



Plan of Management for Pomingalama Park

2008–2013



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1. Introduction

This Plan of Management has been prepared over Crown Land owned by the Department of Lands known as Pomingalarna Park of which Wagga Wagga City Council are the Trust Manager.

1.1 Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of this plan is to provide directions to management about how to manage the Park for the next 5 years. The Plan will also communicate intended management to the community.

1.2 Relevant Lands

This Plan of Management is for Pomingalarna Park, an area of 225Ha. It is located 4km west of the centre of Wagga Wagga.

Reserve Number: 82324

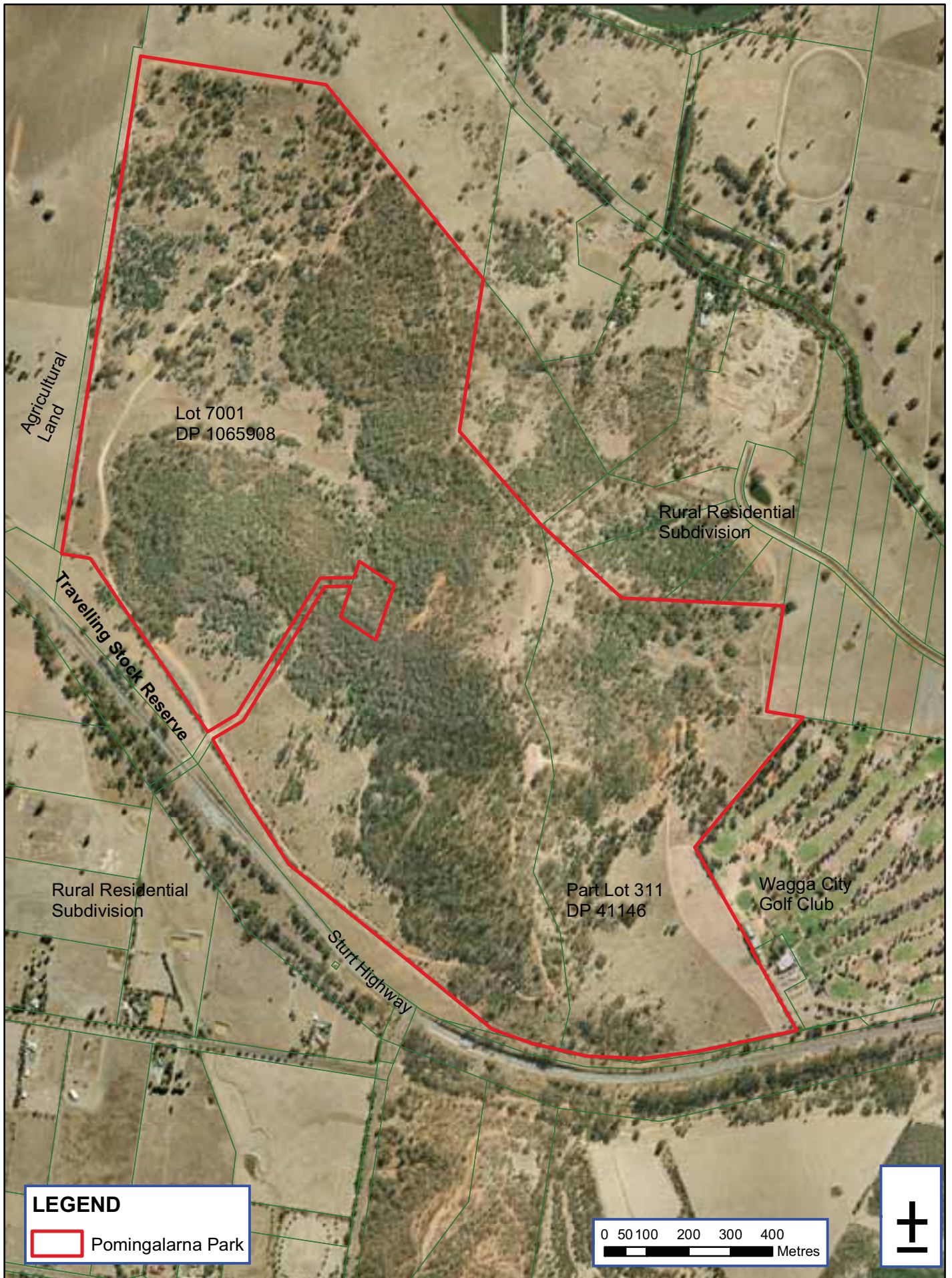
Trust Manager: Wagga Wagga City Council Crown Reserves Reserve Trust

Purpose of Reserve: Recreation

This Plan does not include the Wagga Wagga City Golf Club (57Ha).

POMINGALARNA PARK - MAP 1

Extent and Adjoining Lands



1.3 Regional Setting

Pomingalarna Park is a bushland reserve and forms an important part of Wagga Wagga's landscape. Its highest point is 298 metres above sea level which provides a good vantage point overlooking the city. It is a wooded ridge of Ordovician shale geology.

The Silvalite Reserve is in close proximity to Pomingalarna Park. To the south, and separated by the Sturt Highway and a travelling stock reserve is the rural residential suburb of San Isidore. To the north-east is the new rural residential subdivision of Riverview Estate and the long established Delaney's Quarry. These developed areas have low population densities and therefore retain rural and natural values. People living in these areas use the Park.

