



# PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Cooper Park



Adopted  
24 September 2025



### **Acknowledgement of Country**

Woollahra Council acknowledges the  
Gadigal and Birrabirragal people who are the  
Traditional Custodians of this land and we pay our  
respects to Elders past, present and emerging.



**Plan of Management for Cooper Park categorised as park, sportsground, general community use, natural area - bushland and natural area - watercourse.**

**Adopted by Council 24 September 2025**

| Version number        | Date approved     | Approved By                  | Next Review    |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| 03 Adopted by Council | 24 September 2025 | Manager Open Space and Trees | September 2030 |

**Document History and Version Control Table**

| Version number        | Date approved     | Approved By                  | Brief Description Of Amendments       |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 01 Draft              | 03 March 2025     | Manager Open Space and Trees | Initial draft for EP Committee review |
| 02 EP Review          | 01 September 2025 | Manager Open Space and Trees | For EP Committee review               |
| 03 Adopted by Council | 24 September 2025 | Manager Open Space and Trees | Adopted by Council                    |

# 1. Preliminary

## Title

This plan is known as the Woollahra Municipal Council Plan of Management for Cooper Park, 2025.

## Authority

This plan is made under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

## Commencement

This plan commences 24 September 2025.

## Cancellation of Previous Plans

This plan cancels and supersedes previous plans in relation to the land to which this plan applies.



Figure 1. Bushland at Cooper Park



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# Glossary of Terms

| Word or phrase        | Meaning                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Actions               | Practical, measurable and achievable activities that need to be done to implement the management strategies                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Active transport      | Walking or cycling for transport                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Capital Works Program | The annual assignment of work activities to be completed by Council, it has set budgets assigned to develop individual projects by various groups within Council                                                                                                                                                   |
| Community Land        | Land intended for public access and use. To prevent alienation, it cannot be sold, leased or licenced or have any other estate granted over it for more than 21 years.                                                                                                                                             |
| CPTED                 | Crime prevention through environmental design                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| CSR                   | Customer Service Request, internal system for managing all service requests                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Green Links           | Pedestrian and cycleways interconnected by tree canopy for shade                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Lease                 | Confers an exclusive right to possession or use of the land / facility on the lessee. It is a written legal document between Council and the lessee.                                                                                                                                                               |
| LEP                   | Local Environment Plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| LGA                   | Local Government Area                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Licence               | Confers a non-exclusive right to utilise the land / facility for a limited purpose and time.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Objective             | The desired outcome of land use                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Performance Measure   | An example of how to assess if the objectives and targets have been met by undertaking the actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Performance Target    | A measurable outcome (of a completed action) of what a set objective is aiming to achieve. The action is undertaken, and the target is either achieved or not.                                                                                                                                                     |
| Recreation - Active   | Recreation activities that require physical exertion but are unstructured, such as parkrun events, skateboarding, casual basketball and charity bike rides, also including structured, organised activities such as sports, that require physical exertion and/or skill, and may involve training and competition. |

## Glossary of Terms *cont'*

| Word or phrase       | Meaning                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Recreation - Passive | A range of unstructured activities and social interactions undertaken for enjoyment, relaxation, and mental health, with limited physical exertion. Passive recreation can be undertaken at all forms of open space and may include the use of playgrounds, reading, meditation and relaxing in nature. |
| Values               | Ideals and qualities of a space that are significant to the community                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| WSUD                 | Water sensitive urban design                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |



## 2. Executive Summary

This document is a plan of management for Cooper Park, Double Bay. It has been prepared under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The land covered by this plan was previously administered under the Cooper Park Plan of Management, 2001. When adopted by Council, this plan of management will replace the previous Cooper Park plan.

This plan was developed by Council staff and Councillors in consultation with the community and will be reviewed regularly to ensure that it remains current with legislative updates, changes in community needs and uses for public open space.

The management framework within this plan identifies strategies for the ongoing use of Cooper Park to achieve Council's vision, that:

“Woollahra will continue to be a great place to live, work and visit, where places and spaces are safe, clean and well-maintained. Our community will offer a unique mix of urban villages with a good range of shops, services and facilities.

We will make the most of the natural beauty, leafy streetscapes, open spaces, views and proximity to the water and the city. We will be a harmonious, engaged and connected community that looks out for each other.”

Council's corporate goals, community and user values, and the desired outcomes of the community for the Park have culminated in a vision for the future of Cooper Park. The vision is:

“Cooper Park is a suburban bushland oasis renowned for its biodiversity and heritage significance. The Park will be sustainably managed to provide future generations with diverse recreational options and the best opportunities for connecting with nature”

# 3. Introduction

## 3.1 What is a plan of management?

A plan of management (POM) is a land management tool. It provides forward planning and governance for the use of public “community” land under the *Local Government Act 1993 (LG Act)*.

Classification as “community” reflects the importance of the land to the community because of its use or special features. The ongoing management of community land is undertaken with community participation.

The *LG Act* requires that a plan of management for community land categorises the land as either natural area, park, sportsground, area of cultural significance, or general community use. Categories are assigned based on the way the land is used and provide the core land management objectives. In addition to categorisation, the plan of management must include objectives and performance targets with respect to the land, the means by which Council proposes to achieve those objectives and how it measures its performance.

A plan of management provides information about the land, including how it is currently used and how it may be used and developed in the future. It may be structured as a generic plan and prepared for more than one parcel of land, or a specific plan for a single site.

## 3.2 The need for this plan of management

This Plan of Management will guide the management of Cooper Park by Woollahra Council, ensuring that Cooper Park is managed in a manner consistent with relevant legislative obligations and community expectations and that the Park is used and maintained appropriately in the future. It builds upon and supersedes the outdated Cooper Park Plan of Management that was adopted by Woollahra Council in 2001.

While the *LG Act* allows generic plans to be prepared for many areas of community land, land that is critical habitat for threatened or endangered species such as Cooper Park must be covered by a specific plan of management that applies to that land only.

## 3.3 Aim of this plan of management

The aim of this document is to provide a specific plan of management for Cooper Park to comply with the *LG Act*. It seeks to provide a clear land management framework that aligns with the State government’s vision for public open space, the values of the reserves and achieves Woollahra’s strategic objectives.

Woollahra Municipal Council has developed an extensive range of policies and strategies such as Woollahra’s *Urban Forest Strategy*, *Recreation Strategy*, *Play Space Strategy*, and *Biodiversity Conservation Strategy*, that provide guidance to Woollahra’s open space decision-making. The POM must be read in conjunction with these strategies.

The State government’s vision for public open space as referenced throughout this plan is set out in the following key documents:



Figure 2. The cover of the Greener Places Guide

### • Greener Places – An Urban Green Infrastructure Design Framework

Recognises the benefits of green infrastructure; open space for recreation, urban tree canopy and bushland and waterways and encourages the delivery of well-designed green infrastructure through the principles of:

- integration
- connectivity
- multifunctionality
- participation

This policy promotes the concept that green infrastructure is as crucial to a city as the grey infrastructure, such as roads and pipes. Council land in Woollahra provides vital green infrastructure to the community. The management framework within this plan of management incorporates actions to deliver a more integrated, connected and multifunctional network of green infrastructure that encourages community stewardship of the land to achieve sustainable land use.



Figure 3. The cover of the NSW Public Spaces Charter

### • NSW Public Spaces Charter

Quality public space, including open space is achieved through the application of the following 10 planning and design principles. The space should be / encourage:

- open and welcoming
- community focused
- culture and creativity
- local character and identity
- green and resilient
- healthy and active
- local business and economies
- safe and secure
- designed for people
- well managed

As the Council land in Woollahra continues to transform, it must go beyond aesthetic appeal to be considered quality space and consider each of these principles equally.



Figure 4. Cooper Park has a diverse range of trails that contribute to local character and identity as per the *NSW Public Spaces Charter*



### 3.4 Review of this plan of management

To ensure this plan of management remains relevant over time, the management framework should be reviewed, usually between 5 - 10 years from the date of adoption.



Figure 5. Walking, a popular form of passive recreation at Cooper Park

# 4. Process followed to prepare this plan

The process of preparing this plan of management involved the following tasks:

## 4.1 Researching the plan

- Review *Local Government Act 1993* for requirements
- Review of existing WMC Cooper Park Plans of Management
- Review of the WMC Community Strategic Plan, (CSP) Woollahra 2032 and other plans and policies to ensure corporate consistency of strategic direction
- Project brief circulated to relevant WMC staff

## 4.2 Site inspections

- Observation of existing site conditions

## 4.3 Community consultation

- Thorough community engagement plan and strategies for the collection of values and management issues.

## 4.4 Preparing a draft plan of management

- Plan of management structure adapted for the majority of the reserves
- Incorporate elements from relevant documents, such as adopted master plans
- Survey results collated and fed into plan
- Draft plan of management and master plan presented to the EP committee for review and provision to conduct consultation on the POM
- Draft plan of management and master plan adopted by Council

## 4.5 Council resolution and public exhibition

- Amended draft plans endorsed by Council for public exhibition 23 April 2025
- Notify stakeholders, community groups and individuals who submitted feedback in the 2023 - 2024 Cooper Park Plan of Management and Master Plan consultation
- Place notices in The Wentworth Courier and through social media
- Place draft plans of management on display on the Council website and at the customer service centre at Redleaf for 28 day public exhibition, with a further 14 days for written submissions
- Provide a community information sessions

## 4.6 Adopting the plan

- Review and evaluate public submissions
- Incorporate feedback from the public exhibition into the draft plans of management where appropriate
- Prepare final draft plans of management
- Report to Council's Environmental Planning Committee to consider adoption
- Plans adopted by Council on 24 September 2025
- Commence implementation of the plans



## 5. Land to which this plan applies

This plan of management applies to **Cooper Park** – 36 Suttie Road, Bellevue Hill. Cooper Park consists of 24 lots of Council owned community land.

### 5.1 Description

Cooper Park is a unique area of open space, which bridges the suburbs of Bellevue Hill and Woollahra. Surrounded by moderate to high density residential areas with a strong heritage element to the north, south and west, the Bellevue Hill retail centre to the north-east, and the Cooper Park Garage and Lough Playing Fields to the north-west, Cooper Park offers a contrast to, and respite from, the urbanised districts which surround it. The dimensions of the 17.7 hectare Park are approximately 1,100 metres in an east-west direction and approximately 450 metres on its north-south axis. The boundaries of the Park are well defined but irregular. The total boundary length is approximately 4 kilometres. Of that total, 2.3 kilometres abuts residential development and the remaining 1.7 kilometres is bounded by roadway. Edge effects are pronounced due to the relatively high perimeter to area ratio.

Some surrounding streets form the boundary of the Park (such as Suttie Road, Northland Road, Bellevue

Road and Victoria Road ), and some are aligned perpendicular to the Park (such as Adelaide Street, Cooper Park Road, Small Street, Raine Street and Kendall Street).

Within the Park there are identifiable precincts which are distinguished by the presence of particular geophysical or built features. Although those precincts have not been formally named, common usage would suggest that residents and users of the Park associate the areas of the Park with indicators such as topography (Lower Cooper Park and Cooper Park North), vegetation (the bushland areas), and physical attributes (the amphitheatre and tennis courts).

Cooper Park contains the largest Council-owned area of urban bushland (approximately 12 hectares) within Woollahra Municipality. The Park also hosts a tennis centre, community centre, junior sportsfield, large grassed areas, walking tracks and a variety of built structures (such as gazebos and bridges), some of which illustrate important historical values. The Park therefore presents a broad range of recreation opportunities, open space, cultural heritage values and remnant bushland.



Figure 6. The Moon Bridge at Cooper Park





Figure 7. Aerial photo of Cooper Park

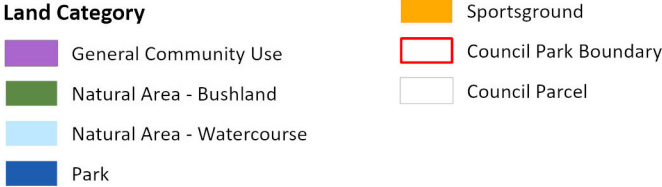
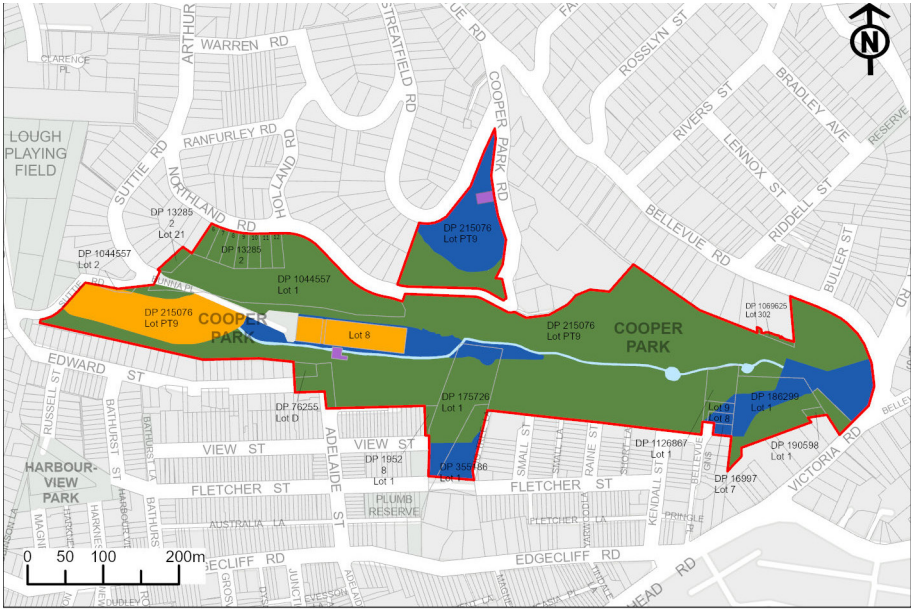


Figure 8. Cooper Park map including land categories

**Table 1. Legal description for Cooper Park**

|                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Location                        | 36 Suttie Road, Bellevue Hill                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Land area (m <sup>2</sup> )     | 17.7 hectares, comprising 11.95 ha bushland, 3.15 ha grass/ playing field, 0.47 ha synthetic grass tennis courts, 0.3 ha paved carparking, access road and footpaths                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Land owner                      | WMC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Crown reserve purpose           | Public recreation, access & additional & municipal purpose                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Land Zone in Woollahra LEP 2014 | RE1 Public recreation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| LG Act categorisation           | Community land categorised as Park, Sportsground, Natural Area – Bushland, Natural Area – Watercourse, General Community Use, and                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Legal description               | Lot 8 in 215076, Lot 9 in PT DP 215076, Lot 9 in PT PRT DP 215076, Lot 6 in SEC 2 DP 13285, Lot 7 in SEC 2 DP 13285, Lot 8 in SEC 2 DP 13285, Lot 9 in SEC 2 DP 13285, Lot 10 in SEC 2 DP 13285, Lot 11 in SEC 2 DP 13285, Lot 12 in SEC 2 DP 13285, Lot 21 in SEC 2 DP 13285, Lot 1 in DP 186299, Lot 1 in DP 190598, Lot 1 in DP 175726, Lot 1 in SEC 8 DP 1952, Lot 1 in DP 355186, Lot 7 in DP 16997, Lot 8 in 16997, Lot 9 in DP 16997, Lot D in DP 76255, Lot 1 in DP 1044557, Lot 2 in DP 1044557, Lot 9 in PT PRT DP 215076, Lot 1 in DP 1126867, Lot 302 in DP 1069625 |

**5.2 Land to which this plan of management applies**

Cooper Park consists of 24 lots of community land owned and managed by Woollahra Municipal Council.

**Table 2. Land parcels at Cooper Park**

| Site | Reserve Name | Area           |
|------|--------------|----------------|
| 1    | Cooper Park  | 17.7ha approx. |



# 6. Context

## 6.1 Our LGA

The Woollahra local government area is located on a peninsula of land 5km to the east of the CBD of the City of Sydney. It covers 12km<sup>2</sup> of land and is home to nearly 54,660 people living in the suburbs of Bellevue Hill, Darling Point, Double Bay, Edgecliff, part of Paddington, Point Piper, part of Rose Bay, part of Vaucluse, Watsons Bay and Woollahra. The LGA neighbours the City of Sydney LGA to the west and the Waverley LGA to the east and south. A small area to the south is also bordered by the Randwick LGA.



Figure 9. Location of the LGA within the greater Sydney context

## 6.2 Cooper Park

Cooper Park is located along a creek valley that runs in an east-west direction and lies between the suburbs of Bellevue Hill and Woollahra. The park is predominately surrounded by moderate to high density residential to the north, south and west, with the Bellevue Hill retail centre to the north-east, and Lough Playing Fields to the north-west, Cooper Park offers a contrast to, and respite from the urbanised districts which surround it.



Figure 10. Location of Cooper Park within its local context

### 6.3 Our community and council's corporate objectives

Our Community Strategic Plan (CSP) Woollahra 2032, sits above all other Council plans, strategies and policies in the hierarchy. Other documents, including this plan of management, must be consistent with Woollahra 2032.

The themes and goals of the CSP are:

#### Theme: Environmental Strategies

Goal 7: Protecting our environment

Goal 8: Sustainable use of resources

#### Theme: Social Strategies

Goal 1: A connected, harmonious and engaged community for all ages and abilities

Goal 2: A supported, enabled and resilient community

Goal 3: A creative and vibrant community

Goal 4: Well planned neighbourhoods

#### Theme: Economic Strategies

Goal 5: Liveable places

Goal 6: Getting around

Goal 9: Community focused economic development

#### Theme: Civic Leadership Strategies

Goal 4: Well planned neighbourhoods

Goal 10: Working together

Goal 11: A well managed Council

To achieve these goals, the CSP sets strategies to guide how we budget and plan for all our services, operations and projects. The Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) is a key Council strategy, it sets out the planning priorities and vision to guide land use planning specifically and outlines what those priorities aim to achieve in the future. See appendix C for more information.

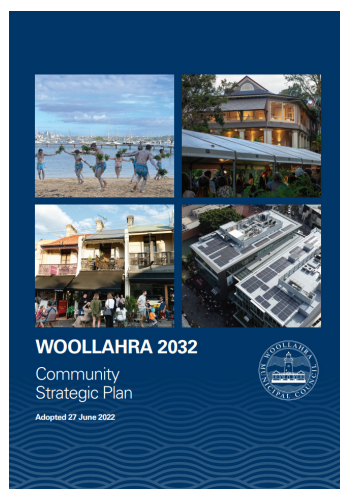


Figure 11. The cover of the Community Strategic Plan

The actions within a plan of management for community land are integrated into the strategic framework in order to be resourced and achieved.

The Council land reserves values, gathered through project specific consultation, align with the themes of the CSP.

### 6.4 Our land reserves values

Values, the significant, special, or important qualities of a place, are the cornerstone of successful community land management. By recognizing these values, we can determine the objectives and performance targets that will guide our management efforts.

Understanding why the community and users value Cooper Park is crucial, as it determines the role that the community expects the Park to play in the future. The community's influence on the Park's future is significant, and as the Plan of Management is based on protecting and enhancing the community's values, management actions and outcomes that are based on these values are recommended.

Responses to the Cooper Park survey indicated that the following qualities, in order of significance are valued by our community:

- natural environment
- aesthetic quality
- health and well-being opportunities
- heritage and cultural opportunities
- recreational opportunities
- social and community opportunities
- landscape quality
- ecological quality

#### 6.4.1 Natural environment values of Cooper Park

The rainforest gully, bushland, creek, waterfalls, ponds, and grassed areas at Cooper Park are natural elements and unique features that provide invaluable habitat. Their distinctiveness adds to their value and the need for their conservation.

Cooper Park, with its natural elements such as trees and shrubs, in situ geology, waterfalls, and creek is a vital oasis in an increasingly dense residential area. Its crucial role in providing outdoor space highlights the need for its preservation.

In Cooper Park, the term “natural” does not imply that the land is in a pristine or undisturbed state. No land in Woollahra is entirely natural. However, even in urbanised areas, native and exotic vegetation contributes significantly to biodiversity. These areas of urban bushland, while threatened by factors such as weeds, pollutants, and trampling, provide vital habitat opportunities for native fauna and help mitigate the effects of climate change.

The natural elements of Cooper Park are vital components of Woollahra’s green infrastructure, which *Greener Places* defines as:

- open space for recreation, the green infrastructure for people
- urban tree canopy, the green infrastructure for climate adaptation and resilience, and
- bushland and waterways, the green infrastructure for habitat and ecological health

Cooper Park’s natural environment is a rich and diverse habitat, sustaining a variety of threatened species. These include the Magenta Lilly Pilly (*Syzygium paniculatum*), Sunshine Wattle (*Acacia terminalis subsp. Eastern Sydney*), Nielsen Park

She-Oak (*Allocasuarina portuensis*), Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*), Southern Myotis (*Myotis macropus*), Little bent-winged Bat (*Miniopterus australis*) and Large Bent winged Bat (*Miniopterus orianae oceanensis*).

#### 6.4.2 Aesthetic value of Cooper Park

Due to its diverse bushland and rainforest landscape, Cooper Park has a high aesthetic quality and visual amenities. The Park’s steep topography also provides a unique aesthetic setting, with urban skyline views at the top, a rainforest gully, and waterfalls in the valley crevasses.

The aesthetic value of Cooper Park is not limited to its overall landscape. It is also found in the individual elements of the Park, such as the pond, the significant trees, waterfalls, Moon Bridge, and stone posts. The Park’s visual diversity, as per the *NSW Public Spaces Charter*, enhances the perception of its quality, offering a unique and exciting experience for visitors and the community.

There are many areas of the park where visitors are enclosed by vegetation and completely unaware



of the urban and built environment that surrounds the park. This is, in part, a consequence of the topography of the Park, which is marked by steep-sided and heavily vegetated gullies. There are frequently no sightlines to residential buildings, although these are relatively close. These bushland sections of the Park are also focused on the central creek, which transects the Park. The creek forms a key visual element because it draws the visitor's interest and suggests a pleasant line of exploration. This accounts for the placement of formal and informal pathways near and occasionally fording the creek.



Figure 12. Panoramic views of Bondi Junction at the Bellevue Road boundary of Cooper Park

Cooper Park is a place of contrasts, offering a diverse range of experiences. There are areas of the Park, such as level grassed playing fields, that contrast with the urban bushland sections in terms of vegetation, accessibility, and topography. The Park hosts a small number of flat grassed areas that have been artificially created through excavation, fill, or other earthworks, adding to its unique charm.

The Cooper Park North and the Victoria Road and Bellevue Road boundaries offer panoramic views of the Bondi Junction commercial area and Sydney CBD skyline. The Victoria Road boundary also offers a spectacular view of the Sydney CBD.

#### **6.4.3 Health and well-being value of Cooper Park**

Feedback from the consultation highlighted the Park's value in providing the community with health and well-being opportunities through places for escape, enjoyment, exercise, sport, contact with nature, inspiration and reflection. During the COVID-19 restrictions, the importance of these opportunities was heightened as mental and physical health concerns intensified within the community and the country as a whole, with Cooper Park's use of profound as an important

area of refuge, exercise and social connection. In recognising this, Council implemented the *"Go Slow for a Mo"* nature wellness trail in Cooper Park which is designed to refresh park users mood, energy and focus. This aligns with principle 6 of the *NSW Public Spaces Charter*, "healthy and active" by emphasising that public spaces should enable and encourage everyone to participate in activities that promote their health and well-being.

#### **6.4.4 Landscape value of Cooper Park**

Consultation results indicate that our community appreciate a high-quality, well-groomed landscape. Keeping the landscape well-maintained is essential to the overall aesthetic appeal of the park and the ongoing health and longevity of the landscape.

Robust and vigorous plant material is less likely to suffer from pests and diseases and, therefore, requires fewer resources for weed and pest removal and fertiliser application. Additionally, in keeping with best practices in ornamental horticulture, each site requires ongoing tasks, such as weeding, pruning, mulching and litter removal, to keep it "fit for purpose."

Keeping the ornamental landscape, including Cooper Park's pond and turf surface, in good condition is increasingly difficult during extended periods of drought and intense rainfall. The Park is part of the Cooper Park catchment, which collects stormwater from an area of approximately 85 hectares from Bondi Junction and Bellevue Hill, which have seen rapid development. Increased urbanisation in these areas has resulted in Cooper Park collecting vast, polluted, and damaging stormwater runoff, which impacts the Park's water systems, including the ponds which is often reported to be poor.

The majority of the park is managed as urban bushland. This requires specific bush regeneration techniques to encourage the survival and longevity of the native vegetation, particularly the endangered Magenta Lilly Pilly, Nielsen Park She-Oak and Sunshine Wattle. The goal is for the native vegetation cover to be improved to a level that allows it to be self-sufficient.

A high-quality landscape also includes all the hardscape materials and structures at the site, such as the outdoor furniture and pavements. This aligns with principle 10 of the *NSW Public Spaces Charter*,

by acknowledging that public space is more inviting when it's well cared for.

#### **6.4.5 Heritage and cultural value of Cooper Park**

Heritage and cultural values add to the character of Cooper Park. The Park is valued as a connection with the past and is an example of 20th-century bushland pleasure grounds. The stone posts, amphitheatre stairs and Moon Bridge are examples of built heritage, and the surrounding rock faces are representative of the landscape heritage of the area. Maintaining local character and identity is principle 4 of the *NSW Public Spaces Charter*, as it recognises that our public spaces make us proud of where we live.

Cooper Park offers a unique opportunity for the interpretation of Aboriginal history. This initiative not only deepens cultural respect within our community but also provides a platform for Indigenous people to continue their connections with their Country. By embracing this potential, we can enrich our cultural understanding and respect for the Traditional Owners of this land.

#### **6.4.6 Recreational value of Cooper Park**

Cooper Park has hosted recreation at Woollahra for over a century. Tennis courts, playgrounds, cricket pitches, bowling greens, a network of paths and an open-air auditorium were constructed to provide a diverse range of recreational needs for the community. The Cooper Park Community Hall, developed in the early 60s and initially used by Scouts, continues to be a popular venue for community gatherings, workshops and events. The Cooper Park Community Garden, established in 2018 in Cooper Park North, accommodates 50 garden beds and hosts monthly get-togethers.

