

Reserve 218 Tregear Reserve Draft Plan of Management

Prepared for



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1 Introduction

1.1 *Background*

The Tregear Reserve Master Plan and Draft Plan of Management (draft PoM) was commissioned by Blacktown City Council in early June 2007 and was undertaken by a consultancy team led by Landscape Architectural consultants Environmental Partnership over June 2007 – December 2007. The team included the following specialist inputs:

- Environmental Planning **Eco Logical Australia**
- Aboriginal Heritage **Kelleher Nightingale Consulting**
- Landscape Architecture **Turf Design Studio**

The plan generally seeks to provide a basis for effective and sustainable use of Tregear Reserve for long term and sustainable community benefit. Specifically the plan aims to maintain and enhance passive and active recreational opportunities in the reserve, whilst also improving habitat and cultural values.

The plan will provide a framework which will guide the ongoing management, enhancement and maintenance of this important open space and community asset in accordance with the Community Land Management requirements of the NSW Local Government Act 1993.

1.2 Lands to which this plan applies

Tregear Reserve is bounded by the Ropes Creek corridor to the east, Forrester Road to the north, and Debrincat Avenue to the south and comprises an area of 48.08ha. The western edge of the reserve combines open street frontage and residential housing backing onto the reserve. Street frontages along this edge occur at Ellsworth Drive, and Wilkes Crescent. The main vehicular and pedestrian entrance is located off Wilkes Crescent.

Blacktown Council LGA has a wide range of open space and recreation facilities ranging from small playgrounds and neighbourhood parks to large state sporting facilities such as Blacktown Olympic Park. The LGA also supports a variety of community facilities including libraries, neighbourhood and community centres, halls, and the Blacktown Arts Centre.

Within immediate proximity to Tregear Reserve is Whalan Reserve to the south, which although dissected by Debrincat Avenue potentially forms a consolidated open space adjoining the creek corridor. The Ropes Crossing development also adjoins the creekline open space to the north and will ultimately incorporate a number of facilities and open spaces with a strong relationship to the Ropes Creek corridor. A number of smaller parks with a variety of small scale recreation opportunities are also located in relative proximity to the reserve.

Refer Figure 1.2 Site Location

1.3 Study process

The local community has been involved in preparation of the draft PoM through a community consultation process, which has included identification of community site issues and opportunities. Residents from the local area were notified by a community questionnaire that explained that Council was undertaking the draft PoM and posed a series of questions in regards to use of the reserve, and what aspects of the reserves residents like or don't like currently.

A community information session was also held on Saturday the 28th of July 2007, at Tregear Shopping Centre. A series of display panels were available for viewing illustrating site analysis and potential future directions for the reserve. The community was invited to review the display and fill out a brief comments sheet as well as speaking with members of the study team or Council staff.

A full listing of the community questionnaire and information session responses are outlined in Appendix 9.5. These findings have been summarised in section 4.2 and 4.3. A copy of the community information brochure is also included in Appendix 9.4.

Council also identified a key group of relevant reserve users that were contacted over the course of the preparation of the Master Plan and draft PoM. These users were contacted by telephone to discuss current reserve issues and potential improvements that would enhance their use of the reserve in the future. A full summary of the persons contacted and discussions are included at Appendix 9.6.

In accordance with the Local Government Act the draft PoM will be exhibited for 28 days with a further 14 days for receipt of comments. Comments will be reviewed and analysed and where necessary, and amendments made to the plan.

1.4 Report structure

The draft PoM is presented in Blacktown Council's standard format. The table below outlines the document structure.

Section	Contents
1 Introduction	Background information
2 Planning context	Description of state and local government planning requirements
3 Description of the site	Legal, cultural, historic and physical description of the site
4 Basis for management	Community and government values, aims and issues
5 Concept Master Plan	Outlines master planning principles for the reserve, options explored through out the planning process and description of the preferred long term Master Plan
6 Management strategies and action plan	Description of strategies and prioritised improvements
7 Implementation and review	Outlines the process for review and monitoring of plan of management and its recommendations including a works action plan for implementation of the Master Plan, staging strategy and potential funding opportunities

2 Planning context

2.1 State government legislation

2.1.1 Local Government Act

The NSW Local Government Act 1993 provides the legislative framework for Council's day-to-day operation. The Act emphasises a council's responsibility to actively manage land and to involve the community in developing a strategy for management.

The Local Government Act requires all community lands to be covered by a plan of management, which must identify:

- The category of the land (refer Section 4.1)
- Objectives and outcomes for the land (refer Section 4.2-4.5)
- The means by which Council proposes to achieve objectives and outcomes (refer Section 5.0 and 6.0)
- The way by which Council proposes to assess its performance (refer Section 7.0).

The nature and use of community land may not change without an adopted plan of management.

2.1.2 Local Government Regulation

All Council property classified as Community Land are required to be categorised in accordance with the guidelines for categorisation listed in the Local Government (General) Regulation (Part 4, Division 1). The guidelines for categorisation are included in the table below. If an area is categorised as Natural Area, there are several subcategories (Bushland, Wetland, Escarpment, Watercourse and Foreshore) with respective guidelines for categorisation.

Category	Guidelines for Categorisation
Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The land is used or proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, for use mainly for passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that do not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment on the land by others
Sportsground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The land is used or proposed to be used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.
Natural Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The land (whether in an undisturbed state or not) possesses a significant geological feature, geomorphologic feature, landform, representative system or other natural feature or attribute that would be sufficient to further categorise the land as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore.
Natural Area (watercourse)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The land includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. any stream of water, whether perennial or intermittent flowing in a natural channel, a natural channel that has been artificially improved, or in an artificial channel that has changed its course, and any other stream of water into or from which it flows; b. associated riparian land or vegetation, including land that is

Category	Guidelines for Categorisation
	protected land for the purposes of the Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act or the Native Vegetation Conservation Act.
Area of Cultural Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The land is an area of Aboriginal significance because the land: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. has been declared an Aboriginal Place under the National Parks and Wildlife Act; b. is significant to Aboriginal people in terms of their traditional or contemporary cultures (whether or not in an undisturbed state); c. is of significance or interest because of Aboriginal associations; d. displays physical evidence of Aboriginal occupation; e. is associated with Aboriginal stories; f. contains heritage items dating after European settlement that help to explain the relationship between Aboriginal people and later settlers; • The land is an area of aesthetic significance, by virtue of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. having strong visual or sensory appeal of cohesion; b. including a significant landmark; or c. having creative or technical qualities, such as architectural excellence; • The land is an area of archaeological significance, because the are contains: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. evidence of past human activity (below ground or above ground, whether intact or ruined); or b. any other deposit, object or material that relate to the settlement of the land. • The land is an area of historic significance, because of the importance of an association or position of the land in the evolving pattern of Australian cultural history. • The land is an area of technical of research significance, because of the area’s contribution to an understanding of Australia’s cultural history or environment. • The land is an area of social significance, because of the area’s association with Aboriginal life after 1788 or the area’s association with a contemporary community for social, spiritual or other reasons.

2.1.3 Disability Discrimination Act

The Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1992 allows for individuals to lay complaints if they have been unfairly treated because of their disabilities.

Disability is a functional limitation within the individual caused by physical, intellectual, emotional or sensory impairments.

Council’s aim is to make our parks accessible through thoughtful design, including but not limited to park furnishings, public facilities, pathways and crossings.

2.1.4 Threatened Species Conservation Act

The NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (TSC) aims to protect and encourage the recovery of threatened species, populations and communities listed under the Act.

The TSC Act contains provisions for the protection and enhancement of Vulnerable species (Schedule 1), Endangered species (Schedule 2) and Endangered Ecological Communities (Schedule 3). DECC is required to prepare Recovery Plans for listed threatened species and Endangered Ecological Communities, and Threat Abatement Plans for listed Key Threatening Processes. Under the TSC Act, decisions by public authorities must be consistent with the provisions of Recovery Plans and/or Threat Abatement Plans.

Tregear Reserve provides potential habitat for threatened species that have been recorded within a 5 kilometer radius of the study area (refer to Section 3.3.3).

Key Threatening Processes and Threat Abatement Plans applicable to this Plan of Management are as follows:

- Clearing of native vegetation
- Predation by the feral cat (*Felis catus*)
- Predation by the European fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)
- Removal of dead wood, dead trees and logs
- High frequency fire resulting in the disruption of life cycle processes in plants and animals and loss of vegetation structure and composition.

2.1.5 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act

The Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 2000 (EPBC) provides for protection of matters of national environmental significance. Cumberland Plain Woodland is listed as an Endangered Ecological Community under this Act. If a development is likely to have a significant impact on a listed community, it must be referred to Environment Australia for approval.

Relevant listed key threatening processes that have been identified at a national level that apply to this Plan of Management are:

- Competition and land degradation by feral rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)
- Predation by feral cats (*Felis catus*)
- Predation by the European red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*).

Where a threatening process is listed under two jurisdictions, the Threat Abatement Plan prepared at the Commonwealth level is required to seek the co-operation of the NSW DECC in the joint preparation of the Threat Abatement Plan.

