Natural Areas
Bushland
Generic Plan of Management
Revision Copy April 2009
HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

During the preparation of the Plan of Management for Bushland there has been significant community and stakeholder consultation, the outcomes of which are reflected in this draft report. Written submissions to the draft report give the community an opportunity to make a response to the Plan of Management prior to its presentation to Council. All written submissions will be included in the report to Council. Written submission in respect of this Plan of Management should be addressed to:

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Fairfield City Council
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Attn: Project Officer – Plans of Management

Fax: 9757 4720
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To ensure that submissions are as effective as possible it is suggested to:

- Include your name, address and contact telephone number
- State which Plan of Management you are responding to
- List points according to the Section and Page number
- Briefly describe the issue
- State the points you agree or disagree with
- Suggest alternative options as appropriate

Submissions will be received for 42 days following the first date of public exhibition of this Plan of Management. This is a public process and your submission will not be considered as confidential unless specified otherwise. Submissions will only be used for the purpose described above.

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“The Bushland reserves will be part of an integrated open space system linked to increase their environmental values and enhance their recreational values to the community.

The reserves will be well managed and maintained in a way that minimises undue adverse impacts on the bushland and maximises recreational and educational opportunities.

The indigenous plant and animal communities will be protected and restored within practical limits with the aim being for a self-sustaining community.

The values of the Bushland reserves will be appreciated by the local residents and communities of the Fairfield local government area.”
Fig. 1  Map of Fairfield local government area showing the location of the main Bushland reserves
SUMMARY

WHAT IS A PLAN OF MANAGEMENT?

A Plan of Management broadly outlines the long-term (5-10 year) development direction and future management strategies for areas of community land. It can be generic to include a number of similar sites, or individual for one specific site. This is a generic Plan of Management for the Natural Areas – Bushland prepared under the local Government Act 1993 (or LG Act) as amended by the Local Government (Community Land Management) Act 1999. It includes all of the Bushland areas within the Fairfield local government area (or LGA). In preparing this generic Plan of Management, local residents, key stakeholders and the broader community were consulted to identify and examine:

- The current status of the Bushland areas.
- The key values and the major issues in relation to the Bushland.
- The objectives for the future management, usage and development of the Bushland – the strategies (and actions) that will protect and enhance the values and resolve the issues.

WHAT IS A BUSHLAND RESERVE AND WHERE ARE THEY IN FAIRFIELD?

A Bushland reserve can be broadly be described as an area of community land that is a natural area of mainly indigenous vegetation – it can be undisturbed or disturbed provided that the land is capable of being rehabilitated. Some of the largest areas of bushland in the Fairfield area are part of Fairfield City Farm and the Western Sydney Regional Park – however these areas are not community land and are not included in this Plan of Management. There is also some remnant Bushland that is part of the Fairfield Showground site (covered by its own Plan of Management adopted in 2000). There are a number of other areas where bushland regeneration and revegetation works are being undertaken – mostly beside the creeklines. Five Bushland reserves and three areas of Bushland are included in this Plan of Management:

- Bossley Road Reserve, Bossley Park
- Derwent Place Reserve, Bossley Park
- Gordon Street Reserve, Carramar
- The Fairfield Indigenous Flora Park, Prairiewood
- Sartor Crescent Reserve, Bossley Park
- Parts of Lalich Reserve, Bonnyrigg; Powhaten Reserve, Greenfield Park and Stockdale Reserve, Abbotsbury;

WHAT ARE THE MAIN VALUES AND ISSUES IN RELATION TO THE BUSHLAND?

The Bushland reserves are repositories for locally indigenous plants and vegetation communities and are a reminder of the Cumberland Plain Woodland that once covered most of the Fairfield area. They provide some habitat for native animals. The reserves are generally peaceful places that provide for recreational activities in a natural rather than man-made environment for example: walking and bird watching.

There are some people who perceive that the Bushland reserves and Bushland areas are “untidy”, full of potentially dangerous animals and that there is a very high risk of bushfires. These perceptions can result in pressure to “tidy up” the Bushland, to clear the understorey and mow the native grasses leading to potential loss of habitat for native animals, and limited natural regeneration of the indigenous plants. There are a few people who see the Bushland as “waste grounds” – places to dump rubbish.
Many of the Bushland areas are located on or near creeks. Whilst these areas provide potential for linking bushland areas, generally the quantity of water has increased and quality of water has decreased as the surrounding areas have been developed. The Bushland has become fragmented, restricted to small, isolated pockets by the surrounding development with many edges that are potential sites for weed invasion. There is potential for garden plants to “escape” into the Bushland and potential adverse effects on native animals from domestic pets.

WHAT IS PROPOSED FOR THE BUSHLAND AREAS?

No major developments are proposed for the Bushland reserves and areas of remnant Bushland. If or when large-scale development or other change in the land usage is anticipated then a new individual Plan of Management will be prepared and supersede this generic Plan of Management. In instances where the nature and use of the reserve is not altered by a proposed development or improvement then this Plan of Management will permit the development of the new facilities provided that it is permissible under the objectives for the land category (as specified by the Local Government Act, 1993 as amended 1999) and approved by Council. In summary the following general outcomes and actions are supported:

Implement strategies to increase community awareness and appreciation of the Bushland and Bushland reserves including:

- Inform local residents and the wider community about the values of the Bushland.
- Provide appropriate support and assistance for volunteer Bushcare groups.
- Consider re-naming the reserves to better reflect their bushland status.
- Enhance signage and provide interpretation as appropriate.
- Maintain appropriate community access to the Bushland.

Protect the environmental values of the bushland areas

- Preserve the remaining areas of bushland.
- Monitor and document the sites and all associated works including the integrity of the indigenous vegetation, weeds, water quality and native fauna sightings.
- Protect and enhance the existing remnant vegetation. Ensure an ongoing bushland regeneration program that encourages natural regeneration where practical. Ensure provenance seed sourcing for all revegetation work.
- Ensure that all bushland regenerators (whether voluntary or paid) are appropriately trained and/or supervised by an appropriately trained person.
- Protect and encourage native animals as appropriate. Maintain natural habitats.

Improve safety and security of Bushland reserves:

- Secure the reserves from vehicular access except for emergency and maintenance vehicles.
- Implement strategies to minimise littering, dumping and vandalism.
- Implement an appropriate fire management strategy.

Enhance the recreational values of the Bushland

- Consider community needs balanced with protection of the environmental values of the Bushland.
- Install additional facilities such as seating and pathways (as appropriate). Consider the potential impact on the site environment in addition to the educational and recreational benefits.

Maintain the land in its natural setting

- Enhance the linkages between the Bushland and other areas of open spaces for example along creeklines and through appropriate street tree planting.
- Improve the useability and accessibility of the creeks as recreational resources. Improve their natural environment and visual amenity values.
Maximise available resources.
- Utilise “Work for the Dole” and volunteer programs as appropriate.
- Explore opportunities for increased resources including additional funding.
- Liaise with other authorities including adjacent Councils and NPWS.

OBJECTIVES FOR MANAGEMENT

The core objectives prescribed by the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended 1999) for the management of community land categorised as a natural area are to:

1. Conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystems function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised.
2. Maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting.
3. Provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land.
4. 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.
5. Assist in and facilitate the implementation of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan prepared under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 or the Fisheries Management Act 1994.

The core objectives for bushland are to:

6. Ensure ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including fungi invertebrates and micro-organisms) and other ecological values of the land.
7. Protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values.
8. Promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land.
9. Restore degraded bushland.
10. Protect existing landforms (e.g. natural drainage lines, watercourses, foreshore).
11. Retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term.
12. Protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.

