

Mollymook Beach Reserve

Crown Reserve No. 52790

Plan of Management

SCC PoM No. 13



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Adopted by Council February 2005

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Preface

Shoalhaven City Council has prepared this Plan of Management for Mollymook Beach Reserve at Mollymook.

The plan describes ways that Mollymook Beach Reserve can be used, conserved, and managed into the future, and how it will be developed as one of Shoalhaven's Icon Parks. The motivation for the development of the reserve to Icon Park standard is to create pride and excitement in the park, and to contribute to the reputation of Mollymook as a pre-eminent tourist location.

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This document is also available in the Public Documents section of Council's web site www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au

LIST OF RELEVANT DATES AND AMENDMENTS

	Adopted For Exhibition	Exhibited	Adopted by Council	Notes
Plan of Management	19 October 2004	10 November 2004 – 22 December 2004	22 February 2005	Adopted by Dept of Lands 2 December 2005
Landscape Master Plan	19 October 2004	10 November 2004 – 22 December 2004	28 February 2006	

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Public land provides the people of New South Wales with a variety of open spaces, including local and regional parks, showgrounds, community halls, picnic areas, caravan parks and camping grounds. Along our coast there is a network of public open spaces that preserves significant areas of natural bushland, coastal ecosystems, and urban open spaces. The system has developed since the 1850s in recognition of the basic needs of all members of our community to access open spaces for physical, emotional and spiritual development and well being.

Mollymook Beach Reserve is one such urban park on the ocean shore at Mollymook. The reserve is Crown land, reserved for public recreation. It is controlled by the Mollymook Beach (R52790) Reserve Trust, the affairs of which are managed by Shoalhaven City Council.

Mollymook Beach Reserve is used by many people, both Shoalhaven residents and visitors, with flow-on social and commercial benefits to the local community. The reserve is significant for active and passive recreation. The remarkable surrounding attractions of Mollymook Beach and the proximity to the Mollymook “Business Area” add to its importance.

Shoalhaven City Council has identified that Mollymook Beach Reserve should be developed as part of a network of high quality “Icon Parks” in strategic locations throughout the city, based on its potential to deliver a quality recreational service to both visitors and local residents. Each Icon Park would have a unique design and unique characteristics, with a high level of landscaping, high-grade park appointments, playgrounds, public art, etc.

To achieve this aim for Mollymook Beach Reserve, a review of its current condition and uses has been carried out, in an effort to determine which uses are sustainable in the long term, and to address the integration of the reserve with the village. This plan defines appropriate uses as identified through stakeholder consultation.

1.2 Purpose of this Plan

A plan of management is a document that provides a framework for how a particular resource will be managed. Council already has a single generic plan of management that covers most parks in the city. However, development of Mollymook Beach Reserve to Icon Park standard requires a more detailed and specific plan of management. That is why this plan has been prepared. It sets out how the reserve can be used, managed, developed and conserved, and specifies site improvements to better meet the recreational needs of residents and visitors to the area.

1.3 What We Want To Achieve In Preparing The Plan

In preparing this plan, we have, in consultation with the community:

- Identified the significant values of the reserve, i.e., what's important about the place.
- Established a broad basis for management of the reserve to protect and enhance the identified values. This describes where we want to end up and will provide the grounds for making further decisions.
- Determined appropriate specific management objectives that will ensure the maintenance of recreation, conservation, aesthetic and other values.
- Identified issues or problems that may detract from the reserve's values.
- Developed a comprehensive action plan, including a landscape concept plan to show how each objective will be put into practice.

1.4 Legislative and Policy Framework

The management of public land requires compliance with existing government legislation and policy. Mollymook Beach Reserve is Crown land and therefore this plan has been prepared according to the provisions of the Crown Lands Act 1989. However, the Crown Lands Act provides that, if a council is the trust manager for a public reserve all the functions of a council under the Local Government Act 1993 in relation to public reserves are available. This helps provide consistency in the way Council manages parks across the City of Shoalhaven.

In addition to the requirements of the Crown Lands Act, this plan of management must comply with all other relevant legislation and policy, across all three levels of government.

Examples of other legislation and policy which must be taken into account include the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and associated instruments such as the Shoalhaven Local Environment Plan 1985. A description of these, and other relevant legislation and policy, is provided in Appendix 1.

1.5 Plan Review

This plan should be reviewed at least every five years to ensure that it remains relevant and useful. Implementation of the action plan (section 6) should be reviewed annually. The plan should also be reviewed if there are significant changes to the factors that guided the development of the "Basis for Management" (section 3) or if significant issues arise that are not covered by the plan. The Minister administering the Crown Lands Act may adopt a new plan following 28 days public exhibition and considering any comments made during that time.

2 The Site

2.1 Land to Which This Plan Applies

Mollymook Beach Reserve is Crown reserve No. R52790. It is reserved for the purpose of public recreation. The reserve is at the southern end of Mollymook Beach, adjacent to the Tasman Sea, and is bounded to the north by Blackwater Creek. It is in two sections divided by Mitchell Parade. The section west of Mitchell Parade is bounded to the south by the Sandridge Cemetery and the section east of Mitchell Parade is bounded to the south by Ocean Street (see Figure 1).

Although they are not part of the Crown reserve, this plan acknowledges the significance of the surrounding streetscapes of Mitchell Parade and Ocean Street.

Notification of Reserve No. 52790 for public recreation appeared in the NSW Government Gazette on 10 May 1918 and was described as containing an area of 15 acres 1 rood 25 perches being the Crown lands within the boundaries of portion 61 (now approximated by lots 7001 and 7038 in DP 1061116). A small parcel of land (Portion 214, now known as lot 214 in DP 755967), in the southern part of the reserve near the surf club, was added by notification in the Gazette on 3 October 1975. Locations of these land parcels are shown in Figure 2.

The approximate areas of the lots are as follows:

Lot 7001 - 2.65 hectares

Lot 7038 - 8.26 hectares

Lot 214 - 0.05 hectares

By these dimensions, the total area is 10.96 hectares (about 27 acres). This is considerably more than the original reserved area, because lot 7038 includes a large part of the beach that was not part of portion 61.

A notice appointing the Council of the Shire of Shoalhaven as trustee of the reserve appeared in the Gazette on 31 December 1948 and a corporate name, Mollymook Beach (R52790) Reserve Trust, was assigned for the reserve trust on 17 June 1994 with Shoalhaven City Council as Trust Manager.

2.2 Description of the Park, Facilities and Existing Uses

2.2.1 Landform

Mollymook Beach Reserve consists of an area that slopes gradually downwards to the north and east from a high point of about 15m above mean sea level in its southwest corner near the Ocean Street – Mitchell Parade intersection. In the north the reserve grades down into Blackwater Creek. In the east there is a steep drop-off of about 4 metres from the reserve down onto Mollymook Beach itself. In the southern part of the reserve, this drop-off



Figure 1. Air photo taken in 2001 showing area covered by this Plan of Management, outlined thus: ■ ■ ■, and the streets dealt with in the associated Local Area Traffic Management Plan, indicated thus: — .

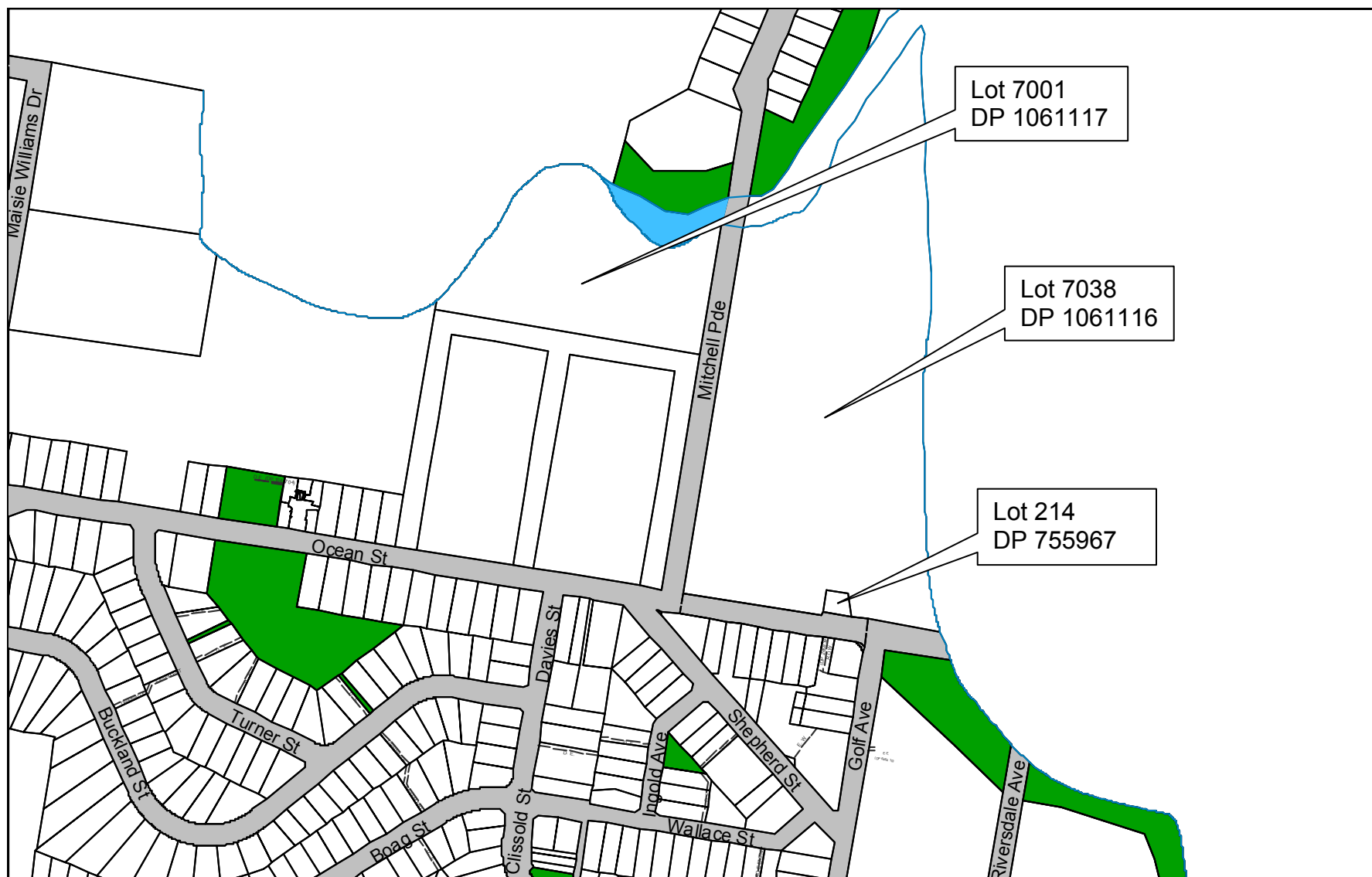


Figure 2. Three parcels of land included in Reserve 52790.

has been reshaped and protected by a rock and concrete seawall in front of the surf club. North of there, the dune has native vegetation cover.

2.2.2 Native vegetation

The part of the reserve to the west of Mitchell Parade is generally in a natural state. There are two distinct vegetation communities there: on higher ground is a tall Blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*) forest while on lower ground, nearer to the creek, is Swamp Oak (*Casuarina glauca*) forest. Both communities have dense and diverse understoreys and are in reasonably good condition, with apparently little ongoing disturbance and relatively few weeds.

Most of the reserve east of Mitchell parade has been cleared of native vegetation and replaced by some buildings and hard surfaces, but mostly grass. However there is some native vegetation on this part of the reserve:

- There are a number of tall mature Swamp Mahoganies *Eucalyptus robusta* near the surf club and on the beachfront.
- Some low-growing native vegetation is present along the frontal dune to the north of the surf club, including the following species:
 - Beach Spinifex (*Spinifex sericeus*)
 - Coastal Pigface (*Carpobrotus glaucescens*)
 - Spiny-Headed Mat Rush (*Lomandra longifolia*)
 - Knobby Club-rush (*Isolepis nodosa*)
 - Bladey grass (*Imperata cylindrica*)
 - Coastal Wattle (*Acacia longifolia* subsp. *sophorae*)
 - Coast Banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*)
 - Swamp Oak (*Casuarina glauca*).
- On the southern bank of Blackwater Creek there is native vegetation that appears to have been planted within the last twenty years. Species present include:
 - Bangalay (*Eucalyptus botryoides*)
 - Coastal Wattle (*Acacia longifolia* subsp. *sophorae*)
 - Coast Banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*)
 - Coastal Tea Tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*)
 - Lace Myrtle (*Melaleuca armillaris*)
 - Coast Rosemary (*Westringia fruiticosa*)
 - Spiny-Headed Mat Rush (*Lomandra longifolia*)
 - Sweer Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*)

2.2.3 Buildings and other structures

In the south-eastern part of the reserve, near Ocean Street there is a brick and tile building that was built in the 1970s and added to in the 1980s and

90s. It houses the Mollymook Surf Life Saving Club, the public toilets and showers, and two shops, both of which, at the time of writing, were occupied by one business, the Mollymook Beach Hut.

