Plan of Management

Drainage Reserves

FINAL DOCUMENT AS APPROVED BY COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING 14 APRIL 1997

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

In June 1993, the Local Government Act (1993) was enacted. The Act includes specific requirements relating to the preparation of Plans of Management for community land.

Plans of Management will regulate the use and management of the land. They do not replace existing legislation/systems relating to the approval of activities and development.

Council manages 80 open space areas covering 100 hectares. Additional open space within the Municipality is managed by other authorities, such as Sydney Harbour National Park. Overall, there are 85 open space areas incorporating approximately 144 hectares of land within the Municipality. Of Council administered land, 72 per cent is Council owned and the remainder is Crown Land.

Council is currently preparing Plans of Management for all of its community land. Each plan functions as a decision-making tool for Council staff and as a document to inform the local community of the future of parks and reserves in their area.

This Generic Plan covers all areas of land classified as Drainage Reserves. This category relates to public land held by Council for drainage purposes.

Council intends to continually amend this Plan of Management, enabling it to address shifts in management practice, and the inclusion of additional Drainage Reserves, should they be located.

Land covered by this plan is detailed in Chapter 2 (p.5) & Chapter 3 (p.11).

1.2 Aims

The major aim of this report is to establish a Generic Plan of Management to comply with the Local Government Act (1993) in relation to those areas of land within Council's area classified as drainage reserves.

This plan addresses management issues common to drainage reserves and develops a framework for future action. This report aims to outline the range of situations common to each Drainage Reserve, as well as outlining the current function and potential of particular Drainage Reserves.

1.3 Council's Land Management Goals

Corporate goals of the strategic land management program in relation to areas classified as Drainage Reserves are:

- To ensure the preservation of open space as a community resource for public access and recreation.
- To develop a regional co-ordinated approach to the management of open space.
- To encourage community participation in the management of open space.
- To provide pedestrian links to other open space areas.

1.4 Category of Land

Drainage Reserves are classified as community land. Under the Local Government Act (1993) Drainage Reserves are categorised as;

A) general community use (Drainage Reserves).

1.5 Structure of the Plan of Management

The structure of this Plan of Management has been developed to facilitate its implementation.

A review of the current function, design and value of each reserve is included in the first section. This establishes a framework for the identification of management issues.

An action plan, formulating a practical response to each management issue, is presented in the final section of the document. It clearly sets out future actions, the department responsible for these actions, performance objectives and evaluation methods.

2 Existing Situation

The Woollahra Municipality possesses approximately 24 kilometres of ocean cliff and harbour foreshore. Drainage Reserves form part of the 61 per cent that is directly accessible to the public.

Woollahra Council has currently identified thirty-four areas of land set aside for drainage purposes. All Drainage Reserves are Council owned.

The primary function of each reserve is to facilitate drainage, however many Drainage Reserves also function as pedestrian links to areas which may otherwise be inaccessible.

In most cases Drainage Reserves are characterised by narrow strips of land, providing pedestrian and vehicular access to other streets, parklands or foreshore areas. However, there are some variations in their design and use.

Drainage Reserves may also provide a space for passive recreation - such as the grassed reserve bordering Harbour View Park in Woollahra, which is used as a children's playground.

The community value of Drainage Reserves is determined by a range of factors which include the visibility, safety and accessibility of the various reserves. These factors, coupled with the facilities present on each reserve, affect both the level and type of public usage.

Table 1 was created in an attempt to map the value and roles of the various Drainage Reserves. It describes the relative location, size, facilities and present usage of each reserve.

Table 1 - LOCATION, FACILITIES, SIZE AND USAGE OF DRAINAGE RESERVES

LOCATION		AREA	SIZE	FACILITIES	USAGE
Watsons Bay	1. Marine Parade to Salisbury Place	111.3 m²	Pipe ∅ = 150mm Depth= 0.700m	Concrete footpath.	Pedestrian access way to Salisbury Place.
Vaucluse	2. Davies Avenue to Derby Street	196.6 m²		Footpath.	Pedestrian access to Derby Street prevented by building encroachments.
	3. Cambridge Avenue to Davies Avenue	76.2 m²	;	L-shaped path, gate.	Access prevented by locked gate. No access to Derby Street.
	4. 38 Olola Avenue to Hopeton Avenue	119.8m²	Pipe Ø = 610mm Depth = 2m	Reserve features concrete stairway, handrails, plantings and seating.	Pedestrian access way to Hopeton Avenue.
·	5. Village Lower Road to Olphert Avenue	106. 4m²	Pipe Ø = 225mm Depth =0.8m	Concrete pathway.	Access way to Olphert Avenue.

