

# Prospect Creek Open Space Corridor

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

JUNE 2004

*A Valuable  
Resource  
for All*



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prepared by

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# ABOUT THIS PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

This plan of management has been prepared to provide guidance for the long-term management of the Prospect Creek Open Space Corridor (referred to in this Plan as Prospect Creek Corridor), under the Georges River Foreshores Improvement Program. Providing a regional perspective of the Prospect Creek Corridor, the Plan aims to promote its importance as a cultural, ecological, recreational and educational resource for the people of Holroyd and Fairfield local government areas, and beyond.

The plan is divided into two main sections. The first section provides a basis for the management of the Corridor, a detailed description of the significance and values, and management framework for Prospect Creek Corridor, on which this plan is based. The second section describes the strategies for managing the Corridor, and the methods of implementation.

This plan has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended), and draws together the wealth of knowledge gained to date about the creek Corridor from a range of planning studies and reports undertaken over the past two decades.

This Plan of Management has been developed via a unique process involving progressive concurrence with members of the Prospect Creek Aboriginal History Trail (Warali Wali Project) and Plan of Management Working Party. This process is described in Appendix A.

NOTE: This plan should be read in conjunction with other plans relevant to the Prospect Creek Corridor, as adopted by Holroyd and Fairfield City Councils.



# WELCOME TO COUNTRY

*We are Darug, born of this land of the spirit.*

*We have been here since the dreaming.*

*We are the keepers of knowledge passed down from our Elders, that knowledge and dreaming stories we will pass on to our children and grandchildren.*

*It is very good to see a project like this beginning its journey. It takes a great deal of thought, work and money, and most importantly, courage to see a project like this through from beginning to end.*

*Why is courage such an important part of something like this?*

*If you listen to this creek it may tell you, this creek has been witness to a history that will never be written and never displayed as a "History Trail". This creek is part of my ancestors dreaming.*

*Water connects us to each other, to places to stories, it runs backwards and forwards in time and connects us to a past that has been either ignored or denied by non-Aboriginal people for most of the time we have been in contact.*

*This creek has also seen a great deal of action in the last two hundred years or so, and it has suffered as we all have.*

*It has struggled to survive the impacts of that change, pollution, loss of species, erosion. But it has survived, as Aboriginal people have and it is here today to mark this moment when we begin a project to acknowledge that Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people can, and do share a particular history.*

*We come from different heritages but this project shows that we are able to recognise and respect each other.*

*That is why a project like this is a mark of courage. Courage to embrace the truth and begin what we hope will be a better future.*

*Now my granddaughter, Krystal will welcome you in our language and I will translate into English for you.*

*Thank you.*



AUNTIE MAVIS



AUNTIE EDNA

*“Jumna ya wogal wal ya pemal jumna mingan jumna tamu. Nglaringi wyanga pemal.  
Nglaringi babuna wal gnia ya pemal da lo-loley dice wara mooting jumna banga nolla ya.  
Pemal jumna wal gnia koi mund wal tati pemal jumna annagar dice.  
Eorah wal mullana wal mingan jumna gai gnia bou gu-nu-gal nglaringi go-roong dyaralang.  
Nglaringi go-roong dyaralang.  
Nglaringi bou nglaringi jam ya tiati nglaringi bubuna jumna. Mittigar gurrung burruk  
gneene da daruga pemal.  
Didjeree Goor.”*

*“We were the first carers of the land, we took only what we needed from our Mother Earth.  
Our ancestors knew how to take care of the land, so as to continue their survival.  
We do not own the land, but we are charged with the care of it. As custodians of this land  
we ask that all people join us and preserve what we have left for future generations.  
We must protect the few sites we have to ensure our culture continues.  
In the language of our ancestors we welcome you to Darug Lands.*

*Thank you.”*

Spoken by Auntie Edna, Darug Elder, at the Prospect Creek  
Plan of Management Launch Day on Saturday, 9th August 2002,  
and at the Prospect Creek Open Day on Saturday, 7th February 2004.



1.

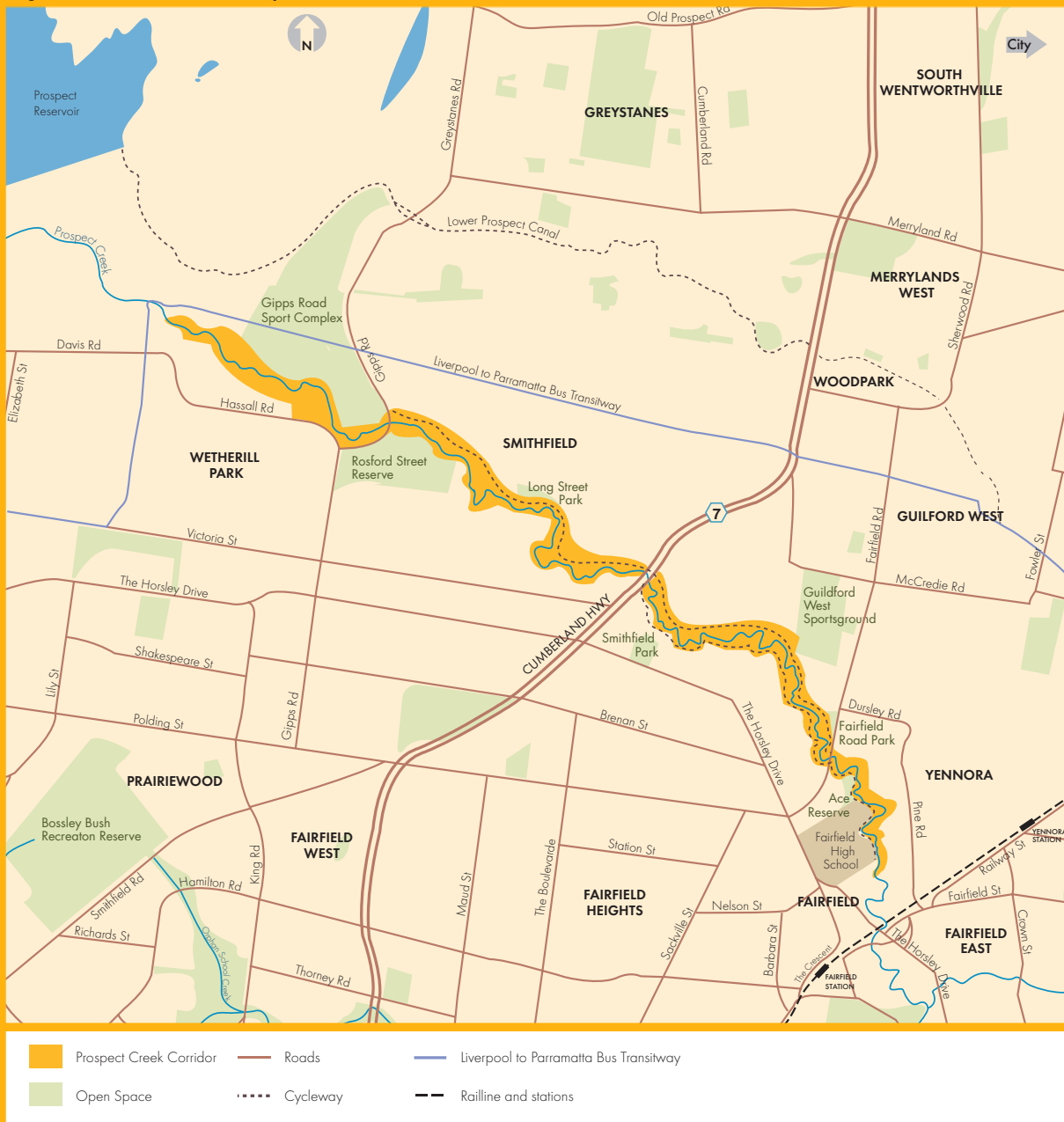
# SUMMARY OF THE PLAN

AN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE PLAN  
OF MANAGEMENT FOR QUICK REFERENCE  
TO THE MAIN VALUES AND MANAGEMENT  
RECOMMENDATIONS.

# WHERE IS PROSPECT CREEK?

Prospect Creek Corridor lies to the south east of Prospect Reservoir, extending approximately 8 kilometres through the suburbs of Wetherill Park, Smithfield, Yennora and Fairfield in Sydney's western suburbs. Prospect Creek forms the boundary between Holroyd and Fairfield City Councils.

Figure 1: Location of Prospect Creek Corridor





## 1. SUMMARY OF THE PLAN

### 1.1 OVERVIEW

This Plan of Management for the Prospect Creek Corridor includes the following sections:

Section 2 – Significance and Values.

Section 3 – Management Context.

Section 4 – Management Strategies.

Section 5 – Actions and Priorities.

Appendices A to C – Further details describing how the plan was developed, the detailed management context and planning context of the Corridor.

### 1.2 VALUES

The values of Prospect Creek Corridor form the basis for its management.

Cultural values of the Corridor are defined mainly by its importance to the Darug people and greater Indigenous community, and the connection it holds for these people with their culture. Ecological values of the Corridor relate to the presence of significant vegetation and habitat, including Cumberland Plain Woodland remnants, and its functions as a natural drainage Corridor providing a range of ecological services to the surrounding catchment. Recreational values of the Corridor are defined by the tranquil contrast and links it provides with surrounding residences, workplaces, sporting facilities and open spaces.

### 1.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

To achieve the desired outcomes in managing the Prospect Creek Corridor values, this Plan recommends the implementation of the following key management strategies:

- Developing a Community Education Program for the Corridor, including initiatives for community events, school participation and storytelling.
- Coordinating Corridor cultural and artistic projects with other Western Sydney Councils and organisations.
- Managing Prospect Creek Corridor as a regional cycleway link, creating the 'Holroyd loop' and links to other regional cycleways, such as the Great Kai'Mia Way.
- Developing simple and innovative interpretive and way-finding signage, to inform and attract the community.
- Undertaking ongoing vegetation and habitat management, including intensive weed management.
- Securing Prospect Creek Corridor as a regional green corridor link.
- Continuing support for State and regional stormwater management initiatives.
- Forming the Prospect Creek Corridor Management Committee, to provide ongoing advice to Councils on the management of Corridor values.

Details for each of these and other strategies for management are provided in Section 4 of this Plan.





2.

## SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUES

PROSPECT CREEK CORRIDOR  
IS AN IMPORTANT PLACE FOR  
MANY REASONS.



## 2. SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUES

Located within a primarily urban and industrial area between Prospect Reservoir and the Georges River, Prospect Creek Corridor is a green and tranquil space, a natural corridor for recreation and ecological conservation.

Prospect Creek Corridor is also a place of cultural significance, a symbol of the link between the Indigenous community, their history and the land.

A unique destination, Prospect Creek Corridor is a place to recreate, to conserve, to learn and to enjoy.

This section describes the significance and values of Prospect Creek Corridor as part of the basis for its management.



## 2. SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUES

### 2.1 CULTURAL VALUES

Prospect Creek has been a place of importance to the people of Holroyd and Fairfield since a time long before living memory. Through memories, stories and actual features, the creek holds great value for the people of the region.

#### INDIGENOUS VALUES

Prospect Creek and its surrounds are part of the traditional land of the Darug people, who continue to hold a spiritual connection with this place.

In the past, Prospect Creek was a place of resources. For the Darug people, the creek and surrounds provided hunting and gathering grounds. Items such as she-oak nuts, eucalyptus and tea tree oils were once used in traditional medicines; wattles and ironbarks were used in the making of boomerangs and shields; basalt pebbles were used to make traditional axes called 'mugos'. Many of these features are still present today.

An early point of Aboriginal-European contact, Prospect Creek is known to have provided a camp for Pemulwuy Darug Karadji, a Darug leader who played an important role in the resistance against the British during the early European colonisation of Western Sydney at Parramatta, Prospect Hill and Castle Hill. Prospect Hill was also the site of an historical Aboriginal-European reconciliation in 1805, as reported in the Sydney Gazette in that year.

The cultural values of the creek can also be found in the traditional stories of Prospect Creek, many of them passed down through generations of Darug people. Local stories particular to the region include stories of Boo'kerrikin (wattles), Dahl'wah (she-oaks), Wattun-Goori (banksias), Wugan'ga and Wugan (crows and ravens), Bundelook (parrots) and Mananga (eagle) (Frances Bodkin and Gawaiian Bodkin Andrews, Bodkin-Andrews clan of D'harawal Peoples, 2001/2). It is through these stories that the identity of the area is maintained amongst the Darug community today, and a better understanding of their culture can be found.







## 2. SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUES

### NON-INDIGENOUS VALUES

Prospect Creek Corridor provides a link with the European settlement of the region. For the early settlers, the creek and surrounds provided important food and water resources, encouraging the development of local agriculture and industry.

Governor Phillip explored Prospect Creek and surrounds in 1789, and ex-convicts settled the area in 1791. In 1794, the area of Prospect Hill was described as the colony's most productive farming district, with ex-convicts John and Deborah Herbert being recognised for their remarkable achievement of generating a thriving retail business, prosperous farm and growing number of descendants.

By 1860, industry (including a tannery, flour mills, a brewery and a woolwash house) had also developed in the area surrounding Prospect Creek. These industries gave rise to those that remain important today.

Today, the Prospect Creek Corridor lies at the heart of a culturally diverse community. The catchment is one of the most culturally diverse areas in NSW with over fifty percent of the population born overseas. The Corridor represents a common ground for the people of this area, a place to escape from the otherwise primarily residential and industrial landscape, and contributing to the local community identity.



## 2. SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUES

### 2.2 ECOLOGICAL VALUES

Originating at Prospect Reservoir, Prospect Creek drains the surrounding floodplain and flows south-east to the Georges River. The creek runs through a major open space corridor, supporting areas of varying ecological value along its length as it approaches the confluence with the river.

#### HABITAT DIVERSITY AND SIGNIFICANT VEGETATION

The Prospect Creek Corridor comprises remnant and modified (landscaped) vegetation communities, constructed and natural wetlands, grassed open spaces and flood detention basins.

The vegetation present, including in-stream and creekside vegetation, is diverse and often dense, comprising some 125 native and 96 introduced species.

Prospect Creek boasts stands of five regionally significant remnant vegetation communities, including Swamp Oak River-flat Forest, Red Gum – Cabbage Gum River-flat Forest, Shale-Gravel Transition Forest, Riparian Complex and Freshwater Reed Swamps. Remnant vegetation communities are important as they provide an insight into the vegetation types that were present prior to clearing and development of the area, and provide a useful genetic resource for the restoration of vegetation communities.

The Corridor provides a diversity of habitats and sanctuary for many bird species, particularly in the wetland areas south of the Cumberland Highway crossing, where locally uncommon species including the Swamp Moorhen and Night Heron have been observed. The Corridor also provides natural and modified habitats for several species of reptiles and frogs, mammals (introduced and native), fish and invertebrates, and an excellent educational resource.







## 2. SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUES

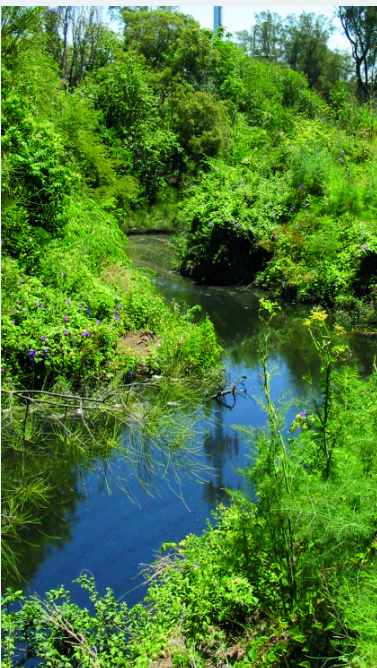
### **ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS**

Like many creeks in urban environments, Prospect Creek Corridor provides valuable ecological benefits to the local area.

