

MANAGING A CONSULTATION PROCESS IN PREPARING A WETLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

**Education Centre, Bicentennial Park
Sydney Olympic Park
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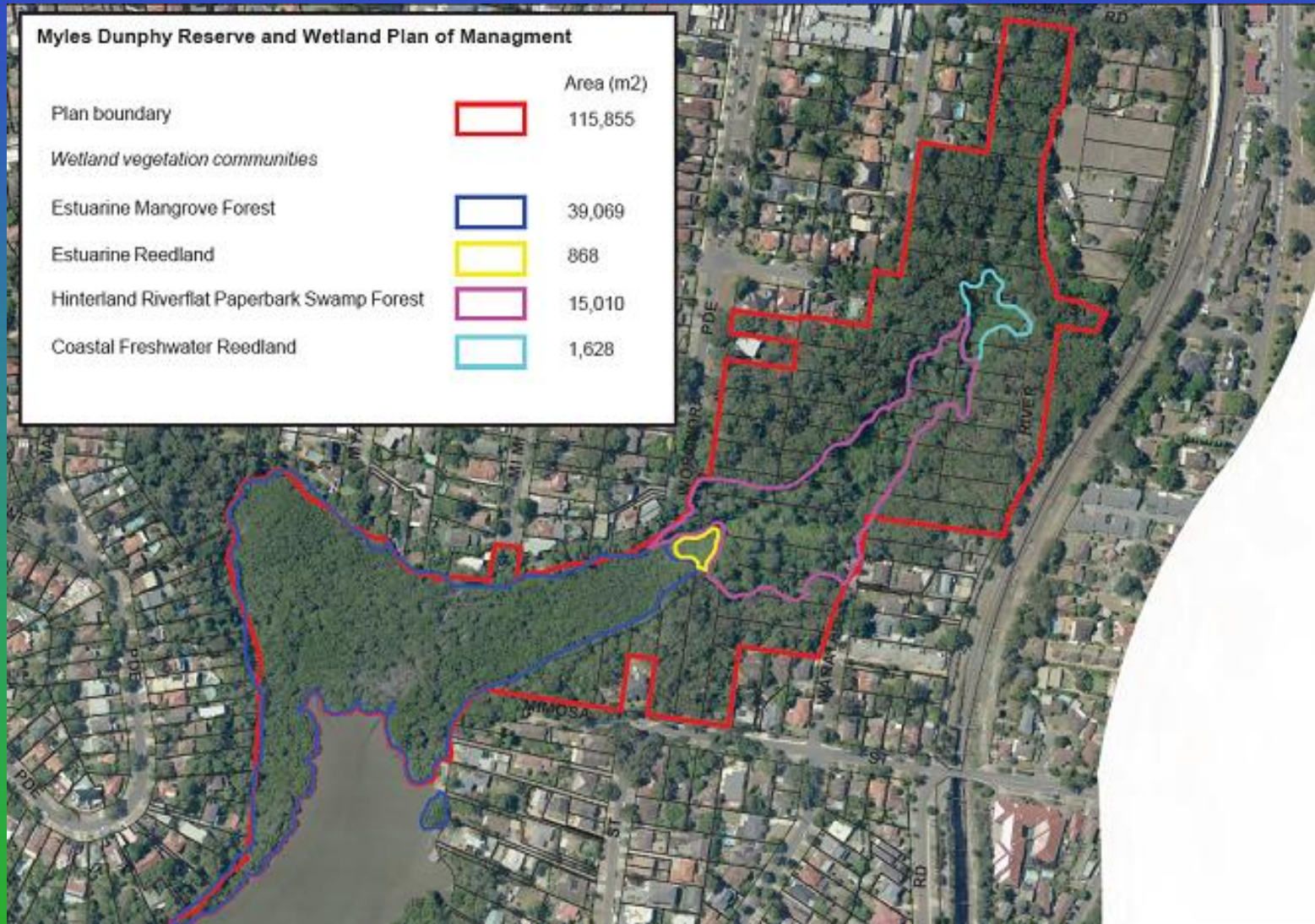
WHY DO STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT?

- ❑ Stakeholder engagement is essential to the success of preparing and implementing a Plan of Management.
- ❑ Stakeholders – whether government, local residents, people interested in the environment, adjoining land users and others – have various values, interests and concerns regarding wetlands.
- ❑ When preparing a Plan of Management for a wetland it is important to seek and draw out such values, interests and concerns so they can be protected, taken into account, or addressed.