Section 5.0 of this report details how Council proposes to achieve objectives for the management of the Bushland reserves and Bushland areas.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is currently preparing a Recovery Plan under the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995 for the Cumberland Plain Endangered Ecological Communities (CPEEC). All of the Bushland sites identified in this Plan of Management contain some remnant CPEEC. Under the Local Government Act, 1993 (as amended 1999) all community land that is affected by a Recovery Plan must be categorised as a Natural Area and have an individual Plan of Management. Individual Plans of Management have therefore been developed with objectives, strategies and actions that are linked to this generic Plan of Management.

Inclusion of items in this Plan of Management does not necessarily mean that they will be funded by Fairfield City Council. The Plan of Management determines the development direction for the land and does not require that all items be implemented. Prior to implementing this Plan of Management it will be placed on public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days and submissions invited with a response period of not less than 42 days from the initial date of exhibition. Information on how to respond to this Plan of Management can be found on page 2.
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 WHAT IS A PLAN OF MANAGEMENT AND WHY IS ONE BEING PREPARED FOR THE BUSHLAND?

A Plan of Management is a strategic document that outlines the long term (5-10 year) future use, development and management of community land. It is a recreational planning tool that combines Council’s vision for open space, outcomes defined by community consultation and current best practice in land management. Operational plans for the day-to-day management of the land are developed using Plans of Management as a framework for decision-making and prioritising works programs and budgets. A Plan of Management can be specific to one parcel of land, or generic and include a number of areas of similar land. This is a generic Plan of Management for the Bushland areas. It has been prepared to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act, 1993 (as amended 1999). The aim of the legislation is to:

- Promote best practice in the management of environmentally sensitive land.
- Curb inappropriate alienation of community land for private purposes.
- Reinforce the public’s right to participate in public land management.
- Assist Councils in the categorisation of community land and the management of that land.

It is anticipated that this generic Plan of Management for the Bushland areas will be superseded by individual or site specific Plans of Management when and if:

- This generic Plan of Management is insufficient to satisfactorily provide a clear framework for the management of an individual reserve (for example if significant re-development is proposed).
- There are changes to the legislation requiring the development of a site specific or a new generic Plan of Management.
- An individual Plan of Management is required because the site is affected by a Recovery Plan prepared under the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995.

To fully satisfy the legislation, a generic Plan of Management must:

- Identify the category of the land.  
  Section 1.3 of this report.
- State the core objectives and performance targets for management of the land.
- Outline the means by which the council proposes to achieve the plan’s objectives and performance targets.
- Describe the manner in which the council proposes to assess performance with respect to the plan’s objectives and performance targets.  
  Section 5.0 of this report.
- Expressly authorise any leases, licences or other estates.  
  Sections 2.6 and 4.2 of this report.

1.2 THE LAND COVERED BY THIS PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

The Open Space Strategy (Clouston, 1999) lists a total of four bushland reserves totalling 10.3 hectares. This generic Plan of Management identifies eight areas (the map: fig 1 on page 4 of this report shows the location of these sites):

- Bossley Road Reserve, Bossley Park
- Derwent Place Reserve, Bossley Park
- Gordon Street Reserve, Carramar
- The Fairfield Indigenous Flora Park, Prairiewood
- Sartor Crescent Reserve, Bossley Park
- Parts of Lalich Reserve, Bonnyrigg; Powhaten Reserve, Greenfield Park and Stockdale Reserve, Abbotsbury.
The eight Bushland reserves have individual Plans of Management with common strategies and actions for the management of the Bushland that are linked to this generic Plan of Management. The reason for preparing individual Plans of Management is because of the presence of Cumberland Plain Endangered Ecological Community (or CPEEC) vegetation on the site. The New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is currently developing a Recovery Plan for the endangered vegetation communities of the Cumberland Plain. Under the Local Government Act, 1993 (as amended 1999) land that is affected by a Recovery Plan must have an individual (or site specific) Plan of Management.

There are major bushland areas that are part of Fairfield City Farm and the Western Sydney Regional Park but these are not Council owned Community Land and therefore not included in this Plan of Management. There is also some remnant bushland on Fairfield Showground (Plan of Management adopted in 2000).

There are other sites within the Fairfield LGA where bushland regeneration and revegetation programs are being implemented. In addition there are some sites where the NPWS has identified vulnerable or endangered plant species including Acacia pubescens (commonly known as Downy Wattle), Cynanchum elegans (or White Wax-flower) and Pimelea spicata (or Pink Rice-flower). These sites are not being included in this generic Plan of Management (other than the eight reserves identified on the previous page) either because they are not on community land or they are not categorised as “Bushland” (they may be a Natural Area on a Watercourse for example). Council officers are currently undertaking a survey of the open space within the Fairfield LGA and as a result more areas of community land may be included in this generic Plan of Management in the future.

The Local Government Act, 1993 (as amended 1999) applies specifically to Council owned land classified as community land. This generic Plan of Management will also apply to Crown Land under Council’s trusteeship, and land owned by other government departments under the care and control of Fairfield City Council.

1.3 CATEGORISATION OF THE LAND

The primary categorisation of the reserves of community land that will be managed under this generic Plan of Management is Natural Area – Bushland under section 36(4) of the Local Government Act, 1993 (as amended 1999). A Bushland reserve can be broadly be described as an area of community land that is a natural area of mainly locally indigenous vegetation that is undisturbed or disturbed provided that the land is capable of being rehabilitated. Many of the bushland reserves are also located on creeklines and this land is categorised as Natural Area-Watercourse.

The individual Plans of Management for the Bushland reserves also include areas of community land categorised as Park. There is a Scout Hall on Bossley Road Reserve, this land is categorised as General Community Use. Stockdale, Powhaten and Lalich Reserves are Sportsgrounds.

Appendix 7.1 describes the guidelines for categorisation of community land. Further details including maps showing the areas that are separately categorised are provided in the respective individual Plans of Management. All of the Bushland covered by this generic Plan of Management are described as:

Ownership: Fairfield City Council
Classification: Community Land
2.0 **CURRENT SITUATION**

Details specific to each of the eight Bushland reserves is provided in their respective individual Plans of Management.

2.1 **PRESENT CONDITION AND USE OF THE LAND**

Fairfield LGA is located on part of the Cumberland Plain approximately 30 kilometres to the south west of Sydney’s Central Business District. It covers an area of 102.5 square kilometres and includes 27 suburbs grouped into 5 planning districts. Appendix 7.3 is a map of Fairfield LGA showing the planning districts and suburbs.

The Bushland reserves are generally small in their size (less than 3 hectares) and fragmented – separated from other areas by development. Some of the reserves are in a good condition for example the Fairfield Indigenous Flora Park includes a variety of plants and weeds are mostly confined to the edges. Sartor Crescent Reserve appears to be in a poorer condition with more weed infestation, littering and dumping detracting from its visual amenity (though the Bushland retains its basic integrity). The Bushland is used for a variety of recreational and educational activities. It provides some habitat for native animals and is as a reminder of the natural vegetation of the Cumberland Plain.

2.2 **HISTORY AND HERITAGE**

Prior to European settlement in the mid-nineteenth century, Aboriginal people from the Cabrogal band of the Durang speaking people lived in the Liverpool and Fairfield area. No specific details of the Aboriginal cultural or archaeological significance of the Bushland were found during research and consultations for this Plan of Management.

Farms, vineyards and timber yards in the 1800s contributed to the loss of bushland and during the 1900s much of the bushland of the Fairfield area has been cleared for urban development (Fairfield City Council, 1996).

2.3 **ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS**

2.3.1 **CLIMATE**

The local climate of Fairfield LGA is a result of its location on the Cumberland Plain (a landform feature described in section 2.3.2 following). It lies between the Blue Mountains to the west and the influence of the sea along the coast of Sydney some 30 kilometres to the east. It is in a rain shadow created by the higher coastal plateaux which captures the rain from the prevailing south-east winds (Bannerman & Hazelton, 1990). Average annual rainfall is between 870mm (Liverpool) and 862mm (Prospect Reservoir) compared to Sydney’s coastal average of 1260mm per annum (Bureau of Meteorology, 2000).