The Mollymook Surf Life Saving Club has a lease over the building (excluding the shops and public toilets) and a licence to use some areas around the clubhouse. The areas leased and licensed are shown in figure 3. The lease and licence are for the purpose of “club house, meeting/function rooms and any activities associated with the use by the Mollymook Surf Life Saving Club Incorporated or any other use approved by the Reserve Trust at all times subject to the relevant zoning and reserve’s gazetted purpose.” The club can hire out the function room at the northern end of the building on a casual or permanent basis. The Reserve Trust is responsible for structural repairs to the building and the surf life saving club is responsible for other maintenance and repairs, including maintenance of trees, plants and lawns around the building.

The proprietors of the Mollymook Beach Hut Café lease the shop area for the purpose of an eat-in and takeaway food outlet. They also have a licence over an area between the shops and Ocean Street for use as an outdoor eating area, and a further licence is under negotiation for the area to the west of the shop for car parking and waste storage. These areas are shown in figure 4.

The licenses to the surf life saving club and the shop proprietors over outdoor areas do not confer any right of exclusive use of the areas.

A large car parking area in the middle of the eastern section of the reserve runs parallel to the beach. It was significantly upgraded in 2001 with bitumen seal and concrete kerb and gutter. There is a less formal car parking area to the west of the shop, adjacent to Ocean Street.

There is a public amenities block attached to the north side of the surf club building. It has male and female showers and toilets, as well as a toilet for people with disabilities. Cold water showers are also located on the beach.

To the west of the shop near Ocean Street there is a set of children’s playground equipment that is in good condition.

There are a number of concrete paths and steps that lead to and from the surf club and shop. There are a number of formal and informal access ways to Mollymook Beach.

The domed top of an old concrete water tank is visible to the south east of the surf club. It was built in 1937 to store roof water from the original surf club. The tank’s capacity was 8000 gallons and it supplied water for the surf club and a small camping ground that was in the reserve. The tank was used up until the new clubhouse was built in the 1970s.

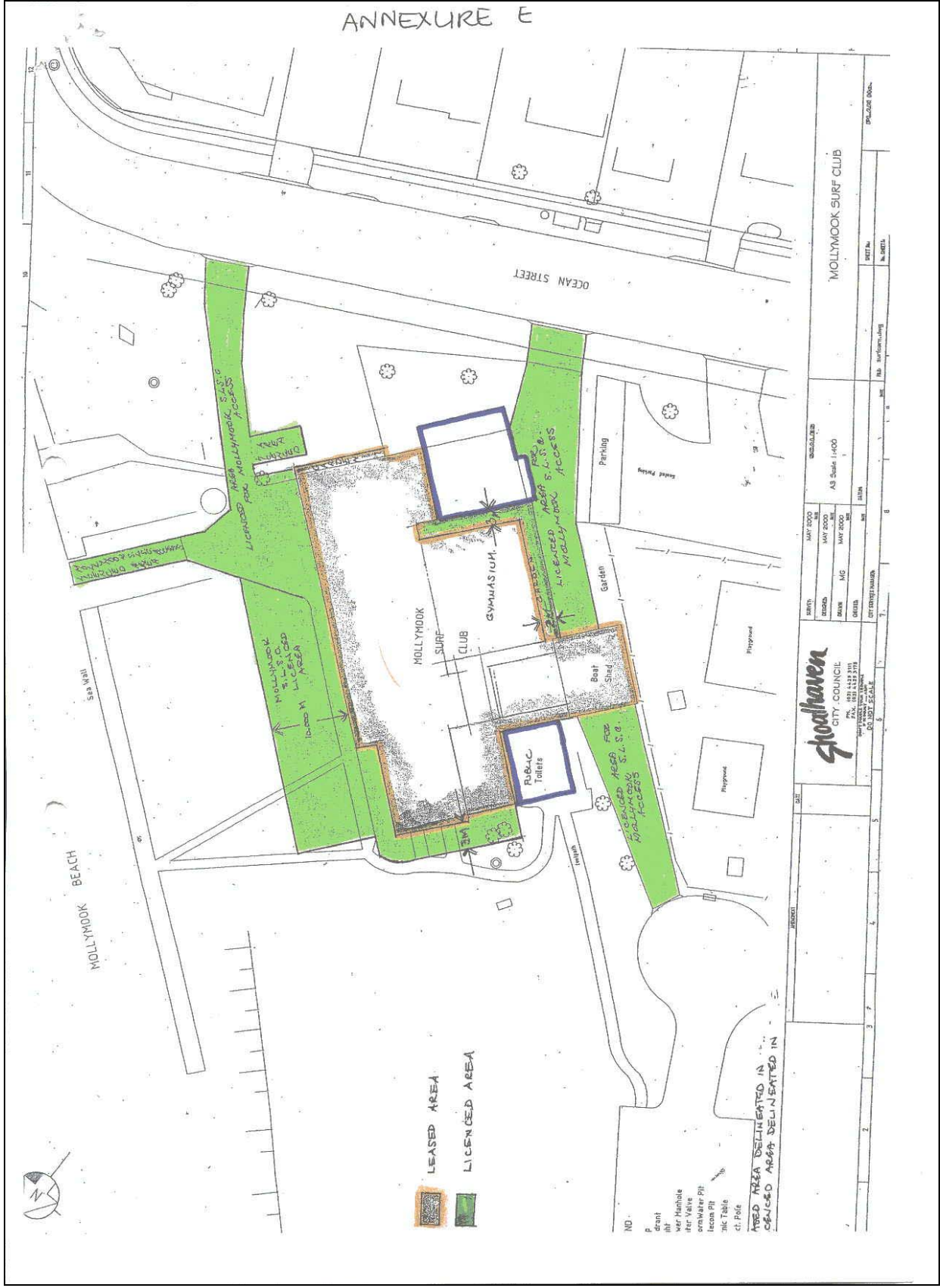


Figure 3. Areas under lease and licence to Mollymook Surf Life Saving Club.

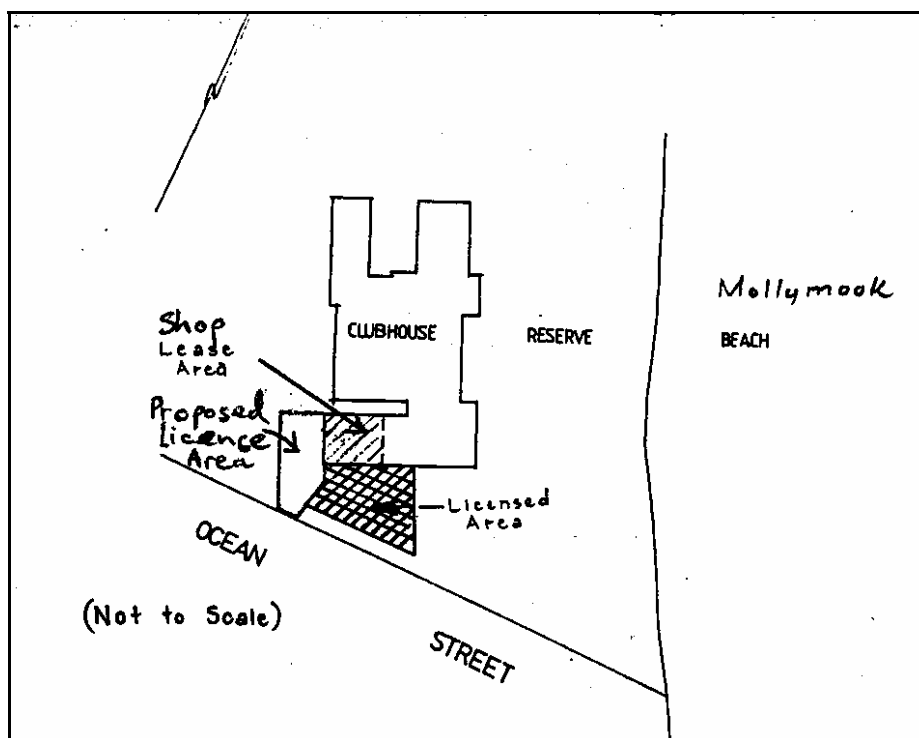


Figure 4. Areas under lease and licence to proprietors of Mollymook Beach Hut café.

2.2.4 Uses of the Reserve

The main uses of the reserve are:

- informal recreation,
- activities associated with the beach,
- community and private events, and
- some commercial activity.

Table 1 gives an indication of the most popular activities carried out in the reserve. Table 2 indicates how people get there.

About five times per year, the Lions Club of Ulladulla Milton holds a market in the reserve. On one of these occasions, on Australia Day, the market is combined with celebratory activities and official ceremonies.

Other community events that have been held in the park include surf carnivals (including State and National titles), fun runs and swims, concerts and fireworks displays.

A number of circuses have visited the reserve for short periods (2 to 4 days), usually in summer. Wedding ceremonies and receptions are also held there occasionally.

Table 1. Responses to community survey distributed in January 2004 showing how the reserve is used. Total number of responses 53 - see Appendix 2 for detailed results of the community survey.

Activity	Percent of survey respondents that do it	Average number of days per year per respondent spent doing it
walking	91%	126
appreciating view	85%	204
swimming/surfing	77%	83
relaxing	53%	77
parking car	49%	64
bird/nature watching	42%	156
picnicking/barbecue	42%	10
socialising	38%	49
other	26%	5
playing games	23%	20
cycling	21%	75
commercial activity (café, markets)	21%	52
jogging	9%	51

Table 2. Responses to community survey distributed in January 2004 showing how people get to the reserve. Total number of responses 53 – some people use more than one mode of transport - see Appendix 2 for detailed results of the community survey.

Mode of Transport	Number of Respondents
walk	38
car	26
bicycle	10
bus	0
taxi	0
scooter for disabled	1

3 Basis for Management

The “Basis for Management” is what underpins the way Council will manage the reserve in the future. The basis for management describes the stakeholders’ fundamental expectations and provides directions for making decisions. It is derived from community values and from legislative and policy requirements as described below, and it includes management objectives that aim to protect and enhance the reserve’s values.

3.1 Community Values – What’s Important About the Place

The ways in which the community values Mollymook Beach Reserve have been revealed through a community survey specific to the park and through Council’s broader Recreation Study. They are described in detail in Appendix 2. It is clear that Mollymook Beach Reserve is valued greatly by the community. The importance relates to recreational, social, natural, cultural, scenic and economic values.

The principal community values for the reserve are summarised in the following statements.

Mollymook is one of the most popular places on the south coast of New South Wales and Mollymook Beach Reserve is an extremely valuable public green space for the village, freely accessible for recreation, relaxation, enjoyment and exercise by all Shoalhaven residents and visitors.

The reserve provides spectacular, open views of the beautiful natural scenery, with blue sea and sky, the long crescent of golden sand, and the embracing headlands. Dolphins and whales are frequently seen from the reserve.

The natural assets of the reserve include tall trees that remain as a remnant of the former ecological communities that occupied the site, as well as regenerating creek bank and sand dune vegetation. The area to the west of Mitchell Parade is largely in a natural state with tall forest and swamp forest communities. These natural landscapes contribute to the visual character and "Australian-ness" of the area.

The open space of the reserve provides an important interface and buffer between the residential and commercial areas and the beach. It can be a peaceful and tranquil place to visit. It also provides for facilities associated with use of the beach such as the surf club and car parking.

Mollymook Beach Reserve is well used by local residents; however, the value of the reserve extends beyond its importance as a “local” park. It is a major tourist destination of the Shoalhaven and is of state significance as drawcard for holidaymakers.

3.2 Principles of Crown Land Management

The Crown Lands Act 1989 (see Appendix 1) requires that Crown land must be managed for the benefit of the people of New South Wales according to broad principles of:

- protecting the environment,
- conserving natural resources and
- encouraging multiple use, including sustainable public use and enjoyment.

3.3 Public Recreation is the Purpose for Which the Land is Reserved

The land is reserved under the Crown Lands Act for the purpose of public recreation and this must be a primary consideration that guides future management. Specifically,

- Use of the parks must be consistent with the public purpose for which the land is reserved (so, for example, a housing development would not be allowed)
- Improvements and developments are confined to those which support, or are ancillary to, public recreation
- The land must be open to the public generally as a right. The public may only be restricted from access to parts of the reserve and buildings thereon, if exclusion is necessary for the public's enjoyment of the reserve, eg a workshop, equipment storage or operational facilities
- Right of access does not mean entirely free access. Reasonable entry fees and charges may be imposed as well as other legal constraints to entry, such as those relating to health and safety.