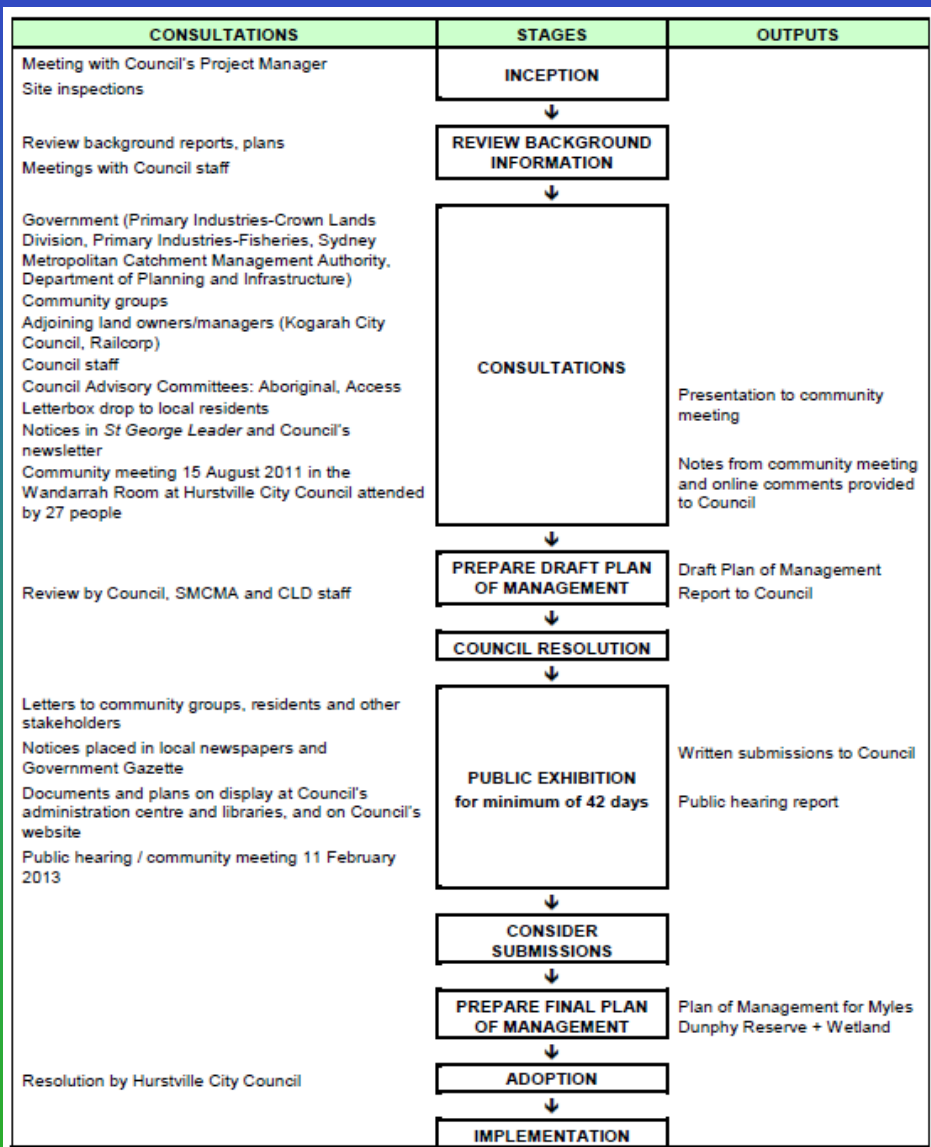
CASE STUDY 1: MYLES DUNPHY RESERVE + WETLAND



VEGETATION COMMUNITIES



PROCESS OF PREPARING PLAN OF MANAGEMENT



Most successful methods of reaching the community and encouraging feedback:

- ❑ 'Your Say' online comments form on Council's website

- ❑ on-line surveys, such as Survey Monkey

- ❑ providing a contact email address

- ❑ correspondence to community groups – Friends of Oatley, Oatley Flora and fauna Conservation Society

- ❑ public exhibition of draft Plan of Management

- ❑ public hearing / community meeting

STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholder	Responsibility / interest in Myles Dunphy Reserve + Wetland
Hurstville City Council	Maintenance Management Funding
Crown Lands Division	Ownership of wetland (part)
Department of Planning and Infrastructure	Ownership of small parcel of land
Railcorp	Owner of adjoining land.
Kogarah City Council	Stormwater system entering the Reserve
NSW Primary Industries – Fisheries	Mangrove management
Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority	Catchment management Wetland management Funding
Sydney Water Corporation	Maintenance of sewerage infrastructure. Minimising risk to human and environmental health from sewage overflows.
Bankstown-Hurstville Bushfire Management Committee	Bush fire risk
Georges River Combined Councils Committee	Catchment management and monitoring
Streamwatch	Water quality testing
NSW Fire Brigade	Fire regime
Bushcare volunteers	Bush regeneration
Community groups	Use and management of the Reserve

COMMUNITY VALUES OF THE WETLAND

Community meeting:

- ❑ what is important or special about Myles Dunphy Reserve and Wetland?
 - ❑ in 20 years' time, how do you see the Reserve?
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- ❑ high ecological values – flora, fauna (terrestrial and aquatic)
 - ❑ clean water
 - ❑ public access to the wetland