Summer temperatures (on the Cumberland Plain) are usually higher than in coastal zones which receive the sea breeze (Fairley & Moore, 1995). There is considerable diurnal and seasonal range in temperature within the area (Bannerman & Hazelton, 1990). The mean daily maximum Summer temperature recorded for the nearest weather station at Liverpool for January is 28.1°Celsius down to a minimum of 17.6°Celsius. On average there are 9.6 days in the month when temperatures can rise above 30°Celsius. In Winter the mean daily maximum is 17.3°Celsius in July down to a minimum of 4.6°Celsius. On average there are 7.1 days in the month when temperatures can drop below 2°Celsius (Bureau of Meteorology, 2000).
2.3.2 LANDFORM

Fairfield LGA is located on part the Cumberland Plain - a relatively shallow basin, dissected by a network of creeks which flow to the south-east and drain into the Georges River (George, 1991). Most of the Cumberland Plain consists of undulating country of low hills and boggy depressions (Robinson, 1991).

The watershed for the district lies along the ridgeline to the west that rises in places to more than a hundred metres and forms a backdrop to Fairfield City Farm and Western Sydney Regional Park. Beyond this in the Rural planning district there are 3 creeks originating in Fairfield LGA which flow out to the west and north and eventually into the Hawkesbury river- Ropes Creek, Reedy Creek and Eastern Creek. There are a further 5 creeks which flow to the south and east:

- Cabramatta Creek marks the border with Liverpool Council and ultimately flows into Chipping Norton Lake.
- Prospect Creek flows from Prospect Reservoir and marks the border with Holroyd Council.
- Orphan School Creek and its tributaries Clear Paddock Creek and Green Valley Creek ultimately flow into Prospect Creek and then on to the Georges River.

2.3.3 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The Cumberland Plain consists of a deep, almost unbroken layer of Wianamatta Shale at altitudes ranging from 20 to 100m above sea level. The heavy clay soils of the Plain are often poorly drained and poorly aerated, hence swampy depressions are common. Recent sand and clay alluvium occurs along many creeks. (Fairley & Moore, 1995).

There are five identified soil landscape groups (described by Bannerman & Hazelton, 1991) within Fairfield LGA:

- In the area west of Cowpasture road and around Edensor Park there are erosional soils of the Luddenham Soil Landscape Group, and the colluvial soils of the Picton Group.
- Most of the area is made up of residual soils of the Blacktown Soil Landscape Group.
- In the areas adjacent to the creeklines fluvial soils of the South Creek and Berkshire Park Soil Landscape Groups occur.

Descriptions of the soil landscape groups can be found in appendix 7.3 at the end of this report.

The natural soil profiles in many areas have been modified and disturbed as a result of clearing and development.

2.3.4 VEGETATION

Little of the original vegetation of the Cumberland Plain remains since the area was extensively cleared for grazing and small scale farming in the early days of settlement. Today the rapid spread of suburban sub-division threatens the little that remains (Fairley & Moore, 1995).

A tall close-growing open forest once covered most of the Plain but now only scattered patches remain. *Eucalyptus moluccana* (Grey Box) and *E. tereticornis* (Forest Red Gum) are common on the better drained sites. Ironbarks (including *E. fibrosa* and Spotted Gum *Corymbia maculata*) abound in many places, especially on
drier rises or lateritic soils. The original ground cover was mainly native grasses with scattered shrubs. Now introduced grasses and the opportunistic native shrub Blackthorn (Bursaria spinosa) dominate. Marshy depressions are dominated by Cabbage Gum (E. amplifolia), Melaleuca decora and other Paperbarks (such as M. styphelioiodes) with a marshy meadow of mainly native herbs. Swamp She-oak (Casuarina glauca) follows the creek banks (Robinson, 1991).

There are a number of species that occur within Fairfield LGA considered vulnerable or threatened under the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995 – Acacia pubescens (commonly known as Downy Wattle), Pimelea spicata (Pink Rice-flower) and Cynanchum elegans (White Wax-flower). In addition, NPWS is currently preparing a Recovery Plan for the remnant vegetation communities of the Cumberland Plain (CPEEC or Cumberland Plain Endangered Ecological Communities). Two communities have been identified on the Bushland sites:

**Alluvial Woodland** – Occurs in close proximity to watercourses on soils derived from Wianamatta Shale. It is River Flat Forest dominated by *Eucalyptus amplifolia* and *E. tereticornis* with a stratum of smaller trees including *Acacia parramattensis subsp.*, *parramattensis* and *Casuarina glauca*.

**Shale Plains Woodland** – This is the most widely distributed community on the Cumberland Plain and also occurs on soils derived from Wianamatta Shale. It is dominated by *Eucalyptus moluccana* and *E. tereticornis* with other small trees including *Corymbia maculata* occurring less frequently (NPWS, 2000).

The vegetation in the bushland areas of Fairfield LGA is generally a mixture of indigenous flora and introduced weeds. Remnant vegetation consists of typical Cumberland Plain woodland communities in addition to some riparian communities as outlined above. There are 25 weeds declared noxious in the Fairfield LGA, 12 of which are present in the area – these are: Alligator Weed, Cabomba, Green Cestrum, Pellitory, St Johns Wort, Water Hyacinth, Lantana (pink and red flowering), Castor Oil Plant, Blackberry, Harrisia Cactus and Prickly Pear (Fairfield City Council’s weed list, 1999). In addition to the noxious weeds, there is a range of other weeds found on bushland sites within Fairfield LGA which represent a threat to the integrity of bushland - these include vines and creepers such as Morning Glory and Moth Vine; woody weeds such as Privet and Ochna; grass and annual weeds such as Bidens, Fleabane, Kikuyu and Couch.

### 2.3.5 Fauna

Recorded sightings include most of the commonly occurring native animal species adapted to living in close proximity to people such as the brush-tailed and ring-tailed Possums, small lizards and birds such as the Kookaburra, Currawong, Galah and Noisy Miners. There are 25 species of bird that have been identified at the Indigenous Flora Park.

### 2.4 Facilities on the Bushland

Owing to the nature of the Bushland and the relatively small size of the Bushland reserves, facilities are currently limited to formal and informal walking tracks and some signage – usually a name plaque for the reserve and a “no dumping” sign.

There is a small car parking area at Bossley Park Reserve (associated with the Scout Hall). At other sites, parking is available in nearby residential streets.
2.5 THE COMMUNITY AND ITS NEEDS

Around 1900, the population of Fairfield was approximately 2,500. Following the Second World War the population rapidly increased from about 27,000 in 1948 to 38,000 in the 1950s with many ex-servicemen and European migrants settling in the area. By 1979 there were approximately 120,000 living in Fairfield LGA with many new residents, migrants and refugees from South East Asia settling in Cabramatta (Clouston, 1999). The population has continued to increase with the release of new residential land areas.

Fairfield City Council serves a population of 191,239 (as at June 2000), more than half of who were born overseas. It is the sixth most populated local government area in Australia and has the highest degree of ethnic diversity – more than half (53.5%) of the population were born overseas from 133 different countries and almost two-thirds (64%) of the people use a language other than English at home (Clouston, 1999). There is a greater than average proportion of families with children and single parent families than the Sydney statistical average, and a generally lower than average income. The 1996 census showed an unemployment rate of 16% across Fairfield LGA with an even higher rate among young people (King & Associates, 1997). It is predicted that Fairfield LGA will continue to be characterised by a relatively high proportion of low income groups at least in the short term, and cultural diversity will continue to be a feature of the population. (Clouston, 1999).

