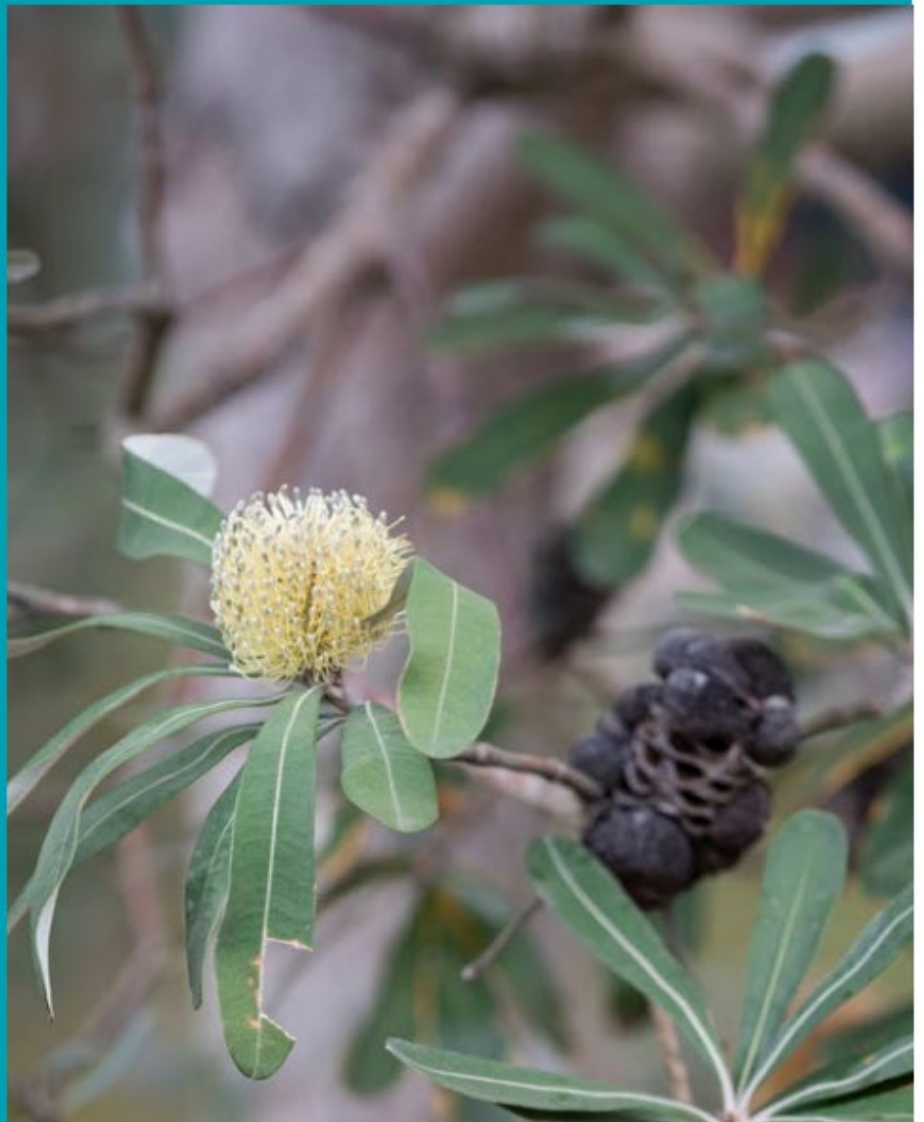


Medowie Environmental Volunteers

2024 to 2027



The core objective of this plan, as supported through volunteer actions, is to preserve and maintain the land to meet the current and future needs of the local community in ways that are ecologically, socially and economically sustainable.