The flood detention basins located along the Corridor relieve the creek during periods of high flow, preventing erosion of creek banks and further siltation downstream, thereby helping to protect water quality in the creek and, ultimately, the Georges River.

The natural and constructed wetlands filter run-off from the local catchment, replenishing and cleansing the creek and groundwater, recycling nutrients and assisting the hydrological cycle in the catchment.

Prospect Creek Corridor is important for the ecological sustainability of the region, and presents an opportunity to provide links with wildlife corridors throughout Western Sydney.





## 2. SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUES

### 2.3 RECREATIONAL VALUES

As Greater Western Sydney grows, so too will the recreational needs of the people who live there. Prospect Creek Corridor is an important recreational resource, increasingly valued by the people who live locally and within the region.

#### LOCAL VALUES

The residents of Holroyd and Fairfield council areas, particularly those living in streets immediately surrounding the Corridor, enjoy Prospect Creek's tranquil grounds, which provide an important opportunity for relaxation. The contrast with the surrounding environment makes them ideal for passive recreation, the primary use of this Corridor.

Most of the Corridor has been carefully landscaped to compliment the natural creek line and vegetation of the Corridor to enhance visitor enjoyment, in accordance with Holroyd's Landscape Master Plan. The cycleway and footpath that run through the Corridor are also valued by people working nearby, both for passive recreation and as a commuting alternative to driving.

These passive recreational resources are particularly important in an area where people aged sixty-five years and older comprise the largest group in the area. Passive recreational pursuits in the Corridor include dog-walking, bike-riding, informal play and enjoyment of the local wildlife.

Parts of the Corridor are also available for active recreation. Gipps Road Sports Complex, Long Street Park and Rosford Street Reserve are highly valued local sporting facilities.





## 2. SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUES

### REGIONAL VALUES

Prospect Creek Corridor is becoming an increasingly attractive recreational venue for visitors from areas beyond the Holroyd and Fairfield council areas.

A major regional attraction is the Prospect Creek Corridor cycleway. The recent opening of Lower Prospect Canal cycleway, with interpretive signage, has added considerable recreational and educational value to this nearby facility. These two cycleways are part of the Holroyd Cycleway Plan, which aims to encourage bicycle use by providing links to Holroyd's recreational areas. Planned links with the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority Bicycle Plan, and extensions of the cycleway under these two plans, will enable greater bicycle movement throughout the region, linking Prospect Creek Corridor to areas such as the Western Sydney Regional Park, Hyland Road Park, Prospect Reservoir, and, ultimately the city to the Blue Mountains.

The development of Hyland Road Golf Driving Range at Greystanes will provide an active recreational resource associated with the Corridor likely to attract a greater number of regional visitors.

Prospect Creek Corridor is becoming more accessible to more people. Regional visitors to the Prospect Creek Corridor have been scarce in the past, and part of the problem is thought to have been accessibility. The development of cycleways and the recent opening of the Liverpool-Parramatta Transitway are expected to make Prospect Creek a real option for regional visitors.

The Corridor's role in satisfying the regional recreation needs will increase with the aging of the population in Sydney's greater west, and as the regional population increases with nearby residential developments, in particular the SEPP 59 Land at Pemulwuy.

### EDUCATIONAL VALUE

Prospect Creek Corridor provides valuable insights into the culture, history and ecology of the area. There is an opportunity to present these values as part of the recreational features of the Corridor, enabling Prospect Creek to become a common ground for learning about other cultures and gaining a better understanding of the natural environment.



## 2. SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUES

### 2.4 A SNAPSHOT OF VALUES

The table below provides a summary or snapshot of values for the Prospect Creek Corridor.

#### CULTURAL

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- Prospect Creek and surrounds holds **Indigenous cultural heritage**.
- The Corridor holds **cultural and spiritual significance** for Indigenous Australians.
- The Corridor is a link to the **European heritage** of Prospect Creek and surrounds.
- The Corridor represents a point of early **Aboriginal-European** contact.
- Prospect Creek is an important part of **the identity of the local community**.
- The Corridor is a **common ground**.

#### ECOLOGICAL

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- Prospect Creek Corridor has **regional ecological significance**.
- The Corridor supports **diverse vegetation**.
- The Corridor provides **faunal habitat** in the heart of an **urban/industrial environment**.
- The Corridor offers an **environmentally-friendly** mode of commuter **transport**.
- The Corridor contributes to the overall **sustainability** of the catchment.

#### RECREATIONAL

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- The Corridor is a **safe place for recreation**.
- The Corridor provides a link to **active recreation facilities** along the Corridor.
- The Corridor provides a **break** from the busy city.
- The Corridor has local and regional **recreational resources**.
- The Corridor has **educational resources**.
- The Corridor is **accessible**.





## 2. SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUES

### 2.5 DESIRED OUTCOMES

The cultural, ecological and recreational values and policy framework described, together with planning work undertaken over the past twenty years, have guided the development of *desired outcomes* for the management of Prospect Creek Corridor.

#### CULTURAL DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Local and regional community awareness and understanding of Prospect Creek Corridor as a **significant Indigenous cultural site** is achieved.
- The importance of Prospect Creek to the **early European** settlers in the development of agriculture and industry is **acknowledged throughout the local and regional community**.
- Prospect Creek Corridor grows as a **prominent aspect of the identity** of the local and regional multicultural community.

#### ECOLOGICAL DESIRED OUTCOMES

- The **regional significance** of Prospect Creek's ecological features are recognised through the **protection of the link it provides** to other significant areas in the greater catchment.
- The **protection of threatened and rare species and ecological communities**, diverse **ecological resources** and faunal **habitat**.
- The **ecological restoration** of the creek and Corridor, including the **control of invasive weeds** and **enhancement of Indigenous vegetation**.
- **Pollution and dumping** in the Corridor is controlled.
- **Maximisation of ecological services** provided by the creek and Corridor, particularly in terms of the link it provides with other ecologically significant areas.

#### RECREATIONAL DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Prospect Creek Corridor is **recognised regionally** as an excellent **recreational and educational resource**, providing an **important link** to similar recreational areas.
- The **tranquillity and contrast** with the surrounding industrial environment is **maintained and enhanced**.
- Visitors leave **with a clear understanding of the heritage and environmental values** of the Corridor.
- **Access** to areas of the Corridor intended for **active and passive recreation** is **facilitated to encourage visitation** to these areas.
- The visitor experience **caters for people** from a variety of **cultural backgrounds**.
- Risks to **visitor safety** are minimised.

# 3.

## MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

THE CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT CONTEXT OF PROSPECT CREEK CORRIDOR HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED OVER THE PAST TWENTY YEARS THROUGH THE PREPARATION OF NUMEROUS STUDIES AND PLANS.



### 3. MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

The cultural, recreational and ecological management context of Prospect Creek Corridor has been established over the past twenty years through the preparation of numerous studies and plans.

The salient findings and management implications of these documents for this Plan of Management are that:

- Prospect Creek Corridor is important to the region, as it:
  - Forms an integral part of several State and local Government initiatives for catchment management, recreational pathways and green corridors.
  - Is part of an important story that needs to be acknowledged and communicated.
  - Holds a multitude of different values for a wide range of people.
- The physical form, past and current uses of Prospect Creek Corridor and surrounds define the opportunities and constraints for its future management. It is important to understand that the Corridor:
  - Is a relatively narrow strip of land, surrounded by greatly contrasting, and often impacting, land uses.
  - Is not currently, nor likely to be in the future, a pristine environment.
  - Has been greatly improved in terms of vegetation and habitat in recent years, yet there is still considerable scope for improvement.
  - Offers an excellent cultural, recreational and ecological resource, yet remains unbeknown to the majority of the local and regional community.

This section describes the key regional context and local features of Prospect Creek Corridor, providing a better understanding of its values and management requirements. A more detailed description of the implications of these studies is provided in Appendix B.

### 3. MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

#### 3.1 INDIGENOUS CULTURAL CONTEXT

- Prospect Creek Corridor is part of the land of the Darug Language Group, one of the major Indigenous language groups of Western Sydney, for whom the Creek is sacred.
- Archaeological studies undertaken in the past have identified Indigenous artefacts located along Prospect Creek Corridor. However today, few or no items remain due to extensive site disturbance.
- Prospect Creek Corridor stretches across the Aboriginal Land Councils of Deerubbin and Gandangara (refer to Figure 2). These Councils and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee (ATSICC) currently advise councils on cultural management.
- The management of Indigenous cultural values in Western Sydney is increasingly promoted through collaborative works and projects, as local and regional Indigenous groups and artists, State and local Governments work together on these projects.
- Holroyd and Fairfield City Councils acknowledge the excellent opportunity that Prospect Creek Corridor offers to Indigenous cultural awareness and understanding.

Figure 2: Local Aboriginal Land Councils





### 3. MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

## 3.2 RECREATIONAL CONTEXT

The key local and regional recreational features of Prospect Creek Corridor are described below in terms of current recreational usage, growing recreational demand, facilities and amenities and access and linkages.

### 3.2.1 Current recreational usage

- Prospect Creek Corridor offers over eight kilometres of recreational open space, primarily for unstructured and passive recreational activity.
- There are six open space areas and sportsgrounds immediately adjoining the Corridor.
- The main visitors to Prospect Creek Corridor include local residents, employees from nearby businesses, community groups including, local sporting groups, bush regeneration groups, namely the *Friends of Prospect Creek* and *Fairfield Creeks and Wetlands Group*, and students from local schools.
- Recent surveys indicate that visitation is low, and many people in the local regional and even local areas are not aware of its existence.

### 3.2.2 Growing regional recreational demand

- Recreational demands on public open space facilities are growing in Western Sydney, primarily due to population growth through 'infill' developments (such as the SEPP 59 Land at Pemulwuy) and increased public access to facilities through improved linkages and public transport facilities (such as the Liverpool to Parramatta Rapid Bus Transitway).
- Management will require cooperation between residential developers and Council to ensure that the right balance of land uses and facilities is achieved, and that the recreational needs of the community are adequately served.

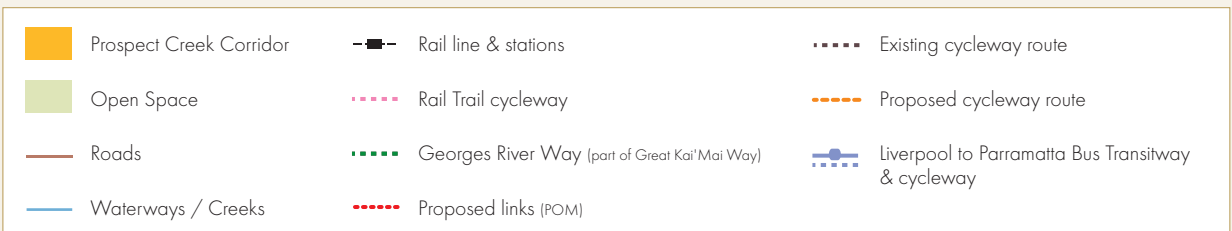
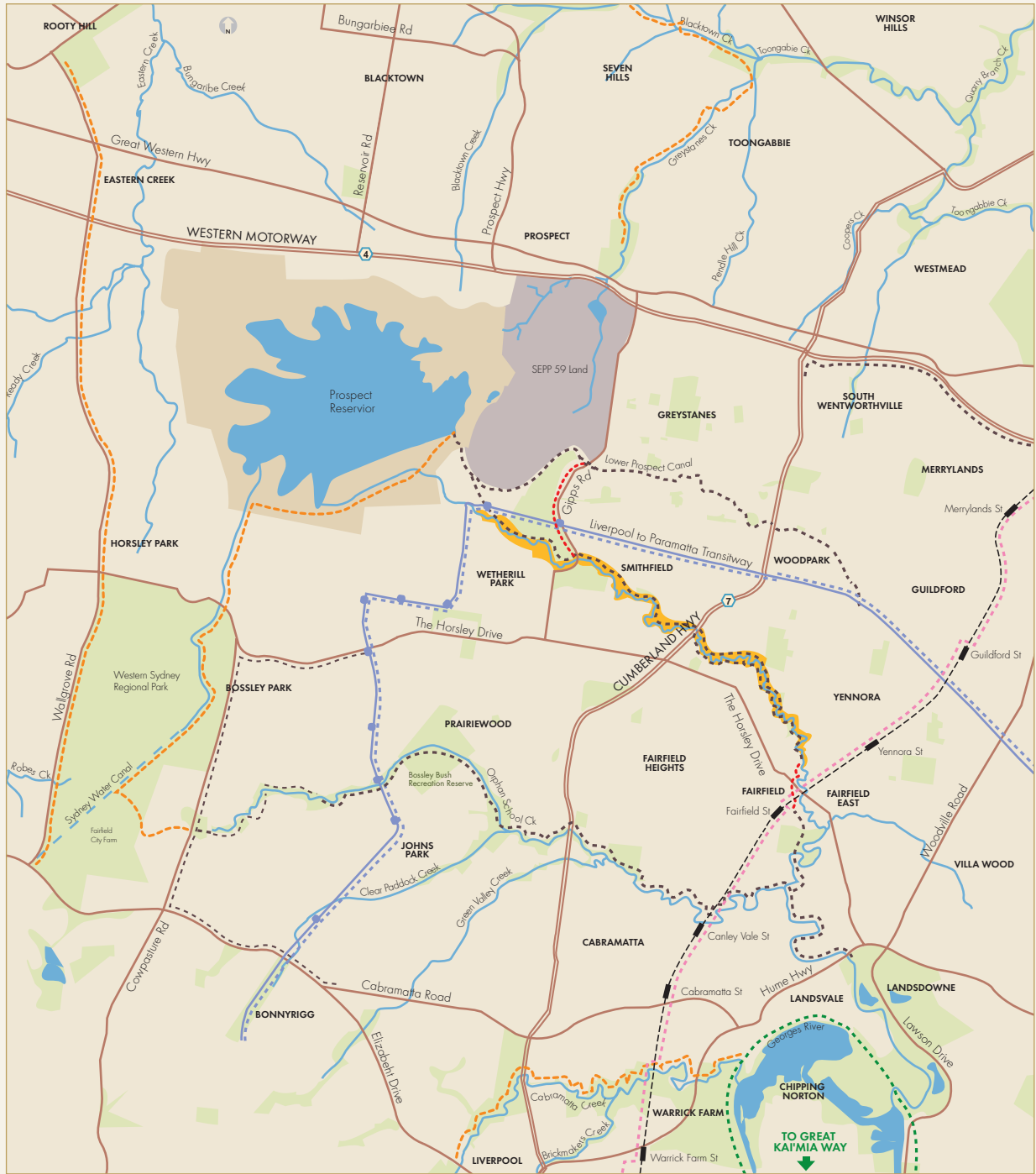
### 3.2.3 Facilities and amenities

- Facilities and amenities along Prospect Creek Corridor are limited.
- The most prominent facility in the Corridor is the cycleway (refer to Section 3.2.4).
- Facilities and amenities need to be appropriate for the needs of visitors, and provide adequate attraction to the Corridor.



### 3. MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

Figure 3: Regional cycleway context



Sources: Fairfield City Council Cycleways, RTA Regional cycleways 2001, Draft NSW Bicycle Network Strategic Map (1997), UBD Sydney 39th Edition (2003)



### 3. MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

#### 3.2.4 Access and linkages

##### General access and parking

- Vehicular access to the Corridor is via three main roads and several residential roads on either side of the Corridor. There are no dedicated parking areas.
- Pedestrian access varies greatly along the Corridor. Access is good from the western site boundary to Fairfield Road. East of this point, access is poor as the Corridor narrows and steepens on both sides, particularly on the northern side.