Sport is an important form of recreation. Over one-third (36%) of the population actively participate in sporting activities - this is more than 10% above the national average and 5% above the state average. (King and Associates, 1997).

The major findings of Fairfield City Council's Recreational Needs Assessment Study (King and Associates, 1997) that are relevant to the Bushland are:

- The need to provide a broad range of recreational opportunities.
- Safety as a community issue.
- Access to recreational opportunities.

Some of the major community needs identified by the study were:

- Appealing and attractive areas.
- Easy access to facilities via walking tracks and cycleways.
- Paths suitable for older adults, strollers and disabled people.
- Secure and properly managed areas.
- Better promoted facilities.

A recent resident survey conducted by Fairfield City Council in 2000 found that open space projects relating to maintaining natural areas of Bushland rated very highly in importance.

2.6 CURRENT LEASES, LICENCES AND OTHER ESTATES

A lease, licence or other estate (such as easements for public utilities) over a parcel land is a formal way for the lease or licence holder to secure access to or over the land in return for some benefit to the community. Leases are often associated with Sportsgrounds and the benefit to the community is usually by way of direct improvements to the facilities funded by the lease-holder such as provision of floodlighting or upgrading of the playing surface for example.
A lease or licence is only granted when there is demonstrated community benefit, and when the purpose of the lease or licence is not in conflict with the overall objectives of the management of the land.

There is a 20-year licence for the Scout Hall on Bossley Road Reserve that ends in 2009. This section of the reserve is categorised as General Community Use. There are no other existing leases, licences or other estates for the Bushland areas.

Section 4.2 of this report details the leases, licences and other estates expressly authorised by this Plan of Management.
3.0 Basis for Management

3.1 Council’s Corporate Vision

Fairfield City Council’s Vision for the City of Fairfield 2010 is a ten point statement and encompasses the diversity of priorities for the city that was adopted by Council in December 1999. Specifically relevant to Plans of Management are:

- **A clean and green** Fairfield with restored waterways and a wide range of open spaces and recreation areas connected into a regional open space, recreational and water system.

- **Attractive residential areas** with avenues of trees, landscapes streets and where infrastructure is well maintained, with less conflict with inappropriate activities.

- **An accessible city** one which connects people, places and activities and has a wide choice of safe, affordable and convenient transport options.

- A city which promotes understanding of cultural diversity and where services are delivered to meet the needs of the community on an **equitable** basis.

- A city that has maintained its stock of publicly owned assets in a manner that is **fair to current and future generations**.

- A community which is proud of its City – a place which has a reputation as an **excellent place in which to live, invest and prosper**.

**Fairfield City Council’s Management Plan**, adopted June 1999, states that Council exists to provide services to the community. A key strategic output is to develop resources to benefit residents and the environment such that:

> “Fairfield’s residents enjoy the many benefits that access to a diverse range of quality, affordable recreational, sport and leisure opportunities can provide.”

The vision of Fairfield City Council’s Management Plan in relation to open space is to:

- Provide a wide variety of facilities and activities to meet the community’s diverse recreational needs, and
- Develop these resources to benefit both our residents and our environment.

3.2 Council’s Open Space Strategy

Fairfield City Council’s Open Space Strategy (Clouston, 1999) sets out to:

- Categorise Council’s open space assets by their type and catchment.
- Determine whether Council’s current open space provision meets the needs of users in each category type.
- Maximise the use of Council’s open space and identify the benefits of this provision to the community.
- Provide Council with a plan which identified future opportunities and direction for open space in Fairfield LGA.
This Plan of Management for Bushland will be consistent with the outcomes and objectives developed by the Open Space Strategy including:

- Provide open space and recreation facilities and activities to meet the needs of the community.
- Improve the quality of open space.
- Ensure equity of access to open space and recreation facilities.
- Improve design and planning in relation to safety.
- Develop opportunities for linkages between areas of open space.
- Maintain and manage Council’s recreation resources in an efficient and cost effective manner.
- Develop short, medium and long term management strategies and priorities which optimise the use of Council funds.
- Explore the opportunities for public and private sector partnerships as a means of funding open space and recreation provision.

Specifically in relation to Bushland areas, the Open Space Strategy includes the following principles and strategies:

**Principle:** Integrate the management of natural systems within open space areas to co-ordinate all relevant areas and achieve the widest possible range of outcomes.

**Strategy:**
- Co-ordinate the activities of Council departments (eg Bushland regeneration) and community groups involved with creeklines.
- Adopt sustainable and ecologically sensitive solutions for stormwater management of creeklines rather than hard engineering solutions.

**Principle:** Protect and rehabilitate remnant bushland within open space areas to enhance the experience of users whilst achieving nature conservation objectives.

**Strategy:**
- Continue to protect the remnant bushland resource by controlling the following impacts – clearing and fragmentation of bushland, litter/dumping, urban run-off, fires, weed and exotic species infestation.
- Review the priorities for bushland rehabilitation in line with a wider set of objectives including wildlife conservation, open space and recreation opportunity, access, safety/security, stormwater management (habitat creation clean/green urban env contrast to hard elements etc).
- Consider a new Environmental Protection Zone for significant areas of remnant bushland or threatened species such as Cumberland Plain Woodland. Consider land management agreements with adjacent owners.
- Continue to rehabilitate remnant bushland, particularly concentrating on the upper reaches of creeklines which have most potential for rehabilitation, working towards the lower reaches, integrate with community group programs and community education.
- Ensure that locations for amenity/cultural plantings do not compromise the integrity of remnant bushland.

### 3.3 GENERAL PLANNING CONTEXT

The zoning for Bushland reserves in Fairfield City Council’s **Local Environmental Plan (LEP), 1994** – amended July 1999, is **zone 6(a) existing and proposed recreation**. The objectives of this zoning are to:

- Provide public open space to meet the existing and future recreation and leisure needs of residents.
- Provide opportunities to enhance environmental quality of the City of Fairfield.
- Identify land that is required for future open space purposes.
Permitted without development consent is open space, roads, works for the purposes of landscaping, gardening or bushfire hazard reduction. Permitted only with development consent is agriculture, car parks, child care centres, clubs, communication facilities, community facilities, drainage, entertainment facilities, helicopter landing sites, recreation facilities, utility installations. Prohibited is any purpose other than a purpose included in the above.

Also considered in the strategies outlined in this Plan of Management for the Bushland areas are:
- State Environmental Planning Policy 19
- Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 and Recovery Plans being prepared under this legislation.
- Rural Fires Act, 1997 and Soil Conservation Act, 1938
- Survey of Native Bushland – Prospect Creek and Cabramatta Creek Catchments (Urban Bushland Management Consultants P/L 1998)
- Fairfield City Council’s Five Creeks Strategy (document drafted, 2001).

3.4 ROLE OF BUSHLAND

Bushland reserves are natural areas of open space in a largely urban environment. They provide for passive recreational activities including walking, bird watching and bush regeneration. They are a reminder of the original Cumberland Plain vegetation that once covered much of the Fairfield LGA. They provide habitat for some native animals. Many of the bushland sites are found along creeks and have a role in stormwater management.

3.5 IDENTIFICATION OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

In developing this Plan of Management for the Bushland there has been significant stakeholder and community consultation including a public meeting. Key stakeholders consulted include Councillors, the Indigenous Flora Park Committee, Council’s Creeks and Wetlands group, Bossley Park Public School, Bossley Park Scout Association, and local residents living near to the reserves.

3.6 VALUES OF BUSHLAND

Values in this context can be defined as what is important about a place. Generally speaking values change more slowly that issues and by taking a values-based approach, the relevance of Plans of Management can be increased and their life-span extended. The following values for the Bushland have been identified. Values specific to individual reserves are detailed in the individual Plans of Management:

Environmental values - The Bushland reserves are repositories for locally indigenous plants and vegetation communities including endangered species and communities of the Cumberland Plain. They provide habitat for native animals and help to maintain local biodiversity.

