

## **CITY OF CANADA BAY**

# **PLAN OF MANAGEMENT FOR WANGAL RESERVE & PUNT PARK**

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Adopted 14 November 2017

*In association with*



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## Appendices

- Appendix 1 – KJA: Community Consultation Outcomes Report (September 2015)  
Appendix 2 – DSCA: Aboriginal Heritage Assessment (December 2015)

## The Study Team

In response to the multi-disciplinary requirements of this study, City of Canada Bay commissioned:

- Montemare Consulting Pty Ltd
- Kathy Jones and Associates (KJA)

## PLAN DEFINITIONS

<b>Crown Lands</b>	NSW Department of Industry (Lands)
<b>Land categorisation</b>	For the purpose of preparing a PoM, community land is to be categorised as one or more of the following – natural area, sportsground, park, area of cultural significance, general community use
<b>Objectives</b>	Desired outcomes = (SMART) Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant & Time-bound
<b>Management Principles</b>	General principles that provide clear decision making criteria
<b>Management Zones</b>	Identifiable precincts or units of land based on natural, economic or social factors, or a combination of these factors
<b>Plan of Management</b>	A statutory document prepared under Section 36 <i>Local Government Act (1993)</i> and adopted by the Minister, describing how public land will be managed, maintained and utilised, who is responsible for its management, its facilities and the uses and activities that occur there
<b>Mission Statement</b>	The fundamental purpose of an organisation and its desired level of performance
<b>Natural area</b>	Land, whether or not in an undisturbed state, that possesses a significant geological feature, geomorphological feature, landform, representative system or other natural feature or attribute that would be sufficient to further categorise the land as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore
<b>Park</b>	Land that is, or is proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, for use mainly for passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that do not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others
<b>Planning area</b>	See Landscape Masterplan
<b>Recreation &amp; Sport</b>	A wide range of active or passive activities undertaken either individually or as a group for pleasure, health, renewal and relaxation. Sport are those activities that are competitive and organised.
<b>Social Activities</b>	The holding of social functions and activities, meetings, gatherings, educational instruction, arts & craft activities, club activities and childcare, whether carried out by a licensee/lessee or other group under temporary license or hire arrangements.
<b>Strategy</b>	A planned method of achieving a desired outcome utilising best practices
<b>Sustainable</b>	Being able to achieve outcomes without adversely affecting the long term health and integrity of natural, social and economic values.
<b>SWOT</b>	A strategic analysis of Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities & Threats
<b>Vision Statement</b>	A broad statement of intent to help establish desired outcomes and focus activities, a custodial or stewardship commitment to future generations.



## Section One: Study Background

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Wangal Reserve including Lot Numbers: Lot 41 DP 736614; and Lot 1 DP 738239; and Lot 10 DP 241277; and Lot 11 DP 241277, comprise the “Reserve” in this Plan of Management. Wangal Reserve comprises Community land that is owned and managed by the City of Canada Bay.

The Reserve is located at the tip of Mortlake Point at the end of Hilly Street, within the suburb of Mortlake and nearby suburb of Breakfast Point. The point separates Majors Bay and Fairmile Cove within the Parramatta River and is approximately 10 kilometers North West of Sydney CBD.

The purpose of this Plan of Management (PoM) is to review the current PoM of 1983, to identify current community values and aspirations for the Reserve and provide strategic direction and a concept masterplan to guide the future use, development and management of the Reserve over the next 10 years and ensure the Reserve remains an attractive destination for residents and visitors.

A key driver in initiating the PoM was the Breakfast Point CEP, in which the community identified improvement to the Reserve as one of six key priority projects for the Mortlake and Breakfast Point area. The Minister for Planning approved the CEP in 2014.

In developing this PoM, Council has also included Punt Park (Lot 61 DP 773329) with the view to managing both Reserves under this PoM. The purpose for inclusion of Punt Park is to expand the parkland experience and improving connectivity on the Mortlake Peninsula and more broadly within the Harbour. To this end, Council has prepared an integrated Landscape Masterplan for Wangal Reserve and Punt Park, which is included in this PoM.

## 1.2 STUDY AIMS

The aim of the study, as expressed by the Council, in the project brief is to “prepare a POM in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* to guide the City of Canada Bay, as the owner of community land, in the future management of Wangal Reserve”.

The objectives of the study were to:

1. Identify a vision for Wangal Reserve that reflects current needs and responds to future demands.
2. Provide strategic direction for the Reserves ongoing development, management and permitted use.
3. Ensure the communities values and expectations are reflected.
4. Establish design direction for an upgrade that will occur as part of Councils future capital works program.
5. Meet all legislative requirements, namely the *Local Government Act 1993*.

## 1.3 STUDY APPROACH

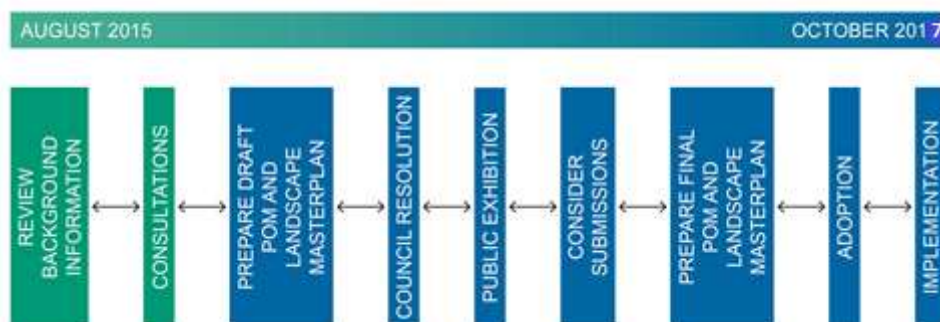
The study has been completed in line with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Council has adopted a “Values Based” approach to the development of the Plan of Management, in which the values of the Reserve have been identified first, to guide issues identification and strategies to protect & enhance these values. The aim of this approach is to make the plan more lasting and effective.

The plan is not intended as a prescriptive management and operational guide, but as a high level guide to future management intent. In this way it is anticipated that the plan is a “living document” and will take into account current circumstances and trends at the time key strategies are implemented.

In developing the PoM, the Council have undertaken the following key steps and tasks as outlined in the diagram below:

**Figure 1 – Plan of Management Development Process**



It should be noted, that the scope of work was limited to desktop research, community and stakeholder consultation. No new or additional technical or field studies including ecological assessments or heritage assessments have been completed. In line with best practice, where necessary, further specific studies will be undertaken where required to support the implementation of the plan.

The Market Research & Consultation undertaken to develop the plan included the following activities:

- Community survey
- Written submissions
- Community drop in event
- Stakeholder interviews
- Project control meetings
- Councillor briefings

Community Consultation was undertaken by KJA. A copy of the Community Consultation Outcomes Report can be found in Appendix 1.

## 1.4 ABOUT WANGAL RESERVE

Wangal Reserve was first acquired by the NSW Government and City of Canada Bay (what was then known as Concord Municipal Council) in 1979 and formally opened by the then Premier, the Hon. Neville Wran on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 1983 to celebrate the centenary of Concord Municipal Council.

The Reserve acquisition and later park development were part of the then, State Governments urban consolidation policies, which saw former industrial lands re-purposed to residential infill and Sydney Green Spaces programme, which sort to address the need to safe guard access and improve public green space, particularly around the Parramatta River and Sydney Harbour Foreshores.

The Care Control and Management of the Reserve was transferred to the City of Canada Bay on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 1981, for use as “a public park for passive recreational purposes”, under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Originally zoned Industrial General 4(a), the land was re-zoned, Open Space – Recreation Existing Zone 6(a) in the following year, on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 1982, under the Ministerial approved Local Environment Plan (LEP No2), which its current day zoning still reflects (i.e. Public Recreation RE1).

The Reserve has an area of approximately 1.57 hectares and 15,155 m<sup>2</sup> of river and harbour frontage. The Reserve is situated between Majors Bay to the West, Fairmile Cove to the East and Parramatta River to the North. The Reserve is bounded to the South West and South East by high and medium density multi-unit residential development and the Mortlake Ferry. Access to the Reserve is via Hilly Street. A publically accessible private boardwalk around Fairmile Cove water's edge provides limited access. Planning is in place for a shoreline access path on Majors Bay but yet to be developed. A map of the area is provided below.

Figure 2 – Aerial Map: Wangal Reserve & Punt Park



Prior to European settlement and the sites use firstly for pastoral lands and then for industrial uses, it is likely the Reserve was characterised by a significant sandstone headland with associated Sydney Sandstone Eucalypt forest and mangrove communities around the water's edge.

It was the site of a Dockyard for the Royal Australian Navy during World War II. The dockyard employed between four and five hundred tradesmen constructing Fairmile patrol boats for use by the Navy in New Guinea, Timor and the islands.

Today the Reserve is characterized by a highly modified sandstone headland environ, featuring a sandstone sea wall and rocky outcrops on the west and northwest shoreline, small sandy beaches on the northern tip and eastern shoreline, open grass areas and semi-enclosed planted native



bushland areas. Native bushland areas largely comprise Swamp Oak (*Casuarina glauca*), Port Jackson Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa*) and mixed understory plantings.

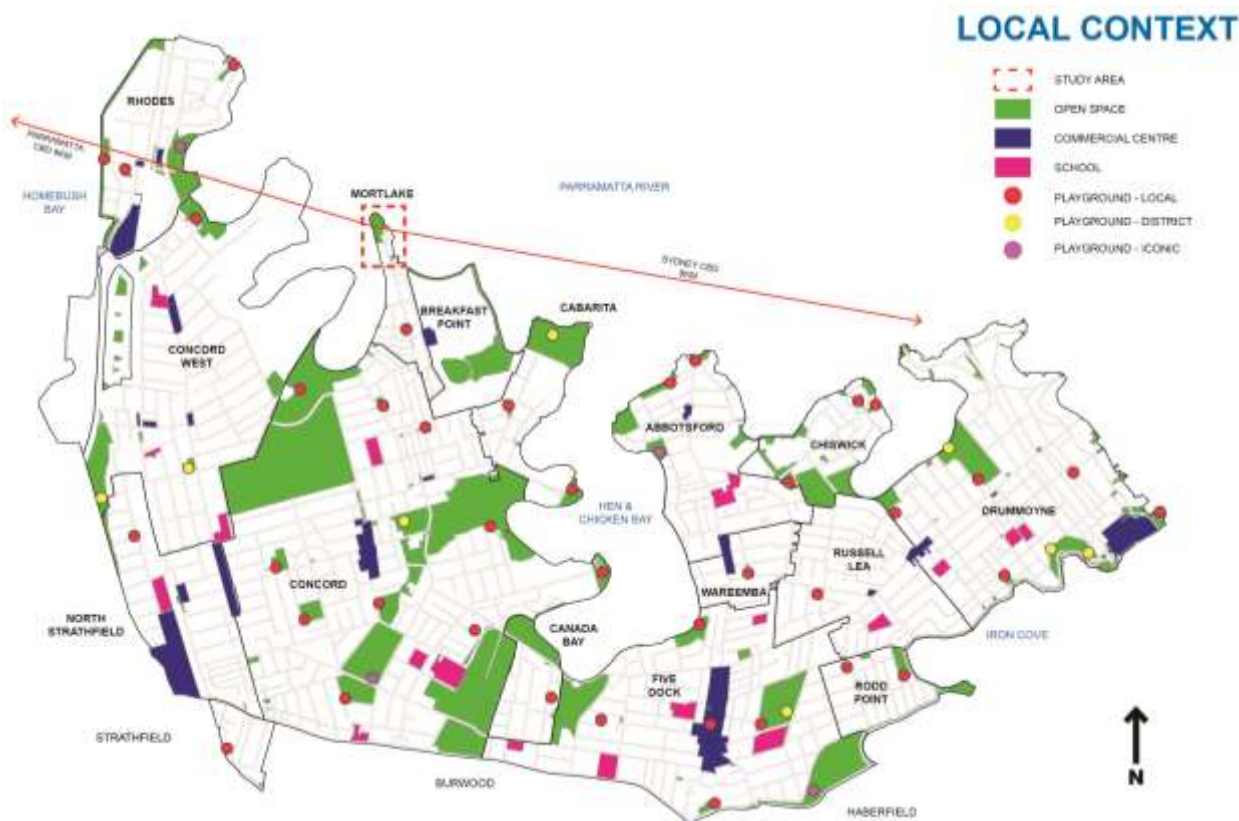
The Reserve provides an important recreation, open space, natural and cultural heritage asset for the local Mortlake/Breakfast Point community and region. The park is utilised for a range of activities, largely by local residents, for social gathering and passive recreation and leisure, such as walking, riding and fitness, play, relaxation and water based activities such as swimming (Fairmile Cove), fishing and small craft and non-motorised boating. The Park is a site of cultural significance to the Wangal Aboriginal community, and has been identified as a place of locational significance.

Infrastructure development and embellishment within the park is low key and includes facilities and features such as: seating, picnic and barbecue facilities, amenities, car parking, access road, walking tracks and boardwalks. Punt Park features a community maintained beach play area and a disused shelter that once housed a model exhibition.

The local community plays an active role in providing passive surveillance and in helping to maintain the Reserve, evidenced on ground at the Reserve and by the engagement in the consultation process for the PoM, indicating the Reserve is a valued community asset.

The Reserve is highly significant in the Canada Bay Council area's overall provision of public open space and for the State Sharing Sydney Harbour vision to maintain access to the Sydney Harbour and Parramatta River foreshore. It is the only fully publically accessible open space and foreshore access point and reasonably sized Reserve, servicing residents, on the increasingly populated Mortlake Point Peninsula.

**Figure 3 - Wangal Reserve and Punt Park Local Context**



## 1.5 DESCRIPTION OF LAND

Wangal Reserve is located within the Parish of Concord, County of Cumberland, Canada Bay Local Government Area and comprises the following lands:

**Table 1 - Description of Land**

Legal description	Description	Owner	Zoning	Land classification	Land categorisation
Lot 41 DP 736614	Majority of Reserve	City of Canada Bay Council	RE1 Public Recreation	Community	Park / Natural Area - Foreshore
Lot 1 DP 738239	Foreshore perimeter of the Reserve	City of Canada Bay Council	RE1 Public Recreation	Community	Park / Natural Area - Foreshore
Lot 10 DP 241277	First lot south to the Reserve	City of Canada Bay Council	RE1 Public Recreation	Community	Park / Natural Area - Foreshore
Lot 11 DP 241277	Second lot south to the Reserve	City of Canada Bay Council	RE1 Public Recreation	Community	Park / Natural Area - Foreshore
Lot 61 DP 773329	Punt Park	City of Canada Bay Council	RE1 Public Recreation	Community	Park / Natural Area - Foreshore

A map of the site and associated lands is provided on the following page.

The *Local Government Act 1993* identifies core objectives for management of community land.

The core objectives for the management of community lands categorised as a “park”, under the *Local Government Act 1993* are:

- (a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities, and
- (b) to provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and
- (c) to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.

The core objectives for the management of community lands categorised as a “natural area”, under the *Local Government Act 1993* are:

- (a) to conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised as a natural area, and

- (b) to maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting, and
- (c) to provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land, and
- (d) to provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and
- (e) to assist in and facilitate the implementation of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan prepared under the [Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995](#) or the [Fisheries Management Act 1994](#).



**Figure 4 - Allotment Map: Wangal Reserve**



**Figure 5 - Allotment Map: Punt Park**



Note:

**BLUE** indicates Reserve / Park

**PINK** indicates neighbouring property



## 1.2 PLANNING CONTEXT

This PoM has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*. The PoM provides the overall strategic intent and management guidance for the Reserve. It is not intended to be a prescriptive development, management or operational document.

The PoM has been prepared to support the strategic intent and to comply consistently within a complex legislative and policy framework at a National, State and Local level. Key legislation, strategies and policies which the plan supports or is influenced by are listed below. A summary of key strategies and plans are provided within the Background Research section (Section Two) of this report.

This PoM will be supported by more detailed and/or specific issue plans. These plans may include, but not be limited to plans related to Reserve operations, specific area management (e.g. access, vegetation or heritage), as well as development proposal planning. These plans must be consistent with this PoM. Where such plans already exist, this plan generally supports them but minor revision or updating may be required to ensure consistency with this PoM.

### NSW State Legislation and Planning Instruments

- *NSW Environment Planning and Assessment Act (1979)*
- NSW State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP 55)
- *NSW Fisheries Management Act (1994)*
- *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act (1979)*
- *NSW Heritage Act (1977)*
- *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act (1995)*
- Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) (2005)
- Sydney Harbour Foreshore and Waterways Area Development Control Plan (2005)
- Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Plan (2003)

### State Strategy

- NSW State Plan (2011)
- A Plan for Growing Sydney (2014)

### Commonwealth Legislation and Planning Instruments

- *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)*
- *Commonwealth Native Title Act (1993)*

### Regional and Local Planning

- City of Canada Bay Local Planning Strategy (2010)
- City of Canada Bay Council LEP (2013)
- City of Canada Bay Special Precincts DCP – Mortlake (2017)

- City of Canada Bay Recreation Plan (2007)
- City of Canada Bay S94 Contributions Plan (2017)
- City of Canada Bay Generic Plan of Management (2007)
- City of Canada Bay Let's Play Strategy (2008)
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and Management Plan (2015)
- Strategic Review of the Canada Bay Bike Plan (2014)
- Wangal Reserve Plan of Management (1983)

## 1.3 LOCAL LAND USE PLANNING

Wangal Reserve is currently zoned Public Recreation RE1 under the City of Canada Bay Local Environment Plan (LEP) 2013. The zoning should support potential future uses identified through the Plan of Management process.

The zone objectives and permitted uses are consistent with the NSW Government, Department of Planning, Standard Instrument (SI) LEP Programme as detailed in the following paragraphs.

The objectives of the zone, as specified in the LEP, are to:

- 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.
- Facilitate public access to and along the foreshore.
- Conserve public open space that enhances the scenic and environmental quality of Canada Bay.

**Permitted uses without consent** are limited to environmental protection and flood mitigation works (mandated SI).

**Permitted uses with consent** (unless otherwise stated) include:

### Community Facilities

- Indoor or Outdoor Recreation Facilities/Areas (mandated SI)
- Respite Day Care Centre
- Child Care
- Community Centre
- Environmental Facilities (mandated SI)
- Information and Education Facilities

### Public Infrastructure

- Jetties and Mooring Pens
- Bio-solid and water recycling treatment
- Sewage reticulation (permitted under SEPP Infrastructure 2007)
- Roads and Car parks

### Commercial Premises

- Kiosk, Restaurant/Café, Take Away F&B (mandated SI)
- Markets
- Marinas and Boat Sheds

#### Signage

- Business Identification Signage

**Prohibited uses** include any development not specified as either permitted with or without consent.

These zones are consistent with Standard Instrument LEP Programme.

(Source: Supporting documentation to Council's LEP 2013. Accessed NSW Government Legislation website, May 2015.

<http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/epi+389+2013+cd+0+N>).

## 1.4 NATIVE TITLE

The introduction of the Commonwealth Native Title legislation in 1993 recognised the existence of native title and made provision for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to lodge claims over Crown land. Any native title interest that may have previously existed over this land was lawfully extinguished back in the 1800's when freehold titles were granted to early settlers.

## **Section Two: Research & Consultation Findings**

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## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

This section summarises the key findings of the background research and consultation outcomes. It represents an amalgam of both qualitative and quantitative research and consultation. It highlights the key issues, opportunities and constraints for the future management of Wangal Reserve.

Background research undertaken for the project included, but was not limited to: review of the current PoM, review of previous research, summary of relevant policy & legislation, urban development trends and catchment analysis.

Community and stakeholder consultation mechanisms undertaken for this PoM included: a community survey, community drop-in event, stakeholder interviews and written submissions. Distribution of information to the community about the project was made through the Mayoral column, onsite signage, Council's website and social media network.

## 2.1 CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

To assist in understanding current Reserve usage, issues, future needs, opportunities and aspirations for the future management and development of the Reserve Community and Key Stakeholder consultations were held during the months of July to September 2015.

Community consultations were conducted by KJA Engaging Solutions, and included a community survey and community drop-in event. Stakeholder consultations were conducted by Montemare and included City of Canada Bay Council management and staff and other relevant State agencies including:

- NSW Department of Industry
- NSW Department of Planning
- NSW Office of Environment and Heritage – NSW Parks and Wildlife Service
- Sydney Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council
- NSW Roads and Maritime Services
- NSW Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries
- Parramatta River Catchment Group
- Greater Sydney Local Land Services

A detailed summary of the Community and Key Stakeholder consultation can be found in Appendix 1 of the PoM.

A PoM and Master Plan were drafted following the community engagement period. The draft Plan of Management and Master Plan was endorsed by Council on 1 November 2016 for exhibition. Public exhibition lasted for 42 days in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act. The exhibition period for the draft Plan was advertised in the local media, on Council's website and via a letterbox drop to residents within the vicinity of the Reserve together with respondents during the initial consultation stage.

All stakeholders identified during the consultation process were advised by Council that the draft Plan had been placed on exhibition. The draft Plan was made available for viewing on the website and at Council's libraries during this period.

The public exhibition period occurred between November 2016 and January 2017 and twenty-eight formal submissions of feedback were received.

The key issues, needs and opportunities identified by community and stakeholders are as follows:

### **Key Issues, Needs and Opportunities**

- a. **Usage** – Current usage is characterised largely by residents living within the Mortlake and Breakfast Point areas who visit the Reserve regularly as part of their daily recreation and fitness routine. Key activities undertaken include: walking along the foreshore, playing with children, relaxation, fishing, nature study, walking the dog or fitness/exercise training. The Reserve was also cited by residents, as an increasingly popular weekend family/social group gathering destination (similar to Cabarita Park), for picnics and for significant events such as weddings. Future growth is anticipated in levels of usage, in line with the increasing local area population, urban density and participation trends in recreation activities and active lifestyles.
- b. **Vegetation and landscaping** – The quality and type of vegetation and landscaping was highlighted as a priority area of improvement by the community. Most residents consulted with would like to see current plantings replaced with native species endemic to the local area and creation of suitable wildlife habitat particularly for local birdlife. Other vegetation and landscaping issues included maintenance and/or improvement to viewing corridors and site lines with the Reserve to key vista's such as the northern point and to maintain safety and security within the Reserve. Future vegetation and landscape planning should also consider neighbourhood impacts.
- c. **Provision of play spaces** – Playing with children was one of the most popular activities undertaken by the community at the Reserve. There was broad support for improved play spaces for children, particularly play spaces that took advantage of, integrated with the natural and built settings of the Reserve, and based around the themes of nature, imagination and discovery. Maintenance of some open green spaces for running, riding, fitness training and casual sports play was also considered important.
- d. **Quality facilities and infrastructure** – The need to maintain and improve the quality of Reserve facilities and infrastructure was highlighted by the community as a key area of improvement. This included
  1. Pathway and tracks - more easily navigated, connected and accessible network.
  2. Lighting – additional lighting for safety and security
  3. Seating and picnic areas – additional seating, picnic areas, rubbish bins, water bubblers and shade at key vantage points.



4. Arrival and wayfinding – Improved park arrival experiences, wayfinding and orientation signage.
  5. Boardwalk – repair and improve boardwalk for multi-use walking/cycling and water's edge viewing and activities.
  6. Amenities – improved quality of toilets and amenities.
  7. Presentation – unified and consistent presentation style and high quality finish.
- e. **Future recreational opportunities** – When asked about future opportunities for the Reserve, many residents highlighted the potential of the Reserve to provide for a greater range of recreational opportunities. Key opportunities identified included: nature based play, water based recreation (i.e. jetty fishing, small craft and non-motorised boating, beach water play, water taxi access), fitness training spaces and equipment, coffee cart, dog exercise and casual sports play.
- f. **Continuous foreshore access** - Continuous and appropriate public foreshore access was highlighted as a key priority by the community. Many residents consulted highlighted the inappropriateness of the Fairmile Cove boardwalk between Punt Park and Wangal Reserve as a public access route and questioned why the Majors Bay shoreline access path was not yet completed. Most residents consulted were supportive of the State Governments and Council's broader vision to have continuous public access around the Canada Bay foreshore. Many residents cited the Bay Run as a highly successful example of what they envisage for Canada Bay.
- g. **Safety and security** – A few residents highlighted the need for improved security within the Reserve, which could be achieved through improved lighting, well planned pathways, landscaping and vegetation to improve passive surveillance, security cameras and monitoring.
- h. **Limited access and car parking** – The sites isolated location at the tip of Mortlake Peninsula, means vehicular access is limited to via Hilly Street. Whilst the Reserve has a small on-Reserve carpark (capacity 8-12 spaces) it is often full (often with local resident cars) and Reserve users who come via car often have difficulty finding alternate on-street parking. Local residents have expressed concern that major improvements to the Reserve, may attract non-local visitors to the area, which would place increased pressure on an already over capacity and congested local road network and car parking situation. There was no support for increasing on-Reserve car parking, with, most residents preferring better management of the existing carpark and improvements to shoreline access and active transport networks to the Reserve, to encourage visitors to walk or cycle to the Reserve rather than drive.
- i. **Natural and cultural heritage** – many residents cited a lack of knowledge and understanding about the Reserves natural, cultural history and heritage values. Many supported the idea to enhance the Reserve experience by providing information and interpretation of these characteristics in the landscape and through the provision of

interpretation.

## **2.2 BACKGROUND RESEARCH REVIEW**

Background research of existing policies and strategies was conducted to identify key strategic initiatives, trends or issues that may impact the future planning and development of the Reserve. Key documents reviewed included:

### **State Strategy**

- NSW State Plan (2011)
- A Plan for Growing Sydney (2014)
- Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) (2005)
- Sydney Harbour Foreshore and Waterways Area Development Control Plan (2005)
- Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Plan (2003)

### **Regional and Local Planning**

- City of Canada Bay Local Planning Strategy (2010)
- City of Canada Bay Council LEP (2013)
- City of Canada Bay Special Precincts DCP – Mortlake (2017)
- City of Canada Bay Recreation Plan (2007)
- City of Canada Bay S94 Contributions Plan (2017)
- City of Canada Bay Let's Play Strategy (2008)
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and Management Plan (2015)
- Strategic Review of the Canada Bay Bike Plan (2014)
- Wangal Reserve Plan of Management (1983)

The review indicates the Reserve will play an increasingly significant role in meeting local recreational and environmental preservation needs as urban infill and population densities increase. This situation represents both an opportunity and a threat and will require careful, purposeful management to ensure different user group's experience of the Reserve is maintained to a high standard and the Reserves natural asset base and other values are protected in perpetuity.

