapped in Figure 11 page 63.

Lower Hunter Spotted Gum-Ironbark Forest in the Sydney Basin and NSW North Coast Bioregions

The remnant Lower Hunter Spotted Gum-Ironbark Forest is found in the north east of the site and southern section of Don MacIndoe Memorial Flying Field. Although it has not been specifically surveyed, the dominant canopy species are *Corymbia maculata* (Spotted Gum) and *Eucalyptus fibrosa* (Red Ironbark) with other gums occurring in lesser density such as *Eucalyptus punctata* (Grey Gum) and *Eucalyptus siderophloia* (Grey Ironbark).

The midstory is sparse with scattered wattles such as *Acacia parvipinnula* (Silver-stemmed wattle), *Acacia falcata* (Hickory Wattle) and some planted shrubs that may not necessarily belong to this community in this location.

The ground layer is dominated by a mix of native and exotic grasses including *Microlaena stipoides* (Weeping Grass), *Megathyrsus maximus* (Guinea Grass) and *Cenchrus clandestinus* (Kikuyu) with scattered *Lomandra longifolia* (Mat Rush) and *Dianella caerulea* (Blue Flax Lilly).

Hunter Lowland Red Gum Forest

Small patches of this vegetation remain within the south east corner of the site but have been highly disturbed. The canopy layer is composed entirely of *Eucalyptus amplifolia* (Cabbage Gum). The midstory has been planted with *Melaleuca nodosa* (Prickly-leaved Paperbark) and *Melaleuca styphelioides* (Prickly-leaved Tea Tree) and the ground layer is made of a mix of native grasses and weeds.

Freshwater Wetland Complex

This vegetation community has not been surveyed and is dominated by *Typha orientalis* (Cumbungi) with some scattered *Casuarina glauca* (Swamp Oak) and includes several areas of open water wetland.

Revegetation areas

Approximately 28ha of land has been revegetated since the Greening Plan was adopted in 2002 with thousands of native trees, shrubs and grass. Ecological restoration has been undertaken in an 'ad hoc manner' with the use of species that belong to different vegetation communities and are not all endemic to the landscape. Nonetheless, the revegetation has created habitat for flora and fauna on previously cleared land, evident by the increase in the number of bird species identified onsite over the years.

The reserve provides habitat for a range of fauna, reflecting the rich variety of habitat and the important role of the site as a local biodiversity corridor. Fauna includes macropods (wallabies and kangaroos), a wide range of birds who inhabit woodland, grassland and aquatic environments, frogs, reptiles, bats and turtles.

In the 2018 – 2021 Hunter Bird Observer Club census, 140 different bird species were recorded on the site, the majority of which were native. During that survey, three threatened species were identified:

- Little lorikeet (*Glossopsitta pusilla*) - listed as vulnerable under the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. It is nomadic, typically inhabits open eucalypt forest, woodland and riparian habitats and nests near feeding areas, often in hollows of smooth-barked eucalypts.

- White-fronted chat (*Epthianura albifrons*) is an Australian endemic passerine bird listed as vulnerable under the BC Act 2016. It inhabits damp open habitats along the coast, and near waterways in predominantly saltmarsh vegetation, grasslands and low shrubs bordering wetland areas.
- White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) - listed as vulnerable under the BC Act. It is typically found in large areas of open water including large rivers, freshwater swamps, lakes and the sea and uses terrestrial habitats for nesting and perching such as tall woodland and open forest.

According to the NSW Bio Net database, the following threatened species have also been sighted in the reserve:

- Green and Golden Bell Frog (*Litoria aurea*) - listed as endangered under the BC Act and vulnerable under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). It was recorded in 1976 on the southern boundary of the reserve and no recent sightings have been recorded. It inhabits unshaded waterbodies, marshes, dams and streamlines.
- Wallum Froglet (*Crinia tinnula*) - listed as vulnerable under the BC Act uses the swamps and sedgelands and drainage lines in other vegetation communities.
- Freckled Duck (*Stictonetta naevosa*) - listed as Vulnerable under BC Act uses the freshwater swamps and wetlands during inland droughts.
- Eastern osprey (*Pandion cristatus*) - listed as vulnerable under the BC Act 2016. This water dependent bird of prey feeds on fish over clear open water and favours coastal areas including lagoons and lakes, nesting in dead branches of tall trees.

A targeted strategy for managing these species has been developed under the NSW government Saving Our Species program which aims to ensure that they are secure in the wild in NSW and that their NSW geographic range is extended or maintained and that their conservation status under the BC Act is maintained.

Other threatened species listed under the BC Act 2016 or EPBC Act 1999 that have been recorded in the Maitland LGA that could occur within the reserve from time to time include:

Flora:

- Heath Wringlework (*Rutidosis heterogama*) Fauna:
- Black-necked Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*)
- Brush-tailed Phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*)
- Eastern Bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis*)
- Eastern False Pipistrelle (*Falsistrellus tasmaniensis*)
- Eastern Freetail-bat (*Mormopterus norfolkensis*)
- Greater Broad-nosed Bat (*Scoteanax rueppellii*)
- Grey-crowned Babbler (eastern subspecies) (*Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis*)
- Grey-headed Flying fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*)*
- Little Bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus australis*)
- Regent Honey-eater (*Anthochaera phrygia*)**
- Southern Myotis (*Myotis Macropus*)
- Squirrel Glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*)

- Varied Sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*)
- Yellow-bellied (Sheath-tail-bat)

*= listed as vulnerable under EPBC Act

**= listed as critically endangered under the BC Act and EPBC Act

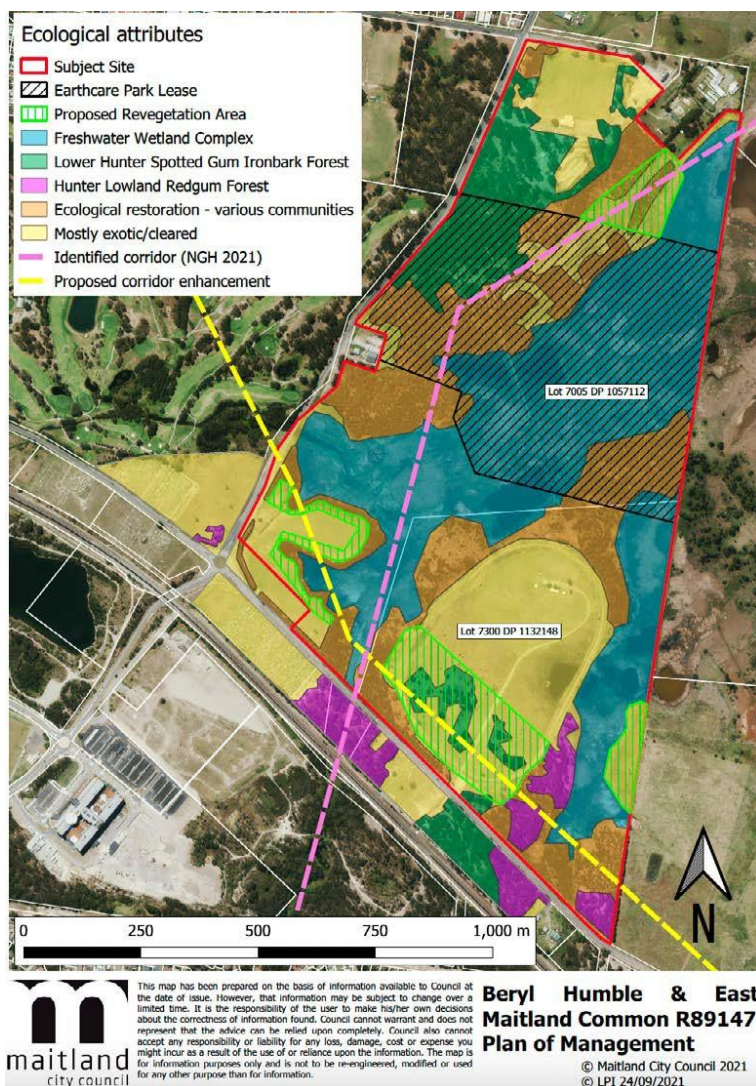
Other environmental values and benefits of the reserve include enhanced ground water.

The reserve also reduces urban storm water runoff for waterway health and flood mitigation, provides soil protection, carbon storage and sequestration, improved air quality and canopy for a cooler environment in the face of climate change.

Tenambit, like all wetlands also absorbs carbon dioxide and creates a natural buffer to extreme weather patterns of drought and flood whilst also recharging underground aquifers and filtering pollutants.

In 2022, Council received a grant from the NSW Environmental Trust in association with Local Government NSW which funded the revegetation of approximately one hectare of Lower Hunter Spotted Gum Ironbark Forest. The goal of these works is to increase the roosting and feeding habitat of grey-headed flying-fox as part of Council's ongoing Flying-fox Home Base Project.

Figure 11. Ecological attributes of Beryl Humble Sports Complex and East Maitland Common Reserve



6.2.4 Recreation and engagement with nature for physical and mental health

The natural areas of the reserve offer a variety of passive and eco tourism recreation opportunities including bush walking on tracks, bird watching, wildlife viewing, nature photography, and aesthetic and scenic qualities that these tranquil places provide to relax, restore and escape the pressures of life. Natural areas that link to other areas of open space greatly increase their recreational value to the community.

6.2.5 Pre and post 1788 history and cultural landscapes

The Wonnarua people – the ‘people of the hills and the plains’, are the First Peoples and traditional custodians of the lands within the Maitland LGA. Wonnarua people have been living in the Hunter Valley for tens of thousands of years and have maintained a strong sense of cultural identity despite the impact of colonisation on their traditional lands and culture.

Around 1816, cedar logging groups from the Newcastle convict settlement started working in the area. A few years later, convict farmers were allowed to select land. As white settlers occupied the area for farming, logging, mining and quarries, many Aboriginal people were displaced and forced to leave. They also suffered from massacres, disease and change of diet, catastrophically impacting their social and family groups, their culture and way of life.

Relics from past land uses can be found scattered within in the natural areas of the reserve and are particularly visible after fire events. Past uses included a small quarry, a former golf course, a former shooting range, stock grazing and former dairy farm.