Recreational pursuits currently undertaken in Cooper Park include tennis, cricket, walking including organised walks and walking dogs, reading, jogging, individual and group fitness training, playing ball games, indoor recreation activities in the community hall, practising relaxation techniques, painting, playground use, picnicking, riding bikes, social interaction, bird watching, and general appreciation of the Park's natural elements.

Cooper Park hosts Bushcare, a community-based program in which volunteers help regenerate and

preserve Woollahra's bushland with the assistance and support of Council staff, which is in its twentieth year since its formation.

These many possibilities are compatible with principle 6 of the *NSW Public Spaces Charter*, which states that public space supports a healthy and active community through flexible, multifunctional offerings in different areas for different activities.

Cooper Park accommodates passive recreational activities such as picnicking to dog walking. However, the community's increasing demand for more passive recreation space is a pressing issue. This demand often leads to conflicts of use, particularly in highly urbanised areas, making it a key management issue that needs urgent attention. The sportsgrounds play a crucial role in promoting a healthy and active community by offering a wide range of recreational opportunities. Engaging in sports and physical activities contributes significantly to the health and well-being of the community. These activities also foster skill development across all age groups, and a satisfying use of leisure time can enhance one's quality of life. This aligns with Principle 6 of the *NSW Public*

*Spaces Charter*, which advocates for flexible, multifunctional offerings in different areas for different activities, supporting a healthy and active community.

The value of sportsgrounds to a community is further underscored by the diverse range of active recreational opportunities they offer. From soccer in winter to cricket in summer, and informal games all year round, these spaces are in constant use. The highest recreational value of sportsgrounds is achieved when integrated usage patterns are designed into the open space, allowing a greater diversity of use by more people. This aligns with Principle 6 of the *NSW Public Spaces Charter*, which advocates for flexible, multifunctional offerings in different areas for different activities, supporting a healthy and active community.

Public appreciation of the Park increased during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Council's *Recreation Strategy* (2023) and *Play Space Strategy* (2023) ensure Council's public spaces, including Cooper Park, are not just adequate but also engaging, safe, and sufficient for the community's current and future needs. They have guided this Plan of



Figure 13. The Amphitheatre steps connects Cooper Park to Bellevue Hill



Management, which is committed to ensuring that Cooper Park remains accessible and supports a healthy and active community.

#### **6.4.7 Social and community value of Cooper Park**

Cooper Park offers many opportunities for social interaction, with various settings and facilities for unstructured and informal recreation activities. This park has also long provided a place for the community to gather for recreation, with sports being played at Cooper Park for almost a century. Organised sports play a significant role in community life.

The community's use of Lower Cooper Park as an informal dog park adds social value. Council will seek to strengthen Cooper Park South's use as a dog-orientated space in the Cooper Park landscape master plan.

Establishing the Bushcare group and Cooper Park Community Garden also reinforces principles 1 and 2 of the *NSW Public Spaces Charter*, which requires public spaces to be open, welcoming, and community-focused.

Private use of public land by groups and individuals must be carefully managed to avoid alienation of public land. Council will ensure that the land remains primarily for public use, in line with the principle of Council land management under the *LG Act*, which encourages public use and enjoyment of appropriate land.

#### **6.4.8 Access value of Cooper Park**

Cooper Park provides valuable pedestrian access through the Double Bay / Bellevue Hill / Woollahra area whilst accommodating a significant connection between Double Bay and Bellevue Hill's town centre. Several pedestrian paths in the park facilitate this role. Due to the topography, level access is challenging, and while desirable, inclusive access is not possible in all areas of the reserve.



Figure 14. Park entry at the Amphitheatre steps

# 7. Legislative Requirements

This plan of management is prepared under the NSW *Local Government Act 1993 (LG Act)*. Legislation will always take precedence over a plan of management.

## 7.1 Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993

Unlike Crown land POM, which requires Native Title advice for all public reserves owned by the Crown, Cooper Park is exempt from this requirement as it is owned by Woollahra Municipal Council. Native Title cannot be claimed in areas where it has been extinguished, including land owned by Council.

## 7.2 Local Government Act 1993 & Local Gov. (General) Regulation 2021

Cooper Park comprises of land owned by Woollahra Council, which is classified as community land under the *Local Government Act 1993*. This land must be managed in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* for community land are that it:

- must have a Plan of Management prepared for it, which sets out guidelines for use and management of the land
- until a Plan of Management is adopted, the nature and use of the land must not change
- the land must be kept for the use of the general community
- must not be sold (except in the limited circumstances referred to in section 45(4))
- cannot be leased for a period of more than 21 years.

The preparation and contents of this Plan of Management are in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*, and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*.

### 7.2.1 Classification and categorisation of public land

Classification as community land reflects the importance of the land to the community. Community land is that which must be kept for use by the general public. Following classification

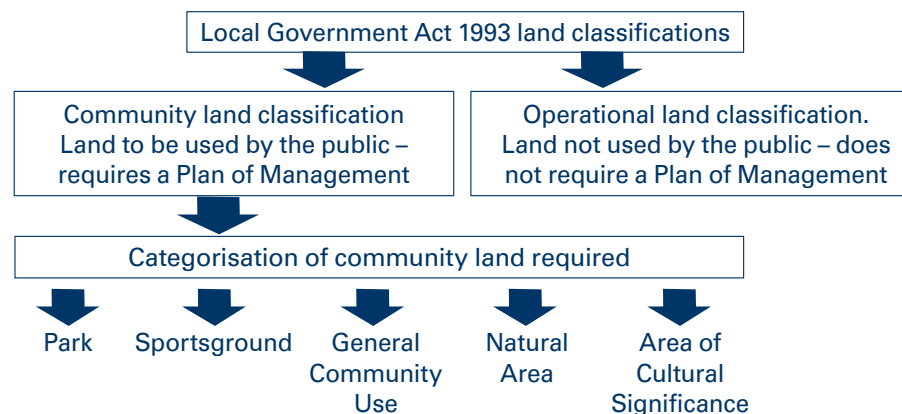


Figure 15. The categorisation process



as community land, the *LG Act* s35 states that a plan of management must be prepared for it in consultation with the community in order to preserve the qualities of the land. The nature and use of community land must not change without an adopted plan of management. *LG Act* s44.

Under s36 (3) (a) of the *LG Act*, a land category must be applied to all community land. The category assigned needs to be most closely related to the purpose for which the land was dedicated or reserved, to cause no material harm and to reflect Council’s intentions for future management of the land.

The purpose for which Cooper Park may be used is public recreation.

## 7.2.2 Community land categories

Under the *LG Act* s36 (4), there are six categories of community land; park, sportsground, general community use, natural areas (general), natural area - waterways and natural areas - bushland.



Figure 16. Bushland category at Cooper Park

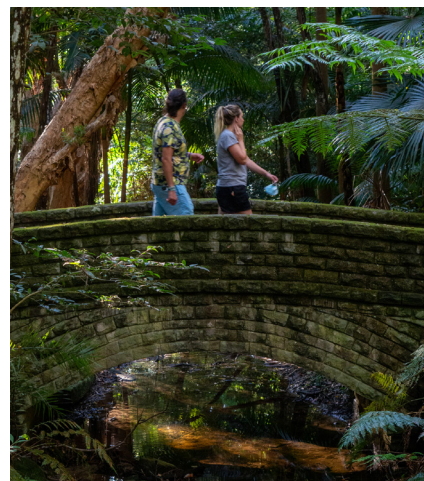


Figure 17. Park category at Cooper Park



Figure 18. Sportsground category at Cooper Park

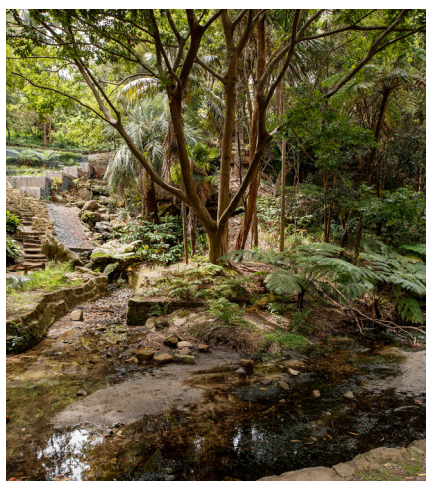


Figure 19. Natural Areas-Waterways category at Cooper Park



Figure 20. General Community Use category at Cooper Park



### 7.2.3 Reclassification of land categories

Unlike the 2001 Cooper Park Plan of Management, which categorises the entire Cooper Park as an Area of Cultural Significance alongside other categories, the draft 2024 Cooper Park Plan of Management follows a different approach. It does not categorise Cooper Park as an Area of Cultural Significance, as the POM is required to assign a particular piece of land in a plan of management to only one of the categories specified under section 36(4) of the *Local Government Act 1993*. This change in approach is to prevent conflict in management objectives that may arise from overlapping categories.

Section 113 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* indicates that there should be separate categories: “a draft plan of management that categorises an area of community land, or parts of an area of community land, in more than one category must clearly identify the land or parts of the land and the separate categories (by a map or otherwise)”. This is a crucial legal requirement that must be adhered to in the preparation of the plan, ensuring full compliance with the regulations.

Despite the change in categorisation, the POM continues to support the safeguarding of the Park’s unique bushland and heritage setting. This commitment remains unchanged, ensuring the preservation of the Park’s natural and cultural heritage.

The 2001 Cooper Park Plan of Management also categorises Lower Cooper Park as a “Park”. However, Lower Cooper Park, a popular spot for organised sports for many years, aligns more with the category of “Sportsground”. Hence, the 2024 Cooper Park Plan of Management categorises Lower Cooper Park as a “Sportsground”, a change that is both logical and beneficial.

As required in Section 29 of the *LG Act*, Council undertook a public hearing as community land at Cooper Park was categorised for the first time and the categorisation of community land was changed. Council conducted the public hearing of the reclassification of categories at Cooper Park during the public consultation of the draft Cooper Park Plan of Management and Master Plan at Council Chambers on 28 May 2025.

The core objectives and guidelines for assigning categories to community land are provided under the *LG Act*

Cooper Park (excluding Cooper Park North) is a local heritage listed item in *Schedule 5* of the *Woollahra Local Environment Plan 2014 (Woollahra LEP 2014)*. This heritage listing provides continuous protection and recognition of the Park’s significant heritage, including its built, landscapes, and natural elements. Council’s initiative to register the Park in the *State Heritage Register*, endorsed by the POM, further ensures the preservation of the Park’s historical importance.

Cooper Park consists of 6 categories of community land, park, sportsground and general community use. The guidelines and objectives for which are shown below:

**Table 3. Guidelines and core objectives for the land categories**

| Category              | Guidelines for categorisation from <i>Local Government (General) Regulation 2021</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Core objectives from <i>LG Act</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Park                  | The land is, or is proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, for use mainly for passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that do not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities, and</li> <li>• To provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and</li> <li>• To improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Sportsground          | The land is used or proposed to be used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.                                                                                                                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and</li> <li>• To ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| General Community Use | The land may be made available for use for any purpose for which community land may be used, whether by the public at large or by specific sections of the public, and does not satisfy the guidelines for categorisation as a natural area, a sportsground, a park or an area of cultural significance. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and</li> <li>• To provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public, and</li> <li>b) purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

| Category                 | Guidelines for categorisation from <i>Local Government (General) Regulation 2021</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Core objectives from <i>LG Act</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Natural area (generally) | 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised as a natural area, and</li> <li>• To maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting, and</li> <li>• To provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land, and</li> <li>• To provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and</li> <li>• To assist in and facilitate the implementation of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan prepared under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> or the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>.</li> </ul> |



| Category                | Guidelines for categorisation from <i>Local Government (General) Regulation 2021</i>                                                                                                                                                                                          | Core objectives from <i>LG Act</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Natural area – bushland | The land contains native vegetation or a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land, or although not the natural vegetation of the land, is still representative of the structure or floristics, or structure and floristics, of the natural vegetation in the locality. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro- organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land, and</li> <li>• To protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and</li> <li>• To promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and</li> <li>• To restore degraded bushland, and</li> <li>• To protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and</li> <li>• To retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and</li> <li>• To protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.</li> </ul> |

| Category                   | Guidelines for categorisation from <i>Local Government (General) Regulation 2021</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Core objectives from <i>LG Act</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Natural area - watercourse | The land contains any stream of water, whether perennial or intermittent, flowing in a natural channel, or in a natural channel that has been artificially improved, or in an artificial channel that has changed the course of the stream of water, and any other stream of water into or from which the stream of water flows, and associated riparian land or vegetation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To manage watercourses so as to protect the biodiversity and ecological values of the instream environment, particularly in relation to water quality and water flows, and</li> <li>• To manage watercourses so as to protect the riparian environment, particularly in relation to riparian vegetation and habitats and bank stability, and</li> <li>• To restore degraded watercourses, and</li> <li>• To promote community education, and community access to and use of the watercourse, without compromising the other core objectives of the category.</li> </ul> |

## 72.4 Leases and licences over community land

The *LG Act* allows Council, with certain restrictions and with public consultation, to enter into or create a range of leases, licences and other estates, in order to encourage the appropriate use of community land and / or buildings.

Typically, a lease is granted where exclusive use of a part of the land is required, while a licence allows for multiple, non-exclusive uses of an area. Several licences for different users can apply to the same area at the same time, provided there is no conflict of interest. Leased or licenced areas may be renewed or changed in the future and areas may be reconfigured to reflect changes in community needs.

The term “estate” is a technical, legal definition. An “estate” includes any “interest, charge, right, title, claim, demand, lien and encumbrance, whether at law or in equity.” The grant of easements is an example of an estate.

This plan of management expressly authorises existing leases and licence agreements until the end of their current term, and the issue of future leases, licences, permits or other estates over any parcel of

land to which this document applies, provided that:

- the purpose is consistent with the reserve purpose of the land
- the purpose is consistent with the core objectives of the land category
- the purpose is consistent with the land zoning under WLEP 2014
- the purpose is consistent with the management objectives of this plan of management
- the issue of the lease, licence, permit or other estate will not materially harm the use of the land for any purposes for which it was dedicated or reserved
- the lease, licence, permit or other estate is for a permitted use or purpose listed in table 5. The types of uses Council considers appropriate for each land category are identified in these tables
- the issue of the lease, licence, permit or other estate can be validated under the *NT Act*
- any proposed lease or licence of land that is subject to a claim under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*, considers the claim accordingly
- tenders are called for leases or licences over 5 years, unless the lease or licence is to a non-profit organisation

- the lease or licence is for a period of less than 21 years
- public notice of the proposal is given, including on the land and to adjoining residents
- any sub-leases are only allowable for the same purpose as the original lease

Council will consider any submissions made about a lease proposal and refer a 5-21 year lease proposal to the Minister for Local Government if there is an objection to it.

Council must not grant a lease or licence over community land for more than 21 years. The Minister for Local Government must approve and there must be special circumstances to justify the long term.

Each proposal will be reviewed specifically under s46, 46A, 47 & 47A-D of the *LG Act* to ensure that it meets these requirements.

Leased or licenced areas may be renewed or changed in the future and areas may be reconfigured to reflect changes in community needs.



Leases and licences existing at the time of preparation of this plan are listed with the site information.

### 72.5 Land comprising the habitat of endangered or threatened species

The *LG Act* requires that site specific plans of management be prepared for community land comprising the habitat of endangered (s36A) or threatened species for which there is a recovery plan (s36B).

Cooper Park is land comprising critical habitat for the flora following species:

- Magenta Lilly Pilly (*Syzygium paniculatum*)
- Sunshine Wattle (*Acacia terminalis* subsp. *Eastern Sydney*)
- Nielsen Park She-Oak (*Allocasuarina portuensis*)

The Magenta Lilly Pilly is listed as vulnerable under Federal legislation, the *Environment Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999* and endangered under State legislation, the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. The Sunshine Wattle and Nielsen Park She-Oak are listed as endangered under both Acts. There is a national recovery plan

for these species which necessitates a specific plan of management for Cooper Park.

Threatened fauna species settling in Cooper Park include the following species:

- Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*)
- Southern Myotis (*Myotis macropus*)
- Little Bent-winged Bat (*Miniopterus australis*)
- Large Bent winged Bat (*Miniopterus orianae oceanensis*)



Figure 21. *Syzygium paniculatum*, detail of fruit. Source: Gardening with Angus website, gardeningwithangus.com.au.

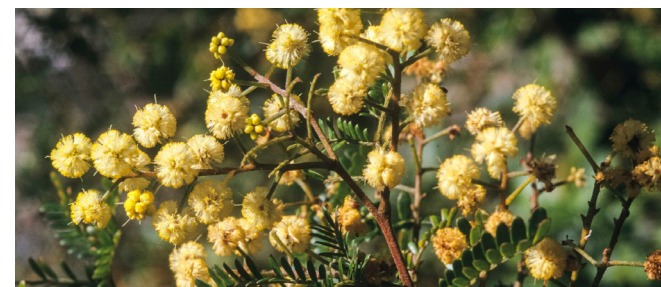


Figure 22. *Acacia terminalis* subsp. *Eastern Sydney*, detail of inflorescence. Source: Australian Plants Society NSW.

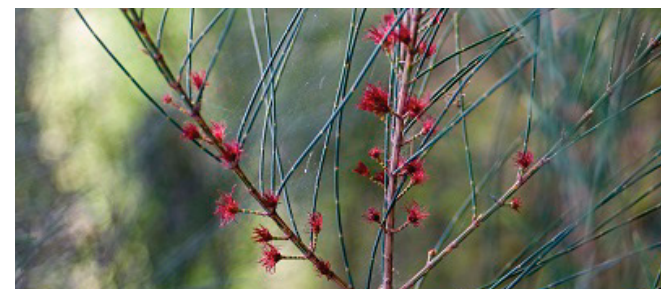


Figure 23. *Allocasuarina portuensis*, detail of inflorescence. Source: Environment and Heritage, NSW Government

# 8. Use and development

## 8.1 Community Input – Cooper Park Use and Management Issues

This section provides a summary of the contributions made by our community through the Cooper Park plan of management and master plan survey held between 17 November 2023 to 04 February 2024 . Refer to the complete survey report in appendix BB of the plan of management for all 155 responses.

Use of this site by our community is mostly to:

- appreciate the place, the environment, the space, and the views
- go for a walk
- organised recreation such as tennis, cricket, soccer and gardening

The key management issues are:

- maintaining the landscape character
- general park maintenance and upkeep
- stormwater management
- managing / restoring the bushland
- improved accessibility
- dog controls upkeep

## 8.2 Current use overview

The broad development and maintenance strategy for Cooper Park is to attempt to improve the bush landscape while allowing for public passive and active recreation use through the park.

At the date of adoption of this plan, the condition of the land and structures in all categorises is generally fair to good.

### 8.2.1 Access

Cooper Park is a feature of Woollahra's network of walking routes, being located halfway between Bondi and Double Bay.

Cooper Park has nineteen general points of pedestrian entry which are considered effective and appropriate. There are other informal access points which tend to exacerbate management problems in relation to soil erosion, soil compaction, drainage, weed encroachment and litter.

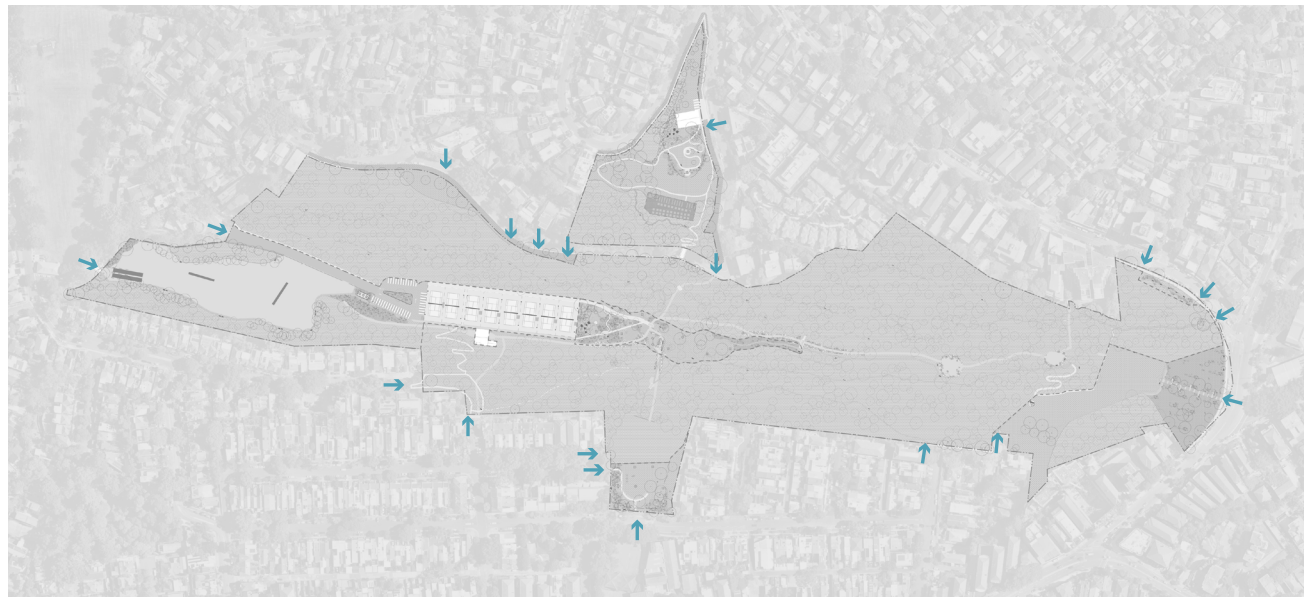


Figure 23. Access into Cooper Park



Cooper Park is easily linked to the bike network in Woollahra and Waverley in all directions by various main and local bicycle routes, both off-road and on-road.



Figure 24. Cooper Park is renowned for its unique urban bushland and rainforest

The main vehicle entry point is off Suttie Road via Bunna Place to the 28-space carpark at the tennis courts. Maintenance vehicles gain access to the amphitheatre and pond from Kendall Street, and to the fenced drainage line off Bunna Place. Ambulance and emergency vehicle access is available to the tennis complex and the creek valley from the carpark.

Bus stops are on the western side of the Park on Suttie Road, and to the east on Victoria Road.

### 8.2.2 The Physical Landscape

Cooper Park extends 1,100 metres along its east-west axis and 450 metres across its widest point in its north-south axis. The Park's highest point at its eastern end is approximately 55 metres above its lowest point at the creek below the weir. The slopes to the park are typified by rocky outcrops, which in part form sustained cliff-lines and numerous overhangs, creating a unique play of light and shadow. The Park's dense tree canopy, while limiting solar access to the creek line and upper gully, provides a cool and shaded retreat. However, the grassed areas of the Amphitheatre, Lower Cooper Park, Cooper Park North, Cooper Park

South, and the tennis courts are exposed to ample sunlight, offering a sunny spot for outdoor activities. Areas of the Park have been created through landfills, where imported soil was used as the physical base. For example, Cooper Park North is built on the site of a former waste dump.

### 8.2.3 The Cultural Landscape – Aboriginal History and Heritage

#### Overview:

The Traditional Owners of the land comprise members of at least two Aboriginal clans – the Gadigal on the southern shore of Sydney Harbour, the Birrabirragah of South Head, and nearby coastal areas. In 1789, approximately 50% of the Gadigal and Birrabirragah population was killed by disease, most likely smallpox, introduced by European settlers. Subsequent occupation and clearing of land through land grants and settlement reduced the population of the Aboriginal community within the Sydney area.

The Aboriginal association with Sydney Harbour for fishing and its foreshores for hunting and food gathering is well documented through the presence



of rock engravings, shelters, middens, burials and art within Woollahra Municipality. The Aboriginal association with the land away from the harbour foreshores is less clear.

Several confirmed indications of Aboriginal occupation in the Cooper Park area, including engravings and sacred/ burial sites, are preserved and protected by the La Perouse Land Council within the eastern suburbs of Sydney. The exact location of these sites, for spiritual reasons, remains privileged information kept in trust by the Council. The Park is home to a number of sites with deposits of iron-rich clay, believed to have been used by local Aboriginal people as paint material for body adornment.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. When weeding or other works are undertaken in the Aboriginal sensitive areas in the park, the proposed works should be subject to an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment as required by the *Woollahra Aboriginal Heritage Study* (2021).

2. For any proposed activities within Cooper Park, an unexpected finds protocol should be in place for any excavation works. See appendix C for more details.

### **8.2.4 The Cultural Landscape – European History and Heritage**

#### **Overview:**

The area now known as Cooper Park was part of land accumulated by a combination of grant and purchase by the military officer Captain John Piper from 1816. During this time, uses of the land included dairying, market gardening, timber-getting and sandstone quarrying. The majority of Piper's estate was conveyed to the emancipist traders Daniel Cooper and Solomon Levey on 1827. The estate, by then comprising 1,130 acres, became the exclusive property of Daniel Cooper in 1847. Cooper left the Point Piper Estate to Daniel Cooper, the son of his nephew Sir Daniel Cooper and trustee of the estate for his son.

The impact of early European settlement on the land now contained within Cooper Park was confined to clearing and timber-getting for fuel – an activity

estimated to have begun from 1810 forwards, quarrying, and the clearing and cultivation as market gardens and dairying pasture of the level lands in the lower reaches of the watercourse.

Sir William Cooper gave the whole of the Double Bay Gully to Woollahra Council as a Park in 1913. The land was subsequently dedicated to Woollahra Council as a public reserve which was named Cooper Park in 1917. Additions to the Park area were made in future years.

Development of the Park for recreation was initiated in 1923-24 with construction of tennis courts, a tennis pavilion, playground, amphitheatre, and a cricket pitch. A competition to design the Park in 1927 was won by architects Coleman and Coulter in 1928. The winning Park design was implemented in the mid 1930s through tree planting, and construction of paths, bridges, seating, grottos and sandstone walls. Funding provisions during the construction period intended to stimulate employment arising from the economic circumstances of the Great Depression. Most of the work was carried out during the 1930s, and involved the considerable participation of relief labour. A



Figure 25. Two workers on the Moon Bridge during construction in the 1930s (source: Woollahra Libraries)

plaque affixed to a west-facing retaining wall at the Bellevue Hill end of the parkland commemorates this work.