Key documents, associated issues, opportunities, trends and implications for the Reserve PoM are summarised below:

### **NSW STATE PLAN (2011)**

The purpose of the NSW State Plan is to deliver better results for the NSW community from government services. The State Plan identifies 34 priorities under five broad areas of activity and sets targets, actions and new directions for each priority area.

The State Plan contains two relevant targets to parks and recreation, which include:

- Increase participation and integration in community activities (R4)
- More people using parks, sporting and recreational facilities, and participating in the arts and cultural activity (E8)

The State Plan target aims to increase participation in sporting activities and physical exercise by 10%, halve existing gaps in participation for key groups and increase community involvement in volunteering in group sport and recreation activities by 10% by 2016.

**Implications for PoM** – Expected higher demand for open spaces and usage of Wangal Reserve, beyond the natural increase that might otherwise be expected through population growth, if the State plan targets are realised.

## **A PLAN FOR GROWING SYDNEY (2014)**

A Plan for Growing Sydney is the NSW Government's exciting new strategy to make Sydney a strong global city and a great place to live. The Plan sets four goals for Sydney to be:

- a competitive economy with world-class services and transport;
- a city of housing choice, with homes that meet Sydney's needs and lifestyles;
- a great place to live with communities that are strong, healthy and well connected; and
- a sustainable and resilient city that protects the natural environment and has a balanced approach to the use of land and resources.

The Plan divides the Sydney metropolitan area into six sub-regions. City of Canada Bay is located within the Central District Sub-region.

Under the Plan Burwood, Sydney Olympic Park and Rhodes become major strategic centres. Similarly, urban development and new public transport and road links are envisaged along the Parramatta road corridor.

**Implications for PoM** – The Plan for Growing Sydney will see intensification of development and increasing residential density in the City of Canada Bay LGA, particularly around the Parramatta Road growth corridor and around the proposed Burwood Town Centre.

## **SREP – SYDNEY HARBOUR CATCHMENT ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN (2005)**

This plan has the following aims with respect to the Sydney Harbour Catchment:

- a) Ensure that the catchment, foreshores, waterways and islands of Sydney Harbour are recognised, protected, enhanced and maintained:
  - (i) as an outstanding natural asset, and
  - (ii) as a public asset of national and heritage significance, for existing and future generations,
- b) Ensure a healthy, sustainable environment on land and water,

- c) Achieve a high quality and ecologically sustainable urban environment,
- d) Ensure a prosperous working harbour and an effective transport corridor,
- e) Encourage a culturally rich and vibrant place for people,
- f) Ensure accessibility to and along Sydney Harbour and its foreshores,
- g) Ensure the protection, maintenance and rehabilitation of watercourses, wetlands, riparian lands, remnant vegetation and ecological connectivity,
- h) Provide a consolidated, simplified and updated legislative framework for future planning.

### **Planning Principles**

A set of clear planning principles for land within the Sydney Harbour Catchment has been developed. These principles are to be considered and, where possible, achieved:

- a) in the preparation of environmental planning instruments and development control plans under Part 3 of the Act, and
- b) in the preparation of environmental studies and master plans for the purposes of the Act.

### **Sydney Harbour Catchment**

The planning principles for land within the Sydney Harbour Catchment are as follows:

- a) Development is to protect and, where practicable, improve the hydrological, ecological and geomorphological processes on which the health of the catchment depends,
- b) Natural assets of the catchment are to be maintained and, where feasible, restored for their scenic and cultural values and their biodiversity and geodiversity,
- c) Decisions with respect to the development of land are to take account of the cumulative environmental impact of development within the catchment,
- d) Action is to be taken to achieve the targets set out in Water Quality and River Flow Interim Environmental Objectives: Guidelines for Water Management: Sydney Harbour and Parramatta River Catchment (published in October 1999 by the Environment Protection Authority), such action to be consistent with the guidelines set out in Australian Water Quality Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Waters (published in November 2000 by the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council),
- e) Development in the Sydney Harbour Catchment is to protect the functioning of natural drainage systems on floodplains and comply with the guidelines set out in the document titled Floodplain Development Manual 2005 (published in April 2005 by the Department),
- f) Development that is visible from the waterways or foreshores is to maintain, protect and enhance the unique visual qualities of Sydney Harbour, the number of publicly accessible vantage points for viewing Sydney Harbour should be increased,

- g) Development is to improve the water quality of urban run-off, reduce the quantity and frequency of urban run-off, prevent the risk of increased flooding and conserve water,
- h) Action is to be taken to achieve the objectives and targets set out in the Sydney Harbour Catchment Blueprint, as published in February 2003 by the then Department of Land and Water Conservation,
- i) Development is to protect and, if practicable, rehabilitate watercourses, wetlands, riparian corridors, remnant native vegetation and ecological connectivity within the catchment,
- j) Development is to protect and, if practicable, rehabilitate land from current and future urban salinity processes, and prevent or restore land degradation and reduced water quality resulting from urban salinity,
- k) Development is to avoid or minimise disturbance of acid sulphate soils in accordance with the Acid Sulphate Soil Manual, as published in 1988 by the Acid Sulphate Soils Management Advisory Committee.

### **Foreshores and Waterways Area**

The planning principles for land within the Foreshores and Waterways Area are as follows:

- a) Development should protect, maintain and enhance the natural assets and unique environmental qualities of Sydney Harbour and its islands and foreshores,
- b) Public access to and along the foreshore should be increased, maintained and improved, while minimising its impact on watercourses, wetlands, riparian lands and remnant vegetation,
- c) Access to and from the waterways should be increased, maintained and improved for public recreational purposes (such as swimming, fishing and boating), while minimising its impact on watercourses, wetlands, riparian lands and remnant vegetation,
- d) Development along the foreshore and waterways should maintain, protect and enhance the unique visual qualities of Sydney Harbour and its islands and foreshores,
- e) Adequate provision should be made for the retention of foreshore and to meet existing and future demand for working harbour uses, used for industrial or commercial maritime purposes where such
- f) access does not interfere with the use of the land for those purposes,
- g) Use of foreshore land adjacent to land used for industrial or commercial maritime purposes should be compatible with those purposes,
- h) Water-based public transport (such as ferries) should be encouraged to link with land-based public transport (such as buses and trains) at appropriate public spaces along the waterfront,
- i) Provision and use of public boating facilities along the waterfront should be encouraged.

## Heritage Conservation

The planning principles for heritage conservation are as follows:

- a) Sydney Harbour and its islands and foreshores should be recognised and protected as places of exceptional heritage significance,
- b) Heritage significance of particular heritage items in and around Sydney Harbour should be recognised and conserved,
- c) Appreciation of the role of Sydney Harbour in the history of Aboriginal and European settlement should be encouraged,
- d) Natural, scenic, environmental and cultural qualities of the Foreshores and Waterways Area should be protected,
- e) Significant fabric, settings, relics and views associated with the heritage significance of heritage items should be conserved,
- f) Archaeological sites and places of Aboriginal heritage significance should be conserved.

**Implications for PoM** – The planning principles identified through the SREP Sydney Harbour Catchment Plan 2005, provide a sound strategic planning framework that must be incorporated into the PoM.

## CITY OF CANADA BAY LOCAL PLANNING STRATEGY (2010)

The purpose of the Local Planning Strategy (LPS) adopted by Council in 2010, was to provide a framework for future land use planning in the City of Canada Bay to guide the preparation of the new Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP). The LPS is also required to ensure that the Metropolitan Strategy for Sydney and the Inner West Subregional Strategy are implemented at a local level. The LPS aims to provide housing and employment, consider future recreational needs, protect heritage and the natural environment and consider transport in an integrated manner.

The LPS identifies Council and Communities vision and objectives through to 2020, as follows:

“Working together, we can create a Canada Bay that is engaged, green, healthy, liveable, moving, prosperous and vibrant”.

FP20 sets out a community vision for the City around 7 key themes of:

- An Engaged City
- A Green City
- A Healthy City
- A Liveable City
- A Moving City
- A Prosperous City, and
- A Vibrant City.

Key Objectives and Actions related to parks and recreation are highlighted in the following table excerpts from the LPS below:



**Table 2-1 - Green City Objectives**

<b>FuturesPlan 20</b>	<b>Local Planning Strategy</b>	
<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Actions</b>
2.1 "I am proud of and value my City's natural environmental assets"	OE1 Protect and celebrate biodiversity in Canada Bay.	AE3 Implement bush regeneration strategies. AE4 Street tree planting strategy.
2.2 "I have access to a biologically diverse natural environment where I live"	OE1 Protect and celebrate biodiversity in Canada Bay.	AE2 Ensure new development is sensitive to ecological assets.
2.4 "I have a sense of wellbeing through living in a clean, healthy local environment"	OE3 Ensure environmental impacts are minimised.	AE6 Contribute locally to improving Sydney's air quality. AE7 Address potential local noise impacts. AE8 Address potential impacts of Acid Sulfate Soils. AE9 Contribute locally to improving Sydney's stormwater quality

**Table 2-2 - Healthy City Objectives**

<b>FuturesPlan 20</b>	<b>Local Planning Strategy</b>	
<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Actions</b>
3.2 "There are places for me to participate in sport and other outdoor recreation"	OR1 Respond to future recreation needs.	AR1 Prepare a city wide open space strategy
3.3 "I feel safe and comfortable using community spaces"	OT3 Promote walking and cycling for local trips.	AT9 Promote pedestrian safety and personal security.



**Table 2-3 - Liveable City Objectives**

<b>FuturesPlan 20</b>	<b>Local Planning Strategy</b>	
<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Actions</b>
4.1 "My city has attractive streets, village centres and public spaces"	OE2 Enhance the landscape and visual character of the area. OR1 Respond to future recreation needs.	AE4 Tree planting strategy. AT9 Reinforce pedestrian scale through urban design. AR3 Provide additional green space when developing plans for centres.
4.2 "My city has attractive landscapes with sustainable development and where heritage is conserved"	OE2 Enhance the landscape and visual character of the area. OR1 Ensure development does not adversely impact heritage significant places.	AE5 Maintain view lines to the foreshore. AHE9 Guidelines for managing development affecting heritage items and conservation areas.

**Table 2-4 - Prosperous City Objectives**

<b>FuturesPlan 20</b>	<b>Local Planning Strategy</b>	
<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Actions</b>
5.1 "I can walk or cycle on designated paths to a range of commercial, recreational and community spaces around the City"	OT3 Promote walking and cycling for local trips.	AT5 Implement Pedestrian Access & Mobility Plan (PAMP). AT6 Implement Canada Bay Bike Plan 2005. AT8 Consider the needs of cyclists during preparation of planning controls.
5.2 "I can get where I need to go safely without too much delay"	OT1 Integrate land use and transport OT4 Manage the impact of traffic and parking.	AT10 Ensure pedestrian safety and security. AT11 Enhance movement of vehicles other than private cars.
5.3 "I have good day to day public transport options which take me to places I need to go"	OT2 Promote the use of Public Transport.	AT3 Improve pedestrian access to public transport. AT5 Promote and advocate for public transport

**Implications for PoM** – Key Issues and opportunities identified through the LPS process that need to be either considered or addressed specifically within the PoM include:

The LPS vision and objectives as they relate to environment, health and lifestyle support the protection and enhancement of Wangal Reserve and improved connectivity to the urban environment.

### **CITY OF CANADA BAY FAUNA SURVEY (2013)**

Canada Bay has five highly significant remnant native vegetation communities located in its Parks and Reserves, urban Environs and Foreshore areas including:

- Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest (STIF) (EEC)
- Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest (also termed “Estuarine Fringe Forest”) (EEC)
- Coastal Saltmarsh (also termed Estuarine Saltmarsh) (EEC)
- Estuarine Mangrove Forest
- Estuarine Wetlands

(Source: City of Canada Bay, 2013a)

Canada Bay also has over 35 km of river foreshore (AECOM, 2010) that supports ecologically important tidal mudflats, beaches, mangroves and saltmarsh communities (City of Canada Bay 2003).

Despite, only 2% of the Canada Bay LGA land area being original vegetation and landscapes, the LGA makes a significant contribution to protecting native fauna of conservation significance in inner-western Sydney – one of Australia’s oldest urban landscapes.

Bird assemblages of City of Canada Bay’s bushland remnants are residual populations of what were once, prior to intensive urbanisation, much richer woodland and forest bird communities. They comprise a surprisingly diverse mix of resident, nomadic and migratory species confined mostly to a narrow (50-125 m wide) continuum of STIF and mangrove forest. This extends from Brays Bay Reserve around the Rivendell and Yaralla peninsulas, to Majors Bay.

Many species or ecological communities within the LGA are listed as endangered, threatened or vulnerable under the national Environmental Protection Act 1999, or the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995, or under various international migratory bird protection agreements. (Please refer to Background Research Section 2 of this report).

Source: City of Canada Bay Fauna Survey Report 2013-14.

13 listed threatened species are likely to be found in the LGA including:

3 species listed under the national Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999 – Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor* (Endangered), Green and Golden Bell Frog *Litoria aurea* (Vulnerable) and Grey-headed Flying-fox *Pteropus poliocephalus* (Vulnerable). The Swift Parrot and Green and Golden Bell Frog are also listed as endangered, under the Threatened Species Conservation Act NSW, 1995.

Two other bat species – Eastern Bentwing-bat *Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis* and Little Bentwing-bat *M. australis* are also listed as Vulnerable under the TSC Act in NSW and are likely to occasionally occur in the LGA.

Eight Bird Species are listed as Endangered or Vulnerable under the NSW TSC Act 1995:

- Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius* (Endangered).
- Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* (Endangered).
- Sanderling *Calidris alba* (Vulnerable).
- White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albifrons* (Vulnerable).
- Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla* (Vulnerable).
- Sooty Oystercatcher *Haematopus fuliginosus* (Vulnerable).
- Australian Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris* (Endangered).
- Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua* (Vulnerable).

There are two (2) endangered populations of native fauna listed under the NSW TSC Act 1995 that occur near the study area or have been recorded in the LGA – White-fronted Chat and Long-nosed Bandicoot *Perameles nasuta*.

Fifty-five (55) native species of local and regional conservation significance, including a mix of declining woodland species of inner and mid-western Sydney terrestrial and aquatic birds and 9 species of mammals, reptiles and amphibians. These were Common Ringtail Possum, Common Brushtail Possum, Eastern Blue-tongue Lizard, Bar-sided Skink, Australian Water Dragon, *Robust Ctenotus*, Bleating Tree Frog, Peron's Tree Frog and Common Eastern Froglet.

A total of 13 migratory and marine bird species that were recorded in the study or in the 2002-2003 survey or are likely to occur in the LGA are listed under the China-Australia (CAMBA), Japan-Australia (JAMBA) and/or Republic of Korea-Australia (ROKAMBA) Migratory Bird Agreements. They are also listed as migratory or marine species under the Australian Government's EPBC Act 1999. Species listed under CAMBA, JAMBA and ROKAMBA are the: Bartailed Godwit, Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*, Grey-tailed Tattler *T. brevipes*, Sharptailed Sandpiper *C. acuminata*, Curlew Sandpiper, Sanderling, Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus* and Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*. Eastern Great Egret *Ardea modesta* is listed under JAMBA and CAMBA only. White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* (CAMBA), Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii* (CAMBA and ROKAMBA) and Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii* (JAMBA) complete this set of species.

## STRATEGIC REVIEW OF THE CANADA BAY BIKE PLAN (2014)

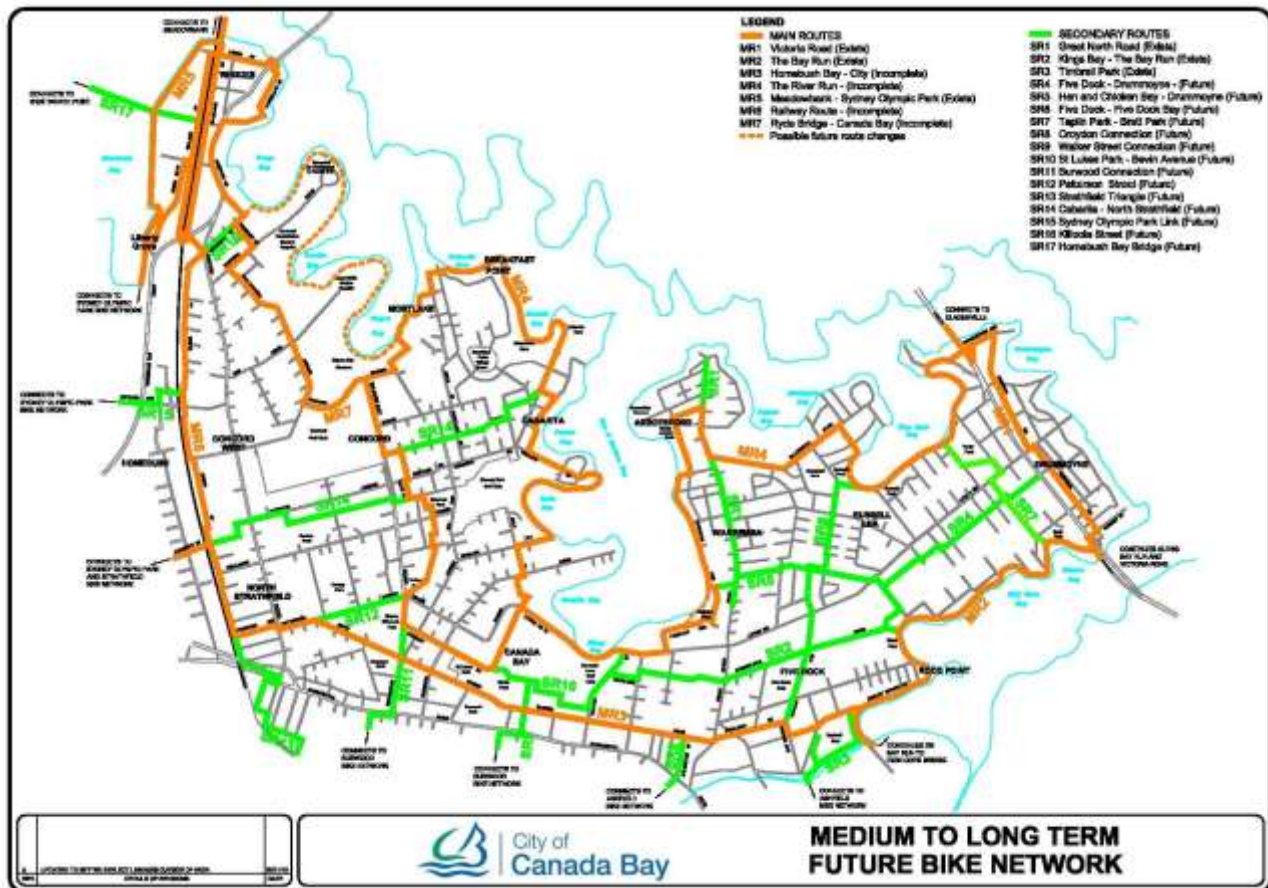
The primary aim of the strategic review was to rationalise the existing bike route network and prioritise short and medium term works to improve and extend the network. The strategic review rationalised, where possible combined into longer routes and replaced many routes suggested in the 2005 Bike Plan. Two categories of route were identified, Main Routes and Secondary Routes:

Main Routes are generally long and traverse a significant portion of the LGA, and connect several destinations. These routes are where the majority of funds and resources should be allocated. There are 7 Main Routes.

Secondary Routes are the remainder, generally shorter and provide links between Main Routes and/or to a single destination. There are 17 Secondary Routes.

The Strategic Review does not envisage a future bike route within Wangal Reserve or Punt Park, however it does identify the establishment of a continuous main route along the river foreshore called the “River Run” (Reference - MR 4), which will run south and adjacent the Reserve. A map of the proposed bike network is provided below.

**Figure 6 - City of Canada Bay Future Bike Network**



## 2.3 DEVELOPMENT PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

A summary of the governance and strategic planning context can be found in Section One of this report.

This section identifies key planning considerations that must be taken into account when considering future improvements to the Reserve, as identified in the Sydney Harbour Catchment Plan 2005 and Council's LEP 2013. Planning considerations include any:

- Activity should not exacerbate existing issues and should seek to improve hydrological, ecological and geomorphological processes of the catchment. This includes consideration of Acid Sulphate Soils, Land Contamination Hazards, impacts on water quality, urban run-off and drainage.



- Development should safeguard and improve the visual quality of the Harbour and protect environmental qualities, whilst improving and increasing public access for recreation and Harbour viewing in foreshore areas. Recreation may include land or water based activities including boating.
- Development should protect and, if practicable, rehabilitate watercourses, wetlands, riparian corridors, remnant native vegetation and ecological connectivity within the catchment.
- Development should recognise, protect and enhance appreciation of the parks history and heritage, locally and as part of the exceptionally significant Sydney Harbour heritage area. This includes significant fabric, settings, relics and views associated with the Reserve, sites and places of Aboriginal heritage significance.

Other issues of consideration include: Neighbourhood Impacts, Car Parking and Traffic Impacts and Climate Change Impacts.

## 2.4 SWOT ANALYSIS

This section summarises the key current management strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats as identified through the background research and consultation. The long list of issues and initiatives have been summarised into seven (7) priority management areas as follows:

1. Environmental Management
2. Cultural Heritage Management
3. Recreation
4. Reserve Access
5. Education & Interpretation
6. Communication & Involvement
7. Finance, Management & Operations

The priority management areas have been carried forward into the PoM strategic framework and action plan in the following sections.

**Table 2 - SWOT Analysis**

<b>STRENGTHS</b>	<p><b>Environmental Significance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A prominent headland within the Parramatta River and significant contributor to the broader nationally/regional significant Parramatta River and Sydney Harbour Foreshore natural areas Reserve system.</li> <li>• Scenic beauty – headlands, beaches, vista's and green spaces.</li> <li>• Wildlife Habitat – particularly for aquatic and small terrestrial birds.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cultural Heritage Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A significant aboriginal heritage "location", connected to the Parramatta River and Sydney Harbour.</li> <li>• A locally significant past industrial site.</li> <li>• Connection to the only remaining working Sydney Harbour Car Ferry.</li> </ul> <p><b>Recreation</b></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only significant public open space on the Mortlake Peninsula and in highly valued foreshore location.</li> <li>• Highly valued recreation asset for the local community.</li> <li>• The community are actively involved and engaged.</li> <li>• The park is a public asset available for everyone to enjoy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Finance, Management and Operations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reserve currently has a relatively low maintenance programme and associated cost to Council.</li> <li>• Community aspirations for the Reserve are aligned to stakeholder and planning context.</li> </ul>
WEAKNESSES	<p><b>Environmental Significance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetation Communities/habitats - highly modified and not endemic to the local area.</li> <li>• Value of vegetation and wildlife habitat limited due to the Reserves disconnected/isolated location and therefore contribution to the broader regional biodiversity objectives.</li> <li>• Lack of knowledge of pre-European settlement environmental character.</li> <li>• The Reserve is relatively small and servicing a growing population. It will be difficult to manage environmental values in the face of increasing usage.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cultural Heritage Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of knowledge &amp; Interpretation of both Aboriginal &amp; European Heritage.</li> </ul> <p><b>Recreation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of, or poor quality of existing Reserve facilities and infrastructure and landscaping embellishment.</li> <li>• Lack of connectivity between Wangal Reserve and Punt Park.</li> <li>• Lack of and poor connectivity to active transport routes within the local area and the broader Canada Bay shoreline access pathways and trails network.</li> <li>• Limited range of recreational opportunities available.</li> <li>• Lack of disability access.</li> </ul> <p><b>Vehicle Access and Car parking</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor vehicular arrival route &amp; entry to the Reserve detracting from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– visibility</li> <li>– visitor experience</li> <li>– local residential amenity</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Lack of orientation &amp; way-finding signage to the Reserve.</li> </ul> <p><b>Education &amp; Interpretation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of interpretation of park values, site environment, Aboriginal cultural and European history &amp; heritage.</li> </ul>



	<p><b>Communications &amp; Involvement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of off-site information about what the park has to offer &amp; what's on.</li> </ul> <p><b>Finance, Management &amp; Operations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complex legislative planning and control environment.</li> <li>Past use as an industrial site limits future environmental and development potential without significant investment to fully remediate the site.</li> <li>Limited Capital expenditure (CapEx) or Operational expenditure (OpEx) budget available to make improvements.</li> <li>Lack of baseline data – Aboriginal heritage, Environmental Audits etc.</li> <li>Lack of documented Management and Operational Procedures.</li> <li>Lack of forward planning - asset maintenance, replacement &amp; renewal.</li> </ul>
OPPORTUNITIES	<p><b>Recreation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved quality facilities and spaces will expand the range of recreational opportunities on offer at the Reserve and in the Canada Bay area, assist the management of anticipated increased demand and usage, enhance Reserve usage capacity and improve access for people of all abilities.</li> <li>Extension of Reserve recreational opportunities and capacity through strengthening connectivity to Punt Park, through arrival street landscaping and connectivity to broader active transport and foreshore pathways and trails network.</li> </ul> <p><b>Reserve Access</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved way-finding signage to the Reserve will enhance community awareness.</li> <li>Enhance sense of arrival and Reserve entry.</li> <li>Better connectivity to broader active transport and foreshore pathways and trails network.</li> <li>Better management of vehicular car parking.</li> <li>Improved connectivity between Wangal Reserve and Punt Park.</li> </ul> <p><b>Education &amp; Interpretation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide interpretation to enhance visitor experience and improve local knowledge and understanding of Reserve values.</li> </ul> <p><b>Finance, Management and Operations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local community have expressed a desire to be engaged and actively involved in the future management, planning and development of the Reserve.</li> <li>Capital budget allocations are likely to be available for staged implementation of priority improvements.</li> </ul>
THREATS	<p><b>Environmental Management Issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key threatening processes – soil contamination, weed/pest invasion, climate change induced erosion and sea level rise, urban development and usage pressures.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Cultural &amp; Heritage Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limited remaining physical features and knowledge of the sites Aboriginal &amp; European cultural heritage, loss of curtilage, connection and stories.</li></ul> <p><b>Recreation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aging infrastructure asset base and rising maintenance costs.</li></ul> <p><b>User Conflicts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Potential conflicts arising from mixed use of out of park access routes, connectors and in-park pathways and trails (vehicles, walkers and bike riders).</li><li>• Increasing demand pressure may result in future user group conflicts.</li></ul> <p><b>Finance, Management and Operations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increasing asset maintenance costs.</li><li>• Inability of Council to adequately fund CapEx and OpEx to deliver the type and quality of facilities and activities aspired to by the community.</li></ul>
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## **Section Three: Basis for Management**