LOCATION		AREA	SIZE	FACILITIES	USAGE
Vaucluse	6. 79 Vaucluse Road to Wentworth Road	100.6m²	No actual line	Concrete steps and pathway.	Pedestrian link to Wentworth Road.
	7. 53 Vaucluse Road to Wentworth Road	112.8m²	Pipe Ø = 300mm Depth = 0.6m	Concrete pathway, steps, lighting and handrails.	Public link to Wentworth Road.
	8. Carrara Avenue to Hermit Bay Reserve	63.4m ²	Box channel = 500x500 Pipe ∅ = 610mm Depth = 1.8m	Reserve within private property boundaries.	No public access.
	9. Olola Avenue to Wentworth Road	42m²	Pipe ∅ = 300mm Depth = 1.200m	Concrete stairs and pathway, lighting, hand-rails and plantings.	Pedestrian access way to Wentworth Road.
	10. New South Head Road to Gilliver Avenue	72.2m²	Pipe ∅ = 375mm Depth = 0.80m	Concrete pathway, steps and lighting.	Right of way to New South Head Road.
•	11. Gilliver Avenue to Vaucluse Road	45.7m²	Pipe ∅ = 300mm Depth = 1.4m	Driveway.	Public access to Vaucluse Road.

LOCATION		AREA	SIZE	FACILITIES	USAGE
Vaucluse	12. New South Head Road to Gilliver Avenue	112.8m²	Pipe ∅ = 375mm Depth = 0.9m	Concrete driveway and steps.	Access to Gilliver Avenue.
Rose Bay	13. Gilliver Avenue to Vaucluse Road	365.7m ²	Pipe ∅ = 300mm Depth = 0.7m	Open drain.	Public access prevented. Facilitates drainage.
·	14. Dumaresq Road to Rose Bay	66.7m²	Pipe ∅ = 300mm Depth = 1.35m	Reserve is a steep, grassed area. It features a gate and various plantings.	Provides public access to the harbour foreshore and is an important link to Dumaresq Reserve.
Bellevue Hill	Dumaresq Road to Tivoli Avenue	362.3m ²	Pipe ∅ = 750mm Depth = 1m	Plantings.	Pedestrian access currently restricted by a fence.
	16. Bundarra Road to Blaxland Road	286.5m²	Pipe ∅ = 420mm Depth = 1.3m	Concrete stairway.	Pedestrian walkway, providing access to Blaxland Road.
į	Bellevue Road to Cooper Park	227.4m²	Pipe ∅ = 300mm Depth = 1.5m	Asphalt driveway.	Driveway and parking space, servicing the two adjoining retail outlets.

LOCATION		AREA	SIZE	FACILITIES	USACE
Bellevue Hill	18. Northland Road to Streatfield Road	158.3m²	No actual line	Steep grassed reserve, featuring assorted shade trees and plantings.	The steepness of the reserve means it is unsuitable for recreational activities. The reserve functions as a pedestrian link to Streatfield Road.
	19. Warren to Streatfield Road	186.5m ²	Pipe ∅ = 610mm Depth = 1.8m	Flat grassed area featuring several large Brush Box trees. Facilities include a concrete walkway and lighting.	The reserve is used as a public walkway, providing access from Warren Road to Streatfield Road. The reserve is also used by children to play in.
	20. Off Drumalbyn Road	73.1m²		Steep driveway.	Used for residential parking.
,	21. Preston Avenue	426.7m²	Pipe ∅ = 375mm	Features concrete steps, pathway, seating, plantings and lighting.	Provides a link to Trahlee Road
	22. Crane Place	281.3m²	Pipe ∅ = 610mm Depth = 1.3m	Concrete stairs, pathway and rail.	Pedestrian link to Fairfax Road.