##### Cycleway and walking path

- On the northern side, the cycleway and walking path stretches nearly the entire eight-kilometre length of Prospect Creek Corridor, providing immediate off-road cycling and walking access to adjoining sports-grounds, workplaces, Fairfield High School, Smithfield and Fairfield residential areas.
- On the southern side of the creek, the cycleway stretches from the Cumberland Highway to Fairfield High School only.
- Safe bicycle and pedestrian road crossings (underpasses) are currently provided at two locations. These are Gipps Road and the Cumberland Highway.
- The intention of cycleway planning was to extend the cycleway as far as Fairfield Train Station. However it currently terminates approximately 600 metres from this point.

##### A regional view

A map of the regional cycleway context is provided in **Figure 3**.

- Prospect Creek Corridor is recognised by both State and local Governments as an important future link in the regional cycleway chain.
- Key facilities and destinations in the vicinity of Prospect Creek Corridor include:
  - Gipps Road Sports Complex, Hyland Park Road and Fairfield City Leisure Centre regional facilities.
  - Prospect Reservoir recreational areas and picnic facilities.
  - The Liverpool-Parramatta Rapid Bus Transitway.
  - Western Sydney Regional Park, including Horsley Park, the Olympic Equestrian Centre and Fairfield City Farm, well-designed picnic and children's play areas and walking tracks. A regional cycleway route is currently under construction to link this Park with Prospect Reservoir.
  - Major regional cycleways, including Lower Prospect Canal, Rail Trail and Great Kai'Mia Way.

Of these attractions, Prospect Creek Corridor cycleway currently links directly with Gipps Road Sports Complex and Hyland Road facilities only.

## 3. MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

### 3.3 ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT

#### 3.3.1 Flora and fauna

Key features of the Corridor flora and fauna include:

- A wide variety of vegetation types and fauna habitats, including remnant and modified (landscaped) vegetation communities, constructed and natural wetlands, grassed open spaces and flood detention basins.
- There have been two key flora and fauna studies undertaken within the Prospect Creek Corridor. Both involved the preparation of comprehensive species lists.
- The section of Corridor between Widemere Road and the Cumberland Highway is the most species rich and weed free, and subsequently the most ecologically valuable.
- The Corridor supports remnant Cumberland Plain Woodland vegetation, five regionally significant remnant vegetation communities, five regionally significant and twenty-nine regionally vulnerable species.
- Natural and modified habitats for several species of mammal, reptiles and frogs, fish and invertebrates, and an excellent educational resource.
- A diversity of habitats for bird species, particularly in the weed-infested areas downstream of Fairfield Road.
- Weed management has been successful throughout the Corridor. Weed management requires ongoing and intensive work, and a considerable amount of work still remains to be done.

#### 3.3.2 'Green' corridors

- Prospect Creek is a green corridor surrounded almost completely by residential and industrial development.
- Green corridors are recognised as integral to sustaining the natural environment and providing a host of necessary ecosystem services including water cycling and purification, air filtration, nutrient cycling and vegetation regeneration.

- There are several State and local Government plans and studies aimed at preserving and connecting corridor ecological features in the vicinity of Prospect Creek. These also identify Prospect Creek Corridor as an important link with corridors in the Upper Parramatta River Catchment, Georges River Catchment (Great Kia'Mia Way) and creeks north-west of Prospect Reservoir.
- An important reference document is "Creating the Great Kia'Mia Way: A Catchment Vision" for a regional perspective of Prospect Creek.
- The management of Sydney's green corridors require coordinated management for ecological conservation and recreation.

#### 3.3.3 Drainage and water quality

- Prospect Creek forms the head-waters and a sub-catchment of the Georges River Catchment, which drains 960 square kilometres of southern Sydney.
- Algal blooms, grease slicks and elevated faecal coliform levels have frequently characterised the creek in recent years. Industrial discharges into the system via stormwater are thought to be the main source of pollution. Prospect Creek also is prone to flooding.
- Since 2000, numerous pollution incidents have occurred, including a major pesticide spill in February 2002.
- A Stormwater Management Plan for Prospect Creek was prepared and implemented by four Councils, including Fairfield and Holroyd City. The plan includes structural and non-structural approaches to stormwater management for the creek, many of which are being implemented.
- As part of the Stormwater Management Plan Revised *Draft Action Plan* (2003), floodplain issues and management methods will be revised during the next 3 years.
- The aims of the Plan will be included in the management of Prospect Creek Corridor as part of this Plan of Management (refer to Section 4.3).
- Prospect Creek is one of five major creeks to which Fairfield City Council has committed to improving, as part of its *Five Creeks Strategic Plan* (2001) and Councils *Healthy City Program*.



### 3. MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

#### 3.4 SAFETY AND SECURITY

- User safety and security within the Prospect Creek Corridor is greatest nearer to the main roads and open spaces and sportsgrounds adjacent to the Corridor, where there are more people present.
- Vandalism and illegal dumping of cars and wastes are a major problem in public open spaces like the Corridor. Fencing of the Corridor has decreased illegal vehicular access to the Corridor. The illegal discharge of waste substances from local industries into the stormwater systems of Prospect Creek are addressed in Section 3.3 and 4.3 of this Plan.

#### 3.5 MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING CONTEXT

A number of land use, planning and management controls apply to the Corridor. In addition to the values described in Section 2, the basis for the management of Prospect Creek Corridor includes the Georges River Foreshores Improvement Program, Council's management framework and the core management objectives under the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended). A description of these is provided below.

##### 3.5.1 Georges River Foreshores Improvement Program

- Prospect Creek is a key contributor to the Georges River, and its management will impact on the entire catchment area. Under the Georges River Foreshores Improvement Program, the NSW Government aims to achieve a sustainable and high quality environment in the Georges River Catchment by implementing the principles of ecologically sustainable development and best practice. The specific aims of this program are described in Appendix B.

##### 3.5.2 Holroyd and Fairfield City Councils

- The physical setting of Prospect Creek Corridor provides a natural link between Holroyd and Fairfield City Councils. These councils consider the values, goals and management of natural open spaces such as Prospect Creek in several documents.

These key documents include:

##### **Holroyd City Council**

City Management Plan  
2002/2006.

Environmental Management Plan  
2000 to 2004.

Holroyd Open Space Strategy (1998).

Holroyd Landscape Master Plan (1997).

##### **Fairfield City Council**

City Management Plan  
2002/2006.

A description of relevant elements of these documents is contained within Appendix B and C.

### 3. MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

#### 3.5.3 Core Management Objectives For Community Land

Under the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended), Prospect Creek Corridor is classified as community land. Under this Act, the Corridor is currently categorised as a *natural area*, *sportsground* and *watercourse*. The Act provides core objectives for the management of land under this category. These are contained within Appendix B.

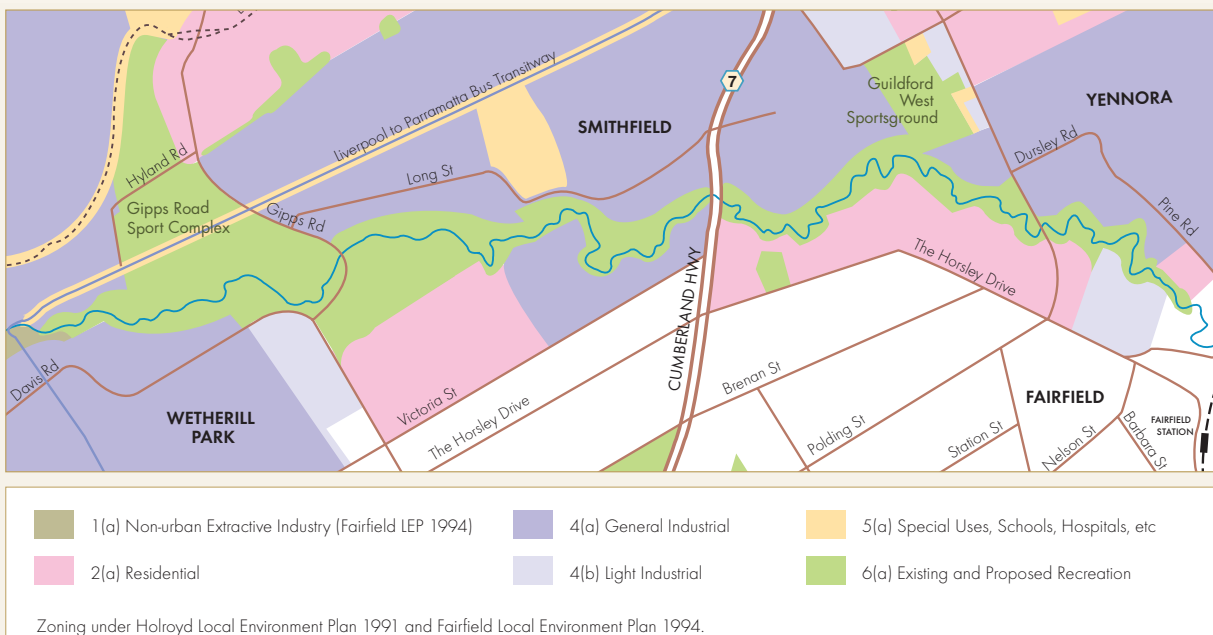
Due to the cultural significance of the Prospect Creek Corridor (see Section 1), this plan of management recommends the further categorisation of this land as an *area of cultural significance* (the core objectives of which are also contained within Appendix B).

The incorporation of these core objectives for the management of the Corridor will ensure that the many values of Prospect Creek are considered in all management decisions. Prospect Creek Corridor will be managed in accordance with the core objectives for *natural area*, *watercourse* and *area of natural significance* categories.

#### 3.5.4 Planning controls and land uses

- The land along the northern side of the Corridor is zoned 6(a) Public Open Space Zone west of Fairfield Road, and 6(b) Proposed Open Space Zone east of Fairfield Road, under the Holroyd Local Environment Plan (LEP) 1991. Refer to **Figure 4** for land zones around the Corridor.
- The land within along the southern side of the Corridor is zoned Zone 6 (a) Existing and Proposed Recreation under the Fairfield Local Environment Plan (LEP) 1994.
- All land within these zones is either currently used or intended for public recreational use (refer to Appendix C for the specific objectives, activities requiring development consent from Council and prohibited activities for each of the zones).
- Beyond the boundaries of the Corridor, most of the adjoining land is zoned for residential or industrial purposes.
- The open spaces and main zones within the local area are indicated in the map below. Recreational open spaces in the regional area are described in Section 3.2.
- Property information describing land ownership along the Prospect Creek Corridor is available on Council's Asset Databases.

**Figure 4: Land zones surrounding the Corridor**





### 3. MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

#### **3.5.5 Services and easements**

Services within the Prospect Creek Corridor include:

- High voltage transmission lines and transmission towers, located along the southern boundary of Gipps Road Sports Complex.
- Sewerage and water supply pipes, associated with the amenities buildings at Long Street Park and Fairfield Road Park. There is also a sewer main along Long Street, and a section of the Sydney Water Supply Pipeline runs along the western boundary.
- Stormwater drainage discharges into Prospect Creek at several locations including Long Street, Cumberland Highway and Gipps Road.
- Telecommunications cables cross the Corridor at various locations generally associated with road bridge crossings.
- A gas pipeline.
- The Eastern Gas Pipeline, extending along the Corridor from Gipps Road to the Cumberland Highway.

#### **3.5.6 Management responsibilities**

As a regional resource, the management challenges Prospect Creek Corridor presents are the responsibility of more than one management body. The key responsibilities of the main groups in the management of Prospect Creek Corridor are defined in the following matrix.

### 3. MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

Management challenges	Holroyd and Fairfield Councils	NSW State Government				Community, land-owners & industry
		DEC*	RTA	DIPNR	Police	
<b>Cultural awareness &amp; promotion</b>						
Indigenous values	Promotion & management			Policies & support		Involvement & support
Non-indigenous values	Promotion & management			Policies & support		Involvement & support
<b>Recreational use &amp; promotion</b>						
Facilities & amenities	Promotion design, provision & management		Policies, design & provision	Policies, design & provision		Involvement & support
Access & linkages					Enforce	Involvement & support
<b>Environmental management</b>						
Water quality & pollution control	Design & monitoring	Regulate		Policies & support	Enforce	Involvement & support
Vegetation & habitat protection & restoration	Design, management & maintenance	Regulate		Policies & support*		Involvement & support
<b>Safety &amp; security</b>	Design & policies	Regulate			Enforce	Involvement & support

\*The new State Government Department of Environment and Conservation now incorporates the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

The main activities involved in fulfilling each of these responsibilities and the integration of these is described under each of the key management areas in Section 4 of this plan.





4.

## MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES





#### 4. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Management strategies for Prospect Creek Corridor have been developed to achieve the desired outcomes described in Section 2. In formulating these strategies, it was important to consider:

- Regional and local context of Prospect Creek Corridor in terms of cultural values, recreational needs, ecological features and planning framework.
- Holroyd and Fairfield City Council management structure and management responsibilities of Government and non-government stakeholders.
- Inputs of the *Prospect Creek Aboriginal History Trial and Plan of Management Working Party*, and inputs from the community who hold a particular connection with the creek.
- Relevant legislative requirements.

The management strategies described in this plan have been developed for a period of up to five years, and should be reviewed at the end of this period to assure their continuing relevance to the ongoing management of the Precinct.

Management strategies have been developed under five **Key Management Areas**.

These key management areas are:

- Cultural awareness and promotion.
- Recreational use and promotion.
- Environmental management.
- Safety & security.
- Coordinated Management.

Some of the desired outcomes relate to several key management areas. The relationship between these and the desired outcomes identified earlier are presented in **Figure 5**. This illustrates where the desired outcomes that were derived from the site values are addressed in the management strategies.

## 4. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

**Figure 5: Key management areas**

	Key Management Areas				
	Cultural awareness & promotion	Recreational use & promotion	Environmental management	Safety and security	Coordinated Management
<b>Desired Outcomes</b>					
<b>Cultural</b>					
Local and regional community awareness and understanding of Prospect Creek and surrounds (including Prospect Hill) as a significant site of Aboriginal cultural heritage is achieved.	✓				✓
The importance of Prospect Creek to the early European settlers in the development of agriculture and industry is acknowledged throughout the local and regional community.	✓				✓
Prospect Creek Corridor grows as a prominent aspect of the identity of the multicultural community.	✓			✓	✓
<b>Ecological</b>					
The regional significance of Prospect Creek's ecological features are recognised through the protection of the link it provides to other significant areas in the greater catchment.			✓		✓
Protection of threatened and rare species and ecological communities, diverse ecological resources and faunal habitat.			✓		✓
The ecological restoration of the creek and Corridor, including the control of invasive weeds and enhancement of Indigenous vegetation.			✓		✓
The control of pollution and dumping in the Corridor.			✓	✓	✓
Maximisation of ecological services provided by the creek and Corridor.			✓		✓
<b>Recreational</b>					
Prospect Creek Corridor is recognised regionally as an excellent recreational and educational resource, providing an important link to similar recreational areas.	✓	✓			✓
The tranquillity and contrast with the surrounding industrial environment is maintained and enhanced.		✓		✓	✓
Visitors leave with a clear understanding of the heritage and environmental values of the Corridor.	✓	✓			✓
Access to areas of the Corridor intended for active and passive recreation is facilitated to encourage visitation to these areas.	✓	✓		✓	✓
The visitor experience caters for people from a variety of cultural backgrounds.	✓	✓			✓
Risks to visitor health and safety are minimised.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



## 4. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

### 4.1 CULTURAL AWARENESS AND PROMOTION

There is a strong sense of community amongst the Indigenous people of Western Sydney. Many of these people feel and understand an important connection with the region recognised as the Traditional lands of the Darug people. However there is a need for greater understanding amongst the wider community, where cultural diversity is vast.