The use of various sites surrounding and within the main gully area for rubbish disposal pre-dated council's acquisition of the land and created ecological problems evident decades later. An area at the foot of Cooper Park Road was used as the ash-tip for the nearby council garbage incinerator, which operated between 1928 and 1946.

In 1945 plans for an auditorium in the amphitheatre were proposed. Open air concerts by the ABC and

Sydney Symphony attracting up to 20,000 people were held in the amphitheatre in the 1950s until they ceased in 1960. Building on the traditions of the 1940s and 1950s, a picnic and concert was held in Cooper Park on 30 October 1988 as a major event within Woollahra's Bicentennial program.

Since the 1960s development of the Park has focused on planting, bush regeneration and maintenance.



Figure 26. The stone steps and amphitheatre at Cooper Park during construction in the 1930s (source: Woollahra Libraries)

A burst water main at the head of the gully, immediately below the Victoria Road frontage, created a landslip on the evening of 28 May 2009. This caused significant damage to the parkland below and other infrastructure. Remediation to the area was completed in the following months. A landslide at the northern end of Cooper Park South in 2020 resulted in soil backfill and a new stormwater pipe, which were completed as part of the remedial upgrades in early 2023.

### 8.2.5 Heritage and Cultural Significance

Cooper Park's heritage significance has been recognised and documented in several sources. On 22 June 1993, the *Australian Heritage Commission* registered the park on the *Register of the National Estate*. The park elements identified in the listing as being of particular significance are the 'array of cultural features', the 'significant stands of remnant Port Jackson/Eastern suburbs vegetation' and the 'design excellence' of the whole. The Register was closed in 2007, and the Act under which it was created (the *Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975*) since repealed and the list no longer offers statutory protection to listed items.

The *Register of the National Estate* – now of historical interest only (non-statutory) notes the following regarding Cooper Park: “Cooper Park is an uncommon example of an early twentieth century municipal park, which demonstrates a bushland pleasure ground style. The style is expressed by the predominance of bushland vegetation, a creek and meandering network of paths which link a series of architectural features”.

The unadopted *Cooper Park Conservation Management Plan (CMP, 2011)* notes the significance of Cooper Park’s landscape heritage and provides conservation policy guidelines for its preservation, use, interpretation, and management in the future. This POM emphasises the need for a clear conservation strategy framework, which an updated Conservation Management Plan can provide to manage the Park in the future and ensure its heritage significance is conserved.

### Heritage Items

The sandstone retaining wall and railing facing Cooper Park was added to the *Woollahra Local Environmental Plan (LEP)* in 2015. The entire park

(excluding Cooper Park North) was listed to the LEP in 2020.

### Potential Heritage Items

Potential items include the:

- Amphitheatre stairs
- Significant trees
- Moon Bridge
- Historic archaeology from previous structures and previous land uses

The whole of the park has potential to be a State Heritage Listed item. On 29 September 2020, Council endorsed sending a nomination to Heritage NSW to include Cooper Park on the *State Heritage Register (SHR)*. On 1 December 2020, the SHR Committee considered the nomination. On 15 December 2020, Council received communication from Heritage NSW informing that the SHR Committee has resolved that Cooper Park is likely to meet the threshold for State heritage significance. However, it is not a current priority for SHR listing.

The State Heritage Register identifies items having particular importance to the people of New South Wales which meet the NSW Heritage Council’s assessment criteria.



Figure 27. Cooper Park offers a range of recreational facilities within an urban bushland setting

### Recommendations:

1. Investigate opportunities to undertake a heritage assessment of the significant trees
2. Continue to implement the master plan and bush regeneration
3. An unexpected finds protocol should be in place to guide future excavation works. See appendix C for more details.
4. Continue to support Council’s efforts to list Cooper Park on the *State Heritage Register*
5. Prepare the Cooper Park Conservation Management Plan



### 8.2.6 Landscape Character

Cooper Park is defined by diverse landscape traits, such as a gully creek that traverses much of the main park, open ridgetops with expansive canopy and Bondi Junction views, dense bushland, and flat open grassed fields, such as Lower Cooper Park, Cooper Park North, and the Amphitheatre.

Natural waterfalls cascade the exposed Hawkesbury Sandstone cliff faces and join the park's greater creek system. The dense canopy cover creates cool temperatures and rainforest aesthetic in the creek and gully zones, and dappled sunlight in the bushland areas.

The Amphitheatre steps, Moon Bridge, grottos, and sandstone gazebos are built remnants of the Park's pleasure gardens gardenesque design, heightening the Park's heritage character and connecting users to the Park's history.

### 8.2.7 Relevant Documents

- National recovery plan for Magenta Lilly Pilly (*Syzygium paniculatum*)
- National recovery plan for Sunshine Wattle (*Acacia terminalis subsp. Eastern Sydney*)

- National recovery plan for Nielsen Park She-oak (*Allocasuarina portuensis*)
- Woollahra Libraries, Local History Research File.
- Draft Cooper Park Plan of Management, 2009. Although not adopted, contains relevant information from which to undertake a future master plan.
- Register of Significant Trees, 2012
- Draft Cooper Park Conservation Management Plan, 2011 (unadopted)
- Cooper Park Heritage Significance Assessment, 2019

### 8.2.8 Current condition, issues and use of the land and structures on PARK category land at Cooper Park

Feedback from the community consultation highlights the community's eagerness for improved park facilities including enhanced path upgrades and connections, bench seating, picnic options and play provisions.

The community consultation also identified interest in improved and additional recreation fitness and exercise equipment within Cooper Park.

Accordingly, the installation of appropriate fitness and exercise equipment to complement existing active recreational opportunities within Cooper Park would be appropriate. Placement of fitness and exercise equipment would be suitable in Lower Cooper Park, Cooper Park North, or in the Amphitheatre.

### Play space facilities

The *Woollahra Play Space Strategy* (2023) noted the need for upgrades and additional play spaces in Woollahra. The report recommends the potential to enhance the current play space adjacent the tennis courts due to its underutilised size and unique natural setting of the site.

An improved pathway and entrance network was recommended for Cooper Park North's play space with Council determining these upgrades to be completed between 5 - 7 years from 2023. Both play areas are due for review as they were built in 2000 and are inadequate to meet the future needs of Woollahra's increasing youth demographic due to their popularity and capacity.

Upgrades to play spaces have the opportunity to showcase Cooper Park's Aboriginal heritage and historic values. Future play design will consider such elements into the design.

These upgrades to play spaces not only have the opportunity to showcase Cooper Park's Aboriginal heritage and historic values, but also significantly enhance the play and learning experience in the Park. Future play design will consider such elements.

### **Picnic area**

Picnic tables are provided east of the tennis courts. Park users have requested more picnic and seating facilities. Council will examine locating more picnic opportunities in this area. Council have also received requests for barbecue facilities and will investigate the installation of electric barbecues in this area.

### **Bunna Place**

Bunna Place, the main gateway into Cooper Park, currently needs an arrival experience. While generally adequate for average Park visitation, the 28-space carpark at Bunna Place is facing some significant challenges. These include sufficient solar protection during summer and the ongoing

challenge of entering Bunna Place through the tight thoroughfare, where vehicles have to give way to oncoming traffic, making for an unpleasant welcoming experience.

Boat trailers' parking further compounds Bunna Place's compactness, making the arrival experience at Cooper Park unpleasant. To address these issues, the Council is proposing a series of solutions, including the strategic placement of trees with a shading habit, the enhancement of surrounding vegetation, a reconfiguration of the area to accommodate greater parking bays, and the addition of shorter-timed parking. These measures will make Bunna Place more pedestrian-friendly and welcoming and significantly improve Cooper Park's arrival experience.

Bike racks are proposed at Bunna Place to promote cycling across the LGA, creating supporting infrastructure to support cycling as a mode of choice for journeys, an objective of *Woollahra's Active Transport Plan* (2024).

### **Grottos**

The grottos, a cultural feature of the Park dating from the major development phase in the mid-

1930s, are in generally good condition but are aging and subject to vandalism. The open grottos, once used as picnic shelters, are now also serving as shelters for homeless people and anti-social behaviour. Additionally, two grottos are locked and used for storage. Given these circumstances, it is

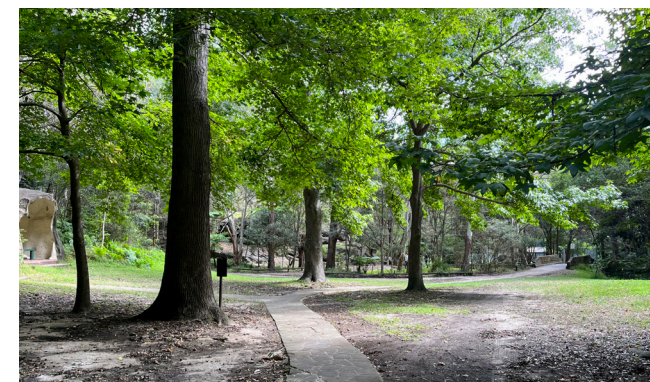


Figure 28. The picnic area east of the tennis courts



Figure 29. Bunna Place carpark west of the tennis courts



Figure 30. Crowds assembled for an open-air concert at the amphitheatre at Cooper Park in 1950s (source: Woollahra Libraries)



Figure 31. The Amphitheatre steps in its current condition (2024)

time Council reviews the desired future function of the grottos, a process that should involve all stakeholders.

### The Amphitheatre

The natural earthen amphitheatre bordering Victoria Road at the eastern end of the Park was

constructed during the 1940s. It later became a venue for various cultural events, in particular, the staging of classical concerts during the 1950s which were broadcast throughout the State by the ABC (Australian Broadcasting Commission). The last use of the site for the staging of a significant cultural event was during the Bicentennial celebrations of 1988.

A community desire to restore the amphitheatre's former use for cultural events is understood. Future use constraints such as lack of parking, surrounding residential development, lack of shelter from rain, availability of superior outdoor entertainment venues elsewhere in Sydney, and unsuitability for ball games because of a steep drop from the amphitheatre floor to the creek bed results in the principal use of the Amphitheatre is for school sport on weekdays. Restoring a small portion of the amphitheatre to its past use at the base of the amphitheatre slope is suitable as it would not cause a substantial parking, noise and capacity disturbance on adjacent residences.

In May 2009, a burst water main caused a landslide at the ridge of the Amphitheatre slope on Bellevue Road. The area was remediated in the following

months. Bush regeneration is ongoing at the Amphitheatre slope to reinstate native vegetation, and trees are being planted to ensure advanced trees at the top of the hill will stabilise the slope.

### Cooper Park North

Cooper Park North was formally a waste site that contained a quarry and incinerator pre 1960. The site is land filled and levelled and contains Cooper Park Community Garden, Cooper Park Community Hall, and a playground. The area's relatively flat and expanded terrain has also made it a favourite dog off-leash area.

Public feedback during the consultation notes Cooper Park North's pedestrian disconnection from the main Cooper Park. Council will explore proposals for an accessible path and a pedestrian crossing at Northland Road to link to the main Cooper Park. The potential for a formal path joining the existing Community Garden, Community Hall, and playground will also be reviewed.

Cooper Park North is currently used as an informal dog off-leash area. Public feedback from the 2023 LGA-Wide Review of Dog Controls and the





Figure 32. Expansive open lawn at Fig Tree Lane Reserve



Figure 33. Garden beds at Cooper Park Community Gardens

Cooper Park POM and Master Plan's consultation requested dedicated sections of the park for dog-off-leash zones. Council is committed to ensuring that all changes are in compliance with regulations, including the installation of a fence around the existing playground as required by the *Animal Companion Act*.

Cooper Park North's past as a waste site has left a legacy of asbestos, a serious and ongoing issue for Council. The current situation, with an informal path behind the Community Gardens exposing ground soil to potential asbestos, poses significant health risks. The proposed upgrades, including the playground, new children's bike circuit, accessible path, and dog off-leash protocols (whereby dogs will dig into the ground), will require Council to undertake asbestos remediation. Council will engage an asbestos consultant to ensure the best practice for the community and environment is upheld.

The Cooper Park Community Garden was established at Cooper Park North in 2018 and accommodates 50 garden beds, a garden shed, seating, compost bins and running tap water.

Feedback from the consultation recommends an accessible path from the Community Gardens to the Community Hall. This path will aid Community Garden users' access to the Hall's toilet facilities and also enhance Cooper Park North's overall pedestrian experience.

### **Fig Tree Lane Reserve (formally known as Cooper Park South and/or Fletcher Street Reserve)**

The site has been known by various names such as Cooper Park South, Fig Tree Lane Reserve, and Fletcher Street Reserve. Council has opted to rename the site as Fig Tree Lane Reserve as preferred by the community who have voiced this preference during the public exhibition.

Fig Tree Lane Reserve is a smaller open grassed area to the south of the main park, located over Fletchers Gully. The site previously housed Fletchers Foundry, which closed in 1950 and was landfilled, levelled, and grassed by 1955.

A landslide at the northern end of the Reserve in 2020 resulted in soil backfill and a new stormwater pipe, which were completed as part of the remedial upgrades in early 2023.



Figure 34. Tennis is permissible at Cooper Park in areas categorised as sportsground

The site is used as an informal dog off leash area. The community consultation has highlighted interest in developing the site into a formal dog off-leash area. Feedback from Council’s 2020-2021 Open Space surveys notes dog walking as the third most popular use of Woollahra’s parks, beaches and reserves. A dog off-leash park is lacking in the LGA, and Council has identified Fig Tree Lane Reserve as a potential site for such a need. A new boundary fence and additional seats will be installed to enable dogs and dog owners to meet with the broader community. Council will also investigate a new formal path adjacent to Fletcher Street and into the Reserve to the View Street main Cooper Park entry.



Figure 35. Cooper Park Community Hall at Cooper Park North

### 8.2.9 Current condition, issues and use of the land and structures on SPORTSGROUND category land at Cooper Park

Lower Cooper Park and the tennis courts are categorised as sportsground.

The tennis complex consists of 8 tennis courts and is leased for 7 years from 2025, with the option of extending the lease for a further 7 years.

Lower Cooper Park is used for cricket, mini soccer and unleashed dog exercise. Council has reconfigured the location of the existing cricket nets at Lower Cooper Park.

### Youth recreation facilities

The *Woollahra Recreation Strategy* (2023) identified gaps in provision of some youth recreation facilities in Woollahra. Lower Cooper Park was recommended as a suitable location for youth-friendly infrastructure, such as a half-court basketball facility, tennis practice rebound wall, and basic skate elements.

The practice cricket nets at Lower Cooper Park are used for school sport on weekdays, for junior cricket on Saturday mornings in summer, and are used informally. The cricket nets have been a point of some conflict between cricketers and other Park users in relation to wayward balls threatening injury.

### 8.2.10 Current condition, issues and use of the land and structures on GENERAL COMMUNITY USE category land at Cooper Park

General community use category land includes Cooper Park Community Hall and Cooper Park Tennis Kiosk and staff residence. All are in fair to good condition. The tennis café / kiosk is managed according to a lease.



The Community Hall is one of Woollahra Council's most well used community buildings. The centre is used by the community for children's parties, fitness classes and other activities.

In 2023, the hall underwent upgrades that included a new accessible compliant ramp, a new large internal space with LED lighting and large ceiling fans, a disabled car parking spot, internal toilets, outdoor decking, electric vehicle charging station, a rain water tank connected to the toilets, an additional meeting room and new kitchen.

The venue is available for hire 7 days a week between 9am - 9pm.

#### **8.2.11 Current condition, issues and use of the land and structures on NATURAL AREA - WATERCOURSE category land at Cooper Park**

The main drainage line consists of a creek that flows from east to west in the Park. Approximately 12 weirs have been constructed within this watercourse producing a series of ponds along its length.

The creek dimensions range from approximately 3 metres wide at the top (eastern) and lower (western) end of the Park to approximately 1.8 metres wide in the vicinity of the kiosk. The watercourse is deeper at the lower end of the Park (approximately 1.9 metres) compared to the top end (approximately 1.4 metres).

The creek remains in predominantly natural form above the confluence at the brick bridge just east of the tennis courts, with stone-pitched embankments occurring below this point. It is fed by numerous tributaries and piped stormwater outlets. Feeder streams, however, have been generally developed into culverts with hardened surfaces. This has an effect on the speed at which water, and the sediments and litter which may flow with it, enters the Double Bay Creek (Cooper Creek).

The Park's water system forms the Cooper Park catchment of approximately 85 hectares that extends through much of Bondi Junction and Bellevue Hill. The catchment area has experienced a surge in development, resulting in Cooper Park being inundated with significant and damaging stormwater runoff. These runoffs, originating from



Figure 36. The creek supports the rainforest gully ecosystem at Cooper Park

pipied outlets and unpipied overland flow from adjacent streets and lanes, contribute to the Park's water system and impact the creek's water quality and aquatic ecology. They carry high sediment loads, phosphorous, nitrogen, organics, litter, heavy metals, and hydrocarbons, which hinder the establishment and survival of native vegetation while promoting weed infestation.



This leads to erosion, sedimentation, and the delivery of nutrient loads and other pollutants. The uncontrolled stormwater runoff and flows have damaged Park facilities and reduced the use of many areas in the Park for some days after rain, highlighting the severe impact on the environment and the urgent need for action.

Additional associated problems with stormwater flows that enter and pass through Cooper Park includes:

- erosion of the steep embankments and channel banks, resulting in sheet flow across grassed areas
- erosion of pathways or discharges along pathways which cause them to be continually wet
- deposition of sediment, trash and other pollutants upstream of the numerous main channel weirs and in the Park generally.
- permanent soaks caused by seepage
- discharge of pollutants downstream of the Park, and eventually into Double Bay
- difficult access to various sections of the creek channel or side drains for maintenance due to

flooded areas

- discharge of nutrients and seeds and plant material of exotic species which exacerbates the existing invasion of exotic species

Many of these concerns are addressed in the 2019 *Cooper Park Water Management Plan* (Craig and Rhodes, 2019). The report found existing drainage infrastructure is not designed for the current demands of the area while also recommending to investigate undertaking a catchment-wide control plan that locates, designs and constructs Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) assets in proximity to the park.

The report also proposes WSUD solutions to treat stormwater upon entering the Park before it traverses into the creek. These interventions include storm drain nets (netting devices that trap pollutants), gross pollutant baffle pits (large concrete structures and weirs that trap pollutants), sedimentation basins (open ponds that capture sediments carried by stormwater), and raingardens (specially designed garden landscape features that filter stormwater runoff using soil, plants, and microbes for biological treatment).

The report also notes the Park's crumbling heritage drainage infrastructure that is causing overflow, stormwater scour, the spread of sediment, leaf litter, gross pollutants, altering the parks landform and stripping the soil of nutrients.

The past few years have seen a significant increase in rainfall, leading to severe flooding and causing substantial damage to Park's landform. The 2020 landslide at Cooper Park South was due in part to considerable rain, which necessitated the repair of the collapsed embankment and the installation of a new stormwater pipe in early 2023. The high volume and force of the new pipe's stormwater, along with its direction into Cooper Park, have led to severe erosion and flooding in the picnic area near the pipe's exit.

The *Stormwater Management Plan of Cooper Park* (Patterson Britton and Partners, 1992) guides the stormwater management at the Park. It is timely that the Council investigate a new Stormwater Management Plan to meet this crucial need and address the Park's current stormwater concerns. The updated report will build on the 2019 Water Management Plan with its inclusion of the following:

- examine conducting an accurate catchment wide plan that locates all drains and overflows that enter the park
- explore installing WSUD assets within the Park and outside Park's boundaries
- examine appropriate WSUD interventions to meet the Park's functional, aesthetic and heritage needs.

The updated Stormwater Management Plan has the potential to anticipate and plan for the Park's short and long-term stormwater challenges. With urban development outside of the Woollahra LGA set to grow, particularly in Bondi Junction, the existing poor stormwater infrastructure in the catchment will be further burdened. Engaging external stakeholders is a key step to ensure Cooper Park's water system develops into a healthy and sustainable water network, offering a positive outlook for the Park's longevity.

## Pond

Two ponds are located at the head of a creek system. Three catchments over an area of 10.2 hectares drain to the upper Pond. The drainage system to the Pond has a very low capacity, with

most pipes flowing at or near capacity in a one-year ARI event. In comparison, a typical stormwater drainage design would adopt a minimum five-year ARI event for the design of similar underground drainage infrastructure (Storm Consulting, 2008).

Constructed in the 1930s as ornamental ponds, they have by default, developed as a crucial sediment trap for stormwater flows from adjacent streets and has fallen into disrepair. Originally larger, the Pond's area has been infringed upon by sediment and exotic weeds, reducing its capacity.

As a result, the Pond's functionality and visual appeal have significantly declined. Despite several dredging operations, the Pond is now once again filled with sediment. Issues associated with the Pond are:

- scouring of the gravel access track from overland flow from the lawn of Bellevue Gardens is a source of sediment to the Pond
- failure of the existing weir structure resulting in leaking that prevents the pond from retaining water
- gross pollutants collecting downstream of the

Bellevue Road catchment between the outlet at the Park boundary and the Pond

- erosion downstream of the pond outlet and north of the culvert outlet
- insufficient capacity of drainage pits in Victoria Road

Since 2008, Council has undertaken numerous restoration works at the ponds and around the Park, impacting the Pond to improve its water quality, including:

- installing several rain gardens in Bellevue Hill
- significant bush regeneration is undertaken around the amphitheatre area, reducing sediment-laden runoff
- Removal of weeds, sediment and debris from drainage lines, the Pond and surrounding areas;
- Removal of 5 large weed trees, including, willow, cotton wood and coral trees;
- Re-grading of the Pond and downstream scour pool batters and levels;
- Earthworks;
- Rock armouring and associated rock work for Pond, scour pool and drainage lines; and Revegetation.

Numerous leaks were discovered at the base of the Pond between 2014 - 2015, which Council rectified. In 2018, contractors rehabilitated the Pond. This included:

- Removal of weeds, sediment and debris from drainage lines, Pond and surrounding areas;
- Excavation of sediment from Pond to reinstate design levels per Storm Consulting;
- Loading of sediment into all-terrain dumper and stockpile in corner of park area for dewatering;
- Excavation of sediment from small scour pool at upstream limit of creek;
- Installation of clay liner & regrouting of rockwork to repair leak;
- Planting tubestock of appropriate wetland species

The pond area is undergoing a major landscape upgrade that addresses issues associated with sediment deposition, gross pollutants, and water quality. The Cooper Park Water Management Plan (2019) recommendations of replacing weirs, installing geosynthetic liners, and mechanically removing organic matter and sediment will be considered in the Pond's upgrade.

### 8.2.12 Current condition, issues and use of the land and structures on NATURAL AREA - BUSHLAND category land at Cooper Park

#### Threatened Species

The Sunshine Wattle (*Acacia terminalis* subsp. *Eastern Sydney*), Magenta Lilly Pilly (*Syzygium paniculatum*) and Nielsen Park She-Oak (*Allocasuarina portuensis*) are endangered plant species listed on Schedule 1 of the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. The population of *Acacia terminalis* subsp. *Eastern Sydney* is restricted to the Park's northern and southern slopes within regenerating areas of remnant bushland. The Magenta Lilly Pilly exists as mature and juvenile species throughout the park. A Nielsen Park She-Oak is located in Bellevue Gardens. Under Section 36A of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the presence of an endangered species results in an automatic 'natural area' categorisation for the bushland area of Cooper Park. The land area supporting this plant species is subject to a draft Recovery Plan prepared by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NSW). Threats to the Sunshine Wattle, Magenta Lilly Pilly and Nielsen Park She-Oak include:

- clearing, and habitat degradation (rubbish dumping, weed invasion, access by people).
- inappropriate fire regime.
- impacts from park management and recreational activities.

Recovery strategies and priority actions for the sub-species relevant to Cooper Park include to:

- ensure maintenance personnel can identify the sub-species and be aware of its locations
- ensure an appropriate fire regime to avoid frequent fire and long absences of fire



Figure 37. Bushland area at Cooper Park



- fire temperature of 60 degrees is required for optimum germination
- manage threats at known sites
- restrict access to prevent trampling and dumping
- undertake appropriate weed control activities when necessary
- establish an appropriate monitoring program for known sites

The Park's bush regeneration program is mindful of the plant's existence and all due care is taken to ensure its conservation according to the Recovery Plan.



Figure 38. Bush regeneration adjacent the stone steps at the Amphitheatre

Grant funding from NSW Government's *Saving Our Species* has assisted Council with contractors to carry out priority recovery actions since the 2015.

The importance associated with the presence of *Acacia terminalis* subsp. *Eastern Sydney*, *Allocasuarina portuensis* and *Syzygium paniculatum* will be reflected in an interpretive strategy for the Park's natural elements focusing particularly on the importance of biodiversity conservation.

### Bush Regeneration

Weed infestation in the Park stems directly from the impacts of residential development and resource extraction. Impacts have resulted from operations associated with logging, sandstone quarrying, waste incineration, the creation of sewerage, drainage and recreation infrastructure, building construction, increased stormwater volumes, altered drainage patterns and associated changes in soil structure and chemistry. Many weed species introduced originally as horticultural plants on private property within the Park's catchment have, through various dispersal mechanisms, become established within Cooper Park.

Weed infestation is the most visible indication of native plant community degradation. Weeds compete with native plants for light, moisture, nutrient and space. Weed removal therefore is the primary requirement for the regeneration process preceding the germination of naturally occurring seed and related propagative material and/or revegetation through planting.

Bush regeneration is the primary managerial theme of maintenance task in Cooper Park. It is a process that aims to restore plant communities and some elements of the fauna communities that existed within this area prior to European settlement. This is achieved through various methods such as selective weed removal, soil restoration, and planting of native species. Techniques used in weed removal, and the pattern and timing within this process, are consistent with current industry bush regeneration methods and are based on sound ecological principles.

Quantitative measures of the success of bush regeneration are the annual area of weed clearance (primary treatment), and the subsequent area maintained in a weed free state (maintenance treatment).

The degree of success of bush regeneration depends on the level and efficiency of ongoing labour input required for primary weed removal, associated landscape work, planting (where necessary), and the subsequent maintenance of restored areas into the future. Success will also be dependent on the degree to which threats to bushland have been removed or minimised. Such threats are represented most noticeably in Cooper Park through weed establishment and uncontrolled stormwater flows.