PORT STEPHENS
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GUUDJI YIIGU

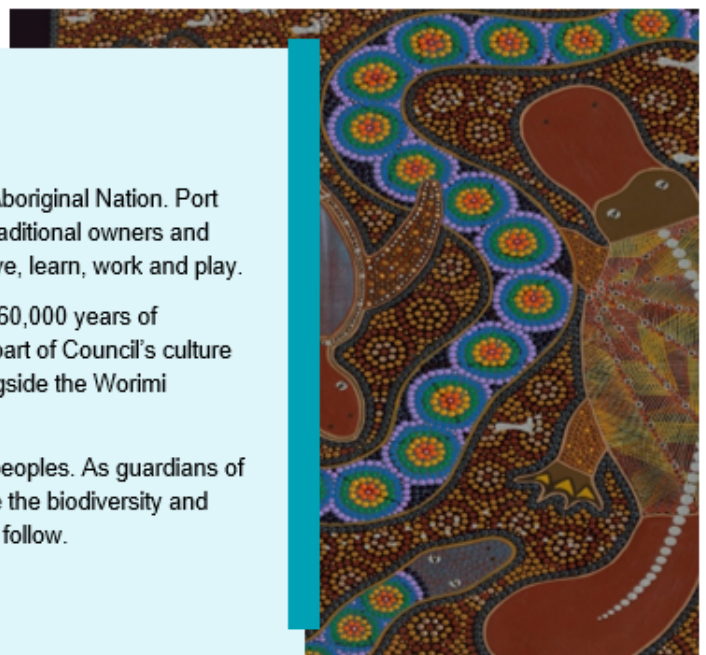
(GOO-JEE IK-KOO)

We welcome you to Port Stephens – part of the Worimi Aboriginal Nation. Port Stephens Council acknowledges the Worimi people as traditional owners and custodians of the lands and waterways on which we all live, learn, work and play.

We value and respect the Worimi people and the legacy 60,000 years of Aboriginal Nation traditions and culture brings with it. As part of Council's culture of acceptance, diversification and harmony we walk alongside the Worimi people on a journey of listening and learning.

Together we will strive to make this a better place for all peoples. As guardians of these lands, we ask that you tread lightly to help preserve the biodiversity and respect those who came before as well as those who will follow.

Artwork by Regan Lilley.



Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of this plan is to provide an agreed framework and detailed action plan to support and guide volunteers to undertake works at Casuarina Ave Reserve, Medowie and adjoining community land.

Objectives of the Plan

For the local interested volunteers and Port Stephens Council to work together to protect and enhance the character of these sites.

Site Details

Table 1: Casuarina Ave Reserve site details

Site Address	48 Casuarina Ave, Medowie
Lot / DP	Lot 1039 DP 1062665
Land zoning	RE1: Public Recreation
Owner	Port Stephens Council, community land
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Worimi
Reserve	Casuarina Ave Reserve (See Action Plan Map)

Table 2: Community land adjoining Casuarina Ave Reserve site details

Site Address	101 Kindlebark Dr, Medowie
Lot / DP	Lot 721 DP 1033896
Land zoning	R2: Low Density Residential
Owner	Port Stephens Council, community land
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Worimi
Reserve	Adjoins Casuarina Ave Reserve

Scope of Works

Volunteer works within Casuarina Ave Reserve must be consistent with this Agreed Action Plan. This plan encourages the activities listed in the detailed action plan below.

If a volunteer group would like to undertake a project or activity that is outside of this plan, authorisation will be required from Council. The Volunteers Support Officer (VSO) will assist groups to liaise with Council for any activities outside of this plan.

This plan does not provide permission to erect, place or repair any structures, nor remove any trees or native vegetation unless authorised under this plan.

Consultation

Consultation has been undertaken with prospective volunteers and internal Council departments in the preparation of this plan.

Safety Considerations

All activities should be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Council, including Work Health and Safety processes such as site induction and daily attendance records.

Site inductions are required prior to the commencement of any works at the subject site for volunteers. First Aid kits are to be on site during working bees.

All volunteers are to sign attendance sheets and maintain an understanding of applicable Safe Work Method Statements (SWMS) and Specific Worksite Assessment Toolbox (SWAT) forms. These forms are provided to volunteers by the coordinator and are also available by request from Council's VSO.

Prior notification is to be given by the coordinator to all group members and VSO for any working bees including date, time and meeting location.

The table below lists the key safety hazard considerations for the sites and the controls that are to be put in place to mitigate these hazards.

Hazard considerations	General controls
Outdoor work	Fitness for work, appropriate PPE (as per 4.11 of volunteer WHS Handbook).
Working near access ways (vehicle and pedestrian)	Use of 'volunteers working' signage, yellow vests to be worn.
Pollution	Green waste to remain on site, avoid placement near drainage channels.
Wildlife hazards	Wear appropriate PPE, First Aid kit on site at all times.
Weather conditions	Reschedule works in unsuitable weather.

Antisocial behaviour	Maintain PSC Code of Conduct, report any dangerous behaviour to local police.
Fatigue	Rest breaks and hydration.