Recreational values - The Bushland reserves are generally peaceful places that provide for recreational activities in a natural rather than man-made environment for example: walking and bird watching.
Educational values - The Bushland is a valuable educational resource for students and the wider community to better understand its nature and significance.

Heritage values - The Bushland areas are a reminder of the Cumberland Plain Woodland that once covered most of Fairfield LGA.

Social and community values - Bush regeneration and revegetation work through voluntary planting days, the Indigenous Flora Park committee and other voluntary community bushcare groups, the “Kids n Creeks” program and other initiatives provide an opportunity for social interaction and to increase community understanding and appreciation for the bushland.

Visual amenity values - The natural areas are a contrast to their man-made surroundings. The trees provide a vertical dimension and the wildflowers add colour to the landscape.

Future generational values - Council and the community have a custodial role in protecting these areas.

3.7 ISSUES IN RELATION TO THE BUSHLAND

During the consultation process, issues were identified that potentially reduce the values of the Bushland in Fairfield LGA. Further information on issues specific to individual Bushland reserves are outlined in the individual Plans of Management.

Community understanding about the Bushland - Fairfield is the most culturally diverse Council area in Australia. It is the sixth most populated with around 190,000 people, more than half of who were born overseas. Whilst there are many people who appreciate the Bushland and have a good understanding of its nature and significance, there are some people who perceive that the Bushland is “untidy” and that there are dangerous animals including snakes and rats. Some people are anxious about the threat of bushfires to their property and perceive this is a high risk. There are a few people who see the Bushland as “waste grounds” – places to dump rubbish that in turn makes the area look untidy and can encourage vermin. As a result there can be pressure to “tidy up” the Bushland – that is, to clear the understorey and mow the native grasses. This can have a number of detrimental effects on the Bushland including loss of habitat for native birds and other native animals, limited natural regeneration of the indigenous vegetation, increased weed infestation, reduced biodiversity and increased ongoing maintenance as the site is less likely to be self-sustaining.

Development pressures and urbanisation surrounding Bushland - Many of the Bushland areas are located on creeks or drainage lines. Whilst these areas provide potential to link bushland areas, generally the quantity of water flowing in the creeks has increased and the quality has decreased as the surrounding areas have been developed. This can lead to altered environmental conditions that favour weeds over indigenous vegetation. Conditions including localised erosion, waterlogging of soils, increased soil nutrient and pollutant levels.

The Bushland is fragmented, restricted to isolated pockets by the surrounding development. The sites themselves are generally small with lots of edges that are potential sites for weed invasion. There is potential for garden plants to “escape” into the Bushland and potential effects on native animals from domestic pets (bird predation by domestic cats for example).

The Bushland areas are rarely burnt (though there have been incidents of occasional fires started by vandals). This alteration in the natural fire regimes can affect the natural regeneration capabilities of the Bushland.
There are recreational impacts on the Bushland including access routes that can compact the soil, increase run-off at the micro-environmental level and provide avenues for weed invasion.

**Resources.** Fairfield City Council has a limited annual budget for bush regeneration and revegetation works, the funds coming from a variety of sources including grant funding. The majority of the work under the Bush Regeneration Program is outsourced to private contractors. There are some local resident groups notably the Fairfield Indigenous Flora Park Committee who volunteer their time and expertise. Council has an active creek planting and bushland education program in association with local primary schools – the “Kids’n’Creeks” program. Some projects are carried out under “Work for the Dole” scheme.

**Other issues:**
- A lack of litter-bins on Bushland reserves – there is a lack of bins on almost all of Council’s reserves. New systems of rubbish collection are being examined on Sportsgrounds initially but may be expanded.
- There have been isolated incidents of contractors spraying and/or mowing areas of Bushland that are regenerating or have been re-planted.
- There is a need to ensure that provenance seed sourcing for re-vegetation projects is continued.
- Bushland regeneration and revegetation works should continue to be documented.
- There may be implications for the way in which Bushland management operations are undertaken arising from the Recovery Plans that are currently being prepared by NPWS for the remnant Cumberland Plain vegetation.

### 3.8 OUTCOMES AND PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS

No major developments are proposed for the Bushland reserves and areas of remnant Bushland. It is proposed that the Bushland will continue to be managed and maintained primarily as natural areas whilst allowing for the opportunity for recreation and education. If or when large-scale development or other change in the land usage is anticipated then an individual Plan of Management will be prepared and supersede this generic Plan of Management. In instances where the nature and use of the reserve is not altered by a proposed development or improvement then this Plan of Management will permit the development of the new facilities provided that it is permissible under the objectives for the land category (as specified by the Local Government Act, 1993 as amended 1999) and approved by Council.

**In summary the following general outcomes and actions are supported:**

Implement strategies to increase community awareness and appreciation of the Bushland and Bushland reserves including:
- Inform local residents and the wider community about the values of the Bushland.
- Provide appropriate support and assistance for volunteer Bushcare groups.
- Give consideration to the re-naming the reserves to better reflect their bushland status and as a mechanism for increasing community awareness.
- Enhance signage and provide interpretation as appropriate.
- Maintain community access to the Bushland.

Protect the environmental values of the bushland areas
- Preserve the remaining areas of bushland.
- Monitor and document the sites and all associated works including the integrity of the indigenous vegetation, weeds, water quality and native fauna sightings.
- Protect and enhance the existing remnant vegetation. Ensure an ongoing bushland regeneration program. Encourage natural regeneration where practical.
• Ensure provenance seed sourcing for all revegetation work. Implement appropriate weed control programs.
• Ensure that all bushland regenerators (whether voluntary or paid) are appropriately trained in bushland management techniques and/or supervised by an appropriately trained person. And that all Council maintenance workers and contractors (mowers and weed sprayers) are aware of the Bushland areas.
• Protect and encourage native animals as appropriate. Maintain natural habitats.
• Inform the community about what they can do to assist in minimising the key threats to the Bushland areas.
• Maintain and promote the environmental values of the creeks.

Maintain the land in its natural setting
• Enhance the linkages between the Bushland and other areas of open spaces for example along creeklines and through appropriate street tree planting.
• Improve the useability and accessibility of the creeks as recreational resources. Improve their natural environment and visual amenity values.
• Maintain the Bushland areas in a size and configuration to maximise the possibilities for them to be self-sustaining communities.

Improve safety and security of Bushland reserves:
• Secure the reserves from vehicular access except for emergency and maintenance vehicles.
• Implement strategies to minimise littering, dumping, vandalism and other inappropriate behaviour.
• Develop and implement an appropriate fire management strategy. Inform local residents.

Enhance the recreational values of the Bushland
• Consider community needs and the protection of the environmental values of the Bushland.
• Install additional facilities such as seating and pathways (as appropriate). Consider the potential impact on the site environment in addition to the educational and recreational benefits.

Maximise available resources.
• Utilise “Work for the Dole” and volunteer programs as appropriate. Ensure suitable training and supervision is provided.
• Explore opportunities for increased resources including additional funding.
• Liaise with other authorities including adjacent Councils and NPWS.

3.9 VISION FOR BUSHLAND

“The Bushland reserves will be part of an integrated open space system linked to increase their environmental values and enhance their recreational values to the community.

The reserves will be well managed and maintained in a way that minimises undue adverse impacts on the bushland and maximises the recreational and educational opportunities.

The indigenous plant and animal communities will be protected and restored within practical limits with the aim being for a self-sustaining community.

The values of the Bushland reserves will be appreciated by the local residents and communities of the Fairfield local government area”
4.0 MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

4.1 CORE OBJECTIVES FOR MANAGEMENT

The following objectives are prescribed under the Local Government Act, 1993 (as amended 1999) for Natural Areas – Bushland and Watercourse. How Council proposes to achieve these core objectives is described in Section 5.0 The Action Plan of this report. Reference should also be made to the individual Plans of Management for the Bushland sites.