6.2.6 A place for aboriginal storytelling, custodianship and engagement with traditional lands

Maitland City Council encourages Aboriginal people to reengage with their traditional lands and to practice culture. The natural areas subject to this POM can be a valuable resource to learn and practice culture and care for Country, including cultural burns.

The reserve contains many of the plants that were used for food, bedding, medicine, implement making and ceremonial purposes that are valuable to Aboriginal people today in their practice and teaching of culture.

Furthermore, there is an opportunity to name places within the reserve in Wonnarua language and to interpret suitable sites for visitors.

Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) have worked with Maitland City Council and Earthcare Park Landcare Group in engagement opportunities with the reserve. This has included establishment of a bushtucker garden within Earthcare Park.

6.2.7 Community stewardship, educational and scientific values

Earthcare Park, indicated in Figure 10 above, is a key location in Maitland LGA used to foster community stewardship, educational and scientific research opportunities provided by Earthcare Park Landcare Group (an incorporated entity) to develop awareness and interest in the environment.

Earthcare Park Landcare Group (ECPLG) has evolved since its inception in 1995 with support from Council and other stakeholders. It leases approximately 35 to 50 hectares of land from Maitland City Council as Crown land manager.

ECPLG has a vision to improve and manage the land demonstrating ecologically sustainable principles: ‘The objective for the ECPLG is to now maintain focus on the reintroduction of a wide variety of indigenous plants to create the diversity necessary for a sustainable native ecosystem’ (Huber E 2022).

Significant projects undertaken by the Group include land conservation, revegetation, community education programs, creation of a shelter, seating, educational signage, trails and a bushfood garden. The Bushfood Garden was created in association with the Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council to showcase the bush food and medicinal uses of local indigenous plants.

Part of the original mission of ECLG was focused on 'public education, raising awareness of biodiversity and conservation' (Huber E 2022). Over the past decade the group has 'held several community events each year' for the local community and local primary and high schools including:

- Faraway Tree Parties and a Youth Day concert featuring local bands;
- frog, bat and astronomy nights;
- avian, environment and weed awareness days; and
- National Tree Day plantings (Huber E 2022).

ECPLG has also been actively creating partnerships with a range of organisations to enhance community stewardship and educational and scientific knowledge of the site. Earthcare Park has become a Stepping Stone for the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative and the Landcare Group is now associated with Hunter Bird Observers Club who hold quarterly bird audits on the site.

Over the past few years, it has hosted a number of corporate groups who assist with planting, mulching and maintenance. It also raises its public profile and reaches out to the community online with fact sheets and group activities on Facebook (Huber E 2022).

6.3 Natural area – bushland

6.3.1 Guidelines and core objectives

Bushland is defined in clause 107 of the Local Government (General) Regulation as land containing primarily native vegetation that is the natural vegetation or a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land, or although not the natural vegetation, is still representative of the structure or floristics of the natural vegetation in the locality.

The core objectives for bushland, as outlined in Section 36J of the LG Act, are to:

- ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna of the land and other ecological values;
- protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land;
- manage the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures to minimise or mitigate disturbance caused by human intrusion;
- restore degraded bushland;
- protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores;
- retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term; and
- protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.

6.3.2 Physical environment

The areas categorised as bushland are partly situated on extensive floodplains on Quarternary Alluvium with slope gradients of less than one per cent that was previously tall open forest and closed forest. The soils are deep and range from moderately to poorly drained Prairie Soils, Brown Clays,

Chernozems and Alluvial Soils that can cause foundation hazards as it is prone to shrinking when dry and swelling when wet.

This land has a permanently high water table with seasonal waterlogging and soils of high fertility. Areas can become compacted if exposed to trampling and are prone to rising salinity levels nearer the wetland. (<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/Salis5app/resources/spade/reports/9232hu.pdf>)

The vegetation communities are described in detail in section 5.2.1 Ecological and Environmental Values above and include remnant Lower Hunter Spotted Gum-Ironbark Forest in the Sydney Basin and NSW North Coast Bioregions, small patches of highly disturbed Hunter Lowland Red Gum Forest and revegetated areas. The bushland and wetland areas are periodically exposed to bushfire, particularly during drought.

6.3.3 Key issues

The following pressures and opportunities influence management of the areas categorised as Natural Area - Bushland and must be addressed in ongoing management and assessment.

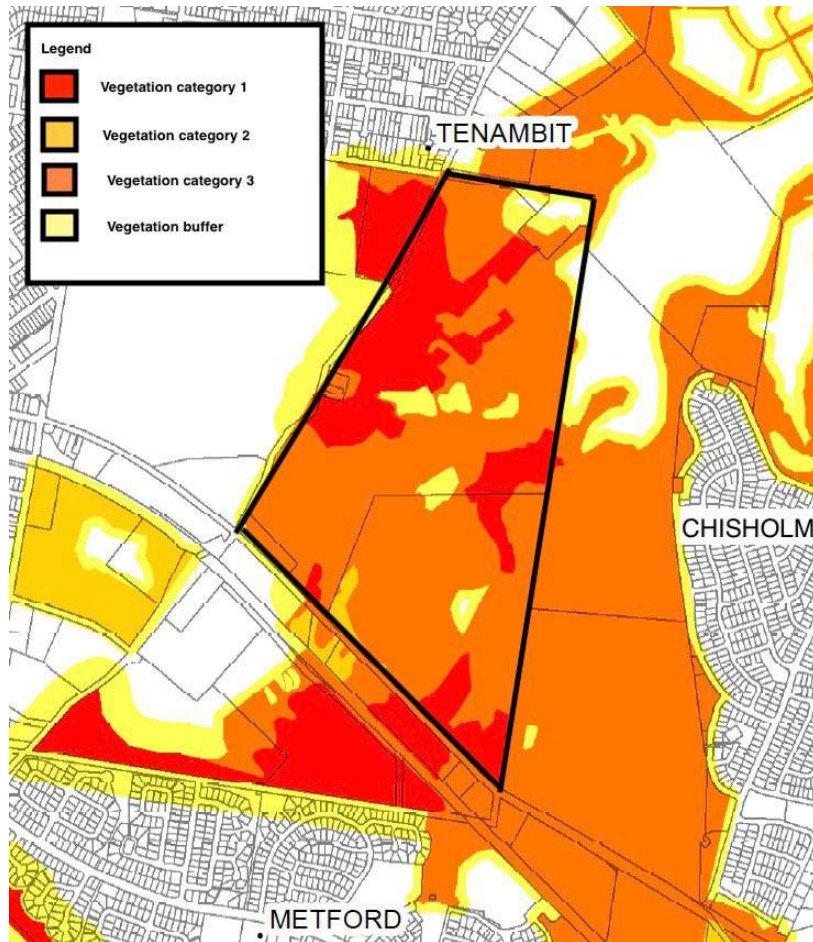
Climate Change

- In the Maitland LGA, climate change is exacerbating many existing risks to Council operations, the natural environment and the community, including intensified and more frequent heatwaves, bushfire, floods, drought, storms and changes in rainfall patterns.
- Anthropogenic climate change is a key threatening process listed under the BC Act 2016. Changes to rainfall or temperature can threaten the survival of native species or ecological communities. Climate change also interacts with other threatening processes fire and weeds by amplifying the impacts of these threats. In combination, these processes can significantly increase the risk of extinction of a threatened species and degrade the integrity of ecological communities.
- The State Government Saving Our Species Strategy for Climate Change aims to integrate climate change adaptation into biodiversity conservation to minimise the loss of biodiversity and biodiversity values and maximise adaptive capacity across the landscape. Council will need to stay informed about these strategies to ensure contemporary approaches are implemented and resourced.

Fire Management

- Climate change is aggravating fire conditions leading to more catastrophic fire events, especially during drought, when there are very dry fuels and soils, and during record-breaking heat. Fire seasons have lengthened, reducing opportunities for fuel reduction burning.
- The risks to people and property have increased as urban development of Chisholm encroaches closer to the reserve (refer Figure 12 Maitland City Council Bushfire Prone Land Map 2021 below).
- The natural values are currently not managed using natural fire regimes. Specific fire regimes are important tools to maintain natural ecological functioning and biodiversity of fire adapted vegetation. Bushfire at the inappropriate frequency and temperature can result in the disruption of the life cycle processes in native plants and animals and loss of vegetation structure.
- Bushfire can cause significant damage to bushland, tracks and infrastructure that requires funding, which is not always available, putting pressure on Council resources.

Figure 12. Maitland City Council Bushfire Prone Land Map 2021



Pests and Disease

- Many of the known and potential weeds, pest animals and pathogens to the reserve are key threatening processes under the BC Act 2016 and EPBC Act 1999 as they adversely affect threatened species or ecological communities or could cause species or ecological communities to become threatened.

Large areas of the site contain exotic grasses dominated by Guinea Grass (*Megathyrsus maximus*), Kikuyu (*Cenchrus clandestinus*), paspalum (*Paspalum dilatatum*), Natal grass (*Melinis repens*). Many common woody weeds also compete with endemic plants for resources such as light, nutrients and space and can aggressively invade areas and push out native plants and animals.

- The management of weeds requires regular resourcing and monitoring and the management of priority weeds is a legal obligation under Part 3 of the Biosecurity Act 2015 to prevent, eliminate or minimise biosecurity risk.
- Introduced invasive animals like the fox, rabbit, European Honeybee, feral goats, pigs, deer, and feral cat compete with native animals for habitat and/or prey on them. They can also damage native plants and degrade natural habitats. At times, off leash dogs are observed in the reserve and can predate, scare and disturb wildlife, pollute with their faeces and spread weed seed. The smell of domestic dogs can stress native animals.
- Pathogens and disease including *Phytophthora cinnamomi* and exotic rust fungi of the order pucciniales can significantly impact vegetation health and distribution.

- Infection of frogs by amphibian chytrid causing the disease chytridiomycosis can threaten populations of frogs known to the reserve.
- Council currently does not have a feral animal management plan to meet its legal obligations under the Biosecurity Act and relies on grant funding to manage feral animals.

