Table of Contents

			Page	
1.0	INTR	RODUCTION		2
	1.1	What is Community Land		2
	1.2	What is a Plan of Management		2
	1.3	What is a Recovery Plan		3
	1.4	What is Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest		4
	1.5	What is the Purpose of this Plan of Management		4
	1.6	Land covered by this Plan of Management		4
	1.7	Land Ownership		4
	1.8	What is the Land Category		5
	1.9	Authorised Activities and Use of the Land		6
	1.10	Condition of the Land and Built Form		8
2.0	MAN	AGEMENT STRATEGIES		10
	2.1	Objectives		10
	Table	2 – Management Strategies		13

PART 1-APPENDIX 1 - LAND INVENTORY

- Locality Maps (including relevant Title Deeds and Government Gazettes).

PART 2-APPENDIX 2

- A List of Community Land with Playground and Play Equipment.
- Photographs of Open Space and Recreational Venues.
 (The Photographs are contained under separate cover)

PART 2-APPENDIX 3

- Auburn City Council Policy for Leasing or Hire of Council's Sporting and Recreational Facilities.
- Extracts from the Local Government Act, 1993.



1.0 INTRODUCTION.

This is a Plan of Management for Community Land categorised as Natural Area/Bushland located within the Auburn Golf Course.

1.1 What is "Community" land?

All land owned by or under the control of Council (known as Public Land) is classified as either "Community" Land or "Operational" Land. This is a requirement of the Local Government Act 1993. Under the Local Government Act, 1993, a road or land to which the Crown Lands Act, 1989 applies, is not public land.

The essential difference between the two classifications is that Community Land is subject to restrictions as to how Council may lease or sell the land. Operational Land is not subject to such restrictions. Community Land is primarily made up of Council's open space areas.

Chapter 6 of the Local Government Act, 1993 regulates Community Land. Community Land is required to be used and managed in accordance with a Plan of Management applying to that land.

1.2 What is a Plan of Management?

The Local Government Act, 1993 requires Councils to prepare Plans of Management, in consultation with the community, for all Community Land. Plans of Management are essential tools which identify the important features of the land, clarifies how Council intends to manage the land and identifies how the land may be used or developed.

Council has prepared a number of Plans of Management to cater for its Community Land. These include Plans of Management for Parks (small parks and playgrounds and larger parks), Sportsgrounds, and General Community Use areas. These Plans of Management are known as generic plans, because they each refer to a type of Community land serving a specific function.

In addition, a geographic Plan of Management has been prepared for the Duck River Foreshore. This plan covers areas relating to a common geographic feature, Duck River.

The Local Government Act, 1993 also requires Councils to prepare Plans of Management for any land comprising the habitat of threatened species. The Plan of Management is to be prepared if the land is affected by a Recovery Plan or a Threat Abatement Plan which requires measures/actions specified in the Plan to be undertaken by Council on or in respect of the land.



A draft Recovery Plan is being prepared by the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service for Endangered Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest Community and Endangered *Wahlenbergia multicaulis* (Tadgell's Bluebell) population.

Endangered Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest Community is identified in the draft Recovery Plan to exist in Auburn Golf Course and Peter Hislop Park. The draft Recovery Plan also identifies actions to be undertaken by Council. The Endangered Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest Community is listed as an endangered ecological community on Schedule 1 Part 4 of the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995.

A site specific Plan of Management has also been prepared for Auburn Botanic Gardens because contains vulnerable/threatened species/population/community and requires unique strategies to manage this regional facility.

This Plan of Management applies to land within the Auburn Golf Course identified as the habitat of the Endangered Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest Community shown on map 1.

1.3 What is a Recovery Plan?

The Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995 is New South Wales's legislative framework to protect and encourage the recovery of threatened species, populations and communities. The Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995 requires the Director - General of National Parks and Wildlife to prepare recovery plans for species, populations and ecological communities listed as endangered or vulnerable on the Threatened Species Conservation Act schedules.

Further, under the Local Government Act, 1993, land is directly affected by a recovery plan only if the plan concerned requires measures specified in the plan to be undertaken by Council on or in respect of the land.

A draft Recovery Plan is being prepared by National Parks and Wildlife Service which identifies Endangered Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest Community population within the Auburn Golf Course. The draft Recovery Plan specifies actions to be implemented by Auburn City Council. Plans of Management has also been prepared for the part of Peter Hislop Park which is the habitat of threatened species and the Auburn Botanic Gardens.