Holroyd and Fairfield City Councils are working together with local and regional Indigenous groups on a range of projects aimed at increasing the awareness of the wider community about both Indigenous and European cultural significance in these areas. Recent projects include:

- “*Holroyd History and the Silent Boundary Project*” (Flynn, 1997), a research report detailing historical events since 1789.
- The creation of the new suburb *Pemulwuy*, the name of the Darug warrior who played an important role in the Aboriginal rebellion at Prospect Hill.
- “*Darug. The people that live between the mountains and the sea*” (2001), an interactive information source (CD-ROM) providing an easily understood history of the Darug culture and struggle in Western Sydney.
- Dedication of exhibition space at Fairfield City Museum and Gallery to Indigenous images and features.

These projects aim to increase Indigenous cultural awareness generally throughout the Holroyd and Fairfield Local Government Areas and greater Western Sydney. For the Prospect Creek Corridor, several projects and events have been initiated by these Councils to specifically address its cultural significance. These are described below.

#### The Warali Wali Project

This project aims to identify, protect and improve the natural and cultural heritage values of Prospect Creek and its environs through the design and installation of interpretive artworks along the Corridor cycleway. Aboriginal artists are sought to interpret local stories provided by Darug Elders (as reported by specialist John Lennis, 2004), and design artworks for permanent display with the permission of these Elders. Artists will work with both Councils staff to create the artworks at appropriate locations along the Corridor, making the stories and their meaning accessible to the whole community.

## 4. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

### **A Cultural and Heritage Analysis of the Darug Walking Path along Prospect Creek**

This study was undertaken by the Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation (March 2003), as part of the Warali Wali Project, to identify significant characteristics along the Prospect Creek Corridor. The study found no Aboriginal artefacts along the path and that any potential archaeological deposits, which would have been common along the creek, have been removed during site disturbance (landscaping works). The study also found that there is considerable weed infestation, however there is a good diversity and abundance of remnant native vegetation, which is of high traditional value. Recommendations for managing the cultural values of the creek line are provided (refer to *Strategy* below).

### **Prospect Creek Open Day**

As part of the Warali Wali Project and the preparation of this Plan of Management, Holroyd and Fairfield Councils held an Open Day during February 2004, a community event promoting the creek Corridor and its cultural significance through traditional dancing, wood carving, painting and talks. Community feedback was sought about the Corridor to assist in the development of management strategies in this Plan.

Promoting awareness about the Indigenous identity of Prospect Creek Corridor is not about exhibiting Indigenous artefacts. It is about sustaining and encouraging the living connection of the Darug community with the water, trees, animals and soil of the Corridor, and the symbols these provide to the people. It is about stimulating the interest and respect of the wider, multicultural community.





## 4. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

### Strategy

The key strategies aimed at promoting greater local and regional cultural awareness about the Indigenous values of Prospect Creek Corridor include:

- Develop a Community Education Program. The program should aim to cater for all age groups and people from a wide range of non-English speaking backgrounds. There are a number of initiatives (see below) that could be undertaken as part of this program.
- Continue to seek community advice on Indigenous cultural management issues associated with Prospect Creek Corridor and other significant spaces by ensuring the continuation of Indigenous – non-Indigenous forums and/or a Working Party.
- Implement the recommendations of the Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation in the *Cultural and Heritage Analysis of the Darug Walking Path along Prospect Creek* (March 2003). This should include the protection and encouragement of remnant native vegetation along the Corridor, and minimising further large-scale landscaping works to protect any remaining artefacts in areas containing remnant vegetation (refer to Section 4.3 for these strategies).
- Provide continued support for the *Warali Wali Project*. This should include the *in situ* protection and maintenance of the artworks once installed, and the development of a schedule of interpretive signage to be produced following this project.
- Ensure regular and ongoing communications between the community, Deerubbin and Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Councils, Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation, Holroyd and Fairfield City Councils and the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources.
- Develop a more integrated approach to cultural projects through improved communications with other councils of Western Sydney. State Government support could be sought to assist in forming an inter-Council group to deal specifically with the coordination and development of cultural projects throughout Western Sydney with the aim of providing a fair and coordinated spread of projects and funding.
- Investigate renaming all or part of the Prospect Creek Corridor according to local Darug names, as was undertaken for the new suburb of *Pemulwuy*.



## 4. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

### INITIATIVES

#### Community Education Program

In developing a greater understanding within the community about the Indigenous heritage of Prospect Creek Corridor and surrounds, it will be important to maintain the momentum and community interest gained through recent projects. This may be achieved through:

#### Open day

Introduce an annual Indigenous community event, similar to the recent Prospect Creek Open Day, into Holroyd and Fairfield Councils calendar of events, at a location along the cycleway. The location should alternate each year between the two local government areas. This event should also be linked with NAIDOC week events, and advertised regionally.

#### Storytelling

Record, with the permission of the Darug Elders, stories in audio and/or visual form. In particular, the story of Pemulwuy Darug Karadji should be told (as recommended in the *Cultural and Heritage Analysis* report). This may form part of a school education program with the assistance of the NSW Department of Education and local schools. Students could be asked to interpret traditional Darug stories (through artwork), which could be displayed at council chambers, schools, museum spaces and other appropriate community locations.

#### Dedicated museum spaces

Dedicate museum spaces and exhibitions describing the unique development process for this Plan of Management, the Warali Wali Project and the involvement of the Working Party, as a benchmark for other similar projects.

### ACTIONS

Code	Action
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|------|--|
| 4.1A | Develop the Community Education Program. Action by identifying appropriate officers from Holroyd and Fairfield Councils. Develop the initiatives for cultural education as per this Plan and as funding permits.   |
| 4.1B | Seek the cooperation and support from the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources and Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC) and other appropriate Government agencies for future interpretive and artistic cultural projects.  |
| 4.1C | Set-up a forum with the Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation to implement actions in the Cultural and Heritage Analysis.   |
| 4.1D | Maintain links with members of the existing Plan of Management and Aboriginal History Trail Working Party through involvement in ongoing Community Education Program, other Indigenous cultural projects and regular meetings.   |
| 4.1E | Hold regular and ongoing meetings of the Prospect Creek Corridor Management Committee and core stakeholders (refer to Section 4.5) to determine the implementation of actions under this section of the plan. This should involve consultation with key cultural management stakeholders (refer to Section 4.5), where relevant. The regularity of meetings should not be less than once every three months, and should involve development of a schedule of cultural projects and events and prioritisation of these. |
| 4.1F | Approach adjoining councils of Blacktown City and Parramatta City to coordinate the timing and management future cultural projects. This may involve regular meetings with these councils where funding and time permits.  |
| 4.1G | Investigate the potential to rename the Corridor in accordance with State Government dual-naming initiatives. Consult the Darug Elders and interested Indigenous community about the potential to rename the Corridor to reflect the cultural and spiritual connection of the people with this creek. This may also involve the development of appropriate signage to communicate this change.   |
| 4.1H | Investigate implications of recent memorandum of understanding (MOU) with traditional landowners to permit access for traditional ceremonies.  |



## 4. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

### 4.2 RECREATIONAL USE AND PROMOTION

Despite the growing need for recreational open spaces in Western Sydney and the nearby developing areas and improvements to regional public transport, current visitation and recreational use of the Prospect Creek Corridor remain low. The key factors influencing this include need for:

- A clearer understanding about the current and future recreational needs of the residents of the local and regional areas.
- Local and regional community awareness about the location and features of the Corridor.
- Way-finding and interpretive signage, including signage promoting the location and features of the Corridor in the regional area.
- Improved safety and access to and within the Corridor.
- Linkages to regional attractions, transport and cycleways.
- Upgraded facilities, including the provision of adequate visitor parking, seating, shade and picnic facilities.

#### Strategy

The following strategies are recommended to increase and appropriately manage visitation to Prospect Creek Corridor, by the regional and local community.

#### Recreational needs

Revise current recreational needs studies for Holroyd and Fairfield local Government areas to assist in the prioritisation of recommended local and regional cycleway linkages.

#### Signage

Develop and produce way-finding and promotional signage, to be located both along the Creek Corridor and at key recreational and transport locations throughout the region.

#### Interpretive signage should be:

- Simple, interesting and informative. This signage needs to clearly express the unique identity of the Prospect Creek and surrounds in terms of Indigenous heritage and ecological value. Ideally, they should be designed and developed in conjunction with the Warali Wali Project or similar follow-on projects, and concepts should be pre-approved by the appropriate Darug Elders.
- Highly visual. Stories implied through artworks are preferable to written stories to enable them to be more accessible to visitors from non-English speaking backgrounds.



## 4. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

- Produced using vandal-proof materials, where possible. Refer to the *initiatives* below for suggestions.
- Located along the Corridor cycleway. Contact details as to where to obtain further information about the Indigenous heritage, cycleways and ecological features of the Corridor, should also be located near to the signage.

### Way-finding signage should be:

- Designed for easy comprehension, such as for primary school age children.
- Designed to include similar themes to those used in the interpretive signage.
- Produced using vandal-proof designs and materials, where possible. Refer to the *Initiatives* below for suggestions.
- Direct visitors away from areas of sensitive cultural and/or ecological value, such as sites undergoing restoration.
- Located at key points throughout the regional area where linkages are existing or proposed. Locations should include Gipps Road Sports Complex and other adjacent sports grounds (and locations of amenities), Western Sydney Regional Park, Lower Prospect Canal, Prospect Reservoir and nearest Transitway stops.
- Located along the Prospect Creek Corridor cycleway and other nearby cycleways. This signage should indicate the position along the cycleway and exit points to local facilities and attractions.
- Incorporated into road signage along key major and minor roads, directing visitors to the Corridor.

### Secure the safety of pedestrians and cyclists and expand local cycleways by:

- Constructing the final section of Prospect Creek Corridor cycleway along the southern side of the creek, from Fairfield High School to Fairfield Station, linking the regional Rail Trail route from Parramatta to Liverpool. An engineering feasibility study will be required to undertake this.
- Constructing a cycleway underpass to connect the cycleway either side of the Cumberland Highway.

- Constructing appropriate flood-proof bridges connecting the southern and northern sides of the Prospect Creek Corridor cycleway. The location of these should be determined following the production of a new floodplain study (see section on stormwater).
- Create a 'Holroyd cycleway loop'. The loop should link Prospect Creek Corridor with the Lower Prospect Canal cycleway via Gipps Road to the west and Rail Trail cycleway to the east. Construct safe access links including an off-road cycleway along Gipps Road and an underpass link to the Bus Transitway Station at the Hyland Road junction Gipps Road.

### Expand regional cycling and walking options by:

- Linking Prospect Creek Corridor at the western end to Western Sydney Regional Park Recreational Route, and subsequently the Park itself, as this is developed.
- Work together with SEPP 59 Land at Pemulwuy developers to secure a link with the regional cycleways to the northwest (Upper Parramatta River Catchment corridors).
- Work together with the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources to link the eastern end of Prospect Creek Corridor cycleway to that of the Great Kai'Mia Way, and hence the south-western cycleway routes. Refer to "Creating the Great Kai'Mia Way: A Catchment Vision" for regional planning guidance.
- Seek cooperation from Bicycle NSW and other cyclist groups to develop a calendar of organised regional recreational cycling events, promoting these events and Prospect Creek Corridor to cyclists throughout the State.
- Promote the Corridor to residents and workers as a sustainable recreation and transport corridor. This may involve advertising campaigns, such as articles at both Councils websites and in Council newsletters.



## 4. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

### School sporting use

Promote the use of the flood detention basins along the Corridor as sports grounds by local schools. This may involve improving access to these areas and providing appropriate facilities, such as amenities blocks, lighting and appropriate security measures. Prior consultation with all relevant Indigenous groups, such as the Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation, will be required to ensure that this use is appropriate.

### Visitor Parking

Investigate the feasibility of providing visitor parking near to the main road access points of Gipps Road, Cumberland Highway and Fairfield Road. Car-parking may be shared with other facilities, or be sought from local businesses where weekend car-park usage is minimal.

### Facilities provision

Provide additional shade trees and seating along the cycleway. Consideration of seating locations needs to include points of interest along the Corridor where interpretive signage and artworks are located. At this stage, the provision of additional lighting, picnic and barbeque facilities is not recommended due to security issues (refer to Section 3.4). This may be reconsidered in the future as visitation increases and vandalism threats to such facilities are reduced.

### Community events

In addition to annual Indigenous cultural events recommended in Section 4.1, a wide range of community events can be held to introduce a cross-section of the community to the Corridor. Events involving family/children's entertainment, music festivals, environmental education and restoration events. Advertising of these events should extend to regional newspapers, Indigenous newspapers, council websites and newsletters and public transport.

## INITIATIVES

### Vandal Proof Way Finding Signage.

The action to improve way-finding and interpretive signage could take advantage of an opportunity to use existing infrastructure within the Prospect Creek Corridor. The extensive bike path system could itself be used to provide multiple outcomes.

The initiative is to use road-marking paint in various but coordinated colours and designs that are:

- Way-finding signs for the Corridor.
- Vandal-proof, due to the resilience of the material.
- Reflective of the cultural context.

The signage would be simpler than traditional interpretive signs, however the image retained by the visitor will be just as strong and long lasting.

## 4. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

### ACTIONS

#### Code Action

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|------|---|
| 4.2A | Commission an updated study of the recreational needs of Holroyd and Fairfield residents.   |
| 4.2B | Actively seek the cooperation and support of the Roads and Traffic Authority to achieve the initiatives described, particularly for road and transport signage.   |
| 4.2C | Identify appropriate locations for way-finding and interpretive signage, and a schedule for installation, starting with key locations and ending with secondary and tertiary locations. Priority signage should be installed as funding permits.  |
| 4.2D | Liaise with National Parks and Wildlife Service about installing signage within the Western Sydney Regional Park providing directions to the Prospect Creek Corridor (as the link is developed).  |
| 4.2E | Commission the design of signage. This should be undertaken in close consultation with the Darug and interested community via a series of regular meetings (refer to cultural actions). Designs could be displayed at Councils and on Council's websites prior to installation, and community feedback sought.  |
| 4.2F | Commission engineering and cost feasibility studies for the construction of cycleway linkages described.  |
| 4.2G | Actively seek the cooperation and support of the Roads and Traffic Authority and the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources to achieve priority linkages.   |
| 4.2H | Determine a schedule of works and priorities for construction of linkages based on commuter and visitor safety, and sections providing the greatest number of useful links to the community. Based on the assessment in this Plan, priority links include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of an underpass on the southern side of the Corridor at the Cumberland Highway.</li> <li>• Completion of the final eastern section the Prospect Creek Corridor cycleway.</li> <li>• Creation of the 'Holroyd Loop', including an underpass/bridge link from Gipps Road to Transitway and underpass/bridge link to roads either end of Lower Prospect Canal (to Rail Trail).</li> </ul> |
| 4.2I | Develop links through the SEPP 59 Land at Pemulwuy with Prospect Creek Corridor and/or Lower Prospect Canal at the eastern end of the development and the Upper Parramatta River Catchment corridors north/west of the development. Seek the support of Blacktown Council.  |
| 4.2J | Attend regular meetings of the Great Kai'Mia Way project team to determine appropriate timing of actions linking the Corridor with this project.  |
| 4.2K | Develop an advertising campaign promoting sustainable transport to schools, businesses and residences in Holroyd and Fairfield. Set up pages on both Council websites, pamphlets for businesses, information days and posters advertising links such as the Prospect Creek Corridor and others throughout the regional area. Discuss the implementation of a sustainable transport promotion package with developers of the SEPP 59 Land at Pemulwuy and other developments.  |
| 4.2L | Investigate opportunities to upgrade amenities in adjoining open spaces and provide directions to these on Corridor signage.  |
| 4.2M | Provide seating and additional shading along the Corridor cycleway in consultation with Darug Elders and interested community, including the <i>Friends of Prospect Creek</i> . Locate these near points of interest such as interpretive signage and artworks and away from sensitive vegetation.  |
| 4.2N | Implement the community education program as per the initiatives described.   |
| 4.2O | Advertise all community event days at Council websites, in local and Indigenous newspapers, and on posters throughout the regional area.  |
| 4.2P | Approach businesses adjoining the Corridor to provide additional resources for Community Events held on weekends.   |
| 4.2Q | Implement agreed actions described in <i>Creating the Great Kai'Mia Way: A Catchment Vision (2003)</i> for fulfillment by Council.  |



## 4. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES



### 4.3 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

#### 4.3.1 Vegetation, habitat and green corridor management

Revegetation and habitat improvement works along the creek Corridor have been ongoing since the preparation of the Prospect Creek Open Space Study (1986), and probably before. Work included primary and secondary weed removal and extensive tree plantings using seedlings grown from seed collected along the creek.