The Wagga Wagga City Golf Club (57 ha) is located in the eastern portion of the Park and is currently under a lease arrangement. It will not be included in this Plan of Management. It provides a carpark and clubhouse facility which could be used by Park users.

Pomingalarna Park forms part of the Wiradjuri Walking Track which connects Willans Hill, the southern edge of the Wagga Wagga urban area, Silvalite Reserve and the Murrumbidgee River.

1.4 History of land use

The area was originally used for grazing from 1832 with a pastoral lease being established in 1850. The area of 427Ha was dedicated a permanent Common in 1873 and 1881. After 1938 the area was reduced by a number of land excisions including a travelling stock reserve to the south, a golf course to the east and freehold land to the north. The Common was revoked in 1960 and the existing 282Ha of Park was dedicated as Public Recreation with Wagga Wagga City Council as trustees.

Various activities have occurred in the Park over its history, including

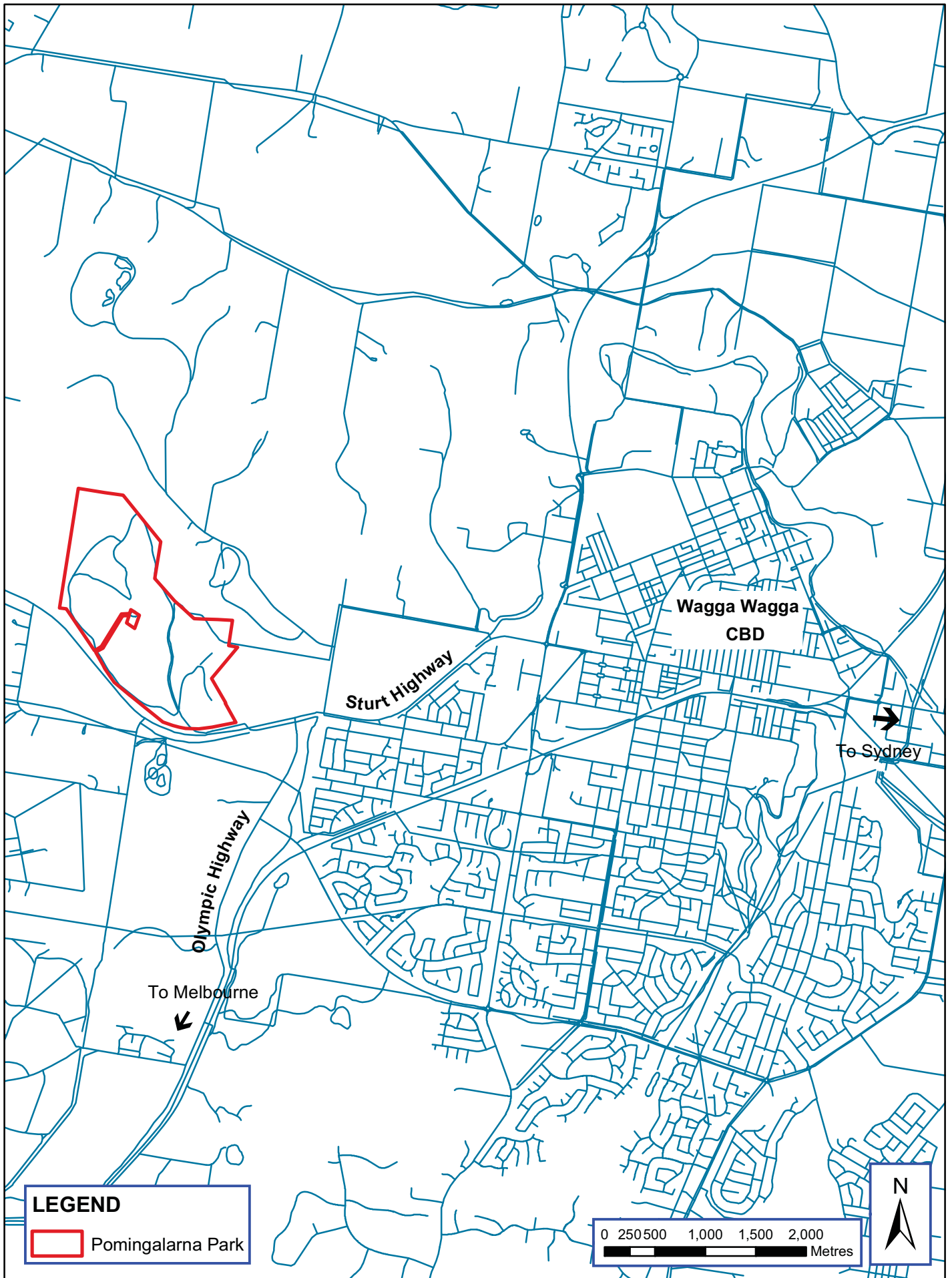
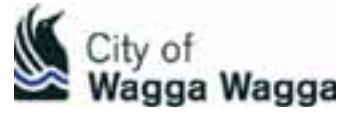
- Grazing
- Gravel extraction and quarrying
- Soil conservation works
- Recreation events
- Army training
- Cross country horseriding
- Telecommunications
- Mountain bike riding
- Trail bike riding
- Informal recreation
- Mining

A rifle range was also located on the eastern side of the Park.

Some activities such as gravel extraction have impacted the Park by reducing its natural and recreational values.

POMINGALARNA PARK - MAP 2

Location



2. Planning context

2.1 Previous Plans

A previous Plan of Management was produced in 1995 by Wagga Wagga City Council through the Pomingalarna Park Management Committee. This Plan was based on an extensive flora and fauna assessment, a recreation user survey and a submission from the Friends of Pomingalarna Committee (1987).