Core objectives for management of community land categorised as a Natural Area:

1. Conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystems function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised as a natural area.
2. Maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting.
3. Provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land.
4. 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.
5. Assist in and facilitate the implementation of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan prepared under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 or the Fisheries Management Act 1994.

Core objectives for management of community land categorised as Bushland:

6. Ensure ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land.
7. Protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land.
8. Promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land.
9. Restore degraded bushland.
10. Protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores.
11. Retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term.
12. Protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface,

Core objectives for managing community land categorised as Watercourse:

13. Manage watercourses so as to protect the biodiversity and ecological values of the instream environment, particularly in relation to water quality and water flows.
14. Manage watercourses so as to protect the riparian environment, particularly in relation to riparian vegetation and habitats and bank stability.
15. Restore degraded watercourses.
16. Promote community education and community access to and use of the watercourse, without compromising the other core objectives of the category.
4.2 **LEASES, LICENCES AND OTHER ESTATES EXPRESSLY AUTHORISED BY THIS PLAN OF MANAGEMENT.**

This Plan of Management expressly authorises the lease, licence or grant of any other estate over the land specified in section 1.2 of this report, for any community use as determined by Council and short term casual commercial purposes as determined by Council for a term not exceeding five (5) years.

The purposes must be consistent with the core objectives of land categorised as bushland (listed on the previous page) and legislative requirements (sections 46 and 47B of the Local Government (Community Land Management Act) 1999.

Council will consider potential adverse impacts on the integrity of the bushland.

With respect to natural areas, generally, Council may grant a lease, licence or other grant of estate for the erection or use of the following buildings and structures including: walkways, pathways, bridges, causeways, observation platforms, signs. With respect to Bushland this also includes information kiosks and work sheds.

**Granting of Estates** - This Plan of Management expressly authorises Council to grant ‘an estate’ over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993. Estates may also be granted across community land for ‘the provision of pipes, conduits or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the council or other public utility provider that is situated on the community land. Estates will be granted in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993.

**Communication towers** - This Plan of Management expressly authorises the leasing, licensing or granting of other estate to telecommunications carriers as defined by the Telecommunications Act 1997, where the terms of the grant are consistent with Council’s obligations under the Local Government Act.

Licences to collect propagation material are granted under the Native Vegetation Conservation Act, 1997 by the NPWS.

There is an existing licence for Bossley Park Scout Hall that ends in 2009. Existing leases, licences and other estates are protected under the Local Government Act. Further information is contained in the individual Plan of Management for Bossley Road Reserve.
5.0 **ACTION PLAN**

The following action plan merges all of the information and outcomes that have been gathered in the preparation of this Plan of Management. These are the guidelines for the future use, development and management of the Bushland generally – further details specific to Bushland sites are provided in the individual Plans of Management.

**Objectives**
These are prescribed under the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended 1999) for each category of land as applicable, for example: Natural Area – Bushland and Watercourse.

**Performance Target**
This is a statement of what will be achieved if the objective is met.

**Means to Achieve**
Is an explanation of how the council will achieve each target – it includes both strategies and specific actions.

**Timeframe**
It is an estimate of when the Council will be able to achieve the target taking into account available resources and the level of importance of each target in the achievement of the overall objective.

- **ST** = Short Term. Achievement of target within 1 – 3 years. This may also include ongoing actions such as annual audits or surveys.
- **MT** = Medium Term. Achievement of target within 1 – 5 years.
- **LT** = Long Term. Action to commence within 1 - 5 years, though achievement of target may take longer than this time frame.

**Department**
Is the department at Fairfield City Council that will be directly responsible for ensuring that the target is achieved – though the physical implementation of the action may be undertaken by other departments within Council, external partners or contractors.

- **COD** = City Outcomes Department.
- **CSD** = City Services Department.
- **ESD** = Environmental Standards Department.

**Performance Assessment**
Is how the Council will measure the successful achievement of the target and incorporates both the performance indicator and method used to measure it.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Performance Target</th>
<th>Means to Achieve</th>
<th>Timeframe/Department</th>
<th>Performance Assessment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Natural Areas - Bushland objectives for management</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Bushland is maintained in a natural setting.</td>
<td>Promote and encourage the sensitive development of land around Bushland areas that is sympathetic to the values of these natural areas and minimises potential adverse impacts on the environment.</td>
<td>LT and Ongoing COD and CSD</td>
<td>Monitor impacts of surrounding development on the Bushland.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Bushland reserves are maintained in an appropriate size and configuration that considers the long-term survival of existing plant and animal communities.</td>
<td>Identify and preserve the remaining areas of bushland. Prohibit the sale Bushland reserves and acquire adjacent lots as appropriate to increase the size of the reserve or improve its configuration.</td>
<td>LT and Ongoing COD and CSD</td>
<td>Community land categorised as Bushland is identified and protected.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linkages between the Bushland reserves and the surrounding area are maintained and enhanced.</td>
<td>Identify and enhance linkages with other reserves (for example along creeklines) and possible linkages with the surrounding area. Enhance linkages for example with tree-planting to create corridots of canopy trees, construction of pedestrian pathways and/or cycle routes as appropriate and where possible.</td>
<td>LT and Ongoing COD and CSD</td>
<td>Bushland reserves are part of a network of linked reserves throughout the Fairfield LGA. Feedback from community indicating satisfaction.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Areas - Bushland objectives for management</td>
<td>Identify, protect and enhance the indigenous plant species and communities present on the Bushland sites. Develop appropriate operational plans coordinated across Fairfield LGA that aim to protect and enhance the existing remnant vegetation and achieve self-sustaining communities in the long term and where practical. Use accepted bush management practices and encourage natural regeneration where possible. Ensure provenance seed sourcing for all revegetation works. Implement appropriate weed control programs. Ensure that problems identified are not made worse. Implement the plans, monitor and review as appropriate. Ensure that bush regenerators (whether voluntary or paid, Council staff or contractors) undertaking bushland management work on Bushland sites are appropriately trained or supervised by appropriately trained person(s). Ensure that all workers on Bushland sites are aware of their potential impacts on the bushland and take steps to minimise potential adverse effects. Implement the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 and control weeds as appropriate.</td>
<td>ST and ongoing CSD</td>
<td>Plans are developed and implemented. Monitor changes over time to the numbers and variety of indigenous plants and animals. Numbers are maintained or increase as appropriate. Monitor the type and approximate coverage of weed species. Numbers decrease. All bush regeneration work uses accepted bush management practices and is undertaken by appropriately trained and/or supervised people. All workers on Bushland sites are aware of their potential impact on the bushland and are taking steps to minimise adverse impacts.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Natural Areas - Bushland objectives for management</strong></td>
<td>Native fauna and the habitat values of the Bushland are protected.</td>
<td>Initiate and maintain a register of native animal species in the Fairfield area. Protect and encourage native animals. Identify the native fauna present and the key habitat values of the Bushland reserves with consideration to food, shelter, bathing, perching, mating and breeding sites for native animals. Protect the identified key habitats. Where the habitat is provided by weed species or dumped car for example, take appropriate measures to provide alternative habitat where possible. Increase public awareness of the potential adverse impacts of feral and domestic pets on native animals and bushland, and of practical steps to minimise the adverse effects. Control feral animals as appropriate.</td>
<td>ST and ongoing CSD</td>
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<td>Performance Target</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Natural Areas - Bushland objectives for management</strong></td>
<td>Rare and endangered species and communities are protected. Identify and locate rare and endangered species and communities within the Fairfield area. Liaise with NPWS and other stakeholders as appropriate for example adjacent Councils to formulate strategies. Implement operational plans coordinated across the LGA that are in line with this Plan of Management and consider the recommendations of Recovery Plans prepared under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 for endangered species and/or communities that might be present. Monitor results and review as appropriate. LT and ongoing COD and CSD</td>
<td>Monitor the area and/or numbers of endangered species or communities as appropriate. Numbers are stable or increasing.</td>
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<td>The visual amenity values of the Bushland are protected.</td>
<td>The visual amenity values of the bushland are protected. • Consider the potential adverse impact of bushland regeneration works on the visual amenity and habitat values. • Open up views and vistas where practical whilst maintaining the integrity of the Bushland. • Minimise littering and dumping on site through restricted access community education and signage as appropriate. Encourage “Dob-in-a-Dumper” and neighbourhood clean up days. Ensure reports of dumping are acted upon in a timely manner. • Ensure paths and other permitted structures are constructed from materials sympathetic with the local area and have minimum adverse impact. • Inform the community about the different “look” of Bushland reserves compared to Parks. LT and ongoing COD and CSD</td>
<td>Community feedback indicating satisfaction at the visual amenity values of the Bushland. Monitor reports of dumping and littering in Bushland areas.</td>
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### Performance Target | Means to Achieve | Timeframe/Department | Performance Assessment
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**Natural Areas - Bushland objectives for management**