Threatened ecological communities and species

- The three endangered ecological communities identified in the reserve are listed as endangered largely due to land clearing for timber, agriculture and urbanisation in the Hunter region and progressive land degradation and fragmentation of bushland remnants. Less than seven per cent of remnant native bushland currently remains within the Maitland LGA, most of which is protected in reserves.
- Informal car parking within the Lower Hunter Spotted Gum-Ironbark Forest associated with the BMX facility and sportsground is compacting the ground and impacting the structure and function of the vegetation community that extends into Earth Care Park.
- Some revegetation within remnant bushland has blurred the delineation between remnant bushland, natural regeneration and revegetation, making it difficult to define threatened ecological communities on site.
- Locally the main threats impacting threatened flora and fauna species include predation and competition from pest species, land clearing, water pollution, habitat removal (e.g. hollow bearing trees), climate change, changes to fire regimes, changes to hydrological flows, urbanisation, stormwater, the introduction of pests, disease and weeds, rising salinity levels nearer the wetland, compacted soil from previous land uses and changes to vegetation structure and function.
- Detailed mapping of threatened ecological communities and threatened species is yet to be undertaken for the reserve and will help inform priorities and strategies for the recovery of threatened species, populations and ecological communities.

Local Wildlife Corridor and Revegetation

- Fragmentation through land clearing and urban development in the local and regional area is an ongoing risk to the biodiversity corridors that traverse the reserve.
- Council is targeting areas adjoining Earthcare Park for revegetation including south of the Pistol and Small Bore Rifle Ranges, around the outside of Don MacIndoe Memorial Flying Field, and the southern part of the field, the south western corner above the cemetery land and in the south east corners of East Maitland Common Reserve.
- No fauna or flora surveys have been undertaken by Council to understand the biodiversity values of the reserve and records largely rely on input from interest groups.
- Habitat boxes have fallen into disrepair and are a safety issue.
- The Bushland Rehabilitation Plan for the reserve is out of date and requires a revision in consultation with Earthcare Park Landcare Group and other relevant stakeholders.

Aboriginal Heritage

- There is a limited understanding of the reserve's values and potential for Aboriginal sites as the reserve has not been surveyed.
- More detailed investigation is required to better understand the heritage values and mitigate potential impacts in line with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1973 and due diligence processes.
- Weed removal, inappropriate planting and standard operations can damage Aboriginal sites due to soil disturbance.

- Currently Aboriginal heritage is not well interpreted in the Reserve and could better reflect and celebrate Aboriginal heritage in consultation with key stakeholders including the Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council.
- Currently the Aboriginal community is not involved in cultural burning practices in the reserve. Cultural burns are not only beneficial to natural values but also are an activity with a deep cultural meaning that enhances connection to Country and promotes environmental health.

Post 1788 Heritage

- More detailed investigation is required to better understand heritage values, interpret those values, and protect them from potential impacts.

Community Use and Recreation

- Population growth and COVID 19 have increased demand on reserves as a place for respite and recreation which can put pressure on bushland, causing vegetation damage and erosion, particularly along the track network as well as disturbance to habitat. Due to the cultural and ecological sensitivity of the bushland area, the primary focus is conservation. The need to provide for public access and passive recreation must be planned and managed so as not to negatively impact natural values and fragment bushland.
- The natural areas do not currently provide adequate pram or disabled access.
- Improvements to pedestrian access into Earthcare Park from the BMX informal car park is required however a barrier is needed to stop bikes entering.

Fencing, boundary management and Unauthorised and Illegal activities

- The reserve can be subject to vandalism by way of flora destruction, wood removal, arson, fence damage, graffiti, illegal campfires, and the dumping of rubbish from litter to building waste.
- Removal of dead wood and dead trees are key threatening processes under the BC Act 2016.
- Unauthorised activities such as camping, mountain biking, trail bikes, four wheel driving and drug taking have occurred in the natural area in the past and can damage reserve values.
- Land boundaries need to be secured to limit unauthorised or undesirable access.
- Fencing can be damaged or degrade over time and resources are needed to undertake monitoring and repairs. For instance, the decaying fencing around the former racing track, now the Don MacIndoe Memorial Flying Field requires removal and fencing between Earthcare Park and the BMX facility requires maintenance.

Contamination

- There is potential for areas within some reserves to be contaminated from past activities or incidences. No assessments have been undertaken to date to identify where contaminated sites may exist. Council, as a public land manager has legal obligations to ensure any human health and environmental risks associated with land contamination are appropriately managed. Legal instruments that must be complied with include the LG Act 1993 and the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997.

Land Use Zones

- The reserve is zoned under the Maitland LEP 2011 as part C2 Environment Conservation and part RE1 Public Recreation zone. Where the land use zone is incompatible with the purpose of the land under this POM as indicated in Table 6 below, it is recommended the zone be slightly amended in future iterations of the Local Environmental Plan.

Community and Stakeholder Collaboration

- Council's budget for bushland restoration is limited so projects must be targeted and collaboration with Earthcare Park Landcare Group (ECPLG), community volunteers and stakeholders encouraged.
- Maitland City Council is constantly working to expand its community participation conservation projects and environmental education programs with available funds and would benefit from closer collaboration with ECPLG.
- ECPLG would benefit from Council support and capacity building to restore the site, locate the bushtucker garden in an appropriate area, undertake education programs and training, prepare grant applications, promote Earthcare Park events, install education and regulatory signage and maintain and upkeep existing infrastructure.
- Council needs to engage with ECPLG to discuss proposed access to the leased ECPLG area.
- Council needs to collaborate and capacity built with other stakeholders including Mindaribba LALC for tours, site understanding and the bush tucker garden.

Earthcare Park Landcare Group Lease

- The current ECPLG lease of the Crown land parcel that forms Earthcare Park is currently an annual licence. Council is interested in offering a long-term lease to give ECPLG certainty which will assist their long term planning.
- The size of the lease area has changed over the years and needs to be negotiated and finalised in any new agreement.

Maintenance

- Council's budget for bushland reserve maintenance is limited so maintenance works programs must be targeted.
- Key infrastructure providers such as Hunter Water, require access to maintain their infrastructure from time to time that can cause environmental damage.

Sportsground and Natural Area interface

- The current licence held by City of Maitland Society of Aeromodellers (COMSOA) includes the whole of Lot 7300 in Deposited Plan 1132148 with an 'exclusive use area', within the larger licence area, that is bounded by the former horse training track.
- Future revegetation and wetland management practices around the exclusive use area will need to be negotiated with COMSOA to ensure good outcomes for the bushland and wetland as well as retaining the required flight and airfield areas for COMSOA.

6.3.4 Management framework for reserves categorised as natural area – bushland

6.3.4.1 Development and use

The primary purpose of Bushland Reserves is to provide opportunities for people to experience, or protect, the natural environment, to provide habitat for flora and fauna and protect and conserve cultural heritage. A low level of development is envisaged for Bushland Reserves with the objective being to provide a 'natural' outdoor experience.

Development will be limited to conservation and vegetation restoration activities and associated facilities in Earthcare Park including signage, shelters, seating, a bush tucker garden, and low impact activities such as walking on well-formed tracks to rough tracks, boardwalks and a bird watching platform or bird hide.

The values and attributes of Bushland Reserves include:

- low impact recreation activity; intact or relatively intact natural ecosystems; unique, significant or threatened indigenous flora and fauna;
- cultural heritage; and
- outstanding natural features and landscapes including wetlands.

6.3.4.2 current use of the land

Condition and use of the land and structures

Due to past land uses and land clearing, the natural areas are degraded with compacted soil, weeds and regenerating bushland. Some revegetation within remnant bushland has blurred the delineation between remnant bushland, natural regeneration and revegetation, making it difficult to define the threatened ecological communities on site.

The overall use of land categorised as Natural Area – Bushland is for passive recreation, land conservation and restoration.

Earthcare Park Landcare Group (ECPLG) has evolved on the site since its inception in 1995 with support from Council and other stakeholders. ECPLG is based on volunteers who have a vision to improve and manage the land demonstrating ecologically sustainable principles; ‘The objective for the ECPLG is to now maintain focus on the reintroduction of a wide variety of indigenous plants to create the diversity necessary for a sustainable native ecosystem’ (Huber E 2022).

Significant projects undertaken by the Group include land conservation, revegetation, community education programs, creation of a shelter, seating, educational signage, trails and a bushfood garden. The Bushfood Garden was created in association with the Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council to showcase the bush food and medicinal uses of local indigenous plants.

ECP also has access to a drinking water supply via two taps installed in different areas to facilitate watering of new plantings. All infrastructure is suffering wear and tear and requires ongoing maintenance.

A condition description of the structures within the natural areas is at Appendix 6.

Part of the original mission of ECLG was focused on ‘public education, raising awareness of biodiversity and conservation’ (Huber E 2022). Over the past decade the group has ‘held several community events each year’ for the local community and local primary and high schools including:

- Faraway Tree Parties and a Youth Day concert featuring local bands
- frog, bat and astronomy nights
- avian, environment and weed awareness days
- National Tree Day plantings (Huber E 2022).

ECPLG has also been actively creating partnerships with a range of organisations to enhance community stewardship and educational and scientific knowledge of the site. Earthcare Park has become a Stepping Stone for the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative and the Landcare Group is now associated with Hunter Bird Observers Club who hold quarterly bird audits on the site.

Over the past few years, it has hosted a number of corporate groups who assist with planting, mulching and maintenance. It also raises its public profile and reaches out to the community online with fact sheets and group activities on Facebook (Huber E 2022).

Current leases and licences for Natural Area – Bushland

The only occupancy agreement currently occurring on the land categorised as Natural Area – Bushland is a licence to Earthcare Park Landcare Group from Council as Crown land manager on an annual basis for a nominal fee to manage and operate Earthcare Park.

This licence arrangement has varied over the years to up to 50 hectares and for longer periods that gave the group more certainty. Council is now investigating a long term lease of 21 years to assist ECPLG with their long term planning.

City of Maitland Society of Aeromodellers (COMSOA) has a licence over Don MacIndoe Memorial Flying Field. It includes the former horse track and a storage building used by the COMSOA. The licenced area covers the whole of Lot 7300 in Deposited Plan 1132148, which contains a significant portion of land categorised as Natural Area Bushland and Wetland.

This is not inconsistent with the licence and uses but there are no natural area management responsibilities for COMSOA, nor is COMSOA entitled to develop the natural area land. The aeromodellers use of the land and skies above is regularised by CASA while the site is highly valued by its users for its unique location and orientation for flights.