The 1995 Plan identified major use pressures causing degradation of the Park. It recommended protection of the natural values and continued recreation usage.

2.2 Relevant legislation

Legislation that is relevant to this Plan includes:

- Local Government Act (1993)
- Crown Lands Act (1989)
- Rural Fires Act (1997)
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979)
- Public Works Act (1912)
- Threatened Conservation Species Act (1995)
- Native Vegetation Act (2003)
- Clean Waters Act (1970)
- Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan (Draft 2008)
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)
- State Environmental Planning policies

Local Government Act 1993

The Local Government Act directs that all non operational community lands require plans of management. The Act prescribes the following guidelines for the preparation of plans of management for community lands:

- (1) A Council must prepare a draft plan of management for community land.
- (2) A draft plan of management may apply to one or more areas of community land, except as provided by this Division.
- (3) A plan of management for community land must identify the following:
 - (a) the category of the land,
 - (b) the objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land,
 - (c) the means by which the Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets,
 - (d) the manner in which the Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets,

and may require the prior approval of the Council to the carrying out of any specified activity on the land.

Crown Lands Act 1989

As the Trustee of Pomingalarna Reserve, Wagga Wagga City Council is required to adopt Plans of Management governed by legislative requirements of the Crown Lands Act 1989.

2.3 Relevant Planning Policies

The construction of all open space infrastructure that complies with the Wagga Wagga Development Control Plan is exempt development.

Wagga Wagga Wagga City Council has developed a range of other planning initiatives which influence this Plan. These include the:

- Recreation and Open Space Strategy (2005)
- Wagga Wagga Natural Resources Management Plan (1998)
- Council's Strategic Plan 2008-2018
- Wagga Wagga City Council's Annual Management Plan
- Wagga Wagga Community Social Plan 2009 – 2013 (Draft 2008)
- Wagga Wagga Development Control Plan (Draft 2008)
- Strategic Plan for Recreation in Wagga Wagga (1998)
- Wagga Wagga Bikeway Plan (1998)
- Strategic Plan for management of Public Land in the City of Wagga Wagga (1995)

There are also a number of relevant Council policies including:

Council Run Community Events
Community Services
Access and Equity
Youth
Noxious Weeds
Stormwater
Leasing and Licensing
Signs for Reserves, Gardens and Public Reserves
Cultural Policies
Tree Management
Risk Management
OH&S
Events Support

2.4 Community Consultation

This Plan of Management has been developed based on a community consultation process. The consultation involved interviews with key stakeholders, a public workshop and public exhibition. There were approximately 40 participants at the community workshop held on 17 October 2007.

3. Values of the Park

Pomingalarna Park has recreational, natural, cultural, educational, scientific and operational values.

3.1 Recreational Values

User surveys were carried out for the Park in 1993. Annual visitors to the Park were estimated at 40,000 people. Historically, recreational use of the Park has included:

- Off road vehicles
- Car rallies

- Dog exercise
- Bushwalking
- Pony Club riding

(Pomingalarna Management Plan, 1995)

Current usage has likely decreased from the previous estimate of 40,000 people per year. Usage consists of informal and formal use including dog exercise, bushwalking, mountain bike riding, running, orienteering, horse riding and recreational vehicle use.

Most of the current users are mountain bike riders. There is a dedicated 10.5km cross country mountain bike track in the Park which is used on a daily basis. The local mountain bike club also holds major mountain bike events.

The local triathlon, running and orienteering clubs also use the Park for training and events.

The Wiradjuri Walking Track traverses the Park and is used infrequently by bushwalkers.

3.2 Natural and Cultural Values

Pomingalarna Park is becoming increasingly more important as a natural environment given the extensive loss of natural landscapes on the south west slopes (Priday and Mulvaney 2005). The Park is considered to have high conservation value (Murphy 1999).

It contains approximately 165 plant species including 53 introduced species, 91 species of birds, five species of native mammals and an extensive number of amphibians and reptiles (Murphy 1999).

The Park also contains a number of threatened species and communities such as the Superb Parrot and the White Box, Yellow Box and Blakely's Red Gum Woodland.

The natural values in many cases are being degraded by a range of activities including illegal access, domestic rubbish dumping, spread of weeds and clearing of vegetation. The current drought is also impacting on the survival of the native vegetation.

Flora

The vegetation of the Park contains a mixture of dry eucalypt and grassland communities with some artificial wetland areas. The woodland vegetation is described as an association of Western Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*), Blakely's Red Gum (*E. blakelyi*) and White Cypress Pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*). This is described by Priday and Mulvaney (2005) as Wagga Wagga Hills Open Forest vegetation community. This vegetation community is identified as vulnerable as it has gone from an estimated pre-1850 area of 2030Ha to a current area of 304Ha (Priday and Mulvaney 2005).

The natural vegetation has been previously disturbed by grazing. The resultant vegetation consists of even aged stands of woodland which exist throughout much of the Park with occasional larger mature trees.

The Park contains White Box, Yellow Box, Blakely's Red Gum Woodland (hereafter referred to as Box-Gum Woodland) which is an Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) listed under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act (1995).