The Threatened Species Act, 1995 requires government agencies not to undertake actions inconsistent with a recovery plan.

Auburn City Council is supportive of the draft Recovery Plan (although a draft document) and has included all relevant objectives and actions specified in the draft Plan in this Plan of Management.



Auburn City Council will also continue to consult with the National Parks and Wildlife Service to manage threatening processes so as to abate, ameliorate or eliminate adverse effects and support and promote the recovery of the endangered species, population, community to a position of viability in nature.

1.4 What is Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest?

Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest is an ecological community dominated by paper barks such as *Melaleuca nodosa* and *M. Decora*. Dominant tree species include *Eucalyptus fibrosa* (Broad leaved Iron bark), *E. punctata* (Grey Gum), *E. longifolia* (Woolybutt) and *Syncarpia glomulifera* (Turpentine). It has the structural form of open forest to low woodland, generally with a characteristic shrubby or scrubby understorey. Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest Community is not restricted to Cooks River catchment despite its name as remnants are also found in the Georges River and Parramatta River catchments.

1.5 What is the Purpose of this Plan of Management?

The purpose of this plan is to provide a management structure for the portion of the Auburn Golf Course comprising the habitat of Endangered Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest Community. This structure reflects the objectives and actions identified in the draft Recovery Plan to manage the Endangered Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest Community.

It also reflects the needs and views of the users of this area, as well as those of Council's staff who are responsible for managing these areas. This Plan of Management also provides a framework to develop a balanced response to future pressures.

1.6 Land Covered by this Plan of Management.

This Plan of Management applies only to the part of the Auburn Golf Course declared as the habitat of Threatened Species – the Endangered Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest being on part of Lot B DP 65888 and part of Lot 1 DP 43759.

The affected area is shown hatched on map 1.

1.7 Land Ownership.

Part of Lot B DP 65888 and part of Lot 1 DP 43759, the area identified as containing the Endangered Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest Community is owned by Auburn City Council.



1.8 What is the Land Category?

The Local Government Act 1993 requires Community Land to be categorised as one or more of the following:

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

The Local Government Act, 1993 requires that Community Land that is categorised as a natural area is to be further categorised as one or more of the following:

- (a) bushland;
- (b) wetland;
- (c) escarpment;
- (d) watercourse;
- (e) foreshore;
- (f) a category prescribed by the regulations to the Act.

The Local Government Act 1993, a Plan of Management for an area of Community Land, all or part of which is directly affected by a recovery plan or threat abatement plan must categorise the land or relevant part as a "Natural Area".

Consequently, the area shown hatched on map 1 classified "Community" is declared as consisting the habitat of Endangered Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest and is categorised as a "Natural Area". This area is further categorised as "Bushland" under this Plan of Management.



1.9 Authorised Activities and Use of the Land.

In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1993, the following are authorised by this Plan of Management:

a) Leases, subleases and licences or granting of estates.

The Local Government Act, 1993 requires any leases and licenses or the granting of estates of Community Land to be authorised by a Plan of Management.

This Plan of Management expressly authorise Council to enter into a lease or licence with any person or organisation or entity for the use or occupation of part of or the whole of the subject lands affected by this Plan of Management. The lease or licence or estate may be granted for any purpose which is consistent or ancillary to the objectives of this Plan of Management and in compliance with Chapter 6 of the Local Government Act, 1993. (See Appendix 3 for extracts from the Local Government Act, 1993).

Leases or licences or the granting of estate must be granted in accordance with the Local Government Act, 1993 as amended, as prescribed in the Local Government Regulations and in accordance with any leasing, licensing and or hire policy or plan adopted by Auburn City Council.

Community Land cannot be leased or licensed or any estate granted over the land for more than twenty one (21) years. Leases and licenses for more than five (5) years are allowed after community consultation.

b) Use or hire of the land with the consent of Council.

Council may grant consent to use or hire of the site in accordance with the objectives of this Plan of Management, the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 as amended, as prescribed in the Local Government General Regulations and in accordance with any leasing, licensing and or hire policy or plan adopted by Auburn City Council.

Use of the site should also be consistent with the provisions of any environmental planning instrument, deemed environmental planning instrument or development control plan adopted by Auburn City Council and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 as amended.

c) Development of Community Land with the consent of Council.

The Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995 amendments to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, requires that consent and determining authorities consider relevant recovery plans when assessing



applications under Parts 4 & 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979. Consent and determining authorities when considering any development or activity which may affect Cooks River Clay Plan Scrub Forest (or threatened species/population/community) must consider the conservation strategy outlined in a Recovery Plan.

Development of Community Land and construction of buildings, structures and facilities are to be consistent with the objectives of this Plan of Management and the provisions of any environmental planning instrument, deemed environmental planning instrument or development control plan adopted by Auburn City Council. Development of Community Land should also be consistent with the requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 as amended.

Section 47E of Chapter 6 of the Local Government Act, 1993, as amended, makes provisions relating to development of community land. (See Appendix 3 for extracts from the Local Government Act, 1993).

Council will consider the preparation of a Plan of Management to address development proposals that have the potential to significantly affect the environment and or cause interference to the existing and future amenity of adjoining occupations, surrounding areas and or the neighbourhood in general.

d) Use of Land for drainage purposes.

Provision of drainage easements in favour of upstream properties, subject to the following conditions:

- the easement is situated to the park's boundaries;
- appropriate compensation is sought for the easement burdening the park;
- the drainage easement shall not interfere with the use of the park;
- the stormwater pipe within the easement shall have a 1 in 100 year capacity;
- the stormwater pipe within the easement shall be constructed to Council's standards and specifications;
- all costs associated with the creation of the drainage easement shall be borne by the applicant; and
- the drainage easement shall be granted at the discretion of Council.
- e) Construction and or dedication as public road in accordance with the objectives of this Plan of Management and with Council consent.

The Local Government Act, 1993 requires that Community Land may not be dedicated as a public road under the Roads Act, 1993 unless:



- i) the road is necessary to facilitate enjoyment of the area of Community Land on which the road is to be constructed or any facility on that land, and
- ii) Council has considered means of access other than public road access to facilitate that enjoyment, and
- iii) there is a Plan of Management applying to the land concerned and provision of a public road is expressly authorised by the Plan of Management.

The following are exempt from the above provision:

- i) dedication of land for the purpose of widening an existing public road, or
- ii) dedication of land for the purpose of other road works of minor character authorised by the Plan of Management applying to the land, in respect of existing roads or roads, or
- iii) dedication of land for the purpose of a road that is subject to an order under Division 1 of Part 5 of the Roads Act, 1993.
- f) Fees and Charges.

Fees and charges shall be in accordance with the fees and charges specified in Council's annual Management Plan. Net proceeds should be used towards the general purpose and management of the bushland.

g) Any activity which is consistent with the objectives of this Plan of management, the Local Government Act, 1993, Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, deemed environmental planning instrument, environmental planning instrument and development control plan or policy adopted by Auburn City Council.

1.10 Other requirements of the Local Government Act, 1993.

• Condition of the land and any buildings or other improvements:

The land is in reasonable condition although it requires implementation of recovery actions to ensure viability of the Bushland.

There are no buildings located on that portion of land identified to contain Endangered Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest Community. The buildings on the Auburn Golf Course include the clubhouse, professionals shop, toilets/amenities and



barbecue shelters, maintenance sheds and amenities. These are in reasonable condition and are located away from the Bushland.

• Use of the land:

The Natural Area/Bushland is part of the Auburn Golf Course which is generally used as a sportsground.

• Purpose for which the land and any such buildings or improvements will be permitted to be used:

The land may be used for any activity as specified in section 1.9 of this Plan of Management.

• Scale and intensity of any such permitted use or development:

The Auburn Golf Course is used moderately intensely throughout the year.



2.0 MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES.

2.1 Objectives.

This Plan of Management establishes general management objectives and issues which will be used as a guide for future management of Council's Community Land categorised as Natural Area/Bushland.

The core objectives for a "Natural Area" are:

- (a) To conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land as a habitat of endangered community.
- (b) To maintain the land or habitat in its natural state and setting.
- (c) To provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land.
- (d) To provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion.

The core objectives for "Bushland" are:

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



The objectives to manage the Threatened species are:

- a) 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.
- b) To reverse the degrading processes and trends of loss and fragmentation of Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest Community so as to achieve no loss and eventual increase in extent and integrity.
- c) To develop awareness of the broader community in relation to Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest Community and increase involvement in their conservation.
- d) To understand the ecological functioning of Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest Community
- e) To enhance and enlarge areas, to increase the extent of the Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest Community.