Community volunteering from Cooper Park's Bushcare team is a community-based program in which volunteers help regenerate and preserve Cooper with the assistance and support of Council staff. Bushcare's efforts have assisted in protecting local biodiversity and natural ecosystems and preserving the habitat of native flora and fauna of Cooper Park.

### **Lower Cooper Park**

The open grassed area of Lower Cooper Park bordering Suttie Road at the western end of the Park is framed by steep embankments on its northern and southern perimeter. Both of these embankments are almost totally weed-infested,

with some remnant Eucalyptus ssp. occurring on the southern side. Current maintenance involves the occasional removal of vines from significant trees on the southern embankment. Given the aspect, occurrence of uncontrolled drainage, and altered soil profile and chemistry of this area it would be inappropriate to apply a bush regeneration approach. Previous attempts in this regard have proven unsustainable and not cost effective.

An appropriate treatment for restoration of the southern embankment would involve the establishment and maintenance of native tree species (the selection of which is to be determined by Park staff) across the embankment whilst tolerating a climax weed community as a soil stabilising groundcover and understorey. The northern embankment has been cleared of weed and has been planted. It is now part of scheduled maintenance works.

### **Biodiversity**

Biodiversity is often interpreted simply as species richness, but is more accurately described as 'the variety of life forms, the ecological roles they perform and the genetic diversity they contain'.

This variety in the natural world and the pleasure it brings to human experience contributes to the significance of biodiversity. Biodiversity helps maintain natural ecosystems providing clean water and air. The conservation of biodiversity locally contributes to its conservation at broader scales.

Habitat destruction and the fragmentation of bushland have been major contributors to the loss of species within the area now occupied by Cooper Park. Protection and enhancement of the Park's present level of native biodiversity is therefore a key outcome of the program of bush regeneration within the Park. Flora and fauna monitoring acts as a qualitative assessment of the success of the bush regeneration process.

Importantly, the protection and enhancement of biodiversity within Cooper Park will be based on management options that minimise the effects of, or totally negate, threatening processes and capitalise on opportunities to maintain the sustainability of whole populations of species. Community support is invaluable in these efforts. Such opportunities within the bush regeneration process include weed removal, planting, habitat creation, and stormwater management.

## **Planting**

Planting in bushland areas in Cooper Park will only be undertaken in sites that exhibit negligible natural regeneration potential over some time (at least three years). Assessment of natural regeneration potential within a site includes consideration of the likely response to fire treatment.

Natural regeneration produces superior outcomes in relation to the restoration of bushland based on original vegetation type and species diversity. However, in non-responsive areas, planting reintroduces a level of native plant diversity within a site, initiates the production of a native seed bank, and helps suppress competing weed growth.

Species chosen for planting are selected taking account of the probable original plant community type that existed in Cooper Park before residential development. Plant material used in Cooper Park is almost exclusively derived from on-site propagation of seed collected from remnant species within the Park. Choosing locally sourced propagative material is important in ensuring the genetic integrity (in the event of pollen transfer and seed dispersal) of remnant plant populations. Propagation of native tubestock used in Cooper Park is done at the Quarry Street nursery in Paddington.

## **Fire**

Council staff and contractors have been thermal weeding around Cooper Park with some success in eliminating invasive weeds. Fire regeneration has not been used for threatened species regeneration.

Fire management in bushland on urban fringes must address the often conflicting objectives of protecting life and property whilst promoting and sustaining biodiversity. The use of fire as a management tool is very problematic, though NSW Fire and Rescue have determined that the Woollahra local government area is not fire-prone. Council will look at alternate weed control and continue discussions with NSW Fire and Rescue.

## **Habitat Creation**

The supply of habitat requirements for fauna requires some appreciation of the structural element of vegetation. Habitat requirements, such as tree hollows, must be improved in Cooper Park, with most older Eucalyptus being logged in the last century. In response, possum and bird boxes were constructed and placed strategically to help compensate for this habitat loss within the Park. Council recently created artificial hollows, to provide habitat. Fallen branches, fronds and trees present

good habitat opportunities and will remain onsite, not impacting the park's usability.

Weed infestation in the Park derives directly from human activity. Key activities which can introduce weeds are plantings of weed species, garden escapees, seed and material stock transported in stormwater, dumping of weed cuttings, clothing and footwear, fauna fur or faeces and resource extraction.

Impacts in Cooper Park have derived from commercial operations associated with logging, sandstone quarrying, waste disposal and incineration, the installation of sewerage and drainage infrastructure and market gardening. Altered drainage patterns and volumes, and changing soil chemistry have exacerbated the situation. The recreational development of the Park did not take explicit account of vegetation management.

Weed infestation is the most visible indication of native plant community degradation. Weeds compete with native plants for light, moisture, nutrition and space. Approximately 37% of the bushland area in Cooper Park suffers from



significant levels of weed infestation, with some areas displaying a greater abundance of weed species over native vegetation. The pattern of weed infestation is not uniform throughout the Park. Most noticeably, weed species abundance is significantly more pronounced on the land to the south of the creek. This is due to the greater solar access on those slopes due to a northern aspect.

Major weed species include Large-leaved Privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*), Small-leaved Privet (*Lucidum sinense*), Lantana (*Lantana camara*), Balloon Vine (*Cardiospermum grandiflorum*), Morning Glory (*Ipomoea indica*), Madeira Vine (*Anredera cordifolia*), Palm Grass (*Setaria palmifolia*), Common Trad (*Tradescantia albiflora*), Mist Flower (*Ageratina riparia*), Green Cestrum (*Cestrum parquii*), Veldt Grass (*Ehrarta erecta*), Potato Vine (*Rumex sagittatus*), Coral Tree (*Eyrthrina x syksei*) and Camphor Laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*).

The problems caused by weeds arise due to abundance and distribution, rather than a presence per se. One of the major impacts of the abundance of weeds with a ground cover and low shrub habit, such as Lantana, Common Trad and Morning

Glory, is the impediment that those weeds create for the natural regeneration of native species. This blanketing effect is most pronounced on the southern side of the Park where solar access is available.

### **Regeneration**

During the mid 1970s the municipal engineer proposed basic regeneration work to be undertaken over a 20 month period between 1974 and 1976. Weeds were removed (Privets, Tree of Heaven, Coral Tree, Balloon Vine and Morning Glory), and up to 500 native trees, shrubs and grasses were planted. The rationale for species selection and the genetic source of planted material is not recorded. By today's standards it was a crude approach. One decade later, the National Trust was contracted to undertake bush regeneration work in Cooper Park. That was the first time that a systematic scientific approach was adopted for the regeneration and restoration of remnant native plant communities in Cooper Park. The appointment of a Park Manager in 1988 and a subsequent increase in staff skilled in natural area management has led to a substantial increase in the area of regenerating bushland exhibiting a high degree of sustainability.

### **Fauna**

The sustainability of fauna populations is dependent on a number of variables. One of the most important variables is habitat size. Fragmentation of habitat during the period of residential development has likely resulted in the local extinction of a number of fauna species within the Cooper Park area. In this regard, Cooper Park will always be limited in its ability to sustain fauna populations because it is a fragment of a once much larger area of continuous native vegetation.

Nonetheless, in a given area, the quality of fauna habitat is supported primarily by plant species diversity, variability of vegetation structure and variability of plant species age classes. Presently, the Park provides refuge for a number of birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals together with various invertebrate species including insects and soil microfauna.

### **Soil deficiencies**

The original soils of the Park are mainly deficient and contaminated due to the effects of stormwater runoff and human activities. An area study in the *Environmental and Biodiversity: Woollahra*

*Municipality, Monitoring Report 2021/2022 (2022)*, found Cooper Park's soil to be 10 times as high in nitrogen, over 22 times high in suspended solids and high in phosphorous and chlorophyll. Phosphorous and nitrogen can naturally be present in higher concentrations than what occurs naturally. These elements can be either phytotoxic to members of some plant families (such as *Proteaceae*) or encourage excessive growth in many weed species, which may displace or disturb native vegetation. Urban bushland soils can be loaded with unnaturally high levels of these nutrients through the introduction of dumped garden refuse, imported soil, sewage overflows and leaks, detergents and



Figure 39. Community planting at Cooper Park

dog faeces, all of which are either deposited on-site or arrive via uncontrolled stormwater inflows. Stormwater runoff significantly affects the soil quality at Cooper Park, transporting urban pollutants and contaminating the soil. The Park's existing catchment drainage infrastructure, built for a different urban development era, is struggling to cope with the current drainage demands, leading to water leaks that contribute to the Park's poor soil health. It is crucial that the Park's drainage infrastructure is addressed to improve the Park's soil quality.

Green waste dumped at Cooper Park is an ongoing issue for the Council, as it can spread phytophthora and other pathogens. New regulatory signs will be installed to inform the community of the threats posed by illegal dumping.

### **8.2.13 Current condition, issues and use of the land and structures on at Cooper Park as a whole**

#### **Cleanliness and maintenance**

Numerous comments were received during consultation for more cleaning and increased levels of landscape maintenance. Performing these tasks

at each reserve and also allowing for essential landscape renewal work to meet community expectations is an ongoing management issue.

Regular maintenance regimes are currently in place for mowing, weeding, litter pick and other general horticultural tasks. Separate schedules are in place for cleaning public toilets and garbage collection and for maintenance of the built open space assets. The goal is to maintain Cooper Park to the satisfaction of the community. Notwithstanding the existing schedules, the level of maintenance required also varies due to the weather and intensity of use. For example, more mowing may be required following rainy, warm weather and more litter collections after a large event. Built assets are inspected and serviced for defects as follows:

- Playgrounds: inspected weekly
- Duty of care: maintained weekly
- Fountains: CRM for repairs
- Park lighting: quarterly
- Irrigation: Lower Cooper Park Irrigation – every 6 weeks by staff. Catchment System - quarterly by contractor
- Park furniture: oiled annually with repairs completed by CRS

- Lower Cooper Park: Picnic Grounds and the Amphitheatre – mowed every 3 weeks in summer, ever 4 weeks in winter

Maintenance, plus any additional work such as renewal, development or improvement comes at considerable cost and resources are allocated to facilitate this work through Council's strategic planning framework. Installations that require lower on-going maintenance levels should be considered in all future design and development as a more sustainable, long term solution to all assets.

Volunteering at Cooper Park is crucial for the Park's upkeep. The significant assistance provided by volunteering efforts has enhanced and conserved the Park's aesthetic and ecosystems. Examples of volunteer work include Council staff planting, the Bushcare community volunteering program and Neighbourhood Day. Council recognises the valuable input of volunteering in maintaining the Park's cleanliness and habitat and is committed to supporting volunteering programs at Cooper Park.

### Entry points

There are 19 pedestrian entry points to the Park. An additional entry point south of the Bellevue Hill retail



Figure 40. Ongoing weed management at the Amphitheatre

centre is being considered in plans to upgrade the centre.

A significant volume of pedestrian traffic passes between Lough Playing Fields and Lower Cooper Park at Suttie Road near the intersection with Manning Road, and from the top of Moore Steps across Bellevue Road. Placement of a pedestrian crossing at these points should be investigated by Council's Traffic Committee.

The public vehicle entry point off Suttie Road via Bunna Place to the tennis court carpark at Bunna Place will be retained. Maintenance and emergency vehicle access points at Bellevue Gardens and north

of the tennis courts will also remain as is.

The preferred points of entry need to be formalised with Woollahra Council parks signage and landscape treatment that aid visitor orientation. The latter would ideally include a simple map and/ or the opportunity to engage in an interpretive experience.

Informal access points should be discouraged through appropriate signage and informal barriers.

The installations of bike racks will be investigated at selected entry points to promote cycling across the LGA, a key principle of the *Woollahra Active Transport Plan (2024)*.

### Pathways

There are approximately 4 kilometres of paved and unpaved pathways throughout Cooper Park. Large volumes of traffic use these pathways for exercise and links to other areas of Woollahra. All pathways and hand-railings along the pathways should ensure a safe functional route system through the Park.

Various improvements to the pathway system include to:



- realign and stabilise sandstone flagging on affected pathways
- repair stabilised decomposed granite pathways
- carry out appropriate drainage treatment to affected pathways
- install safety handrails

Improvement of the pathway network will coincide with the Cooper Park Master Plan's Path Hierarchy Palette and Handrail Palette, as well as with the installation of Council signage and interpretative material, to ensure a legible and enhanced pedestrian experience.

### **Access for people with disabilities**

Cooper Park's topography is likely to render access to many areas, particularly bushland sites, difficult for people with physical disabilities. Nonetheless, vehicular access into the Picnic Grounds is possible, with Council permission, for individuals or groups. This access point is located at the Park's western entrance on the northern side of the tennis court carpark.

The Park's information bay adjacent to the Picnic Grounds has stepped access at two points. The shorter right hand section with the lesser gradient should be replaced with a ramp allowing wheelchair

access. And any interpretive program developed for the Park should be mindful of making the experiences it offers accessible to people with disabilities, including those with sight and hearing impairment.

The Cooper Park Community Hall is accessible for people with disabilities, and has accessible toilets.

Access for people with physical disabilities to the Park will be encouraged, but it is not possible to provide for access for people with disabilities to the whole of the Park mainly due to its often steep topography. Council will aim to ensure access for people with disabilities to built structures including toilets, tennis courts, picnic and play area, information shelter, and seating, while providing access to a sample of adjoining natural areas on level ground and to viewing areas on the edge of the Park.

### **Conflicts of use and balancing use**

Conflicts of use identified through consultation include dog regulations not being adhered to, dog faeces not being picked up and differing opinions of what should be allowed in an area (e.g. mountain biking on walking trails, sport being played during

dog off-leash times, dogs not being allowed in a natural area).

Private use of public land by groups and individuals must be carefully managed to avoid alienation of public land. Use of the land must remain for the majority use by the public, to meet the principle of Council land management under the *LG Act*, that public use and enjoyment of appropriate land be encouraged.

Council considers the needs of all users of public open space and aims to find an acceptable balance. Some activities are restricted or prohibited in certain areas to help alleviate known conflicts. Regulatory signs are provided to inform the public of what is permissible use at each location.

### **Companion Animals**

One of the most common themes throughout the consultation process was the management of dogs at the Park. The community is divided on this issue. Some users want more areas for dog walking while others want dogs to be restricted and / or prohibited from certain reserves. Given this split, in late 2022, Woollahra Municipal Council reviewed the LGA's existing dog controls, which proposed more

dog-friendly protocols in many of Woollahra's open spaces including in Cooper Park.

There are strongly split opinions on the appropriate level and type of control that companion animals, particularly dogs, should be provided by their owners.

The community were invited to comment on the proposal in the LGA-Wide Review of Dog Controls between 1 March – 26 April 2023, and 15 May – 16 June 2023. Council is required to undertake a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) across all the parks where dog controls are proposed to change. Council will implement the dog control changes across the LGA, including in Cooper Park upon the completion of the REF process and Council adoption.

All dog controls at Cooper Park are subject to a Council resolution for the Woollahra's LGA-Wide Review of Dog Controls.

Responsible dog ownership under the *Companion Animals Act 1998* includes keeping the dog on a lead at all times when in public, unless in a sign-

posted off-leash area, as well as collecting and disposal of all dog faeces. The person in control of an off-leash dog must stay alert at all times and be able to demonstrate effective voice control of the dog. They must remain in close proximity and keep the dog within sight at all times. Penalties apply for non-compliance of these regulations. For further information on dog regulations throughout the LGA refer to Council's website: [https://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/services/animals\\_and\\_pets](https://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/services/animals_and_pets).

Problems associated with dog use in Cooper Park include:

- unleashed dogs interfering with the leisure experience of other Park users, especially on walking paths, in the children's playground, and at the café / kiosk.
- uncollected dog droppings.
- disturbance of the creek system (such as interference with creek fauna including ducks and increased turbidity affecting freshwater invertebrate and plant life ecology), disturbance of fauna generally, and disturbance of plantings in garden beds.

- unleashed dogs in bushland resulting in disturbance to flora and fauna, including trampling of native vegetation

The NSW Companion Animals Act 1998 requires that councils promote responsible animal ownership through environmental initiatives. The placement of simple interpretive signs within the Park encouraging dog owners to retrieve and dispose of their dog's faeces in an appropriate manner has resulted in a reduction of deposited dog faeces within the Park. These signs will be maintained and increased. Despite requests from Park users with dogs it is not considered appropriate that bag dispensers for faeces collection be installed in Cooper Park due to their susceptibility to vandalism and the requirement to maintain the dispensers and bins. Rather the responsibility of bag procurement, carrying and disposal should rest with the dog owner.

Increased enforcement of the dog control categories by Council's Ordinance Officers, coupled with the appropriate provision of signage in key areas, is needed. In the absence of enforceable sanctions for the transgression of dog control ordinances,

appropriate behaviour by many dog owners cannot be expected. Additionally, an interpretive method addressing the community values underlying dog control ordinances may result in an increase in voluntary appropriate behaviour by dog owners using Cooper Park.

Council's Companion Animals Officer is a specialist on all companion animal matters, providing support and guidance to staff on the provisions of the *Companion Animals Act 1998* and its Regulation, general animal care and handling, and improvements in companion animal management.



Figure 41. An existing dog regulatory sign at Cooper Park

Cats have proven to be a problem in Cooper Park because they prey on native fauna at night. This issue will be addressed with within the Park's interpretive plan encouraging responsible cat ownership.

### **Education, interpretation and signage**

A significant number of students, school groups and university staff use Cooper Park as a resource for environmental studies, particularly within the bushland and watercourse areas. Using natural resources in this manner adds value to primary conservation objectives and should be permitted and, where possible, encouraged. Preparing an information package focused on the Park's environmental qualities would be an appropriate response to the demand for the Park as an educational resource. Such packages would conceivably extend to Aboriginal and European history issues within the Cooper Park area. They will require input from external Indigenous stakeholders or the Conservation Management Strategy and Conservation Management Plan. Any activities associated with the Park's educational use do not compromise the integrity of the Park's natural and built elements.

An adequate system of interpretation has the potential to enhance visitors' experience and satisfaction and strengthen the Park's role as an educational resource. This would encourage community awareness, understanding of and support for the conservation rationale that underlies the management of the Park's natural areas. Similarly, an interpretive program would provide an opportunity to promote heritage values generally and encourage Park users and local residents to adopt appropriate behaviour in relation to preserving the integrity of the Park's natural and built elements. An interpretive approach within a natural area context would also be amenable to an analysis of the Aboriginal history of the local area.

Interpretive techniques may variously involve the use of display material in the Park's information bay or at key points throughout the Park, and guided walks and maps for orientation at access points. Such a strategy should ensure desired objectives are clearly defined, and interpretive elements are co-ordinated.

Furthermore, the development of an Aboriginal, historical, and environmental interpretive strategy



is a key step that will be informed by an up-to-date Park user survey. The survey will help Council understand the profile of the likely target audience, ensuring that users are fully informed and aware of the Park's significance.

Signage in public open space is required for visitor orientation, interpretation, regulation of appropriate use, and ensuring visitor safety. Woollahra Council has developed a unified approach to all parks and open space signage which ensures a consistency of style, construction and siting based on principles of user perception and effectiveness across the local government area. Such an approach will be appropriate for signage in Cooper Park.

The Park has several distinct areas that are all unique to Cooper Park, including Lower Cooper Park, Cooper Park Tennis Courts, Cooper Park North, the Amphitheatre, and South Cooper Park. They have prominent entry access points. Signage is proposed at these points to aid visitor orientation and provide an information source.

Permanent signs may be erected under section 632 of the *LG Act* by Council to regulate various

activities. The signage may be for naming, regulatory, interpretative or traffic related. Any other signage that is not Council managed requires Council approval. This plan of management allows for small scale temporary signs to be installed that directly relate to the recreation use of the site, prior to an approved special event. Such signs must be wholly within the reserve, must not restrict pedestrian access or vehicle sight lines.

### **Mature tree management**

Being one of the oldest residential areas in Sydney, Woollahra is fortunate to have many mature trees in its public open spaces. Our public parks accommodate nearly 22% of the total urban forest of our Council area and nearly half (46%) of these are in the mature life stage

Mature trees provide the vital urban tree canopy component of the green infrastructure of the area and are one of Woollahra's most important natural assets. *Greener Places* highlights the many benefits that trees provide, including environmental, economic, aesthetic and cultural. Trees help define the landscape character and "sense of place" we attribute to the public domain.

Furthermore, research undertaken in Australia[1] found that neighbourhoods with at least 30% tree canopy cover were correlated to adults having lower chances of developing: diabetes (by 31%); psychological distress (by 31%); cardiovascular disease (by 21%); and cardio hypertension (by 21%). This research informed the canopy cover target proposed in our Urban Forest Strategy.

To address the impacts of climate change and ensure our community continues to benefit from tree canopy cover, Woollahra Municipal Council's Urban Forest Strategy (UFS) proposes a goal of 30% tree canopy cover by 2050. We will need to significantly increase planting efforts across the



Figure 42. 'Go Slow for a Mo' educational nature trail

Council area to plant the number of trees needed to achieve our target. Our parks and bushland contain substantial plantable opportunities. We recognise our public open spaces also have competing interests, such as providing open grassy areas for sports and recreation. In this regard, Council will prepare park-specific tree-planting plans with the community's input to balance recreational use with tree planting.

With sound maintenance and an ongoing commitment to the protection, enhancement and management of these assets we can continue to benefit from them. As custodians of trees on public land it is important to ensure that they remain an important legacy for future generations. In this regard, one of the recommended actions of the UFS is to investigate options for management and planned renewal of key species and locations to create a new legacy of public tree plantings.

Like all living things trees grow, age and eventually die. It is therefore important that a strategy is in place to manage mature trees and plan for succession planting, well before the tree becomes senescent, to retain a site's landscape character.

One such site is around the Cooper Park playground adjacent the tennis courts and the ageing Liquidambers trees at the Picnic Grounds.

### **Other Land Use within the boundary of Cooper Park**

#### **Cooper Park Tennis Courts and Kiosk**

The Cooper Park Tennis Courts and Kiosk site includes a building on Lot PT9, DP 215076 and 8 x tennis courts is located on Lot 8, DP 215076.

#### **Cooper Park Community Hall**

Cooper Park Community Hall is located on Lot PT9 DP215076 and has a capacity of 100 people.



Figure 43. Ongoing mature tree management at Cooper Park

The hall features a kitchen, disabled amenities and access, and function tables and chairs.

#### **Cooper Park Community Garden**

The community garden is placed in Lot PT9 DP215076. The site consists of 50 garden beds, running tap water, and a working shed.

### **8.3 Future use and development**

Permissible use and development of community land is prescribed and regulated by the relevant legislation including the *LG Act* and the planning instruments created under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

There exists a diverse range of approval pathways, each under different legislation and/or environmental planning instruments, through which works, development, or activities may be carried out.

#### **8.3.1 Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979**

This Act ensures that the effects on the natural environment, along with social and economic factors, are taken into account by Council when granting approval for or undertaking works,

developments or activities.

A statutory system of environmental and land use planning has been established through Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) and State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) under the *EP&A Act*.

### **The Woollahra Local Environment Plan (WLEP) 2014**

The land described in this plan is zoned RE1 public recreation under WLEP 2014, and is subject to the permitted and prohibited land uses and development of that zone, and any other relevant provisions.

The objectives for land zoned RE1 public recreation are to:

- enable land to be used for public open space or recreational purposes
- provide a range of recreational settings and activities and compatible land uses
- protect and enhance the natural environment for recreational purposes.

Amendments to *WLEP 2014* shall take precedence over the provisions of this plan of management.

### **State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs)**

SEPPs provide planning rules for specific environmental matters. They contain development controls to protect or manage certain environmental values. A proposed development may require an assessment that investigates the potential impacts on the environment to ensure compliance with the Act. Such assessments may be in the form of a Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE) for development requiring consent, a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) or an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS) for activities permitted without consent, depending on the scope of work and potential impacts.

See Appendix C for additional SEPPs to consider prior to the installation of any improvements on community land.

### **SEPP (Transport & Infrastructure) 2021**

This instrument supports greater flexibility in the location of infrastructure and service facilities such as roads, pathways, cycleways, outdoor recreation facilities and lighting. It permits certain infrastructure works to be carried out in one of the following ways:

- exempt development,
- complying development,
- development permitted without consent, or
- development permitted with development consent.

Development permitted without consent under *SEPP (Transport & Infrastructure) 2021* does not require consent under Part 4 of the *EP&A Act*, but must still be subject to an environmental assessment under Part 5 of the *EP&A Act*.

### **State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021: Chapter 2 - Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas'**

Although the bushland has been created at Cooper Park, this policy is relevant. It applies to land on which there is vegetation which is either a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land, or if altered, is still representative of the structure and floristics of the natural bushland. It aims to protect and preserve bushland within urban areas.

This plan of management does not over-rule any existing legislation that also applies to the management of community land. Other pieces of



legislation, plans, strategies and policies that should be considered in the management of the land in this plan of management have been included in appendix B. Additional Council plans, strategies and policies adopted after the date of this plan, which have relevance to the planning, use and management of community land, will apply as though they were in force at the date of adoption of this plan of management.

### **8.3.2 Permissible use and development**

This plan of management authorises the following permissible use and development of Cooper Park.

The use and development of Cooper Park should be compatible with the reserve purpose and the assigned category. Use is often supported by appropriate ancillary development such as amenity blocks and playground equipment. The types of anticipated uses and associated development shown in the following tables are intended to provide a general guide rather than an exact meaning. For example a reference to active recreation includes many codes and if demand for one code increases, the land may need to be modified to facilitate it.

Use is subject to approval, and if required, it must be obtained in writing prior to commencement. Approval is dependent on various factors including site conditions at any given time, and whether the use is in the public interest. Use must not result in physical damage to the land or the placement of any permanent structures. Use should not result in a significant adverse impact on adjoining residents and organisers are responsible for cleaning up the site and repairing any damage that may occur. Fees for short-term casual use will be charged in accordance with Council's adopted fees and charges at the time, including the payment of the applicable bond. Development permissibility is provided under legislation, including the *LG Act*, the *EP&A Act* and the *Heritage Act and National Parks & Wildlife Act*, where relevant, and is subject to the relevant application and approval processes.