The Department of Conservation and Environment states:

“Box-Gum Woodland is characterised by the presence or prior occurrence of White Box, Yellow Box or Blakely's Red Gum. The EEC occurs predominantly on the western slopes of NSW from Victoria to Queensland on soils that are moderately to highly fertile. Consequently, Box-Gum Woodland has been extensively cleared and modified by thinning, clearing, grazing, pasture improvement and cultivation. Remaining stands of Box-Gum Woodland are generally highly fragmented. Less than 5% of the pre-European extent is estimated to remain in the south and up to 10% in the north of the State. Less than 0.5% is estimated to retain pre-European levels of diversity and species composition.”

Fauna

There are a range of fauna habitats in the Park including forest areas and grasslands. A range of species occur in these habitats including reptiles, amphibians, birds and marsupials.

The Park provides a significant habitat for woodland birds including threatened bird species such as the Superb Parrot, Diamond Firetail, Brown Treecreeper, Speckled Warbler, Hooded Robin and the Gilberts Whistler (Murphy 1999).

Cultural Heritage

The Wagga Wagga area has a strong indigenous history. Aboriginal communities would have used the Park given the array of useful flora species that it contains.

The Park also has a history of European land use. Elements of European history such as the Rifle Range are still evident. The value of the European heritage is limited.

3.3 Educational Values

Pomingalarna Park is sought after for educational use given that it is easily accessible and has significant natural values. It is used for educational purposes by:

- Charles Sturt University;
- Primary and secondary schools from around Wagga Wagga;
- TAFE; and
- Youth groups – such as scouts

3.4 Operational Values

Council currently occupies sites on Mount Moorong for radio transmission and telecommunications. Power is provided to these facilities and access provided via the existing summit track. These facilities are managed and licensed by the Department of Lands under section 34A of the Crown Lands Act, 1989.

3.5 Scientific Values

The Park contains Ordovician sedimentary rocks which contain marine fossils from about 500 million years ago (Friends of Pomingalarna Park 1987). This is a significant fossil site although many fossils have unfortunately been removed.

There is an abundance of flora and fauna species in the Park which provide scientific interest. There have been a range of scientific papers produced about the fauna of the Park (see References).

The Park is also used for bird watching by local and visiting people.

4. Management Issues

The following management issues have been identified after review of the site and discussions with council staff, user groups and the general community. These issues are addressed in the management strategies (Section 5).

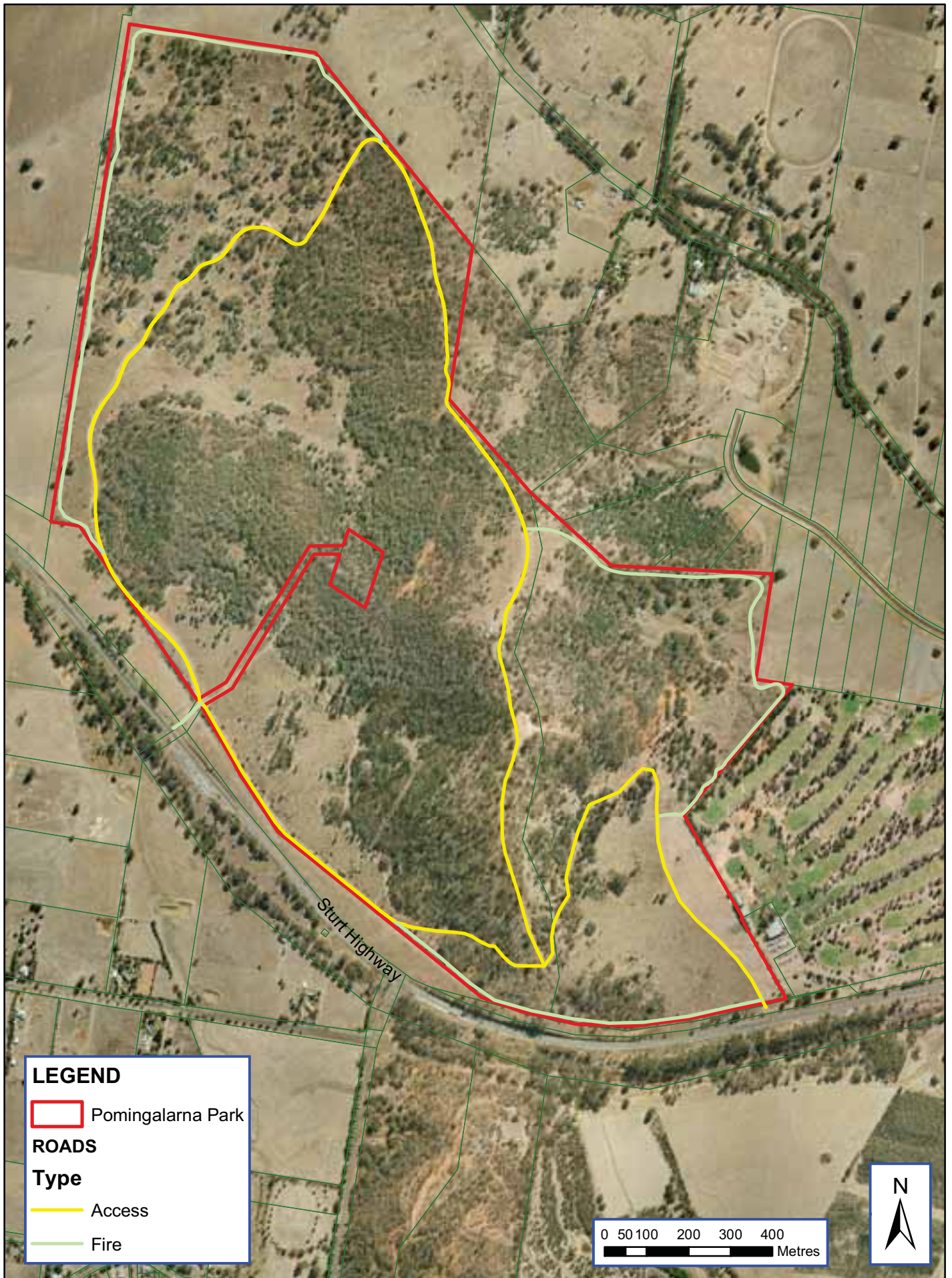
In summary there is consensus that the Park's values are rapidly declining.