6.3.4.3 Permissible uses/ future uses

The general types of uses which may occur on community land categorised as Natural Area – Bushland and the forms of development generally associated with those uses, are set out in detail in Table 6. The facilities on community land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community. The anticipated uses and associated development identified in the table are intended to provide a general guide.

Table 6: Permissible use and development of community land categorised as Natural Area – Bushland

Purpose/use	Development to facilitate uses
• 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 recreation. • Walking/hiking. • Guided bushwalks. • Environmental and scientific study. • Bush regeneration works. • Carbon sequestration. • Bio-banking. • Approved bush care projects requiring ecological restoration activities associated with protection of flora and fauna. • Fire hazard reduction and cultural burns. • Facilitating connection to Country.	• Visitor facilities: picnic tables, sheltered seating areas, lighting, low impact unsealed car parks. • Low-impact walking trails (unsealed) • Interpretive and wayfinding signage, information • kiosks. • Energy-saving initiatives such as solar lights and solar panels • Bird observation platforms and boardwalks. • Work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land. • Temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out. • Locational, directional and regulatory signage. • Fencing, security gates and bollards.

6.3.4.4 Express authorisation of leases, licences and other estates - natural area

– Bushland

This POM expressly authorises the issue of leases, licences and other estates over the land categorised as Natural Area – Bushland, 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 LG 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 or allowed by the provisions of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cwth);

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; and
- 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.

This POM **expressly authorises** the issue of leases, licences and other estates over the land categorised as Natural Area – Bushland listed in Table 7 below. The facilities on community land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community.

The anticipated uses and associated development identified below are intended

Table 7: Leases, licences and other estates and purposes for which they may be granted for community land categorised as Natural Area – Bushland in Beryl Humble Sports Complex and East Maitland Common Reserve.

Type of tenure arrangement	Purpose for which tenure may be granted
Lease five years to 21 years	• Walkways, pathways, bridges, causeways. • Observation platforms, signs . • Information kiosk. • Kiosk selling light refreshments (but not restaurants). • Bicycle/boat hire or similar for ecotourism. • Work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land. • Portable toilets. • Temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out. • Connection to Country activities, cultural burns and cultural heritage interpretation.

	• Carbon sequestration. • Bio banking. • Soil erosion and water quality management.
Licence one year to 21 years	• Walkways, pathways, bridges, causeways. • Observation platforms, signs. Information kiosk. • Kiosk selling light refreshments (but not restaurants). • Bicycle/boat hire or similar for ecotourism. • Work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land. • Portable toilets. • Temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out. • Scientific studies and surveys or similar. • Connection to Country activities, cultural burns and cultural heritage interpretation. Guided walking tours, guided interpretive tours. • Environmental and scientific study. • Approved bush care projects requiring ecological restoration activities associated with protection of flora and fauna. • Fire hazard reduction. • Soil erosion and water quality works.
Short term licence subject to: general and ad hoc short term or casual licences as issued ad hoc with Council formal application process, permissions and/ or approvals (LG Act, S.46, LG (General) Regulation, Cl.117, and CLM Act Ss. 2.20 and 3.17, CLM Regulation Cl. 31	• Scientific studies and surveys or similar. • Guided walking tours/guided interpretive tours. • Environmental and scientific study. • Approved bush care projects requiring ecological restoration activities associated with protection of flora and fauna. • Fire hazard reduction. • Soil erosion and water quality works. • Bicycle/boat hire or similar (not motorised). • Temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out.
Other estates	This POM 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 in accordance with the LG Act. Estates may also be granted across community land for the provision of pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining

the community land to a facility of the Council or other Public Utility Provider that is situated on community land.

6.3.4.5 Action plan for natural area - bushland

Section 36 of the LG Act requires that a POM 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; and
- the manner in which the Council proposes to assess its performance in achieving the objectives and performance targets.

Table 8 sets out these requirements for community land categorised as Natural Area – Bushland.



Photograph courtesy of Earthcare Park Landcare Group

Table 8. Objectives and performance targets, means of achieving them and assessing achievement for community land categorised as Natural Area – Bushland

Management issues LG Act	Objectives and performance targets s.36(3)(b)	Means of achievement of objectives s.36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of performance s.36(3)(d)
1. Maintain biodiversity within a changing climate			
	Identify, protect, enhance and manage threatened environmental communities and threatened species.	• Validate vegetation mapping and the presence of threatened, endangered or rare plants and animals and endangered ecological communities . • Leverage the best available modelling, science and adaptation programs to mitigate climate change and make evidence based decisions. • Work with the Saving our Species officers, ECPLG and other stakeholders. • Update the Bushland Rehabilitation Plan in consultation with ECPLG to satisfy the requirements of the reserve becoming a future stewardship site under the BC Act. • Allocate adequate resources and funding. • Install nest boxes and remove damaged ones.	• A flora and fauna assessment is undertaken and mapping validated to inform management responses and legal obligations. • Bushland Rehabilitation Plan is updated that includes native grassland. • Biodiversity and bushland resilience is maintained following best practice and contemporary approaches. • Adequate resources and funding allocated. • Nest boxes installed.

		• Protect and preserve hollow bearing trees.	
	Implement suitable fire regimes to manage biodiversity, threatened ecological communities and threatened species	• Implement preferred fire regimes for the recovery of threatened ecological communities and species as identified in the Saving our Species priority actions in consultation with ECPLG. • Apply necessary mosaic fire regimes to maintain the appropriate floristic and structural diversity for each vegetation community (where feasible) and ensure the ongoing persistence of sensitive species in consultation with ECPLG. • Inform Council's bushfire management committee of site changes that may require amendments to the Maitland Bushfire Risk Management Plan.	• Suitable fire regimes implemented for the recovery of threatened ecological communities and species and to maintain biodiversity. • Biodiversity resilience is maintained. • Bushfire Risk Management Plan updates based on contemporary information on biodiversity.

	Manage and suppress weeds, pests, disease and pathogens.	• In collaboration with ECPLG identify and record weed, pest, disease and pathogen incursions through monitoring to inform site management and budgeting requirements. • Implement strategies under the Saving our Species Program to manage Key Threatening Processes following contemporary approaches. • Target weeds, pests, disease and pathogens according to state, regional and local priorities under the <i>NSW Biosecurity Act 2015</i> the <i>Biodiversity Act 2016</i> and <i>Hunter Region Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan</i> and <i>Strategic Weed Management Plan</i>. • Collaborate with EPCLG and stakeholders to implement management measures in a coordinated approach. • Allocate adequate resources and funding.	• Regular site monitoring undertaken and recorded to determine wetland resilience and effectiveness of strategies. • Compliance with state, regional and local priorities. Adequate resources and funding allocated.
	Restore vegetation connectivity.	• Work with ECPLG and adjoining landowners and stakeholders to restore vegetation connectivity and wildlife corridors . • Only revegetate with endemic species suitable to the site using bushcare methods. • Vegetation corridors should be wide enough to render it functional for the maximum number of species.	• Vegetation connectivity improved with appropriate endemic vegetation. • Flora and fauna surveys. • Integrity of TECs retained.

	Create a Wildlife Protection Area.	Investigate creating a Wildlife Protection Area for the protection of native animals and their habitats under the NSW <i>Companion Animals Act, 1998</i>.	- Dogs prohibited in sensitive areas and on leash in all other areas of the reserve. Stray cats caught and removed. - Signage and ranger monitoring implemented.
2. Cultural heritage			
	Identify, protect and interpret Aboriginal heritage.	- Investigate archaeological surveys and research as required to improve baseline data. - In consultation with Aboriginal Stakeholders, identify sites suitable for interpretation. - Allocate resources and funding through council's budgeting process.	- Improved baseline data . - Aboriginal heritage sites found are investigated and recorded on the Aboriginal Heritage - Information Management System (AHIMS) database. - Aboriginal Stakeholders are satisfied with management approach, site interpretation and outcomes.
	Facilitate Connection to Country, Cultural Burns and site interpretation.	- Partner with Aboriginal people to explore how Aboriginal culture can be protected and shared through visitor experiences delivered by or in partnership with Aboriginal service providers. Engage and involve Aboriginal people in park management planning, operations, interpretation, cultural activities and education programs to improve connection to Country. - Engage with the Aboriginal community to determine suitable sites for Cultural	- Number of interpretation sites, programs and activities and participation numbers. - Number of sites where cultural burns are suitable and have occurred. - Success of the cultural burn - in Connection to Country, fire hazard reduction and biodiversity improvements. - Aboriginal Stakeholders are satisfied with the partnership, management

		Burns in consultation with ECPLG and other relevant stakeholders.	approach, site interpretation and outcomes.
	Identify, protect and interpret post 1788 heritage.	- Undertake a heritage assessment of the reserve to identify heritage values and sites - Interpret heritage where appropriate to enrich visitor experience.	Heritage assessment undertaken. Sites interpreted.
3. Access and accessibility			
	Improve access for passive recreation and visitor experience.	- Review tracks and access points for accessibility. - Assist ECPLG in maintaining existing trails.	- Appropriate gates installed. - Tracks regularly maintained. - Tracks designed to improve accessibility.
	Facilitate access for operations and emergency service vehicles.	In consultation with infrastructure maintenance, management vehicles, fire fighting and emergency vehicles, determine access requirements.	Access requirements met.
	Close unauthorised tracks and trails.	Close unauthorised tracks and trails to reduce environmental impacts.	Unauthorised tracks and trails closed.
4. Fencing and boundary management			
	Install and maintain fencing where required to reduce impacts on natural values, prevent unauthorised access, reduce illegal activity and limit unauthorised vehicle activities.	- Monitor reserve boundaries to identify areas to be secured to limit unauthorised or undesirable access. - Allocate resources and funding through council's budgeting process. Collaborate	- Reduced incidence of unauthorised access and activities. - Fencing and gates are functional - Number of infringement notices issued.