2.1.6 Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act

The Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act 1948 (RFI) aims to control activities that could harm riparian environments. The Act has provisions requiring a permit for excavations, fill and other works in or near rivers, estuaries and lakes. Such activities are recognised as potentially having significant detrimental environmental impacts on habitat, water quality, flooding and erosion. The Department of Water and Energy is the approval authority for permits for such activities under Part 3a of the RFI Act.

2.1.7 Other Legislation and policy

In providing active management of Whalan / Tregear Reserve, Council also needs to give regard to the provisions and requirements of the following state and commonwealth legislation:

- *Rural Fires Act 1997*
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*
- *Noxious Weed Act 1993*
- *SEPP No 19 – Bushland in Urban Areas* – requirements for PoMs.

2.2 Local planning context

2.2.1 Council's corporate goals

Blacktown City Council's Vision and Mission Statements underpin its strategic direction and influence all actions Council takes in providing the best possible living and working environment for the Blacktown community. Council's Vision and Mission Statements are as follows:

VISION STATEMENT

"To be a vibrant, healthy and safe City – A City of Excellence"

MISSION STATEMENT

"To provide our community with the best living and working environment through commitment to service"

2.2.2 Council's open space and recreation objectives

Blacktown City Council's 2007-2010 Management Plan identifies the following objective in relation to the planning and provision of open space and recreational facilities throughout Blacktown:

"Council is committed to the timely provision and support of a wide range of community services and facilities in an endeavour to satisfy the diverse and changing needs of our residents"

2.2.3 Blacktown community demographics

Blacktown City Council's Community Profile based on 2006 census data provides the following information for the suburb of Tregear:

Tregear is an established residential area. Tregear is bounded by Forrester Road and Hatherton Road in the north, Luxford Road and the transmission line in the east, Wilkes Crescent and Debrincat Avenue in the south and Ropes Creek in the west. Tregear is named after a village in Devon, England.

Development of the area dates primarily from the post-war years. Significant growth took place during the 1950s and 1960s. The population has decreased slightly since the mid 1990s, a result of little change in dwelling stock and a decline in average household size.

Major features of the area include Tregear Reserve and one school.

- In 2006, Tregear had a population of 3,812 people.
- Tregear has an Indigenous population of 362 people or 9.5%.
- Overall, 21.4% of the population was born overseas, and 12.1% were from a non-English speaking background, compared with 34.3% and 28.0% respectively for Blacktown City. The dominant non-English speaking country of birth in Tregear was New Zealand, where 5.2% of the population, or 199 people, were born.
- Analysis of individual income levels in Tregear in 2006 compared to Blacktown City shows that there was a smaller proportion of persons earning a high income (those earning \$1,000 per week or more) but a larger proportion of low income persons (those earning less than \$400 per week). Overall, 5.6% of the population earned a high income, and 54.0% earned a low income, compared with 15.6% and 40.7% respectively for Blacktown City.
- Analysis of the highest level of schooling attained by the population in Tregear in 2006 compared to Blacktown City shows that there was a larger proportion of people who had left school at an early level (Year 10 or less) but a smaller proportion of people who completed Year 12 or equivalent.
- The size of Tregear's labour force in 2006 was 1,163 persons, of which 291 were employed part-time (25.0%) and 620 were full time workers (53.3%). Analysis of the employment status of the population in Tregear in 2006 compared to Blacktown City shows that there was a smaller proportion in employment, and a larger proportion unemployed.
- Analysis of the family types in Tregear in 2006 compared to Blacktown City shows that there was a smaller proportion of couple families with child(ren) but a larger proportion of one-parent families.
- Overall, 17.0% of the population owned their dwelling; 19.8% were purchasing, and 54.1% were renting, compared with 23.5%, 40.0% and 29.8% respectively for Blacktown City.

3 Description of the site

3.1 *Legal description*

Title information:	Lot 346, DP 549919
Ownership:	Blacktown City Council
Address:	Ellsworth Drive and Wilkes Crescent, Tregear
Total area:	48.08 ha
Zoning:	Open Space - 6(a)
Classification (LGA):	Public Reserve
Previous categorisation (LGA):	NA
Proposed categorisation (LGA):	Sportsground, Park, Natural Area (Watercourse), Area of Cultural Significance
Assets:	
Leases / licences	None
Caveats / easements	None

Refer Figure 3.1 Cadastral Boundaries

3.2 Cultural and historic description

3.2.1 Current use

Reserve use incorporates both local use and wider community use. Typically local use will be informal activities such as walking or using playground facilities by adjoining residents or residents in the surrounding suburbs. Whereas use of the reserve by the wider community will generally focus on formal use such as sporting groups or clubs, which may attract more regionally based users.

Formal Use

The West Sydney Boomers Baseball Club uses the baseball fields located in the southern end of Tregear Reserve as their home ground, for both training use and games on weekends. A small parking facility adjoining the fields provides the only parking in the reserve.

Touch football is also played in the southern end of the site, and regularly occurs on the baseball fields, which poses some use conflict between the two user groups, largely due to the increased wear and tear of the playing surface created by the touch football use.

Informal Use

The findings of the community questionnaire and observations from on site analysis indicate that walking is the most common use of the reserve, which is supported through a narrow pathway and track that extends the length of the reserve. A small playground is located adjoining the baseball fields, which is generally used by residents immediately adjoining the reserve.

Refer Figure 3.2.1 Current Use.

3.2.2 History and significance

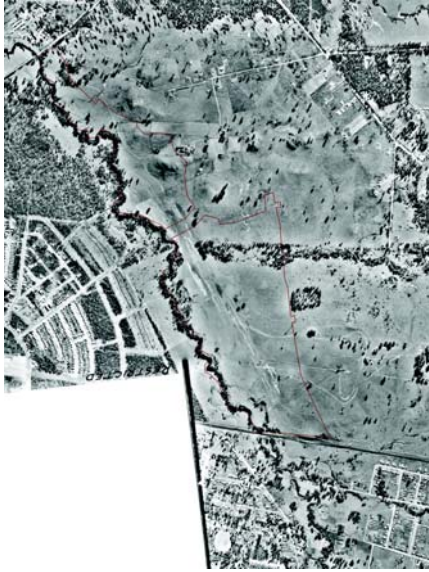
The Aboriginal heritage assessment undertaken by Kelleher Nightingale Consulting identified that there a number of Aboriginal archaeological sites within Tregear Reserve. These sites are predominantly located along the Ropes Creek corridor or to the grassed hills. Refer Appendix 9.3 for full report.

The sites more recent history saw Tregear and Whalan Reserves as a larger, connected open area, that would later be separated by Debrincat Avenue and the overall area reduced by increasing development adjoining the reserves. The site was used as an RAAF airstrip during World War II as a dispersal field, and a training area for repair and salvage units. The first RAAF guard dog unit also used the site during this period.

Between 1948 and 1958, the old airstrip was incorporated into the straight of the Mount Druitt Race Track. The course was 3.6 kilometres long, and was situated on what is now Whalan Reserve, Tregear Reserve, the Mount Druitt Industrial area and Madang Avenue Primary School. The track was closed in 1958, when a trench was cut as a result of management disputes, rendering the track unusable for racing.

3.2.3 Site issues

Discussions with key users and stakeholders identified that the key issues at Tregear Reserve predominantly relate to the intensity of sporting use on the baseball fields. This includes periodic touch football use, which leads to greater wear and tear of the playing surface. The existing irrigation system is also failing and consequently the fields are in a poorer condition than desirable. Vandalism is also an ongoing issue.



1961 aerial



Indicative alignment of Mount Druitt Race Track



Indicative alignment of WWII airstrip

Figure 3.2.2 Key Cultural Heritage Features

3.3 Physical description

3.3.1 Site context

Tregear Reserve is bounded by the Ropes Creek corridor to the west, Forrester Road to the north, and Debrincat Avenue to the south. The eastern edge of the reserve combines open street frontage and residential housing backing onto the reserve. Street frontages along this edge occur at Ellsworth Drive, and Wilkes Crescent. The main vehicular and pedestrian entrance is located off Wilkes Crescent.

Ropes Creek is the major shaper of a bushland context for the reserve, with residential housing buffered for much of the park area by landform. This sense of buffer decreases in the north of the reserve as it narrows.

Refer Figure 1.2 Site Location

3.3.2 Vegetation

There are three vegetation communities present within Tregear Reserve, including Cumberland Plain Woodland (Shale Plains Woodland form), River-flat Eucalypt Forest (Alluvial Woodland form) and Cooks River Castlereagh Ironbark Forest. These three communities are listed as Endangered Ecological Communities (EEC) under Schedule 1 of the Threatened Species Conservation (TSC) Act. Cumberland Plain Woodland is an endangered ecological community under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act. The table below shows the area of the study site occupied by each vegetation community. For a detailed description of vegetation communities, refer to Appendix 9.2, Flora and Fauna Study.