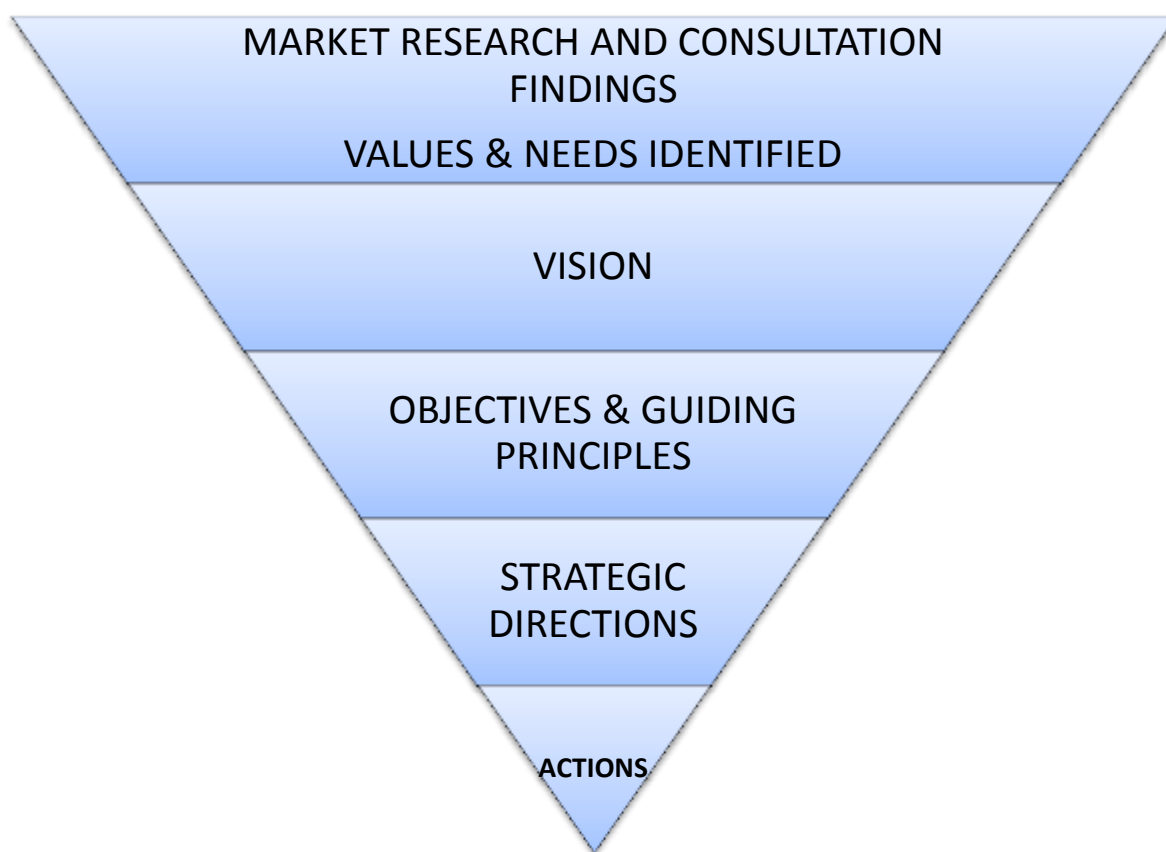
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### 3.0 INTRODUCTION

This Section provides the “Basis for Management” of the Reserve. It provides an outline of the Reserve values and the strategic framework in which to manage, protect and enhance the Reserve values, including a Park Vision, PoM objectives, Management Principles and blue print for the future management of both Wangal Reserve and Punt Park.

Strategic directions, action planning, master planning and recommendations are found in Section 4 of this report.

How the various elements of the basis for management are linked and the process for development is illustrated in the following graphic.



### 3.1 VALUES OF THE RESERVE

Following a review of the foundation PoM (1983) for the Reserve, application of current State and Local Government policy and consideration of local community and key stakeholder consultation and background research, the following values have been determined to relate to Wangal Reserve and Punt Park. The strategies and outcomes outlined in this PoM have been devised to protect and enhance these values.

### 3.1.1 Recreation

Wangal Reserve was established for the purposes of a public park for recreation under the then relevant act, the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, and is a State heritage listed site of significance for such qualities.

Recreation at the Reserve today, can generally be described as, family orientated, land and water based recreation of a passive nature, in a foreshore, modified bushland and open space Reserve environ.

Basic facilities and spaces for a diverse range of outdoor recreation opportunities include but are not limited to; walking, running/jogging, cycling/bike riding, social/family activities including children's play and picnicking/BBQ, water based activities such as fishing, kayaking & canoeing, nature care & observation, relaxation & contemplation, casual sports, wellness and fitness training.

This value is supported by the Reserves listing on the State Heritage Register and in particular its "Social Significance". This value is increasing in importance due to urbanisation and increasing participation in and demand for outdoor recreation activities and spaces.

### 3.1.2 Environment and Scenery

Environment and scenery can be defined as the Reserves natural asset base including its vegetation, wildlife, physiography, micro-climate, water qualities, adjacencies and visual qualities – to, from and within the Reserve.

Wangal Reserve is a heavily modified environment. Its immediate past use as a heavy industrial site, as well as that of adjacent land and bay areas, means that the site has very little of its natural geological form and no remnant native vegetation. The site has no known biodiversity or geological heritage listings.

As a former industrial site the Reserve subsoils and the adjacent bays are contaminated which limits future land use and development potential without major remediation works. These site constraints are reflected in the development and planning controls that impact the site.

Key environmental characteristics of significant value however include the foreshore and waterways, which it lies adjacent to, Parramatta river and Sydney harbour vistas that it provides access to, and wildlife – particularly birdlife that the Reserve and the modified native bushland supports.

These values are supported by the Reserves listing on the State Heritage Register and in particular its "Aesthetic Significance". This value is increasing in importance due to urbanisation and loss of biodiversity in the region.

### **3.1.3 Community and Social Values**

Wangal Reserve, like many public reserves of its kind around NSW, provides important spaces for the many non-tangible aspects of urban life that build and maintain social connectivity and capital within the local community.

Key community and social values derived from the Reserve include a sense of identity, social gathering place, health and wellbeing, arts & culture, education and learning.

This value is supported by the Reserves listing on the State Heritage Register and in particular “Social Significance”.

### **3.1.4 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage**

Aboriginal cultural heritage includes the Reserves significance as: a likely location for traditional and continuous use over 30,000 years, up until European settlement in the 1830’s, for river viewing and communication, fishing and shellfish gathering, possible shelter and site for engravings. It also includes the stories and cultural linkages to the local Aboriginal community of Canada Bay and the Gadigal people past, present and future.

This value is supported by the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Statement of Significance that states the Reserve (in conjunction with the adjacent bays and waterways) is an “Aboriginal site favourable location”.

### **3.1.5 European Cultural Heritage**

European cultural heritage includes: the heritage, stories and cultural linkages to Sydney’s industrial, maritime and urban development history, significant links to the Sydney Harbour Foreshore and Parramatta River protection cultural movement, built infrastructure such as convict built stone sea walls and as curtilage to the adjacent historic and only remaining working car ferry in the Sydney Harbour – the Mortlake Ferry.

The Reserve is also likely to have local cultural heritage significance in terms of the activities, uses, stories and local community connection to the Reserve for recreation, community gathering and celebration (i.e. weddings, birthdays, civic events etc.) in the past, present and future.

This value is supported by the Reserves listing on the State Heritage Register and in particular it’s “Social Significance”.



## 3.2 VISION

The community vision for the Reserve is to:

***“To deliver high quality recreational experiences for local residents and visitors to the area, capturing the Reserves prominent foreshore location, environmental and cultural values”***

In developing this vision, we have drawn on the principles of the original PoM together with those drawn throughout the consultation process, these being broadly consistent with what has occurred at the Reserve in the past.

## 3.3 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The management objectives for the Reserve, consistent with and support the vision and values are:

- Preserve and enhance the values of the Reserve for future generations.
- Significantly contribute to the social and cultural life, vitality and wellbeing of the local community through:
  - Providing a diverse range of recreational opportunities and social gathering spaces to support the use and participation of people of all ages and abilities,
  - Acknowledging and celebrating the Reserve lands history and heritage,
  - Assisting the realisation of regional planning initiatives, such as the broader foreshore access plans for Canada Bay and the Harbour.
- Protect, restore and enhance the Reserves environmental value through the management of threatening environmental processes (i.e. Parramatta River Catchment Issues, Climate Change, Native vegetation and wildlife habitat enhancement, Weed Management, Contaminated Soil, Adjacent Land and increasing Visitor Use).
- To ensure future development, facilities and activities conducted at the Reserve:
  - Address identified community needs and align with the Reserve values,
  - Are delivered to a high standard,
  - Maintain public access as a priority,
  - Comply with relevant policies and standards (e.g. accessibility, duty of care, WH&S, best practice governance and sustainable development),
  - Are feasible, operationally viable and sustainable.
- To ensure effective and ongoing governance and management of the Reserve, and including community and stakeholder engagement and involvement in the planning and management of the Reserve.

### 3.5 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

As mentioned in Section 1 of this PoM, the planning and management of the Park will be guided by the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Under the *Local Government Act 1993* the use and management of Reserve must be in accordance with the following:

- The plan of management applying to the land
- Any law permitting the use of the land for a specified purpose or otherwise regulating the use of the land
- This Division

The vision, objectives and guiding principles form the basis and guide for the range of future strategy initiatives.

## **Section Four: Strategy & Action Plan**

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## 4.0 BLUE PRINT FOR MANAGEMENT

The key findings from the study's research and consultation have been developed into the Plan of Management Strategy, Recommended Actions and Landscape Masterplan which is detailed in the tables **on the following pages**.

The following "Plan in Brief" provides a blue print for managing and developing the Reserve in the future. The plan in brief summarises the overarching strategic direction, approach and the intent born out in the detailed action planning. It is the plan at a glance and is provided to help Council as the owner of the Reserve & key stakeholders to understand and clearly communicate the way forward.

### 4.1 PLAN IN BRIEF

#### Reserve Management Approach

1. Enhance the landscape and visual character, ambience, quality and range of community and recreational opportunities available at the Reserve.
2. Protect and enhance the environmental and heritage conservation and scenic values of the Reserve whilst balancing this with community use and neighbour impacts.
3. Generally, work within and make the most of limited Council and community resources:  
Key initiatives and actions that support this strategic direction are:
  - Staged development plan.
  - Quality of Infrastructure Amenities and Landscape treatments.
  - Feasibility Analysis and Planning.
  - Risk Management.
4. Fostering a sense of community ownership through continued community and stakeholder involvement and engagement.

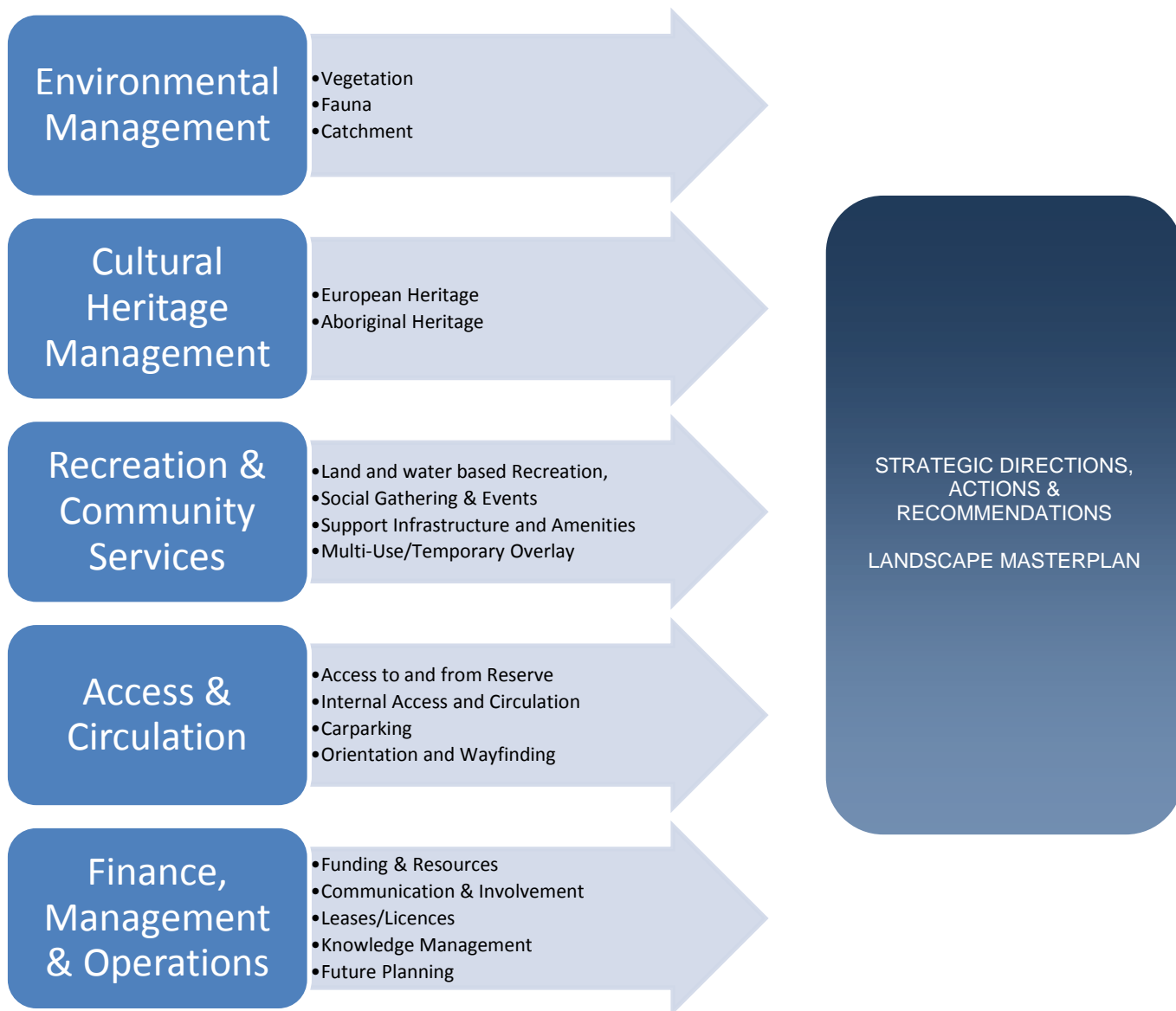
#### Future Development Approach

1. Improve the Reserves facilities, spaces and overall character to provide a more diverse range of opportunities for people to come together, play, recreate and relax.  
Key initiatives and actions that support this strategic direction are:
  - Improvement of pathways, tracks and trail network within the Reserve.
  - Enhance existing and provide new support facilities and amenities:
    - a) Seating, Water Bubblers, Toilets, Shelter, lighting, safety & security and orientation signage.
  - Enhance existing and provide new facilities/spaces for:
    - a) Water based recreation (Beach access and water play, Multi-use boardwalk and viewing and fishing areas, Small Craft Boat Launch/Pontoon, Equipment Storage and water safety equipment).

- b) Land based recreation (i.e. Nature based play spaces, casual sports play, cycling and walking paths, health & wellness training spaces, dog walking areas, spaces for casual sport and training).
  - c) Social and formal gatherings and local events (e.g. waterside plaza and/or viewing platforms).
  - d) Temporary overlay – (i.e. events infrastructure, pop-up activities, sports training, coffee/cafe van).
2. Enhance Local and Regional Environmental and Cultural Heritage Conservation.  
Key initiatives and actions that support this strategic direction are:
- Align future masterplan to support local and regional biodiversity and catchment management plans.
  - Implement Reserve cultural heritage assessment action plan.
3. Create a sense of place.  
Key initiatives and actions that support this strategic direction are:
- Develop Landscape masterplan that:
    - a) provides a sense of arrival.
    - b) unifies the landscape throughout Punt Park and Wangal Reserve.
    - c) interprets the Reserves natural and cultural heritage, foreshore location and scenery.
4. Extend the capacity and reach of the Reserve through enhanced precinct planning, integrated adjacent land management, urban and foreshore connections.  
Key initiatives and actions that support this strategic direction are:
- Adopt a precinct landscape planning approach incorporating Wangal Reserve, Punt Park, Hilly Street, foreshore approaches and Mortlake Ferry.
  - Investigate options to integrate the adjacent Mortlake Ferry into the Reserve precinct.
  - Improve cycle access into and around Wangal Reserve.
  - Investigate options to provide public access into and around Wangal Reserve along the Majors Bay and Fairmile Cove foreshore.
5. Acknowledge, connect with and Celebrate the land and its people - Past, Present and Future.  
Key initiatives and actions that support this strategic direction are:
- Develop Reserve/precinct interpretative plan.
  - Incorporate Aboriginal and European cultural heritage and interpretive themes into landscape design.
  - Encourage and provide opportunities for art, creative expression, activities and local participation within the Reserve and Precinct that will create the stories of the future.

## 4.2 STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AREAS

The following diagram identifies the key strategic initiative areas, which guide the action planning, directly link to the issues identified in the SWOT Analysis presented in Section Three of this report and are as follows:





## 4.3 ACTION PLANNING

The Action Plan tables include the following sections & key headings:

- Summary of Key Issues
- Strategic Directions
- Recommendations/Actions
- Priorities
- Resourcing – Estimated Cost and Partners

The Priority column within the tables indicates a time line for each recommendation and includes the following key.

- |             |            |              |
|-------------|------------|--------------|
| • Immediate | 1-3 years. | High (H)     |
| • Medium    | 4-7 years. | Medium (M)   |
| • Long      | 7+ years.  | Low (L)      |
| • Continual |            | Ongoing (ON) |

**Table 3 - Action Plan: Environmental Management**

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT						
AREA	SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES	STRATEGY DIRECTION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS	PRIORITY High (H) Medium (M) Low(L) Ongoing(ON)	ESTIMATED COST	PARTNERS/ OTHER LINKED DOCUMENTS
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<p><b>Current Status</b></p> <p>Canada Bay LGA has five highly significant native vegetation communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest (STIF) (EEC)</li> <li>Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest (also termed "Estuarine Fringe Forest") (EEC)</li> <li>Coastal Saltmarsh (also termed Estuarine Saltmarsh) (EEC)</li> <li>Estuarine Mangrove Forest</li> <li>Estuarine Wetlands</li> </ul> <p>Despite, only 2% of the Canada Bay LGA land area being original vegetation and landscapes, the LGA has a surprisingly diverse native fauna population and makes a significant contribution to protecting native fauna of conservation significance in inner-western Sydney.</p> <p>These species are particularly resident, nomadic and migratory bird species confined mostly to a narrow (50-125 m wide) continuum of STIF and mangrove forest. This extends from Brays Bay Reserve around the Rivendell and Yaralla peninsulas to Majors Bay.</p> <p>Many flora and fauna species and ecological communities within the LGA are listed as endangered, threatened or vulnerable under the national Environmental Protection Act 1999, or the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995, or under various international migratory bird protection agreements. (Please refer</p>	Assist implementation of local and regional biodiversity and catchment management plans	Reserve Landscape Masterplan Principle - Establish biodiversity landscape zones within the Reserve masterplan for the re-establishment of significant native vegetation and ecological communities as identified in previous relevant strategies and management plans	H	N/A	LOCAL LANDCARE AND OTHER RELEVANT COMMUNITY GROUPS REGIONAL CATCHMENT GROUPS LOCAL LAND SERVICES OEH
			Prepare and implement native vegetation re-establishment plan, taking into account significant aquatic and terrestrial avifauna requirements	H	\$20K	OEH, LOCAL LANDCARE, REGIONAL CATCHMENT GROUPS
		Encourage further enhancement of biodiversity across the local area	Prepare precinct masterplan with a view to extending biodiversity linkages within the urban realm and along the foreshore	M	N/A	OEH, LOCAL LANDCARE, REGIONAL CATCHMENT GROUPS
			Educate neighbours on local biodiversity issues and future Reserve biodiversity enhancement	M	Internal Resourcing	OEH, LOCAL LANDCARE, REGIONAL CATCHMENT GROUPS

## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

AREA	SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES	STRATEGY DIRECTION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS	PRIORITY High (H) Medium (M) Low(L) Ongoing(ON)	ESTIMATED COST	PARTNERS/ OTHER LINKED DOCUMENTS
	<p>to Background Research Section 2 of this report).</p> <p>Source: City of Canada Bay Fauna Survey Report 2013-14.</p> <p><b>Key Issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Declining populations of terrestrial and aquatic bird and mammal species.</li> <li>Habitat loss, fragmentation, isolation and modification as a result of urban intensification.</li> <li>The aggressive exclusion of birds from potential woodland and forest habitat by over-abundant Noisy Miners. (i.e. Currently listed as a key threatening process to the health of woodland birds and their habitat under the EPBC Act 1999 and NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995).</li> </ul>					
<b>Catchment Issues</b>	<p>Key catchment processes that could threaten future biodiversity enhancement programs, community and recreational use of the Reserve include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sub-soil land and riverbed contamination</li> <li>Stormwater &amp; run-off issues - gross pollution &amp; nitrification and sedimentation</li> <li>Inhibited vegetation migration resulting from sea wall, and</li> <li>Impacts of sea level rise resulting from climate change.</li> </ul>	Manage threats to Biodiversity and future community use of Reserve	Undertake more detailed site and adjacent waterways investigations into contamination issues and remediate as required	L	\$30K	OEI, REGIONAL AND LOCAL CATCHMENT GROUPS
<b>Neighbourhood Impacts and Issues</b>	<p>Key neighbourhood issues that may impact future development and use of the Reserve include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neighbouring properties loss of waterside views and visual privacy</li> </ul>	Manage neighbourhood issues to minimise impacts	Work with neighbours and stakeholders to prepare an active transport plan with the view to minimising access to the Reserve by car	H	Internal Resourcing	

## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

AREA	SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES	STRATEGY DIRECTION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS	PRIORITY High (H) Medium (M) Low(L) Ongoing(ON)	ESTIMATED COST	PARTNERS/ OTHER LINKED DOCUMENTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impacts of trees on neighbour properties</li> <li>Garden escapes and weed infestation from neighbour properties</li> <li>Potential loss of neighbourhood amenity as a result of increased Reserve usage (i.e. traffic congestion, lack of access to street car parking, ambient noise, perceived security risks, littering)</li> </ul>		Reserve Landscape Masterplan Principle - Ensure neighbour visual and neighbour amenity issues are addressed	H	N/A	
			Manage Reserve vegetation to take account of neighbour view lines & security	ON	N/A	
			Educate Reserve users of neighbourhood impacts and encourage considerate behaviour	ON	Internal Resourcing	
Scenic Vistas		Protect and enhance Scenic Vistas	Reserve Landscape Masterplan Principle - Enhance scenic vistas to the Reserve and site lines within and from the Reserve to the Adjacent Bays and Waterways	H	N/A	
			Manage Reserve vegetation to take account Scenic Vista's	ON	N/A	

**Table 4 - Action Plan: Cultural Heritage Management**

CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT						
AREA	SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES	STRATEGY DIRECTION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS	PRIORITY High (H) Medium (M) Low(L) Ongoing(ON)	ESTIMATED COST	PARTNERS
<b>Cultural Heritage Conservation</b>	<p><b>Current Status</b></p> <p>Background research and consultation indicates the Reserve is highly significant to the Canada Bay community.</p> <p>The Reserve (and the adjacent Bays and waters of the Parramatta river) is listed on the State Heritage Register and has been assessed as a "location" of cultural heritage significance to Aboriginal people.</p> <p>Whilst limited documented history could be found specific to the Reserve, anecdotal evidence suggests the Reserve and local area also have a long and rich European industrial history, some of which relics remain today, including the submersed sandstone slipways in Fairmile Cove, the sandstone seawalls and Mortlake Ferry.</p> <p><b>Key Issues</b></p> <p>Both the Aboriginal and European Heritage need to be protected and conserved in accordance with various legislative instruments.</p> <p>Community and management expressed concern at the lack of knowledge, appreciation and understanding of the Reserves cultural significance and heritage.</p> <p>It needs to be recognised that the cultural values of the Reserve will change overtime and there is a need to acknowledge, respect and embrace traditional, continuing and emerging cultural traditions.</p>	Improve knowledge and understanding of the Reserves history and cultural heritage	Prepare Aboriginal and European Cultural Heritage Assessment and Management Plans for the Reserve, Punt Park and Precinct	H	\$30K	MLALC, OEH
			Develop & Implement Reserve Interpretation Plan	M	\$5K	MLALC, OEH
		Align site use, management and development planning with cultural heritage conservation requirements	Protect and interpret significant Aboriginal and European heritage sites and features through landscape design. Consider following components and design features:	M	N/A	MLALC, OEH, RMS
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seawalls</li> <li>Submerged sandstone slipways</li> </ul>			
			Work with Aboriginal community to enhance involvement in future planning and management of the Reserve.	H	Internal Resourcing	MLALC, OEH
			Work with the Aboriginal and local community to encourage local events and activities that reflect, celebrate and enhance the cultural history and heritage of the Reserve.	L	Internal Resourcing	MLALC
			Investigate the opportunity to better integrate the Mortlake Ferry into the Wangal Reserve/Punt Park precinct.	H	Internal Resourcing	MLC, OEH, RMS
			Investigate the opportunity to interpret the historic usage as a Naval Dockyard.	L	Internal Resourcing	OEH