		- with ECPLG for fencing and boundary management. - Fix or remove fencing in disrepair - Issue infringement notices.	- Old horse racing track fence around Don McIndoe flying field removed. - Fencing around BMX track repaired. - Gate between BMX track parking area and ECP installed.
5. Community and stakeholder collaboration			
	Undertake community education campaigns, events, workshops and volunteer programs to improve community understanding of reserve values, issues and improve stewardship in collaboration with ECPLG.	- Ensure projects are targeted. In collaboration with ECPLG, undertake community engagement, education programs, natural area restoration projects, citizen science. - Seek grants with ECPLG for such activities to scale up resources and capacity build. - Facilitate major community engagement environment events with ECPLA through financial and administrative support.	- Number of volunteers / participants. - Number of education/ citizen science/ community conservation programs (e.g. Plant a Tree Day, Bushcare). - Feedback from ECPLG. - Resources and funding allocated for management. - Number of successful grants.
6. Community use and recreation			
	Facilitate community use and enjoyment of the reserves.	Maintain and renew recreation and community facilities (e.g. shelters, benches, tracks as needed) in consultation with ECPLG.	- Community satisfaction surveys. - Audits of recreation facilities.
	Long term lease with ECPLG.	Prepare a new long-term lease of 21 years with ECPLG, based on an Earthcare Park management plan that includes provisions on land restoration, new	Long term lease finalised.

		facilities, facility upgrades, waste management, maintenance and access.	
7. Signage and interpretation			
	Install signage to inform visitors of permissible uses, dangers and site values to enrich visitor experience and safety.	• Install regulatory, way finding and educational signage and periodically review signage for relevance and need of replacement. • Allocate resources and funding through council's budgeting process in consultation with the Assets Branch.	• Signage plan. • Implementation of signage. • Visitor, ECPLG and stakeholder feedback. • Reduced number of unauthorised or illegal activities.
8. Contamination			
	Manage contaminated land and impacts.	• Investigate map all known and potential contaminated land and undertake initial screening, site assessment and develop options to manage impacts.	• Compliance with legal requirements.
9. Maintenance			
	Reserve infrastructure is maintained at a functional and safe level.	• Allocate sufficient resources and funding through Council's budgeting. • Regularly monitor reserves for maintenance requirements.	• ECPLG and visitor satisfaction. • Number of recorded injuries or incidences.
10. Land use zone			

	Ensure the land use zone under MLEP is consistent with the category of the reserve under the LG Act and Regulations.	Rezone any Crown land subject to this Bushland category under the MLEP that is not already zoned E2 Environment Conservation.	Any Crown land subject to this Bushland category under the MLEP is zoned E2 Environment Conservation in accordance with the LG Act and Regulations.
11. Masterplanning			
	Prepare masterplan for the reserve.	A draft masterplan be prepared in consultation with ECPLG that includes the land categorisation, the threatened ecological communities, visitor facilities and location for the bush tucker garden, board walk and bird watching platform/hide.	Masterplan prepared, publicly exhibited and adopted.
12. Decision making not addressed in this pom			
	To facilitate decision making not addressed in this POM.	Any management decisions or issues outside of the scope of this POM should be assessed and resolved in the context of the Core Objectives for the Natural Area - Bushland category as per the <i>LGA 1993</i>, the Crown Reserve Purpose, Land Zoning, and Council Policy.	Compliance with core objectives for the Natural Area - Wetland.

6.4 Natural area – wetland

6.4.1 Guidelines and core objectives

Wetlands are defined in clause 108 of the LG (General) Regulation as marshes, mangroves, backwaters, billabongs, swamps, sedge lands, wet meadows or wet heathlands that form a waterbody.

The core objectives for wetlands, as outlined in Section 36K of the LG Act, are to:

- protect the biodiversity and ecological values of wetlands, particularly their hydrological environment (including water quality and water flow), flora, fauna and habitat value;
- restore and regenerate degraded wetlands; and
- facilitate community education in relation to wetlands, and community use of wetlands, without compromising the ecological values of wetlands.

6.4.2 Physical environment

The wetland complex in the reserve forms part of the Tenambit Wetlands which forms mosaics with other floodplain communities. It comprises open water wetland, drainage lines, depressions, flats and backswamps, and is periodically or semi permanently inundated with freshwater. Active erosion can occur along channelled drainage lines.

The Wetland is situated on extensive floodplains on Quarternary Alluvium with slope gradients of less than one per cent. The soils are deep and range from

moderately to poorly drained Prairie Soils, Brown Clays, Chernozems and Alluvial Soils. This land has a permanently high water table with seasonal waterlogging and soils of high fertility. Areas can become compacted if exposed to trampling and are prone to rising salinity levels.

(<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/Salis5app/resources/spade/reports/9232hu.pdf>)

The structure of the vegetation communities varies from sedgelands and reedlands to herbfields, and woody species of plants. Freshwater Wetland Complex, an Endangered Ecological Community listed under the NSW BC Act has been identified in the site. The community has not been surveyed and is dominated by *Typha orientalis* (Cumbungi) with some scattered *Casuarina glauca* (Swamp Oak). The vegetation diversity and structure vary depending on rainfall patterns and disturbance history that includes grazing, flooding, land clearing and pollution in the catchment that is becoming increasingly urbanised. (<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/Salis5app/resources/spade/reports/9232hu.pdf>)

The Wetlands have a distinctive fauna that includes ‘frogs, fish, freshwater tortoises, waterbirds and a diversity of micro and macro-invertebrates.’ (<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/Salis5app/resources/spade/reports/9232hu.pdf>)

The composition of Freshwater Wetlands on Coastal Floodplains is primarily determined by the frequency, duration and depth of waterlogging and may be influenced by the level of nutrients and salinity in the water and substrate. (<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/nsw-threatened-species-scientific-committee/determinations/final-determinations/2004-2007/freshwater-wetlands-coastal-floodplains-endangered-ecological-community-listing>)

6.4.3 Key issues

The following pressures and opportunities influence management of the areas categorised as Natural Area - Wetland and must be addressed in ongoing management and assessment.

Climate Change

- In the Maitland LGA, climate change is exacerbating many existing risks to Council operations, the natural environment and the community, including intensified and more frequent heatwaves, bushfire, floods, drought, storms and changes in rainfall patterns.
- Anthropogenic climate change is a key threatening process listed under the BC Act 2016. Changes to rainfall or temperature can threaten the survival of native species or ecological communities.
- The State Government Saving Our Species Strategy for Climate Change aims to integrate climate change adaptation into biodiversity conservation to minimise the loss of biodiversity and biodiversity values and maximise adaptive capacity across the landscape. Council will need to stay informed about these strategies to ensure contemporary approaches are implemented and resourced.

Fire Management

- The Wetland and adjoining bushland areas are periodically exposed to bushfire, particularly during drought.
- Climate change is aggravating fire conditions leading to more catastrophic fire events, when there are very dry fuels and soils, and during record breaking heat.
- The risks to people and property have increased as urban development of Chisholm encroaches closer to the Wetland (refer to Figure 12 Maitland City Council Bushfire Prone Land Map 2021 above).
- The natural values are currently not managed using natural fire regimes. Specific fire regimes are important tools to maintain natural ecological functioning and biodiversity of fire adapted vegetation. Bushfire at the inappropriate frequency and temperature can result in the disruption of the life cycle processes in native plants and animals and loss of vegetation structure.
- Bushfire can cause significant damage to bushland, tracks and infrastructure that requires funding, which is not always available, putting pressure on Council resources.

Pests and Disease

- Many of the known and potential weeds, pest animals and pathogens to the Wetland are key threatening processes under the BC Act 2016 and EPBC Act 1999 as they adversely affect threatened species or ecological communities or could cause species or ecological communities to become threatened.
- Large areas of the site contain exotic grasses dominated by Guinea Grass (*Megathyrsus maximus*), Kikuyu (*Cenchrus clandestinus*), paspalum (*Paspalum dilatatum*), Natal grass (*Melinis repens*). Many common woody weeds also compete with endemic plants for resources such as light, nutrients and space and can aggressively invade areas and push out native plants and animals.
- The management of weeds requires regular resourcing and monitoring and the management of priority weeds is a legal obligation under Part 3 of the Biosecurity Act 2015 to prevent, eliminate or minimise biosecurity risk.
- Introduced invasive animals like the fox, rabbit, European Honeybee, feral goats, pigs, deer, and feral cat compete with native animals for habitat and/or prey on them. They can also damage native plants and degrade natural habitats. At times, off leash dogs are observed in the wetland and can predate, scare and disturb wildlife, pollute with their faeces and spread weed seed.

- Pathogens and disease including *Phytophthora cinnamomi* and exotic rust fungi of the order pucciniales can significantly impact vegetation health and distribution.
- Infection of frogs by amphibian chytrid causing the disease chytridiomycosis can threaten populations of frogs known to the reserve.
- Council currently does not have a feral animal management plan to meet its obligations under the Biosecurity Act and relies on grant funding to manage feral animals.

Threatened ecological communities and species

- The Freshwater Wetland Complex is an Endangered Ecological Community in the Hunter Region partly due to fragmentation and changed hydrology regimes due to the draining of swamps, filling, sedimentation, land clearing for timber, agriculture and urbanisation.
- Wetland degradation has also occurred due to pollution and 'eutrophication from urban and agricultural runoff, weed invasion, overgrazing, trampling by livestock, soil disturbance by pigs, activation of 'acid sulfate soils' and rubbish dumping' (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/nsw-threatened-species-scientific-committee/determinations/final-determinations/2004-2007/freshwater-wetlands-coastal-floodplains-endangered-ecological-community-listing).
- Locally the main threats impacting threatened flora and fauna species include predation and competition from pest species, land clearing, water pollution, habitat removal (e.g. hollow bearing trees), climate change, changes to fire regimes, changes to hydrological flows, urbanisation, stormwater, the introduction of pests, disease and weeds, rising salinity levels nearer the wetland, compacted soil from previous land uses and changes to vegetation structure and function.
- Detailed mapping of threatened ecological communities and threatened species is yet to be undertaken for the reserve and will help inform priorities and strategies for the recovery of threatened species, populations and ecological communities.
- The native fauna of Freshwater Wetlands on Coastal Floodplains is threatened by predation, particularly by mosquito fish.