Vegetation Community	Area (ha)	% Study Area
Alluvial Woodland	6.56	4.94
Shale Plains Woodland	1.63	1.19
Cooks River Castlereagh Ironbark Forest	0.82	0.62
Total	9.01	6.75

3.3.3 Flora and Fauna

There were 54 flora species found within Tregear Reserve. One threatened flora species was recorded on-site, *Grevillea juniperina* subsp. *juniperina*. This species was found within the Cooks River Castlereagh Ironbark Forest in the far northeast of the study area. There were six plant species identified at the site that are listed as noxious weeds within the Blacktown Local Government Area. Refer to Appendix 9.2, Flora and Fauna Study for a complete species list.

Fauna species that were regularly observed within the reserve included the magpie lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*), noisy miner (*Manorina melanocephala*), willie wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*), Australian magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*), and galah (*Eolophus roseicapillus*). Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) was the only mammal recorded on site, however, there were scats identified within the reserve belonging to the swamp wallaby (*Wallabia bicolor*). Two reptiles were recorded on-site, common bluetongue (*Tiliqua scincoids*), and tree-base litter skink (*Lygisaurus foliorum*). Refer to Appendix 8.1, Flora and Fauna Study for a complete species list.

There were no threatened fauna species located on site. However, there is potential habitat located within the reserve for a number of threatened species. Refer to Appendix 9.2, Flora and Fauna Study for a complete list of potential threatened species.

3.3.4 Riparian Habitat

Ropes Creek forms the western boundary of the site and is classified as a stream by the Department of Energy and Water. The creek bank is vegetated along its length within the study area, apart from road and utility crossings. Moderate to severe bank erosion occurs in some areas along the creek where vegetation has been cleared, and human activity is present.

Ropes Creek was identified as a category 1 stream under the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR) Riparian Categories and Buffer Specification (DIPNR 2004) and as such requires a minimum 40m riparian buffer width (refer to Section 3.2 of the Flora and Fauna Study within Appendix 9.2).

The riparian habitat along Ropes Creek plays a vital role in connecting the remnant bushland within the reserve with other areas of remnant bushland to the north and south, including Wianamatta Regional Park, Whalan Reserve and the Western Sydney Parklands.

3.3.3 Soils and geology

Blacktown is situated in the rich Cumberland Plain within the Greater Western Sydney Region. The geology of the Blacktown region is predominantly comprised of the Wianamatta group shales. Soils vary from shallow to moderately deep Red and Brown Podzolic Soils on crests, upper slopes, and well drained areas, to deep Yellow Podzolic Soils on lower slopes and areas of poor drainage. Typical limitations associated with soils of the region include moderately reactive highly plastic subsoil, low soil fertility, and poor soil drainage. (Chapman and Murphy, 1989)

3.3.4 Landform and drainage

Tregear Reserve slopes dramatically along much of its eastern boundary, with a substantial hill to the mid section of the site providing expansive views across the site and to the Blue Mountains to the west. The remainder of the site is undulating to flat.

Ropes Creek borders the reserve to the west, and continues beyond the site to Ropes Crossing in the north, and down to Whalan Reserve in the south. The creek is of poor water quality and highly degraded with dumping of rubbish including shopping trolleys a regular occurrence.

Grass condition across the site is generally of a good quality, suggesting that drainage to the reserve is achieving reasonable infiltration and water retention.

Refer Figure 3.3.4 Landform and Drainage

3.3.5 Climate

The average summer temperature range for the Blacktown LGA is 17.1-27.7°C, with the average winter temperature range varying from 6.9-17.8°C. The reserve includes scattered groups of trees providing important shade and shelter. The mounded topography of the site also assists in creating a somewhat sheltered microclimate.

Average rainfall for the LGA is 860mm.

3.3.6 Access

Pedestrian Access

The reserve has open street frontages to a reasonable proportion of its boundary (35%) of the site, with residential housing adjoining the reserve in small runs to the northern and mid sections of the reserve and comprising about 26% of reserve boundary.

A narrow pathway extends from the south through to the north of Tregear Reserve providing for pedestrian access however is unsuitable for cycle access due to its narrow width. Formal pathway access is also provided to and around the playground and baseball fields. There is a pathway from Debrincat Avenue in the south, which leads to the baseball fields, however pedestrian amenity to the street frontage is poor.

Vehicular Access

Vehicular access to the reserve is provided of Wilkes Crescent, into a small parking area adjoining the baseball fields in the south of the reserve. The grassed area to the south west of the baseball fields is periodically used for overflow parking during peak use periods.

Refer Figure 3.3.6 Access and Circulation

3.3.7 Landscape and visual character

The southern section of Tregear Reserve is visually dominated by the large grassed hill, which provides views across the reserve and to the Blue Mountains to the west. The northern section is linear in form and is bordered by the vegetated creekline to the west.

The creekline edge is diversified by taller riparian vegetation along with lower lying sedge links adjoining the reserve.

The overall character of the reserve is open parkland, with relatively good quality, grass coverage across the site.

The existing facilities on the site are focused to the southern portion of the reserve and are of a generally high quality, contributing to a well maintained image for the reserve.

Refer Figure 3.3.7 Landscape and Visual Character

3.3.8 Lighting and solar access

Lighting

Lighting is currently limited to the baseball fields for nighttime game and training use.

Solar Access

There are currently minimal limitations to solar access across the site, with scattered tree planting offering summer shade.

3.3.9 Structures

The reserve contains a number of buildings outlined below:

Structure	Description and Condition
Building L15 Asset ID BU166	Brick amenities block, metal deck roof in generally good condition

3.3.10 Maintenance

Blacktown City Council has care, control and management of the entire site and owns the northern section of the site.

Maintenance is undertaken by Council's staff in accordance with agreed service level specifications. It is expected that maintenance levels and provision arrangements will be subject to change as applicable upon the implementation of the usage recommendations of this plan.

4 Basis for management

4.1 Core objectives (Local Government Act)

The NSW Local Government Act 1993 requires that all council property classified as community land be categorised in accordance with the guidelines for the categorisation listed in the Local Government (General) Regulation. The Local Government Act outlines a number of core objectives for management related to each category, which are listed for the applicable category of general community use and area of cultural significance below:

Category	Core objectives
Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities; • Provide for passive recreational activities and pastimes and for the casual playing of games; • Improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.
Sportsground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuit in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games; • Ensure such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.
Natural Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land; • Maintain the land in its natural state and setting; • Provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion; • Assist in and facilitate the implementation of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan.
Natural Area (watercourse)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage watercourse so as to protect the biodiversity and ecological values of the instream environment particularly in relation to water quality and water flows; • Manage watercourses so as to protect the riparian environment, particularly in relation to riparian vegetation and habitats and bank stability; • Restore degraded watercourses; • Promote community education and community access to and use of the watercourse, without compromising the other core objectives of the category.

Refer Figure 4.1 Categorisation

4.2 Community values and consultation findings

4.2.1 Values of parks in Blacktown

Blacktown is the most densely populated city in New South Wales and is the eighth fastest growing city in Australia. The LGA contains over 800 parks and reserves of varying sizes, quality, providing a range of recreation opportunities. Tregear Reserve represents an important open space asset in the context of the Blacktown.

Values are the features and qualities of that should be protected or enhanced. The following values are identified for parks in the Blacktown area generally:

Recreation

- Cater for organised sporting needs
- Informal passive recreation
- Provides an alternative to private open space for the local community
- Spontaneous passive recreational use by local residents
- Provide alternative recreational experiences to other open spaces

Leases & Licenses

- Potential to enhance community use and enjoyment of open space
- Potential to address community recreational, cultural and social needs
- Potential to enhance and manage the heritage fabric of the site

Access

- Accessible to residential communities
- Provide through pedestrian access as appropriate
- Passive surveillance of park areas is supported by adjoining residences

Facilities

- Sustainable use and management of heritage building
- Sustainable quality of park facilities
- Interesting and unique play opportunities
- Address local area gaps in community cultural facilities
- Secure and safe park environments

Landscape & Vegetation Management

- Visual relief from suburban environment
- Potential for visually appealing landscape settings
- Shade and shelter amenity for park users
- Conservation and ongoing monitoring of existing trees

Maintenance

- Clean and well kept park environment
- Tree management
- Potential park role of building lessees / licensees

4.2.2 Values of site

A community questionnaire was distributed to local residents and was available at Council's offices. There were 33 responses, and a listing of responses is provided in Appendix 7.2. Key findings related to site values have been integrated with outcomes of consultation with other stakeholders and with Council to identify the following site specific values:

Recreation

- Expansive area catering for multiple uses and for major events
- Scale allows efficient use of facilities through multiple / dual use
- Capacity to cater for both organized sport and passive recreational uses
- Potential recreational hub

Leases & Licenses

- Licenses possible for longer term sporting tenancies

Access

- Potential for improved and more regular access to local communities
- Potential for improved vehicular access

Facilities

- Potential for improved facilities provision to support both organised sports and passive recreational use.
- Potential for shared / multiple use

Landscape & Vegetation Management

- Existing creek corridor of high habitat potential

Maintenance

- Scale of park allows for efficient maintenance activities

4.3 *Community's desired outcomes*

Responses from the community questionnaire identified that the community's desired outcomes for Tregear Reserve are primarily focused on the following:

- Improved maintenance and reduced occurrences of vandalism and littering
- Provision of facilities including seating, lighting and shade
- Improved bushland areas
- A safe and secure reserve environment
- Provision of adequate shade and shelter
- Management of potential usage conflicts

4.4 Vision statement

Maintain and enhance Tregear Reserve as a local and regional open space resource that provides a variety of recreation opportunities, in a safe, attractive and accessible reserve environment, whilst also recognising its habitat and cultural value.