**Table 5 - Action Plan: Recreation**

RECREATION						
AREA	SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES	STRATEGY DIRECTION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS	PRIORITY High (H) Medium (M) Low(L) Ongoing(ON)	ESTIMATED COST	PARTNERS
<b>Recreation Opportunities</b>	<p><b>Current Status</b> Wangal Reserve is highly significant to the local community, as the only reasonable sized public open space on the Mortlake Peninsula and in a foreshore location. Its significance is increasing as urban density and the population in the local area increases.</p> <p>The local community are active in unofficially looking after the Reserve and in participating in Council planning processes.</p> <p>The Reserve is listed on the State Heritage register for its passive recreation and leisure values.</p> <p><b>Key Issues</b> Community, stakeholders and management identified the following key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of/poor quality of existing Reserve facilities and infrastructure and landscaping embellishment</li> <li>Lack of connectivity between Wangal Reserve and Punt Park</li> <li>Lack of and poor connectivity to active transport routes within the local area and the broader Canada Bay shoreline access pathways and trails network</li> <li>Limited range of recreational opportunities available</li> <li>Lack of disability access</li> <li>Increasing urban density and population growth are</li> </ul>	Enhance existing and provide new recreation facilities/spaces to support a greater diversity of use's and users	<p>Prepare a pathway and trail network masterplan overlay for the Reserve. Consider the following components and design elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connections between key support infrastructure and features/spaces</li> <li>Scenic vistas and view lines</li> <li>Strengthen foreshore access and connections</li> <li>Connections to the local urban area for cycling and walking</li> <li>DDA compliance</li> <li>Temporary overlay</li> </ul> <p>(Refer to Landscape Masterplan, Section Five)</p>	H	N/A	OEH, RMS
			<p>Enhance existing and provide new support facilities and amenities. Consider the following components and design elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional/New - Seating, Water Bubblers, Picnic Shelters</li> <li>Upgrade of existing toilet block</li> <li>Upgrade to lighting, safety and security systems</li> <li>ESD Principles</li> <li>Develop and implement wayfinding and orientation signage strategy.</li> </ul> <p>(Refer to Landscape Masterplan, Section Five)</p>	M	\$200K	LOCAL COMMUNITY



RECREATION						
AREA	SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES	STRATEGY DIRECTION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS	PRIORITY High (H) Medium (M) Low(L) Ongoing(ON)	ESTIMATED COST	PARTNERS
	likely to put use pressures on the Reserve in the future.  <b>Future Opportunities</b>  Community consultation indicates there is a desire for improved quality and enhancement of the Reserve, both in terms of the landscape character and range recreational opportunities on offer.  Whilst the community support improvements to the Reserve, they do not want to see the Reserves quiet, local park ambience compromised, by encouraging high out of area visitation or organised sports etc.  Community and stakeholders indicated a range of existing park facilities and infrastructure that they would like to see upgraded as well as new infrastructure, facilities and features.		Enhance existing and provide new facilities/spaces for water based recreation. Consider, subject to feasibility analysis the following components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beach access and water play,</li> <li>Multi-use boardwalk, fishing and viewing areas,</li> <li>Small Craft Boat Launch/Pontoon, associated equipment storage and water safety equipment.</li> </ul> (Refer to Landscape Masterplan, Section Five)	L	\$75K	OEH, RMS
			Enhance existing and provide new facilities/spaces for Land based recreation. Consider the following components or design features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nature based play spaces, discovery trail, climbing trees, playful public art and support infrastructure</li> <li>casual sports play,</li> <li>cycling and walking paths,</li> <li>health &amp; wellness training spaces,</li> <li>dog walking areas,</li> <li>spaces for casual sport and training</li> </ul> (Refer to Landscape Masterplan, Section Five)	H	\$150K	OEH, RMS
			Provide new facilities/spaces to enable social and formal gathering. Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>waterside plaza and/or viewing platforms</li> </ul> (Refer to Landscape Masterplan, Section Five)	M	\$50K	OEH, RMS

RECREATION						
AREA	SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES	STRATEGY DIRECTION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS	PRIORITY High (H) Medium (M) Low(L) Ongoing(ON)	ESTIMATED COST	PARTNERS
			Provide infrastructure and design overlay that support temporary use of Reserve. Consider following components and design features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• events infrastructure,</li> <li>• pop-up activities,</li> <li>• commercial pop-up services (e.g. coffee/cafe van/food outlets/equipment hire)</li> </ul> (Refer to Landscape Masterplan, Section Five)	M	N/A	OEH, RMS

**Table 6 - Action Plan: Access**

ACCESS						
AREA	SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES	STRATEGY DIRECTION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS	PRIORITY High (H) Medium (M) Low(L) Ongoing(ON)	ESTIMATE D COST	PARTNERS
<b>Off-site Access</b>	The main access route to the Reserve is via Hilly Street. Hilly street is a narrow local traffic street and is inappropriate for high levels of non-suburban vehicle-movements. Future vehicular access to the Reserve is heavily constrained by the capacity of Hilly street.	Improve Off-site Access to the Park	Investigate the feasibility of providing a new foreshore access point for boats and water taxis.  (Refer to Landscape Masterplan, Section Five)	L	\$30K	RMS
	The route from the closest main arterial road (Burwood Road) is also via a local street network, which is also limiting for buses making public transport access to the Reserve limited.  Non-vehicular access to the park and connectivity with local neighbourhood, the harbour and other key attractions along the foreshore is also limited.  The lack of off-site access to the Reserve limit public access, beyond the immediate local area residents.		Work with Roads and Maritime services and adjacent land holders to upgrade and improve connectivity and visibility of the non-vehicular access infrastructure and network to better link the Reserve to the local urban area, the foreshore and other community destinations within the Canada Bay area. Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connection with Mortlake Ferry.</li> <li>Enhance Hilly Street Pedestrian Access.</li> </ul> (Refer to Landscape Masterplan, Section Five)	H	N/A	RMS
			Improve off-site way-finding and signage to the Reserve.	H	\$5K	RMS
<b>On-Reserve access and circulation</b>	Access paths and infrastructure within the Reserve is limited.  The layout, quality and presentation of the path network is poor and in many instances does not allow for disabled or pram access to key Reserve activity spaces and sites of interest.  In park access must be enhanced in the future to improve visitor access, experiences, their efficiency in moving people through the Reserve and for visual amenity.	Improve On-Reserve access, circulation and wayfinding	Upgrade and provide an accessible path and trails network to key Reserve spaces, sites of interest and viewing points.  (Refer to Landscape Masterplan, Section Five)	H	\$50K	RMS ADJACENT LAND OWNERS
			Prepare and implement a park orientation & way-finding plan. Consider as part of recommended Interpretation strategy	M	\$5K	

ACCESS						
AREA	SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES	STRATEGY DIRECTION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS	PRIORITY High (H) Medium (M) Low(L) Ongoing(ON)	ESTIMATE D COST	PARTNERS
	Orientation signage is also limited and of poor quality					
Car parking	<p>The Reserve has a small on Reserve car park, which the local community has indicated is inadequate and places pressure on on-street parking in the surrounding local streets. However, consultation also indicates residential car parking in the area is limited and local residents often use the Reserve car parking.</p> <p>Increasing use of the Reserve is likely to see significantly more pressure on both Reserve and on-street parking in neighbouring streets.</p> <p>As it is not feasible to provide additional car parking on Reserve without a significant impact on the amount of green space, character and amenity of the Reserve future management will need to consider options to encourage non-vehicular access to the Reserve and better management of the existing carpark.</p>	Maintain and enhance on-Reserve car parking and pick-up / drop-off areas	Investigate management options (e.g. Time-limited or paid) to ensure car park is available for Reserve users, during peak usage times	H	Internal resourcing	RMS ADJACENT LAND OWNERS
			Investigate options for satellite car parking linked to non-vehicular access routes	L	Internal resourcing	RMS ADJACENT LAND OWNERS
			Provide large vehicle turning space (Refer to Landscape Masterplan, Section Five)	M	\$70K	RMS ADJACENT LAND OWNERS

**Table 7 - Action Plan: Finance, Management & Operations**

FINANCE, MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS						
AREA	SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES	STRATEGY DIRECTION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS	PRIORITY High (H) Medium (M) Low(L) Ongoing(ON)	ESTIMATED COST	PARTNERS
<b>RESERVE MANAGEMENT</b>	<p>The future sustainable management and financial resourcing of the Reserve is of critical importance to Council, as it seeks to balance the competing needs across a growing community and asset base.</p> <p>Community interest and sense of ownership of the Reserve was highly evident during the consultation. It is important going forward to maintain that sense of interest and community ownership to assist the sustainable management of the Reserve.</p> <p>Key Issues to assist the future sustainable management and operations of the Reserve include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land use Planning</li> <li>• Funding Financing and Resourcing</li> <li>• Communication and Involvement</li> <li>• Policy and Procedures</li> <li>• Asset Management</li> <li>• Safety and Risk Management</li> <li>• Sustainability</li> </ul>	Align management of Wangal Reserve and Punt Park.	Manage both Wangal Reserve and Punt Park in accordance with this PoM	L	Internal Resourcing	
		Prepare legislated Land use and Management Planning documents.	Adopt Draft PoM and Landscape Masterplan. Prepare Detailed Landscape Masterplan	H	Internal Resourcing	
		Increase funding & resources in line with PoM and Landscape Masterplan.	Continue to explore and advocate for external funding and grants	H	Internal Resourcing	
			Investigate options to increase Reserve revenue (e.g. pop-up commercial services within the Reserve such as Coffee van/Food outlet, health & wellness training and recreational equipment hire)	H	Internal Resourcing	
			Investigate potential sponsorship & giving opportunities & partnerships	H	Internal Resourcing	
		Ongoing community involvement in Reserve planning and management	Develop and implement a communications strategy to raise awareness and support for the revised PoM	H	Internal Resourcing	

**FINANCE, MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS**

AREA	SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES	STRATEGY DIRECTION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS	PRIORITY High (H) Medium (M) Low(L) Ongoing(ON)	ESTIMATED COST	PARTNERS
			Ensure community consulted in the future when development or management changes proposed, in line with Council's consultation and engagement policy	H	Internal Resourcing	
		Improved asset management.	Develop and implement Asset Management Plan, including forward capital works program and WOL cost estimates.  Align to PoM future directions and actions as they relate to infrastructure improvement & development.  Where possible prioritise asset repair and renewal works that will have a positive impact on Reserve operations efficiency, development efficiency and financial performance.  Introduce asset replace and renewal levy into future leases & licenses as appropriate.	H	Internal Resourcing	
		Safety & risk management meets legal requirements.	Develop Safety & Emergency Management Plan.	H	Internal Resourcing	
<b>POM MONITORING &amp; REVIEW</b>	Legislative responsibility dictates that the plan needs to be updated and reviewed on a regular basis. Community Consultation has indicated a desire for regular updates on ongoing involvement	Ongoing PoM performance review & updates as required	Integrate PoM actions into yearly operational plan.  Report on PoM in Annual Report.  Review Plan at years 3, 5 and 10 or as required.	ON	Internal Resourcing	



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## Plan Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in the Management Strategy & Action Plans:

CCB	City of Canada Bay Council
OEH	NSW Office of Environment & Heritage
RMS	NSW Road & Maritime Services
MLC	Sydney Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council

## **Section Five: Landscape Masterplan**

## 5.0 INTRODUCTION

This Section outlines the proposed Landscape Masterplan.

The Landscape Masterplan provides guidance as to the types and potential facilities and features the Council as owner of the Reserve has identified through the plan of management process and begins to identify where they may be located within the Reserve.

The Landscape Masterplan is not intended to provide the exact location of specific facilities and features identified. Exact locations, along with final facilities and features will be addressed as part of future more detailed design and development planning, undertaken at the time of implementation.

## 5.1 DESIGN ISSUES & RESPONSES

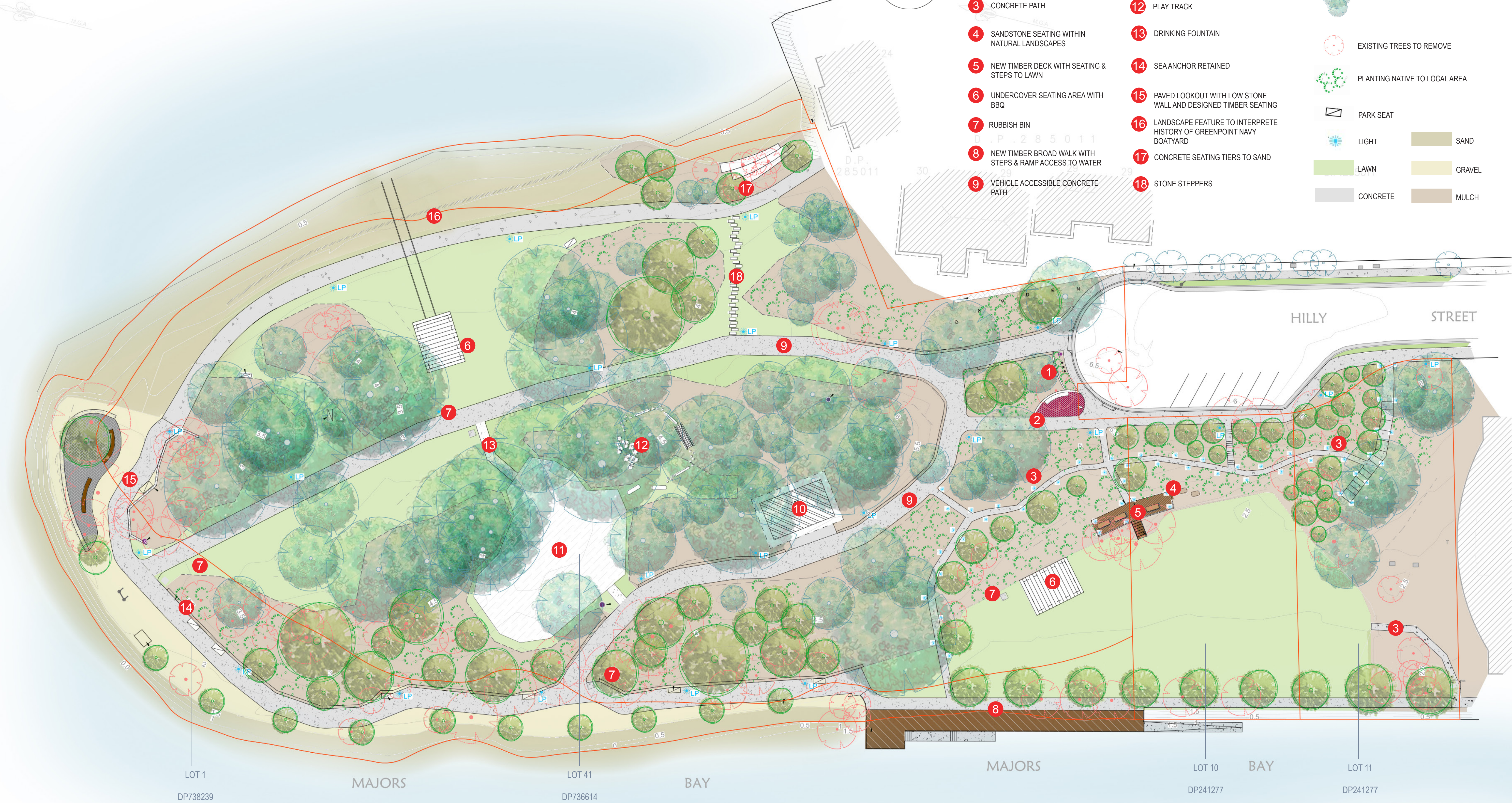
To inform the Masterplan, a site visit and working session was held by Council's project committee to identify design issues and likely future facility and infrastructure needs. In response the design team have established design principles that inform the Landscape Masterplan and brings together all of the key findings of the study, strategic directions and recommendations, as they relate to physical development and management of the Reserve.

**Figure 7 – Wangal Reserve Landscape Masterplan (pg. 58)**

**Figure 8 – Punt Park Landscape Masterplan (pg. 59)**

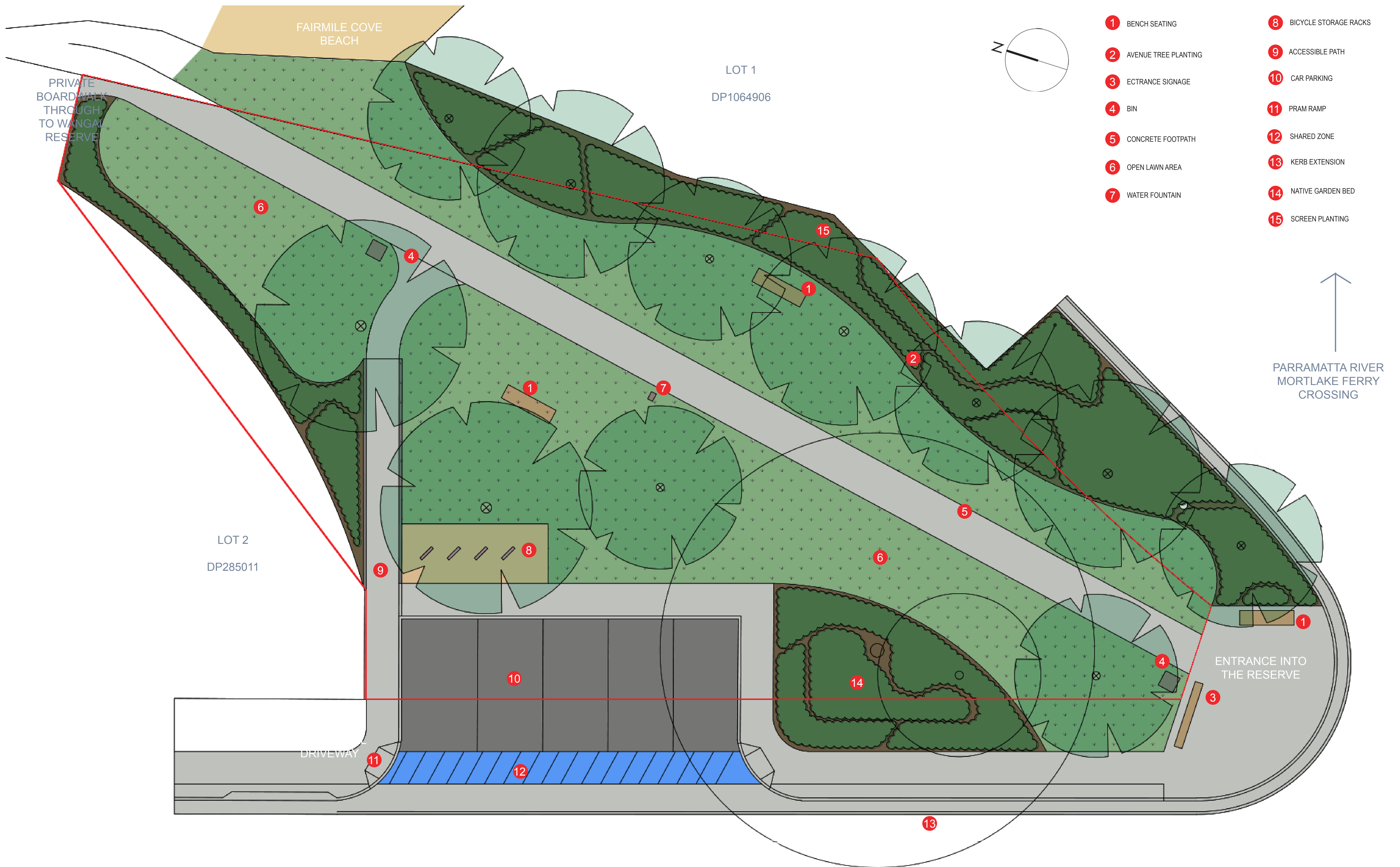
**Figure 9 – Wangal Reserve 1943 Aerial Imagery (pg. 60)**





- 1 ENTRY LANDSCAPES, RELOCATED PLAQUE, NEW RESERVE NAME SIGN & FLAG POLES
  - 2 PAVED AREA WITH SEATING, DRINKING FOUNTAIN & RUBBISH BIN
  - 3 CONCRETE PATH
  - 4 SANDSTONE SEATING WITHIN NATURAL LANDSCAPES
  - 5 NEW TIMBER DECK WITH SEATING & STEPS TO LAWN
  - 6 UNDERCOVER SEATING AREA WITH BBQ
  - 7 RUBBISH BIN
  - 8 NEW TIMBER BROAD WALK WITH STEPS & RAMP ACCESS TO WATER
  - 9 VEHICLE ACCESSIBLE CONCRETE PATH
  - 10 EXPANDED PUBLIC TOILET BLOCK
  - 11 CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND - NATURE PLAY
  - 12 PLAY TRACK
  - 13 DRINKING FOUNTAIN
  - 14 SEA ANCHOR RETAINED
  - 15 PAVED LOOKOUT WITH LOW STONE WALL AND DESIGNED TIMBER SEATING
  - 16 LANDSCAPE FEATURE TO INTERPRETE HISTORY OF GREENPOINT NAVY BOATYARD
  - 17 CONCRETE SEATING TIERS TO SAND
  - 18 STONE STEPPERS
- NEW TREES
  - EXISTING TREES TO RETAIN
  - EXISTING TREES TO REMOVE
  - PLANTING NATIVE TO LOCAL AREA
  - PARK SEAT
  - LIGHT
  - LAWN
  - CONCRETE
  - SAND
  - GRAVEL
  - MULCH





WANGAL RESERVE, MORTLAKE  
AERIAL IMAGERY  
1943



## **Appendix I: CCB Wangal Reserve & Punt Park PoM Consultation**

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City of Canada Bay  
Wangal Reserve  
Draft Plan of Management

Consultation Report  
30 September 2015

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## 1. Introduction

The City of Canada Bay is preparing a new draft Plan of Management (PoM) for Wangal Centenary Bushland Reserve (Wangal Reserve) and Punt Park at Mortlake. When complete, the PoM will provide a framework to help manage these areas over the long-term and ensure they remain attractive destinations for residents and visitors.

The PoM will also help guide the development of a Landscape Master Plan that will prioritise future improvements to the Reserve that were suggested by the local community during consultation for the Breakfast Point Community Enhancement Plan (CEP) in 2014.

To assist in the preparation of the PoM, KJA was engaged to develop and implement a targeted program of consultation with local residents and park visitors to seek input and feedback into the key elements that people would most like to see included in the draft PoM. The primary objectives of the consultation program were to:

- assist the project team to understand the community's main areas of interest;
- gain community input and feedback into the development of a draft PoM; and
- to cross-check the proposed improvements that were suggested in the Breakfast Point CEP.

This consultation report outlines the key communication and consultation activities that were undertaken throughout August 2015. It also provides a summary of community feedback, which has helped to guide the development of the draft PoM that is expected to be placed on public exhibition towards the end of 2015.

### Context

Wangal Reserve is situated on a peninsula on the banks of the Parramatta River, between Majors Bay and Fairmile Cove. The Reserve's scenic location provides a peaceful waterfront picnic area, with shelters, BBQ's, seating and toilets.

The Reserve is accessible via Hilly Street Mortlake and is located in close proximity to Punt Park, near the Mortlake (car) Ferry. There are only limited spaces available for vehicle parking, which means the Reserve predominantly attracts neighbours and local residents.

An opportunity to undertake improvements to Wangal Reserve was one of six key projects suggested by the local community, during consultation for the Breakfast Point CEP that was approved by the Minister for Planning in July 2014.

Future improvements identified in the CEP include:

- new and additional landscaping, with a focus on local Indigenous plant species;
- enhancement of the existing facilities including opportunities for children's play spaces by utilising the sites natural elements; and
- improved access and future connections along the foreshore.

## 2. Communication tools and activities

To ensure an opportunity for input and comment from a broad range of individuals, community groups, government agencies and other organisations, the communication and engagement task was divided into two parts. Statutory consultation with relevant Government and non-Government organisations; and local community consultation.

Consultation with relevant Government and non-Government organisations was undertaken as part of the formal requirements for the development of the draft PoM. This involved written notification to seek feedback from organisations including:

- Department of Crown Lands
- Department of Planning and Environment
- Office of Environment and Heritage - NSW Heritage and NSW Parks & Wildlife Service
- Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Roads and Maritime Services
- Department of Primary Industries - Fisheries
- Parramatta River Catchment Group
- Greater Sydney Local Land Services

Consultation with organisations listed above was undertaken as a separate piece of work by Council's PoM consultant. Items raised have been addressed in the preparation of the draft PoM Report.

Community consultation, which is the focus of this report, was predominantly structured to build on the previous consultation undertaken for the Breakfast Point CEP and aimed to encourage input and feedback from neighbours, local residents and visitors to the Reserve. Activities were promoted via a range of tools including:

- \*A project notice and invitation to a community drop-in session was distributed via letter drop to 2,250 residents within the immediate vicinity of Wangal Reserve.
- \*Information was included in the Mayor's Column in the Inner West Courier on 18 August 2015.
- Email or letter notification was sent to local community organisations as well as people who had participated in the previous consultation for the Breakfast Point CEP.
- Signage was installed at the main entry to Wangal Reserve and Punt Park.
- \*A project overview including details of the community drop-in event was posted on City of Canada Bay's website and included on Council's twitter feed and Facebook page.
- \*A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet was produced and posted online.

\*Refer appendices for a copy of materials

### 3. Consultation

The consultation period ran from 3 August to 29 August 2015. Activities included a project survey, a community drop-in event and an opportunity to provide feedback via the 'Have your Say' section on Council's website.

#### **Community drop in event**

The community drop-in event was held onsite on Saturday 22 August over a two-hour period, between 10am - 12 noon. The format was designed as an informal drop-in style event so individual community members could speak directly with project staff to discuss the PoM and Council's plans. Attendees were invited to complete a feedback form or survey, to help the project team to understand the key areas of interest to the community.

A representative of Council's project team, two members of KJA, together with the PoM Landscape Consultant attended the event. Information made available on the day, included project boards with an overview of the PoM, indicative images of proposed improvements and a project FAQ sheet.

#### **\*Survey**

A survey was available in printed format so it could be completed at the community drop-in event. An online version was also produced and accessible via the 'Have Your Say' section on Council's website. Survey questions included:

- The main priorities and issues that people would like to see addressed in the PoM.
- The main reasons for visiting Wangal Reserve and how often people visited.
- The distance people travelled to Wangal Reserve.