4.1 Vehicle Damage

Current vehicle access has created a range of significant management issues. There is an extensive range of both formal and informal vehicle tracks. The length and number of tracks has increased significantly in the last few years. Many of these tracks cause serious soil erosion problems. There are numerous recreational vehicle tracks which cross drainage lines and run down hill slopes.

POMINGALARNA PARK - MAP 3

Current Vehicle Access



4.2 Soil Erosion

Parts of the Park have previously been quarried and although rehabilitated, they are highly prone to soil erosion due to the removal of topsoil. These areas are located on the western slopes of the Park.

At one location called the “scalds”, major soil erosion is causing silting of one of the drainage lines. Existing tracks are causing soil erosion at numerous locations.

4.3 Rubbish Dumping

Rubbish dumping regularly occurs in the Park. The rubbish dumped includes toxic materials such as asbestos and old cars. Wagga Wagga City Council removes the rubbish when it is reported.

4.4 Weeds

There are a range of weed species in the Park including noxious weeds. The major weeds include:

- St John’s Wort (noxious)
- Cootamundra Wattle
- Horehound
- Paterson’s Curse

The highest priority for weed control is St Johns Wort which is located extensively through the Park, especially in the open woodland and grassland areas.

Woody weeds such as Cootamundra Wattle also exist and are most prevalent adjacent to the Travelling Stock Reserve.

The Park is strategically sprayed for weed control on a regular basis.

4.5 Feral Animals

Foxes are the major pest species impacting on the Park. Other feral animals such as rabbits and cats also occur in the Park.

4.6 Protection of Endangered Woodland Communities

Box-Gum woodland is located mostly on the lower to mid slopes of the reserve. Its understorey has been disturbed but the community remains with many mature trees. The conservation status of this community is locally significant (Priday and Mulvaney 2005). There is an opportunity to rehabilitate this community to a regionally significant vegetation community.

5. Management Strategies

The following management strategies have been developed from management objectives and issues identified in the previous section. The strategies include specific actions, ongoing actions and policies.

5.1 Objectives of Management

The following specific land management objectives have been developed based on the issues and values of the reserve.

1. Protect and rehabilitate the natural values of the Park
2. Manage recreation for sustainable use
3. Permit utilities to function in the Park
4. Manage the Park cooperatively with the community

5.2 Management Actions and Policies

5.2.1 Protect and rehabilitate the natural values of the Park

1. Removal of any naturally occurring materials, flora or fauna including fire wood is prohibited.
2. Encourage flora and fauna research within the Park, especially research that gives a long term analysis of the health of the flora and fauna populations.
3. The following weed species will be prioritised for control: St John's Wort, Horehound and woody weeds.
4. An annual spray program will occur along all tracks and day use areas.
5. Weed infestations will be monitored.
6. Only local provenance native vegetation is to be planted in the Park. An exception would be special food plants for threatened species.
7. Council will promote the regional natural corridor linking Willans Hill, Silvalite Reserve, Pomingalarna Park and the Murrumbidgee River.
8. A fire management plan is to be prepared for the Park which protects assets and enhances the natural biodiversity.
9. A perimeter fire management trail network will be maintained consistent with Map 3 and strategic access gates to the Park will be maintained.
10. A rehabilitation plan for the Park will be prepared as a priority. The plan will aim to rehabilitate the Box-Gum EEC and other disturbed areas. The plan will include earthworks, plantings and appropriate mitigation works.
11. All informal vehicle tracks other than the designated management tracks will be deep ripped and revegetated as a priority.
12. The designated management tracks will be reduced in width by deep ripping down one side.