A range of appropriate recreational facilities and uses are provided for with minimal adverse impact on the environmental integrity of the Bushland.  

Balance community needs with protection of the environment. Liaise with key stakeholders to establish what additional recreational facilities are appropriate and ensure consideration of the environmental impacts in the planning stages and take steps to mitigate the identified impacts. Install facilities as appropriate.  

Examine internal circulation routes. Improve pathways as appropriate with consideration to materials use and their location. Relocate existing pathways as necessary. Ensure paths and other permitted structures are constructed from materials sympathetic with the local area and have minimum adverse impact.  

Provide site interpretation. Install signage as appropriate to enhance visitor appreciation for the Bushland sites.

| The resources available for Bushland regeneration and revegetation projects within Fairfield LGA are maximised. | Secure ongoing resources for Bushland regeneration and restoration projects with consideration to:  
- Increasing resources.  
- Encouraging voluntary bushcare groups and utilising schemes such as "Work for the Dole" or similar as appropriate.  
Ensure efficient use of resources. Determine the priority for works with consideration to the available resources, seasonal conditions and other site factors. | Ongoing CSD | Monitor resources available for Bush regeneration and revegetation projects. Monitor works required and projects completed on a regular basis (eg annually). Sufficient resources are secured for projects and used efficiently. |

Feedback from community and users of bushland to indicate satisfaction at recreation provision.  
Monitor the site environment indicating the integrity of the bushland is maintained.
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| Natural Areas - Bushland objectives for management                                | The community is aware of and appreciates the values of the Bushland. Inform local residents and the wider communities of Fairfield about the values of the Bushland and provide information about what they can do to minimise the major threats to the Bushland. Consider strategies and actions such as:  
  - Target residents living near the Bushland reserves.  
  - Improve signage and interpretation at the sites.  
  - Publicise information in the local media.  
  - Re-name some of the reserves to better reflect their Bushland status and promote the Bushland.  
  - Promote voluntary community bushcare groups such as the Indigenous Flora Park Committee. Provide appropriate support and assistance to community bushcare groups. Encourage new groups as appropriate. | LT and Ongoing CSD and COD | Survey and feedback from the community indicating increased awareness and appreciation for the values of the Bushland. Increased interest and involvement in voluntary community bushcare groups. |
| Bushland works have minimum adverse impact on the environment and neighbours.     | Ensure that bushland regeneration and other site works have minimum impact on neighbouring properties for example:  
  - Ensure that rubbish (eg weed bags) are removed regularly.  
  - Minimise use of chemicals to eradicate weeds and ensure that steps are taken to mitigate potential threat of spillage and overspray.  
  Encourage good community relations with users of the reserve and neighbours. | Ongoing CSD                       | Community feedback indicating level of satisfaction that their quality of life is reasonable and not adversely impacted upon by their proximity to the Bushland reserves. Undertake regular side visits to monitor bushland works. |
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| Bushland works are well documented. | Ensure that appropriate and accurate records are kept of bushland regeneration work including (but not limited to):  
- Areas worked.  
- Dates and number of hours worked.  
- Tasks completed (eg weeding, planting).  
- Techniques employed  
- Major weeds encountered.  
- Numbers and species of plants planted.  
- Follow up work.  
- Results – including numbers of species regenerating, and survival rates.  
- Any anomalies compared to established bush regeneration information.  
- Monitor and record animal sightings.  
- Monitor and record species of indigenous flora and communities.  
- Monitor and record water quality.  
- Monitor and record soil survey information. | Ongoing CSD | Regular (eg annual) standard site reports are produced and retained on file. |
<p>| The soil surface in the Bushland areas is protected from erosion. | Maintain the natural soil covering where possible. Ensure that alternative appropriate soil surface covering is provided where it is not possible to maintain the existing natural soil covering because of changes to site conditions. Control access as appropriate. | Ongoing CSD | Undertake regular site visits. Monitor for signs of soil erosion – soil is not eroding. |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Performance Target</th>
<th>Means to Achieve</th>
<th>Timeframe/Department</th>
<th>Performance Assessment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Community access to</td>
<td>Assess access to Bushland sites with consideration to pedestrian/cycle paths and linkages with other areas of open space. Improve existing linkages and install new linkages as appropriate with consideration to potential impacts on the bushland. Assess internal circulation through Bushland sites including the nature of the tracks and access points. Rationalise and formalise the track and entry systems as appropriate with consideration to: Control vehicular access. Permit access for emergency and maintenance vehicles. Ensure tracks are appropriately located, with respect to site factors (eg, creeks and topography) and proximity to sensitive areas. Ensure tracks are constructed from appropriate materials and include adequate provision for drainage. Install signage as appropriate.</td>
<td>LT and Ongoing CSD and COD</td>
<td>Survey community and users of bushland to indicate satisfaction at level of access provision. Monitor flora, fauna, soils and water quality for indicators that the integrity of the bushland is maintained. Appropriate internal circulation routes are provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bushland is provided</td>
<td>Minimise the potential fire hazard. Liaise with the appropriate authorities and local residents as appropriate and develop a program of hazard reduction with consideration to site conditions, resilience and the regenerative potential of the plants and habitat for wildlife. Implement, monitor and review as appropriate Inform the community about the bushland and encourage passive surveillance of Bushland areas.</td>
<td>Ongoing CSD</td>
<td>Bushfire management program is implemented. Community feedback indicating satisfaction that the risk of bushfires is minimised. Feedback indicating bushland areas are safe.</td>
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**Natural Areas - Bushland objectives for management**