Weed management has largely focussed on the section of the Corridor between Gipps Road and the Cumberland Highway. With this section now presenting more of a maintenance task, further work may be undertaken of the more difficult sections downstream.

Establishing 'green' or vegetated corridor networks throughout Sydney will require considerable cooperation between Government agencies, local Councils, land developers and the community. Community understanding about the significance of the natural environment of the Creek Corridor is still limited, and pest animals still management challenges. Community support for the restoration of the Corridor is integral to the success of these projects.

#### Strategy

The following strategies are recommended to improve vegetation and habitat along Prospect Creek Corridor:

- Continue restoration and protective maintenance of the improved and remnant sections of the vegetation along the upstream sections of Prospect Creek Corridor.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive vegetation and habitat restoration plan for the downstream sections of the Corridor. This plan should incorporate:
  - Recognised revegetation methods.
  - Minimise impacts on local birdlife (such as no weeding during breeding seasons).
  - A plan for consultation and education of the community and a maintenance plan. Continue seed collection from remnant natives in the Corridor and local area for further planting along the Corridor.
  - Areas intended for restoration and ecological services should contain minimal man-made facilities for protection of vegetation and fauna communities.
  - Consideration of potential impacts of revegetation works on the Indigenous cultural values of the Corridor.

## 4. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

- Coordinate ongoing bush regeneration support from the *Friends of Prospect Creek* and *Fairfield Creeks and Wetlands Group*.
- Develop an Environmental Education Program for the Corridor. This should include the provision of interpretive signage in association with signage recommended for the promotion of cultural and recreational values.
- Work together with NPWS to determine the requirements for linking the Corridor with Western Sydney Regional Park in terms of the faunal habitat requirements.
- Work together with developers for the SEPP 59 Land at Pemulwuy and Blacktown Council to secure a green corridor to the northwest (Upper Parramatta River Catchment corridors).
- Work together with the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources to link the eastern end of Prospect Creek Corridor to the corridors of the Great Kai'Mia Way. Refer to "Creating the Great Kai'Mia Way: A Catchment Vision" for regional planning guidance.

### ACTIONS

Code	Action
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|--------|--|
| 4.3.1A | Prepare, with the assistance of the <i>Friends of Prospect Creek</i> , an updated version of the bushland Ecological Restoration Strategy for Prospect Creek Corridor, as per the requirements described in the Strategies in Section 4.3.1. This strategy should focus on the maintenance of the upstream areas and the active restoration of the more degraded downstream areas. |
| 4.3.1B | Support the <i>Friends of Prospect Creek</i> and <i>Fairfield Creeks and Wetlands Group</i> by holding local suburb bush regeneration days and advertising these in local newsletters, local papers and Council websites.  |
| 4.3.1C | Community Education Program – develop the ecological aspect of this in conjunction with the Program for cultural education (Section 4.1). This should involve the <i>Friends of Prospect Creek</i> , particularly in the design of Corridor signage to provide ecological as well as cultural interest in the Corridor amongst the community.                                      |
| 4.3.1D | Meet with National Parks and Wildlife Service to determine faunal habitat requirements to create a viable Corridor for native fauna and incorporate the outcomes into the revised Ecological Restoration Strategy.   |
| 4.3.1E | Approach local businesses for support for bush regeneration along the Corridor, particularly those adjoining the Corridor.   |



## 4. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

### 4.3.2 Catchment management

The key issues in stormwater and catchment management for Prospect Creek were discussed in Section 3.3. In addition, the construction of residential and industrial development at Pemulwuy is likely to impact on the water quality of Prospect Creek. The large scale of the development includes the construction of two large water quality ponds to prevent impacts on both the Prospect Creek and Greystanes Creek Catchments.

#### Strategy

The following strategies are recommended to address the local and regional catchment issues of Prospect Creek Corridor.

- Continue to work together with State and local Government and industry stakeholders to reduce the impacts of Stormwater discharges on Prospect Creek.
- Continue to implement and assist in the development of the Action Plan as part of the Stormwater Management Plan for Prospect Creek, including the commissioning of a new floodplain management study for Prospect Creek.
- Continue to implement structural approaches, including the installation of Gross Pollutant Traps (GPT) and new technologies in stormwater management where appropriate.





## 4. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

- Continue to implement the *Five Creeks Strategic Plan (2001)* under Fairfield City Council's *Healthy City Program*.
- Continue to support the State Governments non-structural approaches to stormwater management including the implementation of Community Stormwater Education and Training Programs and industrial auditing programs.
- Attend spill incidents as they occur, and fulfil roles detailed in the Emergency Spill Response Procedures.

### INITIATIVES

#### **Developer cooperation for a healthier catchment.**

The potential for residential and industrial developments in the Prospect Creek sub-catchment to increase water quality impacts on Prospect Creek are high, both during and after construction (operation).

Developers could be actively approached and required to prepare, as part of the design concepts, a Sustainable Water Cycle Plan for the development, for approval by both Councils. These plans should include high-level

Water Sensitive Urban Design Controls for design and ongoing maintenance of the site, and deal with issues including salinity, maintaining natural flow regimes, stormwater quality and water logging.

Both Councils planning controls and consent conditions should require the implementation of these plans, once approved, by contract. A design review panel within Council could provide approval where this knowledge is available, or sought from an expert externally.

### ACTIONS

#### **Code Action**

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| 4.3.2A | Undertake the actions outlined in the revised Stormwater Management Action Plans as these are released, including the preparation and implementation of a new floodplain management study. |
| 4.3.2B | Develop the schedule of works for structural approaches to stormwater management and implement as required by the Stormwater Management Plan and as funding becomes available.             |
| 4.3.2C | Require the preparation and implementation of a Sustainable Water Cycle Plan for water sensitive urban design features in all major developments, as per the initiatives described.        |
| 4.3.2D | Allocate adequate resources to support Government initiatives for community and business stormwater education and training programs and industry audits, as required.                      |
| 4.3.2E | Actively and promptly manage spill as described in the Emergency Spill Response Procedures.  |
| 4.3.2F | Continue to implement actions from Fairfield City Council's <i>Five Creeks Strategic Plan (2001)</i> and all other flood plain risk management plans as these are adopted.                 |





## 4. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

### 4.4 SAFETY & SECURITY

The key issues relating to safety and security along Prospect Creek Corridor include:

- Vandalism (this is minimal for most of the Corridor, check vandalism at Long Street sportsground also), lack of help points.
- Dumping of cars and other refuse.
- Identified risks associated with secondary contact with the creek.
- Discourage unsafe activities through positioning of facilities, discourage night visitation (except to the Long Street sportsground).

#### Strategy

The following strategies are recommended to improve the safety and security of visitors to Prospect Creek Corridor:

- Encourage community stewardship of the Corridor through interpretive signage, community events days and bush regeneration activities.
- Discourage vehicular access at night by locking all gates to adjacent carpark areas. Bollards may be used at major entry points (the main road crossings) to limit access to cyclists and pedestrians only. Also, limit lighting to adjacent sportsgrounds used for evening sports practices.
- Discourage motor-cycle entry into the Corridor.
- Discourage children and pets entering the creek through signage warnings about the water quality and maintaining dense vegetation.

## ACTIONS

### Code Action

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 4.4A | Organise and implement the Community Education Programs described in this Plan to promote community stewardship of the Corridor.   |
| 4.4B | Regularly inspect and maintain fences, gates and locks along the Corridor. Respond to all reports of failed security equipment and replace as funds become available.  |
| 4.4C | Work with police to coordinate feedback and controls on illegal use of the cycleway.   |
| 4.4D | Implement a "dob-in-a-dumper" campaign to local businesses and residents.  |
| 4.4E | Assess Corridor for areas presenting a risk to children and pets entering the Creek (nearest residential areas and schools) and install warning signage and/or fencing to discourage contact with the water and dumping. |
| 4.4F | Ensure that residents and visitors are made aware when a known spill has occurred to further discourage human contact with the creek.  |

## 4. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

### 4.5 COORDINATED MANAGEMENT

As described in each of the key management areas, coordinated management of the values of the Corridor will be central to achieving the desired outcomes. Coordinated management within each of these areas the ongoing involvement of several core stakeholders and cooperation and consultation with the several key stakeholders will be required.

The formation of a Prospect Creek Corridor Management Committee to determine uses and applications for use by community groups is recommended. The management responsibilities of this Committee and the core stakeholders are provided below.

#### **Prospect Creek Corridor Management Committee – Holroyd and Fairfield City Councils**

**The responsibilities of these Councils within this Committee will include:**

- Recommendations regarding management of Prospect Creek Corridor, including allocation of resources (financial, human and physical) for effective development of the open space.
- Preparation of funding proposals for the development and maintenance of Prospect Creek Corridor.
- Advisory role in the assessment of applications for development of commercial recreation facilities.
- Liaison with authorities that have responsibilities relevant to development and management of the Corridor eg. RTA, and Sydney Water.
- Advisory role in the maintenance of landscape works and recreation facilities in the open space.
- Seeking opinions, expectations and the needs of the community in relation to the Corridor.
- Identifying additional sources of funding to supplement annual budget allocations.
- Advisory role in the coordination of user groups, including any bookings and fee collection.

#### **Darug Elders and interested Indigenous community**

**The responsibilities of this group include:**

- Advising Councils on the matters of local and regional cultural significance.



#### 4. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

- Seeking the opinions, expectations and the needs of the community, in particular, the Indigenous community, in relation to the Corridor, and providing this feedback to the Councils.
- Reporting maintenance requirements and vandalism of items of Indigenous value (such as artworks, remnant vegetation) to the Councils.

##### General community

##### The responsibilities of the general community include:

- Reporting maintenance requirements and vandalism to the Prospect Creek Management Committee.
- Presentation of requests and proposals to the Prospect Creek Management Committee for development or upgrading of facilities in the open spaces.

It is proposed that the above groups will work together in implementing the Plan of Management for Prospect Creek Corridor.

Stakeholder involvement by the following agencies and groups will be necessary in achieving the desired outcomes of the key management areas:

##### Key cultural management stakeholders

- Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee (ATSICC).
- Gandangara Aboriginal Land Council.
- Deerubbin Aboriginal Land Council.
- Department of Education (NSW).

##### Key recreational management stakeholders

- Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources:
  - Georges River Foreshores Improvement Program representatives.
  - Great Kai’Mia Way project representatives.

- Roads and Traffic Authority.

- Community groups, including Bicycle NSW.

##### Key ecological management stakeholders

- Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources:
  - Georges River Foreshores Improvement Program representatives.
  - Great Kai’Mia Way project representatives.
- Sydney Water Corporation.
- Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).
- Community groups, including the *Friends of Prospect Creek*.

## ACTIONS

### Code Action

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 4.5A | Set-up the Prospect Creek Corridor Management Committee and develop individual responsibilities of members via the preparation of a Charter. |
| 4.5B | Manage in accordance with this Plan of Management.   |
| 4.5C | Seek funding to provide a part-time officer to coordinate the implementation of this Plan of Management.                                     |

5.

## ACTIONS AND PRIORITIES



## 5. ACTIONS AND PRIORITIES

### 5.1 PRIORITIES

A prioritised schedule of actions has been developed to assist management through the allocation of financial, human and physical resources required for implementation of this plan of management. Action priority ratings and criteria for these ratings are provided below.

#### H – High Priority

- Safety issues in situations where there is a high probability of injury occurring.
- Works to ensure the essential functions of open spaces are not compromised.
- Works to eliminate and/or reduce severe environmental problems such as erosion or water pollution in line with the requirements current legislation.

#### M – Moderate Priority

- Ongoing preventative and remedial maintenance of existing Corridor assets.
- Works aimed at reducing ongoing maintenance costs.
- Works required to ameliorate adverse environmental conditions, such as inadequate shade, views that require screening, noise intrusion, poor pedestrian access.

#### L – Low Priority

- Works aimed at improving the aesthetic quality of the Corridor.
- Works aimed at enhancing the habitat value of areas associated with the Corridor.

### 5.2 PERFORMANCE AND STATUS

All action items in this plan are assigned performance indicators, enabling Council to measure success in achieving the objectives for each action, and the current status of each action, as per the table below.

Status Code	Status	Description
O	Ongoing	Activities undertaken on an ongoing basis as required and as funds permit.
P	Proposed	Activities proposed in this plan of management; work has not commenced.
Co	Commenced	Activities for which work has already begun
Cp	Complete	Completed activities (as measured by performance indicators) since the previous plan of management review

## 5. ACTIONS AND PRIORITIES

### 5.3 TABLE OF PRIORITISED ACTIONS

#### Cultural awareness and promotion

Code	Action	Priority	Responsibility	Performance Indicator	Status
4.1A	Develop the Community Education Program. Action by identifying appropriate officers from Holroyd and Fairfield Councils. Develop the initiatives for cultural education as per this Plan and as funding permits.	H	PCCMC*	Tasks allocated and initiatives developed and implemented as part of this Program.	O
4.1B	Seek the cooperation and support from the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources, Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC) and other appropriate Government agencies for future interpretive and artistic cultural projects.	M	PCCMC*	Involvement of agencies; support for projects provided.	O
4.1C	Set-up a forum with the Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation to implement actions in the Cultural and Heritage Analysis.	H	PCCMC*	Actions in the Cultural and Heritage Analysis implemented.	P/O
4.1D	Maintain links with members of the existing Plan of Management and Aboriginal History Trail Working Party through involvement in ongoing Community Education Program, other Indigenous cultural projects and regular meetings.	H	PCCMC*	Involvement of existing Working Party members in Program and future projects.	P/O
4.1E	Hold regular and ongoing meetings of the Prospect Creek Corridor Management Committee and core stakeholders (refer to Section 4.5) to determine the implementation of actions under this section of the plan. This should involve consultation with key cultural management stakeholders (refer to Section 4.5), where relevant. The regularity of meetings should not be less than once every three months, and should involve development of a schedule of cultural projects and events and prioritisation of these.	H	PCCMC*	Meetings held, actions implemented and involvement of listed stakeholders. Schedule of projects and events developed.	P/O
4.1F	Approach adjoining Councils of Blacktown City and Parramatta City to coordinate the timing and management future cultural projects. This may involve regular meetings with these councils where funding and time permits.	M	PCCMC*	Involvement of adjoining Councils in future cultural projects.	P/O
4.1G	Investigate the potential to rename the Corridor in accordance with State Government dual-naming initiatives. Consult the Darug Elders and interested Indigenous community about the potential to rename the Corridor to reflect the cultural and spiritual connection of the people with this creek. This may also involve the development of appropriate signage to communicate this change.	M	PCCMC*	Corridor renamed	P
4.1H	Investigate implications of recent memorandum of understanding (MOU) with traditional landowners to permit access for traditional ceremonies.	H	PCCMC*	Access for ceremonies appropriately achieved	P

PCCMC\* is the Prospect Creek Corridor Management Committee, as described in Section 4.5 of this Plan.





