

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Plan of Management provides the framework for managing Dee Why Lagoon Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge, designated as a Specific Area by Warringah Council, has high conservation value for flora and fauna and provides an area of open space within an urban setting. The Refuge plays an important role in Warringah's open space system and is a valuable conservation area for migratory birds and estuarine flora and fauna. The Refuge consists of Community Land, Crown Land and Crown Reserve. Council is trustee of the two Crown Reserve land parcels which have been reserved for the purpose of "Public Recreation". The Crown however remains the administrator of the Crown Land parcel which includes the lagoon bed as well as a portion of the adjacent James Meehan Reserve and sand dunes.

The Plan of Management aims to satisfy the requirements of both the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998, as well as the Crown Land Act 1989. It takes a values-based approach to land planning and management, identifying the Refuge's key values, role and purpose so that these assets may be protected and enhanced. Issues for the Refuge have also been identified, however it is recognised that issues will change over time. The values identified for the Refuge should be carefully considered during management of the Refuge as they are potentially far longer lasting.

As part of the process of preparing this Plan of Management, extensive community consultation has been carried out. Public meetings and workshops, meetings with key stakeholders, distribution of a questionnaire to determine values for the Refuge, Council working group meetings and consultation with relevant State Government Departments have been carried out during the preparation of this Plan of Management. This consultation process has identified a number of values for the Refuge which fall into the broad categories of:

- Natural Environment
- Recreation
- Education
- Aesthetics
- Social
- Heritage
- Access

The values and subsequent issues have been addressed by a series of management actions within the Actions Plan. A set of core objectives, as determined by the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998, along with additional objectives developed during the community consultation process have also been addressed within the Actions Plan.

In addition to the management actions, a vision for Dee Why Lagoon Wildlife Refuge was developed following the community consultation process.



The vision for Dee Why Lagoon Wildlife Refuge is to preserve the natural appearance of the lagoon edge and it's original natural perimeter and to:

- *Conserve a significant natural area supporting a diversity of native aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna; and*
- *Provide a range of low key, predominantly passive, recreational and educational opportunities that are complementary to the Refuge's natural heritage values.*

It is recognised that a number of supporting plans have been developed, or are currently being developed, in respect to the Refuge. The other plans provide more detailed information in relation to vegetation management, estuary processes and urban design. This Plan of Management, in combination with these plans, will provide direction and management recommendations for the Refuge. This Plan of Management is however the governing plan, recommendations of the other plans must not be in conflict with the recommendations of this Plan of Management.

A Masterplan for Dee Why Lagoon Wildlife Refuge, see Figure One (overleaf), has been developed in conjunction with this Plan of Management. The Masterplan is based on the values and the key management actions identified for the Refuge. The Masterplan identifies the physical locations of the proposed actions within the Refuge. Indicative costs for the key proposed works has been provided within Table Nine (page 54) of the Plan of Management.