3.4 Icon Parks Policy

Council has identified a small number of parks in strategic locations throughout the city that will be developed as high quality "Icon Parks." In recognition of the importance of Mollymook Beach Reserve to the local community, to visitors to the area and to the economy of the Ulladulla area and the State, Shoalhaven City Council has identified that Mollymook Beach Reserve should be developed as an Icon Park. The Icon Park shall have a unique design and unique characteristics, with a high level of landscaping, high-grade park appointments, playgrounds, public art, etc.

3.5 Ecologically Sustainable Development

Ecologically sustainable development (ESD) is one of the core duties of NSW Councils, with requirements in a number of Acts and policies (such as the NSW Coastal Policy) that link ESD to Council's activities. ESD aims to balance economic, environmental and social needs, thereby assisting in evaluation of competing requirements when making decisions. ESD can be achieved through the implementation of the following principles and programs:

- a. the precautionary principle – namely, that if there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation,
- b. inter-generational equity – namely, that the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations,
- c. conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity – namely that conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity should be a fundamental consideration,
- d. improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms – namely that the environmental factors should be included in the valuation of assets and services, such as:
 - (i) polluter pays – that is, those who generate pollution and waste should bear the cost of containment, avoidance or abatement,
 - (ii) the users of goods and services should pay prices based on the full cycle of costs of providing goods and services, including the use of natural resources and assets and the ultimate disposal of any waste,
 - (iii) environmental goals, having been established, should be pursued in the most cost effective way, by establishing incentive structures, including market mechanisms, that enable those best placed to maximize benefits and minimize costs to develop their own solutions and responses to environmental problems.

This plan addresses principles of ecologically sustainable development by:

- reducing the reliance on cars as transport;
- reusing materials;
- protecting soil, air and water from activities that have the potential to reduce their quality;
- conserving water;
- protecting native vegetation, both trees and shrub and grass understorey;
- providing connection between areas of native vegetation;
- encouraging community involvement, consultation and participation.

3.6 Management Objectives

To protect the identified values of the reserve and comply with legislative and policy requirements, Council will aim to meet the following management objectives.

- 1) To develop the eastern section of Mollymook Beach Reserve as an Icon Park, in order to enhance local residents' and visitors' recreational experiences in the reserve and to aid enjoyment of Mollymook Beach and its surroundings.
- 2) To provide for a range of recreational activities and ancillary uses of the reserve and to balance potentially competing uses.
- 3) To protect and enhance the visual character of the reserve, including the views of Mollymook Beach and the sea, by sensitive environmental design.
- 4) To integrate the reserve with surrounding streets.
- 5) To protect and enhance the natural values of the reserve and to incorporate principles of ecologically sustainable development into design and management solutions.
- 6) To minimise physical and health risks to users of the reserve.

4 Issues

Many issues that impact on the values of the reserve were identified during the preparation of this plan. This section of the plan discusses some of the main issues that need to be dealt with in order to achieve the objectives set out in the Basis for Management section of the plan (section 3). The ways that Council proposes to deal with the issues in this section are then set out in subsequent sections (5 and 6).

4.1 Lack of Shade

The lack of shade and lack of trees in the reserve were far and away the most frequently mentioned problems in the community survey carried out in January 2004.

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world - one out of two Australians will develop skin cancer. Exposure to ultraviolet radiation is a major contributory factor in the development of skin cancer. Ultraviolet radiation comes both from direct sunlight and "skylight" as it is scattered in the atmosphere. Ultraviolet radiation is also reflected from surrounding surfaces such as water, sand and concrete. High levels of radiation are received in wide-open areas, such as Mollymook Beach Reserve, even on a cloudy day.

In addition to the above health aspects, most people prefer to sit in the shade on hot days because it is more comfortable.

There is a small amount of shade in the reserve provided by the few trees there and this is treated as a prime location for picnicking (see Figure 5). This plan seeks to increase shade in appropriate parts of the reserve by construction of shelters and establishment of trees.



Figure 5. Shade is highly valued but is in short supply in Mollymook Beach Reserve.

4.2 Walks, Paths and Cycleways

Mollymook Beach Reserve is important for pedestrian and cycle links in the area. The reserve could act as a starting point, a stopping off point and/or a finishing point for walks and rides.

The Shoalhaven Bicycle Strategy 1997 and Shoalhaven Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP) 2002 identify a shared cycle-pedestrian path through Mollymook Beach Reserve from the Golf Avenue – Ocean Street corner through to the Mitchell Parade bridge over Blackwater Creek. The works proposed in this plan of management would complete that component. The proposed path would connect with the existing path in Golf Avenue. The Golf Avenue – Ocean Street corner (Figure 6) is identified in the Bicycle Strategy and PAMP as a focal point and under the current conditions the area can become quite congested. It is important that this area is treated to improve pedestrian movement and access. Details of a continuation of the path northwards from Blackwater Creek will be addressed as part of a review of the Bicycle Strategy and PAMP.



Figure 6. It is proposed to reclaim part of Golf Avenue and Ocean Street corner to improve pedestrian access.

Beach access is currently provided by a series of concrete paths and steps near the surf club and by grassy tracks to the north. Although they have served well, the paths and steps have been built over time to varying standards and are in varying condition. In the long term, it is proposed that the area in front of the surf club (Figure 7) be reshaped to an even grade with a series of steps down to the beach the full width of the existing retaining wall. It should be possible to provide access for people with disabilities on the path from the surf club to the beach at the northern end of this series of steps.



Figure 7. The area in front of the surf club slopes gently to the beach. The golf club in the background is not on the reserve.

The more northerly grassy tracks to the beach will be retained and improved, although it may be necessary to close a small number of lesser-used tracks to protect the dune and vegetation.

General circulation in the reserve, particularly to the north and west of the surf club, is often made difficult by uneven surfaces and impediments such as fences and garden beds across desire lines. This plan proposes a series of safe pathways along important circulation routes in the reserve.

Appropriate consideration will be given to the needs of people with disabilities when developing pathways.

4.3 Quality of Landscaping and Facilities

Visitors to the reserve will know that, in places, it shows signs of wear and tear. The community survey identified the following problems: quality of landscaping and turf, maintenance, bare areas, uneven ground and dead plants.

The compaction of the soil from years of vehicles driving over it, along with lack of irrigation and exposure to salt-laden sea breezes, which are particularly strong and persistent in summer, make the open parts of the reserve an extremely inhospitable environment for plants. Infiltration of water into the soil would be limited.

For water conservation reasons it will not be possible to install an irrigation system for the turf in the reserve, and the sea breezes will continue to blow. However it will be possible to improve the structure of the soil and evenness

of the surface through an initial treatment and scheduled maintenance and renovation.

In terms of facilities, survey respondents suggested that there were not enough tables, seats or undercover eating areas. Some facilities in the park such as paths, seats, tables and play equipment have progressively deteriorated and been removed when they have reached an unsafe condition. Some facilities are difficult to use for people with disabilities. There is no visual theme because the reserve has been developed over time without an overall landscape plan and without clear and consistent standards for colours and styles for signage and equipment.

A small number of survey respondents indicated that the toilets, change rooms and showers were inadequate. The public toilet block at Mollymook Beach Reserve is one of the largest in the whole of the City of Shoalhaven. It is acknowledged that, during peak periods there may be some delays for people wanting to use the facilities, but this is characteristic of most facilities throughout the City. With such large changes in the size of the population from quiet times to peak periods, Council seeks to provide the best level of service possible within financial constraints, but the cost of building all facilities to a size that would cope with peak demand (but remain largely unused for the major part of the year) would be excessive.

Nevertheless, as an Icon Park, Mollymook Beach Reserve will be developed with a unique design, a high standard of landscaping and high-grade park appointments. This plan introduces a consistent, overall approach to landscape themes and facilities in the reserve. It also raises the expected level of maintenance for the reserve east of Mitchell Parade from category 2 to category 1.

The area to the west of the surf club, in particular, is to be developed as a high quality park and playground, with views to the sea and integration with Ocean Street.

4.4 Visual Character, Views and Vistas

The visual character of the reserve is largely determined by the natural landscapes, including the landform and local native vegetation. It is primarily these features that distinguish Mollymook Beach Reserve from beachside areas in, say, Western Australia or the Mediterranean. Protection of this distinguishing visual character is one of the aims of this plan.

The views and vistas available from within the reserve, as well as into the reserve from outside, were identified in the community survey as being of great value. These include the views of the sky, sea, beach, trees and headlands.

The reserve itself forms an important component of the views for people from the beach, southern headland, golf club and from the surrounding streets.

There are important vistas to the beach and sea, eastward down Ocean Street and northward down Golf Avenue. Filtered views of the beach and sea are also available through the reserve from some adjacent houses and commercial buildings. Many of the vistas are enhanced by being viewed between the trunks and below the crown of mature trees (Figure 8).

This plan aims to protect and enhance views and vistas, by avenue planting, framing of views, retention of open areas and use of clean trunked trees. There may be a period when some views are affected as young trees grow, but once the trees reach a height where their crown is above the view line, their crowns and clean trunks will frame and enhance the views. New understorey plantings will be restricted to low growing plants and some of the existing understorey plantings will be removed for visibility and safety reasons.



Figure 8. The magnificent Swamp Mahoganies, *Eucalyptus robusta*, are a major visual feature of the reserve.

4.5 Health of Trees & Remnant Native Vegetation

Many of the trees in Mollymook Beach Reserve, including planted Norfolk Island Pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*) and remnant Swamp Mahoganies (*Eucalyptus robusta*) (Figure 9) show signs of stress. The environment in which the trees are growing is a naturally harsh one with strong, salt-laden winds. However, a number of other factors are contributing to the problem, including the removal of surrounding vegetation, water stress, root disturbance, sealed surfaces and soil compaction. Vehicles driving over the root systems of the Norfolk Island Pines when markets are held is likely to be having an adverse effect. Also, vehicles regularly drive over the roots of the Swamp Mahoganies in the informal car park at the southern end of the

reserve near the surf club. In 1996, Council adopted a plan of management for these Swamp Mahoganies in response to perceived potential risks.



Figure 9. Some trees remain on the beach front.

A further problem exists with some of the eucalypts in the garden beds in the southwest part of the reserve. They have been vandalised by cutting of their tops, presumably to improve somebody's view of the beach. Apart from being antisocial and illegal, this was a particularly short-sighted act. If they had been left alone the trees soon would have been tall enough to provide a clean trunked view through to the beach. Having now had their tops removed, the trees will form a much denser screen at view level for a longer time.

The health of trees in the reserve should be improved by the ameliorative measures proposed in this plan. This includes measures such as root protection, soil decompaction, and succession planting. To protect the stability of the foreshore there will also be enhancement of the remnant native vegetation on the dune.

The section of the reserve to the west of Mitchell Parade is largely in a natural state will be managed as a natural area. A small part of this land near the

Mitchell Parade bridge has been cleared in the past and used for stockpiling of road material, but the material has mostly been removed and bollards have now been placed so that vehicles no longer have access to it. Native vegetation there is regenerating slowly.

4.6 Tree Selection and Management

Selection of suitable trees to satisfy the community's desire for increased shade is a difficult task at Mollymook Beach Reserve. The trees would become valuable, long-term assets and could be expected to last up to 100 years. However, we must also protect and enhance the spectacular views, ensure that infrastructure is protected from damage, and select and manage trees so as to minimise risk to users of the reserve. The visual character of the reserve could dramatically change depending on the species chosen. The reserve is also a harsh environment in which to establish trees, with strong, salt laden winds and no irrigation. All of these factors limit the range of suitable tree species to a small number.

To achieve the above goals, trees will be managed appropriately. For example, spacings between individual trees would be large (generally greater than ten metres), and large treeless spaces would be preserved between groups of trees. A variety of species may be planted to provide variation in colour and form. Trees would be planted a suitable distance from infrastructure such as kerbing and guttering and, where necessary, root barriers would be installed. The trees would be intensively managed in their developmental years, with pruning of lower branches to produce a clean trunked form. Programmed maintenance of mature trees would include regular inspection and removal of dead wood that was considered hazardous.

The criteria that need to be considered when selecting suitable species for planting in the reserve include the following.

1. useful for shade
2. attractive
3. clean trunked (or able to be under pruned)
4. dense canopy
5. reliable growth habit
6. relatively non-invasive root system
7. not known for excessive infrastructure damage
8. not known for frequent dropping of large branches
9. not highly poisonous or allergenic
10. not likely to spread as a weed
11. preferably local native species
12. ecological values eg, food source for birds
13. wind and salt tolerant

The trees that are in the reserve now (see Figure 8) have not been intensively managed from planting to maturity and have had a "hard life," with a lot of root disturbance. It is expected that this species and others, if managed appropriately, would be very suitable, safe, shade trees. The information

below has been collated from a number of sources¹ and describes some species that may meet most of the above criteria. Most of these trees can be seen around the local area, such as on the headlands, creek lines and on the golf course.

