

T08/2000 - WIRELESS HILL BUSHLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN (REC) (ATTACHMENT)

Ward : Applecross/Mount Pleasant
Category : Policy
Subject Index : Environment
Customer Index : Wireless Hill
Disclosure of any Interest : No Officer involved in the preparation of this report has a declarable interest in this matter.
Previous Items : T08/2000
Works Programme : 2008/09 to 2012/13
Funding : Operational : \$264,387 over 5 years
Capital: \$144,700 over 5 years
Responsible Officer : Ian Davis
Manager Infrastructure Services

AUTHORITY / DISCRETION

- | | <u>Definition</u> |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy | <i>when Council advocates on its own behalf or on behalf of its community to another level of government/body/agency.</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive | <i>the substantial direction setting and oversight role of the Council. e.g. adopting plans and reports, accepting tenders, directing operations, setting and amending budgets</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative | <i>includes adopting local laws, town planning schemes & policies.</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Review | <i>when Council reviews decisions made by Officers.</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quasi-Judicial | <i>when Council determines an application/matter that directly affects a person's right and interests. The judicial character arises from the obligation to abide by the principles of natural justice. Examples of Quasi-Judicial authority include town planning applications, building licences, applications for other permits/licences (eg under Health Act, Dog Act or Local Laws) and other decisions that may be appealable to the State Administrative Tribunal.</i> |

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KEY ISSUES / SUMMARY

- As part of the natural resource inventory staff have developed management plans for all priority one bushland areas. These management plans aim to provide a summary of existing features and issues in natural areas and provide recommendations for management in the future.
- A Bushland Management Plan for Wireless Hill Reserve in Ardross has been written by staff at City of Melville.

BACKGROUND

Wireless Hill Reserve has had two previous management plans – one written and approved in 1985 and one in 1999. Revision of the current management plan is overdue and the new plan will direct the maintenance and capital works for the reserve for the next five years.

DETAIL

This plan [2000 August 2008.pdf](#) has been produced to undertake active management of the bushland in this reserve with the aim to improve and protect the area for the future. The plan presents a summary of:

- Soil Types;
- Topography;
- History;
- Physical Environment;
- Existing Vegetation Condition;
- Tree Management;
- Current Weeds Present;
- Native and Introduced Fauna;
- Fire Management;
- Erosion;
- Vandalism and Security;
- Access and Track Management; and
- Environmental Education and Community Involvement.

Management recommendations that are consistent with the vision for the management of natural areas within the City of Melville were formed using this information to enhance and protect the bushland remaining at this site. Several of the major recommendations include:

- The Fencing of the Perimeter of the Whole Reserve;
- Weed Management Techniques and Recommendations;
- Fire Management Recommendations;
- Signage and Education;
- Feral Animal Control; and
- Support and Communication with the Friends Group.

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See the attached copy of the Draft Wireless Hill Bushland Management Plan 2008 for specific details.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

Public consultation is part of the decision making process. This plan was released in a draft form for public comment from Tuesday, 8 April 2008 to Tuesday, 20 May 2008. Copies of the plan were available for review at the City of Melville, local libraries and digitally on the City of Melville's website. Specific draft copies were forwarded to interested neighbours in Applecross, Ardross, Booragoon and Alfred Cove.

Once the submission period closed, all comments were assessed as to their appropriateness for inclusion in the final management plan. One submission was received from the Friends of Wireless Hill. This submission was reviewed and the relevant changes were incorporated into this version of the management plan. Appendix 11 in the Management Plan provides a summary of the submission and relevant changes.

The Friends of Wireless Hill were consulted on key issues in the development of this draft.

COMMENT

The plan was released for public comment for a period of six weeks. This process allowed for more community input prior to the plan being finalised. The long-term implications of allowing the community an opportunity to comment are that it will ease future management, encourage support from volunteer organisations and ensure a smooth transition from development of the plan to implementation. Allowing for a community consultation process also prevents future discrepancies in management undertaken by the Council once the plans are finalised.

Once adopted by the Council the Draft Wireless Hill Bushland Management Plan will form a comprehensive work plan for this bushland over the next five years.

STATUTORY AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

	2008/09	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013
Operating	\$51,300	\$52,050	\$52,838	\$53,665	\$54,534
Capital	\$97,200	\$10,600	\$8,700	\$20,200	\$8,000

There is sufficient funding within the operating and capital budgets of Environmental Services to cover the costs of the management plan.

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STRATEGIC AND RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The implications for not implementing this management plan would include a lack of direction in planning to manage the bushland. Bushland condition would deteriorate due to lack of control of weed species and costs for remediation in the future would increase. Without a management plan the assets in the Reserve would deteriorate due to lack of regular maintenance resulting in the need for further capital works to replace or repair items.

The bushland management plan directs the most effective way of managing the reserve with the funds and resources available. The bushland management plan also helps direct the actions of community groups involved in protecting and preserving bushland reserves. The existence of a current management plan also assists the Council and community groups in applying for funding for natural resource management projects within the reserve.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Vision 3: A City of people leading healthy lifestyles and enjoying access to a variety of natural and structured leisure and community service opportunities which meet their needs.

Vision 4: A City where the natural environment is preserved and the actions of today are taking account of the consequences for tomorrow.

Vision 4.1: Develop, implement and review management plans that help restore and preserve the natural assets in the City of Melville.

CONCLUSION

The Draft Wireless Hill Bushland Management Plan (2008) sets out the management directions and actions for the preservation and restoration of the Reserves remnant bushland for the next five years. It reviews the previous management plan actions and implementation and details the current threats to the bushland. The Management Plan makes recommendations about the management of the bushland in the Reserve and links those recommendations to both maintenance and capital works budgets. Public comments have been received. The Management Plan will be used by City of Melville staff to undertake maintenance and capital works programmes over the next five years.

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OFFICER RECOMMENDATION (2000)

APPROVAL

**THAT THE WIRELESS HILL BUSHLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN – AUGUST 2008
2000 AUGUST 2008.PDF BE ADOPTED.**