**Table 4. Permissible short term use**

| Permissible short term use                                               | Is approval required? | Permissible at Cooper Park in land category |               |       |                            |                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------|-------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
|                                                                          |                       | Park                                        | Sports ground | G.C.U | Natural Area – Watercourse | Natural Area – Bushland |
| Amusement devices, jumping castles                                       | Yes                   | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| Casual active recreation such as ball games, children's play and cycling | No                    | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | Yes                        | No                      |
| Casual passive recreation such as walking, reading and viewing           | No                    | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | Yes                        | Yes                     |
| Ceremonies, including for religious reasons                              | Yes                   | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| Council events, festivals, markets etc.                                  | Yes                   | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| Community event including educational activities, clean up days          | Yes                   | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | Yes                        | Yes                     |
| Construction access                                                      | Yes                   | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | Yes                        | Yes                     |
| Corporate promotional activities or functions                            | Yes                   | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| Commercial activities of any trade or business                           | Yes                   | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| Commercial fitness training, refer to adopted policy                     | Yes                   | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| Emergency services access                                                | No                    | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | Yes                        | Yes                     |
| Filming, including with a drone                                          | Yes                   | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | Yes                        | Yes                     |
| Fireworks                                                                | Yes                   | No                                          | Yes           | No    | No                         | No                      |
| Group recreation for less than 20 people such as a picnic or party       | No                    | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| Group recreation for more than 20 people such as a picnic or party       | Yes                   | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| Mountain cycling                                                         | No                    | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| Photography, including bridal                                            | Yes                   | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | Yes                        | Yes                     |
| Public address, public entertainment event or public meeting             | Yes                   | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| Temporary enclosures / structures / signage                              | Yes                   | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | Yes                        | Yes                     |
| Singing, or playing a musical instrument for a fee or reward             | Yes                   | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| Using a loudspeaker or sound amplifying device                           | Yes                   | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| Weddings                                                                 | Yes                   | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |

**Table 5. Permissible long term use / purpose**

| Permissible long term use / purpose subject to relevant approval                                                                                                                                                         | Type of agreement |         |              | Land category |               |       |                            |                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|--------------|---------------|---------------|-------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Lease             | Licence | Other estate | Park          | Sports ground | G.C.U | Natural Area - Watercourse | Natural Area - Bushland |
| Provision of <b>goods, services, facilities</b> or the carrying out of <b>activities</b> to the public, including as a commercial undertaking <b>for public recreation</b> , examples include:                           |                   |         |              |               |               |       |                            |                         |
| • hire or sale of recreational equipment                                                                                                                                                                                 | Yes               | Yes     | No           | Yes           | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| • fitness training, yoga class                                                                                                                                                                                           | Yes               | Yes     | No           | Yes           | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| Provision of <b>goods, services, facilities</b> or the carrying out of <b>activities</b> to the public, including as a commercial undertaking <b>for public cultural welfare or development</b> , examples include:      |                   |         |              |               |               |       |                            |                         |
| • health or medical services                                                                                                                                                                                             | Yes               | Yes     | No           | No            | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| • fitness training, physical skills tuition                                                                                                                                                                              | No                | Yes     | No           | Yes           | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| Provision of <b>goods, services, facilities</b> or the carrying out of <b>activities</b> to the public, including as a commercial undertaking <b>for public physical welfare or development</b> , examples includes:     |                   |         |              |               |               |       |                            |                         |
| • concerts, dramatic productions                                                                                                                                                                                         | Yes               | Yes     | No           | Yes           | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| Provision of <b>goods, services, facilities</b> or the carrying out of <b>activities</b> to the public, including as a commercial undertaking <b>for public social welfare or development</b> , examples includes:       |                   |         |              |               |               |       |                            |                         |
| • kiosk, cafe, restaurant                                                                                                                                                                                                | Yes               | Yes     | No           | Yes           | No            | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| • mobile refreshment stand                                                                                                                                                                                               | No                | Yes     | No           | Yes           | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| • community centre, men's shed, community garden                                                                                                                                                                         | Yes               | Yes     | No           | Yes           | No            | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| • events, fairs, festivals, child minding services                                                                                                                                                                       | No                | Yes     | No           | Yes           | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| Provision of <b>goods, services, facilities</b> or the carrying out of <b>activities</b> to the public, including as a commercial undertaking <b>for public intellectual welfare or development</b> , examples includes: |                   |         |              |               |               |       |                            |                         |
| • educational sessions, classes, workshops e.g. Bushcare instruction                                                                                                                                                     | No                | Yes     | No           | Yes           | Yes           | Yes   | Yes                        | Yes                     |



**Table 5. Permissible long term use / purpose *cont'***

| Permissible long term use / purpose <small>subject to relevant approval</small>                                                                                                                                                                                        | Type of agreement |         |              | Land category |               |       |                            |                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|--------------|---------------|---------------|-------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Lease             | Licence | Other estate | Park          | Sports ground | G.C.U | Natural Area - Watercourse | Natural Area - Bushland |
| <b>Public utilities</b> and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities, pipes, conduits under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the land to a facility of the Council or other public utility provider, examples include: |                   |         |              |               |               |       |                            |                         |
| • sewer connection, electricity provision                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | No                | No      | Yes          | Yes           | Yes           | Yes   | Yes                        | Yes                     |
| <b>Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements</b> , examples include:                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                   |         |              |               |               |       |                            |                         |
| • offset projects, when the land is protected and managed to achieve an improvement in biodiversity values                                                                                                                                                             | No                | No      | Yes          | Yes           | No            | No    | Yes                        | Yes                     |
| Provision of <b>roads</b> in accordance with s47 of the <i>LG Act</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                  | No                | No      | Yes          | Yes           | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |

**Table 6. Permissible development**

| Permissible development subject to relevant approval                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Permissible at Cooper Park in land category |               |       |                            |                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------|-------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Park                                        | Sports ground | G.C.U | Natural Area - Watercourse | Natural Area - Bushland |
| <b>Amenity buildings</b> , such as toilets, change rooms, kiosks, grandstands                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | Yes                     |
| <b>Art installations</b> , see adopted policy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | Yes                        | Yes                     |
| <b>Carparks</b> , single storey only, EV chargers, associated with the use of the site                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| <b>Child minding services</b> , i.e. a building or place used for the temporary supervision and care of children, ancillary to use of the reserve for public recreation                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Yes                                         | No            | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| <b>Community facilities</b> , i.e. a building or place owned or controlled by a public authority or non-profit community organisation, used for the physical, social, cultural or intellectual development or welfare of the community                                                                                                                                                       | No                                          | No            | Yes   | Yes                        | Yes                     |
| <b>Cycle paths</b> and bicycle related storage facilities such as racks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | Yes                     |
| <b>Demolition of buildings</b> , other than any building or structure that is, or is part of, a State or local heritage item or is within a heritage conservation area                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | Yes                        | Yes                     |
| <b>Environmental facilities</b> , i.e. a building or place that provides for the recreational use or scientific study of natural systems, and includes walking tracks, seating, shelters, board walks, observation decks, bird hides or the like, and associated display structures – permitted without consent                                                                              | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | Yes                        | Yes                     |
| <b>Environmental management works</b> , i.e. works for the purpose of avoiding, reducing, minimising or managing the environmental effects of development (including effects on water, soil, air, biodiversity, traffic or amenity), and environmental protection works                                                                                                                      | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | Yes                        | Yes                     |
| <b>Environmental protection works</b> , i.e. works associated with the rehabilitation of land towards its natural state or any work to protect land from environmental degradation, and includes bush regeneration works, wetland protection works, erosion protection works, dune restoration works and the like, but does not include coastal protection works - permitted without consent | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | Yes                        | Yes                     |

**Table 6. Permissible development *cont'***

| Permissible development subject to relevant approval                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Permissible at Cooper Park in land category |               |       |                            |                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------|-------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Park                                        | Sports ground | G.C.U | Natural Area - Watercourse | Natural Area - Bushland |
| <b>Information and education facilities</b> , i.e. a building or place used for providing information or education to visitors, and the exhibition or display of items, and includes an art gallery, museum, library, visitor information centre and the like                                                                                                       | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| <b>Irrigation systems</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | Yes                        | Yes                     |
| <b>Kiosks</b> , i.e. a building or place used for the purpose of selling items for retail, or hiring or displaying items for the purpose of selling them or hiring them out, whether the items are goods or materials                                                                                                                                               | Yes                                         | No            | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| <b>Landscaping</b> , including landscape structures or features                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | Yes                        | Yes                     |
| <b>Lighting</b> , ensure light spill and artificial sky glow is minimised in accordance with the Lighting for Roads and Public Spaces Australian Standard                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | Yes                        | Yes                     |
| <b>Maintenance</b> of landscaping and infrastructure including access roads                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | Yes                        | Yes                     |
| <b>Outdoor furniture</b> , e.g. seats, picnic tables, bins                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | Yes                        | Yes                     |
| <b>Pathways</b> , for pedestrian access, walking tracks, bridges, raised walking paths, boardwalks, ramps, stairways and handrails, gates, viewing platforms with an area not exceeding 100m <sup>2</sup>                                                                                                                                                           | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | Yes                        | Yes                     |
| <b>Recreation areas</b> , i.e. a place used for outdoor recreation that is normally open to the public, including children's playgrounds, areas used for community sporting activities, public parks, reserves or gardens and any ancillary buildings                                                                                                               | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| <b>Recreation facilities (indoor)</b> , i.e. a building or place used predominantly for indoor recreation, whether or not operated for the purposes of gain, or any other building or place of a like character used for indoor recreation, but does not include an entertainment facility, a recreation facility (major) or a registered club                      | No                                          | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| <b>Recreation facilities (outdoor)</b> , i.e. a building or place used predominantly for outdoor recreation, whether or not operated for the purposes of gain, or any other building or place of a like character used for outdoor recreation (including any ancillary buildings), but does not include an entertainment facility or a recreation facility (major). | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |



**Table 6. Permissible development *cont'***

| Permissible development subject to relevant approval                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Permissible at Cooper Park in land category |               |       |                            |                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------|-------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Park                                        | Sports ground | G.C.U | Natural Area - Watercourse | Natural Area - Bushland |
| <b>Registered clubs</b> , i.e. a club that holds a club licence under the <i>Liquor Act 2007</i>                                                                                                                                                                                           | No                                          | No            | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| <b>Restaurants or cafes</b> , i.e. a building or place the principal purpose of which is the preparation and serving, on a retail basis, of food and drink to people for consumption on the premises, whether or not liquor, take away meals and drinks or entertainment are also provided | No                                          | No            | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| <b>Roads</b> , i.e. a public road within the meaning of the <i>Roads Act 1993</i> , and in accordance with s47 of the <i>LG Act</i> , includes a classified road, and under <i>SEPP 2021</i> also vehicle barriers and ticketing machines                                                  | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| <b>Shade structures</b> , if the visual impact of the development on surrounding land uses is minimal                                                                                                                                                                                      | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| <b>Shelters</b> , if the visual impact of the development on surrounding land uses is minimal                                                                                                                                                                                              | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |
| <b>Sporting facilities</b> , including goal posts, cricket sightscreens and fences, if the visual impact of the development on surrounding land uses is minimal                                                                                                                            | Yes                                         | Yes           | Yes   | No                         | No                      |

Note: Development consent is required for work on a heritage item other than that of a minor nature such as maintenance.

**Table 7. Current and Future Permissible Use of Cooper Park**

| Current Use |                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                     |                                          |           | Future Use                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Category    | Within category                                                                                                                                   | Use                                                                                                 | Lease / licence                          | Condition | Permissible use / purpose.<br>Refer tables 4, 5 & 6.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Scale and intensity                | Prohibited use                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Park        | Land                                                                                                                                              | Passive recreation, community garden, dog exercise on leash at all times, aesthetic, habitat, pond, | Nil<br><br>2 x easements for electricity | 3/4       | Casual recreation use e.g. walking, dog walking on leash at all times, informal ball games, picnics for groups of < 20 at all times, no permit required.<br><br>Existing easements for electricity.<br><br>Uses that require a permit / short term casual licence include public meetings, all group activities of > 20 and for all filming, weddings, ceremonies, bridal photography, corporate activities or functions regardless of size. | Small scale and low intensity only | Camping, dumping rubbish, fires, golf, unauthorised vehicles and any use prohibited under WLEP 2014.<br><br>Dogs within 10m of playground and food prep areas.<br><br>Smoking within 10m of playground |
|             | Buildings                                                                                                                                         | Nil                                                                                                 | Nil                                      | Nil       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|             | Improvements<br>Refer to Council's built asset register for complete list, which itemises every structure on the land, including condition rating | Playground, shelters and paths                                                                      | Nil                                      | Av. 3/4   | Development related or ancillary to recreation and / or aesthetic use is permissible, e.g. amenity buildings, utilities if required, planting for shade and habitat, park furniture, recreation facilities, play equipment, pathways and lighting, temporary structures for recreational needs, environmental facilities / management / protection works (subject to the relevant approval process).                                         |                                    | Dog exercise off leash.<br><br>Commercial fitness activities                                                                                                                                           |

**Table 7 Current and Future Permissible Use of Cooper Park *cont'***

| Current Use |                 |                                                              |                                                       |                                  | Future Use                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Category    | Within category | Use                                                          | Lease / licence                                       | Condition                        | Permissible use / purpose.<br>Refer tables 4, 5 & 6.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Scale and intensity                     | Prohibited use                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| S'ground    | Land            | Active recreation                                            | Short term casual and seasonal licences.              | 3                                | Active recreation use on a casual and / or seasonal basis e.g. cricket, soccer, athletics, a permit is required for all organised sport regardless of size.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Medium scale and medium intensity only. | <p>Camping, dumping rubbish, fires, golf, unauthorised vehicles and any use prohibited under WLEP 2014.</p> <p>Smoking in areas for spectators during organised sporting events.</p> <p>Dogs at all times on oval.</p> <p>Commercial fitness activities at all times on the wicket area.</p> |
|             | Buildings       | -                                                            | Leased<br>See appendix B for details                  | 2.7<br>See appendix B for report | <p>Active recreation, tennis at the tennis centre.</p> <p>When organised sport is not being played, passive recreation use is permitted at the oval, e.g. walking, informal ball games, picnics of &lt; 20 at any time, no permit required.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|             | Improvements    | Turf cricket pitch, practice cricket nets, 8 x tennis courts | Short term casual and seasonal licences<br><br>Leased | 3                                | <p>Uses that require a permit / short term casual licence include public meetings, cultural events, all group activities of &gt; 20 and for all filming, weddings, ceremonies, bridal photography, corporate activities or functions regardless of size.</p> <p>Development related or ancillary to active recreation needs is permissible, e.g. sporting facilities and / or amenities including but not limited to lighting, drainage, irrigation, surface levelling and resurfacing, environmental management / protection works (subject to the relevant approval process).</p> |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

**Table 7 Current and Future Permissible Use of Cooper Park *cont'***

| Current Use |                 |                                                                                   |                                                                          |           | Future Use                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                        |                                                                                                      |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Category    | Within category | Use                                                                               | Lease / licence                                                          | Condition | Permissible use / purpose.<br>Refer tables 4, 5 & 6.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Scale and intensity                    | Prohibited use                                                                                       |
| G C Use     | Land            | Passive recreation, access, community workshops, presentation and community tours | Licenced for community garden purposes<br><br>See appendix B for details | 2         | Various use to meet the public recreation, or the physical, cultural, social or intellectual needs of the community, e.g. community garden, community facilities, kiosk, and recreation areas.<br><br>Uses that require a permit / short term casual licence include public meetings, all group activities of > 20, all building venues, and for all filming, weddings, ceremonies, bridal photography, corporate activities or functions regardless of size. | Medium scale and medium intensity only | Camping, dumping rubbish, fires, golf, unauthorised vehicles and any use prohibited under WLEP 2014. |
|             | Buildings       | Cooper Park Community Hall, Cooper Park Tennis Kiosk                              | Nil                                                                      | 1         | Long term leases / licences may be granted for provision of appropriate goods, services, facilities or purposes as currently used and / or as shown in table 5.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                        |                                                                                                      |
|             | Improvements    | Paths, community garden, includes individual allotments, shelter, and seating     | Part of community garden                                                 | 2         | Development related or ancillary to the recreational, physical, cultural, social or intellectual needs of the community is permissible, e.g. kiosks, mobile refreshment stands, temporary structures for recreational needs, community facilities, environmental facilities / management / protection works (subject to the relevant approval process).                                                                                                       |                                        |                                                                                                      |



**Table 7 Current and Future Permissible Use of Cooper Park *cont'***

| Current Use |                 |                                           |                 |                        | Future Use                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                    |                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Category    | Within category | Use                                       | Lease / licence | Condition              | Permissible use / purpose.<br>Refer tables 4, 5 & 6.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Scale and intensity                | Prohibited use                                                                                                                                                 |
| NA – W      | Land            | Low impact passive recreation             | Nil             | 3 (poor water quality) | Casual recreation use e.g. walking, water based passive recreation, picnics for groups of < 20 at all times, no permit required.                                                                                                                                                         | Small scale and low intensity only | Camping, smoking including e-cigarettes, dumping rubbish, fires, golf, unauthorised vehicles and any use prohibited under WLEP 2014.<br><br>Dogs at all times. |
|             | Buildings       | Nil                                       | Nil             | Nil                    | Uses that require a permit / short term casual licence include all group activities of > 20 and for all filming, weddings, ceremonies, bridal photography, corporate activities or functions regardless of size.                                                                         |                                    |                                                                                                                                                                |
|             | Improvements    | Pond regeneration<br>Paths, ramp to ponds | Nil             | 3                      | Development related or ancillary to low impact passive recreation and / or aesthetic use is permissible, e.g. park furniture, jetties, temporary structures for recreational needs, environmental facilities / management / protection works (subject to the relevant approval process). |                                    |                                                                                                                                                                |

**Table 7 Current and Future Permissible Use of Cooper Park *cont'***

| Current Use |                 |                               |                 |                               | Future Use                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Category    | Within category | Use                           | Lease / licence | Condition                     | Permissible use / purpose.<br>Refer tables 4, 5 & 6.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Scale and intensity                    | Prohibited use                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| NA – B      | Land            | Low impact passive recreation | Nil             | 3 (significant weed coverage) | Casual low impact passive recreation use e.g. walking, for individuals or groups of < 20 at all times, no permit required.<br><br>A permit / short term casual licence is required for all group activities of > 20 and for all filming.                                        | Very small and very low intensity only | Camping, smoking, dumping rubbish, fires, fireworks, golf, horses, unauthorised vehicles and any use prohibited under WLEP 2014.<br><br>Commercial fitness training.<br><br>Dogs at all times. |
|             | Buildings       | Nil                           | Nil             | Nil                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|             | Improvements    | Paths                         | Nil             | 3                             | Development related or ancillary to low impact passive recreation and / or aesthetic use is permissible, e.g. park furniture, temporary structures for recreational needs, environmental facilities / management / protection works (subject to the relevant approval process). |                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                |

Condition ratings for land and park assets as follows: 1. Excellent – no work required or as new condition, 2. Good – well maintained, minor maintenance only, 3. Average – maintained but in need of repair, 4. Poor – in need of major repair or renewal, 5. Very Poor – urgent renewal or upgrading required

Condition ratings for buildings as follows: 1 – Good, 2 – Fair, 3 – Requires maintenance, 4 – Requires replacement

Special management requirements: WMC mapping shows Lower Cooper Park as class 3 acid sulphate soils, while the rest of the Park is class 5 acid sulphate soils.

Capital works currently budgeted for: Top pond remediation. Reconfigure existing cricket nets (completed August 2024).

**Current Council resolution:**

20/136045 07 September 2020 Council to proceed with the nomination to list Cooper Park (excluding Cooper Park North) on the State Heritage Register

23/187689 15 November 2023 it was resolved to re-tender Cooper Park Tennis and Cafe to accommodate tennis use only

24/46698 02 April 2024 the tender submitted by SSMG Voyager Operations Pty Ltd and enters into a lease agreement for a seven (7) year initial term plus a seven (7) years option term, at a commencement rent of \$290,000 per annum plus GST, with CPI annual increases and a review to market upon exercise of the option.

24/94533 Council enters into a lease agreement with Young Aces Cooper Park Pty Ltd ACN 677 560 128 for a seven (7) year initial term plus a seven (7) year option term

24/131001 Council to make an application to the Minister for Local Government to consent the Young Aces Lease of Cooper Park Tennis Centre for a term of 7 years with an option to renew for a further period of 7 years

# 9. Management framework for Cooper Park

| Objectives 1 – 8 reflect the land management goals and values |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Objective –<br>the desired outcome                            | Performance targets –<br>what the objective is trying to do                                                           | Actions –<br>how to achieve the target                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Performance measures –<br>how to assess whether the objectives and targets have been met                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>1</b>                                                      | <b>A</b>                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Safe, clean, well-maintained, functional and varied           | Ensure public <b>safety</b> is considered during the planning, design, construction, maintenance and use of each site | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adhere to CPTED (crime prevention through environmental design) principles during planning and design documentation and during regular maintenance, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ passive surveillance</li> <li>◦ good sight lines</li> <li>◦ appropriate lighting</li> </ul> </li> <li>• All installations to meet the Building Code of Australia (BCA) and Australian Standards (AS)</li> <li>• Provide for emergency services / response access</li> <li>• Respond promptly to reported hazards</li> <li>• Liaise with local police to identify and act on safety issues</li> <li>• Where appropriate, consider creative lighting design that improves visibility at night, a principle of the <i>NSW Public Spaces Charter</i></li> </ul> | <p>Master plan developed with extensive consultation</p> <p>Perception of user safety is increased, reduced CSRs</p> <p>Reduced incidents of reported vandalism</p> <p>Specifications meet relevant BCA and AS</p> <p>Emergency services access needs identified, access points created and clearly signed</p> <p>CSR response targets met</p> <p>Strong relationship maintained with Eastern Suburbs Police Area Command</p> <p>Improved visibility at relevant sites</p> |

## Objectives 1 – 8 reflect the land management goals and values

| Objective | Performance targets                                                                                            | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>A</b> <i>(continued)</i>                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|           |                                                                                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure safety of people using pathways by replacing handrails as required to DDA standards</li> <li>• Investigate traffic calming methods to improve and prioritise pedestrian movement and safety in Bunna Place</li> <li>• Provide bins, consider locations for separate recycling bins and cigarette butt out bins, use solar bins where appropriate</li> <li>• Asbestos managed and removed at Cooper Park North to the <i>Cooper Park Asbestos Management Plan (2019)</i></li> </ul> | <p>Damaged handrails replaced to DDA standards</p> <p>Investigation completed</p> <p>Bins installed</p> <p>Asbestos disturbance and removal adheres to asbestos regulations</p>                    |
|           | <b>B</b>                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|           | Ensure <b>clean</b> , litter free public land is <b>well-maintained</b> and available for use by the community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adhere to regular inspections, horticulture schedules, litter collections and cleaning schedules</li> <li>• Consider integrating smart infrastructure into public spaces to monitor cleanliness, as recommended by the <i>NSW Public Spaces Charter</i></li> <li>• Provide bins, consider locations for separate recycling bins and cigarette butt out bins, use solar bins where appropriate</li> </ul>                                                                                  | <p>Maintenance schedules fulfilled</p> <p>Episodes of increased litter reported via technology for improved attendance by waste services</p> <p>Improved efficiency around collection of waste</p> |



## Objectives 1 – 8 reflect the land management goals and values

| Objective | Performance targets         | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>B</b> <i>(continued)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide dog waste bags at appropriate locations</li> <li>• Provide surface / subsurface drainage as necessary to increase site usability</li> <li>• Continue to investigate funding for flood mitigation options</li> <li>• Ensure proposed events are planned with appropriate waste removal service levels provided</li> <li>• Promote and encourage community clean-up days, for example on Clean Up Australia Day on the first Sunday in March each year</li> <li>• Incorporate appropriate landscape renewals into forward works programs as needed</li> <li>• Adopt a continuous improvement approach to the mitigation of damage caused by vandalism within the Park</li> <li>• Remove graffiti as soon as it is observed or reported</li> <li>• Facilitate collection of recyclable waste in the Park by installing recycling bins of an appropriate volume and configuration in places where people gather, including the picnic and play area, and tennis complex</li> <li>• Investigate the grotto's structural integrity and future use</li> </ul> | <p>Dog waste is removed from site</p> <p>Surface water dissipation rate improved, majority of site available for maximum levels of public access</p> <p>Funding sourced and projects initiated</p> <p>Sites are cleaner, increased community land stewardship</p> <p>Well attended clean up events, increased community land stewardship</p> <p>Declining plant material is replaced as needed for a more aesthetically pleasing landscape</p> <p>Reduction or absence of damage associated with vandal behaviour</p> <p>Reduction in response time to reports to graffiti</p> <p>Recycling bins installed. Increase in recyclable materials being recycled</p> <p>Undertake the necessary actions recommended in the investigation</p> |

## Objectives 1 – 8 reflect the land management goals and values

| Objective | Performance targets                                                                                                                                         | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>C</b>                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|           | Ensure the facilities and experiences at each site meet <b>community expectations</b> and are <b>fit for purpose</b> (a strategy of <i>Greener Places</i> ) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where necessary, improve the quality of the site, as recommended in the <i>NSW Public Spaces Charter</i></li> <li>• Maintain the asset register of all built structures, repair and / or replace as necessary to ensure they are functional and fit for purpose</li> <li>• Adhere to horticulture maintenance schedules</li> <li>• Review all horticulture maintenance schedules to ensure the green infrastructure at Cooper Park i.e. the open space for recreation, the urban tree canopy, bushland and waterways can be adequately maintained</li> <li>• Ensure land for recreation is fit for purpose; use the site quality performance criteria to assess site suitability and intended purpose as recommended in the <i>Greener Places Design Guide</i></li> <li>• Plan for our community's changing needs in line with Council's Play Space Strategy and Recreation Strategy</li> <li>• Develop a master plan for the Park's existing playgrounds to incorporate nature play elements to complement the Park's bushland character</li> <li>• Place seating to take advantages of views and pleasant settings</li> <li>• Investigate the grotto's structural integrity and future use</li> </ul> | <p>Quality audit completed, quality of public space improved</p> <p>Built asset register maintained</p> <p>Maintenance schedules fulfilled</p> <p>Schedules reviewed, improvements identified and resourced</p> <p>Criteria developed and sites audited for suitability</p> <p>Outcomes from these strategies are identified to inform Council's DPOP and long term plans</p> <p>Playground master plan design completed</p> <p>Adequate provision of park furniture</p> <p>Undertake the necessary actions recommended in the investigation</p> |