LOCATION	**************************************	AREA	SIZE	FACILITIES	USAGE
Woollahra	23. Edward Street to Cooper Park	301.4m²	Water flows on the grassed areas.	Steep grassy verge adjacent to Cooper Park, featuring many plantings.	Important link to Cooper Park.
	24. Manning to Walleroy Road	78m²	Pipe Ø = 525mm Depth = 900mm	Features concrete stairway.	Public link from Manning to Walleroy Road.
	25. Water Board DP 777192 to Harbour View Park	195.2m²	Pipe ∅ = 610mm Depth = 1.3m	Area of grassland bordering Harbour View Park. Features gate and various plantings.	Used by children to play in. Public access restricted by gate.
D	26. Suttie Road	143.3m²	Pipe Ø = 450mm Depth = 1.25m	Facilities include a concrete pathway and grassed area.	A gate prevents full public access.
Double Bay	27. Epping to Kiaora Road	34.9m²	Pipe ∅ = 750mm Depth = 1.35m	Concrete footpath.	Pedestrian link to Kiaora Road.
	28. William Street	82.3m²	No actual line	Open channel stormwater drain, features fence and signage.	Facilitates drainage. No public access.
	29. Lot 14 Winston Gardens	74m²	Pipe Ø = 425mm Depth = 0.9m	Concrete path.	No public access.

LOCATION		AREA	SIZE	FACILITIES	USAGE
Point Piper	30. St. Mervyn's Avenue, Point Piper	131m²	Pipe ∅ = 610mm Depth = 1.350m	Facilities include a footpath, gate, lighting, steps and signage.	Provides one of the only public accessways to Seven Shilling Beach.
·	Wolseley Crescent to Double Bay/Felix Bay	64m²	Pipe ∅ = 300mm Depth = 0.700m	Incorporated in garden adjoining building.	Public access restricted by fence.
Paddington	32. Wentworth Street	85.1m ²	Pipe ∅ = 225mm Depth = 0.8m	Concrete footpath.	Provides pedestrian access to George Street.
	33. Walker Lane to Mary Place	378.2m²		Bitumen rear- lane	Gives car and pedestrian access to Mary Place.
Bellevue Hill continued	34. Birriga Rd to 8-10 Boronia St.	304.7m ²	No actual line runs through the drainage reserve.	Concrete footpath.	Facilitates drainage. Limited public access.

3

Basis for Management

Woollahra Council has devised management objectives for Drainage Reserves. These objectives reflect the value and roles that drainage reserves assume within Council's overall open space policy. The value of drainage reserves are determined by the reasons that local and non-local visitors use such land.

The exact location of general community land (Drainage Reserves) is listed as follows:

▶ Watsons Bay

1) 3 - 4 Marine Parade to 7 Salisbury Place

▶ Vaucluse

- 2) 21 23 Davies Avenue to 14 16 Derby Street
- 3) 1 Cambridge Avenue to 1 21 Cambridge Avenue & 2 14 Derby Street
- 4) 38 39 Olola Avenue to 32 34 Hopeton Avenue
- 5) 21 Lower Road to 12 Olphert Avenue
- 6) 79 81 Vaucluse Road to Wentworth Road
- 7) 51 53 Vaucluse Road to Wentworth Road
- 8) 12 14 Carrarra Avenue to Hermit Bay Reserve
- 9) 9 10 Olola Avenue to 31 -37 Wentworth Road
- 10) 6 New South Head Road to 3a 5 Gilliver Avenue

Vaucluse

- 11) Gilliver Avenue to Vaucluse Road
- 12) 11a New South Head Road to Gilliver Avenue
- 13) 16 Gilliver Road to 13 Vaucluse Road

Rose Bay

- 14) 8 Dumaresq Road to Rose Bay
- 15) 13 15 Dumaresq Road to 6 Tivoli Avenue

► Bellevue Hill

- 16) 25 27 Bundarra Road to 32 Blaxland Road
- 17) 18 20 Bellevue Road to Cooper Park
- 18) 40 Northland Road to 45 Straetfield Road
- 19) 19 Warren Road to 11 15 Straetfield Road
- **20**) 32 34 Drumalbyn Road
- 21) Preston Avenue
- 22) Crane Place
- 34) Birriga Rd to 8-10 Boronia Street