Eucalyptus robusta Swamp Mahogany. A good, fast-growing shade tree for coastal situations. They are an important autumn food source for lorikeets and parrots, including some threatened birds. Their use in the reserve is encouraged for these reasons and also to help maintain the visual character of the reserve. Average height 15 metres.

Eucalyptus botryoides Bangalay. A useful tree for planting in areas exposed to salt winds. Crown is well developed and dense. Average height 20 metres.

Angophora floribunda Rough-barked Apple. Adaptable tree, useful for shade, shelter and ornament. Showy panicles of cream flowers prominently displayed in summer. Average height 18 metres.

Corymbia gummifera Red Bloodwood (formerly *Eucalyptus gummifera*). An ornamental tree that has masses of creamy blossom in late summer. Average height 12 metres.

Syncarpia glomulifera Turpentine. A handsome, upright tree. Attractive rough bark with dense dark green foliage. Dense creamy flowers in spring. Average height 25 metres.

Banksia integrifolia Coast banksia. A smaller tree with rough light grey bark and dark green leaves with a silvery grey reverse. Excellent for seaside conditions. More likely to obscure views. Average height less than 10 metres.

4.7 Special Events

The Mollymook Surf Life Saving Club holds regular events on the beach in front of the reserve and plays host in some years to either a State or National surf lifesaving championship. When these major events are on, large numbers of competitors and spectators use the reserve as a vantage point for watching events and as a place for resting between events. Tents are erected on the grass slope to the east of the main car park and the natural amphitheatre shape facilitates viewing of events. The grass area to the west of the main parking area is used as overflow parking. The main requirements for these events are open space, clear views of the beach and accessways to and from the beach. These will be improved with the implementation of this plan.

The Lions Club of Ulladulla Milton runs a market in the reserve five times each year. Four of these are held on the fifth Sunday of those four months of the

¹ "Australian Trees Their Care and Repair" by P. Haddlington and J Johnston. UNSW Press
"A Field Guide to Australian Trees" by Ivan Holliday. New Holland Publishers.

year that have five Sundays in them. The fifth market is held on Australia Day and is combined with official ceremonies and entertainment. In 2005 there will only be four markets since in that year January has five Sundays and it was decided to only have the Australia day market in that month. All money raised from stallholder fees is utilised in community projects or donated to charities.

The market occupies the grassy area to the west of the main car park, from the access road off Mitchell Parade northward to the bush beside the creek. The location of market stalls is tightly controlled by the Lions Club volunteers, with individual sites being clearly marked. There are four main rows of sites facing on to two main walkways. Generally, the stall sites are six metres deep and the walkways five metres wide. There are approximately 125 stallholders at the Sunday markets. This is reduced to about 90 for the Australia Day market because the southernmost area is taken up by the stage, tent etc. associated with the celebrations and citizenship ceremony. The area to the east of the car park is not used for market stalls due to the slope of the ground and because the car park would break the market into two halves. This area, though, is used on Australia Day for activities such as a wood chop and running races.

Although stallholders do not set up on the site until the day of the market, Lions Club volunteers carry out preparation such as site set out and marking on the preceding Friday and Saturday. Stallholders queue early on Saturday to get their vehicles and equipment onto the reserve through the single access gate. It may be possible to provide an alternative exit for them, directly onto Mitchell Parade near the Blackwater Creek bridge.

The main issues associated with the market are access, unevenness and hardness of the ground, vehicles and stalls causing soil compaction and damage to grass, and the lack of shade for stallholders and patrons.

There have been a number of private weddings held at Mollymook Reserve. Council's policy for wedding receptions on public parks is included in Appendix 1. It sets out the criteria that are used by Council when deciding whether or not to approve an application.

Several different circuses have used the reserve from time to time, most commonly in summer for 2, 3 or 4 days at a time. The main impacts are soil compaction, wear and tear on grass and other surfaces, and incompatibility with other uses. Because the circuses are there for a fairly short period of time there is no concern that grass will be killed by being covered for an extended period. It is proposed that the circuses can continue to be approved for short periods given that there are so few sites suitable for such activities in the area and the lack of immediate conflict with neighbours. Continuation is compatible with the proposed redesigned landscape and tree-planting plan. The large size of the reserve and the fact that the trees would be clumped with large spaces between means that the circus operators would be able to set up around them.

In the past, a number of other events have been held in or adjacent to the reserve. These include long distance runs (part of Ulladulla Summer Games) and swims that have started and finished in the reserve. There are no major issues that arise from these infrequent uses of the reserve, though they do require Council approval.

Many adults and children, both residents and holidaymakers, enjoy the special events in the reserve, although a few expressed the view that some events take up too much space and deny public access to the reserve.

Council considers that the current frequency and duration of special events in the reserve is reasonable.

Following discussions with the Lions Club, it is proposed to create a better environment for the market and other activities by planting some shade trees in the reserve. The trees would be planted on the corners of the spaces that are allocated to individual market stalls so as not to interfere greatly with their set up, but would be arranged so as not to appear too formal a planting.

As far as possible, upgrading works in the park will be timed so that interruption to special events will be minimised. Provided Council knows well in advance when events are proposed to be held, notice will be provided to event organisers of proposed works.

4.8 Stormwater and Litter

A large stormwater drain empties onto the beach below the intersection of Golf Avenue and Ocean Street. These pipes would likely have replaced an original, small, intermittently flowing creek that would have cut across the beach after sufficient rain, as water from the drain does now, (and as the larger Blackwater Creek does at the northern end of the reserve). When flowing, such small coastal waterways typically run along the back of beach in the swale behind the crest of the beach berm, until they reach a low point where they can flow to sea. The location of this low point varies depending on the distribution of sand by wind and waves, and so the waterway migrates up and down the beach from time to time. Because the waterway (or in this case drain) has a small catchment and intermittent flow, the connection to sea is soon closed by wind and waves piling up sand. At this location, when the drain is not connected to the sea, stormwater pools at the back of the beach and because the catchment is urbanised, water quality can be poor, carrying litter and sediment onto the beach. Under certain conditions the pool of water can stagnate and cause unpleasant odours.

Although there are no proposals in Council's Urban Stormwater Management Plan that would directly deal with this problem, there are indirect actions such as community education initiatives aimed at improving the quality of the stormwater. While it may be possible to install a litter-catching net on the end of the pipe (and this will be investigated) the problem with stagnant water would be extremely difficult to fix. Extending the pipe across the beach to the sea would solve the problem of the stagnant pool, but this would not be

acceptable from an aesthetic point of view and would cause problems for people walking along the beach.

Another specific litter problem exists in and around the reserve due to the proximity to the Mollymook Sandridge Cemetery, namely the spreading by wind of artificial flowers and other material from graves. These are blown into the bush to the north of the cemetery, across Mitchell Parade into the reserve and onto the beach, as well as accumulating in stormwater drains from where they are washed into Blackwater Creek and the sea. Many of the flowers and other objects are not biodegradable and can persist in the environment for a long time. This plan proposes measures to reduce the amount of litter leaving the cemetery. It might be feasible to modify the cemetery perimeter fence so that it catches windblown debris.

4.9 Vehicles and Car Parking

In addition to the market and circus vehicles, other vehicles, have in the past, entered the grassy areas of the reserve on an irregular basis, including Council and private maintenance and service vehicles, and vehicles associated with the market and the activities of the surf club. For large events such as National or State surf championships, some of the grassy parts of the reserve have been used for car parking. All these vehicles impact on the quality of the reserve. It is proposed that vehicles will only be allowed to enter the parks for essential maintenance and servicing of park facilities, or for the dropping off or picking up of equipment associated with occasional community events, or on rare occasions for overflow parking.

The car park in the middle of the reserve has recently been upgraded to meet the needs of people seeking to use the reserve for public recreation. No further work is proposed for that car park, except to provide shade trees and some utilities. It provides 96 spaces and that will not change as part of this proposal. There are also parking spaces available beside the access road from Mitchell Parade to that car park and they will not be affected either.

There is a rough car park in the southern part of the reserve, to the west of the café (near Ocean Street) and informal car parking on the grass in the southwest of the reserve near the Mitchell Parade – Ocean Street roundabout. The area available in these places provides for about 76 cars. The informal character of the area means that parking is not maximised. The area contributes sediment to the stormwater system, and vehicles cause damage to the existing trees, particularly their root systems. In this plan it is proposed that this parking be upgraded and formalised slightly further to the west to improve and maximise parking, improve drainage and protect the trees, and allow for better pedestrian and visual connection between the reserve, Ocean Street and the surf club. This new car parking area would be line-marked with approximately 90 spaces, which significantly increases what is available under the informal arrangement.

Car parking is also currently provided adjacent to the reserve in Ocean Street and Mitchell Parade. The Ocean Street parking is dealt with in the separate Local Area Traffic Management Plan which was developed in parallel with this

plan of management. There is potential to increase the number of spaces available on Ocean Street, particularly in the one-way anticlockwise option. As a longer term option, it may be possible to increase spaces available on Mitchell Parade by introducing 90 degree parking there.

Appropriate consideration will be given to the needs of people with disabilities when redeveloping car parking areas.

There are service roads to the shed behind the surf club and to the front of the surf club and these will be retained.

4.10 Introduced Plants and Animals

There are a number of introduced plants present on the frontal dune and along the creek line. These include:

Kikuyu Grass *Pennisetum clandestinum**
 Buffalo Grass *Stenotaphrum secundatum**
 Pennywort *Hydrocotyle bonariensis*
 Asparagus Fern *Protasparagus aethiopicus**
 Blackberry *Rubus fruticosus**
 Honeysuckle *Lonicera japonica**
 Marram Grass *Ammophila arenaria*
 Unidentified Daisy.
 Sea Rocket *Cakile* sp.
 Cassia *Senna* sp.*

Those plants marked with an asterisk (*) are serious environmental weeds that should be controlled at Mollymook Beach Reserve.

A rabbit warren is located in the Blackbutt forest to the west of Mitchell Parade.

4.11 Dogs

For many years, dogs have been totally prohibited in Mollymook Beach Reserve and on Mollymook Beach. A citywide review of dog-prohibited areas was being undertaken by Shoalhaven City Council at the time of writing this plan of management, but had not been completed. If, as part of that review, it is proposed to lift the prohibition at Mollymook and allow dogs to be taken into the reserve and onto the beach, then there is nothing in this plan of management that would prohibit it. Throughout the Shoalhaven, dogs are prohibited within 10 metres of any children's playing apparatus or food preparation/consumption areas in public places (except public thoroughfares).

4.12 Commercial Use Opportunities

From time to time, Council is approached by individuals or groups to allow commercial activities on land that it manages. The following discussion will help guide decisions, if, at some time in the future, such a request is made for Mollymook Beach Reserve.

Apart from the occasional markets, commercial facilities available to users of Mollymook Beach Reserve are limited to the café at the southern end of the reserve and the small number of outlets in Ocean Street.

Given the spectacular environment of the reserve provided by the views of the ocean, beach and headlands, opportunity exists to combine recreational activities with commercial uses that are consistent with the nature and character of the area, and that enhance public recreational use of the reserve. Such commercial enterprise may also be beneficial to the management of Mollymook Beach Reserve in that operators may be able to assist in the maintenance of portions of the site.

Any commercial facility must be consistent with the reservation of public recreation and provide a service to the users of the reserve. Potential commercial use opportunities may include food and beverage outlets or other outlets, such as rental or sale of beach equipment, etc.

The NSW Government's current Policy on Food and Beverage Outlets on Crown Reserves (see Appendix 1) sets out the types of such outlets that might be suitable for establishment on reserves. For example, on a public recreation reserve, a bistro that serves meals with beverage to be consumed on the premises may be acceptable. However, a licensed club or an outlet with a bar area that precludes the under 18 age group would not be acceptable under the policy.

Given that the area west of Mitchell Parade is largely a natural area, pursuit of commercial activities within that part of the reserve would not be acceptable if they involved building of structures or significant damage to native vegetation.

In the area east of Mitchell Parade, any proposed commercial uses that involve large or permanent structures should be restricted to the area immediately around the existing building (surf club and shop). This could help to activate that part of the reserve and help to integrate the reserve with Ocean Street, whilst the open areas of the reserve, used for passive recreation, would be preserved.

Any proposed new commercial use of Mollymook Beach Reserve would require approval of the Minister administering the Crown Lands Act and the relevant Council approvals and permits.

4.13 Coastal Hazards

Mollymook Beach is subject to a high-energy wave climate and, in some areas, the coastal processes may threaten foreshore assets and the recreational amenity of the beach. During the 1974-75 storms, the southern end of Mollymook Beach suffered damage due to erosion. A sandstone retaining wall was built in front of the surf club 1975 to prevent further erosion and protect the reserve and public assets. In the 1990s, more work was done further south, in front of the golf club.

Council has undertaken a preliminary coastal hazard assessment and recently commissioned the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation to prepare a citywide Coastline Risk Management Report that addresses identified hazard risks in finer detail. The following information is from a draft of that report.