## Objectives 1 – 8 reflect the land management goals and values

| Objective | Performance targets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>D</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|           | Ensure a <b>variety</b> of opportunities are available, and the <b>landscape character</b> of each site is preserved and that future design and use responds to the <b>unique site conditions</b> and <b>identity</b> (a strategy of <i>Greener Places</i> and a principle of the <i>NSW Public Spaces Charter</i> ) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the current landscape character of each site by establishing appropriate replacement planting strategies</li> <li>• Use consistent design vocabulary of outdoor furniture and other hardscape materials that is appropriate to the setting</li> <li>• Ensure proposed installations complementary to the landscape character</li> </ul> | <p>Planting renewal schedules are established</p> <p>Installations selected for site suitability</p> <p>Landscape character of each site maintained</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|           | <b>E</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|           | Where there is <b>opportunity</b> to improve <b>layout, functionality, aesthetic appeal</b> and <b>site interpretation</b> provide a <b>landscape master plan</b>                                                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a detailed landscape master plan for Cooper Park that establishes a vision, allows for an integrated approach to the ongoing recreational use of the area, maintains the unique landscape character, including the expansive views, improves habitat opportunities, pedestrian connectivity, and interprets cultural heritage</li> </ul> | <p>Concept design process is undertaken and a master plan produced with the engagement of all stakeholders</p> <p>Unique site values and preferred spatial arrangement of all elements integrated into master plan</p> <p>Future capital works allocated to a cohesive, well documented plan, specified for their appropriateness within the landscape</p> |

## Objectives 1 – 8 reflect the land management goals and values

| Objective                | Performance targets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2</b>                 | <b>A</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Accessible and inclusive | Provide universal <b>access</b> , wherever possible, to public land and any associated structures and facilities to ensure the sites are open and welcoming (a strategy of <i>Everyone Can Play</i> and a principle of the <i>NSW Public Spaces Charter</i> ) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wherever possible strive to meet DDA requirements, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ accessible paths</li> <li>◦ ramps</li> <li>◦ handrails</li> <li>◦ tactile surfaces</li> <li>◦ braille signage</li> <li>◦ inclusive playgrounds</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Entry points clearly identified to provide a welcoming sense of arrival</li> <li>• Consider raised, flexible paths, to alleviate soil compaction and trampling of emergent seedlings</li> <li>• Investigate opportunities to ensure safe pedestrian access to the Park</li> <li>• Install maps and signs at key entry points</li> <li>• Apply appropriate horticultural and/or bush regeneration treatment to entry points</li> <li>• Investigate handrails at the Amphitheatre steps to meet DDA requirements</li> </ul> | <p>DDA requirements built into design guidelines for community land improvements and DDA compliance progressively achieved on public open space where practical</p> <p>Entry points created / emphasised / upgraded where appropriate</p> <p>Access is provided in such a way as to reduce impact on and threats to bushland</p> <p>Traffic calming devices installed at Suttie Road adjacent Lough Playing Fields and Cooper Park North<br/>Maps and signage installed. Successful orientation<br/>Improved visual amenity at access points</p> <p>Investigation completed</p> |



## Objectives 1 – 8 reflect the land management goals and values

| Objective | Performance targets                                                                                                                                                             | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2</b>  | <b>A</b> <i>(continued)</i>                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|           |                                                                                                                                                                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow for and/or provide access to and in the Park for people with disabilities where practical by:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ investigate disability vehicle access to the central picnic area</li> <li>◦ accommodate disability access to the top pond</li> </ul> </li> <li>◦ provide access for people with disabilities to viewing areas on the edge of the Park</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Vehicular access granted</p> <p>Access ramp and sealed path installed between Bellevue Gardens to the top pond reconfigured.</p> <p>Sealed level link from footpath to seats</p>                                                                                                                                                  |
|           | <b>B</b>                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|           | Optimise public access to all sites and <b>improve connectivity</b> via improvements to <b>walking and cycling paths</b> (a principle of the <i>NSW Public Spaces Charter</i> ) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement relevant parts of the <i>Woollahra Bike Plan</i></li> <li>• Install bike rack at suitable Park entry points as recommended in the <i>Woollahra Active Transport Plan</i></li> <li>• Improve active transport linkages where possible and appropriate, as recommended in the <i>Sydney Green Grid</i></li> <li>• Promote connectivity with tree lined footpaths wherever appropriate, as recommended in the <i>Greener Places Design Guide</i></li> <li>• Implement master plan's pedestrian network recommendations</li> <li>• Carry out general repairs to the Park's systems of paths as necessary</li> </ul> | <p>Cycling routes provided in appropriate locations</p> <p>Bike racks installed</p> <p><i>Green Grid</i> sites identified and linkages created where possible</p> <p>Increased tree canopy over pedestrian paths and cycle ways i.e. "Green Links" established across the LGA</p> <p>Improved path network</p> <p>Paths repaired</p> |

## Objectives 1 – 8 reflect the land management goals and values

| Objective | Performance targets                                                                                                              | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2</b>  | <b>C</b>                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|           | Ensure <b>fairness and equity</b> of use for all public land                                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan for our community's changing active and passive recreational needs in line with Council's Play Space Strategy and Recreation Strategy</li> <li>• Manage enquiries to use land equitably and issue approvals that comply with Council's policies</li> <li>• Permit use of the land through appropriate leases, licences and other estates in accordance with the provisions of the <i>LG Act</i> and the express authorisation of this POM</li> <li>• Undertake a review of toilets requirements</li> </ul> | <p>Outcomes from these strategies are identified to inform Council's DPOP and long term plans</p> <p>Applications to use community land are processed and approvals are issued as per policies</p> <p>Appropriate land use agreements are managed by Council</p> <p>Review complete, more equitable use planned to meet community need</p> |
|           | <b>D</b>                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|           | Reduce <b>traffic</b> and <b>parking</b> pressures in and around public land to improve usability and retain residential amenity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide appropriate timed parking in streets adjacent to Cooper Park to facilitate resident car use and parking</li> <li>• Reconfigure Bunna Place to accommodate greater parking capacity and the provision of EV charging stations</li> <li>• Install traffic calming measures to improve pedestrian access between Lough Playing Fields and Lower Cooper Park</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                     | <p>Timed parking signage installed</p> <p>Bunna Place reconfigured and EV charging stations installed</p> <p>Pedestrian crossing installed</p>                                                                                                                                                                                             |

## Objectives 1 – 8 reflect the land management goals and values

| Objective                   | Performance targets                                                     | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Performance measures                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>3</b>                    | <b>A</b>                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                       |
| Well managed for public use | Ensure <b>POMS</b> are prepared and <b>reviewed</b> as required         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliant POM prepared by Council</li> <li>• Prioritise and select actions for inclusion in Council's annual DPOP and capital works programs</li> <li>• Review and update plans to reflect completed actions and to remain relevant</li> </ul> | <p>POM adopted as soon as practicable</p> <p>Capital works informed by POM</p> <p>POM reviewed to remain relevant</p> |
|                             | <b>B</b>                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                       |
|                             | Ensure the land remains available for <b>majority use</b> by the public | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage appropriate use by private groups to meet public access requirements</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                         | Majority of public open space remains available to the public                                                         |
|                             | <b>C</b>                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                       |
|                             | Ensure <b>land zoning</b> is appropriate for public recreation          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land is zoned appropriately under WLEP 2014 to allow for public recreation</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                          | No conflicts in permissible use / development                                                                         |

## Objectives 1 – 8 reflect the land management goals and values

| Objective | Performance targets                                                                                                                                                        | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>3</b>  | <b>D</b>                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|           | Ensure <b>planning</b> and <b>development controls</b> across the LGA <b>conserve the natural environment, aesthetic quality</b> and <b>heritage values</b> on Cooper Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and promote site specific natural environment, aesthetic and heritage values e.g. habitat, view corridors, significant trees</li> <li>Work collaboratively to update planning and development controls so that the controls are compatible with the natural environment, aesthetic and heritage values</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                          | <p>Unique site values confirmed, site opportunities pursued</p> <p>Potential conflicts identified and reduced</p>                                                                                                                              |
|           | <b>E</b>                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|           | Support appropriate use of land through <b>leases, licences</b> and <b>other estates</b> for the best interest of the community                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage typical use of the land through appropriate leases and licences that do not limit public use of the land</li> <li>Select lessees / licensees equitably and transparently, draft agreements that reflect the core objectives of the land, community need, and meet the requirements of the <i>LG Act</i></li> <li>Ensure the tennis centre serves the needs of the patrons and lessees by assuring the lease complies with conditions of the lease</li> </ul> | <p>Appropriate long term use of land permitted through sound agreements</p> <p>Site specific agreements are written to consider the unique qualities of each site and the needs of the community</p> <p>No breaches of the lease agreement</p> |
|           | <b>F</b>                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|           | Support Aboriginal land – management and <b>caring-for Country principles</b> , (a principle of the <i>NSW Public Spaces Charter</i> )                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek advice from local Aboriginal community organisations regarding appropriate land management techniques at relevant locations and consider how to incorporate</li> <li>Seek advice from local Aboriginal community as to the appropriate use of fire, such as pile burns to assist with regeneration of Sunshine Wattle, Nielsen Park She-Oak and Magenta Lilly Pilly</li> </ul>                                                                                 | <p>Improved community understanding of Aboriginal land management</p> <p>Controlled fire introduced into the landscape as appropriate to improve germination of Sunshine Wattle, Nielsen Park She-Oak and Magenta Lilly Pilly</p>              |



## Objectives 1 – 8 reflect the land management goals and values

| Objective | Performance targets                                                                                        | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>3</b>  | <b>G</b>                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|           | <p><b>Encroachment</b> on Cooper Park is reduced and the whole estate remains available for public use</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate and remove encroachments</li> <li>• Discourage the dumping of rubbish by means of education, signage, enforcement and penalties</li> <li>• Discourage private planting by means of education, signage, enforcement and penalties, as the species may not be appropriate and may impact on maintenance requirements</li> <li>• Preserve boundaries and eliminate privatisation of public open space through planning and development controls</li> <li>• Discourage local residents from creating desire lines through bush like areas</li> <li>• Remove and discourage private installation that have been installed in various locations</li> </ul> | <p>The community can access the site for public recreation</p> <p>Fewer reports of illegally dumped rubbish</p> <p>The plant palette remains appropriate at each site</p> <p>The Council land portfolio remains intact for its public purpose</p> <p>Residents do not create informal paths through the bushland</p> <p>Private installations removed, less modification to the environment</p> |

## Objectives 1 – 8 reflect the land management goals and values

| Objective | Performance targets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>3</b>  | <b>H</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|           | <p><b>Reduce conflicts</b> of use, <b>provide regulation</b> and, where appropriate, provide additional <b>wayfinding</b> signage to inform all user groups of what is prohibited use, so that <b>all user groups are able to enjoy</b> the land and facilities provided</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install informative regulatory signage at appropriate locations, clearly stating regulations</li> <li>• Manage regulations by means of enforcement and penalties</li> <li>• Consider additional wayfinding / interpretative signage at identified locations to highlight site opportunities and significance</li> <li>• Maintain signage encouraging dog users to collect and dispose of their dog's faeces</li> <li>• Regular and effective patrol by Council Ordinance Officers, with placement and upkeep of appropriate signage</li> <li>• Communicate community values underlying companion animal ordinances to dog owners</li> </ul> | <p>Regulatory signage installed as appropriate</p> <p>Use of the land is more harmonious, fewer reported incidents of conflict</p> <p>Signage installed as required</p> <p>Minimal complaints and observations of faeces</p> <p>Increase in compliance with companion animal regulations</p> <p>Increased awareness and understanding by Park users</p> |
|           | <b>I</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|           | <p>Ensure land use is compatible with the <b>carrying capacity</b> of the land, (a strategy of <i>Greener Places</i>)</p>                                                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the <i>Greener Places Design Guide</i> to estimate the carrying capacity of the sportsground category land</li> <li>• Ensure design solutions and usage patterns consider the carrying capacity of the land</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>Carrying capacity is not exceeded if practical</p> <p>Reduction in comments received regarding visible signs of overuse</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

## Objectives 1 – 8 reflect the land management goals and values

| Objective                     | Performance targets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| <b>4</b>                      | <b>A</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Natural environment conserved | Ensure <b>environmental protection</b> principles are observed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of land meets statutory responsibilities required by environmental legislation administered by the EPA</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | No major incidents of environmental pollution are reported                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                               | <b>B</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                               | Ensure <b>best environmental practice</b> in use and maintenance of the land to build <b>green and resilient</b> public land, that <b>enhances biodiversity, conserves natural resources</b> and <b>improves sustainability</b> (a principles of the <i>NSW Public Spaces Charter</i> , the <i>Woollahra Environmental Sustainability Action Plan (ESAP)</i> , the <i>Woollahra Biodiversity Conservation Strategy</i> and the <i>Woollahra Climate Emergency Statement</i> ) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fulfill statutory responsibilities required by relevant legislation, including the actions within the National recovery plan for Magenta Cherry, Sunshine Wattle and Nielsen Park She-Oak</li> <li>• Implement relevant actions of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2025-2035</i></li> <li>• Build <b>climate change resilience and biodiversity conservation</b> into site design by actively seeking the best environmental outcomes, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ appropriate choice of soft and hardscape materials</li> <li>◦ increasing tree canopy for shade</li> <li>◦ onsite water retention, WSUD (water sensitive urban design) and storm water harvesting</li> <li>◦ minimising the use of herbicides, pesticides and fertilisers wherever possible</li> <li>◦ use of renewable energy sources</li> <li>◦ increase bush regeneration efforts</li> <li>◦ seek locations for artificial nest boxes</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p>Legislative obligations met</p> <p>Observe improvements in the biodiversity at Cooper Park, such as increased recorded sightings of native birds, fewer weed and pest species, and more robust vegetation</p> <p>Threatened species are conserved and populations are more resilient to threats</p> <p>Increased tree canopy, more shade<br/>Soil moisture improved where appropriate, less runoff, less use of potable water</p> <p>Habitats improved for native flora and fauna, greater species diversity noted through observation</p> |

## Objectives 1 – 8 reflect the land management goals and values

| Objective | Performance targets | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| 4         | B (continued)       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ seek appropriate locations to plant additional trees, shrubs and groundcovers to increase habitat using locally endemic species as recommended in the <i>Greener Places Design Guide</i></li> <li>◦ follow the recommendations of the <i>Australian Government National Light Pollution Guidelines</i></li> <li>◦ maintaining and / or creating habitat within core habitat areas, including species that form future hollows</li> <li>◦ schedule works to maintain habitat connectivity</li> <li>◦ improve the water quality of the pond by encouraging bank stabilising plant species and appropriate aquatic plants</li> <li>◦ repair slope and pond erosion as necessary, consider spray on seeding</li> <li>• Improve <b>sustainability</b> by actively seeking the best environmental outcomes, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ reduce electricity use, i.e. use of LED lights and timers to reduce greenhouse emissions where feasible</li> <li>◦ use renewable and / or green electricity</li> <li>◦ enforcing Council's single use plastic policy</li> <li>◦ reducing water usage and waste wherever possible</li> <li>◦ installing solar panels wherever possible and in keeping with site character</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Maintain and enhance native plant and animal biodiversity by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ scoping and consulting with the local community, and continuing the Cooper Park bush regeneration project</li> <li>◦ continue program of bush regeneration by removing and controlling weeds</li> <li>◦ identify and mitigate all threatening processes to bushland</li> <li>◦ plant and maintain endemic tree species depending on voluntary labour provided through community interest</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p>Light pollution guidelines met</p> <p>Pond edges stabilised with appropriate species to improve water quality<br/>Erosion control measures are in place</p> <p>Greenhouse emissions reduced</p> <p>Carbon footprint across the LGA is reduced</p> <p>Single use waste reduced<br/>Portable water use reduced</p> <p>Resident involvement in bush regeneration project planning through Bushcare<br/>Annual increase in regenerating area.<br/>Reduction in distribution of weeds<br/>Preservation of plant and animal species diversity<br/>Endemic plant species established and maintained. Shade created.</p> |



## Objectives 1 – 8 reflect the land management goals and values

| Objective | Performance targets         | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| <b>4</b>  | <b>B</b> <i>(continued)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain a landscape consisting of endemic tree species and native understorey on the southern embankment of Lower Cooper Park. Maintain an endemic native plant landscape on the northern embankment of Lower Cooper Park providing a component of shade over the adjacent grassed area.</li> <li>• Continue program of bush regeneration by removing and controlling weeds. Action this by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ plant and maintain locally endemic plant species including Figs on the northern embankment of Lower Cooper Park</li> <li>◦ remove Cottonwoods from Lower Cooper Park</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ensure the genetic integrity of remnant plant populations by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ collecting, storing and propagating seeds from locally occurring plant species</li> <li>◦ using plant material collected from within the Park or provided by Council's nursery</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Maintain and enhance species diversity in bushland through an appropriate fire regime by investigating the feasibility of fire use, including a fire hazard assessment.</li> </ul> | <p>Endemic plant species established and maintained. Shade created.<br/>Cottonwoods removed</p> <p>Record of species. Seed stored and propagated<br/>Tubestock planted</p> <p>Report produced by plant ecologist / fire specialist. Decision on feasibility.</p> |

## Objectives 1 – 8 reflect the land management goals and values

| Objective | Performance targets                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4         | C                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|           | <p><b>Raise community awareness</b> of natural environment values within the community, including the value of all <b>green infrastructure</b> and <b>promote stewardship</b> of the land (strategies of <i>Greener Places</i>)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide community education programs that promote the value of the natural environment and build knowledge and awareness of green infrastructure, highlighting the benefits of the urban tree canopy</li> <li>• Provide information to the community on total catchment management and responsible pet ownership including the need to pick up dog faeces, respect on-leash and prohibited areas</li> <li>• Provide information and education on encroachment practices that are a threat to the natural environment e.g. dumping garden waste, creating private desire lines through bush</li> <li>• Encourage community tree planting programs at appropriate locations</li> <li>• Provide information to the community on the importance of keeping cats inside at night</li> <li>• Provide information and education on threats to water quality, including the importance of ensuring nothing other than stormwater goes down the drain</li> <li>• Provide information and education on soil contamination that are a threat to the natural environment e.g. chemical and microbial contamination</li> <li>• Encourage Park neighbours to complement our plantings and undertake weed control to stop the spread of weeds into the Park</li> </ul> | <p>Education programs are facilitated and well attended</p> <p>Tree canopy is retained and expanded</p> <p>Dog regulations are complied with</p> <p>Soil remains viable for native flora, nutrient levels remain constant</p> <p>Less encroachment reported and observed</p> <p>Greater community participation in tree planting events</p> <p>Cats are effectively managed to protect wildlife</p> <p>Improved water quality observed at the ponds</p> <p>Soil remains viable for native flora, nutrient levels remain constant</p> <p>Spread of weeds from neighbouring dwellings mitigated</p> |

**Objectives 1 – 8 reflect the land management goals and values**

| Objective | Performance targets         | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <b>4</b>  | <b>C</b> <i>(continued)</i> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|           |                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information and education to local residents around the presence of the threatened species, as recommended in the National recovery plan of the Magenta Lilly Pilly, <i>Allocasuarina portuensis</i> (Nielsen Park She-Oak) and Sunshine Wattle</li> <li>• Increase profile of bush regeneration efforts, encourage the community to volunteer in and promote the Bushcare program opportunities and associated improved environmental outcomes to schools, residents and the broader community</li> <li>• Provide onsite training in bush regeneration for interest community members through Bushcare</li> <li>• Encourage use of the Park as an environmental education resource by facilitating access to bushland for educational purposes, and respond to enquiries</li> <li>• Prepare and implement an interpretive plan based on the Park's bush regeneration program, focusing particularly on the importance on conserving biodiversity</li> </ul> | <p>Profile of endangered species is promoted to local residents to assist with stewardship of the land</p> <p>Greater community participation in Bushcare</p> <p>Increase in annual hours contributed by volunteers.</p> <p>Record of educational visits and enquiries</p> <p>Increased understanding by community and Park users</p> |

## Objectives 1 – 8 reflect the land management goals and values

| Objective | Performance targets                                                                                                                                                                                       | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| 4         | D                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|           | Ensure the <b>existing mature tree canopy</b> is retained to <b>preserve landscape character</b> and <b>create an inter-connected tree canopy</b> across public land, strategies of <i>Greener Places</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and development controls are upheld across public land in the LGA to maintain and enhance all green infrastructure</li> <li>• Monitor health of significant trees register and inspect by qualified arborist annually</li> <li>• Incorporate succession planning into policies and plans to ensure the ongoing provision of appropriate tree canopy that retains landscape character and user amenity</li> <li>• Protect the root zones of significant mature trees from compaction, erosion and mechanical damage including the consideration of dense ground cover planting or elevated platforms to discourage pedestrians</li> <li>• Consider propagating plant material from the existing significant trees to retain landscape heritage</li> <li>• Identify potential locations for increased tree planting, especially along boundaries and pathways</li> <li>• Update vegetation mapping including the locations of the Sunshine Wattle, Nielsen Park She-Oak and Magenta Lilly Pilly</li> <li>• Retain senescent old growth in areas where bushland is being restored</li> <li>• Mark on ground locations of removed trees to estimate potential seedbank locations</li> </ul> | <p>Tree canopy protected and enhanced</p> <p>Landscape character and landscape heritage is retained</p> <p>Arborist report undertaken</p> <p>Plans and policies incorporated into renewals</p> <p>Root zones are protected in high use areas</p> <p>Landscape heritage maintained</p> <p>Green infrastructure is robust and extensive</p> <p>Digitised survey completed</p> <p>Hollows for habitat, as part of a complex bushland community are present in the system</p> <p>Ground markings visible</p> |



## Objectives 1 – 8 reflect the land management goals and values

| Objective | Performance targets | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| 4         | D (continued)       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and consult a tree planting plan guided by the Urban Forest Strategy setting out Council's long term vision and tree canopy targets</li> <li>• Planning and development controls are upheld across public land in the LGA to maintain and enhance all green infrastructure</li> <li>• Monitor health of trees and inspect by qualified arborist</li> <li>• Incorporate succession planning into policies and plans to ensure the ongoing provision of appropriate tree canopy that retains landscape character and user amenity</li> <li>• Protect the root zones of significant mature trees from compaction, erosion and mechanical damage including the consideration of dense ground cover planting or elevated platforms to discourage pedestrians</li> <li>• Consider propagating plant material from the existing significant trees to retain landscape heritage</li> <li>• Identify potential locations for increased tree planting, especially along boundaries and pathways</li> </ul> | <p>Strategy Implemented</p> <p>Tree canopy protected and enhanced<br/>Landscape character and landscape heritage is retained</p> <p>Arborist report undertaken</p> <p>Plans and policies incorporated into renewals</p> <p>Root zones are protected in high use areas</p> <p>Landscape heritage maintained</p> <p>Green infrastructure is robust and extensive</p> |

## Objectives 1 – 8 reflect the land management goals and values

| Objective                                    | Performance targets                                                                                                                               | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>5</b>                                     | <b>A</b>                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Aesthetic and landscape quality remains high | Ensure <b>public view corridors</b> are retained wherever possible and <b>minimise visual impact</b> of development on land adjoining Cooper Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure planning and development controls are in place to maintain public views from and into Cooper Park wherever possible</li> <li>• Prune vegetation if necessary to maintain public views and ensure all tree works are undertaken by a qualified arborist</li> <li>• Install appropriate screen planting wherever necessary</li> </ul>                                                                                         | <p>Public access to iconic views are retained from within Cooper Park</p> <p>Desirable public views into and out of each site are retained</p> <p>Undesirable views are screened by appropriate vegetation</p>                                                          |
|                                              | <b>B</b>                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                              | Consider the <b>amenity</b> of <b>residents</b> adjacent to the Cooper Park                                                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure planning and development controls consider amenity of residents</li> <li>• Consult nearby residents prior to proposed developments</li> <li>• Consider the potential future impacts on residents, including views, prior to all proposed landscape and recreational installations</li> <li>• Install appropriate screen / buffer planting wherever necessary to reduce undesirable impact on residential amenity</li> </ul> | <p>Residential amenity and privacy is not significantly impacted, wherever possible</p> <p>Increased consultation where appropriate</p> <p>Private view pruning undertaken as necessary under current policies</p> <p>Appropriate buffers installed where necessary</p> |

**Objectives 1 – 8 reflect the land management goals and values**

| Objective | Performance targets                                                      | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>5</b>  | <b>C</b>                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|           | <b>Aesthetic and landscape quality</b> of Cooper Park assets remain high | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adhere to adopted horticulture maintenance schedules</li> <li>• Adhere to adopted built asset maintenance schedules</li> <li>• Review all horticulture maintenance schedules to ensure the aesthetic and landscape quality of all green infrastructure on Cooper Park i.e. the open space for recreation, the urban tree canopy, bushland and waterways remains high</li> <li>• Install selected design elements in appropriate locations as documented, where appropriate and feasible specify warm lighting for passive open space</li> </ul> | <p>Schedules fulfilled</p> <p>Schedules fulfilled</p> <p>Schedules reviewed, improvements identified and resourced</p> <p>Site specific appropriate installations undertaken that complement each place</p> |

## Objectives 1 – 8 reflect the land management goals and values

| Objective                       | Performance targets                                                                                                                         | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>6</b>                        | <b>A</b>                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Heritage and cultural awareness | Investigate and assess <b>environmental heritage</b> and ensure land is used and managed to be consistent with <b>heritage significance</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage listed environmental heritage in accordance with statutory obligations</li> <li>• Investigate opportunities to undertake a heritage assessment of the significant trees</li> <li>• Investigate opportunities to undertake heritage and cultural assessment studies to identify environmental heritage at each site, including areas of historic archaeology sensitivity, built structures and natural heritage</li> <li>• Seek recommendations for the management of heritage items</li> <li>• Identify European history</li> <li>• Identify opportunities to enhance and celebrate environmental heritage, including interpretation, conservation works, art works and signage</li> </ul> | <p>Environmental heritage items managed</p> <p>Assessment undertaken</p> <p>Potential environmental heritage items and archaeology (including cultural landscapes) are identified and assessed against heritage listing criteria</p> <p>Recommendations arising from heritage management documents are considered and implemented where possible</p> <p>European history noted</p> <p>Improved understanding and greater appreciation of environmental heritage</p> <p>No negative impacts of management practices on sites with natural and cultural significance</p> <p>Only sympathetic and compatible uses are permitted</p> <p>Heritage and landscape character retained for future generations</p> |