The reserve should be:

Safe

An adequate level of user safety and security should be afforded, and anti-social behaviour and vandalism should be minimised.

Engaging

Community ownership of the reserve should be encouraged, and perceived by all users from local to regional.

Attractive

The reserve should be an attractive place to visit, contributing to the visual and recreational amenity of the local area.

Diverse

The reserve should provide a diverse range of recreation opportunities that supports use by a wide range of users at a variety of scales.

Accessible

The reserve should be an inviting and accessible community resource.

Unique

The unique identity and character of Tregear Reserve should be developed and enhanced incorporating reserve features such as Ropes Creek.

4.5 Role of the reserve

Roles are the community function of parks and open spaces.

Tregear Reserve currently serves several important recreational roles, including local park for adjoining residents and as a regional baseball centre.

4.6 Management objectives

Objectives for the reserve are desired outcomes, which provide a basis and direction to decision making. The following broad objectives are identified for Tregear Reserve.

Access & Circulation – Pedestrian

- Improved internal and through site access
- Improved access to and from adjoining areas
- Regional access link along Ropes Creek corridor as part of broader Western Sydney regional trails network

Access & Circulation – Cycle

- Cycle access provided and managed in context of other park users
- Improved cycle access to and from adjoining areas

Access & Circulation – Vehicular

- Appropriate provision of carparking facilities for reserve users
- Defined vehicular access that encourages use of the reserve
- Unauthorised vehicle access prevented beyond defined road and carpark areas

Usage

- The reserves role as a sportsground for local and district use is conserved and enhanced
- Reserve serves as a positive recreation area for local youth
- Safe and secure reserve environment
- Maximise use of open space to meet passive and organised recreation needs
- Reserve provides attractive setting for recreation
- Dog access managed in accordance with Companion Animals Act
- Parkland conserved and improved for current and future generations
- Appropriate leases and licences enhance public usability

Facilities

- Park facilities meet user needs

Amenity

- Protection and enhancement of established trees
- Improved landscape character

Natural Environment

- Maintain and enhance the natural heritage values of the reserve
- Maintain, enhance and improve linkages with the Ropes Creek riparian corridor
- Manage noxious and environmental weeds
- Manage feral and domestic animals
- Control littering and dumping
- Fire management to protect human life and property, as well as establishing a fire regime that promotes healthy native bushland
- Manage stormwater and improve water quality
- Promote community participation and education to manage and protect the remnant bushland areas of the reserve

Heritage

- Identification and interpretation of Aboriginal cultural heritage values
- Protection and interpretation of historical cultural heritage values
- Visitor awareness of site heritage improved

Identity

- Public perception of the reserve is improved through enhanced character and identity
- The reserve presents an attractive landscape environment

Security

- Visibility and sightlines through the reserve maintained
- Appropriate level of personal safety is afforded / perceived by reserve users

Management

- Improved soil conditions and ground surface stability where possible
- A clean and well kept reserve
- Staged implementation programme addresses community and environmental priorities
- Park landscape maintained through sustainable water use

5 Concept Master Plan

5.1 *Planning Principles for Tregear Reserve*

Planning principles provide the basis for development of Master Plan design solutions for Tregear Reserve. The principles provide cues to responses for realising the identified vision and objectives as outlined in the Plan of Management through the development of appropriate design strategies.

The following principles have been identified for the reserve and are supplemented by the management strategies identified in Section 6.

Consolidate use

- Improve existing uses of the reserve
- Extend use of reserve to a broader range of activities

Amenity / identity

- Recognise and reinforce landform as a key aspect of the reserves character
- Improve role of landform in recreational use

Improve habitat

- Consolidate and enhance habitat values to Ropes Creek corridor

Improve accessibility

- Formalise a hierarchy of access links through the reserve
- Extend regional access links along corridor

5.2 *Master planning Options*

Throughout the master planning process and community and stakeholder consultation it became evident that planning for Tregear Reserve is focused on embellishment and enhancement of the existing framework and structure of the reserve.

5.3 Concept Master Plan

Figure 5.3 on the following page describes the preferred Master Plan direction identified from community input, and implementation of the detailed planning policies.

The numbered master planning proposals as identified on the plan are described in further detail following.

1. Ropes Creek Walk

Ropes Creek Walk regional trail extending from Tregear Reserve to Whalan Reserve. Potential future links north, and further south beyond Whalan Reserve.

2. Pedestrian Island to Debrincat Avenue

Provision of a pedestrian island to Debrincat Avenue to provide safer pedestrian and cycle crossing.

3. Link to Signalised Pedestrian Crossing at Forresters Road

Link to Forresters Road pedestrian crossing, to encourage pedestrian and cycle connectivity.

4. Existing Parking

Retain and formalised existing carparking area.

5. Overflow Parking

Provide reinforced turf overflow parking area for use in peak periods.

6. Existing Baseball Fields

Retain existing baseball fields and upgrade surface including infrastructure such as irrigation.

7. Existing Play Space

Existing playground to be retained and upgraded as required.

8. Multi Purpose Grassed Area

Upgrade existing grassed area to enable touch football field, or other sporting use.

9. Fitness Area and BBQ

Fitness area incorporating equipment suitable for teenagers and adults, with adjoining BBQ facility to encourage family gatherings.

10. Proposed Play Space

New local playspace opposite entry to Ellsworth Drive.

11. Hilltop Lookout and Marker

Hilltop lookout incorporating interpretive signage and marker, enhancing views to the Blue Mountains.

12. Fitness Equipment Stations

Series of fitness equipment stations along Ropes Creek Walk, enhancing recreational fitness use.

13. Habitat Corridor

Consolidation and expansion of habitat corridor adjoining Ropes Creek as part of greater Cumberland Conservation Corridor. To undertake creekline restoration including stabilisation, weed management, and water quality control.

14. Avenue Tree Planting

Continuation of avenue tree planting from Whalan Reserve in alignment of old airstrip.

15. Marshland

Existing low lying marshland area conserved and upgraded.

16. Water Quality Controls

Water quality control measures to drainage lines.

6 Management strategies and action plan

6.1 Management strategies

The table below identifies broad issues and strategies relevant to improving Tregear Reserve for the local community. These are developed as a series of more detailed actions in the following section 6.2 Action Plan.

Issue	Strategies
Access and Circulation	Pedestrian Define and provide pedestrian access into, from and through the site that caters for adjoining local users and links to the regional access network of the Ropes Creek Corridor
	Cycle Facilitate local and regional cycle access connections to, from and within the reserve
	Vehicular Provide vehicular access and parking facilities that caters for a sustainable level of reserve use
Usage	Maintain a practical and sustainable level of uses of the reserve addressing community open space and recreation needs
Facilities	Provide robust facilities that cater for identified recreation needs and complement community use and enjoyment of the reserve
Amenity	Improve landscape and recreational character compatible with the Cumberland Plains setting
Natural Environment	Protect and enhance the natural environment within the reserve whilst creating a recreational hub.
Heritage	Build upon cultural and aboriginal heritage of the site and promote the relevance of the reserve to current and future generations
Identity	Improve the identity and character of the reserve and its interface with adjoining public domain, natural areas and private development
Security	Provision of a safe and secure open space for users and adjoining residents
Management	Provision of a well kept reserve environment that meets the sustainable expectations of both passive and active users

6.2 Management action plan

The tables following identify actions for implementation of the above strategies and a means for achieving these strategies and assessing performance.

Priorities have also been identified which include:

High (H)	Target for commencement in 1-5 years
Medium (M)	Target for commencement in 5-8 years
Low (L)	Target for commencement in 8+ years

These priorities are provided as a guide and may be adjusted according to Council priorities.