The following Key Threatening Processes listed under the BC Act impact the wetland community in the reserve: anthropogenic climate change; clearing of native vegetation; alteration to the natural flow regimes of rivers, streams, floodplains and wetlands; invasion of native plant communities by exotic perennial grasses; and predation, habitat destruction, competition and disease transmission by feral pigs. (<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/nsw-threatened-species-scientific-committee/determinations/final-determinations/2004-2007/freshwater-wetlands-coastal-floodplains-endangered-ecological-community-listing>)

Local Wildlife Corridor and Revegetation

- The wetland is the basis for the wildlife corridor in the reserve. Fragmentation through land clearing and urban development in the local and regional area is an ongoing risk to the biodiversity corridors that traverse the reserve.
- Council is targeting areas adjoining Earthcare Park for revegetation including in the south-west and in the south-east corners of the Common.
- No fauna or flora surveys have been undertaken by Council to understand the biodiversity values of the reserve and records largely rely on input from interest groups.
- The Bushland Rehabilitation Plan for the reserve is out of date and requires a revision in consultation with Earthcare Park Landcare Group and other relevant stakeholders to follow best practice revegetation in the wetland area.

Aboriginal Heritage

- There is a limited understanding of the reserve's values and potential for Aboriginal sites as the reserve has not been surveyed.
- More detailed investigation is required to better understand the heritage values and mitigate potential impacts in line with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1973 and due diligence processes.
- Weed removal, inappropriate planting and standard operations can damage Aboriginal sites due to soil disturbance.
- Currently Aboriginal heritage is not well interpreted in the Reserve and could better reflect and celebrate Aboriginal heritage in consultation with key stakeholders including the Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council.
- Currently the Aboriginal community is not involved in cultural burning practices in the reserve. Cultural burns are not only beneficial to natural values but also are an activity with a deep cultural meaning that enhances connection to Country and promotes environmental health.

Post 1788 Heritage

More detailed investigation is required to better understand heritage values, interpret those values, and protect them, where appropriate, from potential impacts.

Community Use and Recreation

Population growth and COVID 19 have increased demand on reserves as a place for respite and recreation which can put pressure on the wetland, causing vegetation damage and erosion, as well as disturbance to habitat. Due to the cultural and ecological sensitivity of the wetland area, the primary focus is conservation.

The need to provide for public access and passive recreation must be planned and managed so as not to negatively impact natural values and further fragment the wetland.

Fencing, boundary management and unauthorised and illegal activities

- The Wetland area can be subject to vandalism by way of flora destruction, arson, illegal campfires and the dumping of rubbish from litter to building waste.
- Unauthorised activities such as camping, mountain biking, trail bikes, four wheel driving and drug taking have occurred in the natural area in the past and can damage reserve values.
- Land boundaries need to be secured to limit unauthorised or undesirable access.
- Fencing can be damaged or degrade over time and resources are needed to undertake monitoring and repairs.

Contamination

- There is potential for the water and soil in the Wetland to be contaminated from past activities or incidences or from polluted water flowing through the catchment. No assessments have been undertaken to date to identify if contaminated sites exist.
- Council, as a public land manager has legal obligations to ensure any human health and environmental risks associated with land contamination are appropriately managed. Legal instruments that must be complied with include the LG Act 1993 and the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997.

Community and Stakeholder Collaboration

- Council's budget for wetland restoration is limited so projects must be targeted and collaboration with Earthcare Park Landcare Group (ECPLG), community volunteers and stakeholders encouraged.
- Maitland City Council is constantly working to expand its community participation conservation projects and environmental education programs with available funds and would benefit from closer collaboration with ECPLG.
- ECPLG would benefit from Council support and capacity building to restore the wetlands within their lease area, undertake education programs and training, prepare grant applications, promote Earthcare Park events, install education and regulatory signage and maintain and upkeep existing infrastructure.
- Council needs to engage with ECPLG to discuss proposed access to the leased ECPLG area.
- Council needs to collaborate and capacity build with other stakeholders including Mindaribba LALC.

Agreements that use or include Natural Area Land

- The current ECPLG occupancy of the Crown land parcel that forms Earthcare Park is currently an annual licence. Council is interested in offering a long term lease to give ECPLG certainty which will assist their long term planning. The size of the licenced or leased area has changed over the years.
- City of Maitland Society of Aeromodellers (COMSOA) has a licence over Don MacIndoe Memorial Flying Field. It includes the former racecourse and a storage building used by the COMSOA.

The licenced area covers the whole of Lot 7300 in Deposited Plan 1132148, which contains a significant portion of land categorised as Natural Area Bushland and Wetland. This is not inconsistent with the licence and uses but there are no natural area management responsibilities for COMSOA, nor is COMSOA entitle to develop the natural area land.

Maintenance

- Council's budget for wetland maintenance is limited so maintenance works programs must be targeted.
- Key infrastructure providers such as Hunter Water, who's pipeline crosses the site across the wetland, requires access to maintain their infrastructure from time to time that can cause environmental damage.

6.4.4 Management framework for reserves categorised as natural area – wetland

6.4.4.1 Development and use

The primary purpose of wetland reserves is to protect the biodiversity and ecological values of wetlands, particularly their hydrological environment (including water quality and water flow), flora, fauna and habitat value, restore and regenerate degraded wetlands, and facilitate community education in relation to wetlands, and community use of wetlands, without compromising the ecological values of wetlands.

A very level of development is envisaged for the wetland areas with the objective being to provide a 'natural' outdoor experience.

Development will be limited to conservation and vegetation restoration activities and low impact activities such as walking on well formed tracks to rough tracks, boardwalks and a bird watching platform or bird hide.

6.4.4.2 current use of the land

Condition and use of the land and structures

Due to past land uses and land clearing, the natural areas are degraded with compacted soil, weeds and regenerating bushland. Some revegetation has blurred the delineation between remnant vegetation, natural regeneration and revegetation, making it difficult to define the threatened ecological communities on site.

The overall use of land categorised as Natural Area – Wetland is for passive recreation, land conservation and restoration.

Earthcare Park Landcare Group (ECPLG) has evolved on the site since its inception in 1995 with support from Council and other stakeholders. ECPLG is based on volunteers who have a vision to improve and manage the land demonstrating ecologically sustainable principles; 'The objective for the ECPLG is to now maintain focus on the reintroduction of a wide variety of indigenous plants to create the diversity necessary for a sustainable native ecosystem' (Huber E 2022). Significant projects undertaken by the Group include land conservation, revegetation, community education programs, educational signage and trails.

Part of the original mission of ECLG was focused on 'public education, raising awareness of biodiversity and conservation' (Huber E 2022). Over the past decade the Group has 'held several community events each year' for the local community and local primary and high schools including:

- frog, bat and astronomy nights;
- avian, environment and weed awareness days; and
- National Tree Day plantings (Huber E 2022).

ECPLG has also been actively creating partnerships with a range of organisations to enhance community stewardship and educational and scientific knowledge of the site. Earthcare Park has become a Stepping Stone for the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative and the Landcare Group is now associated with Hunter Bird Observers Club who hold quarterly bird audits on the site.

Over the past few years, it has hosted a number of corporate groups who assist with planting, mulching and maintenance. It also raises its public profile and reaches out to the community online with fact sheets and group activities on Facebook (Huber E 2022).

Hunter Water also have an easement in the reserve that crosses through the middle of the wetland area in a north west to south east direction that contains Hunter Water pipe infrastructure.

6.4.4.3 Permissible uses/ future uses

The general types of uses which may occur on community land categorised as Natural Area – Wetland, and the forms of development generally 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. The anticipated uses and associated development identified in the table are intended to provide a general guide.

Table 9: Permissible use and development of community land categorised as Natural Area – Wetland

Purpose/use	Development to facilitate uses
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• 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 recreation. • Walking/hiking. • Guided bushwalks. • Environmental and scientific study. • Bush regeneration works. • Carbon sequestration. • Bio-banking. • Approved bush care projects requiring ecological restoration activities associated with protection of flora and fauna. • Fire hazard reduction and cultural burns. • Facilitating connection to Country.	• Visitor facilities: board walks, bird observation platform or bird hide. • Low impact walking trails (unsealed). • Interpretive and wayfinding signage, information kiosks. • Temporary erection or use of any building or structure • necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out. • Locational, directional and regulatory signage. • Fencing, security gates and bollards.
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6.4.4.4 express authorisation of leases, licences and other estates - natural area – wetland

This POM expressly authorises the issue of leases, licences and other estates over the land categorised as Natural Area – Wetland, 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 LG 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 or allowed by the provisions of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cwth);
- 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; and
- 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.

This POM expressly authorises the issue of leases, licences and other estates over the land categorised as Natural Area – Wetland listed in Table 10 below. The facilities on community land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community. The anticipated uses and associated development identified below are intended to provide a general guide.

Table 10. Leases, licences and other estates and purposes for which they may be granted for community land categorised as Natural area-wetland.

Type of tenure arrangement	Purpose for which tenure may be granted
Lease five years to 21 years	• Walkways, pathways, bridges, causeways. • Observation platforms, signs. Information kiosk. • Kiosk selling light refreshments (but not restaurants). • Boat hire or similar for ecotourism. • Work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land. • Temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out. Connection to Country activities, cultural burns and cultural heritage interpretation. • Soil erosion and water quality management.
Licence one year to 21 years	• Walkways, pathways, bridges, causeways. • Observation platforms, signs. • Information kiosk. • Kiosk selling light refreshments (but not restaurants). • Boat hire or similar for ecotourism. • Work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land. • Temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a • filming project to be carried out. • Scientific studies and surveys or similar. • Connection to Country activities, cultural burns and cultural heritage interpretation. Guided walking tours, guided interpretive tours. • Environmental and scientific study. • Approved wetland care projects requiring ecological restoration. activities • associated with protection of flora, fauna and water quality. • Soil erosion and water quality works.

Type of tenure arrangement	Purpose for which tenure may be granted
Short term licence subject to general and ad hoc short term or casual licences as issued ad hoc with Council formal application process, permissions and/or approvals (LG Act, S.46, LG (General) Regulation, Cl.117, and CLM Act Ss. 2.20 and 3.17, CLM Regulation Cl. 31	• Scientific studies and surveys or similar. • Guided walking tours, guided interpretive tours. • Environmental and scientific study. • Approved wetland care projects requiring ecological restoration activities associated • with protection of flora and fauna. • Soil erosion and water quality works. • Temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out.
Other estates	This POM 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 in accordance with the LG Act. Estates may also be granted across community land for the provision of pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the Council or other Public Utility Provider that is situated on community land.