People were also encouraged to provide their comments about any specific areas of interest and/or items that they would most like to see in the PoM.

\*Refer appendices for a copy of printed survey

## 4. Feedback

More than 40 people attended the drop-in event. 24 surveys were completed and four people provided additional written comments at the event or via email. In addition, 12 people left their details so they could be notified when the draft PoM is placed on public exhibition or when the draft Landscape Master Plan had been developed.

Council has also received written correspondence from several groups or individuals that were outside of the formal consultation period. This included comments that had remained on file, following the approval of the CEP in 2014.

### **Note on survey findings and feedback:**

It is important to note that while a broad range of feedback was received, not all people who attended the drop in event provided written comments, nor was the survey designed to provide a statistical analysis community support for particular improvements. Rather, the consultation activities and survey were designed to help the project team to understand the key areas of community interest and to also cross check the improvements suggested in the Breakfast Point CEP.

### **Summary of comments**

#### **Who attended the drop in event and how do they normally get to Wangal Reserve?**

- Of the people who provided their details, almost all indicated that they lived locally and listed their suburb address as Mortlake, Breakfast Point or Cabarita. Only one person identified themselves as being from outside of the local area.
- More than 90% said they travelled less than 1 km to visit Wangal Reserve;
- Almost 75% of respondents said they normally walked to the park and visited at least once per week.

#### **Why do people visit Wangal Reserve?**

- The most popular activity listed in the survey or from feedback was 'walking along the foreshore', followed by 'sitting and relaxing' and 'playing with children'.
- Other reasons for visiting the park, listed by individual respondents included; fishing, walking the dog, bird watching, or training and exercising.

#### **What improvement would people most like to see?**

##### **Vegetation and landscaping**

- New plantings using native species was the most often cited and important improvement (from both the survey and feedback form) that people would like to see included in the PoM.
- Several people suggested that a positive consequence from additional native plantings would be to attract native birds.
- General comments from both the drop in session and from the people who provide written feedback, suggests that any improvements to the current plantings should not change the natural setting of the Reserve, which was seen as one of the most highly valued elements that contributed to peoples enjoyment of the Reserve.
- Notwithstanding the peaceful outlook, several people supported removing non native plant species from the Reserve, particularly the Casuarina Trees.

##### **Children's play equipment**

- There was general support for children's play spaces or equipment, with at least half of those who provided feedback, listing it as a reason for visiting the Reserve.

### **Access**

- Links to other areas along the foreshore, including better access to Punt Park and a continuous foreshore walk also received support from the majority of respondents. There were also various comments about improvements to the existing paths within the Reserve to improve accessibility. Suggestions included:
  - Repairs to the timber board walk
  - Linked concrete extension to the existing paths around the waterfront
  - Improved access into the park entrance

### **General improvements**

- A number of individual comments or ideas were raised including:
  - New and additional lighting
  - Exercise equipment
  - A jetty for fishing
  - A pontoon /wharf to provide access for water taxis
  - New lighting
  - More rubbish bins
  - Additional seating and shade areas
  - Improved signage

### **Parking**

- Although there was some acknowledgement about the limited availability of parking, there was no support to increase parking spaces. From the feedback, parking was generally seen as an operational or regulatory issue. There was some support for Council Rangers policing parking restrictions to stop residents leaving their cars on the street or boats trailers permanently parking on the street.

### **Punt Park**

- Two respondents suggested replacing the structure at Punt Park with seating and shade cover.

### **Other comments and Individual submissions**

- A number of people who attended the drop in session raised an issue about foreshore access being blocked by a construction fence along the waterfront at 24-34 Hilly Street. Several people sought information about whether the structure had Council approval.
- Issues relating to off leash dogs was mentioned by several people, including the provision of a dispenser for pet waste bags.
- For the most part individual submissions were consistent with the comments and feedback received at the drop in event.
- Two submissions made reference to the Breakfast Point CEP and expressed an interest in being involved in the development of the Master Plan.
- Comments were also received about lighting, cameras or surveillance to improve safety
- There were also comments about rubbish from weekend picnics in the Reserve and the need to educate people about removing rubbish through multilingual signage.
- One submission expressed strong interest in ensuring Aboriginal Heritage was respected and that consultation was undertaken with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, regarding the future of the Reserve.



## 5. Summary and next steps

In summary, it is evident that many people place a high value on the relaxing and peaceful nature of Wangal Reserve. The feedback received during the consultation period is also consistent with the proposed improvements previously outlined in the Breakfast Point CEP.

People who participated in the consultation were generally supportive of the development of PoM. A reoccurring theme from the drop in event was that any future improvements should not diminish the tranquil setting of the Reserve; impact on the privacy of adjacent residents; or result in any loss of open space.

Given that the people who provided feedback or comments are from the local area, it is evident that there is a strong affiliation by the local community towards the Reserve. It will therefore be important that the community is provided with an opportunity to provide comment on the draft PoM during the exhibition period and for the improvement works proposed in the Landscape Master Plan.

## 6. Attachments

**Appendix 1: Project notice/ letterbox drop**

**Appendix 2: Mayor's Column from Inner West Courier on 15 August**

**Appendix 3: City of Canada Bay, web and twitter page**

**Appendix 4. Project Boards**

**Appendix 5: Project FAQ (answers to frequently asked questions) posted on line and available at the drop in event.**

**Appendix 6: Blank Survey**

**Appendix 1: Project notice/ letterbox drop**



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

3 August 2015

Dear resident,

**Community drop-in event – Wangal Reserve Plan of Management**

We are developing a Plan of Management for Wangal Reserve and Punt Park, at Mortlake. The Plan will provide a framework to help manage these areas over the long-term, ensuring they remain attractive destinations for residents and visitors.

The Plan of Management will also help to guide future upgrade works and prioritise improvements that were suggested by the local community during consultation for the Breakfast Point Community Enhancement Plan.

Key aspects of the Plan and an associated Landscape Masterplan will include:

- New and additional landscaping, with a focus on local indigenous plant species;
- Enhancement of the existing facilities within the Reserve, including opportunities for children's play spaces by utilising the sites natural elements; and
- Improved access and future connections along the foreshore

We are interested in your feedback and invite you to a community drop-in event so you can speak to a member of the project team about the Plan and tell us what's most important to you.

**Date:** Saturday 22 August 2015  
**Time:** Between 10am and 12 noon  
**Location:** Wangal Reserve, Hilly Street Mortlake

You can also find further information about the Plan of Management and provide comments and feedback online under the 'Have Your Say' section of our website [www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au](http://www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au) Alternatively, you can contact us via phone on 9911 6555 should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

**Mayor Angelo Tsirekas**  
City of Canada Bay

## Appendix 2: Mayor's Column from Inner West Courier on 15 August



**City of Canada Bay**  
A weekly update from around the Bay







**Mayor's message**  
**Livvi's Café, Timbrell Park**  
The Touched by Olivia Foundation's Livvi's Café at Livvi's Place has been up and running for the past year in Timbrell Park. The pop-up Café has served over 15,000 coffees in the past six months, run weekly "Story Time" sessions, child focused yoga and mindfulness classes, special events and established a community garden. With the long-term vision for Livvi's Café to offer employment for people with a disability, there is now a trainee and a volunteer working in the café, with their experience assisting them in attaining a Certificate in Hospitality. We are proud to have partnered with Touched by Olivia to deliver this important project that is a wonderful addition to our community. A decision will be made on making Livvi's Café a permanent addition in Timbrell Park at tonight's Council Meeting.

**Community Grants**  
I was delighted to present a total of \$57,612 in funding to 40 groups as part of this year's Community Grants program. This program allows us to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions made by local not-for-profit and community groups in our City. These groups provide vital community support. The funding will assist them in delivering ongoing programs and activities including upgrade of radio communication facilities, purchase of sound proofing panels, after-school robotics and computer coding club and funding fitness activities for people with a disability. I would like to again congratulate our local community groups and thank them for their significant contribution in ensuring our City is a great place to live.

*Angelo Tsirekas*  
**Mayor Angelo Tsirekas**



Mayor Angelo Tsirekas with recipients of Community Grants funding

**Wangal Reserve consultation – 22 August, between 10am – 12noon**  
We are inviting the community to give us feedback to the future plans for Wangal Reserve and Punt Park at Mortlake at a drop-in event on 22 August. We are developing a Plan of Management for the open spaces to ensure they remain attractive destinations for residents and visitors. Feedback is also welcome via our 'Have your say' page on our website  
**When:** Saturday, 22 August, 10am – 12noon  
**Where:** Wangal Reserve Hilly Street Mortlake



Wangal Reserve at Mortlake

**Reading Hour at Concord Library – 22 August at 2pm**  
Reading Hour is an initiative of the National Year of Reading, aiming to promote children's literacy. We're hosting an event at Concord Library and encourage you to join us for an hour of stories, craft and party food. Kids can come as their favourite book character!  
**When:** Saturday, 22 August, 2pm  
**Where:** Concord Library  
**Who:** For pre-school children aged to Year 6  
**Bookings:** 9911 6348 or [www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au](http://www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au)

**Ferragosto**  
Ferragosto 2015 was again a huge success. Thank you to everyone who enjoyed the day and most of all, thank you to our sponsors. We could not put on such a major event without your help. Thank you **Adshel, Birkenhead Point Outlet Centre, Canada Bay Club, Nine Network, Cleanaway, Club five Dock RSL, Inner West Courier, Auto Sports Group, Canterbury BMW, Italianicious Magazine, Fraser Motorcycles, Insight Vacations, Combined Wines and Food, Multicultural NSW, Walk on Water and Smile, Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Australia, Australian National Maritime Museum, Cremeria De Luca, Cattivo Gourmet.**

**Council meetings**  
Council meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6pm at the Canada Bay Civic Centre, 1A Marlborough Street, Drummoyne. Council meeting agendas are available in our libraries, Civic Centre or on our website. The next Council meeting is tonight, 18 August at 6pm.

**Food Matters workshop - Learn to bake fresh bread at home**  
Want to make your own sourdough bread? We're holding two workshops for Canada Bay residents to learn how to make bread and use dough in a range of different ways. Recipes are included.  
**Date:** Sunday, 23 August, 10am – 12noon at Drummoyne Community Centre or Saturday, 5th September, 10am – 12noon at Concord Library Function Room.  
**Bookings:** Essential as capacity is limited. Book online: [wastelssinthetbay.eventbrite.com](http://wastelssinthetbay.eventbrite.com) or call our Resource Recover and Waste Services on 9911 6555  
**Please bring:** Notepad and pen



**Development approvals**  
18 AUGUST 2015 ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT, 1979  
In accordance with Section 101 of the Act and Clause 124 of the Regulation - 2000, the following Development Consents are publicly notified.

10.2014.459 17 Millar Street, Drummoyne - Substantial demolition of existing structures, retention of part of the existing hall and front entry elements of the main Mary Street building, and construction of a new 4 storey aged care facility accommodating 16 persons including 4 resident staff, basement parking for 75 vehicles, 2 mini buses and an ambulance

10.2014.468 380 Victoria Place, Drummoyne - Internal alterations to create a cafe, alterations to existing building, provision of signage and installation of two flag poles

DA2015/0502 16 Sanders Parade, Concord - Demolition of existing dwelling and proposed two storey dwelling with in-ground pool and front fence

DA2015/0021 191 Victoria Road, Drummoyne - Alterations and additions to existing heritage listed building to include residential accommodation and business premises at ground floor and level one for beauty treatment business

DA2015/0070 63 Hampden Road, Russell Lea - Alterations and additions to existing single storey dwelling

DA2015/0095 174 Queen Street, Concord West - Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of new attached dual occupancy

DA2015/0144 16 - 22 George Street, North Strathfield - Refurbishment of existing Fitness First tenancy and replacement of signage

GARY SAWYER  
GENERAL MANAGER

DA2015/0154	88 Regatta Road, Canada Bay - Construction of carport forward of the building line, front fence and pergola	DA2015/0239	138P Cabarita Road, Cabarita - Removal of trees associated with a Heritage Item
DA2015/0163	34 Carrington Street, North Strathfield - Alterations and additions to existing dwelling and re-clad existing garage	DA2015/0233	10 Homebush Bay Drive, Rhodes - Replacement of existing signage on southern facade of Building C in Rhodes Corporate Park, with 17.6sqm wall sign identifying the building as 'Fraser Property' head office
DA2015/0166	25/20 Admiralty Drive, Breakfast Point - Installation of retractable blinds	DA2015/0242	7A Zwickler Street, Concord - Alterations and additions to rear of existing dwelling, demolition of existing garage and construction of new carport forward of the building line
DA2015/0200	100 Great North Road, Five Dock - Use of existing commercial premises as a TAB agency with associated signage	DA2015/0245	1 King Street, Concord West - Internal alterations to existing commercial tenancy
DA2015/0212	66 Thompson Street, Drummoyne - Removal of trees associated with a Heritage Item	DA2015/0248	18 Etna Avenue, Five Dock - Pruning of a tree associated with a Heritage Item
DA2015/0215	10/157-159 Hampden Road, Waremba - Conversion of roof space in existing townhouse into attic storage space and two new roof skylights	DA2015/0249	2a Market Street, Drummoyne - Removal of trees within a conservation area
DA2015/0220	6 Checkley Street, Abbotsford - Installation of a lift to existing dwelling	DA2015/0251	121 Parramatta Road, Five Dock - Removal of trees associated with a Heritage Item
DA2015/0221	46/1 Rosewater Circuit, Breakfast Point - Installation of shutters to existing balcony of unit 46 to match shutters already installed on other balconies within the existing building	DA2015/0253	62 Bayview Road, Canada Bay - Strata subdivision into two lots
DA2015/0222	58/1 Rosewater Circuit, Breakfast Point - Installation of shutters to existing balcony of unit 58 to match shutters already installed on other balconies within the existing building	DA2015/0256	89 Framers Street, Drummoyne - Pruning or removal of trees in a Conservation Area
DA2015/0225	1 Henry Street, Five Dock - Alterations and additions to rear of existing dwelling and new swimming pool and covered terrace	DA2015/0258	23/18 Admiralty Drive, Breakfast Point - Replacement of existing pergola with new louvred vergola
DA2015/0226	77 Thompson Street, Drummoyne - Removal of trees within a conservation area	DA2015/0261	34/20 Admiralty Drive, Breakfast Point - Replacement of existing pergola with new louvred vergola
DA2015/0229	7 Bayard Street, Mortlake - Strata subdivision of townhouse development into seven (7) lots	DA2015/0262	35/20 Admiralty Drive, Breakfast Point - Replacement of existing pergola with new louvred vergola
DA2015/0230	15 - 17 Regatta Road, Canada Bay - Construction of metal awning, storage cages and bunded driveway area for use as a Community Recycling Centre	DA2015/0269	307 Lyons Road, Russell Lea - Strata subdivision of attached dual occupancy into two (2) strata lots

Copies of the Determination Notices can be viewed at Council's Administration Centre, 1A Marlborough Street, Drummoyne, during office hours.

1a Marlborough Street, Drummoyne NSW 2047  
Tel 9911 6555 Fax 9911 6550 [www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au](http://www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au)



### Appendix 3: City of Canada Bay, web and twitter page

enjoy where we live

RHODES ONLINE CONTACT US VIEW MAP

Living Recreation & Culture Community & Libraries Planning & Development Business Environment Council

#### Help us shape Wangal Reserve

19 August 2015 | Council

**WE are calling on the community to provide input into the future plans for Wangal Reserve at Mortlake, says City of Canada Bay Mayor Angelo Tsirekas.**

"The upgrade of Wangal Reserve is one of six projects identified as part of the Breakfast Point Community Enhancement Plan for the area and we are keen to have community input," he said.

"Wangal Reserve has amazing outlooks over the water and upgrading the park will ensure it remains a wonderful destination for residents and visitors in the future."

Council is currently developing a Plan of Management for Wangal Reserve and Punt Park, which will guide future works and prioritise improvements that were suggested by the community during consultation for the Breakfast Point Community Enhancement Plan.

Key features of the plan include:


- New landscaping, with a focus on indigenous plant species
- Enhancement of existing facilities, including opportunities for children's play spaces
- Improved access and connections along the foreshore.

"We are holding a community drop-in event on Saturday, 22 August from 10am to 12pm at Wangal Reserve (Hilly Street, Mortlake) and encourage everyone to come along and provide feedback," Mayor Tsirekas said.

Feedback can also be provided via our website: <http://www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/hys-wangal-reserve.html> where you can find a link to an online survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QCX28XH>.

BACK TO LISTING TOP OF PAGE SHARE EMAIL A FRIEND PRINT

Quick Links



Works Under Way

 **City of Canada Bay** @CanadaBay · Aug 26

## Last chance to have your say on future planning for #Wangal Reserve, #Mortlake. Survey: [svy.mk/1EXkCuX](https://svy.mk/1EXkCuX)

SEATING IN LOCATIONS THAT CAPTURE KEY VIEWS THAT TOGETHER WITH ENHANCED PRESENTATION, WOULD ASSIST IN CREATING AN INVITING DESTINATION FOR PEOPLE TO VISIT

THE EXISTING GAZEBO AND TOILET BLOCK ARE IN GOOD CONDITION REQUIRE MINOR MAINTENANCE ONLY. INSTALLATION OF A PERMANENT PATH BETWEEN THE MAJOR FACILITIES ON SITE WOULD ENHANCE THE USER EXPERIENCE

PEDESTRIAN LIGHTING IS PRESENT ON SITE, HOWEVER THESE POLES COULD BE STANDARDIZED AND UPGRADED TO AN LED FIXTURE TO PROVIDE A MORE SUSTAINABLE LIGHTING OPTION








**WAYFINDING + INTERPRETATION**

AN OPPORTUNITY EXISTS TO INSTALL DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE AT ENTRY POINTS INTO THE RESERVE AND AT THE INTERSECTION OF WALKWAYS TO PROMOTE ITS ATTRACTIONS. THE PLACEMENT OF INFORMATIONAL SIGNAGE AT INDIVIDUAL VIEWPOINTS WOULD ENABLE VISITORS TO LOCATE THE SPACE GEOGRAPHICALLY BY NOTING NEARBY LOCATIONS. VISIT PLACQUES SUCH AS THOSE ALREADY PRESENT OFFER A SENSE OF THE RESERVE'S HERITAGE VALUES

INTERPRETIVE ELEMENTS COULD ALSO BE DEVELOPED AS PART OF FUTURE WORKS IN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE SITE'S HISTORY, FURTHER PROMOTING ITS HERITAGE AND NATURAL ATTRIBUTES WHILE ALSO AFFIRMING THE SITE'S SIGNIFICANCE WITHIN THE AREA



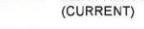

**WANGAL RESERVE**

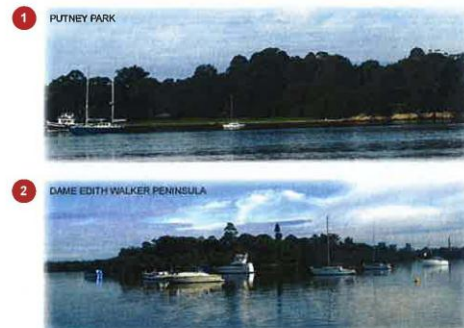
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## Appendix 4. Project Boards



### LEGEND

	TOILET BLOCK		CRUSHED GRANITE PATH
	GAZEBO		CONCRETE PATH
	PARK BENCH		TIMBER DECKING
	BIN ENCLOSURE		MEAN HIGH WATER MARK (CURRENT)
	PEDESTRIAN LIGHT		MEAN HIGH WATER MARK (EXISTING)
	PLAQUE (VARIOUS)		LAND BOUNDARY
			VIEWS + VISTAS



**WANGAL RESERVE**  
PLAN OF MANAGEMENT AND LANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN



## OPPORTUNITIES

### PLAY



GIVEN THE LAYOUT OF THE SITE AND ITS BOTANIC SETTING, AN OPPORTUNITY EXISTS FOR A **PLAY SPACE** TO BE BUILT THAT UTILIZES THE SITE'S NATURAL ELEMENTS. A PROMINENT AREA OF **OPEN SPACE** TO THE SOUTH EAST OF THE SITE IS IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE BBQ AND TOILET FACILITIES THAT IF USED FOR PLAY WOULD ALLOW **PASSIVE SURVEILLANCE** BY CARERS FROM THE NEARBY CARPARK AND GAZEBO. ALONG THE EASTERN FORESHORE AN OPEN GRASSED AREA IS **NATURALLY SHADED** BY TREES AND IS ADJACENT A **SAND BEACH** THAT PRESENTS PLAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS AS WELL AS CHILDREN

THESE AREAS COULD POTENTIALLY BE USED FOR **FITNESS** AND **INFORMAL SPORTS TRAINING** BY INDIVIDUALS AND SMALL GROUPS DURING SET TIMES AS NOMINATED BY COUNCIL

### FLORA + FAUNA

A NUMBER OF GARDEN BEDS ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE RESERVE. MANY OF THESE GARDEN AREAS INCLUDING THE EASTERN PROMENADE ARE IN A DERELICT STATE AND COULD BE ENHANCED THROUGH ADDITIONAL AND MORE **APPROPRIATE PLANTINGS** SUCH AS THOSE THAT ARE COASTAL AND ESTUARY TOLERANT AND THRIVE IN THE SOILS PRESENT.

THE PLANTING OF **INDIGENOUS SPECIES** WOULD PROMOTE **SMALL BIRD HABITAT** FOR LOCAL FAUNA SPECIES, ASSIST IN REPLENISHING SOIL DEGRADATION AND EROSION WHILST ALSO REINSTATING THE TRANQUILITY OF THE RESERVE. EASE OF **MAINTENANCE** OF ANY NEW PLANTINGS MUST ALSO BE CONSIDERED WITH LOCAL **BUSHCARE GROUPS** RESPONSIBLE FOR GENERAL MAINTENANCE TO BE CONSULTED WITH AS NECESSARY.



### ACCESS + CIRCULATION



**PEDESTRIAN ENTRY** IS VIA HILLY ST, TOGETHER WITH A VEHICLE MAINTENANCE GATE. A MORE PROMINENT AND INVITING ENTRY COULD BE CREATED THAT PROVIDES VISITORS WITH A SENSE OF ARRIVAL. THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED THROUGH REPLACING GATES WITH BOLLARDS AND INSTALLING A MORE OBVIOUS **ENTRY SIGNAL**. A COMMON DESIGN THEME COULD BE REPLICATED THROUGHOUT THE RESERVE

A **PRIVATELY OWNED BOARDWALK** LINKING THE RESERVE TO PUNT PARK RUNS ALONG THE EASTERN WATERFRONT WHILST A WELL DEFINED PATH CONNECTS THE SERENITY POINT APARTMENTS TO THE WESTERN FORESHORE. FUTURE CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO **ENHANCING FORESHORE ACCESS** BY CREATING A BAY WALK THAT LINKS WITH CANADA BAYS NETWORK OF WALKWAYS

### VISITOR FACILITIES

A RANGE OF **WELL MAINTAINED FACILITIES** CURRENTLY OCCUPY THE RESERVE. THE OPPORTUNITY EXISTS TO INSTALL ADDITIONAL SEATING IN LOCATIONS THAT CAPTURE KEY VIEWS THAT, TOGETHER WITH ENHANCED PRESENTATION, WOULD ASSIST IN CREATING AN INVITING DESTINATION FOR PEOPLE TO VISIT.