Bushland areas are safe.
<table>
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<td><strong>Natural Areas - Bushland objectives for management</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Council's exposure to criticism, compensation and litigation is minimised.</td>
<td>Implement a pro-active risk management program. Identify potential hazards within Bushland reserves. Quantify the level of risk and Council’s potential liability for each identified hazard. Eliminate the identified risks as appropriate and practical.</td>
<td>Ongoing CSD</td>
<td>Risk management program is implemented. Monitor the number, frequency, type and result of compensation claims against Council in relation to injury sustained within the reserve. Reduction in successful claims.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leases, licences and other estates for the bushland areas are permitted where there is community benefit.</td>
<td>Permit leases, licences and other estates in accordance with section 4.2 of this report.</td>
<td>Ongoing CSD</td>
<td>Community feedback indicating satisfaction. Leases etc are permitted only in accordance with the legislation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The objectives of this Plan of Management for Natural Areas – Bushland are achieved</td>
<td>Adopt this Plan of Management. Implement the actions. Monitor performance indicators.</td>
<td>Ongoing COD and CSD</td>
<td>Plan of Management is adopted and actions implemented to achieve the objectives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance Target</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Areas - Watercourse objectives for management</td>
<td>The environmental values of the creeks and drainage lines are protected and enhanced. Conduct regular inspections and ensure that the creeks and drainage lines are free of rubbish. Control major weeds. Encourage locally indigenous species along the creeklines by planting or other means as appropriate. Manage the areas on a catchment basis and in line with the outcomes of Fairfield City Councils Five Creeks Study (2001) – in summary, for the creeks to be: Useable and accessible. Visually attractive. Clean, well-maintained, healthy environments. Valued by the community. Natural areas with sensitive nearby developments. Protected for future generations. Consider potential upstream and downstream impacts and liaise with adjacent landowners as appropriate. Install signage as appropriate and inform local residents and users of the areas about the environmental values of the creeks.</td>
<td>LT and ongoing CSD, COD and ESD</td>
<td>Community feedback and satisfaction. Monitor water quality and quantity. Improvements are recorded. Site survey to monitor effects on the creek lines and drainage lines. Improvements are recorded. Monitor native species associated with the creekline – numbers and variety increase. Monitor reports of dumping.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6.0 REFERENCES

Bannerman SM and Hazelton PA (1990) *Soil Landscapes of the Penrith 1:100 000 Sheet* Soil Conservation Service of NSW, Sydney
and the accompanying map by Hazelton PA, Bannerman SM and Tille PJ (1989)


Urban Bushland Management Consultants P/L (1998) *Survey of Native Bushland – Prospect Creek and Cabramatta Creek Catchments* prepared for Fairfield City Council

Fairfield City Council (1994) *Local Environment Plan* Fairfield City Council

Fairfield City Council (1996) *Draft Plan of Management Bushland* Fairfield City Council

Fairfield City Council (1999) *Vision for Fairfield* Fairfield City Council


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Fairfield City Council (1999) *Noxious Weeds of Fairfield* brochure

Fairfield City Council (1999) *Indigenous Flora Park* brochure


Bureau of Meteorology web site: http://www.bom.nsw.gov.au

Local Government Act, 1993

Local Government (Community Land Management) Act 1998
7.0 **APPENDICES**

7.1 **GUIDELINES FOR CATEGORISING LAND AS BUSHLAND**

Under Local Government (General) Amendment (Community Land Management) Regulation 1998, schedule 1 Part 2A Division 1 Guidelines for the categorisation of community land:

**6B Guidelines for categorisation of land as a natural area:**

Land should be categorised as a natural area under section 36(4) of the Act if the land, whether or not in an undisturbed state possesses a significant geological feature, geomorphological feature, landform, representative system or other natural feature or attribute that would be sufficient to further categorise the land as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore under section 36 (5) of the Act.

Section 36A of the Act provides that community land that has been declared a critical habitat under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 or the Fisheries Management Act 1994 must be categorised as a natural area.

Section 36B of the Act provides that community land all or part of which is directly affected by a recovery plan or threat abatement plan under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 or the Fisheries Management Act 1994 must be categorised as a natural area.

**6G Guidelines for categorisation of land as bushland:**

1. Land that is categorised as a natural area should be further categorised as bushland under section 36 (5) of the Act if the land contains primarily native vegetation and that vegetation:
   a. is the natural vegetation or a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land, or
   b. although not natural vegetation of the land, is still representative of the structure and or floristics of the natural vegetation in the locality.

2. Such land includes:
   a. bushland that is mostly undisturbed with a good mix of tree ages and natural regeneration, where the understorey is comprised of native grasses and herbs or native shrubs, and which contains a range of habitats for native fauna (such as logs, shrubs, tree hollows and leaf litter) or
   b. moderately disturbed bushland with some regeneration of trees and shrubs where there may be a regrowth area with trees of even age, where native shrubs and grasses are present in the understorey even though there may be some weed invasion or
   c. highly disturbed bushland where the native understorey has been removed, where there may be significant weed invasion and where dead and dying trees are present where there is no natural regeneration of trees or shrubs, but where the land is still capable of being rehabilitated.
7.2 **HIERARCHY OF PARKS AS ADOPTED BY THE FAIRFIELD CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY (CLOUSTON, 1999)**

In recent years there has been a move away from the use of the terms “regional”, “district” and “local” to describe hierarchy in level terms, thus avoiding some of the confusion in the use of the previous descriptions and the tendency to base hierarchy principally on geography and size.

This draft plan of management has used the same hierarchy descriptions to be consistent with the adopted Open Space Strategy:

- Level 1: serving the Western Sydney region
- Level 2: serving the recreation needs of the Fairfield Local Government Area (LGA) as a whole
- Level 3: providing for the recreation needs within each of the five planning districts within the LGA
- Level 4: providing for the recreation needs of an individual suburb or neighbourhood
7.3 **MAP OF FAIRFIELD LGA SHOWING THE SUBURBS AND THE PLANNING DISTRICTS**
7.4 **SOIL LANDSCAPE GROUP PROFILE SUMMARIES** (Bannerman & Hazelton, 1991)

**EROSIONAL SOILS**

- **Luddenham Group**
  Landscape: characterised by rolling low hills on Wianamatta shales. Local relief 50-80m, slopes 5-20%. Extensively cleared tall open-forest.
  Soils: shallow (<1000mm) dark podzolic soils or massive earthy clays on crests. Moderately deep (700-1500mm) red pozolic soils on upper slopes and moderately deep yellow podzolic soils on lower slopes and drainage lines.
  Limitations: high soil erosion hazard, localised impermeable subsoil.

**COLLUVIAL SOILS**

- **Picton Group**
  Landscape: steep sideslopes on Wianamatta shales usually with a southerly aspect. Local relief 90-300mm slopes > 20%. Extensively cleared tall open-forest.
  Soils: shallow to deep (500-2000mm) red & brown podzolic soils on upper slopes. Brown and yellow pozolic soils on colluvial material and yellow podzolic soils on lower slopes and drainage lines.
  Limitations: high soil erosion hazard, mass movement hazard, some impermeable and highly plastic subsoils.

**RESIDUAL SOILS**

- **Blacktown Group**
  Landscape: gently undulating rises on Wianamatta shales. Local relief to 30m, slopes usually < 5%. Cleared eucalypt woodland and tall open-forest.
  Soils: shallow to moderately deep (<1000mm) hard setting mottled texture contrast soils, red and brown podzolic soils on crests grading to yellow podzolic soils on lower slopes and drainage lines.
  Limitations: moderately reactive highly plastic subsoil, low fertility and poor drainage.

**FLUVIAL SOILS**

- **South Creek**
  Landscape: floodplains, valley flats and drainage depressions of the channels on the Cumberland Plain. Usually flat with incised channels, mainly cleared.
  Soils: often very deeply layered sediments over bedrock or relict soils. Where pedogenesis has occurred there are structured plastic clays or structured loams in and immediately adjacent to drainage lines, red and yellow podzolic soils are most common on terraces with small areas of minimal krasnozems, leached clays and yellow solodic soils.
  Limitations: erosion hazard, frequent flooding.

- **Berkshire Park Group**
  Landscape: dissected, gently undulating low rises on the Tertiary terraces of the Hawkesbury-Nepean river system.
  Soils: weakly pedal orange heavy clays and clayey sands often mottled. Ironstone nodules common. Large silcrete boulders occur in sand/clay matrix Solods, yellow podzolic soils where drainage conditions are poor, red podzolic soils, chocolate soils on flats and in small drainage lines, unstructured plastic clays, and krasnozems in drainage lines or on crests.
  Limitations: very high wind erosion hazard if cleared. Gully, sheet and rill erosion on dissected areas. Waterlogging, impermeable subsoils, low fertility hazard.