▶ Woollahra

- 23) 70 Edward Street to Cooper Park
- 24) 57 59 Manning Road to 21 Walleroy Road
- 25) Water Board DP 777192 to Harbour View Park

▶ Double Bay

- 26) 5 Suttie Road to Met. Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board
- 27) 2 Epping Road to Kiaora Road
- 28) William Street, parallel to Jamberoo Lane
- 29) Lot 14, Winston Gardens

▶ Point Piper

- 30) 7 9 Wolseley Crescent to Double Bay/ Felix Bay
- 31) 4 5 St. Mervyn's Avenue to Seven Shillings Beach

▶ Paddington

- 32) 27 Wentworth Street
- 33) Walker Lane to Mary Place

3.1 Values and Role of Drainage Reserves

Drainage Reserves are valued as a community resource for their role in providing public access ways and small open space areas within the Woollahra Municipality.

Their values, as listed below, will inform future strategies and actions for Drainage Reserve areas:

Functional

- Facilitates drainage.
- Provides pedestrian linkages to adjacent areas eg. streets, foreshore parks and open space areas.
- Provides vehicular access to some residences and shops.
- ▶ Used as safe and convenient public thoroughfares.

Increases the amount of open space in the municipality.

Recreational

- Venue for passive recreation, such as sitting and viewing.
- Used as playgrounds for children.
- Provide links to other recreational areas.

3.2 Management Objectives

The overall management objective for Drainage Reserve land is to maintain and upgrade existing facilities and to maximise public use and access.

The following overall management objectives apply to all areas of Drainage Reserve land. The management objectives reflect priority areas of concern:

- Develop a co-ordinated approach to open space management programs in all Drainage Reserve areas.
- Encourage public access and use of the drainage reserves by maintaining and upgrading built structures, such as stairways, seating and pathways.
- Remove any built structures which encroach upon Drainage Reserve land, preventing public access.
- Ensure that future developments in (or adjacent to) the Drainage Reserves are undertaken after an adequate level of community consultation.

No major alteration in use is projected for Drainage Reserve areas.

4

Management Issues

This section identifies and explores issues relating to the management of Drainage Reserves. These issues reflect input from park staff, previous reports and letters from the community.

4.1 Recreational Use

Where appropriate, Council intends to enhance passive recreational use within Drainage Reserve areas, with the replacement of seating, stairways, pathways and plantings where necessary.

While not all Drainage Reserves are suited for recreational purposes, many form important links to open space areas which cater for recreational activities.

Council intends to strengthen the role of Drainage Reserves as public access ways, especially where they aid access to open space areas, foreshore reserves and sports fields.

4.2 Maintenance

Facilities at the Drainage Reserves should be regularly upgraded. As in the former clause, improvements will focus on improving the condition and appearance of the landscape and existing built structures, such as lighting, stairwells and seating.

Removal of weeds and rubbish will also be undertaken in an effort to improve the amenity and safety of Drainage Reserves.

4.3 Encroachment

Over the years, many open space areas have been subject to encroachment due to urban development pressures. Due to their small size and position between residential properties, Drainage Reserves are particularly vulnerable to encroachment from surrounding properties.

Of the thirty-three Drainage Reserves classified as community land, two are not accessible to the public. Encroachments include structures built over the reserve area such as garages, house extensions and plantings.

The erection of fences around Drainage Reserves, when not done by Council for safety reasons, is prohibited. Where fences have been erected by private residents as an extension to private property, these fences are to be removed.

All encroachments on open space land are regarded as an infringement and are prohibited.

A register of Drainage Reserves will be made available to the public and Council will notify those residents whose properties encroach upon Drainage Reserve land. Resumption of the Drainage Reserve at 21-23 Davies Avenue to 14-16 Derby Avenue, Vaucluse and at Lot 14 Windsor Gardens Double Bay, will begin after due notification to those property owners who have encroached on or prevented access to the reserve.