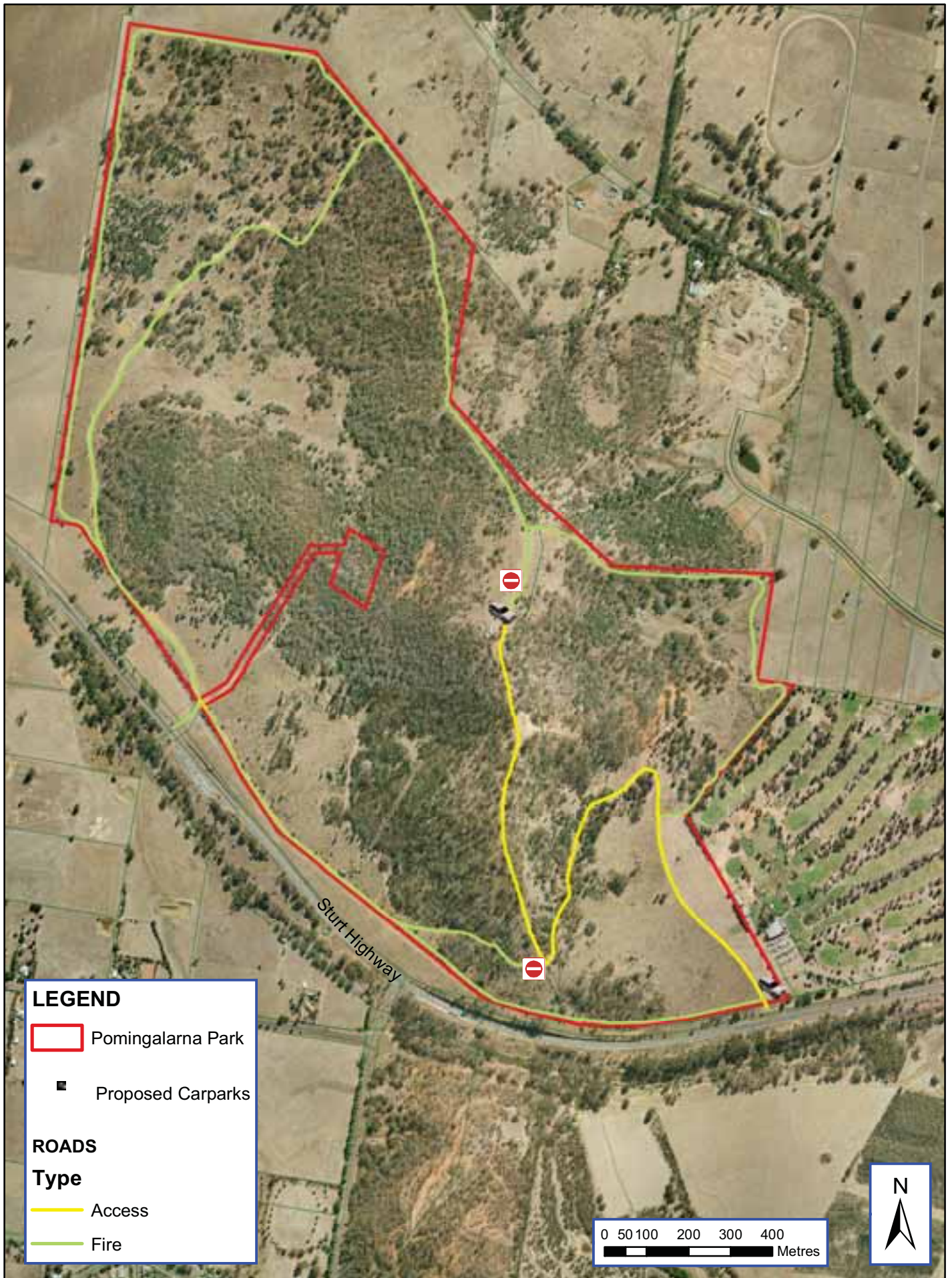
13. New side drains are to be installed where appropriate on the designated management tracks.
14. The Park will be closed to motorised vehicle access while rehabilitation occurs for a period of twelve months.

5.2.2 Manage recreation for sustainable use

15. Vehicle access will be allowed during daylight hours only on a short term trial basis. An arrangement will be made to ensure that access gates will be closed at night time. This will then be reviewed to assess effectiveness of the trial.
16. Vehicle access will only be permitted through the eastern access road adjacent to the golf course. A lockable gate will be installed here.
17. The western entry to the Park off the Sturt Highway will be closed permanently for safety reasons. Management access will be permitted via a locked gate. Special purpose access through this western gate may be granted by Council.
18. No motorised vehicles are permitted off the designated access roads except for management, emergency or special event purposes (designated access roads are identified on Map 3). Council will need to approve special event access.
19. Repair and upgrade the summit access road from the eastern entry and install appropriate fencing along the northern edge to control vehicle movements. Consideration should be given to possible future sealing of the road.
20. The Park boundary fencing will be repaired and maintained to stop vehicle access except at designated entry points.
21. Any new buildings or facilities within the Park will be assessed by Council for visual and environmental impacts on the values of the Park. Consideration will be given to possible co-location with existing facilities and the impacts of associated developments such as access roads and firebreaks.
22. There will be no further development of the golf course into natural areas of the Park.
23. The existing Enduro circuit is to be developed for sustainable use. This track will be the major cross country track in the Park.
24. Other mountain bike tracks which link to the Enduro circuit will be reviewed by MTB Wagga and Wagga Wagga City Council. Tracks which are degrading the natural values of the Park will be closed and removal of all fixed signage to trees..
25. All mountain bike tracks on the eastern side of Mount Moorong will be closed except for the Enduro circuit.
26. Investigate the possible development of a downhill¹ mountain bike track subject to an environmental impact assessment under the EPA Act and expert track design approvals from Wagga Wagga City Council and the Department of Lands.

¹ Downhill Mountain biking is defined as a track which is purpose built for fast downhill riding and often includes infrastructure such as jumps.

