

BERRY SHOWGROUND

Plan of Management & Masterplan

Shoalhaven City Council has started preparation of a new Plan of Management and Masterplan for Berry Showground.

These Plans will guide the use, development and management of the area into the future.

Council is inviting users, the community and stakeholders to offer their views about the Showground's future – what they value about the area; how they use the Showground; issues or areas they feel need attention; and suggestions, ideas or future directions for this popular area – to help prepare these Plans.

Berry Showground

Berry Showground (or Hazelberry Park) occupies a central place, physically and culturally, within the village of Berry. It is highly valued by the local community, as well as being enjoyed by users and visitors from beyond the village.

The Showground is public land – mostly a Crown Reserve for which Shoalhaven City Council is trustee, as well as smaller parcels of Council-owned community land (such as the David Berry Memorial Park). Day-to-day management is largely carried out by a group of volunteers who represent the main user groups, appointed as a Management Committee under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Recent changes to NSW Crown Land legislation require Council to prepare a new Plan of Management for Berry Showground that will update and replace the current “Hazelberry Park” *The Berry Showground Plan of Management* adopted in 2006.

Council and the Showground's Management Committee are also taking this opportunity to prepare a revised Masterplan for the Showground – to provide refreshed directions for how the site is now enjoyed by the community and visitors as well as how it can be managed, developed and used into the future.

Berry Showground offers a very appealing setting for a range of community, sporting, cultural, leisure or recreation, festive, and camping uses – as well as the more traditional rural or agricultural events. This is built on the Showground's facilities, heritage character and accessibility. Key features are several striking heritage buildings or other structures – notably the grandstand building, Agricultural Pavilion, former Council Chambers, a rotunda, and two formal entrances on Alexandra Street – as well as a large array of mature trees of scenic and historic significance. The floodlit showground, camping area to the south, a children's playground, and the separate Berry Village Pool on Albany Street are other important attractions and activity spaces. The Showground's traditional agricultural activities are supported by an array of yards, stalls, open pavilions, other buildings, judging or event areas, and other facilities – mostly in the site's south.



The Showground is a community focal point and venue for various events and festivals – from the annual Berry Agricultural Show each January and the Fairgrounds Festival in December, through the monthly Berry Markets and weekly Berry Farmers’ Market, to once-off events. Several community groups use the site’s many buildings or other facilities, and the oval hosts ruby league in winter as well as occasional equestrian or other sporting events. The camping area, with an on-site manager, is also an increasingly frequently used part of the site. The Berry Village Pool is a popular, if seasonal, attraction in its own right. People also enjoy the Showground for more leisurely activities such as walking, dog-walking and children’s play.

David Berry Memorial Park is a landscaped area, separated from the main showground space, and used mainly for passive leisure activities. The Plan of Management and Masterplan will also include this site as well as the narrow strip of land south of Station Road.

The Plan of Management, and Masterplan, will chart a future for the Showground that will recognise and enhance its character and appeal; protect its heritage values and other assets; accommodate the many and varied uses or activities occurring on the site and deliver services to Council’s required standards; address the site’s management issues or challenges; authorise any leases or licences or special permits; and ensure that the area is managed in an environmentally and financially sustainable manner.

Community Input and Involvement

Engagement with Showground users, stakeholders, neighbours, Berry residents and the wider community will be central to preparing the new Plan of Management and Masterplan. This is to ensure the area’s use and management is consistent with the community’s expressed values, needs, desires and ideas.

A summary of the process Council will follow in preparing the Plan of Management and Masterplan is outlined at right. It includes opportunities for interested people and groups to be involved or contribute to the preparation of these Plans.

Council has engaged Gondwana Consulting to assist in preparing the Plan of Management.



How to Get Involved

There are a number of ways you can contribute to preparing the Berry Showground Plan of Management and Masterplan.

- ▶ **Offer your views on-line** at the “Current Community Consultations” page of Council’s website, where you can also or download a short **feedback/input form** (to complete and return by reply-paid post). Copies of this form are also available at Council’s Nowra Administration Building or the Nowra Public Library.
- ▶ Come along to one of two **drop-in information/discussion booths** to be held in the Showground – on Thursday 17th September (from 2pm to 5.30pm) or Saturday 19th September (from 10am to 2pm). (*Pre-registration is available, and recommended, for these booths – by calling 4429 3152. or by e-mailing Jessica.Volkanovski@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au. – and Covid-safe practices will apply.*)
- ▶ Providing your opinions, ideas or suggestions directly – by **e-mail or letter** – to either of the project officers listed below.

Your views will contribute to preparation of the Plan of Management and Masterplan, which will also be subsequently exhibited for further community review and feedback. To discuss the Showground and the planning process, provide your views and input to these important documents, or for further information, please contact:

- Alan Ginns, at Gondwana Consulting – on e-mail gwanacon@tpg.com.au, or 9913 3720, or mobile 0429 913 300 (or by post at P.O. Box 905, Narrabeen, NSW, 2101); or
- Jessica Volkanovski, Council’s Senior Strategic Planner (Monday to Thursday) – on e-mail jessica.volkanovski@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au, or call 4429 3152 (or by post at Shoalhaven City Council, P.O. Box 42, Nowra, NSW, 2541).

Inputs and comments should be received no later than Monday 12th October 2020.