6.2.1 Access & Circulation - Pedestrian

Define and provide pedestrian access into, from and through the site that caters for adjoining local users and links to the regional access network of the Ropes Creek Corridor

Objective	Performance target	Means to achieve	Priority	Assessment of performance
Improved internal and through site access	Shared pedestrian and cycle pathways to provide internal and through site access	Provide shared pedestrian and cycle pathway	H	Park user survey, community comments
	Pathways to provide interesting recreational experience	Pathways to take advantage of character of the site (bushland, park etc.) while also contributing to overall reserve maintenance eg. providing edge between planting and turf areas	H	Detailed design, implementation,
	Safe and secure pedestrian access	Prevent unauthorised vehicle access to pedestrian pathways with effective barrier system at reserve entries and / or other vehicular definition	H	As above
		Establish clear path hierarchy through path surfaces and related elements (shade, signage, lighting)	H	Detailed design, implementation, community comments
Improved access to and from adjoining areas	Path connections to provide safe and equitable access	Provide formal pathways and attractive entries to all park entry / access points	H	Detailed design, community comments
		Prevent unauthorised vehicle access to pedestrian pathways with effective barrier system at reserve entries	H	As above
		Ensure safety and security is perceived at park entries through appropriate lighting and maintenance of clear sightlines into the reserve	H	As above

Objective	Performance target	Means to achieve	Priority	Assessment of performance
Regional access link along Ropes Creek corridor as part of broader Western Sydney planning	Regional path connection along Ropes Creek corridor	Provide regional shared access path along Ropes Creek corridor in coordination with Department of Planning and Penrith Council	H	Detailed design, implementation, user comments
		Encourage widespread use of the link through signage and information on Council's website etc.	H	Park user survey, community comments, availability of information
		Provide coordinated information and interpretation signage – integrated with signage to adjoining sections of the creek corridor	M	

6.2.2 Access & Circulation - Cycle

Facilitate local and regional cycle access connections to, from and within the reserve

Objective	Performance target	Means to achieve	Priority	Assessment of performance
Cycle access provided and managed in context of other park users	Regional cycleway link and through loop provided	Provision of shared cycle path along Ropes Creek corridor and through reserve	H	Improvement works, park user comments
	Cycle access encouraged as mode of transport to the reserve	Provide safe and secure bicycle parking / bike racks	M	Improvement works, park user comments
		Encourage widespread use of the link through signage and information on Council's website etc.	M	Park user survey, community comments, availability of information
Improved cycle access to and from adjoining areas	Cycle connection to provide safe and equitable access	Provide shared cycle paths and attractive entry points into the park	H	Detailed design, implementation, user comments

6.2.3 Access & Circulation – Vehicular

Provide vehicular access and parking facilities that caters for a sustainable level of reserve use

Objective	Performance target	Means to achieve	Priority	Assessment of performance
Appropriate provision of carparking facilities for reserve users	Formal carparking facilities that cater for peak use periods, whilst not visually dominating reserve landscape	Formal parking areas adjoining key use zones	H	Detailed carpark design, implementation of works, community comments
Unauthorised vehicle access prevented beyond defined road	Clear identifiable entries to the reserve	Provide park entries and signage to prevent unauthorised vehicle access Authorised vehicles include police / emergency and maintenance use	H	Detailed planning and design

6.2.4 Usage

Maintain a practical and sustainable level of uses of the reserve addressing community open space and recreation needs

Objective	Performance target	Means to achieve	Priority	Assessment of performance
Low key active sports role is conserved	Quality of facilities	Facilities maintained and improved as required	H	Survey of park users
Safe and secure reserve environment	Level of anti-social behaviour	Discourage anti-social behaviour through increased park visitation and use and quality of facilities provision	H	Community comments, police reports
		Manage / control illegal vehicular and motorcycle access	H	Incidences of illegal access reduced
		Provide alternative locations for motorcycle use within the LGA	H	Use of alternative areas
Reserve provides attractive setting for passive recreation	Quality passive recreation facilities	Provision of passive recreation facilities	H	User comments
Dog access managed in accordance with the Companion Animals Act	Continued dog use, minimisation of conflicts with other reserve users	Maintain dog friendly status of the parkland off leash area to north of reserve	H	Park user comments
		Support dog use with dog bins		
Parkland conserved and improved for current and future generations	Potential of open space areas	Reserve improvements to allow for flexibility to address future open space and recreation needs	H	Council planning documents, reserve use
Appropriate leases and licences to enhance public usability	Community benefit from leased areas	Review potential for lease arrangements with reserve users (eg. sports clubs)	H	Park user survey

6.2.5 Facilities

Provide robust facilities that cater for identified recreation needs and complement community use and enjoyment of the reserve

Objective	Performance target	Means to achieve	Priority	Assessment of performance
Park facilities meet user needs	High quality, attractive, well maintained facilities	Provide passive and active recreation facilities to provide and appropriate level of provision for users	H	User comments
		Identify user needs (including sporting clubs) for facilities provision	H	User comments
		Robust reserve facilities that minimise vandalism potential	H	Implementation, level of vandalism, maintenance reports
		Consider opportunities for community engagement in facilities development (eg. graffiti wall, working bees etc)	H	Community participation, user comments

6.2.6 Amenity

Improve landscape and recreational character compatible with the Cumberland Plains setting

Objective	Performance target	Means to achieve	Priority	Assessment of performance
Protection and enhancement of established trees	Successful planting and establishment of new tree planting	Promote community engagement through 'tree day' event plantings	H	Visual assessment
		Large scale planting to programme to minimise plant loss		
Views across the site and to the Blue Mountains are conserved and enhanced as fundamental component of park character	Reserve improvements do not compromise views	Views to be protected in reserve enhancement and management	H	Visual assessment

6.2.7 Natural Environment

Protect and enhance the natural environment within the reserve whilst creating a recreational hub

Objective	Performance target	Means to achieve	Priority	Assessment of performance
Conservation of Native Flora and Fauna				
To enhance and protect native flora and fauna and maintain ecosystem function in respect to the natural areas within the reserve.	Maintain and improve vegetation and habitat	Undertake a bush regeneration scheme that utilises the species listed in Appendix 8.2 when undertaking rehabilitation works	H	Progress report of bushland restoration activity works undertaken annually. Report should include a summary of works carried out, an approximation of the time spent on each task, a description of any problems encountered, updated maintenance schedules, and any observations made, for example new species, particularly threatened entities
	Increase remnant species diversity in areas classified as Habitat Restoration in the reserve Master Plan	Restrict mowing of the understorey in areas classified as Habitat Restoration in the reserve Master Plan	H	
		Active revegetation of endemic species within the heavily disturbed parts of the areas classified as Habitat Restoration in the reserve Master Plan	H	
		Landscaping works within the reserve are to incorporate species that will enhance the natural landscape and habitat values, including species endemic to Cumberland Plain Woodland and Alluvial Woodland	H	
	Maintenance of regeneration and revegetation areas	A maintenance program will need to be established by the Council, and passed onto staff and sub-contractors	H	
		Maintenance should be undertaken on a regular basis of at least weekly in the peak growing seasons and monthly in the cooler periods. Maintenance work will include actions to encourage native regeneration where it is not occurring naturally, and active weed management	H	

Objective	Performance target	Means to achieve	Priority	Assessment of performance
	Monitor health of regenerating vegetation	Photo points will need to be established across the site to provide a visual reference of changes in the vegetation. This should be undertaken prior to the commencement of works and then at the beginning of each summer season	H	Monitoring program to be recorded on a database. This is to be reviewed annually
To protect populations of threatened flora and fauna and their habitat by assisting in and facilitating the implementation of any provisions set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan	Location of threatened species habitat within the reserve	Undertake a targeted threatened flora and fauna surveys, specifically for the Green and Golden Bell Frog and Microbats	H	Study findings incorporated into draft PoM and DECC advised
	Liaise with DECC during the development and implementation of recovery plans or threat abatement plans	Incorporate provisions from recovery plans or threat abatement plans into works undertaken within the reserve	H	Incorporation into Progress report on bushland restoration activities within the reserve
		Cumberland Plain Woodland restoration and regeneration are to comply with the DECC best practice guidelines for Recovering bushland on the Cumberland Plain	H	
	Monitor threatened flora and fauna species	Prepare a monitoring program to annually assess health and distribution. Program should include regeneration areas and disturbed areas	H	Monitoring program to be recorded on a database. This is to be reviewed annually
To promote and enhance habitat connectivity with adjoining areas of natural bushland	Liaise with DECC, DoP, HNCMA and other neighboring councils to adopt riparian corridor enhancement for Ropes Creek	Incorporation of Master Plan into restoration plan for Ropes Creek.	H	Review strategies and targets annually to determine whether protection and restoration of natural areas are meeting the targets of regional strategies and action plans
		Consideration of the targets set for river health, biodiversity, and soil and land within the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Action Plan	M	

Objective	Performance target	Means to achieve	Priority	Assessment of performance
Control adverse human impacts on ecological processes	Provide the community with use of and access to the reserve in such a manner that human impacts will be minimised and mitigated	Prepare and provide paths, interpretive signage and information relating to bushland areas.	M	Undertake surveys to determine effectiveness of provided paths, signage and information provided amongst the community. Incorporate into an annual report regarding community attitudes towards the reserve. Survey results are to be announced within their annual report
		Monitor human impacts on the riparian corridor and areas classified as Habitat Restoration in the reserve Master Plan	H	Monitoring program to be recorded on a database. This is to be reviewed annually
		Restrict unauthorized vehicle access to the riparian corridor and areas classified as Habitat Restoration in the reserve Master Plan. Photo points should be established across the site to provide a visual reference where access to the riparian corridor is a major issue	M	Photo points to be recorded on database. Database to be reviewed annually
	Control invading weeds from neighboring properties	Weed species to be replaced with local endemic species under the bush regeneration program	H	Periodic survey of vegetation along the perimeter to determine where to focus ongoing educational strategies