The following activities are prohibited: confined space entry, excavation, use of machinery/ unapproved power tools, tree removal, working at heights, burning and unapproved chemical handling.

In the event that an individual would like to use chemicals or power tools, approval from Council must be sought, followed by training and sign off by the VSO prior to use. It is up to the discretion of Council to determine if chemical or power tool use is appropriate for the activity proposed.

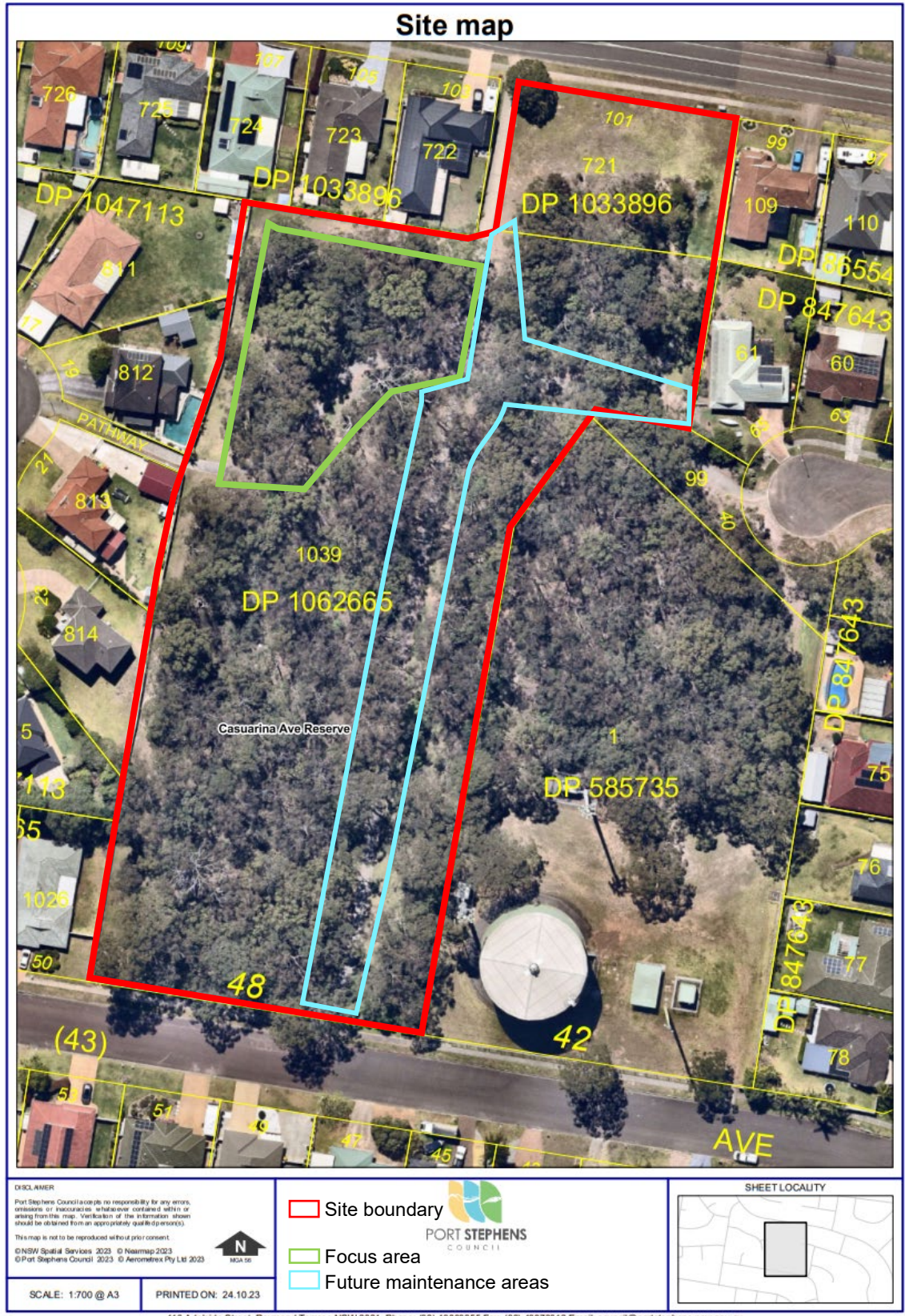
All hazards, incidents, near misses, injuries and unsafe practices must be reported immediately, and documented and reported in writing to Council within 24 hours.