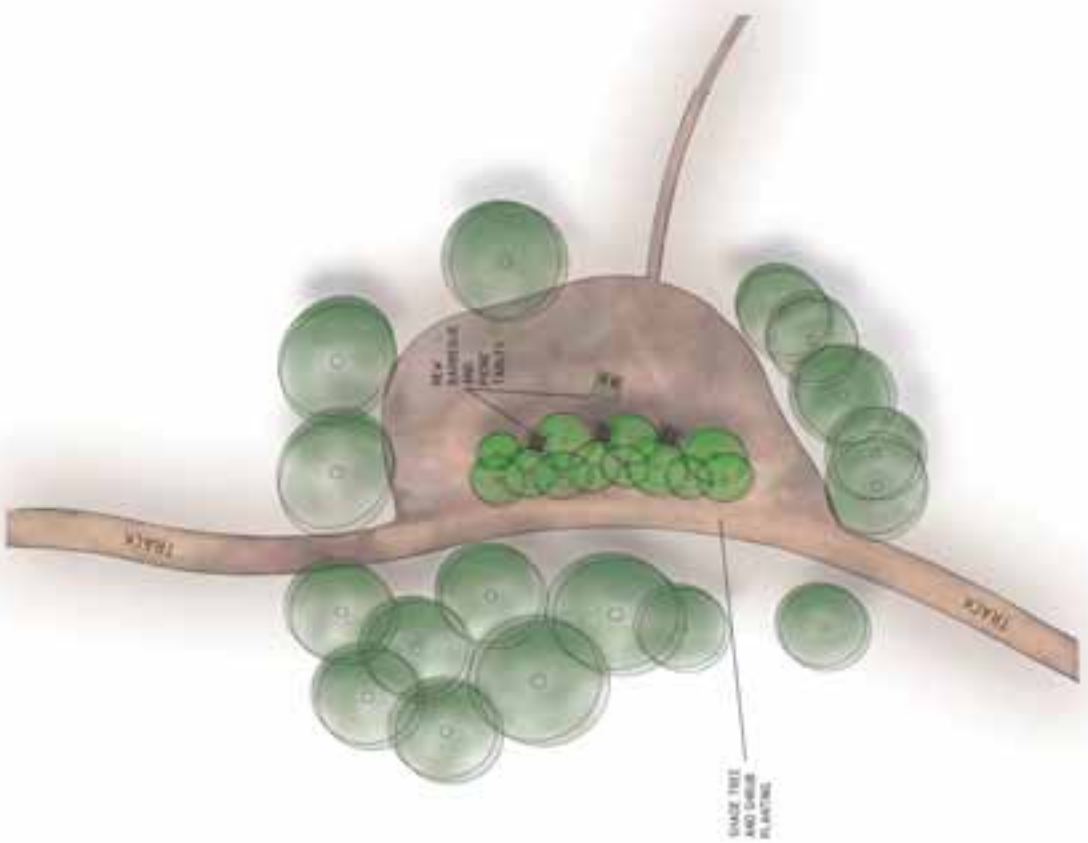
POMINGALARNA PARK - MAP 4 Proposed Access Management



27. Mountain bike events are permitted within the Park. Spectator vehicles are to use designated parking areas only.
28. An agreement between MTB Wagga and Wagga Wagga City Council should be formalised in terms of a licence agreement under Section 102 of the Crown Lands Act 1989 to allow MTB Wagga to manage and review annually the mountain bike tracks on behalf of Council subject to continuation of the Club's charter regarding use of sustainable tracks only.
29. Day use areas will be developed at Mount Moorong as detailed in Figures 1 & 2.
30. A carpark will be developed at the eastern access to the Park.
31. Park entry signage is to be located at the eastern entry. This signage is to outline permissible activities and the rehabilitation and access arrangements.
32. Interpretation signage is to be provided at the visitor nodes and carparks. Interpretation themes could include the history of the Park, flora and fauna and cultural heritage.
33. All major tracks are to have a sign which identifies the track and its use.
34. There will be no future alienation of land within the Park from the objectives as documented in this plan.
35. Allow non vehicular based camping for users of Wiradjuri Walking Track at the park picnic area. Maintain a water tank and consider the construction of a pit type toilet for campers.