In an effort to prevent further encroachment, Council aims to educate local residents on the legal, civil and environmental problems associated with encroachment. To this end, Council may consider using a range of interpretative techniques in the future, such as the delivery of educational brochures to nearby residents.

4.4 Cleanliness, Safety and Accessibility

To ensure public enjoyment and comfort at small reserves for general community use, every attempt will be made to establish a clean, safe and accessible public open space. Council has identified a number of priorities dedicated to achieving this aim:

- Maintain clean public facilities and keep grounds clear of litter and refuse.
- Protect the safety of pedestrians by providing safe facilities.
- Maintain staircases and paths regularly.
- Provide adequate lighting to enhance the security of pedestrians and residents.

Most of the thirty-three Drainage Reserves are easily accessible by car, bus, cyclist or pedestrian, although wheelchair access is often difficult, especially in those areas

characterised by steep slopes or concrete stairways. Where feasible, Council will explore options for improving wheelchair access.

4.5 Residential Amenity

The amenity of residences adjoining Drainage Reserves should be maintained. Residents should be consulted regarding any developments or changes in use planned for any of the Drainage Reserves.

4.6 Drainage

Council should maintain the existing drainage function of the reserves.

Open Channel Drainage Systems

A number of the Drainage Reserves feature open channel drainage systems which pose specific problems to surrounding residents when stormwater and ground water flows are ineffectively carried.

The St. Mervyn's Avenue Drainage Reserve is a case in point. Discharge often spreads to private property on either side of the Drainage Reserve. In the Draft Plan of Management for St. Mervyn's Avenue, prepared by Nuestein & Associates (1993), a number of problems were identified. The most pertinent relates to interference with public access to the reserve; caused when pedestrians trespass onto private sections of the beach to avoid surface water collected around the outfall.

To prevent trespass onto private property and to aid public access, the report recommended that additional channelling and enclosure works be undertaken.

A management program should be adopted for all Drainage Reserves featuring open channel drainage in an effort to aid public access and safety, to prevent discharge onto private property and to minimise the risk of floods.

Such a program should involve regular street sweeping and pit cleaning to halt the accumulation of leaves and rubbish in gutters; the erection of signage prohibiting public access to Drainage Reserves when surface run-off covers paths and steps; and kerb raising where necessary.

Underground Drainage Systems

Most of the forty-two Drainage Reserves are serviced by underground (enclosed) drainage systems. Though enclosed drainage systems offer fewer threats to pedestrian access and safety on Drainage Reserves, an extensive works program should be

initiated to minimise the problems of overland flows and discharge onto private property. Priorities include:

- Incorporation of gross pollutant traps in junction and inlet pits.
- Higher frequency of street sweeping and pit cleaning, especially in the lower areas
 of the catchment.
- Ongoing localised drainage improvements.
- Enforcement of controls on building area, property filling, fence construction and garbage erection, to minimise the obstruction of overland flows.
- Improvements to the infiltration of stormwater run off.

4.7 Plantings

Council should ensure that plantings on Drainage Reserves are given regular attendance.

In areas of land where indigenous flora is present, Council should maintain and complement these areas with appropriate indigenous plant associations.

Because all forty-one Drainage Reserves bound private properties, Council should ensure plantings provide a degree of privacy to surrounding residences.

4.8 Interpretation

Where drainage systems are exposed (i.e. open channel), appropriate signage should be erected informing pedestrians of flood dangers and times of access, if entry is via a gate. Where public access to these reserves is a practicability, these reserves should be signposted accordingly.

Signage should also be erected, marking the boundaries of the reserve and warning against trespass onto private land.

4.9 Leases and Licenses

Under Section 46 of the Local Government Act, Council reserves the right to license, lease or sub-lease in part or full, any of its drainage reserves classified as community land.

Leases or licences of Council's Drainage Reserves may serve a public or private purpose.

The lease or license of any drainage rese drainage reserve is inaccessible to the public may lease or licence the reserve for a priva	erve should not obstruct drainage. Where a cand/or provides no public benefit, Council te purpose, to the adjoining owner/s.
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Neustein & Associates. (1993) Use of St. Mervyn's Avenue Drainage Reserve, Double Bay as a footpath providing public access to Seven Shillings Beach - Draft Plan of Management, Woollahra Council, Sydney.