THE EXISTING **GAZEBO AND TOILET BLOCK** ARE IN GOOD CONDITION REQUIRE MINOR MAINTENANCE ONLY. INSTALLATION OF A PERMANENT PATH BETWEEN THE MAJOR FACILITIES ON SITE WOULD ENHANCE THE USER EXPERIENCE

**PEDESTRIAN LIGHTING** IS PRESENT ON SITE HOWEVER THESE POLES COULD BE STANDARDIZED AND UPGRADED TO AN LED FIXTURE TO PROVIDE A MORE SUSTAINABLE LIGHTING OPTION



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**INTERPRETIVE ELEMENTS** COULD ALSO BE DEVELOPED AS PART OF FUTURE WORKS IN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE SITE'S HISTORY, FURTHER PROMOTING ITS HERITAGE AND NATURAL ATTRIBUTES WHILST ALSO AFFIRMING THE SITE'S SIGNIFICANCE WITHIN THE AREA



## BACKGROUND

### THE NAME

THE NAME WANGAL RESERVE WAS ASSIGNED IN RECOGNITION OF THE **WANGAL CLAN OF THE EORA NATION**, THE ORIGINAL CUSTODIANS OF THE SYDNEY AREA

### THE SITE

PURCHASED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING (DEP) IN 1983 AND TRANSFERRED TO THE CARE, CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF CONCORD MUNICIPAL COUNCIL. THE DEP CONSIDERED THE SITE TO BE OF **REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE** AS A WATER FRONT OPEN SPACE SUITABLE FOR PASSIVE USE. THROUGH THE SYDNEY GREEN SPACE PROGRAMME IT ALLOCATED FUNDS TO PREPARE A POM FOR THE SITE, WITH WANGAL CENTENARY BUSHLAND RESERVE OFFICIALLY OPENED IN 1983 TO CELEBRATE THE CENTENARY OF CONCORD MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

### PREVIOUS MANAGEMENT

IN THE 1983 POM, THE ROLE OF WANGAL RESERVE WAS IDENTIFIED AS 'TO PROVIDE A SUB-REGIONAL PASSIVE RECREATION RESOURCE WITHIN A NATURAL SETTING'. THE MAJORITY OF WANGAL RESERVE WAS **CONSTRUCTED BETWEEN 1983 AND 1984**, INCLUDING DEMOLITION OF A TWO-STOREY BUILDING, INSTALLATION OF BBQ AND PICNIC TABLES AND THE EXISTING PLANTINGS

### ADJACENT LAND

THE **MORTLAKE FERRY** OPERATES 300M SOUTH OF THE ENTRY TO THE RESERVE, JOINING **PUNT PARK** TO **PUTNEY PARK** AT THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE PARRAMATTA RIVER. THIS SITE IS LINKED TO WANGAL RESERVE BY A PRIVATELY OWNED BOARDWALK LINK. PUNT PARK AND ITS ADJACENT FORESHORE AREA WILL ALSO BE INCLUDED IN THE STUDY AREA OF THE PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

## PURPOSE

THE PREPARATION OF A POM IS REQUIRED BY THE **CROWN LANDS ACT 1989** AND **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993** IN ORDER TO GUIDE THE CITY OF CANADA BAY, AS TRUST MANAGER OF CROWN LAND AND THE OWNER OF COMMUNITY LAND, IN THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF WANGAL RESERVE

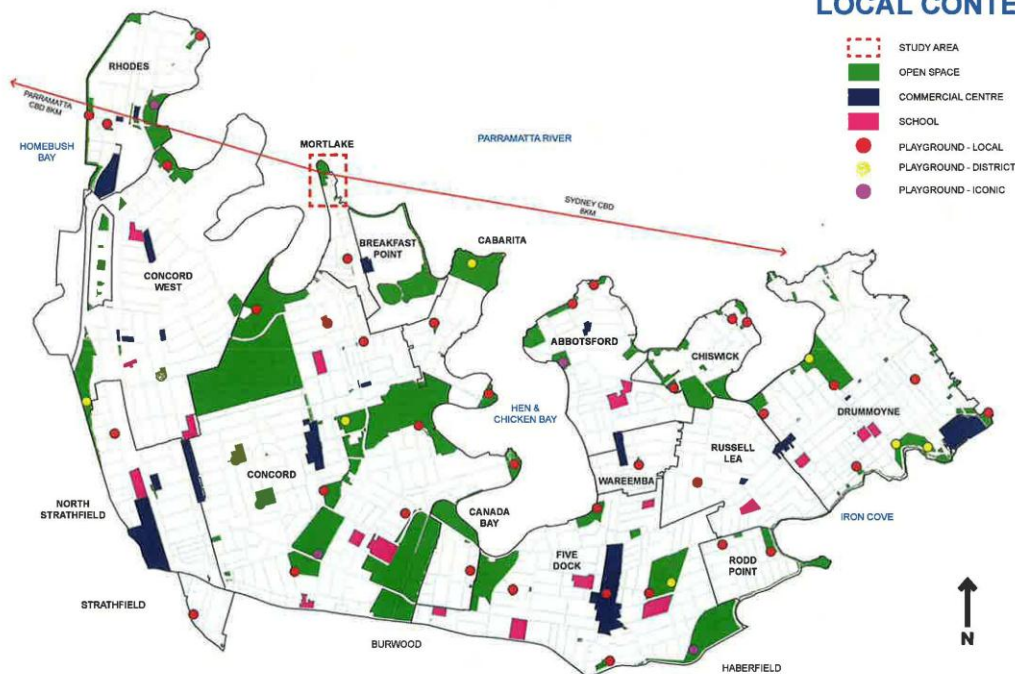
THE POM WILL BE PREPARED WITH THE OBJECTIVES AS FOLLOWS:

- + IDENTIFYING A VISION THAT REFLECTS CURRENT NEEDS AND RESPONDS TO FUTURE DEMANDS;
- + PROVIDING STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR THE RESERVE'S ONGOING DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTED USE;
- + ENSURING THE COMMUNITIES VALUES AND EXPECTATIONS ARE REFLECTED;
- + ESTABLISH DESIGN DIRECTION FOR AN UPGRADE AS PART OF COUNCIL'S FUTURE CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM;
- + MEETING ALL LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS, INC. **CROWN LANDS ACT 1989** AND **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993**

### PLAN OF MANAGEMENT PROCESS



## LOCAL CONTEXT



 **WANGAL RESERVE**  
PLAN OF MANAGEMENT AND LANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN

**Appendix 5: Project FAQ**  
**(answers to frequently asked questions) posted on line and available at the drop in event.**

**WANGAL  
RESERVE PLAN  
OF MANAGEMENT**

**FACT SHEET**

**About Wangal Reserve**

Wangal Reserve is situated on a peninsula between Majors Bay and Fairmile Cove along the banks of the Parramatta River.

The land was acquired by the NSW Government in 1983 and designated as Crown Land to be used as recreational open space for community use. It was officially opened in 1983 to celebrate the centenary of the former Concord Municipal Council and is now managed under the care and control of City of Canada Bay.

The name Wangal Reserve was assigned to the Reserve in recognition of the Wangal clan of the Eora Nation, the original custodians of the Sydney area.

**Why does Council need to develop a Plan of Management?**

A Plan of Management is a formal document and is required for all public land that is classified as 'community land' under the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act). A Plan of Management explains how the land will be managed over the long term.

**What does a Plan of Management include?**

In simple terms, a Plan of Management describes the key features of the land and how Council intends to manage and improve the land, as well as the intended uses that can occur.

The Plan of Management and associated Landscape Masterplan that are being prepared for Wangal Reserve and Punt Park will prioritise specific upgrade works that have been suggested by the community.

**What improvements are proposed for Wangal Reserve?**

An opportunity to undertake improvements to Wangal Reserve was one of the key projects suggested by the local community during consultation for the Breakfast Point Community Enhancement Plan that was approved by the Minister for Planning and Environment in July 2014.

The improvements for Wangal Reserve are expected to include:

- New and additional landscaping, with a focus on local indigenous plant species
- Enhancement of the existing facilities within the Reserve, including opportunities for children's play spaces by utilising the site's natural elements and
- Improved access and future connections along the foreshore

### What is the process for undertaking improvements and how long will construction take?

The project team is currently seeking community comments to help prepare a draft Plan of Management that will be placed on public exhibition.

Subject to the Plan of Management and Landscape Masterplan being adopted by Council, detailed plans will then be prepared to guide the design of the proposed upgrade works and improvements. It is expected that the majority of these works will commence in 2016.

### How can I have my say?

Council is holding a drop in event on Saturday, 22 August 2015 so you can speak with a member of the project team, provide your feedback and tell us what's most important to you.

You can also provide your comments online via the 'Have Your Say' section of Council's website [www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au](http://www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au).

Alternatively you can also contact Council via email [council@canadabay.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@canadabay.nsw.gov.au) or by phone on 9911 6555 to speak with the Project Manager.

## Appendix 6: Blank Survey



### Community Survey Wangal Reserve Plan of Management

*Please take a few moments to tell us why you visit Wangal Reserve and what you would most like to see in the Plan of Management*

How do you normally get to Wangal Reserve?	Please tick
Drive	
Walk	
Cycle	
Other (please indicate)	

What are the main reasons for visiting Wangal Reserve? Please tick whichever are applicable	Please tick
Picnic with family or friends	
Sitting and relaxing	
Walking along the foreshore	
Playing with children or friends	
Other (please indicate)	

What improvements are most important to you? Please tick whichever are applicable	Please tick
Picnic facilities	
Children's play spaces	
Landscaping with native plant species	
Links to other areas along the foreshore	
Access and improvements to Punt Park (the area of foreshore adjacent to the Putney Punt)	
Other (please indicate)	

How far do you travel to get to Wangal Reserve?	Please tick
Less than 500 metres	
Between 500 metres and 1 km	
More than 1 km	

How often do you visit Wangal Reserve?	Please tick
Several times per week	
Once per week	
Fortnightly	
Once a month or less	

**What would you like to see as the main priorities or issues to be addressed in the Plan of Management?**

.....

.....

.....

**Would you like to be kept informed when the Plan of Management goes on public exhibition?**  
Please provide your details below

**Name** .....

**Address** .....

**email** .....

## **Appendix II: Aboriginal Heritage Assessment**

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# Aboriginal Heritage Assessment

Wangal Reserve & Punt Park

Mortlake, NSW



Report to  
City of Canada Bay

Dominic Steele Consulting Archaeology  
December 2015

*Document Control*

Project Name	Aboriginal Heritage Assessment. Wangal Reserve & Punt Park, Mortlake Point, NSW
Client Name	City of Canada Bay
Recipient	Kate Higgins
Status	Draft II
Issue Date	15 December 2015
Prepared by	Dominic Steele
Approved by	Kate Higgins

Draft for review



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Draft for review

## 1.0 Background

### 1.1 Introduction

City of Canada Bay Council is developing a Plan of Management (PoM) and Landscape Masterplan for Wangal Reserve and nearby Punt Park located on the peninsula of land between Majors Bay and Fairmile Cove on the Parramatta River in Mortlake. These Plans will guide the prioritisation and implementation of future improvements in the reserves that will potentially include new landscaping with a focus on replanting with native species, the enhancement of existing facilities including opportunities for new children's play spaces, and improved access and connections along the river shoreline. Wangal Reserve is approximately 1.5 ha in size (Lot 41 in DP 736614, Lot 1 in DP 738239, Lot 10 in DP 241277 and Lot 11 in DP 241277) and Punt Park (Lot 61 DP 773329) is far smaller and is a little under 600 m<sup>2</sup> in size. This Aboriginal heritage assessment has been prepared for Council in consultation with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC) to inform the PoM and Landscape Master Plan that will guide the future management direction of Wangal and Punt Park for the next 10+ years.

Figure 1.1: The Mortlake study area in context (City of Canada Bay 2015). These reserves conserve and protect by proxy tangible and intangible Aboriginal heritage values lost elsewhere along the Parramatta River

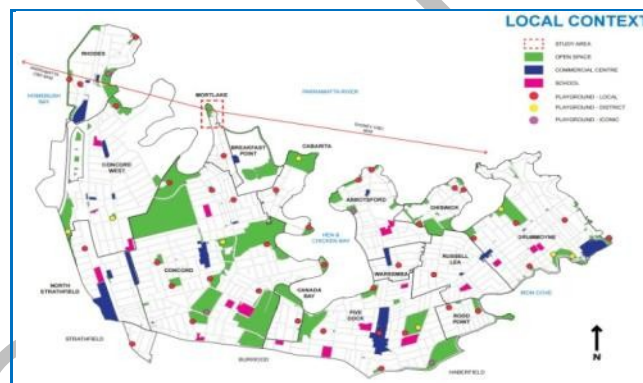


Figure 1.2: Location of Wangal Reserve and Punt Park (Google 2015)

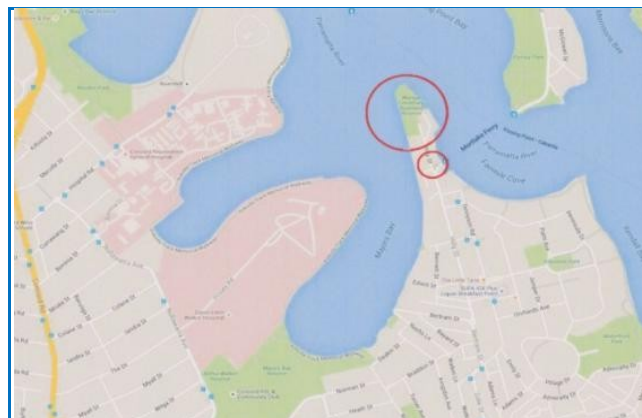


Figure 1.3: Existing condition and layout of Wangal Reserve. Punt Park is located just off the map to the bottom right of this image (City of Canada Bay 2015)



## 1.2 Need for this study

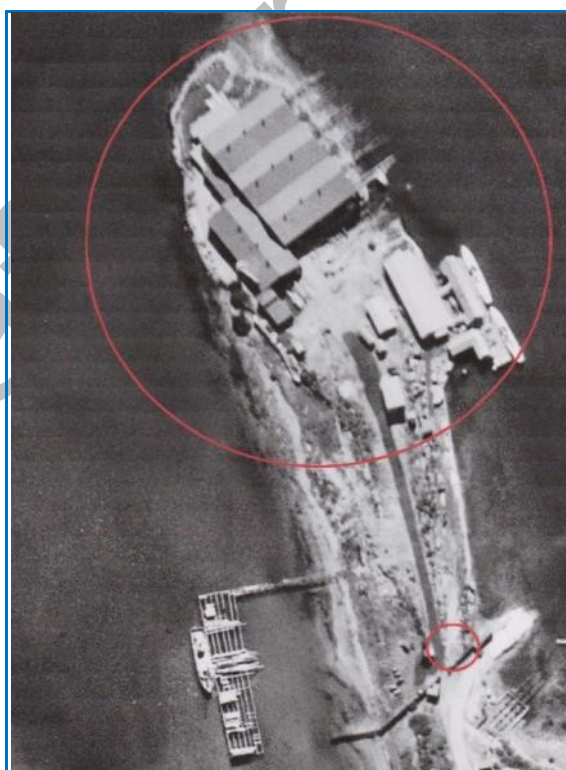
When these two Crown Land parcels were acquired by the State Government in 1983, and gazetted for community use as recreational open space, they had already had long (non-Indigenous) agricultural landuse histories that had been followed by more enduring light industrial uses that lasted for over a century. ‘Wangal Reserve’ was named in recognition of, and in respect to, the traditional Aboriginal owners of this part of the Parramatta River when the reserve was officially opened in 1984. The naming of nearby Punt Park reflects the historical importance of the spot on the Parramatta River (alongside the modern ferry crossing) to the transport and communication heritage of the locality. However, despite the naming of Wangal Reserve, the Aboriginal heritage of ‘Mortlake Point’ in general is likely to be unfamiliar to many people in the local community, and the ‘Aboriginal story’ of the place has been historically overshadowed by what is now a more familiar urban twentieth century working class social history. The natural environmental heritage values of the river foreshore peninsula have also been historically diminished over time, either destroyed by development or physically obscured by building and foreshore improvements. For a long time, public access to the land was also effectively restricted or otherwise not encouraged by virtue of its landuse until the most recent rejuvenation of Wangal Reserve under the care and control of Council. As a result, the potentially tangible (archaeological) and intangible Aboriginal heritage values of the place (aesthetics of the place and the Aboriginal history of occupation and displacement of the river foreshore), also shared (dual) heritage values that are inherent

to the place (views and vistas, travel and communication), or those originally intended to be acknowledged and fostered through increased community awareness in the 1980s, have also in a sense been largely ‘forgotten’ since that time as the *Dictionary of Sydney*’s entry for Mortlake evokes:

*Mortlake has one area of parkland that has been specifically dedicated to Aboriginal heritage....Wangal Reserve was to be the centre of celebrations for the Aboriginal heritage of the area, then part of the Municipality of Concord. The flagstaff was to fly the Aboriginal flag and the reserve was to be the focal point of celebrations commemorating Aboriginal heritage. Today, no flag flies and no ceremonies are held. Wangal Reserve is just another picnic area with electric barbecues (Blaxell 2008)*

An Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan prepared for Council in 2006 (Gondwana Consulting Pty Ltd 2006:170) identifies Wangal Reserve as an area where Aboriginal archaeological heritage sites may survive. The PoM and Masterplan provide a timely opportunity for Council to re-evaluate whether Aboriginal archaeological evidence is likely to be present and/or survive in both reserves, and to also identify the range and nature of other intangible Aboriginal and natural heritage values and considerations that need to be managed by the PoM and Landscape Masterplan into the future.

*Figure 1.4: The site in 1943 when the ‘traditional’ Aboriginal cultural heritage and natural heritage values that are intrinsic to the place were difficult to recognise (City of Canada Bay 2015)*



### 1.3 Statutory heritage context and controls

The *Office of Environment and Heritage* (OEH) has the responsibility for the protection and management of Aboriginal sites, objects, places and cultural heritage values in NSW. These values are managed through the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) which was amended through the *NPW Act Amendment Act 2010*. Key points of the amended Act are as follows:

- Part 6 of the NPW Act provides protection for Aboriginal objects and places by establishing offences of harm which is defined to mean destroying, defacing, damaging or moving an Aboriginal object. Aboriginal objects are defined by the NPW Act as *'any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft for sale) relating to Indigenous and non-European habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains'*.
- A declared Aboriginal Place this is of special significance to Aboriginal people and culture is a statutory concept (and may or may not contain Aboriginal objects as physical/tangible evidence) and protection provided to Aboriginal objects and places applies irrespective of the level of their significance or issues of land tenure.
- It is an offence (under Section 86) of the NPW Act to knowingly, or cause or permit harm to an Aboriginal object (or place) without prior written consent from the DG of the OEH. Defences and exemptions to the offence of harm under the NPW Act include that harm is carried out under the terms and conditions of an approved Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP).

### 1.4 Heritage assessment and reporting methods

The following heritage recording, assessment and reporting guidelines and standards have been considered in preparing this report:

- The Burra Charter. Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance.
- Australian Heritage Commission. Ask First. A guide to respecting Indigenous heritage places and values.
- NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water. 2010a (September). Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales. DECCW. Sydney.
- NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water. 2010b (September). Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales. DECCW. Sydney.
- NSW Heritage Office. 1996. NSW Heritage Manual. NSW Heritage Office and the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning. Sydney (revised 2002).
- NSW Heritage Office. 2001. Assessing Heritage Significance. A NSW Heritage Manual Update. NSW Heritage Office. Sydney.
- NSW Heritage Council. 2008a. Levels of Heritage Significance. Assessing Heritage Significance Supplement. NSW Heritage Council. Sydney.

- NSW Heritage Council. 2008b. Levels of Heritage Significance. Assessing Heritage Significance Supplement. NSW Heritage Council. Sydney.
- NSW Heritage Office. 2009. Levels of Heritage Significance. NSW Heritage Office, NSW Department of Planning. Sydney.

In addition to a general literature review (primary and secondary historical and archaeological sources), research that has been undertaken for the current report has included online searches of the following sources and visits to the following libraries:

- NSW State Library (Mitchell Library and State Reference Library)
- Caroline Simpson Library (Sydney Living Museums)
- University of Sydney Fisher Library
- (OEH) Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (online)
- National Library of Australia (Trove online)
- State Heritage Inventory (online)
- State Heritage Register (online)

## 1.5 Aboriginal consultation

This report has been developed through consultation with the MLALC and guided by discussions with MLALC cultural heritage advisor Lee Davison during an on-site inspection of the reserves undertaken with the MLALC in November 2015.

## 1.6 Report outline

This report presents the following:

- An introduction to the project (**Section 1.0**).
- A landscape and environmental heritage context for the study area (**Section 2.0**)
- A background (prehistoric) Aboriginal archaeological overview for the project (**Section 3.0**).
- A discussion of the findings of background research and the results of on-site recordings of the two reserves, and the outcomes of consultation with the MLALC for the project (**Section 4.0**).
- A discussion of the Aboriginal archaeological, historical and environmental cultural heritage values that have been identified for the reserves through consultation with the MLALC, and a statement of significance for Wangal Reserve and Punt Park (**Section 5.0**).
- Aboriginal archaeological and cultural heritage management recommendations (**Section 6.0**).
- References cited in this report (**Section 7.0**).



## 2.0 Environmental history and climate change

### 2.1 A changing river over time

The Parramatta River landscape at Mortlake has changed significantly over time, and Aboriginal people have lived continuously on the river during periods of major climatic and environmental change at both a local level since 1788 during which Aboriginal people have inhabited the Sydney landscape extending back possibly 30,000 years or more. The sea was at its lowest level at around 18,000 years ago and the coastline was located up to 15 km further to the east or more in places than it is today. Changes in sea level affected the environment and climate and would have changed the availability of food and raw materials used by people at different times. Outside of archaeology, what we know about the types of foods that were available around Sydney Harbour and the Parramatta River at Contact, and the types of tools and equipment Aboriginal people were seen using derives from what was recorded by the First Fleet diarists and is likely to be only a partial record and may also only have been a relatively recent snapshot of Aboriginal life and conditions. In this context, Attenbrow (2011:471-472) makes a point concern by using past Aboriginal subsistence to illustrate the point:

*‘The historical accounts suggest that marine resources, especially fish, played a major part in the diet of the pre-colonial people who lived around the shores of Port Jackson, but that land animals and plant foods were also part of the diet. It is unlikely however, that the British colonists saw all of the plants and animals that were caught, gathered and eaten by the Aboriginal people of Port Jackson and it is obvious that the historical records dating to between 1770 and 1820 provide an incomplete account of their diet’.*

The landscape, vegetation, climate, and animals of the country changed from those that were first encountered when Aboriginal arrived in the region during a period when sea levels progressively fell by up to 100m (because of the volume of ice that was locked up in the world’s ice-caps) and the coastline retreated. The climate at this time would have been dry, windy, and cold with hard winter frosts and snow prevailing. Sydney Harbour had also drained away and consisted of a rocky inland valley through which a small stream flowed (Wright 1980:41). Other changes were also occurring at this time with wet sclerophyll forests at times giving way to more open environments, whilst a range of large marsupials (often referred to as ‘mega-fauna’) that occupied the early Aboriginal landscape started to become extinct. Sea levels rose as the ice caps progressively melted between approximately 18,000 years ago and 7,000 to 8,000 years ago and the Parramatta River Valley and its estuarine upper reaches to Sydney Harbour were drowned by these rises that stabilised around 7,000 years ago. The present coastline was created during this period leaving former hills/inland cliffs as a rocky foreshore and establishing the estuarine bays and beaches along the river. Most of the archaeological evidence for where and how Aboriginal people lived in the Sydney region between the time of their first arrival and approximately 7,000 to 8,000 years ago is now under the ocean.

## 2.2 Early settler explorations of Parramatta River

The first descriptions of Sydney Harbour and its bays recorded during the first weeks following settlement at Sydney Cove initially focus on the landing site its surrounding fringes, and are well documented in the journals of Bradley (1969), Collins (1975), Hunter (1968) and Tench (1979). However, while records for Parramatta River and its hinterland around Gladesville are less numerous, a number of references exist within the context of the early European explorations that led to the establishment of the Government Farm at Rose Hill and these provide a picture of how the study area is likely to have looked in 1788. The first river expedition from Sydney Cove was made on the 4 February 1788 when Bradley and Hunter went by boat up the harbour and saw ‘*astonishing numbers*’ of ‘*natives*’ about 8 miles from Sydney (Bradley 1969:75-76). The following day they rowed as far as Homebush Bay (with an armed guard) before heading back to Sydney Cove to report their observations (Campbell 1926:353):

*‘We were far enough to see the termination of the Harbour, as far as navigable for ships, being all flats above us, with narrow passages that we supposed might run a considerable distance, by very shoal’.*

Phillip led a second party up the river on 15 February and stopped for a while at Looking Glass Bay. The party then proceeded to the edge of the mudflats at Homebush Bay where they landed and walked about 2 to 3 miles (some 5km) into the adjacent countryside (to around present day Granville) where the trees were observed to be a ‘*considerable distance apart, and the soil in general, good, grass long, and no underwood*’ (ibid:153). The party returned to their boats that evening and the next day rowed up the river following what was thought at the time to be the main channel of Parramatta River southwest to about what is today’s Silverwater. This channel was in fact the inlet to Duck River. This river inlet was navigated for several miles until progress was stopped by fallen trees. The party returned to Sydney Cove shortly afterwards. No Aboriginal people were met during this journey. The vegetation of the areas explored during these first trips is generally assumed to have been mixed open ironbark/turpentine woodland. This is based largely upon current timber and vegetation distributions, and on historical descriptions such as the one below cited by Benson & Howell (1995:67):

*‘The country towards the head of the harbour [Sydney Harbour] is covered with timber, and here the land appears less rocky, and the trees stand in some parts at a greater distance; but the head of the bay being left dry in several parts of low water, and the winds being obstructed by the woods and the different windings of the channel, must, I conceive, render this part of the harbour unhealthy till the country can be cleared. As far as the eye can reach to the westward the country appears to be one continued wood’* (Governor Phillip in HRNSW 1(2) 1892:127).

Towards the end of February, further explorations had extended to the upper limits of Duck River and Phillip and a small party had reached the future site of Rose Hill in late April 1788. Descriptions of the river are recorded a short time prior to and following the formal establishment of the settlement there later in November. Visiting the area on April 24, surgeon John White (1788:128) observed that:

*‘As soon as the dew, which is remarkably heavy in this country, was off the ground, we processed to trace the river, or small arm of the sea. The banks of it were now pleasant, the trees immensely large, at a considerable distance from each other; and the land around us flat and rather low, but well covered with the kind of grass just mentioned. Here the tide ceased to flow; and all further progress for boats was stopped by a flat space of large broad stones, over which a fresh-water stream ran’.*

It is within this context the first interactions between the colonists and the Wangal (and neighbours) occurred in what was an unfamiliar landscape at first to the Europeans. Mortlake remained relatively physically reliant on river transport and communication for some time, and prior to the construction of the (first) bridge in Gladesville in 1881, areas to the north of the river could only be directly approached initially by water or later from a punt crossing from Abbotsford over to Bedlam Point. The punt crossing was in operation from c.1831 and connected with the Great North Road network.

The earliest recorded white contact with presumably Wangal people was made by Captain John Hunter (5 February 1788) while having breakfast at a place recorded as ‘Booridiow-o-gule’, now referred to as Breakfast Point at Mortlake and as noted in the diary of Lieutenant William Bradley. The ‘cordial’ nature of the first contact shown by the fact that Hunter theatrically showed he was unarmed before shaking hands would not last on the Parramatta River as the colonial settlement expanded.

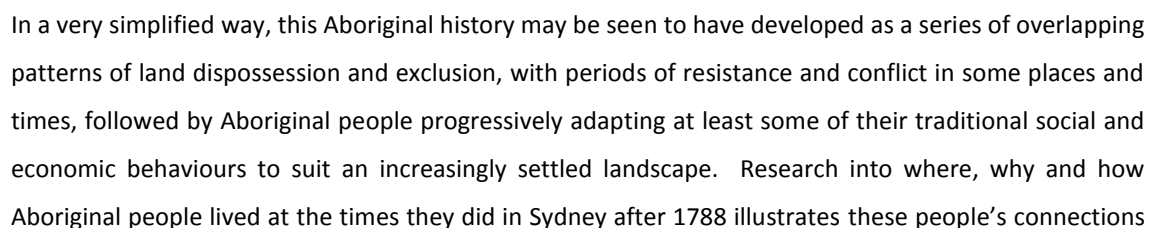
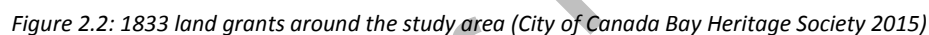
*At daylight having a guard of marines proceeded to the upper part of the harbour again, passing several natives in the caves as we went up and on the shore near the place we left beads and some other things, who followed us along the rocks calling to us. We landed to cook our breakfast on the opposite shore to them. We made signs for them to come over and waved green boughs. Soon after seven of them came over in two canoes and landed near our boats. They left their spears in the canoes and came to us. We tied beads, etc., about them and left them our fire to dress mussels which they went about as soon as we put off.*

## 2.3 Early land grants and Aboriginal displacement

How and under what circumstances the Wangal and their neighbours were displaced from their land is unknown and is a complex issue outside the scope of this report. However, this historical process took place incrementally but historically quickly and largely occurred in the years following March 1789 when possibly 50 percent of the Aboriginal population of Sydney had died from small pox.