## 5. ACTIONS AND PRIORITIES

### Recreation use and promotion

Code	Action	Priority	Responsibility	Performance Indicator	Status
4.2A	Commission an updated study of the recreational needs of Holroyd and Fairfield residents.	H/M	Holroyd and Fairfield Councils	Recreational needs studies undertaken	P
4.2B	Actively seek the cooperation and support of the Roads and Traffic Authority to achieve the initiatives described, particularly for road and transport signage.	H	PCCMC*	RTA involvement and support for signage initiatives	P
4.2C	Identify appropriate locations for way-finding and interpretive signage, and a schedule for installation, starting with key locations and ending with secondary and tertiary locations. Priority signage should be installed as funding permits.	H	PCCMC*	Signage locations identified and agreed with key stakeholders; schedule for installation.	P
4.2D	Liaise with National Parks and Wildlife Service about installing signage within the Western Sydney Regional Park providing directions to the Prospect Creek Corridor (as the link is developed).	H/M	PCCMC*	NPWS consultation undertaken	P
4.2E	Commission the design of signage, to be undertaken in close consultation with Darug and interested community via a series of regular meetings (refer to 4.1 actions). Designs could be displayed at Councils and on Council's websites prior to installation, and community feedback sought.	H	PCCMC*	Signage designed and approved by Darug and community feedback received.	P
4.2F	Commission engineering and cost feasibility studies for the construction of cycleway linkages described.	H	PCCMC*	Engineering and cost feasibility studies undertaken	P
4.2G	Actively seek the cooperation and support of the Roads and Traffic Authority and the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources to achieve priority linkages.		PCCMC*	DIPNR and RTA support for provision of cycleway linkages	P
4.2H	Determine a schedule of works and priorities for construction of linkages based on commuter and visitor safety, and sections providing the greatest number of useful links to the community. Based on the assessment in this Plan, priority links include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction of an underpass on the southern side of the Corridor at the Cumberland Highway.</li> <li>Completion of the final eastern section the Prospect Creek Corridor cycleway.</li> <li>Creation of the 'Holroyd Loop', including an underpass/bridge link from Gipps Road to Transitway and underpass/bridge link to roads either end of Lower Prospect Canal (to Rail Trail).</li> </ul>	H	PCCMC*	Prioritised schedule of construction works for cycleway linkages.	P

PCCMC\* is the Prospect Creek Corridor Management Committee, as described in Section 4.5 of this Plan.

## 5. ACTIONS AND PRIORITIES

Code	Action	Priority	Responsibility	Performance Indicator	Status
4.2I	Develop links through the SEPP 59 Land at Pemulwuy with Prospect Creek Corridor and/or Lower Prospect Canal at the eastern end of the development and the Upper Parramatta River Catchment corridors north/west of the development. Seek the support of Blacktown Council.	H	PCCMC* Holroyd/ Fairfield Councils	Linkages provided. Support from Blacktown Council.	P
4.2J	Attend regular meetings of the Great Kai'Mia Way project team to determine appropriate timing of actions linking the Corridor with this project.	H	PCCMC*	Coordination of PCCMC and Great Kai'Mia Way actions.	P
4.2K	Develop an advertising campaign promoting sustainable transport to schools, businesses and residences in Holroyd and Fairfield. Set up pages on both Council websites, pamphlets for businesses, information days and posters advertising links. Discuss the implementation of a sustainable transport promotion package with developers.	H	PCCMC* Holroyd/ Fairfield Councils	Sustainable transport Campaign developed and implemented.	P
4.2L	Investigate opportunities to upgrade amenities in adjoining open spaces and provide directions to these on Corridor signage.	M	PCCMC*	Amenities upgraded.	P/O
4.2M	Provide seating and additional shading along the Corridor cycleway in consultation with Darug Elders and interested community, including the <i>Friends of Prospect Creek</i> . Locate these near points of interest such as interpretive signage and artworks and away from sensitive vegetation.	H	PCCMC*	Seating and additional shade provided along cycleway.	P/O
4.2N	Implement the Community Education Program initiatives described.	H	PCCMC*	Initiatives implemented.	P/O
4.2O	Advertise all community event days at Council websites, in local and Indigenous newspapers, and on posters throughout the regional area.	H	PCCMC* Holroyd/ Fairfield Councils	Attendance at community events.	P/O
4.2P	Approach businesses adjoining the Corridor to provide additional resources for Community Events held on weekends.	M	PCCMC*	Resources provided.	P/O
4.2Q	Implement agreed actions described in <i>Creating the Great Kai'Mia Way: A Catchment Vision (2003)</i> for fulfillment by Council.	H	PCCMC*	Actions implemented.	P/O

PCCMC\* is the Prospect Creek Corridor Management Committee, as described in Section 4.5 of this Plan.



## 5. ACTIONS AND PRIORITIES

### Environmental management

Code	Action	Priority	Responsibility	Performance Indicator	Status
<b>Vegetation, habitat and green corridor management</b>					
4.3.1A	Prepare an updated version of the bushland Ecological Restoration Strategy for Prospect Creek Corridor, as per the requirements described in the Strategies in Section 4.3.1, with the assistance of the <i>Friends of Prospect Creek</i> . Focus on the maintenance of the upstream areas and the active restoration of degraded downstream areas.	H	PCCMC*	Ecological Restoration Strategy for the Corridor is updated as described.	P
4.3.1B	Support the <i>Friends of Prospect Creek</i> by holding local suburb bush regeneration days and advertising these in, local newsletters, local papers and Council websites.	H	PCCMC*	Support provided.	O
4.3.1C	Community Education Program – develop the ecological aspect of this in conjunction with the program for cultural education (Section 4.1). This should involve the <i>Friends of Prospect Creek</i> , particularly in the design of Corridor signage to provide ecological as well as cultural interest in the Corridor amongst the community.	M	PCCMC*	Coordination of cultural and ecological aspects of the Community Education Program.	P/O
4.3.1D	Meet with National Parks and Wildlife Service to determine faunal habitat requirements to create a viable corridor for native fauna and incorporate the outcomes into the revised Ecological Restoration Strategy.	H/M	PCCMC*	Faunal habitat requirements included in the Ecological Restoration Strategy.	P
4.3.1E	Approach local businesses for support for the bush regeneration of the Corridor, particularly those adjoining the Corridor.	M	PCCMC*	Fauna habitat requirements included in the Ecological Restoration Strategy.	P
<b>Catchment management</b>					
4.3.2A	Undertake the actions outlined in the revised Stormwater Management Action Plans as these are released, including the preparation and implementation of a new floodplain management study.	H	PCCMC*	Stormwater Management Plan actions allocated and implemented.	P/O
4.3.2B	Develop the schedule of works for structural approaches to stormwater management and implement as required by the Stormwater Management Plan and as funding becomes available.	H	PCCMC*	Schedule of works prepared and implemented.	O
4.3.2C	Require the preparation and implementation of a Sustainable Water Cycle Plan for water sensitive urban design features in all major developments, as per initiatives described.	M	PCCMC* Holroyd/ Fairfield Councils	Sustainable Water Cycle Plans prepared and approved by Council.	O
4.3.2D	Allocate adequate resources to support Government initiatives for community and business stormwater education and training programs and industry audits, as required.	H	PCCMC* Holroyd/ Fairfield Councils	Resources allocated.	O
4.3.2E	Actively and promptly manage spill as described in the Emergency Spill Response Procedures.	H	PCCMC*	Spill response is adequate.	O

PCCMC\* is the Prospect Creek Corridor Management Committee, as described in Section 4.5 of this Plan.

## 5. ACTIONS AND PRIORITIES

Code	Action	Priority	Responsibility	Performance Indicator	Status
4.3.2F	Continue to implement actions from Fairfield City Council's Five Creeks Strategic Plan (2001) and all other flood plain risk management plans as these are adopted.	H	PCCMC*	Actions implemented.	○
<b>Safety and security</b>					
4.4A	Organise and implement the Community Education Programs described in this Plan to promote community stewardship of the Corridor.	H	PCCMC* Holroyd/ Fairfield Councils	Vandalism minimised; community stewardship.	○
4.4B	Regularly inspect and maintain fences, gates and locks along the Corridor. Respond to all reports of failed security equipment and replace as funds become available.	H	Holroyd/ Fairfield Councils	Fences and all security measures maintained.	○
4.4C	Work with police to coordinate feedback and controls on illegal use of the cycleway.	M	Holroyd/ Fairfield Councils	Police involvement and illegal use minimised.	○
4.4D	Implement a "dob-in-a-dumper" campaign to local businesses and residents.	H/M	Holroyd/ Fairfield Councils	Campaign implemented.	○
4.4E	Assess Corridor for areas presenting a risk to children and pets entering the Creek (nearest residential areas and schools) and install warning signage and/or fencing to discourage contact with the water and dumping.	H	PCCMC* Holroyd/ Fairfield Councils	Signage and fencing provided where required.	○
4.4F	Ensure that residents and visitors are made aware when a known spill has occurred to further discourage human contact with the creek.	H	Holroyd/ Fairfield Councils	Newsletters, website and other advertising.	○
<b>Coordinated management</b>					
4.5A	Set-up the Prospect Creek Corridor Management Committee and develop individual responsibilities of members via the preparation of a Charter.	H	Holroyd/ Fairfield Councils	PCCMC and charter set-up.	P
4.5B	Manage in accordance with this Plan of Management.	H	PCCMC*	Progress of actions.	○
4.5C	Seek funding to provide a part-time officer to coordinate the implementation of this Plan of Management.	H	Holroyd/ Fairfield Councils	Resource funded.	P

PCCMC\* is the Prospect Creek Corridor Management Committee, as described in Section 4.5 of this Plan.



6.

## REFERENCES







## 6. REFERENCES

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- Industrial Auditing Program "Improving the Prospects of Our Creek"  
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- Stormwater Trust NSW: [www.epa.nsw.gov.au/stormwater/usp/default.htm](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/stormwater/usp/default.htm)

Fairfield City Council: [www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au/)

Georges River Foreshores Improvement Program:  
[www.planning.nsw.gov.au/improvpr.htm](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/improvpr.htm)

The Great Kai'Mia Way: [www.kaimiaway.org.au/home.htm](http://www.kaimiaway.org.au/home.htm)

Holroyd City Council: [www.holroyd.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.holroyd.nsw.gov.au/)

Roads and Traffic Authority:

- Bicycle routes: [www.rta.nsw.gov.au/trafficinformation/bicycles/index.html](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/trafficinformation/bicycles/index.html)
- Parramatta to Liverpool Rail-Trail:  
[www.rta.nsw.gov.au/trafficinformation/bicycles/bicyclemaps/railtrailparramattatoliverpoolcreekway.html](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/trafficinformation/bicycles/bicyclemaps/railtrailparramattatoliverpoolcreekway.html)





# APPENDIX A

## HOW THIS PLAN WAS DEVELOPED

## APPENDIX A: HOW THIS PLAN WAS DEVELOPED

This Plan of Management for the Prospect Creek Corridor was developed via a unique process, involving the formation of the Prospect Creek Aboriginal History Trail and Plan of Management Working Party (The Working Party). Managed through the coordinated efforts of Holroyd and Fairfield City Councils, The Working Party was engaged to advise Councils on issues pertaining to both the Aboriginal History Trail (Warali Wali) Project and the development of the Plan of Management for the Corridor. In particular, advice was provided on issues of Aboriginal cultural significance.

The Working Party included individuals representing the following organisations:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee (ATSICC).
- NAIDOC Working Party.
- Darug Elders representing their people.
- Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council.
- Mount Annan Botanical Gardens.
- Community Cultural Development (CCD) NSW.

Communications were also undertaken with the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council in the form of letters and minutes of regular Working Party meetings.

The Working Party also included representatives from:

- Holroyd City Council.
- Fairfield City Council.
- Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (Georges River Foreshores Improvement Program).

Many of strategies and initiatives described in this Plan of Management were developed over a period of approximately eighteen months through the dedicated and enthusiastic involvement of The Working Party members.





# APPENDIX B

## DETAILED MANAGEMENT CONTEXT





## B Appendix

### DETAILED MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

#### 3.1 Indigenous Cultural Context

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Prospect Creek Corridor is part of the land of the Darug Language Group, one of the major indigenous language groups of Western Sydney. The Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation describes Prospect Creek as being *sacred* to the Darug people who lived there, and that the spiritual connection between the indigenous community and the creek remains today. Prospect Creek is the site of many indigenous traditions and stories, and is valued for its links with Prospect Hill and importance during the Darug rebellion (refer to section 1).

Archaeological studies undertaken in the past have identified indigenous artefacts located along Prospect Creek Corridor, including grinding stone fragments and flake materials, the details of which can be found in *Prospect Creek Open Space Study* (EBC Consultants, 1986). However today, little or no items remain *in situ* due to extensive site disturbance. The indigenous identity of Prospect Creek Corridor is not about the presence of indigenous artefacts; it is about the living connection of the Darug community with the water, trees, animals and soil, and the symbols these provide to the people.

This connection and the cultural significance of Prospect Creek Corridor is also acknowledged by the Aboriginal Land Councils of Deerubin and Gandangara, through which areas Prospect Creek extends from west to east. These Councils, the Corporation and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee (ATSIAC) currently play crucial roles in advising Holroyd and Fairfield City Councils on the management and promotion of the Corridor's indigenous cultural values.

The management of indigenous cultural values in Western Sydney is increasingly promoted through collaborative works and projects. Local and regional indigenous groups and artists, State and local governments are working together to undertake a variety of projects promoting indigenous cultural awareness throughout the local government areas. Sculptures and interpretive features along the Riverside walk and throughout Parramatta, and ongoing interactive exhibitions at the Blacktown Arts Centre are just some of the many projects contributing to increasing regional awareness of indigenous culture.

Similarly, Holroyd and Fairfield City Councils acknowledge the excellent opportunity that Prospect Creek Corridor offers in advancing community awareness and understanding, and are currently involved in a wide range of ongoing projects aimed at achieving this (refer to section 4.1).

## 3.2 Recreational Context

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### ***Current recreational usage***

Prospect Creek Corridor offers over eight kilometres of recreational open space. Community use of the space is mostly for unstructured and passive recreational activity, such as walking, cycling, picnics and general relaxation. There are also numerous areas along the corridor suitable for informal team sports such as soccer, cricket and other ball games. Formal active recreational spaces also exist in the open spaces and sportsgrounds adjoining the Corridor, including Gipps Road Sports Complex, Guildford West Sports Ground, Rosford Street Reserve, Ace Reserve and Smithfield Park. Long Street Park sportsground is managed as part of the Corridor management.

The Corridor is also suitable for use by groups undertaking environmental observation and restoration activities such as bird watching and bush regeneration. The site is used by local schools and colleges for water quality sampling and other field work.

The main visitors to Prospect Creek Corridor include:

- Residents of the local suburbs of Smithfield and Fairfield, and to a lesser extent, Merrylands West, Woodpark and Guildford West.
- Employees from industries near and adjacent to the Corridor, commuting and enjoying breaks.
- Bush regeneration groups, such as the *Friends of Prospect Creek* and the *Creeks and Wetlands Group*.
- Local sporting groups and students from Fairfield High School.

Information collected at the Prospect Creek Open Day (refer to section 3.1) indicated that visitation rates are low. Surveys of attendees indicated that many attendees had never visited the site prior to the Open Day. Indeed, many regional and even local attendees indicated that they were not previously aware of its existence.

### ***Growing regional recreational demand***

Recreational demands on public open space facilities are growing in Western Sydney, primarily as the result of two key influences:

- Population growth through 'infill' residential developments in the regional areas.
- Increased public access to facilities through improved linkages and public transport facilities.