KEY STAKEHOLDER ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Hurstville City Council

Wetland management
Weeds
Recreational structures
Encroachments
Funding and resourcing

Crown Lands Division

Wetland management
Encroachments
Future uses, activities

NSW Primary Industries – Fisheries

Fish nurseries, habitat

Georges River Combined Councils Committee

Catchment management and monitoring

Community groups / residents

Water quality
- sewer overflows
- stormwater runoff
Erosion and sedimentation
Rubbish / gross pollutants
Weeds
Future uses and structures

Streamwatch

Water quality

Indigenous heritage
Non-indigenous heritage
Community education
Community commitment
Future uses, developments
Funding sources
Monitoring, evaluation, reporting

Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority

Water quality
Acid sulfate soils
Flow regime Erosion
Land management
Tidal flushing
Threatened species
Pollution sources
Impacts of climate change
Ecological character
Migratory birds
Endangered Ecological Communities
Vegetated buffers
Vegetation connectivity
Habitat value
Fish passage
Pest plants and animals

ISSUES AND CONCERNS -> ACTION PLANS

Several key issues and considerations were identified through the preparation of this Plan of Management:

Value	Issues
Natural	Soils: soil erosion, compaction and sedimentation; bank erosion and scouring; soil contamination Water: altered hydrology; poor water quality Vegetation: flora survey; vegetation management; weed invasion; tree mortality; wetland management; wildlife corridors Fauna: limited understanding of fauna in reserve; protection of vulnerable fauna species; feral animals; companion animals; nuisance fauna species Fire management: altered fire regime; fire risk to adjoining properties
Recreational/ social	Access and circulation: access points; universal access; bicycle parking; walking tracks; links with surrounding areas; vehicle access Proliferation of structures: recreation facilities Inappropriate activities: recreational activities in the Reserve Safety of Reserve users: bushfire safety
Educational	Awareness and interpretation; education and research
Cultural	Significance to indigenous community; Post-European history
Management	Land ownership; Plans of Management; encroachment; public safety and risk management; funding.

These issues are addressed in the Action Plans in Section 5.2.