Objective	Performance target	Means to achieve	Priority	Assessment of performance
		Educate landholders about effects of weeds on the natural environment and encourage establishment of native species for garden usage	L	
	Control impacts from mowing	Mowing is not to occur within the riparian corridor and areas classified as Habitat Restoration in the reserve Master Plan	H	Incorporation into Progress report on bushland restoration activities within the reserve
		Educate Council staff of areas where mowing will cease. Signage, tape or logs are useful indicators to inform where these no mow areas are	H	
Noxious and Environmental Weeds				
To identify the distribution and abundance of weed species within the reserve for concentrated control measures	Identify and locate weed species within the reserve	Undertake a detailed survey on an annual basis for weed incidence types, distribution and abundance. Develop action plans for noxious weed species as declared by the NSW Department of Primary Industries. Refer to Appendix 8.3 for complete Blacktown LGA Noxious Weed list	H	Weed management plan will be developed and updated annually, according weed problem areas
		Prepare a monitoring program to annually assess abundance and distribution of across the reserve	H	Monitoring program to be recorded on a database. This is to be reviewed annually
To manage weed species within the remnant bushland of the reserve with minimal impacts	Removal of weed species from remnant bushland on priority basis with minimum disturbance to natural communities	Undertake weed control within reserve on a priority basis, using appropriate bush regeneration techniques. Noxious and Environmental weeds are to be managed in accordance with the NSW DPI Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook	H	Incorporation into Progress report on bushland restoration activities within the reserve

Objective	Performance target	Means to achieve	Priority	Assessment of performance
To increase community awareness of impacts from weeds	Reduce introduction of weeds into remnant bushland areas	Develop education program for residents on importance of remnant bushland and impacts caused by exotic flora species	M	Undertake surveys to determine effectiveness of education programs amongst the community. Incorporate into an annual report regarding community attitudes towards the reserve
Feral Animals				
Control and monitor feral animals within the reserve	Take steps to control feral animals where detected within the reserve	Engagement of contractors to control identified feral animals when required	L	Report from contractors on success of eradication methods. Annual review to determine effectiveness of contractors and discussion of different methods
		Monitor abundance and impacts of feral animals within the reserve	L	Monitoring program to be recorded on a database. This is to be reviewed annually
To inform and involve the community in controlling impacts from domestic animals	To minimise impacts of domestic animals on native flora and fauna within the reserve	Incorporate signage within the reserve indicating that dogs off leads is prohibited within the reserve	L	Undertake surveys to determine effectiveness of signage and education programs amongst the community. Incorporate into an annual report

Objective	Performance target	Means to achieve	Priority	Assessment of performance
		Educate local community on the impacts that domestic animals have on native flora and fauna, and the control methods that may be used (eg. bell collars for cats, don't dump litters of kittens in the bush)	L	regarding community Attitudes towards the reserve
Stormwater and Water Quality				
To reduce the impact of stormwater runoff and improve the water quality within Ropes Creek	Reduce nutrient loading and other pollution in stormwater	Install, maintain, and monitor pollutant traps and a constructed wetland system to treat water before it enters Ropes Creek	H	Monitoring program to be recorded on a database. This is to be reviewed annually
		Develop an ongoing water quality monitoring program within Ropes Creek and drainage lines	H	
		Establish an aquatic weed management program	M	
To reduce nutrient influxes into the creek from local urban areas	Involve the community in prevention of stormwater pollution	Establish education program to encourage local residents from adding to nutrient loading within the creek	H	Undertake surveys to determine effectiveness of signage and education programs amongst the community. Incorporate into an annual report regarding community attitudes towards the reserve
Riparian Habitat				
Protect and enhance the riparian values of Whalan and Tregear Reserves	Maintain and improve Riparian corridor width	According to the Ropes and South Creek Regional Open Space Strategic Plan, the total riparian buffer width should be on average 200m from the center of the creek	H	

Objective	Performance target	Means to achieve	Priority	Assessment of performance
		alignment		
Provide for restoration and regeneration of land within the riparian corridor	Encourage regeneration of endemic native species	Undertake a bush regeneration scheme that utilises the species listed in Appendix 8.2 when undertaking rehabilitation works	H	Incorporation into Progress report on bushland restoration activities within the reserve
		Erect interpretative signage for community education and awareness	M	Undertake surveys to determine effectiveness of signage and education programs amongst the community. Incorporate into an annual report regarding community attitudes towards the reserve
Reduce the erosion impacts along the banks of Ropes Creek	Protect the back of Ropes Creek from further erosion from recreational bike users	Fence off areas that exhibit the worst erosion to inhibit or reduce further impacts from bikes	H	Incorporation into Progress report on bushland restoration activities within the reserve
		Strategically re-vegetation areas to prevent further erosion processes	H	
		Place signs along the edge of the corridor prohibiting bike riding along non-prescribed tracks. Enforcement of illegal bike riding will need to be undertaken by Council rangers	H	
		Prepare a monitoring program to annually assess the success and rate of further erosion problems	H	Monitoring program to be recorded on a database. This is to be reviewed annually

Objective	Performance target	Means to achieve	Priority	Assessment of performance
Litter and Dumping				
Continue to protect the reserve from littering and dumping	Provide a litter free environment for reserve users	Provide centrally placed rubbish bins that are emptied on a regular basis	M	Data about the volumes of litter collected reported in Progress report on bushland restoration activities within the reserve
Remove direct impacts from litter and dumped material within the riparian corridor	Investigate a litter and dumping control program, with the main emphasis on dumping within the riparian corridor	Remove dumped material immediately following detection	H	Incorporation of dumping activities into the Progress report on bushland restoration activities within the reserve
		Council rangers to fine litter and dumping offenders	H	
Bushfire				
Implement an appropriate fire regime for the reserves to protect biodiversity	Develop and manage a fire regime in accordance with the Key Threatening Process for high frequency fires and the Recovery Plan for Cumberland Plain EECs	Liaise with the DECC in developing a fire regime appropriate to the vegetation communities within the reserve	H	Incorporation into Progress report on the bushfire management activities with the reserve, APZ management, and updating hazard reduction plans for the reserve
		In the interim ensure fire frequency is not less than 10 years and not greater than 20 years		
	Develop a fire management plan for bushland areas in Tregear Reserve	Liaise with the Rural Fire Service about establishment of a fire management plan for the reserve	H	
		Incorporate into the management plan any records of fires, including location, intensities and frequencies	H	
	The determination of the vegetation formations within the reserve, the dominant	H		

Objective	Performance target	Means to achieve	Priority	Assessment of performance
		slope, and the Forest Fire Danger Index (FDI) rating will determine the size of APZ's required along the boundary of the reserve and urban areas		
		Develop a hazard reduction strategy to be incorporated into the management plan for the bushland within the reserve	H	
Reduce the fire hazard to adjoining properties	Identify Asset Protection Zones	Asset protection zones are to be constructed between the adjacent urban areas and bushland within the reserve	H	
		Asset Protection Zones will need to comply with Planning for Bushfire Protection Guidelines (RFS 2006)	H	
	Monitor & review potential risk to persons / property	Firebreaks situated and maintained between the bushland within the reserve and residential property	H	

6.2.8 Heritage

Build upon cultural and Aboriginal Heritage of the site and promote the relevance of the reserve to current and future generations

Objective	Performance target	Means to achieve	Priority	Assessment of performance
Identification and interpretation of Aboriginal cultural heritage values	Interpretation of Aboriginal history and contemporary values by reserve users	Undertake consultation and investigations to develop a programme of themes for relevant interpretation	H	Visual assessment, community / visitor comments
Protection and interpretation of cultural heritage values	Interpretation of local area history by reserve users	Undertake consultation and investigations to develop a programme of themes for relevant interpretation including air strip and race track	H	Visual assessment, community / visitor comments
Visitor awareness of site heritage improved	Interpretation of local area history by reserve users	Review potential for interpretation of cultural features / elements in the reserve	H	Visual assessment, community / visitor comments
	Wayfinding and interpretive signage that can be understood by all visitors to the reserve	Integrate wayfinding and interpretive signage into reserve development incorporating multi lingual elements	H	User comments

6.2.9 Security

Provision of a safe and secure open space for users and adjoining residents

Objective	Performance target	Means to achieve	Priority	Assessment of performance	
Visibility and sightlines through the reserve maintained	Internal reserve views for user safety and visual amenity	Establish sightlines along access routes that reinforce legibility and enhance safety	H	Improvement works, visual assessment, community comments	
		Planning and management to avoid under storey planting			
		Review opportunities to enhance visual links between reserve spaces			
	High level of visibility throughout reserve	High level of visibility throughout reserve	Provide visual continuity between spaces	H	Improvement works, community comments, police reports
			Provide sight lines along accessways		
			Provide lighting to major access routes that will be used at night		
			Ensure that spacing of trees along new pathways caters to desired levels of visual surveillance		
Appropriate level of personal safety is afforded / perceived by reserve users	Increase in general reserve usage / decrease in anti social behaviour	Reserve improvements to increase general reserve visitation and activity and assist through passive surveillance in reducing occurrence of anti-social behaviour	H	Implementation of improvement works, community comments, police reports	
		Manage undesirable vehicular access and illegal motorcycle access	H	Illegal access reduced in incidence	