The means by which Council proposes to achieve the objectives and performance targets and the manner of assessing its performance in respect to the objectives and performance targets, are detailed in Table 2 of this Plan of Management.

A list of issues to manage the bushland and Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest Community including the relevant issues identified in the Endangered Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest & W. maulticaulis draft Recovery Plan are also listed in Table 2.

The issues identified in the draft Endangered Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest Community & Endangered W. maulticaulis population Recovery Plan include:

- Level of understanding. For example, the ecosystem function and the relative importance of the ecological processes are not well understood. There is no baseline from which to determine the characteristic structural or floristic components.
- Threatening processes:
 - habitat loss (For example, through clearing and fragmentation. Fragmentation increases the abundance of defoliating insects, genetically isolate populations of species which may result in the loss of genetic diversity and fitness and reduces seed set by reducing abundance of pollinating agents).



- habitat degradation (For example, through weed invasion, seed collection, unsuitable fire management regimes, dumping of rubbish and other material, mechanical damage, recreational use, effects from adjacent land use, inappropriate bush regeneration practices and lack of awareness).

Regular review of the management strategies should be undertaken to ensure their relevance and consistency with the recovery of Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest Community through any recovery plans or threat abatement plans, changing community expectations and budgetary constraints.

Implementation of on ground works will assist in slowing down habitat degradation and lead to the enhancement of the Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest Community. It is important that National Parks and Wildlife Service be consulted on relevant matters relating to conservation and management of the ecological community.



Management Issue	Objectives & Performance Target	Means of Achievement	Manner of Assessment	Responsibility
Conservation and Management. Research. Loss of habitat and habitat degradation.	 To support the conservation and management of species and recovery actions specified in a Recovery Plan or a Threat Abatement Plan under the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995. To increase, enhance and enlarge the extent of the Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest Community. To conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land and habitat of the Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest Community. 	 Develop best management practice guidelines for ecological restoration in consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service and other relevant public authorities. To undertake a maintenance program to conserve and maintain the bushland. Develop a register of seed collection. Threatening processes and issues identified and extinguished. Consultations with National Parks and Wildlife Service. 	Retention and enhancement of the natural area. Research program to investigate unknown aspects of the ecology of the community Implemented. Register of seed collection and fauna survey.	Department of Service Planning. Department of Service Delivery.



Management Issue	Objectives & Performance Target	Means of Achievement	Manner of Assessment	Responsibility
Conservation and Management.	 To understand the ecological functioning of Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest community. To understand fauna species and interactions. Investigate the genetic range of at least the key species within the community to ensure that genetic diversity is not impacted (example by provenance of any replanted material). 	 Undertake fauna surveys and studies. Maintain and improve the habitat for fauna. Restore degraded bushland. Investigate the genetic range of at least the key species within the community. 	 Number of species in the Natural Area. Number of recovery actions in a Recovery Plan and or Threat Abatement Plan implemented. Success of rehabilitation and monitoring regimes. Identify and analyse the likely natural disturbance regime. 	Department of Service Planning. Department of Service Delivery.



Management Issue	Objectives & Performance Target	Means of Achievement	Manner of Assessment	Responsibility
Level of current Understanding. Community Education, Awareness and Involvement.	To develop the awareness of broader community in relation to Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest community and increase involvement in their conservation. To achieve high levels of community and user awareness and participation in the management of the Natural Area/Bushland.	 Encourage and support community and groups (eg Bushcare) involvement in a variety of programs. Encouragement of schools in research projects and revegetation programs. Educational programs including pamphlet and letter drops highlighting the significance of the Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest community. Carry out regular maintenance program to conserve and maintain the ecosystem. Identify and record species. Utilise any educational materials prepared by National Parks and Wildlife Service which is relevant to Cooks River clay Plain Scrub Forest community. 	Increased numbers of participants in regeneration programs. Involvement of community and stakeholders in conservation programs is increased.	Department of Service Planning. Department of Service Delivery. Consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service.