For further information, consult the Work Health & Safety Handbook (PSC 2020).

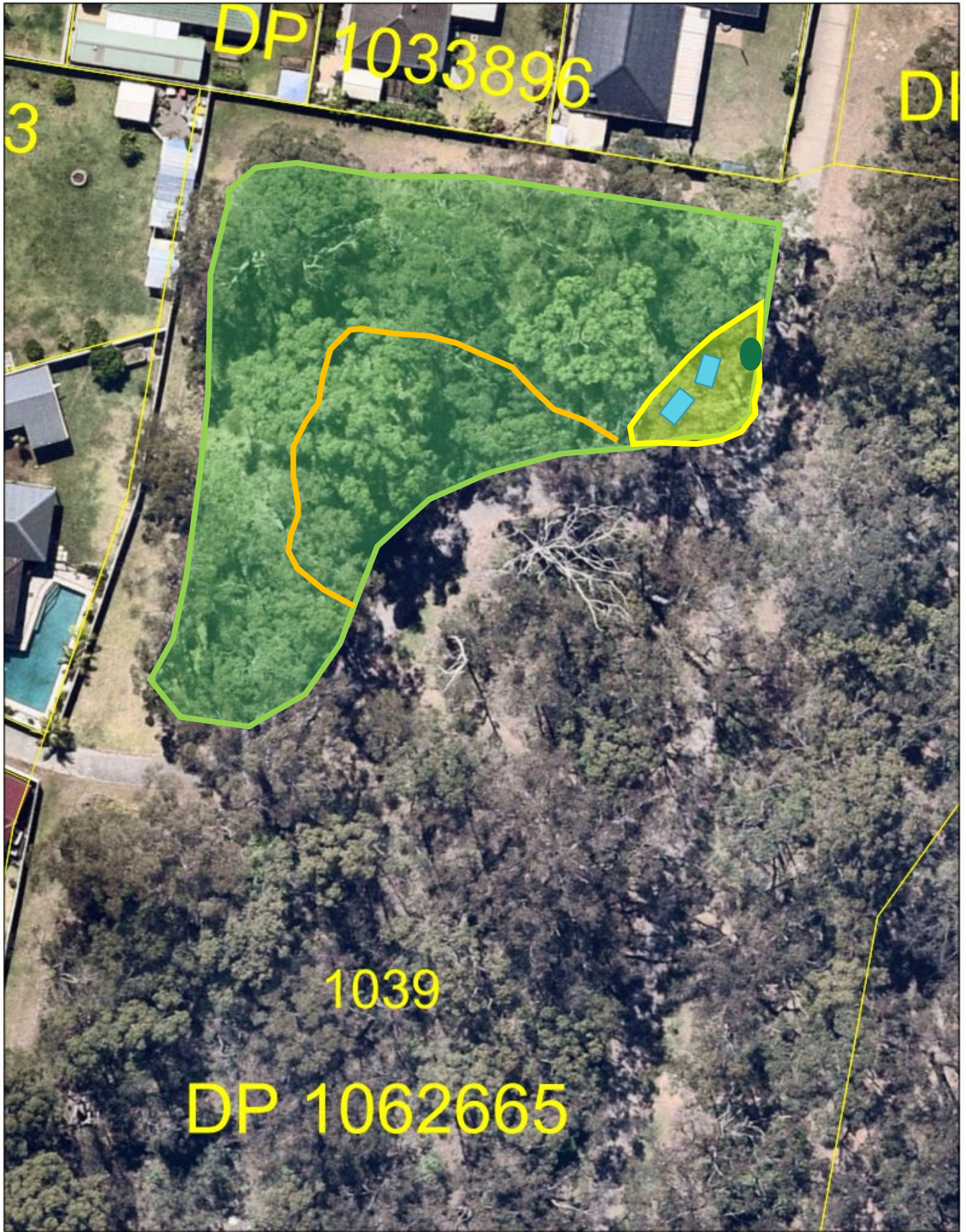
Note – PSC does not recommend the use of any plant food or medicine, and accepts no responsibility for any harmful effects resulting from use of the plants herein. The information contained in this document is for reference only.

Action Plan Map – Casuarina Ave Reserve

The below Action Plan Map is to be read in conjunction with the Detailed Action Plan below.



Focus area



DISCLAIMER

Port Stephens Council accepts no responsibility for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies whatsoever contained within or arising from this map. Verification of the information shown should be obtained from an appropriately qualified person(s).