### ***Residential development***

Prospect Creek Corridor is central to several residential developments, the most prominent being the SEPP 59 land at Pemulwuy, located on the former Boral sites and CSIRO to the northwest of the Corridor. The site will provide approximately 2,250 additional dwellings, and will be built over the next 5 years. This is expected to produce increased pressures on recreational open spaces like Prospect Creek Corridor.

### ***Improved public transport and linkages***

Implementation of the NSW government and Councils cycleway linkages and public transport facilities, such as the Transitway, are also expected to introduce a greater number of visitors to the area, requiring high quality, well maintained recreational facilities in open spaces such as Prospect Creek Corridor and the adjoining sportsgrounds. The Transitway now links the Corridor (albeit not directly at this stage) with twenty schools, twenty-five sporting facilities and three Technical and Further Education (TAFE) facilities, as well as shopping centres and hospitals.

The management of Prospect Creek Corridor will require cooperation between residential developers and Council to ensure that the right balance of landuses and facilities is achieved, and that the recreational needs of the community are adequately served.

### ***Facilities and amenities***

Facilities and amenities along Prospect Creek are limited; the most prominent being the cycleway (refer to section 3.2.4).

- Amenities. Three toilet blocks are located within the adjacent sportsgrounds along the corridor, the most accessible of these to the walking path and cycleway is located at Long Street Park. Disabled access toilet facilities are not provided within the Corridor, the nearest facilities being located within the Australian Rules Clubhouse located at Gipps Road Sports Complex.
- There is currently very little signage along the Corridor. This currently consists of one sign located at the Gipps Road entrance to the Corridor.
- Shade. Shade is minimal along the corridor, and is provided by just a few larger trees.
- Seating and picnic/ barbeque facilities. There is little seating and no along the picnic/ barbeque facilities along the Corridor.
- Children's' playgrounds. There are no children's' playgrounds along the Corridor.

Facilities and amenities need to be appropriate for the needs of visitors, and provide adequate attraction to the Corridor.

## ***Access and linkages***

### ***A local view***

#### ***General access and parking***

Vehicular access to the western end of the site is via Gipps Road from the north, and Hassall St from the south. Along the Corridor, access may also be gained where roads either cross or adjoin the open space at the Cumberland Highway, Fairfield Road, Long Street and via several small residential roads on the southern side of the Corridor. There is no vehicular access within the Corridor.

Pedestrian access varies greatly along the Corridor length. Access may generally be gained via the major and small residential roads (on the southern side), adjoining open spaces and sportsgrounds and informal walkways between residences and businesses (this is considerably more limited on the northern side where industrial businesses and land uses are larger). However, east of Fairfield Road, access is poor as the Corridor narrows and steepens considerably on both sides, particularly on the northern side.

There are no dedicated parking areas along the Corridor. Parking is on-street at points where roads adjoin the Corridor. Some parking is available at the adjoining sportsgrounds such as Gipps Road Sports Complex, although these areas are primarily intended for use by visitors to these facilities. Parking and hence vehicular access is considered to be a problem for Prospect Creek Corridor, and likely contributing to the greater problem of low visitation, particularly for visitors from beyond the immediately adjoining residential areas.

#### ***Cycleway and walking path***

Stretching nearly the entire eight-kilometre length of Prospect Creek Corridor, the cycleway and walking path provides immediate off-road cycling and walking access to:

- Sportsgrounds and open spaces of Gipps Road Sports Complex, Long Street Park, Guildford West Sports Ground, Ace Reserve, Fairfield Road Park and Rosford Street Reserve.
- Workplaces located along the Corridor including Smithfield Energy Facility, Sewerage Water Treatment Works, and numerous small business and industries.
- Fairfield High School and the residential areas of Smithfield and Fairfield.
- Bush regeneration and maintenance sites along the Creek.

Bicycle and pedestrian road crossings (underpasses) are currently provided at two locations along the Corridor:

- At Gipps Road, along the southern edge of the Gipps Road Sports Complex.
- At the Cumberland Highway, beneath Kenyons Bridge on the northern side of the Prospect Creek.

The cycleway has been developed as per the recommendations of two main documents:

- Holroyd Cycle Route Study (Ove Arup Transportation Planning, 1986).
- Holroyd Landscape Master Plan (EDAW, 1997).

Holroyd Cycle Route Study recommended the development of a staged cycleway implementation plan throughout the Holroyd local government area, based on major traffic constraints and opportunities and estimates of usage primarily by school-age children. The Study recommended construction of a cycleway along the Prospect Creek Corridor to link with the residential areas of Merrylands West and Guildford via the Cumberland Highway and Fairfield Road, and these links are now complete. The intention was to extend the cycleway as far as Fairfield Train Station, however it currently terminates behind Fairfield High School, approximately 600 metres from this destination.

Holroyd Landscape Master Plan echoes the recommendations of the above study, incorporating the existing and proposed sections of the cycleway into the design. The Master Plan also recommended, as one of its Open Space Corridor objectives, to “develop a system of pathways and cycleways to maximise the potential for recreation and regular public access along the open space corridor.” The Landscape Master Plan recommendations regarding planting along this cycleway are described in section 3.3.

The cycleway extends along the Fairfield local government area side of the Creek Corridor as detailed in the “Fairfield City Council *Cycleways*” map (Fairfield City Council website, 2003). This section of the cycleway mirrors that of the cycleway on the northern side of the creek, from the Cumberland Highway to Fairfield High School. Again, the intention to extend cycle access to Fairfield Train Station is indicated on the map below.

### ***A regional view***

The need to link recreational facilities in Western Sydney is widely acknowledged. Prospect Creek Corridor is recognised by both State and local governments as an important future link in the regional cycleway chain. The cycleway is identified as a regional route in plans such as the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) Draft NSW Bicycle Network (current) and in Holroyd and Fairfield Councils cycleway plans.

Key facilities and destinations in the vicinity of Prospect Creek Corridor include:

- Gipps Road Sports Complex (a regional sporting facility) and Hyland Park Road facilities, including a Rifle Range, Youth Centre and Jack Ferguson Recreation Park.

- Prospect Reservoir recreational areas and picnic facilities.
- The Liverpool–Parramatta Rapid Bus Transitway. This recently opened facility provides an efficient public transport service linking metropolitan areas and locations of interest along its length.
- Western Sydney Regional Park. Managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NSW Department of Environment), this park incorporates Horsley Park, the Olympic Equestrian Centre and Fairfield City Farm, and also features well-designed picnic and children’s play areas and walking tracks. A regional cycleway route is currently under construction to link this Park with Wetherill Park and Prospect Reservoir west of Prospect Creek Corridor.
- Major regional cycleways:
  - Lower Prospect Canal Corridor. Linking to the Blue Mountains via Prospect Reservoir, this 7.7 kilometre cycleway features interpretive signage about the local natural features and history of the Sydney Water Canal and links to as many as seven schools and multiple open spaces and sports grounds (Environmental Partnership, 1999).
  - *Rail Trail* - Parramatta to Liverpool Cycleway. A regional cycleway stretching along the railway line, this cycleway connects the two passenger train stations. This route lies at the eastern end of Prospect Creek Corridor.
  - The Great Kai’Mia Way. A proposed regional loop connecting over two hundred kilometres of sustainable walking tracks and cycleways linking Botany Bay, the Woronora Valley large parts of southern and western Sydney and the Illawarra Escarpment.

Of the attractions listed above, Prospect Creek Corridor cycleway currently links directly with Gipps Road Sports Complex and Hyland Road facilities only. All other attractions in the list must be accessed by driving, walking or cycling along neighbouring roads; there are no dedicated or shared access to these facilities and links. Opportunities to link Prospect Creek Corridor with these and other regional attractions and cycleway routes are further addressed in section 4.2.



### 3.3 Ecological context

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#### **3.3.1 Flora and fauna**

Prospect Creek Corridor contains a wide variety of vegetation types and faunal habitats, including remnant and modified (landscaped) vegetation communities, constructed and natural wetlands, grassed open spaces and flood detention basins.

There have been two key flora and fauna studies undertaken within the Prospect Creek Corridor. The Prospect Creek Open Space Study (EBC Consultants, 1986), undertaken for Holroyd and Fairfield City Councils, involved a wide range of studies, including a detailed flora and fauna assessment and a unit-based method for managing the species and ecological values of the creek. This study contains a comprehensive species list.

Also containing a comprehensive species list is the Urban Bushland Biodiversity Study (NPWS 1997), which reported the following key findings for flora within the Prospect Creek Corridor:

- There were 125 native and 96 introduced terrestrial and aquatic flora species present.
- The section of corridor between Widemere Road and the Cumberland Highway is the most species rich and weed free, supporting about 85 of the native species found, and subsequently the most ecologically valuable.
- Flora along the creek is “a mostly dense and continuous corridor of River-flat forest”.
- The Corridor supports five regionally significant remnant vegetation communities, including Swamp Oak River-flat Forest, Red Gum - Cabbage Gum River-flat Forest, Shale-Gravel Transition Forest, Riparian Complex and Freshwater Reed Swamps.
- Five flora species found were listed as regionally significant, and twenty-nine were considered regionally vulnerable and inadequately conserved. However, no species recorded were listed as threatened or endangered at the state or national levels.

In terms of fauna and faunal habitat, the studies reported:

- There is a diversity of habitats for bird species, particularly in the constructed wetland areas south of the Cumberland Highway crossing, where as many as 27 bird species and the locally uncommon Swamp Moorhen and Night Heron have been observed. Many birds also rely on the highly weed-infested areas in this section for habitat.
- Only introduced mammal species were observed, however it is expected that arboreal natives such as gliders and possums are probably present.
- The corridor provides natural and modified habitats for several species of reptiles and frogs, fish and invertebrates, and an excellent educational resource.

Weed management has been successful along the Corridor through the implementation of an Ecological Restoration Strategy (EDAW). However, a considerable amount of work still remains to be done in order to reverse the effects of years of weed invasion, particularly in the lower sections of the Corridor.

### **3.3.2 'Green' corridors**

Like many linear open spaces across Sydney, Prospect Creek is a green corridor surrounded almost completely by residential and industrial development.

Green corridors are recognised as integral to sustaining the natural environment, in particular, the protection of flora and the movements of fauna species, within urban and rural areas. They furthermore provide a host of necessary ecosystem services and outcomes, including water cycling and purification (when associated with creeks), air filtration, nutrient cycling, vegetation regeneration, and many others.

The Urban Bushland Biodiversity Study (NPWS, 1997) and the Sydney-wide vegetation management plan Green web – Sydney (SROC, 2000) have previously identified corridors such as the Prospect Creek Corridor, as necessary to achieving outcomes.

More recently, the Green Corridors Management Strategy for the Upper Parramatta River Catchment (OCULUS Environmental Planning, 1998) and Great Kia'Mia Way Feasibility Study (2003) have identified the following Creek Corridors for ecological conservation and recreation:

- To the north within the Upper Parramatta River Catchment (north of Prospect Creek Corridor) including Blacktown, Grantham, Greystanes, Coopers, Finlaysons, Pendle Hill, Toongabbie, Quarry Branch, Darling Mills, Hunts Creeks and the Upper Parramatta River.
- To the south, within the Georges River Catchment, creeks within the upper, middle and lower reaches of the catchment, as part of the Great Kia'Mia Way.
- To the west, with Prospect Reservoir and Eastern, South and Kemps Creeks.

As mentioned in section 3.2 of this Plan, opportunities also exist to link the green corridor of Prospect Creek with that of the Lower Prospect Canal. The management of green corridors such as Prospect Creek throughout Sydney will require coordinated management for ecological conservation and recreational.

### **3.3.3 Drainage and water quality**

Prospect Creek forms the head-waters and a sub-catchment of the Georges River Catchment, which drains 960 square kilometres of land in southern Sydney, home to approximately 800,000 people. Drainage is generally to the south at the regional level.

Prospect Creek is prone to flooding. The Upper Prospect Creek Floodplain Management Study (1993), commissioned by Fairfield City Council, estimated that approximately 288

properties and 49 buildings would be affected by a 1 in a hundred year flood event. Consequently, a series of flood mitigation works have been constructed to minimise flooding of adjoining residences and businesses. These include:

- A levee bank at Gipps Road (southern edge).
- A flood Diversion Channel at Long Street Park.
- A retention pond near the Cumberland Highway.
- Ecological restoration works including constructed wetlands and the removal of woody weeds to improve flows.

As part of the Stormwater Management Plan Revised *Draft Action Plan* (2003), floodplain issues and management methods will be revised.

Water quality within Prospect Creek was described in the Prospect Creek Open Space Study (EBC Consultants, 1986) as “typical of most modern creeks and drains with indications of organic pollution, with moderately high levels of phosphorous and high turbidities in wet weather”.

Algal blooms, grease slicks and elevated faecal coliform levels have frequently characterised the creek in recent years. Industrial discharges into the system via stormwater have been observed on a number of occasions, and are thought to be the main source of creek pollution. Since 2000, numerous pollution incidents have occurred, and in February 2002 a major pesticide spill devastated aquatic life in the creek.

In response to these growing water quality problems, the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) requested the development of a Stormwater Management Plan for Prospect Creek in 1998. The Councils of Bankstown City, Fairfield City, Holroyd City and Liverpool City jointly prepared the plan in consultation with key stakeholders including Sydney Water Corporation, Roads and Traffic Authority, Georges River Catchment Management Committee and catchment residents. The key features of this plan were:

- Structural approaches, including the installation of:
  - A litter boom at Long Street Pond (to collect visual pollutants from the Smithfield and Cumberland Highway industrial areas).
  - Gross Pollutant Traps (GPT) at Long Street (a boom and silt trap) concurrent with revegetation works funded by the Georges River Foreshores Improvement Program, and another at Gipps Road. Another GPT is expected to be installed at Long Street in the 2004-2005 financial year.
- Non-structural approaches, including the implementation of:
  - A Community Stormwater Education and Training Program “Our Dream for a Cleaner Stream”, in conjunction with Fairfield City Council and funded by the

Stormwater Trust (a NSW State Government Initiative). The program was designed to assist non-English speaking residents, industry, builders and operational staff to understand the impacts of water pollution in the catchment.

- An industrial auditing program “Improving the Prospects of Our Creek”. Sydney Water and the EPA work together with local Councils to enforce new legislation under the Protection of the Environment Operation Act (1997), issuing on-the-spot fines for water pollution offences to identified high-risk businesses inspected in the catchment. Training and information packages were distributed as part of this initiative to help promote improved environmental practices in industry.
- Spill containment. Councils attend these incidents as they occur, and fulfil roles detailed in the Emergency Spill Response Procedures.

A review of the Stormwater Management *Action Plan* is currently being prepared, and the Draft was released in 2003 for implementation over the next three years. Key features of the Revised *Draft Action Plan* include:

- Incorporation of the aims of the Regional Catchment Blueprint for Southern Sydney – Georges River and Botany Bay.
- Short-term actions for implementation throughout the catchment, beyond the Prospect Creek Corridor. Those specifically relating to Prospect Creek include:
  - Undertaking a revised flood study for Prospect (and Cabramatta) Creek.
  - Implementation of the Aboriginal Heritage Trail Project (refer to section 4.1).
  - Implementation of the Industry Awareness and Auditing Programs (above).

The aims of the plan will be included in the management of Prospect Creek as part of this Plan of Management (refer to section 4.3).

### 3.4 Safety and security

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User safety and security within the Prospect Creek Corridor is greatest nearer to the main roads and open spaces and sportsgrounds adjacent to the Corridor, where there are more people present.

Vandalism and illegal dumping of cars and wastes are a major problem in public open spaces like the Corridor. Fencing of the Corridor has decreased illegal vehicular access to the Corridor. The illegal discharge of waste substances from local industries into the stormwater systems of Prospect Creek are addressed in section 3.3 and 4.3 of this Plan.