PLANS OF MANAGEMENT



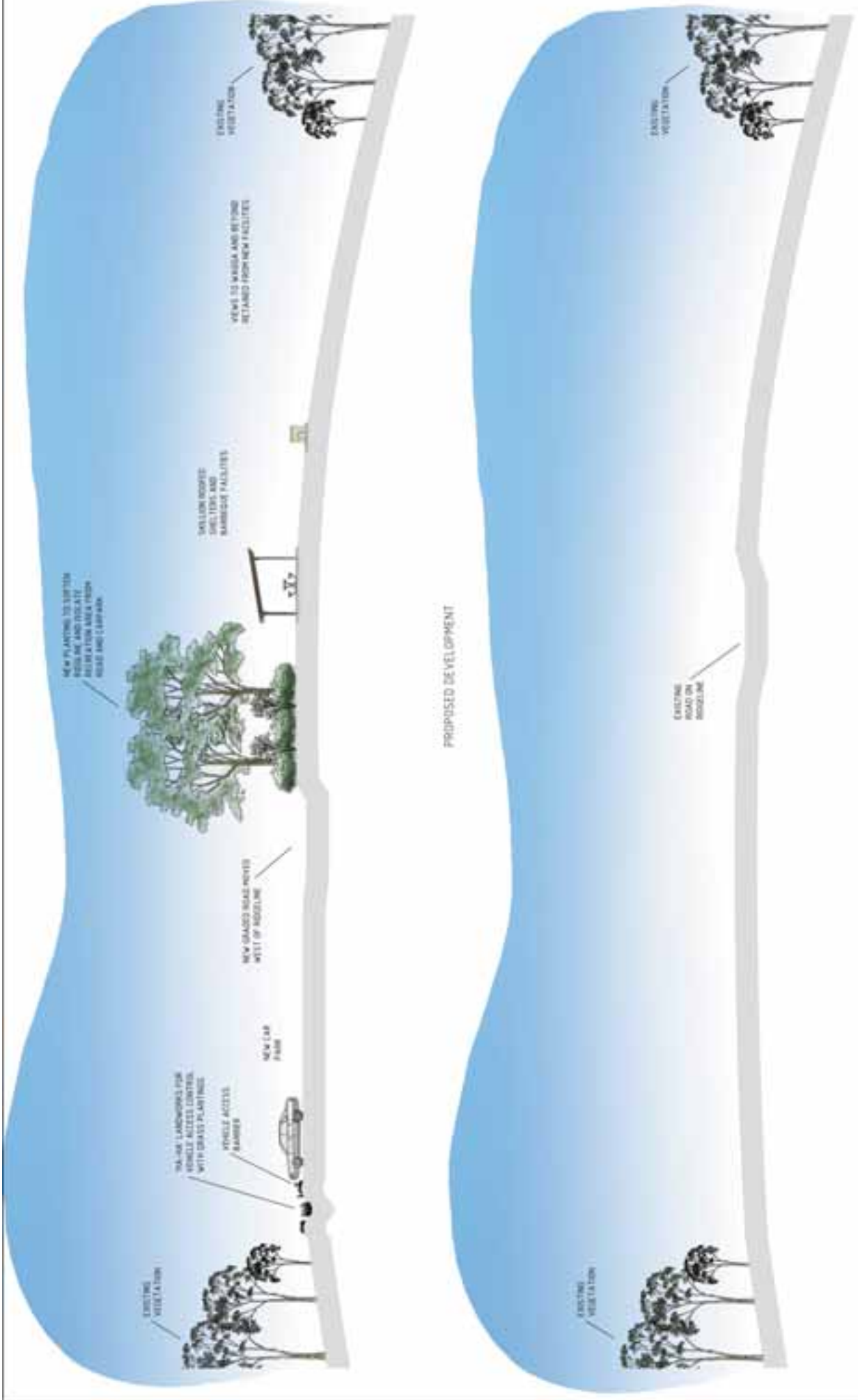
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



INFRASTRUCTURE - EXISTING

CLIENT: WINDGAL COUNTY
 DATE: 07 JAN 20
 DRAWING NO: 2020-02
 SCALE: 1:500 (D) 1:5
 DRAWN BY: [Name]
 CHECKED BY: [Name]





PLANS OF MANAGEMENT



CLIENT: WIRIGA COUNTY
 DATE: 07 JAN 20
 DRAWING NO: 2021-24
 SCALE: 1:100,000
 DRAWN BY: [Name]
 CHECKED BY: [Name]



REF: 2021-24-001-10000

5.2.3 Permit utilities to function in the Park

36. Access to the communications towers on Mount Moorong will continue to be provided.
37. Any new towers or utilities will be co-located with the existing utility facilities. Proposals will be assessed as required by Wagga Wagga City Council as the Trustee and the Department of Lands as utility managers.
38. Council may apply for a proportion of the rentals received by the Department of Lands as utility managers to contribute to maintenance of access roads and weed management related to the utility.

5.2.4 Manage the Park cooperatively with the community

39. Council will seek to facilitate community involvement with the management of the Park once this Plan of Management has been adopted.
40. Council will increase Ranger patrols.
41. Illegal users of the Park will be penalised under the provisions of the relevant legislation.
42. Funding for works will come from an annual Council allocation designated for Pomingalarna Park.
43. Council will work with the community to apply for additional management funds from programs such as the Natural Heritage Trust, and the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority.

6. Implementation Plan

The following actions will be undertaken according to their timeframe. These actions will be used as a basis for future budget consideration and provide the specific direction for operational works plans.

Table 1. Management Actions

Action	Activity No.	Timeframe
The western entry to the Park off the Sturt Highway will be closed permanently for safety reasons. Management access will be permitted via a locked gate. Special purpose access through this western gate may be granted by Council.	17	2009
Park entry signage is to be located at the eastern entry. This signage is to outline permissible activities and the rehabilitation and access arrangements	31	2009
A rehabilitation plan for the Park will be prepared as a priority. The plan will aim to rehabilitate the Box-Gum EEC and other disturbed areas. The plan will include earthworks, plantings and appropriate mitigation works	10	2011
All informal vehicle tracks other than the designated management tracks will be deep ripped as a priority	11	2010
New side drains are to be installed where appropriate on the designated management tracks	13	2010
Repair and upgrade the summit access road from the eastern entry and install appropriate fencing along the northern edge to control vehicle movements. Consideration should be given to possible future sealing of the road.	19	2011
A fire management plan is to be prepared for the Park which protects assets and enhances the natural biodiversity	8	2011
A carpark will be developed at the eastern access to the Park	30	2012
Day use areas will be developed at Mount Moorong as detailed in Figures 1 & 2	29	2012
Interpretation signage is to be provided at the visitor nodes and carparks. Interpretation themes could include the history of the Park, flora and fauna and cultural heritage	32	2012
All major tracks are to have a sign which identifies the track and its use	33	2012
Council will seek to facilitate community involvement with the management of the Park once this Plan of Management has been adopted	38	Ongoing
Other mountain bike tracks which link to the Enduro circuit will be reviewed by MTB Wagga and Wagga Wagga City Council. Tracks which are degrading the natural values of the Park will be closed.	24	Ongoing

References

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