The Mollymook Beach embayment is controlled by significant bedrock headlands. Bedrock outcrops in the surf zone at the centre of the beach, and the berm is intersected both towards the southern end of the beach by Blackwater Creek and towards the northern end of the beach by a small creek. The entrances of these creeks, generally, are closed by littoral drift.

The offshore bedslope is relatively flat, with the 20 m isobath located some 1,600 m offshore. The average foreshore slopes, however, are relatively steep. The slope of the foreshore around Clyde Street is around 1:30, with a dune crest level of around 5 m AHD.

Works undertaken to protect the facilities at the southern corner of the beach appear to be consistent with standard practice. The works do not appear to be adversely affecting the amenity of the beach and may be considered as an extension of the southern headland. Most risk appears to be north of Blackwater Creek and so Mollymook Beach Reserve is not greatly affected. The draft report recommends:

- i. Undertake a coastal hazard study for the whole beach compartment with a particular view to:
 - undertake a detailed geotechnical/coastal engineering stability analysis of the dune/bluff fronting Mollymook Beach under wave processes.
 - undertake a geotechnical stability assessment of the urban zoning on Bannisters Point.
- ii. Develop a comprehensive Coastal Management Plan in accordance with the Coastal Management Manual and SEPP71 Guidelines.

Until that study is completed, as a precaution any new infrastructure in the reserve, such as the cycleway, will be set back from the dunes. The dune vegetation will also be protected and reinforced to help protect the dune itself from erosion.

4.14 Native Title

The introduction of the Commonwealth Native Title legislation in 1993 recognised the existence of native title and made provision for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to lodge claims over Crown land. The legislation also sets out the requirements for the Crown and appointed Crown reserve trusts in dealing with Crown land in the future unless it can be clearly established that any native title rights and interests that may have existed have been extinguished.

Native title may have been extinguished over parts or the whole of this Crown reserve by the construction of authorised public works or by lawful use of the land that is wholly inconsistent with the continuation of native title rights and interests. It is the responsibility of the Trust to ensure that, prior to any works being undertaken in accordance with the Plan of Management, the issue of native title is addressed.

At the time of writing this plan, Reserve 52790 was not the subject of a Native Title Claim.

5 Permissible & Prohibited Park Uses

There are two principal pieces of legislation that determine what can and cannot be approved in the reserve. Some uses of the park require specific approval from Council either in the form of development consent under the Environmental Planning and Assessment (EP&A) Act 1979 and/or a lease, licence or temporary licence under the Crown Lands Act 1989. Use of the parks must be consistent with the public purpose for which the land is reserved under the Crown Lands Act, i.e., public recreation.

Under the EP&A Act, the permissible uses are primarily determined by the land use zoning specified in Council's Local Environmental Plan. Mollymook Beach Reserve is zoned 6 (a) (Open Space – Recreation). The following clauses from Council's Local Environmental Plan set out the objectives of the zone and what types of development could be considered for the reserve. This plan of management refines what types of developments Council may consider for the reserve.

Zone No. 6 (a) (Open Space – Recreation "A" (Existing) Zone)

1. Objectives of zone

The objectives are to identify land where existing recreation facilities for the general use of the community are provided.

2. Without development consent

Nil.

3. Only with development consent

Agriculture; buildings for the purposes of landscaping, gardening or bush fire hazard reduction; caravan parks; community facilities; drainage; drill grounds; forestry; racecourses; roads; showgrounds; sports grounds; uses or buildings associated with those purposes which are under the care, control and management of the council; utility installations (other than gas holders or generating works).

4. Prohibited

Any purpose other than a purpose for which development may be carried out only with development consent.

Notwithstanding the above provisions, under section 54C of the local environmental plan, development consent is not required for:

- (a) the erection or installation of bins, bus shelters, fencing, lighting (excluding of sportsgrounds), minor shelters, park and street furniture, seats or viewing platforms (not exceeding 25m² in area); or
- (b) the erection in public parks, recreation areas and reserves of barbeques, buildings or structures for the purpose of bridges, boardwalks or staircases, picnic tables or playground equipment; or
- (c) the erection or installation of goal posts, sight screens and similar ancillary sporting structures on sporting or playing facilities (excluding grandstands, dressing sheds and the like); or
- (d) the construction of pedestrian paths and cycleways; or
- (e) the erection or installation of signs (including name, directional, interpretive and regulatory warning signs in parks, foreshores and natural areas),

by or on behalf of the Council.

Further, under Clause 39C, Council can approve temporary uses, such as weddings:

39C Temporary use of land

- 1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this plan, the Council may grant consent to the temporary use of any land for any purpose (not being designated development or development prohibited by the provisions of any other environmental planning instrument applying to the land) for a maximum period of 28 days (whether or not the days are consecutive) in any one year.
- 2) In determining whether to grant consent as referred to in subclause (1), the Council shall take into consideration:
 - a) the protection of the environment and the amenity of the locality during and immediately after the carrying out of the proposed use;
 - b) whether appropriate arrangements will be made for the provision of utility services, vehicular and pedestrian access, parking and restoration of the site to the condition prevailing immediately before the carrying out of the proposed use; and
 - c) whether the period for the carrying out of the proposed use is reasonable in the circumstances or whether a lesser period would be more appropriate.

Temporary licences for specific, short term uses may be granted under section 108 of the Crown Lands Act 1989 and clause 32 of the Crown Lands Regulation 2000. Set out below are those purposes for which Council will consider applications for the granting of a temporary licence in Mollymook Beach Reserve. Any application will be considered in terms of its impacts on the reserve and on other recreational uses of the reserve and, if approved, will require rehabilitation of the reserve at the conclusion of the activity.

Purposes for which granting of a temporary licence may be considered:

- Advertising
- Catering
- Entertainments
- Exhibitions
- Filming
- Functions such as weddings
- Hiring of equipment
- Markets
- Meetings
- Sales
- Shows
- Sporting and organised recreational activities

Purposes for which a temporary licence will not be granted:

- Camping using a tent, caravan or otherwise
- Equestrian events
- Grazing
- Holiday accommodation
- Stabling of horses

It is proposed that the following must not be carried out on the reserve without lawful authority:

- Possession or consumption of alcohol from 8 pm to 8 am
- Driving a vehicle other than on designated car parks and access roads
- Clearing, digging up or cultivating the land
- Interfering with any substance, whether on or in, or forming part of, the parks,
- Wilfully or negligently removing, injuring, damaging or unnecessarily disturbing any plant, animal, rock, soil or structure
- Depositing or leaving on the land any rubbish, litter, refuse, dead animal or filth
- Lighting of fires
- Carrying or using firearms or other weapons
- Throwing any stone or other dangerous object

6 Development Concepts and Action Plan

This section of the plan sets out the way in which Council proposes to develop and manage the reserve in the future. Works have been devised to improve the reserve, to repair past damage and to prevent further degradation of the reserve. Design detail may take inspiration from the surrounding natural and marine environment, or from local history or events.

The Action Plan set out in the following tables includes detailed management strategies and associated actions by which the management objectives will be achieved.

To provide a visual indication of how the reserve will be developed, a Landscape Concept Plan (Figures 10 and 11) has been prepared for the eastern section of the reserve. The Action Plan and Landscape Concept Plan should be viewed in conjunction with one another.

The Landscape Concept Plan cannot at this stage show the final, precise detail of how the reserve will be developed, but forms the basis from which detailed planning can proceed. The precise locations of facilities such as pathways, barbecues and seats and the final appearance and design features of these and other structures will not necessarily be exactly as shown on the concept plan.

Council has identified redevelopment of the reserve as a project with high priority for funding. However, the redevelopment of the reserve will take place progressively over several years. It is expected that, following the adoption of this plan of management, detailed design and construction can commence in the second half of the 2004/2005 financial year. More detailed prioritisation and sequencing of actions will be carried out as part of the detailed planning for redevelopment of the reserve. Some items, such as the construction of concrete steps along the beachfront outside the surf club and the construction of 90 degree parking in Mitchell Parade will be long term redevelopment options that would be carried out when existing infrastructure is failing and in need of replacement.

<i>Objective 1. To develop the eastern section of Mollymook Beach Reserve as an Icon Park, in order to enhance local residents' and visitors' recreational experiences in the reserve and to aid enjoyment of Mollymook Beach and its surroundings.</i>	
<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Action</i>
1.1 Develop the area to the west of the surf club building as a high quality park and playground	1.1.1 Install a playground with contemporary and exciting equipment promoting play diversity for children of different ages and abilities, and incorporating activities for children with disabilities
	1.1.2 Include active, imaginative, social and sensory activities and items
	1.1.3 Provide a picnic and parent supervision area with shelters and seating with ocean views
	1.1.4 Install a toddler play area (possibly sandpit or swings) with perimeter fence if required
	1.1.5 Provide an interactive feature with community art, seating and interpretive information
	1.1.6 Include a feature wall that links all play areas, forms a boundary to safe fall zones, varies ground levels and becomes a focal play item
1.2 Create and maintain areas in Mollymook Beach Reserve with high quality grass cover	1.2.1 Decompact soil to assist water infiltration and otherwise treat soils as required
	1.2.2 Level uneven areas and re-establish bare patches
	1.2.3 Restrict activities in the repaired areas until grass is well-established
	1.2.4 Prohibit uses that would lead to unacceptable degradation of grass by shading, compaction, or overuse
1.3 Provide high quality and adequate park facilities and landscape elements	1.3.1 Develop thematic visual hierarchy of signs, including directional, locational, interpretive and entryway signs
	1.3.2 Develop a thematic palette of colours, shades and styles for park furniture that is consistently used throughout the reserve
1.4 Maintain the reserve to appropriate standards	1.4.1 In Council's Service Agreement for Open Space Maintenance, recategorise that part of the reserve to the east of Mitchell Parade as

<i>Objective 1. To develop the eastern section of Mollymook Beach Reserve as an Icon Park, in order to enhance local residents' and visitors' recreational experiences in the reserve and to aid enjoyment of Mollymook Beach and its surroundings.</i>	
<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Action</i>
	category 1 (Icon Park)
	1.4.2 In Council's Service Agreement for Open Space Maintenance, recategorise that part of the reserve to the west of Mitchell Parade as category 4

<i>Objective 2. To provide for a range of recreational activities and ancillary uses of the reserve and to balance potentially competing uses.</i>	
<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Action</i>
2.1 Provide cycle/pedestrian links for movement within the parks and to service movement to and from nearby centres of activity, including the business area, residential areas and the beach.	2.1.1 Construct a combine cycleway/footpath as a promenade through Mollymook Beach Reserve from the south east corner near Golf Avenue to the Mitchell Parade bridge over Blackwater Creek
	2.1.2 Construct safe paths linking car parking areas, main promenade, playground, surf club, toilets, beach and surrounding streets
	2.1.3 In front of the surf club, formalise pedestrian access with perimeter paths compliant to Australian Standards and in the longer term provide open access to the beach by removing the balustrade and adding concrete steps along the full width of the sea wall
	2.1.4 Simplify and rationalise garden beds and hardscapes to improve circulation
	2.1.5 Provide an entry structure at the northern entrance to the surf club hall
	2.1.6 Improve pedestrian movement and access at the Golf Avenue – Ocean Street corner
	2.1.7 Upgrade appropriate informal accessways to beach in northern part of reserve and, where necessary, restrict access
2.2 Provide areas and facilities for people to relax	2.2.1 Install seating, shelters and barbecues along promenade
	2.2.2 Refer to actions for high grade park and playground development under objective 1
2.3 Accommodate the holding of special events in the parks	2.3.1 Design landscaping so that markets, surf carnivals, etc can still be held in the reserve
	2.3.2 Ensure that restoration of the park is carried out promptly following special events and at the expense of the event organisers

<i>Objective 2. To provide for a range of recreational activities and ancillary uses of the reserve and to balance potentially competing uses.</i>	
<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Action</i>
	2.3.3 Consult with event organisers during detailed design stages of park development to ensure that, as far as possible, upgrading works do not adversely affect the holding of special events in the reserve
	2.3.4 Provide some lighting and power outlet near the main car park
	2.3.5 Review contents of Temporary Licence Agreements to ensure they are consistent with objectives of this plan
2.4 Minimise impacts on the parks from recreational activities by improving management and land use practices	2.4.1 Ensure that rehabilitation requirements of temporary licences are strictly enforced
	2.4.2 When necessary, ameliorate impacts of vehicles on reserves by, for example periodic aeration of soil turf areas
2.5 Provide at least as much car parking space as is now present in the reserve, for users of the reserve, in addition to parking in the streets	2.5.1 Retain the main car park in the middle of the reserve that was upgraded in 2001, and areas along its access road
	2.5.2 Upgrade and consolidate car parking spaces currently along southern part of the reserve near Ocean Street into a new formal parking area in southwest corner
	2.5.3 In the longer term, investigate 90 degree parking along Mitchell Parade
	2.5.4 Provide car parking in Ocean Street as per Local Area Traffic Management Plan
2.6 Provide for appropriate movement of vehicles in the reserve and minimise impacts of motor vehicles on the recreational values of the parks	2.6.1 Restrict vehicle access in the reserves (apart from designated car parking areas) to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. those purposes essential for the maintenance and servicing of the parks and public facilities therein, and b. in other cases, for the loading and unloading of goods and