Patterson, Britton & Partners. (1991) Rose Bay Stormwater Catchment Management Study - Executive Summary, Water Board, Sydney.

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MANNER OF ASSESSMENT	Review maintenance procedures on a regular basis to ensure that they meet maintenance schedule priorities and standards.	
PRIORITY	Ongoing	
DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE	Technical Services (Parks & Landscape)	
ACTION	Plan long-term maintenance projects for: • built structures; • stairways; • pathways. Consistent implementation of routine maintenance procedures, which include sweeping, rubbish collection and cleaning.	
TARGET	Maintain and improve facilities where necessary.	
MANAGEMENT ISSUE	Maintenance	

TARGET		ACTION	DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE	PRIORITY	MANNER OF ASSESSMENT
Prohibit sources of Regularly n encroachment Drainage R ensure pass Reserves.	Regular Drainage ensure pand pub maintai	Regularly monitor Drainage Reserves, to ensure passageway and pubic access is maintained.	Technical Services (Parks & Landscape)	Ongoing	Annual report defining pattern and degree of encroachments.
Resume Drainage Reserves which have built structure been privately to Drainage encroached upon.	Order the built structure prevent to Drain and inh drainag	Order the removal of built structures which prevent public access to Drainage Reserves, and inhibit access to drainage pipes.			

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MANAGEMENT ISSUE	TARGET	ACTION	DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE	PRIORITY	MANNER OF ASSESSMENT
Cleanliness, Safety and Accessibility	Maintain clean, safe and accessible public access ways/ open space areas.	Clean litter and refuse quickly and effectively.	Technical Services (Parks & Landscape)	Ongoing	Regular checks, particularly during peak periods, to ensure that rubbish bins are emptied and litter collected.
		Provide adequate levels of lighting.			Regular checks and routine maintenance of lighting.
		Improve condition of facilities and built structures.			Ensure that current and future facilities comply with Australian Standards.
		Improve disabled access.			Assessment of options for improving disabled access.
Residential Amenity	Ensure the privacy of residents adjoining Drainage Reserves.	Assess the impact of proposed Drainage Reserve facility improvements on local residents.	Technical Services (Parks & Landscape)	Ongoing	Obtain feedback from local residents regarding future developments affecting Drainage Reserve areas.

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MANAGEMENT ISSUE	TARGET	ACTION	DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE	PRIORITY	MANNER OF ASSESSMENT
Drainage	Improve pedestrian access and safety on Drainage Reserves. Minimise flood risk.	Implement program to improve overland flows. Actions should include:	Technical Services (Design & Investigation)	Ongoing	Regular inspections to assess the effectiveness of the program.
	Reduce the incidence of discharge onto	* Regular street sweeping and pit cleaning;			
		* Incorporation of gross pollutant traps in junction and inlet pits;			
		* Localised drainage improvements;			
		* Enforcement of controls on building area, property filling and fence construction;			
		* Improvements to infiltration of stormwater run off.			

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MANNER OF ASSESSMENT	Monitor the effectiveness of signage. Annual report detailing the safety levels of open channel Drainage Reserve areas.
PRIORITY	Ongoing
DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE	Technical Services (Parks & Landscape)
ACTION	Provide interpretive signage to open channel Drainage Reserves.
TARGET	Ensure that residents are adequately informed of: * Flood dangers; * Access times (where entry is gained via a gate); * Boundaries of the Drainage Reserve; * Warnings against trespass onto private land. * Whether public access is a practicability.
MANAGEMENT ISSUE	Interpretation

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MANAGEMENT ISSUE	TARGET	ACTION	DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE	PRIORITY	MANNER OF ASSESSMENT
Leases and Licences	Ensure occupiers of public lands satisfy the terms of their leases and do not create a nuisance to others.	At each lease renewal, consider the need to continue the land use. Where the lease is for public purposes, consider whether the community has adequate access to the	Technical Services (Corporate Services)	Ongoing	Periodic assessment of whether community needs are met by current lease arrangements.