However, aspects of the Aboriginal history of the area can be reconstructed from the historically recorded ‘habits and customs’ of the coastal Sydney Aboriginal people the British first saw and

Figure 2.1: 1793 land grants around the study area (City of Canada Bay Heritage Society 2015)



to places and their movements in the landscape were partly '*continuations of pre-contact social and cultural life and obligations*' and continued to be able to '*exert a degree of autonomy even during times of increasing government control and regulation*' (Irish and Ingrey 2005:75).

Draft for review

## 3.0 Aboriginal Archaeological Heritage Context

### 3.1 The people

The precise extent of the (Wangal) Wann-gal's former territory, and their boundaries with their neighbours was like for most of the Parramatta 'clan's' never recorded, but is thought to have originally extended from Darling Harbour, around the Balmain Peninsula almost to Parramatta in the west although it is uncertain how far south their land extended. Nevertheless, the river was shared with over 30 named Aboriginal groups in addition to the Wangal and Attenbrow (2010) has reviewed what we know of the people:

- Several different language groups existed across the Sydney Basin and various different spellings for each group exist in the literature. These include the Guringai to the north, the Darug (predominately) to the west, the Tharawal (predominately) to the south, with lands occupied by the Darkinjung and Gandangara converging to the northwest and southwest respectively.
- Groups recorded to have been associated with the country taking in today's Sydney CBD included the Cadigal and Wangal.
- Where the boundaries that may have existed between most individual groups in the past is not precisely known in most cases.
- Groups appear to have comprised multiple extended families ranging from 30 to 70 people or more, through which they had connections to specific areas of land.
- Groups were organised around complex social, economic, spiritual and land-use inter clan relationships and individual groups/clans had specific primary access rights to different resource zones on the coast, rivers, and inland areas.
- It appears several dialect or language boundaries existed at Contact around the Sydney region marking a distinction between the coastal or 'saltwater' people and the inland or 'woods' groups. Sydney (coastal and hinterland) clans were bi-or multi-lingual.
- The Sydney Aboriginal population is unknown. Some estimates give a rough figure of 1,500 (or more) people on the coastal strip between Broken Bay to Sydney and inland to Parramatta (Kohen & Lampert 1988:345). A similar number are believed to have occupied the Cumberland Plain. Other researchers have put this combined figure as high as 8,000 people occupying the Sydney landscape between Botany Bay, the Hawkesbury River, and the Blue Mountains, at Contact.



### 3.2 Regional archaeological overview

Archaeological excavation of a site ('RTA-G1') on the lower end of George Street in Parramatta in the early 2000s has shown Aboriginal occupation of this area on the river begun at least 9,000 years ago. Older dates have also been inferred from artefact attributes and depth-age curve reconstructions at this site and trends from other archaeological sites that have been salvaged through archaeology nearby on the 'Parramatta Sand Sheet' since that time. Charcoal at the 'RTA-G1' site was rare in the lower excavation levels and a small sample of dry sieved material was collected and has been dated to c.30,000 years BP (Wk-17435 – 30,735 +/- 407BP - JMCHM 2005:119). The stratigraphic associations between the lowest artefacts in the vicinity, the dated charcoal, and the surrounding sediments from which both have provenance, are not sufficiently secure to assume Aboriginal occupation occurred at this early date. However, there is a reasonable probability that archaeological evidence of this antiquity (Pleistocene) will be identified in the future and securely dated.

More recent investigations on the Hawkesbury River at Pitt Town have reported Aboriginal occupation evidence dating to possibly over 30,000 years BP, and in a similar Pleistocene age geomorphological river terrace context to Parramatta, which may be the earliest archaeological evidence of Aboriginal people in the Sydney Basin (AHMS Pty Ltd 2013). A site at Cranebrook Terrace on the Nepean River (Penrith/Emu Plains) has produced a date of c.41,000 BP (Nanson et al 1987), but the precise association of the deposits from which this date has been obtained and the Aboriginal artefacts identified is subject to some debate. Rock shelter sites with evidence Aboriginal occupation beginning over 22,000 BP have been excavated in the Blue Mountains and its foothills (Stockton & Holland 1974 and Kohen et al 1984), and two dates ranging from 10,000 to 12,000 BP have also been reported for an open campsite at Regentville (Penrith).

The earliest dated coastal sites are located to the south of Sydney at Burrill Lake that shows evidence for first occupation approximately 20,000 BP (see Lampert 1971), and at Bass Point which is dated to approximately 17,000 BP for first occupation (see Bowdler 1970). Both of these sites were amongst the first excavated Aboriginal heritage sites scientifically investigated on the NSW south coast, and advances in environmental and archaeological research since that time have confirmed that both sites would have been occupied at a time when the sea level was much lower and the present coastline would have been more distant when the country formed parts of inland environments drained by a series of rivers and streams. At the former site for example, when first used the Burrill Lake shelter was in an estuarine locality at the foot of wooded hills about one kilometre from the sea where the faunal remains from the site indicated a greater emphasis on the adjacent estuary and woodland than the sea but retaining links with the foreshore. There are no other coastal Aboriginal sites of comparable age known at present. A shell midden at Kurnell (Doughboy Head 1 – Smith et al 1990) has been dated to 12,000 BP (charcoal).

However, the early date has been questioned because of inadequate documentation of the stratigraphy and sample retrieval process, and the similarity of the artefact typology to other sites on the Peninsula that date to within the last 5,000 years (Dallas 1996:9).

Indications about how people may have lived around the time of sea level fluctuations and subsequent stabilisation along the eastern sea-board of New South Wales during this period are provided by an open occupation site with stone artefacts and a hearth that has been dated to approximately 9,300 BP to 10,000 BP at Discovery Point close to Tempe House (McDonald CHM 2005:56) when this location will have been several kilometres inland and situated on a wind-blown dune. A second open campsite (containing a cooking hearth) identified at the Prince of Wales Hospital in Randwick has returned a dated to c.8,400 BP (Godden Mackay Logan 1997:25-26) from a hearth comprising a rough circle of 27 sandstone fragments on the western fringe of a huge sand-dune ridge. It is believed people used the seashore for marine resources on one side of the ridge and inland to exploit the swamps. Residue on the sandstone materials making up the hearth indicates it had been used to cook seafood. Traces of possibly a dozen or so other heavily eroded former 'fire places' were also recorded within the old and deep mobile sand dune. It is proposed (ibid: 40) that the site *'was formed under conditions of high [residential] mobility, perhaps the results of short-term forays, and represents a different settlement and subsistence pattern to that observed at contact and in the archaeological record during the last 3000 years'*. However, it is also possible that a pattern of gaining the dune and wetland resources during short-term visits on a daily basis could have continued throughout the Holocene, irrespective of the level of residential mobility at base camps along the ocean and estuarine shorelines (see Attenbrow 2002: 7-8). The age of the sand hills themselves was investigated through OSL dates obtained for two sediment samples from which it has been concluded that *'the entire sand body present at the POW site was created during the terminal Pleistocene, between 30,000 and 40,000 years ago.'* (ibid: 23–25).

Most Aboriginal archaeological sites in the region that have been dated are however within the last 2,500 to 3,000 years. Evidence suggests the initial occupation of the Sydney landscape was not intensive or included large groups of people, and that around 5,000-7,000 years ago (when the sea levels had stabilized at the present levels) more intensive use of the landscape by Aboriginal people subsequently began. Many open sites situated away from the coast appear likely to have been first occupied in the last 1,500 years before Contact.

Evidence excavated from the earliest of these archaeologists sites suggest a pattern of the exploitation of a wide range of terrestrial and aquatic food resources by possibly highly mobile groups of Aboriginal people (Attenbrow 2010:152-54). The late Pleistocene and early Holocene stone artefacts suggest a preference for silicified tuff that was probably sourced from secondary geological contexts such as from the Hawkesbury/Nepean River gravels (McDonald 2008). However, there are also some indications of

the opportunistic exploitation of other raw material types such as silcrete, quartzite and quartz. These early occupation sites have been largely found in stratified (layered) rock shelter deposits or within alluvial deposits, particularly on the margins of large river systems such as the Hawkesbury-Nepean and Parramatta Rivers. Some researchers (see McDonald 2007) have argued that early occupation of the Sydney Basin was focused on these primary river systems and was characterised by a high degree of 'residential mobility' (frequent movement between campsites).

The archaeological evidence for the mid to late Holocene Aboriginal occupation of the Sydney region is both more abundant and, in many ways, seemingly reflecting the development of more complex social and economic systems (see for example Attenbrow 2010, McDonald 2008). The available archaeological data suggest a marked increase in site usage and population density over time, as well as a growth in the size and complexity of social aggregation. Complex long-distance exchange networks are also suggested by the archaeological record, as are major developments in artistic and funerary activities. Developing economic specialisation is indicated by the emergence and subsequent proliferation of complex fishing and stone-working technologies (e.g. backed artefact manufacture), with changes in the composition of stone tool assemblages over time possibly being linked to the minimisation of subsistence risk (see Hiscock 1994, 2002). This in itself is no doubt closely associated with climatically-driven environmental changes (Attenbrow et al. 2009), and changing access to and/or availability of stone resources.

Over time the territory of occupation expanded and these mobile groups who carried silicified tuff from the Hawkesbury-Nepean River gravels and used the resource sparingly to produce relatively large cores and flake tools. When sea levels rose around 6,000 years BP, coastal groups that previously occupied the now drowned coastal strip most likely moved inland and the population possibly steadily increased to a point when around 4,000 years BP when many new sites were occupied. It is argued that this evidence suggests that for the first time people took up permanent and semi-permanent occupation in different areas of the region. Some groups probably lived full time on the Cumberland Plain while others occupied the surrounding sandstone country (see Kelleher Nightingale Consulting April 2008).

There also appears to have been an increase in rock shelter occupation at this time, along with major changes in stone tool technology, most notable of which is the use of locally available stone. The raw material that was most commonly used in the local landscape was silcrete and was used for a wide range of tasks. The majority of artefacts at most sites are often small (<5cm) and its probable people prepared stone at or close to stone source and transported materials back to residential camp sites.

During the last 1,000 years the use of ground stone appears to have increased although these artefacts are infrequently found in surface or excavated archaeological assemblages (fragmentary evidence often occurs at most sites). An increase in bipolar flaking at this time probably indicates further intensive use of local resources, but backed artefact manufacture declines. This may be due to the fact that there was

less need for these tools as result of either changing social networks or less priority being given to their bulky production.

In 1788, Sydney Aboriginal groups were living in defined territories and interaction between groups is evident in art sites, with changing frequencies of different raw materials also indicating more restricted social movement, and contact via exchange networks.

The most common and durable form of evidence that survives as a record of past Aboriginal occupation and use of Sydney are flaked and ground stone artefacts. Other items made from organic materials, the remains of discarded food refuse, and art have generally not survived over time. How we understand how and when Aboriginal people used the Sydney landscape in the past is largely based upon changes that are apparent in the composition of stone tool assemblages and use of certain stone raw materials from the analysis of excavated archaeological assemblages undertaken in recent decades. Terminology for the archaeological phases within what is known as the *Eastern Regional Sequence* (ERS) include the *Capertian* (or Pre-Bondaian), and the *Early*, *Middle* and *Late Bondaian*. This sequence is continuously being refined and clarified.

- The *Capertian* (Pre-Bondaian) stone tool phase appears to have been essentially composed of large and quite heavy stone artefacts fashioned from fine grained siliceous cherts and silcrete materials. Tool types included uni-face pebble tools, core tools, denticulate stone saws, scrapers, hammer-stones, some bipolar cores and flakes, and burins.
- The change from the *Capertian* to the *Bondaian* appears to have taken place sometime after 8,000 years before present, and is defined by a noticeable shift in stone tool size, raw material use, and in the range of raw materials utilised by people for subsequent tool production. Features of the *Capertian* phase appear to have continued in many areas on the east coast of Australia, but backed and edge ground implements appear to have been progressively introduced and widely used over this time period.
- The three phases which are recognised as belonging to the *Bondaian* sequence are largely based on the timing of the introduction, and subsequent decline, of backed stone implements, as well as the increased use of bi-polar flaking techniques. Other technological innovations which are evident during the *Bondaian* period include the introduction of ground edge implements (around 4,000 years before present), and the widespread use of shell fish hooks for fishing during the last 1,000 years. The three *Bondaian* phases are summarised below.
- The *Early Bondaian* phase (from approximately 8,000 to approximately 4,000 years ago) appears to have been dominated by the use of fine grained siliceous cherts and silcrete materials. While the use of the larger and heavier stone implements characterising the earlier *Capertian* period seems to have persisted,

archaeological evidence suggests backed and edge ground implements were widely introduced and used over time.

- The *Middle Bondaian* phase (from approximately 4,000 years ago to approximately 1,000 years ago) appears to have been dominated by the use of fine grained siliceous cherts and silcrete materials and the manufacture and use of smaller backed implements. This phase is seemingly characterised by the increased manufacture of micro-blades such as Bondi Points and bi-polar artefacts, and the use of quartz as a ready source of a raw material for the production of flaked stone implements.
- The *Late Bondaian* phase (last 1,000 years) appears to have been dominated by the increased use of quartz (with the use of other raw materials of stone), common manufacture and use of edge ground implements, and the use of bone and shell implements (including shell fish-hooks) at some investigated Aboriginal archaeological sites.

### 3.3 Aboriginal heritage sites in the City of Canada Bay

There were nineteen (19) Aboriginal archaeological sites recorded within the Canada Bay LGA a decade ago. These comprise open shell middens (that are the most predominant type in the local landscape), rock shelters with midden/occupation deposit, some artefact recordings (flaked stone items associated with midden materials), painted art in rock shelters, one rock engraving, and one burial. All of these sites occur along, or are located within, approximately 80 metres of the foreshores of either the harbour itself or are on the margins of Parramatta River.

The records for these sites vary in their both their age (when they were first reported) and in their reliability. Two (2) of these site recordings are now more than 40 years old, and a further five (5) recordings were originally compiled over 25 years ago. The remaining sites were recorded during the 1980s and early 1990s. A number of these sites have incorrect and/or inaccurate location coordinates (given the records were made pre GIS with topographic maps), and the conditions at a number have also changed considerably in a number of cases because of ongoing urban development.

### 3.4 Aboriginal heritage sites close to Wangal Reserve & Punt Park

The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) is a database operated by OEH and regulated under section 90Q of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act). AHIMS contains information and records related to registered Aboriginal archaeological sites (Aboriginal objects, as defined under the NPW Act) and declared Aboriginal places (as defined under the NPW Act) in NSW.

Searches of AHIMS to identify whether any registered (known) Aboriginal sites or declared Aboriginal places occur within or adjacent to the Mortlake Point study area indicates that no Aboriginal sites or objects have been recorded on or immediately nearby to the two reserves. The three closest known



sites are on the northern side of the river in Putney Park situated directly opposite Mortlake in Ryde LGA that comprise a rock shelter with archaeological deposit and two open shell middens.

*Figure 3.1: The nearest known Aboriginal heritage sites (Putney Park) to the Mortlake Point study area are on the northern bank of the river*



### 3.5 Aboriginal archaeological expectations for Wangal Reserve & Punt Park

It is probable that a similar range of archaeological evidence (open and possibly sheltered occupation sites) to those that survive in Putney Park for example on the northern side of the river will also have occurred on the tip of the peninsula taken in by Wangal Reserve by virtue of its comparable river landscape position. Wangal Reserve will have been regularly used by people for camping in the past, and both points would have had a number of travel and communication advantages (access to deep water for fishing, sight lines) over its surrounding coves which were nevertheless compensated by their shelter and general 'amenity'.

The original sandstone topography of Wangal Reserve (Punt Park is too small to make a useful appraisal) forming part of Mortlake Point is likely to have had significant rock outcrops which are now mostly gone



or are buried and/or have been otherwise incorporated into modern foreshore fabrics. Unmodified sandstone may survive buried in places, but the original soils on the peninsula in areas that were not directly exposed as rock at the surface may have been limited in depth and shallow or absent, and possibly contrasting with the deep sandy 'beach' profiles that occur in the adjacent bays that would have better archaeological survival capabilities.

Wangal Reserve appears to have a considerable amount of introduced fill and/or a mix of additional and comparatively recent materials that in various combinations now form the reserve's current ground surface's that includes imported and redeveloped topsoils, garden mulch, and concrete surfacing. This range of non-significant fill and hard surfaces will have been deposited and constructed over either sand or rock (or 'mudflat' deposit at the intertidal zone), but in situ topsoil profiles are not expected to have historically developed or survived in this exposed foreshore locality. The original 1788 vegetation is likely to have been typical of the sandstone communities that characterised most of the points, promontories and inlets along this stretch of the Parramatta River before many of the bays were progressively filled from the 1930s.

It is possible, but considered to be relatively unlikely, that intact topsoils with the potential to contain Aboriginal objects such as flaked stone artefacts and archaeological deposits such as shell midden will be present or survive below current surfaces in Wangal Reserve or Punt Park. Future works that have a light or 'shallow' impact on the existing conditions and that don't entail deep or widespread excavation (extending below fill levels) are unlikely to expose natural profiles with archaeological potential, and the chances for engravings to survive on un-modified rock surfaces that have been buried would seem to be limited, and in addition, human burials are more likely to be found in rock shelters and in 'back dunes' with comparatively deep sandy profilers rather than on rocky points with shallow or no soils.

It is concluded that the types of potential Aboriginal archaeology that could theoretically survive in Wangal Reserve and Punt Park will comprise the following:

- I *Rock Engravings:* The distribution of engraved sites relates to the occurrence of suitable rock outcrops common in sandstone formations that were used by Aboriginal people in the past for the creation of engraved images. A considerable number of engraving sites are known to occur in the local landscape, but few around Mortlake itself.

Engravings can occur in groups with numerous depictions of animals, human figures, possible spiritual motifs, and other images of equipment such as shields etc, or single depictions, that generally are found to occur on extensive level sandstone platforms along with smaller ledges and rock exposures.

- II *Axe Grinding Grooves:* These are grooves which resulted from the manufacture and/or maintenance of the working edge of some stone tools such as axe/hatchet heads by people in the past. They may be found where suitable sandstone is exposed in, or adjacent to, creeks or on elevated platforms where wet-grinding techniques are possible adjacent to natural rock holes and shallow 'basins'.

As for rock engravings, axe/hatchet grinding grooves may occur in large 'clusters' that serves to facilitate their ready recognition, or may conversely comprise isolated items that are often difficult to detect within certain light conditions.

- III *Open Camp Sites:* These sites are likely to occur on dry and relatively flat landforms along or adjacent to both major and minor watercourses, along with foreshore zones. However, repeatedly or continuously occupied sites are more likely to be located on elevated ground situated at principal creek confluences in the local landscape.

Surface scatters of flaked stone artefacts (or potentially durable food remains such as animal and fish bone or shell) may be the result of mobile hunting activities, while single or low density occurrences might relate to tool loss, tool maintenance activities or abandonment. These types of sites are often buried in alluvial or colluvial deposits and only become visible when subsurface sediments are exposed by erosion or disturbance.

- IV *Isolated Artefacts:* These items occur without any associated evidence for prehistoric activity or occupation. Isolated finds can occur anywhere in the landscape and may represent the random loss, deliberate discard or abandonment of artefacts, or the remains of dispersed artefact scatters. Manuports are items consisting of raw materials of stone that do not naturally occur within the soil profiles of a given region. Transported onto a site by Aboriginal people from sources elsewhere, these items will have subsequently been discarded before use as flaked or ground stone tools.

## 4.0: Site inspection and recording

### 4.1 Observations and results

No Aboriginal sites or objects have previously been identified to occur on or nearby either Wangal Reserve or Punt Park, and no Aboriginal archaeological evidence of any type was located during the site inspection and consultation programs undertaken with the MLALC for the PoM (and Masterplan).

No specific areas of potential Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity were identified, although as a caveat, all future deep or widespread excavations that may expose currently buried ground surfaces (top soil) or fabric (sandstone) should be subject to site-specific assessment.

The likelihood that intact and significant archaeological deposits are present in both reserves is limited, but statutorily protected objects protected under the terms of the NPWS Act 1974 may possibly survive buried as pockets of topsoil between otherwise modified sandstone surfaces that have been covered by historic fills and surfaces.

### 4.2 Opportunities and constraints

#### 4.2.1 Key opportunities

Wangal Reserve offers many opportunities to 'reacknowledge' the traditional Aboriginal custodians of the place through educative signage and contemporary Aboriginal inspired art work. Aboriginal art/imagery illustrating concepts of Indigenous landscape and country designed to suite the reserve's paths for example would compliment future cultural heritage interpretation works that may be intended. The acknowledgement of the traditional Aboriginal owners of the land would be supported and visually enhanced by native plantings to creatively 'rejuvenate' the core Aboriginal heritage values that are intrinsic to the place but have been forgotten.

Punt Park could have some form of dual heritage recognition incorporated into its future interpretation that could illustrate that at first, the new settlers could not match the speed or efficiency of the Aboriginal travel and communication networks that in 1788 seemingly connected every cove, inlet and Point along the Parramatta River.

#### 4.2.2 Key constraints

The existing plaque in Wangal Reserve is in poor condition (scratched and stained), easily missed (because its small and unobtrusive), and is 'dated' in its style and general heritage message it is intended to convey as a dual heritage place embody through the naming of Wangal Reserve and could be replaced. The submarine cable sign is also intrusive and significantly detracts from almost all of the values of the place.

These are comparatively minor matters, and distract from the central fact that the reserve intended to acknowledge the Aboriginal history of the place lacks signage or other indicators to explain who the Wangal people were and what their story was to people who use the foreshore reserve. Archaeological excavations on the river in the Parramatta CBD demonstrate Aboriginal people were occupying all stretches of the river from the coast to its headwaters in 1788, and possibly tentatively at first, but for perhaps 30,000 years or more before that. The country at Mortlake only became a shared landscape in a cultural sense right at the very end of this Aboriginal history. While tangible (archaeological) evidence of this long river history is likely to be either sparse or non-existent in both reserves, Wangal Reserve is particular retains many of its original intangible environmental, historic and cultural heritage values that can be interpreted in any future history of the place.

Draft for review

*Figure 4.1: Entrance to Wangal Reserve with a concreted looped path around the Point surrounding and enclosing a landscaped recreational space. It is unknown if the existing contours are entirely constructed from fill, or if any topsoils survive with the potential to contain or retain Aboriginal archaeological deposits over the sandstone bedrock geology. The potential for intact and significant archaeology to survive beneath the grassed areas illustrated would appear to be limited*



*Figure 4.2: The subsurface profiles (rock and sand) are likely to have included similar platform outcrops to those illustrated to the right of this image around its edges, although whether the topography of the middle of the Point was rocky and steep (with the potential for overhangs) or flat and sandy but above the intertidal zone, is unclear*





Figure 4.3: The hard surfaces (paths) and garden beds illustrated below are likely to have been created on top of fill used to level and compact the original rock topography (that may have been levelled to a degree and the rock used for building when the sea walls were made) and/or considerable depths of disturbed and archaeologically sterile 'beach sand'. No shell materials have previously been seen (or reported) in the reserve during works where original ground surfaces may have been encountered, and shell midden deposits for example that may be buried beneath the grass cover in the foreground, although unlikely in the first instance, will also not survive long because of the temporary nature of this cover and the erosive nature of this environments from wind, rain, sun and tidal action



Figure 4.4: The existing concrete path and broader concrete apron around the point is in disrepair. In this locality, it is likely to seal fill used to raise the Point above current high tide levels





*Figure 4.5: It is unknown whether the existing concrete path and broader concrete apron around the point extends under the planting beds and chairs in this locality. It is more likely that potential soil profiles with archaeology will survive in the centre of the site rather than around its edges, and it is expected that any original topography (and pockets of soil between ledges etc) will be minimal*



*Figure 4.6: The original fabric of the place (water, sandstone and sand) and has been continuously modified but the current mix of the reserve's amenities combine to create a good aesthetic but which has some elements that diminish the remaining natural values of the place that provide opportunities for improvement*





Figure 4.7: The landscaped nature of the centre of the reserve, if it follows general contours, may have originally been drained by ephemeral run-off from higher elevations before it was filled



Figure 4.8: This sign is the first thing that 'disrupts' the views to the reserve from the river, and the bare metal faced back of the sign is central and disrupts the view and sightlines of the river from the place



*Figure 4.9: Views and historic sightlines are a common ‘shared heritage value’ on the Parramatta River foreshore and are intangible heritage values that are difficult to conserve and manage. Prior to white settlement in 1788, the views to the river foreshores opposite Mortlake will often have been ‘filled’ with bark canoes similar to the small craft in the image below, and historic landscape imagery (watercolours etc) are a common way to convey what places were like before they were usually irreversibly changed*



*Figure 4.10: This ‘relic’ has potential interpretive value as part of a ‘shared river story’, but it is a rusty object in isolation set within a bare and uninspiring context with little to no clues available to visitors to indicate why the anchor is there or its back story (which is presumably related to the Green Point Naval Dockyard established during WWII for the building of wooden motor launches for the armed services).*





Figure 4.11: The history of landscape change reflected by the current stone retaining walls provides a way to integrate the environmental and historical values of the place in future interpretation strategies



Figure 4.12: This plaque is scratched and weathered and its message is virtually undecipherable. It is also of a style and with a message that have dated. Some form of renewal of recognition that the place was originally 'Aboriginal Country' as intended by the naming of the reserve, and in the form of engaging and creative 'foot path' art and/or heritage interpretation signage would, appear more appropriate to the place than rock with a commemorative plate with stiff words that lose the reader and meaning of the message





Figure 4.13: This open space in Wangal Reserve has enough space to cater for use for overlapping purposes, and could include heritage interpretation and artworks in future landscape designs. The only areas where potential archaeology may survive is buried around the bases of sandstone elements that survive to the left of the image



Figure 4.14: It unlikely Aboriginal archaeology survives in this reserve. The sign could be replaced



## 5.0 Evaluation and issues for consideration

### 5.1 Preamble

Public reserves on the Parramatta River are increasingly becoming some of the only foreshore areas remaining that are currently 'safe' for the foreseeable future from redevelopment, and these gazetted public lands as a whole in any given LGA on the Parramatta River serve to protect a diverse range of environments and any heritage sites and evidences contained within them, as tangible sections of protected 'Aboriginal country'. By virtue of this, reserves play an important role in the community education and protection of Aboriginal heritage in general, and individually each reserve (if it has not been entirely created or entirely disturbed) acts as a proxy cultural heritage conservation agent.