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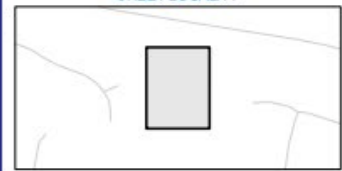
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-  Garden space
-  Focus area
-  Mulched area
-  Pathway (approximate)
-  Sandstone seating (proposed)



SHEET LOCALITY



SCALE: 1:300 @ A3

PRINTED ON: 24.10.23

Detailed Action Plan

The below detailed action plan is to read in accordance with the action plan map above.

Zone	Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Resources	Timeline	Status
Focus area	Weed removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-treatment of grass by Council. 	Council	Routine working bees	Ongoing	Encouraged
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of identified weeds and management of grasses. 	Medowie volunteers	Green waste to remain on site		
	Promote bush food species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor clearing around bush food species to ensure easily identifiable. 	Medowie volunteers	Working bees	Ongoing	Encouraged
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate opportunity for signage at base of bush food species. 	Council			
Pathway	Create meandering pathway to access bush food species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of pathway through focus area by clearing weeds and pruning plants. Mulch pathway <1m width. 	Medowie volunteers	Working bees Mulch supplied (aged and clean).	Ongoing	Encouraged

Zone	Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Resources	Timeline	Status
Mulched area	Sitting / rest area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="663 296 1061 400">• Level ground through basic landscaping of soil. <li data-bbox="663 416 1061 600">• Mulch area and install passive natural features such as stepping stones and logs (proposed animal footprints). <li data-bbox="663 616 1061 839">• Installation of sandstone blocks for passive seating, ensuring adequate spacing for maintenance equipment along pathway. <li data-bbox="663 855 1061 1110">• Installation of garden bed for additional bush tucker species in maintained garden bed. Materials used must consider maintenance (wooden or steel). <li data-bbox="663 1126 1061 1262">• Investigate installation of signage to engage community and promote nature participation. 	Medowie volunteers	<p data-bbox="1335 296 1632 328">Working bees</p> <p data-bbox="1335 424 1632 504">VSO to coordinate physical materials</p>	Ongoing	Encouraged

Zone	Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Resources	Timeline	Status
Future maintenance areas	Weed removal along pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor weeding along maintained pathway edge and bushland to increase native biodiversity. Green waste to remain on site. 	Medowie volunteers	Based on commitment to on-going maintenance	1-3 years	Encouraged
	Beautification of corners at pathway intersection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mulching area at intersection of pathways in northern section of site to create a community space. Garden-style planting of bush food species, ensuring accessibility for maintenance. Investigation of further design features for passive recreation. 	Medowie volunteers	Based on commitment to on-going maintenance	1-3 years	Encouraged
	On-going maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure maintenance of completed areas to uphold original character. 	Medowie volunteers	Based on commitment to on-going maintenance	Perpetuity	Encouraged
N/A	Community engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event-based working bee to attract prospective volunteers. 	Medowie volunteers	Volunteers to engage local community		

Zone	Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Resources	Timeline	Status
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite guests or representatives with bush food expertise. • Educational information pamphlets. 	Council	VSO to coordinate physical materials		
N/A	Monitoring and reporting to support group resourcing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and record activities undertaken by group. • Reporting on areas weeded, areas planted, success rates, new and emerging weeds, fauna sightings, etc. 	Medowie volunteers	<p>Reporting should be undertaken through councils online CRM tool for <u>Environmental Works Records</u></p> <p>Regular working bee check-ins with VSO</p>	Ongoing	Encouraged