Management Issue	Objectives & Performance Target	Means of Achievement	Manner of Assessment	Responsibility
Vegetation Management. Weeds.	 To ensure growth of appropriate and suitable species. To control weed invasion. To regenerate areas of remnant Bushland. 	 Planting regimes to enhance indigenous planting and reduce further weed growth. Ensure exotic species are appropriately located and will not impact of Threatened species/community. Regular maintenance and weed removal. 	 Presence of weeds. Increase number of revegetation programs. Number and quality of vegetation/Bushland. 	 Department of Service Planning. Department of Service Delivery.



Management Issue	Objectives & Performance Target	Means of Achievement	Manner of Assessment	Responsibility
Pedestrian Access.	 To ensure safe and accessible pedestrian access on defined tracks, paths, accessways etc. To manage and control cycle/skate access where appropriate. 	 Adequate design, construction and maintenance. Use of appropriate signage. 	 Reported incidents of unauthorised use. Number of comments about suitability of access. 	 Department of Service Planning. Department of Service Delivery.
Access for People with Disabilities.	Provide access for people with disabilities to and within parks where appropriate and practical.	High quality and appropriate design of pavements, facilities, structures and parking to comply with relevant Australian Standards.	Number of comments on ease of use and access.	 Department of Service Planning. Department of Service Delivery.
Bike / Cycle Tracks	 To allow integration and linking of cycle paths, particularly along Duck River to Parramatta River. To ensure appropriate location of cycle/skate tracks. 	 Integrate cycle planning and design of development of parks where appropriate. Provide safe and functional cycle tracks. 	 Comments about community satisfaction and level of use. Minimal/no injuries. 	 Department of Service Planning. Department of Service Delivery.



Management Issue	Objectives & Performance Targets	Means of Achievement	Manner of Assessment	Responsibility
Use- (For example-	 To provide opportunities for appropriate access and use. To regulate and manage entry into bushland and pedestrian areas where appropriate. Allow licensing, leasing and or hiring in accordance with the objectives of this Plan of Management and as approved by Council. To allow for the management of Bushland usage times, special events and user groups. 	 Appropriate leasing and licencing agreement(s). Use of Regulatory signage and appropriate control measures. Council approval for vendor-ice-cream carts. 	 Comments about motor bike use. Number of Police and Council Law Enforcement Officer investigations. Number of comments about vendors in public places. Number of (new) licences granted per year. Breaches of Council approval. Number of unauthorised special events and group activities. 	 Department of Service Planning. Department of Corporate Services. Department of Service Delivery.



Management Issue	Objectives & Performance Targets	Means of Achievement	Manner of Assessment	Responsibility
General Hiring.	To provide for informal hire. To allow special events within Parks, which is consistent with the overall objectives and which have minimal adverse environmental impact.	Council approval. Assessment of requests for hire on a case by case basis.	 Availability for hire. Number of comments about special events. Number of events and attendance. 	Department of Service Planning. Department of Corporate Services.



Management Issue	Objectives & Performance Targets	Means of Achievement	Manner of Assessment	Responsibility
Waste Management.	 To provide bins for users. To prohibit rubbish dumping and littering. To encourage and promote recycling. 	 Regulatory signage at suitable locations. Community education. Provide garbage and recycling bins for glass, aluminium, and plastics. 	 Number of incidents of illegal dumping. Cost of clean-up and litter collection per year. 	 Department of Service Planning. Department of Service Delivery.
Funding.	To ensure adequate funding for necessary maintenance and enhancement of Natural Area/Bushland.	 Conditions of Bushland assessed as part of Council's annual budgeting process. Budget to be allocated to achieve the aims and actions of the Plan of Management. 	Adequate funds available.	• Council.
Alcohol Possession and Consumption.	To regulate / prohibit the consumption/possession of alcohol, except within appropriate premises and other leased concession areas.	 Regulatory signage. Investigation of Council's Law Enforcement Officers and Police. 	Number of comments and investigations.	 Department of Service Planning. Department of Service Delivery.



Management Issue	Objectives & Performance Targets	Means of Achievement	Manner of Assessment	Responsibility
• Regulatory Breaches.	To control breaches of	Regulatory signage.	Number of breaches	Department of Service
	prohibited or inappropriate activity within the Bushland.	Council's Law Enforcement	reported. • Number of successful	Planning. • Department of Service
		Officers/Police investigations.	investigations and prosecutions.	Planning.
		Prosecution of offenders where appropriate.		