6.2.10 Management

Provision of a well kept reserve environment that meets the sustainable expectations of both passive and active users

Objective	Performance target	Means to achieve	Priority	Assessment of performance
A clean and well kept reserve	Provision of bins for visitor convenience	Provide recycling and waste bin stations at appropriate locations	H	Bins have been installed, visitor survey
	Provision of dog bins for visitor convenience	Provide dog waste bag dispensers / disposal devices in suitable locations	H	Bins have been installed, visitor survey
Staged implementation programme addresses community and environmental priorities	Suitability of plans in conveying proposed improvement works and assisting funding approval	Master Plan and staged action plan to provide basis for seeking of external funding	H	Awarding of various funding grants
Park landscape maintained through sustainable water use	Reuse of water on site for irrigation and other maintenance use	Undertake water reuse strategy for reserve to integrate: - STP water - on site amenities roof water	H	Implementation of strategy

7 Implementation and review

7.1 *Future use and development*

Tregear Reserve will continue to serve both a local community park role, and also as a district sportsground into the future. Future enhancement of the reserve is envisaged to be low key, looking to complement and enhance the existing park character.

7.2 *Leases and licences*

The Local Government Act allows Council to grant leases, licences and other estates over all or part of community land. Leases and licences are a method of formalising the use of land and facilities. Leases and licences can be held by groups such as community organisations and schools, and by commercial organisations or individuals providing facilities and/or services for profit.

A lease will be typically required where exclusive use or control of all or part of a park is desirable for effective management. A lease may also be required due to the scale of investment in facilities, the necessity for security measures, or where the relationship between a major user and facilities in the park justifies such security of tenure.

Licences allow multiple and non-exclusive use of an area. A licence may be required where intermittent or short-term use or control of all or part of the park is proposed. A number of licences for different users can apply to the same area at the same time, provided there is no conflict of interest.

The definition of "estate", under Section 21 of the Interpretation Act, 1987, includes other rights over land, such as easements, including "interest, charge, right, title, claim, demand, lien and encumbrance, whether at law or in equity".

The act requires that any proposed lease is advertised and community comment sought. The comment must be considered, and a lease should not proceed if Council has received an objection to the proposed lease other, than with the Minister (administering the Local Government Act) consent. (Clause 46-47)

7.3 Staging Strategy

The preliminary proposals as described in the Concept Master Plan comprise a range of potential improvements with varying community and environmental priority. The following works action plan assigns priority to the proposals based on those, which are of most immediate community benefit, with lower priority items to be implemented as budgetary and funding opportunities allow.

Phase One Priorities

- Ropes Creek Walk
- Habitat corridor revegetation and regeneration works commenced
- Ancillary path implementation
- Creekline rehabilitation
- Enhanced grass area to allow touch football use (or other sporting use)
- Link to signalised pedestrian crossing at Forresters Road
- Water quality controls to drainage lines
- Pedestrian island to Debrincat Avenue
- Avenue tree planting

Phase Two Priorities

- Provision of overflow parking area
- Fitness area and BBQ
- Ongoing revegetation and regeneration works
- Streetscape improvements to Debrincat Avenue
- Marshland enhancement
- Interpretive signage

Phase Three Priorities

- Additional play space
- Hilltop lookout and marker
- Ongoing revegetation and regeneration works
- Fitness equipment stations

7.4 Works Action Plan

The Works Action Plan provides recommended tasks and areas of work, which need to be addressed in order to implement the reserve enhancement works and management requirements. It is essential that the Works Action Plans involve the active participation of all relevant departments of Blacktown City Council along with appropriate stakeholder groups.

The Works Action Plans are in the form of a schedule that:

- Describes the detailed activities required including pre-construction elements for capital works items;
- Describes the nature of actions required (capital works, policy review, management action, liaison action);
- Recommends possible sources of funding for the works where applicable.

No.	Item	Description	Possible Resources
1.0 Planning			
1.1	Cultural Heritage Investigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare brief • Commission consultant 	NSW Heritage
1.2	Ropes Creek Water Quality Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare brief • Commission consultant 	CMA
1.3	Vegetation Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare brief • Commission consultant 	
1.4	Bushfire Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare brief • Commission consultant 	
1.5	Interpretation Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare brief • Commission consultant 	
1.6	Design development / documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare brief • Commission consultant 	
2.0 Management Policy			
3.0 Capital Works			
3.1 Phase One Priorities			
3.1.1	Establishment / Preliminaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Establishment 10% • Contingency 10% <p><i>Note: 5% acceleration per annum recommended to be incorporated in budget allocation / programming</i></p>	
3.1.2	Ropes Creek Walk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earthworks and grading as required • 2.5m concrete pathway 	Metropolitan Greenspace
3.1.3	Habitat enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement recommendations from Vegetation Management Plan • Weed management • Revegetation • Regeneration 	
3.1.4	Ancillary pedestrian / cycle pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earthworks and grading as required • 2.5m concrete pathway • 1.5m concrete pathway • Steel grate bridge access 	
3.1.5	Creepline rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement recommendations from Vegetation Management Plan • Clean up • Weeding • Revegetation 	CMA

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No.	Item	Description	Possible Resources
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regeneration 	
3.1.6	Enhanced grass area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultivation and soil improvement Upgrade irrigation infrastructure Turf works 	
3.1.7	Link to signalised pedestrian crossing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concrete pavement Pedestrian fencing Landscaping 	
3.1.8	Water quality control measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement recommendations from Ropes Creek water quality assessment 	Comm Water Grants
3.1.9	Pedestrian Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pedestrian island (concrete kerbing and pavement) 	
3.1.10	Avenue tree planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting preparation 45 litre tree planting (including staking and mulch) 	
3.2 Phase Two Priorities			
3.2.1	Establishment / Preliminaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site Establishment 10% Contingency 15% <p><i>Note: 5% acceleration per annum recommended to be incorporated in budget allocation / programming</i></p>	
3.2.2	Overflow parking area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultivation and preparation Turf reinforcement Turf works 	
3.2.3	Fitness area and BBQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excavation as required Softfall surfacing Outdoor gym equipment (supply and install) BBQ shelter Barbeque 	
3.2.4	Continuation of habitat enhancement works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing implementation of recommendations from Vegetation Management Plan Weed management Revegetation Regeneration 	
3.2.5	Streetscape improvements to Debrincat Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formalisation of road edge - compacted roadbase Kerbing and drainage Street tree planting Welcome to Blacktown' signage / public artwork Turf works to road verge Display planting 	
3.2.6	Marshland enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean up and weeding Native grass mass planting (riparian species) 	
3.2.7	Interpretative signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signs (including fixing) 	
3.2.8	Tree planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting preparation 45 litre tree planting (including staking and mulch) 	
3.3 Phase Three Priorities			
3.3.1	Establishment /	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site Establishment 10% 	

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No.	Item	Description	Possible Resources
	Preliminaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contingency 10% <p><i>Note: 5% acceleration per annum recommended to be incorporated in budget allocation / programming</i></p>	
3.3.2	Play space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excavation as required • Softfall surfacing • Play equipment • Landscaping 	
3.3.3	Hilltop lookout and marker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earthworks and grading as required • Concrete pavement • Walling • Handrail • Marker 	
3.3.4	Continuation of habitat enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing implementation of recommendations from Vegetation Management Plan • Weed management • Revegetation • Regeneration 	
3.3.5	Fitness Equipment Stations (2 total)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excavation as required • Softfall surfacing • Outdoor gym equipment (supply and install) 	

7.5 Funding

In addition to funds available from Council's capital works program and maintenance budgets, there are opportunities for grants and corporate sponsorship that could contribute to the completion of development works to Whalan Reserve. These include:

- Metropolitan Green Space Program
- NSW Heritage Assistance Program
- Sydney Metropolitan CMA Catchment Action Plan Grants
- NSW Environmental Trust Grants
- Community Water Grants

7.6 Review

This plan of management is to be reviewed in line with requirements of Local Government Act and Regulations, generally every 5-10 years. It is envisaged that the reserve will be incorporated into a generic plan of management following the implementation of actions identified in this plan.