Key site considerations

Environmental

Threatened species	<p>Over the last 20 years, there have been no records of the threatened species within the reserve however the following species have been recorded within 1km of the site;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (koala)• <i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i> (grey-headed flying fox)• <i>Ninox strenua</i> (powerful owl)• <i>Dasyurus maculatus</i> (spotted-tailed quoll)• <i>Miniopterus australis</i> (little bent-winged bat)• <i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i> (white-bellied sea eagle)• <i>Callistemon linearifolius</i> (netted bottle brush) <p>The site is mapped as 'Marginal' Koala habitat under the Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management (CKPoM) (PSC 2002) which falls under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021.</p>
Endangered Ecological Communities (EEC) / Biodiversity value	<p>There are no EECs identified on site. The plant community site is assessed as Hunter Coast Lowland Apple-Bloodwood Forest.</p> <p>This PCT is extensively distributed at lower elevations around Lake Macquarie, Sugarloaf Range and is common in the Medowie area north to Bulahdelah.</p>
Priority weeds	<p>The site is managed by the PSC Environmental Operations team in accordance with the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i>.</p> <p>Identified priority weeds in the local area include; African Olive, Madeira Vine, St John's Wort, Giant Pampas Grass, Blackberry, and Asparagus Weeds.</p> <p>Additional weeds on site include Tobacco Bush, Agave, Dracaena, Whiskey Grass, Fishbone Fern, Senna and alien grass species.</p>

Heritage

The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) (DPIE 2022) lists no recorded Aboriginal sites or Aboriginal places in proximity to the subject site. The site does not contain state or locally listed heritage items.

Unexpected Finds - if Aboriginal heritage items are uncovered during the works, all works in the vicinity of the find must cease and the Volunteers Support Officer must be contacted.

Bushfire

The site is not mapped as Bushfire Prone Land in the NSW ePlanning Spatial Viewer. There are no asset protection zones (APZ) or strategic fire advantage zone (SFAZ) impacting the subject site.

Care should be taken to avoid the creation of bushfire hazards directly adjoining residential allotments. This action plan does not provide guaranteed commitment to future management as required by Planning for Bushfire Protection (PBP) (2019).

Waterways and soil

Acid Sulphate Soils (ASS) are not likely to be present on the site but is classified as within 500m of adjacent ASS land. Volunteers are directed to stop digging and fill any holes that indicate ASS presence (indicated by a scent of sulphuric acid/rotten eggs).

Infrastructure

Infrastructure within the reserve is owned and managed by Council. Council is responsible for erecting and repairing any structures within the reserve. No structures are to be erected by the group. The VSO is to consult with the Parks Supervisor and the Community Assets Officers on any infrastructure work requested on the land.

There are a number of assets present at the site including a concrete pathway through the centre of the site and to the west. Land management activities should not negatively impact these. "Before You Dig" should be consulted prior to any ground breaking activities and advice sought from Council if any assets are present.

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NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE). 2022. Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS). NSW Government, Parramatta NSW.

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CONTROLLED DOCUMENT INFORMATION:

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EDRMS container No	PSC2019-00070	EDRMS record No	24/73611
Audience	Medowie environmental volunteers		
Process owner	Strategy and Environment Section Manager		
Author	Kate Mannell - Volunteers Support Officer		
Review timeframe	3 years	Next review date	21 March 2027
Adoption date	21 March 2024		

VERSION HISTORY:

Version	Date	Author	Details
1	24 October 2023	Volunteers Support Officer	Created document.
2	5 March 2024	Strategy and Environment Section Manager	Document reviewed internally. Volunteer feedback to be requested.
3	13 March 2024	Volunteers Support Officer	Final consultation with group and adoption.

Appendix A – Species list

Any plantings should be in consideration of the relevant Plant Community Type (PCT) at the site and species that are local to the area. Genetic provenance refers to the use of locally sourced and grown seedlings, preferred for any plantings.

The below species list is relevant to the identified PCT.

- *Corymbia gummifera*
- *Angophora costata*
- *Eucalyptus piperita*
- *Eucalyptus capitellata*
- *Eucalyptus signata*
- *Dodonaea triquetra*
- *Acacia myrtifolia*
- *Hakea sp.*
- *Banksia marginata*
- *Acacia ulicifolia*
- *Persoonia levis*
- *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*
- *Allocasuarina littoralis*
- *Bossiaea heterophylla*
- *Bursaria spinosa*
- *Hibertia aspera*
- *Pultanaea sp.*
- *Glochidion ferdinandi*
- *Acacia falcata*
- *Daviesia ulicifolia*
- *Pultanaea villosa*
- *Lomatia silaifolia*
- *Gonocarpus tetragynus*
- *Dianella cerulea*
- *Pratia purpurescence*
- *Lepidosperma laterale*
- *Desmodium rhytidophyllum*
- *Pteridium esculentum*
- *Hybanthus monopetalus*
- *Centalla asiatica*
- *Xanthorea sp.*
- *Thelymitra sp.*
- *Convolvulus angustissimus*
- *Grona varians*
- *Dichondra repens*
- *Goodenia hederacea*
- *Imperata cylindrica*
- *Entolasia stricta*
- *Rytidosperma sp.*
- *Cassythra sp.*
- *Glycine clandestina*
- *Billardiara scanens*