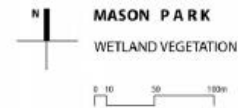
CASE STUDY 2: MASON PARK WETLAND



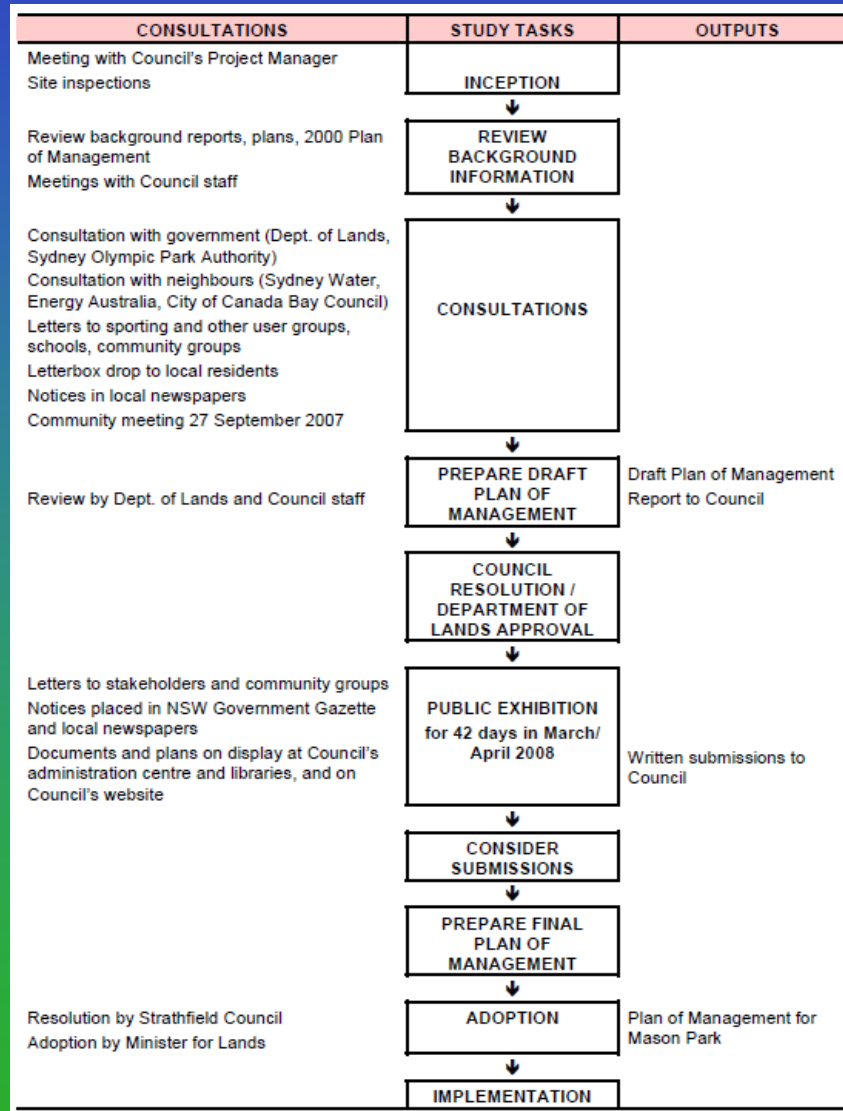
VEGETATION COMMUNITIES



- Mangroves
- Sarcocornia & Suaeda
- Sarcocornia
- Scattered Sarcocornia
- Juncus acutus
- Juncus kraussii
- Brackish Marsh
- Open Water
- Plantings
- General Wetland Area



PROCESS OF PREPARING PLAN OF MANAGEMENT



STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholder	Responsibility / interest in Mason Park Wetland
Strathfield Council	Maintenance Management Funding
Crown Lands Division	Ownership of wetland (part)
Energy Australia	Ownership of small parcel of land Depot
Sydney Olympic Park Authority	Owner of nearby land Ecological management Flora and fauna surveys and monitoring
Sydney Water	Stormwater system entering the Reserve Adjoining drainage channel Pumping station
NSW Primary Industries – Fisheries	Mangrove management
Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority	Catchment management Wetland management
Bushcare volunteers, Greening Australia and others, local schools	Planting
Universities	Research

COMMUNITY VALUES OF THE WETLAND

Value	Explanation	Significance					
		Inter-national	National	Metro-politan	Regional	District	Local
Ecology	The Mason Park Wetland has international ecological significance because all the migratory shorebirds which visit the site are subject to international agreements for the protection of wader habitats. The saltmarsh is an endangered ecological community. The wetland is a remnant example of wetland / saltmarsh in the Parramatta River estuary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Environmental awareness	Mason Park offers the opportunity to raise awareness of environmental issues in Strathfield to varying degrees through models of ecologically sustainable and water saving urban design development and management practices, maintenance of plantings that serve as wildlife habitat, and as an outdoor classroom.				✓	✓	✓
Pedestrian/cyclist linkages	Mason Park provides valuable linkages with and between surrounding land uses, and within the park itself. The park is linked through regional pedestrian and cycle paths to Sydney Olympic Park, Strathfield Town Centre and Concord.				✓	✓	✓
Recreation opportunity	Mason Park provides for a range of organised and casual recreation and leisure opportunities that cater for the expressed needs of people of all ages. The size of the park accommodates quality settings for field sports, children's play, birdwatching, nature appreciation, and walking / cycling on a scale which attracts people from all over the local government area and beyond.					✓	✓
Image and visual quality	Mason Park has a highly valued peaceful and ambient atmosphere. It has a quality mature visual landscape that is an open, green, semi-natural contrast to surrounding residential properties, commercial and public utility land uses, and major roads. Trees, shrubs, grass and landscaping are appreciated because they create a visually pleasing environment, provide shade, attract birds, and screen adjoining homes. As such, Mason Park contributes to the clean, established and green image of Strathfield. The park is generally well maintained and clean, which contributes to its pleasant appearance. The adjacent open space of Bressington Park and Sydney Olympic Park creates an extensive green link. The wetland is a visual contrast with the playing fields, separated by a buffer of mature trees.					✓	✓
Community involvement	Mason Park is an important public place that provides a venue and facilities for social contact and interaction through sport, informal activities with friends and family, and through organised avenues such as Bushcare and wetland tours.					✓	✓

KEY STAKEHOLDER ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Value	Issues
Ecology	Tidal influence, water quality, monitoring of shorebirds, site contamination, weeds and undesirable plants, rare and restricted saltmarsh species, invertebrates, disturbance of shorebirds and their habitat, mosquitoes, funding of maintenance works.
Environmental awareness	Education and interpretation, awareness of significant environmental resource
Pedestrian / cyclist linkages	Links to adjoining open space, pedestrian access from Underwood Road, internal linkages, pedestrian / cyclist conflicts, pedestrian amenity, bridges
Recreation opportunity	Layout of playing fields, quality of the playing field surface, unstructured sporting activities, commercial use, access and carpark, overflow parking and other uses, shade, lighting, waste disposal, amenities building, playground development, safety of playground, informal recreation facilities
Image and visual quality	Gateway to the park, planting, green links to the Powells Creek corridor, power lines
Community involvement	Community involvement
Management	Strategic partnerships, treaty obligations

THANKS

Grateful thanks to:



Hurstville City Council



Dr. Peter Bacon

Woodlots and Wetlands



QUESTIONS?