## Objectives 1 – 8 reflect the land management goals and values

| Objective | Performance targets                                                                                                                                  | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>6</b>  | <b>A</b> <i>(continued)</i>                                                                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update the Cooper Park <i>Conservation Management Plan</i></li> <li>Consider nominating Cooper Park for listing on the <i>State Heritage Register</i> as per Council resolution 20/136045</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>Undertake the necessary steps to direct the future heritage management of the park as recommended in the Plan</p> <p>Cooper Park is listed as a State Heritage Item</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|           | <b>B</b>                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|           | Investigate, assess and manage <b>First Nations culture</b> and <b>history</b> at Cooper Park (a principle of the <i>NSW Public Spaces Charter</i> ) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify registered Aboriginal sites</li> <li>Investigate Aboriginal history</li> <li>Assess potential Aboriginal heritage and sensitive areas at each site</li> <li>Manage Aboriginal heritage in accordance with the <i>National Parks &amp; Wildlife Act 1974</i> and the <i>Woollahra Aboriginal Heritage Study (2021)</i></li> <li>Identify opportunities to enhance Aboriginal heritage, including interpretation, conservation works, art works and signage</li> </ul> | <p>Where appropriate, registered sites noted</p> <p>Aboriginal history of the site is noted</p> <p>Where appropriate, areas of Aboriginal sensitivity are identified</p> <p>Recommendations arising from relevant heritage management documents are implemented</p> <p>Improved understanding of Aboriginal heritage at each site</p> <p>No negative impacts of management practices on site with Aboriginal significance</p> <p>Only sympathetic and compatible uses are permitted</p> |

## Objectives 1 – 8 reflect the land management goals and values

| Objective                  | Performance targets                                                                                                       | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>6</b>                   | <b>C</b>                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                            | Enable the community to hold <b>cultural events</b> on Cooper Park (a principle of the <i>NSW Public Spaces Charter</i> ) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permit appropriate use of the land for events that bring positive community outcomes</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Event proposals approved where appropriate and positive feedback received                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>7</b>                   | <b>A</b>                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Recreational opportunities | Ensure the <b>unique opportunities</b> of each site are enhanced for inclusive public recreation                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the landscape character for a variety of passive recreation experiences</li> <li>• Prior to approvals being issued, refer to POM to ensure that permissible uses, including scale and intensity, are appropriately managed</li> <li>• Advertise recreational opportunities on Council's website, social media, at the libraries and community centre</li> <li>• Consider incorporating additional user friendly attributes into Council's website to promote recreational opportunities, e.g. interactive maps showing unique site features</li> <li>• Upon renewal of playground ensure it meets the community needs and is in line with the Play Space Strategy</li> <li>• Offer opportunities for those seeking personal fitness by: installing an exercise station in a location in the amphitheatre to maximise use.</li> <li>• Investigate opportunities to locate appropriate recreation facilities (merge cricket nets and install tennis hitting wall)</li> </ul> | <p>Sense of place is strong</p> <p>Compliance with permissible uses is maintained</p> <p>Opportunities easy to find through Council sources</p> <p>Council website updated</p> <p>New playground meets community need through extensive community consultation and thorough planning</p> <p>Exercise station installed</p> <p>Positive feedback from park users</p> |

## Objectives 1 – 8 reflect the land management goals and values

| Objective                          | Performance targets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>7</b>                           | <b>B</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                    | Encourage <b>multiple use</b> of Cooper Park, ensure land is <b>multifunctional, flexible</b> and <b>versatile</b> , proposed facilities to be <b>multi-purpose</b> to maximise community benefit and meet changing community needs (strategies of <i>Greener Places</i> and a principle of the <i>NSW Public Spaces Charter</i> ) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permit a variety of short-term use through appropriate licensing</li> <li>• Consider proposed installations that provide multiple community benefits wherever possible</li> <li>• Promote adaptive re-use of existing facilities is considered to meet community need, including the venues for hire</li> <li>• Work collaboratively to ensure development contribution funds are allocated to align with open space recreation needs, as identified in various strategies and action plans</li> </ul> | <p>Land appropriately used</p> <p>Multifunctionality built into installations</p> <p>Sites and facilities meet community need</p> <p>Development contributions made available to fund identified open space improvements</p> |
| <b>8</b>                           | <b>A</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Social and community opportunities | Cooper Park is used and managed to reflect the <b>goals and themes of our community</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross reference the performance targets and actions of this POM with the CSP and other adopted Council policies for consistency and to ensure an integrated approach to Council planning, land use and management</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Internal collaboration implemented and integrated planning outcomes improved                                                                                                                                                 |

## Objectives 1 – 8 reflect the land management goals and values

| Objective                          | Performance targets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>8</b>                           | <b>B</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Social and community opportunities | <p><b>Public use and enjoyment</b> of Cooper Park is encouraged, land use is <b>community-focused</b> and strengthens and supports evolving <b>community connection</b> and <b>local business</b> (principles of the <i>NSW Public Spaces Charter</i>)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide facilities that are flexible to a range of uses and appropriate to the needs of the community and where occurring, the needs of tourists</li> <li>• Facilitate community use of Cooper Park's locations and venues through leases / licences that are equitably and transparently allocated to reflect the core objectives of the land, community need, and meet the requirements of the <i>LG Act</i></li> <li>• Advertise recreational opportunities on Council's website, social media, and at community facilities</li> </ul> | <p>Multifunctionality built into installations wherever possible</p> <p>Secondary interests over Cooper Park approved where appropriate</p> <p>Opportunities easy to find through Council sources</p>                                                                                                                                                    |
|                                    | <b>C</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                                    | <p>Provide stronger avenues for <b>community consultation</b>, encourage <b>stewardship</b> of the land and <b>community participation in decision making</b></p>                                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve community consultation and actively seek community feedback prior to installation of significant new capital works</li> <li>• Encourage greater community participation in community planting days, Bushcare, clean-up days</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>Wherever possible, improvements are consulted upon, developed, and implemented to the satisfaction of the majority of the community</p> <p>Community involvement is stronger, Council decisions are better understood and fewer complaints are received about decisions made about open space use and management</p> <p>Improved land stewardship</p> |



**Objectives 9 – 11 reflect the management goals of each land category**

| Objective                                                    | Performance targets                                                                                                                          | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Performance measures                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>9</b>                                                     | <b>A</b>                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                          |
| <b>PARK</b> category land meets the <i>LG Act</i> objectives | <b>Encourage, promote and facilitate</b> recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a variety of well-advertised opportunities for the community to enjoy in parks e.g. playgrounds, guided local landscape heritage walks, special events</li> </ul> | Well attended events<br>Community satisfaction measured through feedback |
|                                                              | <b>B</b>                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                          |
|                                                              | To provide for <b>passive recreational</b> activities or pastimes and for the <b>casual playing of games</b>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a range of recreational spaces, including play and active areas, to meet the needs of the community</li> </ul>                                                    | Community satisfaction measured through feedback                         |
|                                                              | <b>C</b>                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                          |
|                                                              | To <b>improve</b> the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its <b>use to achieve the other core objectives</b> for its management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When necessary, develop appropriate installations to improve user experience</li> </ul>                                                                                   | Community satisfaction measured through feedback                         |

## Objectives 9 – 11 reflect the management goals of each land category

| Objective                                                                | Performance targets                                                                                                                                   | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>10</b>                                                                | <b>A</b>                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>SPORTS GROUND</b><br>category land meets the <i>LG Act</i> objectives | <b>Encourage, promote and facilitate</b> recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal <b>sporting activities</b> and games | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a range of active recreation facilities and multi-purpose spaces to meet our community's diverse active recreational needs (except for the tennis courts as per resolution (23/187689))</li> <li>• Advertise and provide information to the community about existing active recreational opportunities and facilitate appropriate casual and seasonal licenced use of the land</li> <li>• Ensure scale and intensity of use does not exceed the carrying capacity of the land or reduce the long term life of the asset</li> </ul>                                                                                                                    | <p>A majority of booking requests from local community sporting organisations and local schools are satisfied annually, subject to availability of appropriate facilities</p> <p>Council's website and information sources are kept up to date with available active recreational opportunities</p> <p>Site signage displays opportunities and usage regulations at all sites<br/>Longevity of asset maximised</p> |
|                                                                          | <b>B</b>                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                                                                          | Ensure that <b>active recreational</b> activities are managed having <b>regard to any adverse impact</b> on nearby residences                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community use of existing facilities and spaces is facilitated through council's booking request system</li> <li>• Consider the scale and intensity of use at each location and balance the reasonable impacts on nearby residences</li> <li>• Ensure that proposed sporting facility upgrades follow relevant legislated approval processes and include community consultation to consider potential impacts to local amenity, i.e. visual, noise, parking, traffic, lighting and the impact of additional usage</li> <li>• Monitor and reduce occurrence of unauthorised use through enforcement activities to maintain assets in good condition</li> </ul> | <p>Fields not used beyond capacity</p> <p>Permitted scale and intensity of use not exceeded by approved organised groups</p> <p>Relevant approvals are obtained for all facility upgrades</p> <p>Fewer unauthorised activities on the land<br/>Wear and tear reduced</p>                                                                                                                                           |

## Objectives 9 – 11 reflect the management goals of each land category

| Objective                                                                     | Performance targets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>11</b>                                                                     | <b>A</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>GENERAL COMMUNITY USE</b> category land meets the <i>LG Act</i> objectives | <b>Promote, encourage and provide</b> for the use of the land, and to provide <b>facilities</b> on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public in relation to <b>public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare</b> or development of individual members of the public                                                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a range of well-advertised, multi-purpose venues and facilities to meet the diverse leisure pursuits, recreational, physical, cultural, social and intellectual needs of the community and the greater public</li> <li>• When additional needs are identified, seek to provide the required facilities in appropriate locations</li> <li>• Improve physical and visual links between the Cooper Park Community Hall and the adjoining playground and park</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                              | <p>Venues are adaptable and adequate to provide for our community needs</p> <p>Internal teams collaborate on current community expectations and recommend solutions</p> <p>Master plan design completed</p>                                                                                                                                      |
|                                                                               | <b>B</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                                                                               | <b>Promote, encourage and provide</b> for the use of the land, and to provide <b>facilities</b> on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community, and of the wider public, in relation to purposes for which a <b>lease, licence or other estate may be granted</b> in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure lease / licence agreements are site appropriate, meet the core objectives of the land, are in the public interest, and do not negatively impact on the land or adjoining land</li> <li>• New long term (&gt;12 months) leases / licences to be entered into for purposes authorised by this plan of management, following appropriate advice from the native title manager confirming the land is not excluded land, and subject to Council approval</li> <li>• Continue use of the current staff residence by current tenant</li> <li>• Investigate other uses of the staff residence after the current tenant vacates</li> </ul> | <p>POM is referred to prior to leasing or licencing the land, internal teams collaborate on what is appropriate</p> <p>Appropriate use of public land facilitated transparently, obligations fulfilled</p> <p>Use as a residence continues. Satisfaction of Council and resident</p> <p>Other uses investigated. Preferred use(s) determined</p> |

## Objectives 9 – 14 reflect the management goals of each land category

| Objective                                                                        | Performance targets                                                                                                                                                          | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Performance measures                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>12</b>                                                                        | <b>A</b>                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>NATURAL AREA</b> (generally) category land meets the <i>LG Act</i> objectives | <b>Conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function</b> in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised as a natural area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adhere to the recommendations of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2025-2035</i></li> <li>• Manage and /or prohibit (via environmental assessments or DA conditions) proposed developments that may impact temporarily or permanently on natural areas to mitigate detrimental effects on biodiversity</li> </ul> | <p>Internal collaboration on action plans, resulting in compatible land use objectives</p> <p>Environmental values protected</p>  |
|                                                                                  | <b>B</b>                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                  | <b>Maintain</b> the land, or that feature or habitat, in <b>its natural state and setting</b>                                                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit the use of horticultural chemicals wherever possible</li> <li>• Uphold permissible use within land category and limit to low impact activities</li> <li>• Uphold development controls on adjacent land to prevent stormwater runoff and other contaminants or pollution entering into natural areas</li> </ul>      | <p>Less ecological disturbance</p> <p>Land use is not detrimental to environment values</p> <p>Environment values prioritised</p> |

## Objectives 9 – 14 reflect the management goals of each land category

| Objective | Performance targets                                                                                                                                        | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12        | <b>C</b>                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|           | Provide for the <b>restoration and regeneration</b> of the land                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish and advertise community clean-up days</li> <li>• Encourage volunteers to participate in appropriate restoration programs</li> <li>• Provide education programs and information to the community to raise awareness of natural area values and the potential impacts and responsibilities of using natural areas</li> <li>• Provide adequate bins at appropriate locations</li> <li>• Seek locations to re-establish native plant material including grasses and other soil-stabilising species</li> </ul> | <p>Greater community stewardship of the land</p> <p>Environment values protected and rehabilitated</p> <p>Programs established and well attended</p> <p>Litter removed, recyclables collected separately</p> <p>Soil erosion reduced, water holding capacity improved, runoff reduced</p> |
|           | <b>D</b>                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|           | Provide for <b>community use of and access</b> to the land in such a manner as will <b>minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide low impact installations such as floating paths over tree root zones</li> <li>• Encourage the community through appropriate signage to remain on paths in bushland</li> <li>• Monitor use of areas, limit access if necessary to protect the environment</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>Root zones protected from compaction</p> <p>Buffers and / or temporary fencing installed as needed to restrict access</p> <p>Regular monitoring of threatened areas</p>                                                                                                                |



## Objectives 9 – 14 reflect the management goals of each land category

| Objective | Performance targets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12        | E                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|           | Assist in and <b>facilitate</b> the <b>implementation</b> of any provisions <b>restricting the use</b> and management of the land that are set out in a <b>recovery plan</b> or threat abatement plan prepared under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> or the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adhere to the recommendations of the National recovery plans for Magenta Lilly Pilly, Nielsen Park She-Oak and Sunshine Wattle</li> <li>• Limit access to areas as needed to support the survival of endangered species, including fencing to the Magenta Cherry, Nielsen Park She-Oak and Sunshine Wattle</li> <li>• Undertake the management and maintenance of sensitive natural areas using suitably qualified persons in accordance with Council's relevant environmental plans</li> </ul> | <p>Actions are consistently undertaken to improve survival of both of the endangered flora species</p> <p>Fences installed as necessary,</p> <p>Suitably trained staff working on site uphold work place practices to protect environment</p> |

## Objectives 9 – 14 reflect the management goals of each land category

| Objective                                                                             | Performance targets                                                                                                                                                               | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>13</b>                                                                             | <b>A</b>                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>NATURAL AREA – WATERCOURSE</b><br>category land meets the <i>LG Act</i> objectives | Manage watercourses to <b>protect</b> the biodiversity and ecological values of the instream environment, particularly in relation to <b>water quality</b> and <b>water flows</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out water quality testing in the open creek system</li> <li>• Report all pollution events to Council ordinance officers</li> <li>• Reduce saturation of in recreational area by constructing a soakage trench at base of embankment in conjunction with a surface swale, collection pit and pipe to nearest existing drainage channel</li> <li>• Minimise impact from private property drainage directly into the Park installing pipe along property boundary. Council to instruct resident to connect stormwater runoff to this pipe. Discharge pipe into adjacent open drain</li> <li>• Update the Stormwater Management Plan to include relevant WSUD and flood mitigation recommendations</li> <li>• Investigate undertaking a catchment-wide source control plan to locate, design and construct drainage assets as recommended in the Cooper Park Water Management Plan 2019</li> <li>• Engage Waverley Council to ensure development sites in Bondi Junction have adequate sediment controls</li> <li>• Investigate installing pollution traps to capture stormwater pollution from Bondi Junction and the Cooper Park catchment</li> </ul> | <p>Water testing carried out</p> <p>Reduction in frequency of pollution events</p> <p>Decrease saturation in recreational areas</p> <p>Pipe installed. Residential drainage connected to new pipe</p> <p>Undertake necessary actions recommended in the updated Stormwater Management Report</p> <p>Investigation and recommendation completed</p> <p>Ongoing meetings with Waverly Council carried out</p> <p>Pollutant traps installed</p> |

## Objectives 9 – 14 reflect the management goals of each land category

| Objective | Performance targets                                                                                                                                        | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13        | B                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|           | Manage watercourses to <b>protect</b> the riparian environment, particularly in relation to <b>riparian vegetation, habitats</b> and <b>bank stability</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prohibit dogs from swimming in the creek</li> <li>• Rehabilitate the pond approximating its original condition as an ornamental pond, while recognising its role as a sediment trap by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ form an access road to the pond, involving construction of a low mound at the terminal end of the sandstone balustrade at the top of the track and extending west, land contouring, construction of another low bund at the base of the track, and surface treatment of the access track</li> <li>◦ complete reconstruction of the pond perimeter wall</li> <li>◦ construct a small sediment forebay and an informal maintenance access area at the inlet to the pond</li> <li>◦ remove overhanging vegetation</li> <li>◦ excavate sediment deposits to 1.2 metres and out to the extent of rock</li> <li>◦ dispose of sediment from the pond to an approved solid waste facility</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p>No instances of dogs swimming in the creek<br/>Regulatory signs installed</p> <p>Access road formed. Effective vehicle access</p> <p>Water in the pond exits at the spillway and completed perimeter wall</p> <p>Construction completed</p> <p>Vegetation removed</p> <p>Sediments excavated</p> <p>Sediments disposed of appropriately</p> |

## Objectives 9 – 14 reflect the management goals of each land category

| Objective | Performance targets                                                                          | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Performance measures                                                                                                             |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>13</b> | <b>B</b> <i>(continued)</i>                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                  |
|           |                                                                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ construct rain gardens to treat catchments draining to pits in Ridell Street</li> <li>◦ reconstruct the pit on the corner of Ridell Street and Bellevue Road to have a solid lid</li> <li>◦ pave the surrounding area with permeable pavers</li> <li>◦ locate an overflow pit at the upper edge of the blister</li> </ul>                                     | <p>Rain-gardens constructed</p> <p>Pit reconstructed</p> <p>Paving completed</p> <p>Overflow pit installed</p>                   |
|           | <b>C</b>                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                  |
|           | Restore <b>degraded watercourses</b>                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install stone pitching on the banks and repair stone pitched walls to maintain stable creek embankments by reducing erosion of the primary creek line</li> <li>• Construct stone pitched creek embankment, and remove and dispose of sediment to negate sheet flow across Picnic Grounds</li> <li>• Review and fixing of the heritage water chutes</li> </ul> | <p>Stone pitching installed and repaired where necessary</p> <p>No erosion across the Picnic Grounds</p> <p>Review completed</p> |
|           | <b>D</b>                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                  |
|           | Promote <b>community education</b> and <b>community access</b> to and use of the watercourse | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage educational use of the watercourse through use by schools and other educational institutions to use the natural drainage system as an environmental educational resource</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>Use of drainage system for educational purposes</p>                                                                           |

## Objectives 9 – 14 reflect the management goals of each land category

| Objective                                                                          | Performance targets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>14</b>                                                                          | <b>A</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>NATURAL AREA – BUSHLAND</b><br>category land meets the <i>LG Act</i> objectives | Ensure the ongoing <b>ecological viability</b> of the land by <b>protecting</b> the <b>ecological biodiversity and habitat values</b> of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant and maintain locally endemic plant species including Figs on the norther embankment of Lower Cooper Park</li> <li>• Remove Cottonwoods from Lower Cooper Park</li> <li>• Scope, inform with the local community, and implement the Cooper Park bush regeneration project</li> <li>• Continue program of bush regeneration by removing and controlling weeds</li> <li>• Continue to identify and mitigate all threatening processes to bushland</li> <li>• Plant and maintain locally endemic plant species depending on voluntary labour provided through community interest</li> <li>• Schedule works to maintain habitat connectivity (e.g. maintain weed cover until native vegetation is able to support local biodiversity populations)</li> <li>• Ensure vegetation structure provides animal habitat and a wildlife corridor.</li> <li>• Ensure artificial habitat complements natural habitat</li> <li>• Consider habitat in native and weed affected landscape in bush regeneration work</li> </ul> | <p>Endemic plant species established and maintained. Shade created.</p> <p>Cottonwoods removed</p> <p>Resident involvement in the bush regeneration project planning</p> <p>Annual increase in regenerating area.</p> <p>Reduction in distribution of weeds</p> <p>Maintenance of plant and animal species diversity</p> <p>Endemic tree species established and maintained</p> <p>Habitat retained as native vegetation community is restored</p> <p>Vegetation structure that supports habitat is maintained</p> |



## Objectives 9 – 14 reflect the management goals of each land category

| Objective | Performance targets                                                                                        | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14        | B                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|           | Protect the <b>aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational</b> and <b>scientific values</b> of the land | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install comprehensive regulatory signage to inform all users that dogs are prohibited at all times, even on a leash</li> <li>• Consider stencilling footpaths with sign prohibiting dogs</li> <li>• Manage regulations by means of enforcement and penalties</li> <li>• Target ranger patrols to assist with compliance wherever possible</li> <li>• Consider additional wayfinding / interpretative signage at identified locations to highlight site opportunities and significance</li> <li>• Undertake assessment of Aboriginal heritage at Cooper Park</li> <li>• Continue with and extend efforts in the Bushcare program</li> <li>• Encourage the use of the Park as an environmental education resource by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ facilitating access to bushland for educational purposes and respond to enquiries</li> <li>◦ prepare an information package highlighting the Park's environmental values</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Increase community understanding and support of the Park's bush regeneration program by preparing and implementing an interpretive plan based on the Park's bush regeneration program, focusing particularly on the importance of conserving biodiversity</li> </ul> | <p>Signs prohibiting dogs are installed at appropriate locations, including stencilled signs on paths</p> <p>Greater compliance around dog regulations</p> <p>Signage installed as required</p> <p>Study completed</p> <p>Observe improved outcomes in bushland regeneration, resilience and self-sufficiency</p> <p>Record of educational visits and enquiries</p> <p>Information package prepared</p> <p>Increase understanding by community and Park users</p> |

## Objectives 9 – 14 reflect the management goals of each land category

| Objective | Performance targets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>14</b> | <b>C</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|           | Promote the <b>management</b> of the land in a manner that <b>protects and enhances the values</b> and quality of the land and <b>facilitates public enjoyment</b> of the land, and to implement measures directed to <b>minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a targeted education program for residents and landholders adjacent to key habitat areas, including information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ the value of the bushland at Cooper Park</li> <li>◦ the concept of total catchment management and how it relates to Cooper Park</li> <li>◦ the threats to the bushland at Cooper Park and how to ameliorate them</li> <li>◦ the benefits of bush regeneration</li> <li>◦ the Bushcare volunteer opportunity at Cooper Park</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Promote community clean up days</li> <li>• Install fencing where necessary to limit pedestrian access to bushland</li> <li>• Strengthen the pedestrian network between Cooper Park North and Cooper Park, and Bellevue Hill retail centre and Cooper Park</li> <li>• Ensure a safe and functional path system through bushland by carrying out general repairs to the Park's system of paths as necessary</li> </ul> | <p>Education programs facilitated</p> <p>Information made available and promoted throughout the community</p> <p>Greater numbers of volunteers participate in Bushcare at Cooper Park</p> <p>Greater numbers of volunteers participate in clean up days</p> <p>Fences installed, observe more robust bushland</p> <p>Improved pedestrian movement across the Park and adjacent landmarks</p> <p>Paths repaired</p> |

## Objectives 9 – 14 reflect the management goals of each land category

| Objective | Performance targets              | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>14</b> | <b>C</b> <i>(continued)</i>      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|           |                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the impacts of encroachment of residential properties on the bushland by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ monitoring properties bordering the Park for evidence of any encroachments</li> <li>◦ actively pursuing the removal of any encroachments</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ensure safe fuel loads next to surrounding properties</li> <li>• Consider habitat in native and weed affected landscapes during bush regeneration work to continue to provide animal habitat and a wildlife corridor.</li> <li>• Ensure artificial habitat complements natural habitat</li> </ul> | <p>Encroachments identified</p> <p>Continue NSW Fire and Rescue involvement in determining bushfire prone area at Cooper Park</p> <p>Establishment of a vegetation structure that supports habitat.</p> <p>Fauna surveys</p>                                                              |
|           | <b>D</b>                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|           | Restore <b>degraded</b> bushland | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue the Bushcare program, undertake in-situ recovery of endemic vegetation and encourage more volunteers to participate</li> <li>• Identify and manage threatening factors, e.g. weed invasion, stormwater runoff</li> <li>• Work to mitigate and / or ameliorate threats</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>Greater numbers of volunteers participate in Bushcare at Cooper Park, observe higher numbers of germinating endemic seedlings, including both of the endangered species</p> <p>Threats identified, mitigated and impact of threats is reduced</p> <p>Ongoing monitoring undertaken</p> |

**Objectives 9 – 14 reflect the management goals of each land category**

| Objective | Performance targets         | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>14</b> | <b>D</b> <i>(continued)</i> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|           |                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake relevant actions from the Sunshine Wattle, Nielsen Park She-Oak and Magenta Lilly Pilly Recovery Plan</li> <li>• Collect, store and propagate seed from locally occurring plant species to ensure the genetic integrity of remnant plant populations</li> <li>• Enhance native biodiversity and suppression of weed through appropriate planting by utilising plant material collected from within the Park or provided by Council's nursery</li> <li>• update vegetation mapping to accurately locate existing live, senescent and / or dead specimens of endangered species</li> <li>• protect key known specimens by means of appropriate fencing and / or tree guards to ensure wild populations remain viable in the long term</li> </ul> | <p>Digital survey updated</p> <p>Record of species. Seed stored and propagated.</p> <p>Tubestock planted</p> <p>Threatened species map regularly updated</p> <p>Fencing and tree guards installed</p> |

## Objectives 9 – 14 reflect the management goals of each land category

| Objective | Performance targets                                                                           | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>14</b> | <b>D</b> ( <i>continued</i> )                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|           |                                                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ continue weed management strategies to reduce competition</li> <li>◦ establish in-situ and ex-situ conservation practices to maintain genetic integrity,(i.e. do not revegetate with other <i>Acacia terminalis</i> subspecies, to avoid hybridisation. note commercially available <i>Syzygium sp.</i> plant material may not be suitable)</li> <li>◦ investigate introducing alternate methods of germination, i.e. controlled fire pile burns, min. fire-free interval of between 6 -12 years, max. 20 years</li> <li>◦ continue adopting best practice horticultural hygiene to reduce the spread of <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i></li> </ul> | <p>Competition from weeds reduced</p> <p>In-situ conservation practices undertaken within bush regeneration work</p> <p>Controlled fire undertaken, results recorded</p> <p>The threat of <i>Phytophthora</i> reduced, Sunshine Wattle does not succumb to dieback</p>                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>14</b> | <b>E</b>                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|           | Protect existing landforms such as <b>natural drainage lines</b> , watercourses and foreshore | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit access to natural drainage lines and watercourses, consider additional buffer planting if necessary</li> <li>• Consider naturalising the creek wherever possible, and work to improve water quality by encouraging bank stabilising riparian species</li> <li>• Repair erosion as necessary</li> <li>• Maintenance of the heritage weirs and walls along the length of the ponds and creek</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>Stormwater system removes water efficiently from site as necessary<br/>Buffers to access installed, the creek is not accessed for public recreation</p> <p>Creek system moves towards a more natural state, observation of more balanced diverse endemic flora and fauna communities<br/>Less occurrence of erosion</p> <p>Regular creek maintenance fulfilled</p> <p>Regular creek maintenance fulfilled</p> |



## Objectives 9 – 14 reflect the management goals of each land category

| Objective | Performance targets                                                                                                                                  | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Performance measures                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14        | <b>F</b>                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|           | Retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the <b>existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discourage and remove encroachments onto and through bushland</li> <li>Complete the habitat restoration plans with reference to Magenta Lilly Pilly, Nielsen Park She-Oak and Sunshine Wattle</li> </ul>                                                                        | <p>Public land is retained for its public purpose in perpetuity</p> <p>Habitat restoration plan completed and actions undertaken to improve the survival outcome of the endemic vegetation community at Cooper Park</p> |
|           | <b>G</b>                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|           | Protect bushland as a natural <b>stabiliser</b> of the <b>soil</b> surface                                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit access as necessary to reduce soil erosion</li> <li>Stabilise slopes by encouraging the growth of native plant species to retain site soil, leaf litter and potential soil seed bank</li> <li>Implement recommendations arising from the survey of cliff faces</li> </ul> | <p>Fences installed where necessary to limit access</p> <p>Slopes stabilised with appropriate material</p> <p>Recommendations implemented. Cliff faces stable</p>                                                       |

# 10. Appendix A

## Cooper Park Survey Responses

The Cooper Park Plan of Management and Master Plan public consultation invited the community to provide feedback about what they love about Cooper Park, how they use it and how they'd like to use it in the future.