8 Bibliography

Chapman, G.A & Murphy, C.L (1989)
Soil Landscapes of the Sydney 1:100 000 Sheet
Soil Conservation Service of N.S.W, Sydney

9 Appendix

9.1 Review of relevant planning documents

Document	Relevance to 2007 Plan of Management
Ropes and South Creek Regional Open Space Strategic Management Plan Clouston, 2005	Relevant strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a hierarchy of sport precincts and passive recreation at regional, district and local levels • Create physical and visual linkages to Ropes Creek and surrounding areas – address the creeks • Improve transport links, paths and cycleways • Improve water quality • Continue bush regeneration and revegetation • Maintain a high quality scenic environment • Promote Aboriginal and non Aboriginal cultural heritage
Sydney Metropolitan Regional Recreation Trails Framework Hassell, 2005	Proposed sub regional trail extending from Ropes Creek to South Creek. The sub regional trail provides potential to draw use from outside the region (lower proportion of these users as compared to a regional trail).

9.2 *Flora and Fauna Study*

9.3 *Aboriginal Heritage Assessment*

9.4 *Community questionnaire*

9.5 *Summary of community questionnaire responses*

9.6 Relevant Users Contact Summary

Name / Organisation	Comments
<p>Wayne Gillard <i>Parramatta Diocese Secondary School Sports Council</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use both Whalan and Tregear Reserves for school sport, with Whalan used more regularly • Good location, and size due to number of school children using the reserve • Lack of toilet facilities is an issue • Barren landscape • Shade / shelter not considered a major issue due to the short time span using the park (about an hour)
<p>Greg Evans <i>Secretary Whalan - Tregear Reserve Park Committee</i></p>	<p>Notes from discussion between Greg Evans and Brad Billett (Blacktown City Council):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amenities and facilities is seen to be an important issue - the reserve can not attract top sporting clubs if it doesn't have the right infrastructure. • Full size AFL field being used by cricket and is considering writing to the AFL to have Whalan Reserve used as training base. • Baseball diamond is of official size and is unused due to lack of amenities. Korean team was interested at Olympics but fell through. • Current Cycle Circuit needs to be removed due to illegal use and the problems that this has caused. • Supportive of cycle path though raises concern of illegal use again. • Will be good to see facilities that support the islander communities in particular volleyball courts and basketball courts. This would need appropriate facilities to support these groups. Site identified near where the SORMCC is at present or where the cycle circuit is. • Parking is seen to be fine at the moment though more formal parking could be developed when government funding available and is not seen as a top priority. • Issue of vandalism was raised the Catch 22 situation - if there is no facilities there is decreased use- if facilities are put in there is risk of vandalism. • Also raised the issued of bridge over Ropes Creek that is used by residents of North St Marys and results in a lot of damage and vandalism. • Needs to be promoted by council and not neglected

<p>Grant Collins <i>Recreation and Community Planning Penrith City Council</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has not visited Whalan And Tregear Reserve • There are planned upgrade works for Boronia Park which borders Whalan Reserve on the western side of Ropes Creek - 15 year program including expansion of facilities for soccer training, amenities block, picnic areas, access and carparking • Is not aware of any significant management or maintenance issues at Boronia Park • Open space planning generally within Penrith has found a need to look at the quality of open space, and the provision of quality passive open space not just active areas
<p>Colleen Sutherland <i>NSW Department of Housing Manager Community Generation Mount Druitt</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2007, Housing NSW introduced a new \$66million program- called Building Stronger Communities 2007 – 2010. Mount Druitt was selected as one of the six sites for community regeneration, and includes the suburbs of Whalan and Tregear Reserves. • The initial phase of this process is the preparation of a Community Regeneration Partnership Plan. This includes identifying ways in which the built and natural environment can be improved for the local community. Projects include development of Master Plans for open spaces such as Whalan and Tregear Reserves. • Identified the high proportion of DOH properties in the areas surrounding Whalan and Tregear Reserves. • Noted that crime and safety are often major issues for local users of open space – need to feel safe to use them. • Also noted need for facilities and areas for young people to meet and use. Potential for Whalan and Tregear Reserve to hold events such as music and movies to encourage local community.
<p>Wayne Olling <i>Western Sydney Conservation Alliance</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Sydney Conservation Alliance Inc (WSCA) is an umbrella Landcare group representing a number of conservation / environment groups in Western Sydney with the objective of securing the conservation and management of our endangered

	<p>ecological communities and their role in the protection of species diversity and habitat for Cumberland Plain fauna.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSCA has identified the sole corridor in Western Sydney which would link core biodiversity areas and provide the greatest available means of sustaining viable flora and fauna populations. The 'Cumberland Conservation Corridor' (as we have called it) comprises a number of core biodiversity areas linked typically by narrower riparian corridors, including Whalan and Tregear Reserves. • Highlighted importance of the Master Plan and draft Plan of Management for Whalan and Tregear Reserves incorporating the highest level of flora and fauna protection as well as the future potential for a fauna corridor.
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Fran Kastelan

Blacktown Aeromodellers Club Inc.

Excerpt from email received 3/12/2007

Thanks for your co-operation on behalf BCC, viewed specified area with John Kastelan (BAC Inc. Secretary) to assess if this would be suitable for radio control aircraft. Firstly to Whalan Reserve and then the adjoining Tregear Reserve which looks more suitable to some extent for possible r/c aircraft operations.

The conclusion with mentioned areas would only accommodate some disciplines of r/c aircraft being mainly helicopters and small electric / i/c powered fixed wing models that can fly in confined spaces. If it was not possible at Tregear Reserve (more suitable) the adjoining vacant land near the established area for r/c cars at Whalan Reserve could be adaptable to a lesser extent for r/c aircraft activity that would be controlled with implemented guidelines.

The hobbies general needs for all r/c model aircraft disciplines would exceed the area currently available at Whalan / Tregear Reserves. The typical area needed to accommodate would be the size of a typical football field + fly-over area and then for model setup, public viewing / parking would need to be confined to an area behind these flying operations.

There are guidelines as previously stated that is implemented by our national body (Model Aeronautical Association of Australia) for the hobby and of course that includes insurance involving both public / property & operator.

Please note there would need to be a strong liaison between any r/c discipline as model aircraft and model cars in a allocated area of operations as transmitter/radio signals (frequency control) can interfere more so with flying model aircraft with possible detrimental outcome which could be a concern.

Blacktown Aeromodellers Club Inc. would be co-operative with some type of controlled / allocated area for the above (r/c helicopters & electric / i/c powered small aircraft only) at Whalan / Tregear Reserves. The expected patronage on-site if it were to be established would be weekends of course this will also depend on with weather on day (rain & wind lessens our activity). There would be some activity week

days mainly with retiree's but all this could be flexible on which days if need to.

Currently there are some r/c aircraft operations happening at Whalan Reserve that need to be controlled accordingly as it would be inevitable at some point one day there will be an incident that may spoil this ever expanding popular hobby in area for all.

Please note our tenure at our current site is uncertain (Bungarribee Precinct, Doonside, Western Sydney Parklands) the club has excellent patronage with all age groups, popular with local residents and surrounding areas, as these facilities in Sydney Metro are lesser now. The club has hosted many competitions current & past including National Championships.

Yes, any future alternative in local area accommodated by BCC would be very appreciative for ALL interested including BAC Inc membership.

Superintendent Alan Harding
Mt Druitt Police Station

- Critical issue is providing facilities to occupy local children and teenagers – typically facilities such as skate parks and basketball hoops are well utilised
- Important to consider that kids using the reserve will not want intrusive adult surveillance
- Try to incorporate inclusive use that provides for children, teenagers as well as adults through picnic facilities (bbq's etc) and seating
- It is critical from a safety point of view that the reserve is well lit, and that views are available into the reserve
- Graffiti issues have been successfully dealt with in the past by incorporating a graffiti wall as part of works which the local kids can be involved in
- Also need to consider the prevention of nuisance use such as trail bikes
- Whalan needs to be made an attractive park to encourage use
- Suggested that it will be more effective to undertake small, stages projects and do these well rather than undertaking a lot of improvements all at once
- Also important to consider community outreach activities such as barbeques, film nights etc.

Steve Guyatt
*Secretary
Tregear Reserve Baseball*

- Current baseball facility at Tregear Reserve, serves the Club well hosting international teams on occasion
- The Club has also been accepted into the Sydney Winter Baseball League which is at an elite level of competition
- Consider that Tregear Reserve is one of three baseball facilities, that are the main

	<p>locations for the sport in Sydney</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do experience some unauthorised use of the fields (predominantly touch football) and have suggested areas where grass condition may be improved to accommodate this use • The existing irrigation system is failing to the baseball fields and requires upgrade / replacement • Spectators generally well catered for • Use could be enhanced through further shade tree planting to eastern side of fields • Amenities block has been recently upgraded • Have experienced vandalism on occasion, and are considering the viability of installation of CCTV cameras • Consider bushland environment / context of the reserve as an important recreation aspect
<p>Tony Barnden <i>Manager, Community Development Blacktown City Council</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a changing demographic in the local area, from affordable housing to community housing which will bring people with multiple and complex issues to the area • It is harder to sustain institutions and groups within the local community • School enrolments in the area are decreasing • Need for community pride and community ownership • The Blacktown Social Plan Action Plan highlights the need to encourage physical activity, build community cohesion and renew / activate community programs in local park facilities