These places can be interpreted in many ways and also very importantly *in situ*, rather than disconnecting the stories from the place in the landscape about which they refer to (off-site interpretations and exhibits etc), and do not necessarily require any Aboriginal archaeological evidence to be actually present or any specific historical reference to the land itself to be sourced in order to 'anchor' the stories to the place. Intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage values that are embodied by many Parramatta River foreshore reserves, and tangible evidence of past Aboriginal life in the form of archaeological and environmental history records that they may contain, are a finite resource and need needed to be managed carefully.

In a paper entitled '*putting place back into urban Aboriginal history*', Read (2013) points out that it is easy to demonstrate the lack of signage about the history of Aboriginal Sydney, but that it is not all due to racism or and apathy because ignorance and forgetfulness are relevant too. The paper explores why so few places that are so important in the history of Aboriginal Sydney are not recognised in the public form such as intended for Wangal Reserve by virtue of its naming although the information behind the Geographical Names of Board of NSW's entry for the place is as its best bland in its recognition that the name Wangal derives from that of 'an aboriginal tribe which inhabited the area'. Read (ibid:96-99) advocates for the better use of online methods to recognise and promote Aboriginal heritage sites as a way to compliment traditional signage and interpretation methods. He identifies the past disinterest of many Council's and the lengthy research, bureaucratic processes and the expense of installing site markers would seem web-based approaches a logical alternative location for site-specific information.

However, while on-site interpretation methods can be very effective and probably have a wider community reach than little known Aboriginal history websites, many Aboriginal commemorations and interpretations with signage in Council reserves have historically often been conceived and written by (white) planners, although the Aboriginal community is becoming increasingly involved in the ownership of this aspect of their heritage. Some of the historic Aboriginal people (often 'famous' men drawn from the period spanning 1788 to the end of the Macquarie period) and some of the historic or prehistoric



circumstances often interpreted in reserves may not be the most important subjects or identities to contemporary Aboriginal communities who may have entirely different Aboriginal river story to tell.

These types of heritage issues and considerations were identified and underpinned the discussions with MLALC during the consultation and inspections that have been undertaken to guide the development of the PoM and Masterplan for Wangal Reserve and Putney Park.

## 5.2 Evaluation of identified Aboriginal heritage values

### 5.2.1 Environmental values

A central environmental value identified through this study revolves around the fact that the Aboriginal country at Mortlake, as taken in by Wangal Reserve (and Punt Park), has had a long and dynamic natural evolution of its own and Aboriginal people's interactions with the Parramatta River started tens of thousands of years before it was alienated and then given back in name to the traditional owners two centuries later. Aboriginal people probably persistently adapted and lived continuously on the land throughout major climatic and environmental changes that took place during the last 30,000 years and environmental and archaeological records may potentially survive in foreshore reserves in general that can further document tangible aspects of the Aboriginal occupation of this transformative landscape.

### 5.2.2 Archaeological values

No Aboriginal archaeological sites or objects have been identified within either Wangal Reserve or Punt Park. No previous recordings have been made in either reserve, and the nearest known sites are across the other side of the river in Putney Park opposite and in Glades Bay further to the east. Nevertheless, the peninsula originally created a 'site favourable' river foreshore location with landscape attributes that will have continued to be important to Aboriginal people before and after white settlement where a relatively sparse white population may have allowed Aboriginal people to continue to use and access the river for travel and fishing, and 'inland' woodland environments for hunting and travel overland, well into the 'settler period'.

The only perceivable areas in Wangal Reserve where in situ soil profiles with potential archaeology may survive is within the 'centre' of the reserve rather than around its 'edges', and it is only likely that deep or widespread excavation will expose in situ soils rather than being confined to fill or otherwise mixed and disturbed profiles. Depending on the nature scale of the proposed changes to the reserve by the PoM and Masterplan, large impact proposals would be recommended for activity-specific archaeological assessment during preliminary planning, and/or monitoring where appropriate by the MLALC, where there may be a heritage 'risk'. This form of mitigation measure would be prefaced by Aboriginal heritage site inductions undertaken to ensure the potential archaeological values of the place are known and understood by all parties involved in future works projects in the reserve. Unexpected find

protocols would also form part of future planning and implementation policies whereby all parties involved in works in the future are made aware of their obligations under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* about unexpected finds. Namely, in the (largely) unexpected circumstance that any Aboriginal objects are unearthed as a result of works in the future, activities would temporarily cease within the immediate vicinity of the find locality and the *Office of Environment and Heritage* be contacted to advise on the appropriate course of action for the MLALC to record and potentially collect the identified item(s).

Punt Park is not expected to retain any obvious archaeological potential, and no specific areas of archaeological sensitivity have been identified.

#### 5.2.3 Archaeological historical values

There are very few direct historical references to Aboriginal people at Mortlake in the late eighteenth and nineteenth century. However, the Aboriginal history for this section of the Parramatta River as a whole suggests that embayment's and peninsula's such as Mortlake are likely to have continued to be used by Aboriginal people where they could into the first decades of the nineteenth century.

#### 5.2.4 Aboriginal cultural values

The following Aboriginal cultural heritage values have been identified for this study:

- Wangal Reserve retains many of its original but intangible Aboriginal heritage values, although most of these are obscured by the appearance of the place today and overlooked as a consequence, and, the land still forms an important tangible expression of the long story of Aboriginal occupation of Sydney.
- The river was important to 'saltwater people' like the Wangal for travel and communication, food and other resources, and for a range of cultural and spiritual reasons we don't understand today, as part of a wider socio-cultural landscape.

### 5.3 Assessing Aboriginal heritage significance

Significance assessments aim to explain why particular sites or places may be important to the community and to allow for appropriate management approaches and strategies to be developed when changes in landuse circumstances may potentially affect the assessed significance values of a site or a place. Cultural significance is defined in the *Australian ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance* (the *Burra Charter*) as 'aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations' (Article 1.1). This aspect of significance may be derived from the fabric of a place, association with a place, or the research potential of a place. While these definitions are more

commonly used with reference to buildings or items, they can also in a number of respects also apply to archaeological features and deposits.

This assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance of the potential Aboriginal archaeological resources that may be contained within Wangal Reserve in particular incorporates the Aboriginal cultural values as they were explained during consultation with the MLALC, and follows current OEH guidelines (NPWS 1997:5-11) but also uses additional criteria derived from the Burra Charter. An important position that needs to be made clear as part of the assessment process is that not all sites are equally significant and not all heritage sites at a general level will warrant equal consideration and management. The significance of heritage sites also changes over time, often as more research is undertaken in archaeological and environmental circumstances, and as community values change and develop over time.

This does not lessen the value of the heritage assessment approach, but is an integral part of the process of determining what is conserved for future generations and why. OEH guidelines for the assessment of significance of Aboriginal sites, objects and places identify two types of significance criteria; *cultural significance* and *archaeological significance*.

*Cultural significance* concerns the values of a site or feature to a particular community group which in this case is the local Aboriginal community. Aboriginal Archaeological heritage sites, objects, and some landscapes are all often important for different reasons, or have become important to Aboriginal people over time. This importance involves both people's historical links to 'country' in general, and possible attachments to specific areas in particular, as well as an overall concern of many Aboriginal people for the continued protection of the land and its cultural heritage sites.

*Scientific significance* in archaeological contexts is usually assessed using criteria that aim to evaluate a given site's contents, state of preservation (integrity), representativeness or rarity, and research potential. A preliminary evaluation of the significance of Mortlake as a 'place' in its 'setting' according to the criteria below is provided using the following ways to grade the potential 'scientific' (as opposed to Aboriginal cultural heritage) significance of this assessment of the Aboriginal historical, archaeological and environmental values :

- *Archaeological research potential* incorporates values of intactness (whether it has stratigraphic integrity or is disturbed), the association of the site to other sites in the local or regional (or State) context, and sometimes also how the site may fit into a dated chronology if one exists, when considering how the site may contribute to our further understanding of past Aboriginal life. This would also apply to environmental evidence, and this area of assessment is consistent with *Criterion 'e'* of the *Heritage Branch* guidelines (see below). Historical research suggests

that limited information is recorded about Aboriginal people at Mortlake, but future research may identify more evidence or ways to look at what evidence is at hand now.

- *Representativeness* is a term to convey the idea that most Aboriginal archaeological (and environmental) sites are representative of a particular 'type' or sub-type/class which for example would apply to a rock shelter with art as distinct from an open campsite with stone artefacts. This issue is tricky in archaeological heritage management because often it has to be decided whether particular sites should be conserved to ensure a representative sample of the archaeological record is retained for future generations. All Aboriginal heritage sites, or at least most, are important to Aboriginal people today as are the written records of their history. This general area of assessment is broadly consistent with *Criterion 'a'* of the *Heritage Branch* guidelines (see below). In this regard, the peninsula is likely to have been used by Aboriginal people in ways in the past that were typical of similar foreshore river strips nearby.
- *Rarity* can apply to a unique or uncommon archaeological or environmental site itself or elements of its component parts (archaeological rare finds or contexts) as much as written records and what they can tell us can be 'rare finds', and the first two categories can be assessed at a local, regional, State and national level. This area of assessment is consistent with *Criterion 'a'* of the *Heritage Branch* guidelines (see below).

#### 5.4 Assessment against standard Criteria

NSW Heritage Branch *Assessing Heritage Significance* establishes seven evaluation criteria that reflect significance categories and representativeness by which a place can be evaluated. The following responses to each below have been guided by the Aboriginal archaeological and cultural heritage findings and conclusions that are documented in this report.

*Criterion (a) – an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*

The original Aboriginal and environmental heritage values of Wangal Reserve (and to a lesser extent Punt Park) in its river foreshore setting are considerable and will have attracted repeated use by people in the past. While any archaeological evidence that may remain buried or obscured in the reserve will be important to the local Aboriginal community, it is expected that potential archaeology that may survive will comprise isolated or low numbers of stone artefacts (most likely), dispersed midden materials (relatively unlikely), or engravings (unlikely) that will in each case be most likely of a general character and/or composition that is representative of similar sites recorded on the river in the local landscape around Mortlake.

*Criterion (b) – an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW’s cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*

The identities of the Aboriginal people who may have visited and used the place in the past, but it is likely that their individual role in NSW’s cultural-evolution was minor.

*Criterion (c) – an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).*

Wangal Reserve has considerable aesthetic appeal that is typical of these north facing promontories, but the ‘light foot prints’ left on the land from past Aboriginal landuse (such as firing etc) and the absence of engraved or painted art for example makes it is unlikely that the site as an Aboriginal place fulfil this criterion.

*Criterion (d) – an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.*

The land is very important to the local Aboriginal community for a number of cultural heritage reasons that are identified below.

*Criterion (e) – an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW’s cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*

Wangal Reserve has some but limited potential to retain environmental evidence about the natural history of the river, and the same limited potential applies to the archaeological resources that may be of use to understanding past Aboriginal life.

*Criterion (f) – an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW’s cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*

It is unlikely that rare archaeological or environmental evidence occurs in Wangal Reserve (or Punt Park) and the available documentary records do not indicate that any significant Aboriginal activity or natural event occurred that will have left an uncommon or rare trace.

*Criterion (g) – an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW’s cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments.*

It is considered that the site’s inferred Aboriginal history and potential archaeological and environmental history resource is likely to be broadly representative of similar sites in Sydney at a general level.

## 5.5 Statement of significance

The Aboriginal country at Mortlake has undergone a dynamic environmental history for many tens of thousands of years before the land was alienated. Aboriginal people lived continuously on this land and successfully adapted throughout the major climatic changes that took place during the last 30,000 years or more. Within this very long time frame, the settler period use and occupation of the land took place very late in the sequence of environmental evolution and people's interaction with this changing river landscape. The recognition of prior ownership and the continuation of this unbroken Aboriginal connection to culture and country at places like Mortlake are important to Aboriginal people today.

While no Aboriginal archaeological sites have been identified at either reserve, Wangal Reserve in particular is an 'Aboriginal site favourable' location. It had a topographic position useful for views and communication across the river, access to tidal rock platforms and deep water with its resources directly from the Point or from the sheltered bays on either side. It is possible the promontory originally had rock overhangs for shelter and for creating painted and stencilled, or if the topography was not suitable for that, potentially suitable sandstone platforms for engraving with immediate proximity of sandy beaches and rocky shores for fishing and shell fish gathering that will have provided a diversity of predictable resources. A low and relatively sparsely distributed settler population up to the 1830s may have allowed Aboriginal people to continue visit and use the place and maintain access to both river and woodland environments in close proximity.



## 6.0 Recommendations

### 6.1 Basis for Recommendations

The following recommendations are provided in recognition of the statutory protection provided to Aboriginal 'objects' and 'places' under the terms of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act of 1974* (as amended), the results of the current assessment of the two reserves, and the views that have been expressed and advice provided by the MLALC to guide the preparation of the PoM and Masterplan.

### 6.2 Recommendations

It recommended that the PoM and Landscape Masterplan be prepared with due consideration of the following:

1. An Aboriginal heritage interpretation plan should be prepared by Council for Wangal Reserve in consultation with the MLALC to both support and extend the Aboriginal heritage management objectives of the PoM and Masterplan. This plan would not need to expand in scope in terms of further historical or archaeological research or scope the baseline information detailed in this report, but would need to specifically identify the appropriate themes and story lines to interpret the range of archaeological, historical and environmental values that are embodied by and conserved within the foreshore park, along with appropriate mediums to convey this information to the public. This could include educational signage along similar lines to the 'Waluba Track' in Glades Bay Park that forms part of the Ryde Riverwalk and features exposed heritage sites (engravings and grinding grooves) connected by boardwalks and paths with strategic Aboriginal and environmental heritage signage on the way. An attractive and durable method to identify 'Aboriginal country', if designed and installed properly where new paths are to be created or old ones upgraded, is the creation of Aboriginal inspired artwork along the lines of those implemented elsewhere on the river on Council owned pedestrian foot and bike paths in places such as Parramatta's 'Riverside Walk'. Various publications are available about the protocols for producing Indigenous visual arts, and some nearby local Council river foreshore reserves have ongoing Aboriginal heritage interpretation strategies incorporated into their Plans of Management that can guide the process.
2. Future improvement works in Wangal Reserve that may expose natural soil profiles with the potential to contain Aboriginal objects or deposits or sandstone surfaces with rock engravings and axe grinding grooves should be discussed with the MLALC at preliminary planning stages to identify whether the MLALC have an interest in monitoring this activity.
3. Aboriginal heritage inductions for planners and contractors, that would include 'stop work protocols' should unexpected Aboriginal heritage finds be unearthed during future works in the reserve, could be undertaken by the MLALC at Council's request.

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Appendix 1

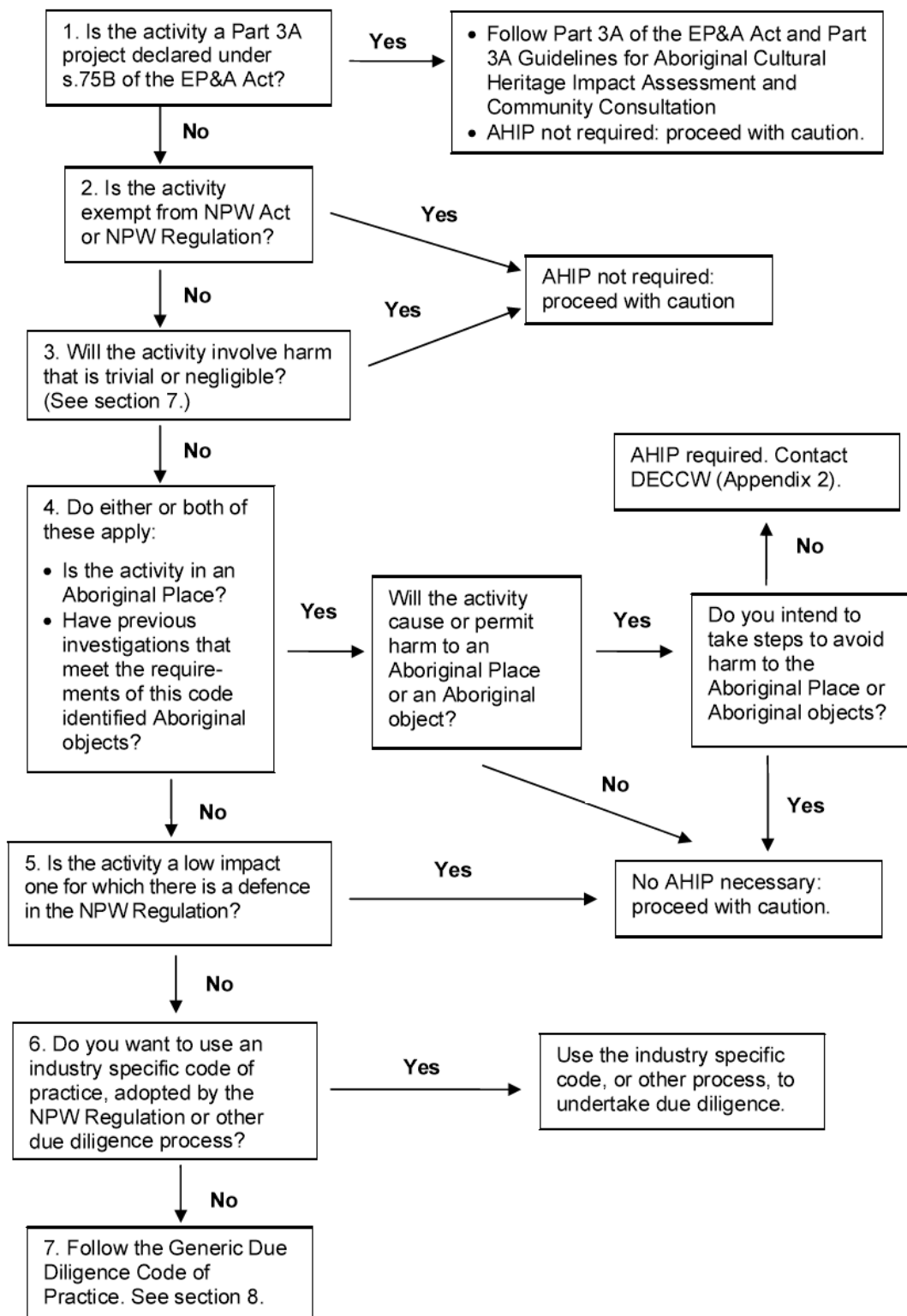
OEH Due Diligence Code of Practice

Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW – NPWS Act 1974

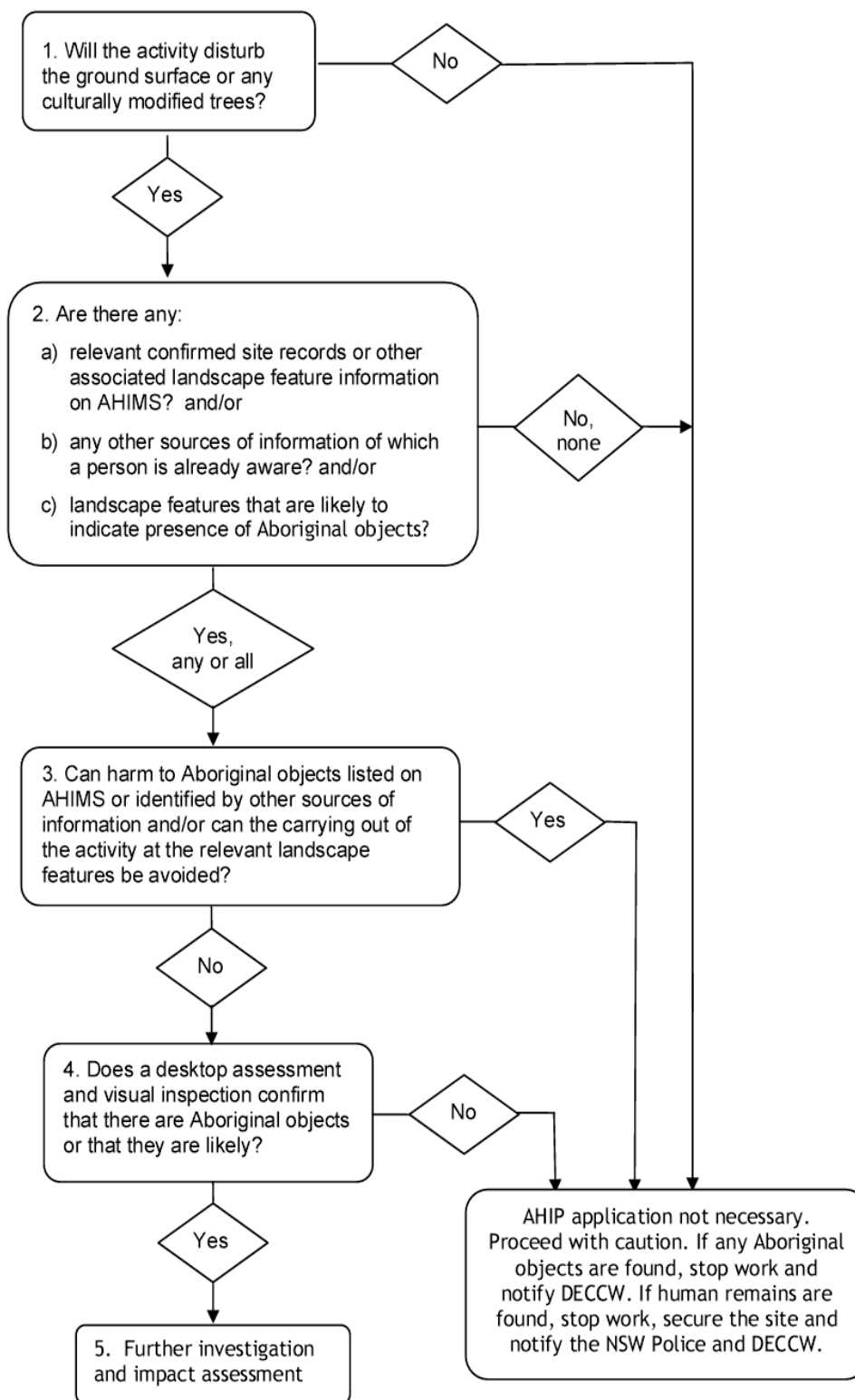
Draft for review



# 1 Do you need to use this due diligence code?



## 8 The generic due diligence process



## Appendix 2

### AHIMS Sites Searches

Draft for review



Office of  
Environment  
& Heritage

## AHIMS Web Services (AWS) Search Result

Purchase Order/Reference : wangal basic

Client Service ID : 196982

Dominic Steele Archaeological Consulting

Date: 29 October 2015

21 Macgregor Street  
CROYDON New South Wales 2132  
Attention: Dominic Steele  
Email: dsca@bigpond.net.au

Dear Sir or Madam:

**AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Datum :GDA, Zone : 56, Eastings : 324500 - 325270, Northings : 6253850 - 6254600 with a Buffer of 50 meters, conducted by Dominic Steele on 29 October 2015.**

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of the Office of the Environment and Heritage AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

3	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 29/10/2015 for Dominic Steele for the following area (Latium: GDA, Zone: 56, Eastings: 324500 - 325270, Northings: 6250850 - 6254600 with a buffer of 50 meters. Additional info: for a CMP for the Reserve. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 3  
This information is not guaranteed to be free from error omission. Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW) and its employees disclaim liability for any act or omission made on the information and consequences of such acts or omission.





Office of  
Environment  
& Heritage

## AHIMS Web Services (AWS) Search Result

Purchase Order/Reference : wangal lot 41 with buffer

Client Service ID : 196986

Dominic Steele Archaeological Consulting

Date: 29 October 2015

21 Macgregor Street  
CROYDON New South Wales 2132  
Attention: Dominic Steele  
Email: dsca@bigpond.net.au

Dear Sir or Madam:

**AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Lot : 41, DP:DP736614 with a Buffer of 200 meters, conducted by Dominic Steele on 29 October 2015.**

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of the Office of the Environment and Heritage AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

0	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *

**If your search shows Aboriginal sites or places what should you do?**

- You must do an extensive search if AHIMS has shown that there are Aboriginal sites or places recorded in the search area.
- If you are checking AHIMS as a part of your due diligence, refer to the next steps of the Due Diligence Code of practice.
- You can get further information about Aboriginal places by looking at the gazettal notice that declared it. Aboriginal places gazetted after 2001 are available on the [NSW Government Gazette](http://www.nsw.gov.au/gazette) (<http://www.nsw.gov.au/gazette>) website. Gazettal notices published prior to 2001 can be obtained from Office of Environment and Heritage's Aboriginal Heritage Information Unit upon request

**Important information about your AHIMS search**

- The information derived from the AHIMS search is only to be used for the purpose for which it was requested. It is not be made available to the public.
- AHIMS records information about Aboriginal sites that have been provided to Office of Environment and Heritage and Aboriginal places that have been declared by the Minister;
- Information recorded on AHIMS may vary in its accuracy and may not be up to date .Location details are recorded as grid references and it is important to note that there may be errors or omissions in these recordings.
- Some parts of New South Wales have not been investigated in detail and there may be fewer records of Aboriginal sites in those areas. These areas may contain Aboriginal sites which are not recorded on AHIMS.
- Aboriginal objects are protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 even if they are not recorded as a site on AHIMS.
- This search can form part of your due diligence and remains valid for 12 months.

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