The consultation was held 17 November 2023 - 4 February 2024 and resulted in 155 submissions. 18 themes emerged from the feedback, as displayed in figure 44.

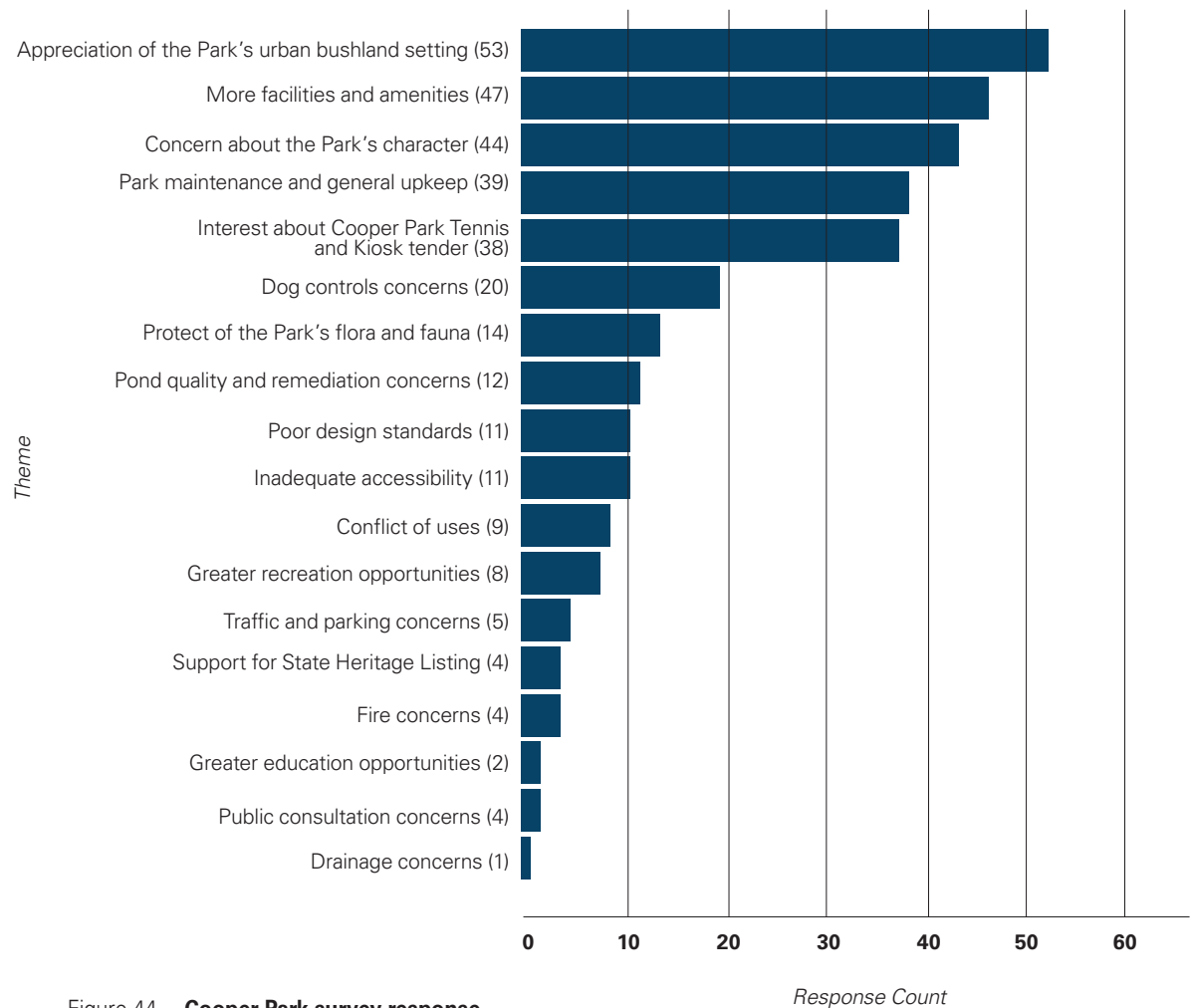


Figure 44. Cooper Park survey response

# 11. Appendix B – Building Condition Reports and Existing Lease / Licence Details

**Table 8. Cooper Park Tennis Centre Kiosk Condition Report**

| Item                                                                                  | Condition                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Structure                                                                             | 2                                                                |
| Doors and windows                                                                     | 3                                                                |
| Lights / power outlets                                                                | 2                                                                |
| Ceilings / walls                                                                      | 3                                                                |
| Essential services                                                                    | 3                                                                |
| Plumbing                                                                              | 3                                                                |
| Floors and coverings                                                                  | 3                                                                |
| <b>General</b>                                                                        | <b>2.7</b>                                                       |
| Comments / capital works                                                              | Repairs/<br>replacement/<br>upgrade within the<br>next few years |
| Ratings:<br>1 – Good, 2 – Fair, 3 – Requires Maintenance,<br>4 – Requires Replacement |                                                                  |

**Table 9. Cooper Park Community Hall Condition Report**

| Item                                                                                  | Condition |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Structure                                                                             | 1         |
| Doors and windows                                                                     | 1         |
| Lights / power outlets                                                                | 1         |
| Ceilings / walls                                                                      | 1         |
| Essential services                                                                    | 1         |
| Plumbing                                                                              | 1         |
| Floors and coverings                                                                  | 1         |
| <b>General</b>                                                                        | <b>1</b>  |
| Comments / capital works                                                              |           |
| Ratings:<br>1 – Good, 2 – Fair, 3 – Requires Maintenance,<br>4 – Requires Replacement |           |

**Table 10. Cooper Park Toilets Condition Report**

| Item                                                                                  | Condition                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Structure                                                                             | 3                                 |
| Doors and windows                                                                     | 3                                 |
| Lights / power outlets                                                                | 4                                 |
| Ceilings / walls                                                                      | 4                                 |
| Essential services                                                                    | 4                                 |
| Plumbing                                                                              | 4                                 |
| Floors and coverings                                                                  | 3                                 |
| <b>General</b>                                                                        | <b>3.4</b>                        |
| Comments / capital works                                                              | Currently used as<br>park storage |
| Ratings:<br>1 – Good, 2 – Fair, 3 – Requires Maintenance,<br>4 – Requires Replacement |                                   |

**Table 11. Cooper Park Tennis Centre and Kiosk Lease Details**

|                            |                                                                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name                       | <b>Cooper Park Tennis Centre and Kiosk</b>                                    |
| Description                |                                                                               |
| Address                    | 1 Bunna Place, Bellevue Hill                                                  |
| Lessee/Licensee            | Young Aces Cooper Park Pty Ltd                                                |
| Term Starts                | 15 April 2025                                                                 |
| Term Ends                  | April 2032                                                                    |
| Term                       | 7 years                                                                       |
| Renewal Options            | Option for a further 7 years                                                  |
| Rental                     | \$295,000pa ex. GST. CPI annually on the anniversary of the Commencement Date |
| Area m <sup>2</sup>        | 4,788 m <sup>2</sup>                                                          |
| Notes / Special Conditions |                                                                               |

**Table 12. Cooper Park Community Garden**

| Item                                                                   | Condition |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 50 garden beds and shelter supplied and installed by community gardens | Good      |

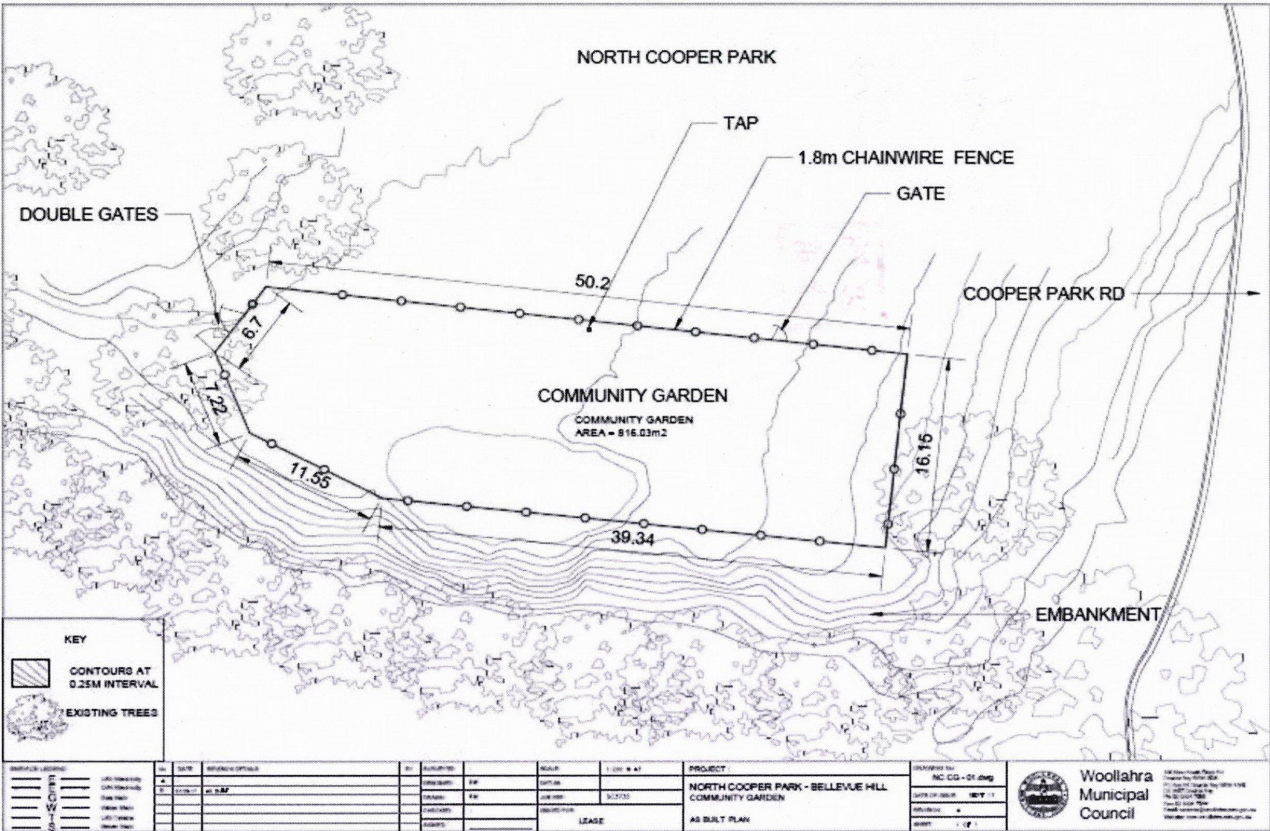


Figure 45. Layout of Cooper Park Community Gardens



**Table 13. Cooper Park Community Gardens Lease Details**

|                            |                                                                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name                       | <b>Cooper Park Community Garden</b>                                                 |
| Description                |                                                                                     |
| Address                    | 12 Cooper Park Road, Bellevue Hill, NSW, 2023                                       |
| Lessee/Licensee            | Cooper Park Community Garden Inc                                                    |
| Term Starts                | 15 Dec 2021                                                                         |
| Term Ends                  | 11 Dec 2026                                                                         |
| Term                       | 5 years                                                                             |
| Renewal Options            |                                                                                     |
| Rental                     | N/A                                                                                 |
| Area m <sup>2</sup>        | 816 m <sup>2</sup>                                                                  |
| Notes / Special Conditions | Non-exclusive licence. All community gardens must operate on a not for profit basis |

# 12. Appendix C – Additional legislation, policies & guidelines that inform this plan of management:

## Commonwealth Legislation

### Environment Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)

Provides a framework to protect and manage species that are defined by the Act as having national environmental significance. National recovery plans are in place under this Act for two such species in Woollahra.

### Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA)

Provides protection for all Australians against discrimination based on defined disability, including access to public open space.

### Telecommunications Act 1997

Allows for the installation of a limited range of facilities without seeking planning approval.

### Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Provides a framework to secure the health and safety of workers and workplaces through the elimination of risks arising from work.

## Australian Standards

While not legislation, standards set out technical specifications, procedures and guidelines that aim to ensure products, services, and systems are safe, consistent, and reliable.

## NSW State Legislation

### NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

- State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity & Conservation) 2021
- SEPP No 64 – Advertising and Signage 2021
- Resilience and Hazards SEPP 202, Chapter 2 (Coastal Management) 2021
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) Amendment 2021
- SEPP (State and Regional Development) 2021
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts—Regional) 2021
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity & Conservation) 2021
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021

The State government is currently developing a new SEPP for protection and management of our natural environment. The proposed SEPP will consolidate several existing instruments, including the following relevant to Council land in Woollahra:

- State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts—Regional) 2021
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity & Conservation) 2021

### NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

The *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* replaced the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. Its purpose is to maintain a healthy, productive and resilient environment for the greatest well-being of the community, now and into the future, consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

Under this Act, Council has legislative responsibility to appropriately manage critically endangered species, endangered species and vulnerable species.

## NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

### Aboriginal cultural significance

In New South Wales, the *NSW National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) provides legal protection for both 'Aboriginal objects' and 'Aboriginal places' as defined in the Act. Aboriginal objects can include Aboriginal campsites in rockshelters and in the open, painted and engraved art, places of burial, scarred trees, and also artefacts of stone, bone or shell that were used by Aboriginal people in the past. The Woollahra Local Government Area contains many documented Aboriginal heritage sites, and it is likely that more undocumented sites also survive. Declared Aboriginal Places are places of special significance for Aboriginal culture in New South Wales that have been gazetted under the *NPW Act*. There are currently no registered 'Aboriginal places' within the Woollahra Local Government Area.

Under the *NPW Act* it is an offence to 'harm' Aboriginal objects either knowingly (s86 (1)) or unknowingly (s86 (2)), or to harm an Aboriginal Place (s86 (4)). *Harm* is defined in s5 (1) of the *NPW Act* to mean any act or omission that:

- (a) destroys, defaces or damages the object or place, or
- (b) in relation to an object – moves the object from the land on which it had been situated, or
- (c) is specified by the regulations, or
- (d) causes or permits the object or place to be harmed in a manner referred to in paragraph (a), (b) or (c);

but does not include any act or omission that:

- (e) desecrates the object or place, or
- (f) is trivial or negligible, or
- (g) is excluded from this definition by the regulations.

In general, harm can only knowingly be done to an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place in accordance with the conditions of an approved Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit under s.90 of the *NPW Act*.

There are some defences and exemptions to the offence of unknowing harm. The two main ones are:

1. That the activity was one of a number of 'low impact activities' in 'disturbed land' as defined in Clause 58 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019* (NPW Act s87(4)). These

definitions are very precise, and include some land management activities such as common farm and track maintenance activities.

2. That a process of Due Diligence was followed which reasonably determined that the proposed activity would not harm an Aboriginal object (*NPW Act* s87 (2)).

While it is unlikely, it should not be assumed that all common land management activities that do not involve excavation will be regarded as 'low impact activities' or will not result in harm to Aboriginal objects. It is prudent to assess all activities in light of the particular characteristics of the land being managed. For example, slashing grass or weeds could damage an Aboriginal scarred tree, and pulling out roots could disturb Aboriginal artefacts associated with a campsite in a rockshelter or on the open. In general, it is advisable to exercise some form of Due Diligence with any activity, unless it is explicitly permitted under the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019* and it will not harm a documented Aboriginal site (object).

## **Aboriginal heritage recommendations**

The recommendations made in this report for Cooper Park areas are based on these legal protections for Aboriginal heritage. They also refer to 'sensitive areas' that have been identified in relation to Aboriginal heritage within Cooper Park in this report. These sensitive areas include the locations of documented Aboriginal sites ('objects' in the *NPW Act*), and areas in which currently undocumented Aboriginal sites may be found. Activities proposed in these areas will generally require some form of Aboriginal heritage assessment, while activities outside of these areas are all covered by an unexpected finds protocol. Recommendations have also been made about suitable locations for Aboriginal heritage and history interpretation. This can be summarised as follows:

### **1. Aboriginal heritage management plan required**

This has been recommended in several cases where known sites occur within Cooper Park, or where the area is known to have high Aboriginal cultural or historical significance. The plans will consider in detail the known and potential Aboriginal heritage sites within Cooper Park and provide detailed guidelines as to which future activities may

require specific assessment. These would ideally be prepared in advance of any future activities, but in the interim, Aboriginal heritage impact assessment of each activity will provide adequate protection.

### **2. Aboriginal heritage impact assessment required**

This applies to activities proposed in 'sensitive areas' in relation to Aboriginal heritage. Aboriginal heritage impact assessment is required to determine whether these activities may result in 'harm' to Aboriginal objects (both known and currently undocumented) and explore ways to avoid potential impacts. These assessments should be undertaken in accordance with the reporting requirements outlined in Council's 2020 *Guide for preparing an Aboriginal heritage impact assessment*, which will also meet the reporting requirements of Heritage NSW for Due Diligence assessment.<sup>4</sup> Where impacts cannot be avoided, further investigations or heritage impact permits may be required.

### **3. Unexpected finds protocol required**

In all other areas except those designated as sensitive, Aboriginal heritage may be present but is either unlikely to be visible or detectable through assessment, or is likely to be in a disturbed context.

Therefore an unexpected finds protocol has been recommended for excavation works. This will ensure that Aboriginal objects are protected in the event of discovery during project works.

### **4. Aboriginal heritage interpretation recommended**

Although not a legal requirement, greater public awareness of Aboriginal history and heritage can foster respect and better protection for Aboriginal heritage sites and other values. This has been recommended in areas known to have significant Aboriginal heritage or history.

### **Anti-Discrimination Act 1977**

Promotes equality and provides protection from discrimination based on several factors including race, religion, sex and age.

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<sup>4</sup> The guide is an appendix to the Woollahra Municipal Council DA Guide, which can be found at [www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/building\\_and\\_development/submit\\_a\\_da/prepare\\_your\\_application](http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/building_and_development/submit_a_da/prepare_your_application). NOTE this guide is yet to be finalised; DECCW 2010 Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales (available at [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/due-diligence-code-of-practice-for-the-protection-of-aboriginal-objects-in-new-south-wales](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/due-diligence-code-of-practice-for-the-protection-of-aboriginal-objects-in-new-south-wales)).

### **Biosecurity Act 2015**

Lists provides a framework for management of biosecurity threats, and prohibited species, including plants and insects that may pose a biosecurity risk and must be controlled or eliminated.

### **Companion Animals Act 1998**

This Act provides for owners responsibilities to have effective control of dogs and cats in public places. Councils must declare at least one off leash dog exercise area in their LGA. Dogs are prohibited within 10 metres of children's play areas, food preparation and consumption areas and areas of bushland.

### **Disability Inclusion Act 2014**

Promotes the inclusion of people with disability into all areas of community life.

### **Environmental Protection Authority administers:**

- Contaminated Land Management Act 1997
- Dangerous Goods Act 2008
- Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Act 1985
- Forestry Act 2012
- National Environment Protection Council 1995
- Ozone Protection Act 1989

- Pesticides Act 1999
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
- Radiation Control Act 1990
- Recreation Vehicles Act 1983
- Waste Avoidance & Resource Recovery Act 2007

### **Fisheries Management Act 1994**

Necessitates the protection of foreshore vegetation.

### **Greater Sydney Commission Act 2015**

Established the Greater Sydney Commission, with specific roles and responsibilities for planning for Greater Sydney. It aims to make Sydney more productive, sustainable and liveable.

### **Heritage Act 1977**

Promotes and encourages the preservation of the State's heritage. It provides for the identification and registration of items of State heritage significance. Items are assessed against the Heritage Council's criteria related to an item's aesthetic, historic, scientific, and social values. It must meet only one of the criteria to satisfy that it is of such particular significance to the state of NSW that it should be listed.

### **Noxious Weeds Act 1993**

Provides the regulatory framework for controlling weeds in NSW.

### **Pesticides Act 1999**

Controls the use of pesticides in NSW.

### **Place Management Act 1998**

Aims to protect and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the foreshore area.

### **Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997**

### **Retail Lease Act 1994**

### **Roads Act 1993**

### **Smoke-free Environment Act 2000 & Regulation 2016 & Tobacco Legislation Amendment Bill 2012.**

It is illegal to smoke tobacco within 10 metres of children's play equipment and or an area set aside for or being used by spectators to watch an organised sporting event at a sportsground or other recreational area, when an organised sporting event is being held there.



### **Waste Minimisation Act 1995**

Aims to reduce the amount of waste produced across the state, including by encouraging recycling.

### **Water Management Act 2000**

Aims to protect, enhance and restore water courses.

### **NSW State Policies:**

#### **Everyone Can Play**

Sets out design considerations to improve physical access and comfort for child and adult play space users.

#### **Sydney Green Grid**

Is an integral part of the Greater Sydney Region and District Plans and aims to connect communities to the landscape by creating a network of high-quality green space, linking green infrastructure through enhanced transport routes, footpaths and cycleways.

### **Woollahra Municipal Council Plans, Strategies, Policies and Guidelines**

#### **The Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020**

The Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020, was adopted by Council in March 2020. It sets out the local planning priorities and long-term 20-year vision to guide land use planning specifically and outlines what those priorities aim to achieve in the future. It is prepared under the *EP&A Act* and must be consistent with the CSP.

Planning priorities with relevance to Cooper include:

- protecting our waterways and water ecosystems
- conserving, enhancing and connecting our green spaces including bushland, tree canopy, gardens and parklands
- improving walkability and cycleway connections through Green Grid initiatives
- increasing tree canopy along streets and pathways
- improving access to public transport
- protecting and enhancing our scenic and cultural landscapes
- upgrading aging park grey infrastructure
- building climate change resilience

#### **Delivery Program and Operational Plan (DPOP)**

The DPOP describes how Council will work with the community to achieve priorities and actions and meet community needs and expectations in a sustainable manner. The DPOP is reviewed, developed and publicly exhibited yearly.

#### **Local Policies, Strategies, Guidelines**

Aged and Disability Study 2016  
Asset Management Strategy 2011-2021  
Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2025-2035  
Community & Cultural Grants Policy (25/11/2013)  
Community Cultural Relations Statement (7/8/2013)  
Community Garden Policy (2011)  
Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan (2014)  
Cooper Park Water Management Plan (2019)  
Cooper Park Heritage Significance Assessment (2020)  
Community Services Policy (2013)  
Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017  
Double Bay Place Plan 2014  
Double Bay Public Domain Lighting Strategy (2017)  
Double Bay Public Domain Strategy (2016)  
Environmental Sustainability Action Plan (2023-2028)

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025  
Oxford Street, Paddington Placemaking Roadmap  
Report 2014  
Play Space Strategy 2023  
Policy for the Sponsorship of Events & Activities  
(27/3/2006)  
Public Art Policy (10/2009)  
Queen Street Strategic Master plan (2014)  
Reconciliation Statement (12/2012)  
Reconciliation Statement Action Plan 2012  
Recreation Strategy 2023  
Register of Significant Trees – July 1991,  
Volume 4 of 4, Significant Trees in Public Parks  
Risk Management Strategy  
Rose Bay Public Domain Improvements Plan  
Urban Forest Strategy 2023

# Woollahra Municipal Council



536 New South Head Road,  
Double Bay NSW 2028

**[woollahra.nsw.gov.au](http://woollahra.nsw.gov.au)**

T: 02 9391 7000

F: 02 9391 7044

E: [records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au)