Appendix B – Site photos



Proposed rest area



Existing bush foods on site (*Billardiera scandens*)



Invasive grass species to be removed



Garden escapes (*Dracaena*) to be removed



Southern boundary of focus area



Native bracken fern (*Pteridium esculentum*)













Appendix C – Bush food species

MEDOWIE BUSH TUCKER GARDEN PROJECT - POTENTIAL CANDIDATE PLANTS

Information gleaned from "Australian Native Food Harvest" book by Julie Weatherhead and other sources.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Size	Fruiting age	Fruit / Leaves / Roots	Growing	Pollination	Propagation	Health benefits	Culinary Uses	Maintenance
Mountain Pepper	Tasmannia lanceolata	2-10m	3 yrs	Fruit. Dioecious so male & female required.	Temperate. Sheltered, semi-shade, damp, cool. Frost & Dry soil sensitive. May need drip irrigation.	Wind	Cuttings, Seed.	Very high anti-oxidant, Vitamins & Minerals, Lutien. Medicinal.	Excellent spice.	Prune to size & shape
Lemon Myrtle	Backhousia citriodora	3 - 20m	n/a	Leaves	Temperate. Sheltered, semi-shade. Frost sensitive.	n/a	Cuttings, Fresh seed.	Very high anti-oxidant. Anti-microbial, anti-fungal.	Chopped/dried for lemon flavouring of foods, teas, cool drinks.	Prune to size & shape
Anise Myrtle	Syzygium anisata	8m in full sun		Leaves	Light shade to full sun	n/a	Cuttings, seed	Very high anti-oxidant, Vitamins & Minerals, Lutien. Medicinal.	Infuse leaves for liquorice flavour	Annual Pruning
Warrigal Greens	Tetragonia tetragonoides	Low, spreading	n/a	Leaves	Semi-shade. Can treat as annual.	n/a	Cuttings, seed	Very high anti-oxidant, Vitamins & Minerals. Medicinal.	Salads, Pesto. Alternative to spinach.	Replace when declining
Finger Lime	Citrus australasicus	3-8m	Grafted to citrus: 3yr Cutting: 5yr Seed: 5-10yr	Fruit in Autumn	Sheltered spot, Regular summer moisture. Phosphorus sensitive. Fertilize with blood & bone, not manures.	Self fertile, insect pollination	Cuttings, seed	Very high anti-oxidant. Anti-microbial, anti-fungal.	Skin zest is lime flavoured. Intensely flavoured "Citrus Caviar" inside fruit. Great garnish for many meals. Can freeze.	Prune to size & shape
Strawberry Gum	eucalyptus olida	6-8m	n/a	Leaves	Well drained slightly acidic sunny spot. May be a bit slow to establish.	n/a	Seed. Seedlings liable to fungus.	High anti-oxidant. Anti-microbial, anti-fungal. Gut friendly.	Flavour enhancing oil content to spice up any dish. Add to black or green teas.	Shape during harvesting.
Muntries	Kunzea pomifera	Ground cover up to 2m	2y	Fruit in Spring to Summer	Full sun, can trellis for easier harvest but enjoys self layering.	Self fertile	Cuttings from best flavoured plants.	High anti-oxidant, vitamin C. Possibly Cancer inhibiting.	Eat raw in salads and cheese platters, or cooked in jams, pies, muffins puddings etc	Prune to desired area.
River Mint	mentha australis	Ground cover up to 2m	3 months	Leaves	Shaded. Moisture loving but handles semi-dry.	n/a	Rooted stems.	High anti-oxidant. Anti-microbial, Gut friendly.	Fresh or dried—in sauces, starters, meats, desserts, teas etc	Prune to desired area.
Round Leaf Mint / Native Oregano	Prostanthera rotundifolia	2-3m x 1-2m	n/a	Leaves & flowers	Sunny to semi-shade. Frost tolerant. Well drained mulched soil.	n/a	Heeled Cuttings	Anti-microbial, anti-bacterial, anti-inflammatory. Decongestant. Gut friendly.	Tastes & smells like a mix of Oregano, Mint, and Eucalyptus. Salads, Pizza, Meat marinades. Loses some flavour if dried.	Shape during harvesting.
Native Thyme	Prostanthera incisa	2m x 2m	n/a	Leaves & flowers	Full sun to part shade	n/a	Heeled Cuttings	Antioxidant, Anti-microbial, anti-bacterial, anti-inflammatory.	Leaves fresh or dried in place of Oregano, Mint. Flowers in salads, spinach pies and breads.	
Illawarra Plum	Podocarpus elatus	5m	5 - 7y	Fruit	Sheltered north facing site is best	Wind. Dioecious Male & female required	Seed, cuttings from known male & female to achieve a pair.	Very high antioxidant, vitamin C, minerals, fat, 21% protein.	Delicious sweet, juicy fruit. Good for sauce for turkey and meats, jams, jellies, chutney, fruit salad.	Can be hedged]