6.4.4.5 Action plan for Natural Area - Wetland

Section 36 of the LG Act requires that a POM 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; and
- 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 –Wetland.

Photography courtesy of Earthcare Park Landcare Group



Table 11. Objectives and performance targets, means of achieving them and assessing achievement for community land categorised as Natural Area – Wetland

Management issues LG Act	Objectives and performance targets S.36(3)(b)	Means of achievement of objectives s.36(3)(c)	Manner of assessment of performance s.36(3)(d)
1. Maintain wetland biodiversity within a changing climate			
	Identify, protect, enhance and manage threatened environmental communities and threatened species.	• Validate vegetation mapping and the presence of threatened, endangered or rare plants and animals and endangered ecological communities. • Leverage the best available modelling, science and adaptation programs to mitigate climate change and make evidence-based decisions. • Work with the Saving our Species officers, ECPLG and other stakeholders. • Update the Bushland Rehabilitation Plan in consultation with ECPLG to satisfy the requirements of the reserve becoming a future stewardship site under the BC Act. • Allocate adequate resources and funding.	• A flora and fauna assessment is undertaken and mapping validated to • inform management responses and legal obligations. • Bushland Rehabilitation Plan is updated that includes native grassland. • Biodiversity and wetland resilience is maintained following best practice and contemporary approaches. • Adequate resources and funding allocated.

	Implement suitable fire regimes to manage biodiversity, threatened ecological communities and threatened species. Manage and suppress weeds, pests, disease and pathogens in the wetland.	• Implement preferred fire regimes for the recovery of threatened ecological communities and species as identified in the Saving our Species priority actions in consultation with ECPLG. • Apply necessary mosaic fire regimes to maintain the appropriate floristic and structural diversity for each vegetation community (where feasible) and ensure the ongoing persistence of sensitive species in consultation with ECPLG. • Inform Council's bushfire management committee of site changes that may require amendments to the Maitland Bushfire Risk Management Plan. • In collaboration with ECPLG identify and record weed, pest, disease and pathogen incursions through monitoring to inform site management and budgeting requirements. • Implement strategies under the Saving our Species Program to manage Key Threatening Processes following contemporary approaches. • Target weeds, pests, disease and pathogens according to state, regional and local priorities under the <i>NSW Biosecurity Act 2015</i> the <i>Biodiversity Act 2016</i> and <i>Hunter Region Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan</i> and <i>Strategic Weed Management Plan</i>. Collaborate with ECPLG and stakeholders to implement management measures in a coordinated approach. • Allocate adequate resources and funding	• Suitable fire regimes implemented for the recovery of threatened • ecological communities and species and to maintain biodiversity. • Biodiversity resilience is maintained. • Bushfire Risk Management Plan updates based on contemporary • information on biodiversity. • Regular site monitoring undertaken and recorded to determine wetland • resilience and effectiveness of strategies. • Compliance with state, regional and local priorities. Adequate resources and funding allocated.
	Restore vegetation connectivity.	• Work with ECPLG and adjoining landowners and stakeholders to restore vegetation connectivity and wildlife corridors. Only revegetate with endemic species suitable to the site using bushcare methods.	• Vegetation connectivity improved with appropriate endemic vegetation. • Flora and fauna surveys. • Integrity of TECs retained.

		Vegetation corridors should be wide enough to render it functional for the maximum number of species.	
	Create a Wildlife Protection Area.	Investigate creating a Wildlife Protection Area for the protection of native animals and their habitats under the NSW <i>Companion Animals Act</i>, 1998.	- Dogs prohibited in sensitive areas and on leash in all other areas of the reserve. Stray cats caught and removed. - Signage and ranger monitoring implemented.
2. Cultural heritage			
	Identify, protect and interpret Aboriginal heritage.	- Investigate archaeological surveys and research as required to improve baseline data. - In consultation with Aboriginal Stakeholders, identify sites suitable for interpretation. - Allocate resources and funding through council's budgeting process.	- Improved baseline data. Aboriginal heritage sites found are investigated and recorded on the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database. - Aboriginal Stakeholders are satisfied with management approach, site interpretation and outcomes.
	Facilitate Connection to Country, Cultural Burns and site interpretation.	- Partner with Aboriginal people to explore how Aboriginal culture can be protected and shared through visitor experiences delivered by or in partnership with Aboriginal service providers. Engage and involve Aboriginal people in park management planning, operations, interpretation, cultural activities and education programs to improve connection to Country. - Engage with the Aboriginal community to determine suitable sites for Cultural Burns in consultation with ECPLG and other relevant stakeholders.	- Number of interpretation sites, programs and activities and participation numbers. - Number of sites where cultural burns are suitable and have occurred. - Success of the cultural burn in Connection to Country, fire hazard reduction and biodiversity improvements. - Aboriginal Stakeholders are satisfied with the partnership, management approach, site interpretation and outcomes.

	Identify, protect and interpret post 1788 heritage.	Undertake a heritage assessment of the reserve to identify heritage values and sites. Interpret heritage where appropriate to enrich visitor experience.	Heritage assessment undertaken. Sites interpreted.
3. Access and accessibility			
	Improve access for passive recreation and visitor experience.	- Review tracks and access points for accessibility. - Assist ECPLG in maintaining existing trails. - Review tracks and trails and provide new ones as part of a master planning exercise for the whole reserve.	- Tracks regularly maintained and designed to improve accessibility in the right locations. - Review undertaken across the whole reserve to better connect open spaces and visitor experiences without undermining the natural environment.
	Facilitate access for operations and emergency service vehicles.	In consultation with infrastructure maintenance, management vehicles, firefighting and emergency vehicles, determine access requirements.	Access requirements met.
	Close unauthorised tracks and trails.	Close unauthorised tracks and trails to reduce environmental impacts.	Unauthorised tracks and trails closed.
4. Fencing and boundary management			
	Install and maintain fencing where required to reduce impacts on natural values, prevent unauthorised access, reduce illegal activity	- Monitor reserve boundaries to identify areas to be secured to limit unauthorised or undesirable access. - Allocate resources and funding through council's budgeting process. - Collaborate with ECPLG for fencing and boundary management. - Fix or remove fencing in disrepair	- Reduced incidence of unauthorised access and activities. - Fencing and gates are functional. - Number of infringement notices issued.

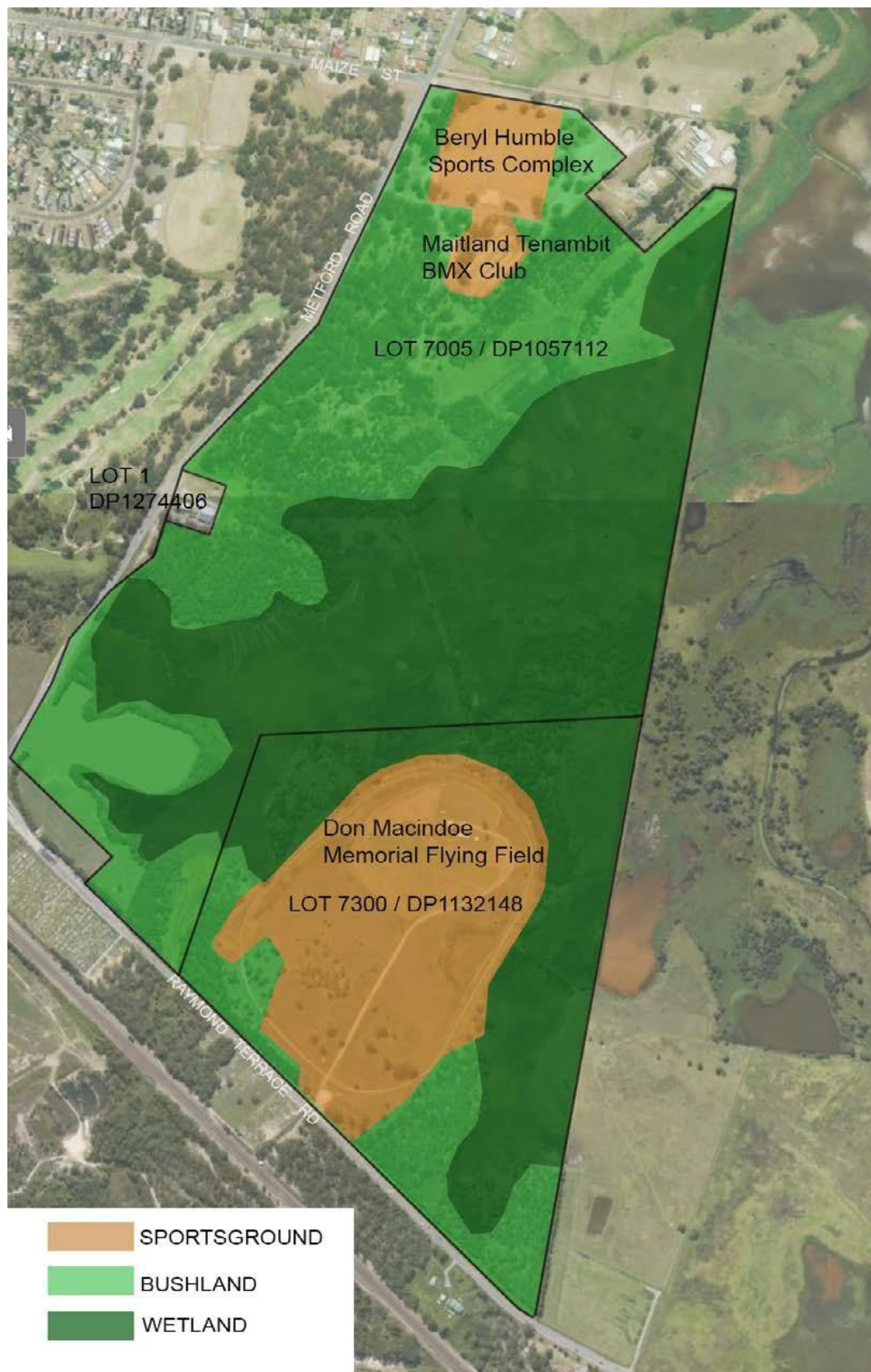
	and limit unauthorised vehicles.	• Issue infringement notices.	
5. Community and stakeholder collaboration			
	Undertake community education campaigns, events, workshops and volunteer programs to improve community understanding of reserve values, issues and improve stewardship in collaboration with ECPLG.	• Ensure projects are targeted. • In collaboration with ECPLG, undertake community engagement, education programs, natural area restoration projects, citizen science. • Seek grants with ECPLG for such activities to scale up resources and capacity build. • Facilitate major community engagement environment events with ECPLA through financial and administrative support.	• Number of volunteers / participants. • Number of education/ citizen science/ community conservation programs (e.g. Plant a Tree Day, Bushcare, 1 million Turtles). Feedback from ECPLG. • Resources and funding allocated for management. • Number of successful grants.
	Expand knowledge of site managers and community stewards.	• Work with stakeholders and the community to improve wetland health by monitoring waterway quality and erosion, restoring habitat, controlling pests and weeds and improving water quality. Seek grant funding and allocate appropriate resources to ensure site managers and ECPLG and other community volunteers have best practice and up to date knowledge.	• Resources and funding allocated for management. • Education programs implemented. • Number of successful grants.
6. Community use and recreation			
	Facilitate community use and enjoyment of the wetland.	• Investigate potential for bird viewing platform and wetland boardwalk in consultation with stakeholders (ECPLG, Hunter Bird Observers Club).	• Report on potential for Bird viewing platform and associated boardwalk with funding analysis.