<i>Objective 2. To provide for a range of recreational activities and ancillary uses of the reserve and to balance potentially competing uses.</i>	
<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Action</i>
	equipment and overflow parking associated with special events held in the reserves
	2.6.2 Retain south and north driveways to shed for essential surf club operations, with bollards and signs restricting general access
	2.6.3 Investigate provision of a locked slip rail and layback in the Mitchell Parade kerb near the Blackwater Creek bridge
	2.6.4 Protect root runs of trees from vehicles by construction of mulched areas/garden beds
2.7 Accommodate continued operation of the surf club and shop	2.7.1 Consider renewal of existing leases and licences when required
	2.7.2 Finalise licensing of car parking and waste storage area with lessees of shop
2.8 Allow for the establishment of commercial uses at Mollymook Beach Reserve that are compatible with recreational user needs and increase user enjoyment of the reserve	2.8.1 Ensure that any potential outlet meets the requirements of the Crown reserve Food and Beverage policy and the relevant Council and NSW Government approvals and permits
	2.8.2 Do not approve commercial activities within that part of the reserve west of Mitchell Parade if they involve building of structures or significant damage to native vegetation
	2.8.3 In the area east of Mitchell Parade, restrict any proposed commercial uses that involve large or permanent structures to the area immediately around the existing building (surf club and shop)
	2.8.4 Encourage any future commercial user to take on reserve management responsibilities in the vicinity of their premise. Responsibilities could include general maintenance, funding for festival activities and contribution towards the establishment of recreation

<i>Objective 2. To provide for a range of recreational activities and ancillary uses of the reserve and to balance potentially competing uses.</i>	
<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Action</i>
	facilities in return for operating at Mollymook Beach Reserve

<i>Objective 3. To protect and enhance the visual character of the reserve, including the views of Mollymook Beach and the sea, by sensitive environmental design.</i>	
<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Action</i>
3.1 Protect and enhance the distinguishing visual character of the reserve	3.1.1 Use local native trees, shrubs and grasses in the landscaped areas
	3.1.2 Retain “amphitheatre” landform overlooking beach
3.2 Protect and enhance views and vistas	3.2.1 Ensure that avenue plantings and structures in reserve help to frame views
	3.2.2 When planting trees, use species that have clean trunks and tall crowns
	3.2.3 Where necessary use low-growing understorey plantings and remove some of the existing understorey plantings for visibility and safety reasons
	3.2.4 Educate park users and neighbours about the fact that there may be a period when some views are affected as young trees grow upward through the view line, but once the trees reach a height where their crown is above the view line then their crowns and clean trunks will frame and enhance the views
	3.2.5 Provide seating and viewing areas that take advantage of the views

<i>Objective 4. To integrate the reserve with surrounding streets</i>	
<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Action</i>
4.1 Extend consistent landscape designs from reserve into surrounding streets	4.1.1 Augment avenue plantings Ocean Street and Mitchell Parade
	4.1.2 Enhance Ocean Street with furniture and thematic paving
4.2 Reduce traffic volumes and speed in Ocean Street	4.2.1 Make recommendations to the Local Area Traffic Management Plan for Ocean Street – Golf Avenue – Shepherd Street
4.3 Improve functioning of pedestrian area at Ocean Street – Golf Avenue corner	4.3.1 Reclaim a portion of Ocean Street and Golf Avenue for pedestrian circulation

<i>Objective 5. To protect and enhance the natural values of the reserve and to incorporate principles of ecologically sustainable development into design and management solutions.</i>	
<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Action</i>
5.1 Protect and enhance trees and remnant native vegetation in Mollymook Beach Reserve	5.1.1 Remove weeds from the steep bank on the dune face and replant with low-growing local native vegetation
	5.1.2 Encourage a bushcare group to assist with implementing appropriate plan actions
	5.1.3 Ensure promenade is set back from dune
	5.1.4 Decompact soil where necessary in root zone of park trees to assist water infiltration, using techniques that minimise damage to roots
	5.1.5 Manage the section of the reserve west of Mitchell Parade as natural area
	5.1.6 Protect a buffer of appropriate local vegetation adjacent to Blackwater Creek
	5.1.7 Monitor natural regeneration of native vegetation on the small cleared area west of Mitchell Parade near the bridge, and if considered necessary, enhance regeneration by appropriate means
	5.1.8 Provide for succession of native trees in the reserve by replanting with local native species
	5.1.9 Educate park users and neighbours that, in the main, clean trunked trees will be used east of Mitchell Parade
5.2 Control pest animals	5.2.1 Destroy rabbit warren in Blackbutt forest west of Mitchell Parade
5.3 Provide visitors to the reserve with opportunities to understand the nature of the place	5.3.1 Include interpretive information at appropriate points along promenade and in town park area
	5.3.2 Introduce bush foods into northern part of reserve and species information in conjunction with local community groups
5.4 Minimise wastage of resources	5.4.1 Install spring loaded taps on all showers, taps and hand basins

<i>Objective 5. To protect and enhance the natural values of the reserve and to incorporate principles of ecologically sustainable development into design and management solutions.</i>	
<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Action</i>
	5.4.2 Reuse existing play equipment in Mollymook Beach Reserve if suitable or relocate it to another park in the City as required
5.5 Improve quality of stormwater and reduce litter in the reserve	5.5.1 Investigate installation of litter catching bag on stormwater pipe outlet below Ocean Street – Golf Avenue corner
	5.5.2 Undertake education programs for stormwater improvement and litter reduction, as per Council’s Urban Stormwater Management Plan and Solid Waste Strategy
	5.5.3 Investigate modification of cemetery perimeter fence so that it catches windblown debris

<i>Objective 6. To minimise physical and health risks to users of the reserve</i> <i>Strategy</i>	<i>Action</i>
6.1 Reduce antisocial behaviour in the reserve and provide a safe environment	6.1.1 Introduce a night time ban on alcohol possession or consumption in the reserve (8pm to 8am)
	6.1.2 Work with the Ulladulla Police to anticipate and control antisocial behaviour at particular times such as New Years Eve
	6.1.3 Install lighting near the toilets and at other appropriate locations
6.2 Increase shade in appropriate parts of the reserve.	6.2.1 Construct shelters
	6.2.2 Establish shade trees
6.3 Ensure risks associated with trees are minimised	6.3.1 Implement Whole of Life approach for existing and newly planted trees as described in Council's Tree Management Policy
6.4 Ensure risks associated with children's playground areas are minimised	6.4.1 Construct/install playground equipment that complies with Australian Standards
	6.4.2 Include loose material, for example sand and/or mulch, as safe-fall
6.5 Ensure that facilities in the parks cater for different users, including people with disabilities	6.5.1 In the detailed design stages for this plan, ensure that the design principles included in section 7 of the Shoalhaven Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP) and the specific recommended improvements and actions from section 8 of the plan are considered
	6.5.2 Ensure that design of park facilities takes into account the provisions of the Shoalhaven Disability Action Plan
	6.5.3 Investigate provision of an accessway for people with disabilities on the path from the surf club to the beach at the northern end of the sea wall
	6.5.4 Provide parking spaces for people with disabilities, as per council's car parking code, including near to surf club
	6.5.5 Investigate appropriate location and seek funding for beach matting that would allow access to surf for people in wheelchairs

<i>Objective 6. To minimise physical and health risks to users of the reserve</i>	
<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Action</i>
6.6 Reduce risks associated with coastal hazards	6.6.1 Ensure location and design of structures take into account the recommendations of the proposed Mollymook Beach coastal hazard study when it has been done (expected 2005)
	6.6.2 Until the coastal hazard study has been completed, be conservative in placement of facilities near dune
	6.6.3 Protect and reinforce dune vegetation to help protect the dune itself from erosion

7 Appendices

7.1 Appendix 1 - Legislative & Policy Framework

The management of public land requires compliance with existing government legislation and policy. The main aspects of current legislation and policy affecting the management of Mollymook Beach Reserve are outlined below.

The Crown Lands Act 1989 and the Coastal Crown Lands Policy are most significant. Both of these documents stress the conservation of natural resources and their management in an ecologically sustainable manner, while at the same time, providing appropriate opportunities for public use.

7.1.1 Crown Land, the Reserve System and Trust Management

The Crown Lands Act 1989 governs the planning, management and use of Crown land, including provisions to reserve or dedicate lands for a prescribed public purpose and for leasing and licensing. The collection of Crown land which has been set aside for a public purpose is called the Crown reserve system.

The Department of Lands, together with reserve trusts appointed by the Minister, is responsible for the administration and management of the Crown reserve system. The Minister appointed the Mollymook Beach (R52790) Reserve Trust, the affairs of which are managed by Shoalhaven City Council, to manage this reserve.

How Can Crown Land Be Used?

Uses and activities on land reserved for public purposes are broadly defined by the public purpose of the reservation, in conjunction with any conditions and provisions within the specific zoning in council's local environmental plan.

In addition, case law judgements influence the policy and practice of the Department of Lands and the Trust Manager. The body of case law which helps define acceptable uses and activities on public recreation reserves provides the following guidance:

- Improvements and developments to land which is reserved or dedicated are confined to those which support, or are ancillary to, the public purpose of the reservation;
- Land reserved or dedicated for public recreation must be open to the public generally as a right. The public may only be restricted from access to parts of the reserve and buildings thereon, if it is necessary for the public's enjoyment of the reserve to be excluded, eg a workshop, equipment storage or operational facilities;
- Right of access does not mean entirely free access. Reasonable entry fees and charges may be imposed as well as other legal constraints to entry, such as those relating to health and safety;

- Use of the reserve must be consistent with the public purposes for which the land is dedicated or reserved.
- A lease or licence must be consistent with the reason or purpose of the land's reservation or dedication.

7.1.2 *Crown Lands Act 1989*

Section 10 Objects of Act

The objects of this Act are to ensure that Crown land is managed for the benefit of the people of New South Wales and in particular to provide for:

- (a) a proper assessment of Crown land,
- (b) the management of Crown land having regard to the principles of Crown land management contained in this Act,
- (c) the proper development and conservation of Crown land having regard to those principles,
- (d) the regulation of the conditions under which Crown land is permitted to be occupied, used, sold, leased, licensed or otherwise dealt with,
- (e) the reservation or dedication of Crown land for public purposes and the management and use of the reserved or dedicated land, and
- (f) the collection, recording and dissemination of information in relation to Crown land.

Section 11 Crown Land Management Principles

The principles are those referred to in (b) and (c) above:

- (a) that environmental protection principles be observed in relation to the management and administration of Crown land,
- (b) that the natural resources of Crown land (including water, soil, flora, fauna and scenic quality) be conserved wherever possible,
- (c) that public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown land be encouraged,
- (d) that, where appropriate, multiple use of Crown land be encouraged,
- (e) that, where appropriate, Crown land should be used and managed in such a way that both the land and its resources are sustained in perpetuity, and
- (f) that Crown land be occupied, used, sold, leased, licensed or otherwise dealt with in the best interests of the State consistent with the above principles.

Section 112 Preparation of draft plan of management

- (1) The Minister may cause a draft plan of management to be prepared for a reserve.
- (2) A reserve trust may with the Minister's consent, and if the Minister so directs shall, prepare a draft plan of management for the reserve.
- (3) If the Minister directs a reserve trust to prepare a draft plan of management, the reserve trust shall:

- (a) prepare it within the time directed by the Minister, and
 - (b) forward a copy of it to the Minister.
- (4) A draft plan of management prepared by a reserve trust shall include provision for such matters as the Minister requires.

Section 113 Referral of draft plans

- (1) If a draft plan of management for a reserve is prepared, the Minister:
- (a) shall refer a copy of it to the reserve trust for consideration (unless it was prepared by the reserve trust),
 - (b) may refer a copy of it to any other person for consideration, and
 - (c) shall place a copy of it on public display for not less than 28 days or shall direct the reserve trust to place a copy of it on public display for not less than 28 days.
- (2) Any person may make representations concerning the draft plan to the Minister within the time allowed by the Minister.
- (3) The Minister shall consider any such representations before adopting the draft plan.

Section 114 Adoption of plan

- (1) The Minister may adopt a plan of management for a reserve without alteration or with such alterations as the Minister thinks fit.
- (2) If a plan of management is adopted:
- (a) the reserve trust shall carry out and give effect to it, and
 - (b) no operations may be undertaken on or in relation to the reserve unless they are in accordance with the plan.