Common Name	Botanical Name	Size	Fruiting age	Fruit / Leaves / Roots	Growing	Pollination	Propagation	Health benefits	Culinary Uses	Maintenance	
Davidson's Plum	Davidsonia jerseyana	3-5m or more x 2-3m	3+y	Fruit (drops when ripe)	Full sun to part shade	May be self fertile & pollinating	Seed	High antioxidant, many vitamins & minerals, anti-microbial	Sour fruit when fresh, best poached in a little sugar. Jams, jellies, chutney etc		
Midyim Berry or Midgen Berry	Austromyrtus dulcis	50-100cm x 150cm	1y	Fruit in Summer	Full sun to part shade	May be self fertile & pollinating	Cuttings	Very high in minerals	Sweet apple/passionfruit flavour. Fresh, pies, jams.		
Small Leaved Tamarind	Diploglottis campbellii	7-10m x 6-8m	4-5y	Fruit in Autumn	Full sun to part shade	?	Seed	Very high antioxidant	Jams, jellies, sauces, fruit chutneys, spreads and coulis.		
Geraldton Wax	Chamelaucium uncinatum	1-2m	n/a	Leaves & flowers are edible	Full sun to part shade	n/a	Cuttings, seed	Leaves are highly antiseptic and antibiotic	The leaves have a delightful citrus taste. Sauces, stocks, salads, stews, Gin Cocktail.	Shape during harvesting.	
Old Man Saltbush	Atriplex nummularia	2-3m x 1-2m	n/a	Leaves	Full sun to part shade	n/a	Cuttings, seed	High antioxidant, vitamin E, minerals, fat, protein.	Fresh or dried leaves in a range of savoury and sweet dishes	Shape during harvesting.	
Cinnamon Myrtle	Backhousia myrtifolia	3m	n/a	Leaves	Full sun to part shade	n/a	Cuttings, seed	Fresh or dried leaves in tea is said to relieve indigestion, heartburn & colic.	Leaves can give a cinnamon flavour to savoury and sweet dishes. Add to curries, casseroles, rice, lamb, chicken or fish.	Shape during harvesting.	
Prickly Current Bush	Corosma quadrifolia	2-5m	?	Fruit in Summer	Shady protected spot, likes moisture.	Dioecious so male & female required.	Seed (stratified), cuttings from known male & female to achieve a pair.	Very high in Vitamin C	Fresh are sweet and tasty with a pleasant sharpness. Heat will remove Vit C.	Shape during harvesting.	
Native Raspberry	Rubus parvifolia	Scrambling thorny climber	1-2m	Fruit in Summer	Full sun to part shade	May be self fertile & pollinating	Seed, cuttings or layering	Antioxidant and Vitamin C	Lovely to eat and best consumed fresh.		
Vanilla Lilly	Arthropodium milleflorum	60cm		Tuber	Semi-shade	Self fertile, insect pollination	Seed, Tuber divisions	High in minerals iron, zinc & calcium.	Fresh or pickled sliced tubers in salads or asian dishes. (No vanilla taste)		
Appleberry: (Sweet) (Common) (Purple)	Billardiera: (cymosa) (scandens) (longifolia)	Climber to 2m. Can be grown on a trellis for best access to fruit.		Fruit in Summer	Semi-shade		Best by cuttings. Seed can be difficult, can benefit from cold and/or, smoke treatment.	High in Fibre, Vitamin C and Vitamin K	Fruit salads, pies, bakery	Tip pruning can be beneficial to encourage more fruiting. Fruit may need more ripening time if dropped from the plant while still green. Colours up and is sweeter when ripe.	  



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