	Long term lease with ECPLG.	Prepare a new long-term lease of 21 years with ECPLG, based on an Earthcare Park management plan that includes provisions on land restoration, new facilities, facility upgrades, waste management, maintenance and access.	Long term lease finalised.
	Removal of Council's Stockpile.	Prepare a five year plan for the removal of the stockpile.	Removal of stockpile with the five years.
7. Signage and interpretation			
	Install signage to inform visitors of permissible uses, dangers and site values to enrich visitor experience and safety.	- Install regulatory, way finding and educational signage and periodically review signage for relevance and need of replacement. - Allocate resources and funding through council's budgeting process in consultation with the Assets Branch.	- Signage plan. - Implementation of signage. - Visitor, ECPLG and stakeholder feedback. - Reduced number of unauthorised or illegal activities.
8. Contamination			
	Manage contaminated water, land and impacts.	- Map all known and potential contaminated land and undertake initial screening, site assessment and develop options to manage impacts. - Investigate periodically monitor water quality, potentially using citizen science resources.	- Compliance with legal requirements. - Water quality data.
9. Master planning			
	Prepare masterplan for the whole reserve.	A draft masterplan be prepared in consultation with ECPLG that includes the land categorisation, the	Masterplan prepared, publicly exhibited and adopted.

		threatened ecological communities and potential location for the board walk and bird watching platform / hide.	
Decision making not addressed in this pom			
	To facilitate decision making not addressed in this POM.	Any management decisions or issues outside of the scope of this POM should be assessed and resolved in the context of the Core Objectives for the Natural Area - Wetland category as per the <i>LGA 1993</i>, the Crown Reserve Purpose, Land Zoning, and Council Policy.	Compliance with core objectives for the Natural Area – Wetland.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Category Map



Appendix 2 – Existing Leases, Licences and Hirings (Short term licences)

Data source: Maitland City Council – for a list of occupant activities and agreement purposes, please contact Council.

Reserve area	Organisation	Purpose	Term period or type
Leases			
Nil	Nil	Nil	Council to update for lease with Earthcare Park, depending on timing
Long term licences			
East Maitland Common - Sportsground	City of Maitland Society of Aeromodellers Inc	Occupation of land for an aerodrome and activities associated with model aircraft	Five year term licence 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2030
Short Term Licences – annual basis			
East Maitland Common	Earthcare Park Landcare Group Inc.	Environmental protection, conservation or restoration or environmental studies	12 month short term licence 1 March 2026 to 1 March 2027.
Seasonal or Casual Hirings			
Beryl Humble Sports Complex Fields Nos: 1 & 2	Tenambit Sharks Football Club	Training and competition	Winter Season Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat/ Sun. Various times days and evenings
Beryl Humble Sports Complex Fields Nos: 1 & 2	Tenambit Sharks Football Club	Training and competition	Summer Season Mon and Wed Evenings
Beryl Humble Oval	Tenambit Morpeth Cricket Club	Training and competition	Casual Hire
Beryl Humble Sports Complex – BMX facility	Maitland BMX Club	Training and competition	All year Monday to Friday within 5pm to 8pm

Appendix 3 – Plan of Management Legislative Framework

The primary State and Federal 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
 - (ii) improvements on the land, as at the date of adoption of the plan of management, and
- b) the use of the land and any such buildings or improvements as at that date, and 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 POM 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)); or
- 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 POM. 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; and
- 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; and
- 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).

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

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.

Although Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 has been repealed and superseded by the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016, 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.

Biosecurity Act 2015

An act to provide for the prevention, elimination, minimisation and management of biosecurity risks including pests, weeds and disease.

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; and
- 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 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 POM.

State Environmental Planning Policies

State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021

This planning policy replaces the following SEPPs as relevant to Maitland LGA:

- SEPP (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas) 2017
- SEPP (Koala Habitat Protection) 2020 and 2021
- SEPP 19 Bushland in Urban Areas

State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021

This planning policy replaces SEPP (Infrastructure) 2007 however continues to list development allowed with consent or without consent on community land.

Other relevant legislation includes:

Companion Animals Act 1998 Disability Discrimination Act 1992 Local Land Services Act 2013
Pesticides Act 1999

Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997

Soil Conservation Act 1938 Hunter Water Act 1991

Telecommunications Act 1997 (Cwth) Rural Fires Act 1997

Appendix 4 – 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 (Cwth) 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 POM, 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, Housing & Infrastructure is responsible for investigating claims as defined in the ALR Act. If a claim is determined and granted, the land is transferred to the Aboriginal Land Council as freehold land.

At the time of preparing this PoM, there are zero (0) reserves which are affected by an undetermined Aboriginal land claim. Council has considered the claim(s) in development of this PoM.

Appendix 5 – NSW Department of Planning and Environment Crown Land 2031 First Action Plan Priorities and Outcomes

Table 1 is an excerpt from Crown land 2031 priorities and outcomes, Table 1 page 7. Priorities P3, P4 and P5 in table 1 below have been incorporated into the POM.

Table 1. Crown land 2031 priorities and outcomes

Priorities				
P1	P2	P3	P4	P5
Strengthen community connections with Crown land	Accelerate economic progress in regional and rural NSW	Accelerate the realisation of Aboriginal land rights and native title in partnership with Aboriginal people	Protect cultural heritage on Crown land	Protect environmental assets, improve and expand green space and build climate change resilience
Outcomes				
O1.1	O2.1	O3.1	O4.1	O5.1
Crown land manager network grows in size and capability	Increase in community benefit from investment on Crown land	Land returned to Aboriginal communities	Cultural heritage sites on Crown land are identified and protected	Green spaces in urban areas are increased
O1.2	O2.2	O3.2	O4.2	O5.2
Crown land assets are accessed, activated and sustained	Regional tourism diversifies through activation of Crown land	Multiple co-management initiatives are established	Aboriginal sites on Crown land are identified and protected in partnership with local communities	Environmental values on Crown land are identified, enhanced and protected
O1.3	O2.3	O3.3	O4.3	O5.3
New opportunities for community hubs are identified and enhanced	Innovative industries prosper in the regions	Measurable contribution to national 'Closing the Gap' targets	Aboriginal people lead the management of Aboriginal culture and heritage on Crown land	Crown land contributes to climate resilience

Appendix 6 – Condition description of structures and buildings within the reserve

Description	Use	Condition	Photo
Beryl Humble Amenities Building The amenities building is constructed of double brick cavity walls, timber trussed roof and colour bond roofing. The building has kiosk, two change rooms, showers, toilets and storage.	It is primary use by the public to watch cricket and football.	Good.	

			
Tiered Seating The seating is concrete tiering with timber seating and galvanised metal roof.	It is primary use by the public to watch cricket and football.	Good.	

Bench Seating	It is primary use by the public to watch cricket and football.	Good.	
Beryl Humble Car parking Concrete edged packed gravel.	Visitor car parking.	Good.	

Playspace Two pieces of equipment and mulch under foot.	Playground.	Fair.	
Fencing Metal mesh fencing.	Oval delineation.	Good.	

			
Sportsfields No. 1 Turf oval, rugby field, synthetic batting half, metal pole and cyclone wire fencing.	Rugby league and cricket.	Good.	

Sportsfield No. 2 Turf oval, rugby field, synthetic batting half, metal pole and cyclone wire fencing.	Rugby league and cricket.	Good.	
Sportsground lighting.	Used during winter for training.	Good.	

BMX Track

Track.

BMX
training
and racing.

Good.



Kiosk This brick building with metal poles and colour bond roof.	Canteen, storage and a toilet.	Good.	 A small, single-story kiosk with a corrugated metal roof. The side of the kiosk is covered in a large, vibrant mural featuring abstract red, black, and white patterns, including what appears to be a stylized figure and a checkered flag. The kiosk is situated outdoors on a grassy area with trees in the background.
BMX Track signage	Location signage.	Good.	 A black rectangular sign with white text that reads "Tenambit BMX Track". The sign is supported by four black posts, each with a red reflective cap. The sign is located outdoors on a dirt path, with a green fence and trees in the background. The Maitland City Council logo is visible on the right side of the sign.

Aeromodellers Shelter

To prepare
model
planes
ready for
flight.

Good.



			
Aeromodellers Club House.		Good.	

Aeromodellers Toilets	Spectator toilets.	Good.	
Aeromodellers Fencing		Good.	

Aeromodellers Signage

For safety
and
information

Good.



Driving Range	Hitting golf balls.	Good.	
Earthcare Park Signage.	Wayfinding and identification.	Good.	



Earthcare Park entrance gate	Entry to the site.	Good.	
Earthcare Park seating and shelter	Rest stops and picnics.	Fair condition.	

			
EEC	Shade, aesthetics habitat.	Fair condition but requires consistent managemen t across the area and overgrown parts cleaned up.	

Wetlands vegetation Mixed wetland species, native and exotic, including rushes, Lomandra, Casuarina, Eucalypts, and willows.	Habitat and aesthetics.	Mixed, well established, some senescent.	
Stockpile	Storage of road base.	Fair.	