7.1.3 *Crown Lands Regulation 2000*

Clause 35 Notification and public comment on draft plans of management

- (1) This clause applies to a plan of management under Division 6 of Part 5 of the Act that is required (before its adoption by the Minister) to be placed on public display.
- (2) The Minister is required to cause notice of a plan of management to be published in:
- (a) the Gazette, and
 - (b) a newspaper circulating in the locality in which the land concerned is situated or in a newspaper circulating generally in the State.
- (3) Any such notice must:
- (a) invite representations from the public concerning the plan, and
 - (b) specify the place and time at which the plan may be inspected by the public, and
 - (c) specify the period (being not less than 28 days) within which any representations may be made and the person to whom they are to be sent.

7.1.4 Coastal Crown Lands Policy

This policy was issued in January 1991 and applies to all coastal Crown lands within one kilometre landward and three nautical miles seaward from low water mark. The objectives of the policy are to -

- Conserve and maintain the intrinsic environmental and cultural qualities of coastal Crown land.
- Retain all coastal Crown lands of an environmentally sensitive nature and/or required for a public purpose, in public ownership.
- Optimise public access and use of coastal Crown lands.
- Provide Crown lands, as appropriate, for recreation, tourism, residential and commercial coastal development with due regard to the nature and consequences of coastal processes.
- Encourage the rehabilitation of degraded coastal Crown lands.
- Continue to acquire significant coastal lands for future public use.

7.1.5 NSW Coastal Policy 1997

The overriding vision of the 1997 Coastal Policy is the ecological sustainability of the NSW coast. The natural environment of the coastal zone must be protected, rehabilitated, and improved whilst providing for ecologically sustainable development and use of resources, including appropriate public access and use. Council must take the Coastal Policy into account when considering development applications in the Coastal Zone (see also State Environmental Planning Policy No. 71 - Coastal Protection, below)

7.1.6 NSW Coastline Hazard Policy 1990

The primary objective of this policy is to reduce the impact of coastal hazards and to reduce losses resulting from natural coastal forces through the application of effective planning and development controls by local councils, and by undertaking timely and effective mitigating works and other measures.

7.1.7 NSW Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979

The EP&A Act has the following objectives:

- to encourage the proper management, development and conservation of natural resources for the purpose of promoting the social and economic welfare of the community and a better environment
- the protection of the environment, including the protection and conservation of native animals and plants, including threatened species, populations and ecological communities and their habitats.

7.1.7.1 Environmental assessment

Environment assessment must be carried out for any proposed development or activity. Those uses of the reserve that require development consent are subject to environmental assessment under Part 4 of the EP&A Act. Environmental assessment under Part 5 of the EP&A Act must also be carried for proposed activities that do not require development consent.

7.1.7.2 Local Environmental Plan

Any land use proposed for an area must be consistent with the zoning that is applied to the land by Council's Local Environment Plan prepared under Part 3 of the EP&A Act. Mollymook Beach Reserve is zoned 6 (a) (Open Space – Recreation).

7.1.7.3 State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) No. 71 - Coastal Protection

The Policy has been made under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to ensure that development in the NSW coastal zone is appropriate and suitably located, to ensure that there is a consistent and strategic approach to coastal planning and management and to ensure there is a clear development assessment framework for the coastal zone. Because much of Mollymook Beach Reserve is within 100 metres of the sea, it is defined in the SEPP as a sensitive coastal location. Therefore, development applications must be sent to the Director-General of Planning who will consider whether council or the Minister for Planning is to determine the application and whether any matters additional to those set out in the SEPP must be taken into account.

7.1.8 *The Local Government Act, 1993*

The purposes of this Act are as follows:

- (a) to provide the legal framework for an effective, efficient, environmentally responsible and open system of local government in New South Wales,
- (b) to regulate the relationships between the people and bodies comprising the system of local government in New South Wales,
- (c) to encourage and assist the effective participation of local communities in the affairs of local government,
- (d) to give councils:
 - the ability to provide goods, services and facilities, and to carry out activities, appropriate to the current and future needs of local communities and of the wider public
 - the responsibility for administering some regulatory systems under this Act
 - a role in the management, improvement and development of the resources of their areas,

(e) to require councils, councillors and council employees to have regard to the principles of ecologically sustainable development in carrying out their responsibilities.

The Local Government Act 1993 includes a range of requirements on the management and use of public land.

The Local Government Act 1993 also considers acts of vandalism in public places (eg. injuring plants and animals or defacing property) and gives Councils the power to establish and enforce alcohol free zones.

7.1.9 Rural Fires Act 1997

Section 63(1) states:

“It is the duty of a Public Authority to take the notified steps (if any) and any other practicable steps to prevent the occurrence of bush fires on, and to minimise the spread of a bush fire on or from:

- (a) any land vested in or under its control or management, or
- (b) any highway, road, street, land or thoroughfare, the maintenance of which is charged to the authority.”

One of the objects of the Rural Fire Act is to provide “for the protection of the environment by requiring certain activities to be carried out having regard to the priorities of ecologically sustainable development described in Section 6(2) of the Protect of Environment Administration Act 1991”

7.1.10 Native Vegetation Conservation Act, 1997

The Act relates to the conservation and sustainable management of native vegetation and the clearing of land.

The Act contains provisions relating to State Protected Lands, which were formerly contained in the Soil Conservation Act. These provisions serve to protect trees and shrubs on lands that have been mapped as steeply sloping (over 18°), within 20 metres of specified watercourses, or are environmentally sensitive.

7.1.11 Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act, 1948

This Act makes provisions for the protection and improvement of protected waters (ie, watercourses as defined in the Act) and the associated beds, banks, shores and land within 40 metres of these waters. Any excavation or filling works in or within 40 metres of protected waters may require a Part 3A permit under the Act. Advice should be sought from the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources.

7.1.12 Fisheries Management Act, 1948

This Act aims to conserve fish stocks and aquatic habitats as well as to protect and conserve threatened species, populations or ecological communities and marine vegetation. The Act also aims to promote ecologically sustainable development. It is an important tool affecting and guiding the management of foreshore zones.

7.1.13 Shoalhaven City Council Recreation Strategy (1999)

Council adopted a Recreation Strategy in late 1999 which aims to

“Improve the quality of life in the Shoalhaven by creating a diversity of recreation opportunities whilst protecting and enhancing the natural and built environment”

The Recreation Strategy identifies a range of actions to meet this goal, based on the following:

The provision of recreation facilities, programs and services is to:

- be based upon an assessment of current and future needs
- be realistic in terms of Council’s (and the community’s) ability to operate and maintain them
- ensure the achievement of equity of opportunity for all individuals and groups within the city, regardless of age, ability, ethnicity or economic capacity
- avoid unnecessary duplication of opportunities
- be based upon efficiency, quality and continuous improvement principles and approaches
- be based upon meaningful community consultation
- incorporate resource sustainability practices and principles
- incorporate best practice risk management processes to reduce public risk
- include the encouragement and support of community and commercial initiatives in the provision and management of recreation opportunities

7.1.14 Shoalhaven Bicycle Strategy (1997)

The Shoalhaven Bicycle Strategy currently recommends the construction of the main “spine” bicycle routes in a range of urban areas. Good progress has been made toward completion of the majority of the priority projects identified in the strategy and a review is underway to identify potential future works.

7.1.15 Shoalhaven Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan Stage 1 (2001)

The Shoalhaven Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan is designed to improve the pedestrian environment and encourage more walking. It looked at pedestrian needs in three major urban areas. The design principles included in section 7 of the plan and the specific recommended improvements and actions from section 8 of the plan have been taken into consideration in preparing this Mollymook Beach Reserve Plan of Management, and will be further considered at the detailed design stage.

7.1.16 Food and Beverage Outlets on Crown Reserves, 2001

This policy provides guidance for assessing food and beverage outlets that may be acceptable and those that may not be acceptable on Crown reserves. In determining whether a proposal is appropriate the following criteria should be applied:

- The facility should enhance the public use of the reserve and not become the main focus of the reserve;
- The integrity of the reserve in terms of its public purpose and environmental qualities should be preserved; and
- The public's right of access to the reserve should be preserved.

The current Policy groups food and beverage outlets into 5 categories (see below) that are to be applied to the reserves as follows:

- Categories i to iii may apply to all public purposes where food and beverage outlets are an acceptable use.
- Categories iv and v may apply to public purposes where food and beverage outlets are an acceptable use other than: Arboretum; Public Park; Public Recreation; Public Recreation and Coastal Environmental Protection; Public Recreation, Conservation and Mineral and Petroleum Exploration.

Categories of Food and Beverage Outlets that may be acceptable on Crown Reserves:

- i. Kiosks that provide snacks, packaged and prepared light foods with non-alcoholic beverages to take away are an acceptable use on public purpose reserves, where they are ancillary and supportive of the use of the reserve.
- ii. Refreshment rooms, cafes and coffee shops which serve snacks, light meals and beverages to take away or to be consumed on the premises are acceptable uses on public purpose reserves, where they are ancillary and supportive of the use of the reserve.
- iii. A bistro, brasserie or restaurant that serves light to substantial meals with beverage to be consumed on the premise, is an acceptable

use on public purpose reserves where they are ancillary and supportive of the use of the reserve.

Categories of Food and Beverage Outlets that may not be acceptable on Crown Reserves:

- iv. Major fast food operations that essentially service a passing trade rather than reserve users and cannot be regarded as ancillary to the reserve; and
- v. Restaurants that serve only substantial meals; contain a bar area that precludes the under 18 age group; or essentially service a passing trade rather than reserve users and cannot be regarded as ancillary to the reserve.

7.1.17 Wedding Receptions On Public Parks

Adopted 22/07/03 – Minute 03.964 – File 03/6320

Council's policy for wedding receptions on parks is as follows:

- a) Sufficient notice be provided to allow for the processing of a development application that includes adequate consultation with neighbouring residents.
- b) Development Applications will not be supported for popular locations – especially during peak visitation – where a conflict between casual users and a wedding is possible.
- c) Development Applications will not be supported for locations that are substantially overlooked by residences or for those locations where a large marquee would be overly dominating of view lines.
- d) Although exclusive use of a specific area might be approved, no fencing or other structural barriers shall be permitted.
- e) A specific fee for events requiring development consent shall be established. It is proposed that such fee be \$220, plus GST, per day.
- f) The fee shall apply for each day the reserve is required for setting up and dismantling of structures.
- g) A bond of \$1,000 shall be required to protect Council from damage to the reserve or necessary clean up following the event.

7.2 Appendix 2 – Consultation

Adequate consultation is essential when developing a Plan of Management, so that community values and issues can be identified. Community values are the attributes that make something, for example a park, important to the community as a whole. Values tend to change little over time and to be broad in nature. Issues, or problems, are those things that need to be dealt with in order to protect values.

The values used to develop the Basis for Management for Mollymook Beach Reserve came from two main sources:

- those specific to the reserve identified in the community survey for the parks carried out in January 2004 (see survey questions and results on following pages)
- those more broad values for parks in the Shoalhaven that were identified in 1996, when Council undertook a Recreation Study to identify community values, needs, expectations and levels of satisfaction with respect to recreation facilities and services in the Shoalhaven.

7.2.1 Recreation Study

The results of the Recreation Study formed the basis of the Shoalhaven Recreation Strategy (1999). The community values for Parks reflected in the Recreation Strategy that have been used as a basis for management in this plan are set out below.

Social Values

For hundreds of years, parks have been incorporated in the design of residential and urban settlements. The planned inclusion of parks in urban design over this time demonstrates how integral parks are to the quality of life that is experienced by the community they serve.

Parks provide a sense of spatial relief in built up environments; they provide opportunities for socialisation (for all age groups) and contribute to the local identity of an area. For example, Nowra is well known for its “water feature parks”.

Recreational Values

Recreation is becoming an increasingly important value for individuals and the wider community as people are realising the benefits of recreation in achieving quality of life. One of the most important functions of parks is to provide recreation opportunities to the community.

The recreational value of parks is enhanced when a broad range of high quality opportunities are provided, which are capable of meeting the needs of the majority of the population. These opportunities include physical activity, relaxation, solitude and socialisation depending on the individual nature of the park, and the needs of the individual.

Health Values

Parks contribute to the health and well being of the community. The provision of open space and expanses of vegetation improve air and water quality and provide a visual relief from developed environments.

Particularly in areas where there is high housing density and small allotment sizes, parks provide an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors in a safe and stimulating environment. The presence of play equipment, walking trails and the like also allow for the community to participate in locally based, no-cost physical activity.

Environmental Values

Parks make up a significant proportion of the Shoalhaven's reserve network and as such, are valued highly by the community for the open space they offer and for the functions this space performs. As previously mentioned, the presence of parks and the associated vegetation allows for improvements to air and water quality. Parks also provide habitat for native wildlife and allow for the protection of biodiversity. When parks are developed within a connective open space system, they can also act as wildlife corridors, which are essential to maintain the genetic biodiversity of native flora and fauna.