Safe access to the cycleway is discussed in sections 3.2 and 4.2 of this Plan.

### 3.5 Management and Planning Context

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A number of land use, planning and management controls apply to the Corridor. A description of each is provided below.

#### **3.5.1 Georges River Foreshores Improvement Program**

Under the Georges River Foreshores Improvement Program, the NSW Government is committed to the development of a Plan of Management for Prospect Creek Corridor as a valuable natural resource. Prospect Creek is a key contributor to the Georges River, and its management will impact on the entire catchment area.

The program aims to achieve a sustainable and high quality environment in the Georges River Catchment by implementing the principles of ecologically sustainable development and best practice. The specific aims of this program are described in Appendix C.

#### **3.5.2 Holroyd and Fairfield City Councils**

The physical setting of Prospect Creek Corridor provides a natural link between Holroyd and Fairfield City Councils. These councils consider the values, goals and management of natural open spaces such as Prospect Creek in several key policy documents.

These key documents include:

<b>Holroyd City Council</b>	<b>Fairfield City Council</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ City Management Plan 2002/2006.</li> <li>▪ Environmental Management Plan 2000 to 2004.</li> <li>▪ Holroyd Open Space Strategy (1998).</li> <li>▪ Holroyd Landscape Master Plan (1997).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ City Management Plan 2002/2006.</li> </ul>

A description of relevant elements of these documents is contained within Appendix C.

##### **3.5.2.1 State of Environment Report 2001-2002**

Holroyd City Council's environmental objectives are described in the *State of Environment Report 2001-2002*. These include:

- Ensuring that the city's parks and properties are efficiently managed and enhanced;
- Developing strategies to match the city's housing, industry, commercial and recreational needs;
- Promoting awareness at all levels of the environmental issues and of resident's concerns on air, noise, water, land and crime issues affecting this city; and

- Ensuring clean, safe and healthy local facilities in order to promote public health and amenity.

The *State of Environment Report* also describes Holroyd Council's commitment to environmental initiatives. For Prospect Creek, particular emphasis is placed on the areas of water quality, describing community activities relating to stormwater management, biodiversity, and many other issues.

### **3.5.3 Core Management Objectives For Community Land**

Under the *Local Government Act 1993* (as amended), Prospect Creek Corridor is classified as *community land*. Under *this Act*, the corridor is currently categorised as a *natural area* and *watercourse*. *The Act* provides core objectives for the management of land under this category. These are contained within Appendix C.

Due to the cultural significance of the Prospect Creek corridor (see section 1), this plan of management recommends the further categorisation of this land as an *area of cultural significance* (the core objectives of which are also contained within Appendix C).

The incorporation of these core objectives for the management of the corridor will ensure that the many values of Prospect Creek are considered in all management decisions. Prospect Creek corridor will be managed in accordance with the core objectives for *natural area*, *watercourse* and *area of natural significance* categories.

### **3.5.4 Planning controls and land uses**

The land within the Prospect Creek Corridor is subject to planning controls defined under the Holroyd Local Environment Plan (LEP) 1991 and the Fairfield Local Environment Plan (LEP) 1994. Under these planning instruments:

- The land along the northern side of the Corridor is zoned 6(a) Public Open Space Zone west of Fairfield Road, and 6(b) Proposed Open Space Zone east of Fairfield Road, under the Holroyd Local Environment Plan (LEP) 1991.
- The land within along the southern side of the Corridor is zoned Zone 6 (a) Existing and Proposed Recreation under the Fairfield Local Environment Plan (LEP) 1994.

All land within these zones is either currently used or intended for public recreational use (refer to Appendix C for the specific objectives, activities requiring development consent from Council and prohibited activities for each of the zones). These plans require the management of all land within the Prospect Creek Open Space Corridor for this purpose.

Beyond the boundaries of the Corridor, most of the adjoining land is zoned for residential or industrial purposes. Some important exceptions to this are the open spaces that either connect or are in close proximity to the Corridor. These include:

- Gipps Road Sports Complex, Guildford West Sports Ground and Fairfield Road Park on the northern side of Prospect Creek.

- Rosford Street Reserve, Smithfield Park and Ace Reserve on the southern side of Prospect Creek.

These open spaces and the main land zones within the local area are indicated in the map below. Recreational open spaces in the regional area are described in section 3.2.

### 3.5.5 Management responsibilities

Prospect Creek Corridor is a regional resource, and as such, the management challenges it presents are the responsibility of more than one management body. The key responsibilities of the main groups in the management of Prospect Creek Corridor are defined in the following matrix.

Management challenges	Holroyd and Fairfield Councils	NSW State Government				Community, land-owners & Industry
		EPA	RTA	DIPNR	Police	
<b>Cultural awareness &amp; promotion</b>						
Indigenous values	Promotion & management			Policies & support		Involvement & support
Non-indigenous values	Promotion & management			Policies & support		Involvement & support
<b>Recreational use &amp; promotion</b>						
Facilities & amenities	Promotion design, provision & management		Policies, design & provision			Involvement & Support
Access & linkages					Enforce	Involvement & support
<b>Environmental management</b>						
Water quality & pollution control	Design & monitoring	Regulate		Policies & support	Enforce	Involvement & support
Vegetation & habitat protection & restoration	Design, management & maintenance			Policies & support*		Involvement & support
<b>Safety &amp; security</b>	Design & policies	Regulate			Enforce	Involvement & support

\* NPWS also have a role in legislation and policy in terms of threatened and endangered ecological communities located within the corridor, such as remnant Cumberland Plain Woodland vegetation.

The main activities involved in fulfilling each of these responsibilities and the integration of these is described under each of the key management areas in Section 4 of this plan.

In addition to the values described in this section, the basis for the management of Prospect Creek Corridor includes the Georges River Foreshores Improvement Program, Council's management framework and the core management objectives under the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended).







# APPENDIX C

## DETAILED PLANNING FRAMEWORK

## APPENDIX C: AERIAL MAP



## C Appendix

### DETAILED PLANNING FRAMEWORK

#### Georges River Improvement Program

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The Georges River Foreshores Improvement Program is a regional planning initiative undertaken by the NSW Government. Specifically, the program aims to:

- Protect and rehabilitate the foreshore.
- Provide a wider range of recreational opportunities.
- Promote cooperation and partnerships between local councils, the community and government agencies.

#### Holroyd City Council Visions and Objectives

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##### ***City Management Plan 2002/2006***

Holroyd Council's *City Management Plan 2002/2006* sets out Council's goals, objectives and performance indicators. Elements of the document that are relevant to this plan of management are shown in Table A. These elements illustrate Holroyd City Council's dedication to the management of community land values and provide guidance for the management of the corridor.

##### ***Environmental Management Plan 2000 to 2004***

Holroyd City Council's *Environmental Management Plan 2000 to 2004* draws together both ongoing and proposed environmental initiatives and sets desired outcomes, priorities and performance measures, allocating accountabilities and providing for a progress report for these initiatives. Responding to environmental pressures to ensure the long-term achievement of ESD compliance is the focus of the document.

The *Environmental Management Plan* lists the completion and implementation of a Plan of Management for Prospect Creek as one of it's desired outcomes for this period.

Table A: Relevant elements of Holroyd City Council's *City Management Plan 2002/2006*

Plan section	Element
Introduction to the Plan	"Council's emphasis on quality lifestyles by careful development of the built and natural environment is working to develop a positive sense of community".
Council's Mission	To "satisfy the reasonable needs of our community and efficiently and effectively manage the community assets".
Council's Charter	To "provide ... adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities for the community and to ensure that those services and facilities are managed efficiently and effectively".
Council's Charter	To "properly manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment of the area for which it is responsible".
Management Values	Management values include quality customer service, best practice, technical excellence, sound financial management, continuous improvement & innovation, environmental stewardship.

### ***Holroyd Open Space Strategy***

Holroyd City Council's Open Space Strategy (Manidis Roberts, 1998) provides key strategies for the management of Council's open space resources. It is primarily focussed on the park improvement, public facilities and amenities, and improving the overall quality of life for the people of Holroyd.

The key strategies provide a guide for this plan of management, in particular strategies to:

- Improve the quality of open space and recreation facilities, particularly for people living in high-density residential areas;
- Improve equity in access to Council's open spaces and parks by the local community by improved signage and information; and
- Provide informal, unstructured recreation facilities for and with young people in areas where they are most needed.

Prospect Creek Open Space has a *regional* visitor catchment, as it serves the needs of visitors from more than one local government area. Long Street Park has a *district* visitor catchment, serving visitors mostly from the Holroyd local government area. The strategy recommends the appropriate management of these parks for these visitation catchments.

### ***Holroyd Landscape Master Plan***

Holroyd City Council's Landscape Master Plan (EDAW, 1997) defines the vision for Holroyd City, incorporating major entry points, major corridors, street tree planting, railway station planting, residential development zones and public works. This vision is "to create a city in which the landscape reflect strong community pride in the urban environment and genuine concern for the sustainability of the natural environment".



The Landscape Master Plan also defines objectives and guiding principles for the City. It identifies the significance of Prospect Creek Corridor in terms of both the connection it provides between Prospect Reservoir and the Georges River Corridor, and the remnant Cumberland Plain Woodland species located along the Corridor. Prospect Creek Corridor has been landscaped in accordance with this Master Plan, and the objectives and guidelines remain relevant to this Plan of Management.

## Fairfield City Council Visions and Objectives

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### **City Management Plan 2002/2006**

Fairfield City Council's Management Plan 2001-2005 sets out the strategic directions for Fairfield City, and identifies how Council's operations will achieve it's vision. Elements of the document that are relevant to this plan of management are shown in Table B.

Table B: Relevant elements of Fairfield City Council's *Management Plan 2001-2005*

Plan section	Element
Council's Vision	Fairfield City Council's vision is for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "a clean and green Fairfield with restored waterways and a wide range of open spaces and recreation areas connected into a regional open space, recreational and water system";</li> <li>• "a city which promotes understanding of cultural diversity and where services are delivered to meet the needs of the community on an equitable basis";</li> <li>• "an accessible city, one which connects people, places and activities and has a wide choice of safe, affordable and convenient transport options".</li> </ul>
Key Strategic Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council recognises it has "an increasingly important role to play in the conservation, protection, management and enhancement of our natural environment, the open spaces and waterways".</li> <li>• Council acknowledges that "creating a sustainable future requires the integration of environmental management with social and economic considerations".</li> </ul>
Strategic Outputs	<p><i>Recreational Use of Open Spaces:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council aims to develop "these resources to benefit residents and the environment".</li> </ul> <p><i>Recreational and Sporting Activities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council aims to "provide facilities, resources and activities to meet the community's diverse recreational needs".</li> </ul>
Healthy City Program	Council implements it's aims under this program in the areas of waste management, environmental management, community health and safety and security

These elements illustrate Fairfield City Council's dedication to the management of community land values and provide guidance for the management of Prospect Creek corridor.

## Core Objectives For Community Land

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The core objectives for the management of land categorised as a *natural area* are:

- To conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised as a natural area.
- To maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting.
- To provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land.
- 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.
- 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*.

The core objectives for the management of land categorised as a *watercourse* are:

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

Long St Park, also covered by this plan of management, is categorised as a *sportsground*, and primarily used for active recreation, involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games (*Local Government (General) Regulation 1999*).

The core objectives for the management of land categorised as a *sportsground* are:

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



The core objectives for land categorised as an *area of cultural significance* are:

(1) The core objectives for management of community land categorised as an area of cultural significance are to retain and enhance the cultural significance of the area (namely its Aboriginal, aesthetic, archaeological, historical, technical or research or social significance) for past, present or future generations by the active use of conservation methods.

(2) Those conservation methods may include any or all of the following methods:

(a) The continuous protective care and maintenance of the physical material of the land or of the context and setting of the area of cultural significance.

(b) The restoration of the land, that is, the returning of the existing physical material of the land to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

(c) The reconstruction of the land, that is, the returning of the land as nearly as possible to a known earlier state.

(d) The adaptive reuse of the land, that is, the enhancement or reinforcement of the cultural significance of the land by the introduction of sympathetic alterations or additions to allow compatible uses (that is, uses that involve no changes to the cultural significance of the physical material of the area, or uses that involve changes that are substantially reversible or changes that require a minimum impact),

(e) The preservation of the land, that is, the maintenance of the physical material of the land in its existing state and the retardation of deterioration of the land.

(3) A reference in subsection (2) to land includes a reference to any buildings erected on the land.

## Zoning and Planning Controls

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### ***Holroyd Local Environment Plan (LEP) 1991***

Under the Holroyd Local Environment Plan (LEP) 1991, Holroyd City Council's objectives for areas zoned 6(a) Open Space are:

- To identify land that is currently used or is intended for the purposes of Open Space or public recreation.
- To allocate sufficient Open Space to serve the present and future recreational needs of residents and visitors.
- To enable development associated with, ancillary to or supportive of public recreational use.

Within the areas zoned 6(a) Open Space the following activities can be undertaken without development consent:

- Landscaping.
- Gardening.
- Bushfire hazard reduction.

The following uses of land and activities are not permitted within areas zoned 6(a) Open Space without development consent:

- Construction of advertising structures.
- Buildings for the purposes of landscaping.
- Drill grounds.
- Public baths.
- Racecourses.
- Showgrounds, sportsgrounds and tourist facilities.
- Uses or buildings associated with those purposes which are under the care, control and management of the council.
- Caravan parks.
- Child care centres and children's playgrounds.
- Forestry.
- Public reserves.
- Recreation areas and facilities.
- Utility installations.

Activities and land uses other than those listed are prohibited in areas zoned 6(a) Open Space. Council may construct roads, stormwater drainage, recreation areas, public amenities, parking areas and cycleways in this zoning without obtaining its own consent.

Under the Holroyd Local Environment Plan (LEP) 1991, Holroyd City Council's objectives for areas zoned 6(b) Proposed Open Space are:

- To reserve land which will be dedicated to the council or acquired by the council for open space or public recreational purposes, and
- To prevent the development of the land within this zone for purposes that may jeopardise its future use as open space, and
- To enable development associated with, ancillary to or supportive of public recreational use.

Within the areas zoned 6(b) Proposed Open Space the following activities can be undertaken without development consent:

- Works for the purposes of landscaping, gardens or bushfire hazard reduction.

The following uses of land and activities are not permitted within areas zoned 6(a) Open Space without development consent:

- Advertising structures.
- Agriculture
- Building works.
- Buildings for the purposes of landscaping.
- Drill grounds.
- Public baths.
- Racecourses.
- Showgrounds and tourist facilities.
- Uses or buildings associated with those purposes which are under the care, control and management of the council.
- Change of building use.
- Caravan parks.
- Forestry.
- Child care centres and children's playgrounds.
- Public reserves.
- Recreation areas and facilities.
- Utility installations.

Activities and land uses other than those listed are prohibited in areas zoned 6(a) Open Space.

#### ***Fairfield Local Environment Plan (LEP) 1994***

Under the Fairfield Local Environment Plan (LEP) 1994, Fairfield City Council's objectives for areas zoned 6(a) Existing and Proposed Recreation are:

- To provide public open space to meet the existing and future recreation and leisure needs of residents,
- To provide opportunities to enhance the environmental quality of the City of Fairfield, and
- To identify land that is required for future open space purposes.

Within this zone, the following activities can be undertaken without development consent:

- Open space, roads, works for the purposes of landscaping, gardening or bushfire hazard reduction.

Within this zone, the following activities can only be undertaken with development consent:

- Agriculture, car parks, child care centres, clubs, communication facilities, community facilities, drainage, entertainment facilities, helicopter landing sites, recreation facilities, utility installations.
- Activities and land uses other than those listed above are prohibited in areas zoned 6(a) Existing and Proposed Recreation.