The preservation and enhancement of these areas is of paramount importance in maintaining the lifestyle enjoyed in the Shoalhaven.

Economic Values

The economy of the Shoalhaven is particularly dependent on tourism. Tourism NSW states that the Shoalhaven is the second most popular tourist destination in the state (after Sydney). In 1999, it was estimated that the direct expenditure of tourists in the Shoalhaven was \$250 million. Much of this visitation and expenditure is based on the natural environmental beauty of the Shoalhaven and the diverse range of recreational opportunities this environment provides.

Due to their location and the diverse range of recreational opportunities available, parks are extremely popular with visitors to the Shoalhaven. The economic value of well-appointed and maintained parks is integral to the overall economy of the area.

7.2.2 Mollymook Specific Consultation

Stakeholder Discussions

Discussions have been held with key stakeholders including the Department of Lands, the Surf Life Saving Club, the lessee that runs the Mollymook Beach Cafe, the Lions Club that runs the Mollymook Market, and many individuals with a strong interest in the reserve.

Newsletter and Community Survey

In January 2004, a newsletter and survey form were made available in the Milton Ulladulla Times newspaper, Mollymook Newsagency, Ulladulla Library, on Council's internet site, and were mailed to local community organisations and owners of properties near the reserve. A copy of the survey and results are on the following pages. Fifty-three responses were received in time for analysis.

Community Workshop

A community workshop held at the Mollymook Golf Club in March 2004 was publicised through local media, through the January newsletter and by personal letters. Thirty-two people attended the workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to present the results of the community survey and to obtain some detailed community input in relation to the following specific issues in management of the parks:

Topic 1. What facilities should be included in the reserve redevelopment and where should they go? What are the priorities?

Topic 2. How should traffic and pedestrian arrangements be improved for the southern end of the reserve and Ocean Street.

Public Meeting

A public meeting was held at the Mollymook Surf Life Saving Club in May 2004 to present some concept designs for how the reserve could be upgraded. Thirty-seven people attended the meeting and constructive comment was received on how the concept designs might be improved.

Exhibition of Draft Plan of Management

In accordance with the provisions of the Crown Lands Act 1989, a draft of this Plan of Management was exhibited for public comment from 10th November to 22nd December 2004. The exhibition was advertised in local newspapers, radio and the NSW Government Gazette. Key stakeholders were sent a copy of the draft and other stakeholders were notified in writing. The draft document was available for viewing at Council's Ulladulla office, the Ulladulla library, on Council's internet site, at the Nowra Office of the Department of Lands, and at four outlets in Ocean Street, Mollymook. A public information session to explain the draft plans was held at the Mollymook Surf Club from 7pm, Monday, 22 November 2004.

Seventeen submissions on the Mollymook Beach Reserve draft Plan of Management were received and were reviewed in consultation with the Department of Lands.

Eight of the submissions were clearly in favour of the proposal to upgrade Mollymook Beach Reserve to Icon Park standard, although in some of these, suggestions were made for changes to detailed design. Two submissions were clearly not in favour of the proposal to upgrade Mollymook Beach Reserve to Icon Park standard, although they both suggested some upgrading of the park. The remaining seven submissions were neither clearly in favour / not in favour, but provided some comments on plan detail.

It was considered that some matters raised in submissions could be dealt with at the detailed planning stage of park redevelopment, some were not considered appropriate for inclusion and some could be accommodated by amendment of the draft.

Further discussion was held with the Mollymook Surf Club to finalise the location of the walkway/cycleway in front of the clubhouse. More detail was added to the landscape master plan with respect to facilities such as trees, pathways, lights, barbecues and seats.

Community Newsletter January 2004
File 29245

What Does The Future Hold for Mollymook Beach Reserve?



PO Box 42 Nowra 2541

Mollymook Beach Reserve has been identified as an Icon Park and will be upgraded to bring it to a standard worthy of the label.

Mollymook Beach Reserve is the area between Mollymook Creek, Mollymook Beach, Ocean Street and Mitchell Parade. The reserve includes the car parks, grassy areas, the playground, café and surf club.

Icon Parks will be the 'flagship' parks of the Shoalhaven. Other areas identified for development as Icon Parks include the Ulladulla Harbour Precinct, White Sands Park at Huskisson and the proposed Gateway Park at Nowra.

Each Icon Park has unique characteristics and so will have a unique design, with a high standard of landscaping, high-grade park appointments, playgrounds, public art, etc.

That doesn't necessarily mean putting in lots of structures that would take away from the reserve's natural beauty. The development of the Mollymook Beach Reserve will be consistent with its use, community expectations, natural setting and surrounding attractions.

This will mean installing high quality appointments to create pride and excitement in the park and to contribute to the reputation of Mollymook as a pre-eminent tourist location. It will also be important to address the integration of the reserve with the surrounding streets.

Shoalhaven City Council has begun planning for the Mollymook Beach Reserve. As part of the first stage, information on the reserve's current uses, condition and community aspirations is being collected by Council.

You can contribute to this by completing the survey form on the back of this newsletter and returning it to Council by 5th February 2004. The preliminary information collected from this survey and from other sources will then be collated and analysed.

On Thursday evening, 4th March 2004, a community workshop will be held so that Council can give feedback on the survey and get some more detailed community ideas on how the reserve should be developed. The workshop is being advertised in local papers but, to ensure that the workshop runs effectively, numbers will be limited and people will need to register. If demand is high a second workshop may be held on Wednesday 10th March.

Future plans are to present some draft concepts for reserve development to the community in April and a draft plan of management around the middle of 2004. Council will be seeking public comment at each of these stages.

For more information on this project please contact –

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Parks and Recreation
Shoalhaven City Council
PO Box 42 Nowra 2541
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Fax: 02 4429 3175

dalmazzo@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au

Mollymook Beach Reserve Community Survey



Please help Council to plan for the future of Mollymook Beach Reserve by filling out this survey and returning it by **5th February, 2004**. You can mail it to Shoalhaven City Council, PO Box 42, Nowra 2541, or fax it to 4429 3175 or drop it in the box at Mollymook Newsagency (Ocean St) or the Ulladulla library. If you would prefer to submit it electronically, the form is also available in the Public Documents section of Council's internet site (<http://shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au>).

Privacy Notification: The information requested on this form is being collected by Shoalhaven City Council and will be used by Council and NSW Government officials to assist in the preparation of a plan of management for Mollymook Beach Reserve. The provision of this information is voluntary and you may apply to Council for access to or amendment of the information at any time.

Optional: Please provide your details so we can contact you to get more information if needed:

Name:.....

Address:.....

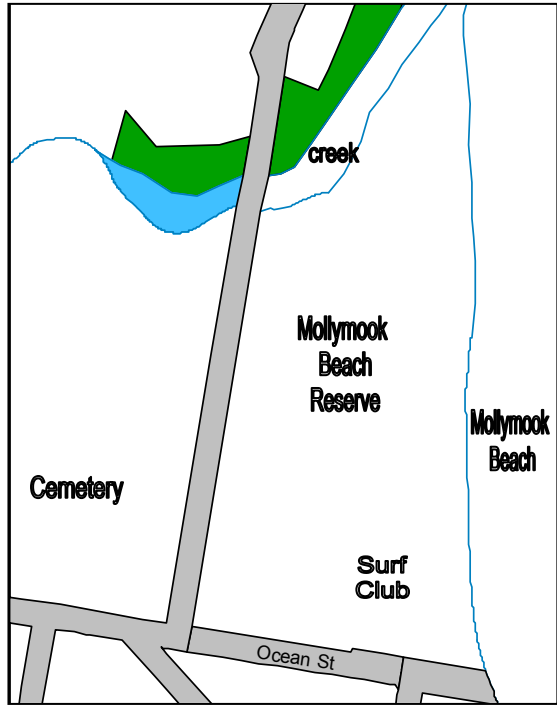
Telephone:..... E-mail:.....

If you want to be added to a mailing list for this project, tick this box

1. How Do You Use Mollymook Beach Reserve?

Please fill in the table and write the activity numbers from the left column of the table onto the map to show where you like to do each activity.

Activity No.	Activity	Approx. how many days per year?
1	Walking	
2	Jogging	
3	Cycling	
4	Swimming/surfing	
5	Picnicking/BBQ	
6	Appreciating view	
7	Bird/nature watching	
8	Parking car	
9	Playing games (please specify)	
10	Relaxing (please specify how)	
11	Socialising (please specify how)	
12	Commercial activity (please specify)	
13	Other (please specify)	



2. How do you usually get to Mollymook Beach Reserve? walk bicycle car bus taxi other.....

3. Why is Mollymook Beach Reserve important to you?

4. What uses do you think are appropriate or inappropriate for Mollymook Beach Reserve?

5. What problems are there in Mollymook Beach Reserve that you think should be addressed?

6. What facilities do you think there should be in Mollymook Beach Reserve?

Survey Responses

Questions 1 and 2 – refer to section 2.2.4 of the draft plan.

Question 3. Importance

Comment	Number of respondents that mentioned it
beautiful; lovely view; ocean view; fantastic scenery; uninterrupted view of beach	26
public open space; reserve; accessible to all; place for residents to come together; green space	19
unspoilt environment; natural asset; creek area for bush environment	8
no housing or man made structures; undeveloped	5
plants native to area;	2
peaceful; tranquil	3
"Australian-ness"	1
close to home; local	6
dolphins	2
clean	1
water quality	1
urban - beach interface	1
recreation; relaxation; enjoyment; exercise	9
beach	6
safe swimming; surf patrol	6
walkable; good clean sand for walking; easy walking	5
parking; parking near beach	4
café	2
tourist destination; focal point	3
place of business	1

Question 4. Uses

Comment	Number of respondents that mentioned it
Appropriate	
recreation/relaxation/passive recreation	9
parkland	3
kite flying	4

beach sports	1
boardwalk	1
special events/surf carnival/Aust Day	6
family gatherings/picnics	5
car parking	2
café/restaurant	1
markets	5
dogs	1
bush regeneration	1
any safe activity	1
Inappropriate	
further development/structures/commercialisation/buildings	9
facilities that block view	1
commercial activities	6
skateboarding	2
cycling	1
motorised vehicles	1
reckless P platers	1
circus	6
camping/camping for surf carnivals	4
loitering	1
noisy activities/noise after dark	2
car parking/more car parking	3
boat launching (except surf club)	1
dogs	5
dogs of leash	2
football	1
large picnics/groups	2
organised sports	3
stormwater discharge	1
market	2
temporary structures	1
alcohol/drinking alcohol in front of surf club	2
horses	1
sculptures/public art/fancy landscaping	2
grassed areas	1

Question 5. Problems

Comment	Number of respondents that mentioned it
no problems	3
lack of trees/native trees	12
cemetery and surrounds need landscaping	1
lack of maintenance	2
bare areas around buildings/southern part	4
grass needs upgrading/grass uneven/ ground uneven	3
some plants dead	1
lack of landscaping	1
lack of shade (grass/seats/tables/playground)	11
not enough picnic tables	4
not enough seats	2
no undercover seating/eating areas	3
parking takes up prime position	2
lack of enforcement	1
drinking in car park/broken bottles/hoons/vandalism	4
fireworks	1
camping	2
parking on grass/uncontrolled parking at peak times	1
dogs/faeces	2
trees being cut/poisoned	3
property encroachment	1
Ocean St traffic/parking/pedestrian access dangerous	5
no footpaths/walking dangerous	4
no access for prams/people with disabilities	2
no toilet/change rooms	3
shower too far from beach	1
no good coffee and cake	1
seaweed on beach	2
stormwater drains	3
litter/sand should be cleaned	3
not enough bins	1

running beach shower	1
toilets need repair/prtotection from vandals	1
fence around clubhouse shabby	1
water fountain needs repairing/removing	1
memorial and flagpole need maintenance	1
foreshore erosion	1
dirty creek	1
weeds	2
unauthorised opening of creek	1
hard surface	1
pressure on vegetation	1

Question 6. Facilities

Comment	Number of respondents that mentioned it
no more facilities	6
more tables/covered tables and benches/comfortable seating	19
barbecues/picnic facilities	17
shade	5
native trees/shade trees/more trees/Norfolk Island Pines	13
gardens/landscaping	4
nature trail/expanded bush around creek	3
walkway/cycleway/boardwalk/suitable for prams elderly etc	18
improved access to beach	2
more/better public toilets/showers/change rooms/extra toilets in summer	6
water taps	2
restricted parking	1
more parking	1
upgraded road	1
speed humps	1
minimal structures/hard surfaces	2
restaurant/café with ocean views/café open later	2

more rubbish bins/antilitter signs	2
interpretive information	1
skateboard ramp	1
children's play equipment/bike track (kids)	3
exercise equipment	1
bike racks	1
electricity for outdoor events	1
floodlighting	1
emergency telephone	1